

**North Dorset District
Council**

**Open Space Audit and
Assessment of Local Need**

**An Assessment of Quantity,
Quality and Access**

A

Final Report

By

Strategic Leisure Limited

February 2006

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SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

Introduction

- 1.1 Strategic Leisure Limited (SLL) was appointed in December 2004 to undertake an audit of open space, outdoor sport and recreation (PPG 17¹ compliant) and to identify local needs for provision, and opportunities for enhancement, development or replacement of current facilities.
- 1.2 There are a number of main drivers behind this study; these are:
 - a) The need to produce the Local Development Framework (LDF) for the District
 - b) The need to develop a strategic framework for future provision, based on identified need, to ensure future provision is planned, co-ordinated, and appropriate
 - c) The need to identify and provide evidence about the levels and nature of existing provision, to address issues of investment, support external funding bids, assist in planning for provision, and inform partnership working
 - d) To develop co operation and understanding amongst key providers
- 1.3 The desirable outcomes from undertaking a PPG 17 Assessment are to provide local people with a network of accessible, high quality open space and sports and recreational facilities in both rural and urban areas, which will meet the needs of **LOCAL** people and visitors. PPG 17 strives to provide a balance between enhancing existing provision and new provision.
- 1.4 It is important to note that during the course of this assessment it has become clear that the estimated population growth as a result of new residential developments is now less certain, due to the sub regional demographics not being issued. As a result of this existing information provides a good framework but may need to be revisited in this context.

Structure of Study Report

- 1.4 A number of key tasks have been undertaken to complete the assessment and develop standards of provision and recommendations. These are detailed in Section IIA.
- 1.5 This report has been structured as follows, to assist in the presentation, and analysis of a vast amount of information. Technical details are provided in the Appendices. Maps used to illustrate specific points from the audit and the consultation processes are included in the body of the report.

Section I Introduction to, and rationale for, the study

Section II Study Methodology – approach, techniques, consultation rationale, and explanations of quality ratings

Section III Identifying Local Needs of Local Needs

¹ PPG17 – Planning Policy Guidance Note 17

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

- National, Regional and Local Context,
- Current local planning policies and background
- Consultation including Community, Local Councillor Town Council, and Identified Groups
- Review of existing provision standards

Section IV **Audit local provision**

- Establishment of a typology for North Dorset
- Assessment Findings, by typology (types of open space/facility), on a District wide basis

Section V **Local Standards** – their rationale, recommendations for North Dorset and implications of their application

Appendices Technical details, mapping, and Consultee data

Rationale: Why Develop a Strategy?

- 1.6 The provision of good quality, accessible open space, sport and recreational facilities can make a positive contribution to a number of key social objectives. These include:
- 1.7 **Promoting and supporting the urban renaissance** agenda through the provision of local networks of well maintained and well managed, open space, sports and recreational facilities that help to create urban environments that are safe, attractive and clean. Green spaces in urban areas perform vital functions for nature conservation and biodiversity and by acting as ‘green lungs’ can assist in meeting objectives to improve air quality. In rural areas they provide important space for people to participate in recreational pursuits often surrounded by intense agricultural production.
- 1.8 **Supporting rural renewal** – North Dorset is a rural district, and has access to neighbouring countryside areas and open space such as the Green Belt. These can provide opportunities for recreation. Open space, sport and recreational facilities within the towns and rural areas contribute to the quality of life and well-being of those people that live in these areas.
- 1.9 **Promoting social inclusion and community cohesion** – well planned and maintained open space and good quality sports and recreational facilities can play a major part in improving people’s sense of well being in the place they live. As a focal point for community activity, they can bring together people from all communities, including Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups, providing opportunities for wider social interaction.
- 1.10 **Health and well being** – open space, sports and recreational facilities have a vital role to play promoting healthy living and preventing illness and in the social development of children of all ages through play, sporting activities and interaction with others.

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- 1.11 **Promoting more sustainable development** – by ensuring that open space, sports and recreational facilities (particularly in urban areas) are easily accessible by walking or cycling and that more heavily used or intensive sports and recreational facilities are planned in locations well served by public transport.
- 1.12 By undertaking an assessment at a local level, the development of a strategy can help to Improve, Protect and Widen partnership and involvement in open space, sport and recreation provision.
- 1.13 **Improve** open space, sport and recreational facilities and to encourage greater use by all members of the community. A key driver for this is to provide the residents of North Dorset District, visitors to the District, and other users of facilities across the District, with safe, accessible, attractive provision and facilities that are of the right type and meet the needs of the communities that use them.
- 1.14 **Protect** valuable provision from development, ensuring that new landscape schemes contribute to improving an area and to ensure quality is maintained by making sure the correct levels of funding are in place.
- 1.15 Identify processes to widen **partnership and involvement** – given the reasonably strong voluntary sector in North Dorset, The District Council is keen to engage local communities in the development and potentially the management of a range of sport, recreation and open space and wishes to create opportunities for people to become involved and have ownership, working together to improve provision at the local level.

North Dorset District Council's Current Position on Open Space, Sport and Recreational Provision

- 1.16 North Dorset District Council's policies on open space, sport and recreation provision, the protection of open spaces, and the planning policies related to new or alternative development, are currently set out in the North Dorset Local Plan (NDLP), adopted in January 2003.
- 1.17 Given the new requirements of PPG 17, NDDC is commencing the process of developing the Local Development Framework (LDF) for the District; the key issue for producing the LDF is that it needs to reflect the needs of local people. At the very heart of the LDF framework development is knowing what the area has, what it needs now and future needs to ensure local communities are best served.
- 1.18 This study is particularly important in relation to future protection of open space, through planning policy. The assessment also considers potential uses of existing open space, where its current purpose has changed.

Context for Study

- 1.19 In undertaking this study, it has been important to reference and reflect the thinking at national level, on the role of open space, sport and recreation provision. The key strategic influences are summarised in Section II.

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- 1.20 Of equal importance is the need for the study to reflect the local context, to ensure that whilst the principles of the audit and assessment correspond with national policies and legislation, the outcomes of the study clearly link with the local issues, inform planning policy, and support achievement of the corporate priorities in North Dorset.
- 1.21 This approach has been adopted to ensure that the study sets out a clear way forward for the Council, and its partners, for the future development, provision protection and delivery of open space, sport and recreation as part of the overall regeneration and development of the District ,its townships and its rural communities for the benefit of local people.
- 1.22 Around 30% of North Dorset is designated under two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty(AONB) namely the Dorset AONB and the Cranbourne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. There are a number of municipal open spaces and areas of historical and local significance; these give the District environment its distinctive character. North Dorset currently has 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, covering over 1000 hectares one of which Hambledon Hill is a National Nature Reserve. The District has five categories designated as Landscape Character areas (North Dorset Limestone Ridges, Blackmore Vale, Northern Scarp Hill, Chalk upland, chalk River Valleys), Protected Areas of Nature Conservation Interest of which three sites are of International importance(Rooksmoor Copse near Kings Stag, Melbury and Fontmell Down and Lydlinch Common) 15 sites of Nature Conservation Importance, 5 Historic Parks or Gardens two of national interest, In addition, there are many waymarked circular and linear walks in the District. There is network of cycle routes some of which links into neighbouring authorities. There are many valuable woodlands, and existing areas of wildflowers, wetland marsh and open common, all within the District boundaries.

The Vision

- 1.23 It is important that a vision is adopted to reflect the aspirations for open space, sport and recreation in meeting the Council's corporate objectives. An extension of the visions detailed in the Council's Community Strategy and the NDLP has been used for the purpose of this study:

' in providing for open space, sport and recreation, the Council's Vision is to safeguard the unique and diverse local environment, whilst ensuring development of thriving, economically prosperous and balanced communities in the market towns and surrounding villages'

Scope of the Study

- 1.24 The study covers provision by public, educational, commercial and voluntary sectors. The assessment has looked at facilities on both a District wide basis and on the basis of the Four main Towns as identified by Council officers
- 1.25 The study adheres to the guidance detailed in "Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17" which details guidance on undertaking local

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assessments of open space, sport and recreation provision. The study has included a snapshot audit of outdoor open space, sport and recreational facilities in terms of:

- Quantity
- Quality
- Accessibility

1.26 The study has also given consideration to the following factors:

- Different uses of facilities
- Classification and differing typologies of provision
- The scale and availability of resources for maintenance / management
- English Nature's "*Natural Accessible Greenspace Standards*"

1.27 The study undertaken has included:

- Consideration of the likely needs up to 2011
- A review of existing open space, leisure and recreation policies contained within the North Dorset District Local Plan (NDLP) (adopted plan January 2003)
- A range of consultation exercises to ascertain the views of the local community, key interest groups and wider stakeholders
- Consideration to all appropriate facilities within the District Council boundaries, including provision by the District (including education), private and voluntary sectors
- An assessment of playing pitch provision using the methodology detailed in "*Toward a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies*" (Sport England, 2002)
- Recommendations for local standards of provision with regard to quantity, quality and accessibility for inclusion within the developing Local Development Framework

Key Principles of this Assessment and Strategy

1.28 There are several key principles informing the development of this Study; these are:

- To concentrate on providing quality provision, accessible to all
- To develop wider use of facilities with restricted access e.g. school facilities
- To secure high levels of access at a local level to a range of facilities (variety of open spaces and sport/recreational facilities)
- To respond to local needs when there is a clearly articulated consensus of opinion
- To concentrate on providing high quality sports pitches and courts i.e. formal facility provision at strategic locations fit for purpose i.e. appropriate to the communities that use them
- To develop local standards of provision to meet local community needs (current and future)
- To adopt a policy of providing sites rated as 'good'

SECTION II – STUDY METHODOLOGY

The North Dorset Approach: Methodology

- 2.1 The Companion Guide to PPG17 identifies five key steps to undertaking an assessment of playing pitches, indoor facilities and open space. These are broadly:
- **Step 1** – Identifying Local Needs
 - **Step 2** – Auditing Local Provision
 - **Step 3** – Setting Provision Standards
 - **Step 4** – Applying Provision Standards
 - **Step 5** – Policy Options
- 2.2 A number of key research exercises were undertaken during the period January 2005– May 2005, to identify the extent and condition of existing sport, leisure and open space provision in the District, and the local views on this provision. It is important to note that the 2001 Census data has been used as the baseline for this study, and all calculations are based on these figures. However, the fact that the population is increasing is acknowledged, and where possible, the figures to support this have been shown.
- 2.3 The assessments of quantity and quality have been undertaken on both a District wide basis and on the basis of the four main towns and associated parish clusters Blandford, Shaftesbury Sturminster Newton and Gillingham.
- 2.4 The Four Towns and associated parish cluster areas relate to those defined by the Council, in relation to service management and delivery:

Figure 2.1 - Town Areas and Associated Parish Areas

Town	Parish Area
Blandford	Blandford Forum, Pimperne, Tarrant Gunville, Farnham, Chettle, Tarrant Hinton, Tarrant Launceston, Tarrant Monkton, Tarrant Lawston, Tarrant Keynston, Tarrant Rushton, Tarrant Crawford, Spetisbury, Winterborne Zelston, Winterborne Kingston, Winterborne Whitechurch, Milborne St Andrew, Milton Abbas, Hilton, Winterborne Houghton, Winterborne Clenston, Winterborne Stickland, Turnworth, Durweston, Bryanston Blandford St Mary, Anderson, Stourpaine, Langton Long Blandford, Charlton Marshall.
Gillingham	Gillingham, Stour Provost, East Stour, West Stour, Kington Magna, Buckhorn Weston, Silton, Bourton, Todber
Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury, Iwerne Steepleton, Shroton/ Iwene Courtney, Iwerne Minster, Sutton Waldron, Ashmore, East Orchard, West Orchard, Margaret Marsh, Fontmell Magna, Compton Abbas, Cann, Motcombe, Melbury and West Melbury

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Town	Parish Area
Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton, Marnhull, Hinton St Mary, Manston, Hammoon, Child Okeford, Hanford, Shillingstone, Okeford Fitzpane, Ibberton, Woolland, Stoke Wake, Mappowder, Pulham, Glanvilles Wooton, Hazlebury Bryan, Fifehead Neville, Lydlinch, Stourton Caundle, Stalbridge

2.5 The four areas and associated parishes are illustrated as map1.

North Dorset Population by Township and Parish

2.6 Based on the 2001 census, the population of North Dorset and by defined area, is as follows:

Figure 2.2 – 2001 Census Population of North Dorset Defined by Area

Area(including the Parishes)	Population
Blandford	22460
Shaftesbury	12160
Sturminster Newton	14390
Gillingham	12480
Total Population North Dorset(Census 2001)	61490
Main Town Population	Population
Blandford Forum	8745
Shaftesbury	6670
Sturminster Newton	3105
Gillingham	9323

A more detailed population breakdown by Parish is included in appendices (Population figures provided by Dorset County Council)

2.7 It is important to note that population has been based on Parish areas rather than wards to give an area total(this has been undertaken as several wards cross between two of the defined areas and therefore population figures would be confused).

2.8 The population of children is estimated to be 17%and 2% for young people of the total population ((Dorset County Council) therefore the following population has been calculated for children and young people based on 19% of the total area population.

Figure 2.3 – Population of Children and Young People by Area

Main Town	Population of Children and Young People
Blandford Forum	1,661
Shaftesbury	1,333
Sturminster Newton	527
Gillingham	1,584

2.9 The individual tasks undertaken to complete the assessment and develop standards of provision and recommendations are summarised below:

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- 2.10 **Stage 1: Identification of local needs:** The following key tasks have been undertaken:
- A review of the implications and priorities of existing strategies to identify links with existing strategic priorities.
 - A review of existing policies and provision standards relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities.
 - Consultation with the community and stakeholders via Sports Club Surveys, School Surveys, Face-to-face meetings, Telephone consultation, Freephone and email services. Additionally a door to door survey to a sample of households has been undertaken across the Parish wards to capture the views of facility users and non-users.
 - The details of the consultation is summarised as follows:
 - Postal surveys to 33 Local Councillors, 58 Parish Councils, 35 Schools, 58 Community Buildings, 30 Sports Clubs, to ask for views about quantity, quality and access
 - Stakeholder Interviews with more than 20 identified stakeholders
 - An internet based self-completion questionnaire
 - A review of existing consultation and market research undertaken
 - 600 Door to Door survey to identify the views of facility users and non-users; the addresses were identified by NDDC, to ensure representative feedback from around the District (Details of the approach and all findings are in Appendix 1). Although not everyone in the District, or each ward was surveyed, the sample chose was random to provide a balanced perspective on the questions asked.
 - A FREEPHONE consultation service operating for a three month period which was promoted in a number of local newspapers.
- 2.11 **Stage 2: Audit of local provision:** The following key tasks have been undertaken:
- Review of quantitative information held by the Council
 - Site visits to all known open space, sport and recreation facilities with community use (across all sectors). As no comprehensive data of sites is held by the District Council, the Local Plan inset maps were utilised to identify greenspace and the Town Councils updated site lists for their area.
 - Consultation with facility providers
 - Mapping facilities in respect of location and catchment area
- 2.12 **Stage 3: Setting Provision Standards:** The following key tasks have been undertaken:
- Quantity Standards set using the findings of facility audits, local consultation and demand modelling
 - Quality Standards set using the findings of facility audits and local consultation
 - Accessibility Standards set using the findings of facility audits, local consultation and mapping catchment areas
 - The recommended local standards have been developed to reflect the identified quality and quantitative issues; they are specific to North Dorset,

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- although have been developed in the context of nationally recognised standards for quality
- 2.13 **Stage 4: Application of Provision Standards:** On the basis of the set standards, application of these, such as defined catchment areas, the impact of poor quality, allows the:
- A number of mapping exercises to assess levels of provision and accessibility
 - Identification of deficiencies in accessibility
 - Identification of deficiencies in quality
 - Identification of surpluses or deficiencies in quantity
- 2.14 **Stage 5: Recommendations:** The findings of the process undertaken have allowed a number of key recommendations to be made and the identification of a number of key strategic priorities for the future.
- 2.15 The assessment has considered:
- Quantity.** A number of key questions have been considered, including:
- Is there enough provision to adequately serve the needs of local residents and the sporting community?
 - Is current provision in the right place?
 - Is there enough provision to adequately serve North Dorset in the future, taking into account changes to demography and the national and local strategic context?
 - What is the current mix of provision across all providers?
- Quality -** Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. The quality assessments were based on a non-technical visual assessment completed to rate the quality of a number of key criteria. The assessment has considered a number of key questions, including:
- Is the provision available of sufficient quality to be “fit for purpose”?
 - Does the quality of provision affect usage and potential usage?
 - How is quality perceived by users and non-users?
- Accessibility.** In relation to accessibility, a number of key questions were posed, including:
- Is provision physically accessible to the local community?
 - Is pricing (where prices apply), and the level of fees and charges a barrier to usage?
 - Is provision in the right place to serve local communities?
 - How does the management of facilities impact on access?
- Value.** The following key questions were considered in the consideration of value:
- Is provision viewed as valuable by the local community?

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- Does the provision (directly and through enabling) contribute positively to the delivery of key Council Corporate objectives?
- What is the perception of key stakeholders?

Types of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities

- 2.16 In order to assess in some detail the adequacy of open space, sport and recreation provision, it is necessary to consider the different types of provision and their primary role and function. Knowing why and what an open space or sports facility is there “to do, or to provide” is critical to making judgements about its adequacy in respect of quantity, quality and accessibility.
- 2.17 The PPG17 Companion Guide provides guidance on a number of key categories (Typology) of open space, sport and recreation provision. Some classification of key parks and open spaces has previously been undertaken through the development of the NDLP. Consultation with Planning Policy, Environment and Sport Development Officers, Sport and Leisure Officers, together with a review of key audit data has led to an adoption of this typology to reflect local provision across the North Dorset. The typologies used in this report are summarised on page 7.
- 2.18 The typologies have been developed on the basis of the primary purpose for which the open space/facility is used and have been developed to reflect the provision within North Dorset. For example North Dorset does not have traditional parks in the same sense as more urban areas with flower beds, bowling greens, park pavilions and cafes instead it has open space in the form of recreation grounds, gardens and amenity space (sites within residential areas that are used informally as a kick about area, somewhere to walk the dog or space that is designed as landscape to improve the appearance of an area).
- 2.19 It is generally accepted that traditional municipal parks were established in Victorian times to provide relief to industrialised Cities and North Dorset’s provision simply reflects the rural nature of the District with each of the main towns and villages having some form of space to provide for outdoor recreation.
- 2.20 It is worth stressing that while the NDDC has undertaken some consultation in recent years e.g. Best Value, the consultation undertaken specifically for this study represents the most comprehensive dialogue with local communities to date. Details of the consultation undertaken are set out in Section II of this report.
- 2.21 The assessment has looked at facilities on both a district wide basis and with consideration to the Council’s Town and Parish areas.
- 2.22 Indoor Sports Facilities and Community Recreation facilities have not been considered in detail, the consultation undertaken identified public opinion on Community recreation facilities and the findings are included within section II Identifying Local Needs. An insight into indoor facilities is included within the appendices of this strategy.

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Assessing Quantity

2.23 The assessment of quantity has been undertaken on the basis of:

- Information provided by the District Council from the NDLP in terms of the insert maps which illustrate by township and village areas of green space
- Identifying sites through discussions with the town and parish councils
- Identification of Sites through questionnaire feedback (sports clubs and local councillors)
- Identification of sites through discussions with the Countryside Wardens.
- Identification of sites through web based research for example 'The Woodlands Trust'
- The use of GIS digital mapping and Aerial photography to site capture all sites identified

Assessing Quality

2.24 The assessment of quality has been undertaken on the basis of:

- Site visits to community accessible facilities to rate a number of key criteria affecting quality
- Quality ratings from key users, residents and specific user groups

The overall quality scores place a site within certain key categories along the "quality value line". Given the variations in quality assessments undertaken for certain typologies, the various quality lines are illustrated below:

Quality Line – Open Space, Natural Green Space, Green Corridors, Amenity)

0% - 15%	16% - 30%	31% - 45%	46% - 60%	61% - 75%	76% +
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent

Quality Line - Allotments

0% - 19%	20% - 39%	40% - 59%	60% - 79%	80% +
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent

Quality Line – Playing Pitches

0% - 30%	31% - 39%	40% - 59%	60% - 89%	90% +
Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent

Quality Line – Bowling Greens, Tennis Courts, Play Areas

0% - 19%	20% - 39%	40% - 59%	60% - 79%	80% +
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent

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Assessing Access

- 2.25 The assessment of accessibility has been undertaken on the basis of:
- Auditing factors known to affect the access to certain types of facility
 - Consultation with local residents
 - Mapping exercises to identify catchment areas for different types of provision
- 2.26 Map 2 (in the attached document) shows the location of all sites, colour coded to reflect the primary typology of the site.

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Figure 2.4 – PPG17 Typology

PPG 17 Typology	North Dorset Typology		Primary Purpose
Parks and Gardens	Open Space	Recreation Ground	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events
		Amenity	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas
Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace	Natural and Semi Natural Green space	Nat/Semi Natural	Including woodlands, commons. Wildlife conservation, bio diversity, ecological, and environmental education awareness Sites of specialist nature supporting wildlife/natural habitats/rare flora and fauns
Green Corridors	Green Corridors	Green Corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding whether for leisure purposes or travel opportunities for wildlife migration. It is important to note that the purpose of Green Chains is to serve as a wildlife corridor, and enhance visual amenity, and they may, or may not, have public access
Outdoor Sports	Outdoor Sport	Sports Pitches	Participation in outdoor sports such as pitch sports, Football, Rugby, Hockey, Cricket
		Institutional pitches	
Provision for Children and Young people	Provision for Young People		Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters
Allotments	Allotments		Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Cemeteries		Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to wildlife conservation and bio diversity
Private Land	Private Sites		Land identified as part of the audit that is not readily accessible to the public

On the basis of the above typology, the following sites have been audited:

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Figure 2.5 Site Typology (Audited or identified through GIS recorded)

Blandford Area

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
Open Space	Recreation Grounds	Blandford Forum	Larksmead Recreation Ground	3.7	Pitches rated see outdoor sport
		Blandford Forum	Park Road Recreation Ground	2.46	Pitches rated see outdoor sport
		Durweston	Durweston Rec Open Space	1.32	74%
		Milton Abbas	Milton Abbas Recreation Ground	3.12	62%
		Winterborne Kingston	Broad Close Recreation Ground	2.0	59%
	Amenity Space	Milton Abbas	Milton Abbas Village Green	0.06	47.4%
		Winterborne Kingston	Broad Close Village Green	0.18	41.6%
		Winterborne Whitechurch	Village Green	0.23	60.5%
		Blandford Forum	Woodhouse Gardens	0.105	75.94%
		Blandford Forum	School House OS	0.081	49.62%
		Blandford Forum	Bradbury Drive	0.073	Not audited
		Blandford Forum	Wimborne Road Amenity OS	0.372	41.36%
		Blandford Forum	Fishers Close Amenity OS	0.143	33.64%
		Blandford Forum	Liddington Crescent	0.029	48.89%
		Blandford Forum	Mortain Close	0.104	59.17%
		Blandford Forum	Holland Way	0.043	50.67%
		Blandford Forum	Kingston Close	0.165	41.74%
		Blandford Forum	Marston Close	0.069	57.69%
		Blandford Forum	Overton Walk	0.037	27.86%
		Blandford Forum	Holland Way (South)/Fairfield View	0.066	17.14%
		Blandford Forum	Greenhill	0.724	39.50%
		Blandford Forum	Langton Crescent	0.119	28.75%
Blandford Forum		Stanton Close	0.028	26.45%	
Blandford Forum	Bayfran Way	0.086	29.41%		
Blandford Forum	Eagle House Gardens	0.01	28.00%		
Blandford Forum	Hambledon Close	0.02	29.41%		
Blandford Forum	Ramsbury Close	0.102	Not audited		

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TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
		Blandford Forum	Damory Court	0.077	Not audited
		Blandford Forum	Churchill Road	0.052	Not audited
		Blandford Forum	Badbury Heights (Casterbridge Close, Wetherbury Close, Sandbourne Close)	0.158	Under construction
		Tarrant Hinton	A354 Open Space	0.029	31.79%
		Charlton Marshall	Charlton Marshall AOS	0.04	43.33%
		Charlton Marshall	Green Close OS	0.155	27.72%
		Charlton Marshall	The Close OS	0.02	43.53%
		Charlton Marshall	Riverside Garden	0.11	50.87%
		Charlton Marshall	The Stour Valley Way	0.122	Not audited
		Spetisbury	Slopers Mead	0.578	Not audited
		Spetisbury	Memorial Garden	0.019	36.60%
		Tarrant Monkton & Tarrant Launceston	Tarrant Launceston Open Space	0.163	32.31%
		Tarrant Monkton & Tarrant Launceston	Tarrant Monkton Forge	0.109	45.71%
		Stourpaine	Park Close, Stourpaine, Open Space	1.195	20.00%
		Bourton	Woolcotte Lane OS	0.257	Identified through GIS
		Winterborne Kingston	Amenity Land	0.319	Identified through GIS
		Winterborne Whitechurch	Fosters Meadows	0.232	Identified through GIS
		Farnham	Green Space	0.096	Identified through GIS
		Tarrant Gunville	School Close OS	0.059	Identified through GIS
		Tarrant Gunville	Open Space Opposite Westbury House	0.061	Identified through GIS
		Bryanston	Bryanston OS 1	0.065	Identified through GIS
		Bryanston	Bryanston OS 2	0.266	Identified through GIS
		Bryanston	Bryanston OS 3	0.112	Identified through GIS
		Stourpaine	Orchard Close OS	0.411	Identified through GIS
		Stourpaine	Coach Road OS	0.054	Identified through GIS
		Blandford Forum	Salisbury Road OS	0.052	Identified through GIS
Blandford Forum	Common Lane OS	0.483	Identified through GIS		
Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace		Blandford Forum	Angus Wood	13.33	41.03%
		Blandford Forum	The Milldown	2.818	59.33%
		Blandford Forum	Preetz Way Open Space	2.374	38.26%
		Blandford Forum	Wimborne Road Open Space	0.726	16.72%
		Blandford Forum	Blandford Forest	39.81	32.12%
		Charlton Marshall	Charlton Beeches	2.337	42.38%
		Stourpaine	Hod Hill	0.491	51.37%
		Winterborne Zelston	River Bank	0.732	Identified through GIS

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
		Winterborne Stickland	River Bank	0.322	Identified through GIS
		Bryanston	Bryanston OS 1	0.496	Identified through GIS
		Blandford Forum	River Stour Island	0.45	Identified through GIS
		Blandford Forum	The Ham	0.4	Not rated
Green Corridors		Blandford Forum	Blandford River Walk	0.36	56.43%
		Charlton Marshall	Redundant Railway Line	1.558	40.89%
		Charlton Marshall	The Stour Valley Way	0.122	Not Audited
		Spetisbury	Redundant Railway Line	3.309	50.00%
		Tarrant Rushton	Bridleway	0.25	41.54%
		Blandford Forum	Disused Railway Path	3.034	Not audited
					Community use
Outdoor Sports		Blandford	Archbishop Wake First School	1 MUGA	No Community Use
		Blandford	Blandford Camp Astroturf	1STP	Yes Community Use
		Birch Avenue, Blandford	Blandford St. Mary First School	1 mini soccer	No Community Use
		Bryanston, Blandford Forum, Dorset	Bryanston School	3 rugby, 3 cricket,2 STP	Yes Community Use
		Iwerne Minster, Blandford Forum, Dorset	Clayesmore School	4 Junior,2 Senior,2 GrassHockey 9 Rugby,1 STP, 1 MUGA	Yes Community Use
		Stourpaine	Dick Draper Memorial Playing Field	1 Senior football	Yes Community Use
		Church Road, Durweston	Durweston Playing Fields	1 mini soccer,1junior football,1MUGA	Yes Community Use
		Child Okeford, Blandford	Hanford School, Child Okeford	1 Grass Hockey,1 MUGA	No Community Use
		Milton Abbas	Hoggen Down, Milton Abbas	1 Junior football, 1 senior football 1 cricket	Yes Community Use
		Durweston, Blandford Forum	Knighton House School	2 grass hockey	No Community Use
		Langton Road	Langton Road Pitch	1Senior Football	Community use not identified
		Blandford	Larksmead Recreation Ground	1 mini soccer,2junior football,2 senior football	Yes Community Use
		Milborne St Andrew	Milborne St. Andrew First School	1 junior football	Yes Community Use
		The Causeway, Milborne St. Andrew	Milborne St. Andrew Playing Fields	1 Junior football	Yes Community Use
			Millborne Sports Club	1 Senior football	Yes Community Use
		The Milldown, Blandford Forum	Milldown C.E. VC First School	1 mini soccer, 1 MUGA	No Community Use
		Blandford	Milldown Middle School	1 Junior football, 1 grass hockey, 1 rugby	Yes Community Use
	Blandford Road, Milton Abbas	Milton Abbas Sports Field	1 junior football, 1 cricket	Yes Community Use	

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating	
		Blandford	Park Road Recreation Ground /	1 senior football, 1 cricket, 1 MUGA	Yes Community Use	
		School Lane	Pimperne First School	1 mini soccer,	No Community Use	
		Pimperne	Priory Field	1 senior football, 1 cricket	Yes Community Use	
		Spetisbury, Nr. Blandford	Spetisbury First School	2 mini soccer	No Community Use	
		Tarrant Gunville	Squires Field	1 grass training area	Yes Community Use	
		Black Lane, Blandford	St. Leonards School	1 mini soccer, 1 junior football, 1 grass hockey, 1 rugby, 1 cricket	No Community Use	
		Child Okeford, Blandford	St. Nicholas C of E V.A. Primary	1 junior football 1 rugby	Yes Community Use	
		Tarrant Keyneston	Tarrant Keyneston Village Hall Pitch	1 mini soccer	Community Use Not Identified	
		Blandford Forum	The Blandford School	1 mini soccer, 2 junior football, 1 senior football, 3 rugby 1 cricket	Yes Community Use	
		Blandford Forum	The Dunbury C of E School	1 junior football	No Community Use	
		Spetisbury, Nr. Blandford	Water Meadows	1 cricket	Yes Community Use	
		Winterborne Kingston	Winterborne Kingston Recreation Ground	1 cricket	Yes Community Use	
		Provision for children and young people		Blandford	Hunt Road	0.114
Blandford	Park Road Play Area			0.183	27.78%	
Blandford	Milldown Play Area			0.258	42.59%	
Blandford	Larksmead Recreation Ground Play Area			0.066	35.19%	
Blandford	Langton Road Play Area			0.093	25.00%	
Blandford	Stour Meadows Scheme Skatepark			0.14	83.20%	
Blandford St. Mary	Pigeon Close			0.109	38.43%	
Charlton Marshall	Hopegood Play Area			0.049	33.33%	
Farnham	Farnham Play Area			0.063	15.74%	
Durweston	Durweston Rec Play Area			0.059	18.06%	
Milborne St. Andrew	Playing Fields			0.9	61.78%	
Milton Abbas	Milton Abbas Play Area			0.097	37.50%	
Stourpaine	Draper Play Area			0.116	15.28%	
Stourpaine	Bottom Road Play Area			0.094	Not Audited	
Pimperne	Pimperne Primary School			0.046	31.94%	
Pimperne	Pimperne Play Area			0.062	43.98%	
Tarrant Keyneston	Village Hall Play Area			0.04	32.41%	
Tarrant Gunville	Play Area			0.450	40.00%	
Winterborne Kingston	Broad Close Play Area			0.096	27.31%	
W/Whitechurch	Play Area			0.070	53.60%	

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
Allotments		Blandford Forum	Lampards Field Allotment Gardens	13.08	85.00%
		Blandford Forum	Blandford Heights Allotments	0.505	3.00%
Churchyards and Cemeteries		Hilton	Hilton All Saints Church	0.778	30.00%
		Anderson	Anderson Church(closed)	2.34	16.17%
		Blandford	St. Peter & St. Paul's Church	0.28	67.59%
		Blandford	Blandford Cemetery	2.293	61.05%
		Blandford	Langton Long Church	0.236	55.56%
		Winterborne Houghton	St Andrew's Church	0.292	Not Audited
		Pimperne	St. Peter's Church	0.573	57.63%
		Farnham	Farnham Church	0.31	55.32%
		Tarrant Gunville	St. Mary's Church	0.242	58.52%
		Tarrant Hinton	The Church of St Mary	0.204	40.00%
		Charlton Marshall	St. Mary the Virgin Church	0.125	53.06%
		Spetisbury	St John the Baptist Church	0.458	55.93%
		Tarrant Keyneston	All Saints Church	0.409	57.14%
		Tarrant Monkton & Tarrant Launceston	All Saints Tarrant Monkton with Launceston	0.255	55.69%
		Tarrant Rushton	Tarrant Rushton Church	0.321	53.70%
	Durweston	St Nicks Durweston Cemetery	0.432	65.77%	

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

Figure 2.6 - Shaftesbury Area

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating	
Open Space	Recreation Grounds	Iwerne Minster	Iwerne Minster Rec Open Space	3.25	91.11%	
		Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna Rec Open Space	0.36	65.14%	
		Motcombe	Motcombe Rec Open Space	2.327	53.93%	
		Shaftesbury	Barton Hill Open Space	2.508	43.77%	
	Amenity Space	Iwerne Courtney (Shronton)	Shronton centre of village Open Space	0.086	45.14%	
		Iwerne Courtney (Shronton)	The Glebe	0.518	Not Audited	
		Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas Open Space	0.772	50.55%	
		Sutton Waldron	Sutton Waldron next to church, Church Lane Open Space	0.294	24.00%	
		Ashmore	Ashmore Village Green & Pond	0.197	42.78%	
		Shaftesbury	Coppice Street (nr Tesco) Open Space	2.271	53.33%	
		Shaftesbury	St James Street, Shaftesbury Open Space	1.752	58.67%	
		Shaftesbury	Linden Park	0.577	43.89%	
		Shaftesbury	Rutter Close	0.061	48.89%	
		Iwerne Minster	Shute Lane OS	0.132	Identified through GIS	
		Iwerne Minster	Higher Street OS	0.139	Identified through GIS	
		Iwerne Courtney (Shronton)	Shroton OS 1	0.362	Identified through GIS	
		Iwerne Courtney (Shronton)	Shroton OS 2	0.431	Identified through GIS	
		Compton Abbas 9	Compton Abbas OS 1	0.791	Identified through GIS	
		Compton Abbas 9	Compton Abbas OS 2	0.228	Identified through GIS	
		Compton Abbas 9	Compton Abbas OS 3	0.561	Identified through GIS	
		Compton Abbas 9	Compton Abbas OS 4	0.236	Identified through GIS	
		Compton Abbas 9	Compton Abbas OS 5	0.068	Identified through GIS	
		Compton Abbas 9	Compton Abbas OS 6	0.38	Identified through GIS	
		Compton Abbas 9	Compton Abbas OS 7	0.08	Identified through GIS	
		Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna OS 1	0.113	Identified through GIS	
		Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna OS 2	0.097	Identified through GIS	
Fontmell Magna		Fontmell Magna OS 3	0.229	Identified through GIS		
Sutton Waldron OS	Sutton Waldron OS 1	0.101	Identified through GIS			
Sutton Waldron OS	Sutton Waldron OS 2	0.486	Identified through GIS			
Sutton Waldron OS	Sutton Waldron OS 3	0.268	Identified through GIS			
Sutton Waldron OS	Sutton Waldron OS 4	0.903	Identified through GIS			
Sutton Waldron OS	Sutton Waldron OS 5	0.249	Identified through GIS			
Shaftesbury	The Beeches OS	0.139	Identified through GIS			
Shaftesbury	Layton Lane OS	0.305	Identified through GIS			
Shaftesbury	Open Space Off French Mill Lane and Hawkesdene Lane	0.545	Identified through GIS			
Shaftesbury	Open Space South of Royal Chase Roundabout	0.804	Identified through GIS			

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
Natural and semi natural Greenspace		Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas general Open Space	0.526	28.89%
		Fontmell Magna	Brookland Wood	0.461	60.00%
			Ashmore Wood	0.256	50.00%
		Melbury Abbas	Melbury Wood	76.84	20.50%
		Shaftesbury	end of Pound Lane Shaftesbury Open Space	0.368	29.09%
		Shaftesbury	Castle Hill	3.342	Identified through GIS
		Shaftesbury	St. James' Common	0.194	18.06%
		Shaftesbury	Kingsettle Wood	16.34	25.71%
		Shaftesbury	Ambrose Copse		22.76%
		Shaftesbury	St James Pond	0.318	Identified through GIS
		Shaftesbury	Bimport / Langfords Lane OS	0.196	Identified through GIS
		Shaftesbury	Remains of St Mary and St Edward's Abbey	1.019	Identified through GIS
		Shaftesbury	Yeatmans Close OS	0.417	Identified through GIS
		Shaftesbury	Trout Hill OS	0.182	Identified through GIS
		Shaftesbury	Shooters Lane OS	0.434	Identified through GIS
		Shaftesbury	Salisbury Road OS	0.25	Identified through GIS
	Shaftesbury	Nettlecombe OS	0.318	Identified through GIS	
Green Corridors					
Outdoor sports		Shaftesbury	Cockram, Coppice Street	1 Senior Football	Community Use
		Shroton	Fairfield, Shroton	1Cricket	Community Use
		Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna Cricket Club	1Cricket	Community Use
		Shaftesbury	Glaze Field, St. James Common	1Cricket	Community Use
		Ashmore	Green Lane, Ashmore	1 Cricket	Community Use
		Iwerne Minster,	Iwerne Minster Cricket Ground	1 Cricket	Community Use
		Iwerne Minster,	Iwerne Minster Recreation Ground	1 Cricket	Community Use
		Milton-on-Stour	Milton-on-Stour C of E Primary School	1 Junior Football	Community Use
		Motcombe	Motcombe CE VA Primary School	1 Mini Football	No Community Use
				4 Mini Soccer, 2 Senior Football, 4 Rugby,5 Cricket	Community Use
		Motcombe	Port Regis School		
		Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury Leisure Centre	No pitches marked out	Community Use
				3 Senior Football, 1 Grass Hockey, 2 Rugby,1 Cricket	Community Use
		Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury School		
Fontwell Magna	St Andrew's C of E Primary School	1 Junior Football	No Community Use		
Shaftesbury	The Abbey Primary School	1 Mini Soccer	No Community Use		
Playgrounds/ Kick about/ Skatepark (provision for		Ashmore	Play Area	0.070	52.17%
		Iwerne Minster	Iwerne Minster Play Area	0.034	24.07%
		Iwerne Courtney (Shroton)	Shroton Play Area	0.043	16.67%
		Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas Play Area	0.047	16.67%
		Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna Play Area	0.056	28.24%
		Motcombe	Motcombe Rec Play Area	0.073	21.50%

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
young people)		Shaftesbury	Ash Close Play Area	0.250	50.70%
		Shaftesbury	Wincombe Road	0.040	35.00%
		Shaftesbury	Castle Hill Close	0.030	39.00%
		Shaftesbury	Barton Hill Play Area	0.153	19.44%
		Shaftesbury	Coppice Street (nr Tesco) Play Area	0.164	13.89%
		Shaftesbury	St James Street, Shaftesbury Play Area	0.238	22.69%
Allotments		Shaftesbury	St. James (Legg)	0.383	No Audit access denied
		Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury Allotments	0.94	No Audit access denied
Churchyards and Cemeteries		Iwerne Minster	Iwerne Minster Church	0.83	61.57%
		Iwerne Courtney (Shronton)	Shroton Cemetery - St Marys Church	0.383	63.40%
		Compton Abbas	St Marys Compton Abbas Cemetery	0.353	65.53%
		Sutton Waldron	Sutton Waldron Cemetery	0.423	48.15%
		Ashmore	Ashmore Church	0.84	62.59%
		Motcombe	Motcombe Cemetery	0.66	61.54%
		Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury Cemetery	0.653	66.38%
		Iwerne Minster	Iwerne Minster Methodist Church	0.087	Identified through GIS
		Fontmell Magna	St Andrew's Church	0.414	Identified through GIS
		Shaftesbury	St James' Church	0.229	Identified through GIS
	Shaftesbury	St John's Church	0.216	Identified through GIS	
	Shaftesbury	St Edward's Chantry Church	1.3	Identified through GIS	

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

Figure 2.7 - Sturminster

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
Open Space	Recreation Grounds	Shillingstone	Shillingstone Rec Gnd Open Space	3.32	57.82%
		Child Okeford	Child Okeford Rec Open Space	1.9	61.72%
		Sturminster Newton	War Memorial RecSports Ground	3.18	Only pitches rated
	Amenity Space	Melcombe Bingham & Ansty	Higher Ansty OS	0.211	Identified through GIS
		Melcombe Bingham & Ansty	Hartfoot Close OS	0.118	Identified through GIS
		Melcombe Bingham & Ansty	Hartfoot Lane OS	0.1	Identified through GIS
		Kings Stag	Kings Stag OS	0.309	Identified through GIS
		Glanvilles Wootton	The Crossway	0.818	Identified through GIS
		Glanvilles Wootton	Glanvilles Wootton OS	1.151	Identified through GIS
		Mappowder	Mappowder Village Hall	0.091	Identified through GIS
		Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 1	0.05	Identified through GIS
		Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 2	0.141	Identified through GIS
		Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 3	0.676	Identified through GIS
		Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 4	0.57	Identified through GIS
		Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 5	0.743	Identified through GIS
		Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 6	0.362	Identified through GIS
		Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 7	0.174	Identified through GIS
		Child Okeford	Station Road OS	0.639	Identified through GIS
		Stalbridge Weston	Stalbridge Close	0.036	59.26%
		Stalbridge Weston	Stalbridge Civic Space	0.076	76.67%
		Stalbridge Weston	Millenium Space, Stalbridge	0.014	66.11%
		Stalbridge Weston	Grosvenor Close, (off Grosvener Road) Stalbridge	0.397	38.00%
		Stalbridge Weston	Small open space by Stalbridge C of E School	0.103	52.26%
		Okeford Fitzpaine	Okeford Hill Picnic Site	No clear boundary	40.00%
		Hazelbury Bryan Kingston	The Green, Kingston	0.195	21.48%
		Sturminster Newton	Barnes Close Open Space 1	0.04	45.29%
		Sturminster Newton	Barnes Close Open Space 2	0.067	41.76%
		Sturminster Newton	Quarry Close, Sturminster Newton	0.997	25.71%
		Sturminster Newton	Butts Pond', Selwood Close	1.265	35.10%
		Sturminster Newton	Hambledon View OS	0.693	36.36%
		Sturminster Newton	Filbridge Rise	0.122	47.50%
		Sturminster Newton	By Sturminster Newton Leisure Centre	0.28	
		Sturminster Newton	Picnic Area at Sturminster Newton Mill	0.353	71.05%
Hinton St. Mary	Hinton St. Mary Small OS by White Horse Pub	0.031	43.11%		
Hinton St. Mary	Hinton St. Mary Small OS	0.064	Not Audited		
Shillingstone	Schelin Way	1.904	37.58%		
Natural and	Stalbridge Weston	Row of trees	0.017	Identified through GIS	
	Stalbridge Weston	Area of overgrown scrub	0.406	Identified through GIS	

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

TYOLOGY	Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating	
semi natural Greenspace		Lydlinch	Brickles Wood	0.549	34.12%
		Okeford Fitzpaine	Back Lane, Okeford Fitzpaine	0.358	26.67%
		Okeford Fitzpaine	Scrubland	0.171	Identified through GIS
		Ibberton	Scrubland	0.184	Identified through GIS
			Bulbarrow Hill		Identified through GIS
		Sturminster Newton	Riverside Meadows	6.032	43.64%
		Sturminster Newton	Piddles Wood	1.185	21.70%
		Sturminster Newton	Twinwood Coppice	6.083	8.00%
		Hinton St. Mary	Hinton St. Mary Field	0.425	40.00%
		Child Okeford	Hambledon Hill (Hill Fort)	25.69	40.00%
		Shillingstone	Eastcombe Wood	3.65	16.22%
		Marnhull	Bourton Bridge Street OS	0.243	22.78%
		Melcombe Bingham & Ansty	Lower Ansty Woodland	0.153	Identified through GIS
		Shillingstone	Pepper Hill	0.104	Identified through GIS
	Shillingstone	Pepper Green	0.262	Identified through GIS	
Green Corridors					
Outdoor sports		Hazelbury Bryan	Alec's Field	1 Senior Football, 1 Cricket	Community Use
		Sturminster Newton	Barnets Lane	1 Senior Football	Community Use
		Okeford Fitzpaine	Bowey Field	1 Mini Soccer	Community Use
		Okeford Fitzpaine	Sports ground	2 Senior Football	
		Child Okeford	Child Okeford Recreation Ground	1 Senior Football, 1 Cricket	Community Use
		Sturminster Newton	Hambledon View Ground	1 Mini Soccer	Community Use
		Sturminster Newton	Hazelbury Bryan Primary School	2 Mini Soccer, 2 Rugby, 1 Cricket	No Community Use
		Hinton St. Mary	Hinton St. Mary Cricket Ground	1 Cricket	Community Use
		Marnhull	Marnhull Sports Ground	1 Senior Football, 1 Cricket	Community Use
		Okeford Fitzpaine	C of E VA School	1 Junior Football	No Community Use
		Marnhull	St. Gregory's C of E Primary	2 Junior Football	Community Use
		Marnhull, Dorset	St. Mary's Catholic Primary School	1 Mini Soccer, 1 Junior Football	No Community Use
		Stalbridge	Stalbridge Park, The Playing Fields	2 Senior Football, 1 Cricket	Community Use
		Stalbridge	Stalbridge Primary School	1 Junior Football	No Community Use
		Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton High School	1 Mini Soccer, 2 Junior Football, 2 Grass Hockey, 1 Rugby, 1 Cricket	Community Use
		Sturminster Newton	War Memorial RecSports Ground	1 Junior Football, 1 Senior Football,	Community Use
		Stalbridge	Wessex Close	1 Mini Soccer	Community Use
		Sturminster Newton	William Barnes Primary School	1 Mini Soccer	No Community Use
		Sturminster Newton	Green Lane	1 Cricket	No Community Use

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
		Shillingstone	Shillingstone Rec ground	1 Senior Football, 1 Cricket 1 MUGA	Community Use
		Shillingstone,	Shillingstone Primary School	1 mini soccer	No Community Use
Playgrounds/ Kick about/ Skateparks (provision for young people)		Stalbridge Weston	Stalbridge Park Play Area	0.1	28.24%
		Stalbridge Weston	Land at Wessex Close, Stalbridge Play Area	0.041	24.54%
		Okeford Fitzpaine	Okeford Fitzpaine Playing Fields Play Area	0.1	21.76%
		Okeford Fitzpaine	Bowey Lane, Okeford Fitzpaine Play Area	0.9	25.46%
		Sturminster Newton	Filbridge Rise Play Area		
		Sturminster Newton	Alec's Field Play Area	0.041	26.39%
		Sturminster Newton	Station Road, Stur. Newt OS		78.98%
		Sturminster Newton	Station Road,	0.1	29.63%
		Sturminster Newton	Stur. Newt War Memorial Play Area	0.1	37.04%
		Sturminster Newton	Hambledon View Play Area	0.031	29.17%
		Marnhull	Marnhull Play Area & Skate Park	0.133	44.91%
		Marnhull	St. Gregorys C of E Primary School Play Area	0.041	27.31%
		Child Okeford	Child Okeford Rec Play Area	0.034	19.44%
		Glanvilles Wootton	Play Area	0.020	30.00%
		Manston	Play Area	0.500	47.80%
		Shillingstone	Shillingstone Rec Play Area	0.027	25.46%
		Stourton Caundle	Play Area	0.120	56.59%
Allotments		Stourton Caundle	Brimble Cottage Allotments	0.12	30.00%
		Sturminster Newton	Filbridge Rise Allotments	0.711	43.00%
Churchyards and Cemeteries		Okeford Fitzpaine	Okeford Fitzpaine Churchyard	0.449	60.77%
		Ibberton	Ibberton Churchyard	0.159	49.23%
		Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton Church	0.484	64.55%
		Hinton St. Mary	Hinton St. Mary Churchyard	0.094	56.73%
		Hinton St. Mary	Small Churchyard in Hinton St. Mary	0.295	Not Audited (No Access)
		Marnhull	St. Gregorys Church, Marnhull	0.394	41.54%
		Marnhull	Marnhull Cemetery		53.11%
		Child Okeford	Child Okeford Cemetery	0.405	Not Audited
		Shillingstone	Shillingstone Cemetery	0.734	55.00%
		Stourton Caundle	Disused Chapel	0.227	Identified through GIS
		Stourton Caundle	Stourton Caundle Graveyard	0.218	Identified through GIS
		Stourton Caundle	Stourton Caundle Church	0.14	Identified through GIS
		Glanvilles Wootton	St Mary's Church	0.235	Identified through GIS
		Mappowder	St Peter and St Paul's Church -	0.147	Identified through GIS

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

Figure 2.8 - Gillingham

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
Open Space	Recreation Grounds	Gillingham	Colesbrook Rec Ground	4.391	Not Audited Identified through GIS
		Gillingham	Gillingham Recreation Ground/leisure centre	6.8	Only Audited for Play Provision
		Stour Provost	Stour Provost Recreation Ground and Swings	0.576	81.00%
	Amenity Space	Gillingham	Waitrose Carpark	0.819	34.23%
		Gillingham	Campion Close	0.045	49.81%
		Gillingham	Downsview Drive	0.677	61.33%
		Gillingham	Somerset Close	0.147	42.22%
		Gillingham	Sorrell Way		34.29%
		Gillingham	Addison Close (Riverside)	2.728	28.00%
		Gillingham	Addison Close OS	0.096	21.82%
		Gillingham	Addison Close 1	0.079	Not Audited
		Gillingham	Addison Close 2	0.012	Not Audited
		Gillingham	Hyde Road OS	0.013	44.55%
		Gillingham	Ivy Close OS	0.018	42.05%
			Ivy Close OS 2	0.028	Not Audited
		Gillingham	Maple Way (East)	0.09	42.04%
		Gillingham	Maple Way (West)	0.06	36.92%
		Gillingham	East Way Open Space		42.04%
		Buckhorn Weston	Covered Reservoir	0.423	Identified through GIS
		Kington Magna	Green Lane OS -	1.108	Identified through GIS
		Kington Magna	West Street OS -	0.347	Identified through GIS
		Milton	OS Adjacent to The Old House	0.331	Identified through GIS
		Milton	Kendalls Farm	0.247	Identified through GIS
		Milton	Back Lane OS -	1.006	Identified through GIS
		Milton	Little Marsh	0.198	Identified through GIS
		Milton	Post Office Road OS	1.143	Identified through GIS
		Milton	Open Space Adjacent to Swimming Pool	0.313	Identified through GIS
		Fifehead Magdalen	Fifehead Magdalen OS	0.08	Identified through GIS
		Fifehead Magdalen	Fifehead Cottage OS	0.392	Identified through GIS
		Bourton	Green Space Adjacent to Old Vicarage	0.163	Identified through GIS
		Gillingham	Marlott Road OS	0.184	Identified through GIS
Natural and		Gillingham	Ham Common		38.22%

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
semi natural Greenspace		East Stour	Duncliffe Wood	87.91	43.45%
		Fifehead Magdalen	Fifehead Wood	0.321	31.50%
		Bourton	Queen Oak Pond	0.443	Identified through GIS
		Bourton	Ashgrove Lodge Pond	0.15	Identified through GIS
		Gillingham	Shreen Water River Banks	1.944	Identified through GIS
		Gillingham	Land Adjacent to Kingscourt	3.284	Identified through GIS
		Motcombe	Church Walk OS	0.437	Identified through GIS
		Motcombe	Shorts Green Lane OS	0.275	Identified through GIS
Green Corridors		Motcombe	Woodsmoke OS	0.328	Identified through GIS
		Gillingham	Public Footpath & Cycleway	1.283	58.14%
		Gillingham	Rolls Bridge	0.822	43.56%
		Gillingham	Wavering Lane	1.822	38.37%
		Gillingham	Chantry Fields Riverwalk	0.012	49.64%
Outdoor sports		Gillingham	Public Footpath around school	0.16	38.22%
		Buckhorn Weston	Buckhorn Weston Cricket Club	1 Cricket	Community Use
		Gillingham	East Stour Playing Field	1 Senior Football	Community Use
		Gillingham	Gillingham Leisure Centre	2 Senior Football, 1 Cricket	Community Use
		Gillingham,	Gillingham Primary School	1 Mini soccer	No Community Use
		Gillingham	Gillingham Recreation Ground	1 Senior Football	Community Use
		Gillingham	Gillingham School	1 Junior Football, 2 Senior Football, 2 Rugby,	Community Use
		Kington Magna	Kington Magna Pitch	2 Junior Football	Community Use
		Bourton	St. George's C of E School / Ground	1 Senior Football	Community Use
		Stour Provost	Stour Provost Playing Field	1 Senior Football, 1 Cricket	Community Use
		Stour Provost	Community School	2 mini soccer, 1 Grass Hockey, 1 Cricket	No Community Use
		Gillingham	Wyke Primary Gillingham	1 Mini soccer	No Community Use
	Playgrounds/ Kick about/ Skateparks (provision for young people)		Bourton	St Georges Primary School/Rec Ground - Play Area	0.043
		Buckhorn Weston	Play Area	0.120	49.20%
		East Stour	Play Area	1.530	65.20%
		Gillingham	Gillingham Leisure Centre Play Area	0.063	50.93%
		Gillingham	Windsor Lane Play Area (Next to school)	0.178	35.19%
		Gillingham	Addison Close Play Area	0.069	16.67%
		Gillingham	King John Road Play Area	0.730	43.00%
		Gillingham	Lodbourne Terrace Play Area	0.100	29.00%
		Gillingham	Hyde Road Play Area	0.080	27.50%
		Kington Magna	Play Area	0.080	39.20%

SECTION II -STUDY METHODOLOGY

TYPOLOGY		Settlement	Site Name	Hectares	Quality Rating
Allotments		Gillingham	Gillingham Allotments	0.373	Not Audited
Churchyards and Cemeteries		Bourton	St. Georges Church	0.301	43.55%
		Bourton	Graveyard	0.295	41.22%
		Gillingham	St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham	0.269	70.51%
		Stour Provost	St. Michael & Angels Church	0.24	43.17%
		Stour Row	Village Hall (Old Church)	0.095	43.83%
		Stour Row	All Saints Church	0.197	37.96%
		Buckhorn Weston	St John the Baptist's Church	0.347	Identified through GIS
		East Stour	Christ Church - East Stour	0.55	Identified through GIS
		Fifehead Magdalen	Fifehead Magdalen Cemetery	0.119	Identified through GIS
		Fifehead Magdalen	St Mary Magdalene's Church - Fifehead	0.179	Identified through GIS
		West Stour	St Mary's Church - West Stour	0.139	Identified through GIS
		Gillingham	Catholic Church of St Benedict Cemetery	1.619	Identified through GIS
		Gillingham	Cemetery Road Cemetery	0.29	Identified through GIS

SECTION III –ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS

Identifying Local Needs

- 3.1 In order to assess the Local Needs of North Dorset it is important to review the current strategies and policies that have guided provision and led to the range of facilities and quantity of provision of green space to date. Outlined below is a broad brush review of National, Regional and Local strategies and policies that have affected or influenced provision in North Dorset.

Strategic Review & Policy Background

National Policy

- 3.2 The need for improved use and management of open spaces particularly public parks in urban areas has seen increased commitment demonstrated in national regional and local government policy. The following key documents summarised in Figure 3.1 below have provided the impetus for the development and preparation of this strategy. They include;

Figure 3.1 - National and Local Planning Guidance Strategic Framework

PLANNING GUIDANCE	Objective
Planning Policy Guidance Note 17.	Outlines the importance for local authorities to undertake robust assessments of the local need for quality open spaces. In order to develop local standards which are based on local supply and demand for facilities.
“Living Places – Cleaner, Safer, Greener” (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister 2002)	Gives a commitment to develop a clearer national framework for urban parks and greenspaces
Urban Greenspaces Task Force “Greenspaces, Better Places”	Recognises that parks and open spaces have the potential to make a significant contribution to urban regeneration by making places more liveable and sustainable whilst also enriching the quality of people’s lives and local communities
The Framework for Sport in England	These documents provide the national sporting context for this study. The importance of a range of facility provision is identified, encompassing formal sporting facilities, and an environment that facilitates informal active recreation.
North Dorset District Local Plan adopted 2003 and supplementary planning guidance	The Local plan forms the basis for decisions on planning applications and provides the policies and proposal framework the Council believe will strike the right balance between the need to cater for development requirements within the District Boundaries and the need to protect and enhance the environmental qualities of the area.

SECTION III –ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS

PLANNING GUIDANCE	Objective
Corporate Plan 2004-2008	The plan details the Council's aims, objectives and targets in delivering its discrete set of services and cross cutting improvement plans which will deliver the Council Corporate objectives.

- 3.3 In the recent **Urban Parks Assessment** undertaken through the DETR the study illustrates the shortfall in budgets for public Greenspace nationally to be in excess of £1.3 billion.
- 3.4 A prescribed methodology for the assessment of playing pitch provision is detailed in "**Toward a Level Playing Field**" (Sport England, CCPR, 2002). In addition to the assessment methodology, a number of policies to oppose the loss of playing fields are detailed.

North Dorset Local Plan & Supplementary Planning Guidance

- 3.5 The Local Plan forms the policy basis for decisions on planning applications, and provides a framework for the nature of development that will be permitted or not permitted over the lifespan of the plan. The assessment of open space, sport and recreation will be critical to informing future development of these policies and planning guidance.
- 3.6 The objectives of the Local Plan linked to Open Space, Indoor and Outdoor Recreation provision can be summarised as follows:
- To maintain and improve provision of community facilities and services and to relate these adequately to the needs of the population(Policy 4.4)
 - To maintain and improve provision of all forms of indoor and outdoor recreation and to relate these adequately to the needs of the population (Policy 4.4b Recreation)
 - To retain existing play areas and outdoor amenity open space for residential estates(Policy 4.6)
 - New development designated for families should provide for casual children's play space and equipped children's playgrounds based on the scale of the development(Policy 4.8)
 - To conserve the character, landscape and wildlife of an area whilst enhancing public enjoyment and understanding of the countryside (Policy 4.9)
- 3.7 The Council have adopted the following standards (these standards are loosely based on the 6 acre National Playing Field Association which have been applied nationally as a guide for planning future provision.
- 1.6-1.8 ha (40-50 acres) per 1000 population for youth and adult use this must comprise of 1.2 ha (3 acres)for mini pitch provision and 0.4 -0.6 ha 1.0-1.5 acres for greens, courts and athletics tracks
 - New residential development must also provide amenity open space at a standard of 0.4-0.5 ha per 1000 population and fixed play at 0.2- 0.3 ha per 1000 population

SECTION III –ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS

- Within new developments play areas such be within safe pedestrian distance, for pre school children this is less than 200 metres and 400 metres for older children. Contributions negotiated from residential developments do not contribute to the provision of play space and need to be negotiated separately
- The District Council is also initiating the concept of 'Home Zones'. The use of 'Home Zones' allows streets to be used resulting in the potential reduction in the need for 'Local Areas for Play' (LAPS)
- The NPFA standards advocate different size play areas for different age groups and for young children a play space should be provided for every 15 units and within 400 metres walking distance
- Larger equipped play areas as part of areas of open space, may also be required on developments over 200 dwellings. This type of play area will also provide a kick about and opportunities for wheeled play and facilities for teenagers
- Developers are also expected to make an off site capital contribution in a suitable location if the existing play area is servicing a lower than standard population and the contributions will go to facility improvement

3.8 The main problem in adopting this approach to provision is that it is generic and does not take into account existing provision in terms of quality, accessibility, appropriateness or need. For example an area may have surplus adult pitches that can be easily transformed to provide mini pitches and yet have a deficiency of good quality training facilities that can cater for a number of sports or inadequate changing accommodation that serves to promote dual use of adults and juniors or male and female.

3.9 Equipped play areas needs to be provided for every 50 units to cater for younger accompanied children and unaccompanied older children. For smaller sites a payment for off site provision within 400 metres safe walking distance.

3.10 The NPFA standard for play is applied on a site by site basis through calculating the population of the proposed development and identifying play space requirements.

Key Principles of the Strategy

3.11 There are several key principles in the development of Strategy they are to;

- To concentrate on providing quality provision
- To develop wider use of facilities with restricted access e.g. school facilities
- To secure high levels of access at a local level to a range of facilities (variety of greenspaces and sport/recreation facilities)
- To respond to local needs when there is a clear articulated consensus of opinion
- To concentrate on providing sports pitches at strategic locations fit for purpose
- To develop local standards to meet local needs

SECTION III –ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS

Identifying Local Needs

- 3.12 In order to develop a Strategy and derive local policies from it, it is essential to consult with the local community to gain an insight into local needs and aspirations. It is also important to ascertain the views of local communities as part of the Best Value and community planning process.
- 3.13 Consultation with the community was undertaken to establish and identify:
- The views of local residents according to the levels of appropriate provision of different types of open space, and community provision within the neighbourhoods within the North Dorset boundaries
 - Local people's attitude to existing provision
 - The expectation and needs of local people in terms of the quality of provision of greenspaces, sport and community recreation facilities in their area
 - To identify the reasons for non use
- 3.14 In order to identify the needs for open space, outdoor sport and recreational facilities a wide range of consultation has been undertaken, with the following methods being applied:
- A Door to Door survey encompassing 600 interviews with local residents
 - Postal surveys to more than 60 sports clubs to ask for views about quantity, quality and access
 - A postal survey of the Council's 32 Elected Members
 - Stakeholder Interviews with more than 20 identified stakeholders
 - Consultation via questionnaires in local libraries, youth and community centres
 - A postal questionnaire to all Friends of Parks Groups
 - A questionnaire survey to over 60 village halls, church halls, halls and national societies such as scouts
 - A review of existing consultation and market research undertaken
 - A review of neighbouring authority proposed developments for greenspace, outdoor sport and community facilities that may influence demand or local needs in North Dorset
 - A Freephone consultation service operating for an eight-week period which was promoted in a number of local newspapers

Local Demand Key Findings

Background and Methodology

- 3.15 Organisations clubs and groups were identified as Consultee's by officers at NDDC, along with 600 households that were randomly selected across the wards within the North Dorset District boundaries; the questionnaire responses have been analysed, and a database has been established that will provide the Council with detailed analysis for types of open space and areas of residence.

SECTION III –ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS

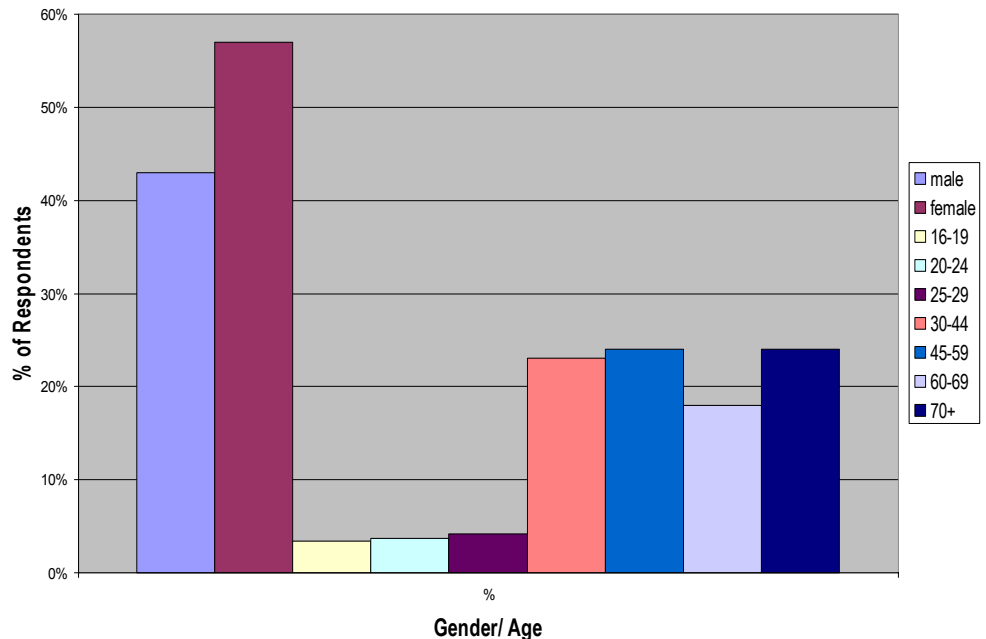
- 3.16 An analysis has been given of the feedback from the door to door survey for indoor community facilities and for greenspace. For the purpose of this study no further qualitative or quantitative analysis has been undertaken of the Indoor Community facilities and the focus is on the outdoor greenspace.
- 3.17 The resident survey simplified the typologies in order that local people could relate to the spaces in North Dorset for example recreation grounds are categorised within parks and garden, amenity space is open space near to home, natural and semi natural greenspace are identified as wild areas and green corridors are categorised as off road pathways. These were explained to residents by the market researchers to ensure they understood.
- 3.18 The survey was designed to assess views of residents, their attitude and aspirations with regard to open space and outdoor sport and community recreational facilities across the North Dorset District. In particular the survey set out to identify and establish the following:
- The usage of open space, sport and community recreational facilities by residents within the North Dorset District boundaries
 - The value local people attach to open space, sport and community recreational facilities
 - The attitude of local residents towards open space, sport and community recreation facilities
 - Attitudes to the level of existing provision and facilities
 - The frequency of use by local residents to the differing types of provision
 - Main mode of transport local resident use to access open space, sport and community recreational facilities
 - The views of residents to the accessibility of open space, sport and community recreational facilities
 - The barriers that prevent or reduce local use of open space, sport and community recreational facilities
 - Local needs and expectations

Sample Selection

- 3.19 Participants from the random sample addresses, provided by the Council, were selected to cover all demographic aspects of the population.
- 3.20 43% of respondents were male and 57% were female, with the majority of people surveyed being white (99%). 9% of the respondents (56 people) identified themselves as being disabled.
- 3.21 The respondents varied in age from 16 to 70+ with 46% being between 30 and 59 years old, 24% being 70+. 53% of the respondents identified themselves as being unemployed.
- 3.22 Figure 3.2 overleaf outlines the response by age of participants.

SECTION III –ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS

Figure 3.2 - Response by Age



3.23 A variety of key findings have emerged from the household survey and highlight the relevance of open space, sport and community recreational facilities to the residents of North Dorset. More detailed analysis for the different types of provision is summarised later in this strategy under the specific typologies.

3.24 The following information summarises the views of North Dorset residents:

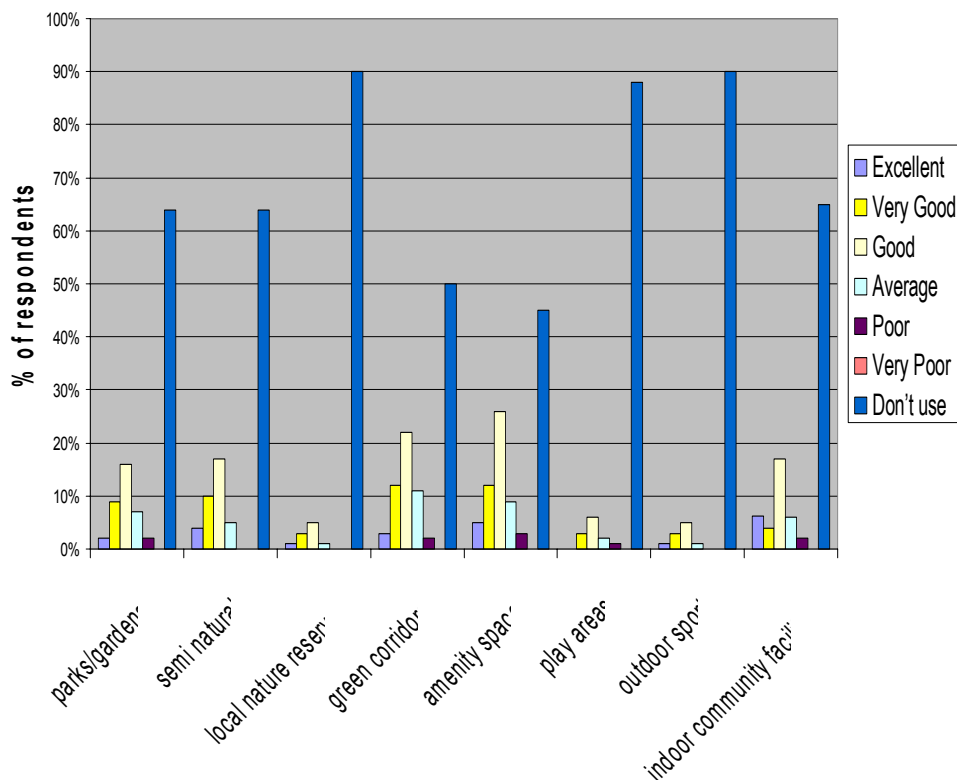
- The survey of residents identified the levels of use of open space and indoor community facilities. 72% of respondents (426 people) stated they use open space and 43%(257 people) identified using community facilities

Quality

- Participants in the door to door survey were asked their opinion on the quality of open space, and community recreation facilities. Respondents were asked to rate the facilities and spaces they use using a quality scale from very poor to excellent. The Figure 3.3 below illustrates the satisfaction levels expressed by residents

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Figure 3.3 - Resident Satisfaction



- From the table it is clear that most respondents rated the differing types of green space and indoor community facilities as being 'Good' with open space near their home(amenity space) being rated highest in terms of quality(26% of respondents), with green corridors (22%) parks and gardens (16%), indoor community facilities (17%). Of those people that rated facilities only a small percentage gave negative quality ratings to the facilities they use and no facilities were seen as being very poor.
- Specialist provision such as allotments or synthetic turf pitches have not been illustrated in the above table as they are not freely accessible and are not used as general open space (somewhere to go for a walk or to sit and relax by people). As such are not expected to be used by the vast majority of the general public. They are however illustrated later when establishing travel distances to such facilities. A number of respondents identified not using specific facilities such as outdoor sport, play areas and local nature reserves. This needs to be considered with the demographic profile of the sample undertaken.

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Satisfaction with Facilities

3.25 It is important to note that for the parks and open spaces respondents also rated the different typologies under the headings parks and gardens, open space near their home, wild areas e.g. woodland, play areas, off road pathways, churchyards and cemeteries, sports pitches and school playing fields. These are detailed within Section IV of this strategy.

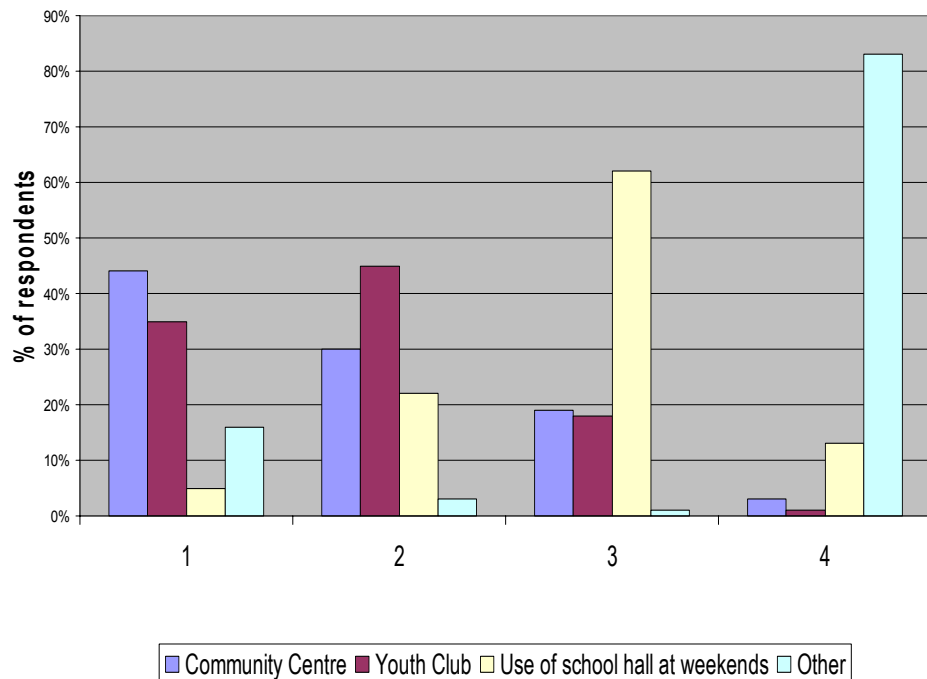
Quantity

3.26 71% of respondents believe they have enough parks and open spaces in their area.

3.27 60% of respondents believe there should be a formal park in their nearest main town.

3.28 Respondents were asked to identify what they thought was a priority in the area they lived. Figure 3.4 below illustrates the responses in terms of what local people see as a priority. The table shows that in terms of facility provision local people (44%) would like access to a community centre, 35% believed that their area would benefit from a youth club, 9% saw the use of school halls at weekends as the number one priority in their area and 16% had “other” priorities being the most important for their area.

Figure 3.4 - Residents Priorities for Future Provision



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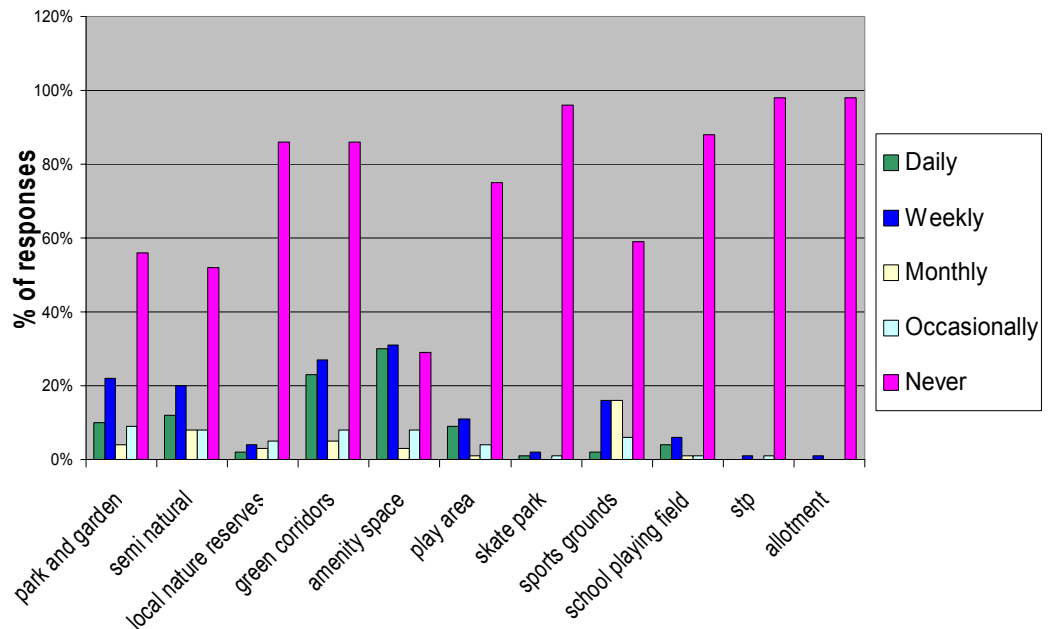
3.29 Over 200 individual comments were made by residents with regards to priority of provision or local need and these have been included within the appendices. An indication of what people have identified as priorities/ local needs in addition to those illustrated above are :

- better facilities for young people including improved play areas, more skate parks, improved pitches,
- better transport links including improved service to rural villages, better/ more cycleways, improved frequency of buses
- Improved roads and road surfacing, improved pavements, speeds restrictions and improved parking to main towns
- More facilities and things for older people to do
- Improved village halls, more investment in village hall
- Greater recycling including kerbside collection, more collection points
- More swimming facilities
- More facilities in parks, more open space

Accessibility

3.30 72% (426 people) stated that they use open space in North Dorset and Figure 3.5 below illustrates the frequency of use for the different types of open space people use.

Figure 3.5 - Frequency of Use



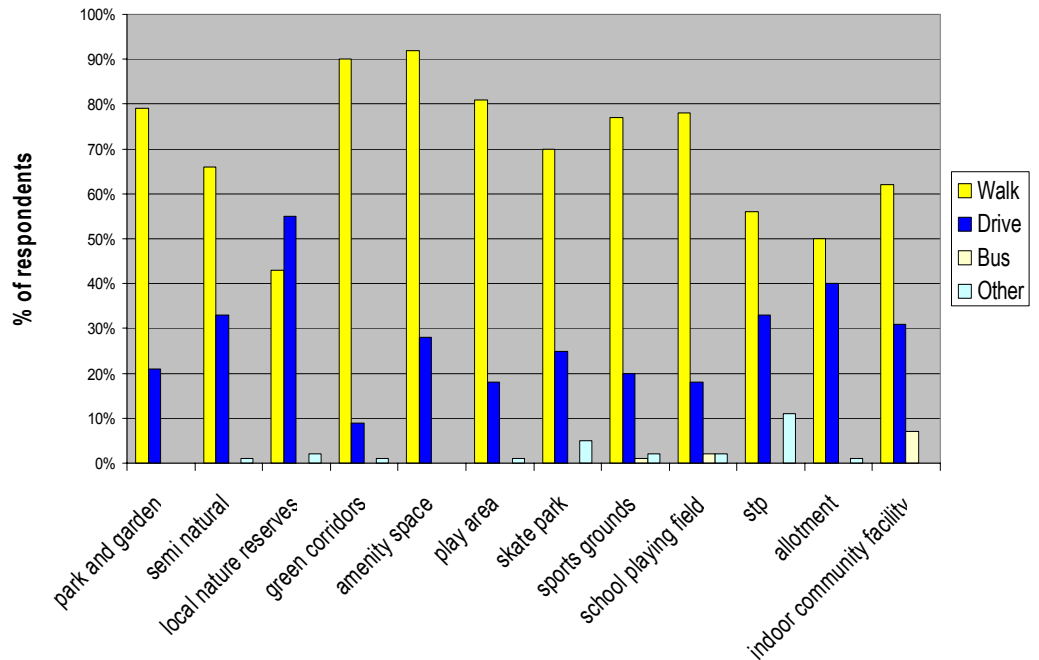
3.31 The most frequent use of open space is the use of amenity space (Open spaces close to peoples' homes); people identified using this type of open space on a regular basis. People also identified using green corridors regularly (this figure

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needs to be treated with caution as people may have confused green corridors with public rights of way, despite being given examples of green corridors).

- 3.32 Figure 3.6 below illustrates how local people access the greenspaces that they use most. The main mode of travel identified by respondents is to walk to the facilities that they use most. Local people identified that they will walk to access all open space; the only exception being local nature reserves to which people mostly drive. (This is not unusual as these sites tend to be more remote and located further away from the areas where people live).

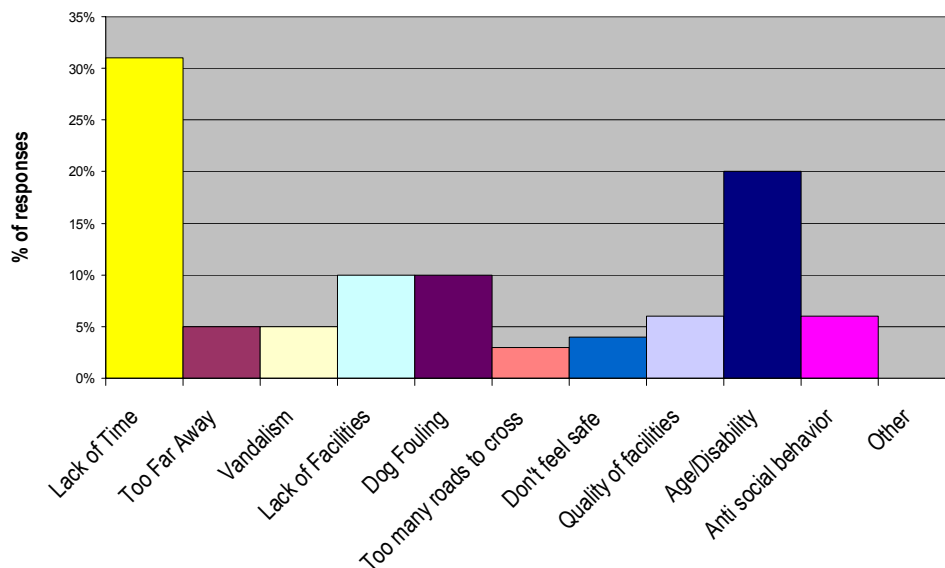
Figure 3.6 - Main Mode of Transport



- 3.33 It is important to consider why people do not use facilities provided in their area; outlined in Figure 3.7 below are the main barriers to use identified by residents who participated in the door to door survey.

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Figure 3.7 - Barriers to Use



3.34 Lack of time is the perceived biggest barrier to use by residents in North Dorset (31% of the respondents identified lack of time as the main barrier); age and disability were also perceived as a barrier. (In similar studies in other areas lack of time has also been the main factor affecting/influencing participation).

3.35 Factors such as vandalism, anti social behaviour and not feeling safe were not rated as major barriers to use. Potentially, this reflects the rural nature of the district as compared to more urban, densely populated regions where these factors, along with other anti social behaviour such as dog fouling and fly-tipping, are major issues. Dog fouling is only identified by 10% of the respondents (52 people) as a barrier to use in North Dorset.

3.36 Other barriers to use identified by participants are related to the following:

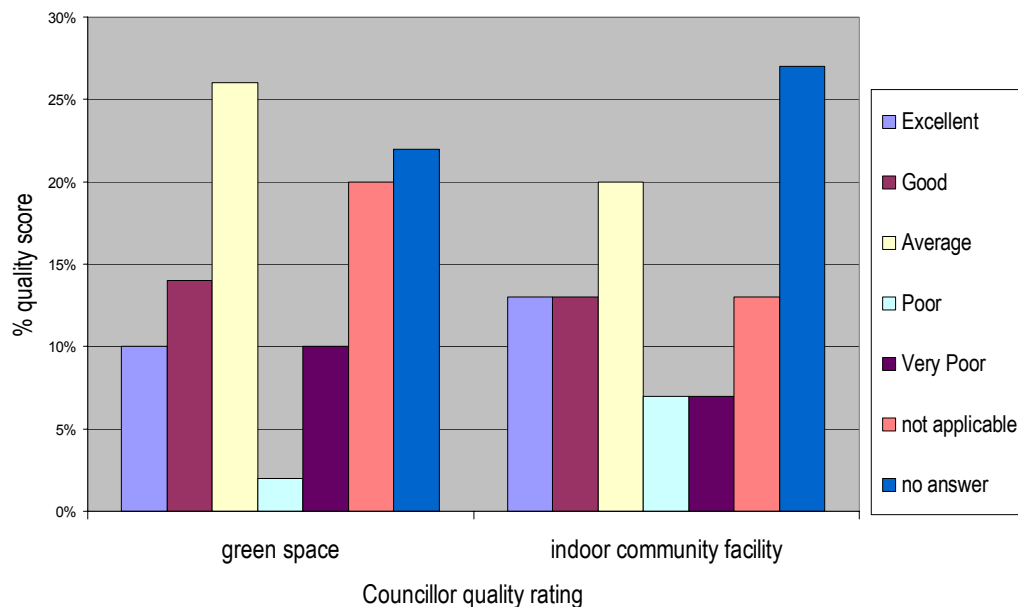
- Accessibility: the comments made related to the perceived poor public transport that serves the rural areas, other comments relate to the volume of traffic, motorbikes on public footpaths, physical access (stiles being seen as too high) not enough benches,
- Quality: the comments made relate to cleanliness, litter and rubbish on sites

Councillor Consultation

3.37 All 33 of the District Council Councillors (representing 28 wards) were sent a questionnaire and guidance notes explaining how to complete the questionnaire survey. 15 councillors (45%) responded to the survey. The Councillors' quality findings identified for the facilities in their ward are illustrated in Table 9 below.

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Figure 3.8 - Councillor Facility Rating



3.38 The Councillors' (27%) rated parks and open spaces in their ward as average; opinions regarding indoor community recreation facilities were also rated as average by most Councillor Respondents (20%).

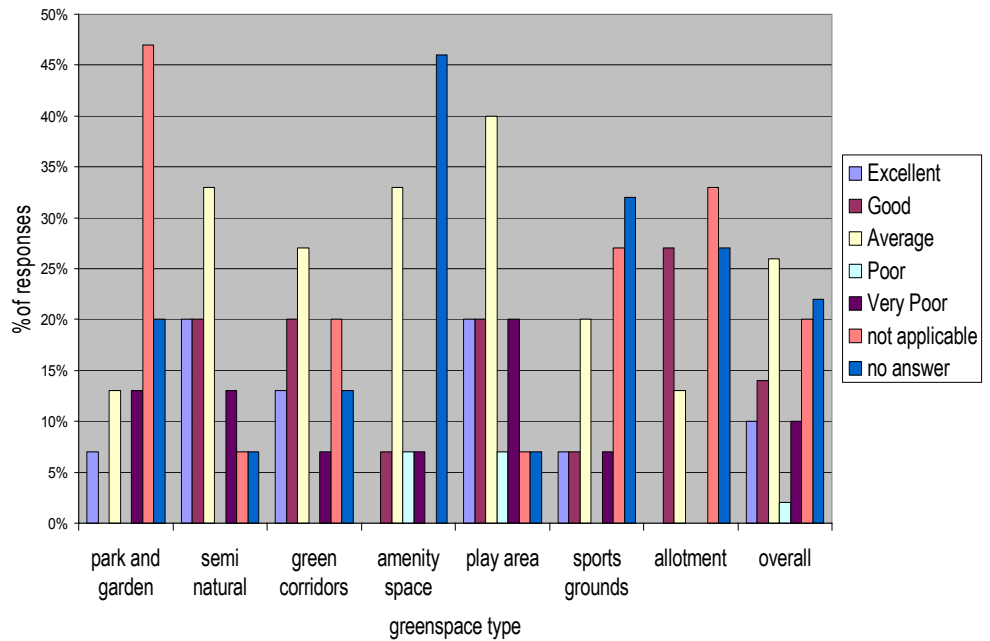
3.39 Community recreation facilities were rated as excellent by 13% of the ward Councillors whilst indoor sports facilities were rated excellent by 6% of the ward Councillor respondents; parks and open spaces were only considered to be excellent by 3% of the ward Councillors.

3.40 20% of Councillors who responded identified that provision of publicly accessible green space was not relevant to their ward and 13% identified that provision of indoor community facilities was not relevant in their ward.

3.41 10% of the Councillors that did respond identified that green space within their ward was of poor quality, but 10% also rated the green space as excellent. Figure 3.9 illustrates the quality rating given by Councillors to the different types of green space within their ward.

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Table 3.9 - Councillor Rating of Open Space Provision

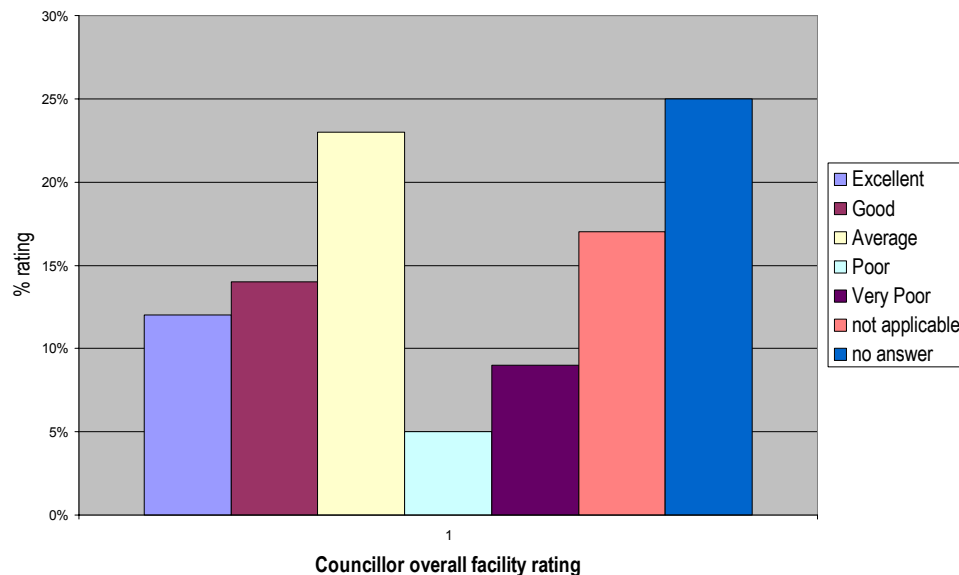


3.42 47% of Councillors identified that their ward does not have any 'parks and gardens', 27% have no sports grounds, 34% have no allotments; wards where allotments are provided have been rated as good.

3.43 Figure 3.10 illustrates the overall ward Councillor rating for facilities within their ward.

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Figure 3.10 - Ward Councillor overall facility rating



3.44 The table shows that Councillors rate the provision of all facilities within their wards (parks and open spaces, and community recreation facilities) as average (23% of respondents), whilst 14% rated the facilities as good. Less than 10% rated facilities as poor, and 7% rated them as excellent.

3.45 It is important to consider the ward Councillors' views in relation to what they see as the issues for provision within their ward. 29% of the ward Councillors who responded identified a lack of facilities in their ward as the main issue. Other issues raised include: overall identified need for investment (21%), poor quality provision (20%), and accessibility (6%). Of the respondents, 16% did not believe the survey applied to their ward as they identified their ward as not having any provision.

3.46 Councillors also identified some of the reasons for the rating and provision of facilities in their ward; these have been summarised as follows:

- **Semi natural sites:** are often misused by travellers and motorbikes. Sites are often subject to fly tipping. These sites are vulnerable as they are not designated for a specific use.
- **Allotments:** There is a low demand for allotments in the District, as people have gardens; however, Councillors identified a need for more allotments in Shaftesbury
- **Outdoor sports provision:** Councillors identified a need for more tennis courts and pitches and the need for access to the army camp facilities.
- **Amenity space :** these are mainly too small and unusable
- **Play provision:** sites are prone to vandalism and have a lack of facilities

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Internal Consultation

3.47 Internal consultation was undertaken with a number of identified stakeholders; the comments below represent a summary of the issues raised:

- The District Council has little input into the operation or management of facilities and provision, as the County, Town and Parish councils have this responsibility, though the District owns some sites which are managed by the Countryside Rangers service.
- There is a general feeling that the coordination between the three tiers County, District and Town/Parish would benefit from closer working relationships, especially in terms of the future provision of greenspace.
- The general consensus is that the budgets available for maintenance work are inadequate e.g. staff identified a backlog of adequate tree maintenance work
- Supplementary planning gain in terms of developers' contributions are tied to very specific projects and therefore if the specific project was to fall by the wayside any contributions are lost.
- The whole supplementary planning guidance is out dated and does not benefit the District; instead it historically benefits the developer and needs a complete overhaul.
- Several sports clubs have become too big for the area in which they play; this has resulted in pressure on existing facilities, and developed conflict between clubs (who want more provision but have little funding), the Town/Parish Councils and the District Council (who also have little available capital funding)
- Sports development resources consist of one full time member of staff covering schools, clubs and events
- NDDC contribute funding to the County Council for two Countryside wardens and a maintenance budget of £30k to cover mowing, litter removal, footpaths, benches and bins on 60 hectares of land on 17 sites
- Public Rights of Way provide a major recreational resource in North Dorset however they do tend to be quite exclusive in that they are only accessible to fit and active people and are not designed to cater for parents with pushchairs, the elderly or people with disabilities
- The Milldown in Blandford is part of the successful Liveability Fund and is subject to a programme of Capital funded investment and improvement. The concern is the long term sustainability of the improvements if the adequate revenue funding is not in place to maintain the improvements to the appropriate recognised levels

Town Councils

3.48 Consultation with the Town Councils identified the following issues:

- The Town Councils have real concern over the current negotiation process for securing investment from developers, not only in terms of the appropriateness of the sites being provided, but also the role the Town Councils are expected to have in the future management of such sites
- The Town Councils sometimes feel aggrieved and excluded from the negotiation process with regards to new or future provision

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- The Town Councils have expressed a willingness for closer working with the District and the County when it involves improvements or additional facilities within their area and especially when the Town Councils are expected to inherit responsibility for maintenance
- All four Town Councils identified the need for support, advice and funding
- The Town Councils have expressed concerns over the current methods of providing open space in new development especially where the Town Councils are expected to inherit the sites are part of their responsibility. Town Clerks expressed real concern over the consultation process and felt slightly alienated from the process
- The Town Councils identified a number of concerns over the lack of certain types of provision against growing demand e.g. in Blandford Forum there is growing concern that the local football club is rapidly outgrowing the town in terms of the availability of pitches for the number of teams associated with the club, the rugby club have an increasing need for training facilities as do the cricket. At the same time it is perceived that there is an over reliance on the use of school sites to cater for demand
- The facilities at Blandford Forum Camp now offer reduced community access, as a result of increased security requirements; this has had a local impact in terms of availability of provision. In the longer term, these facilities represent a significant opportunity for the District, but this is reliant on the Camp remaining and increasing its current level of community access

Accessibility

3.49 All Consultee's raised issues about accessibility; these are summarised below:

- The main issue raised regarding accessibility is the problem experienced by people with disabilities particularly when visiting Countryside sites. Access needs to be considered holistically rather than in isolation, e.g. improvements to gates is not supported by improvements to footpaths therefore whilst people can get through the gate they then cannot travel any further due to inaccessible and poor footpaths.
- It is important to note that if sites are not easily accessible to people with disabilities, then it is likely they will also exclude the elderly and young parents with pushchairs and buggies.
- No disability groups have responded to the consultation despite numerous attempts to engage groups through meetings, Focus groups questionnaires and telephone survey. However, of the door to door survey respondents, 9.45% identified themselves as being disabled. This is considered to be a representative sample; barriers to use in relation to disability have therefore been identified earlier in Section 2.
- Ironically, tackling issues e.g. reducing opportunities for illegal motorbike use of Countryside sites is also potentially reducing opportunities for local people with disabilities. People with disabilities find it difficult to access the sites as they simply cannot negotiate the entrance access point control measures installed to prevent motorbikes.

SECTION III –ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS

- Access to quality facilities that meet local needs is perceived to be a problem especially if schools decide to reduce public use of their facilities e.g. playing pitches, sports halls.

Other Consultation

3.50 The District Council identified a number of key groups that would have a valuable contribution to make to the development of this study. Initial approaches to groups and individuals met with little response; however, through follow up work and discussion eventually a number of groups did engage with the process of this study. Outlined below are the issues from the groups that did respond to surveys and consultation opportunities:

Shaftesbury and District Task Force

3.51 The Taskforce has already undertaken some work in relation to the future provision of open space and recreation in and around Shaftesbury. The Task Force has also developed a very clear Vision for the town and the immediate area, in relation to this type of provision. There are several potential projects and proposals under development, to address the identified local needs e.g. better quality open space and play areas, and enhancements to existing open space. The Taskforce has shared the baseline information they have collated, to inform the site audit and assessment work in the area. In developing the area assessments within the overall District study, this Task Force work, and the existing Vision for the area has been reflected, to ensure that the District assessment builds on what has already been developed at local level.

3.52 The key issues identified by this body are as follows:

- There is a need for a more strategic focus for open space planning across the District, and in each local area
- The current key needs for the District in terms of greenspace and environmental improvements are:
 - Town Centre enhancement
 - Gateway Features
 - Community ownership of open space
 - A townscape/ landscape assessment
 - Site specific management plans
 - Increased hedgerow planting
 - The development of circular routes
- The current Liveability fund has benefited the community on larger schemes but it is the smaller schemes that struggle to meet the complex criteria
- The open space around Shaftesbury has been mapped and plans drawn up
- The current negotiations surrounding developer contributions need to be reviewed

SECTION III –ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS

Gillingham Three Rivers Partnership

3.53 Gillingham Three Rivers Partnership has already undertaken extensive work at local level in relation to the future provision of public open space, and recreation provision. The Partnership has shared the baseline information they have collated, to inform the site audit and assessment work in the area. In developing the area assessments within the overall District study, this Partnership work, and the existing Vision for the town has been reflected, to ensure that the District assessment builds on what has already been developed at local level.

3.54 The key issues identified by this body are as follows:

- A major issue in Gillingham is the low car ownership amongst residents (27% no access to a car) and in the villages surrounding the town the car ownership is very low
- The Partnership is striving to develop a network of green space or a 'Green Ring' with spaces linked together
- There is very little public open space and much of the provision is in private ownership, there is also a perceived lack of civic space where people can meet
- The majority of football is played outside the area as the pitches do not cater for demand in the town
- There is a long history of perceived deficiency of open space and play area provision in and around Gillingham; this has been exacerbated with the increased residential development (past, current, and allocated)
- There are plans to upgrade the existing provision in the near future e.g. a new community centre, improvements to the leisure centre, improvements to the central town area
- The town is seen as a short cut for through traffic and as such accessibility to green space can be an issue with people especially young people being expected to cross busy roads
- The priorities are for more open space that is correctly resourced in terms of long term revenue to maintain it, more provision for young people, more facilities
- The Partnership believe the town is one of the fastest growing in the District and as such it is very important that the needs of local people and the right levels of provision are put in place to meet today's needs as well as those in the future
- A number of basic infrastructure improvements are required especially if new housing development is to continue, these include improved drainage, substations, public transport
- The Partnership acknowledges that it needs support and closer working with the District Council to deliver its priorities and vision for the town's future

Sturminster Newton Open Space Group

3.55 The Sturminster Open Space Group has been working together for about 18 months, to try and develop a higher profile for open space provision at local level, identify a Vision for the town and its local area in relation to open space, and progress work on specific projects within Sturminster.

SECTION III –ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS

3.56 The key issues raised by the Group are:

- The Open Space Group only work on issues within the main town of Sturminster
- The Group is developing a number of Health Walk initiatives that encourage people out onto the open spaces
- The Town needs a Skateboard Park to address an increasing number of incidences involving young people and to be more proactive with young people
- There is 'Trailway' being developed to encourage walking and cycling and reduce traffic
- In terms of priorities the group identified the following: A footbridge across the River, New Allotments, wildflower meadows and education centre
- The County Council Countryside Wardens work closely with the group
- The town is generally compact and open space is at a premium

3.57 The above issues have helped to inform both the District wide and local area site audits and assessments; the local priorities identified through the existing groups responsible for open space at a local level have been reflected in the recommendations for the overall study.

SECTION IV – KEY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS: DISTRICT WIDE

Introduction

- 4.1 North Dorset covers an area of 60,865 hectares and is home to a rich and varied landscape of high value and importance. This assessment considers sites identified as serving local people for both passive and active outdoor recreation, and, on the basis of the North Dorset District Plan, have a visual amenity value.
- 4.2 The sites identified represent a sample of the overall provision and as such are meant to be an indication or guide in terms of future provision. There is no comprehensive database of overall open space and recreation provision held by any of the management agencies including the County, District and Town and Parish Councils, at local level. Therefore, in order to undertake this study, we have, through consultation with identified key stakeholders, and those with local knowledge, focussed on the sites of importance to local people. The audit considers what, and how much is provided, where it is provided, and the quality and accessibility of existing provision.
- 4.3 The results and findings of the various consultation, research and audit tasks undertaken are broken down into the following 7 typologies. The typologies have been developed and assigned on the basis of the primary purpose for which the open space/facility is used.

Typologies

Formal Open Space	Allotments
Semi Natural greenspace	Cemeteries/Churchyards
Outdoor Sport	Private Space
Provision for Children and Young People	

Quantity and Quality

- 4.4 The audit of provision has identified 484 sites of the following types:
- **158 Formal Open Spaces** including Recreation grounds, Amenity space , formal gardens
 - **68 Natural/Semi Natural greenspaces** including woodlands commons and ancient monuments such as hill forts
 - **78 outdoor sports pitch sites (containing over 180+ sports pitches)** including Institutional, school sites, public sites and private facilities recreation grounds
 - **58 Children's play and provision for young people** including fixed play areas, skate parks and multi use games areas
 - **8 Allotments**
 - **61 Cemeteries** including churchyards, cemeteries and closed churchyards

SECTION IV – KEY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS: DISTRICT WIDE

4.5 Figure 4.1 - below identifies a breakdown of the provision that has been identified and also indicates the number of identified sites that have been quality audited

Figure 4.1 –Identified Provision by Typology

Typology	Provision details	Total of sites identified	Number of Sites Audited	Hectarage of Audited Sites	Quality score Range	Average Quality Score
Formal Open Space	15 Recreation grounds	158	10	63	17%-91%	39 %
	143 Amenity Spaces		66			
Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace	11 Green Corridor	68	9	351	8%-59%	35%
	57 Nat/Semi Natural Greenspace		27			
Outdoor Sport	29 Local Educational	78	27	178.96-* Including 39 ha of rec grounds	8%-98%	60%
	32 Public (District/Town/Parish)		31			
	13 Private/lease		5			
	4 Voluntary		-			
Provision for Children and Young People	51 Fixed play area	58	58	10.32	27%-68%	41%
	3 Skate park					
	5 Multi use games area					
Allotment	8 Allotment Sites	8	3	5.82	30%-85%	53%
Cemetery	61 Cemetery and Churchyard	61	35	24.97	16%-70%	54%
Total	438 Sites	438	271	634 Hectares	8%-98%	47%

4.6 From the above table it is clear that the range and diversity of sites reflect the rural nature of the District, with natural and semi natural sites covering more than 6 times the area of the more formal open spaces and more than 5 times the area of formal sports provision.

4.7 Formal open space and outdoor sport provision tends to be more prevalent in the more urban areas, often where space is at a premium, and therefore the sites tend

SECTION IV – KEY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS: DISTRICT WIDE

to be compact e.g. the district wide average size of formal open space is 0.5 hectares as compared to the 7.5 hectare average size of natural and semi natural greenspace.

- 4.8 Quality also varies across the typologies with outdoor sports provision achieving an average score across the District of 48% which equates to a rating of good, whilst natural and semi natural greenspace' achieved a rating of average when measured against the quality value line. Formal open space also achieved a quality rating of average.
- 4.9 Local residents and Ward Councillors gave a conflicting response to that resulting from the site audits, in that local people assessed the quality of the sites they use on average to be of a good quality. This is due to the parameters employed to undertake the site audits, based on external objectivity, and a proforma developed in line with Greenflag and other national criteria. If local people are used to experiencing a certain quality it becomes the norm and becomes acceptable e.g. if a timber bench is left untreated but is still usable local people will accept it and use it, only if the bench is broken or becomes covered in graffiti might they raise it as unacceptable.
- 4.10 The door to door survey revealed that 426 people out of the 600 surveyed use open spaces of one type or another in North Dorset.
- 4.11 It is important to realise that the sites identified are only a snapshot of the overall provision in North Dorset and that further work will need to be undertaken, over time to identify the total level of provision across the District. This audit is an initial step towards gathering that information and is the most comprehensive audit to date.

Accessibility

- 4.12 Local people responded positively to whether they thought they had access to enough open space in their local area. 97% (of survey respondents) stated they thought there was enough open space in their area
- 4.13 Access to better public transport was one of the main priorities identified by local people, along with improved roads pathways and cycle networks. All of these issues can affect people's use of their greenspace and can be seen as a barrier to use. It is important to recognise the importance of local facilities for local people especially in rural communities and whilst the PPG17 guidance identifies that people living in rural communities should not necessarily expect the equivalent level of provision as those who live in urban areas (given that there are more people in urban areas), they should expect to have access to appropriately maintained good quality facilities.
- 4.14 The door to door survey asked people how they travelled to the open space sites they use most. Walking was identified as the most popular means of accessing most forms of greenspace provision.

SECTION IV – KEY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS: DISTRICT WIDE

Typology – Formal Open Space

'Definition'

“Designed primarily for public access, recreation and events whilst providing areas for quiet contemplation and also contributing to the overall appearance of an area, town or residential area”

- 4.15 The District Council has limited responsibility for the management of formal open space across North Dorset. The main responsibility for this is at Town, Parish or County Council level.
- 4.16 Formal open space in North Dorset has been categorised within two main types these are:
- **Recreation Grounds:** *Accessible and of high quality provide opportunities for recreation and community events(Recreation Grounds in North Dorset are also significantly important as outdoor sports facilities and for the purpose of the audit have been included within both typologies(pending further analysis) although if sport has been assessed at the time of auditing as the primary purpose the footprint of the site in terms of hectares has been incorporated into the calculations for outdoor sport,)*
 - **Amenity Space:** *Provide opportunities for informal activity close to home or enhance the appearance of residential or other area*

Quantity Findings – Formal Open Space

- 4.17 The audit undertaken has identified the following number and location of formal open space by Town cluster
- 4.18 On an area basis the provision of formal open space in North Dorset is as follows:

Figure 4.2 - Current Formal Open Space Provision

Area	Population	Provision	No of sites identified	No of sites visited	Ha	Provision per 1000 Pop
Blandford	22,460	5 Recreation Ground 50 Amenity space	55	32	12.63	0.56
Gillingham	12,480	3 Recreation Ground 28 Amenity space	31	11	15	1.2
Shaftesbury	12,160	4 Recreation Ground 32 Amenity	36	14	22.81	1.87

SECTION IV – KEY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS: DISTRICT WIDE

Area	Population	Provision	No of sites identified	No of sites visited	Ha	Provision per 1000 Pop
		space				
Sturminster	14,390	3 Recreation Ground 33 Amenity space	36	19	18.1	1.2
District wide	61,490	15 Recreation Ground 143 Amenity space	158	76	63	1.0

- 4.19 The table shows that on the basis of the sites identified through the inset maps of the NDLP, and consultation with NDDC and Town Council officers that formal open space provision is currently at a level of approximately 1 hectare per 1000 head of population.
- 4.20 In order to give a clear picture of identified provision the individual towns and associated parish provision is illustrated overleaf.

SECTION IV – KEY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS: DISTRICT WIDE

Figure 4.3 – Identified Provision Towns and Associated Parishes

Area		Provision	Hectares	Quality	Average
		Recreation Grounds			
Blandford	Milton Abbas	Milton Abbas Recreation Ground	3.12	62%	*65%
	Winterborne Kingstone	Broad Close Recreation Ground	2.0	59%	
	Blandford Forum	Larksmead Recreation Ground	3.7	Pitches rated see outdoor sport	
	Blandford Forum	Park Road Recreation Ground	2.46	Pitches rated see outdoor sport	
	Durweston	Durweston Rec Open Space	1.32	74%	
Gillingham	Gillingham	Colesbrook Recreation Ground	4.391	Not Audited Identified through GIS	81%
	Gillingham	Gillingham Recreation Ground	6.8	**Pitches rated see outdoor sport	
	Stour Povost	Stour Provost Recreation Ground	0.576	81%	
Shaftesbury	Iwerne Minster	Iwerne Minster Recreation Ground	3.25	91%	64%
	Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna Recreation Ground	0.36	65%	
	Motcombe	Motcombe Recreation Ground	2.327	54%	
	Shaftesbury	Barton Hill Open Space	2.508	44%	
Sturminster Newton	Shillingstone	Shillingstone Recreation Ground	3.32	58%	61%
	Child Okeford	Child Okeford Recreation Ground	1.9	62%	
	Sturminster Newton	War Memorial Recreation Ground	3.18	65%	

SECTION IV – KEY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS: DISTRICT WIDE

Blandford	Amenity Space	Hectares	Quality	Average
Milton Abbas	Milton Abbas Village Green	0.06	47.4%	39%
Winterborne Kingston	Broard Close Village Green	0.18	41.6%	
Winterborne Whitechurch	Village Green	0.23	60.5%	
Blandford Forum	Woodhouse Gardens	0.105	75.94%	
Blandford Forum	School House	0.081	49.62%	
Blandford Forum	Badbury Drive	0.073	Identified through GIS	
Blandford Forum	Wimborne Road Amenity	0.372	41.36%	
Blandford Forum	Fishers Close Amenity	0.143	33.64%	
Blandford Forum	Liddington Crescent	0.029	48.89%	
Blandford Forum	Mortain Close	0.104	59.17%	
Blandford Forum	Holland Way	0.043	50.67%	
Blandford Forum	Holland Way Verges not surveyed	0.076	Identified through GIS	
Blandford Forum	Kingston Close	0.165	41.74%	
Blandford Forum	Marston Close	0.069	57.69%	
Blandford Forum	Overton Walk	0.037	27.86%	
Blandford Forum	Holland Way (South)/Fairfield View	0.066	17.14%	
Blandford Forum	Greenhill	0.724	39.50%	
Blandford Forum	Langton Crescent	0.119	28.75%	
Blandford Forum	Stanton Close	0.028	26.45%	
Blandford Forum	Bayfran Way	0.086	29.41%	
Blandford Forum	Eagle House Gardens	0.01	28.00%	
Blandford Forum	Hambledon Close	0.02	29.41%	
Blandford Forum	Ramsbury Close	0.102	Identified through GIS	
Blandford Forum	Damory Court	0.077	Identified through GIS	
Blandford Forum	Churchill Road	0.052	Identified through GIS	
Blandford Forum	New Estate, Blandford (Casterbridge Close, Wetherbury Close, Sandburne Close)	0.158	Under construction	
Tarrant Hinton	A354 Open Space	0.029	31.79%	
Charlton Marshall	Charlton Marshall	0.04	43.33%	
Charlton Marshall	Green Close	0.155	27.72%	
Charlton Marshall	The Close	0.02	43.53%	
Charlton Marshall	Riverside Garden	0.11	50.87%	
Charlton Marshall	The Stour Valley Way	0.122	Identified through GIS	
Spetisbury	Slopers Mead	0.578	Identified through GIS	
Spetisbury	Memorial Garden	0.019	36.60%	
Tarrant Monkton & Tarrant Launceston	Tarrant Launceston Open Space	0.163	32.31%	
Tarrant Monkton & Tarrant Launceston	Tarrant Monkton Forge	0.109	45.71%	
Stourpaine	Park Close,	1.195	20.00%	
Bourton	Woolcotte Lane	0.257	Identified through GIS	
Winterborne Kingston	Amenity Land	0.319	Identified through GIS	
Winterborne Whitechurch	Fosters Meadows	0.232	Identified through GIS	
Farnham	Green Space	0.096	Identified through GIS	
Tarrant Gunville	School Close	0.059	Identified through GIS	
Tarrant Gunville	Open Space Opposite Westbury House	0.061	Identified through GIS	

**SECTION IV – KEY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS:
DISTRICT WIDE**

Blandford	Amenity Space	Hectares	Quality	Average
Bryanston	Bryanston OS 1	0.065	Identified through GIS	
Bryanston	Bryanston OS 2	0.266	Identified through GIS	
Bryanston	Bryanston OS 3	0.112	Identified through GIS	
Stourpaine	Orchard Close	0.411	Identified through GIS	
Stourpaine	Coach Road	0.054	Identified through GIS	
Blandford Forum	Salisbury Road	0.052	Identified through GIS	
Blandford Forum	Common Lane	0.483	Identified through GIS	

SECTION IV – KEY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS: DISTRICT WIDE

Shaftesbury	Amenity Space	Hectares	Quality	Average
Iwerne Courtney (Shroton)	Shroton centre of village Open Space	0.086	45.14%	46%
Iwerne Courtney (Shroton)	The Glebe	0.518	Identified through GIS	
Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas Open Space	0.772	50.55%	
Sutton Waldron	Sutton Waldron next to church, Church Lane Open Space	0.294	24.00%	
Ashmore	Ashmore Village Green & Pond	0.197	42.78%	
Shaftesbury	Coppice Street (nr Tesco) Open Space	2.271	53.33%	
Shaftesbury	St James Street	1.752	58.67%	
Shaftesbury	Linden Park	0.577	43.89%	
Shaftesbury	Rutter Close	0.061	48.89%	
Iwerne Minster	Shute Lane	0.132	Identified through GIS	
Iwerne Minster	Higher Street	0.139	Identified through GIS	
Iwerne Courtney (Shroton)	Shroton OS 1	0.362	Identified through GIS	
Iwerne Courtney (Shroton)	Shroton OS 2	0.431	Identified through GIS	
Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas OS 1	0.791	Identified through GIS	
Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas OS 2	0.228	Identified through GIS	
Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas OS 3	0.561	Identified through GIS	
Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas OS 4	0.236	Identified through GIS	
Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas OS 5	0.068	Identified through GIS	
Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas OS 6	0.38	Identified through GIS	
Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas OS 7	0.08	Identified through GIS	
Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna OS 1	0.113	Identified through GIS	
Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna OS 2	0.097	Identified through GIS	
Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna OS 3	0.229	Identified through GIS	
Sutton Waldron	Sutton Waldron OS 1	0.101	Identified through GIS	
Sutton Waldron	Sutton Waldron OS 2	0.486	Identified through GIS	
Sutton Waldron	Sutton Waldron OS 3	0.268	Identified through GIS	
Sutton Waldron	Sutton Waldron OS 4	0.903	Identified through GIS	
Sutton Waldron	Sutton Waldron OS 5	0.249	Identified through GIS	
Shaftesbury	The Beeches	0.139	Identified through GIS	
Shaftesbury	Layton Lane	0.305	Identified through GIS	
Shaftesbury	Open Space Off French Mill Lane and Hawkesdene Lane	0.545	Identified through GIS	
Shaftesbury	Open Space South of Royal Chase Roundabout	0.804	Identified through GIS	

SECTION IV – AUDIT OF LOCAL PROVISION

Sturminster Newton	Amenity Space	Hectares	Quality	Average
Melcombe Bingham & Ansty	Higher Ansty	0.211	Identified through GIS	46%
Melcombe Bingham & Ansty	Hartfoot Close	0.118	Identified through GIS	
Melcombe Bingham & Ansty	Hartfoot Lane	0.1	Identified through GIS	
Kings Stag	Kings Stag	0.309	Identified through GIS	
Glanvilles Wootton	The Crossway	0.818	Identified through GIS	
Glanvilles Wootton	Glanvilles Wootton	1.151	Identified through GIS	
Mappowder	Mappowder Village Hall	0.091	Identified through GIS	
Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 1	0.05	Identified through GIS	
Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 2	0.141	Identified through GIS	
Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 3	0.676	Identified through GIS	
Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 4	0.57	Identified through GIS	
Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 5	0.743	Identified through GIS	
Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 6	0.362	Identified through GIS	
Shillingstone	Shillingstone OS 7	0.174	Identified through GIS	
Child Okeford	Station Road	0.639	Identified through GIS	
Stalbridge Weston	Stalbridge Close	0.036	59.26%	
Stalbridge Weston	Stalbridge Civic Space	0.076	76.67%	
Stalbridge Weston	Millenium Space, Stalbridge	0.014	66.11%	
Stalbridge Weston	Grosvenor Close, (off Grosvenor Road) Stalbridge	0.397	38.00%	
Stalbridge Weston	Small open space by Stalbridge C of E School	0.103	52.26%	
Okeford Fitzpaine	Okeford Hill Picnic Site		Identified through GIS	
Hazelbury Bryan – Kingston	The Green, Kingston	0.195	21.48%	
Sturminster Newton	Barnes Close Open Space 1	0.04	45.29%	
Sturminster Newton	Barnes Close Open Space 2	0.067	41.76%	
Sturminster Newton	Quarry Close, Sturminster Newton	0.997	25.71%	
Sturminster Newton	Butts Pond', Selwood Close	1.265	35.10%	
Sturminster Newton	Hambledon View	0.693	36.36%	
Sturminster Newton	Filbridge Rise	0.122	47.50%	
Sturminster Newton	By Sturminster Newton Leisure Centre	0.28	Identified through GIS	
Sturminster Newton	Picnic Area at Sturminster Newton Mill	0.353	71.05%	
Hinton St. Mary	Hinton St. Mary by White Horse Pub	0.031	43.11%	
Hinton St. Mary	Hinton St. Mary Small OS	0.064	Identified through GIS	
Shillingstone	Schelin Way	1.904	37.58%	

SECTION IV –AUDIT OF LOCAL PROVISION

Gillingham	Amenity Space	Hectares	Quality	Average
Gillingham	Waitrose Carpark	0.819	34.23%	40%
Gillingham	Campion Close	0.045	49.81%	
Gillingham	Downsview Drive	0.677	61.33%	
Gillingham	Somerset Close	0.147	42.22%	
Gillingham	Sorrell Way		34.29%	
Gillingham	Addison Close (Riverside)	2.728	28.00%	
Gillingham	Addison Close OS	0.096	21.82%	
Gillingham	Addison Close 1	0.079	Identified through GIS	
Gillingham	Addison Close 2	0.012	Identified through GIS	
Gillingham	Hyde Road	0.013	44.55%	
Gillingham	Ivy Close	0.018	42.05%	
Gillingham	Ivy Close OS 2	0.028	Identified through GIS	
Gillingham	Maple Way (East)	0.09	42.04%	
Gillingham	Maple Way (West)	0.06	36.92%	
Gillingham	East Way Open Space		42.04%	
Buckhorn Weston	Covered Reservoir	0.423	Identified through GIS	
Kington Magna	Green Lane	1.108	Identified through GIS	
Kington Magna	West Street	0.347	Identified through GIS	
Milton	Adjacent to The Old House	0.331	Identified through GIS	
Milton	Kendalls Farm	0.247	Identified through GIS	
Milton	Back Lane	1.006	Identified through GIS	
Milton	Little Marsh	0.198	Identified through GIS	
Milton	Post Office Road	1.143	Identified through GIS	
Milton	Open Space Adjacent to Swimming Pool	0.313	Identified through GIS	
Fifehead Magdalen	Fifehead Magdalen	0.08	Identified through GIS	
Fifehead Magdalen	Fifehead Cottage	0.392	Identified through GIS	
Bourton	Green Space Adjacent to Old Vicarage	0.163	Identified through GIS	
Gillingham	Marlott Road	0.184	Identified through GIS	

***Note Larksmead and Park Road where assessed as outdoor sports and as such the site scores cannot be included as an average for the overall rating for recreation grounds**

**** Pitches rated using pitch assessment proforma**

4.21 From the table Blandford has the lowest average quality Amenity Space at 39% which equates to an average rating on the quality value rating scale, although the recreation grounds in Blandford rated much higher in terms of the quality at 65%(very good). Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton amenity space rated at 46% (good). Gillingham's average for amenity greenspace was rated as 40%(average) Gillingham Recreation grounds rated at 81% (excellent).The District average quality rating for recreation grounds is 68% (very good). It is important to note that several recreation grounds were considered to have a primary purpose as outdoor sport at the time of the audit and as such a pitch proforma was used to assess the quality of

SECTION IV –AUDIT OF LOCAL PROVISION

the pitches. The pitch proforma considers different elements to the open space audit.

- 4.22 There is a significant variance of formal provision across the District with Blandford having a deficiency of approximately 0.44 hectares against the District standard, despite having a greater number of sites (Blandford area is served by a greater number of smaller sites). (See Map 3)
- 4.23 Amenity space is the largest type of provision within all four town cluster areas.
- 4.24 These figures need to be treated with some caution as they include amenity space. Amenity space varies significantly in purpose, function and size, e.g. some amenity sites are simply small grass areas outside people's houses; they exist simply to add a splash of colour to the built environment. As such they provide a visual amenity and do not serve any purposeful recreational function.
- 4.25 The companion guide to PPG17 recommends that if appropriate in a specific area, sites below 0.2 hectares if appropriate should not be included in an open space audit. If this model is applied to North Dorset it results in the changes identified in Table 4.3. In comparison to paragraph 4.24, excluding sites of less than 0.2ha, results in levels of formal open space being as follows:
- Shaftesbury 1.2ha
 - Blandford 0.45ha
 - Sturminster 1.1ha
 - Gillingham 1ha

SECTION IV – AUDIT OF LOCAL PROVISION

Figure 4.3 - Formal Space Provision Excluding Sites below 0.2 Hectares

Area	Population	Identified Provision	Ha	Total Ha	Provision per 1000 Pop
Blandford	22460	5 Recreation Ground	10.3	17.8	0.79
		17 Amenity space	7.5		
Gillingham	12480	3 Recreation Ground	11.7	20.4	1.6
		11 Amenity space	8.7		
Shaftesbury	12160	4 Recreation Ground	8.6	21.5	1.8
		21 Amenity space	12.9		
Sturminster	14390	3 Recreation Ground	8.4	19.4	1.4
		15 Amenity space	11.0		
District wide	61490	15 Recreation Ground 64 Amenity space	79.1	79.1	1.3
Blandford	22460	Recreation Grounds	10.3		0.45
		Amenity Space	7.5		0.34
Gillingham	12480	Recreation Grounds	11.7		0.93
		Amenity Space	8.7		0.69
Shaftesbury	12160	Recreation Grounds	8.6		0.70
		Amenity Space	12.9		1.06
Sturminster	14390	Recreation Grounds	8.4		0.58
		Amenity Space	12.9		0.89

- 4.26 Figure 4.3 above shows that removing sites below 0.2 hectares from the provision calculations, actually makes little change to provision per 1000 head of population except in Blandford; where there is a fairly significant impact, given that this area has lots of smaller areas of formal open space. Overall it has resulted in a slight decrease of formal open space provision in the four town areas.
- 4.27 The figure also shows the significant variance in the level of provision of recreation grounds within the four areas with Blandford having the least provision per 1000 population at 0.45 ha per 1000 whilst Gillingham has most provision with 0.93 ha per 1000 Shaftesbury has the second largest amount of provision at 0.70 ha per 1000 population and Sturminster has the third largest amount of recreation ground provision at 0.58 ha per 1000.

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- 4.28 In terms of amenity space Shaftesbury has the largest amount of provision at 1.06ha per 1000 population and Blandford has the least amount of amenity provision (if sites below 0.2ha are excluded) at 0.33 ha. per 1000 population.

Quality Findings: Formal Open Space

- 4.29 The quality assessment is based on a number of key criteria encompassing the quality aspects of the Green Flag Programme, ILAM Parks Management Guidance and the Tidy Britain Scheme. The assessment considered the physical, social and aesthetic qualities of each individual site. Figure 4.4 outlines the criteria assessed for formal open space. In summary the scoring included the criteria of:

Figure 4.4 - Formal Open Space Criteria

Recreation Ground	Amenity Space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrance areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence and quality of signage and information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence and quality of signage and information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary fencing and hedges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary fencing and hedges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of key furniture including seats, bins,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of key furniture including seats, bins, toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanliness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanliness 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of specific facilities including play provision, bowls greens and multi-use games areas (shown as separate assessment) 	

- 4.30 The quality audit provides an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. It is important to note that the score represents a 'snapshot' in time, and records the quality of the site at the time of the audit visit. Quality was assessed on a visual basis through a site visit, which considered both the quality and condition of the provision, and its constituent elements, in relation to the primary role and purpose of the specific site.

Figure 4.5 – Formal Open Space – Quality Ratings

Town Area	Provision Details	Quality Range	Average
Blandford	5 Recreation Ground 50 Amenity space	17%-76%	42%
Shaftesbury	4 Recreation Ground 32 Amenity space	24%-65%	49%
Sturminster	3 Recreation Ground 33 Amenity space	22%-61%	47%
Gillingham	3 Recreation Ground 28 Amenity space	17%-91%	40%
District wide	158 Sites	17%-91%	45%

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- 4.31 This quality assessment is shown in the Appendices in Map 4 the quality ratings across the District are illustrated by a 'traffic light system'. The sites shown as red scored as poor quality in the site assessments; those shown as amber scored as average – good, and those shown as green scored as excellent. The aspects of a formal site have been rated higher, as they should be providing e.g. signage, seating, bins, formal play/sports facilities, good accessibility. For visual amenity sites (normally those below 0.2 hectares) the site assessment is based on good practice and therefore considers maintenance and cleanliness.
- 4.32 Site scores are assessed against the quality value line and as a public service the quality of provision should rate as good as a minimum quality standard. Greenflag Award sites are maintained to a standard above 61%(Very Good)

Quality Line – Open Space,

0% - 15%	16% - 30%	31% - 45%	46% - 60%	61% - 75%	76% +
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent

- 4.33 Key quality findings include:
- a) A variance in the quality of formal open space across the District, with scores varying from 17% (poor) to 91% (excellent). This variance is illustrated in Map 5.
 - b) A variance in the average quality of formal open space provision across the four town areas in the District, ranging from 40% in Gillingham area, to 52% in Shaftesbury area.
 - c) The poorest rated site in the Blandford area below 0.2 hectares is Holland Way 17% (poor), the highest rated site below 0.2ha is Woodhouse Gardens 76% (excellent).
 - d) The highest rated site in Blandford above 0.2 ha is Durweston Recreation Ground rated at 73%(very good) and the poorest rated site above 0.2 ha is Park Close in Stourpaine rated 20% (poor)
 - e) The poorest rated site in the Shaftesbury area below 0.2 hectares is Ashmore Village Green 43% (average) the highest rated site below 0.2ha is Rutter Close 49% (good).
 - f) The highest rated site in the Shaftesbury area above 0.2 ha is Fontmell Magna-Recreation Ground rated at 65%(very good) and the poorest rated site above 0.2 ha is Church Lane Sutton Waldron rated 24% (poor).
 - g) The poorest rated site in the Sturminster area below 0.2 hectares is The Green in Kingston 21% (poor) the highest rated site below 0.2ha is Stalbridge Civic Space 77% (excellent).
 - h) The highest rated site in the Sturminster area above 0.2 ha is Stour Valley rated at 71%(very good) and the poorest rated site above 0.2 ha is Quarry Close rated 26% (poor).
 - i) The poorest rated site in the Gillingham area below 0.2 hectares is Addison Close 21% (poor) the highest rated site below 0.2ha is Waitrose open space 50% (good).

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- j) The highest rated site in the Gillingham area above 0.2 ha is Downs View Drive rated at 61% (very good) and the poorest rated site above 0.2 ha is Addison Close rated 28% (poor).
- k) The average district wide quality rating for formal open space is 45% which equates to sites overall being of an average quality.
- l) This needs to be kept in context as the audit was to a snapshot of provision and the scores for the areas and for the District may change if a full audit of all sites was undertaken.
- m) It is important to note that a number of recreation grounds do not have a quality rating as such, this is due to them being identified as outdoor sports provision as a primary purpose, this resulted in several recreation sites having pitches audited. Pitch audits are a different assessment to that used to assess the overall quality of open space sites.

(Full details of the site quality ratings are in **Appendix 2**)

Qualitative Comments: Formal Open Space

4.34 A number of comments can also be made in relation to individual criteria that have been rated on each site, to summarise the overall quality of ancillary facilities in North Dorset's formal open space These include:

- Limited provision of benches,
- Poor signage
- Poor provision of parking (although the survey also demonstrated that the majority of the respondents from the District surveyed, walked to their formal open space this could be because there is insufficient parking, or because they are near enough to walk)
- Lack of lighting
- Lack of footpaths which may have a limiting effect on the use of sites by people with disabilities

Accessibility

4.35 Accessibility has been assessed using a variety of techniques including mapping exercises and consultation. The key findings show that:

- From the response given to the door to door survey people identified the time it takes for them to travel to formal open space. Outlined below are the distances people travel based on mean travel time (with walking being the main mode of transport)
 - Recreation Grounds = a distance of 0.59 miles
 - Amenity Space = a distance of 0.3 miles
- The majority of users walk to open spaces in the District, and therefore parking may not be a major issue, except for those with a disability
- The accessibility issue needs to take into account other typology provision for example an area may fall short in terms of provision of a recreation ground especially in the more rural areas and it has to be recognised that other typologies may then meet the needs of local people for example if children want

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to simply kick a ball about then they will inevitably find the nearest area to do so. If people want to play organised sport then it has to be accepted in the most remote rural areas that people cannot expect to have the same level of provision as those living in urban areas, and that they will travel to facilities and it is time and distance that become the critical factors. In the more rural areas the opportunity to work with local schools to create dual use of facilities is a key factor in providing accessible facilities for local people. What is important is that the facilities have access to are suitable and of good quality.

- Key issues identified by survey respondents in relation to accessibility include:
 - Lack of time
 - Lack of facilities
 - Dog fouling
 - Age and Disability
 - Poor transport links

- 4.36 From the door to door survey 59.6 % of respondents stated that they would like to see a formal park in their nearest main town. This is supported by the work currently being undertaken by the Gillingham Three Rivers Partnership and Shaftesbury Open Spaces group who have identified the need for a formal park within their town.

Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspaces

- 4.37 Natural and semi natural greenspace within North Dorset comprises of a variety of differing sites from spaces managed to promote a countryside experience to woodlands and commons managed as valuable habitat. Due to the rural nature of the District sites that are known to be used on a regular basis have been identified by officers from the District and County Council.

- 4.38 Natural and semi natural greenspace in North Dorset has been categorised within two main types these are defined as :

- **Natural and semi natural:** *including woodlands, commons, historic land form sites that promote or are important for wildlife, ecology, biodiversity or sites of specialist conservation interest*

Quantity: Natural & Semi-natural greenspace

- 4.39 The audit undertaken has identified **57 sites** covering **338 Hectares** that have been classified as natural or semi-natural greenspace within North Dorset. The location of these sites is presented on Map 6.
- 4.40 Figure 4.5 overleaf illustrates the distribution on an area basis.

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Figure 4.5 - Provision Distribution on an Area Basis

Area	Population	Provision	Area	Sites	Ha	Provision per 1000 Pop
Blandford	22460	12 Natural/ semi natural	Blandford Forum	Angus Wood	80	3.5
			Blandford Forum	The Milldown		
			Blandford Forum	Preetz Way Open Space		
			Blandford Forum	Wimborne Road Open Space		
			Blandford Forum	Blandford Forest		
			Blandford Forum	River Stour Island		
			Blandford Forum	The Ham		
			Charlton Marshall	Charlton Beeches		
			Stourpaine	Hod Hill		
			Winterborne Zelston	River Bank		
			Winterborne Stickland	River Bank		
			Bryanston	Bryanston OS 1		
Shaftesbury	12160	18 Natural/ semi natural	Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas general Open Space	112	9.2
			Fontmell Magna	Brookland Wood		
			Melbury Abbas	Ashmore Wood		
			Melbury Abbas	Melbury Wood		
			Shaftesbury	End of Pound Lane Shaftesbury Open Space		
			Shaftesbury	Castle Hill		
			Shaftesbury	St. James' Common		
			Shaftesbury	Kingsettle Wood		
			Shaftesbury	Ambrose Copse		
			Shaftesbury	Crates Wood		
			Shaftesbury	St James Pond		
			Shaftesbury	Bimport / Langfords Lane		
			Shaftesbury	Remains of St Mary and St Edward's Abbey		
			Shaftesbury	Yeatmans Close		
			Shaftesbury	Trout Hill		
			Shaftesbury	Shooters Lane		
Shaftesbury	Salisbury Road					
Shaftesbury	Nettlecombe					

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Area	Population	Provision	Area	Sites	Ha	Provision per 1000 Pop
Sturminster	14390	17 Natural/ semi natural	Stalbridge Weston	Row of trees	49	3.3
			Stalbridge Weston	Area of overgrown scrub		
			Lydlinch	Brickles Wood		
			Okeford Fitzpaine	Back Lane, Okeford Fitzpaine		
			Okeford Fitzpaine	Scrubland		
			Ibberton	Scrubland		
			Sturminster Newton	Bulbarrow Hill		
			Sturminster Newton	Riverside Meadows		
			Sturminster Newton	Piddles Wood		
			Sturminster Newton	Twinwood Coppice		
			Hinton St. Mary	Hinton St. Mary Field		
			Child Okeford	Hambledon Hill (Hill Fort)		
			Shillingstone	Eastcombe Wood		
			Melcombe Bingham & Ansty	Lower Ansty Woodland		
			Shillingstone	Pepper Hill		
Shillingstone	Pepper Green					
Bourton	Grass Land near River (Bridge Street)					
Gillingham	12480	10 Natural/ semi natural	East Stour	Duncliffe Wood	97	7.7
			Fifehead Magdalen	Fifehead Wood		
			Bourton	Queen Oak Pond		
			Bourton	Ashgrove Lodge Pond		
			Gillingham	Shreen Water River Banks		
			Gillingham	Land Adjacent to Kingscourt		
			Gillingham	Ham Common		
			Motcombe	Church Walk		
			Motcombe	Shorts Green Lane		
			Motcombe	Woodsmoke		
Distriwide	61490	57 Natural/ Semi natural			338	5.5

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- 4.41 From the table it is clear that there is considerable variance in the quantity of accessible greenspace across the District and within the town area clusters. All four of the main town clusters having access to a significantly higher amount of natural and semi natural greenspace (Blandford, Shaftesbury, Sturminster Newton and Gillingham). This figure needs to be treated with caution as it only considers sites that have been identified through the inset maps of the local plan; it does however reflect the very rural nature of the District.
- 4.42 It is also important to note that within the local plan inset maps are a number of privately owned sites that contribute to natural and semi natural greenspace. However these sites have not been included within the calculations as the accessibility for the public is not normally available.
- 4.43 In assessing Natural and Semi-natural greenspace, consideration has been given to English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards. English Nature present a number of recommendations in relation to provision levels, specifically:
- Provision of at least 2ha of accessible natural green space per 1,000 head of population. In North Dorset, on the basis of this audit, there is currently **5.5ha** of natural/semi natural greenspace i.e. 3.2 ha over the English Nature recommended standard for provision. In reality, owing to the rural nature of North Dorset the provision per 1000 head of population will be significantly higher. Against the standard of 2 ha per 1000 population the District provision should equate to **123** ha, in reality the District has over **351** hectares of natural and semi natural greenspace.
 - (No person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace.
 - There should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home.
 - There should be at least one 100ha site within 5km.
 - There should be at least one 500ha site within 10km.
- 4.44 These standards have been applied to North Dorset with the results reported in the key findings. For the purposes of assessing against these standards of provision, all provision identified (on the basis of their primary purpose) as Natural/semi-natural greenspace, have been included.
- Quality: Natural & Semi-natural greenspace**
- 4.45 No definitive national or local quality standards exist although specific habitats have recognised time tested methods of management to ensure long term sustainability through effective countryside management. The Countryside Agency state that land needs to be managed and maintained to conserve or enhance its rich landscape, heritage, bio-diversity and local custom.
- 4.46 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. The quality assessment proforma is based on a number of key criteria encompassing the quality aspects of Green Flag, Tidy Britain and ILAM Parks Management best practice. The assessment considered the physical, social and aesthetic qualities of each individual site. Given that areas of natural or semi-

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natural greenspace are likely to have less formal facilities than a formal open space the table below outlines the criteria that have been used for assessing sites identified as natural and semi natural. Figure 4.6 identifies the criteria used for natural and semi natural sites. The results are measured against the quality value line in the same way as formal sites.

Figure 4.6 - Natural and Semi Natural Quality Criteria

Natural & semi natural
Entrance areas - Free from hazards, welcoming, well maintained, accessible to people with disabilities, pushchairs, good sight lines.
Presence and quality of signage and information.- Name of site, well maintained, contact details, easy to read.
Boundary fencing and hedges - Well maintained, clearly defined, weed free.
Tree management mature and young trees - Appropriate crown lifting, safe, free from disease, tree ties well maintained.
The quality of key furniture including seats, bins, dog bins- Well maintained, bins emptied regularly, free from graffiti, on hard standing surface.
The quality of maintenance, grass cutting, pathways, cleanly cut, no clippings, no weeds, free from hazards.
Cleanliness - litter free, free from graffiti.

- 4.47 The focus of the quality assessment was on pathways, general access, signage, provision of bins where appropriate etc. Quality ratings are summarised in Figure 4.7 below:

Figure 4.7- Natural Greenspace Quality Ratings

Town Area	Number of Sites Identified	Number of sites audited	Site name	Quality rating	Quality Range	Average
Blandford	12 Natural/ semi natural	7	Angus Wood	41.03%	17%-59%	40%
			The Milldown	59.33%		
			Preetz Way Open Space	38.26%		
			Wimborne Road Open Space	16.72%		
			Blandford Forest	32.12%		
			Charlton Beeches	42.38%		
			Hod Hill	51.37%		
Gillingham	10 Natural/ semi natural	3	Ham Common	38.22%	31%-43%	38%
			Duncliffe Wood	43.45%		
			Fifehead Wood	31.50%		

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Town Area	Number of Sites Identified	Number of sites audited	Site name	Quality rating	Quality Range	Average
Sturminster	17 Natural /semi natural	9	Brickles Wood	34.12%	8%-44%	29%
			Back Lane Okeford Fitzpaine	26.67%		
			Riverside Meadows	43.64%		
			Piddles Wood	21.70%		
			Twinwood Coppice	8.00%		
			Hinton St. Mary Field	40.00%		
			Hambledon Hill (Hill Fort)	40.00%		
			Eastcombe Wood	16.22%		
			Blandford Forest	32.12%		
Shaftesbury	18 Natural/ semi natural	8	Compton Abbas general Open Space	28.89%	16%-60%	32%
			Brookland Wood	60.00%		
			Ashmore Wood	50.00%		
			Melbury Wood	20.50%		
			end of Pound Lane Open Space	29.09%		
			St. James' Common	18.06%		
			Kingsettle Wood	25.71%		
			Ambrose Copse	22.76%		
District wide	57 Natural/ Semi natural	27			8%-83%	34%

4.48 Map 7 shows the results of the quality audit for these sites. A number of key comments can be made in respect of the quality of natural/semi-natural sites:

- Quality scores range significantly across North Dorset, from 17% Poor to 64% (Very Good). The North Dorset average for all sites was 34% (Average).
- **Blandford:** the lowest site rating was Wimborne Road rated at 17%(poor) and Stour Meadows rated highest at 83% (excellent). Blandford achieved the highest average for all natural and semi natural sites at 40% (average).
- **Gillingham:** Fifehead Wood was rated lowest at 31% (average) The overall average for sites rated 38% (average).

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- **Shaftesbury:** the lowest rated site was St James's Common 16 % (poor). And the highest rated site was Brookland Wood 60 % (good). The average rating for semi natural greenspace quality in Shaftesbury was 32%. (Just falling within the rating band for average).
- **Sturminster:** was rated as having the lowest quality sites achieving an average standard 29% poor. Twinwood Coppice was assessed as the lowest scoring site at 8% (very poor) with Riverside Meadows rated highest in Sturminster at 44% (average).

Qualitative Comments: Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace

- 4.49 A number of comments can also be made in relation to individual criteria that have been rated on each site, to summarise the overall quality of ancillary facilities in North Dorset's natural and semi natural greenspace These include:
- Limited provision of benches, with sites making no provision for people to sit and enjoy the site.
 - Poor signage, with sites found to have no signage details such as ownership or the site name or who to contact if there is a problem.
 - Lack of footpaths which may have a limiting effect on the use of sites by people with disabilities.
 - Lack of bins, with sites having no provision of bins for litter or dog waste.
- 4.50 **Blandford Sites** 4 sites no signage (Preetz Way, Wimborne Road, Stour Meadows, Blandford Forest), 3 sites no bins (Wimborne Road, Hod Hill and Blandford Forest) 5 sites no seating (Angus Road, Preetz Way, Wimborne Road, Charlton Beeches, Hod Hill).
- 4.51 **Gillingham Sites** 1 site no signage Fifehead Wood, 2 sites no bins Fifehead Wood and Duncliffe Wood and the same 2 sites had no seating.
- 4.52 **Shaftesbury Sites** 6 sites no signage (Compton Abbas Wood, Melbury Wood, Pound Lane, St James Common, Kingsettle Wood, Ambrose Copse), 6 sites no bins (Compton Abbas Wood, Ashmore Wood, Melbury Wood, St James Common, Kingsettle Wood, Ambrose Copse) 6 sites no seating (Compton Abbas Wood, Melbury Wood, Pound Lane, St James Common, Kingsettle Wood, Ambrose Copse).
- 4.53 **Sturminster Sites** 5 sites no signage, Brickles Wood, Back Lane, Piddles Wood, Twinwood Coppice, East Combe Wood. The same 5 sites had no bins, or no seating.

Accessibility

- 4.54 Accessibility has been assessed using a variety of techniques including mapping exercises and consultation. The key findings show that:

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- From the response given to the door to door survey people identified the time it takes for them to travel to formal open space. Outlined below are the distances people travel based on mean travel time (with walking being the main mode of transport):
 - Natural and semi natural greenspace + a distance of 0.57 miles
- The majority of users walk to natural and semi natural greenspace in the District and therefore parking may not be a major issue, except for those with a disability.
- A lack of site information can be perceived as barrier to use if people do not know, or are unsure of, the extent to which they can use a site.
- Key issues identified by survey respondents in relation to accessibility include:
 - Lack of time
 - Lack of facilities
 - Dog fouling (this is an issue in relation to semi natural open space, as many sites have no dog waste bins provided)
 - Age and Disability
 - Poor transport links

4.55 **Assessment against English Nature Standards of provision** is considered in more detail within Section V of the report - (Standards of Provision).

4.56 It is also important to emphasise the importance, role and contribution of the wider countryside in meeting local recreational needs.

Reommendations

Natural and Semi Natural sites

NG1 Improve access to natural and semi natural green space sites

NG2 Develop site specific management plans for key sites that ensure the long term sustainability of habitats

NG3 As a minimum quality standard for sites managed by the Council introduce signage, benches and bins

NG4 Adopt the suggested local standards for quality, quantity and accessibility as benchmarks against which to measure future performance

NG5 Ensure sites designated as Local Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) are protected against development.

NG6 Work with the owners of private sites to ensure the sites are managed in a sympathetic manner.

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Green Corridors

- 4.57 **Green Corridors:** sites that promote walking, cycling and horse riding for leisure purposes or provide travel opportunities for wildlife migration. It is important to note that this category does not include the extensive public rights of way network. It is mainly disused railway cuttings as such it is not possible to predetermine standards of provision
- 4.58 Annex A of PPG 17 – Open Space Typology clearly states:

‘The need for Green Corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no easy way of establishing or setting a provision standard, just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads’
- 4.59 It is therefore proposed not to set a provision standard as PPG17 goes on to state:

‘Planning policies should promote the use of Green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town and city centres, community facilities such as schools, community centres and sports facilities, places of employment and shops. To this end Green Corridors are demand led. It is down to the Planning authorities to seize opportunities to use linear routes that are established for example canal corridors, river banks or disused railway lines, supplementing them through links from urban areas and developing circular routes and trails.
- 4.60 With regards to green corridors the PPG 17 (Planning Policy Guidance note 17) guidance emphasis appears to be on sites in urban areas, this is due to the guidance adopting the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce Report ‘Urban Typology’. As a result elements of the guidance appear to be contradictory e.g. the guidance suggests that all corridors including those in remote rural settlements should be included, the PPG 17 companion guide implies that unless a green corridor is used as a transport route that links facilities such as home to school or town and sports centre, it should not be included as part of the audit.
- 4.61 The Green Corridors provide opportunities in North Dorset to link both rural and urban Communities together, with a number of the linear routes linking different housing areas and open spaces together.
- 4.62 Green Corridors also contribute to the overall provision of natural and semi-natural green space and have consequently been included in the analysis for natural and semi natural greenspace.
- 4.63 In North Dorset District there are a number of initiatives that are being developed with local communities, the Countryside Rangers and the Town Councils to promote the use of ‘Trailways’ or green corridors.

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Quantity: Green Corridors

- 4.64 From the information provided the audit has identified **11 sites** covering **12.75 Hectares** that have been classified as green corridors within North Dorset. The location of these sites is presented on Map 6
- 4.65 Figure 4.8 below illustrates the distribution on an area basis

Figure 4.8 - Provision Distribution on an Area Basis

Area	Population	Provision	Settlement	Site Name	Ha	Quality Rating
Blandford	22460	6 Green Corridor	Blandford Forum	River Walk	0.36	56.43%
			Charlton Marshall	Redundant Railway Line	1.558	40.89%
			Charlton Marshall	The Stour Valley Way	0.122	Not Audited
			Spetisbury	Redundant Railway Line	3.309	50.00%
			Tarrant Rushton	Bridleway	0.25	41.54%
			Blandford Forum	Disused Railway Path	3.034	Not Audited
Gillingham	12480	5 Green Corridor	Gillingham	Public Footpath & Cycleway	1.283	58.14%
			Gillingham	Rolls Bridge	0.822	43.56%
			Gillingham	Wavering Lane	1.822	38.37%
			Gillingham	Chantry Fields Riverwalk	0.012	49.64%
			Gillingham	Footpath around school	0.16	38.22%
Shaftesbury	12160	0 Green Corridor	None Identified	None Identified	None identified	N/A
Sturminster	14390	0 Green Corridor	None Identified	None Identified	None identified	N/A
Districtwide	61490	11 Green Corridors			12.75	Average 46%

This audit has only considered sites identified by officers and town and parish staff.

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Quality: Green Corridors

Figure 4.9 –Green Corridor Quality Criteria

Green corridor
Entrance areas
Presence and quality of signage and information
Boundary fencing and hedges
Tree management mature and young trees
The quality of key furniture including seats, bins, dog bins
The quality of maintenance, grass cutting, pathways
Cleanliness

- 4.66 The focus of the quality assessment was on pathways, general access, signage, provision of bins where appropriate etc... Quality ratings are summarised in Figure 4.10 below.

Figure 4.10 – Green Corridors Quality Ratings

Town Area	Provision Details	Number of sites audited	Quality Range	Average
Blandford	6 Green Corridor	4	41%-56%	47%
Gillingham	5 Green Corridor	5	38%-58%	46%
Shaftesbury	0 Green Corridor	0	0	0
Sturminster	0 Green Corridor	0	0	0
Districtwide	11 Green Corridors	9	31%-58%	46%

- 4.67 The District average quality rating for the green corridors identified is 46% which equates to a rating of good when measured on the quality value line. The quality of green corridors in the town clusters reflects this with green corridors in the Blandford area rating at 47% and in the Gillingham area 46%.

Green Corridors	
GC1	The District Council should work to developing individual improvement plans for this typology and as a minimum quality standard sites should have signage benches and bins
GC2	Develop the Green Corridors as part of the District wide green network
GC3	The District Council should increase awareness of these sites through targeted marketing and closer working with the County Council
GC4	Consider opportunities for sponsorship and establishing volunteer networks to undertake improvements building on the work of the County Council Countryside service
GC5	Capitalise on available funding sources and initiatives and seek developer contribution to provide new facilities and improve existing sites

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Outdoor Sports Facilities

4.68 Outdoor sports facilities have been amended as follows:

- **Playing Pitches** – provision for Football, Cricket, Rugby, and Hockey have been assessed using the prescribed methodology detailed within “*Toward a Level Playing Field*”. The assessment methodology is provided in more detail within the appendices to this report.

Proposed New Provision

4.69 The NDLP identifies proposed new provision in the following Town Areas

- [Blandford](#), for provision to the north-east of the bypass
- [Gillingham](#), for provision on land adjacent to the Football Club, Hardings Lane
- [Shaftesbury](#), for provision of facilities on land to the south of Wincombe Lane

4.70 Other more informal facilities have been included within the other listed typologies. For example, a number of Multi-Use Games areas (MUGAs) were identified. Given their intended use, these have been included as part of the assessment of Play areas and provision for young people. The various types of outdoor sports facilities are considered in brief below.

Quantity Playing Pitches

4.71 The audit has revealed 183 playing pitches(including football, rugby, cricket, grass hockey, synthetic turf pitches) in North Dorset of which 160 have secured public use.(Secure public use being through a written agreement between the provider and the club). Pitches are supplied through a number of different providers, specifically;

- **Local Education** -29 sites containing 61 pitches(29 pitches with community use)
- **District, Town and Parish Councils**- 32 sites containing 50 pitches(50 pitches with community use)
- **Private Sector including private schools** - 17 sites containing 83 pitches(81 pitches with community use)

Playing Pitches

4.72 Unfortunately, schools and private sector providers would not engage in the process and allow auditors onto their property .As a result audits were limited to 63 pitches on 39 sites across the District

- 33 Football Pitches
- 10 Cricket Pitches
- 4 Rugby Pitches
- 1 Hockey

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- 15 unknown (audited in summer with no clear line markings)

4.73 A detailed breakdown of the pitches identified by township area is outlined below:

Figure 4.11 – Pitches identified by Township Area

Site name	Ownership	Visited	Community Use	Mini	Junior	Senior	Grass Hockey	Rugby	Cricket	STP
Blandford										
Archbishop Wake First School	LEA	No	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blandford Camp Astro turf	Private	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Blandford St. Mary First School	LEA	No	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bryanston School	Private	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	3	3	2
Dick Draper Memorial Playing Field	Private	Yes	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Durweston Playing Fields	Parish	Yes	Yes	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hoggen Down, Milton Abbas	Voluntary	No	Yes	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Knighton House School	Private	No	No	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Langton Road Pitch	Parish	Yes	yes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Larksmead Recreation Ground	Parish	Yes	Yes	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Milborne St. Andrew First School	LEA	No	Yes	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Milborne St. Andrew Playing Fields	Parish	Yes	Yes	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Millborne Sports Club	Private	Yes	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Milldown C.E. VC First School	LEA	No	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milldown Middle School	LEA	No	Yes	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Milton Abbas Sports Field	Voluntary	No	Yes	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Park Road Recreation Ground	Parish	Yes	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Pimperne First School	LEA	No	No	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Priory Field	Parish	Yes	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Spetisbury First School	LEA	No	No	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Squires Field, Tarrant Gunville	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Leonards School	LEA	No	No	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Stickland Sports Ground / Club	Private	No	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Tarrant Keyneston Village Hall Pitch	Parish	Yes	yes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Blandford School	Private	Yes	Yes	1	2	1	0	3	1	0
The Dunbury C of E School	LEA	No	No	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Water Meadows	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Winterborne Kingston Recreation Ground	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Gillingham										
Buckhorn Weston Cricket Club	Private	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
East Stour Playing Field	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

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Site name	Ownership	Visited	Community Use	Mini	Junior	Senior	Grass Hockey	Rugby	Cricket	STP
Gillingham Leisure Centre	NDDC	Yes	Yes	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Gillingham Primary School	LEA	Yes	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gillingham Recreation Ground	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Gillingham School	LEA	Yes	Yes	0	1	2	0	2	0	0
Kingston Magna Pitch	Parish	No	Yes	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Milton-on-Stour C of E Primary School	LEA	No	Yes	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
North Dorset Rugby Club	Private	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	10	1	0
St. George's C of E School	LEA	No	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Stour Provost Playing Field	Parish	Yes	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Stour Provost Community School	LEA	No	No	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Wyke Primary Gillingham	LEA	Yes	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sturminster Newton										
Alec's Field	Parish	Yes	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Barnets Lane	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Bowey Field, Okeford Fitzpaine	Parish	Yes	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Okeford Recreation Ground	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Hambledon View / Rixon Recreation Ground	Parish	Yes	yes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harford School, Child Okeford	LEA	No	No	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hazelbury Bryan Primary School	LEA	No	No	2	0	0	0	2	1	0
Hinton St. Mary Cricket Ground	Parish	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Marnhull Recreation Ground	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Okeford Fitzpaine C of E VA School	LEA	No	No	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Okeford Fitzpaine Recreation Ground	Parish	Yes	Yes	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Shillingstone Primary School	LEA	No	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillingstone Recreation Field	Parish	Yes	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
St. Gregory's C of E Primary	LEA	No	Yes	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School	LEA	No	No	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
St. Nicholas C of E V.A. Primary	LEA	No	Yes	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Stalbridge Park, The Playing Fields	Parish	Yes	Yes	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Stalbridge Primary School	LEA	Yes	Yes	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sturminster Newton High School	LEA	Yes	Yes	1	2	0	2	1	1	0
Sturminster Newton War Memorial Recreation Ground	Parish	Yes	Yes	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Wessex Close, Stalbridge	Parish	Yes	yes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
William Barnes Primary School	LEA	No	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shaftesbury										
Clayesmore School	Private	No	Yes	0	4	2	2	9	0	1
Cockram, Coppice Street	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Fairfield, Shroton	Voluntary	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Fontmell Magna Cricket Club	Private	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Glaze Field, St. James Common	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Green Lane, Ashmore	Parish	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
HMYOI, Guys Marsh	Private	No	Yes	2	1	2	0	0	1	0

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Site name	Ownership	Visited	Community Use	Mini	Junior	Senior	Grass Hockey	Rugby	Cricket	STP
Iwerne Minster Cricket Ground	Voluntary	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Iwerne Minster Recreation Ground	Parish	No	yes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Motcombe CE VA Primary School	LEA	No	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Regis School	Private	No	Yes	4	0	2	0	4	5	1
Shaftesbury Leisure Centre	NDDC	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shaftesbury School	LEA	No	Yes	0	0	3	1	2	1	0
St Andrew's C of E Primary School	LEA	No	No	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
The Abbey Primary School	LEA	No	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

4.74 The provision of **OVERALL** sports pitches by township area is summarised below

Figure 4.12 – Provision of Overall Sports Pitches by Township Area

Pitch type	Blandford	Gillingham	Sturminster	Shaftesbury	Total
Mini soccer	11	4	9	8	32
Junior Football	12	4	8	6	30
Senior Football	10	8	10	10	38
Rugby	8	12	4	15	39
Cricket	12	5	8	13	38
STP	3	0	0	3	6
Grass Hockey	Not Applicable as Hockey Games played on STP				
TOTAL	56	55	39	33	183

4.75 The table shows a significant variance in the actual number of pitches within each of the four township areas and an overall supply across the District of 183 pitches identified. It appears that the Blandford area is served by the highest amount of pitches compared to the other three townships. It is important to note that not all schools have responded to the consultation and as a result it is difficult to ascertain the total provision across the District. This is made more difficult by the fact that no comprehensive list of overall provision is held by the County or the District Council and as the auditing took place at the end of the football season many sites had goal posts taken down. Wherever possible league handbooks and the sports development officer have inputted into the overall supply picture.

4.76 The fact that pitches are provided does not necessarily mean they are accessible to the public for use. The table below identifies the pitches that are reported by providers to have community use. The District has 154 of the 183 pitches with community use (85%). (Note that the 6 grass hockey pitches are excluded from this figure)

Figure 4.13 – Pitches with Community Use

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Pitch type	Blandford	Gillingham	Sturminster	Shaftesbury	Total
Mini soccer	4	0	4	6	14
Junior Football	10	4	6	5	25
Senior Football	10	8	10	10	38
Rugby	7	12	2	15	36
Cricket	11	4	7	13	35
STP	3	0	0	3	6
TOTAL	45	28	29	52	154

(Note the total number of pitches with Community use is 160, however the Sport England Methodology does not recognise grass hockey pitches and as such the provision is reduced to a total number of 154)

- 4.77 The table shows how the pitches available to the community varies by township area. In Blandford for example, 80% of the total provision is available for the local community to access and use whereas in Shaftesbury the figure increases with 95% of the total pitches being reportedly available for the community to use. The figure is lower in Sturminster with 74% of the total pitches with community use; Gillingham has 84% of the pitches in the area with community use.
- 4.78 Sturminster has no identified STP (Synthetic Turf Pitch). STP provides essential venues for out of season training.
- 4.79 All pitches audited were rated using the Sport England scoring matrix, which provides a numerical score for each pitch. The maximum score for any one pitch is 100%. The key findings of the non-technical visual inspections showed that:

- **Quality of all pitches** ranged greatly with ratings varying from 29% (Below average) through to 98% (excellent). The average rating (mean) was 76% (good).

Quality Line – Playing Pitches

0% - 30%	31% - 54%	55% - 64%	65% - 89%	90% +
Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent

- **Football pitches** rates vary greatly, with 29% (below average) being the lowest score and 92% (excellent) being the highest. The average (mean) was 75% (good).
- **Cricket pitches** rated varied from a score of 63% (good) through to 98% (excellent) The average (mean) pitch score was 78% (good).
- **Rugby Union Pitches** rated varied from a score of 82% through to 85%. (good)The average score was 84% (good).
- **Hockey pitches (Synthetic Turf Pitches)** were not rated in the same way as grass pitches, because the surface specification, use and pitch capacity i.e. the number of games that can be played in a week, is very different. The

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requirement for provision of a synthetic pitch is based on the demand for hockey, but can also be related to number of population i.e. 60,000 per synthetic pitch, whereas the provision of grass pitches can be more closely related to demand per individual sport. Identified facilities used for Hockey (and other training for other sports) were visited and comments made regarding general condition, size, floodlighting and refurbishment needs. Comments are made within the Hockey assessment section of this report.

Fig 4.13a – Quality ratings by pitch type and area cluster

Area Cluster	Parish	Pitch Type	Number of pitches	Quality Range	Average Score
Blandford	Blandford Forum	Cricket	2	84% - 98%	91%
Blandford	Pimperne	Cricket	1	90%	90%
Blandford	Blandford Forum	Hockey	1	76%	76%
Blandford	Millborne St Andrews	Junior Football	1	39%	39%
Blandford	Blandford Forum	Junior Football	2	73% - 77%	75%
Blandford	Tarrant Keyneston	Mini Football	1	50%	50%
Blandford	Blandford Forum	Mini Football	2	85%	85%
Blandford	Blandford Forum	Rugby	4	82% - 85%	83%
Blandford	Blandford Forum	Senior Football	8	85% - 90%	89%
Blandford	Pimperne	Senior Football	1	90%	90%
Blandford	Durweston	Senior Football	1	74%	74%
Blandford	Stourpaine	Senior Football	1	82%	82%
Gillingham	Bourton	Senior Football	1	71%	71%
Gillingham	Gillingham	Senior Football	2	71%	71%
Gillingham	Stour Provost	Senior Football	1	81%	81%
Gillingham	Gillingham	Cricket	1	66%	66%
Shaftesbury	Iwerne	Cricket	1	74%	74%
Shaftesbury	Fontmell Magma	Cricket	1	68%	68%
Sturminster Newton	Stalbridge	Cricket	1	77%	77%
Sturminster Newton	Hazelbury Bryan	Cricket	1	74%	74%
Sturminster Newton	Hinton St Mary	Cricket	1	63%	63%
Sturminster Newton	Shillingstone	Cricket	1	87%	87%
Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton	Junior Football	1	65%	65%
Sturminster Newton	Okeford Fitzpaine	Mini Football	1	45%	45%
Sturminster Newton	Stalbridge	Mini Football	1	45%	45%

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Area Cluster	Parish	Pitch Type	Number of pitches	Quality Range	Average Score
Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton	Mini Football	1	29%	29%
Sturminster Newton	Stalbridge	Senior Football	2	74% - 76%	75%
Sturminster Newton	Okeford Fitzpaine	Senior Football	2	77%	77%
Sturminster Newton	Hazelbury Bryan	Senior Football	1	73%	73%
Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton	Senior Football	2	66% - 92%	79%
Sturminster Newton	Shillingstone	Senior Football	1	77%	77%

Average scores of all pitches in each of the 4 cluster areas:

Fig 4.13b – Quality ratings by area cluster

Area Cluster	Average Score
Blandford	82%
Gillingham	72%
Shaftesbury	71%
Sturminster Newton	68%

Average scores of all pitch types over all areas combined:

Fig 4.13c – Quality ratings by pitch type

Pitch Type	Average Score
Cricket	78.%
Mini Football	56%
Junior Football	63%
Senior Football	81%
Rugby	84%
Hockey	76%

Average scores of each pitch type in each of the 4 area clusters:

Fig 4.13d – Quality ratings by pitch type in each area cluster

Area Cluster	Pitch Type	Average Score
Blandford	Cricket	91%
Blandford	Mini Football	73%
Blandford	Junior Football	63%
Blandford	Senior Football	87%
Blandford	Rugby	84%
Blandford	Hockey	76%
Gillingham	Senior Football	74%

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Area Cluster	Pitch Type	Average Score
Gillingham	Cricket	66%
Shaftesbury	Cricket	71%
Sturminster Newton	Cricket	75%
Sturminster Newton	Mini Football	40%
Sturminster Newton	Junior Football	65%
Sturminster Newton	Senior Football	77%

4.80 These ratings provide a comprehensive guide to the varying quality across the District, but need to be treated with caution for the following reasons:

- The inspections were non-technical, based on a visual assessment only
- The inspections are a snapshot view of provision – scores are recorded based on what is seen on site at one particular visit
- The presence of changing room facilities also boosts the score for a pitch. Although a significant number of the senior football pitches scored were rated as good this was largely due to the existence of changing rooms, which took the scores for many pitches from an average rating to good. The presence of changing rooms adds 15% to a pitch score.

Audit of Current Demand

4.81 The following numbers of clubs and teams have been identified as playing regular fixtures throughout the 2004/05 season:

Figure 4.14 - Numbers of Clubs & Teams

Sport	Number of clubs	Number of teams
Football	27	95
Cricket	22	71
Rugby Union	2	27
Hockey	4	12
Total	55	205

4.82 The table shows that football and cricket have the largest number of individual clubs. The two Rugby clubs also generate a large number of teams. A more detailed breakdown of teams and clubs by township area is illustrated in the table below

Figure 4.15 – Breakdown of Clubs and Teams by Township Area

Sport	Blandford		Shaftesbury		Sturminster		Gillingham		Total	
	No of Clubs	No of Teams	No of Clubs	No of Teams	No of Clubs	No of Teams	No of Clubs	No of Teams	No of Clubs	No of Teams
Football	12	37	4	12	8	29	3	17	27	95
Cricket	7	21	6	13	6	25	3	12	22	71
Rugby	1	11	0	0	0	0	1	16	2	27
Hockey	2	4	0	0	1	2	1	6	4	12
TOTAL	22	73	10	25	15	56	8	51	55	205

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- 4.83 The table above shows the significant variation in the number of clubs and teams participating in the four main sports of football, cricket, rugby and hockey across the four township areas. Football has the highest demand with 95 teams identified in 27 clubs, cricket has 71 identified teams and 22 clubs. Only two clubs have been identified for rugby but they generate 27 teams. Hockey is the least popular of the four sports with 4 teams generating 12 teams. (This will be due to the fact that hockey requires the use of synthetic turf pitches). Only three of the four townships provide accessible synthetic turf pitches with community use. Football has historically been one of the main focus sports targeted by the District Council's Sports Development team.
- 4.84 The table below gives a detailed breakdown of the team types within the township areas by sport:

Figure 4.16 – Team types within Township Areas

Sport	Team type	Blandford	Gillingham	Shaftesbury	Sturminster	Total
Football	Mini Soccer	10	4	1	4	19
	Junior Football	13	8	5	13	39
	Senior Football	14	5	6	12	37
	Total	37	17	12	29	95
Cricket	Junior	9	6	3	13	31
	Senior	12	6	10	12	40
	Total	21	12	13	25	71
Rugby	Mini	6	6	0	0	12
	Junior	2	5	0	0	7
	Senior	3	5	0	0	8
	Total	11	16	0	0	27
Hockey	Junior	0	4	0	0	4
	Senior	4	2	0	2	8
	Total	4	6	0	2	12
TOTAL		73	51	25	55	205

- 4.85 The Blandford area has the largest number of teams at 73 (37 football, 21 Cricket, 11 Rugby and 4 Hockey), Shaftesbury has the lowest number of teams at 25 across all sports(12 football, 13 cricket,) Sturminster has 56 teams(29 football, 25 cricket and 2 hockey) whereas Gillingham has 17 football,12 cricket, 16 rugby and 6 hockey teams across the township area.(these figures do need to be treated with caution as the results are reliant upon a response to questionnaire survey, research of league handbooks and the internet and information from appropriate governing

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bodies. Teams who do not play in leagues but play casual friendlies may not have been recorded.

Sport-by-Sport Assessment – Key Findings

- 4.86 The findings of the assessment of playing pitch provision undertaken are considered on a sport-by-sport basis, in relation to Football, Cricket, Rugby Union and Hockey. No Rugby League teams were identified or other key pitch sports (for example, Gaelic Football or Lacrosse).

Football Assessment

Pitch Quantity

- 4.87 **Numbers of clubs and teams.** The study research has identified **27 football clubs** based within the North Dorset area. From the research undertaken, these clubs generate **95 teams**. The number of teams generated by each club varies significantly, from single team clubs to those with in excess of ten teams.
- 4.88 These teams are detailed by the number within each identified “type” of team in Figure 4.17 below.

Figure 4.17 – Football Teams in the North Dorset area

Team Type	Number of teams
Mini Soccer (Under 7 & Under 8)	7
Mini Soccer (Under 9 & Under 10)	12
Junior Football - Boys (Under 11 – Under 16)	30
Junior Football – Girls (Under 11 – Under 16)	9
Senior Football – Men’s (Over 16)	36
Senior Football – Women’s (Over 16)	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEAMS	95

- 4.89 **Number of pitches.** The study research has identified **77 pitches used by the community**, which are included in the assessment calculation. A summary of the pitches included is detailed in Figure 4.18 below. Football pitches are categorised as “Mini”, “Junior” or “Senior”, in accordance with the requirements of the Football Association for age-group football. An additional 27 pitches without community use have been identified. The majority of these are on school sites.
- 4.90 Sports clubs and schools were asked to identify what facilities were available for secured community use. Analysis of all the responses shows that only 4 schools have pitches that are currently used by community teams. The table below shows these schools and what level of demand there is on their facilities.

Figure 4.18 – Schools and Level of Demand

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School	Type of School	Identified Clubs	Number of Teams
Blandford School	LEA	Blandford HMR FC	1
		Blandford Railway FC	1
		Blandford Youth Football Club	6
		Blandford CC	1
		Old Blandfordians CC	1
		Blandford RFU	11
Bryanston School	Private	Bryanston and Durweston CC	1
St. Leonards School	LEA	Blandford Youth Football Club	2
Sturminster Newton High School	LEA	Sturminster Newton Youth Club FC	5

4.91 There are many more schools that have pitches available for community use but no teams identified using these pitches. A list of these schools is shown in the table below.

Figure 4.19 – School Status

School	Status	School	Status
Archbishop Wake First School	LEA	Spetisbury First School	LEA
Blandford St. Mary First School	LEA	St Andrew's C of E Primary School	LEA
Gillingham Primary School	LEA	St. George's C of E School / Rec Ground	LEA
Gillingham School	LEA	St. Gregory's C of E Primary	LEA
Harford School, Child Okeford	LEA	St. Mary's Catholic Primary School	LEA
Hazelbury Bryan Primary School	LEA	St. Nicholas C of E V.A. Primary	LEA
Milborne St. Andrew First School	LEA	Stalbridge Primary School	LEA
Milldown C.E. VC First School	LEA	Stower Provost Community School	LEA
Milldown Middle School	LEA	The Abbey Primary School	LEA
Milton-on-Stour C of E Primary School	LEA	The Dunbury C of E School	LEA
Motcombe CE VA Primary School	LEA	William Barnes Primary School	LEA
Okeford Fitzpaine C of E VA School	LEA	Wyke Primary Gillingham	LEA
Pimperne First School	LEA	Clayesmore School	Private

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School	Status	School	Status
Shaftesbury School	LEA	Knighton House School	Private
Shillingstone Primary School	LEA	Port Regis School	Private

- 4.92 Blandford Youth Football Club raised concerns over a lack of facilities both for playing and training. Although Bryanston School in the local vicinity have an STP with floodlights they are unwilling to lease its use for sports other than hockey.
- 4.93 A lack of appropriate training facilities was also highlighted as a problem by Gillingham Town Youth FC, and Stalbridge FC.
- 4.94 Several teams complained that changing facilities are not often available and they have to change off site.
- 4.95 No teams commented on the overlap between the end of the football season and the start of the cricket season which can create conflict between sports as fixtures and demands may clash.

Figure 4.20 - Football Pitches with Secured Public Use in the North Dorset Area

Pitch Type		Number of pitches			
Mini Soccer Pitch		14			
Junior Football Pitch		25			
Senior Football Pitch		38			
TOTAL NUMBER OF PITCHES IN SECURED PUBLIC USE		77			
Pitch type	Blandford	Gillingham	Shaftesbury	Sturminster	Total
Mini soccer	4	0	6	4	14
Junior Football	10	4	5	6	25
Senior Football	10	8	10	10	38
total	31	12	15	15	77

- 4.96 **Home Games per week.** Calculations are based on teams playing home and away league fixtures with a demand for 0.5 pitches per week (1 home game every fortnight), reflecting that only half the teams will play “at home” each week. Based on this assumption the estimated number of home games per week are mini soccer games, junior games and senior games.
- 4.97 **Anomalies.** In order to assess the surplus or deficiency of pitches several calculations were made with the final figure being a rounded one. This results in discrepancies between figures of +/- 1. This can result in the final totals differing slightly. For example in the table below, under the Mini Soccer section for Sunday the total for North Dorset is different to the sum of the four township areas. This is because the actual figures for the four township areas are Blandford 4, Shaftesbury

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0.5 and Sturminster 1.5, which total 6. This type of anomaly occurs through the sections relating to supply and demand.

- 4.98 **Temporal Demand for Games.** The assessment reveals that most games are played on a Sunday (64% of all football games). With regard to the type of demand: the District has 49 games played per week across the different age groups of football, of this Blandford area has 19 games per week, Shaftesbury has 7 games, Sturminster 15 games per week and Gillingham 9 games per week.

Figure 4.21 – Football Type and Demand by Township Area

Football Type	Demand	Township Area				
		Blandford	Gillingham	Shaftesbury	Sturminster	North Dorset
Mini Soccer	Sat	1	2	0	0	3
	Sun	4	0	1	2	6
	Mid week	0	0	0	1	0
total		5	2	1	3	9
Junior Football	Sat	1	0	0	1	4
	Sun	5	4	3	5	16
	Mid week	0	0	0	0	0
total		6	4	3	6	20
Senior Football	Sat	4	2	1	3	9
	Sun	4	1	2	3	8
	Mid week	0	0	1	0	1
total		8	3	4	6	18

**Refer to point 4.88 on Anomalies

- 4.99 **Mini soccer:** The table shows that Blandford has a peak demand for mini soccer on Sundays with 4 games, demand in Shaftesbury (1 game) and Sturminster (2 games) is also Sunday with demand in Gillingham being Saturday (2 games). The District has an overall peak demand on Sunday with 6 games.
- 4.100 **Junior Football;** the table shows that Blandford and Sturminster both have peak demand on Sunday with 5 games, Shaftesbury has demand for 3 games on Sunday whilst Gillingham has demand for 4 games. The District has an overall demand on Sunday with 16 games.
- 4.101 **Senior Football:** the table shows that Blandford and Sturminster have equal demand on Saturday and Saturday with 4 games on each day, while Shaftesbury has a peak demand on Sunday with 3 games. Gillingham has peak demand on Saturday with 3 games.

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Figure 4.22 – Temporal Demand

Team Type	Total demand	Saturday Games	Sunday Games	Mid-week Games
Mini Soccer	10	3	6	0
Junior Football (includes girls)	20	4	16	0
Senior Football	19	9	8	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF GAMES	49	16	30	1

**Refer to point 4.88 on Anomalies

- 4.102 **Pitches required:** the pitches required to meet demand and identified peaks, within the township areas, are illustrated in figure 4.2.3.

Figure 4.23 – Pitches required to meet identified demand

Demand	Number of pitches required to meet demand		
	Mini	Junior	Senior
Saturday	3	4	9
Sunday	6	16	8
Midweek	0	0	1

**Refer to point 4.88 on Anomalies

- 4.103 **Pitches available** to meet the demand identified are shown in Figure 4.24. Pitches that are available during midweek are dependent upon the availability of floodlighting.

Figure 4.24 – Pitches available to meet demand

Demand	Number of pitches available to meet demand		
	Mini	Junior	Senior
Midweek*	0	0	0
Saturday	14	25	38
Sunday	14	25	38

*Only pitches with operational floodlighting have been included

- 4.104 **Identified Surplus / Deficiencies in pitch provision** are identified in Figure 4.25 overleaf. On a District-Wide basis, this essentially identifies whether the total number of pitches within the District is sufficient to meet the demand (and peaks) generated by the total number of teams identified. The results of the District-wide assessment indicate that the following deficiencies / surpluses in playing pitch provision exist.

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Figure 4.25 – Surplus / Deficiency in pitch provision

Type of Games	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / deficiency
Mini Soccer Saturday	3	14	+11
Mini Soccer Sunday	6	14	+8
Mini Soccer Midweek	0	0	0
Junior Football Saturday	4	25	+21
Junior Football Sunday	16	25	+9
Junior Football Midweek	0	0	0
Senior Football Saturday	9	38	+29
Senior Football Sunday	8	38	+30
Senior Football Midweek	1	0	-1

*No pitches with floodlighting have been identified. However, it is acknowledged that most pitches will be theoretically available at the beginning and end of the season when longer daylight hours would allow midweek evening games.

**Refer to point 4.88 on Anomalies

4.105 The results show that:

- There is a clear surplus of all types of pitches on a District-Wide basis.
- These figures do need to be kept in a rural context with local teams needing access to pitches close to where they live and does not reflect the area by area needs.
- Consultation has highlighted a perceived lack of pitches to meet demand in Blandford Forum

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Figure 4.26 Town Area surplus and deficiencies against demand

Area	District			Blandford			Gillingham			Sturminster			Shaftesbury		
	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency
Mini Soccer Saturday	3	14	+11	1	4	+3	2	0	-2	0	4	+4	0	6	+6
Mini Soccer Sunday	6	14	+8	4	4	0	0	0	0	2	4	+2	1	6	+5
Mini Soccer Midweek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1	0	0	0
Junior Football Saturday	4	25	+21	1	10	+9	0	4	+4	1	6	+5	0	5	+5
Junior Football Sunday	16	25	+9	5	10	+5	4	4	0	5	6	+1	3	5	+2
Junior Football Midweek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Football Saturday	9	38	+29	4	10	+7	2	8	+6	3	10	+7	1	10	+9
Senior Football Sunday	8	38	+30	4	10	+7	1	8	+7	3	2	10	2	10	+8
Senior Football Midweek	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	-1

*No pitches with floodlighting have been identified. However, it is acknowledged that most pitches will be theoretically available at the beginning and end of the season when longer daylight hours would allow midweek evening games.

**Refer to point 4.88 on Anomalies/ (numbers may vary due to rounding up)

4.106 From the table above the demand for pitches by township area clearly fluctuates, it is important to note that these figures are calculated on the teams that have responded to a questionnaire survey and a follow up telephone call. Teams are also identified through league fixture handbooks and web based research. However several local teams may not be affiliated to a league and may simply play friendlies, some of these teams may not have been included within the calculations. The

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calculations are developed through the Sport England Level playing field electronic toolkit and are very much demand led calculations.

Mini Football

- 4.107 Peak demand for mini soccer is on a Sunday with 65% of all fixtures played on this day. The number of mini soccer pitches currently in secured public use is shown by the assessment to be **sufficient** to meet peak demand on a Sunday with a surplus of pitches at a District level (+8 Pitches) and within the town areas (+5 in Shaftesbury and +2 in Sturminster), there is only just enough provision in Blandford to meet current demand with no additional pitches available should additional teams develop and wish to play
- 4.108 Mini pitches do not endure as much use as senior pitches (with regard to length of game) and there is a possibility that some pitches can accommodate a “rolling” programme of matches, with perhaps two games played after each other.

Junior Football

- 4.109 Peak demand for junior football is on a Sunday with 82% of fixtures played on this day. The number of junior football pitches currently in secured public use is shown by the assessment to be adequate to meet peak demand on a Sunday. There is a **surplus of 9 pitches** across the District. However within the town areas whilst Blandford has an excess of 5 pitches against current demand, Shaftesbury has a slight surplus of 2 pitches, Sturminster has a surplus of 1 pitch and Gillingham has no surplus with provision just catering for demand. This being the case the number of surplus pitches within the town areas leaves little opportunity for pitches to be rested or for new teams to develop. From the consultation it has been highlighted that teams do not believe that there are enough pitches to cater for the growing demand. It is also important to note that the surplus pitches may not necessarily be in the right location to enable teams to play locally.

Senior Football

- 4.110 The majority of senior football is played on a Saturday with 50% of fixtures taking place on a Saturday. There is a **surplus of 29 pitches** to accommodate the peak demand for senior football on a Saturday across the District. It is important to recognise that within the town areas the picture may differ slightly, the number of surplus pitches within the four identified towns is fairly consistent with Blandford having a surplus of 7, Shaftesbury 8, Sturminster 7 and Gillingham also having a surplus of 7 senior pitches against peak demand.

Area Assessments

- 4.111 When assessing a rural authority it is important to look at provision on a more local basis, as it is possible that local surpluses and deficiencies will be masked by the figures for the District as a whole. It is unlikely that a team will travel from one side of the District to the other to play fixtures.

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4.112 When considered at the more local level, the following observations were made:

- Deficiencies of Mini Pitches were recorded in Blandford and Gillingham.
- A number of teams from the main towns have indicated that they play on pitches outside the Town e.g. two teams from Blandford Youth Football Club play away from the town. In Gillingham the town's youth team play at Kingston Magna.

Latent Demand

4.113 Latent Demand can be described as demand for a pitch that is “suppressed” or is not met, due to a range of factors including:

- No pitch facilities in local area
- The team is unable to afford to rent a pitch or participate in leagues that require significant travel for way fixtures
- There is a shortage of officials
- Schools restricting community use

4.114 An attempt was made to assess levels of latent demand in the District. This was predominantly conducted through consultation with sports clubs who were asked to identify issues with provision. No clubs specifically expressed unmet demand, although a number of comments were made in relation to poor quality of changing facilities, which some teams indicate can restrict growth for example through the expansion of a women's section. However, anecdotal evidence of a need for more provision was expressed in face to face consultation with the Three Rivers Partnership in Gillingham, who referred to the fact that the cricket team was unable to grow due to lack of facilities, and the football club was having to travel to other pitches for training.

Future Demand

4.115 Future demand for playing pitches is difficult to ascertain, as there are many factors, which can contribute to a change in the demand for playing pitches, including the success of local teams, sports development initiatives and the quality/accessibility of local facilities and nature/scope of local leagues. Team Generation Rates and the findings of club consultation have been used.

Note: Area assessments based on the 4 Local Areas as indicated for the site assessments. Town assessments are based on the wards comprising the main settlement areas, Blandford, Gillingham, Sturminster Newton and Shaftesbury.

4.116 Team Generation rates (TGR's) can be used as a guide. Team generation rates are calculated by dividing the number of football teams (by type) within the study area by the area population. The TGR for each team type is the estimated number of residents within the age group required to generate one team. The derived ratios can then be applied to projected population increases to assess future pitch requirements.

4.117 Team Generation rates are based on the number of teams identified in

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Figure 4.27.

Figure 4.27 – Team Generation Rates for Football in North Dorset

Football Team Type	Age- Group Population	Current Population	Current number of teams	Current Team Generation Rate
Mini-Soccer (U7-U10)	6-9 year olds	3000	19	1:158
Junior Football: Boys	10-15 year olds	2827	30	1:94
Junior Football: Girls	10-15 year olds	2539	9	1:282
Senior Football: Men	16-45 year olds	11874	36	1:330
Senior Women	16-45 year olds	10602	1	1:10602

- 4.118 The TGR's and Population projections have been used to identify likely changes to demand and supply over the next 10 years. The projections for 2009 and 2014 are detailed below:

Figure 4.28 – Projected changes to team numbers

Football Team Type	2009 Population	Teams	2014 Population	Teams
Mini-Soccer (U7-U10)	2880	18	2960	19
Junior Football: Boys	3140	33	3140	33
Junior Football: Girls	2420	9	2280	8
Senior Football: Men	12800	39	13020	39
Senior Women	10360	1	9700	1

Team numbers based on current TGR's

- 4.119 Population projections indicated that population will decline in some age brackets and increase in others. If TGR's remain the same, then team numbers, and subsequently demand will change. The change in the number of pitches is estimated on the basis of peak demand remaining at the same time. On this basis there is likely to be:

- Demand for 6 mini pitches in 2009 and 6 mini pitches in 2014
- Demand for 17 junior pitches in 2009 and 17 junior pitches in 2014
- Demand for 10 senior pitches in 2009 and 10 senior pitches in 2014

- 4.120 Given the current levels of supply, and surpluses in senior football, there is no requirement for additional pitch provision at a District-wide level. The audit has also revealed a number of pitches not currently accessed by the community. The local

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level assessments have revealed small levels of deficiencies in Mini Pitches at the local level in 2 of the 4 major towns. It is possible that some pitches not currently in community use could be made available, or alternatively some pitches could be re-assigned to address this deficiency.

- 4.121 Clubs have also provided an indication of whether their membership is likely to increase or decrease in the coming years. The consultation completed would appear to suggest that clubs, particularly those catering for juniors, anticipate a steady increase in their membership. This predicted trend further strengthens the argument for increasing the numbers of Mini Pitches available in Blandford and Gillingham, to address predicted growth of the junior sections of clubs in these areas.
- 4.122 Team generation rates show the number of people required to create a new team and these differ within each of the four township areas. Outlined below are the team generation rates for the age range for football across the four township areas

Figure 4.29 Team Generation Rates for the age Range for Football across the four Township Areas

Town Area	Sport	AGE	Population in age group	%of Total Population	No of Teams	Teams generated per 1000 population	Population in age needed to generate 1 team
Blandford	Mini soccer	6-9	1088	8%	10	9.2	109
	Junior football boys	10-15	1026	7%	10	9.8	103
	Junior football girls	10-15	921	6%	3	3.3	307
	Men's football	16-45	4308	30%	14	3.2	308
	Women's Football	16-45	3846	27%	0	n/a	n/a
	total			11189		37	3.3
Gillingham	Mini soccer		605	8%	4	6.6	151
	Junior football boys		570	7%	6	10.5	95
	Junior football girls		512	6%	2	3.9	256
	Men's football		2394	30%	4	1.7	598
	Women's Football		2137	27%	0	n/a	n/a
	total			6218			

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Town Area	Sport	AGE	Population in age group	%of Total Population	No of Teams	Teams generated per 1000 population	Population in age needed to generate 1 team
Shaftesbury	Mini soccer	6-9	589	8%	1	1.7	589
	Junior football boys	10-15	555	7%	3	5.4	185
	Junior football girls	10-15	499	6%	2	4.0	249
	Men's football	16-45	2332	30%	6	2.6	389
	Women's Football	16-45	2082	27%	0	n/a	n/a
total			6057			2.0	505
Sturminster Newton	Mini soccer	6-9	697	8%	4	5.7	174
	Junior football boys	10-15	657	7%	11	16.7	60
	Junior football girls	10-15	590	6%	2	3.4	295
	Men's football	16-45	2759	30%	11	4.0	251
	Women's Football	16-45	2464	27%	1	0.4	2464
total			7168		29	4.0	247

- 4.123 From the above football TGR'S it is clear that future team generation rates vary significantly across the age ranges and across the township areas. For example in Gillingham to generate one senior means football team takes 598 people. This will have a significant impact on the rural less populated areas.
- 4.124 TGR's can also be used to identify is demand levels are low or high if compared to other similar areas. A number of other similar authorities have been used for comparison purposes in Figure 4.30 below:

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Figure 4.30 – Comparison of Football TGR's

Team Type: Football	North Dorset DC	West Oxfordshire DC	Slough BC	Hyndburn BC	Cannock Chase DC
Mini Soccer	1:158	1:130	1:371	1:226	1:219
Junior Boys	1:94	1:72	1:142	1:98	1:156
Junior Girls	1:282	1:480	n/a	n/a	1:3838
Senior Men	1:330	1:270	1:325	1:539	1:467
Senior Women	1:10602	1:9807	1:28865	1:16448	n/a

4.125 The comparisons suggest the following:

- Relatively high levels of Mini Soccer teams
- Relatively high level of Junior Girls teams.
- Average rates for Junior Boys and Senior Men's teams

Pitch Quality

4.126 Pitches have been rated on the basis of the non-technical visual assessment proforma provided as part of the assessment toolkit. This assesses a number of key criteria, including pitch slope, evenness, grass cover and the quality of equipment.

4.127 The assessment of quality has revealed the following:

- A large variance in the quality of football pitches, ranging from 29% (Poor) to 92% (Excellent).
- The average quality rating for football pitches across the district was 60% (Average).
- The average quality rating for Mini pitches across the district was 57%. (Average)
- The average quality rating for junior pitches across the district was 63%. (Average)
- The average quality rating for senior pitches across the district was 81%. (Good)

4.128 There are a number of issues that need to be considered, these include:

- Pitch quality and the carrying capacity of District pitches and the impact on depressing/stimulating demand
- Accessibility and access to local facilities for local teams and the impact on growth in local areas
- The impact of changes to the structures and organisation of sport, e.g. Mini Soccer, Girls Football, Veterans League, and the increasing popularity of 5-a-side football

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- The impact on demand and sports participation rates of local sports development initiatives
- National trends in sports participation and predictions for sports participation rates.

Club Consultation

4.129 Local clubs were asked about issues with facilities that adversely affect their ability to develop and accommodate local demand. A wide variety of issues were highlighted, with the most common issues stated encompassing:

- The quality of facilities, particularly changing rooms and ancillary facilities
- Some comments were made by a number of clubs about the quality of grounds maintenance
- A lack of facility developments to cater for particular sections of the sport, specifically women and girls football
- Some teams based in towns are forced out of the towns to play.

Summary of Key Issues for Football

4.130 The key issues for football facility provision across the District:

- Deficiencies in mini-soccer pitch provision at the local level, although this is not the case on a District-wide basis.
- Due to projected population increase, there is likely to be a slight increase in the number of teams in the future (although clubs on the whole anticipated an increase in their membership).
- Quality appears to be a key issue with the average for football across the District equating to a rating of 60% (average).
- Team generation rates vary across the four township areas and by age range
- There are some real issues that need resolving with regards to the growth of teams and the supply of pitches. This has been highlighted for example in Blandford Forum where the football club has simply been so successful at attracting members that the club has grown bigger than the local supply of pitches.

Cricket Assessment

Pitch Quantity

4.131 **Numbers of clubs and teams.** The study research has identified **22 cricket clubs** based within the North Dorset area. From the research undertaken, these clubs generate **71 teams**. The number of teams generated by each club varies significantly, from single team clubs to those with in excess of 8 teams. These teams are detailed by the number within each identified “type” of team in Figure 4.31 overleaf.

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Figure 4.31 – Cricket Teams in North Dorset District

Team Type	Number of teams
Junior Cricket (11-17 year old boys)	29
Junior Cricket (11-17 year old girls)	2
Senior Men's Cricket (18-55 year olds)	40
Senior Women's Cricket (18-55 year olds)	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRICKET TEAMS	71

- 4.132 **Number of pitches.** The study research has identified **34 pitches**, which are included in the assessment calculation. These pitches all have community use. A further 4 pitches without community use have been identified.
- 4.133 The audit has identified 34 cricket pitches with secured public use across North Dorset District (No differentiation has been made between Junior and senior pitches. Unlike football, pitches are not separate designated pitch areas. Junior fixtures make use of the same pitch (often a smaller area on the pitch) as senior teams).
- 4.134 **Home Games per week.** Calculations are based on teams playing home and away league fixtures with a demand for 0.5 pitches per week (1 home game every fortnight), reflecting that only half the teams will play "at home" each week. Based on this assumption, the estimated number of home games per week is Junior Games and senior games.
- 4.135 **Temporal Demand for Games.** The assessment reveals that demand is spread across the week. The majority of games are played on a Saturday or mid-week. With regard to the type of demand:

Figure 4.32– Temporal Demand

Team Type	Total demand	Saturday Games	Sunday Games	Mid-week Games
Junior Cricket	16	0	2	14
Senior Cricket	20	8	9	3
TOTAL NUMBER OF GAMES	36	8	11	17

Note: Rounding up or down of figures may lead to slight anomalies in figures.

- 4.136 **Pitches required** to meet demand and the identified peaks are identified below in Figure 4.33

Figure 4.33 – Pitches required to meet identified demand

Demand	Number of pitches required to meet demand
Saturday	8
Sunday	11
Midweek	17

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- 4.137 **Pitches available** to meet the demand identified are shown in Figure 4.34. All pitches are theoretically available during midweek (during the summer months) as unlike winter sports there is no dependency on floodlighting.

Figure 4.34 – Pitches available to meet demand

Demand	Number of pitches available to meet demand
Midweek	35
Saturday	35
Sunday	35

- 4.138 **Identified Surplus / Deficiencies in pitch provision** are identified in Figure 4.35 below. On a District wide basis, this essentially identifies whether the total number of pitches within the District is sufficient to meet the demand (and peaks) generated by the total number of teams identified. The results of the District-wide assessment indicate that the following deficiencies / surpluses in playing pitch provision exist.

Figure 4.35 - Surplus / Deficiency in pitch provision

Type of Games	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / deficiency
Cricket Saturday	8	35	+27
Cricket Sunday	11	35	+24
Cricket Midweek	17	35	+18

- 4.139 The results show that there is currently a **surplus of +17 cricket pitches** in secured public use to meet demand at peak time(Midweek).

Local Assessment

- 4.140 The assessment of the surplus and deficiency can also be done at a local area level to assess if local need is being met.

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Figure 4.36

Area	Blandford			Gillingham			Sturminster			Shaftesbury		
	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency
Cricket Saturday	3	11	+8	1	4	+3	3	7	+4	2	13	+11
Cricket Sunday	3	11	+8	2	4	+2	4	7	+3	2	13	+11
Cricket Mid-Week	5	11	+6	4	4	0	5	7	+2	3	13	+10

4.141 This shows that in Gillingham and Sturminster the level of supply is about right with there only being a surplus of 2 pitches in Sturminster at peak time. Shaftesbury and Blandford have a larger surplus of 10 and 6 respectively.

Latent Demand

4.142 Latent Demand can be described as demand for a pitch that is “suppressed” or is not met, due to a range of factors including:

- No pitch facilities in local area
- The team is unable to afford to rent a pitch or participate in leagues that require significant travel for way fixtures
- There is a shortage of officials
- There is a shortage of coaches and Team managers

4.143 An attempt was made to assess levels of latent demand in the District. This was predominantly conducted through consultation with sports clubs who were asked to identify issues with provision. No key issues relating to suppressed demand were identified.

Future Demand

4.144 Future demand for playing pitches is difficult to ascertain, as there are many factors, which can contribute to a change in the demand for playing pitches, including the success of local teams, sports development initiatives and the quality/accessibility of local facilities and nature/scope of local leagues.

4.145 **Team Generation rates** (TGR's) can be used as a guide. Team generation rates are calculated by dividing the number of cricket teams (by type) within the study area by the area population. The TGR for each team type is the estimated number of residents within the age group required to generate one team. The derived ratios

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can then be applied to projected population increases to assess future pitch requirements and compare rates with other areas.

Figure 4.37– Team Generation Rates for Cricket in North Dorset

Cricket Team Type	Age- Group Population	Current Population	Current number of teams	Current Team Generation Rate
Junior Boys	11-17 year olds	3363	29	1:116
Junior Girls	11-17 year olds	2780	2	1:1390
Senior Men	18-55 year olds	14961	40	1:374
Senior Women	18-55 year olds	14182	0	n/a

Population figures are estimated based on published figures from the 2001 Census results.

- 4.146 Team generation rates show the number of people required to create a new team and these differ within each of the four township areas. Outlined below are the team generation rates for the age range for Cricket across the four township areas

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Figure 4.38 – Team Generation Rates

Town Area	Sport	AGE	Population in age group	%of Total Population	No of Teams	Teams generated per 1000 population	Population in age needed to generate 1 team
Blandford							
	Junior cricket boys	11-17	1026	7%	10	9.8	103
	Junior cricket girls	11-17	921	6%	3	3.3	307
	Men's cricket	18-55	4308	30%	14	3.2	308
	Women's cricket	18-55	3846	27%	0	n/a	n/a
total			11189		37	3.3	302
Shaftesbury							
	Junior cricket boys	11-17	661	9%	3	4.5	220
	Junior cricket girls	11-17	546	7%	0	0	0
	Men's cricket	18-55	2938	38%	10	3.4	294
	Women's cricket	18-55	2785	36%	0	0	0
total			6930		13	1.9	533
Sturminster Newton							
	Junior cricket boys	11-17	782	9%	13	16.6	60
	Junior cricket girls	11-17	646	7%	0	0	0
	Men's cricket	18-55	3477	38%	12	3.5	290
	Women's cricket	18-55	3296	36%	0	0	0
total			8200		25	3.0	328
Gillingham							
	Junior cricket boys	11-17	678	9%	5	7.4	136
	Junior cricket girls	11-17	560	7%	1	1.8	560
	Men's cricket	18-55	3016	38%	6	2.0	503
	Women's cricket	18-55	2859	36%	0	0	0
total			7114		12	1.7	593

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- 4.147 From the above cricket TGR'S it is clear that future team generation rates vary significantly across the age ranges and across the township areas. For example in Gillingham to generate one men's cricket team takes 503 people. This will have a significant impact on the rural less populated areas.
- 4.148 The TGR's and Population projections have been used to identify likely changes to demand and supply over the next 10 years. The projections for 2009 and 2014 are detailed below in table 35:

Figure 4.39– Projected changes to team numbers

Cricket Team Type	2009 Population	Teams	2014 Population	Teams
Junior Boys	3920	34	3920	34
Junior Girls	2860	2	2660	2
Senior Men	15900	43	16320	44
Senior Women	14200	0	13960	0

Team numbers based on current TGR's

- 4.149 Population projections indicated that population will increase. If TGR's remain the same, then team numbers, and subsequently demand will increase slightly. The increase in the number of teams is estimated on the basis of peak demand remaining at the same time. On this basis there is likely to be:
- Demand equating to 19 games at peak time in 2009, resulting in a requirement for 19 pitches
 - Demand equating to 19 games at peak time in 2014, resulting in a requirement for 19 pitches
- 4.150 Given the current levels of supply, and surpluses in cricket, there is no requirement for additional pitch provision. The audit has also revealed a small number of pitches not currently accessed by the community.
- 4.151 Clubs have also provided an indication of whether their membership is likely to increase or decrease in the coming years. The consultation completed would appear to suggest that local clubs are expecting a small increase in their membership. However the majority of the clubs responding anticipated that their membership would remain static over the next few years. On the basis of the consultation results, TGR's and population projections, it is unlikely that there will be a need for additional cricket provision within the next few years.
- 4.152 TGR's can also be used to identify if demand levels are low or high if compared to other similar areas. A number of other similar authorities have been used for comparison purposes in the table overleaf:

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Figure 4.40– Comparison of Cricket TGR's

Cricket	North Dorset DC	West Oxfordshire DC	Slough BC	Hyndburn BC	Cannock Chase DC
Junior Boys	1:116	1:77	1:425	1:207	1:4246
Junior Girls	1:1390	1:4351	n/a	n/a	n/a
Senior Men	1:374	1:402	1:2249	1:975	1:8040
Senior Women	n/a	1:24712	n/a	1:20521	n/a

4.153 The comparisons suggest the following:

- A relatively high level of Junior Boys and Junior Girls teams.
- A relatively high level of Senior Male teams.

Pitch Quality

4.154 Pitches have been rated on the basis of the non-technical visual assessment proforma provided as part of the assessment toolkit. This assesses a number of key criteria, including pitch slope, evenness, grass cover and the quality of equipment.

4.155 The assessment of quality has revealed the following:

- A small variance in the quality of cricket pitches, ranging from 66% (good) to 98% (excellent)
- The average quality rating for cricket pitches across the district was 78% (good)

4.156 There are a number of issues that need to be considered, these include:

- Pitch quality and the carrying capacity of District pitches and the impact on depressing/stimulating demand
- Accessibility and access to local facilities for local teams and the impact on growth in local areas
- The impact of changes to the structures and organisation of sport
- The impact on demand and sports participation rates of local sports development initiatives
- National trends in sports participation and predictions for sports participation rates.

Club Consultation

4.157 Clubs were asked about facility related issues that affected their club. Issues mentioned were varied commonly included:

- Changing facilities are largely old and basic
- There was evidence of vandalism at many sites.

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Summary of key issues for cricket

- There are no identified supply issues relating to cricket, with a current surplus of pitches, and sufficient pitch provision to cater for future demand.
- Changing facilities are basic and old at some sites, thus this may prohibit further development and expansion of clubs based at these sites.
- There is a real need for investment in the quality of changing facilities to ensure successful future growth especially of young people and women

Rugby Union Assessment

Pitch Quantity

- 4.158 **Numbers of clubs and teams.** The study research has identified **2 rugby clubs** based within the North Dorset district area. From the research undertaken, these clubs generate **27 teams**. These teams are detailed by the number within each identified “type” of team in Figure 4.41 below.

Figure 4.41– Rugby Union Teams in the North Dorset area

Team Type	Number of teams
Mini Rugby Mixed (8-12 year olds)	12
Junior Rugby – Boys (13-17 year olds)	7
Junior Rugby – Girls (16-17 year olds)	0
Senior Rugby: Men (18-45 year olds)	7
Senior Rugby: Women (18-45 year olds)	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF RUGBY UNION TEAMS	27

- 4.159 **Number of pitches.** The study research has identified pitches, which are included in the assessment calculation. A summary of the pitches included is detailed in Figure 4.42 below.

Figure 4.42 – Pitches with secured public use in the North Dorset area

Pitch Type	Number of pitches
Rugby*	36
TOTAL NUMBER OF PITCHES IN SECURED PUBLIC USE	36

*No differentiation has been made between Junior and Senior pitches. Unlike football, pitches are not separate designated pitch areas. Junior fixtures make use of the same pitch as senior teams. Consideration needs to be given to pitch counting, as Senior Rugby pitches can accommodate 4 or 2 mini pitches (dependent on age group).

- 4.160 **Home Games per week.** Calculations for senior and junior teams are based on teams playing home and away league fixtures with a demand for 0.5 pitches per week (1 home game every fortnight), reflecting that only half the teams will play “at home” each week. The following considerations need to made:

- U7 and U8 teams: 4 games can be accommodated onto one senior pitch

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- U9, U10, U11 and U12 age groups: 2 games can be accommodated onto one senior pitch

4.161 Based on this assumption the estimated number of home games per week are 1 mini game, 4 junior games and 4 senior games.

4.162 **Temporal Demand for Games.** The assessment reveals that most senior games are played on a Saturday and all junior games play on a Sunday, as illustrated in Figure 4.43 below. With regard to the type of demand:

Figure 4.43 – Temporal Demand

Team Type	Total demand	Saturday Games	Sunday Games	Mid-week Games
Mini Rugby	6	0	6	0
Junior Rugby	4	0	4	0
Senior Rugby	4	3	1	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF GAMES	14	3	11	0

4.163 **Pitches required** to meet demand and the identified peaks are identified below in Figure 4.44:

Figure 4.44 Pitches required to meet identified demand

Demand	Number of pitches required to meet demand*
Midweek	0
Saturday	3
Sunday	6

*Based on assumption U7s/U8s require 1 pitch to accommodate 4 games

*Based on assumption U9s/U12s require 1 pitch to accommodate 2 games

4.164 **Pitches available** to meet the demand identified are shown in Figure 4.45. Pitches are not available on a weekday unless there is floodlighting.

Figure 4.45 – Pitches available to meet demand

Demand	Number of pitches available to meet demand
Midweek	0
Saturday	36
Sunday	36

4.165 **Identified Surplus / Deficiencies in pitch provision** are identified in Figure 4.46. On a District-wide basis, this essentially identifies whether the total number of pitches within the District is sufficient to meet the demand (and peaks) generated by the total number of teams identified. The results of the District wide assessment indicate that the following deficiencies / surpluses in playing pitch provision exist:

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Figure 4.46 – Surplus / Deficiency in pitch provision

Type of Games	Number of Games*	Number of Pitches	Surplus / deficiency
Rugby Union Saturday	3	36	+33
Rugby Union Sunday	6	36	+30
Rugby Union Midweek	0	0	n/a

*Based on senior equivalent

- 4.166 The results show that there is **surplus provision** currently in secured public use on a Sunday to meet peak demand.

Local Assessment

- 4.167 The assessment of the surplus and deficiency can also be done at a local area level to assess if local need is being met.
- 4.168 This shows that there is only Rugby played in two of the four areas, Blandford and Gillingham, despite there being pitches available for community use in those areas. Throughout all of the areas there is a surplus of pitches available for use.

Latent Demand

- 4.169 Latent Demand can be described as demand for a pitch that is “suppressed” or is not met, due to a range of factors including:
- No pitch facilities in local area
 - The team is unable to afford to rent a pitch or participate in leagues that require significant travel for away fixtures
 - There is a shortage of officials and coaches
- 4.170 There were no comments made by local clubs relating to suppressed demand.

Future Demand

- 4.171 Future demand for playing pitches is difficult to ascertain, as there are many factors, which can contribute to a change in the demand for playing pitches, including the success of local teams, sports development initiatives and the quality/accessibility of local facilities and nature/scope of local leagues. The table below shows the current pitch supply and demand.

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Figure 4.47 – Current pitch Supply and Demand

Area	Blandford			Gillingham			Sturminster			Shaftesbury		
	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Pitches	Surplus / Deficiency
Rugby Saturday	2	17	+15	2	12	+10	0	6	+6	0	6	+6
Rugby Sunday	2	17	+15	4	12	+8	0	6	+6	0	6	+6
Rugby Mid-Week	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a

- 4.172 **Team Generation rates** can be used as a guide to assessing future demand. Team generation rates are calculated by dividing the number of rugby union teams (by type) within the study area by the area population. The TGR for each team type is the estimated number of residents within the age group required to generate one team. The derived ratios can then be applied to projected population increases to assess future pitch requirements.

Figure 4.48– Team Generation Rates for Rugby Union in North Dorset

Rugby Team Type	Age- Group Population	Current Population	Current number of teams	Current Team Generation Rate
Mini-Rugby - mixed	8-12 year olds	4215	12	1:351
Junior Rugby: Boys	13-17 year olds	2433	7	1:348
Junior Rugby: Girls	16-17 year olds	1900	0	0
Senior Rugby: Men	18-45 year olds	10872	7	1:1553
Senior Rugby: Women	18-45 year olds	9921	1	1:9921

Population figures are estimated based on published figures from the 2001 Census results.

- 4.173 Team generation rates show the number of people required to create a new team and these differ within each of the four township areas. Outlined below are the team generation rates for the age range for Rugby across the four township areas.

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Figure 4.49 – Team Generation Rates for the Age Range for Rugby Across four Township Areas

Town Area	Sport	AGE	Population in age group	%of Total Population	No of Teams	Teams generated per 1000 population	Population in age needed to generate 1 team
Blandford	Mini-rugby - mixed	8-12yrs	1529	11%	6	3.9	255
	Junior rugby boys	13-17yrs	883	6%	2	2.3	441
	Junior rugby girls	16-17yrs	689	5%	0	0	0
	Men's rugby	18-45yrs	3944	28%	3	0.8	1315
	Women's rugby	18-45yrs	3599	25%	0	0	0
total			10645		11	1.0	968
Gillingham	Mini-rugby - mixed	8-12yrs	850	11%	6	7.1	142
	Junior rugby boys	13-17yrs	490	6%	5	10.2	98
	Junior rugby girls	16-17yrs	383	5%	0	0	0
	Men's rugby	18-45yrs	2192	28%	4	1.8	548
	Women's rugby	18-45yrs	2000	25%	1	0.5	2000
total			5915		16	2.7	370
Sturminster Newton	Mini-rugby - mixed	8-12yrs	980	11%	0	0	0
	Junior rugby boys	13-17yrs	565	6%	0	0	0
	Junior rugby girls	16-17yrs	442	5%	0	0	0
	Men's rugby	18-45yrs	2527	28%	0	0	0
	Women's rugby	18-45yrs	2306	25%	0	0	0
total			6819		0	0	0

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Town Area	Sport	AGE	Population in age group	%of Total Population	No of Teams	Teams generated per 1000 population	Population in age needed to generate 1 team
Shaftesbury	Mini-rugby - mixed	8-12yrs	828	11%	0	0	0
	Junior rugby boys	13-17yrs	478	6%	0	0	0
	Junior rugby girls	16-17yrs	373	5%	0	0	0
	Men's rugby	18-45yrs	2135	28%	0	0	0
	Women's rugby	18-45yrs	1949	25%	0	0	0
total			5763		0	0	0

4.174 From the above rugby TGR'S it is clear that future team generation rates vary significantly across the age ranges and across the township areas. For example in Gillingham to generate one men's rugby team takes 548 people. This will have a significant impact on the rural less populated areas. No teams have been identified in two township areas (Sturminster and Shaftesbury) The TGR's demonstrate the need for a hierarchical approach of provision.

4.175 The TGR's and Population projections have been used to identify likely changes to demand and supply over the next 10 years. The projections for 2009 and 2014 are detailed below:

Figure 4.50 – Projected changes to team numbers

Rugby Team Type	2009 Population	Teams	2014 Population	Teams
Mini-Rugby - mixed	4140	12	4120	12
Junior Rugby: Boys	2920	8	2920	8
Junior Rugby: Girls	2060	0	1900	0
Senior Rugby: Men	11520	7	11740	8
Senior Rugby: Women	9520	1	8940	1

Team numbers based on current TGR's

4.176 Population projections indicate that population will increase slightly. If TGR's remain the same, then team numbers, and subsequently demand will increase slightly. The

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reduction in the number of pitches is estimated on the basis of peak demand remaining at the same time. On this basis there is likely to be:

- Demand equating to 6 pitches at peak time in 2009
- Demand equating to 7 pitches at peak time in 2014

- 4.177 Given the current levels of supply, there is no requirement for additional pitch provision. The audit has also revealed a small number of pitches not currently accessed by the community which could be brought into play.
- 4.178 Clubs have also provided an indication of whether their membership is likely to increase or decrease in the coming years. The consultation completed would appear to suggest that local clubs are expecting an increase in their membership. On the basis of the consultation results, TGR's and population projections, it is unlikely that there will be a need for additional provision within the next few years.
- 4.179 TGR's can also be used to identify if demand levels are low or high if compared to other similar areas. A number of other similar metropolitan authorities have been used for comparison purposes in the table below.

Figure 4.51 – Comparison of Rugby TGR's

Team Type: Rugby	North Dorset BC	West Oxfordshire DC	Slough BC	Hyndburn BC	Cannock Chase DC
Mini-Rugby	1:351	1:630	1:1393	n/a	n/a
Junior Boys	1:348	1:248	1:1039	n/a	n/a
Junior Girls	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Senior: Men	1:1553	1:2252	1:6683	n/a	1:9009
Senior Women	1:9921	1:18450	1:27396	n/a	0

- 4.180 The comparisons suggest the following:
- There is a relatively high number of teams at all age levels in North Dorset.
 - There are no junior girl's rugby teams in North Dorset; this is a similar picture to the other authorities used as a comparison.

Pitch Quality

- 4.181 Pitches have been rated on the basis of the non-technical visual assessment proforma provided as part of the assessment toolkit. This assesses a number of key criteria, including pitch slope, evenness, grass cover and the quality of equipment.
- 4.182 The assessment of quality has revealed the following:

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- A small variance in the quality of rugby pitches, ranging from 82% (Good) to 85% (Good).
- The average quality rating for rugby pitches across the district was 84% (Good)

4.183 There are a number of issues that need to be considered, these include:

- Pitch quality and the carrying capacity of District pitches and the impact on depressing/stimulating demand
- Accessibility and access to local facilities for local teams and the impact on growth in local areas
- The impact of changes to the structures and organisation of sport
- The impact on demand and sports participation rates of local sports development initiatives
- National trends in sports participation and predictions for sports participation rates.

Summary of key issues for Rugby

4.184 Current provision is more than sufficient to meet need. There are many pitches available at the private schools in the area so as long as these pitches remain in community use, it is unlikely that any further provision will be needed

Hockey Assessment

Pitch Quantity

4.185 Numbers of clubs and teams. The study research has identified 3 hockey clubs based within the North Dorset area. From the research undertaken, this club generates 12 teams. These teams are detailed by the number within each identified “type” of team in Figure 4.52 below.

Figure 4.52– Hockey Teams in North Dorset

Team Type	Number of teams
Junior Hockey: Boys (11-15 year olds)	0
Junior Hockey: Girls (11-15 year olds)	0
Junior Hockey: Mixed (11-15 year olds)	4
Senior Hockey: Men (16-45 year olds)	3
Senior Hockey: Women (16-45 year olds)	5
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOCKEY TEAMS	12

4.186 **Number of pitches.** The study research has identified **7 full size Artificial Turf pitches**, which are included in the assessment calculation. A summary of the pitches included is detailed in Figure 4.53 below. Six grass pitches have been identified; these are not included in the assessment unless used for league fixtures.

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Figure 4.53 – Pitches with secured public use in North Dorset

Pitch Type	Number of pitches
Artificial Turf Pitches (Full Size)	7
TOTAL NUMBER OF PITCHES IN SECURED PUBLIC USE	7

4.187 **Home Games per week.** Calculations for senior and junior teams are based on teams playing home and away league fixtures with a demand for 0.5 pitches per week (1 home game every fortnight), reflecting that only half the teams will play “at home” each week:

- An artificial turf pitch can accommodate a significantly higher number of games than a grass pitch. Matches on STPs can be played on a rolling basis with up to 3-4 games played on a match day (assumption that each game accommodates a maximum 2-hour slot and the pitch is floodlit and available for a 7-8 hour period).

4.188 The estimated numbers of home games per week are: 4 senior fixtures and 2 junior fixtures.

4.189 **Temporal Demand for Games.** The assessment reveals that all junior games are played on Sunday and the majority of senior games are played on Saturday. With regard to the type of demand:

Figure 4.54– Temporal Demand

Team Type	Total demand	Saturday Games	Sunday Games	Mid-week Games
Junior Hockey	2	0	2	0
Senior Hockey	4	3	1	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF GAMES	6	3	3	0

4.190 **Pitches required** to meet demand and the identified peaks are identified below in Figure 4.55

Figure 4.55 – Pitches required to meet identified demand

Demand	Number of pitches required to meet demand
Midweek	0
Saturday	1
Sunday	1

*based on the assumption that each STP can accommodate 4 matches per weekend day.

4.191 **Pitches available** to meet the demand identified are shown in Figure 4.56. All pitches are theoretically available during midweek as the surface is artificial and there are floodlights.

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Figure 4.56– Pitches available to meet demand

Demand	Number of pitches available to meet demand
Midweek	7
Saturday	7
Sunday	7

- 4.192 **Identified Surplus / Deficiencies** in pitch provision are identified in Figure 4.57 below. On a District-wide basis, this essentially identifies whether the total number of pitches within the District is sufficient to meet the demand (and peaks) generated by the total number of teams identified. The results of the District- wide assessment indicate that the following deficiencies / surpluses in playing pitch provision exist.

Figure 4.57 – Surplus / Deficiency in pitch provision (assuming 4 fixtures per day)

Type of Games	Number of Games	Number of Match Slots	Surplus / deficiency
Hockey Saturday	3	3	+6
Hockey Sunday	3	3	+6
Hockey Midweek	0	0	+7

* Assumption of 4 match slots per pitch on a Saturday and Sunday and 2 match slots per pitch on a Weekday

Local Assessment

- 4.193 The assessment of the surplus and deficiency can also be done at a local area level to assess if local need is being met.

Figure 4.58 – Surplus / Deficiency in pitch provision (assuming 4 fixtures per day)

Type of Games	Blandford			Gillingham			Sturminster			Shaftesbury		
	Number of Games	Number of Match Slots	Surplus / deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Match Slots	Surplus / deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Match Slots	Surplus / deficiency	Number of Games	Number of Match Slots	Surplus / deficiency
Hockey Saturday	2	16	+4	1	4	+1	1	0	-1	0	8	+2
Hockey Sunday	1	16	+4	3	4	0	0	0	n/a	0	8	+2
Hockey Midweek	0	8	+4	0	2	+1	0	0	n/a	0	4	+2

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* Assumption of 4 match slots per pitch on a Saturday and Sunday and 2 match slots per pitch on a Weekday

- 4.194 Although this does appear to show a surplus of STP facilities it should be noted that other groups access these facilities for training and casual use. The lack of facilities in Sturminster is a concern as the team there have to travel outside the area in order to play matches.

Latent Demand

- 4.195 Latent Demand can be described as demand for a pitch that is “suppressed” or is not met, due to a range of factors including:
- No pitch facilities in local area
 - The team is unable to afford to rent a pitch or participate in leagues that require significant travel for way fixtures
 - There is a shortage of officials and coaches

- 4.196 There were no comments made by local clubs relating to suppressed demand. However one club did note that the teams struggle to play in their home towns as the pitches are all based at the private schools.

Future Demand

- 4.197 Future demand for playing pitches is difficult to ascertain, as there are many factors, which can contribute to a change in the demand for playing pitches, including the success of local teams, sports development initiatives and the quality/accessibility of local facilities and nature/scope of local leagues.
- 4.198 **Team Generation rates** can be used as a guide to assessing future demand. Team generation rates are calculated by dividing the number of rugby union teams (by type) within the study area by the area population. The TGR for each team type is the estimated number of residents within the age group required to generate one team. The derived ratios can then be applied to projected population increases to assess future pitch requirements.

Figure 4.59 – Team Generation rates for Hockey in North Dorset

Team Type	Age- Group Population	Current Population	Current number of teams	Current Team Generation Rate
Junior Hockey: Boys	11-15 year olds	2362	2*	1:1181
Junior Hockey: Girls	11-15 year olds	2099	2*	1:1050
Senior Hockey: Men	16-45 year olds	11874	3	1:3958
Senior Women	16-45 year olds	10602	5	1:2120

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Note: There are 4 mixed junior teams in the area, hence it has been assumed that there are 2 junior male and 2 junior female

- 4.199 The TGR's and Population projections have been used to identify likely changes to demand and supply over the next 10 years. The projections for 2009 and 2014 are detailed below:

Figure 4.60 – Future Teams

Hockey Team Type	2009 Population	Teams	2014 Population	Teams
Junior Hockey: Boys	2640	2	2640	2
Junior Hockey: Girls	2020	2	1900	2
Senior Hockey: Men	12800	3	13020	3
Senior Women	10360	5	9700	5

Population figures are estimated based on published figures from the 2001 Census results.

- 4.200 Population projections indicate that population will decline. If TGR's remain the same, then team numbers, and subsequently demand will remain the same. This is estimated on the basis of peak demand remaining at the same time.
- 4.201 Clubs have also provided an indication of whether their membership is likely to increase or decrease in the coming years. The consultation completed would appear to suggest that local clubs are expecting an increase in their membership. On the basis of the consultation results, TGR's and population projections, it is unlikely that there will be a need for additional provision within the next few years.
- 4.202 Team generation rates show the number of people required to create a new team and these differ within each of the four township areas. Outlined below are the team generation rates for the age range for Hockey across the four township areas

Figure 4.61

Town Area	Sport	AGE	Population in age group	%of Total Population	No of Teams	Teams generated per 1000 population	Population in age needed to generate 1 team
Blandford	Junior hockey – boys	11-15yrs	857	6%	0	0	0
	Junior hockey – girls	11-15yrs	762	5%	0	0	0
	Men's hockey	16-45yrs	4308	30%	3	0.7	1436
	Women's hockey	16-45yrs	3846	27%	1	0.3	3846
Totals for Hockey			9773		4	0.4	2443
Gillingham	Junior hockey – boys	11-15yrs	476	6%	2	4.2	238

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Town Area	Sport	AGE	Population in age group	%of Total Population	No of Teams	Teams generated per 1000 population	Population in age needed to generate 1 team
	Junior hockey – girls	11-15yrs	423	5%	2	4.7	212
	Men's hockey	16-45yrs	2394	30%	0	0	0
	Women's hockey	16-45yrs	2137	27%	2	0.9	1069
total			476	6%	2	4.2	238
Sturminster Newton	Junior hockey – boys	11-15yrs	549	6%	0	0	0
	Junior hockey – girls	11-15yrs	488	5%	0	0	0
	Men's hockey	16-45yrs	2759	30%	0	0	0
	Women's hockey	16-45yrs	2464	27%	2	0.8	1232
total			6260		2	0.3	3130
Shaftesbury	Junior hockey – boys	11-15yrs	464	6%	0	0	0
	Junior hockey – girls	11-15 yrs	488	5%	0	0	0
	Men's hockey	16-45 yrs	2759	30%	0	0	0
	Women's hockey	16-45 yrs	2137	27%	2	0.9	1069
total			476	6%	2	4.2	238

4.203 From the above hockey TGR'S it is clear that future team generation rates vary significantly across the age ranges and across the township areas. For example in Gillingham to generate one women's hockey team takes 1069 people. This will have a significant impact on the rural less populated areas and demonstrates the need for a hierarchical approach of provision.

4.204 TGR's can also be used to identify if demand levels are low or high if compared to other similar areas. A number of other similar metropolitan authorities have been used for comparison purposes in the table below:

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Figure 4.62 – Comparison of Hockey TGR's

Team Type: Hockey	North Dorset MBC	West Oxfordshire DC	Slough BC	Hyndburn BC	Cannock Chase DC
Junior Boys	1:1181	1:1555	1:2185	n/a	n/a
Junior Girls	1:1050	1:531	1:1921	n/a	n/a
Senior Men	1:3958	1:6385	1:7077	n/a	n/a
Senior Women	1:2120	1:4904	1:14433	n/a	n/a

4.205 The comparisons suggest the following:

- Team generation for hockey is average at junior level and relatively high at senior level

Pitch Quality

- No pitches have been audited, but it can be assumed that all ATP pitches based in private schools, are of excellent quality.

Club Consultation

4.206 Clubs were asked about facility related issues that affected their club. One issue identified was that clubs struggle to play their fixtures in their home town as all the pitches are at private schools outside the area.

Summary of key issues for Hockey

4.207 There are no major supply issues facing hockey, with current provision adequate to meet current demand

Synthetic Pitches – Training Facilities

4.208 Access to training facilities was a common key issues cited by local clubs. The audit undertaken has revealed five full size synthetic turf pitches currently used for outdoor sport. The assessment methodology relating to natural turf pitches focuses on demand for facilities to play competitive matches e.g. local league fixtures. It is also important to consider the demand for, and supply of facilities for training, and in particularly synthetic turf pitches.

4.209 There is a need to develop a hierarchy of provision to enable people in the more urban areas access to good quality facilities and also the people in the more remote rural areas access good quality provision within their local area. It has to be accepted that people in rural areas will have to travel to a nearby village to access the limited provision i.e. a pitch and changing facilities that is to a good quality or to a nearby town to access more comprehensive facilities that cater for several sports at once. What is important is that local people have access to the right level of provision to meet their local needs.

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Accessibility to pitches by residents (not members of teams)

- 4.210 It is important to recognise that playing pitches and sports pitches also serve the wider community as amenity space and whilst not used for the primary purpose local people may use these sites informally for example to jog around or walk.
- 4.211 From the response given to the door to door survey people identified the time it takes for them to travel to formal open space. Outlined below are the distances people travel based on mean travel time (with walking being the main mode of transport)
- School Playing Fields and Sports Pitches = A distance travelled of 0.48 miles

Provision for Children and Young People

Definition

“Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction amongst children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skate areas and teenage facilities”

- 4.212 As the definition specifies, provision for Children and Young People consists of equipped play areas and specialist provision for young people, including Skate parks, Multi-Use Games Areas and Teen Shelters. The provision of facilities for children and young people is important in facilitating opportunities for physical activity and the development of movement and social skills.
- 4.213 Provision for children’s play is sub-divided into categories in line with the National Playing Fields Association play area categories. These include Local Areas of Play (LAP), Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP) and Neighbourhood Areas of Play (NEAP). A number of play areas do not fall into any of these categories. Two main types of youth provision have been identified, specifically Skate park facilities (facilities for Skateboarding and BMX), Ball courts (MUGA)
- 4.214 The District Council currently does not have an adopted play strategy and needs to consider developing one as a priority; play provision is costly and without a strategic framework to identify priorities investment mistakes are easily made. The District Council adheres to the play strategy developed by the County Council which, although robust, is generic and does not necessarily best fit the needs of young people in North Dorset.
- 4.215 The District Council needs to develop a policy on provision for Children and Young People that serves both the needs of people living in the higher density urban areas (the four main towns Blandford, Shaftesbury, Sturminster Newton and Gillingham) as well as residents in the more remote rural areas. The random door to door survey identified that local people travel up to 0.33 miles to access a play area and 0.61 miles to access a good quality skate park. This standard is achievable within

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the four towns and through GIS plotting deficiencies have been identified within the towns. A Policy on meeting the needs of the villages and rural areas needs to be agreed.

- 4.216 New play areas in the District become the responsibility of the Town or Parish Councils. Increasingly this is becoming an issue as budgets and resources are stretched. It is important to recognise the rural nature of North Dorset and the fact that much of the responsibility at the local level has been devolved to the Town and Parish Councils. Consultation with the Town Councils has revealed that they have real concerns over the long term sustainability of their play provision and in some cases see the provision as an insurance liability. The provision of lots of small play areas can be a drain on local resources and costly to maintain.
- 4.217 Consultation with Town Councils has identified that their budgets are already stretched with regards to repair, and /or replacement of fixed equipment. The Town Councils are increasingly becoming concerned about having to adopt additional play areas without the appropriate revenue to maintain them over sustained periods.
- 4.218 In setting quantitative standards there is a need to take into account current national and local standards, site assessments and consultation of local need.
- 4.219 The NDLP identifies a quantitative standard of 0.2-0.3 ha of play provision per 1000 head of population. It is important to note that provision should be based on the population of children and young people, in doing so this will ensure a move away from the more generic NPFA standard and the development of more bespoke local standards for North Dorset, which sees a hierarchy of provision catering for the different age groups and different populations.
- 4.220 In setting standards for North Dorset consideration will have to be given to the rural nature of the District and the fact that many children in the most remote rural areas may have to be driven or travel on transport to access their nearest play area. This is discussed in more detail later in the report.

Quantity: Provision for Children & Young People

- 4.221 The audit undertaken has revealed that there are **58** play areas (total of all LAPs, LEAPs, NEAP's, standalone youth provision and non-classified areas). The distribution of play areas, and quantity per area is summarised in the table overleaf:

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Figure 4.63 - North Dorset District Current Provision for Children & Young People

Area	Provision	Population of Young People**	No of Sites Identified	No of Sites Visited	No of pieces of Equipment	Ha*	Ha per 1000 Pop of young people
Blandford	20 Play Areas 1 MUGA 1 Skate park	4539	21	20	161	3.71	0.82
Gillingham	11 Play Areas 1 MUGA 1 Skate park	2470	11	10	64	2.9	1.2
Shaftesbury	12 Play Areas 1 MUGA 0 Skate park	2467	13	12	71	1.02	0.41
Sturminster	15 Play Areas 2 MUGA 1 Skate park**	2848	15	14	74	1.99	0.7
District wide	58 Play Areas 5 MUGA 3 Skate park	12,324	60	56	370	9.62	0.78

*Note that hectareage has been taken by GIS plotting the footprint play areas occupy within other sites and as such assumptions have been made as to boundary of the play area

** As no population figures are available for the specific age groups, population figures for Young people have been calculated using the Dorset County figures of 17.9% of the total population consist of 0-15year olds and 2.4% of the total population consist of people aged 16-18

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4.222 The table below shows the identified play provision within the four township areas and within the four towns.

Figure 4.64 – Play Provision within the four Township Areas

Area	Settlement	Play Area	Hectares	Quality Rating	
				Score out of 69	Rating
Blandford	Blandford	Hunt Road	0.11	26	Below Average
	Blandford	Langton Road Play Area	0.09	29	Average
	Blandford	Larksmead Recreation Ground Play Area	0.07	41	Good
	Blandford	Park Road Play Area	0.2	28	Below Average
	Blandford	Milldown Play Area	0.25	45	Good
	Blandford St. Mary	Stour Meadows	0.14	39	Good
	Blandford St. Mary	Pigeon Close	0.1	42	Good
	Charlton Marshall	Hopegood Play Area	0.05	34	Average
	Durweston	Durweston Rec Play Area	0.06	23	Below Average
	Farnham	Farnham Play Area	0.06	20	Below Average
	Milborne St. Andrew	Playing Fields	0.9	40	Good
	Milton Abbas	Milton Abbas Play Area	0.1	42	Good
	Pimperne	Pimperne Play Area	0.06	41	Good
	Pimperne	Pimperne Primary School	0.05	34	Below Average
	Stourpaine	Bottom Road Play Area	0.09	31	Average
	Stourpaine	Drapers Field Play Area	0.11	19	Poor
	Tarrant Gunville	Play Area	0.45	28	Below Average
	Tarrant Keyneston	Village Hall Play Area	0.04	32	Average
	Winterborne Kingston	Broad Close Play Area	0.1	29	Average
	Winterborne Whitechurch	Play Area	0.07	37	Good

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Area	Settlement	Play Area	Hectares	Quality Rating	
				Score out of 69	Rating
Gillingham	Gillingham	Addison Close	0.07	21	Below Average
	Gillingham	Hyde Road Play Area	0.08	19	Poor
	Gillingham	Gillingham Leisure Centre Play Area	0.06	47	Excellent
	Gillingham	Lodbourne Terrace Play Area	0.100	20	Below Average
	Gillingham	King John Road Play Area	0.74	30	Average
	Gillingham	Windsor Lane	0.2	35	Average
	Bourton	St Georges Primary School	0.04	37	Good
	Buckhorn Weston	Play Area	0.12	34	Average
	Kington Magna	Play Area	0.08	27	Below Average
	East Stour	Play Area	1.53	45	Good
Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury	Ash Close Play Area	0.25	35	Average
	Shaftesbury	Barton Hill Play Area	0.1	21	Below Average
	Shaftesbury	Castle Hill Close Play Area	0.03	27	Average
	Shaftesbury	Coppice Street Play Area	0.16	24	Below Average
	Shaftesbury	St James Street Play area and Hard-court ball	0.056	37	Good
	Shaftesbury	Wincombe Road Play Area	0.04	24	Below Average
	Shaftesbury	Ashmore Play Area	0.07	36	Good
	Compton Abbas	Compton Abbas Play Area	0.07	26	Below Average
	Fontmell Magna	Fontmell Magna Play Area	0.034	28	Below Average
	Iwerne Courtney	Shroton Play Area	0.04	21	Below Average
	Iwerne Minster	Iwerne Minster Play Area	0.03	31	Average
	Motcombe	Motcombe Rec Play Area	0.04	25	Below Average

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Area	Settlement	Play Area	Hectares	Quality Rating	
				Score out of 69	Rating
Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton	Hambledon View	0.03	33	Average
	Sturminster Newton	Station Road Play Area	0.34	45	Good
	Sturminster Newton	War Memorial Play Area	0.03	43	Good
	Child Okeford	Recreation Ground Play Area	0.03	27	Below Average
	Glanvilles Wootton	Play Area	0.02	20	Below Average
	Hazelbury Bryan	Alec's Field Play Area	0.04	34	Average
	Manston	Play Area	0.5	33	Average
	Marnhull	Play Area & Skate Park	0.133	40	Good
	Marnhull	St. Gregory's C of E Primary School Play Area	0.04	34	Average
	Okeford Fitzpaine	Playing Fields Play Area	0.1	31	Average
	Okeford Fitzpaine	Bowey Lane	0.9	32	Average
	Shillingstone	Recreation Ground Play Area	0.027	24	Below Average
	Stalbridge	Wessex Close Play Area	0.04	28	Below Average
	Stalbridge	Stalbridge Park Play Area	0.05	33	Average
	Stourton Caundle	Play Area	0.12	39	Good

4.223 There is significant variance in the level of provision for children and young people. The Blandford area has the largest number of play areas whilst Gillingham area has the highest ratio per 1000 population of young people. Further, play areas have been provided by developers and these are not included in this study. Shaftesbury is well below the district average of provision.

4.224 The District standard of provision equates to 0.78 ha per 1000 children or young people. The NDLP states that provision in new developments is required to be between 0.2ha and 0.3 ha per 1000 total population. On this basis the main towns should be providing the following interims of actual hectares of provision

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Figure 4.65 Provision for Young People

Town	Town Population	Population of Young People	Actual Provision	Provision Required
Blandford Forum	8745	1661	1.07	2.6
Gillingham	9323	1771	1.22	2.8
Shaftesbury	6670	1267	1.04	2.0
Sturminster Newton	3105	589	0.4	0.93

(Note this is based on population figures taken from Dorset County Council local statistic and a % of 19 of the total population being young people)

- 4.225 The table above shows that when compared to the 0.3 ha per 1000 population for fixed play identified within the NDLP that the towns are not well served for fixed play against the standard set. The table also does not take into consideration the quality of play areas or the suitability for the diversity of young people and children that wish to use them. Provision for teenagers was identified as a priority from the consultation with residents.
- 4.226 The actual number of pieces of equipment per play area varies across the District from three to thirteen.

Quality: Provision for Children & Young People

- 4.227 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. Visits have been undertaken to sites with equipment and play features. Not all Lap's have been rated as part of the quality assessment as they tend to provide limited if any play equipment. The quality assessment proforma for play areas has been based on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) "Play Value Assessment" and looks at a variety of criteria including the overall appearance of the site, the ambience and the type of equipment by age range.
- Balancing
 - Climbing
 - Crawling
 - Gliding
 - Group Swinging
 - Single Swinging
 - Ball Play
 - Jumping
 - Rotating
 - Sliding
 - Rocking
 - Agility Bridges
 - Viewing Platform
 - Wheeled Play
- 4.228 A copy of the proforma is contained within the appendices to this report. In summary the following criteria have been used to rate quality and value of local play facilities. It is important to note that play provision is not simply providing equipment it is also about the environment that equipment is situated in, the proforma considers elements that best practice play areas have been found to promote these include diversity in textures, use of wildflowers and landscaping. In supporting the generation of a sense of place it considers whether the play area is locally related

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to reflect some local significance, this could be for example if the site is near a famous landmark ,then the play area design reflects this through themed equipment

4.229 Site scores not only consider the condition of the equipment they also consider the play value of the entire designated play area this includes consideration for the different types of activity that the play area allows these include:-

- **Overall site features** including access gates, whether the area is pollution and noise free, presence of shade, access for the disabled, appropriate signage, locally related features and seating
- **Ambience** including layout, visual appeal, presence of Litter or Graffiti
- **Equipment for Toddlers, Juniors and Teenagers** have been assessed as discrete elements within the overall play value assessment

4.230 The assessment proforma allows compilation of two key results – a total numerical score to reflect the “value” and importance of a local play area, and a quality score (presented as a percentage) to reflect variances in the quality of facilities across the borough. The score can be rated against a value line that reflects the overall quality of the site and also the age range the equipment is designed for. The value lines are outlined below:

Site Overall Value

Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
<20	20-28	29-35	36-47	47+

Toddler Play

Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
<9	10-13	14-17	18-22	22+

Junior Play

Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
<12	15-25	26-31	32-40	40+

Teenage Play

Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
<9	10-14	15-19	20-26	27+

Quality: Provision for Children & Young People

4.231 The assessment proforma allows compilation of two key results – a total numerical score to reflect the “value” and importance of a local play area, and a quality score (presented as a percentage) to reflect variances in the quality of facilities across North Dorset District.

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4.232 A total of **60** equipped play areas have been identified with 56 visited and rated. A summary of the main findings in relation to quality is provided in the table below:

Figure 4.66 - North Dorset District Summary of Quality Assessment Findings

Area	Overall Site Quality						
	No of Sites Audited	Score Range (out of 69)	Score Range%	AVERAGE	Ambience Score (out of 14)Range	Ambience Score Range %	AVERAGE
Blandford	20	19-47	27%-65%	48%	6-12	43%-86%	69%
Gillingham	10	19-47	27%-68%	45%	4-14	28%-100%	55%
Shaftesbury	12	21-37	30%-54%	41%	3-12	21%-86%	54%
Sturminster	14	20-45	30%-65%	48%	5-14	36%-100%	67%
TOTALS	58	19-47	27%-68%	41%	3-14	28%-100%	61%

4.233 There is a significant variance in the quality and setting (ambience) of play areas across North Dorset with quality ratings assessed as

Figure 4.67 Quality and Ambience Rating

Quality	Setting (Ambience)
• 2 sites rated as poor	• 2 sites rated as poor
• 19 sites rated as below average	• 7 sites rated as below average
• 18 sites rated as average	• 6 sites rated as average
• 16 sites rated as good	• 18 sites rate as good
• 1 site rated as excellent	• 23 sites rated as excellent

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Township Quality			
Blandford	Shaftesbury	Sturminster	Gillingham
6 sites rated as Good Milton Abbas Millborne St Andrew Milldown Stour Meadows Pimperne Pigeon Close 4 sites rated as Average Broad Close Langton Road Hopegood Tarrant Keynston 6 sites rated as Below Average Park Road Hunt Road Pimperne Farnham Durweston Rec 1 site rated as Poor Draper Stourpaine	1 site rated as Good St James St 2 sites rated as Average Castle Hill Irwene Minster 6 sites rated Below Average Shroton Compton Abbas Fontwell Magna Motcombe Barton Hill Coppice Street	3 sites rated as Good Sturminster War Memorial Station Road Marnhull 6 sites rated as Average Stalbridge Okeford Fitzpane Bowey Lane Alec Lane Hambledon View Marnhull St George 3 sites rated Below Average Wessex Close Child Okeford Shillingstone	1 site rated as Excellent Gillingham Leisure Centre 1 site rated as Good St George's 1 site rated as Average Wadlow Lane 1 site rated as Below Average Addison Close

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➤ Stour Meadows Scheme Skate park	Blandford	➤ Marnhull Rec Play Area	Sturminster Newton
➤ Pimperne Play Area	Blandford	➤ Bourton Play Area	Gillingham
Winterborne Whitechurch	Blandford	Stourton Caundle	Sturminster Newton

4.235 The average quality for play provision is 41% which equates to an average rating across the District but at the level within the 4 township areas the quality average varies:

- Blandford has the highest average quality for sites, with an average of 33 out of 69 for quality, equality to an overall rating of average, when measured against the quality value line. The average rating for ambience of play areas in Blandford was 9.5 or good, when measured against the ambience value line.
- Shaftesbury has an average of 30 for quality and the average rating for ambience of play areas in Shaftesbury is 7.5 which equates to average.
- Gillingham's play areas followed closely with a score of 31 out of 69, which again equates to a rating of average for overall quality. In terms of ambience, the average rating was 7.8 out of 14, which equates to an overall average rating for ambience as average.
- Sturminster Newton's overall play quality is rated as an average of 33 out of 69 which equates to a quality rating of average. The average ambience rating for play areas is 9.5 out of 14, which equates to good.

Figure 4.68 - North Dorset Equipment Quality by Age Range

Area	Rating Range					
	Toddlers Play (out of 34)		Junior Play (out of 59)		Teenage Play (out of 40)	
	Score Range	% range	Score Range	% range	Score Range	% range
Blandford	4-20	12%-59%	5-21	8%-36%	3-17	7%-42%
Gillingham	2-17	6%-50%	1-23	2%-39%	3-17	39%-42%
Shaftesbury	1-34	3%-33%	3-16	2%-37%	1-6	3%-15%
Sturminster	1-21	3%-62%	2-25	3%-42%	2-8	5%-20%
TOTALS	1-34	3%-62%	1-25	2%-42%	1-17	3%-42%

4.236 The tables above show the broad range in the quality of play provision across the four areas of North Dorset in terms of general appearance and also by age range of equipment. Quality of play provision is affected by a number of factors such as graffiti, vandalism, inadequate signage, dog proof fences and general repair. It is also affected by range of equipment, textures and whether the equipment stimulates creativity. Many of the play areas lacked shade, signage, and access for disabled children.

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4.237 From the table it is clear that quality ranges across the District and across the types of provision, what is concerning is that sites within the same town area can fluctuate so much. This is potentially the result of an uncoordinated level of provision and not having a quality standard to work to, clearly it will fluctuate if sites are in areas prone to vandalism and the ability to be repaired and maintained.

Access

4.238 Access to play provision is influenced by a number of key factors. These include:

- Geographical location and proximity to key residential areas
- The appropriateness of facilities provided and target user group
- External factors such as community safety

4.239 A mapping exercise has been undertaken to illustrate geographical proximity to play areas.

4.240 Further consultation with young people should be undertaken to see how far they are travelling to access facilities. From the resident door to door survey respondents identified that they would expect to travel the following distances to access provision for Children and Young People (With walking as the main mode of travel):

- Fixed play areas = A distance travelled of 0.36 miles
- Skate Parks = A distance travelled of 0.61 miles

4.241 Clearly the rural nature of North Dorset means that this accessibility to play areas needs further consideration and should be used to reflect the access to play in the main towns of Blandford, Shaftesbury, Sturminster Newton and Gillingham. In rural communities such as North Dorset local people may not make use of play area provision in the same way that people living in urban areas do. i.e. on a regular and frequent basis

4.242 When considering the provision within the four towns, very small areas of the towns are outside of the distance thresholds identified by local people in the door to door survey.

Key Findings

4.243 The following key conclusions can be made in relation to provision for children and young people on a District wide level:

- There is a marked difference in what is categorised as a play area across the District varying from a single piece of equipment to a number of pieces of equipment designed to suit a wide age range, fenced and appropriately signed
- There are examples of best practise provided within the District that need to be used as a model for future developments
- Engaging young people in the design process is a positive way forward for future planned provision

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- Play areas are lacking in basic signage, benches and bins. 22 Sites out of the 56 sites audited lacked appropriate signage that contained corporate information, and an emergency telephone number; 23 sites had no form of shelter for young people and 9 lacked litter bins
- The control of dogs in play areas is a major issue
- Sites generally lacked any attractive landscaping such as ground modelling, tree and shrub planting or areas of shade
- Vandalism and Graffiti is a problem on a number of sites
- The play areas in general do not cater for children with disabilities, 17 sites did not provide a wheelchair friendly surface and 20 do not provide access for people with disabilities
- The play areas offer little educational value through differing textures, tactile surface or creative use of wildflowers. Only 2 sites were found to have wildflower areas integrated within the play area
- The circulation routes within a number of play areas is limited and age separation is not often clearly defined
- 33 play areas were assessed as having no emergency vehicle access
- The quality of and provision of individual sites equipment, does not necessarily mean the play areas are meeting the needs of the young people.
- Provision needs to be co ordinated and strategic to ensure that 'more of the same' is not seen as the way forward in the delivery of play provision

Recommendations

- | | |
|------------|--|
| CP1 | To work in partnership with the Town and Parish Councils to develop a play strategy that delivers a strategic framework of improvements and development of play and young people's provision |
| CP2 | To develop a hierarchy of play provision to meet the needs of local young people in the four main towns and the more remote rural areas |
| CP3 | Improve access to play areas in areas where there are currently deficiencies |
| CP4 | Develop a young peoples working party to assess the play value of the existing play areas from a young peoples perspective |
| CP5 | Seek developer contributions to raise the quality of provision on existing sites and to provide new sites where there are deficiencies |
| CP6 | Any new facilities should cater for all age ranges and be to nationally recognised standards |

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Allotments

Definition

“Sites that provide opportunities for those people wishing to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion”

4.244 The audit has identified 8 allotment sites in North Dorset the sites are identified in figure 4.69 below (the information regarding allotments was provided by the town councils).

Figure 4.69 Allotment Provision in North Dorset

Area	Allotment Site	Number of plots
Blandford	Elizabeth Road	18
	Lampards Field	63
Gillingham	Gillingham Allotments	15
Shaftesbury	Bray	9
	Mampitts	11
	St James	38
Sturminster Newton	Brimble Cottage	32
	Filbridge Rise	22
Total		208

4.245 Allotments provide a key type of provision within the overall portfolio of open space, sport and recreation facilities. From the consultation undertaken, the value of allotments is significant, providing facilities for physical activity in addition to the promotion of healthy eating and educational value. The provision of allotments is a statutory function for local authorities under a number of legislative acts including the 1950 Allotment Act.

4.246 Allotments like other open space can provide a number of wider community benefits and hit a number of sustainability targets as well as the primary use of growing produce. These include:

- Heritage Allotments can be an important genetic resource for the conservation of rare species.
- Recycling Allotment holders are encouraged to recycle and offer the potential for community composting site.
- Transport Home grown food means there is less transport (less air miles) and less packaging.
- **Employment and Training** New skills and opportunities whether promotional, managerial or cultivation
- Education Links with schools, special needs and adult learning. Close contact with wildlife can lead to a lifelong interest.
- Leisure Promoting local tourism - arts, crafts and volunteering
- **Sustainable** neighbourhoods - revitalising allotments and neighbourhoods

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- **Community Developments** Co-operation across ethnic age and other barriers. Allotment societies often play a wider role in community schemes, becoming involved with local schools as well as programmes for the mentally and physically ill or disabled Providing people from differing cultural backgrounds the opportunity to meet and share experiences
- **Health** Increased consumption of fresh foods and more exercise and relief from stress, and therapy for those with mental health problems.
- **Providing** opportunity for social inclusion and cohesion
- **Creating** opportunities for people to participate in recreation

Quantity: Allotments

4.247 The audit has revealed 8 allotment sites in North Dorset and three have been audited against the quality line

4.248 The results of the quantity findings are identified below.

Figure 4.70 Allotment Quantity in North Dorset

Town Cluster	Town Population	No of Sites	No of Allotment plots	Hectares	Hectares per 1000 population
District wide	61490	8	208	5.82	0.09
Blandford	8745	2	81	2.18	0.24
Gillingham	9323	2	47	0.40	0.04
Shaftesbury	6670	3	58	1.79	0.26
Sturminster	3105	1	22	1.45	0.46

(Note that hectares are based on the national standard size for an allotment being 270sqm)

4.249 The above shows a marked fluctuation in the provision of allotments across the District. It is important to note that the population figures reflect the population within the towns the table shows Gillingham Town has the least provision of allotments per 1000 population and that Sturminster has the greatest provision.

4.250 No allotment societies have responded to telephone or postal questionnaire consultation. However information provided by the town councils has identified the current level of provision and demand for allotments. All these factors enable informed decisions to be made and predictions about future need and demand to be established, this in turn enables standards of provision to be developed. Given the lack of response to the consultation, this has not been possible at this stage.

Quality: Allotments

4.251 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. The quality assessment has been based on a non-technical visual assessment completed to rate the quality of a number of key criteria. An audit proforma was designed on the basis of a number of key criteria, building on a previous audit undertaken and in consideration to the findings of a recent Government Select Committee report into best practice in allotment provision and the Local Government Associations "A New Future for Allotments" publication (2000). A copy of the site visit proforma is included within the appendices to this

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report. Information collected using the proforma was supplemented by information gathered through consultation with Allotment Society representatives

4.252 Key criteria affecting “quality” include;

- The presence of water supply
- Whether the site is served by toilets
- Secure fencing around the site
- Signage to identify management, usage arrangements, special events and the availability of plots
- The presence of facilities such as composting bins, a shop and car parking.

4.253 Sites are assessed against the following quality value line

Quality Line - Allotments

0% - 19%	20% - 39%	40% - 59%	60% - 79%	80% +
Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent

4.254 The quality audit undertaken has revealed that there is a significant variance in the quality of allotments provided across North Dorset. Quality varies from the Brimble Cottage in Sturminster rated at 30%(poor), Filbridge Close, Sturminster 43%(average) and the new purpose built site at Blandford Forum which rated at 85% (excellent)

4.255 From the sites visited the District average quality for allotments is 50%. which equates to average when measured against the quality value line for allotments.

Accessibility of Allotments

4.256 A number of key considerations have been made in assessing access to allotments. These have included; the cost of renting an allotment; physical access, particularly for those with a disability; marketing and promotion of sites; location of facilities; range of services provided; availability of plots. The audit undertaken has revealed the following:

4.257 **Fees and charges.** Fees and charges vary across the District with Gillingham charging £10 per half plot whilst a full plot in Sturminster is £23.55, the price varies in Blandford between £20-£22 and in Shaftesbury plots cost between £10 -£17 per annum.

4.258 **Latent Demand** – It is important to recognise that allotments are very much demand led and as such people should have access to an allotment plot if required, the research with the town councils has revealed that waiting lists vary across the District with demand in Gillingham not being met with 34 people on a waiting list, the waiting list in Sturminster has 11 people waiting to be allocated a plot and in Blandford the list has 15 people whilst in Shaftesbury 10 people are waiting to be allocated a plot. The Gillingham Town Council is currently actively seeking additional land to meet demand, whilst in Blandford the waiting list contains a number of people from outside the town and parish boundaries.

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- 4.259 **Physical Access** to sites and services. Although a detailed access audit was not undertaken, each site visited was rated for current and potential disability access. Key considerations included the quality of roads and pathways into and within sites, and the presence of specialist disabled facilities (such as raised bed allotments and disabled toilets). The audit revealed that access to allotment sites across North Dorset is poor for disabled gardeners.
- 4.260 Local people identified that in order to access their nearest allotment they would expect to travel a distance up to 0.52 miles
- 4.261 **Marketing and promotion** of sites and services is also a key consideration in relation to access. It is important that local residents are aware of facilities and services available, and demand could be stifled if awareness of allotments is low. The assessment has revealed that allotment societies or town/parish council are responsible for the marketing and promotion of allotments. It appears that at present allotments there is no co-ordination between the main towns with regards to the demand and shared use of sites. The allotments appear to work in isolation.
- 4.262 **Range of services provided** is a particularly important consideration in widening access to allotments from a broader cross section of the local population to those traditionally likely to comprise the majority of allotment gardeners. Facilities such as car parking, toilets and other amenities need to be considered if allotments are to generate usage from families, local schools and other organisations. The audit revealed that toilet provision is rare and that parking facilities are only present at half of the sites.
- 4.263 **Availability of plots.** From the quality assessments the site at Blandford Heights was almost completely overgrown and derelict and no longer available. From the Town Councils that did engage and respond to questions regarding allotments via telephone consultation, the majority of sites appear to be full and to have waiting lists.

Key Findings

- 4.264 The following conclusions are made in relation to current allotment provision:
- Current supply is difficult to assess due to the poor response from allotment societies. There are waiting lists (latent demand) for sites at a number of plots further compounded by low turnover of plot holders.
 - Spare capacity is limited across North Dorset and is non-existent in some areas.
 - There is demand for more allotment provision across the District
 - There is scope to improve site facilities at a number of sites which could in turn facilitate additional and wider use.
 - Sites are poorly served by the basic facilities of water supply, pathways and toilets
 - It is important that sites are not left derelict or overgrown and prone to pioneer vegetation

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- The District Council have a standard to benchmark future provision against in the new Blandford Forum allotment site.

The following is a recommended provision standard:

Recommendations

- AL 1 Develop an Allotment Forum to undertake a plot holder survey to gather further detailed information about the levels of use and issues
- AL 2 As a best practice policy ensure that new plot holders are given a plot that is rotivated and weed free and ready to use
- AL3. Introduce a programme of improvements of the basic requirements of Signage water and toilet provision to all sites
- AL4 Develop capacity within the District for an appointed officer to liaise and facilitate the development of the allotments
- AL5 Seek to develop partnership with interested groups and schools to use plots
- AL6 Protect the allotments from Development by proactively marketing them and filling all vacant plots as they will become increasingly important as the health and healthy living agenda progresses
- AL7 Develop capacity and confidence amongst the allotment community to take on the self management role
- AL8 Ensure that people with disabilities have access to allotments with raised beds and level paths
- AL9 Capitalise on available funding initiatives and seek developer contributions to provide new facilities and improve existing sites using the Blandford Forum Site as a model of 'Best Practice'

Cemeteries and Churchyards

Definition

“The primary purpose is for the burial of the dead and for quiet contemplation but also for the promotion of wildlife conservation and to enhance the ecological value of an area or provide a link to the past”.

- 4.265 Cemeteries and Churchyards can provide a valuable contribution to the portfolio of open space provision within an area. For many, churchyards can provide a place for quiet contemplation in addition to their primary purpose as a “final” resting place, particularly in busy urban areas. Often Churchyards have wildlife conservation and bio-diversity value. In the context of this study, it is important to acknowledge that Churchyards are not created with the intention of providing informal or passive recreation opportunities. Churchyards only exist where there is a church and as such, standards of provision need to focus on quality, rather than quantity.

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- 4.266 They can make a significant contribution to the provision of urban green space sometimes providing a sanctuary for wildlife in urban areas devoid of greenspace.
- 4.267 Although many have restricted access they still provide a useful resource for the local community. A wide variety of habitats can be often be found supporting the other open space types such as areas of semi-natural and natural areas.
- 4.268 Within urban areas, churchyards are often among the few areas of greenspace where the local community is able to have some contact with the natural world.
- 4.269 Within rural communities they often provide a strong link to the past.
- 4.270 In rural areas churches are often seen as a focal point for the local community, with Parish Councils playing a large part in the decision making processes relating to maintenance and development of facilities and in some cases their ownership.
- 4.271 The majority of settlements in North Dorset have a Church and/or a graveyard. In some cases the graveyard is on a separate site from the church itself, for example in Bourton, land around St. George’s Church was clearly used previously as a graveyard but newer graves are to be found on a different site on the opposite side of the road which is maintained by Bourton Parish Council.

Quantity: Cemeteries and Churchyards

- 4.272 There are no national or local standards for the quality of cemeteries and churchyards. Increasingly though a number of local authorities have entered cemeteries for the Green Flag Award and in 2004, 4 cemeteries held the award.
- 4.273 Due to the large number of Cemeteries, disused church yards and other burial grounds a sample were visited and assessed.
- 4.274 The audit was undertaken to 35 out of 61 identified cemeteries and closed churchyards, in North Dorset that are readily accessible to the local community. These are shown in Appendix 4. The distribution of these across the four Town Cluster Areas is illustrated in Figure 4.71 below.

Figure 4.71 - Cemeteries & Churchyards by Town Cluster Area

Area	Population	No of Sites Visited	Ha of all identified	Ha per 1000 Pop
Blandford	22460	15	10.56	0.47
Gillingham	12480	6	4.59	0.36
Shaftesbury	12160	7	6.3	0.51
Sturminster	14390	7	3.0	0.20
Districtwide	61490	35	24.45	0.41

- 4.275 The distribution of churches and cemeteries across the District varies significantly and no standards are to be set for future provision. However it is still important to consider the quality of provision that currently exists.

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Quality

4.276 Quality Inspections have been undertaken via a site visit and completion of a scored proforma. The proforma used to assess quality was broadly based on the scoring system for other accessible types of open space. The key criteria used, given the intended value of this type of provision included:

- Main entrance safety, cleanliness, and natural presence
- Signage
- Upkeep and safety of the graves
- Quality of roads and pathways
- Provision of bins and seats

4.277 It is important to consider wider facilities that could be developed further at some of the sites. These would include recycling facilities for visitors to dispose of flowers etc. The key findings of the quality assessments undertaken are provided in Figure 4.72 below:

Figure 4.72 - Summary of Quality Assessment Findings

Ward	Sites Audited	Quality Range
Blandford	15	16% - 67%
Shaftesbury	7	48% - 66%
Sturminster Newton	7	41% - 64%
Gillingham	6	38% - 70%
TOTALS	35	16% - 70%
BLANDFORD	Site	Quality
Hilton	Hilton All Saints Church	30.00%
Winterborne Thomson	Winterborne Thomson Church	16.17%
Blandford	St. Peter & St. Paul's Church	67.59%
Blandford	Blandford Cemetery	61.05%
Blandford	Langton Long Church	55.56%
Pimperne	St. Peter's Church	57.63%
Farnham	Farnham Church	55.32%
Tarrant Gunville	St. Mary's Church	58.52%
Tarrant Hinton	The Church of St Mary	40.00%
Charlton Marshall	St. Mary the Virgin Church	53.06%
Spetisbury	St John the Baptist Church	55.93%
Tarrant Keyneston	All Saints Church	57.14%
Tarrant Monkton & Tarrant Launceston	All Saints Tarrant Monkton with Launceston	55.69%
Tarrant Rushton	Tarrant Rushton Church	53.70%
Durweston	St Nicolas Durweston	65.77%
GILLINGHAM	Site	Quality
Bourton	St. Georges Church	43.55%
Bourton	Graveyard	41.22%
Gillingham	St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham	70.51%
Stour Provost	St. Michael & Angels Church	43.17%
Stour Row	Village Hall (Old Church)	43.83%
Stour Row	All Saints Church	37.96%
SHAFTESBURY	Site	Quality
Iwerne Minster	Iwerne Minster Church	61.57%
Iwerne Courtney (Shroton)	Shroton Cemetery - St Marys Church	63.40%

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Ward	Sites Audited	Quality Range
Compton Abbas	St Marys Compton Abbas Cemetery	65.53%
Sutton Waldron	Sutton Waldron Cemetery	48.15%
Ashmore	Ashmore Church	62.59%
Motcombe	Motcombe Cemetery	61.54%
Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury Cemetery	66.38%
STURMINSTER	Site	Quality
Okeford Fitzpaine	Okeford Fitzpaine Churchyard	60.77%
Ibberton	Ibberton Churchyard	49.23%
Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton Church	64.55%
Hinton St. Mary	Hinton St. Mary Churchyard	56.73%
Marnhull	St. Gregorys Church, Marnhull	41.54%
Marnhull	Marnhull Rec Cemetery	53.11%
Shillingstone	Shillingstone Cemetery	55.00%

4.278 The results of the quality assessments can be summarised as:

- An average quality score across of 54% good
- A number of sites would benefit from improvements in entrances, pathways planting and signage as well as the provision of suitable bins and seats.

Accessibility

4.279 Accessibility to cemeteries and church yards is difficult to assess. In regard to their overall contribution to open space, given their primary purpose and factors affecting location and provision levels, the assessment has not included a focus on distribution, location or distance thresholds. People make use of this type of provision for a variety of reasons. In terms of physical access, a number of sites had poor access for those with mobility difficulties or visiting in a wheel chair, particularly through to the graves themselves.

4.280 The results of the quality assessments can be summarised as:

- An average quality score across of 54% good
- A number of sites would benefit from improvements in entrances, pathways planting and signage as well as the provision of suitable bins and seats.

Key Findings

4.281 The following comments are made in relation to Cemeteries and Church yards on the basis of the sites audited and consultation undertaken.

- Churchyards and cemeteries are potentially under-utilised areas of open space
- Quality levels of those sites inspected range greatly between **16.17% - 70.51%**, with the main deficiencies relating to signage, planting, bins, seats, lighting, parking and the need to improve side entrances.
- The lowest scoring site was Winterborne Thomson Church in the Blandford Cluster Area with a score of only 16.7%. The site was closed to burials and on inspection was given the status of 'Poor and Stable'. The site was rated on 10 assessment categories including entrances, signage, seats, bins, planting and

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boundaries scoring an average of 0.92 out of 5. Even though the church is closed to burials it still contributes to the visual impact of the area and therefore improvements should be considered.

SECTION V – DEVELOPING AND APPLYING STANDARDS OF PROVISION

Introduction

- 5.1 This section examines standards of provision for each type of facility and considers surpluses and deficiencies in provision on the basis of the assessment undertaken. GIS mapping has been used to illustrate a number of key findings, particularly in relation to access. These maps are contained in an accompanying document.
- 5.2 The Current standards identified within the NDLP are:
- Provision of 1.6 -1.8 ha per 1000 population for adult and youth use of which as a minimum 1.2 ha is for pitch provision and 0.4-0.6 is for courts greens and athletics provision
 - Casual Informal play space is 0.4-0.5ha per1000 population
 - Equipped play space is 0.2-0.3 ha per1000 population
 - In new development provision of 0.4-0.5 ha of amenity space per 1000 population
 - Fixed play provision of 0.2-0.3 ha per 1000 population
- 5.3 The findings of the door to door survey and other consultation findings have been used to inform appropriate distance thresholds (findings are reported in more detail within the appendices to this report). The survey findings also reveal local perceptions about the quantity and quality of local provision.
- 5.4 Residents were asked a number of questions about current provision in relation to quantity, quality and accessibility. The responses have been used to set provision standards, which have then been applied using GIS mapping.
- 5.5 **Future Needs:** Future population across the North Dorset District is projected to increase, to 68,500 (figures supplied by the County Council’s local statistics division) The published projections indicating an increase of approximately 11% by 2021.This level of increase will place increased demands on provision

Formal Open Space (Recreation Grounds and Amenity Space)

- 5.6 **Quantity:** Current formal open space provision totals 63 ha (if sites below 0.2 ha are removed as advocated in the PPG17 then the standard of provision for a site identified is 60.9ha). Local residents (71% of respondents to the door to door) felt that the current level of provision is enough. The average size of a formal open space is 1.25ha (excluding sites below 0.2 ha. If sites below 0.2 ha are included then the average size across this typology changes to 0.5 ha) the average size for the different types of Formal Open Space are:
- Recreation Grounds 2.0ha.
 - Amenity space above 0.2 ha the average size is 1.0 ha (Using the average size of these facilities can provide a minimum standard for future provision in terms of the minimum requirement of amenity space in new developments

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- 5.7 When considering current provision identified within the NDLP inset maps against
- **Quality:** The average quality score for all formal open space is 45% which equates to average facilities. Local residents (41%) made positive comments about quality, rating local provision as good.
 - **Access:** The consultation has revealed that the majority of residents walk to facilities. Based on the average (mean) travel time stated, an average distance travelled to access formal open spaces is 0.59 miles for recreation grounds and 0.3 miles for amenity space. This has been assumed (based on an average walking speed of 4 mph).

The following is a recommended provision standard to the Council:

Recommended Provision Standard
<p>Within the main towns of Blandford, Shaftesbury, Sturminster Newton and Gillingham all dwellings should be within 0.59 miles walk of a good quality recreation ground and 0.3 miles walk to amenity space above 0.2ha. Within the more remote rural areas people should have access to good quality amenity space above 0.2 ha within 5 minutes travel time, or up to 10 minutes travel to a good quality recreation ground by car</p>

- **Applying the Standard:** (Map 8) shows the current provision of recreation grounds with a theoretical catchment area of 0.59 miles and amenity space 0.3 miles within the four main towns and larger parishes where recognised recreation or amenity spaces exist.
 - **Qualitative deficiencies** - the overall average for all sites is 45%, average. For recreation grounds the average quality is 68% and for amenity space (above 0.2ha) it is 43%. If sites below 0.2 ha. Are included, then the average dips slightly to 41% but the rating against the quality value line remains at average.
- 5.8 As a minimum size formal open space provision should be as follows:
- For recreation grounds any new provision should be bigger than 2.0 hectares
 - For amenity space in order for it to be usable by local people for recreation should be as a minimum 1 ha in size

Natural / Semi-Natural Greenspace & Green Corridors

- 5.9 **Quantity:** Current natural and semi-natural greenspace totals 338ha, based on those sites listed as natural greenspaces and green corridors as per their primary typology and identified within the NDLP inset maps. The total provision excluding green corridors is 338 ha.
- 5.10 **Quality:** The average quality score for sites classified as natural greenspace is 37%. (Average). Local residents (60%) made positive comments about quality, rating local provision as good.
- 5.11 **Access:** The consultation has revealed that the majority of residents walk to natural greenspace facilities. Based on the average (mean) travel time stated, an average distance travelled to access.

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- Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace = 0.57 miles
- Green Corridors = 0.33 miles

(Distance has been assumed (based on an average walking speed of 4 mph).

The following is a recommended provision standard to the Council:

Recommended provision standard
All dwellings should be within 0.57 miles of a good quality natural / semi-natural greenspace.

5.12 **Applying the Standard:** Map 9 shows the current provision of sites categorised as natural / semi-natural greenspace with the recommended catchment area. The following deficiencies in provision are apparent:

- **Quantitative deficiencies:** Map 9 shows that there are no deficiencies in provision within the four main towns
- **Qualitative deficiencies,** based on the results of the quality assessments undertaken are apparent in a number of areas. In total 25 sites were rated as average or below.

Green Corridors

5.13 **Quantity:** Current provision of green corridors consists of 11 sites totalling 25ha.

5.14 **Quality:** The average quality score for all green corridors is 41% which equates to average facilities. Local residents (22%) made positive comments about quality, rating local provision as excellent or good

- **Qualitative deficiencies.** 5 sites have been rated as average or below. This equates to 45% of all identified provision.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

5.15 **Playing Pitches - Quantity:** The Playing Pitch Assessment undertaken has identified a surplus in most types of provision. The recommended standards are based on the results of the assessment, consideration to likely future demand and the number of pitches required to meet these needs. A significant amount of provision is located on school sites which serves wider needs than just sport. A surplus of pitches does not therefore indicate that land can be sold for development. A provision for 10% increase in demand has been made to cater for any growth in club membership as a result of new governing body or sports development initiatives, and to allow the ability to rest and rejuvenate pitches.

5.16 **Playing Pitches – Quality:** Quality varied across the District, but on the whole was rated positively. The results of the quality audits undertaken need to be treated with caution. – A pitch scores highly if it is served by changing room provision,

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regardless of the quality of these. The average pitch score across the District was 72% which is just inside the very good rating.

- 5.17 **Access:** The assessment has not revealed significant issues relating to access. However, hire fees and charges appear high and may present a barrier to some teams and clubs.
- 5.18 There is a need to develop a hierarchy of provision to enable people in the more urban areas access to good quality facilities and also the people in the more remote rural areas access good quality provision within their local area. It has to be accepted that people in rural areas will have to travel to a nearby village to access limited provision i.e. a pitch and changing facilities that is to a good quality or to a nearby town to access more comprehensive facilities that cater for several sports at once.
- 5.19 It is recommended that the District establishes a hierarchy of sports provision and that the hierarchy recognises the need to provide good quality diverse opportunities. The Hierarchy should be based on the size of population
- District Sports Pitch Areas (D.S.P.A) these should be developed in the four main towns. These are in effect 'Large Areas' with a primary function of providing for sport that attracts users from across the District. They will have a wide range of facilities and provide excellent opportunities for people with disabilities. They will represent Centres of Excellence in sports standards
 - DSPA'S will provide a comprehensive range of equipment and ancillary facilities such as toilets and an accessible car park. It is primarily aimed at providing a multi use sports facility that will attract people from the whole District and certainly from within the Township areas. These sites could be developed alongside the initiative that each of the main towns should have a large formal park (from the consultation local people agreed that they would like to see a main park within their nearest main town). They should be provided within other substantial outdoor family recreation.
 - In the main parishes (over 1000+ population) there should be multi pitch recreation grounds for sport that cater for two or more pitch based sport sports, providing training facilities such as cricket nets, floodlighting, changing and car parking
 - In parishes 500+ population there should be provision of a local recreation ground that caters for one primary sport e.g. football and training opportunities i.e. is floodlight with good quality changing and car parking,
 - In parishes under 500 population, there should be an area for people or a local team to play, e.g a local pub side wishing to have a friendly game. These sites may be school pitches or open space
- 5.20 **Application of the Provision Standard.** Quantitative provision standards have been set based on the "playing population". This allows provision levels to fluctuate in accordance to the changes in the age group populations that could in theory play the sport, rather than general population. The above standards address identified deficiencies and anticipated changes to demand.

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- 5.21 **Qualitative deficiencies.** On the basis that all provision should be rated as good or above, the pitches in North Dorset generally meet this standard. However minor improvements still need to be undertaken and a continued recognised maintenance programme of spiking rolling and hollow tinning needs to continue (as scored using the playing pitch non-technical visual assessment form).

Provision for Children and Young People

- 5.22 **Quantity:** Currently there are 57 equipped play areas across North Dorset providing fixed play, ball play, skateparks and teenage shelters.
- 5.23 **Quality:** The average quality of play areas across North Dorset is 47% which equates to a good rating. Local residents also rated play provision as good.
- 5.24 **Access:** The consultation undertaken suggests that most users walk to access local provision. Given the role and purpose of play areas, there is a need for facility provision close to home. However that provision does not need to provide fixed play equipment, rather, it needs to provide space for children and young people to be able to play and socialise.. The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) set a number of standards of provision for catchment areas to different categories of play area, and these are currently used in North Dorset to inform planning policies. Recommended standards of provision have been based on local consultation, with a comparison showed against the NPFA standards. Based on the consultation results, the average walking distance equates to 0.36miles to a fixed play area and 0.61 to a skate park. This can be applied to the more urban areas namely the four main towns. However, in the more remote rural areas people will have to use transport to access fixed play provision.

The following is a Recommended Provision Standard to the Council:

- 5.25 It is recommended that the District establishes a Play Strategy. This could take the form of establishing a hierarchy of play provision and that the hierarchy recognises the need to provide good quality diverse play opportunities. The Hierarchy should be based on the size of population
- District Equipped Play Areas (D.E.A.P'S) these should be developed in the four main towns. These are in effect 'Large or Super Play Areas' that attract users from across the District. They will have a wide range of equipment and provide excellent opportunities for children with disabilities. They will represent Centres of Excellence in play standards and play value providing opportunities to enhance social development through play activity and interaction.
 - DEAP'S will provide a comprehensive range of equipment and ancillary facilities such as toilets and an accessible car park. It is primarily aimed at providing a play facility that will attract people from the whole District and certainly from within the Township areas. These sites could be developed alongside the initiative that each of the main towns should have a large formal park (from the consultation local people agreed that they would like to see a main park within their nearest main town). They should be provided within other substantial outdoor family recreation.

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- In the main parishes (over 1000+ population) there should be Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play, large play areas that cater for all ages, providing fixed play, multi activities and teenage activities including seating.
- In parishes 500+ population there should be provision of a Local Equipped area for play and teenage provision.
- In parishes under 500 population there should be an area for young people and children to play, these areas may have equipped play or hard standing with activities such as a basketball post .
- In support of this and to cater the remote rural areas the District Council should provide access to play equipment through the use of mobile play equipment, this should be in partnership with the town and parish councils and is supported by the Dorset Play strategy.

Allotments

- 5.26 **Quantity:** Current provision in terms of plots has not been established due to a poor response to consultation. However from the information that has been collected Turnover is low with retention of plots high. (Information provided through the Town Councils)
- 5.27 **Quality:** The average quality score for the allotments visited which equates to average facilities.

The following is a Recommended Provision Standard to the Council:

Recommended Provision Standard
Due to the poor response of plot holders it has not been possible to establish travel times or demand (waiting lists for plots) therefore it has not been possible to establish a standard for allotments. To establish a standard it is important to recognise that allotments are a demand led facility.

Cemeteries / Churchyards

- 5.28 **Quantity:** The audit has identified 35 cemeteries and churchyards across North Dorset. This provision is dependent upon the presence and location of a church. As a result, no quantitative provision standards have been set.
- 5.29 **Quality:** The average quality score for all assessed sites is 54% which equates to good facilities.
- 5.30 **Access:** No accessibility standard is recommended.

General Conclusions

- 5.31 From the research, consultation and auditing undertaken, it is clear that there are a number of common issues and challenges that need to be addressed in developing a future strategy for the provision and management of open space, sport and recreation facilities. These are summarised in brief within this section of the report.

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Time Limited Data

- 5.32 As with many assessments, the results of audit work and consultation needs to be considered within the context in which it has been collected and collated. Quality assessments based on site visits and the completion of a non-technical visual assessment provide a good guide to the quality of a site. However, they are also a “snap-shot” in time. Assessments must be repeated on a regular basis in order to develop a clear picture of site quality.

Impact of Quality on Value

- 5.33 A key issue, and one that can be difficult to quantify is the impact of low quality open space on “value”. Often poor quality facilities can be underused and subsequently not be valued, or serve as a valuable facility. The consultation undertaken seems to suggest that most people feel that there is enough, or too little open space, with few thinking that there is too much provision. Those perceiving too little provision may be influenced by the poor quality of nearby sites.

Area Variances in provision

- 5.34 The assessment results, when considered on an area basis show a number of variances in the quantity and quality of different types of open space. This presents an issue from an equity point of view, with some communities served by better quality, or higher levels of provision than others. Clearly this issue is difficult to overcome in setting standards of provision, particularly in relation to quantity. The priorities identified in the report recommendations seek to address some of the area variances recorded.

Contribution of School Facilities

- 5.35 The contribution of school facilities, specifically playing pitches has been considered within the assessment. School pitches, where there is secured community use, have been included within the assessment calculations. The audit undertaken reveals that about 63% of schools with pitch provision have secured community use of their facilities.
- 5.36 Currently there is no “blanket” policy relating to the community use of school sites, with schools making their own decision about community use. Effectively this means that the supply available each season could be subject to fluctuation if schools decide not to let their pitches.
- 5.37 From previous playing pitch assessments undertaken, the percentage of schools with community use would appear to be high. However, there are other issues in relation to the reliance of school pitches. Quality is a key concern, given the use of school pitches for PE and school sport. In most cases, use during the week for PE and school sport can affect the quality and capacity of pitches for community use.

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- 5.38 In terms of their contribution to other types of open space, schools in reality make little contribution. In most cases schools are prioritising the increased security of their sites, and a reduction in the amount of 'informal' access.