



UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT
FEBRUARY 2019

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Glossary

DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
NSN	Natural/Semi-natural
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
UDC	Uttlesford District Council

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Uttlesford District Council (UDC). It provides detail with regard to what open space provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. This document sets out the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping undertaken as part of this study.

The study also considers the future requirements for provision based upon population distribution, planned growth and findings. The Standards Paper (to follow) will give direction on the future provision of accessible and high quality provision for open spaces.

The table below details the open space typologies included within the study:

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
Allotments / community food growing	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound', local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; *Assessing Needs and Opportunities* published in September 2002.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced PPG17. However, assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17 as it still remains the only national best practice guidance on the conduct of an open space assessment.

Under paragraph 96 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

In accordance with best practice recommendations, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited unless identified as being significant.

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space provision across Uttlesford. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all open spaces as defined in best practice guidance:

- Part 2: Methodology
- Part 3: Summary of survey and audit scores
- Part 4 Parks and Gardens
- Part 5: Natural/semi-natural greenspace
- Part 6: Amenity Greenspace
- Part 7 Provision for children/young people
- Part 8: Allotments

Associated strategies

The study sits alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS); also undertaken by KKP (provided in separate reports). The Companion Guidance to PPG17 included the open space typology of formal outdoor sports. This is predominantly covered within the associated PPS. The PPS is undertaken in accordance with the methodology provided in Sport England's Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities (2013).

Any site initially categorised as outdoor sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e. available for wider community use) is included in this study as a type of open space. Pitch or sport sites purely for sporting use are solely included within the PPS. For sites with a multifunctional role, double counting between the two studies does not occur as the PPS looks at the number of pitch/sports facilities at a site and not hectares of land (as prescribed in Sport England Guidance).

1.2 National context

National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

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Under paragraph 96 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 97 of the NPPF states that existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

1.3 Local context

Local Plan

The new Uttlesford Local Plan will be part of the statutory planning framework for the District to 2033 guiding decisions on all aspects of development. It will set out how and where new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure will be delivered and the type of places and environment that will be created. It contains the following:

- ◀ A district profile which gives an overview of Uttlesford's characteristics, the issues that arise from this and lead to the identification of the Vision and Objectives for the Local Plan.
- ◀ The big picture of "where" and "when" UDC wants activity, development and investment to be over the period to 2033. This includes the roles and relationships of the settlements, the distribution of development and areas that will be protected from development - what it means for the various areas in the District. This section also includes the policies for new Garden Communities, London Stansted Airport, the Green Belt and the Countryside Protection Zone.
- ◀ Policies which cover: Housing, Employment, Retail and Tourism, Transport, Infrastructure, Design, the Environment and the Countryside.
- ◀ Site Allocations policies which identify areas for development and include the policies which will determine how these areas should be developed.
- ◀ Delivery and Monitoring - This section sets out how further details of the Plan's implementation and how it will be monitored and reviewed to ensure its objectives are met.

This open space study will therefore act as an important evidence base to help inform future priorities and requirements.

PART 2: METHODOLOGY

This section details the methodology undertaken as part of the study. The key stages are:

- ◀ 2.1: Population
- ◀ 2.2: Auditing local provision
- ◀ 2.3: Quality and value
- ◀ 2.4: Quality and value thresholds
- ◀ 2.5: Identifying local need

2.1 Population

Uttlesford is identified as having a population of 87,684*.

The population figure is used to help determine the current provision levels for different types of open space. Consequently, this will be used to inform and set a quantity provision standard.

No sub-areas are currently presented. However, the Standards Paper will look to analyse at a more local level the potential deficiencies and/or future priorities.

2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The KKP Field Research Team undertook the site audit scoring for this study in 2018. Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Only sites publicly accessible are included (i.e. private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with best practice:

- ◀ Parks & gardens
- ◀ Natural & semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Provision for children & young people
- ◀ Allotments

A 30% sample of all sites (around 90) have been visited and assessed. The remaining sites have been assessed via a desk-based assessment in order to check, review and allocate a quality and value score.

In accordance with best practice recommendations, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. Sites of a smaller size, particularly for the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace tend to have a different role. Often this is for visual purposes (e.g. small incremental grassed areas such as highway verges) and is therefore considered as offering less recreational use in comparison to other forms of open space. Subsequently sites below 0.2 hectares for these typologies are not audited. However, any sites below the threshold (i.e. those that are identified through consultation as being of significance) are included.

Source: ONS 2017 Mid-Year population estimates for England

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Database development

All information relating to open spaces is collated in the project open space database (to be supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded within the database. The database details for each site are as follows:

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ◀ Site name
- ◀ Ownership (if known)
- ◀ Management (if known)
- ◀ Typology
- ◀ Size (hectares)
- ◀ Site audit data

Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations. Please note that there are numerous protected sites in villages and the countryside that are not mapped or included in the study. This study focuses more on sites within reach of settlements, therefore, there is not 100% coverage across the District.

2.3 Quality and value

Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

Analysis of quality

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon those derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised in the following table.

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Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

- Physical access, e.g. public transport links, directional signposts,
- Personal security, e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- Access-social, e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths
- Parking, e.g. availability, specific, disabled parking
- Information signage, e.g. presence of site information, notice boards
- Equipment and facilities, e.g. adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seating, bins, toilets, etc
- Site problems, e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
- Healthy, safe and secure, e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
- Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g. condition of general landscape & features
- Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g. elderly, young people

For the provision for children and young people, criteria are also built around the Green Flag. It is a non-technical visual assessment of the whole site, including general equipment and surface quality/appearance plus an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision. This differs, for example, from an independent Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RosPA) review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

Analysis of value

Site visit data plus desk-based research is calculated to provide value scores for each site identified. Value is defined in best practice guidance in relation to the following three issues:

- Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- Level and type of use.
- The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

In addition, the NPPF refers to attributes to value such as beauty and attractiveness of a site, its recreational value, historic and cultural value and its tranquillity and richness of wildlife.

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

- Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility
- Context of site in relation to other open spaces
- Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area
- Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
- Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote physical and mental well-being
- Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high profile symbols of local area
- Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
- Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far

Children's and young people play provision is scored for value as part of the audit assessment. Value, in particular is recognised in terms of size of sites and the range of equipment it hosts. For instance, a small site with only one or two items is likely to be of a lower value than a site with a variety of equipment catering for wider age ranges.

2.4 Quality and value thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements may be required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

The baseline threshold for assessing quality can be set on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (66%) as the site audit criteria is based on Green Flag. This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site audit criteria used for Green Flag is not appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Furthermore, all criteria are not used for all types of open space; as some criteria is more relevant for some forms of open space as opposed to others. Quality thresholds are, thus, adjusted to better reflect average scores for each typology. Consequently, the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	35%	20%
Amenity greenspace	45%	20%
Provision for children and young people	45%	20%
Allotments	40%	20%

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from our experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites. Whilst 20% may initially seem low it is a relative score - designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier).

2.5 Identifying local need (demand)

Consultation to identify local need for open space provision has been carried out via a combination of face-to-face meetings, surveys and telephone interviews. It has been conducted with key local authority officers and town/parish councils. An online community survey was also hosted. This was promoted by the Council and received 304 responses. The findings of the consultation are used, reviewed and interpreted to further support the results of the quality and value assessment.

PART 3: SUMMARY OF SURVEY AND AUDIT SCORES

This section provides a summary of the responses to the online community survey. It also describes generic trends and findings from the quality and value ratings for the site audit scores undertaken. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in the report.

3.1 Community Survey

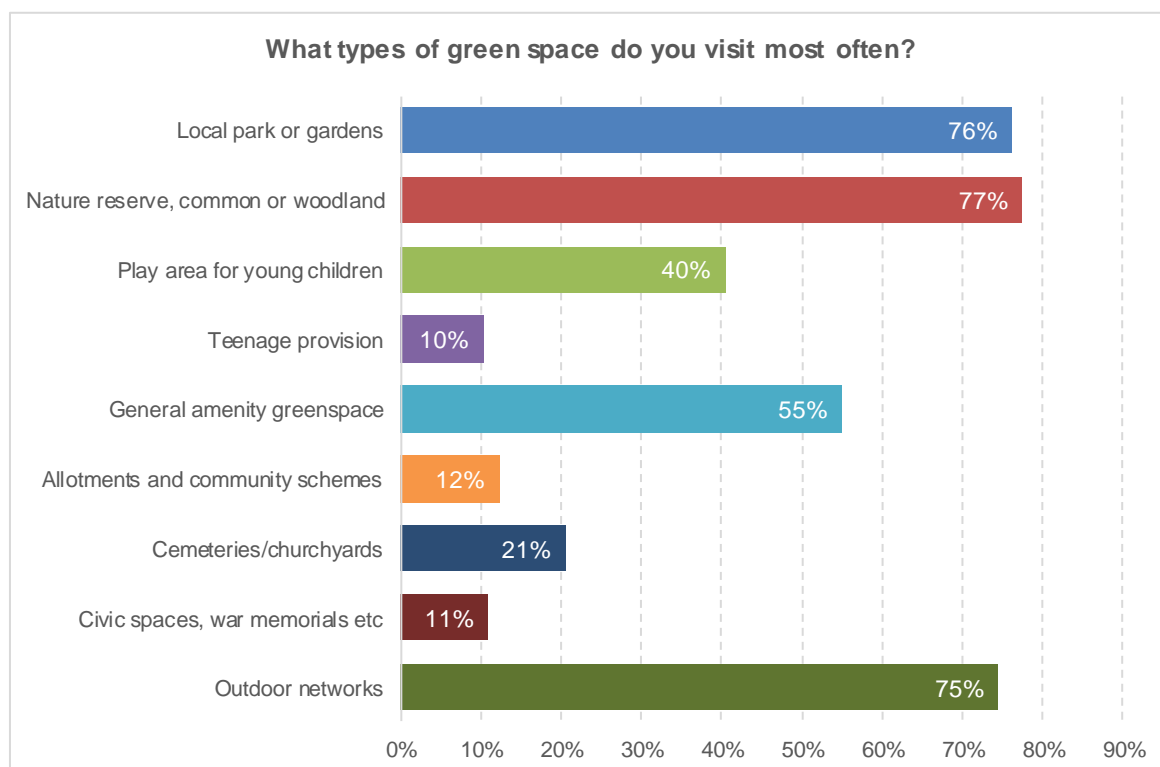
An online community survey was hosted on the Council website and promoted via the Councils communication team. A total of 304 responses were received. A summary of the responses is set out on the following pages.

3.1.1 Usage

The most popular forms of provision to visit are nature reserve, common or woodland (77%), local parks or gardens (76%) and outdoor networks (75%). This followed by general amenity greenspace (55%) and play areas for young children (40%).

Provision such as cemeteries and churchyards (21%), allotments (12%) and civic space (11%) are visited less often. Only 10% of respondents identify visiting teenage provision most often.

Figure 3.1.1: Types of green space visited most often



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Respondents were asked to name the site they visit most frequently. Popular answers include:

- ↳ The Common (15%)
- ↳ Audley End House and Gardens (11%)
- ↳ Hatfield Forest (11%)
- ↳ Bridge End Gardens (9%)

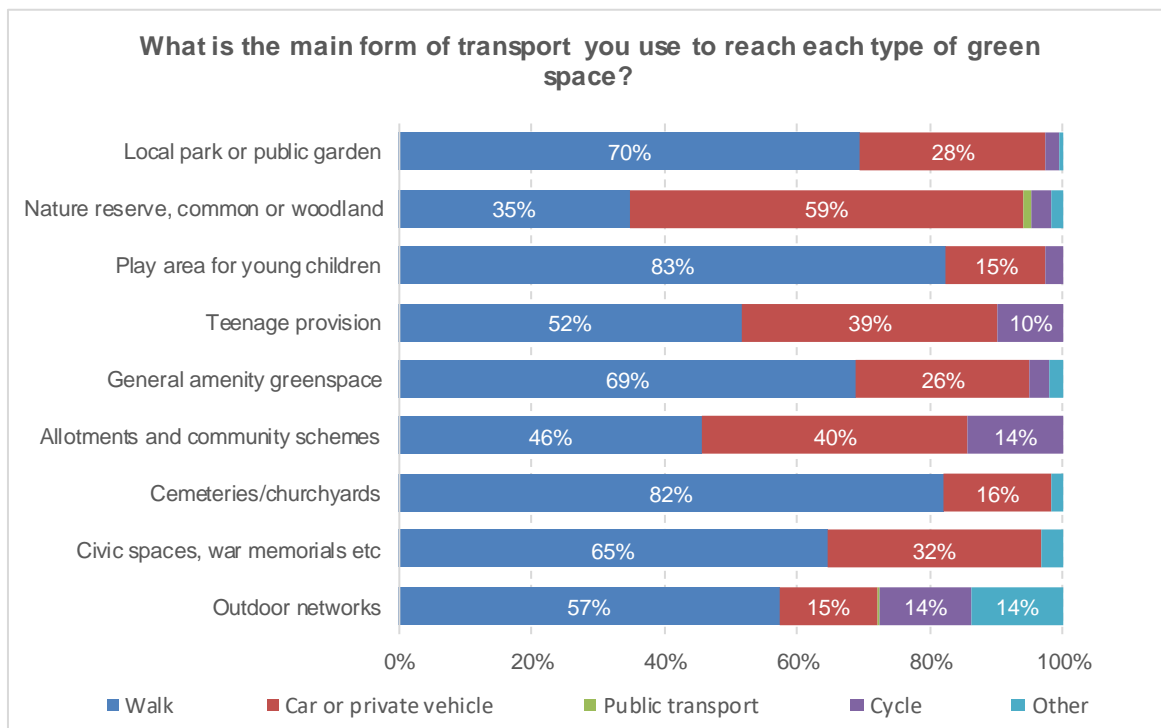
Audley End House and Gardens is managed by English Heritage and Hatfield Forest is managed by the National Trust. The former requires car parking fees.

3.1.2 Accessibility

Results from the survey shows that the majority of individuals walk to access most types of provision. This is most evident in play areas for young children (83%) and cemeteries/churchyards (82%). Parks (70%), general amenity greenspace (69%) and civic space (65%) are also popular forms of provision to be accessed by walking.

The exception is for nature reserve, common or woodland which more respondents (59%) signal they access such provision by car or private vehicle. Allotments (40%) and teenage provision (39%) are also accessed by a noticeable proportion of respondents by car or private vehicle.

Figure 3.1.2: Mode of travel to open space sites



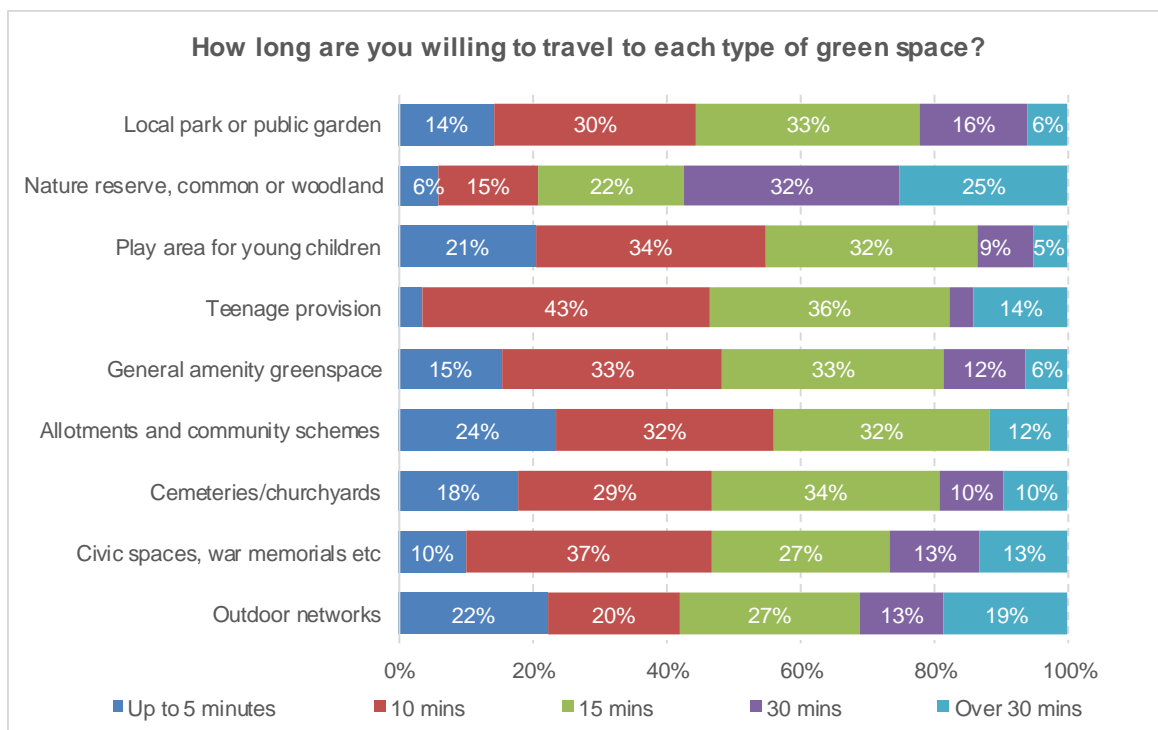
For some provision such as nature reserves, common and woodland, there is a willingness to travel further distances; with 32% of respondents stating they would travel up to 30 minutes to access a nature reserve, common and woodland.

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For other forms of provision, respondents show a willingness to travel a shorter amount of time (i.e. 10 to 15 minutes). This is particularly noticeably for play provision, amenity greenspace and parks.

These results have helped inform the catchment mapping for each typology later in the report.

Figure 3.1.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites



3.1.3 Availability

In general, respondents consider the availability of green space provision to be mixed. A total of 45% of respondents considers availability as quite unsatisfactory (28%) or very unsatisfactory (17%). This is in comparison to the 39% of respondents rating availability as very satisfactory (6%) or quite satisfactory (34%). A further 16% rate availability as neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

Table 3.1.1: Satisfaction with availability of green spaces

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
5.6%	33.8%	15.9%	28.1%	16.6%

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3.1.4 Quality

However, more respondents consider the quality of green space provision to be positive. Over half of respondents rate quality as quite satisfactory (43%) or very satisfactory (9%). The positive view towards quality is strengthened by the smaller percentage of respondents to rate quality as either quite unsatisfactory (18%) or very unsatisfactory (6%).

Table 3.1.2: Satisfaction with quality of green spaces

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
8.6%	43.2%	23.9%	18.3%	6.0%

Respondents to the survey were asked what they thought would improve green space provision for them. The most common answers include more wildlife/habitat promotion (55%), better maintenance and care of features (41%) and improved access to and within sites (41%).

Table 3.1.3: Which of these options would improve green space provision for you?

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
Greater attractiveness (e.g. flowers, trees)	33.9%
Better maintenance and care of features	40.7%
Improved access to and within sites	41.4%
More public events	15.6%
Greater information on sites	16.3%
Better and wider range of facilities	36.3%
Greater community involvement	15.9%
More wildlife/habitat promotion	54.6%
Other	21.7%

Respondents were asked how much they agree or disagree with the statement that 'visiting green spaces makes them feel better?'

Over four fifths of respondents (84%) strongly agree that visiting green spaces makes them better. A further 14% agree. Only 1.0% disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.

Table 3.1.4: Agree/disagree with benefit of green spaces

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
84.4%	13.6%	1.0%	0.7%	0.3%

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3.2 Audit overview

Within Uttlesford there is a total of 284 sites equating to over 684 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural and semi-natural greenspace (509 hectares); accounting for 74% of open space.

Table 3.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Park and gardens	7	9
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	67	509
Amenity greenspace	110	140
Provision for children & young people	73	9
Allotments	27	17
TOTAL	284	684

3.3 Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces across Uttlesford.

Table 3.2: Quality scores for all open space typologies†

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Park and gardens	60%	52%	60%	68%	3	4
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	35%	18%	41%	61%	19	46
Amenity greenspace	45%	24%	54%	84%	25	85
Provision for children & young people	45%	23%	50%	75%	23	50
Allotments	40%	32%	46%	62%	4	23
TOTAL	-	18%	-	84%	74	208

There is generally a reasonably good level of quality across most open space sites. This is reflected in nearly three quarters (74%) of sites scoring above their set threshold for quality.

However, there are proportionally more parks and gardens (43%) scoring below the threshold. This is followed by provision for children and young people (32%) and natural and semi-natural sites (29%).

* Rounded to the nearest whole number

† 282 of the 284 sites receive a quality and value scores due to two inaccessible natural sites

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3.4 Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces across Uttlesford

Table 3.3: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Park and gardens	20%	32%	41%	53%	0	7
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		7%	26%	45%	9	56
Amenity greenspace		16%	31%	60%	1	109
Provision for children & young people		20%	39%	55%	0	73
Allotments		17%	23%	32%	2	25
TOTAL		7%	-	60%	12	270

The majority of sites (96%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

Allotments and natural and amenity greenspace have a higher proportion of low value provision than the other typologies.

For natural greenspace, this reflects a lack of ancillary features at some sites leading to a lack of recreational use in comparison to other sites. However, the value these provide in offering a visual amenity can still be important.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (potentially with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example, good quality play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those offering limited functions and viewed as unattractive.

3.5 Summary

- ◀ 284 sites are identified as open space provision. This is equivalent to over 684 hectares.
- ◀ Of assessed sites, nearly three quarters (74%) rate above the quality threshold.
- ◀ All but 12 sites are assessed as above the value threshold; reflecting the importance of provision and its role offering social, environmental and health benefits.

PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology often covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. Country park sites may also provide opportunities and functions often associated with parks and can therefore be included within this section (if present).

4.2 Current provision

There are seven sites classified as parks and gardens in Uttlesford, the equivalent of over nine hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all known sites are included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Uttlesford	7	9.02	0.10

Uttlesford has a current provision level of 0.10 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and the biggest contributor to provision is The Common (5.53 ha). This is followed by Bridge End Gardens (3.00 ha). Both are located in Saffron Walden.

Three of the sites; Bridge Street, Dorset House and Station Road Memorial Garden are particularly small at 0.08, 0.06 and 0.02 hectares respectively.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, Uttlesford is below this suggested standard.

Figure 4.1 overleaf shows the location of parks provision across Uttlesford with a 15-minute walk time catchment applied. This is based on responses from the online survey distributed to residents, identifying that most respondents would be willing to walk up to 15-minutes to access this type of open space provision.

4.3 Accessibility

Figure 4.1 shows parks and gardens mapped against a 15-minute walk time. This is based on responses to the community survey. Most respondents suggest this is the distance they would be willing to travel to access parks and gardens provision.

As can be seen in Figure 4.1, the majority of parks provision (five sites) is located in the settlement of Saffron Walden. This is the settlement with the highest population density. The other two settlements with parks provision are Elsenham and Thaxted.

Whilst several settlements are without parks provision, they are generally in areas of lower population density. This is with the exceptions of settlements such as Dunmow, Birchanger and Stansted Mountfitchet. However, these settlements are served by other forms of open space such as amenity greenspace which may offer similar opportunities.

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Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped

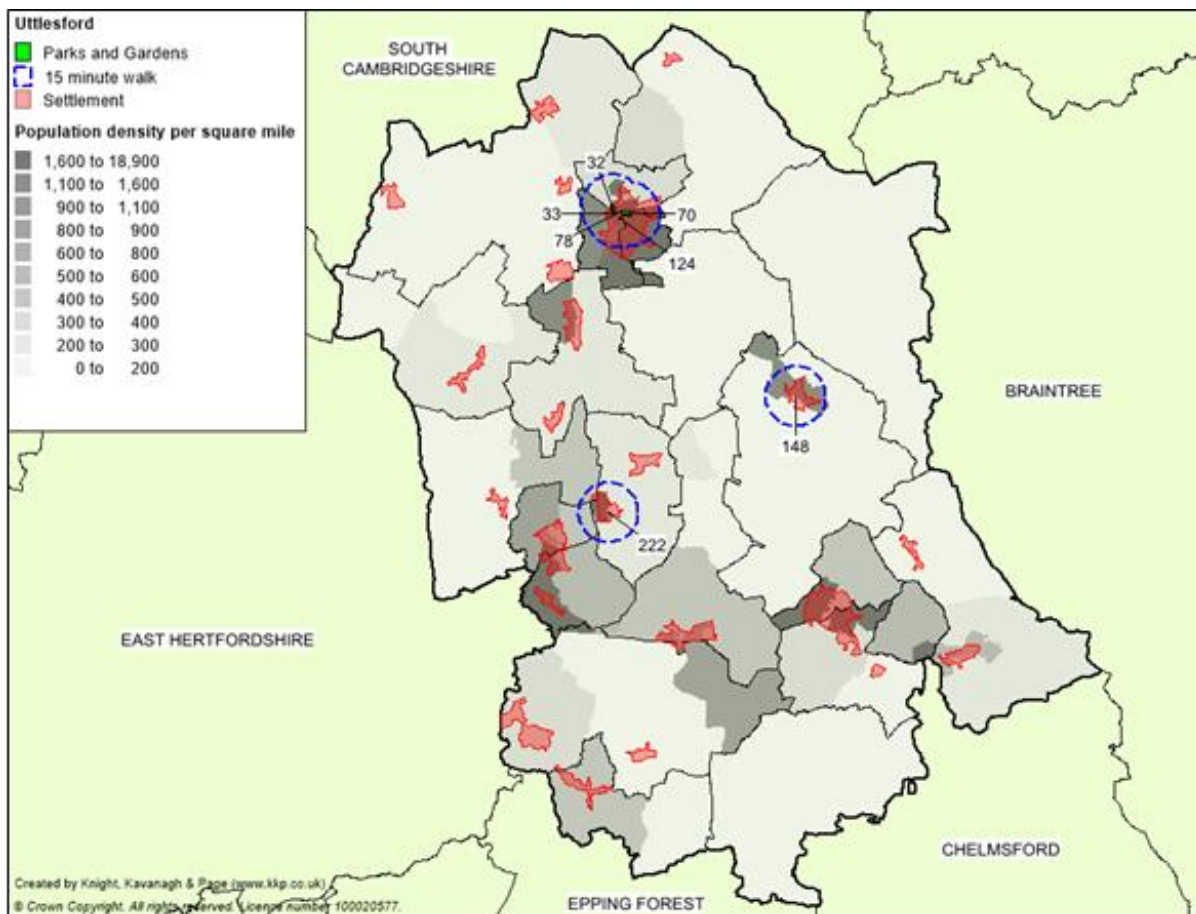


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
32	Bridge End Gardens	Saffron Walden	67.8%	50.0%
33	Close Gardens	Saffron Walden	57.7%	32.7%
70	The Common	Saffron Walden	61.1%	31.8%
78	Dorset House	Saffron Walden	61.1%	32.7%
124	Jubilee Garden	Saffron Walden	60.4%	48.2%
148	Margaret Gardens	Thaxted	57.4%	45.5%
222	Station Road Memorial Garden	Elsenham	52.0%	52.7%

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4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by best practice); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks in Uttlesford. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Uttlesford	52%	60%	68%	16%	3	4

Of the seven parks in Uttlesford, four (57%), rate above the threshold. Whilst three sites fall below the quality threshold, it is worth noting that two; Close Gardens and Margaret Gardens only do so marginally, scoring 57.7% and 57.4% respectively.

The highest scoring park in Uttlesford is Bridge End Gardens, with a score of 67.8%. the site is an attractive ornamental garden including a hedge maze. It is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden, highlighting its historical importance. This site is also identified in the resident's survey as a popular location to visit and is recognised as a local tourist attraction.

The Common is the second highest scoring site (alongside Dorset House). It is highlighted by Saffron Walden Town Council as a key site for the town. It also provides an important role for hosting community events. Consequently, it is a popular and well used site.

Sites scoring below the threshold for quality are generally smaller in size with fewer features when compared to higher scoring sites. They are; however, well maintained with attractive features/landscaping. None are reported to have significant quality issues.

4.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks in Uttlesford. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Uttlesford	32%	41%	53%	21%	0	7

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All parks score above the threshold for value. The two highest scoring sites are Bridge End Gardens and Station Road Memorial Garden. These sites score 50.0% and 52.7% respectively.

Bridge End Gardens scores higher for cultural and heritage value. It also benefits from additional economic value due to its role as a tourist attraction. Consultation with Saffron Walden Town Council highlights that the site is a popular attraction which is very well used and which has a number of volunteers.

All parks provide opportunities for a wide range of users and demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks can offer.

One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their ability to function as a multipurpose form of open space provision. Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area. Taking all this into account, parks and gardens are recognised as being heavily integrated into people's everyday lives.

4.6 Summary

<p>Parks and gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There are seven sites classified as parks and gardens in Uttlesford, the equivalent of over nine hectares.Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, Uttlesford is below this suggested standard.Most of the parks provision in Uttlesford (five sites) are located in the settlement of Saffron Walden, the area of highest population density.Whilst several settlements are without parks provision, they are generally in areas of lower population density. This is with the exceptions of Dunmow, Birchanger and Stansted Mountfitchet. However, such settlements are served by other forms of open space.Of the seven parks in Uttlesford, four (57%), rate above the threshold.Those sites that score below the threshold for quality are smaller with fewer features when compared to higher scoring sites. They are; however, well maintained with attractive landscaping. None are reported to have significant quality issues.All sites are assessed as being of high value, with the important social interaction, health benefits, historic value and sense of place sites offer being recognised.

PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits) and commons. Such sites are often associated with providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

5.2 Current provision

In total, 67 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 509 hectares of provision. These totals do not include all provision in the area as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, they may still make a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to community viability, quality of life and health and wellbeing.

Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Uttlesford	67	509.15	5.81

The largest of the natural and semi-natural greenspace sites is Hatfield Forest at 382 hectares. The site accounts for 75% of the total provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace. The site is managed and maintained by The National Trust.

Other large forms of provision include High Easter Road/Bishop’s Green (26 hectares) and Birchanger Wood (20 hectares).

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 5.1 illustrates that Uttlesford is above this suggested standard.

5.3 Accessibility

Figures 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 shows natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against two different catchments; a 30-minute drive time and a 15-minute walk time. This is based on responses to the community survey. Respondents suggest these are the distances they would be willing to travel to access natural and semi-natural forms of provision.

Mapping shows a good distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace provision with most areas of higher population appearing to have access to provision of some kind. However, gaps against the walk time catchment are observed. Most noticeably to settlements with greater population densities such as Newport, Stansted Mountfitchet and Felsted.

The rural nature of the district, with easier access to the countryside, impacts upon resident expectations in terms of natural greenspace availability. Consultation with parish/town

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councils and via the community survey highlights the presence and use of the network of footpaths leading to the surrounding countryside.

Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped

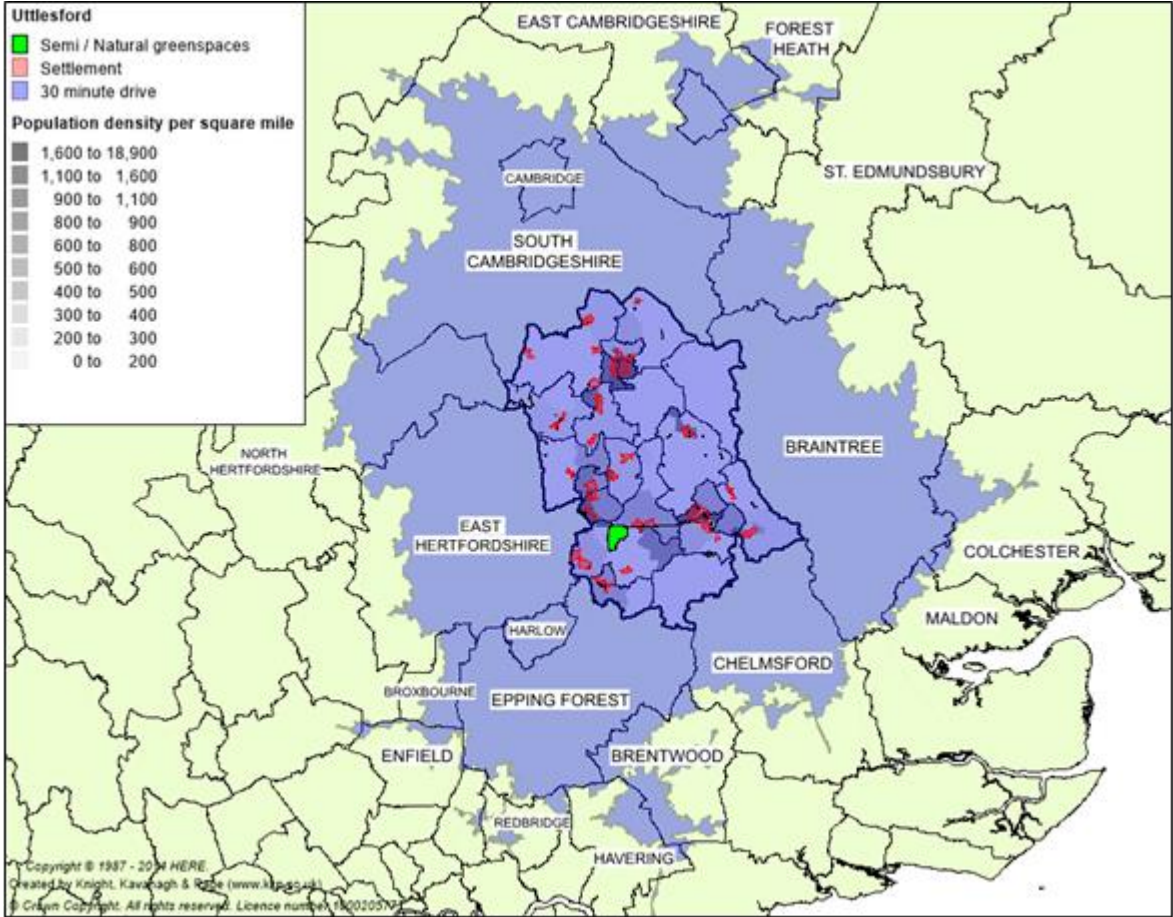
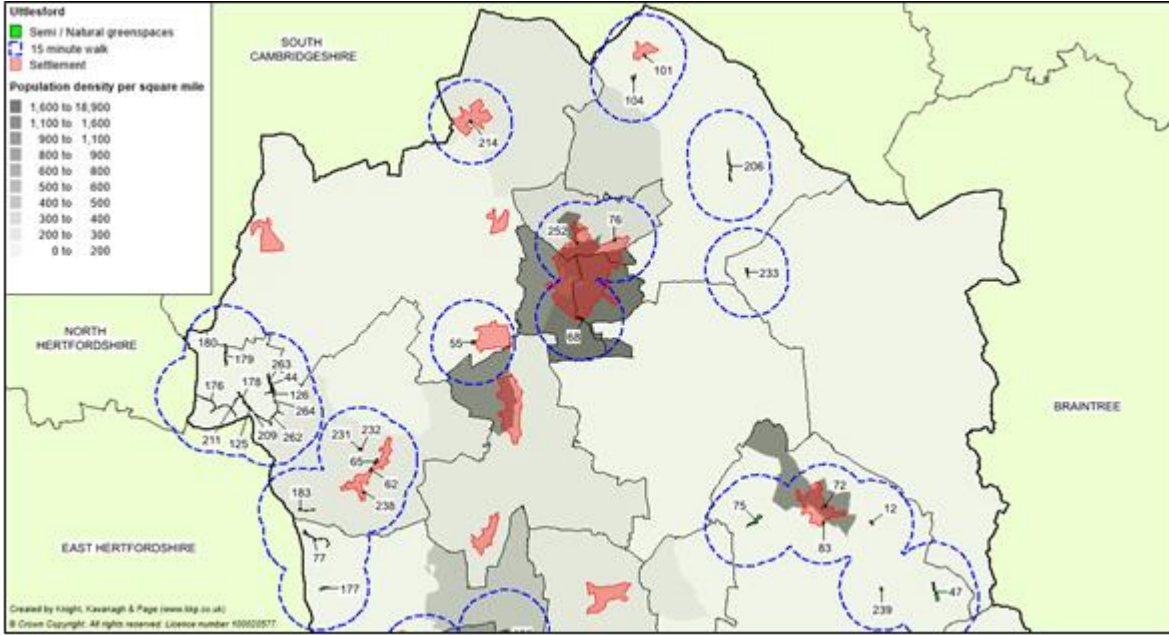


Figure 5.2: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped - North

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Figure 5.3: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped - South

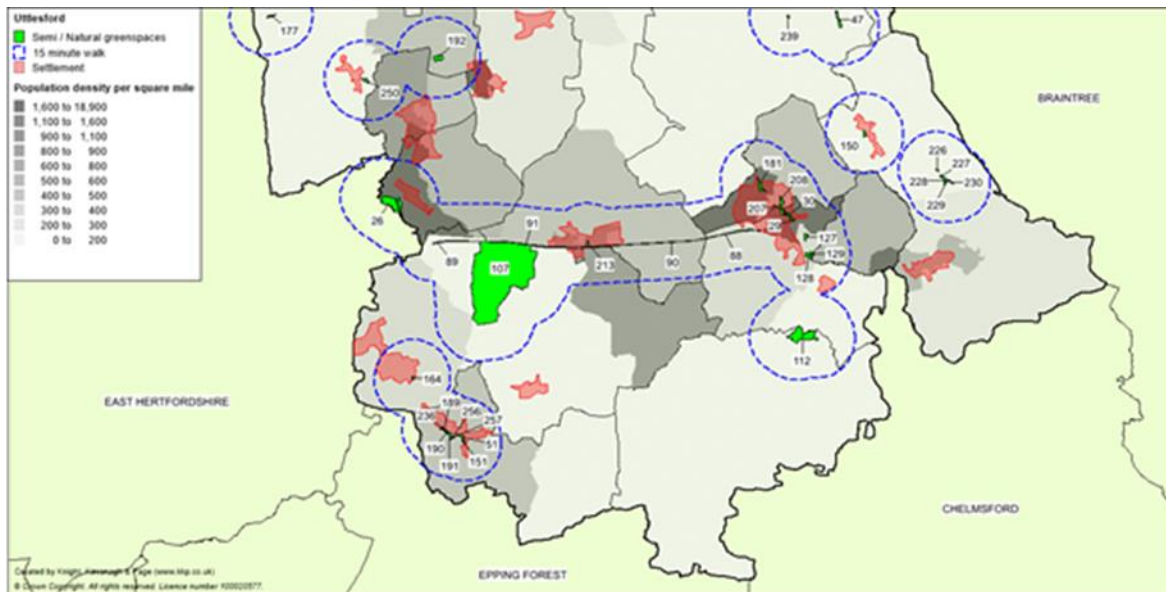


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped (sites with blank scores are inaccessible)

Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
12	Bardfield Road	Thaxted	40.2%	24.5%
26	Birchanger Wood	Birchanger	56.7%	36.4%
29	Braintree Road	Great Dunmow	41.9%	25.5%
30	Braintree Road/River Chelmer	Great Dunmow	58.3%	26.4%
44	Bull Lane, Langley Upper Green	Langley	39.7%	25.5%
47	Bustard Green	Lindsell	43.5%	34.5%
51	Chelmsford Road	Hatfield Heath	43.1%	30.0%
55	Chinnel Meadow	Wendens Ambo	31.5%	16.4%
62	Clatterbury Lane 1	Clavering	37.0%	20.0%
65	Clatterbury Lane woodland	Clavering	42.9%	30.9%
68	Claypits Plantation	Saffron Walden	44.6%	25.5%
72	Coptal Lane	Thaxted	40.2%	25.5%
76	De Vigier Avenue	Saffron Walden	34.2%	20.0%
77	Dewes Green Road	Berden	22.8%	24.5%
83	Dunmow Road, Thaxted	Thaxted	38.6%	25.5%
88	Flitch Way, Dunmow	Great Dunmow	45.7%	30.9%
89	Flitch Way, Great Hallingbury	Great Hallingbury	53.3%	30.9%
90	Flitch Way, Little Canfield	Little Canfield	52.2%	30.9%
91	Flitch Way, Takeley	Takeley	48.4%	25.5%
101	Hadstock village pond	Hadstock	32.6%	25.5%
104	Harrison Sayer (wildlife trust)	Hadstock	33.7%	34.5%
107	Hatfield Forest	Hatfield Broad	57.1%	45.5%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
		Oak		
112	High Easter Road/Bishop's Green	High Easter	31.0%	24.5%
125	Langley Lower Green	Langley	21.7%	20.0%
126	Langley off Valance Road	Langley	46.7%	30.0%
127	Langleys Community woodland 1	Great Dunmow	36.4%	25.5%
128	Langleys Community woodland 2	Great Dunmow	37.0%	19.1%
129	Langleys Stand of Willows	Great Dunmow	41.9%	25.5%
150	Marshall Piece	Stebbing	22.3%	15.5%
151	Matching Road	Hatfield Heath	48.9%	20.0%
164	Motts Green	Little Hallingbury	21.2%	10.0%
176	Off Roper's Lane, Langley Lower Green	Langley	38.0%	24.5%
177	Park Green Nature Reserve	Berden	21.2%	20.0%
178	Park Lane	Langley	32.6%	20.0%
179	Park Lane 1, Chishall Common	Langley	33.2%	29.1%
180	Park Lane 2, Chishall Common	Langley	26.1%	23.6%
181	Parsonage Downs*	Great Dunmow	60.9%	35.5%
183	Pelham Road	Clavering	22.3%	10.0%
189	Pond Lane 1	Hatfield Heath	46.7%	29.1%
190	Pond Lane 2	Hatfield Heath	49.5%	24.5%
191	Pond Lane 3	Hatfield Heath	51.1%	30.0%
192	Pound Lane	Ugley	41.9%	30.0%
206	River Bourne Wilderness nature trail	Ashdon	40.8%	20.9%
207	River Chelmer	Great Dunmow	40.2%	45.5%
208	River Chelmer, Harp Mead	Great Dunmow	45.7%	25.5%
209	River Stort, Langley Lower Green	Langley		
211	Roper's Lane, Langley Lower Green	Langley	38.6%	24.5%
213	Smiths Green	Takeley	42.9%	16.4%
214	South Street	Great Chesterford	52.9%	40.0%
226	Stebbing Green 1	Stebbing		
227	Stebbing Green 2	Stebbing	44.0%	25.5%
228	Stebbing Green 3	Stebbing	43.5%	25.5%
229	Stebbing Green 4	Stebbing	34.1%	30.0%
230	Stebbing Green 5	Stebbing	33.2%	20.0%
231	Stickling Green 1	Clavering	52.7%	25.5%
232	Stickling Green 2	Clavering	46.2%	24.5%
233	Stocking Green woodland	Radwinter	17.9%	14.5%
236	Stortford Road 2, Hatfield Heath	Hatfield Heath	54.4%	25.5%

* Great Dunmow TC identify the site is planned to be extended south and contain ponds and seating

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
238	Stortford Road, Clavering	Clavering	22.8%	16.4%
239	Sweetings Meadow	Lindsell	47.3%	34.5%
250	The Downs, Manuden	Manuden	33.7%	7.3%
252	The Green Little Walden Road	Saffron Walden	51.6%	25.5%
256	The Street pond	Hatfield Heath	57.6%	26.4%
257	The Street, Hatfield Heath	Hatfield Heath	60.9%	26.4%
262	Upper Green/Roast Green	Langley	37.0%	24.5%
263	Valance Road 1, Langley	Langley	45.7%	24.5%
264	Valance Road 2, Langley	Langley	44.6%	29.1%

5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Uttlesford. A threshold of 35% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.3: Quality ratings for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<35%	>35%
Uttlesford	18%	41%	61%	43%	19	46

Two sites do not receive a quality or value score; River Stort, Langley Lower Green and Stebbing Green 1 as both appear inaccessible.

Natural and semi-natural greenspace has a lower quality threshold than some other open space typologies such as parks. This reflects the wide-ranging characteristics of provision. For instance, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation.

Of assessed natural and semi-natural provision, a total of 19 sites (29%) in Uttlesford rate below the threshold set for quality. There are 46 rating above the quality threshold applied.

All sites scoring below the threshold for quality tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as benches and bins. However, as previously mentioned, this can be due to their purpose as a habitat and even some higher scoring sites lack such features. However, some sites are also noted as appearing poorly maintained with no pathways or evidence of use.

The lowest scoring sites are:

- ↳ Stocking Green woodland (18%)
- ↳ Park Green Nature Reserve (21%)
- ↳ Motts Green (21%)

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The sites are all observed as isolated wooded areas with no ancillary facilities. Consequently, they rate lower for personal security, levels of use and general quality. Access to and within the sites is also uncertain.

Most sites scoring above the threshold are observed as being attractive due to the perceived higher levels of maintenance and cleanliness; often a reflection of their apparent regular use by people. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ The Street, Hatfield Heath (61%)
- ◀ Parsonage Downs, Great Dunmow (61%)
- ◀ The Street pond, Hatfield Heath (58%)
- ◀ Braintree Road/River Chelmer, Great Dunmow (58%)

The sites are viewed as well maintained, with good pathways, seating and often with a dedicated/obvious walking trail. In addition, they are all located within a settlement which further strengthens their role and use to the local community.

5.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Uttlesford. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.4: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Uttlesford	7%	26%	45%	38%	9	56

Of the natural and semi-natural greenspace sites assessed, 56 sites (86%) rate above the threshold for value.

The highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ River Chelmer (46%)
- ◀ Hatfield Forest (46%)
- ◀ South Street (40%)

Each site scores highly for ecological value as they provide a variety of habitats. All are observed as generally attractive forms of provision. Hatfield Forest also has a café on site which adds to its economic value. The National Trust site is widely recognised as a popular attraction. Consultation with town/parish councils and through the community survey highlights that many consider the site to be overused, under pressure and at capacity.

The River Chelmer, Great Dunmow is recognised as a site offering a wide range of uses and opportunities. It provides some ecological value (i.e. Mead Harp Jubilee Woodland) as well as amenity benefits via the extensive and good quality pathways.

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Consultation with Great Dunmow Town Council highlights that Parsonage Downs (36%) is a conservation site with a management plan. The Town Council has plans to extend the site to the south to create a larger joined-up wildlife area. This would further enhance its value to the local community.

The Town Council is also in the process of creating further woodland around the existing Langley Woodland sites (KKP 127, 128 and 129). This will be referred to as David Cock Woodland. The area will be willow plantation with assistance in supply of the saplings from the Forestry Commission. Improving access to the land is a priority for the Town Council.

There is understood to be plans for a country park within the District as part of future housing plans. This could help alleviate some of the pressures at significant sites such as those highlighted at Hatfield Forest. The creation of a country park could also contribute in a multifunctional role to the levels of park provision.

The Street Pond and The Street Hatfield Heath (26%) have dedicated wildlife areas maintained by Hatfield Heath Parish Council. The sites are identified by the Parish Council as popular for informal walking.

The high proportion of sites to rate above the threshold for value demonstrates the added benefit natural and semi-natural greenspaces can provide especially in terms of contributing to flora and fauna promotion. Sites are recognised as providing habitat opportunities whilst also offering opportunities to informal recreational activities. Prominent sites of this type can even act as destination sites, attracting users from other areas of Uttlesford.

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ In total, there are 67 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering 509 hectares.
- ◀ Of natural and semi-natural sites assessed, a total of 46 sites (71%) rate above the threshold set for quality. There are 19 sites that rate below the quality threshold applied.
- ◀ The majority of sites rate above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the added benefit natural and semi-natural greenspaces can provide especially in terms of contributing to flora and fauna whilst also providing recreational opportunities.

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PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

This is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.

6.2 Current provision

There are 110 amenity greenspace sites in Uttlesford equivalent to 140 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Uttlesford	110	140.00	1.60

It is important to note that whilst a large proportion of provision may be considered as being smaller grassed areas or roadside verges, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example, small sites such as Chapel Fields 0.09 hectares, to the largest, Woodside Green at over 26 hectares. Larger recreation grounds and playing fields serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational and sporting activities due to their size.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests a guideline quantity standard of 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population. Table 6.1 shows that overall, Uttlesford is above this suggested standard.

6.3 Accessibility

Figures 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 show amenity greenspace mapped against a 15-minute walk time. This is based on responses to the community survey. Most respondents suggest this is the distance they would be willing to travel to access amenity greenspace provision.

Mapping shows that generally most settlements contain amenity greenspace. However, there are some smaller rural settlements which do not have access to provision; most noticeably Chrishall.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace mapped

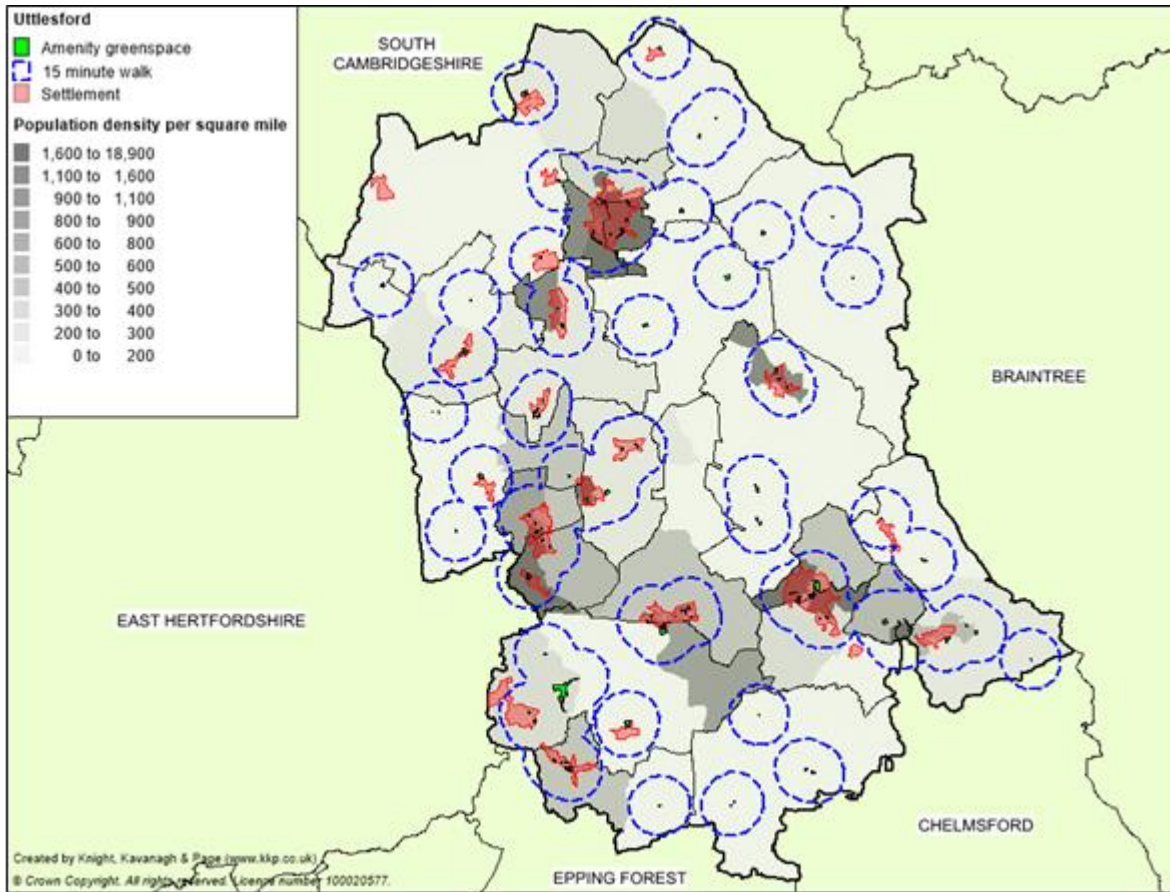
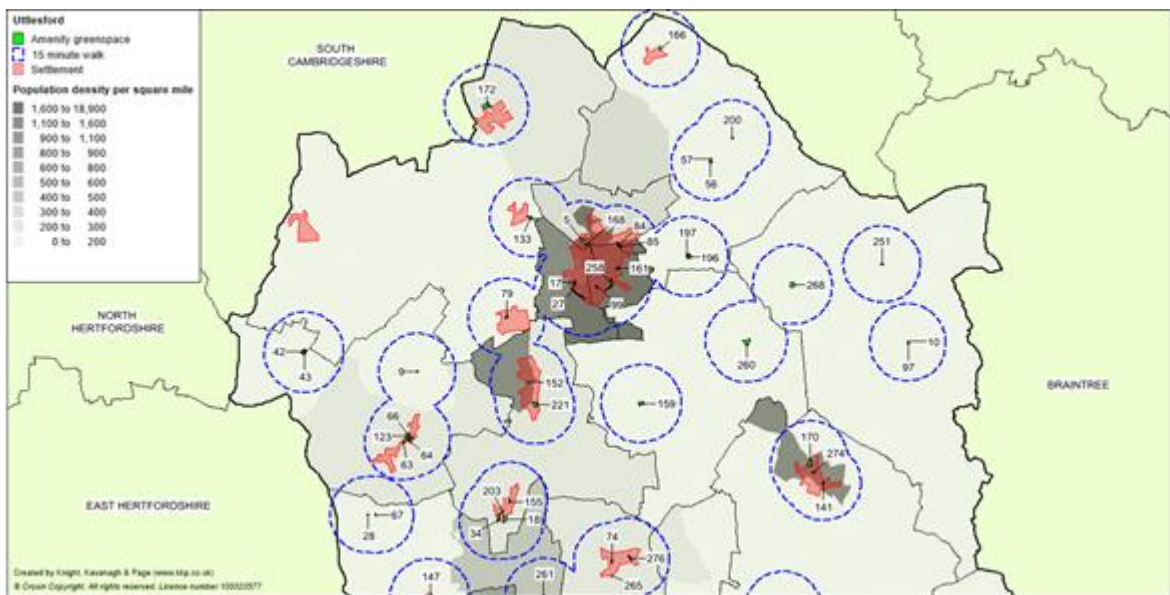


Figure 6.2: Amenity greenspace mapped - North



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Figure 6.3: Amenity greenspace mapped - South

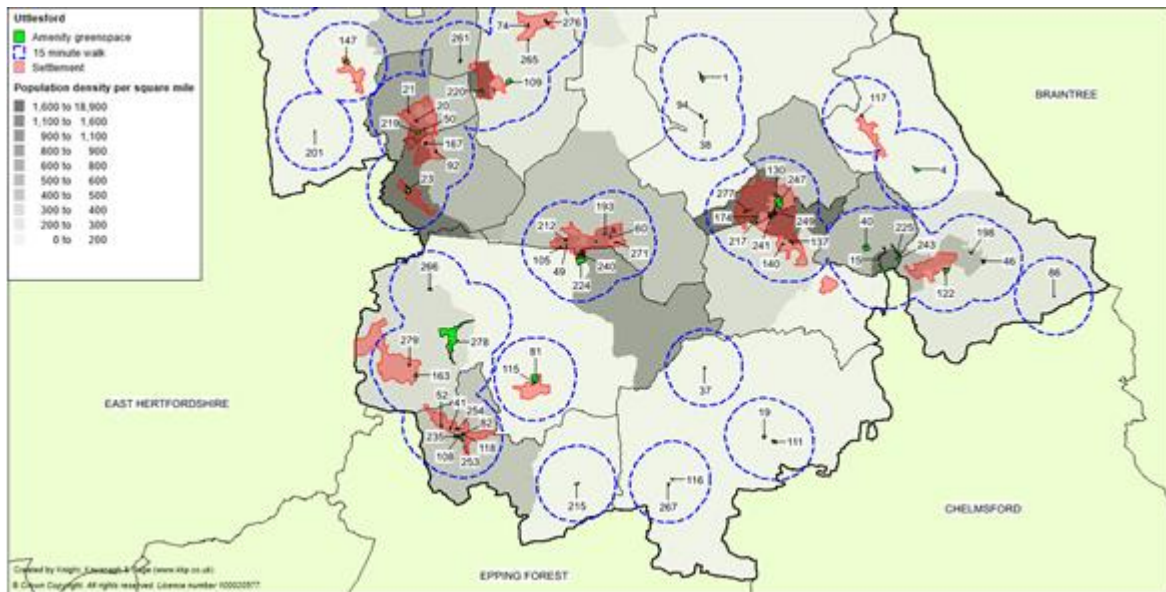


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
1	Abbey View	Great Easton	41.6%	28.0%
4	Allcotts Playing field	Stebbing	35.0%	32.0%
5	Anglo American Playing Fields	Saffron Walden	80.4%	35.0%
9	Arkesden Recreation ground	Arkesden	65.9%	29.0%
10	Baptist Church Field, Great Sampford	Great Sampford	30.8%	22.0%
15	Baynard Avenue	Flitch Green	50.5%	38.0%
17	Beeches Close	Saffron Walden	45.3%	22.0%
18	Belchams Lane	Quendon and Rickling	40.7%	33.0%
19	Bellhouse Villas	High Easter	35.5%	29.0%
20	Bentfield Gardens public open space	Stansted Mountfitchet	48.6%	33.0%
21	Bentfield Green	Stansted Mountfitchet	50.0%	28.0%
23	Birchanger Lane	Birchanger	74.8%	39.0%
27	Blacklands Avenue and Seven Devils Lane	Saffron Walden	80.8%	28.0%
28	Bonneting Lane	Berden	50.5%	33.0%
34	Brixton Lane	Quendon and Rickling	46.7%	28.0%
37	Broadfield Playing field	High Roding	53.7%	33.0%
38	Brocks Mead	Great Easton	46.3%	28.0%
40	Brook Street Recreation Ground	Little Dunmow	45.8%	38.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
41	Broomfields	Hatfield Heath	49.1%	28.0%
42	Bull Lane cricket field	Langley	60.7%	28.0%
43	Bull Lane village green	Langley	55.6%	23.0%
46	Burnstie Road, Bannister Green	Felsted	69.6%	34.0%
49	Chapel Fields	Takeley	38.8%	22.0%
50	Chapel Hill War memorial	Stansted Mountfitchet	77.1%	34.0%
52	Chestnut Drive	Hatfield Heath	69.2%	44.0%
56	Church End playing field	Ashdon	36.9%	27.0%
57	Church Field	Ashdon	34.6%	33.0%
60	Clarendon Road, Priors Green	Little Canfield	56.5%	28.0%
63	Clatterbury Lane 2	Clavering	55.6%	21.0%
64	Clatterbury Lane 3	Clavering	62.6%	28.0%
66	Clatterbury Lane/Hill Green	Clavering	57.0%	38.0%
67	Clavering Road Village Hall	Berden	44.4%	33.0%
74	Crow Street	Henham	68.7%	44.0%
79	Duck Street	Wendens Ambo	43.0%	28.0%
81	Dunmow Road recreation ground	Hatfield Broad Oak	43.0%	29.0%
82	Dunmow Road, Hatfield Heath	Hatfield Heath	36.4%	29.0%
84	Elizabeth Way 1	Saffron Walden	34.6%	16.0%
85	Elizabeth Way 2	Saffron Walden	50.5%	27.0%
86	Evelyn Road, Willows Green	Felsted	62.1%	27.0%
92	Foresthall Park	Stansted Mountfitchet	49.1%	28.0%
94	Great Easton Playing Field	Great Easton	46.3%	28.0%
97	Great Sampford Recreation ground	Great Sampford	75.7%	40.0%
99	Greenways	Saffron Walden	34.6%	23.0%
105	Harvest Fields	Takeley	72.0%	28.0%
108	Hatfield Heath War Memorial	Hatfield Heath	48.6%	38.0%
109	Henham Road Cricket Club	Elsenham	22.9%	23.0%
111	High Easter playing fields	High Easter	46.7%	34.0%
115	High Street Village green	Hatfield Broad Oak	79.0%	60.0%
116	Holloway Crescent	Leaden Roding	43.9%	28.0%
117	Hornsea Villas playing field	Stebbing	44.4%	34.0%
118	Hunter Meet/ Chelmsford Road	Hatfield Heath	48.1%	23.0%
122	Jollys Boy Lane North Playing Field	Felsted	57.9%	29.0%
123	Jubilee Field, Claterbury Lane	Clavering	43.5%	39.0%
130	Lime Tree Hill	Great Dunmow	32.2%	22.0%
133	Littlebury Recreation Ground	Littlebury	59.3%	39.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
137	Lower Mill Field	Great Dunmow	50.5%	27.0%
140	Lukins Mead/Nusery Rise	Great Dunmow	36.4%	23.0%
141	Magdalen Green	Thaxted	43.9%	22.0%
147	Manuden playing fields	Manuden	56.1%	33.0%
152	Meadow Ford	Newport	52.3%	23.0%
155	Memorial area	Quendon and Rickling	66.8%	43.0%
159	Mill Road Recreation ground	Debden	68.7%	40.0%
161	Monk's Hill	Saffron Walden	52.3%	28.0%
163	Motts Green AGS	Little Hallingbury	39.3%	38.0%
166	Moules Lane recreation ground	Hadstock	49.5%	23.0%
167	Mountfitchet Road	Stansted Mountfitchet	80.8%	35.0%
168	Museum Street	Saffron Walden	68.7%	48.0%
170	Newbiggen Street playing field	Thaxted	65.4%	33.0%
172	Newmarket Road Playing field	Great Chesterford	70.1%	33.0%
174	Newton Green	Great Dunmow	61.7%	28.0%
193	Priors Green	Takeley	35.5%	23.0%
196	Radwinter Road playing field	Sewards End	76.6%	25.0%
197	Radwinter Road Village Hall	Sewards End	46.3%	22.0%
198	Ravens Crescent	Felsted	73.8%	28.0%
200	Rectory Lane playing field	Ashdon	64.5%	38.0%
201	Rectory Road	Farnham	47.2%	39.0%
203	Rickling Green Road AGS	Quendon and Rickling	50.9%	35.0%
212	Silver Jubilee Hall, Takeley	Takeley	44.4%	28.0%
215	St Martin's Close	White Roding	52.3%	27.0%
217	Stane Street	Great Dunmow	67.8%	39.0%
219	Stanstead Park recreation ground	Stansted Mountfitchet	59.8%	34.0%
220	Stansted Road	Elsenham	62.6%	38.0%
221	Station Road Common, Newport	Newport	42.5%	29.0%
224	Station Road Recreation ground	Takeley	64.5%	40.0%
225	Station Road, Flitch Green	Flitch Green	66.8%	28.0%
235	Stortford Road 1, Hatfield Heath	Hatfield Heath	77.6%	29.0%
240	Takeley Park	Takeley	46.3%	28.0%
241	Teybards Lay	Great Dunmow	47.7%	39.0%
243	Tanton Road Lake	Flitch Green	83.6%	44.0%
247	The Causeway Recreation ground	Great Dunmow	64.5%	55.0%
249	The Downs, Great Dunmow	Great Dunmow	57.9%	50.0%
251	The Glebe AGS	Hempstead	44.9%	27.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
253	The Heath Cricket pitch	Hatfield Heath	67.8%	33.0%
254	The Shaw	Hatfield Heath	53.3%	29.0%
258	Tukes Way AGS	Saffron Walden	50.9%	29.0%
260	Tye Green, Wimbish	Wimbish	63.6%	35.0%
261	Ugley Green	Ugley	65.0%	28.0%
265	Vernons Close playing field	Henham	37.4%	25.0%
266	Village Hall, Great Hallingbury	Great Hallingbury	31.8%	32.0%
267	Village Hall, Leaden Roding	Leaden Roding	49.1%	22.0%
268	Walden Road Recreation Ground	Radwinter	53.7%	34.0%
271	Warwick Road, Priors Green	Little Canfield	54.2%	28.0%
274	Weaverhead Close	Thaxted	36.4%	28.0%
276	Woodend Green	Henham	59.3%	35.0%
277	Woodlands Walk	Great Dunmow	65.0%	29.0%
278	Woodside Green	Great Hallingbury	29.9%	43.0%
279	Wrights Green	Little Hallingbury	53.3%	27.0%
290	Herbert's Farm Playing Fields	Saffron Walden	60.3%	29.0%
291	Lime Avenue	Saffron Walden	40.2%	28.0%
292	Elsenham PC Recreation Ground	Elsenham	77.6%	35.0%

6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces in Uttlesford. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspace in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<45%	>45%
Uttlesford	24%	54%	84%	59%	25	85

A total of 77% of amenity greenspace sites in Uttlesford rate above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◆ Tanton Road Lake (84%)
- ◆ Mountfitchet Road (81%)
- ◆ Blacklands Avenue and Seven Devils Lane (81%)
- ◆ Anglo American Playing Fields (80%)

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The four sites are observed as having good levels of maintenance and cleanliness, resulting in a positive overall appearance. In addition, they provide user security as well as recreational opportunities. The sites all have bins to prevent excessive littering as well as seating. These add to the quality and use of the sites. In addition, Anglo American Playing Fields and Mountfitchet Road contain play provision with the latter also featuring a MUGA.

High Easter Playing Fields (47%) scores just above the quality threshold. However, consultation with High Easter Parish Council highlights that there are issues with the playing field surface due to poor drainage. This affects quality of play, particularly hindering football which suffers as a result.

Sites scoring below the threshold are generally smaller in size and are observed as being basic pockets of green space. However, despite having little recreational use and fewer ancillary facilities, it is important to recognise they may provide a visual amenity. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites in Uttlesford are:

- ↳ Henham Road Cricket Club (24%)
- ↳ Baptist Church Field, Great Sampford (32%)
- ↳ Village Hall, Great Hallingbury (32%)

These sites lack ancillary features and formal pathways. They also score lower for entrances and personal security. Henham Road Cricket Club appears to be a disused cricket ground.

Some Parish Councils highlight a lack of amenity greenspace in their area. For example, Thaxted Parish Council cite there is not enough greenspace and they aim to extend the amount of amenity provision wherever possible. Similarly, Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council consider there to be a need for more open space provision in the settlement.

It is important to recognise that despite some sites rating below the threshold for quality, they may still have the potential to be important to the community. For instance, if a site is the only form of open space in that local area it may be of higher value given it is the only provision of its type. It may also provide a visual function. These kinds of open spaces can have a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to community viability, quality of life and health and wellbeing.

6.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Uttlesford	16%	31%	60%	44%	1	109

All except one amenity greenspace rate above the threshold for value.

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Only one site (Elizabeth Way) rates below the value threshold. The site serves more as a visual amenity and scores low for usage due to being overgrown with no facilities. Should a site be less attractive, or provide less recreational opportunity, people are less likely to visit the site.

Some of the highest scoring sites for value in Uttlesford are:

- ◀ High Street Village green (60%)
- ◀ The Causeway Recreation ground (55%)
- ◀ The Downs, Great Dunmow (50%)

High Street Village green (60%) scores the highest for value. It is an attractive greenspace, containing a pond and meeting the needs of several users. The Causeway Recreation Ground has a fitness trail, further adding to its amenity and health value. Each are observed as good or excellent local amenities, attractive and well used.

Hatfield Heath War Memorial (38%) has a war memorial, adding cultural heritage value. Moreover, consultation with Hatfield Heath Parish Council highlights that festivals and car shows are hosted here. It is consequently highlighted as an important site for the village.

Numerous amenity sites have the additional benefit of sporting opportunities. The following are examples of sites to have either football goals or cricket squares:

- ◀ High Easter playing fields
- ◀ Dunmow Road recreation ground
- ◀ Belchams Lane
- ◀ Bellhouse Villas
- ◀ Hornsea Villas playing field
- ◀ Littlebury Recreation Ground
- ◀ Stanstead Park recreation ground
- ◀ Birchanger Lane
- ◀ Rectory Lane playing field
- ◀ Arkesden Recreation ground

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Some sites in Uttlesford offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing. These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. seating, landscaping and trees) this means that the better-quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 110 amenity greenspace sites in Uttlesford; over 139 hectares of provision.
- ◀ Over three quarters (77%) of amenity greenspace sites in Uttlesford rate above the threshold for quality. Several of the low scoring sites are marginally below the threshold.
- ◀ The majority of sites scoring below the threshold are smaller sites and are observed as being basic, small pockets of green space and lack ancillary features.
- ◀ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence nearly all sites rate above the value threshold.
- ◀ Only one site rates low for quality and value. This is due to quality often impacting on value. Should a site be less attractive, or provide less recreational opportunity, people are less likely to visit the site.

PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

This includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age.

Provision for young people can include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges incorporating facilities such as skate parks, BMX, basketball courts, youth shelters and MUGAs.

7.2 Current provision

A total of 73 sites in Uttlesford are identified as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of nearly nine hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all known provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Uttlesford	73	8.99	0.10

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, Uttlesford has a current provision level of 0.10 hectares per 1,000 population.

Elsenham Parish Council reports that a new play area is to be provided in the area as part of a new housing development.

Newport Parish Council highlight plans to provide a MUGA somewhere close or on the village recreation ground. They identify a lack of provision for older age ranges in the settlement. The Parish Council is exploring use of land between the sports/recreation ground and the primary school to host a MUGA.

A frequent comment within the responses to the community survey is the concern from respondents to a lack of play equipment catering for older children.

7.3 Accessibility

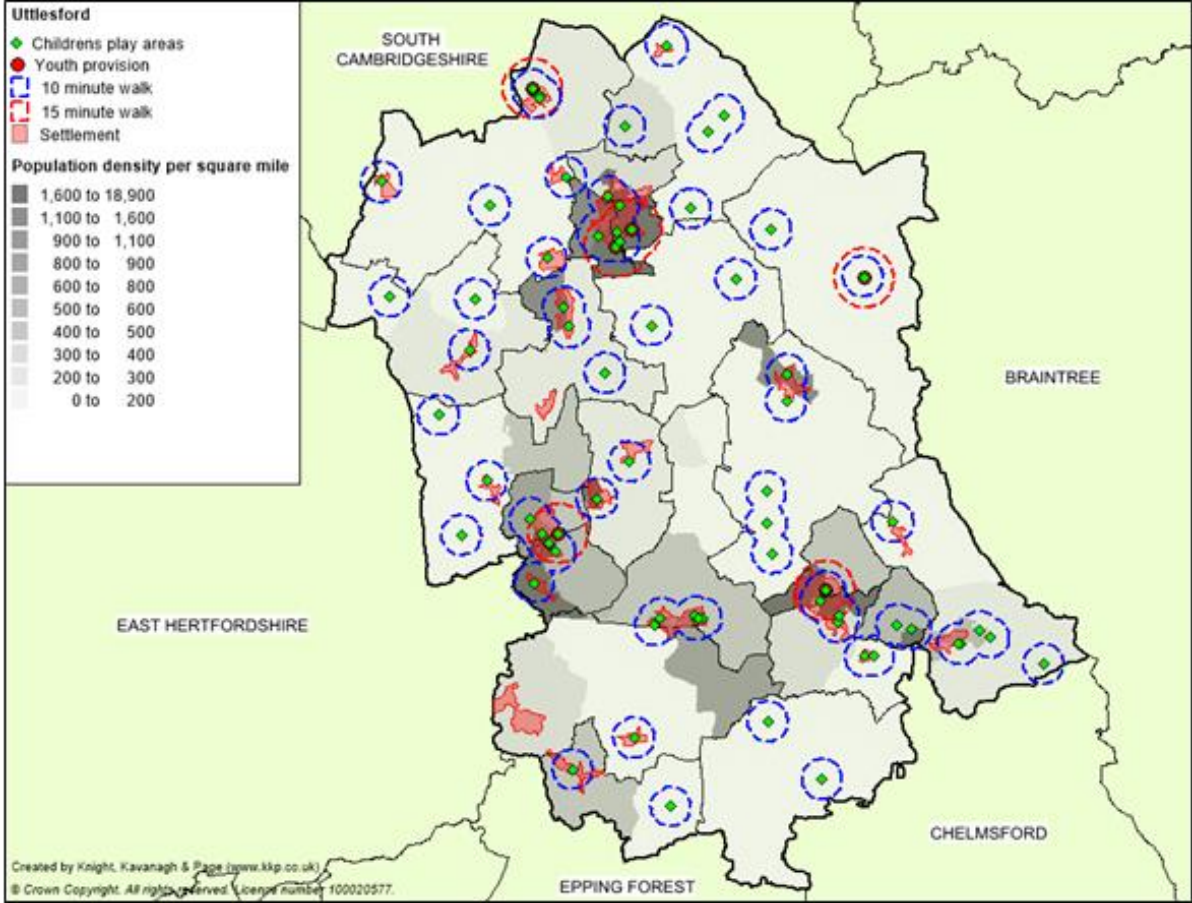
Figures 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 show the location of provision for children and young people across Uttlesford with a 10-minute walk time catchment applied, as well as a 15-minute walk time catchment applied for those sites with skate parks or BMX tracks. This is based on responses from the community survey, identifying how far most respondents would be willing to walk to access these types of provision.

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The mapping highlights that nearly all settlements across the District have access to at least one form of play area. The exceptions are Little Hallingbury and Rickling Green.

The greatest amounts of provision can be seen in the areas of highest population density (Saffron Walden, Dunmow, Birchanger and Stansted Mountfitchet).

Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people mapped



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Figure 7.2: Provision for children and young people mapped - North

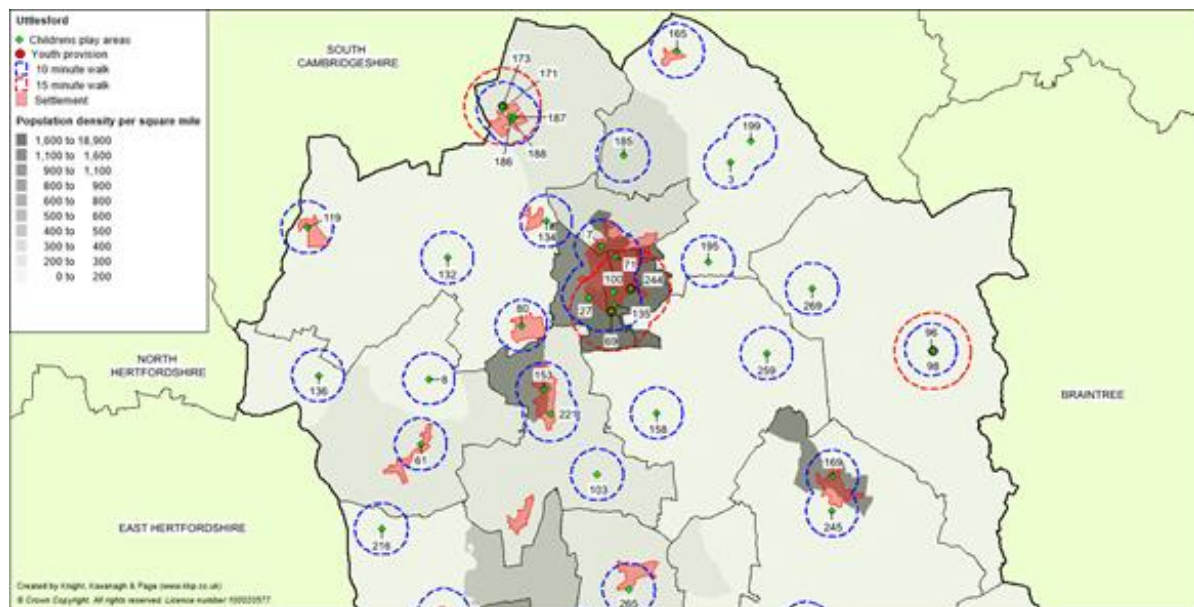


Figure 7.2: Provision for children and young people mapped - South

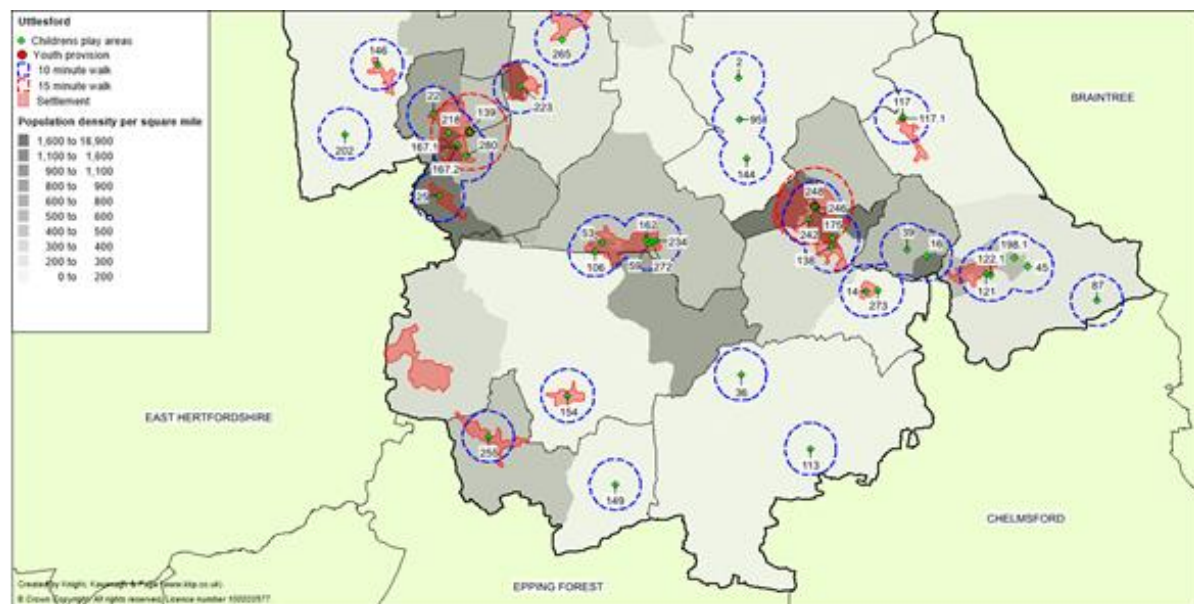


Table 7.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
2	Abbey View play area	Great Easton	34.0%	45.5%
3	All Saints Close play area	Ashdon	66.3%	38.2%
7	Anglo American Playing Fields play area	Saffron Walden	48.5%	54.5%
8	Arkesden play area	Arkesden	43.0%	38.2%
14	Barnston Village Hall play area	Barnston	45.0%	41.8%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
16	Baynard Avenue play area	Flitch Green	61.9%	20.0%
22	Bentfield Green play area	Stansted Mountfitchet	45.7%	41.8%
25	Birchanger Lane Recreation Ground	Birchanger	52.2%	50.9%
36	Broadfield play area	High Roding	70.1%	41.8%
39	Brook Street play area	Little Dunmow	44.0%	41.8%
45	Burnsite Road play area	Felsted	49.5%	38.2%
53	Chestnut Way play area	Takeley	47.4%	41.8%
59	Clarendon Road play areas	Little Canfield	60.8%	54.5%
61	Claterbury Lane play area	Clavering	47.4%	41.8%
69	Claypits Plantation BMX	Saffron Walden	26.8%	38.2%
71	Common play area	Saffron Walden	40.2%	27.3%
80	Duck Street play area	Wendens Ambo	46.4%	41.8%
87	Evelyn Road, Willows Green play area	Felsted	47.4%	34.5%
95	Great Easton Playing Field play area	Great Easton	40.2%	20.0%
96	Great Sampford play area	Great Sampford	48.1%	45.5%
98	Great Sampford skate park	Great Sampford	29.9%	41.8%
103	Hamel Way play area	Widdington	60.8%	38.2%
106	Harvest Fields play area	Takeley	62.9%	32.7%
113	High Easter Village Hall play area	High Easter	48.5%	41.8%
117.1	Hornsea Villas play area	Stebbing	22.7%	38.2%
119	Jigneys Meadow Adventure playground	Chrishall	38.1%	41.8%
121	Jollys Boy Lane North play area	Felsted	59.1%	38.2%
122.1	Jolly Boys Lane North MUGA	Felsted	52.6%	41.8%
132	Littlebury Green play area	Littlebury	50.5%	41.8%
134	Littlebury Recreation Ground play area	Littlebury	36.1%	38.2%
135	Long Horse Close play area	Saffron Walden	73.9%	54.5%
136	Long Lea play area	Langley	34.0%	20.0%
138	Lower Mill Field play area	Great Dunmow	69.4%	38.2%
139	Lower Street skate park	Stansted Mountfitchet	71.8%	45.5%
144	Manor Road play area	Little Easton	52.6%	38.2%
146	Manuden play area	Manuden	49.5%	41.8%
149	Marks Hall Lane play area	White Roding	47.4%	27.3%
153	Meadow Ford play area	Newport	63.2%	38.2%
154	Meadows Mead play area	Hatfield Broad Oak	38.1%	41.8%
158	Mill Road play area	Debden	71.1%	41.8%
162	Mortymer Close play area	Takeley	37.1%	34.5%
165	Moules Lane play area	Hadstock	48.5%	38.2%

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Settlement/ Parish area	Quality score	Value score
167.1	Mountfitchet Road play area	Stansted Mountfitchet	47.1%	41.8%
167.2	Mountfitchet Road MUGA [*]	Stansted Mountfitchet		
169	Newbiggen Street play area	Thaxted	70.1%	41.8%
171	Newmarket Road play area	Great Chesterford	70.8%	45.5%
173	Newmarket Road skate park	Great Chesterford	42.3%	41.8%
175	Oakroyd Avenue play area	Great Dunmow	35.1%	38.2%
185	Petlands play area	Saffron Walden	35.1%	38.2%
186	Pilgrim's Close play area 1	Great Chesterford	51.5%	38.2%
187	Pilgrim's Close play area 2	Great Chesterford	27.8%	27.3%
188	Pilgrim's Close play area 3	Great Chesterford	61.2%	20.0%
195	Radwinter Road play area	Sewards End	69.1%	41.8%
198.1	Ravens Crescent play area	Felsted	40.2%	38.2%
199	Rectory Lane play area	Ashdon	53.3%	29.1%
202	Rectory Road play area	Farnham	44.3%	41.8%
216	St Nicholas Field play area	Berden	54.6%	45.5%
218	Stanstead Park play area	Stansted Mountfitchet	59.5%	45.5%
223	Station Road play area, Elsenham	Little Canfield	41.2%	41.8%
224.1	Station Road MUGA [†]	Takeley	64.6%	41.8%
224.2	Station Road play area	Takeley		
234	Stokes Road, Priors Green play area	Canfield	69.1%	34.5%
242	Teybards Lay play area	Great Dunmow	52.2%	45.5%
244	Saffron Walden skate park (One Minet Skatepark)	Saffron Walden	75.3%	54.5%
245	Thaxted Youth Club	Thaxted	56.7%	27.3%
246	The Causeway play area	Great Dunmow	70.1%	41.8%
248	The Causeway skate park	Great Dunmow	30.9%	41.8%
255	The Shaw play area	Hatfield Heath	58.8%	41.8%
259	Tye Green play area	Wimbish	38.1%	29.1%
269	Walden Road Recreation Ground play area	Radwinter	37.1%	38.2%
272	Warwick Road, Priors Green play area	Little Canfield	41.2%	38.2%
273	Watts Close play area	Great Dunmow	59.1%	20.0%
280	Walson Way play area	Stansted Mountfitchet	61.9%	54.5%

^{*} Assessed as part of 167.1

[†] Assessed as part of 224.2

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people in Uttlesford. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.3: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<45%	>45%
Uttlesford	23%	51%	75%	53%	23	50

Quality of provision is generally good across Uttlesford with 67% of sites assessed as above the threshold. There are 23 sites rating below the threshold. Notably there is a significant spread (52.6%) between the highest and lowest scoring sites, with Hornsea Villas play area (22.7%) compared to Saffron Walden skate park (75.3%).

Saffron Walden Skate Park, along with other high scoring sites has entrances that open onto safe overlooked areas, good boundary fencing or controls to prevent illegal use, seating, litter bins and signage. Additionally, they are maintained to a high standard, with no significant wear and tear to equipment or evidence of litter or vandalism.

Saffron Walden Skate Park is well used inter-generational facility, and consultation highlights the opportunity could be explored of installing some doors to the adjacent indoor bowling centre. This would enable the skatepark users to access the café, as well as having access to other ancillary facilities such as toilets. There is also potential to open a skate/scooter parts shop.

Examples of other high scoring sites include Long Horse Close play area, Lower Street skate park and Mill Road play area, which score 73.9%, 71.8% and 71.1% respectively. The high quality score for Lower Street skate park is unsurprising given that it is relatively new.

The Shaw play area although scoring well above the threshold at 58.8%, is reported to suffer from vandalism. This is highlighted through consultation with Hatfield Heath Parish Council.

Sites scoring low for quality are Claypits Plantation BMX (26.8%), Great Sampford skate park (29.9%) and Pilgrim's Close play area 2 (27.8%). These sites generally have fewer ancillary features and are reported to have equipment that evidences wear and tear. Furthermore, overall maintenance and cleanliness of the sites is not as high.

Long Lea play area, which scores 34% for quality and as such, falls below the quality threshold, is currently under refurbishment. This site is managed by Langley Parish Council.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

7.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the value assessment for children and young people in Uttlesford. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.4: Value ratings for provision for children and young people in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Uttlesford	20%	39%	55%	35%	0	73

All play provision in Uttlesford is rated as being above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the role play provision provides in allowing children to play but also the contribution sites make in terms of giving children and young people safe places to learn, for physical and mental activity, to socialise with others and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments.

Sites scoring particularly high for value tend to reflect a good range of quality equipment available at sites:

- ◀ Anglo American Playing Fields play area (54.4%)
- ◀ Birchanger Lane Recreation Ground (50.0%)
- ◀ Clarendon Road play areas (54.4%)
- ◀ Long Horse Close play area (54.4%)
- ◀ Saffron Walden skate park (54.4%)

The sites are observed as being well maintained with a good to reasonable variety of equipment, as well as having sufficient access. The sites are also assumed to be well used given their range and quality of equipment.

Despite Anglo American Playing Fields play area scoring above the value threshold, it is observed as appearing old with the basketball courts having no lights.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly impact on value. Provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play.

It is also important to recognise the benefits of play in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value. The importance of play and of children's rights to play in their local communities is essential.

7.6 Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are 73 play provision sites in Uttlesford; a total of over 8.99 hectares.
- ◀ Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, Uttlesford has a current provision level of 0.10 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◀ The mapping highlights that nearly all settlements across the District have access to at least one form of play area. The exceptions to this are Little Hallingbury and Rickling Green.
- ◀ Quality of provision is generally good across Uttlesford with 67% of sites assessed as above the threshold.
- ◀ Notably there is a significant spread (52.6%) between the highest and lowest scoring sites, with Hornsea Villas play area (22.7%) compared to Saffron Walden skate park (75.3%).
- ◀ All play provision rates above the threshold for value; reflecting the social, healthy and developmental benefits provision can provide.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

Allotments are a typology which covers open spaces that provide opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction. This includes provision such as allotments, community gardens, city farms and community food growing areas.

8.2 Current provision

There are 27 sites classified as allotments in Uttlesford, equating to over 17 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all known provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotments

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Uttlesford	27	17.21	0.20

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (20 per 2,000 people based on two people per house or one per 100 people). This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 populations based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

Based on Uttlesford's current population (87,684) it does not meet the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Uttlesford is 21.92 hectares. Existing provision of 17.21 hectares therefore does not meet this guideline.

The majority of allotment sites are managed by parish councils. Therefore, exact plot number and waiting lists are difficult to fully attain. Information has; however, been obtained for some allotment sites and is set out in Table 8.2.

Of the information obtained, there are 325 plots across the District. Further to this, only Elsenham Parish Council reports having a waiting list. This will however be served with provision of a new allotment site containing 60 plots as part of a new housing development.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 8.2: Allotment information (where known)

Site ID	Site	Information
270	Waldgrooms allotments	Managed by Great Dunmow Town Council and has circa 100 plots. No waiting lists due to recent changeover of tenants. Water bills.
93	Frambury Lane allotments	Owned and managed by Newport Parish Council. Plot numbers not specified. However, there is currently no waiting list. New development in area will provide allotments too.
142	Magdalen Green allotments	Managed by Thaxted Parish Council. This site and KKP 13, Bardfield Road Allotments have circa 17 plots. Rarely any waiting lists. No need for any more.
58	Church Lane allotments	Managed by Elsenham parish council. Site owned by church. Circa 22 plots. Church will require land for burial in 10 years. A new allotment as part of housing development is to be provided. Currently 20 people on waiting list for this (five from the existing allotment)
131	Little Walden Road allotments	Managed by Saffron Walden Town Council. Only statutory allotments. Circa 40 plots.
73	Crocus Fields allotments	Managed by Saffron Walden Town Council. Is on 50-year lease from farmer. Circa 28 plots.
275	Windmill Hill allotments	Managed by Saffron Walden Town Council. Land owned by farmer.
110	High Easter allotments	Managed by High Easter Parish Council. Circa six plots.
237	Stortford Road allotments, Clavering	Managed by Clavering Parish Council. Number of plots not identified. Currently no waiting list.
157	Mill Road allotments	Managed by Debden Parish Council. Circa 36 plots. Currently no waiting list.
160	Mill Road/Station Road allotments	Managed by Felsted Parish Council. Circa 67 plots. Currently no waiting list.
114	High Roding allotments	Managed by Aythorpe Roding Parish Council. Circa nine plots. Currently no waiting list.
293	Hatfield Heath Allotments 1	21 plots. Well used. Waiting lists exists. Access to water. Car park.

8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1 show allotments mapped against analysis areas, with a 15-minute walk time applied. This is based on community survey responses. Most respondents suggest this is the distance they would be willing to travel to access allotment provision.

Takleley is the largest settlement without allotment provision within a 15-minute walk time catchment.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped

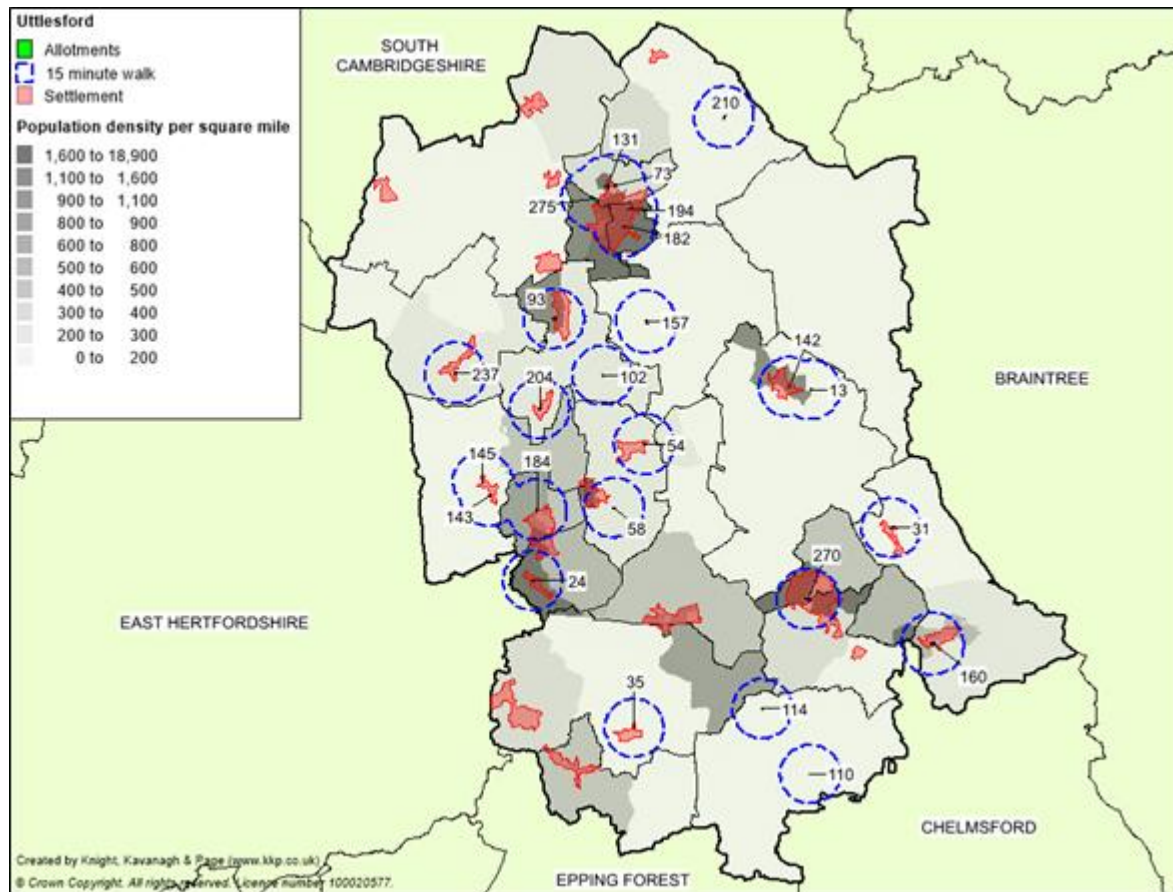


Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Parish	Quality Score	Value score
13	Bardfield Road allotments	Thaxted	46.2%	21.9%
24	Birchanger Lane allotments	Birchanger	51.7%	27.6%
31	Brick Kiln Lane allotments	Stebbing	46.2%	21.9%
35	Broad Street allotments	Hatfield Broad Oak	39.6%	21.9%
54	Chickney Road allotments	Henham	51.1%	26.7%
58	Church Lane allotments	Elsenham	31.9%	23.8%
73	Crocus Fields allotments	Saffron Walden	48.9%	21.9%
93	Frambury Lane allotments	Newport	61.5%	21.9%
102	Hamel Way allotments	Widdington	48.9%	21.9%
110	High Easter allotments, The Street	High Easter	41.8%	21.9%
114	High Roding allotments, The Street	High Roothing	39.6%	23.8%
131	Little Walden Road allotments	Saffron Walden	50.6%	22.9%
142	Magdalen Green allotments	Thaxted	50.0%	21.9%
143	Mallows Green Road allotments	Manuden	41.2%	21.9%

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Site ID	Site name	Parish	Quality Score	Value score
145	Manuden allotments, The Street	Manuden	42.9%	21.9%
157	Mill Road allotments	Debden	50.6%	21.9%
160	Mill Road/Station Road allotments	Felsted	45.6%	23.8%
182	Peaslands Road allotments	Saffron Walden	42.3%	22.9%
184	Pennington Lane allotments	Stansted Mountfitchet	36.8%	23.8%
194	Radwinter Road allotments	Saffron Walden	40.3%	12.4%
204	Rickling Green Road allotments	Quendon and Rickling	46.7%	21.9%
210	Roger's End allotments	Ashdon	42.9%	32.4%
237	Stortford Road allotments, Clavering	Clavering	47.8%	21.9%
270	Waldgrooms allotments	Great Dunmow	58.8%	23.8%
275	Windmill Hill allotments	Saffron Walden	41.2%	19.0%
293	Hatfield Heath allotments 1	Hatfield Heath	48.9%	26.7%
294	Hatfield Heath allotments 2	Hatfield Heath	59.3%	28.6%

8.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) the site assessment scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in Uttlesford. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<40%	>40%
Uttlesford	32%	46%	62%	30%	4	23

The majority of sites rate above the quality threshold (85%), suggesting a high standard of allotment provision in Uttlesford. The highest rating sites are:

- ↳ Frambury Lane allotments (61.5%)
- ↳ Hatfield Heath allotment 2 (59.3%)
- ↳ Waldgrooms Allotments (58.8%)
- ↳ Birchanger Lane allotments (51.7%)

The sites score highly for general levels of maintenance and cleanliness, surrounding fencing and controls to prevent illegal use, as well as a sense of personal security on site and informative signage. Hatfield Heath, Waldgrooms Allotments and Frambury Lane Allotments also have onsite parking and well cared for sheds and greenhouses. The latter site also has seating.

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The four sites which score below the quality threshold are not identified as having any specific quality issues and their lower quality scores can be attributed to fewer features and pathways which are not maintained to as higher standard.

Two of the allotment sites to rate below the quality threshold, Broad Street allotments and High Roding allotments, only just rate under the threshold. Both score 39.6%.

8.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.5: Value ratings for allotments in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Uttlesford	17%	23%	32%	20%	2	25

All allotments rate above the threshold for value with the exception of two sites. This reflects the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision.

Two sites score below the value threshold; Radwinter Road allotments and Windmill Hill Allotments. The latter is only 1% off meeting the value threshold.

Allotments should generally be considered as highly valued as they are often identified by the local community as important forms of open space provision.

8.6 Summary

Allotments summary

- ◀ There are 27 sites classified as allotments in Uttlesford, equating to over 17 hectares.
- ◀ Based on Uttlesford's current population (87,684) it does not meet the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Uttlesford is 22 hectares. Existing provision of 17 hectares therefore does not meet this guideline.
- ◀ Of the obtained information, there are 325 plots. Further to this, only Elsenham Parish Council reports having a waiting list. However, this demand will be met by provision of a new allotment site containing 60 plots as part of a new housing development.
- ◀ The majority of allotment sites are managed by parish councils.
- ◀ The majority of sites rate above the quality threshold (85%), suggesting a high standard of allotment provision in Uttlesford. The four sites to score below the quality threshold are not identified as having any specific quality issues.
- ◀ Nearly all allotments rate above the threshold for value except for two sites. This reflects the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision.

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APPENDIX ONE: CONSULTATION SUMMARY WITH PARISH COUNCILS

Table A1: Summary of consultations with parish councils

Parish Council	Is there enough open space to meet needs?	Concerns and general information
Arksden	Yes	Identifies no open space provision in parish. No issues
Aythorpe Roding	Yes	Cricket field with play area. Allotment has nine plots. No waiting list. All rated as good quality.
Broxted	Yes	Identifies no open space provision in parish. No issues
Chrishall	-	Parish highlight that they do not own or manage facilities
Clavering	Yes	Number of village greens/amenity areas, an allotment and Simons Wood. Quality of provision considered good. For allotments, number of plots not known but no waiting list.
Debden	Yes	Recreation ground with play area and tennis courts. Also allotments here. All rated good. 36 plots at allotments. No waiting list
Elsenham	-	New community to be provided (5 years in the future) next to rec ground. New play area also as part of development. Trim Trail will be PC's once handed over. Main play area is at rec. PC responsible for allotments-22 plots, water access. PC might need to do some work (area allocated for car park likely to not be large enough so might need to create more.
Farnham	Yes	Recreation ground and play area owned by parish council good quality. Play area features a number of facilities to cater for different ages.
Felsted	Yes	Playing Field off Jollyboys Lane has play area, MUGA, pitches. Good quality. For allotments, 67 plots with no waiting list. Play areas at Evelyn Road and Bannister Green adequate quality. Nature area off Station Road just outside of local authority transferring to PC.
Great Canfield	Yes	No central area of village. Number of extended verges act as village greens
Great Dunmow	-	Just had change over for allotments. Plan to extend Parsonage Downs and have balancing ponds and picnic benches etc. Hatfield Forest Overused (especially at weekends). New developers asking to help offset overuse. Two developments to the south including Ongar Road. Town due to double in housing numbers based on Local Plan Figures Access to woodland is priority as is a potential resource.
Hadstock	Yes	Recreation ground of good quality. Investigating potential equipment for older residents.
Hatfield Heath	-	Ongoing vandalism an issue at play area. Dedicated wildlife area-special grasses. Well used allotments. Waiting lists exist.
High Easter	Yes	Jubilee Playing Fields and play area of adequate quality. Football suffers from poor drainage in wet weather. Play area is reaching end of its useful life and need to be replaced in next 5 years. Allotment has 6 plots with no waiting list.

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Parish Council	Is there enough open space to meet needs?	Concerns and general information
Langley	Yes	Village green doubles as a cricket pitch. Play ground on common land is under refurbishment. Common land is not owned by parish council but has a responsibility to maintain.
Margaret Roding	Yes	Small parish with no central area. Rural with numerous footpaths etc to wider countryside
Newport	-	Lack of facilities for older age ranges. The Common subject to floods. New development to have allotments. Recent extension of active cemetery.
Saffron Walden Town Council	No	The common (regional village green) is owned by the TC. Activities/events, fairs, beer fest, xmas market, fireworks take place here. Anlgo American Playing Fields play area of limited value-old Not much usable greenspace for town and future development. Bridge Ends Gardens (Grade II listed) leased to TC-60 years Tourist Attraction, high volunteer numbers to help too, highly used Need more community centres in town. Area on Crest Nicholson for new allotment acquired. Already 20 on waiting list for this (about 5 from current site)
Stansted Mountfitchet	No	Draft Neighbourhood Plan. Stansted Skate Park (relatively new). View there to be a deficit of open space across village
Thaxted	-	Play area on rec ground is well used. Want another play area at opposite end where current one is. Good walks in area-network of paths.

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APPENDIX TWO: SURVEY RETURNS

To gather the wider views of residents and users of open space provision in Uttlesford an online community survey was created. A total of 304 completed surveys were returned. Analysis of the answers to the survey questions is set out in Part 3. A breakdown of the demographic data is provided below.

Gender

Please select your gender			
No reply/ prefer not to say	Female	Male	Base
8	216	80	304
2.63%	71.05%	26.32%	100.0%

Age bands

Please select your age band								
No reply/ prefer not to say	Under 18	18 - 24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 - 65	65 +	Base
6	1	4	27	89	87	45	45	304
1.97%	0.33%	1.32%	8.88%	29.28%	28.62%	14.80%	14.80%	100.0%

Area

A total of 286 out of the 304 respondents provided a postcode or locality.

Area	Respondents	%
Saffron Walden	124	40.79%
Great Dunmow	28	9.21%
Newport	17	5.59%
Thaxted	13	4.28%
Takeley	7	2.30%
Great Chesterford	6	1.97%
Castle Camps	1	0.33%
Radwinter	5	1.64%
Hempstead	4	1.32%
Wendens Ambo	4	1.32%
Wimbish	4	1.32%
Bishops Stortford	3	0.99%
Braintree	3	0.99%
Hadstock	3	0.99%
Littlebury	3	0.99%
Sewards End	3	0.99%
Stansted	3	0.99%
Stansted Mountfitchet	3	0.99%

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Area	Respondents	%
Uttlesford	3	0.99%
Barnston	2	0.66%
Berden	2	0.66%
Chelmsford	2	0.66%
Elmdon	2	0.66%
Elsenham	2	0.66%
Felsted	2	0.66%
Great Easton	2	0.66%
Great Sampford	2	0.66%
Hatfield Heath	2	0.66%
Hertfordshire	2	0.66%
Pledgdon Green	2	0.66%
Stebbing	2	0.66%
Arkesden	1	0.33%
Bardfield Saling	1	0.33%
Castle Camps	1	0.33%
Chesterford	1	0.33%
Chrishall	1	0.33%
Clavering	1	0.33%
Duddenhoe End	1	0.33%
Epping	1	0.33%
Essex	1	0.33%
Farnham	1	0.33%
Great Canfield	1	0.33%
Great Notley	1	0.33%
High Easter	1	0.33%
Harlow	1	0.33%
High Roding	1	0.33%
Jaspers Green	1	0.33%
Linton	1	0.33%
Little Canfield	1	0.33%
Little Sampford	1	0.33%
Littlebury Green	1	0.33%
Manuden	1	0.33%
Newmarket	1	0.33%
Quendon	1	0.33%
Rodings	1	0.33%
Sawbridgeworth	1	0.33%
Witham	1	0.33%
Do not state	18	5.92%

