

CHELTENHAM AND TEWKESBURY

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2016

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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GLOSSARY

CBC	Cheltenham Borough Council
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
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
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RoSPA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
TBC	Tewkesbury Borough Council

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) and Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC). It focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the open space study.

The Assessment Report provides detail with regard to what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It considers the demand for provision based upon population distribution and consultation findings. The Recommendation Paper (to follow the assessment report) will give direction on the future requirements for provision of accessible, high quality and sustainable open spaces.

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.

Although PPG17 has now been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance as it remains the only national advice on the conduct of an open space assessment. It also still reflects the Government policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out in PPG17. The long-term outcomes aim to deliver:

- ◆ Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors that are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ◆ An appropriate balance between new, and the enhancement of existing, provision.
- ◆ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision.

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

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Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

	Typology	Primary purpose
Greenspaces	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. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.
	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	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.
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Civic spaces	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space provision across both Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. 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 originally defined in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'; it is structured as follows:

Part 3: General open space summary
 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
 Part 9: Cemeteries/churchyards
 Part 10: Civic spaces
 Part 11: Green corridors

Associated strategies

The study sits alongside the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy (ISF) and Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) also undertaken by KKP (provided in separate reports). The category of formal outdoor sports is 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).

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.

Under paragraph 73 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 74 of the NPPF states 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.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Analysis areas

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, Tewkesbury is divided into five analysis areas (reflecting the geographic and demographic nature of the area).

These allow more localised assessment of provision in addition to examination of open space surplus and deficiencies at a more local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The area is therefore, broken down as follows:

Table 2.1: Tewkesbury population by analysis area

Analysis area	Population*
Tewkesbury Area 1	8,630
Tewkesbury Area 2	25,981
Tewkesbury Area 3	17,539
Tewkesbury Area 4	8,486
Tewkesbury Area 5	26,254
Tewkesbury	86,890

For Cheltenham, a borough wide approach is being adopted and the area will therefore be considered as one analysis area. Cheltenham currently has a population of 116,781.

Table 2.2: Cheltenham population

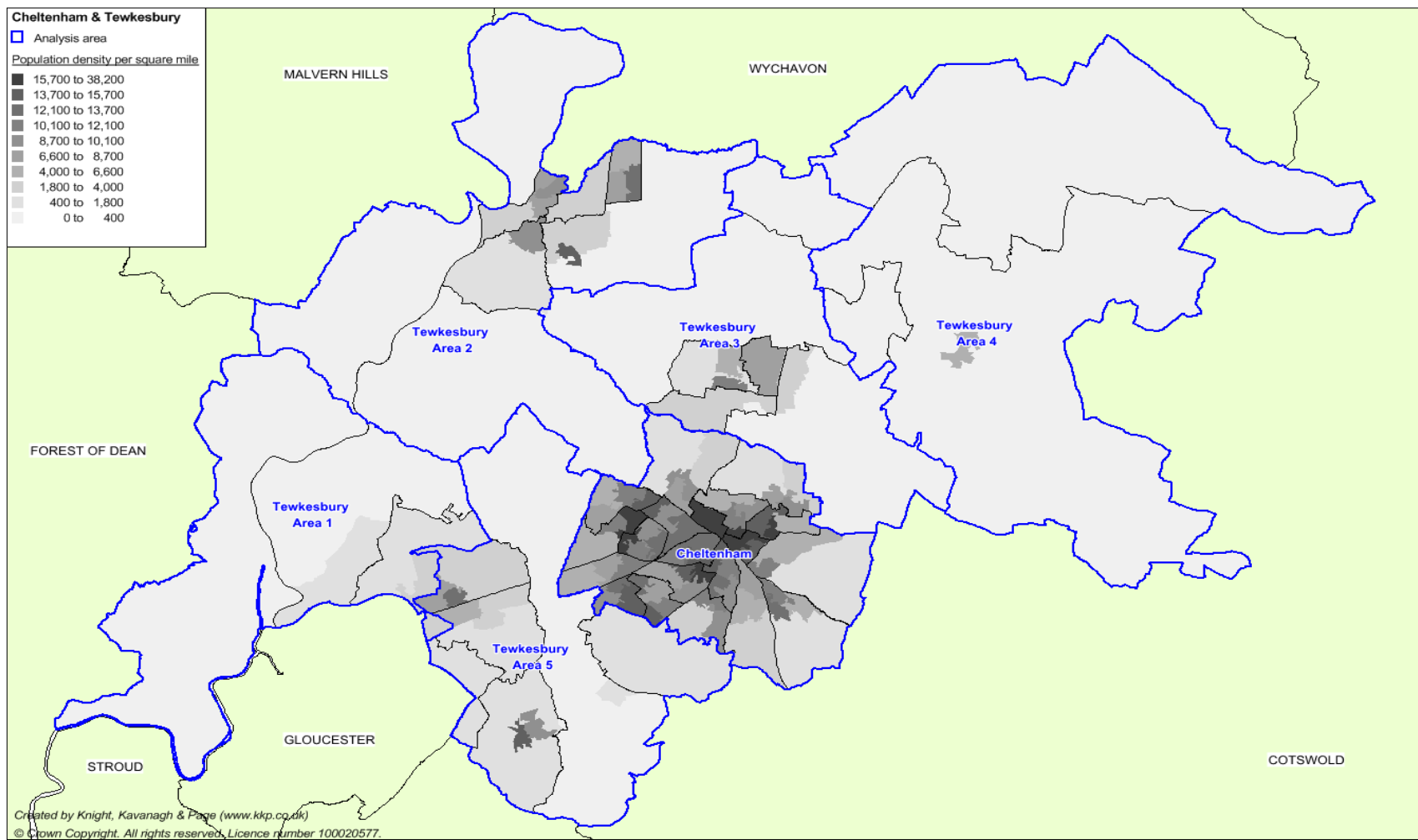
Analysis area	Population*
Cheltenham	116,781

Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the map of analysis areas with population density.

* Source: ONS 2015 Mid-Year population estimates for England

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Figure 2.1 Analysis Areas in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury



Source: Annual 2015 Mid-Year Population Estimates for the UK, ONS

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2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The site audit for this study was undertaken by the KKP Field Research Team. In total, 398 open spaces (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Of the 398 open space sites, 243 are located in Cheltenham and 155 are located in Tewkesbury.

Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of open space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with the Guidance:

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards
7. Civic spaces
8. Green corridors

The provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated PPS. The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space (as a different methodology is prescribed).

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. However, any sites below the threshold (i.e. those that are identified through consultation as being of significance) are included. The table overleaf details the threshold for each typology

Table 2.3: Size thresholds by typology

Typology	Size threshold
Parks and gardens	no threshold applied
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	0.2 ha
Amenity greenspace	0.2 ha
Provision for children and young people	no threshold applied
Allotments	no threshold applied
Cemeteries/churchyards	no threshold applied
Civic spaces	no threshold applied

Database development

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

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Data held on open spaces database (summary)

- ▶ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ▶ Site name
- ▶ Ownership
- ▶ Management
- ▶ Typology
- ▶ Size (hectares)
- ▶ Site visit data

Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

2.3 Quality and value

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; however, 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.

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.

Analysis of quality

Data collated from site visits is initially derived upon those 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 are summarised in the summary box overleaf.

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 up to date site information, notice boards
- ▶ Equipment and facilities, e.g., assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
- ▶ Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Site potential

Criteria for assessing the provision for children and young people are also built around Green Flag. It is a non technical visual assessment of the 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 RosPA review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

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Analysis of value

Site visit data plus desk based research is calculated to provide value scores for each site identified. Value is defined in the Companion Guide 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.

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 well-being
- ✦ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues)
- ✦ 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., promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far

Value - non site visit criteria (score)

- ✦ Designated site such as Local Wildlife Sites or SSSI
- ✦ Educational programme in place
- ✦ Historic site
- ✦ Listed building or scheduled monument on site
- ✦ Registered 'friends of' group to the site

Play provision for children and young people 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 are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point 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 around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit 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. Quality thresholds are, thus, worked out so as to better reflect average scores for each typology. Consequently, the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

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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 relative score - designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). The table below sets out the quality and value scores for each typology.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	66%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	35%	20%
Amenity greenspace	40%	20%
Provision for children and young people	55%	20%
Allotments	45%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	45%	20%
Civic spaces	50%	20%
Green corridors	60%	20%

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 also been conducted with key local authority officers (in respect of each typology). An online Parks and Open Spaces Survey was created and used to gather the wider views of local people; a total of 222 responses were returned. The findings of the consultation and survey carried out are used, reviewed and interpreted to further support the results of the quality and value assessment. A summary of the survey findings is set out in Part 3.

2.6 Accessibility standards

Accessibility standards for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process, this problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance that is willing to be travelled by the majority of users.

Guidance on appropriate walking distance and times is published by Fields In Trust (FIT) in its document *Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015). These guidelines have been converted in to an equivalent time period in the table below.

Table 2.3: FIT walking guidelines

Open space type	Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
Parks & Gardens	710m	9 minute
Amenity Greenspace	480m	6 minute
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	720m	9 minute

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However, in order to make accessibility standards more locally specific to Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, we propose to use data from the survey consultation to set appropriate catchments. The following distances are recorded from the survey in relation to how far individuals are willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

Table 2.4: Accessibility standards to travel to open space provision

Typology	Applied standard
Parks and gardens	10 minute walk time (800m)
Natural and semi-natural	30 minute drive time
Amenity greenspace	5 minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people	10 minute walk time (800m)
Provision for teenagers	10 minute walk time (800m)
	10 minute drive time
Allotments	15 minute walk time (1,200m)
Cemeteries	No standard set
Civic Spaces	No standard set

Most typologies are set as having a walk time accessibility standard. For certain typologies, such as amenity greenspace, accessibility is deemed to be more locally based. Subsequently a shorter accessibility standard has been applied.

For other forms of provision such as youth provision and natural and semi-natural greenspace a willingness to travel further is highlighted. This is particularly the case for natural and semi natural greenspace, therefore a drive time catchment has also been applied.

No standard is set for the typologies of cemeteries and civic spaces. It is difficult to assess these typologies against catchment areas due to their nature and usage. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

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PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section describes generic trends and findings from the quality and value ratings for each typology in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. It also includes a summary of the 222 responses received from the Parks and Open Spaces Survey. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in the report.

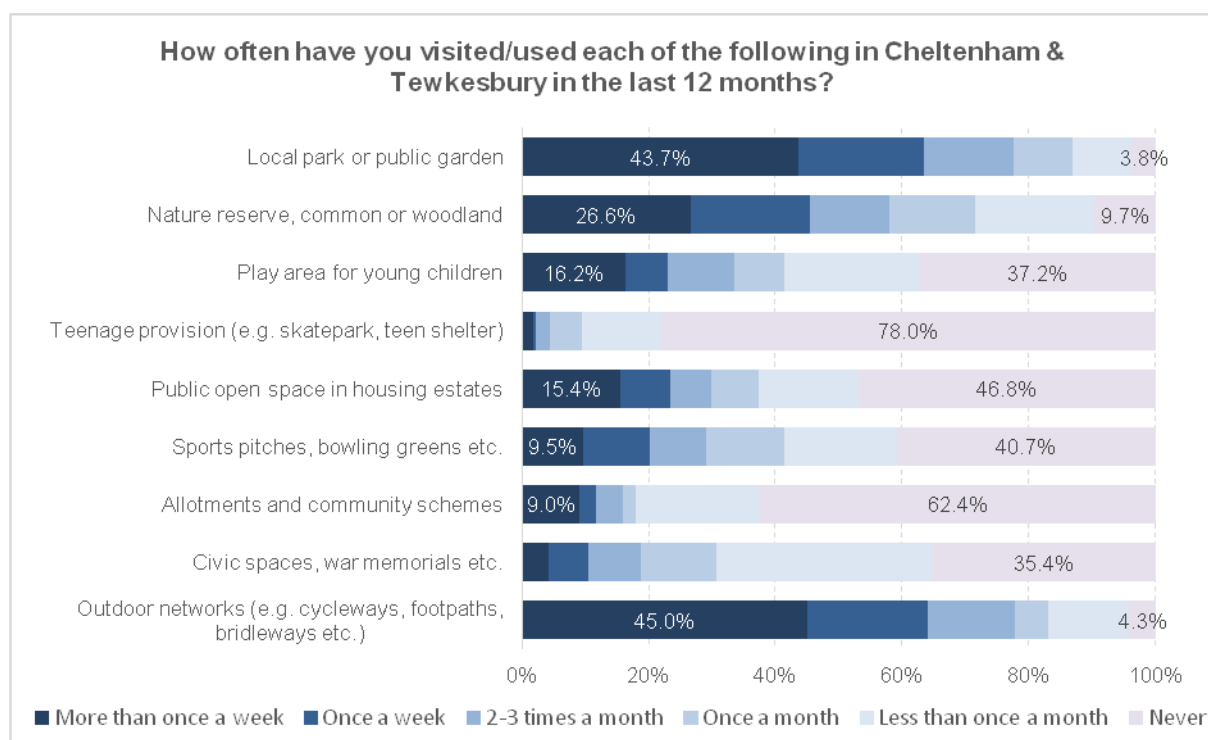
3.1 Usage

The Parks and Open Spaces Survey asked how often each type of open space was visited. Most respondents identify visiting typologies such as footpaths and cycle ways (45%) and local parks (43%) more than once a week; an indication to their popularity.

Other popular open spaces include nature reserves, common or woodland. Provision such as allotments and teenage provision are visited on a less frequent basis with more respondents 62% and 78% respectively stating they never visit these types of sites. This is relatively typical of these types of open space.

It is not uncommon for play areas for teens to receive percentages of this kind as they are a niche form of open space provision; only attracting use from those with a specific interest.

Figure 3.1: Frequency of visits to open space in the previous 12 months

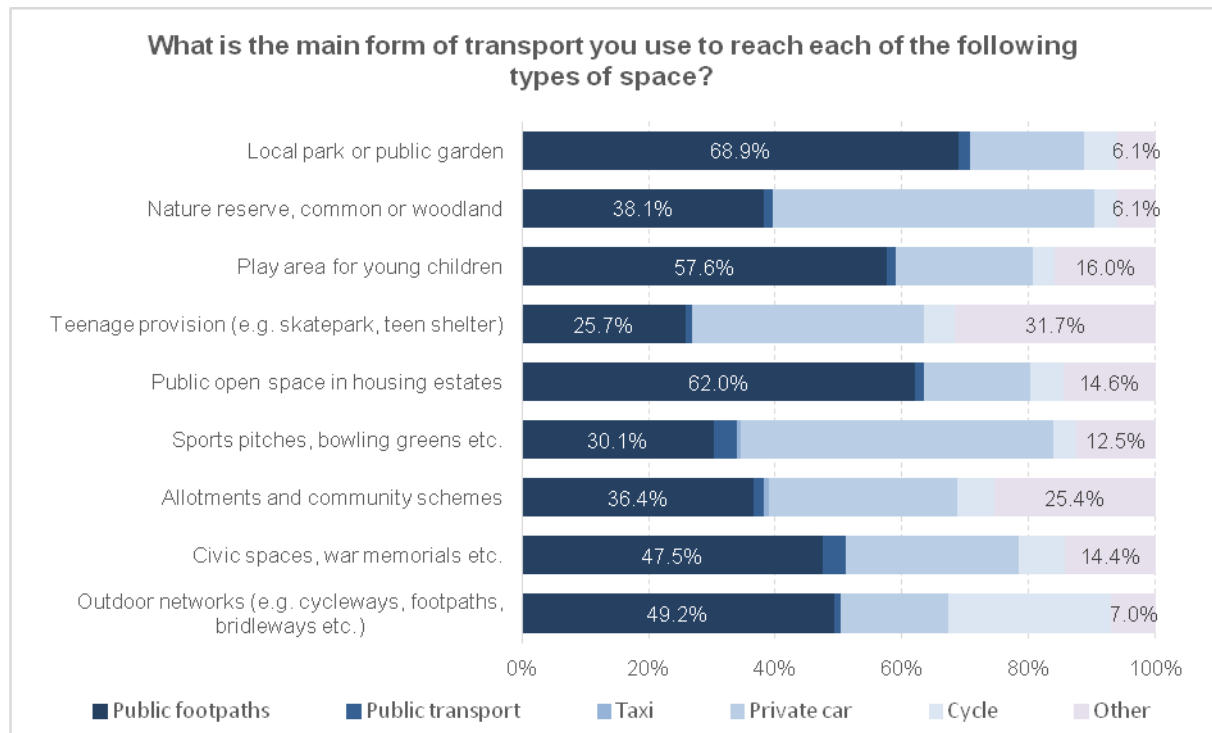


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3.2 Accessibility

Most respondents prefer to travel by walking in order to access different types of open space provision. This is especially noticeable for parks, open space in housing estates and play areas.

Figure 3.2: Method of travel to open space sites

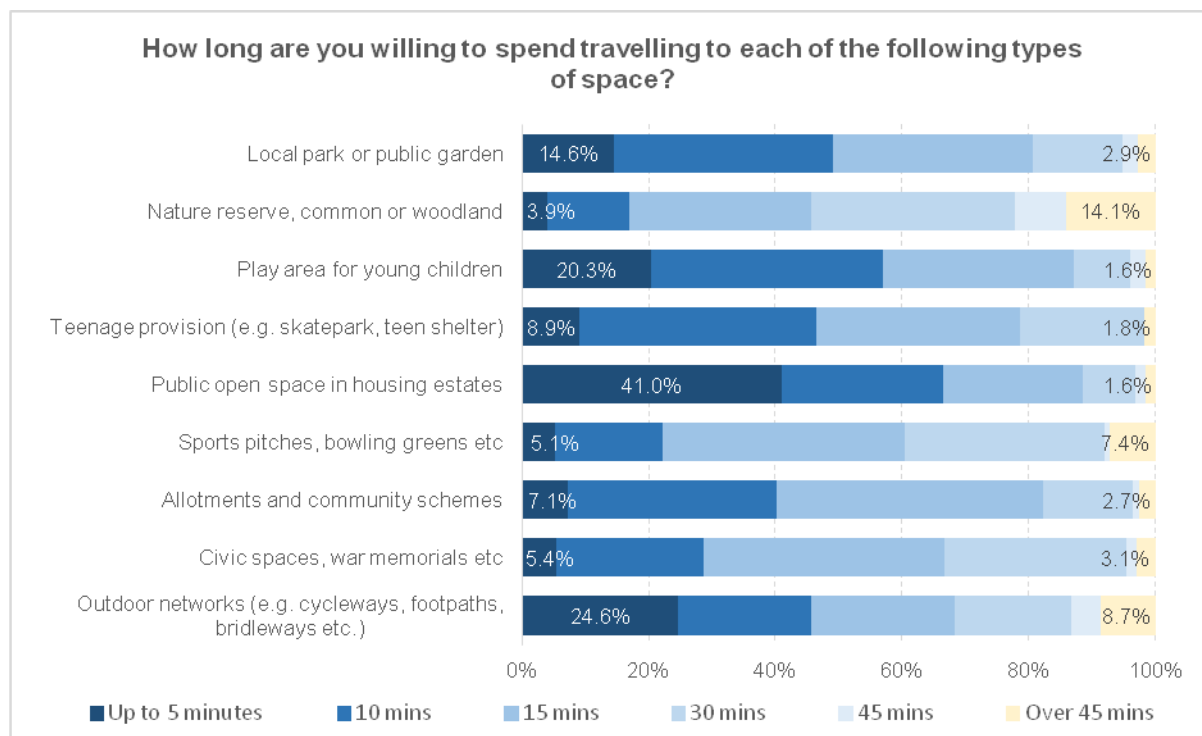


A preference of walking to access provision particularly for local parks and gardens is evident. Figure 3.3 shows the majority of respondents indicate a willingness to walk to provision of this type; with a less than five-minute walk (41%) and 5-10 minute walk (25.4%) most common.

There is, however, for some typologies, a clear willingness to travel a greater distance by transport. For instance, respondents indicate more of a preference to travel by transport (over 45 minutes) to access nature areas (14.1%).

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Figure 3.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites (%)



3.3 Availability

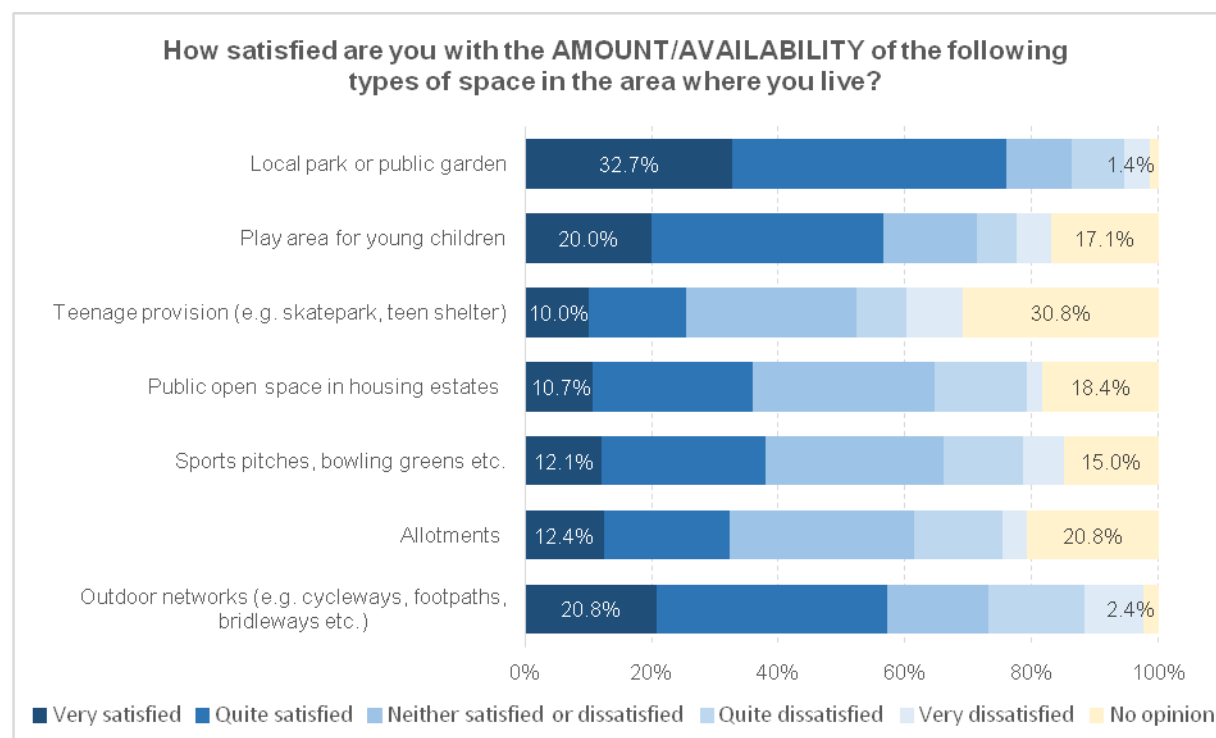
For most typologies respondents generally consider the availability i.e. the amount of provision, to be either quite or very satisfactory.

Typologies such as parks, play areas and outdoor networks are viewed as predominantly being to a satisfactory level in terms of availability. All three receive a higher proportion of responses for being quite satisfactory; parks (43%), outdoor networks (36%) and play areas (36%).

A high proportion of respondents have no opinion on the availability of allotments and teenage. As noted earlier this is a niche form of provision and tends to not stimulate much consideration in the wider public eye other than for its specific users.

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Figure 3.4: Satisfaction with availability of open spaces (%)



3.4 Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. Table 3.2 summarises the results of all the quality assessments for open spaces across Cheltenham and Tewkesbury.

A total of 398 sites identified in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury are allocated a quality score. Just over three quarters (79%) of open space sites rate above the threshold for quality. However, this does not necessarily mean that the remaining sites are poor or have quality issues. Sites can score below the threshold due to a lack of ancillary facilities and features such as seating, signage and bins, which may not be found at some sites.

If separated by area, 76% of all sites in Cheltenham rate above the threshold with 24% rating below. In Tewkesbury, 84% of all sites rate above the threshold. The results suggest a high standard of provision in general across the two authorities.

Proportionally allotments and churchyard provision score higher, with these typologies having 100% and 91% of sites scoring above the quality threshold respectively. The forms of provision with fewer sites scoring over the threshold are natural and semi-natural greenspace (63%) and parks and gardens (65%).

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Observations from the site visit audit, supported from the consultation, highlights that provision for semi-natural is in some instances regarded as being tired and underfunded. Council budget availability means that repairs to footpaths cannot be proactive instead a general reactive approach of retaining the area is implemented.

Table 3.2: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Maximum Score	Scores				No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Spread	Low	High
Allotments	100	47%	55%	84%	37%	0	34
Amenity greenspace	116	9%	50%	84%	75%	41	120
Churchyards and cemeteries	130	41%	57%	87%	46%	4	45
Provision for children & young people	106	30%	68%	87%	57%	20	86
Civic spaces	129	40%	52%	78%	38%	2	3
Green corridors	69	12%	58%	85%	74%	3	4
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	123	11%	40%	60%	49%	6	10
Park and gardens	166	36%	62%	93%	57%	7	13
TOTALS						83	315

Proportionally there are a higher percentage of parks and gardens (23%) and play (10%) that rate in the very satisfied category. This is a reflection of their excellent appearance and high standard.

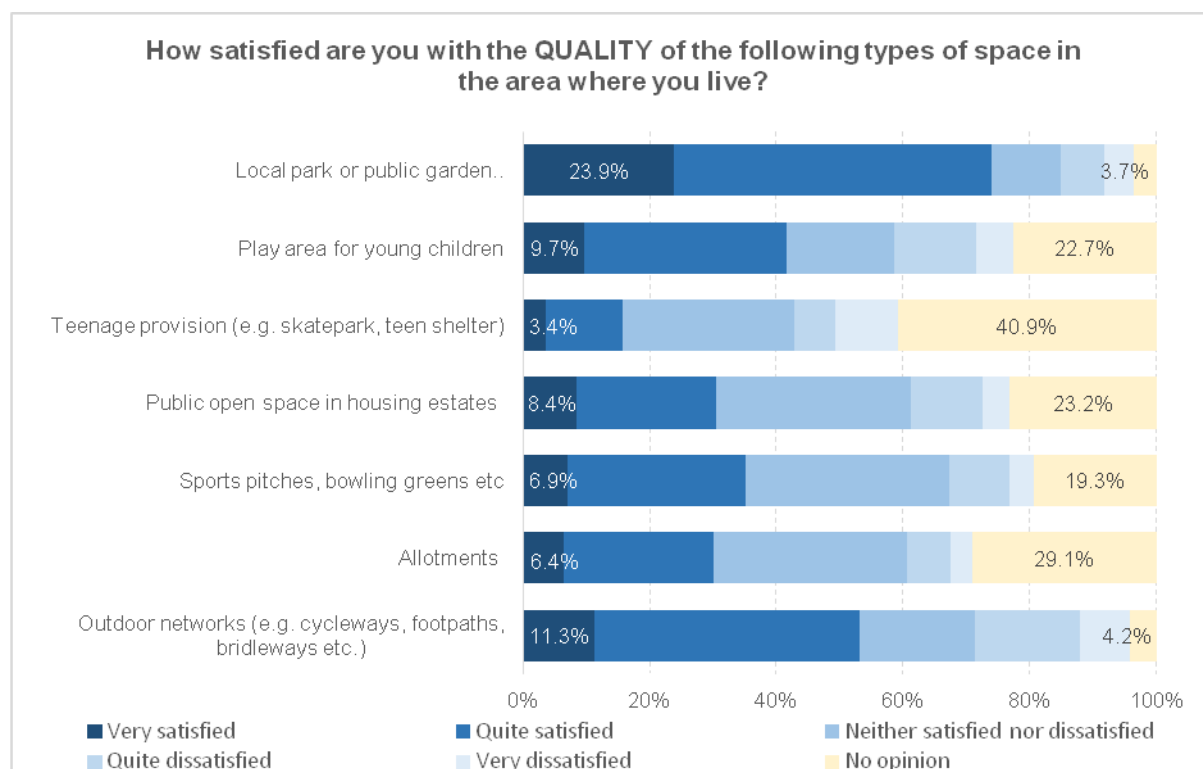
Quality of other open space typologies is good with a greater proportion of sites rating above the satisfaction threshold. This is thought to reflect the difference in the wide range of ancillary facilities and general quality of such sites. Any site specific quality issues are highlighted in the typology specific sections later in the report.

Nearly all typologies are viewed by respondents as being quite satisfactory in terms of quality; with the exception of allotments and teenage provision. Both typologies receive a higher percentage for respondents having no opinion (29% and 41% respectively).

Open space types viewed as being very and quite satisfactory includes nature areas, parks and civic space; a reflection to their popularity and frequency of use.

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Figure 3.5: Quality scores for all open space typologies



3.5 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 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury.

A total of 398 sites identified in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury are allocated a value score. A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example, 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 that are thought of as bland and unattractive.

The majority of sites (82%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. The fact that all typologies have a high number of sites scoring high for value reflects their role in and importance to local communities and environments.

If separated by area, 79% of all sites in Cheltenham rate above the threshold with 21% rating below. The same trend is seen in Tewkesbury, with 92% of all sites rating above the threshold.

Lower value sites are often a result of their small size and lack of features. This makes sites less attractive to visitors, in turn decreasing their value. However, the value these provide in biodiversity and visual amenity for residents, by breaking up the urban form, can still be important and recognised.

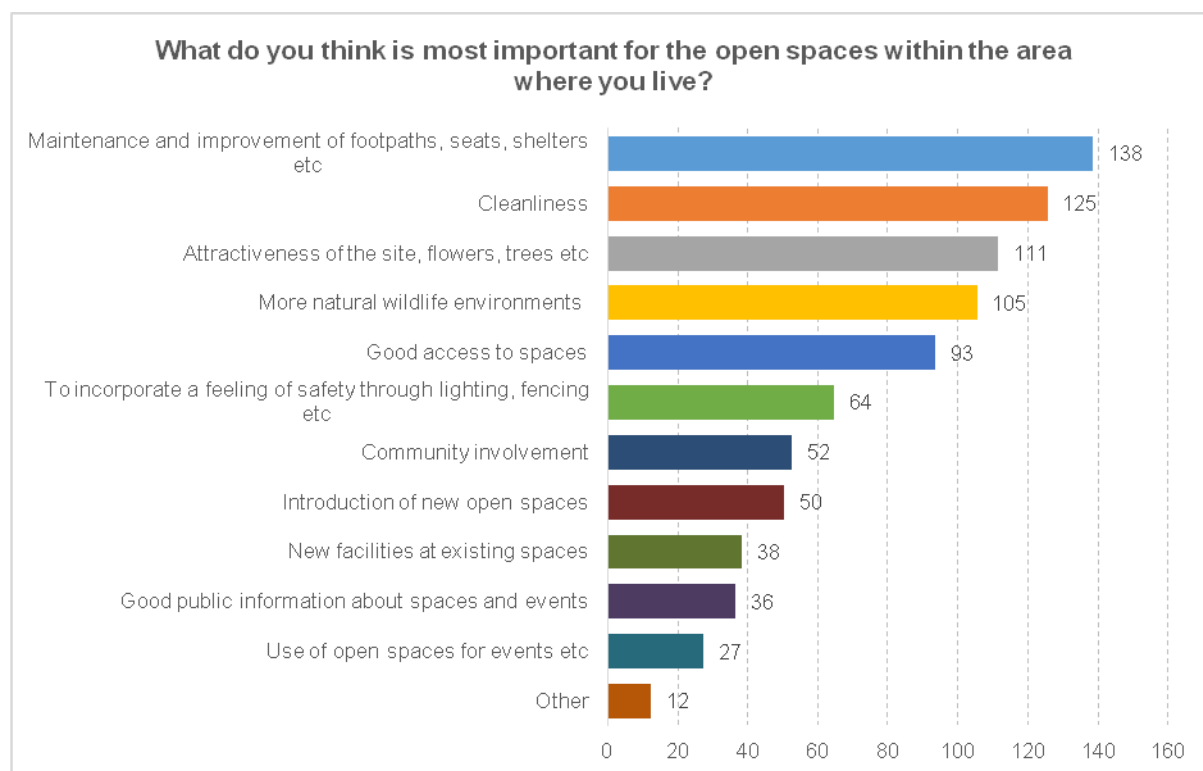
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Table 3.3: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores				No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Spread	Low	High
Allotments	20%	33%	44%	58%	25%	0	34
Amenity greenspace		3%	37%	71%	68%	60	101
Churchyards and cemeteries		30%	48%	77%	47%	0	49
Civic spaces		30%	39%	68%	38%	0	5
Green corridors		12%	47%	71%	59%	1	6
Provision for children & young people		8%	44%	80%	72%	8	98
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		8%	30%	47%	39%	2	14
Park and gardens		30%	58%	85%	55%	0	20
TOTALS						71	327

The survey also asked, what is the most important aspect for open space within the area that they live. Over half of respondents state they found attractiveness of the site, cleanliness and improvements to footpaths and seats important to their open space.

Figure 3.5: Importance of open spaces (%)



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3.6 Summary

General summary

- ◀ In total 398 sites in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury are identified as open space provision. This is equivalent to over 1,244 hectares.
- ◀ The accessibility standard set for most typologies is a 15 minute walk time catchment. For the typology of amenity greenspace, a lower walk time (five minutes) is applied. For provision such as natural and semi-natural greenspace and youth provision respondents express a willingness to travel further.
- ◀ Most open spaces (79%) rate above the thresholds set for quality. Most noticeably, more allotments and churchyards score above the thresholds for quality. However, the fact that all typologies have a high number of sites scoring high for quality reflects the generally good standard of provision.
- ◀ The majority of all open spaces (82%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects the importance of open space provision and its role in offering social, environmental and health benefits to communities and users.

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PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. The provision of country parks is included within the typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace due to their greater role in conservation and environmental education.

4.2 Current provision

There are 20 sites classified as parks and gardens in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, the equivalent of over 72 hectares. Of the existing provision, 16 sites are located in Cheltenham (68.29 hectares) and four are located in Tewkesbury (3.77 hectares).

No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks and gardens in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number of sites	Total hectares	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Cheltenham	16	68.29	0.59
Tewkesbury Area 1	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 2	3	0.74	0.03
Tewkesbury Area 3	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	1	3.03	0.12
Tewkesbury	4	3.77	0.04

Cheltenham has the most parks and gardens provision across the two authorities, with 16 sites, equating to 68.29 hectares. This provides a total of 0.59 hectares per 1,000 population.

As a whole Tewkesbury has less parks and gardens provision with 0.04 hectares per 1,000 population. The analysis area within Tewkesbury with the most sites is Tewkesbury Area 2, with three parks and gardens sites. However, despite only having one site, Tewkesbury Area 5 Analysis Area has the most hectares of provision with 3.03 hectares, providing 0.12 hectares per 1,000 population.

Pittville Park is the largest site in Cheltenham at 34.40 hectares. This site makes up 51% of the parks and gardens provision within Cheltenham. Springfield Park is also of a notable size at 7.37 hectares.

The biggest contributor to parks and gardens provision in Tewkesbury is Churchdown Park at 3.03 hectares.

In addition, within Tewkesbury (Area 4 Analysis Area) there is also Hailies Abbey. However, it is a National Trust site with an entrance fee. As a result, the site is omitted from quantity and quality figures.

4.3 Accessibility

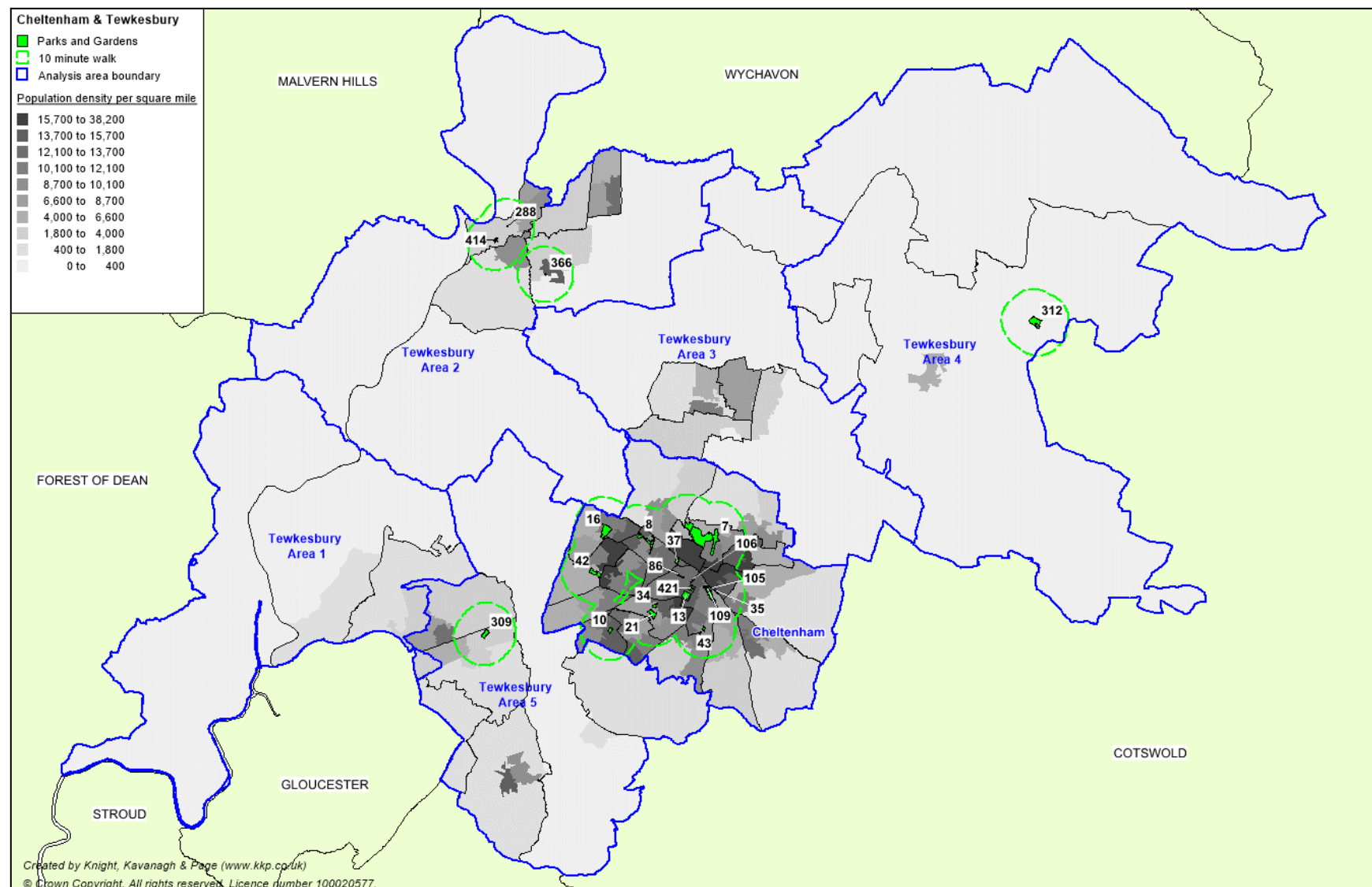
Consultation and findings from the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Parks and Open Spaces Survey found that most respondents (32%) signal they are willing to walk for up to 10 minutes access a park.

For mapping, a 10-minute walk time has been applied. This is slightly greater than the nine-minute walk time equivalent recommended by FIT guidance.

Figures 4.1 shows the standard applied to parks and gardens to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens with 10-minute walk time mapped against analysis area



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Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
7	Pittville Park	Cheltenham	92.8%	83.6%
8	St Peters Playing Field/Chelt Walk Open Space	Cheltenham	48.9%	58.2%
10	Caernarvon Park	Cheltenham	61.5%	51.8%
13	Montpellier Gardens	Cheltenham	74.7%	84.5%
16	Springfield Park	Cheltenham	75.1%	72.7%
21	Hatherley Park	Cheltenham	64.1%	69.1%
34	Hatherley Court Gardens	Cheltenham	49.5%	71.8%
35	Oxford and Priory Street Gardens	Cheltenham	35.9%	34.5%
37	Winston Churchill Memorial Gardens	Cheltenham	65.7%	73.6%
42	Hester's Way Park	Cheltenham	62.9%	74.5%
43	Naunton Park	Cheltenham	66.5%	82.7%
86	Jessops Avenue/Chelt Walk	Cheltenham	39.0%	55.5%
105	Berkeley Gardens	Cheltenham	39.3%	36.4%
106	The Promenade Gardens	Cheltenham	63.7%	57.3%
109	Sandford Park	Cheltenham	83.4%	79.1%
421	Imperial Gardens	Cheltenham	74.1%	59.1%
288	Anglo-American Garden	Tewkesbury Area 2	36.0%	33.6%
366	Wheatpieces Community Centre Garden	Tewkesbury Area 2	54.4%	37.3%
414	Victoria Pleasure Gardens	Tewkesbury Area 2	66.2%	59.1%
312	Hailes Abbey	Tewkesbury Area 4	n/a	n/a
309	Churchdown Park	Tewkesbury Area 5	78.7%	58.2%

Figures 4.1 show the two main settlements of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury are predominantly covered by the walk time catchment of park sites.

Areas of less population density are not covered by the catchment areas of sites. It is anticipated that such gaps in catchment mapping are not an issue needing to be addressed; especially in light of the results of the survey.

Respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey report being satisfied with parks and gardens provision, with 32% stating they are very satisfied and 43% stating they are quite satisfied.

Management and maintenance

Both Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Borough Councils use the grounds maintenance contractor Ubico*. Ubico carries out a variety of maintenance work including grass cutting, hedge trimming, tree maintenance, planting and weeding.

* Both councils are shareholders in Ubico

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The majority of parks and gardens in the Cheltenham area are managed and maintained by the Council. Management of sites is the responsibility of the Greenspace Development Team. Key parks and gardens within Cheltenham have park management plans. These sites are:

- ◀ Hatherley Park
- ◀ Montpellier Gardens
- ◀ Naunton Park
- ◀ Springfields Park

Further to this, all Green Flag Award sites including Pitville Park have a management plan specific to Green Flag parks.

Tewkesbury Borough Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Victoria Pleasure Gardens.

Victoria Pleasure Gardens has an active friends of group, which carries out many maintenance tasks at the site throughout the year. Such tasks include weeding, planting and litter picking.

Friends of groups play an important role in supporting councils with the up keep of sites. Like Victoria Pleasure Gardens, a number of sites in Cheltenham have friends of groups including Hatherley Park, Naunton Park, Sandford Park, Pitville Park, Montpellier Gardens, St Peters Playing Field/Chelt Walk Open Space and Springfields Park.

In addition to the sites already mentioned, Wheatpieces Community Centre Garden is the responsibility of Wheatpieces Parish Council and Churchdown Park is the responsibility of Churchdown Parish Council.

It is also important to remember that across Tewkesbury there are other forms of open space provision likely to act as key sites and which may offer opportunities associated with parks. For example, The Vineyards, Highnam Recreation Field, Bishops Cleave Sports Field and Wheatpieces Recreation Field may provide a role for local communities similar to a park. However, for the purpose of this study they have been classified as amenity greenspace due to their more informal nature in comparison to other park sites.

The National Trust manages and maintains the historical site of Hailes Abbey. This is due to the sites important cultural and heritage value.

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4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); 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 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. 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 and gardens in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Cheltenham	166	36%	62%	93%	57%	5	11
Tewkesbury Area 1	166	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 2	166	36%	52%	66%	30%	2	1
Tewkesbury Area 3	166	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	166	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	166	79%	79%	79%	0%	0	1
Tewkesbury	166	36%	59%	79%	43%	2	2

The majority (69%) of park and garden sites in Cheltenham rate above the quality threshold. A point to note, although 34% of sites do score below the threshold, none of these sites have any specific quality issues.

These sites score lower due to a lack of ancillary facilities such as toilets, picnic benches and in some cases seating and litter bins. Examples include Oxford and Priory Street Gardens (36%) and Berkeley Gardens (35%).

Park and garden sites in Tewkesbury are evenly split between those that rate above and below the threshold for quality. The two sites (Anglo-American Garden and Wheatpieces Community Centre Garden) which score below the threshold are not observed as having any quality concerns and again, lower scores can be attributed to fewer ancillary facilities. It is worth noting that Wheatpieces Community Centre Garden only scores marginally below the threshold with 54%.

Across both authorities, Pittville Park is the highest scoring site for quality with 93%. This site is located in Cheltenham and is observed as having a high level of maintenance and general appearance.

As well as this, it has good ancillary facilities including parking, toilets, and informative signage, lighting and picnic tables. The site also scores highly for the quality of its footpaths, disabled access and conservation of natural features. Further to this, it contains a wide range of additional features and attractions including the historical Pump Room, orienteering course, aviaries, pitch and putt, tennis courts, children's play areas, skate park, fishing lake and cafe.

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Given the quality and range of opportunity offered at Pittville Park, it is unsurprising that it is one of five Green Flag Award Sites in Cheltenham. The other Green Flag Award sites are Springfield Park (75%), Montpellier Gardens (74%), Hatherley Park (64%) and Naunton Park (67%). The high scores obtained by these sites reflect their status.

The second highest scoring site for quality in Cheltenham is Sandford Park, which scores 83%. Like Pittville Park, it has a high standard of overall maintenance and appearance and has a number of ancillary features including toilets, parking, informative signage, lighting and seating areas. The site is also reported as having footpaths that are maintained to a high standard, which provide sufficient disabled access. Additional features and attractions at this site include a variety of gardens, cafe, play area and a traditional lido.

Out of the five sites in Cheltenham scoring below the quality threshold, Oxford and Priory Street Gardens scores the lowest with 36%. As previously mentioned, in comparison to higher scoring sites, this site has fewer ancillary facilities including toilets, signage, picnic tables, benches and bins. This can be attributed to the sites purpose as a visual amenity within an urban area. A point to note, despite scoring below the quality threshold this site is attractive and well maintained and fulfils its role as a green break in the urban form which promotes some biodiversity.

In Tewkesbury, Churchdown Park is the highest rating site for quality with 79%. This site is observed as being attractive and well maintained. There is also a range of ancillary features and facilities at the site including parking, signage, toilets, lighting, seats and picnic benches. In addition, the footpaths are maintained to a good standard allowing disabled access. Furthermore, the site scores highly for its conservation of natural features due to a series of wildlife ponds at the site. Other features at the site include a skate park and children's play area.

The other park and garden site in Tewkesbury to score above the quality threshold is Victoria Pleasure Gardens (66%). Despite being a small site, Victoria Pleasure Gardens provides a good range of ancillary facilities and features including parking, signage, benches and bins. The site has a high level of overall maintenance and cleanliness and is described as being very attractive, with well thought out landscaping design.

This is supported in the fact Victoria Gardens came second in the National Finals for Britain in Bloom. This can be accredited to the Friends of Victoria Gardens, which take great pride in the site, carrying out jobs and planting a wide variety of flowers throughout the year.

The Friends of Victoria Gardens have approximately 80 members. However, only eight are active. The secretary of the group has raised concerns surrounding the age of active members and would like to see younger individuals joining the group. As it stands, the site is well valued within community and receives funding from a number of places including the town council, charitable collections and Tewkesbury in Bloom Sponsorship. In addition, the site received a Heritage Lottery Grant in 2008.

Consultation with the Friends of Victoria Gardens has highlighted one issue regarding quality. On an annual basis, the River Avon floods the site, leaving a layer of silt. This is particularly an issue on the pathways as they become slippery. As a result, the whole site needs cleaning which is a large task. In the past, the Friends of Victoria Gardens have undertaken this task but more recently, the Council has supported the group with this.

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In addition, within Tewkesbury is Hailes Abbey; a local tourist attraction which is owned by the National Trust. This heritage site offers a good range of ancillary features and facilities that are maintained to a good standard. However, whilst it is technically accessible to the public; an entry fee to the site is applicable. Therefore, we have omitted the site from quantity and quality figures. The site may however still influence some people's perception towards parks provision.

The majority of respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey are satisfied with the quality of parks provision. Half of all respondents view quality as quite satisfactory with a further 24% rating provision as very satisfactory. There is a small percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (7%) or very dissatisfied (5%) with provision.

Green Flag

The Green Flag Award scheme is licensed and managed by Keep Britain Tidy. It provides national standards for parks and greenspaces across England and Wales. Public service agreements, identified by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) highlight the importance placed on Green Flag status as an indicator of high quality. This in turn affects the way parks and gardens are managed and maintained.

A 2010 survey by improvement charity GreenSpace highlighted that parks with a Green Flag Award provide more satisfaction to members of the public compared to those sites without it. The survey of 16,000 park users found that more than 90% of Green Flag Award park visitors were very satisfied or satisfied with their chosen site, compared to 65% of visitors to non-Green Flag parks.

There are five Green Flag Award sites in Cheltenham; Pittville Park, Springfield Park, Montpellier Gardens, Hatherley Park and Naunton Park. Should the Cheltenham Borough Council wish to increase its number of Green Flag Award sites in the future, certain sites should be considered based on scoring above the Green Flag Award pass rate of 66% during the site assessment. These sites include Sandford Park (83%) and Winston Churchill Gardens (66%).

As it stands, Tewkesbury has no Green Flag Award sites. However, with the high score obtained by Victoria Pleasure Gardens (66%) the Council could consider putting this site forward for a Green Flag Award. This site also has an active friends of group, which is a criterion for the award.

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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 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. 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 and gardens in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Cheltenham	110	30%	62%	85%	55%	0	16
Tewkesbury Area 1	110	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 2	110	33%	41%	56%	23%	0	3
Tewkesbury Area 3	110	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	110	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	110	54%	54%	54%	0%	0	1
Tewkesbury	110	33%	44%	56%	41%	0	4

All park and garden sites within Cheltenham and Tewkesbury are assessed as being of high value. The sites that score slightly higher for value are those that also score higher for quality. This could be attributed to the range of features and facilities at these sites, making them more attractive to visitors, resulting in higher levels of use. However, all sites demonstrate high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place.

The highest scoring site for value in Cheltenham is Montpellier Gardens (85%), followed by Pittville Park (84%) and Naunton Park (83%). In Tewkesbury, the highest scoring site is Victoria Pleasure Gardens (56%).

One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is that they can provide opportunities for local communities and people to socialise. Consultation with friends of parks groups and parish councils highlight how events held at park sites such as open days, fairs, bandstand events, community planting days, wildlife project days and parkrun bring communities together.

Some parks also offer educational, cultural and heritage value. For example, Pittville Park and Victoria Pleasure Gardens provide opportunities to learn about historical buildings and events from history, such as Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Moreover, parks are often bio diverse, acting as habitats for a variety of plant and animal species. Some parks have increased ecological value through environmental projects such as the ponds project at Churchdown Park and Bee friendly flower planting at Victoria Pleasure Gardens.

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Above all else, parks provide a sense of place, providing opportunity for people to undertake a range of different activities including exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area, resulting in parks being of high value in most areas. This is evidenced in the findings of the Parks and Open Spaces Survey with 44% of respondents reporting they visit parks and gardens provision more than once a week. Furthermore, several comments cite the importance and role parks provide to the area and to peoples everyday lives.

4.6 Parks and Gardens Summary

Overview

- ◆ No gaps in catchment mapping based on a 10-minute walk time are identified.
- ◆ Twenty sites are classified as parks and gardens across Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, totaling over 72 hectares.
- ◆ Cheltenham has the most parks and gardens provision with 16 sites, equating to 68.29 hectares, providing 0.59 hectares per 1,000 population. Tewkesbury has 3.77 hectares of park provision over four sites, which provides 0.04 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◆ Cheltenham (69%) has more sites scoring high for quality than low. In Tewkesbury, quality is evenly spread.
- ◆ Across both boroughs, all parks and gardens provision scores high for value. This is as result of sites of this typology providing a sense of place with opportunities for social inclusion.

Cheltenham

- ◆ No gaps in catchment mapping based on a 10-minute walk time are identified.
- ◆ The majority of parks and gardens (69%) score above the threshold for quality. The parks that score higher have good ancillary facilities and additional features for example, Pittville Park. Although 31% of parks score below the threshold, none are reported as having concerning quality issues.
- ◆ All park provision score high for value; a reflection to the social interaction, health benefits and sense of place sites offer.

Tewkesbury

- ◆ Gaps in catchment mapping based on a 10-minute walk time are identified across most sub-areas. However, these are areas of lower population density which to some extent may be expected to not contain provision of this type.
- ◆ Quality of parks and gardens is evenly split above and below the threshold. The parks that score higher have good ancillary facilities and additional features for example, Victoria Pleasure Gardens. Although two parks score below the threshold, none are reported as having specific quality issues.
- ◆ All park provision score high for value; a reflection to the social interaction, health benefits and sense of place sites offer.

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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, 17 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 838.90 hectares of provision. Seven of these sites (28.55 hectares) are located in Cheltenham and 10 (810.35 hectares) are located in Tewkesbury.

A point to note, three sites have been excluded from the audit due to issues surrounding accessibility: Kingham Line, Chaceley Hall Farm and Longwood Common. A further two sites are no longer open space provision due to housing developments.

Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural sites in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number of sites	Total hectares	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Cheltenham	7	28.55	0.24
Tewkesbury Area 1	2	130.40	15.11
Tewkesbury Area 2	5	593.45	22.84
Tewkesbury Area 3	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	3	86.50	3.29
Tewkesbury	10	810.35	9.33

Cheltenham currently has seven sites equating to 28.55 hectares, which provides a standard of 0.24 hectares per 1,000 population.

Tewkesbury currently has 10 sites but has a considerable amount of provision with 810.35 hectares, providing 9.33 hectares per 1,000 population. This can be attributed to the difference in characteristics between the two authorities, with Cheltenham being urban whilst Tewkesbury is more rural.

The provision within Tewkesbury is situated within the Tewkesbury Area 1, Tewkesbury Area 2 and Tewkesbury Area 5 analysis areas. As it stands, Tewkesbury Area 2 Analysis Area is the largest contributor to natural and semi-natural greenspace both in Tewkesbury and across the two authorities with 593.45 hectares, subsequently providing 22.84 hectares per 1,000 population. A significant proportion of natural and semi-natural greenspace provision can be attributed to four particularly large sites, all of which are located in Tewkesbury:

- ◀ Cleeve Common, situated in Tewkesbury Area 2 Analysis Area (455.93 hectares)
- ◀ Hignam Woods, situated in Tewkesbury Area 1 Analysis Area (123.35 hectares)

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- ◀ Severn Ham, situated in the Tewkesbury Area 2 Analysis Area (70.79 hectares)
- ◀ Leckhampton Hill, situated in the Tewkesbury Area 5 Analysis Area (69.99 hectares)

It should be noted that part of Leckhampton Hill is within the Cheltenham Analysis Area. Given its proximity to Cheltenham it is likely to serve both local authority areas.

5.3 Accessibility

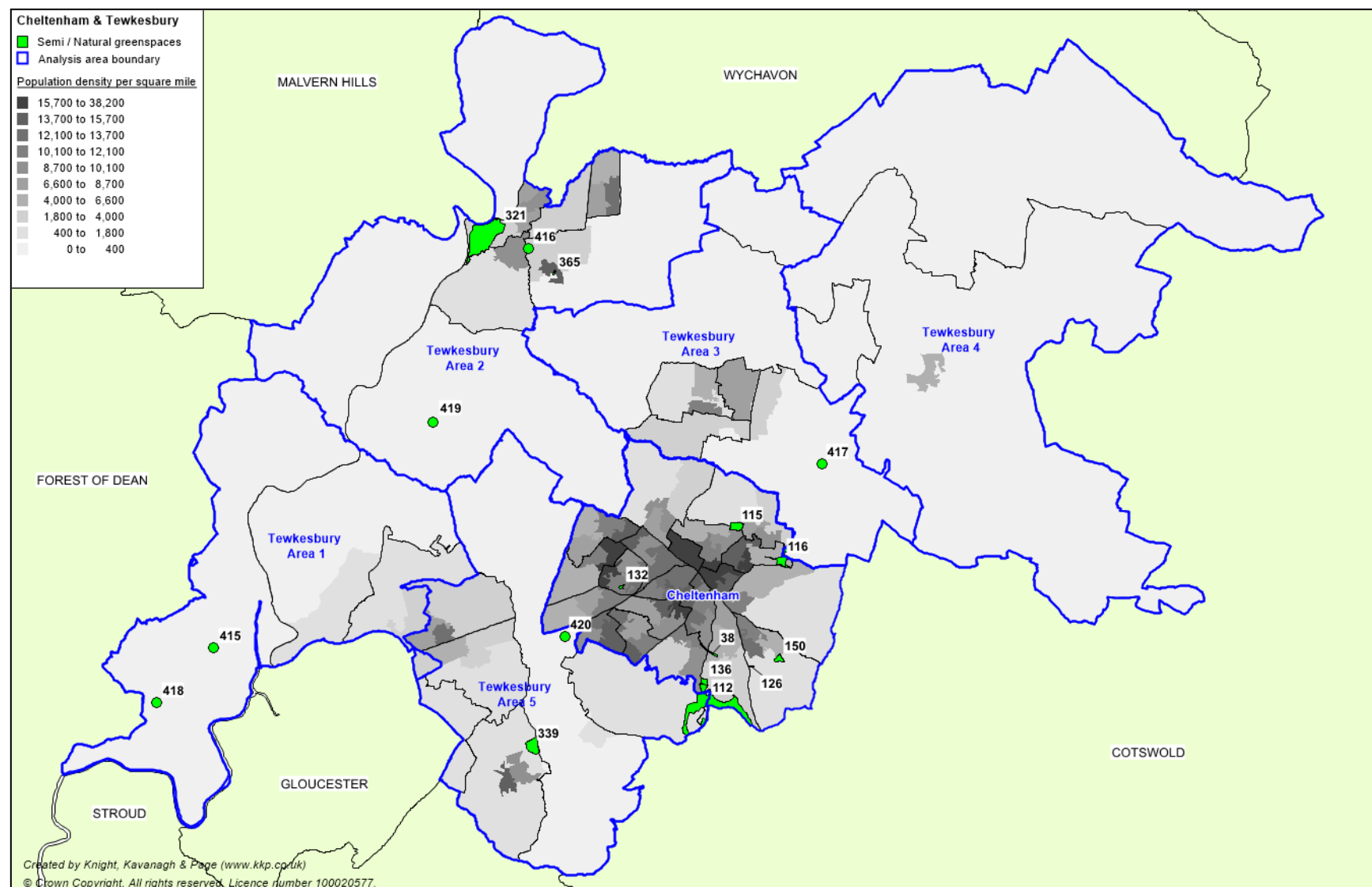
Findings from the Parks and Open Spaces Survey found that most respondents (31%) would expect to travel 30 minutes by car to access natural and semi natural greenspace provision. It is likely that this may reflect people's willingness to travel greater distances in order to access good quality provision. For instance, there are a number of large sites across the two local authorities as well as the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) nearby which may influence people's perceptions and willingness to travel.

Recently published guidance by Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests an approximate catchment guideline of a 10-minute walk time for natural greenspace. However, in order to better reflect the views of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury residents, a 30-minute drive time catchment has been applied. The map that follows show this standard applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 5.1 shows site locations with Figure 5.2 showing the 30-minute drive time catchment.

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Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against analysis areas



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Figure 5.2: Natural and semi-natural greenspace with 30-minute drive time mapped against analysis areas

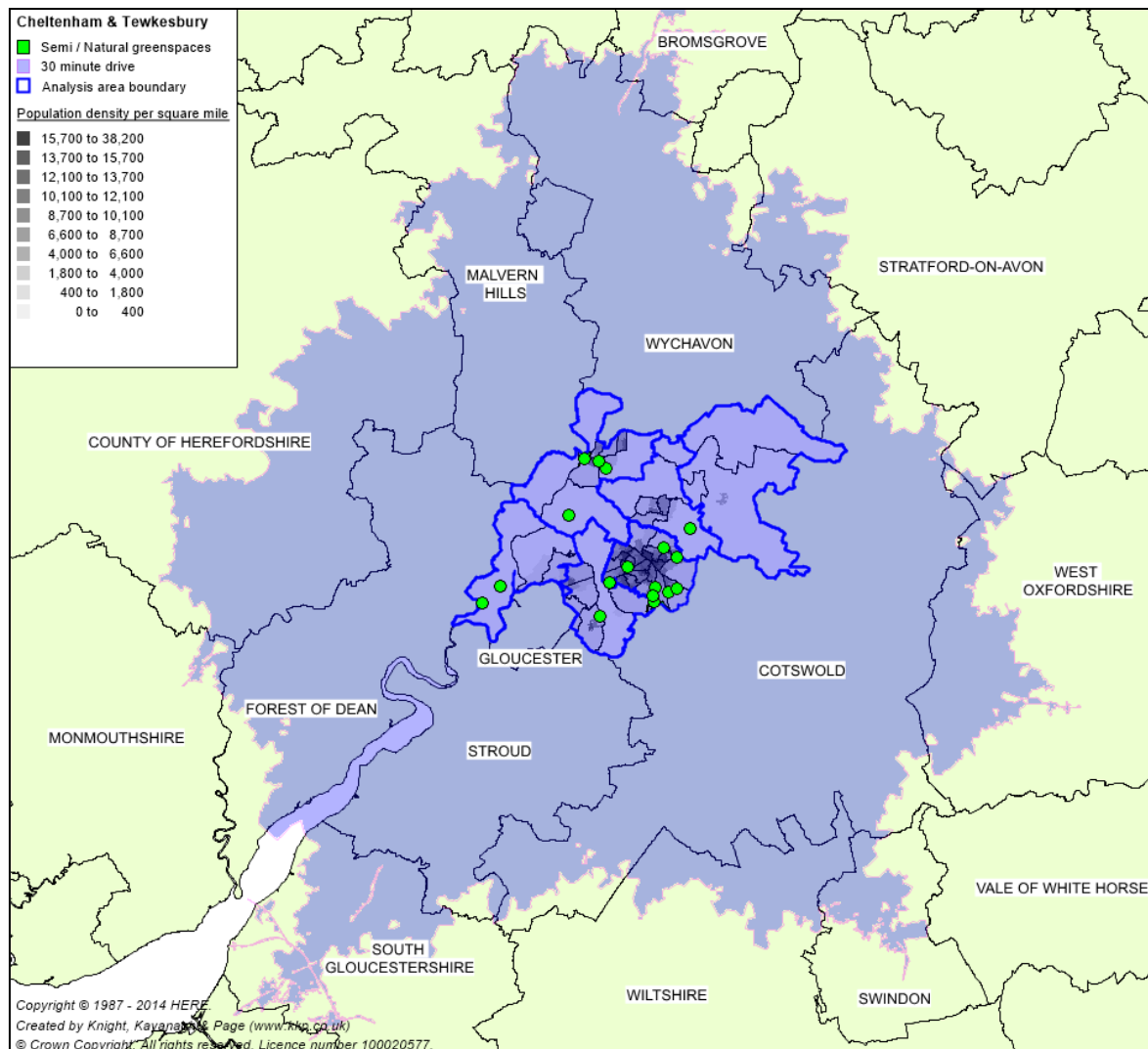


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
38	Pilley Bridge Nature Reserve	Cheltenham	52.5%	50.0%
115	Starvehall Farm	Cheltenham	27.1%	12.7%
116	Farmland at Priors	Cheltenham	10.9%	18.2%
126	Little Herberts Nature Reserve	Cheltenham	32.8%	24.5%
132	Griffiths Avenue Local Nature Reserve	Cheltenham	37.7%	28.2%
136	Daisy Bank Field	Cheltenham	34.4%	30.9%
150	Balcarras Field	Cheltenham	31.2%	30.0%
321	Severn Ham	Tewkesbury Area 2	51.8%	47.3%
365	Falcon Road	Tewkesbury Area 2	52.0%	30.9%
112	Leckhampton Hill	Tewkesbury Area 5	53.3%	51.8%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
339	Henley Bank Community Wood	Tewkesbury Area 5	25.9%	27.3%
415	Lassington Wood	Tewkesbury Area 1	36.6%	30.9%
416	Tewkesbury Nature Reserve	Tewkesbury Area 2	41.5%	39.1%
417	Cleeve Common	Tewkesbury Area 2	n/a	n/a
418	Highnam Wood	Tewkesbury Area 1	60.2%	35.5%
419	Coombe Hill Nature Reserve	Tewkesbury Area 2	47.2%	35.5%
420	Badgeworth Nature Reserve	Tewkesbury Area 5	43.1%	25.5%

Figure 5.1 identifies that all analysis areas across Cheltenham and Tewkesbury are served by natural and semi natural greenspace provision based on a 30-minute drive time. Therefore, additional natural and semi natural greenspace provision is unlikely to be warranted on this basis.

Cleeve Common (455 hectares) is not allocated a quality and value score due to its large site size. It is however assumed that the site is to a sufficient quality standard.

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 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. 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).

Natural and semi-natural greenspace has a slightly lower quality threshold than other open space typologies. This reflects the characteristic of this kind 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 and promotion of flora and fauna activity.

Table 5.3: Quality rating for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <35%	High >35%
Cheltenham	123	11%	32%	52%	42%	5	2
Tewkesbury Area 1	123	37%	48%	60%	23%	0	2
Tewkesbury Area 2	123	42%	48%	52%	10%	0	4
Tewkesbury Area 3	123	0%	0%	0%	0%	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	123	0%	0%	0%	0%	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	123	26%	41%	53%	27%	1	2
Tewkesbury	123	26%	46%	60%	34%	1	8

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More natural and semi-natural greenspace sites in Cheltenham (71%) score below the threshold for quality than above the threshold (29%). In contrast, the majority (89%) of natural and semi-natural greenspace sites in Tewkesbury score above the quality threshold.

The lowest scoring site in Cheltenham is Farmland at Priors, with a rating of just 11%. This site is observed as having no ancillary features or facilities as well as having low levels of maintenance and cleanliness. Uneven ground and a lack of pathways makes this site less pleasant to navigate around and inaccessible to individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, comments from site assessment also report the site as suffering from poor drainage.

Other sites described as having lower standards of maintenance are Starvehall Farm and Little Herberts Nature Reserve. These sites score 27% and 33% for quality respectively. However, Starvehall Farm has been sold to housing developers and therefore will no longer exist as a form of natural and semi-natural provision.

Other low scoring sites in Cheltenham: Balcarras Field (31%) and Daisy Bank Field (34%) are noted as being basic natural and semi-natural open spaces, which are less likely to be accessed due to their location. As a result, these sites lack ancillary features such as bins, benches or picnic tables. However, a point to note, even sites scoring lower for quality do have conservation of natural features and therefore promote biodiversity.

The highest scoring site in Cheltenham is Pilley Bridge Nature Reserve with 53%. This site has ancillary features such as bins, benches and educational signage. The pathways at the site are also reported to be of reasonable quality, although improvements could be made to facilitate disabled access. This Local Nature Reserve (LNR) has an active 'friends of' group which conducts monthly conservation work parties and the Friends of Pilley Bridge Nature Reserve were in fact responsible for the installation of the seating on site.

The only site in Tewkesbury to score below the threshold for quality is Henley Bank Community Wood (26%). Despite its low score, no specific quality issues are highlighted and the main reason for it scoring lower than other sites is a lack of ancillary features. This site is reported to have a high standard of maintenance and cleanliness with reasonably good pathways. However, similarly to Pilley Bridge Nature Reserve, the pathways could be improved.

The highest scoring sites in Tewkesbury are Highnam Wood (60%) and Leckhampton Hill (53%). The former is a RSPB site whilst the latter is a popular Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Both are observed as having a range of ancillary features including parking, signage, seating and bins. At Leckhampton Hill the pathways are also of a good standard, used by walkers, runners and cyclists throughout the year.

The Friends of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common are active in improving the sites recreational opportunities whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The group also engage in maintenance tasks such as litter picking as well as working closely with Cheltenham Borough Council to manage the site and conserve public rights of way. Although the site is managed by Cheltenham Borough Council, a significant proportion of Leckhampton Hill sits within Tewkesbury. For the purpose of the audit the site has been identified as being within Tewkesbury Area 5 Analysis Area.

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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 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. 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 sites in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Cheltenham	110	8%	25%	45%	37%	2	5
Tewkesbury Area 1	110	31%	33%	36%	5%	-	2
Tewkesbury Area 2	110	26%	36%	43%	16%	0	4
Tewkesbury Area 3	110	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	110	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	110	23%	32%	47%	24%	0	3
Tewkesbury	110	23%	34%	47%	24%	0	9

The majority of natural and semi-natural greenspace sites (88%) rate above the threshold for value. In Tewkesbury, all sites score high for value, however, in Cheltenham two score low. Both sites that score low in Cheltenham also score low for quality. Quality often has a direct impact on a site's value, as the lower a site's quality the less likely people are often willing to visit the site.

The highest scoring site for value in Cheltenham is Pilley Bridge Nature Reserve, with a score of 46%. The site has high levels of biodiversity and offers educational value and not only does it have informative signage about plant and animal species, the Friends of Pilley Bridge Nature Reserve also host events such as Nature Explorers for young children and their families. The opportunity to be part of the friends of group and the events that take place at this site sees it receive high scores for social inclusion and health benefits. Further to this, the site is situated in a section of what was the Great Western Railway, adding further educational and heritage value.

Leckhampton Hill with as score of 47% is the highest scoring site for value in Tewkesbury and across both local authorities. This site has high ecological value, which is reflected in its designation as a SSSI. With a 'friends of' group associated with the site and regular events being held there, the site also has high value for social inclusion. Its network of paths used by walkers, cyclists and runners also sees the site scoring high for benefits to health. Moreover, Leckhampton Hill has significant heritage value with historical features and links to the author Lewis Carroll, who is thought to have taken inspiration from the landscape visible from the peak of the site when writing his book *Through the Looking Glass*.

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The value of Leckhampton Hill is further evidenced by a recent proposal for 650 homes within its setting being rejected by Cheltenham Borough Council. It was concluded that the economic benefits of the scheme failed to outweigh the damage that would be caused to an important and valued area of natural beauty.

Nearly all sites within the typology of natural and semi natural greenspace have high ecological value due to the habitats they provide for animals and plant species. Natural and semi natural sites are recognised for their offer of various recreational opportunities to a range of people (e.g. nature enthusiasts, tourists, families).

Further evidence to the value of natural and semi-natural greenspaces is identified in the findings from the Parks and Open Spaces Survey with 45% of respondents reporting they visit natural and semi-natural greenspace provision at least once a week.

5.6 Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

Cheltenham

- Seven natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, equating to 28.55 hectares, are situated in Cheltenham. This provides 0.24 hectares per 1,000 population.
- The majority of natural and semi-natural sites in Cheltenham (71%) score below the threshold for quality. The lower scoring sites are observed as having a lack of ancillary features, as well as lower levels of maintenance and cleanliness. Despite this, all sites promote biodiversity.
- Catchment mapping identifies that the whole of Cheltenham is served by natural and semi natural greenspace provision based on a 30-minute drive time.
- The majority of sites (71%) rate above the threshold for value. This is due to this typology providing high ecological value through the habitats they provide for animals and plant species.
- The two sites that rate low for value also score low for quality. A sites quality can have a direct impact on its value, as people are less likely to visit a lower quality site.
- Higher scoring sites for value, such as Pilley Bridge Nature Reserve offer educational and heritage value as well as social inclusion opportunities.

Tewkesbury

- Ten natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, equating to 810.35 hectares, are situated in Tewkesbury. This provides 9.33 hectares of provision per 1,000 population.
- A significant proportion of the total amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace provision in Tewkesbury can be attributed to four particularly large sites: Cleeve Common (455.93 ha), Highnam Woods (123 ha) Leckhampton Hill (69.99 ha) and Severn Ham (70.79 ha).
- The majority of natural and semi-natural sites in Tewkesbury (89%) score above the threshold for quality. The only site to score low is Henley Bank Community Wood. However, this site has no specific quality issues and its low score can be attributed to a lack of ancillary features.
- Catchment mapping identifies that all analysis areas in Tewkesbury are served by natural and semi natural greenspace provision based on a 30-minute drive time.
- All sites in Tewkesbury rate above the threshold for value. This is due to this typology providing high ecological value through the habitats they provide for animals and plant species. Higher scoring sites for value, such as Leckhampton Hill also offer educational and heritage value as well as social inclusion opportunities and health benefits.

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PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

Amenity greenspace 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. For the purposes of this study, recreation grounds have been included within this typology.

6.2 Current provision

There are 162 amenity greenspaces across Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, an equivalent of nearly 220 hectares of provision. When broken down by borough, Cheltenham has 121 sites totalling just over 134 hectares and Tewkesbury has 40 sites equalling almost 86 hectares.

Table 6.1: Distribution of Amenity greenspace sites in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number of sites	Total hectares	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Cheltenham	121	134.10	1.15
Tewkesbury Area 1	10	22.39	2.59
Tewkesbury Area 2	10	20.60	0.79
Tewkesbury Area 3	10	25.95	1.48
Tewkesbury Area 4	3	3.09	0.36
Tewkesbury Area 5	7	13.76	0.52
Tewkesbury	40	85.79	0.99

Cheltenham has significantly more amenity greenspace sites than Tewkesbury. Despite this difference in provision, due to Tewkesbury having a smaller population, the standard per 1,000 population is similar for both boroughs, with Cheltenham having 1.15 hectares and Tewkesbury having 0.99 hectares per 1,000 population.

With the exception of Tewkesbury Area 4 Analysis Area, there is a fairly even distribution of amenity greenspace provision in Tewkesbury. The analysis area in Tewkesbury best served by open space provision is Tewkesbury Area 3, with 10 sites equalling 25.95 hectares. However, the analysis area with the most hectareage per 1,000 population is Tewkesbury Area 1 (2.59 hectares).

There is a wider variation in site sizes within this typology compared to others. The size of amenity greenspaces varies from the smallest incidental greenspace amongst houses, such as Blenheim Square (0.09 hectares) to larger sites such as Innsworth Open Space (11.98 hectares). Larger sites, such as recreation grounds, serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational activities due to their size and facilities.

6.3 Accessibility

Findings from the Parks and Open Spaces Survey found that most respondents would expect to travel up to a five-minute walk (28%) to access amenity greenspace provision, which is in line with the catchment guidelines suggested by FIT.

A five-minute walk time catchment is applied below to all amenity greenspace provision.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace with five-minute walk time mapped against analysis areas

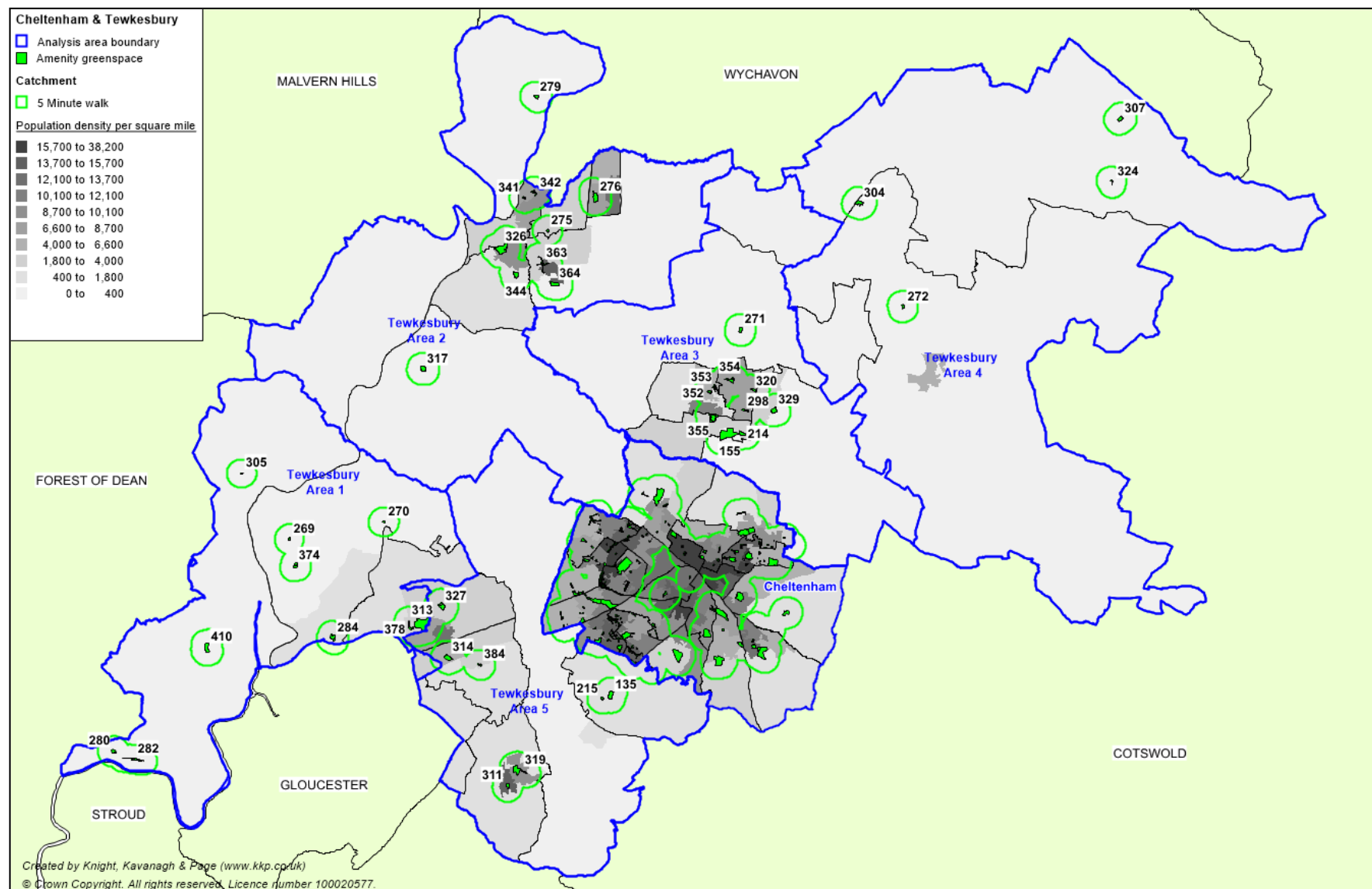
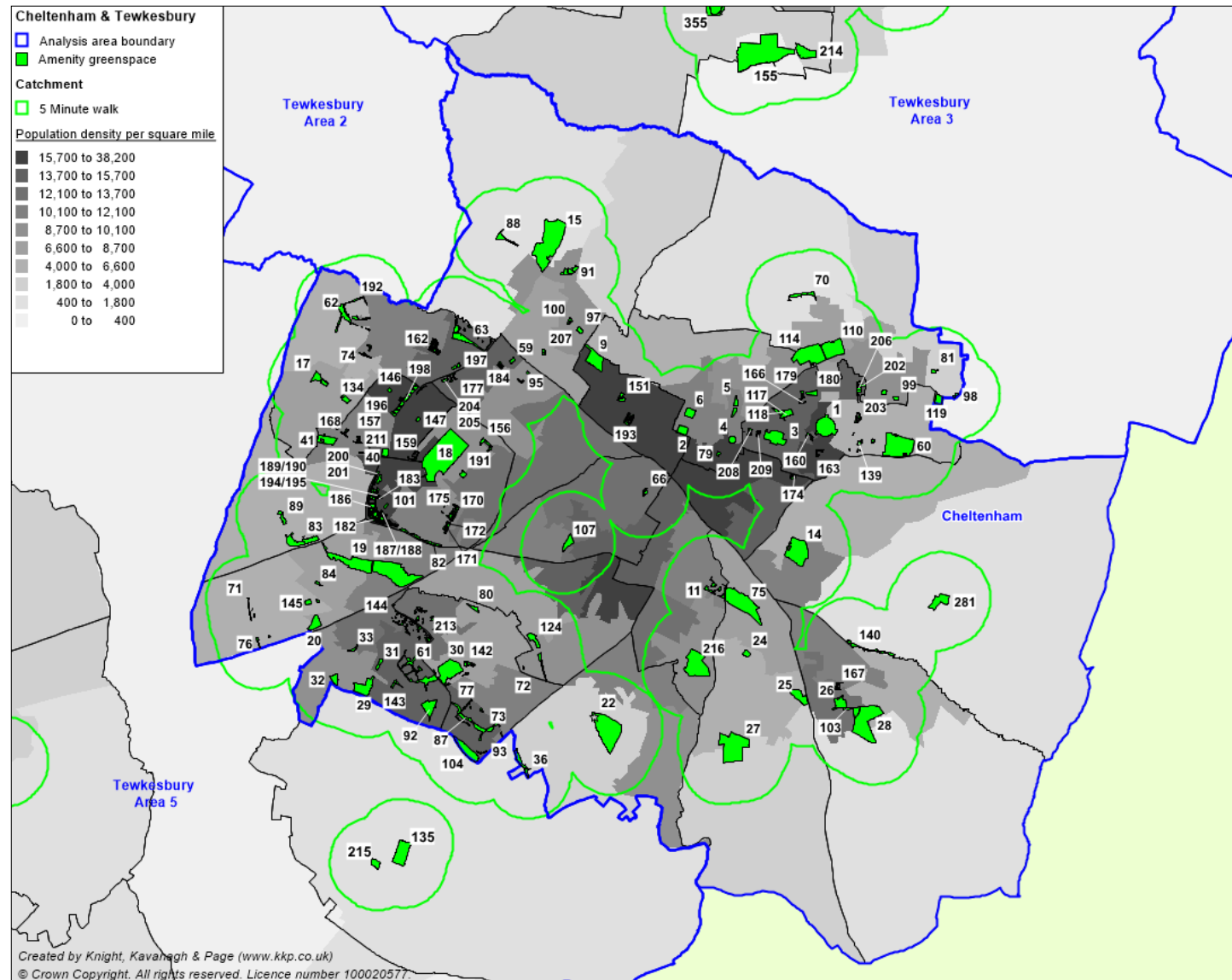


Figure 6.2: Amenity greenspace with five-minute walk time mapped for Cheltenham



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Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
1	Clyde Crescent	Cheltenham	72.5%	55.0%
2	Clarence Square	Cheltenham	50.1%	31.0%
3	Whaddon Recreation Ground	Cheltenham	65.9%	49.0%
4	Pittville Circus Roundabout Open Space	Cheltenham	45.8%	38.0%
5	Pittville Crescent	Cheltenham	44.4%	26.0%
6	Wellington Square	Cheltenham	50.0%	31.0%
9	Elmfield Playing Field	Cheltenham	45.7%	49.0%
11	Murvagh Close Open Space	Cheltenham	36.3%	16.0%
14	Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field	Cheltenham	42.1%	41.0%
15	Swindon Village Playing Field	Cheltenham	74.2%	42.0%
17	Henley Road Open Space	Cheltenham	39.3%	21.0%
18	King George V Playing Field	Cheltenham	54.0%	49.0%
19	Benhall Open Space	Cheltenham	57.1%	45.0%
20	Reddings Road Open Space (Humpty Dumps)	Cheltenham	47.6%	39.0%
22	The Burrows Playing Field	Cheltenham	54.6%	51.0%
24	King William Drive Open Space	Cheltenham	44.1%	44.0%
25	Cirencester Road Open Space	Cheltenham	43.1%	41.0%
26	Grange Tip Open Space	Cheltenham	72.0%	37.0%
27	Sandy Lane	Cheltenham	56.3%	36.0%
28	The Beeches Playing Field	Cheltenham	64.4%	42.0%
29	Chargrove Lane Open Space	Cheltenham	40.3%	36.0%
30	Weaver's Field Open Space	Cheltenham	40.1%	46.0%
31	Fernleigh Crescent	Cheltenham	42.4%	24.0%
32	Manor Farm Open Space	Cheltenham	40.3%	21.0%
33	Hatherley Green	Cheltenham	54.8%	24.0%
36	Brizen Lane Open Space	Cheltenham	47.6%	29.0%
40	Coronation Square	Cheltenham	24.2%	5.0%
41	Elm Farm Open Space	Cheltenham	45.1%	45.0%
59	St Peters Square	Cheltenham	26.9%	22.0%
60	Priors Farm Playing Field	Cheltenham	52.0%	49.0%
61	Broad Oak Way Open Space	Cheltenham	46.4%	32.0%
62	Pilgrove Way Open Space	Cheltenham	42.4%	22.0%
63	George Reading's Open Spaces	Cheltenham	49.3%	37.0%
66	Royal Well Open Space	Cheltenham	48.9%	33.0%
70	Apple Orchard Open space	Cheltenham	40.9%	31.0%
71	Barrington Avenue Open Spaces	Cheltenham	29.0%	12.0%
72	Billings Way Open Space	Cheltenham	36.7%	19.0%
73	Campion Park Open Space	Cheltenham	67.0%	36.0%
74	Carrol Grove/Blake Croft Open Space	Cheltenham	41.2%	15.0%
75	Cox's Meadow Open Space	Cheltenham	84.0%	36.0%
76	The Chase	Cheltenham	8.6%	7.0%
77	Davillia Drive Open Space	Cheltenham	40.3%	39.0%
79	Fairview Open Space	Cheltenham	53.2%	38.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
80	Fleckers Drive Open Space	Cheltenham	48.7%	24.0%
81	Gallops Lane Open Space	Cheltenham	37.3%	11.0%
82	Gloucester Road Open Space	Cheltenham	46.8%	23.0%
83	Golden Valley Open Space	Cheltenham	46.5%	30.0%
84	Grace Gardens Open Space	Cheltenham	49.0%	29.0%
87	JasminWay/Justica Way Open Space	Cheltenham	44.4%	31.0%
88	Manor Road Open Space	Cheltenham	45.8%	40.0%
89	Meadow and Nunny Close Open Space	Cheltenham	32.7%	15.0%
91	Pendil Close Open Space	Cheltenham	44.8%	32.0%
92	Redthorne Way Open Space	Cheltenham	52.3%	37.0%
93	Regency Court	Cheltenham	35.2%	11.0%
95	St Peters Close Open Space	Cheltenham	40.3%	16.0%
97	Thomond Close Open Space	Cheltenham	43.9%	37.0%
98	Westwood Lane Open Space	Cheltenham	35.4%	11.0%
99	Whitethorn Estate Open Space	Cheltenham	42.4%	31.0%
100	Windyridge Road Open Space	Cheltenham	44.2%	27.0%
101	Wordsworth Avenue	Cheltenham	35.6%	13.0%
104	Brizen Farm Playing Field	Cheltenham	68.2%	41.0%
107	Lansdown Crescent Open Space	Cheltenham	41.4%	34.0%
110	Prestbury Playing Field	Cheltenham	67.3%	52.0%
114	Prestbury Road Playing Field	Cheltenham	34.6%	7.0%
117	Parklands	Cheltenham	31.0%	17.0%
118	Land adjacent to Parklands	Cheltenham	12.1%	5.0%
119	Alan Robson Memorial Field Noverton	Cheltenham	42.8%	36.0%
124	Rowena Cade Open Space	Cheltenham	56.8%	41.0%
134	Kings Oak (Triscombe Way)	Cheltenham	43.7%	26.0%
139	Priors Farm Estate	Cheltenham	45.8%	21.0%
142	Winchester Way Highway Verges	Cheltenham	42.1%	9.0%
143	Long Mynd Avenue Open Space	Cheltenham	38.0%	18.0%
144	Windermere Estate Green Spaces	Cheltenham	38.5%	19.0%
145	Unwin Road Green Space	Cheltenham	44.7%	14.0%
146	Ashlands Road	Cheltenham	40.6%	13.0%
147	Blenheim Square	Cheltenham	31.1%	12.0%
151	Aldridge Close	Cheltenham	59.5%	33.0%
157	Dorrington Walk	Cheltenham	39.9%	10.0%
159	Elgar and Coates House	Cheltenham	38.8%	15.0%
160	Evenlode Avenue	Cheltenham	41.5%	24.0%
162	Barlow Road	Cheltenham	51.2%	13.0%
163	Churn Avenue	Cheltenham	51.9%	13.0%
166	Naseby House	Cheltenham	50.7%	15.0%
167	Coopers Court	Cheltenham	59.1%	37.0%
168	De Ferriers Walk	Cheltenham	39.6%	20.0%
170	Goldfoot House	Cheltenham	36.9%	17.0%
171	James Court	Cheltenham	36.6%	13.0%
172	James Court	Cheltenham	46.0%	28.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
174	James Donovan Court	Cheltenham	60.4%	27.0%
175	Hillfield Estate	Cheltenham	36.7%	26.0%
177	Lygon Walk	Cheltenham	54.8%	34.0%
179	Lynworth Court	Cheltenham	61.1%	15.0%
180	Lynworth Place	Cheltenham	43.1%	15.0%
182	Monkscroft Estate	Cheltenham	40.9%	10.0%
183	Pitman Road, 19-37	Cheltenham	39.0%	10.0%
184	Moors Avenue, 72-102	Cheltenham	35.7%	12.0%
186	Monkscroft Estate	Cheltenham	45.5%	10.0%
187	Pitman Road, 63-89	Cheltenham	39.2%	10.0%
188	Benhall Gardens, 1-29 & Waslet Road, 19-29	Cheltenham	36.7%	10.0%
189	Canberra House	Cheltenham	43.1%	10.0%
190	Canbarra House	Cheltenham	32.6%	10.0%
191	Norfolk Avenue	Cheltenham	34.2%	11.0%
192	Old Gloucester Road	Cheltenham	31.4%	14.0%
193	Popes Close	Cheltenham	66.7%	33.0%
194	Australia House	Cheltenham	43.4%	10.0%
196	Scott House	Cheltenham	52.7%	8.0%
197	Ceylon House	Cheltenham	44.1%	12.0%
198	Edward Wilson House	Cheltenham	54.5%	13.0%
200	Hobart House	Cheltenham	43.2%	10.0%
201	Hobart House	Cheltenham	40.2%	20.0%
202	Bush Court	Cheltenham	45.2%	20.0%
203	Priors Lodge	Cheltenham	50.9%	14.0%
204	New Zealand House	Cheltenham	52.2%	12.0%
205	Telford House	Cheltenham	61.2%	18.0%
207	Richards Road, 15-25	Cheltenham	38.0%	18.0%
208	Selkirk Gardens	Cheltenham	43.4%	19.0%
209	Selkirk Gardens	Cheltenham	40.2%	14.0%
211	Seacombe Road, 1-61	Cheltenham	31.6%	15.0%
213	Wallace House	Cheltenham	59.5%	10.0%
216	Naunton Park	Cheltenham	60.2%	51.0%
281	Ham Green	Cheltenham	16.4%	17.0%
269	Sandhurst Village Green	Tewkesbury Area 1	44.5%	45.0%
270	Norton Playing Field	Tewkesbury Area 1	41.5%	60.0%
280	Minsterworth Recreation Ground	Tewkesbury Area 1	22.9%	23.0%
282	Calcotts Green	Tewkesbury Area 1	30.0%	3.0%
284	Longford Playing Field	Tewkesbury Area 1	58.6%	53.0%
305	Ashleworth Village Green	Tewkesbury Area 1	45.3%	26.0%
313	Innsworth Open Space	Tewkesbury Area 1	44.2%	56.0%
374	Millenium Recreation Ground, Sandhurst	Tewkesbury Area 1	38.5%	36.0%
378	Middleton AGS, Innsworth	Tewkesbury Area 1	42.4%	26.0%
410	Highnam Recreation	Tewkesbury Area 1	49.4%	45.0%
275	Derek Graham Memorial Park	Tewkesbury Area 2	42.9%	44.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
276	Ashchurch Playing Field	Tewkesbury Area 2	52.6%	55.0%
279	Twyning Village Green	Tewkesbury Area 2	53.6%	40.0%
317	Ludlow-Hewitt Memorial Playing Field	Tewkesbury Area 2	56.2%	42.0%
326	The Vineyards	Tewkesbury Area 2	76.1%	70.0%
341	Melrose Walk	Tewkesbury Area 2	33.9%	35.0%
342	Feltham Way	Tewkesbury Area 2	43.2%	32.0%
344	Gloucester Road Amenity Greenspace	Tewkesbury Area 2	45.0%	24.0%
363	Snowdonia Road AGS	Tewkesbury Area 2	44.1%	51.0%
364	Nightingale Way AGS	Tewkesbury Area 2	41.5%	37.0%
155	Bishops Cleeve Sports Field	Tewkesbury Area 3	73.1%	60.0%
214	Bishops Cleeve PC Land	Tewkesbury Area 3	21.6%	18.0%
271	Gotherington Playing Fields	Tewkesbury Area 3	59.8%	60.0%
298	Peck Lane Playing Field	Tewkesbury Area 3	30.7%	36.0%
320	Playing field GL52 8BD	Tewkesbury Area 3	44.1%	26.0%
329	Woodmancote Playing Field	Tewkesbury Area 3	43.5%	34.0%
352	Bramble Chase	Tewkesbury Area 3	41.6%	10.0%
353	Finlay Way	Tewkesbury Area 3	46.3%	24.0%
354	Homelands Park	Tewkesbury Area 3	43.2%	29.0%
355	The Grange	Tewkesbury Area 3	56.6%	37.0%
272	Gretton Playing Field	Tewkesbury Area 4	19.0%	12.0%
304	Alderton Playing Field	Tewkesbury Area 4	43.2%	19.0%
324	Stanton Guildhouse	Tewkesbury Area 4	41.1%	20.0%
135	King Georges Field, Shurdington	Tewkesbury Area 5	61.8%	58.0%
215	Shurdington Village Green	Tewkesbury Area 5	42.9%	46.0%
311	Green Way	Tewkesbury Area 5	43.2%	11.0%
314	John Daniels Recreation Ground	Tewkesbury Area 5	46.5%	30.0%
319	Mill Lane Playing Field	Tewkesbury Area 5	45.7%	43.0%
327	Tudor Mead Park	Tewkesbury Area 5	44.5%	29.0%
384	Churchdown Recreation Ground	Tewkesbury Area 5	52.6%	40.0%

Catchment mapping with a five-minute walk time applied identifies a reasonably good distribution of amenity greenspace provision across both Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, serving most areas of higher population density. There are some small pockets in the centre of the Cheltenham Analysis Area however; these are served by parks and gardens provision such as Montpellier Gardens.

Of respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey which have an opinion, 43% are satisfied with the amount of amenity greenspace provision and state being either quite satisfied (30%) or very satisfied (13%). Further to this, only 21% of respondents report being quite dissatisfied (18%) or very dissatisfied (3%).

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6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the current 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 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. 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 6.3: Quality rating for amenity greenspace sites in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Cheltenham	116	9%	45%	84%	75%	34	87
Tewkesbury Area 1	116	23%	42%	59%	36%	3	7
Tewkesbury Area 2	116	34%	49%	76%	42%	1	9
Tewkesbury Area 3	116	22%	46%	73%	51%	2	8
Tewkesbury Area 4	116	19%	34%	43%	24%	1	2
Tewkesbury Area 5	116	43%	48%	62%	19%	0	7
Tewkesbury	116	19%	44%	76%	57%	7	33

A high proportion of amenity greenspace sites in both Cheltenham and Tewkesbury score above the threshold for quality. In Cheltenham, 72% of sites score above the threshold and in Tewkesbury, 83% of sites score above the threshold. A high standard of site maintenance and cleanliness is a theme running through the majority (73%) of amenity greenspace sites across both authorities.

A point to note, the 28% of sites in Cheltenham and 18% of sites in Tewkesbury that rate below the threshold, do not necessarily have concerning quality issues. A lower quality score can be due to this type of open space provision often being smaller than other typologies and lacking in features and ancillary facilities.

The highest rating sites for quality in Cheltenham are Cox's Meadow Open Space (84%) and Swindon Village Playing Field (74%). Clyde Crescent (73%) and Grange Tip Open Space (72%) closely follow this.

The highest scoring sites, such as the ones above, have a good range of ancillary facilities available (including parking signage, seats, lighting and bins), as well as a good standard of appearance and maintenance. These sites also have sufficient disabled access due to good-sized entrances and well kept pathways. Furthermore, personal security and controls to prevent illegal use score highly, making users feel safe whilst using the site. Additionally Cox's Meadow Open Space, which is the highest scoring site, has a modern café.

Some of the lowest scoring amenity greenspaces in Cheltenham are:

- ✦ The Chase (9%)
- ✦ Land adjacent to Parklands (12%)
- ✦ Ham Green (16%)

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The Chase, which scores the lowest for quality, is reported to have limited access. The other two lowest scoring sites are observed as being very basic green spaces with no ancillary features. In addition, the levels of maintenance and cleanliness at the sites are low. This is particularly the case for Land adjacent to Parklands, which is described as having some issues with litter and building waste. Moreover, drainage and levels of personal security at the sites do not score highly. As a consequence of the above, levels of usage at the sites are observed as being very low.

Three other sites within Cheltenham are highlighted as having lower levels of maintenance and cleanliness:

- ✦ Coronation Square (24%)
- ✦ Norfolk Avenue (35%)
- ✦ Canbarra House (33%)

A point to note, similarly to The Chase, Coronation Square also has limited if any public access. Despite the few sites discussed, most sites scoring below the quality threshold are generally basic pockets of green space. These tend to be relatively small-grassed areas lacking ancillary facilities, intended to either act as a visual amenity or encourage extensive recreational use or provide residents with visual amenity.

The highest scoring sites in Tewkesbury are The Vineyards (76%) and Bishops Cleeve Sports Field (73%). Both these sites are recreation grounds, which are maintained to a good standard with a range of facilities including play areas, a skate park, BMX track, small artificial grass pitch and outdoor gym area. The sites also have a good range of ancillary features such as parking, seating, bins, picnic tables and lighting. Furthermore, they have links to public transport and sufficient disabled access.

Gretton Playing Field is the lowest scoring amenity greenspace site in Tewkesbury with 19%. This can be attributed to lower levels of maintenance and cleanliness as well as a lack of ancillary features. The other sites within Tewkesbury scoring low for quality are:

- ✦ Bishops Cleeve PC Land (22%)
- ✦ Minsterworth Recreation Ground (23%)
- ✦ Calcotts Green (30%)
- ✦ Peck Lane Playing Field (31%)
- ✦ Melrose Walk (34%)
- ✦ Millenium Recreation Ground, Sandhurst (39%)

With the exception of Millenium Recreation Ground, Sandhurst, that only scores marginally under the quality threshold, the lower scoring sites are all observed as having lower levels of maintenance and cleanliness. The above sites are reported to have fewer ancillary facilities than higher scoring sites and two of them, Melrose Walk and Peck Lane Playing Field, are observed as having broken glass within the site.

As previously mentioned, amenity greenspace provision is often there to encourage extensive recreational use or provide residents with visual amenity. Therefore, sites such as Millenium Recreation Ground, Sandhurst, which scores low, based on a lack of ancillary features, are not necessarily poor sites. In fact, given that it has scored just 1% below the threshold despite any ancillary features, gives reason to suggest this site is well maintained and fulfils its purpose as an amenity greenspace.

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Most respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey are generally satisfied with the quality of amenity greenspace. Out of the respondents who have an opinion, 29% are quite satisfied in terms of quality with a further 11% being very satisfied. Furthermore, there is only a small proportion of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (15%) or very dissatisfied (6%).

The high numbers of respondents, who state they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (40%), is a possible reflection of the typology's role as visual amenity (without any great attraction for physical use).

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 rating for amenity greenspace sites in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Cheltenham	100	5%	27%	71%	66%	54	67
Tewkesbury Area 1	100	3%	37%	60%	57%	1	9
Tewkesbury Area 2	100	24%	43%	70%	46%	0	10
Tewkesbury Area 3	100	10%	33%	60%	50%	2	8
Tewkesbury Area 4	100	12%	17%	20%	8%	2	1
Tewkesbury Area 5	100	11%	37%	58%	47%	1	6
Tewkesbury	100	3%	33%	70%	67%	6	34

In Tewkesbury, the majority (85%) of amenity greenspaces scores above the value threshold. In Cheltenham, over half (55%) of amenity greenspace sites score above the threshold for value.

Similar to quality, sites rating below the value threshold tend to be smaller grassed areas with no noticeable features. They are generally recognised as providing some visual amenity to their locality and it is important to note that the main role of certain sites is to simply act as a grassed area, providing breaks in the urban form. Subsequently this is likely to partly account for the greater proportion of sites to rate below the threshold in Cheltenham due to its more urban characteristics.

In Cheltenham, there are 22 sites and in Tewkesbury there are three sites, which score high for quality but low for value. This could be attributed to the position of these sites, for example, within housing areas. Although they are well-maintained sites with some attractive features such as trees and shrubs, residents would not necessarily choose to use them for recreational purposes, as evidenced by observed lower levels of use.

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

- ◀ Clyde Crescent (55%)
- ◀ Prestbury Playing Field (52%)
- ◀ The Burrows Playing Field (51%)
- ◀ Naunton Park (51%)

These sites are recognised for the level of accessible recreational opportunities they offer to a high standard of quality, intended for a wide range of users. All three sites provide a good range of social and health benefits due to the facilities found on site; such as sports provision and play facilities, which meet the needs of a variety of people.

The highest scoring sites in Tewkesbury are:

- ◀ The Vineyards (70%)
- ◀ Gotherington Playing Fields (60%)
- ◀ Norton Playing Field (60%)
- ◀ Bishops Cleeve Sports Field (60%)
- ◀ King Georges Field, Shurdington (58%)

Similarly, to the highest scoring sites in Cheltenham, these sites offer accessible recreational opportunities that are of a high standard of quality to a variety of users. This is particularly the case for The Vineyards, which scores the highest over both local authorities and Bishops Cleeve Sports Field. Both these sites offer sports facilities, youth provision, outdoor gym equipment and children's play areas. Furthermore, like a number of recreation grounds The Vineyards hosts a number of events including parkrun, family dog shows and children's cycling events.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. They can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites across both Cheltenham and Tewkesbury 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 ancillary facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping and trees), it is therefore more likely that the better quality sites are more respected and valued by the local community.

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6.6 Amenity greenspace summary

Cheltenham

- There are 121 amenity greenspaces in Cheltenham, equating to 134.10 hectares. This provides 1.15 hectares per 1,000 population.
- Catchment mapping with a five minute walk time applied identifies a reasonably good distribution of amenity green space provision across Cheltenham, serving most areas of higher population density. Some small catchment gaps are noted in the centre of the Cheltenham Analysis Area, however these are served by parks and gardens provision.
- A high proportion of amenity greenspace sites (72%) score above the quality threshold. Lower quality scores can mainly be attributed to size, lack of ancillary facilities and/or maintenance.
- In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities, hence over half (55%) of sites rating above the threshold for value.
- Twenty two sites score low for both quality and value. If a site cannot be improved, changing its purpose to that of a different form of open space provision could be considered.

Tewkesbury

- There are 40 amenity greenspaces in Tewkesbury, equating to 85.79 hectares. This provides 0.99 hectares per 1,000 population.
- Catchment mapping with a five minute walk time applied identifies a reasonably good distribution of amenity green space provision across all analysis areas in Tewkesbury, serving most areas of higher population density.
- A high proportion of amenity greenspace sites (83%) score above the quality threshold. Lower quality scores can mainly be attributed to size, lack of ancillary facilities and/or maintenance.
- In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities, hence the majority (85%) of sites rating above the threshold for value.
- Three sites score low for both quality and value. If a site cannot be improved, changing its purpose to that of a different form of open space provision could be considered.

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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 Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs).

7.2 Current provision

A total of 106 sites are identified as provision for children and young people in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. This combines to create a total of over 11 hectares. The table below shows the distribution. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Play area		
	Number of sites	Total hectares	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Cheltenham	61	4.28	0.04
Tewkesbury Area 1	6	0.58	0.07
Tewkesbury Area 2	18	4.03	0.16
Tewkesbury Area 3	7	0.95	0.05
Tewkesbury Area 4	3	0.38	0.04
Tewkesbury Area 5	11	1.36	0.05
Tewkesbury	45	7.30	0.08

Cheltenham has 61 play sites, equating to 4.28 hectares. This provides a total of 0.04 hectares per 1,000 population.

As a whole Tewkesbury has a smaller number of play sites with 45 but provides a greater amount of provision with 7.30 hectares, equating to 0.08 hectares per 1,000 population. The analysis area within Tewkesbury with the most sites is Tewkesbury Area 2, with 18 play sites. The area contains the settlement of Tewkesbury.

Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience utilising Fields In Trust (FIT) guidance. FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

- ◀ LAP - a Local Area of Play. Usually small landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.
- ◀ LEAP - a Local Equipped Area of Play. Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users; often containing a wider range of equipment types.

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- NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater for all age groups. Such sites may contain a MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large open space sites.

More play provision in Cheltenham is identified as being LEAP (41%) using the the FIT classifications. Provision across Tewkesbury is generally more evenly spread between NEAP (38%), LEAPS (31%) and LAPS (24%).

Table 7.2: Distribution of provision for children and young people by FIT category

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people				
	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Youth/ casual	TOTAL
Cheltenham	14	25	10	12	61
Tewkesbury Area 1	1	3	2	-	6
Tewkesbury Area 2	4	4	8	2	18
Tewkesbury Area 3	3	1	2	1	7
Tewkesbury Area 4	1	2	-	-	3
Tewkesbury Area 5	2	4	5	-	11
Tewkesbury	11	14	17	3	45

In addition, some sites classified as LEAPS or NEAPS may also contain forms of play provision that may be deemed able to cater for older age groups.

7.3 Accessibility

Findings from the Parks and Open Spaces Survey found that most respondents would expect to travel a 10-minute walk time (25%) to access play areas for children. In keeping with this, 13% of respondents would also expect to travel a 10-minute walk time (13%) to access youth provision.

Interestingly, a slightly greater proportion of respondents suggest they would be willing to travel by private car (37%) as opposed to walk (26%) in order to reach a form of youth provision. This may reflect a willingness of individuals to travel a further distance to reach facilities such as skate parks etc.

To reflect respondents' views, a 10-minute walk time catchment has been applied to both children's play areas and youth provision. Figure 7.3 also shows sites identified as providing youth provision against a 10 minute walk and drive time.

Figure 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 overleaf show the standards applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 7.1: Play provision with 10-minute walk time mapped against Analysis Areas

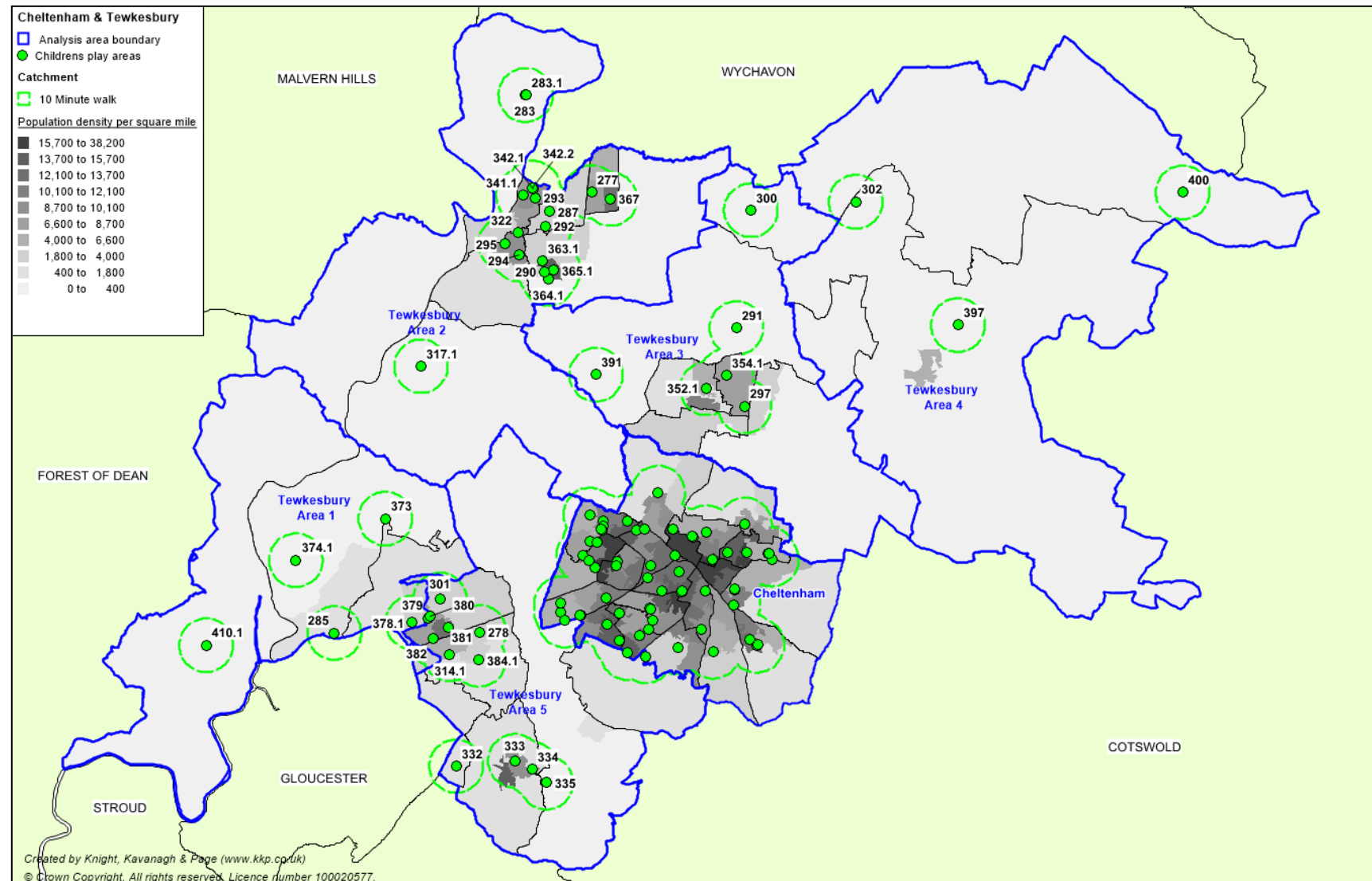
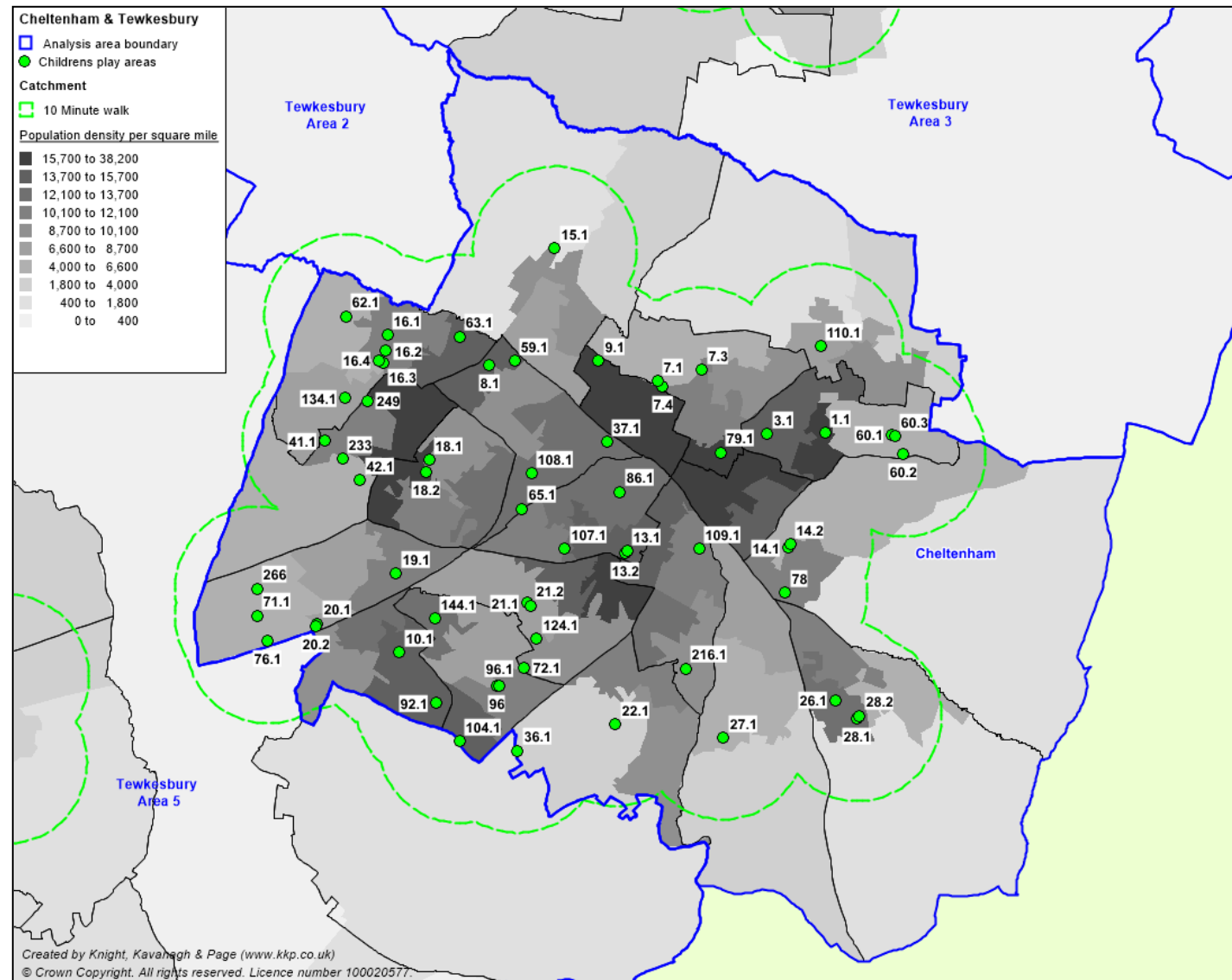
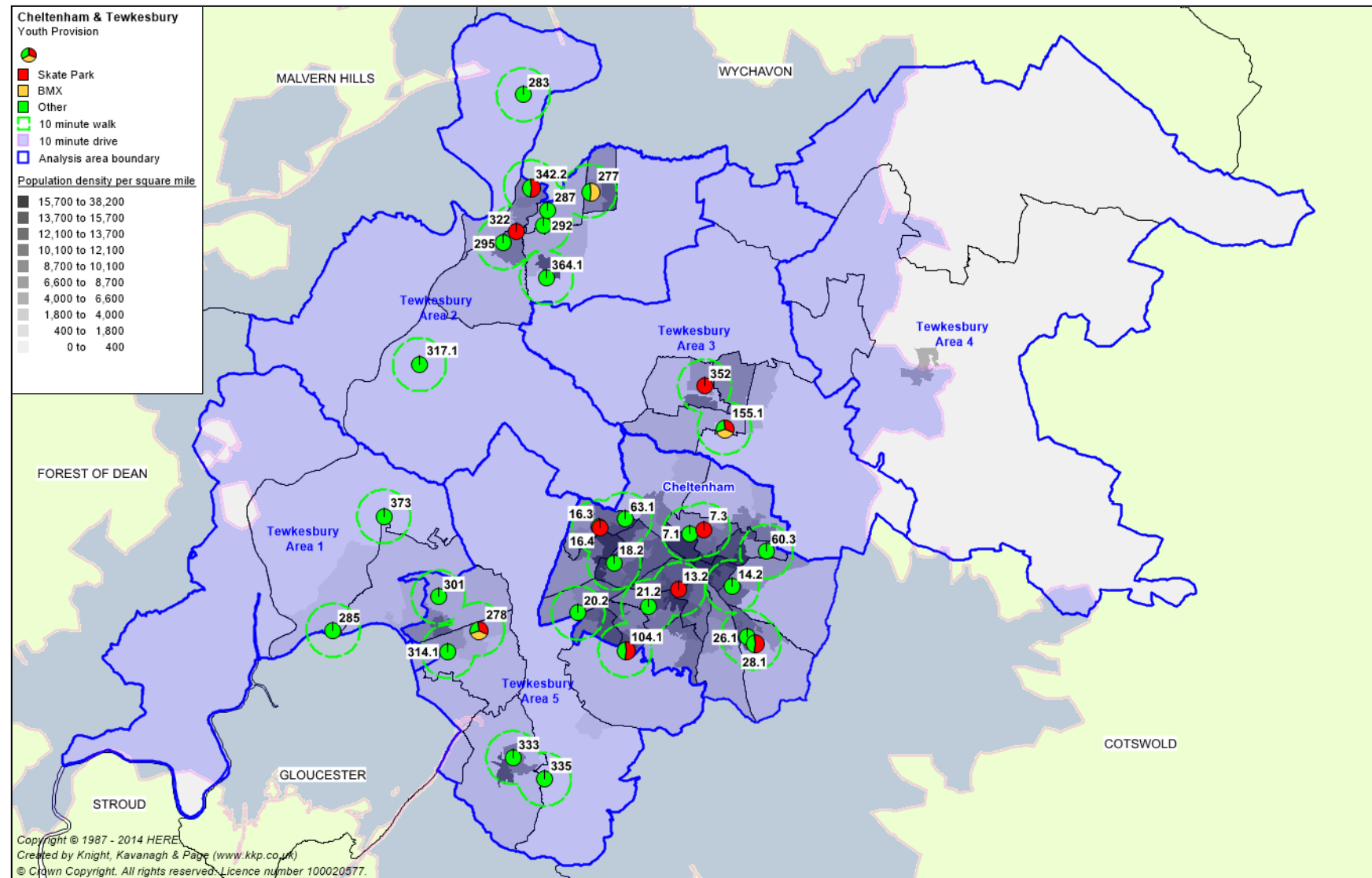


Figure 7.2: Play provision with 10-minute walk time mapped in Cheltenham



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Figure 7.3: Youth provision with 10-minute walk and drive time



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Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
1.1	Clyde Crescent Play Area	Cheltenham	75.5%	64.7%
3.1	Whaddon Recreation Ground Play Area	Cheltenham	62.6%	56.9%
7.1	Agg Gardeners Play Area	Cheltenham	62.6%	66.7%
7.2	Pittville Park Play Area	Cheltenham	76.7%	70.6%
7.3	Pittville Park Skateboard	Cheltenham		
7.4	Agg Gardners Play Area	Cheltenham	87.1%	70.6%
8.1	St Peters/New Chelt Walk Play Area	Cheltenham	71.4%	70.6%
9.1	Elmfield Play Area	Cheltenham	62.6%	49.0%
10.1	Caernarvon Park Play Area	Cheltenham	53.1%	54.9%
13.1	Montpellier Play Area	Cheltenham	81.1%	70.6%
13.2	Montpellier Play Area	Cheltenham	75.2%	80.4%
14.1	Queen Elizabeth II Play Area	Cheltenham	70.4%	51.0%
14.2	Queen Elizabeth II Play Area	Cheltenham		
15.1	Swindon Village Play Area	Cheltenham	66.0%	49.0%
16.1	Springfields Park	Cheltenham	74.2%	62.7%
16.2	Springfields Park	Cheltenham	73.0%	70.6%
16.3	Springfields Park Skate Ramp	Cheltenham	52.2%	70.6%
16.4	Springfields Park	Cheltenham	61.3%	70.6%
18.1	King George V Play Area	Cheltenham	82.1%	70.6%
18.2	King George V Play Area	Cheltenham	34.9%	31.4%
19.1	Benhall Play Area	Cheltenham	61.6%	54.9%
20.1	Humpty Dumps Play Area	Cheltenham	57.5%	54.9%
20.2	Humpty Dumps Play Area	Cheltenham		
21.1	Hatherley Park Play Area	Cheltenham	70.4%	70.6%
21.2	Hatherley Park Play Area	Cheltenham		
22.1	Burrows Play Area	Cheltenham	83.0%	70.6%
26.1	Charlton Kings Ball Court	Cheltenham	57.5%	41.2%
27.1	Sandy Lane Play Area	Cheltenham	63.8%	64.7%
28.1	Beeches Skateboard	Cheltenham	68.6%	41.2%
28.2	Beeches Play Area	Cheltenham	73.3%	64.7%
36.1	Leckhampton Lanes	Cheltenham	53.8%	56.9%
37.1	Winston Churchill Gardens Play Area	Cheltenham	67.3%	56.9%
41.1	Elm Farm Play Area	Cheltenham	69.5%	58.8%
42.1	Hesters Way Park Play Area	Cheltenham	60.1%	49.0%
59.1	St Peters Square Play Area	Cheltenham	60.1%	49.0%
60.1	Priors Farm Play Area	Cheltenham	72.3%	47.1%
60.2	Priors Farm Play Area	Cheltenham		
60.3	Priors Farm Basketball	Cheltenham	43.4%	41.2%
62.1	Pilgrove Way Play Area	Cheltenham	62.6%	41.2%
63.1	George Readings Way	Cheltenham	71.7%	54.9%
65.1	Honeybourne Line Play Area	Cheltenham	53.8%	54.9%
71.1	Barrington Avenue	Cheltenham	55.0%	60.8%
72.1	Billings Way	Cheltenham	64.2%	56.9%
76.1	Chase Play Area	Cheltenham	59.4%	60.8%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
78	Churchill Drive Play Area	Cheltenham	68.6%	43.1%
79.1	Fairview Play Area	Cheltenham	64.5%	39.2%
86.1	Jessops Avenue/Chelt Walk Play Area	Cheltenham	57.5%	49.0%
92.1	Hillview Play Area	Cheltenham	70.1%	64.7%
96	Salisbury Avenue Recreation Ground	Cheltenham	62.3%	54.9%
96.1	Salisbury Avenue Play area	Cheltenham	66.0%	54.9%
104.1	Brizen Farm Play Area	Cheltenham	76.1%	70.6%
107.1	Lansdown Crescent Play Area	Cheltenham	70.8%	51.0%
108.1	Pates Avenue Play Area	Cheltenham	71.1%	58.8%
109.1	Sandford Park Play Area	Cheltenham	62.3%	64.7%
110.1	Prestbury Park Play area	Cheltenham	74.2%	64.7%
124.1	Rowena Cade	Cheltenham	57.9%	41.2%
134.1	Triscombe Way	Cheltenham	63.2%	45.1%
144.1	Penrith Road Play Area	Cheltenham	53.1%	17.6%
216.1	Naunton Park Play Area	Cheltenham	75.5%	70.6%
233	Camberwell Road Play Area	Cheltenham	48.7%	21.6%
249	Oldbury Close Play Area	Cheltenham	41.8%	35.3%
266	Chalford Avenue Play Area	Cheltenham	50.0%	64.7%
277	Ashchurch Playground	Tewkesbury Area 2	78.6%	21.6%
278	Churchdown Playground	Tewkesbury Area 5	82.1%	25.5%
283	TRAC - Twyning Recreation and Amenity Complex	Tewkesbury Area 2	76.7%	35.3%
285	Longford Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 1	46.2%	27.5%
287	Canterbury Leys Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	57.9%	45.1%
290	Wheatpieces Community Centre Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	70.8%	41.2%
291	Gotherington Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 3	59.1%	25.5%
292	Walton Cardiff Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	52.5%	31.4%
293	Mitton Way Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	43.7%	7.8%
294	Warwick Place Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	29.6%	17.6%
295	The Vinyards Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	64.2%	51.0%
297	Peck Lane Childrens Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 3	54.7%	17.6%
300	Teddington Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 3	58.5%	15.7%
301	Tudor Mead Park Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 5	69.8%	15.7%
302	Alderton Childrens Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 4	49.1%	25.5%
322	Skate Park	Tewkesbury Area 2	45.6%	31.4%
332	Bird Road Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 5	70.8%	19.6%
333	Mill Lane Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 5	59.4%	29.4%
334	Nightjar Road Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 5	71.7%	15.7%
335	Witcombe Village Hall Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 5	73.3%	41.2%
341.1	Melrose Walk Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	54.7%	17.6%
342.1	Feltham Way Play Area 1	Tewkesbury Area 2	56.6%	35.3%
342.2	Feltham Way Play Area 2 (Skate Park?)	Tewkesbury Area 2	61.3%	35.3%
352.1	Bramble Chase Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 3	64.2%	35.3%
354.1	Homelands Park Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 3	73.6%	19.6%
363.1	Snowdonia Road Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	75.2%	35.3%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
364.1	Nightingale Way Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	70.8%	35.3%
365.1	Falcon Road Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	62.3%	35.3%
367	Davey Road Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	71.7%	31.4%
317.1	Apperley Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	55.0%	49.0%
373	Norton Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 1	59.7%	39.2%
374.1	Sandhurst Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 1	43.4%	17.6%
378.1	Middleton Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 1	57.5%	35.3%
379	Coriander Drive Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 1	37.7%	11.8%
380	Zinnia Close Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 5	85.8%	41.2%
381	Goodmoor Crescent Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 5	75.5%	35.3%
382	Oakhurst Close Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 5	59.1%	25.5%
314.1	John Daniels Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 5	57.5%	45.1%
384.1	Churchdown Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 5	58.5%	39.2%
391	Stoke Orchard Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 3	67.3%	31.4%
397	Greet Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 4	70.8%	15.7%
400	Snowhill Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 4	81.1%	15.7%
283.1	Twyning Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 2	75.5%	39.2%
410.1	Highnam Play Area	Tewkesbury Area 1	77.0%	35.3%
155.1	Bishops Cleeve Youth Facilities	Tewkesbury Area 3	74.5%	58.8%

There is a good spread of play provision across both Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, with all areas with a greater population density being within a 10-minute walking distance of play provision. As a result, it is unlikely that additional provision for children and young people is required based on catchment mapping.

However, due to the important role this form of provision plays in young people's development, continuing to maintain and improve sites should be a priority. Expanding the range and type of equipment at key sites is recommended for the future.

Satisfaction towards the amount of children's play provision is reflected in the Parks and Open Spaces Survey which found that a greater proportion are either quite satisfied (37%) or very satisfied (20%) compared to those either quite dissatisfied (6%) or very dissatisfied (5%).

In relation to youth provision, respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey were generally neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (27%). Although a slightly higher percentage of respondents are quite satisfied (15%) or very satisfied (10%) compared to those quite dissatisfied (8%) or very dissatisfied (9%).

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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 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. A threshold of 55% 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).

Quality assessments of play sites do not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment. For an informed report on the condition of play equipment the Council's own inspection reports should be sought.

Table 7.4: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <55%	High >55%
Cheltenham	106	35%	65%	87%	52%	10	51
Tewkesbury Area 1	106	38%	54%	77%	39%	3	3
Tewkesbury Area 2	106	30%	61%	79%	49%	5	13
Tewkesbury Area 3	106	55%	65%	75%	20%	1	6
Tewkesbury Area 4	106	49%	67%	81%	32%	1	2
Tewkesbury Area 5	106	57%	69%	86%	29%	-	11
Tewkesbury	106	30%	63%	86%	56%	10	35

Quality of play provision across Tewkesbury is high, with 78% of provision scoring above the threshold for quality. In general, all sub areas are in keeping with this trend, with the exception of Tewkesbury Area 1. Quality of sites in this sub area are mixed; with three sites above the threshold and three below.

There are currently 10 play provision sites across Tewkesbury, which rate below the threshold for quality. Some of the lowest scoring play provision sites in Tewkesbury are:

- ◀ Warwick Place Play Area (30%)
- ◀ Coriander Drive Play Area (38%)
- ◀ Sandhurst Play Area (43%)
- ◀ Mitton Way Play Area (44%)
- ◀ Tewkesbury Skate Park (46%)
- ◀ Longford Play Area (46%)

The quality of equipment provision and general appearance of these sites is observed as being of lower standard than other sites. Observations from the site assessments describe these sites as looking tired and dated.

Such sites are generally observed as containing fewer pieces of play equipment in comparison to other sites. For example, Warwick Place Play Area only contains four different types of play equipment with some elements not working. Longford Play Area and Sandhurst Play Area consist of just three types of equipment.

Further to this, the Tewkesbury Skate Park site was observed as being particularly tired looking with rust noticeable on the equipment.

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The majority (84%) of play provision sites in Cheltenham rate above the quality threshold. Similar to Tewkesbury, a total of 10 sites rate below the threshold for quality. Some of the lowest scoring play provision sites in Cheltenham are:

- King George V Basketball Area (35%)
- Oldbury Close Play Area (42%)
- Priors Farm Basketball (43%)
- Camberwell Road Play Area (49%)
- Chalford Avenue Play Area (50%)

Provision at Oldbury Close and Chalford are described as looking dated. Whilst evidence of surface damage was noted at King George V and Priors Farm basketball areas.

High scoring sites such as Agg Gardeners Play Area (87%), Burrows Play Area (83%), King George V Play Area (82%) and Montpellier Play Area (81%) tend to rate highly due to a range and excellent condition of play equipment. They also benefit from additional features such as seating, bins, fencing and good signage.

The views of respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey also reflect the generally high quality of provision throughout Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. Most respondents rate quality of children's play areas as quite satisfactory (32%) or very satisfactory (10%) compared to those that view it as quite dissatisfactory (13%) or very dissatisfactory (6%).

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 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. 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 7.5: Value ratings for provision for children and young people in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Cheltenham	51	18%	56%	80%	62%	1	60
Tewkesbury Area 1	51	12%	28%	39%	27%	2	4
Tewkesbury Area 2	51	8%	33%	51%	43%	3	15
Tewkesbury Area 3	51	18%	35%	59%	41%	1	6
Tewkesbury Area 4	51	26%	32%	35%	9%	-	3
Tewkesbury Area 5	51	26%	36%	45%	19%	-	11
Tewkesbury	51	8%	33%	59%	51%	6	39

Nearly all play provision in Cheltenham (98%), is rated as being above the threshold for value. Similarly, in Tewkesbury the majority of play sites (92%) rate above the threshold. 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, to socialise with others and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments.

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Only Penrith Road Play Area (18%) rates below the threshold in Cheltenham. The site is noted as having limited and unimaginative play provision. It only contains four pieces of static play equipment.

In Tewkesbury, there are six sites to rate below the threshold for value:

- ✦ Mitton Way Play Area (8%)
- ✦ Coriander Drive Play Area (12%)
- ✦ Warwick Place Play Area (18%)
- ✦ Pecked Lane Play Area (18%)
- ✦ Melrose Walk Play Area (18%)
- ✦ Sandhurst Play area (18%)

All these sites also rate below the threshold for quality. The sites are observed as having a limited range of equipment which subsequently is deemed to result in a lower level of use. In addition, this is also likely to be influenced by the lower standard of quality which provision is generally identified as being.

Sites scoring particularly high for value tend to reflect the size and amount/range as well as standard of equipment present on site. Some of the highest scoring sites include Montpellier Play Area (80%), Pitville Park Skateboard (71%), Springfields Park Play Area (71%) and Hatherley Park Play Area (71%). All are located in Cheltenham and noticeably within significant park sites.

The highest scoring sites for value in Tewkesbury are Bishops Cleave Youth Facilities (58%) and The Vinyards Play Area (51%). Again, both are located within larger open space sites offering a wider range of recreational and social opportunities.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages is important and can contribute to a sites value. More specifically, provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play; helping to cater for older age ranges.

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.

CHELTHENHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

7.6 Provision for children and young people summary

Cheltenham

- There are 61 play sites identified in Cheltenham, equating to 4.28 hectares. This provides 0.04 hectares per 1,000 population.
- Catchment mapping with a 10 minute walk time applied identifies a reasonably good distribution of play sites across the area.
- A high proportion of play provision sites (84%) rate above the quality threshold. Lower quality scores can mainly be attributed to the tired and dated appearance of certain sites.
- Reflecting its role in providing healthy, inclusive and safe facilities, the majority of play sites in Cheltenham (98%) rate above the threshold for value.
- Only one site in Cheltenham rates below the threshold for both quality and value.

Tewkesbury

- There are 45 play sites in Tewkesbury, equating to 7.30 hectares. This provides 0.08 hectares per 1,000 population. A noticeably greater level of provision per 1,000 population (0.16 hectares per 1,000 people) is identified in Tewkesbury Area 2.
- Catchment mapping with a 10 minute walk time applied identifies a reasonably good distribution of play sites across all analysis areas in Tewkesbury. Although there are still some noticeable gaps, these appear to be in areas of lower population density.
- A high proportion of amenity greenspace sites (78%) score above the quality threshold. Again, lower quality scores can be mainly attributed to the tired look and dated appearance at some sites.
- Reflecting its role in providing healthy, inclusive and safe facilities, the majority of play sites across Tewkesbury (92%) rate above the threshold for value.
- There are six sites to rate below the threshold for both quality and value. This tends to reflect a limited amount and range of equipment at such sites; often to a poor level of standard.

CHELTHENHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

Allotments 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 and city farms.

8.2 Current provision

There are 34 sites classified as allotments across Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, equating to almost 46 hectares. When broken down by authority, Cheltenham has 17 sites totalling 29.28 hectares and Tewkesbury has 17 sites totalling 16.47 hectares.

The Brockworth Allotments 2 site is included in current provision calculations. However, it has not been assessed and therefore does not have a quality or value score due to it not being able to be accessed.

No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision identified is included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Cheltenham	17	29.28	0.25
Tewkesbury Area 1	3	1.97	0.23
Tewkesbury Area 2	3	1.84	0.07
Tewkesbury Area 3	1	3.36	0.19
Tewkesbury Area 4	4	3.36	0.40
Tewkesbury Area 5	6	5.94	0.23
Tewkesbury	17	16.47	0.19

Cheltenham has a significantly greater amount of allotment provision, with 29.28 hectares Tewkesbury whilst having the same number of sites has a total of 16.47 hectares. The analysis area in Tewkesbury with the most allotment provision is Tewkesbury Area 5, with six sites totalling 5.94 hectares. However, based on the standard per 1,000 population, Tewkesbury Area 4 Analysis Area is best served by provision with 0.40 hectares per 1,000 population.

The largest site in Tewkesbury is Nortonham Allotment at 3.36 hectares. This site is also the only site located in Tewkesbury Area 3 Analysis Area. The largest single site in Cheltenham is Midwinter at 6.65 hectares.

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 population based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

CHELTHENHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Cheltenham, as a whole, based on its current population (116,495) does meet the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision required for Cheltenham is 29.12 hectares. Therefore, with 29.28 hectares, Cheltenham just meets the recommended NSALG standard.

Tewkesbury, as a whole, based on its current population (86,890) does not meet the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision required for Tewkesbury is 21.72 hectares. Therefore, with 16.47 hectares, the area is currently 5.25 hectares short of the recommended NSALG standard.

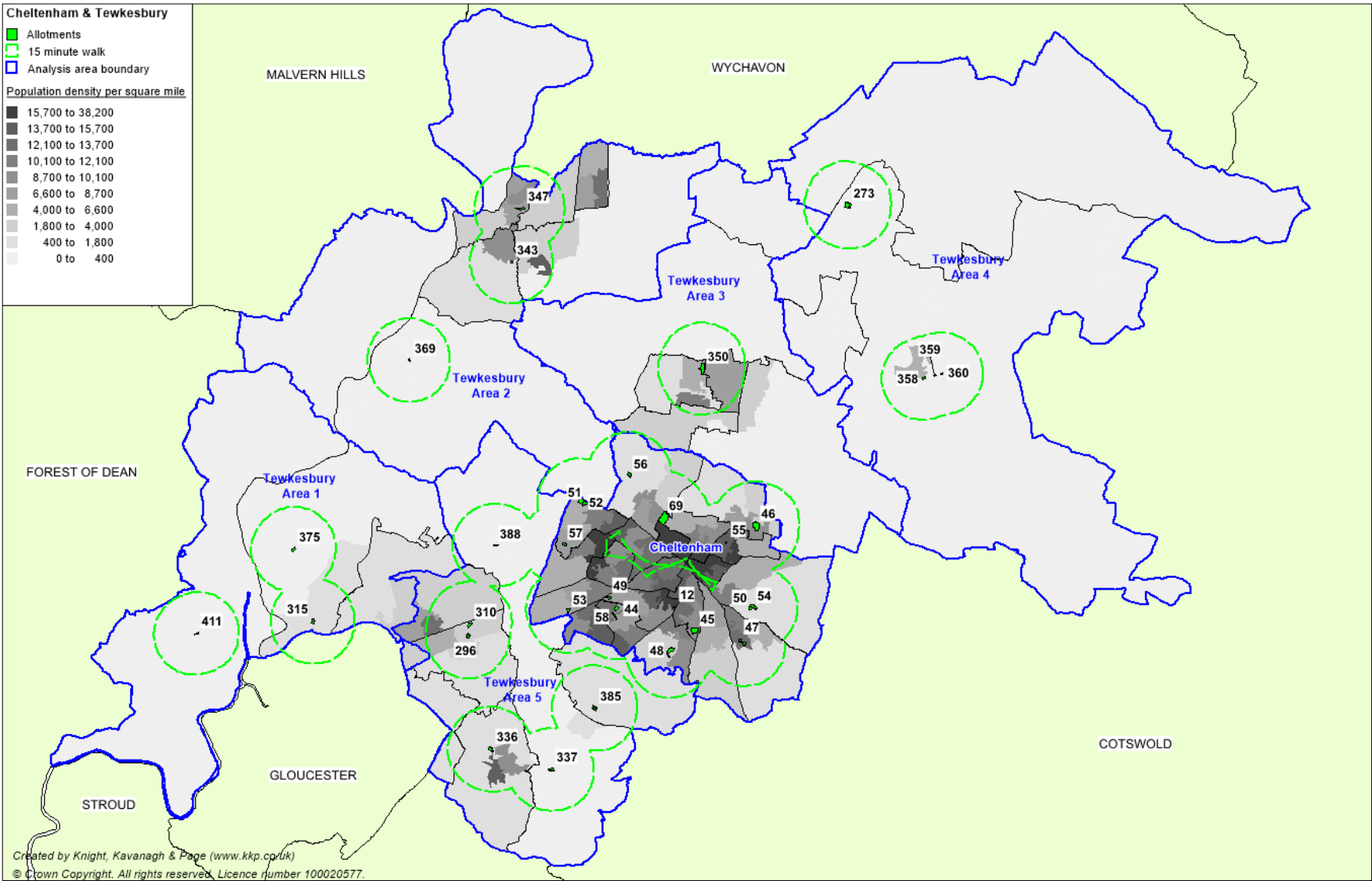
8.3 Accessibility

The Parks and Open Spaces Survey found that of those respondents to have an opinion towards the expected travel times to allotments, the most common travel time is 15 minutes on foot (27%).

Figure 8.1 shows a 15-minute walk time catchment applied to allotments to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

CHELTEMHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.1: Allotments with 15-minute walk time mapped against analysis areas



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Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
12	Exmouth Arms Garden	Cheltenham	47.2%	36.3%
44	Alma Road	Cheltenham	56.3%	50.0%
45	Asquith	Cheltenham	65.3%	52.5%
46	Blacksmiths Lane	Cheltenham	67.3%	51.3%
47	Croft	Cheltenham	57.8%	46.3%
48	Hall Road	Cheltenham	51.3%	45.0%
49	Hatherley	Cheltenham	51.3%	51.3%
50	Haver	Cheltenham	55.8%	51.3%
51	Hayden I	Cheltenham	56.8%	48.8%
52	Hayden II	Cheltenham	57.3%	48.8%
53	Reddings Road	Cheltenham	47.2%	45.0%
54	Ryeworth Road	Cheltenham	47.2%	45.0%
55	Severn Road	Cheltenham	49.7%	36.3%
56	Stanton Drive / Church Road	Cheltenham	55.3%	46.3%
57	Terry Ashdown Henley Way	Cheltenham	52.3%	35.0%
58	Warden Hill	Cheltenham	46.7%	45.0%
69	Midwinter	Cheltenham	55.8%	45.0%
315	Longford Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 1	52.3%	55.0%
375	Sandhurst Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 1	59.3%	38.8%
411	Highnam Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 1	59.3%	36.3%
343	Rose Place Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 2	51.3%	51.3%
347	Station Lane Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 2	54.3%	41.3%
369	Apperley Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 2	51.3%	45.0%
350	Nortonham Allotment	Tewkesbury Area 3	57.3%	37.5%
273	Alderton Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 4	68.3%	68.3%
358	Mill Lane Allotment	Tewkesbury Area 4	50.3%	50.3%
359	Vineyard Street Allotment	Tewkesbury Area 4	58.3%	58.3%
360	Castle Street Allotment	Tewkesbury Area 4	52.3%	52.3%
296	Old Parton Road Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 5	47.2%	43.8%
310	Churchdown Park Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 5	84.4%	43.8%
336	Brockworth Allotment 1	Tewkesbury Area 5	55.3%	37.5%
337	Brockworth Allotment 2	Tewkesbury Area 5		
385	Shurdington Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 5	50.3%	38.8%
388	Staverton Allotments	Tewkesbury Area 5	49.2%	52.5%

Catchment mapping with a 15-minute walk time applied identifies a good distribution of allotment provision across both Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, serving most areas of higher population density. However, there is potentially a slight gap to the east of Tewkesbury.

Of the Parks and Open Spaces Survey respondents, which have an opinion, a higher proportion of respondents (41%) state being either quite satisfied or very satisfied. Further to this, only 21% report being either quite dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. The individuals concerned with access to such provision are likely to be plot holders or interested individuals. Therefore, it is not surprising 21% of respondents report having no opinion and 37% state being neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

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Against the NSALG standard shortfalls are identified particularly in parts of Tewkesbury. Catchment mapping also suggests there may be a gap in provision to the east of Tewkesbury. However, a more accurate approach to determining need for allotments is to look at waiting list numbers.

Ownership management and maintenance

Cheltenham Borough Council own and manage nine of the allotment sites within Cheltenham. Parish councils, local churches and private organisations run the remaining sites. Table 8.3 provides known information for allotments in Cheltenham.

Table 8.3: Cheltenham allotment sites and waiting lists

Site ID	Site name	Ownership and management	Number of plots	Waiting list
44	Alma Road	CBC	77	2 years
45	Asquith	CBC	186	18 months
49	Hatherley	CBC	29	3-4 years
51/52	Hayden I and Hayden II	CBC	177	2 months
53	Reddings Road	CBC	38	3 years
55	Severn Road	CBC	10	1-2 months
57	Terry Ashdown Henley Road	CBC	43	1 year
58	Warden Hill	CBC	35	2-3 years
69	Midwinter	CBC	208	1-2 months
54	Ryeworth Road	Charlton Kings Parish Council	78	1 month
47	Croft	Charlton Kings Parish Council	54	1 month
46	Blacksmiths Lane	Prestbury Parish Council	145	1 month
48	Hall Road	Bruton Knowles	80	1 month
56	Stanton Drive / Church Road	Swindon Village Parish Council	32	1-2 months
50	Haver	Charlton Kings Parish Council	Unknown	1 month
12	Exmouth Arms Garden	Exmouth Arms	Unknown	Unknown

Tewkesbury Borough Council own and manage two allotment sites, Staverton Allotments and Rose Place Allotments (locally known as Priors Park Allotments). Staverton Allotments has a total of nine plots and Rose Place Allotments has 19 plots. The remaining allotment sites in Tewkesbury are owned and managed by parish councils or private organisations.

Demand

The Cheltenham and District Allotment Holders Association report that waiting lists for allotments in Cheltenham range from two month to several years depending on the site. The sites in Cheltenham with the lowest turnover and subsequently the longest waiting lists are Hatherley, Reddings Road and Warden Hill.

Tewkesbury Council report that there are 13 individuals on the waiting lists for Staverton Allotments, with a further eight individuals on the waiting list for Rose Place Allotments.

CHELTHENHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. 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 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Cheltenham	100	47%	54%	67%	21%	0	17
Tewkesbury Area 1	100	52%	57%	59%	7%	0	3
Tewkesbury Area 2	100	51%	52%	54%	3%	0	3
Tewkesbury Area 3	100	57%	57%	57%	0%	0	1
Tewkesbury Area 4	100	50%	57%	68%	18%	0	4
Tewkesbury Area 5	100	47%	57%	84%	37%	0	5
Tewkesbury	100	57%	56%	84%	27%	0	17

All allotment provision across Cheltenham and Tewkesbury score above the threshold for quality. This suggests a general high standard of management and maintenance across all allotment sites within both boroughs.

The two highest scoring allotment sites in Cheltenham are Blacksmiths Lane (67%) and Asquith (65%). These sites score well due to a good standard of maintenance and cleanliness, as well as sufficient controls to prevent illegal use, clear signage and parking. In addition, these sites score well for personal security, allowing users to feel safe.

In Tewkesbury, the highest scoring sites are Churchdown Park Allotments (84%) and Alderton Allotments (68%). Both these sites have good links to public transport, adequate controls to prevent illegal use, parking and bins. Furthermore, they have a good standard of maintenance and cleanliness. In addition, Churchdown Park Allotments also has ramps and guardrails, disabled parking, signage, seating, lighting and access to toilets. Subsequently, these attributes make this site the highest scoring for quality across both authorities.

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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 Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Cheltenham	80	35%	46%	53%	18%	0	17
Tewkesbury Area 1	80	36%	43%	55%	19%	0	3
Tewkesbury Area 2	80	41%	46%	51%	10%	0	3
Tewkesbury Area 3	80	38%	38%	38%	0%	0	1
Tewkesbury Area 4	80	33%	45%	58%	25%	0	4
Tewkesbury Area 5	80	38%	43%	53%	15%	0	5
Tewkesbury	80	33%	43%	58%	25%	0	17

All allotment sites in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury are assessed as high value. This is a reflection of the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision.

A site worth mentioning, which has not been included within the audit due to its late identification but highlighted during consultation with Vision 21, is Priors Park Community Allotment. This site has extremely high value within the Priors Park Community. The site, which was former wasteland, is now an allotment open for anyone in the community to use. The site has been developed in three stages, with the first stage receiving funding from the National Lottery and the second phase receiving funding from the Peoples Lottery. Although stage three is in its infancy, it will see the addition of six to eight extra plots. Tewkesbury Borough Council has also provided some funding to improve access to the site.

Priors Park Community Allotment has a sense of place within the community. Vision 21 has described the site as bringing civic pride to the area. Furthermore, the site offers educational value, with sessions teaching individuals about gardening. A community officer also comes to the site on set days to talk to the local community and build stronger relationships.

The value of allotments is also demonstrated by the existence of waiting lists identified at sites signalling a continued level of demand for provision.

CHELTHENHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

8.6 Allotments summary

Cheltenham

- There are 17 allotments sites in Cheltenham, equating to over 29 hectares. Of these, nine are owned and managed by Cheltenham Borough Council, with others being managed by parish councils, churches or private organisations.
- Current provision for Cheltenham just meets the NSALG recommended amount.
- There are currently waiting lists for allotments within Cheltenham suggesting that demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply.
- All allotment provision in Cheltenham scores above the quality threshold.
- All allotment sites are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
- With waiting lists, continuing measures should be explored to provide additional plots in the future.

Tewkesbury

- There are 17 allotments sites in Tewkesbury, equating to over 16 hectares. Of these, two are owned and managed by Tewkesbury Borough Council, with others being managed by other parish councils, allotment associations, or are privately owned.
- Current provision for Tewkesbury is below the NSALG recommended amount.
- There are currently waiting lists for allotments within suggesting that demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply.
- All allotment provision in Tewkesbury scores above the quality threshold.
- All allotment sites are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
- With waiting lists, continuing measures should be explored to provide additional plots in the future.

CHELTENHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

9.1 Introduction

Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead. Sites can often be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

9.2 Current provision

There are 49 sites classified as churchyards and cemeteries in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, equating to just over 44 hectares. If broken down by authority, Cheltenham has 10 sites totalling 29.94 hectares and Tewkesbury has 39 sites equalling 39.21 hectares.

No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision identified is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Cemeteries	
	Number of sites	Total hectares
Cheltenham	10	24.94
Tewkesbury Area 1	4	1.45
Tewkesbury Area 2	9	6.64
Tewkesbury Area 3	6	3.78
Tewkesbury Area 4	14	4.81
Tewkesbury Area 5	6	2.51
Tewkesbury	39	19.21

There is a fairly even distribution of churchyards and cemeteries across the two authorities, in terms of hectares.

The largest contributor to burial provision in Cheltenham is Bouncer's Lane Cemetery at 19.83 hectares. This site makes up 78% of the burial provision in Cheltenham.

In Tewkesbury the largest contributor to burial provision is Tewkesbury Cemetery, at 3.41 hectares. Within Tewkesbury there are a significant number of smaller parish church sites located across the area; reflecting its more rural characteristics.

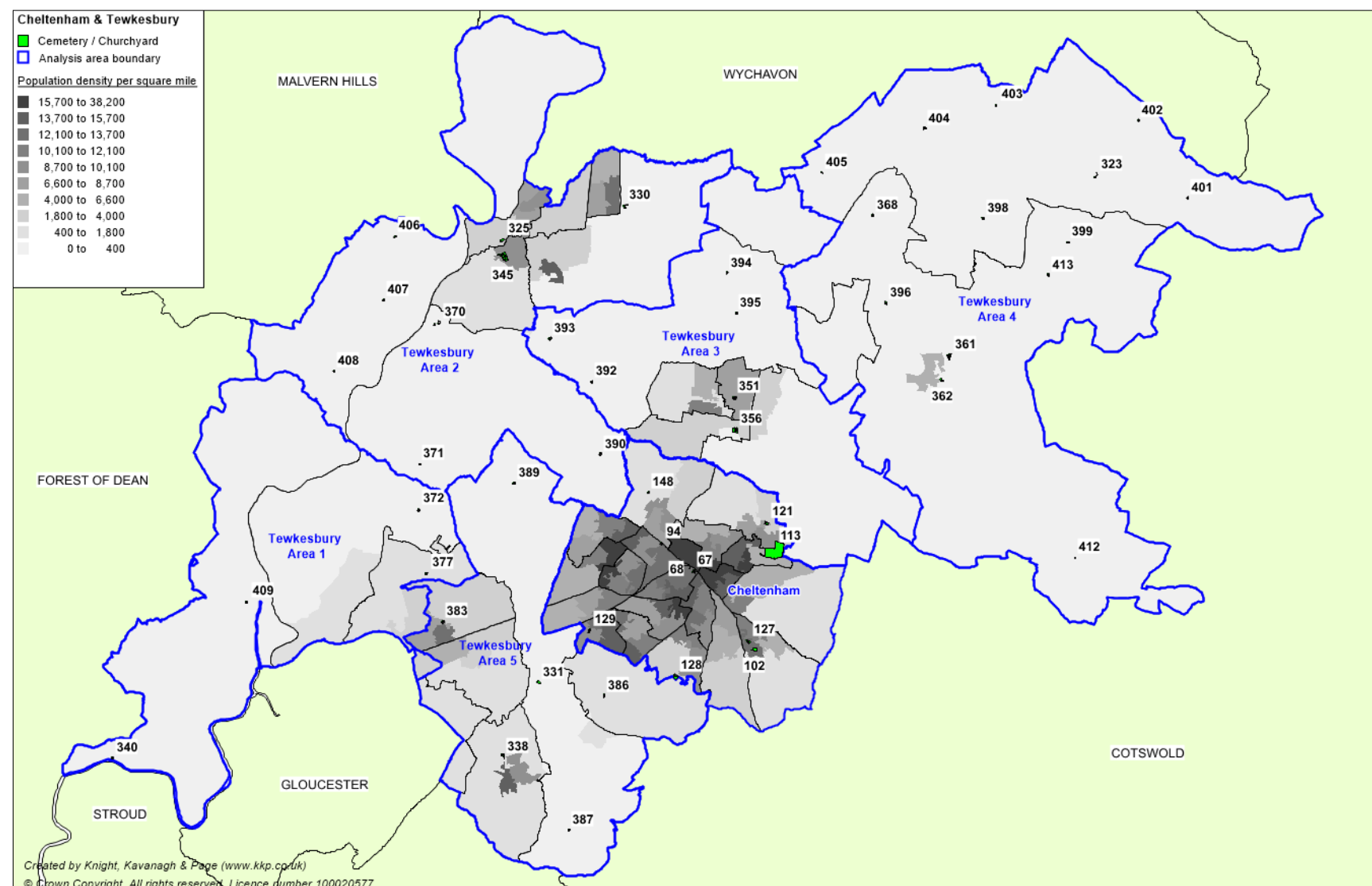
9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should be based on burial demand.

Figure 9.1 overleaf shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis area



CHELTENHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
67	St Marys Parish Churchyard	Cheltenham	49.8%	40.7%
68	Jenner Gardens	Cheltenham	64.4%	70.4%
94	St Peters Churchyard	Cheltenham	55.7%	58.0%
102	Charlton Kings Cemetery	Cheltenham	66.3%	38.3%
113	Bouncers Lane Cemetery	Cheltenham	86.7%	61.7%
121	St Mary's Church Prestbury	Cheltenham	60.5%	58.0%
127	St Mary's Church, Carlton Kings	Cheltenham	69.0%	58.0%
128	St Peter's Church Leckhampton	Cheltenham	68.5%	63.0%
129	St Phillips and St James Church Hatherley	Cheltenham	75.7%	70.4%
148	Swindon Village Church	Cheltenham	75.5%	69.1%
340	St Peter's Church, Minsterworth	Tewkesbury Area 1	64.0%	38.3%
372	St Mary's, Priors Norton	Tewkesbury Area 1	47.1%	38.3%
377	St Mary's & Corpus, Down Hatherley	Tewkesbury Area 1	49.4%	38.3%
409	St Giles Church	Tewkesbury Area 1	49.0%	37.0%
325	Tewkesbury Abbey	Tewkesbury Area 2	80.8%	76.5%
330	St. Nicholas Church	Tewkesbury Area 2	58.2%	44.4%
345	Tewkesbury Cemetery	Tewkesbury Area 2	46.0%	46.9%
370	Deerhurst Church	Tewkesbury Area 2	45.2%	56.8%
371	St Catherine's Church, The Leigh	Tewkesbury Area 2	42.2%	32.1%
390	St Mary's, Elmstone Hardwicke	Tewkesbury Area 2	53.6%	44.4%
406	St Mary's Church, Forthampton	Tewkesbury Area 2	63.6%	44.4%
407	St John the Baptist Church	Tewkesbury Area 2	40.6%	56.8%
408	St Michael and All Angel	Tewkesbury Area 2	55.9%	39.5%
351	St Michael & All Angels Church	Tewkesbury Area 3	73.6%	48.1%
356	Cleave Cemetery	Tewkesbury Area 3	49.7%	44.4%
392	St James Church, Stoke Orchard	Tewkesbury Area 3	52.5%	55.6%
393	St John the Baptist, Tredington	Tewkesbury Area 3	49.0%	29.6%
394	St John the Baptist, Oxenton	Tewkesbury Area 3	55.4%	29.6%
395	St Martin's, Woolstone	Tewkesbury Area 3	46.7%	54.3%
323	Stanton Church	Tewkesbury Area 4	47.5%	44.4%
361	Winchcombe Cemetery	Tewkesbury Area 4	61.3%	49.4%
362	St. Peter's	Tewkesbury Area 4	62.5%	44.4%
368	St Margarets	Tewkesbury Area 4	47.1%	35.8%
396	Christ Church, Gretton	Tewkesbury Area 4	48.3%	54.3%
398	St Andrew's Church, Toddington	Tewkesbury Area 4	42.9%	29.6%
399	St Peter's, Stanway	Tewkesbury Area 4	53.9%	50.6%
401	St Barnabas's, Snowhill	Tewkesbury Area 4	55.2%	24.7%
402	St Michaels's, Buckland	Tewkesbury Area 4	45.2%	44.4%
403	St Catherine's Church, Wormington	Tewkesbury Area 4	49.8%	55.6%
404	St Mary's Church, Dumbleton	Tewkesbury Area 4	42.2%	37.0%
405	St Mary's Church, Great Washbourne	Tewkesbury Area 4	50.6%	55.6%
412	St Edwards Church, Hawling	Tewkesbury Area 4	46.0%	43.2%
413	St George's Church, Didbrook	Tewkesbury Area 4	54.4%	37.0%
331	Badgeworth Church	Tewkesbury Area 5	46.7%	44.4%
338	St George's Church	Tewkesbury Area 5	57.0%	44.4%
383	St Johns, Innsworth	Tewkesbury Area 5	62.1%	46.9%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
386	Parish Church, Shurdington	Tewkesbury Area 5	68.7%	56.8%
387	Saint Mary's, Great Witcombe	Tewkesbury Area 5	47.9%	39.5%
389	St Mary's, Boddington	Tewkesbury Area 5	48.8%	32.1%

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution of cemeteries and churchyards across both Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. The need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity. It is understood that Tewkesbury Cemetery is nearing capacity.

Ownership, management and maintenance

Cheltenham Borough Council owns, manages and maintains two cemeteries in the Borough:

- ✦ St Mary's Church, Carlton Kings
- ✦ Bouncers Lane Cemetery

The Parks and Greenspace Team at Cheltenham Borough Council manage these sites and all maintenance is currently carried out through the grounds maintenance contractors Ubico.

9.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (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 of the quality assessment for cemeteries in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.4: Quality ratings for cemeteries in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Cheltenham	130	50%	67%	87%	37%	0	10
Tewkesbury Area 1	130	47%	52%	64%	17%	0	4
Tewkesbury Area 2	130	41%	54%	81%	40%	2	7
Tewkesbury Area 3	130	47%	54%	74%	27%	0	6
Tewkesbury Area 4	130	42%	50%	62%	20%	2	12
Tewkesbury Area 5	130	47%	55%	69%	22%	0	6
Tewkesbury	130	41%	53%	87%	45%	4	35

All cemeteries and churchyards in Cheltenham rate above the threshold set for quality.

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The lowest rated sites are two churchyard sites; St Peters and St Mary's Parish Churchyard, scoring 55.7% and 49.8% respectively. These sites are reported to have fewer ancillary facilities and a lower overall standard of maintenance. They also lack specific features such as furniture, gardens of remembrance and children's burial areas. Moreover, the sites are noted as having loose headstones, which can significantly affect a sites appearance.

The highest scoring site for quality is the Tewkesbury Abbey in Tewkesbury with a score of 80%. This site has excellent overall maintenance and appearance. In addition, it has a wide range of ancillary facilities including signage, litterbins, seats and benches, all of which are maintained to a high standard. Furthermore, site observations highlight appropriate controls to prevent illegal use, good disabled access, well maintained pathways and conservation of natural features such as trees.

Most other sites that rate above the threshold score similarly to each other, suggesting a generally high quality. The high scores are predominantly due to them being maintained to a good standard as well as having a number of features such as signage and benches.

9.5 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 below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.5: Value ratings for cemeteries in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Cheltenham	81	38%	59%	70%	32%	0	10
Tewkesbury Area 1	81	37%	38%	38%	1%	0	4
Tewkesbury Area 2	81	32%	49%	77%	44%	0	9
Tewkesbury Area 3	81	30%	44%	56%	26%	0	6
Tewkesbury Area 4	81	25%	43%	56%	31%	0	14
Tewkesbury Area 5	81	32%	44%	57%	25%	0	6
Tewkesbury	81	30%	44%	77%	47%	0	39

All identified cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value, reflecting the role they play in community life. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide to and for the local community are acknowledged in the site assessment data. Sites also often receive a score for value from their contribution to wildlife/habitats or sense of place to the local environment.

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Even those sites which score below the threshold for quality rate above the threshold for value. As noted above, despite this, they still obviously provide a role to the communities they serve. This is evidenced by assessments reporting a high number of the sites having local heritage, historical interest and sense of place within their community.

Cemeteries and churchyards are important natural resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g. social functions, habitat provision, wildlife watching).

9.6 Cemeteries summary

Cheltenham

- ◆ In Cheltenham there are ten churchyards and cemeteries equating to 24.94 hectares of provision.
- ◆ The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is Bouncer's Lane Cemetery at 19.83 hectares.
- ◆ There is a fairly even distribution of provision across Cheltenham. However, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by requirement for burial demand and capacity.
- ◆ All churchyard and cemetery provision in Cheltenham rates above the threshold set for quality.
- ◆ All cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as high value in Cheltenham, reflecting the role they have within communities as well as their cultural and heritage value.

Tewkesbury

- ◆ In Tewkesbury there are 35 churchyards and cemeteries equating to 19.21 hectares of provision.
- ◆ The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is Tewkesbury Cemetery at 3.41 hectares.
- ◆ There is a fairly even distribution of provision across Tewkesbury. However, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by requirement for burial demand and capacity. Tewkesbury Cemetery is understood to be nearing capacity.
- ◆ The majority of churchyard and cemetery provision (90%) in Tewkesbury rates above the threshold set for quality.
- ◆ The four sites that score below the threshold for quality; St Andrew's Church, Toddington St Catherine's Church, The Leigh, St Mary's Church, Dumbleton, St John the Baptist Church also have specific quality issues with loose headstones being noted.
- ◆ All cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as high value in Tewkesbury, reflecting the role they have within communities as well as their cultural and heritage value.

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PART 10: CIVIC SPACE

10.1 Introduction

The civic space typology includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

10.2 Current provision

There are five civic space sites, equating to more than one hectare of provision, identified across Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. If broken down by authority, there are three civic space sites in Cheltenham (1.41 hectares) and two in Tewkesbury (0.06 hectares).

In addition, there are likely to be other informal pedestrian areas, streets or squares which residents may view as providing similar roles and functions as civic spaces.

Table 10.1: Distribution of civic space sites in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Civic space	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Cheltenham	3	1.41
Tewkesbury Area 1	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 2	2	0.06
Tewkesbury Area 3	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	-	-
Tewkesbury	2	0.06

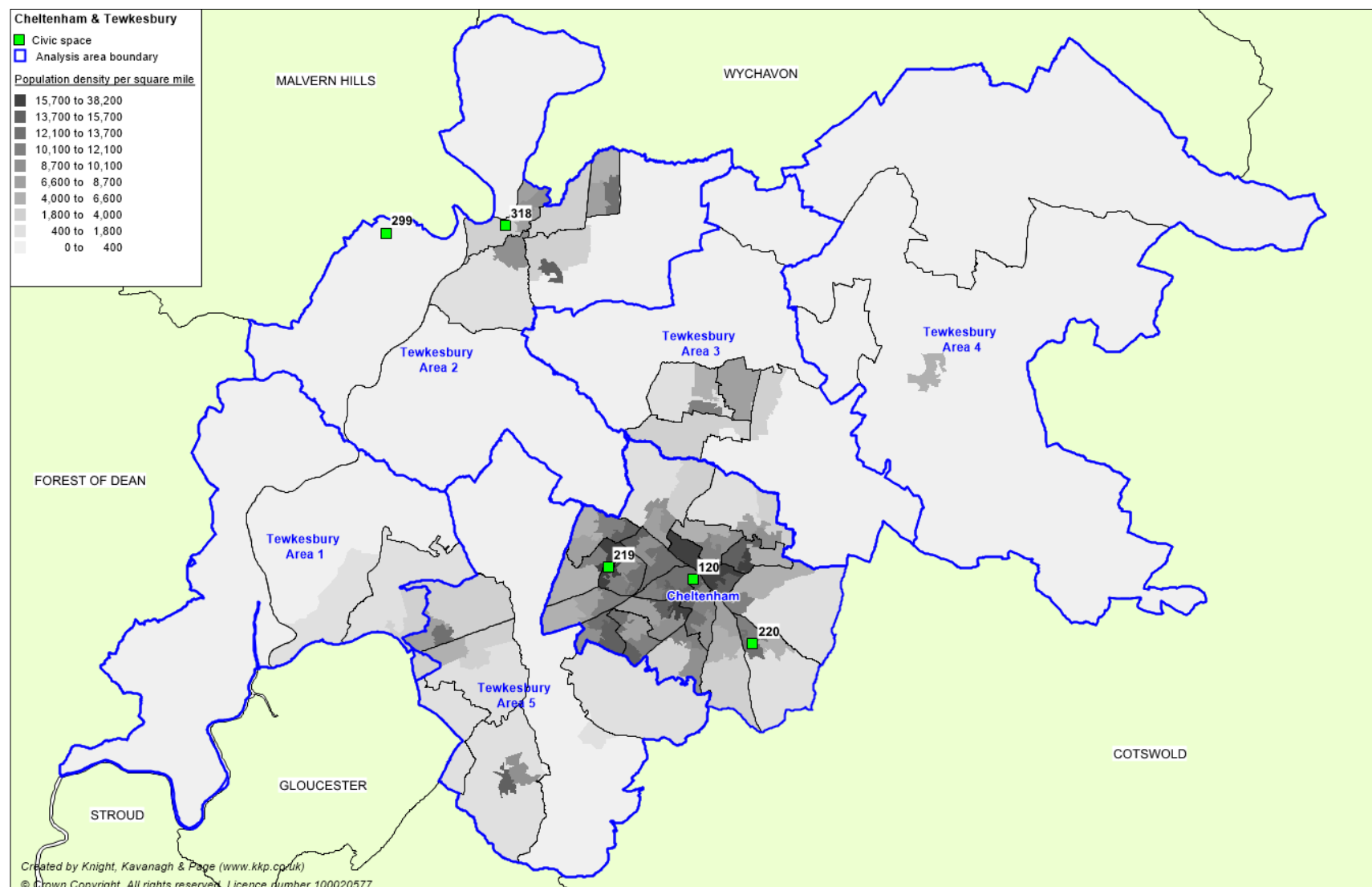
One site located in Tewkesbury is observed as being a war memorial, the remaining four sites are either town squares or pedestrian areas.

10.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for civic spaces. Figure 10.1 shows civic spaces mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 10.1: Civic spaces mapped against analysis areas



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Table 10.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
120	Promenade	Cheltenham	78.3%	68.0%
219	Coronation Square shopping centre market area	Cheltenham	46.8%	30.0%
220	Church Piece	Cheltenham	68.7%	62.0%
299	Forthampton War Memorial	Tewkesbury Area 2	40.2%	35.0%
318	Mill Avon Moorings	Tewkesbury Area 2	51.0%	42.0%

In Cheltenham, there is a reasonable distribution of civic space sites across the area. In Tewkesbury, only the Tewkesbury Area 2 Analysis Area has provision. However, it is reasonable to accept that formal civic space may only exist in areas of greater population density (Tewkesbury area 2 containing the settlement of Tewkesbury).

10.4 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 civic spaces in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. A threshold of 50% 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 10.3: Quality ratings for civic spaces in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Cheltenham	129	47%	65%	78%	31%	1	2
Tewkesbury Area 1	129	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 2	129	40%	46%	51%	11%	1	1
Tewkesbury Area 3	129	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	129	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	129	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury	129	40%	46%	51%	11%	1	1

For both boroughs, one civic space site scores below the quality threshold with all other sites rating above the threshold.

The site that scores high for quality in Cheltenham is the Promenade (78%). This site is also the highest scoring site across both authorities. It scores highly due to its high standard of maintenance and attractive appearance as well as a wide range of ancillary features. These features include parking, signage, lighting, seating and bins. In addition, the site has good access and pathways that are suitable for disabled users. Its high quality reflects its role as a key urban open space site in the centre of Cheltenham.

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The site in Cheltenham that scores below the threshold is Coronation Square shopping centre market area (47%). A point to note, this site does only score marginally under the threshold and no specific quality issues are noted. The main reasons for the site scoring below the threshold is due to fewer ancillary facilities and a less attractive design.

Mill Avon Moorings is the site in Tewkesbury that scores above the threshold with 51%. This site has a good standard of maintenance and cleanliness as well as being attractive in design. Furthermore, the site has good pathways allowing for disabled access, parking and signage.

The site in Tewkesbury that scores below the threshold is Forthampton War Memorial (40%). The main reason for this site falling below the threshold for quality is a lack of ancillary features. Despite it scoring lower, the site is still noted as having good levels of maintenance.

10.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) 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 value assessment for civic spaces in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. A threshold of 20% is applied in order 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 10.4: Value ratings for civic spaces in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Cheltenham	100	30%	53%	68%	38%	-	3
Tewkesbury Area 1	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 2	100	35%	39%	42%	7%	0	2
Tewkesbury Area 3	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury	100	35%	39%	42%	7%	0	2

All civic spaces in Tewkesbury and in Cheltenham are assessed as being of high value. This reflects their role and function in communities' lives. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide to and for the local community are acknowledged in the site assessment data.

CHELTHENHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

10.6 Civic space summary

Cheltenham

- There are three sites classified as civic spaces in Cheltenham, equating to 1.41 hectares.
- Two sites in Cheltenham rate above the threshold for quality and one rates below. The site that rates below (Coronation Square shopping centre market area) is only marginally below the threshold. This can be attributed to fewer ancillary facilities and a less attractive appearance.
- All civic spaces in Cheltenham are assessed as high value; reflecting the social and cultural/heritage role and sense of place to the local community provision provides.

Tewkesbury

- There are two sites classified as civic spaces in Tewkesbury, equating to just 0.06 hectares.
- One site in Tewkesbury rates above the threshold for quality and one rates below. The site that rates below (Forthampton War Memorial) has fewer ancillary features.
- All civic spaces in Tewkesbury are assessed as high value; reflecting the social and cultural/heritage role and sense of place to the local community provision provides.

CHELTHENHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 11: GREEN CORRIDORS

11.1 Introduction

The green corridors typology includes sites that offer opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. Such sites also provide opportunities for wildlife migration. This may include river and canal banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, pedestrian paths, rights of way and permissive paths.

11.2 Current provision

There are seven green corridors identified in Cheltenham, equating to over eleven hectares of provision. Although green corridor provision does exist in Tewkesbury it has not been identified within the audit.

Table 11.1: Distribution of green corridors in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

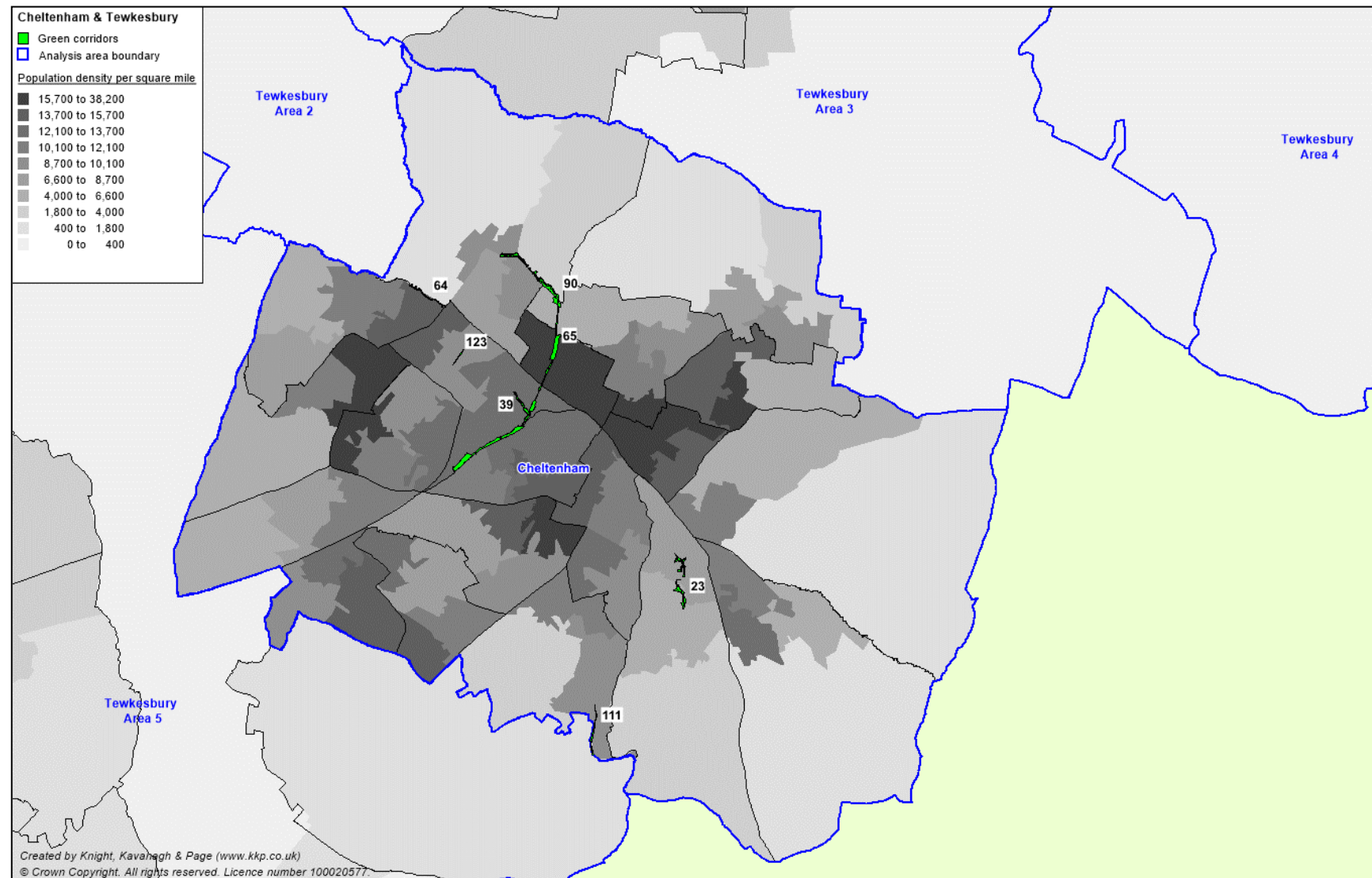
Analysis area	Green corridors	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Cheltenham	7	11.38
Tewkesbury Area 1	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 2	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 3	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	-	-
Tewkesbury	-	-

11.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for green corridors. Figure 11.1 shows green corridors mapped against analysis areas.

CHELTEMHAM AND TEWKESBURY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 11.1: Green corridors mapped against analysis areas



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Table 11.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
23	Charlton Park Open Space	Cheltenham	70.3%	71.0%
39	Honeybourne Way/Chelt Walk	Cheltenham	62.1%	58.0%
64	George Reading's stream bank	Cheltenham	56.8%	39.0%
65	Honeybourne Line Open Space	Cheltenham	85.1%	70.0%
90	Wymans Brook Open Space	Cheltenham	64.0%	46.0%
111	Tramway	Cheltenham	11.5%	12.0%
123	St Peters access	Cheltenham	54.9%	36.0%

11.4 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 green corridors in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. 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 11.3: Quality ratings for green corridors in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Cheltenham	69	12%	58%	85%	74%	3	4
Tewkesbury Area 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The majority of green corridor provision (57%) in Cheltenham scores above the threshold for quality. Within Cheltenham, there is a generally high standard of green corridors resulting in the threshold being set particularly high for this form of provision at 50%. Most of the sites that score below the threshold do so by only a small margin.

The highest scoring green corridor sites are Honeybourne Line Open Space (85%) and Charlton Park Open Space (70%). These sites score well due to their good standard of overall maintenance and cleanliness, as well as having good disabled access and wheelchair friendly surfaces. Further to this, both sites are noted as having ancillary features such as bins, lighting, signage and controls to prevent illegal use. In addition, these sites are noted as having a reasonable number of natural features, which promotes biodiversity. Honeybourne Line Open Space also has seating and is described as having attractive landscape design; subsequently this sets this site above others and has resulted in the high score it has obtained.

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The lowest scoring green corridor site is Tramway, scoring just 12%. This site is reported as having low levels of maintenance and cleanliness and few ancillary features. Furthermore, it scores low for access/quality of pathways and disabled access.

11.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) 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 value assessment for civic spaces in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. A threshold of 20% is applied in order 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 11.4: Value ratings for civic spaces in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Cheltenham	100	12%	47%	71%	59%	1	6
Tewkesbury Area 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury Area 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tewkesbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

All except one of the green corridor sites score above the threshold for value. This is a reflection on this typologies health benefits and sense of place, encouraging residents to walk, run or cycle between locations. The generally high standard of green corridors in Cheltenham will have a direct impact on their value within communities, with individuals being more likely to use them. Further to this, sites score well for their contribution to biodiversity within the urban area of Cheltenham.

The highest value sites Charlton Park Open Space (71%) and Honeybourne Line Open Space (70%) are reported to have good quality pathways with wheelchair friendly surfaces making them accessible to all. In contrast, the lowest scoring site Tramway (12%) has low quality pathways that would not allow access for all abilities. Subsequently this site is likely to be used less frequently and scores therefore scores lower for value.

11.6 Green corridor summary

Cheltenham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are seven sites classified as green corridors in Cheltenham, equating to 11.38 hectares of provision. There is a generally high standard of quality across green corridor provision in Cheltenham, subsequently most sites score above the quality threshold (57%). The sites that do score below the threshold do so by only a small margin. All except one of the sites scores high for value. This is a reflection on this typologies health benefits and sense of place as well as their contribution to biodiversity.