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**The Current Picture -
Open Space Audit
Results**



2 The Current Picture - Open Space Audit Results

2.0 The Open Space Audit was a comprehensive study of a total of 397 publicly accessible open spaces in South Staffordshire conducted in accordance with PPG17 guidelines. Outdoor sports facilities were audited separately by Hall Aitken, the results of which are contained in the Playing Pitch Strategy. The site survey and consultation results were analysed and a series of standards set for each typology. These standards were then applied and a number of practical recommendations made for the improvement of these sites. These recommendations have provided the basis for policies in the LDF Core strategy relating to open space.

2.1 A detailed description of the audit outcomes and recommendations can be found in the Open Space Audit Report available to download from the Council's website at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/openspaceaudit. A brief overview of the methodology and results of the Open Space Audit is outlined below, with the Audit Results Summary as Appendix 1.

Survey Methodology

2.3 The sites were assessed at a ward level and each site was identified as a specific typology and individually assessed against a series of criteria relating to the quality and accessibility of the site. A percentage score for both quality and accessibility were calculated for each site, together with value for the quantity of provision (hectares per 1000 population) of each typology in each ward. The sites were digitally mapped to a Geographic Information System (GIS) providing a comprehensive record of the audit results, which can be easily updated to monitor changes in the future.

Results

2.4 On the whole the audit identified the majority of open spaces in South Staffordshire as being of a very high quality, well maintained and having a good level of accessibility. As a consequence the majority of sites in the District are well used and highly valued. In terms of overall quantity of provision this too appeared quite high with 20 ha open space per 1000 population. A more in depth analysis of the results and the setting and application of standards however revealed variations in quantity, quality and accessibility of provision between wards and typologies and a number of issues which need to be resolved.

Typology	Total Area Identified in South Staffordshire (ha)
Amenity Greenspace	169.37
Young People and Children	4.66
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	781.83
Green Corridors	31.33
Cemeteries and Churchyards	27.51
Civic and Heritage Spaces	6.99
Allotments	12.37
Historic Parks and Gardens	1084.07
Total Open Space	2118.13

2.5 A detailed breakdown of the site survey results by typology and ward can be found in the table in Appendix 1.

2.6 The following table identifies the standards set and applied for each typology. An in-depth justification for the setting of these standards and detailed results of their application within each ward can be found in the Open Space Audit Report.

Typology	Recommended Quantity Standard	Recommended Quality Standard / Vision	Recommended Accessibility Standard / Vision
Amenity Greenspace	1.60 ha per 1000 population	All sites should be of 'good' quality or higher (scoring at least 70%). They should be clean and well-maintained sites that are visually attractive and provide opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational uses for an appropriate range of ages. They should also be safe and secure with appropriate lighting and provision of ancillary facilities, including benches and litter bins where appropriate. The sites should be accessible for all with appropriate signage.	All sites should be of 'good' accessibility or higher (scoring at least 70%). The sites should provide safe and secure access routes, having clearly marked pathways and appropriate provision for disabled users. The means of access should be safe and convenient and minimise reliance on private transport as far as possible.
Young People and Children	0.2 ha play space per 1000 population	All provision for young people and children should be sites of good quality or higher (scoring 70% or above), providing a well-maintained, enriched play environment which is safe, secure and accessible for all. The areas should be clean, well lit, and litter and dog free. They should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety. Provision for older children / teenagers should include areas of youth shelters (with seating).	All provision for young people and children should be of good accessibility or higher (scoring 70% or above), having safe and secure access routes with appropriate provision for disabled users. Sites should be located so they are easily accessed from defined areas and the means is safe and convenient. Access should be possible without having to cross a major traffic route.

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Typology	Recommended Quantity Standard	Recommended Quality Standard / Vision	Recommended Accessibility Standard / Vision
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	No standard recommended	All sites should be of 'good' quality or higher (scoring at least 70%). Sites should provide a pleasant natural environment, free from litter and fly tipping. Sites should be utilised and maintained in such a way that biodiversity and existing wildlife habitats are enhanced and conserved. Information alerting and educating visitors to the natural and ecological significance of sites should be provided where appropriate.	All sites should be of 'good' accessibility or higher (scoring at least 70%). There should be a clear network of footpaths to ensure safe access within the site and promote informal recreation. Disabled access should be provided where possible, providing it doesn't interfere with the character or natural elements of the site. Entrances to the site itself should be clearly marked, identifying the site as publicly accessible.
Green Corridors	No standard recommended	All sites should be of 'good' quality or higher (scoring at least 70%). The corridors should provide a clean, clear, litter free, level and well-drained pathway, which ideally links other areas of open space. Green corridors should include wild flowers, trees, shrubs, and ancillary provision such as benches and litter bins where appropriate.	All sites should be of 'good' accessibility or higher (scoring at least 70%). Footpaths should be level, wide enough for wheelchair access, and have no obstructions (such as very low overhanging branches or overgrown vegetation). They should be well signposted from all access points with appropriate barriers preventing access by motorbikes or cars, but still allowing easy wheelchair access.

Typology	Recommended Quantity Standard	Recommended Quality Standard / Vision	Recommended Accessibility Standard / Vision
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No Standard Recommended	All sites should be of 'good' quality or higher (scoring at least 70%). They should be clean and well-maintained sites that are visually attractive and provide opportunities for quiet contemplation. They should also be safe and secure with appropriate provision of ancillary facilities, including benches and litter bins where appropriate. They should also contain areas that promote biodiversity and nature conservation.	All sites should be of 'good' accessibility or higher (scoring at least 70%). The sites should provide safe and secure access routes, having clearly marked pathways and appropriate provision for disabled users. The means of access should be safe and convenient.
Civic and Heritage Spaces	No Standard Recommended	All sites should be of 'good' quality or higher (scoring at least 70%). Civic spaces should be clean, well-maintained and visually attractive. They should be safe and secure with appropriate lighting and provision of ancillary facilities, including benches and litter bins where appropriate. Heritage sites should be maintained to a high standard, with appropriate signage and information to educate visitors about the historical context of the site.	All sites should be of 'good' accessibility or higher (scoring at least 70%). Civic spaces should be accessible for all, with surfaces and entryways that are appropriate for disabled users. Sites should be ideally located so as to provide an easily accessible meeting point for members of the local community. Heritage sites should be easily accessible with adequate provision for disabled visitors. They should also be well signposted. Areas of restricted access should be implemented where appropriate in order to protect and conserve any sensitive historic or ecological features.

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Typology	Recommended Quantity Standard	Recommended Quality Standard / Vision	Recommended Accessibility Standard / Vision
Allotments	0.25 ha per 1000 Population	All allotments should be of 'good' quality or higher (scoring at least 70%). They should be clean and well-maintained sites that encourage biodiversity and promote education and health benefits. The sites should have good quality soils, clearly marked pathways and well-defined boundaries. They should also be safe and secure with appropriate provision of ancillary facilities (e.g. litter/composting bins).	All allotments should be of 'good' accessibility or higher (scoring at least 70%). The sites should be spacious, providing safe and secure access routes and appropriate provision for disabled users. Sites should be located so they are easily accessed from areas of demand. The means should be safe and convenient and minimise reliance on private transport as far as possible.
Historic Parks and Gardens	No Standard Recommended	All formal Parks and Gardens should be of 'good' quality or higher (scoring at least 70%). They should be clean and well-maintained sites that are visually attractive and provide opportunities for leisure and relaxation. The sites should have well-defined boundaries. They should also be safe and secure with appropriate lighting and provision of ancillary facilities, including benches and litter bins where appropriate.	All sites should be of 'good' accessibility or higher (scoring at least 70%). The sites should provide safe and secure access routes, having clearly marked pathways and appropriate provision for disabled users. The means of access should be safe and convenient and minimise reliance on private transport as far as possible.

2.7 For the purposes of this audit a benchmark of 70% was set as the required standard for each site in terms of quality and accessibility. It was identified that those sites scoring an average of 70% or over in terms of quality and accessibility had no major issues which needed addressing, whereas those scoring below 70% tended to have problems in more than one category, or scored particularly low in a single category. In these cases it is considered necessary for action to be taken and improvements to be made. The 70% benchmark was selected to be challenging and to test the Council's view prior to the audit of sites, that open spaces across the District were of high quality. This compares very favourably with other local authorities within and adjacent to Staffordshire who have set much lower benchmarks (e.g. 46%) against which to assess the quality of open spaces.



Open Space, Shareshill

2.8 Only three of the open space typologies were assigned recommended standards for quantity of provision, these include amenity greenspace, young people and children, and allotments. Increased provision in these typologies was identified as a further issue, which needs to be addressed.

2.9 Therefore despite the overall high standard of provision several important issues relating to quantity, quality and accessibility still exist at the sites, which do not meet the required standard. These are highlighted below in detail.

2.10 It is important to recognise that the issues identified for each typology are those that affect only a minority of sites, but by drawing attention to these and recommending ways in which the issues may be improved the future value and sustainability of open spaces in South Staffordshire can be ensured.

Amenity Greenspace

- A quarter of 40 sites that do not meet the recommended standard for quality and/or accessibility are highlighted as **having an insufficiently open aspect**, and therefore posing certain issues in terms of safety. Depending upon their level of usage it may be necessary to increase artificial lighting at these sites in order to improve safety.

- 20 of the 40 sites (50%) are also identified as having **insufficient or inappropriate signage**. It is often not possible to identify whether these sites are publicly accessible areas of land as their entrances are not signposted and they have no formal pathways marked within them. Improved signage will help to increase site usage.

- 13 of the 40 sites (33%) are identified as having problems with **excessive littering and fly tipping**. Several of the sites with litter bins still have a problem with littering.

- In terms of accessibility, 20 of the 40 sites (50%) are identified as having insufficient provision for disabled users, with a lack of suitably surfaced pathways or ramped entrances. Provision of level pathways with smooth surfaces, and ramps in places currently only accessible by steps will help to ensure that these sites can be accessed by all.

- Of the 40 sites that do not meet the recommended standard for quality and/or

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accessibility, one of the main issues is a **lack of maintenance** to meet usage levels, which is identified as being a specific problem at 10 of the sites (25%).

- The most common issues identified in terms of maintenance are;
 - **Poorly maintained surfaces**, including grass which has worn away – identified as an issue at 8 of the 40 sub-standard sites (20%)
 - **Overgrown vegetation and grass** – identified as an issue at 9 of the 40 sub-standard sites (23%)
 - **Broken fencing** along site boundaries and around vegetation – identified as an issue at 7 of the 40 sub-standard sites (18%)
- The maintenance issues could be improved by establishing a regular regime of maintenance.
- The most successful sites of amenity open space are those that have a **successful maintenance regime** which includes the regular clearing of litter, grass mowing, repairing boundary fencing and removal of graffiti. This is particularly important for maintaining the appearance of those sites located in areas where littering, graffiti and vandalism are particular problems.
- It is particularly important to ensure that areas of amenity open space close to housing are safeguarded and enhanced as these are important to residents such as children, the elderly and disabled, who may not have easy access to the surrounding countryside.

Young People and Children Provision

- In terms of quality, the main issues appear to be a lack of maintenance to meet usage levels. **Broken glass** was found near the play equipment at 3 of the 42 sites (7%) throughout the District,

which had obviously been used as teenage 'hang-outs'. This poses a major safety issue, but could easily be dealt with by regular monitoring.

- The most prominent issue in terms of safety is **missing or broken entrance gates and perimeter fencing** which was identified in some form or another at almost 30% of sites (12 of the 42 sites). This enables dogs to enter the site and may lead to accidents occurring, particularly at sites, which are also used for other activities, such as football. **Poor positioning of equipment** was highlighted as a particular issue at several sites, especially those which do not meet the NPFA recommendations stating that play equipment should be fenced off to separate it from surrounding uses and activities.
- **Vandalised and broken equipment** was also found to be an issue at 5 of the 42 sites



South Staffordshire Railway Walk



Wyrley Essington Canal

(12%), which again poses a safety hazard. Graffiti was also found to be an issue at nearly a quarter of the 42 sites.

- The majority of sites had appropriate ancillary facilities such as benches and litter bins, although in several cases these are **not graffiti-proof** and have been vandalised.
- Some of the sites, including **Quinton Park** (Great Wyrley) and several other more secluded sites, were highlighted as being targets of occasional **anti-social behaviour**, which discourages other children from visiting the sites. Suggestions raised during the consultation include park wardens (particularly for the larger sites) or installing CCTV cameras. 3 sites were highlighted as being particularly **secluded** and it was suggested that there may be a safety issue for children using these sites unsupervised.
- Some sites are locked at night, which appears to have stopped the problems of anti-social behaviour, although this also requires high fencing, which may be unsightly and impractical in some areas.
- In terms of access, several sites were found to have suitable provision for disabled persons. One third of sites however, particularly those with grassed surfaces throughout, were found to have no suitable disabled provision. These lacked the **hard surfaced pathways** within the site that would enable easier access for wheelchair users.
- 7 of the 42 sites (17%) were found to have **inappropriate surfaces** or **surfaces which required maintenance** (being either overgrown or uneven in places).
- The most common problem affecting the safety of children using the sites was found to be a **lack of appropriate signage or safety**



Quinton Park, Great Wyrley



Marsh Playing Fields Playground, Kinver

information (as recommended by the NPFA) posted at the site entrance or within the site itself. Almost 50% of sites (19 sites) were found to have inadequate, poorly positioned or illegible signage. Adequate signage is essential for improving the safety of all site users and is particularly important at those sites, which are located in more secluded/rural areas where the nearest sources of help may not be immediately obvious or easily accessible.

- The most successful sites, including **Marsh Playing Fields Playground** (Kinver) and **Heron Drive Play Area** (Penkridge), were found to be those, which are obviously **regularly maintained and monitored**, especially in terms of clearing litter and repairing broken /vandalised equipment. These sites are also **securely fenced and gated** with **appropriate**

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Heron Drive Play Area, Penkridge

signage. Ensuring that a child can use a play facility safely is the most important factor when assessing a site's success.

- In terms of the quality and level of maintenance of sites there are inconsistencies across South Staffordshire. In particular it was identified that higher population density areas, such as Great Wyrley, have a greater pressure and demand for facilities, and therefore have greater need for regular inspections and improved maintenance regimes.



Broadholes Lane, Wheaton Aston

- Older established sites tend to have more issues in terms of quality, maintenance and accessibility. It is recommended that efforts are made to ensure that any future improvements to these sites comply with current NPFA standards and 'reasonable adjustments' are made to comply

with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

- It is recommended that regular inspection regimes are conducted at all sites. The NPFA's publication, 'Playground Management and Safety', recommends that visual inspections are carried out at least on a daily basis. This may not be feasible at all sites, but should be considered especially at the most popular, well-used sites.

- It is important to note that not all of the issues mentioned above are present at every site, and even those sites that meet the recommended standards for quality and accessibility (71% and 79% of sites respectively) do still have problems that require attention.

- The play area at **Broadholes Lane** (Wheaton Aston), which is currently closed should either be renovated and re-opened as a formal play area or used for another purpose, such as allotments.

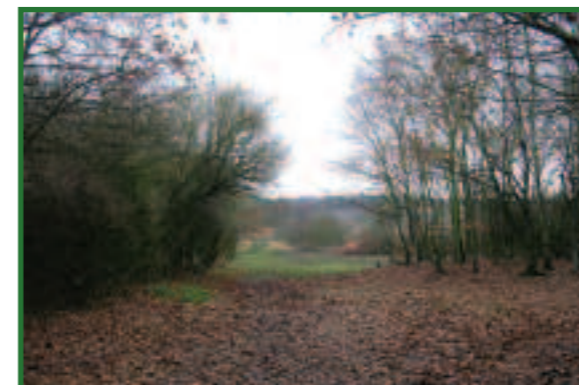
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace

- The most common issue that was identified at 16 of the 29 sites (55%) is **an insufficiently open aspect**. This poses issues relating to the safety and security of visitors to these sites. Due to the large size of many of these sites it is unfeasible to install CCTV cameras other than perhaps in the areas where there are major problems with antisocial behaviour etc. Artificial lighting is not regarded as essential as many of these sites are relatively remote and not visited at night. Lighting will only encourage people to visit these sites at night for antisocial purposes.

- 5 of the sites are identified as being **overgrown** and **generally poorly maintained**. These include the area of land between **Grange Road and St. Michael's Road** (Penkridge), and the field accessed off **Dippons Lane** (Perton). These poorly maintained sites are often also

those identified as having problems with **littering** and **fly tipping**. These sites appear to be the least well-used of all the natural and semi-natural green spaces and although it may be argued that this encourages wildlife, it will be counterproductive if it leads to increased littering and misuse. A certain amount of controlled maintenance is still needed. An improved maintenance regime would help to recover the attraction of these sites and increase their usage.

- With regards accessibility, 6 of the sites (21%) were identified as being **poorly accessible by walking or public transport** as they are located in fairly remote rural areas or a distance from residential areas, such as **Littleton Leisure Park** and **Shoal Hill Common**. The majority of these sites do however have public car parking available on-site, and it would not really be feasible to provide bus services to these areas.



Shoal Hill Common, Huntington



Dippons Lane, Perton

- 10 of the 29 sites (34%), including **Kingswood Common** and **Highgate Common**, were identified as being **inaccessible for disabled persons**. Due to the nature of these sites it is not likely to be feasible to provide access for disabled persons throughout their entirety so long as reasonable adjustments are made where appropriate. The majority of these sites do however have some disabled access.

- Another major issue identified at 11 (38%) of natural and semi-natural sites is a **lack of appropriate or clear signage**. At several of the sites there are signs in place but these are either not easily legible or are made from poor quality materials, such as laminated card, which quickly fades and shows signs of wear. **Shoal Hill Common** and **Littleton Leisure Park** are examples of where such an issue exists. Efforts should be made to maintain signage and provide signs of an appropriate durability.

- Several of the sites, including the field off **Dippons Lane** (Perton), lack any form of signage altogether, which combined with a lack of formal access routes (e.g. established gateways), made it difficult to identify whether the sites were publicly accessible. This may deter some members of the public from using these sites or encourage inappropriate use of sites that do not appear to be formally designated.

Green Corridors

- Although no quantity standard was set for the provision of green corridors, footpath networks could be enhanced, linking green corridors with existing areas of open space in order to improve their usage, with circular walks linking village centres and conservation areas.

- **Graffiti** was identified at 5 of the 27 sites (19%), and **littering** was identified as an issue at 6 sites (22%) particularly those along the

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Wyrley Essington Canal (this is the Council's common name for the site, the correct name of which is the Wyrley Bank Branch).

- It is suggested that in areas along canals where environmental quality is poor **environmental improvements** would be beneficial.

Improvements could include improved access to towpaths, **links to existing footpath networks and open spaces**. Areas of particular concern are cross-local authority boundary areas.

- 11 of the 27 sites surveyed (41%) were identified as having a **lack of open aspect**. This may pose an issue in terms of the safety of people using these routes. This is however an issue which may be difficult to remedy due to the naturally enclosed nature of many of these sites. It may be necessary to consider installing **artificial lighting** in some of the problem areas. Improving the overall quality of these sites, particularly the sections of disused canal, will encourage increased usage and reduce antisocial behaviour.

- It was also identified that several sections of these corridors could benefit from **increased provision of benches** so people can stop to enjoy the scenery, particularly along the **Wom Brook Walk** (Wombourne).

- A major issue in terms of accessibility was a lack of adequate disabled access, whether through **inappropriate footpath surfaces** or **unsuitable entryways**. The **South Staffordshire Railway Walk** for example is only accessible at certain points via steep steps, which would be unsuitable for wheelchair users. **Narrow or locked gateways**, at some access points on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal towpath, also preclude wheelchair access. Inadequate disabled access was identified as a problem at 11 of the 27 sites (41%). However, it is recognised that the historic nature of these



South Staffordshire Railway Walk

sites makes provision of full disabled access impracticable in certain cases.

- 5 of the sites surveyed (19%) were identified as having **inappropriate signage**. This relates to both a lack of public information about the corridors themselves (such as their historic or ecological value), or poorly signposted entryways to corridors which may be otherwise difficult to find.

Cemeteries & Churchyards

- In terms of quality the majority of sites were **maintained to a very high standard**, with only a single site identified as having a problem with vandalism and littering.

- 5 of the 36 sites (14%) were highlighted as being slightly secluded and not having an open aspect. Although this may pose certain problems relating to safety and security, this does not appear to be an issue at the majority of sites.

- Two of the sites (**All Saints' Church Graveyard, Lapley**, and **St. Leonard's Church, Dunston**) were identified as having **inadequate signage**. For visitor information purposes it would be beneficial to have a sign identifying the name of the church at its entrance.

- The biggest issue in terms of accessibility was **inadequate provision for disabled visitors**, identified as an issue at 9 of the 36 sites (25%). The main problems relate to the presence of gravel rather than paved / tarmac paths, uneven paved surfaces, and sites which can only be accessed via steps or steeply sloping ramps.



All Saints' Church Graveyard, Lapley

- The most successful sites, including **All Saints' Church** (Bednall) and **St. Mary's Church** (Enville), are well maintained, having appropriate signage and disabled access, and also take measures to promote the biodiversity and heritage of the site.

Civic & Heritage Spaces

- Despite the majority of sites (28 sites / 93%) meeting the recommended standard for quality and accessibility there are several important issues (as highlighted by the individual survey sheets) that may need to be dealt with.

- In terms of site quality, the main issue identified at 14 of the 30 sites (47%) was the problem of **noise**. Most civic spaces are located in central village locations or on busy roads and therefore this is an issue which is virtually impossible to avoid.

- General maintenance at the majority of sites appears to be good overall, particularly at the

heritage site (**Kinver Fort & Rock Houses**), which already has a successful maintenance regime in place. A few issues were however highlighted at some of the smaller civic spaces. These included problems of **littering, vandalism or graffiti** on benches and public art, and **poorly maintained vegetation**. Regular maintenance and upkeep can dramatically improve the appearance of such sites for a relatively small cost. Maintaining a high quality standard will help to instil a sense of pride in an area and discourage future acts of vandalism.

- 4 of the sites were identified as those that would benefit from **improved artificial lighting** to help increase levels of safety in areas that may be accessed at night.

- Almost a quarter of sites (7 sites/23%) were identified as having **inadequate disabled access**. The majority of these are civic spaces which are often only partially accessible by wheelchair due to the presence of raised kerbs or steps, and no ramps.



Jubilee Gardens, Kinver

- The most successful civic spaces, such as **Jubilee Gardens** (Kinver), are **well maintained, easily accessible, well lit** and have suitable provision of **benches and litter bins**, enabling people to experience optimum enjoyment of the spaces.

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- The majority of civic and heritage spaces were identified as sites that are well used and valued by many people, both people who live in the area and visitors to the villages.

Allotments

- In terms of quality, all sites met the recommended standard; however this audit still highlighted a few issues at a number of individual sites.
- 7 of the 9 sites scored average marks or below for 'open aspect' as they were largely secluded and not well overlooked. However in the majority of these cases the sites were **securely gated and locked** and **accessible by permit holders only** so it is unlikely that safety is a major issue. If there are, however **security issues** currently evident within the site it may be necessary to consider an organised Neighbourhood Watch.
- All sites were found to be **generally well maintained**, with littering often only a minor issue along some site boundaries.
- 4 of the 9 sites (44%), including **Pinfold Lane Allotments** (Cheslyn Hay) and **Wolgarston Way Allotments** (Penkridge), **lacked appropriate signage**, in terms of identifying the site itself, providing contact details, and for enquiries about renting an allotment. This is important for



Wolgarston Way Allotments, Penkridge

ensuring that allotments continue to be utilised to their full potential.



Pendeford Mill Lane Allotments, Bilbrook

- Disabled access was not found to be an issue in the majority of cases, although there were a couple of sites (**Chambley Green, Coven** and **Pendeford Mill Lane allotments, Bilbrook**) in which access by wheelchair would have been difficult, due to **uneven pathways and entryways**. The entrance gates to several of the allotments were large and heavy and may prove difficult for wheelchair users to open.
- The most successful sites, including Francis Green Lane allotments in Penkridge, were those that demonstrated appropriate surfaces for wheelchair users, securely padlocked gates accessible by permit holders only, and suitable signage at the site entrance.

Historic Parks & Gardens

- Very few issues were identified within this typology as many of the sites are privately owned and managed with successful maintenance regimes in place.
- **Noise** was identified as being an issue at two of the sites (**Chillington Hall** and **Moseley Old Hall**) as they are located near to motorways. A method of indigenous screen planting can sometimes be utilised to minimise the impact of

noise, such as has been implemented at **Moseley Old Hall** to stem the noise from the M6.

- Several of the historic parks and gardens, including **Weston Park, Chillington Hall** and **Moseley Old Hall**, were highlighted as having **poor accessibility** as they can only really be easily accessed by car. This is, however an unavoidable issue due to their remote rural location and lack of a convenient public transport service.



Chillington Hall, Brewood



Moseley Old Hall, Fordhouses

- The most successful historic parks and gardens are **well maintained, accessible by all**, and provide an **appropriate amount and standard of information** relating to the history of the site for visitors.
- The majority of these sites were identified as being well used and highly valued by many

people, particularly those historic sites, which are of national importance and are visited by people who live outside the District. It is therefore essential that a high level of quality and accessibility of these sites is achieved and maintained.

Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) Report 2007-08

2.11 The purpose of the LEQ Report was to provide the Council with an assessment of Local Environmental Quality Standards within the authority between April 2007 and March 2008. The Report's findings indicate that open spaces in the District are Good or Satisfactory across a range of factors including litter; leaf fall; weed growth; flytipping; flyposting; graffiti; signage; street furniture; maintenance. The Report indicated that open spaces were unsatisfactory in terms of only litter-bin collection and litter-bin cleanliness.