

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF

T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@knp.co.uk www.knp.co.uk



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SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Contents

PART 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Report structure	2
1.2 National context	3
1.3 Local context	3
PART 2: METHODOLOGY	4
2.1 Population	4
2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)	4
2.3 Quality and value	5
2.4 Quality and value thresholds	6
PART 3: SUMMARY OF SURVEY AND AUDIT SCORES	8
3.1 Community Survey	8
3.2 Audit overview	11
3.3 Summary	13
PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS	14
4.1 Introduction	14
4.2 Current provision	14
4.3 Accessibility	14
4.4 Quality	16
4.5 Value	17
4.6 Summary	18
PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE	19
5.1 Introduction	19
5.2 Current provision	19
5.3 Accessibility	20
5.4 Quality	22
5.5 Value	23
5.6 Summary	25
PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE	26
6.1 Introduction	26
6.2 Current provision	26
6.3 Accessibility	26
6.4 Quality	33
6.5 Value	34
6.6 Summary	35
PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	36
7.1 Introduction	36
7.2 Current provision	36
7.3 Accessibility	36
7.4 Quality	40
7.5 Value	41
7.6 Summary	42

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS	43
8.1 Introduction	43
8.2 Current provision.....	43
8.3 Accessibility	43
8.4 Quality	45
8.5 Value	46
8.6 Summary	46
 PART 9: CEMETERIES.....	 47
9.1 Introduction	47
9.2 Current provision.....	47
9.3 Accessibility	47
9.4 Quality	50
9.5 Value	51
9.6 Summary	51
 PART 10: GREEN CORRIDORS	 52
10.1 Introduction	52
10.2 Current provision.....	52
10.3 Accessibility	52
10.4 Quality	54
10.5 Value	55
10.6 Summary	55
 PART 11: CIVIC SPACE.....	 56
11.1 Introduction	56
11.2 Current provision.....	56
11.3 Accessibility	56
11.4 Quality	58
11.5 Value	59
11.6 Summary	59
 APPENDICES	 60
Appendix One: Quality and Value Criteria and Weighting	60

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Glossary

DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play
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)
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for 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
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSDC	South Staffordshire District Council
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been commissioned by South Staffordshire District Council to produce an Open Space Audit and Strategy. The study will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions on future strategic planning and any investment priorities for open spaces across the area.

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

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

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

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
Allotments	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.
Cemeteries and churchyards	Burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Green corridors	Areas or route which provide walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. May also offer opportunities for wildlife mitigation.
Civic Space	Including civic and market squares, and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians

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.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

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

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

Associated strategies

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

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

1.1 Report structure

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

- ◀ Part 2: Methodology
- ◀ Part 3: Summary of survey and audit scores
- ◀ Part 4: Parks and Gardens
- ◀ Part 5: Natural/semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Part 6: Amenity Greenspace
- ◀ Part 7: Provision for children/young people
- ◀ Part 8: Allotments
- ◀ Part 9: Cemeteries
- ◀ Part 10: Green Corridors
- ◀ Part 11: Civic Space

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

1.3 Local context

SSDC is currently undertaking a review of its Local Plan. The Issues and Options consultation (held in Autumn 2018) identified a suggested level of growth to plan for in the District of approximately 9,000 homes. This included five different high-level growth options for where growth could be located.

The spatial strategy and draft developmental management policies are being progressed in preparation for the Preferred Options Consultation in 2020. Consequently, an up to date open space audit and strategy is needed to support and inform the process.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

PART 2: METHODOLOGY

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

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

2.1 Population

The current resident population in South Staffordshire is 111,890*. The population figure is used to help determine the current provision levels for different types of open space. Consequently, this will be used to inform and set a quantity provision standard.

The Strategy will analyse at a more local level the potential deficiencies as well as future requirements (up to 2037) and priorities.

2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The KKP Field Research Team undertook the site audit scoring for this study in summer 2019. Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. A total of 443 sites have been identified for inclusion.

The focus is on sites publicly accessible. Private sites or land which people cannot access are included but may not receive a quality or value score. Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with best practice:

- ◀ Parks & gardens
- ◀ Natural & semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Provision for children & young people
- ◀ Allotments
- ◀ Cemeteries
- ◀ Green corridors
- ◀ Civic space

Best practice suggests considering a size threshold of 0.2 hectares to the inclusion of some typologies within the audit. Sites of a smaller size can tend to have a different role. Often this is for visual purposes (e.g. small incremental grassed areas such as highway verges) and can often provide less recreational use in comparison to other forms of open space. However, it is considered that some settlements may only be served by smaller sites and should therefore be identified within the audit. Given the rural nature/character of the District a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has only been applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace as part of this study.

* ONS 2017 Mid-Year Estimates

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Database development

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

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

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

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

2.3 Quality and value

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

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

Analysis of quality

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

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

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

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

For the provision for children and young people, a non-technical visual assessment of the whole site is used. This includes assessing general equipment and surface quality/appearance plus ancillary facilities such as seating, signage and bins. This differs, for example, from an independent Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

Analysis of value

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

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

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

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

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

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

2.4 Quality and value thresholds

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

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

The baseline threshold for assessing quality can be set on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (66%) as the site audit criteria is based on Green Flag. This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site audit criteria used for Green Flag is not appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site.

Consequently, not all the same criteria are used for scoring all types of open space; as some criteria is more relevant for some forms of open space than others. For example, parks and gardens are assessed against most criteria to reflect the range and quality of facilities/features a park can typically be expected to contain. In comparison, natural and semi-natural greenspace is not assessed in terms of lighting or gradient; as neither are considered critical or relevant for natural sites. Whereas for parks, both elements are used as part of scoring parks provision. A summary of the criteria used to score each open space type is set out in Appendix 1.

In effect, there is a maximum score a site can potentially receive for each type of open space. A sites quality percentage is its actual score / the potential maximum score it could achieve for that typology (e.g. if a site scores 80 and the maximum it could achieve is 100; it will have a quality percentage of 80%).

Quality thresholds are therefore adjusted to better reflect average scores for each typology. Consequently, the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

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

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

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

PART 3: SUMMARY OF SURVEY AND AUDIT SCORES

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

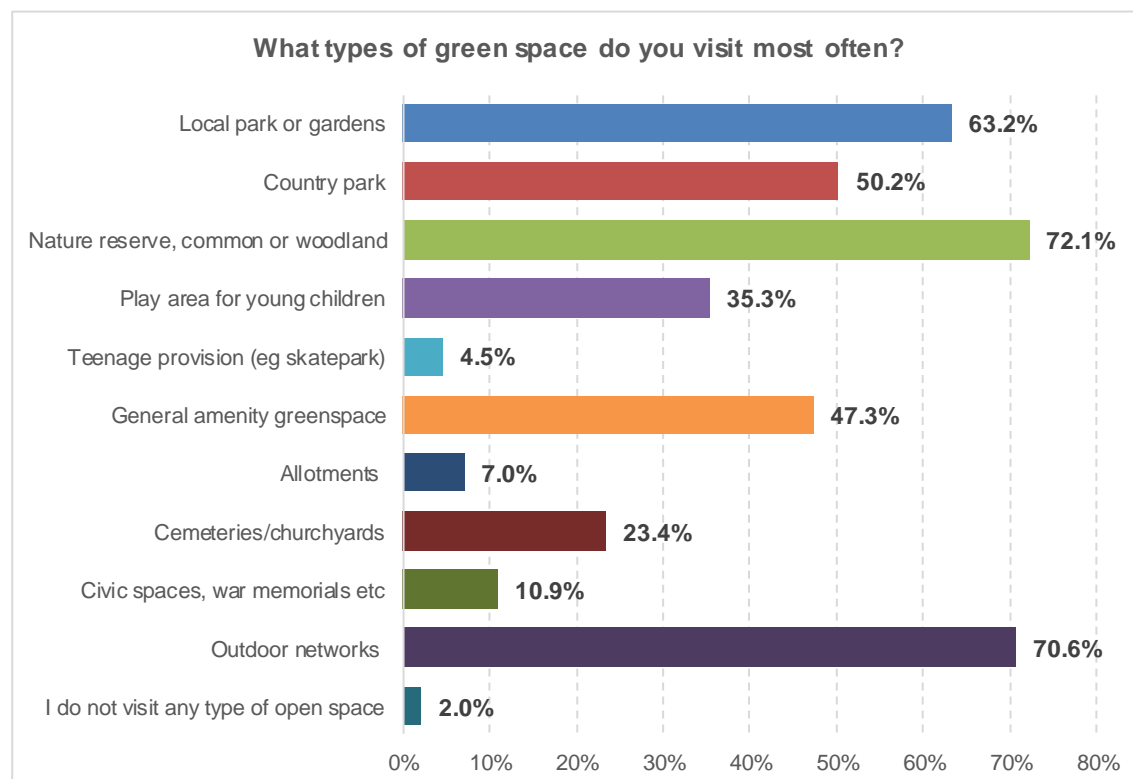
3.1 Community Survey

An online community survey was hosted on the Council website and promoted via social media and the Council's communication team. A total of 201 responses were received. The findings of the consultations are used, reviewed and interpreted to further support the report findings. A summary of the responses is set out on the following pages.

3.1.1 Usage

Popular forms of open space provision to visit most often are nature reserves (72%), outdoor networks (71%) and parks (63%).

Figure 3.1.1: Types of open space to visit



Baggeridge Country Park and Wom Brook Walk are cited as the most frequently visited sites by respondents.

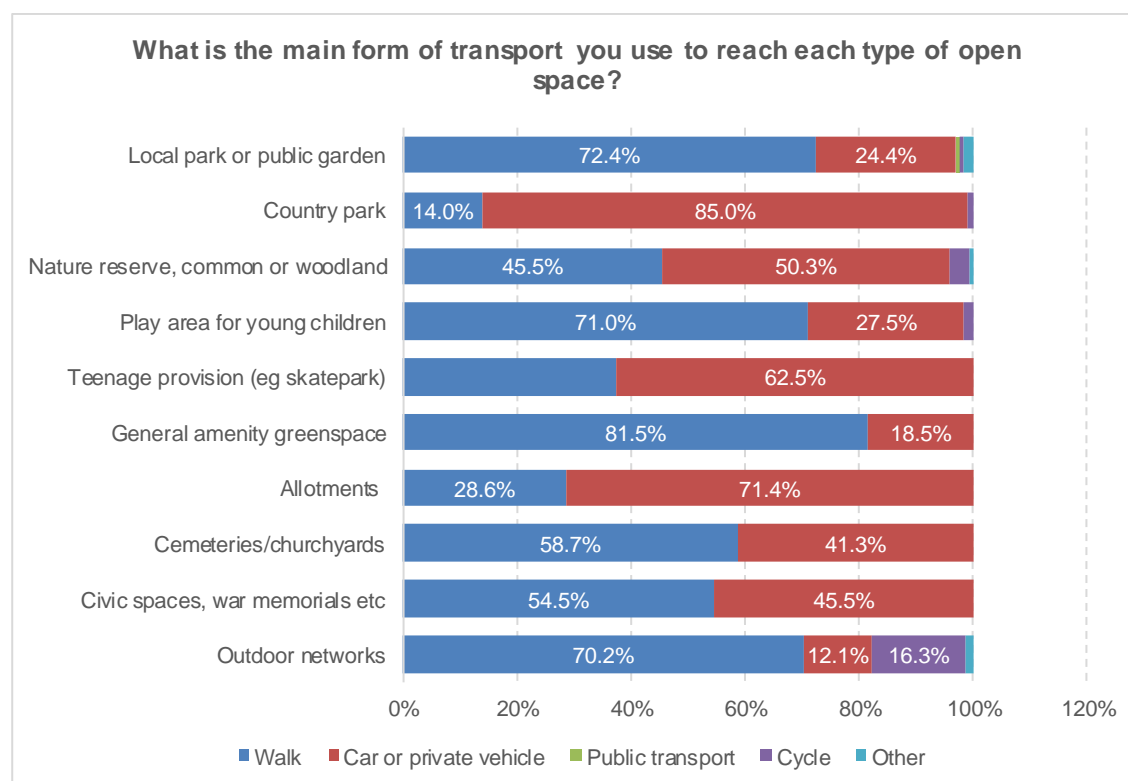
SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

3.1.2 Accessibility

Results from the survey shows that individuals walk to access provision of amenity greenspace (82%), parks (72%), play areas for young children (71%), outdoor networks (70%), cemeteries (59%) and civic space (55%).

The exception to this is for country parks (85%), allotments (71%), teenage provision (63%) and nature reserves, commons or woodlands (50%) which individuals travel by car to access.

Figure 3.1.2: Mode of travel to open space sites

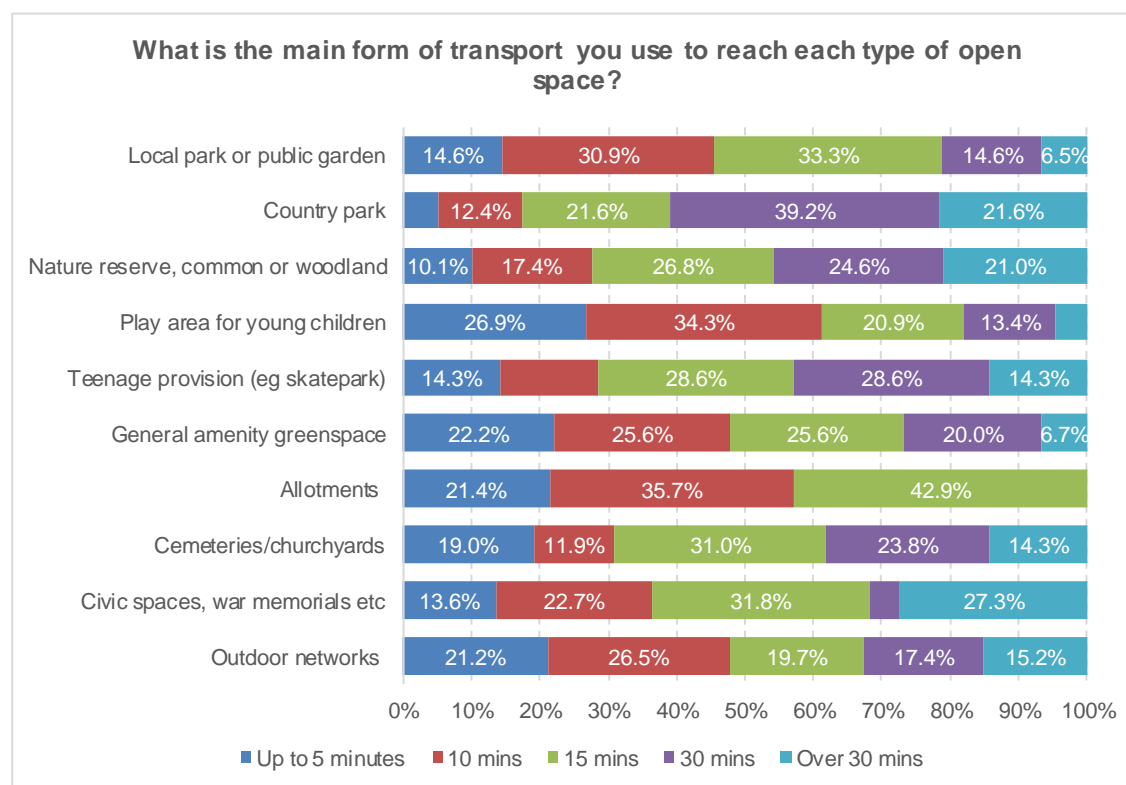


For some provision such as nature reserves and country parks, there is a willingness to travel further distances; with 39% of respondents stating they would travel up to 30 minutes to access a country park and 25% willing to travel 30 minutes to a nature reserve.

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

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.1.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites



3.1.3 Availability and Quality

In general, respondents consider the amount of open space provision to be quite satisfactory. A noticeable proportion of respondents also rate availability of open space as very satisfactory.

Table 3.1.1: Satisfaction with availability of open space

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
33.7%	45.7%	11.1%	5.5%	4.0%

Over half of survey respondents consider the quality of open space provision to be generally quite satisfactory. A further 26% rate quality as very satisfactory. Only small proportions of respondents view quality as quite unsatisfactory (6%) or very unsatisfactory (3.5%).

Table 3.1.2: Satisfaction with quality of open space

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
26.0%	53.0%	11.5%	6.0%	3.5%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Respondents to the survey were asked what they thought would improve open space provision. The most common answers include better maintenance and care (60%), more provision for wildlife (44%) and better and wider range of facilities (38%).

Table 3.1.3: What would improve open space provision for you?

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
Greater attractiveness (e.g. flowers, trees)	35.9%
Better maintenance and care of features	60.1%
Improved access to and within sites	21.2%
More public events	12.6%
Greater information on sites	22.2%
Better and wider range of facilities (i.e. play equipment, seating, refreshments)	37.9%
Greater community involvement or space for community-led projects	26.3%
More provision for wildlife/ habitats	44.4%
Other (please state below)	6.6%

3.2 Audit overview

Within South Staffordshire there is a total of 443 sites, equating to over 3,689 hectares of open space. The largest contributors to provision are parks and gardens and natural and semi natural greenspace.

Table 3.2.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Park and gardens	13 [†]	2,499
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	42 [‡]	965
Amenity greenspace	224	170
Provision for children & young people	52	5
Allotments	11	13
Cemeteries	36	35
Green corridors	40	n/a
Civic space	28	2
TOTAL	446	3,689

The number of sites for each typology may not be fully reflected in the number of sites to receive a quality and value score. This could be due to a variety of reasons. The typology specific sections detail why any sites may not have received a quality and value score.

* Rounded to the nearest whole number

[†] If only traditional sites are included; a total of two sites equivalent to 305 hectares

[‡] If only accessible site included; a total of 33 sites equivalent to 568 hectares

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

3.2.1 Quality

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

It is important to note that throughout the assessment, a site that rates low (red) does not necessarily represent a poor-quality site. The scoring is relative to other sites of the same typology and intended to help to distinguish between higher and lower quality sites.

Table 3.2.2: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Park and gardens	60%	76%	78%	80%	0	2
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	40%	10%	41%	72%	17	17
Amenity greenspace	50%	26%	54%	84%	65	158
Provision for children & young people	55%	45%	64%	87%	5	47
Allotments	45%	46%	52%	70%	0	11
Cemeteries	45%	32%	50%	61%	10	26
Green corridors	50%	35%	59%	83%	8	32
Civic Space	45%	31%	49%	68%	9	19
TOTAL					114	312

There is generally a reasonably good level of quality across most open space sites. This is reflected in 73% of sites scoring above their set threshold for quality.

All allotments and parks and gardens score above the quality threshold. A high proportion of provision for children and young people (90%) also rates above the quality threshold. In contrast, proportionally more natural and greenspace sites (49%) rate below the threshold than other typologies.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

3.2.3 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 South Staffordshire.

Table 3.2.3: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Park and gardens	20%	55%	66%	77%	0	2
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		10%	30%	55%	7	27
Amenity greenspace		6%	22%	45%	70	153
Provision for children & young people		29%	41%	55%	0	52
Allotments		23%	30%	55%	0	11
Cemeteries		23%	33%	64%	0	36
Green corridors		23%	32%	50%	0	40
Civic Space		23%	26%	42%	0	28
TOTAL					77	349

Most assessed sites (82%) are above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

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

3.3 Summary

- ◆ 446 sites are identified as open space provision. This is equivalent to over 3,689 hectares.
- ◆ If inaccessible parks and natural greenspace sites are discounted, a total of 426 sites at an equivalent to 1,098 hectares
- ◆ Of assessed sites, nearly three quarters (73%) rate above the quality threshold.
- ◆ Most sites (82%), are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

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

4.2 Current provision

There are 13 sites classified as parks and gardens in South Staffordshire, the equivalent of over 2,400 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all known sites are included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	3	597.20	23.51
North	2	664.05	41.71
North East	1	1.18	0.04
North West	4	921.32	85.48
South	3	314.95	11.54
South Staffordshire	13	2,498.89	22.33

South Staffordshire has a current provision level of 22.33 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest contributor to provision is Teddesley Park (626.38 hectares).

Only two of the 13 sites are considered as traditional parks; Baggeridge Country Park and Himley Hall Landscape Park. Together they equate to over 305 hectares. The other 11 sites are identified as halls or private estates.

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

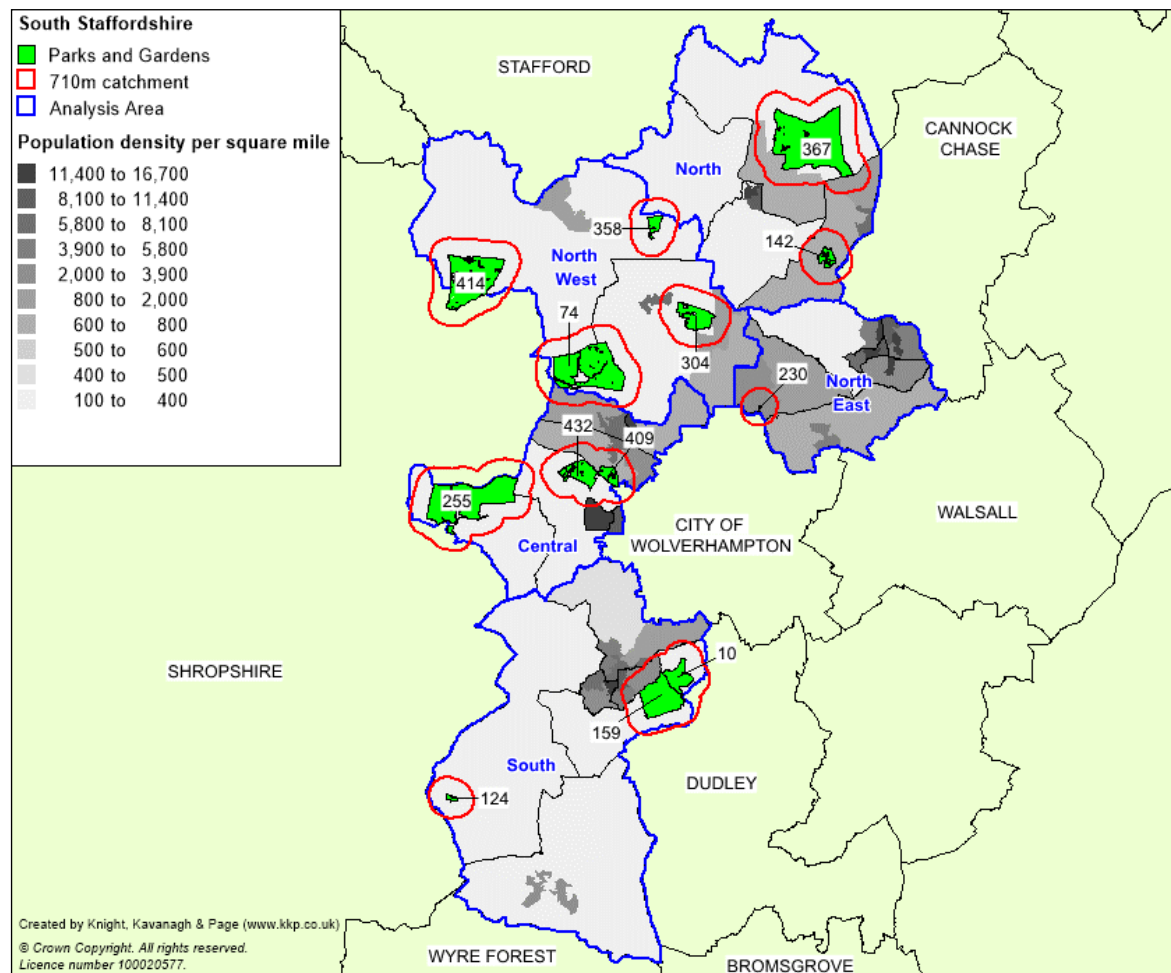
If only the two traditional parks are used, South Staffordshire has a current provision level of 2.73 hectares per 1,000 population.

4.3 Accessibility

Figure 4.1 overleaf shows the location of parks provision across South Staffordshire with a 710m catchment applied. This is based on FIT recommended accessibility standards.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with a 710m catchment applied



The 11 sites identified as private estates or halls do not receive a quality or value rating. Access of these sites to members of the public is unclear. The focus for this study is on public open space. The sites may have an influence on people's perceptions but are not available for use to the same level as traditional parks and gardens.

Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Site Size	Quality score	Value score
10	Baggeridge Country Park	88.91	76.2%	77.3%
74	Chillington Hall	411.51		
124	Four Ashes Hall	9.34		
142	Hatherton Hall	37.68		
159	Himley Hall Landscape Park	216.70	79.9%	50.0%
230	Moseley Old Hall	1.18		
255	Patshull Park	449.28		
304	Somerford Hall and Park	111.50		
358	Stretton Hall and Park	35.99		
367	Teddesley Park	626.38		
409	Wergs Hall	43.90		

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Site Size	Quality score	Value score
414	Weston Park	362.32		
432	Wrottesley Hall and Park	104.02		

As can be seen in Figure 4.1, there are catchment gaps in parks provision in some areas of high population density. This is most prominent in the Essington and Great Wyrley settlements. The gaps are however met by other types of open space provision including amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace.

4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by best practice); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks in South Staffordshire. 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 assessed parks in South Staffordshire

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Central	-	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	-	-	-	-	-
North East	-	-	-	-	-	-
North West	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	76%	78%	80%	4%	0	2
South Staffordshire	76%	78%	80%	4%	0	2

Both assessed parks score above the 60% quality threshold. The highest scoring site is Himley Hall Landscape Park, with an overall score of 80%.

The site is observed through site assessment as having good parking (including disabled parking), informative signage, well maintained pathways, ample seating and litter bins. It also benefits from having a coffee lounge and galleries attracting many visitors. The site's high quality is reflected in it being a setting for wedding receptions. Furthermore, the site is identified as having good personal security and an attractive landscape.

Baggeridge Country Park also scores well above the quality threshold. The site is highlighted as being visually attractive with a variety of wildlife. It scores reasonably well for overall maintenance and cleanliness and has a good network of paths. Furthermore, it has a play area, high ropes course, miniature railway and café.

Both sites are perceived as well used site and having good levels of maintenance and cleanliness, making them more attractive to users.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

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 impacts upon the way parks and gardens are managed and maintained.

A survey conducted by improvement charity GreenSpace highlights 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.

At present, there are two Green Flag sites in South Staffordshire. One of these is a park site - Baggeridge Country Park. The other site, Wom Brook Walk, is classified as a green corridor but does have natural and semi natural features.

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 South Staffordshire. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area in South Staffordshire

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central	-	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	-	-	-	-	-
North East	-	-	-	-	-	-
North West	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	55%	66%	77%	23%	0	2
South Staffordshire	55%	66%	77%	23%	0	2

All assessed parks score above the threshold for value.

Baggeridge County Park scores the highest for value (77%). This Green Flag Award site also has high ecological value as it is a Local Nature Reserve with varied habitats. It provides great exercise opportunities through play, adventure challenge and its network of pathways, adding to its high social and health benefits. It also has a café, enhancing economic value.

This site does not just act as a local open space but sees visitors coming from a lot further afield. The nature walks and cycle routes at this site, as well as a children's play area also see it offer significant health benefits by encouraging people to be active.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

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

4.6 Summary

Parks and gardens

- ◆ There are two sites classified as traditional parks and gardens in South Staffordshire, the equivalent of over 305 hectares.
- ◆ Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, South Staffordshire is above this suggested standard.
- ◆ The largest contributor to provision is Himley Hall Landscape Park (217 ha).
- ◆ There are potential catchment gaps in parks provision to the settlements of Essington and Great Wyrley. However, these are likely to be served by other types of open space provision including amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace.
- ◆ Both parks in South Staffordshire score above the quality threshold. The highest scoring site is Himley Hall Landscape Park, with an overall score of 79%.
- ◆ At present, there are two Green Flag sites in South Staffordshire. One of these is categorised as a park; Baggeridge Country Park.
- ◆ Both parks score above the threshold for value reflecting the high social, health and ecological benefits such sites provide.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

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, 42 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 965 hectares of provision. These include sites considered to be inaccessible.

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

Table 5.1: Distribution of (all) natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	14	114.72	4.52
North	9	113.21	7.11
North East	2	4.27	0.13
North West	4	62.02	5.62
South	13	671.30	24.61
South Staffordshire	42	965.51	8.63

The largest of the natural and semi-natural greenspace sites is The Million at over 288 hectares. The site accounts for around 30% of the total provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace. This is followed by Kinver edge (138 hectares), Highgate Common (121 hectares) and Shoal Hill Common (73 hectares).

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

A total of 33 natural and semi-natural sites are identified, if inaccessible sites are discounted, equating to 568 hectares.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Table 5.2: Distribution of fully accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace

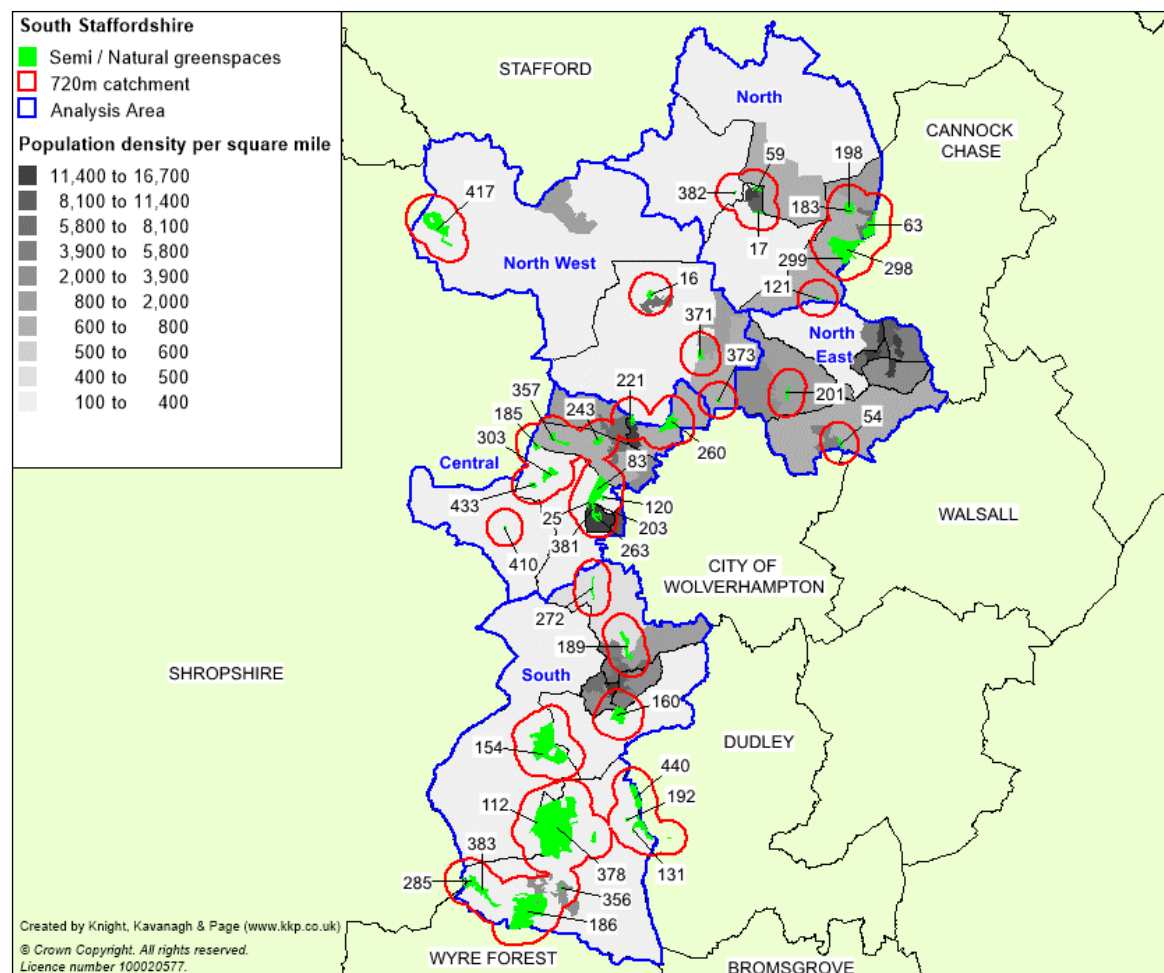
Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	12	94.97	3.74
North	9	113.21	7.11
North East	2	4.27	0.13
North West	2	9.75	0.88
South	8	345.72	12.67
South Staffordshire	33	567.93	5.08

Table 5.2 shows the Fields In Trust guideline standard of 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population is still met across South Staffordshire even if inaccessible sites are discounted. Only the North East and North West analysis areas are below the FIT standard.

5.3 Accessibility

Figure 5.1 shows the location of natural and semi-natural provision across South Staffordshire with a 720m catchment applied. This is based on FIT recommended accessibility standards.

Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural sites mapped with a 720m catchment applied



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name*	Site size	Quality score	Value score
16	Barnfield Sandbeds, Brewood	6.08	60.6%	39.1%
17	Bedingstone Drive	0.65	29.8%	25.5%
25	Bluebell Walk	3.47	35.9%	25.5%
54	Brownshore Lane Woodland, Essington	2.10	35.6%	25.5%
59	Canal Wharf/Wolgarston Way	1.23	40.4%	27.3%
63	Cavan's Wood, Huntington	23.61	36.5%	25.5%
83	Corser's/Smith's Rough	39.81	49.0%	34.5%
112	Enville Common	20.02	26.3%	20.0%
120	Field, Dippons Lane, Perton	2.75	27.9%	21.8%
121	Fishing Pools, Four Crosses	0.84	47.8%	31.8%
131	Friars Gorse, Kinver	20.58	22.1%	20.9%
154	Highgate Common	121.22	47.1%	36.4%
160	Himley Plantation	23.83	44.2%	45.5%
183	King Cup Drive	3.35	27.9%	14.5%
185	Kingswood Common	4.12	40.7%	34.5%
186	Kinver Edge	137.91	68.3%	50.0%
189	Ladywell Wood	11.79		
192	Lawnswood Ancient Woodland	0.85		
198	Littleton Leisure Park	9.74	53.5%	39.1%
201	Lower Belt, Cannock Road	2.17	32.7%	10.9%
203	Lower Lake	1.47	48.1%	30.9%
221	Jubilee Wood	2.62	71.5%	53.6%
243	Oaken Lanes Playing Fields	6.77	41.7%	36.4%
260	Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve	20.67		
263	Perton Lakeside	4.82	71.8%	54.5%
272	Pool Hall fishing pool	0.74		
285	Rough Park Wood	12.18		
298	Shoal Hill Common 1	62.90	46.2%	39.1%
299	Shoal Hill Common 2	9.95	44.9%	40.9%
303	Simmonds Wood	15.59		
356	Sterrymere Gardens, Kinver	0.64	31.7%	10.0%
357	Strawmoor Lane, Codsall	6.59	37.5%	20.0%
371	The Bront, Coven	3.68	60.3%	40.0%
373	The Church 'on the common', Coven Heath	0.68	9.6%	14.5%
378	The Million	288.14	20.2%	20.0%
381	The Parkway/St. Andrews Drive	1.37	35.6%	13.6%
382	The Swamp, Penkridge	0.94	58.3%	30.0%

* Sites which do not receive a quality or value score are either fully or partially inaccessible/have restricted access.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name*	Site size	Quality score	Value score
383	The Wilderness, Widdowsons Plantation and Vermin Valley	12.61		
410	Westbeech Road	0.50	39.4%	15.5%
417	White Sitch and Blymhill Common	51.59	24.0%	19.1%
433	Wrottsley Old Park/Birch Coppice	4.16		
440	Ridgehill Wood	20.78	30.8%	30.0%

Mapping shows there is a good distribution of natural and semi natural greenspace across South Staffordshire. Some minor catchment gaps are noted to settlements such as Great Wyrley and Wombourne. However, these are likely to be served to some extent by other forms of provision such as amenity greenspace and green corridors.

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 South Staffordshire. A threshold of 40% 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 lower quality threshold than some other open space typologies such as parks. This reflects the wide-ranging characteristics of provision. For instance, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation.

Table 5.3: Quality ratings for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace in South Staffordshire

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<40%	>40%
Central	28%	46%	72%	44%	5	7
North	28%	42%	54%	26%	3	5
North East	33%	34%	36%	3%	2	0
North West	10%	39%	61%	51%	2	2
South	20%	37%	68%	48%	5	3
South Staffordshire	10%	41%	72%	62%	17	17

Of assessed natural and semi-natural provision, half the sites in South Staffordshire rate above the threshold set for quality. However, there are 17 sites rating below the quality threshold applied.

Low scoring sites for quality tend to lack features, for example, such as seating and bins. This may often be due to a focus more on the promotion of habitats and biodiversity. This may not mean such sites have any specific quality issues. Rather, they are fulfilling their primary purpose as a habitat for local wildlife. As a result of this, such sites scoring low for quality are likely to score high for value.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

The lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ✦ The Church 'on the common', Coven Heath (10%)
- ✦ The Million (20%)
- ✦ Friars Gorse, Kinver (22%)
- ✦ White Sitch and Blymhill Common (24%)

The sites lack ancillary features and score low for overall appearance and pathways. Observations at The Church 'on the common', Coven Heath, The Million and White Sitch and Blymhill Common highlight that access to the sites is restricted. Consequently, use of the sites is assumed to be low.

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

The highest scoring sites are:

- ✦ Perton Lakeside (72%)
- ✦ Jubilee Wood (71%)
- ✦ Kinver Edge (68%)

The sites are viewed as well maintained, with good personal security, excellent signage and appearing to be well used. Perton Lakeside and Kinver Edge have car parking. Perton Lakeside also benefits from a lake and outdoor gym equipment adding to overall quality. Kinver Edge is a huge site with toilets, car parks, numerous paths and some trails. The site appears to be well used.

Despite Jubilee Wood scoring above the threshold, Friends of Bilbrook highlight that litter is a big problem here.

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 South Staffordshire. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Central	14%	32%	55%	41%	2	10
North	15%	31%	41%	26%	1	7
North East	11%	18%	25%	15%	1	1
North West	15%	28%	40%	25%	2	2
South	10%	31%	55%	45%	1	7
South Staffordshire	10%	30%	55%	45%	7	27

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Only seven natural and semi-natural greenspace sites rate below the threshold for value. This is mainly due to them appearing to be unmanaged woodland with poor paths and/or limited access. This hinders usage and their ability to meet the recreational needs of users.

The highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ Perton Lakeside (55%)
- ◀ Kinver Edge (55%)
- ◀ Jubilee Wood (54%)

Kinver Edge has interpretation boards around the woodland, providing opportunities for visitors to learn about the wildlife, history and management. This offers high educational and historic value. The site has three trails; Heathland trail, Rock House trail and Woodland trail. This provides high social and amenity benefits for people to enjoy. It also has high ecological value in recognition of its wildlife and habitat opportunities. The Tea Rooms within the Rock Houses provides additional economic value.

Similarly, Jubilee Wood (54%) and Perton Lakeside (55%) have high ecological and educational value due to their habitat provision. Both have good pathways adding to their social and health value.

Jubilee Wood has an active Friends Group (Friends of Bilbrook) who undertake various activities such as woodland maintenance, water quality and water life monitoring

Likewise, Barnfield Sandbeds, Brewood (39%) also has a Friends Group who undertake maintenance and cleaning of 70 bird boxes, general site maintenance and annual pond dipping. Consultation with the Group highlights that the site has a litter and dog fouling problem.

Bluebell Walk scoring 26% for value is identified by Wild about Perton as a local woodland. They highlight that currently, management is limited to maintaining footpaths, access, and health & safety, with no resources for woodland management.

Highgate Common and Shoal Hill Common 1 and 2 are identified as having high ecological value due to their LNR status.

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

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◆ In total, there are 42 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering over 965 hectares. This is an equivalent to 8.63 hectares per 1,000 population. This includes all sites including those considered as inaccessible.
- ◆ If inaccessible sites are omitted, there are 33 sites giving a total of over 568 hectares. This is an equivalent to 5.08 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◆ South Staffordshire is above the FIT recommended standard of 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◆ Mapping shows there is a good distribution of natural and semi natural greenspace. Minor gaps are noted to settlements such as Great Wyrley and Wombourne.
- ◆ Of assessed natural and semi-natural sites, a total of 17 sites (50%) rate above the threshold set for quality. There are 17 assessed sites that rate below the quality threshold applied. Most low scoring sites lack ancillary provision with several appearing to have restricted access.
- ◆ All but seven sites rate above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the added benefit natural and semi-natural greenspaces can provide especially in terms of contributing to flora and fauna whilst also providing recreational opportunities.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

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

6.2 Current provision

There are 224 amenity greenspace sites in South Staffordshire, equivalent to over 170 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	60	40.07	1.58
North	34	18.54	1.16
North East	90	72.33	2.24
North West	18	8.69	0.79
South	22	30.79	1.13
South Staffordshire	224	170.44	1.52

It is important to note that whilst a large proportion of provision may be considered as being smaller grassed areas or roadside verges, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example, small sites such as Church Rd. Codsall at 0.007 hectares, to the largest, Long Lane, Springhall at over 10 hectares. Larger recreation grounds and playing fields serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational and sporting activities due to their size. Note that exactly half of the sites are below 0.2ha.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests a guideline quantity standard of 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population. Table 6.1 shows that overall, South Staffordshire is above this suggested standard with 1.52 hectares per 1,000 population. Each individual analysis area also meets the FIT standard. Proportionally, more provision is located in the North East Analysis Area (2.24 ha per 1,000 population).

6.3 Accessibility

Figure 6.1 overleaf shows the location of amenity greenspace sites across South Staffordshire with a 480m catchment applied. This is based on FIT recommended accessibility standards.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace sites mapped with a 480m catchment applied

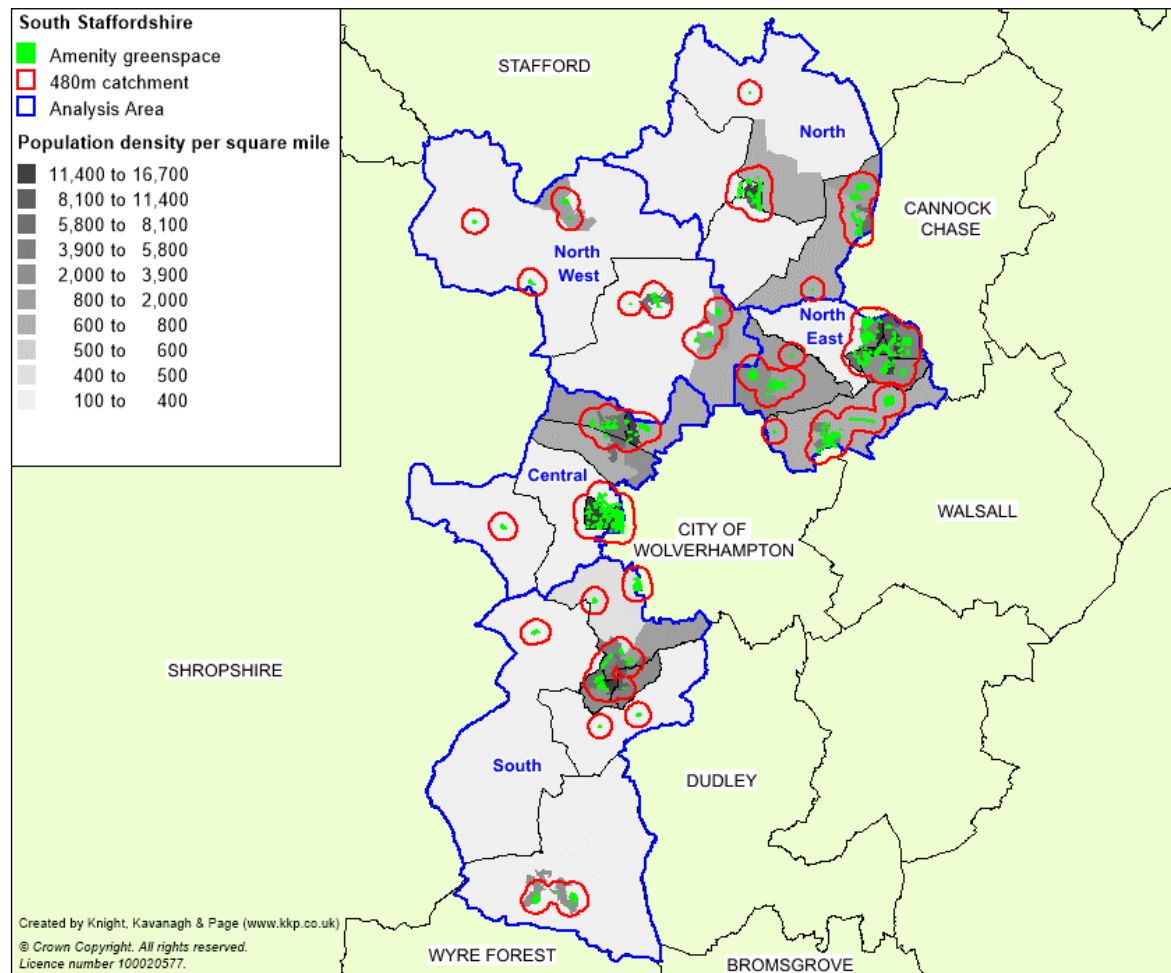


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Site Size	Quality score	Value score
1	Ajax Close (1), Anson Road Estate	0.08	55.5%	17.0%
2	Ajax Close (2), Anson Road Estate	0.07	32.4%	6.0%
7	Alpha Way	0.02	59.9%	17.0%
8	Athelstan Gardens/Harald Close	0.11	56.0%	28.0%
9	Avon Close	0.16	60.4%	23.0%
12	Baneberry Drive	0.18	47.3%	22.0%
13	Baneberry Drive/Speedwell Gardens 1	0.03	45.6%	23.0%
14	Baneberry Drive/Speedwell Gardens 2	0.23	59.9%	8.0%
15	Barley Croft/Cornhill Grove	0.17	52.8%	28.0%
19	Benson Close	0.08	46.7%	16.0%
20	Bilbrook Rd	0.61	61.2%	33.0%
21	Bishops Wood Playing Field	0.42	47.6%	23.0%
23	Bishops Wood Public Footpath	0.08	56.0%	23.0%
27	Blymhill Playing Field	0.28	53.8%	23.0%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Site Size	Quality score	Value score
31	Bramwell Drive	0.12	54.9%	22.0%
33	Bratch Locks Picnic Area	0.46	59.5%	25.0%
34	Bratch Park	0.98	54.6%	29.0%
38	Brickbridge Lane Playing Fields	3.21	62.3%	23.0%
39	Bridge Avenue	0.30	33.0%	8.0%
40	Broad Lane/Burnsnips Road	0.34	31.3%	6.0%
42	Broadmeadow Lane 2	0.21	41.8%	8.0%
43	Broadmeadow Lane 1	0.13	53.8%	27.0%
44	Broadmeadow Lane 3	0.07	51.7%	27.0%
45	Brockley's Walk, Kinver	3.90	51.3%	34.0%
48	Brook Lane	0.07	54.9%	27.0%
50	Brook Lane/John's Lane (Library)	0.09	52.8%	27.0%
51	Brooklands Avenue	0.41	49.3%	13.0%
52	Brooklime Gardens	0.50	57.1%	9.0%
53	Brownshore Lane	5.21	53.5%	45.0%
55	Bull Lane, Wombourne 1	0.05	52.8%	27.0%
56	Bull Lane, Wombourne 2	0.06	56.6%	28.0%
57	Burnet Grove, Featherstone	0.05	58.2%	22.0%
60	Cannock Road Playing Field	0.40	56.4%	22.0%
61	Cannock Road/Hilton Road	0.03	57.7%	23.0%
62	Cannock Road/Park Road	0.02	47.8%	22.0%
65	Chambley Green, Coven	0.10	67.8%	28.0%
66	Chapel Lane Playing Field*	0.49		
67	Cherrybrook Drive	0.20	53.8%	28.0%
68	Cheshire Grove/Cunningham Road	0.26	45.1%	9.0%
72	Chillington Close/Weston Drive	0.26	51.7%	18.0%
73	Chillington Drive	0.13	54.9%	27.0%
75	Church Close, Dunston	0.10	60.4%	32.0%
77	Church Rd. Codsall	0.01	52.7%	16.0%
79	Codsall House	0.88	62.1%	23.0%
80	Colliers Way, Huntington	0.38	64.8%	33.0%
84	Coulter Grove/Leasowes Drive	0.03	57.7%	23.0%
87	Coven Playing Field	1.01	64.8%	39.0%
88	Crowland Avenue/Jedburgh Avenue	0.37	45.1%	8.0%
89	Daneford Gardens	0.08	63.0%	33.0%
90	Dark Lane, Kinver	0.08	45.1%	21.0%
91	Deansfield Close	0.13	57.1%	27.0%
92	Deansfield Road	0.09	57.1%	27.0%
93	Dimmingsdale Road Playing Field	1.44	35.2%	28.0%
94	Dippons Lane	1.17	26.4%	8.0%

* Site was inaccessible at time of visit

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Site Size	Quality score	Value score
95	Druids Way	0.35	35.7%	7.0%
96	Duck Lane	0.26	55.7%	14.0%
97	Dundalk Lane	0.19	44.0%	21.0%
98	Dundalk Lane/Landywood Lane	0.26	60.8%	20.0%
99	Dunster Grove	0.09	44.5%	27.0%
100	Dunston Close	0.56	52.8%	23.0%
102	East Road (1)	0.09	50.6%	28.0%
103	East Road (2)	0.06	54.4%	28.0%
105	East Road/Oaks Drive	0.36	39.6%	8.0%
106	Edgehill Drive	1.22	36.6%	7.0%
107	Edgehill Drive/The Parkway	0.26	48.4%	10.0%
108	Elm Grove	0.15	58.2%	27.0%
110	Engleton Lane Playing Field	0.87	56.6%	44.0%
111	Ennerdale Drive/Rydal Drive	0.02	57.7%	22.0%
115	Featherstone Community Centre	1.35	68.5%	44.0%
122	Forge Valley Way	0.15	57.7%	28.0%
123	Former Vale Gardens Play Area	0.17	60.4%	28.0%
125	Four Crosses Lane/Catsbridge Lane	0.09	46.2%	22.0%
126	Fox Rd/Ebtree Rd	0.05	65.2%	23.0%
127	Fox Road Playing Field	0.64	49.4%	17.0%
128	Foxfields Way	0.45	36.8%	19.0%
132	Gainsborough Drive	0.53	65.2%	24.0%
133	Gainsborough Drive/Yew Tree Lane	4.48	70.3%	34.0%
135	Gorsemoor Way	0.06	59.3%	27.0%
136	Gravel Lane 1	0.50	41.2%	7.0%
140	Haling Dene Centre	1.23	69.6%	25.0%
141	Hall Lane/Quinton Avenue	1.58	64.7%	20.0%
144	Hatherton Reservoir	8.91	41.8%	29.0%
145	Hazel Grove	0.010	57.1%	23.0%
146	Hazel Lane/Walsall Road Playing Fields	4.88	57.1%	24.0%
147	Health Centre, Landywood Lane	0.22	68.3%	23.0%
148	Heron Drive	2.48	43.4%	20.0%
151	High Hill/Backhalve Lane	1.19	42.9%	13.0%
152	High Hill/Kitchen Lane	4.15	38.5%	30.0%
153	High Street/Pinfold Lane	0.13	53.8%	27.0%
155	Highland Road/Chase Walk	0.24	34.6%	15.0%
156	Hill Street, Essington	0.48	54.6%	20.0%
157	Hilton Rd, Featherstone	0.23	27.5%	12.0%
158	Hilton Road/Olde Hall Road	0.07	56.6%	28.0%
161	Himley Playing Field	0.65	56.4%	17.0%
166	Hoylake Road	0.08	56.0%	16.0%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Site Size	Quality score	Value score
167	Hudson Grove/Scampton Close	0.09	53.3%	22.0%
169	Huntington Recreation Ground	1.21	64.8%	22.0%
171	Idonia Rd	0.56	54.4%	14.0%
172	Joeys Lane Playing Field (2)	1.24	71.8%	40.0%
174	Joeys Lane Playing Field/Bilbrook Village Hall	2.25	76.6%	35.0%
175	Jones Lane Playing Field	0.99	60.8%	29.0%
178	Jubilee Grove, Blymhill	0.04	47.3%	18.0%
180	Kestrel Way 1	0.20	54.4%	15.0%
181	Kestrel Way 2	0.28	42.9%	18.0%
182	Kiddemore Green Road	0.08	59.2%	22.0%
184	Kingswear Avenue/Richmond Drive	0.17	57.7%	28.0%
187	Kinver Edge Fort and Rock Houses	4.45	56.8%	45.0%
190	Lapwing Close	0.31	39.6%	8.0%
191	Larchmere Drive/Gorsemoor Way	0.19	59.3%	28.0%
193	Leander Close	0.06	56.2%	17.0%
195	Lime Road	0.05	51.7%	16.0%
196	Lime Tree Road	0.10	63.2%	28.0%
197	Ling Road	0.51	50.6%	15.0%
199	Long Lane, Springhill	10.43	57.5%	28.0%
200	Low Street/Rosemary Road Playing Fields	5.56	67.8%	29.0%
202	Lower Green	0.95	61.9%	25.0%
204	Lytham Road/The Parkway	0.37	65.6%	24.0%
205	Manorfield Close, Penkridge	0.12	46.2%	22.0%
206	Maple Drive	0.08	53.8%	16.0%
210	Marston Road Playing Field	1.54	74.0%	33.0%
212	Mary Rose Close/Essington Canal Walk	0.35	40.7%	13.0%
214	Meadow Lane	0.06	44.5%	23.0%
218	Mercia Drive	0.36	49.8%	13.0%
219	Mercia Drive/Athelstan Gardens	0.08	56.6%	28.0%
223	Milton Court	1.51	50.6%	19.0%
224	Mitre Road	0.05	51.7%	22.0%
225	Moatbrook Lane	1.56	53.5%	38.0%
227	Moon's Lane	0.24	35.2%	13.0%
228	Moons' Lane/Upper Landywood Road	0.17	67.0%	28.0%
229	Moor Park/Gleneagles Road	0.16	59.3%	28.0%
231	Naseby Road/Adwalton Road	0.14	43.4%	16.0%
232	Nash Avenue	0.13	57.7%	23.0%
233	New Road/East Road 1	0.05	68.1%	21.0%
234	New Road/East Road 2	0.31	58.8%	8.0%
236	Norfolk Grove 1	0.12	56.0%	21.0%
237	Norfolk Grove 2	0.06	48.4%	21.0%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Site Size	Quality score	Value score
239	Oak Avenue 1	0.12	51.7%	28.0%
240	Oak Avenue 2	0.03	45.1%	16.0%
241	Oak Court	0.11	54.9%	23.0%
242	Oak Road, Brewood	0.04	55.5%	28.0%
244	Oakleigh Drive	0.09	59.3%	28.0%
245	Oaks Drive 1	0.10	60.4%	22.0%
246	Oaks Drive 2	0.19	62.6%	28.0%
247	Oaks Drive Playing Field	3.49	45.1%	28.0%
248	Off Hilton Road	0.42	48.9%	28.0%
249	off Richmond Drive	0.12	60.4%	28.0%
250	Offa's Drive	0.04	50.0%	27.0%
251	Old Lane and Baneberry Drive	0.03	46.2%	16.0%
252	Oxley Close, Anson Road Estate	0.08	50.6%	16.0%
253	Park Road, Hilton	0.13	50.6%	16.0%
254	Parks Crescent	0.12	56.6%	28.0%
256	Pattingham Playing Field	2.28	74.0%	45.0%
259	Penda Grove/Dippons Lane	0.41	57.1%	18.0%
262	Pendrel Close	0.09	50.6%	23.0%
266	Perton Pavillion and Playing Fields	7.53	70.0%	30.0%
267	Pillaton Dv/Stag Dv	0.32	52.6%	13.0%
268	Pinfold Lane 1	0.15	38.6%	23.0%
269	Pinfold Lane 2	0.27	28.6%	9.0%
271	Stafford Road Playing Field	1.26	53.8%	23.0%
275	Princefield, off Templars Way	0.19	64.8%	28.0%
277	Quinton Park Recreation Ground	1.25	83.9%	35.0%
279	Recreation Ground Lower Penn	10.16	31.9%	39.0%
280	Repton Avenue/Hawksmoor Drive	0.13	59.3%	28.0%
281	Richmond Drive	1.16	54.9%	9.0%
282	Rockhouse	0.29	29.7%	6.0%
283	Rosemary Road	0.27	46.2%	15.0%
284	Rosewood Park	0.04	56.0%	22.0%
286	Roundway Down/Winceby Road	0.16	67.0%	27.0%
287	Rowan Drive	0.05	59.9%	27.0%
288	Sandown Drive/The Parkway, Perton	1.26	65.0%	20.0%
290	School Lane/Manor Drive	0.02	51.7%	27.0%
295	Severn Drive/The Parkway	0.31	57.1%	15.0%
296	Shackleton Drive	0.16	55.5%	22.0%
297	Shackleton Drive/Gaydon Close	0.07	60.4%	28.0%
302	Silver Birch Rd/Oak Ave	0.10	54.9%	22.0%
308	Sowdley Grove, Wheaton Aston	0.33	45.1%	8.0%
309	Sports Ground, Station Drive	2.50	53.8%	27.0%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Site Size	Quality score	Value score
311	Nagington Drive	0.41	47.8%	18.0%
329	St. Mary's Close/School Lane	0.0143	53.3%	27.0%
334	St. Modwena Way	2.20	34.6%	30.0%
339	Stafford Rd	0.16	47.3%	24.0%
340	Stafford Road 1	0.52	51.7%	9.0%
341	Stafford Road 2	0.13	63.7%	28.0%
342	Stafford Road/Huntsmans Rise	1.02	59.7%	8.0%
355	Station Street Recreation Ground	2.86	58.2%	30.0%
360	Sutherland Road	5.72	71.1%	45.0%
362	Swynnerton Drive/Hawthorne Road	0.26	37.9%	12.0%
363	Sycamore Way, Huntington	0.07	61.5%	23.0%
365	Tangmere Close/The Parkway	0.12	59.3%	27.0%
366	Teasel Grove/Turnstone Drive	0.44	56.6%	9.0%
368	Teford Avenue	0.06	58.2%	27.0%
372	The Cartway	0.18	63.7%	28.0%
374	The Close, Swindon	0.06	62.6%	27.0%
375	The Crescent	0.18	44.5%	16.0%
377	The Meadlands	2.19	46.5%	25.0%
379	The Parkway 1	0.22	54.9%	14.0%
380	The Parkway 2	1.04	55.3%	25.0%
384	Tildesley Close	0.41	25.8%	6.0%
385	Timber Grove/Stonebridge Road	0.07	42.9%	21.0%
386	Tollhouse Way	1.66	33.0%	28.0%
387	Tower View Road	0.05	56.0%	23.0%
389	Tudor Close	0.07	58.2%	28.0%
390	Vale Gardens, Penkridge	0.40	56.0%	8.0%
391	Van Diemens Rd	0.28	36.8%	7.0%
392	Vaughan Gardens	0.16	74.7%	28.0%
394	Village Green, Bilbrook	0.16	65.2%	29.0%
399	Village Hall Playing Field	2.37	76.2%	34.0%
401	Walsall Road / Hilton Lane	0.29	50.0%	22.0%
402	Walton Gardens	0.13	56.6%	28.0%
411	Weston Drive 1	0.91	35.2%	13.0%
412	Weston Drive 2	0.06	51.7%	21.0%
413	Weston Drive 3	0.15	55.5%	22.0%
415	Wheel Field	1.48	68.1%	35.0%
416	Whilmot Close/Pendrell Close	0.22	57.7%	8.0%
418	Whites Wood	0.10	59.3%	22.0%
419	Windsor Road	0.17	50.0%	17.0%
420	Wolgarston Way	2.70	46.7%	18.0%
428	Wood Rd/Bakers Way	0.10	56.0%	28.0%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Site Size	Quality score	Value score
429	Woodcock Gardens	0.07	59.3%	27.0%
430	Woodland Court, Huntington	0.04	53.8%	23.0%
431	Wren Avenue/Pugin Close	0.15	58.2%	28.0%
437	Yemscroft	1.13	54.6%	18.0%
443	The Orchard, Brewood	0.07	52.8%	27.0%
444	Mitre Road, Cheslyn Hay	0.04	48.4%	21.0%

The Chapel Lane Playing Field site does not receive a quality or value score. The site appears to be inaccessible.

Mapping shows that South Staffordshire is generally well served by amenity greenspace provision based on a 480m catchment. No significant gaps in provision are highlighted; with areas of greater population density having access to provision.

6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces in South Staffordshire. 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 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspace in South Staffordshire

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<50%	>50%
Central	26%	58%	77%	50%	9	50
North	26%	50%	70%	44%	14	20
North East	27%	52%	84%	56%	30	60
North West	43%	56%	74%	31%	4	14
South	32%	52%	65%	33%	8	14
South Staffordshire	26%	54%	84%	58%	65	158

A total of 71% of amenity greenspace sites in South Staffordshire rate above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ✦ Quinton Park Recreation Ground (84%)
- ✦ Joeys Lane Playing Field/Bilbrook Village Hall (77%)
- ✦ Village Hall Playing Field (76%)
- ✦ Vaughan Gardens (75%)
- ✦ Marston Road Playing Field (74%)
- ✦ Pattingham Playing Field (74%)

The sites are observed as having good levels of maintenance and cleanliness, resulting in a positive overall appearance. In addition, they provide good levels of user security as well as generally containing features such as signage and seating. These add to the quality and

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

use of the sites. Joeys Lane Playing Field/Bilbrook Village Hall, Pattingham Playing Field and Village Hall Playing Field (Codsall) have the additional benefit of car parking as well as litter bins to prevent excessive littering. Most of the sites are identified as containing play equipment which adds to their overall quality and use. Consultation with Bilbrook Parish Council also highlights Joey's Lane Playing Field/Bilbrook Village Hall as a good quality site.

There are 64 sites scoring below the quality threshold. Sites scoring below the threshold are generally smaller in size and are often observed as being basic pockets of green space. However, despite having little recreational use and fewer ancillary facilities, it is important to recognise they may provide a visual amenity. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites are:

- ◀ Dippons Lane (24%)
- ◀ Tidesley Close (26%)
- ◀ Hilton Rd, Featherstone (28%)

These sites lack formal pathways and ancillary features such as signage, bins or seating. The sites are also perceived to have lower levels of usage. Tidesley Close is observed as being an unkempt site at the time of assessment. Most sites scoring below the threshold have no significant issues but serve more as a visual amenity or cut through.

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

6.5 Value

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

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace in South Staffordshire

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Central	7%	24%	45%	38%	17	42
North	6%	19%	33%	27%	16	18
North East	6%	21%	45%	39%	32	58
North West	8%	26%	44%	36%	2	16
South	7%	26%	45%	38%	3	19
South Staffordshire	6%	22%	45%	39%	70	153

Most amenity greenspaces (69%) score above the value threshold however there are a significant number of sites to score below the value threshold.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Some of the highest scoring sites for value in South Staffordshire are:

- ◆ Brownshore Lane (45%)
- ◆ Kinver Edge Fort and Rock Houses (45%)
- ◆ Pattingham Playing Field (45%)
- ◆ Sutherland Road (45%)
- ◆ Engleton Lane Playing Field (44%)
- ◆ Featherstone Community Centre (44%)

Such sites meet the needs of several users. They provide good amenity value and all are observed as attractive greenspaces. Pattingham Playing Field, Engleton Lane Playing Field and Featherstone Community Centre feature play provision, enhancing amenity and social value. The other sites are noted as having high biodiversity value due to the variety of habitats adding ecological value.

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

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◆ There are 224 amenity greenspace sites in South Staffordshire equal to over 170 hectares of provision. This is equivalent to 1.52 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◆ South Staffordshire is above the FIT standard of 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◆ Mapping shows that all areas of greater population density are generally well served by amenity greenspace provision based on a 480m catchment.
- ◆ The majority of amenity greenspace sites (71%) in South Staffordshire rate above the threshold for quality.
- ◆ Sites scoring below the threshold are smaller sites and are observed as being basic, small pockets of green space and lack ancillary features.
- ◆ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence all sites rate above the value threshold.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

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 51 sites in South Staffordshire are identified as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over five hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all known provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	10	1.00	0.04
North	8	2.03	0.13
North East	14	0.76	0.02
North West	11	1.09	0.10
South	10	0.66	0.02
South Staffordshire	52	5.41	0.05

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, South Staffordshire has a current provision level of 0.05 hectares per 1,000 population which is below the recommended standard. The North East has the greatest number of sites with 14 however, the joint lowest current provision (0.02 ha per 1,000 population).

7.3 Accessibility

Figures 7.1 and 7.2 show the location of provision for children and young people across South Staffordshire based on FIT accessibility standards (LAP - 100m, LEAP - 400m, NEAP - 1,000m and Other provision - 700m).

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Table 7.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Size (ha)	Sub-typology	Quality score	Value score
10.1	Baggeridge Country Park play area	0.18	NEAP	57.3%	54.5%
21.1	Bishops Wood Playing Field play area	0.04	LEAP	57.6%	41.8%
24	Bishops Wood Skate Park	0.01	Other	69.7%	38.2%
27.1	Blymhill Playing Field play area	0.02	LAP	59.7%	29.1%
34.1	Bratch Park Play Area	0.04	LEAP	57.6%	41.8%
38.1	Brickbridge Lane Playing Fields play area	0.02	Other	55.2%	38.2%
50.1	Brook Lane Play Area	0.15	LEAP	70.0%	41.8%
58	Burnhill Green Playing Field	0.16	NEAP	60.9%	54.5%
87.1	Coven Playing Field play area	0.14	NEAP	73.9%	41.8%
87.2	Coven Playing Field MUGA	0.11	Other	55.5%	38.2%
87.3	Coven Playing Field skate park	0.03	Other	83.3%	41.8%
110.1	Engleton Lane Playing Field play areas	0.08	NEAP	71.5%	41.8%
115.1	Featherstone Community Centre LAP	0.02	NEAP	61.5%	45.5%
115.2	Featherstone Community Centre MUGA	0.05	Other	57.0%	41.8%
115.3	Featherstone Community Centre Teen Shelter	0.001	Other	55.5%	41.8%
148.1	Heron Drive Play Area 1	0.01	LAP	58.8%	29.1%
148.2	Heron Drive Play Area 2	0.12	LEAP	44.5%	41.8%
161.1	Himley Playing Field Play Area	0.01	LEAP	55.5%	29.1%
163	Hinksford Lane Play Area	0.06	LAP	56.1%	29.1%
165	Horse Fair Play Area	0.29	LEAP	73.9%	45.5%
169.1	Huntington Recreation Ground skate park	0.03	Other	59.4%	38.2%
172.1	Joeys Lane Playing Field skatepark	0.02	Other	68.2%	41.8%
174.1	Joeys Lane Playing Field play area	0.13	NEAP	85.5%	45.5%
174.2	Joeys Lane Playing Field MUGA	0.06	Other		
175.1	Jones Lane Playing Fields Play Area	0.03	LAP	52.7%	38.2%
179	Kempson Road Play Area	0.14	LEAP	67.3%	41.8%
194	Leander Close Play Area	0.06	LEAP	56.4%	41.8%
208	Marsh Playing Fields Playground	0.16	LEAP	81.5%	45.5%
210.1	Marston Road Play Area	0.19	NEAP	53.6%	41.8%
210.2	Marston Road Playing Field Teen Shelter	0.01	Other	65.5%	41.8%
226	Monkton Recreation Centre Skate Park	0.10	Other	58.8%	38.2%
234.1	East Road Play area	0.02	LEAP	69.1%	29.1%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Size (ha)	Sub-typology	Quality score	Value score
256.1	Pattingham Playing Field Play Equipment	0.16	NEAP	72.4%	45.5%
256.2	Golden Jubilee Skate Park	0.02	Other	55.5%	38.2%
263.1	Perton Lakeside play area	0.12	NEAP	86.7%	45.5%
263.2	Perton Lakeside play area (older children)	0.16	Other	84.2%	45.5%
273	Primrose Close Play Area	0.34	LEAP	66.4%	41.8%
277.1	Quinton Park Play Area	0.02	NEAP	67.3%	41.8%
277.2	Quinton Park BMX Track	0.24	Other	60.9%	41.8%
277.3	Quinton Park basketball net	0.01	Other	46.4%	34.5%
277.4	Quinton Park skate park	0.04	Other	65.5%	41.8%
277.5	Quinton Park Teen Shelter	0.01	Other	54.5%	41.8%
355.1	Cheslyn Hay Recreation Ground Play Area	0.08	LEAP	62.1%	41.8%
355.2	Cheslyn Hay Teen Shelter	0.04	Other	57.0%	41.8%
371.1	The Bront Play Area	0.13	-		
388	Trysull Playing Field	0.05	LEAP	85.2%	41.8%
393	Village Green play area, Bilbrook	0.02	LAP	79.4%	45.5%
395	Village Green, Huntington	0.94	LEAP	60.3%	41.8%
399.1	Village Hall Play Equipment, Codsall	0.15	NEAP	79.1%	45.5%
422	Wolverhampton Road Play Area	0.39	LEAP	63.9%	29.1%
425.1	Millfields Way Play Area	0.03	LAP	67.3%	41.8%
441	Kinver Skate Park	0.04	Other	56.4%	41.8%
442	Kinver Pump Track	0.08	Other	55.5%	45.5%

The Bront Play Area does not receive a quality or value score. The site appears to have been removed.

Mapping identifies that there is a generally good distribution of all forms of play provision across South Staffordshire. There is potentially, a small gap noted to the settlement of Wombourne.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people in South Staffordshire. 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).

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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<55%	>55%
Central	55%	73%	87%	31%	0	10
North	45%	61%	74%	29%	1	7
North East	46%	60%	70%	24%	3	11
North West	54%	66%	83%	30%	1	9
South	55%	63%	85%	30%	0	10
South Staffordshire	45%	64%	87%	42%	5	47

Quality of provision is generally good across South Staffordshire with 90% of assessed sites rating above the threshold.

There are five sites rating below the threshold. No significant concerns are observed at any of the sites. The lower scoring sites are attributed to minor maintenance/visual improvement and/or some equipment on site appearing a little dated.

The four highest scoring sites in South Staffordshire are:

- ❖ Perton Lakeside play area (87%)
- ❖ Joeys Lane Playing Field play area (85%)
- ❖ Trysull Playing Field (85%)
- ❖ Perton Lakeside play area (older children) (84%)

These sites are observed as being safe and secure with sufficient litter bins (contributing to the sites cleanliness), seating, signage and good quality play equipment. The sites generally offer a variety of equipment to a good condition/quality.

Noticeably there are a number of sites which contain skateboard and/or BMX facilities. A total of 13 sites feature a skate and/or BMX facility. In addition, the provision of MUGAs and teen shelters is also observed at sites. Collectively, this would suggest that provision catering for older age ranges is apparent.

There are some concerns highlighted by parish councils relating to play provision.

Bilbrook Parish Council identified that there has been some vandalism, ASB and graffiti in the area especially on Joey's Lane Playing Field Skatepark. Despite this, the site scores highly for quality.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Bobbington Parish Council identify that South Staffordshire Housing Association have a site which used to be a playground, it is now just grass land this is situated at the end of Brantley Crescent.

Wheaton Aston Parish Council identify that Broadholes Lane has tired play equipment. At time of inspection the site did not appear to be used as a play area any longer (i.e. equipment removed).

Wombourne Parish Council identify that the benches at Millfields Way Play Area (aka Poolhouse Play Area) have been vandalised (i.e. pulled from their concrete base and with graffiti). The site score above the threshold for quality.

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 South Staffordshire. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Central	38%	45%	55%	16%	0	10
North	29%	38%	45%	16%	0	8
North East	29%	40%	45%	16%	0	14
North West	29%	40%	42%	13%	0	10
South	29%	41%	55%	25%	0	10
South Staffordshire	29%	41%	55%	26%	0	52

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

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

- ✦ Baggeridge Country Park play area (55%)
- ✦ Burnhill Green Playing Field (55%)
- ✦ Marsh Playing Fields Playground (46%)
- ✦ Perton Lakeside play areas (46%)
- ✦ Joeys Lane Playing Field play area (46%)

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

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly impact on value. Provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play. For example, Burnhill Green Playing Field caters for a wide age range of children as it contains play equipment, MUGA and skate ramps

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

7.6 Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◆ There are 52 play provision sites; a total of over five hectares.
- ◆ FIT suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, there is a current provision level of 0.05 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◆ The mapping highlights a good distribution of play provision. Only a slight catchment gap is potentially noted to the Wombourne settlement.
- ◆ Quality of provision is generally good with 90% of sites assessed as above the threshold. There are five sites rating below the threshold.
- ◆ All play areas rate above the threshold for value; reflecting the social, healthy and developmental benefits provision can provide.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

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

8.2 Current provision

There are 11 sites classified as allotments in South Staffordshire, equating to over 13 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all known provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotments

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Central	4	4.66	0.18
North	2	1.46	0.09
North East	1	2.67	0.08
North West	2	1.66	0.15
South	2	2.92	0.11
South Staffordshire	11	13.36	0.12

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

Based on the current population of South Staffordshire (111,890) it does not currently meet the NSLAG standard, with 0.12 hectares per 1,000 population. In order to meet the standard, there would need to be, in total, 28 hectares of allotment provision in the area.

8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1 overleaf shows the location of allotment sites across South Staffordshire. No accessibility standard is applied to allotment provision as no organisation suggests an appropriate accessibility catchment to use.

The supply and location of allotment provision provided within an area is best determined by demand for example, number of plots in use and waiting lists.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.1: Location of allotment provision in South Staffordshire

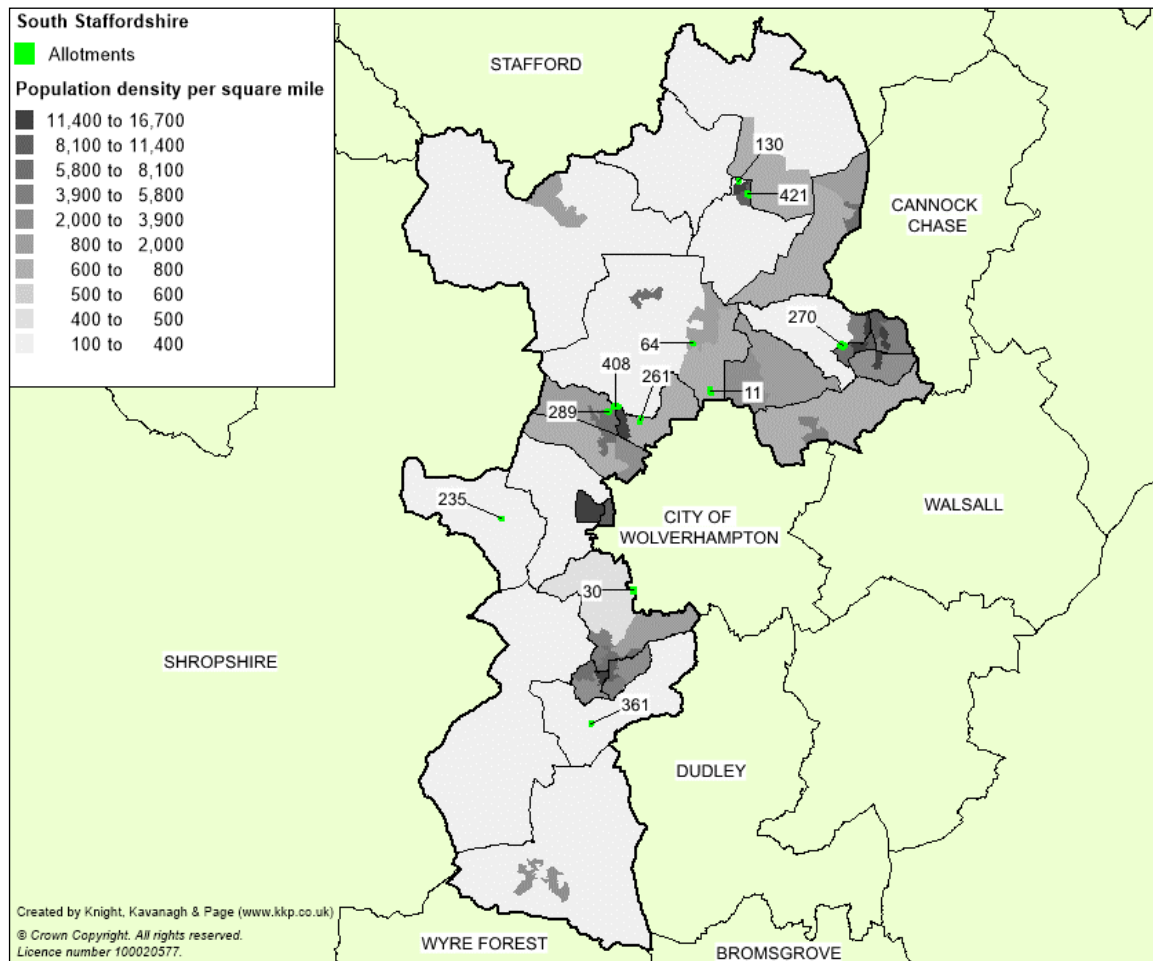


Table 8.2: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Site Size	Information	Quality score	Value score
11	Ball Lane Allotments	1.53	51 plots, 1 waiting, fresh water supply	50.5%	23.0%
30	Boundary Way Allotments	2.61	-	69.9%	55.0%
64	Chambley Green Allotments	0.13	12 plots, 2 waiting, no fresh water supply	46.2%	23.0%
130	Francis Green Lane Allotments	0.50	-	48.4%	24.0%
235	Newgate Allotments	0.72	40 plots, 2 waiting, fresh water supply	49.5%	29.0%
261	Pendleford Mill Lane Allotments	0.99	25 ½ plots, 4 waiting, fresh water, good quality	49.5%	23.0%
270	Pinfold Lane Allotments	2.67	-	55.9%	28.0%
289	Sandy Lane Allotments	0.60	-	46.2%	23.0%
361	Swindon Road Allotments, Swindon	0.31	-	47.3%	23.0%
408	Watery Lane Allotments	2.35	-	62.4%	50.0%
421	Wolgarston Way Allotments	0.96	-	47.3%	24.0%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT 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 South Staffordshire. 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 in South Staffordshire

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<45%	>45%
Central	46%	53%	62%	16%	0	4
North	47%	48%	48%	1%	0	2
North East	56%	56%	56%	0%	0	1
North West	46%	48%	51%	4%	0	2
South	47%	59%	70%	23%	0	2
South Staffordshire	46%	52%	70%	24%	0	11

All allotment sites score above the threshold for quality. Site assessment highlights that sites are generally well kept, with well-presented plots.

The highest scoring sites are:

- ▶ Boundary Way Allotments (70%)
- ▶ Watery Lane Allotments (62%)
- ▶ Pinfold Lane Allotments (56%)
- ▶ Ball Lane Allotments (51%)

These sites are observed as having good fencing, good signage, reasonably good pathways and sufficient personal security

Boundary Way Allotments is the highest scoring site. It is observed as containing a number of unique features including a sensory garden, toilets and heritage orchard.

Watery Lane Allotments is noted as having toilets and parking provision. This is beneficial for those coming from further afield to access allotment provision. The sites quality is reflected in it achieving a Green Flag Community Award.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

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 South Staffordshire

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Central	23%	31%	50%	27%	0	4
North	24%	24%	24%	0%	0	2
North East	28%	28%	28%	0%	0	1
North West	23%	23%	23%	0%	0	2
South	23%	39%	55%	32%	0	2
South Staffordshire	23%	30%	55%	32%	0	11

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

Watery Lanes Allotments is a Green Flag Community Award Winner with a wide entrance and raised bed enhancing social inclusion and amenity benefits. Boundary Way Allotments, the highest scoring site for value of 55%, has a community garden, raised beds and some plots for people with visual impairment. This adds further social and amenity value to the site. It also has the additional benefit of a wildlife pond

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

8.6 Summary

Allotments summary

- There are 11 sites classified as allotments, equating to over 13 hectares.
- Based on the current population of South Staffordshire (111,290) it does not currently meet the NSLAG standard, with 0.12 hectares per 1,000 population.
- Some sites are known to having waiting lists. However, the numbers are relatively small and suggest supply can accommodate most demand.
- All allotments rate above the thresholds for quality and value. This reflects the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision.
- Boundary Way Allotments and Watery Lane Allotments are particularly impressive sites.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

PART 9: CEMETERIES

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 36 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 34 hectares of provision. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries and churchyards

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Central	3	1.83
North	7	4.45
North East	7	16.13
North West	11	3.63
South	10	9.06
South Staffordshire	36	34.61

The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is North Walsall Cemetery, Bloxwich (7.20 hectares). This followed by Strawberry Lane Cemetery at 4.89 hectares.

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.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped

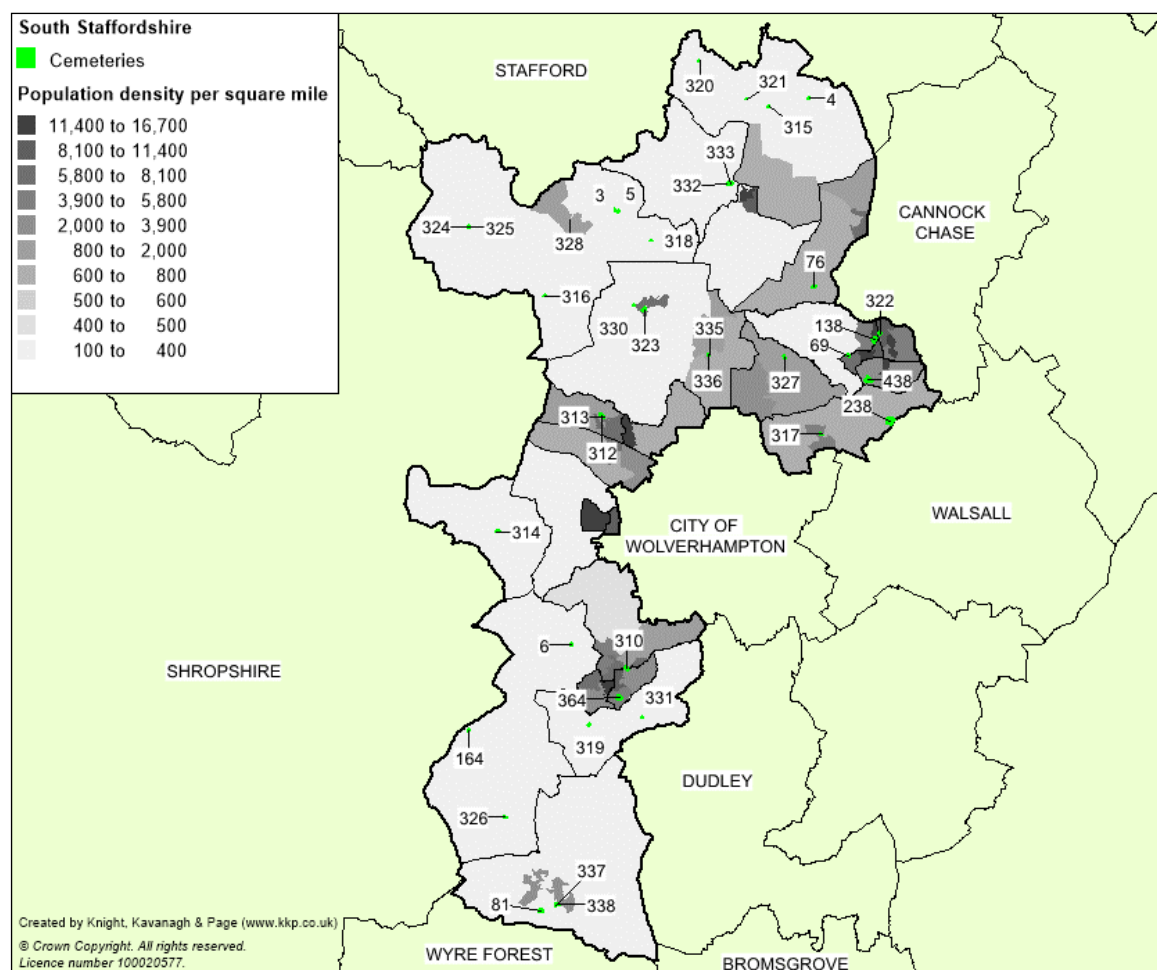


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Site size	Quality score	Value score
3	All Saints' Church Graveyard, Lapley	0.36	44.7%	28.0%
4	All Saints' Church, Bednall	0.30	44.7%	33.0%
5	All Saints' Church, Lapley	0.37	50.9%	38.0%
6	All Saints' Church, Trysull	0.39	50.0%	43.0%
69	Cheslyn Hay Cemetery	0.65	48.5%	28.0%
76	Church of St. Saviour, Hatherton	1.02	55.3%	64.0%
81	Comber Ridge Burial Ground	2.14	50.0%	43.0%
138	Great Wyrley Cemetery	1.73	56.9%	23.0%
164	Holy Cross Church, Bobbington	0.29	46.5%	28.0%
238	North Walsall Cemetery, Bloxwich	7.20	61.4%	50.0%
310	St Benedicts Biscop Church, Wombourne	0.86	58.8%	38.0%
312	St Nicholas's Church Cemetery	0.74	51.3%	33.0%
313	St Nicholas's Church, Codsall	0.36	40.4%	28.0%
314	St. Chad's Church, Pattingham	0.73	54.4%	28.0%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Site size	Quality score	Value score
315	St. James' Church, Acton Trussell	0.42	45.6%	33.0%
316	St. John the Evangelist Church	0.28	49.9%	38.0%
317	St. John the Evangelist, Essington	0.57	53.5%	28.0%
318	St. John's Church, Stretton	0.19	33.5%	28.0%
319	St. John's Church, Swindon	0.30	54.2%	28.0%
320	St. Lawrence's Church, Coppenhall	0.15	35.1%	27.0%
321	St. Leonard's Church, Dunston	0.15	55.7%	28.0%
323	St. Mary's & St. Chad's Church	1.34	54.4%	28.0%
324	St. Mary's Church Graveyard	0.16	38.2%	28.0%
325	St. Mary's Church, Blymhill	0.31	45.6%	28.0%
326	St. Mary's Church, Enville	0.73	50.0%	28.0%
327	St. Mary's Church, Shareshill	0.64	52.3%	23.0%
330	St. Mary's RC Church, Brewood	0.21	58.8%	28.0%
331	St. Michael and All Angels Church	0.33	61.4%	29.0%
332	St. Michael's and All Angels Burial Ground	1.06	56.1%	43.0%
333	St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Penkridge	1.36	56.7%	28.0%
335	St. Paul's Church, Coven	0.30	59.2%	44.0%
336	St. Paul's Churchyard Extension	0.06	40.4%	27.0%
337	St. Peter's Church Graveyard, Kinver	0.47	32.5%	27.0%
338	St. Peter's Church, Kinver	0.76	42.1%	28.0%
364	Sytch Lane Cemetery	2.78	44.7%	29.0%
438	Strawberry Lane Cemetery	4.89	57.0%	38.0%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

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. A threshold of 45% 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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Central	40%	49%	54%	14%	1	2
North	35%	50%	57%	22%	2	5
North East	49%	55%	61%	13%	0	6
North West	33%	48%	59%	26%	4	6
South	32%	49%	61%	29%	3	7
South Staffordshire	32%	50%	61%	29%	10	26

Nearly three quarters of cemeteries (72%) score above the threshold for quality.

The three sites scoring highest for quality are:

- ◆ North Walsall Cemetery, Bloxwich (61%)
- ◆ St. Michael and All Angels Church (61%)
- ◆ St. Paul's Church, Coven (59%)

These sites demonstrate high levels of cleanliness and maintenance, have excellent boundary fencing and great signage. In addition, all three sites have pathways that allow for wheelchair access. North Walsall Cemetery, Bloxwich has the additional benefit of car parking.

The three lowest sites scoring below the threshold are:

- ◆ St. Peter's Church Graveyard, Kinver (33%)
- ◆ St. John's Church, Stretton (34%)
- ◆ St. Lawrence's Church, Coppenhall (35%)

These are smaller sites, which as a result have fewer ancillary features including bins and signage. St. John's Church, Stretton scores reasonably low for paths and landscape maintenance however does have the additional benefit of seating.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

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. 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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central	28%	30%	33%	5%	0	3
North	27%	37%	64%	37%	0	7
North East	23%	32%	50%	27%	0	6
North West	27%	32%	44%	17%	0	10
South	27%	32%	43%	16%	0	10
South Staffordshire	23%	33%	64%	41%	0	36

All identified cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value, reflecting their role within local communities.

In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide for local people is acknowledged in the assessment scoring. High scoring sites for value offer visually attractive landscape benefits and opportunities to serve an important function for a local community. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can often offer important low impact recreational benefits to the local area (e.g. habitat provision, wildlife watching).

9.6 Summary

Cemeteries summary

- There are 36 cemeteries and churchyards, equating to over 34 hectares. The largest contributor to provision is North Walsall Cemetery, Bloxwich (7.20 hectares).
- No standards are set for cemeteries. The need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.
- Almost three quarters of cemeteries (72%) score above the threshold for quality.
- Sites scoring below the threshold tend to be smaller, which as a result have fewer features.
- All identified cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

PART 10: GREEN CORRIDORS

10.1 Introduction

The green corridors typology includes sites that offer opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration. This can include river and canal banks as well as road and rail corridors.

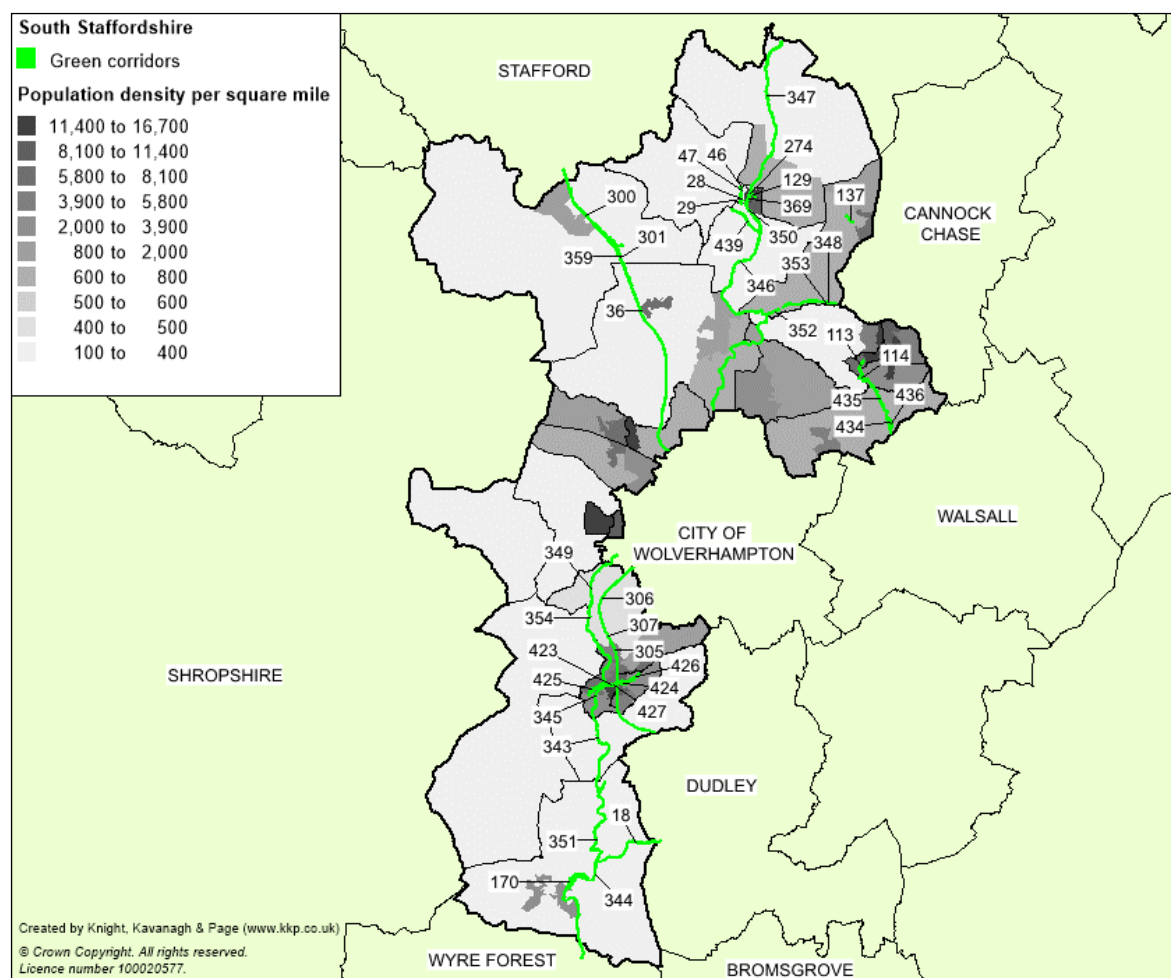
10.2 Current provision

There are 40 forms of green corridor provision identified. Several of these combine to act as one continuous form of provision; for example, Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal.

10.3 Accessibility

It is difficult to assess green corridors against catchment areas due to their linear nature and usage. Figure 10.1 shows green corridors mapped across the area.

Figure 10.1: Green corridors mapped



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Table 10.1 Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Site size	Quality score	Value Score
18	Bells Mill, Kinver	3.39	48.1%	28.0%
28	Boscomoor Lane/Vale Gardens 1	0.53	55.6%	23.0%
29	Boscomoor Lane/Vale Gardens 2	0.82	67.3%	33.0%
36	Brewood Visitor Moorings	0.10	50.0%	24.0%
46	Brook footpath 1	0.10	78.4%	28.0%
47	Brook footpath 2	0.42		
113	Essington and Wyrley Canal Walk North	0.92	51.9%	28.0%
114	Essington and Wyrley Canal Walk South	6.26	55.6%	33.0%
129	Francis Close/Princefield Bridge	0.25	64.8%	28.0%
137	Gravel Lane 2	0.88	55.6%	29.0%
170	Hyde Bridge Dunsley	9.9117	51.9%	29.0%
274	Princefield Bridge/Templars Way	0.08	46.3%	28.0%
300	Shropshire Union Canal 1	0.30	55.6%	29.0%
301	Shropshire Union Canal 2	16.12		
305	South Staffordshire Railway Walk	0.57	57.4%	44.0%
306	South Staffs Railway Walk 1	0.28		
307	South Staffs Railway Walk 2	3.67		
343	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 1	0.32	64.2%	29.0%
344	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 2	0.35	40.7%	33.0%
345	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 3	29.58	52.5%	29.0%
346	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 4	24.12	59.3%	29.0%
347	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 5	0.26	53.7%	29.0%
348	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 6	0.49	35.2%	23.0%
349	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 7	0.34	44.4%	28.0%
350	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 8 (assessed as part of KKP 346)	0.69		
351	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 9 (assessed as part of KKP 344)	0.94		
352	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 10 (assessed as part of KKP 346)	0.70		
353	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 11 (assessed as part of KKP 348)	2.08		
354	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal 12 (assessed as part of KKP 349)	0.52		
359	Stretton Spoil Banks (assessed as part of KKP 301)	13.94		

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Site size	Quality score	Value Score
369	Templars Way/Filance Bridge (assessed as part of KKP 346)	0.45		
423	Wom brook Walk, Brook Road	1.24	73.5%	34.0%
424	Wom Brook Walk, Gravel Hill	4.23	82.7%	50.0%
425	Wom Brook Walk, Millfields Way	2.34	75.9%	49.0%
426	Wom Brook Walk, Rookery Rd	2.15	74.1%	33.0%
427	Wom Brook Walk, Sandringham Drive	0.92		
434	Wyrley and Essington Canal 1	5.64	66.7%	44.0%
435	Wyrley and Essington Canal 2	0.25	63.0%	43.0%
436	Wyrley and Essington Canal 3	2.43		
439	Lyne Hill Railway Walk, Penkridge	2.35	57.4%	33.0%

10.4 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 green corridors. 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 10.2: Quality ratings for green corridors

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High ≥50%
Central	-	-	-	-	-	-
North	35%	57%	78%	43%	3	12
North East	52%	59%	67%	15%	0	5
North West	50%	50%	50%	0%	0	4
South	41%	60%	83%	42%	5	11
South Staffordshire	35%	59%	83%	48%	8	32

There are only eight assessed green corridors to rate below the threshold for quality. No specific quality issues are highlighted with scores reflecting a lack of ancillary features such as bins, signage or seating.

The other 32 assessed sites all score above the threshold for quality. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ♦ Wom Brook Walk
- ♦ Brook footpath 2
- ♦ Wyrley and Essington Canal
- ♦ Boscomoor Lane/Vale Gardens 2
- ♦ Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

These sites all have good controls to prevent misuse, litter bins, excellent pathways and are well maintained, attractive sites. Sites such as Wom Brook Walk and Wyrley/Essington Canal have the additional benefit of signage and seating. Numerous green corridor sites have natural/semi-natural features.

The quality of Wom Brook Walk is reflected in it being a Green Flag Award winning site.

There are three Local Nature Reserve designations across green corridors. This includes Essington and Wyrley Canal, South Staffordshire Railway Walk (Kingswinford Railway Walk and Wom Brook Walk. All three sites are managed by South Staffordshire Council.

10.5 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 green corridors. 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 10.3: Value ratings for green corridors

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
Central	-	-	-	-	-	-
North	23%	28%	33%	10%	0	15
North East	28%	37%	44%	16%	0	5
North West	24%	24%	24%	0%	0	4
South	28%	35%	50%	22%	0	16
South Staffordshire	23%	32%	50%	27%	0	40

Wom Brook Walk scores the highest for value. This is followed by South Staffordshire Railway Walk (aka Kingswinford Railway Walk). Both provide several benefits including physical and mental health, social interaction, cultural and ecological promotion.

All green corridors rate above the threshold for value. Green corridors have high health benefits, encouraging people to walk and cycle and reducing the potential use of cars, thus helping to contribute to healthier lifestyles. Green corridors also offer important habitat corridors and, therefore, the ecological benefits are recognised.

10.6 Summary

Green corridor summary

- There are 40 main green corridors identified. The most significant contributor in terms of size is Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal.
- Sites offer important recreational opportunities such as walking and cycling as well as attracting visitors to the area. They also provide important habitat and wildlife benefits.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

PART 11: CIVIC SPACE

11.1 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.

11.2 Current provision

There are 28 civic spaces totalling around hectares of provision across South Staffordshire. Most sites are below 0.2 hectares. However, they are still included as they are often valuable sites of historical importance and provide a visual amenity.

Table 11.1: Distribution of civic space by analysis area

Analysis Area	Civic Space	
	Number of sites	Hectares
Central	6	0.24
North	3	0.33
North East	3	0.47
North West	7	0.31
South	9	1.01
South Staffordshire	28	2.37

11.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for civic spaces. Figure 11.1 shows the location of civic spaces.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Figure 11.1: Civic space sites mapped

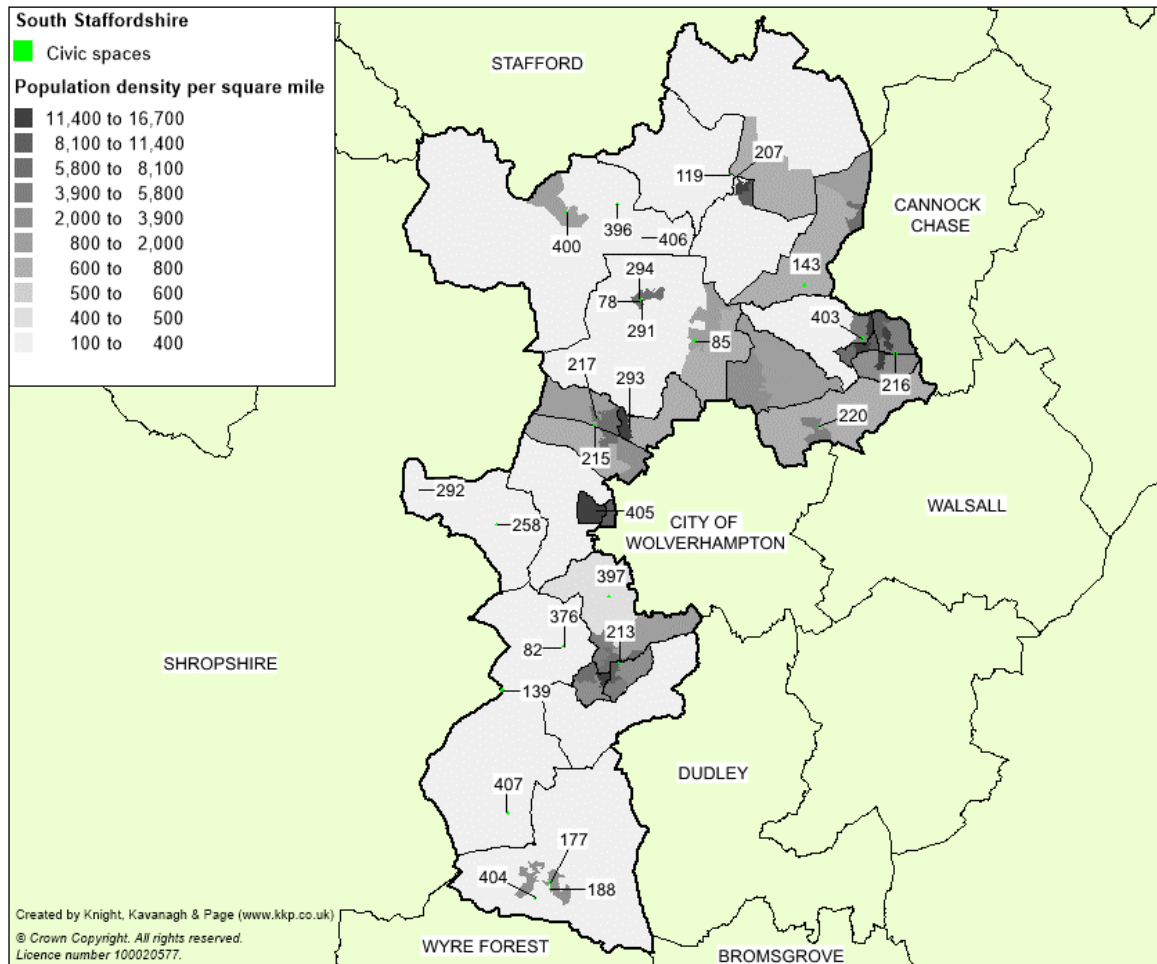


Table 11.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Site size	Quality score	Value Score
78	Church Road, Brewood	0.02	49.6%	24.2%
82	Commemorative Stone, Trysull	0.05	30.9%	23.2%
85	Coven Memorial Hall	0.16	60.2%	24.2%
119	Festival Gardens, Penkridge	0.05	48.1%	24.2%
139	Halfpenny Green	0.19	43.1%	23.2%
143	Hatherton Parish Rooms	0.28	38.2%	23.2%
177	Jubilee Gardens	0.22	54.5%	24.2%
188	Kinver shelter	0.03	49.2%	42.1%
207	Market Street, Penkridge	0.005	45.1%	26.3%
213	Maypole, Wombourne	0.15	64.4%	24.2%
215	Memorial Garden (The Lone Singer)	0.04	68.3%	35.8%
216	Memorial Garden, Great Wyrley	0.34	56.5%	24.2%
217	Memorial Gardens, Codsall	0.07	55.0%	25.3%
220	Millennium feature, Essington	0.06	52.0%	24.2%

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Site size	Quality score	Value Score
258	Pattingham Village Hall	0.10	59.1%	29.5%
291	Seating area, Brewood	0.02	40.4%	24.2%
292	Seating Area, Burnhill Green	0.01	40.7%	24.2%
293	Seating area, Pendeford Mill Lane	0.02	47.2%	25.3%
294	Seating area, Stafford Street	0.004	44.7%	24.2%
376	The Green, School Lane	0.29	40.7%	29.5%
396	Village Green, Lapley*	0.06	46.3%	24.2%
397	Village Green, Lower Penn	0.02	52.8%	24.2%
400	Village Suare, Wheaton Aston	0.05	54.2%	24.2%
403	War Memorial, Cheslyn Hay	0.07	46.3%	30.5%
404	War Memorial, Kinver (assessed as part of KKP 186)	0.001		
405	War Memorial, Perton	0.004	48.4%	24.2%
406	War Memorial, Stretton	0.003	39.8%	24.2%
407	War Memorial/Village Green, Enville	0.07	42.8%	23.2%

11.4 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 civic space. A threshold of 45% 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 11.3: Quality ratings for civic space

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High ≥45%
Central	41%	53%	68%	28%	1	5
North	38%	44%	48%	10%	1	2
North East	46%	52%	57%	10%	0	3
North West	40%	48%	60%	20%	3	4
South	31%	47%	64%	33%	4	5
South Staffordshire	31%	49%	68%	37%	9	19

Over two thirds of sites (68%) score above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring site is Memorial Garden (The Lone Singer). It has excellent signage, a few benches and litter bins. It also scores excellent for overall maintenance and cleanliness.

* Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council highlight site is undergoing a refurbishment
October 2019

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

No specific quality issues are highlighted at any sites rating below the quality threshold. Results tend to reflect the small size and lack of ancillary facilities at such forms of provision. Often sites are of a particularly small size.

11.5 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 civic space. 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 11.4: Value ratings for civic space

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
Central	24%	27%	36%	12%	0	6
North	23%	25%	26%	3%	0	3
North East	24%	26%	31%	6%	0	3
North West	24%	24%	24%	0%	0	7
South	23%	27%	42%	19%	0	9
South Staffordshire	23%	26%	42%	19%	0	28

All civic spaces rate above the threshold for value. The three highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Kinver shelter (42%)
- ◀ Memorial Garden (The Lone Singer) (36%)
- ◀ War Memorial, Cheslyn Hay (31%)

These are attractive sites providing interpretations of the area. Civic spaces benefit all kinds of communities and contribute to community health-whether social, economically, culturally or environmentally, acting as focal points for definition and foundations for healthy growth.

11.6 Summary

Civic space summary

- ◀ There are 28 sites classified as civic space.
- ◀ Most sites rate above the quality threshold. No specific quality issues are highlighted.
- ◀ All sites rate above the value threshold reflecting the social and cultural role of civic space.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

APPENDICES

Appendix One: Quality and Value Criteria and Weighting

The quality and value criteria used to mark each type of open space are set out in the tables below.

Table A1.1: Quality criteria used against each open space type

	Parks	Semi / Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotments	Cemeteries	Green corridors	Civic space	Play provision
Main entrance	1	1	1	1	1		1	1
Other entrances	1		1		1		1	
Gradient and value	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
Personal security	1		1	1	1		1	1
Ramps and guardrails adequacy	1						1	
Boundary fencing adequacy	1	1		1	1			1
Controls to prevent illegal use adequacy	1	1	1	1	1	1		1
Parking Number and location	0.333							0.333
Parking - Appropriateness of provision	0.333							0.333
Parking - Quality	0.333							0.333
Toilets accessibility and appearance	1						1	
Seats and benches - Number and location	1	0.333	0.333		0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333
Seats and benches - Appropriateness	1	0.333	0.333		0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333
Seats and benches - Maintenance	1	0.333	0.333		0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333
Picnic tables - Number and location	1					0.333		
Picnic tables - Appropriateness of provision	1					0.333		
Picnic tables - Maintenance	1					0.333		
Litter bins - Number and location	1	0.333	0.333		0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

	Parks	Semi / Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotments	Cemeteries	Green corridors	Civic space	Play provision
<i>Litter bins - Appropriateness of provision</i>	1	0.333	0.333		0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333
<i>Litter bins - Maintenance</i>	1	0.333	0.333		0.333	0.333	0.333	0.333
<i>Lighting - Number and location</i>	0.333						0.333	
<i>Lighting - Appropriateness of provision</i>	0.333						0.333	
<i>Lighting - Maintenance</i>	0.333						0.333	
<i>Overall maintenance and cleanliness</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
<i>Play Site Appearance</i>								2
<i>Play Surface Quality</i>								2
<i>Play Equipment Quality</i>								2
<i>Drainage</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Landscaping design</i>	0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5	
<i>Landscaping maintenance</i>	0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5	
<i>Paths</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
<i>Conservation</i>	1	2	1	1		1		
<i>Maintenance of buildings and artefacts</i>	1			1	1		1	
<i>Needles</i>	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5		-5	-5
<i>Motor bikes</i>	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5		-5	-5
<i>Glass</i>	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5		-5	-5
<i>Abandoned cars</i>	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5		-5	-5
<i>Fire damage</i>	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5		-5	-5
<i>Horse tracks</i>	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5		-5	-5
<i>Physical access - public transport links/stops</i>	5	5	5	5	5		5	
<i>Physical access - safe crossing places</i>	5	5	5	5	5		5	
<i>Access social - minimum entrance widths</i>	5	5	5	5	5		5	5

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

	Parks	Semi / Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotments	Cemeteries	Green corridors	Civic space	Play provision
<i>Access social - directional signposts</i>	5	5		5	5		5	
<i>Parking well signed</i>	3	1			1		1	
<i>Easy to read/clear messages</i>	3	3	1	1	1		1	3
<i>Well maintained and free from graffiti</i>	3	3	1	1	1		1	3
<i>Basic up to date information</i>	3	1	1	1	1		1	3
<i>Signage detracts from quality of the site</i>								
<i>Situated at entrance</i>	3	3	1	1	1		1	3
<i>Maps and graphics</i>	3	1	1		1		1	
<i>Evidence of site marketing</i>	3	1	1	1	1		1	
<i>Signs at accessible height</i>	3	3	3	1	1		1	3

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Table A1.2: Value criteria used against each open space type

	Parks	Semi / Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotments	Cemeteries	Green corridors	Civic space	Play provision
<i>Other sites of same typology close by</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Level of use (observations only)</i>	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
<i>IOD Multiple Deprivation Rank</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Space meets needs of Elderly</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
<i>Space meets needs of Juniors</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
<i>Space meets needs of Teenagers</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
<i>Space meets needs of Disabled</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
<i>Space meets needs of Families</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
<i>Space meets needs of Visual amenity</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
<i>Space meets needs of Other</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
<i>Structural and landscape benefits</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
<i>Ecological benefits</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5		5
<i>Educational benefits</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
<i>Social inclusion and health benefits</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
<i>Cultural and heritage benefits</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
<i>Amenity benefits and a sense of place</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
<i>Economic benefits</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE AUDIT ASSESSMENT

Appendix Two: Consultation summary with parish councils

Parish council	Highlighted concerns
Bilbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog fouling and litter main issues particularly in the winter • Some vandalism, ASB and graffiti especially at Skate Park • 4 on waiting list for Bilbrook allotments • Jubilee Walk 1 and 2 footpaths are poor quality.
Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog fouling, vandalism, drugs use, anti-social behaviour, litter at all sites except Lapley Green. Tired equipment at Broadholes Leisure Garden
Pattingham & Patshull	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter and dog fouling • 2 on waiting list at Newgate Allotments
Perton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog fouling, geese and duck droppings, litter (dog fouling is all over, the geese and duck issue is really around the lakes) • Perton Parish Council will be gifted land for allotments in 2020 (site size 0.86ha) as part of the new housing Development at Wrottesley Park Road, WV6 7HL • Parish council looking into the possible provision of a skatepark.
Tysull and Seisdon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog fouling on playing fields
Wombourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism of benches at Poolhouse Play Area (pulled from concrete base with graffiti). One piece of play equipment at the park is out of use at present. Groups of youths often gather at all sites (Bratch Park, Poolhouse Play Area and Brickbridge Playing Fields). Leave rubbish even with bins available. • Section 106 agreements are in place for two new developments in Wombourne (Beggars Bush Lane and Giggetty Lane) for improved recreational facilities. • Parish Council has received requests for allotments, however, there is no space for them within the Village currently.

Note Brewood and Coven Parish Council highlight no concerns and identify there is enough open space. Also cite that the majority of existing open space in the Parish is very good quality.

Bobbington expressed that there are no open spaces in the area.

Consultation with Blymill and Weston Parish Council highlights no issues.

Huntington Parish Council cite facilities as being good and excellent.

Kinver Parish Council highlight they have good quality existing facilities and no issues identified.