



**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING**  
**OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**NOVEMBER 2016**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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## **Glossary**

DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LBH	London Borough of Havering
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy 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**

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for London Borough of Havering (LBH). It focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the study.

The Assessment Report provides detail with regard to what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It considers the demand for provision up to 2032 based upon population distribution, planned growth and consultation findings. The Strategy (to follow the assessment reports for open spaces) will give direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable provision for open spaces in London Borough of Havering.

The methodology used in this assessment is based on that originally set out in Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guide; Assessing Needs and Opportunities published in September 2002. Whilst PPG17 has now been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), it is still recognised as best practice providing a sound methodology.

This assessment has been commissioned as a key part of the evidence base for the Local Plan. In order for such planning documents and policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. The table below details the open space typologies included within the study:

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Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

	Typology	Primary purpose
Greenspaces	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.
	Amenity greenspace	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	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Civic spaces	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians including the promenade	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

### 1.1 Report structure

#### **Open spaces**

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Part 3: General open space summary       | Part 7: Provision for children/young people |
| Part 4: Parks and gardens                | Part 8: Allotments                          |
| Part 5: Natural/ semi-natural greenspace | Part 9: Cemeteries/churchyards              |
| Part 6: Amenity greenspace               | Part 10: Civic space                        |

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### ***Associated strategies***

The study sits alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and the Indoor Sport and Leisure Facility Strategy which are also being undertaken by KKP (provided in separate reports). The open space typology of formal outdoor sports is covered within the associated PPS. The PPS is undertaken in accordance with the methodology provided in Sport England's Draft Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities (2013). The Indoor Sport and Leisure Facility Strategy is in accordance with Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities 2014.

### **1.2 National context**

#### ***National Planning Policy Framework***

The 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.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. 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.

Under paragraph 73 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.

As a prerequisite paragraph 74 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.

#### ***The London Plan 2015 (consolidated with alterations since 2011)***

The London Plan is the strategic plan for the development of London. It intends London to continue being a 'global city', or business capital, while also improving Londoners' standard of living and the places where people live. The main direction of the London Plan is to plan for a predicted rise of 1.25 million people by 2031. It seeks provision of an average of 33,400 homes per year across London.

The plan sets the tone for an alternative vision for London, taking on a broader, fairer, more inspired set of considerations and values. The improvement of London in this way should bring a set of new benefits, new growth and new enterprise.

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Key influences on policy direction include a change in age of the population (more younger and older people); persistent problems of poverty and polarization and a changing climate.

Local Borough plans must all conform to the policies and direction of The London Plan. The policies most relevant to this assessment report are set out below.

<b>Policy 7.1: Lifetime Neighbourhoods</b>	C. Development should enable people to live healthy, active lives; should maximize the opportunity for community diversity, inclusion and cohesion; and should contribute to people's sense of place, safety and security. Places of work and leisure, streets, neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces should be designed to meet the needs of the community at all stages of people's lives, and should meet the principles of lifetime neighbourhoods.
<b>Policy 7.6. B: Architecture</b>	F. Buildings and structures should: provide high quality indoor and outdoor spaces and integrate well with the surrounding streets and open spaces
<b>Policy 7.17: Metropolitan Open Land</b>	A. The Mayor strongly supports the current extent of Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), its extension in appropriate circumstances and its protection from development having an adverse impact on the openness of MOL.
<b>Policy 7.18: Protecting Open Space and Addressing Deficiency</b>	<p>A. The Mayor supports the creation of new open space in London to ensure satisfactory levels of local provision to address areas of deficiency.</p> <p>B. The loss of protected open spaces must be resisted unless equivalent or better quality provision is made within the local catchment area. Replacement of one type of open space with another is unacceptable unless an up to date needs assessment shows that this would be appropriate.</p> <p>C. When assessing local open space needs LDFs should: a include appropriate designations and policies for the protection open space to address deficiencies b identify areas of open space deficiency, using the open space categorisation set out in Table 7.2 as a benchmark for all the different types of open space identified therein c ensure that future publically accessible open space needs are planned for in areas with the potential for substantial change such as opportunity areas, regeneration areas, intensification areas and other local areas. d ensure that open space needs are planned in accordance with green infrastructure strategies to deliver multiple benefits.</p> <p>D. Boroughs should undertake audits of all forms of open space and assessments of need. These should be both qualitative and quantitative, and have regard to the cross borough nature and use of many of these open spaces.</p>

Open spaces are also referenced under Policy 7.5: Public Realm; The quality of the public realm has a significant influence on quality of life because it affects people's sense of place, security and belonging, as well as having an influence on a range of health and social factors. For this reason, public and private open spaces, and the buildings that frame those spaces, should contribute to the highest standards of comfort, security and ease of movement possible. This is particularly important in high density development

The contribution of open spaces, parks and green corridors is recognised in paragraph 7.62 as being crucial to the richness of London's biodiversity. These sites of rich biodiversity and other green spaces are highlighted as having a significant role in assisting biodiversity to adapt to climate change and its impacts.

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### 1.3 Local context

This study and its findings a key part of the evidence base for the Council's emerging Local Plan. They form an integral part of identifying and regulating the open space infrastructure. Through recognising open space provision in plan form, it can be assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, whilst strengthening its presence in planning policy for the future and maximising opportunities for investment.

#### ***Havering Local Development Framework***

Havering's Local Development Framework (LDF) is a portfolio of documents intended to provide for the future planning of the borough. The previous 2005 Open Space Assessment formed part of the evidence base for the LDF Current policies for open space and recreation are set out in the LDF include:

#### ***Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (2008)***

Core Strategy (2008) policy CP7 'Recreation and Leisure' promotes the provision of high quality recreational open space and signposts to the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

Policy DC20 'Access to Recreation and Leisure Including Open Spaces' and DC21 'Major Developments and Open Space, Recreation and Leisure Facilities' detail the Councils approach to existing provision and accessibility standards. The latter also sets out the requirements for new open space provision and their maintenance within new developments.

The Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document will be replaced by the Local Plan once it is adopted.

#### ***Romford Area Action Plan (2008)***

The Area Action Plan (AAP) sets out the policies and proposals to deliver growth, stimulate regeneration and protect Romford's assets. It reflects, and builds upon, the extensive work that the Council and its partners have undertaken in preparing the Romford Urban Strategy which was adopted in April 2005. Overall, the Area Action Plan will promote and enhance Romford's position as east London's premier town centre

Paragraph 5.56 details that the 2005 Open Space Assessment noted the lack of open space, trees and plants in Romford. Subsequently one of the strategic objectives for Romford town centre is set out as being; *enhance the town centres existing green spaces and biodiversity value and promote the development of new, high quality open spaces in the town centre to make Romford town centre a better place to live.*

#### ***Site Specific Allocations (2008)***

The document sets out the specific allocations for individual sites across the borough except for sites in Romford Town Centre which will be identified in the Romford Area Action Plan.

Paragraph 3.13 references PPG17's recommendation that assessments and audits will allow local authorities to identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sport and recreational facilities.

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It goes on to summarise that Havering has a relatively good quantity of public parks but that there are local pockets of deficiency across the borough; in particular that there is a deficiency in access to dedicated children play areas.

As part of the vision for how Havering will change and develop by 2020, it is set out that *Havering will continue to be a safe place for residents, users of public open spaces, commercial enterprises and those employed within the borough as new developments will be designed to increase the safety of the borough's public and private realms.*

### ***Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2013-2015)***

The strategy sets out an overview and analysis to the existing provision and supporting services. It details an ambition for provision to be *'to transform lives through participation in, and enjoyments of, our parks and open spaces'*.

Guiding the document are four principles:

*Principle 1: Community Empowerment* - promote more active engagement in service delivery, from consultation, to volunteering, to devolving services to the local community

*Principle 2: Work in Partnership* – continue to work with our partners, internal and external, and regionally across borough boundaries, to achieve shared objectives

*Principle 3: Inclusion and Cohesion* – be smarter about collecting information on our customers and communities. Target new audiences and broaden access to our services, breaking down barrier to engagement where these exist, facilitating social progress and improved quality of life

*Principle 4: Good Value Service* – continue to develop innovative, modern and efficient methods of service delivery, thereby maintaining the high quality of our services against a backdrop of reduced budgets, and ensuring that activities are evaluated effectively to retain a focus on outcomes for local people

These principles relate to three broad objectives which sit beneath the overarching framework of the Havering Cultural Strategy. An action plan for each of the objectives is set out within the document itself.

<b>Objective 1: Health and Wellbeing</b>
Support a high standard of mental, physical and emotional health for all by increasing the number of people using our parks and spaces , for sport and physical activity, to socialise, to be part of the community, and for pleasure, reflection and relaxation

<b>Objective 2: Learning and Development</b>
Support learning opportunities for all, by enabling people to take part in new activities within our parks and open space, and to encourage enquiry, exploration and learning about our environment

<b>Objective 3: Towns and Communities</b>
Enriching our towns and communities, through protection and investment in our parks and open spaces, encouraging biodiversity, increasing usage of our parks as community spaces, and supporting the regeneration of local areas

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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 - Quality and value
- ↳ 2.4 - Quality and value thresholds
- ↳ 2.5 - Identifying local need
- ↳ 2.6 - Accessibility standards

#### 2.1 Analysis areas

The study area covered by the report is London Borough of Havering Council boundary. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision in addition to examination of open space surplus and deficiencies at a more local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

Havering is divided into three analysis areas

*Table 2.1: Population by analysis area*

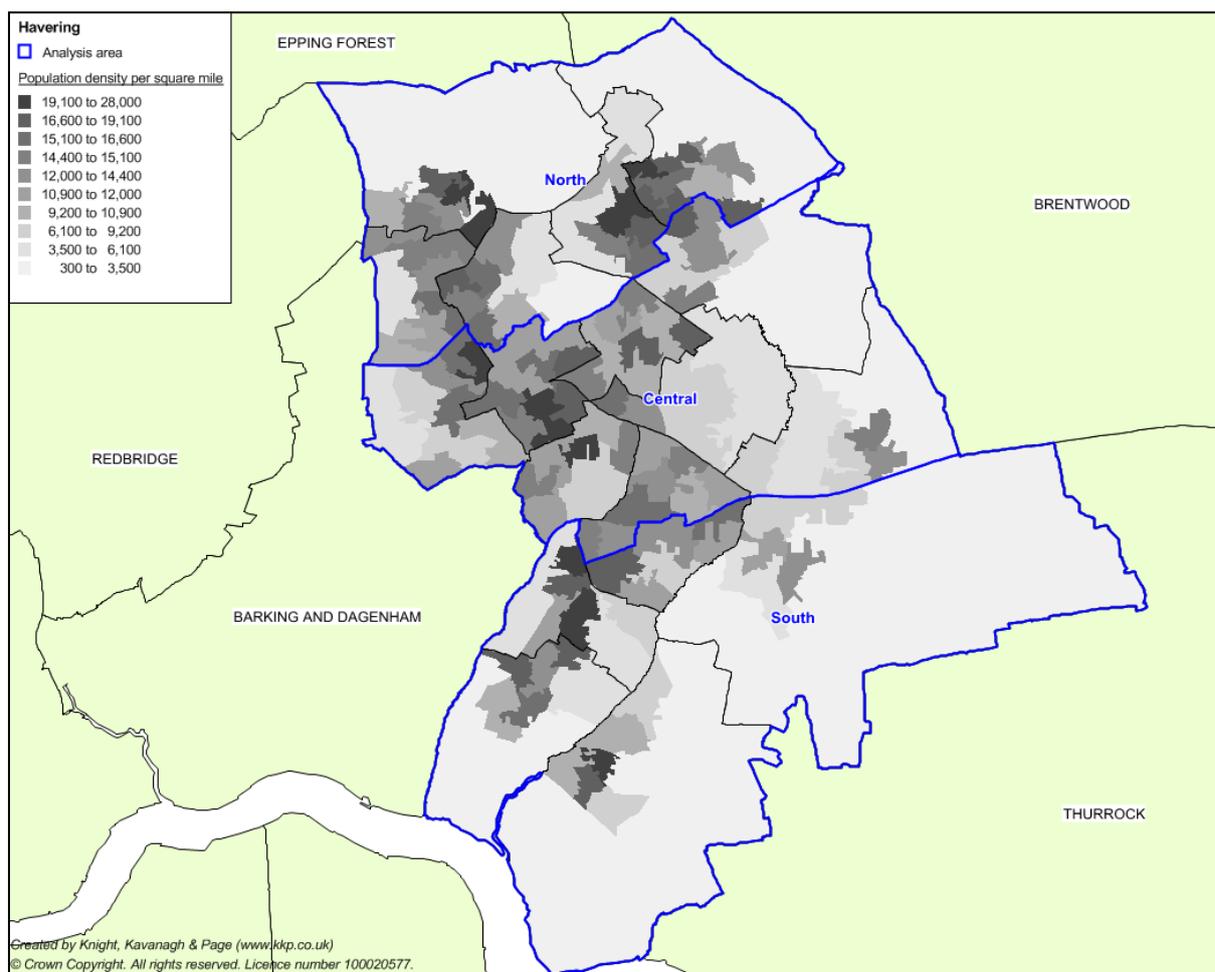
Analysis area	Ward	Population (2016)*
Central	Brooklands	113,629
	Cranham	
	Emerson Park	
	Harold Wood	
	Hylands	
	Romford Town	
	St Andrew's	
	Squirrel's Heath	
North	Gooshays	69,247
	Havering Park	
	Heaton	
	Mawneys	
	Pettits	
South	Elm Park	66,024
	Hacton	
	Rainham and Wennington	
	South Hornchurch	
	Upminster	
<b>HAVERING</b>		<b>248,900</b>

Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the map of analysis areas with population density.

\* Source: GLA 2015 round ward population projections - SHLAA-based; Capped Household Size model

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Figure 2.1: Analysis areas in London Borough of Havering



## 2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The site audit for this study was undertaken by the KKP Field Research Team. Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Only sites publically accessible are included (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 report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with best practice:

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
7. Civic space

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The provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated PPS. The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space (as a different methodology is prescribed).

In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. Sites of a smaller size, particularly for the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace, tend to have a different role often visual and considered as offering less recreational use (e.g. small incremental grassed areas such as highway verges). Subsequently sites below 0.2 hectares for these typologies are not audited. However, any sites below the threshold (i.e. those that are identified through consultation as being of significance) are included. The table below details the threshold for each typology:

Typology	Size threshold
Parks and gardens	no threshold
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	0.2 ha
Amenity greenspace	0.2 ha
Provision for children and young people	no threshold
Allotments	no threshold
Cemeteries/churchyards	no threshold
Civic space	no threshold

### ***Database development***

All information relating to open spaces is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites assessed, identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded on it. The database details for each site are as follows:

Data held on open spaces database (summary)
◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
◀ Site name
◀ Ownership
◀ Management
◀ Typology
◀ Size (hectares)
◀ Site visit data

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

### **2.3 Quality and value**

Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. 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 within and to a particular open space typology. Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (poor quality) space 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.

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### ***Analysis of quality***

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon those 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. 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)**

- ◀ Physical access, e.g. public transport links, directional signposts,
- ◀ Personal security, e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- ◀ Access-social, e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths
- ◀ Parking, e.g. availability, specific, disabled parking
- ◀ Information signage, e.g. presence of up to date site information, notice boards
- ◀ Equipment and facilities, e.g. assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
- ◀ Location value, e.g. proximity of housing, other greenspace
- ◀ Site problems, e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
- ◀ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
- ◀ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g. condition of general landscape & features
- ◀ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g. elderly, young people
- ◀ Site potential

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 best practice guidance 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.

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

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### Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

- ◀ 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
- ◀ Context of site in relation to other open spaces
- ◀ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area
- ◀ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- ◀ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
- ◀ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being
- ◀ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high profile symbols of local area
- ◀ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
- ◀ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far

### Value - non site visit criteria (score)

- ◀ Designated site such as LNR or SSSI
- ◀ Educational programme in place
- ◀ Historic site
- ◀ Listed building or historical monument on site
- ◀ Registered 'friends of' group to the site

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 size of sites and the range of equipment it hosts. 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.

## 2.4 Quality and value thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); 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).

The baseline threshold for assessing quality can often be set around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is not appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Quality thresholds are, thus, worked out so as to better reflect average scores for each typology. Consequently the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

For value there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from our experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites. Whilst 20% may initially seem low it is relative score - designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). A table setting out the quality and value scores for each typology is provided overleaf.

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Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

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

### 2.5 Identifying local need (demand)

Consultation to identify local need for open space provision has been carried out via a combination of face-to-face meetings, surveys and telephone interviews. It has also been conducted with key local authority officers. A workshop for parks users and friends of group was held as well as creation of an online community survey used to gather the wider views of local people (further detail is set out in the appendix). The findings of the consultation and survey carried out are used, reviewed and interpreted to further support the results of the quality and value assessment.

### 2.6 Accessibility standards

Accessibility standards for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process this problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance that would be travelled by the majority of users.

Guidance is offered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) (2008): 'Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance' with regard to appropriate catchment areas for authorities to adopt. However, in order to make accessibility standards more locally specific to Havering, we propose to use data from the survey consultation to set appropriate catchments. The following standards are recorded from the survey in relation to how far individuals are willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

Table 2.3: Accessibility standards to travel to open space provision

Typology	Applied standard
Parks and gardens	15 minute walk time (1,200m)
Natural and semi-natural	10 minute walk time (800m)
	30 minute drive time
Amenity greenspace	5 minute (400m) & 10 minute (800m) walk time
Provision for children and young people	10 minute walk time (800m)
Allotments	10 minute walk time (800m)
Cemeteries	No standard set
Civic spaces	No standard set

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Most typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 10 minute walk time. However, for certain typologies, such as amenity greenspace, accessibility is deemed to be more locally based. Subsequently a shorter accessibility standard has been applied.

For other forms of provision such as parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural greenspace a willingness to travel further is highlighted. Therefore, a slightly longer distance of standard is applied.

No standard is set for the typologies of cemeteries or civic spaces. It is difficult to assess such typologies against catchment areas due to their nature and usage. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

## PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section describes trends from the quality and value ratings for each typology in Havering. It also includes a summary of the 192 responses from the local communities' survey (further detail on the geographic breakdown of returns is provided in the appendices).

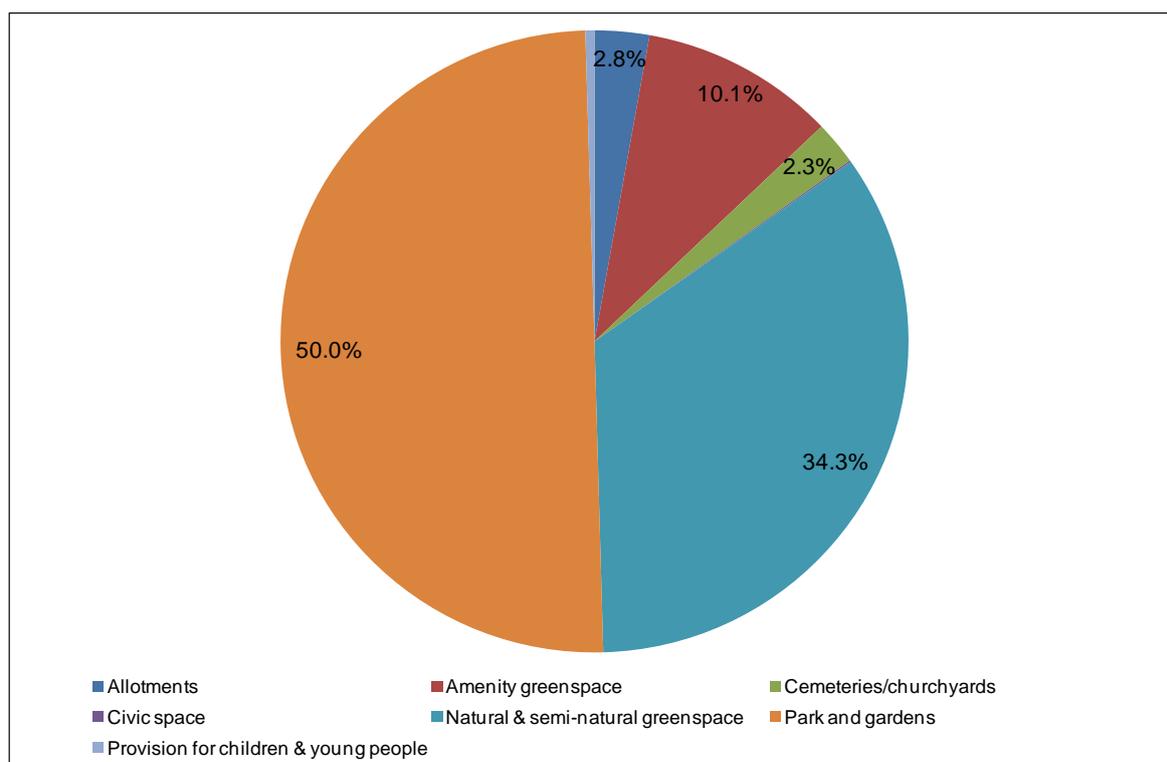
Whilst a valuable tool the communities survey is only a small part of the process, its role is to supplement best practice and widely accepted industry standards. The survey ran for six weeks from 23<sup>rd</sup> September to the 4<sup>th</sup> November with a further extension to the end of November. Links to the survey were made available via the council's website and on social media outlets. No demographic information (e.g. gender, age and ethnicity) was asked for as part of the survey questioning at the request of the Council.

Direct consultation with specific open space user groups such as the parks forum network and allotment associations was also undertaken as part of the study. Information from these groups is set out in the relevant typology sections of the report.

### Overview

A total of 176 open space sites are identified and included within the audit for Havering. A breakdown of the number of sites and amount of provision per typology is set out below.

Figure 3.1: Percentage breakdown of provision



This provides a total of over 1,283 hectares of open space. The largest contributors to provision are park and gardens (641 hectares) and natural and semi-natural greenspace (442 hectares); accounting for 50.0% and 34.3% respectively.

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Table 3.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Allotments	27	36
Amenity greenspace	54	129
Cemeteries/churchyards	6	29
Civic space	3	>1
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	22	442
Park and gardens	24	641
Provision for children & young people	40	6

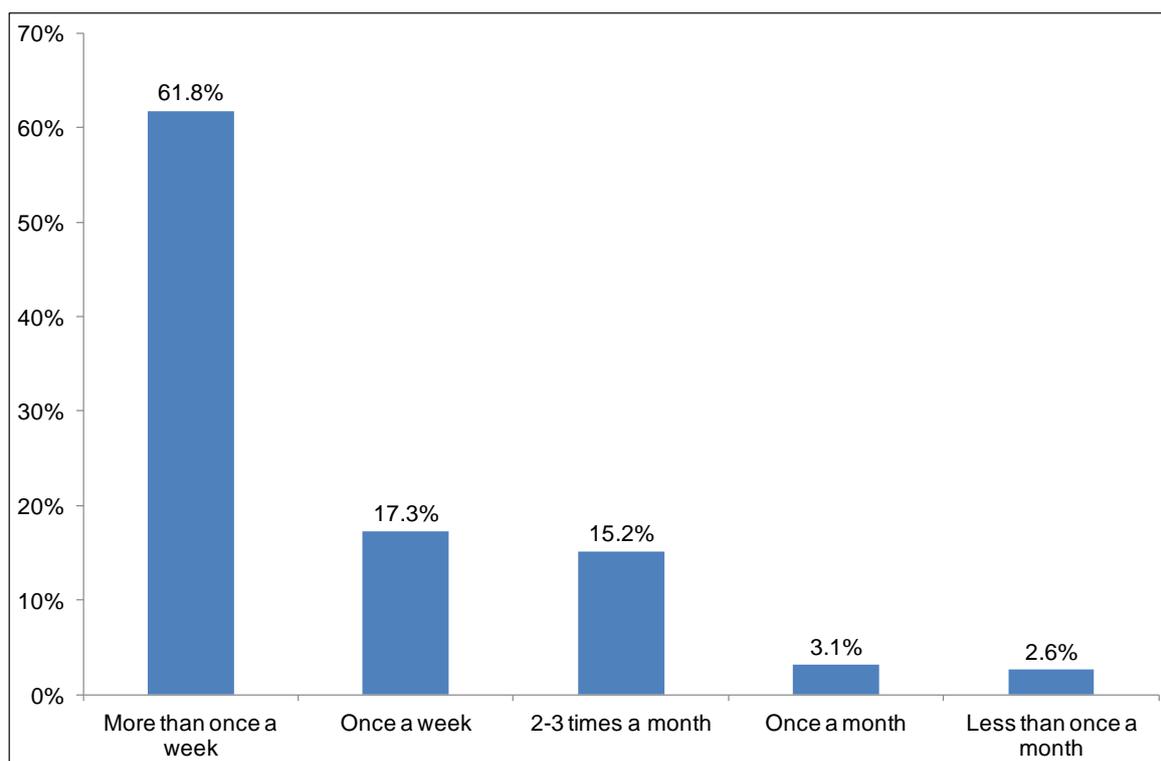
### 3.1 Usage

Survey participants were asked how often they visit a type of open space. All respondents identify accessing some form of open space provision. Most respondents identify that they visit a form of open space more than once a week (62%).

By far the most common forms of open space provision respondents' visit are parks and gardens. This is followed closely by sites classified as natural and semi-natural greenspace. From the returns several sites are specifically cited with the most frequently mentioned sites being:

- ◀ Harrow Lodge Park
- ◀ Raphael's Park
- ◀ Bedford Park
- ◀ Hornchurch Country Park
- ◀ Thames Chase
- ◀ Upminster Park

Figure 3.1; Frequency of visits to open space in the previous 12 months



\* Rounded to the nearest whole number

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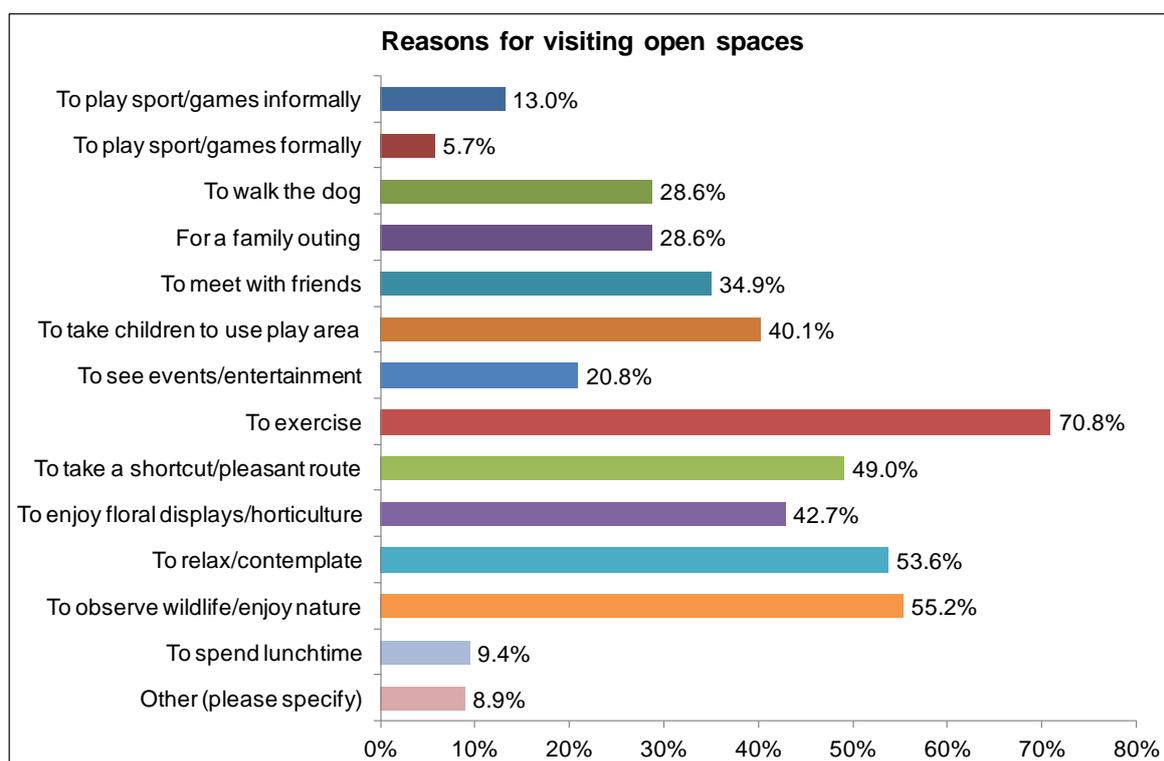
Respondents suggest the most popular reason for visiting an open space in the LBH is to exercise (71%). Followed by reasons such as to observe wildlife/enjoy nature (55%) and to relax and contemplate (54%).

Other common reasons for visiting open spaces include taking a shortcut/pleasant route (49%), to enjoy floral displays/horticulture (43%) and to take children to visit and use play facilities (40%).

Such responses may also correspond with why provision such as parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural greenspace are cited as popular forms of provision to visit.

The results also show the role of open spaces in the context of social interaction and health benefit and the value of open spaces as focal points for local communities.

*Figure 3.2: Reasons for visiting open space sites in previous 12 months*



As part of the survey, respondents were asked what the main reasons might be which prevent them from using open spaces. A lack of public facilities at sites such as toilets or a cafe was the most common reason given (30%). Postcode data from these respondents tells us that greater percentages are from the following Hornchurch and Upminster postcode areas:

◀ RM11 (19%)

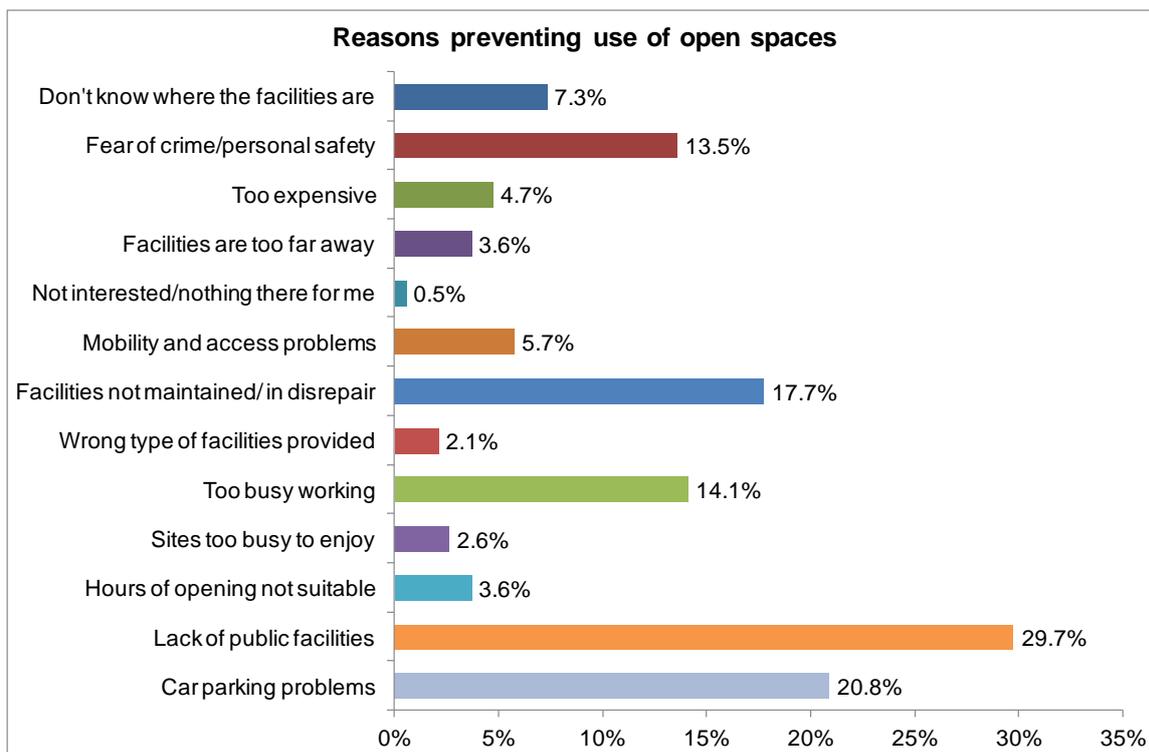
◀ RM12 (14%)

◀ RM14 (16%)

The areas are served by sites such as Harrow Lodge Park and Hornchurch Country Park. Both of which contain toilet and visitor facilities. The results may be a reflection towards local perceptions or a lack of awareness. Other common responses include car parking problems (21%) and facilities perceived to be not well maintained (18%).

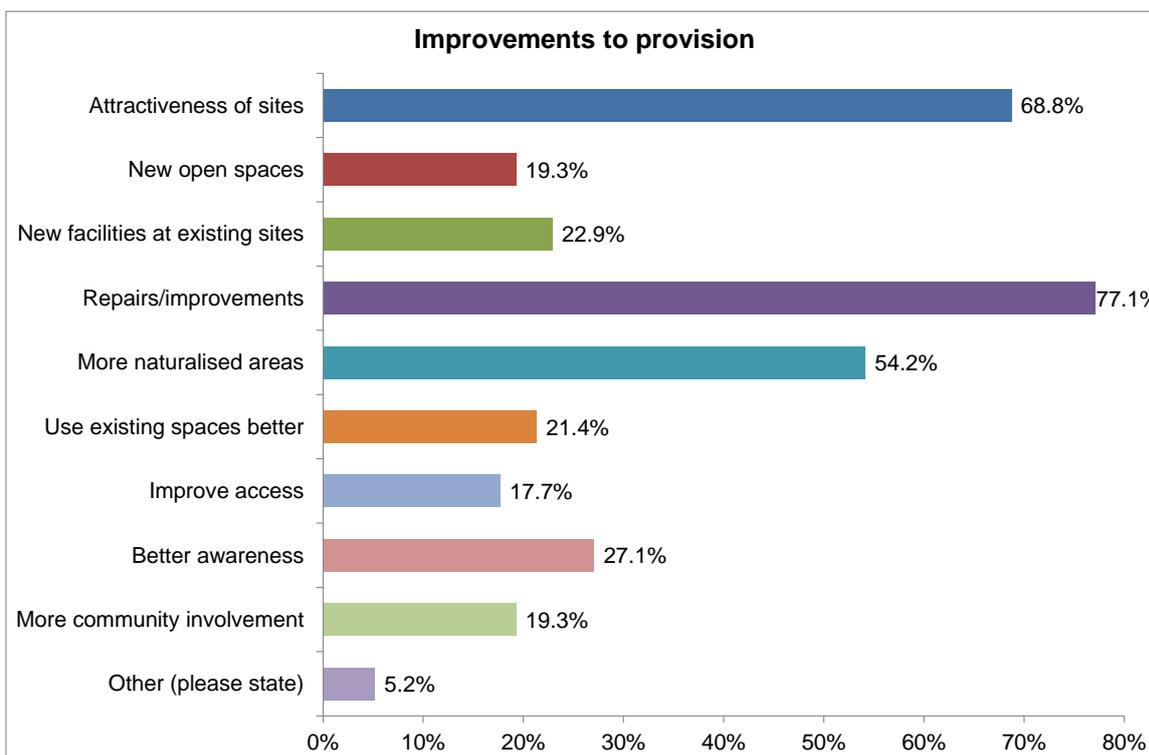
# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.3: Reasons preventing use of open space sites in previous 12 months



Respondents were asked which improvements to open spaces they consider the most important.

Figure 3.4: Site improvements



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The two most common answers were for repairs and improvements (77%) and improving attractiveness of existing sites (69%). Another popular answer was for more naturalised areas (54%).

## 3.2 Accessibility

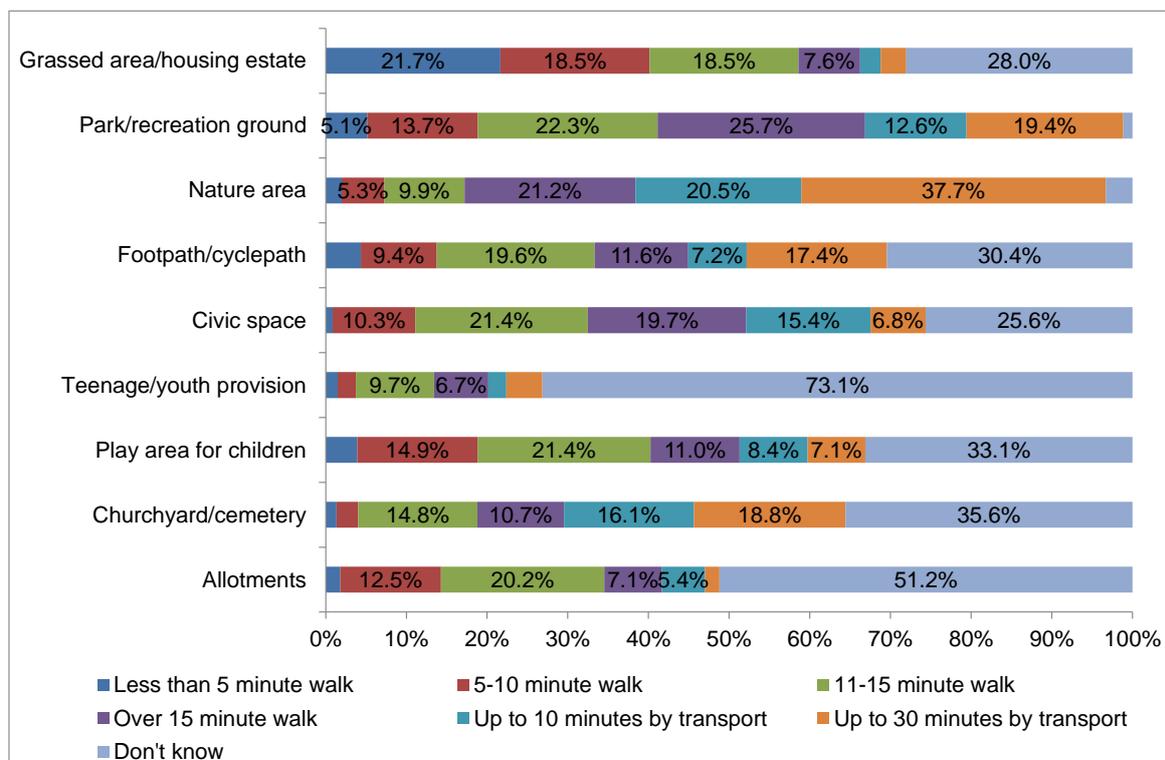
Results from the survey shows that most individuals travel by walking (82%) in order to access different types of open space provision. This is closely followed by those that drive (72%). A breakdown of the distances willing to travel is set out for each typology below.

Table 3.1: Mode of travel to open spaces

Mode of transport	Percentage of respondents
Walk	82%
Cycle	19%
Drive	72%
Public transport	28%

A preference can be seen to walk distances in order to access certain typologies particularly for parks, grassed areas at housing estates, play provision and civic space.

Figure 3.5: Time willing to travel to open space sites



There is however for some typologies a clear willingness to travel a greater distance by transport. For instance, respondents indicate more of a preference for travel up to 30 minutes by transport in order to access natural and semi-natural provision.

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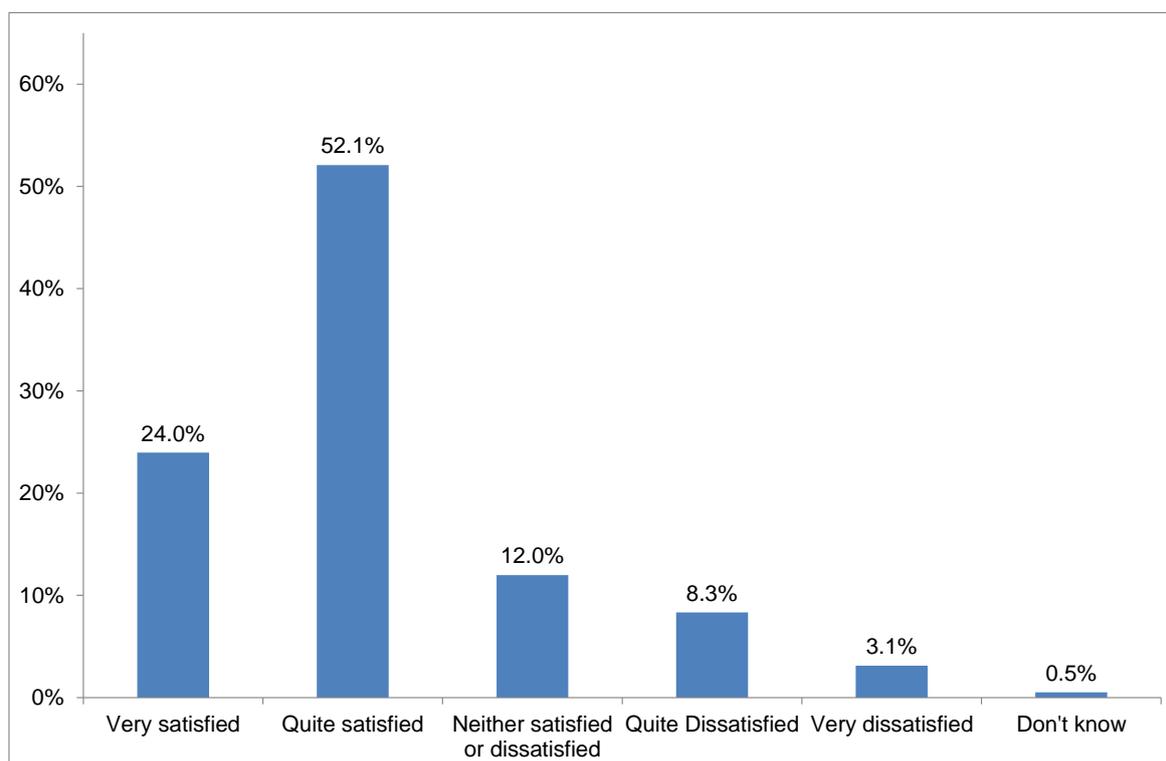
The higher proportion of don't know responses is not unusual for the typologies of teenage provision and allotments. Both forms of provision have a niche user attraction. Therefore, it is not unexpected for the general public to not have an opinion.

### 3.3 Satisfaction

In general, respondents consider the availability and quality of provision to be to a satisfactory level. Most respondents (52%) indicate they are quite satisfied with open spaces in terms of availability and quality. Furthermore, an additional 24% are very satisfied.

Only a small percentage of survey participants cite being quite dissatisfied (8%) or very dissatisfied (3%) with the availability and quality of open space provision.

Figure 3.6: Satisfaction with open spaces



### 3.4 Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table overleaf summarises the results of all the quality assessment for open spaces across Havering. A total of 171 sites receive a rating for quality and value out of the 176 site included in the audit. Sites not receiving a quality and value score were either not viewable at the time of the visit or only added to the study at a late stage.

Most assessed open spaces in LBH (73%) rate above the quality thresholds set. Proportionally a higher percentage of parks and gardens (92%) rate above the threshold for quality. This is a reflection of their excellent appearance and high standard.

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Amenity greenspace has a higher proportion of sites to rate below the threshold than compared to other typologies; half of provision scores low for quality. This is thought to reflect the difference in the wide range and type of sites classified under this typology; as some sites are without additional features or facilities in comparison to others.

Table 3.2: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	50%	36%	53%	70%	4	18
Amenity greenspace	40%	9%	48%	75%	27	27
Cemeteries/churchyards	50%	66%	73%	89%	1	5
Provision for children & young people	60%	30%	66%	90%	8	32
Civic space	50%	51%	53%	56%	-	3
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	50%	18%	53%	86%	5	17
Park and gardens	60%	31%	71%	93%	2	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>9%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>124</b>

Four sites, all allotments, could not be accessed and therefore do not receive a score for quality or value. In addition, due to late inclusion an allotment and civic space do not receive a quality or value rating.

### 3.5 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 Havering.

The majority of sites (88%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. That nearly all typologies rate high for value reflects their role in and importance to local communities and environments.

Amenity greenspaces have a slightly higher proportion of low value provision. This reflects a lack of ancillary features at some sites leading to a lack of recreational use in comparison to other sites. The typology also contains a number of smaller sized sites. However, the value these provide in offering a visual and recreational amenity as well as a break in the built form can still be important.

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 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 that are thought of as bland and unattractive.

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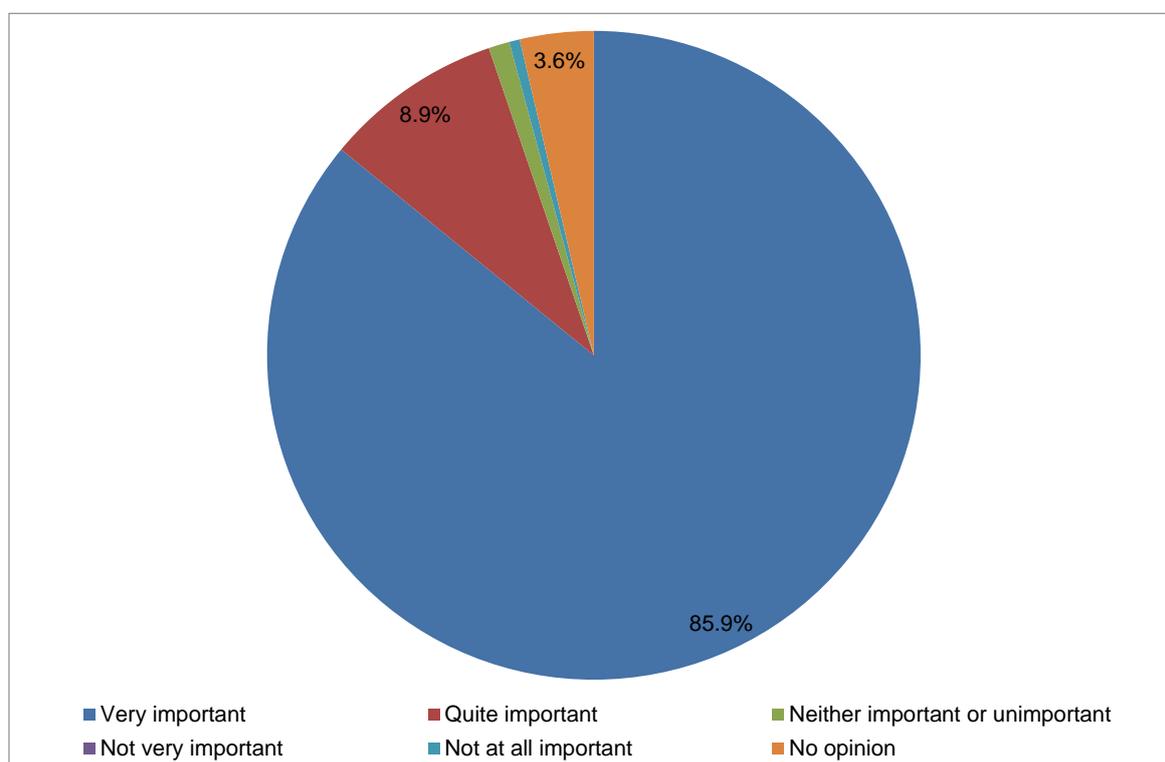
Table 3.3: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	20%	28%	37%	48%	-	22
Amenity greenspace	20%	4%	29%	61%	17	37
Cemeteries/churchyards	20%	30%	43%	59%	-	6
Provision for children & young people	20%	36%	60%	87%	-	40
Civic space	20%	42%	49%	53%	-	3
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	20%	12%	35%	64%	3	19
Park and gardens	20%	15%	54%	77%	1	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>150</b>

Four sites, all allotments, could not be accessed and therefore do not receive a score for quality or value. In addition, due to late inclusion an allotment and civic space do not receive a quality or value rating.

The majority of survey respondents (86%) view open spaces as very important; reflecting the high value placed on such provision and its continuing role and use as open spaces. A further 9% considers provision as being quite important. Only a small proportion views open space as either not very (10%) or not at all important (9%).

Figure 3.8: Importance of open spaces



### 3.6 Summary

#### General summary

- ◀ In total 176 sites in LBH are identified as open space provision. This is equivalent to over 1,200 hectares.
- ◀ Most typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 10 minute walk time. For certain typologies, such as play or amenity greenspace, a lower walk time of 5 minutes is applied. For others like natural greenspace greater distances are set.
- ◀ Nearly three fifths of all open spaces (73%) rate above the thresholds set for quality. Most noticeably, more parks and gardens score above the thresholds for quality than others.
- ◀ Conversely amenity greenspace has fewer sites scoring above the threshold. This tends to be due to the wider range and forms of provision of this type often with no features.
- ◀ The majority of all open spaces (88%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects the importance of open space provision and its role offering social, environmental and health benefits.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

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### PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This typology covers urban parks, country 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 24 sites classified as parks and gardens in the LBH, the equivalent of over 641 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology.

*Table 4.1: Distribution of parks by analysis area*

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number of sites	Total hectareage	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	12	115.18	1.01
North	7	334.55	4.83
South	5	191.34	2.89
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>641.07</b>	<b>2.58</b>

All analysis areas are identified as having provision of parks and gardens. The highest volume of provision (334 hectares) is to be found in the North Analysis Area. This is predominantly due to the location of Dagnam Park in this Area. At over 128 hectares it is the single largest park site in LBH. Subsequently the North Analysis Area also has a significantly greater proportion of provision per 1,000 head of population than the other analysis areas.

Other significant sized sites include Bedford's Park (86 hectares) and Havering Country Park (68 hectares) in the North Analysis Area and Harrow Lodge Park (53 hectares) in the Central Analysis Area as well as Hornchurch Country Park (119 hectares) and Belhus Woods Country Park (57 hectares) in the South Analysis Area. The latter is an Essex County Council owned site; a large proportion of which falls within Thurrock local authority area. Given its close proximity the site and its hectare size is counted within the figures for LBH.

Many of the sites classified as parks and gardens will also provide a secondary role to the provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace. For instance, larger sites such as Dagnam Park, Havering Country Park, Hornchurch Country Park and Belhus Wood Country Park all provide opportunities and functions often associated with natural greenspace. For the purpose of the study such sites are identified and categorised by their primary role.

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## 4.3 Accessibility

Consultation and findings from the Communities Survey found that most respondents would expect to travel over a 15 minute walk (26%) to access a park, although this was closely followed by an 11-15 minute walk (22%). For the purpose of mapping, a 15 minute walk time has been applied.

Figure 4.1 shows the standard applied to parks and gardens to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped against analysis area

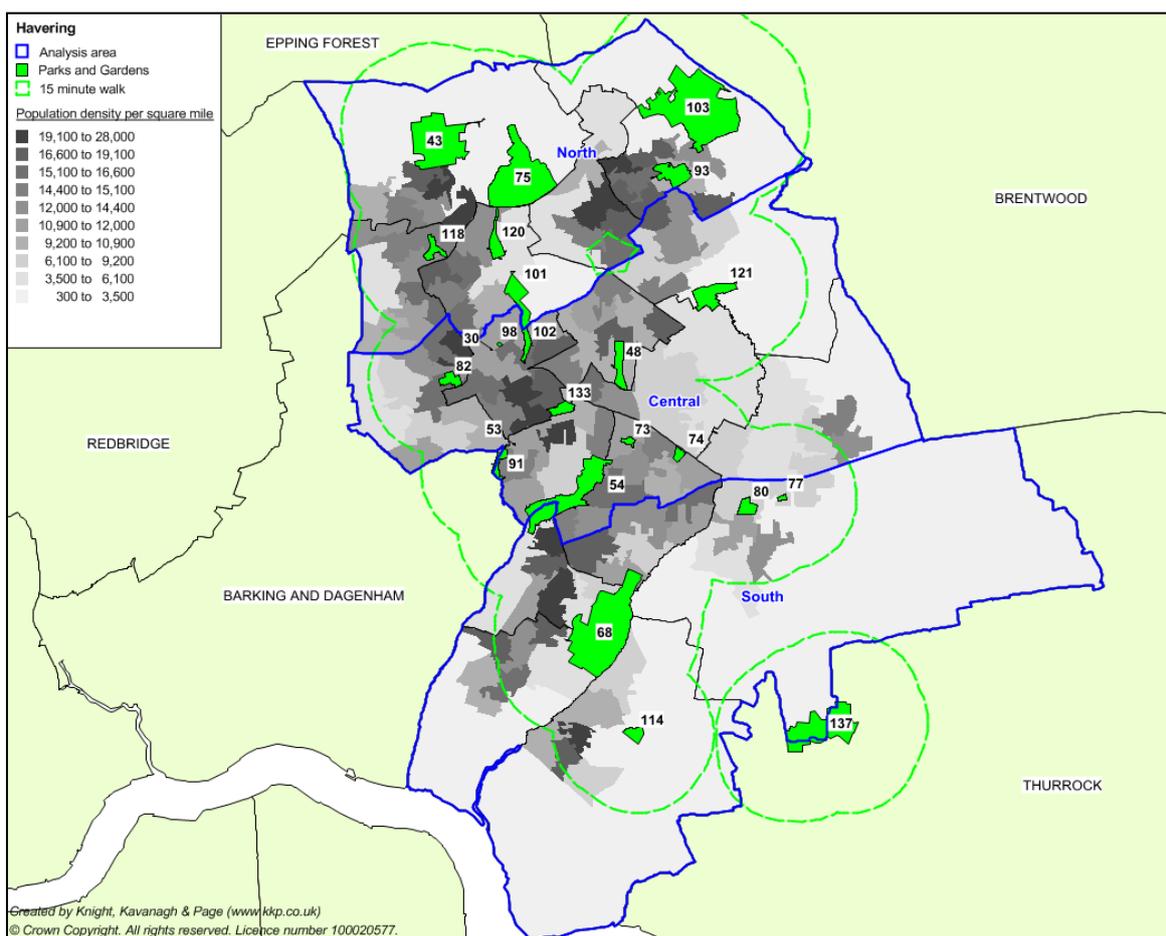


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
30	Romford Library Gardens	Central	Green	Green
43	Havering Country Park	North	Green	Green
48	Haynes Park	Central	Green	Green
53	Havering Well Garden	Central	Red	Red
54	Harrow Lodge Park	Central	Green	Green
68	Hornchurch C.P.	South	Green	Green

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
73	Langton's Gardens	Central		
74	St Andrews Park	Central		
75	Bedford's Park	North		
77	Clockhouse Gardens	South		
80	Upminster Park	South		
82	Cottons Park	Central		
91	Grenfell Park	Central		
93	Central Park	North		
98	Coronation Gardens	Central		
101	Raphael Park	North		
102	Lodge Farm Park	Central		
103	Dagnam Park	North		
114	Spring Farm Park	South		
118	Lawns Park	North		
120	Rise Park	North		
121	Harold Wood Park	Central		
133	Hylands Park	Central		
137	Belhus Woods Country Park	South		

There is generally a good coverage of parks based on a 15 minute walk time. The majority of areas that are densely populated are covered by the walk time catchment.

Slight catchment gaps are noted to the east of the Central Analysis Area and to the south west of the South Analysis Area. However, both gaps are covered by the catchments of other open space provision particularly amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. For example, the gap in the Central Analysis Area is served by Folkes Land Woodland and amenity greenspace such as Upminster Hall Playing Fields and Cranham Playing Fields. Similarly the Ingrebourne Hill site and amenity greenspace sites such as Mardyke Open Space and Brookway Playsite help to meet the identified gap. There are also gaps noted to east and south of the South Analysis Area. However, these appear to be areas of low population density. New forms of parks provision, in terms of accessibility, are not thought to be required to meet such catchment gaps.

Furthermore, no issue with regard to a deficiency in the amount of parks and gardens is highlighted either through consultation or via the Communities Survey results.

Council managed sites, including parks and gardens, are managed as part of the councils portfolio of open spaces. Sites reportedly receive regular visits which include regimes such as grass cutting, weeding and general site preservation (e.g. bench refurbishment, path checks).

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### 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 overleaf summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks in LBH. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Central	147	31%	65%	92%	61%	2	11
North	147	61%	71%	93%	32%	-	7
South	147	75%	84%	93%	18%	-	5
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>

Of the 24 park and garden sites in Havering 22 rate above the threshold whilst only two rate below; demonstrating the generally high standard of existing provision.

The Central Analysis Area is the only area to have any sites that rate below the threshold for quality; the sites are Havering Well Garden (42%) and Grenfell Park (31%). Both score low for maintenance and appearance due to litter and dog foul being observed at the time of the site visits. Pathways on site also appear poorer in comparison to other sites which may limit comfort of use by some users.

There is evidently a high standard of parks provision across Havering. Sites assessed as being of particularly high quality and rated well above the 60% threshold include:

- ◀ Upminster Park (93%)
- ◀ Raphael Park (93%)
- ◀ Harrow Lodge Park (92%)
- ◀ Bellhus Wood Country Park (88%) (outside of LBH)
- ◀ Romford Library Gardens (84%)
- ◀ Havering Country Park (71%)
- ◀ Hornchurch Country Park (68%)

Upminster Park and Raphael Park are the highest scoring sites in LBH for quality with 93%. Both are highlighted as having excellent landscaped features as well as a range of facilities such as equipped play provision for children, opportunities to purchase refreshments and sporting activities. Raphael Park is especially highlighted during consultation as a site of excellent quality that is popular for visiting.

Other park sites recognised during consultation as being to a very good standard in terms of quality are Bedfords Park, Langtons Gardens, Harrow Lodge Park, Havering Country Park and Hornchurch Country Park. Again sites are seen as being aesthetically pleasing and well maintained with plenty of appeal to a variety of users for different reasons; play, exercise, wildlife and relaxation.

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The maintenance and general appearance of the sites is also very good reflecting the status of many of the sites as being Green Flag Award accredited.

Langton Gardens has in 2015 received grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund. Funding was successfully achieved in order to help restore the site to its former glory and help reconnect it to the adjacent Fielders Field. Some of the restoration works on site include new entrances to improve public access, new wildlife habitats, seating and signage, a refreshment kiosk and toilets as well as the repairing of footpaths.

Raphael Park also successfully underwent redevelopment in 2014 with the help of HLF. This assisted in restoring and improving entrances, new planting, seating and a restaurant on site. The recent improvements are likely to explain the high number of comments and regular reference to the site throughout consultation.

Feedback from the consultation also asked users about any weaknesses of parks provision. The most common concerns highlighted were issues regarding litter and dog foul. In addition, some comments raised the issue of a lack of toilet facilities in general on sites.

Rise Park was specifically identified as a site in need of some attention. It rates just above the threshold for quality from the site visits. However, consultation highlights that the pavilion on site is derelict and in need of addressing. The facility can be an area of the park for young people to 'hang out' and occasionally misuse. The car park at the site can also suffer from misuse as well. Regeneration of the facility is part of the Friends of Rise Parks ambition to provide greater facilities/features for young people.

### ***Green Flag***

The Green Flag Award scheme is licensed and managed by Keep Britain Tidy. It provides national standards for parks and greenspaces across England and Wales. Public service agreements, identified by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) highlight the importance placed on Green Flag status as an indicator of high quality. This in turn impacts upon the way parks and gardens are managed and maintained.

A survey by improvement charity GreenSpace highlights that parks with a Green Flag Award provide more satisfaction to members of the public compared to those without it. Its survey of 16,000 park users found that more than 90% of Green Flag Award park visitors were very satisfied or satisfied with their chosen site, compared to 65% of visitors to non-Green Flag parks.

To gain the award sites must be maintained to a high standard. Currently there are ten sites in Havering that have Green Flag Award status. These include:

- ◀ Bedfords Park
- ◀ Belhus Wood Country Park
- ◀ Cottons Park
- ◀ Harold Wood Park
- ◀ Hylands Park
- ◀ Lawns Park
- ◀ Lodge Farm Park
- ◀ Raphael Park
- ◀ St Andrews Park
- ◀ Upminster Park

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The work of both Council maintenance team/contractors and the Friends of Groups located at sites are important to their continuing achievement. A worry over a lack of new friends joining existing friends of groups was mentioned during consultation. This maybe something that requires further investigation and attention in the near future.

### 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 in LBH. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central	110	17%	46%	72%	46%	1	11
North	110	34%	50%	70%	36%	-	7
South	110	38%	60%	70%	32%	-	5
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>

Nearly all parks are assessed as being of high value from the site visit assessments. This is fully supported from the findings of the consultation. All sites rating above the threshold demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits, ecological value and sense of place that Havering parks and gardens offer. The high value of sites is reflected and most likely partly a result of the added benefit provided by the 14 park sites identified as having a Friends of Group.

Havering Well Garden is the only site to rate below the threshold for value. The site also scores below the threshold for quality. Its low quality score and apparent level of use in addition to the issues of litter observed at the site results in its low value rating.

One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is that they can provide opportunities for local communities and people to socialise. The ability for people to undertake a range of different activities such as exercise, dog walking or taking children to the play area are frequently recognised.

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### 4.6 Summary

#### **Parks and gardens**

- ◀ 24 sites are classified as parks and gardens totalling 641 hectares.
- ◀ Catchment gaps are noted to the east of the Central Analysis Area and to the south west of the South Analysis Area. This is thought to be sufficiently serviced by other forms of open space such as amenity greenspace which provide opportunities to recreation.
- ◀ Nearly all parks score both above and below the threshold for quality. The lowest scoring site is Grenfell Park. Issues with litter are highlighted.
- ◀ High scoring sites for quality, such as Upminster Park and Raphael Park, do so due to the wide range of features they contain and the excellent standards of provision.
- ◀ There are several sites with Green Flag Award status.
- ◀ All sites (except one) are assessed as being of high value, with the important social interaction, health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being recognised.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

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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. cliffs, quarries, pits) and commons. Such sites are often associated with providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

#### 5.2 Current provision

In total 22 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 441 hectares of provision. 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 health and wellbeing; especially for instance in terms of mitigating climate change.

*Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area*

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	7	177.03	1.56
North	7	26.43	0.38
South	8	238.33	3.61
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>441.79</b>	<b>1.77</b>

In addition there are two sites located just outside the authority boundary in Thurrock; Coombe Woods (18.9 hectares) and Holden's Wood (36.5 hectares). Neither site is included in the quantity of provision. However, both are given a quality and value score.

Most provision is located in the South Analysis Area (238 hectares); followed by the Central Analysis Area (177 hectares). Subsequently the South Analysis Area has the greater proportion of provision per 1,000 population with 3.61 hectares. This is significantly higher standard than the Central Analysis Area (1.56 hectares per 1,000 population) and the North Analysis Area (0.38 hectares per 1,000 population).

The majority of the total amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace in the LBH (81%) can be attributed to eight large sites which are located in the area. This includes sites such as Cely Woods (65 hectares), Ingrebourne Hill (60 hectares) and Broadfields & Thames Chase Forest Centre (46 hectares) in the South Analysis Area as well as Pages Wood (43 hectares) in the Central Analysis Area.

These sites form part of the prevalent amount of woodlands identified across Havering. This is evidenced by the number of site observed as woods. Furthermore, the Thames Chase Community Forest also covers a large proportion of provision in LBH.

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It is important to recognise that other open spaces such as parks and amenity greenspace also provide opportunities and activities associated with natural and semi-natural greenspace; particularly the country parks classified under parks and gardens. Such sites are not included here as a sites classification is based on its primary typology.

### ***Designations***

In terms of national designations, there are seven local nature reserves (LNRs) identified in the LBH:

- ◀ The Chase (44.15 hectares)
- ◀ The Manor (aka Dagnam Park) (76.96 hectares)
- ◀ Ingrebourne Valley (146.62 hectares)
- ◀ Cranham Brickfields (8.69 hectares)
- ◀ Cranham Marsh (12.97 hectares)
- ◀ Bedfords Park (86.54 hectares)
- ◀ Rainham Marsh (79.19 hectares)

The Rainham Marsh is not included within the amount of quantity of natural and semi-natural greenspace due to restricted access/opening times. However, it is recognised as being a unique and important form of provision; both locally and nationally. The site, managed by the RSPB, is home to a number of rare species and also forms part of the Inner Thames Marshes SSSI site.

Within LBH there are also three sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI). Such sites are recognised for their high natural importance for current and future generations. The three sites in Havering are:

- ◀ Ingrebourne Marshes
- ◀ Inner Thames Marshes
- ◀ Hornchurch Cutting

The Inner Thames Marshes SSSI predominantly covers the Rainham Marsh RSPB site whilst the Ingrebourne Marshes SSSI runs through the Hornchurch Country Park and Ingrebourne Hill open space sites.

### **5.3 Accessibility**

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. They recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

- ◀ An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (five minutes walk) from home.
- ◀ At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home.
- ◀ One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home.
- ◀ One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home.
- ◀ One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

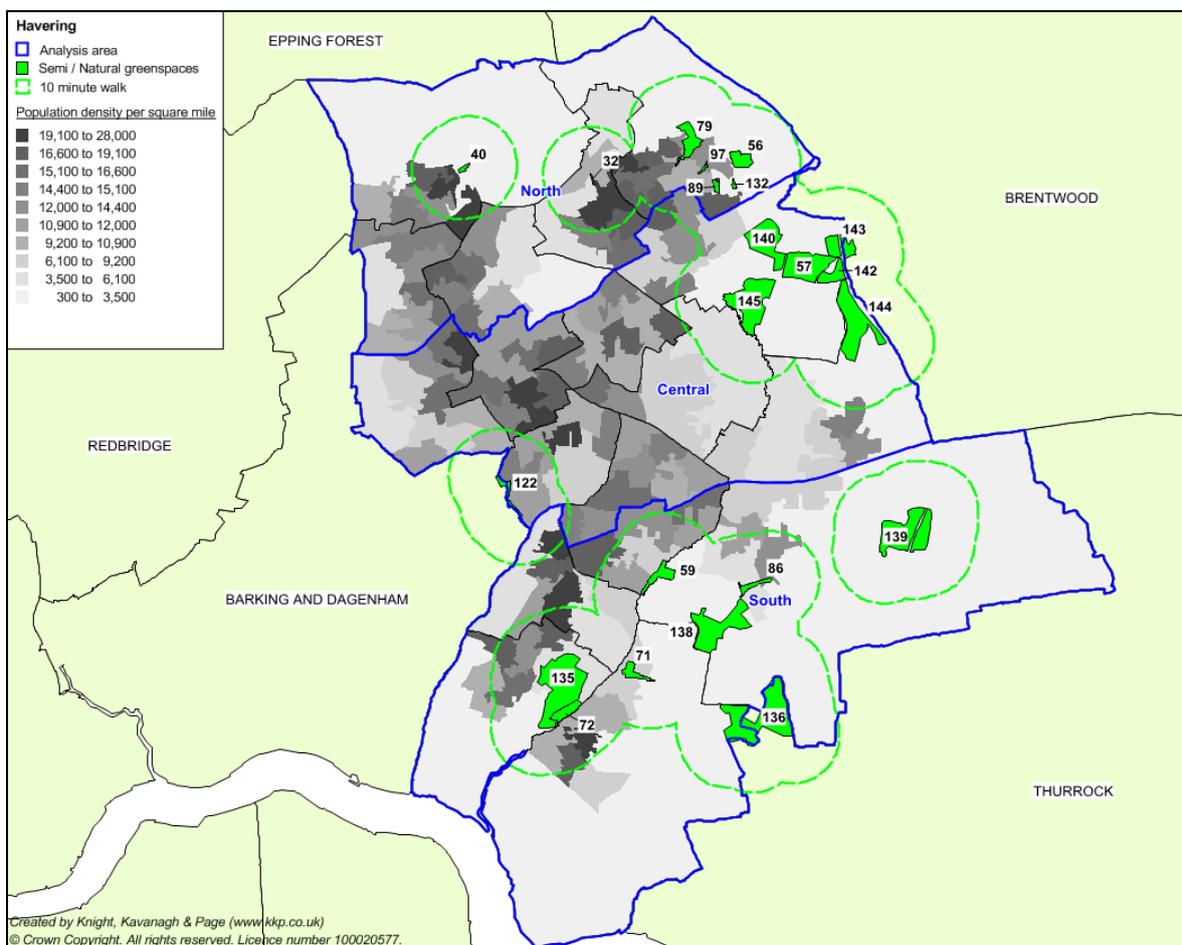
# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

On this basis a population such as LBH (247,714<sup>\*</sup>) is recommended to have approximately 247 hectares of LNR. Currently a total of 455 hectares is identified<sup>†</sup>.

This study, in order to comply with guidance uses locally informed standards. It does not focus on the ANGSt Standard for accessibility as this uses a different methodology for identifying accessible natural greenspace to that advocated in the Companion Guidance. Findings from the Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents in order to access a natural space was up to 30 minutes by transport (38%). Recently published guidance by Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests an approximate catchment guideline of a 10 minute walk. As a result, for the purpose of mapping a 10 minute walk time and a 30 minute drive time catchment have been applied.

Figure 5.1 and 5.2 show the standards applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

*Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace with 10 minute walk time mapped against analysis areas*



<sup>\*</sup> Greater London Authority Mid-Year Estimate 2015

<sup>†</sup> Not all LNRs identified in the study are classified as natural and semi-natural greenspace; for example some are categorised as parks. Size of LNR designation may also vary from the open space site.

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Figure 5.2: Natural and semi-natural greenspace with 30 minute drive time mapped against analysis areas

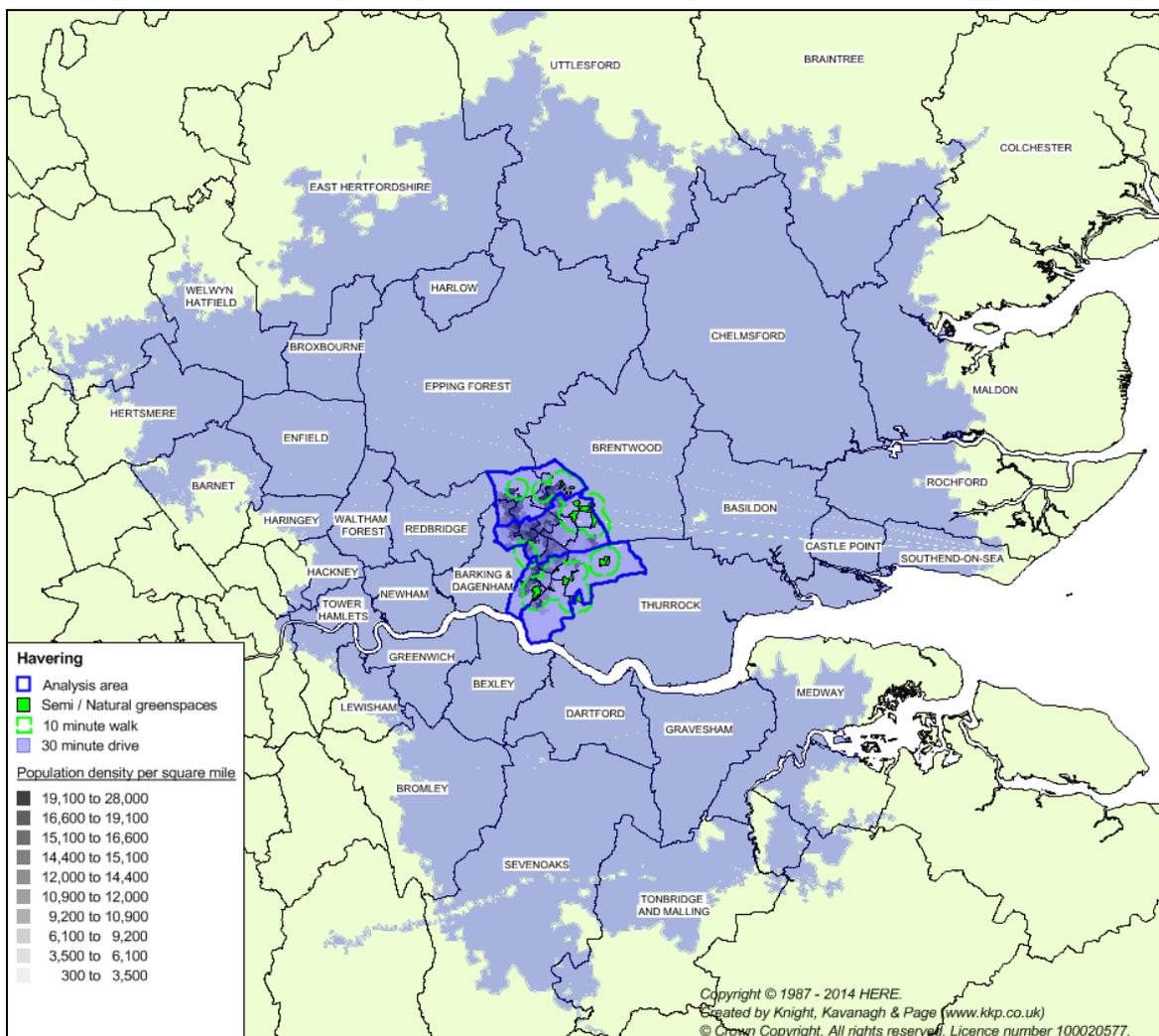


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
32	Straight Road Woodlands	North		
40	Haunted House Woods	North		
56	Duck Wood	North		
57	Tylers Common	Central		
59	Suttons Parkway	South		
71	Abbey Wood Open Space	South		
72	New Road Rainham	South		
79	Hatters Wood	North		
86	Parklands Open Space	South		
89	Shoulder of Mutton Wood	North		
97	Sage Wood	North		
122	The Chase	Central		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
132	Stratton Wood	North		
135	Ingrebourne Hill	South		
136	Cely Woods	South		
138	Bonnets Wood	South		
139	Broadfields & Thames Chase Forest Centre	South		
140	Harold Court Woods	Central		
141	Coombe Woods	Out		
142	Tyler Woods	Central		
143	Jackson's Wood	Central		
144	Folkes Lane Woodland	Central		
145	Pages Wood	Central		
146	Holden's Wood	Out		

Figure 5.2 shows all analysis areas are covered by the 30 minute drive time. Many surrounding neighbouring local authorities are also likely to be served by provision; particularly given the large size of some sites leading to a stronger characteristic as forms of destination sites.

The 10 minute walk time map shows that the majority of provision is located on the outskirts of the densely populated areas of LBH. Given sites are of natural and semi-natural provision it is not unusual for such sites to be in these locations. Furthermore, a number of these sites are large in size and provide a role not just locally but regionally. For example, The Thames Chase Community Forest and Rainham Marsh are situated in the area. Such sites offer a recognised high level of provision that individuals are willing to travel in order to access.

The more densely populated areas, not covered by walk time catchments of natural and semi-natural greenspace, contain sites classified as other forms of open space; particularly amenity greenspace and parks and gardens. Sites of these types of provision are likely to include features and opportunities associated with natural and semi-natural greenspace. It is therefore unlikely that new forms of natural and semi-natural greenspace provision will be required to meet this gap. However, ensuring that such sites include features and the long-term quality and access to the larger surrounding sites should be ensured.

The management and maintenance at most identified natural and semi-natural sites is split in terms of responsibility. In addition to the Council, the Thames Chase Trust and the Forestry Commission both have an active role in the management and maintenance of natural and semi-natural greenspace in LBH. Approximately over 340 hectares of natural and semi-natural greenspace is highlighted as being managed by the Trust; accounting for over 75% of total provision identified.

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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 in LBH. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Natural and semi-natural greenspace has a slightly lower quality threshold than other open space typologies. This reflects the characteristic of this kind of provision. For instance, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation and promotion of flora and fauna activity.

Table 5.3: Quality rating for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Central	110	31%	51%	67%	36%	1	6
North	110	18%	39%	54%	38%	4	3
South	110	53%	72%	86%	33%	-	8
<b>HAVERING</b>	110	<b>18%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>

A total of 17 natural and semi-natural sites (77%) in LBH rate above the threshold set for quality. However, there are five sites that rate below the quality threshold applied:

- ✦ Haunted House Woods (18%)
- ✦ Straight Road Woodlands (24%)
- ✦ Shoulder of Mutton Woods (30%)
- ✦ The Chase (31%)
- ✦ Sage Wood (39%)

The two lowest scoring sites (Haunted House Woods and Straight Road Woodlands) are observed as having an issue with litter. At time of the site visits both sites appeared to have evidence of fly tipping. Generally all five sites are viewed as having a poorer overall appearance in terms of cleanliness with access to quality pathways also being limited. Furthermore, Shoulder of Mutton Wood scores lower as it is noted as having large gaps in its boundary fencing during the time of visits.

Sites scoring above the threshold are observed as being attractive and generally well maintained; offering plenty of good quality ancillary features such as bins, benches, parking and pathways. They are considered to be well used by people for recreational purposes whilst also offering significant opportunities for wildlife promotion. Sites scoring particularly high include:

- ✦ Cely Woods (86%)
- ✦ Broadfields & Thames Chase Forest Centre (81%)
- ✦ Ingrebourne Hill (81%)

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All three sites are observed as having excellent features and facilities. For instance, each has the added benefit of car parking whilst the other features on site (e.g. pathways, signage, information, seating etc) are viewed as being to an excellent standard. All three sites are also identified as being managed by the Forestry Commission as part of the Thames Chase Community Woodland and Trust.

In general sites rating above the threshold for quality are viewed as being well maintained with access to a number of other features and facilities on site.

Whilst not classified within natural and semi-natural greenspace, the country parks within Havering are also regularly recognised through consultation as being high quality forms of open space provision which contribute to the perception and opportunities associated with natural greenspace.

### 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 in LBH. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.4: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central	104	19%	32%	52%	33%	1	6
North	104	12%	25%	41%	29%	2	5
South	104	29%	45%	64%	35%	-	8
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>

The majority of natural and semi-natural greenspaces (86%) rate above the threshold for value. Only three sites rate below the threshold; Straight Road Woodlands (12%), Haunted House Woods (17%) and The Chase (19%).

All three sites score below the threshold for both value and quality. They do not appear to be particularly well used although the habitat opportunities they provide are recognised; The Chase is noted as being a Local Nature Reserve. The low quality scores show them to be lacking in general maintenance and cleanliness in comparison to other sites. For example, all three are observed as having an issue with litter and/or fly tipping.

The highest scoring site for value is the Broadfields & Thames Chase Forest Centre (64%). The site is extensive and attractive, offering various opportunities to a range people and activities (e.g. nature enthusiasts, tourists, families).

### 5.6 Summary

#### **Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary**

- ◀ LBH has 22 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering 441 hectares. The area also contains the nationally recognised Rainham Marshes RSPB Reserve.
- ◀ The 30 minute drive time accessibility standard shows no shortfalls. However, gaps are highlighted from the 10 minute walk time catchment; mostly the densely populated areas. New natural sites are not thought to be required to meet this gap but there may be a need to ensure that other types of open spaces contain such associated features.
- ◀ There are seven designated LNRs in LBH which means the area sufficiently meets the ANGSt standard recommended for provision.
- ◀ Natural greenspace sites are of good quality with 77% rating above the threshold.
- ◀ Sites rating below the threshold are due to a poor general appearance and cleanliness. Often other issues are observed such as litter and fly tipping.
- ◀ Nearly all sites rate above the threshold for value. Only three score below the threshold; Straight Road Woodlands, Shoulder of Mutton and The Chase. These also rate low for quality. However, their role as habitat provision is acknowledged.
- ◀ Higher scoring sites for value, such as Broadfields & Thames Chase Forest Centre, provide an excellent range of opportunities and uses for visitors.

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## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

#### 6.1 Introduction

This is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.

#### 6.2 Current provision

There are 54 amenity greenspace sites in LBH; equivalent to over 129 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space along highways that provide a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

*Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	20	44.85	0.39
North	16	47.20	0.68
South	18	37.02	0.56
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>129.06</b>	<b>0.52</b>

Of the 54 sites, three are identified as potentially having restricted or limited access:

- ◀ A12/Whitelands Way
- ◀ Rainham Creekside Path
- ◀ The Dell

It is uncertain whether these sites are publicly accessible. All three appear to be fenced or locked with no obvious access being noted.

Site sizes of provision vary from the smallest incidental highway verge open space, such as South End Road Land at 0.05 hectares, to the largest, Upminster Hall Playing Field, at over 13 hectares.

It is important to note that whilst a large proportion of provision may be considered as being small grassed areas or visual landscaped space, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example playing fields, such as Brittons Playing Field and King Georges Playing Field are included under amenity greenspace. These serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational activities due to their size and facilities.

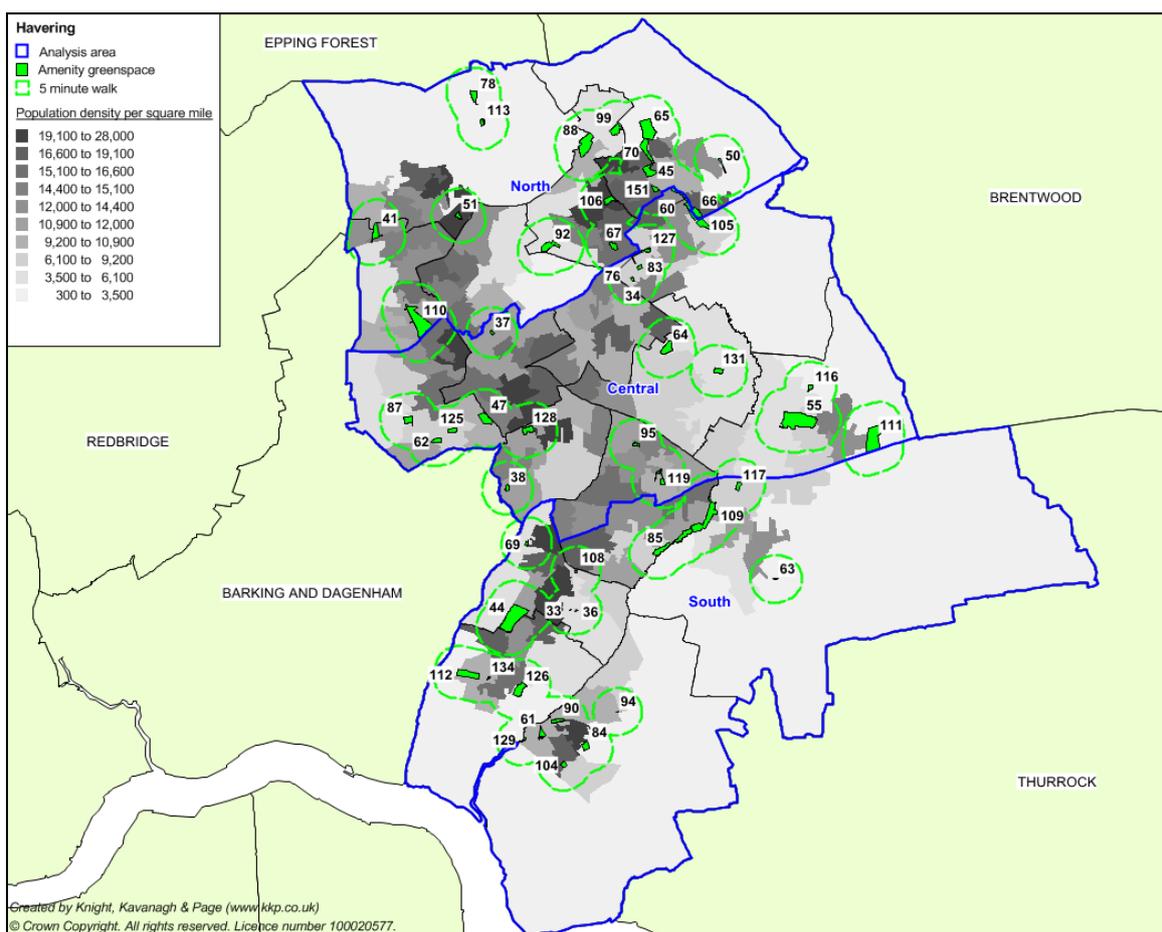
# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

## 6.3 Accessibility

Findings from the Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents in order to access amenity greenspace is less than a five minute walk (22%). This is followed closely by a 5-10 minute walk (19%) and an 11-15 minute walk (19%). An approximate catchment guideline of a five minute walk is suggested by guidance published by Fields In Trust (FIT).

As a result, for the purpose of mapping a five minute walk time and a 10 minute walk time catchment have been applied. Figure 6.1 and 6.2 show the standards applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace with five minute walk time mapped against analysis area



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Figure 6.2: Amenity greenspace with 10 minute walk time mapped against analysis area

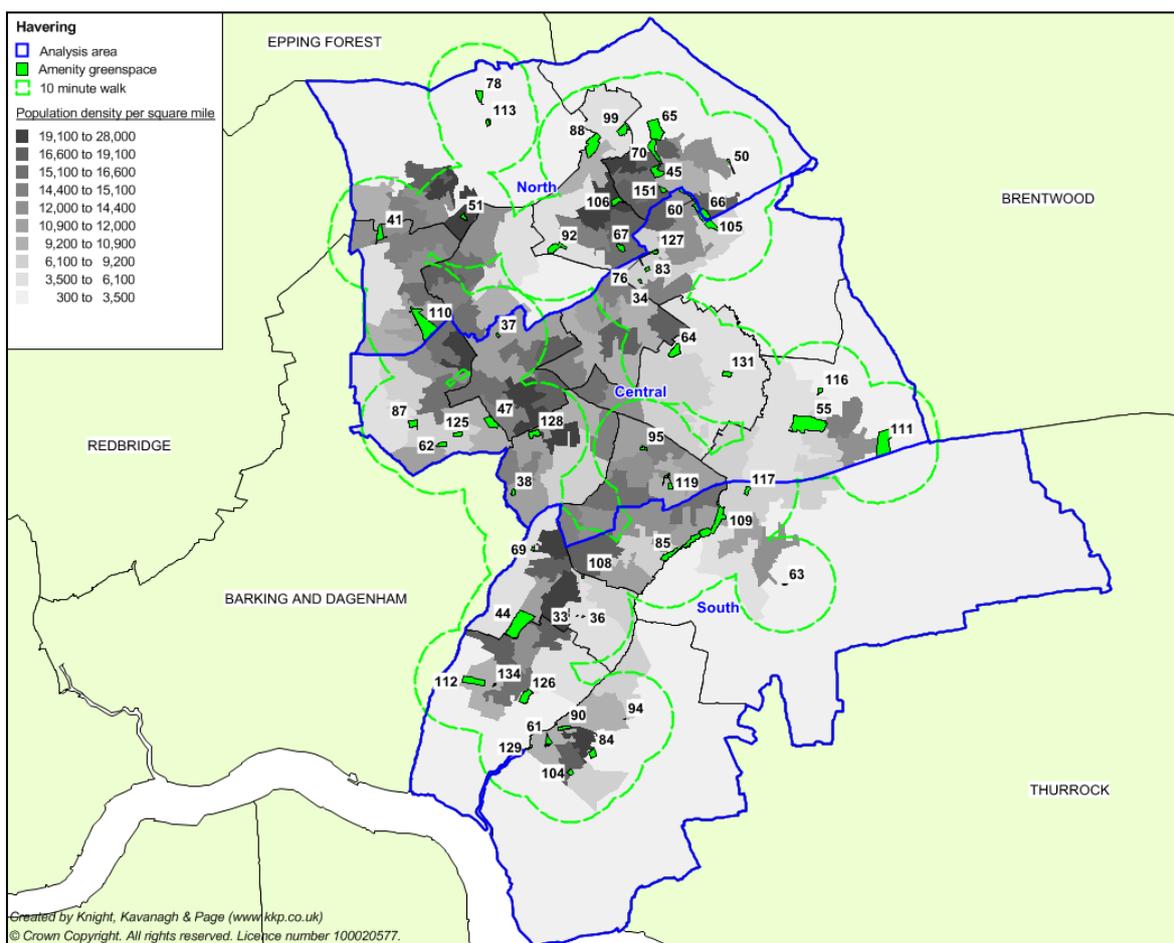


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
33	South End Road Land	South		
34	Chadwick Drive Flood Lagoon	Central		
36	Airfield Way Open Space	South		
37	Dickens Way Open Space	Central		
38	Bancroft Chase Playsite and Open Space	Central		
41	Collier Row Recreation Ground	North		
44	Brittons Playing Field	South		
45	Central Park Leisure	North		
47	Romford Ice Rink*	Central		
50	Sheffield Drive Open Space	North		
51	Chelmsford Avenue Playsite	North		
55	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	Central		
60	Painsbrook Open Space	Central		
61	Rainham Recreation Ground	South		
62	Rush Green Open Space	Central		

\* Site has planning application for foodstore within Class A1 (retail) use, petrol filling station, associated parking and landscaping and outline application for up to 71 residential units (reference P1468.1)

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
63	Ockendon Road Verge	South		
64	Tyle Green Open Space	Central		
65	Priory Road Open Space	North		
66	St Neots Adventure Playground	North		
67	Farringdon Avenue Flood Lagoon	North		
69	The Glen, Elm Park	South		
70	Chudleigh Road Open Space	North		
76	A12/Whitelands Way Bund	Central		
78	Havering Playing Field	North		
83	Sunflower Way Flood Lagoon	Central		
84	The Glens Playsite Rainham	South		
85	Hacton Parkway and Playsite	South		
87	Jutsums Recreation Ground	Central		
88	Broxhill Centre	North		
90	Stirling Close	South		
92	Keats Avenue	North		
94	Briscoe Road Verge	South		
95	Queens Theatre Green	Central		
99	North Hill Recreation Ground	North		
104	Brookway Playsite	South		
105	Painsbrook Playsite and Open Space	Central		
106	Myrtle Road/Chatteris Avenue Open Space	North		
108	Louis Marchasi Playsite (Maybank)	South		
109	Gaynes Parkway	South		
110	King Georges Playing Field	North		
111	Cranham Playing Fields	Central		
112	Mardyke Adventure Playground	South		
113	Havering Village Green	North		
116	Fleet Close Playsite	Central		
117	Windmill Field	South		
119	The Dell	Central		
125	Lilliput Road Open Space	Central		
126	Lessa Playsite and Open Space	South		
127	Cornflower Way Open Space	Central		
128	Park Lane Recreation Ground	Central		
129	Rainham Creekside Path	South		
131	Elliot Playing Field	Central		
134	Maytree Close	South		
151	Gooshays Garden	North		

Catchment mapping with a 10 minute walk time applied shows a generally good level of coverage across LBH.

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Against the five minute walk time catchment there are some noticeable gaps to the Central Analysis Area as well as to parts of the North Analysis Area (i.e. areas not covered by the catchment of a site). However, such gaps are observed as containing provision of other open space types. The catchment gap to the North area is served by sites such as Havering Country Park and Lawns Park. Similarly the gaps in the Central area contain Lodge Farm Park and Cotton Park. It is, as per a number of the other typologies, unlikely that new provision is required as the area is served by other forms of open space provision.

### 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 in LBH. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Central	114	9%	46%	75%	66%	11	9
North	114	11%	49%	75%	64%	7	9
South	114	16%	49%	80%	64%	9	9
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>

The proportion of sites to rate above or below the threshold in LBH is equal. Proportionally, more sites in the Central Analysis Area rate below the threshold (55%). This is a slightly greater proportion than the other analysis areas. In addition to having two of the sites previously highlighted as having restricted or limited access. The analysis area also has a number of sites poorer in appearance due to a lack of apparent maintenance. For example, Rush Green Open Space (18%) and Cornflower Way Open Space (32%) are both viewed as having a lower level of general appearance and cleanliness.

However, it is important to recognise that despite rating below the threshold for quality, they may still have the potential to be important to the community. For instance, if a site is the only form of open space in that local area it may be of high value given it is the only provision of its type. It may also provide an aesthetically pleasing function.

Some of the lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites in LBH are:

- ◀ A12/Whitelands Way (9%)
- ◀ Keats Avenue (11%)
- ◀ Briscoe Road (16%)
- ◀ Rush Green Open Space (18%)
- ◀ Maytree Close (18%)

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Most sites that rate low for quality are observed as being fairly basic pockets of green space. These tend to lack ancillary facilities to encourage extensive recreational use. Keats Avenue is noted as being slightly overgrown and having broken glass. It is also one of only a few sites highlighted through consultation as a site viewed as being poorer in general quality and appearance. Evidence of litter and fly tipping is also observed at Maytree Close Terrace.

The only other site showing sign of misuse is North Hill Recreation Ground where evidence of motorbikes/quads was observed. Despite this, the site still scores above the threshold for quality.

The highest scoring sites for quality in LBH are:

- ◀ Windmill Field (80%)
- ◀ King Georges Playing Field (75%)
- ◀ Queens Theatre Grounds (75%)
- ◀ Brittons Playing Field (73%)
- ◀ Painsbrook Play & Open Space (72%)
- ◀ Painsbrook Open Space (70%)

High scoring sites, such as the ones above, reflect the range of ancillary facilities available as well as the good standard of appearance and maintenance found at such sites. They also have plenty of ancillary facilities such as bins, benches, picnic tables and in some cases parking. Features such as these contribute to their overall quality and help to create more opportunities and reasons for people to access such provision.

Despite being one of the highest rating sites; the Queens Theater Green is perceived to be one of the worst open space sites from the workshop consultation. This is likely to be due to it being seen by participants as a form of provision similar to a park (although it is classified as an amenity greenspace). Its prominent position next to the theater is also likely to affect its role and perceived level of quality by respondents. Relating to this, the site is acknowledged as having potential to be enhanced further if desired.

### 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 in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central	100	4%	29%	54%	50%	7	13
North	100	11%	29%	44%	33%	3	13
South	100	6%	28%	61%	55%	7	11
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>37</b>

Similar to quality, most amenity greenspaces (69%) rate above the threshold for value. Overall a greater proportion of sites are rated high value compared to quality.

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Sites scoring below the value threshold tend to be grassed areas with no noticeable features, many are highway verge style sites, which are small in size and lack any noticeable features thus their low value rating. They are acknowledged to provide some visual amenity to their locality and it is important to note that the main role of certain sites is to simply act as a grassed area, providing breaks in the urban form.

The 17 sites that rate below the threshold for value also rate low for quality. Some of the lowest scoring sites are:

- ◀ A12/Whitelands Way
- ◀ Airfield Way Open Space
- ◀ Briscoe Road
- ◀ Maytree Close
- ◀ Rush Green Open Space
- ◀ The Glen, Elm Park.

All six appear to be unused with questions over access in addition to issues of litter on some sites. Hence they rate low for value and quality.

Some of the highest scoring sites for value in LBH are:

- ◀ Windmill Field
- ◀ Mardyke Open Space
- ◀ Painsbrook Open Space
- ◀ Dickens Way Open Space

These are recognised for the accessible recreational opportunity they offer at an excellent level of quality and for a wide range of users. Windmill Field provides historical and educational value while Mardyke Open Space has a number of features such as sports provision and play facilities that meet the needs of a variety of people.

Amenity greenspace should also 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 in LBH 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 sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

### 6.6 Summary

#### Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 54 amenity greenspace sites in LBH; 129 hectares of amenity space.
- ◀ Provision is relatively evenly spread across LBH. Although the Central Analysis Area has a slightly lower amount per 1,000 populations (0.39) compared to 0.68 and 0.56 respectively for the North and South areas.
- ◀ The 10 minute walk time suggests a good level of coverage. Gaps in provision are noted against a five minute walk time. These are, however, served by other open space typologies.
- ◀ Overall amenity greenspaces quality is positive. Half of sites rate above the threshold and only a handful face any specific issues; some due to size, access or maintenance.
- ◀ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence most sites rate above the threshold for value.
- ◀ 17 sites rate low for quality and value. Where they cannot be improved, some may be better suited to be/become different forms of open space or could feasibly be surplus.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

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### PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

#### 7.1 Introduction

This includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, 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 40 sites are identified in LBH as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of more than six hectares. The table below shows the distribution. 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 by analysis area*

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	18	2.30	0.02
North	10	1.72	0.03
South	12	2.40	0.04
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>6.42</b>	<b>0.03</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.

It is not possible to classify play sites within LBH by the FIT guidance due to the position and subdivision of site polygons within the audit. However, it is possible identify those sites designed to cater for older age ranges.

There are 22 sites identified within LBH identified as containing some form of provision intended to serve teenagers and older age children. In some instances sites contain more than one type of facility.

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Table 7.2: Distribution of provision for older ages

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people				
	Basketball	BMX	MUGA	Skate Park	Youth Shelter
Central	1	-	7	4	3
North	-	1	5	2	-
South	1	-	6	1	6
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>

Each analysis area contains provision of these types with MUGA being noted as the most abundant form of provision. Facilities like MUGA or basketball areas can cater for a wide range of ages not just older aged groups. Specific sites identified as having a wide range of play provision including that which serves older age groups include:

- ◀ Brittons Playing Field
- ◀ Central Park
- ◀ Cottons Park
- ◀ Harold Wood Park
- ◀ Harrow Lodge Park
- ◀ King Georges Playing Field

The Central Park site is identified as containing the only BMX facility within LBH. However, some sites with skate facilities/ramps such as Harrow Lodge Park and Cottons Park are likely to also help accommodate some demand for BMX use.

In addition, there are 14 sites identified as containing outdoor gym equipment. Such provision does not solely provide exercise and health benefits for children.

### 7.3 Accessibility

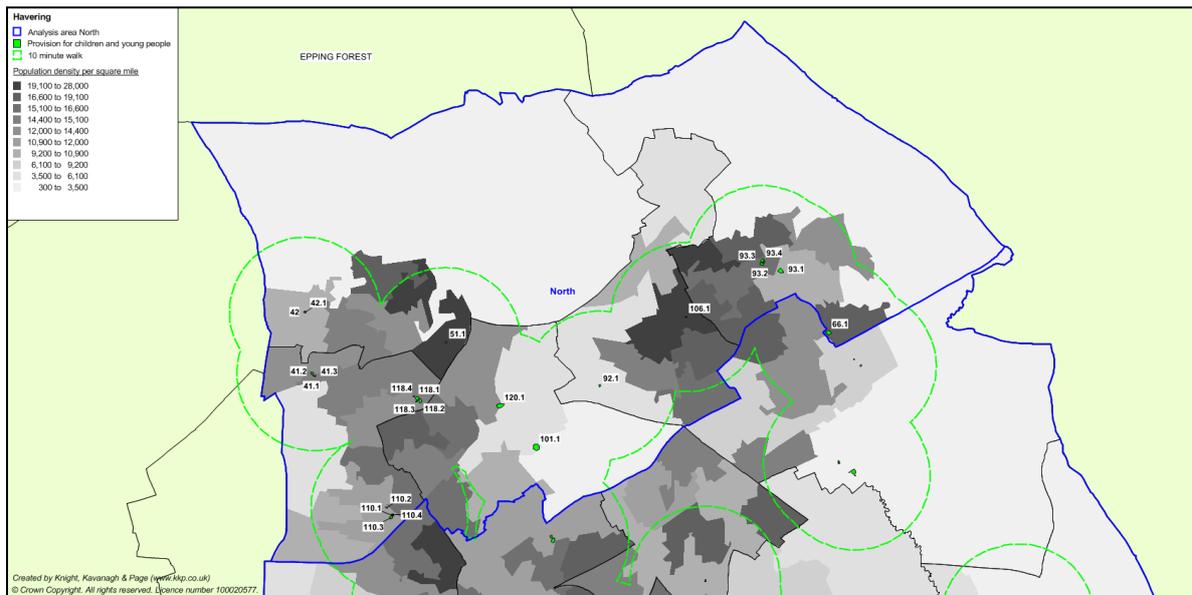
Findings from the Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents in order to access provision for children and young people is an 11-15 minute walk (24%); followed by a 5-10 minute walk (19%).

Recently published guidance by Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests an approximate catchment guideline of an approximate 5-10 minute walk. As a result, for the purpose of mapping a 10 minute walk time catchment has been applied.

Figure 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 show the standards applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

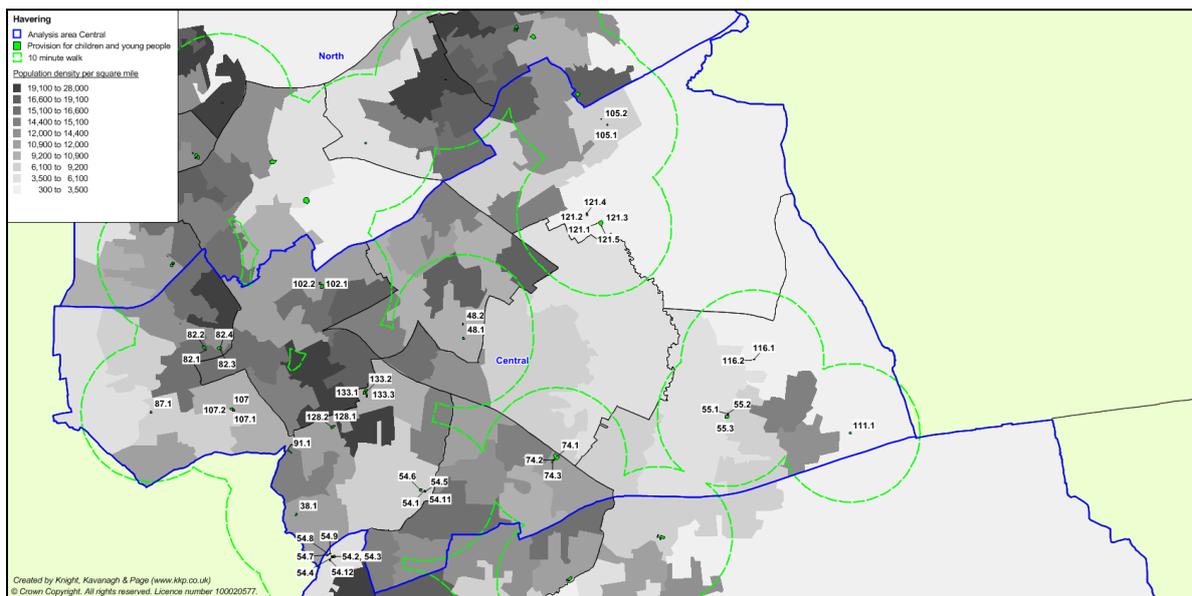
# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people mapped against North area



No significant gaps in provision for children and young people are noted in the North Analysis Area based on the application of a 10 minute walk time catchment.

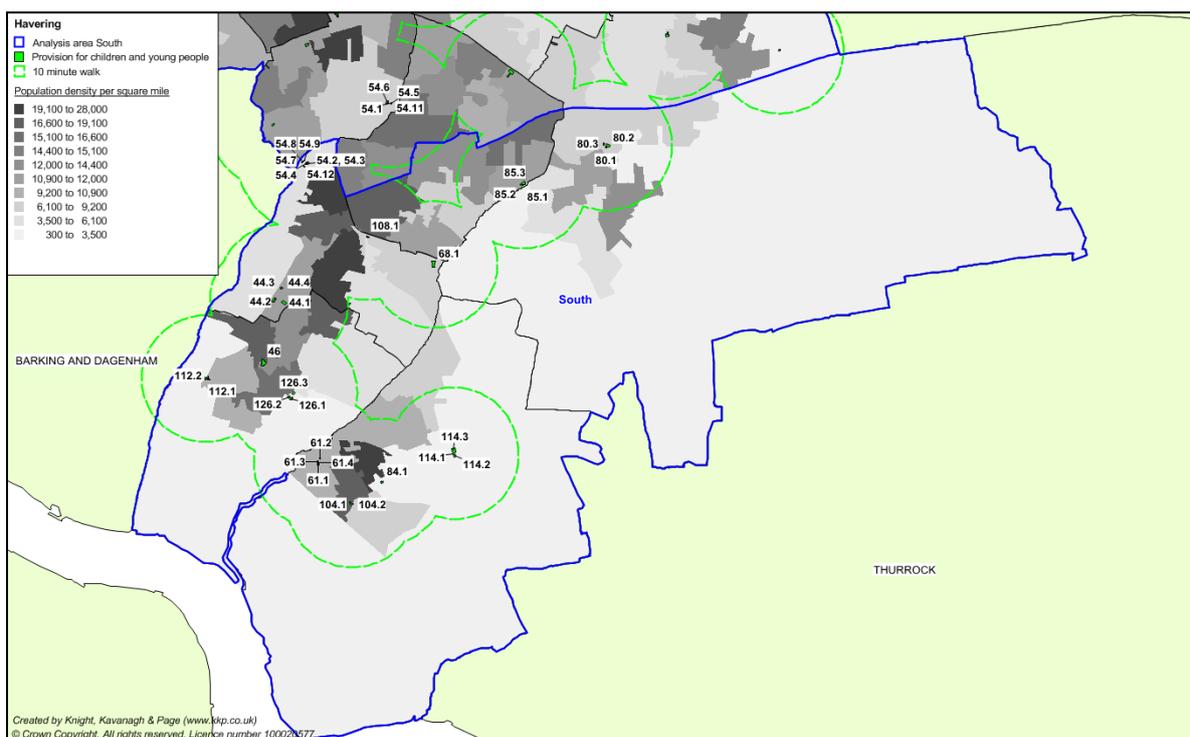
Figure 7.2: Provision for children and young people mapped against Central area



Based on the application of a 10 minute walk time catchment a gap in provision for children and young people is observed to the Gallows Corner area of the Central Analysis Area. A gap is also noted to less densely populated area of Emerson Park.

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Figure 7.3: Provision for children and young people mapped against South area



There is a slight gap in walk time catchment mapping noted to the border of the Central Analysis Area. Gaps in play provision are also observed to the east of Rainham and in the Corbets Tey areas.

Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
38.1	Bancroft Chase Playsite	Central	Red	Green
41.1	Collier Row Recreation Ground	North	Red	Green
42	Forest Row Playsite	North	Green	Green
44.1	Brittons Playing Field	South	Green	Green
46	Whybridge Close Playsite	South	Red	Green
48.1	Haynes Park	Central	Green	Green
51.1	Chelmsford Avenue Play	North	Green	Green
54.1	Harrow Lodge Park	Central	Green	Green
54.11	Harrow Lodge Park	Central	Green	Green
54.12	Harrow Lodge Park	Central	Green	Green
55.1	Upminster Hall Playing Field	Central	Green	Green
61.1	Rainham Recreation Ground	South	Green	Green
66.1	St Neots Open Space	North	Red	Green
68.1	Hornchurch Country Park	South	Green	Green
74.1	St Andrews Park	Central	Green	Green
80.1	Upminster Park	South	Green	Green
82.1	Cottons Park	Central	Green	Green
84.1	The Glen Rainham	South	Green	Green

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
85.1	Hacton Parkway	South		
87.1	Jutsums Recreation Ground	Central		
91.1	Grenfell Park	Central		
93.1	Central Park	North		
101.1	Raphael Park	North		
102.1	Lodge Farm Park	Central		
104.1	Brookway Playsite	South		
105.1	Painbrook Adventure Playground	Central		
106.1	Myrtle Road	North		
107	Oldchurch Park Playsite	Central		
108.1	Louis Marchesi Playsite	South		
110.1	King Georges Playing Field	North		
111.1	Cranham Playing Fields	Central		
112.1	Mardyke Open Space	South		
114.1	Spring Farm Park	South		
116.1	Fleet Close Playsite	Central		
118.1	Lawns Park	North		
120.1	Rise Park	North		
121.1	Harold Wood Park	Central		
126.1	Lessa Open Space	South		
128.1	Park Lane Recreation Ground	Central		
133.1	Hylands Park	Central		

There is generally a good spread of provision across LBH. Most areas with a greater population density are within walking distance of a form of play provision. The North Analysis Area in particular appears to be well served from the catchment mapping.

However, there are a handful of gaps in the walk time catchment mapping observed in the other analysis areas. There may be a need for some forms of additional play provision to serve these gaps. The need for gaps in walk time mapping to be met by new forms of provision will be explored in the Recommendations Paper to follow.

### 7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by 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 quality assessment for play provision for children and young people in LBH. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Quality assessments of play sites do 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.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 7.4: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Central	112	30%	67%	90%	60%	3	15
North	112	54%	65%	80%	26%	3	7
South	112	46%	66%	80%	34%	2	10
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>

The majority of sites are assessed as above the threshold (80%) for quality. There is however a significant spread between the highest and lowest scoring sites particularly in the Central Analysis Area.

For instance in the Central Analysis Area, the Fleet Close Playsite scores 30% compared to the Harrow Lodge Park facilities (90%). The low score for Fleet Close Playsite reflects its lack of controls to prevent misuse, paths and limited range of play equipment; the site is observed as having only two sets of swings and a see saw. In contrast, Harrow Lodge Park rates the highest score in the analysis area due to its range and excellent condition of play equipment. It also benefits from extensive additional features such as seating, bins and fencing. Other sites to receive particularly high ratings for quality include:

- ◀ Lodge Farm Park (75%)
- ◀ Harold Wood Park (74%)
- ◀ Cottons Park (72%)
- ◀ Cranham Playing Fields (70%)

These sites are all noted as having a range and good standard of equipment catering for different ages. The sites also contain other ancillary features such as benches and bins which are assessed as being of a generally excellent condition. Furthermore, sites such as Cottons Park and Harold Wood Park also benefit from having extended provision catering for older age ranges (i.e. skate park, MUGA).

There are eight sites to rate below the threshold for quality. Some of the lowest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Fleet Close Playsite (30%)
- ◀ Jutsums Recreation Ground (44%)
- ◀ Whybridge Close Playsite (46%)
- ◀ Brookway Playsite (48%)
- ◀ St Neots (54%)

As mentioned earlier, the low score for Fleet Close Playsite reflects its limited range of play equipment and lack of controls and paths on site. A lack of paths along with no fencing being present is also identified as detrimental to the score of Brookway Playsite.

The Jutsums Recreation Ground, Whybridge Close and St Neots sites are observed as being of a poorer general appearance and quality. Specific site visit comments highlight that the general level of maintenance and cleanliness of the sites as lower. Play provision at Jutsums Recreation Ground is also viewed as being in an isolated location without any informal surveillance or sightlines.

Two sites were identified as being under construction and/or receiving improvements during the site visit process. The play provision at both Upminster Hall Playing Field and Myrtle Road were observed as having repair and improvement works being carried out.

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### 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 in LBH. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and 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 by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central	47	36%	57%	89%	53%	-	18
North	47	38%	49%	79%	41%	-	10
South	47	49%	68%	87%	38%	-	12
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40</b>

All play provision in LBH is 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, to socialise with others and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments.

Sites scoring particularly high for value tend to reflect the size and amount/range and standard of equipment present on site. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Harrow Lodge Park (89%)
- ◀ Upminster Park (87%)
- ◀ Cottons Park (83%)
- ◀ Mardyke Play Area (83%)
- ◀ Brittons Playing Field (81%)

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages is also essential. More specifically, provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are highly valued forms of play. Sites containing such forms of provision tend to rate higher for value; as evidenced by the sites listed above all containing these types of facilities.

It is also important to recognise the benefits of play in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value. The importance of play and of children's rights to play in their local communities is essential.

### 7.6 Summary

#### **Provision for children and young people summary**

- ◀ There are 40 play provision sites in LBH; a total of over six hectares.
- ◀ Over half of play provision sites (22) are identified as also containing play facilities catering for older age ranges. There are also 14 sites with outdoor gym equipment.
- ◀ The South Analysis Areas has the highest amount of provision per 1,000 populations. Not surprisingly the area has the greater amount of total provision.
- ◀ The 10 minute walk time accessibility standard covers the majority of the area. However, there are a few gaps noted in the Central and South Analysis Areas.
- ◀ The majority (80%) play sites are above the threshold for quality. Quality is generally good. There are a few sites where a perceived lack of maintenance and appearance is noted.
- ◀ All play provision is rated above the threshold for value.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

#### 8.1 Introduction

Allotments is a typology which covers open spaces that provide opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction. This includes provision such as allotments, community gardens and city farms.

#### 8.2 Current provision

There are 27 sites classified as allotments in LBH, equating to over 35 hectares. All of these sites are council owned. 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 by analysis area

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Central	12	20.03	0.18
North	7	5.02	0.07
South	8	11.89	0.18
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36.94</b>	<b>0.15</b>

Most sites are located in the Central Analysis Area (12). Not surprisingly, most hectares of provision (20.03 hectares) are to be found in the same area. However, the South Analysis Area, along with the Central Analysis Area, also has the greatest amount of provision per 1,000 populations with 0.18 hectares.

Overall, there are a combined total of circa 1,000 plots, including half plots, identified at Council sites across LBH. The number offered at each site varies with the largest site being Pretoria Road Allotments (9.5 hectares) in the Central Analysis Area. The smallest site is Macon Way Allotments (0.18 hectares) also in the Central Analysis Area.

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 200 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).

Havering, as a whole, based on its current population (247,714) does not meet the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for LBH is 61.93 hectares. Existing provision of 36.94 hectares therefore does not meet the NSALG standard.

#### 8.3 Accessibility

Consultation and findings from the Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents in order to access an allotment was over a 5-10 minute walk (38%). followed by an 11-15 minute walk (31%). As a result, for the purpose of mapping a 10 minute walk time has been applied.

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Figure 8.1 shows the standard applied to allotments to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped against analysis areas

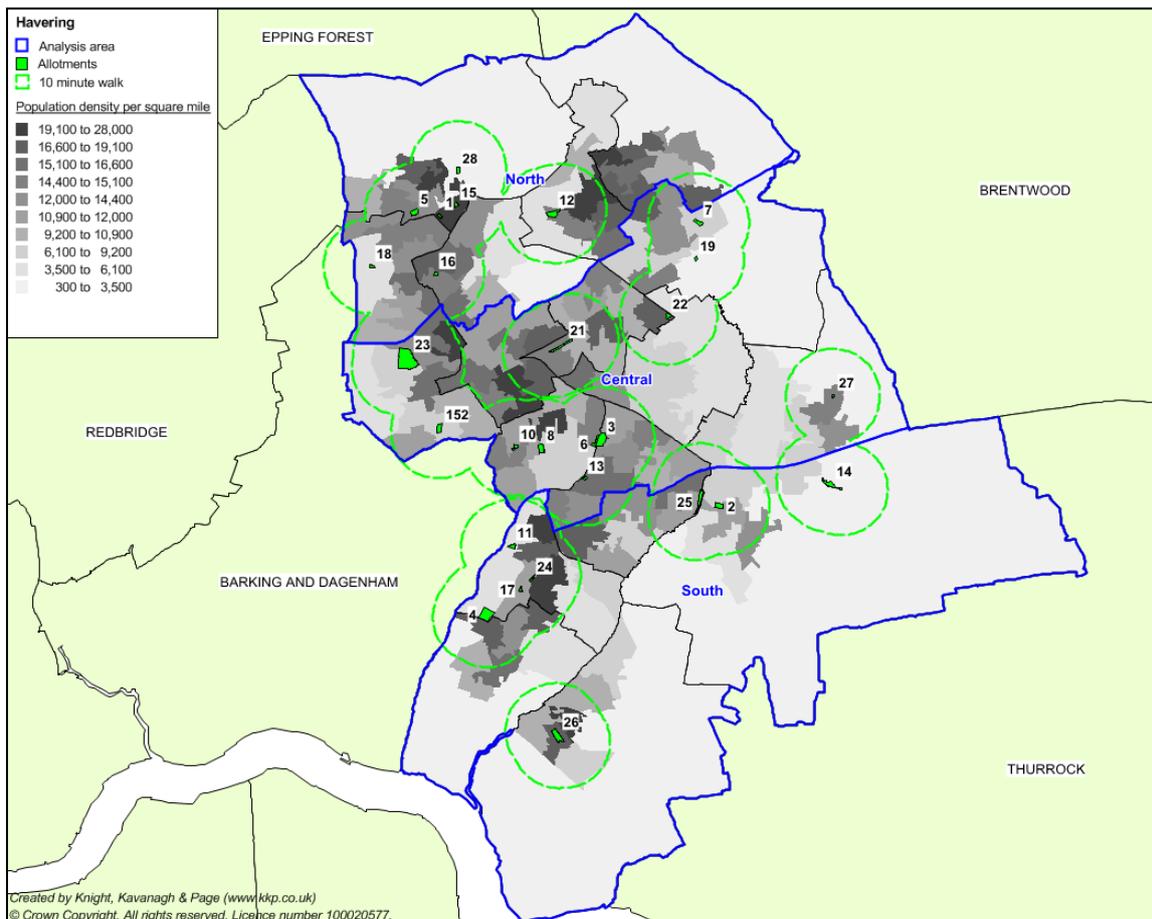


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
1	Robin Close Allotments	North		
2	Stewart Avenue Allotments	South		
3	Grey Towers North Allotments	Central		
4	Bretons Farm Allotments	South		
5	Chase Cross Road Allotments	North		
6	Grey Towers South Allotments	Central		
7	Church Road Allotments	Central		
8	Maylands Allotments	Central		
10	Strathmore Gardens Allotments	Central		
11	Dunningford Allotment Site	South		
12	Keats Avenue Allotments	North		
13	Uphaving Terrace Allotments	Central		
14	Ashvale Gardens	South		
15	Chelmsford Avenue Allotments	North		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
16	Saffron Road Allotments	North		
17	Sowery Avenue Allotments	South		
18	White Hart Lane Allotments	North		
19	Archibald Road Allotments	Central		
21	Heath Park Allotments	Central		
22	MacDonald Avenue Allotments	Central		
23	Pretoria Road Allotments	Central		
24	Mungo Park Allotments	South		
25	Norfolk Road Allotments	South		
26	Melville Road Allotment Site	South		
27	Macon Way Allotments	Central		
28	Havering Grange Allotments	North		
152	Rush Green Allotments	Central		

Allotment provision at Sowery Avenue, Pretoria Road, Norfolk Road and Melville Road do not receive a quality or value score as the sites could not be accessed or viewed during the site visit process.

The majority of areas with a greater population density are covered by the 10 minute walk time catchment. However, there are some gaps in catchment mapping of provision across all three analysis areas.

### **Ownership/management**

All allotment sites are owned by LBH Council, however, all sites are self-managed. This means management of waiting lists and maintenance of each site is the responsibility of the individual allotment associations. The Council meets regularly with the associations to share best practices and to discuss any issues.

Consultation was achieved with 21 of the associations in Havering. Of these 21, 14 sites indicate having a waiting list with individuals wishing to use a plot. This highlights a steady demand for the continuing provision of allotment sites and plots across the area.

*Table 8.3: Council allotment plots and waiting list*

Number of sites	Number of plots	Waiting list
27	1,097	72

The Pretoria Road site has the largest waiting list with 25 individuals a reflection of the sites large size and high quality; followed by other sites such as Archibald Road (7), Bretons Farm (6) and Stewart Avenue (6). Current demand therefore outweighs supply; a reflection on the trend to have an allotment from a healthy living and self-sufficiency perspective.

To help meet demand and reduce the waiting time for plots - associations appear to operate a policy whereby any new plots that become available are split into half or quarter plots (a good practice seen across the country).

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At the White Hart Lane allotment site a new area has recently been opened to provide additional plots. This can accommodate eight individuals that were previously on the waiting list. The association plans to clear more land to the rear of the site in order to provide 20 additional plots in the future.

Consultation with the Hornchurch & District Gardening and Allotment Society highlights that three allotment sites are currently classed as temporary statuses. One of these is identified as Macon Way Allotment site. The association has a strong desire to make the allotments a permanent site given their important role to local residents.

### 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 below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in LBH. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Central	122	36%	52%	63%	27%	2	8
North	122	43%	51%	56%	13%	2	5
South	122	50%	57%	70%	20%	-	5
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>

The Sowery Avenue, Pretoria Road, Norfolk Road and Melville Road sites could not be assessed for quality or value as they were locked and not viewable at the time of the site visits. Rush Green does not receive a quality or value due to its late inclusion in the study. However, consultation with Pretoria Road, Norfolk Road and Melville Road associations signals that the quality of the sites is good or very good. Pretoria Road in particular is noted as having recently built a new toilet block including disabled facilities which further add to the sites overall quality.

The majority of sites assessed for quality rate above the set threshold (82%). The highest scoring sites of those assessed in LBH are Bretons Farm Allotments (70%) in the South Analysis Area, and Uphaving Terrace Allotments (63%) and Maylands Allotments (62%) in the Central Analysis Area. They score well due to having a particularly good general appearance and maintenance (e.g. decent paths, clean and tidy).

There are four sites which rate below the threshold for quality. The lowest rating allotment site in LBH is the Strathmore Gardens Allotments in the Central Analysis Area with a score of 36%. It rates lower due to security as parts of the boundary is lacking in fencing. In addition, one of the gates on site was observed as being open access.

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The other three sites only just rate below the threshold; Havering Grange (49%), Macon Way (48%) and Robin Close (43%). No specific quality issues are identified from the site assessments. However, it is likely that due to the other three sites being relatively small in size they subsequently lack some ancillary features (e.g. signage, sheds) in comparison to other provision sites.

Site observations at the Heath Park Allotments suggest that some plots are not in full use due to their poor appearance. Consultation notes this is due to flooding issues. The association is waiting on the council to investigate further. Despite this, the site still rates just above the threshold for quality.

In general, consultation highlights no significant problems with regard to overall quality of provision; as demonstrated by the fact that sites are currently in full use. All consulted allotment associations rate the quality of their site as either good or very good.

A few associations (Grey Towers North, Havering Grange, Keats Avenue and Mungo Park) do however highlight fencing improvements or repairs that are required. Furthermore, Bretons Farm and Heath Park allotment sites note some issues with regard to flooding.

### 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 identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.5: Value ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central	100	28%	38%	48%	20%	-	10
North	100	32%	34%	38%	6%	-	7
South	100	33%	40%	46%	13%	-	5
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22</b>

The Sowery Avenue, Pretoria Road, Norfolk Road and Melville Road sites could not be assessed for quality or value as they were locked and not viewable at the time of the site visits. Rush Green does not receive a quality or value due to its late inclusion in the study.

All allotments in LBH are assessed as high value. This is a reflection of the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision. For instance, sites such as Stewart Avenue Allotments are noted as having a children's gardening club in conjunction with a local primary school. Such a scheme offers wider community value and helps to promote healthy living and eating. This can provide a sense of ownership and knowledge that will look to help children in their future.

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Sites scoring higher for value are those identified as being well used and maintained (often as a result of being of a high quality). The highest scoring site for value is the Maylands Allotments receiving a score of 48%.

The value of allotments is further demonstrated by the existence of waiting lists identified at sites signalling greater demand for provision.

### 8.6 Summary

#### Allotments summary

- ◀ There are 27 allotments sites in LBH: equating to more than 36 hectares.
- ◀ All are owned by the Council and self managed by allotment association.
- ◀ Current amount of provision is below the NSALG recommended amount. Furthermore, no individual analysis area meets the NSALG standard either.
- ◀ There are waiting lists for allotments across LBH; suggesting that demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply.
- ◀ Despite a few sites being below the quality threshold, for the majority of allotments quality is sufficient.
- ◀ All allotments are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
- ◀ Continuing measures should be made to provide additional plots in the future.

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### 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

Six sites are classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to nearly 29 hectares of provision in LBH. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision identified is included within the audit.

*Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries by analysis area*

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Central	3	13.59
North	-	-
South	3	15.38
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28.97</b>

The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is Upminster Cemetery, in the South Analysis Area (13.93 hectares). This is followed by Romford Cemetery (9.51 hectares) in the Central Analysis Area. Both are managed and maintained by the Council. All except two sites are identified as cemeteries with the exception of St Helens & St Giles Churchyard and St Edward Churchyard Lane which are classified as churchyards.

Hornchurch Cemetery and Rainham Cemetery are closed to new burials except for the reopening of existing family graves.

#### 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.

Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis area

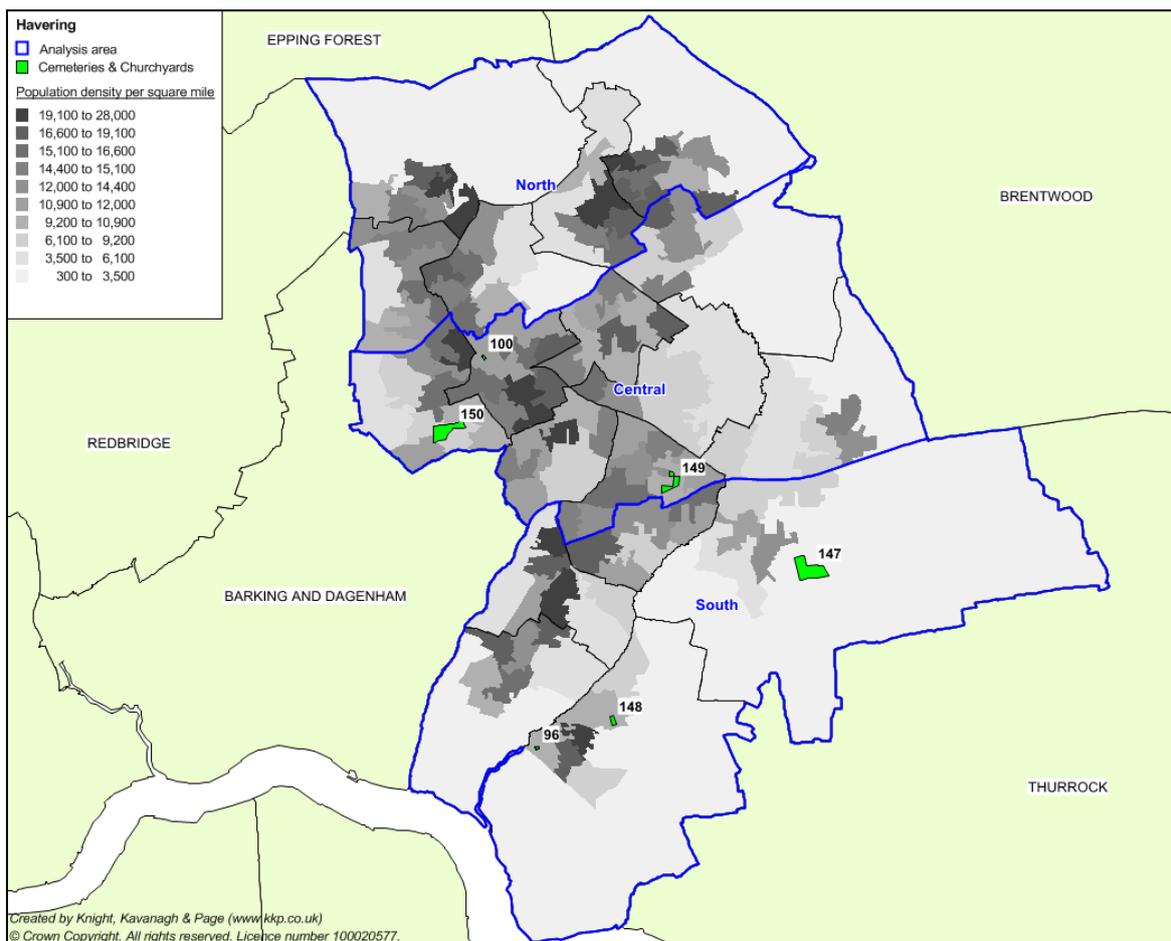


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
96	St Helens & St Giles Churchyard	South		
100	St Edward Churchyard	Central		
147	Upminster Cemetery	South		
148	Rainham Cemetery	South		
149	Hornchurch Cemetery	Central		
150	Romford Cemetery	Central		

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. However, no provision is identified in the North Analysis Area.

As noted, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

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### Management

The management and maintenance of active cemetery sites is included as part of the Council's wider maintenance responsibility. No cemeteries have onsite based staff. Two sites are closed to any new burials; Hornchurch Cemetery and Rainham Cemetery. However, both are able to accommodate existing family plots.

There is believed to be approximately five to six years of remaining burial capacity at Romford Cemetery. This does not include the Muslim section of the site which has capacity until approximately 2037.

Upminster Cemetery is also thought to have approximately five and half year's burial capacity remaining. This is only for Phase One of the sites recent extension. There will, however, be additional provision in Phase Two and three which should be ready to accommodate burials from 2017.

### 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 in LBH. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.4: Quality ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Central	154	66%	74%	81%	15%	-	3
North	154	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	154	58%	72%	89%	31%	1	2
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

The majority of cemeteries and churchyards in LBH (83%) rate above the threshold set for quality.

Upminster Cemetery, in South Analysis Area, is the highest scoring site for quality with a score of 89%. Most sites rate well above the threshold suggesting a high standard of provision. These scores are predominantly due to them being maintained to a high level.

The generally high standard of provision is reflected by both the Romford and Upminster sites receiving awards in recognition of their high quality of appearance.

A large proportion of the sites are noted (both during consultation and the site assessments) as being well cared for and therefore score well for quality of appearance and cleanliness. In addition, no issues with flooding or vandalism are identified at any site in LBH.

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Currently a large amount of work is going into ensuring the safety and upkeep of the many trees located on cemeteries. This is highlighted as a costly factor as the part of the regular maintenance of sites given the number of trees. Other recent work being undertaken on all sites includes the expansion of the size of entrance gates.

Only one site rates below the quality threshold; St Helens & St Giles Churchyard (58%) and is viewed as having a poorer level of general maintenance and appearance. This may reflect its role as a closed site which subsequently receives less frequent use and maintenance compared to active sites.

Consultation also highlights an issue with dog walking and fouling at the Hornchurch Cemetery. The site has a public pathway running through it which leads to people often using the site to walk their dog.

### 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 in LBH. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.5: Value ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central	90	42%	50%	59%	17%	-	3
North	90	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	90	30%	37%	41%	11%	-	3
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>

All identified cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value, reflecting the role in community lives. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide to and for the local community are acknowledged in the site assessment data. Sites also often receive a score for value from their contribution to wildlife/habitats or sense of place to the local environment.

Even the St Helens & St Giles Churchyard which rates below the threshold for quality rates above the threshold for value. As noted above, despite this, it still obviously provides a role to the community it serves.

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

### 9.6 Summary

#### **Cemeteries summary**

- ◀ LBH has six cemeteries and churchyards: just less than 29 hectares of provision.
- ◀ There is a fairly even distribution of provision across Havering.
- ◀ The need for additional burial provision is driven by the demand for burials and capacity; currently there would appear to be a sufficient amount of capacity remaining.
- ◀ Nearly all cemeteries and churchyards rate above the threshold for quality. However, one sites rates below the threshold. This is viewed as having a poorer level of maintenance and appearance in comparisons to other sites.
- ◀ All cemeteries are assessed as high value in LBH, reflecting that generally provision has a cultural/heritage role and provide a sense of place to the local community.

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### PART 10: CIVIC SPACE

#### 10.1 Introduction

The civic space typology includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events. For the purpose of this study the designation also includes war memorials.

#### 10.2 Current provision

There are four civic space sites, equating to less than one hectare of provision, identified in LBH. In addition, there are likely to be other informal pedestrian areas, streets or squares which residents may be viewed as providing similar roles and functions as civic spaces.

*Table 10.1: Distribution of civic spaces by analysis area*

Analysis area	Civic space	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Central	2	0.96
North	-	-
South	2	0.01
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.97</b>

Civic space provision is identified in Central Analysis Area and South Analysis Area. Three sites are observed as being forms of War Memorials. The other is the Market Square in Romford. No provision is noted in North Analysis Area.

The largest and most prominent civic space is Romford Market Place. Approximately 0.95 hectares in size; it is located in the Central Analysis Area.

Other sites and areas function in a secondary role as civic space provision. For example, park sites such as Harrow Lodge Park provides use associated with civic spaces - including local community events. For the purposes of this report such sites have not been classified as civic space provision due to their more prominent primary function and use.

#### 10.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for civic spaces. Figure 10.1 shows civic spaces mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 10.1: Civic spaces mapped against analysis areas

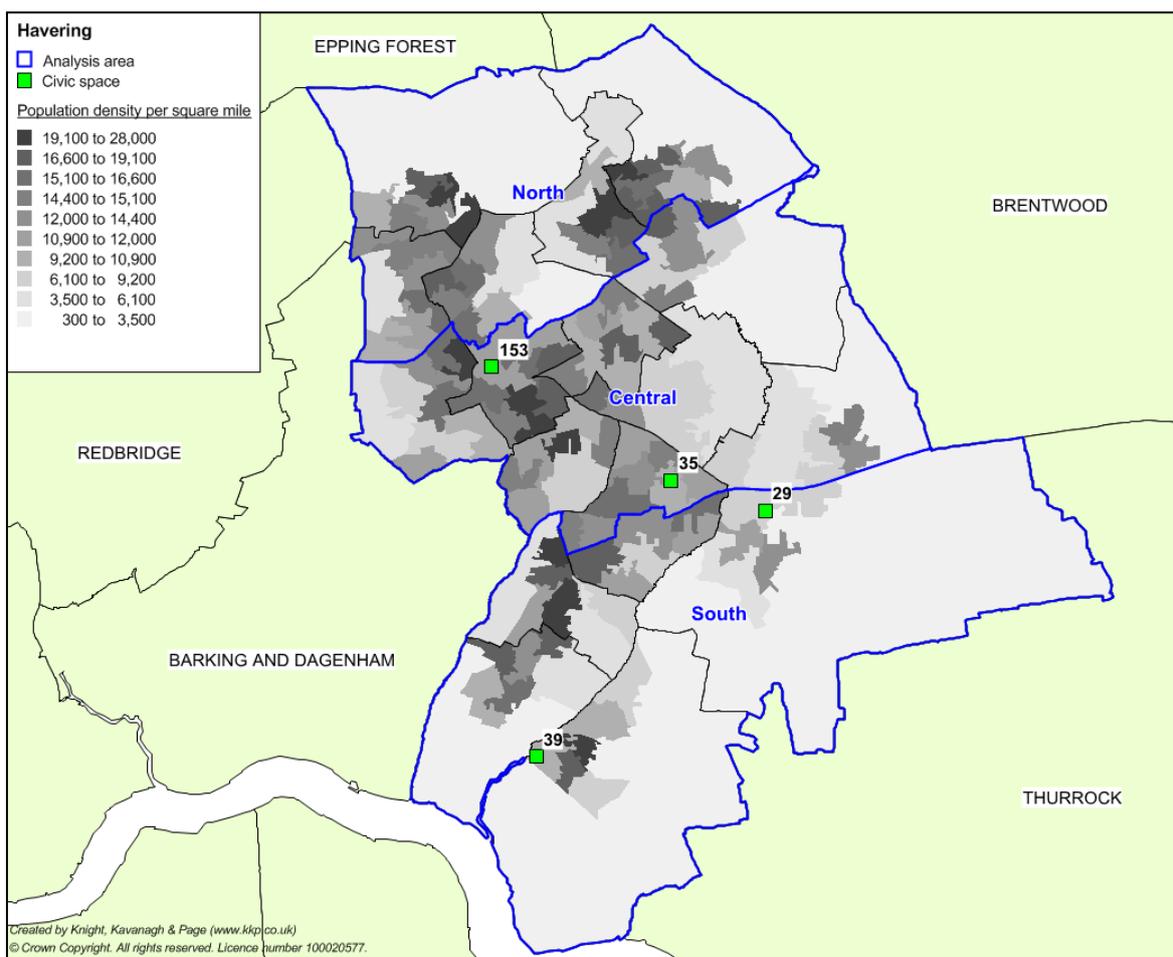


Table 10.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
29	Upminster War Memorial	South		
35	Hornchurch War Memorial	Central		
39	Rainham War Memorial	South		
153	Romford Market Place	Central		

The Romford Market Place site does not receive a quality or value score due to its late inclusion to the study; after site visit audit had been completed.

The North Analysis Area is without access to designated civic space provision. However, it is reasonable to accept that formal civic space may only be at existing sites of provision.

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### 10.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by 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 quality assessment for civic spaces in LBH. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.3: Quality ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Central	141	51%	51%	51%	-	-	1
North	141	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	141	51%	53%	56%	5%	-	2
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

The Romford Market Place site does not receive a quality or value score due to its late inclusion to the study.

All three assessed civic spaces rate above the threshold set. The sites are all relatively small in size but are observed as being of an overall good quality. As the name of the sites suggests their main function is as memorials. Subsequently little if any ancillary features are noted. However, this is not detrimental to the overall quality and appearance of provision.

### 10.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessment scores 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 civic spaces in LBH. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.4: Value ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central	95	53%	53%	53%	-	-	1
North	95	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	95	42%	47%	52%	-	-	2
<b>HAVERING</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

The Romford Market Place site does not receive a quality or value score due to its late inclusion to the study.

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All three civic spaces assessed are rated as being of high value, reflecting their cultural and heritage role whilst also providing an important function to the local community and area. This is further supported by site visit observations, which confirms the historical and cultural value of the sites through their status as war memorials.

Despite not being assessed for quality or value, the Romford Market Place is likely to be a key form of civic space providing a significant role to the community. The site hosts regular markets as well as seasonal events throughout the year. It is subject to future regeneration plans looking to focus on the historic and potential event space offered by the site.

### 10.6 Summary

#### Civic space summary

- ◀ Four are sites classified as civic spaces in LBH equating to less than one hectares of provision. Most sites are identified as war memorials with the exception of Romford Market Place.
- ◀ Other forms of provision in the area (e.g. parks and gardens) also provide localised opportunities associated with the function of civic space.
- ◀ Quality and value of provision is good with an acceptable maintenance and appearance. Sites provide an important and unique cultural/heritage role to local communities.
- ◀ The Market Place is subject to regeneration plans which will further increase its quality and value.

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### APPENDICES

#### Appendix 1: Communities Survey

A summary of the 192 responses from the local communities' survey whilst a valuable tool the survey is only a small part of the process, its role is to supplement best practice and widely accepted industry standards.

The survey ran for six weeks from 23<sup>rd</sup> September to the 4<sup>th</sup> November with an extension to the end of November. Links to the survey were made available via the council's website and on social media outlets. No demographic information (e.g. gender, age and ethnicity) was asked for as part of the survey questions at the request of the Council.

#### *Q10 and Q11: Postcode/area*

A total of 187 out of the 192 respondents provided a postcode. These can be analysed by the area the postcode represents and the analysis area they fit within.

Post code	Approximate area	Analysis area	Respondents	%
RM1	Romford	Central	6	3.2
RM2	Gidea Park	Central	18	9.6
RM3	Harold Wood	North	22	11.8
RM4	Havering-atte-Bower	North	2	1.1
RM5	Collier Row	North	12	6.4
RM7	Rush Green	Central	16	8.6
RM11	Hornchurch	Central	32	17.1
RM12	Hornchurch	Central/South	39	20.8
RM13	Rainham	South	12	6.4
RM14	Upminster	South	28	15.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>Havering</b>	-	<b>187</b>	<b>100</b>

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### Appendix 2: All open space sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
30	Romford Library Gardens	Central
43	Havering Country Park	North
48	Haynes Park	Central
53	Havering Well Garden	Central
54	Harrow Lodge Park	Central
68	Hornchurch C.P.	South
73	Langton's Gardens	Central
74	St Andrews Park	Central
75	Bedford's Park	North
77	Clockhouse Gardens	South
80	Upminster Park	South
82	Cottons Park	Central
91	Grenfell Park	Central
93	Central Park	North
98	Coronation Gardens	Central
101	Raphael Park	North
102	Lodge Farm Park	Central
103	Dagnam Park	North
114	Spring Farm Park	South
118	Lawns Park	North
120	Rise Park	North
121	Harold Wood Park	Central
133	Hylands Park	Central
137	Belhus Woods Country Park	South
32	Straight Road Woodlands	North
40	Haunted House Woods	North
56	Duck Wood	North
57	Tylers Common	Central
59	Suttons Parkway	South
71	Abbey Wood Open Space	South
72	New Road Rainham	South
79	Hatters Wood	North
86	Parklands Open Space	South
89	Shoulder of Mutton Wood	North
97	Sage Wood	North
122	The Chase	Central
132	Stratton Wood	North
135	Ingrebourne Hill	South
136	Cely Woods	South
138	Bonnets Wood	South
139	Broadfields & Thames Chase Forest Centre	South
140	Harold Court Woods	Central
141	Coombe Woods	Out
142	Tyler Woods	Central
143	Jackson's Wood	Central

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## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
144	Folkes Lane Woodland	Central
145	Pages Wood	Central
146	Holden's Wood	Out
33	South End Road Land	South
34	Chadwick Drive Flood Lagoon	Central
36	Airfield Way Open Space	South
37	Dickens Way Open Space	Central
38	Bancroft Chase Playsite and Open Space	Central
41	Collier Row Recreation Ground	North
44	Brittons Playing Field	South
45	Central Park Leisure	North
47	Romford Ice Rink*	Central
50	Sheffield Drive Open Space	North
51	Chelmsford Avenue Playsite	North
55	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	Central
60	Painsbrook Open Space	Central
61	Rainham Recreation Ground	South
62	Rush Green Open Space	Central
63	Ockendon Road Verge	South
64	Tyle Green Open Space	Central
65	Priory Road Open Space	North
66	St Neots Adventure Playground	North
67	Farringdon Avenue Flood Lagoon	North
69	The Glen, Elm Park	South
70	Chudleigh Road Open Space	North
76	A12/Whitelands Way Bund	Central
78	Havering Playing Field	North
83	Sunflower Way Flood Lagoon	Central
84	The Glens Playsite Rainham	South
85	Hacton Parkway and Playsite	South
87	Jutsums Recreation Ground	Central
88	Broxhill Centre	North
90	Stirling Close	South
92	Keats Avenue	North
94	Briscoe Road Verge	South
95	Queens Theatre Green	Central
99	North Hill Recreation Ground	North
104	Brookway Playsite	South
105	Painsbrook Playsite and Open Space	Central
106	Myrtle Road/Chatteris Avenue Open Space	North
108	Louis Marchasi Playsite (Maybank)	South
109	Gaynes Parkway	South
110	King Georges Playing Field	North
111	Cranham Playing Fields	Central
112	Mardyke Adventure Playground	South
113	Havering Village Green	North
116	Fleet Close Playsite	Central

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## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
117	Windmill Field	South
119	The Dell	Central
125	Lilliput Road Open Space	Central
126	Lessa Playsite and Open Space	South
127	Cornflower Way Open Space	Central
128	Park Lane Recreation Ground	Central
129	Rainham Creekside Path	South
131	Elliot Playing Field	Central
134	Maytree Close	South
151	Gooshays Garden	North
38.1	Bancroft Chase Playsite	Central
41.1	Collier Row Recreation Ground	North
42	Forest Row Playsite	North
44.1	Brittons Playing Field	South
46	Whybridge Close Playsite	South
48.1	Haynes Park	Central
51.1	Chelmsford Avenue Play	North
54.1	Harrow Lodge Park	Central
54.11	Harrow Lodge Park	Central
54.12	Harrow Lodge Park	Central
55.1	Upminster Hall Playing Field	Central
61.1	Rainham Recreation Ground	South
66.1	St Neots Open Space	North
68.1	Hornchurch Country Park	South
74.1	St Andrews Park	Central
80.1	Upminster Park	South
82.1	Cottons Park	Central
84.1	The Glen Rainham	South
85.1	Hacton Parkway	South
87.1	Jutsums Recreation Ground	Central
91.1	Grenfell Park	Central
93.1	Central Park	North
101.1	Raphael Park	North
102.1	Lodge Farm Park	Central
104.1	Brookway Playsite	South
105.1	Painbrook Adventure Playground	Central
106.1	Myrtle Road	North
107	Oldchurch Park Playsite	Central
108.1	Louis Marchesi Playsite	South
110.1	King Georges Playing Field	North
111.1	Cranham Playing Fields	Central
112.1	Mardyke Open Space	South
114.1	Spring Farm Park	South
116.1	Fleet Close Playsite	Central
118.1	Lawns Park	North
120.1	Rise Park	North
121.1	Harold Wood Park	Central

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## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
126.1	Lessa Open Space	South
128.1	Park Lane Recreation Ground	Central
133.1	Hylands Park	Central
1	Robin Close Allotments	North
2	Stewart Avenue Allotments	South
3	Grey Towers North Allotments	Central
4	Bretons Farm Allotments	South
5	Chase Cross Road Allotments	North
6	Grey Towers South Allotments	Central
7	Church Road Allotments	Central
8	Maylands Allotments	Central
10	Strathmore Gardens Allotments	Central
11	Dunningford Allotment Site	South
12	Keats Avenue Allotments	North
13	Uphaving Terrace Allotments	Central
14	Ashvale Gardens	South
15	Chelmsford Avenue Allotments	North
16	Saffron Road Allotments	North
17	Sowery Avenue Allotments	South
18	White Hart Lane Allotments	North
19	Archibald Road Allotments	Central
21	Heath Park Allotments	Central
22	MacDonald Avenue Allotments	Central
23	Pretoria Road Allotments	Central
24	Mungo Park Allotments	South
25	Norfolk Road Allotments	South
26	Melville Road Allotment Site	South
27	Macon Way Allotments	Central
28	Havering Grange Allotments	North
152	Rush Green Allotments	Central
96	St Helens & St Giles Churchyard	South
100	St Edward Churchyard	Central
147	Upminster Cemetery	South
148	Rainham Cemetery	South
149	Hornchurch Cemetery	Central
150	Romford Cemetery	Central
29	Upminster War Memorial	South
35	Hornchurch War Memorial	Central
39	Rainham War Memorial	South
153	Romford Market Place	Central

