



**Rutland County Council
Review of Open Space, Sport, Recreation Facilities
and Green Infrastructure in Rutland**

Audit and Needs Assessment Report from
Sport Structures Ltd



Rutland
County Council

Sport Structures Ltd, Company Number 4492940
PO Box 10710, Sutton Coldfield, B75 5YG
(t): 0845 241 7195 (m): 07766 768 474 (f): 0845 241 7197
(e): info@sportstructures.com (w): www.sportstructures.com

Contents

Executive Summary	4
1 Introduction.....	21
2 Open space context.....	21
3 Assessment and audit approach	25
4 Parks and Gardens	27
5 Amenity Greenspace	30
6 Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland	33
7 Green Corridors	39
8 Outdoor sports facilities	44
9 Indoor sports facilities	66
10 Provision for children and young people	73
11 Allotments, community gardens and urban farms.....	82
12 Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	85
13 Civic/market squares and hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians	87
14 Green Infrastructure.....	89
Appendix A: Assessment Score Sheets.....	102
Appendix B: Current provision standards.....	104
Appendix C: Landscape Character Assessment 2003 Recommendations.....	111

Table 1 Changes in population structure 2006 to 2026	23
Table 2 Active People Results 0506 and 0708 comparison.....	23
Table 3 Parks and Gardens	28
Table 4 Amenity greenspace	32
Table 5 Natural and semi-natural greenspaces including urban woodland	37
Table 6 Land under agri-environmental management	37
Table 7 Green Corridors.....	42
Table 8 Outdoor sports facilities - Pitches.....	45
Table 9 Ownership of sites and pitches	45
Table 10 Cricket Clubs and teams within Rutland	47
Table 11 Football Clubs and teams within Rutland.....	47
Table 12 Rugby Clubs and teams within Rutland	48
Table 13 Hockey Clubs and teams within Rutland.....	48
Table 14 Team Generation Rate	48
Table 15 Pitch peak demand	49
Table 16 Pitch supply and demand	50
Table 17 Future prediction of teams	56
Table 18 Future supply for 2026.....	57
Table 19 Outdoor Sports Facilities for Pitch Sports.....	57
Table 20 Outdoor sports facilities	58
Table 21 Outdoor Sports Facilities for Outdoor Sports (excluding pitches)	62
Table 22 ALL Outdoor Sports Facilities	62
Table 23 Indoor Sports Facilities.....	67
Table 24 Indoor Sports Facilities.....	71
Table 25 Provision for Children and Young People	75
Table 26 Provision for children and young people.....	78
Table 27 Allotments, Community Gardens and urban farms	83
Table 28 Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	86
Table 29 Civic and market square and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians	88
Table 30 Green Infrastructure Assets Network	92
Figure 1 Active People Results 0506 and 0708 comparison.....	24
Figure 2 Amenity greenspaces within 10 minute walking catchment	31
Figure 3 Natural and semi-natural greenspaces within 2km catchment	34
Figure 4 Woodland within 500m catchment.....	36
Figure 5 Green corridor network.....	39
Figure 6 Green Corridors extending from Oakham and Uppingham.....	40

Figure 7 Outdoor sports pitches 1.2km catchment	46
Figure 8 Community access pitches Oakham and Uppingham.....	54
Figure 9 Restricted access pitches Oakham and Uppingham.....	55
Figure 10 Outdoor sports facilities	61
Figure 11 Indoor sports facilities	66
Figure 12 Indoor facilities Oakham and Uppingham	70
Figure 13 Play Areas LEAP 400m and NEAP 1000 walking catchment.....	74
Figure 14 Play Areas walking catchments for Oakham and Uppingham	76
Figure 15 Allotments within 10 minute walking catchment	83
Figure 16 Character areas.....	90
Figure 17 Landscape Character Types and Sub Areas	91
Figure 18 Green Infrastructure Assets Network	92
Figure 19 Green Infrastructure Framework.....	93
Figure 20 Green Infrastructure Corridors and Wedges	94
Figure 21 Green Infrastructure Assets Oakham	95
Figure 22 Green Infrastructure Assets Uppingham.....	96

Report produced by Sport Structures Ltd © 2009 on behalf of Rutland County Council

Executive Summary

Public open greenspaces and facilities for sport and recreation are essential to landscaping, biodiversity, health and wellbeing, and to the promotion of sustainable communities. This review of Open Space, Sport, Recreation Facilities and Green Infrastructure provides details of the current provision with all classifications in the County. The review considers the quantity, quality, accessibility and adaptability of provision, but most importantly, it considers the local needs of the population and the potential demands that may be placed on provision as the population grows.

The national, regional and local agenda promotes the importance of open space, sport and recreation facilities and the Green Infrastructure to the development and sustainability of community life. Rutland contains a variety of built and natural environment Green Infrastructure assets that promote an active and high quality experience for residents, visitors and wildlife. This study followed the preferred methodology contained within PPG17 and its Companion Guide, in addition further consideration was given to the Green Infrastructure Network as a whole. Consultation with residents, town and parish councils, voluntary, charitable, commercial and private bodies informed a detailed Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Audit, Local Needs Assessment and Mapping process. Where necessary additional research and site visits were undertaken to enhance the data collection and ensure an accurate picture was established. This review draws together the findings of the audit, local needs assessment and mapping to provide the findings for each of the PPG17 typology categories:

Parks and gardens

This typology relates to urban parks, recreation grounds, formal gardens and country parks, it has wider benefits such as support for the creation of a 'sense of place' for the local community, ecological and education opportunities as well as landscaping for the local area.

Quantitative - There are a limited number of parks and gardens within Rutland. Rutland Water Country Park is the only designated park. The level of parks and gardens is particularly low compared to other counties in the region due to the abundance of countryside around all major and minor settlements.

Qualitative - Rutland Water is managed by Anglian Water and other partners such as the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. There are currently 56 Green Flag sites within the East Midlands but no Green Flag sites in Rutland. Aspirations are to have more designated parks and gardens within Rutland.

Accessibility - Rutland Water is centrally located within the County. Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycle Paths provide some access to the Country Park although at this stage not all are connected to enable clear routes from surrounding towns and villages. Due to the various designations of use there are limitations within the Country Park in regards to access around the 3100 acre reservoir.

Adaptability - The primary purpose of Rutland Water as a privately managed reservoir limits the further adaptability of the area. Where possible, to date Anglian Water has successfully managed the site to enable a wide range of user's opportunities for accessing as many aspects of the Country Park as possible.

Parks and Gardens Recommended Provision Standard

Parks and gardens fall within the suggested provision standard for parks, gardens and amenity greenspace of 0.4ha per 1000 population.

Parks and Gardens Recommendations

- **Protect existing provision** - Existing provision should continue to be protected. Rutland Water is designated as a Country Park, RAMSAR Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest and it contains a number of conservation areas.

- **Designate Parks and Gardens** - Large amenity greenspace areas within the urban boundaries of Oakham and Uppingham should be designated as parks or gardens. This could include existing areas within: Oakham: Cutts Close Recreation Ground, Sculthorpe Road/Tolethorpe Road, Barleythorpe Road. Uppingham: North East Street.
- **Attain Green Flag quality standard** - Rutland Water and any other designated parks and gardens should attain Green Flag Award.
- **Improve access** - Improvements should be made to the accessibility of existing parks and gardens with clear entrances, signage and routes to any potential new provision.
- **Additional linking routes** - Rutland Water has clearly identified entrances and signage for residents and visitors. Further work is required to provide additional links between existing local corridors, footpaths and cycle routes within and particularly around Oakham and other surrounding settlements.

Amenity greenspace

This typology relates to small open spaces commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and greenspaces in and around housing, with the primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities and enhancing the appearance of residential or other areas.

Quantitative - There are a wide range of amenity greenspaces within Rutland. Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association - NPFA) suggest that average level of provision within local planning authorities for amenity greenspace is 0.8 hectares per 1000 population.

Qualitative - Consultation suggested that some specific areas were identified as suffering from both litter and dog fouling. Quality differences with the county were thought to be due to differing usage and maintenance of sites. As the County only has Rutland Water as a designated Park, amenity greenspace has increased significance for residents in terms of recreational use. Aspirations for amenity greenspaces are to protect and maintain existing areas.

Accessibility - Accessibility is particularly important as users of this type of open space tend to be local. Amenity green spaces are often provided on an ad-hoc basis resulting in access for people with a disability being overlooked. The availability of step-free access to the sites, pathways to and through sites and good quality benches are aspects to consider. In terms of walking distance 10 minutes is a recognised catchment scale which equates to 480m.

Adaptability - The amenity greenspace within the county is unlikely to be adapted to cope with changes in need. Increases in car ownership can lead to some areas of amenity greenspace being affected as residents use areas as additional parking at the loss of small areas of amenity greenspace, where possible this change of status should be avoided.

Amenity Greenspace Recommended Provision Standard

Amenity greenspaces fall within the suggested provision standard for parks, gardens and amenity greenspace of 0.4ha per 1000 population.

Amenity Greenspace Recommendations

- **Minimum size of amenity Greenspace** Over 60% of the current amenity greenspace are 0.1ha or larger this standard should be a minimum standard that should be maintained. New amenity greenspace should be no smaller than 0.01 hectares (which is equivalent to the minimum activity zone size 100sq.m for local area play/ door step play recommended by Fields in Trust)
- **Designate larger amenity greenspace** - Designate larger amenity greenspace areas as parks, gardens or outdoor sports provision with suitably marked pitches. Potential areas include: Tinwell Road, Langham Recreation Ground, Our Lady's Well, Garden Road, Thompson Lane Playing Field, Loves Lane, Tolethorpe/Sculthorpe Close, Morcott Road Playing Field, Princess Avenue and Barleythorpe Road

- **Develop a quality standard:**
 - Clean and free from graffiti and litter with adequate bin provision
 - Grass should be well maintained
 - Have good lighting and appropriate seating provision.
 - Where sites are large enough the Green Flag Award criteria should also be considered.
- **Improve access** - Although accessibility appears not to be a concern in relation to amenity greenspaces standards relating to disability provision and walking catchment areas should include:
 - Sites should be accessible for people with a disability (Entrance, signage, pathways and seating) with links to other open areas by walking and cycling routes.
 - All new development areas should ensure that an area no smaller than 0.1ha is available within 10 minutes walking catchment of all homes (480m).

Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland

This typology relates to woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. It has wider benefits for the local community such as ecological and education opportunities as well as natural landscaping.

Quantitative – Rutland contains a range of natural and semi-natural greenspaces including ancient and deciduous woodlands, meadows, Sites of Specific Scientific Interest and RAMSAR sites. There are no local nature reserves although Rutland Water itself provides an accessible site of over 1500 hectares within ten kilometres of every home in the county and within five kilometres of the two market towns. Natural and semi-natural greenspaces also includes land in agri-environmental management such as land part of an Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

Qualitative - Residents suggested that there was limited access to woodland areas with some residents opting to go outside of the county to visit woodlands such as Rockingham Forest. There are however a number of Woodland Trust managed community woods within the County. Natural England provides some clarity in relation to the quality of National Nature Reserves, Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves. Where as the Woodland Trust Sites have detailed management plans for their ongoing sustainability and community use. Aspirations for natural and semi-natural greenspaces are to protect those areas already apparent within the county.

Accessibility - Access to natural and semi-natural spaces tends to be on foot via footpaths and bridleways to local areas although some car use is required for accessing larger natural greenspaces outside of the direct locality. In terms of access for people with disabilities there are a number of limitations due to the entrances, pathways and seating available. If applying the Woodland Trust standard relating to living within 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size, Oakham has access to a significant area of woodland to the South West of the Town with extension to the existing Gorse Field, Harris Grove and Balls Meadow Woodland Trust Site. Uppingham has less access to Woodland with some woodland to the South East of the town.

Adaptability - As the population increases the demand to experience natural and semi-natural greenspaces will also increase. It is unlikely that new areas of natural or semi-natural greenspaces will be required to meet demand however, the current provision will require careful management and protection. Land under agri-environmental management has been identified separately to the other natural and semi-natural greenspaces due to its primary purpose as agricultural land.

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace Recommended Provision Standard

No definitive provision standard for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace should be set.

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace Recommendations

- **Support the quantity of provision:**
 - Protect existing habitats, species and migration routes
 - Seek to identify Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
 - Support for species as identified in the local biodiversity action plan
 - Support is given to increasing the ecological value of sites such as those areas within the county not already within an agri- environmental management
 - Link green spaces and corridors (see green corridors section 7)
 - Ensure land surrounding current protected sites is not available for development to allow for extension of existing natural space provision.
- **Develop a quality standard:**
 - Be clean and free from graffiti and litter with adequate bin provision
 - Have well maintained signage and paths with appropriate seating provision.
 - Protect biodiversity aspects relating to habitat development and species protection
 - Preserve and enhance high quality features, flora and fauna and promote biodiversity.
 - Maintain the natural element of such spaces and ensure user satisfaction with the provision of sufficient seating, proper signage, and bins where appropriate, clear footpaths and information boards for education purposes.
- **Improve access** - Accessibility can be an issue for local residents in using natural and semi-natural greenspaces therefore the following should be undertaken:
 - Sites should be accessible for people with a disability (Entrance, signage, pathways and seating) with links to other natural and semi-natural greenspaces, amenity green spaces and open areas by walking and cycling routes.
- **Adopt catchments:**
 - The Woodland Trust 500m catchment for both Oakham and Uppingham as these are the main settlements this would require further access to existing woodland for some sites and potentially additional sites to be established.
 - The Natural England standard of 20 hectares of natural-semi natural greenspace within 2km of major settlements

Green Corridors

Green corridors include towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines. The primary purpose is to provide opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration. Wider benefits for the local community include promoting health, wellbeing and providing access routes for local residents and wildlife.

Quantitative - There is currently an existing network of public rights of way within the county. There is however limited use of waterways, disused canals and railways within the county other than to provide a corridor for wildlife migration. Local green corridors extend from the main urban settlements. Oakham has three main corridors extending to the north which links to Oakham Canal, to the East which links to Rutland Water and to the south East to Egleton. Uppingham also has a number of local green corridors with several linking to surrounding settlements north to Ayston, east to Bisbrooke and south to Lyddington. Other routes also extend to the south west and north east.

Qualitative - It was recognised that signage and new paths have been used to link existing networks with options for more links to be developed, specifically circular routes. Additional cycle parking areas are seen as something that could be improved. Some maintenance issues were raised concerning paths becoming overgrown and the amount of dog fouling. Aspirations for green corridors are to protect and maintain existing networks and where possible provide further links within the county.

Accessibility- There are no realistic requirements to set catchments for green corridors as they cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation and are very much

opportunity-led rather than demand-led. It is important, however, that existing and new sites are accessible to disabled people through the provision of step free access, nearby parking spaces and appropriate gating.

Adaptability - The demand on existing networks may well develop with population growth as areas of settlements expand green corridors will need to be maintained and potential extended so that urban growth does not impact upon recreation use or wildlife migration.

Green Corridors Recommended Provision Standard

No definitive provision standard for Green Corridors should be set.

Green Corridors Recommendations

- **Improve access** - As stated in PPG17 '*Planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as disused railway lines, roads or canal and river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to 'plug in' access to them from as wide an area as possible*'. Where possible the *Right to Roam* legislation (2005), should be referenced so that green corridors are openly accessible.
- **Improve connections** - Oakham and Uppingham should be connected by linking existing footpaths through to Manton then on to Oakham. Additionally both towns should seek to link existing footpaths that extend from these settlements to create outer rings of walking or even cycling routes.
- **Improve access to Disused Canal** - The Oakham Canal provides a route of small waterway sections with some footpaths already providing access along the route which extends 6.0 miles joining Oakham with Barrow, Market Overton and Teigh. Linked routes through existing footpaths should promote recreational use.
- **Improve access to River Chater** - The River Chater intersects the county south of Rutland Water providing 15.4 miles of waterway that connects with a number of settlements such as Wing, North Luffenham, Ketton and Stamford. There is opportunity to provide access to some sections of the river as recreational access around the settlements.
- **Link into Disused Railway network** - The disused railway network to the south of the county has origins in Uppingham, South Luffenham and Wakerley. At Thorpe by Water the railway meets the River Welland that extends out of the county. The disused railway should be used to provide opportunity for recreational access such as through a cycle route that could provide alternative access to areas within the south of the county.
- **Link into Disused Quarries** - The north of Rutland offers other corridors such as the disused quarries around Market Overton although not linked four quarry areas exist that could benefit from wider use and be used to link to other corridors such as Oakham Canal.
- **Improve access to Valley and Brook** - Gwash Valley and the North Brook form corridors to the east with links from Rutland Water to Stamford including settlements such as Empingham, Great Casterton, Little Casterton, Ryhall and Belmsthorpe. Access to these routes should be provided to offer alternative walking or cycle routes.
- **Adhere to Countryside Agency quality standards:**
 - A path provided by the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation
 - ground not soft enough to allow a horse or cycle to sink into it
 - A path on unvegetated natural surfaces.
 - A clean, well-maintained, safe and secure natural corridor reinforced by well kept and controlled natural vegetation with defined, level and well drained pathways that links major open spaces together and provides bins and seating in appropriate places. Major routes should be appropriately signed both to and within the sites.
- **Improve disability access** - Making green corridors where possible accessible for people with a disability (Entrance, signage, pathways and seating) providing links to other natural

and semi-natural greenspaces, amenity green spaces and open areas by walking and cycling routes.

Outdoor sports facilities

Outdoor sports facilities is a wide-ranging category of open space and includes natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned which are used for sport and recreation. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.

Quantitative - There are a range of outdoor sports facilities within Rutland. In total the county has 106 pitches the majority of which are limited in access as only 26.4% (n=28) have open community access. Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association) suggest that playing pitches should be within 1.2km of all dwellings in major residential areas and the benchmark level of provision for pitch sports within rural local authorities as 1.72 hectares per 1000 population. The analysis of outdoor sports reveals that:

- There is a potential surplus of two cricket pitches in the county, although a shortage in Oakham due to growth.
- The supply of senior football pitches indicates that there is a deficit; there is a need for more pitches in Oakham, upgrading of pitches in Uppingham and improved facilities elsewhere.
- There is no surplus or deficit apparent for rugby pitches with current provision meeting demand. A small deficit exists within junior rugby pitches although this is often accommodated through the division of senior pitches.
- There are no community use Artificial Turf Pitches although seven within the county is more than sufficient if suitable community access terms are agreed between Rutland Hockey Club and the local schools/colleges.
- There are a range of non pitch based facilities including Rutland Water, Eyebrook Reservoir, several Archery Clubs with their own facilities, outdoor basketball courts and Multi-Use Games Areas, Bowling Greens, Climbing Walls, Cycle Tracks, Golf Courses, Polo ground and Cross Country Course. Athletics requires the use of facilities outside of the county although the Showground hosts training sessions in both track and field events.

Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management - For the non-technical turf quality pitch assessment, the scoring matrix devised as part of the Sport England Electronic Toolkit for undertaking pitch assessments was used. While the pitches are well maintained, there is a general need for investment in better quality changing provision. Fields in Trust suggests benchmarks for the quality. These include criteria such as gradients, orientation, ancillary accommodation, planting and community safety. Aspirations for outdoor sports facilities were to increase the current low levels of satisfaction with sports facilities in relation to quality and accessibility.

Accessibility - Access to outdoor facilities was raised as not all of the pitches are available for community use as they are within local schools, private club facilities or institutions which are not available to the local community for formal or informal use. The accessibility of outdoor sports in terms of disabled access is often limited as many of the facilities within the county, including some of those provided by the schools and colleges, have unsuitable parking, entrances, pathways and seating.

Adaptability - The analysis of future demand suggests an increase in the number of teams which will create additional pressure on the number and availability of pitches. In addition consideration could be given to the re-designation of open areas and inclusion of junior and mini pitches within developments of education sites or housing provision.

Outdoor sports and recreation facilities Recommended Provision Standard

The provision standard for outdoor sports and recreation facilities is 1.9 hectares per 1,000 population (A standard of 1.6ha per 1000 has been used and is the national norm recommended by Fields in Trust. However, participation rates in Rutland for all pitch sports are much higher than the national average. The participation in the county requires 19% more pitches than the average. The standard is therefore increased by 19% to 1.9ha per 1000).

Outdoor sports and recreation facilities recommendations

- **Protect pitches** - All existing cricket, football and rugby pitches should be protected from development. This includes all areas of playing fields as defined in PPG17 including small areas such as those on primary school sites and those not currently accessible to the community.
- **Compensatory provision** - Development on pitches should only be allowed as an exception if enhanced facilities are provided in a similar location. This will involve additional pitches to a high specification together with changing and clubhouse facilities to ensure the long term viability of operations. There should be security of access for the community through the donation of the freehold, long term leases or community use agreements. Compensatory provision could also include the upgrading of existing facilities. This is particularly relevant in rural areas. The appropriate location, quantity, quality, specifications, security of access and management of alternative facilities should be determined by Rutland County Council in consultation with Sport England, local clubs and participants.
- **Upgrade Cricket grounds** - Planning contributions should be used to assist with the upgrade of cricket grounds and pavilions, particularly in villages and small settlements. Discussions should be held with Oakham Cricket Club to evaluate alternatives for additional facilities in the town as population and demand grows.
- **Upgrade Football pitches** - New football pitches and changing rooms should be provided in compensation for the loss of space for three pitches at Vale of Catmose College. Planning contributions should be used to assist with the upgrade of football pitches and changing rooms throughout the County. Priority should be given to increasing the capacity of pitches at Uppingham College and upgrading changing rooms adjacent to other pitches. The existing pitches at Rutland College should be protected, upgraded and brought into community use with the addition of changing rooms. Optional sites should be identified for a senior football team in Oakham with the capacity to progress through leagues with the facilities necessary including the possibility of floodlighting.
- **Improve quality of Rugby facilities** - Secure the future of Oakham Rugby Club with quality pitches and clubhouse facilities. There is also the need to identify additional pitches in the future should demand and the population increase.
- **Improve access to ATPs** - Secure access to existing artificial turf pitches at Oakham and Uppingham Schools for hockey club use through management agreements and the development of support facilities on site where appropriate.
- **New site for Tennis** - Alternative sites should be identified to provide an option for Oakham Tennis Club to increase its facilities to meet existing and likely future growth in demand. Tennis courts accessible to the community are needed in Oakham and Uppingham. Alternative sites and access options need to be investigated.
- **Protect existing sites** - All existing sports facilities should be protected from development and where, appropriate, planning contributions used to enhance facilities with community access. Many sports (e.g. archery, cycling, equestrian and water sports) have a County wide catchment area so contributions from developments in the major settlements should be used. Where the catchment area of 20 minutes walk exceeds a total population of 1000, facilities for young people should be enhanced with the provision of MUGAs for football, basketball, netball and tennis.

- Sites of significant value to outdoor sport in Rutland and that are at risk or are likely to change use in the next 10 years are:
 - **Provision of additional pitches Vale of Catmose College** - The Vale of Catmose College is to undergo redevelopment. This involves the retention of three grass pitches, the construction of an ATP and the loss of space for three grass pitches. While current demand from six teams could be managed on two senior pitches, both would be used twice every weekend and there would be problems in clashes for unscheduled cup matches. The pitches would need to be of a very high quality specification and would be unlikely to sustain a full curriculum of football and after school matches. There is also no capacity to manage growth in demand. It is recommended that a minimum of two additional senior pitches be provided elsewhere with changing rooms.
 - **Compensatory Provision for loss at The Showground** - The Showground is owned by Rutland Agricultural Society and let to Oakham Rugby Club who in turn sub-let part to Royce Rangers FC. The site is shown in the Core Strategy Preferred Options as a suitable location for housing. If this proceeds then compensatory provision must be made. This should include a rugby club facility with a minimum three senior pitches and one junior pitch. There should also be a floodlit training area clubhouse with changing and social facilities, grounds store and adequate car parking. One of the rugby pitches could be left undeveloped at this stage but the space is necessary to manage growth in demand. There should also be a minimum three senior and three junior football pitches to cater for existing demand with space for a further two senior pitches. There should be a clubhouse with changing and social facilities, a grounds store and adequate car parking. These could be combined with the rugby club provided there is overall management involving equal representation of both sports. The developer of the Showground would need to provide the new facilities and for them to be playable before sport ceases at the Showground. All facilities should be to a minimum of Sport England, RFU and FA specifications. Given the amount of use by young people, the new site must be accessible by all types of transport including cycle and on foot.
 - **Retain Rutland College Pitches** - The playing fields on Rutland College have not been in formal use for some years. It is important that the site is retained for pitches given the demand in Oakham. A community use agreement should be negotiated with the College and changing rooms provided. Its use will be determined in relation to the other site for football and the Rutland Football Development Plan.
 - **Upgrade Uppingham Community College Pitches** - The College has four pitches which are well used by the school. The football pitches are also used by junior teams. There is a Football Foundation development scheme based at the school which will increase demand for football. The current pitches need to be upgraded to meet the demand. If this is not possible then additional land for pitches needs to be identified.

Indoor sports and recreation facilities

This typology although not part of the PPG17 was seen as important as part of the assessment in relation to the demand on facilities. An audit of indoor sport and recreation facilities included: Community and village halls, Swimming pools, Sports halls and Health & fitness suites.

Quantitative - There are a range of indoor facilities within Rutland, although these vary in their size, quality and suitability for certain sport and recreation activities. The main indoor sports facilities; Swimming pools, Sports halls and Health & fitness suites have restricted access due to being within school, private membership, MOD or HMP sites. Indoor facilities within the schools are heavily used by pupils and similarly MOD sites are used by resident personnel and their families. There are also some good community/ village hall sites used for sports such as bowls, badminton, table tennis, dance, martial arts and many types of fitness activities. Some clubs such as The Vale Judo Club which occupies an industrial unit use alternative facilities.

Qualitative - Residents were generally unsatisfied with the number of indoor facilities available within the county. Quality issues relating to maintenance, changing facilities and the depth of school pools were noted by residents. In addition although the village and community halls are of a high quality many were thought to be unsuitable for a number of sports.

Accessibility - Accessibility to indoor facilities within Rutland can cause difficulties in terms of public use, due to the use of the sites for their primary purpose in relation to school pupils or MOD personnel. Where community access is available this can be limited in terms of the availability of the facilities during the day, on evenings and weekends. Residents suggested that they felt uncomfortable using indoor facilities on school premises due to uncertainty about their community use. Aspirations are for more indoor sports facilities or opportunities to access those that currently exist within the county.

Adaptability - A supply and demand assessment is difficult to establish due to all the new developments which are not yet operational. Indications are that a population growth will result in increased demands on indoor provision specifically sports hall scheduling, peak uses of swimming pools and, health and fitness suites.

Indoor sports and recreation facilities Recommended Provision Standard

The provision standard for indoor sports and recreation facilities is 500 sq m per 1,000 population (When the current planned indoor facilities are complete there will be a good provision of indoor facilities in the towns and larger settlements. It is impossible and inappropriate to produce a meaningful standard for built sports facilities to include all types. Given the demographic distribution in Rutland the simplest approach would be to typify a small rural community. The primary built facility would be a village community hall. Based on current evidence of usage, a population of 500 would need a hall of approximately 250 square metres. This is therefore equivalent to a nominal provision of 500 square metres per 1000 population.)

Indoor sports and recreation facilities recommendations

- **Upgrade village and community halls** - Where possible, planning contributions should be used to assist in the upgrade, improvement or replacement of village and community halls. Improved facilities should consider the use for indoor sports providing areas to store equipment and suitable surfacing to suit a range of sports. Changing room facilities could also be considered.
- **Relocate the Vale Judo Club** - Alternative locations should be identified to provide a viable and sustainable facility for the Vale Judo Club to move from its current location on an industrial estate. An accessible location of a suitable size for the planned growth in the club should be investigated to meet the specific needs of the club.
- **Develop a quality standard for indoor facilities** - This should reflect the views and aspirations of the local community and should be linked to the national benchmark and design criteria. A recommended quality standard for indoor sport and recreation facilities has been set using national benchmarks, Sport England Technical Design Guidance Notes and Quest Best Practice Standards:
 - to provide clear guidance relating to facility specifications, ensuring suitability of design for the targeted range of sports and standards of play as well as individual requirements for specialist sports and uses. All new build and refurbishment schemes to be designed in accordance with Sport England Guidance Notes, which provide detailed technical advice and standards for the design and development of sports facilities.
 - to ensure high standards of management and customer service are attained, which meet or exceed customer expectation and lead to a quality leisure experience for all users of facilities. All leisure providers to follow industry best practice principles in relation to a) Facilities Operation, b) Customer Relations, c) Staffing and d) Service Development and Review.

- **Improve access to indoor provision** - Accessibility is a key issue for residents in terms of indoor sports provision due to the limitations on community access to existing facilities. Therefore the following should be undertaken:
 - Existing and future planning conditions should be fully implemented to ensure community access to indoor sports facilities through *Community Use Agreements*. In the absence of an alternative, Sport England model agreements should be used. Community access should be at times and at a cost that are appropriate to the local needs.
 - Where improvements are made to existing provision requirements for disabled people should be integrated within all design aspects.
 - Further research is required within existing sites to measure community use; systems should be established where possible to be able to capture data on the levels of community activity within the main facilities. New developments should have management systems that enable this data to be extracted. Further work to determine the low levels of satisfaction scores within the Active People survey are also required to ensure that these issues can be addressed.

Provision for children and young people

This typology relates to open space areas with play equipment found in housing areas providing a focus for children and young people to engage in physical and social activities.

Quantitative - Rutland has 58 identified play area sites of which 45 are community accessible with no apparent restrictions. In considering the minimum standard of provision of 0.6 hectares per 1000 population as recommended by Fields in Trust (formerly NPFA) each ward in Rutland falls below the minimum standard. Those wards with the least provision are Oakham North West, South West, North East, Whissendine, Exton, Greetham and Ketton.

Qualitative - There were mixed feelings over the quality of children and young people's provision. Aspirations are for clean, litter free, well-kept grass, equipment and seating. Although all new build areas appear to have play areas the equipment provided is limited with some of the smallest play areas appearing to have low levels of use. Currently 17 Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) fall short of the minimum size of 400m² and three Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) fall short of the minimum size outlined as 1000m².

Accessibility - Children and young people have very limited ability to travel and this is generally a greater limiting factor than the quantity of facilities available as play provision is concentrated in settlements with considerable distances between them – certainly too far for children and young people to travel on their own. Disability access can be limited due to the entrances of playing areas and the terrain leading up to play areas.

Adaptability - Some of the sites are very small in size and are limited by the boundaries of the surrounding open spaces to be adapted to meet demands of a growing population. It is anticipated that there will be a growth in population at ages 0-15 to 8400 and at age 16-24 to 4900 by 2026.

Provision for children and young people Recommended Provision Standard

The provision standard for Provision for children and young people is 0.6 hectares per 1,000 population (of which 0.25 hectares per 1000 population should be equipped playing space.

Provision for children and young people recommendations

- **Adhere to Fields in Trust design standards** - Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association) recommendations for rural areas within *Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play* should be adhered to.
- **Improve quantity and quality of provision** - The quantity and quality of provision in the following wards should be improved: Oakham North West, South West, North East,

Whissendine, Exton, Greetham and Ketton. This may include the upgrading of existing sites or the introduction of new sites including Local Areas for Play, Local Equipped Areas for Play, Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play and Local Landscaped Areas for Play.

- **Provision in Growth Areas** - Areas that are proposed for new developments within the Core Strategy Preferred Options in both Oakham and Uppingham will require additional provision for Children and Young People as existing provision does not extend to these areas. Oakham will require a minimum of one Local Equipped Area for Play and one Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play positioned within centrally accessible locations to ensure that all dwellings are provided with suitable provision. Uppingham will require either one Local Equipped Area for Play or Local Landscaped Areas for Play.
- **Adhere to Fields in Trust quality standards** - The quality standards outlined within Fields in Trust's *Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play* for all types of play should be adhered to as a minimum quality standard. There are several sites that are seen as examples of good practice: Pinfold Road, Greetham Community Centre, Garden Road and Chapel Lane.
- **Improve/upgrade sites** - Sites in need of improvement include: Wheatlands Close, Grampian Way, Riddlington Road, Princess Avenue, North East Street, Glen Drive/Welland Way, The Nook, Pennine Drive, Top Road Cricket Ground, Heath Drive, King Edwards Way, Loves Lane, Morcott Road, Chater Close, Irwell Close, Goldfinch Road, Meadow Playing Fields and The Oval Recreation Ground.
- **Improve access** - Improvements should be include cycle routes, cycle stands, disabled access (Sites should have step free entrances, appropriate signage, pathways and seating) and off site signage.
- **Address access to primary school sites** - Where possible the repetition of provision should be avoided in cases where community provision and school provision are close consideration should be made to having one site which is accessible by the school and the community.

Allotments, community gardens and urban farms

This typology provides opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce providing landscaped open space for the local area that can promote improved physical and mental health.

Quantitative - There are currently 22 allotments sites within the county, offering in the region of 500 plots. Several sites have been altered in size and some sites lost with changes of use. Residents appear to be not satisfied with the amount of allotments available locally, as waiting lists are thought to be too long. Some wards have good levels of provision where as others are limited with Cottesmore, Greetham and Oakham South West having no allotments.

Qualitative - The majority of allotment sites are controlled and maintained to a high standard by allotments committees or through parish or town councils. Although lighting, entrances, signage and parking are aspects that differ in quality between sites.

Accessibility - Most allotments are within walking distance of main settlement areas with some provision of parking available. Many of the allotments have limited parking availability with some entrances obscured and difficult to find. Disability access to allotments can be problematic due to sites with uneven walkways and off-road parking. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggest a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 dwelling.

Adaptability - As many of the allotment sites in the County are full, or have a high occupancy rate, it should be a priority to investigate the expansion of existing allotment sites or the introduction of new sites. As the majority of these sites are owned and run by parish or town councils, there is a need to work collectively with these bodies to bring about improvements.

Allotments, community gardens and urban farms Recommended Provision Standard

The provision standard for Allotments, community gardens and urban farms is 0.4 hectares per 1,000 population.

Allotments, community gardens and urban farm recommendations

- **Further investigation** - Recognising that allotments are a demand led typology, further investigation as to the localised demand for allotment sites should be undertaken and used in conjunction with local standards to ascertain the appropriateness of any new provision.
- **Additional allotments** - Those areas such as Cottesmore, Greetham and Oakham South West without adequate provision should be addressed on a demand led principle as some allotment sites already have waiting lists; it is worth further identifying the need within these areas, or within existing allotment sites with the potential to expand.
- **Protect allotments** - There should be no further loss of allotment areas. If developments indicate a loss in allotment sites alternative solutions to retain the site should be explored. Where this is not possible the allotment site should be relocated to a suitable site, where ancillary services should be maintained and improved. Alternative provision is to be provided within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the plot holders' homes.
- **Implement NSALG quality standards:**
 - The Current standard plot size is 250 sq metres. Buildings should not exceed Plot holders shed 12 sq metres, Greenhouse 15 sq metres, Poly tunnel 30 sq metres
 - Sites should be accessible for people with a disability (Entrance, signage, pathways and seating) with links to other amenity green spaces and open areas by walking and cycling routes. Paths should now be 1.4 metres to enable disabled access and haulage ways should be a minimum of 3 metres wide

Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds

Churchyards tend to be encompassed within the walled boundary of a church and cemeteries are burial grounds outside the confines of a church. These include private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards.

Quantitative - There are cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds within nearly all settlements within Rutland, with a total of a 60 sites across the county. Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider in some areas whilst in other areas they can represent a relatively minor resource, but are able to provide areas of nature conservation.

Qualitative - Aspirations for cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds are for well kept grass with flowers, trees and shrubs. In terms of the quality assessment those areas that received a lower score were lighting, parking, seats/benches and pathways.

Accessibility - Disability access to church sites is often problematic due to their age. Many older sites have a large number of steps, uneven walkways and often have off-road parking. Disabled access to cemeteries is not such an issue due as they tend to be relatively new and have more flexibility in terms of layout.

Adaptability - Planning for future provision could be based on predicted death rates, burial and cremation rates. Those areas currently designated as cemeteries and burial grounds will remain under this classification where as other adjoining open spaces and new locations maybe required to meet demand by 2026.

Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds Recommended Provision Standard

No definitive provision standard for cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds should be set.

Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds Recommendations

- **Maintain and create wildlife opportunities** - The need for the burial of the dead, cemeteries and churchyards is demand led. There appears to be sufficient provision in existing areas at present with many sites able to expand. Existing sites should be maintained as this provision provides additional opportunities for wildlife and use of the open space by the public for walking and relaxing.
- **Develop quality standards** - In terms of the quality of cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds a quality standard should be developed to ensure they are: An area of quiet contemplation and an opportunity to enhance biodiversity, well kept with a variety of flowers, trees, shrubs, seating and litter bins. Sites should have well defined boundaries and appropriate lighting to discourage misuse.
- **Improve the quality and access** - In some instances, particularly in rural settlements, a churchyard may be the only formal open space provision and hence is a focal point of the village. It should be the priority of the Council to consider improving the quality of sites in rural areas where no park or garden or amenity green space exists. This may however prove problematic as churchyards are typically not under Parish or County Council control.

Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians

This typology relates to small hard surfaced open space areas commonly found centrally within town locations; it has many wider benefits for the local community providing a hard landscaping area that can have a number of functions.

Quantitative - There are three market square/pedestrianised areas within Rutland, one market square within Uppingham and a market square and pedestrianised street in Oakham. Residents appear happy with the amount of civic and market squares available locally.

Qualitative - The quality of the civic and market squares was seen to be reasonably good although noise levels were thought to be sometimes high within these areas. Continued support is seen as important for community based activity within these accessible spaces.

Accessibility - The civic spaces in Rutland are central to both main settlements with public transport links directly accessible in addition site access for disabled people is also good.

Adaptability - The existing civic spaces are already providing multi-purpose functions in terms of hosting markets, community events and there is likely to be limited additional demand on these spaces in the future.

Civic Spaces Recommended Provision Standard

No definitive provision standard for Civic Spaces should be set.

Civic Spaces Recommendations

- **Maintain and improve Civic Space** - As the two main settlements have some civic space there is limited likelihood for additional civic spaces to be developed unless either market town look to implement pedestrianised areas or extend existing pedestrianised routes. Therefore existing market squares and civic spaces should be maintained and improved to ensure maximum use by the local community.
- **Develop quality standards** - In terms of the quality of civic spaces a quality standard should be developed to ensure they are: Clean litter and graffiti free, with litter bins positioned throughout with appropriate and well maintained seating, flowers, trees and greenspaces. Toilets and parking facilities should be easily accessible.
- **Additional cycle parking** - The nature of civic and market squares at the centre of major settlements ensures that accessibility is well catered for with walking, cycling and bus routes. Additional cycle parking is required within and around the civic space in Oakham.

Green Infrastructure

Although not formally part of PPG17 Green Infrastructure consists of all previously identified typologies. The only typology not included within Green Infrastructure is Indoor Sports Provision.

Successful Green Infrastructure complements the built infrastructure and contributes to natural environment. Amongst a list of benefits it can improve health and wellbeing, provide recreational and sporting opportunities, support and enhance biodiversity and improve environmental quality.

The total extent of the existing Green Infrastructure assets in Rutland is 88.6% of the total area of the county; the remaining area consists of the built environment and land that is not agri-environmentally managed.

Green Infrastructure Provision Standard

No definitive provision standard for Green Infrastructure should be set.
--

Green Infrastructure Recommendations

Integrate Green Infrastructure with Planning - We recommend that the Council integrates Green Infrastructure within its planning system through appropriate inclusion within local development frameworks and supplementary planning documents to ensure that existing provision is protected. The typologies involved in Green Infrastructure impact upon a number of different council departments, there is need for a coordinated approach to ensure that all areas are considered in improvement plans to meet the needs of Rutland in the future.

Adhere to Regional Strategic Framework - We suggest that the county meet the regions strategic framework by:

- Protecting and enhancing existing natural, historic and recreational assets including recreational routes and sports facilities and countryside character
- Improving the management of existing assets and provision of new Green Infrastructure to meet growth requirements
- Establishing a network of multi-functional greenspaces in urban areas, urban fringe and the wider countryside, as part of the process of developing more sustainable, safer, secure and attractive natural built and form
- Ensuring good accessibility of Green Infrastructure provision that promotes healthy lifestyles and can be used for formal and informal recreational and educational purposes
- Maintaining and increasing the local area's stock of strategic Green Infrastructure assets

The recommendations for the Green Infrastructure have been divided into the five GI Zones and where relevant into the GI wedges: North West GI Zone, North East GI Zone, Central GI Zone, South West GI Zone and South East GI Zone.

North West GI Zone

Vale of Catmose GI Wedge – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Improve access to Disused Canal** - Improve access at the south of this wedge to increase routes to the disused Oakham- Melton Canal particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. This could link to existing local corridors to the North of Oakham. Routes from Langham and Whissendine could also be linked into the Vale.
- **Agricultural Land Boundaries** - Agricultural land with limited boundaries and hedgerow gaps should be addressed to provide further biodiversity and migration routes. Land running alongside the railway should where possible, be left wild.

Sustainable Urban Extension Oakham - Existing catchments indicate that the preferred approach for Sustainable Urban Extension in Oakham will require:

- **Additional Allotments** - Further allotments to the North of the planned extension should be provided as the existing Barleythorpe Allotments walking catchment does not extend to the northern edge of the development.
- **Extension of Allotments** - The Barleythorpe allotments should be retained and extended to meet demands from the population anticipated within the Sustainable Urban Extension.
- **Additional Amenity Green Spaces** - There needs to be network of amenity greenspaces provided as currently only the area south of the Brook are within a waking catchment of amenity greenspaces. Amenity greenspaces within the Sustainable Urban Extension would also provide greater satisfaction with the quality of the environment.
- **Brooke Buffer Zone** - Barleythorpe Brooke should have a buffer zone of at least 3-4 metres from each bank to ensure that the wildlife migration route is protected. This should also be developed to become a recreational local corridor for residents to access the Brooke as a route into Barleythorpe and Oakham.
- **Additional Children's and Young People Provision** - There should be at least one NEAP created at a central point to the urban extension this could be combined with a LEAP although there may need to be two leaps one south of the Brooke and one north of the Brooke to ensure the catchments cover the population of the urban extension and existing residents in Barleythorpe. The additional provision should meet the standards outlined in Fields in Trust Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play.
- **Compensatory Playing Pitch Provision** - The loss of playing pitches at the Showground will need to be replaced with compensatory provision. Including: A rugby club facility with a minimum three senior pitches and one junior pitch, a floodlit training area, clubhouse with changing and social facilities, grounds store and adequate car parking. One of the rugby pitches could be left undeveloped at this stage but the space is necessary to manage growth in demand. There should also be a minimum three senior and three junior football pitches to cater for existing demand with space for a further two pitches.
- **Transport Corridor Buffer Zone** - The existing transport corridor of Barleythorpe Road should be enhanced by ensuring that there is a designated buffer zone of greenspace alongside the road to protect migration routes, habitats and landscaping. A buffer zone that includes existing mature trees and planting would also provide a screening to the urban extension that would help to reduce traffic noise for residents and provide attractive landscaping.

Other considerations within the North West GI Zone – Several other priority areas should be considered including:

- **Extend Access to Woodland** - Improve access to woodland by linking and extending local corridors/footpaths. Land adjacent to the existing Woodland Trust Sites such as Gorse Field, Harris Grove and Balls Meadows and The Seek should remain undeveloped for future extensions of these areas of woodland.

North East GI Zone

Cottesmore Plateau GI Wedge – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Extend Access to Woodland** - Woodland around Exton such as Tunneley Wood, Cottesmore Wood and Westland Wood have areas of ancient woodland these should be protected and enhanced. Improve access by linking and extending local corridors/footpaths for recreational use within and around these woodland areas.

Clay Woodlands GI Wedge – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Protect SSSIs and Woodland** - There are several areas Sites of Special Scientific Interest in this area including Empingham Marshy Meadows, Bloody Oaks Quarry, Clipsham Old

Quarry & Pickworth Great Wood, Newell Wood and, Greetham Meadows. In addition there are many areas of woodland such as Stretton, Osborall, Greetham near and far and Clipsham Park.

- **Extend Access to Woodland** - Improve access to woodland by linking and extending local corridors/footpaths. Land adjacent to the existing George Henry Wood should be considered for extending this community Woodland Trust Site.

Gwash Valley GI Wedge – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Create of multi-functional corridor** - The Gwash Valley should be protected as a multi-functional corridor providing wildlife and recreational access including walking and cycling routes from Belmsethorpe, Ryhall, Little Casterton, Great Casterton, Tickencote through to Rutland Water. It should be ensured that any recreational provision does not impact upon the Sites of Special Scientific Interest such as Tickencote Marshes or Shacklewell Hollow.

Central GI Zone

Rutland Water Basin GI Wedge – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Protect Rutland Water** - Work with Anglian Water should continue to ensure the continued use of Rutland Water as a multi-purpose green space for wildlife, local recreation and tourism. Settlements in proximity to the reservoir should be protected from significant development to ensure the existing greenspace is maintained.
- **Extend Access to Woodland** - Burley and Rushpit wood provide additional interest due their proximity to Oakham direct local corridors should be created to make them more openly accessible.

South East GI Zone

Middle Valley GI Wedge – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Cross Border Working** - Work collaboratively with North Northamptonshire in relation to the Welland Way and sections of the Sub Regional corridor - Willow Brook. Although there are no distinct woodland areas the valley and river features should be protected with by restricting developments from nearby settlements.
- **Develop access to Disused Railway** - The disused railway network could be developed in to a multi-functional route that links settlements in the south of the county providing a recreational resource that could extend as far as Uppingham, Barrowden and South Luffenham.

South West GI Zone

Chater Valley GI Wedge – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Enhance and Protect Valley** - Chater valley intersects the county from east to west. This valley should be protected as a wildlife route with access provided from the nearby settlements for recreational use. The railway runs alongside the valley from Manton to Ketton causing this section of the route to be less appropriate for recreational therefore environmental initiatives should be focused in this section to further enhance the habitat and migration route.

Eyebrook Valley GI Wedge – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Cross Border Working** - Work collaboratively with Harborough District Authority in relation to Eyebrook Reservoir as it crosses the administrative boundaries to ensure access to the

reservoir and potentially develop a circular route around the reservoir with the option to connect with Eyebrook Valley Woods.

- **Extend Access to Woodland** - Protect and enhance Wardley and Stoke Dry woods, which both offer community access, by providing additional linking local and sub regional corridors from Uppingham and surrounding settlements.
- **Extend Access to Reservoir** – Provide additional route for cycling and walking for direct access from Uppingham to the reservoir.

Sustainable Urban Extension Uppingham - Existing catchments indicate that the preferred approach for Sustainable Urban Extension in Uppingham will require:

- **Enhancement of Local Corridor** – The existing corridor that links Leicester Road to Ayston should be maintained and enhanced as a recreational route, this should include the introduction of cycle routes enabling improved access to Uppingham.
- **Extension of Allotments** - The Leicester Road allotments should be retained and extended to meet demands from the population anticipated within the Sustainable Urban Extension.
- **Improve Amenity Greenspace** – The area of open space to the south of the Leicester Road Allotments should be cleared and maintained to make an access point to amenity greenspace and play provision at Lime Tree Avenue and Goldfinch Road Play Area.
- **Transport Corridor Buffer Zone** – A buffer zone of greenspace alongside the Ayston Road and Leicester Road should be created to protect migration routes, habitats and landscaping. Additional trees and planting could assist to screen the urban extension.
- **Additional Children’s and Young People Provision** – Although the urban extension falls within the catchment of one NEAP and two LEAPs. Lime Tree Avenue Play Area fall short of the minimum size (400m²). Additional provision should therefore be included within the sustainable urban extension such as a LEAP or alternative provision to a LEAP would be a Local Landscaped Area for Play which should meet the standards outlined in Fields in Trust Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play.

Working towards the regions strategic framework will require suitable resourcing; this may in part come from developer contributions although other sources will also be required. This review document will inform the development of Provision Standards Guidance for developer contributions and Policy Guidance.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Open spaces provide a number of functions within the rural and urban environment. These include, for example, the provision for play and informal recreation, landscaping within and between the built environment and a habitat for the promotion of biodiversity. There is a need to provide a balance between different types of open space in order to meet local needs.
- 1.2 Changing social and economic circumstances, changed work and leisure practices, and higher public expectations have placed new demands on open spaces. The provision of public open space and facilities for sport and recreation underpins people's quality of life. Rutland County Council views such provision as important to individual's health and wellbeing, and to the promotion of sustainable communities.
- 1.3 This review of Open Space, Sport, Recreation Facilities and Green Infrastructure in Rutland aims to provide a clear picture of the current provision of all classifications, to identify areas of deficiencies. It looks to consider the quantity, quality, accessibility and adaptability of provision, but most importantly, it considers the local needs of the population and the potential demands that may be placed on provision as the population grows.
- 1.4 The information within this review will be used to inform provision standards and develop policies relating to the Council's approach to the provision of open space, sport and recreation in conjunction with new development.

2 Open space context

- 2.1 There are a number of national documents and agencies that provide the strategic context to open spaces, sport/recreation facilities and green infrastructure across the country and as such influence the provision of open space in Rutland. This review sets the audit and local needs assessment in the wider context.

National and regional context

- 2.2 The Department for Communities and Local Government hopes to ensure that the planning, building and management of places and communities are undertaken with consideration of the impact and sustainability of national and local environments.
- 2.3 As outlined in Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable - Housing Green Paper (2007) housing growth is seen to be critical for the survival and prosperity of rural areas. Although there is a need for growth to respect the key principles that now underpin planning policy – to provide for high quality housing that contributes to the creation and maintenance of sustainable rural communities in market towns and villages.
- 2.4 Existing and new communities should be attractive places to live with good quality neighbourhoods, access to built facilities and green public space. Open spaces for informal play, sport and recreation as well as access to the natural environment are identified as essential to the development of sustainable communities. Government policies and programmes have helped halt the decline in open spaces and are continuing to support the standards for open spaces and Green Infrastructure strategies.
- 2.5 Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) provides the most detailed guidance on Government policy in relation to open spaces, facilities for sport, recreation and play. The application of PPG17 enables local authorities to identify specific needs, quantitative and qualitative

- deficiencies or surpluses to enable effective planning policies to be developed and local standards for provision to be developed. The audit encourages a local assessment of all open spaces and consideration of the existing and future needs of communities for a variety of open spaces.
- 2.6 Other Planning Policy Guidance and Statements also impact upon considerations for open space, sport, recreation and Green Infrastructure including PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005), PPG2: Green Belt (2001), PPS3: Housing (2006), PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development, PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004) and PPS9: Biodiversity and Geographical Conservation (2005). The planning policies provide details regarding the planning of communities and the importance of good design to incorporate local needs which are functional, accessible and improve local character.
- 2.7 The East Midlands region covers approximately 1,562,700 hectares comprising of six counties - Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland. Over four million people live in the East Midlands region with concentrations of population in Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Northampton and Lincoln. The East Midlands is the third most rural region in England with around 30% of the population living in rural settlements, which is well above the national average.
- 2.8 The East Midlands has been identified as an area for new housing. The New Growth Points are the three Cities of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham together with Grantham, Newark-on-Trent and Lincoln. The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) sets out the broad development strategy, identifying the need for additional housing and the way in which developments should be distributed. Other relevant regional documents include: Regional Sustainable Development Framework, Regional Biodiversity Strategy and the Regional Forestry Strategy.
- 2.9 Green Infrastructure is a term used by the government to describe the network of open spaces, green corridors and the natural environment in and around urban areas. The East Midlands Regional Plan suggests that the green infrastructure is:
- 'Networks of multi-functional green space which sit within and contribute to, the type of high quality natural and built environment required to deliver sustainable communities. Delivering, protecting and enhancing these networks requires the creation of new assets to link with river corridors, woodlands, nature reserves, urban green spaces, historic sites and other existing assets'.
- 2.10 The importance of the Green Infrastructure and the principles to which the East Midlands intend to follow are outlined in the Green Infrastructure Guide for the East Midlands (2008). Examples from across the region demonstrate the benefits of undertaking a positive approach to Green Infrastructure development as part of any community planning. The principles outlined provide a clear direction for Rutland in the consideration of the green infrastructure within the county.
- Local context**
- 2.11 Rutland is a small rural county covering 39,250 hectares. The estimated resident population (2007) for Rutland for all people is 38,400. The estimated population of an area includes all those usually resident, whatever their nationality, HM Forces stationed outside the United Kingdom are excluded but foreign forces stationed are included. The population is predicted to grow to 47,300 by 2026 and to 49,200 by 2031. Growth will be significant for those aged 65+ although younger age groups will also see a proportional rise.

Table 1 Changes in population structure 2006 to 2026

Year	Aged 0-15	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-64	Aged 65+	Total
2006	7400	4300	19800	6900	38300
2026	8400	4900	21400	12700	47200
Change 2006 - 2026	+1000	+600	+1600	+5800	+8900

Source: ONS 2006 based population projections

- 2.12 Rutland has two market towns that provide the main settlement areas. Oakham has an approximate population of 10,000 whilst Uppingham is significantly smaller home to approximately 4,000 residents. Although these are the main urban areas within the County both are surrounded by agricultural land and open space. In addition to the market towns Rutland has 52 dispersed villages which range in population with the six largest settlements accounting for around 25% of the population.
- 2.13 There are 56 parishes within Rutland that make up 16 wards – See appendix B for Parish/Ward look up table. Parishes vary in the services and facilities available to the population. Presently 10 parishes have produced or are in the process of developing parish plans. Several have identified within their parish plans the importance of maintaining open spaces, village greens and the need for improvements to sports facilities and play provision.
- 2.14 Rutland has the lowest level of deprivation in the East Midlands and nationally is within the top quartile for deprivation ranked 334 out of 354 from all Local Authorities (Rank 1 is the most deprived). In comparison with the East Midlands regional average Rutland has lower levels of people suffering from limiting long-term illness and a higher proportion of people in good health. Subsequently Rutland has high levels of participation in sport and active recreation and has been above the national average (top quartile) within both measurement periods of the Active People Survey for participation by adults in 30 minutes moderate activity 3 days per week.

Table 2 Active People Results 0506 and 0708 comparison

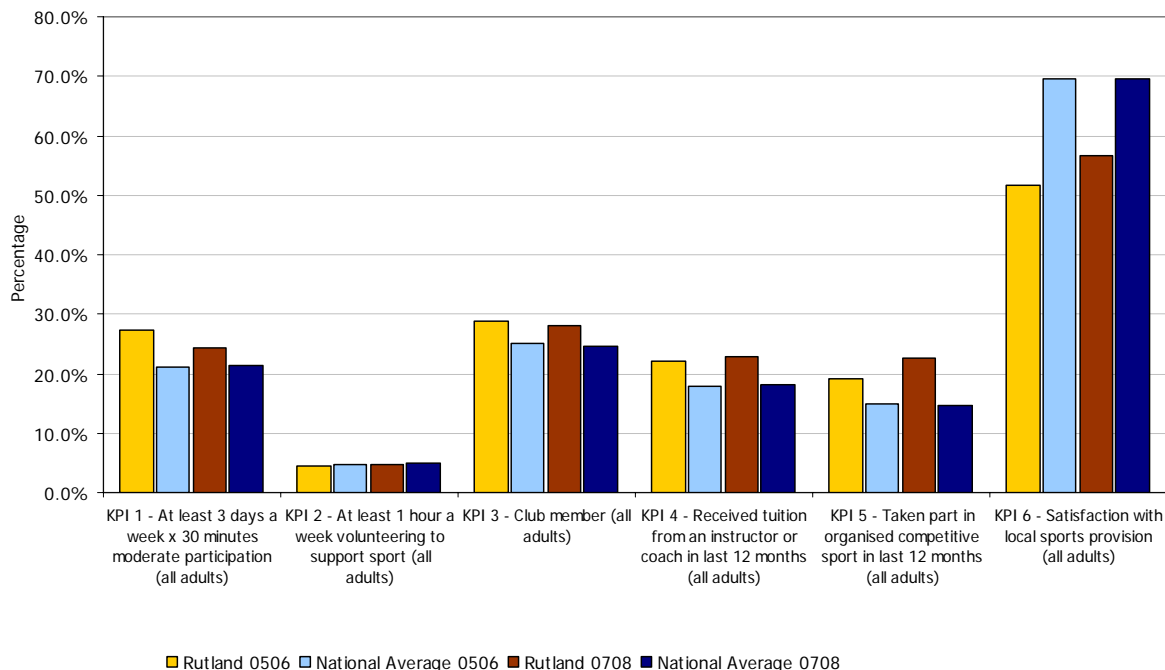
Key Performance Indicators	Rutland 0506	National Average 0506	Rutland 0708	National Average 0708
KPI 1 - At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults)	27.4%	21.0%	24.3%	21.3%
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour a week volunteering to support sport (all adults)	4.4%	4.7%	4.8%	4.9%
KPI 3 - Club member (all adults)	28.7%	25.1%	28.1%	24.7%
KPI 4 - Received tuition from an instructor or coach in last 12 months (all adults)	22.1%	18.0%	22.8%	18.1%
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months (all adults)	19.2%	15.0%	22.5%	14.6%
KPI 6 - Satisfaction with local sports provision (all adults)	51.8%	69.5%	56.6%	69.5%

Source: Sport England Active People Survey conducted by Ipsos MORI

- 2.15 The level of adult participation in club membership, receipt of tuition and organised sport are above the national average for both measurement periods. Rutland has a slightly lower than the national average level of participation in sports volunteering although this is changing as an increase has been demonstrated between the 05/06 survey and the 07/08 survey. Although successful in terms of participation Rutland is within the bottom

quartile for adults satisfaction with local sports provision currently ranked 15 out of 354 from all Local Authorities (Rank 1 has the lowest level of satisfaction). The low level of satisfaction has improved slightly between the 05/06 survey and the 07/08 survey although there is still some way to go before Rutland equals the national average for satisfaction in provision.

Figure 1 Active People Results 0506 and 0708 comparison



2.16 Rutland has a broad landscape with five identified character types, ranging from high plateau landscapes to lowland valleys. Rutland Water is central to the county and provides an environmental focus for resident and migratory wildlife. It is one of the 20 sites of special scientific interest which also includes meadows, woods and quarries. There are 190 local wildlife sites including areas of calcareous grassland, ancient and broadleaved woodland. Geological sites of special scientific interest are also designated within Rutland providing further areas of importance to wildlife.

Summary

2.17 The national, regional context outline the importance of open space, sport and recreation facilities and the Green Infrastructure to the development and sustainability of community life. Rutland already displays a wide variety of built and natural environment assets that promote an active and high quality experience for residents, visitors and wildlife. However as growth in the population of Rutland continues additional demands will be placed on the existing Green Infrastructure assets with requirements for effective management and planning. This review aims to provide a clear picture of the existing assets in Rutland and recommendations for their sustainable development.

3 Assessment and audit approach

3.1 The preferred methodology contained within PPG17 and its Companion Guide formed the basis of our approach as well a broader consideration of the Green Infrastructure as a whole. Due to previous experience within smaller Districts and Counties, particularly with dispersed rural communities, the approach was adapted in order to produce useful and meaningful planning standards and information relating specifically to Rutland. Our approach incorporated an Audit, Local Needs Assessment and Mapping.

3.2 We undertook the Audit, Local Needs Assessment and Mapping at the same time to ensure that an appreciation of the issues facing Rutland was determined prior to the consultation and, so that the audit process could assist in promoting awareness of the Local Needs Assessment.

Audit

3.3 Within the audit we included a review of all existing data and information from sources internal to the Council and from other external partner organisations. We identified that there was insufficient data on open spaces and facilities within existing data sources such as those owned by town and parish councils, voluntary, charitable, commercial and private bodies. Therefore additional desk based research and site visits were undertaken to enhance the data collection and ensure an accurate picture was established.

3.4 The audit assessed the key attributes of provision (quantity, accessibility, quality, primary purpose and adaptability) as well as giving some consideration to management and maintenance. During the audit we considered existing data, handbooks and local knowledge combined with aerial photography and GIS spatial images to complete assessment scoring sheets (See appendix A). It should be noted that each open space, sport and recreation facility is counted once in the audit of provision identified using the primary purpose. All data was collated into a comprehensive database for further use.

Local Needs Assessment

3.5 Within the local needs assessment we considered the implications of national, regional and local strategies such as community plans, cultural strategies, parks and open space strategies, sport and recreation and/or playing pitch strategies and children' s play strategies.

3.6 Where possible we undertook a population modelling process based on catchment areas to identify the approximate population served by current provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities and green space. This same process was used to look at the population predictions for 2026 to identify the predicted need for 2026 and highlight potential deficiencies in provision.

3.7 The review highlighted the overlap of the local needs assessment with existing consultation and material collected within differing areas of the council, this was collated to inform the assessment. In addition consultation was undertaken through:

- Meetings/surveys with key informants/stakeholders (Local Authority Officers - Leisure, Sport, Education, Planning etc)
- Meetings/surveys with Parish Councils
- Meetings/surveys with Education leads (Schools, Colleges, School Sport Partnerships, Youth Council)
- Meetings/surveys with Voluntary Sector organisations (Voluntary sports clubs, Community Sports Network, Local Sports Alliance)
- Public survey/drop-in events (Oakham and Uppingham)

3.8 Similarly to the approach to the audit, the local needs assessment was based on the five key attributes of provision (quantity, accessibility, quality, primary purpose and adaptability) as well as some consideration of management and maintenance. The consultation focused on:

- Attitudes to existing provision (ratings of benefits, satisfaction)
- Local expectations and needs (quality, access, cost, distance)
- Local constraints (issues/barriers encountered)
- Examples of good practice

3.9 Our approach included a range of direct consultation methods which generated a substantial level of qualitative data. Systematic analytical processes were undertaken to consolidate qualitative information. Data then proceed through an experienced coding process to allow emerging trends from the data to be interpreted for further investigation.

Mapping

3.10 To support the audit and needs assessment we developed an open space database containing all sites within the county. Maps of each site of open space typology were produced as Mapinfo™ Tables (.TAB) and in a Jpeg. format to illustrate the provision and the location of each site. Where possible these are supported with site photographs. Where applicable maps for each classification of provision are provided with detailed maps produced for main settlement areas.

Summary

3.11 This review draws together the findings of the audit, local needs assessment and mapping to provide a county level summary of the findings for each of the PPG17 typology categories:

- Parks and gardens
- Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland
- Green Corridors
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Indoor sports and recreation facilities
- Amenity greenspace
- Provision for children and young people
- Allotments, community gardens and urban farms
- Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds
- Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians

3.12 These areas are then drawn together within the considerations of the overall Green Infrastructure context.

4 Parks and Gardens

4.1 Primary Purpose – Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events

4.2 The parks and gardens typology relates to urban parks, recreation grounds, formal gardens and country parks. This typology has many wider benefits as they support the creation of a sense of place for the local community, ecological and education opportunities as well as structural landscaping for the local area.

Quantitative – measured in terms of the amount of provision, (how much existing, new, improved or changed provision)

4.3 There are a limited number of parks and gardens within Rutland. Rutland Water Country Park is the only designated county park (1553 hectares). There are no other parks or formal gardens identified within the county. In addition some sites identified by residents as parks have been categorised as outdoor sports facilities or amenity greenspaces.

4.4 Consultation highlighted that generally residents felt that the level of parks and gardens provision was good (51.3%). However opinions were mixed as others felt that provision was poor or in some cases very poor (23.4%). Others (24.7%) were undecided as they suggested they were unsure as to what areas in the county were seen as parks or gardens.

4.5 Attendees at the drop-in sessions suggested that residents were unsure of the level of current provision of the number of parks and gardens within the county, as many were unsure as to whether the county had any other than Rutland Water Country Park i.e. of sufficient size or quality. The level of parks and gardens is particularly low compared to other counties in the region due to the abundance of countryside around all major and minor settlements. Parish council and external consultations did not highlight any issues specific to parks and gardens.

4.6 Due to the inability of residents or other key informants with the consultation being able to provide a list of parks or gardens within the county the assessment has been based on Rutland Water Country Park only, all other spaces other than those with outdoor sports provision have been included within amenity greenspace.

Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management

4.7 Rutland Water is managed by Anglian Water and within some designated areas other partner organisations such as the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. Rutland Water is designated as a Reservoir, Country Park, Nature Reserve, Ramsar site and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

4.8 Rutland Water offers a range of other typologies within its boundary such as provision for children and young people and outdoor sports and recreation provision including walking, cycling, angling, windsurfing, canoeing sailing, and climbing.

4.9 The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The Green Flag Criteria states the benchmarks for parks as a welcoming facility, healthy, safe and secure environment. There are currently 56 green flag sites within the East Midlands but no Green Flag sites in Rutland. Consultation indicated that aspirations for Parks and Gardens are for clean, litter free, well-kept grass, flowers, trees and shrubs (ie appropriate landscaping) and seating.

Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities

4.10 Rutland Water is centrally located within the County. Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycle Paths do provide some access to the Country Park although at this stage not all are connected to enable clear routes from surrounding towns and villages. Due to the various designations of use there are limitations within the Country Park in regards to access around the 3100 acre reservoir.

4.11 Consultation highlighted that access to Rutland Water by local residents during peak times such as during weekends and holidays periods is limited due to the number of visitors from outside of the county. Several residents indicated that they preferred to visit other parks outside of the county in order to access open space areas that were less busy with visitors.

Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

4.12 The primary purpose of Rutland Water as a privately managed reservoir limits the further adaptability of the area. Where possible, to date Anglian Water has successfully managed the site to enable a wide range of user’s opportunities for accessing as many aspects of the Country Park as possible. Future changes in the need and demand for access will look to be accommodated although the primary purpose and cost implications of access changes may be restricting factors.

Current Standards Summary

Table 3 Parks and Gardens

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland
Previous standard per 1000 population (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	No standard identified
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	1 sites
Quantity of provision (Hectares)	1548.0 ha.
Quantity of provision per 1000 population (Total)	40.3 ha.
Quality of provision (Ave. score out of 85)	75.0
Accessibility of provision (Ave. score out of 35)	30.0
Adaptability of provision	Restricted

Recommendations

4.13 We recommend that the Council sets quantity, quality and accessibility standards for parks and gardens in line with PPG17 guidance. There are no definitive national or local standards for parks and gardens therefore we suggest that Rutland should consider the following:

Parks and Gardens Recommended Provision Standard

Parks and gardens and amenity greenspace provision of 0.4ha per 1000 population

- Existing provision should continue to be protected Rutland Water is designated as a Country Park, Ramsar Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest and it contains a number of conservation areas. Support for Rutland Water in maintaining the existing levels of protection should continue.
- Although Rutland Water provides all enough provision to more than meet the proposed standard the country park should be considered separately. Without Rutland Water the county has no designated provision of parks and gardens this is

- a key issue that should be addressed through re-designation and further demands-led assessment.
 - Large amenity greenspace areas within the urban boundaries of Oakham and Uppingham should be designated as parks or gardens. This could include existing areas within:
 - Oakham: Cutts Close Recreation Ground, Sculthorpe Road/Tolethorpe Road, Barleythorpe Road.
 - Uppingham: North East Street.
 - It is recommended that new provision is considered around each of the main settlements.
- 4.14 We suggest that a quality standard is developed so that residents know what they can expect from parks and gardens in the County. A quality standard would also be valuable in helping direct the creation of any provision.
- Rutland Water and any other designated parks and gardens should attain Green Flag Award. <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/award/>
 - Core criteria - A Welcoming Place - Healthy, Safe, and Secure - Clean and Well Maintained – Sustainability - Conservation and Heritage - Community Involvement – Marketing – Management
- 4.15 We suggest that improvements should be made to the accessibility of existing parks and gardens with clear entrances, signage and routes to any potential new provision.
- Rutland Water has clearly identified entrances and signage for resident's and visitor's further work is required to provide additional links between existing footpaths and cycle routes within and particularly around Oakham and other surrounding settlements (see section 7 Green Corridors for details on linking routes).

5 Amenity Greenspace

5.1 Primary Purpose – Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work to enhance the appearance of residential areas.

5.2 The amenity greenspace typology relates to small open space areas commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and greenspaces in and around housing, with the primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work enhancing the appearance of residential or other areas. The majority of amenity green spaces provide structural and landscaping benefits rather than any other wider benefit.

Quantitative – measured in terms of the amount of provision, (how much existing, new, improved or changed provision)

5.3 There are a wide range of amenity greenspaces within Rutland, which include both small grassed areas providing aesthetic value and larger areas that offer activity options including informal sport, dog walking and other recreation and leisure activities. Consultation through the public surveys and drop-in events identified that 74.1% of respondents have used amenity greenspaces once a week or more in the last 12 months, with 14.8% using amenity greenspaces daily. Uses were seen to be general recreation, routes to work, dog walking and for family activities.

5.4 Currently there are 205 sites, 198 of which are open to community access. The count of amenity greenspace areas includes all areas outlined within a 1:10000 scale map, therefore some areas smaller than 0.01 hectares have not been included within the assessment. Over 60% of the existing amenity greenspace covers an area of 0.1 hectares or larger.

5.5 The only national standard for casual playing space/ amenity green space, is within the Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association's) *Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play* - which suggests that average level of provision within local planning authorities for amenity greenspace is 0.8 hectares per 1000 population.

Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management

5.6 Consultation suggested that generally residents were happy (56.3%) with the amount of amenity greenspace available locally, suggesting that overall they (70.1%) were satisfied with the standards of maintenance. Although some specific areas were identified as suffering from both litter and dog fouling. No other comments specific to amenity greenspace were made. Parish council and external consultations did not highlight any issues specific to amenity greenspaces. Although some quality differences with the county were noted due to differing usage and maintenance of sites.

5.7 There are no specific standards for the quality of amenity greenspaces, although as Rutland has only Rutland Water as a designated Park. Amenity greenspace will have increased significance for residents in terms of recreational use.

5.8 The consultation indicated that aspirations for amenity greenspaces were to protect and maintain those areas already within the county. Concerns were raised that small amenity spaces were not always apparent in new development areas.

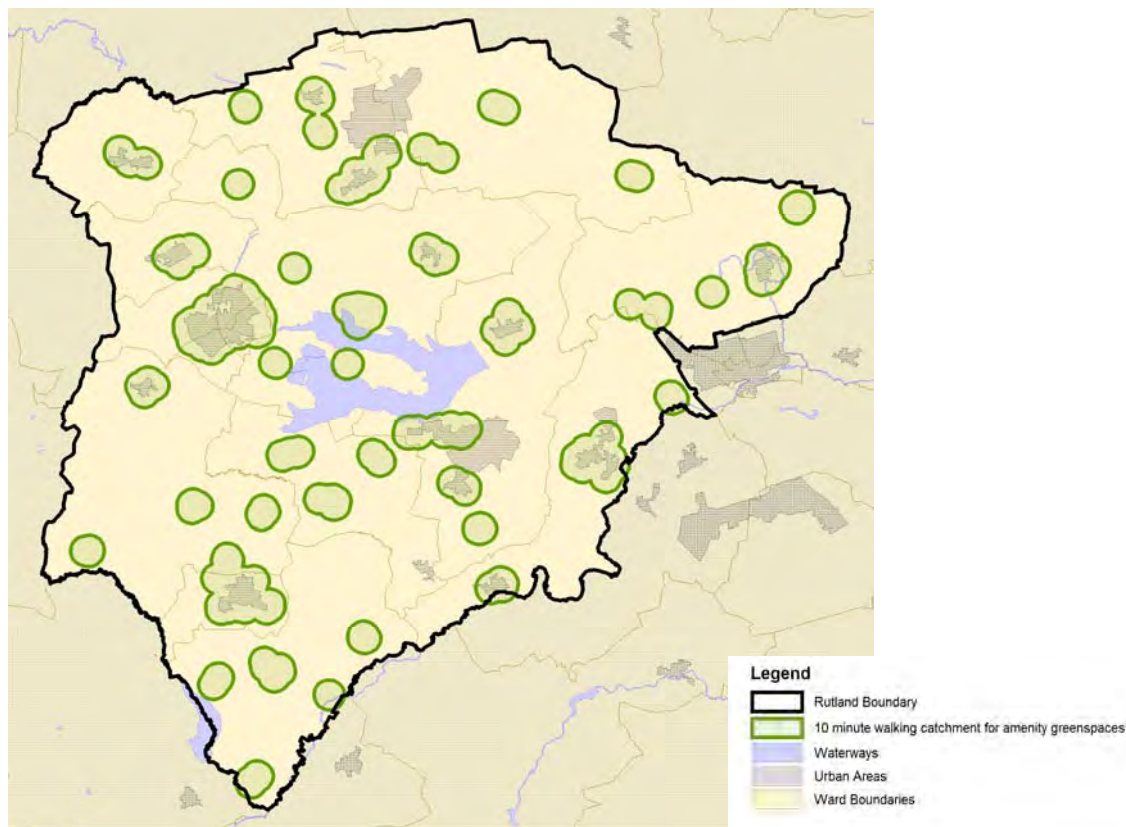
Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities

5.9 Accessibility for amenity grass spaces is particularly important as users of this type of open space tend to be local. Amenity green spaces are often provided on an ad-hoc basis,

access for persons with a disability is often overlooked. The availability of step-free access to the site, pathways to and through sites and good quality benches are aspects to consider.

- 5.10 Although site assessments suggested that amenity green spaces are generally accessible by walking. Some larger amenity greenspaces also contained parking, facilitating access for those who wished to drive. In terms of walking distance 10 minutes is a recognised catchment scale which equates to 480m (just less than half a mile).

Figure 2 Amenity greenspaces within 10 minute walking catchment



Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

- 5.11 The amenity greenspace within the county is unlikely to be adapted to cope with changes in need as these areas tend to be small grassed areas within and around residential areas. Increases in car ownership can lead to some areas of amenity greenspace being affected as residents use areas of amenity greenspace as additional parking or request additional parking at the loss of small areas of amenity greenspace, where possible this change of status should be avoided.
- 5.12 In total ten areas of amenity greenspace were identified as potential areas for adapting to meet the needs of other typological classifications such as larger open space areas becoming designated parks, gardens or outdoor sports provision with suitably marked pitches. Potential areas for adapting open space use include:
- Tinwell Road, Tinwell
 - Langham Recreation Ground, Langham
 - Our Lady's Well, Oakham
 - Garden Road, Exton
 - Thompson Lane Playing Field, Seaton
 - Loves Lane, Empingham
 - Tolethorpe/Sculthorpe Close, Oakham

- Morcott Road Playing Field, Wing
- Princess Avenue, Oakham
- Barleythorpe Road, Oakham

Current Standards Summary

Table 4 Amenity greenspace

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland	Unrestricted community access
Previous standard per 1000 population (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	0.4 ha.	0.4 ha.
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	205 sites	198 sites
Quantity of provision (Hectares)	81.36 Ha.	56.35 Ha.
Quantity of provision per 1000 population (Total)	2.12 Ha.	1.47 Ha.
Quality of provision (Ave. score out of 60)	48.38	47.98
Accessibility of provision (Ave. score out of 25)	20.23	19.80
Adaptability of provision	10 sites with options for classification as parks, gardens or outdoor sports provision	

Recommendations

- 5.13 We recommend that the Council sets quantity, quality and accessibility standards for amenity greenspace in line with PPG17 guidance. There are no definitive national or local standards for amenity greenspace. We recommend that following are considered:

Amenity Greenspace Recommended Provision Standard

Amenity greenspaces fall within the suggested provision standard for parks, gardens and amenity greenspace of 0.4ha per 1000 population.

- Over 60% of the current amenity greenspace is 0.1ha or larger, where possible this standard should be maintained.
 - New amenity greenspace should be no smaller than 0.01 hectares (which is equivalent to the minimum activity zone size 100sq.m for local area play/ door step play recommended by Fields in Trust)
- 5.14 We suggest that a quality standard is developed so that residents know what they can expect from amenity greenspace in the County. A quality standard would also be valuable in helping direct the creation of any provision, for example sites should be:
- Clean and free from graffiti and litter with adequate bin provision
 - Grass should be well maintained
 - Have good lighting and appropriate seating provision.
 - Where sites are large enough the Green Flag Award criteria should also be considered.
- 5.15 Although accessibility appears not to be a concern in relation to amenity greenspaces standards relating to disability provision and walking catchment areas should be considered:
- Sites should be accessible for people with a disability (Entrance, signage, pathways and seating) with links to other amenity green spaces and open areas by walking and cycling routes.
 - All new development areas should ensure that an area no smaller than 0.1ha is available within 10 minutes walking catchment of all homes (480m).

6 Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland

- 6.1 Primary Purpose - Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness
- 6.2 The natural and semi-natural greenspaces typology relates to woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. This typology has many wider benefits for the local community such as ecological and education opportunities as well as natural landscaping for the local area.
- 6.3 The Government intends to increase biodiversity, enhance stewardship and improve the efficiency of land use. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC 2006) introduced a general duty which requires that: *'Every public authority must, in exercising its function, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'*. The Government suggests that to achieve its aim of effective conservation of biodiversity it should be integrated a wide range of activities, sectors and organisations.
- 6.4 In recognition of the need to promote biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and natural greenspaces Rutland County Council has developed a local Biodiversity Action Plan. The plan was developed in line with the priorities for biodiversity in Rutland outlined in the Leicestershire & Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). Action plans have been developed for Roadside Verges, Calcareous grassland, Calcareous grassland, Mature trees, Neutral grassland, Wet Woodland; Springs and Flushes; Broadleaved Woodland; Lowland wood-pasture and Parkland; Reedbed and Glow worms.
- 6.5 Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. These standards recommend that people living in towns 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
 - one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home
 - statutory Local Nature Reserves at a minimum level of one hectare per thousand population.

The Woodland Trust suggests the following standards are adhered to:

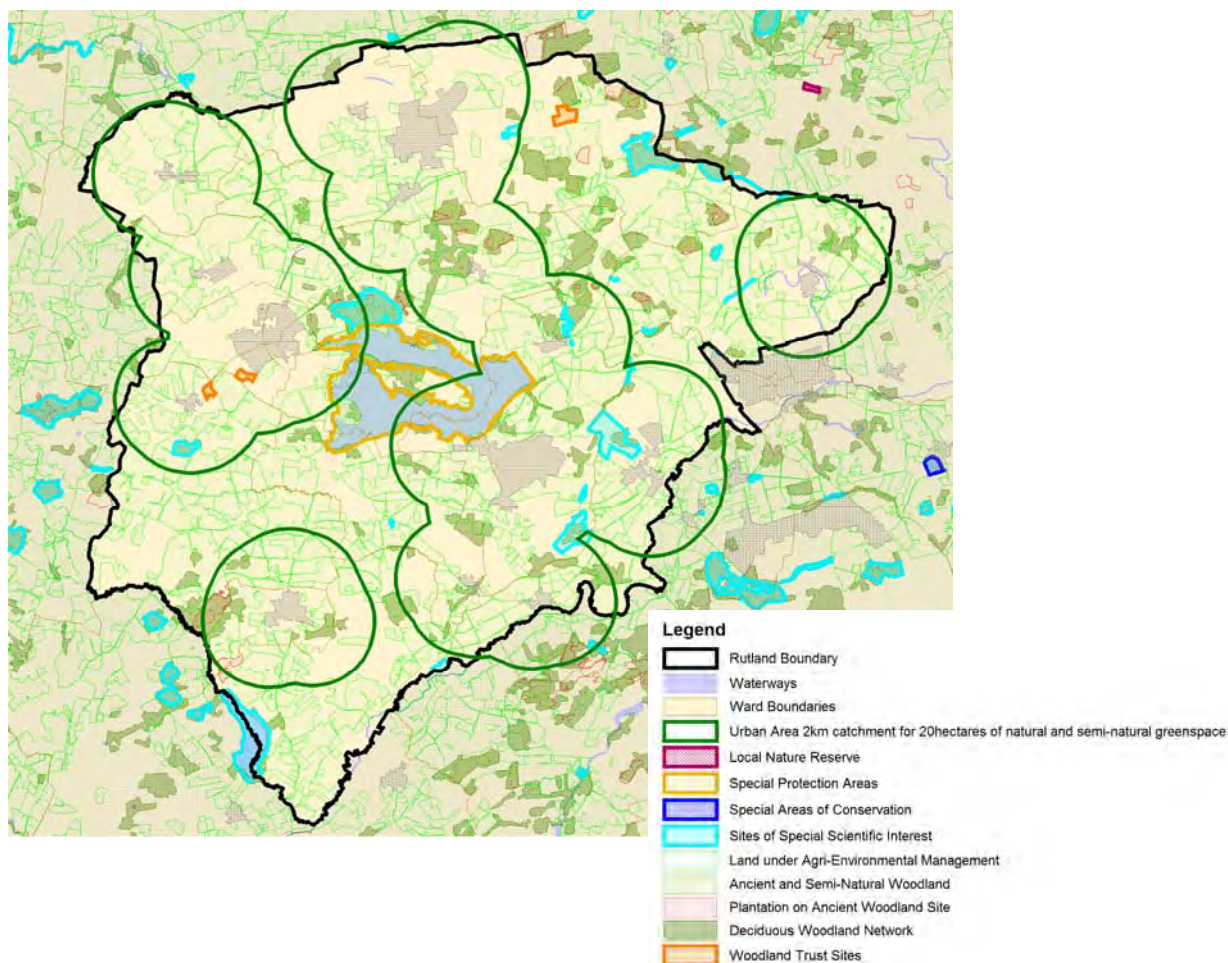
- no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible
- woodland of no less than 2ha in size
- there should be also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people's homes.

Quantitative – measured in terms of the amount of provision, (how much existing, new, improved or changed provision)

- 6.6 There are a range of natural and semi-natural greenspaces within 179 sites in Rutland, which includes ancient and deciduous woodlands, meadows, Sites of Specific Scientific Interest and RAMSAR sites. Rutland appears to have no local nature reserves although Rutland Water itself provides an accessible site of over 1500 hectares within ten kilometres of every home in the county and within five kilometres of the two market towns.

- 6.7 In addition to the formal protection sites classifications there may be a number of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the county although these could not be identified within the study. SINCs are a non statutory designation, which seeks to protect areas of high wildlife value at a local level. These sites are also known as Local Wildlife Sites and as a result of increasing pressures they are often small, isolated and fragmented. As such the protection and management of SINCs is important in conserving natural resources.
- 6.8 Natural and semi-natural greenspaces also includes land in agri-environmental management such as land classified as part of Environmental Stewardship (ES). Environmental Stewardship is a government scheme administered by Natural England it is open to all farmers, land managers and tenants in England. Through it funding and advice are provided to land managers to conserve, enhance and promote the countryside by:
- looking after wildlife, species and their many habitats;
 - ensuring land is well managed and retains its traditional character;
 - protecting historic features and natural resources;
 - ensuring traditional livestock and crops are conserved; and providing opportunities for people to visit and learn about the countryside.
- 6.9 As there are only two main market towns within the county and a variety of natural and semi-natural greenspace the most appropriate standard appears to relate to access to 20 hectares of natural-semi natural greenspace within 2km of homes. Figure 3 illustrates this in relation to the main settlements within the county.

Figure 3 Natural and semi-natural greenspaces within 2km catchment



- 6.10 The 2km catchments indicate that there is sufficient provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace within the county which is not unexpected due to the rural nature of Rutland. However those areas to north east appear to have less areas of protected sites or woodland networks. For example the four disused quarry areas around Market Overton do not appear to have any protection status.
- 6.11 There are three Woodland Trust managed sites within Rutland; The Seek covering 10.7 hectares at Braunston-in-Rutland woodland planted with oak, ash and hazel. Gorse Field, Harris Grove & Ball's Meadow near to Oakham covering 13.7 hectares is made up of two areas Gorse Field and Harris Grove and Ball's meadow. Recently the Woodland Trust has been able to purchase the Gorse Field Extension site just off Brooke Road on the outskirts of Oakham with plans to create further community woodland. Finally there is George Henry Wood near Stretton which is the largest of the three woodlands covering 32.5 hectares.

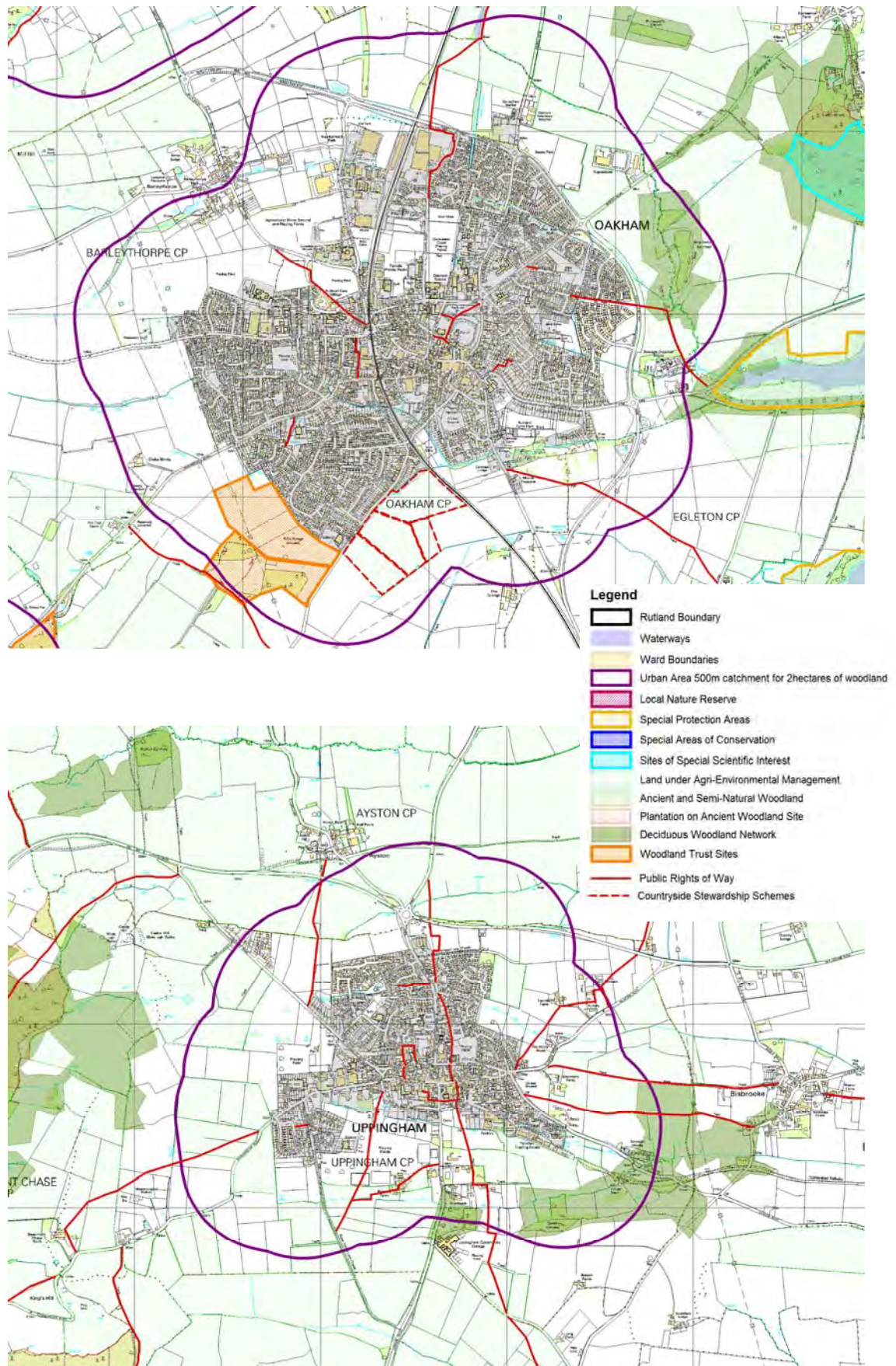
[Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management](#)

- 6.12 Consultation suggested that residents were happy with the amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace available locally although it was suggested that there was limited access to woodland areas in Rutland with some residents opting to go outside of the county to visit woodlands. No other comments specific to natural and semi-natural greenspaces were made. Parish council and external consultations did not highlight any issues specific to natural and semi-natural greenspaces.
- 6.13 There are no definitive quality standards for natural and semi-natural greenspaces other than those that are defined or being developed by Natural England in relation to National Nature Reserves, Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves. The Woodland Trust Sites have detailed management plans for their ongoing sustainability and community use.
- 6.14 In addition to the recreational value of natural resources, residents also frequently recognise the wider benefits of natural open spaces, particularly in terms of providing opportunities for biodiversity and habitat creation. The consultation indicated that aspirations for natural and semi-natural greenspaces are to protect those areas already apparent within the county.

[Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities](#)

- 6.15 The rural nature of Rutland results in populations in small settlements surrounded by natural and semi-natural greenspace. Access tends to be on foot via footpaths and bridleways to local areas although some car use is required for accessing larger natural greenspaces outside of the direct locality. In terms of access for people with disabilities there are a number of limitations due to the entrances, pathways and seating available.
- 6.16 If the Woodland Trust standard relating to living within 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 hectares in size is applied to the two main market towns with Rutland of Oakham and Uppingham. As figure 4 illustrates Oakham has access to a significant area of woodland to the South West of the Town with extension to the existing Gorse Field, Harris Grove and Balls Meadow Woodland Trust Site due to have access from both Brooke Road and Braunston Road. There is also deciduous wood to the East of Oakham although public footpaths only exist to the southern tip of the woodland. Uppingham has limited access to Woodland with some woodland to the South East of the town within 500m of the town with some public access through footpath to the north of the wood on a route to Bisbrooke.

Figure 4 Woodland within 500m catchment



Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

- 6.17 As the population increases the demand for opportunity to experience natural and semi-natural greenspaces will also increase. It is unlikely that new areas of natural or semi-natural greenspaces will be required to meet demand however; the current provision will require careful management and protection.

Current Standards Summary

Table 5 Natural and semi-natural greenspaces including urban woodland

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland
Previous standard per 1000 population (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	No standard identified
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	179 sites
Quantity of provision (Hectares)	8205.06 Ha.
Quantity of provision per 1000 population (Total)	0.20 Ha.
Adaptability of provision	Restricted

- 6.18 Land under agri-environmental management has been identified separately to the other natural and semi-natural greenspaces due to its primary purpose as agricultural land.

Table 6 Land under agri-environmental management

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland (All are restricted community access*)
Previous standard (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	No provision standard
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	120 sites
Quantity of provision (Hectares)	23934.00 Ha.
Adaptability of provision	Restricted

*Unless they are intersected with a public right of way or are part of the countryside stewardship scheme

Recommendations

- 6.19 We recommend that the Council sets quantity, quality and accessibility standards for natural and semi-natural greenspace in line with PPG17 guidance. There are no definitive national or local standards for natural and semi-natural greenspace. We recommend that following are considered:

Natural and Semi-Natural Recommended Greenspace Provision Standard

No definitive provision standard for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace should be set.

- Protecting existing habitats, species and migration routes seek to identify Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Support for species as identified in the local biodiversity action plan
- Support is given to increasing the ecological value of sites such as those areas within the county not already within an agri- environmental management
- Where possible natural green spaces and corridors are linked
- Ensure land surrounding current protected sites is not available for development to allow for extension of existing natural space provision.

- 6.20 We suggest that a quality standard is developed so that residents know what they can expect from natural and semi-natural greenspace in the County. A quality standard would

also be valuable in helping direct the creation of any provision, for example sites should be:

- Clean and free from graffiti and litter with adequate bin provision
- Signage and paths should be well maintained with appropriate seating provision.
- Other biodiversity aspects relating habitat development and species protection should also be considered
- To preserve and enhance high quality features, flora and fauna and promote biodiversity.
- Maintain the natural element of such spaces and ensure user satisfaction with the provision of sufficient seating, proper signage, and bins where appropriate, clear footpaths and information boards for education purposes.

5.16 Accessibility can be an issue for local residents in using natural and semi-natural greenspaces there for the following should be considered:

- Sites should be accessible for people with a disability (Entrance, signage, pathways and seating) with links to other natural and semi-natural greenspaces, amenity green spaces and open areas by walking and cycling routes.
- The rural nature of the Rutland suggests that they could adopt:
 - the Woodland Trust 500m catchment for both Oakham and Uppingham as these are the main settlements this would require further access to existing woodland for some sites and potentially additional sites to be established.
 - the Natural England standard of 20 hectares of natural-semi natural greenspace within 2km of major settlements

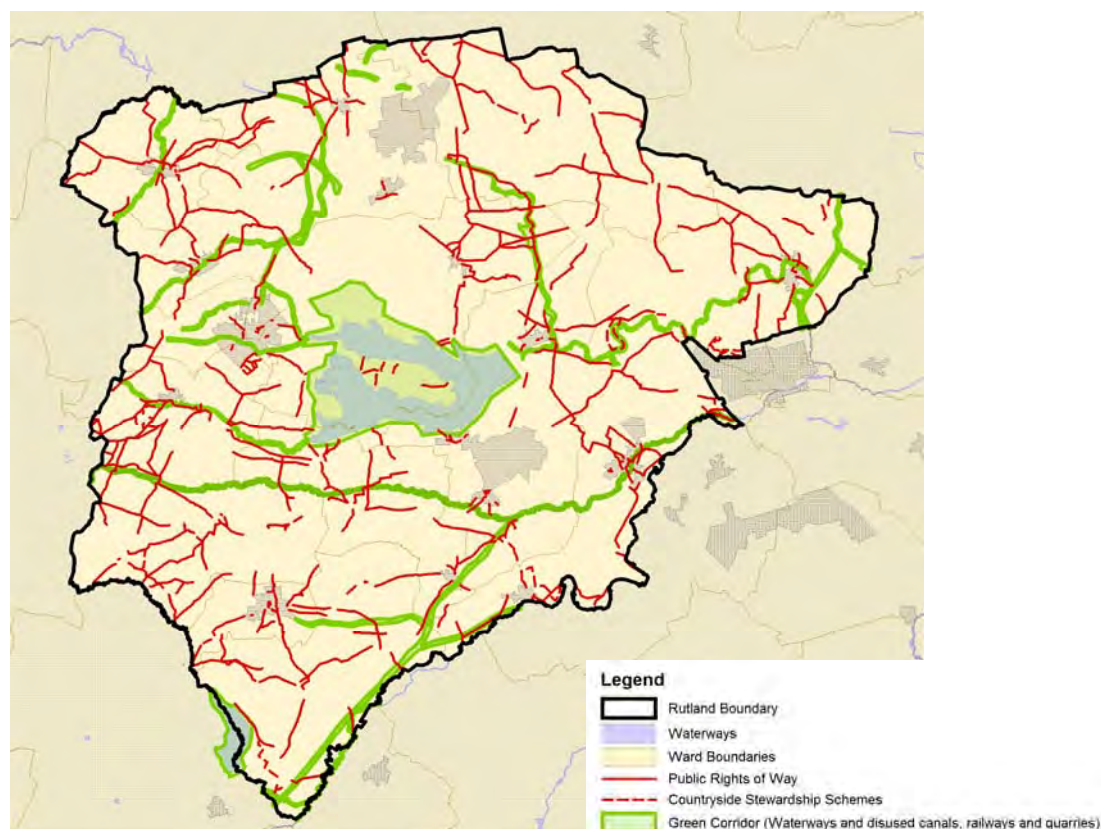
7 Green Corridors

- 7.1 Primary Purpose – Walking, cycling or horse riding whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration.
- 7.2 Green corridors include towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines. The primary purpose to provide opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration. This typology has many wider benefits for the local community promoting health, wellbeing and providing access routes for local residents and wildlife.
- 7.3 Although the role that all green corridors play in the provision of open space and recreation within the County is recognised, the focus is however on important urban corridors and public rights of way.

Quantitative – measured in terms of the amount of provision, (how much existing, new, improved or changed provision)

- 7.4 Annex A of PPG17, Open Space Typology, states: *'the need for green corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard, just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads.'*

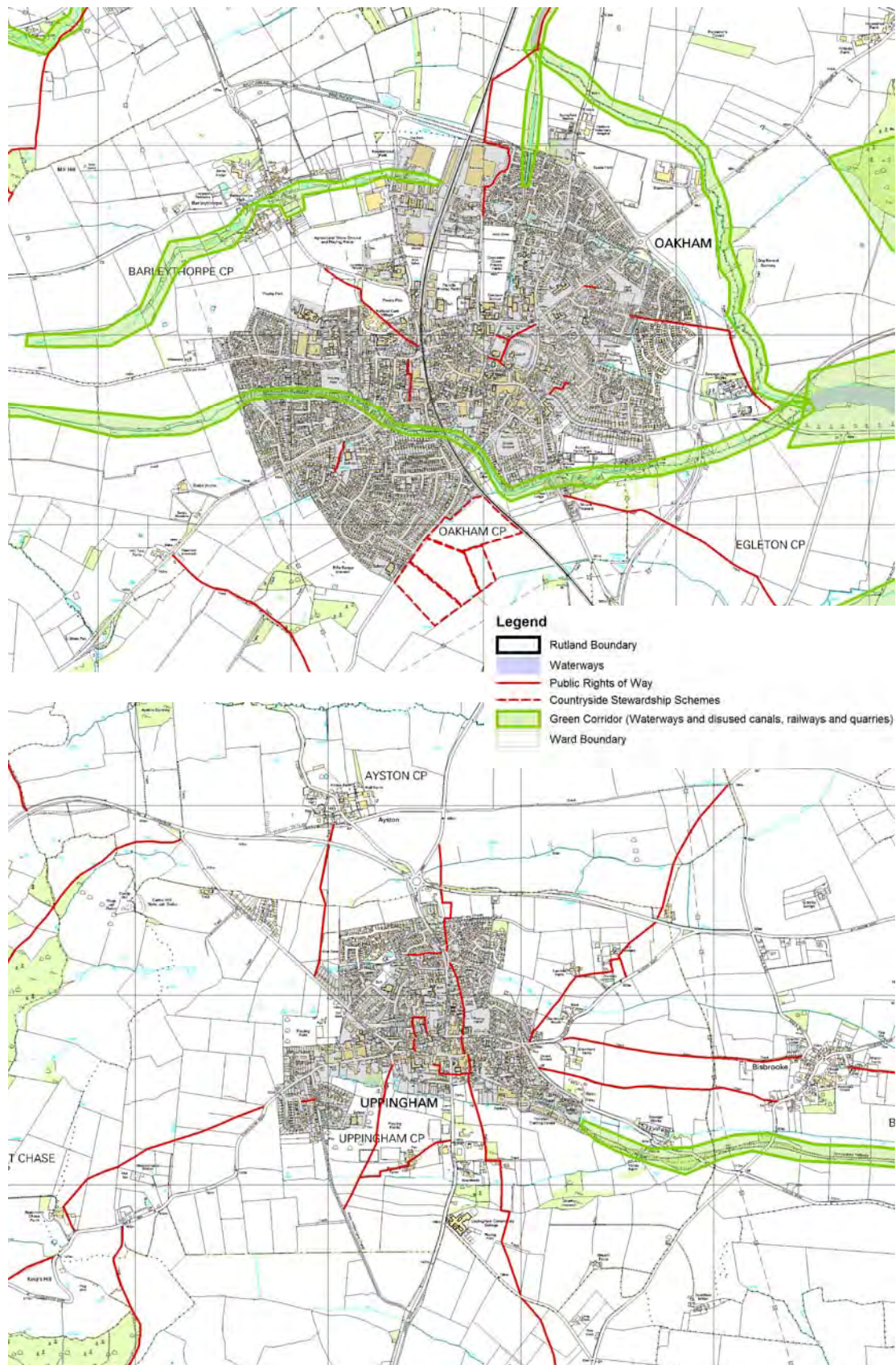
Figure 5 Green corridor network



- 7.5 There is currently an existing network of 490 public rights of way within the county. The majority of the rights of way are footpaths (328) and bridleways (151), the remaining are open for boat navigation (11). Rutland Water provides over 26 miles of routes around its perimeter with some linking routes fanning out towards local settlements. There are

however limited canals and riverbanks within the county although some disused railways provide a corridor for recreation opportunities and wildlife migration.

Figure 6 Green Corridors extending from Oakham and Uppingham



- 7.6 In terms of local green corridors extending from the main urban settlements Oakham appears to have three main public footpath routes extending to the north which links to Oakham Canal, to the East which links to Rutland Water and to the south East to Egleton. Uppingham also has a number of local green corridors with several linking to surrounding settlements north to Ayston, east to Bisbrooke and south to Lyddington. Other routes also extend to the south west and north east.
- 7.7 The green corridors around Oakham follow the disused canal, Oakham Brookes and Barleythorpe Brooke which together form almost a ring road around the main urban area for wildlife migration. Uppingham has a disused railway that connects to Bisbrooke and Seaton. At Seaton this links to a secondary line that extends to Caldecott, Thorpe by Water, and Wakerley. There is also a link from this line through Morcott and South Luffenham.
- 7.8 Consultation suggested that residents were happy with the amount of green corridors available locally although there were suggestions that some public rights of way were not sufficiently linked with limited circle routes available without sections on road. No other comments specific to green corridors were made. Parish council and external consultations did not highlight any issues specific to green corridors.

Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management

- 7.9 The highest level of satisfaction was with footpaths, bridleways and cycleways within the natural and semi-natural greenspaces, these were seen to be well maintained and sign posted. It was recognised that new paths have been created to link existing networks with options for more linkages to be developed. Specifically safe cycle routes to cross the Oakham Bypass and routes through to Rutland Water. Additional cycle parking areas were also seen as something that could be improved.
- 7.10 Some maintenance issues were raised as some paths need more attention in the summer months as they become overgrown. Levels of dog fouling within certain locations was seen as an issue the further placement of dog waste bins would be of benefit.
- 7.11 The consultation indicated that aspirations for green corridors are to protect and maintain existing networks and where possible provide further links within the county. Other feedback was that those green corridors specifically important to biodiversity should be left to grow wild to encourage wildlife.

Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities

- 7.12 Green corridors are a feature of transport and leisure or health activities, therefore it is important to address any accessibility issues with existing green corridors and capitalise on any opportunities to increase and enhance the existing network. Where possible the 'Right to Roam' legislation (2005), should be referenced so that green corridors are openly accessible.
- 7.13 There are no realistic requirement to set catchments for green corridors as they cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation and are very much opportunity-led rather than demand-led. It is important, however, that existing and new sites are accessible to disabled people. This includes the provision of step free access, nearby parking spaces and appropriate gating.

Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

- 7.14 The demand on existing networks may well develop with population growth as areas of settlements expand green corridors will need to be maintained and potentially extended to ensure that urban growth does not affect recreation use or wildlife migration.

Current Standards Summary

Table 7 Green Corridors

Assessment areas		Total for Rutland
Previous standard (Rutland Local Plan 2001)		No standard identified
Quantity of provision (Number of public rights of way)		490 routes
Quantity of provision (Number of green corridors waterways, disused canals, railways and quarries)		17 routes
Adaptability of provision	Potential for green corridors such as waterways, disused canals, railways and quarries to have greater recreational use	

Recommendations

- 7.15 We recommend that that no specific provision standard should be set for green corridors although the Council should promote the quantity, quality and accessibility of green corridors in line with PPG17 guidance which states that:
- 7.16 *'planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town and city centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense green corridors are demand-led. However, planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as disused railway lines, roads or canal and river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to 'plug in' access to them from as wide an area as possible'.*

Green Corridors Provision Standard

No definitive provision standard for Green Corridors should be set.

- 7.17 There are several recommendations for improving the local and sub-regional green corridor network that already exists within Rutland these include:

Local Corridors

- Improved connections between Oakham and Uppingham potentially look to link existing footpaths through to Manton then on to Oakham. Additionally both towns could seek to link existing footpaths that extend from these settlements to create outer rings of walking or even cycling routes.
- Routes should be extended or linked to 'plug in' to the existing and potential sub-regional corridors, specifically waterways such as Rutland Water and Eyebrook Reservoirs.

Sub-regional Corridors

- The Oakham Canal provides a route of small waterway sections with some footpaths already providing access along the route which extends 6.0 miles joining Oakham with Barrow, Market Overton and Teigh. Linked routes through existing footpaths could again promote recreational use.
- The River Chater intersects the county south of Rutland Water providing 15.4 miles of waterway that connects with a number of settlements such as Wing, North Luffenham, Ketton and Stamford. There is opportunity to provide access to sections of the river as recreational access.
- The disused railway network to the south of the county has origins in Uppingham, South Luffenham and Wakerley. At Thorpe by Water the railway meets the River Welland that extend out of the county. The disused railway provides opportunity

for recreational access such as through cycle route that could provide alternative access to areas within the south of the county.

- The north of Rutland offers other corridors such as the disused quarries around Market Overton although not linked four areas exist that could benefit from wider use and be used to link to other corridors such as Oakham Canal.
- Gwash Valley and the North Brook form corridors to the east with links from Rutland Water to Stamford including settlements such as Empingham, Great Casterton, Little Casterton, Ryhall and Belmsthorpe. Access to these routes could again offer alternative walking or cycle routes.

7.18 We suggest that a quality standard is developed so that residents know what they can expect from green corridors in the County. A quality standard would also be valuable in helping direct the creation of any provision. There are no national standards for green corridors although the Countryside Agency does suggest that what the user should expect to find is:

- a path provided by the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation
- ground not soft enough to allow a horse or cycle to sink into it
- a path on unvegetated natural surfaces.
- A clean, well-maintained, safe and secure natural corridor reinforced by well kept and controlled natural vegetation with defined, level and well drained pathways that links major open spaces together and provides bins and seating in appropriate places. Major green corridor routes should be appropriately signed both to and within the sites.

7.19 There is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such an open space typology as they cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation and are very much opportunity-led rather than demand led. Although consideration could be given to:

- Green corridors where possible should be accessible for people with a disability (Entrance, signage, pathways and seating) providing links to other natural and semi-natural greenspaces, amenity green spaces and open areas by walking and cycling routes.

8 Outdoor sports facilities

- 8.1 Primary Purpose – Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports.
- 8.2 Outdoor sports facilities is a wide-ranging category of open space and includes natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned which are used for sport and recreation. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.
- 8.3 Participation needs will be met through a mixture of public, voluntary and private or commercial provision. The greatest influence on future participation demand can be the implementation of local sports, recreation and physical activity development plans. A variety of developments are planned within the County which will have an influence on participation and demand. For example, The Catmose Campus Project is probably the most significant and should be considered in terms of provision that is demand-led. Where possible both new and potential development plans have been considered.

Quantitative – measured in terms of the amount of provision, (how much existing, new, improved or changed provision)

- 8.4 There are a range of outdoor sports facilities within Rutland. The assessment of outdoor sports provision has been divided into two types of provision; those sports that use pitches and those that do not.

Pitch Based Sports

- Cricket
- Football
- Rugby
- Hockey (Grass and Artificial)

Non Pitch Sports

- Angling
- Archery
- Athletics
- Bowls
- Climbing
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Golf
- Tennis
- Water Sports

Pitch Based Sports

- 8.5 The pitch information is provided against each ward to provide a concept of the distribution of pitches across the county. From the 16 wards within Rutland there are four wards which do not have any sport pitches; Langham, Lyddington, Martinthorpe and Oakham South West. In total the county has 106 pitches the majority of which are limited in access as only 26.4% (n=28) have open community access.
- 8.6 Not all of the pitches are available for community use. As identified below there are pitches within local schools, private club facilities or institutions which are not available to the local community for formal or informal use. However, it must be assumed that all non-

education local authority pitches are available to the local community to access on a formal and informal basis either through a formal hire agreement or through the sports clubs offering sports participation opportunities to the local community.

Table 8 Outdoor sports facilities - Pitches

Ward	Name	Cricket		Football			Hockey		Rugby		
		Cricket Square	Artificial Wicket	Adult Pitch	Junior Pitch	Mini Pitch	Grass Pitch	Synthetic Pitch	Adult Pitch	Junior Pitch	Mini Pitch
Braunston & Belton	RIDLINGTON CRICKET GROUND	1									
Cottesmore	MARKET OVERTON CRICKET CLUB	1									
	RAF COTTESMORE	3		2				1	3		
	ROGUES PARK			2		2					
Exton	HMP PRISON ASHWELL			1							
Greetham	GREETHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE	1		1							
	HMP PRISON STOCKEN	1		1					1		
Ketton	PIT LANE	1		1							
	WAKERLEY AND BARROWDEN CRICKET CLUB	1									
Langham											
Lyddington											
Martinsthorpe											
Normanton	STAMFORD ROAD RECREATION GROUND	1									
	EMPINGHAM CRICKET GROUND	1									
	THE OVAL RECREATION GROUND	1									
	ST GEORGES BARRACKS	1		2							
Oakham NE	OAKHAM SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE			6	1			2			
	WILSON PLAYING FIELDS (Oakham School)	1		4							
Oakham NW	THE SHOWGROUND			2	2				3	1	
	VALE OF CATMOSE COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE			4	3		1		1		
Oakham SE	OAKHAM CRICKET CLUB (Lime Kilns Ground)	1									
Oakham SW											
Ryhall & Casterton	TOLETHORPE PARK	1									
	CASTERTON BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE	1									
	MEADOW PLAYING FIELDS			2							
Uppingham	NORTH STREET EAST (Tod's Piece)			1							
	UPPINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE			1	1			1	1	1	
	UPPINGHAM SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE	4		2			6		8		
	UPPINGHAM SCHOOL MIDDLE PLAYING FIELDS	7						3			
	UPPINGHAM SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	1					2				
Whissendine	WHISSENDINE SPORTS CLUB	1									
Total number of pitches in the County		30	0	32	7	2	9	7	17	2	0
Total number of pitches with limited community access		19	0	23	5	0	9	7	14	1	0
Total number of pitches with community access		11	0	9	2	2	0	0	3	1	0

Key Pitches with limited access for the community within local schools, private club facilities or institutions

8.7 Of the 26 sites within the Council ownership is between six different types of organisation.

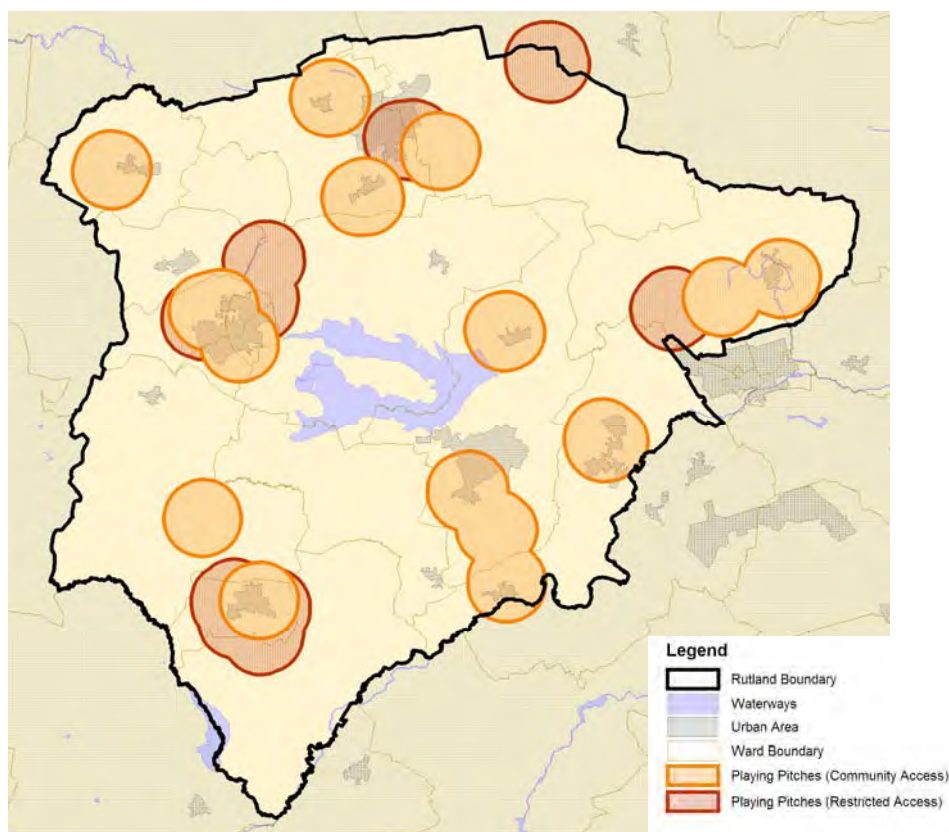
Table 9 Ownership of sites and pitches

Ownership	Number of sites	%	Number of Pitches	%
Sports Membership Clubs	6	23.1	7	6.6
HMP	1	3.8	4	3.8
Town/ Parish Council	7	26.9	11	10.4
Community Association	2	7.7	10	9.4
Schools/Colleges	8	30.8	62	58.5
Ministry of Defence	2	7.7	12	11.3
Total	26	100.0	106	100.0

8.8 Over half of all of pitches within the County are owned by Schools and Colleges 58.5%. It should be noted that the pitches on education sites tend to be marked out to fit the needs of the curriculum and the use of pitches for community-based sports clubs is proportionately low. The location of both an RAF Base and Army Barracks within the County account for a further 11.3% of pitches, which have restricted use. A number of pitches within the County are owned by Town/Parish Councils 10.4% and community associations 9.4%.

8.9 The location of sports pitches is essential for their success and ongoing use by the community as clubs change in the demands they require for informal and formal use. Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association) suggest that playing pitches should be within 1.2km of all dwellings in major residential areas.

Figure 7 Outdoor sports pitches 1.2km catchment



8.10 There is a need to examine the demand for pitches within the County. Each of the four pitch sports are considered in connection to the level of demand from teams, team generation rate, peak demand levels and, supply versus demand. All of the information is based on competitive teams and the use of pitches for matches. Whilst it is acknowledged that training use does supplement the use of pitches, as this is more informally approached the assessment is based upon competitive fixtures.

Cricket

8.11 There are a total of 51 cricket teams within the county, playing within six main leagues. In addition to those that play in a formal league structure there are a number of informal village leagues and friendly fixtures.

Table 10 Cricket Clubs and teams within Rutland

Cricket Club Name	Pitches used	Teams					
		Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior Male	Junior Female	Mini Male	Mini Female
EMPINGHAM CRICKET CLUB	EMPINGHAM CRICKET GROUND	2					
KETTON CRICKET CLUB	PIT LANE CRICKET GROUND	2		3		1	
MARKET OVERTON CRICKET CLUB	MARKET OVERTON CRICKET CLUB	3		3			
NORTH LUFFENHAM CRICKET CLUB	THE OVAL RECREATION GROUND	2		4		2	
OAKHAM CRICKET CLUB	OAKHAM CRICKET GROUND	7		7		4	
RIDLINGTON CRICKET CLUB	RIDLINGTON CRICKET GROUND	1					
RUTLAND DUCKLINGS CRICKET CLUB	GREETHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE/SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB	1					
SOUTH LUFFENHAM CRICKET CLUB	STAMFORD ROAD RECREATION GROUND	1					
TOLETHORPE PARK CRICKET CLUB	TOLETHORPE PARK	1					
UPPINGHAM TOWN CRICKET CLUB	NEWTOWN ROAD (New Ground LEICESTER ROAD	6		3		3	
WHISSENDINE CRICKET CLUB	WHISSENDINE SPORTS CLUB	1					
WAKERLEY AND BARROWDEN CRICKET CLUB	BARROWDEN CRICKET GROUND	1					
		21	0	20	0	10	0

Key		ClubMark
------------	--	----------

Football

8.12 There is a total of 43 teams within the county competing within 18 leagues. In addition to clubs affiliated to the Leicestershire Football Association there are teams that are unaffiliated, playing either in unofficial local leagues and competitions or friendly fixtures. There is also no measure of five-a-side competitive football taking place within the County. The precise volume of demand generated by these teams is difficult to determine due to the informal nature of teams and their fixture schedules.

Table 11 Football Clubs and teams within Rutland

Football Club Name	Pitches used	Teams					
		Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior Male	Junior Female	Mini Male	Mini Female
COTTESMORE AMATEURS FC	ROGUES PARK	2					
COTTESMORE COLTS FC	ROGUES PARK	1					
DEAD RABBITS FC	VALE OF CATMOSE COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	1					
EXETER ARMS FC	UPPINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE	2					
FC GRIFF INN	VALE OF CATMOSE COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	1					
GREETHAM UNITED FC	GREETHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE	1					
KETTON FC	PIT LANE FOOTBALL GROUND	2					
KETTON JUNIORS FC	PIT LANE FOOTBALL GROUND			4		4	
OAKHAM IMPERIAL FC	VALE OF CATMOSE COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	2					
ROYCE RANGERS 2005	THE SHOWGROUND			3		4	
ROYCE RANGERS FC	THE SHOWGROUND			5		1	
ROYCE RANGERS GIRLS FC	THE SHOWGROUND				3		1
RUTLAND RANGERS FC	GREETHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE	2					
RUTLAND VETERANS FC	GREETHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE	1					
RYHALL UNITED FC	MEADOW PLAYING FIELDS	1		1			
RYHALL UNITED JUNIORS FC	MEADOW PLAYING FIELDS			1			
SPRINGFIELD LIONS FC	RAF COTTESMORE	1					
UPPINGHAM COLTS FC	NORTH STREET EAST			1			
UPPINGHAM FC	NORTH STREET EAST	2					
		19	0	15	3	5	1

Key		Charter Standard Clubs
------------	--	------------------------

8.13 Oakham Rugby Club is the only active club within the county operating 12 teams, which take part within three different leagues.

Table 12 Rugby Clubs and teams within Rutland

Cricket Club Name	Pitches used	Teams						
		Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior Male	Junior Female	Mini Mixed		
OAKHAM RUGBY CLUB	THE SHOWGROUND	6		4				
OAKHAM WOMENS RUGBY CLUB	THE SHOWGROUND		1					1
		6	1	4	0			1

Key		ClubMark
------------	--	----------

8.14 Rutland Hockey Club is the only active club within the county operating 20 teams, which take part within five different leagues.

Table 13 Hockey Clubs and teams within Rutland

Cricket Club Name	Pitches used	Teams				
		Senior Male	Senior Female	Senior Mixed	Junior Mixed	Mini Mixed
RUTLAND HOCKEY CLUB	UPPINGHAM SCHOOL	7	1	3		
RUTLAND YOUTH HOCKEY CLUB	UPPINGHAM SCHOOL				1	
RUTLAND JUNIOR HOCKEY CLUB	OAKHAM SCHOOL/ UPPINGHAM SCHOOL				2	3
RUTLAND JUNIOR HOCKEY CLUB	STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL				1	2
		7	1	3	4	5

Key		ClubMark
------------	--	----------

Team Generation Rate (TGR)

8.15 The TGR's for cricket, football, rugby and hockey in Rutland are illustrated in a ratio. The ratio considers the number of teams and the population count within the County. The lower the right-hand figure in each ratio, the higher the participation rate for the area. For example the total TGR for football is 1 team per 369 individuals. TGR's can provide a basis for comparison with other areas and can help in identifying priorities for sports development, particularly for sports where team generation rates are low.

Table 14 Team Generation Rate

		Number of Teams	Population ¹	TGR 2009
Cricket	Senior Male Teams (Men 18 – 55 years)	28	8100	1:289
	Junior Male Teams (Boys 11 - 17 years)	20	3800	1:190
	Mini Male Teams (Boys 6 - 10 years)	7	1000	1:143
	Total	55	12900	1:234
Football	Senior Male Teams (Men 16 - 45 years)	20	7900	1:395
	Senior Female Teams (Women 16 - 45 years)	0	6500	-
	Junior Male Teams (Boys 10 – 15 years)	15	1500	1:100
	Junior Female Teams (Girls 10 – 15 years)	3	1300	1:433
	Mini Mixed Teams (Boys & Girls 6 – 9 years)	10	2000	1:200
	Total	48	17700	1:369
Rugby	Senior Male Teams (Men 18 – 45 years)	6	5600	1:933
	Senior Female Teams (Women 18 – 45 years)	1	4700	1:4700
	Junior Male Teams (Boys 13 – 17 years)	4	3800	1:950

¹ The Office for National Statistics (ONS). Population estimates 2007. Updated Nov 2008

	Mini Mixed Teams (Boys & Girls 8 - 12 years)	1	4800	1:4800
	Total	12	18900	1:1575
Hockey	Senior Male Teams (Men 16 – 45 years)	7	7900	1:1129
	Senior Female Teams (Women 16 – 45 years)	1	6500	1:6500
	Senior Mixed Teams (Men & Women 16 – 45 years)	3	14400	1:4800
	Junior Mixed Teams (Boys & Girls 11 - 15 years)	4	2800	1:700
	Mini Mixed (Boys & Girls years 6 – 10 years)	3	2000	1:667
	Total	18	33600	1:2107

8.16 The peak demand for pitches in Rutland is Saturday and Sunday mornings. Although some mid-week leagues do operate, for example junior cricket leagues appear to be the most popular midweek league.

Table 15 Pitch peak demand

		Midweek	Saturday (am)	Saturday (pm)	Sunday (am)	Sunday (pm)
Cricket	Senior Male Teams (Men 18 – 55 years)	2	-	5	4	16
	Junior Male Teams (Boys 11 - 17 years)	20	-	-	-	-
	Mini Male Teams (Boys 6 - 10 years)	-	-	-	10	-
	Total	22	-	5	14	16
Football	Senior Male Teams (Men 16 - 45 years)	1	14	1	4	-
	Senior Female Teams (Women 16 - 45 years)	-	-	-	-	-
	Junior Male Teams (Boys 10 – 15 years)	2	4	-	9	-
	Junior Female Teams (Girls 10 – 15 years)	-	-	-	-	3
	Mini Mixed Teams (Boys & Girls 6 – 9 years)	-	-	-	9	1
	Total	3	18	1	22	4
Rugby	Senior Male Teams (Men 18 – 45 years)	-	2	-	4	-
	Senior Female Teams (Women 18 – 45 years)	-	-	-	1	-
	Junior Male Teams (Boys 13 – 17 years)	-	-	-	4	-
	Mini Mixed Teams (Boys & Girls 8 - 12 years)	-	-	-	1	-
	Total	-	2	-	10	-
Hockey	Senior Male Teams (Men 16 – 45 years)	-	5	-	2	-
	Senior Female Teams (Women 16 – 45 years)	-	1	-	-	-
	Senior Mixed Teams (Men & Women 16 – 45 years)	1	2	-	-	-
	Junior Mixed Teams (Boys & Girls 11 - 15 years)	3	-	-	1	-
	Mini Mixed (Boys & Girls years 6 – 10 years)	3	-	-	-	-
	Total	7	8	0	3	0

8.17 The supply verses demand of pitches in Rutland is provided through consideration of the number of pitches against the peak pitch demand. By dividing the total peak pitch demand figures by two, to reflect the fact that half the teams will be playing away at any given time, total pitch demand can be identified. Estimated demand by non-affiliated teams is also taken into account, by increasing requirements by 50%, the aggregate pitch demand can also be calculated.

Table 16 Pitch supply and demand

		Total no. of Pitches	Total no. of Community use Pitches	Peak pitch demand	Aggregate pitch demand	Surplus	Deficit
Cri.	Cricket Pitch	30	18	16	10	+2	-0
	Total						
Football	Senior Pitch	32	9	14	11	+0	-2
	Junior Pitch	7	2	4	3	+0	-1
	Mini Pitch	2	2	9	7	+0	-5
	Total	24	13	27	21	+0	-8
Rugby	Senior Pitch	17	3	4	3	+0	-0
	Junior Pitch	2	1	4	3	+0	-2
	Total	17	4	8	6	+0	-2
Hockey	Grass Pitch	9	0	There is no demand from clubs for grass pitches			
	Artificial Turf Pitch	7	0	5	3	+0	-3
	Total						

Cricket

- 8.18 The analysis of supply and demand for cricket pitches reveals that:
- There is a potential surplus of two cricket pitches in the county, although a shortage in Oakham due to growth.
- 8.19 Participation in cricket remains well above the national average although there is some evidence of a decline in adult participation, particularly in rural areas. There is little evidence of participation in the state schools, therefore good junior development is dependant upon strong adult clubs to provide facilities and volunteers.
- 8.20 The quality of facilities varies hugely across the County. Apart from a few well kept grounds the best quality provision is at Uppingham and Oakham Schools. Access to these pitches however is difficult due to the competing needs. In term time, they are regularly used by the schools and club teams need guaranteed regular access during the season. A growing club also needs the opportunity to develop good quality clubhouse facilities hence the current move by Uppingham Cricket Club away from the school to its own new ground on Leicester Road.
- 8.21 While there continues to be strong development of cricket in some of the larger settlements, the voluntary effort required in maintaining a good square, outfield and clubhouse is causing major difficulties in some small communities. With just one team and no village social facilities to financially support the sport, the evidence of a decline in standards will be difficult to reverse without investment.
- 8.22 Growth in the future is likely to be greatest in Oakham. Discussions should therefore be held with Oakham Cricket Club to evaluate current and future planning issues.

Football

- 8.23 The analysis of supply and demand for football pitches reveals that:
- The supply of senior football pitches indicates that there is a deficit of eight pitches, however there are a large number (23) senior pitches not used for the community which are within schools, colleges or institutions.
 - There are clear deficits identified for football within junior and mini pitch provision, this level of demand indicates that further pitches are required.
 - The deficit identified in junior and mini football pitches could be partly addressed through formal arrangements with schools/collages to allow community access and

- for some of the pitches within schools/colleges to be re-designated to junior/mini football pitches.
- Unused or underused areas of playing fields that have no formal pitches could be marked out with junior and mini football pitches to assist in accommodating the demand.
- 8.24 Participation in football is well above the national average and demand is expected to increase. There is an extremely successful junior development programme at Royce Rangers in Oakham and at Uppingham Community College, a Football Foundation funded Development Officer is already increasing mini and junior participation. The new Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) at Uppingham designed primarily for football will satisfy some of the demand for training and casual participation (e.g. 6-a-side leagues) but will also increase the demand for grass pitches. The planned ATP at Vale of Catmose College (VCC) will have a similar impact.
- 8.25 There is however, a significant shortage of access to grass pitches and changing facilities in Oakham and Uppingham in particular. The only accessible pitches in Oakham are at VCC and the Showground. While VCC has space for six pitches, only four are in use of which one has major drainage problems. This will be reduced to three under the new plans and one or more may be junior sized to meet the needs of the College. The Showground has two senior and two junior pitches which are leased by Royce Rangers FC from the Rugby Club who in turn lease the ground from the Rutland Agricultural Society. The space is insufficient to meet the peak demand needs of well over 200 members and there are no changing facilities or social facilities except those available in the Rugby Club. There is an existing playing field opposite which is owned by Rutland College but this hasn't been used for a number of years for organised team sports.
- 8.26 This lack of facilities means that there is limited scope for a major football club to develop and expand in the County's major town. This would need a number of pitches, good quality clubhouse facilities, access to quality and hard wearing training facilities and the ability to improve one pitch to a higher standard should the teams progress through leagues as has happened at Cottesmore. The proposed development of the Showground provides a major potential opportunity but this must be conditional upon significantly enhanced provision for football being made in the town. A football development strategy is urgently required to address the future needs and the possible potential of a football development centre with senior and junior clubs.
- 8.27 In Uppingham, there is only one accessible pitch outside the schools. There is potential to upgrade the facilities at Uppingham Community College to complement the ATP but this will require investment in the pitches and changing rooms.
- 8.28 There are well used pitches in the settlements of Cottesmore, Ketton Greetham and Ryhall. While the pitches are well maintained, there is a general need at for investment in better quality changing provision. The good quality pitches at RAF Cottesmore are accessible for teams although the booking procedure through the MOD is complex. One team currently uses one of the pitches on a Sunday morning. There is also considerable use of the pitches and ATP by RAF and MOD personnel and their families although this is difficult to measure. The situation is similar at St George's Barracks except that the nature of Army personnel postings abroad makes the use irregular and unpredictable.
- 8.29 In summary there is a need for more pitches in Oakham, upgrading of pitches in Uppingham and improved facilities elsewhere. There is also a need for better access to casual play opportunities including Multi Use Games Areas.

Rugby

- 8.30 The analysis of supply and demand for rugby pitches reveals that:
- There is no surplus or deficit apparent for rugby pitches with current provision meeting demand. A small deficit exists within junior rugby pitches although this is often accommodated through the division of senior pitches.
- 8.31 While there is rugby participation in schools, the only rugby club in Oakham is Oakham Rugby Club based at the Showground. Adult participation is stable although there continues to be a large demand for mini and junior rugby. The latter could also increase with population growth and better quality facilities. A strong, attractive and financially secure club would retain and attract the essential coaches and volunteers with the possibility of expanding coaching and participation into other settlements.
- 8.32 There are three adult pitches in Oakham (although the surrounds for one are really too small), one junior pitch and one adult pitch with floodlights which is now mainly used for training. The pitches are of reasonable quality although ideally need investment to improve them in the longer term, particularly the heavily used training areas. The clubhouse and changing facilities also need investment but the uncertainty around the future of the Showground has reasonably limited the Club in its long term planning and expenditure. The car parking is insufficient to meet the needs of both rugby and football clubs at peak periods.
- 8.33 While the Club is in an excellent location, the opportunity presented by a move due to the grounds redevelopment should provide high quality enhanced facilities and financial security for the future. The enhancement needed which should be part of any planning condition would involve higher quality pitches, higher capacity training facilities, more space for junior development and a good quality clubhouse and car parking.

Hockey

- 8.34 The analysis of supply and demand for hockey pitches reveals that:
- There are no community use Artificial Turf Pitches although seven within the county is more than sufficient if suitable community access terms are agreed between Rutland Hockey Club and the local schools/colleges.
- 8.35 There is a long history of participation in hockey in Rutland mainly around Oakham and Uppingham schools. Club hockey was traditionally played on the outfield of cricket grounds but the advent of ATPs has now reached the stage where virtually all is played on artificial surfaces. Demand for hockey remains high but is limited by the accessibility and cost of hire of ATPs. Clubs without their own facilities are therefore forced to travel to venues wherever they are available. For Rutland Hockey Club this means the pitches at the public schools in Oakham, Uppingham and Stamford.
- 8.36 The strong junior programme is evidence of demand for hockey but the sustainability of growth is critically determined by access and price. Evidence from around the Country suggests that a sustainable club ideally requires either its own pitches or guaranteed access to an alternative with associated clubhouse. A club owning its own facilities does however introduce long term financial risk. An environment in which teams rarely meet or are able to socialise together and with opposition after a game is not conducive to the development of the sport either financially or in developing the strong voluntary infrastructure that is essential.
- 8.37 In Rutland there are two ATPs at Oakham School (one floodlit), three at Uppingham School (one floodlit) and one at Uppingham Community College. To use the pitches the club has to fit around the needs of the schools which are not always predictable or

compatible leading to matches having to be played at inconvenient times. The club competes for training times in the evenings with the demand for adult football and as the club has a very large junior section it finds difficulty with the cost of pitch hire.

- 8.38 There are already 7 ATPs in the County including one at RAF Cottesmore with a further planned at VCC. In the short to medium term it would be difficult to justify additional pitches but a partial solution for hockey would be a commitment to better cooperation and coordination of activities, bookings, shared use and pricing policies between all the pitch providers. This would need the pro-active commitment of the County Council and access to investment for club facilities.

Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management

- 8.39 For the non-technical turf quality pitch assessment, the scoring matrix devised as part of the Sport England Electronic Toolkit for undertaking pitch assessments was used. This assessment rates each pitch out of a total potential score of 100% with the resulting score placing the pitch in a particular category (ranging from Very Poor to Excellent)².
- 8.40 Fields in Trust suggests benchmarks for the quality of this type of open space. These include criteria such as gradients, orientation, ancillary accommodation, planting and community safety.
- 8.41 The consultation indicated that aspirations for outdoor sports facilities were to increase the current low levels of satisfaction with sports facilities in relation to quality and accessibility.

Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities

- 8.42 Access to outdoor facilities was raised as an issue in relation to facilities predominantly being within restricted sites either MOD, HMP or Schools/colleges. Figures 8 and 9 attempt to identify those pitches on sites that have open access and those with restricted access.

² Changing facilities on school/college sites were assumed to be of good quality.

Figure 8 Community access pitches Oakham and Uppingham

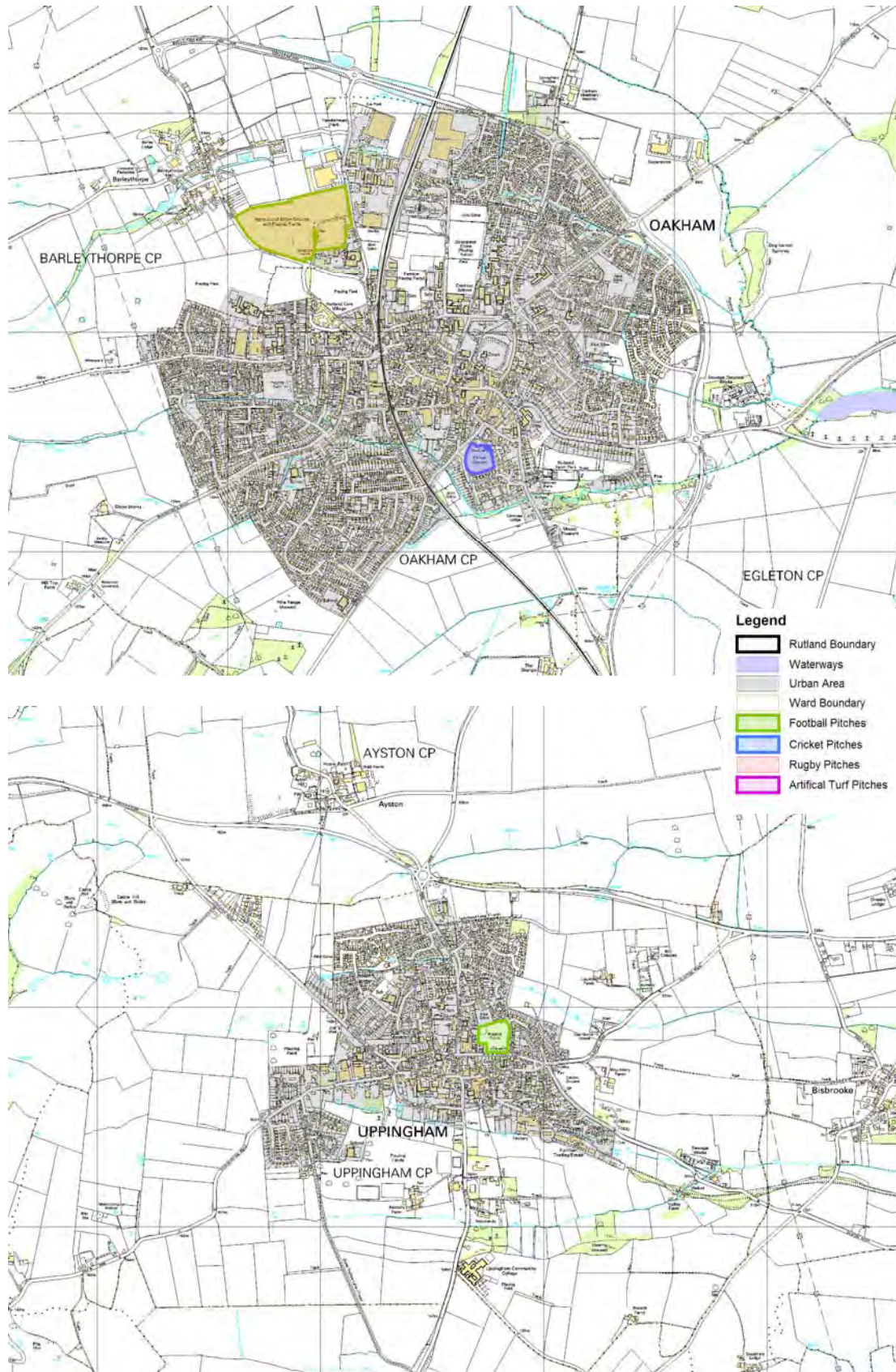
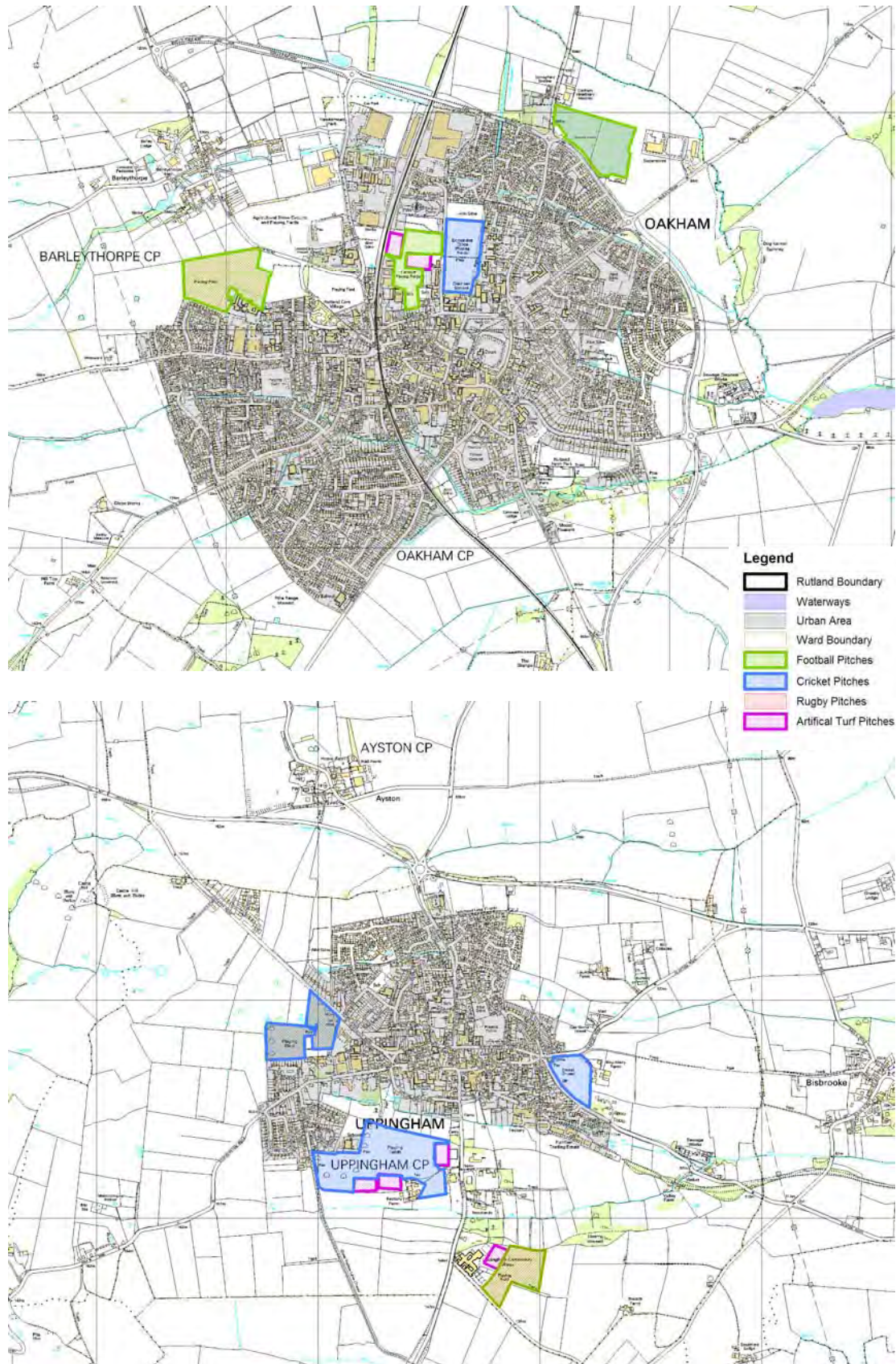


Figure 9 Restricted access pitches Oakham and Uppingham



8.43 There are very few community access pitches within Oakham and Uppingham that have no restrictions although some of the restricted pitches are open for use by the community this use can be limited.

8.44 The accessibility of outdoor sports in terms of disabled access is often limited many of the facilities within the county including some of those provided by the schools and colleges have unsuitable parking, entrances, pathways and seating.

Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

8.45 The future demand for pitches has been assessed through consideration of predicted population for 2026 and the subsequent growth in the number of team for each pitch sport. Each sport demonstrates an increase in the number of teams with specific growth anticipated in Cricket but more significantly in Football.

8.46 The analysis of future need for football pitches reveals that although there is likely to be some growth in Senior Men’s football, Women’s football is likely to grow. Other current trends also have implications for the growth of adult football. These include the increasing popularity of 5-a-side leagues. It is also possible that the apparent growth in junior football will transfer to Adult football over the next four years.

Table 17 Future prediction of teams

		Predicted Population 2026 ³	TGR 2009 ⁴	Predicted teams	Predicted teams plus growth in participation (1% per year from 2009-2026)
Cricket	Senior Male Teams (Men 18 – 55 years)	8700	1:289	30	35
	Junior Male Teams (Boys 11 - 17 years)	3800	1:190	20	23
	Mini Male Teams (Boys 6 - 10 years)	1100	1:143	8	9
	Total	13600	1:234	58	67
Football	Senior Male Teams (Men 16 - 45 years)	8100	1:395	21	25
	Senior Female Teams (Women 16 - 45 years)	6700	-	1	1
	Junior Male Teams (Boys 10 – 15 years)	1700	1:100	17	20
	Junior Female Teams (Girls 10 – 15 years)	1500	1:433	4	5
	Mini Mixed Teams (Boys & Girls 6 – 9 years)	2300	1:200	12	14
Total	20300	1:369	55	65	
Rugby	Senior Male Teams (Men 18 – 45 years)	7000	1:933	8	9
	Senior Female Teams (Women 18 – 45 years)	4900	1:4700	1	1
	Junior Male Teams (Boys 13 – 17 years)	3800	1:950	4	5
	Mini Mixed Teams (Boys & Girls 8 - 12 years)	5500	1:4800	1	1
Total	19100	1:1575	12	13	
Hockey	Senior Male Teams (Men 16 – 45 years)	8100	1:1129	7	8
	Senior Female Teams (Women 16 – 45 years)	6700	1:6500	1	1
	Senior Mixed Teams (Men & Women 16 – 45 years)	14700	1:4800	3	4
	Junior Mixed Teams (Boys & Girls 11 - 15 years)	1500	1:700	2	2
	Mini Mixed (Boys & Girls years 6 – 10 years)	2300	1:667	3	4
Total	33300	1:2107	16	19	

³ The Office for National Statistics (ONS). Population projections 2006-based Principal Projection for 2026

⁴ No TGR data comparisons could be sourced from Sport England TGR Database

8.47 In terms of the future demand on pitches the increased number of teams will create additional pressure on the number and availability of pitches.

Table 18 Future supply for 2026

		Total no. of Pitches	Total no. of Community use Pitches	Peak pitch demand	Aggregate pitch demand	Surplus	Deficit
Cri.	Cricket Pitch	30	11	20	15	+0	-4
		30	11	20	15	+0	-4
Football	Senior Pitch	32	9	18	14	+0	-5
	Junior Pitch	7	2	6	5	+0	-3
	Mini Pitch	2	2	13	10	+0	-8
	Total	41	13	37	29	+0	-16
Rugby	Senior Pitch	17	3	5	4	+0	-1
	Junior Pitch	2	1	4	3	+0	-2
	Total	19	4	9	7	+0	-3
Hockey	Grass Pitch	9	0	There is no demand from clubs for grass pitches			
	Artificial Turf Pitch	7	0	6	5	+0	-5
	Total	16	0	6	5	+0	-5

8.48 In relation to the supply of pitches the current deficit in pitches will increase with a total deficit of four cricket pitches, 16 football pitches, three rugby pitches and five artificial turf pitches. There is a need for access agreements to be confirmed with pitches currently limited in community access as the current supply of pitches within the county if community access is enabled would meet the needs of the population in 2026. In addition consideration could be given to the re-designation of open areas and inclusion of junior and mini pitches within developments of education sites or housing provision.

Current Standards Summary

8.49 Fields in Trust's (formerly National Playing Fields Association) *Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play* - suggests that the benchmark level of provision for pitch sports within rural local authorities is 1.72 hectares per 1000 population.

Table 19 Outdoor Sports Facilities for Pitch Sports

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland	Unrestricted community access
Previous standard per 1000 population (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	1.6 to 1.8 Ha.	1.6 to 1.8 Ha.
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	26	15
Quantity of provision (Number of pitches)	106	28
Quantity of provision (Hectares)	114.80 Ha.	39.12 Ha.
Quantity of provision per 1000 population (Hectares)	2.99 Ha.	1.02 Ha.
Quality of Pitch (Ave. score out of 100%)	85.25	63.25
Quality of Ancillary facilities (Ave. score out of 100%)	74.43	41.20
Adaptability of provision	Sites restricted due to primary purpose	

Note – Pitch and Ancillary facilities are scored from a 100% as the Sport England Electronic Toolkit was used.

Sports based at other facilities

8.50 This section considers those sports that use facilities other than pitches within the County. Information is provided against each ward to provide a concept of the distribution of facilities across the county. From the 16 wards within Rutland there are five wards which do not have any outdoor sport facilities (excluding pitches); Braunston & Belton, Langham, Martinsthorpe and Oakham South West.

Table 20 Outdoor sports facilities

Ward	Name	Archery	Athletics Track (grass)	Basketball Court	Bowling Green	Climbing Wall	Golf (Pitch and Putt)	Golf (9 hole)	Golf (18 hole)	Tennis courts
Braunston & Belton										
Cottesmore	MARKET OVERTON BOWLS CLUB				1					
	RAF COTTESMORE						1			6
	ROGUES PARK (MUGA)			1						1
Exton	BARNSDALE HALL & COUNTRY CLUB						1			6
	ROCK BLOK CLIMBING WALL					1				
	RUTLAND FALCONARY AND OWL CENTRE	1								
Greetham	GREETHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE				1					1
	GREETHAM VALLEY GOLF CLUB	1						1	1	
Ketton	PIT LANE				1					3
Langham										
Lyddington	CHAPEL LANE									1
Martinthorpe										
Normanton	EMPINGHAM CRICKET GROUND				1					
	PINFOLD LANE				1					
	ST GEORGES BARRACKS									1
	RUTLAND WATER GOLF COURSE							1	1	
	LUFFENHAM HEATH GOLF CLUB									1
	RAF NORTH LUFFENHAM GOLF COURSE									1
	STAMFORD ROAD RECREATION GROUND (MUGA)			1						
Oakham NE										
Oakham NW	THE SHOWGROUND		1							
Oakham SE	THE VALE				1					4
Oakham SW										
Ryhall & Casterton	MEADOW PLAYING FIELDS				1					2
	CASTERTON BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE		1							2
	RUTLAND COUNTY GOLF CLUB							1	1	
Uppingham	UPPINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE			2						2
	UPPINGHAM SCHOOL MIDDLE PLAYING FIELDS									3
	UPPINGHAM SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE									9
Whissendine	WHISSENDINE SPORTS CLUB				1					1
Total number of facilities in the County		2	2	4	8	1	2	2	5	41
Total number of facilities with limited community access		0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	29
Total number of facilities with community access		2	1	6	8	1	0	2	5	12

Key Facilities with limited access for the community within local schools, private club facilities or institutions

Angling

8.51 Rutland Water provides a 1254.53 hectare fishery for a range of angling opportunities. The Fishing Lodge at Normanton enables participants to access tuition from professional guides, tackle and motor-boat hire. In addition Eyebrook Reservoir provides 161.87 hectares of water which has an easily accessible bank and good water levels year round.

No other watersports take place on Eyebrook Reservoir. There is no population or distance based provision standards.

Archery

8.52 Rutland has two proactive Archery clubs. The Bowmen of Rutland Archery Club offer bow types including recurve, compound or longbow. The club uses indoor facilities in winter at Casterton Community College and Greetham Community Centre and in summer outdoors at their own facility at Greetham Valley Golf Club. The club has active junior and senior sections, as well as offering beginners' courses. The club is looking to improve its facility at Greetham Valley Golf Club by making improvements to parking and developing a new cabin so that a toilet can be added.

8.53 The Lionheart Company of Bowmen offers various styles of archery including target, field and clout shooting. The club holds evening sessions at Whissendine Sports Club shooting outside in summer (180 yards) and inside in winter (20 yards). The club also holds weekend sessions at Rutland Falconry and Owl Centre in an area of woodland. The club are currently seeking to relocate to a new wood and for a larger facility than that available at Whissendine Sports Club. There is no population or distance based provision standards.

Athletics

8.54 Rutland Athletic Club operates from a 400 metre grass track at The Showground for training sessions in both track and field events. The club is limited by the condition of the facility in terms of the activities that it can undertake. Weekly sessions are held at Rockingham Triangle Sports Centre Track in Corby which is a Synthetic, 400m, 8 lanes, 12 lane straight Track with full field event facilities. The Rockingham Track is 25 minutes drive from Oakham which can cause difficulties for some senior and junior members of the club. Although this is within the provision guidelines provided by UK Athletics that suggests that there should be a minimum of one 6 lane synthetic track within 45 minutes drive time in rural areas.

Basketball

8.55 There are two outdoor basketball courts at Uppingham Community College, which are used mainly by the college. Several other basketball courts exist but only as an element of Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA). There is no population or distance based provision standards.

Bowls

8.56 There is a reasonable distribution of bowls greens with eight having been identified. All are in reasonable condition or better. With participation strong among the older population they benefit from having good voluntary effort to maintain greens and clubhouses. Fields in Trust (formerly NPFA) suggest that one bowls green should be within 20 minutes travel time by car within rural areas.

Climbing

8.57 The Rock Blok in Whitwell provides an 8 metre high outdoor and abseiling tower and high ropes course. The centre is open to community use through pre-booked sessions or drop-in taster sessions. There is no population or distance based provision standards.

Cycling

8.58 Rutland Water offers 26 miles of cycle tracks around the perimeter of Rutland Water, with optional routes for a range of participants. Casual participants can hire bikes from depots at both Whitwell and Normanton. Routes and pathways are well marked and maintained.

8.59 Velo Club Rutland is the main cycle club within the county with over 100 members. The club offers competitive opportunities within Cycling time trials, British cycling road race, TLI road races and various other local club events. The club is currently working towards British Cycling's *Go Ride* Clubmark accreditation. The club have a small junior section although most training takes place on public roads. There is no population or distance based provision standards.

Equestrian

8.60 Rutland Polo Club has a range of facilities with its main grounds at Langham covering 12.34 hectares, which includes four grounds, three stick n ball fields, one arena and a Club house. Ketton Park Cross Country Park covers 13.66 Hectares and offers a comprehensive and challenging course. In addition Rutland has Stretton Riding and Training Centre which offers dressage, cross country, show jumping and beginners' sessions. There is no population or distance based provision standards.

Golf

8.61 Rutland is well served in terms of Golf courses with three 9 hole and five 18 hole courses within the county, four of which are within the ward of Normanton. All the courses appear well maintained to a high standard. Community access/ pay and play opportunities are available at eight of the courses. With only Luffenham Heath Golf Club operating on a membership only based. Barnsdale Country Club also offers its members a small pitch and putt course. There is no population or distance based provision standards.

Tennis

8.62 Outside of the schools there are few tennis courts in the County. Clubs are based at Oakham, Ketton, Ryhall and Whissendine. Both Oakham and Uppingham schools have considerable numbers of specialist courts. This is increased substantially in summer when the ATPs are converted into tennis courts. The courts at RAF Cottesmore are only used casually by residents on the base.

8.63 Oakham has the largest facility with four courts but is constrained for space. It has an active junior programme but cannot expand. The site is owned by the Town Council who lease it to the club. Proposed time limit planning conditions make floodlights of relatively little value. Oakham has no "pay-as-you-play" courts so casual participation hardly exists. There is an urgent need to consider sites for relocation and increase in size for the club which could include courts accessible to the public on a casual basis provided it is well located.

8.64 There are no public courts in Uppingham, an issue that needs to be addressed. The major issue for other clubs is the replacement of courts when they are worn out as the costs can be high for small clubs. Fields in Trust (formerly NPFA) suggest that community tennis courts should be within 20 minutes travel time by car within rural areas.

Water Sports

8.65 Rutland Water provides approximately 790 hectares of water for sports activities, which is an ideal facility for a range of water sports activity. The main watersports centre is on the north shore at Whitwell creek where activities such as powerboating, canoeing, kayaking, dinghy sailing and windsurfing can be accessed.

8.66 Rutland Sailing Club is on a 5.26 hectare site on the south shore, offering 145 moorings and space for parking 850 dinghies and sail boards. The club provides almost 500 members with access to the water. There is no population or distance based provision standards.

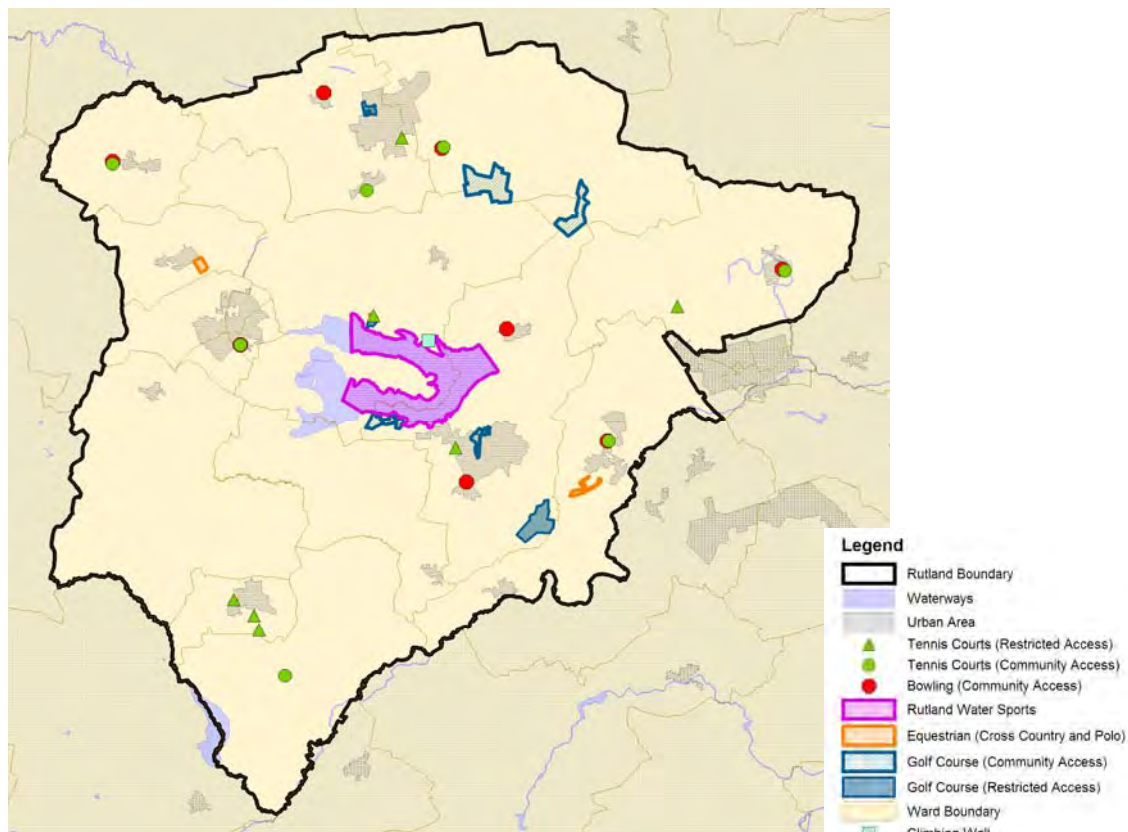
Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management

8.67 The consultation indicated that aspirations for outdoor sports facilities are to increase the levels of satisfaction with sports facilities in relation to quality and accessibility.

Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities

8.68 The accessibility of outdoor sports in terms of disabled access is often limited many of the facilities within the county including some of those provided by the schools and colleges have unsuitable parking, entrances, pathways and seating.

Figure 10 Outdoor sports facilities



Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

8.69 The majority of the non pitch based sports are individual sports, although Team Generation Rates can not be applied to individual sports there is likely to be an increase in demand for individual sports as the population grows. Many of the outdoor facilities that are not pitch based are owned by sports clubs or private companies, these facilities may face some limitations in relation to the scale and cost of growth required to meet local needs.

8.70 Consultation suggested that residents were not satisfied with the range of publicly accessible outdoor provision. Issues were raised regarding the access and use of facilities on an informal basis, as many felt that they needed to belong to a club to gain regular access.

Current Standards Summary Outdoor Sports (excluding pitches)

Table 21 Outdoor Sports Facilities for Outdoor Sports (excluding pitches)

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland	Unrestricted community access
Previous standard per 1000 population (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	1.6 to 1.8 ha.	1.6 to 1.8 ha.
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	33 sites	10 sites
Quantity of provision (Hectares)	359.92 Ha.	259.20 Ha.
Quantity of provision per 1000 population (Total)	9.8	6.75
Quality of provision (Ave. score out of 75)	73.55	73.56
Accessibility of provision (Ave. score out of 40)	38.2	38.17
Adaptability of provision	Sites restricted due to primary purpose	

This assessment excludes angling, cycling and watersports due to the nature of these activities.

Current Standards Summary ALL Outdoor Sports

8.71 The following table draws together all outdoor sports provision to provide a total for Rutland. This total for all outdoor sports includes primary school playing fields these have not been categorized as amenity greenspaces due to the nature of the facility. Therefore the 21 identified primary and special school playing fields covering 13.538 hectares are included within this outdoor sports total.

Table 22 ALL Outdoor Sports Facilities

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland	Unrestricted community access
Previous standard per 1000 population (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	1.6 to 1.8 ha.	1.6 to 1.8 ha.
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	88 sites	40 sites
Quantity of provision (Hectares)	492.377 Ha.	298.35 Ha.
Quantity of provision per 1000 population (Total)	12.7	7.8
Quality of provision (Ave. score out of 75)	68.58	73.55
Accessibility of provision (Ave. score out of 40)	34.40	37.3
Adaptability of provision	Sites restricted due to primary purpose	

This assessment excludes angling, cycling and watersports due to the nature of these activities.

Recommendations

- 8.72 We recommend that the Council sets quantity, quality and accessibility standards for outdoor sports facilities in line with PPG17 guidance.

Outdoor sports and recreation facilities Recommended Provision Standard

The provision standard for outdoor sports and recreation facilities is 1.9 hectares per 1,000 population. (A standard of 1.6ha per 1000 has been used and is the national norm recommended by Fields in Trust. However, participation rates in Rutland for all pitch sports are much higher than the national average. The participation in the county requires 19% more pitches than the average. The standard is therefore increased by 19% to 1.9ha per 1000.)

- Outdoor sports are well provided for in the County except for accessible football pitches. Participation rates for sport are higher than the national average and are likely to increase with the development initiatives in schools and clubs. A standard of 1.6 hectares per 1000 has been used and is the national norm recommended by Fields in Trust. In Rutland, participation rates in all pitch sports are much higher than the national average. The largest user of land is football and based on Sport England's database of over 40 local authorities. The participation in senior and junior football requires 19% more pitches than the average. It is recommended that the standard is therefore increased by 19% to 1.9ha per 1000.

Sports Pitches:

- All existing cricket, football and rugby pitches should be protected from development. This includes all areas of playing fields as defined in PPG17 including small areas such as those on primary school sites and those not currently accessible to the community.
- Development on pitches should only be allowed as an exception if enhanced facilities are provided in a similar location. This will involve additional pitches to a high specification together with changing and clubhouse facilities to ensure the long term viability of operations. There should be security of access for the community through the donation of the freehold, long term leases or community use agreements. Compensatory provision could also include the upgrading of existing facilities. This is particularly relevant in rural areas.
- The appropriate location, quantity, quality, specifications, security of access and management of alternative facilities should be determined by Rutland County Council in consultation with Sport England, local clubs and participants.

Cricket

- Planning contributions should be used to assist with the upgrade of cricket grounds and pavilions, particularly in villages and small settlements. Discussions should be held with Oakham Cricket Club to evaluate alternatives for additional facilities in the town as population and demand grows.

Football

- New football pitches and changing rooms should be provided in compensation for the loss of space for three pitches at Vale of Catmose College.
- Planning contributions should be used to assist with the upgrade of football pitches and changing rooms throughout the County. Priority should be given to increasing

the capacity of pitches at Uppingham College and upgrading changing rooms adjacent to other pitches.

- The existing pitches at Rutland College should be protected, upgraded and brought into community use with the addition of changing rooms. Optional sites should be identified for a senior football team in Oakham with the capacity to progress through leagues with the facilities necessary including the possibility of floodlighting.

Rugby

- There is a need to secure the future of Oakham Rugby Club with quality pitches and clubhouse facilities. There is also the need to identify additional pitches in the future should demand and the population increase.

Hockey

- There is a need to secure access to existing artificial turf pitches at Oakham and Uppingham Schools for hockey club use through management agreements and the development of support facilities on site where appropriate.

Tennis

- Alternative sites should be identified to provide an option for Oakham Tennis Club to increase its facilities to meet existing and likely future growth in demand. Tennis courts accessible to the community are needed in Oakham and Uppingham. Alternative sites and access options need to be investigated.

Other Outdoor Sports

- All existing sports facilities should be protected from development and where, appropriate, planning contributions used to enhance facilities with community access. Many sports (e.g. archery, cycling, equestrian and water sports) have a County wide catchment area so contributions from developments in the major settlements should be used. Where the catchment area of 20 minutes walk exceeds 1000, facilities for young people should be enhanced with the provision of MUGAs for football, basketball, netball and tennis.

Recommendations for Outdoor Sites

- 8.73 Sites of significant value to outdoor sport in Rutland and that are at risk or are likely to change use in the next 10 years are identified below:

Vale of Catmose College

- The Vale of Catmose College is to undergo redevelopment. This involves the retention of three grass pitches, the construction of an ATP and the loss of space for three grass pitches. While current demand from six teams could be managed on two senior pitches, both would be used twice every weekend and there would be problems in clashes for unscheduled cup matches. The pitches would need to be of a very high quality specification and would be unlikely to sustain a full curriculum of football and after school matches. There is also no capacity to manage growth in demand. It is recommended that a minimum of two additional senior pitches be provided elsewhere with changing rooms.

The Showground

- The Showground is owned by Rutland Agricultural Society and let to Oakham Rugby Club who in turn sub-let part to Royce Rangers FC. The site is shown in the Core Strategy Preferred Options as a suitable location for housing. If this proceeds then compensatory provision must be made. This should provide a

rugby club facility with a minimum three senior pitches and one junior pitch. There should also be a floodlit training area clubhouse with changing and social facilities, grounds store and adequate car parking. One of the rugby pitches could be left undeveloped at this stage but the space is necessary to manage growth in demand. There should also be a minimum three senior and three junior football pitches to cater for existing demand with space for a further two senior pitches.

- There should be a clubhouse with changing and social facilities, a grounds store and adequate car parking. These could be combined with the rugby club provided there is overall management involving equal representation of both sports. The developer of the Showground would need to provide the new facilities and for them to be playable before sports activity ceases at the Showground. All facilities should be to a minimum of Sport England, RFU and FA specifications. Given the amount of use by young people, the new site must be accessible by all types of transport including cycle and on foot.

Rutland College

- The playing fields on Rutland College have not been in formal use for some years. It is important that the site is retained for pitches given the demand in Oakham. A community use agreement should be negotiated with the College and changing rooms provided. Its use will be determined in relation to the other site for football and the Rutland Football Development Plan.

Uppingham Community College

- The College has four pitches which are well used by the school. The football pitches are also used by junior teams. There is a Football Foundation development scheme based at the school which will increase demand for football. The current pitches need to be upgraded to meet the demand. If this is not possible then additional land for pitches needs to be identified.

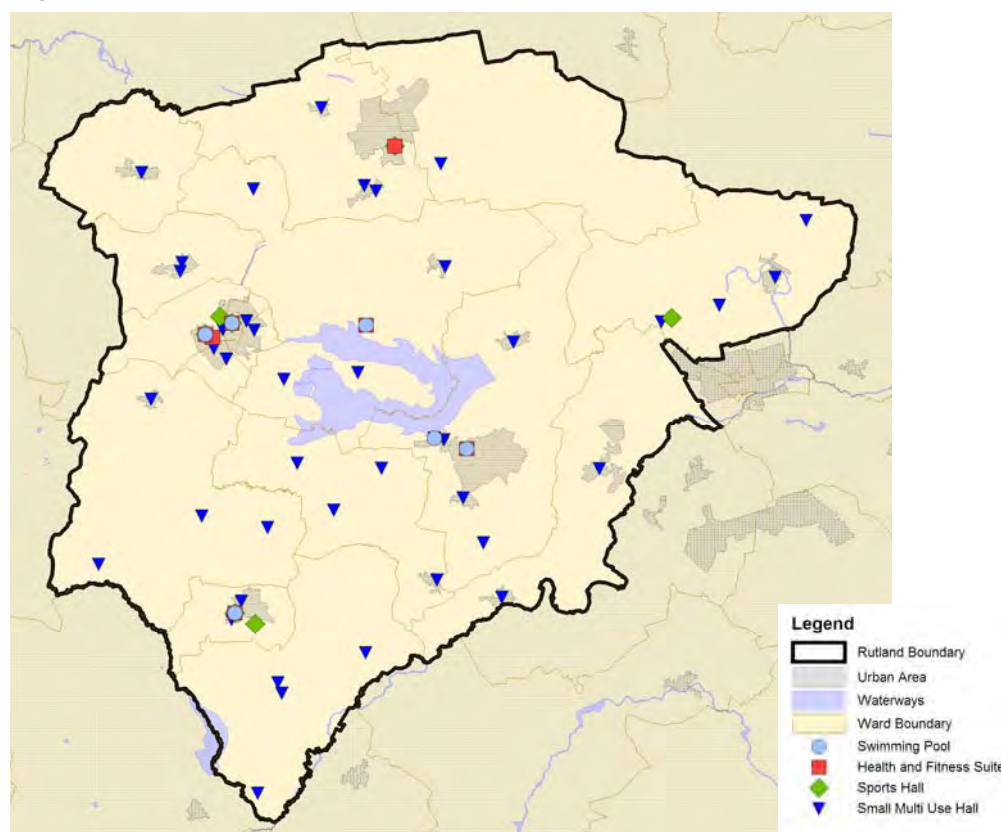
9 Indoor sports facilities

- 9.1 Primary Purpose – Opportunities for indoor sports participation, such as badminton, squash, gymnastics and swimming.
- 9.2 An assessment of indoor facilities is slightly different to other PPG17 typologies in relation to the demand on facilities. Alongside the main audit of open space, an audit of indoor sport and recreation facilities has been undertaken which has included:
- Community/ village halls
 - Swimming pools
 - Sports halls
 - Health and fitness suites

Quantitative – measured in terms of the amount of provision, (how much existing, new, improved or changed provision)

- 9.3 There are a range of indoor facilities within Rutland, although these vary dramatically in their size, quality and suitability for certain sport and recreation activities.

Figure 11 Indoor sports facilities



- 9.4 All indoor sports activities that require hall space are either on school sites or share the use of village, community and some primary school halls. These halls are vital to local communities and host sports such as bowls, badminton, table tennis, dance, martial arts and many types of fitness activities. Most are managed and funded on a voluntary basis but are invariably well used. There are also some good quality facilities at RAF Cottesmore and St George's Barracks evidence suggests that these are very well used by forces and MOD personnel and their families, with little use by the community.

Table 23 Indoor Sports Facilities

Ward	Name	Sports Hall	Small Multi-use Hall	Swimming Pool	Health & Fitness suite	Gymnasium	Indoor bowls	Dojo
Braunston & Belton	BELTON-IN-RUTLAND VILLAGE HALL		1					
	BRAUNSTON & BROOKE VILLAGE HALL		1					
	PRESTON VILLAGE HALL		1					
	RIDLINGTON VILLAGE HALL		1					
Cottesmore	COTTESMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE		1					
	COTTESMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
	COTTESMORE SCOUT/SCOUT/GUIDE HUT		1					
	MARKET OVERTON VILLAGE HALL		1					
	RAF COTTESMORE	1			1			
	ST NICHOLAS COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
Exton	ASHWELL VILLAGE HALL		1					
	BARNSDALE HALL & COUNTRY CLUB			1	1			
	EGLETON INSTITUTE		1					
	EXTON COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
	EXTON VILLAGE HALL		1					
	HAMBLETON VILLAGE HALL		1					
Greetham	GREETHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE SPORTS HALL		1					
Ketton	BARROWDEN VILLAGE HALL		1					
	ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL		1					
	TINWELL VILLAGE HALL		1					
Langham	LANGHAM ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH HALL		1					
	LANGHAM VILLAGE HALL		1					
Lyddington	CALDECOTT VILLAGE HALL		1					
	LYDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL		1					
	LYDDINGTON, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH HALL		1					
	SEATON VILLAGE HALL		1					
Martinsthorpe	LYNDON VILLAGE HALL		1					
	MANTON VILLAGE HALL		1					
	MORCOTT VILLAGE HALL		1					
	WING VILLAGE HALL		1					
Normanton	EDITH WESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL		1	1				
	EDITH WESTON VILLAGE HALL		1					
	EMPINGHAM, AUDIT HALL		1					
	NORTH LUFENHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE		1					
	WILDS LODGE SCHOOL		1					
	SOUTH LUFFENHAM VILLAGE HALL		1					
	ST GEORGES BARRACKS			1		1		1
	ST MARY AND ST JOHN COFE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
Oakham NE	OAKHAM COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
	OAKHAM SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE	1		1	1			
Oakham NW	FITNESS FANATICS				1			
	OAKHAM VALE JUDO CLUB							1
	RUTLAND COLLEGE SPORTS HALL	1						
	THE PARKS SCHOOL		1					
Oakham SE	VALE OF CATMOSE COLLEGE SPORTS CENTRE	1		1	1			
	BROOKE PRIORY SCHOOL		1					
Oakham SW	BROOKE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
	ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
	SOUTHFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
Ryhall & Casterton	CASTERTON BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE	1						
	ESSENDINE VILLAGE HALL		1					
	GREAT CASTERTON COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
	RYHALL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
	RYHALL VILLAGE HALL		1					
Uppingham	LEIGHFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
	UPPINGHAM BOWLS CLUB						1	
	WINDMILL HOUSE SCHOOL		1					
	UPPINGHAM COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL		1					
	UPPINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE	1						
	UPPINGHAM SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE	1		1	1			
Whissendine	WHISSENDINE VILLAGE HALL		1					
Total number of facilities in the County		7	46	6	7	1	1	1
Total number of facilities with limited community access		7	14	6	7	1	0	0
Total number of facilities with community access		0	32	0	0	0	1	1

Swimming

- 9.5 There has recently been an investment in improving the swimming pool at Vale of Catmose College (VCC) (4 lane, 25m) although there are no plans for further improvement under the present school redevelopment programme. Oakham School is used for some community use including an outreach programme from Melton Mowbray Swimming Club (4 lane, 25m).
- 9.6 Uppingham School currently has a pool providing some community use (5 lane, 25m) although work has commenced on a new six lane, 25m pool at Uppingham School. A planning condition requires a community use programme to be completed within six months of completion. This provides an excellent opportunity to extend access to swimming for schools and the community.
- 9.7 Edith Weston Primary school also provides a small indoor 4m pool for learning to swim. The size of the pool and location limit its community use potential. This is similar to the limitations of the pool at St Georges Barracks which has a small hydrotherapy pool.
- 9.8 Barnsdale Hall and Country Club offers a private option for swimming (4 lane, 22.5m) access to the pool requires membership of the club (£125 joining fee and up to £48.00 per calendar month). This is the only private pool within the county so choice is limited.

Sports Halls

- 9.9 The sports halls at Uppingham Community Collge (UCC) and VCC are well used by a variety of community groups and sports clubs. VCC use will expand considerably when the proposed new hall is complete which will be twice the size of the existing. As the UCC facilities receive no Council subsidy, the College cannot afford to open it when staff are not required in the rest of the College. This leads to an under use of a valuable resource for which there is clear evidence of demand.
- 9.10 The new £20m sports centre at Uppingham School including sports hall, squash courts and the pool discussed above, will also provide opportunities for community use provided the Council takes a positive approach to developing a *Community Use Agreement* with the school based on the Business Plan submitted with the planning application. It is important that there is coordination of opportunities among all the providers to ensure optimum use and income while unhelpful competition is minimised.
- 9.11 There is also a sports hall at RAF Cottesmore which is heavily used by MOD personnel and their families but is not open to the community.

Bowls

- 9.12 There are no full-size indoor facilities in the County although it is not far to travel to indoor clubs in neighbouring Districts. There are three-quarter sized indoor rinks at the indoor club in Uppingham and a considerable amount of short-mat bowls in village and community halls.

Judo

- 9.13 The Vale Judo Club is a proactive accredited club that operates from a facility within an industrial park. This is an extremely successful and well run club with a large junior programme. The problems with moving and setting up judo mats means that once a club reaches a certain size, a specialist dedicated facility is essential. This would ensure both financial viability and the opportunity to expand in the future. The current location is not ideal for the club and the Council's objectives of increasing participation would be enhanced through assisting the club to relocate, preferably to a site offering an attractive and safe environment where other sports activities take place.

Health and Fitness Suites

- 9.14 There are six health and fitness suites in the County offering over 120 fitness stations. Each health and fitness suite has access restriction as two of the centres are private membership based facilities (Barnsdale Hall and Country Club and Fitness Fanatics). The remaining three are within Oakham School, Uppingham School and Vale of Catmose College. With the final health and fitness suite within RAF Cottesmore which is used by MOD personnel and their families but it is not open for general use by the wider community.

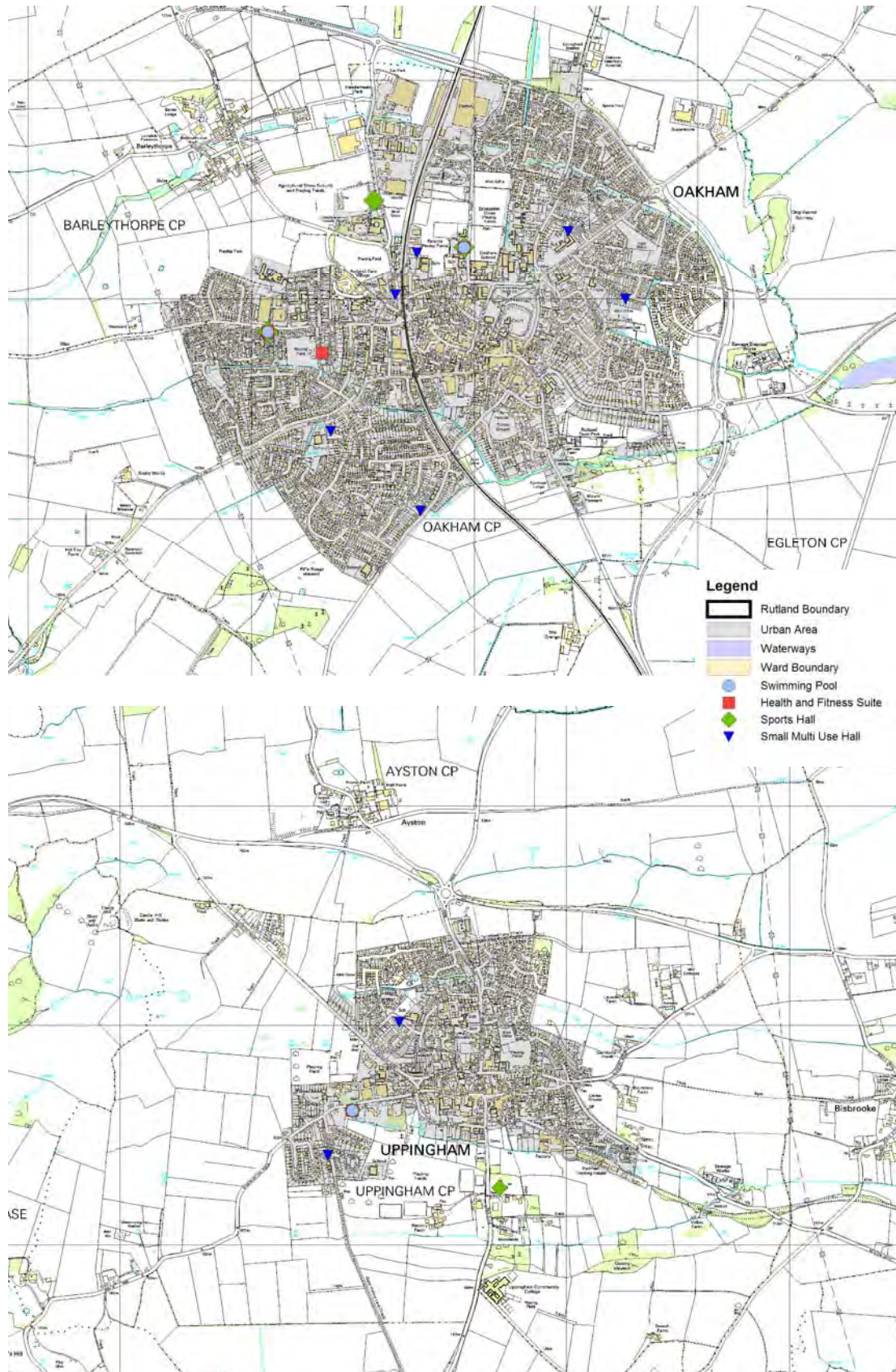
Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management

- 9.15 Consultation suggested that residents were not happy with the number of indoor facilities available within the county. It was suggested that although there are small village halls available within the local area these are thought to be unsuitable for a number of sports. Although some facilities are available within schools some individuals suggested that they felt uncomfortable on school premises and were unsure on when and how to use the sports halls, swimming pools and fitness facilities.
- 9.16 The school swimming facilities were raised in discussions relating to the suitability of the pools for learning to swim and family recreational swimming relating to opening times, access into the pool and the water temperature. Those within the consultation suggested that they preferred to travel outside of the county for swimming but distance and travel arrangements lead to infrequent visits.
- 9.17 Parish council and external consultations highlighted that a number of clubs felt limited by their choice in terms of indoor facilities with some clubs not having access to suitable sized facilities to meet the demands of their club.
- 9.18 The consultation indicted aspirations for more indoor sports facilities or opportunities to access those that currently exist within the county.

Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities

- 9.19 Accessibility to indoor facilities within Rutland can cause difficulties in terms of public use, due to the use of the sites for their primary purpose in relation to school pupils or MOD personnel. Where community access is available this can be limited in terms of the availability of the facilities during the day, on evenings and weekends.
- 9.20 The main indoor facilities in the County tend to be prepared for disability access in terms of entrances, toilets, parking etc. The smaller village/community centres are less accessible due to the size and location.

Figure 12 Indoor facilities Oakham and Uppingham



9.21 Transport and cost can inhibit some potential community users specifically young people as those from surrounding settlements would be reliant on either car ownership or public transport. The cost of using the private facilities would also be a limiting factor.

Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

9.22 A supply and demand assessment is difficult to establish due to all the new developments which are not yet operational. All known planning applications were considered in order to assess the likely level of future provision although the true extent of indoor facilities available for community use will not be known until sites are fully operational. Some existing sites are limited in their ability to adapt for future provision due to the size and nature of the existing provision for example many village and community halls were developed as settlements developed and are in need of some upgrading for use as indoor sports facilities. The lack of 'pay and play' facilities in the county may remain an issue that could limit participation and satisfaction in sports facilities as the population grows.

Current Standards Summary

Table 24 Indoor Sports Facilities

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland	Unrestricted community access
Previous standard of amenity greenspace per 1000 population (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	No standard identified	
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	73	37
Quantity of provision (Sq m)	26563.6	10951.6
Quantity of provision per 1000 population (Total)	768.6 sq m	316.9 sq m
Quality of provision (Ave. score out of 55)	47.03	45.24
Accessibility of provision (Ave. score out of 40)	26.18	26.96
Adaptability of provision	Sites restricted by primary purpose and space limitations	

Recommendations

9.23 We recommend that the Council sets quantity, quality and accessibility standards for indoor sports facilities in line with PPG17 guidance. There are no definitive national or local standards for indoor sports facilities.

- When the current planned indoor facilities are complete there will be a good provision of indoor facilities in the towns and larger settlements. It is impossible and inappropriate to produce a meaningful standard for built sports facilities to include all types. Given the demographic distribution in Rutland the simplest approach would be to typify a small rural community. The primary built facility would be a village community hall. Based on current evidence of usage, a population of 500 would need a hall of approximately 250 square metres. This is therefore equivalent to a nominal provision of 500 square metres per 1000 population.

Indoor sports and recreation facilities Recommended Provision Standard

The provision standard for indoor sports and recreation facilities is 500 sq m per 1,000 population

9.24 We suggest that a quality standard is developed so that residents know what they can expect from indoor sports facilities in the County. A quality standard would also be valuable in helping direct the creation of any provision. The following should be considered:

- Where possible, planning contributions should be used to assist in the upgrade, improvement or replacement of village and community halls. Improved facilities should consider the use for indoor sports providing areas to store equipment and suitable surfacing to suit a range of sports. Changing room facilities could also be considered.
- Alternative locations should be identified to provide a viable and sustainable facility for the Vale Judo Club to move from its current location on an industrial estate. An accessible location of a suitable size for the planned growth in the club should be investigated to meet the specific needs of the club.
- The quality standard for indoor facilities should reflect the views and aspirations of the local community and should be linked to the national benchmark and design criteria. A recommended quality standard for indoor sport and recreation facilities has been set using national benchmarks, Sport England Technical Design Guidance Notes and Quest Best Practice Standards:
 - to provide clear guidance relating to facility specifications, ensuring suitability of design for the targeted range of sports and standards of play as well as individual requirements for specialist sports and uses. All new build and refurbishment schemes to be designed in accordance with Sport England Guidance Notes, which provide detailed technical advice and standards for the design and development of sports facilities.
 - to ensure high standards of management and customer service are attained, which meet or exceed customer expectation and lead to a quality leisure experience for all users of facilities. All leisure providers to follow industry best practice principles in relation to a) Facilities Operation, b) Customer Relations, c) Staffing and d) Service Development and Review.

9.25 Accessibility is a key issue for residents in terms of indoor sports provision due to the limitations on community access to existing facilities.

- Existing and future planning conditions should be fully implemented to ensure community access to indoor sports facilities through *Community Use Agreements*. In the absence of an alternative, Sport England model agreements should be used. Community access should be at times and at a cost that are appropriate to the local needs.
- Where improvements are made to existing provision requirements for disabled people should be integrated within all design aspects.
- Further research is required within existing sites to measure community use; systems should be established where possible to be able to capture data on the levels of community activity within the main facilities. New developments should have management systems that enable this data to be extracted. Further work to determine the low levels of satisfaction scores within the Active People survey are also required to ensure that these issues can be addressed.

10 Provision for children and young people

- 10.1 Primary Purpose – Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
- 10.2 The provision for children and young people typology relates to open space areas with play equipment commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and greenspaces in and around housing. This typology has many wider benefits for the local community providing a focus for children and young people to engage in physical and social activities.
- 10.3 The Councils Children's and Young People's Service have developed *Play for All - A Strategy for Play in Rutland 2007-2010*. The play strategy highlights the importance of play as key component of healthy living, physical, emotional and social development. The purpose of the strategy is to provide a steer on the improvement and development of high quality play opportunities for children and young people living in Rutland.
- 10.4 Through consultation with children, young people and adults Rutland have developed the following definition for play: *'Play is for everyone. It is spontaneous and helps those engaging in play to make sense of the world. It offers freedom to use your imagination and has no boundaries. Play is fun.'* The Strategy outlines the following priorities:
- To develop play opportunities for all children and young people of all ages, that offer scope for free play, freely chosen and accessible and free of charge
 - To ensure that play activities are staffed by well-trained play workers who understand the value of child initiated and directed play, but are also responsive to situations where their presence may enhance opportunities for children and young people to play creatively.
 - To ensure that the relationship between the Play Strategy Steering Group and both Town and Parish Councils is strengthened and developed. Representatives from these groups already sit on the Steering Group.
 - To work with the Highways, Transport and Planning departments to ensure that, where possible traffic calming measures are in place, that new play areas are sited in traffic free areas and that activities are sited on or within walking distance of transport drop off points
 - To ensure that a high priority is given to the accessibility of play spaces for the widest range of children and young people, especially those with disabilities or at risk of social exclusion.
 - To continue to develop and improve the scope and quality of the play opportunities available during the summer holidays and during out of school hours
 - To provide good quality accessible sources of information for children and young people about play in Rutland.
- 10.5 The consultation used in the development of the strategy included a broad number of groups such as very young children, primary and secondary school children and young people, youth Groups, youth council members and parents. The strategy consultation highlighted an imbalance of facilities for different age groups with lower levels of provision for those aged over 7 years.

Quantitative – measured in terms of the amount of provision, (how much existing, new, improved or changed provision)

- 10.6 Open space and play areas are provided for children and young people in and around the main towns and villages within Rutland. The range of provision differs with some areas offering well equipped play provision catering for a range of age groups where as other areas are limited in their provision tending to focus on those aged under 7 years.
- 10.7 Consultation suggested that residents were in general happy with the amount of play provision available locally. However attendees' to the drop-in consultation sessions also reflected the need for provision for those aged 8 plus. Transport issues were also raised with some of the best play areas thought to be not very accessible on foot.
- 10.8 Parish council plans and consultations highlighted interest in maintaining and further developing play facilities and play areas in villages.
- 10.9 Fields in Trust's (formerly NPFA) national standards for Local area for Play (LAPs), Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAPs) and Neighbourhood equipped Area for Play (NEAPs) are:
- LAPs – within one minutes walking time along pedestrian routes or within 100 metres of residential areas - typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity green space.
 - LEAPs – within five minutes walking time along pedestrian routes
 - NEAPs – within 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes.
- 10.10 Rutland has 58 identified play area sites of which 45 are community accessible with no apparent restrictions. In consideration of Fields in Trust formerly The National Playing Fields Association's *Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play* guidance an assessment of the characteristics (equipment, location, size) of each site was undertake so that the sites could be classified as LAPs, LEAPs or NEAPs. It should be noted that at times classifications overlap and are often apparent within one locality.

Figure 13 Play Areas LEAP 400m and NEAP 1000 walking catchment

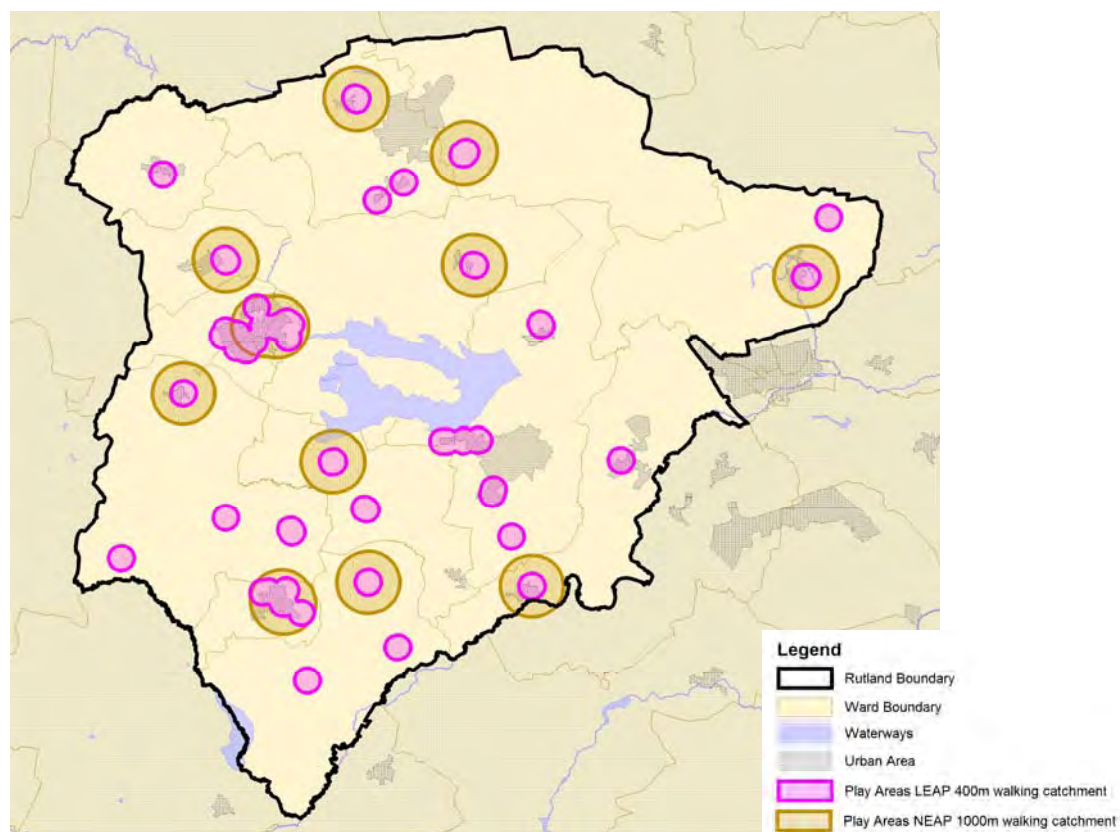
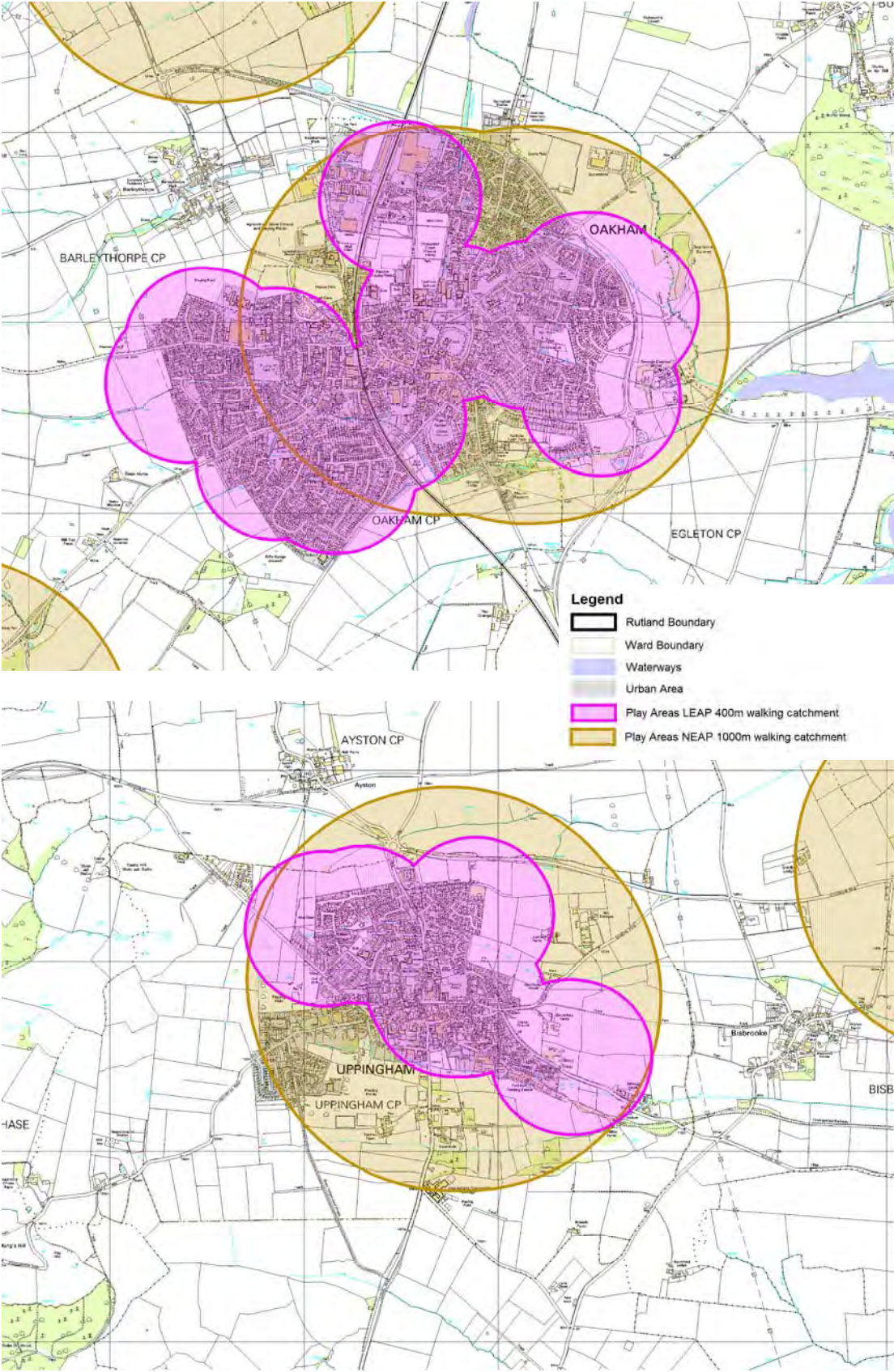


Table 25 Provision for Children and Young People

Ward	Name	Number of LAPs	Number of LEAPs	Number of NEAPs
Braunston & Belton	TOP ROAD CRICKET GROUND		1	
	BACK LANE PLAY AREA		1	
	RIDDLEINGTON ROAD PLAY AREA		1	
	BROOKE ROAD PLAY AREA		1	1
Cottesmore	HEATH DRIVE PLAY AREA		1	
	AUSTHORPE GROVE PLAY AREA		1	
	PINFOLD ROAD PLAY AREA		1	1
	COTTESMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAY AREA		1	
	ST NICHOLAS COFE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAY AREA		1	
Exton	GARDEN ROAD PLAY AREA		1	1
	DROUGHT GARDEN AND ARBORETUM PLAY AREA		1	
	EXTON COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL		1	
Greetham	GREETHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE		1	1
Ketton	WHEATLANDS CLOSE PLAY AREA		1	
	WAKERLEY ROAD PLAY AREA		1	1
Langham	LANGHAM RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA		1	1
Lyddington	THOMPSON LANE PLAY AREA		1	
	CHAPEL LANE PLAY AREA		1	
	WING ROAD PLAY AREA		1	1
Martinsthorpe	MORCOTT ROAD PLAY AREA		1	
	CHATER CLOSE PLAY AREA		1	1
Normanton	THE STREET PLAY AREA		1	
	LOVES LANE		1	
	THE OVAL RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA		1	
	ULLSWATER AVENUE PLAY AREA		1	
	CRUMMOCK AVENUE PLAY AREA		1	
	KING EDWARDS WAY PLAY AREA		1	
	PENNINE DRIVE PLAY AREA		1	
	SYKES LANE PLAY AREA		1	
	EDITH WESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAY AREA		1	
Oakham NE	KILBURN END PLAY AREA		1	
	PRINCESS AVENUE PLAY AREA		1	
	CUTTS CLOSE RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA		1	1
Oakham NW	HECTORS WAY PLAY AREA		1	
	THE PARKS SCHOOL PLAY AREA		1	
	OAKHAM COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAY AREA		1	
Oakham SE	WENSUM CLOSE PLAY AREA		1	
	PICKWORTH CLOSE PLAY AREA		1	
	SCULTHORPE ROAD PLAY AREA		1	
	THE SIDINGS, SOUTH STREET PLAY AREA		1	
	NORMANTON DRIVE PLAY AREA		1	
	GLEN DRIVE/WELLAND WAY PLAY AREA		1	
	WILLOW CRESENT PLAY AREA		1	1
	ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAY AREA		1	
Oakham SW	IRWELL CLOSE PLAY AREA		1	
	BROOKE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAY AREA		1	
	SOUTHFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAY AREA		1	
Ryhall & Casterton	MEADOW PLAYING FIELDS PLAY AREA		1	1
	BOURNE ROAD PLAY AREA		1	
	GREAT CASTERTON COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAY AREA		1	
	RYHALL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAY AREA		1	
Uppingham	LIME TREE AVENUE PLAY AREA		1	
	THE BEECHES PLAY AREA		1	
	BLACKTHORN CLOSE PLAY AREA		1	
	GOLDFINCH ROAD PLAY AREA		1	
	GRAMPIAN WAY PLAY AREA		1	
	NORTH EAST STREET PLAY AREA		1	1
Whissendine	THE NOOK PLAY AREA		1	
Total number of sites in the County		0	58	12
Total number of sites with limited community access		0	13	0
Total number of sites with community access		0	45	12

Figure 14 Play Areas walking catchments for Oakham and Uppingham



10.11 In considering the minimum standard of provision of 0.6 hectares per 1000 population as recommended by the Fields in Trust each ward in Rutland falls below this minimum standard. Those wards with the least provision are Oakham North West, South West, North East, Whissendine, Exton, Greetham and Ketton. As illustrate above not all areas of the two main towns are catered for in terms of LEAPs or NEAPs.

10.12 Areas that are proposed for new developments within the Core Strategy Preferred Options in both Oakham and Uppingham will require additional provision for Children and Young People as existing provision does not extend to these areas.

Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management

10.13 There were mixed feelings over the quantity of children and young people's provision. Some consultees felt provision was reasonable but there is variation between parishes (e.g. lacking in but good provision in), others felt the overall quantity was poor. The consultation indicted that aspirations were for clean, litter free, well-kept grass, equipment and seating.

10.14 Developers of new build areas need to be challenged over the quality of play provision provided. Although all new build areas appear to have play areas some provision is smaller than minimum standards with limited equipment. Some of the smallest play areas although in residential areas appear to have low levels of use.

Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities

10.15 Children and young people have very limited ability to travel and this is generally a greater limiting factor than the quantity of facilities available as play provision is concentrated in settlements with considerable distances between them – certainly too far for children and young people to travel on their own. Disability access can be limited due to the entrances of playing areas and the terrain leading up to play areas.

Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

10.16 Some of the sites are very small in size and are limited by the boundaries of the surrounding open spaces. Currently 17 LEAPs fall short of the minimum size outlined by the County in the Rutland Local Plan 2001 of 400m² and three NEAPs fall short of the minimum size outlined as 1000m².

10.17 There will be a growth in population at ages 0-15 to 8400 and at age 16-24 to 4900 by 2026. The increase in the population will require an increase in both the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision.

Current Standards Summary

10.18 Fields in Trust's (formerly NPFA) *Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play* - suggests that the benchmark level of provision for designated playing space including equipped playing space is 0.25 hectares per 1000 population and for informal play it is 0.55 hectares per 1000 population. There are no considerations given for rural local authorities.

Table 26 Provision for children and young people

Assessment areas						
Previous standard play provision provided per 1000 population (Rutland Local Plan 2001)					0.6 to 0.8 ha.	
	Target Age	Time	Walking Distance	Minimum size	Characteristics	
LAP	4-6		100m	100m ²	Small, low key games area	
LEAP	4-8	5 min.	400m	400m ²	About 5 types of equipment small games area	
NEAP	8+	15 min.	1000m	1000m ²	About 8 types of equipment, kick about and cycle play area	
					Total for Rutland	Unrestricted community access
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)					58 sites	45 sites 33 LEAPs 12 NEAPs
Quantity of provision (Hectares)					5.65 Ha.	4.74 Ha.
Quantity of provision per 1000 population (Total)					0.15 Ha	0.12 Ha.
Quality of provision (Ave. score out of 85)					66.88	65.24
Accessibility of provision (Ave. score out of 40)					27.29	26.60
Adaptability of provision			Some sites restricted by space limitations			

Recommendations

10.19 We recommend that the Council sets quantity, quality and accessibility standards for provision for children and young people in line with PPG17 guidance, Play for All - The Strategy for Play in Rutland 2007-2010 and the Children and Young People Plan 2007-2010 (CYPP).

Provision for children and young people Recommended Provision Standard

The provision standard for Provision for children and young people is 0.6 hectares per 1,000 population (of which 0.25 hectares per 1000 population should be equipped playing space).

10.20 Fields in Trust suggest the following recommendations for rural areas:

- 1000 people or more: there should be full provision of LAPs, LEAPs, local landscaped areas for play and NEAPs
- 250 to 1000 people: there should be provision of LAPs and EAPs or local landscaped areas for play, with priority afforded to the LEAPs as equipped areas

- 100-250 people: there should be the provision of a LEAP for existing housing areas, a local landscaped area for play or a casual play area and, for new developments, LAPS. These should be located as close as possible to the heart of the settlement.
- Less than 100 people: there should be provision of a LEAP for existing housing areas and LAPS for play in any new developments. These should be located as close as possible to the centre.

10.21 Those wards with the lowest levels of provision should be considered for improved provision including Oakham North West, South West and North East, Whissendine, Exton, Greetham and Ketton.

10.22 We suggest that a quality standard is developed so that residents know what they can expect from provision for children and young people in the County. A quality standard would also be valuable in helping direct the creation of any provision. In terms of quality standards Fields in Trust outline the following characteristics for each type of play provision:

Local Area for Play (LAP)

- Primarily for children up to the age of 6 though can be used by older children at different times of the day or evening
- Within 1 mile walking time of a child's home
- Positioned beside a pedestrian route that is well used
- Well-drained, reasonably flat surfaced site with grass or hard surface
- Minimum activity zone is 100sq m and a buffer zone a minimum of 5 metres from the nearest dwelling
- Sign indicating the area is for children's play and that dogs are not welcome

Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)

- Primarily for children who are beginning to go out and play independently
- 5 minutes walking time of the child's home
- Positioned beside a pedestrian route that is well used
- Well-drained, reasonably flat surfaced site with grass or hard surface, together with impact absorbing surfaces beneath and around play equipment
- Minimum activity zone is 400sq m and a buffer zone a minimum of 10 metres from the nearest dwelling
- Designed to provide a stimulating and challenging play experience that may include equipment providing opportunities for balancing, rocking, climbing, overhead activity, sliding, swinging, jumping, crawling, rotating, imaginative play, social play, and play with natural materials.
- A minimum provision of six play experiences is recommended
- There should be adequate space for generally active and play 'chase' type games
- Perimeter fencing is generally seen as inappropriate though some fencing maybe appropriate. If the LEAP is enclosed there should be two outward-opening, self closing gates.
- Seating for adults should be provided as well as one or more litter bins
- There should be a sign indicating that the area is for children's play and that dogs are not welcome. The name and telephone number of the facility operator should be provided with an invitation to report any incident or damage to the LEAP or play equipment. The location of the nearest telephone should also be indicated

Local Landscaped area for play

- Alternative provision to the LEAP. Where there is significant doubt about the practicality of providing more than one LEAP, in which case the Local Landscaped Area for Play can be provided.
- Within 5 minutes walking time of the child's home
- Positioned beside a pedestrian route that is well used
- Well-drained, imaginatively landscaped site suitable
- Imaginatively designed and contoured using natural materials such as logs or boulders.
- Recommended minimum size 900 sq m
- Boundaries should be recognisable by landscaping
- The site should be recognisably available for use by children, through the local landscaped area for play is an open space for shared use and enjoyment by all sections of the community

Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)

- Older children of independence who have freedom to range further from home
- Within 15 minutes walking time of the child's home
- Positioned beside a pedestrian route that is well used
- Well drained site with both grass and hard surfaced areas together with impact absorbing
- Minimum activity zone is 1000sq m, comprising an area for play equipment and structures, and a hard surfaced area of at least 465sq m a buffer of 30 meters
- Designed to provide a stimulating and challenging play experience that may include equipment providing opportunities for balancing, rocking, climbing, overhead activity, sliding, swinging, jumping, crawling, rotating, imaginative play, social play, and play with natural materials.
- There should be adequate space for generally active and play 'chase' type games
- Perimeter fencing is generally seen as inappropriate though some fencing maybe appropriate. If the LEAP is enclosed there should be two outward-opening, self closing gates
- Seating for adults should be provided as well as one or more litter bins
- There should be a sign indicating that the area is for children's play and that dogs are not welcome. The name and telephone number of the facility operator should be provided with an invitation to report any incident or damage to the LEAP or play equipment. The location of the nearest telephone should also be indicated
- Convenient and secure parking facilities for bicycles should be provided

10.23 We suggest that these quality standards are followed to ensure that new provision meets minimum size and quality conditions, further details are available within *Fields in Trust's Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play*. In addition the following sites are seen as examples of good practice:

- Pinfold Road Play Area and provision for Young People
- Greetham Community Centre Play Area and provision for Young People
- Garden Road Play Area
- Chapel Lane Play Area

10.24 The following sites require attention and improvements as they fall below the average quality for the county:

- Wheatlands Close Play Area
- Grampian Way Play Area
- Riddlington Road Play Area

- Princess Avenue Play Area
- North East Street Play Area
- Glen Drive/Welland Way Play Area
- The Nook Play Area
- Pennine Drive Play Area
- Top Road Cricket Ground Play Area
- Heath Drive Play Area
- King Edwards Way Play Area
- Loves Lane Play Area
- Morcott Road Play Area
- Chater Close Play Area
- Irwell Close Play Area
- Goldfinch Road Play Area
- Meadow Playing Fields Play Area
- The Oval Recreation Ground Play Area

10.25 There is the need to improve access to sites that have restricted access and those that are open for the community:

- Improvements should be include cycle routes, cycle stands, disabled access (Sites should have step free entrances, appropriate signage, pathways and seating).
- Signage is relatively good within sites although there is limited off site signage, many sites are difficult to find and would benefit from signs external to the site to promote further use.
- The restricted sites are within schools or at private facilities. In some cases play areas for schools with high quality equipment are next to community play areas separated by the schools perimeter fence. Where possible the repetition of provision should be avoided in cases where community provision and school provision are close consideration should be made to having one site which is accessible by the school and the community. It is recognised that this may cause some difficulties and any shared use must not be to the detriment of provision already available to the community. Any new provision within school grounds should be based on a *community use agreement*.

11 Allotments, community gardens and urban farms

- 11.1 Primary Purpose – Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
- 11.2 Allotments, community gardens and urban farms have many wider benefits for the local community providing landscaped open space for the local area, opportunity for growing produce, improved physical and mental health.
- 11.3 *'By Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1908 is made the express duty of every Local Authority, except County Councils, who are of the opinion that there is a demand for allotments in their area, to provide a sufficient number of them and then to let them to persons resident in the area.'* The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners

Quantitative – measured in terms of the amount of provision, (how much existing, new, improved or changed provision)

- 11.4 There are currently 22 allotments sites within the county, offering in the region of 500 plots. Several sites have been altered in size and some sites lost with changes of use. Where possible the remaining sites should be protected and improved as demand for use remains high.
- 11.5 Consultation highlighted that generally residents had a mixed opinion regarding the level of allotments provision as some saw provision as good (44.4%) where as other saw it as poor or in some cases very poor (23.4%). The main reason for the poor rating was that residents are not happy with the amount of allotments available locally, as waiting lists are thought to be too long. Recent national initiatives relating to healthy eating and the impact of the economic downturn have been identified as reasons for increased interest in allotments. Parish council and external consultations did not highlight any issues specific to allotments, community gardens and urban farms.

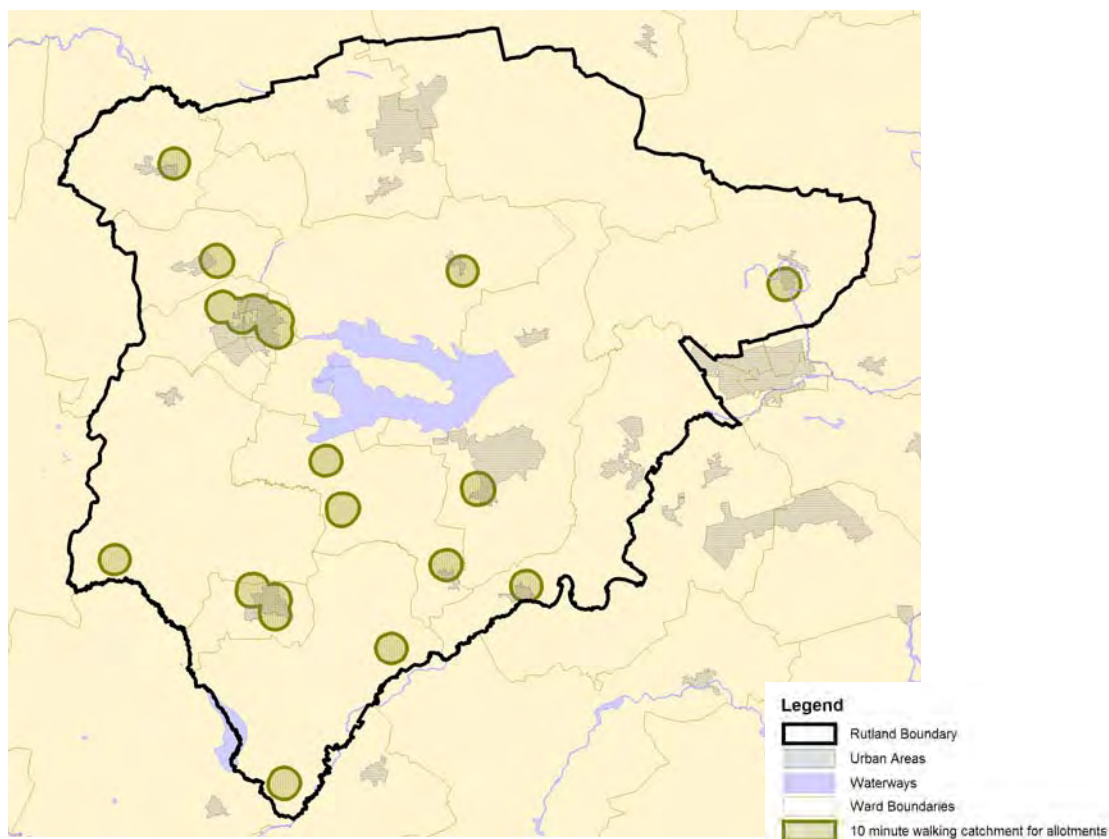
Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management

- 11.6 The majority of allotment sites are controlled by allotments committees or through parish or town councils. There are a number of gardening clubs within Rutland that promote the use of allotments.
- 11.7 Oakham South East and Normanton have the highest number of hectares per 1000 population with Cottesmore, Greetham and Oakham South West having no allotment provision. The consultation indicated that aspirations for allotments, community gardens and urban farms are to maintain the standards already apparent within allotments within the county.
- 11.8 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggest a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 dwelling. This equates to 0.125ha per 1,000 population based on an average plot size of 250 metres squared. The current standard of provision in Rutland is 0.4 hectares per 1,000 population.

Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities

- 11.9 Allotments should be within 10 minutes walking distance (480m) of main settlement areas with some provision of parking available at the allotment. Many of the allotments have limited parking availability with some entrances obscured and difficult to find. Disability access to allotments can be problematic due to sites with uneven walkways and often have off-road parking.

Figure 15 Allotments within 10 minute walking catchment



Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

11.10 As many of the allotment sites in the county are full, or have a high occupancy rate, it should be a priority to investigate the expansion of existing allotment sites or the introduction of new sites. As the majority of these sites are owned and run by parish or town councils, there is a need to work collectively with these bodies to bring quantity and quality improvements.

Current Standards Summary

Table 27 Allotments, Community Gardens and urban farms

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland (All are unrestricted community access)
Previous standard (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	No provision standard
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	22 sites
Quantity of provision (Hectares)	15.12 Ha.
Quantity of provision per 1000 population (Total)	0.4 Ha.
Quality of provision (Ave. score out of 65)	52.90
Accessibility of provision (Ave. score out of 40)	27.61
Adaptability of provision	Restricted

Recommendations

- 11.11 We recommend that the Council sets quantity, quality and accessibility standards for allotments in line with PPG17 guidance. There are no definitive national or local standards for allotments.

Allotments, community gardens and urban farms Provision Standard

The provision standard for Allotments, community gardens and urban farms is 0.4 hectares per 1,000 population.

- Recognising that allotments are very much a demand led typology, further investigation as to the localised demand for allotment sites should be undertaken and used in conjunction with local standards to ascertain the appropriateness of new provision.
 - With regards applying the standard into new housing development, the application of standards to indicate areas of deficiency will again determine where there may be a need for a requirement for allotments. Again, a demand assessment would need to be undertaken.
 - Those areas such as Cottesmore, Greetham and Oakham South West without adequate provision should be addressed on a demand led principle as some allotment site already have waiting lists it is worth further identifying the need within these areas, or within existing allotment sites with the potential to expand.
 - There should be no further loss of allotment areas. If developments indicate a loss in allotment sites alternative sites should be explored where this is not possible the allotment site should be relocated to a suitable site, ancillary services should be maintained and improved. Alternative provision is to be provided within where possible within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the plot holders homes.
- 11.12 We suggest that a quality standard is developed so that residents know what they can expect from allotments in the County. A quality standard would also be valuable in helping direct the creation of any provision. The NSALG suggest the following standards:
- The Current standard plot size is 300 sq yds (250 sq metres)
 - The following recommendations are in respect of the sizes of buildings, which NSALG believe should be permitted without local authority approval. This is not to say that larger buildings should not be acceptable, but with approval.
 - Plotholders shed 12 sq metres
 - Greenhouse 15 sq metres
 - Polytunnel 30 sq metres
 - Where buildings need foundations or are connected to services then local authority approval may be necessary, otherwise planning permission is not required.
- 11.13 Accessibility was raised as an issue in relation to owning a plot although other aspects can also prevent access therefore the following should be considered:
- Sites should be accessible for people with a disability (Entrance, signage, pathways and seating) with links to other amenity green spaces and open areas by walking and cycling routes.
 - Paths should now be 1.4 metres to enable disabled access
 - Haulage ways should be a minimum of 3 metres wide

12 Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds

12.1 Primary Purpose – Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

12.2 Churchyards tend to be encompassed within the walled boundary of a church and cemeteries are burial grounds outside the confines of a church. These include private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards.

Quantitative – measured in terms of the amount of provision, (how much existing, new, improved or changed provision)

12.3 There are cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds within nearly all settlements within Rutland, with a total of a 63 sites across the county. Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider in some areas whilst in other areas they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land, but are able to provide areas of nature conservation.

12.4 No quantity standards are to be set for cemeteries and churchyards. PPG17 Annex A states: *'many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas, and often support biodiversity and interesting geological features. As such many can also be viewed as amenity greenspaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one.'*

12.5 Consultation suggested that residents were limited in their use of cemeteries and churchyards. No other comments specific to cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds were made. Parish council and external consultations did not highlight any issues specific to cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds.

Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management

12.6 The consultation indicated that aspirations for cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds are for well kept grass with flowers, trees and shrubs. There should also be suitable seating. In terms of the quality assessment those areas that received a lower score were lighting, parking, seats/benches and pathways.

Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities

12.7 Disability access to church sites is often problematic due to their age. Many older sites have a large number of steps, uneven walkways and often have off-road parking. Wheelchair users are rarely able to park next to the facility. As cemeteries are often Council owned and relatively new, disabled access is not such an issue. In terms of the quality assessment those areas that received a lower score were disabled access, public transport and cycle ways.

Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

12.8 Planning for future provision could be based on predicted death rates, burial and cremation rates. PPG 17 Annex A states: *'every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is steady need for more of them. Indeed, many areas face a shortage of ground for burials.'* Those areas currently designated as cemeteries and burial grounds will remain under this classification where as other adjoining open spaces and new locations maybe required to meet demand by 2026.

Current Standards Summary

Table 28 Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland (All are unrestricted community access)
Previous standard (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	No provision standard
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	63 sites
Quantity of provision (Hectares)	20.94 Ha.
Quality of provision (Ave. score out of 75)	62.00
Accessibility of provision (Ave. score out of 40)	26.02
Adaptability of provision	Restricted

Recommendations

- 12.9 Although needed for the burial of the dead, cemeteries and churchyards provide an open space to be used on an opportunity-led basis – ie where there are churchyards and cemeteries, there are opportunities for wildlife and use of the open space by the public for walking and relaxing. We recommend that no standard is set for cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds. As PPG17 states *‘as churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one.’*

Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds Recommended Provision Standard

No definitive provision standard for cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds should be set.

- 12.10 We suggest that a quality standard is developed by for the County led by the parish councils, so that residents know what they can expect from cemeteries in the County. A quality standard would also be valuable in helping direct the creation of any provision. There are no definitive national or local standards for cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds.
- Sites should provide an area of quiet contemplation and an opportunity to enhance biodiversity.
 - Sites should be well kept, with a variety of flowers, trees and shrubs.
 - Seating and litter bins should be provided where appropriate.
 - Sites should have well defined boundaries and appropriate lighting to discourage misuse.
- 12.11 There is no realistic requirement to set catchments for cemeteries and churchyards as they cannot easily be influenced through planning policy and implementation.
- In some instances, particularly in rural settlements, a churchyard may be the only formal open space provision and hence is a focal point of the village. It should be the priority of the Council to consider improving the quality of sites in rural areas where no park or garden or amenity green space exists. This may however prove problematic as churchyards are typically not under Parish or County Council control.

13 Civic/market squares and hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians

13.1 Primary Purpose – Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

13.2 The civic and market square typology relates to small hard surfaced open space areas commonly found in the centre of town locations. This typology has many wider benefits for the local community providing a hard landscaping area that can have a number of functions.

Quantitative – measured in terms of the amount of provision, (how much existing, new, improved or changed provision)

13.3 There are three market square/ pedestrianised areas within Rutland. Uppingham market square provides a restricted parking area during weekdays (Mon-Thurs). Market Stalls occupy the market square every Friday providing a focus for community activity. Other events such as travelling fairs also use the central market square.

13.4 Oakham has a small market square which is also used for parking during week days. On Saturday morning's market stalls occupy the market square and a nearby pedestrianised street is often used to host the farmers market.

13.5 Consultation suggested that residents were happy with the amount of civic and market squares available locally. No other comments specific to civic and market squares were made. Parish council and external consultations did not highlight any issues specific to civic and market squares.

Qualitative - standards of provision and specifications including management

13.6 The quality of the civic and market squares was seen to be reasonably high with noise levels sometimes high within these areas. With potential to improve information and signage.

13.7 The consultation indicated that aspirations for civic / market squares and hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians were to continue to support community based activity within these accessible spaces within the market towns.

Accessibility - including distance, transport, costs, use by people with disabilities

13.8 The civic / market squares and hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians are central to both market squares with public transport links directly accessible. Site access for disabled people is also good.

Adaptability – need to cope with changes in need and demand over time

13.9 The existing civic / market squares and hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians are already providing multi purpose functions in terms of hosting markets, community events and some are used as additional parking areas providing good access to the centre of the town.

Current Standards Summary

Table 29 Civic and market square and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians

Assessment areas	Total for Rutland (All are unrestricted community access)
Previous standard (Rutland Local Plan 2001)	No provision standard
Quantity of provision (Number of sites)	3 sites
Quantity of provision (Hectares)	0.598 Ha.
Quality of provision (Ave. score out of 65)	54.00
Accessibility of provision (Ave. score out of 35)	29.00
Adaptability of provision	Restricted

Recommendations

- 13.10 We recommend that the Council sets quantity, quality and accessibility standards for civic / market squares and hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians in line with PPG17 guidance. There are no definitive national or local standards for civic / market squares and hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians.

Civic Spaces Recommended Provision Standard

No definitive provision standard for Civic Spaces should be set.

- 13.11 We suggest that a quality standard is developed so that residents know what they can expect from civic / market squares and hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians in the County. A quality standard would also be valuable in helping direct the creation of any provision. It is suggested that the following should be included:

- Clean litter and graffiti free, with litter bins positioned throughout
- Appropriate and well maintained seating
- Flowers, trees and greenspaces should feature
- Toilets and parking facilities should be easily accessible
- Existing market squares and civic spaces should be maintained and improved to ensure maximum use by the local community.

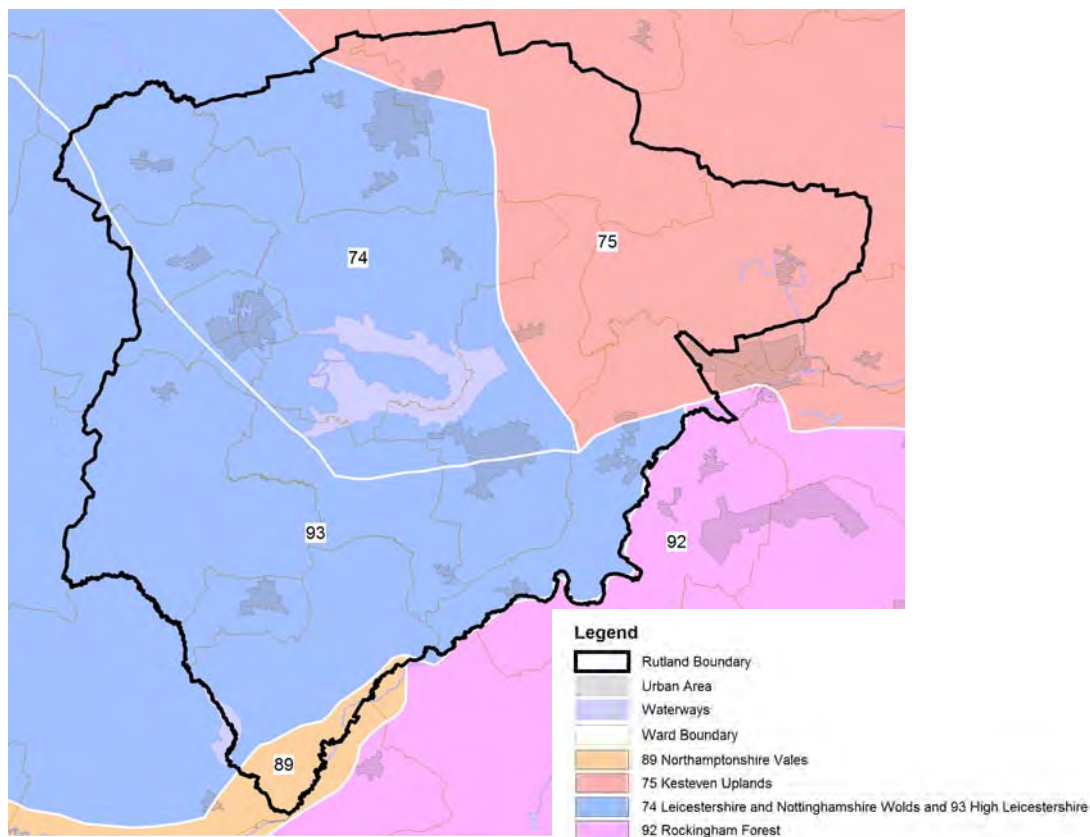
- 13.12 The nature of civic and market squares at the centre of major settlements ensures that accessibility is well catered for with walking, cycling and bus routes. As the two main towns have some civic and market square space there is limited likelihood for additional civic spaces to be developed unless either market town look to implement pedestrianised areas or extend existing pedestrianised routes.

14 Green Infrastructure

- 14.1 Green Infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green spaces. Although not part of PPG17 Green Infrastructure consists of all public and privately owned land and water networks including previously discussed typologies - allotments, amenity greenspace, green corridors, parks and gardens, play areas, natural and semi-natural areas, sports fields and cemeteries. The only typology not included within Green Infrastructure is Indoor Sports Provision.
- 14.2 The Green Infrastructure Guide for the East Midlands is described as: *'Networks of multi-functional green space which sits within and contribute to the type of high quality natural and built environment required to deliver sustainable communities'*.
- 14.3 Successful Green Infrastructure complements the built infrastructure and contributes to natural environment. Amongst a list of benefits it can improve sustainability, health and wellbeing, provide recreational and sporting opportunities, support and enhance biodiversity and improve environmental quality. Therefore it is an integral element of any new growth planning.
- 14.4 The Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands (RSS8) outlines the overarching Green Infrastructure planning and delivery principles to guide development in growth areas within the East Midlands. The Green Infrastructure principles for the region are to:
- Contribute to the management, conservation and enhancement of the local landscape
 - Contribute to the protection, conservation and management of historic landscape, archaeological and built heritage assets
 - Maintain and enhance biodiversity to ensure that development and implementation results in a net gain of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats
 - Provide connectivity and avoid the fragmentation of habitats, sites and natural features, to increase the potential for natural regeneration and the migration of species of flora and fauna, which may be affected by changing climatic or other conditions
 - Be designed to facilitate sustainable longer-term management
 - Be delivered through enhancement of existing woodlands and also by the creation of new woodlands and forest areas
 - Create new recreational facilities particularly those that present opportunities to link urban and countryside areas
 - Take account of and integrate with natural processes and systems
 - Be managed and funded in urban areas to accommodate nature, wildlife and historic and cultural assets, and provide for sport and recreation
 - Be designed to high standards of quality and sustainability to deliver social and economic, as well as environmental benefits
 - Provide a focus for social inclusion, community development and lifelong learning
- 14.5 These regional principles provide Rutland with a strategic direction for Green Infrastructure within the county. Green infrastructure is difficult to quantify due to its diverse nature. Several studies combine with the findings of this PPG17 open space review to assist in the identification of the Green Infrastructure network for Rutland.
- 14.6 The basis for Green Infrastructure in Rutland is the natural and cultural dimensions of the landscape. Natural England supported by English Heritage mapped the landscape in 2005 (An update of mapping produced in 1996). The Natural Areas classified are bio-geographic zones that reflect the geological foundation, the natural systems and processes and the

wildlife in different parts of England. There are 120 Natural Areas across the country, many of which coincide with Character Areas. There are 159 Character Areas, each of which is distinctive. These broad divisions of landscape form the basic units of cohesive countryside character, on which strategies for both ecological and landscape issues can be based.

Figure 16 Character areas



Note - boundaries indicate the location of broad transition zones from one character area to another

14.7 Rutland is intersected by four Character Areas⁵ with a fifth Character Area running along the border with North Northamptonshire. These areas include:

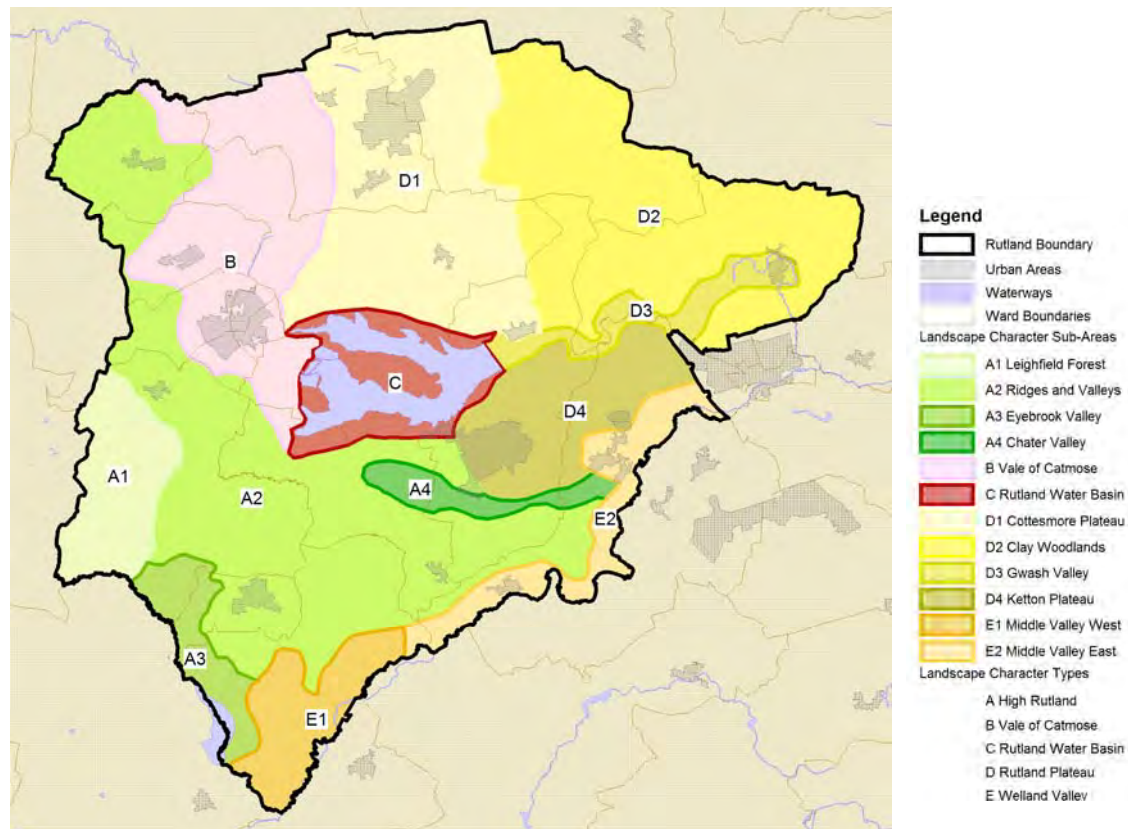
- 75 Kesteven Uplands (Lincolnshire and Rutland Limestone) - Medium-scale undulating mixed farming landscape dissected by rivers Witham and East and West Glen. Enclosure generally by hedgerows and more locally by stone walls to the south. Species rich verges and meadows.
- 93 High Leicestershire (Trent Valley and Rises) - Broad rolling ridges and varied, often steep-sided valleys.
- 74 Leicestershire and Nottingham Wolds (Trent Valley and Rises) - Rolling, glacial till ridges with small narrow valleys.
- 92 Rockingham Forest - Undulating landform rising to prominent scarp along edge of Welland Valley in Rockingham Forest.
- 89 Northamptonshire Vales (West Anglian Plain) - Gentle clay ridges and valleys with little woodland and strong patterns of Tudor and parliamentary enclosure.

14.8 The Character Areas form the backdrop for a more detailed assessment carried out for Rutland in 2003 the Landscape Character Assessment. The Character Assessment provides five landscape character types and number of sub-areas dividing the County in to

⁵ Natural England <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/englands/character/areas.aspx>
www.sportstructures.com

logical landscape sections and reflects for example, geology, landform (the shape of the land), soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement. Each Landscape area resulted in recommendations for sustainability of the landscape resources, which provide guidance to areas that require consideration as part of the wider green infrastructure network – see appendix C.

Figure 17 Landscape Character Types and Sub Areas



14.9 The basic characteristics of the landscape:

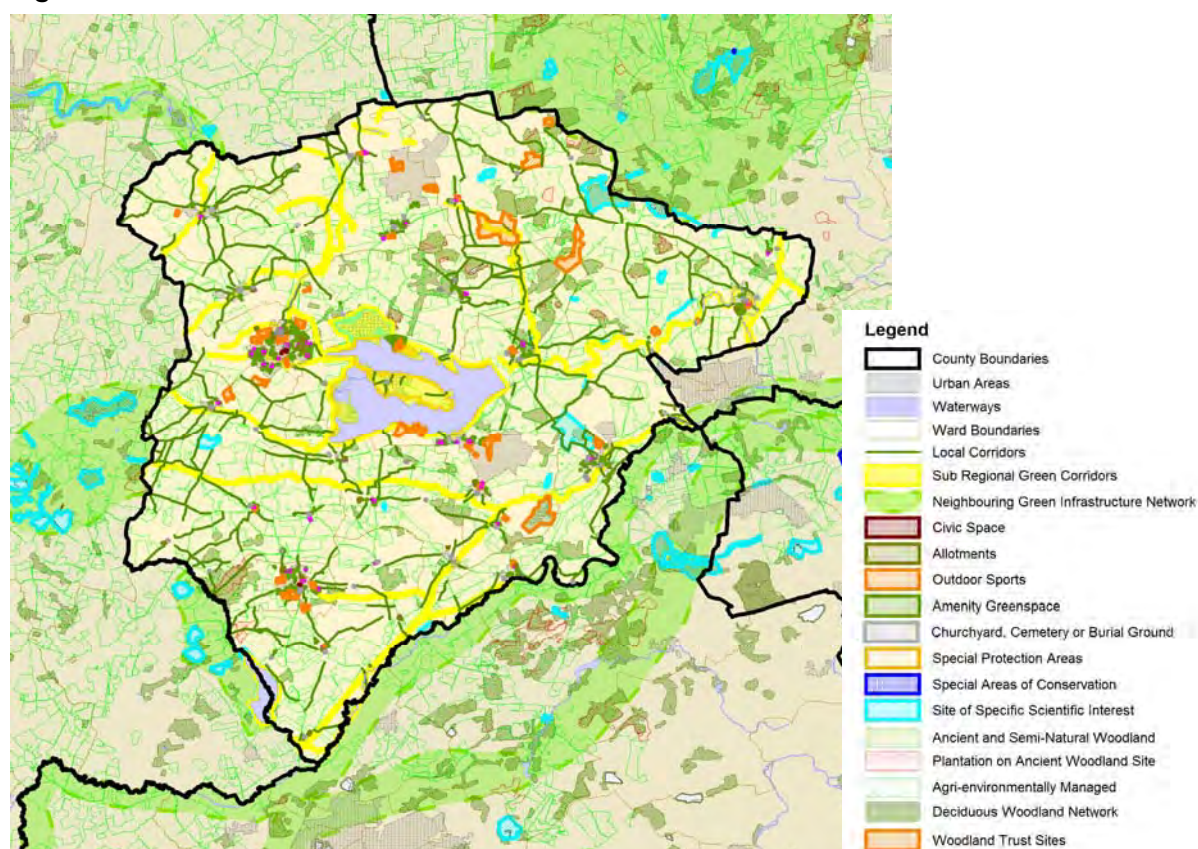
- A High Rutland - in the west and central parts of the County:
 - A1 Leighfield Forest - wooded, valleys and steep-sided ridges
 - A2 Ridges and Valleys - mixed-agricultural valleys and steep-sided ridges
 - A3 Eyebrook Valley - agricultural, valley, river, reservoir and woodlands
 - A4 Chater Valley - small-scale, enclosed well-wooded valley and river
- B Vale of Catmose - north and south of the town of Oakham
 - Mixed-agricultural vale, stone and tile villages, flat-bottomed valley basin and woodland.
- C Rutland Water Basin - based on the reservoir and its immediate surroundings
 - Reservoir landscape, woodland, wetland and other semi-natural habitats.
- D Rutland Plateau in the north and east of the County:
 - D1 Cottesmore Plateau - woodland, mixed arable and pastoral agricultural, hedgerows, trees, copses, spinneys and calcareous grasslands
 - D2 Clay Woodlands - large-scale agricultural landscape with substantial woodlands
 - D3 Gwash Valley - River corridor, narrow valley bottom, arable slopes, wetlands and woodlands
 - D4 Ketton Plateau - open, elevated, mixed arable and pastoral agricultural land, hedgerow trees, copses, spinneys and woodlands
- E Welland Valley - along much of the southern boundary of the County because the River Welland forms the boundary with Northamptonshire:
 - E1 Middle Valley West - flat, open valley floodplain landscape and valley slopes, bridges, viaduct and wetland habitats
 - E2 Middle Valley East - wooded, valley landscape, bridges and wetland habitats

14.10 In addition to the landscape resources there are a layer of Green Infrastructure assets that sit within the county. This assets layer is composed of the typologies which have been assessed earlier within the PPG17 review sections (Green Infrastructure excludes indoor sports facilities). The consolidation of these typologies provides an indication of the extent of the existing Green Infrastructure within Rutland.

Table 30 Green Infrastructure Assets Network

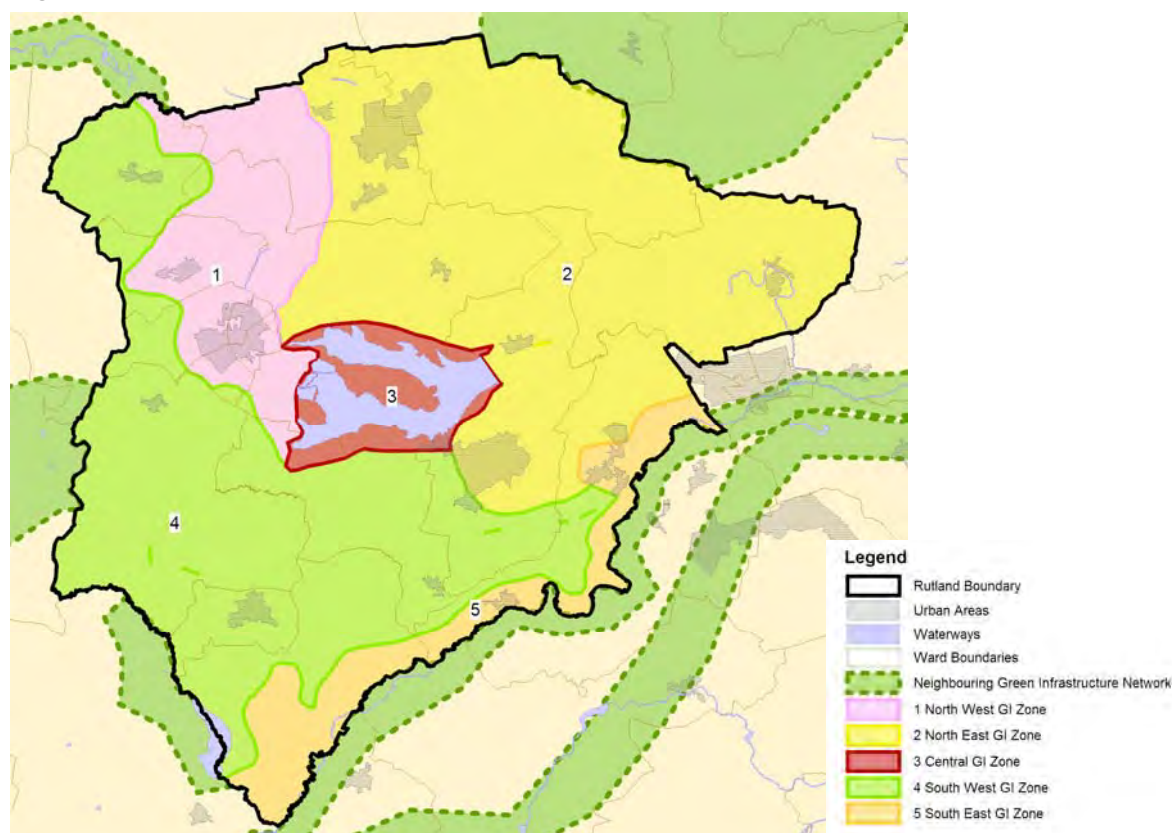
Assessment areas	Total sites/routes	Area Hectares
Parks and Gardens (Rutland Water Country Park)	1	1548.00
Amenity Greenspace	205	81.36
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspaces	179	8205.06
Agri-environmental land	120	23934.00
Green Corridors	490	Not applicable
Outdoor Sports Facilities	88	492.38
Provision for Children and Young People	58	5.65
Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	22	15.12
Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	63	20.94
Civic and market squares	3	0.60
Total for existing Green Infrastructure in Rutland	1315	34791.37
Total area of Rutland County	Not applicable	39250.00

Figure 18 Green Infrastructure Assets Network



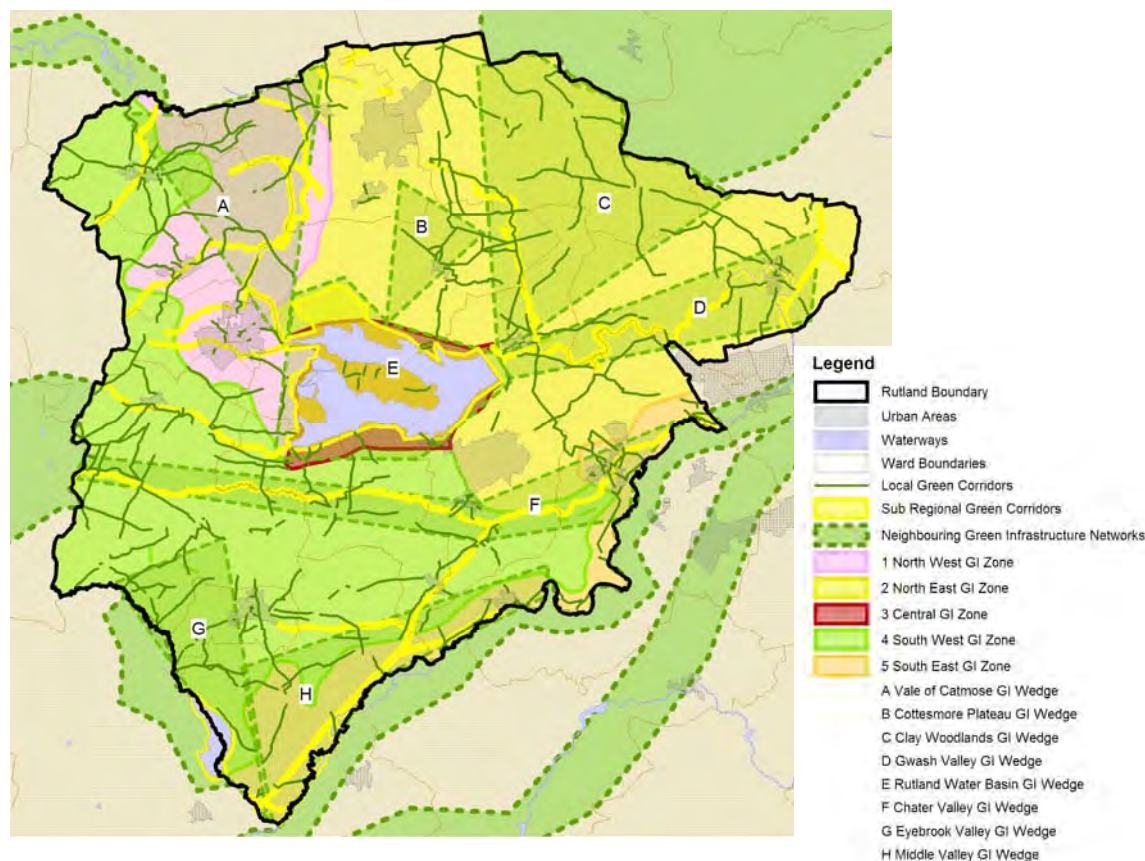
- 14.11 The total extent of the existing Green Infrastructure Assets Network in Rutland is 88.6% of the total area of the county; the remaining area consists of the built environment and land that is not agri-environmentally managed.
- 14.12 The Green Infrastructure Assets Network map illustrates all aspects of the network and the way in which aspects combine. The map also includes an overview of the counties that border Rutland as Green Infrastructure is not limited by administrative boundaries, consideration is given to:
- South Kesteven (South Kesteven Green Infrastructure Strategy),
 - North Northamptonshire (The Green Framework – Core Spatial strategy)
 - North Leicestershire (Melton and Harborough), and
 - 6C's New Growth Point (including parts of Leicestershire)
- 14.13 The appreciation of the wider regional infrastructure will ensure that there is broader connectivity through the region so that Rutland takes its part in the wider strategic network. As Green Infrastructure strategies and planning within adjoining counties are further developed amendments to Rutland's Green Infrastructure Strategies maybe required.
- 14.14 The Green Infrastructure Assets Network is complex with over lapping areas due to the multi-functional nature of the sites. The Green Infrastructure Assets Network can be simplified into a Green Infrastructure Framework for the County that considers how each aspect of the network contributes to the overall picture of the Green Infrastructure in Rutland. This in consideration of the Landscape characteristics highlights five Green Infrastructure Zones.

Figure 19 Green Infrastructure Framework



14.15 Each of the Green Infrastructure Zones have within them priority areas identified as Green Wedges. The Green Wedges are areas high in Green Infrastructure Assets. Eight Green Wedges have been identified which have been termed in relation to the landscape characteristics of the GI zones that they are within. Green Corridors previously identified have also been included to form sub-regional corridors that extend beyond the administrative borders of the county. The existing public rights of way create local corridors and opportunities to link with sub-regional corridors and Green Wedges.

Figure 20 Green Infrastructure Corridors and Wedges



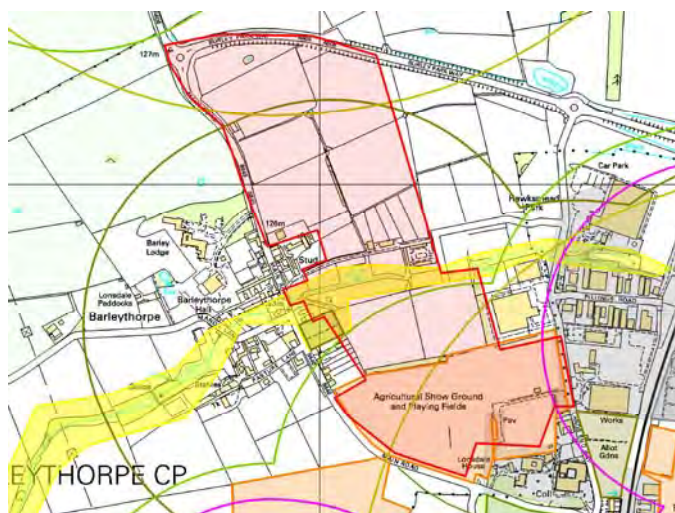
14.16 It should be recognised that there are Green Infrastructure assets that fall outside of the Green Wedges which should not be overlooked in terms of protection and support. This county wide picture provides a detailed overview of the Green Infrastructure and its links with surrounding counties. However it is also important to reflect on the Green Infrastructure at a local level in relation to the main settlements in Rutland.

14.17 The main settlements of Oakham and Uppingham have a number of Green Infrastructure Assets that are critical to the landscape character and wellbeing of the existing population. Population growth within Rutland will be focused on these two settlements within sustainable urban extensions.

14.18 The preferred approaches outlined in the Core Strategy for sustainable urban extensions to the North West of Oakham and Uppingham will have an impact on existing Green Infrastructure. The following maps provide outlines of the Green Infrastructure Assets and the relevant catchment areas.

14.19 Within Oakham the approach outlined in the Core Strategy suggests a development of about 1,000 dwellings in a Sustainable Urban Extension. This will impact on the Outdoor Sports Provision at the Showground, Barleythorpe Brooke, Barleythorpe Allotments and local corridors extending towards Barleythorpe.

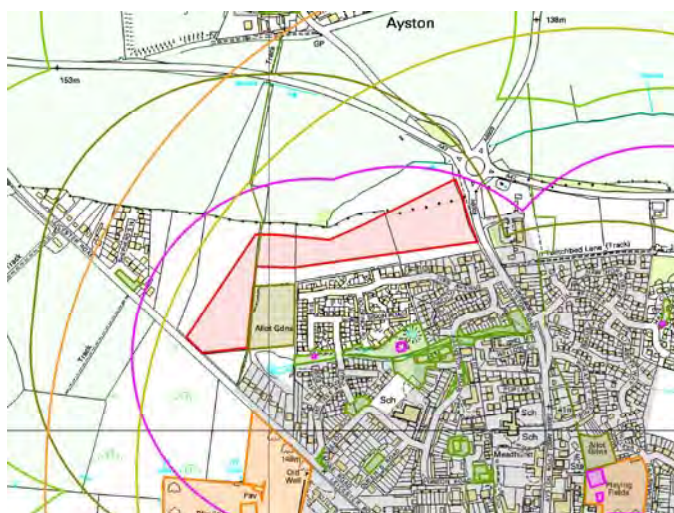
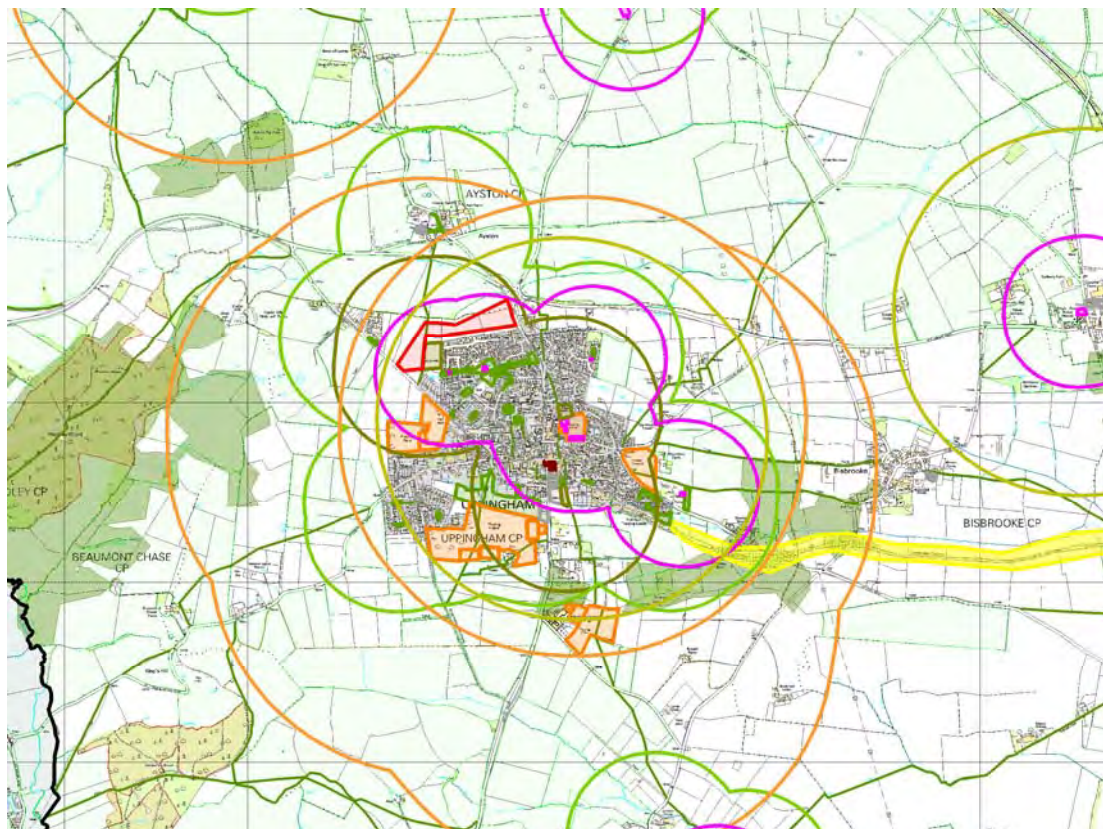
Figure 21 Green Infrastructure Assets Oakham



- Legend**
- County Boundaries
 - Urban Areas
 - Waterways
 - Ward Boundaries
 - Local Corridors
 - Sub Regional Green Corridors
 - Region
 - Civic Space
 - Churchyard, Cemetery or Burial Ground
 - Amenity Greenspace
 - Amenity Greenspace 10 minute Catchment
 - Allotments
 - Allotments 10 minute Catchment
 - Outdoor Sports
 - Sports Pitch 1.2km Catchment
 - Play Areas LEAPS
 - Play Areas LEAPS 400m Catchment
 - Play Areas NEAPS
 - Play Areas NEAPS 1000m Catchment
 - Woodland Trust Sites
 - Special Protection Areas
 - Special Areas of Conservation
 - Site of Specific Scientific Interest
 - Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland
 - Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
 - Agri-environmentally Managed
 - Deciduous Woodland Network
 - Sustainable Urban Extension

14.20 Within Uppingham the approach outlined in the Core Strategy suggests a development of about 250 dwellings in a Sustainable Urban Extension. The Sustainable Urban Extension will impact on the existing allotments at Leicester Road and local corridor routes to Ayston.

Figure 22 Green Infrastructure Assets Uppingham



- Legend**
- County Boundaries
 - Urban Areas
 - Waterways
 - Ward Boundaries
 - Local Corridors
 - Sub Regional Green Corridors
 - Region
 - Civic Space
 - Churchyard, Cemetery or Burial Ground
 - Amenity Greenspace
 - Amenity Greenspace 10 minute Catchment
 - Allotments
 - Allotments 10 minute Catchment
 - Outdoor Sports
 - Sports Pitch 1.2km Catchment
 - Play Areas LEAPS
 - Play Areas LEAPS 400m Catchment
 - Play Areas NEAPS
 - Play Areas NEAPS 1000m Catchment
 - Woodland Trust Sites
 - Special Protection Areas
 - Special Areas of Conservation
 - Site of Specific Scientific Interest
 - Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland
 - Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
 - Agri-environmentally Managed
 - Deciduous Woodland Network
 - Sustainable Urban Extension

Recommendations

- 14.21 **Integrate Green Infrastructure with Planning** - We recommend that the Council integrates Green Infrastructure within its planning system through appropriate inclusion within local development frameworks and supplementary planning documents to ensure that existing provision is protected. The typologies involved in Green Infrastructure impact upon a number of different council departments, there is need for a coordinated approach to ensure that all areas are considered in improvement plans to meet the needs of Rutland in the future.
- 14.22 **Adhere to Regional Strategic Framework** - We suggest that the county meet the regions strategic framework by:
- Protecting and enhancing existing natural, historic and recreational assets including recreational routes and sports facilities and countryside character
 - Improving the management of existing assets and provision of new Green Infrastructure to meet growth requirements
 - Establishing a network of multi-functional greenspaces in urban areas, urban fringe and the wider countryside, as part of the process of developing more sustainable, safer, secure and attractive natural built and form
 - Ensuring good accessibility of Green Infrastructure provision that promotes healthy lifestyles and can be used for formal and informal recreational and educational purposes
 - Maintaining and increasing the local area's stock of strategic Green Infrastructure assets
- 14.23 The recommendations for the Green Infrastructure have been divided into the five GI Zones and where relevant into the GI wedges: North West GI Zone, North East GI Zone, Central GI Zone, South West GI Zone and South East GI Zone.

North West GI Zone

- 14.24 *Vale of Catmose GI Wedge* – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:
- **Improve access to Disused Canal** - Improve access at the south of this wedge to increase routes to the disused Oakham- Melton Canal particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. This could link to existing local corridors to the North of Oakham. Routes from Langham and Whissendine could also be linked into the Vale.
 - **Agricultural Land Boundaries** - Agricultural land with limited boundaries and hedgerow gaps should be addressed to provide further biodiversity and migration routes. Land running alongside the railway should where possible, be left wild.
- 14.25 *Sustainable Urban Extension Oakham* - Existing catchments indicate that the preferred approach for Sustainable Urban Extension in Oakham will require:
- **Additional Allotments** - Further allotments to the North of the planned extension should be provided as the existing Barleythorpe Allotments walking catchment does not extend to the northern edge of the development.
 - **Extension of Allotments** - The Barleythorpe allotments should be retained and extended to meet demands from the population anticipated within the Sustainable Urban Extension.

- **Additional Amenity Green Spaces** - There needs to be network of amenity greenspaces provided as currently only the area south of the Brook are within a waking catchment of amenity greenspaces. Amenity greenspaces within the Sustainable Urban Extension would also provide greater satisfaction with the quality of the environment.
- **Brooke Buffer Zone** - Barleythorpe Brooke should have a buffer zone of at least 3-4 metres from each bank to ensure that the wildlife migration route is protected. This should also be developed to become a recreational local corridor for residents to access the Brooke as a route into Barleythorpe and Oakham.
- **Additional Children's and Young People Provision** - There should be at least one NEAP created at a central point to the urban extension this could be combined with a LEAP although there may need to be two leaps one south of the Brooke and one north of the Brooke to ensure the catchments cover the population of the urban extension and existing residents in Barleythorpe. The additional provision should meet the standards outlined in Fields in Trust Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play.
- **Compensatory Playing Pitch Provision** - The loss of playing pitches at the Showground will need to be replaced with compensatory provision. Including: A rugby club facility with a minimum three senior pitches and one junior pitch, a floodlit training area, clubhouse with changing and social facilities, grounds store and adequate car parking. One of the rugby pitches could be left undeveloped at this stage but the space is necessary to manage growth in demand. There should also be a minimum three senior and three junior football pitches to cater for existing demand with space for a further two pitches.
- **Transport Corridor Buffer Zone** - The existing transport corridor of Barleythorpe Road should be enhanced by ensuring that there is a designated buffer zone of greenspace alongside the road to protect migration routes, habitats and landscaping. A buffer zone that includes existing mature trees and planting would also provide a screening to the urban extension that would help to reduce traffic noise for residents and provide attractive landscaping.

14.26 *Other considerations within the North West GI Zone* – Several other priority areas should be considered including:

- **Extend Access to Woodland** - Improve access to woodland by linking and extending local corridors/footpaths. Land adjacent to the existing Woodland Trust Sites such as Gorse Field, Harris Grove and Balls Meadows and The Seek should remain undeveloped for future extensions of these areas of woodland.

North East GI Zone

14.27 *Cottesmore Plateau GI Wedge* – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Extend Access to Woodland** - Woodland around Exton such as Tunneley Wood, Cottesmore Wood and Westland Wood have areas of ancient woodland these should be protected and enhanced. Improve access by linking and extending local corridors/footpaths for recreational use.

14.28 *Clay Woodlands GI Wedge* – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Protect SSSIs and Woodland** - There are several areas Sites of Special Scientific Interest in this area including Empingham Marshy Meadows, Bloody Oaks Quarry, Clipsham Old Quarry & Pickworth Great Wood, Newell Wood, Greetham Meadows. In addition there are many areas of woodland such as Stretton, Osborall, Greetham near and far and Clipsham Park.
- **Extend Access to Woodland** - Improve access to woodland by linking and extending local corridors/footpaths. Land adjacent to the existing George Henry Wood should be considered for extending this community Woodland Trust Site.

14.29 *Gwash Valley GI Wedge* – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Create of multi-functional corridor** - The Gwash Valley should be protected as a multi-functional corridor providing wildlife and recreational access from Belmesthorpe, Ryhall, Little Casterton, Great Casterton, Tickencote through to Rutland Water. It should be ensured that any recreational provision does not impact upon the Sites of Special Scientific Interest such as Tickencote Marshes or Shacklewell Hollow.

Central GI Zone

14.30 *Rutland Water Basin GI Wedge* – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Protect Rutland Water** - Work with Anglian Water should continue to ensure the continued use of Rutland Water as a multi-purpose green space for wildlife, local recreation and tourism. Settlements in proximity to the reservoir should be protected from significant development to ensure the existing greenspace is maintained.
- **Extend Access to Woodland** - Burley and Rushpit wood provide additional interest due their proximity to Oakham direct local corridors should be created to make them more openly accessible.

South East GI Zone

14.31 *Middle Valley GI Wedge* – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Cross Border Working** - Work with collaboratively with North Northamptonshire in relation to the Welland Way and sections of the Sub Regional corridor - Willow Brook. Although there are no distinct woodland areas the valley and river features should be protected with by restricting developments from nearby settlements.
- **Develop access to Disused Railway** - The disused railway network could be developed in to a multi-functional route that links settlements in the south of the county providing a recreational resource that could extend as far as Uppingham, Barrowden and South Luffenham.

South West GI Zone

14.32 *Chater Valley GI Wedge* – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Enhance and Protect Valley** - Chater valley intersects the county from east to west. This valley should be protected as a wildlife route with access provided from the nearby settlements for recreational use. The railway runs alongside the valley from Manton to Ketton causing this section of the route to be less appropriate for recreational therefore environmental initiatives should be focused in this section to further enhance the habitat and migration route.

14.33 *Eyebrook Valley GI Wedge* – This GI wedge requires several priority areas to be addressed including:

- **Cross Border Working** - Work with collaboratively with Harborough District Authority in relation to Eyebrook Reservoir as it crosses the administrative boundaries to ensure access to the reservoir and potentially develop a circular route around the reservoir to potentially connect with Eyebrook Valley Woods.
- **Extend Access to Woodland** - Protect and enhance Wardley and Stoke Dry woods that offer community access by providing additional linking local and sub regional corridors from Uppingham and surrounding settlements.
- **Extend Access to Reservoir** – Provide additional route for cycling and walking for direct access from Uppingham to the reservoir.

14.34 *Sustainable Urban Extension Uppingham* - Existing catchments indicate that the preferred approach for Sustainable Urban Extension in Uppingham will require:

- **Enhancement of Local Corridor** – The existing corridor that links Leicester Road to Ayston should be maintained and enhanced as a recreational route, this should include the introduction of cycle routes enabling improved access to Uppingham.
- **Extension of Allotments** - The Leicester Road allotments should be retained and extended to meet demands from the population anticipated within the Sustainable Urban Extension.
- **Improve Amenity Greenspace** – The area of open space to the south of the Leicester Road Allotments should be cleared and maintained to make an access point to amenity greenspace and play provision at Lime Tree Avenue and Goldfinch Road Play Area.
- **Transport Corridor Buffer Zone** – A buffer zone of greenspace alongside the Ayston Road and Leicester Road should be created to protect migration routes, habitats and landscaping. Additional trees and planting could assist to screen the urban extension.
- **Additional Children's and Young People Provision** – Although the urban extension falls within the catchment of one NEAP and two LEAPs. Lime Tree Avenue Play Area fall short of the minimum size (400m²). Additional provision should therefore be included within the sustainable urban extension such as a LEAP or alternative provision to a LEAP would be a Local Landscaped Area for Play

which should meet the standards outlined in Fields in Trust Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play.

- 14.35 **Working towards the regions strategic framework will require suitable resourcing; this may in part come from developer contributions although other sources will also be required. This review document will inform the development of Provision Standards Guidance for developer contributions and Policy Guidance.**

Appendix A: Assessment Score Sheets

Quality Scoring Assessment

	Very Good (5)	Good (4)	Average (3)	Poor (2)	Very Poor (1)
Vandalism	No evidence of vandalism or graffiti	Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti	Some evidence of vandalism or graffiti but doesn't really detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area	Increasing evidence of vandalism and graffiti which would probably deter some users	Clear evidence of vandalism and graffiti which would probably deter any usage of the open space site
Litter Problems	No evidence of litter	Limited evidence of litter	Some evidence of litter but doesn't detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area	Increasing evidence of litter which would probably deter some users	Clear evidence of litter which would probably deter any usage of the open space site
Dog Fouling	No evidence of dog fouling, specific fouling wastage bins provided where appropriate	Limited evidence of dog fouling	Some evidence of dog fouling but doesn't really detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area	Increasing evidence of dog fouling which would probably deter some users, no specific bins provided in appropriate areas	Clear evidence of dog fouling which would probably deter any usage of the open space site
Noise	Very quiet and peaceful site, no intrusion by any noise	Limited intrusion by noise, ie site located away from roads, railways, works sites etc	Little intrusion by noise (eg busy road, railway nearby) but wouldn't really deter usage of the site	Noise intrusion apparent, may have some affect on potential usage	Noise intrusion clearly apparent and would deter some users
Equipment (eg condition and maintenance)	Equipment in excellent condition and provides an attraction for users	Equipment in good condition	Equipment in reasonable condition, some potential improvements but not necessary at this stage	Some equipment in poor condition and obvious that improvements could be made	Majority of equipment in poor condition and in a state of disrepair
Smells (Unattractive)	No unattractive smells	Limited unattractive smells	Little unattractive smells or some smells that would be a one off shouldn't deter any usage	Some unattractive more permanent smells, may deter some users	Clearly some unattractive smells, would deter some users
Maintenance and Management	Clean and tidy, well-maintained site that is inviting to users, possibly an example of good practice	Clean and tidy site, good maintenance	Reasonably clean and tidy site, some potential improvements	Some questions regarding the cleanliness of the site, some obvious improvements could be made	Poor cleanliness, lack of maintenance
Lighting	Appropriate lighting that promotes the safety of the open space, well maintained	Appropriate lighting, well maintained	Some lighting, some general improvements could made	Limited lighting, or appropriate lighting in poor condition	None or limited lighting or in poor condition
Equipment (eg protection of equipment and appropriate surface)	Equipment in excellent condition, excellent surfaces provided throughout the site,	Equipment in good condition, appropriate and suitable surfaces provided throughout the majority of the site,	Equipment in reasonable condition, appropriate surfaces provided but some potential improvements,	Equipment in poor condition, some questions regarding safety of use, appropriate surfaces provided but in poor condition/concerns regarding surfaces,	Equipment in a very poor condition, clear questions regarding safety of use, inappropriate surfaces
Boundaries (including hedges and fencing)	Clearly defined and well-maintained to a high standard	Clearly defined and maintained to a reasonable standard	Mostly clearly defined but possibly improvements to be made to the standard and condition	Poorly defined and some questions regarding the standard and condition	Poorly defined and in state of disrepair
Planted areas	Numerous planting, with appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a very high standard, no weeds	Numerous planting with appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a reasonable to a reasonable standard, very few weeds	Appropriate range of vegetation and plants but with some patchy maintenance	Limited range of vegetation and plants but reasonable maintenance	Limited range of vegetation and plants, poor maintenance with some areas clearly suffering
Grass areas	Full grass cover throughout, cleanly cut and in excellent colour and condition	Full grass cover throughout and cleanly cut, few weeds but generally in good condition	Grass cover throughout but with some thin patches or excessive growth in some areas, some bald areas and a few weeds but generally in good condition	General grass cover but some significant areas thin, saturated and/or poorly maintained, cut infrequently	General grass cover but with some serious wear and tear and/or limited grass cover in many areas, little or no serious attempt to correct the problem
Toilets	Provided where appropriate, easy to access, signed and well maintained	Provided where appropriate, easy access, some minor improvements could be made (eg cleanliness)	Provided where appropriate, reasonable access, generally not very well maintained	Insufficient toilets provided, or those provided are in poor condition and likely to be generally avoided by open space users	No toilets in place that should be provided or some provided but in state of disrepair that are unlikely to be used
Parking (related to open spaces)	On site parking provided adequate number, clean and in good condition, well signposted	On site or appropriate off site parking provided, adequate number, generally clean but some improvements could be made	Appropriate off site parking provided some limit in terms of spaces, generally clean	No on site and limited off site parking provided or adequate number of spaces but in poor condition	Parking provision limited and in poor condition
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	Numerous bins provided and in good condition, in right locations and clearly labelled for appropriate purpose	Numerous bins provided and in average condition clearly visible and in appropriate locations	Adequate number provided and in average condition some signs or overuse/ damage	Insufficient number provided but in average/good condition or appropriate number but with significant signs of damage	Insufficient number provided and in poor condition
Seats/Benches	Numerous for the size of site and in good condition	Numerous for the size of site and in average condition	Adequate for the size of site and in good condition	Insufficient number but in good condition, or adequate number	Insufficient number and in poor condition
Pathways (within the open space sites)	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, surfaces clean, debris and weed free and in excellent condition	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, little debris and/or weeds but overall in good condition, good disabled access in most areas	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges reasonably well defined, some debris and/or weeds but doesn't detract too much from overall appearance, disabled access in some areas	Suitable materials but some faults, some difficulty with defined edges, debris and/or weeds detract slightly from appearances some difficulties with disabled access	Inappropriate materials and/or significant faults, edges not clearly defined, significant debris and/or weeds limited disabled access or very restricted
Information & signage	Information clearly displayed in various formats (eg notice boards, leaflets etc), signage in good condition	Information clearly displayed in appropriate format signage in good condition	Appropriate information displayed in some format condition of signage reasonable	Limited information displayed, signage that is provided in poor condition	No information displayed in appropriate areas, no signage

Accessibility Scoring Assessment

	Very Good (5)	Good (4)	Average (3)	Poor (2)	Very Poor (1)
Entrance to the sites (ie are the entrances to sites easily seen easily accessible)	Easy to find, with a welcoming sign, appropriate size, clean and inviting and easily accessible for all users including less able-bodied people	Clear entrance and well maintained appropriate size and clean	Fairly obvious entrance that is maintained to a reasonable level and which is clean and accessible to most potential users	Apparent as an entrance but no clear signage, not as well maintained as it could be, some users may have difficulty with access	Poor or limited entrance, no signage, difficulty with access and not maintained appropriately
Roads, pathways, cycleways, and/or accesses	Suitable materials, level for safe use and in excellent condition, cycle stands provided and separate clearly marked routes for cycles, pedestrians and other traffic etc	Suitable materials and overall in good condition, some cycle stands provided where appropriate and easy and safe access within the site for cycles, pedestrians and other traffic	Suitable materials, reasonable access for pedestrians and cycles etc but no real separate defined areas where appropriate	Some potential improvements to some surfaces, some difficulty with general access within the site	Inappropriate surfaces and/or significant faults, limited restrictions or access for pedestrians and cycles, usage would be clearly affected
Disabled Access	Good disabled access throughout, specific facilities and pathways provided	Good disabled access in most areas	Disabled access in some areas, some improvements could be made	Some difficulties with disabled access	Limited disabled access or very restricted
Accessible by public transport	Excellent public transport links provided where appropriate, bus stop located at the site and/or train station in very close proximity	Good public transport links, bus stop located nearby, and/or train station within reasonable walking distance	Reasonable public transport links but would not be first choice of accessible transport, bus stop located within reasonable walking distance	Limited public transport links, bus stop located a significant walking distance away (more than 10-15 minutes)	No public transport links within any reasonable walking distance of the site
Accessible by cycleways	Clear separated cycle routes to and within the site, cycle stands provided in appropriate places	Some cycle routes to and/or within the site, local roads quiet and safe for cyclists, cycle stands provided in some places	Easy access for cyclists although no specific routes provided, local roads fairly quiet and safe, cycle stands provided or suitable areas to lock cycles	Limited access for cyclists, not really encouraged by design and/or location of site, no cycle stands provided but some areas to lock cycles	No real access for cyclists, not really encouraged by design and/or location of site, access via busy dangerous roads, no cycle stands provided and/or no clearly evident areas to lock cycles
Accessible by walking	Clearly defined pathways/walkways to and within the open space site, pedestrian crossings provided where appropriate	Pathways/walkways provided to and within the open space site, some crossing of roads required without assistance but no real safety issues regarding access for pedestrians	Some pathways/ walkways provided to and/or within the open space site, some crossing of roads required without assistance, some potential for improvements	Limited pathways/ walkways provided to and/or within the open space site or pathways provided not clearly defined, some safety issues regarding access for pedestrians	No clear pathways/ walkways provided to and/or within open space site, significant safety issues regarding access for pedestrians
Signage (ie is the signage to the open spaces appropriate where required and clear to see and easy to follow)	Site clearly signposted outside the site, signage in good condition, signage within site easy to follow and understand	Site is signposted with signage in good condition, some signage within the site	Signage within or outside the site, some improvements could be made, condition of signage reasonable	Site not signposted and/or signage that is provided in poor condition and uninviting	No information displayed in appropriate areas, no signage



Appendix B: Current provision standards

Assessment areas	Recommended Standard	Total for ALL sites (restricted and community access)			Total for ALL unrestricted community access sites		
		Number of sites/routes	Area (Hectares)	Provision per 1000 population	Number of sites/routes	Area (Hectares)	Provision per 1000 population
Parks and Gardens	0.4 ha per 1000 population	1	1548.00	40.3	-	-	-
Amenity Greenspace		205	81.36	2.12	198	56.35	1.47
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspaces	No Standard	179	8205.06	0.2	-	-	-
Agri-environmental land		120	23934.00	-	-	-	-
Green Corridors (Public Rights of Way)	No Standard	490	-	-	-	-	-
Green Corridors (Other Routes)	No Standard	7	-	-	-	-	-
Outdoor Sports Facilities (total ALL facilities)	1.9 ha per 1000 population	88	492.38	12.8	38	298.35	7.8
Primary/special school Playing Fields		21	13.54	0.35			
Outdoor Sports Facilities (pitches)		26	114.80	2.99	15	39.12	1.02
Outdoor Sports Facilities (excl. pitches)*		33	359.92	9.80	10	259.20	6.75
Provision for Children and Young People	0.6 ha per 1000 population	58	5.65	0.15	45	4.74	0.12
Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	0.4 ha per 1000 population	22	15.12	0.4	22	15.12	0.4
Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	No Standard	62	20.94	0.55	62	20.94	0.55
Civic and market squares	No Standard	3	0.60	0.02	3	0.60	0.02
Total for existing Green Infrastructure in Rutland		1213	34295.46	-	-	-	-
Indoor Sports Facilities		69	26563.6 sq m	768.6 sq m	35	10951.6 sq m	316.9 sq m

* This assessment excludes angling, cycling and watersports due to the nature of these activities.

^The population data used is 2007 mid year population estimates Rutland total 38,400

~ This assessment includes waterways, disused canals, railways, quarries

 Less than the minimum standard recommended	 More than the minimum standard recommended
--	---

Amenity Greenspace - Provision Standard recommendation 0.4 hectares per 1000 population

	Total Provision (ha)	Unrestricted community access (ha)	Population (2001 Census data – ONS)	Total Provision (per 1,000 population)	Unrestricted community access (per 1,000 population)	Above / Below Minimum Standard (total provision + or -)
Rutland	81.197	56.349	34563	2.349	1.630	+1.230
Braunston and Belton	1.435	0.829	1263	1.136	0.656	+0.256
Cottesmore	2.722	2.722	2941	0.926	0.926	+0.526
Exton	14.876	1.306	1736	8.569	0.752	+0.352
Greetham	0.789	0.789	1678	0.470	0.470	+0.070
Ketton	7.662	7.662	2469	3.103	3.103	+2.703
Langham	1.189	1.189	1042	1.141	1.141	+0.741
Lyddington	3.39	3.39	1318	2.572	2.572	+2.172
Martinsthorpe	2.193	2.193	1146	1.914	1.914	+1.514
Normanton	6.416	6.416	3019	2.125	2.125	+1.725
Oakham North East	6.123	4.714	2881	2.125	1.636	+1.236
Oakham North West	8.19	4.652	3035	2.699	1.533	+1.133
Oakham South East	10.446	9.398	2059	5.073	4.564	+4.164
Oakham South West	1.832	1.832	2248	0.815	0.815	+0.415
Ryhall and Casterton	4.967	4.967	2662	1.866	1.866	+1.466
Uppingham	8.268	3.591	3947	2.095	0.910	+0.510
Whissendine	0.209	0.209	1189	0.176	0.176	-0.224

Outdoor Sports and Recreation (and Playing Fields) - Provision Standard recommendation 1.9 hectares per 1000 population

	Total Provision (ha)	Unrestricted community access (ha)	Population (2001 Census data – ONS)	Total Provision (per 1,000 population)	Unrestricted community access (per 1,000 population)	Above / Below Minimum Standard (total provision + or -)
Rutland	492.377	299.34	34563	14.246	8.661	+6.761
Braunston and Belton	1.612	1.449	1263	1.276	1.147	-0.753
Cottesmore	23.99	1.794	2941	8.157	0.610	-1.290
Exton	6.578	0.019	1736	3.789	0.011	-1.889
Greetham	127.344	120.519	1678	75.890	71.823	+69.923
Ketton	98.938	21.934	2469	40.072	8.884	+6.984
Langham	13.267	12.34	1042	12.732	11.843	+9.943
Lyddington	0.066	0.066	1318	0.050	0.050	-1.850
Martinsthorpe	0	0	1146	0.000	0.000	-1.900
Normanton	63.177	57.013	3019	20.926	18.885	+16.985
Oakham North East	19.145	0	2881	6.645	0.000	-1.900
Oakham North West	21.2	11.15	3035	6.985	3.674	+1.774
Oakham South East	2.311	1.73	2059	1.122	0.840	-1.060
Oakham South West	1.723	0	2248	0.766	0.000	-1.900
Ryhall and Casterton	73.537	67.017	2662	27.625	25.175	+23.275
Uppingham	36.805	1.623	3947	9.325	0.411	-1.489
Whissendine	2.685	2.685	1189	2.258	2.258	+0.358

Indoor Sports and Recreation - Provision Standard recommendation 500 sq m per 1000 population

	Total Provision (sq m)	Unrestricted community access (sq m)	Population (2001 Census data – ONS)	Total Provision (per 1,000 population)	Unrestricted community access (per 1,000 population)	Above / Below Minimum Standard (total provision + or -)
Rutland	26563.6	10951.6	34563	768.556	316.859	-183.141
Braunston and Belton	1160	1160	1263	918.448	918.448	+418.448
Cottesmore	2554	870	2941	868.412	295.818	-204.182
Exton	2245	1160	1736	1293.203	668.203	+168.203
Greetham	893.3	893.3	1678	532.360	532.360	+32.360
Ketton	870	870	2469	352.369	352.369	-147.631
Langham	448	448	1042	429.942	429.942	-70.058
Lyddington	1160	1160	1318	880.121	880.121	+380.121
Martinsthorpe	1160	1160	1146	1012.216	1012.216	+512.216
Normanton	3354	1160	3019	1110.964	384.233	-115.767
Oakham North East	1794	0	2881	622.700	0.000	-500.000
Oakham North West	3073	400	3035	1012.521	131.796	-368.204
Oakham South East	400	0	2059	194.269	0.000	-500.000
Oakham South West	1200	0	2248	533.808	0.000	-500.000
Ryhall and Casterton	2554	1160	2662	959.429	435.763	-64.237
Uppingham	3478	290	3947	881.176	73.474	-426.526
Whissendine	220.3	220.3	1189	185.282	185.282	-314.718

Provision for Children and Young People - Provision Standard recommendation 0.6 hectares per 1000 population (0.25 hectares for equipped provision)

	Total Provision (ha)	Unrestricted community access (ha)	Population (2001 Census data – ONS)	Total Provision (per 1,000 population)	Unrestricted community access (per 1,000 population)	Above / Below Minimum Standard 0.6ha. (total provision + or -)	Above / Below Minimum Standard 0.25ha. (total provision + or -)
Rutland	5.684	4.723	34563	0.16	0.14	-0.46	-0.11
Braunston and Belton	0.601	0.601	1263	0.48	0.48	-0.12	+0.23
Cottesmore	0.658	0.541	2941	0.22	0.18	-0.42	-0.07
Exton	0.26	0.112	1736	0.15	0.06	-0.54	-0.19
Greetham	0.097	0.097	1678	0.06	0.06	-0.54	-0.19
Ketton	0.185	0.185	2469	0.07	0.07	-0.53	-0.18
Langham	0.146	0.146	1042	0.14	0.14	-0.46	-0.11
Lyddington	0.274	0.274	1318	0.21	0.21	-0.39	-0.04
Martinsthorpe	0.362	0.362	1146	0.32	0.32	-0.28	+0.07
Normanton	0.883	0.56	3019	0.29	0.19	-0.41	-0.06
Oakham North East	0.303	0.204	2881	0.11	0.07	-0.53	-0.18
Oakham North West	0.091	0.041	3035	0.03	0.01	-0.59	-0.24
Oakham South East	0.453	0.422	2059	0.22	0.20	-0.40	-0.05
Oakham South West	0.118	0.017	2248	0.05	0.01	-0.59	-0.24
Ryhall and Casterton	0.707	0.614	2662	0.27	0.23	-0.37	-0.02
Uppingham	0.492	0.492	3947	0.12	0.12	-0.48	-0.13
Whissendine	0.054	0.054	1189	0.05	0.05	-0.55	-0.20

Allotments and Community Gardens - Provision Standard recommendation 0.4 hectares per 1000 population

	Total Provision (ha)	Unrestricted community access (ha)	Population (2001 Census data – ONS)	Total Provision (per 1,000 population)	Unrestricted community access (per 1,000 population)	Above / Below Minimum Standard (total provision + or -)
Rutland	15.122	15.122	34563	0.438	0.438	+0.048
Braunston and Belton	0.064	0.064	1263	0.051	0.051	-0.339
Cottesmore			2941	0.000	0.000	-0.390
Exton	0.096	0.096	1736	0.055	0.055	-0.335
Greetham			1678	0.000	0.000	-0.390
Ketton	1.071	1.071	2469	0.434	0.434	+0.044
Langham	0.705	0.705	1042	0.677	0.677	+0.287
Lyddington	0.600	0.600	1318	0.455	0.455	+0.065
Martinsthorpe	1.291	1.291	1146	1.127	1.127	+0.737
Normanton	1.062	1.062	3019	0.352	0.352	-0.038
Oakham North East	1.190	1.190	2881	0.413	0.413	+0.023
Oakham North West	2.137	2.137	3035	0.704	0.704	+0.314
Oakham South East	3.837	3.837	2059	1.864	1.864	+1.474
Oakham South West			2248	0.000	0.000	-0.390
Ryhall and Casterton	0.780	0.780	2662	0.293	0.293	-0.097
Uppingham	2.214	2.214	3947	0.561	0.561	+0.171
Whissendine	0.074	0.074	1189	0.062	0.062	-0.328

Ward/Parish Look up table

Wards	Parishes
Braunston and Belton	The parishes of Ayston, Belton-in-Rutland, Braunston-in-Rutland, Brooke, Leighfield, Preston, Ridlington and Wardley
Cottesmore	The parishes of Barrow, Cottesmore, Market Overton and Teigh
Exton	The parishes of Ashwell, Burley, Egleton, Exton, Hambleton, Horn and Whitwell
Greetham	The parishes of Clipsham, Greetham, Pickworth, Stretton and Thistleton
Ketton	The parishes of Barrowden, Ketton, Tinwell and Tixover
Langham	The parish of Langham
Lyddington	The parishes of Bisbrooke, Caldecott, Glaston, Lyddington, Seaton, Stoke Dry and Thorpe By Water
Martinsthorpe	The parishes of Gunthorpe, Lyndon, Manton, Martinsthorpe, Morcott, Pilton and Wing
Normanton	The parishes of Edith Weston, Empingham, Normanton, North Luffenham and South Luffenham
Oakham North East	No parishes
Oakham North West	No parishes
Oakham South East	No parishes
Oakham South West	No parishes
Ryhall and Casterton	The parishes of Essendine, Great Casterton, Little Casterton, Ryhall and Tickencote
Uppingham	The parishes of Beaumont Chase and Uppingham
Whissendine	The parish of Whissendine

Appendix C: Landscape Character Assessment 2003 Recommendations

A High Rutland - in the west and central parts of the County:

A1 Leighfield Forest

To sustain and reinforce the small-scale, deeply rural, remote, still, calm, quiet, green, pastoral, well-wooded landscape, its dramatic topography of intimate, enclosed valleys and high, steep-sided ridges, its deep sense of antiquity and historical continuity, its many historic landscape features and its attraction as an area for quiet walking along well maintained rights of way, including the gated roads and tracks characteristic of the area.

A2 Ridges and Valleys

To sustain and restore the rural, mixed-agricultural, busy, colourful, diverse landscape with regular patterns, straight lines, frequent movement, many large and small historic, stone built conservation villages that fit well with the landform, to protect the landscape setting and conserve and enhance the edges of villages, to increase the woodland cover and other semi-natural habitats whilst protecting historic features and panoramic views from the ridges.

A3 Eyebrook Valley

To sustain and restore the broad, generally open, rural, agricultural, diverse valley landscape dominated by the river, reservoir and large woodlands and the regular field pattern. To improve the landscape fit of Stoke Dry in the setting of the reservoir, to protect historic features and their settings and the wetland wildlife, and increase woodland and other semi-natural habitats.

A4 Chater Valley

To sustain and reinforce the small-scale, enclosed, intimate, rural, quiet, calm, well-wooded and pastoral valley with its semi-natural habitats, notable lack of villages and very few buildings. To protect its historic features and carefully control any road, railway, water services or other infrastructure improvements in the valley, including any further modifications to the river and its riparian features and habitats.

B Vale of Catmose - a single unit to the north and south of Oakham and including the town of Oakham.

To conserve, enhance and, where necessary, restore the generally quiet, calm, rural, pastoral or mixed-agricultural vale character, with its compact stone and tile villages, regular field pattern across a broad, generally flat-bottomed valley basin surrounded by higher land and wooded skylines. To increase woodland cover throughout the Vale especially with small - medium sized, linear woodlands and belts of native broadleaved species which would strengthen the form and line of the landscape and link existing woodlands and other semi-natural habitats. To safeguard the landscape setting of Oakham.

C Rutland Water Basin - a single unit of a distinctive landscape type based on the reservoir and its immediate surroundings.

To encourage the continued maturity and evolution of the modern reservoir landscape, to enhance its visual amenity and biodiversity and recreational potential and to conserve the best elements of a large-scale, sweeping, open, busy, varied, colourful and modern landscape. To accommodate any new water-related developments into the landform and woodland cover and to avoid inappropriately located or conspicuous developments that would detract from landscape character. To encourage the further establishment and improved management of woodlands, wetlands and other semi-natural habitats.

D Rutland Plateau in the north and east of the County:

D1 Cottesmore Plateau

To conserve and manage the parks, avenues and other designed landscapes and the historic mosaic of agriculture, parkland and woodland wherever it occurs and, elsewhere, the more open, elevated, mixed arable and pastoral agricultural plateau landscapes, restoring and reinstating distinctive features such as hedgerows, hedgerow trees, copses, spinneys, dry stone walls and woodlands especially where they would filter views of the airfields, military barracks and mineral and related industrial operations. To conserve and enhance and where possible extend the semi-natural habitats of species-rich, calcareous grasslands and typical limestone woodlands and to conserve historic landscape features.

D2 Clay Woodlands

To conserve and enhance the large-scale, gently undulating, agricultural landscapes with substantial woodlands and avenues, to enhance the sustainable management of existing woodlands and to create new woodlands in the less wooded parts around the Gwash Valley, especially where they would create skyline features. To improve the edges of the settlements and integrate large structures and modern buildings into the landscape where necessary. To protect historic features such as earthworks and restore characteristic drystone walls.

D3 Gwash Valley To emphasise and reinforce the river corridor with appropriate planting where presently sparse. To conserve the small-scale, quiet, enclosed, sinuous, rural river valley with its narrow, well-defined valley bottom and gentle arable slopes. To conserve and enhance and where possible extend the semi-natural habitats of species-rich, calcareous grasslands and verges, wetlands and woodlands and to conserve historic landscape features.

D4 Ketton Plateau

To conserve and manage the parks, avenues and other designed landscapes and the historic mosaic of agriculture, parkland and woodland wherever it occurs and, elsewhere, the more open, elevated, mixed arable and pastoral agricultural plateau landscapes, restoring and reinstating distinctive features such as hedgerows, hedgerow trees, copses, spinneys, dry stone walls and woodlands especially where they would filter views of the airfields, military barracks and mineral and related industrial operations. To conserve and enhance and where possible extend the semi-natural habitats of species-rich, calcareous grasslands and typical limestone woodlands and to conserve historic landscape features.

E Welland Valley - along much of the southern boundary of the County because the River Welland forms the boundary with Northamptonshire:

E1 Middle Valley West (Caldecott - Seaton)

To conserve, enhance and, where necessary restore, the flat, open valley floodplain landscape and valley slopes, to protect and enhance both natural and historic man-made river features, including the bridges, viaduct and wetland habitats and to protect the form and landscape setting of the villages whilst ensuring that they

E2 Middle Valley East (Barrowden - Tinwell).

To conserve and enhance the more enclosed, wooded, sheltered valley landscape, to protect and enhance both natural and historic man-made river features, including the bridges and wetland habitats and to protect the form and landscape setting of the riverside villages so they do not become more intrusive in the valley.