



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL:

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

**FINAL REPORT
JUNE 2018**



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND	1
2. KEY OUTCOMES	3
3. METHODOLOGY	4
4. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW	5
5. CONSTRAINTS	18
6. GREENSPACE QUALITY AUDITS	19
7. SERVICE ISSUES RELATING TO QUANTITY AND ACCESSIBILITY	42
8. CONSULTATION	67
9. KEY FINDINGS	73
10. TACKLING KEY SERVICE ISSUES	75
11. TACKLING PLANNING ISSUES	87
12. ACTION PLAN	101



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. There are a number of key issues for Thanet District Council which are of relevance to this Review:

- **Thanet District has an area of 103 square kilometres and a resident population of 140,937 as at 2016**
- **About 30% of the District is urban, and 95% of the population lives in the main urban area around the coast**
- **There are 32 kilometres of coastline with attractive chalk cliffs and beautiful sandy beaches and bays, many of which have been awarded European Blue Flag status. Much of the coast is also recognised for its internationally important habitats, including coastal chalk and significant populations of coastal birds. This is reflected in the coast's designation under international and national legislation, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas, and Specials Areas of Conservation**
- **There are approximately 2,000 listed buildings and 21 Conservation Areas in the District**
- **There is a risk of flooding in low-lying countryside areas to the south west, affecting small areas of Margate and Ramsgate.**
- **Thanet District has some deprivation issues, with 26.7% of children living in poverty.**
- **Life expectancy is lower than the England average.**
- **Thanet is in the bottom 5% in terms of district activity levels in the UK.**
- **68.4% of residents are classed as having weight issues which are “excessive” or “obese.”**

1.2. There are some significant health inequalities in Thanet, the addressing of which is key to the Local Plan. The provision of open space can directly assist in tackling the challenges of inactivity, obesity, mental health, cardio-vascular disease, and Type 2 diabetes, because accessible open space facilitate activities such as walking, running, cycling, play, as well as opportunities for socialisation.

1.3. Even issues such as smoking cessation can be tackled eg imposition of a smoking ban in children's playgrounds. Such an approach has been adopted by North \Yorkshire County Council. Town and parish councils could consider imposing a playground smoking ban when formulating future Management Plans. A similar recommendation could be included in forthcoming Neighbourhood Plans. Craven District Council, is an example of a local authority who welcomed the recommendation of such an approach.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- 1.4. Development of the CIL will be carried out alongside the development of the Local Plan. The Local Plan sets out policies and proposals used to guide decisions and investment on development and regeneration over the period to 2031. It forms the statutory planning framework for determining planning applications (replacing the Thanet Local Plan 2006).
- 1.5. This review of Thanet District Council's open spaces is set within the context of the regional and local policies and strategies, which have been reviewed.

RATIONALE FOR CARRYING OUT AN OPEN SPACES REVIEW

- 1.6. The rationale for this Open Spaces Review is underpinned by the preparation of a new Local Plan to guide development and land use. This Review will provide the evidence base for protecting existing provision and allocating new open space within the Local Plan.
- 1.7. A qualitative and quantitative assessment of the existing and future needs and demands for:
 - **Amenity Greenspace**
 - **Public Parks and Gardens**
 - **Provision for Children and Young People**
 - **Allotments and Community Gardens**
 - **Cemeteries**
 - **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces**
 - **Outdoor Sports Facilities**, has been undertaken.
- 1.8. A methodology was adopted which is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its predecessor, planning policy guidance and PPG17. Some very small spaces (less than 0.2 ha and of limited amenity value) were excluded.
- 1.9. In addition, consultation was conducted with parishes throughout the district. This sought views on the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space in those parishes. Some anecdotal information was also obtained relating to the desire for additional facilities in each parish's open spaces.
- 1.10. Some conclusions are drawn in relation to the need for actions in service as well as in planning terms. A number of actions were formulated and included in an Action Plan for consideration in the short, medium, and long term.

2. KEY OUTCOMES

2.1. The purpose of the study is to inform, provide evidence for, and make recommendations in relation to:

- **An analysis of the value of provision in terms of environment, economy, health, people and community**
- **A determination of appropriately locally-derived quantity, quality and accessibility standards in accordance with the guidance for new development and future populations**
- **An identification of surpluses and deficiencies in the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space facilities as well as an identification of the spatial distribution of unmet needs and a forecasting of future needs for the Council's settlement areas. This will include a summary schedule and supportive mapping**
- **A range of creative solutions which will meet identified deficits, including more effective recommendations for the setting of accessibility, quantitative and qualitative use of existing open space and recreational facilities**
- **An updating of the schedule of open space facilities (including site mapping and digitalisation)**
- **The production of site-specific action plans identifying individual improvements.**

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. The methodology employed included a number of elements:

- Review of national, regional and local strategy and policy documents relevant to the exercise
- Division of open spaces into typology consisting of a number of different and discrete amenity “types”
- Creation of a qualitative template to include key elements of design and maintenance
- Qualitative on-site assessment of open spaces distributed throughout Thanet District in accordance with the NPPF and the principles contained in the PPG17 Companion Guide
- Analysis of results to qualitatively assess the value of open spaces
- Use of quantitative standards in accordance principles contained in the PPG17 Companion Guide (i.e. by applying a local standard based on new Fields in Trust standards to different types of open spaces grouped in accordance with the PPG17 typology in terms of ha per 1,000 population).
- Use of accessibility standards as defined by the Fields in Trust Guidance Document
- Defining of a parish questionnaire and distribution to all parishes within Thanet District
- Analysis of questionnaire results
- Carrying out a gap analysis to identify any shortfalls in the previous open space study and identify actions necessary to address those shortfalls
- Drafting conclusions relating to the current state of open spaces in Thanet District
- Drafting recommendations relating to the significance of open space in Thanet District
- Creating an Action Plan to address current and future needs and demands, and identifying SMART actions for short, medium and long-term consideration.

4. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

DRAFT THANET LOCAL PLAN TO 2031

4.1. The Local Plan contains the following references that relate to open spaces:

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

- 4.2. **Policy SP29 – “Protection of Open Space”** meets the objectives of promoting physical and mental well-being, safeguarding and enhancing the geological and scenic value of the coast and countryside, retaining the separation between Thanet’s towns and villages and enhancing biodiversity and the natural environment. The policy stresses that Open Space is a scarce commodity within Thanet’s urban areas, therefore it is very difficult to provide satisfactory replacements within the immediate vicinity.
- 4.3. **Policy SP30 – “Local Green Space” for the protection of designated local green space.** As set out in the NPPF, once designated, a local green space will be afforded the same protection as Green Belts and new development will not be permitted other than in very special circumstances. The NPPF sets out the circumstances under which development may be permitted. Local Green spaces can only be designated where all of the following apply:
- **The local green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.**
 - **The green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance.**
 - **The green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.**
- 4.4. **Policy SP35 – “Climate Change”** with the aim of ensuring new development minimises the impacts of climate change. This is in accordance to The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) expectation of a pro-active approach against climate change and adapting to, and mitigating against, the effects of climate change as core planning principles. The effects of climate change are already being seen in Kent, and include:
- **More erratic weather conditions;**
 - **Increase in sea levels and wave crest;**
 - **Increase in coastal water temperature;**
 - **Length of growing season has extended by one month since 1990; and**
 - **Increases in flooding and droughts.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

HOUSING STRATEGY

- 4.5. **Policy SP31 – “Provision of Accessible Natural and Semi Natural Green Space, Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds”** seeks to contribute to Thanet's green infrastructure network. The Open Space Audit 2005 identified an under provision of natural and semi natural green space. Therefore, the provision of larger areas of open space are considered integral to the masterplanning of development proposals. the Local Plan for the overall benefits they provide to local residents including physical activities, a healthy diet and general well-being.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 4.6. **Policy SP36 – “Healthy and Inclusive Communities”** in which proposals are supported including;
- Safeguarding or providing open space, sport and recreation and enable access to nature;
 - Promoting healthier options for transport including cycling and walking;
 - Improve or increase access to a healthy food supply such as allotments, markets and farm shops;
 - Creating a healthy environment that regulates local climate.
- 4.7. **Policy CM01 – “Provision of New Community Facilities”** seen as an integral part of developing inclusive and cohesive communities. the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) stresses the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services, and to guard against the unnecessary loss of such facilities.

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

- 4.8. **Policy CC01 – “Fluvial and Tidal Flooding”** seeks to ensure that development is not put at risk by flooding.
- 4.9. **Policy CC02 – “Surface Water Management”** is a priority in order to reduce the risk of pollutants draining into the groundwater and bathing waters, and reducing the risk of surface water flooding.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW OPEN SPACE

- 4.10. **Policy GI04 – “Amenity Green Space and Equipped Play Areas”** seeks to ensure the recommended provision of amenity and children's play space is provided for.
- 4.11. **Policy GI05 – “Protection of Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Facilities”**. Acknowledgment is given to the importance contribution that sport and recreation, as well as community facilities can make in improving people's quality of life.
- 4.12. **Policy GI06 – “Landscaping and Green Infrastructure”**. The Council seeks to retain existing trees, hedges and other semi-natural habitat, such as ponds and species-rich grassland, together with new planting as they lend maturity to a development and can enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitats.
- 4.13. **Policy GI07 – “Jockey Bakers”** is a sports ground and Thanet's main area for sports and recreation purposes. According to the council, the site provides the best opportunity to both enhance existing facilities, and in the longer term, to increase the level of facilities.

OPEN SPACE EVIDENCE BASE

4.14. The evidence for the value of open space has been mounting for a number of decades. The physical and emotional health benefits have been suspected for some time. Hard evidence is now becoming more widely known. However, other benefits are also becoming apparent. Some of these benefits can be summarised as follows:

- ✓ **Physical health**
- ✓ **Emotional health including the relief of depression, and the engendering of a “sense of place” and identity in the local community in which people live**
- ✓ **Reduction in pollution, including airborne particulates**
- ✓ **Reduction in peak urban summer temperatures**
- ✓ **Reduction in flash flooding episodes**
- ✓ **Creation of sustainable transport links which lead to a reduction in motorised transport**
- ✓ **Provision of shade, and the damaging effects of harmful exposure to solar radiation**
- ✓ **Greater biodiversity.**

4.15. Some useful evidence has been identified by the Woodland Trust in the form of the document ***Trees or Turf¹***. This examines best value in managing urban green space. It makes the case for the value of trees in the environment, which are as follows:

- **Trees and urban greenspace improve the environment and encourages healthy lifestyles, improving public health**
- **Mitigation of the urban heat island effect—trees provide shade from direct solar radiation and reduce ambient air temperature through evaporative cooling**
- **Shelter from trees can reduce energy costs— research suggests a per tree saving in carbon emissions as a result of reduced building energy use of around 10 – 11 kg per year**

¹ “Trees or Turf,” Woodland Trust, 2011

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- Well-designed tree planting can improve air quality, removing particulates, nitrogen dioxide and ozone.
- Woodland in managed green space Complex mixed woodland planting
- Meadow grassland
- Researchers found asthma rates among children aged four and five fell by a quarter for every additional 343 trees per square kilometre
- Surface water flooding—preliminary results from Manchester University indicate that tree canopies can reduce surface water runoff by as much as 80% compared to asphalt
- Urban tree cover provides economic advantages—a report to the Mersey Forest showed that for every £1 invested in the Forest’s programme, £10.20 was generated in increased Gross Value Added (GVA), social cost savings and other benefits
- Biodiversity – urban trees and green space support a wide range of wildlife
- In some cases, woodland might be used to generate timber or wood fuel for local use.

4.16. In addition, the report compared the costs of maintenance for nine management regimes in urban and suburban areas. Four were for woodland types, and five for mowing treatments. The results of the study revealed that:

- Naturally colonising woodland and pioneer style woodland can be considerably cheaper to maintain than all types of grassland
- Maintenance costs of managing woodland in managed green spaces are more expensive during the establishment phase than informal woodland but are still less than the maintenance of amenity grassland
- Complex mixed woodland planting is the most expensive of the woodland types to establish but costs are still less than the cost of maintaining amenity grassland. However, the long-term cost of managing complex woodland does rise above that of amenity grassland.

4.17. The many community benefits of green space are explored by the *Fields in Trust Case Study of Centenary Park in Rugby*.² This is a very detailed examination of the contribution which an open space can make to the community. Fran Poole of Public Health Warwickshire is quoted in the report:

“People need safe green spaces to get more physically active and spend their leisure time there. It’s good for mental well-being.”

4.18. Lessons from the Case Study focus very much on “Process Learning,” i.e. partnership working between the council, local community and user groups as well as funders, and is perceived to have a number of benefits:

² “Centenary Park Case Study,” Fields in Trust, 2017

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- The involvement of the Community Partnership, particularly in carrying out the consultation, brought a range of networks and other organisations into the process (such as the local primary school in particular).
- The Community Partnership also maintained a visible presence in the community during consultation and development as well as since, allowing an interchange between council and local residents to allay concerns and most importantly, to listen to what residents actually wanted.
- This has been very important subsequently in terms of the current levels of satisfaction with the park and the use of its facilities.
- The partnership approach and work with the local community has helped to improve relationships between the council and the local community and has also helped to ensure that the facility they have ended up with is something that is both wanted and needed.
- The work that has been put in to date is given significant protection through the engagement with Fields in Trust, ensuring that the benefits felt are long term and protected.

4.19. Recognition has been given to the problem of severe underfunding of parks by the ***Commons Select Committee Inquiry into Public Parks*** in March 2017. The inquiry report is significant. Key facts include:

- **Nearly 400 formal written evidence submissions received**
- **More than 13,000 survey responses**
- **More than 900 tweets on its hashtag**
- **Four formal oral evidence sessions held involving 27 witnesses**
- **Petition signed by more than 322,000 people calling for protection of parks**
- **More than 4,000 emails campaigning against any privatisation of parks.**

4.20. There was also a recognition of the value of parks, which were cited as follows:

- **Better health and wellbeing**
- **Environmental improvement**
- **Climate change mitigation**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- **Better community cohesion**
- **Improvements to air quality**
- **Enhanced biodiversity.**

4.21. The recommendations were not as wide-ranging as many in the horticultural sector had hoped. There is no recommendation to make parks a statutory form of provision. However, the changing political attitude to the provision of parks is a trend which needs to be recognised by local authorities in terms of planning and service delivery. Actual recommendations include:

- **A pledge to establish a cross-departmental group to examine the committee's findings and to release transitional funding to support local authorities in developing alternative funding models**
- **Oversee strategies**
- **Provide sector "co-ordination and leadership"**
- **Collect parks accident data**
- **Investigate the role of parks within green infrastructure**
- **Monitor the distribution of green space among communities**
- **Investigate accessing public health funds for parks**
- **Regularly report back to Parliament.**

4.22. A range of bodies, including Government agencies, have promoted the possible physical and mental health benefits of access to green space. A recent note from the Government summarises the evidence for these benefits.³ Different types of study were used to examine the link between green space and health.

4.23. These were:

³ "Green Space and Health," Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology, October 2016

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- **Cross-sectional observation studies** – which use national or regional study data to explore correlations between public health and the amount, or proximity to, nearby green space
- **Cohort studies** – these select groups from the wider population, which are followed over time to identify changes to physical and mental health as a result of their access to green spaces
- **Experimental studies** – these have looked at the direct effects of green space on indicators of health and wellbeing.

4.24. Research has focussed on three main areas: physical activity, mental health and the development of specific treatments:

- **Physical activity.** Physical activity taken 30 minutes a day can directly reduce the risk of strokes, cardiovascular disease, obesity and some cancers and type 2 diabetes. Physical inactivity is the fourth largest cause of disease and mortality in the UK, contributing to 37,000 premature deaths in England every year. The amount of green space does seem to link with levels of physical activity. Also, closer proximity to green space appears to indicate that people are more likely to use it, and more frequently. In the UK, a correlation has been observed between those living closest to greener areas and reduced levels of mortality, obesity, and obesity-related illnesses
- **Mental health and wellbeing.** Control trials have found that people exercising outdoors report higher feelings of wellbeing, and lower feelings of stress or anxiety, than those doing the same activity indoors
- **Development of specific treatments.** The Faculty of Public Health suggests that interaction with nature might be effective in treating some forms of mental illnesses. Emerging evidence indicates that engaging with nature benefits those living with ADHD, depression and dementia by improving cognitive functioning and reducing anxiety.

4.25. Public Health England makes reference to better access to open space for health benefits in its publication “Improving Access to Green Spaces.” Guidelines in relation to accessibility standards have been definitively set for open space in England by Fields in Trust and are reflected in this in the Open Space Strategy (see paragraph 4.22, tables 7.1 and 7.5).

PPS GUIDANCE

4.26. At the national level, before the replacement of all Planning Policy Statements (PPS's) by the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012, there were a number which dealt with planning issues in detail.

4.27. The Localism Act was given Royal Assent in November 2011. It aimed to take planning power from central government and place it in the hands of local authorities and communities. The Act seeks to:

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- **Give new freedoms and flexibilities to local government**
- **Give new rights and powers for local communities and individuals**
- **Reform the planning system to make it clearer, more democratic and more effective**
- **Make reforms to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally.**

PPG17

4.28. The Government issued planning policy guidelines for local authorities in the form of PPG 17 and Companion Guide to PPG17: Assessing Needs and Opportunities. They were first published on 13 September 2001. Although withdrawn on 7 March 2014, the guidelines were not replicated in succeeding enactments and guidelines, and are therefore still relevant as an evidence base. The PPG17 guidelines contained a number of recommendations which are directly relevant to this study.

4.29. One policy relates to areas of open space or recreational facilities of high quality or particular importance as a local amenity. These should be recognized by local authorities and given protection through appropriate policies and plans.

4.30. In terms of action which local authorities should be taking, they were advised through the PPG17 guidelines to:

- **Avoid any erosion of recreational function and maintain and enhance the character of open spaces**
- **Ensure that open spaces do not suffer from encroachment (from traffic flows, etc.)**
- **Protect and enhance rights of way**
- **Consider the impacts of development on biodiversity and nature conservation.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

4.31. In general, local authorities should:

- **Promote accessibility to open space and the countryside**
- **Carefully consider safety and security in open spaces**
- **Improve their quality**
- **Meet regeneration needs through the provision of open space**
- **Consider using surplus land for open space purposes**
- **Consider the needs of visitors and tourists through open space provision.**

4.32. PPG17 gives specific guidance in terms of defining how the quality of parks and open spaces can be audited. This guidance has been used to assess the quality of open spaces throughout Thanet District.

THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.33. The revised NPPF was published in July 2018. In addition to guidance on a range of planning issues, the Government laid stress on the role of the National Planning Policy Framework in the following areas:

- **Clarified that a Local Plan is the keystone of the planning regime**
- **Was crystal clear that sustainable development embraces social and environmental as well as economic objectives and does so in a balanced way**
- **Encourages Councils to plan positively for the provision of open space, in its own right and for the health and well-being of communities**
- **Says that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision**
- **Made explicit that the presumption in favour of sustainable development works through, not against, local plans**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- **Made it clear that relevant policies - such as those protecting the Green Belt, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Parks and other areas - cannot be overridden**
- **Recognised the intrinsic value and beauty of the countryside (whether specifically designated or not)**
- **Made explicit what was always implicit: that councils' policies must encourage brownfield sites to be brought back into use**
- **Underlined the importance of town centres, while recognising that businesses in rural communities should be free to expand**
- **Embraced a localist approach to creating a buffer of housing supply over and above five years, and in the use of windfall sites**
- **Allowed councils to protect back gardens from development**
- **Ensured that playing fields continue to benefit from that same protection that they do currently.**

4.34. There are a number of issues relating to the implementation of both the Localism Act and the NPPF. These are highlighted in table 4.1 below. This does indicate that there are some opportunities associated with the Localism Act, and in particular with the NPPF. However, there are also some gaps which presume against a fully co-ordinated planning approach. These need to be at least acknowledged when planning future open space requirements in the District.

FIELDS IN TRUST REVIEW OF STANDARDS FOR OUTDOOR PLAY, SPORT AND RECREATION

- 4.35. Local authorities have traditionally used the National Playing Field Association's "6 Acre Standard." Recommendations on Outdoor Playing Space were first formulated in 1925, soon after the Association's formation. This helped ensure that every man, woman and child in Great Britain should have the opportunity of participating in outdoor recreational activity within a reasonable distance of home during leisure hours. The National Playing Field Association urged all local authorities to adopt a minimum standard of provision of 5 acres (20,000 m²) of public open space for every 1,000 people, of which at least 4 acres (16,000 m²) should be set aside for team games, tennis, bowls and children's playgrounds.
- 4.36. Since then, the National Playing Field Association has kept the recreational space standard under regular review. It now stands as the Six Acre Standard, recommending 6 acres (24,000 m²) per 1,000 head of population as a minimum necessity for space. The National Playing Field Association has since been superseded by Fields in Trust. FIT has conducted research which has indicated that 81% of local planning authorities' express quantity standards for open space as "hectares per 1,000 population." This has enabled comparison across England and Wales, and is the most widely used metric for open space standards.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

4.37. The median level of provision for Designated Play Space was 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population. This corresponds to the Fields In Trust benchmark standard. The median accessibility standard was 100m. for Local Areas of Play (LAP's), 400m. for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP's), and 1,000m. for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play" (NEAP's). Accessibility standards have often been expressed in terms of walking time rather than distance.

Table 4.1: Gaps and Opportunities Relating to the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework

OPPORTUNITIES	UNDERSTANDING GAPS	SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT
LOCALISM ACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local definition of GI Deciding climate change methods at local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clarity on range of measures to be delegated How CCPs will operate in practice Lack of strategic-level planning and management without Regional Strategies Lack of expertise of local communities to lead on neighbourhood-level plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines required to clarify how localism will work in practice Capacity building for neighbourhoods
NPPF		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presumption in favour of sustainable development Climate change mitigation measures could improve well-being Use of GI as panacea to development GI can be managed using specific designations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific recognition for Local Wildlife Sites GI in brownfield sites could be developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presumption against development in LWS's Clarity over use of planning designation to protect GI in brownfield sites

4.38. Fields In Trust has discovered that the median level of playing pitch provision was 1.21 hectares per 1,000 population (comparable with the Fields In Trust recommended benchmark standard). The median accessibility standard from respondents to the Fields In Trust survey was 1,200m. from dwellings, matching the Fields In Trust benchmark.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- 4.39. Respondents to the Fields In Trust survey provided data relating to an overall standard for parks and amenity green space. The median level of provision sought was 1.0 hectares per 1,000 population.
- 4.40. In relation to the meeting of local standards for open space being met in planning decision-making, 64% indicated a score of between 7 and 10 (where 1 indicated “seldom” and 10 indicated “always”).
- 4.41. Of relevance to future planning of open space requirements in Thanet District are the new benchmark guidelines contained in Fields in Trust’s “Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard.” These are shown in figures 4.2 and 4.3 below.
- 4.42. These national standards are used in section 7 and have been used in conjunction with local standards in order to calculate quantitative standards.
- 4.43. The Council considers that the best approach is to utilise national standards if there is loss of existing provision; and that local standards should be applied to calculate the provision of new facilities (see Annex A). N.B Fields in Trust Guidelines are referenced in this Open Space report as this report focusses on open space, play and informal provision. The Thanet Playing Pitch Strategy (2017) references local standards; this is appropriate given that the Sport England 2013 playing pitch strategy guidance excludes the development of standards, and therefore local standards have been developed on the basis of the application of local analysis. If national standards are applied they may not reflect the local picture on the ground vis a vis playing pitch demand and supply.

Table 4.2: FIT Recommended Benchmark Guidelines – Formal Open Space

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	QUANTITY GUIDELINE (HECTARES PER 1,000 POPULATION)	WALKING GUIDELINE (WALKING DISTANCE: METRES FROM DWELLINGS)
EQUIPPED/DESIGNATED PLAY AREAS	0.25	LAPs – 100m LEAPs – 400m NEAPs – 1,000m
AMENITY GREENSPACE	0.60	480m
PARKS AND GARDENS	0.80	710m

Note: The FIT benchmark guidelines do not include quantity guidelines for civic spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Table 4.3: FIT Quality Guidelines for Formal Open Space

- ✓ **Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards.**
- ✓ **Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.**
- ✓ **Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community.**
- ✓ **Appropriately landscaped.**
- ✓ **Maintained safely and to the highest possible condition with available finance.**
- ✓ **Positively managed taking account of the need for repair and replacement over time as necessary.**
- ✓ **Provision of appropriate ancillary facilities and equipment.**
- ✓ **Provision of footpaths.**
- ✓ **Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.**
- ✓ **Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for playing pitches, taking into account the level of play, topography, necessary safety margins and optimal orientation**
- ✓ **Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for play areas using the Children's Play Council's Quality Assessment Tool.**

5. CONSTRAINTS

5.1. There were a number of constraints to this study. These were as follows:

- **This part of the assessment was confined to open spaces. Sport and recreation facilities are covered in the 2017 Playing Pitch Strategy and the 2017 Sports Facility Strategy**
- **Sites of less than 0.2 ha and of little amenity value were generally excluded in line with PPG17 methodology guidelines. Some which were smaller have been included because they are of particular significance (e.g. a small village green in a community which has little, or no, other open space provision)**
- **A number of the responses to the parish and town council consultation exercise were anecdotal in nature (i.e. they requested respondents to give their views in the form of comments rather than by asking them to respond using a rating system)**
- **Quantitative national guidelines have not been produced for allotments. However, the Thorpe Report of 1999 recommended a standard of 0.2 ha per thousand population, which has been chosen as the most definitive guideline**
- **There are no quantitative guidelines relating to the amenity use of cemeteries and churchyards, therefore assessments have been limited to qualitative criteria for this category**

6. GREENSPACE QUALITY AUDITS

6.1. Open spaces were divided using the typology shown in Annex A, which is based on PPG17. This was clarified in the brief provided by the client. The PPG17 Companion Guide stated that: “Quality standards can obviously vary according to the primary and secondary purposes of different forms of provision and their level within any adopted hierarchy of provision. They are not absolute measures, but reasonable aspirations and benchmarks against which to measure the quality of any existing open space or sports facility in order to determine the need for enhancement.” Accordingly, a number of measures were used based on this guidance, and including:

- **Cleanliness and maintenance**
- **Security and safety**
- **Ancillary facilities (toilets, footpaths, etc.)**
- **Transport access**
- **Wider benefits (social inclusion, health, economic, etc.)**
- **Specific issues affecting potential for development**
- **Welcome**
- **Climate change adaptation**
- **General site access, including less able bodied**
- **Information and signage**
- **Overall potential for improvement**

6.2. A number of factors for each of the above were scored up to a maximum of five points, and an average rating was calculated for each of the above categories. Total points were compared to a maximum possible score. This was expressed as a percentage to produce a rating for each open space. These defined qualitative provision as:

- **Very poor**
- **Average**
- **Very good**
- **Poor**
- **Good**

6.3. Results are displayed in accordance with the agreed typology and are shown as:

- **Provision for Children and Young People**
- **Cemeteries and Churchyards**
- **Amenity Greenspace**
- **Public Parks and Gardens**
- **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace**
- **Allotments**
- **Outdoor Sports Facilities**
- **Cliff-top Sites**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- 6.4. Thanet's **beaches** and **seafront** are not included in the open space typology. However, they are an essential feature contributing to the attractiveness of the District to visitors, whether residents or tourists. No national standards have been defined for this type of asset, and yet they contribute significantly in providing outdoor recreational activities, and in attracting secondary spend on local accommodation, catering facilities (restaurants, etc.), and other leisure pursuits in Thanet. These attractions are also essential in mitigating shortfalls in terms of quantitative provision and accessibility to open spaces in the District.

Table 6.1: Quality Issues in Thanet District

OPEN SPACE TYPE	ISSUE
AMENITY GREENSPACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bad graffiti in places • Standards variable dependent upon care taken by local parish or town council • Absence of welcoming signage/information/bins • Grass maintenance only average • Absence or shortage of benches
PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information needed • Bad graffiti in places • Landscaping necessary to enhance biodiversity/enhance interest
CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS AND FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very variable standards • Lack of signage • Poor access in some places • More exciting equipment needed in places • Some shortfall in terms of benches and bins
CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemeteries average or good • Inadequate signage • Bins and seats in short supply • Some memorials are leaning and may need testing
GREEN CORRIDORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More seating needed • Standards of maintenance good • Inadequate signage
NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More seating needed • Maintenance standards variable

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

OPEN SPACE TYPE	ISSUE
ALLOTMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mostly poor or average• Very difficult to find, and unwelcoming• Modest facilities• Poor boundaries in places
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More seating needed• Signage poor• Landscaping necessary around perimeters
CLIFFTOP SITES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Signage poor in places• More landscaping needed• More trees needed (salt-resistant species)

6.5. The results of the qualitative audit are sub-divided by type, with a brief analysis of each.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS

6.5. Results of the quality audit for Public Parks and Gardens are shown as Table 6.2.

Table 6.2: Quality audit for Facilities for Public Parks and Gardens

No	Name	Site number	Area (ha)	Type	Cleanliness and maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage
57	Romilly Gardens	114	0.41	PPG	4.1	1.8	4.5	2.1	0.9	0.9	1.4	1.8	0.8	40%
61	Victoria Gardens	153	1.23	PPG	5.0	3.8	5.4	3.3	1.7	3.2	4.5	3.6	0.0	68%
62	Winterstoke Crescent	167	0.41	PPG	3.4	1.8	3.0	1.8	1.4	3.2	4.5	3.6	0.0	50%
99	Royal Esplanade	117	3.27	PPG	3.8	2.0	4.9	2.3	1.3	3.4	5.4	3.6	N/A	59%
130	Hartsdown Park	48	11.98	PPG	2.7	1.8	3.5	2.5	1.4	1.2	1.8	2.7	0.0	39%
131	Holmes Park	56	1.48	PPG	5.1	5.4	4.5	3.2	1.7	3.3	4.1	2.7	1.7	70%
132	Memorial Recreation Ground	78	2.89	PPG	4.3	3.6	5.0	3.2	1.4	2.1	2.7	2.7	0.8	57%
133	Tivoli Park	144	3.95	PPG	3.2	1.8	3.8	2.5	1.4	1.2	1.8	2.7	0.0	41%
134	Crispe Park	24	1.72	PPG	2.7	4.7	5.4	3.2	1.8	3.0	5.4	4.1	N/A	67%
135	Northdown Park	91	15.4	PPG	4.1	2.7	4.1	3.2	1.5	2.7	1.8	1.8	0.6	50%
136	Ellington Park	34	4.36	PPG	4.3	5.0	4.3	3.2	1.7	3.2	5.4	3.6	1.5	71%
137	Nethercourt Park	85	2.02	PPG	3.8	3.6	5.1	3.2	1.7	2.5	4.5	3.6	0.8	64%
138	Manston Park	0	1.32	PPG	5.0	5.0	4.1	3.4	1.5	3.6	3.4	1.8	1.4	65%
139	Dane Park	28	9.9	PPG	4.1	3.8	5.0	3.2	1.5	3.4	5.4	3.6	0.8	68%
140	Nelson Crescent Margate	0	0.07	PPG	4.9	4.7	5.4	3.6	1.4	3.6	5.0	3.6	N/A	71%
141	The Vale	0	0.03	PPG	5.4	5.4	4.5	3.6	1.7	3.6	5.4	3.6	N/A	74%
144	Albion Gardens	0	0.5	PPG	4.9	5.4	4.5	3.4	0.9	3.4	5.4	3.6	N/A	70%
145	Wellington Crescent	0	0.15	PPG	4.9	5.4	4.5	3.0	0.9	3.4	5.4	3.6	N/A	69%
146	Victoria Parade	0	0.55	PPG	3.6	3.4	4.1	2.4	1.3	3.6	4.5	3.6	N/A	59%
147	King George VI Park	0	7.36	PPG	3.8	2.4	4.7	3.0	1.6	3.2	3.6	2.7	0.8	57%
148	Balmoral Gardens	0	0.89	PPG	5.4	2.7	5.4	3.6	1.7	3.0	5.4	4.1	0.0	69%
149	Courtstairs Park	23	2.45	PPG	4.1	2.4	4.1	2.1	1.0	3.6	5.4	3.6	0.8	60%
151	Pierremont Park	100	1.78	PPG	4.1	5.0	5.1	3.4	1.7	3.2	5.4	3.6	1.7	74%
154	Courtstairs Park Garden	0	0.07	PPG	5.1	4.1	4.1	3.2	1.2	2.7	4.1	3.6	0.8	64%
210	Dalby Square	27	0.13	PPG	5.0	5.8	5.4	3.2	1.5	3.9	5.0	3.6	1.8	78%
282	Winter Gardens	0	0.22	PPG	4.6	5.4	5.0	3.6	1.5	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	67%

Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0% - 20%

Poor = 21% - 40%

Average = 41% - 60%

Good = 61% - 80%

Very good = 81% - 100%



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

6.6. Public Parks and Gardens are usually multi-purpose in function, generally larger than Amenity Greenspace, and contain a number of facilities (may include Facilities for Children and Young People, outdoor sports, horticultural features, etc.).

6.7. Issues relating to quality include:

- **There are 26 sites in this category**
- **62% are in the “good” quality category**
- **31% are “average”**
- **None of the sites was considered to be “very good,” achieving a score in excess of 80%**
- **No sites were “very poor,” that is, achieving a score of between 0% and 20%**
- **In sites, which have been marked poor or average, many are poorly signposted.**
- **There are significant problems with graffiti at many sites (Northdown Park pavilion is badly defaced for instance)**
- **Softening in terms of landscaping with additional tree or meadow planting would increase interest and enhance biodiversity (e.g. at Holmes Park).**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

6.8. Results of the quality audit for Facilities for Children and Young People are shown as Table 6.3.

Table 6.3: Quality audit for Facilities for Children and Young People

No	Name	Site number	Area (ha)	Type	Cleanliness and maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Auxiliary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage
155	Minster Playground	0	0.03	CYP	6.5	5.8	5.4	3.6	1.7	3.9	1.8	5.4	1.6	79
156	St Nicholas at Wade Play	241	0.04	CYP	3.6	2.7	4.9	2.5	0.9	3.6	1.4	5.4	0.7	57
157	Crispe Road Playground	0	0.03	CYP	5.4	4.1	3.8	3.6	1.7	0.3	0.8	2.7	0.7	51
159	Vincent Close	0	0.01	CYP	4.3	0.9	2.4	2.3	1.5	1.8	0.3	2.7	0.0	36
160	Memorial Recreation Ground	78	0.22	CYP	4.3	4.1	3.8	1.2	0.6	2.3	0.9	4.1	1.6	51
161	Pierremont Park	100	0.02	CYP	4.9	5.0	4.6	2.7	1.4	2.7	1.5	4.1	1.5	63
162	St Peters Recreation	132	0.03	CYP	3.8	5.4	4.9	3.4	1.7	1.8	1.4	4.1	1.5	62
163	Hartsdown Park	48	0.05	CYP	3.5	2.3	3.2	2.3	1.5	2.7	0.5	2.7	0.5	43
164	Dane Park	28	0.06	CYP	4.3	4.5	5.4	2.4	1.1	3.1	1.8	5.4	1.2	65
165	Coleman Crescent	0	0.13	CYP	4.1	1.8	3.4	1.4	0.9	2.3	0.5	2.7	0.7	39
166	Minnis Bay Play	0	0.28	CYP	3.8	1.8	4.1	1.2	0.8	3.0	0.8	2.7	0.7	41
167	Birchington Memorial Ground	0	0.1	CYP	4.3	4.1	5.4	1.5	0.6	2.1	1.1	2.7	1.6	52
168	Lymington Road Play	0	0.04	CYP	3.2	5.0	4.6	3.0	1.4	3.4	1.7	5.4	1.6	65
169	Caxton Road Play Area	0	0.06	CYP	3.2	1.8	2.4	1.2	0.8	2.1	0.3	2.7	0.7	34
170	Tivoli Play	0	0.04	CYP	3.6	0.4	2.4	1.4	1.2	1.8	0.5	4.1	0.0	34
171	Swinford Gardens Play	0	0.2	CYP	3.5	4.1	3.0	1.2	0.6	1.8	0.9	2.7	1.6	43
172	Northdown Play	0	0.02	CYP	4.9	4.1	4.3	2.1	1.0	2.7	1.0	2.7	1.3	54
173	Spratling Street Play	0	0.07	CYP	5.1	4.5	3.8	3.4	1.5	2.7	0.6	2.7	1.3	57
174	Elmington Park Play	0	0.02	CYP	4.9	5.4	5.1	3.4	1.7	2.7	1.8	5.4	1.6	71
175	Boundary Road Play	0	0.08	CYP	3.2	2.7	4.5	1.4	0.8	2.5	0.9	4.1	1.1	47
176	King George V Play	0	0.33	CYP	5.4	4.5	4.5	1.5	1.0	2.7	1.2	4.1	1.6	59
177	Camden Square	0	0.04	CYP	5.4	4.5	5.0	3.0	1.2	3.6	1.4	4.1	1.6	66
179	Laleham Road	0	0.02	CYP	3.0	2.3	3.4	1.2	0.6	2.1	0.6	2.7	0.7	37
180	Dane Valley Road Play	0	0.03	CYP	3.1	2.4	1.4	1.2	0.6	2.5	0.3	4.5	0.7	37
181	Warre Recreation Ground	0	0.1	CYP	4.6	1.4	3.5	3.4	1.7	1.5	0.3	2.7	0.0	42
182	Princess Margaret's Play	0	1.22	CYP	3.0	2.7	4.3	1.2	0.9	3.6	1.8	6.8	0.7	55
183	The Street Monkton	0	0.05	CYP	4.9	3.6	4.3	3.6	1.5	2.3	0.9	4.1	0.7	57
184	Nethercourt Park	0	0.08	CYP	4.9	3.6	4.6	3.2	1.7	2.5	0.9	4.1	0.7	58
185	Cliffsend Road Play	0	0.05	CYP	5.4	5.4	5.1	2.7	1.5	2.5	1.2	4.1	1.6	66
186	Courtstairs Park	0	0.03	CYP	4.3	2.3	4.5	0.9	0.5	3.4	0.9	4.1	0.7	48
187	Jackey Bakers	0	0.13	CYP	4.3	5.4	5.1	3.4	1.7	3.6	1.8	5.4	1.6	72

Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0% - 20%

Poor = 21% - 40%

Average = 41% - 60%

Good = 61% - 80%

Very good = 81% - 100%



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

6.9. Facilities for Children and Young People consist of equipped play areas. These sometimes have adjoining areas for ball games or other forms of informal activity. They are designed for toddlers, older children, and sometimes youths. In some cases, there are items of “outdoor gym” equipment. Some sites incorporate covered “youth shelters” for informal gatherings.

6.10. Issues relating to quality include:

- **There are 31 sites in this category**
- **Half are “average” in quality**
- **29% are in the “good” quality category**
- **19% are “poor”**
- **None of the sites was considered to be “very good,” achieving a score in excess of 80%**
- **No sites were “very poor,” that is, achieving a score of between 0% and 20%**
- **In sites, which have been marked poor or average, many are poorly signposted. What signage exists tends towards the prohibitive “the use of this playground is for young children only,” “no dog fouling,” etc. Thus, there is little “welcome” for users**
- **Some rubberised safety surfacing is becoming uneven, or has been damaged. In some cases, this needs replacing (e.g. Caxton Road Play Area)**
- **Few include landscaping in the form of trees or shrub planting**
- **Many provide little shade to protect children or guardians from the sun**
- **Accessibility is an issue for a significant percentage, with no access path. This is exacerbated by poor positioning well away from the entrance to the open space in which they are located, necessitating a relatively long walk across unsurfaced areas (e.g. grass), e.g. at Spratling Street**
- **Access for disabled or less able-bodied people is hampered by a lack of hard level surfaces or benching with arms**
- **There are some excellent examples of innovative play equipment, which is both exciting and imaginative. This includes the use of zip wires, “outdoor gym” and other recently installed items (e.g. Minster Playground)**
- **Some playgrounds have been forgotten, and contain relatively obsolete equipment which, although usually safe, is unenticing to use and shows no sign of recent maintenance in the form of new paint**

Most are rather conventional in design, lacking any “green” element, even though green play is extremely popular.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.11. Results of the quality audit for Amenity Greenspace are shown as Table 6.4.

Table 6.4: Quality audit for Amenity Greenspace

No	Name	Site number	Area (ha) - Small sites	Type	Cleanliness and maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage
44	Salts Drive	118	0.02	AGS	6.2	5.4	4.5	3.4	1.7	2.7	4.7	3.6	N/A	72
45	Bridge Road	11	0.44	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.7	3.6	1.8	2.1	5.4	3.6	N/A	71
46	Buckhurst Drive	12	0.13	AGS	3.8	2.7	2.4	1.4	0.8	0.6	2.7	2.7	N/A	38
47	Laleham Road	68	0.35	AGS	4.1	3.1	3.4	1.6	0.6	1.8	5.4	3.6	0.8	54
48	Newgate Promenade	87	0.46	AGS	3.0	5.4	3.5	1.8	1.0	3.6	5.4	3.9	1.9	66
49	Summerfield Road	138	0.36	AGS	4.1	2.3	4.5	2.7	1.5	1.2	4.5	3.6	0.0	54
50	Yoakley Square	170	0.35	AGS	5.1	5.4	5.0	3.6	1.7	0.0	2.7	2.7	N/A	58
51	Dane Gardens	194	0.09	AGS	5.4	4.5	4.7	3.6	1.7	1.2	5.4	3.6	0.8	68
52	15-22 Dane Mount	195	0.03	AGS	4.3	5.4	4.5	3.2	1.7	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	65
53	200-208 Dane Valley Road	196	0.24	AGS	4.6	5.4	4.1	3.4	1.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	42
54	St Francis Close	217	0.06	AGS	3.8	0.7	3.1	0.9	0.6	0.0	2.7	2.7	0.0	32
55	Liverpool Lawn	71	0.08	AGS	5.1	5.4	5.1	3.4	1.7	3.6	5.4	3.6	1.8	78
56	Lorina Road	72	0.03	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.5	3.2	1.7	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	45
58	Spencer Square	127	0.16	AGS	6.1	5.4	5.4	3.4	1.7	3.9	5.4	3.6	1.8	81
59	Warwick Drive	157	0.16	AGS	4.6	2.3	4.5	2.5	0.9	0.6	1.8	1.8	0.8	44
60	Windermere Ave/Kentmere Ave	166	0.2	AGS	4.1	1.8	2.3	1.2	0.6	0.0	2.0	1.2	0.8	31
64	Le Belle Alliance Square	205	0.11	AGS	4.9	5.4	4.5	3.4	1.7	3.6	2.7	2.7	N/A	64
68	Sherwood Road	124	0.16	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.7	3.4	1.7	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	68
70	Cottingham Road	22	0.11	AGS	5.1	5.4	4.7	3.2	1.6	2.4	5.4	3.6	1.8	74
71	Princess Margaret Ave	104	0.47	AGS	3.5	4.7	4.5	3.3	1.6	2.7	1.4	2.7	1.4	57
72	Regency Lawns Westcliffe Prom	112	0.69	AGS	3.5	1.8	3.6	1.8	0.8	1.2	2.3	2.7	0.8	41
73	Hopeville Ave	58	0.05	AGS	6.2	5.4	4.7	3.6	1.6	3.3	5.4	3.6	N/A	75
74	Coleman Crescent	0	0.61	AGS	5.1	4.1	5.0	3.0	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	42
75	Hildersham Close	55	0.14	AGS	5.4	3.6	4.7	3.4	1.7	1.8	4.1	3.6	0.8	65

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

76	Kings Ave	0	0.75	AGS	4.3	3.4	3.8	3.3	1.3	3.4	5.4	2.7	0.8	63
78	Marine Gardens	0	0.09	AGS	4.1	5.4	5.0	3.0	1.2	3.4	5.4	3.6	1.8	73
79	Hawley Square	0	0.57	AGS	3.8	2.4	5.1	3.6	1.7	3.6	4.1	3.6	0.8	64
80	Broad Street Ramsgate	0	0.02	AGS	4.3	4.7	4.7	3.4	1.7	2.4	5.0	3.6	N/A	66
81	Vincent Close	27	0.17	AGS	4.1	3.4	5.1	3.2	1.6	2.4	4.1	3.6	N/A	61
82	Hornet Close	0	0.17	AGS	5.1	5.4	4.5	3.2	1.7	3.6	2.7	2.7	N/A	64
83	Epple Bay Ave	0	0.02	AGS	3.8	4.1	3.8	2.7	1.4	3.4	3.6	3.2	1.8	62
84	Canute Road	0	0.74	AGS	4.3	3.4	4.7	1.8	1.1	0.9	1.4	2.3	0.8	46
85	Viking Close	0	0.84	AGS	5.4	5.4	5.1	3.4	1.7	3.4	5.4	3.2	N/A	73
86	Hopeville Ave	0	0.12	AGS	6.3	6.1	5.1	3.4	1.7	3.2	5.4	N/A	2.3	74
87	Balmoral Gardens Informal Rec	0	0.48	AGS	5.4	2.4	5.4	3.6	1.7	3.6	5.0	3.6	0.0	68
90	Trinity Gardens	0	0.52	AGS	3.6	5.4	4.6	3.2	1.7	1.6	5.0	3.6	1.8	68
91	Winter Gardens	0	0.68	AGS	3.0	3.8	4.1	2.1	1.1	2.7	3.1	2.7	1.4	53
92	Lewis Crescent	69	1.35	AGS	3.0	3.2	3.8	1.5	0.8	2.7	4.1	3.9	0.8	53
93	Land at Sunken Garden	0	4.79	AGS	4.6	3.1	3.8	2.7	1.5	3.4	4.1	2.7	0.8	59
94	Open Space	0	0.15	AGS	3.1	5.4	3.8	2.7	1.4	2.4	5.4	3.6	N/A	62
95	Sea Road Gardens	121	1.33	AGS	4.1	5.4	4.1	3.3	1.5	3.6	5.4	3.6	1.8	73
97	Minnis Bay	0	2.85	AGS	3.4	3.4	4.1	2.7	1.3	3.4	5.4	4.5	0.8	64
98	Nursery Fields Acol	0	0.29	AGS	6.2	5.4	4.7	3.6	1.8	1.2	4.7	3.6	1.8	73
100	Courtstairs Park Path	0	0.05	AGS	5.1	5.4	4.7	3.2	1.7	2.7	5.4	3.6	N/A	71
101	The Courts	0		AGS	4.3	5.4	4.7	3.2	1.7	2.4	5.4	3.6	N/A	68
102	Earlsmead Crescent	94	0.17	AGS	5.1	5.4	4.7	3.0	1.7	1.8	5.4	3.6	N/A	68
124	Newington Rec and Centre	88	1.31	AGS	4.1	4.1	4.9	2.7	1.4	3.6	5.4	3.6	N/A	66
129	Reading Street	111	0.09	AGS	5.9	6.1	5.4	3.4	1.7	3.6	4.1	3.6	2.3	80
143	Charlotte Court	0	0.07	AGS	3.8	2.3	5.1	3.6	1.4	3.6	4.1	3.6	0.0	61
188	Ellington Road 70	177	0.01	P	5.4	5.4	5.0	3.2	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46
191	Princess Margaret's Ave 62	211	0.04	P	5.8	5.8	5.7	3.6	1.7	4.1	6.3	3.6	1.8	85
193	Appledore Close 66	178	0.02	P	3.5	1.4	4.1	3.0	1.2	1.2	5.4	3.6	0.0	52
196	Colburn Road Estate	17	0.03	AGS	5.1	5.4	4.5	3.6	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	45
197	Harrowdene	47	0.04	AGS	6.2	4.7	4.5	3.6	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46
198	Highfield Gardens	53	0.14	AGS	4.9	3.4	4.1	3.4	1.7	0.0	1.4	2.7	0.6	49
199	Mockett Drive	82	0.08	AGS	5.4	1.4	2.7	1.4	0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6	27
200	Selwyn Drive	122	0.03	AGS	5.1	5.4	4.5	3.4	1.7	0.0	2.7	2.7	N/A	57
201	St Peter's Court	131	0.08	AGS	4.9	4.1	4.5	3.4	1.7	1.4	2.7	2.7	0.8	58
202	Stanley Road	133	0.02	AGS	5.1	5.4	4.5	3.4	1.7	1.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	49
203	Westover Gardens	164	0.64	AGS	4.9	2.0	3.8	0.9	0.6	1.8	4.7	3.6	0.8	51
204	Linley Road	206	0.02	AGS	5.7	4.1	4.5	3.6	1.7	1.4	N/A	N/A	0.8	48
206	Ramsgate Road	110	0.03	AGS	5.0	5.4	4.5	2.7	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	42
207	Addiscombe Gardens	1	0.11	AGS	4.1	3.4	2.7	1.4	0.6	3.6	2.7	2.7	N/A	47
209	Ashurst Gardens	7	0.13	AGS	5.4	4.1	4.7	2.7	1.2	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	63
212	Friendly Close	40	0.25	AGS	4.3	5.4	4.1	3.2	1.6	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	64
213	George V Avenue	42	0.5	AGS	4.9	5.4	5.1	3.6	1.8	3.0	5.4	3.6	1.8	77
214	Headcorn Gardens/Kilndown Garden	52	0.11	AGS	5.9	4.7	4.5	3.0	1.5	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	66
215	Knockholt Road	67	0.09	AGS	5.7	2.7	3.6	1.4	0.8	0.0	2.3	2.7	N/A	43
216	Lister Road	70	0.09	AGS	4.9	4.1	4.7	3.6	1.7	1.2	5.4	3.6	0.8	66

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

217	Saltwood/Cudham/Thurnden Garder	119	0.09	AGS	4.9	4.1	4.5	3.2	1.6	1.2	4.1	3.6	N/A	60
219	William Ave/Balcombe Crescent	165	0.04	AGS	4.3	5.4	4.5	3.0	1.5	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	41
220	Invicta House Appledore	181	0.09	AGS	3.0	3.6	4.5	3.2	1.2	1.2	5.4	3.6	0.0	57
221	Balmoral Road	184	0.22	AGS	3.2	5.4	4.7	3.2	1.7	3.0	5.4	3.6	N/A	67
223	17-34 Eltham Close	199	0.11	AGS	3.5	3.6	4.5	3.0	1.2	1.2	5.4	3.6	0.6	59
224	19-25 Rosedale 92-94 College	213	0.18	AGS	4.9	4.1	4.5	3.6	1.7	0.0	2.7	2.7	0.8	55
225	Sarah and Taddy Gardens	213	0.04	AGS	5.4	5.4	3.4	3.3	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	42
226	Block 5-12 Tomlin Drive	223	0.1	AGS	4.3	5.4	4.5	3.0	1.5	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	41
227	2-6; 24-36 William Ave	226	0.02	AGS	4.3	5.4	4.5	3.0	1.5	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	41
228	Arklow Square	5	0.22	AGS	3.8	2.7	5.0	3.4	1.4	0.9	2.7	2.7	N/A	50
229	Auckland Ave	8	0.25	AGS	4.9	5.4	5.0	3.3	1.7	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	68
230	Brecon Square	10	0.06	AGS	4.1	2.7	3.1	2.5	0.9	2.7	4.7	3.6	N/A	54
231	Colombo Square	21	0.06	AGS	4.1	5.4	4.5	2.5	1.5	2.7	4.7	3.6	N/A	64
232	Hamilton Close	46	0.04	AGS	4.3	5.4	5.0	3.3	1.7	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	44
233	Hopes Lane	57	0.11	AGS	4.3	5.4	4.7	3.2	1.7	1.8	5.4	3.6	N/A	67
234	Lyell Road	74	0.12	AGS	6.2	6.8	6.1	4.1	1.8	1.8	2.7	2.7	N/A	71
235	Melbourne Ave	77	0.08	AGS	4.3	1.4	2.7	0.9	0.6	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	22
237	Quetta Road	109	0.11	AGS	4.6	5.4	4.5	3.4	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	43
238	Riverdale Road	113	0.04	AGS	5.1	1.4	3.4	0.9	0.6	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	48
239	Southwood Gardens	126	0.01	AGS	4.3	5.4	4.1	3.2	1.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	41
240	St John's Ave	128	0.05	AGS	4.9	5.4	4.7	3.2	1.7	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	67
242	West Dumpton Lane	158	0.03	AGS	4.1	5.4	4.7	3.6	1.7	3.3	5.4	3.6	N/A	71
243	Cannon Road Car Park	171	0.07	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.7	3.6	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46
245	Albion Mews	179	0.1	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.5	3.4	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	45
246	Ashley Close	182	0.01	AGS	5.1	5.4	4.5	3.6	1.7	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	48
247	Brunswick Court Complex	188	0.18	AGS	4.3	5.4	5.0	3.2	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	43
248	Clements Road	192	0.02	AGS	3.2	5.4	4.5	3.2	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40
249	Highfield Court	201	0.05	AGS	5.4	5.4	5.4	3.6	1.7	2.4	5.4	3.6	N/A	73
250	Hurst Grove	202	0.04	AGS	5.9	5.4	4.5	3.9	1.7	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	47
251	Pullman Close	212	0.15	AGS	5.1	5.4	4.1	3.0	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	42
252	1-6 Sundew Grove	219	0.38	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.5	3.6	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46
253	The Centre	222	0.29	AGS	5.1	5.4	5.4	3.6	1.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	47
254	Dumpton Park Drive	32	0.12	AGS	3.8	5.4	4.5	3.2	1.7	2.7	4.1	3.6	N/A	64
256	Cunningham Crescent	26	0.06	AGS	6.2	5.4	4.1	3.6	1.7	1.2	5.4	3.2	N/A	68
257	Grenville Gardens	45	0.1	AGS	5.9	4.7	4.1	3.4	1.7	1.2	5.4	3.2	1.4	69
259	Minnis Bay Car Park Café OS	589	0.09	AGS	3.6	3.4	3.8	3.3	1.3	3.4	5.4	3.6	0.8	64
260	Yew Tree Close	169	0.06	AGS	4.9	4.1	5.1	3.4	1.8	1.2	5.4	3.6	0.8	67

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

261	Adrian Square	2	0.22	AGS	5.4	2.4	5.0	3.6	1.8	2.7	1.4	1.8	0.8	55
262	Ethelbert Square	36	0.1	AGS	5.4	2.4	5.0	3.6	1.8	2.7	1.4	1.8	0.8	55
263	Sudbury Place	137	0.04	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.1	3.2	1.7	3.6	5.4	3.6	N/A	72
264	Cliffsend Road	15	0.15	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.5	3.4	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	45
265	Primrose Way	102	0.05	AGS	4.9	5.4	4.7	3.0	1.6	1.5	6.8	4.5	N/A	72
266	Margate Road	76	0.01	AGS	3.5	2.7	5.0	2.5	0.8	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	55
267	Sparkes Estate	215	0.14	AGS	3.8	3.4	5.0	2.5	1.4	1.2	5.4	3.6	0.8	60
268	Chatham Court, Margate Road	190	0.03	AGS	3.8	5.4	4.1	3.3	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40
269	Coastguards Cottages	193	0.03	AGS	5.9	5.4	4.1	3.6	1.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46
270	Harbour Towers	200	0.18	AGS	5.4	5.4	5.0	3.4	1.7	0.0	2.7	2.7	N/A	59
271	82-90 Chichester Road	191	0.05	AGS	4.9	5.4	5.0	3.2	1.4	3.6	5.4	3.6	N/A	72
272	Alderney Gardens	3	0.03	AGS	5.9	5.4	4.5	3.6	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	47
273	Trove Kennedy Newcastle	224	0.2	AGS	3.5	5.4	5.1	3.2	1.7	1.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	65
274	Fair Street	0	0.31	AGS	5.1	5.4	3.6	3.6	1.7	0.0	2.7	2.7	N/A	55
275	St Peter's Court	0	0.04	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.5	3.4	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	45
276	The Maples	0	0.06	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.7	3.6	1.7	N/A	5.4	3.6	N/A	66
277	Promenade Visual Amenity	0	1.18	AGS	2.7	4.7	5.4	3.2	1.8	3.0	5.4	4.1	N/A	67
279	St Peter's Amenity	0	0.25	AGS	4.3	4.1	4.5	3.0	1.5	1.8	2.7	2.7	N/A	54
284	Land at Buenos Ayres	0	0.55	AGS	3.0	5.0	4.5	2.7	1.2	3.2	5.4	3.6	1.2	66
285	Francis Road	39	1.41	AGS	5.1	4.1	4.5	3.4	1.6	0.9	N/A	N/A	0.0	43

Scores (weighted)

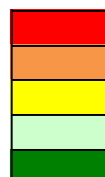
Very poor = 0% - 20%

Poor = 21% - 40%

Average = 41% - 60%

Good = 61% - 80%

Very good = 81% - 100%



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

6.12. There are a number of issues relating to quality:

- There are 126 sites in this category in Thanet District. Some very small sites (below 0.2 ha) were excluded because they were too insignificant or small to be considered appropriate for a district-wide study, although they may have some value at a very local level. Three private gardens have been included because they are very visible to passers-by, and are thus in the public domain. They are marked “P”
- 48% are considered “average”
- 45% were “good”
- Six were “poor”
- One private site fell within the “very good” category
- Grass cutting and litter collection were generally carried out to a high standard
- There were some severe issues with vandalism and graffiti. A lot of the shelters were in poor condition (e.g. in the Sunken Garden and Minnis Bay)
- Nearly all had to be marked down in relation to signage. This was generally prohibitive in nature, warning people not to play games or cause dog fouling. Even some of the commons and other high-profile sites in this category were let down by interesting and informative signage which can increase a “sense of place.” Thanet District is a district which is full of heritage and history, and whilst it is recognised that many amenity greenspaces are unsuitable for interpretation, others, many of which are village greens or other open spaces which are the only form of greenspace in the neighbourhood, would benefit greatly. There were some significant exceptions (e.g. the interesting plaque about Liberator bombers in Sea Road Gardens, and at Hopeville Avenue)
- A few had nowhere to sit
- Many are poorly landscaped, with just an area of lawn and no tree or other planting.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

Park Audit Results														
No	Name	Site number	Area (ha)	Type	Cleanliness and maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage
5	Church of St Mary Magdalen	0	0.55	C	5.7	3.4	4.3	3.2	1.5	1.8	2.7	2.7	0.8	58%
6	Thanet Cemetery	0	14.49	C	5.4	3.4	5.4	3.6	1.7	3.1	5.4	3.6	0.8	72%
7	Thanet Minster Cemetery	0	2.13	C	5.8	4.5	5.4	3.6	1.7	3.2	5.4	3.6	1.2	76%
8	St Marys Church	0	0.72	C	5.8	5.4	4.9	3.4	1.8	1.4	5.4	3.9	1.8	75%
9	St Nicholas Church	0	0.32	C	6.1	4.9	4.6	3.4	1.5	2.3	3.6	2.7	1.8	69%
10	Ramsgate Cemetery	0	13.2	C	5.1	4.5	5.4	3.6	1.7	3.6	5.0	3.6	1.4	74%
11	Nuns Cemetery	2	0.02	C	5.8	5.4	5.4	3.6	4.3	0.6	4.1	2.7	1.8	68%
12	All Saints Birchington	0	0.86	C	5.1	5.4	4.9	3.6	1.8	2.7	5.4	3.6	1.8	76%
13	St Lawrence Churchyard Margate	0	1.07	C	3.8	3.8	4.3	3.0	1.7	3.0	4.1	3.6	0.9	62%
14	St John the Baptist Margate	0	0.86	C	5.0	4.3	5.4	3.6	1.7	2.3	5.0	3.6	1.4	70%
17	St Georges Churchyard Margate	0	7.69	C	4.1	2.7	4.6	3.0	1.5	1.8	4.5	3.6	0.0	54%
18	St Peters Churchyard	0	3.48	C	5.4	6.8	4.6	3.6	1.7	3.4	6.3	3.6	2.3	84%
19	St Mildreds Church Acol	0	0.06	C	6.5	4.1	5.1	3.4	1.7	2.3	4.1	3.6	0.8	67%
20	Vale Square Churchyard	0	0.18	C	6.2	3.1	5.4	3.4	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.4	60%
108	St Mary Magdalen Churchyard	0	0.55	C	5.7	4.7	5.1	3.4	1.5	1.6	2.7	2.7	1.8	66%

6.13. This consists of parish or town cemetery sites, or prominent churchyard burial sites. All are suitable for outdoor recreational purposes, and usually have fine heritage and local interest value. Thanet District is fairly unique in having a network of churches and burial grounds of great historic value, with many interesting features.

6.14. Results of the quality audit for the seven sites in this category are shown as Table 6.5.

Table 6.5: Quality audit for Cemeteries and Churchyards

Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0% - 20%
 Poor = 21% - 40%
 Average = 41% - 60%
 Good = 61% - 80%
 Very good = 81% - 100%



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

6.15. The quality issues relating to these sites is as follows:

- **There are 15 churchyards or cemetery sites in the district**
- **73% were “good” in terms of quality**
- **Three were “average”**
- **St Peter’s Church was “very good”**
- **Standards of grass cutting and litter collection were generally very high**
- **More information signage would have been welcome given the interesting and educational nature of both monuments and buildings (e.g. at St George’s Churchyard and at Ramsgate Cemetery)**
- **Some were very well-landscaped, and a number had small areas of meadow which adds to their amenity and biodiversity value. However, there is a lot of opportunity to use the graveyards for limited informal areas of grass or meadow to improve biodiversity**
- **There are some issues relating to leaning memorials.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

GREEN CORRIDORS

6.16. There four Green Corridors in the District. Because of their discrete nature they are included in a separate category for qualitative purposes, but included with Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace for quantitative purposes as there is no generally accepted quantitative national standard for these spaces. Results of the quality audit for the four sites in this category are shown as Table 6.6.

Table 6.6: Quality audit for Green Corridors

No	Name	Site number	Area (ha)	Type	Cleanliness and maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage
42	Pysons Estate Perimeter	106	1.94	GC	3.8	2.3	5.1	3.2	1.8	2.1	5.0	4.5	0.0	62%
43	Vere Road	151	0.62	GC	5.1	2.7	5.1	3.6	1.7	3.6	4.1	3.6	0.0	66%
241	Stirling Way	135	1.21	GC	3.2	4.7	4.7	3.2	1.7	1.8	6.8	4.5	N/A	68%
281	Dumpton Gap	161	5.12	GC	4.6	1.4	4.5	2.7	1.7	3.8	5.4	3.6	0.0	61%

Scores (weighted)

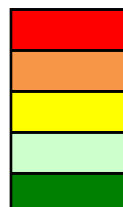
Very poor = 0% - 20%

Poor = 21% - 40%

Average = 41% - 60%

Good = 61% - 80%

Very good = 81% - 100%



6.17. The quality issues relating to these sites are few, and are as follows:

- All are in “good” condition
- Signage is missing from these sites. It would be useful to have some information to at least include their names and possibly local natural history
- Additional seating would be useful in places

Standards of cleanliness and maintenance are very good at all sites.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

ALLOTMENTS

6.18. There are a number of allotment sites in Thanet District. Results of the quality audit for the sites in this category are shown as Table 6.7.

Table 6.7: Quality audit for Allotments

No	Name	Site number	Area (ha)	Type	Cleanliness and maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage (weighted)
21	Tivoli	49	0.31	A	5.1	4.1	5.8	3.6	1.8	0.9	4.5	3.6	0.5	63%
22	Brooke Avenue	0	2.28	A	6.5	4.1	6.3	3.9	1.8	2.1	5.4	3.6	0.8	73%
23	Jackey Bakers	0	1.78	A	5.0	3.6	5.8	3.0	1.8	1.4	4.1	3.0	1.0	62%
24	Margate Road	0	0.88	A	3.4	3.1	5.0	3.3	1.8	2.4	4.1	3.6	0.8	61%
25	Norman Road	0	0.38	A	4.3	3.6	5.8	3.3	1.8	1.4	4.1	3.6	0.8	62%
26	Quex Park	0	0.55	A	5.9	3.0	5.7	3.3	1.8	0.9	2.7	2.7	0.8	58%
27	Lymington Road	0	1.64	A	5.1	5.4	5.9	3.6	1.8	3.6	5.4	3.6	1.8	80%
28	Nash Road	0	2.8	A	5.7	4.5	5.8	3.6	1.8	1.2	5.0	3.6	1.5	71%
29	Prospect Road	0	0.16	A	5.4	3.1	5.8	3.3	1.6	1.2	3.1	2.7	0.8	58%
30	Reading Street	0	1.42	A	5.1	5.0	5.4	3.3	1.8	1.8	4.5	2.7	1.8	70%
31	Chilton Lane	0	4.22	A	5.8	4.1	6.3	3.6	1.8	1.4	4.5	3.6	0.8	68%
32	Vere Road	0	1.88	A	5.4	3.1	6.3	3.3	1.6	1.2	3.1	2.7	0.8	59%
33	Dane Valley	0	4.68	A	6.1	6.8	6.6	4.5	2.0	4.1	6.3	4.5	2.3	96%
34	All Saints	0	0.69	A	5.9	1.8	3.6	3.3	1.8	1.6	3.1	2.3	0.0	50%
35	Ramsgate Cemetery West	0	0.32	A	4.5	4.5	5.8	3.4	1.8	2.5	4.1	2.7	1.4	68%
36	Ramsgate Cemetery East	0	0.47	A	4.5	4.5	5.8	3.4	1.8	2.5	4.1	2.7	1.4	68%

Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0% - 20%

Poor = 21% - 40%

Average = 41% - 60%

Good = 61% - 80%

Very good = 81% - 100%



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

6.19. The quality issues relating to allotments are as follows:

- **A total of 16 allotment sites were audited**
- **69% are in “good” condition**
- **One listed site (Dane Valley) was quite exceptional, and has recently received lottery funding**
- **Signage was the biggest weakness. Most was prohibitive, although the “Tabbies” parochial charities sign at Reading Street was attractive and gave a sense of “welcome”**
- **Most were adequately maintained and litter-free**
- **Access was indifferent in most cases**
- **Some sites were almost impossible to find**
- **Facilities such as water supply and good perimeter fencing were lacking in some places**
- **A few had seating and landscaping, but not many.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

6.19. There are a number of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace sites in the District of Thanet. They may consist of woodland, common land, or other informal landscapes. Results of the quality audit for the sites in this category are shown as Table 6.8.

Table 6.8: Quality audit for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

No	Name	Site number	Area (ha)	Type	Cleanliness and maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage
103	Tivoli Woods	146	1.81	NSN	2.7	1.4	3.8	3.3	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.8	0.0	38%
104	North Foreland Golf Course Roughs	0	50.48	NSN	5.1	4.1	4.1	3.0	1.7	3.6	2.7	2.7	N/A	60%
106	Monkton Chalk Pit	0	5.53	NSN	5.7	5.4	5.1	3.6	1.8	3.4	5.0	3.6	1.8	79%
109	Pegwell Bay Country Park	0	28.94	NSN	5.4	5.4	5.4	3.4	1.7	3.4	6.3	4.5	1.8	83%
111	Neame Woods, Birchington South	0	0.72	NSN	3.5	1.8	4.5	3.3	1.6	1.2	3.1	2.7	N/A	48%
112	Grange Way, Viking	142	2.1	NSN	3.2	2.7	4.5	3.4	1.7	2.1	4.1	3.6	N/A	56%
113	Mocketts Wood, St Peters	0	1.2	NSN	4.3	5.4	5.4	3.6	1.8	2.1	5.0	3.6	1.7	73%
115	Wildgrass, Royal Esplanade, Westbrook	0	0.65	NSN	4.5	5.4	5.4	4.1	1.8	2.7	6.1	4.5	1.7	80%
117	Fort Lower Promenade	0	0.19	NSN	4.9	0.0	N/A	3.6	1.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	22%

Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0% - 20%

Poor = 21% - 40%

Average = 41% - 60%

Good = 61% - 80%

Very good = 81% - 100%



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

6.20. Quality issues include:

- **There are 10 such sites in Thanet**
- **Three were rated as “average,” and four as “good”**
- **One was “very good” (Pegwell Bay)**
- **Some lacked signage, which was a pity given their interesting ecological, heritage or historical value**
- **Two were “poor”**
- **Cleanliness and maintenance varied in terms of issues such as graffiti, litter collection, and general maintenance**
- **Some had outstanding ecological value, with SPA, SSSI and SAC ratings**
- **More seating was necessary at some sites.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

6.21. This usually consists of outdoor sports pitches. These are generally outside the remit of this Open Space Assessment. However, although it is inappropriate to apply qualitative or accessibility standards, some sites have been audited for quality. This is because these sites have a more general informal outdoor recreation function. Results of the quality audit for the ten sites in this category are shown as Table 6.9.

Table 6.9: Quality audit for Outdoor Sports Facilities

No	Name	Site number	Area (ha)	Type	Park Audit Results									
					Cleanliness and maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage
118	St Lukes Recreation Ground	129	1.88	RG	4.1	3.1	5.3	3.2	1.7	2.7	1.4	1.8	0.8	53%
119	Street Court Recreation	136	0.4	RG	4.9	4.1	4.7	3.2	1.7	2.7	1.4	1.8	0.8	56%
120	Lymington Road	0	1.79	RG	3.1	1.4	3.8	2.3	1.2	2.1	2.3	2.7	0.8	43%
121	Palm Bay Recreation	95	5.33	RG	3.8	1.4	3.8	2.1	1.0	1.8	1.4	1.8	0.0	36%
122	Garlinge Recreation	41	4.7	RG	3.1	1.8	2.7	1.2	0.8	2.1	0.9	1.8	0.8	34%
123	Warre Recreation Ground	156	2.36	OSF	3.6	1.8	4.1	3.2	1.5	2.5	2.3	1.8	0.0	46%
125	Minster Recreation Ground	0	2.97	RG	6.3	4.5	5.1	3.4	1.7	3.9	3.4	2.7	1.8	73%
126	Monkton Recreation Ground	0	2.64	RG	5.4	3.8	4.7	3.4	1.2	3.4	3.6	2.7	0.8	65%
127	St Nicholas at Wade Bell Meadow	0	2.01	OSF	5.7	3.4	5.0	2.7	1.0	3.6	4.5	3.6	0.8	67%
128	Birchington Recreation Ground	0	3.1	RG	4.3	4.5	3.1	3.0	1.4	2.1	2.7	1.8	1.4	54%
142	St Peters Recreation	132	6.75	RG	4.9	3.6	5.1	3.4	1.7	3.4	3.6	2.7	0.8	65%
150	Jackey Bakers	63	15.98	OSF	8.1	3.1	4.1	2.5	1.4	3.0	4.5	3.6	1.0	69%
152	Dane Valley Recreation	30	14	RG	2.7	2.7	5.1	3.4	1.6	2.3	3.6	3.6	0.8	57%
153	Cliffesend Road	0	0.41	OSF	5.4	5.4	5.0	3.0	1.4	1.8	4.1	2.7	1.8	68%
280	Grange Way Cricket Club	0	1.99	OSF	5.1	5.0	5.1	3.3	1.5	3.2	5.4	3.6	1.4	75%

Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0% - 20%
 Poor = 21% - 40%
 Average = 41% - 60%
 Good = 61% - 80%
 Very good = 81% - 100%



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

6.22. There are few quality issues as follows:

- **There are 15 such sites in Thanet**
- **Six were “average” in terms of quality. Seven were “good”**
- **A number had few benches or bins**
- **Signage was poor or absent**
- **Landscaping was limited, and would benefit from softening where this does not impede pitches or outfields.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

CLIFFTOP SITES

6.23. This usually consists of some sites which fall into the “Clifftop” category because they are large open space which are situated facing the coast, and thus are unique in terms of their value as areas for informal recreation. Results of the quality audit for the ten sites in this category are shown as Table 6.10.

Table 6.10: Quality audit for Clifftop Sites

No	Name	Site number	Area (ha)	Type	Cleanliness and maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Auxiliary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage
65	Apple Bay Ave	35	0.5	CL	5.7	4.5	5.0	1.8	0.6	2.4	2.7	2.7	1.8	60%
66	Minnis Bay Parade Clifftop	81	1.32	CL	3.4	4.1	3.2	3.0	1.5	3.9	5.4	3.2	0.8	63%
69	Sea Road	120	1.33	CL	4.1	4.5	4.1	2.7	1.1	3.4	5.4	3.6	1.5	67%
77	Cliff Road	0	3.58	CL	4.3	1.4	4.1	1.8	0.9	3.2	5.4	3.6	N/A	57%
88	Marine Drive	0	0.86	CL	3.6	4.1	4.1	1.8	0.9	3.2	4.5	3.6	N/A	60%
89	St Georges Lawns	0	1.68	CL	3.0	2.7	3.8	1.5	0.8	3.0	4.1	3.9	0.0	50%
96	Hugin Ship Site	60	2.12	CL	5.4	5.4	5.8	3.4	1.6	3.6	5.4	3.6	1.8	80%
114	Princes Walk	114	16.69	CL	2.7	0.9	3.5	1.2	1.0	3.2	4.1	3.9	0.0	46%
205	Percy Ave Clifftops	98	1.13	CL	4.3	4.1	4.7	1.8	0.9	3.2	5.0	3.6	N/A	64%
278	Minnis Bay	0	2.12	CL	3.5	3.4	4.1	3.6	1.3	1.8	5.4	3.6	0.8	61%
283	Joss Bay Picnic Site	64	1.38	CL	3.2	1.4	3.1	1.2	0.6	3.1	5.4	3.6	N/A	50%

Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0% - 20%
 Poor = 21% - 40%
 Average = 41% - 60%
 Good = 61% - 80%
 Very good = 81% - 100%



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

6.24. There are few quality issues as follows:

- **There are 11 such sites in Thanet**
- **Six were “average” in terms of quality. Five were “good”**
- **Signage was poor or absent**
- **Landscaping was limited, and would benefit from softening**
- **Even though tree planting does not thrive near to coastal areas, it would be possible to extend the range of pines and other species which are resistant to salt winds.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

7. SERVICE ISSUES RELATING TO QUANTITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- 7.1. Analysis of the audit findings has identified a number of issues relating to the quantity of open spaces in Thanet District. These, combined with a simple analysis of the distribution of different green space “types” and of relevant national standards (in particular Fields in Trust Guidelines for Formal Open Space) also leads to some conclusions relating to the quantity and accessibility of provision.
- 7.2. The methodology used in this study has been as follows, to:
- **Identify from the study the total area (ha) of open space in each category**
 - **Utilise Fields in Trust standards (in ha per 1,000 people) contained in the latest Guidance Notes for each open space type as defined using the PPG17 typology**
 - **Use population statistics to create local standards in ha/1,000 population (median average across the plan area). These are population figures provided by the Office for National Statistics for the year 2016 and projected for the year 2031**

USE OF EXTERNAL GUIDANCE TO SET QUANTITATIVE PROVISION STANDARDS AND COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PROVISION IN EACH ANALYSIS AREA

- 7.3. In some cases, national quantitative standards have been superseded by advice provided by Fields in Trust in their document: “Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play Beyond the Six Acre Standard - England.” The setting of these standards accords with guidance provided in relation to “Greenspaces or Sport and Recreation Facilities (October 2015)” which states: “The easiest way to express a quantity standard is a combination of a unit of a 'useful area' of provision and a population, such as X sqm/person (mainly for indoor provision) or Y ha/1,000 people (mainly for open spaces and outdoor sports provision).

Table 7.1: Quantitative Open Space Standards By Open Space Type

GROUP	NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE	PARKS AND GARDENS	AMENITY GREENSPACE	EQUIPPED PLAY
NATIONAL STANDARD	1.8ha/1,000	0.8ha/1,000	0.6 ha/1,000	0.25 ha/1,000
SOURCE	Fields in Trust Guidelines	Fields in Trust Guidelines	Fields in Trust Guidelines	Fields in Trust Guidelines

- 7.4. It has been recommended that use of the National FIT Standard is applied to all types shown in figure 7.1 as the most definitive and nationally accepted set of standards for informal open space.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

AMENITY GREENSPACE

- 7.5. The guideline figure which has been suggested by Fields in Trust for Amenity Greenspace is 0.6 ha/1,000 population.
- 7.6. It should be noted that some sites are below the guideline figure of 0.2 ha because of their significance, or because of the absence of other Amenity Greenspace in the area.
- 7.7. The Clifftop sites have been separately audited for quality. However, there is no nationally recognised standard for such sites. In Thanet, they consist of open areas of greenspace which are generally formally maintained, and contain some suitable features for informal recreation. As such, they are similar in form to Amenity Greenspace, and have therefore been included in this category for quantitative purposes.
- 7.8. There are three sites which are private gardens, but which are nevertheless accessible to the public. They are also included in this category.
- 7.9. A quantitative analysis of “Amenity Greenspace” for current and future population levels is shown as Table 7.2.
- 7.10. There is a shortage of approximately 17 ha of Amenity Greenspace as at the year 2016. This becomes significantly wider given current ONS population projections to give a shortfall of approximately 30 ha by 2031.
- 7.11. It is important to note that part of the shortfall is in the area of **Manston Green**, which has land allocated (planning permission granted in 2017) for up to 785 new dwellings. Proposals for this site include the incorporation of a minimum of 15.8 ha of open space, which would reduce the current deficit across the District from 17 ha to an over-supply of 1.3h , and from 30 ha to 14.2 ha by the year 2031.

Table 7.2: Quantitative Analysis of Amenity Greenspace

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	TOTAL NO OF SITES.	HA	POPULATION 2016	CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000	REQUIREMENT CURRENT	CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY	POPULATION 2031	REQUIREMENT BY 2031	DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2031
Thanet District	137	67.11	140,937	0.52	84.6	17.49	161,527	96.9	29.79



Deficit
Oversupply

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.12. The Fields in Trust recommended standard for equipped/designated play areas is **0.25 ha/1,000 population**.

7.13. A quantitative analysis of provision for “Children and Young People” is shown as Table 7.3.

7.14. The current requirement is 35.25 ha for the population of Thanet. There is therefore a significant shortfall. This shortfall increases significantly as the population rises by 2031.

Table 7.3: Quantitative Analysis of Provision for Children and Young People

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	TOTAL NO OF SITES.	HA	POPULATION 2016 (2014-BASED MID YEAR POPULATION PROJECTIONS)	CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000	REQUIREMENT CURRENT	CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY	POPULATION 2031	REQUIREMENT BY 2031	DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2031
Thanet District	31	3.61	140,937	0.03	35.25	31.64	161,527	40.38	76.77

	Deficit
	Oversupply

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

ALLOTMENTS

- 7.15. There is no Fields in Trust guideline for allotments. However, the Thorpe Report arising from the Departmental Committee of Inquiry into Allotments, 1969, made 44 major recommendations. One was a recommendation that the standard level of provision should be **0.2 ha per 1,000 population**.
- 7.16. There are 16 allotment sites in the district. The total area of these sites is nearly 25 ha. This is relatively close to current requirement of 28.2 ha. This undersupply increases by 2031.
- 7.17. A quantitative analysis of provision for “Allotments” is shown as Table 7.4.

Table 7.4: Quantitative Analysis of Allotments

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	TOTAL NO OF SITES.	HA	POPULATION 2016 (2014-BASED MID YEAR POPULATION PROJECTIONS)	CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000	REQUIREMENT CURRENT	CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY	POPULATION 2031	REQUIREMENT BY 2031	DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2031
Thanet District	16	24.46	140,937	0.17	28.2	3.74	161,527	32.3	7.84

	Deficit
	Oversupply

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

7.18. The guidance given by Fields in Trust is that the standard level of provision should be **1.8 ha per 1,000 population**.

7.19. Given the nature of the four Green Corridor sites in the District, they have been included in this category for quantitative purposes.

7.20. There are 14 sites in total the district. The total area of these sites is over 100 ha. Despite this, it represents a significant and widening shortfall in supply against the guideline figure. However, in terms of context, the district is rich in accessible countryside for walking, cycling and other outdoor pursuits, which offsets the shortfall significantly.

7.21. A quantitative analysis of provision for “Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace” is shown as Table 7.5.

Table 7.5: Quantitative Analysis of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	TOTAL NO OF SITES.	HA	POPULATION 2016 (2014-BASED MID YEAR POPULATION PROJECTIONS)	CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000	REQUIREMENT CURRENT	CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY	POPULATION 2031	REQUIREMENT BY 2031	DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2031
Thanet District	14	100.51	140,937	0.71	253.8	153.29	161,527	290.7	190.19

	Deficit
	Oversupply

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS

7.22. The Fields in Trust guideline for Public Parks and Gardens is **0.8 ha per 1,000 population**.

7.23. There are 26 Public Parks and Gardens sites in the district. The total area of these sites is nearly 75 ha. This is a shortfall on the current requirement of 113 ha. This oversupply reduces by 2031. In context, 95% of residents in the district live on the coastal strip with its excellent promenades and beaches providing ample opportunity for informal outdoor recreation.

7.24. A quantitative analysis of provision for “Public Parks and Gardens” is shown as Table 7.6.

Table 7.6: Quantitative Analysis of Public Parks and Gardens

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	TOTAL NO OF SITES.	HA	POPULATION 2016	CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000	REQUIREMENT CURRENT	CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY	POPULATION 2031	REQUIREMENT BY 2031	DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2031
Thanet District	26	74.54	140,937	0.53	112.8	38.26	161,527	129.2	54.66

	Deficit
	Oversupply

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

7.25. There are no defined guidelines in terms of quantitative standards for Cemeteries and Churchyards. Any standard would be hindered by the different types of cemetery and churchyard currently encountered, including:

- **Churchyards which are still accepting burials**
- **Cemeteries which are still open for burial**
- **Churchyards which are redundant**
- **Cemeteries which are full**
- **Woodland burial.**

7.26. Any standard would also need to differentiate between the primary purpose of a cemetery or churchyard (i.e. for burial), and its purpose for informal recreation.

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

7.27. There are no defined guidelines in terms of quantitative standards for Outdoor Sports Facilities in terms of their use for informal outdoor recreation. Standards for the supply of formal sports are included in the Sports Review.

USE OF EXTERNAL GUIDANCE TO SET ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

7.28. The PPG17 Companion Guide states that: "Distance thresholds are a very useful planning tool, especially when used in association with a Geographical Information System (GIS). For example, it is possible to identify the percentage of households within a distance threshold of any particular provision or to compare possible locations for new provision to determine which will be the most effective."

7.29. Fields in Trust recommended benchmark guidelines have also been used in relation to Parks and Gardens, Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspace, and Amenity Greenspace (Table 7.5).

7.30. Fields in Trust standards are also available for equipped play areas and other related provision. See Table 7.6. Equipped/designated play areas are designated as:

- **Local Areas for Play (LAPs) aimed at very young children;**
- **Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) aimed at children who can go out to play independently; and**
- **Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) aimed at older children.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Table 7.5: Accessibility Standards for Informal Open Space for Based on Fields in Trust Benchmark Guidelines (Oct 2015)

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	WALKING GUIDELINE (walking distance: metres from dwellings)	QUALITY GUIDELINE
PARKS AND GARDENS	710 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Flag standard • Appropriately landscaped • Positive management • Provision of footpaths • Designed to be free of the fear of harm or crime
NATURAL/SEMI NATURAL GREENSPACES	720 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately landscaped • Positive management • Provision of footpaths • Designed to be free of the fear of harm or crime
AMENITY GREENSPACE	480 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately landscaped • Positive management • Provision of footpaths • Designed to be free of the fear of harm or crime

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Table 7.6: Accessibility Standards for Play Provision Based on Fields in Trust Benchmark Guidelines (Oct 2015)

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	WALKING GUIDELINE (walking distance: metres from dwellings)	QUALITY GUIDELINE
EQUIPPED/DESIGNATED PLAY AREAS	LAPs – 100m LEAPs – 400m NEAPS – 1,000m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards. • Located where they are of most value to the community to be served. • Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community. • Appropriately landscaped. • Maintained safely and to the highest possible condition with available finance. • Positively managed taking account of the need for repair and replacement over time as necessary. • Provision of appropriate ancillary facilities and equipment. • Provision of footpaths. • Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.
OTHER OUTDOOR PROVISION (MUGAS AND SKATEBOARD PARKS)	700m	

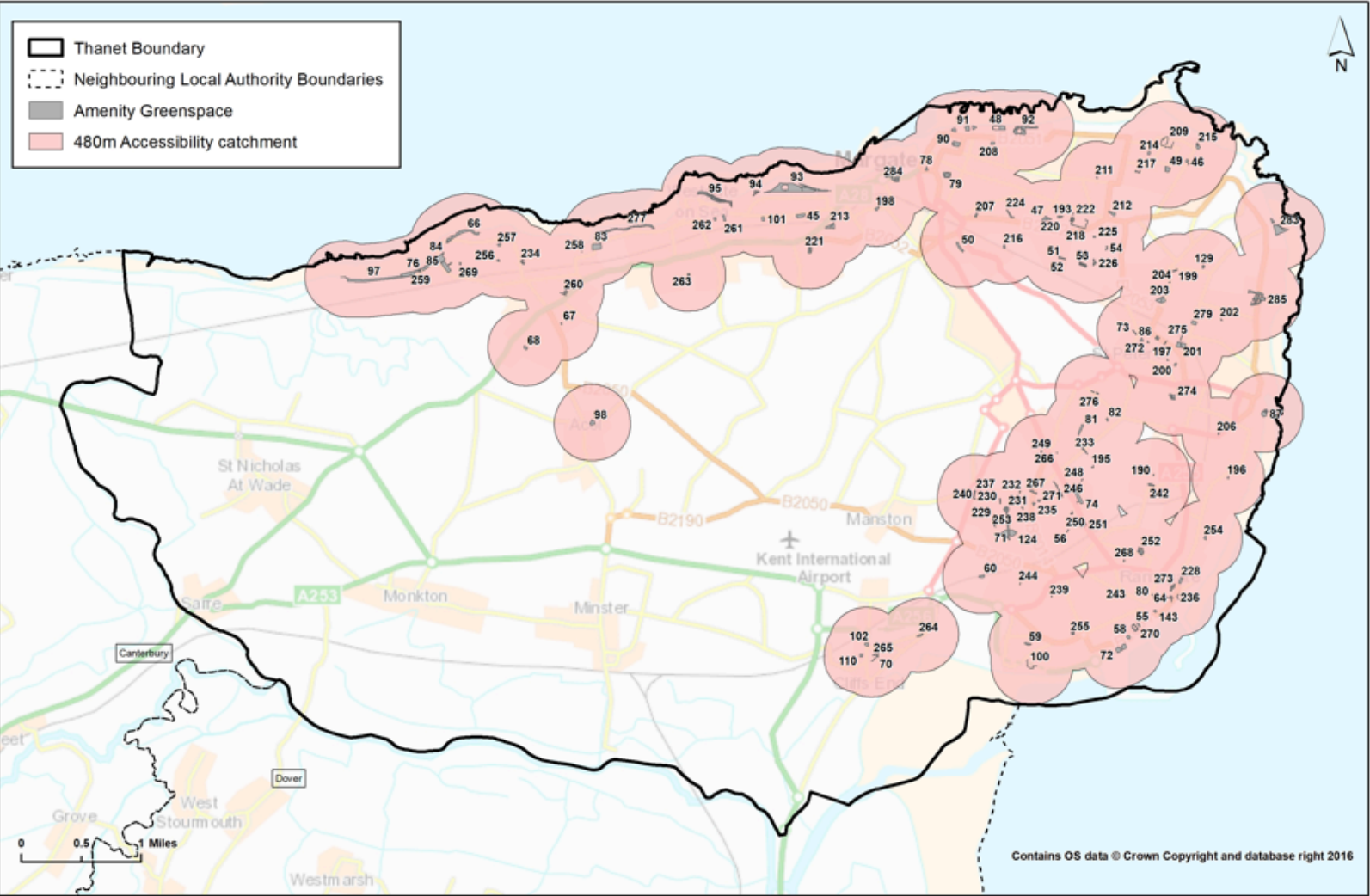
THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

AMENITY GREENSPACE

- 7.31. The Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Amenity Greenspace is **480 m** (approximately a 6-minute walk).
- 7.32. A map indicating accessibility is shown as figure 7.7.
- 7.33. There is good coverage of Amenity Greenspace with overlapping catchments around the coastal strip covering the north, east and south-east of the District.
- 7.34. Outlying communities, including **Manston, Monkton, St Nicholas at Wade** and **Sarre** have little or no such provision. These communities, however, are compensated by proximity to large areas of accessible countryside. These more isolated communities also have access to churchyards which act as useful areas of local accessible greenspace.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Figure 7.7: Accessibility of Amenity Greenspace using Fields in Trust walking standards



Amenity Greenspaces accessibility catchment in Thanet



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.35. The Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Provision for Children and Young People is as follows:

- **Local Areas for Play (LAPs) aimed at very young children: 100m;**
- **Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) aimed at children who can go out to play independently: 400m; and**
- **Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) aimed at older children: 1,000m.**

7.36. Maps indicating accessibility are shown as figure 7.9.

7.37. Larger equipped facilities (NEAPs) exist around the heavily populated coastal strip, but do not exist in **Westgate on Sea**, or in the **west of Margate**. Consideration should be given to building such provision, particularly as the population expands. This could be achieved by upgrading smaller facilities (LEAP's) such as at Hartsdown Park, Lymington Road Play Area and Caxton Road Play Area.

7.38. In communities to the west of Thanet, there are LEAPs at **St Nicholas at Wade, The Street, Monkton**, and **Cliffsend Road**. There is an absence of provision in **Sarre** and **Acol**. It should be noted that there is a playground at **Minster**, but this is only a LAP.

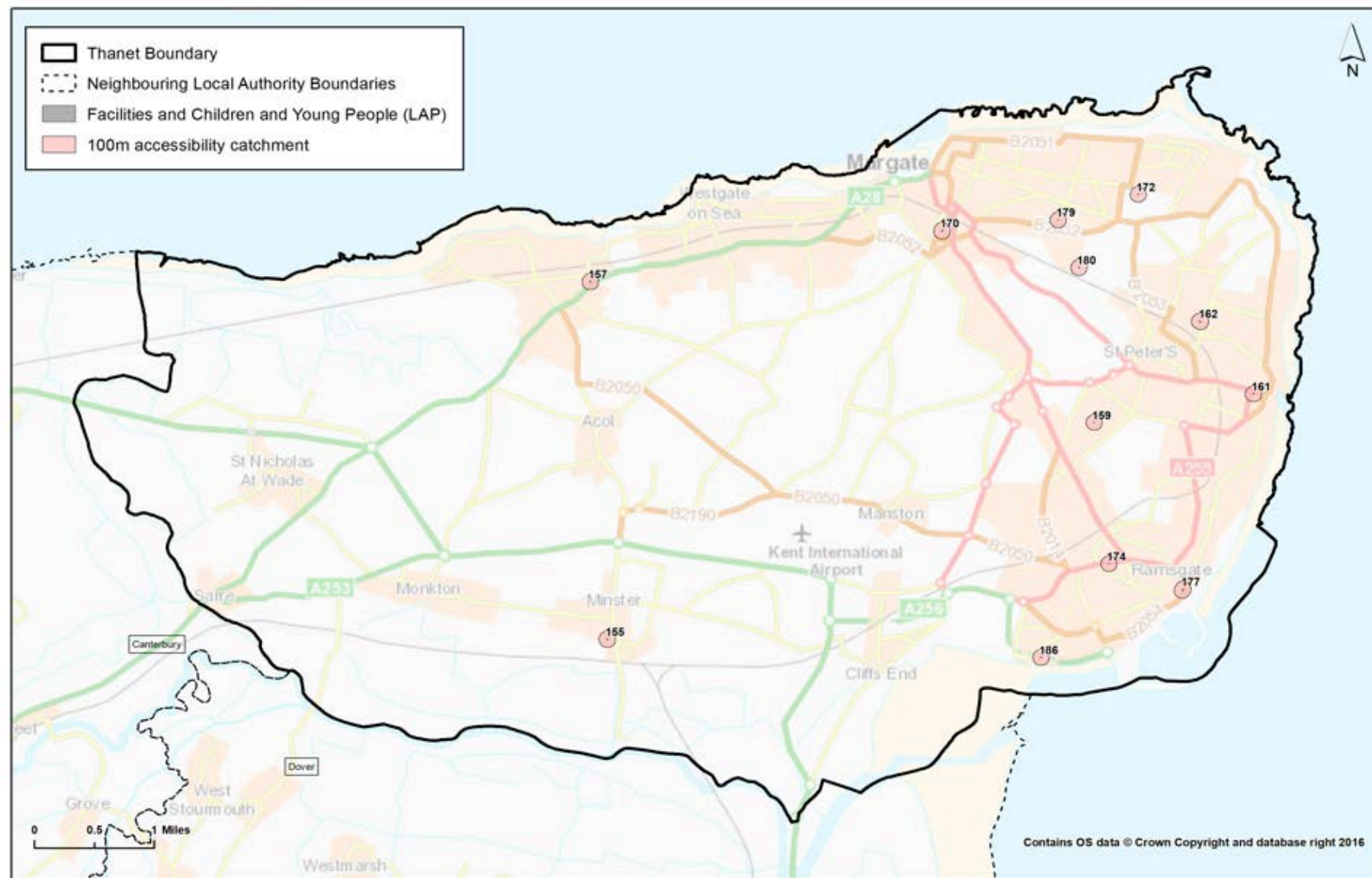
7.39. There are standards which have been established by Fields in Trust for new provision. These are shown as table 7.8.

Table 7.8: Recommended application of quantity benchmark guidelines – Equipped/Designated Play Space

SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT	LOCAL AREA FOR PLAY (LAP)	LOCALLY EQUIPPED AREA FOR PLAY (LEAP)	NEIGHBOURHOOD EQUIPPED AREA FOR (NEAP)
5-10 DWELLINGS	✓		
10-200 DWELLINGS	✓	✓	
201-500 DWELLINGS	✓	✓	Contribution
500+ DWELLINGS	✓	✓	

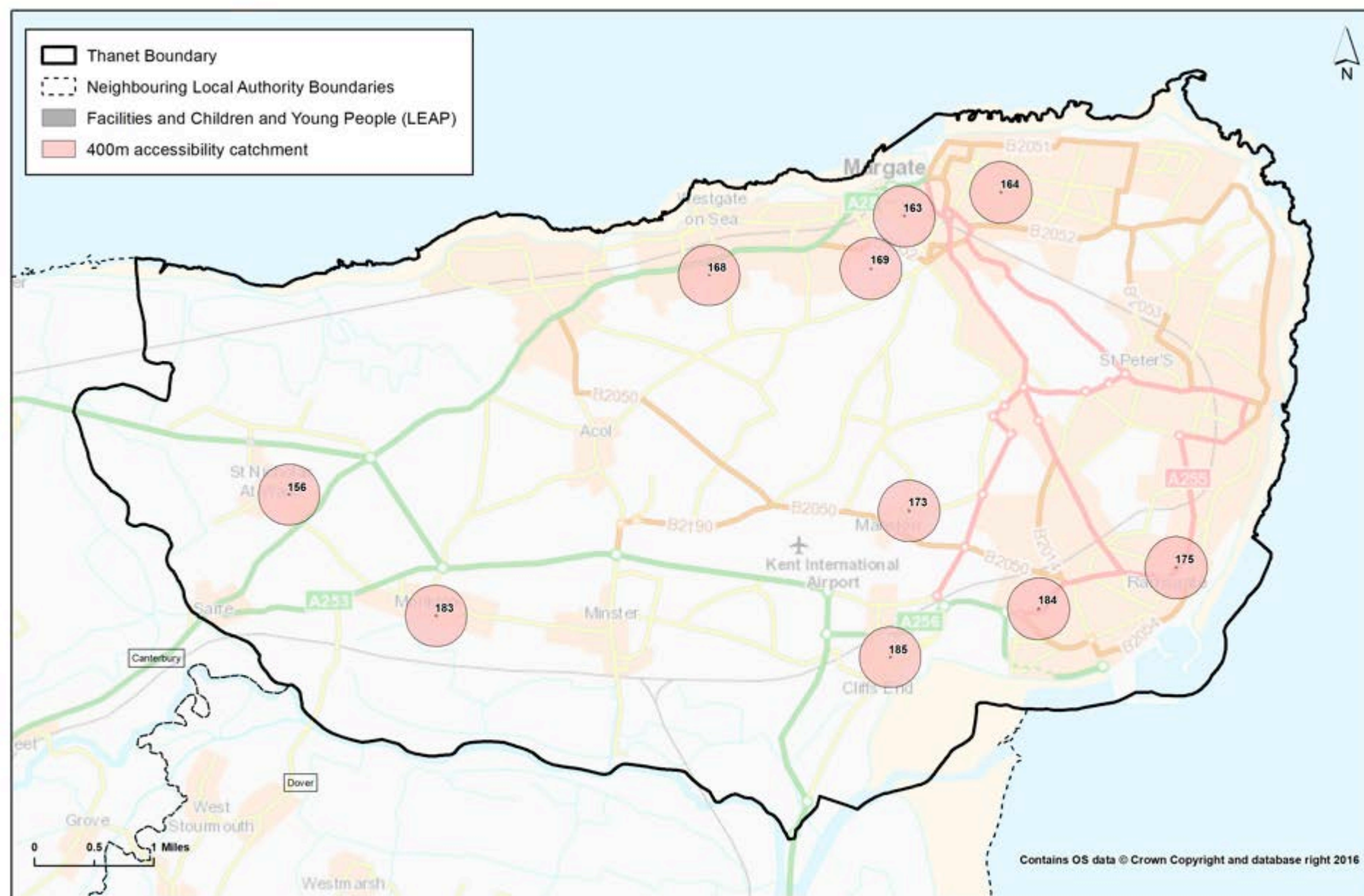
THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Figure 7.9: Accessibility of Facilities for Children and Young People using Fields in Trust walking standards - LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs



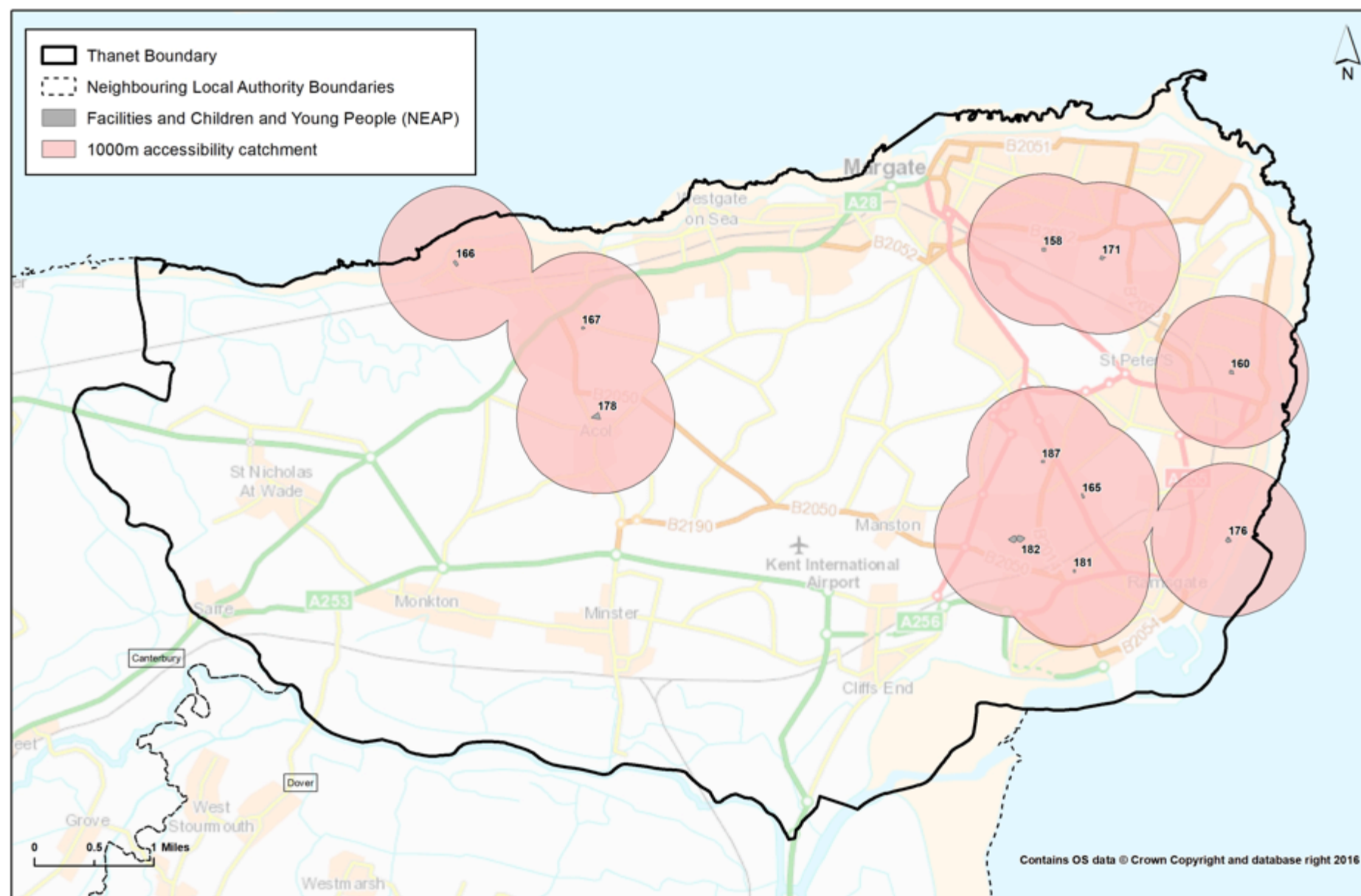
Facilities and Children and Young People (LAP) accessibility catchment in Thanet

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES



Facilities and Children and Young People (LEAP) accessibility catchment in Thanet

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES



Facilities and Children and Young People (NEAP) accessibility catchment in Thanet

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS

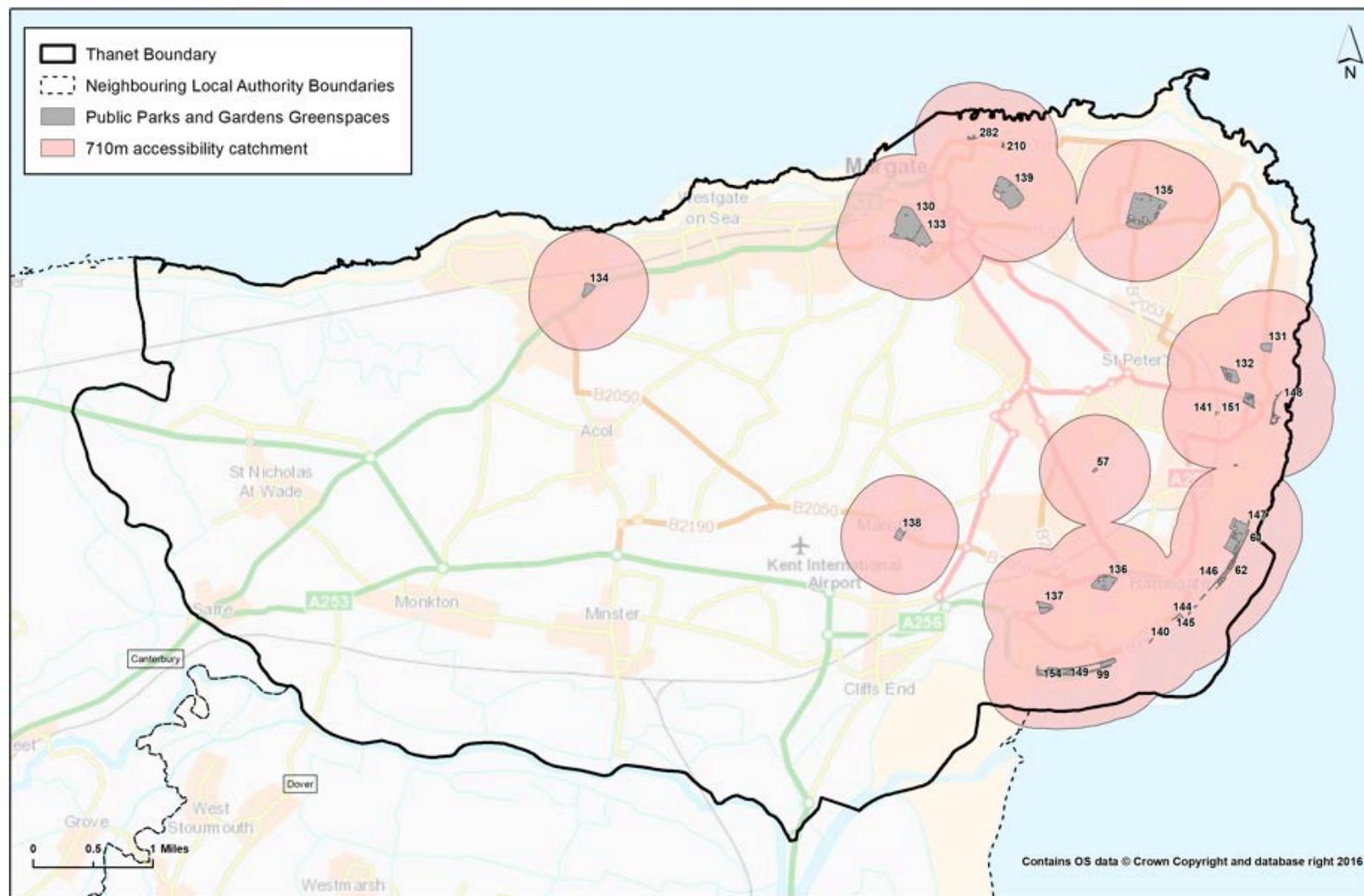
7.40. The Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Public Park and Gardens **710m**.

7.41. There are overlapping catchments around the coastal strip from Margate to Ramsgate. However, **Westgate on Sea** has no such provision, despite the fact that there are a number of Amenity Greenspaces in this area. Consideration could be given to upgrading an Amenity Greenspace to give the relatively large population access to a significant greenspace which provides a range of facilities for outdoor recreation. There are no Public Parks and Gardens in **Acol, St Nicholas at Wade, Sarre, Monkton, Minster** and **Cliffs End**.

7.42. A map indicating accessibility are shown as figure 7.10.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Figure 7.10: Accessibility of Public Parks and Gardens using Fields in Trust walking standards



Public Parks and Gardens Greenspaces accessibility catchment in Thanet

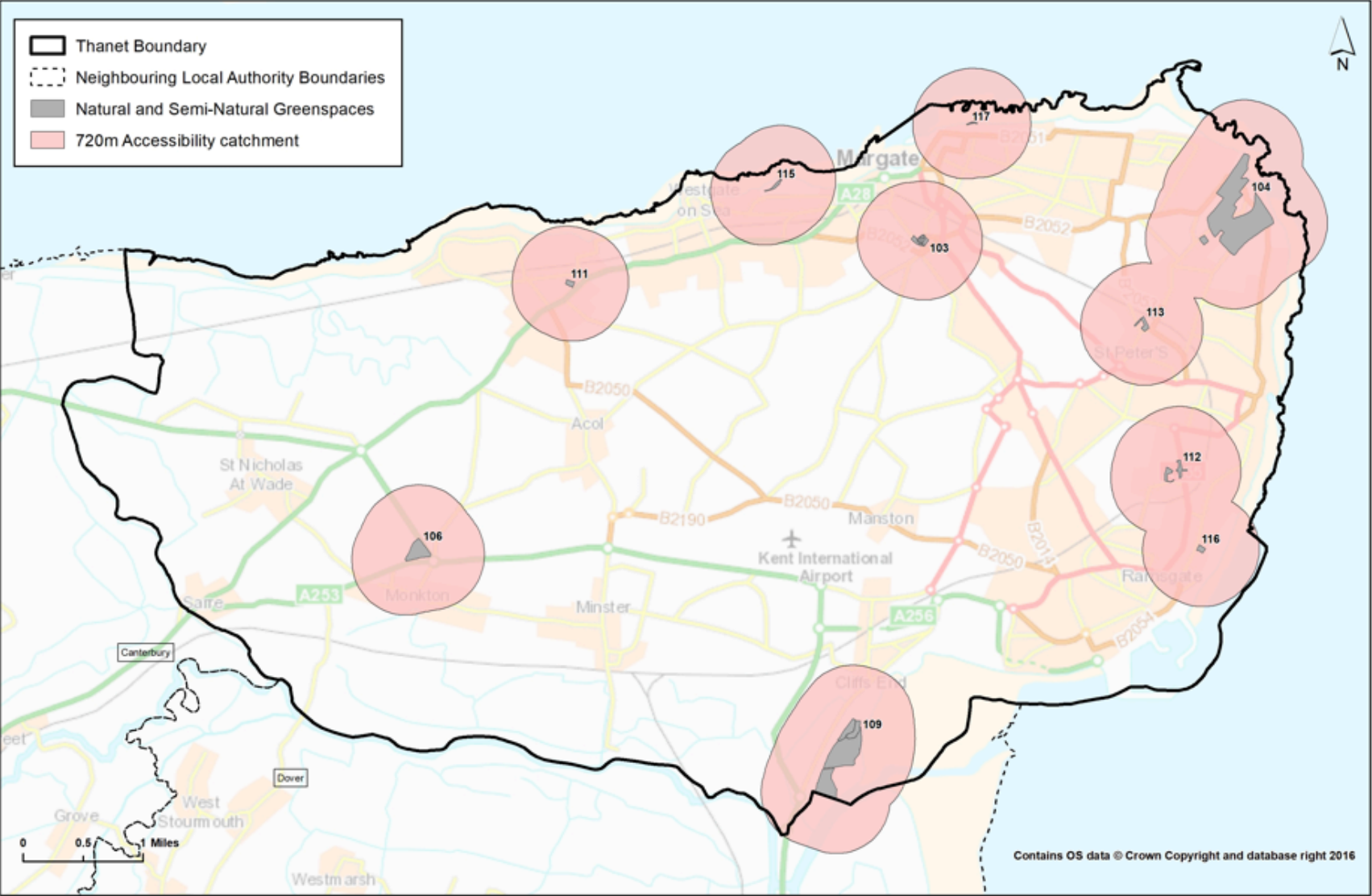
THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACES

- 7.43. The Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace is Provision for Children and Young People is **720m**.
- 7.44. There is a quantitative shortage of such provision across the District expressed as ha/1,000 population.
- 7.45. There are some excellent facilities including Monkton Chalkpit and Pegwell Bay Country Park. Residents in this area are in the catchment area of significant stretches of accessible countryside, which goes some way to offset this shortfall.
- 7.46. There are gaps in provision in the highly populated coastal strip from Westgate on Sea to Ramsgate. These include large gaps to the west of **Westgate on Sea**, to the east of **Margate**, and to the west and south of **Ramsgate**.
- 7.47. It may not always be possible to acquire such areas of greenspace. An alternative is to consider changing the designation of other types of open space (e.g. Amenity Greenspace) by extensive landscaping such as tree planting, and by softening existing open space (Outdoor Facilities for Sport and Amenity Greenspace) by the introduction of more natural planting (tree planting, meadow, etc.) to offset this loss.
- 7.48. A map indicating accessibility are shown as figure 7.11.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Figure 7.11: Accessibility of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace using Fields in Trust walking standards



Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces accessibility catchment in Thanet



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

ALLOTMENTS

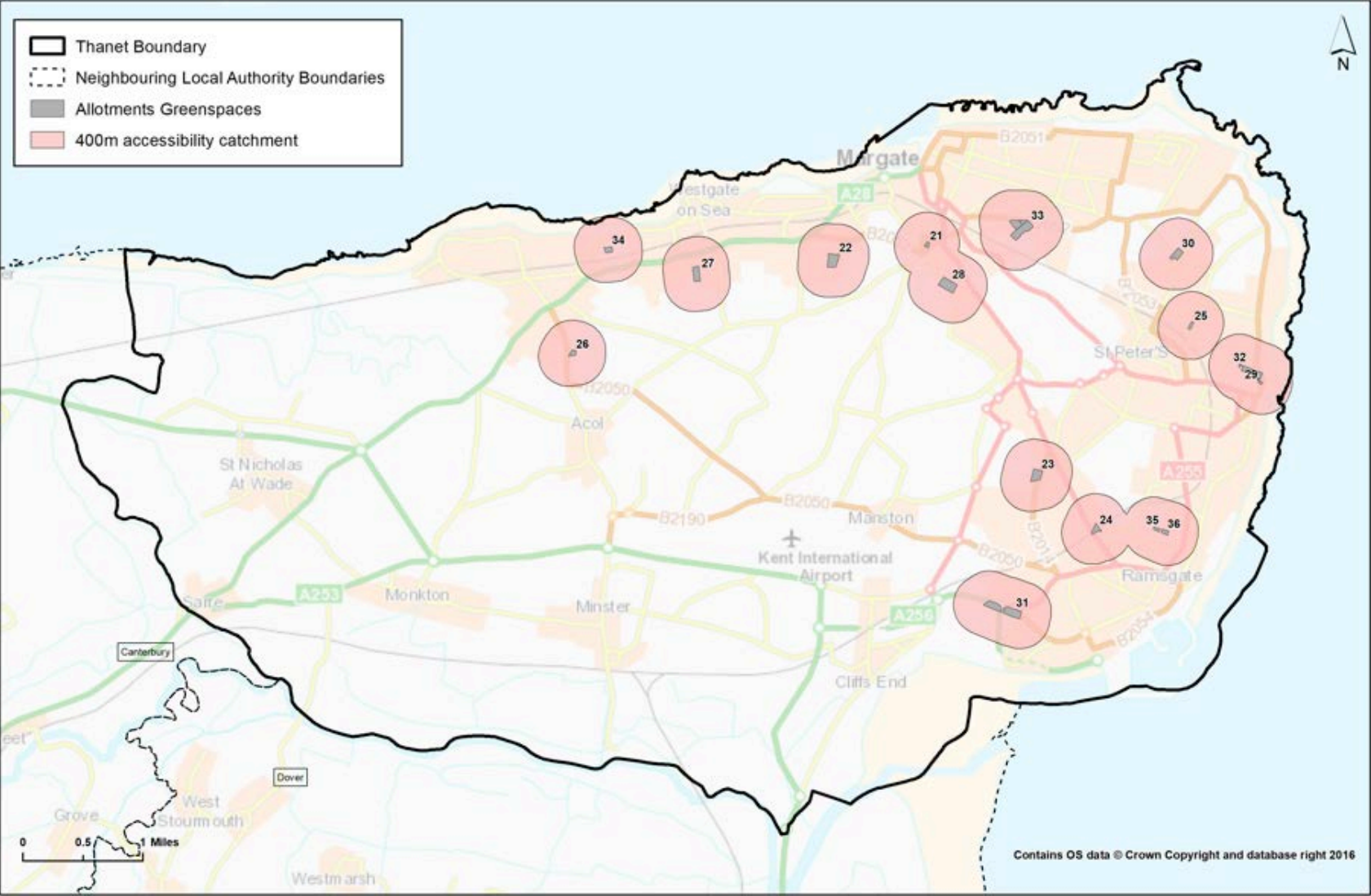
- 7.49. There is no Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Allotments. However, Greater London Authority guidelines for Allotments of local significance (all in Thanet are only of local significance in terms of size) indicate a standard of **400 m** (approximately a 5-minute walk)
- 7.50. GLA standards for accessibility for Allotments and Cemeteries are shown as Table 7.10.
- 7.51. A map indicating accessibility is shown as figure 7.12.
- 7.52. There is a relatively consistent degree of access to allotments across the coastal strip to the north east. Provision is lacking to the west of the District in **St Nicholas at Wade, Sarre, Acol, Monkton, Minster and Cliffs End**.

Table 7.10: GLA accessibility guidelines for Allotments and Cemeteries

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (OVER 400 HA)	METROPOLITAN SIGNIFICANCE (60-400 HA)	DISTRICT SIGNIFICANCE (20-60 HA)	LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE
ALLOTMENTS	8km	3.2km	1.2km	400m
CEMETERIES	8km	3.2km	1.2km	400m

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Figure 7.12: Accessibility of Allotments using GLA standards



Allotments accessibility catchment in Thanet



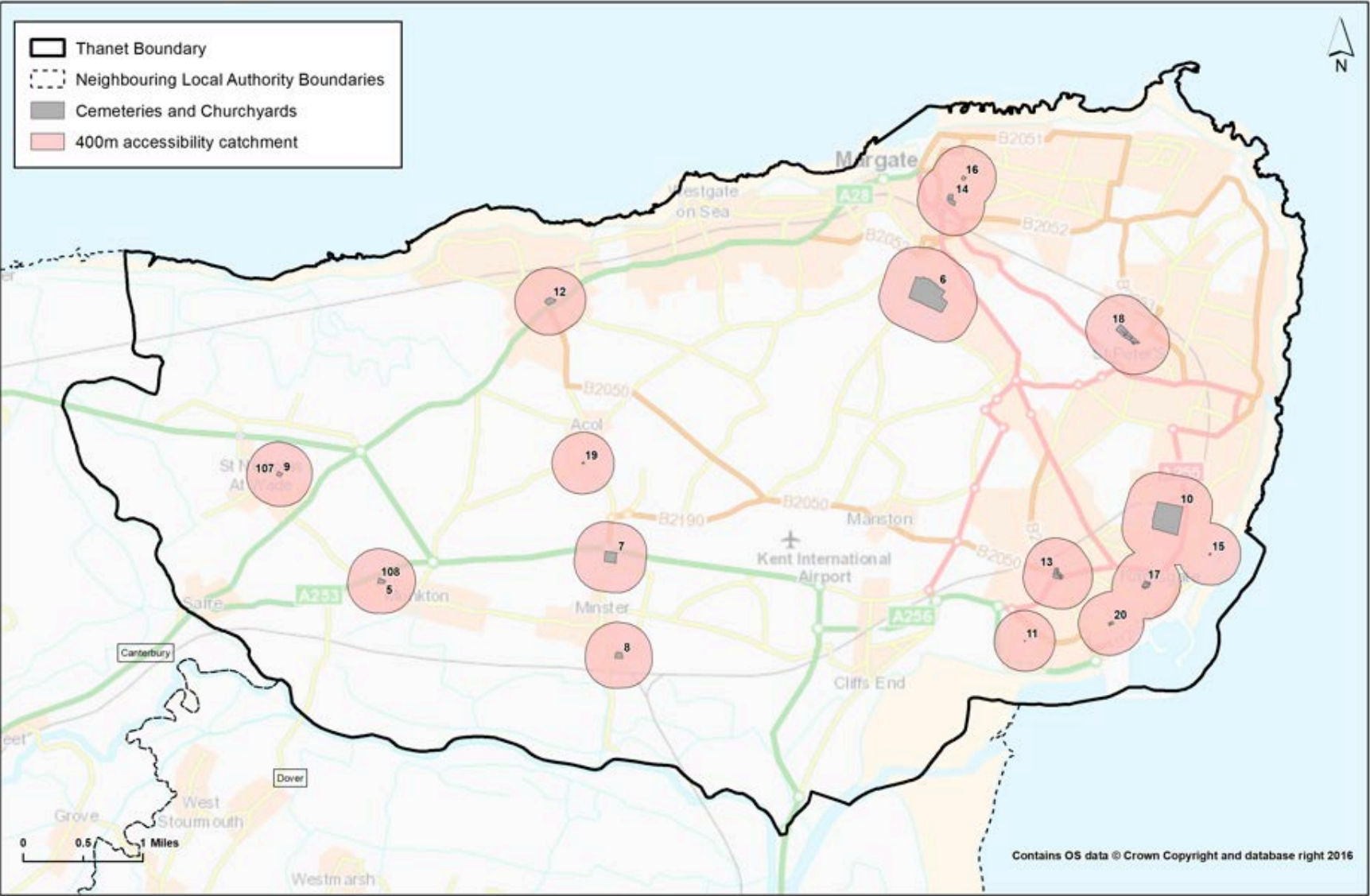
THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

- 7.53. There is no Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Cemeteries and Churchyards for outdoor recreation. However, Greater London Authority guidelines for Cemeteries and Churchyards of local significance indicate a standard of **400 m** (approximately a 5-minute walk) for those of local significance, and 1.2 km for those of district significance – see Table 7.12. All sites within Thanet are classified as of local significance. Distribution of cemetery and churchyard sites is very even across the district, with most communities served by at least a parish churchyard, adding significantly to available facilities for outdoor recreation.
- 7.54. The usefulness of this type of open space is that it has traditionally been little used for outdoor recreational purposes. However, there are Cemeteries and Churchyards to the west of the District, which is deficient in terms of accessibility against a number of open space types, albeit with some proximity to readily accessible countryside.
- 7.55. A map indicating accessibility is shown as figure 7.12.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Figure 7.12: Accessibility of Cemeteries and Churchyards using GLA standards



Cemeteries and Churchyards accessibility catchment in Thanet



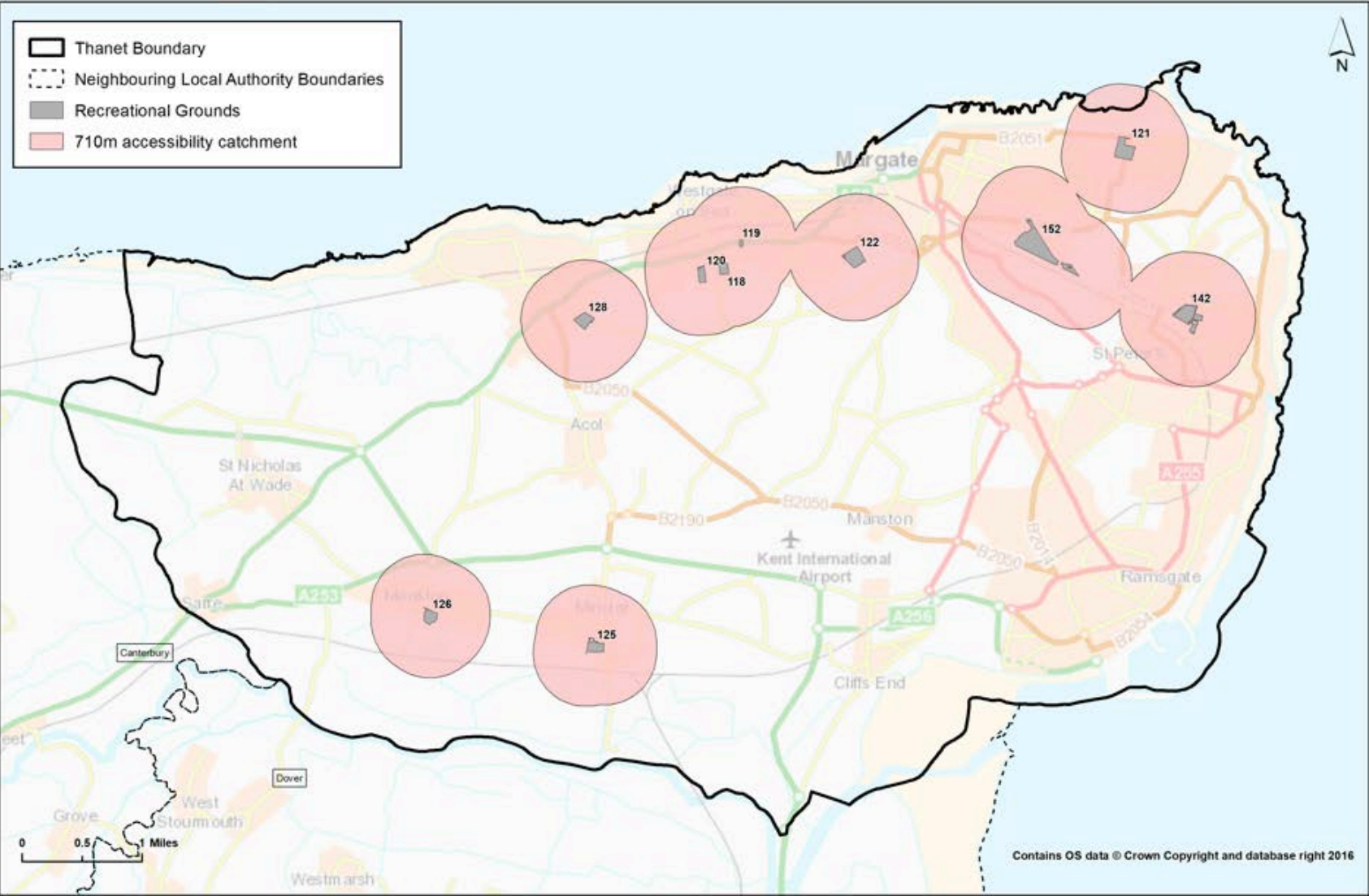
THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 7.56. There is no Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Outdoor Sports Facilities when they are used for informal outdoor recreation.
- 7.57. For this reason, and the fact that such facilities are considered in the 2017 Thanet Playing Pitch Strategy, they are shown in this report for illustrative purposes only. Only those sites which are particularly useful for non-sporting outdoor recreational usage are shown.
- 7.58. A map indicating location is shown as figure 7.13.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Figure 7.13:



Recreational Grounds Greenspace accessibility catchment in Thanet



8. CONSULTATION

ONLINE TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRE

8.1. A consultation exercise was conducted which consisted of a questionnaire to all parish and town councils within Thanet District. This covered the following areas in accordance with the PPG17 methodology pursued in accordance with the objectives of the study:

- **A general question about the importance of open space in each parish**
- **A question about the quality of open space as perceived split between:**
 - ✦ **Parks and Gardens:** usually multi-functional in terms of provision and serving a fairly wide catchment. May contain playgrounds and other facilities including sports pitches
 - ✦ **Amenity Greenspace:** smaller open spaces with provision usually confined to the immediate neighbourhood. Not multi-functional and usually consisting of lawn and sometimes trees
 - ✦ **Children and young people:** playgrounds and similar facilities for children and teens
 - ✦ **Allotments:** allotment garden areas
 - ✦ **Cemeteries:** either active or redundant in terms of burial
 - ✦ **Civic Spaces:** Usually hard surfaced and consisting of small areas such as squares and war memorial areas.
- **A question about the quantity and accessibility of open space in the above categories**
- **A general question about improvements you would like to see in those categories.**

8.2. Findings indicating the issues arising from consultation are shown in Table 8.1. These are shown by Parish.

8.3. The following codes are used to qualify responses in relation to “Importance to Health:”

V = very important

F = fairly important

N = not very important

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

IMPORTANCE OF GREEN SPACE TO HEALTH

8.4. The question relating to importance to health was:

“How important do you think it is to have green spaces for people’s mental, emotional and physical health near to where they live?”

8.5. The response to this was unanimous. All parishes felt that green spaces were “very important” for people’s mental, emotional and physical health.

8.6. One parish council commented that green spaces were: “Valuable for exercise, vitamins from the sun, sociability side, conquering fear of crime, etc.”

8.7. In relation to questions relating to the quality and quantity and accessibility of green space by parish, the following codes were used:

E = excellent

G= good

A = average

BA = below average

P = poor

QUALITY OF GREEN SPACE

8.8. Responses were received in relation to the question:

“How would you rate the quality of green space by type in the parish?”

8.9. There were a number of issues which are significant in relation to quality and are summarised in Table 8.1.:

- **Parks and Gardens were viewed differently in relation to quality. Two considered provision in terms of quality and accessibility to be “good,” and two as either “average” or “below average”. One comment received was “Declining and getting worse. Not of the standard required by a seaside resort town.”**
- **Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspaces were seen to be of an acceptable standard. Three thought they were either “good” or “average”.**
- **Amenity Green spaces were perceived as predominantly “good” or “average” in terms of quality. However, one responded made a comment that such spaces are ‘in decline’.**
- **Quality of facilities for Children and Young People drew divided opinions. Minster Parish Council thought they are “excellent” in terms of adequacy (comprises a recreation ground with football, cricket, 3G football pitch, outdoor gym, bowling green, skate park) , however BPC considered quality to be “poor”. One comment received was “Barely adequate and needs more investment in some areas”.**
- **Allotments were generally perceived to be “good” or “average.” One comment received was: “We own or manage all of them and again we spend a lot of time and effort in bringing them up to standard. Compare ours to TDC’s and see the difference”**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- Cemeteries were perceived as “poor” in terms of quality. A comment received was: *“TDC treat their sites as cash cows. RTC is trying to take over all closed sites as there has been some thoughtless and inappropriate safety work.”* Another was: *“Ours is kept in good order. TDC's is often poor.”*
- The quality of Civic Spaces was mixed. Minster Parish Council would appear to be “good” in terms of quality but such provision is “poor” in BPC, with no provision in Ramsgate Town Council and St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council.

Table 8.1: Issues Arising From Parish Consultation

OPEN SPACE TYPE	MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL	RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL	BPC	ST NICHOLAS-AT-WADE WITH SARRE PARISH COUNCIL
Importance to health	V	V	V	V
QUALITY				
Parks and Gardens	G	BA	A	G
Natural/Semi Natural	G	N/A	A	G
Amenity Greenspace	G	A	A	G
Children and Young People	E	A	P	G
Allotments	A	N/A	G	G
Accessible Countryside	G	BA	BA	G
Cemeteries	N/A	N/A	P	N/A
Civic Spaces	G	N/A	P	N/A
QUANTITY & ACCESSIBILITY				
Parks and Gardens	G	BA	N/A	G
Natural/Semi Natural	G	BA	N/A	G
Amenity Greenspace	G	BA	N/A	G
Children and Young People	G	A	N/A	G
Allotments	G	BA	N/A	N/A
Accessible Countryside	G	BA	N/A	G
Cemeteries	G	BA	N/A	N/A
Civic Spaces	G	N/A	N/A	N/A

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

ADEQUACY OF GREEN SPACE PROVISION

8.10. There were responses from parishes relating to the adequacy of provision (*“How would you rate the adequacy of supply of green space in terms of quantity and accessibility by type in the parish.”*).

8.11. Responses are shown in Table 8.2., and are as follows:

- Parks and Gardens were viewed differently in relation to adequacy of provision. Two considered provision in terms of quality and accessibility to be “good,” with one respondent perceiving it to be “below average”.
- Similarly, Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspaces were seen to be well provided. Two thought they were either “good” and another thought they were ‘below average’.
- Responses to the accessibility and quantity of accessible countryside were either perceived as “good” or “below average”. One comment received was “surrounded on 3 sides Grade 1 agricultural land which is in danger of being over developed by approx. 12000 houses which is against the communities wishes. Another stating: *“Intensive agriculture in its most unattractive form. KCC is not spending much if any money on rights of way”*
- Amenity Greenspaces were perceived as predominantly “good” or “below average” in terms of supply.
- Facilities for Children and Young People generally positive in terms of adequacy, with perceptions ranging from ‘good’ to ‘average’.
- Allotments were perceived to be “good” or “below average.” BPC had no provision. One comment received was *“We are looking for more land and selling off what existed was poor decision making by TDC”*.
- Responses to the accessibility and quantity of accessible countryside were either perceived as “good” or “below average”. One comment received was *“Heavy urbanisation and intensive agriculture with no green belt or fringe. Not attractive”*
- Cemeteries drew divided opinions, with some respondents perceiving the supply as “good” while another response was ‘below average’. However, there is no provision in BPC and St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council.
- The provision of Civic Spaces were positive with comments including *“We have limited space and what we control we look after. TDC has not invested and we are seeking transfer to our care”*. However, there is no provision in Ramsgate Town Council, BPC and St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Parish Council.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

8.12. A third question for parishes related to the need for improvements. The question was:

“What improvements would you like to see to green space by type in the parish?”

8.13. In relation to improvements, key issues are:

- Improvements are needed across the board to Parks and Gardens, but particularly in relation to providing more facilities, and improving management.
- More facilities are needed across a number of green space types, but particularly in Parks and Gardens, and Facilities for Children and Young People.
- Better access featured as important in three green space categories.
- Amenity green spaces were perceived to be in need of better landscaping and access, more facilities and better management.

Table 8.2: All parishes - Requests for improvements to open space in accordance with the typology

OPEN SPACE TYPE	BETTER ENTRANCES	LANDSCAPING	BETTER ACCESS (FOOTPATHS, ETC.)	MORE FACILITIES (CATERING, ETC.)	MORE INFORMATION (BOARDS, ETC.)	BETTER MANAGEMENT (LITTER, ETC.)
PARKS AND GARDENS		✓✓		✓✓✓		✓✓
NATURAL/ SEMI NATURAL	✓✓	✓		✓✓		✓✓✓
AMENITY GREENSPACE		✓✓	✓✓	✓		✓✓✓
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE				✓✓✓		✓✓
ALLOTMENTS			✓✓			

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

OPEN SPACE TYPE	BETTER ENTRANCES	LANDSCAPING	BETTER ACCESS (FOOTPATHS, ETC.)	MORE FACILITIES (CATERING, ETC.)	MORE INFORMATION (BOARDS, ETC.)	BETTER MANAGEMENT (LITTER, ETC.)
URBAN FRINGE	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
CEMETERIES	✓	✓		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
CIVIC SPACES	✓	✓		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓

8.14. In addition to these structured responses, a section entitled “other comments” was included in order to allow parishes the opportunity to make more general statements about their perception relating to green space in their parish or town council. One respondent made the following comment:

- **“More enlightened planning policies via our Neighbourhood plan with less emphasis on squeezing in more dwellings. More facilities and green areas with every development. A green belt or fringe to turn the town into a garden suburb or town”.**

9. KEY FINDINGS

9.1. A number of key findings have strong potential implications for future strategy in relation to both the provision of the green space service, and also the planning service as it relates to green space and countryside provision in Thanet.

9.2. These findings have been identified using the following sources:

- **Quality audit**
- **Client observations**
- **Consultation findings**
- **Local and national planning, countryside and green space guidelines.**

FINDINGS RELATING TO SERVICE PROVISION

9.3. These findings as they relate to service provision are as follows:

- **There is a shortage of Amenity Greenspace, in Manston, Minster, Monkton, St Nicholas at Wade and Sarre. It should however be noted that Minster is one of Thanet's best-served villages for sports provision (covered in the 2017 Thanet Playing Pitch Strategy).**
- **There is a deficiency in Public Parks and Gardens, particularly at Westgate on Sea, Acol, St Nicholas at Wade, Sarre, Monkton, Minster and Cliffs End.**
- **Large – scale facilities (NEAPS) for Children and Young People are relatively under-provided in Westgate on Sea, and in the west of Margate. Some upgrading of smaller facilities (LEAP's) such as at Hartsdown Park, Lymington Road Play Area and Caxton Road Play Area would offset this shortfall.**
- **Because of the variability in provision for children and young people, an upgrade is necessary in a number of communities. This should include the provision of safer surfaces in places, and the installation of challenging and exciting pieces of equipment.**
- **Adventurous play provision such as iplay should be considered in urban settlements**
- **“Green” play provision would be desirable and suitable for all areas, but in particular in rural locations**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- The rich heritage and history of Thanet should be interpreted in the larger Amenity Greenspaces as well as in Cemeteries and Churchyards across the district
- All open space types throughout the district should have improvements made to entrances in line with Green Flag criteria in order to make them more welcoming, and to attract more visitors
- Greater use should be made of open space by using more informal landscape methods to encourage biodiversity and habitat creation. This is particularly important given the shortage of significant formal areas of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace in the District
- Green corridors should be upgraded or created to link settlements, encourage wildlife, and increase green transportation (walking and cycling)

KEY PLANNING FINDINGS

9.4. Findings relating to the future direction of countryside and green space planning in Thanet are:

- The countryside needs to be protected to offset shortfalls in the quality, quantity and accessibility of more formal open space provision throughout the District
- Measures need to be enhanced to improve biodiversity by using open space through the introduction of meadow, native tree planting and other conservation methods, particularly in the light of shortages of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace. It is accepted, however, that residents have proximity to accessible countryside, particularly in the west of the District
- More green corridors should be considered, or existing Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace upgraded in order to improve biodiversity, encourage sustainable travel, and connect isolated communities
- Developer contributions should be encouraged to meet shortfalls in quality. In particular improvements should be made to open spaces to make them more welcoming, and to interpret the diverse history and heritage of the district in order to increase residents' "sense of place"
- A developer contribution model to fund improvements to the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space should be developed, using best practice models from other local authorities
- Shortfalls in the quality, quantity and accessibility of facilities for children and youth should be addressed by seeking contributions for innovative play (iplay, "green" Play, etc.), and for specific facilities such as "low ropes" adventures
- Need to provide open space "buffer zone" planting between new development and established communities in order to meet shortfalls in open space provision in future, and to buffer surrounding countryside and existing communities.

10. TACKLING KEY SERVICE ISSUES

10.1. Some guidance is provided in the following sections relating to how service issues might be tackled in order to meet the immediate future needs and demands of the green space service. These are:

- S1:** Creation of Parks and Gardens, possibly by upgrading Amenity Greenspace or Outdoor Facilities for Sport, particularly in Westgate on Sea and in outlying areas to the west of the District
- S2:** Creation of challenging and exciting play areas using concepts such as “iplay”
- S3:** More teenage and youth provision in areas of need (e.g. Teen shelters)
- S4:** The use of “green play” in suitable rural locations
- S5:** Interpretation of the heritage and history of the area for residents and visitors to the green spaces of Thanet in both urban and rural settlements/ Improved and welcoming entrances. This is crucial across all types of open space
- S6:** Use of more “naturalesque” landscape methods in open spaces. This is particularly important around the edges of Outdoor Sports Facilities, and in larger expanses of Amenity Greenspaces Improvements to “Green Corridors” need to be made and existing links in the four sites already in the District need to be improved with better access footpaths and cycle routes, improved signage, better landscaping and better seating
- S7:** Greater use of open spaces for events and activities.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

S1: PROVISION OF MULTI-PURPOSE PARKS AND GARDENS

10.2. There are some Amenity Greenspaces which go some way to fulfilling the needs provided by Parks and Gardens. Some may be improved to provide Parks and Gardens which fulfil the needs and demands of people of all ages in the towns and for the outlying rural communities, and in Westgate on Sea. In terms of the design of such provision, the criteria used to judge parks for the UK's acclaimed "Green Flag" standard are very appropriate. These are:

- **A welcoming place**
 - When approaching or entering the park/green space, the overall impression for any member of the community - regardless of the purpose of their visit - should be positive and inviting.
 - There should be:
 - ▲ Good and safe access
 - ▲ Good signage to and in the park/green space
 - ▲ Equal access for all members of the community.
- **Healthy, safe and secure**
 - The park/green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Any issues that have come to light must be addressed in the management plan and implemented on the ground.
 - New issues that arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately:
 - ▲ Equipment and facilities must be safe to use
 - ▲ It must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse
 - ▲ Dog fouling must be adequately addressed
 - ▲ Health and safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed
 - ▲ Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. life belts by water) should be available in or near the park/green space, and be clearly signposted.
- **Clean and well maintained**
 - For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be adequately addressed, in particular:
 - ▲ Litter and other waste management
 - ▲ The maintenance of grounds, buildings, equipment and other features
 - ▲ A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- **Sustainability**

- Methods used in maintaining the park/green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practices available according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed. Parks/open spaces should:
 - Have an environmental policy or charter and management strategy in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed
 - Minimise and justify pesticide use
 - Eliminate horticultural peat use
 - Recycle waste plant material
 - Demonstrate high horticultural and arboricultural standards
 - Have energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling, and resource conservation measures.

- **Conservation and heritage**

- Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of:
 - Natural features, wildlife and fauna
 - Landscapes
 - Buildings and structural features
 - These should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment.

- **Community involvement**

- The park/green space management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park/green space user groups as possible. The following should be demonstrated:
 - Knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use
 - Evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results achieved
 - Appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community

- **Marketing**

- A marketing strategy should be in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed
- There should be good provision of information to users, e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved
- The park/green space should be promoted as a community resource.

- **Management**

- A management plan or strategy should be in place
- This should clearly and adequately address all of the above criteria and any other relevant aspects of the park/open spaces management
- The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed
- A financially sound management of the park/green space must also be demonstrated.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

S2: CREATION OF EXCITING AND CHALLENGING PLAY AREAS

- 10.3. The quality audit and the consultation findings highlight the need for play areas which are going to challenge children, to develop their social skills, and to provide opportunities for physical development.
- 10.4. In addition to obvious improvements such as the provision of exciting pieces of play equipment (e.g. zip wires, “low ropes” courses), a concept which is gaining in popularity is intelligent play or “iplay.” This has been devised by a recreation company affiliated to Loughborough University which has worked in conjunction with a leading play manufacturer to produce a range of suitable equipment. This includes a number of physical challenges similar to those provided by conventional play equipment but using a list of commands.
- 10.5. The use of such equipment is in response to changing sociological leisure patterns which mean that children are spending more and more time watching television and using computer games. Facts and figures relating to the fact that a quarter of UK children are now clinically obese are as follows:
- **Half of all children in the UK will be obese by 2020 (Lobstein 2005)**
 - **An obese child is twice as likely to become an obese adult**
 - **Obesity is set to become the leading health problem in the UK**
 - **It is linked to the onset of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease**
 - **The House of Commons Select Committee 2004 has stated that the economic cost of obesity is £7.5 billion p.a.**
- 10.6. Play is triggered with a start button and can be played as part of a team or individually. The iplay unit issues commands relating to how to play. This consists of a number of challenges, and a core is displayed on the iplay screen. This score can be saved and compared to a league table of other competitors.
- 10.7. The big advantage of iplay is that it introduces new technology and uses the concept of “stealth play.” This means that the level of activity can be stepped up without the participant being aware of it, and thus can encourage greater levels of fitness.
- 10.8. It is suggested that the introduction of an iplay playground in Thanet would create an exciting new concept, and could be used to gauge usage and popularity to guide future provision.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

S3: TEENAGE AND YOUTH PROVISION

- 10.9. This report highlights the need to provide exciting and innovative play solutions for older as well as younger children. Play solutions which could help to meet the shortfall in equipped play.
- 10.10. Good BMX/Pump Track design should include the following elements:
- **Adequate drainage**
 - **Durable construction which will withstand heavy usage and will be safe to use. Materials which reduce friction noise should be considered if this is likely to constitute a nuisance (i.e. if the track is near to residential development or in an otherwise quiet area of a green space**
 - **Signage. This needs to be informative, and to include contact numbers in case of emergency**
 - **Landscaping. The track should be attractively landscaped to help it to blend in to its surrounding environment, and to be attractive to users.**
- 10.11. Pumptracks are one of the newest and most exciting outdoor recreational activities. Although many BMX tracks have been constructed throughout the UK, pumptracks have a wider potential appeal. They are attractive in particular to teenagers and youths but are suitable not just for bikes of all sizes, but also skateboards, rollerblades and scooters. As such they can bridge the generation gap between older people, teenagers, and smaller children. The pumptrack utilises an up and down pumping motion to generate forward momentum. A big advantage is that pumptracks can be as little as 10m. x 3m. in extent, and so can be fitted into a very limited area. Provision of this type is generally under-provided.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

S4: GREEN PLAY

- 10.12. Thanet has a number of rural communities, particularly in the west and central areas. These are often located in extensive and attractive countryside. Playgrounds of the conventional type can look out of keeping in rural areas, and the use of “green play” can integrate more happily in non-urban environments.
- 10.13. Green play has developed in response to the decline in outdoor recreation amongst children. Home entertainment in the form of computer games, television and other media have resulted in a decline in natural play. Green play provides play opportunities in a play area using natural materials, and in particular timber. Green play areas often include “soft” elements such as the use of willow tunnels, soft landscaping using wild species, and tree planting. Thus, green play has a number of advantages:
- **It is sustainable, using natural and renewable materials**
 - **It is in keeping with natural landscapes in small settlements, or in the countryside**
 - **It provides exciting play opportunities in a controlled, low-risk environment**
 - **Biodiversity can be enhanced with careful landscaping**
 - **Children have the opportunity to engage with the natural environment.**
- 10.14. This study has demonstrated the need to provide new and challenging opportunities for play. In addition, many existing play areas are deficient in terms of their quality and their ability to encourage exciting and innovative play and will in any case need to be replaced or upgraded over the coming years. It is therefore suggested that green play provision is considered for inclusion in the District in order to assess its popularity and value.

Image 10.1: Green play in Hanwell



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

S5: INTERPRETATION OF HERITAGE AND HISTORY/ WELCOMING ENTRANCES

Image 10.2: Good quality signage is very informative, and is welcoming at entrances

10.15. The need to provide welcoming entrances has already been referred to as one of the eight key criteria in the national Green Flag standard. This is paramount in providing an enticing green space which visitors will feel to be well managed and will be encouraged to use.

10.16. Thanet has a rich heritage and history. This needs to be interpreted to encourage a “sense of place,” and open spaces, Churchyards and Cemeteries are one of the best places to impart this message because:

- **Annual visitor numbers will be very high**
- **A large percentage of the population visit their local open spaces on a fairly regular basis**
- **Spaces are open and accessible to all**
- **Greater usage will lead to higher levels of participation in outdoor recreation, and thus mental and physical health**
- **Well interpreted open spaces encourage tourism.**

10.17. The concept of generating a “sense of place” is well recognized in the UK. The following quote is from Special Delivery Outcome 1 of the Peak District Management Plan 2012-2017:

“What gives a community its sense of identity? How do places identify and retain what makes them distinctive, while adapting to new challenges? It is important that communities can recognise what makes their cultural heritage so special, and that this identity mobilises, motivates and binds them together.”



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

10.18. The South Downs National Park has developed a “Sense of Place Toolkit” from which the following quote is taken:

“We believe that the more visitors know about the area – before they come, and while they’re here – the more they should enjoy their visit. They’ll be more likely to try out new experiences in the Park, to repeat-visit, and to recommend the Park to others. And the more that visitors understand about the special nature of the Park, the more they should want to help sustain it, including supporting local businesses and services.”

10.19. This heritage and history need not just relate to the open spaces themselves, but also to the surrounding towns, villages and countryside.

10.20. Attractive interpretation boards including the use of visual images such as photographs, visual representations and maps and diagrams, are a popular means of learning about the surrounding area. The use of interpretation boards can be used at entrances, or at specific points of interest. It would be worth considering the use of interactive Quick Response (QR) codes, which will allow a smart phone user to access appropriate additional information on websites or specific web pages. This would also make information accessible in particular to people interested in the use of new technology.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

S6: NATURAL LANDSCAPES/IMPROVEMENTS TO “GREEN CORRIDORS”

- 10.21. Urban greenspace, whether it be formal public space such as parks, sports fields and gardens or informal space such as riverbanks, waste ground, rail and road verges and other open spaces are a vital component of local biodiversity. As such, the management of biodiversity in these areas plays a fundamental part in maintaining the richness and diversity of urban areas. This is particularly true in Thanet, which has a shortage of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace but has a network of very varied open space types. However, the work of the qualitative audit indicates that biodiversity is not adequately managed, particularly in terms of opportunities in the more formal open spaces.
- 10.22. Parks can have an amazing range of habitats and species from the ‘common or garden’ to nationally rare examples.
- 10.23. Habitats in parks will obviously vary from location to location but can include:
- **Meadowland and unimproved grassland**
 - **Neutral grassland**
 - **Hedgerows**
 - **Ancient woodland and veteran trees**
 - **Scrub**
 - **Ponds, streams and rivers**
 - **and many other man adapted habitats.**
- 10.24. All these habitats will have associated species and communities of animals and plants, including many rare and endangered species. Parks can also be rich in non-native ‘exotic’ plants which can also have a tremendous wildlife potential. The Buddleia (Buddleia davidii) is a good example of this.
- 10.25. This section outlines the following:
- **The value of biodiversity in Thanet, taking account of its unique habitats and the relationship to key strategies and policies**
 - **The factors which affect habitats in the District, including types of land use and user pressures**
 - **Ways in which the biodiversity of the District can be enhanced through its open spaces, both in relation to the planning of new open space, and through changes to the management of existing facilities.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

10.26. The biodiversity potential of such habitats is dependent largely on the management practices within the park. There are many factors affecting habitats in parks. These include:

- **The need for tidiness, formal landscapes & public perceptions of safety.**

- There is a potential conflict between management of formal park landscapes and formal flower displays and the need for biodiversity. Park users may want formal landscapes and consider wildlife habitats to be untidy or even unsafe. Natural areas of woodland and scrub may be associated in the public eye with feelings of insecurity, especially for women and people on their own. Long grass may appear to be uncared for and may accumulate litter. Introducing new ideas incrementally, with good consultation and interpretation at each stage can help to gain public support.⁴ Formal landscapes are found in Thanet's Amenity Greenspaces and some Outdoor Sports Facilities and village greens. However, this is not incompatible with the careful introduction of natural areas of woodland, floral meadow and scrub. These need to be managed to include defined edges, careful placement away from areas used for more formal activities, and in some cases, may need to be interpreted by explaining their significance
- Perceptions that these areas are an example of neglect or lack of management may lead to filling ponds, clearing shrub beds and removing all dead wood etc. This will not help enhance biodiversity. Grounds maintenance work within parks and open spaces can often include very frequent mowing of grass and the routine use of herbicides and other agrichemicals. Such practices can obviously have a negative impact on biodiversity. Parks Maintenance, contract specifications may include activities which may be detrimental to the biodiversity of the area being managed. For example, the removal of all dead wood, the removal of leaf litter from all beds, the timing and techniques of grass mowing and the timing of shrub and tree pruning, and all potentially have a negative impact on biodiversity. Clearly this needs to be avoided in Thanet's Amenity Greenspaces, and in areas surrounding Children's Play Facilities, Cemeteries, and other open spaces.
- The previous section mentioned the findings of the qualitative audit for Thanet and the need to plan for biodiversity in new open spaces, and change land use types in existing open spaces. There is sometimes a need for formality in grounds maintenance if the provision of sporting facilities or "high" horticulture for ornamental purposes is necessary. This is not always the case, and even the borders of "formal" open spaces could benefit from the introduction of meadow or other form of more natural landscape.

- **Impact of Visitors**

- Parks and open spaces are intended for the usage and enjoyment of all visitors, but heavy usage and noise can have a negative impact on wildlife. Even the over use of lighting in parks can disrupt night flying animals and disrupt feeding. Major events, which may include loud music and fireworks, are likely to have such impacts.
- Vandalism, in the form of damaging trees and planting areas can also have a negative impact on biodiversity and the remedial costs can take away from existing enhancement budgets.

⁴ lbp.org.uk London biodiversity partnership

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- **Habitat Isolation**

- Whilst many parks contain valuable habitats and communities, they are often in fragmented populations surrounded by urban development and are not connected to other similar communities. There is real value in supporting the biodiversity in individual parks by ensuring they are connected by green corridors to enable movement of wildlife between parks and help maintain viable populations.

- **Sports Facilities**

- Modernisation of sports facilities changes the character of parks e.g. the change from grass to all weather pitches and the demand for more buildings and structures. Such changes can lead to reduced greensward, less shrub beds and mature trees, all of which are of benefit to wildlife. Many sports areas in Thanet are lacking in landscape variety. Although outside the scope of the Review of Open Spaces, it is suggested that Outdoor Sports Facilities, where such changes do not compromise outfields or pitch perimeters, can be used to introduce a more relaxed approach to landscape management.
- A plethora of information has been produced in the UK over the last 30 years on improving the biodiversity of urban greenspace. Two key potential actions can be taken to improve Biodiversity in urban parks:

- **Survey and Monitoring**

- Knowing what animals and plants are found in the many parks and open spaces is a key starting point in developing effective management plans for specific parks. The outcome of the surveys should inform management practices and contract specifications. For example, to mow areas of grassland at specific times and specific heights to encourage the spread of key species or to manage dead wood in a way that it becomes a key habitat in its own right. On-going monitoring will help to show whether management practices are successful or need further adaptation.

- **Contract Specifications and Contractor Competencies**

- It is vital to ensure that contract specifications address the need for specific biodiversity enhancement management practices, but also that contractors are competent to undertake, often more traditional management techniques (such as coppicing or hedge laying) to help maintain biodiversity.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

S7: USE FOR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

10.27. Green spaces can be more extensively used for events and activities. The advantages of greater use for events and activities include the following:

- **Greater involvement in outdoor recreation by local communities**
- **Encouragement of greater visits to open spaces following events**
- **Greater tourism and secondary spend (local restaurants, hotels, etc.)**
- **Income generation for the service**
- **Can lead to other sources of income (e.g. catering)**
- **Can lead to the development of voluntary support and outsourced management.**

10.28. Types of event or activity can include:

- **Larger scale events such as music concerts and firework displays. Most commonly held in Public Parks and Gardens and larger Recreation Grounds**
- **Medium scale events such as funfairs, farmers' markets and car boot sales. Held in smaller spaces such as more local Recreation Grounds**
- **Neighbourhood events such as fun runs, guided walks, organised exercise classes (e.g. British Military Fitness, tai chi, etc.). Can be held in Amenity Greenspaces, greens, or natural open spaces.**

10.29. It is suggested that an events and activities strategy is devised, to include a hierarchy of provision. This would include classifying open space in relation to the type of activity or event that each type could reasonably carry without causing excessive wear and tear or risk of damage or injury. It would include a strategy to encourage management through local communities, charitable organisations, or friends' groups.

10.30. Guided walks can increase interest in visiting natural green spaces and generate income

11. TACKLING PLANNING ISSUES

11.1. This section investigates actions which are appropriate to tackling the planning issues identified in this study. These include:

- P1: Enhancement of biodiversity**
- P2: Plans to upgrade and create green corridors should be considered in order to improve biodiversity, encourage sustainable travel, and connect isolated communities**
- P3: Developer contributions should be encouraged to meet shortfalls in quality. In particular improvements should be made to open spaces to make them more welcoming, and to interpret the diverse history and heritage of the district in order to increase residents' "sense of place"**
- P4: A developer contribution model to fund improvements to the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space should be developed, using best practice models from other local authorities. In addition, local communities should be encouraged to include appropriate open spaces using the local green space designation in neighbourhood and local plans in order to protect valuable existing open space**
- P5: Shortfalls in the quality, quantity and accessibility of facilities for children and youth should be addressed by seeking contributions for innovative play (iplay, "green" Play, etc.), and for specific facilities such as "low ropes" adventures and pump tracks**
- P6: Measures should be taken to introduce flood alleviation measures, including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, to reduce the risk of flash flooding around some coastal communities**
- P7: Ensure that open space buffer zones are built in to new development.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

P1: ENHANCEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY

11.2. This value of biodiversity in open spaces is expressed in the UK Biodiversity Strategy 2002.

'Biodiversity has an essential role to play in liveability improvements: 'designing with nature' especially in buildings and public spaces, can improve people's quality of life directly and show how nature can itself work to maintain the qualities of land air and water for people's benefit.'

(Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *Biodiversity Strategy*; 2002: 54)

- 11.3. This value of biodiversity in urban open spaces is re-iterated in the CABI Space Report – The Value of Public Open Space notes 5 which states that 'Aside from the intrinsic value of having nature in our cities, urban wildlife habitats also provide a focus for local communities, who often become very attached to them. Even the simple knowledge that a natural area exists is, for many, a source of satisfaction. Open space managed for biodiversity provides an opportunity for people to be close to 'nature', with the associated positive impact that this can bring in terms of mental health and the pleasure of experiencing wildlife in the urban situation.
- 11.4. It is vital that the management of biodiversity in parks and open spaces is in keeping with the overall wildlife management strategy or Biodiversity Action Plan for the area as a whole.
- 11.5. In considering all applications for future development, it is suggested that a ***Biodiversity Toolkit*** is drafted with colleagues responsible for green space management in order to guide the enhancement of biodiversity both in relation to building suitable landscapes in to new developments and altering the management of open spaces.

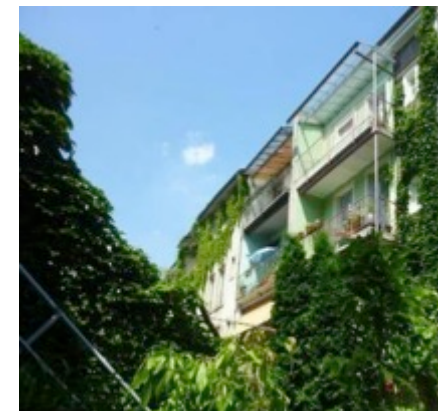
⁵ The Value of Public Open Space – How High-Quality Parks and Public Spaces Create Economic, Social and Environmental Value - CABI Space (2003)



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

P2: DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN CORRIDORS

- 11.6. The identification, effective protection and enhancement of green corridors can help connect greenspaces within Thanet can also help create green fingers from the surrounding countryside to the very heart of its communities. The successful management of green corridors will only be possible within the context of an integrated urban management framework where biodiversity issues are given meaningful and practical consideration.
- 11.7. There are a number of ways in which the green infrastructure can be used to deliver meaningful opportunities for multiple functions. These functions can be used to drive planning and management of the green environment. Each is considered in this section in relation to what they can afford in relation both to outline proposals for existing open spaces within Thanet; and to green and blue corridor open space areas in other parts to which these principles can be applied in future. Each is illustrated to indicate the style of approach which can be adopted:
- 11.8. Planting to create a microclimate and to reduce temperature – it has been proved that tree and shrub planting in sufficient quantities can reduce peak urban summer temperatures, a major cause of mortality for instance in Paris in 2003, and can create a cool and more humid microclimate in urban areas. Tree planting and amenity woodland can be extremely successful in this context.



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL

- 11.9. Use of landscape features in housing and commercial areas – this can include the use of green roofs and green walls to reduce runoff and to improve air quality.
- 11.10. Parking on permeable surfaces will contribute to the reduction of surface run off.



TRANSPORT

- 11.11. Linear corridors as access routes for sustainable transportation – the creation of routeways of green open space which allow for sustainable transport. The principal objective in this case is to reduce the need for transportation in motor vehicles, and to open up greenspace for walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable transport. The objective is to use the line of a watercourse or natural linking feature, to create footpaths and cycle routes between urban areas to incorporate appropriate waymarking and landscaping.



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

RECREATION

- 11.12. Recreational open spaces – these create attractive areas for the execution of a range of outdoor recreational pursuits. These may include sports and games; picnics; events and activities; and children's play. Open space designated for this use needs to be managed to avoid conflict between active uses and natural habitats.



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

WILDLIFE

- 11.13. Wildlife corridors – these are linear strips of open space which combine habitats and species, which will complement regional and local biodiversity action plans.
- 11.14. Achieving multiple benefits from green infrastructure underlines its importance generally boosts the environmental capacity of the area to support a thriving eco-town. Many sites will naturally fulfil many functions. If planned and managed appropriately the potential of a site and the ecosystem services that the land can provide can be enhanced. This should be done appropriately and not to the detriment of an overriding management priority, such as the need to protect a sensitive habitat.



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

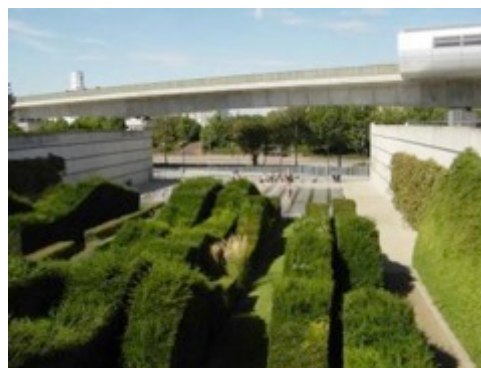
AMENITY

- 11.15. Amenity open spaces – these can frequently be used to improve biodiversity. Woodland which is created by planting native species, and which favour a wider diversity of wildlife, create local oases. This has helped to mitigate the effects of peak urban summer temperatures and to provide shade; the use of floral meadow and wetland meadow in areas likely to become saturated, in order to increase biodiversity; and the use of “prairie” plantings to mimic nature in the use of natural species in bold groupings.



GREEN CORRIDORS

- 11.16. These are linear strips of open space which combine habitats and species which will complement regional and local biodiversity action plans



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- 11.17. As previously stated, when planning green infrastructure, it is important to consider the scale and connection of the corridor when green and blue-ribbon strategies for habitat and recreational corridors are proposed. It should be noted that a network, for coherence and resilience, is represented by more than just a physical link between two or more ecological areas and must involve working links.
- 11.18. Improving links through linear habitats such as green corridors can provide opportunities to incorporate footpaths and cycleways to promote sustainable travel patterns. Green corridors can serve both people and wildlife by carrying footpaths, cycleways, and tram and light rail routes alongside linear grassland habitats, wooded belts, streams, rivers and ponds.
- 11.19. However, there can be a conflict between providing areas for recreation and transport and simultaneously maintaining biodiversity. This is addressed in the T CPA Guide 102 which suggests pedestrian and transport routes need to be well designed so that they do not interfere with habitat creation and provide natural surveillance so that they do not become havens for crime.
- 11.20. In a successful network, an understanding of the existing corridors and their functional requirements is essential in order that a hierarchy of linked spaces can be created.
- 11.21. It is suggested that existing open spaces should be re-designed to increase their suitability as green corridors, and that new linkages are explored in order to identify other green corridors which could link communities across Thanet.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

P3: USING DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPROVE GREEN SPACE

- 11.22. Developer contributions have been used in the past and will continue to be used. These contributions should be used to meet shortfalls identified in this study in relation to quantity and accessibility. This can be done by creating new provision, but can offset such shortfalls by increasing the quality, and thus the accessibility, of existing green space where necessary.
- 11.23. Shortfalls should be used in particular to assist in the development of specific types of outdoor leisure provision in Thanet. Targeting should include the provision of exciting play areas by the use of innovative concepts such as iplay, green play, as well as facilities for youth and teenagers.
- 11.24. PPG17 states that local authorities are justified in seeking planning obligations where new development will place additional pressure on open space resources and increase local need. This is supported by the Companion Guide to PPG17 which states that developer contributions could include:
- **The cost of the land for open space;**
 - **The laying out of that open space including provision of new play equipment (or enhancement of the quality of existing equipment), either on site or off site;**
 - **Commuted sums for the maintenance cost of open space for a locally established period; and**
 - **Legal fees.**
- 11.25. To ensure that open space contributions are appropriately sought they must comply with the statutory requirements set out in Circular 05/2005. These tests require the contribution to be:
- **Necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms;**
 - **Directly related to the proposed development; and**
 - **Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development.**
- 11.26. Developer contributions will be used for establishing and improving open spaces appropriate to the locality in which the development takes place. The requirements are expressed in terms of square metres (m²).
- 11.27. There are two mechanisms that will be used by the Local Planning Authority to deliver open space. These are:
- **Inclusion of open space as part of the development by the developer; and**
 - **Financial contributions towards the provision of open space off site.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

P4: MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY, QUANTITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF GREEN SPACE

11.28. In order to ensure the adequate supply of green space in Thanet, it will be necessary to:

- 1. Protect valuable existing green space**
- 2. Encourage the improvement of existing spaces.**

11.29. Within the Neighbourhood Plans, areas of green space that are of value to the community can be protected by having them designated as local green space (LGS). The LGS will also be designated in the Local Plan. The planning authority (Thanet District Council) is responsible for the designation process. The criteria for eligibility are as follows:

- **Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves**
 - There is no definition of this in the NPPF and it will be up to individual planning authorities to define. This may vary depending on the size of the community to which the green space relates, the size of the green space or the value placed on it by the community. The land must not be isolated from the community and would normally be within easy walking distance of the community served.
- **Demonstrably special to a local community**
 - Evidence must be provided of the land's value to and use by the local community to show the land holds a particular local significance. The land must fulfil one or more of the following criteria:
- **Beauty**
 - This relates to the visual attractiveness of the site, and its contribution to landscape, character and or setting of the settlement. LGS would need to contribute to local identity, character of the area and a sense of place, and make an important contribution to the physical form and layout of the settlement. It may link up with other open spaces and allow views through or beyond the settlement which are valued locally.
- **Historic significance**
 - The land should provide a setting for, and allow views of, heritage assets or other locally-valued landmarks. It may be necessary to research historic records from the National or Local Records Office.
- **Recreational value**
 - It must have local significance for recreation, perhaps through the variety of activities it supports, and be of value to the community.
- **Tranquillity**
 - Some authorities have an existing 'tranquillity map' showing areas that provide an oasis of calm and a space for quiet reflection.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

- **Richness of wildlife**
 - This might include the value of its habitat, and priority areas may have been identified. It may require some objective evidence, such as a designation, like a wildlife site or Local Nature Reserve.
- **Local in character, not an extensive tract of land**
 - The criteria may differ between settlements depending on their physical size and population. The areas would normally be fairly self-contained with clearly-defined edges. Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. There is a no minimum size limit for LGS.
- **Land already designated**
 - If land is already protected by Green Belt policy, consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained. This may be in a case where LGS designation could help to identify areas that are of particular importance to the local community.

11.30. Thanet are encouraged to consider looking favourably on eligible green space applications by granting LGS designations.

11.31. In relation to meeting quantitative and accessibility needs in relation to green space, Thanet should carefully consider any proven shortfalls in relation to different greenspace types. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be used to provide new open space in conjunction with new development wherever possible. Planning obligations need to be invoked in order to facilitate this approach. Where this is not possible, planning obligations should be used to contribute towards improving the quality of existing open spaces where required. This will go some way to both enhancing their recreational value, and offsetting quantitative shortfalls.

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

P5: FLOOD ALLEVIATION MEASURES

- 11.32. Much can be done to assist in flood alleviation, including the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. This indicates how the green infrastructure can be used to allow for the replication of natural systems that use cost effective solutions with low environmental impact to drain away dirty and surface water run-off through collection, storage, and cleaning. After this point it is allowed to be released slowly back into the environment, such as into water courses. This is to counter the effects of conventional drainage systems that often allow for flooding, pollution of the environment with the resultant harm to wildlife and contamination of groundwater sources used to provide drinking water.
- 11.33. These would do much to ameliorate the threat of flooding in areas identified in Thanet, particularly on parts of the coastal belt.



THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

P7: BUFFER ZONE PLANTING IN NEW DEVELOPMENT

11.34. The provision of open space buffer zones around new development and existing communities has a number of benefits:

- Can be used to conserve existing landscape feature (e.g. ancient woodlands, hedgerows and water features)
- Provide buffer to screen new development from existing and established communities
- Protect accessible surrounding countryside from encroachment
- Meet shortfalls in quantitative and accessibility standards
- Provide valuable space for a range of outdoor recreational activities
- Protect communities from pollution and high peak urban summer temperatures, and provide valuable shade.

11.35. The buffer zones could also act as linear corridors to connect communities and join open spaces together to form continuous bands of open space for recreation and wildlife. There may also be an opportunity to connect with **Thanet's Green Wedges**, which separate Margate and Broadstairs; Birchington and Westgate; and Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

11.36. Consideration needs to be given to drafting policy guidelines for such provision for inclusion in Supplementary Planning Guidance to guide the design of new development.

12. ACTION PLAN

12.1. The actions outlined in previous sections are included in the Action Plan. This is divided into the following:

- **Short-term actions – within the next three years**
- **Medium-term actions – three to five years**
- **Long-term actions – up to ten years.**

12.2. Each action is numbered in accordance with the system used to identify actions in the previous sections, i.e.:

- **“P” numbers (P1; P2; P3, etc.) indicate actions relating to planning issues**
- **“S” numbers (S1; S2; S3, etc.) indicate actions relating to service issues**
- **There is a section where actions are detailed**
- **Resources are indicated either in terms of sources of finance for implementation, or as officer time required for preparation and implementation**
- **The “Progress to Date” and “Review Date” sections are included for the client in order to allow for self-monitoring of progress.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

Table 12.1: Action Plan

SHORT TERM ACTIONS					
No.	ACTIONS	SECTION REF	RESOURCES REQUIRED	PROGRESS TO DATE	REVIEW DATE
P1	Draft Toolkit for enhancement of biodiversity with colleagues in green space management	11.2-11.5	Thanet officer time EU projects (e.g. Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns (GRaBS))		
P2	Support proposals for new green corridors through Local Plan policy either through future planning proposals or on sites allocated in the Local Plan.	11.6-11.21	Thanet officer time		
P3	Define developer contribution model based on best practice for improvements to the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space through the updating of the Council's approach to calculating developer contributions.	11.22-11.27	Thanet Officer time		
P4	The national standards set out in this assessment to be used to protect existing open spaces and the local standards identified to be used to calculate provision of new facilities and spaces. This policy approach relating to quantity, quality and accessibility standards to be set out in adopted Local Plan policy.	11.28-11.31	Thanet Officer time		

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

MEDIUM TERM ACTIONS					
NO.	ACTIONS	SECTION REF	RESOURCES	PROGRESS TO DATE	REVIEW DATE
S2	Build an “iplay” playground, or introduce to an existing playground, and analyse usage.	10.3-10.8	Capital funding / Sponsorship / Developer contributions of £30K		
S3	Construct new pumptrack	10.9-10.11	Capital funding / Developer contributions		
S4	Renovate existing playgrounds, or build new “green play” area and assess	10.12-10.14	Capital funding / Grant funding / Developer contributions		
S5	Develop programme for introduction or replacement of information signage, including QR codes, in open spaces	10.15-10.20	Capital funding		
P2 S6	Selectively introduce areas of natural landscape to open spaces	11.2-11.5 10.22-10.26	Revenue funding		
P7	Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance to cover the inclusion of open space “buffer zone” planting between new development and existing communities	11.34-11.36	Thanet officer time		

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

LONG TERM ACTIONS					
NO.	ACTIONS	SECTION REF	RESOURCES	PROGRESS TO DATE	REVIEW DATE
P2	<p>Implement improvements relating to Landscape Character Assessments for all countryside areas where appropriate, and particularly in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of green networks • Sustainable drainage systems • Interpretation of landscape features 	11.28-11.31	<p>Thanet officer time</p> <p>Developer contributions</p>		
P4/5	<p>Meet quantitative shortfall of open space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance existing Amenity Greenspaces to create multi-purpose Parks and Gardens • Meet quantitative demand for Facilities for Children and Young People • Meet projected shortfalls in Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace 	11.28-11.31	Developer funding		

ANNEX



ANNEXES

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

ANNEX A: OPEN SPACE CATEGORIES

TYPOLOGY / DEFINITION	QUALITY STANDARD	NATIONAL QUANTITY STANDARD	SOURCE	NOTES
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming clean, well maintained area with hard/soft landscaping • A one stop community facility, accessible to all with a range of leisure, recreational and play opportunities • Safe to visit, pleasant to walk and sit in • Cut back trees and bushes for safety and clear sight-lines • Include paved and planted areas, paths, grassed areas, seating, clear pathways, appropriate lighting and signage to, and within, the site • Include ramps instead of steps and wide paths for wheelchair and pushchair users • May provide opportunities for public realm art • Should link to surrounding green space. • Clean and well maintained green space, with appropriate ancillary furniture pathways, and natural landscaping • Safe site with spacious outlook • Enhance the environment/ could become a community focus • Large spaces may afford opportunities for informal play. 	<p>0.8 ha/1,000 population</p> <p>710 m walking</p>	<p>Fields in Trust</p> <p>Fields in Trust</p>	<p>National standard adopted</p> <p>National standard adopted</p>

ANNEXES

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

TYPOLOGY / DEFINITION	QUALITY STANDARD	NATIONAL QUANTITY STANDARD	SOURCE	NOTES
Amenity greenspace e.g. Village Greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller landscaped areas in and around housing areas Informal recreation Provide connections for wildlife and people movement Include, and often connect to, green lungs Contribute to biodiversity Planted using native species Areas to be maintained clear of dog fouling and litter Provision of seating and bins May provide opportunities for public realm art May include woodland. 	<p>0.6 ha/1,000 population</p> <p>480 m walking</p>	<p>Fields in Trust</p> <p>Fields in Trust</p>	<p>National standard adopted</p> <p>National standard adopted</p>
Play Areas for Children and Facilities for Young People and Teenagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range of provision for young people of both equipped and natural play areas Spaces should be well sited, accessible, convenient, visible, safe and secure, with seating for adults, litter bins and cycle racks – also consider pushchair/wheelchair access Well lit with informal surveillance when possible 	<p>0.25 ha/ population</p> <p>LAPs – 100m LEAPs – 400m NEAPs – 1,000m 700m for Youth provision</p>	<p>Fields in Trust</p> <p>Fields in Trust</p>	<p>National standard Adopted</p> <p>National standard adopted</p>

ANNEXES
THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

TYPOLOGY / DEFINITION	QUALITY STANDARD	NATIONAL QUANTITY STANDARD	SOURCE	NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment should suit the needs of all ages and abilities and be well maintained Zones to prevent conflict and spaces and seating for supervision Should be clearly bounded, well maintained, free of dog fouling, have clear pathways, appropriate lighting and signage The Council does not encourage the provision of unequipped Local Areas for Play. Robust yet imaginative play environments ranging from youth shelters to skate parks and multi-use games areas Kick about/games areas, skate parks, basket ball courts If located within other areas of open space they should include buffer zones to prevent conflict Should promote a sense of ownership and be accessible to all and have clear pathways, appropriate lighting and signage They should be visible and safe, well maintained and free of dog fouling 			

ANNEXES

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF OPEN SPACES

TYPOLOGY / DEFINITION	QUALITY STANDARD	NATIONAL QUANTITY STANDARD	SOURCE	NOTES
Formal Open Space – Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage greater use of cemeteries for informal recreation e.g. allow movement inclusive of cemeteries for walking Contribute to biodiversity Provision of seating and bins Good level of natural surveillance and lighting for safety Ensure wheelchair/pushchair access and accessible paths for inclusiveness Tackle the problem of dog fouling. Use of pavement obstructions e.g. Display boards outside shops 	<p>Quantity N/A</p> <p>400 m walking (local significance)</p>	GLA	National standard adopted
Formal Open Space - Allotment Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure area of land commonly within, or on the edge of, a developed area which can be rented by local people for the growing of vegetables, flowers or fruit not-for-profit Provide opportunities for those who wish to do so to grow their own produce, and support health, sustainability and social inclusion Sites should be well drained and accessible with wide paved paths, car access and parking, toilets, recycling facilities and inorganic waste disposal facilities Areas should be well lit and provide safe paths. 	<p>0.2 ha /1000</p> <p>400 m walking (local significance)</p>	<p>Thorpe Report</p> <p>GLA</p>	<p>Thorpe Report standard adopted</p> <p>GLA standard adopted</p>

