

Mid Sussex District Council Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy (2019)



MID SUSSEX
DISTRICT COUNCIL

(FINAL SEPTEMBER 2019)

Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL

info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

www.ethosep.co.uk



Mid Sussex Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy

Contents

1.0	Introduction	3-8
2.0	Methodology	9-13
3.0	Strategic Context	14-27
4.0	Local Needs Assessment	28-40
5.0	Audit of existing open space provision	41- 52
6.0	Setting local standards	53- 66
7.0	Applying local standards	67- 103
8.0	Strategic options, policy and management recommendations	104 – 128
9.0	Conclusion	129
Appendix 1	Open space provision by Parish	
Appendix 2	Access maps by typology and Parish	
Appendix 3	Quality audit maps by Parish	
Appendix 4	Design Guidance: Play Space and Youth Facilities	
Appendix 5	List of sites mapped, with quality scores for those sites audited	
Appendix 6	Quality Audit Summary	

Index of Tables and Figures

Tables	Figures
<i>Table 1 Parish population statistics (ONS mid-year 2017 population estimates)</i>	<i>Figure 1 Mid Sussex District and Parish Boundaries</i>
<i>Table 2 Standard walk times and distances</i>	<i>Figure 2 Summary of methodology</i>
<i>Table 3 MSDC open space typologies</i>	<i>Figure 3 Multi-functional mapping of open space (Example from Bolney Parish)</i>
<i>Table 4 Summary of existing provision of open space across the District</i>	<i>Figure 4 IMD ranks in MSDC (by LSOA)</i>
<i>Table 5 Number of open spaces by typology and Parish</i>	<i>Figure 5 Example map showing existing provision of open space by parish (Appendix 1)</i>
<i>Table 6 Existing provision of open space (hectares) by parish</i>	<i>Figure 6 Example map from Appendix 2: access maps by parish</i>
<i>Table 7 Existing provision of open space (hectares per 1000 population) by parish</i>	<i>Figure 7 Access to allotments (15 minute walk time buffer)</i>
<i>Table 8 Summary of quantity and access standard for allotments</i>	<i>Figure 8 Access to amenity green space (10 minute walk time buffer)</i>
<i>Table 9 Summary of quantity and access standard for amenity green space</i>	<i>Figure 9 Access to parks and recreation grounds (15 minute walk time buffer)</i>
<i>Table 10 Summary of quantity and access standard for parks and recreation grounds</i>	<i>Figure 10 Access to children's play space (10 minute walk time buffer)</i>
<i>Table 11 Summary of quantity and access standard for children and youth play space</i>	<i>Figure 11 Access to youth play space (720m buffer)</i>
<i>Table 12 Summary of quantity and access standard for natural green space</i>	<i>Figure 12 Access to natural green space (960m buffer)</i>
<i>Table 13 Summary of open space quantity and access standards</i>	<i>Figure 13 ANGSt Standard: Access to 2ha+ sites within 300m</i>
<i>Table 14 Open space supply at the District level against the MSDC quantity standards</i>	<i>Figure 14 ANGSt Standard: Access to 20 ha+ sites within 2 km</i>
<i>Table 15 Open space supply (ha) by Parish against the MSDC quantity standards</i>	<i>Figure 15 ANGSt Standard: Access to 100 ha+ site within 5km</i>
<i>Table 16 Open space requirements resulting from housing allocations (not already accounted for) over the life of the Strategy, by Sub Area</i>	<i>Figure 16 Access to large/strategic accessible natural green spaces which fall outside of the Study Area</i>
<i>Table 17 Summary of access issues for allotments, amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds, play space (children and youth)</i>	<i>Figure 17 Local Nature Reserves</i>

Tables	Figures
<i>Table 18 Summary of access issues for natural green space</i>	<i>Figure 18 The Public Rights of Way Network</i>
<i>Table 19 Number of sites scoring A, B or C by open space typology and parish</i>	<i>Figure 19 Quality of open space (responses from household survey)</i>
<i>Table 20 Opportunities for re-designating open space, considering the quantity and access standards</i>	<i>Figure 20 Overview of existing open space quality scores</i>
	<i>Figure 21 Overview of quality scores for amenity green space</i>
	<i>Figure 22 Overview of quality scores for parks and recreation grounds</i>
	<i>Figure 23 Overview of quality scores for children's play space</i>
	<i>Figure 24 Overview of quality scores for youth play space</i>
	<i>Figure 25 Overview of quality scores for natural green space</i>
	<i>Figure 26 IMD overlain with quality audit results</i>
	<i>Figure 27 Assessment of site's potential to accommodate cycling (only those sites within 100m of a cycle route, bridleway or BOAT).</i>
	<i>Figure 28 Decision making process for on-site provision of open space, or off-site contributions to enhance existing open space</i>
	<i>Figure 29 Outline decision making process in relation to sanctioning (re)development of open space</i>

Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
ANGSt	Accessible Natural Green Space Standard
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
FIT	Fields In Trust (originally known as the 'National Playing Fields Association')
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographic Information System
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play
LSOA	Lower-layer Super Output Areas
MSDC	Mid Sussex District Council
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Play Area
NEWP	Natural Environment White Paper
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
ONS	Office for National Statistics
P&AGSS	Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy
PPG17	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAMM	Strategic Access Management and Monitoring
SANG	Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

This Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy (P&AGSS) has been undertaken by Ethos Environmental Planning to inform the District Council's decision-making processes in relation to open space provision up to 2031.

The Study has been carried out in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular paragraph 96, which states: *'Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate'*.

This report (The P&AGSS) is one of five reports provided as part of the overall Study. The five reports are the:

- Mid Sussex District Council Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report;
- Mid Sussex District Council Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy (this report);
- Mid Sussex District Council Developer Contributions and Adoption of Open Space Report;
- Mid Sussex District Council Community Buildings Strategy; and
- Mid Sussex District Council Playing Pitch Strategy.

The P&AGSS includes six key stages:

- Strategic context/overview;
- Identifying local needs (based on the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report);
- Audit of open space provision;
- Setting provision standards;
- Applying provision standards; and
- Draft policies and recommendations.

Consultation and Audit of Provision

The Study examined local need for a wide range of different types of open space, via questionnaire surveys which included a general household survey, a survey of Town and Parish councils and a local groups and organisations survey.

The audit of open space provision included a comprehensive mapping and audit process to collate data on the current provision and quality of open space across the Study area. Open

spaces were mapped onto a Geographic Information System (GIS) (ArcView) and categorised into individual typologies. Quality audits (based on the Green Flag assessment criteria) were undertaken at key open spaces and all play spaces across the Study area.

Development of standards

The information from the consultation (local needs assessment), along with the audit of provision and review of existing local and national standards were analysed in order to produce new recommended open space standards for access and quantity. Quality standards have also been recommended, based on Green Flag criteria. The quantity and access standards recommended are summarised in the table below:

Typology	Quantity standards for existing provision and new provision (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.20	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	0.55	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Park and Recreation Grounds (public and private combined)	1.10	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	0.07	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	0.07	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	1.0 (for new provision only)	960 metres or 20 minutes' walk time and ANGst Standards for natural green space above 20ha
Total for new provision	2.99 ha/1000	

Application of Standards

The standards above (and quality standards) have been used to identify existing deficiencies or surpluses in the quantity, access and quality of open space across the Study area.

The use of the quantity statistics should not be in isolation – they should be considered alongside the access and quality standards.

The standards that have been proposed are for minimum guidance levels of provision. Certain geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards but this does not mean there is a surplus, as all such provision may be well used.

The application of standards is covered in section 7. The quantity analysis, summarised in Table 14 (section 7.2) shows that in every Parish, there is a deficiency in at least one typology of open space.

Policy Recommendations

The strategic options and policy recommendations in section 8 of this report address the processes for understanding the options around the following five key areas:

- Existing provision to be protected;
- Existing provision to be enhanced;
- Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
- Identification of areas for new provision; and
- Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

The Developer Contributions and Adoption of Open Space Report (2019) also considers developer contributions, including costs of providing open space and thresholds for on-site or/and off-site provision.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

This Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy (P&AGSS) has been undertaken by Ethos Environmental Planning to inform the District Council's decision-making processes in relation to open space provision up to 2031. It will assist with forward planning for new play and green infrastructure required as a result of the housing and population growth as outlined in the District Plan¹.

The Open Space Assessment is one of five reports provided as part of the overall Study. The five reports are the:

- Mid Sussex District Council Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report;
- Mid Sussex District Council Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy (this report);
- Mid Sussex District Council Developer Contributions and Adoption of Open Space;
- Mid Sussex District Council Community Buildings Strategy; and
- Mid Sussex District Council Playing Pitch Strategy.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraph 96) recognises that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. It requires local planning authorities to set out policies to help enable communities to access high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation. These policies must be based on a thorough understanding of the local needs for such facilities and opportunities available for new provision.

The Study has been carried out in line with the NPPF, which was principally updated in July 2018, with further updates following in February 2019. The methodology of this Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy has primarily been affected by the absence of updated information relating to (the now superseded) Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17) in the NPPF and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). Whilst the government has not published anything specifically to replace this document (it does signpost the Sport England guidance for sports facilities assessments), there are however, still clear references made in the new NPPF and NPPG to the principles and ideology established within PPG17. As such the underlying principles of this study have been informed by the former guidance provided in 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation', and its Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities', which is a tried and tested methodology and takes a consistent approach with many other local authorities.

¹ Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031: www.midsussex.gov.uk

1.2 The Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031

The Mid Sussex District Plan was adopted in March 2018 and covers the period 2014 to 2031.

The Plan sets out a vision for how Mid Sussex wants to evolve and a delivery strategy for how that will be achieved. It supports the National Planning Policy Framework's 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. As such, it sets out broad guidance on the distribution and quality of development in the form of 'higher level' strategic policies. It also provides the framework for all subsequent planning documents, including Neighbourhood Plans.

It does not apply to that part of the District within the South Downs National Park. The South Downs National Park Authority have prepared its own Local Plan for that area, which was adopted in July 2018.

The Plan is based on the vision for the District set out in the 'Mid Sussex Sustainable Communities Strategy' (originally published in 2008 and refreshed in 2012): *"A thriving and attractive District, a desirable place to live, work and visit. Our aim is to maintain, and where possible, improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of our District and the quality of life for all, now and in the future."*

A Site Allocations DPD is currently being developed. The potential future requirements for open space have been assessed in section 7.2.2.

1.3 Purpose of this Report

1.3.1 Vision

The overall vision of the strategy is to ensure that all Mid Sussex residents have access to a network of high quality and accessible outdoor play and amenity green space. These facilities will contribute toward making the District an attractive place to live, work, and visit where people want to come and stay. Sustainable natural environments will provide spaces for play and relaxation, diverse habitats for flora and fauna, and opportunities for community participation. Well planned play and amenity green space will support residents to lead positive lifestyles and contribute to good health and wellbeing.

1.3.2 Aims

The overall aim of the commission is to audit the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing play and amenity green space within the Study Area; identify any surplus, shortfalls or deficiencies; assess future needs as a result of proposed growth; and to develop local standards for planning policy.

The main aims are as follows:

- To collate information about existing play and amenity green space provision, including paths;
-

- To set local standards in terms of play and amenity green space quantity, quality and access;
- To assess existing play and amenity green space provision against these standards to identify any deficits; surpluses; and improvement needs;
- To update design guidelines for children’s play space;
- To help recommend improvements to public paths and identify new designated cycle routes;
- To address the ongoing management and maintenance of new play and amenity green space provision; and
- To help secure external funds for the development of new and existing play and amenity green space provision.

1.4 Structure of the report

The study follows the five key stages as summarised below:

- Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
- Step 2 – Audit of Existing Open Space Assets
- Step 3 – Setting Local Standards
- Step 4 – Applying Local Standards
- Step 5 – Drafting Policy Recommendations

1.5 The Study Area

1.5.1 Overview

Mid Sussex is a rural District in the South East of England with a population of approximately 148,736 (ONS mid-year 2017 estimate). The District has three towns – Burgess Hill, East Grinstead and Haywards Heath – and a good mix of large and smaller villages/hamlets.

Nearly 50% of the District is within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and over 10% is within the South Downs National Park. Between them is an area of small-stream valleys and hedgerows within a gently rolling landscape known as the Low Weald. Mid Sussex is the tenth most wooded District in the South East and two-thirds of this woodland is classified as ‘ancient’. It also has many sites valued for their biodiversity including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, Local Nature Reserves and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.

The District is rich in heritage, which contributes to the unique character and identity of Mid Sussex and attracts many visitors to the area. The heritage assets of the District include many Listed Buildings, and Conservation Areas, ranging from the historic town centre of East Grinstead through to parts of the smaller villages and settlements, and sites of archaeological interest, some of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. There are Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and a large number of unregistered Parks and Gardens which appear on West Sussex County Council’s Sites and Monuments Record.

The District's attractive natural environment and rich heritage makes it highly valued by its residents and a popular tourist destination.

1.5.2 Administrative Boundaries

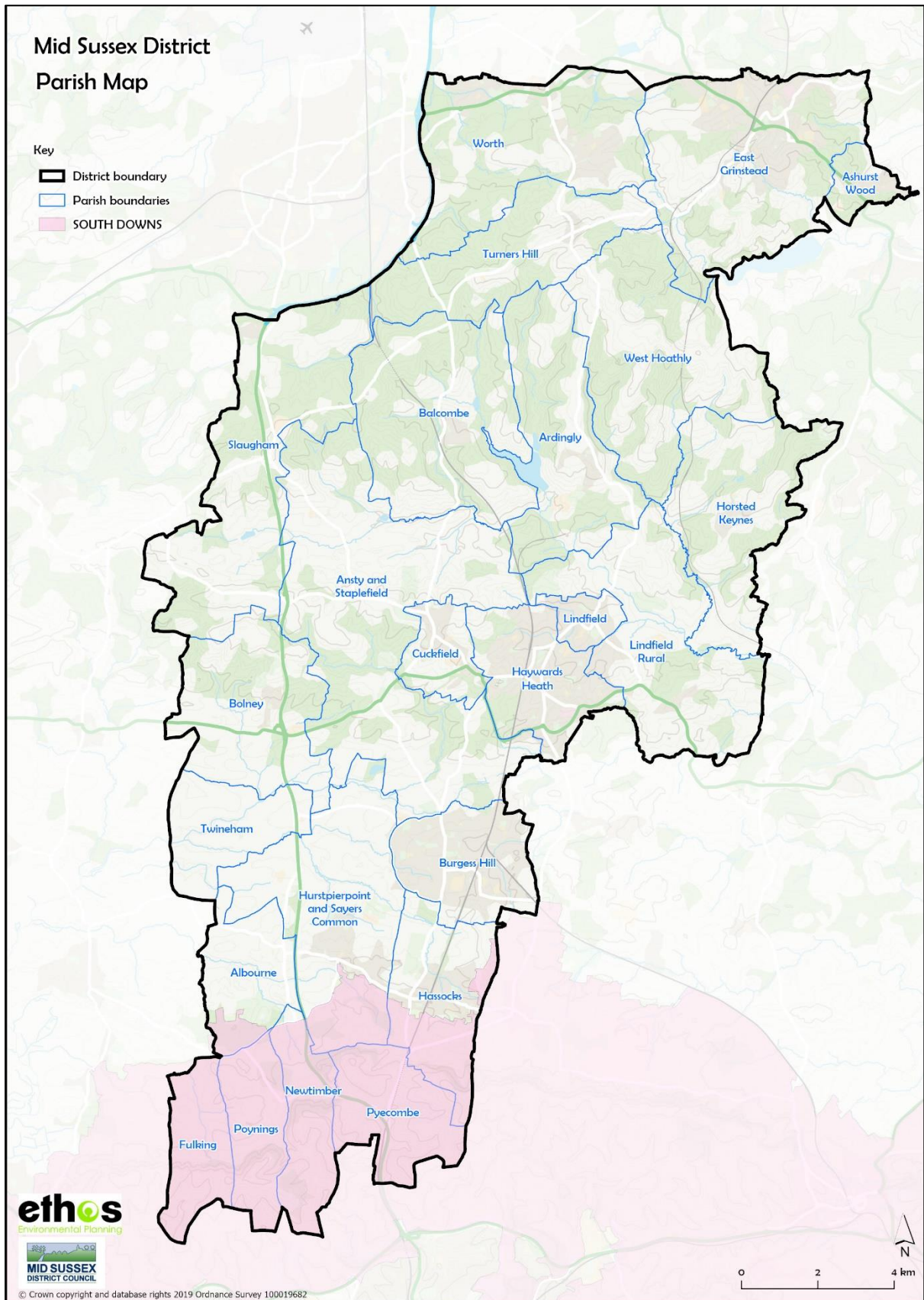
In order to analyse the current provision and future requirements for play and amenity green space across the Study Area, the following geographical areas have been used:

- Whole district (including the part of the South Downs National Park in the South of the District); and
- Parish boundaries.

These boundaries are shown in Figure 1 below and were agreed by the project steering group as the most effective way to analyse provision.

Of particular relevance to this study are the ONS mid-year (2017) population statistics by ward, which provide much more up-to-date figures compared to the 2011 Census data and have been used as the basis for much of the current and future assessment of need for open space.

Figure 1 Mid Sussex District and Parish Boundaries



1.5.3 Population Statistics (ONS mid-year (2017) population estimates)

The population of the Study Area is 148,736. The breakdown by parish is shown in the table below.

Table 1 Parish population statistics (ONS mid-year 2017 population estimates)

Parish	Population (2017)
Albourne	721
Ansty and Staplefield	2,145
Ardingly	2,080
Ashurst Wood	1,904
Balcombe	1,874
Bolney	1,303
Burgess Hill	31,155
Cuckfield	3,908
East Grinstead	27,391
Fulking	301
Hassocks	8,326
Haywards Heath	30,071
Horsted Keynes	1,576
Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common	7,561
Lindfield	6,200
Lindfield Rural	3,054
Newtimber	391
Poynings	391
Pyecombe	242
Slaugham	3,087
Turners Hill	1,824
Twineham	345
West Hoathly	2,081
Worth	10,805

2.0 METHODOLOGY

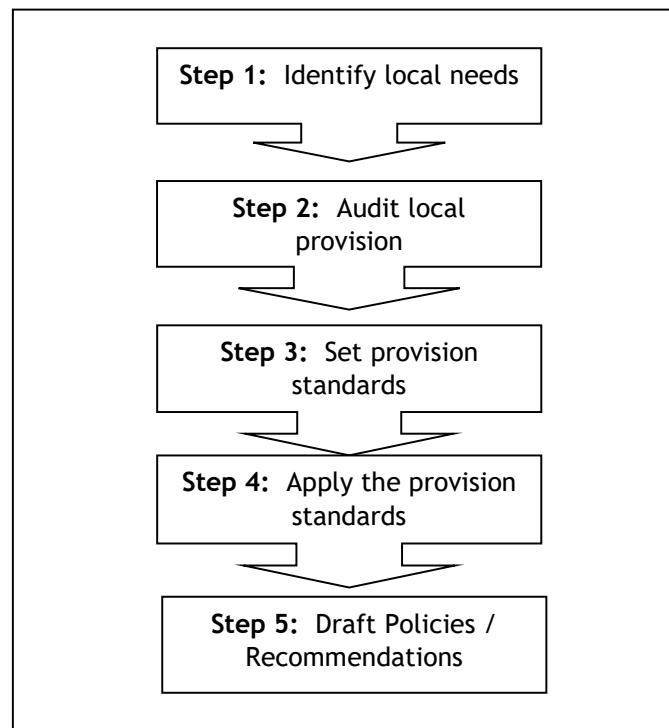
2.1 General

The starting point for this study has been the guidance in Section 8 of the NPPF, which adheres to but has superseded PPG17. The policy gives clear recommendations for the protection of and appropriate provision for open space, however it does not provide any detailed guidance on how to conduct an open space assessment. It is therefore both logical and acceptable to reference the guidance for assessment provided in the former PPG17 and its Companion Guide. PPG17 placed a requirement on local authorities to undertake assessments and audits of open space, sports and recreational facilities in order to:

- identify the needs of the population;
- identify the potential for increased use;
- establish an effective strategy for open space/sports/recreational facilities at the local level.

The Companion Guide to PPG17 recommended an overall approach to this kind of study as summarised below:

Figure 2 Summary of methodology



Within this overall approach the Companion Guide suggests a range of methods and techniques that might be adopted in helping the assessment process. Where appropriate, these methods and techniques have been employed within this study and are explained at the relevant point in the report. In addition, they are summarised in the paragraphs below.

2.2 Identifying Local Need (Step 1)

The Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019) examines identified local need for various types of open space, sports and recreational opportunities. It has drawn upon a range of survey and analytical techniques as well as a detailed review of existing consultation data and other relevant documentation. The report details the community consultation and research process that has been undertaken as part of the study as well as the main findings. The findings from the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report are summarised in this document.

2.3 Audit of Existing Open Space Assets (Step 2)

2.3.1 Defining the scope of the audit

In order to build up an accurate picture of the current open space and play provision in Mid Sussex, an initial desktop audit of the open space asset was carried out, this included:

- analysis of existing GIS data held by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC);
- desktop mapping of open space from aerial photography, the Ordnance Survey Greenspace layer and other open datasets e.g. from Natural England;
- questionnaires to town and parish councils;
- liaison with council officers.

Following this, quality audits were undertaken by Ethos during November 2018 at a total of 391 sites (180 of these were children's and youth play spaces) to assess the quality of sites. The quality audit drew on criteria set out in the 'Green Flag Award'². The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach (explained in more detail in Section 7.4). However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a site's existing quality rather than a full asset audit. Clearly, local communities may have aspirations which are not identified in the quality audit, but it is hoped that these can be explored further outside of this study through site management plans and neighbourhood/parish plans as appropriate.

In addition to the quality analysis, an analysis of a site's potential to accommodate cycling is included. The methodology and an overview of the findings are included in Section 7.5 of this report.

2.3.2 Approach to mapping

As part of the audit process, sites were mapped into their different functions using a multi-functional approach to mapping, as demonstrated in Figure 3 below.

² <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/judges/judging-criteria>

Where open spaces cross parish boundaries, in order to calculate the quantity of open space by parish, these have been split using the parish boundary.

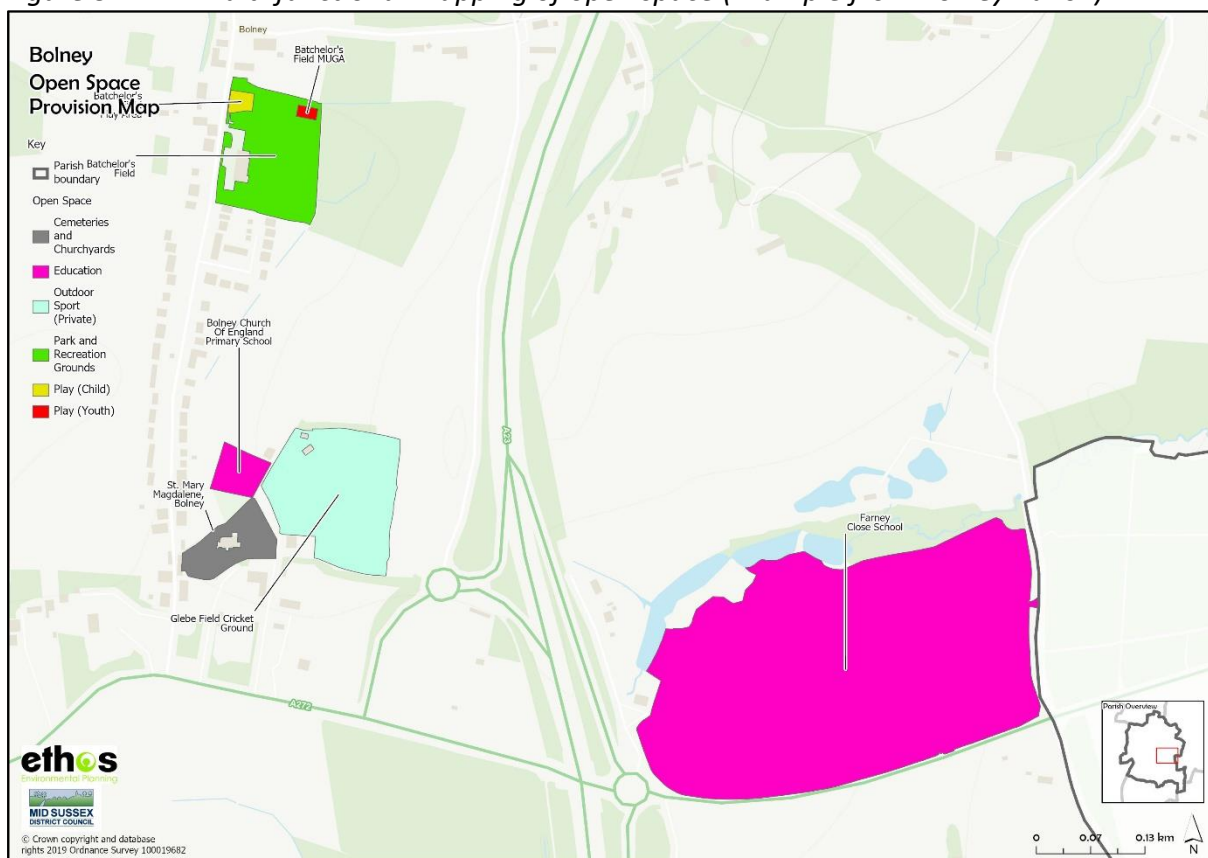
Only open spaces within the Study Area have been mapped i.e. although cross-border use of open space has been noted and considered (including within the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report 2019), open spaces falling outside of the Study Area boundary have not been mapped.

Although this study deals with certain typologies of open space, with a focus on accessible open space, the importance of the wider green space network e.g. in terms of green infrastructure, historic, biodiversity, visual amenity and health and wellbeing is recognised, and is afforded protection through a number of policies such as policy DP12, DP22, DP37 and DP38³.

It should be noted that the typologies mapping is as accurate as possible (as of March 2019) following cross checking with the council's GIS layers; desktop mapping; consultation with MSDC and town/parish councils; and site visits. However, there may be anomaly sites which are picked up at a later date. It is the intention of MSDC to keep the mapping up-to-date as new open space is provided through future development.

The open space provision tables (in Section 5) and resulting supply and access maps (Section 7) are based on the mapping of open space which was signed off by the council in March 2019.

Figure 3 Multi-functional mapping of open space (Example from Bolney Parish)



³ <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/3406/mid-sussex-district-plan.pdf>

2.4 Set and Apply Provision Standards (Steps 3 and 4)

Local provision standards have been set for the Study Area (in agreement with the project team), with three components, embracing:

- quantity;
- accessibility;
- quality.

Quantity

The GIS database and mapping has been used to assess the existing provision of open space across the Study Area. The existing levels of provision are considered alongside findings of previous studies, the local needs assessment and consideration of existing and national standards or benchmarks. The key to developing robust local quantity standards is that they are locally derived, based on evidence and most importantly, achievable. Typically, standards are expressed as hectares per 1,000 people. The recommended standards are then used to assess the supply of each type of open space across the Study Area.

Access

Evidence from previous studies, the needs assessment and consideration of national benchmarks are used to develop access standards for open space. Drive time standards have not been proposed as these are normally only appropriate for strategic sites such as sports hub sites. Drive time standards generally do not work well for analysing access to local facilities/open space, as they do not generally show where the gaps in access are, and in addition, the consultation has shown that the majority of households access the various open space typologies on foot.

A series of maps assessing access for different typologies are presented in this report. The maps are intended to be indicative, and more detailed maps by parish are provided at Appendix 2. They show the walk time buffers along with Census 2011 Output Areas so that the key gaps in access can be identified. The more basic straight line buffer access analysis approach has been used for the ANGSt standards, as this approach is more appropriate for larger sites. Further detail has been provided in Section 7.3.

The straight line walking distances do not take into account roads or barriers to access, and so the actual route walked (the pedestrian route) is generally further i.e. straight line distances are around 60% of actual distances. The standard walk time and straight line/pedestrian route distances are shown in the table below:

Table 2 Standard walk times and distances

walk time (minutes)	Pedestrian Route (metres)	Straight line (metres)
1	100	60
2	160	96
3	240	144
4	320	192

walk time (minutes)	Pedestrian Route (metres)	Straight line (metres)
5	400	240
6	480	288
7	560	336
8	640	384
9	720	432
10	800	480
11	880	528
12	960	576
13	1040	624
14	1120	672
15	1200	720
16	1280	768
17	1360	816
18	1440	864
19	1520	912
20	1600	960

Quality

Quality standards have been developed drawing on previous studies, national benchmarks and good practice, evidence from the needs assessment and the findings of the quality audits. The quality standards also include recommended policies to guide the provision of new open space through development in the future.

In addition to the quality analysis, an analysis of a site's potential to accommodate cycling is included. The methodology and an overview of the findings are included in Section 7.5 of this report. The detailed audits have been provided to the Council as part of the GIS database.

2.5 Drafting Policy Recommendations (Step 5)

This section outlines higher level strategic options which may be applicable at town, ward, and study area wide level. The strategic options address five key areas:

1. Existing provision to be protected;
2. Existing provision to be enhanced;
3. Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
4. Identification of areas for new provision;
5. Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

3.0 CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

This section sets out a brief review of the most relevant national and local policies related to the study, which have been considered in developing the methodology and findings of the study. Policies and strategies are subject to regular change, therefore the summary provided in this section was correct at the time of writing. MSDC reserve the right to change and update this section as policies change.

It also provides important contextual information regarding health and deprivation for the Study Area.

The policy overview includes analysis of the Councils' existing strategies and policies. It also includes a review of other strategies of relevance at national and local levels and assesses their implications for the provision of open space, sport and recreation opportunities.

The PPG17 companion guide identified the importance of understanding the implications of existing strategies on the study. Specifically, before initiating local consultation, there should be a review of existing national, regional and local plans and strategies, and an assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of existing planning policies and provision standards.

3.2 Strategic Context

3.2.1 National Strategic Context

3.2.1.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (February 2019)

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. The NPPF must be adhered to in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions.

Within the NPPF, open space is defined as 'All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity'.

The NPPF contains the following references that relate to green infrastructure and open spaces:

- **Para 7** - The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
 - **Para 96** - Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities.
-

Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

- **Para 97** - Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
 - a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.
- **Para 98** - Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.
- **Para 149** - Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.
- **Para 170** - Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment.

3.2.1.2 Green Infrastructure

The concept of green infrastructure (GI) is now firmly embedded in national policy with the NPPF requiring local planning authorities to set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. It defines green infrastructure as *'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities'*.

The Study Area has a wide range of existing green infrastructure assets such as open spaces, parks and gardens, allotments, woodlands, street trees, fields, hedgerows, treelines, lakes, ponds, rivers, meadows and grassland playing fields, as well as footpaths, cycleways and waterways. However, the concept of GI looks beyond existing designations, seeking opportunities to increase function and connectivity of assets to maximise the benefits for the community and wildlife.

3.2.1.3 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011)

The white paper⁴ recognises that a healthy natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It sets out how the value of nature can be mainstreamed across our society by facilitating local action; strengthening the connections between people and nature; creating a green economy and showing leadership in the European Union (EU) and internationally.

It responds to the 2010 independent review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network, chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton, which identifies the need for more, better and bigger joined spaces for nature.

3.2.1.4 Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, (August 2011)

This biodiversity strategy for England builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and sets out the strategic direction for national biodiversity policy to implement international and EU commitments.

The vision for England is: 'By 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to climate change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone'.

The mission of this strategy is to 'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'. The strategy contains four outcomes to be achieved by the end of 2020. These are:

Habitats and ecosystems on land (including freshwater environments)

By 2020 we will have put in place measures so that biodiversity is maintained and enhanced, further degradation has been halted and where possible, restoration is underway helping to deliver more resilient and coherent ecological networks as well as healthy and well-functioning ecosystems which can deliver multiple benefits for wildlife and people too.

Marine habitats, ecosystems and fisheries

By 2020 we will have put in place measures so that biodiversity is maintained, further degradation has been halted and where possible, restoration is underway, helping deliver good environmental status and our vision of clean, healthy, safe productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

Species

By 2020, we will see an overall improvement in the status of our wildlife and will have prevented further human-induced extinctions of known threatened species.

⁴ <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

People

By 2020, significantly more people will be engaged in biodiversity issues, aware of its value and taking positive action.

3.2.1.5 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)

This 25 Year Environment Plan sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. It calls for an approach to agriculture, forestry, land use and fishing that puts the environment first.

The 25-year goals are:

1. Clean air.
2. Clean and plentiful water.
3. Thriving plants and wildlife.
4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought.
5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently.
6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

In addition, pressures on the environment will be managed by:

7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change.
8. Minimising waste.
9. Managing exposure to chemicals.
10. Enhancing biosecurity.

Actions/policies are identified around six key areas: Using and managing land sustainably; Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes; Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing; Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste; Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; Protecting and improving the global environment.

The Plan sits alongside two other important government strategies. The Industrial Strategy sets out how productivity will be boosted across the UK through five foundations – ideas, people, infrastructure, business, environment and places. Clean Growth is one of the four Grand Challenges laid out in the strategy that will put the UK at the forefront of industries of the future, ensuring that it takes advantage of transformational global trends. The Clean Growth Strategy sets out the UK's reaffirmed ambition to promote the ambitious economic and environmental policies to mitigate climate change and deliver clean, green growth.

3.2.1.6 Building with Nature Benchmark

Building with Nature provides a framework of quality standards to ensure the design and delivery of high quality green infrastructure, so that developments will also deliver for the natural world and health communities.

Drawing from evidence and good practice, high quality green infrastructure has been defined at each stage of the development process, from planning and design, through to long-term management and maintenance. The standards enable nature friendly features to be integrated throughout the development.

Developers can apply to have their scheme assessed, and planners can have their policy document accredited by Building with Nature. The standards⁵ are also free to use and can assist with the planning and development of new places and communities.

3.2.1.7 Sporting Future - A New Strategy for an Active Nation (December 2015)

This cross-government strategy seeks to address flat-lining levels of sport participation and high levels of inactivity in this country. Through this strategy, government is redefining what success in sport means, with a new focus on five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In future, funding decisions will be made on the basis of the outcomes that sport and physical activity can deliver.

It is the government's ambition that all relevant departments work closer together to create a more physically active nation, where children and young people enjoy the best sporting opportunities available and people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the many benefits that sport and physical activity bring, at every stage in their lives.

The government is reaffirming its commitment to Olympic and Paralympic success but also extending that ambition to non-Olympic sports where it will support success through grassroots investment in those sports, and by sharing UK Sport's knowledge and expertise. The strategy outlines what is expected of the sector to deliver this vision, and how the government will support it in getting there.

Public investment into community sport is to reach children as young as five as part of a ground-breaking new strategy. The move will see Sport England's remit changed from investing in sport for those aged 14 and over to supporting people from five years old right through to pensioners, in a bid to create a more active nation.

Investment will be targeted at sport projects that have a meaningful, measurable impact on how they are improving people's lives – from helping young people gain skills to get into work, to tackling social inclusion and improving physical and mental health.

Funding will also be targeted at groups who have low participation rates to encourage those who do not take part in sport and physical activity to get involved. This includes supporting women, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people.

3.2.1.8 Sport England Strategy – 'Towards an Active Nation' (2016-2021)

In response to the Government's strategy, Sport England's new strategy vision is that everyone in England, regardless of age, background or ability, feels able to take part in sport

⁵ <https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/how-it-works>

or activity. Sport England's new vision and its supporting aims will therefore contribute to achieving the government's strategy. Key features of the new Strategy are:

- Dedicated funding to get children and young people active from the age of five, including a new fund for family based activities and offering training to at least two teachers in every secondary school in England to help them better meet the needs of all children, irrespective of their level of sporting ability.
- Working with the sport sector to put customers at the heart of everything they do and using the principles of behavioral change to inform their work.
- Piloting new ways of working locally by investing in up to 10 places in England – a mix of urban and rural areas.
- Investing up to £30m in a new volunteering strategy, enabling more people to get the benefits of volunteering and attracting a new, more diverse range of volunteers.
- Helping sport keep pace with the digital expectations of customers – making it as easy to book a badminton court as a hotel room.
- Working closely with governing bodies of sport and others who support people who already play regularly, to help them become more efficient, sustainable and diversify their sources of funding.

3.2.2 Local Context

3.2.2.1 Mid Sussex District Plan 2014-2031

The Plan sets out a vision for how Mid Sussex wants to evolve and a delivery strategy for how that will be achieved. It supports the National Planning Policy Framework's 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. As such, it sets out broad guidance on the distribution and quality of development in the form of 'higher level' strategic policies. It also provides the framework for all subsequent planning documents, including Neighbourhood Plans.

The Plan is based on the vision for the District set out in the 'Mid Sussex Sustainable Communities Strategy' (originally published in 2008 and refreshed in 2012):

"A thriving and attractive District, a desirable place to live, work and visit. Our aim is to maintain, and where possible, improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of our District and the quality of life for all, now and in the future."

The vision is underpinned by four priority themes that promote the development of sustainable communities:

- Protecting and enhancing the environment;
- Promoting economic vitality;
- Ensuring cohesive and safe communities; and,
- Supporting healthy lifestyles.

A summary of the key policies of relevance to this study is provided below.

DP12: Protection and Enhancement of Countryside

This policy protects landscapes for their visual, historic and biodiversity qualities and to create places that encourage a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle. This includes providing cultural and sporting facilities, informal leisure space and the opportunity to access common areas.

DP16: High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Development will only be permitted if it conserves or enhances natural beauty and has regard to the High Weald AONB Management Plan.

DP17: Ashdown Forest Special Protection (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

This policy protects Ashdown Forest and restricts any development within 400m of the forest. Any residential development within 7km of the Ashdown Forest SPA that has a net increase in dwellings must contribute to the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) to the minimum level of 8ha/1,000 net increase in population or a financial contribution to a SANG elsewhere.

East Court and Ashplats Wood has been identified as SANG in order to reduce recreational pressure on the Ashdown Forest SAC and SPA i.e. providing appropriate mitigation for residential development within the 7km zone of influence, and there is a tariff in place for contributions in order to improve the SANG e.g. upgrading paths, meadow management, additional signage, general habitat management and restoration of the lake.

DP18: Setting of the South Downs National Park

Development within land that contributes to the setting of the South Downs National Park will only be permitted where it does not detract from, or cause detriment to, the visual and special qualities (including dark skies), tranquillity and essential characteristics of the National Park, and in particular should not adversely affect transitional open green spaces between the site and the boundary of the South Downs National Park, and the views, outlook and aspect, into and out of the National Park by virtue of its location, scale, form or design.

DP20: Securing Infrastructure

The Council will expect developers to provide for, or contribute towards, the infrastructure and mitigation measures made necessary by their development proposals through:

- appropriate on-site mitigation and infrastructure provision;
 - the use of planning obligations (s106 legal agreements and unilateral undertakings);
 - the Community Infrastructure Levy, if applicable.
-

DP22: Rights of Way and other Recreational Routes

The Plan recognises the importance of all kinds of off-road recreational routes, but shows an understanding of the need to provide, promote and manage such routes taking into account the environmental sensitivity of many parts of the District.

This policy states that access to the countryside will be encouraged by:

- Ensuring that (where appropriate) development provides safe and convenient links to rights of way and other recreational routes;
- Supporting the provision of additional routes within and between settlements that contribute to providing a joined-up network of routes where possible;
- Where appropriate, encouraging making new or existing rights of way multi-functional to allow for benefits for a range of users.

DP24: Leisure and Cultural Facilities and Activities

This policy supports the provision of additional facilities as well as protecting existing facilities. The activities and facilities referred to in this policy include:

- Allotments
- Artificial turf and grass playing pitches and ancillary facilities
- Cinemas, theatres and performance spaces
- Gyms, sports halls, swimming pools and fitness facilities
- Kickabout, skate parks, cycling and BMX tracks
- Leisure facilities such as bowling, ice rinks, outdoor activities
- Museums and galleries
- Open space, parks and nature conservation sites
- Play areas
- Public art
- Tennis, netball and multi-use courts

Details about the current provision, including standards, of new leisure and cultural facilities are set out in a Supplementary Planning Document (Development Infrastructure and Contributions, July 2018), covered below.

This study will be used to inform the new requirements for open space and will be included within an updated SPD.

DP37: Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

This policy supports the protection and enhancement of trees, woodland and hedgerows by (amongst many other things) ensuring development, incorporates existing important trees, woodland and hedgerows into the design of new development and its landscape scheme; and, where possible, incorporates retained trees, woodland and hedgerows within public open space.

DP38: Biodiversity

This policy aims to protect and enhance biodiversity by ensuring development, amongst other things:

- Contributes and takes opportunities to improve, enhance, manage and restore biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- Protects existing biodiversity, so that there is no net loss of biodiversity.
- Protects geodiversity

3.2.2.2 Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Development Infrastructure and Contributions (July 2018)

The document offers guidance on the type and amount of open space provision required arising from new development. It covers a large and diverse range of open space provisions. It sets out general recreation open space guidance, based loosely on former National Playing Fields Association (now Fields in Trust) guidance. The SPD also covers guidance on provision in relation to Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (particularly relevant in terms of the proximity of the Ashdown Forest).

It also provides guidance in respect of the costs of providing and maintaining open space over a long-term period. The SPD recognises that provision may not be possible or appropriate within a development, and that there will be circumstances where the developer may wish to offer open space to the District Council for adoption.

The costs set out within the 2018 SPD for the **provision** of new open space facilities are as follows:

- LEAP: £190/m²
- NEAP: £133/m²
- Playing Fields: £34/m² (does not include the cost of the land)

The developer contribution per person is then calculated by multiplying the cost per m² by the open space requirement per person, based on the standards (previous FIT Standards).

3.2.2.3 Mid Sussex Infrastructure Delivery Plan

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been developed by working with a range of organisations and infrastructure providers to identify the level of infrastructure required to support development and the funding available to deliver this. The IDP focuses on the infrastructure requirements for sites that are proposed to be allocated through the emerging Site Allocations DPD.

The IDP is currently under review and will be informed by (amongst other things) this Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy.

3.2.2.4 Mid Sussex PPG 17 Assessment (2006)

Consistent with the requirements of previous national policy the District Council commissioned an assessment of open space, sport and recreation following guidance provided by the (then extant) Planning Policy Guidance Note 17. The assessment made the following recommendations for 'standards' relating to different kinds of open space, covered by the study.

In terms of access it suggested a range of standards based on the following principles:

- At least 90% of dwellings in the three main towns should be within the walking distance threshold of local provision meeting the quality standard in all respects.
- At least 90% of dwellings throughout the District should be within the cycling distance threshold of local provision meeting the quality standard in all respects.
- At least 90% of dwellings throughout the District should be within the driving distance threshold of strategic provision meeting the quality standard in all respects.

It suggested quantity standards based on the following:

- Allotments 1.75 sq m/person
- Artificial turf pitches 0.50 sq m/person
- Bowling greens 0.17 sq m/person
- Equipped play areas 0.65 sq m/person
- Grass Pitches 12.25 sq m/person
- Parks and gardens 2.00 sq m/person
- Teenage areas 0.30 sq m/person
- Tennis courts 0.44 sq m/person

The assessment went on to draw conclusions and recommendations based on the application of these standards (as well as an additional set of principles based on quality criteria). The standards set within this 2006 assessment have been considered when developing new standards for the district in Section 6 of this report.

3.2.2.5 Mid Sussex District Council Sustainability Strategy 2018 - 2023

Introduction

This Strategy sets out Mid Sussex District Council's approach to sustainability and delivering sustainable development. The Action Plan is split into three themes: Sustainable Council; Sustainable Environment; and, Sustainable Communities. It is under the 'Sustainable Environment' theme where actions are identified that are most relevant to this report, as follows:

Green Spaces and Orchards:

- Maintain Green Flag Award for Beech Hurst and gain Green Flag awards for St John's Park by Jan 2018, and a site in, East Grinstead by March 2020 (achieved).
-

- Continue to deliver the SANG and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) Strategies for the Ashdown Forest SPA as mitigation for new residential development within the zone of influence.
- Improvements and upgrades to footpaths through Bedelands Nature Reserve by June 2018 (completed).
- Plans for Wildflower areas within West Common Open Space Lindfield by 2019. Beech Hurst Gardens by 2020. Haywards Heath Recreation Grounds around Cricket Pitch by 2020
- Establish an orchard in Beech Hurst Gardens by April 2019

Parks:

- Adopt Parks & Open Space Strategy by April 2019 (re-named Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy, to be adopted by Spring 2020)
- Trial 'on-the-go' recycling facilities in a number of parks by April 2019

Sustainability in Planning Policy

- Adopt and implement planning policies which secure sustainable development.
- Adopt and implement planning policy to ensure Rights of Way, Sustrans national cycle routes and recreational routes will be protected; and, supporting additional routes between settlements. Access to the countryside will be encouraged by multifunctional use e.g. for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.
- Adopt and implement planning policy which will ensure that development protects and enhances biodiversity. This should include creation and maintenance of easily accessible green infrastructure, green corridors and spaces around/within towns and villages.
- Explore the feasibility of new cycle routes and infrastructure across the District by October 2018 (Mid Sussex Cycle Forum established, and feasibility work completed by Sustrans, work ongoing).
- Progress and deliver a Burgess Hill to Haywards Heath Cycle Route by June 2021.

3.2.2.6 West Sussex Cycling and Walking Strategy 2016-2026

The West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy is designed to complement the Government's emerging Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and sets out the County Council's aims and objectives for walking and cycling together with the priorities for investment in infrastructure improvements. It contains a list of more than 300 potential schemes.

The objectives of this walking and cycling strategy are:

- To ensure that cycling and walking are recognised as important travel modes and therefore part of the transport mix
 - To make cycling and walking the natural choice for shorter journeys (such as journeys to school), or as part of a longer journey
-

- To reduce the number of cyclists and pedestrians that are killed or seriously injured on our roads
- To support economic development by facilitating travel to work and services without a car
- To reduce congestion and pollution by encouraging and enabling people to travel without a car
- To increase levels of physical activity to help to improve physical health
- To help to maintain good mental health and staying independent later in life
- To increase the vitality of communities by improving access by bicycle and on foot
- To help people to access rural areas and enjoy walking and cycling

3.3 Health and Deprivation Context

3.3.1 Health summary

Public Health England have published the 2018 Health Profile for Mid Sussex⁶. The health of people in Mid Sussex is generally better than the England average. Mid Sussex is one of the 20% least deprived Districts/Unitary Authorities in England, however about 7% (1,700) of children live in low income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average.

Further information regarding public health is provided within Section 2.2 of the Community and Stakeholder Consultation report (2019).

3.3.2 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

The Indices of Deprivation 2015 provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOA)) across England, based on seven different domains of deprivation:

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment Deprivation

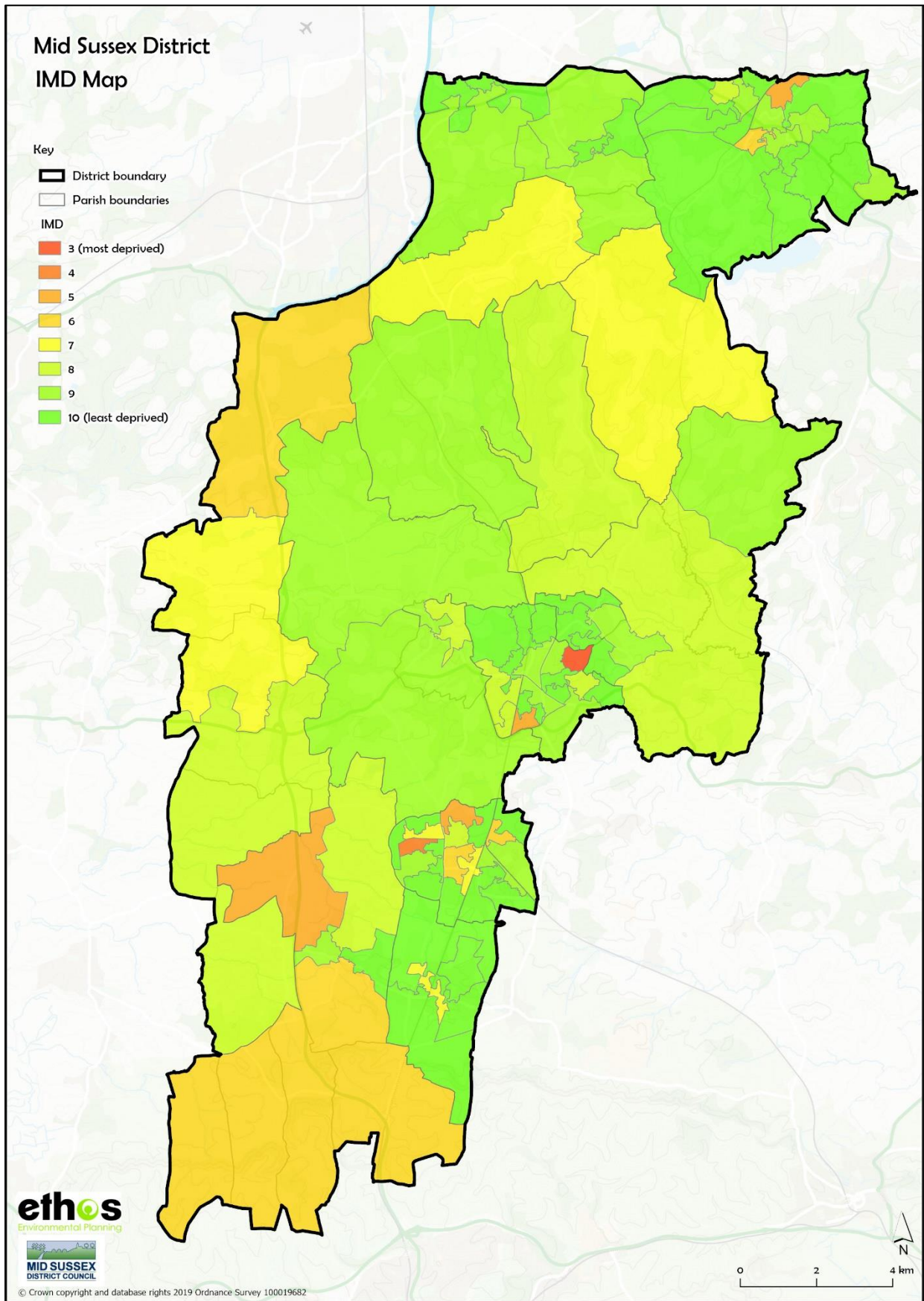
⁶ https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/area-searchresults/E10000032?place_name=West%20Sussex&search_type=parent-area

Each of these domains is based on a basket of indicators. As far as is possible, each indicator is based on data from the most recent time point available; in practice most indicators in the Indices of Deprivation 2015 relate to the tax year 2012/13.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation combines information from the seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation.

As can be seen in Figure 4 below, the levels of deprivation within the District are generally very low, with the highest deprivation levels occurring in a small area within the north east of Haywards Heath and a small area in the west of Burgess Hill. This is considered further in section 7.4., alongside the open space quality audit results.

Figure 4 IMD ranks in MSDC (by LSOA)



4.0 LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT (STEP 1)

4.1 Introduction

The Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019) examines local need for a wide range of different types of open space and recreation facilities. It draws upon a range of survey and analytical techniques including a review of consultation findings from relevant studies, questionnaire surveys and one to one stakeholder interviews. The work was undertaken from August to November 2018.

Questionnaire surveys were undertaken looking at the adequacy of current provision in terms of the quantity, quality and access, in relation to the various typologies of open space. The surveys were:

- A general household survey – postal and online (sent to a random sample of 4,000 households, with 702 surveys completed⁷);
- A survey of town and parish councils and ward members; and
- Local groups and organisations' surveys.

In addition to the above a series of one to one stakeholder interviews/surveys were undertaken.

The results of this consultation and other analyses have helped (amongst other things) to inform the content of the recommended local standards (Section 7 of this report). It has also helped the study to understand local people's appreciation of open space and outdoor recreation facilities, and the wider green infrastructure and the values attached by the community to the various forms of open spaces and facilities. This appreciation will have clear implications for the way in which open space and outdoor recreation facilities are considered as part of the review of the local plan as well as in dealing with planning applications.

This section summarises the key findings from The Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019) in relation to open space under four main sections:

1. General Community Consultation;
2. Neighbouring local authorities, town and parish councils, and ward members;
3. Parks, green spaces, countryside, and rights of way; and
4. Play and youth facilities.

⁷ This is a good return rate of around 17.5% which is above the average of 15% that we anticipate for this kind of study; and over 200 responses above the minimum target of 500 responses guaranteed in our proposal.

4.2 General Community Consultation – Key Findings

This provides some key consultation findings from the Mid Sussex household survey and from Public Health Stakeholders.

The Household Survey

Quantity

- 60% or more think that overall there are enough parks and recreation grounds; MUGAs; grass pitches for football etc.; cricket pitches; and outdoor bowling greens.
- 60% of households suggest a general need for more facilities for teenagers and 60% suggest that there are not enough artificial turf pitches.
- In most other cases opinion is quite close regarding the sufficiency of provision. 53% suggest a need for more footpaths/bridleways/cycle paths; water recreation facilities; and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves. 53% think that there are enough play areas for younger children.

Quality

For all kinds of outdoor facilities/open spaces a majority of households suggested that in general they were of average or better quality (though the most common rating tended to be only "adequate"). However, for some typologies there were notable levels of dissatisfaction with general levels of quality as noted below.

- 39% of households highlighted the overall quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor compared to 19% rating them as good or very good;
- 36% rated the quality of MUGAs as poor/very poor compared to 19% rating them as good or very good.
- 36% rated the quality of ATPs as poor/very poor compared to 22% rating them as good/very good.

In contrast, some kinds of facilities/open spaces were rated highly in terms of quality. These include: parks and recreation grounds (62% rate quality in general as being good or very good); woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (53% similarly); footpaths etc (46%); and play areas (43%).

Access

In general, a majority of household respondents report that they would not normally travel more than 15 minutes to visit the different kinds of open spaces and outdoor facilities. There is considerable variation however between the typologies.

For example, 50% or more of user households are prepared to travel 20 minutes to visit woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves and water recreation facilities. Around 30% of these report that they would travel more than 20 minutes to access such facilities.

In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used (for example, play areas; informal open space areas - for ball games, picnics, hobbies, dog walking; parks and recreation grounds; and allotments).

- 59% of users would expect allotments to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 26% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- 56% of users would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 21% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- Just over 50% of users would expect local parks/recreation grounds and informal open spaces to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 23% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.

Household members will travel further to access outdoor sports facilities and youth facilities:

- 73% will travel for 15 minutes to use grass pitches for football etc; similarly, 63% will travel for 15 minutes to access artificial turf pitches; and 69% to use cricket pitches.
- 71% will travel for 15 minutes to access a MUGA; and 61% will travel for 15 minutes to access teen facilities such as skateparks.
- 68% will travel for 15 minutes to make use of outdoor bowling greens; and 62% for tennis courts.

It is clear from the above that there is great variance in respondents' apparent willingness to spend time travelling to different types of facility/open space.

For nearly all typologies walking is the norm and will provide the basis for setting access standards, most notably for facilities such as play areas (84%); parks and recreation grounds (83%); allotments and informal open spaces (77%).

However, a higher proportion of households would normally drive rather than walk to areas for water recreation; and significant numbers would drive to some of the facilities e.g. 43% would drive to grass pitches for football etc; 39% would drive to access bowling greens; and 37% would drive to visit cricket pitches and MUGAs.

Importance of footpath/cycle access

- Cycling is an important access consideration for some households e.g. 16% of respondents have household members who would cycle to use cricket pitches and bowling greens; 12% would cycle to use MUGAs and grass pitches; and 9% to access footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths and youth facilities.
- 83% of households confirmed that they would be prepared to walk/cycle further if the quality of the route was improved. 81% also said that if the quality of the route was improved, they would make the journey more often.

Priorities

- The category highlighted by the largest number of households as a high priority for potential improvement/new provision was better footpaths, bridleway and cyclepath provision (62%) followed by woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (56%).

- Other notable high priorities for improvement highlighted by significant numbers were informal open spaces (46%); areas for water recreation (43%); and parks and local recreation grounds (44%).
- Children's play areas also score quite highly as a priority need (a combined high/medium priority choice for 82% of households - 43% high/39% medium). Facilities for teenagers were also rated similarly (a combined high/medium priority choice for 69% of households - 36% high/33% medium).
- The category where it is particularly clear cut that the primary need identified is for more facilities rather than improvements to existing provision for teenagers (71%). Other typologies with a clear majority indicating a need for additional facilities rather than improvements in quality were: artificial turf pitches (68%); and outdoor tennis courts (59%). In addition, notably more respondents believe the primary need is for more MUGAs rather than improvements to existing facilities.
- For other typologies quality improvements to existing provision is the more common improvement need suggested - most notably for play areas; footpaths etc; water recreation facilities; and parks and recreation grounds.
- Facilities with significant numbers highlighting a primary need being access improvements (over 20%) were grass winter pitches and cricket pitches; bowling greens; and allotments.

Public Health and other issues

- Mid Sussex District Council fully recognises the value and importance of access to open space, sport and outdoor recreation facilities in relation to improving health and wellbeing and in relation to residents' quality of life.
 - The District Councils Corporate Plan (2018-19) highlighted the importance of "providing an effective Wellbeing service that helps residents make healthy lifestyle choices".
 - The West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is currently being updated and the County Public Health team noted that promoting an increase in active recreation is likely to be an important element in the new Strategy.
 - The County Council also provides information on local walking and cycling routes, safer routes to school, sustainable travel options and local public transport.
 - The District Council Wellbeing Team promotes various public health initiatives in support of the West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and focuses on areas of particular priority to Mid Sussex.
 - Areas of work include: support of sport and active recreation; support for Wellbeing programmes; club, coach and volunteer development in liaison with Active Sussex; and provision of small grants and support
 - Local initiatives include: a healthy walks programme; provision of outdoor gym equipment at various parks and open space locations; the Claire Park Run event (Haywards Heath) each Saturday; "Learn to Run" courses, organised in conjunction with Burgess Hill runners and Haywards Heath Harriers. Additional projects supported include: the Wellbalanced Programme, the Weight off Workshops and the Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Programme.
-

- Some sectors of the community face particular barriers to access such as disabled people; children and young people; households in the more isolated rural areas and those in the more deprived wards of the study area

4.3 Neighbouring Local Authorities and Town/Parish Councils - Observations and key issues

Neighbouring Local Authorities – Key Findings

Section 3.2 of the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019) reviewed feedback from neighbouring Local Authorities in relation to the status of their open space strategies/associated studies and any cross-border issues of significance. The variety of documents and strategies in place (and their relevance to current planning policy) is considerable, embracing green infrastructure studies, open space strategies, sport/recreation and play strategies.

The approach adopted by each authority is very much locally derived. It is also notable that some authorities are currently involved with commissioning new sport/open space related studies or updating previous strategies that are out of date.

There is cross border and wider strategic partnership working between Mid Sussex District and neighbouring authorities particularly relating to Green Infrastructure and the Habitats Regulations Assessment; but relatively few neighbour authorities highlight specific issues related to the Mid Sussex Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy and the PPS. Some examples noted by officers from neighbouring authorities are noted below⁸:

- Crawley: Some sports teams from Mid Sussex make use of Pitch Space in Crawley. The Crawley Landscape Character Assessment 2012 cross-refers to the Mid Sussex Landscape Character Assessment.
- Horsham: A developer/agent has proposed land for a potential new settlement on the HDC/MSDC boundary. Joint working and conversations in relation to this site will be needed through the local plan review process.
- Tandridge: Tandridge District Council (TDC) would like to be able to contribute towards 'shared SANG' within Mid Sussex District borders. This might mean that housing developments within TDC would pay a financial sum towards open spaces within MSDC.
- Wealden: There has been interest in progressing work to provide a Sports Park, which could provide sporting facilities within a wider catchment of Mid Sussex District Council.

⁸ Detail of the responses from Neighbouring Local Authority Officers can be found on page 26 of the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019)

Town/Parish Councils

General Overview

- The individual towns/parishes are very different in size, demographics, geography, needs and demand/aspirations. It is important that the study takes this variation into account.
- 15 of the 20 town/parish councils who responded were directly responsible for the management of various local spaces and outdoor recreational facilities.
- 17 of the 20 local councils who responded noted that there was a need for additional or improved open space, play and recreation facilities within their town or parish.
- 7 of the parishes did not think there was scope for greater community use of outdoor play and recreation spaces at local schools; and 6 were not sure. However, 7 of the parishes highlighted potential for community use (see below) or noted a need for improvements.
- The sectors of the community most commonly identified as being poorly served in relation to their needs were young people/teenagers, older residents and those with various sports interests e.g. football and petanque.

Common areas of concern

For the parish councils, the areas of most common concern are:

- Improvements to footpaths and bridleways and provision of new cycle paths.
- Not enough areas for teenagers e.g. skate parks, shelters etc., and the quality of existing play areas.
- Need for improvements to parks, recreation grounds and village greens.
- Allotments – in the main the need for additional plots and new provision.

Quality considerations

The quality factors most commonly deemed to be of a high priority as regards recreational public open spaces are that:

- Equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained.
- They should be safe and secure for those using them
- They should be easy to get to (and get around) for all members of the community.
- They should be multi-functional providing for all sectors of the community.

It is also thought important by many parish councils that there should be good footpath and cycleway links to and between public open spaces; and there should be adequate opportunities for dog walking and freedom from dog fouling.

Other aspects of quality specifically highlighted, and related comments were: facilities should allow a mix of ages and abilities to use the facilities simultaneously; they should have regular

inspections to ensure that the Health and Safety of users is being maintained; and the grass should be cut regularly.

Detailed responses on open space typologies

Many of the town/parish councils provided detailed responses relating to aspects of quantity and quality of the various elements of open spaces surveyed. The detailed responses are included within section 3.3 of the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019).

4.4 Parks, Green Space, Countryside and Rights of Way - Key Findings

Overview

- The most important policy document relating to this study is the current adopted Mid Sussex District Plan, which provides policy guidance and proposals for the protection and promotion of various open space types.
- A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides guidance to developers on the Council's approach to securing capital and revenue contributions for the provision and maintenance of open space, and circumstances in which the Council will adopt open spaces.
- There are other recommended standards in relation to the provision of types of open space- notably the ANGSt advocated by Natural England.
- The Council uses s106 Agreements to secure infrastructure and does not have a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) system.
- Policies relating to cycling, and walking are afforded especial importance, and the importance of walking and cycling for both recreation and utility are highlighted in documents such as the District Council's Sustainability Strategy, and the County Council's Cycling and Walking Strategy.

Quantity

Strategic organisations (including local authority officers).

- Generally, if there is a view it appears to be that there is a good supply of open spaces in general. The exception is probably in terms of safe routes for recreational cycling/riding and walking.

Community groups survey

- Of those responding to the question most (56%) thought there were enough open spaces to meet their needs; 22% felt there were not enough; with the rest unsure, or with no opinion.
 - Specific instances of quantity issues are reported in the relevant part of this section.
 - There are strong local opinions in respect of safe cycling routes, in particular.
-

Household Survey

- Of the householders responding to the sample household survey conducted as part of the core consultation, many indicated a belief that for most kinds of open space and recreational facilities across the district there is sufficient provision. However, many respondents thought that there were insufficient Footpaths, Cycleways, and Bridleways (50%); and, Informal Open Space for ball games (45%), etc. The options on which to choose where 'need for more', 'enough', and 'too many'.
- The survey highlighted that it is the area's allotments that are most commonly used by most households at least weekly (95%); followed by Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycle paths (81%); Informal Open Space (78%); and Parks and Recreation Grounds (66%).

Parish Councils

- Some individual local councils made observations about the quantitative adequacy or otherwise of various types of open space provision, as summarised at the relevant points in this section.

Quality

Strategic organisations (including local authority officers)

- The overall view on the part of local authority officers is that open spaces are of often good quality, but with some variability. Concern is expressed over practices of adoption and long-term maintenance of open space.
- Off-road rights of way can vary in quality across the District, influenced by the nature of the substrate, and the level of cooperation received from landowners.
- Areas of environmental sensitivity can be stressed as a result of public demand for access and recreation; an unsurprising conclusion, given features such as the High Weald AONB, South Downs National Park, and proximity to the Ashdown Forest.

Community groups survey

- There was strong concern expressed about provision of dedicated/safe cycle paths, with the view being that this was often piecemeal.
 - There is concern about declining resources for the maintenance and improvement of the Rights of Way network.
 - There are important local initiatives (such as in the Burgess Hill areas with the Green Circle initiative) which might be considered to be exemplars of local involvement.
 - Individual local councils made observations about the qualitative adequacy or otherwise of various types of open space provision, as summarised at the relevant points in this section.
-

Household Survey

- For all kinds of open spaces a majority of households suggested that in general they were of average or better quality (though the most common rating tended to be only "adequate"). However, for some typologies there were notable levels of dissatisfaction with general levels of quality (39% of households highlighted the overall quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor compared to 19% rating them as good or very good; and 36% rated the quality of MUGAs as poor/very poor compared to 19% rating them as good or very good).
- Some kinds of facilities/open spaces were rated highly in terms of quality. These include: parks and recreation grounds (62% rate quality in general as being good or very good); woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (53% similarly); footpaths etc. (46%); and play areas (43%).

Access

Strategic organisations (including local authority officers)

- (Lack of) access within and between parks by bike has been highlighted.
- The High Weald AONB Partnership and the South Downs National Park Authority recognise the importance of access the attractive landscapes, with the health benefits this bestows. However, such access should be managed, given environmental sensitivities.
- Access issues also relate to linking up areas of natural interest to provide wildlife corridors.

Household Survey

- In general, a majority of household respondents report that they would not normally travel more than 15 minutes to visit the different kinds of open spaces and outdoor facilities. There is considerable variation however between the typologies.
 - For example, 50% or more of user households are prepared to travel 20 minutes to visit woodlands, wildlife area and nature reserves and water recreation facilities. Around 30% of these report that they would travel more than 20 minutes to access such facilities.
 - In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used (for example, play areas; informal open space areas - for ball games, picnics, hobbies, dog walking; parks and recreation grounds; and allotments).
 - 59% of users would expect allotments to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 26% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
-

- Just over 50% of users would expect local parks/recreation grounds and informal open spaces to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 23% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- For nearly all typologies walking is the norm and will provide the basis for setting access standards, most notably for facilities such as play areas (84%); parks and recreation grounds (83%); allotments and informal open spaces (77%).

Community groups survey

- Strong views were expressed by some groups in respect of access to the Rights of Way network for those with physical limitations.
- Much concern has been expressed about the lack of safe connecting routes for cycling and riders. Local groups have promoted specific proposals.

4.5 Play Areas and Youth Facilities - Key Findings

The District Council is a key provider of play space and youth facility providers in Mid Sussex – in total they manage 122 play/youth facilities. Many of the town/parish councils also own and manage play areas.

Quantity

Stakeholder views

- In general, the town and parish councils report that there are enough play facilities for younger children, but a number of the local councils reported a need for more youth facilities.
- District Council officers note a potential excess of small play areas that have been provided through new developments. The Council manages skate parks in the three main towns which are heavily used. There are also smaller satellite skate bowls in some of the villages.
- The majority view of community and youth/play organisations is that overall there are enough play areas/youth facilities but a shortfall in youth facilities in some areas is noted.

Residents' survey

- A clear majority of respondents (60%) to the resident's survey believe that overall across the District there is insufficient provision of youth facilities.
 - In contrast a majority of respondents (53%) report that there are enough play areas for younger children (under 13s).
-

Quality

Stakeholder views

- A significant number of town/parish councils highlighted a need to improve the quality of local play space and youth facility provision.
- District Council officers suggest that overall the quality of many small play areas is poor and that they are of limited play value. The view is that providing a smaller number of better designed and equipped high quality inclusive play areas would be preferable.
- Community and Youth Organisations - overall the quality of equipped play areas tends to be rated as good/adequate but the quality of some youth facilities such as MUGAs and youth shelters is quite poor; as is provision of play areas with more challenging equipment for teenagers. The quality of skateparks/wheeled sports provision is generally rated as good as is access to natural areas for play and grass kickabout areas.

Residents' survey

- The quality of youth facilities/MUGAs is not rated highly - 81% of respondent households say that they are at best adequate with 36% of those rating them as poor or very poor compared to 19% rating them as good/very good.
- In contrast residents are quite satisfied with the quality of equipped play areas across the District (43% rated them as being good or very good in contrast to 15% rating them as poor or very poor).

Access

Stakeholder views

- District Council Officers, a number of town/parish councils and play/community organisations highlighted the need for more inclusive play and youth facilities.

Residents' survey

- 56% of users would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 21% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
 - 79% of users would expect youth facilities to be within a 15 minute travel time. 21% of these would not wish to travel more than 10 minutes and 18% no more than 5 minutes.
-

Priorities for improvement

Stakeholder views

- A number of town/parish councils noted a priority need for improved youth facilities and MUGAs.
- Community and play organisations: the most frequently highlighted types of provision noted as priorities were: MUGAs; wild natural areas for play; equipped playgrounds (in particular play areas with more challenging equipment for teenagers); outdoor gyms; and grass kickabout areas.

Residents' survey

- Childrens' play areas scored highly as a priority need for improvement (a combined high/medium priority choice for 82% of households - 43% high/39% medium). Facilities for teenagers were rated similarly (a combined high/medium priority choice for 69% of households - 36% high/33% medium).

Other Issues / General Observations

- The District Council has historically adopted all open space, including poor quality play areas, and existing commuted sum calculations are old and rather complex. A new approach to commuted sums should be considered.
- The value of play in relation to improvements to children and young people's health and wellbeing was highlighted by the District Council and various stakeholders.
- Stakeholders noted the need for well-designed inclusive play and youth facilities, and the value of consultation with young people and the wider community in that process.
- 'Kangaroos', the local disability charity offer, to act as a reference group regarding inclusive design options and to check sites with new equipment. They suggest that clear photographs and descriptions of the equipment should be available online – both on their website and MSDC – for parents to see the layout and children to know what it looks like before visiting.
- Play England provide useful guidance on play and spatial planning; play space design; and managing risk in play. Some of these could be adopted as guidance and SPD's.

4.6 Concluding remarks

The survey work, stakeholder consultation, and desk-based research have highlighted a wide range of issues of value to both the Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS).

Response levels to the residents' survey, town/parish councils' surveys and from other stakeholders have been high. This has ensured that a wide and diverse range of views from local people with an interest in open space, and outdoor sport/recreation facilities have influenced the findings of the study. Most of the main strategic stakeholders have also

responded and key issues have been identified to be further considered in the two main reports (the Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy).

There is a strong degree of consistency across the various sources on key areas of local and strategic need/aspirations, from which we can be confident that the findings are robust and reliable. This provides a strong evidence base to be combined with the detailed facilities audit and analysis. As noted in the introduction there has also been an extensive consultation programme specific to the PPS and these findings are provided in that report.

The findings and evidence highlighted in the Community and Stakeholder Consultation report will feed into:

- the development of open space policy statements; and
 - the recommended standards for typologies of open spaces (quantity, quality and access elements).
-

5.0 AUDIT OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE ASSETS

5.1 General approach

This section sets out the typologies which have standards developed, and those which have been mapped, but do not have standards. The typologies of open space have drawn on guidance provided within PPG17, and through discussions with the project Steering Group. The agreed list of typologies is seen to be locally derived and appropriate for the type and range of open spaces that exist within Mid Sussex.

Although sites have been categorised into different typologies, the multifunctionality of different types of open space is important to recognise e.g. amenity green space, natural green space, parks and recreation grounds and allotments may all provide numerous functions such as providing space for recreation, habitat for wildlife conservation, flood alleviation, improving air quality, and providing food growing opportunities. Linked to this are the intrinsic benefits of open space, such as providing an attractive landscape for improving health and wellbeing.

It should be noted that the typologies mapping is as accurate as possible (as of March 2019) following cross checking with the council's layers, desktop mapping, consultation with town/parish councils and site visits.

The following typologies have been used in this assessment:

Table 3 MSDC open space typologies

Typologies mapped with standards	Typologies mapped but no standards ⁹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments • Amenity Green Space (>0.15ha) • Park and Recreation Grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i> - <i>Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed)</i> • Play Space (Children) • Play Space (Youth) • Accessible Natural Green Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education sites • Outdoor Sport (Private) • Churchyards and Cemeteries

5.2 Open Space Typologies with Standards

5.2.1 Allotments

Allotments provide areas for people to grow their own produce and plants. It is important to be clear about what is meant by the term 'Allotment'. The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 obliged local authorities to provide sufficient allotments and to let them to persons living in their areas where they considered there was a demand.

The Allotment Act of 1922 defines the term 'allotment garden' as:

⁹ An explanation for not developing standards for these typologies is outlined in the following sections

“an allotment not exceeding 40 poles¹⁰ in extent which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family”

The Allotments Act of 1925 gives protection to land acquired specifically for use as allotments, so called Statutory Allotment Sites, by the requirement for the need for the approval of Secretary of State in event of sale or disposal. Some allotment sites may not specifically have been acquired for this purpose. Such allotment sites are known as “temporary” (even if they have been in use for decades) and are not protected by the 1925 legislation.

5.2.2 Amenity Green Space



Brougham Lane, Pease Pottage

The category is considered to include those spaces (minimum 0.15ha in size) open to free and spontaneous use by the public, but neither laid out or managed for a specific function such as a park, public playing field or recreation ground; nor managed as a natural or semi-natural habitat. These areas of open space will be of varied size, but are likely to share the following characteristics:

- Unlikely to be physically demarcated by walls or fences.
- Predominantly lain down to (mown) grass.
- Unlikely to have identifiable entrance points (unlike parks).
- They may have shrub and tree planting, and occasionally formal planted flower beds.

¹⁰ 40 Poles equals 1,210 square yards or 1,012 square metres. A Pole can also be known as a Rod or Perch.

- They may occasionally have other recreational facilities and fixtures (such as play equipment, informal football or ball courts).

Examples might include both small and larger informal grassed areas in housing estates and general recreation spaces. They can serve a variety of functions dependent on their size, shape, location and topography. Some may be used for informal recreation activities, whilst others by themselves, or else collectively, contribute to the overall visual amenity of an area.

It should be noted that amenity green spaces smaller than 0.15 ha and amenity roadside verges were not included within the analysis for this typology, as it is considered that these sites will have limited recreation function and therefore should not count towards open space provision (although they may have other functions such as visual amenity or biodiversity value).

5.2.3 Parks and Recreation Grounds



Ardingly Playing Field, Ardingly

This typology brings together the function of Parks and Recreation Grounds and Outdoor Sports Space as identified in the former PPG17 typology. The distinction between the two typologies in the study area is blurred, with very few formal gardens and many parks and/or outdoor sports spaces having multi-functions used for both informal and formal recreation. The consultation undertaken indicated that people refer to their local park or rec, and communities do not make a distinction between outdoor sports space and parks and recreation grounds. Therefore, for the study an overarching typology for Park and Recreation Grounds has been used.

For the purpose of this study, a Park and Recreation Ground is defined as an open space that:

- Has at least two facilities e.g. a children's play area and tennis courts, or;

- Has provision for formal sport e.g. football or cricket pitch (informal football would be excluded), or;
- Includes private sports grounds where there is open public access i.e. although it is private (e.g. managed by a football club), access is allowed for informal recreation.

Those outdoor sports grounds which have no public access at all will be mapped as Outdoor Sport (Private).

This typology comprises the general open space surrounding play areas, sports facilities etc. used for general recreation and includes those areas laid out as pitches which are accessible i.e., they can be walked over/used informally. Pitches which have no access e.g. they are fenced off/privately managed have been mapped as Outdoor Sport (Private) and are not included within the quantity analysis for parks and recreation grounds.

The quantity analysis for Parks and Recreation Grounds also includes fixed outdoor sports space (comprising all other non-pitch based provision including tennis courts, outdoor gyms and bowling greens) which are publicly accessible/available to book. Those facilities that are managed by a club and are not freely accessible are mapped as Outdoor Sport (Private) and are not included within the quantity analysis.

The quantity figure for Parks and Recreation Grounds excludes the provision of children and youth play spaces which have a separate typology.

Parks and Recreation Grounds take on many forms, and may embrace a wide range of functions including:

- Play space of many kinds;
- Provision for a range of formal pitch and fixed sports;
- Informal recreation and sport;
- Providing attractive walks and cycle routes to work;
- Offering landscape and amenity features;
- Areas of formal planting;
- Providing areas for 'events';
- Providing habitats for wildlife;
- Dog walking.

When mapping this type of provision, a multi-functional approach to mapping has been adopted where play spaces, youth spaces and fixed outdoor sports facilities (e.g. tennis courts, bowling greens) are separately mapped. Individual playing pitches (e.g. football, rugby) are not separately mapped as the assessment of these facilities is included within the separate playing pitch study.

5.2.4 Play Space (Children and Youth)



John Pears Recreation Ground Play Area and Basketball, Ashurstwood

It is important to establish the scope of the study in terms of this kind of space. Children and young people will play/'hang out' in almost all publicly accessible "space" ranging from the street, town centres and squares, parks, playing fields, "amenity" grassed areas etc., as well as the more recognisable play and youth facility areas such as equipped playgrounds, youth shelters, BMX and skateboard parks, Multi-use Games Areas, etc. Clearly many of the other types of open space covered by this study will therefore provide informal play opportunities.

To a child, the whole world is a potential playground: where an adult sees a low wall, a railing, kerb or street bench, a child might see a mini adventure playground or a challenging skateboard obstacle. Play should not be restricted to designated 'reservations' and planning and urban design principles should reflect these considerations.

The study has recorded the following:

- **Children's Play Space** – Areas of play that cater for the needs of children up to and around 12 years. Play Areas are an essential way of creating safe but adventurous places for children of varying ages to play and learn. The emphasis in play area management is shifting away from straightforward and formal equipment such as slides and swings towards creating areas where imagination and natural learning can flourish through the use of landscaping and natural building materials and the creation of areas that need exploring.
- **Youth Play Space** - informal recreation opportunities for, broadly, the 13 to 16/17 age group, and which might include facilities like skateboard parks, basketball courts and 'free access' Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). In practice, there will always be some blurring around the edges in terms of younger children using equipment aimed for youths and vice versa.

All children's and youth play spaces were quality audited.

5.2.5 Natural Green Space



Ashenground Woods, Haywards Heath

For the purpose of the open space element of the study, accessible natural green space covers a variety of spaces including meadows, woodland, copses, river valleys and lakes all of which share a trait of having natural characteristics and biodiversity value and are also partly or wholly accessible for informal recreation.

The nature of the geography of Mid Sussex means there are large tracts of open countryside. Much of this is private land used for farming, however, there is significant access to the countryside provided through the rights of way network. It was not the intention of this audit to survey and map all these areas, but to focus on sites where there are definitive boundaries or areas of natural green space which have some form of public access. In some cases, access may not be fully clear, however, there is evidence of some level of informal use and access.

Some sites may provide access in different ways, for example, rivers or lakes are often used for water recreation (e.g. canoeing, fishing, sailing). Whilst access may not be available fully across all areas of these sites (e.g. the middle of a lake or dense scrub in a woodland), the whole site has been included within the assessment.

Some natural spaces have no access at all, and whilst they cannot be formally used by the general community, they can be appreciated from a distance, and contribute to visual amenity, green infrastructure and biodiversity. Whilst every effort was made to exclude these spaces from the open space assessment, as already identified, in certain sites access may not always be clear.

The local consultation and research elsewhere (Natural England¹¹) have identified the value attached to natural spaces for recreation and emotional well-being. A sense of 'closeness to nature' with its attendant benefits for people is something that is all too easily lost in urban areas. Natural green spaces can make important contributions towards local Biodiversity Action Plan targets and can also raise awareness of biodiversity values and issues.

5.3 Open Space typologies with no Standards

None of the typologies below were subject to quality audits (this was agreed by the project team, due to access and/or resources).

5.3.1 Churchyards and Cemeteries

The study area has many churches and cemeteries, and these provide significant aesthetic value and space for informal recreation such as walking and relaxing. Many are also important in terms of biodiversity, particularly closed churchyards. Their importance for informal recreation, aesthetic value and contribution towards biodiversity must be acknowledged, and as such, investment in their upkeep, maintenance and quality is an important factor. Churchyards and Cemeteries have been identified and mapped where known, however, no quantity or access standard for provision have been set, as it is outside the scope of this study to make recommendations related to requirements for new provision.

5.3.2 Education

Many schools and colleges have open space and sports facilities within their grounds. This may range from a small playground to large playing fields with several sports pitches. More often than not, public access to these spaces is restricted and, in many cases, forbidden. Nevertheless, many of the sports facilities are used by local people on both an informal and formal basis.

Sports clubs may have local informal arrangements with a school to use their pitches, and in some cases more formal 'dual-use' agreements may be in place. School grounds can also contribute towards the green infrastructure and biodiversity of an area.

Quantity, quality and access standards have not been proposed for education sites. This is because they are not openly accessible to the public and whilst important to the local community, there is less opportunity for the Council to influence their provision and management.

5.3.3 Outdoor Sport (Private)

Outdoor sports spaces with no public access (e.g. private sports grounds), have also been recorded and mapped where known. Private sport space makes up an important part of outdoor sports provision across the District and forms an important part of the community

¹¹ Natural England have published a variety of health and the natural environment publications at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/127020>

facilities. The private sports spaces have been mapped separately to publicly accessible sites, to determine exact provision of the different types of provision.

This typology includes golf courses, where more often than not, public access is restricted. Nevertheless, these facilities are used by local people and they form part of the Green Infrastructure network. This typology also includes fixed outdoor sports space (such as tennis courts) which are privately managed, and not accessible.

No quantity or access standards for provision have been set, as it is outside the scope of this study to make recommendations related to requirements for new provision.

5.4 Existing provision of open space

5.4.1 Open space provision across the District

The assessment of existing provision of open space is based on the desktop mapping and site surveys undertaken by Ethos Environmental Planning (signed off in March 2019) which included:

- analysis of existing GIS data held by MSDC and from other sources such as the Ordnance Survey Greenspace layer;
- desktop mapping of open space from aerial photography;
- questionnaires to town and parish councils;
- liaison with council officers; and
- site visits to check accessibility, boundaries, typologies and complete quality audits.

We understand that new sites will come forward and there may have been sites that are used by the local community that have not been recorded. Local communities are encouraged to share this information with MSDC for future updates of this assessment.

The following table shows the existing provision of open space in hectares and ha/1000 population across the district. The existing (ha) figures have been calculated using the GIS database provided to the Council, and a full list of sites (with their quality score where relevant) is also provided at Appendix 5. The figures for 'Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)' include a combination of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground; and
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

There are minor variations in the figures (ha) at the District level (Table 4) and in the parish totals (Table 6) due to the way in which the figures are rounded up or down.

Table 4 Summary of existing provision of open space across the District

Typology	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000) ¹²
Allotments	23.14	0.16
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	78.69	0.53
Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	166.03	1.12
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	162.39	1.09
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	3.64	0.02
Play (Child)	10.00	0.07
Play (Youth)	1.96	0.01
Accessible Natural Greenspace	1574.74	10.59
Cemeteries and Churchyards	39.66	0.27
Education	290.11	1.95
Outdoor Sport (Private)	60.50	0.41

Table 5 below shows the number of sites by typology and Parish across the District (excludes Education sites and Outdoor Sport (Private)).

Table 5 Number of open spaces by typology and Parish

Parish	Allotments	AGS	Park and Recreation Grounds	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	ANGS	Cemeteries and Churchyards
Albourne	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Ansty and Staplefield		3	4	3		4	1
Ardingly	1	3	2	1	1	2	1
Ashurst Wood		1	2	2	1		
Balcombe	2	5	1	3	1	1	1
Bolney			1	1	1		1
Burgess Hill	5	59	9	49	13	12	3
Cuckfield	3	12	1	2	1	4	2
East Grinstead	2	50	5	18	2	6	3
Fulking		1		1			1
Hassocks	1	8	3	4	1	3	2
Haywards Heath	4	50	5	27	5	10	2
Horsted Keynes	1	5	1	1			1
Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common	3	11	7	12	3	3	5
Lindfield	1	14	2	3		3	1
Lindfield Rural	1	2	2	1	1	2	1
Newtimber						2	

¹² Using ONS mid year 2017 population estimates

Parish	Allotments	AGS	Park and Recreation Grounds	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	ANGS	Cemeteries and Churchyards
Poynings	1		1	1	1	2	1
Pyecombe				1		1	
Slaugham	3	6	3	4	1	3	1
Turners Hill	2	6	1	1	1		3
Twineham			1	1			
West Hoathly	1	5	2	3	1	2	
Worth	2	18	2	3	3	5	2
Total	34	260	56	143	38	66	32

5.4.2 Open space provision by parish

Table 6 Existing provision of open space (hectares) by parish

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)
Albourne	0.06	0.21	1	1	0	0.06	0.08	0.09	0	0.82	0.00
Ansty and Staplefield	0	2.38	20.28	20.28	0	0.07	0	123.78	0.25	12.19	0.00
Ardingly	0.28	0.77	2.61	2.5	0.11	0.34	0.03	79.22	0.55	40.54	0.00
Ashurst Wood	0	0	4.03	3.92	0.11	0.13	0.05	0	0	29.99	0.00
Balcombe	0.69	0.79	1.66	1.65	0.01	0.16	0.03	3.87	0.68	0.97	2.32
Bolney	0	0	1.44	1.44	0	0.07	0.03	0	0.55	11.69	0.00
Burgess Hill	2.82	15.25	19.2	19.01	0.19	2.79	0.96	58.06	1.92	28.42	5.91
Cuckfield	2.02	3.69	5.68	5.5	0.18	0.28	0.02	20.22	2.45	14.25	2.87
East Grinstead	4.03	14.37	27.82	26.97	0.85	1.71	0.18	99.18	4.91	36.73	13.12
Fulking	0	0.49	0	0	0	0.04	0	103.49	0.03	0	3.62
Hassocks	0.76	2.55	10.29	9.95	0.34	0.31	0.02	21.2	5.55	8.15	2.98
Haywards Heath	3.94	14.61	23.59	22.93	0.66	1.62	0.25	132.77	4.54	23.09	5.90
Horsted Keynes	0.39	2.3	1.52	1.34	0.18	0.06	0	0.12	0.07	1.11	0.88
Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common	1.91	1.73	13.58	13.23	0.35	0.55	0.12	48.78	3.26	35.13	0.00
Lindfield	0.8	4.36	10.05	9.81	0.24	0.37	0	11.56	0.24	5.51	0.21
Lindfield Rural	0.8	2.21	3.24	3.24	0	0.08	0.04	25.54	1.71	14.15	0.00
Newtimber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	151.79	0	0	0.00
Poynings	0.12	0	1.19	1.19	0	0.07	0.01	194.4	0.34	0	1.61
Pyecombe	0	0	0	0	0	0.07	0	131.96	0	0	0.00
Slaugham	0.93	1.38	8.59	8.54	0.05	0.74	0.01	132.73	0.97	18.54	0.10
Turners Hill	0.69	1.41	1.53	1.53	0	0.1	0.07	0.25	10.29	3.09	18.14
Twineham	0	0	1.24	1.24	0	0.04	0	0	0	0.87	0.00
West Hoathly	0.74	3.55	3.77	3.63	0.14	0.23	0.02	201.45	0	0.85	1.67
Worth	2.18	6.62	3.73	3.5	0.23	0.11	0.05	34.28	1.34	3.99	1.12
District	23.16	78.67	166.04	162.40	3.64	10.00	1.97	1574.74	39.65	290.08	60.47

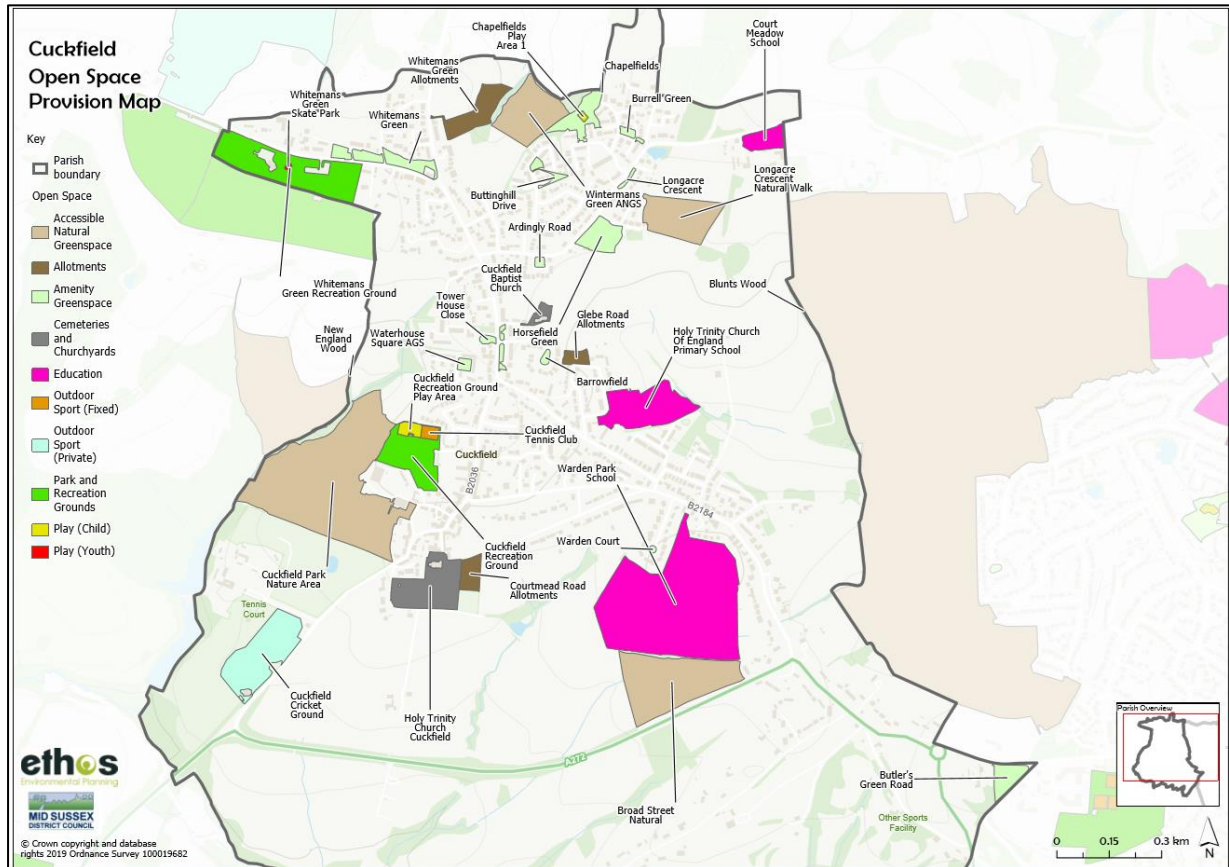
Table 7 Existing provision of open space (hectares per 1000 population) by parish

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)
Albourne	0.08	0.29	1.39	1.39	0	0.08	0.11	0.12	0	1.14	0
Ansty and Staplefield	0	1.11	9.45	9.45	0	0.03	0	57.71	0.12	5.68	0
Ardingly	0.13	0.37	1.25	1.2	0.05	0.16	0.01	38.09	0.26	19.49	0
Ashurst Wood	0	0	2.12	2.06	0.06	0.07	0.03	0	0	15.75	0
Balcombe	0.37	0.42	0.89	0.88	0.01	0.09	0.02	2.07	0.36	0.52	1.24
Bolney	0	0	1.11	1.11	0	0.05	0.02	0	0.42	8.97	0
Burgess Hill	0.09	0.49	0.62	0.61	0.01	0.09	0.03	1.86	0.06	0.91	0.19
Cuckfield	0.52	0.94	1.45	1.41	0.05	0.07	0.01	5.17	0.63	3.65	0.73
East Grinstead	0.15	0.52	1.02	0.98	0.03	0.06	0.01	3.62	0.18	1.34	0.48
Fulking	0	1.63	0	0	0	0.13	0	343.82	0.1	0	12.02
Hassocks	0.09	0.31	1.24	1.2	0.04	0.04	0	2.55	0.67	0.98	0.36
Haywards Heath	0.13	0.49	0.78	0.76	0.02	0.05	0.01	4.42	0.15	0.77	0.2
Horsted Keynes	0.25	1.46	0.96	0.85	0.11	0.04	0	0.08	0.04	0.7	0.56
Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common	0.25	0.23	1.8	1.75	0.05	0.07	0.02	6.45	0.43	4.65	0
Lindfield	0.13	0.7	1.62	1.58	0.04	0.06	0	1.86	0.04	0.89	0.03
Lindfield Rural	0.26	0.72	1.06	1.06	0	0.03	0.01	8.36	0.56	4.63	0
Newtimber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	388.21	0	0	0
Poynings	0.31	0	3.04	3.04	0	0.18	0.03	497.19	0.87	0	4.13
Pyecombe	0	0	0	0	0	0.29	0	545.29	0	0	0
Slaugham	0.3	0.45	2.78	2.77	0.02	0.24	0	43	0.31	6.01	0.03
Turners Hill	0.38	0.77	0.84	0.84	0	0.05	0.04	0.14	5.64	1.69	9.95
Twineham	0	0	3.59	3.59	0	0.12	0	0	0	2.52	0
West Hoathly	0.36	1.71	1.81	1.74	0.07	0.11	0.01	96.8	0	0.41	0.8
Worth	0.2	0.61	0.35	0.32	0.02	0.01	0	3.17	0.12	0.37	0.1
District	0.16	0.53	1.12	1.09	0.02	0.07	0.01	10.59	0.27	1.95	0.41

Maps showing provision by parish

Appendix 1 provides a map for each of the parishes within the district showing the provision of open space. An example map is shown in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5 Example map showing existing provision of open space by parish (Appendix 1)



6.0 THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS

6.1 Introduction

Following the completion of the assessment of local needs (community and stakeholder consultation) and the audit of provision (the first two steps of this study), new standards of provision for open space are proposed below. This section explains how the standards for Mid Sussex have been developed and provides specific information and justification for each of the typologies where standards have been proposed.

The standards for open space have been developed in-line with the NPPF. Standards comprise the following components:

- **Quantity standards:** These are determined by the analysis of existing quantity, consideration of existing local and national standards and benchmarks and evidence gathered from the local needs assessment. It is important that quantity standards are locally derived and are realistic and achievable. The recommended standards need to be robust, evidence based and deliverable through new development and future mechanisms of contributions through on-site or off-site provision.
- **Accessibility standards:** These reflect the needs of all potential users including those with physical or sensory disabilities, young and older people alike. Spaces likely to be used on a frequent and regular basis need to be within easy walking distance and to have safe access. Other facilities where visits are longer but perhaps less frequent, for example country parks, can be further away. Consideration is also given to existing local or national standards and benchmarks.
- **Quality standards:** The standards for each form of provision are derived from the quality audit, existing good practice and from the views of the community and those that use the spaces. Again, quality standards should be achievable and reflect the priorities that emerge through consultation. The current financial climate (with large cut backs in government funding to Local Authorities) means that achievable quality standards are key, and they are likely to vary depending on the geographical area.

The standards that have been proposed are for **minimum guidance levels of provision**. So, just because geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards does not mean there is a surplus, as all such provision may be well used.

6.2 Allotments

Table 8 Summary of quantity and access standard for allotments

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.20 ha/1000 population	720m straight line (15 minutes walk time)

Existing national or local standards

National standards for allotments and other such open spaces are difficult to find. The closest thing to such standards appears to be those set out by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG). These are as follows:

- Standard Plot Size = 330 sq yards (250sqm)
- Paths = 1.4m wide for disabled access
- Haulage ways = 3m wide
- Plotters shed = 12sqm
- Greenhouse = 15sqm
- Polytunnel = 30sqm

The Mid Sussex PPG17 Assessment (2006) recommended the following standards for allotments:

- 1.75 sq m/person¹³
- 15 minutes (900m walking, 2250m cycling, 5625m driving)

Quantity standard for allotments

- 85% of all respondents from the household survey 'never' use allotments, meaning this is the least used type of open space;
- The existing average level of provision across the study area is 0.16 ha/1000 population;
- The household survey identified 47% of people who felt there should be more allotments, however, 51% felt there are enough;
- Consultation with Parish Councils identifies waiting lists in some areas;
- The value of allotments (and other open spaces) in providing access to outdoor physical activity and associated benefits for health and wellbeing, both physical and mental is recognised;
- The propensity for higher density new housing with smaller gardens is likely to increase demand;
- With the above in mind, a small increase against the existing average level of provision is justified. Therefore, a standard of 0.20 ha/1000 is proposed for analysing existing provision and for new provision, which is a small increase against the previous standard.

¹³ This is the equivalent of 0.175 ha/1000

Access standard for allotments

- Responses received in relation to acceptable travel times to allotments from the household survey identified a mix in responses, with 26% wanting allotments within 5 minutes, 33% between 6 to 10 minutes, 17% between 11 to 15 minutes and 17% between 16 to 20 minutes; and that they access allotments by foot (77%).
- This suggests that people do not want to travel far to reach their allotment; however, it is considered that the availability of allotments is more important than having them very close to home, nevertheless there is some demand for facilities relatively nearby. Therefore, a standard of no more than 15 minutes' walk time (720m metres straight line walk) is proposed. This is in accordance with the access standard proposed within the 2006 PPG17 Assessment.

Quality standards for allotments

The household survey identified that 32% of respondents thought that allotments were either good or very good quality, whereas 50% thought they were average. 41% of respondents thought that allotments were a low priority for improvement. Allotment sites were not subject to quality audits as part of this study. This was agreed by the project group as the majority of allotments are locked/not accessible and are generally in decent condition/well maintained.

However, a number of general recommendations are made in relation to quality, which should include the following¹⁴:

- Well-drained soil which is capable of cultivation to a reasonable standard.
- A sunny, open aspect preferably on a southern facing slope.
- Limited overhang from trees and buildings either bounding or within the site.
- Adequate lockable storage facilities, and a good water supply within easy walking distance of individual plots.
- Provision for composting facilities.
- Secure boundary fencing.
- Good access within the site both for pedestrians and vehicles.
- Good vehicular access into the site and adequate parking and manoeuvring space.
- Disabled access.
- Toilets.
- Notice boards.

¹⁴ It may be that not all existing sites meet all recommendations, however, any new provision of allotments will be expected to.

6.3 Amenity Green Space

Table 9 Summary of quantity and access standard for amenity green space

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.55 ha/1000 population	480m straight line or 10 minutes' walk time

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust's (Previously known as the National Playing Fields Association) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.6ha/1000 population of amenity green space, and a walking distance guideline of 480m. Fields In Trust recommend that the quantity guidelines are adjusted to take account of local circumstances.

The Mid Sussex PPG17 Assessment (2006) recommended the following standards for multi-functional green spaces (which included amenity greenspaces):

- No specific quantity standard
- 5 minutes (300m walking)

Quantity standard for amenity green space

- Existing average level of provision in the study area is 0.53 ha/1000 population (for sites greater than 0.15 ha in size);
- The household survey identified that 52% of people felt there was a need for more informal open space areas, whilst 47% felt there were enough;
- Provision varies by parish with some areas falling well below the average, and others exceeding it;
- Considering the above factors, a minimum standard of 0.55 ha/1000 is recommended for analysing existing provision and for new provision of amenity green space, which is in accordance with the average existing provision level within the District, and also the FIT guidance;
- Where a development size results in less than 0.15ha of on site amenity green space provision it is expected that the amenity green space will be provided as a single site, in order to avoid the proliferation of very small amenity spaces which have no real recreation function. E.g. a development of 20 dwellings would result in the requirement for 0.027ha of amenity green space, which would be the minimum size acceptable. Any spaces below this size would be acceptable in terms of their visual amenity but would not count towards the required level of provision.
- When delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the natural green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 1.55 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more bio-diverse spaces.

Access standard for amenity green space

- Responses received in relation to acceptable travel times to informal open space from the household survey identified that people expect informal open space/amenity

green space to be relatively close by, with 52% expecting informal open spaces to be within a 10 minute travel time (of which 23% expecting to travel no more than 5 minutes). A further 17% expect to travel no more than 15 minutes; and 22% expect to travel no more than 20 minutes, and the majority (77%) access these spaces by foot;

- This mix in responses indicates that in general, people want amenity green spaces relatively close by, and therefore a standard of no more than 480m (10 minutes walk time) is proposed. This is greater than the recommended standard within the 2006 PPG17 Assessment of 5 minutes, however, it is considered that an access standard of 10 minutes is more achievable and realistic, and it is backed up by the consultation which indicated a mix in acceptable travel times.

Quality standards for amenity green space

The household survey revealed that the majority (47%) of respondents think that the quality of informal open space is generally average, with 44% rating it as either good or very good quality. This typology was also rated as a high priority for improvement by 46% of respondents.

The audit of provision as well as the consultation has identified the importance attached by local people to open space close to home. The value of 'amenity green space' must be recognised especially within housing areas, where it can provide important local opportunities for play, exercise and visual amenity that are almost immediately accessible. On the other hand, open space can be expensive to maintain and it is very important to strike the correct balance between having sufficient space to meet the needs of the community for accessible and attractive space, and having too much which would be impossible to manage properly and therefore a potential liability and source of nuisance. It is important that amenity green space should be capable of use for at least some forms of public recreation activity.

It is therefore recommended that in addition to the minimum size threshold identified above (0.15ha), that all new amenity green space should be subject to landscape design, ensuring the following quality principles:

- Capable of supporting informal recreation such as a kickabout, space for dog walking or space to sit and relax;
 - Include high quality planting of native trees and/or shrubs to create landscape structure and biodiversity value;
 - Include paths along main desire lines (lit where appropriate);
 - Be designed to ensure easy maintenance.
-

6.4 Parks and Recreation Grounds

Table 10 Summary of quantity and access standard for parks and recreation grounds (public and private combined)

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.1 ha/1000 population	720m straight line (15 minutes' walk time)

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (FIT) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.80ha/1000 population for parks and gardens, with a walking distance guideline of 710m. In addition to this they also recommend the following standards:

- Playing pitches: 1.20ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- All outdoor sports: 1.6ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- Equipped/designated play areas: 0.25ha/1000 population, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks): 0.30ha/1000 population and a walking distance of 700m.

The Mid Sussex PPG17 Assessment (2006) recommended the following standards for parks and gardens:

- 2.00 sq m/person
- 15 minutes travel time (900m walking, 2250m cycling)

And for grass pitches:

- 12.25 sq m/person
- 15 minutes travel time (900m walking, 2250m cycling, 5625m driving)

Artificial turf pitches:

- 0.50 sq m/person
- 20 minutes travel time (1200m walking, 3000m cycling, 7,500m driving)

Quantity of park and recreation grounds

- Existing average level of provision of parks and recreation grounds in the study area is 1.12 ha/1000 population;
- There is an additional 0.41 ha/1000 of private sports space which includes a variety of uses (excluding golf courses);

- The household survey identified that 60% of people felt there were enough parks and recreation grounds (compared to 40% who felt there was a need for more);
- The consultation revealed that the priority among respondents was for improvements to existing facilities over new provision;
- A proposed standard of 1.10 ha/1000 population is proposed for assessing existing provision and for assessing requirements for new provision of publicly accessible facilities.
- It should be noted that this standard is intended to provide sufficient space for pitches, fixed outdoor sport facilities and ancillary space e.g. footpaths, flower beds etc. (Children and youth play space is provided in addition to this standard). The separate Playing Pitch Strategy will deal with the detail around the requirements for pitches. The proposed standard is designed to be flexible so that the council can make the case for what open space/facilities are required where there are multiple use opportunities for example, or where one use is needed more than another, particularly for off-site contributions.
- Although the importance of private sports space is acknowledged, these facilities are not afforded protection under this study, but are covered under the separate Playing Pitch Strategy.

Access standard for park and recreation grounds

- Responses received in relation to acceptable travel times to parks and recreation grounds from the household survey identified a mix of views, with 23% of people wanting facilities to be within a 5 minute travel time, 28% within 10 minutes and 26% within 15 minutes. It also showed that 83% of people walk to parks and recreation grounds. This indicates that people do not want to travel too far to reach their park and recreation ground, however, it is considered that the availability of park and recreation grounds is more important than having them very close to home.
- Therefore, a standard of no more than 15 minutes' walk time (720m metres straight line walk) is proposed. This is in accordance with the access standard proposed within the 2006 PPG17 Assessment.

Quality standards for park and recreation grounds

62% of respondents from the household survey felt that the quality of parks and recreation grounds is either good or very good, however 44% also felt they are a high priority for improvement, and a further 39% a medium priority for improvement.

National guidance relevant to this typology is provided in the 'Green Flag' quality standard for parks which sets out benchmark criteria for quality open spaces. For outdoor sports space, Sport England have produced a wealth of useful documents outlining the quality standards for facilities such as playing pitches, changing rooms, MUGAs and tennis courts plus associated ancillary facilities. The Rugby Football Union have provided guidance on the quality and standard of provision of facilities for rugby, and the England and Wales Cricket Board have provided guidance for cricket facilities. It is recommended that the guidance provided in these documents is adopted by the Council, and that all new and improved provision seeks to meet these guidelines.

6.5 Play Space (children and youth)

Table 11 Summary of quantity and access standards for play space

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Children's Play Space	0.07 ha/1000 population	480m straight line (10 minutes' walk time)
Youth Play Space	0.07 ha/1000 population	720m straight line (15 minutes' walk time)

Existing National and Local Policies

The FIT guidance 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' recommends provision of 0.25ha/1000 population of equipped/designated play areas, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). The guidance does not specifically cover the needs of most teenagers.

The previous FIT guidance (The Six Acre Standard) recommended provision of 0.8 hectares per 1000 people for children's play of which around 0.3 hectares should be equipped provision. These standards had been criticised because they are often seen as undeliverable and can result in a proliferation of play areas that can be difficult to maintain, as well as setting unrealistic aspirations in urban areas where insufficient land is available to provide facilities, especially higher density development on brownfield sites. The level recommended within the new guidance (0.25 ha/1000 population), although lower than previously, is still considered to be high, and difficult to deliver.

The following minimum size guidelines and buffers are recommended by FIT:

Playable space (LAP type - need not be equipped)

1. Minimum active playable space of 100 sq m (need not be equipped).
2. Buffer zone of 5m minimum depth between the active playable space and the nearest dwelling

Equipped play area (LEAP type)

1. Minimum activity zone area of 400 sq m.
2. Buffer zone of not less than 10m in depth between the edge of the equipped activity zone and the boundary of the nearest dwelling and a minimum of 20m between the equipped activity zone and the habitable room facade of the dwelling.

Teen Play including a MUGA (NEAP type)

1. Minimum activity zone area of 1000 sq m divided into two parts; one part containing a range of playground equipment; and the other a hard surface MUGA of at least 465 sq m.
2. Buffer zone of not less than 30m in depth between the activity zone and the boundary of the nearest dwelling. A greater distance may be needed where purpose built skateboarding facilities are provided.

The Mid Sussex PPG17 Assessment (2006) recommended the following standards for equipped play areas and teenage areas:

- Equipped play areas: 0.65 sq m/person; 5 minutes (300m walk) for play areas for young children and 10 minutes (600m walk) for older children;
- Teenage areas: 0.30 sq m/person; 10 minutes (600m walk and 1500m cycling).

Quantity standards for play

- Within the study area, current average levels of provision of children's play space is 0.07 ha/1000 population, for youth space this is 0.01 ha/1000 population;
- The household survey identified that 46% of people felt there was a need for more children's play areas (compared to 53% who felt there are enough); whereas for facilities for teenagers 60% felt there was a need for more (compared to 36% who felt there was enough);
- As part of the consultation Parish/Town Councils identified that there were generally not enough facilities for teenagers, and the main concern regarding children's play space was quality;
- It is therefore recommended that existing levels of youth play facilities are increased with a standard of 0.07 ha/1000 population for analysing existing and required provision, and that provision of children's play space remains in line with existing levels of provision, also at 0.07 ha/1000 population;
- It should be reiterated that these are **minimum standards for equipped provision and do not include the need for surrounding playable space** as recommended by FIT¹⁵ and Play England¹⁶ i.e. this surrounding playable space will need to be provided in addition to the quantity standard.
- The FIT hierarchy approach (LAPs, LEAPs, NEAPs etc.) is a bit dated and it directs developers towards providing standardised play rather than thinking about what is needed locally, and opportunities for more creative play design. A single standard for children's play aims to move away from lots of little play areas with low play value which are not sustainable and providing better designed play areas with high play value.
- In addition to this, buffer zones (which will take a landscape design approach) will be provided between 5m and 30m, depending on the size of the play area.

Access standards for play

- The household survey identified that for children's play space 56% of people want facilities within 10 minutes and a further 27% within 15 minutes. For children's play space it is considered that the availability of facilities close to home is important. For teenage facilities 39% of people wanted facilities within 10 minutes, with a further 40% willing to travel up to 15 minutes, indicating that people are willing to travel further to access youth provision;

¹⁵ Fields in Trust Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play, Beyond the Six Acre Standard – sets out guidance on buffer zones, which should be well designed to enhance play value and landscape setting.

¹⁶ Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces

- 84% of people walk to children’s facilities, and 64% walk to outdoor teenage facilities.

In light of these findings, the following access standards are recommended:

- Children’s provision - 480m (10 minutes’ walk time). This is slightly above the recommended standard within the 2006 PPG17 Assessment, but is considered to be more achievable, and is backed up by the mix in responses of acceptable travel times from the recent consultation.
- Youth Provision – 720m (15 minutes’ walk time). Again, this is slightly above the recommended standard within the 2006 PPG17 Assessment but is backed up by the recent consultation where 40% of respondents were willing to travel up 15 minutes to access teenage facilities.

Quality standards for play

Children’s play space was considered to be good or very good quality by 43% of respondents of the household survey, whereas 41% felt they were average quality. A similar number felt that facilities for teenagers were average quality (42%), whereas only 19% felt they were good or very good quality, and 39% poor or very poor (compared to 15% for children’s play space).

It is expected that the design of play would take a landscape design approach (designed to fit its surroundings and enhance the local environment), incorporating play into the overall landscape masterplan for new development, and could include natural play to complement the equipped play e.g. grassy mounds, planting, logs, and boulders can all help to make a more attractive and playable setting for equipment, and planting can also help attract birds and other wildlife to literally bring the play space alive.

The challenge for play providers is to provide the best possible play opportunities, and to create play spaces which will attract children, capture their imagination and give them scope to play in new, more exciting, and more creative ways (more detail is provided in the Play Space Design Guide at Appendix 4).

Play England are keen to see a range of play spaces in all urban environments:

- A** Door-step spaces close to home
- B** Local play spaces – larger areas within easy walking distance
- C** Neighbourhood spaces for play – larger spaces within walking distance
- D** Destination/family sites – accessible by bicycle, public transport and with car parking.

Moving forward, Play England would like their new Design Guide; ‘*Design for Play*’ to be referenced and added as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in standard configuration. Play England have also developed a ‘*Quality Assessment Tool*’ which can be used to judge the quality of individual play spaces. It has been recommended that the Council considers adopting this as a means of assessing the quality of play spaces in their District. Play England also highlight a potential need for standards for smaller settlements and rural areas where the doorstep, local, neighbourhood, and destination hierarchy is unlikely to be appropriate.

Disability access is also an important issue for Play England and they would like local authorities to adopt the KIDS¹⁷ publication; *'Inclusion by Design'* as an SPD. Their most recent guidance document, *'Better Places to Play through Planning'* gives detailed guidance on setting local standards for access, quantity and quality of playable space and is considered as a background context for the standards suggested in this study.

The Design Guidance developed as part of this study (Appendix 4) should be referred too for more detailed requirements around the quality and design of play spaces.

6.6 Natural Green Space

Table 12 Proposed quantity and access standard for natural green space

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.0ha/1000 population for new provision	960m straight line (20 minutes' walk time) ANGst Standards for natural green space above 20ha

Existing National and Local standards

Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) were developed in the 1990's and reviewed in 2008, and were subsequently included within their Nature Nearby (2010) report, which is still considered to provide a useful benchmark.

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

- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of 1 hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

The Mid Sussex PPG17 Assessment (2006) recommended the following standards for Natural Greenspaces:

- 10 minutes travel time (600m walking, 1500m cycling).

Quantity standards for natural green space

- The existing level of provision across the study area is 10.59 ha/1000 population;
- Provision varies by parish, with some parishes falling well below this level and some far exceeding this level of provision. It is also noted that setting a standard for new

¹⁷ KIDS, is a charity which in its 40 years, has pioneered a number of approaches and programmes for disabled children and young people. KIDS was established in 1970 and in 2003, KIDS merged with KIDSACTIVE, previously known as the Handicapped Adventure Play Association.

provision in line with the existing average level of provision across the study area would not be deliverable;

- The household survey identified that 53% felt there is a need for more woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves, compared to 46% who felt there are enough;
- It is therefore recommended that a standard of 1.0ha/1000 population is used for assessing the requirements for new provision through development. As with all standards, this is a minimum requirement;
- In terms of analysing existing provision, the ANGSt standards will be applied, in addition to a locally derived access standard which is informed by the results of the consultation (see below);
- The importance of natural green spaces is recognised not only in their contribution to recreation and health and wellbeing, but also importantly in terms of Green Infrastructure and nature conservation/biodiversity.
- As already mentioned under the quantity standard for amenity green space, when delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the amenity green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 1.55 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces, in accordance with the NPPF.

Access standards for natural green space

- The household survey identified 18% want woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves within 5 minutes travel time, 17% within 10 minutes, 15% within 15 minutes, 19% within 20 minutes and 31% more than 20 minutes – of these, 57% walk and 34% drive.
- This indicates that people are generally willing to travel further to access this type of open space compared to other typologies, and therefore a standard of 960m (20 minutes' walk time) is proposed. This is greater than the access standard recommended in the 2006 PPG17 Assessment but is backed up by the recent consultation results.
- It is also recommended that the ANGSt standards are applied to identify where the key gaps in access are for sites above 20ha. The 300m/2ha ANGSt standard is not considered to be very achievable or realistic, and therefore provision should be analysed against the locally derived standard of 960m or 20 minutes' walk time.

Quality standards for natural green space

Satisfaction levels with the quality of natural green space (woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves) is good to average, with 53% of people in the household sample survey rating their quality as either very good or good, and 37% as average. Woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves were also noted as a high priority for improvement (in terms of new provision and also improvements to existing provision) by significant numbers (56%) in the household survey. Consultation results also highlight the value attached to certain attributes of open space, in particular:

- Good maintenance and cleanliness
 - Ease of access
 - Lack of antisocial behaviour, noise etc.
-

This suggests that the provision of new or improved open space cannot be considered in isolation from the means of maintaining such space, perceptions of antisocial behaviour, and ease of access from within the surrounding environment.

The shape and size of space provided should allow for meaningful and safe recreation. Provision might be expected to include (as appropriate) elements of woodland, wetland, heathland and meadow, and could also be made for informal public access through recreation corridors. For larger areas, where car borne visits might be anticipated, some parking provision will be required. The larger the area the more valuable sites will tend to be in terms of their potential for enhancing local conservation interest and biodiversity. Wherever possible these sites should be linked to help improve their wildlife value and Green Infrastructure functionality as part of a network.

In areas where it may be impossible or inappropriate to provide additional natural green space consistent with the standard, other approaches should be pursued which could include (for example):

- Changing the management of marginal space on playing fields and parks to enhance biodiversity.
- Encouraging living green roofs as part of new development/ redevelopment.
- Encouraging the creation of native mixed species hedgerows.
- Additional use of long grass management regimes.
- Improvements to watercourses and water bodies.
- Innovative use of new drainage schemes / Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
- Use of native trees and plants with biodiversity value in high quality soft landscaping of new developments.

The above should in any event be principles to be pursued and encouraged at all times.

Protecting, creating, enhancing and retrofitting natural and semi-natural features in our urban environments is a cost-effective and win-win-win approach to delivering positive outcomes for people and wildlife.

6.7 Summary of open space standards

Table 13 Summary of open space quantity and access standards

Typology	Quantity standards for existing provision and new provision (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.20	720 metres straight line or 15 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	0.55	480 metres straight line or 10 minutes' walk time
Park and Recreation Grounds (public and private combined)	1.10	720 metres straight line or 15 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	0.07	480 metres straight line or 10 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	0.07	720 metres straight line or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	1.0 (for new provision only)	960 metres straight line or 20 minutes' walk time and ANGst Standards for natural green space above 20ha
Total for new provision	2.99 ha/1000	

7.0 APPLYING LOCAL STANDARDS

7.1 Introduction

This part of the report uses the recommended standards to analyse open space provision across the district. This section provides an overview of provision and supply across the district and individual parishes, with more detailed maps provided in Appendices 1, 2 and 3. This section includes:

Quantity analysis

The quantity of provision is assessed using the recommended quantity standards for each of the typologies where a quantity standard has been developed. Recommended standards are expressed as hectares of open space per 1000 population.

The quantity assessment looks at the existing levels of provision, then uses the recommended standard to assess the required level of provision. From this a calculation is made of the supply, which will either be sufficient or insufficient. Within this section, the supply of each open space typology is provided by district and parish.

Access analysis

This section of the report provides analysis of the recommended access standards for each typology across the study area. The maps and analysis in this section are intended to be indicative, providing an overall picture of provision and highlighting any key issues across the district.

However, the key to access analysis, is understanding the picture at a more localised level, therefore, maps showing local access provision by parish are included in Appendix 2. Key access issues are highlighted in Tables 17, 18 and 20.

Quality analysis

This section of the report makes analysis of each typology across the study area – it highlights any common themes or issues that have arisen from the consultation and provides a summary of the quality audit results at the district level. The detailed quality audits have been provided at Appendix 6, and quality audit maps by Parish at Appendix 3, which show the ranking of each open space audited (good, average or poor).

In addition to the quality analysis, an analysis of a site's potential to accommodate cycling is included. The methodology and an overview of the findings are included in Section 7.5 of this report. The detailed audits have been provided to the Council as part of the GIS database.

7.2 Application of quantity standards

7.2.1 Current supply against the Mid Sussex standards

The tables below show the existing supply of open space for each typology at the district and parish level. The supply is calculated using the population figures for each geographical area (ONS 2017 mid-year estimates), and the quantity of open space compared to what the requirements for open space are against the recommended standards.

The figures of 'Park and Recreation Grounds (Combined)' includes a combination of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground; and
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

There are minor variations in the figures (Supply (ha)) at the District level (Table 14) and in the Parish totals (Table 15) due to the way in which the figures are rounded up or down.

Table 14 Open space supply at the District level against the MSDC quantity standards

Typology	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Standard/Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)
Allotments	23.14	0.16	29.75	0.2	-6.60	-0.04
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	78.69	0.53	81.80	0.55	-3.11	-0.02
Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	166.03	1.12	163.61	1.1	2.42	0.02
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	162.39	1.09	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	3.64	0.02	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Play (Child)	10.00	0.07	10.41	0.07	-0.41	0.00
Play (Youth)	1.96	0.01	10.41	0.07	-8.45	-0.06

Table 15 Open space supply (ha) by Parish against the MSDC quantity standards

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)
Albourne	-0.08	-0.19	0.21	0.01	0.03
Ansty and Staplefield	-0.43	1.20	17.92	-0.08	-0.15
Ardingly	-0.14	-0.37	0.32	0.19	-0.12
Ashurst Wood	-0.38	-1.05	1.94	0.00	-0.08
Balcombe	0.32	-0.24	-0.40	0.03	-0.10
Bolney	-0.26	-0.72	0.01	-0.02	-0.06
Burgess Hill	-3.41	-1.89	-15.07	0.61	-1.22
Cuckfield	1.24	1.54	1.38	0.01	-0.25
East Grinstead	-1.45	-0.70	-2.31	-0.21	-1.74

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)
Fulking	-0.06	0.32	-0.33	0.02	-0.02
Hassocks	-0.91	-2.03	1.13	-0.27	-0.56
Haywards Heath	-2.07	-1.93	-9.49	-0.48	-1.85
Horsted Keynes	0.07	1.43	-0.21	-0.05	-0.11
Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common	0.40	-2.43	5.26	0.02	-0.41
Lindfield	-0.44	0.95	3.23	-0.06	-0.43
Lindfield Rural	0.19	0.53	-0.12	-0.13	-0.17
Newtimber	-0.08	-0.22	-0.43	-0.03	-0.03
Poynings	0.04	-0.22	0.76	0.04	-0.02
Pyecombe	-0.05	-0.13	-0.27	0.05	-0.02
Slaugham	0.31	-0.32	5.19	0.52	-0.21
Turners Hill	0.33	0.41	-0.48	-0.03	-0.06
Twineham	-0.07	-0.19	0.86	0.02	-0.02
West Hoathly	0.32	2.41	1.48	0.08	-0.13
Worth	0.02	0.68	-8.16	-0.65	-0.71
District Totals	-6.59	-3.16	2.42	-0.41	-8.44

Table 14 shows that at the District level, there is an overall sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds, with shortfalls in the supply of allotments, amenity green space, children's play space and youth play space.

Table 15 shows that open space provision varies across parishes and typologies, with some meeting the standards and some falling below. For example, there is insufficient youth provision across all parishes with the exception of Albourne. This will be an important consideration when determining the need for on-site open space as part of new development. Further consideration of open space supply by parish (alongside consideration of the access analysis is provided in Section 8.4, Table 20).

Just because a typology is in sufficient supply, this does not mean it is 'surplus' to requirements, as the access and quality standards also need to be considered alongside the quantity requirements. There may also be other factors such as a site's nature conservation value which mean it should be protected (see Section 8.2 of this report).

It is also noteworthy that people within a particular parish may use facilities within an adjoining parish (which is indicated by the access standards/maps).

7.2.2 Future need for open space

This section of the report considers the overall implications for open space provision from the predicted population growth resulting from housing allocations (not including those that are already committed or completed) and uses the average household size of 2.5 persons (as set out within the Development Infrastructure and Contributions SPD).

The figures for open space requirements are for indicative purposes - the calculations are based on all open space being provided on site (which will not be the reality in some cases, as consideration of the individual development size and proximity to existing open spaces need to be taken into account (see Section 8).

Table 16 below shows the minimum residual housing numbers from 1st April 2018 onwards and the resulting open space requirements, by Sub Area. The existing commitments/completions (a total of 14,296 dwellings within the period of the Strategy) will have already made contributions to open space under the existing SPD.

Table 16 Open space requirements resulting from housing allocations (not already accounted for) over the life of the Strategy, by Sub Area

Sub Area	Minimum residual number of dwellings from 1st April 2018 onwards (accounting for commitments and completions)	Predicted population increase	Open space requirements against quantity standards (see Table 13)
North (Ardingly, Ashurst Wood, Balcombe, East Grinstead, Horsted Keynes, Turners Hill, West Hoathly)	800	2000	Allotments: 0.40ha Amenity green space: 1.10ha Parks and Recreation Grounds: 2.20ha Children's play space: 0.14ha Youth play space: 0.14ha Accessible Natural Green Space: 2.00ha
Crawley Fringe (Slaugham, Worth)	50	125	A development of 50 dwellings would only usually require on site provision of an amenity green space (see Developer Contributions and Adoption of Open Space Report (2019), Table 4). Developer contributions may be required for off-site provision/enhancements to open spaces. Amenity green space requirement: 0.069ha to be delivered as a single space.

Sub Area	Minimum residual number of dwellings from 1 st April 2018 onwards (accounting for commitments and completions)	Predicted population increase	Open space requirements against quantity standards (see Table 13)
Central (Ansty & Staplefield, Cuckfield, Haywards Heath, Lindfield, Lindfield Rural)	332	830	Allotments: 0.17ha Amenity green space: 0.47ha Parks and Recreation Grounds: 0.91ha Children's play space: 0.06ha Youth play space: 0.06ha Accessible Natural Green Space: 0.83ha
South (Bolney, Burgess Hill, Fulking, Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common, Poynings, Twineham, Newtimber, Pyecombe, Albourne)	780	1950	Allotments: 0.39ha Amenity green space: 1.07ha Parks and Recreation Grounds: 2.15ha Children's play space: 0.14ha Youth play space: 0.14ha Accessible Natural Green Space: 1.95ha
TOTAL	1962	4905	Allotments: 1.00ha Amenity green space: 2.70ha Parks and Recreation Grounds: 5.40ha Children's play space: 0.34ha Youth play space: 0.34ha Accessible Natural Green Space: 4.91ha

More detail around the application of the open space standards, a recommended costings methodology for open space provision/contributions and the Council's approach to adoption of open space is provided within the report Developer Contributions and Adoption of Open Space (2019).

7.3 Application of access standards

This section provides an overview of access to different types of open space typologies across the Study Area, using the access standards summarised in Table 13. The maps are intended to provide an overview and are for illustrative purposes only. More detailed maps by parish are provided for each typology within Appendix 2 (see example at Figure 6).

The maps show the walk time buffers for each open space typology and are created using QGIS and the OSM Tools plugin which relies on the openstreetmap paths and street network to accurately map realistic potential walking routes. The buffers are based on a walk time of 5 kilometres/3.1 miles an hour¹⁸. This walk time analysis takes account of barriers to access such as major roads (motorways and busy a-roads) and railway lines.

Table 2 (Section 2.4 of this report) shows how walk time relates to straight line distances and pedestrian route distances. The straight line walking distances do not take into account roads or barriers to access and so the actual route walked (the pedestrian route) is generally further i.e. straight line distances are around 60% of actual distances. The more basic straight line buffer access analysis approach has been used for the ANGSt standards, as this approach is more appropriate for larger sites.

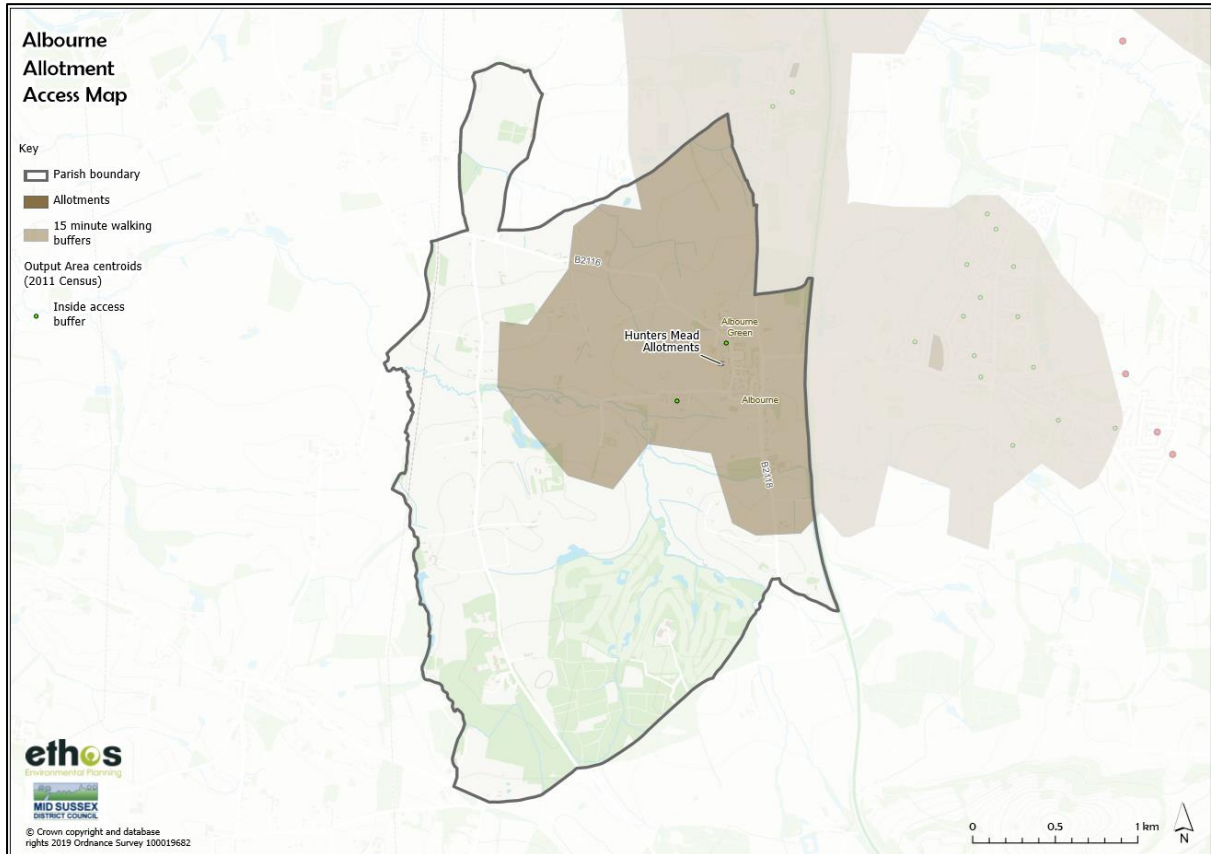
The access maps also show Census 2011 Output Areas (OAs). Each OA centroid is the lowest level of geography from the census which contains roughly 129 households. By using this point dataset, it is possible to clearly indicate those households that fall outside open space access buffers i.e. where the key gaps in access are.

This section also shows the public rights of way network, which forms an important part of access to open space and the wider countryside.

The access maps do not take account of access to open spaces that fall outside of the MSDC boundary, with the exception of large/strategic natural green spaces (above 20ha in size) (see figure 16 below).

¹⁸ This is in line with the British Heart Foundation state as an average walking pace on country and forestry footpaths: <https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/events/training-zone/walking-training-zone/walking-faqs>

Figure 6 Example map from Appendix 2: access maps by parish



7.3.1 Access to open space across the Study Area

Figure 7 Access to allotments (15 minute walk time buffer)

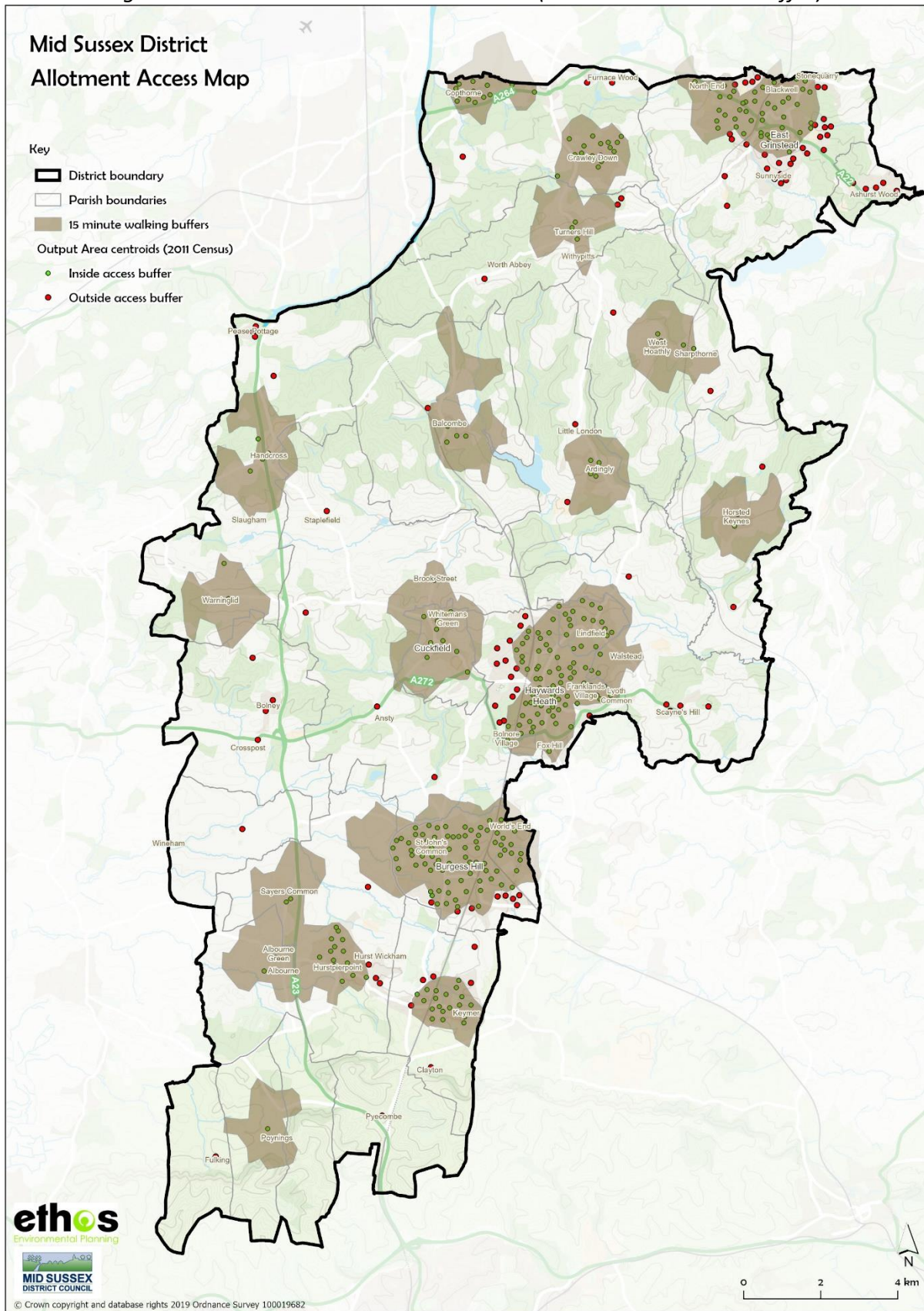


Figure 8 Access to amenity green space (10 minute walk time buffer)

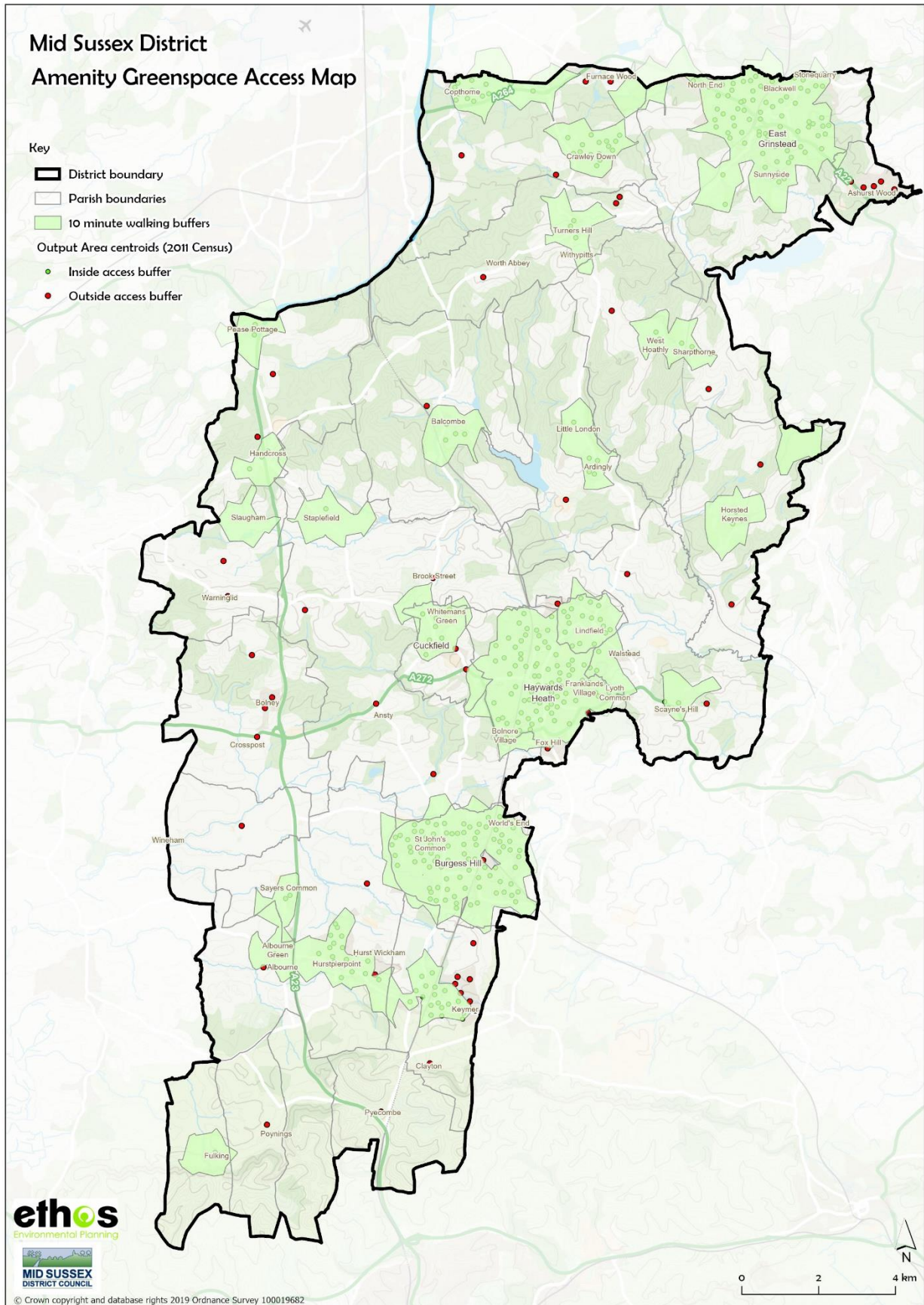


Figure 9 Access to parks and recreation grounds (15 minute walk time buffer)

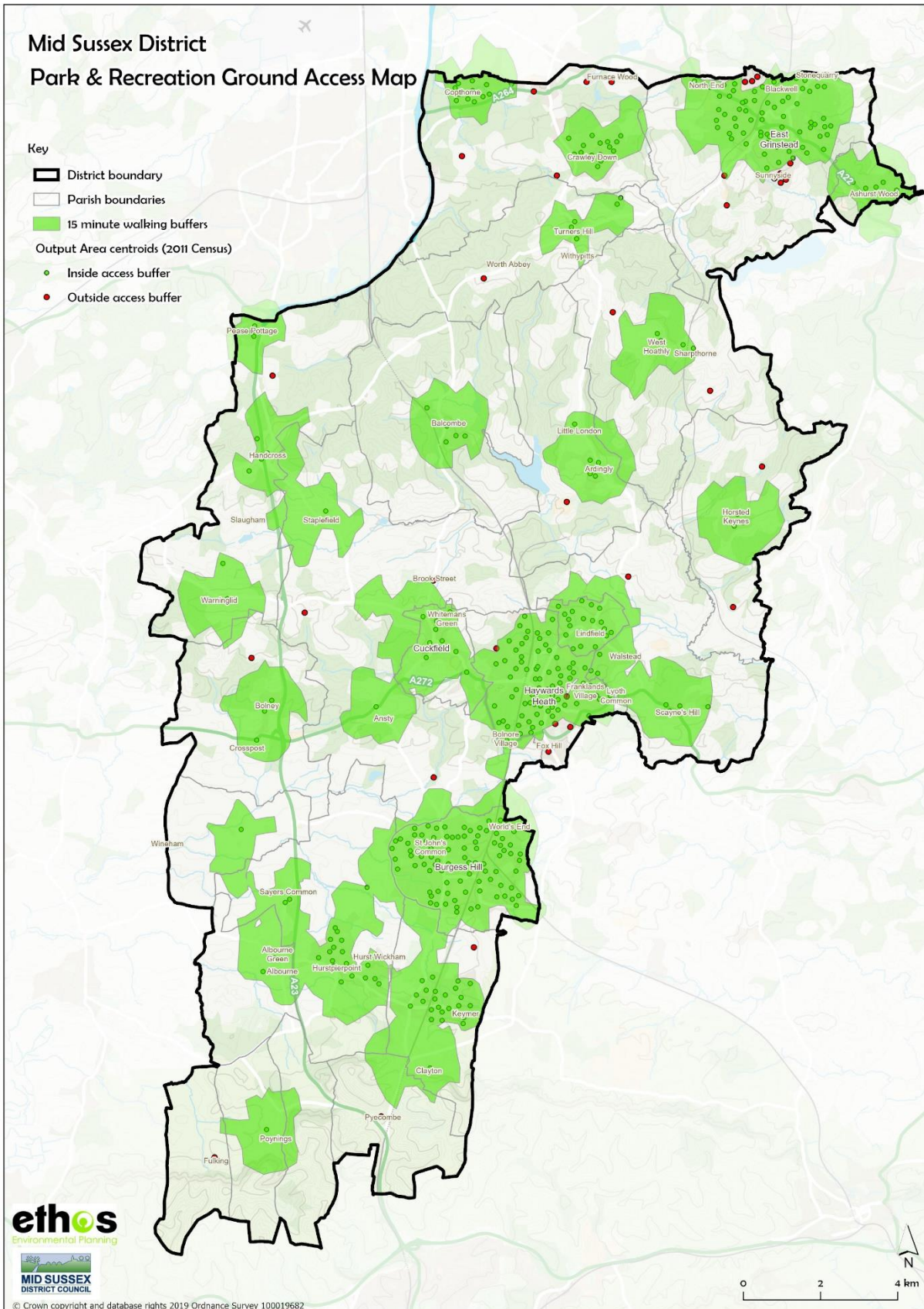


Figure 10 Access to children's play space (10 minute walk time buffer)

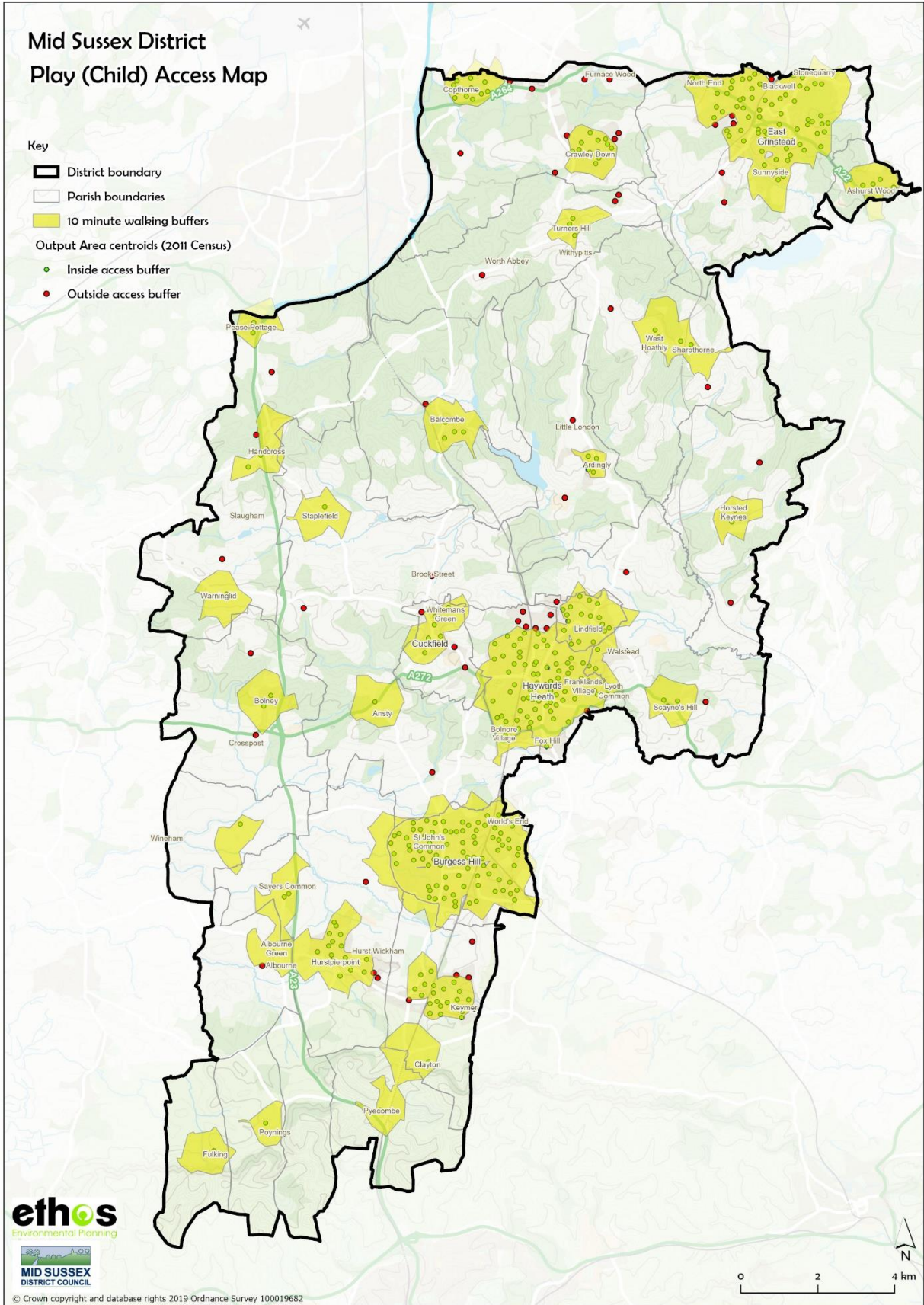


Figure 11 Access to youth play space (720m buffer)

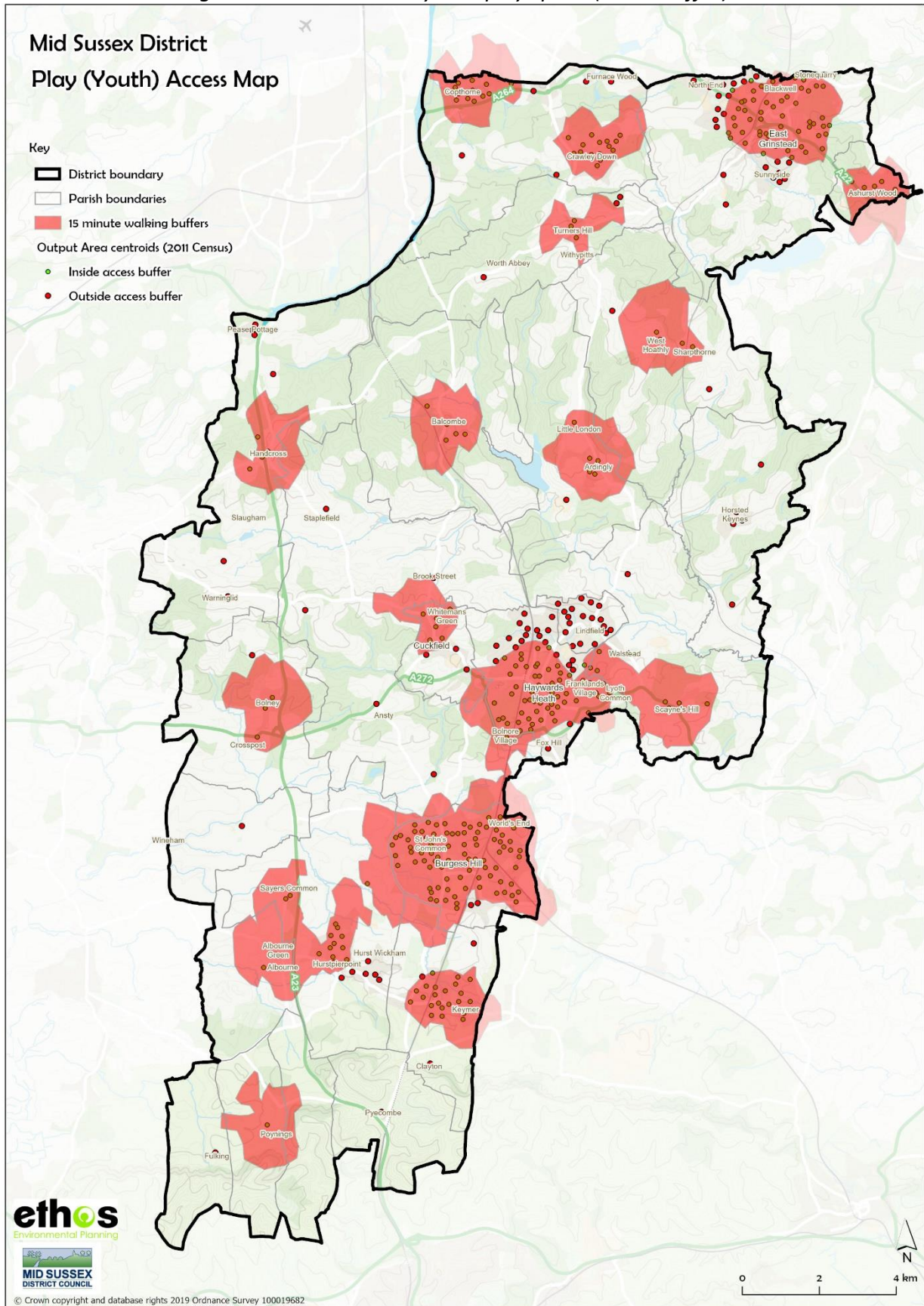


Table 17 Summary of access issues for allotments, amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds, play space (children and youth)

Typology	Key Access Issues
Allotments	Generally good access across the district, although there are some significant gaps in access in Haywards Heath, East Grinstead and Ashurst Wood parishes.
Amenity Green Space	Generally good access across the district, the main gaps in access in key populated areas being in Hassocks and Ashurst Wood parishes.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Generally good access across the district, the main gaps in access in key populated areas being in the south of East Grinstead parish.
Play Space (Children)	Overall relatively good access, although there are some significant gaps in access in Haywards Heath, and to a lesser extent in Burgess Hill.
Play Space (Youth)	Provision is more sporadic, with large gaps in access in Haywards Heath and Lindfield and smaller gaps in East Grinstead and Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common.

7.3.2 Access to natural green space across the Study Area

This section looks at access to natural/semi-natural green space within the Study Area including through the application of the locally derived access standard (see Figure 12), and the ANGSt standards, in order to identify the main gaps in access. As already mentioned under section 5.2.5, this typology only includes those natural green spaces which have a definitive boundary and public access e.g. Local Nature Reserves, and not the open countryside where the only access is via the Public Right of Way network.

Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt)

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

- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of 1 hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

The 300m/2ha ANGSt standard is not considered to be very achievable or realistic, however, a local access standard has been developed (960m buffer/20 minutes walk time) which is

considered to provide a more meaningful analysis as it is based on the findings of the household survey.

Figure 12 Access to natural green space (960m buffer)

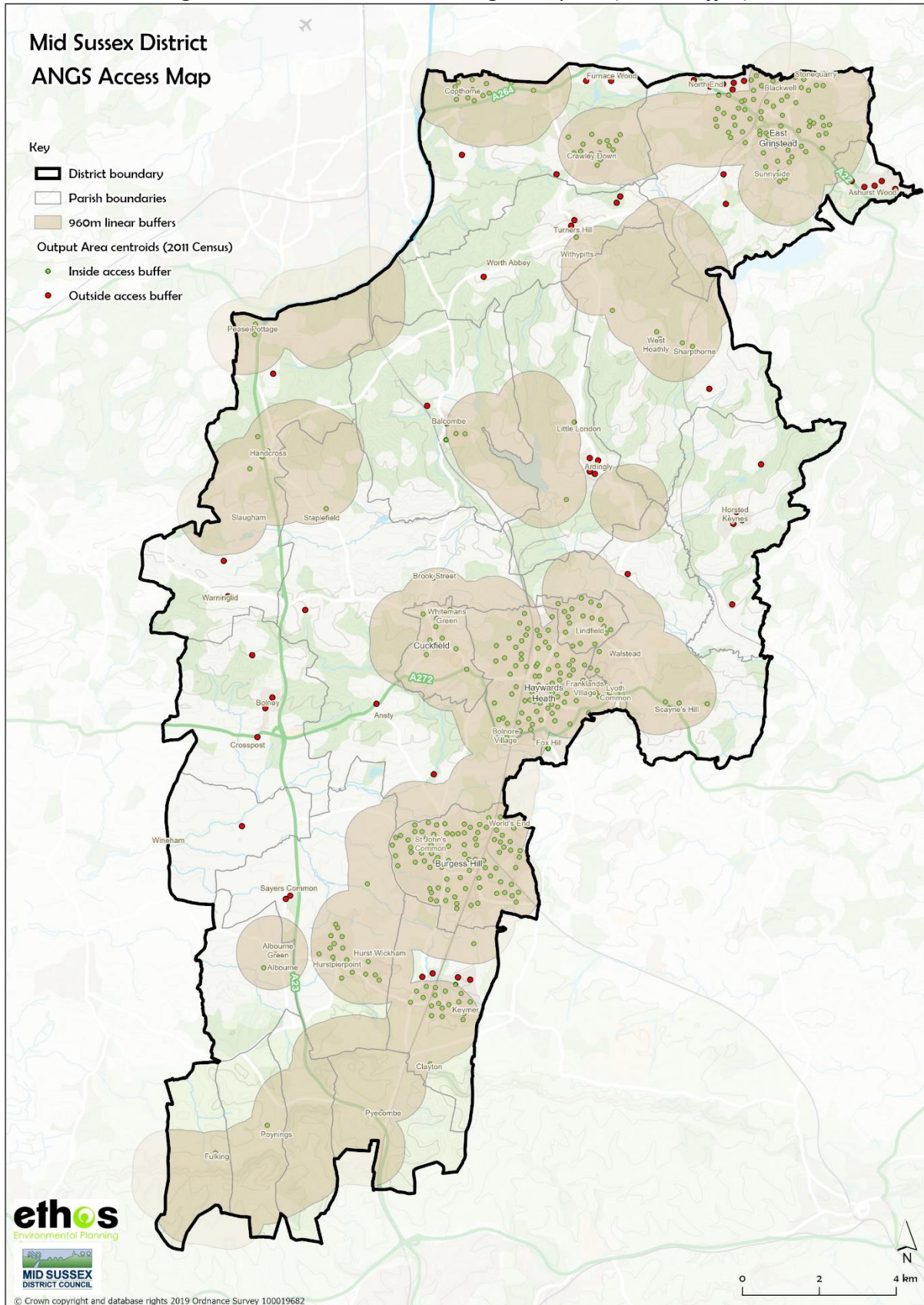


Figure 13 ANGSt Standard: Access to 2ha+ sites within 300m

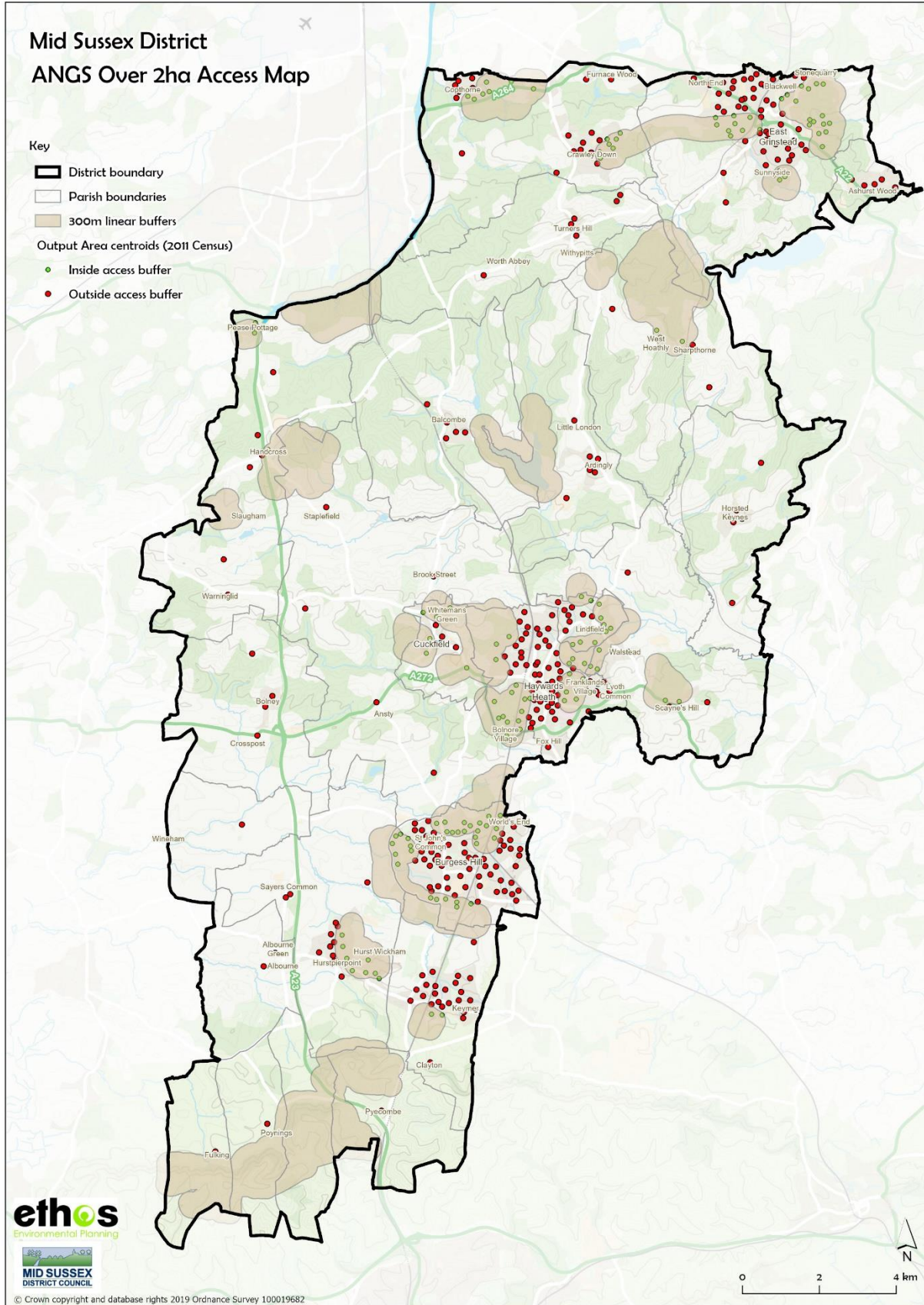


Figure 14 ANGSt Standard: Access to 20 ha+ sites within 2 km

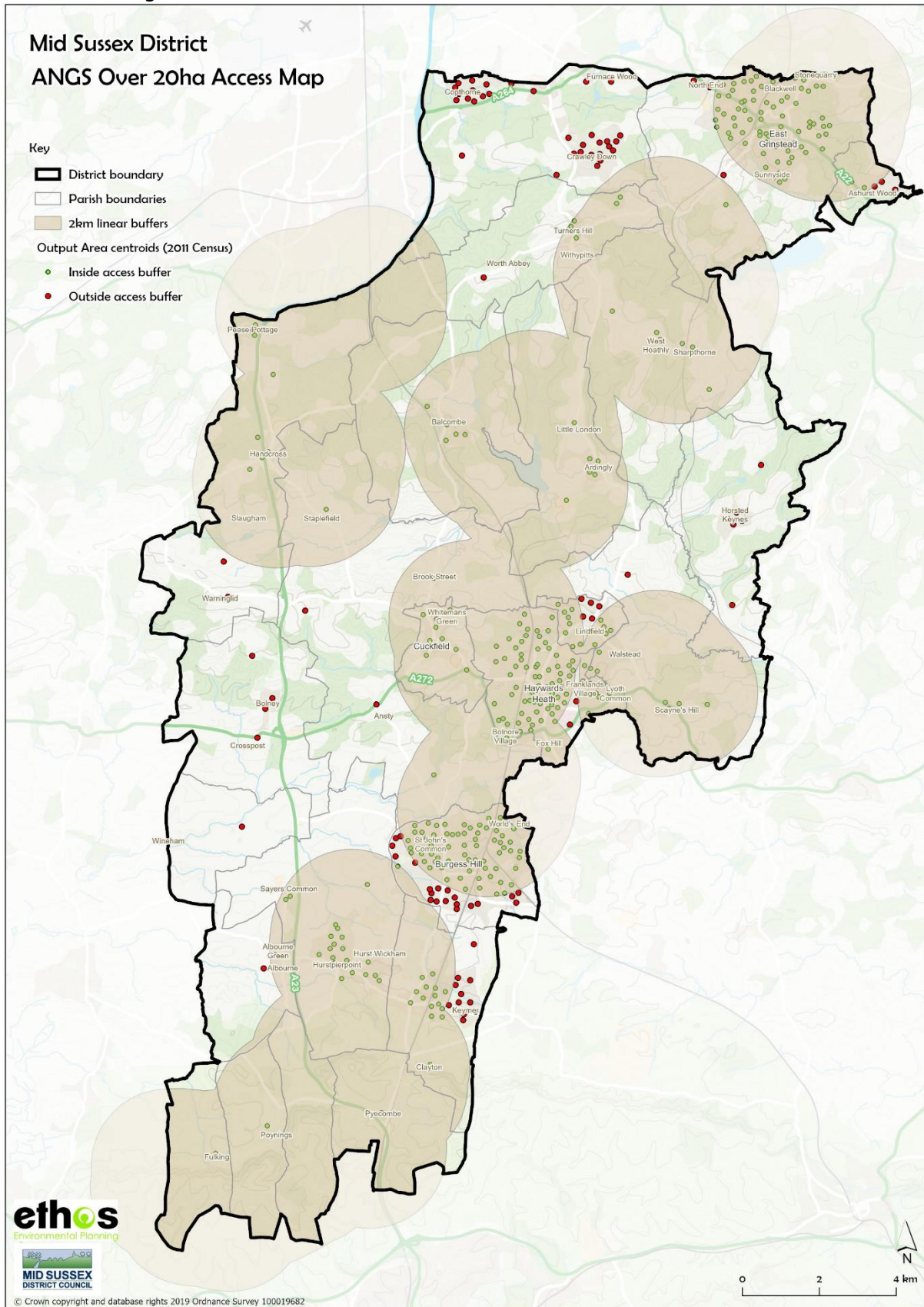


Figure 15 ANGSt Standard: Access to 100 ha+ site within 5km

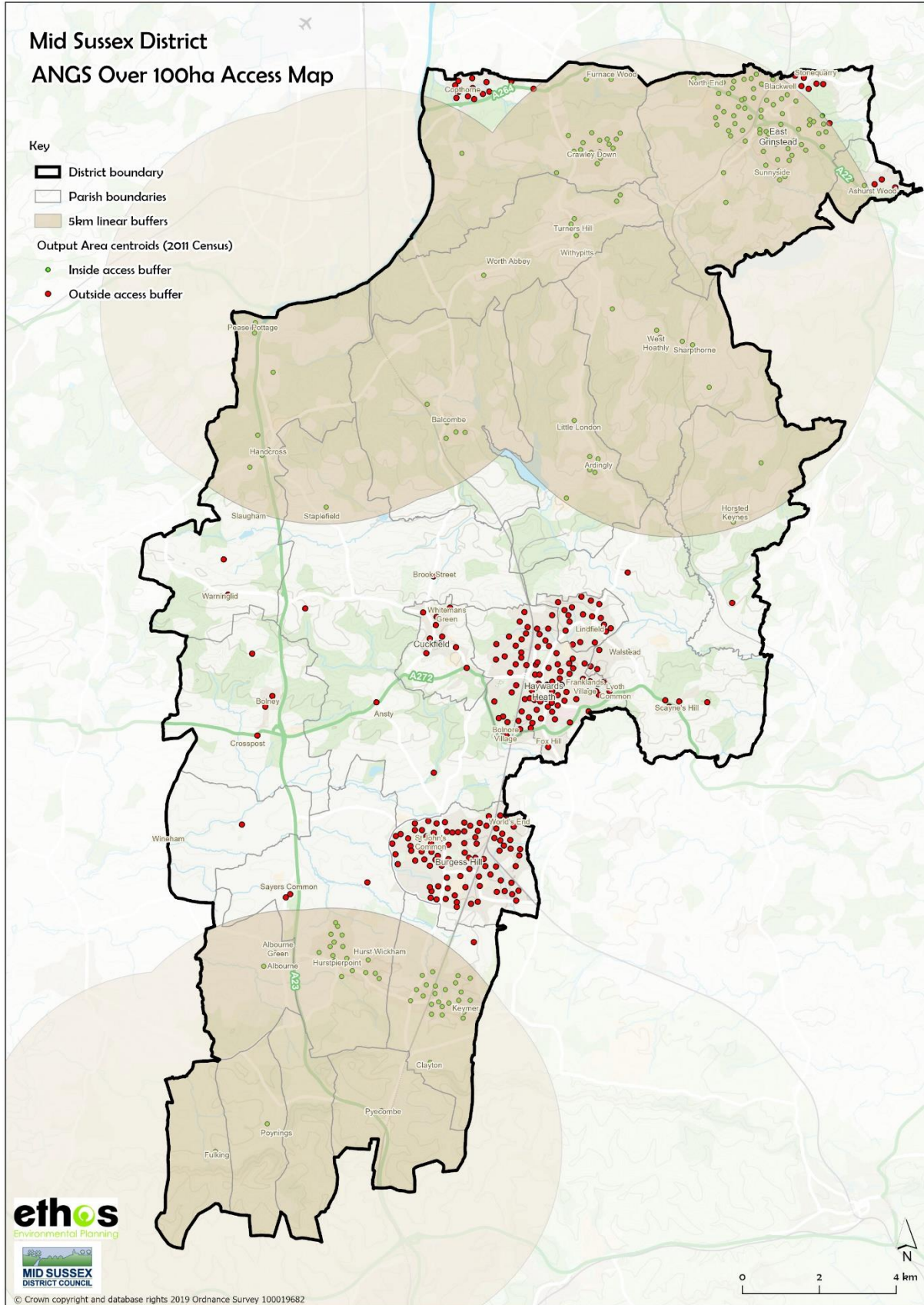


Figure 16 Access to large/strategic accessible natural green spaces which fall outside of the Study Area

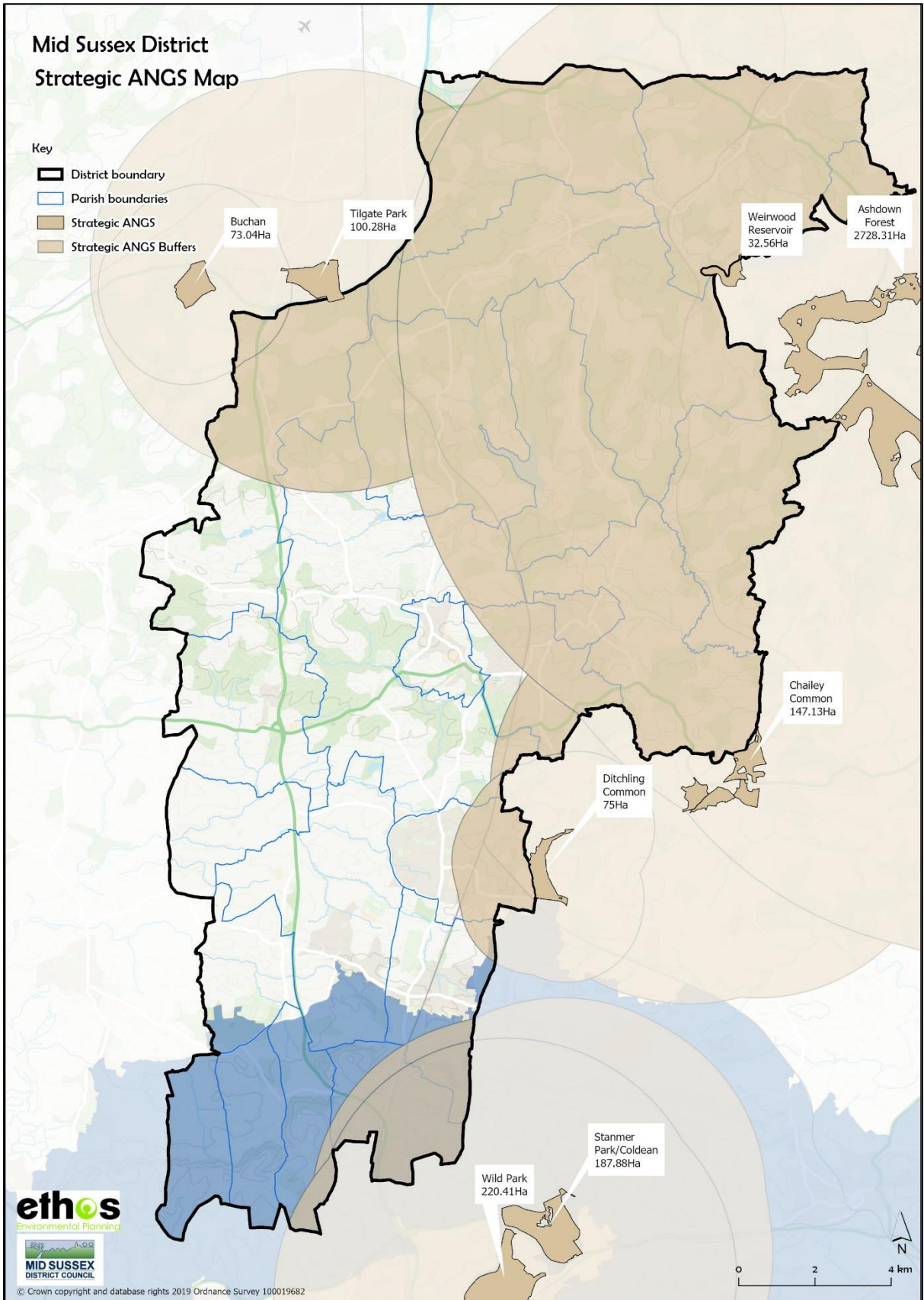


Figure 17 Local Nature Reserves

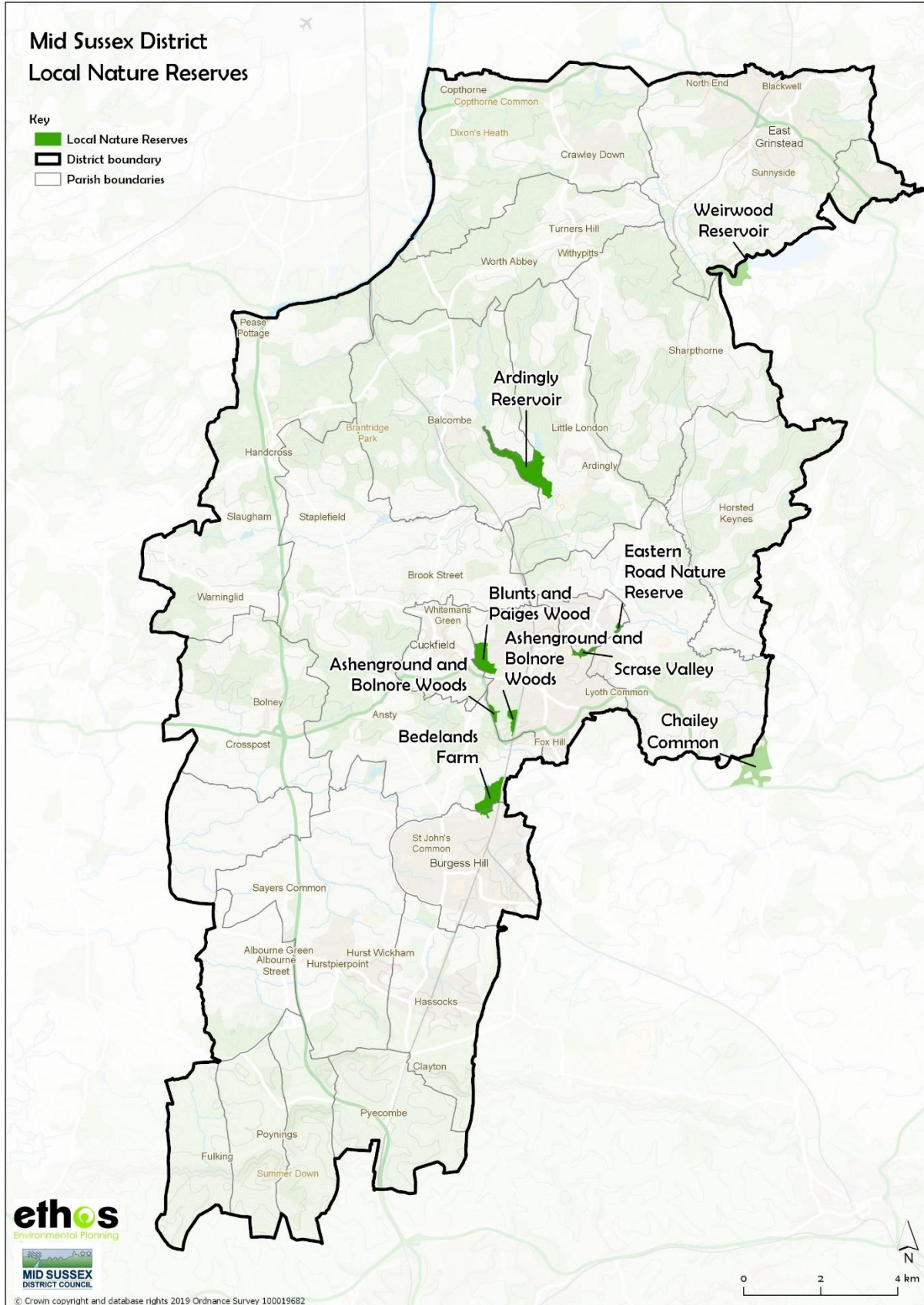


Figure 18 The Public Rights of Way Network

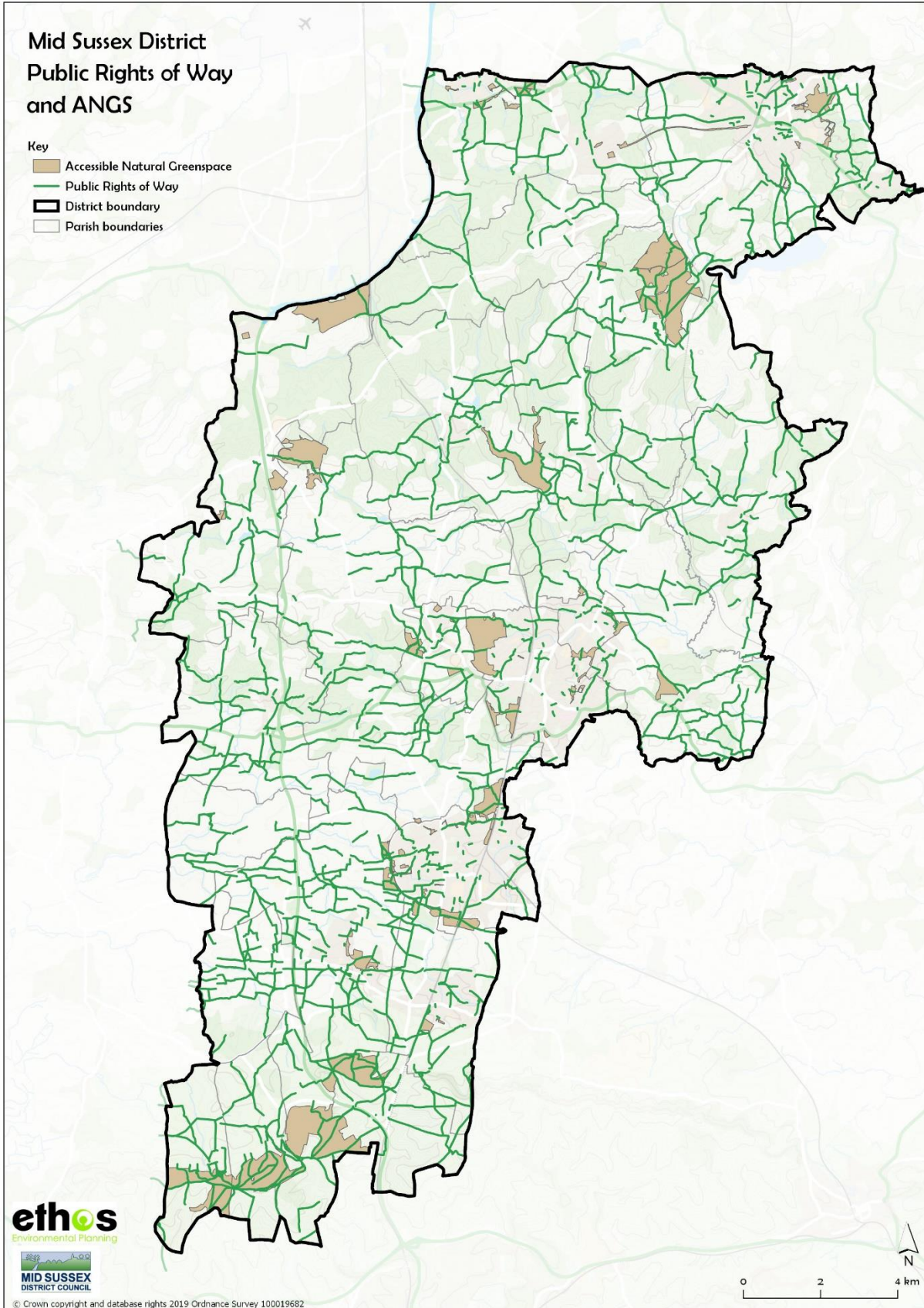


Table 18 Summary of access issues for natural green space

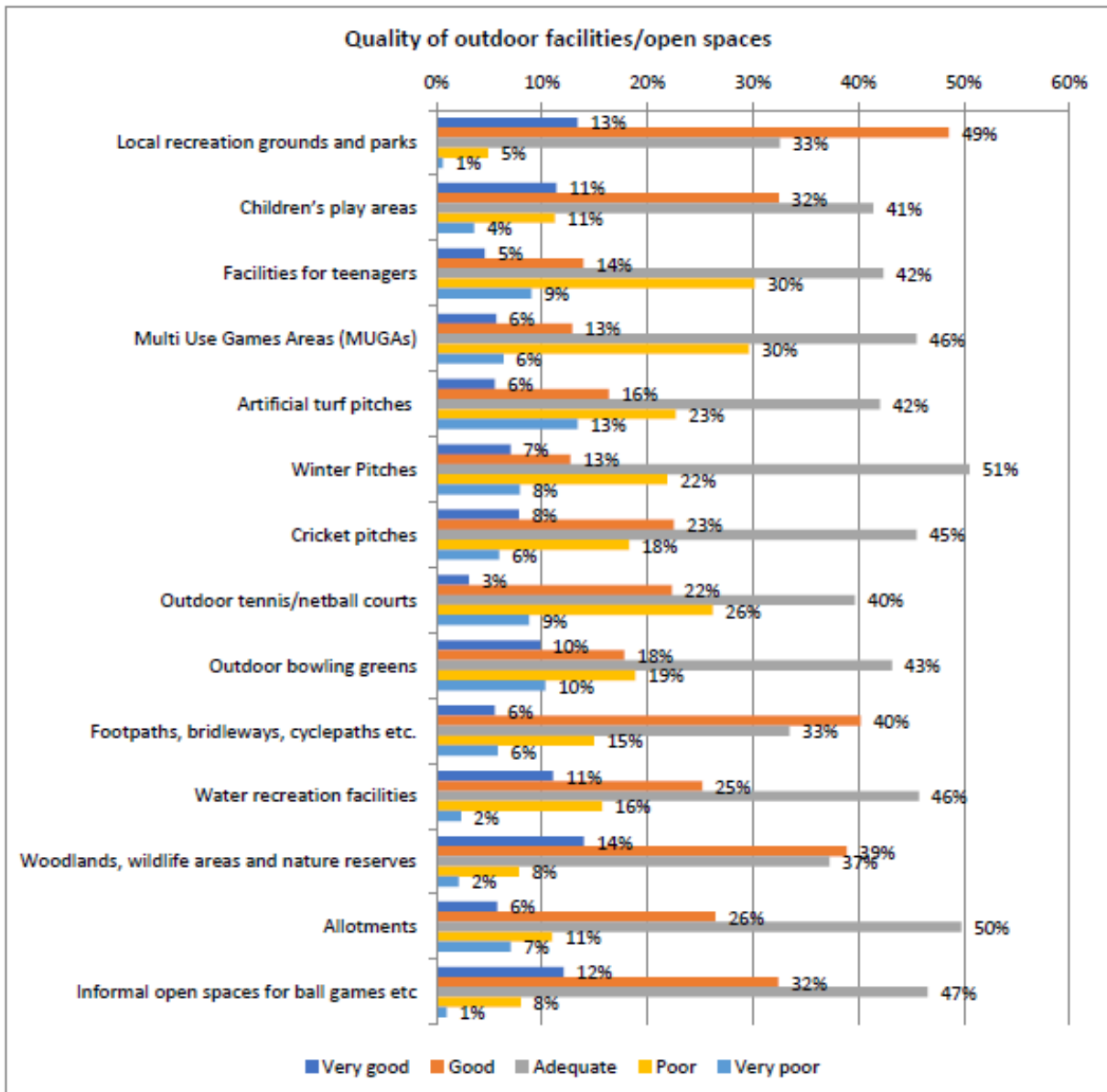
Standard	Key access Issues
Access to natural green space - 960m buffer	Generally good access across the district, the main gaps in access being in Ashurst Wood, Hassocks, Sayers Common, Ardingly, and parishes in the west of the District e.g. Bolney, Twineham.
Accessible green space of at least 2ha in size, no more than 300m (5 minutes walk) from home.	When applying this ANGSt standard, it shows large gaps in access across much of the Study Area. It is considered that this access standard is not very realistic or achievable and is therefore not very helpful in identifying where the key gaps in access are, as much of the Study Area does not meet this standard. Therefore, it is considered that the locally derived standard (960m or 20 minutes' walk time) is more meaningful in identifying the key gaps in access.
At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home	There is generally good access to 20ha+ natural green space across the Study Area, the main gaps in access being in the parishes of Hassocks, Burgess Hill and Worth, with smaller gaps in Lindfield.
One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home	There are large gaps in access to natural green spaces above 100ha within the key settlements/parishes of Burgess Hill, Lindfield and Haywards Heath. However, when considering access to large sites that fall outside of the District (see Figure 16), these gaps are greatly reduced.
One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home	There are no 500 ha sites mapped within the Study Area.
A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population	There are 7 Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) within the Study Area, which amounts to 1.1ha per 1000 population. The majority are situated within Haywards Heath.
Access via the PROW network	The PROW network provides access between open spaces and provides an important element of access to/within the rural parts of the Study Area.

7.4 Application of quality standards

7.4.1 Quality of open space – consultation key findings

Respondents were asked how they rated various types of facilities in the Study Area in terms of quality. The responses of those expressing an opinion on specific categories of facility are illustrated in Figure 19 below.

Figure 19 Quality of open space (responses from household survey)



For all kinds of outdoor facilities/open spaces a majority of households suggested that in general they were of average or better quality (though the most common rating tended to be only "adequate"). However, for some typologies there were notable levels of dissatisfaction with general levels of quality as noted below.

39% of households highlighted the overall quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor compared to 19% rating them as good or very good; and 36% rated

the quality of MUGAs as poor/very poor compared to 19% rating them as good or very good. Similarly, 36% rated the quality of artificial turf pitches as poor/very poor compared to 22% rating them as good/very good.

In contrast, some kinds of facilities/open spaces were rated highly in terms of quality. These include: parks and recreation grounds (62% rate quality in general as being good or very good); woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (53% similarly); footpaths etc. (46%); and play areas (43%).

7.4.2 Quality of open space – audit methodology

The quality audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a site's existing quality rather than a full asset audit. Site visits were undertaken in November 2018.

The quality audits were designed to focus on the key open spaces. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, such as in the case of private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included allotments, amenity green spaces smaller than 0.30ha in size and churchyards and cemeteries. This has meant that the quality audits have focused on the key open spaces and play areas within the resources available i.e. parks and recreation grounds, large amenity green spaces, children's and youth play spaces and natural green spaces.

Sites were visited, and a photographic record made of key features, along with a description of the site and recommendations for improvements. An assessment of the quality of the open space was undertaken using the following criteria, which is based on the Green Flag Award criteria:

1. Welcoming
2. Good and Safe Access
3. Community Involvement
4. Safe Equipment and Facilities
5. Appropriate Provision of Facilities
6. Quality/Management of Facilities and Infrastructure
7. Personal Security on Site
8. Dog Fouling
9. Litter and Waste Management
10. Grounds/Habitat Management

Children's play space and youth play space was also audited separately using the above criteria.

For each of the criteria a score of between 1 -10 is given, where 1 is very poor and 10 is very good. The scores for each site are added together and the mean calculated based on how many criteria were scored (e.g. If 'Community involvement' is given N/A for a site, the total

will be divided by 9). This mean is then multiplied by 10 to produce the final score from which sites are grouped into 3 categories – A (good quality): those sites with a score of between 70 and 100), B (average quality): those sites with a score of between 40 and 70, or C (poor quality): those sites with a score of between 10 and 40.

7.4.3 Quality of open space – audit findings

The quality audit was undertaken at 211 open spaces and 180 children and youth play spaces across the Study Area. The details of the quality audits are contained within the GIS database provided to the Council. For each of the parishes within the Study Area, a map showing the results of the quality audit has been produced, showing the sites which scored good, average or poor quality (see Appendices 3 and 6).

Figure 20 below provides an overview of the quality audit results for all 391 open spaces across the Study Area. As can be seen, the majority of open spaces have been assessed as being good quality (A). Figures 21 to 25 provide an overview of the quality audit results by typology across the Study Area. Detailed maps by parish are included in Appendix 3, and a summary of the quality audits is provided in Appendix 6.

Table 19 below shows the number of sites scoring good (A), average (B) or poor (C) by parish and typology.

A GIS database of all sites and quality audits has also been provided to MSDC.

Table 19 Number of sites scoring A, B or C by open space typology and parish

Parish	Accessible Natural Greenspace			Amenity Greenspace			Park and Recreation Grounds			Play (Child)			Play (Youth)		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Albourne	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Ansty and Staplefield	3	2	0	2	1	0	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Ardingly	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Ashurst Wood	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
Balcombe	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0
Bolney	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Burgess Hill	5	7	0	16	5	0	6	0	0	31	18	1	7	4	0
Cuckfield	1	3	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
East Grinstead	4	1	0	14	1	0	5	0	0	17	1	0	1	1	0
Fulking	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	0
Haywards Heath	5	1	3	14	9	0	5	0	0	21	6	0	5	0	0
Horsted Keynes	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common	2	0	0	4	1	0	5	0	0	7	5	0	2	1	0
Lindfield	2	1	0	4	1	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lindfield Rural	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Newtimber	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poynings	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Pyecombe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Slaugham	2	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0
Turners Hill	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Twineham	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
West Hoathly	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0

Parish	Accessible Natural Greenspace			Amenity Greenspace			Park and Recreation Grounds			Play (Child)			Play (Youth)		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Worth	2	2	0	8	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	0
Grand Total	39	19	3	77	22	0	49	2	0	106	37	1	27	9	0

Figure 20 Overview of existing open space quality scores

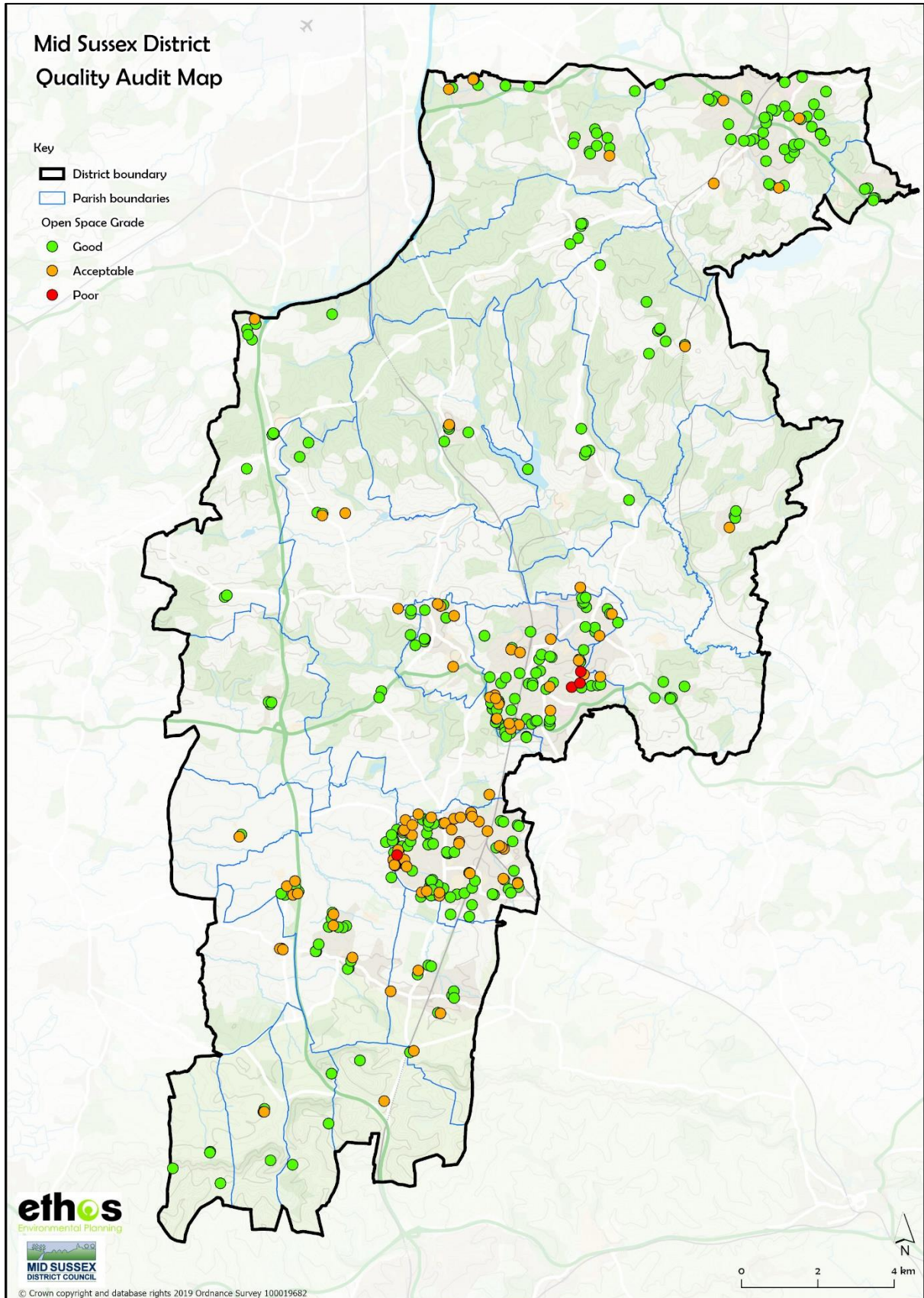


Figure 21 Overview of quality scores for amenity green space

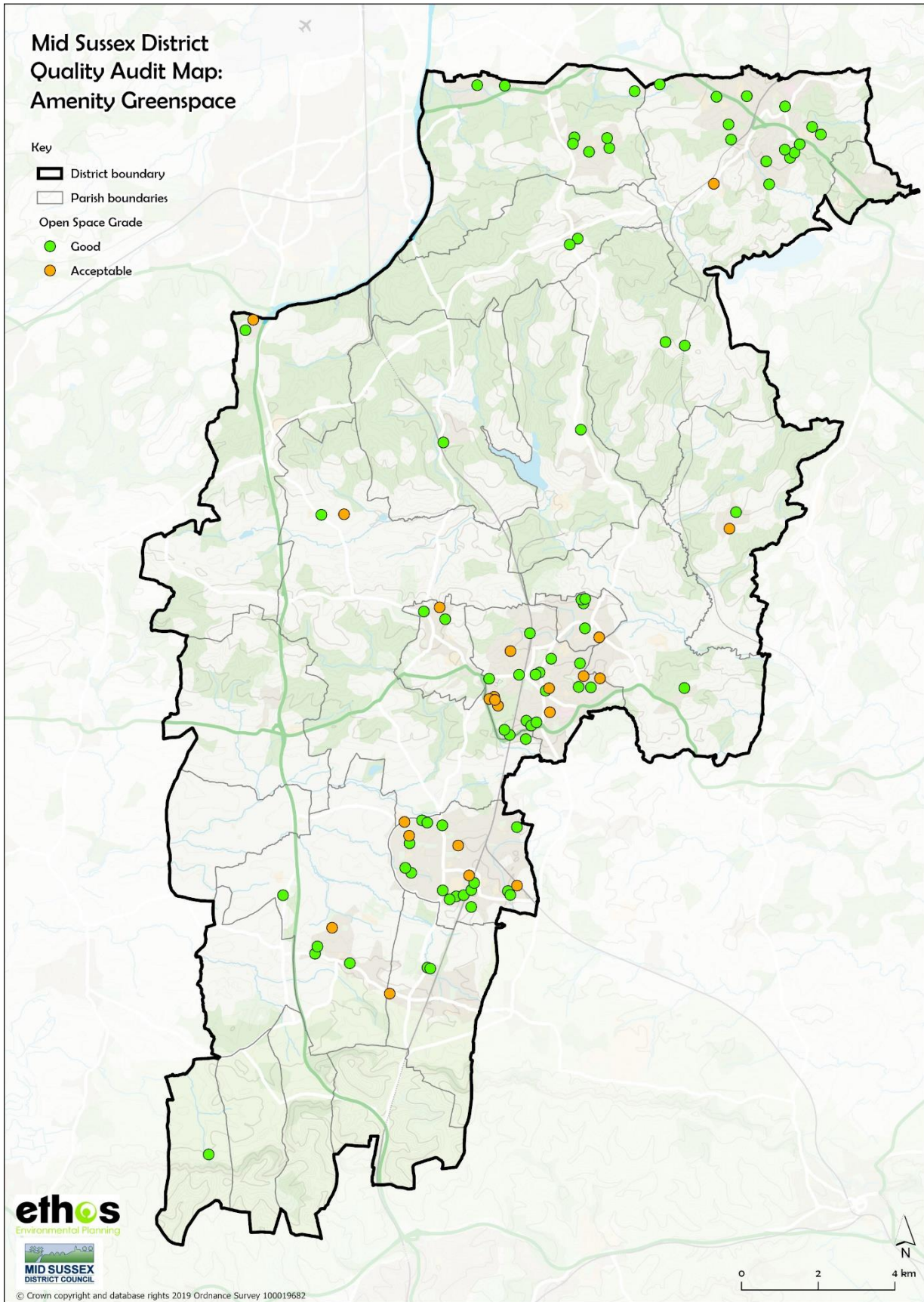


Figure 22 Overview of quality scores for parks and recreation grounds

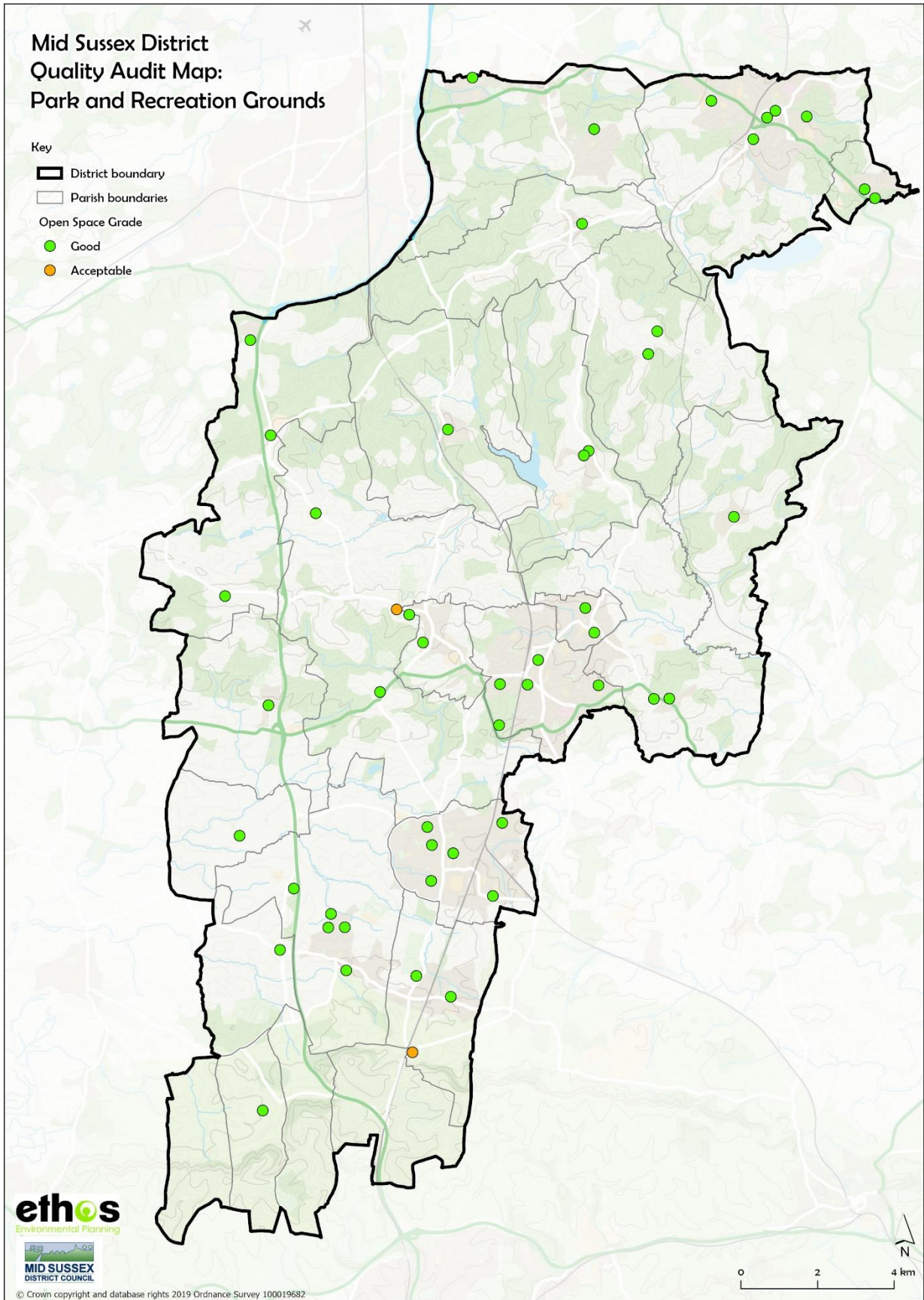


Figure 23 Overview of quality scores for children's play space

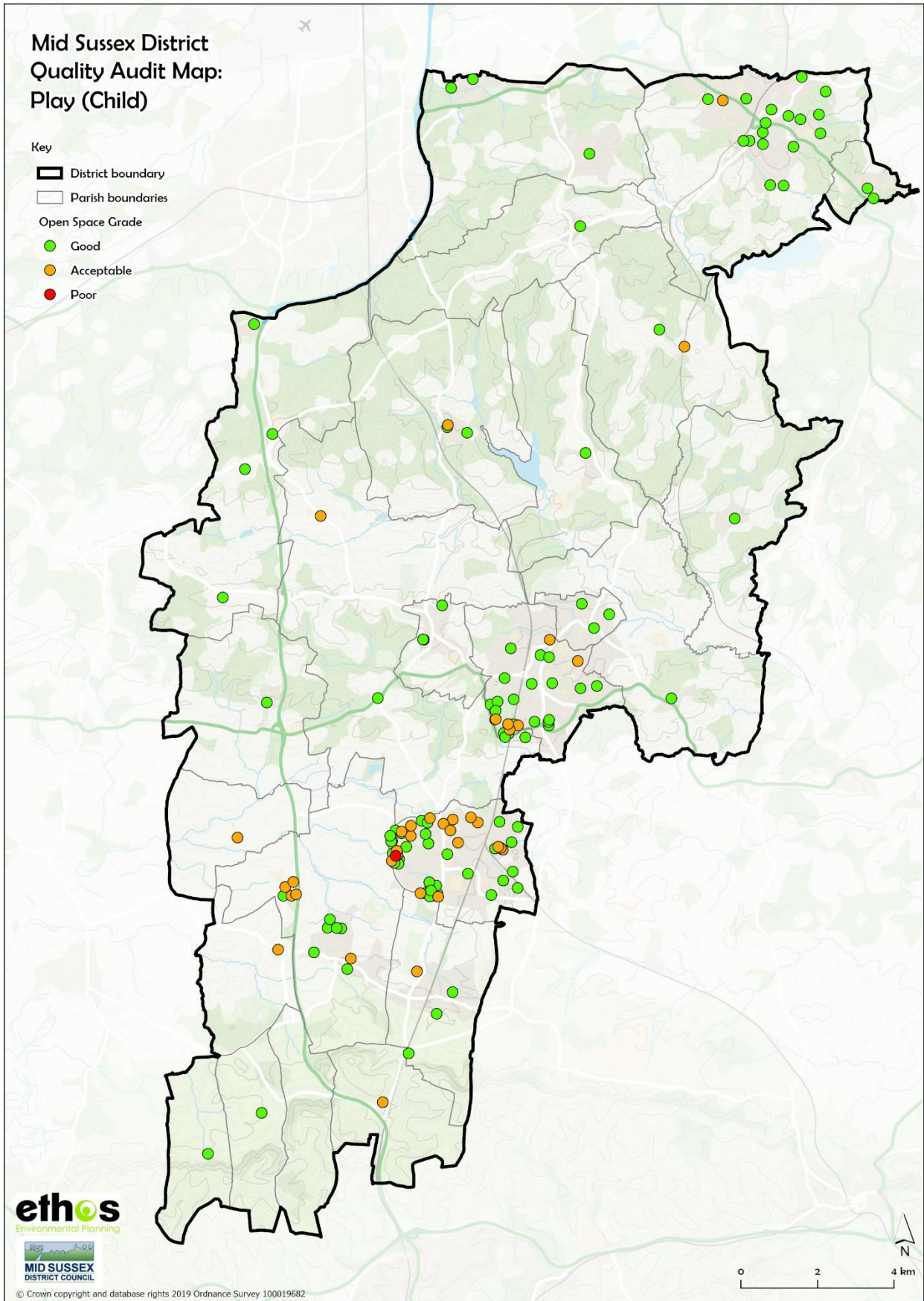


Figure 24 Overview of quality scores for youth play space

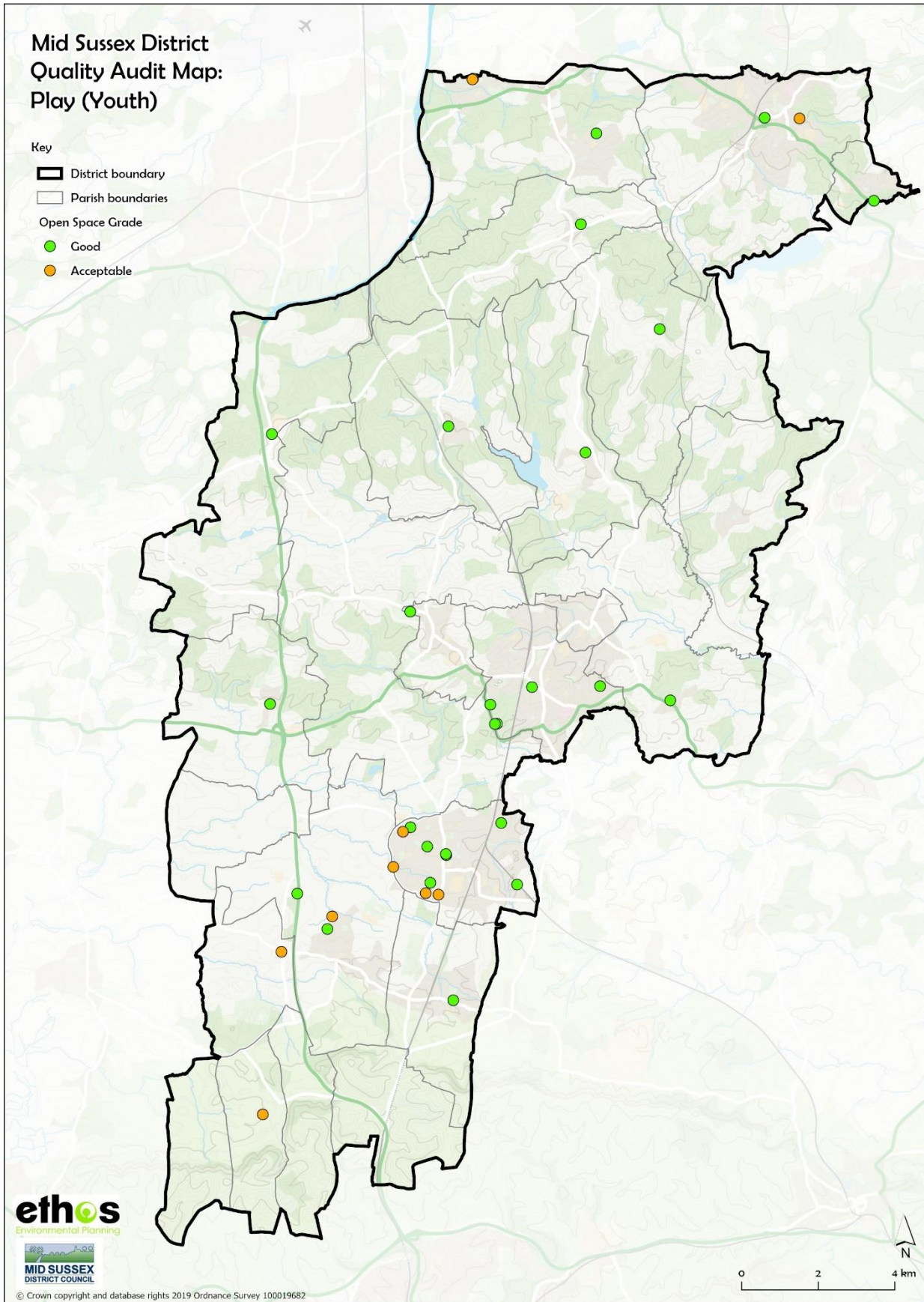
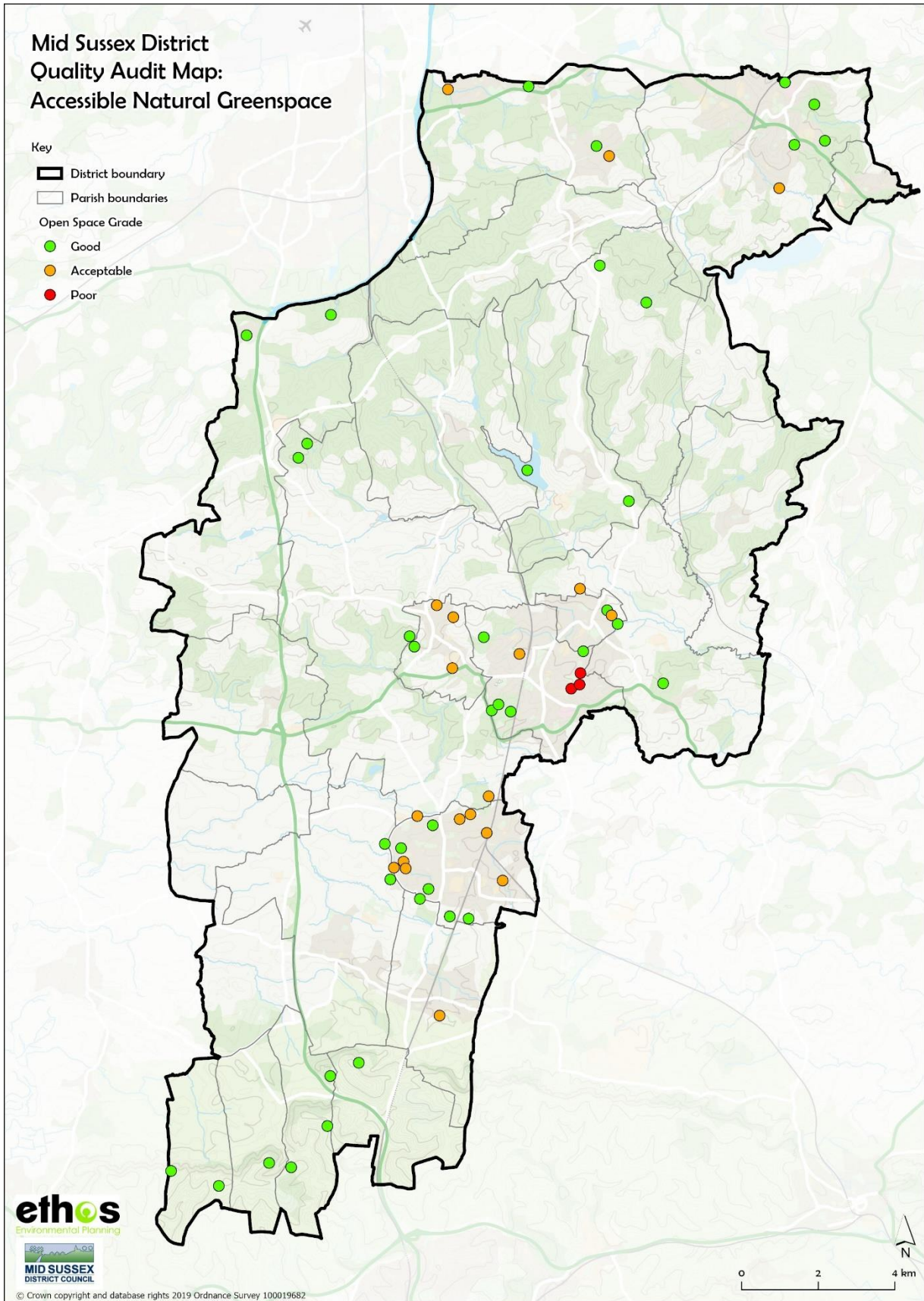


Figure 25 Overview of quality scores for natural green space

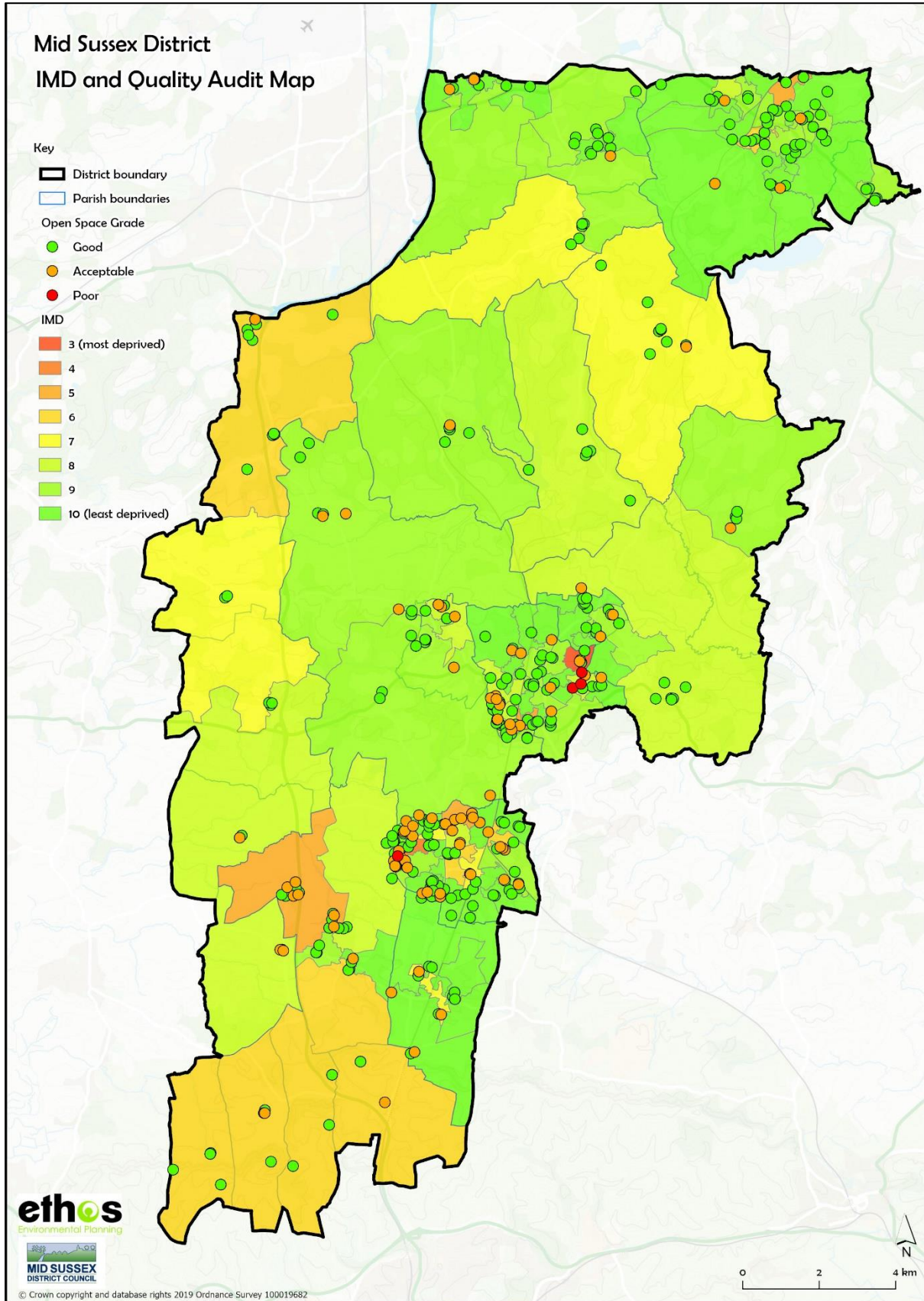


7.4.4 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and open space quality

Figure 26 shows the IMD rank for each LSOA within the Study Area, where 1 is most deprived and 10 is least deprived. The results from the quality audit are also overlain.

Although the lowest scoring sites in terms of quality are in close proximity to the most deprived areas, they do not fall directly within them. There are average and poor quality sites in areas of low deprivation and vice versa.

Figure 26 IMD overlain with quality audit results



7.5 Assessment of a sites potential to accommodate cycling

7.5.1 Methodology

In addition to the quality audit, an assessment of a site's potential to accommodate cycling was undertaken for those open spaces (amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds and natural green space) which either intersect or are within 100m of a cycleway, bridleway or restricted byway i.e. routes that can be cycled on.

The following was assessed to ascertain the sites potential to accommodate cycling:

A score of 1 to 5 was given for each criterion, where 1 is poor and 5 is good.

- The **entrance points** (e.g. size, presence of gates – anything else?) – description and a score between 1 to 5
- **Existing paths** within the site (e.g. are there existing hard surfaced paths, what is their width (4m is best practice recommendation)/could they accommodate cycles, is there potential/space to upgrade them?) – description and a score between 1 to 5
- **Use of /nearby surrounding space** (e.g. Is there space for an upgraded/new path, would it be safe to introduce cycling for other users of the space?, would it be appropriate to the use/management of the site (for example it may not be appropriate to introduce a hard surfaced path within a natural green space) – description and a score between 1 to 5

An average of the three scores was then taken, and sites were graded good potential (A: with an average score of between 3.33 to 5.00), average potential (B: with an average score of between 1.67 and 3.32), and poor potential (C: with an average score of between 0 and 1.66).

7.5.2 Findings

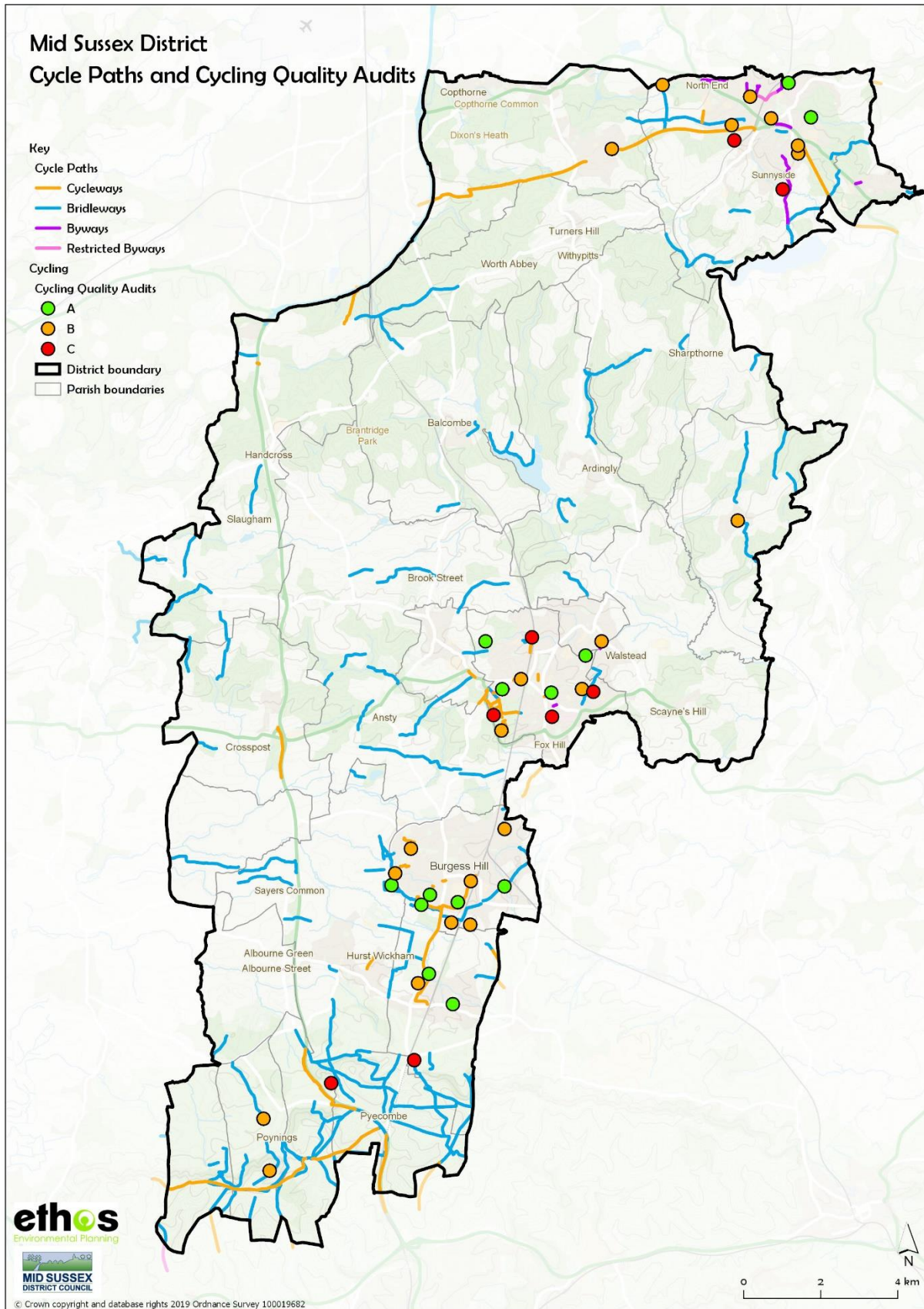
Following the GIS desktop analysis, a total of 42 open spaces were found to either intersect or fall within 100m of a cycle route, bridleway or BOAT.

These sites were then visited to assess their potential to accommodate cycling based on the above criteria, and a summary map of the results is shown below (Figure 27).

A total of 13 open spaces were assessed as having good potential (grade A) to accommodate cycling, 21 were assessed as having average potential (grade B) and 8 poor (grade C). The detailed scoring and comments are within the GIS database that has been provided to the Council and Appendix 6 provides a summary of the cycle audit results by Parish.

It should be noted that existing local byelaws which prevent cycling in many open spaces would need to be addressed, before any improvements could be taken forward.

Figure 27 Assessment of site's potential to accommodate cycling (only those sites within 100m of a cycle route, bridleway or BOAT).



8.0 STRATEGIC OPTIONS, POLICY & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

This section sets out strategic options and policy recommendations for open space within Mid Sussex. It draws on all the previous steps of the study to bring together informed recommendations and addresses a number of specific requirements of the study brief.

8.1 Strategic Options

8.1.1 Introduction

The strategic options address five key areas:

- 1) Existing provision to be protected;
- 2) Existing provision to be enhanced;
- 3) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
- 4) Identification of areas for new provision;
- 5) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement;

Developer contributions, adoption of open space and recommended thresholds for on-site provision of open space are provided within the Developer Contributions and Adoption of Open Space Report (2019).

8.1.2 Delivering Strategic Options

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was first published in 2012 and has since been principally updated in July 2018, with further updates following in February 2019. The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The planning system has three overarching objectives (economic, social and environmental), which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. Open spaces (provision, protection, and enhancement) and their associated intrinsic benefits are key components of all three of the objectives.

Whilst Local Authorities have an important role in delivering open space, sport and recreation facilities, in some cases their role may move from that of 'deliverer' to 'facilitator'. The aim will be to work with community organisations to make local decisions about how facilities and services will be provided. Organisations such as residents' groups, voluntary organisations, friends' groups, sports clubs and societies will all have a key role in this.

Although it is up to local communities to define their own priorities within neighbourhood plans, the information provided within this study will form a good basis to inform any decisions related to the provision of open space.

The following sections consider the key issues for open space in the study area, and the recommendations that emerge need to be taken in context with National policy (including

the Localism Act) and consider how they can fit into local decision making. The following sections serve to highlight issues, but do not necessarily resolve how they may be delivered.

The information provided within this study will also form the basis for potential future strategies. The recommended policies within this study can also be used to help form the basis of any open space policies proposed by MSDC.

8.2 Existing provision to be protected

The starting point of any policy adopted by MSDC should be that all open space should be afforded protection unless it can be proved it is not required. Even where open spaces are in sufficient supply within a parish, this does not necessarily mean there is a 'surplus' in provision of open space, as additional factors such as the supply of other typologies of open space, the quality of open space and where new development is planned needs to be taken into account (as explained further in the sections below).

Existing open space or sport and recreation facilities which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system are those which are either:

- Critically important in avoiding deficiencies in accessibility, quality or quantity and scored highly in the quality assessment; **or**
- Are of particular nature conservation, historical or cultural value.

The quantity analysis, summarised in Table 14 (Section 7.2) shows that in every parish, there is a deficiency in at least one typology of open space. Therefore, the following recommendations are made:

Open Space Policy Direction (protecting open space):

- | | |
|------------|--|
| OS1 | The distribution of open space varies across the Study Area, however, there are identified shortages of at least one typology of open space in all parishes. It is therefore recommended that priority is placed on protecting those open spaces where there is an existing shortfall of supply. |
| OS2 | Sites which are critical to avoiding deficiencies, or making existing deficiencies worse, in quality, quantity or accessibility should be protected unless suitable alternative provision can be provided which would compensate for any deficiencies caused. |
| OS3 | Sites which have significant nature conservation, historical or cultural value should be afforded protection, even if there is an identified surplus in quality, quantity or accessibility in that local area. |

8.3 Existing provision to be enhanced

In areas where there is a quantitative deficiency of provision but no accessibility issues, then increasing the quality/capacity of existing provision may be considered. Alternatively, in areas where facilities or spaces do not meet the relevant quality standards, qualitative enhancements will be required.

This includes those spaces or facilities which:

- Are critically important in avoiding deficiencies in diversity, accessibility or quantity, **but**
- Scored poorly in the quality assessment.

Those sites which require enhancement are identified within the quality audit that was undertaken. Some of the key observations related to site enhancement include:

1. The importance of providing high quality provision and maintenance of formal facilities such as Parks and Recreation Grounds and Play Space.
2. The need for additional and improved facilities for young people.
3. The role of private sports spaces to some local communities and the need to provide opportunity for investment.
4. The need to ensure high quality open spaces are designed and provided through new development where feasible.
5. The importance of rights of way and natural green space within the Study area, and the need to maintain and enhance provision for biodiversity.
6. The role of open space in contributing to wider initiatives and strategies.
7. Extending and enhancing the network of green infrastructure including the connectivity between sites and improved accessibility to existing sites.

Appendix 3 provides maps by parish showing the sites that were quality audited and their overall score (good, average, poor), as identified within the quality audit database. An overview of the open space quality audit rank scores is provided in Section 7.4.3 and a summary of the quality audit results is provided at Appendix 6. The following recommendations are made in relation the quality of open space:

Open Space Policy Direction (enhancing open space):

- OS4** Where new housing development is proposed, should provision not be able to be provided on site/is not practicable on site, consideration should be given to improving existing open spaces within the parish or neighbouring parish to which the development is located. Priority should be given to those sites identified as of poor or average quality as detailed in the quality audit database¹⁹.
- OS5** New development should consider the opportunities for creating and enhancing a network of both utility and recreation routes for use by foot and bike. The

¹⁹ There may also be a demonstrated need to improve the quality of open spaces which were not included within the quality audits (due to resource limitations – see section 7.4.2).

assessment undertaken regarding a site's potential to accommodate cycling provision should be considered (see Section 7.5).

OS6

The findings of the assessment make recommendations for improving the quality of open space across the study area. However, a long term strategy for achieving improvements could be delivered through an action/delivery plan.

OS7

Priorities for improvement (identified in the household survey) include the enhancement of footpaths, bridleway and cyclepath provision and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves.

OS8

Management plans (if not already established) should be developed for the main parks and recreation grounds. These priorities could also be considered in neighbourhood plans and by the local community.

8.4 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

In some areas it may be possible to make better use of land by relocating an open space or sport and recreation facility, especially if this will enhance its quality or accessibility for existing users or use land which is not suitable for another purpose. This needs to be determined at a local level, considering the quality, quantity and access to facilities at neighbourhood level and in some cases across the Study Area.

Although it is up to local communities to define their own priorities within neighbourhood plans or management plans, the information provided within this study will form a good basis to inform any decisions related to the provision or replacement of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Some settlements may seek a consolidation of facilities on a single site, such as a new sports hub.

These decisions could include the spatial and investment plans for green space and set the foundations for green space provision (e.g. for the lifetime of a plan period). They should outline where different types of facilities and space - such as children's playgrounds, sports pitches, young people's facilities etc. are to be located. It will also identify if any open space is no longer needed and how its disposal or re use can be used to fund improvements to other spaces.

Each plan should apply the standards and be in accordance with the strategic policies set out in the adopted Local Plan (as informed by this study) and seek to ensure that where significant investment is anticipated for green spaces that this is prioritised and realised with the help of key stakeholders and communities.

The standards recommended in this study can be used to help determine a minimum level of quality and quantity of green space provision and the maximum distance people should have to travel to access different types of green space.

This study provides information on the existing supply of different types of open space and an analysis of access and identifies local issues related to quality.

Table 20 below considers the supply, accessibility and quality of open space by parish, and highlights potential opportunities for re-location or re-designation of open spaces or improvements to open spaces to help reduce existing shortfalls in quantity, accessibility and quality. It also considers those open spaces which may have potential to be considered as surplus to requirement. These considerations will act as a good starting point for decision making but will require further detailed investigation and community consultation before any decisions can be made. For example, just because an open space may be in sufficient supply with overlaps in access, and it may have lots of potential to improve, local knowledge or information may show that it is a highly valued and well used facility, and therefore it should not be considered for alternative use/as being surplus to requirements.

Accessible natural green space has not been considered in terms of being surplus to requirement, as there will be important Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity considerations which need to be taken account of before any decision could be made. As with any open space typology, the starting point is that it should be protected, unless it can be clearly demonstrated it is surplus to requirement.

Table 20 Opportunities for re-designating open space, considering the quantity and access standards

Parish	Current Provision (see Table 15 for the supply figures by Parish, and access maps by Parish at Appendix 3)	Opportunities
Albourne	Sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds, children's play space and youth play space. Access to natural green space (960m), and 100ha sites, small gap in access against 20ha sites. Shortfalls in supply of allotments and amenity green space.	<p>Although there are shortfalls in supply of allotments and amenity green space, there is generally good access to these typologies and therefore the priority would be to improve the quality/capacity of existing facilities and expand these where possible. Barn Close park and recreation ground may also have potential to accommodate a food growing area/allotment area to reduce the quantitative shortfall in this typology.</p> <p>There is sufficient supply and good access to parks and recreation grounds, children's play space and youth provision, however the quality of Barn Close Children's area and Barn Close basketball could be improved (there are also some suggestions for small improvements to the park, although this has been assessed as being good quality overall).</p> <p>There is one small natural green space within the parish (although there is also access to larger natural green space sites against the ANGSt standards). There</p>

		<p>is potential to improve the wildlife value of existing spaces through changes in management regimes e.g. reducing frequency of grass cutting in defined areas or managing margins as wildflower meadows.</p> <p>It is not recommended that there are any open spaces that are surplus to requirement. The supply of parks and recreation grounds is close to the required minimum standard, and there are also shortfalls in amenity green space and allotments (the park may have potential to accommodate a food growing/allotment area to reduce the quantitative shortfall). The loss of the children’s play space would result in a large gap in access as it is the only facility serving the settlement. The basketball area is also the only youth facility in the area and its loss would result in large shortfalls.</p>
<p>Ansty and Staplefield</p>	<p>Sufficient supply of amenity green space and parks and recreation grounds. Good provision of Natural Green Space but gaps in access to local natural green space and larger sites against the ANGst standards. Shortfalls in supply of allotments, children’s play space and youth play space.</p>	<p>Rural parish with very dispersed settlements and therefore there are large gaps in access across the majority of typologies with the exception of parks and recreation grounds, and to a lesser extent children’s play areas. There are no allotments or youth play spaces within the parish.</p> <p>There are limited opportunities for reducing shortfalls in access/supply utilising existing open space. There may be potential for Cuckfield Road Amenity Green Space and/or Ansty Cricket Ground to accommodate food growing areas/allotments to reduce the shortfall in allotments, or youth play space, if the need were identified.</p> <p>There is potential to improve the quality of existing open spaces to increase their capacity e.g. Cuckfield Road Play Area could be upgraded to improve it’s play value.</p> <p>Although the provision of parks and recreation grounds greatly exceeds the minimum standard, it is noteworthy that the majority of this provision (Whitemans Green Recreation Ground and Staplefield Road Football) is on the boundary of Cuckfield (i.e. serving the residents of Cuckfield), rather than any of the settlements within Ansty and Staplefield. This typology may also be able to accommodate allotments/food growing areas and/or youth play space to reduce these shortfalls. The parks and recreation grounds are also providing different facilities, e.g. cricket and football (the PPS would need to be consulted), and any loss would result in gaps in access due to the dispersed nature of settlements.</p>

		<p>There may be potential for alternative use of some of the amenity green space in Staplefield, however, consideration should first be given to accommodating allotments/food growing and/or youth provision or introducing more wildlife friendly management.</p>
Ardingly	<p>Sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds, and children's play space. Shortfalls in supply of allotments, amenity green space and youth play space.</p>	<p>Although there are shortfalls in the supply of allotments, amenity green space and youth play space, there is generally good access to these typologies (and also parks and recreation grounds and children's play spaces) within the key populated area. Therefore, the priority would be to improve the quality/capacity of these existing facilities and expand these where possible. Although the quality of all open spaces within the parish have been assessed as 'good', there are still some recommendations for small improvements that could be made.</p> <p>Ardingly playing field may also have potential to accommodate a food growing area/allotments, in order to reduce the shortfall in supply of this typology.</p> <p>There is also Good access to natural green space above 20ha (Ardingly reservoir), and 100ha. Although there are gaps in access against the 960m standard.</p> <p>Although the supply of parks and children's play space exceeds the minimum standards, it is not considered that these spaces are surplus to requirements. There are shortfalls in amenity green space within the parish, and the park also provides potential to reduce the shortfall in allotments (through accommodating new provision) and youth play space (through expanding existing provision). There is also potential to increase the wildlife value in part(s) of the park e.g. through a change in management regime, to provide a local area of more natural green space. The children's play space, although a large area, much of it is unequipped, and it provides a high play value, safe space for children to play. Therefore, it is recommended that there are no open spaces that could be considered as surplus to requirement.</p>
Ashurst Wood	<p>Sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds and children's play space. No accessible natural green space within</p>	<p>There are no allotments or amenity green spaces with the parish. However, there is good provision of and access to parks and recreation grounds, children's play space and youth play space.</p> <p>There may be potential for one of the parks to accommodate an allotment/food growing area to</p>

	<p>the Parish, and gaps in access against the ANGSt standards. Shortfalls in supply of allotments, amenity green space and youth play space.</p>	<p>reduce the shortfall in this typology. Due to the good supply/access of parks, it is not considered an issue that there is a shortfall in amenity green space.</p> <p>Although there is no accessible natural green space within the parish, there is potential to improve wildlife value of the parks through changes in management regimes e.g. reducing frequency of grass cutting in defined areas or managing margins as wildflower meadows. It is also acknowledged that the PROW network provides important access to the wider countryside.</p> <p>Quality improvements could also be made to enhance the capacity/value of sites e.g. There is potential to improve the play value of the children’s play area within Ashurst Wood Playing Fields, and access into the playing fields could be improved.</p> <p>Although there is sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds against the standards, and there are two parks in close proximity to each other, they are providing different facilities. There is also no provision of amenity green space, allotments or natural green space within the parish, and so they are providing an important resource and they may be able to accommodate allotments/food growing areas to reduce these shortfalls and/or be managed to enhance their wildlife value. The supply of children’s play space just meets the minimum quantity requirement. Therefore, it is recommended that there are no open spaces that could be considered as surplus to requirement.</p>
<p>Balcombe</p>	<p>Sufficient supply of allotments and children’s play space. Good access to natural green space. Shortfalls in supply of amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds and youth play space.</p>	<p>Although there are shortfalls in the supply of amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds and youth play space, there is good access to all typologies of open space. Therefore, the priority would be to improve the quality/capacity of existing facilities e.g. Balcombe Recreation Ground Play Area 2. There are also some small improvements that could be made to some of the sites that have been assessed as good quality.</p> <p>Good access to natural green space (Ardingly Reservoir).</p> <p>Although the supply of allotments exceeds the minimum standard, there is only a single allotment site within the parish, and therefore it cannot be considered as surplus to requirements. The supply of</p>

		<p>children's play space only slightly exceeds the minimum standard, and although there are two separate play areas within the same park, they are providing different facilities, and any loss would result in a shortfall in supply. Therefore, it is recommended that there are no open spaces that could be considered as surplus to requirement.</p>
Bolney	<p>Shortfalls in supply across all typologies with the exception of parks and recreation grounds. No accessible natural green space.</p>	<p>There are no allotments or amenity green spaces within the parish. However, there is good provision and access to parks and recreation grounds across the key populated area. Although there are shortfalls in the supply of children's play space and youth play space, there is good access to these facilities, and therefore the priority is to improve the quality/capacity of these facilities e.g. upgrading some of the play items which are dated in Batchelors Field.</p> <p>There may also be potential for Batchelors Field to accommodate a community food growing area e.g. a community orchard, which would also enhance its wildlife value.</p> <p>Although there is no access to accessible natural green space within the parish, it is acknowledged that the PROW network provides important access to the wider countryside.</p> <p>The supply of parks and recreation grounds only just exceeds the minimum standard. Therefore, it is not considered that there any open spaces that could be considered as surplus to requirement.</p>
Burgess Hill	<p>Shortfalls in supply across all typologies with the exception of children's play space.</p>	<p>Although there are shortfalls in supply of all typologies with the exception of children's play space, there is generally good access to all open space typologies across this densely populated urban area (although there are small gaps in access to allotments and youth play space in the south of the parish). Therefore, the priority is to improve the quality/capacity of these existing facilities – there are a number of amenity green spaces, children's play spaces and youth play spaces which have been assessed as being of average quality.</p> <p>Good access to natural green space against the 960m access standard, however there are gaps in access to large natural green spaces (against the ANGSt standards) and opportunities to improve the quality of</p>

		<p>many of these green spaces (with many having been assessed as average quality).</p> <p>There may also be potential natural green space within the south of the parish to accommodate low impact food growing areas, to reduce the gap in access/shortfall in this area – but this would need further investigation to ensure appropriateness.</p> <p>There may be potential for children’s play spaces to be considered as surplus, where access is overlapping and play value is poor e.g. Foxglove Close Play Area is a very small play space with quite dated play equipment (low play value), situated in close proximity to a much larger play area (Primrose Close Play Area) which has much more potential to improve. Therefore, there may be potential to rationalise provision, resulting in fewer, larger, better quality play spaces.</p>
<p>Cuckfield</p>	<p>Sufficient supply of all typologies, with the exception of youth play space.</p>	<p>Good access to allotments, amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds, small gaps in access to children’s play and youth play space. Good access to natural green space.</p> <p>Potential to expand existing youth provision to reduce shortfalls in supply, or there may be potential for Cuckfield Recreation Ground to accommodate new youth provision to reduce the shortfall in supply and access.</p> <p>There is also potential to improve the quality of open spaces within the parish – mainly natural green spaces.</p> <p>Any loss of parks and recreation grounds or children’s play spaces would result in gaps in access (and all parks seem to be fully utilised for pitch space, although the PPS would need to be consulted for details). Although there is sufficient supply and overlaps in access to allotments within the parish, all appear to be well used and therefore it is unlikely that any could be considered as surplus to requirement (again reiterating that just because there is a sufficient supply against the standard, and overlaps in access, this does not mean a facility is surplus, as it may still be well used and valued by the community). There be some potential to consider alternative use of one/some of the small amenity green spaces where access is overlapping, however many of these are likely to provide important visual amenity value, and even wildlife value, as well as providing local space.</p>

East Grinstead	Shortfalls in supply of all open space typologies.	<p>There are limited opportunities to reduce shortfalls due to the shortfall in supply across all typologies of open space.</p> <p>Generally good access to open space (including natural green space), although there are gaps in access to allotments and less so for parks and recreation grounds in the southern part of East Grinstead Town. There are also gaps in access to you play space in the western and southern part of the town.</p> <p>Natural green spaces may have potential to accommodate low impact uses such as food growing or natural play, to reduce the shortfalls in accessibility (for allotments in the south of the town) and supply (both allotments and children’s play space). Imberhorne Lane Recreation Ground may also have potential to accommodate youth play space to reduce shortfalls in access (and supply) in the western part of the town.</p> <p>As there are limited opportunities for new provision/re-designation of open space due to the shortfalls in supply across all typologies, the priority will be to improve the quality/capacity of existing open spaces – there are a number of spaces that have been assessed as being of average quality.</p> <p>As there are shortfalls in supply across all open space typologies, it is considered that none have potential for alternative use.</p>
Fulking	Sufficient supply of amenity green space and children’s play space. Shortfalls in supply of allotments, parks and recreation grounds and youth play space.	<p>There are no allotments, parks and recreation grounds or youth play space, however, this is a very rural parish with a small population (approx. 301 people), so these typologies of open space would not be expected. The small settlement is well served by a good quality amenity green space with a children’s play area (although access to the play area could be improved). There is also good access to natural green space, and a cricket club (outdoor sport private).</p> <p>It is considered that there are no open spaces that are surplus to requirements, as any loss of existing spaces would result in shortfalls in supply and access.</p>
Hassocks	Shortfalls in the supply of all typologies with the exception of parks and recreation grounds.	<p>There are small gaps in access to allotments and children’s play and large gaps in access to amenity green space. However, there is good access to parks and recreation grounds and youth play space across the populated area. There is also generally good access to natural green space.</p>

		<p>There is little opportunity to reduce the shortfalls, other than through expanding the facility or improving the capacity/quality of existing facilities – there are a number of open spaces that have been assessed as average quality within the parish. There may also be potential for parks and recreation grounds and/or amenity green spaces to accommodate food growing areas/allotments to reduce the shortfall/gap in access within the northern part of the town.</p> <p>Although there is sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds against the standard, they cannot be considered as surplus to requirements as any loss would result in a large gap in access, and they are also providing a facility in areas where there are gaps in access to amenity green space, and there is also a large shortfall in the supply of amenity green space within the parish. Parks and recreation grounds also provide opportunities for reducing shortfalls in other typologies, such as allotments.</p>
Haywards Heath	Shortfalls in supply of all open space typologies	<p>There are limited opportunities to reduce shortfalls due to the shortfall in supply across all typologies of open space.</p> <p>Despite the shortfalls in supply, there is generally good access to all open space typologies (with the largest gaps in access being to allotments in the westernmost part of the town, and to a lesser extent to children’s play space in the northernmost part of the town). Therefore, the priority is to improve the capacity/quality of existing open spaces – there are a number of open spaces within the parish that have been assessed as being or either poor or average quality.</p> <p>There is also good access to natural green space within the parish, and there may be potential for natural green space e.g. Blunts Wood to accommodate low impact uses such as a food growing area/community orchard, to reduce the gap in access to allotments in the western part of the town.</p> <p>As there are shortfalls in supply across all open space typologies, it is considered that none have potential for alternative use/none are surplus to requirements.</p>
Horstead Keynes	Sufficient supply of allotments and amenity green space. Shortfall in supply of parks and recreation grounds,	<p>Although there are shortfalls in supply of parks and recreation grounds and children’s play space, there is good access to these typologies, and they are good quality (limited opportunity to improve quality/capacity of these sites). There is no youth provision within the parish.</p>

	<p>children's play space and youth play space.</p>	<p>There is also good access to amenity green space and allotments.</p> <p>There may be potential to introduce youth provision within the park or amenity green space if there is a local need.</p> <p>Although there is no access to accessible natural green space within the parish, it is acknowledged that the PROW network provides important access to the wider countryside. There is access to large/strategic natural green space against the 100ha/5km ANGSt standard, but no access against the 20ha/2km standard.</p> <p>Although there is sufficient supply of allotments, the supply only just exceeds the minimum standard and there is only one allotment site within the settlement. Any loss would result in large shortfalls, therefore it cannot be considered as surplus. There may be some potential for small pockets of amenity green space around The Green to be considered as surplus (as the loss of small pockets would not result in shortfalls in supply or access), however these are likely to have visual amenity value.</p>
<p>Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common</p>	<p>Sufficient supply of allotments, parks and recreation grounds and children's play space. Shortfalls in supply of amenity green space and youth play space.</p>	<p>Although there is sufficient supply of allotments and children's play space, there are gaps in access to these typologies (in the east of Hurstpierpoint) and there is also potential to improve the quality of a number of play areas.</p> <p>There are also large gaps in access to youth play space in the east of Hurstpierpoint. Although there are shortfalls in the supply of amenity green space, there is good access to this typology and these sites have been assessed as being of good quality. There is also good access to parks and recreation grounds which are also in sufficient supply and are good quality.</p> <p>Good provision of good quality local natural green space in Hurstpierpoint, none in Sayers Common. Good access to large/strategic natural green space against the 20ha/2km ANGSt standard, access to 100ha/5km ANGSt standard restricted to Hurstpierpoint only.</p> <p>Potential for South Avenue Recreation Ground in Hurstpierpoint to accommodate youth provision to reduce shortfalls in supply and access. There may also be potential for Hurst Meadows (natural green space)</p>

		<p>to accommodate low impact uses such as natural play or food growing, to reduce gaps in access.</p> <p>Although there is sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds against the quantity standard, it is not considered that any are surplus to requirement as they provide a variety of different facilities (including sports pitches) and are providing open space in an area where there are large shortfalls in amenity green space. They also provide the opportunity to reduce shortfalls in youth play space, and all sites have been assessed as being good quality.</p> <p>There is also sufficient supply of allotments against the standard, however, loss of either of these facilities – one site in Sayers Common and one in Hurstpierpoint would result in large gaps in access, therefore, allotments cannot be considered as being surplus to requirements.</p> <p>There may be some potential to consider small children’s play spaces (0.02ha in size or less) as being surplus to requirement, where their loss would not create a gap in access or a shortfall in supply, and the provision is low quality/poor play value e.g. Heath Close Play Area in Sawyers Common is a very small, low play value area with only two pieces of basic equipment, in close proximity to a much larger play area with higher play value and more potential to improve (Berrylands Play Area).</p>
<p>Lindfield</p>	<p>Sufficient supply of amenity green space and parks and recreation grounds. Shortfalls in supply of allotments, children’s play space and youth play space.</p>	<p>Although there are shortfalls in supply of allotments and children’s play space, there is generally good access to these typologies and therefore the priority would be to improve the quality/capacity of existing facilities and expand these where possible. Although all children’s play spaces have been assessed as being of overall good quality within the parish, there are still some recommendations for improvements.</p> <p>There is also good access to parks and recreation grounds and amenity green space (which have been assessed as being of good quality with the exception of one amenity green space which has been assessed as being of average quality), which may be able to accommodate additional allotments/food growing areas or children’s play space to reduce shortfalls in supply if the need were identified.</p> <p>There is no youth provision within the parish, and existing parks and recreation grounds and/or amenity</p>

		<p>green space may also have potential to accommodate new provision to reduce the shortfall in provision and access.</p> <p>There is good access to natural green space within the parish (but potential to improve the quality Barncroft Meadow), although there are gaps in access to large/strategic natural green space against the ANGSt standards.</p> <p>Although there is sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds against the quantity standard, it is not considered that any are surplus to requirement as they (there are two parks within the parish) provide a variety of different facilities (including sports pitches) and they are also good quality facilities.</p> <p>Amenity green space may have potential for alternative use where any loss would not result in gaps in access or shortfalls in provision e.g. there are a number of small pockets of amenity green space in the north of Lindfield, however, other factors such as biodiversity/wildlife value and visual amenity would need to be considered before any decisions could be made.</p>
<p>Lindfield Rural</p>	<p>Sufficient supply of allotments and amenity green space. Shortfalls in parks and recreation grounds, children’s play space and youth play space.</p>	<p>The urban area of Lindfield crosses into this parish along a small part of the western boundary – this area of housing is served by open spaces within the adjoining parish of Lindfield, although there is an allotment that falls just inside Lindfield Rural parish.</p> <p>The other settlement within the parish has good access to parks and recreation grounds, amenity green space, children’s play space and youth play space despite the shortfalls in supply (although there is no access to allotments). Therefore, the priority is to enhance the quality/capacity of existing facilities – although the majority of open spaces have been assessed as being of overall good quality, there is still some potential to make small improvements to sites.</p> <p>There is also good access to natural green space (Costells Wood) which is a good quality site.</p> <p>There may be potential for amenity green space to accommodate an allotment/food growing area, to reduce the shortfall in access to this typology.</p> <p>Due to the shortfall in supply of parks and recreation grounds, and the potential for amenity green space to accommodate an allotment/food growing area to</p>

		<p>reduce the shortfall in access, it is recommended that amenity green space cannot be considered as surplus to requirements. Although there are overlaps in access to allotments around the boundary with Lindfield, if the allotment within Lindfield Rural were to be lost, there would be a shortfall in supply. Therefore, it is recommended that allotments cannot be considered as surplus to requirements.</p>
Newtimber	Shortfalls in supply of all open space typologies.	<p>Very rural parish with a small and dispersed population (approx. 391 people). There is no provision of allotments, amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds, children's play space or youth play space. The only provision is natural green space and outdoor sport (private) – golf courses. Due to the very low and dispersed population, it is not considered that these shortfalls can be addressed.</p> <p>No provision of open space other than natural green space (which has been assessed as being of good quality) and golf courses. Therefore, there is no potential for alternative use and there are no spaces that are surplus to requirements.</p>
Poynings	Sufficient supply of allotments, park and recreation grounds and children's play space. Shortfalls in supply of amenity green space and youth play space.	<p>Good access to allotments, parks and recreation grounds and children's play space and youth play space. No provision of amenity green space, however access to recreational space is provided by the park and recreation ground. Youth provision consists of a single basketball hoop, and there is potential to upgrade this to a MUGA to improve play value if the need were identified. The play value of the children's play area could also be improved, as well as drainage in the car park/park entrance.</p> <p>It is considered that there are no open spaces which are surplus to requirement, as any loss of a space would result in large gaps in access.</p>
Pyecombe	Shortfalls in supply across all typologies with the exception of children's play space.	<p>The only provision is a small children's play space (average quality, with potential to improve), as well as a large natural green space (good quality) and a golf course, which is considered acceptable for a very rural, small settlement.</p> <p>As there are shortfalls in supply across all open space typologies (and loss of the children's play space would create a shortfall in supply and access), it is considered that none have potential for alternative use/none are surplus to requirements.</p>
Slaugham	Sufficient supply of allotments, parks and recreation grounds and	<p>Rural parish with small, dispersed settlements.</p> <p>Gaps in access to allotments in Pease Pottage, good access elsewhere. May be potential for the sports ground or adjacent natural green space to</p>

	<p>children's play space. Shortfalls in supply of amenity green space and youth play space.</p>	<p>accommodate a food growing area/allotment to reduce the gap in access.</p> <p>Generally good access to amenity green space, although there is a gap in access in Warninglid, however there is provision of a park and recreation ground here.</p> <p>Good access to parks and recreation grounds and children's play space.</p> <p>Gaps in access to youth play space in Pease Pottage and Warninglid – although there is potential for the parks and recreation grounds in these locations to accommodate youth provision if the need were identified.</p> <p>Access to natural green space in Pease Pottage and Handcross, gap in access in Warninglid. Potential to improve management of Warninglid Recreation Ground for wildlife e.g. with some tall grass margins.</p> <p>All open spaces within the parish have been assessed as being of overall good quality (with the exception of one amenity green space which was assessed as being of average quality), however there are still small improvements which could be made to some of the open spaces.</p> <p>Although there is sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds, allotments and children's play space, any loss of these facilities would result in large gaps in access, and therefore it is considered that there are no open spaces that are surplus to requirement.</p>
Turners Hill	<p>Sufficient supply of allotments and amenity green space. Shortfalls in supply of parks and recreation grounds, children's play space and youth play space.</p>	<p>Generally good access to allotments, amenity green space, children's play space and youth play space (although there are gaps in access to the east of Turners Hill), good access to park and recreation grounds. Little opportunity to reduce shortfalls, and existing quality of all open spaces is good.</p> <p>Although amenity green spaces are in sufficient supply against the quantity standard, they are providing access in an area where there are shortfalls in the supply of park and recreation grounds, and therefore they cannot be considered as surplus. Allotments cannot be considered as surplus without further consultation as these appear well used.</p>
Twineham	<p>Sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds</p>	<p>There are no allotments, amenity green space or youth play space, which may be expected for a rural parish with a small settlement (approx. 345 people). There is</p>

	and children's play space. Shortfalls in supply of allotments, amenity green space and youth play space.	<p>however good access to parks and recreation grounds and children's play space. Due to the very low population, it is not considered that these shortfalls can be addressed. However, the children's play space could be improved with better access.</p> <p>The loss of the park (with cricket pitch) or children's play area would result in large gaps in access/supply, therefore it is considered that there are no open spaces which could be surplus to requirements.</p>
West Hoathly	Sufficient supply of all typologies with the exception of youth play space.	<p>Good access to all open space typologies including natural green space. Overall quality has been assessed as good (with the exception of one children's play space which has been assessed as average quality) for open spaces within the parish, although there is potential to improve/expand the youth provision at North Lane recreation ground in order to reduce the shortfall in supply. Shrapthorne New Play Area may also benefit from upgrading in the near future.</p> <p>Although there is sufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds against the quantity standard, it is not considered that any are surplus to requirement as they provide a variety of good quality facilities (including sports pitches).</p> <p>There may be potential for small amenity green spaces or children's play spaces to be considered for alternative use where access is overlapping, provided these do not have value e.g. are well used, or have biodiversity or visual amenity value for example. Although there are two allotment sites in close proximity these both appear well used.</p>
Worth	Sufficient supply of allotments and amenity green space. Shortfalls in the supply of parks and recreation grounds, children's play space and youth play space.	<p>Generally good access to allotments, amenity green space, small gaps in access to parks and children's play spaces and youth play spaces.</p> <p>There is good access to local natural green space (although potential to improve the quality of a number of these sites), although there are gaps in access to the larger/strategic sites against the ANGSt standards.</p> <p>Potential to reduce shortfalls in supply of children's play space and youth play space through improving quality/capacity or expanding existing facilities e.g. upgrading Copthorne Bank Basketball. There may also be potential for natural green spaces to accommodate low impact natural play in order to reduce gaps in access (and supply).</p> <p>The supply of allotments only just exceeds the minimum quantity standard and any loss would result</p>

		<p>in a large gap in access - therefore this typology cannot be considered as surplus to requirement. Although the provision of amenity green space exceeds the minimum quantity standard, this typology provides important access to recreational space, within the context of a large shortfall in parks and recreation grounds. Therefore, this typology cannot be considered as being surplus to requirement, with the exception of small amenity green spaces where access is overlapping – however these small spaces are likely to have visual amenity value.</p>
--	--	--

8.5 Identification of areas for new provision

New provision will be required where there is a new development and a planned increase in population, and/or an existing deficiency in supply or access to facilities exists. Section 7 outlines the existing situation with regards to supply and access to open space, and Table 20 considers this further, alongside the access analysis and quality results. As previously discussed, neighbourhood plans would provide a good mechanism to determine exactly where new provision is required, however, this study can be used as the basis for decision making, as follows:

Quantity

Within the study report, for each typology, there is an identified ‘sufficient supply’ or ‘under supply’ for each of the parishes. If an area has an existing under supply of any typology, there may be need for additional provision. This could be delivered through developing a new site (for example as part of a housing development), acquiring land to extend the site or changing the typology of an existing space (which may be in over supply).

The supply statistics should be used as part of the decision making process in development management to determine if a new development should provide facilities on-site or enhance existing provision through developer contributions.

The use of the quantity statistics should not be in isolation and needs to be considered alongside the access standards.

Access

This study considers how access to different types of open space varies across parishes against the proposed standards. The maps in Section 7 (and Appendix 3) show where there are deficiencies and potential over supply of facilities. This information can be used alongside the quantity statistics to determine if new provision or improved accessibility is required in an area. For example, if a new development is proposed, the maps should be consulted to determine if there is an existing gap in provision of a particular typology which could be met by the development.

Therefore, even though the quantity statistics may identify a sufficient supply of a particular typology, there may be gaps in access, and thus a new facility may still be required.

Delivering new provision

There are a number of opportunities for delivering new facilities through new development – developer contributions and to a lesser extent through capital and grant funding.

New development, CIL and developer contributions

The Mid Sussex Development Infrastructure and Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (July 2018) provides information about the approach to the provision of and/ or securing contributions towards infrastructure for the area of Mid Sussex that falls outside of the South Downs National Park.

The main ways of securing developer contributions (either individually or collectively) are through the use of:

- Planning conditions;
- Planning obligations e.g. Section 106 agreements; and
- the Community Infrastructure Levy (not yet adopted at Mid Sussex).

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a tool for local authorities to help fund the delivery of infrastructure. CIL is a non-negotiable standard charge on new development. It takes the form of a charge per square metre of net additional floorspace and once adopted, it applies to most new development. CIL is used to fund identified infrastructure requirements set out in the CIL Charging Schedule, which will complement the continued use of planning obligations to fund site specific infrastructure requirements.

Developer Contributions may be required for specific on-site mitigation measures and/or contributions towards off-site infrastructure, such as public open space provision. Any adverse impacts on the local environment or local infrastructure, which will arise as a direct result of development, and which can be made acceptable in planning terms, should be mitigated via a planning obligation. Planning obligations must be made in accordance with the three tests of CIL Regulation 122; necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; directly related to the development; and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. The new CIL regulations (September 2019) have removed the restriction on pooling of no more than 5 separate 106 agreements. This will allow charging authorities to use both CIL and section 106 contributions to fund the same item of infrastructure, providing greater flexibility for infrastructure funding. Linked to this is the replacement of the Regulation 123 lists with annual infrastructure funding statements.

New development will be required to provide on-site open space in accordance with MSDC policy requirements, as informed by the standards outlined in this study. Whilst not all

developments will be of a size that will generate the requirement for on-site open space, when considering future requirements for Mid Sussex, there will be many that will require open space provision. This study should be used to inform local decisions about where and when new on-site provision will be required.

Figure 28 below shows an example flow chart/decision making process to help developers/Council officers determine the need for on or off-site provision of open space. This is only a guide and requirements will be determined on a case by case basis using the standards and assessment within this study. Where possible, this should be determined through pre-application discussions with the Council. The new open space typologies and standards as part of this study will need to be adapted into a new costings matrix in a revised Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The recommended methodology for costings for on/off site provision is covered in a separate report – Developer Contributions and Adoption of Open Space (2019).

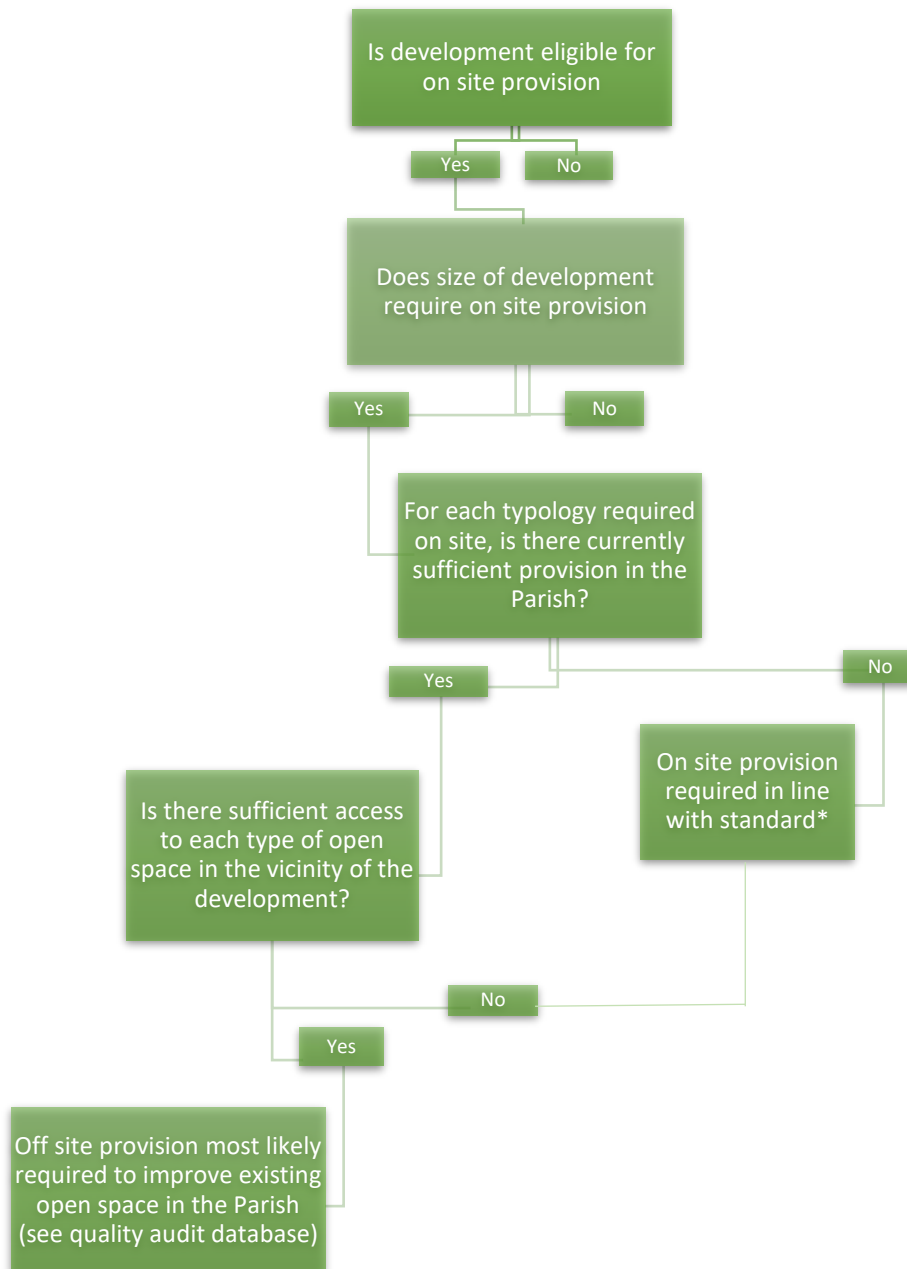
Capital and grant funding

Although the availability of capital and grant funding has diminished in recent years, nevertheless funding does become available for providing facilities for open space, sport and recreation. National and governing bodies for individual sports should be consulted where new infrastructure is required, such as changing rooms and sports pitches. Environmental grants and stewardship schemes are available for managing natural green space. As neighbourhood plans are developed and open space priorities are established within these, funding requirements will be identified and delivery through grant funding can be considered.

Requirements for open space from new housing

Section 7.2.1 outlines the variation in supply of different typologies of open space across parishes. As identified, every parish has a shortfall in at least one typology of open space, therefore, the starting point for new housing (of a certain size) is to assume that some form of on-site open space provision would be required.

Figure 28 Decision making process for on-site provision of open space, or off-site contributions to enhance existing open space



*if it is not feasible to deliver open space on site due to exceptional circumstances e.g. viability or land availability, then potential to make off site provision will be considered on a case by case basis.

Open Space Policy Direction (new provision of open space):**OS9**

New provision of open space will be required as part of new development. On-site provision should be provided in line with the proposed open space standards.

Where on-site provision is deemed impractical, or not required e.g. for small sites, consideration will be given to opportunities for off-site provision and/or improvements.

Improvements to existing open space will be considered first in the Parish within which the development is located, then in open spaces in neighbouring Parishes. Open spaces requiring improvements will be identified using the results from the quality audit (those sites being of poor or average quality being the highest priority) and also from site management plans and the Council's own knowledge of their sites.

8.6 Facilities that are surplus to requirement

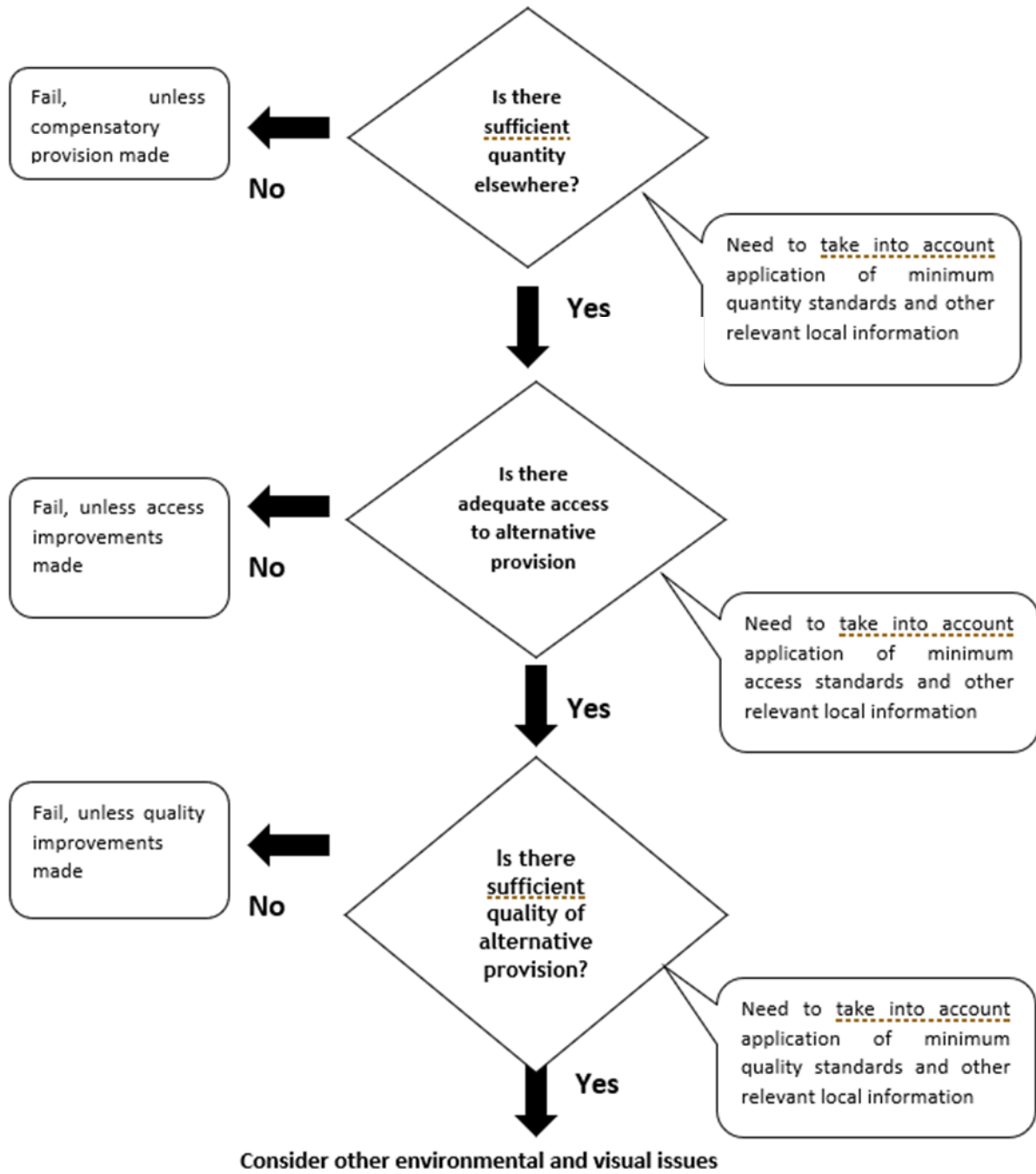
In addition to the strategic options outlined above, consideration should also be given to facilities that are surplus to requirement. There are important issues to resolve in terms of striking the correct balance of open space across the study area before any disposal can be contemplated. Whilst there is under-provision relative to the minimum standards in several areas, there are other areas where provision compares favourably with the standards. However, it is once again emphasised that the proposed standards are for *minimum* levels of provision. Factors to be taken into account before any decision to release open space for alternative uses can be taken include:

- The local value and use of a given open space - as it may be a locally popular resource.
- Whether future local development/population growth might generate additional demands for open space.
- Whether there is a demonstrable need for some other type of open space within the locality that a given space (subject to a change of management regime) would be well placed to meet.
- Other non-recreational reasons that suggest a space should be retained (which might include ecological and visual reasons).

Figure 29 and the associated paragraphs below suggests an outline of the decision process that should be followed before the development/alternative use of an open space can be seriously contemplated.

Table 20 provides an overview of open spaces which may have potential to be considered for alternative use, applying the flow chart at Figure 29 below.

Figure 29 Outline decision making process in relation to sanctioning (re)development of open space



Q. Is there sufficient quantity?

A. If the minimum quantitative standard for amenity green space is exceeded in a defined geographical area, the relative provision of other forms of open space must then be considered (amenity green space can in principle be converted into other forms of open space where the need arises). If a) provision meets the minimum quantitative standard; b) there is no significant local information suggesting a need to retain the site; and, c) there is not a perceived lack of other forms of open space, the next question can be addressed.

Q. Is there adequate access to alternative provision?

A. Within the defined geographical area there may be good overall provision of amenity green space relative to the quantity standard, but is it in the right place and can it be easily reached? Applying the accessibility component of the minimum standards will help to answer this question. If other similar open space cannot be easily reached, the site's disposal for other uses may be unacceptable.

Q. Are other accessible and similar opportunities elsewhere of sufficient quality?

A. If it can be demonstrated that alternative opportunities are sufficient both in quantity and accessibility, there may still exist issues with the quality of these alternative provisions. The quality component of the proposed standards may indicate that certain improvements to alternative opportunities must be made which should be funded and secured before development is permitted.

The quality audit provided as part of this study provides a useful framework for identifying and prioritising open spaces that require improvements. Those open spaces which have been assessed as being of poor or average quality should be prioritised for improvement. If existing open spaces in the vicinity of new development are of poor/average quality, then their improvement (e.g. access improvements, signage, improvements to facilities and/or habitats – as recommended in the quality audit database provided to MSDC) would need to be secured before any 'surplus' in a particular open space typology could be considered.

Even if these three tests are passed there may be other reasons for the site to remain as open space. For example, it may have value as a natural habitat or be visually important. Such considerations are important, but beyond the scope of this report.

9.0 CONCLUSION

This study provides a robust analysis of the status of open space within Mid Sussex in 2019. It includes an audit of provision and a local needs assessment (consultation) with findings used to produce new recommended standards for quantity, accessibility and quality of open space. The study also includes a suite of policy recommendations and methodologies for interpreting and informing the needs for the assessed open space typologies over the proposed revised plan period, up to 2031. It should be read in conjunction with the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2018).

The role and value of open space in contributing to the delivery of national and local priorities and targets is clear from this assessment. It is important that the policies and recommendations included within this assessment are considered for inclusion in the local plan, and acknowledged in relevant strategies and policy documents, as and when they are reviewed. Council officers and elected Members play a pivotal role in adopting and promoting the recommendations within this assessment and ensuring that key stakeholders such as town and parish councils, developers and community groups are suitably informed and engaged in the open space process.
