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1 Purpose and Scope of Study

- 1.1 This Open Space Study will undertake an audit via an assessment and analysis of existing open space provision within the Rochford District. The aim is to highlight any potential geographical deficiencies, as well as the function of spaces and, the degree to which provision meets need, as well as mitigation and resilience to climate change. It will also enable local provision to be digitally mapped.
- 1.2 The primary purpose of this Open Space Study is to assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of the existing provision of open space in the Rochford District to inform the Rochford New Local Plan. It builds on and updates the previous study, Open Space Study 2009; assesses future needs and deficiencies; and makes recommendations for locally-derived standards.
- 1.3 It is important to emphasise that the role of the study is not to assess the Council's operational practices with respect to open spaces, nor to define a strategy for the maintenance or operation of such spaces. Responsibilities beyond those related to planning policies or decisions are addressed separately to this study.
- 1.4 It is also important to note that the national policy sphere relating to topics such as open spaces and green infrastructure is changing rapidly. This is only likely to accelerate as the provisions of the Environment Act 2021, such as Biodiversity Net Gain, come into effect. Consequently, the recommendations of this study should be considered alongside new national provisions and their supporting evidence, to give a fuller picture of how to best meet the District's needs for open space.

2 Context

Rochford District's Character

Geographic

- 2.1 The District of Rochford is situated within a peninsula between the Rivers Thames and Crouch and is bounded to the east by the North Sea. The District has land boundaries with the administrative areas of Basildon Borough, Castle Point Borough and Southend-on-Sea City. It also has marine boundaries with Maldon District and Chelmsford City to the north beyond the River Crouch. The District has strong linkages to London and the M25 via the A127 and has a direct rail link to Central London.
- 2.2 The District has a total land mass of 16,800 hectares. It is rich in heritage and natural beauty, with many miles of unspoilt coastline and attractive countryside. There are more than 200 sites of archaeological interest, 14 ancient woodlands and several nature reserves across the District.
- 2.3 The extensive natural environment in the District allows for some areas, including the extensive open spaces in the Upper Roach Valley, to function as accessible green

space for areas beyond Rochford District, particularly residents of the relatively more urban Southend-on-Sea City.

Population

- 2.4 The District is home to an estimated 87,368¹ people as of 2019 dispersed, across several settlements, the three largest of which are Rayleigh, Rochford, and Hockley.

Green Belt

- 2.5 Rochford District is predominantly rural in character with most of the undeveloped land mass designated as Metropolitan Green Belt. A significant proportion of the Green Belt comprises different natural environments which are of local, national, and international importance for wildlife. This includes both inland and marine Sites of Special Scientific Interest totalling 12,763 hectares, including the Crouch and Roach Estuaries and Hockley Woods.

Challenges

- 2.6 The predominance of the natural environment in the District means that a balance needs to be struck between the need to provide leisure, recreational and other opportunities for the local population and visitors against protecting the openness and character of the Green Belt and the integrity of areas of nature conservation importance. There are also several villages and towns with distinct characteristics and heritage which the Council seeks to protect, and as such there are 10 designated Conservation Areas with the District.

Open Space Network

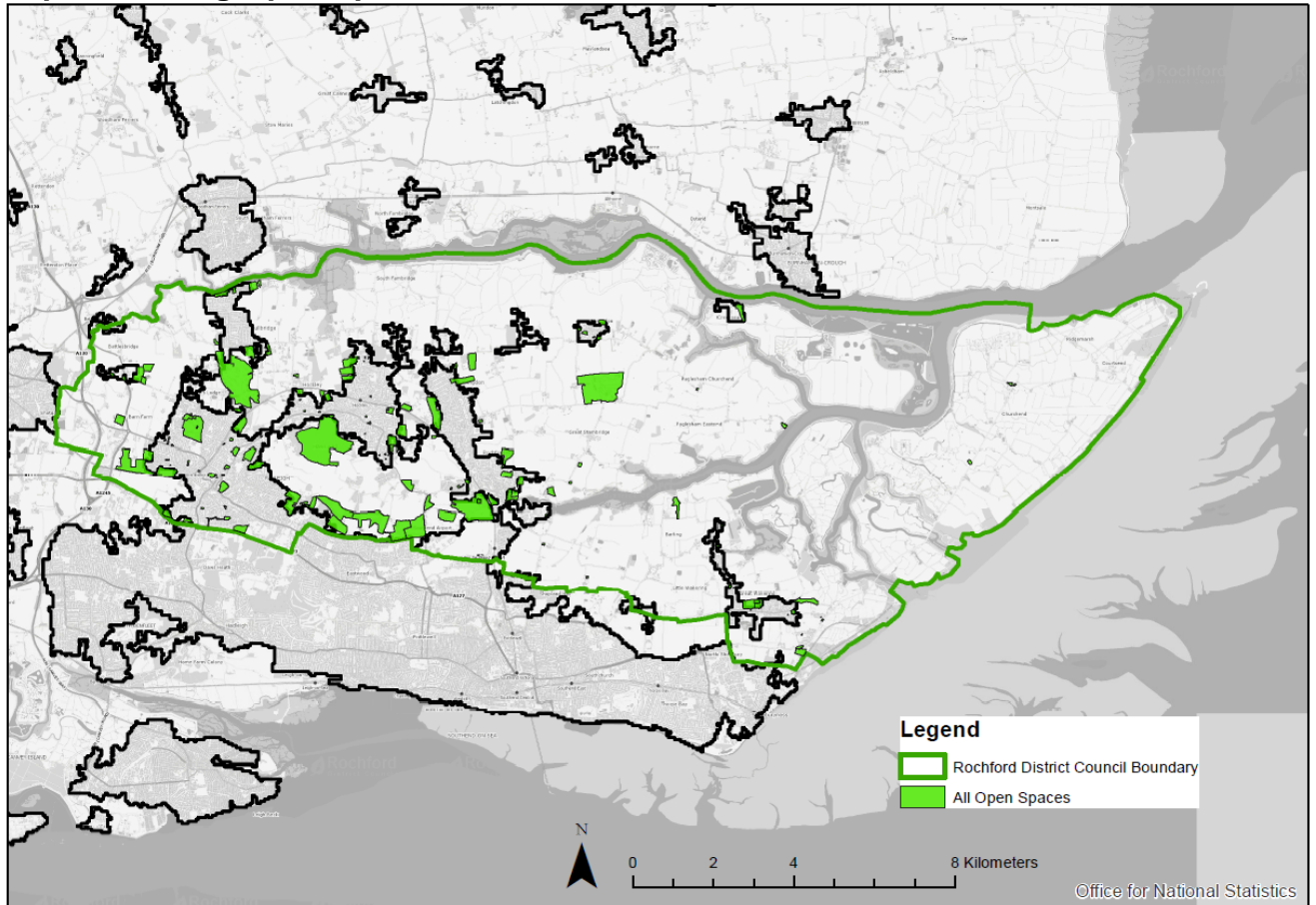
- 2.7 Rochford District Council owns or manages over 300 hectares of public open green spaces including playing fields, parks, and gardens. Alongside this, there are numerous green open spaces and recreational facilities within the District which are owned and managed by other organisations, but are either held in trust, or are otherwise made available, for public use. Such organisations include Sanctuary Housing Association, Fields in Trust, private sports clubs, local parish and town councils, as well as private estate management companies. Map 1 displays the existing open space network identified in this Study.

The District has a distinct divide, with most of the population residing in the more accessible west of the District, compared to the relatively inaccessible east. However, demand for open space within the District must be provided wherever a need is identified, and these should be high-quality, well-maintained, and accessible to the local population. The countryside is relatively accessible to most residents with a network of footpaths and bridleways, which extends across much private land. There

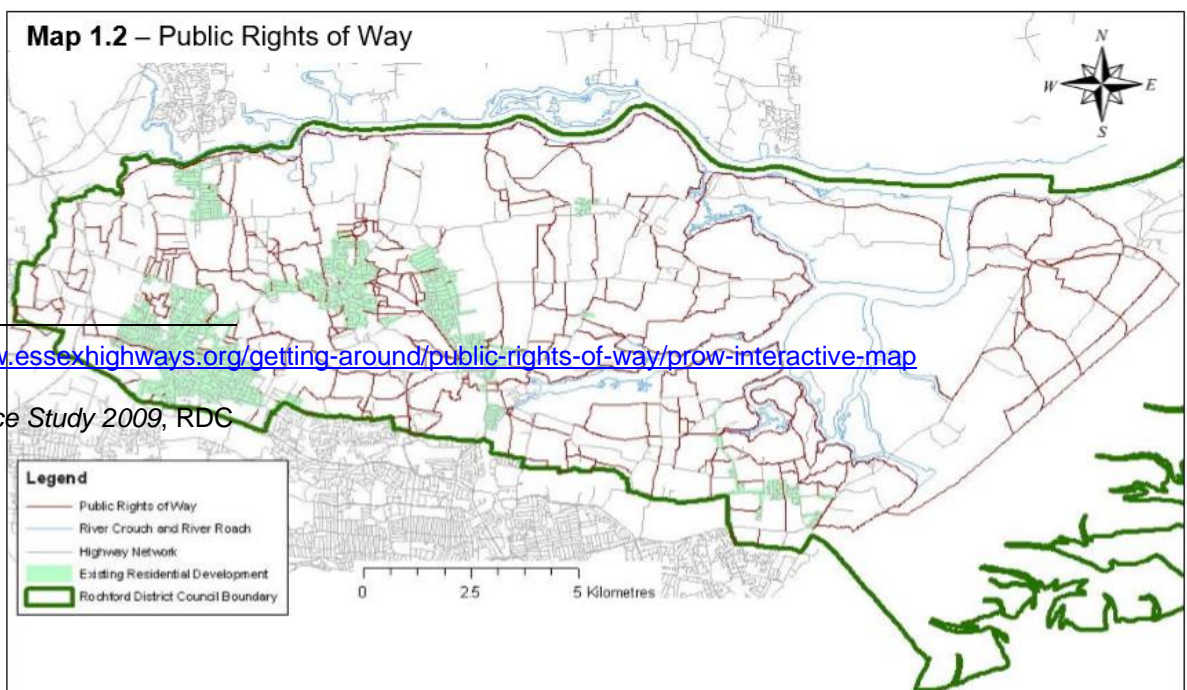
¹ Mid 2019 Population Estimates, ONS (2020)

are also several cycle paths established in the District. The Public Right of Way network is shown below in Map 2. This map is purely representative with the Definitive Map, along with the Definitive Statement, forming the legal document, which records the position and status of public rights of way. This document is maintained and updated, as appropriate by Essex County Council², and should be referred as the definitive record.

Map 1: Existing Open Space Network



Map 2: Public Rights of Way³



² <https://www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/public-rights-of-way/prow-interactive-map>

³ Open Space Study 2009, RDC

- 2.8 This comprehensive network of public footpaths and bridleways also links up many of the District’s important public open green spaces, which have been included within this assessment.
- 2.9 Table 1, below, illustrates the extent of the Public Rights of way network in Essex as of January 2009, with the Rochford District presenting a total of 282.92 Km of Public Rights of Way.

Table 1: Extent of the Public Rights of Way Network in Essex⁴

Districts	By Length				Total (Km)	By Percentage				
	Byway (Km)	Restricted Byway (Km)	Bridleway (Km)	Footpath (Km)		% Byway	% Restricted Byway	% Bridleway	% Footpath	% of Essex Network
Basildon	4.86	0.00	30.34	112.12	147.32	3.3%	0.0%	20.6%	76.1%	2.3%
Braintree	51.04	0.00	116.93	1,003.75	1,171.72	4.4%	0.0%	10.0%	85.7%	18.6%
Brentwood	10.62	0.14	40.58	192.02	243.36	4.3%	0.1%	16.7%	78.9%	3.9%
Castle Point	0.94	0.00	20.97	66.62	88.53	1.1%	0.0%	23.7%	75.3%	1.4%
Chelmsford	10.54	0.00	102.55	594.86	707.95	1.5%	0.0%	14.5%	84.0%	11.3%
Colchester	3.82	0.00	48.86	490.37	543.05	0.7%	0.0%	9.0%	90.3%	8.6%
Epping Forest	27.53	0.00	96.61	569.48	693.62	4.0%	0.0%	13.9%	82.1%	11.0%
Harlow	0.34	0.00	7.03	64.99	72.36	0.5%	0.0%	9.7%	89.8%	1.2%
Maldon	2.82	0.00	34.73	457.86	495.41	0.6%	0.0%	7.0%	92.4%	7.9%
Rochford	22.35	0.54	30.04	229.99	282.92	7.9%	0.2%	10.6%	81.3%	4.5%
Tendring	5.27	0.00	31.24	383.74	420.25	1.3%	0.0%	7.4%	91.3%	6.7%
Uttlesford	98.68	0.00	216.21	1,108.51	1,423.40	6.9%	0.0%	15.2%	77.9%	22.6%
Essex County	238.81	0.68	776.09	5,274.31	6,289.80	3.80%	0.01%	12.34%	83.85%	100.0%

⁴ Public Rights of way Improvement Plan 2009. Essex County Council

Conservation

- 2.10 As a rural District there are numerous areas of nature conservation importance which require protection from undue impact and form physical constraints to the future development of the District. These include a network of internationally protected sites along the Crouch and Roach Estuaries and at Hockley Woods, and a wide range of local nature reserves and local wildlife sites dispersed across the District. In some locations, these sites coincide with public open space.

Benefits of Open Space

- 2.11 Open space is important due to its valuable contribution to quality of life, health, and the local economy. Furthermore, open spaces provide green infrastructure benefits such as mitigating climate change, flood alleviation, and ecosystem services⁵. These assets may be joined together connecting urban and rural areas.
- 2.12 Table 2 below sets out the multiple environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Table 2: Environmental, Economic and Social Benefits of Green Infrastructure

Environmental Benefits	Economic Benefits	Social Benefits
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⁵ Ecosystem – a dynamic self-sustaining community comprised of interdependent organisms (plants, insects, and animals), their natural environment and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit. It comprises all the living things in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment. It provides the food chain through which energy flows, and the biological cycles that recycle essential nutrients and wastes.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains/Restores habitat • Improves watershed health/water quality • Improves air quality • Enhances Biodiversity • Flood alleviation and water management mitigates storm water/flooding • Regulates climate i.e., reduce heat in urban areas • Sequesters carbon • Improves more sustainable modes of transport and transport links • Increasing environmental quality and aesthetics • Heritage preservation • Increasing habitat area • Increasing populations of some protected species • Increasing species movement • Landscape • Intrinsic character and beauty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generates revenue • Provides access to local businesses • Increases land and property values • Lowers energy costs through helping to maintain internal building temperatures • Lowers health care costs • Promotes sustainable renewable energy, through bio products and bio-solar farms • Increases local food production & other products from land i.e., biofuel, timber, chip board and sources of raw materials such as lignin and cellulose • Increased tourism • Attracts inward investment • Promotes local economic regeneration • Enables regeneration of previously developed land • Noise/visual screening • Passive benefits to building (e.g., shading) • Sustainable travel opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances the sense of place • Enables recreation and leisure – relaxation/play benefits • Improves public health • Promotes equity and access • Fosters stronger communities: social interaction, inclusion, and cohesion • Connects people with nature, heritage, culture and landscape • Educates people about nature's role and the heritage, culture and landscape of a place • Climate change mitigation and adaption – community resilience • Increasing life expectancy and reducing health inequality • Improves levels of physical activity and health • Improves psychological health and mental well-being – eco therapy • Boosts educational abilities
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2.13 Proximity, access to, and engagement with the natural environment is associated with numerous positive health outcomes, including improved physical and mental health, and reduced risk of cardiovascular disease, risk of mortality and other chronic conditions⁶ as well as social benefits.

2.14 A 2020 Public Health England (PHE) report, *Improving Access to Greenspace*⁷, presented evidence showing that living in a greener environment can promote and protect good health, both physical and mental, as well as aiding in recovery from illness, tackling obesity, and help with managing poor health. Self-assessed general health was reported to be higher in areas with more greenspace, whilst the positive health effects particularly pronounced for those from lower socio-economic groups or living in deprived areas. The report also notes the pressure on existing greenspaces

⁶ *Spatial Planning for Health* (2017). Public Health England

⁷ [Improving access to greenspace – a new review for 2020. Public Health England.](#)

in urban or urbanising areas experiencing population growth and sets out recommendations for local authorities and their partners to contribute to public health outcomes through policies such as joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies and Local Plans. The following were identified as key roles for local authorities in supporting this:

- Providing new, good quality greenspace that is inclusive and equitable.
- Improving, maintaining and protecting existing greenspace.
- Increasing green infrastructure within public spaces and promoting healthy streets.
- Improving transport links, pathway, and other means of access to greenspace, and,
- Providing imaginative routes linking areas of greenspace for active travel.

Covid-19

- 2.15 The social distancing measures implemented to contain the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19) have highlighted the critical importance of high-quality green and blue spaces within easy reach. While it has long been understood that access to open spaces improves human wellbeing, the extreme situation of lockdown brought to the forefront the disparity in people’s experiences, with some having access to green open spaces while others lack it, especially those living in dense urban areas, or rural areas comprised of private farmland with no public right of access.
- 2.16 It is therefore important that Local Plans protect and improve the provision of green and blue infrastructure and sustainable travel, as well as securing high quality open spaces, particularly in urban areas.

Strategic Context

Sustainable Development

- 2.17 The provision of these facilities in our cities, towns and villages is of high importance to a sustainable future and is embedded within the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 11 – *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable*⁸), where it sets out the target to *provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green and public spaces* by 2030.

National Planning Policy and Guidance

- 2.18 Goal 11 is further supported in England’s national planning policy and guidance. The Government’s revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in July 2021. It requires local planning authorities to make sufficient provision for

8 <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal11.html>

conserving and enhancing the natural, built, and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, through sustainable development and strategic policies within local development plans and neighbourhood plans. The NPPF promotes the use of green infrastructure to deliver multiple functions and benefits, for example, adapting to climate change; to improve air quality and pollution; and to enable healthy lifestyles and the creation of inclusive and safe places. The NPPF recognises the opportunities that appropriately located and well-designed open spaces can provide. Paragraph 98 states:

Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. 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. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

- 2.19 The NPPF, along with the accompanying National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) guidance replaces the earlier Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17), which provided detailed guidance on assessing open space provision. However, the superseded PPG17 is still widely used by local authorities in assessing the needs for open space provision, and this Study will apply its principles and approach, alongside those outlined in the NPPF and NPPG. The NPPF and NPPG introduce the concept of Local Green Space designation, which provides special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. This Study will address this designation in the Rochford District.

2.20 Open space provision crosses many aspects of the NPPF as set out in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Open Space Aspects



Climate Change, Mitigation, and the Environment Act 2021

2.21 Being within an estuary environment containing densely-populated areas, the effects of environmental degradation and climate change are particularly evident in South Essex, and these effects will be amplified in coming decades. Warmer temperatures and drought, along with sea-level rise and changing rainfall patterns present challenges to address. Green and blue infrastructure provides a way to face these challenges.

2.22 In January 2018, the Government published its *25 Year Environment Plan*⁹, which set out goals for improving the environment within a generation, through a series of clear targets in areas such as clean air; clean and plentiful water; thriving plants and wildlife; mitigating and adapting to climate change; reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards; minimising waste; enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment; utilising natural resources more sustainably; managing exposure to chemicals; and enhancing biosecurity. It recognises the urgency and accelerating impact of environmental impacts and climate change in this country and around the world, noting the damage to nature and species loss, habitat erosion and the disappearance of cherished wildlife. Meaningful and urgent action is required to combat the environmental and climate crisis we are facing. Together with the *Clean Growth Strategy*¹⁰, which sets out proposals for

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy>

decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy through the 2020s to tackle climate change, this puts environmental considerations at the heart of UK Government policy.

- 2.23 The Environment Act 2021 became law shortly before the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November 2021, and seeks to provide a post-Brexit legal framework for environmental governance which makes provision for improvements to the natural environment. It incorporates five internationally-recognised principles (the integration principle, prevention principle, precautionary principle, rectification at source principle and polluter pays principle), with a requirement for Ministers to consider these when making policy, increasing the opportunities for nature recovery across Government. To uphold these, principles, it establishes an Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), which will hold the Government to account on environmental law and its Environmental Improvement Plan, filling the role previously occupied by the European Union.
- 2.24 The Act sets clear statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: **air quality, biodiversity, water** and **waste**¹¹, as set out below in Figure 2, along with a new target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030.
- 2.25 The Act places the 25-Year Environment Plan into law as a statutory Environmental Improvement Plan, creating long-term environmental governance and accountability.

Figure 2: Environment Act Priority Areas



Sub-Regional and Local Policy Context

- 2.26 Part of the Rochford District falls within the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership Green Grid Strategy (2005) area. This strategy promotes the creation and enhancement of green linkages between areas of open greenspace, encouraging

¹¹ https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/pdfs/ukpgaen_20210030_en.pdf#page=196&zoom=100,72,622

biodiversity while providing accessible green links for the local community and those who work in or visit the District. The strategy identified green and blue infrastructure (GBI) as a strategic, cross-boundary matter across South Essex local authorities, and laid the foundation for further GBI development across the sub-region. As part of this a number of potential ‘greenways’ were identified which extend across the Authorities’.

Regional Guidance

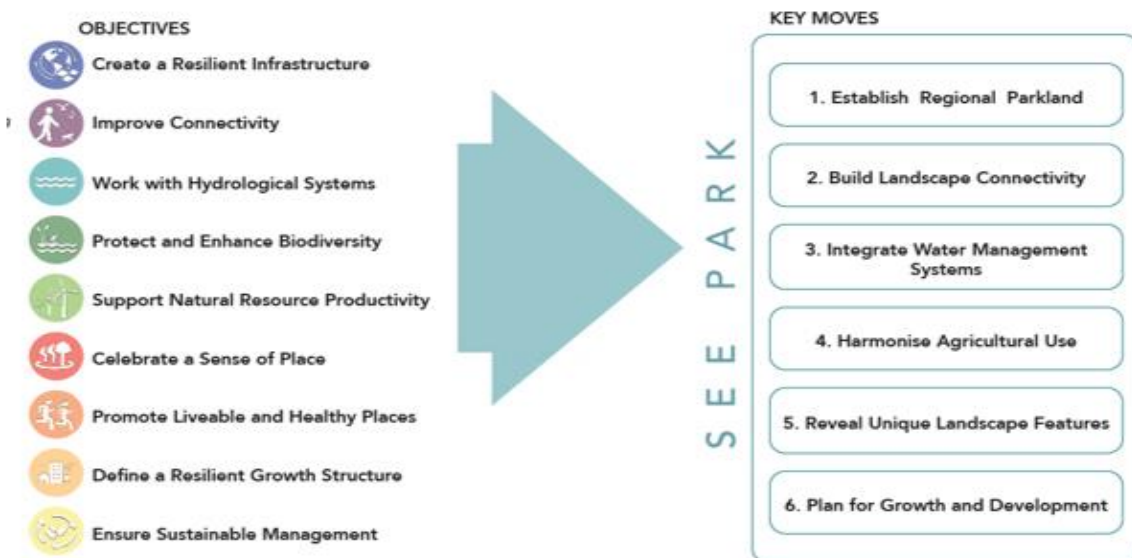
- 2.27 Essex County Council has identified 9 principles of “*Good Green Infrastructure*” in its Draft Green Infrastructure Standards Framework and Guidance¹²:
1. Mainstreaming and Integration
 2. Evidence-Led
 3. Multifunctionality
 4. Early Engagement
 5. Making Different Expectations
 6. Health, Wellbeing and Social Equity
 7. Connectivity
 8. Strong Policy Wording and Commitment
 9. Stewardship
- 2.28 The draft Framework also identifies “*target measures*” and “*indicators*” to achieve quality and consistency in the provision, management, and stewardship of green infrastructure (GI) as an essential part of place-making and place-keeping for the benefit of people and wildlife. The aim of the Principles is to strengthen GI policies, Local Plans, and other strategic documents.
- 2.29 The District also falls within the *South Essex Green and Blue Infrastructure Study (2020)*¹³ area which proposes several key moves to provide a robust, comprehensive, and unifying framework for South Essex. The Study aims to achieve the strategic vision for GBI in South Essex, namely to “*proactively re-imagine a better future for South Essex, by creating a rich tapestry of world-class productive, connected and dynamic landscapes, woven together to form the celebrated South Essex Estuary (SEE) Park.*” Further details on the Study’s recommendations are set out in Appendix

12 https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/essex-gi-standards/supporting_documents/Essex%20Green%20Infrastructure%20Framework%20Guidance%205.21.pdf

13 <https://www.southessexplan.co.uk/south-essex-plan/what-is-the-evidence-base>

B. In working towards a single park system encompassing the whole South Essex sub-region, the document sets out several objectives and key moves to achieve this vision, as illustrated below in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Objectives and SEE Park Key Moves



2.30 Figure 4 indicates how the vision for the SEE Park sits as a spatial strategy, with the key swathes of green infrastructure across South Essex connected by a robust network of greenways and blue infrastructure links, which also take in agricultural land. The England Coast Path acts as a further link to bring the park together. This Study forms part of the evidence base for the emerging South Essex Joint Strategic Plan (JSP), which will set out overarching strategic priorities for South Essex, including its open spaces, GBI and overall connectivity between spaces in this network.

Figure 4: South Essex GBI Strategy Conceptual Diagram



- 2.31 In Rochford District, the Core Strategy policy T7 sets out GBI through the provision of greenways across the District into neighbouring areas that were identified through the TBSE Green Grid Strategy. It highlights the importance of multi-functional GBI for the health, sustainable travel, well-being, and quality of life of the current and growing population. The new emerging Local Plan will create opportunities for new and improved GBI across the District, along the coastline, connecting to neighbouring area in South Essex. ‘The Environmental Capacity Study’ 2015¹⁴ recognises that key green infrastructure can be found in the Upper Roach Valley in particular, including dedicated bridleways, Ancient Woodland and marked walking routes. This is the basis for this Study, which will seek to enhance the accessibility of the District’s network of open spaces and GBI.

Local Green Space Standard

- 2.32 The existing provision will also be assessed to establish if it meets the Local Green Space (LGS) classification standard, outlined in NPPF paragraph 102. Whilst both open spaces (OS) and Local Green Spaces (LGS) achieve very similar aims of protecting areas of public and strategic space across the District, LGS designation allows for special recognition of the most significant green spaces. LGS not only protects designated areas but draws attention to an area’s particular significance

14 https://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning_newevibasecapacitystudy_s.pdf

because of specific attributes as set out below in Figure 5, and for these qualities to be considered when determining planning applications. Local Green Spaces designation is discussed further below in paragraphs 2.32, 2.46 and 7.42-7.49.

Figure 5: Designated Local Green Space Qualities



Emerging Local Plan Evidence Base

- 2.33 The Open Space Study forms part of a set of technical reports which will provide an evidence base for the new emerging Rochford Local Plan.

Types of Open space

- 2.34 The following types of open space identified from PPG17, form part of this study and are set out below in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Open Space Typologies



2.35 The superseded PPG17 open space typologies are further illustrated in Table 3 – Typology and Description of Open Space Categories below. Whilst Country Parks were not included in the NPPG, this Study includes Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park separately due to its unique scale

Table 3 – Typology and Description of Open Space Categories

	Typology	Primary Purpose	Local Examples (where applicable)
Greenspaces	Parks and Gardens, and Country Parks	Includes urban parks and formal gardens that provide accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community use. Often more multi-functional than other open spaces, these areas can be laid out formally for leisure and recreation, have well-defined boundaries with high quality horticulture and usually include a mixture of hard and soft landscaping and facilities. Country parks can be considered also as natural areas and are rated according to their size and the facilities they provide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brooklands Public Gardens, Rayleigh • Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland	Includes commons, public and private woodlands and nature reserves, including areas of wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hockley Woods, Main Road, Hockley • Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell
	Green Corridors	Includes rivers, railway cuttings and embankments, road verges, pedestrian and cycling routes, providing opportunities for wildlife migration in addition to walking, cycling and horse riding, whether for leisure or travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an established network of public rights of way (PROW) across the District (see Map 2: Public Rights of Way)
	Recreation and outdoor sports facilities	Includes recreation grounds, playing fields, privately owned sites such as golf courses and sites that provide other sports such as bowls or tennis. Playing field sites usually have playing pitches with pavilions and changing room facilities. Recreation grounds include areas of mown grass used for informal activities such as dog walking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh • Rochford Hundred Golf Club
	Amenity Greenspace	Includes amenity greenspace, communal landscaping around premises and housing estates and reservoirs not located within a park. These areas provide for opportunities for informal recreation in proximity to residential dwellings with few facilities, and enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canewdon Village Green, Canewdon • Broad Parade open space, Broad Parade, Hockley
	Play Space for children and teenagers as defined by Fields in Trust¹⁵:	Includes defined areas designated primarily for play and social interaction for children and young people in supervised or unsupervised environments, such as swings and slides, ball courts, skateboard areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play space, Seaview Drive, Great Wakering
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Areas of Play (and 		

15 <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/guidance>

	Typology	Primary Purpose	Local Examples (where applicable)
	<p>informal recreation) (LAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Equipped Area for Play (and informal recreation) (LEAP) • Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (and informal recreation, and provision for children and young people) (NEAP) 	<p>teenage shelters and other informal space for social interaction.</p> <p>NEAPs and 11 yrs. + facilities are interchangeable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skateboard park, Clements Hall Leisure Centre, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell
	<p>Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms</p>	<p>Areas that are managed by the local population for gardening or to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and wellbeing, and social inclusion, usually restricted by access.</p> <p>Allotments and gardens provide a semi-natural habitat for local wildlife and corridors that contribute to the movements of wildlife in urban areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments, Rocheway, Rochford • Allotments, Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great wakering
	<p>Cemeteries, disused churchyards, and other burial grounds</p>	<p>Areas associated with places of worship and burial grounds allowing for quiet contemplation, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.</p> <p>They can also be viewed as amenity provision and often support biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall Road Cemetery, Hall Road, Rochford • Rayleigh Cemetery, Hockley Road, Rayleigh
<p>Civic Spaces</p>	<p>Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians</p>	<p>Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations, and community events. Provides for social interaction for local communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mill Hall Civic Space, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh

2.37 It should be noted however that not all types of open space identified in the typology have been audited as part of this assessment of open space, e.g., ‘green corridors’ and domestic gardens, although these will play a contributing role to open space access for local communities. The District, as a predominantly rural area, also does not have any recognised urban farms, urban parks, or community gardens (although there may be private arrangements).

- 2.38 Whilst there is a wide network of public rights of way¹⁶ throughout the District, connecting many of the District’s greenspaces (as shown earlier in Map 2, Public Rights of Way), the District does not have any designated green corridors which provide important linkages to encourage the movement and cohesion of wildlife and their habitats, and significant areas of green open space.
- 2.39 Outdoor Sports Facilities sites are included in this Open Space Study as a type of open space. However, an assessment of outdoor sports and recreation provision in the context of leisure and recreation can be found in Rochford’s Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan (2018), which has been produced in accordance with Sport England’s guidance.

Defining Open Space

- 2.40 Open spaces are an important resource for the community. Whilst providing informal green areas for recreation, leisure, and social interaction, they can enhance the quality of a local environment through improving amenity, encouraging wildlife, and increasing local biodiversity.
- 2.41 The definition of ‘open space’ can be found within the following examples of statutory legislation, government policy and relevant professional bodies which offer best practice and guidance, and enable local authorities to meet their duty under the Environment Act, 2021¹⁷ which will set out environmental protection and recovery provisions including the restoration and enhancement of green space:

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

- 2.42 The statutory definition of open space is laid out within the overarching development management legislation of the Town and Country Planning act 1990 as “...any land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is disused burial ground.”¹⁸

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.43 The NPPF details open space as “...of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.”¹⁹

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

16 Public Rights of Way can include footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways, and byways which provide access to the countryside and links between green spaces, towns, villages, and places of employment.

17 Environment Act 2021, DEFRA

18 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 S336

19 National Planning Policy Framework February 2021 MHCLG

2.44 The NPPG, which aligns with the NPPF, offers a more technical definition that encompasses the broader definition of Green Infrastructure. The NPPG defines it as “a range of spaces and assets that provide environmental and wider benefits...[including]...parks, playing fields, other areas of open space, woodland, allotments, private gardens, sustainable drainage features, green roofs and walls, street trees and ‘blue infrastructure’ such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies.”²⁰

Landscape Institute

2.45 The Landscape Institute recognise that green infrastructure can offer a multifunctional role. As well as recreation, it can also provide mitigation against the effects of climate change, for example, by reducing airborne pollution, providing shade, and reducing urban heat island effects²¹.

Local Green Spaces

2.46 The NPPG²² emphasises that Local Green Spaces need to be in proximity and accessible, i.e., walkable to local communities which they will serve. The guidance does not provide strict-defined criteria, beyond stating that such places must be ‘demonstrably special to the local community’. This guidance also indicates that whilst the size of a space is not a defining factor as to whether it can be classified / designated as a Local Green Space, the designation should only be used where the green area concerned is ‘not an extensive tract of land’. The guidance explains this is to avoid effective designation of large tracts of open countryside adjacent to settlements with the same status as Green Belt. Ultimately, a degree of flexibility and discretion is provided to local planning authorities in how they designate such spaces, and slightly differing approaches have been adopted in different places,

“places are different and a degree of judgement will inevitably be needed”²³.

2.47 Ownership is also not a determining factor,

“A Local Green Space does not need to be in public ownership”²⁴.

20 National Planning Practice Guidance 2019 MHCLG

21 Green Infrastructure an Integrated approach to land use Landscape Institute Position Statement 2013

22 Planning Practice Guidance Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space Para.014 Ref.ID:37-014-20140306 Revision date: 06.03.2014

23 Planning Practice Guidance Open space, sport and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space Para. 015 Ref. ID:37-015-20140306 Revision date: 06. 03.2014

24 Planning Practice Guidance Open space, sport and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space Para. 019 Ref. ID:37-019-20140306 Revision date: 06. 03.2014

Civic Spaces

2.48 Civic spaces, which encompass hard surfaced areas such as market squares, provide public spaces for community activities with a central focus, such as community events, communal meeting places and recreation and leisure opportunities, where appropriate. Thus, both green spaces and civic spaces are important to the quality of life and well-being of the population through providing well designed, good quality spaces and promoting good use of the public realm.

Multi-Functionality of Open Spaces

2.49 Open space can therefore comprise both natural and semi-natural features and habitat types, as well as a range of recreational uses. If designed and managed well they can provide significant multi-functional and overlapping benefits: social, environmental, and economic. This Open Space Study will aim to establish the quantity, quality, accessibility, and connectivity of Rochford District’s open spaces to establish the extent and offer of the multifunctional benefits.

Analysis Areas

2.50 The Open Space Study evaluates open space provision in Rochford at both District and Ward level. Ward level is useful for the quantitative assessment as it allows existing and future population data to be applied to show variations in open space provision spatially across the District. Rochford’s wards are shown in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7: Rochford Ward Map²⁵



²⁵ Rochford District Council

Population and Housing

- 2.51 The Open Space Study uses current (mid 2019 ward population estimates²⁶) and future population (2018 based subnational population projections²⁷) data to assess existing and future needs for open space provision. 2019 is used as the baseline year, and 2040 is used for the future, in line with Rochford’s emerging Local Plan.
- 2.52 The projected percentage (12.5%) increase in the Rochford ward level population is an approximate figure given that the ONS projections data are for the District as a whole and not for the Ward level (not published at time of compiling this Study). The 12.5% increase has therefore been applied to the Ward level population for the year, 2040 to give an estimated indication of the population increase.
- 2.53 Table 4 below illustrates the ward level population increase projections.

Table 4: Rochford District Ward Level Population Projections

Ward	Mid 2019 Population Estimates (ONS 2020)	Approx. Population Projections 2040 (applying 12.5% increase ²⁸)
Downhall and Rawreth	7,158	8,053
Foulness and The Wakerings	7,057	7,939
Hawkwell East	6,154	6,923
Hawkwell West	6,849	7,705
Hockley	6,372	7169
Hockley and Ashingdon	6,786	7,634
Hullbridge	6,559	7,379

²⁶ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/wardlevelmidyearpopulationestimatesexperimental>

²⁷ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2>

²⁸ Calculated from 2018 ONS population projections for the Rochford District as a whole

Lodge	6,959	7,829
Roche North and Rural	6,880	7,740
Roche South	6,114	6,878
Sweyne Park and Grange	6,697	7,534
Trinity	7,049	7,930
Wheatley	6,734	7,576

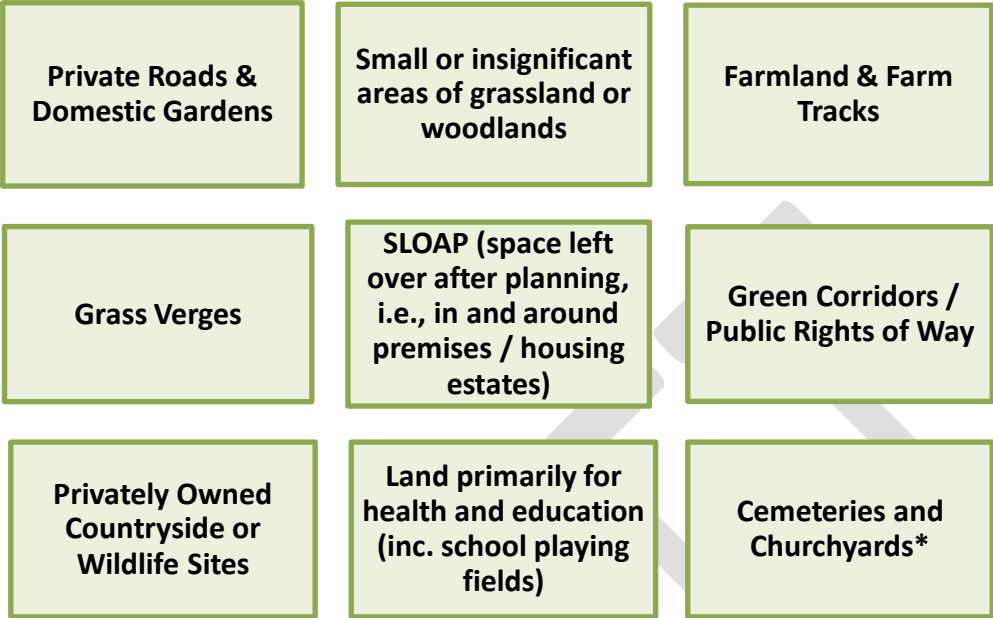
3 Methodology

Scope of the Study

- 3.1 This study will assess the supply (quantity), quality, accessibility, connectivity and value (i.e., identity and legibility) of open space within the District to identify local need. Assessment will include Council-owned or managed greenspaces and facilities as well as other facilities and spaces as set out earlier in Figure 4, Open Space Typologies and Table 3, Typology and Description of Open Space Categories, which are publicly accessible and are available for community use, for example, private clubs. It will also consider the distribution and density of population. It does not cover school sports fields, although it is acknowledged some of these may be available for community hire (please refer to the Playing Pitch Strategy for further details).
- 3.2 Assessment of open space sites will take account of the role of open space even where facilities may be lacking.
- 3.3 The following types of open spaces although playing a contributing role to local communities, will not be included in the Study as illustrated in Figure 8. The reason for this is that these types of open space generally play an informal role in provision and are therefore harder to identify or guarantee a public right of access to. In the case of land of biodiversity value, some spaces may have deliberately limited public access to avoid damage to habitats or protected species. A separate Local Wildlife Sites Review²⁹ has been carried out which considers the biodiversity value of such sites. Cemeteries and Churchyards have been assessed for their provision, distribution, and accessibility. It is acknowledged that in many areas they provide an important open space amenity role, but as their primary function is for the burial of the deceased, they have not been assessed for quality factors.

²⁹ https://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning_evibase_LocalWildlifeSitesReview2018.pdf

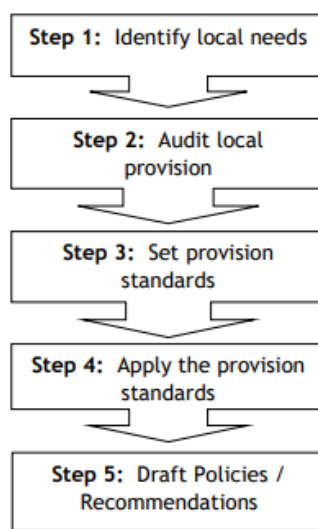
Figure 8: Types of Open Spaces not included in the Study



Carrying out the Study

3.4 An initial desktop study has been collected with a review of relevant background documents, including previous public consultation (see Appendix B)³⁰ and spatial data focused on national and local guidance, policies, and strategies. This was accompanied by a field survey to collect information in a consistent, rigorous, and methodical way, to test and refine and add to (as appropriate) the outputs of the desktop study. Figure 9 below illustrates a summary of the overall approach to the Open Space Study as previously recommended in The Companion Guide to PPG17. Within this overall approach the companion guide suggests a range of methods and techniques that might be adopted in helping the assessment process. Where appropriate, these methods and techniques have been employed within this study.

Figure 9: Summary of Methodology



3.5 Stakeholders and local community engagement were reviewed (previous consultations including the Issues and Options Feedback Document³¹ , and the South Essex Green Blue Infrastructure Study (stakeholder workshops).

3.6 The findings will set out local standards, bearing in mind differences between urban and rural areas in terms of level of provision. It will identify networks of Green Infrastructures and recommend how provision of green infrastructure could be improved and managed so to contribute to wider sustainability objectives in ensuring that there is an appropriate and accessible open space provision for local communities and visitors to the Rochford District, and so contribute to their improved health and wellbeing.

³⁰ New Local Plan Issues and Options Feedback Report 2018 Rochford District Council

³¹ New Local Plan Issues and Options Feedback Report 2018 Rochford District Council

Best Practice in Identifying Local Need

- 3.7 A desk-based review of national guidance and policies, and best practice has been undertaken. This will support the aim to identify local need taking into consideration local demographics and distribution and density of population. The study will also focus on locations of planned housing developments.
- 3.8 This Open Space Study (assessment) is in line with the NPPF (2021) and NPPG for Open Space, which have replaced PPG 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) and its Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (2002).
- 3.9 Whilst the Companion Guide to PPG17 has been superseded, it is acknowledged that the principles and approach within the guidance have not been replaced and it is still relevant to apply the methodology to assess needs for open space provision.
- 3.10 Existing relevant documentation has been gathered and reviewed. This includes the South Essex Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Study (2020) which considers the role that green spaces play and identifies opportunities for improvement.
- 3.11 A review of a recent previous public consultation³² undertaken to inform the first formal stage of public engagement in the preparation of Rochford District Council's new Local Plan for the District has also been offered. This document included consultation feedback on Open Spaces, Outdoor Sports and Recreation, Play Space Facilities and Facilities for Young People.
- 3.12 An earlier (2009) Open Space Study³³ identifying some general issues which helped to inform the Council's Core Strategy and an Open Spaces Strategy³⁴ has also been reviewed.

Site Identification

- 3.13 All open spaces and their boundaries need to be mapped spatially in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to objectively assess quantity, quality, and accessibility data of each site, draw comparisons between different sites and to record data about the sites. This also enables further analysis to be carried out, such as assessing the overall coverage of open space within the District and identifying areas currently experiencing poor access to open space. The ability to use GIS to display this data in map and graphical formats helps make the Study's conclusions more compelling, and the implications for communities more evident. Most designated open spaces already have a record on the GIS system, but given the amount of time that has passed since

32 Issues and Options Feedback Report 2018, Rochford District Council

33 Open Space Study 2009, Rochford District Council

34 Open Spaces Strategy 2015, Rochford District Council

the previous Open Space Study in 2009, a number of new sites have emerged (e.g., through new housing developments). A review was therefore undertaken of additional sites, and new records for these were created using the GIS software. Areas of deficiency of open space based on actual walking distances, can be gauged from using GIS analysis. This involves locating access points using Ordnance Survey data and site survey visits.

- 3.14 This Study uses most of the open space land uses which were classified by the previous PPG17 categories as earlier detailed in Table 3 – Typology and Description of Open Space Categories, to assess the quantity, quality, and accessibility, and to record data about the sites. It builds on and updates the existing study³⁵ with the inclusion of identified new open space provision within new residential developments since 2009.

Quantity Assessment

- 3.15 The quantity assessment is a desk-based assessment and builds upon the previous Open Space Study (2009)³⁶ quantum and more recent identified new open space provision from new residential development since 2009. All open space assessed in this study has been plotted using the ArcMaps GIS package, with new provision having been quantified when creating new polygons on a map of the District. This allows the approximate total area of open space within the District and at Ward level to be calculated, and for all spaces to be compared with each other in the same dataset.
- 3.16 The area of open space is assessed against population data to give provision in 'hectares per 1000 population'. The population data at District and Ward level is used to calculate provision of open space and show distribution of provision across the District.
- 3.17 The total area for each category/type of open space is also calculated and compared against the population. For example, the total area and hectare per 1000 population of Parks and Gardens, or Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces.
- 3.18 This is useful to compare against national or other benchmarks standards as set out in Section 4 Benchmark Standards, for different types of provision, for example, Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association – NPFA) in their guidance 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015³⁷)' as illustrated further below in Figures 10, 11 and 12.

Quality Assessment

- 3.19 The quality assessment is a site-based assessment.

35 Open Space Study 2009

36 Open Space Study 2009

37 <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/guidance>

- 3.20 The open space quality assessment method is aligned to the Green Flag Award assessment. The range of facilities and physical infrastructure within sites will be assessed along with accessibility, safety, management, and maintenance to ascertain which of the sites are in good condition and meet the needs of the local community. The Green Flag Award is widely recognised as a quality benchmark for parks and green spaces, advocated by FiT and used by many other local authorities as part of their Open Space Assessments. For further details on the benchmarks, see Appendix A.
- 3.21 Not all open space sites in the District were audited, and the following criteria were applied to exclude sites from the quality assessment (Table 5). It is however, acknowledged that many of these sites and spaces fulfil an important role in providing open space functions, recreation, or a sense of openness to many segments of the population, and that in certain parts of the District they provide a supplementary role to the established list of open spaces.

Table 5: Criteria to Exclude Sites from Quality Survey

Criteria	Justification
Green Corridor and Public Rights of Way	Not considered 'public open space' for purposes of this Study.
Land for health and education (such as hospitals, schools, and other educational establishments).	Not considered 'public open space' for purposes of this Study.
Cemeteries and Churchyards.	Whilst sites are accessible and many provide facilities and benefits of public open space (e.g., seating), primary purpose is for burial and therefore not considered 'public open space' for purposes of this Study.
SLOAP (space left over after planning around premises / housing estates).	Not considered 'public open space' for purposes of this Study.
Private Roads and Domestic Gardens.	Not considered 'public open space' for purposes of this Study.
Small and Insignificant Area of Grassland or Woods.	Not considered 'public open space' for purposes of this Study.
Privately-owned Countryside.	Not considered 'public open space' for purposes of this Study.
Wildlife Sites.	The primary role of wildlife sites is conservation ³⁸ and whilst certain sites e.g., parts of Grove Woods or Cherry Orchard Country Park are also public open spaces or do provide open space benefits, many do not meet open space criteria and are not listed as accessible in the same way.

38 https://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning_evibase_LocalWildlifeSitesReview2018.pdf

	Many wildlife sites have PRoW running through them which also benefit the District.
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3.22 The quality assessment site audit is described in Table 6 and uses some of the Green Flag Award³⁹ ‘Raising the Standard’ criteria that can be applied to all types of open space.

Table 6: Open Space Quality Assessment Audit Criteria

Audit Criteria	Description
Accessibility	Are there any restrictions on access? (Times / gates / charge). Number of access points and are they obvious and in good condition?
	Is the site well-located with respect to housing?
	Are signs and directions provided?
	Is car parking available? If yes, how many spaces and what condition?
	Are cyclists catered for? Parking and routes.
	Additional notes / observations.
Facilities	Summary of facilities and activities provided and their condition (playgrounds, tennis courts, cafes, event stands etc.)
	Is play equipment available and in good condition?
	Is exercise equipment available and in good condition?
	Are benches / sitting areas available and in good condition?
	Are picnic areas available and in good condition?
Safety and Security	Does the space have lighting? If so, how much of the space is lit?
	Does the space benefit from natural surveillance? (e.g., from nearby houses or roads).
	Are there any areas that could be used for ambush?
	Does the site feel safe on entering?
	Additional notes / observations
Cleanliness and Maintenance	Is litter an issue? Are litter bins provided?

39 <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>

	Is there any evidence of anti-social behaviour? (e.g., graffiti, broken equipment, vandalism etc.)
	Is dog fouling an issue? Are litter bins provided?
	Are the spaces boundaries clearly defined? (if so, what is the condition of the boundary?).
	Is the space well-maintained? (grass cutting, condition of pathway etc.).
	Are there any trees in the space? Are they in good condition?
	Additional notes / observations.

3.23 Each of the criteria was scored on a scale from 0-5, and a total percentage score derived. The scores were banded according to the Green Flag grade for open spaces (Table 7).

Table 7: Open Space Quality Scores Thresholds

Open Space Quality Score (%)	Open Space Quality Grade
90 - 100	Excellent
80 - 80	Very Good
70 - 79	Good
50 - 69	Fair
0 - 49	Poor

Standardisation

3.24 It is recognised that applying a consistent quality assessment to a diverse range of open spaces risked over-objectifying the scoring process by not allowing for an understanding of whether every criterion was necessarily relevant to assessing the “quality” of that type of open space. As a result, an element of subjectivity was allowed for in the scoring.

3.25 Nevertheless, the quality assessment was undertaken using a standardised method, including procedure, interpretation and scoring, and post-assessment standardisation sessions took place involving the assessors. This ensures consistency in the assessment process and contributes towards the validation of the Study findings. It is not, however, the purpose of the Study to create a scoring matrix where detailed comparisons can be drawn between sites, particularly those of differing types, through the scores alone.

Accessibility Assessment

- 3.26 The Accessibility Assessment is a desk-top based assessment using GIS mapping to assess distribution of open spaces across the District and their accessibility from local neighbourhoods, locations, and settlements. This Study will focus on accessibility at settlement level to determine where there are areas of deficiency of access to open spaces.
- 3.27 Accessibility at site level will be assessed within the site quality assessment.
- 3.28 The accessibility standard of the open space to be assessed can be benchmarked against best practice guidance⁴⁰⁴¹ to establish a perceived acceptable travelling distance and mode of travel. For further details on the benchmarks, see Appendix A.
- 3.29 The Accessibility Assessment is a desk-based assessment using GIS to run analysis on access to open space sites, based on established acceptable travelling distance of any, or certain categories of open space. The assessment identifies any Areas of Deficiency (AoD) in access to open spaces.
- 3.30 This involves the integration of known open space access points with corresponding distance radii in metres (e.g., 400m, 800m, 1.2km and 2.4km) to an open space. This can plot rough accessibility of local communities to open spaces. However, it must be acknowledged that it only presents an ‘as the crow flies’ accessibility range which does not account for access routes or street patterns and may not account for local knowledge about site access.
- 3.31 FiT⁴² and Natural England’s ANGSt standards⁴³ as set out in Figure 10, Figure 11, and Figure 12 below provide a benchmark for the provision of publicly accessible open space across the District. Accessibility of the District’s open spaces, assessed against their respective guideline distances are set out in Section 6.

40 Improving access to green spaces 2014 Public Health England

41 Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in towns and Cities, Natural England

42 <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/guidance>

43

https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj_xbDUjcvvAhUNQEEAHRYODoIQFjABegQIAhAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fpublications.naturalengland.org.uk%2Ffile%2F78003&usg=AOvVaw2OEKVqJG5SZpEn023C_xq1

Figure 10: Fields in Trust Recommended Benchmark Guidelines – Formal Outdoor space

Open space typology	QUANTITY GUIDELINE ² (hectares per 1,000 population)	WALKING GUIDELINE (walking distance: metres from dwellings)	QUALITY GUIDELINE	
	Open Space Typology	QUANTITY GUIDELINE³ (hectares per 1,000 population)	WALKING GUIDELINE (walking distance: metres from dwellings)	QUALITY GUIDELINE
	Parks and Gardens	0.80	710m	* Parks to be of Green Flag status. * Appropriately landscaped. * Positive management. * Provision of footpaths. * Fields in Trust protection. * Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.
Equ	Amenity Green Space	0.60	480m	
Other (MUG parks)	Natural and Semi-Natural	1.80	720m	
				using the Play England Quality Tool .

Figure 11: Fields in Trust Recommended Benchmark Guidelines – Informal Outdoor Space

Figure 12: Natural England recommended benchmark guidelines – accessible natural green space.

ANGSt

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:

- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

3.32 NOTE - Since the Study was carried out, Natural England has released a digital Green Infrastructure Map⁴⁴ in 2022, mapping the locations of Green Infrastructure, open spaces and public rights of way across the UK, along with the option to superimpose different accessibility standards and radii. Whilst this is a useful

⁴⁴ Natural England Green Infrastructure Map:
<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Map.aspx>

resource, minor differences in which sites are displayed and classified compared to the Study means the two should be used to supplement and complement each other.

Analysis of Findings

- 3.33 The findings of the research were compiled in an excel spreadsheet to facilitate analysis and interpretation into both a district and ward profile for open space. Each site was categorised by its primary typology / function (e.g., Natural or Semi-Natural, Parks and Gardens, Amenity Greenspace, Allotments, Cemeteries, and Churchyards, Play Spaces and Provision for Young People, and Outdoor Sports and Recreation).
- 3.34 Sites with play facilities were categorised into 3 groups as set out below in Figure 13.

DRAFT

Figure 13: Categories of Play Space



Set and Apply Provision Standards

3.35 The application of provision standards will be assessed and considered against national standards or benchmarks, i.e., FiT and ANGSt.

Quantity

3.36 Standards will be applied to *Quantity* (expressed as hectares per 1000 people), based on the existing provision of each typology / function and benchmarked against FiT quantity benchmark standards.

Quality

3.37 *Quality* within each typology / function will be reviewed, scored, and considered against good practice, applying the Green Flag Award criteria.

Accessibility

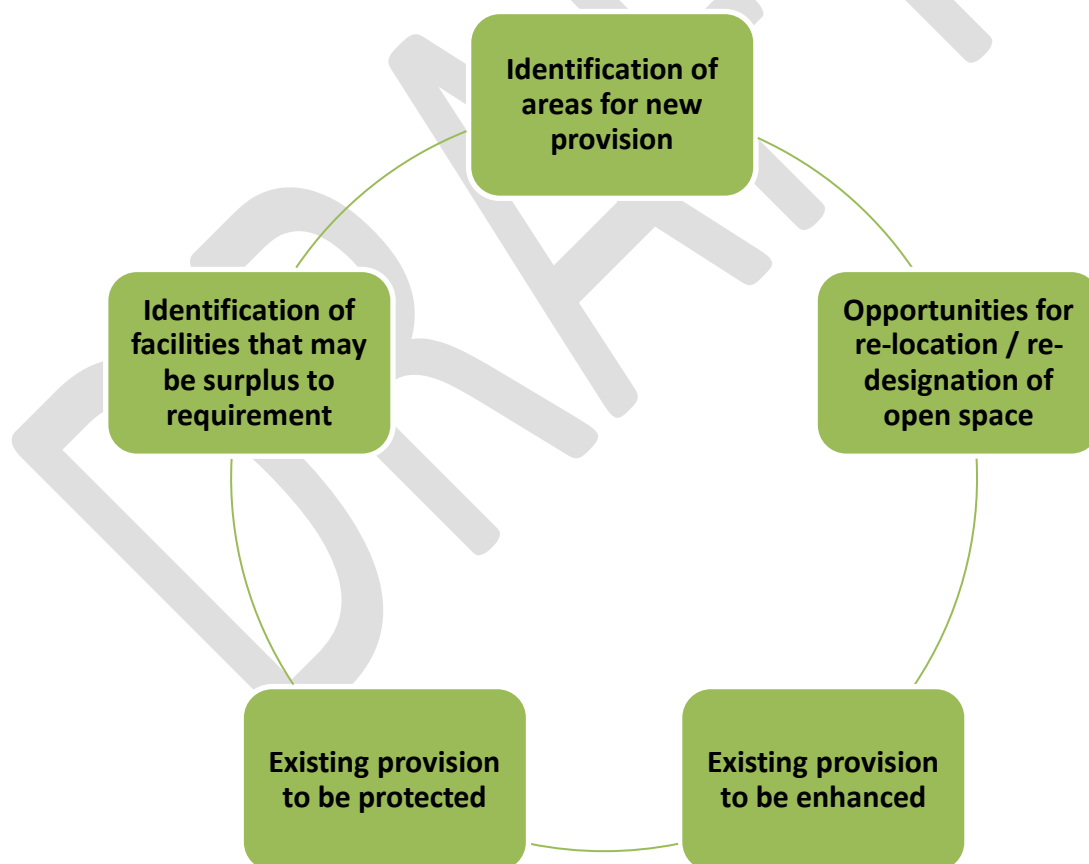
3.38 Proposed *Accessibility* standards will be identified through a review of Rochford District Council's existing standards⁴⁵, alongside those recommended by relevant

⁴⁵ Open Space Study 2009, Rochford District Council

national organisations, such as Fields in Trust,⁴⁶ Green Flag Award⁴⁷ and Natural England⁴⁸ and applied accordingly.

- 3.39 Application of the proposed above standards for quantity, quality and accessibility enables identification of deficiencies and surpluses in specific types of open space, as well as geographical trends for review.
- 3.40 The findings from this Open Space Study will inform policy recommendations for open space provision on a District-wide basis, flagging where the need is greatest in terms of both certain types of open space and geographical deficiencies in coverage. As set out below in Figure 14, the combination of quantity, quality and accessibility findings enable the Council to identify a set of strategic options regarding open space provision. For existing open spaces, it can be determined where existing provision needs to be protected and enhanced, as well as any spaces which may be surplus to requirements. It also identifies opportunities for relocation/redesignation of open space and, crucially, identification of areas where new provision is required.

Figure 14: Strategic Options



46 Fields in Trust

47 Raising the Standard, The Green Flag award guidance Manual 2016

48 Natural England Outdoors for All: fair access to a good quality natural environment

4 Findings of Supply Assessment

Assessed Open Space Land Cover District Wide

- 4.1 The total area of assessed open space within the Rochford District is approximately 707 hectares (7.07 sq. km) as set out below in Table 8, which accounts for approximately 3.82% of the District’s total land mass (16,800ha).
- 4.2 Recreation & Outdoor Sports Facilities and Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace account for the highest amounts of open space in the District (approximately 43% and 37% respectively). Country Parks also represented a significant proportion of overall open space, with the sole site (Cherry Orchard Country Park) accounting for c.12% of all assessed open space. Although only accounting for 0.69% of the overall area of open space provision, play and youth provision sites are well-distributed across the District, with 39 sites. The small nature of most play spaces means these spaces perform a more significant function than their land coverage alone suggests (see paragraph 4.11 below for further information). Other categories with the lowest provision included Allotments, Parks and Gardens, and Civic Spaces. Many aspects of formal parks and gardens are classified under, for example, Outdoor Sports Facilities due to the inherited structure from the 2009 Study. Several such sites, such as King George V Playing Field, could have been alternatively classified as parks.

Table 8: Open Space Quantity Summary

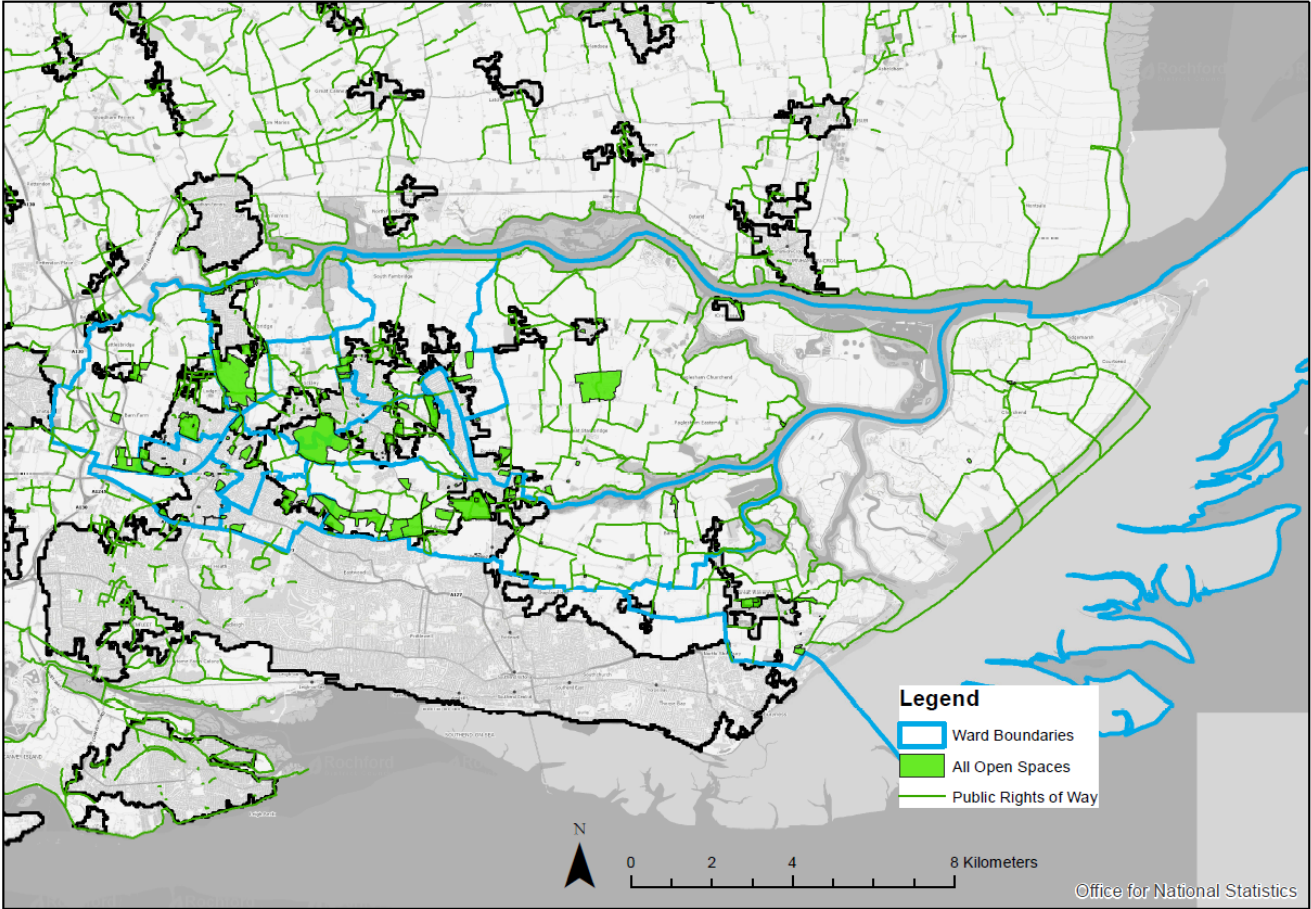
Typology	No. of Sites	Area (ha)	Proportion of Total Assessed Open Space (%)	Proportion of District Land Mass (%)
Parks and Gardens	3	2	0.3	0.01
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	26	255	36	1.38
Recreation & Outdoor Sports Facilities	48	304	43	1.64
Amenity Greenspace	44	25	3.6	0.14
Play Space and Provision for Young People	39	5	0.7	0.03
Allotments	10	11.4	1.6	0.06
Country Park	2 (individual sites within 1 overall site)	83	12	0.44
Civic Space	1	0.05	0.007	0.0003
Cemetery and Churchyards	18	22	3.2	0.12

Total	218	707	100	3.82
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Distribution of Open Space across the District

- 4.3 This section uses GIS maps to indicate how the District’s various open spaces are distributed spatially, with the polygons plotted on the map. Ward boundaries are included for reference. As many of the open spaces are very small, please also refer to the Accessibility section (Section 5), which provides an indication of how much of the District (and its constituent settlements) is within reasonable walking distance of various types of open spaces.
- 4.4 Generally, there is an uneven distribution of open spaces across the District, with Map 3 below showing all assessed open spaces across Rochford District (shown in green). As can be seen, spaces are concentrated in the West and Centre of the District, generally close to the main population centres of Rayleigh, Hockley, Hawkwell and Rochford. The East of the District, which contains relatively fewer settlements and residents, has far fewer sites. Factors explaining this include these areas containing a large amount of private farmland (which, whilst generally open and green is not publicly accessible), and the considerable portion of the District occupied by Ministry of Defence sites north-east of Great Wakering, which have severely restricted access. See the Accessibility section for further detail on distribution and accessibility of open space by typology.
- 4.5 The map also plots all Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) in the District, according to Essex County Council’s Definitive Record. PRoWs provide an important role in linking together the District’s settlements and various open spaces and other sites (e.g., Local Wildlife Sites and SSSIs) and play a crucial role in allowing communities to access open space and its wide range of benefits. In addition, they are also often green corridors in their own right, surrounded by vegetation and enabling greater recreation and biodiversity along their routes. The map shows that PRoWs are widespread across much of the District and play a key role in linking nearby and adjacent green spaces into a more coherent network. This is seen in the Upper Roach Valley, where PRoWs connect important sites such as Hockley Woods, Grove Woods, and Cherry Orchard Country Park, to the District’s main settlements of Rochford, Rayleigh, and Hockley. In the north and east of the District, where there is a smaller amount of open space, PRoWs help compensate for this by facilitating access to important coastal areas and nature reserves, including the Roach and Crouch Estuaries, and Wallasea Island.

Map 3: Distribution of Open Spaces and PRow across Rochford District

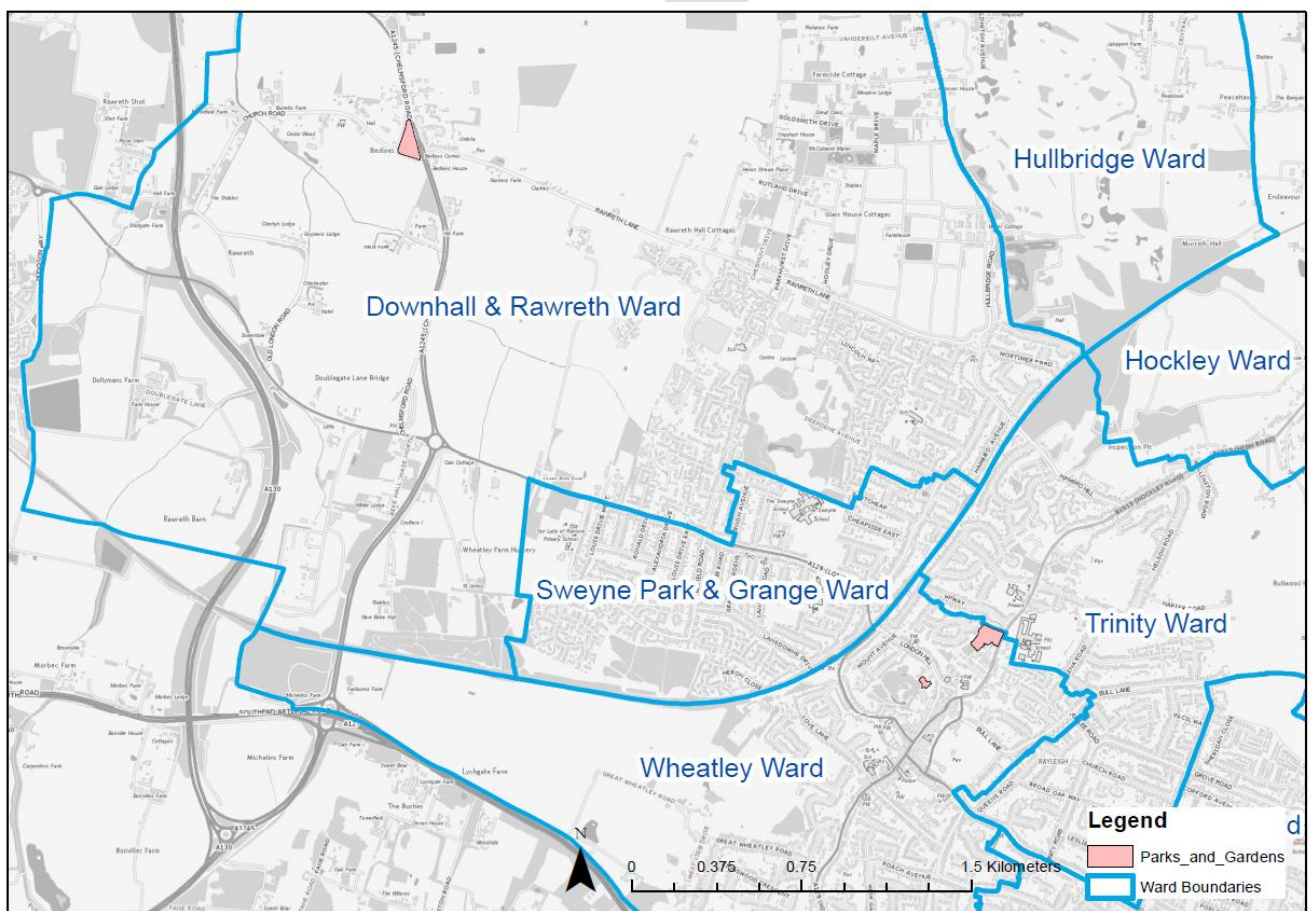


Distribution of Open Spaces across the District by Typology

Parks and Gardens

4.6 With only 3 spaces in this category (see paragraph 4.2 for further explanation), this typology has a limited distribution, focused in the west of the District, particularly central Rayleigh, where Windmill Gardens and Brooklands Public gardens are in proximity to each other, and Rayleigh Town Centre. The remaining site, Bedloes Corner, is in Rawreth.

Map 4: Distribution of Parks & Gardens

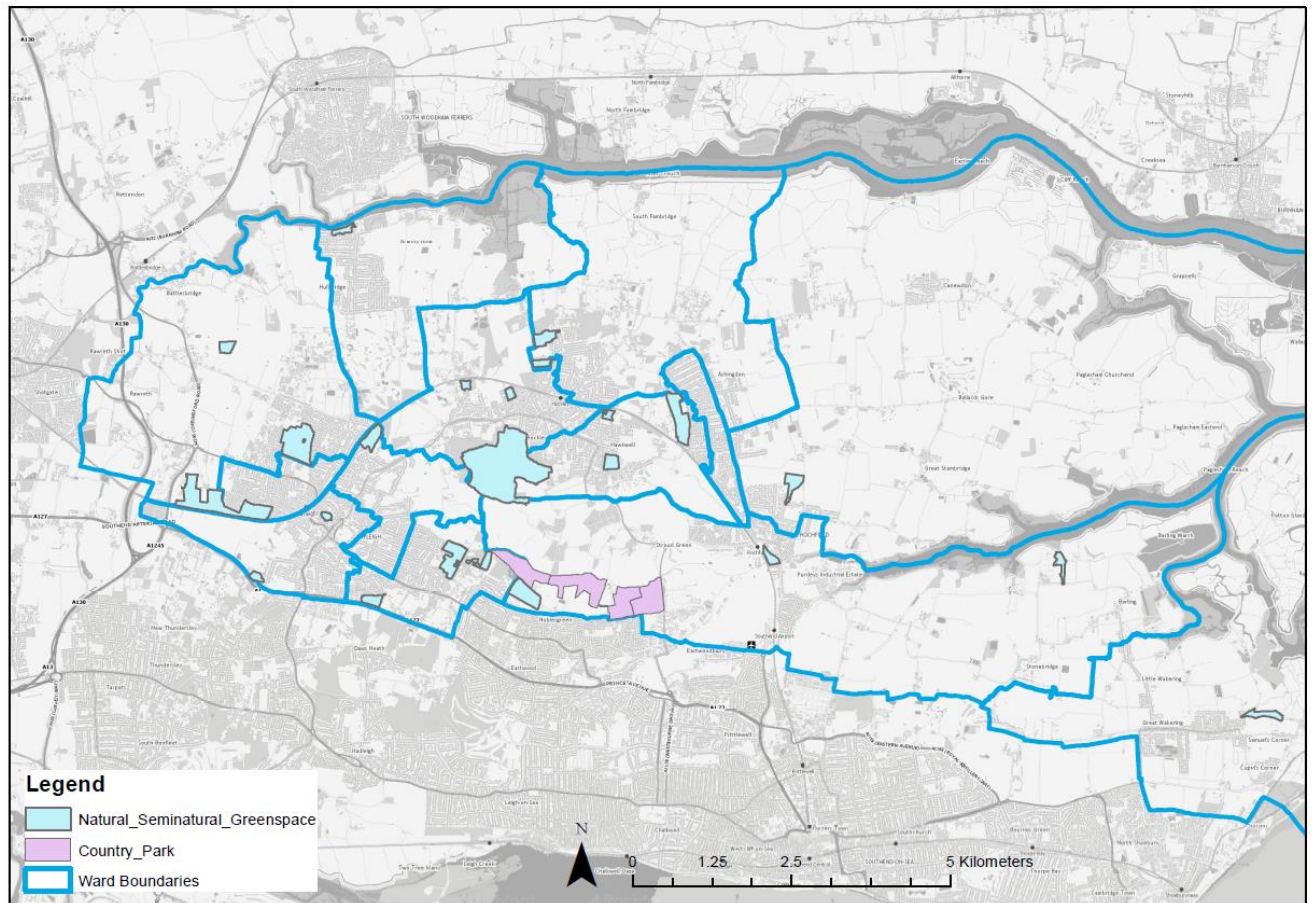


Natural/Semi-natural Greenspace and Country Parks

4.7 As shown below in Map 5, spaces in this typology are found in particular in the west and centre of the District, focused on Rayleigh, Hockley and the Upper Roach Valley. The Cherry Orchard Country Park has also been included in this map, as it shares many of the characteristics of a natural/semi-natural greenspace. Together with the other sites and PRowS in the Upper Roach Valley, it forms part of a strong network of open and green space with a distinct rural character.

- 4.8 PRoWs are instrumental in connecting Natural/semi-natural greenspace into a wider network of related spaces and to surrounding communities, particularly around the Upper Roach Valley, but also in sites such as Wakering Common or sites to the north of Hockley.

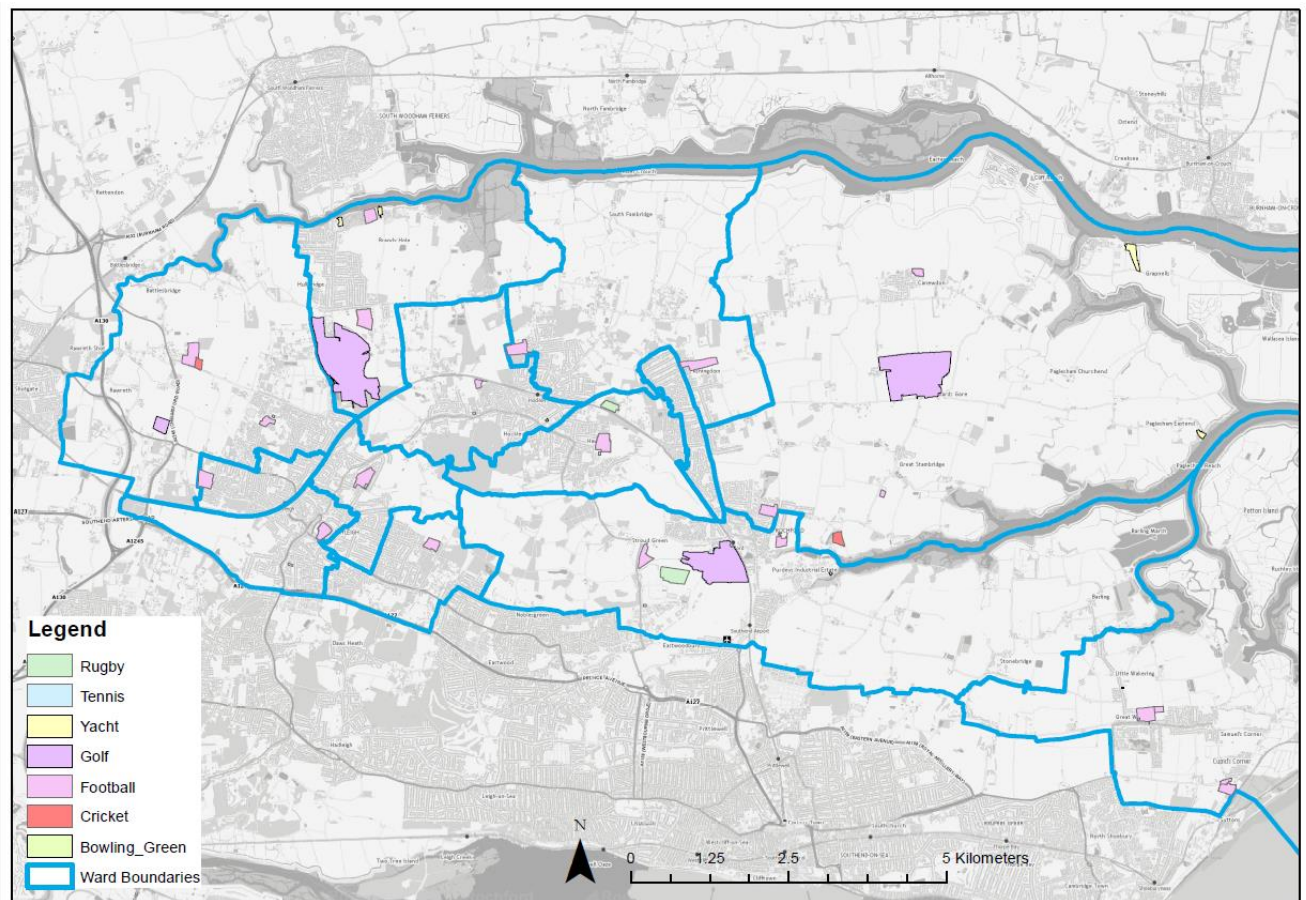
Map 5: Distribution of Natural/semi-natural Greenspace and Country Parks



Sports & Recreation

- 4.9 As with other typologies, many of these spaces tend to be found in or close to more populated residential areas. However, as many of these uses require a significant amount of space (e.g., golf, cricket, football or rugby), spaces are often found on the fringes of settlements such as Rayleigh and Rochford, or in the surrounding Green Belts. Whilst the more sparsely populated eastern part of the District has fewer facilities, Great and Little Wakering have a notable cluster. Yacht facilities are also found on the District’s main waterways - the River Crouch and River Roach.
- 4.10 For breakdowns of individual sports and recreation subcategories, their distribution and accessibility, please refer to the ‘Findings of Accessibility Study’ section, commencing at Section 5.

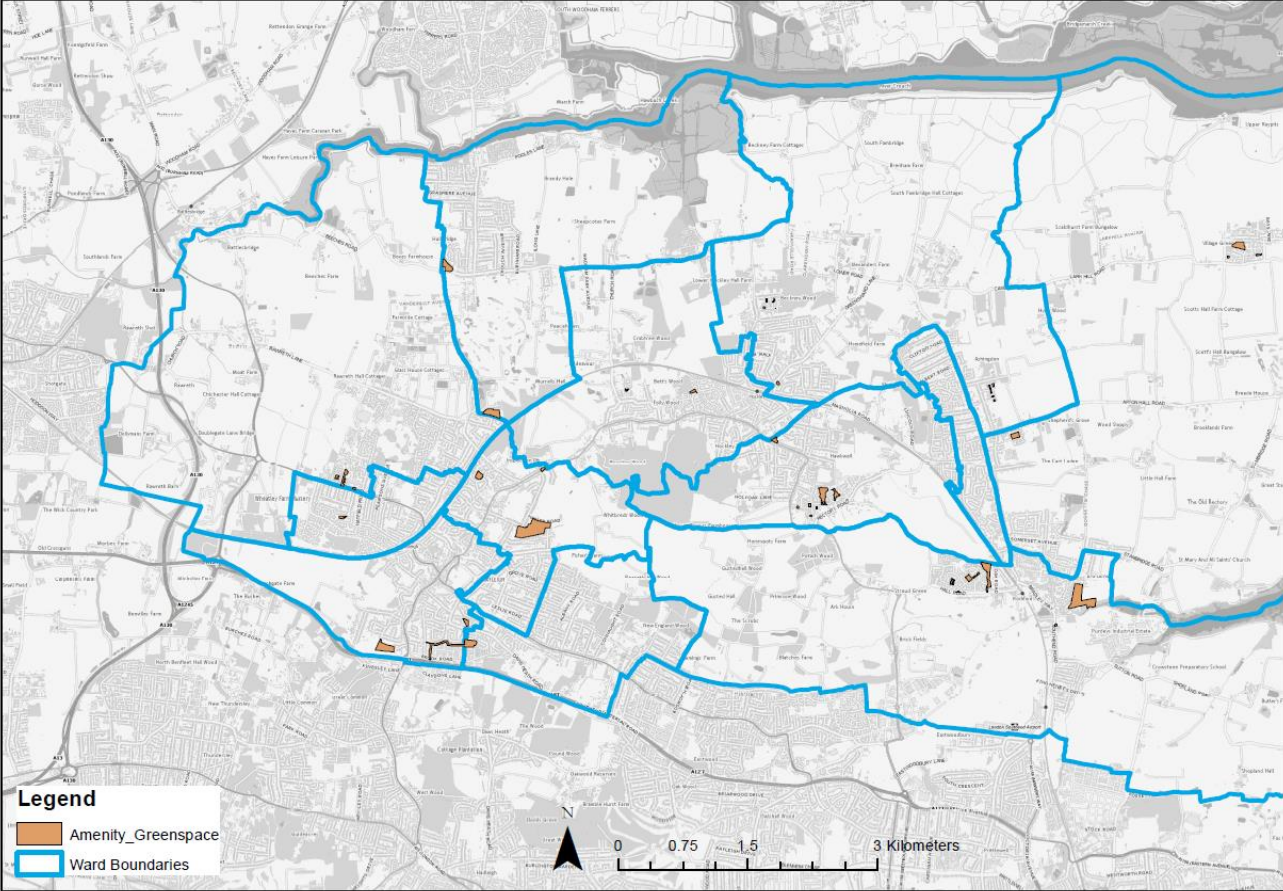
Map 6: Distribution of Sports & Recreation Typologies



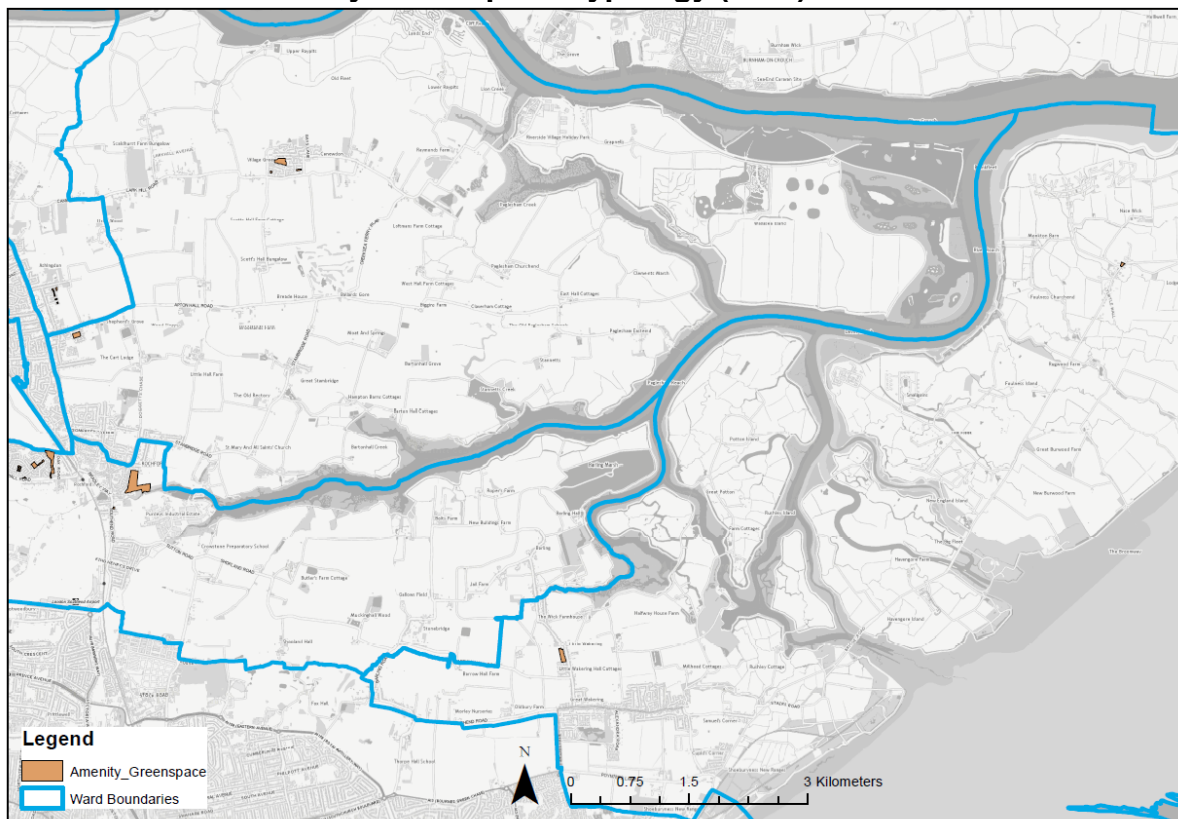
Amenity Greenspace

Maps 7 and 8 show the distribution of amenity greenspace, shaded in purple. With typical spaces in this category tending to be small in nature, two maps have been used to make this more visible. Sites are typically found in suburban areas, such as Rochford, Rayleigh, Ashingdon and Hawkwell, and are often included in modern residential developments, e.g., Hall Road, Rochford and Christmas Tree Farm, Rayleigh. There are some larger notable spaces bordering rural areas, such as Turret House Open Space or Hollytree Gardens, Rayleigh or Little Wakering Road Open Space, Little Wakering.

Map 7: Distribution of Amenity Greenspace Typology (West)



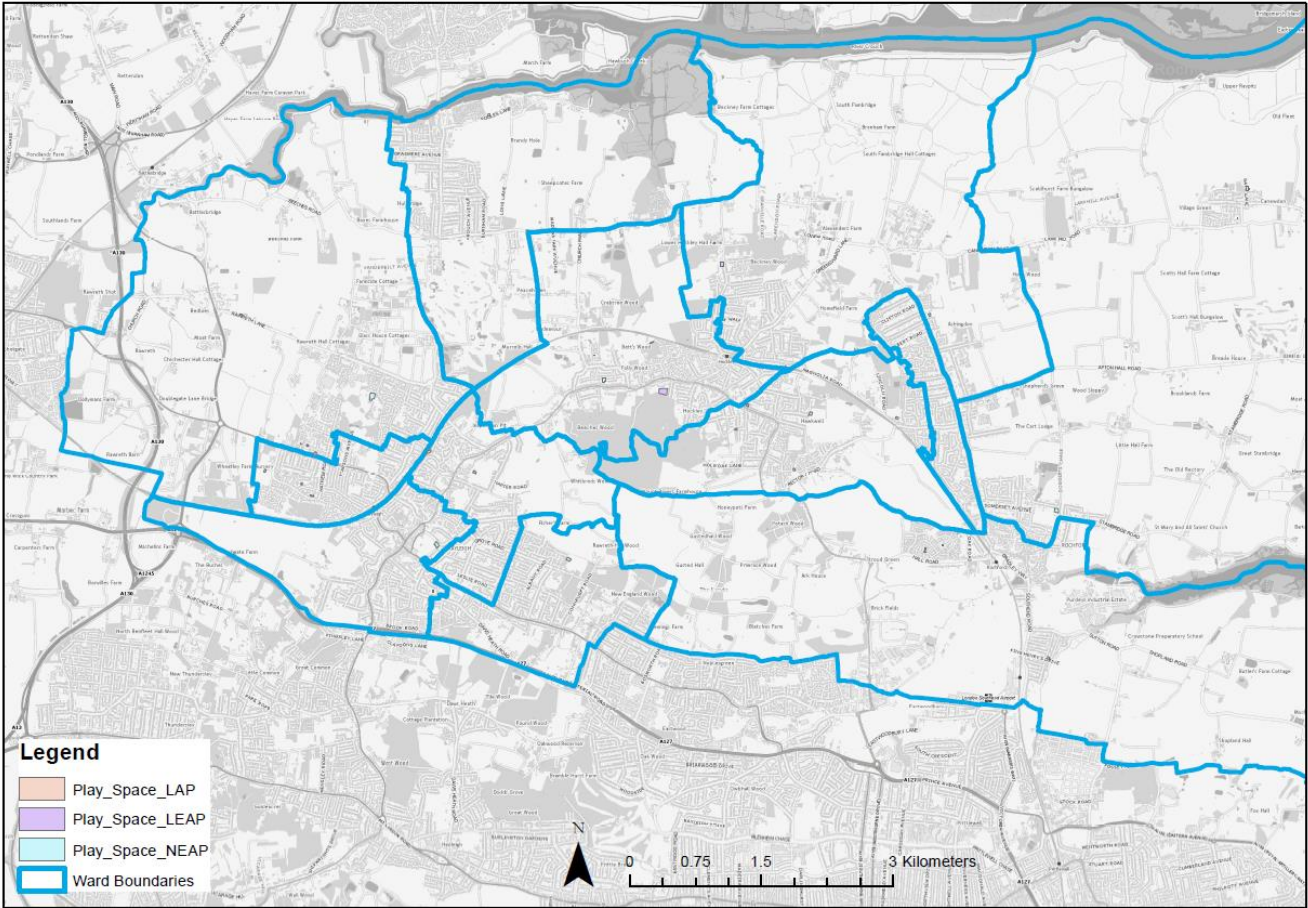
Map 8: Distribution of Amenity Greenspace Typology (East)



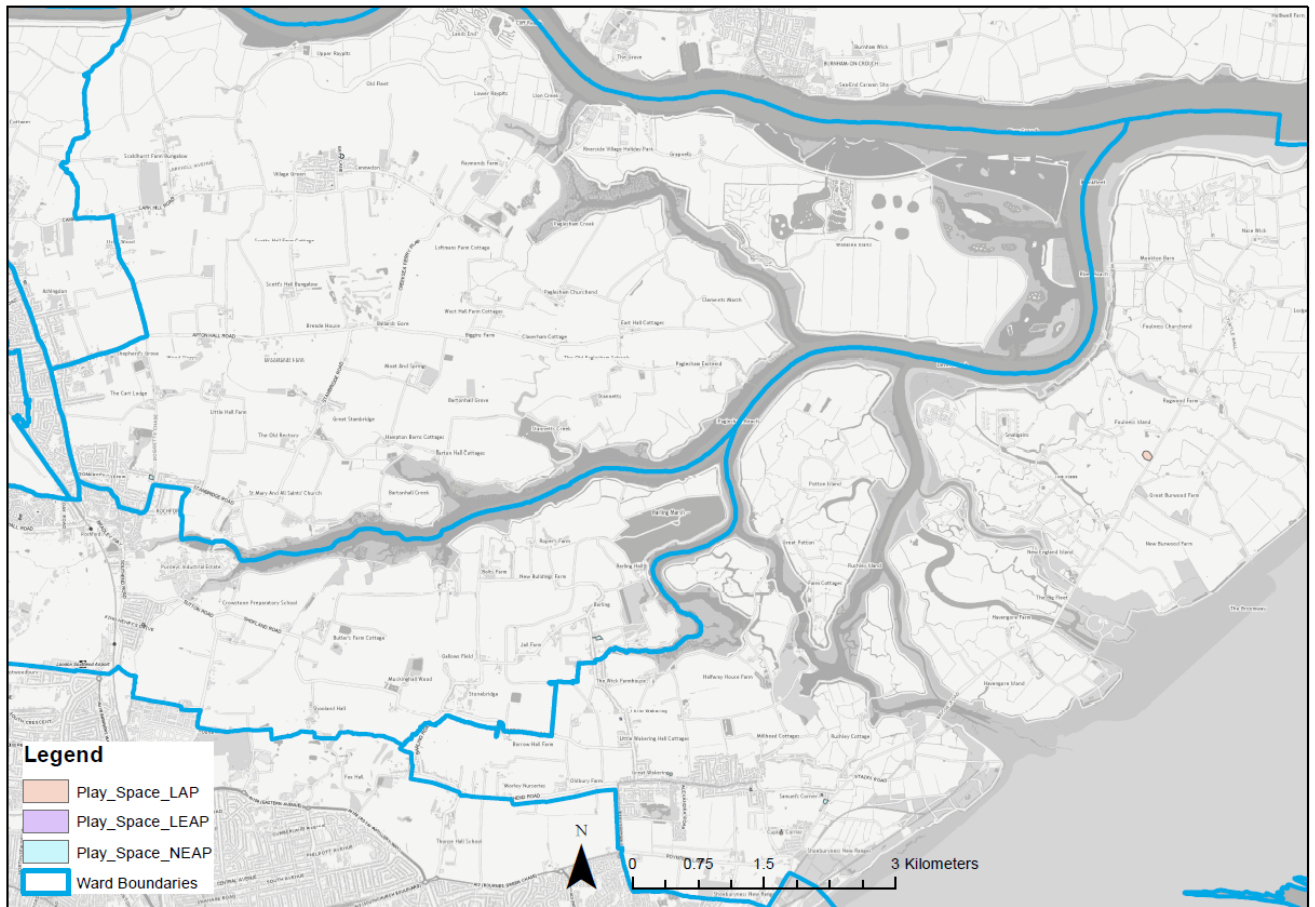
Play Spaces

4.11 Play Spaces are well-distributed across the District, with these more evident in the District’s urban areas of Rayleigh, Rochford and Hockley. Due to its lower population density, there are fewer spaces in the District’s East, although Great Wakering (including its outlying areas of Samuels Corner and Cupids Corner) is well provided for. A number of smaller villages do not have access to play facilities (e.g., Paglesham, Battlesbridge and South Fambridge), whilst some larger areas do not as many facilities as might be expected (e.g., Hullbridge, Central Rochford or Eastern Rayleigh). Whilst Great Stambridge does not appear to have a play space, its football ground has play facilities which compensate for this. The maps below indicate distribution – access points are marked on the map due to the small size of the spaces themselves.

Map 9: Distribution of Play Spaces in Rochford District (West)



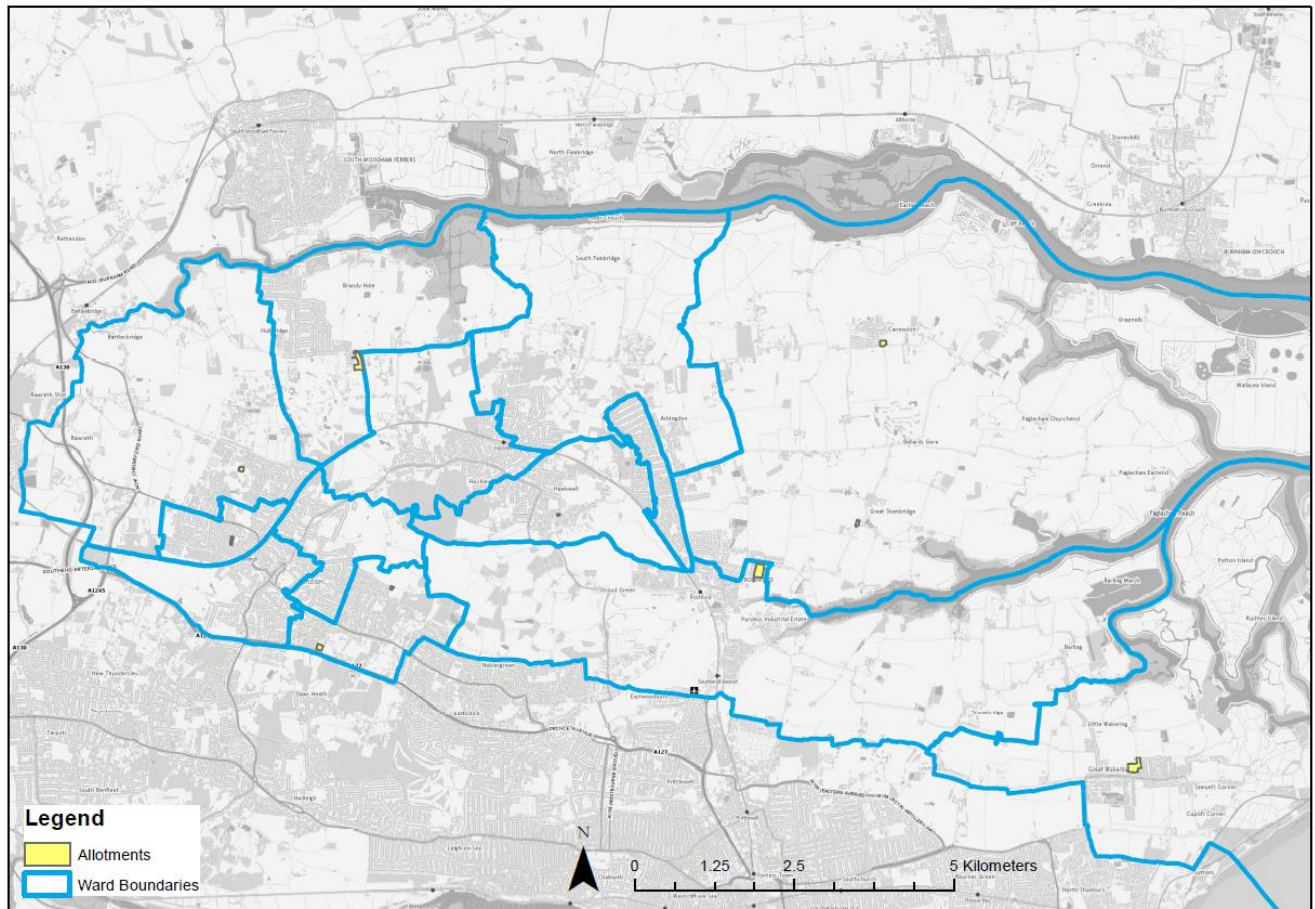
Map 10: Distribution of Play Spaces in Rochford District (East)



Allotments

4.12 Allotments are distributed fairly evenly across the District’s main settlements (see Map 11), with the exception of Hockley. Whilst Hockley itself does not have any allotment provision, neighbouring settlements of Hawkwell and Hullbridge contain sites which may provide some of this need.

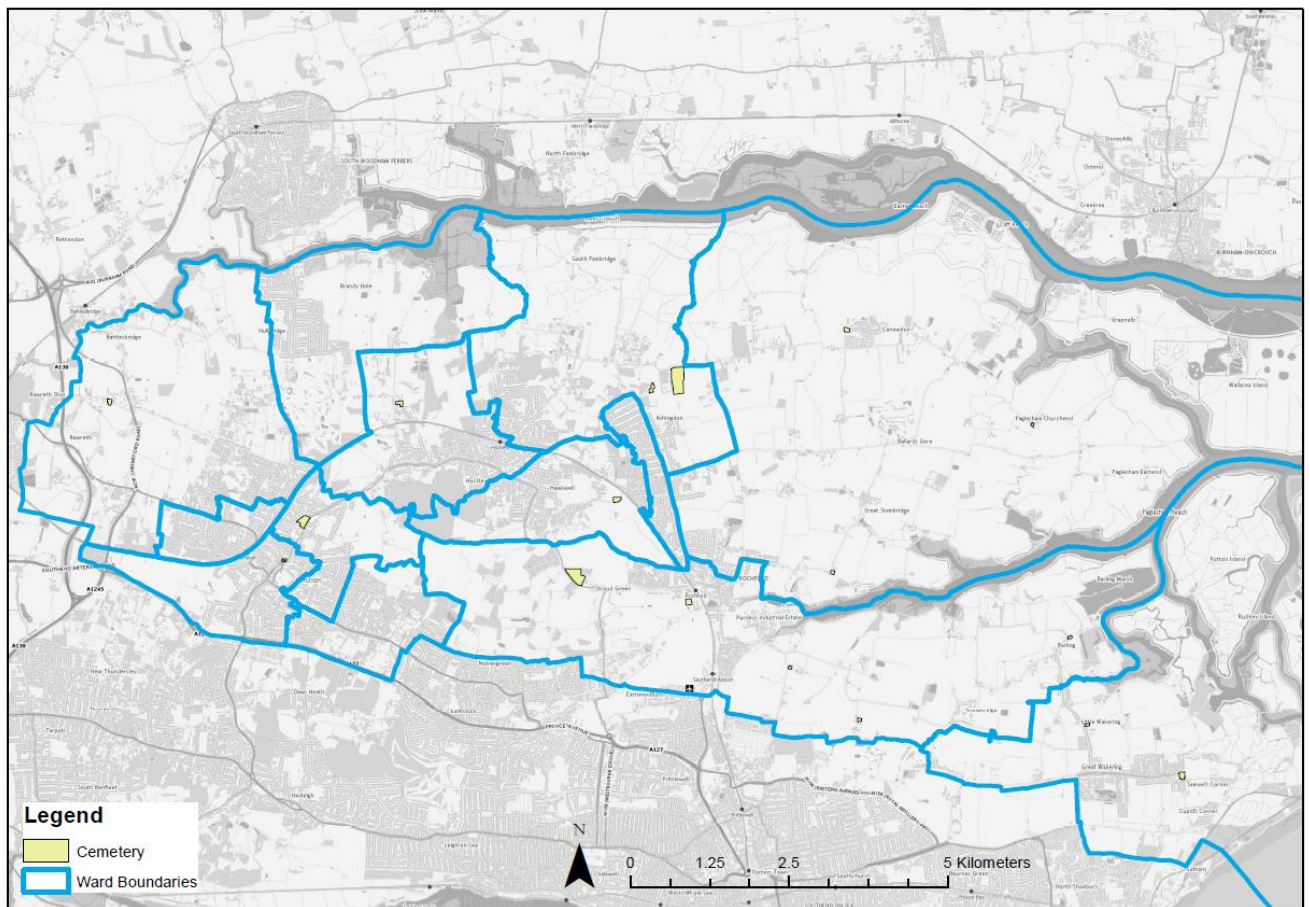
Map 11: Distribution of Allotment sites across the District



Cemeteries & Churchyards

- 4.13 As shown below in Map 12, these spaces are well-distributed across the entirety of the District, reflecting the historical fact that most settlements have a parish church. Consequently, in more isolated areas churchyards are often one of the few pieces of publicly accessible open space, e.g., Sutton, Shopland, Paglesham and Foulness. The larger active cemeteries of Hall Road, Rayleigh and Thorndon Meadows mean provision is skewed towards the west and centre of the District.
- 4.14 Whilst churchyards and cemeteries have been identified and mapped where known, no quantity or access standard for provision will be set, as it is outside the scope of this study to make recommendations related to requirements for new provision.

Map 12: Distribution of Cemeteries & Churchyards



Assessed Open Space Land Cover by Ward

4.15 The total area of open space in each ward is set out below in Table 9. Roche South, Hullbridge and Hockley wards have the highest amount of open space (164.6 ha, 101.3ha and 98.6ha respectively) of open space, accounting for more than half of the total open space assessed in Rochford District. These wards contain some of the District’s largest open spaces, including Hockley Woods⁴⁹ (92.5ha), Cherry Orchard Country Park (83 ha), The Rayleigh Club (golf) (81.5 ha), and Rochford Hundred Golf Club (42 ha). At the other end of the scale, Hawkwell East (0 ha) Sweyne Park & Grange (6 ha) wards contained the least amount of open space. Hawkwell East is a dense urban area with tightly drawn boundaries that do not take any open spaces (although a number are situated a short distance away in neighbouring wards).

49 Note – Hockley Woods falls across both Hockley and Hawkwell West wards. However, given most of the space’s area and the principal access and facilities fall within Hockley ward, for the purposes of the study it is counted entirely as being in this ward.

Sweyne Park & Grange is a geographically small ward that predominantly covers urban areas and adjoins substantial open spaces in neighbouring wards.

- 4.16 Further breakdown of the types of open spaces in each ward can be found in Appendix C.

Table 9: Open Space Quantity by Ward

Ward	Area (ha)	Proportion of Total Assessed Open Space (%)	Proportion of District Land Mass (%)
Downhall & Rawreth	46.2	6.5	0.25
Foulness & The Wakerings	24.6	3.5	0.13
Hawkwell East	0	0.0	0.00
Hawkwell West	35.5	5.0	0.19
Hockley	98.6	14.0	0.53
Hockley & Ashingdon	32.5	4.6	0.18
Hullbridge	101.3	14.3	0.55
Lodge	32.9	4.7	0.18
Roche North & Rural	92.4	13.0	0.50
Roche South	164.6	23.3	0.89
Sweyne Park & Grange	6.3	0.9	0.03
Trinity	21.4	3.0	0.12
Wheatley	50.7	7.2	0.27
Total	706.5	100	3.82

Open Space Provision by Population (Hectare per 1000) District Wide

- 4.17 The population projections for the District have been applied to show the current (as of 2019⁵⁰) and future (2040) provision in Hectares per 1000 Population as set out below in Table 10. The future provision calculation assumes very little change in the total area of open space in the District, therefore only demonstrates the change in provision due to population growth, and not due to changes in the amount of open space.

⁵⁰ Mid 2019 Population Estimates (ONS,2020)

- 4.18 Current provision is approximately 8 Hectares per 1000 Population, and future provision is slightly over 7 Hectares per 1000, based on the government's ONS population projections. Rochford District's population is set to increase by 12.5% by 2040⁵¹. Assuming no additional open space is provided, this will result in the overall provision of open space falling from 8.09 hectares per 1,000 in 2020 to 7.19 hectares per 1,000 by 2040. To provide the same level of open space provision for the population, the total amount of open space in the District would need to increase from 706.5ha to 794.8ha of open space provision, requiring creation of an **additional 88.3ha** of open space.

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51 Mid 2019 Population Estimates (ONS,2020)

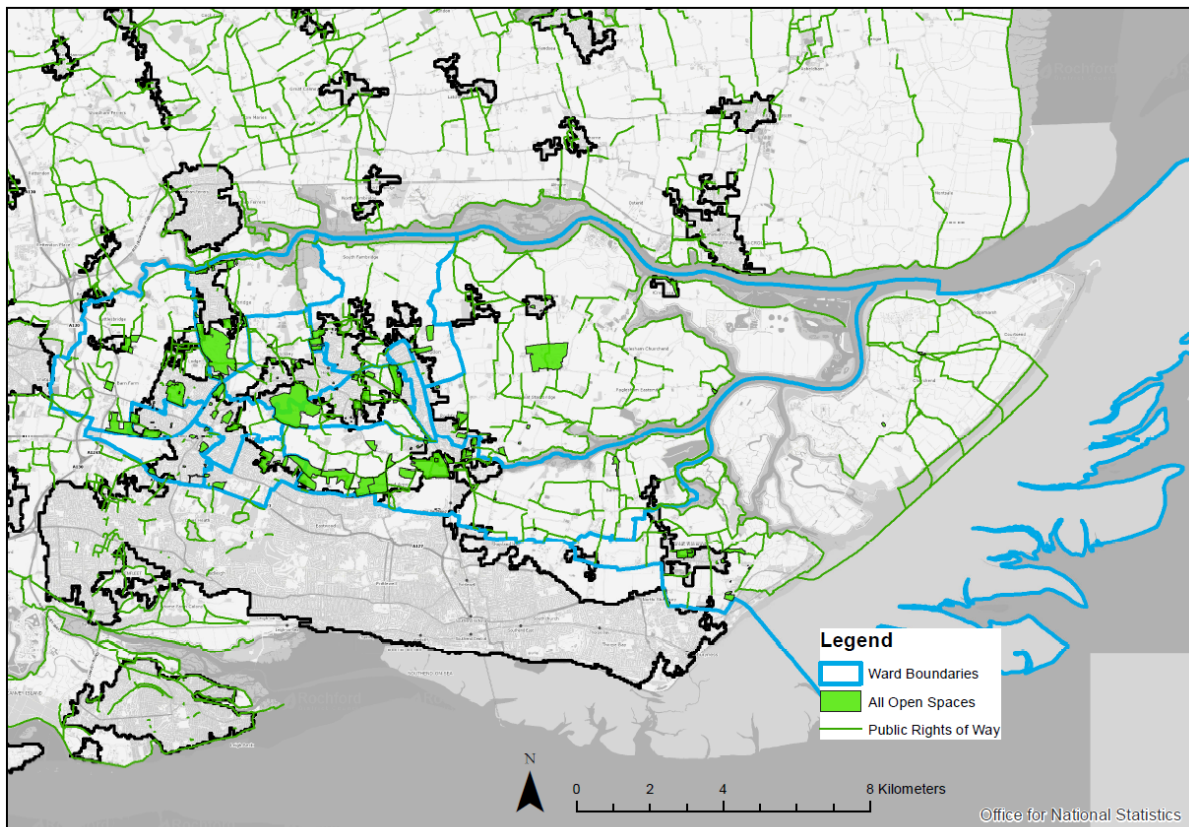
Table 10: Open Space Provision by Population

Population Projection	Current Population (2019)	Current Population Provision (Ha/1000)	Future population (2040)	Future Population Provision (Ha/1000)
ONS Population projection	87,368	8.09	98,289	7.19

Open Space provision by Population (Hectare per 1000) by Ward

- 4.19 The ONS population projections are available at ward level, therefore they have been applied for current (2019) and future (2040) population projections as set out below in Table 11.
- 4.20 When viewed on a map, the wards with the lowest current provision per 1000 population are concentrated in Ashingdon, Barling and Great Wakering in the east of the District, as well as in the Rayleigh area, in Sweyne Park & Grange, and Trinity wards. The wards with the highest provision are located to the west and mid District including Hullbridge, Hockley, Roche North & Rural, and Wheatley wards. It is important to note that many wards with low provision lie near to significant open space in adjoining wards, so the Accessibility chapter of this report, including GIS data and maps, gives a better idea of the geographical coverage of the various types of open space (see paragraphs 6.8 onwards).

Map 13: Rochford Ward Map detailing distribution of open spaces



- 4.21 The figures in Table 11 also show the percentage change (increase or decrease) in open space provision by ward, indicating the pattern of population change across the District. All wards had an increase in population with most wards showing a decrease in hectare per 1000 population of open space provision.
- 4.22 The wards which already have the lowest provision *and* are showing the biggest percentage of decrease in open space provision are:
- **Hockley & Ashingdon**
 - **Lodge**
 - **Sweyne Park & Grange**
- 4.23 Bold text in the table shows those wards with:
- **Current provision above the District wide 8 hectares per 1000**
 - **Future provision above the District wide 7.35 hectares per 1000**
 - **Future change in provision which stays the same**
- 4.24 As shown in the table, four wards currently have open space provision per 1000 population above the District-wide average. This will continue to be the case in 2040, although population growth will have reduced the provision per 1000 population. Given the population growth projections, all wards are expected to face significant pressure upon their existing open spaces if no additional future provision is made.

Table 11: Open Space Provision by Ward Population

Ward	Current Population provision 2019 (Ha/1000)	Future Population Provision 2040 (Ha/1000)	% Change in Open Space provision
Downhall & Rawreth	6.45	5.74	-9
Foulness & The Wakerings	3.49	3.10	-9
Hawkwell East	0	0	0
Hawkwell West	5.18	4.61	-10
Hockley	15.5	13.76	-9
Hockley & Ashingdon	4.79	4.26	-8
Hullbridge	15.4	13.72	-9
Lodge	4.73	4.21	-9
Roche North & Rural	13.42	11.93	-11
Roche South	26.92	23.93	-9
Sweyne Park & Grange	0.944	0.84	-9
Trinity	3.03	2.70	-7
Wheatley	7.53	6.69	-9

- 4.25 Since the last Open Space Study in 2009, further open spaces have been enabled through new housing developments within the Rochford District. These comprise recently completed developments as well as those still under construction at the time of compiling this study. There are also further open spaces planned within proposed developments going through the planning process. A total of 85.96ha since 2009 have been enabled through the planning process, of which 75.85ha of open space is still under construction. Table 12 below sets out recently enabled and future proposed open spaces. In addition, a further 0.43ha of allotments have been delivered by Stambridge Parish Council, making a total of 86.39ha of new space.

Table 12: Recent and Planned Open Spaces from Housing Development since 2009

Housing Development	Ward	Open Space Type	Ha	Status
Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Play Space (LAP)	0.06	Completed
Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity (west)	1.19	Completed
Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity (East)	0.41	Completed
Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Allotments	0.11	Completed
Paddocks Close, Canewdon	Roche North & Rural	Amenity	0.05	Completed
Stambridge Allotments	Roche North & Rural	Allotments	0.43	Completed
Folly Grove, Hockley	Hockley	Play Space (LAP)	0.03	Completed
Folly Grove, Hockley	Hockley	Amenity	0.06	Completed
Folly Grove, Hockley	Hockley	Natural / Semi-natural	1.86	Completed
Highwell Gardens, Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity	0.06	Completed
Claremont Crescent, Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Play Space (LAP)	0.01	Completed
Claremont Crescent, Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Amenity	0.15	Completed
Shetland Cresent, Ashindon	Roche North & Rural	Amenity (inc. attenuation basin)	0.53	Completed
High Elms Park, Hullbridge (Land to the West of Hullbridge)	Hullbridge	Amenity	0.4	Under construction
High Elms Park, Hullbridge (Land to the West of Hullbridge)	Hullbridge	Natural / Semi-natural green space	3.6	Under construction
High Elms Park, Hullbridge (Land to the West of Hullbridge)	Hullbridge	Play Space (2 x LAPs & 1 x LEAP) / Youth facilities	0.08	Under construction
Victory Lane (Trafalgar Green), Ashingdon	Hockley & Ashingdon	Amenity	0.15	Completed
Alfred Gardens, Hall Road, Rochford	Roche South	Amenity	0.13	Completed (site still under construction)
Alfred Gardens, Hall Road, Rochford	Roche South	Play Space (LEAP)	0.04	Completed (site still under construction)
Balancing Ponds & Green Ribbon, Hall Road, Rochford	Roche South	Amenity	1.49	Completed (site still under construction)
Charles Crescent, Adjacent Hall Road, Rochford	Roche South	Amenity	0.04	Completed (site still under construction)

Edward Place, Hall Road, Rochford	Roche South	Amenity	0.13	Completed (site still under construction)
Hall Road (west of site), Rochford	Roche South	Amenity	4	Under Construction
Etheldore Avenue, Hockley	Hockley & Ashingdon	Amenity	0.06	Completed
Nelson Road, Ashingdon	Hockley & Ashingdon	Amenity	0.04	Completed
Victoria Gardens, Hall Road, Rochford	Roche South	Play Space (LAP)	0.01	Completed (site still under construction)
Victoria Gardens, Hall Road, Rochford	Roche South	Amenity	0.34	Completed (site still under construction)
Wood Lane & Wood Avenue, Hockley	Hockley & Ashingdon	Amenity	0.11	Completed
Thorpe Road / Aaron Close, Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity	0.11	completed
Thorpe Road, Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity	0.03	Completed
Primrose Place, off Beehive Lane, Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity	0.03	Completed
Land Between Star Lane and Alexandra Road, South of High Street, Great Wakering	Foulness & The Wakerings	Natural / Semi-natural green space	1.275	Under construction (access points)
Land Between Star Lane and Alexandra Road, South of High Street, Great Wakering	Foulness & The Wakerings	Amenity (informal space for recreation)	0.2	Under construction
Land West of Little Wakering Road, and South of Barrow Hall Road, Little Waker	Foulness & The Wakerings	Amenity (recreation) / inc. of play space (LEAP)	1.32	Under construction
Land West of Little Wakering Road, and South of Barrow Hall Road, Little Waker	Foulness & The Wakerings	Play space (LAP)	0.03	Under construction
Site of Bullwood Hall, Bullwood Hall Lane, Hockley	Hockley	Amenity (informal recreation)	9.5	Under construction
Site of Bullwood Hall, Bullwood Hall Lane, Hockley	Hockley	Natural / Semi-natural green space	6.7	Under construction (access points)
Land North of London Road West of Rawreth Industrial Estate, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Allotments	0.3	Under construction
Land North of London Road West of Rawreth Industrial Estate, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Outdoor sports & recreation	1.61	Under construction

Land North of London Road West of Rawreth Industrial Estate, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Park land open space	15.87	Under construction
Land North of London Road West of Rawreth Industrial Estate, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Amenity inc. of play space (LEAP)	0.69 (0.07)	Under construction
Land North of London Road West of Rawreth Industrial Estate, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Informal open space	7.24	Under construction
Land North of London Road West of Rawreth Industrial Estate, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Natural / semi-natural green space	23	Under construction
		Total ha enabled since 2009	85.96	

4.26 The ONS population projections for current (2018) and future (2040) populations were also applied to the open space typologies as set out below in Table 13.

Table 13: Open Space Provision by Typology at District Level

Typology	Current Population Provision (Ha/1000)	Future Population Provision (Ha/1000)
Parks and Gardens	0.02	0.02
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	2.92	2.6
Recreation & Outdoor Sports Facilities	3.48	3.09
Amenity Greenspaces	0.29	0.26
Play Spaces & Provision for Young People	0.06	0.05
Allotments	0.13	0.12
Country Park	0.94	0.84
Civic Space	0.001	0.001
Cemetery and Churchyards	0.26	0.23
Total	8.09	7.2

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

- 4.27 Fields in Trust⁵² recommended standard for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace is of 1.80ha per 1,000 population. The current provision is 2.92ha per 1,000 of the population, which exceeds this recommended level.

Parks and Gardens

- 4.28 Fields in Trust recommended standard for Parks and Gardens is 0.80ha per 1,000 of the population. The current provision is 0.02ha per 1,000 of the population which falls far below the recommended level. However, it should be noted that, due to the structure inherited from the 2009 Open Space Study, many multi-use parks and recreation grounds in the District were assessed according to their primary use (e.g., football or cricket), but in reality constitute full parks with a range of recreational and amenity uses, including formal gardens. Examples include King George V Playing Field, Rayleigh; King George Playing Field, Ashingdon; Canewdon Park,; and Great Wakering Recreation Ground. Some of the larger Amenity Greenspaces (e.g., Millview Meadows, Rochford) could also be seen as parks or gardens in their own right.

Amenity Green Space

- 4.29 Fields in Trust recommended standard for Amenity Greenspace is for 0.60ha per 1,000 of the population. The current provision is 0.29ha per 1,000 of the population, which falls below the recommended level. As with Parks and Gardens above, it should be noted that recreation grounds in the District can provide amenity uses which offsets the perceived under provision of amenity green space.

Play Spaces and Provision for Young People

- 4.30 Fields in Trust recommended standard for Play Spaces and Provision for Young People is 0.25ha per 1,000 of the population. The current provision is 0.06ha per 1,000 of the population, which falls below the recommended level.

Allotments

- 4.31 Fields in Trust recommended standard for Allotment provision is 0.3ha⁵³ per 1,000 of the population. The National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) recommend a minimum of 0.21ha per 1,000 of the population. The current provision is 0.13ha per 1,000 of the population, which falls below the recommended levels. Please refer to Appendix A for a full overview of benchmark standards for allotments.

Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities

- 4.32 Fields in Trust recommended standard for Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities provision is 1.60ha per 1,000 of the population. The current provision is 3.48ha per 1,000 of the population, which exceeds the recommended level. This overprovision of

52 <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/guidance>

53 This figure is from the Fit survey findings – see Additional Information on Allotment Standards

recreation and outdoor sports facilities offsets the under provision seen in parks and gardens, and amenity open space.

Country Parks, Civic Space and, Cemeteries and Churchyards

- 4.33 There are no national benchmark standards for the provision of Country Parks, Civic Space or Cemeteries and Churchyards, however, the ANGSt benchmark standard recommends at least one 100ha site within 5km or 300m (5-minute walk from a public open space⁵⁴) of an urban area.

5 Findings of Quality Assessment

- 5.1 A total of 171 sites were selected for an open space quality assessment based on criteria identified in the open space audit method. 166 sites were audited in the survey, the 5 sites which were not audited were where the site was privately owned and no longer existed or had ceased operation (Hockley Golf Range, Trenders Avenue Football Ground and Brandy Hole Yacht Club) or were inaccessible (MOD Play Space, Foulness Island) at the time of the survey. Cemeteries and Churchyards were excluded from the quality survey, although they are acknowledged for their contribution to communities. Table 14 below, shows a comparison of typologies which were surveyed and the quality scored using a scoring system aligned to Green Flag criteria.

Table 14: Open Space Quality Audit Results

	Excellent (90+%)	Very Good (80-89%)	Good (70-79%)	Fair (50 - 69%)	Poor (0 - 49%)	Total
Parks and Gardens	0	1	2	0	0	3
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	2	6	8	8	1	25
Recreation & Outdoor Sports Facilities	14	7	13	13	1	48
Amenity Greenspaces	7	14	9	8	1	39
Play Spaces & Provision for Young People	11	12	4	9	2	38
Allotments	0	0	3	6	0	9

54 <https://www.southessexplan.co.uk/south-essex-plan/what-is-the-evidence-base>

Country Park	0	0	3	0	0	3
Civic Space	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	35	40	42	43	5	165
Proportion of Open Space Audits %	21	24	25	26	3	100

5.2 The quality score ranged between 20% (Poor) (Betts Wood former Play Space, Westminster Drive, Hockley and South West of Causton Way former Play Space, Rayleigh) and 95% (Excellent) as detailed below:

- Laburnum Grove Play Space and Provision for Young People, Hockley
- Ferry Road Natural / Semi-Natural Greenspace, Hullbridge
- Lower Road Cricket and Football Grounds, Hullbridge
- Bedford Close Play Space and Amenity Space, Rayleigh
- Watchfield Lane Tennis Courts, Rayleigh
- Priory Chase Tennis Courts, Rayleigh
- King George V Bowling Green, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh
- Christmas Tree Crescent Play Space and Amenity Space, Hawkwell
- Highwell Gardens Amenity Space, Hawkwell
- Alfred Gardens Amenity Space, Hall Road, Rochford
- Bellingham Lane Civic Space, Rayleigh

The average score for sites that scored Very Good was 83%, Good 73%, and Fair 59%. Further detail on each open space typology is detailed below.

Parks and Gardens

5.3 3 sites were surveyed across the District, with an average score of 77% (Good). 2 of the sites were in Rayleigh, and 1 in Rawreth. These are listed below by their quality score, as assessed according to the quality criteria outlined above in Table 6.

Table 15: Quality Scores for Spaces in the Parks & Gardens Typology

Site	Open Space Quality Score	Open Space Quality Grade
------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Windmill Gardens, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh	85%	Very Good
Brooklands Public Gardens, Hockley Road, Rayleigh	75%	Good
Bedloes Corner, Chelmsford Road, Rawreth	70%	Good

5.4 All sites scored relatively well, containing seating, lighting, decorative planting and public realm. Sites were well-maintained and safe and easily accessible, with the exception of Bedloes Corner. Bedloes Corner, Chelmsford Road, Rawreth was found to be the lowest scoring site with 70% (Good), and Windmill Gardens, off Bellingham Lane was found to be the highest scoring 85% (Very Good). Example images showing the spaces in the Parks & Garden category according to their quality grades are shown below.



Figure 15: 'excellent' quality open space (Windmill Gardens, Rayleigh)



Figure 16: 'good' quality open space (Bedloes Corner, Rawreth)

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

5.5 25 sites were surveyed across the District, with an average score of 70% (Good). This category covers a wide range of sites, including several nature reserves and woodlands, the largest and most notable of which is Hockley Woods. It also includes green spaces which are more urban in nature and serve as a 'green lung' for nearby communities, e.g., Sweyne Park, Rayleigh, Rayleigh Mount, or Rochford Reservoir. The extent to which sites are predominantly for nature conservation or shared with other uses (e.g., playgrounds, fishing lakes or archaeological sites) also varies. 36% of sites were assessed to be appropriate to designate as Local Green Spaces, reflecting the importance many of these sites play in providing spaces for wildlife, tranquillity, and heritage for local communities.

- 5.6 Within this broad group, 2 were graded 'Excellent'; 6 as 'Very Good'; 8 as 'Good'; 8 as 'Fair'; and 1 as 'Poor'. Sites scoring in the highest grades tended to be accessible by car, foot, and public transport, have legible networks of footpaths and signs, exhibit well-protected natural environments and include useful amenities such as benches, picnic tables, interpretation boards, bins and play spaces. Poorer-scoring sites were often isolated and felt harder to access or less safe, e.g., Land off Rawreth Lane Playfield Field, Rayleigh or Hambro Hill Open Space, Rayleigh). They also often had either few public amenities (e.g., Wheatley Wood, Rayleigh) or had issues regarding their cleanliness or maintenance (e.g., Doggetts Wildlife Area, Rochford). Kendal Park Nature Reserve, Hullbridge received the highest quality score with 95% (Excellent), whilst Hambro Hill Open Space, Rayleigh was the lowest scoring site with 45% (Poor).

Example images showing the spaces in the Natural/Semi-natural Greenspace category according to their quality grades are shown below.

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Figure 17: example of 'excellent' quality open space (Kendal Park)



Figure 18: example of 'very good' quality open space (Hockley Woods)



Figure 19: 'very good' quality open space (Sweyne Park, Rayleigh)



Figure 20: 'good' quality open space (Wakering Common)



Figure 21: 'fair' quality open space (Doggetts Wildlife Area, Rochford)



Figure 22: 'poor' quality open space (Hambro Hill Open Space, Rayleigh)

Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities

5.7 48 sites were surveyed across the District, with an average score of 76% (Good), making this one of the largest typologies surveyed. Within this large group, a disparate range of facilities were surveyed, ranging from football to yachting and therefore making it difficult to compare like-for-like, and easier to compare Quality scores within sub-categories. This typology covered both publicly-owned/operated sites (e.g. playing fields and leisure centre facilities) and a range of privately-owned sites, including sizeable golf clubs. It is important to acknowledge that, whilst spaces in this category provide a range of high-quality facilities, the degree to which they are accessible to the general public varies considerably. 31% were deemed appropriate to list as Local Green Spaces, with the majority having limited public access and therefore not suitable.

Within this category, 13 (27%) were graded ‘Excellent’; 7 (15%) as ‘Very Good’; 15 (31%) as ‘Good’; 12 (25%) as ‘Fair’; and 1 (2%) as ‘Poor’. Sites scoring in the highest two gradings tended to be sites which shared common themes such as modern facilities, good lighting, high standards of security and maintenance, seating for spectators, easy access for cars and other means of transport, and ancillary services on-site (e.g., clubhouses, bars or specialist equipment shops). Of the 20 spaces rated as ‘Excellent’ or ‘Very Good’, only 25% were publicly operated, indicating that private sporting clubs are often able to invest more in their facilities and upkeep. Those sites scoring ‘Fair’ or ‘Poor’ often had few or older facilities, were poorly located or suffered from vandalism or maintenance issues.

5.8 5 sites were found to have the highest score of 95%, as detailed below:

- **Hullbridge Sports and Social Club Cricket and Football Grounds**
- **Rayleigh Tennis Club Tennis Courts**
- **Rayleigh Leisure Centre Tennis Courts**
- **King George V Playing Fields Bowling Green**

5.9 The lowest scoring site was Rocheway Football Ground, Rochford with a score of 45% (Poor). The images below give a snapshot into some of the spaces surveyed and their quality grading:



Figure 23: ‘excellent’ quality open space (King George V Bowling Green, Rayleigh)



Figure 24: ‘excellent’ quality open space (Rochford Hundred Golf Club)



Figure 25: ‘very good’ quality open space (Westcliff Rugby Club, Rochford)



Figure 26: ‘good’ quality open space (Stambridge Memorial Ground)



Figure 27: 'fair' quality open space (Canewdon Cricket Ground)



Figure 28: 'fair' quality open space (Rawreth Lane Playing Field)



Figure 29: 'poor' quality open space (Former Adult Education Centre, Rochford)

Amenity Greenspace

5.10 39 sites were surveyed across the District, with an average score of 72.5%. Of these, 7 (18%) were graded 'Excellent'; 14 (36%) 'Very Good'; 9 (23%) as 'Good'; 8 (21%) as 'Fair'; and 1 (3%) as 'Poor'. The highest-scoring sites tend to be at the heart of the community they serve, feel very safe and well-lit, be well-maintained, contain attractive trees and vegetation and feature additional amenities such as bins and benches (or adjacent play spaces). Those scoring 'Fair' or 'Poor' had few amenities, felt secluded/unsafe and often exhibited signs of vandalism or neglect. It is worth noting that 14 sites delivered since the previous 2009 study, as part of new housing developments, scored 'Excellent' or 'Good'. 15% of sites were considered suitable for Local Green Space designation, with the low figure likely due to the very small size of many sites. The 4 highest scoring sites with 95% (Excellent) are detailed below. The lowest scoring site was Millview Meadows Open space, Rochford with 45% (Poor):

- **Bedford Close, Rayleigh**
- **Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell**

- Highwell Gardens, Hawkwell
- Alfred Gardens, Hall Road, Rochford

Examples of sites of varying qualities are shown below.



Figure 30: 'excellent' quality open space (Highwell Gardens, Hawkwell)



Figure 31: 'excellent' quality open space (Claremont Crescent, Rayleigh)



Figure 32: 'very good' quality open space (Broad Parade, Hockley)



Figure 33: 'good' quality open space (Woodlands Avenue, Rayleigh)



Figure 34: 'fair' quality open space (Buckingham Road, Hockley)



Figure 35: 'poor' quality open space (Millview Meadows, Rochford)

Allotments

- 5.11 9⁵⁵ sites were surveyed across the District, with an average score of 66% (Fair). Higher-scoring sites were those with facilities such as parking, secure fencing, proximity to local communities, noticeboards and sometimes on-site facilities such as shops. Lower Wyburns, Rayleigh and Rocheway, Rochford Allotments were the highest scoring sites with a score of 75% (Good). Lower Road Allotment site, Hullbridge was the lowest scoring site with a score of 55% (Fair).

The images below show examples of spaces by quality grade.



Figure 36: 'good' quality open space (Lower Wyburns, Rayleigh)



Figure 37: 'fair' quality open space (Little Wakering Hall Road, Great Wakering)

Play Spaces and Provision for Young People

- 5.12 38 sites were surveyed across the District, with an average score of 71% (Good). The survey covered sites of a range of sizes and ages, with some being very recently refurbished. Although most sites were owned and operated by the District or Parish/Town councils, a number were operated by Sanctuary Housing or by private management companies on newer housing developments. Although play spaces generally contained a range of play equipment, this varied from site to site, depending on site size, type of play space, age of equipment and whether a council or other party owned/operated the space. In particular, the equipment range found in Neighbourhood-Equipped Play Areas (NEAPs) varied, with a range of recreational facilities including teen shelters, basketball courts, mini football, mountain biking/BMX courses, various skill-based games and skate parks all being associated with this type.
- 5.13 The highest scoring play spaces shared common themes such as a range of high-quality, modern equipment in good working order, with no maintenance issues or vandalism observed. They were also in sites which afforded good visibility and a sense of security, were easily accessible from local communities, and which had

⁵⁵ A 10th site, Stambridge Allotments, was added at a later stage in the process, therefore a site visit and quality assessment is not available.

additional facilities such as benches, bins, and picnic tables. Those which were graded lower often had a poor choice of equipment, equipment which was old/in poor condition, or with few additional amenities. In lower-scoring spaces, common themes included spaces being isolated, difficult to access, secluded or with poor visibility from surrounding streets or properties, and such sites tended to suffer from antisocial behaviour such as littering, graffiti and vandalism as a result. In a couple of cases, sites were locked and inaccessible, meaning local residents would have to travel elsewhere.

- 5.14 15 (39%) sites were considered appropriate for Local Green Space status – in all cases this was where the play space formed part of a larger park or recreation ground and enhanced its benefits for the local community.
- 5.15 Of the 38 sites surveyed, 11 (29%) were graded as ‘Excellent’, 12 (32%) as ‘Very Good’, 4 (11%) as ‘Good’, 9 (24%) as ‘Fair’, and 2 (5%) as ‘Poor’. Laburnum Grove, Hockley and Bedford Close, Rayleigh were found to have the highest scores of 95% (Excellent). The lowest scoring sites were Betts Wood, Westminster Drive, Hockley with 45% (Poor) and South-west of Causton Way, Rayleigh with 20% (Poor). Both sites were inaccessible at time of survey due to no play equipment on site (Betts Wood) and locked gate with site appearing unmaintained (South-west of Causton Way). Of sites currently in use, 3 scored 50% (Fair), with these as follows:
- Seaview Drive, Great Wakering (LAP)
 - Morrins Close, Great Wakering (NEAP)
 - Land between 394-398 Little Wakering Rd, Barling (NEAP)
- 5.16 An evaluation of the scores by play space type found that neighbourhood play spaces and facilities scored the highest, as illustrated below in Table 16.

Table 16: Play Space Type Summary

Type of Play Space*	Number of Play Spaces Surveyed	Average Score (%)
LAP (Local Area for Play (and informal recreation))	10	68
LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play and informal recreation))	13	77
NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (and informal recreation, and provision for children and young people))	15	78
Total	38	75 (Good)

* Fields in Trust Play Space categories

The images below show examples of various play spaces according to their quality grading:



Figure 38: 'excellent' quality open space (Hockley Woods)



Figure 39: 'very good' quality open space (Great Wakering Recreation Ground)



Figure 40: 'good' quality open space (Pooles Lane, Hullbridge)



Figure 41: 'fair' quality open space (Seaview Drive, Great Wakering)



Figure 42: 'fair' quality open space (Little Wakering Road, Barling)



Figure 43: 'poor' quality open space (Causton Way, Rayleigh)

5.17 The 2 sites comprising Cherry Orchard Country Park were surveyed, with a score of 75% (Good). Overall, the country park is a vital green space for the district, and an important asset for both the local population and in supporting and enhancing the

natural environment. It was highlighted for its range of natural landscapes and for its accessibility, being relatively close to major population centres and transport routes despite feeling very rural and having a good network of paths and bridleways connecting with nearby sites such as Hockley Woods and Grove Woods. It was also assessed to feel safe and had an active 'friends' group, helping with its care and maintenance. However, there were some areas in which improvements could be made, such as the lake, in which unauthorised fishing activities and associated litter were observed. In addition, whilst many paths and boundaries were in excellent condition, others were in disrepair and needed attention. It was also noted that for a site of its size it could host more facilities to both cater for existing visitors and widen its appeal (e.g., toilets, refreshments, or a visitor centre with an educational programme). This would bring it more closely in line with other comparable country parks within Essex.

DRAFT



Figure 44: country park offers high quality natural landscapes



Figure 45: parts of the country park offer excellent quality signage and pathways, aiding accessibility



Figure 46: unauthorised fishing has degraded areas around the lake.



Figure 47: some areas need maintenance.

Civic Space

- 5.18 1 site was surveyed, with a score of 95% (Excellent). This site is located off Bellingham Lane in proximity to Rayleigh High Street, within the Rayleigh settlement. The site performs a useful role in hosting civic ceremonies and acts as a small green amenity area with seating but is a very small area and makes a limited overall contribution to open space in the District.



Figure 48: The sole assessed civic space is of good quality, but plays a minor role

6 Findings of Accessibility Assessment

- 6.1 As stated in the NPPF, para 98⁵⁶, “access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities”. Consequently, this study seeks to comprehensively map accessibility across the Rochford District, specifically how walkable open spaces are to their local communities.
- 6.2 The Rochford District has a reasonable distribution of Public Open Space, with approximately 75% of the urban area being within Natural England’s ANGSt standard of 300m (5-minute walk) from a Public Open Space⁵⁷.

Fields in Trust (FiT) recommend an accessibility standard as detailed below in Figure 49.

Figure 49: Fields in Trust⁵⁸ recommended accessibility standards

Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities: 1,200m walking distance

Play Spaces and Provision for Young People:

LAPS -100m walking distance

LEAPS - 400m walking distance

NEAPS – 1,000m walking distance

Parks and Gardens: 710m walking distance

Amenity Greenspace: 480m walking distance

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace 720m walking distance

Other Outdoor Provision: 700m walking distance

⁵⁶ NPPF, 2021

⁵⁷ <https://www.southessexplan.co.uk/south-essex-plan/what-is-the-evidence-base>

⁵⁸ <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/guidance>

- 6.3 The FIT accessibility standards were plotted using GIS to map accessibility to open space across Rochford District, plotting radii to provide an indicative picture of walkability to open spaces. Accessibility has been mapped in 3 ways: for all spaces District-wide; by individual settlement; and by each individual open space typology. Note that accessibility radii are plotted against identified access points to open spaces to give a more accurate reflection of how realistic it is to walk to an open space. 1-3 maps are used to plot spaces across the District, depending on the level of granularity required to analyse specific site typologies.
- 6.4 Whilst walking should be encouraged as the most sustainable way of accessing the District’s open spaces, an important consideration is that many visitors, particularly to sports facilities, are likely to bring equipment with them that emphasises the need for a vehicle. This is particularly the case for activities such as golf and yachting.
- 6.5 It should be noted that whilst the GIS maps plot the accessibility radii and how these extend beyond Rochford District, they do not consider sites in neighbouring districts and boroughs. Therefore, areas close to boundaries with Basildon, Castle Point, Chelmsford, and Southend-on-Sea may in fact benefit from walking access to sites in those areas. Similarly, sites within Rochford District may be accessible from communities in neighbouring local authority areas.
- 6.6 It is also important to note that many of the District’s open spaces are likely to appeal to visitors and users beyond the locality and District, particularly in the case of both larger open spaces (e.g., country parks) and private sports facilities such as golf and rugby, many of which also serve the urban population of Southend-on-Sea, where there is comparatively less open space for such facilities. Trips from outside the District involve greater distances and are therefore more likely to involve travel by private car, particularly when no high-frequency public transport links are sited close to the open spaces in question.
- 6.7 From the assessment of open space quantity and accessibility, and the review of existing local and national standards, Table 17 sets out recommended quantity and access standards for future provision in the Rochford District. These standards are proposed for minimum guidance. Certain areas in the Rochford District may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards but this does not mean there is a surplus, as all such provision may be well used.

Table 17: Recommended Quantity and Access Standards for Future Provision in the Rochford District

Typology	Quantity standards for assessing existing provision and requirements for new provision (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.30	720 metres or 15 minutes’ walk time

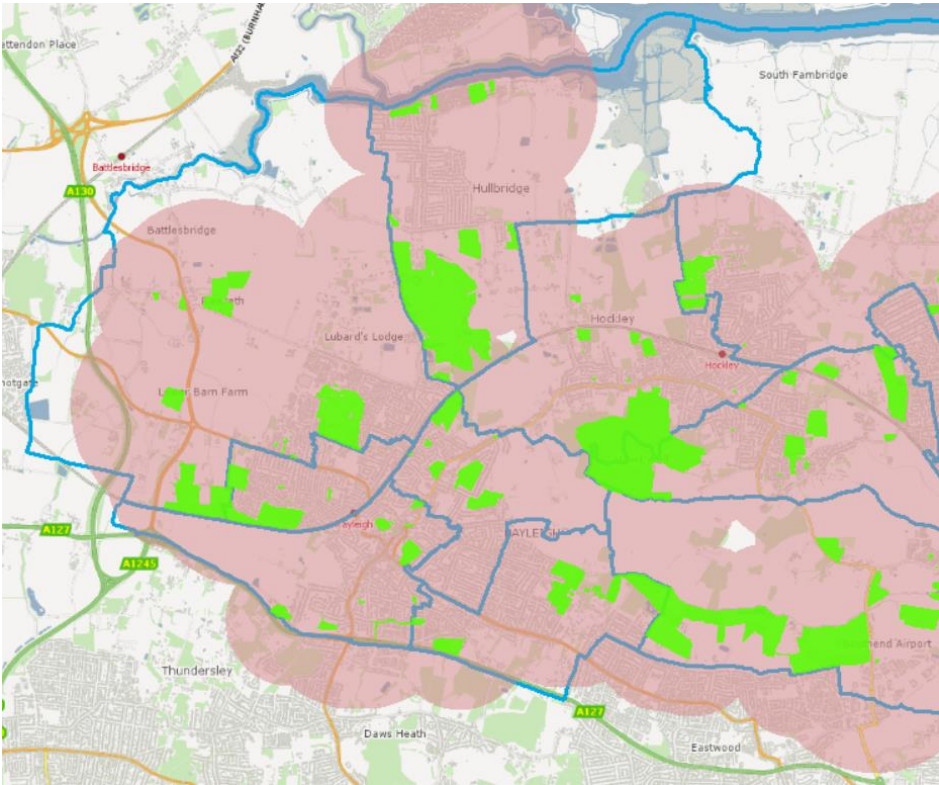
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.15 ha)	0.70	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Park and recreations Grounds (public and private combined)	1.70	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	0.05	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	0.05	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	1.0	920 metres or 20 minutes' walk time ANGst Standards

District-wide Accessibility

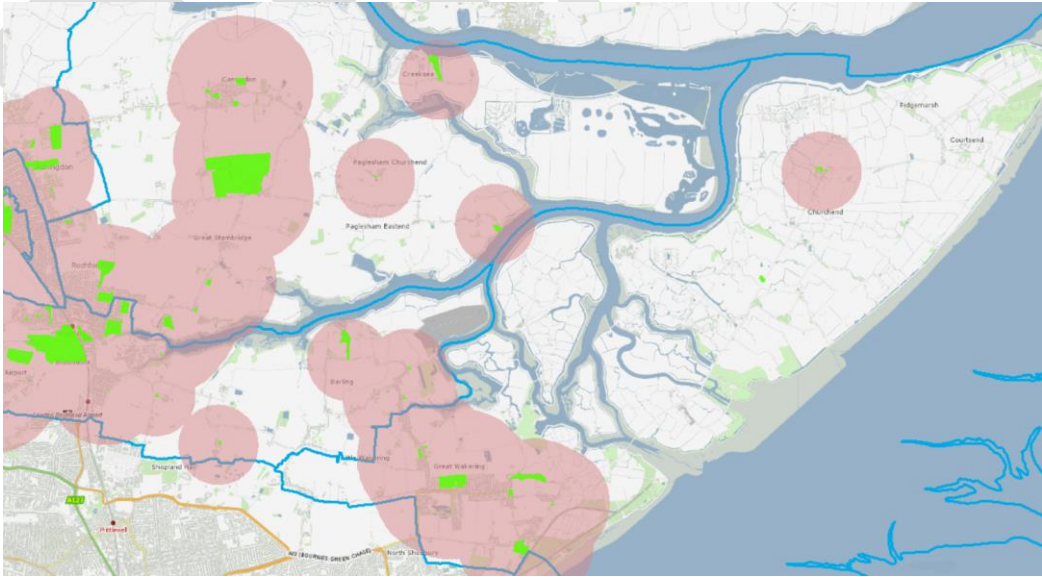
All Open Spaces

- 6.8 When considering all open spaces across the District, most settlements are within walking distance of at least one space, (see Maps 14 & 15). It should be acknowledged, however, that this analysis does not consider the accessibility of individual sites to all members of the public (see paragraphs 3.31, 5.7 and 6.10 for further detail).
- 6.9 Despite the generally good walking accessibility when viewed as a whole, there are still pockets of settlement which are not afforded any walking access to open space in the District. These include the village of South Fambridge, hamlets of Battlesbridge (south of the River Crouch) and Stonebridge. In addition, outlying areas of Canewdon, Ashingdon, Paglesham and Foulness are not within walking distance of spaces, despite the main body of the settlement having accessibility.

Map 14: Accessibility of All Open Spaces across Rochford District (West & Central) – red colouring indicates walkable to at least one open space based on standards



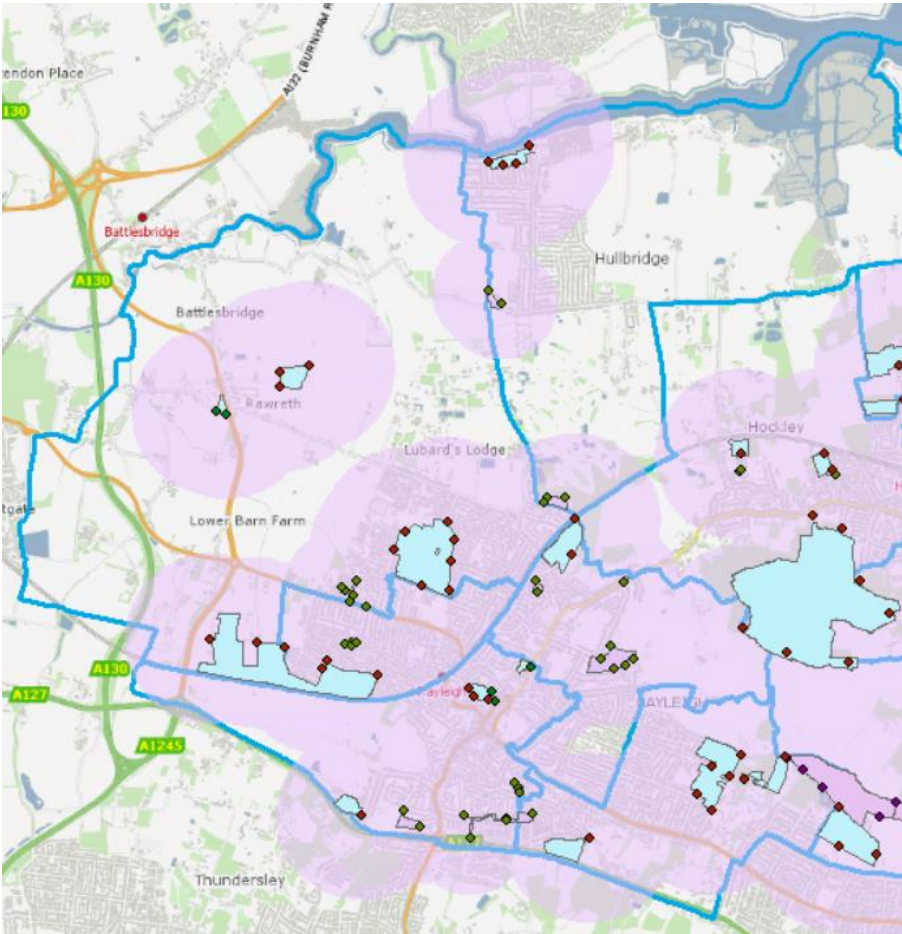
Map 15: Accessibility of All Open Spaces across Rochford District (East) - red colouring indicates walkable to at least one open space based on standards



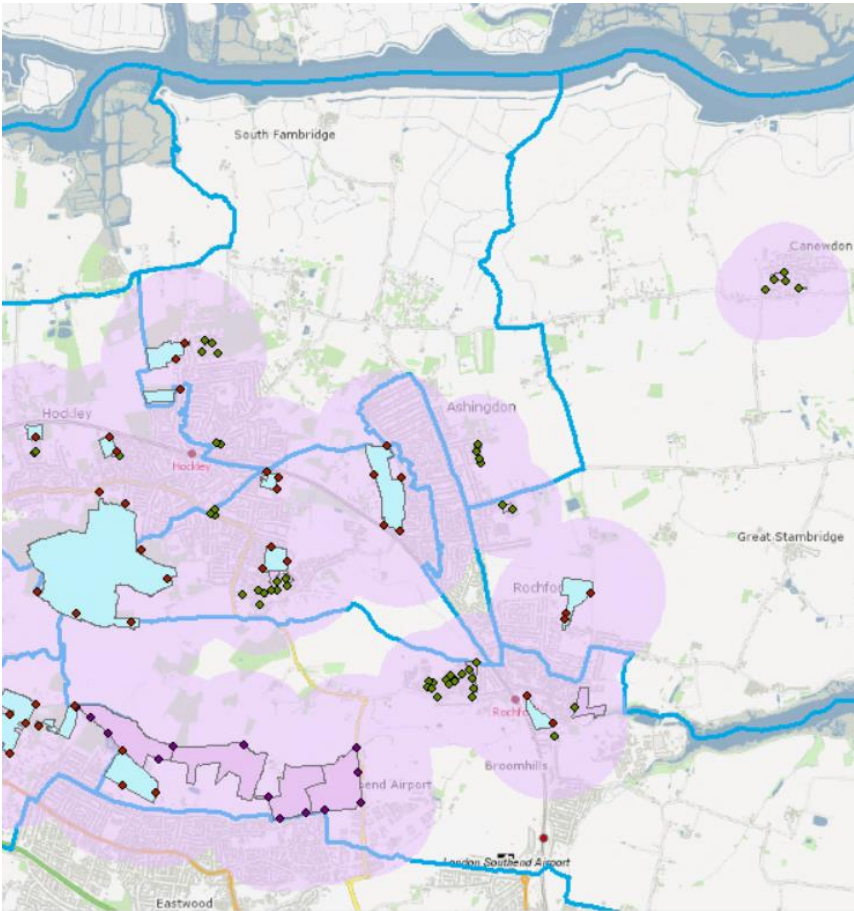
Publicly Accessible Open Spaces

- 6.10 The maps below have plotted the locations of several open space typologies, their access points and walkability radii. These comprise Natural/semi-natural Greenspace, Parks & Gardens, Amenity Greenspace and Civic Space. The purpose of these maps is to analyse the accessibility of sites which are considered important to the general public for amenity and recreation, without the need to belong to a private facility or to actively be a participant in a sport or recreational pastime. It also omits play spaces, which are specifically dedicated to children’s play, and cemeteries/graveyards which, whilst providing some amenity, are predominantly focused on the burial of dead. This allows a picture to be painted of where this general public interest provision is concentrated, and where there are deficiencies which might be addressed by future policy interventions or engagement with developers.
- 6.11 However, for reasons outlined regarding the primary designation of some typologies (i.e., football and cricket), there are a number of sites which are omitted from this map as they are listed as primarily being sports sites, rather than the multi-use recreation grounds and parks they in fact act as. Such spaces include Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh, Wakering Recreation Ground, Great Wakering, Canewdon Park, Canewdon and George V Playing Field, Ashingdon. Acknowledging these sites is important when understanding the overall accessibility of parks and similarly public open spaces across the District.

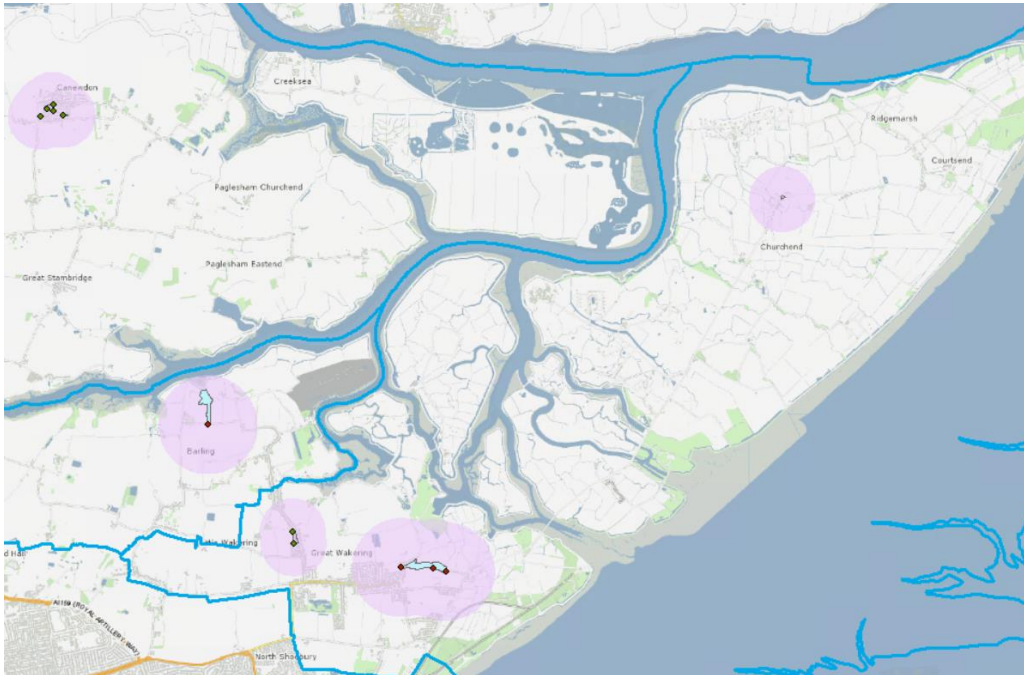
Map 16: Accessibility of Publicly Accessible Spaces across District (West) – purple shading indicates walkable to at least one open space based on standards



Map 17: Accessibility of Publicly Accessible Spaces across District (Central) - purple shading indicates walkable to at least one open space based on standards



Map 18: Accessibility of Publicly Accessible Spaces across District (East) - purple shading indicates walkable to at least one open space based on standards



- 6.12 When analysing walkability to any of the spaces mapped above, coverage of the District's settlements is very good, with communities having at least one of these spaces within walking distance. However, there are several exceptions, listed below:
- **Battlesbridge:** the small part of this village on the Rochford District side of the River Crouch has no spaces within walking distance in the District. However, there is a village green on the Chelmsford side of the river which provides amenity space within walking distance.
 - **Great Stambridge & Paglesham:** These villages are not within walking distance of any spaces in this typology.
 - **Great Wakering & Barling:** Wakering Common is located on the village's eastern side, with the western areas not within walking distance. However, if the Wakering Recreation Ground (classed as a football space) is considered for its wider amenity, these areas are within walking distance of a space. Barling has a nature reserve, however this is situated in a rural location far from the village itself.
 - **Hullbridge:** residential streets in the west of the settlement, around Hilltop Avenue, Central Avenue and Burlington Gardens are not in walking distance of any spaces, although the situation has improved with the recent completion of an amenity space at a new residential development. A sizeable number of rural properties and residential park homes heading eastwards along Pooles Lane and Lower Road are similarly

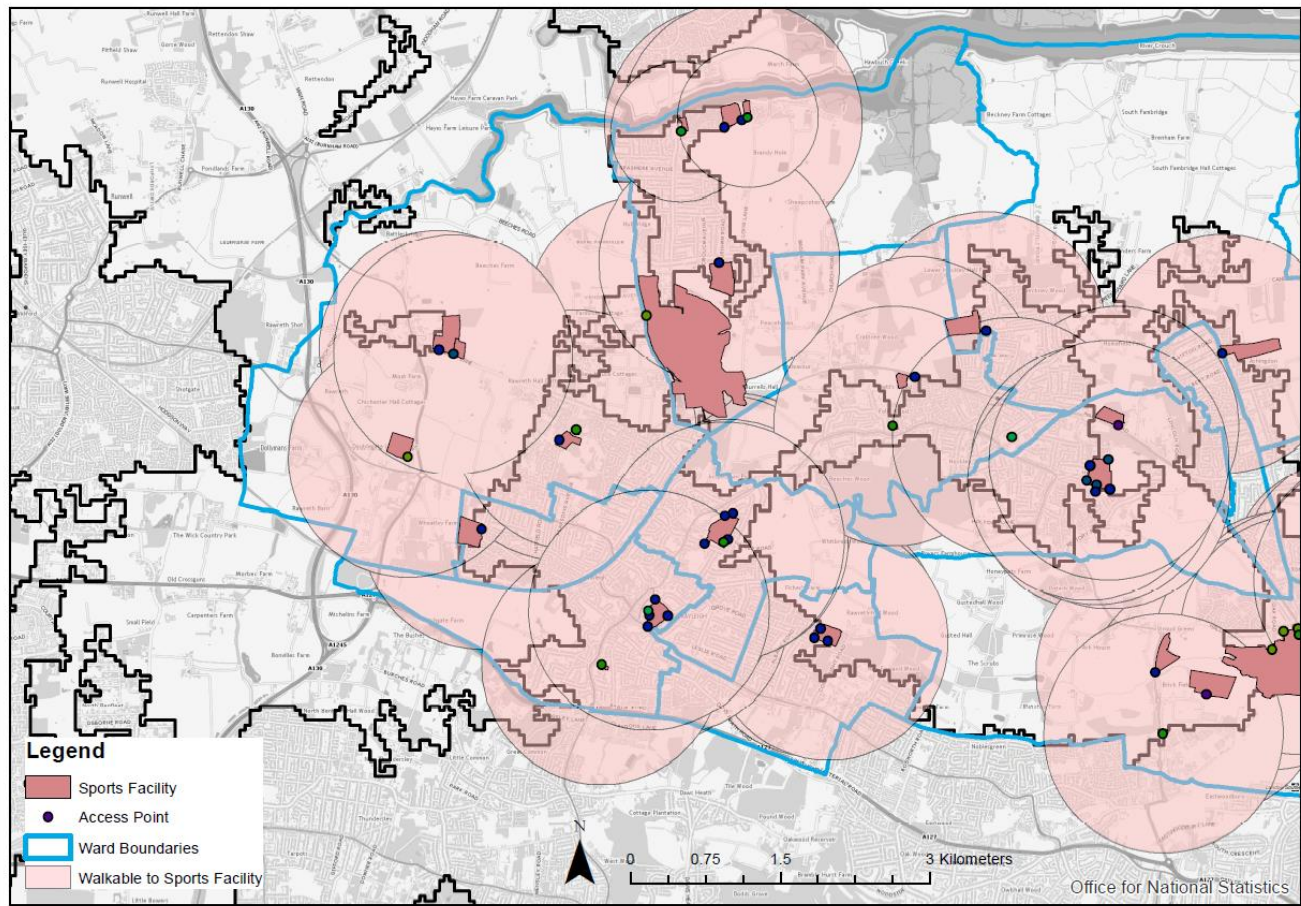
isolated. If considering the football field at Pooles Lane, which has some wider amenity, this situation is partially addressed.

- Rayleigh: a residential area around Church Road falls outside all the walkability circles. However, if nearby football sites are considered, the site is within easy walking distance of King George V Playing Field, which has many features of a formal park and amenity space in addition to its football pitch.
- Rochford: streets to the south, off Southend Road and Sutton Court Drive, do not benefit from any space within walking distance. The situation is similar for an area around Ashingdon Road and Ashcombe, although if the amenity and park qualities of the Rochford Recreation Ground and King George's Field are considered, this area has adequate space nearby.
- South Fambridge and Ashingdon: the small village of South Fambridge has no open spaces within walking distance. Northern Ashingdon, around the primary school, is similarly not provided for in these typologies, although the nearby King George's Field arguably offers the facilities of a park beyond its football typology and serves this neighbourhood.
- Other areas: Whilst having a small village green in Churchend, the size, and low population density, of Foulness Island means many properties are not within an easy walk. In addition, its location within the MoD estate calls into question whether this area can be considered 'publicly accessible'. Other small hamlets not within a walk of spaces in these typologies include Stonebridge, Sutton, Ballards Gore and Creeksea.

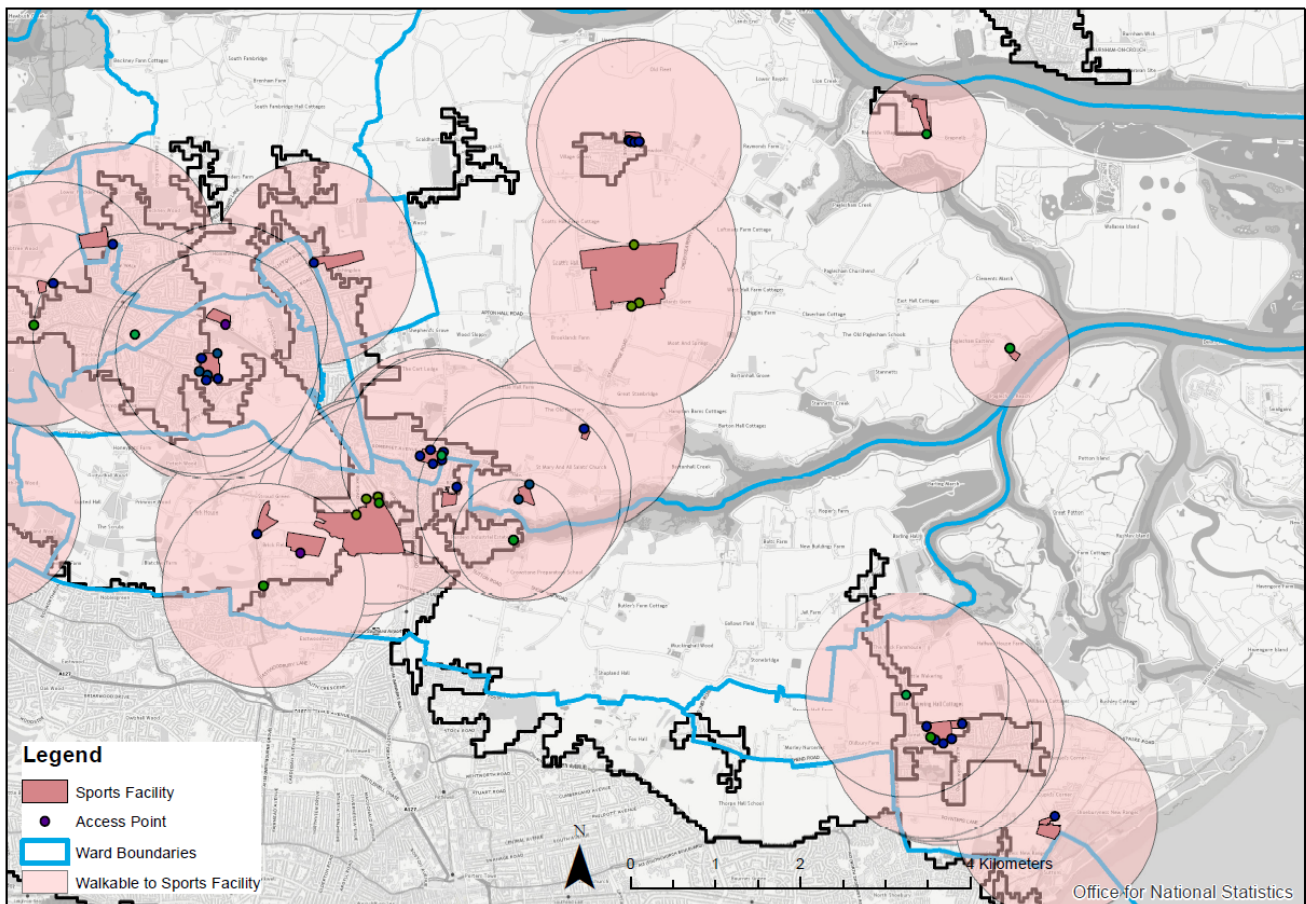
Sports & Recreation Facilities

- 6.13 The below maps show distribution of the various sports and recreation typologies across the Rochford District. Whilst not all are publicly accessible, and some are likely to have an appeal only to enthusiasts of certain sports, this is useful at generally showing the options available to residents for participating in sports and recreation within walking distance from their homes. The respective walkability radii, as set out in Figure 49, are applied for each typology.
- 6.14 Most of the settlements are within walking distance of at least one sports/recreation space, with some exceptions. In particular, an area of Rochford, to the North-West of the town, around Ashingdon Road, falls outside of walkability circles from sites in both Rochford and Ashingdon, with this being the only urban area not served. Other areas not within walking distance include the small settlements of Barling, Battlesbridge, South Fambridge, Paglesham and Foulness Island.

Map 19: Accessibility of Sports & Recreation Open Spaces across Rochford District (West & Central)



Map 20: Accessibility of Sports & Recreation Open Spaces across Rochford District (East)



Settlement-level Accessibility

- 6.15 A desktop accessibility analysis has been undertaken using GIS mapping at settlement level within the Rochford District. Tables 18 to 28 detail the analysis and any key issues summary pertaining to each of the open space typologies within each settlement.
- 6.16 From the maps included in this section, it may be difficult to discern the types of open space and extent of walkability, particularly where these are located in close proximity. An interactive map⁵⁹ has been made available by Natural England, which allows for these sites to be viewed with greater customisability.

⁵⁹ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Map.aspx>

Rayleigh

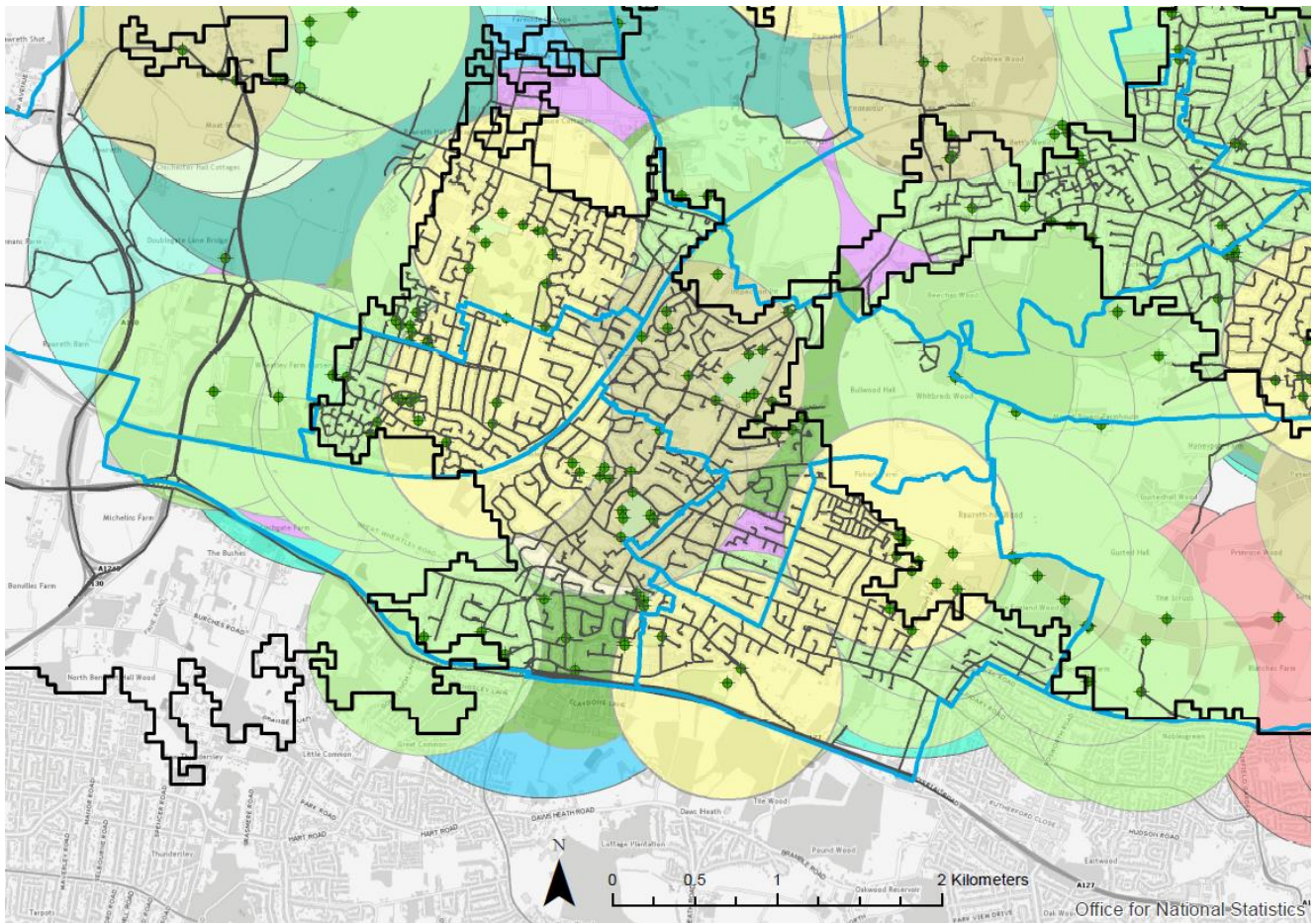
Table 18: Accessibility Analysis within Rayleigh

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	Limited walkability. Central areas afford proximity to Brooklands Public Gardens and Windmill Gardens. King George V Playing Field and Fairview Recreation Ground can also provide considerable informal park / amenity open space.
Natural and Semi-natural Green space and Country Parks	Good walkability generally, affording major green spaces in outlying areas e.g., Sweyne Park, Grove Woods and Wheatley Woods, although Trinity ward area lacks proximity. Central areas benefit from access to Rayleigh Mount.
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good walkability of public playing fields and good walkability of football, tennis and bowling facilities (within 1.2km).
Amenity Green Space	Generally poor walkability (limited to housing developments) but supplemented with open space sites e.g., King George V Playing Field and Fairview recreation ground.
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	Generally good walkability within 100m (LAP), 400m (LEAP) and NEAP (1,000m), but limited walkability west of train station and southern boundaries
Allotments	Limited walkability – much of central Rayleigh and western fringes do not have a walkable allotment.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Limited walkability – central Rayleigh within walking distance of cemetery and churchyard.
Civic Space	Limited walkability – areas of central Rayleigh within 700m of civic space.

6.17 Rayleigh has a good spread of different open spaces, affording accessibility to a range of sites from all parts of the town. Major green spaces in outlying areas include Sweyne Park, Grove Woods and Wheatley Woods, whilst more central areas benefit from access to spaces such as Rayleigh Mount, Brooklands Public Gardens and Windmill Gardens. Football sites such as King George V Playing Field and Fairview Recreation Ground are also effectively parks, providing considerable amenity space to residents. The residential areas of eastern Rayleigh, equidistant from the town centre and Grove Woods, appear to lie at the edges of several walkability radii and do not benefit from any spaces in particularly close proximity. Western Rayleigh has seen several new amenity spaces and play spaces created as new housing has been developed, and this is a pattern which will need to continue should additional

development take place, to ensure new communities have good walking access to a range of open spaces.

Map 21: Accessibility to All Open Spaces in Rayleigh



Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
| Play_Space_LAP | Allotments_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_LEAP | Churchyard_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_NEAP | Civic_Space_Walkability_700m |
| Rugby | Yacht_Walkability_1200m |
| Parks_and_Gardens | Natural_Seminalural_Walkability_720m |
| Natural_Seminalural_Greenspace | Amenity_Greenspace_Walkability_480m |
| Country_Park | Parks_and_Gardens_Walkability_710m |
| Civic_Space | LAP_Walkability_100m |
| Cemetery | LEAP_Walkability_400m |
| Amenity_Greenspace | Cricket_Walkability_1200m |
| Allotments | NEAP_Walkability_1km |
| Tennis | Country_Park_Walkability_710m |
| Yacht | Bowling_Green_Walkability_1200m |
| Golf | Tennis_Walkability_1200m |
| Football | Golf_Walkability_1200m |
| Cricket | Rugby_Walkability_1200m |
| Bowling_Green | Football_Walkability_1200m |
| All Access Points | Ward Boundaries |

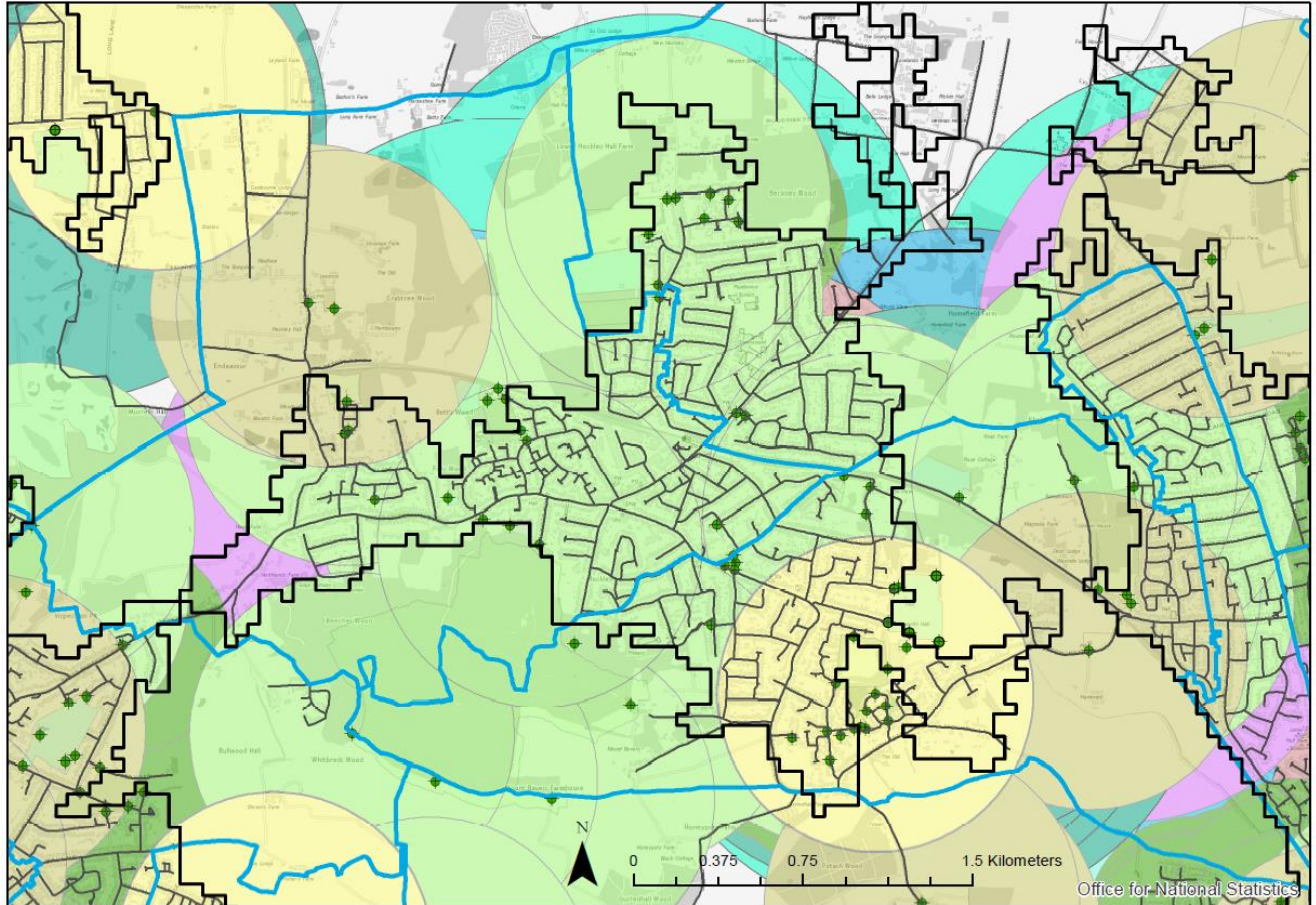
Shaded circles indicate walkability

Hockley and Hawkwell**Table 19: Accessibility Analysis within the Hockley and Hawkwell Settlement**

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	No walkability
Natural and Semi-natural Green space and Country Parks	Good walkability (e.g., Hockley Woods and Plumberow Mount).
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good walkability of football and rugby facilities (within 1.2km). Good walkability (Hawkwell) to cricket facilities. Good walkability (Hockley) to tennis and bowling facilities.
Amenity Green Space	Good walkability in Hawkwell.
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	Generally good walkability within 100m (LAP), 400m (LEAP) and NEAP (1,000m), but limited walkability within central Hockley
Allotments	No walkability from within Hockley, but walkability within Hawkwell (Christmas Tree Crescent).
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Limited walkability – churchyards in north-west Hockley and east Hawkwell
Civic Space	No walkability

- 6.18 As shown below in Map 22, there is good walking accessibility from most of Hockley and Hawkwell to open spaces, with natural and semi-natural greenspaces on the outskirts, such as Hockley Woods and Plumberow Mount, playing a particularly important role. However, central Hockley itself has no open spaces, reflecting its dense urban form and mixture of commercial, employment and residential sites, bounded by a railway line to the north. Outlying areas to the north (along Lower Road and Greensward Lane) are not within easy walking distance of open spaces, whilst the north-west of the town has access to relatively few spaces. Hawkwell benefits from good accessibility to a range of spaces, many of which are recently built because of new housing developments.

Map 22: Accessibility to All Open Spaces in Hockley & Hawkwell



Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
| Play_Space_LAP | Allotments_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_LEAP | Churchyard_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_NEAP | Civic_Space_Walkability_700m |
| Rugby | Yacht_Walkability_1200m |
| Parks_and_Gardens | Natural_Seminatural_Walkability_720m |
| Natural_Seminatural_Greenspace | Amenity_Greenspace_Walkability_480m |
| Country_Park | Parks_and_Gardens_Walkability_710m |
| Civic_Space | LAP_Walkability_100m |
| Cemetery | LEAP_Walkability_400m |
| Amenity_Greenspace | Cricket_Walkability_1200m |
| Allotments | NEAP_Walkability_1km |
| Tennis | Country_Park_Walkability_710m |
| Yacht | Bowling_Green_Walkability_1200m |
| Golf | Tennis_Walkability_1200m |
| Football | Golf_Walkability_1200m |
| Cricket | Rugby_Walkability_1200m |
| Bowling_Green | Football_Walkability_1200m |
| All Access Points | Ward Boundaries |

Shaded circles indicate walkability

Rochford and Ashingdon

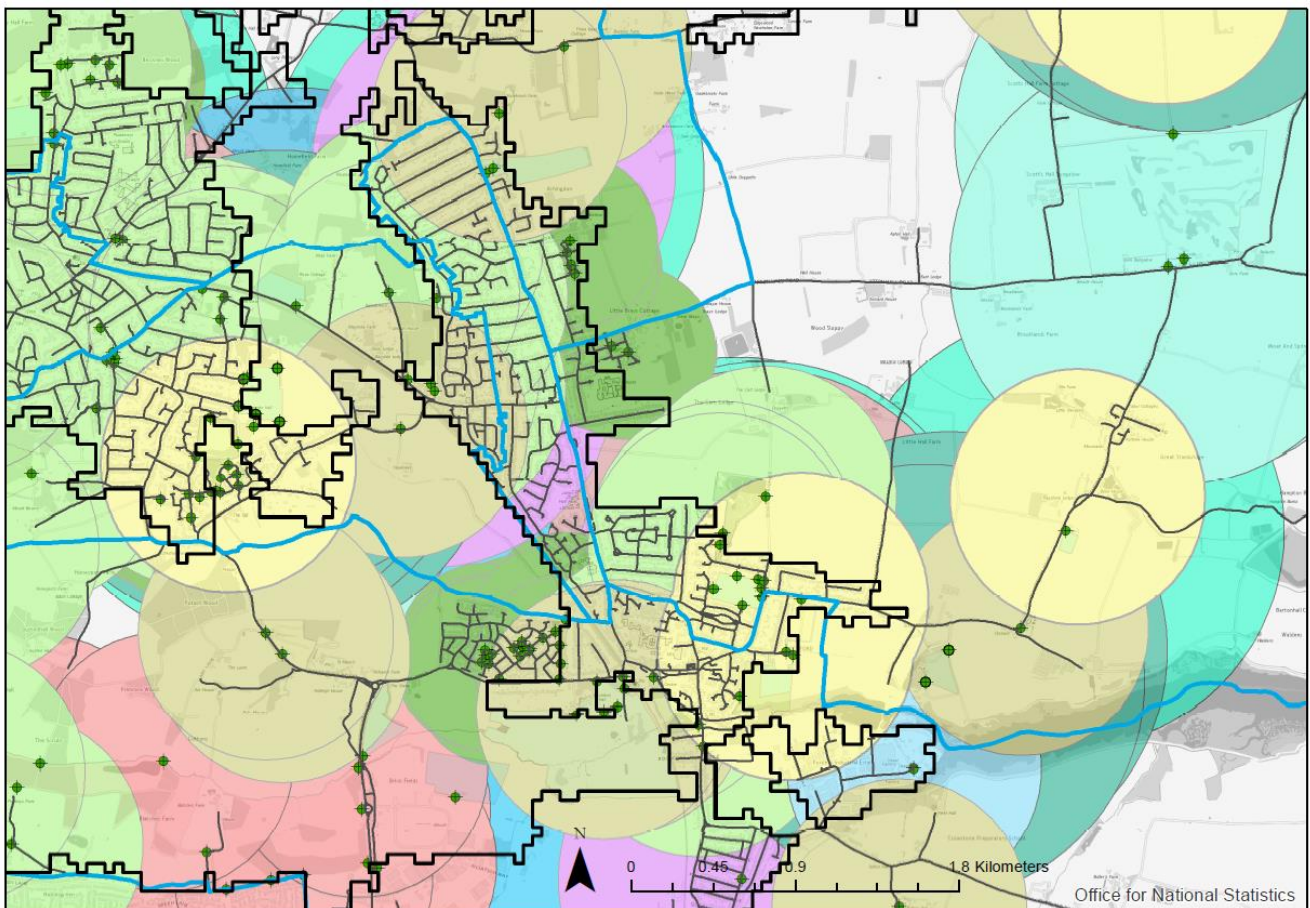
Table 20: Accessibility Analysis within the Rochford and Ashingdon Settlement

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	No walkability, although George V Playing Field, Ashingdon, also provides considerable informal park / amenity open space.
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space and Country Parks	Central Rochford and Ashingdon afford walkability although outlying areas fall outside the recommended walking distance of 720m. Western areas of Rochford are in proximity to Cherry orchard Country Park whilst Ashingdon affords proximity to Magnolia Park Nature Reserve.
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited walkability (publicly accessible open space), good walkability (within 1.2km) of football (e.g., Rochford Recreation Ground) and rugby facilities except parts of Rochford (Ashingdon Road area). Good walkability (Rochford) to tennis and bowling (Rochford recreation Ground) facilities. Limited walkability (Rochford) to yachting facilities. Ashingdon benefits from King George V Playing Field.
Amenity Green Space	Generally poor walkability – focused on some housing estates. Rochford Recreation Ground provides a wider amenity facility.
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	Generally good walkability within 100m (LAP), 400m (LEAP) and NEAP (1,000m) (e.g., Rochford recreation Ground), but limited walkability in some parts of Rochford (near Ashingdon Road).
Allotments	Limited walkability from central/eastern Rochford.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Generally good walkability – Hall Road Cemetery in isolated location to the west. Churchyards close to central Rochford and in Ashingdon.
Civic Space	No walkability

6.19 Rochford affords good accessibility from a range of open spaces, as shown in Map 23 including private sports facilities, natural/semi-natural green spaces and play spaces. The Rochford Recreation Ground is an important site in providing football, bowling and play facilities, and can also be considered a wider amenity space beyond sports provision. Whilst the town centre itself has no open space, it lies close to Rochford Reservoir and its accompanying green space. Western areas of the town, along Hall Road, are relatively close to Cherry Orchard Country Park, whilst the major new housing development has delivered several new amenity and play spaces. Ashingdon, to the North, benefits from the King George V Playing Field and Magnolia Nature Reserve as major spaces for residents, although there are relatively few other sites

within walking distance of this large residential area. Parts of Ashingdon Road appear to fall at the edges of walking radii of sites within Rochford and Ashingdon, suggesting some residents do not live especially close to open spaces. Southern areas of Rochford, near Southend Road, have poor accessibility, with only a NEAP play space being within walking distance of several streets.

Map 23: Accessibility to All Open Spaces in Rochford & Ashingdon



Legend

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Play_Space_LAP | Allotments_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_LEAP | Churchyard_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_NEAP | Civic_Space_Walkability_700m |
| Rugby | Yacht_Walkability_1200m |
| Parks_and_Gardens | Natural_Seminatural_Walkability_720m |
| Natural_Seminatural_Greenspace | Amenity_Greenspace_Walkability_480m |
| Country_Park | Parks_and_Gardens_Walkability_710m |
| Civic_Space | LAP_Walkability_100m |
| Cemetery | LEAP_Walkability_400m |
| Amenity_Greenspace | Cricket_Walkability_1200m |
| Allotments | NEAP_Walkability_1km |
| Tennis | Country_Park_Walkability_710m |
| Yacht | Bowling_Green_Walkability_1200m |
| Golf | Tennis_Walkability_1200m |
| Football | Golf_Walkability_1200m |
| Cricket | Rugby_Walkability_1200m |
| Bowling_Green | Football_Walkability_1200m |
| All Access Points | Ward Boundaries |

Shaded circles indicate walkability

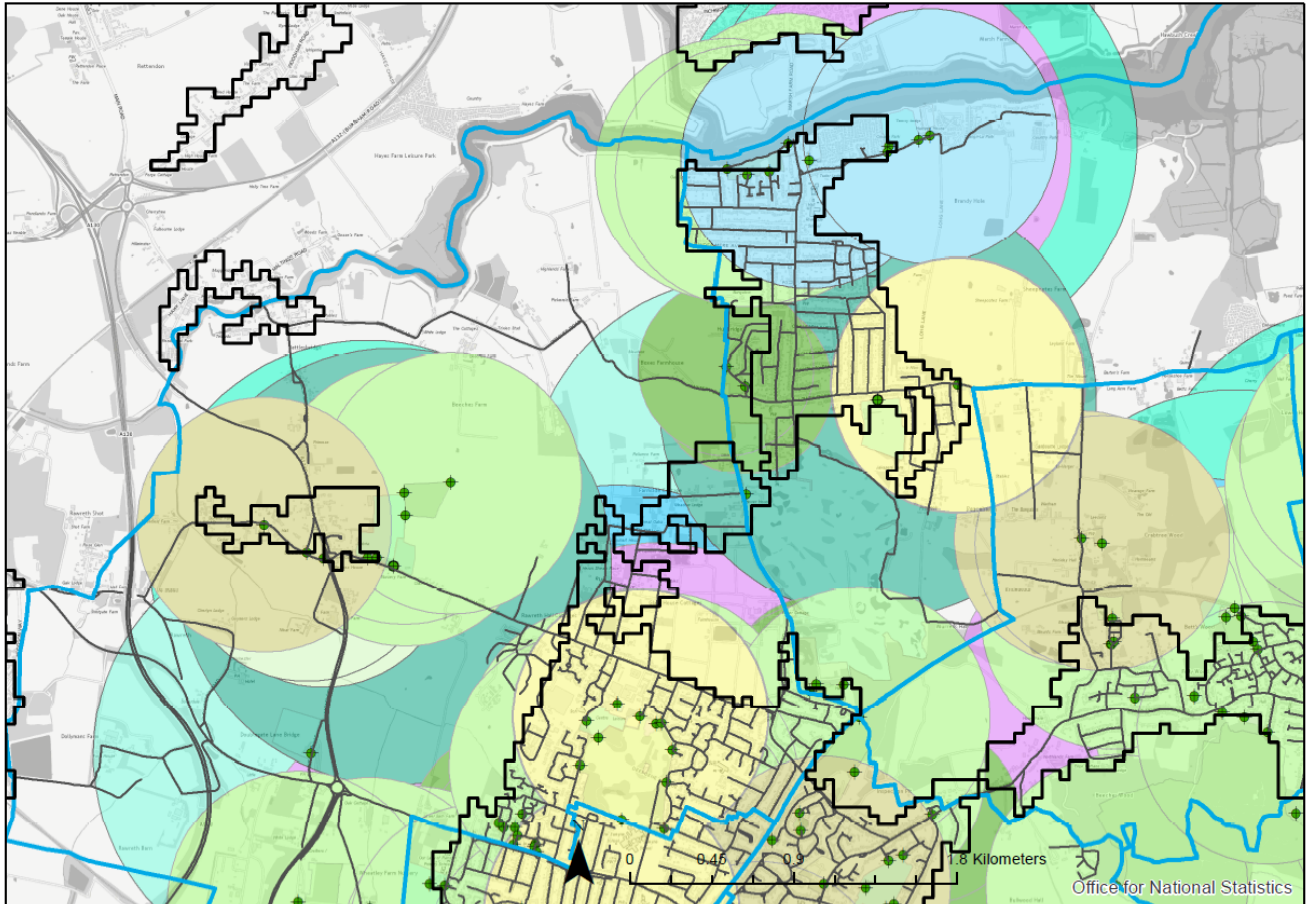
Hullbridge

Table 21: Accessibility Analysis within Hullbridge

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	No walkability
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space and Country Parks	Good walkability from northern Hullbridge (Kendal Park), but the south lacks proximity
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good walkability to playing field, football, cricket and yachting facilities (public and private).
Amenity Green Space	Generally poor walkability – good walkability from space in south-west Hullbridge.
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	Generally good walkability within 100m (LAP), 400m (LEAP) and NEAP (1,000m), but limited walkability within south and west Hullbridge
Allotments	Limited walkability (site located west of the main Hullbridge settlement).
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No walkability
Civic Space	No walkability

6.20 The sprawling form of this small town means that its small cluster of spaces on the riverside (including a natural/semi-natural greenspace, yachting facilities, play space and football pitch) is beyond walking distance from many areas of the south and west of the town, although accessibility to open space for southern Hullbridge has been improved by the creation of a new amenity space alongside a housing development. Open space sites to the south (e.g., the allotments and private football/cricket pitches) are similarly beyond walking distance for parts of the north.

Map 24: Accessibility to all Open Spaces in Hullbridge and Rawreth



Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
| Play_Space_LAP | Allotments_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_LEAP | Churchyard_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_NEAP | Civic_Space_Walkability_700m |
| Rugby | Yacht_Walkability_1200m |
| Parks_and_Gardens | Natural_Seminatural_Walkability_720m |
| Natural_Seminatural_Greenspace | Amenity_Greenspace_Walkability_480m |
| Country_Park | Parks_and_Gardens_Walkability_710m |
| Civic_Space | LAP_Walkability_100m |
| Cemetery | LEAP_Walkability_400m |
| Amenity_Greenspace | Cricket_Walkability_1200m |
| Allotments | NEAP_Walkability_1km |
| Tennis | Country_Park_Walkability_710m |
| Yacht | Bowling_Green_Walkability_1200m |
| Golf | Tennis_Walkability_1200m |
| Football | Golf_Walkability_1200m |
| Cricket | Rugby_Walkability_1200m |
| Bowling_Green | Football_Walkability_1200m |
| All Access Points | Ward Boundaries |

Shaded circles indicate walkability

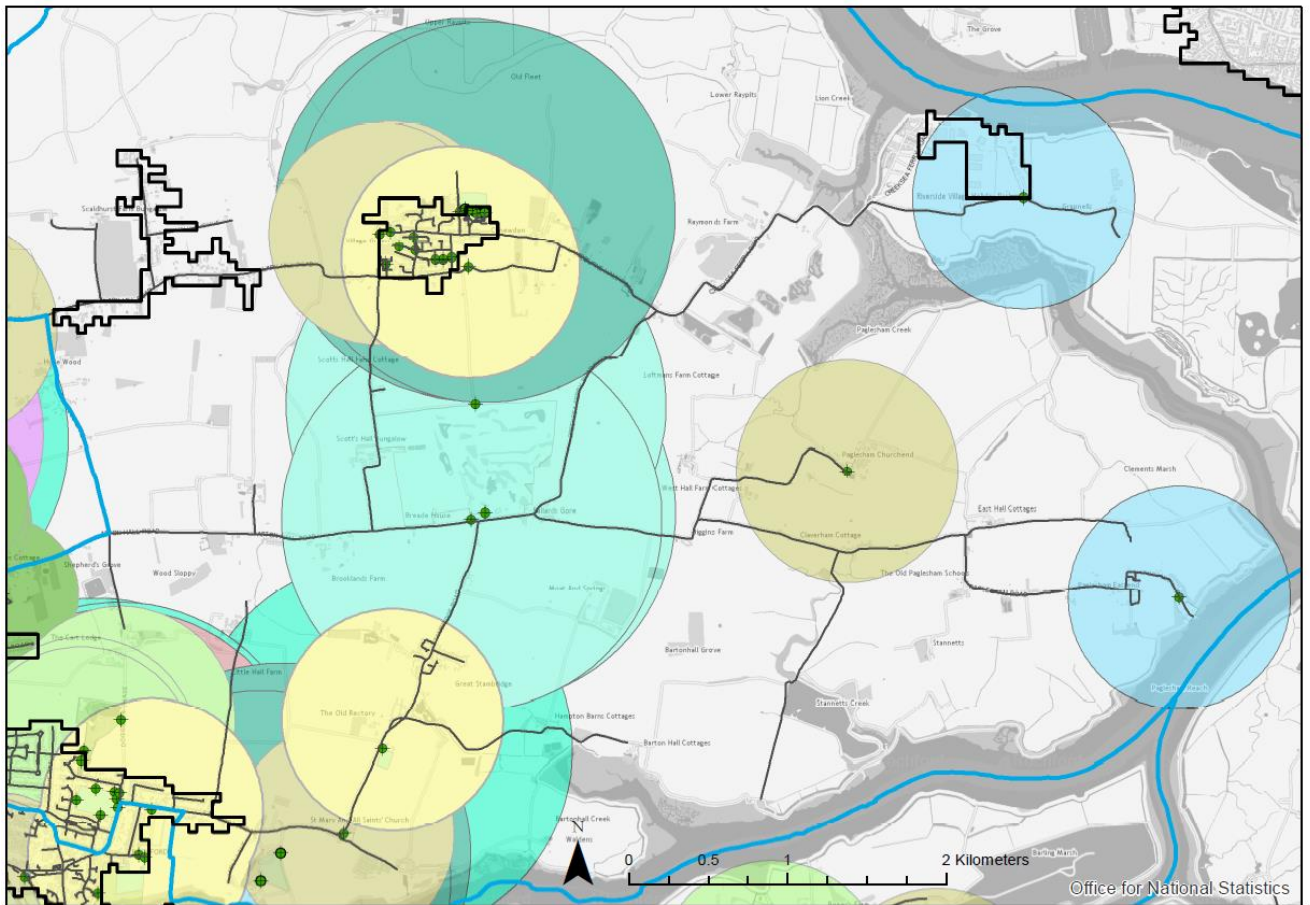
Canewdon

Table 22: Accessibility Analysis within Canewdon

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	No walkability.
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space and Country Parks	No walkability (although PRowS, nature reserves and wildlife sites may offer a role in provision).
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	Good walkability to football/cricket facilities. Limited walkability to golf.
Amenity Green Space	Good walkability – amenity spaces in a central location.
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	Good walkability – 2 play spaces with walkability from entire village.
Allotments	Good walkability – allotment site in village itself affords good walkability from entire settlement.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Good walkability – centrally located churchyard.
Civic Space	No walkability.

6.21 Map 25 shows that Canewdon benefits from good accessibility to a range of open spaces, including amenity greenspace, football, cricket, play spaces and allotments, whilst a golf course is also walkable via the PRow network. However, other sporting facilities or natural/semi-natural greenspace requires a long journey. The village benefits from being relatively self-contained and not linear in form, meaning all areas are walkable. A recent housing development delivered an additional small amenity space, ensuring new residents have access to local space. A number of dispersed properties to the West of the village are not walkable to any open spaces.

Map 25: Accessibility to All Open Spaces from Canewdon, Paglesham and Great Stambridge



Legend

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Play_Space_LAP | Allotments_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_LEAP | Churchyard_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_NEAP | Civic_Space_Walkability_700m |
| Rugby | Yacht_Walkability_1200m |
| Parks_and_Gardens | Natural_Seminatural_Walkability_720m |
| Natural_Seminatural_Greenspace | Amenity_Greenspace_Walkability_480m |
| Country_Park | Parks_and_Gardens_Walkability_710m |
| Civic_Space | LAP_Walkability_100m |
| Cemetery | LEAP_Walkability_400m |
| Amenity_Greenspace | Cricket_Walkability_1200m |
| Allotments | NEAP_Walkability_1km |
| Tennis | Country_Park_Walkability_710m |
| Yacht | Bowling_Green_Walkability_1200m |
| Golf | Tennis_Walkability_1200m |
| Football | Golf_Walkability_1200m |
| Cricket | Rugby_Walkability_1200m |
| Bowling_Green | Football_Walkability_1200m |
| All Access Points | Ward Boundaries |

Shaded circles indicate walkability

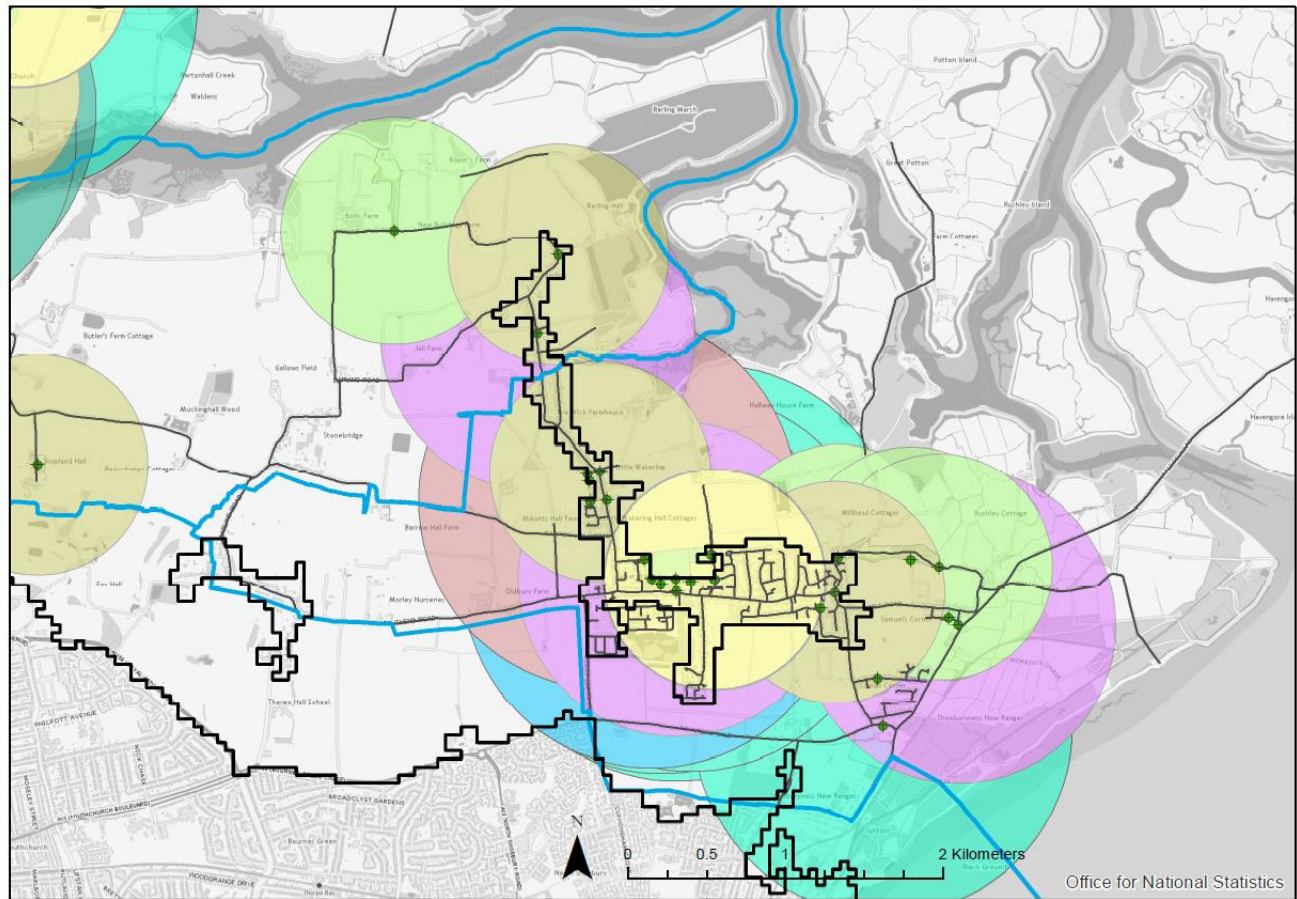
Great Wakering (Great Wakering, Little Wakering, Barling, Cupid’s Corner and Samuel’s Corner)

Table 23: Accessibility Analysis within the Great Wakering Settlement

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	No walkability, although Recreation Ground provides some amenity.
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space and Country Parks	Limited walkability – good access from central/east Great Wakering and Samuel’s Corner. Limited walkability from Barling.
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	Limited walkability (publicly accessible open space), good walkability to football facilities (public and private) except Barling. Limited walkability (Little Wakering) to bowling facilities.
Amenity Green Space	Generally poor walkability
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	Generally limited walkability apart from Barling and east of Great Wakering being within good walkability.
Allotments	Generally good walkability.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Generally limited walkability – most of Barling and Little Wakering within walking distance, around half of Great Wakering outside walking distance.
Civic Space	No walkability.

6.22 As shown in Map 26, Great Wakering benefits from a strong cluster of different outdoor spaces close to its centre, including public and private football sites, allotments, tennis courts and a play space. Wakering Common, to the East, also provides an important green space. The linear nature of the settlement means some outlying areas are beyond walking distance to certain open spaces, although suburbs to the East (such as Cupids and Samuels Corners) do have access to local play spaces. This pattern continues to the West, where Little Wakering has some local open spaces but some residents are not within walking distance of more central sites in Great Wakering. Barling is more isolated, with only a small NEAP play space, churchyard and isolated natural/semi-natural greenspace that is beyond walking distance for much of the village.

Map 26: Accessibility to All Open Spaces in The Wakerings, Barling, Sutton and Stonebridge



Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
| Play_Space_LAP | Allotments_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_LEAP | Churchyard_Walkability_700m |
| Play_Space_NEAP | Civic_Space_Walkability_700m |
| Rugby | Yacht_Walkability_1200m |
| Parks_and_Gardens | Natural_Seminalural_Walkability_720m |
| Natural_Seminalural_Greenspace | Amenity_Greenspace_Walkability_480m |
| Country_Park | Parks_and_Gardens_Walkability_710m |
| Civic_Space | LAP_Walkability_100m |
| Cemetery | LEAP_Walkability_400m |
| Amenity_Greenspace | Cricket_Walkability_1200m |
| Allotments | NEAP_Walkability_1km |
| Tennis | Country_Park_Walkability_710m |
| Yacht | Bowling_Green_Walkability_1200m |
| Golf | Tennis_Walkability_1200m |
| Football | Golf_Walkability_1200m |
| Cricket | Rugby_Walkability_1200m |
| Bowling_Green | Football_Walkability_1200m |
| All Access Points | Ward Boundaries |

Shaded circles indicate walkability

Great Stambridge

Table 24: Accessibility Analysis within Great Stambridge

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	No walkability
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space and Country Park	No walkability (although PRowS, nature reserves and wildlife sites may offer a role in provision).
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	No walkability (publicly accessible open space), walkability to football facilities.
Amenity Green Space	No walkability
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	Limited walkability from main village (more than 400m)
Allotments	Within walking distance of village.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Limited walkability (situated outside walking distance to south of main village)
Civic Space	No walkability

6.23 As Map 25 shows, Great Stambridge has a dispersed form, comprising the main village to the north, and then a more sparsely populated area stretching southwards along Stambridge Road. The main part of the village does not have open spaces in its vicinity, although does fall within walking distance of a private football ground. This site also contains a LEAP play space, although this is not within walking distance of the main village. There are also allotments situated to the South of the main village, which are within walking distance. The churchyard and cricket club lie even further to the south and are only walkable from a small number of dwellings.

Paglesham

Table 25: Accessibility Analysis within Paglesham

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	No walkability
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space and Country Parks	No walkability (although PRowS, nature reserves and wildlife sites may offer a role in provision).
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	No walkability (publicly accessible open space), limited walkability to football and cricket facilities. Good walkability to yachting facilities (Paglesham East End only).
Amenity Green Space	Generally poor walkability
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	No walkability.

Allotments	No walkability
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Limited walkability (good walkability from Paglesham Church End only).
Civic Space	No walkability

6.24 Paglesham is even more dispersed and remote from open spaces than Great Stambridge, with the village being divided into two halves that have considerable distance between them. Paglesham Church End has only a local churchyard, whilst Paglesham East End contains a yachting facility – all other open spaces are likely to require a car to access. PRowS are likely to form a significant aspect of local amenity, with several routes following the extensive coastline.

Rawreth and Battlesbridge

Table 26: Accessibility Analysis within Rawreth & Battlesbridge

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	Rawreth – good walkability from local space.
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space and Country Parks	Limited walkability – eastern portion of Rawreth within walking distance of space.
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	Rawreth – generally good walkability to football and cricket facilities. Battlesbridge – poor walkability, southern fringes walkable from football/cricket.
Amenity Green Space	No walkability.
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	Limited walkability – eastern Rawreth walkable from LEAP site. Battlesbridge – no walkability.
Allotments	No walkability
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Generally good walkability – most of Rawreth village within walking distance. No walkability for Battlesbridge.
Civic Space	No walkability

6.25 With reference to Map 24, Rawreth has access to several spaces, including cricket, football, a play space, a natural/semi-natural greenspace, a park/garden and a churchyard. However, the settlement pattern is dispersed, and much of the older settlement, to the west of the A1245, is not within walking distance of many of these facilities (with the major road acting as a further barrier). The fringes of west Rayleigh

are close to parts of the village, which may lie within walking distance of some of its sporting facilities. If new developments extend Rayleigh westwards, it is possible that more of the village will benefit from access to new spaces that may be delivered.

- 6.26 To the north, the part of Battlesbridge that lies in Rochford District does not have any assessed open spaces within walking distance, although it does lie just outside the walkability circles of several spaces in Rawreth, such as Rawreth Lane Playing Field, Rayleigh Cricket Club and Land off Rawreth Lane Playing Field Natural/semi-Natural Greenspace. There is, however, a village green on the Chelmsford side of the settlement, which would be within walking distance and provide some amenity.

South Fambridge

Table 27: Accessibility Analysis within South Fambridge

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	No walkability
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space and Country Parks	No walkability (although PRowS, nature reserves and wildlife sites may offer a role in provision).
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	No walkability
Amenity Green Space	Generally poor walkability
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	No walkability
Allotments	No walkability
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No walkability
Civic Space	No walkability

- 6.27 This very small village is particularly isolated, with no open spaces of any type situated within a walking distance. There is some access to PRowS, nature reserves and wildlife sites which affords some amenity.

Sutton and Stonebridge (Note: Stonebridge straddles the boundaries of Rochford and Southend)

Table 28: Accessibility Analysis within the Sutton and Stonebridge Settlements

Typology	Accessibility
Parks and Gardens	No walkability
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space and Country Parks	No walkability, although PRowWs provide some amenity.
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	Poor walkability – limited walkability to golf and cricket sites in Southend from Stonebridge.
Amenity Green Space	No walkability
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	No walkability
Allotments	No walkability
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Limited walkability – much of Sutton and Shopland afforded walking access.
Civic Space	No walkability

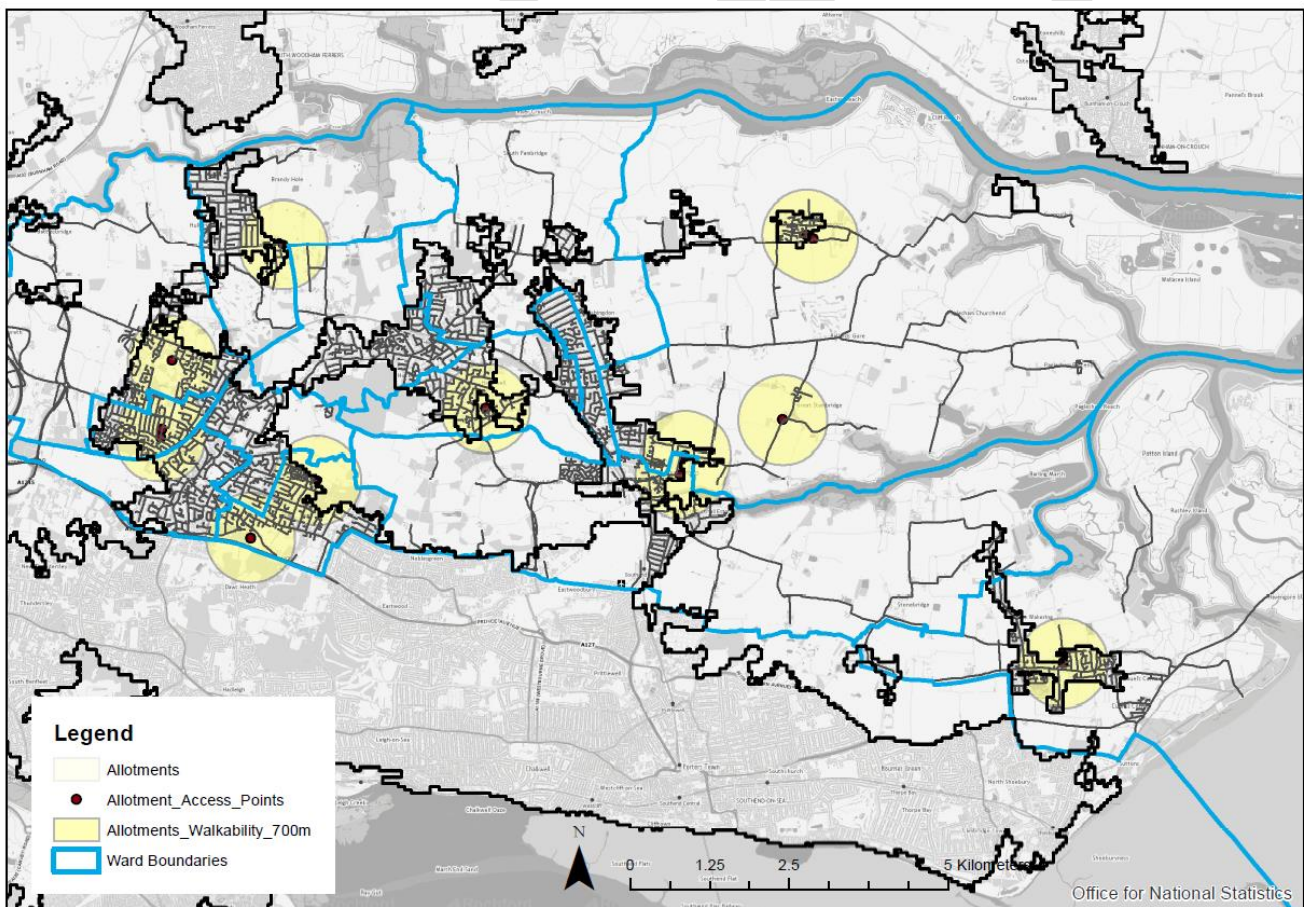
6.28 As shown on Map 26, these small hamlets have no open spaces within walking distance, except for two churchyards to the west. As with other small villages, the PRowW network provides some degree of amenity. In addition, the proximity of parts of this area to the boundary with Southend means some properties have accessibility to sites within that borough, e.g., Garon Park (Golf and Cricket) or Sutton Road Cemetery.

Accessibility by Open Space Typology

Allotments

6.29 As shown below in Map 27, there is an uneven coverage of allotment sites across the District. Whilst there is a presence in most Tier 1-3 settlements and many of these areas are walkable, according to the 700m walking distance radii applied, there are notable gaps in walkability coverage. Rayleigh has 4 of the District's 10 sites, but these are in more peripheral locations to the East and West, meaning much of central Rayleigh does not have a walkable allotment. In addition, western fringes of Rayleigh fall outside the radius of the nearest site, something which planned future development in this area will exacerbate. Rochford has a sizeable site on its eastern side, but much of the town, stretching towards Ashingdon, is not in walking distance. Recent provision in Hawkwell covers the settlement, but Hockley itself has no walkable sites. In more rural areas, the entirety of Canewdon, most of Great Stambridge and majority of Great Wakering benefit from their allotment sites being within walking distance.

Map 27: Accessibility of Allotment Sites across Rochford District

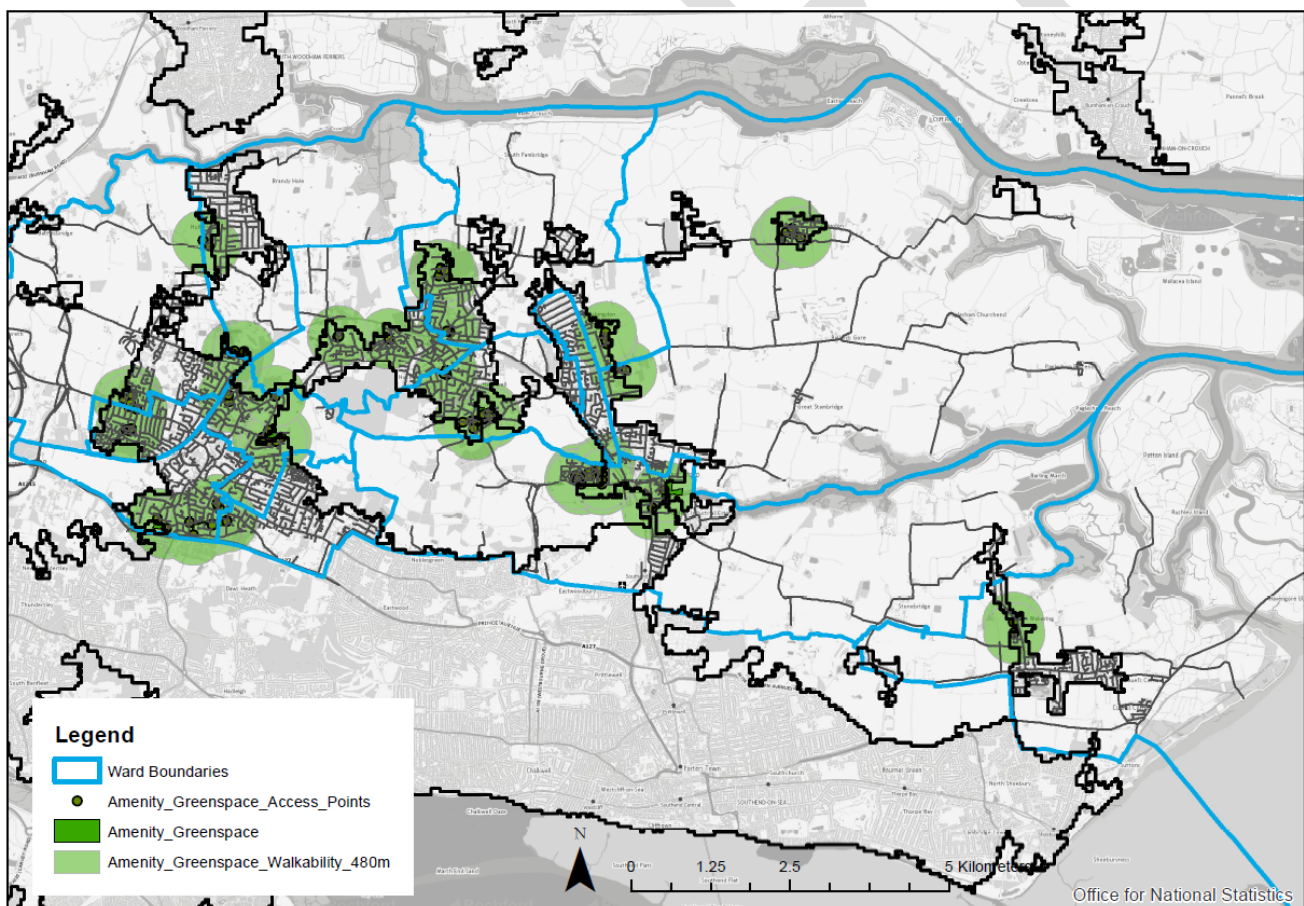


Amenity Greenspace

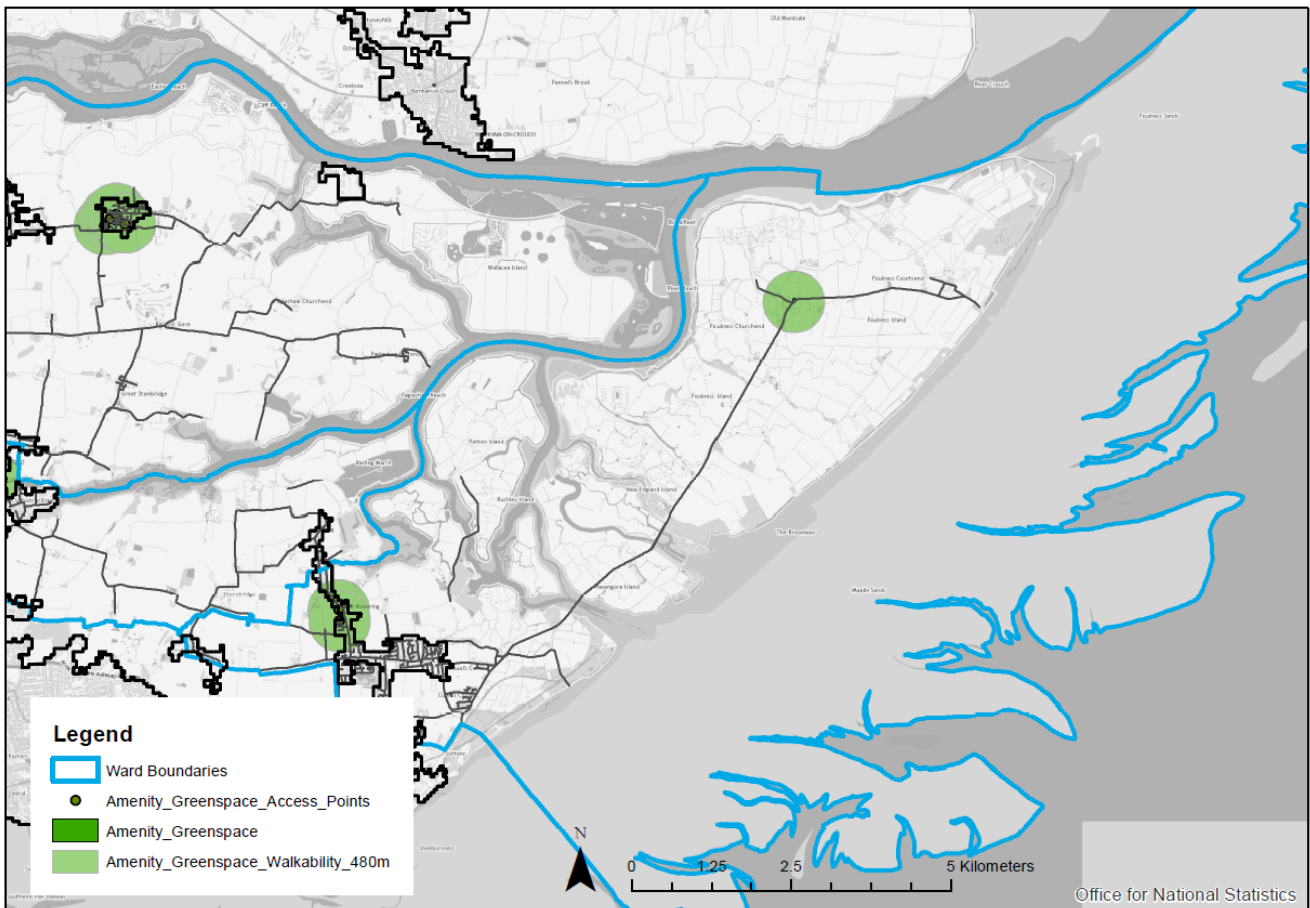
6.30 The accessibility analysis found that Amenity Greenspace is present in much of the District, but some settlements are afforded far better walking accessibility than others (i.e., within 480m of an access point). As shown in the maps below, Hockley and Hawkwell are almost completely within walking distance to Amenity Greenspaces, but the majority of Rayleigh, where sites tend to be on the outskirts of the settlement, is not. This is a similar scenario in Rochford & Ashingdon, Hullbridge and Great Wakering although Canewdon, with its village green, has space within an easy walk of the entire village.

6.31 It should be noted that the public amenity provided by these spaces can also be provided by other types of open space (e.g., Parks & Gardens or Natural/semi-natural Greenspace), so not having amenity greenspace within walking distance is not necessarily a disadvantage if other spaces are accessible. Please refer to paragraphs 3.31 and 6.8 for a more comprehensive coverage of these various types of publicly accessible open space.

Map 28: Accessibility of Amenity Greenspace within Rochford District (West & Central)



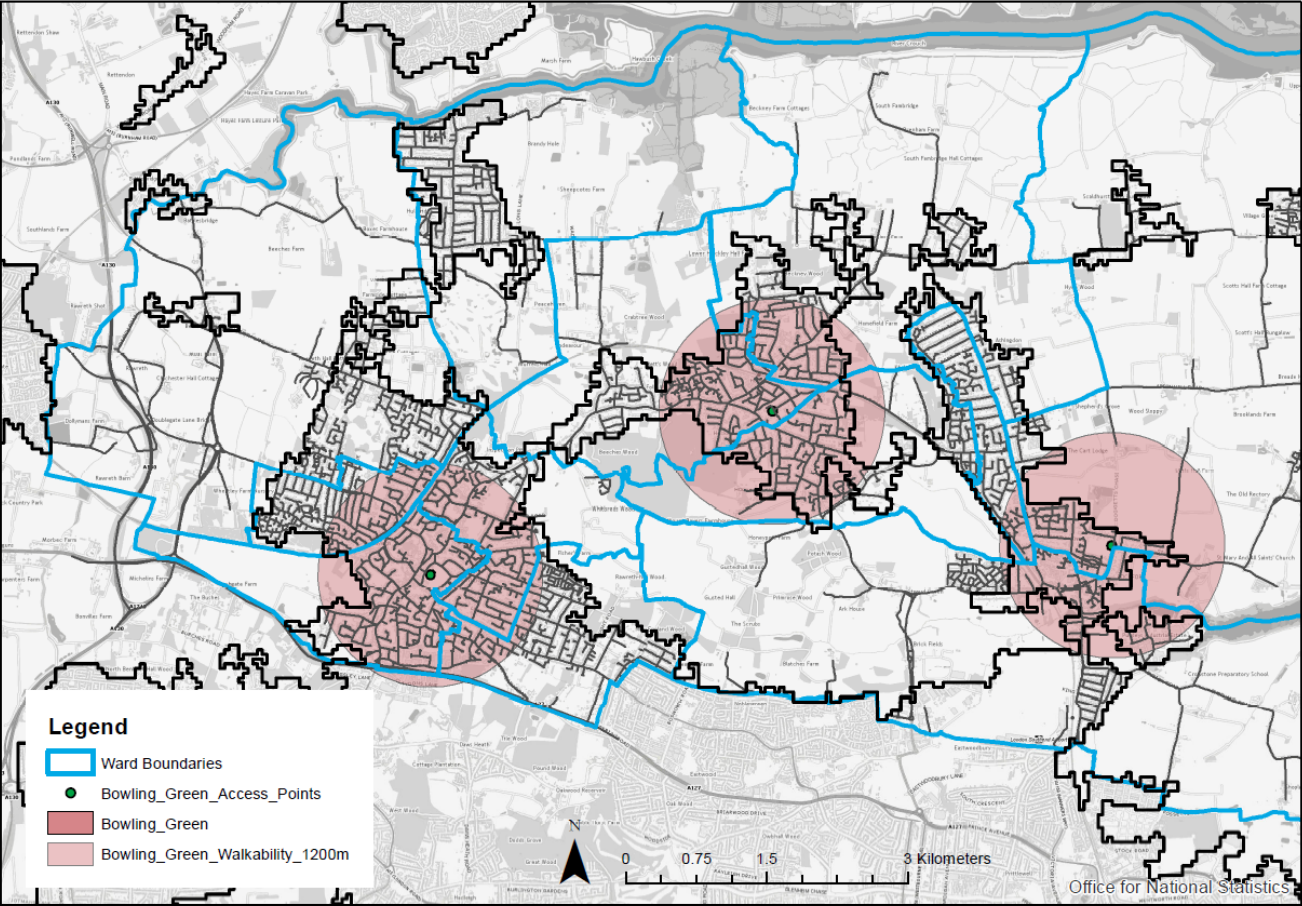
Map 29: Accessibility of Amenity Greenspace within Rochford District (East)



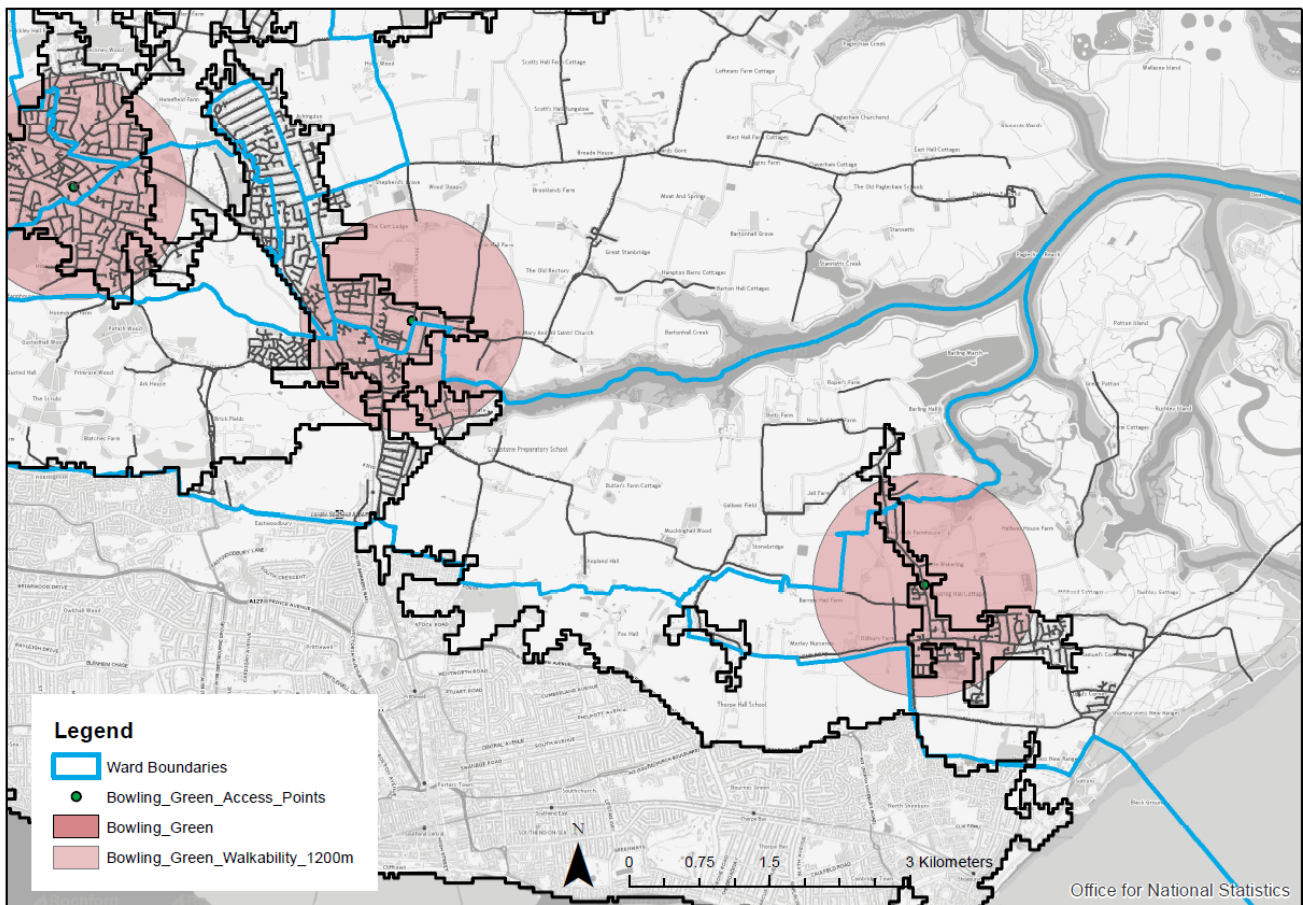
Bowling Greens

6.32 Bowling greens are distributed evenly across the District, and locations close to the centres of Rayleigh, Hockley and Rochford ensure significant urban areas are within walking distance. This is especially important for a sport which typically appeals to an older demographic, as such locations also afford good public transport access. A site in Little Wakering provides some access in the District’s East, but smaller towns and villages are generally poorly served.

Map 30: Accessibility of Bowling Green Spaces across Rochford District (West & Central)



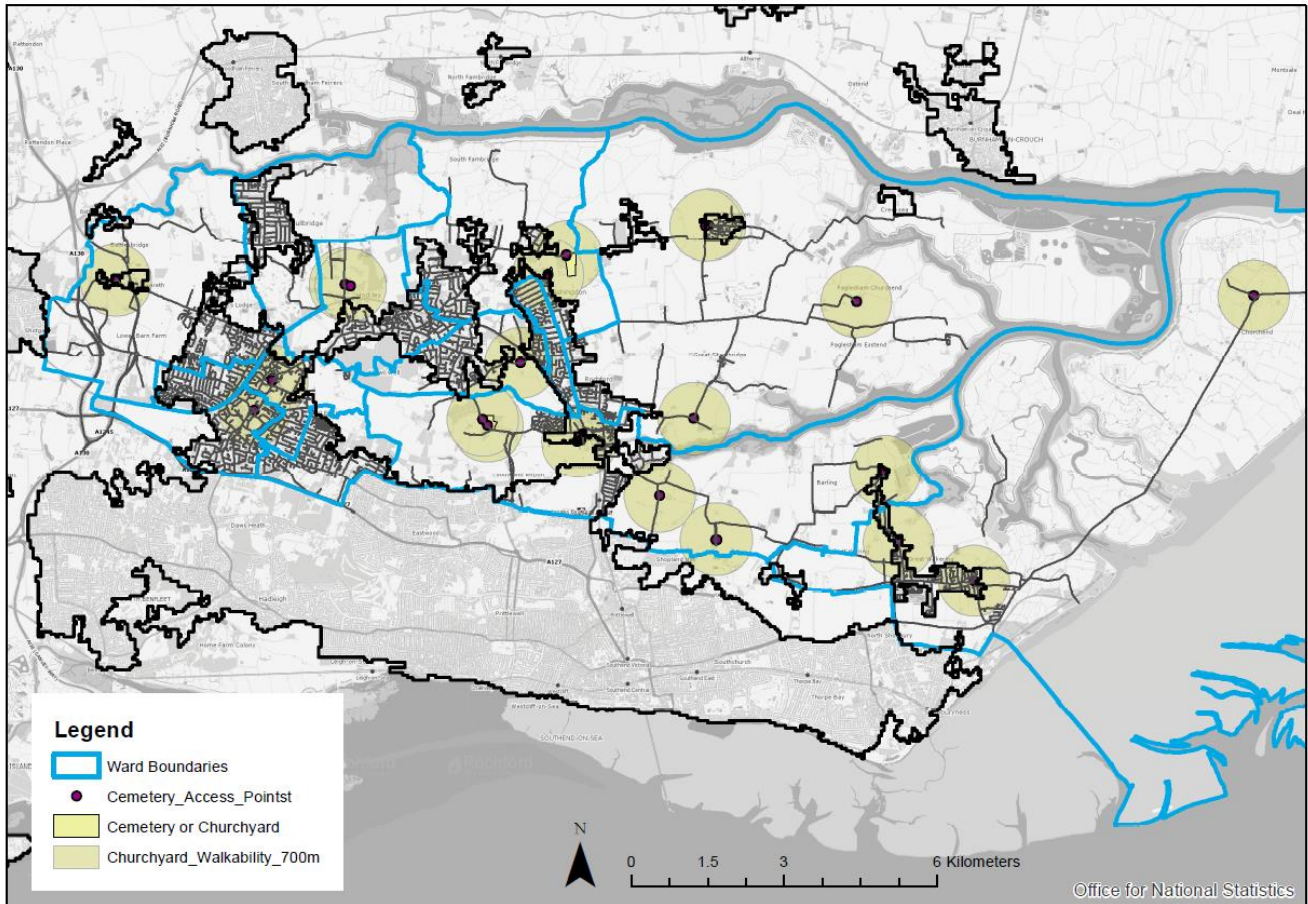
Map 31: Accessibility of Bowling Green Spaces across Rochford District (East)



Cemeteries & Churchyards

- 6.33 Cemeteries and churchyards are distributed across the entirety of the District and, except for the 3 cemetery sites, their locations cover most settlements, as nearly all have a historic parish church. Not all urban areas fall within the 700m walking circles, reflecting how many settlements have grown considerably from their historic cores. Consequently, large areas of Rayleigh, Hockley, Hawkwell and Great Wakering are not within walking distance, whilst Hullbridge has no such space within walking distance.
- 6.34 In many rural villages and outlying areas (e.g., Sutton, Paglesham or Rawreth) the churchyard is often one of very few open spaces within walking distance, so their important contribution should be acknowledged.

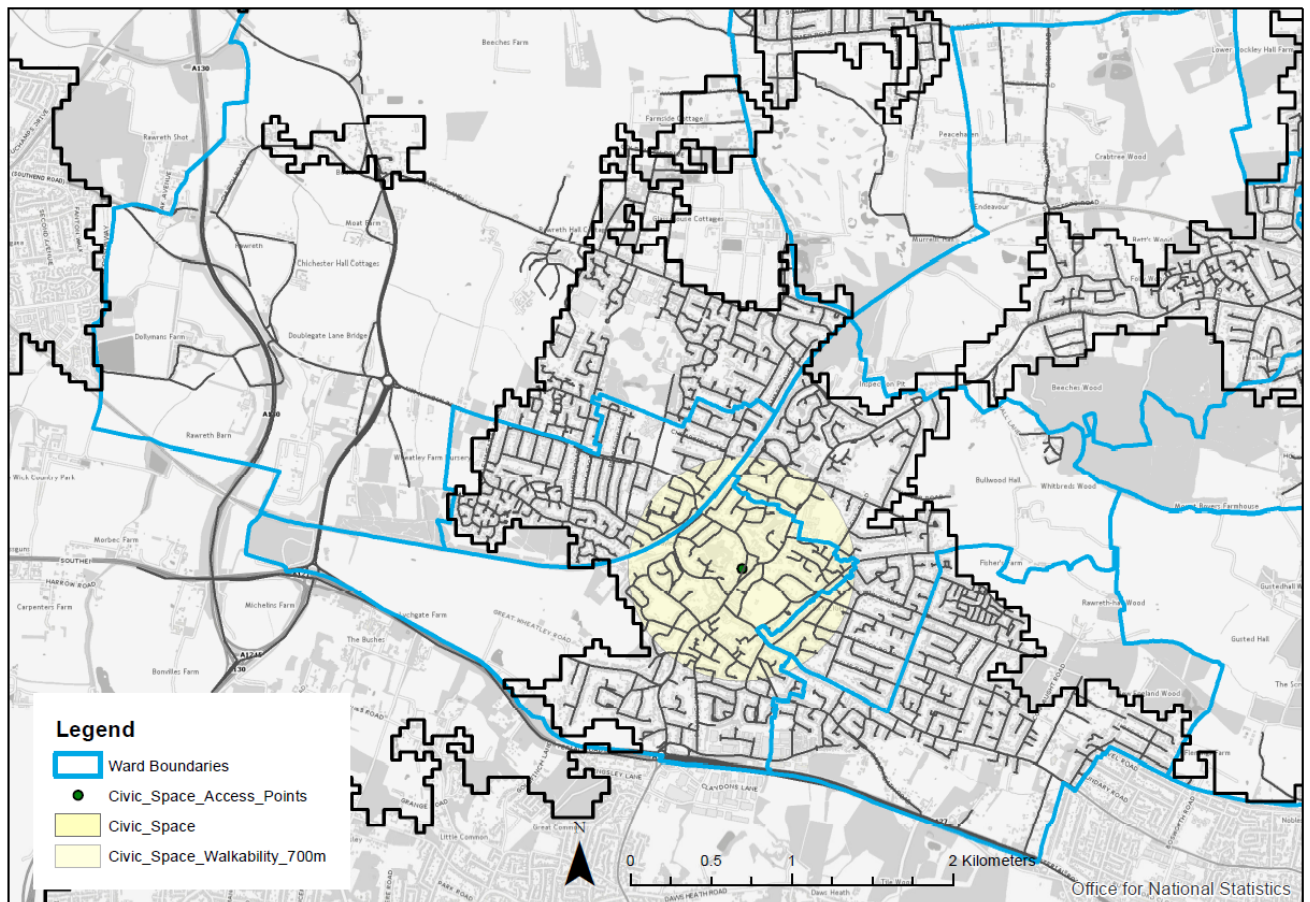
Map 32: Accessibility of Cemeteries & Churchyards across Rochford District



Civic Space

6.35 The accessibility analysis found that the sole space assessed in the Study afforded good walking accessibility from much of central Rayleigh, which was covered within the 700m walkability circle suggested by FiT for other open spaces. However, whilst this space provides a useful amenity for visitors to Rayleigh Town Centre and locals in the immediate vicinity of central Rayleigh, most of the District is not within walking distance.

Map 33: Accessibility of Civic Space across Rochford District



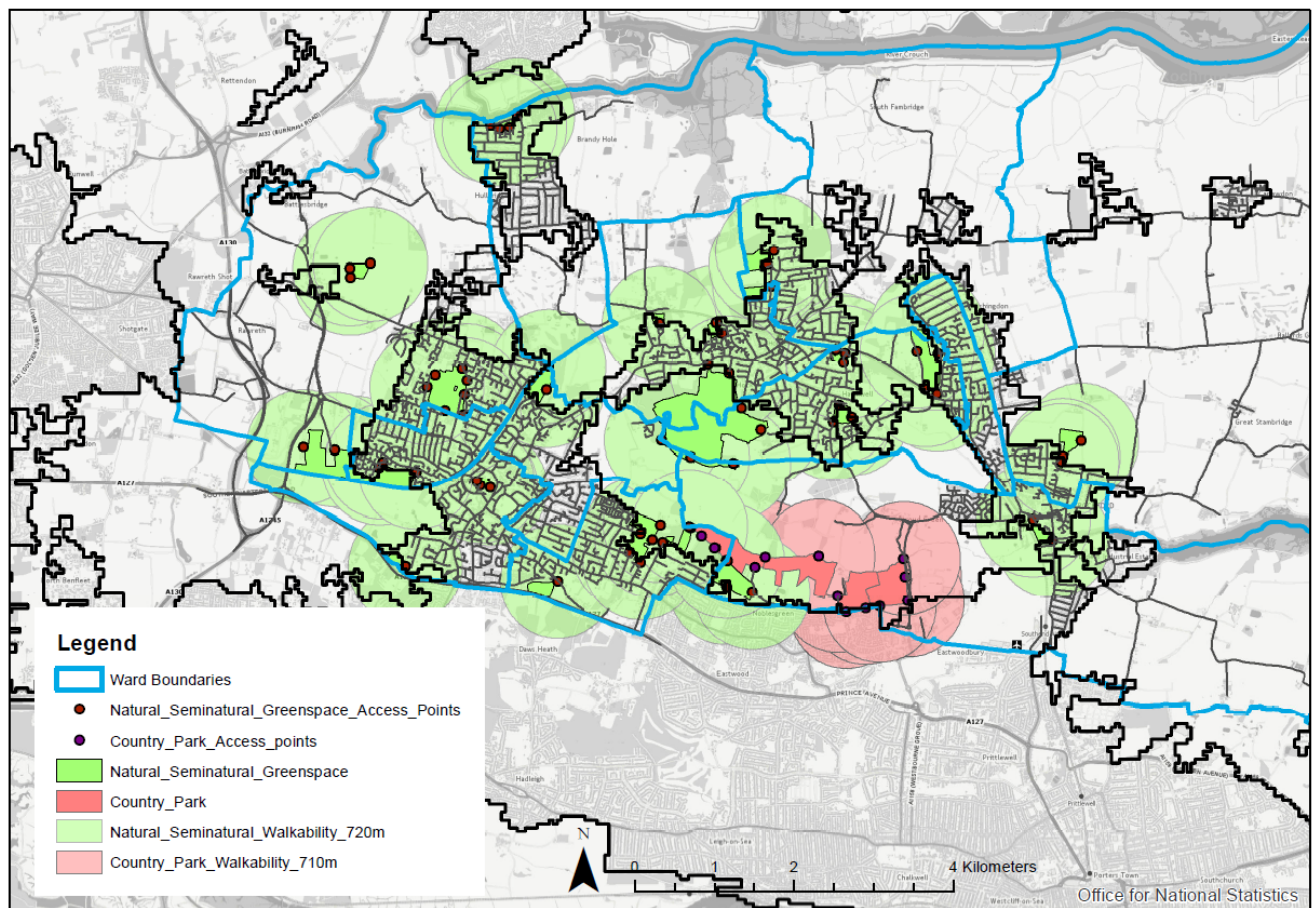
Country Parks & Natural/semi-natural Greenspace

- 6.36 Due to their similarities and the complementary nature of the sites in the Upper Roach Valley, the maps below plot accessibility radii from the access points for spaces in both the natural/semi-natural greenspace (light blue) and country parks (mauve) typologies.
- 6.37 As is evident, the numerous sites in the west of the District afford good walkability to most of the Rayleigh, Hockley and Hawkwell urban areas. There are, however, notable areas which are not close to any of these spaces, including southern Hullbridge and much of Trinity Ward, Rayleigh. To the East, central Rochford and Ashingdon benefit from spaces within walking distance, although outlying areas fall outside the recommended walking distance of 720m. Most of the outlying Roche North & Rural Ward (including settlements such as Canewdon, Great Stambridge and

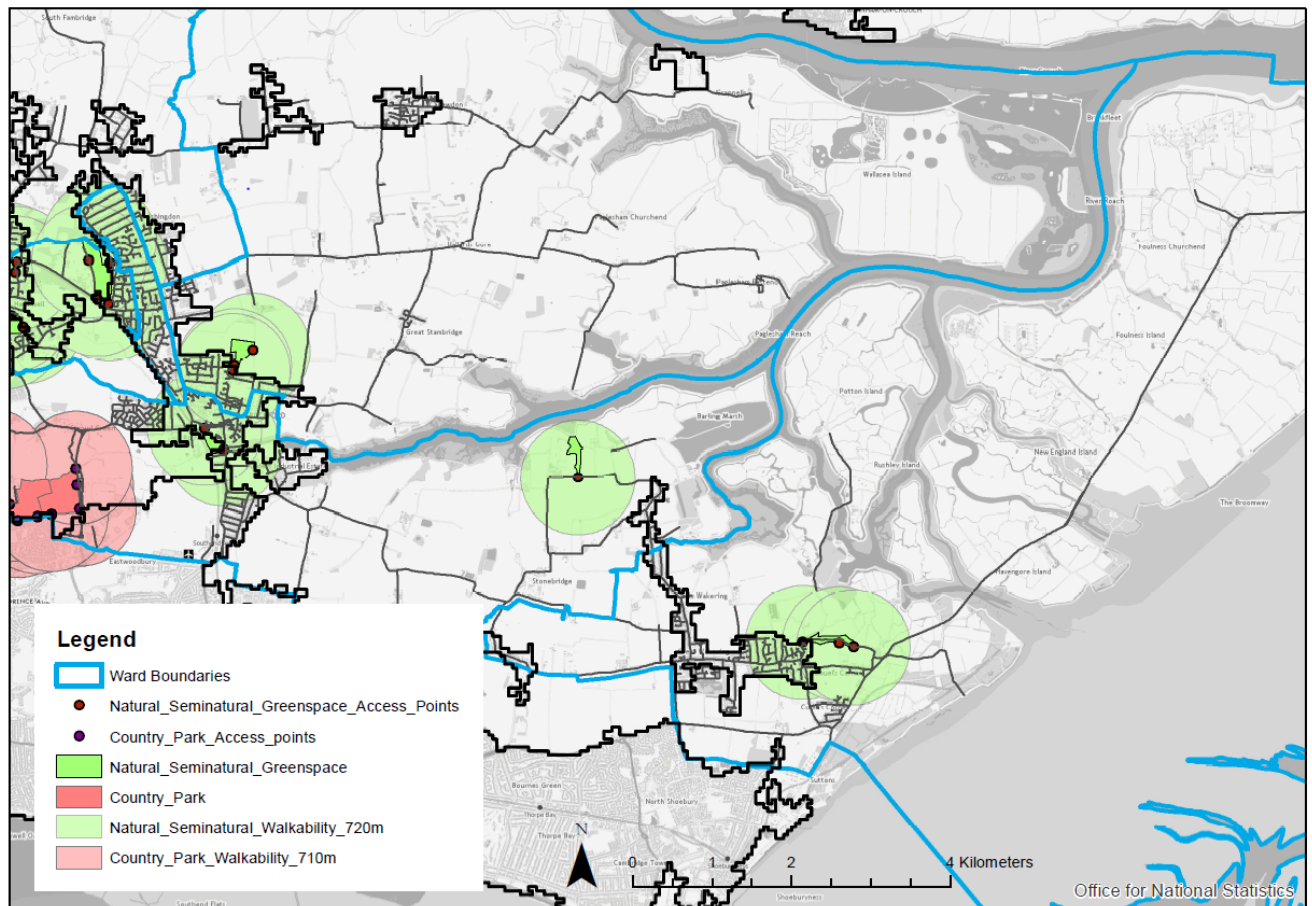
Paglesham) has no walkability to these spaces, although PRoWs and other nature reserves and wildlife sites may play a role in provision not recognised in this study. To the East, coverage is limited, with only two sites in the Foulness & The Wakerings ward, Wakering Common and Barling Nature Reserve. Only the former is within walking distance of a significant population, with the latter being isolated. As a result, much of Barling, Little Wakering and Western Great Wakering is not within walking distance, along with other settlements such as Sutton and Stonebridge.

6.38 The Upper Roach Valley also affords good walkability from Southend-on-Sea Borough, with numerous access points close to the area of Eastwood, from which it is more walkable than from much of Rochford District.

Map 34: Accessibility of Natural/semi-natural Greenspace/Country Parks across District (West & Central)



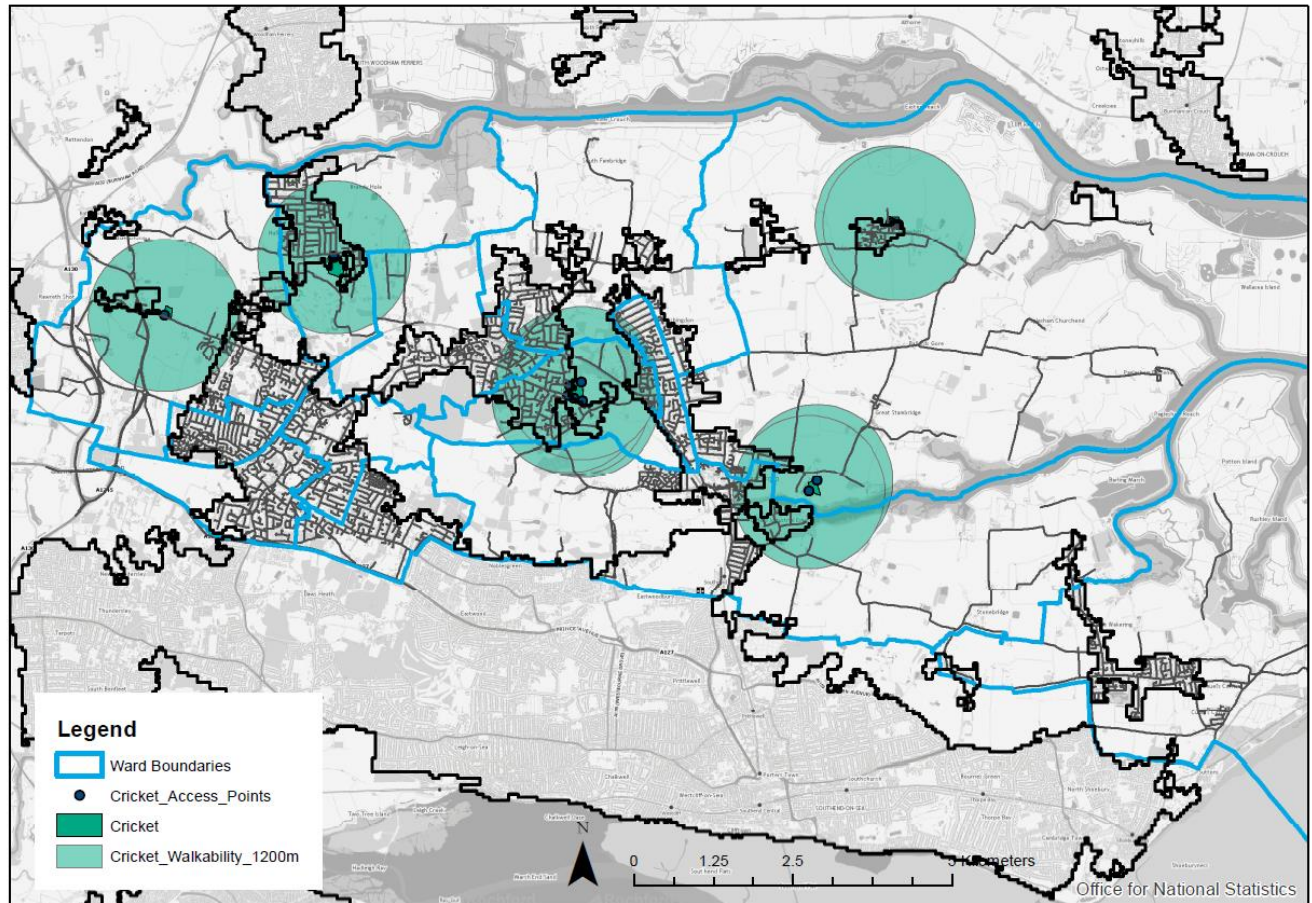
Map 35: Accessibility of Natural/semi-natural Greenspace across District (East)



Cricket

6.39 The District’s 5 sites are typically found in rural or edge of town locations, reflecting the need for large expanses of land. Consequently, whilst sizeable, populated areas are within the 1.2km walking distance to sites (e.g., much of Hullbridge and Hawkwell, and the entirety of Canewdon), many sites are isolated from the areas they likely serve (e.g., Rayleigh Cricket Club is not within walking distance of Rayleigh, whilst Broomhills Cricket Club is some distance from Rochford). Most of Hockley, Rayleigh and Rochford are not within walking distance of cricket sites, whilst Great Wakering and surrounding villages are especially isolated. The locations of outlying sites are likely to encourage car travel.

Map 36: Accessibility of Cricket Sites across District

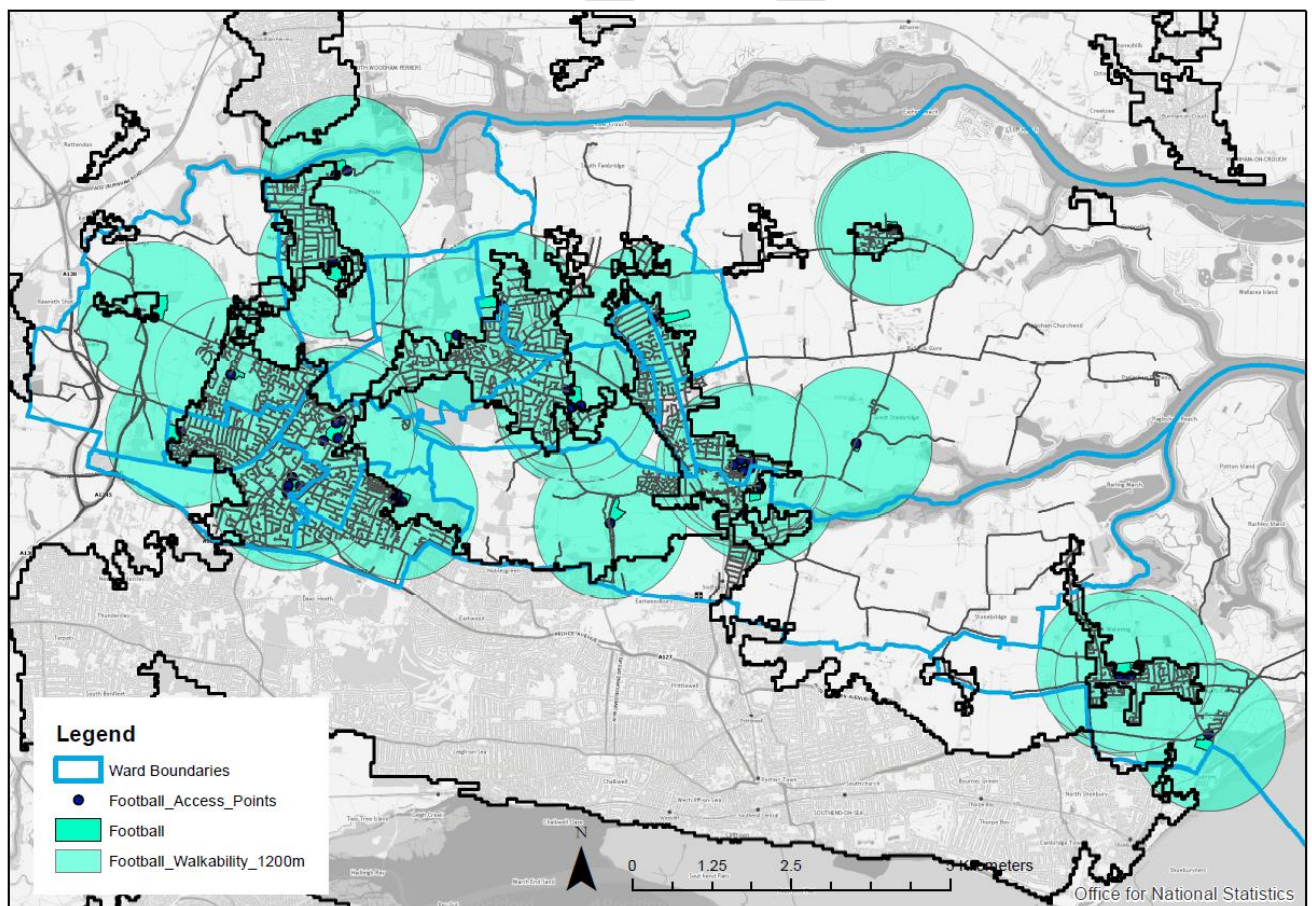


Football

- 6.40 Accessibility to football facilities is generally good across the District, with most settlements being within the recommended walking distance of 1.2km. As shown in the map, the entirety of the Tier 1 settlements is within walking distance of football pitches, except for parts of Rochford around Ashingdon Road and Southend Road. Both Tier 2 settlements of Hullbridge and Great Wakering have good walkability to a range of public and private facilities, whilst sites in Rawreth, Canewdon and Great Stambridge give walking access to rural communities. Only smaller outlying villages (e.g., Barling, Stonebridge, Paglesham, Battlesbridge and South Fambridge) are not within an easy walk of football facilities.
- 6.41 It should be noted that the level of provision at sites differs considerably, with some being publicly owned and accessible sites (i.e., parks such as King George V Playing

Field, Ashingdon; Wakering Recreation Ground; and Canewdon Park), whereas others are private sites to which access may be restricted to certain teams or members (e.g., Burroughs Park, Great Wakering; or Hullbridge Sports & Social Club). Therefore, some sites are in effect parks and recreation grounds offering public facilities beyond football, whilst others are entirely focused on the sport, and home to semi-professional or amateur teams. It is therefore likely that some sites are likely to attract a wider catchment of visitors than others. Even considering that not all football sites have open public access, there is a good spread of Council-owned sites that cover most of the Districts main settlements, whilst many other privately-owned sites still have facilities which are open to the public.

Map 37: Accessibility of Football Spaces across District

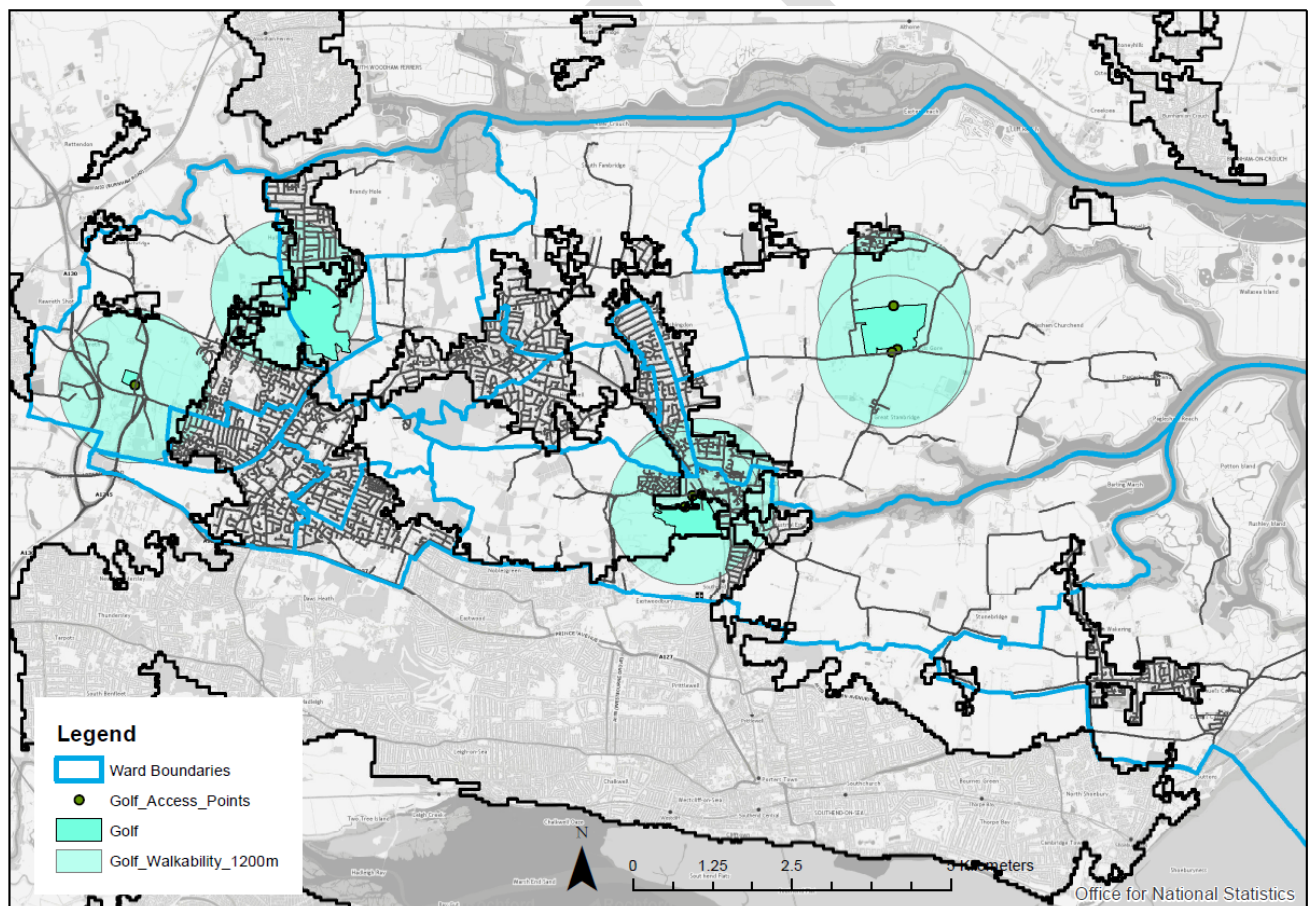


Golf

6.42 The District’s 4 golf sites are found in the Metropolitan Green Belt and comprise 3 golf courses and 1 driving range. When applying a 1,200m walkability radius from access points, the Rochford Hundred Golf Club affords good walkability to much of Rochford,

whilst The Rayleigh Club (formerly Lords Country Club) is walkable from large areas of southern Hullbridge. Whilst the Rayleigh Club adjoins areas of Rayleigh, it has only one official entrance point, making it less accessible by foot from Rayleigh. Whilst a rural location, Ballards Gore Golf Club is walkable from much of Great Stambridge and Canewdon, however the Rayleigh Golf Range, Rawreth, is sited far from population centres and only walkable from the fringes of western Rayleigh. Large areas of the District, e.g., Hockley, Ashingdon and The Wakerings, are not within walking distance, although in the case of the latter, a facility across the boundary in Southend may provide some coverage. Typically, users of this typology would access it by private car and sites have sizeable parking areas that reflect this, however local PRow networks mean the general public are able to utilise parts of the sites for walking.

Map 38: Accessibility of Golf Spaces across District

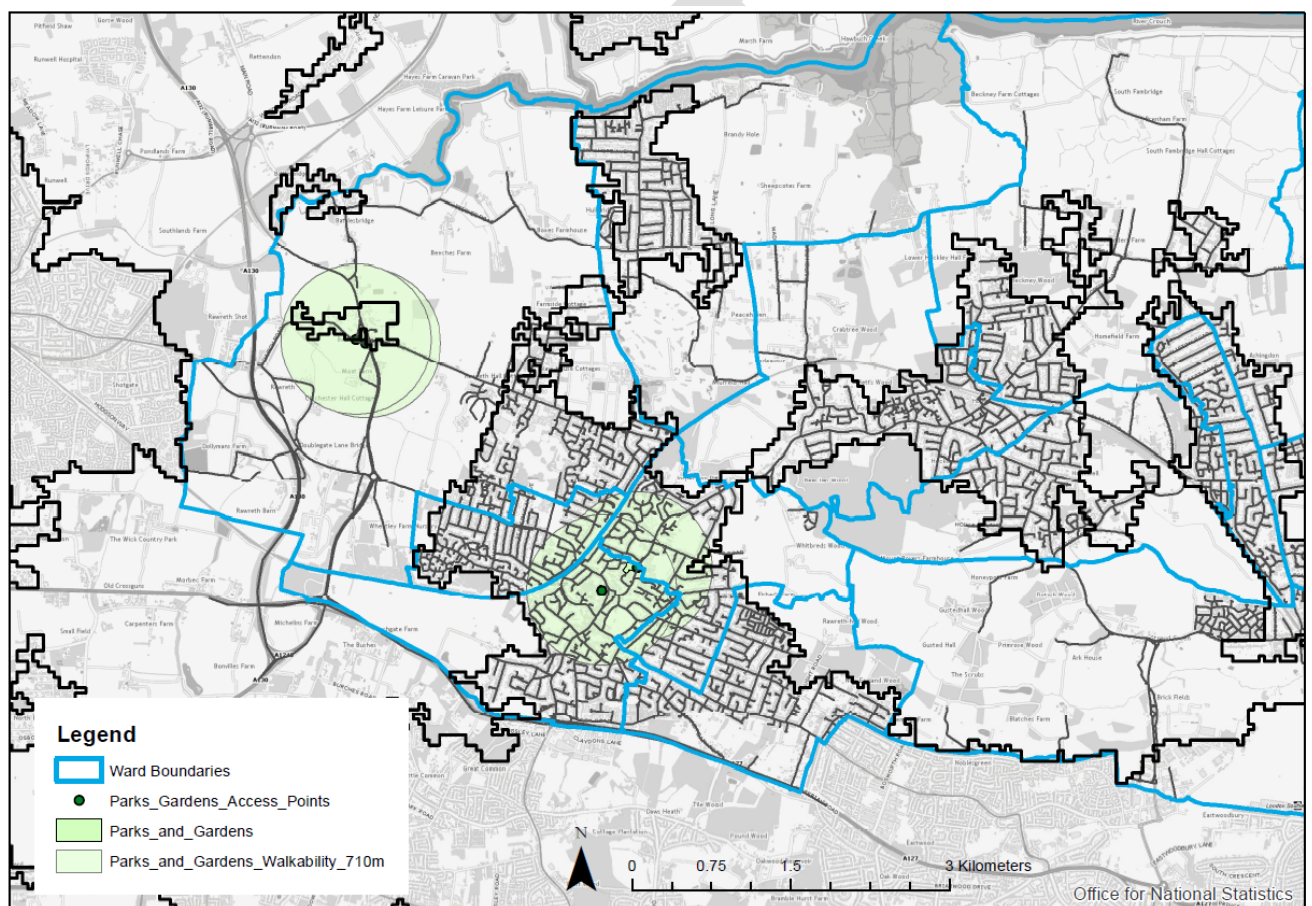


Parks and Gardens

6.43 There are only 3 formally assessed spaces in the District in this typology, all of which are found in the west, with 2 in Rayleigh and 1 in Rawreth. Central areas of Rayleigh are within walking access, as is almost the entirety of Rawreth village. It should be

noted that elements of formal parks and gardens are found in several other spaces in the District, which are categorised as playing fields but which have wider functions (e.g., Fairview Recreation Ground, Rayleigh, or King George V Playing Field, Ashington).

Map 39: Accessibility of Parks & Garden Spaces across District



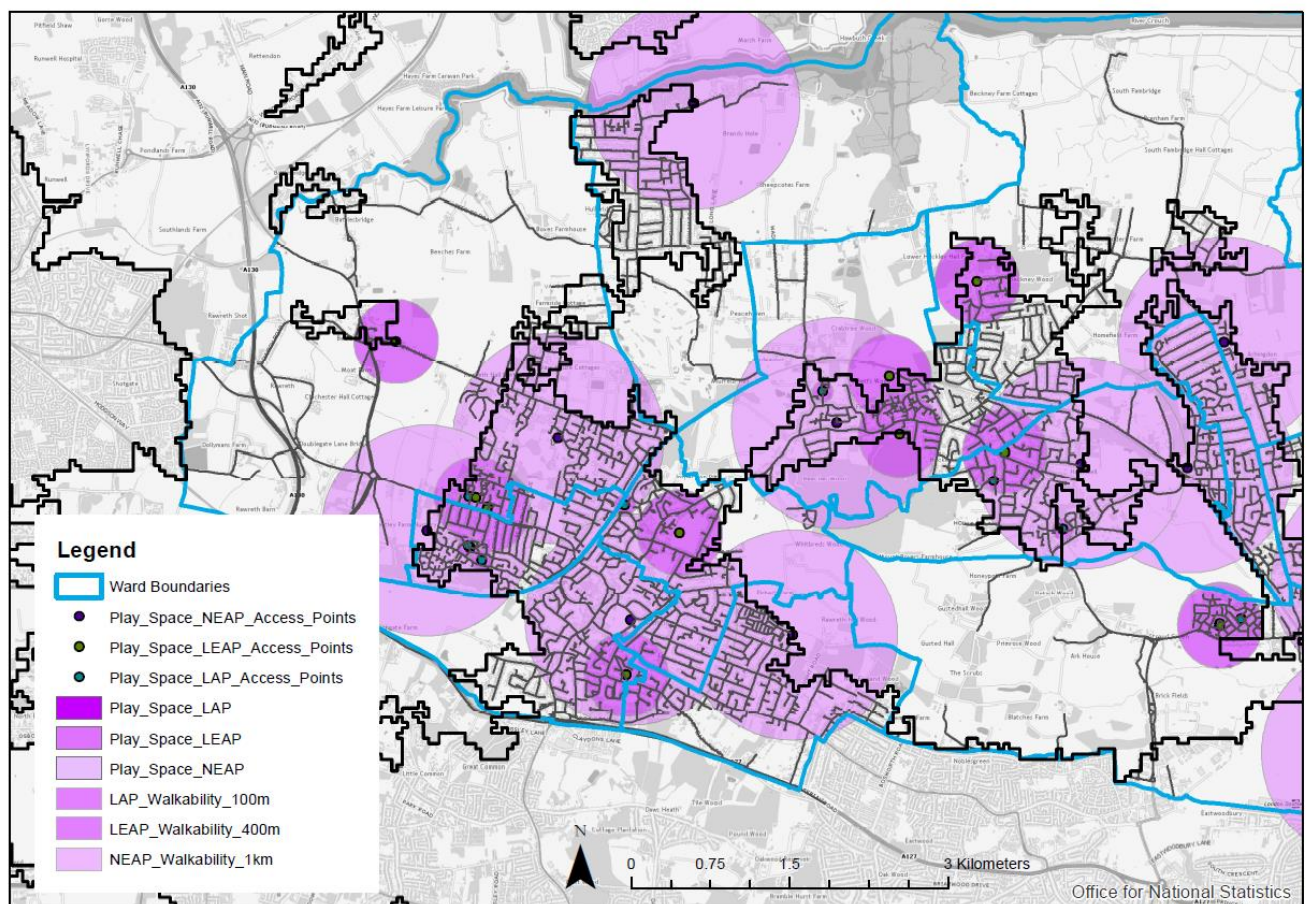
Play Spaces

- 6.44 The District’s play spaces are generally well distributed across the main urban areas and settlements, with most residential areas being within the recommended FiT walkability distance of 100m for a Local Area for Play (LAP), 400m of a Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP), or within 1,000m of a Neighbourhood-Equipped Area for Play (NEAP). NEAPs are evenly distributed and provide a network of spaces which cover most of the main settlement areas, with LEAPS providing additional local

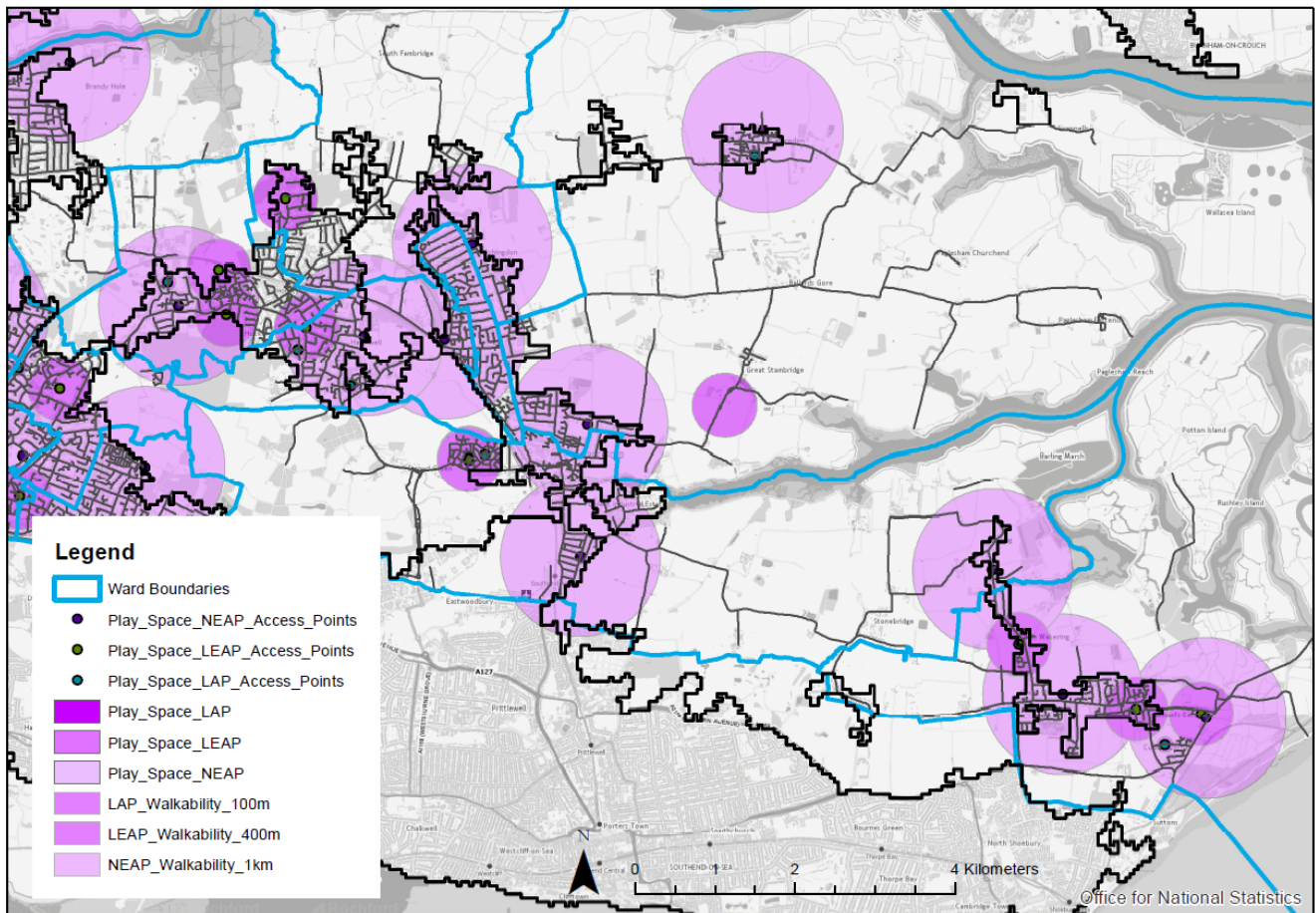
provision. LAPs are typically found on newer housing developments (e.g., Christmas Tree Farm, Hawkwell or Hall Road, Rochford, giving estate-level access to play facilities. The network of play spaces means outlying locations such as Canewdon, Barling and the eastern extremities of Great Wakering are also within walking distance of spaces.

6.45 However, there are notable gaps in coverage, including much of central Hockley, large areas of south and west Hullbridge, parts of Rochford near Ashingdon Road, and Rayleigh (west of the Station and on the southern boundaries). Many smaller villages and outlying areas are also not within walking distance of a play space. This includes Great Stambridge, which does not have a formal play space but benefits from play facilities situated at the Memorial Ground football site, situated some way from the main village and beyond the 400m walking radius expected.

Map40: Accessibility of Play Spaces across Rochford District (West)



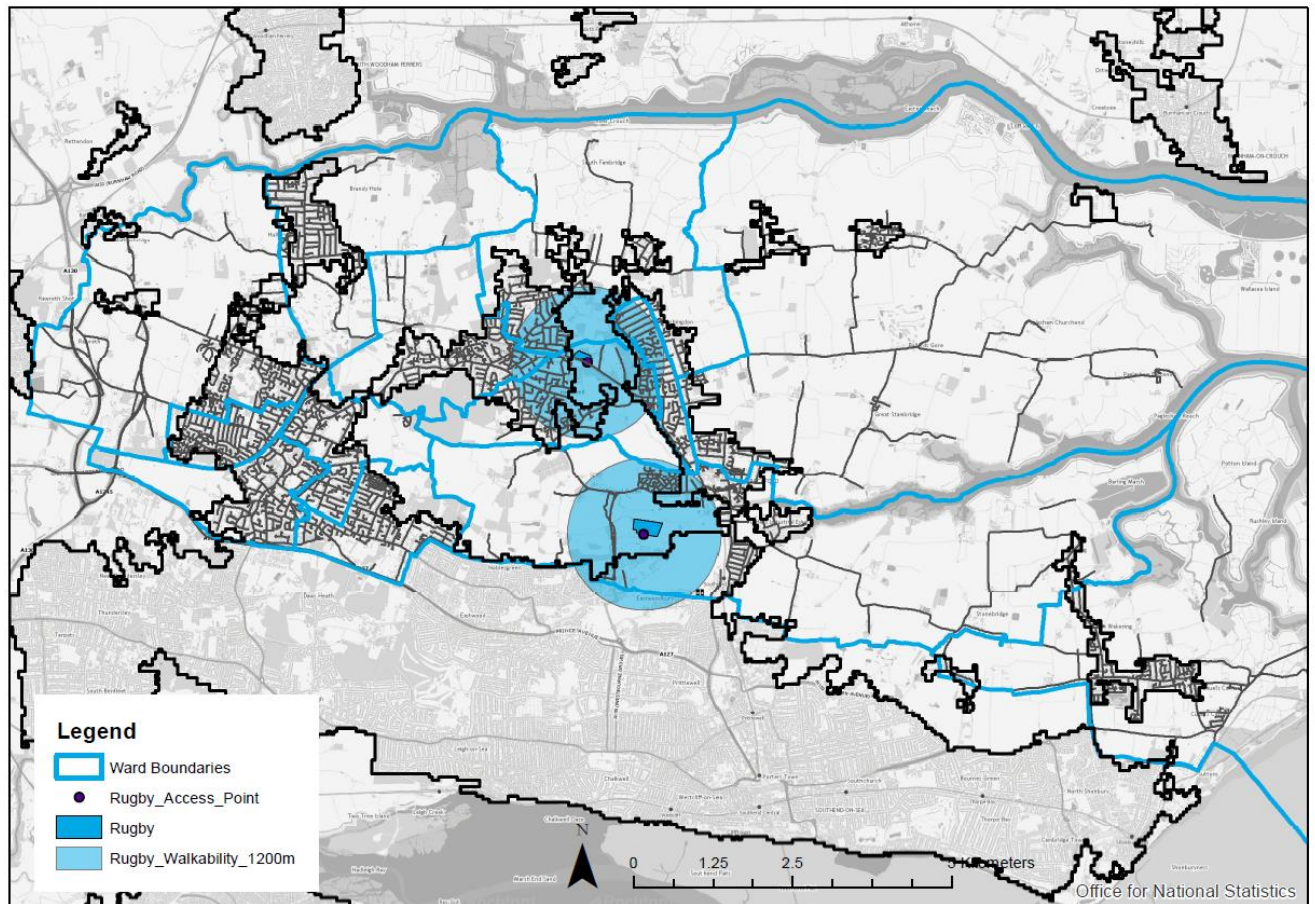
Map 41: Accessibility of Play Spaces across Rochford District (East)



Rugby

6.46 The District has only two rugby sites, both operated by private clubs. As shown in the maps, they are both situated on the outskirts of Rochford/Ashingdon. Rochford Rugby Club’s location is within 1.2km walking distance of residential areas of Ashingdon and Hockley/Hawkwell, whilst the Westcliff Rugby Club is situated further from urban areas on the Airport Business Park. Both sites are home to club teams and are likely to attract participants, staff and spectators from beyond their immediate areas, many of whom are likely to travel by car.

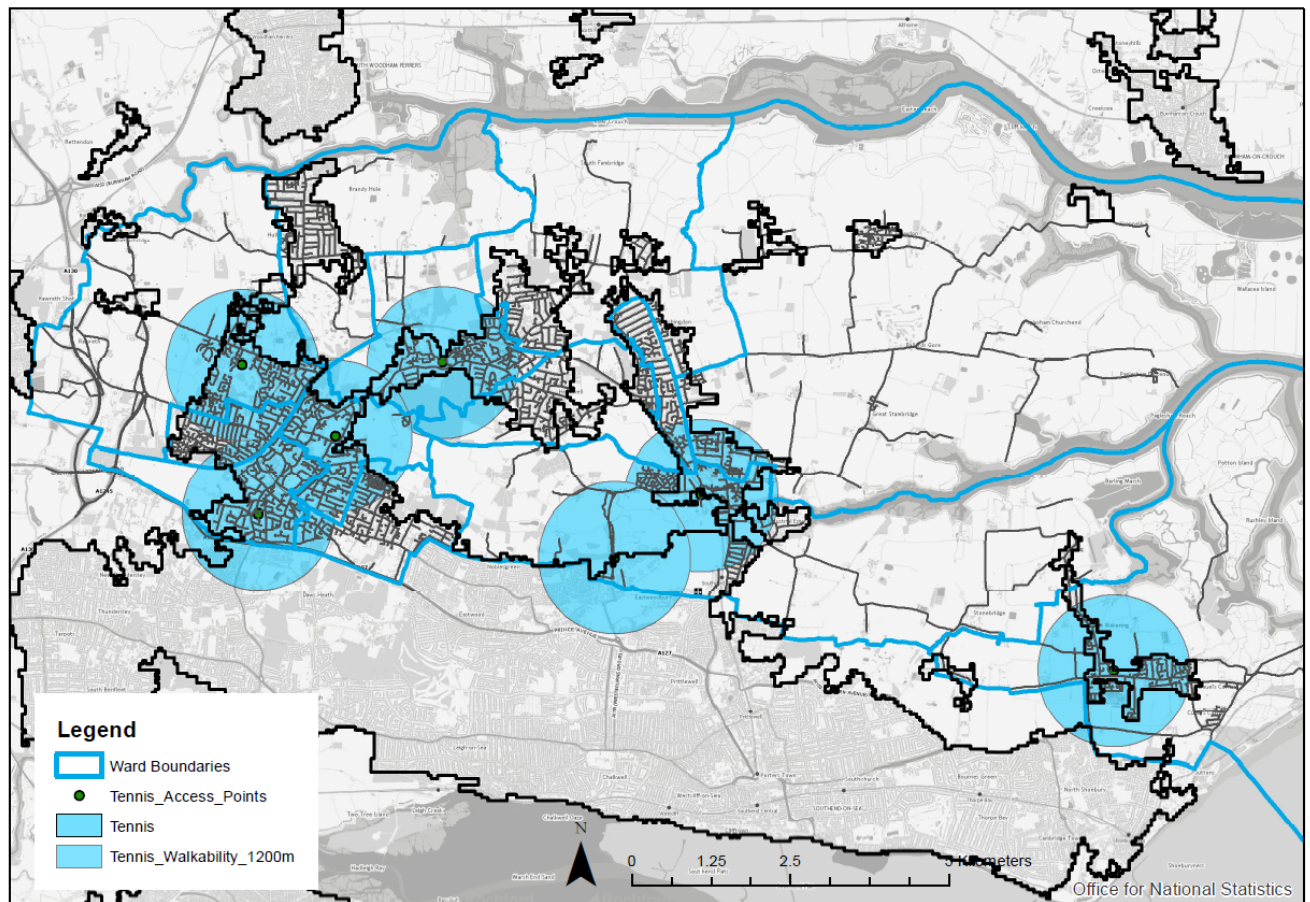
Map 42: Distribution of Rugby Spaces across District



Tennis

- 6.47 Tennis sites are typically small and easier to accommodate in urban areas than many other sports. As a result, most of Rayleigh, Hockley, Rochford and Great Wakering are within walking distance, with Rayleigh having the best provision of 3 separate sites. Hawkwell, Ashingdon and large areas of Hockley are situated further from these sites and not within walking distance, whilst Hullbridge and smaller villages have no tennis facilities within walking distance.

Map 43: Accessibility of Tennis Open Spaces across Rochford District



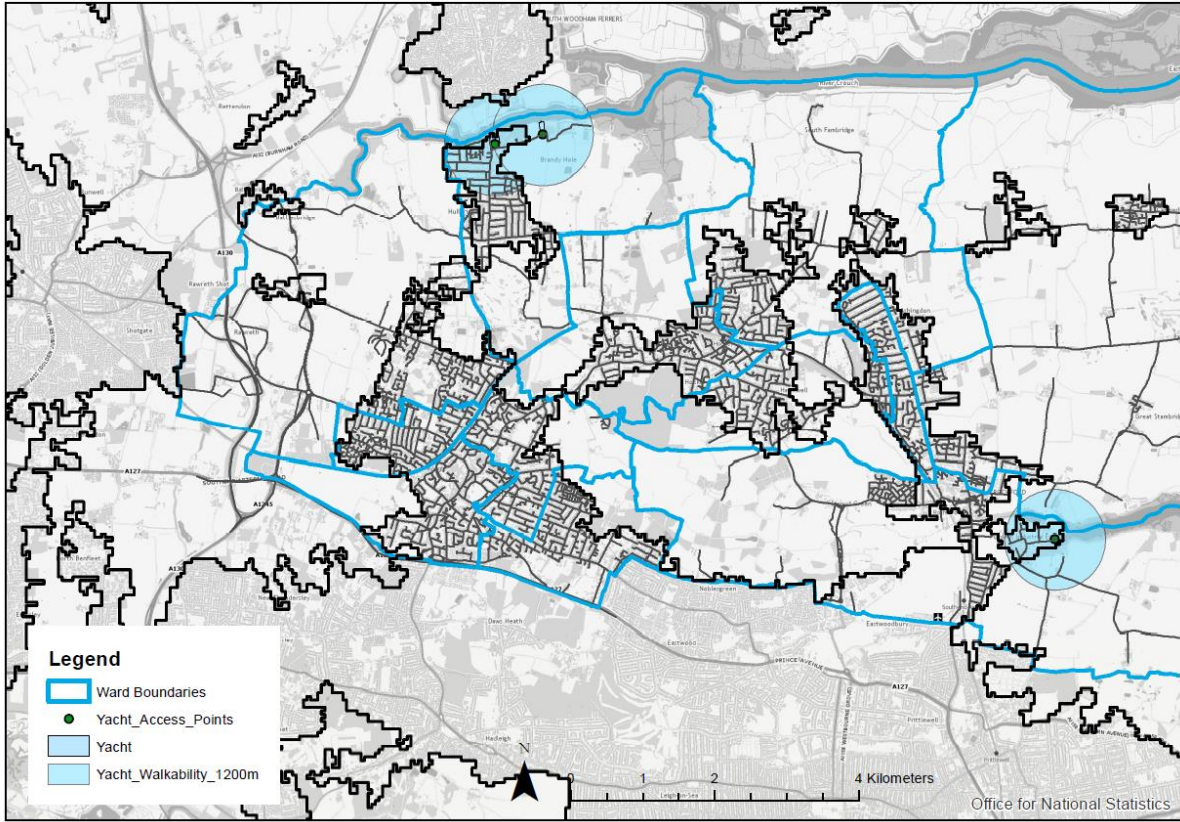
Yachting

- 6.48 The District’s yachting facilities are, by necessity, situated on the main waterways of the Roach and Crouch Estuaries, affording them good access to the North Sea and Thames Estuary. Applying the 700m walkability radius for other open spaces indicates that most of the District is not within walking distance of these sites, although this is possible from much of Hullbridge and from parts of Rochford. Many of the sites for these facilities are found in rural areas and mean that areas with very poor accessibility for other open spaces benefit from good walking access to yachting, including Paglesham, Sutton & Shopland and Wallasea Island. The nature of the

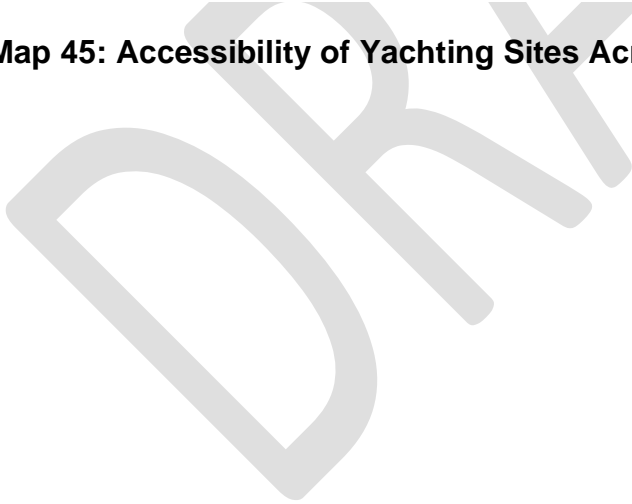
pastime means private car is likely to be the main means of access, and the District's largest site, Essex Marina, is particularly remote and has sizeable parking facilities.

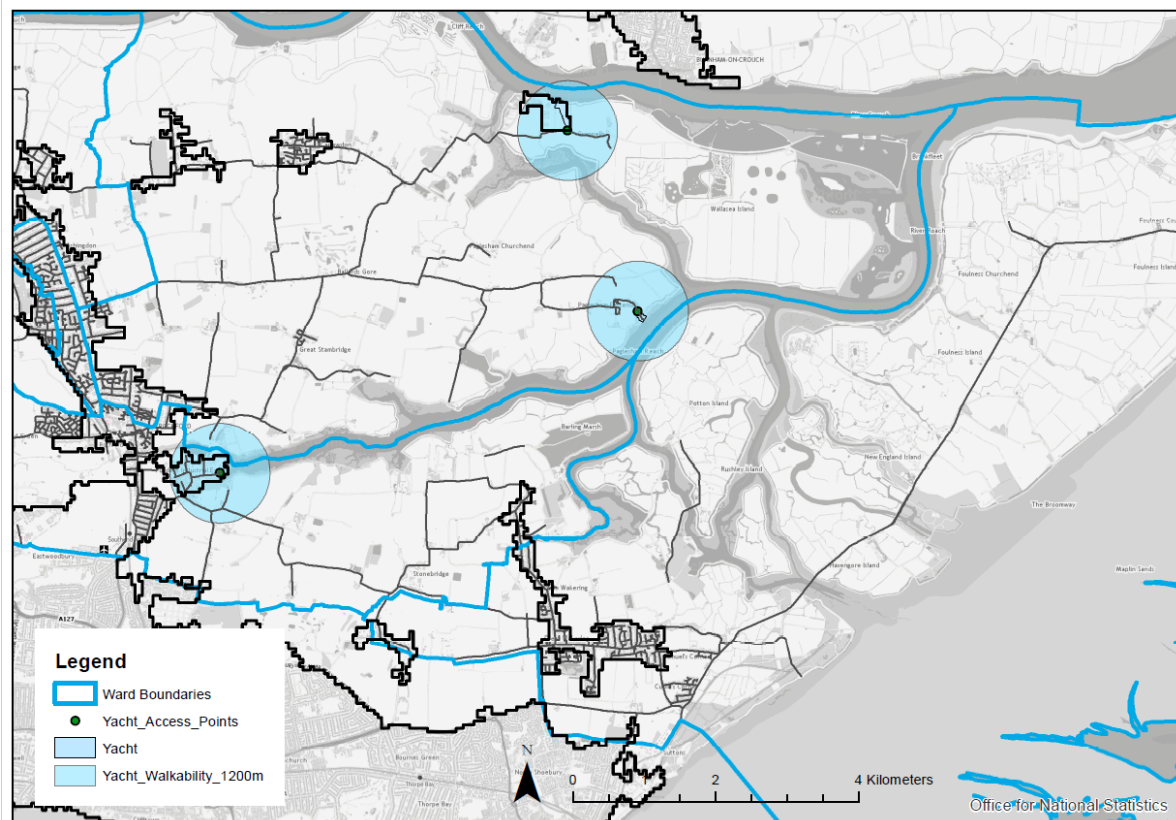
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Map 44: Accessibility of Yachting Sites across Rochford District (West)



Map 45: Accessibility of Yachting Sites Across Rochford District (East)





7 Conclusions and Recommendations

Key Findings from Quantity, Quality and Accessibility Assessment

Quantity and distribution

- 7.1 Overall, the open space assessment has presented that Rochford District contains a significant amount of open space, with a total of 707ha identified through this Study. Of this, the majority (43%) constitutes a variety of recreational and outdoor sports facilities, with natural and semi-natural green spaces, such as woodland, making up a further 36%. In addition, PRowWs are also widespread across the District and play an important role linking settlements and various accessible open spaces.
- 7.2 Generally, there is however, an uneven distribution of open spaces across the District with much of the identified open space concentrated in the **West** and **Central** areas, close to the main population centres of Rayleigh, Hockley, Hawkwell and Rochford. In terms of Wards, Roche South, Roche North and Rural, Wheatley, Hullbridge and Hockley Wards having the greatest amount of open space and Hawkwell East, Sweyne Park and Grange, and Trinity Wards containing the least amount of open space. A major contributing factor is the Upper Roach Valley, sitting between settlements and wards, and comprising multiple large open spaces, particularly Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace (e.g., Hockley Woods and Grove Woods) and the Cherry Orchard Country Park.

- 7.3 By comparison, the more sparsely-populated **East** of the District suffers from a relative deficit of open space, inclusive of Ashingdon, Barling and Great Wakering Wards, and with many of the outlying rural areas and smaller villages having little open space provision, explained by the prevalence of large amounts of private farmland, and a considerable proportion of the District occupied by Ministry of Defence sites.
- 7.4 It is, however, fair to state that the Rochford District does have a reasonable distribution of Public Open Space with the vast majority of the District's population being within walking distance of an open space, and with approximately 75% of the urban area being within Natural England's ANGSt standard of 300m (5-minute walk) from a Public Open Space. More detail on accessibility is set out in paragraphs 7.50-7.55 further below.
- 7.5 Specific wards contain larger quantities of open space, with Roche South, Hullbridge and Hockley wards containing over half (51.6%) of all open space in the District. In contrast, other wards have little or no provision. The urban ward of Hawkwell East contains no identified open spaces, whilst Sweyne Park & Grange and Trinity wards contains only 0.9% and 3% respectively of the District's open space. It should be noted that open space provision should not be analysed purely on a ward basis, as many neighbourhoods in wards with little or no provision are still within easy reach of a range of open spaces. Please refer to the settlement-level accessibility sections, from paragraph 6.15, for further detail.
- 7.6 Overall, Rochford's Public Open Space is reasonably well-distributed, with approximately 75% of the urban area being within Natural England's ANGSt standard of 300m (5-minute walk) from a Public Open Space.

Play Spaces

- 7.7 The District affords many play spaces, but with no play spaces in the Hawkwell East Ward. Foulness & the Wakerings ward affords the most hectareage (1.29ha) out of a total of 4.85ha. Most sites comprise LEAPs and NEAPs (87%). The size of play spaces varies throughout the District. Analysis of new residential sites showed that play space sites provision tended to be much smaller.

Amenity

- 7.8 There is a total of 25.2ha of amenity open space, distributed across the District. Analysis of amenity sites showed that there is a significant variation of size of sites throughout the District, ranging from 0.01 (Folly Grove, Hockley) to 4.5ha (Millview Meadows, Rochford and Turret House Open Space, Rayleigh). However, whilst the average across all sites was 3.47ha, the median size was 0.5ha, indicating that most amenity spaces are small.
- 7.9 Whilst Hawkwell East ward does not afford any amenity space, Trinity (5.8ha) and Wheatley (4.1ha) Wards afford the most hectareage in the District.

Parks and Gardens

- 7.10 There are very few formal Parks and Gardens within the Rochford District, however, other open spaces may serve the same function, and provide formal park and garden facilities within wider recreation sites. Wheatley Ward affords the most hectarage (1.04ha) of Parks and Gardens.

Country Parks

- 7.11 Cherry Orchard Country Park (82.2ha), located in Roche South Ward, is the sole example in the District and would benefit generally from improved access to linked green spaces (e.g., Hockley Woods) and from improved footpath, parking and cycling facilities. A more varied range of facilities within the country park could be considered to align it with other examples in Essex. Potential for an additional country park (or similar) could be considered as part of strategic housing delivery.

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

- 7.12 Natural and Semi-natural Greenspaces are distributed across the District and account alongside Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities as being one of the highest amounts of open space, with Hockley Woods being a notable site in this typology. The current provision of 2.92ha per 1,000 of the population exceeds the recommended level. When considered alongside the wider network of Public Rights of Way, nature reserves and local wildlife sites not picked up in this Study, the overall provision of this type of space is very good, reflecting the rural and coastal character of much of the District.

Civic Space

- 7.13 At present, only 1 site in Rayleigh, between Bellingham Lane and the Mill Arts Centre was assessed in this Open Space Study. There are only a small number of sites which could conceivably be classified, and much of these are little wider than a regular pavement, for example, the paved area with the town clock at the intersection of Bellingham Lane and High Street, Rayleigh, or the war memorial on East Street, Rochford. Rochford Market Square might be expected to be a civic space, but realistically, is largely given over to car parking. Initiatives to create useful and distinctive Civic Space could be considered in the future as part of wider town centre masterplans.

Allotments

- 7.14 There are now 10 allotment sites in the District, of which 4 are in the settlement of Rayleigh, with the most recent additions of the Stambridge Road, Great Stambridge, and Christmas Tree Crescent site, Hawkwell, having added to the overall allotment provision since the 2009 Open Space Study. A number of the smaller outlying settlements do benefit from provision for example, Hullbridge, Great Stambridge and Canewdon. Foulness & the Wakerings Ward affords the most hectarage (2.87ha) of allotment space in the District, out of a total of 11.4ha.

Outdoor Sports Facilities and Recreation

- 7.15 There is a good variety of outdoor sports provision, ranging from sports pitches within local recreational grounds to private clubs, for example, golf and sailing clubs. Hullbridge Ward affords the most hectareage (93ha) within the District out of a total of 303ha, whilst Hawkwell East Ward does not afford any outdoor sports facilities.

Cemeteries and Graveyards

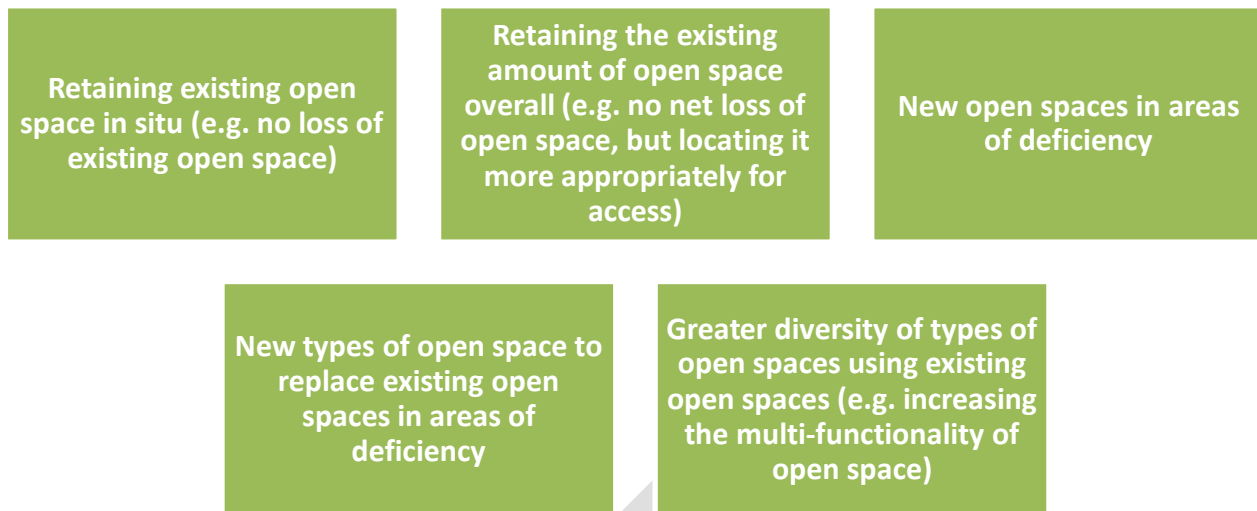
- 7.16 Whilst Cemeteries and Graveyards do not provide an amenity or recreational purpose they do provide a contributory role to local communities in which they serve and are well distributed across the District.

Provision into the Future

- 7.17 Rochford District's population is set to increase by 12.5% by 2040⁶⁰, and based on providing no additional open space, this will result in the overall quantity provision of open space falling from just over 8 hectares per 1,000 in 2020 to a little over 7 hectares per 1,000 by 2040. At the time of compiling this study there is approximately a further 76ha of open space under construction in planned residential development sites (see Table 12).
- 7.18 Whilst the quantity of provision is not the only factor, and the benefits of accessibility to good quality open spaces are widely known, quantity should remain a consideration. The following options set out below in Figure 50 could help address issues of deficiency in the amount of open space, whether by typology or in particular areas of the District where open space is in short supply.

Figure 50: Open Space Quantity Considerations

60 Mid 2019 Population Estimates (ONS,2020)



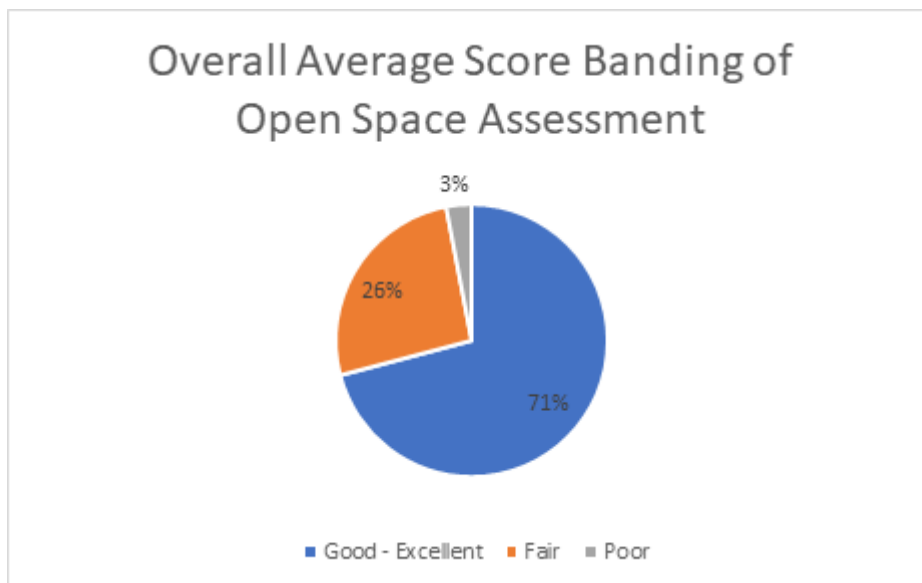
- 7.19 Retaining all existing open space can be restrictive. In some cases, restrictions on loss of open space are entirely appropriate (for example, protecting a designated landscape); but in other cases, there may be justification for loss of open space where improvements to the provision of open space can be made in other ways (for example through the new development of housing sites). Therefore, retaining the amount of open space through a ‘no net loss’ approach is a more pragmatic approach.
- 7.20 Diversification of existing open spaces provides an opportunity to increase provision without increasing the overall amount of open space. This could include adding play facilities to existing open spaces, or increasing the biodiversity value of open spaces, for example, creating local nature reserves.
- 7.21 GIS mapping of coverage identified areas which are particularly deficient in various categories of open space, as shown above in Section 6. This will serve as important evidence when considering where to direct future provision, and in considering whether engagement with developers seeking to build housing in such areas could provide open space to address these deficits.

Quality

- 7.22 The open space audits (based on Green Flag criteria) show opportunities for improvements across all types of open spaces. Overall, 71% of open spaces fall into the Good/Very Good/Excellent bandings; whilst 29% fall into the Fair/Poor banding. Of these, ‘Fair’ open spaces constitute 26% of the total whilst only 3% of all assessed open spaces were rated as ‘Poor’, implying that even in this banding most spaces can be improved significantly by addressing relatively minor points (e.g., improving signage or cleanliness). The average scores for Parks and Gardens, Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities; Allotments, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Amenity

Greenspace; Play Spaces, Civic Space and Country Park fall into the Good/Very Good and Excellent banding. Very few sites scored poor.

Figure 52: Overall Average Quality Score Banding



7.23 Each type of space is audited on the merits of the particular typology. It is recommended that where sites scored Fair or Poor that improvements should be focused on ensuring the sites are 'Welcoming'; 'Healthy, Safe and Secure': and 'Well Maintained and Clean' in line with the Green Flag Award benchmarking criteria, which can include improvements such as:

- Better signage along main travel routes for Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces and Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities.
- Appropriate levels of green landscape management (not all sites should be 'pristine', but a balance of amenity and nature conservation should be sought).
- High levels of maintenance of site furniture (e.g., signs, seats, bins, lighting), equipment (e.g., play equipment), and infrastructure (e.g., paths, car parking).

Play Spaces and Provision for Young People

7.24 Analysis of sites showed that Play Spaces and Provision for young people are generally sited within residential neighbourhoods and are walkable. There is, however, poor signage within localities to direct visitors to them. Play Space sites generally had poor cycle parking facilities but contained a good variety of well-maintained play equipment with few signs of disrepair (although age of equipment varied across sites), particularly for younger children.

7.25 Site visit assessments highlighted that there was poor visibility to the access routes of play space sites where they are located immediately between houses. Such sites were very hard to see and may only be obvious to those who have lived in the

immediate neighbourhood for a period of time. Poor visibility may also have safety implications for such sites.

- 7.26 On larger sites which contained both play spaces for younger children and facilities for older children, the analysis showed that there was poor connectivity between the facilities, i.e., no waymarking to indicate that there were other types of equipment available in other locations of the park. Examples were Grove Road, where the adventure playground and BMX course were in the adjacent field to the play space; Wakering Recreation Ground, where play space is on the opposite side of the park to football skill facilities, and King George V Playing Field where a large play space is separate to a skate park.
- 7.27 The play space audits also show opportunities for improvements, with 26% of play spaces falling into the 'Fair / Poor' score banding. NEAPs and LEAPs tended to score better than the LAPs, with the latter more likely to have a 'Fair' score, reflecting the more limited facilities at many LAP sites. The lower-scoring facilities tended to be clustered in West Rayleigh, Great Wakering, Barling and Canewdon.
- 7.28 Of the 38 play spaces analysed, the majority met FiT recommended standard, and approximately 33% of sites met Local Green Space criteria, usually as part of a wider open space site.
- 7.29 2 sites were no longer accessible to the public or had equipment removed. There was no information visible to advise visitors on the future of these sites.
- 7.30 Improvements should be focused on improved provision of play equipment, along with improved accessibility features such as signage and cycle facilities.

Amenity

- 7.31 Most amenity sites scored well above 'Fair', however, very few spaces benefited from signage in their localities or at the sites themselves. The minority of sites (22%) that scored 'Fair' or 'Poor' tended to have less to offer by way of facilities, with some just presenting as a small area of grass. They also often had an element of seclusion or dense vegetation which could facilitate acts of anti-social behaviour or potential hiding places for ambush. Many amenity sites afforded proximity to local play spaces, with most having seating benches, litter and dog waste bins, and landscaping. Sites were generally well-maintained with mowed grass and managed shrubs and trees, with very few signs of disrepair. Only 6 out of 40 amenity sites met Local Green Space criteria.

Parks and Gardens

- 7.32 The better scoring parks were situated prominently in urban areas of Rayleigh and afforded good immediate signage, whilst generally all sites had poor waymarking signage within localities to direct to a park or garden facility. All sites also had poor cycle facilities and cycle connectivity and were generally secluded with a lack of natural surveillance. In all sites there was good provision of seating benches and maintenance. Rayleigh's Windmill Gardens provided a high-quality setting for a historic building and met the Local Green Space criteria.

- 7.33 All sites would benefit from provision of picnic benches to enable greater enjoyment of these open spaces. Whilst only 3 sites were captured in this study, consideration could be given to classify some of the larger amenity open spaces and recreation grounds which would also qualify as Parks and Gardens.

Country Park

- 7.34 Whilst the Cherry Orchard Country Park site scored 'Good' there were some areas in need of attention – fences, gates, footpaths, and car parking surfaces. The site did not meet Local Green Space criteria due to the site having a large hectareage and bordering open countryside. Cherry Orchard Country Park site sits within a substantial network of footpaths but signage and map information boards are limited. The site would benefit from more information on how to travel within or to other adjoining sites, for example Grove Woods, New England Woods, Gusted Hall Woods, and Hockley Woods.
- 7.35 The site afforded poor facilities with no public toilet provision or visitors' centre. A Country park of this size should have additional facilities (visitor centre, toilets, refreshments, and family activities) comparable with other sites in Essex, for example, Highlands Park in Chelmsford or Great Notley Country Park, Braintree.

Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace

- 7.36 The Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace typology covered a wide variety of spaces, ranging from those contained within urban areas, e.g., Rayleigh Mount and Rochford Reservoir, suburban parks, e.g., Sweyne Park, through to isolated and tranquil patches of woodland, e.g., Kingley Wood. Sites varied by their nature with many sites being secluded and having considerable tree cover and minimal lighting. Most sites scored good and above for quality, with 9 out of 24 sites meeting Local Green Space criteria, with a significant proportion of these sites demonstrating their importance to the local community. The highest-scoring sites afford features such as a high-quality green environment, good provision of benches and picnic facilities, dedicated trails to follow and proximity to complimentary facilities such as play spaces or public toilets.

Civic Space

- 7.37 Only 1 site, The Mill, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh was considered suitable to survey as a Civic Space. The site scored 'Excellent' for its quality value but did not meet Local Green Space criteria. This site offered a good variety of facilities including landscaping, seating, and a monument. The site serves as an important space for ceremonial events, along with social connectivity for the local community, however, the small size of the space means it only performs a minor role compared to larger spaces in central Rayleigh, e.g., Rayleigh Mount and King George V Playing Field.
- 7.38 It is evident that there is a lack of Civic Space in the District, particularly for a growing urban population. Civic Space is an important facility (normally comprising of small squares with seating facilities and other good public realm qualities such as landscaping features) for local communities to meet and socialise, contributing to their health and wellbeing. It also brings potential for additional events and activities to be

held in towns, increasing footfall to local businesses. It is recommended that new strategic housing and employment policies and sites should ensure the provision of Civic Spaces. Provision of new space should also be a consideration of future masterplans for the regeneration of the District's town centres.

Allotments

- 7.39 Generally, sites are located close to the communities they serve and accessible to members only, therefore little signage is employed. Most sites afforded the provision of basic facilities, for example, access to a water tap, whilst some had informal 'shop / provisions facilities. Most sites surveyed were scored 'Fair' to 'Good' for quality. Security of sites was generally good, with most sites affording high fences and gated access and good natural surveillance from surrounding neighbourhoods. Allotment sites are not eligible to be considered for Local Green Space.

Outdoor Sports Facilities and Recreation

- 7.40 The survey established a good variety of outdoor sports facilities, with most scoring 'Good' to 'Excellent'. Spaces were distributed across the District (including many in rural/semi-rural areas, however, not all sites were accessible or open to the public. Many of these sites are only accessible through having membership. Many of the sites afforded a good provision of dedicated car parking. As with many other open spaces there was poor cycle access and storage. Most private sites provided changing rooms, club house and picnic benches which contributed towards achieving a higher quality score. These facilities are difficult for publicly owned sites to match, but there were some 'flagship' sites, for example, Fairview Recreation Ground and King George V Playing Field in Rayleigh, along with facilities provided by Council leisure centres. 12 (25%) of sites meet Local Green Space criteria.
- 7.41 Most publicly accessible sites provided little safety and security with only natural surveillance where available which attracted a lower quality score. These sites often presented evidence of anti-social behaviour (littering and graffiti), particularly Wakering Recreation Ground which showed evidence of a need for maintenance. Tennis courts appeared in very poor condition, and several facilities appearing abandoned, for example, a running track overgrown from grass.

Recommended Local Green Space Designation

- 7.42 The Local Green Space designation was introduced by the NPPF in 2012, and offers a high degree of protection to areas of importance to the local community. This is on the basis that the land meets certain criteria to achieve the designation.
- 7.43 Table 29 below sets out 45 open space sites identified, assessed, and considered to meet the Local Green Space designation criteria based around the principles as stated within the NPPF and associated guidance. This includes three key criteria that need to be met for the site to be considered as Local Green Space. These are:

- Reasonable proximity to the community it serves.
- Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

7.44 National Planning Guidance⁶¹ states that,

“Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities...Anyone who wants an area to be designated as Local Green Space should contact the local planning authority about the contents of its local plan or get involved in neighbourhood planning...Local Green space designation should not be used in a way that undermines [the] aim of plan making.”

7.45 National planning guidance also sets out that if the land is already protected by Green Belt, *“consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained.”*

7.46 Management (involving landowners and local communities) of potential Local Green Space designations also needs to be considered.

7.47 The recommended Local Green Spaces set out in Table 29 were included in the recent 2021 Spatial Options Consultation for comment, and, overall, received public backing for their designation. It is recommended that the Plan-making process be used to secure their designation. Further comment is provided below, in Paragraph 7.63.

7.48 The full scoring for the below recommended Local Green Space designations can be found in Appendix C.

Table 29: Recommended Local Green Space Designations

Reference (Appendix C)	Open Space Name	Address	Location	Ward	Open Space Type	Open Space Approx. Size (ha)
5,10	Canewdon Cricket / Football Ground	Althorne way, Canewdon	Canewdon	Roche North & Rural	Cricket / Football	1.83

⁶¹ Local Green Space Designation, MHCLG, 2014 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space#Local-Green-Space-designation>

Reference (Appendix C)	Open Space Name	Address	Location	Ward	Open Space Type	Open Space Approx. Size (ha)
8	Play Space	Canewdon Playing Field	Canewdon	Roche North & Rural	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.13
9	The Village Green	Sycamore Way, Canewdon	Canewdon	Roche North & Rural	Amenity Green Space	0.93
14	Great Wakering Common	Common Road, Great Wakering	Great Wakering	Foulness & The Wakerings	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	5.46
15	Great Wakering Recreation Ground	High Street, Great Wakering	Great Wakering	Foulness & The Wakerings	Tennis Courts	0.11
21	Play Space	High Street, Great Wakering	Great Wakering	Foulness & The Wakerings	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.07
25	Great Wakering Recreation Ground	Leisure Centre, High Street, Great Wakering	Great Wakering	Foulness & The Wakerings	Football	5.9
27	Spencers Park Public Open Space	Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	4.8
29	Clements Hall Cricket Ground	Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Cricket	5.87 (dual use)
30	Play Space	Clements Hall, Clements Hall way, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.11
33	Hawkwell Common	Main Road, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity Green Space	0.27

Reference (Appendix C)	Open Space Name	Address	Location	Ward	Open Space Type	Open Space Approx. Size (ha)
35	Clements Hall Playing Field	Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Football	0.15
43	Play Space	Plumberow Mount, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	Hockley	Hockley & Ashingdon	Play Space (LEAP)	0.17
50	Marylands Avenue Nature Reserve	Marylands Avenue, Hockley	Hockley	Hockley	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	3.03
51	Plumberow Mount	Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	Hockley	Hockley & Ashingdon	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	6.29
52	Kendal Park Nature Reserve	Ferry Road, Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	3.05
55	Play Space	Pooles Lane Playing Field, Pooles Lane Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.07
60	Hullbridge Playing Field	Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Football	3.65
62	Rayleigh Mount	Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Wheatley	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	1.64
66	Wheatley Wood	Near Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Wheatley	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	35.34
76	Fairview Playing Field	Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Trinity	Tennis Courts	0.22

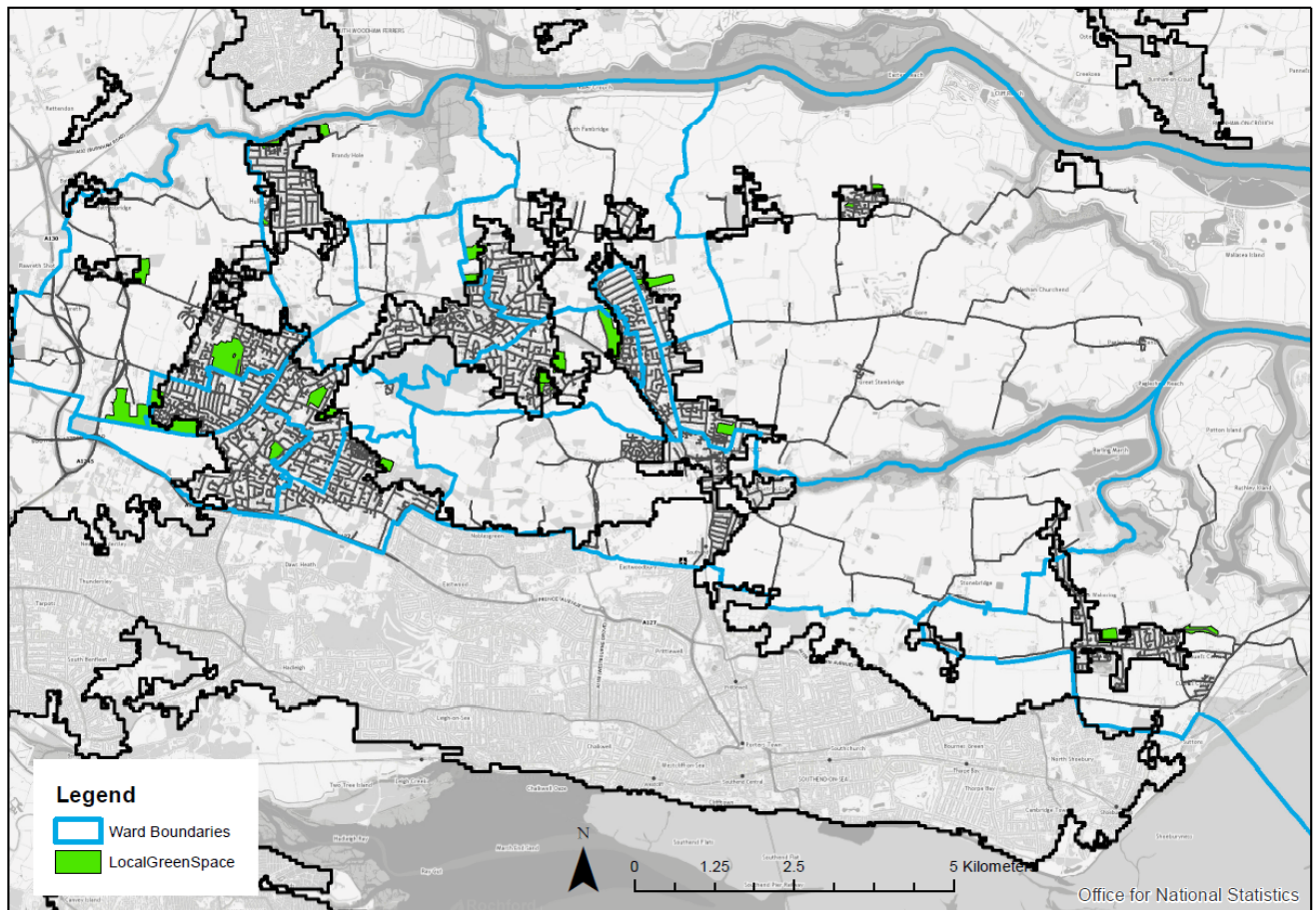
Reference (Appendix C)	Open Space Name	Address	Location	Ward	Open Space Type	Open Space Approx. Size (ha)
86	Play Space	Sweyne Park, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.4
87	Play Space	Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Trinity	Play Space (LEAP)	0.08
88	Play Space	Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Play Space (LEAP)	0.05
89	Play Space	St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Sweyne Park & Grange	Play Space (NEAP)	0.05
91	Play Space	Grove Road Playing Field, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Lodge	Play space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.15
93	King George V Playing Field Space	Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Wheatley	Play space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.21
96	St John Fisher Playing Field	Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Sweyne Park & Grange	Football	5.58
98	Grove Road Playing Field	Grove Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Lodge	Football	3.41
100	Rawreth Lane Playing Field	Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Football	6.8

Reference (Appendix C)	Open Space Name	Address	Location	Ward	Open Space Type	Open Space Approx. Size (ha)
105	Sweyne Park Open Space	Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Downhall & Rawreth	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	9.35
108	King George V Playing Field	Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Wheatley	Football	3.57
110	Fairview Playing Field	Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Trinity	Football	5.82
111	Turret House Open Space	Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Trinity	Amenity Green Space	5.11
120	King George Playing Field Play Space	Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	Rochford	Hockley & Ashingdon	Play Space (NEAP)	0.07
121	Play Space	Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	Rochford	Roche North & Rural	Play Space (NEAP)	0.19
123	Play Space	Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	Rochford	Hawkwell West	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)	0.06
129	Rochford Recreation Ground	Stambridge Road, Rochford	Rochford	Roche North & Rural	Football	3.85
130	Magnolia Nature Reserve	Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	Rochford	Roche North & Rural	Natural / Semi-natural Green Space	16.01
131	King George Playing Field	Ashingdon Road, Rochford	Rochford	Hockley & Ashingdon	Football	7.02
New Site 1	Play Space	Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Play Space (LAP)	0.04

Reference (Appendix C)	Open Space Name	Address	Location	Ward	Open Space Type	Open Space Approx. Size (ha)
New Site 2	Amenity (west)	Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity	1.19
New Site 3	Amenity (east)	Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Hawkwell	Hawkwell West	Amenity	0.41
New Site 13	Amenity Area (cenotaph)	High Elms park, Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Amenity	0.96
New Site 30	Windmill Gardens	Off Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh	Rayleigh	Wheatley	Parks & Gardens	0.14

7.49 Map 46, below, shows the proposed LGS sites on a map of the District (in dark green), indicating their geographical distribution.

Map 46: Recommended Local Green Space Designations



Accessibility

- 7.50 Overall, the vast majority of Rochford District’s population are within walking distance of an open space, with GIS accessibility mapping showing this to be the case in all urban areas and the main parts of smaller Tier 3 and Tier 4 villages and hamlets.
- 7.51 This is also the case in terms of ‘publicly-accessible’ open spaces (i.e., those not given over to a specific recreational activity, such as Parks & Gardens, Amenity Greenspace or Natural/semi-natural Greenspace), which is shown to be walkable from nearly all urban areas. Where it is not accessible from certain areas (e.g., Southern Hullbridge or Western Great Wakering), multi-purpose football/recreation grounds provide a similar amenity. It can therefore be said that the Study corroborates the findings of the Natural England ANGSt study, which found that approximately 75% of the urban area of the District is within a 300m (5 minute) walk of Public Open Space.
- 7.52 However, there are still pockets of settlement which do not have any walking access to open space in the District. These include the village of South Fambridge and hamlets of Battlesbridge (south of the River Crouch) and Stonebridge. In addition, outlying areas of Canewdon, Ashingdon, Paglesham and Foulness are not within

walking distance of spaces, despite the main body of these settlements having accessibility.

- 7.53 When considering ‘publicly-accessible’ open space deficiencies, the picture is similar, with rural areas such as the northern fringes of Hockley and parts of Barling also not having any access. However, there are some pockets of urban areas that are also not in walking distance from either publicly accessible open spaces or public pitches/recreation grounds. These include areas of South-East Hullbridge and areas of Rochford (along Ashingdon Road and Southend Road). It should also be considered that within urban areas with walking distance to a public open space, some areas will have a far more limited choice than others (possibly only one space), reducing the choice of residents. Such deficiencies should be addressed, with the options in Figure 50 having potential to increase the range of provision in these areas.
- 7.54 Evidence from this study has shown that recent housing schemes have successfully provided a range of publicly accessible open space on the fringes of settlements, increasing public space provision and accessibility for the wider community. Therefore, where possible, future policies should support development which provides new open spaces that are accessible to these unserved areas.
- 7.55 Given many unserved or underserved areas sit on the fringes of the District, the Council could work with neighbouring local authorities to explore opportunities to address provision in these areas as part of future Local Plan policies.

Play Spaces and Provision for Young People

- 7.56 Play Spaces of different types were generally in proximity to local residential neighbourhoods and walkable, with most residential areas within walking distance of a site. However, much of central Hockley has no local site, along with areas of western Rayleigh, whilst Hullbridge has only 1 NEAP play space and the village’s sprawling nature means much of South and East Hullbridge does not fall within walking distance. Whilst Play Spaces in smaller settlements, e.g., Barling, Wakering and Canewdon, meant their respective villages had good walkability to such sites, these spaces tended to score poorly on accessibility for their quality scores, suggesting better signage and walking/cycling routes would help communities make the most of such spaces.

Amenity

- 7.57 Most Amenity sites scored ‘Very Good’ or ‘Excellent’ (74%) on Accessibility in their Quality assessments. Sites are generally in proximity to local housing neighbourhoods they are intended to serve; many having been delivered as part of housing developments. GIS indicates generally good walkability from residential areas. Hockley and Hawkwell are almost completely within walking distance, however much of Rayleigh, Rochford & Ashingdon, Hullbridge and Great Wakering fall outside of walking distance. The public amenity provided by these spaces can also be provided by other types of open space, so they are best analysed alongside other

publicly accessible open space sites. Future housing delivery has the potential to continue to provide sites and address issues with walking distance to existing residential areas.

Parks and Gardens

The limited number (3) of sites classified as Parks & Gardens means they are accessible only from areas of Rayleigh and Rawreth. However, a number of other sites classified as football pitches or recreation grounds do incorporate aspects of formal parks/gardens and the wider contribution of these sites should be noted. 2 out of 3 sites surveyed scored as 'Good' for accessibility. The better scoring parks were situated prominently in the urban areas of Rayleigh and benefited from signage. The site that scored 'Poor' for accessibility was in an isolated location (Bedloes Corner) with access to residential areas severed by a major A-road. As highlighted in Figure 50, increasing the multi-functionality of existing open spaces (e.g., sports pitches or Amenity spaces) could be a way of increasing Parks & gardens provision and providing a truer picture of coverage. Country Park

- 7.58 Cherry Orchard Country Park has a large number of access points and footpath connections to the wider PRow network and adjoining open space sites, helping give it a high rating for accessibility. However, its location means it is not particularly walkable from many residential areas itself, whilst any proposed facilities improvements that increase its popularity will require additional improvements in parking, cycling, and walking infrastructure, both to access the site and to improve the network with neighbouring spaces in the Upper Roach Valley.

Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace

- 7.59 50% of sites scored 'Good' or 'Excellent' on accessibility in the Quality assessment, with sites scoring 'Fair' or 'Poor' tending to be isolated, rural locations away from residential areas. Many sites afford proximity to residential areas, allowing them to benefit local communities, and of which are generally well-distributed across the District. Examples of highly accessible greenspaces include Rochford Reservoir, Kendal Park, Hockley Woods, and Sweyne Park. It is however notable that there is poor signage to these greenspaces within localities. Many sites are connected to other nearby greenspaces via public footpath networks, allowing visitors to enjoy a larger offer of greenspaces in the same locality.

Civic Space

- 7.60 The 1 site surveyed, The Mill, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh affords good connectivity to surrounding neighbourhoods and Rayleigh High Street, affording a tranquil area in which to escape the hustle and bustle of a busy High Street, as well as being within walking distance of a number of surrounding residential areas. As highlighted in Paragraph 7.38, there is a strong case for increased provision of civic space in other urban areas of the District, and placing such spaces at the hearts of walking, cycling,

road, and public transport networks ensures they are accessible to the greatest number of residents and visitors.

Allotments

Generally, sites are located to the communities they serve and only accessible to fee paying allotment Licensees. As shown in the GIS mapping, they are walkable from large areas of the main settlements, however much of Rochford, Hockley, Rayleigh and Ashingdon do not have any spaces located conveniently for walking. Most sites scored 'Fair' or 'Poor' for Accessibility in the Quality analysis, with only very limited parking and public transport options and no cycle parking. Improving such measures would help address the shortfalls in walkability for many of the sites. However, they are well-spread across the District and their presence in smaller settlements such as Hullbridge, Great Wakering, Great Stambridge and Canewdon means licensees in villages and more rural areas do not have to travel as far as with certain other spaces.

Outdoor Sports Facilities and Recreation

- 7.61 Most settlements in the District are within walking distance of at least one sports/recreation space, with some exceptions, e.g., Rochford, around Ashingdon Road, Barling, Battlesbridge, South Fambridge, Paglesham and Foulness Island. It should also be remembered that whilst many sports and recreation facilities serve as public parks in their own right with a wider amenity offer, others are not fully accessible to the public and may be off-limits, meaning some areas in reality have no walkability to an accessible space. The space-hungry nature of many of the private sports facilities means they are situated on the edge of settlements and likely to attract significant amounts of private car traffic, something which could be partially addressed through improved cycling and public transport networks. As new residential areas are planned in future, ensuring adequate access to publicly accessible sports facilities for both new and existing communities is paramount.

Moving Forward: Feedback from the Spatial Options Document Consultation 2021

- 7.62 Rochford District Council undertook a Spatial Options consultation in the Summer of 2021 as the latest stage in preparing its new Local Plan, which will be used to guide development in the District to 2040 and beyond. A Feedback Report has been prepared to summarise and conclude upon this public consultation which forms the latest stage in the production of the new Local Plan. The Feedback Report provides a summary of the responses received.

Key Headline – Local Green Space Designations

- 7.63 One of the broad thematic elements within the Spatial Options Document was Open Spaces and Recreation, with the consultation asking a range of questions relating to how open space and sport facility needs can be met through the Plan, how different strategic locations for development could deliver improvements to accessibility or

provision of open space and sport facilities, and whether there were open spaces in need of improvement or protection. As part of this, it presented the proposed LGS designations (45 sites) for consultation, as set out in this Open Space Study in Paragraph 7.48, Table 29: Recommended Local Green Space Designations. Within the 'Complete Communities' section of the Document, respondents were asked whether the prospective LGS sites within each community were the right ones, and whether other sites required similar designation.

- 7.64 The prospective LGS sites were presented on maps within the 'Complete Communities' section within the Document. This allowed those respondents giving views about proposed visions for their communities to consider whether these spaces were appropriate, and whether any other sites in the settlement should be considered for similar designation.
- 7.65 Chapter 5 of the Feedback Report set out the Key Headlines from the consultation feedback, one of which related to the proposed LGS designations. This presented a good overall level of public support for the sites proposed in Table 29. It is therefore recommended that these sites are progressed through the plan-making process and recommended for allocation as Local Green Spaces.
- 7.66 Many respondents considered that a wide range of additional sites across the District should be protected. These included the following:
- **Promoted sites:** The majority of sites suggested were promoted sites under consideration for allocation in the new Local Plan. Most of these were classified as Green Belt and considered to have positive impacts on people's physical and mental wellbeing and community value, as well as providing buffer zones to sensitive habitats. In many cases, their suggestion for designation as LGS was linked to local opposition to their development for housing or other purposes. Many of these sites also had PRow running through them. In addition, a number of promoted sites in urban areas were suggested, particularly Council-owned sites in Rayleigh.
 - **Large sites:** Spaces such as Cherry Orchard Country park and Hockley Woods were widely considered as locally significant. Although these do not LGS criteria due to their size, they would already be considered protected under various designations.
 - A number of **public open spaces** not proposed in the list were also proposed, including Edwards Hall Park. In addition, the District's network of PRow, along with the entire sea wall, were suggested to be important to protect.
- 7.67 Sites proposed on Foulness Island, within the Ministry of Defence Estate, were not considered appropriate for LGS designation by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, given the restricted nature of access on the island.
- 7.68 National Planning Guidance states that LGS designation should not be used in any way to undermine the Local Plan-making process (i.e., identifying sufficient land in

suitable locations to meet identified development needs). In addition, National Planning Guidance does not normally recommend LGS designation for Green Belt sites (as LGS status affords a similar level of protection to that given by Green Belt designation), however does indicate there may be a role for it in villages already protected by the Green Belt to identify areas of particular importance to the local community. Given these caveats, it is recommended that any decisions to afford LGS status to sites which are currently being promoted are taken in future stages of the development of the new Local Plan, when a clearer position on the most suitable sites for meeting development needs has been taken.

Open Spaces and Recreation – Summary of Comments

- 7.69 The Creation / designation of more parks and open spaces was widely supported, with the recent Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns during 2020 and 2021 underlining the importance of these to local residents. However, respondents wanted greater firm detail of the types of spaces that could be delivered, along with their locations.
- 7.70 There was widespread concern that the promotion of Green Belt sites for development could be counterproductive by reducing open space and impacting popular PROWs.
- 7.71 A wide range of promoted sites across the District were put forward by developers and agents as having potential to contribute to open space and recreation provision, both in terms of provision of public open space and recreational facilities on their sites (e.g. new play spaces, walking trails, allotments or gardens) and also through Section 106 contributions to enhance facilities elsewhere.
- 7.72 The lack of open space and recreational facility provision in various locations across the District was highlighted, with Hullbridge in particular identified as a community with little public open space provision within walking distance, particularly in the South of the village.
- 7.73 Proposed options for a network of ‘hub sites’ at schools, along with 3G pitches, were generally supported, with some caveats.
- 7.74 The need to drive to access many of the District’s public open spaces and recreation facilities was a common theme, with suggestions for better public transport services and a comprehensive network of walking and cycling routes covering housing, employment, education and open space/recreation sites being widely presented.
- 7.75 The Document presented a range of spatial strategy options for consultation, with variations on the Option 3 ‘concentrated growth’ approach (i.e. large-scale development to create a new community with its own infrastructure) presented as being a particular opportunity to deliver significant new public open and recreation space, including the potential creation of a major new new regional/country park.
- 7.76 Given the key headlines emerging from the Spatial Options consultation of widespread public concern at the capacity of existing infrastructure in the District to accommodate further growth, and the potential impact on the Green Belt, it is important to consider how new development might place additional demand on open

spaces, recreation facilities and green infrastructure across the District. **It is recommended that any future spatial strategy, site selection and allocation process for the new Local Plan considers the findings presented in this study regarding the quantity, quality and accessibility of public open space/recreation facilities in a given area, to consider how new development might help address any existing deficits.**

APPENDIX A: Benchmark Standards

National Benchmarks for Quantity: Hectare per 1000 Population

- 7.77 National Benchmark Standards are from Fields in Trust (FiT) *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015). This guidance has been informed by a survey commissioned by Fit in 2014⁶² resulting in a response from 119 local authorities in England and Wales, representing a total response rate of 33%.
- 7.78 *Beyond the Six Acre Standard* guidance reflects the NPPF, The Localism Act and the phased introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The guidance introduces quantity benchmarking for informal open space (e.g., Parks and Gardens, Amenity Greenspace, and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace) alongside formal open space such as sports pitches and play areas.
- 7.79 When quantity provision of open space in the Rochford District is compared with the FiT national benchmark standards (see Table 30 below), the provision in Rochford District mainly falls below that standard, apart from Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace, Recreation & Outdoor Sports and Country Park. Not all categories have a national benchmark standard due to the type of provision, for example, Churchyards and Cemeteries are associated with provision of burial ground, therefore not primarily for recreation (although their contribution to open space functions is valuable).

Table 30: Hectares per 1000 Population Benchmark by Typology

Typology	Rochford District Current Population	Rochford District Future Population	Fields in Trust National Benchmark (Ha/1,000)
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62 Planning and design for Outdoor Sport and Play 2015 review, Phase 2 Survey Findings for England and Wales and <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf>

	Provision (Ha/1,000)	Provision (Ha/1,000)	
Parks and Gardens	0.02	0.02	0.80
Natural and semi-Natural Greenspace	2.92	2.66	1.80
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	3.48	3.16	1.20 (playing pitches) – 1.60 (other)
Amenity Greenspace	0.29	0.26	0.60
Play Spaces and Provision for Young People	0.06	0.05	0.25
Allotments	0.13	0.12	0.3 ⁶³
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.26	0.23	-
Civic Space	0.001	0.001	-
Country Park	0.94	0.86	-
Total	8.09	7.35	

Additional Information on Allotment Standards

7.80 Whilst allotments are an important asset to Rochford District and have the potential to provide a wide range of benefits for local communities, there is no legal national minimum quantity provision standard for allotments⁶⁴.

Current Provision Rochford District

7.81 The District has 10 allotment sites (with the recent addition of Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell) which are managed by the local Parish / Town Councils and a private management company:

- Anchor Lane, Canewdon
- Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering
- Lower Road, Hullbridge

63 This figure is from the Fit survey findings – see Additional Information on Allotment Standards

64 <http://www.allotmoreallotments.org.uk/legislation.htm>

- Rocheway, Rochford
- Bramfield Road East, Rayleigh
- Caversham Park Avenue, Rayleigh
- Kenilworth Gardens, Rayleigh
- Lower Wyburns, Rayleigh
- Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell
- Stambridge Road, Great Stambridge

7.82 Whilst the allotments are spatially distributed throughout the District, with almost half the sites situated in the largest settlement of Rayleigh, it should be noted that there are currently no allotments within the localities of Hockley and Ashingdon.

7.83 In total the 10 sites have an approximate combined total area of 11.4 hectares, which gives an average allotment size of 1.14 hectares. Through previous consultation with the local Parish/Town Councils, it has been determined that this (excluding Christmas Tree Crescent) equates to a total of approximately 628 plots (including some divided full-size plots). The approximate size of each of the sites and provision by ward can be found in Appendix C.

7.84 When the current allotment provision is applied to the population of the District as whole, this equates to 0.13 hectares per 1000 of the District’s population, as set out below in Table 31.

Table 31: Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2019)	Approximate size of allotments (ha)	Allotment provision (ha)/1000 Population
87,368	11.4	0.13

7.85 Most of the allotment sites are situated in the settlement of Rayleigh; however, it should be noted that the combined number of plots and approximate allotment size for these 4 sites is similar to those of the larger sites in Great Wakering, Hullbridge and Rochford. This suggests that there may be a deficit of allotment provision, particularly in Rayleigh, given the larger settlement and population size. In addition some large settlements, e.g., Hockley and Ashingdon, have no allotment provision.

- 7.86 The 1969 Thorpe report recommended a minimum provision equivalent to 15 plots per 1,000 households⁶⁵, which equates to 6.5 plots⁶⁶ per 1,000 population or 0.16 ha per 1,000 population.
- 7.87 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) recommends a minimum level of provision of 20 allotments per 1,000 households, which equates to 8.7 plots per 1,000 population or 0.21 ha per 1,000 population. NSALG advises that the standard plot size is 250 sq. metres.
- 7.88 A Review of Allotment Provision for Cambridge City Council⁶⁷, stated that there is difficulty in considering a standard of provision based on household given the trend of falling household size since the 1950s. The report referenced the Survey of Allotments, Community Gardens and City Farms, carried out by the University of Derby on behalf of Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) now known as Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in 2006, which showed that the national average provision was 7 plots per 1,000 population, which equates to 0.175 ha per 1,000 population.
- 7.89 In the FiT Planning and design for Outdoor Sport and Play review, Phase 2 Survey Findings for England and Wales (2014), the median level of provision for allotments, community gardens and urban farms was 0.3 ha per 1,000 population.
- 7.90 A summary of national benchmark standard for allotments is provided below in Table 32. Rochford District’s provision of Allotments falls below the range of benchmark standards, most notably the most recent FiT survey findings of 0.3 hectares per 1000.

Table 32: Hectare per 1000 Population Benchmarks for Allotments

	No. of households	No. of plots per household (no. plots (599) / no. households (36,400 ⁶⁸) x 1,000)	Population (based on household size of 2.4)	Hectare (based on plot size of 250m sq.)
Thorpe report 1969	1,000	15	2,300	0.375
		6.5	1,000	0.16

65 Average Household size in England & Wales is 2.4 (ONS,2020)
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bulletins/familiesandhouseholds/2020>

66 Based on a standard plot of 250m sq.

67 Review of Allotment Provision for Cambridge City Council (Ashley Godfrey Associates, 2010)

68
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bulletins/familiesandhouseholds/2020>

NSALG	1,000	20	2,300	0.5
	-	8.7	1,000	0.21
University of Derby	-	7	1,000	0.175
FiT Survey 2014	-	-	1,000	0.3

National Benchmarks for Quality

7.91 The National Benchmark standard from the Green Flag Award criteria was also applied during the Rochford District quality audits as shown below in Table 33.

Table 33: Quality benchmark by Typology

Typology	National Benchmark Standard
Parks and Gardens	Audit aligned to Green Flag Award criteria (Table:2.2)
Natural and semi-Natural	
Amenity Greenspace	
Play Space and Provision for Young People	
Recreation and Outdoor Sports Facilities	
Allotments	
Civic Space	
Country park	

National Benchmarks for Accessibility

7.92 Table 34 below sets out the recommended minimum guidance for accessibility standards for future provision in the Rochford District having had regard to a range of national benchmarks set by professional bodies e.g., FiT, as presented above in section 2.

Table 34: Recommended Quantity and Access Standards for Future Provision in the Rochford District

Typology	Quantity standards for assessing existing provision and requirements for new provision (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.30	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time

Amenity Green Space (sites >0.15 ha)	0.70	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Park and recreations Grounds (public and private combined)	1.70	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	0.05	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	0.05	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	1.0	920 metres or 20 minutes' walk time ANGst Standards

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APPENDIX B: Feedback from Earlier Open Space Consultations

Issues and Options Feedback Report 2017/18⁶⁹

7.93 The Council is preparing a new Local Plan that will be used to guide development in the District to 2040 and beyond, with the provision and enhancement of the District's open spaces, green/blue infrastructure and recreation facilities being a key element for consideration. The Council commenced the early Regulation 18 (Issues and Options) stage of consultation on the new Local Plan in December 2017, setting out a range of high-level challenges and opportunities facing the District which would require consideration. The resultant Issues and Options Feedback Report 2017/8 details responses from:

- Government Agencies and Public Bodies.
- Interest Groups and Trust.
- Parish and Town Councils.
- Neighbouring Local Authorities.
- Agents, Developers and Landowners.
- Members of the Public and Local Businesses.

7.94 The Issues and Options consultation provided an opportunity for the above stakeholders to communicate their aspirations and concerns regarding Open Space in the Rochford District. A summary from the feedback is provided below:

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

- Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) should be used when drafting Open Space policy to ensure the delivery of sufficient levels of high quality informal Open Space.
- Woodland Trust would like to see policies on trees and woodlands strengthened to include ancient woodland protection.
- Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) should be incorporated as part of new residential developments

Play Spaces and Outdoor Sports Facilities

69 https://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning_newlocalplanfeedback.pdf

- Concerns raised over the quantity and quality of recreational facilities in the District.
- Concerns raised over a lack of suitable facilities for younger people across the District.
- Support for protecting and improving facilities for young people and play spaces.
- Concerns raised over the quality of existing play spaces.

General Open Space Responses

- There is a need to join up the fragmented network to make it accessible to walkers, cyclists, equestrians, and the disabled.
- New housing should have a positive environmental impact and achieve landscape restoration and recovery, be designed to integrate space for both wildlife and people and reduce carbon emissions.
- High quality green space close to people's homes should be provided to avoid increasing pressure on designated sites.
- Concerns expressed over the quantity and use of Council facilities.
- Any new settlements created should include cycle paths / bridleways, recreational grounds with sports facilities, youth facilities and allotments.
- Investment in Green Infrastructure would be appropriate including green links / greenways and enhancements to the ProW network.
- Open spaces should be protected from development.

7.95 Consultees consider open spaces in the Rochford District to have high environmental and social value. Consultees value accessibility to open spaces, opportunities for recreation, a sense of space and the contribution that open spaces make to air quality.

South Essex Green Blue Infrastructure Study (Stakeholder Workshops)⁷⁰

⁷⁰ <https://ca1-jsp.edcdn.com/downloads/South-Essex-Strategic-Green-and-Blue-Infrastructure-Study-Appendix.pdf?mtime=20201223111628&focal=none>

7.96 The emerging South Essex Local Plan recently carried out a consultation with stakeholders through workshops to gauge comments and ideas on the South Essex green and blue infrastructure. Stakeholders included:

- Marine Management Organisation (South East Plan)
- ASELA members (planning policy officers)
- Port of London Authority
- Water companies
- Basildon Countryside and Wildlife Group
- Buglife
- Land Trust
- Veolia
- Essex Ramblers
- British Horse Society
- Paddle Boarding Clubs
- Angler Groups

A summary of the findings is set out below:

Themes considered most important

- Climate change.
- Connectivity (social and ecological).
- Health and wellbeing.
- Conservation.
- Growth and development.
- Inclusivity
- Education

Perceived challenges

- Conflicts with access to green space between leisure and habitats.

- Connecting hedgerows, ancient woodlands and habitats.
- Pressure for burials on the open space network.
- Behavioural changes
- Costs for flood mitigation are unsustainable – Environment Agency looking to introduce a Standard.
- Need to consider all types of flood risk, not just coastal flooding.
- Poor public open space – may need to retrofit solutions to areas with poor access.

Priority areas

- Need to be looking at routes and initiatives away from the coastline, strategy should not be all about opening up the waterfront.
- Deprived areas are priority areas.
- Waterway and river corridors.
- Allotments – can be used to promote habitats (need for policy changes to allow this to happen).

Big ideas, initiatives and policy implications

- Education on habitats and wilding – ‘right tree, right place’.
- Strategy for residential / commercial landowners, e.g., how to green residential gardens, verges (paving, green walls, planting).
- Promotion of green spaces to the public / tourists.
- Planned growth is an opportunity to bring forward new green spaces.
- Encourage use of PROWs – incentivize landowners to create routes.
- Enhance links with countryside between Southend and Rochford.
- Cycleways – build on LCWIP initiatives.
- Add crossing over River Crouch.

- 7.97 The insights from the stakeholders' workshop were to be worked into the overall Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy⁷¹.

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71 <https://ca1-jsp.edcdn.com/downloads/South-Essex-Strategic-Green-and-Blue-Infrastructure-Study.pdf?mtime=20201223111609&focal=none>

APPENDIX C: Site Assessments and Local Green Space Recommendations

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Reference	Site / Open Space Name	Address	Open Space Type	Location	Approx. Size of Space (ha)	Fields in Trust Recommended Minimum Sizes (ha) for Outdoor Sport and Play	Ward	Approx. Total Ward Population Mid 2019 Estimates (ONS)	Approx. Total Open Space Provision (ha) Per 1000 (population) by Ward (ha ÷ pop.)	Approx. Total Open Space Provision by Type (ha) Per 1000 (population) by District (ha ÷ pop)	Fields in Trust Recommended Open Space Type Quantity Benchmark Guidelines (ha per 1000 population)	Site Quality Scoring Criteria :					Total Score Out of 20	Total Score (quality rating) as a %: 50+ 'good' to 'very good'; 50-40% 'average' to 'good'; -40% 'poor' to 'very poor'	Open Space Quality Grade (Green Flag criteria)	Fields in Trust Recommended Open Space Type Accessibility (Walkability Distance: Metres From Dwellings) Benchmark Guidelines	Does the site meet Local Green Space Standard Designation Criteria ? Yes or No
								(Approx. Total Population for District Mid 2019 Estimates (ONS): 87,368)	(Approx. Total Open Space Provision (ha) Per 1000 (population) for District: 8.08644)	(Approx. Total Population for District Mid 2019 Estimates (ONS): 87,368)	1 = Unsatisfactory	2 = Poor	3 = Average	4 = Good	5 = Excellent						
1	Barling Magna Wildlife Park	Mucking Hall Road, Barling	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Barling	4.17	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.58	26.9185	2.9	1.8	2	4	3	5	14	70%	Good	720m	No
2	Little Wakering Road open space	Little Wakering Road, Barling	Amenity Greenspace	Barling	0.87	N/A	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.28	0.6	3	4	4	5	16	80%	Very Good	480m	No
3	Play Stalls	Little Wakering Road, Barling	Play Space (RDC) (LEAP)**	Barling	0.03	0.04	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.05	0.25	3	4	4	5	16	80%	Very Good	400m	No
4	Rowan Way open space	Rowan Way, Canewdon	Amenity Greenspace	Canewdon	0.11	N/A	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.28	0.6	2	2	4	3	11	55%	Fair	480m	No

5	Canewdon Cricket Ground	Althorne Way, Canewdon	Cricket	Canewdon	1.83 (inc. of site 10)	1.43	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	3.47	1.6	3	3	3	3	12	60%	Fair	1200m	Yes
6	Allotments	Anchor Lane, Canewdon	Allotments	Canewdon	0.8	N/A	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.12	0.3	3	3	4	3	13	65%	Fair	700m (based on 'other outdoor space')	No
7	Play Space	Rowan Way, Canewdon	Play Space (LAP)**	Canewdon	0.002	0.01	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.05	0.25	3	1	4	3	11	55%	Fair	100m	No
8	Play Space	Canewdon Playing Field, Althorne Way, Canewdon	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)**	Canewdon	0.13	0.1	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.05	0.25	4	4	3	3	14	70%	Good	1000m	Yes
9	The Village Green	Sycamore Way, Canewdon	Amenity Greenspace	Canewdon	0.93	N/A	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.28	0.6	3	3	3	4	13	65%	Fair	480m	Yes
10	Canewdon Playing Field	Althorne Way, Canewdon	Football	Canewdon	1.83 (inc. of site 5)	0.74	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	3.47	1.6	3	2	3	3	11	55%	Fair	1200m	Yes
11	Ballards Gore Golf Club	Gore Road, Canewdon	Golf	Canewdon	66.16	N/A	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	3.47	1.6	2	4	4	5	15	75%	Good	1200m	No
12	Play Space	Church End, Foulness	Play Space (LEAP)**	Foulness	0.84	0.04	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.05	0.25	Not visited (MOD restricted access)						Restricted Access	400m	No
14	Great Wakering Common	Common Road, Great Wakering	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Gt Wakering	5.46	N/A	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	2.92	1.8	4	4	3	4	15	75%	Good	720m	Yes
15	Great Wakering Recreation Ground	High Street, Great Wakering	Tennis (2 courts)	Gt Wakering	0.11	0.11	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	3.47	1.6	3	2	3	2	10	50%	Fair	1200m	Yes
16	Allotments	Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering	Allotments	Gt Wakering	2.87	N/A	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.12	0.3	3	3	3	3	12	60%	Fair	700m (based on 'other outdoor space')	No

17	Play Space	Seaview Drive, Great Wakering	Play Space (RDC) (LAP)**	Gt Wakering	0.06	0.07	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.05	0.25	2	2	3	3	10	50%	Fair	400m	No
18	Play Space	Morrins Close, Great Wakering	Play Space & Provision for Young People (RDC) (NEAP)**	Gt Wakering	0.19	0.1	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.05	0.25	2	3	2	3	10	50%	Fair	1000m	No
19	Play Space	Glebe Close, Great Wakering	Play Space (LEAP)**	Gt Wakering	0.03	0.04	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.05	0.25	2	3	3	3	11	55%	Fair	400m	No
20	Play Space	Conway Avenue, Great Wakering	Play Space (RDC) (LEAP)**	Gt Wakering	0.06	0.04	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.05	0.25	2	4	3	2	11	55%	Fair	400m	No
21	Play Space	High Street, Great Wakering	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)**	Gt Wakering	0.07	0.1	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.05	0.25	4	5	4	4	17	85%	Very Good	1000m	Yes
22	Bowling Green	Little Wakering Road, Little Wakering	Bowling Green	Gt Wakering	0.07	0.08 (crown green) - 0.12 (flat green)	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	3.47	1.6	4	3	4	4	15	75%	Good	1200m	No
23	Cupids Country Club	Cupids Corner, Great Wakering	Football	Gt Wakering	4.66	0.74	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	3.47	1.6	3	4	4	3	14	70%	Good	1200m	No
24	Burroughs Park	Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering	Football	Gt Wakering	1.3	0.74	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	3.47	1.6	4	5	4	4	17	85%	Very Good	1200m	No
25	Great Wakering Recreation Ground	Leisure Centre, High Street, Great Wakering	Football	Gt Wakering	5.9	0.74	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	3.47	1.6	3	4	3	3	13	65%	Fair	1200m	Yes
26	Play Space	Land between 394-398 Little Wakering Rd, Barling	Play Space (NEAP)**	Gt Wakering	0.26	0.1	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.05	0.25	2	2	3	3	10	50%	Fair	1000m	No
27	Spencers Park Public Open Space	Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Hawkwell	4.8	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	2.9	1.8	3	4	3	5	15	75%	Good	720m	Yes

28	Clements Hall	Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Walking Football	Hawkwell	0.15	0.14 (mini soccer U8) - 0.25 (mini soccer U10)	Hawkwell West	6849	35.50 17	5.1834 87	3.47	1.6	3	4	5	5	17	85%	Very Good	1200m	No
29	Clements Hall Cricket Ground	Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Cricket	Hawkwell	5.87 Duel	1.43	Hawkwell West	6849	35.50 17	5.1834 87	3.47	1.6	3	2	3	4	12	60%	Fair	1200m	Yes
30	Play Space	Clements Hall, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Play Space & Provision for Young People (RDC) (NEAP)**	Hawkwell	0.11	0.1	Hawkwell West	6849	35.50 17	5.1834 87	0.05	0.25	4	4	4	4	16	80%	Very Good	1000m	Yes
31	Play Space	Hawkwell Common, Main Road, Hawkwell	Play Space (RDC) (LEAP)**	Hawkwell	0.08	0.04	Hawkwell West	6849	35.50 17	5.1834 87	0.05	0.25	4	5	4	5	18	90%	Excellent	400m	No
32	Play Space	Elizabeth Close, Hawkwell	Play Space (LAP)**	Hawkwell	0.05	0.04	Hawkwell West	6849	35.50 17	5.1834 87	0.05	0.25	2	3	1	5	11	55%	Fair	100m	No
33	Hawkwell Common	Main Road, Hawkwell	Amenity Greenspace	Hawkwell	0.27	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.50 17	5.1834 87	0.28	0.6	4	3	4	4	15	75%	Good	480m	Yes
34	Glencroft open space	White Hart Lane, Hawkwell	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Hawkwell	2.07	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.50 17	5.1834 87	2.9	1.8	4	3	3	4	14	70%	Good	720m	No
35	Clements Hall Playing Field	Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Football	Hawkwell	0.15	0.74	Hawkwell West	6849	35.50 17	5.1834 87	3.47	1.6	3	3	3	5	14	70%	Good	1200m	Yes
36	Hockley Woods	Main Road, Hockley	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Hockley	92.49	N/A	Hockley	6372	98.61 32	15.476	2.9	1.8	4	4	4	5	17	85%	Very Good	720m	No
37	Broad Parade open space	Broad Parade, Hockley	Amenity Greenspace	Hockley	0.1	N/A	Hockley & Ashingdon	6786	32.48 83	4.7875 5	0.28	0.6	5	3	5	4	17	85%	Very Good	480m	No
38	Buckingham Road open space	Buckingham Road, Hockley	Amenity Greenspace	Hockley	0.21	N/A	Hockley	6372	98.61 32	15.476	0.28	0.6	2	1	3	5	11	55%	Fair	480m	No
39	Rochford Hundred Rugby Club	Magnolia Road, Rochford	Rugby	Hockley	3.17	0.7	Hawkwell West	6849	35.50 17	5.1834 87	3.47	1.6	2	3	3	5	13	65%	Fair	1200m	No
40	Hockley Tennis Club	Folly Lane, Hockley	Tennis (3 courts)	Hockley	0.15	0.11 (2 courts) + 0.05 (each adjacent court)	Hockley	6372	98.61 32	15.476	3.47	1.6	3	5	5	5	18	90%	Excellent	1200m	No

41	Play Space	Betts Wood, Westminster Drive, Hockley	Play Space formerly (LEAP)**	Hockley	0.04	0.04	Hockley	6372	98.6132	15.476	0.05	0.25	3	1	3	2	9	45%	Poor	400m	No
42	Play Space	Hockley Woods, Main Road, Hockley	Play Space (LEAP)**	Hockley	0.62	0.04	Hockley	6372	98.6132	15.476	0.05	0.25	4	4	5	5	18	90%	Excellent	400m	No
43	Play Space	Plumberow Mount, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	Play Space (RDC / HPC) (LEAP)**	Hockley	0.17	0.04	Hockley & Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	0.05	0.25	4	5	4	5	18	90%	Excellent	400m	Yes
44	Play Space	Laburnum Grove, Hockley	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)**	Hockley	0.15	0.1	Hockley	6372	98.6132	15.476	0.05	0.25	5	5	4	5	19	95%	Excellent	1000m	No
45	The Green	Highams Road, Hockley	Bowling Green	Hockley	0.13	0.08 (crown green) - 0.12 (flat green)	Hockley	6372	98.6132	15.476	3.47	1.6	4	4	5	5	18	90%	Excellent	1200m	No
46	Hockley Golf Range (Limited Company) ceased - under construction development	Alderman's Hill, Hockley (private property)	Golf	Hockley	2.9	N/A	Hockley	6372	97	15	3	1.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		Ceased	1200m	No
47	Apex Playing Field	Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	Football	Hockley	5.78	0.74	Hockley & Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	3.47	1.6	4	3	4	4	15	75%	Good	1200m	No
48	Hockley Community Centre Playing Field	Plumberow Mount Avenue Now at Westminster Drive, Hockley	Football	Hockley	Westminster Dr = 0.63	0.74	Hockley	6372	97	15	3	1.6	4	3	3	4	14	70%	Good	1200m	No
49	Betts Wood	Westminster Drive, Hockley	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Hockley	2.16	N/A	Hockley	6372	98.6132	15.476	2.9	1.8	3	3	3	4	13	65%	Fair	720m	No
50	Marylands Avenue Nature Reserve	Marylands Avenue, Hockley	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Hockley	3.03	N/A	Hockley	6372	98.6132	15.476	2.9	1.8	4	5	3	4	16	80%	Very Good	720m	Yes

51	Plumberow Mount	Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Hockley	6.29	N/A	Hockley & Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	2.9	1.8	4	3	3	5	15	75%	Good	720m	Yes
52	Kendal Park Nature Reserve	Ferry Road, Hullbridge	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Hullbridge	3.05	N/A	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	2.9	1.8	4	5	5	5	19	95%	Excellent	720m	Yes
53	Hullbridge Sports and Social Cricket Ground	Lower Road, Hullbridge	Cricket	Hullbridge	6.49 Dual	1.43	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	3.47	1.6	5	5	5	4	19	95%	Excellent	1200m	No
54	Allotments	Lower Road, Hullbridge	Allotments	Hullbridge	2.48	N/A	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	0.125	0.3	2	3	3	3	11	55%	Fair	700m (based on 'other outdoor space')	No
55	Play Space	Pooles Lane Playing Field, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)**	Hullbridge	0.07	0.1	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	0.05	0.25	3	5	3	4	15	75%	Good	1000m	Yes
56	Up River Yacht Club	Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	Yacht	Hullbridge	0.88	N/A	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	3.47	1.6	4	5	4	5	18	90%	Excellent	700m	No
57	Hullbridge Yacht Club	Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	Yacht	Hullbridge	0.85	N/A	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	3.47	1.6	4	4	5	5	18	90%	Excellent	700m	No
58	Brandy Hole Yacht Station Ceased operation	Kingsmans Farm Road, Hullbridge	Yacht	Hullbridge	1.06	N/A	Hullbridge	6559	23	4	3	1.6	2	2	4	4	12	60%	Ceased	700m	No
59	Hullbridge Sports and Social Club	Lower Road, Hullbridge	Football	Hullbridge	6.49 Dual	0.74	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	3.47	1.6	5	5	5	4	19	95%	Excellent	1200m	No
60	Hullbridge Playing Field	Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	Football	Hullbridge	3.65	0.74	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	3.47	1.6	3	5	3	4	15	75%	Good	1200m	Yes
61	Hostellers Sailing Club	Paglesham Boatyard, Waterside Road, Paglesham	Yacht	Paglesham	1.11	N/A	Roche North & Rural	6,880	91.9304	13.36198	3.47	1.6	2	2	4	4	12	60%	Fair	700m	No
62	Rayleigh Mount	Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	1.64	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	2.9	1.8	3	4	4	5	16	80%	Very Good	720m	Yes

63	Nature reserve and open space	Grove Road, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	0.25	N/A	Lodge	6959	32.9403	4.73348	2.9	1.8	3	4	3	5	15	75%	Good	720m	No
64	Nature reserve and open space	Grove Road, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	0.96	N/A	Lodge	6959	32.9403	4.73348	2.9	1.8	2	3	2	3	10	50%	Fair	720m	No
65	Nature reserve and open space	Grove Road, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	3.19	N/A	Lodge	6959	32.9403	4.73348	2.9	1.8	2	3	2	3	10	50%	Fair	720m	No
66	Wheatley Wood	Near Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	35.34	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	2.9	1.8	2	2	3	4	11	55%	Fair	720m	Yes
67	Land off Rawreth Lane Playing Field	Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	3.8	N/A	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	2.9	1.8	2	3	3	4	12	60%	Fair	720m	No
68	Ferndale Road open space	Ferndale Road, Rayleigh	Amenity Greenspace	Rayleigh	1.34	N/A	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	0.28	0.6	4	2	3	5	14	70%	Good	480m	No
69	Fyfield Path open space	Fyfield Path, Rayleigh	Amenity Greenspace	Rayleigh	0.16	N/A	Sweyne Park & Grange	6697	6.317	0.94326	0.28	0.6	4	3	5	5	17	85%	Very Good	480m	No
70	Fyfield Path open space	Fyfield Path, Rayleigh	Amenity Greenspace	Rayleigh	0.03	N/A	Sweyne Park & Grange	6697	6.317	0.94326	0.28	0.6	4	3	5	5	17	85%	Very Good	480m	No
71	Boston Avenue open space	Boston Avenue, Rayleigh	Amenity Greenspace	Rayleigh	0.48	N/A	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.28	0.6	4	3	4	4	15	75%	Good	480m	No
72	Bedford Close open space	Bedford Close, Rayleigh	Amenity Greenspace	Rayleigh	0.26	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	0.28	0.6	5	4	5	5	19	95%	Excellent	480m	No
73	Hartford Close open space	Hartford Close, Rayleigh	Amenity Greenspace	Rayleigh	0.08	N/A	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.28	0.6	4	3	5	4	16	80%	Very Good	480m	No
74	Rayleigh Tennis Club	Watchfield Lane, Rayleigh	Tennis (5 courts)	Rayleigh	0.26	0.11 (2 recreational courts) + 0.15 (3 adjacent courts)	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	3.47	1.6	4	5	5	5	19	95%	Excellent	1200m	No
75	Rayleigh Leisure Centre	Priory Chase, Rayleigh	Tennis (2 courts)	Rayleigh	0.14	0.11	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	3.47	1.6	4	5	5	5	19	95%	Excellent	1200m	No
76	Fairview Playing Field	Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Tennis (4 courts)	Rayleigh	0.22	0.11 (2 recreational courts) + 0.1 (adjacent courts)	Trinity	7049	21.3865	3.03398	3.47	1.6	4	5	4	4	17	85%	Very Good	1200m	Yes

77	Rayleigh Cricket Club	Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Cricket	Rayleigh	1.81	1.43	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	3.47	1.6	4	4	3	4	15	75%	Good	1200m	No
78	Allotments	Kenilworth Gardens, Rayleigh	Allotments	Rayleigh	0.41	N/A	Sweyne Park & Grange	6697	6.317	0.94326	0.12	0.3	2	3	4	4	13	65%	Fair	700m	No
79	Allotments	Bramfield Road East, Rayleigh	Allotments	Rayleigh	0.22	N/A	Lodge	6959	32.9403	4.73348	0.12	0.3	3	3	4	4	14	70%	Good	700m (based on 'other outdoor space')	No
80	Allotments	Lower Wyburns, Rayleigh	Allotments	Rayleigh	0.76	N/A	Lodge	6959	32.9403	4.73348	0.12	0.3	4	3	3	5	15	75%	Good	700m (based on 'other outdoor space')	No
81	Allotments	Downhall Park Way/Cave rsham Park Ave, Rayleigh	Allotments	Rayleigh	0.49	N/A	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.12	0.3	2	3	3	5	13	65%	Fair	700m (based on 'other outdoor space')	No
82	Play Space	Bedford Close, Rayleigh	Play Space (RDC) (LEAP)**	Rayleigh	0.05	0.04	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	0.05	0.25	5	4	5	5	19	95%	Excellent	400m	No
83	Play Space	Elsenham Court, Rayleigh	Play Space (LAP)**	Rayleigh	0.04	0.04	Sweyne Park & Grange	6697	6.317	0.94326	0.05	0.25	3	2	4	3	12	60%	Fair	100m	No
84	Play Space	Boston Avenue, Rayleigh	Play Space (LEAP)**	Rayleigh	0.04	0.04	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.05	0.25	4	3	4	4	15	75%	Good	400m	No
85	Play Space	Hartford Close, Rayleigh	Play Space (LEAP)**	Rayleigh	0.1	0.04	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.05	0.25	4	3	5	4	16	80%	Very Good	400m	No
86	Play Space	Sweyne Park, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh	Play Space & Provision for Young People (RDC) (NEAP)**	Rayleigh	0.4	0.1	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.05	0.25	4	5	4	3	16	80%	Very Good	1000m	Yes
87	Play Space	Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Play Space (RDC) (LEAP)**	Rayleigh	0.08	0.04	Trinity	7049	21.3865	3.03398	0.05	0.25	4	5	4	5	18	90%	Excellent	400m	Yes
88	Play Space	Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Play Space (LEAP)**	Rayleigh	0.05	0.04	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.05	0.25	2	4	3	4	13	65%	Fair	400m	Yes

89	Play Space	St John Fisher PF, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Play Space (RDC) (NEAP)**	Rayleigh	0.05	0.04	Sweyne Park & Grange	6697	6.317	0.94326	0.05	0.25	3	5	4	5	17	85%	Very Good	1000m	Yes
90	Play Space	Fyfield Path, Rayleigh	Play Space (LAP)**	Rayleigh	0.04	0.04	Sweyne Park & Grange	6697	6.317	0.94326	0.05	0.25	4	4	5	5	18	90%	Excellent	100m	No
91	Play Space	Grove Road Playing Field, Rayleigh	Play Space & Provision for Young People (RDC) (NEAP)**	Rayleigh	0.15	0.1	Lodge	6959	32.9403	4.73348	0.05	0.25	4	5	3	5	17	85%	Very Good	1000m	Yes
92	Play Space ceased	South west of Causton Way, Rayleigh	Play Space (LAP)**	Rayleigh	0.13	0.04	Trinity	7049	21.3865	3.03398	0.05	0.25	1	1	1	1	4	20%	Poor	100m	No
93	King George V Playing Field Play Space	Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)**	Rayleigh	0.21	0.1	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	0.05	0.25	5	5	4	3	17	85%	Very Good	1000m	Yes
94	Bowling Green	King George V PF, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Bowling Green	Rayleigh	0.28	0.08 (crown green) - 0.12 (flat green)	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	3.47	1.6	5	4	5	5	19	95%	Excellent	1200m	No
95	Rayleigh Golf Range	London Road, Rawreth	Golf	Rayleigh	4.74	N/A	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	3.47	1.6	2	4	3	5	14	70%	Good	1200m	No
96	St John Fisher Playing Field	Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Football	Rayleigh	5.58	0.74	Sweyne Park & Grange	6697	6.317	0.94326	3.47	1.6	3	4	4	5	16	80%	Very Good	1200m	Yes
97 (ceased)	Vincent Valley Playing Field	Trenders Avenue, Rayleigh	Football	Rayleigh	1.87	N/A	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	165	23	3	1.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ceased	1200m	N/A
98	Grove Road Playing Field	Grove Road, Rayleigh	Football	Rayleigh	3.41	0.74	Lodge	6959	32.9403	4.73348	3.47	1.6	4	5	3	4	16	80%	Very Good	1200m	Yes
99	Rayleigh Leisure Centre	Priory Chase, Rayleigh	Football	Rayleigh	2.39	0.14	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	3.47	1.6	4	3	3	4	14	70%	Good	1200m	No
100	Rawreth Lane Playing Field	Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Football	Rayleigh	6.8	0.74	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	3.47	1.6	2	4	3	4	13	65%	Fair	1200m	Yes
101	Brooklands Public Gardens	Hockley Road, Rayleigh	Parks & Gardens	Rayleigh	0.9	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	0.02	0.8	4	3	4	4	15	75%	Good	480m	No

102	Lower Wyburns open space	Lower Wyburns, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	3.92	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	2.9	1.8	4	5	3	5	18	90%	Excellent	720m	No
103	Hollytree Gardens open space	Hollytree Gardens, Rayleigh	Amenity Greenspace	Rayleigh	1.65	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	0.28	0.6	3	3	3	5	14	70%	Good	480m	No
104	Kingley Wood	Near Western Road, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	2.37	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	2.9	1.8	3	3	3	5	14	70%	Good	720m	No
105	Sweyne Park open space	Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	23.19	N/A	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	2.9	1.8	4	5	3	4	16	80%	Very Good	720m	Yes
106	Grove Road open space (part of above)	Grove Road, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	9.35	N/A	Lodge	6959	32.9403	4.73348	2.9	1.8	4	5	3	3	15	75%	Good	720m	No
107	Hambro Hill open space	Hambro Hill, Rayleigh	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	7.2	N/A	Trinity	7049	21.3865	3.03398	2.9	1.8	2	2	2	3	9	45%	Poor	720m	No
108	King George V Playing Field	Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Football	Rayleigh	3.57	0.74	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	3.47	1.6	5	5	4	4	18	90%	Excellent	1200m	Yes
109	Lower Lambricks open space	Lower Lambricks, Rayleigh	Amenity Greenspace	Rayleigh	0.54	N/A	Trinity	7049	21.3865	3.03398	0.28	0.6	4	2	3	4	13	65%	Fair	480m	No
110	Fairview Playing Field	Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Football	Rayleigh	5.82	0.74	Trinity	7049	21.3865	3.03398	3.47	1.6	4	5	4	5	18	90%	Excellent	1200m	Yes
111	Turret House open space	Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Amenity Greenspace	Rayleigh	5.11	N/A	Trinity	7049	21.3865	3.03398	0.28	0.6	4	4	3	4	15	75%	Good	480m	Yes
112	Woodlands Avenue/Weir Buffer Strip	Woodlands Avenue, Rayleigh	Amenity Greenspace	Rayleigh	2.16	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	0.28	0.6	4	2	3	5	14	70%	Good	480m	No
113	Bedloes Corner	Chelmsford Road, Rawreth	Park/Gardens	Rayleigh	0.96	N/A	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.02	0.8	2	4	4	4	14	70%	Good	710m	No
114	Edwards Hall Park	Green Lane, Eastwood	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rayleigh	12.27	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	2.9	1.8	3	2	3	3	11	55%	Fair	710m	No
115	Lords Golf and Country Club	Hullbridge Road, Rayleigh	Golf	Rayleigh	81.52	N/A	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	3.47	1.6	4	5	4	5	18	90%	Excellent	1200m	No
116	Southend Road open space	Southend Road, Rochford	Amenity Greenspace	Rochford	0.06	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.28	0.6	3	1	3	3	10	50%	Fair	480m	No

117	Rochford Tennis Club	2 Church Walk, Rochford	Tennis (3 courts)	Rochford	0.2	0.11 (2 recreational courts) + 0.05 (each adjacent court)	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	3.47	1.6	3	3	3	3	12	60%	Fair	1200m	No
118	Broomhills Cricket Ground	Stambridge Mills, Rochford	Cricket	Stambridge	2.9	1.43	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	3.47	1.6	2	4	3	4	13	65%	Fair	1200m	No
119	Allotments	Rocheway, Rochford	Allotments	Rochford	2.82	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.12	0.3	3	4	4	4	15	75%	Good	700m	No
120	King George Playing Field Play Space	Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	Play Space (RDC / King George V Foundation) (NEAP)**	Rochford	0.07	0.04	Hockley & Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	0.05	0.25	5	4	4	4	17	85%	Very Good	400m	Yes
121	Play Space	Rochford Rec Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	Play Space (RDC) (NEAP)**	Stambridge	0.19	0.04	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.05	0.25	5	5	4	4	18	90%	Excellent	400m	Yes
122	Play Space	Warwick Drive, Rochford	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)**	Rochford	0.08	0.1	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.05	0.25	4	3	4	3	14	70%	Good	1000m	No
123	Play Space	Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	Play Space & Provision for Young People (NEAP)*	Rochford	0.06	0.1	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	0.05	0.25	4	5	4	4	17	85%	Very Good	1000m	Yes
124	Bowling Green	Rochford Rec Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	Bowling Green	Rochford	0.25	0.08 (crown green) - 0.12 (flat green)	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	3.47	1.6	4	4	3	4	15	75%	Good	1200m	No
125	Great Wakering Yacht Club	Purdeys IE, Rochehall Way, Rochford	Yacht	Rochford	0.19	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	3.47	0.3	3	4	3	2	12	60%	Fair	700m	No
126	Adult Education Centre	Rocheway, Rochford	Football	Rochford	2.63	0.74	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	3.47	1.6	3	2	2	2	9	45%	Poor	1200m	No
127	Stambridge Memorial Ground	Stambridge Road, Rochford	Football	Stambridge	0.79	0.74	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	3.47	1.6	3	5	4	3	15	75%	Good	1200m	No

128	Doggetts Wildlife Area	St Clare Meadows, Rochford	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rochford	6.84	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	2.9	1.8	3	3	2	2	10	50%	Fair	720m	No
129	Rochford Recreation Ground	Stambridge Road, Rochford	Football	Rochford	3.85	0.74	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	3.47	1.6	4	4	3	2	13	65%	Fair	1200m	Yes
130	Magnolia Nature Reserve	Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rochford	16.01	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	2.9	1.8	4	4	3	5	16	80%	Very Good	720m	Yes
131	King George Playing Field	Ashingdon Road, Rochford	Football	Rochford	7.02	0.74	Hockley & Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	3.47	1.6	5	4	3	2	14	70%	Good	1200m	Yes
132	Millview Meadows open space	Millview Meadows, Rochford	Amenity Greenspace	Rochford	4.28	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.28	0.6	2	2	2	3	9	45%	Poor	480m	No
133	Rochford Reservoir and open space	Bradley Way, Rochford	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	Rochford	3.46	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	2.9	1.8	5	3	2	3	13	65%	Fair	720m	No
134	Rochford Hundred Golf Club	Hall Road, Rochford	Golf	Rochford	41.99	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	3.47	1.6	5	4	4	5	18	90%	Excellent	1200m	No
135	Westcliff Rugby Club	Aviation Way, Southend	Rugby	Upper Roach Valley	9.05	0.7	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	3.47	1.6	3	5	4	4	16	80%	Very Good	1200m	No
136	Kent Elms Tennis Club	Aviation Way, Southend	Tennis (3 courts)	Upper Roach Valley	0.17	0.11 (2 recreational courts) + 0.05 (each adjacent court)	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	3.47	1.6	2	4	4	4	14	70%	Good	1200m	No
137	Cherry Orchard Way Playing Field	Cherry Orchard Way, Rochford	Football	Upper Roach Valley	4.28	0.74	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	3.47	1.6	4	4	4	3	15	75%	Good	1200m	No
138	Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park	Cherry Orchard Way, Rochford	Country Park	Upper Roach Valley	61.74	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.94	0.8	5	3	4	3	15	75%	Good	710m	No
139	Land opp Cherry Orchard Lane	Cherry Orchard Way, Rochford	Country Park	Upper Roach Valley	20.45	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.94	0.8	5	3	4	3	15	75%	Good	710m	No
140	Essex Marina Yacht Club	Essex Marina, Wallasea Island, Rochford	Yacht	Wallasea	4.31	N/A	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	3.47	1.6	3	5	5	4	17	85%	Very Good	700m	No

New site 1	Play Space	Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Play Space (LAP)**	Hawkwell	0.06	0.04	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	0.05	0.25	4	5	5	5	19	95%	Excellent	100m	Yes
New site 2	Amenity (west)	Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Amenity	Hawkwell	1.19	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	0.28	0.6	4	5	5	5	19	95%	Excellent	480m	Yes
New site 3	Amenity (east)	Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Amenity	Hawkwell	0.41	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	0.28	0.6	4	4	4	3	15	75%	Good	480m	Yes
New site 4	Allotments	Christmas Tree Crescent, Hawkwell	Allotments	Hawkwell	0.11	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	0.12	0.3	3	2	4	3	12	60%	Fair	700m	No
New site 5	Paddocks Close, Canewdon	Paddocks Close, Canewdon	Amenity	Canewdon	0.05	N/A	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.28	0.6	4	2	4	5	15	75%	Good	480m	No
New site 6	Play Space	Folly Grove, Hockley	Play Space (LAP)**	Hockley	0.03	0.01	Hockley	6372	98.6132	15.476	0.05	0.25	4	3	5	4	16	80%	Very Good	100m	No
New site 7	Amenity	Folly Grove, Hockley	Amenity	Hockley	0.06	N/A	Hockley	6372	98.6132	15.476	0.28	0.6	4	3	5	4	16	80%	Very Good	480m	No
New site 8	Natural / Semi-natural Open Space	Folly Grove, Hockley	Natural / Semi-natural	Hockley	1.86	N/A	Hockley	6372	98.6132	15.476	2.9	1.8	4	3	5	4	16	80%	Very Good	720m	No
New site 9	Amenity	Highwell Gardens	Amenity	Hawkwell	0.06	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	0.28	0.6	5	5	5	4	19	95%	Excellent	480m	No
New site 10	Play Space	Claremont Crescent, Rayleigh	Play Space (LAP)**	Rayleigh	0.01	0.04	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.05	0.25	4	4	5	5	18	90%	Excellent	100m	No
New site 11	Amenity	Claremont Crescent, Rayleigh	Amenity	Rayleigh	0.15	N/A	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.28	0.6	4	4	5	5	18	90%	Excellent	480m	No
New site 12	Amenity	Shetland Crescent, Ashingdon	Amenity (inc. attenuation basin)	Ashingdon	0.53	N/A	Roche North & Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.28	0.6	4	4	5	3	16	80%	Very Good	480m	No
New site 13	Amenity (area front of site with cenotaph)	High Elms Park, Hullbridge	Amenity	Hullbridge	0.96	N/A	Hullbridge	6559	101.269	15.4397	0.28	0.6	4	5	5	4	18	90%	Excellent	480m	Yes
New site 14	Amenity	Victory Lane (Trafalgar Green) Ashingdon	Amenity	Ashingdon	0.15	N/A	Hockley & Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	0.28	0.6	4	4	5	4	17	85%	Very Good	480m	No

New site 15	Amenity	Alfred Gardens, Hall Road, Rochford	Amenity	Rochford	0.13	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.28	0.6	4	5	5	5	19	95%	Excellent	480m	No
New site 16	Play space	Alfred Gardens, Hall Road, Rochford	Play Space (LEAP)**	Rochford	0.04	0.04	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.05	0.25	4	5	5	5	18	90%	Excellent	400m	No
New site 17	Amenity	Balancing Ponds & Green Ribbon, Hall Road, Rochford	Amenity	Rochford	1.49	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.28	0.6	4	3	4	4	15	75%	Good	480m	No
New site 18	Amenity	Charles Crescent adjacent Hall Road, Rochford	Amenity	Rochford	0.04	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.28	0.6	5	3	5	4	17	85%	Very Good	480m	No
New site 19	Amenity	Edward Place, Hall Road, Rochford	Amenity	Rochford	0.13	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.28	0.6	4	3	5	4	16	80%	Very Good	480m	No
New site 20	Amenity (under construction)	Hall Road (west of site), Rochford	Amenity	Rochford	4	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.28	0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	480m	N/A
New site 21	Amenity	Etheldore Avenue, Hockley	Amenity	Hockley	0.06	N/A	Hockley & Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	0.28	0.6	3	3	4	3	13	65%	Fair	480m	No
New site 22	Amenity	Nelson Road, Ashingdon	Amenity	Ashingdon	0.04	N/A	Hockley & Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	0.28	0.6	4	3	5	5	17	85%	Very Good	480m	No
New site 23	Play Space	Victoria Gardens, Hall Road, Rochford	Play Space (LAP)**	Rochford	0.01	0.01	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.05	0.25	4	3	5	5	17	85%	Very Good	100m	No
New site 24	Amenity	Victoria Gardens, Hall Road, Rochford	Amenity	Rochford	0.34	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.28	0.6	4	4	5	4	17	85%	Very Good	480m	No
New site 25	Amenity	Wood Lane & Wood Avenue, Hockley	Amenity	Hockley	0.11	N/A	Hockley & Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	0.28	0.6	2	2	4	3	11	55%	Fair	480m	No

New site 26	Amenity	Thorpe Road / Aaron Close, Hawkwell	Amenity	Hawkwell	0.11	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	0.28	0.6	4	4	5	5	18	90%	Excellent	480m	No
New site 27	Amenity	Thorpe Road	Amenity	Hawkwell	0.03	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	0.28	0.6	3	3	3	4	13	65%	Fair	480m	No
New site 28	Amenity	Primrose Place, off Beehive Lane	Amenity	Hawkwell	0.03	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	0.28	0.6	4	4	5	4	17	85%	Very Good	480m	No
New site 29	Civic Space	Off Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh	Civic Space	Rayleigh	0.05	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	0.001	N/A	5	5	5	4	19	95%	Excellent	700m	No
New site 30	Windmill Gardens	Off Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh	Parks and gardens	Rayleigh	0.14	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	0.02	0.8	4	5	4	4	17	85%	Very Good	480m	Yes
New site 31	Amenity	The Gattens, Hockley Road	Amenity	Rayleigh	0.14	N/A	Trinity	7049	21.3865	3.03398	0.28	0.6	4	4	5	4	17	85%	Very Good	480m	No
New site 32	Amenity	Churchend, Foulness	Amenity	Foulness	0.17	N/A	Foulness & The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.28	0.6	Not visited (MOD restricted access)	Not visited (MOD restricted access)	Not visited (MOD restricted access)	Not visited (MOD restricted access)	Not visited (MOD restricted access)	Not visited (MOD restricted access)	Restricted Access	Restricted Access	No
New site 33	St Andrews Church	Church Walk, Rochford	Graveyard	Rochford	0.86	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded		No
New site 34	Holy Trinity Church	High Street, Rayleigh	Graveyard	Rayleigh	0.25	N/A	Wheatley	6734	50.6779	7.52568	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded		No
New site 35	St Peter and St Paul	Church Road, Hockley	Graveyard	Hockley	0.74	N/A	Hockley	6372	98.6132	15.476	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded		No
New site 36	St Mary	Rectory Road, Hawkwell	Graveyard	Hawkwell	0.85	N/A	Hawkwell West	6849	35.5017	5.183487	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded		No
New site 37	St Andrew	Church Lane, Ashingdon	Graveyard	Ashingdon	0.75	N/A	Hockley and Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded		No

New site 38	All Saints	Church Road, Barling	Graveyard	Barling	0.26	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 39	St Peter	Paglesham	Graveyard	Paglesham	0.22	N/A	Roche North and Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 40	St Nicholas	High Street Canewdon	Graveyard	Canewdon	0.56	N/A	Roche North and Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 41	St Mary and All Saints	Stambridge Road, Rochford	Graveyard	Stambridge	0.35	N/A	Roche North and Rural	6880	91.9304	13.36198	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 42	St Nicholas	New Road, Great Wakering	Graveyard	Great Wakering	0.91	N/A	Foulness and The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 43	St Nicholas	Church Road, Rawreth	Graveyard	Rawreth	0.54	N/A	Downhall & Rawreth	7158	46.1913	6.4531	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 44	All Saints Church	Sutton Road, Sutton	Graveyard	Sutton	0.28	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 45	St Mary the Virgin	Little Wakering	Graveyard	Little Wakering	0.28	N/A	Foulness and The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 46	St Mary the Virgin	Churchend, Foulness	Graveyard	Foulness	0.71	N/A	Foulness and The Wakerings	7057	24.6003	3.485943	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 47	Shopland Churchyard	Shopland Hall road, Sutton	Graveyard	Sutton	0.28	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 48	Rayleigh Cemetery	Hockley Road, Rayleigh	Cemetery	Rayleigh	2.15	N/A	Trinity	7049	21.3865	3.03398	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 49	Hall Road Cemetery	Hall Road, Rochford	Cemetery	Rochford	4.87	N/A	Roche South	6114	164.5797	26.9185	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 50	Thornton Meadow Wildflower Cemetery	Canewdon Road	Cemetery	Ashingdon	7.49	N/A	Hockley and Ashingdon	6786	32.4883	4.78755	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No
New site 51	Stambridge Allotments	Stambridge Road	Allotments	Stambridge	0.43	N/A	Roche North and Rural	6880	92.36	13.4249	0.13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excluded	No