



**Oadby & Wigston**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



**KNIGHT, KAVANAGH & PAGE**

# **OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY**

### **JUNE 2024**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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## Glossary

DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
OSNA	Open Space Needs Assessment
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (OWBC) commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver an Open Space and Recreational Facilities Study. This document focuses on reporting the findings of the research, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the study. It provides detail regarding what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution, and overall quality.

The document can facilitate the direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable open spaces. It can help to inform the priorities for open space provision as part of future population distribution and planned growth. Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and movement for people and wildlife. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what provision currently exists and what the priorities and requirements are for the future.

In order for planning policies relating to open space to be 'sound', local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We follow the methodology to undertake such assessments by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; Assessing Needs and Opportunities<sup>1</sup> published in September 2002.

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

Under paragraph 102 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

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<sup>1</sup> [Assessing Needs and Opportunities](#)

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

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Local Plan Typology Equivalent	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Parks and formal gardens, open to the general public. Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Natural Green Space	Supports wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Informal Open Space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people	Children and Young People's Space	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
Allotments	Allotments	Opportunities to grow own produce. Added benefits include the long term promotion of sustainable living, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	No Local Plan equivalent	Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Any site recognised as sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e., where it is also available for wider community use as open space) is included in this study. Provision purely for sporting use are the focus of other studies (i.e., Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy). On dual use sites, the pitch playing surfaces are counted as part of the overall site size as they are considered to contribute to the total open space site and reflect its multifunctionality.

## 1.1 Report structure

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

- ◀ Part 3: Open space summary
- ◀ Part 4: Parks and gardens
- ◀ Part 5: Natural/ semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Part 7: Provision for children/ young people
- ◀ Part 8: Allotments
- ◀ Part 9: Cemeteries/churchyards

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### 1.2 National context

#### National Planning Policy Framework, (DLUHC)

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (paragraphs 7-9). It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Paragraph 102 of the NPPF establishes that access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite, paragraph 103 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

#### National Planning Practice Guidance (DLUHC and MHCLG)

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) is a web-based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place. It was launched in March 2014 and adds further context to the (NPPF). It is intended that the two documents should be read together.

The guidance determines that open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.



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## Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Fields in Trust (2015) and Beyond the Six Acre Standard<sup>2</sup>

As part of its protection work, Fields in Trust (FiT) offers guidance on open space provision and design. This is to ensure that provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space is of a sufficient size to enable effective use; is in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and to encourage its continued use.

Beyond the Six Acre Standard sets out a range of benchmark guidelines on quantity, quality and accessibility for open space and equipped play. It also offers some recommendations to minimum site sizes.

## Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England

Sets out how the planning system can help provide opportunities for everyone to be physically active. It highlights the vital role planning systems play in shaping environments (including open spaces) which offer opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity. To help with this, the guidance sets out 12 planning-for-sport principles to be embraced.

Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles

<b>Overarching</b>
Recognise and give weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity.
Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessment of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them.
Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.
<b>Protect</b>
Protect and promote existing sport and physical activity provision and ensure new development does not prejudice its use.
Ensure long-term viable management and maintenance of new and existing sport and physical activity provision.
<b>Enhance</b>
Support improvements to existing sport and physical activity provision where they are needed
Encourage and secure wider community use of existing and new sport and physical activity provision.
<b>Provide</b>
Support new provision, including allocating new sites for sport and physical activity which meets identified needs.
Ensure a positive approach to meeting the needs generated by new development for sport and physical activity provision.
Provide sport and physical activity provision which is fit for purpose and well designed
Plan positively for sport and physical activity provision in designated landscapes and the green belt.
Proactively address any amenity issues arising from sport and physical activity developments.

<sup>2</sup> [Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play](#)

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## Green Infrastructure Framework (2023), Natural England

Launched by Natural England, the Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) provides a structure to analyse where greenspace in urban environments is needed most. It aims to support equitable access to greenspace across the country, with an overarching target for everyone being able to reach good quality greenspace in their local area.

The GIF comprises of principles, standards, mapping tools, planning and design guides. The principles are set out for consideration to reflect the importance of providing multi-functional and well-designed provision.

Principle
Why 1 – Nature rich beautiful places
Why 2 – Active and healthy places
Why 3 – Thriving and prospering communities
Why 4 – Understanding and managing water environment
Why 5 – Resilient and climate positive places
What 1 - Multifunctional
What 2 - Varied
What 3 - Connected
What 4 - Accessible
What 5 - Character
How 1 – Partnership and vision
How 2 - Evidence
How 3 – Plan strategically
How 4 - Design
How 5 – Managed, valued, monitored and evaluated

## Summary of the national context

Policies set out within the NPPF state that local and neighbourhood plans should both reflect needs and priorities within a local community and be based on robust and current assessments of open space, sport and recreational facilities. Encouraging better levels of physical literacy<sup>3</sup> and activity is a high priority for national government. For many people, sport and recreational activities have a key role to play in facilitating physical activity. Therefore, ensuring that open space creates an active environment with opportunities and good accessibility is important. In line with national policy recommendations, this study makes an assessment of open space provision from which recommendations and policy can be formulated.

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<sup>3</sup> Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities

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## PART 2: METHODOLOGY

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

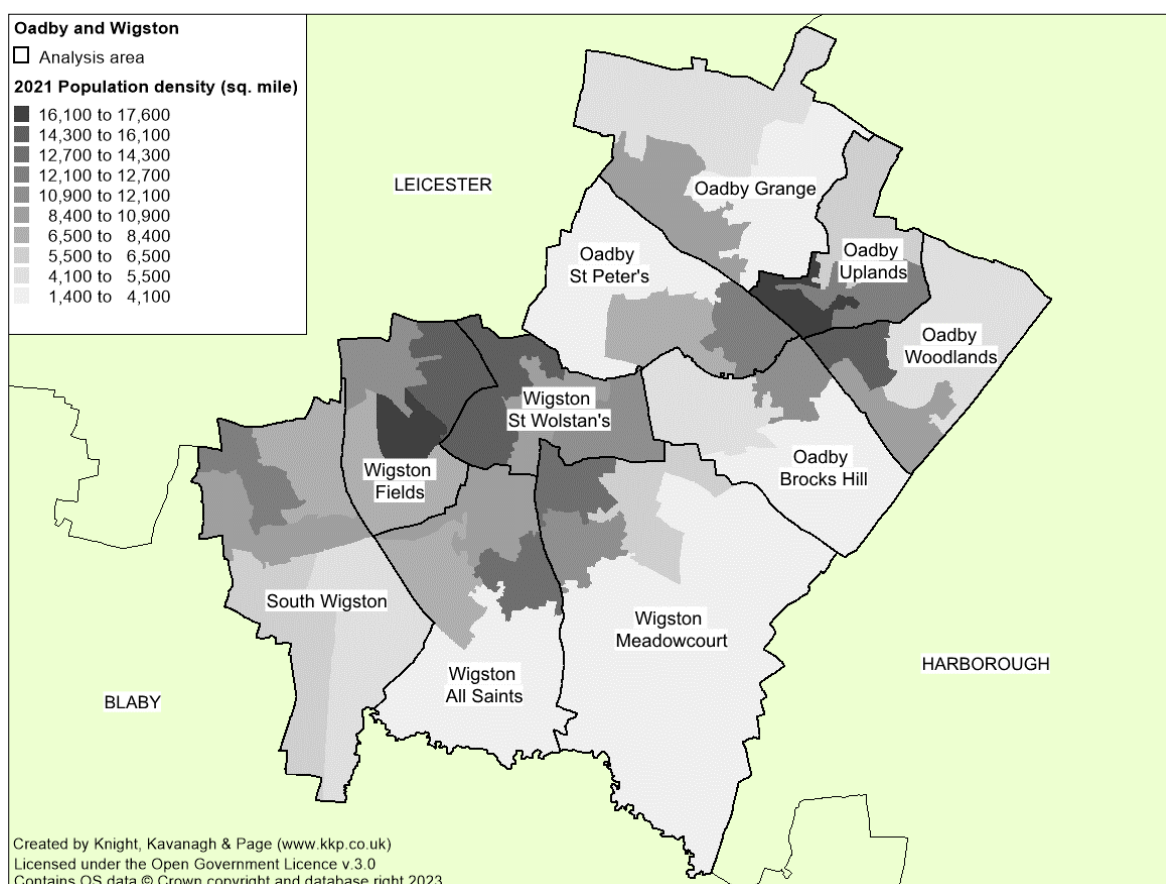
- ◀ 2.1 – Analysis areas
- ◀ 2.2 – Auditing local provision
- ◀ 2.3 – Open space provision standards
- ◀ 2.4 – Quality and value
- ◀ 2.5 – Quality and value thresholds
- ◀ 2.6 – Accessibility standards

### 2.1 Analysis area

The study area comprises the whole Borough of Oadby and Wigston. In order to address supply and demand on a more localised level, analysis areas (consisting of electoral wards which align with other work streams) have been utilised.

Figure 2.1 shows the Borough broken down by ward into these analysis areas in tandem with population density. Population is considered in more detail below.

Figure 2.1: Map of Oadby and Wigston including analysis areas<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Office for National Statistics, 2022

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Table 2.1: Analysis areas and populations

Analysis area	Population <sup>5</sup>
Oadby Brocks Hill	4,275
Oadby Grange	6,056
Oadby St Peter's	4,559
Oadby Uplands	4,537
Oadby Woodlands	4,637
South Wigston	8,108
Wigston All Saints	5,875
Wigston Fields	6,851
Wigston Meadowcourt	6,304
Wigston St Wolstan's	6,542
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>57,744</b>

## 2.2 Auditing local provision

Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Only sites publicly accessible are included in the quality and value audit (i.e., private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included).

Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit and the study, analyse the following typologies in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17.

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards

### Site size threshold

In accordance with recommendations from the Companion Guidance to PPG17, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace.

It is recognised that it would be impractical to capture every piece of land that could be classed as open space. They are often too small to provide any meaningful leisure and recreational opportunities to warrant a full site assessment. However, spaces smaller than 0.2 hectares can provide amenity to local neighbourhoods and stepping-stones for wildlife.

<sup>5</sup> Mid-Year Estimates (2021), Office for National Statistics

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Table 2.2: Site size thresholds for each open space typology

Typology	Site size threshold
Allotments	None
Amenity greenspace	0.2ha
Cemeteries	None
Parks and gardens	None
Provision for children and young people	None
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	0.2ha

If required, these amenity greenspaces and natural sites below 0.2 hectares should be assessed on a site-by-site basis (to assess potential community, biodiversity and visual value), for example, a request for development be made upon such a site in the future. Planning policies relating to the consideration of the loss of open space could still apply to such sites, even if they are not specifically included in the audit.

It should be noted that some sites below the threshold i.e., those that are identified as having particular significance and considered to provide an important function, as well as play space for children and young people, are included in the audit process.

## Database development

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

Data held on open spaces database (summary)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)</li> <li>◀ Site name</li> <li>◀ Ownership (if known)</li> <li>◀ Management (if known)</li> <li>◀ Typology</li> <li>◀ Size (hectares)</li> <li>◀ Site audit data</li> </ul>

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

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## 2.3 Open space standards

To identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space in a local area, provision standards focusing on Quality, Quantity and Accessibility are set and applied later in the document (Part 10).

<b>Quality</b>	Ability to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities. Aimed at identifying high quality provision for benchmarking and low quality provision for targeting as part of improvements. The Quality Standard is based on the audit assessment scores.
<b>Quantity</b>	Are there enough spaces in the right places? Aimed at helping to establish areas of surplus and deficiency and, where appropriate, to understand the potential for alternative uses and/or key forms of provision.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Distance thresholds aimed at improving accessibility factors (e.g., so people can find and get to open spaces without undue reliance on using a car) and helping to identify potential areas with gaps in provision. Shown via maps.

## 2.4 Quality and value

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

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

### Analysis of quality

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon criteria derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures.

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The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised in the following table.

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts.</li><li>▶ Personal security, e.g., site is overlooked, natural surveillance.</li><li>▶ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths.</li><li>▶ Parking, e.g., availability, specific, disabled parking.</li><li>▶ Information signage, e.g., presence of up-to-date site information, notice boards.</li><li>▶ Equipment and facilities, e.g., assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets.</li><li>▶ Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace.</li><li>▶ Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti.</li><li>▶ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., fencing, gates, staff on site.</li><li>▶ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of general landscape &amp; features.</li><li>▶ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people.</li><li>▶ Site potential e.g., possible enhancements to improve a site.</li></ul>

For the provision for children and young people, criteria are also built around Green Flag. It is a non-technical visual assessment of the whole site, including general equipment and surface quality/appearance plus an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision.

This differs, for example, from an independent Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RosPA) review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

### Analysis of value

Site visit data plus desk-based research is calculated to provide value scores for each site identified. Value is defined in Companion Guidance to PPG17 in relation to the following three issues:

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

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

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

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The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived from:

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◀ Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility.</li><li>◀ Context of site in relation to other open spaces.</li><li>◀ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/area.</li><li>◀ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats.</li><li>◀ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes.</li><li>◀ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being.</li><li>◀ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g., listed building, statues) and high-profile symbols of local area.</li><li>◀ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks.</li><li>◀ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far.</li></ul>

One of the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic has been recognition of the importance of the vital role open space provision can provide to local communities. Recognising this along with consideration to the future needs and demands of such provision should raise the profile of open spaces and the processes supporting its existence (i.e., ensuring evidence bases are kept up to date and used to inform future decision-making processes).

### 2.5 Quality and value thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by Companion Guidance to PPG17); the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

A site rating low for quality should not automatically be viewed as being fit for development. It is also necessary to understand its value, access and role within the community it serves. It may for example be the only site serving an area and should therefore be considered a priority for enhancement.

The most recognised national benchmark for measuring the quality of parks and open spaces is the 66% pass rate for the Green Flag Award. This scheme recognises and rewards well-managed parks and open spaces. Although this Open Space Study uses a similar assessment criteria to that of the Green Flag Award scheme it is inappropriate to use the Green Flag benchmark pass for every open space as they are not all designed or expected to perform to the same exceptionally high standard. For example, a park would be expected to feature a greater variety of ancillary facilities (seating, bins, play equipment) and manicured landscaping and planting, etc. in contrast to an amenity greenspace serving a smaller catchment and fewer people.



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Furthermore, a different scoring mechanism is used in this study to that of the Green Flag scheme (albeit criteria for this study is derived from the Green Flag scheme). For each open space typology, a different set and / or weighting for each criterion of quality is used. This is to better reflect the different roles, uses and functions of each open space type. Consequently, a different quality threshold level is set for each open space typology.

Quality thresholds in this study are individual to each open space typology. They are based on the average quality score arising from the site assessments and set using KKP's professional judgment and experience from delivering similar studies. The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal. This works as an effective method to reflect the variability in quality at a local level for different types of provision. It allows the Council more flexibility in directing funds towards sites for enhancements which is useful if funds are geographically constrained with respect to individual developments.

Reason and flexibility are needed when evaluating sites close to the average score / threshold. The review of a quality threshold is just one step for this process, a site should also be evaluated against the value assessment and local knowledge.

There is no national guidance on the setting of value thresholds, and instead a 20% threshold is derived from KKP's experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites.

A high value site is one deemed to be well used and offering visual, social, physical and mental health benefits. Value is also a more subjective measure than assessing the physical quality of provision. Therefore, a conservative threshold of 20% is set across all typologies. Whilst 20% may initially seem low - it is a relative score. One designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). If a site meets more than one criterion for value it will score greater than 20%. Consequently, it is deemed to be of higher value.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

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

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## 2.6 Accessibility catchments

Accessibility catchments can be used as a tool to identify deficiencies of open space in a local area. This is achieved by applying them to create a distance catchment. The study displays the results of the catchment to highlight any potential deficiencies in access to provision.

There is an element of subjectivity resulting in time / distance variations. This is to be expected given that people walk at different speeds depending on a number of factors including height, age, levels of fitness and physical barriers on route. Therefore, there will be an element of 'best fit'.

The accessibility catchments from FIT are used to show how far residents are likely to be willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

Table 2.3: Accessibility catchment times/distances

Open space type	Catchment
Parks & Gardens	9-minute walk time (710m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	9-minute walk time (720m)
Amenity Greenspace	6-minute walk time (480m)
Provision for children and young people (LAP)	1-minute walk time (100m)
Provision for children and young people (LEAP)	5-minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people (NEAP)	12.5-minute walk time (1000m)
Provision for children and young people (Other provision e.g., MUGA, Skate park)	9-minute walk time (700m)
Allotments	No standard set
Cemeteries	No standard set

Most typologies have an accessibility standard of a 9-minute walk time. No standard is set for the typologies of allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

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## PART 3: SUMMARY OF SURVEY AND SITE AUDIT

This section provides a summary of the responses to the online community survey that took place in summer 2023 and describes trends from the quality and value audit for each typology.

### 3.1 Community Survey

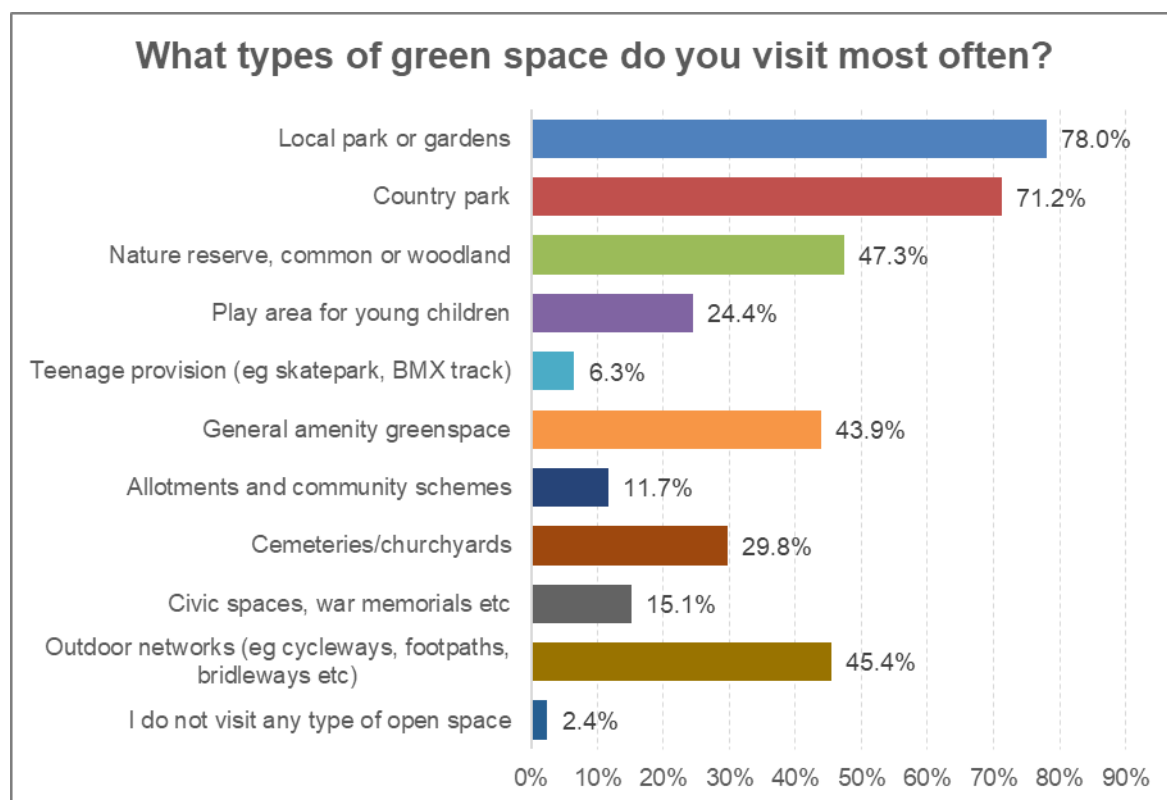
An online community survey was hosted on the Council website and promoted via social media by the Council's communication team. The use of a questionnaire was considered a good approach to providing a widespread opportunity for local residents and stakeholders to provide their thoughts towards open space provision in the Borough they live or work in. A total of 168 responses were received. The 168 respondents are predominantly from the Borough and provide responses in relation to their use and views of open space. Only one respondent is from outside Oadby and Wigston (noted as being from Leicester).

The questionnaire consisted of a series of multiple choice and open-ended questions asking respondents their thoughts on topics such as types of open space visited, frequency and quality etc.

#### Usage

Popular forms of open space provision to visit most often are parks and gardens (78%), country parks (71%), nature reserves, commons or woodlands (47%) and outdoor networks (45%).

Figure 3.1.1: Types of open space to visit



## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

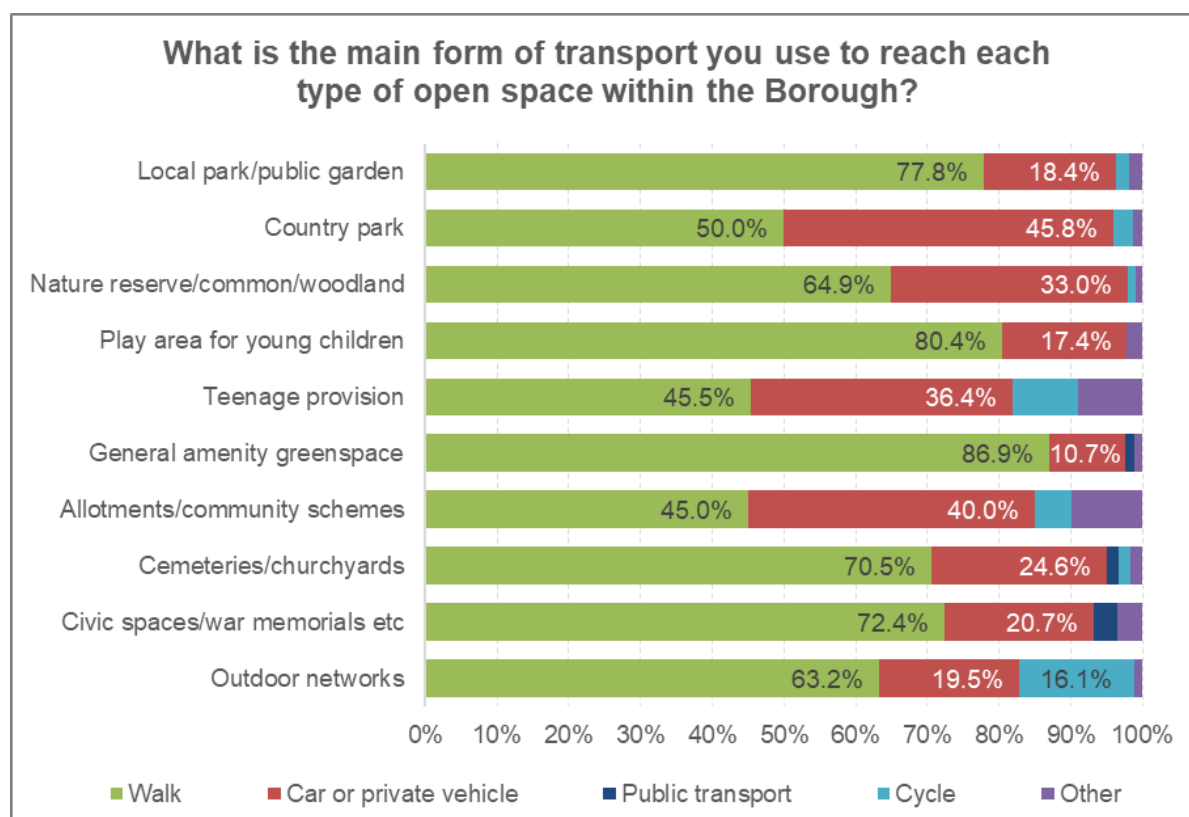
The main reasons for visiting open spaces are to go for a walk or stroll (92%), for fresh air (84%) and for peace and quiet/relax (69%). The reason 'to grow fresh fruits and vegetables' received one of the lowest percentages (8.5%). This is a specific reason relating only to those respondents stating they visit an allotment (with most people not being an allotment holder). Consequently, it is not a common reason for people visiting open space. 'Other' answers mostly include dog walking which could fall in the category to go for a walk/stroll.

Table 3.1.1: Reasons for visits

Why do you visit green spaces?	Number of responses	Percentage
Fresh air	167	83.9%
Peace and quiet/relax	137	68.8%
Walk/stroll	182	91.5%
Exercise/sport	94	47.2%
To experience/see nature	124	62.3%
To grow my own fresh fruits and vegetables	17	8.5%
Time with family/friends	102	51.3%
Other (please state)	21	10.6%
<b>Base</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>-</b>

### Accessibility

Figure 3.1.2: Mode of travel to open space sites



## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

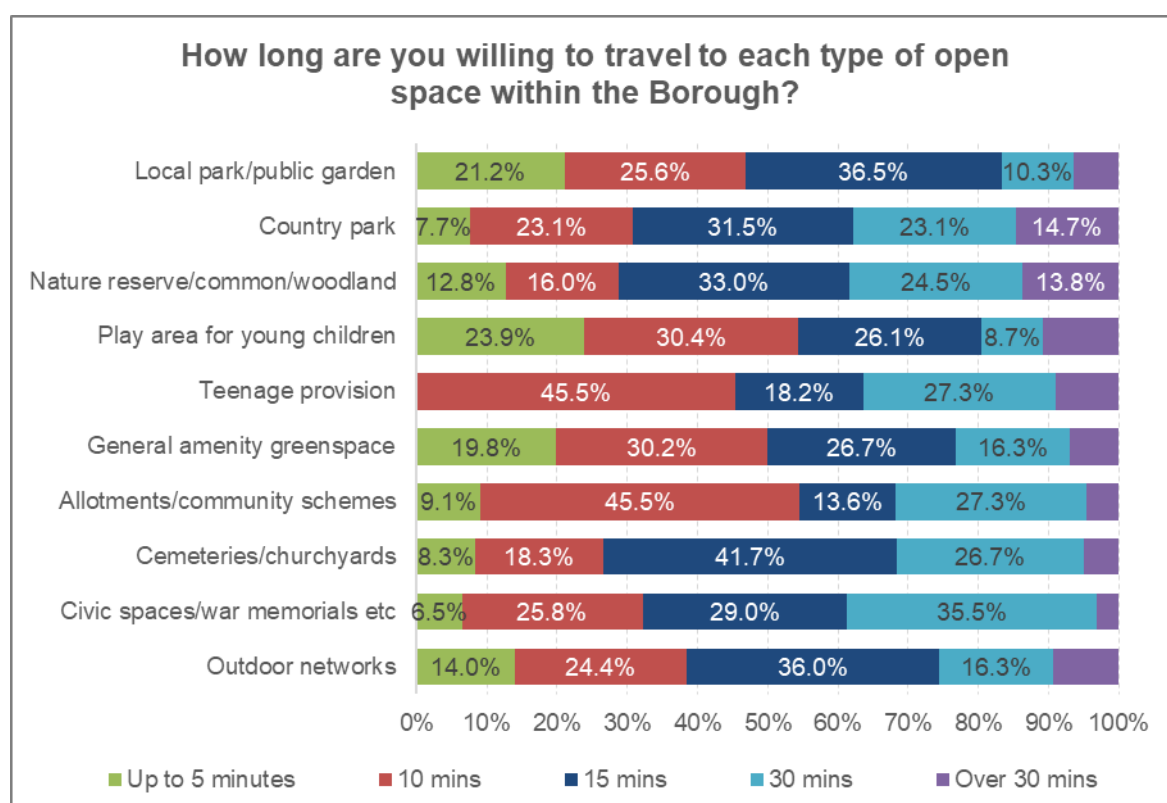
Individuals generally walk to access amenity space (87%), play areas for young children (80%), parks (78%), cemeteries (71%), civic spaces (72%), nature reserves, commons or woodlands (65%), and outdoor networks (63%).

There are also quite high percentages of individuals willing to travel by car to access provision of country parks (46%), allotments (40%) teenage provision (36%) and nature reserves, commons or woodlands (33%).

For some provision such as civic spaces/war memorials, there is a willingness to travel further distances, with respondents stating they would be willing to travel 30 minutes (36%).

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

Figure 3.1.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites



Respondents were asked what site they visit most frequently, and Brocks Hill had the most respondents (88). This is followed by Uplands Park (16) and Knighton Park (14). This is likely due to Brocks Hill Country Park being centrally located in the Borough and Uplands Park being a large, Council-owned Park. Knighton Park is located in the administrative boundary of Leicester City. It adjoins Oadby and Wigston Borough and is likely to be well used by residents.

### Availability and Quality

In general, respondents consider the amount of open space provision where they live to be quite satisfactory with nearly half (49.8%) stating they are quite satisfactory. Less than a fifth of respondents (13%) rate availability of open space provision as very satisfactory. A fifth of

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respondents however view the amount of open space provision where they live to be neither satisfactory nor unsatisfactory.

Table 3.1.2: Satisfaction with availability of open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory nor unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
13.3%	49.8%	20.2%	11.8%	4.9%

Similarly, just over half of survey respondents (52%) consider the quality of open space provision to be generally quite satisfactory. A further 9% rate quality as very satisfactory. Only small proportions of respondents view quality as quite unsatisfactory (11%) or very unsatisfactory (4%).

Table 3.1.3: Satisfaction with quality of parks and open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
9.4%	51.7%	23.2%	11.3%	4.4%

Respondents of the survey were asked what they thought would improve open space provision. The most common answers include better maintenance and care of features (61%), greater attractiveness (59%) more wildlife/habitat promotion (58%) and better and wider range of facilities (39%).

Table 3.1.4: What would improve open space provision for you?

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
Better maintenance and care of features	61%
Greater attractiveness (e.g., flowers, trees)	59%
More wildlife/habitat promotion	58%
Better and wider range of facilities (i.e., play equipment, seating, refreshments)	39%
Improved access to and within sites	22%
Greater information on sites	17%
More public events	14%
Greater community involvement	13%
Other (please state below)	9%

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Common themes cited in the comments section are displayed in Table 3.1.5.

Table 3.1.5: Common themes from respondents' comments

<b>Respondent comments</b>
To have areas where dogs have to be on leads.
To have dog free zones.
Problem of dog fouling and litter at open spaces
Respondents would like to see increased promotion of wildlife habitats.
To have more bins and more regularly emptying of bins.
Litter bins and 3 benches removed and not replaced on Blaby Rd Park.
Brocks hill playground has had a number of play equipment pieces removed and not replaced
Reducing/removing car parking charges.
Respondents are unhappy with sites which have been removed and would like to see replacements.
Waste bins in Uplands Park need replacing/repairing. The park offers either very young play equipment or equipment for older kids. The site needs an upgrade. Skate park on site was removed and has not been replaced.
The public are concerned about the loss of open space.
Respondents would like to see improved grass maintenance.
Several respondents highlighted that Oadby Cemetery is poorly maintained and overgrown.

The majority of respondents (94%) strongly agreed or agreed with the statement 'Visiting open spaces makes me feel better'. Only 1% respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.

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## 3.2 Audit overview

Within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, there are a total of 125 sites equating to over 168 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural/semi-natural greenspace (94 hectares), accounting for 56%.

Note that one of these sites, an amenity greenspace (Park Crescent) is inaccessible. The site is located in Oadby Brocks Hill. Both access points (gates) were locked at the time of visits.

Table 3.2.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares) <sup>6</sup>
Allotments	4	9
Amenity greenspace	49	17
Cemeteries/churchyards	5	7
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	26	94
Park and gardens	13	38
Provision for children & young people	28	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>168</b>

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<sup>6</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number



# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

## 3.3 Quality

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

Table 3.3.1: Quality scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Sites below typology threshold	Sites above typology threshold
Allotments	53%	59%	63%	0	4
Amenity greenspace	22%	47%	71%	35	13
Cemeteries	49%	53%	62%	2	1
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	16%	43%	95%	16	10
Park and gardens	47%	64%	82%	4	9
Provision for children & young people	48%	66%	91%	13	15
Total	-	-	-	<b>70</b>	<b>52</b>

There is a generally a mixed quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in just less than half (46%) of assessed sites scoring above their set threshold for quality.

## 3.4 Value

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

Table 3.4.1: Value scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Sites below typology threshold	Sites above typology threshold
Allotments	31%	35%	38%	0	4
Amenity greenspace	21%	32%	58%	0	48
Cemeteries	30%	35%	44%	0	3
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	10%	32%	64%	3	23
Park and gardens	42%	57%	77%	0	13
Provision for children & young people	25%	42%	60%	0	28
Total	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	<b>119</b>

Nearly all sites (98%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

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

There are a handful of sites that score especially high for quality and value. These include Brocks Hill Country Park and the two play sites within it (Brocks Hill play area and Brocks Hill toddler play area) and University of Leicester Botanical Garden. Their quality and value scores are shown below in Table 3.4.2.

Table 3.4.2: High quality and value sites within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston

KKP Ref	Site Name	Typology	Quality Score	Value Score
15	Brocks Hill Country Park	Natural greenspaces	94.6%	63.6%
15.1	Brocks Hill play area	Children's play areas	83.2%	50.9%
15.2	Brocks Hill toddler play area	Children's play areas	90.7%	50.9%
72	University of Leicester Botanical Garden	Parks and Gardens	81.8%	77.3%

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## PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

### 4.1 Introduction

This typology often covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

### 4.2 Current provision

There are 13 sites classified as parks and gardens across Oadby and Wigston, the equivalent of over 37 hectares (see Table 4.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology. The names of the parks and their analysis area are listed in Table 4.2.

Table 4.1: Current parks and gardens provision in Oadby and Wigston

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Oadby Brocks Hill	1	5.65	1.32
Oadby Grange	2	11.94	1.97
Oadby St Peter's	3	1.67	0.37
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	1	0.38	0.08
South Wigston	2	7.65	0.94
Wigston All Saints	2	4.51	0.77
Wigston Fields	2	5.94	0.87
Wigston Meadowcourt	-	-	-
Wigston St Wolstan's	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>37.74</b>	<b>0.65</b>

For parks and gardens, the Borough has a current provision level of 0.65 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and therefore the biggest contributor to this provision is University of Leicester Botanical Gardens (6.17 ha) located in Oadby Grange Analysis Area. The next largest sites are Uplands Park (5.77 ha), also in Oadby Grange Analysis Area, and Coombe Park (5.64 ha) in Oadby Brocks Hill Analysis Area.

It is important to note that within the category of parks and gardens there are two distinct types of sites. Some are significant in size and act as destinations offering greater recreational facilities and uses which people will often be willing to travel further to access. Examples of this type include Blaby Road Park in South Wigston Analysis Area. Other sites within the typology of parks and gardens are smaller in size. Examples of this include Rosemead Park.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, Oadby and Wigston Borough is below this. However, four analysis areas (Oadby Brocks Hill, Oadby Grange, South Wigston and Wigston Fields) are above. Wigston All Saints Analysis Area (0.77 hectares per 1,000 population) is slightly below the FIT standard.

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Parks provision, particularly ‘destination’ parks, are often only going to exist in areas of greater population density. Consequently, some analysis areas being below the FIT suggestion does not mean a true deficiency exists. It is therefore important to also consider accessibility and quality of provision.

## 4.3 Accessibility

An accessibility catchment of a 9-minute walk time has been set across Oadby and Wigston. Figure 4.1 shows parks and gardens mapped with the accessibility catchment. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take account of topography or walking routes. Each site has been allocated its own ID number (shown in Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with a 9-minute (710m) walk catchment

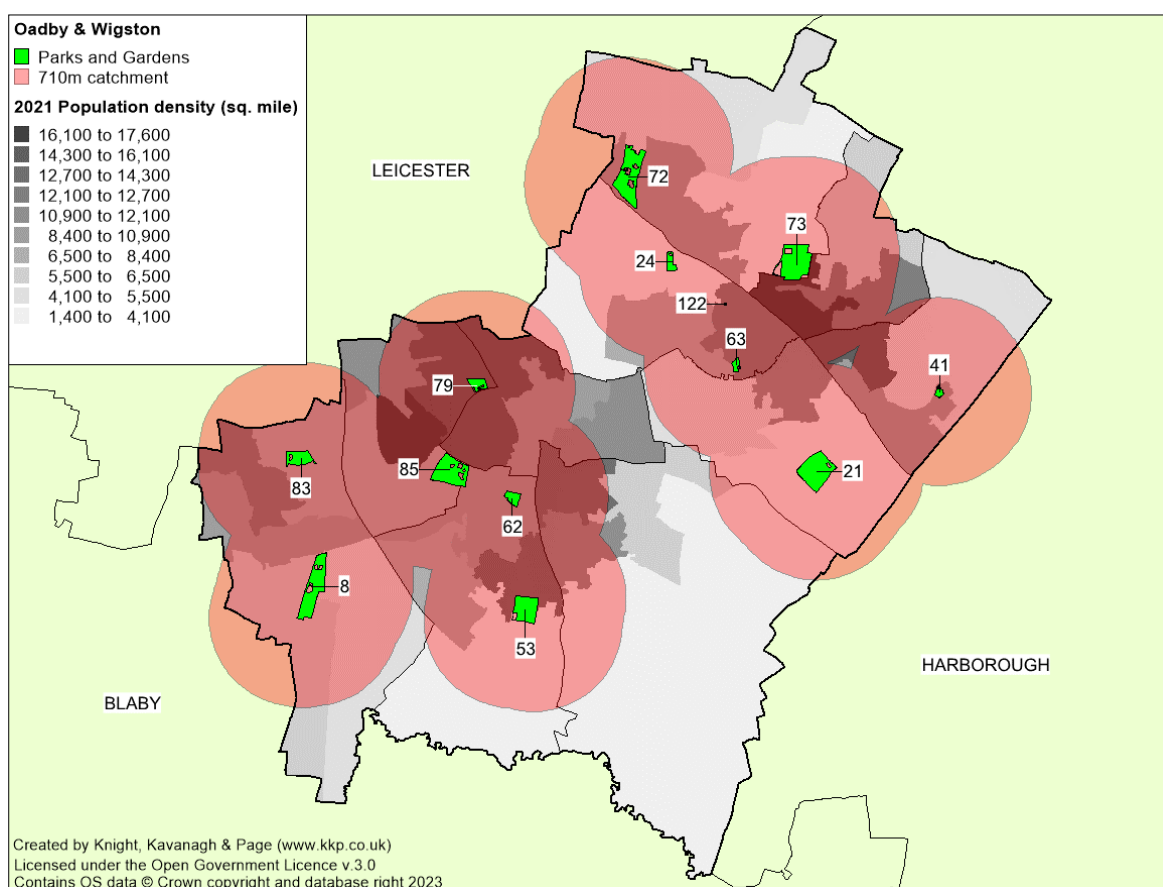


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
8	Blaby Road Park	South Wigston	5.55	64.4%	68.2%
21	Coombe Park	Oadby Brocks Hill	5.64	66.4%	57.3%
24	Ellis Park	Oadby St Peter's	1.13	66.4%	55.5%
41	Hill Field Park	Oadby Woodlands	0.38	47.2%	41.8%
53	Horsewell Lane	Wigston All Saints	3.51	62.2%	52.7%
62	Peace Memorial Park	Wigston All Saints	1.00	72.4%	57.3%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
63	Rosemead Park	Oadby St Peter's	0.51	61.4%	52.7%
72	University of Leicester Botanical Garden <sup>7</sup>	Oadby Grange	6.17	81.8%	77.3%
73	Uplands Park	Oadby Grange	5.77	71.8%	59.1%
79	Wigston Fields Community Centre	Wigston Fields	1.08	54.6%	50.9%
83	William Gunning Park	South Wigston	2.10	54.7%	59.1%
85	Willow Park	Wigston Fields	4.86	73.4%	59.1%
122	Reflection Park	Oadby St Peter's	0.03	50.7%	48.2%

In general, there is a reasonable coverage of parks based on a 9-minute walk time in areas with greater population density. However, gaps are noticeable in some areas. Many of these gaps are served by other forms of open space provision such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace. Such sites may not meet the criteria of parks provision but are likely to offer similar opportunities and access to recreational activities often associated with parks. Exploring the potential to formalise features associated with parks provision at some of these sites could be considered to increase a sites secondary function as a park.

Table 4.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Oadby Brocks Hill	No gap	n/a
Oadby Grange	Stackyard Spinney (ID 67)	Natural
Oadby St Peter's	Ilife Park (ID 46)	Amenity
Oadby Uplands	Hamble Road (ID 36) Severn Road (ID 111) Stour Close (ID 112) Windrush Drive 2 (ID 92)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural
Oadby Woodlands	Hoot Spinney (ID 44) Berkeley Close (ID 7) Hunters Way (ID 45)	Natural Amenity Amenity
South Wigston	Sturdee Road Recreation Ground (Leicester)	
Wigston All Saints	Amesbury Road (ID 2) Bodmin Avenue (ID 12)	Amenity Amenity
Wigston Fields	Sturdee Road Recreation Ground (Leicester)	
Wigston Meadowcourt	Arndale (ID 3) Foston open space (ID 27) Baysdale (ID 6)	Natural Amenity Amenity

<sup>7</sup> Open 10-4pm all week (5pm during British Summer Time)

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Herrick Way (ID 40)	Amenity
Wigston St Wolstan's	Brocks Hill Country Park (ID 15) Hayes Park (ID 38)	Natural Amenity

### 4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks. A threshold of 60% is applied to segregate high from low quality parkland. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 4.4: Quality ratings for assessed parks and gardens

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Oadby Brocks Hill	66%	66%	66%	0	1
Oadby Grange	72%	77%	82%	0	2
Oadby St Peter's	51%	60%	66%	1	2
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	47%	47%	47%	1	0
South Wigston	55%	60%	64%	1	1
Wigston All Saints	62%	67%	72%	0	2
Wigston Fields	55%	64%	73%	1	1
Wigston Meadowcourt	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston St Wolstan's	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>

Most park and garden sites in the Borough rate above the quality threshold.

The highest scoring sites for quality are University of Leicester Botanical Garden (82%) and Willow Park (73%). The former site is a formal park and garden and is highlighted as being very well maintained, clean and featuring good paths, a water feature and a vast number of trees and plants. Furthermore, there is a greenhouse with tropical plants on site as well as good toilet facilities. The site contains signage, seating, bins, wide entrances further adding to its benefits. In contrast, Willow Park offers sporting and recreational facilities. The site is also very well maintained, features numerous trees, signage and good pathways throughout the park. Moreover, the park contains football pitches, a play area, skate ramps, basketball area and outdoor gym equipment further adding to the quality of the site.

The criteria used to assess parks and gardens is intended to be high, reflecting the Green Flag Award assessment. As such, not all park and garden sites would be expected to score above the threshold set for such a prestigious award. It is more likely for the flagship 'destination' sites to score highly.

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Peace Memorial Park (72%) is a Green Flag Award site demonstrating its high standards. The site benefits from toilets, tennis courts, free parking, a public sculpture, planting, a sensory garden, signage and plenty of benches and bins.

Reflection Park (51%) scores below the quality threshold however there are no significant quality issues. The site is observed as a small, attractive park with benches, trees, planting, plaques and a bin. The site is opposite a cemetery, is easy to view and offers the public a lovely place to sit and relax. Compared to other larger parks that feature toilets, play provision, sporting opportunities, picnic benches and parking etc, this small site does not feature these however it would be deemed as not appropriate/required. Instead, the site serves its purpose as a small attractive site to sit and relax and offers ecological value through the presence of trees and other planting.

Wigston Fields Community Centre and William Gunning Park both score 55% for quality. Both parks have good entrances, signage, bins and quite well maintained. The sites have the additional benefits of play provision and trees. However, Wigston Fields Community Centre does not feature a path and not very accessible for wheelchair users. The site contains a bench and some bins however could benefit from additional seating. The play areas will be redeveloped including an additional table tennis table and teqball table. The existing basketball goal and mini goal will be removed and replaced with a separate basketball goal and new mini goal. This will enhance the quality of the site. Similarly, William Gunning Park is also well maintained and well used however, could benefit from more benches around the site.

### 4.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.5: Value ratings for assessed parks and gardens

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Oadby Brocks Hill	57%	57%	57%	0	1
Oadby Grange	59%	68%	77%	0	2
Oadby St Peter's	48%	52%	55%	0	3
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	42%	42%	42%	0	1
South Wigston	59%	64%	68%	0	2
Wigston All Saints	53%	55%	57%	0	2
Wigston Fields	51%	55%	59%	0	2
Wigston Meadowcourt	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston St Wolstan's	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

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All park and garden sites rate above the value threshold. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ University of Leicester Botanical Garden (77%)
- ◀ Blaby Road Park (68%)
- ◀ Willow Park (59%)
- ◀ Uplands Park (59%)

All these parks have high amenity and social value due to containing good recreational and exercise opportunities. The sites also score highly for visual and landscape benefits due to being observed as attractive, well used parks. The latter three sites have enhanced amenity and health benefits due to featuring a range of sports provision and play equipment. Blaby Road Park, Willow Park and Uplands Park feature outdoor gym equipment with Blaby Road Park noted as looking new.

University of Leicester Botanical Garden (77%), the highest scoring site for quality and value, host events throughout the year such as a Plant Sale and Family Day, contributing to economic value and cultural benefits. Moreover, the site has Friends of the Garden helping to support its range of benefits. Blaby Road Park also has cultural heritage benefits and educational value due to featuring signage on the local history of South Wigston.

Consultation with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council highlights that there is tree planting occurring at Uplands Park with the Treescapes fund being utilised. Additional planting at the top end of the site would be beneficial. Also, an attractive meandering path and trees would improve the quality and value of the park. Three different types of trees donated from Japan have also been incorporated into Uplands Park, providing enhanced value to the site.

William Gunning Park (59%) scores high for value. The site features a play area, path, a bench providing amenity and social value. There are also trees and bushes around the border of the site enhancing ecological value. Consultation with OWBC identifies that donated trees from Japan have been planted in William Gunning Park, further adding ecological and biodiversity value to the site.

All park and garden sites provide opportunities for a wide range of users and demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks can offer. One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their function as multipurpose provision. Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area. Consequently, sites with a greater diverse range of features and ancillary facilities rate higher for value.



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## PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

### 5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g., down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g., marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g., quarries) and commons. For the purpose of this study, the focus is on sites providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

The typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace has a relatively low-quality threshold compared to other open space typologies. This is to reflect the characteristic of this kind of provision. For instance, many natural and semi-natural sites are intentionally without ancillary facilities to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater flora and fauna activity.

### 5.2 Current provision

In total there are 26 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, equating to over 94 hectares. Note that Grand Union Canal is included as three sections (30.1, 30.2 and 30.3).

Table 5.1: Current natural and semi-natural greenspace in Oadby and Wigston

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Oadby Brocks Hill	1	22.52	5.27
Oadby Grange	3	8.24	1.36
Oadby St Peter's	2	3.52	0.77
Oadby Uplands	1	3.53	0.78
Oadby Woodlands	11	18.02	3.89
South Wigston	4	15.95	1.97
Wigston All Saints	2	6.66	1.13
Wigston Fields	-	-	-
Wigston Meadowcourt	2	15.75	2.50
Wigston St Wolstan's	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>94.20</b>	<b>1.63</b>

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

Oadby Brocks Hill Analysis Area has the most natural and semi-natural provision with a total of 22.52 hectares. This makes up 23% of natural/semi-natural provision.

## **OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY**

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The two largest sites are Brocks Hill Country Park (22.52 hectares) and Grand Union Canal 1 (14.96 hectares). The two make up 40% of the natural/semi-natural provision in the Borough. Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Within the Borough, there is an overall provision of 1.63 hectares per 1,000 head of population which is below the FIT guidelines. This is also the case for six of the 10 analysis areas.

It is important to recognise that other open spaces such as parks and amenity greenspace often provide opportunities associated with natural greenspace. For example, the University of Leicester Botanical Garden offers greater biodiversity and habitats due to the presence of a variety of plants, trees and bushes. Other planting includes an arboretum, herb garden, woodland and herbaceous borders, rock gardens, a water garden, special collections of *Skimmia*, *Aubrieta*, and hardy *Fuchsia*, and a series of glasshouses displaying temperate and tropical plants, alpinists and succulents.

It is also important to highlight that some sites can bridge the definition of typologies such as natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. For example, a grassed area left unmaintained can start to have characteristics associated with natural greenspace.

### **5.3 Accessibility**

An accessibility standard of a 9-minute walk time has been set across Oadby and Wigston for natural and semi-natural greenspace. This is based on FIT catchments. Figure 5.1 shows natural greenspace mapped against the accessibility catchments.

# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Figure 5.1: Natural greenspace mapped with a 9-minute (720m) walk catchment

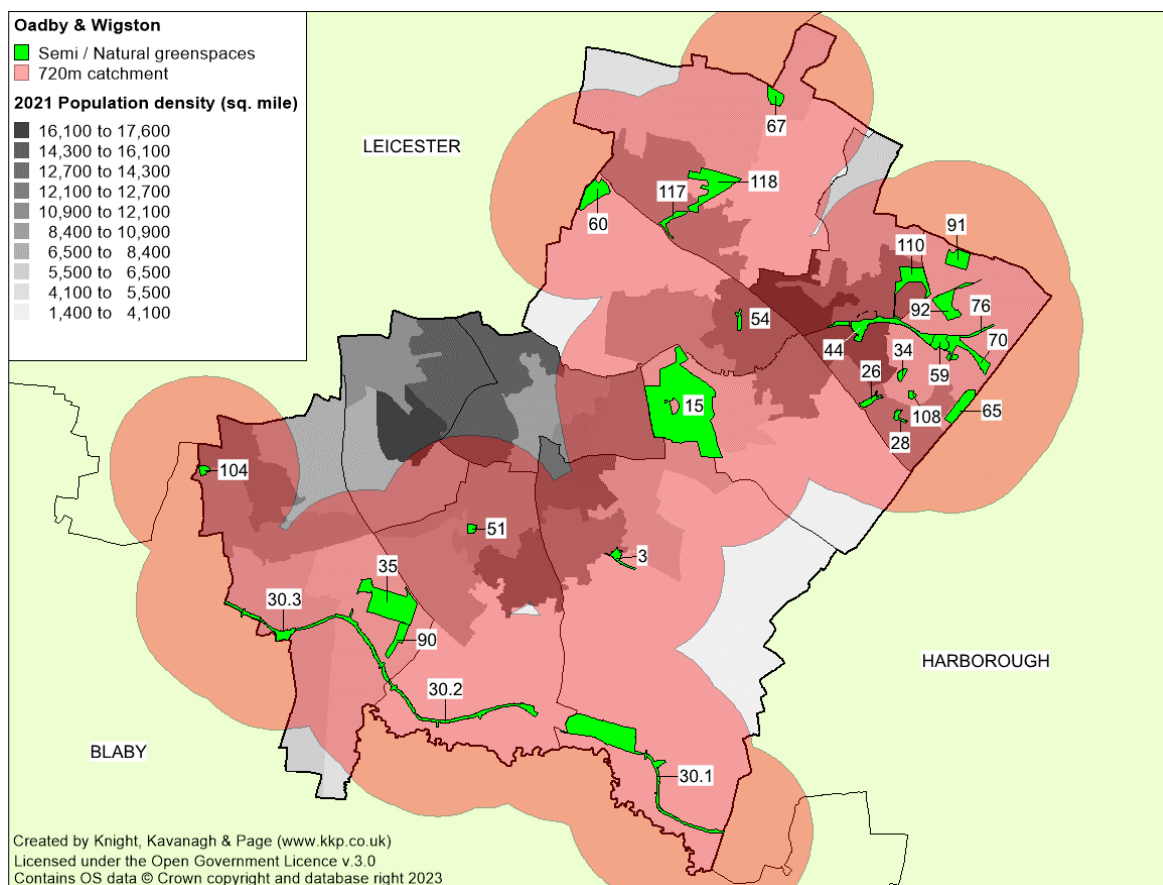


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
3	Arndale	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.79	43.0%	24.5%
15	Brocks Hill Country Park	Oadby Brocks Hill	22.52	94.6%	63.6%
26	Florence Wragg Way	Oadby Woodlands	0.74	40.8%	14.5%
28	Fox Hollow	Oadby Woodlands	0.43	42.3%	43.6%
30.1	Grand Union Canal 1	Wigston Meadowcourt	14.96	46.6%	43.6%
30.2	Grand Union Canal 2	Wigston All Saints	6.21	48.3%	39.1%
30.3	Grand Union Canal 3	South Wigston	4.81	45.6%	39.1%
34	Half Moon Spinney	Oadby Woodlands	0.44	42.2%	29.1%
35	Hallam Open Space	South Wigston	8.82	41.3%	24.5%
44	Hoot Spinney	Oadby Woodlands	4.98	46.6%	49.1%
51	Launceston Road	Wigston All Saints	0.45	46.3%	29.1%
54	Chicken Alley	Oadby St Peter's	0.51	49.0%	48.2%
59	Oadby Nature Reserve	Oadby Woodlands	1.42	48.4%	43.6%
60	Palmerston Way	Oadby St Peter's	3.02	44.5%	30.0%
65	Smore Slade Hills	Oadby Woodlands	2.44	47.1%	34.5%

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67	Stackyard Spinney	Oadby Grange	1.40	22.0%	20.0%
70	The Pastures	Oadby Woodlands	1.29	42.2%	29.1%
76	Wash Brook	Oadby Woodlands	0.56	43.9%	29.1%
90	Windlass Drive	South Wigston	1.79	45.7%	30.0%
91	Windrush Drive 1	Oadby Woodlands	2.22	44.8%	25.5%
92	Windrush Drive 2	Oadby Woodlands	3.21	39.5%	30.0%
104	Hindoostan Avenue	South Wigston	0.53	35.0%	20.9%
108	Cooper Gardens	Oadby Woodlands	0.30	24.7%	20.0%
110	Windruch Drive	Oadby Uplands	3.53	33.6%	24.5%
117	Victoria Court	Oadby Grange	0.99	22.4%	10.0%
118	Southmeads	Oadby Grange	5.86	32.3%	30.9%

Most areas with greater population density are served by the 9-minute walk time. However, a noticeable gap is observed in the Wigston Fields and Wigston St Wolstan's analysis areas.

Gaps are generally served by other forms of open space provision. Such sites may offer similar opportunities and access to activities associated with natural greenspace. The potential to increase a sites secondary function as natural greenspace should be explored.

Table 5.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in natural catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Oadby Brocks Hill	No gap	n/a
Oadby Grange	University Botanical Garden (ID 72) Uplands Park (ID 73)	Park Park
Oadby St Peter's	No gap	n/a
Oadby Uplands	Uplands Park (ID 73)	Park
Oadby Woodlands	No gap	
South Wigston	William Gunning Park (ID 83) Sturdee Road Recreation Ground (Leicester)	Park Park
Wigston All Saints	No gap	n/a
Wigston Fields	Wigston Fields Community Centre (ID 79) Willow Park (ID 85) Knighton Park (Leicester)	Park Park Park
Wigston Meadowcourt	No gap	n/a
Wigston St Wolstan's	Wigston Fields Community Centre (ID 79)	Park

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## 5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 45% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 5.4: Quality ratings for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<45%	>45%
Oadby Brocks Hill	95%	95%	95%	0	1
Oadby Grange	16%	23%	32%	3	0
Oadby St Peter's	45%	47%	49%	1	1
Oadby Uplands	34%	34%	34%	1	0
Oadby Woodlands	25%	42%	49%	8	3
South Wigston	35%	42%	46%	2	2
Wigston All Saints	46%	47%	48%	0	2
Wigston Fields	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston Meadowcourt	43%	45%	47%	1	1
Wigston St Wolstan's	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>

Nearly two thirds (61%) of natural and semi natural greenspace sites in the Borough rate below the quality threshold, indicating a mixed standard of quality.

The three lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ✦ Cooper Gardens (25%)
- ✦ Stackyard Spinney (22%)
- ✦ Victoria Court (16%)

Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as benches. All three sites score very low for user security and have no signage or seating. The latter two sites have poor access and are both observed as being overgrown, lowering the quality of the sites. Cooper Gardens (25%) is a small dense wood with narrow path and entrance and appears quite poorly maintained.

Other lower scoring sites include Windrush Drive 2 (40%) features multiple connecting trails and has parking however, it is identified that there was evidence of fly tipping at the time of assessment.

Similarly, Florence Wragg Way (41%) and Hallam Open Space (41%) are both highlighted as being overgrown and score below the quality threshold. Pathways are noted as being reasonable with Hallam Open Space having the additional benefit of car parking albeit it is not the best quality.

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

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In some instances, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation.

The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for quality are:

- ◀ Brocks Hill Country Park (95%)
- ◀ Chicken Alley (49%)
- ◀ Oadby Nature Reserve (48%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as bins and boundary fencing. The sites are also observed as having reasonable to good access for all, with well-maintained pathways.

Brocks Hill Country Park (95%), the highest scoring semi-natural greenspace for quality, has the additional benefits of good user security, including security cameras, car parking, signage, toilets, benches and picnic tables. Furthermore, this beautiful site features a pond, play area and café adding to its benefits. Oadby Nature Reserve (48%) also has a water feature however is devoid of signage and seating. User security scores lower. Moreover, there are bins present however the site would benefit from more as well as some interpretative signage. Chicken Alley (49%) also scores lower for user security despite containing lighting. The site lacks bins, benches and signage.

Other high scoring sites include Grand Union Canal 1 and Grand Union Canal 2 which contain a footpath that runs alongside the canal. The site features a good presence of trees and bushes along the route. The site is mainly used by dog walkers and joggers at the time of visit. There is no signage or seating however there are some bins.

Hoot Spinney (47%) scores just above the quality threshold due to having good entrances, boundary fencing, reasonable security and good overall maintenance and cleanliness. It is observed as an attractive wooded area with wider pathways enabling wheelchair and pram access easier. The Wash Brook runs through the site. The site would benefit from seating and more bins.

### 5.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Table 5.5: Value ratings for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Oadby Brocks Hill	64%	64%	64%	0	1
Oadby Grange	10%	18%	31%	1	2
Oadby St Peter's	30%	39%	48%	0	2
Oadby Uplands	25%	25%	25%	0	1
Oadby Woodlands	15%	32%	49%	1	10
South Wigston	21%	29%	39%	0	4
Wigston All Saints	29%	34%	39%	0	2
Wigston Fields	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston Meadowcourt	25%	34%	44%	0	2
Wigston St Wolstan's	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>

Most natural and semi-natural sites across the Borough score above the threshold for value. The majority of sites have high ecological value, contributing to flora and fauna, as well as providing habitats for local wildlife.

As well as ecological value, these sites provide benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents and those visiting from further afield. This is a result of the exercise opportunities they provide, for example, through walking and biking trails. Furthermore, they break up the urban form creating peaceful space to relax and reflect. The high levels of natural features also support with improving air quality, particularly in built up areas.

The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for value are:

- ✦ Brocks Hill Country Park (64%)
- ✦ Hoot Spinney (49%)
- ✦ Chicken Alley (48%)

These sites offer high amenity and social value due to good recreation and exercise opportunities. Brocks Hill Country Park has additional amenity and social value due to featuring play areas, benches and picnic tables, further adding to its benefits. This site also has enhanced educational value due to its visitor centre and interpretative signage about the trees and plants on site. All three sites are well located and of high quality, providing attractive landscapes and enhancing structural and landscape benefits.

In addition, each provide high ecological value due to high biodiversity providing habitats for a flora and fauna. Consultation with the Borough Council highlights that has been 1200 planted light whips across the Borough in 2022 and the Council would like to increase tree planting across the area. There has been tree planting at Brocks Hill providing additional value to the site.

Oadby Nature Reserve scores above the value threshold and features a pond with ducks and the site is identified as being very visually appealing adding value and importance. The site also features a footpath around the site enhancing amenity and health benefits. However, the site would benefit from signage.

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There are two natural and semi-natural sites scoring low for value:

- ◀ Florence Wragg Way (15%)
- ◀ Victoria Court (10%)

These sites score low for access within the site and have no seating or signage, limiting social and amenity value. Moreover, Florence Wragg Way (15%) is identified as being overgrown at the time of assessment. There are no benches or bins however the site has some ecological value due to the presence of plants and trees. The site has some ecological value as it features numerous trees and wildlife. Victoria Court (10%) is identified as a road buffer and grass space next to private property and a private road. There are questions regarding its accessibility and usage, limiting its value.



# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

## PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

### 6.1 Introduction

Amenity greenspace is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home, work or enhancement of the appearance of residential and other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and other incidental spaces.

### 6.2 Current provision

There are 49 amenity greenspace sites in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston equating to over 17 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

Note that one site, Park Crescent, has restricted access with only surrounding residents able to access and use the site. Due to this, it has not been assessed. The site is still included in the figures below for Oadby Brocks Hill Analysis Area and the Borough totals.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites in Oadby and Wigston

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Oadby Brocks Hill	5	1.09	0.25
Oadby Grange	4	0.64	0.11
Oadby St Peter's	3	0.42	0.09
Oadby Uplands	4	1.52	0.34
Oadby Woodlands	4	0.73	0.16
South Wigston	7	3.37	0.42
Wigston All Saints	6	1.53	0.26
Wigston Fields	1	1.08	0.16
Wigston Meadowcourt	10	6.03	0.96
Wigston St Wolston's	6	1.84	0.28
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>17.17</b>	<b>0.30</b>

This typology has a broad range of purposes and as such varies significantly in size. For example, Hill Way at 0.06 hectares acts as an important visual/communal amenity for local residents. In contrast, Medadow Way at 1.70 hectares is a greenspace with recreational opportunities.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1 shows that overall, the Borough is below this. This is also the case for all analysis areas except for Wigston Meadowcourt.

It is important to highlight that it is not always clear to distinguish a site's primary typology. Some sites can bridge the definition of typologies such as natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. For example, a grassed area left unmaintained can start to have characteristics associated with natural greenspace.

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## 6.3 Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 6-minute walk time has been set across Oadby and Wigston for amenity greenspace. Figure 6.1 shows amenity greenspace mapped against accessibility catchment.

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspaces with a 6-minute (480m) walk catchment

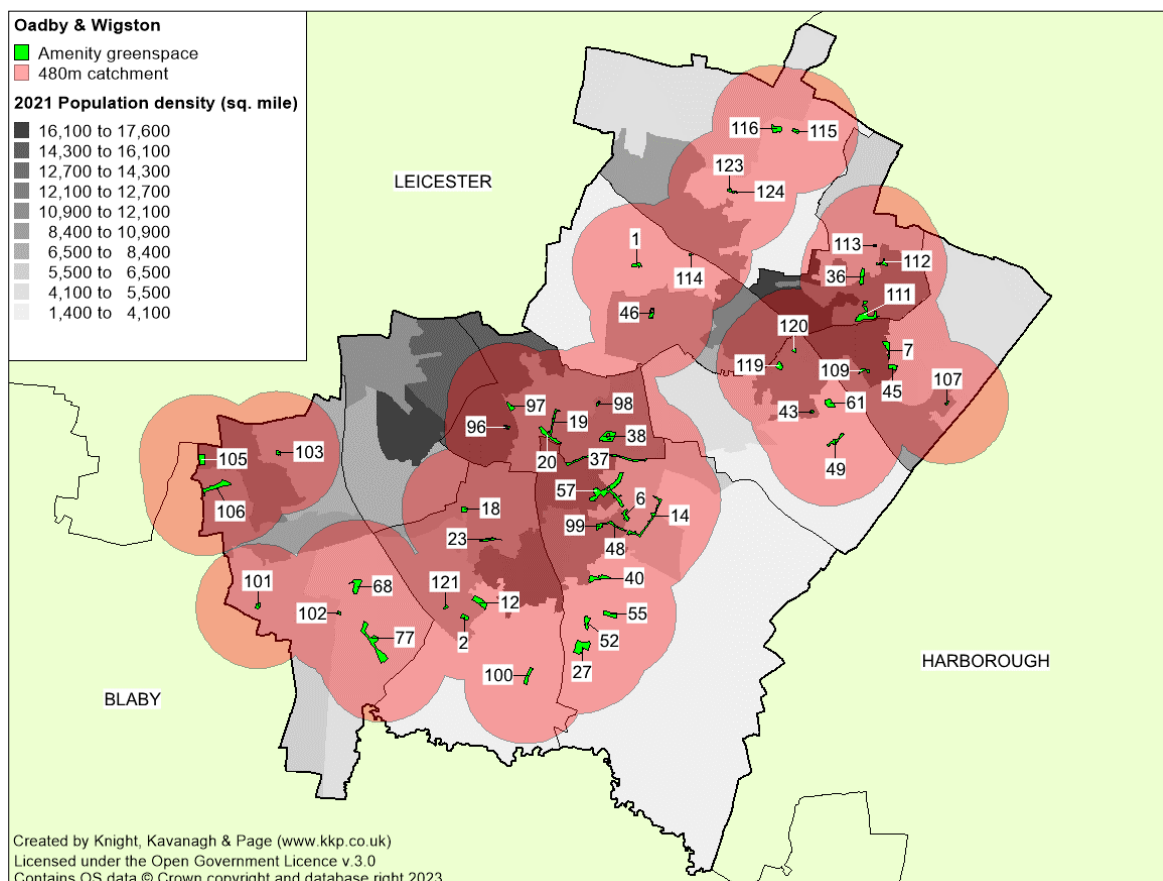


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1	Aintree Crescent	Oadby St Peter's	0.20	52.8%	28.0%
2	Amesbury Road	Wigston All Saints	0.18	42.5%	27.0%
6	Baysdale	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.25	45.5%	23.0%
7	Berkeley Close	Oadby Woodlands	0.30	47.6%	33.0%
12	Bodmin Avenue	Wigston All Saints	0.55	42.7%	27.0%
14	Bransdale Road	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.73	45.0%	22.0%
18	Bushloe End	Wigston All Saints	0.19	47.6%	38.0%
19	Cleveland Road 1	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.29	45.5%	42.0%
20	Cleveland Road 2	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.51	49.7%	21.0%
23	Davenport Road	Wigston All Saints	0.23	41.8%	21.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
27	Foston open space	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.92	42.8%	22.0%
36	Hamble Road	Oadby Uplands	0.35	60.9%	27.0%
37	Harrington Road	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.84	54.3%	37.0%
38	Hayes Park	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.69	53.8%	53.0%
40	Herrick Way	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.48	43.2%	33.0%
43	Hill Way	Oadby Brocks Hill	0.06	52.8%	32.0%
45	Hunters Way	Oadby Woodlands	0.23	49.2%	33.0%
46	Iliffe Park	Oadby St Peter's	0.18	71.2%	54.0%
48	Kelmarsh Avenue	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.26	48.9%	27.0%
49	Kew Drive	Oadby Brocks Hill	0.34	50.1%	28.0%
52	Lime Kilns	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.30	48.9%	37.0%
55	Mablowe Field	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.37	43.5%	27.0%
57	Meadow Way	Wigston Meadowcourt	1.70	54.3%	58.0%
61	Park Crescent	Oadby Brocks Hill	0.37		
68	Taylor's Open Space	South Wigston	0.56	47.7%	53.0%
77	Weir Close	South Wigston	1.37	51.9%	48.0%
96	Two Steeples Square	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.11	53.6%	38.0%
97	Leicester Road	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.20	51.9%	44.0%
98	Attenborough Close	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.04	46.0%	23.0%
99	Alport Way	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.18	46.9%	33.0%
100	Bideford Close	Wigston All Saints	0.32	43.0%	28.0%
101	Ellison Close	South Wigston	0.14	43.5%	33.0%
102	Narrow Boat Close	South Wigston	0.08	22.3%	22.0%
103	Gloucester Crescent	South Wigston	0.11	48.7%	28.0%
105	Namur Road Park	South Wigston	0.38	35.6%	38.0%
106	Crete Avenue	South Wigston	0.73	36.9%	28.0%
107	Hill Field	Oadby Woodlands	0.06	38.5%	27.0%
109	Meynell Close	Oadby Woodlands	0.14	43.5%	33.0%
111	Severn Road	Oadby Uplands	0.96	42.5%	33.0%
112	Stour Close	Oadby Uplands	0.18	49.2%	29.0%
113	Ribble Avenue	Oadby Uplands	0.04	48.4%	28.0%
114	Burton's Corner	Oadby St Peter's	0.04	59.9%	38.0%
115	Bushby Road	Oadby Grange	0.14	45.0%	27.0%
116	Bossu Drive	Oadby Grange	0.38	34.9%	22.0%
119	Wickham Road	Oadby Brocks Hill	0.24	51.4%	43.0%
120	Canon Close	Oadby Brocks Hill	0.07	48.1%	33.0%
121	Alderstone Close	Wigston All Saints	0.06	43.5%	28.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
123	Whitebeam Road (a)	Oadby Grange	0.07	37.9%	22.0%
124	Whitebeam Road (b)	Oadby Grange	0.05	37.9%	22.0%

Park Crescent does not receive a quality or value score due to having restricted access.

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision across the Borough. However, some areas of higher population density are not being served by a form of amenity greenspace provision within a 480m catchment. It is recognised that these gaps are predominantly covered and served by other forms of open space provision.

Table 6.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in amenity greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Oadby Brocks Hill	Rosemead Park (ID 63)	Park
Oadby Grange	Stackyard Spinney (ID 67) University Botanical Garden (ID 72)	Natural Park
Oadby St Peter's	Ellis Park (ID 24) Chicken Alley (ID 54) Rosemead Park (ID 63)	Park Natural Park
Oadby Uplands	Uplands Park (ID 73)	Park
Oadby Woodlands	No gap	
South Wigston	Blaby Road Park (ID 8) Grand Union Canal (ID 30.3) William Gunning Park (ID 83) Sturdee Road Recreation Ground (Leicester)	Park Natural Park Park
Wigston All Saints	No gap	
Wigston Fields	Wigston Fields Community Centre (ID 79) Willow Park (ID 85) Knighton Park (Leicester)	Park Park Park
Wigston Meadowcourt	No gap	
Wigston St Wolstan's	Wigston Fields Community Centre (ID 79) <sup>8</sup>	Park

### 6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces. A threshold of 50% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

<sup>8</sup> Located in Wigston Fields Analysis Area but also helps serve a gap in this analysis area

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Table 6.4: Quality ratings for assessed amenity greenspaces

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Oadby Brocks Hill	48%	51%	53%	1	3
Oadby Grange	35%	39%	45%	4	0
Oadby St Peter's	53%	61%	71%	0	3
Oadby Uplands	42%	50%	61%	3	1
Oadby Woodlands	38%	47%	57%	4	1
South Wigston	22%	44%	66%	6	2
Wigston All Saints	42%	44%	48%	6	0
Wigston Fields	67%	67%	67%	0	1
Wigston Meadowcourt	43%	47%	54%	8	2
Wigston St Wolston's	46%	50%	54%	3	3
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>

Less than a third (27%) of assessed amenity greenspaces rate above the quality threshold. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ✦ Iliffe Park (71%)
- ✦ Hamble Road (61%)
- ✦ Burton's Corner (60%)

These sites are observed as having good entrances, access and user security. Iliffe Park (71%) has the added benefit of a path through the site as well as featuring a play area. Iliffe Park and Burton's Corner feature benches and all three sites feature bins. Despite scoring well above the quality threshold, it is noted that the grass is a little overgrown and patchy at Iliffe Park.

Hamble Road is observed as a well-maintained green space with several newly planted trees. There are bins on site however no benches. Burton's Corner is identified as a very small but attractive space by busy roads. The site features benches, flowers, trees and bushes.

Larger amenity greenspace sites often lend themselves to sporting opportunities such as football. These sporting opportunities as well as other added features on site, such as good quality play areas, provide increased reasons for people to visit such provision.

Over half (66%) of assessed amenity greenspaces rate below the quality threshold. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:

- ✦ Narrow Boat Close (22%)
- ✦ Bossu Drive (35%)
- ✦ Namur Road Park (36%)

All three sites have no signage and score low for paths and overall maintenance. Narrow Boat Close (22%) and Bossu Drive (35%) have no bins or seating which the former could benefit from. Namur Road Park has the additional benefits of football goals and litter bins and is perceived as reasonably used. All three sites benefit from featuring trees/bushes.

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Other lower scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:

- ◀ Davenport Road (42%)
- ◀ Amesbury Road (43%)
- ◀ Bodmin Avenue (43%)
- ◀ Foston open space (43%)

These four sites score lower mainly due to a lack of ancillary features. All four sites have no signage or seating noted and perceived as hardly used. However, all four sites score well for entrances, access and user security. All four sites benefit from bins.

Davenport Road (42%) is observed as not very visually appealing due to overgrown grass. The other three sites score well for overall maintenance. Foston open space (43%) is identified as a large open space with trees and bushes however, it could benefit from a bench.

### 6.5 Value

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

Table 6.5: Value ratings for assessed amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Oadby Brocks Hill	28%	34%	43%	0	4
Oadby Grange	22%	23%	27%	0	4
Oadby St Peter's	28%	40%	54%	0	3
Oadby Uplands	27%	29%	33%	0	4
Oadby Woodlands	27%	32%	33%	0	4
South Wigston	22%	36%	53%	0	7
Wigston All Saints	21%	28%	38%	0	6
Wigston Fields	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston Meadowcourt	22%	32%	58%	0	10
Wigston St Wolston's	21%	37%	53%	0	6
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48</b>

All assessed amenity greenspace sites rate above the threshold for value. The highest scoring sites for value are Meadow Way (58%) and Iliffe Park (54%) These sites are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational and exercise opportunities they offer for a wide range of users. Both sites feature a good network of pathways and are perceived as well used sites, providing high amenity and health benefits. Both sites also feature a play area further adding to their value. The sites have enhanced ecological value due to featuring numerous trees and wildlife habitat opportunities.

## **OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY**

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Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing.

These attributes add to the quality, accessibility, and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g., benches, landscaping and trees) this means that the better-quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

## PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### 7.1 Introduction

Provision for children and young people includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges incorporating facilities such as skate parks, BMX, basketball courts, youth shelters and MUGAs.

### 7.2 Current provision

A total of 28 play locations are identified in Oadby and Wigston as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over three hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people in Oadby and Wigston

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Oadby Brocks Hill	3	0.76	0.17
Oadby Grange	3	0.71	0.12
Oadby St Peter's	4	0.26	0.06
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	2	0.04	0.009
South Wigston	4	0.50	0.06
Wigston All Saints	1	0.20	0.03
Wigston Fields	5	0.50	0.07
Wigston Meadowcourt	1	0.06	0.01
Wigston St Wolston's	5	0.15	0.02
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>0.05</b>

Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience utilising Fields in Trust (FIT) guidance.

FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

- ◀ LAP - a Local Area of Play. Usually small landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.
- ◀ LEAP - a Local Equipped Area of Play. Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users; often containing a wider range of equipment types.
- ◀ NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater for all age groups. Such sites may contain MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large park sites.



# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

## 7.3 Accessibility

An accessibility catchment of a 100m, 400m, 1000m and 700m has been set for different types of play provision. Figure 7.1 shows play provision mapped with the catchments.

Figure 7.1: Play provision with different applied catchments mapped

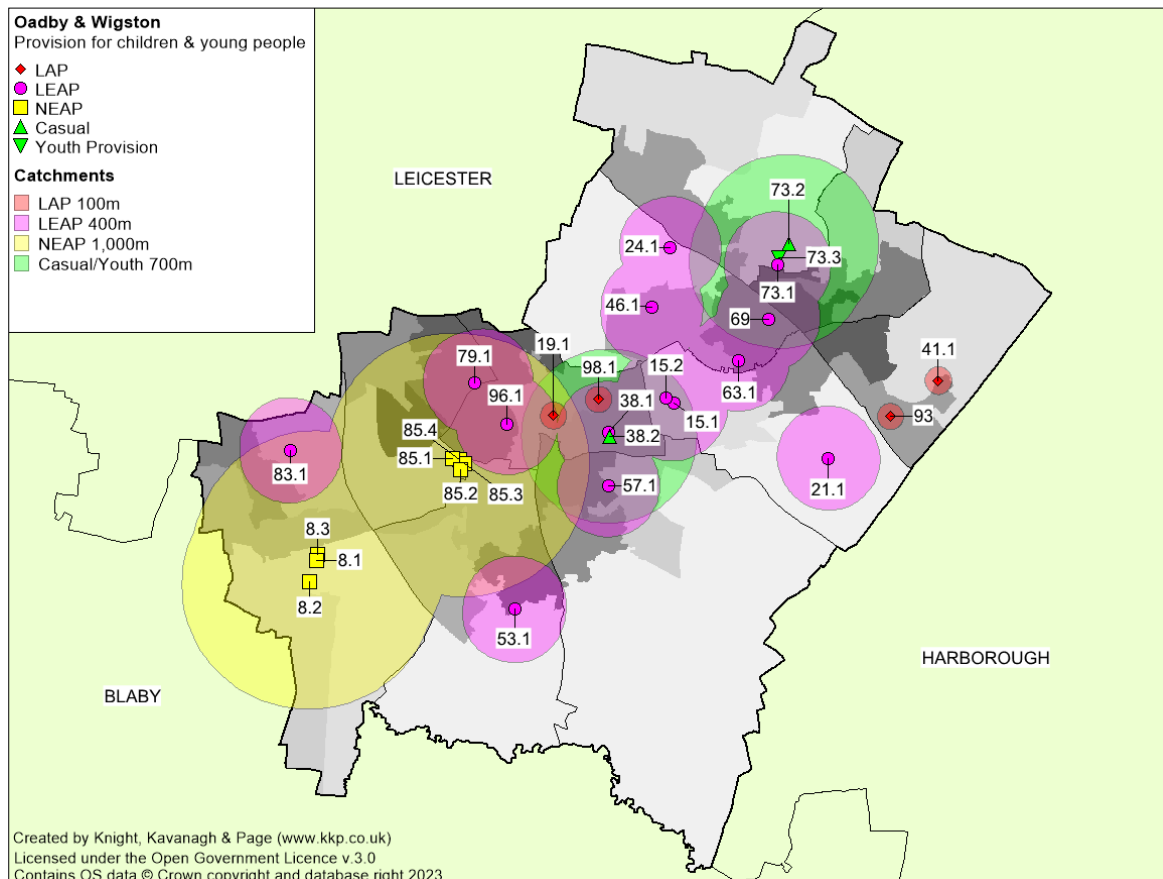


Table 7.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
8.1	Blaby Road Park play area	South Wigston	0.15	76.3%	60.0%
8.2	Blaby Road Park young people	South Wigston	0.24	76.3%	60.0%
8.3	Blaby Road Park outdoor gym	South Wigston	0.005	76.3%	60.0%
15.1	Brocks Hill play area	Oadby Brocks Hill	0.66	83.2%	50.9%
15.2	Brocks Hill toddler play area	Oadby Brocks Hill	0.04	90.7%	50.9%
19.1	Cleveland Road 1 play area	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.01	48.5%	25.5%
21.1	Coombe Park play area	Oadby Brocks Hill	0.07	77.7%	41.8%
24.1	Ellis Park play area	Oadby St Peter's	0.04	74.2%	29.1%
38.1	Hayes Park play area	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.07	52.2%	47.3%

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
38.2	Hayes Park half MUGA	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.01	52.2%	47.3%
41.1	Hill Field Park play area	Oadby Woodlands	0.03	73.9%	38.2%
46.1	Iliffe Park play areas	Oadby St Peter's	0.06	70.1%	34.5%
53.1	Horsewell Lane play area	Wigston All Saints	0.20	81.4%	41.8%
57.1	Tyringham Road play area	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.06	72.2%	29.1%
63.1	Rosemead Park play area	Oadby St Peter's	0.04	54.6%	38.2%
69	The Morwoods play area	Oadby St Peter's	0.11	71.1%	47.3%
73.1	Uplands Park play area	Oadby Grange	0.30	76.3%	60.0%
73.2	Uplands Park basketball court	Oadby Grange	0.25	76.3%	60.0%
73.3	Uplands Park Outdoor Gym	Oadby Grange	0.16	76.3%	60.0%
79.1	Wigston Field Community Centre play area	Wigston Fields	0.09	51.5%	50.9%
83.1	William Gunning Park play area	South Wigston	0.10	50.5%	41.8%
85.1	Willow Park play area	Wigston Fields	0.07	56.7%	60.0%
85.2	Willow Park skate park	Wigston Fields	0.17	56.7%	60.0%
85.3	Willow Park outdoor gym	Wigston Fields	0.03	56.7%	60.0%
85.4	Willow Park basketball court	Wigston Fields	0.13	56.7%	60.0%
93	Fox Hollow play area	Oadby Woodlands	0.01	52.6%	25.5%
96.1	Two Steeples Square play area	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.04	42.6%	38.2%
98.1	Attenborough Close play area	Wigston St Wolstan's	0.01	58.1%	25.5%

Some sites have been assessed under the same assessment form where there are multiple forms of play provision.

There is overall a reasonably good spread of play provision across the borough. Areas with a greater population density are generally within a walking distance catchment for play provision. However, potential minor gaps in catchments are observed to some areas, particularly Oadby Uplands and Oadby Woodlands analysis areas. The following sites may help to serve some of the gaps in catchments if play equipment can look to be introduced and/or the amount and range of play equipment can be expanded.

Table 7.3: Sites with potential to help serve gaps in play provision catchments

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Oadby Brocks Hill	Coombe Park play area (ID 21.1)
Oadby Grange	No significant gap
Oadby St Peter's	No significant gap

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Oadby Uplands	Hamble Road (ID 36) Hoot Spinney (ID 44)
Oadby Woodlands	Hill Field Park play area (ID 41.1) Berkeley Close (ID 7)
South Wigston	No significant gap
Wigston All Saints	No significant gap
Wigston Fields	No significant gap Knighton Park (Leicester)
Wigston Meadowcourt	Horsewell Lane play area (ID 53.1)
Wigston St Wolstan's	No significant gap

### 7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guide), the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people. A threshold of 60% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

The quality assessment of play sites does not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment. For an informed report on the condition of play equipment the Council's own inspection reports should be sought.

Table 7.4: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Oadby Brocks Hill	78%	84%	91%	0	3
Oadby Grange	76%	76%	76%	0	3
Oadby St Peter's	55%	68%	74%	1	3
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	53%	63%	74%	1	1
South Wigston	51%	63%	76%	1	3
Wigston All Saints	81%	81%	81%	0	1
Wigston Fields	52%	54%	57%	5	0
Wigston Meadowcourt	72%	72%	72%	0	1
Wigston St Wolstan's	43%	50%	58%	3	0
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>

Over half (54%) of play sites rate above the quality threshold.

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

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Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Brocks Hill toddler play area (91%)
- ◀ Brocks Hill play area (83%)
- ◀ Horswell Lane play area (81%)

These sites are observed as being safe and secure with sufficient litter bins (contributing to the sites cleanliness), seating, signage, and good quality play equipment. The sites generally offer a variety of equipment to a good condition/quality. All three sites score highly for maintenance and drainage with the additional benefit of car parking and sufficient disabled access. The surface at Horswell Lane play area is noted as being slightly worn in places.

Noticeably there are some sites which contain provision catering for older age ranges such as skateparks, MUGAs and/or pump tracks. Blaby Road Park features a play area, MUGA, outdoor gym and skate park.

Other high scoring sites include Coombe Park play area (78%), Uplands play area (76%) and Blaby Road Park play area (76%). All three sites have good entrances, safe crossings, fencing, signage, car parking, benches and litter bins further adding to the quality of their sites. The latter two sites have disability friendly equipment adding to the quality and inclusive value of the site. All three sites are observed as containing good quality equipment and perceived as popular well used sites. The outdoor gym equipment at Blaby Road is noted as being new with the MUGA in good condition.

Despite Iliffe Park play areas (70%) scoring above the quality threshold, it is noted as having slightly worn equipment and overgrown grass surface.

There are 13 (46%) sites rating below the threshold. Sites rating lower for quality is often due to maintenance/appearance observations and/or the range and quality of equipment on site.

Two Steeples Square play area (43%) is the lowest scoring play area for quality due to featuring a lack of equipment and variety and no signage. However, the site is fenced, contains a bin, bench and a good path through adding to its benefits.

Some of the lower scoring sites are:

- ◀ Cleveland Road 1 play area (49%)
- ◀ William Gunning Park play area (51%)
- ◀ Wigston Fields Community Centre play area (52%)

All three sites have no signage and score low for controls to prevent illegal use. Despite Wigston Fields Community Centre play area (52%) and William Gunning Park play area (51%) scoring below the quality threshold, both sites are noted as having a reasonable to good amount and quality of equipment. Wigston Fields Community Centre play area has a bench and bin but could benefit from another bench. William Gunning Park play area benefits from a few benches and bins. However, the grass is overgrown with no signage, therefore it scores low for controls to prevent illegal use. Wigston Fields Community Centre play area (52%) has evidence of vandalism as the signage has been damaged.

However, it is important to note that the multi sports area at Wigston Fields Community Centre will be redeveloped and resurfaced. The existing basketball goal and mini goal will be removed and replaced with a separate basketball goal, an additional table tennis table and teqball table. Furthermore, the mini goal will be relocated.

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

The play area towards the community centre will have a clean and paint top up. The quality of the play provision at this park will increase after the installations have been completed.

Cleveland Road 1 play area (49%) is identified as a small play area at the end of a residential street likely to be used by locals. The equipment is noted as quite good quality and the site has a bench and bin but there is no signage.

Similarly, other lower scoring sites have some maintenance/quality issues. For example, at the time of assessment, Rosemead Park play area had some broken glass near the multiplay. The signage at Willow Park play area has been vandalised and is not legible. The signage at Hayes Park play area is a no dogs sign. This site could benefit from additional information such as contact details and site name.

Attenborough Close play area (58%) scores just below the quality threshold and is noted as being a small LAP for children ages 2-8. The site is very basic only featuring two springies and two play panels, limiting its benefits and usage. The site does feature a bench, bin and some signage though, enhancing the site's quality.

### 7.5 Value

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

Table 7.5: Value ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Oadby Brocks Hill	42%	48%	51%	0	3
Oadby Grange	60%	60%	60%	0	3
Oadby St Peter's	29%	37%	47%	0	4
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	25%	32%	38%	0	2
South Wigston	42%	51%	60%	0	4
Wigston All Saints	42%	42%	42%	0	1
Wigston Fields	51%	55%	60%	0	5
Wigston Meadowcourt	29%	29%	29%	0	1
Wigston St Wolston's	25%	34%	47%	0	5
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>

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

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

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

- ◀ Blaby Road Park play area (60%)
- ◀ Uplands Park play area (60%)
- ◀ Willow Park play area (60%)

The sites are observed as being well maintained with a good to reasonable variety of equipment, as well as having sufficient access. The sites are also assumed to be well used given their range and quality of equipment. Willow Park play area has additional educational value due to featuring play panels. Uplands Park play area has a disability friendly roundabout and Blaby Road Park play area features a disability friendly swing, both providing inclusivity/accessibility value. A replacement of the signage at Willow Park play area would enable the site to be more welcoming. Blaby Road Park play area has the additional benefits of a MUGA, skate park and outdoor gym further providing enhanced amenity and physical benefits.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly impact on value. Provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play. For example, Blaby Road Park caters for a wide age range of children as it contains a play area, MUGA, skate park and outdoor gym equipment.

# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

## PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

### 8.1 Introduction

The allotments typology provides opportunities for people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.

### 8.2 Current provision

There are four sites classified as allotments in Oadby and Wigston equating to almost nine hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites in Oadby and Wigston

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Oadby Brocks Hill	-	-	-
Oadby Grange	-	-	-
Oadby St Peter's	2	3.40	0.75
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	-	-	-
South Wigston	-	-	-
Wigston All Saints	1	1.50	0.26
Wigston Fields	1	4.04	0.59
Wigston Meadowcourt	-	-	-
Wigston St Wolston's	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8.94</b>	<b>0.15</b>

The largest site in the Borough is Aylestone Lane Allotments (4.04 hectares).

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

Oadby and Wigston based on its current population (57,744) is below the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision is 14.44 hectares. Existing provision of 8.94 hectares therefore does not meet this guideline.

### 8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1 shows allotments mapped across Oadby and Wigston Borough

# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped

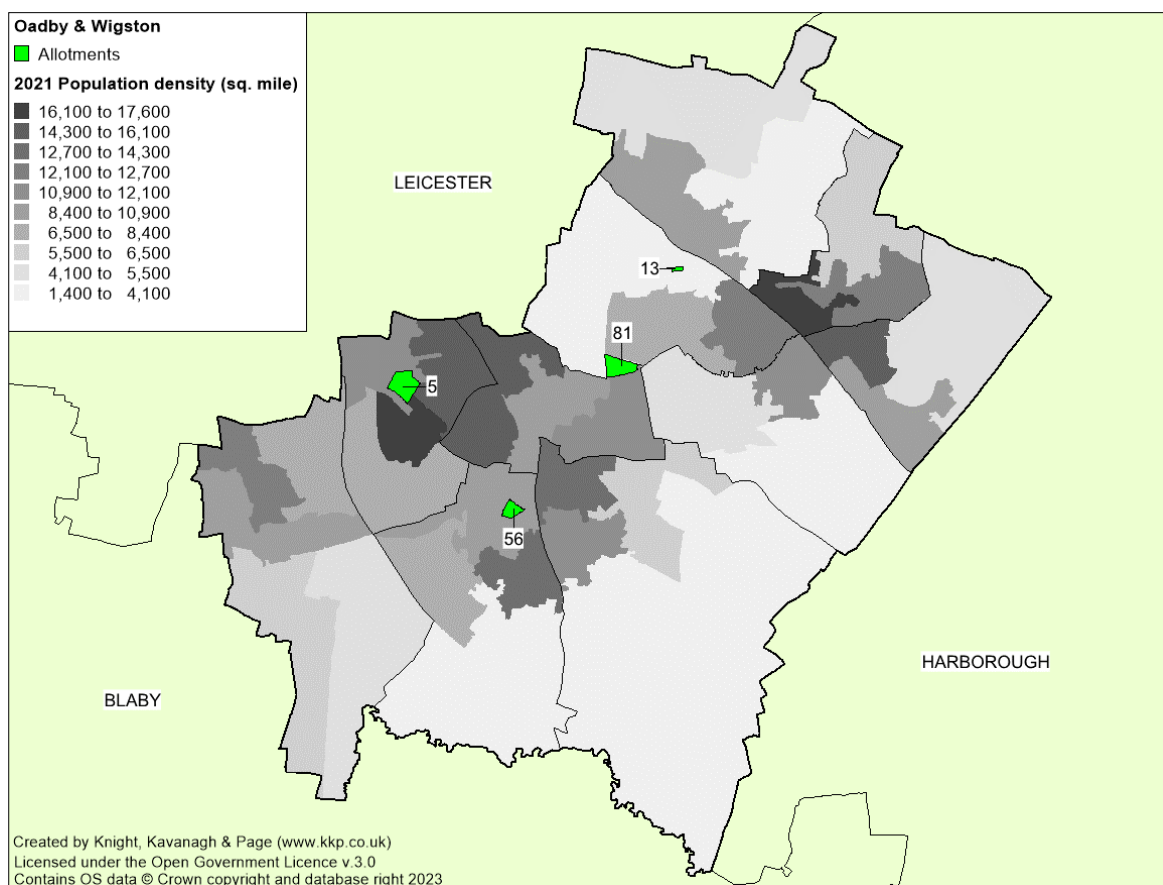


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
5	Aylestone Lane Allotments	Wigston Fields	4.04	63.1%	38.1%
13	Brabazon Road allotments	Oadby St Peter's	0.28	53.2%	31.4%
56	Manchester Gardens allotments	Wigston All Saints	1.50	58.6%	38.1%
81	Wigston Road allotments	Oadby St Peter's	3.12	63.1%	33.3%

## 8.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) the site assessment scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table summarises the results of the quality assessment. A threshold of 50% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.



## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Table 8.3: Quality ratings for allotments

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Oadby Brocks Hill	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Grange	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby St Peter's	53%	58%	63%	0	2
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	-	-	-	-	-
South Wigston	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston All Saints	59%	59%	59%	0	1
Wigston Fields	63%	63%	63%	0	1
Wigston Meadowcourt	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston St Wolston's	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

All allotment sites rate above the threshold for quality. Site assessments highlight that such sites are generally well kept.

The highest scoring sites are:

- ✦ Aylestone Lane Allotments (63%)
- ✦ Wigston Road allotments (63%)
- ✦ Manchester Gardens allotments (59%)
- ✦ Brabazon Road allotments (53%)

These sites are generally observed as having good fencing, signage, pathways and are well maintained. Aylestone Lane Allotments (63%) has the additional benefit of car parking. Wigston Road allotments benefits from good signage, perimeter fencing, a wide entrance and path through the site.

### 8.5 Value

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

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Table 8.4: Value ratings for allotments

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Oadby Brocks Hill	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Grange	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby St Peter's	31%	32%	33%	0	2
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	-	-	-	-	-
South Wigston	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston All Saints	38%	38%	38%	0	1
Wigston Fields	38%	38%	38%	0	1
Wigston Meadowcourt	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston St Wolston's	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

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

Manchester Gardens allotments are the highest scoring sites for value (40%). The sites are recognised for its well-presented appearance and its social and amenity benefits. Both are reasonable sized allotments and perceived as well used.

# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

## PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

### 9.1 Introduction

Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead. Sites can often be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

### 9.2 Current provision

There are five sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over seven hectares of provision in Oadby and Wigston. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries in Oadby and Wigston

Analysis area	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Oadby Brocks Hill	-	-
Oadby Grange	-	-
Oadby St Peter's	2	1.38
Oadby Uplands	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	-	-
South Wigston	-	-
Wigston All Saints	2	5.34
Wigston Fields	-	-
Wigston Meadowcourt	1	0.32
Wigston St Wolston's	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7.03</b>

The largest contributor to burial provision is Wigston Cemetery and equating to over five hectares.

Cemeteries and churchyards are important resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can also offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g. dog walking, wildlife watching).

### 9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should be based on burial demand.

# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped

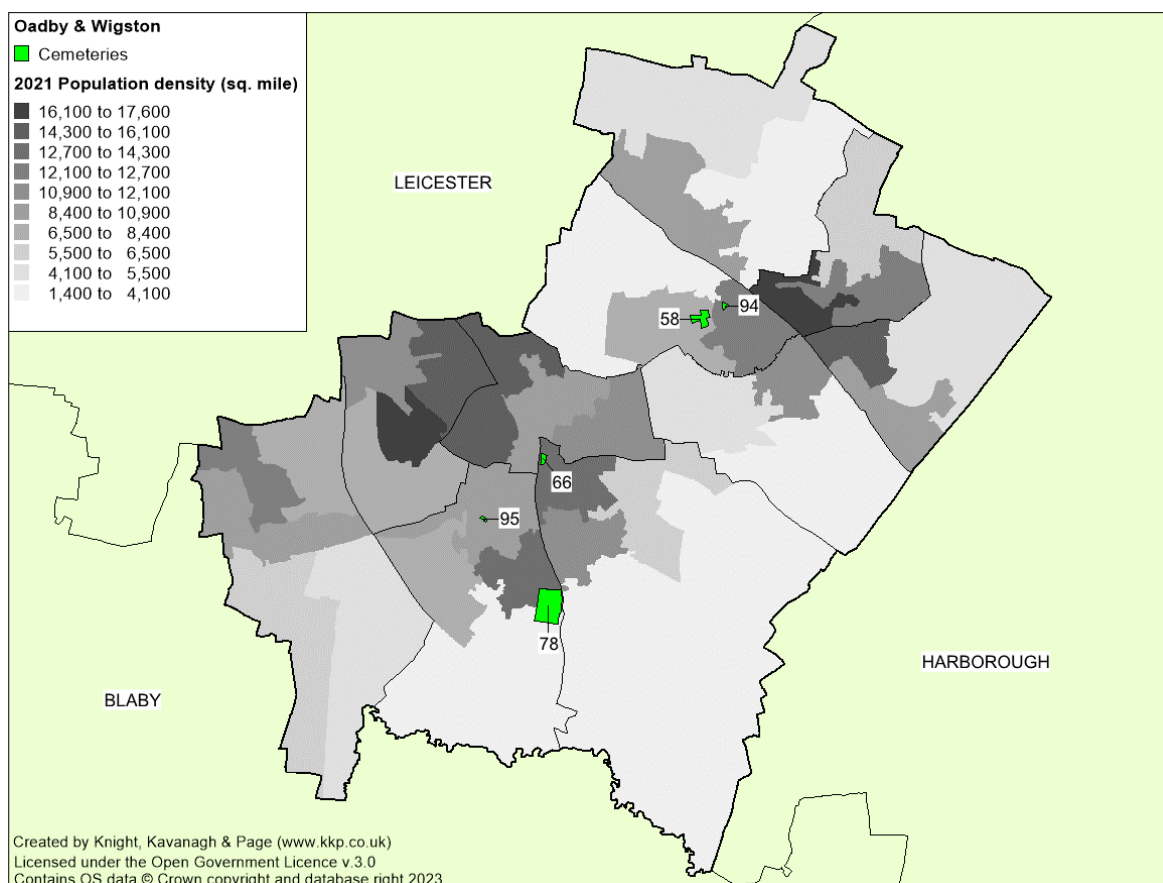


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
58	Oadby Cemetery	Oadby St Peter's	1.22	49.3%	35.0%
66	St Wistan	Wigston Meadowcourt	0.32	49.0%	30.0%
78	Wigston Cemetery	Wigston All Saints	5.22	62.2%	44.0%
94	St Peter's Church	Oadby St Peter's	0.16		
95	All Saints Church, Wigston	Wigston All Saints	0.11		

St Peter's Church and All Saints Church, Wigston do not receive a quality or value score as they are both below the size threshold of 0.2 hectares.

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. As noted earlier, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

## 9.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries. A threshold of 50% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 9.4: Quality ratings for cemeteries

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Oadby Brocks Hill	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Grange	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby St Peter's	49%	49%	49%	1	0
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	-	-	-	-	-
South Wigston	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston All Saints	62%	62%	62%	0	1
Wigston Fields	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston Meadowcourt	49%	49%	49%	1	0
Wigston St Wolston's	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

St Peter's Church and do not receive a quality or value score as they are below the size threshold of 0.2 hectares.

Wigston Cemetery rates above the threshold for quality (62%). This large site has good pathways, access and a car park, further adding to its overall quality. It also contains benches, bins and signage.

Oadby Cemetery and St Wistan (both 49%) each score below the quality threshold. Both sites benefit from good entrances, fencing, signage, and bins. However, Oadby Cemetery scores lower for maintenance and design. There are also some tilted gravestones. Members of the public who have completed the online open space survey highlight that this cemetery is unmaintained and overgrown.

## 9.5 Value

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

## OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

Table 9.5: Value ratings for cemeteries

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Oadby Brocks Hill	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Grange	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby St Peter's	35%	35%	35%	0	1
Oadby Uplands	-	-	-	-	-
Oadby Woodlands	-	-	-	-	-
South Wigston	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston All Saints	44%	44%	44%	0	1
Wigston Fields	-	-	-	-	-
Wigston Meadowcourt	30%	30%	30%	0	1
Wigston St Wolston's	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

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

Oadby Cemetery and Wigston Cemetery have additional ecological value due to featuring trees and bushes. Consultation with OWBC identifies that there has been numerous tree planting at cemeteries including Oadby and Wigston Cemeteries.

Tree work has also been completed recently at St Peter's Church and there will be new planting implemented this winter including small trees such as a Korean Fir.

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

# OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES STUDY

## PART 10: PROVISION STANDARDS

The provision standards used to determine deficiencies and surpluses for open space are set in terms of quality, accessibility, and quantity.

### 10.1: Quality and value

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

#### Quality and value matrix

Assessing the quality and value of open spaces is used to identify those sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which require enhancement and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose. When analysing the quality/value of a site, it should be done in conjunction with regard to the quantity and/or accessibility of provision in the area (i.e., whether there is a deficiency).

The high/low classification gives the following possible combinations of quality and value:

	High Quality	Low Quality
High Value	All sites should have an aspiration to come into this category. Many sites of this category are likely to be viewed as key forms of open space provision.	The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality to the applied standard. The priority will be those sites providing a key role in terms of access to provision.
Low Value	The preferred approach to a site in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary function. If this is not possible, consideration to a change of primary function should be given (i.e., a change to another open space typology).	The approach to these sites in areas of identified shortfall should be to enhance their quality provided it is possible also to enhance their value.  In areas of sufficiency a change of primary typology should be considered first. If no shortfall of other open space typologies is noted than the site may be redundant/ 'surplus to requirements'.

There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of low-quality sites. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance sites where it is not appropriate or cost effective to do so. Please refer to the individual typology sections as well as the supporting excel database for a breakdown of the matrix.

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## 10.2: Accessibility

Accessibility catchments are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors underpinning catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process the concept of ‘effective catchments’ are used, defined as the distance that most users would travel. The accessibility catchments do not consider if a distance is on an incline or decline. They are therefore intended to act as an initial form of analysis to help identify potential gaps.

Table 10.2.1: Accessibility catchments

Open space type	Catchment
Parks & Gardens	9-minute walk time (710m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	9-minute walk time (720m)
Amenity Greenspace	6-minute walk time (480m)
Provision for children and young people (LAP)	1-minute walk time (100m)
Provision for children and young people (LEAP)	5-minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people (NEAP)	12.5-minute walk time (1000m)
Provision for children and young people (Other e.g., MUGA, skate park)	9-minute walk time (700m)
Allotments	No standard set
Cemeteries	No standard set

No catchments are suggested for allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, it is better to determine need for provision based on locally known demand.

If an area does not have access to provision (consistent with the catchments) it is deemed deficient. KKP has identified instances where new sites may be needed, or potential opportunities could be explored in order to provide comprehensive access (i.e., a gap in one form of provision may exist but the area in question may be served by another form of open space). Please refer to the associated mapping to view site catchments.

The following tables summarise the deficiencies identified from the application of the accessibility standards. In determining any subsequent actions for identified gaps, the following are key principles for consideration:

- ◀ Increase capacity/usage in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ◀ Enhance quality in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ◀ Commuted sum for ongoing maintenance/repairs to mitigate impact of new demand

These principles are intended to mitigate for the impact of increases in demand on existing provision. An increase in population will reduce the lifespan of certain sites and/or features (e.g., play equipment, maintenance regimes etc). This will lead to the increased requirement to refurbish and/or replace such forms of provision.



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Table 10.1.2: Sites helping to serve gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Oadby Grange	Stackyard Spinney (ID 67)	Natural
Oadby St Peter's	Ilife Park (ID 46)	Amenity
Oadby Uplands	Hamble Road (ID 36) Windrush Drive 2 (ID 92)	Amenity Natural
Oadby Woodlands	Hoot Spinney (ID 44) Berkeley Close (ID 7) Hunters Way (ID 45) Hill Field Park (ID 41)	Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity
South Wigston	Sturdee Road Recreation Ground (Leicester)	OUTSIDE
Wigston All Saints	Amesbury Road (ID 2) Bodmin Avenue (ID 12)	Amenity Amenity
Wigston Fields	Sturdee Road Recreation Ground (Leicester)	OUTSIDE
Wigston Meadowcourt	Arndale (ID 3) Foston open space (ID 27) Baysdale (ID 6) Herrick Way (ID 40)	Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity
Wigston St Wolstan's	Brocks Hill Country Park (ID 15) Hayes Park (ID 38)	Natural Amenity

Table 10.1.3: Sites helping to serve gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Oadby Grange	University Botanical Garden (ID 72) Uplands Park (ID 73)	Park Park
Oadby Uplands	Uplands Park (ID 73)	Park
South Wigston	Sturdee Road Recreation Ground (Leicester)	OUTSIDE
Wigston Fields	Wigston Fields Community Centre (ID 79) Willow Park (ID 85) Knighton Park (Leicester)	Park Park OUTSIDE
Wigston St Wolstan's	Wigston Fields Community Centre (ID 79)	Park

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Table 10.1.4: Sites helping to serve gaps in amenity greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Oadby Brocks Hill	Rosemead Park (ID 63)	Park
Oadby Grange	Stackyard Spinney (ID 67) University Botanical Garden (ID 72)	Natural Park
Oadby St Peter's	Ellis Park (ID 24) Chicken Alley (ID 54) Rosemead Park (ID 63)	Park Natural Park
Oadby Uplands	Uplands Park (ID 73)	Park
South Wigston	Blaby Road Park (ID 8) Grand Union Canal (ID 30.3) William Gunning Park (ID 83) Sturdee Road Recreation Ground (Leicester)	Park Natural Park OUTSIDE
Wigston Fields	Willow Park (ID 85) Knighton Park (Leicester)	Park OUTSIDE
Wigston St Wolstan's	Wigston Fields Community Centre (ID 79)*	Park

For play provision, an option could be to explore and encourage opportunities to expand provision at existing play sites or introduce equipment at open spaces nearest to where the gap in play provision is highlighted.

Table 10.1.5: Sites helping to serve gaps in play provision catchments

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Oadby Brocks Hill	Coombe Park play area (ID 21.1)
Oadby Uplands	Hamble Road (ID 36) Hoot Spinney (ID 44)
Oadby Woodlands	Hill Field Park play area (ID 41.1) Berkeley Close (ID 7)
Wigston Meadowcourt	Little Hill play area (ID 53.1)

\* Located in Wigston Fields Analysis Area but also helps serve a gap in this analysis area

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## 10.3: Quantity

Quantity standards can be used to identify areas of shortfalls and help with determining requirements for future developments.

### Setting quantity standards

The setting and application of quantity standards is necessary to determine shortfalls in provision and to help inform what new developments should contribute to the provision of open space across the area.

It is useful to compare existing quantity standards against current levels of provision, and national benchmarks.

Guidance on quantity levels is published by FIT in its document Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015). The guidance provides standards for three types of open space provision: parks and gardens, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. FIT also suggests a guideline quantity standard for equipped/designated playing space.

For allotments, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households, an equivalent of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population.

Table 10.3.1 sets out the figures for existing quantity standards, current provision levels identified and national benchmarks.

Table 10.3.1: Comparison of quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)

Typology	Current provision	National benchmarks	Existing standards
Parks & gardens	0.65	<b>0.80</b>	0.50
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.63	<b>1.80</b>	0.80
Amenity greenspace	0.30	<b>0.60</b>	0.50
Provision for children & young people	0.05	0.25	<b>0.30</b>
Allotment	0.15	0.25	<b>0.50</b>

The proposed standards are a combination of suggested national standards and retention of existing standards.

For parks, natural and semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace the national standards are recommended to be used. In all three typologies, the national standards are the greatest figure of hectares per 1,000 population.

For play provision and allotments, the existing standards are recommended to continue to be used. For both provision types, the existing standards are greater than both the current provision levels and national benchmarks.

This approach will ensure the maximum amount of open space provision is sought in order to serve Oadby and Wigston.

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Retaining use of the existing standards for all typologies would result in seeking provision which is less than the amounts which actually exist (i.e. current provision levels). Similarly, using the current provision levels would mean seeking provision less than the national benchmarks, which would overtime lead to Oadby and Wigston having a further deficit in comparison.

In summary, the following quantity standards are recommended.

Table 10.3.2: Recommended quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)

Typology	Recommended Quantity Standard
Parks & gardens	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.80
Amenity greenspace	0.60
Provision for children & young people	0.30
Allotment	0.50

The recommended standards can be used to help inform the contributions from new developments to the provision of open space across the area. They can also be used to highlight potential shortfalls across different areas. Table 10.3.3 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall for each type of open space.

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Table 10.3.3: Current provision shortfalls against recommended standards by analysis area (hectares per 1,000 population)

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-Natural		Amenity greenspace		Allotments		Play provision	
	0.80		1.80		0.60		0.50		0.30	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Oadby Brocks Hill	1.32	+0.52	5.27	+3.47	0.25	-0.35	-	-0.50	0.17	-0.13
Oadby Grange	1.97	+1.17	1.36	-0.44	0.11	-0.49	-	-0.50	0.12	-0.18
Oadby St Peter's	0.37	-0.43	0.77	-1.03	0.09	-0.51	0.75	+0.25	0.06	-0.24
Oadby Uplands	-	-0.80	0.78	-1.02	0.34	-0.26	-	-0.50	-	-0.30
Oadby Woodlands	0.08	-0.72	3.89	+2.09	0.16	-0.44	-	-0.50	0.01	-0.29
South Wigston	0.94	+0.14	1.97	+0.17	0.42	-0.18	-	-0.50	0.06	-0.24
Wigston All Saints	0.77	-0.03	1.13	-0.67	0.26	-0.34	0.26	-0.24	0.03	-0.27
Wigston Fields	0.87	+0.07	-	-1.80	0.16	-0.34	0.59	+0.09	0.07	-0.23
Wigston Meadowcourt	-	-0.80	2.50	+0.70	0.96	+0.36	-	-0.50	0.01	-0.29
Wigston St Wolston's	-	-0.80	-	-1.80	0.28	-0.32	-	-0.50	0.02	-0.28

All analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space. Oadby Uplands, Wigston All Saints and Wigston St Wolston's wards are noted as having shortfalls in all open space typologies.

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## 10.4: Identifying priorities and recommendations

Several quantity shortfalls in the open space typologies are highlighted. Creating new provision to address these existing shortfalls (particularly any quantity shortfalls) is often challenging (as significant amounts of new forms of provision would need to be created). Often a more realistic approach is to ensure sufficient accessibility and quality of existing provision. However, it highlights the need for new housing developments to provide new open space provision to ensure shortfalls are not exacerbated.

Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to sites should be endorsed. Further insight to the shortfalls is provided within each provision standard summary (Parts 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3).

Quantity levels should still be utilised to indicate the potential lack of provision any given area may have. However, this should be done in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of provision in the area.

The current provision levels could also be used to determine the open space requirements as part of new housing developments. In the first instance, all types of provision should look to be provided as part of new housing developments.

If this is not considered viable, the column signalling whether an area is sufficient or has a quantity shortfall may be used to help inform the priorities for each type of open space within each area (i.e., the priorities may be where a shortfall has been identified).

### Recommendations

The following provides a summary on the key findings through the application of the standards. It incorporates and recommends what the Council should be seeking to achieve in order to help address the issues highlighted.

#### Recommendation 1

- ◀ Sites helping, or with the potential to help, serve areas identified as having gaps in catchment mapping should be prioritised as opportunities for enhancement

Part 10.2 identifies sites that help or have the potential to serve existing identified gaps in provision.

Table 10.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
2	Amesbury Road	Amenity	Parks
3	Arndale	Natural	Parks
6	Baysdale	Amenity	Parks
7	Berkeley Close	Amenity	Parks, Play
8	Blaby Road Park	Parks	Amenity
12	Bodmin Avenue	Amenity	Parks
15	Brocks Hill Country Park	Natural	Parks

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
21.1	Coombe Park play area	Play	Play
24	Ellis Park	Parks	Amenity
27	Foston open space	Amenity	Parks
30.3	Grand Union Canal 3	Natural	Amenity
36	Hamble Road	Amenity	Parks, Play
38	Hayes Park	Amenity	Parks
40	Herrick Way	Amenity	Parks
41.1	Hill Field Park play area	Play	Play
44	Hoot Spinney	Natural	Parks, Play
45	Hunters Way	Amenity	Parks
46	Iliffe Park	Amenity	Parks
53.1	Little Hill play area	Play	Play
54	Chicken Alley	Natural	Amenity
63	Rosemead Park	Parks	Amenity
67	Stackyard Spinney	Natural	Parks, Amenity
72	University Botanical Garden	Parks	Natural
73	Uplands Park	Parks	Natural
79	Wigston Fields Community Centre	Parks	Natural, Amenity
83	William Gunning Park	Parks	Natural, Amenity
85	Willow Park	Parks	Natural, Amenity
92	Windrush Drive 2	Natural	Parks

These sites potentially help to meet the identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies. Where possible, the Council may seek to adapt these sites to provide a stronger secondary role, to help meet the gaps highlighted.

Often this is related to parks, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. The Council should explore the potential/possibility to adapt these sites through formalisation and/or greater provision of features linked to other types of open space. This is to provide a stronger secondary role as well as opportunities associated with other open space types. This may, in some instances, also help provide options to minimise the need for creation of new provision to address any gaps in catchment mapping. For play provision, sites could be explored for opportunities to expand the amount and breadth of equipment at existing play sites.

These sites should therefore be viewed as open space provision that are likely to provide multiple social and value benefits. It is also important that the quality and value of these sites is secured and enhanced (Recommendation 2).

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## Recommendation 2

- ◀ Ensure low quality/value sites helping to serve potential gaps in accessibility catchments are prioritised for enhancement

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to the applied standards. A list of low quality and/or value sites currently helping to serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 10.4.2 below. This also includes sites without a quality/value rating.

These sites should first look to be enhanced in terms of quality. Consideration should be given to changing the primary typology or strengthening the secondary function of these sites, to one which they currently help to serve a gap in provision, even if their quality cannot currently be enhanced. For some sites, such as natural and semi-natural greenspace, the ability to adapt or strengthen secondary roles may be limited due to the features and characteristics of the site.

Table 10.4.2: Summary of low quality/value sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
2	Amesbury Road	Amenity	Parks
3	Arndale	Natural	Parks
6	Baysdale	Amenity	Parks
7	Berkeley Close	Amenity	Parks, Play
12	Bodmin Avenue	Amenity	Parks
27	Foston open space	Amenity	Parks
40	Herrick Way	Amenity	Parks
45	Hunters Way	Amenity	Parks
67	Stackyard Spinney	Natural	Parks, Amenity
92	Windrush Drive 2	Natural	Parks

## Recommendation 3

- ◀ Review areas with sufficient provision in open space and consider how they may be able to meet other areas of need

This study identifies 70 sites currently below their quality and/or value thresholds. For an area with a quantity sufficiency in one type of open space, and where opportunities allow, a change of primary typology could be considered for some sites of that same type.

For instance, Wigston All Saints has a potential sufficiency in amenity greenspace but a potential shortfall in natural greenspace. Consequently, the function of some amenity greenspace could look to be strengthened to act as natural greenspace provision.



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It is important that other factors, such as the potential typology change of a site creating a different catchment gap and/or the potential to help serve deficiencies in other types of provision should also be considered. The Council may also be aware of other issues, such as the importance of a site for heritage, biodiversity or as a visual amenity that may also indicate that a site should continue to stay the same typology.

### Recommendation 4

- ◀ Keep data, reports and supporting evidence base up to date to reflect changes

This study provides a snapshot in time. Whilst significant changes are not as common for open space provision, inevitably over time changes in provision occur through creation of new provision, loss of existing provision and/or alterations to site boundaries and management. Population change and housing growth are also another consideration to review when undertaking any form of update as this may impact on quantity provision levels and standards. It is therefore important, particularly given the growing recognition of open space provision because of Covid-19, for the Council to undertake regular reviews of the data and/or actions informed by it.

### Recommendation 5

- ◀ Recommended standards to inform future growth requirements

At the time of writing three growth areas are identified: North and North-East Oadby, South Oadby and East Wigston, and South and South-East Wigston.

Each growth area is expected to be broadly similar in size and distribution of land. To that end, it is envisaged at this stage that each growth area will see the growth of circa 1,000 dwellings each and a population increase of circa 2,400.

On this basis, using the recommended quantity standards<sup>10</sup>, the following open space requirements are calculated.

Typology	Recommended Quantity Standard (ha per 1,000 pop)	Estimated requirement (hectares)
Parks & gardens	0.80	1.92
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.80	4.32
Amenity greenspace	0.60	1.44
Provision for children & young people	0.30	0.72
Allotment	0.50	1.20

<sup>10</sup> recommended quantity standard (ha per 1,000 population) x population increase / 1000 = estimated requirement

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## Recommendation 6

- ◀ Policy approach needs to reflect future provision requirements and addressing existing shortfalls

It is important for local planning policy to set the approach and requirements of future housing development. The recommended quantity standards should be used to help determine the amounts and types of provision needed as part of any development.

In instances where it is not achievable to provide onsite provision of open space, offsite contributions should be sought. Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 can help to inform where priorities for offsite quality/access enhancements might be best provided.

Inevitably over time changes in provision occur through creation of new provision, loss of existing provision and/or alterations to sites through planned works/enhancements. Consequently, identifying sites for offsite contributions should reflect any such changes which may supersede this report.

For example, a site may be highlighted as being of a low quality within the study and could therefore benefit from enhancement. If, however, works to improve the site have already taken place, an alternative site might be better placed for enhancement.

