



MEDWAY COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

JUNE 2024

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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Glossary

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

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

¹ [Assessing Needs and Opportunities website](#)

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

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Parks and formal gardens, open to the general public. Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Supports wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
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.
Allotments	Opportunities to grow own produce. Added benefits include the long term promotion of sustainable living, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Outdoor Sports	Sites with a primary function as sports provision including dedicated grass pitches and artificial pitches (i.e., floodlit, available for use in evenings and weekends). Includes football clubs, bowling greens and tennis courts.
Civic Space	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.
Green corridors	Offers opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration. This can also include river and canal banks.

1.1 Report structure

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

- ◀ Part 3: Open space summary
- ◀ Part 4: Parks and gardens
- ◀ Part 5: Natural/ semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Part 7: Provision for children/ young people
- ◀ Part 8: Allotments
- ◀ Part 9: Cemeteries/churchyards
- ◀ Part 10: Civic space
- ◀ Part 11: Green corridors
- ◀ Part 12: Outdoor sports

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

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1.2 National context

National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), (MHCLG)

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

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

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

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

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

National Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG)

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

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

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Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Fields in Trust (2015) and Beyond the Six Acre Standard²

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

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

Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England

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

Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles

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

² [Fields in Trust PDF](#)

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Summary of the national context

Policies set out within the NPPF state that local and neighbourhood plans should both reflect needs and priorities within a local community and be based on robust and current assessments of open space, sport and recreational facilities. Encouraging better levels of physical literacy³ and activity is a high priority for national government. For many people, sport and recreational activities have a key role to play in facilitating physical activity. Therefore, ensuring that open space creates an active environment with opportunities and good accessibility is important. In line with national policy recommendations, this study makes an assessment of open space provision from which recommendations and policy can be formulated.

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

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

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

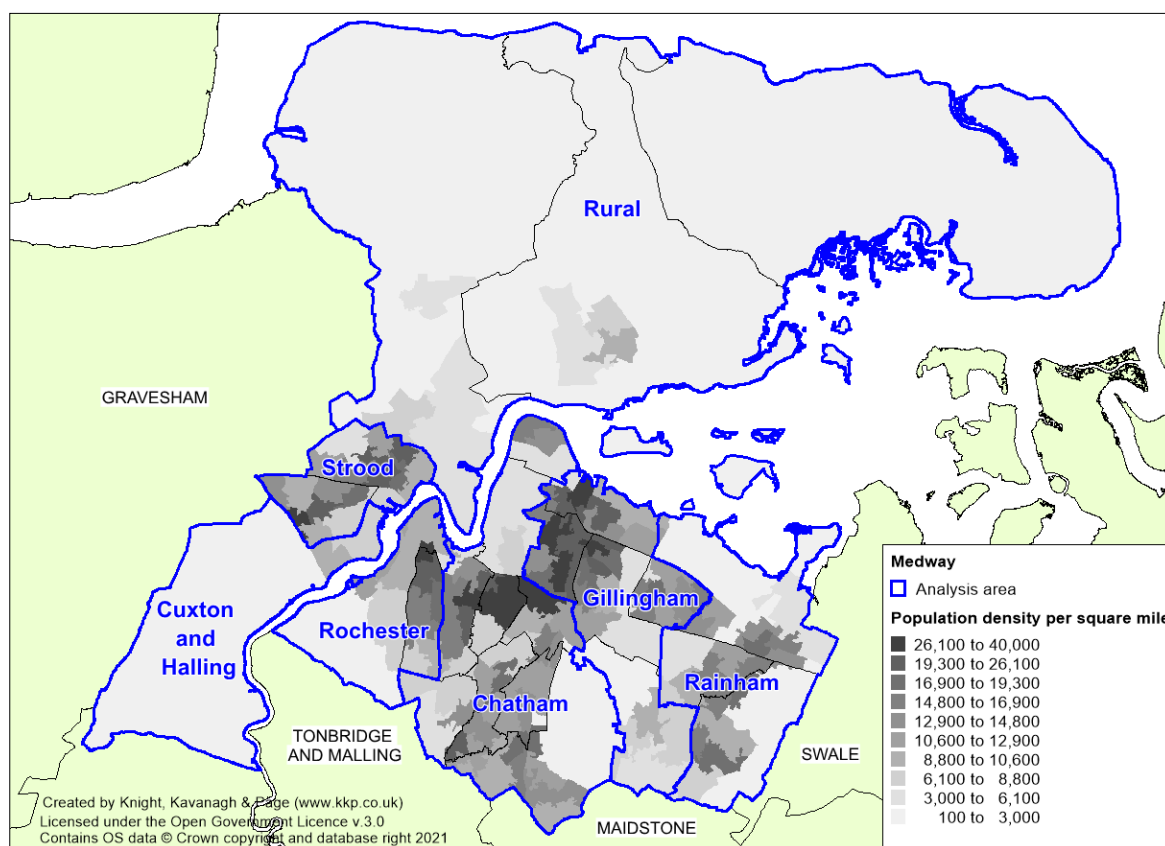
- ◀ 2.1 - Analysis areas
- ◀ 2.2 - Auditing local provision
- ◀ 2.3 - Open space provision standards
- ◀ 2.4 - Quality and value
- ◀ 2.5 - Quality and value thresholds
- ◀ 2.6 - Accessibility standards

2.1 Analysis area

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

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

Figure 2.1: Map of Medway including analysis areas⁴



⁴ Office for National Statistics, 2022

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Table 2.1: Analysis areas and populations

Analysis area	Population ⁵
Chatham	82,107
Cuxton and Halling	13,158
Gillingham	64,120
Rainham	38,231
Rochester	26,239
Rural	31,740
Strood	24,224
Medway	279,819

2.2 Auditing local provision

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

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

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards
7. Civic space
8. Green corridors
9. Outdoor sports

Site size threshold

In accordance with recommendations from the Companion Guidance to PPG17, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace. It is recognised that it would be impractical to capture every piece of land that could be classed as open space. They are often too small to provide any meaningful leisure and recreational opportunities to warrant a full site assessment. However, spaces smaller than 0.2 hectares can provide amenity to local neighbourhoods and stepping-stones for wildlife.

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

⁵ Mid-Year Estimates 2021, Office for National Statistics

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

Database development

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

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ◀ Site name
- ◀ Ownership (if known)
- ◀ Management (if known)
- ◀ Typology
- ◀ Size (hectares)
- ◀ Site audit 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 Open space standards

To identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space in a local area, provision standards focusing on Quality, Quantity and Accessibility are set and applied later in the document (Part 11).

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

2.4 Quality and value

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

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

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Analysis of quality

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

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

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

Analysis of value

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

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

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

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

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The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived from:

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

- ▶ 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.

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

2.5 Quality and value thresholds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	45%	20%
Amenity greenspace	55%	20%
Provision for children and young people	60%	20%

2.6 Accessibility catchments

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

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

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

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Table 2.3: Accessibility catchment times/distances

Open space type		Catchment
Parks & Gardens		9-minute walk time (710m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		9-minute walk time (720m)
Amenity Greenspace		6-minute walk time (480m)
Provision for children and young people	LAP	1-minute walk time (100m)
	LEAP	5-minute walk time (400m)
	NEAP	12.5-minute walk time (1000m)
	Other provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	9-minute walk time (700m)
Allotments		No standard set
Cemeteries		No standard set
Outdoor sports		15-minute walk time (1200m)

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

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PART 3: SUMMARY OF SURVEY AND SITE AUDIT

This section provides a summary of the responses to the online community survey. It also describes generic trends and findings from the site visit quality and value ratings. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in this report.

3.1 Community Survey

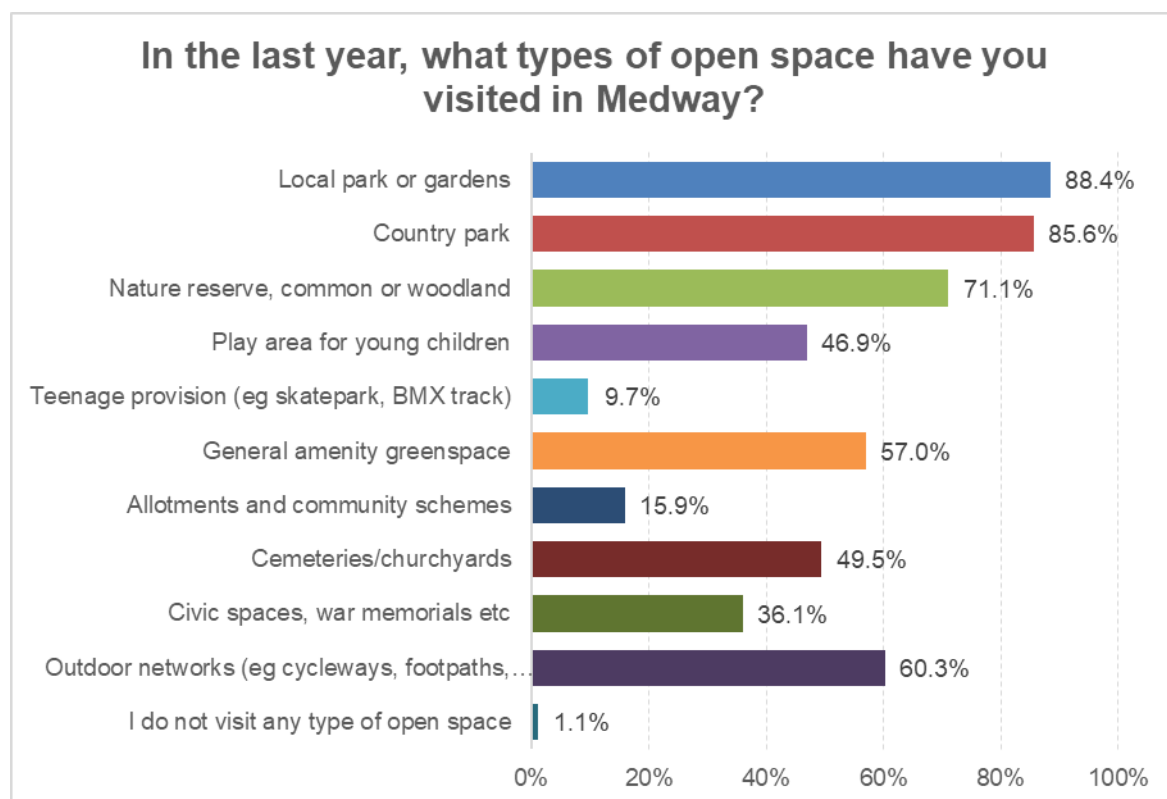
An online community survey was hosted on the Council website and promoted via social media and the Council's communication team. The use of a questionnaire was considered a good approach to providing a widespread opportunity for people to provide their thoughts towards open space provision.

The questionnaire consisted of a series of multiple choice and open-ended questions asking respondents their thoughts on topics such as types of open space visited, frequency and quality etc. A total of 267 responses were received. A summary of the responses is set out on the following pages.

Usage

Popular forms of open space provision to visit in the last year are parks and gardens (88%), country parks (86%) nature reserves, commons or woodlands (71%) and outdoor networks (60%).

Figure 3.1.1: Types of open spaces visited in the last year



The main reasons for visiting green spaces are to go for a walk or stroll (93%), for fresh air (93%), for peace and quiet/to relax (75%) and to experience/see nature (69%).

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The reason 'to grow fresh fruits and vegetables' received one of the lowest percentage with only 11% of respondents. This is a specific reason relating to those respondents stating they visit an allotment (with most people not being an allotment holder). Consequently, it is not a common reason for people visiting open space. 'Other' mainly included dog walking and to help one's mental health.

Table 3.1.1: Reasons for visits

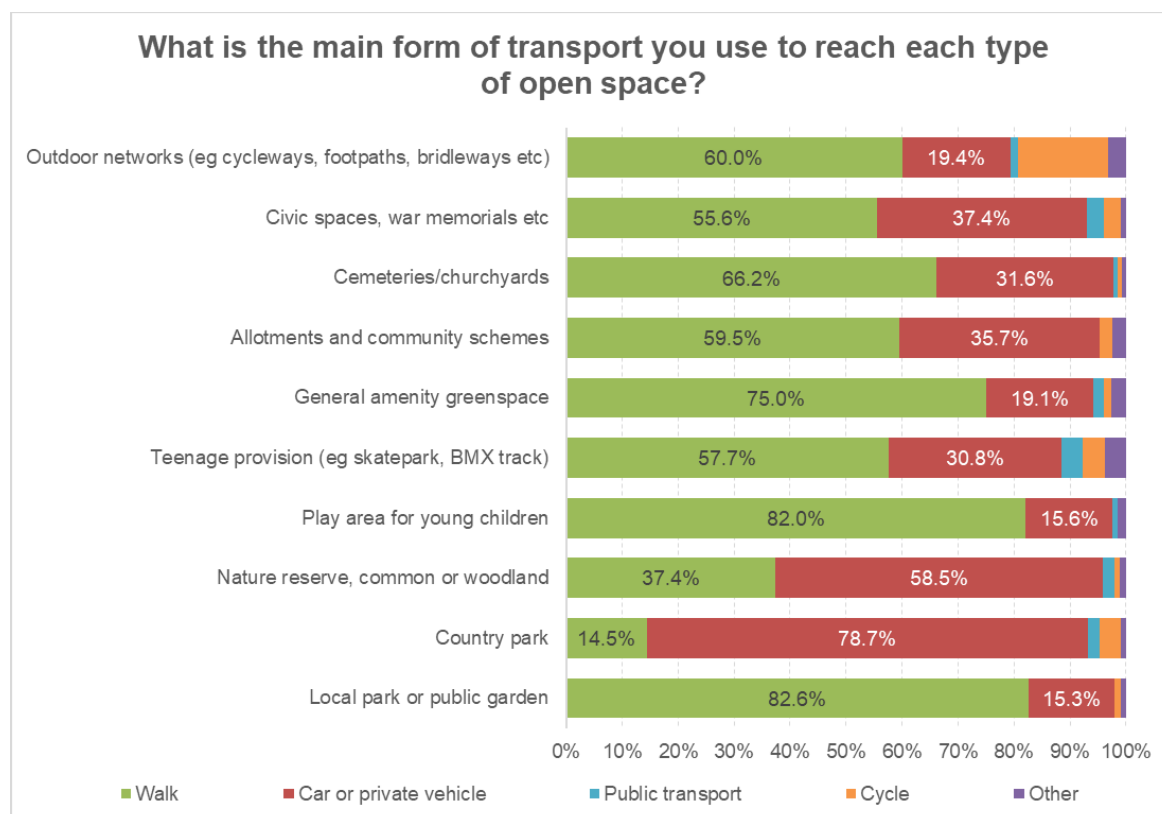
Why do you visit green spaces?	Count	%
Fresh air	176	92.7%
Peace and quiet/relax	148	74.8%
Walk/stroll	186	93.1%
Exercise/sport	129	50.4%
To experience/see nature	155	68.6%
To grow my own fresh fruits and vegetables	29	10.6%
Time with family/friends	129	63.1%
Other	28	11.3%

Accessibility

Individuals generally walk to access provision of parks (83%), play areas for young children (82%), amenity greenspace (75%), cemeteries (66%), outdoor networks (60%), allotments (60%), civic spaces (56%) and teenage provision (58%).

The exception to this is for country parks (79%), and nature reserves, commons or woodlands (59%) which individuals are more willing to travel by car to access.

Figure 3.1.2: Mode of travel to open space sites

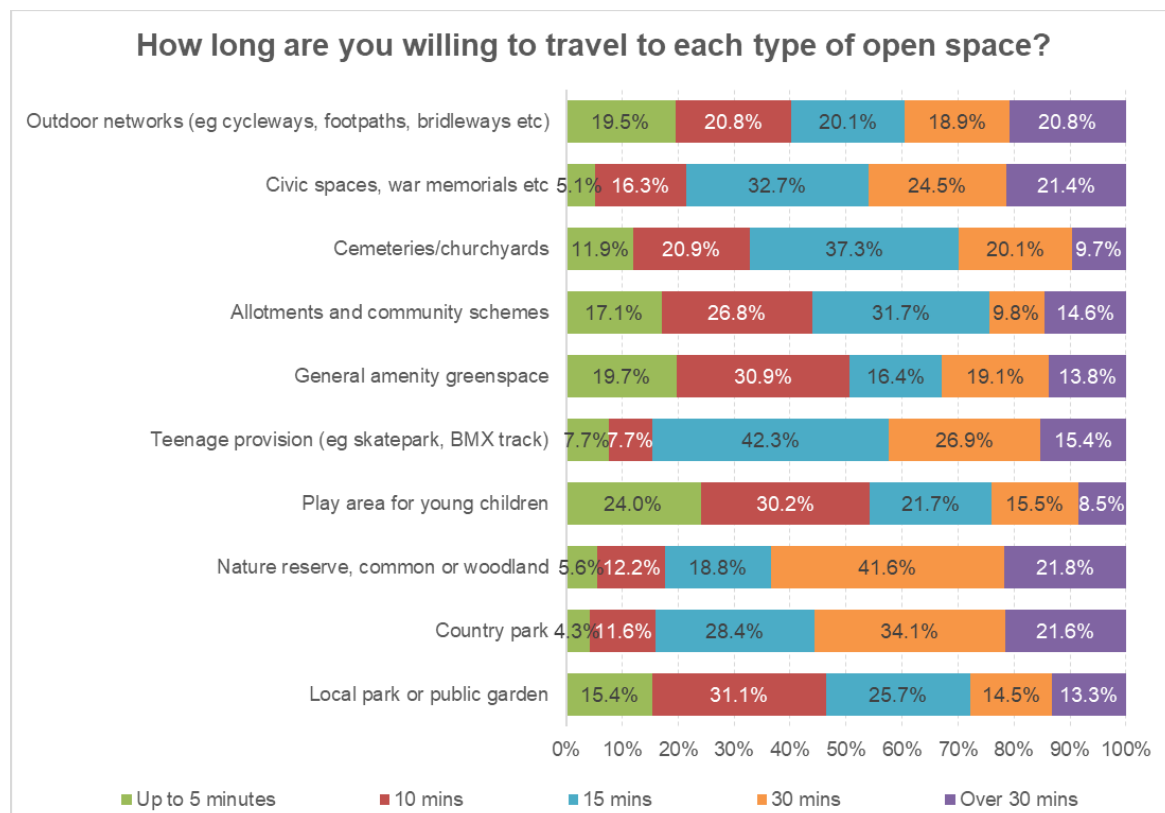


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For some provision such as country parks, there is a willingness to travel further distances, with 42% of respondents stating they would travel 30 minutes to a nature reserve, common or woodland and 34% willing to travel 30 minutes to a country park.

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

Figure 3.1.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites



Respondents were asked what site they visit most frequently, and Riverside Country Park had the most respondents (54). This is followed by Deangate Ridge (33) and Capstone Country Park (31).

Availability and Quality

In general, respondents consider the amount of open space provision to be quite satisfactory with 41% stating they are quite satisfactory. Just less than a fifth of respondents (19%) rate availability of open space provision as very satisfactory.

Table 3.1.2: Satisfaction with availability of open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
18.5%	41.1%	18.2%	18.5%	3.6%

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Similarly, less than half of survey respondents (44%) consider the quality of open space provision to be generally quite satisfactory. A further 11% rate quality as very satisfactory. Only small proportions of respondents view quality as quite unsatisfactory (15%) or very unsatisfactory (3%). However, just over a quarter of respondents (26%) view quality as neither satisfactory nor unsatisfactory.

Table 3.1.3: Satisfaction with quality of open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
11.4%	44.3%	25.6%	15.4%	3.3%

Respondents to the survey were asked what they thought would improve open space provision. The most common answers include more wildlife/habitat promotion (67%, better maintenance and care of features (60%) and greater attractiveness (50%).

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

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
More wildlife/habitat promotion	67%
Better maintenance and care of features	60%
Greater attractiveness (e.g. flowers, trees)	50%
Better and wider range of facilities (i.e. play equipment, seating, refreshments)	42%
Improved access to and within sites	35%
Greater community involvement	32%
Greater information on sites	24%
More public events	18%
Other (please state below)	11%

Other improvements included less litter, more dog-free areas, toilets and less housing.

A common theme in the comments section towards the end of the survey is public's concerns over more housing developments and the implications on the amount of open space and to existing open spaces and wildlife. Numerous respondents have highlighted that a lot of open space has been lost. Several comments include identifying that Deangate Ridge could be converted into a country park and have additional features such as a café.

Furthermore, several respondents highlight that dog free areas would be beneficial and that litter is an increasing problem.

73% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement 'Visiting open spaces makes me feel better'. A further 17% agreed with the statement. No respondents strongly disagree. Just two people disagreed due to litter, dog foul and anti-social behaviour at some sites that are poorly maintained.

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

3.2 Audit overview

Within the audit there is a total of 523 sites equating to over 1,369 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural/semi-natural greenspace (865 hectares), accounting for 63%. In addition, there are 135 sites identified as outdoor sports provision. If added, there are a total of 658 sites equating 1,446 hectares.

Table 3.2.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares) ⁶
Allotments	37	29
Amenity greenspace	166	228
Cemeteries/churchyards	80	68
Civic Spaces	6	4
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	59	865
Outdoor Sports Facilities ⁷	135	77
Park and gardens	17	162
Provision for children & young people	158	13
TOTAL	658	1,446

3.3 Quality

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

Table 3.3.1: Quality scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	27%	55%	90%	23	32
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	15%	43%	74%	25	19
Park and gardens	15%	43%	74%	7	10
Provision for children & young people	26%	67%	86%	33	122
Allotments	21%	43%	66%	13	22
				101	205

There is a generally a good quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in over two thirds of (67%) of assessed sites scoring above their set threshold for quality.

⁶ Rounded to the nearest whole number

⁷ Outdoor sports provision is just in for audit completion

MEDWAY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

3.4 Value

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

Table 3.4.1: Value scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	13%	41%	70%	3	52
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	11%	37%	57%	2	42
Park and gardens	39%	51%	64%	0	17
Provision for children & young people	16%	44%	91%	3	152
Allotments	10%	27%	48%	2	33
				10	296

Nearly all sites (97%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

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

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

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

4.2 Current provision

There are 17 sites classified as parks and gardens across Medway, the equivalent of over 162 hectares (see Table 4.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all known sites have been included within the typology.

It is important to note that within the category of parks and gardens there are two distinct types of sites. Some are significant in size and act as destinations offering greater recreational facilities and uses which people will often be willing to travel further to access. Examples of this type include Capstone Farm Country Park and Riverside Country Park. Other sites within the typology are smaller in size and more formal in character with less recreational uses. Examples of this include Castle Gardens.

Table 4.1: Current parks and gardens provision in Medway

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Chatham	4	68.70	0.84
Cuxton and Halling	-	-	-
Gillingham	4	16.56	0.26
Rainham	3	59.44	1.55
Rochester	5	12.99	0.50
Rural	-	-	-
Strood	1	4.52	0.19
Medway	17	162.21	0.58

Table 4.2: Parks and gardens provision in Medway (excluding large sites Capstone Farm Country Park and Riverside Country Park)

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Chatham	3	5.38	0.07
Cuxton and Halling	-	-	-
Gillingham	4	16.56	0.26
Rainham	2	7.32	0.19
Rochester	5	12.99	0.50
Rural	-	-	-
Strood	1	4.52	0.19
Medway	15	46.77	0.17

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For parks and gardens, Table 4.1 identifies that Medway has a current provision level of 0.58 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and biggest contributor to provision is Capstone Farm Country Park (63 ha) located in Chatham Analysis Area. The next largest site is Riverside Country Park (52 ha) in Rainham Analysis Area.

Table 4.2 highlights the impact on the standards when Capstone Farm Country Park (Chatham) and Riverside Country Park (Rainham) are not included. The current provision level for Medway drops significantly to 0.17 hectares per 1,000 population.

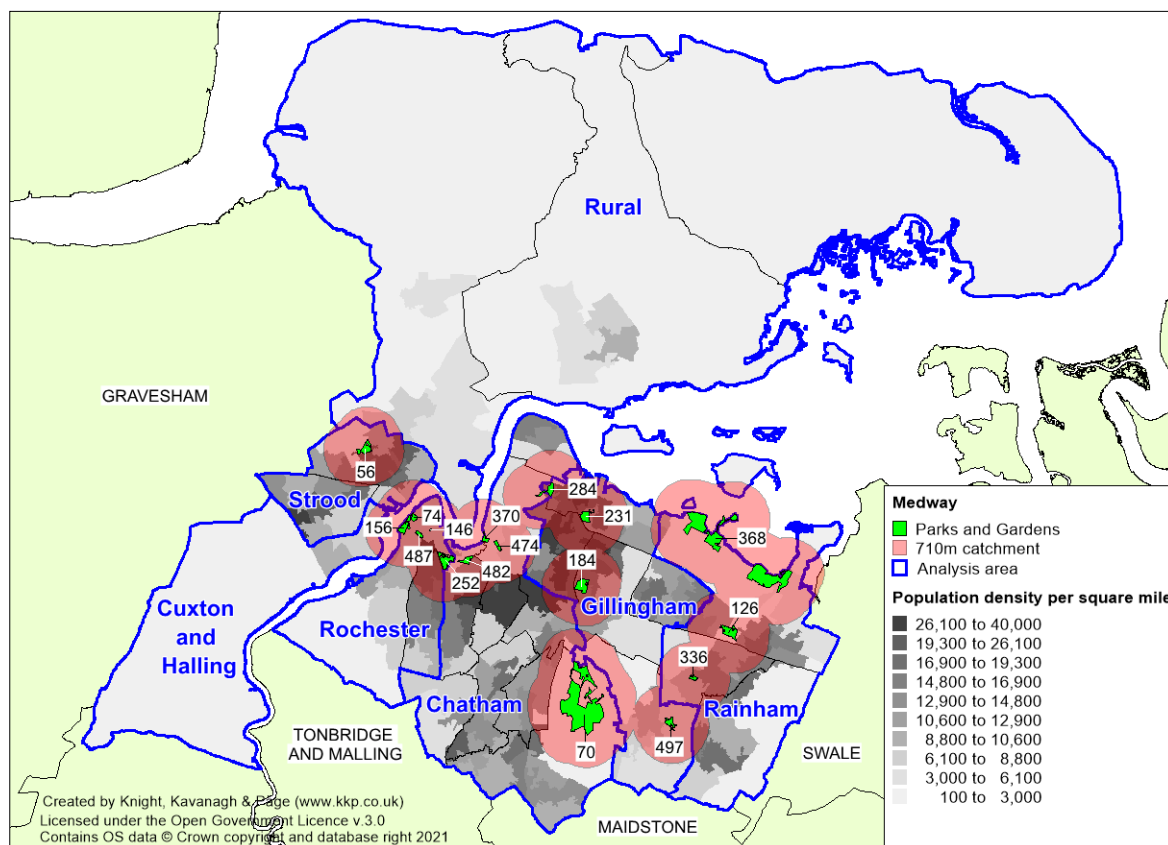
Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, Medway is below this. However, the analysis areas of Chatham and Rainham are above if Capstone Farm Country Park and Riverside Country Park are included.

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

4.3 Accessibility

An accessibility catchment of a 9-minute walk time has been set across Medway. Figure 4.1 shows parks and gardens mapped with catchments against the analysis areas. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take account of topography or walking routes.

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



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Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
56	Broomhill Park	Strood	4.52	78.5%	54.5%
70	Capstone Farm Country Park	Chatham	63.32	69.5%	59.1%
74	Castle Gardens	Rochester	1.48	72.7%	59.1%
126	Cozenton Park	Rainham	6.17	45.2%	54.5%
146	Dickens/Eastgate Gardens	Rochester	0.15	62.8%	39.1%
156	Esplanade	Rochester	4.07	63.2%	43.6%
184	Gillingham Park	Gillingham	6.09	64.8%	63.6%
231	Hillyfields Open Space	Gillingham	3.87	65.4%	54.5%
252	Jackson Recreation Ground	Rochester	6.07	54.4%	39.1%
284	Lower Lines Park	Gillingham	3.54	59.7%	46.4%
336	Platters Park	Rainham	1.15	52.8%	40.9%
368	Riverside Country Park	Rainham	52.12	76.3%	63.6%
370	Riverside Gardens	Chatham	1.42	47.2%	41.8%
474	Town Hall Gardens	Chatham	1.40	53.4%	55.5%
482	Victoria Gardens	Chatham	2.56	60.7%	43.6%
487	Vines Gardens	Rochester	1.21	67.8%	45.5%
497	Wigmore Park	Gillingham	3.06	50.1%	54.5%

In general, there is a reasonable coverage of parks based on a 9-minute walk time in areas with greater population density. However, gaps are noticeable in areas including most of Chatham, Rainham, parts of Rochester and Gillingham. There are also potential minor gaps to the northeast of Cuxton & Halling.

Many of these gaps are served by other forms of open space provision such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace. Such sites may not meet the criteria of parks provision but are likely to offer similar opportunities and access to recreational activities often associated with parks. Exploring the potential to formalise features associated with parks provision at some of these sites could be considered to increase a sites secondary function as a park.

Table 4.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Chatham	Albemarle Road Countryside Area (ID 2)	Natural
	Sindal Shaw (ID 398)	Natural
	Whimbrel Walk Countryside Area (ID 494)	Natural
	Depot Wood (ID 145)	Natural
	Hall Wood (ID 203)	Natural
	Dargets Wood (ID 137)	Natural
	Chestnut Wood (ID 92)	Natural
	Polhill Woodland (ID 339)	Natural
	Lords Wood (ID 278)	Natural
	Ballens Rough (ID 24)	Natural

MEDWAY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Foxburrow Wood (ID 170) Silverspot Wood (ID 397) Glistening Glade (ID 186) Parkwood Green Open Space (ID 332) Peveral Green Open Space (ID 335) Shorefields (ID 360) Ten Acre Way (ID 457)	Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rochester	Batys Marsh (ID 31) Fleet Road Lower (MHS) (ID 161) Fleet Road Upper (MHS) (ID 162) Watts Meadow (ID 492) Borstal Sports Ground (ID 50) Priestfields Recreation Ground (ID 345) Shaws Pond (ID 394) Copperfield Road Recreation Ground (ID 124) Mooring Road (MHS) (ID 315) Friston Way Open Space (ID 172) City Way (ID 97)	Natural Natural Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rural	Frog Island Pond (ID 175) Hoo Common (ID 237) Gamelan Crescent Recreation Ground (ID 178) Rivenhall Way/Hogarth Close (ID 367) Herbert Cuckow Grove (ID 218) Pottery Road Recreation Ground (ID 242) Hogarth Close (ID 232) Berberis Gardens (ID 38) Blossom Gardens (ID 46) Sopwith Drive (ID 401) Fordwich Drive (ID 163)	Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Strood	Rede Common (ID 363) Cliffe Road (ID 108) Knights Place Sports Ground (ID 270) Motorway Meadow (ID 316) Norwich Close (ID 322) Fulmar Road (ID 176) Laburnum Recreation Ground (ID 271) Carnation Road Lower (ID 71) Willow Road (ID 499) Carnation Road Upper (ID 73)	Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

4.4 Quality

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

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Table 4.4: Quality ratings for assessed parks and gardens

Area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Chatham	53%	61%	70%	2	2
Cuxton and Halling	-	-	-	-	-
Gillingham	54%	61%	65%	2	2
Rainham	49%	61%	76%	2	1
Rochester	54%	64%	73%	0	4
Rural	-	-	-	-	-
Strood	79%	79%	79%	0	1
Medway	49%	63%	79%	7	10

In Medway, over half of park sites (59%) rate above the quality threshold. The lowest scoring sites for quality are Cozenton Park (49%) and Town Hall Gardens (53%). Despite these sites scoring below the quality threshold, both sites score well for entrances, user security, access paths, drainage, and overall maintenance. Furthermore, both have the additional benefits of benches, bins and a play area. Town Hall Gardens is on a slight gradient and could benefit from some improvements to the landscape and entrances.

Cozenton Park features a wheel park, good paths, entrances and some signage. The site benefits from bins and benches. However, it could benefit from picnic tables.

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

Sites assessed as being of particularly high quality and as such, rate well above the threshold, are Broomhill Park (79%) and Riverside Country Park (76%). Both these parks are Green Flag Award sites demonstrating their high standards.

Broomhill Park (79%) is an excellent, attractive, well maintained site with numerous facilities and features. It has a play area, orchard, free car park, human sundial, wildflower area and good footpaths and trails throughout. It has the additional benefits of fantastic signage including interpretation panels and a noticeboard further adding to its quality. The site has good wide entrances, user security, plenty of benches, picnic tables and bins. It appears to be a popular site that is well used. The Friends of Broomhill are actively involved in the promotion of its heritage, working to maintain it as a welcoming park for all.

Similarly, Riverside Country Park (76%) has a great variety of features including a play area, nature reserve, pond, visitor centre, toilets, car park, signage, seating, and litter bins. This fantastic large site has a great variety of habitats and wildlife containing areas of international and national nature conservation importance in the form of the Medway Estuary and Marshes which are designated RAMSAR, SPA and SSSI. It has good strategic links within the green infrastructure of Medway, connecting to other open spaces and urban centres via the National Cycle Network, the Saxon Shore Way and other public rights of way. In addition, the site is an Area of Local Landscape Importance.

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Other high scoring sites to note include Capstone Farm Country Park (70%) which is also a Green Flag Award site. The site benefits from a range of ancillary features and facilities including parking, a lake, visitor centre, signage, wildlife, benches, and bins. It contains a network of paths/cycleways and has the additional benefits of toilets and a café.

Castle Gardens (73%) is a Grade I heritage site. It is highlighted as being very well maintained with educational signage about the site's history. Educational tours of the castle are available (for a fee) with the grounds being free access. There is a good supply of benches and bins.

4.5 Value

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

Table 4.5: Value ratings for assessed parks and gardens

Area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Chatham	44%	55%	64%	0	4
Cuxton and Halling	-	-	-	-	-
Gillingham	46%	55%	64%	0	4
Rainham	41%	55%	68%	0	3
Rochester	39%	45%	59%	0	5
Rural	-	-	-	-	-
Strood	55%	55%	55%	0	1
Medway	39%	52%	68%	0	17

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

- ◀ Riverside Country Park (68%)
- ◀ Capstone Farm Country Park (64%)
- ◀ Gillingham Park (64%)

All these parks have high amenity and social value due to containing good recreational and exercise opportunities. All three sites feature play provision, adding to their benefits. The sites also score highly for visual and landscape benefits due to being observed as attractive and well used. The country parks have enhanced ecological value and biodiversity benefits with Capstone Farm Country Park featuring a lake and wildlife. Riverside Country Park offers access to the River Medway Estuary and its mudflats. Both sites also contain a café and visitor centre which contribute to economic and educational value. Gillingham Park also has enhanced ecological value due to featuring numerous trees.

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Despite Town Hall Gardens scoring below the quality threshold, it scores high for value. It features a play area and reasonable paths, used by a range of users including locals, dog walkers and families. Moreover, the site has numerous trees and wildlife providing enhanced ecological value. The site also has some historic value offering enhanced cultural and heritage benefits.

Castle Gardens (59%) has high cultural value due to featuring Rochester Castle which is a Norman fortress and continues to attract visitors, providing economic value.

Note that a dementia friendly group, run by Medway Adult Education (MAE) with support from Rochester and Strood Rotary, use Dickens/Eastgate Gardens (scoring 39%) and the surrounding areas for growing and planting and general tasks. They occasionally use other nearby sites such as The Vines (45%), further adding social, amenity and cultural value to the sites.

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

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PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

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

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

5.2 Current provision

There are 60 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, equating to over 865 hectares.

Table 5.1: Current natural and semi-natural greenspace in Medway

Analysis area	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Chatham	22	167.00	1.93
Cuxton and Halling	6	267.21	20.25
Gillingham	10	65.34	1.02
Rainham	10	39.05	1.02
Rochester	4	9.24	0.24
Rural	7	319.62	10.07
Strood	1	11.03	0.46
Medway	60	878.49	3.09

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

The Rural Analysis Area has the most natural and semi-natural provision with a total of over 319 hectares. This makes up 36% of natural/semi-natural provision.

The two largest sites are Ranscombe Farm Nature Reserve (246 hectares) and Cliffe Pools RSPB (237 hectares). The two make up 55% of the natural/semi-natural provision in Medway. If both these sites are omitted from the figures, the current provision level is 1.41 hectares per 1,000 population.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Within Medway, there is an overall provision of 3.09 hectares per 1,000 head of population which exceeds the FIT guidelines. This is also the case for three of the seven analysis areas.

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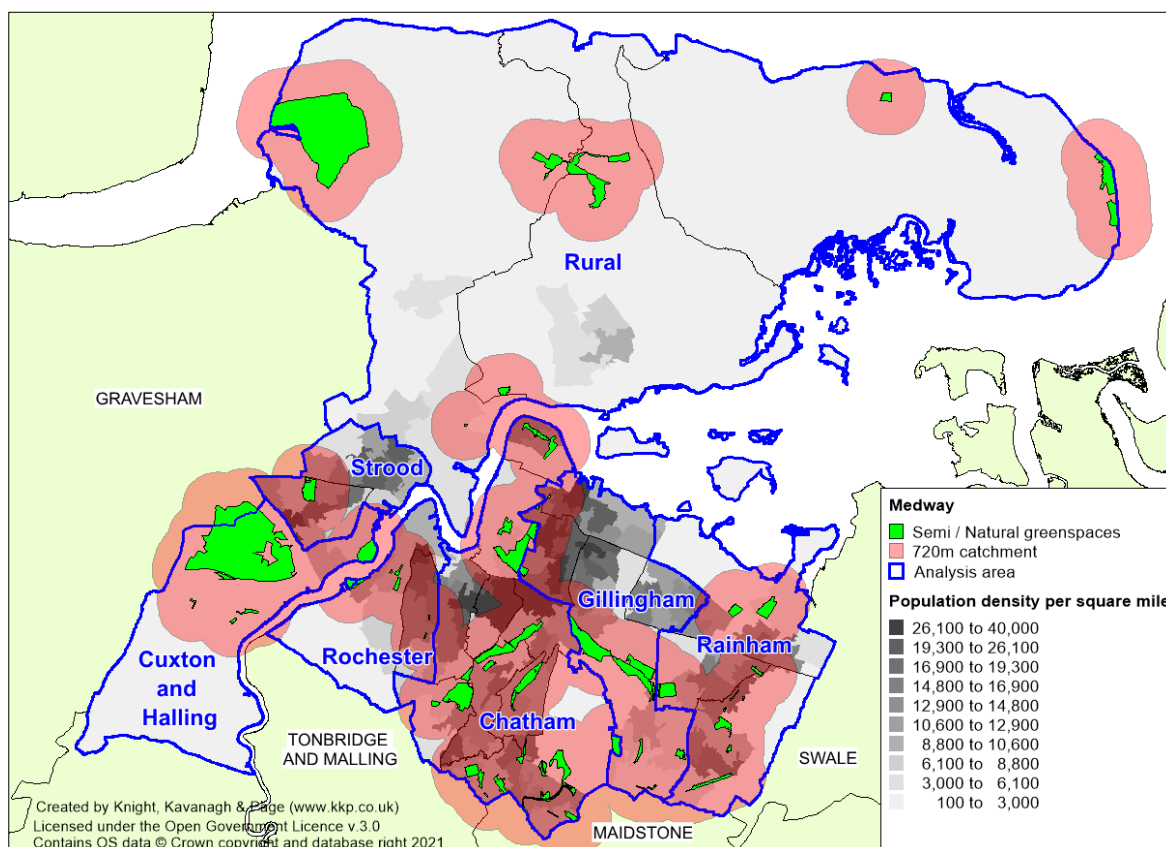
It is important to recognise that other open spaces such as parks and amenity greenspace often provide opportunities associated with natural greenspace. For example, Riverside Country Park offers greater biodiversity and habitats due to the presence of ponds, salt marsh and grassland.

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

5.3 Accessibility

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

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



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Figure 5.2: Natural greenspace mapped in North Medway

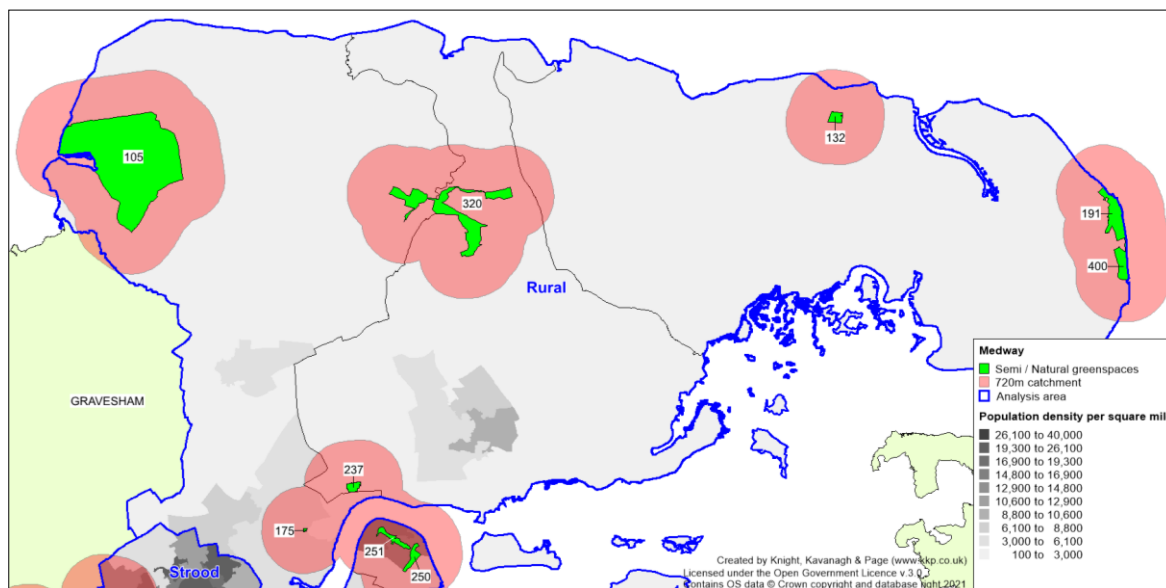


Figure 5.3: Natural and semi-natural greenspace in South Medway

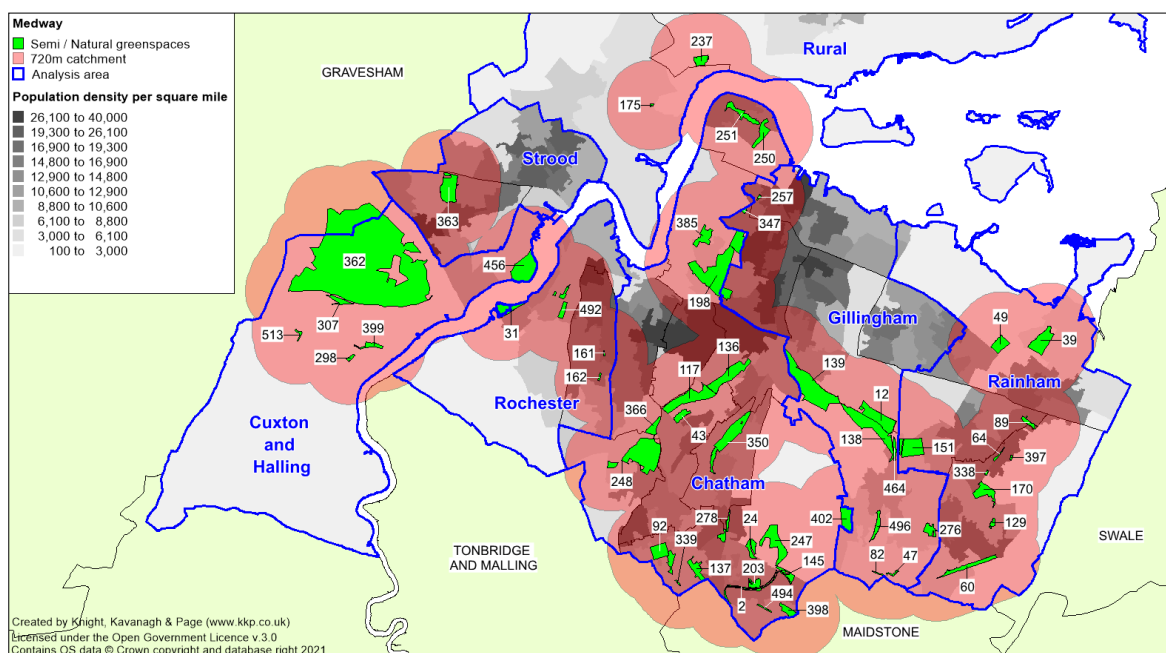


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
2	Albemarle Road Countryside Area	Chatham	2.61	43.3%	30.0%
12	Ambley Wood	Gillingham	11.57	39.9%	39.1%
24	Ballens Rough	Chatham	3.19	32.4%	20.9%
31	Batys Marsh	Rochester	5.25	73.3%	40.0%
39	Berengrave Nature Reserve	Rainham	9.46	47.1%	43.6%
43	Bishops Hoath Wood	Chatham	2.86	41.2%	39.1%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
47	Blowers Wood	Gillingham	0.61	37.4%	24.5%
49	Bloors Lane Community Wood	Rainham	4.76	34.0%	39.1%
60	Brooms Wood	Rainham	5.38	28.5%	39.1%
64	Callums Scrubs	Rainham	0.55	43.1%	15.5%
82	Chapel Hill Wood	Gillingham	0.32	47.5%	25.5%
89	Cherry Tree Orchard	Rainham	1.72	56.1%	30.0%
92	Chestnut Wood	Chatham	8.55	60.9%	30.0%
105	Cliffe Pools RSPB	Rural	236.86	72.3%	40.0%
117	Coney Banks	Chatham	14.07	52.3%	44.5%
129	Craigie Walk Greenspace	Rainham	0.95	41.6%	24.5%
132	Cross Park	Rural	3.74	68.9%	48.2%
136	Daisy Banks	Chatham	11.68	43.2%	49.1%
137	Dargets Wood	Chatham	4.42	40.5%	39.1%
138	Darland Banks East	Gillingham	16.34	53.1%	40.0%
139	Darland Banks West	Gillingham	27.57	54.2%	39.1%
145	Depot Wood	Chatham	2.43	30.0%	10.9%
151	East Hoath Wood	Rainham	9.60	39.6%	40.0%
161	Fleet Road Lower (MHS)	Rochester	0.21	28.4%	20.0%
162	Fleet Road Upper (MHS)	Rochester	0.32	34.2%	20.0%
170	Foxburrow Wood	Rainham	6.08	61.3%	30.0%
175	Frog Island Pond	Rural	0.24	47.6%	25.5%
191	Grain Coastal Park	Rural	18.36	69.1%	53.6%
198	Great Lines Heritage Park	Chatham	34.15	51.6%	43.6%
203	Hall Wood	Chatham	2.28	35.4%	30.0%
237	Hoo Common	Rural	3.14	63.5%	35.5%
247	Hook Wood	Chatham	11.01	29.6%	39.1%
248	Horsted Valley	Chatham	24.53	43.2%	40.0%
250	Island Way East	Chatham	4.76	73.9%	40.0%
251	Island Way West	Chatham	4.96	75.9%	40.0%
257	Kelly Drive	Gillingham	0.37	35.4%	25.5%
276	Levan Strice	Gillingham	2.97	36.1%	39.1%
278	Lords Wood	Chatham	2.61	31.7%	33.6%
298	Mays Wood	Cuxton and Halling	0.75	47.7%	25.5%
307	Mill Hill Wood	Cuxton and Halling	2.51	63.1%	30.0%
320	Northward Hill Nature Reserve RSPB	Rural	47.84	68.5%	40.0%
338	Ploughmans Meadow	Rainham	0.29	45.4%	30.0%
339	Polhill Woodland	Chatham	0.24	42.0%	20.0%
347	Prince Arthur Park	Gillingham	0.45	42.8%	30.9%
350	Princes Park	Chatham	14.19	36.6%	40.9%
362	Ranscombe Farm Nature Reserve	Cuxton and Halling	246.20	76.1%	40.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
363	Rede Common	Strood	11.03	72.0%	57.3%
366	Ridgeway Banks	Chatham	3.14	35.9%	25.5%
385	Sally Port	Chatham	5.39	49.7%	43.6%
397	Silverspot Wood	Rainham	0.27	40.6%	30.0%
398	Sindal Shaw	Chatham	2.87	30.5%	39.1%
399	Six Acre Wood	Cuxton and Halling	2.29	56.5%	30.0%
400	Smithfield Marshes	Rural	9.44	43.6%	33.6%
402	South Wood	Chatham	6.65	30.2%	39.1%
456	Temple Marsh	Cuxton and Halling	14.72	49.7%	33.6%
464	The Scrubs	Gillingham	2.42	16.5%	19.1%
492	Watts Meadow	Rochester	3.45	69.1%	30.0%
494	Whimbrel Walk Countryside Area	Chatham	0.42	47.2%	30.9%
496	Whitegate Wood	Gillingham	2.74	29.4%	39.1%
513	Millenium Wood	Cuxton and Halling	0.73	20.2%	30.0%

Most areas with greater population density are served by the 9-minute walk time. However, gaps are noticeable in Strood, Chatham, Gillingham and Rainham. There are also some minor gaps to the north of Rochester and parts of the Rural Analysis Area.

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

Table 5.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in natural catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Chatham	Victoria Gardens (ID 482) Maidstone Road Sports Ground (ID 293) Chalkpit Hill (ID 79) Luton Millenium Green (ID 288) Claremont Way (ID 100) Balfour Road Recreation Ground (ID 21) Fort Pitt Gardens (ID 168) Dorset Square (ID 147)	Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Gillingham	Gillingham Park (ID 184) Hillyfields Open Space (ID 231) Balmoral Gardens (ID 25) Forge Lane (ID 165) Queen Elizabeth and Castlemaine (ID 352) The Strand (ID 466) Woodchurch Crescent (ID 504) Vinalls Park (ID 485) Petham Green (ID 334) Wingham Close (ID 503) Leeds Square (ID 274)	Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Beechings Green (ID 33) Beechings Way Playing Field (ID 34) Eastcourt Lane (ID 152) Teynham Green (ID 458)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rainham	Cozenton Park (ID 126) Platters Park (ID 336) Moor Park Close (ID 313) Ten Acre Way (ID 457) Vancouver Drive (ID 481)	Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rochester	Castle Gardens (ID 74) Dickens Gardens (ID 146) Boley Hill Open Space (ID 48) Cathedral Gardens (Private) (ID 78) War Memorial (ID 490)	Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rural	Gamelan Crescent Recreation Ground (ID 178) Rivenhall Way/Hogarth Close (ID 367) Herbert Cuckow Grove (ID 218) Hogarth Close (ID 232) Pottery Road Recreation Ground (ID 242) Blossom Gardens (ID 46) Berberis Gardens (ID 38) Sopwith Drive (ID 401)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Strood	Broomhill Park (ID 56) Windmill Street (ID 501) Northcote Recreation Ground (ID 318) Marabel Gardens off Clarendon Drive (ID 101) Cliffe Road (ID 108) Clarendon Drive/Lychfield Drive (ID 102) Church Green Recreation Ground (ID 94)	Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

5.4 Quality

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

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

Area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<45%	>45%
Chatham	30%	44%	76%	15	7
Cuxton and Halling	20%	52%	76%	1	5
Gillingham	16%	39%	54%	7	3
Rainham	29%	44%	61%	6	4
Rochester	28%	51%	73%	2	2
Rural	44%	62%	72%	1	6
Strood	72%	72%	72%	0	1
Medway	16%	47%	76%	32	28

Less than half (47%) of assessed natural and semi natural greenspace sites in Medway rate above the quality threshold, indicating a mixed standard of quality. The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for quality in Medway are:

- ✦ Ranscombe Farm Nature Reserve (76%)
- ✦ Island Way West (76%)
- ✦ Island Way East (74%)
- ✦ Batys Marsh (73%)
- ✦ Cliffe Pools RSPB (72%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as, informative signage, benches and bins. The sites are also observed as having good access for all, with well-maintained pathways and levels of personal security. Furthermore, all four score well for overall maintenance, drainage and pathways, adding to their quality.

Batys Marsh (73%) benefits from picnic tables whilst Ranscombe Farm Nature Reserve (76%) features toilets and car parking. Cliffe Pools RSPB and Batys Marsh each contain a water feature adding to their quality and value. Cliffe Pools RSPB, the highest scoring site for quality, is a vast semi-natural site which features trails for walkers and joggers. It benefits from good parking and signage including interpretation panels displaying information about the wildlife. The remote landscape has a variety of wetland, coastal and estuary habitats.

Island Way West (76%) is observed as a very well maintained and visually appealing site with attractive views. In addition, it features good footpaths, bins, benches and signage as well as numerous plants and trees.

Foxborrow Wood (61%) scores above the quality threshold as it is a visually appealing site and benefits from bins, some signage, good entrances and boundary fencing. Despite there being bins, the site could benefit from more. There may also be a lack of benches.

Cross Park (69%) scores above the quality threshold. All Hallows Parish Council also identify it as very good quality but do note there are sometimes issues with dog fouling. The site often has to be cleaned up prior to football matches on the pitches. The Parish Council have potential plans to expand the hall and upgrade the car park. It is also looking at repositioning the football pitch to create space for an additional pitch.

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Similarly, St James, Isle of Grain Parish Council also highlights dog fouling issues. Consultation identifies the issues of dog fouling and vandalism at Grain Coastal Park (69%) and Smithfield Marshes (44%). However, they do regard the former site as very good quality.

The lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ The Scrubs (17%)
- ◀ Millennium Wood (20%)
- ◀ Fleet Road Lower (MHS) (28%)
- ◀ Brooms Wood (29%)
- ◀ Whitegate Wood (29%)
- ◀ Depot Wood (30%)

Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as benches and signage. All six of these sites score very low for user security and other entrances. Only Whitegate Wood (17%) and Brooms Wood (17%) have bins. All six sites benefit from good habitats. The Scrubs (15%) is noted as having poor access and thus, scores low for entrances, user security, access, and pathways. Consequently, it is perceived as hardly used. Path score low for The Scrubs, Fleet Road Lower (MHS) and Millennium Wood. Millennium Wood is noted as having a narrow path.

5.5 Value

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

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

Area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Chatham	11%	35%	49%	1	21
Cuxton and Halling	25%	32%	40%	0	6
Gillingham	19%	32%	40%	1	9
Rainham	15%	32%	44%	1	9
Rochester	20%	28%	40%	0	4
Rural	25%	39%	54%	0	7
Strood	57%	57%	57%	0	1
Medway	11%	34%	57%	3	57

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

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

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

- ◀ Rede Common (57%)
- ◀ Grain Coastal Park (54%)
- ◀ Daisy Banks (49%)

These sites offer education value through interpretation boards as well as high amenity and social value due to good recreation and exercise opportunities. All are well located and of high quality, providing attractive landscapes and enhancing structural and landscape benefits. In addition, each provides high ecological value due to the flora and fauna on offer.

Rede Common is a visually appealing open space with a variety of different types of plants and trees. It features plenty of wildlife, benches, bins and information on flora, providing a welcoming place to visit.

Other high scoring sites include Cross Park (48%). The site contains a variety of trees and wildlife providing high ecological and biodiversity benefits. There are also football pitches on site providing amenity and health benefits. The cafe provides enhanced economic value.

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

- ◀ Depot Wood (11%)
- ◀ Callum Scrubs (15%)
- ◀ The Scrubs (19%)

Depot Wood (11%) has no user security, signage, seating or bins and has limited amenity and social value. However, the site features some habitats therefore has ecological value. Similarly, Callum Scrubs (15%) is a wooded area scoring low for level of use and social value. The Scrubs (19%) is a mature woodland between two busy roads and has no apparent access therefore has low social and amenity value. However it does have some habitats providing ecological value.

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PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

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

6.2 Current provision

There are 165 amenity greenspace sites in Medway equating to over 222 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites in Medway

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Chatham	41	61.24	0.71
Cuxton and Halling	8	14.93	2.26
Gillingham	31	49.46	0.77
Rainham	11	9.02	0.24
Rochester	15	24.06	1.11
Rural	36	44.95	1.42
Strood	23	18.85	0.78
Medway	165	222.51	0.80

This typology has a broad range of purposes and as such varies significantly in size. For example, Archbishops Crescent at 0.16 hectares acts as an important visual/communal amenity. In contrast, Knights Place Sports Ground at over five hectares, is a greenspace with a range of recreational and sport opportunities.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1 shows that overall Medway is above this. This is also the case for six of the seven analysis areas.

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

6.3 Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 6-minute walk time has been set across Medway for amenity greenspace. Figure 6.1 shows amenity greenspace mapped against the analysis areas with the accessibility catchment. Due to the number of sites, the map does not show ID numbers.

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

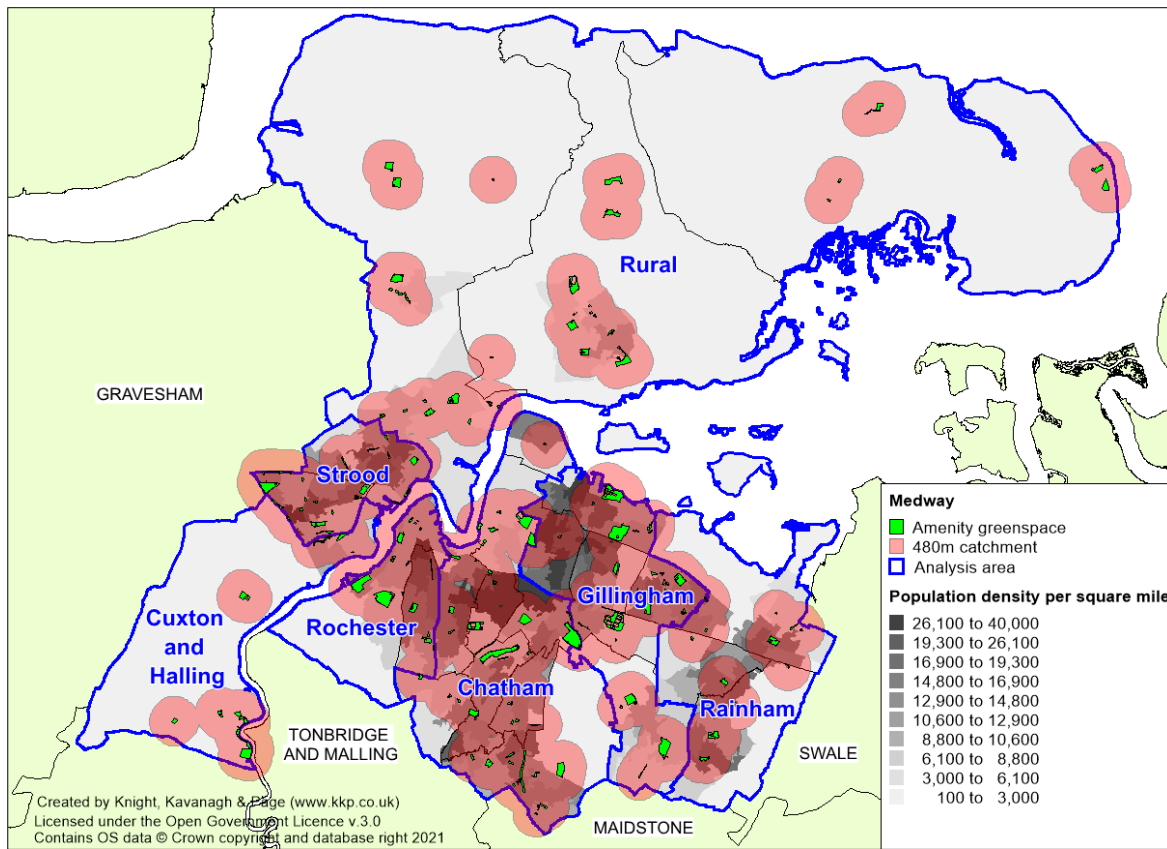
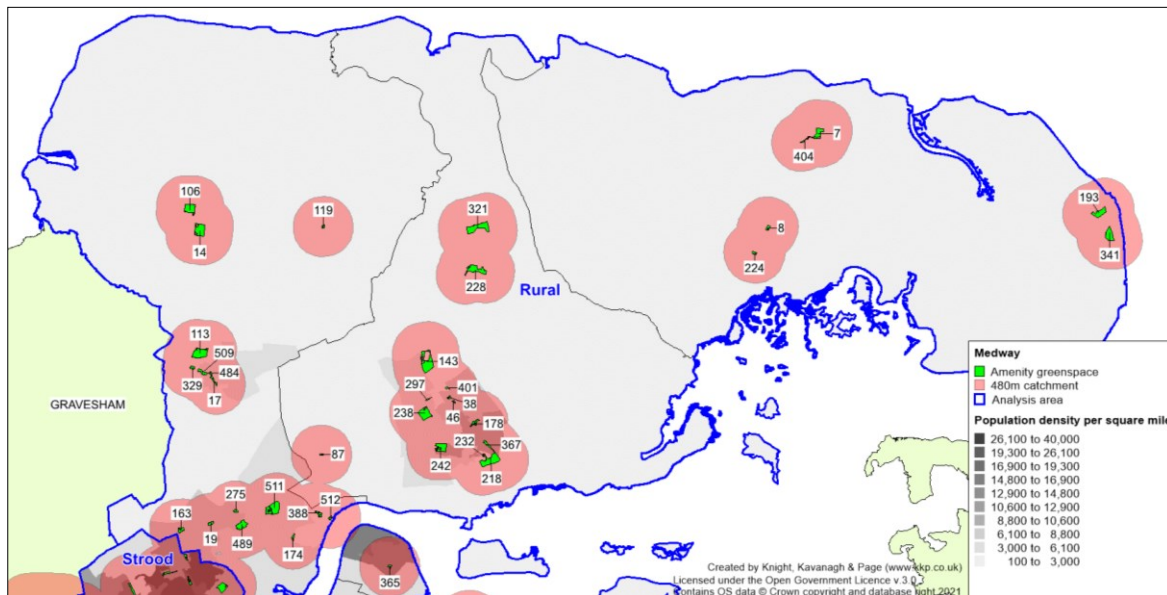


Figure 6.2: Amenity greenspaces with a 6-minute (480m) walk catchment in North Medway



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Figure 6.3: Amenity greenspaces with a 6-minute (480m) walk catchment in South Medway

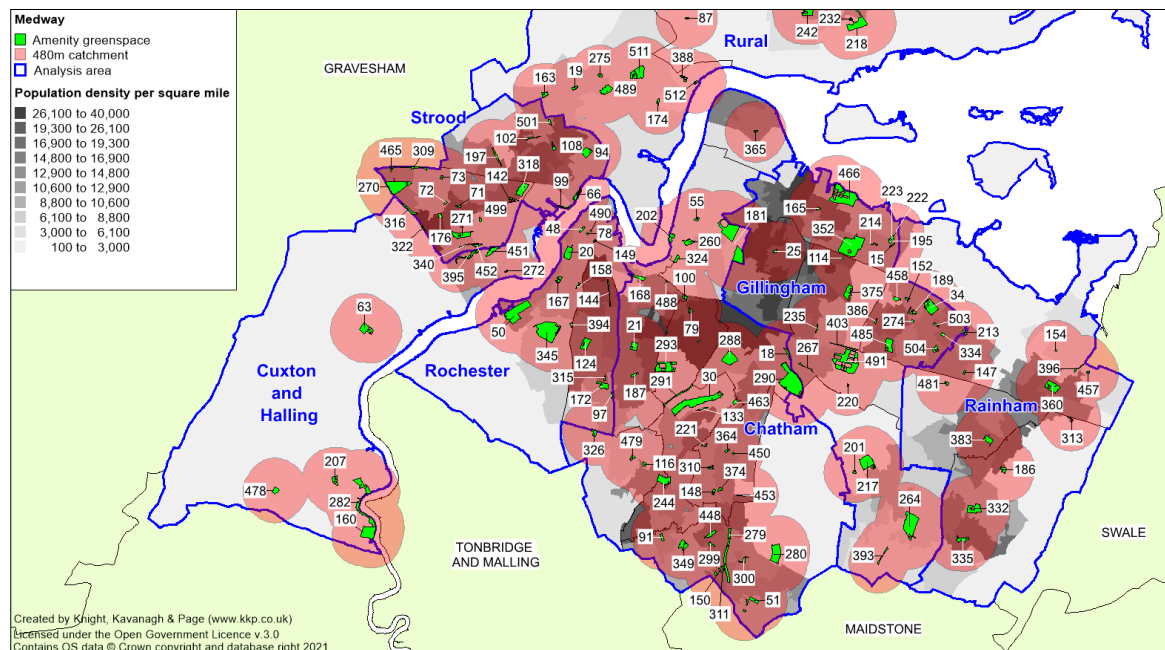


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
7	Allhallows Recreation Ground	Rural	1.61	60.4%	43.0%
8	Allhallows Road	Rural	0.31	59.3%	42.0%
14	APCM Cliffe Recreation Ground	Rural	2.84	59.9%	49.0%
15	Archbishops Crescent	Gillingham	0.16	41.6%	27.0%
17	Archery Close	Rural	0.44	49.2%	28.0%
18	Ash Tree Lane Open Space	Chatham	0.46	42.9%	22.0%
19	Ashcroft Road	Rural	0.37	38.0%	27.0%
20	Backfields Churchfields Open Space	Rochester	2.08	65.9%	33.0%
21	Balfour Road Recreation Ground	Chatham	1.19	58.6%	35.0%
25	Balmoral Gardens	Gillingham	0.22	50.8%	23.0%
30	Barnfield Recreation Ground	Chatham	8.78	46.3%	45.0%
34	Beechings Way Playing Field	Gillingham	3.27	61.1%	45.0%
38	Berberis Gardens	Rural	0.17	48.6%	23.0%
46	Blossom Gardens	Rural	0.14	48.1%	27.0%
48	Boley Hill Open Space	Rochester	0.33	42.9%	17.0%
50	Borstal Sports Ground	Rochester	7.18	66.2%	54.0%
51	Bower Green	Chatham	1.00	35.8%	28.0%
55	Brompton Open Space	Chatham	0.30	48.6%	28.0%
63	Bush Road Recreation Ground	Cuxton and Halling	2.22	69.4%	53.0%
66	Canal Road Open Space	Strood	0.74	56.6%	43.0%
71	Carnation Road Lower	Strood	0.17	37.0%	17.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
72	Carnation Road Middle	Strood	0.21	37.0%	22.0%
73	Carnation Road Upper	Strood	0.19	38.2%	22.0%
78	Cathedral Gardens (Private)	Rochester	0.12	47.8%	33.0%
79	Chalkpit Hill	Chatham	0.31	53.2%	28.0%
87	Chattenden Lane	Rural	0.12	36.2%	17.0%
91	Chestnut Recreation Ground	Chatham	0.46	56.9%	33.0%
94	Church Green Recreation Ground	Strood	1.65	63.9%	48.0%
97	City Way	Rochester	0.23	37.6%	20.0%
99	Civic Centre Greenspace	Strood	0.40	39.6%	22.0%
100	Claremont Way	Chatham	0.45	41.3%	34.0%
101	Marabel Gardens off Clarendon Drive	Strood	0.20	41.7%	32.0%
102	Clarendon Drive/Lychfield Drive	Strood	0.36	37.1%	22.0%
106	Cliffe Recreation Ground	Rural	2.28	63.3%	34.0%
108	Cliffe Road	Strood	0.38	39.9%	27.0%
113	Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground	Rural	3.27	60.4%	39.0%
114	Cobham Rise	Gillingham	0.11	38.5%	28.0%
116	Concord Avenue	Chatham	0.28	39.3%	22.0%
119	Cooling Parish Amenity area	Rural	0.16	58.6%	33.0%
124	Copperfield Road Recreation Ground	Rochester	2.00	49.2%	55.0%
133	Cunningham Crescent	Chatham	0.34	35.8%	16.0%
142	Darnley Road Recreation Ground	Strood	0.32	49.2%	44.0%
143	Deangate Ridge Complex	Rural	4.03	60.2%	44.0%
144	Delce Road	Rochester	0.44	42.9%	12.0%
147	Dorset Square	Rainham	0.22	31.7%	22.0%
148	Downland Walk	Chatham	0.32	40.5%	43.0%
149	Eagle Court		0.13	34.4%	23.0%
150	Duchess of Kent Drive	Chatham	0.30	35.8%	22.0%
152	Eastcourt Lane	Gillingham	0.24	36.7%	22.0%
154	Ellison Way Open Space	Rainham	0.10	39.8%	22.0%
158	Ethelbert Road Open Space	Rochester	0.21	36.7%	11.0%
160	Ferry Meadow	Cuxton and Halling	4.00	30.7%	42.0%
163	Fordwich Drive	Rural	0.60	58.4%	54.0%
165	Forge Lane	Gillingham	0.19	34.4%	16.0%
167	Fort Clarence Open Space	Rochester	0.55	40.5%	27.0%
168	Fort Pitt Gardens	Chatham	0.90	47.7%	27.0%
172	Friston Way Open Space	Rochester	1.39	56.0%	55.0%
174	Frog Island	Rural	0.33	30.9%	22.0%
176	Fulmar Road	Strood	0.34	44.4%	17.0%
178	Gamelan Crescent Recreation Ground	Rural	0.54	46.5%	23.0%
181	Garrison Sports Ground	Chatham	8.73	56.2%	34.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
186	Glistening Glade	Rainham	0.61	37.4%	22.0%
187	Golding Close	Chatham	0.37	42.3%	22.0%
189	Goudhurst Road	Gillingham	0.48	52.2%	49.0%
193	Grain Recreation Ground	Rural	2.02	53.5%	33.0%
195	Grange Road	Gillingham	0.24	38.5%	17.0%
197	Gravesend Road Open Space	Strood	0.74	39.9%	27.0%
201	Greenfinches	Gillingham	0.24	37.4%	27.0%
202	Gun Wharf	Chatham	0.77	43.1%	28.0%
207	Halling Recreation Ground	Cuxton and Halling	0.95	47.7%	48.0%
213	Hawthorne Avenue	Gillingham	0.27	31.3%	27.0%
214	Hazelmere Drive	Gillingham	0.18	32.2%	28.0%
217	Hempstead Playing Field	Gillingham	3.97	70.6%	55.0%
218	Herbert Cuckow Grove	Rural	3.82	47.5%	33.0%
220	Heritage Drive	Gillingham	0.09	48.0%	28.0%
221	Heritage Road	Chatham	0.22	34.0%	27.0%
222	Herleva Way	Gillingham	0.10	37.6%	22.0%
223	Herlium Way/Grange Road	Gillingham	0.32	38.5%	22.0%
224	Heron Way	Rural	0.19	53.9%	28.0%
228	High Halstow Recreation Ground	Rural	2.75	70.6%	39.0%
232	Hogarth Close	Rural	0.14	50.7%	28.0%
235	Holmside	Gillingham	0.28	36.2%	22.0%
238	Hoo Recreation Ground North/Kingshill	Rural	2.78	65.1%	48.0%
242	Pottery Road Recreation Ground	Rural	2.01	65.1%	44.0%
244	Hook Meadow Greenspace	Chatham	2.41	50.1%	25.0%
260	Khartoum Road	Chatham	1.08	56.6%	57.0%
264	Kingsfrith Playing Field	Gillingham	6.80	59.0%	60.0%
267	Kingsway	Gillingham	0.25	49.2%	28.0%
270	Knights Place Sports Ground	Strood	5.40	54.4%	43.0%
271	Laburnum Recreation Ground	Strood	2.24	37.9%	32.0%
272	Knights Templar Way	Cuxton and Halling	0.06	60.5%	28.0%
274	Leeds Square	Gillingham	0.17	34.0%	17.0%
275	Leigh Road	Rural	0.28	44.7%	33.0%
279	Lords Wood Lane	Chatham	3.01	48.0%	20.0%
280	Lordswood Leisure Centre	Chatham	4.00	35.8%	54.0%
282	Low Meadow	Cuxton and Halling	4.54	57.7%	45.0%
288	Luton Millenium Green	Chatham	3.55	46.2%	45.0%
290	Luton Recreation Ground	Chatham	10.82	60.8%	55.0%
291	Magpie Hall Road	Chatham	0.89	47.1%	28.0%
293	Maidstone Road Sports Ground	Chatham	3.75	58.7%	40.0%
297	Martinsyde Grove	Rural	0.11	36.4%	23.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
299	Mckenzie Road	Chatham	0.26	32.9%	17.0%
300	Mead Green	Chatham	0.44	33.5%	29.0%
309	Millfordhope Road	Strood	0.56	40.5%	38.0%
310	Monarch Close	Chatham	0.33	45.9%	39.0%
311	Moonstone Drive	Chatham	0.21	41.1%	33.0%
313	Moor Park Close	Rainham	0.12	45.9%	43.0%
315	Mooring Road (MHS)	Rochester	0.17	35.3%	22.0%
316	Motorway Meadow	Strood	0.67	28.6%	25.0%
318	Northcote Recreation Ground	Strood	2.40	64.2%	43.0%
321	Northwood Avenue	Rural	3.65	65.3%	38.0%
322	Norwich Close	Strood	0.15	35.3%	23.0%
324	Paddock Island	Chatham	0.54	42.3%	23.0%
326	Park & Ride Open Space	Chatham	0.87	41.1%	34.0%
329	Parkside	Rural	0.32	50.8%	34.0%
332	Parkwood Green Open Space	Rainham	2.44	56.3%	45.0%
334	Petham Green	Gillingham	0.25	42.3%	22.0%
335	Peveral Green Open Space	Rainham	1.00	38.0%	35.0%
340	Poplar Road	Strood	0.28	39.8%	22.0%
341	Port Victoria Road	Rural	2.15	45.5%	28.0%
345	Priestfields Recreation Ground	Rochester	8.96	62.0%	49.0%
349	Princes Avenue Recreation Ground	Chatham	1.51	52.0%	43.0%
352	Queen Elizabeth and Castlemaine	Gillingham	9.45	39.0%	40.0%
360	Rainham Recreation Ground	Rainham	2.61	64.1%	45.0%
364	Redwing Road	Chatham	0.25	41.3%	27.0%
365	Restharrow Way (private)	Chatham	0.14	63.9%	28.0%
367	Rivenhall Way/Hogarth Close	Rural	0.47	42.3%	22.0%
374	Romney Road	Chatham	0.32	38.0%	25.0%
375	Rookery Fields Recreation Ground	Gillingham	1.91	55.4%	40.0%
383	Ryetop Playing Field	Rainham	1.16	49.8%	50.0%
386	Sanctuary Road	Gillingham	0.18	41.1%	26.0%
388	Schooner Walk	Rural	0.47	52.5%	33.0%
393	Sharsted Way	Gillingham	0.47	29.1%	16.0%
394	Shaws Pond	Rochester	0.21	30.4%	21.0%
395	Silver Streak Way	Cuxton and Halling	1.13		
396	Shorefields	Rainham	0.32	43.4%	22.0%
401	Sopwith Drive	Rural	0.16	33.5%	21.0%
403	Sovereign Boulevard	Gillingham	0.51	31.7%	16.0%
404	St Andrew's Walk	Rural	0.28	52.0%	32.0%
448	Sundridge Drive	Chatham	0.74	38.3%	28.0%
450	Swift Crescent	Chatham	0.11	32.6%	16.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
451	Sycamore Road Open Space	Cuxton and Halling	1.24	44.9%	33.0%
452	Sycamore Road/Poplar Road	Strood	0.38	32.5%	28.0%
453	Tay Close	Chatham	0.32	39.0%	27.0%
457	Ten Acre Way	Rainham	0.16	42.8%	33.0%
458	Teynham Green	Gillingham	0.51	57.4%	43.0%
463	The Links	Chatham	0.40	38.9%	29.0%
465	The Shades	Strood	0.49	33.5%	22.0%
466	The Strand	Gillingham	7.98	89.6%	70.0%
478	Upper Halling Recreation Ground	Cuxton and Halling	0.79	53.8%	34.0%
479	Vale Drive	Chatham	0.35	39.3%	43.0%
481	Vancouver Drive	Rainham	0.27	40.8%	28.0%
484	View Road	Rural	0.18	53.7%	34.0%
485	Vinalls Park	Gillingham	2.20	55.6%	40.0%
488	Waghorn Memorial	Chatham	0.08	44.1%	34.0%
489	Wainscott Recreation Ground	Rural	1.80	55.4%	48.0%
490	War Memorial	Rochester	0.06	60.5%	40.0%
491	Watling Street Playing Field	Gillingham	7.65	59.6%	45.0%
499	Willow Road	Strood	0.22	36.1%	28.0%
501	Windmill Street	Strood	0.35	42.0%	34.0%
503	Wingham Close	Gillingham	0.22	36.7%	15.0%
504	Woodchurch Crescent	Gillingham	0.59	46.5%	38.0%
509	Woodside Green Open Space	Rural	0.64	40.5%	35.0%
511	Wainscott Fields open space	Rural	3.39	58.4%	30.0%
512	Lower Upnor Village Green	Rural	0.20	45.6%	38.0%

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision across Medway. However, some areas of higher population density are not being served by a form of amenity greenspace provision within a 480m catchment. This is particularly noticeable in Gillingham, the east of Chatham bordering Gillingham and areas of Rainham. It is recognised that these gaps are potentially covered and served by other forms of open space provision.

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

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Chatham	Gillingham Park (ID 184) Chestnut Wood (ID 92) Daisy Banks (ID 136) Great Lines Heritage Park (ID 198) Horsted Valley (ID 248) Island Way East (ID 250) Island Way West (ID 251)	Parks Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural
Cuxton and Halling	Temple Marsh (ID 456) Rede Common (ID 363)	Natural Natural

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Gillingham	Gillingham Park (ID 184) Hillyfields Open Space (ID 231) Lower Lines Park (ID 284) Darland Banks West (ID 139) Kelly Drive (ID 257) Prince Arthur Park (ID 347)	Parks Parks Parks Natural Natural Natural
Rainham	Cozenton Park (ID 126) Platters Park (ID 336) Callums Scrubs (ID 64) East Hoath Wood (ID 151)	Parks Parks Natural Natural
Rochester	Fleet Road Upper (MHS) (ID 162)	Natural

6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces. A threshold of 55% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.4: Quality ratings for assessed amenity greenspaces

Area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<55%	>55%
Chatham	33%	45%	64%	34	7
Cuxton and Halling	31%	52%	69%	4	3
Gillingham	29%	46%	90%	23	8
Rainham	32%	45%	64%	9	2
Rochester	30%	48%	66%	9	5
Rural	31%	52%	71%	22	14
Strood	29%	42%	64%	20	3
Medway	29%	47%	90%	121	42

70% of assessed sites score below the quality threshold. However, note that numerous of these sites are very small and have no or limited ancillary features and facilities and serve more as a visual amenity or road buffers. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:

- ◀ Motorway Meadow (29%)
- ◀ Sharsted Way (29%)
- ◀ Shaws Pond (30%)

All three sites have no seating, signage or litter bins, lowering the quality of the site. Motorway Meadow (29%) is identified as a linear grass strip with trees and serving as a motorway buffer with no ancillary features. It also scores low for pathways. Similarly, Sharsted Way (29%) is observed as a grass verge beside a busy road with no paths or facilities. It appears to serve as a road buffer.

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Shaws Pond (30%) also has no paths or facilities. The site has boundary fencing and semi natural features and contains large trees and bushes. Due to it being more a visual amenity and serving as a road buffer, it appears rarely used.

Other lower scoring sites are:

- ◀ Ferry Meadow (31%)
- ◀ Lordswood Leisure Centre (36%)
- ◀ Laburnham Recreation Ground (38%)
- ◀ Queen Elizabeth and Castlemaine (39%)

These four sites score lower mainly due to a lack of ancillary features. They are all above one hectare. Most of these sites, except for Queen Elizabeth and Castlemaine, lack benches. Lordswood Leisure Centre (36%) does not feature any bins. Litter was observed at Queen Elizabeth and Castlemaine (39%) at the time of the visit. Likewise, litter was noted at Laburnham Recreation Ground (38%). It was also observed as having numerous caravans parked on the site (due to traveller incursion at the time).

The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ The Strand (90%)
- ◀ High Halstow Recreation Ground (70%)
- ◀ Hempstead Playing Field (69%)

These sites are observed as having good entrances, access, user security and signage. Furthermore, all three sites benefit from car parking, benches, and litter bins. The Strand (90%) has the added benefit of cycle parking, multiple picnic benches, tennis courts and a cafe. All three sites have a play area.

High Halstow Recreation Ground has the additional benefits of a half MUGA, skate park and outdoor gym. Hempstead Playing Field also has a gym adding to its offer.

Bush Road Recreation Ground (68%) is another high scoring amenity greenspace. The site features a play area, fitness equipment, signage, benches and bins. It also has a car park, albeit this scores low for quality. Cuxton Parish Council highlights the site as good quality but suggests it has issues with vandalism, littering and dog fouling. In addition, the Parish Council highlights the fencing on site needs re-painting.

Similarly, Allhallows Parish Council identifies that Allhallows Recreation Ground is a good quality site but has issues with dog fouling. This needs to be removed before football teams play on the pitches. The Parish Council cite plans to move the football pitch to allow space for a second pitch.

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6.5 Value

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

Table 6.5: Value ratings for assessed amenity greenspace

Area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Chatham	16%	32%	57%	3	38
Cuxton and Halling	28%	41%	53%	0	8
Gillingham	15%	31%	70%	6	25
Rainham	22%	33%	50%	0	11
Rochester	11%	32%	55%	3	12
Rural	17%	35%	54%	1	35
Strood	17%	30%	48%	1	22
Medway	11%	33%	70%	14	151

Most assessed amenity greenspace sites rate above the threshold for value. Sites scoring below the value threshold are all relatively small greenspaces (below 0.5 hectares), usually lacking ancillary features and pathways which limits amenity and social benefits. As a result, they are perceived as hardly used. However, most of these serve as visual amenities and/or provide some habitats/ecological value with the presence of trees etc. Also, most of these sites are likely to be used by local dog walkers adding some amenity value to them.

Despite Laburnham Recreation Ground (32%) scoring above the value threshold, the site has litter and fly tipping issues limiting visual aesthetics and landscape benefits. Bower Green (28%) is observed as a grass area with some mature trees but with limited recreational use. Paddock Island (23%) is a small open space with a few benches and path and scores slightly above the value threshold (since being visited, this site has been completely relandscaped).

The highest scoring sites for value are The Strand (70%) and Kingsfrith Playing Field (60%). These are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational and exercise benefits they offer for a wide range of users. They feature a good network of pathways and are perceived as well used, providing high amenity and health benefits. Both sites feature plenty of trees enhancing structural and landscape benefits and ecological value. The Strand has the additional benefits of a pool and café on site enhancing economic value.

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

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

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PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

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

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

7.2 Current provision

A total of 163 play locations are identified in Medway as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of almost 13 hectares. This includes seven sites identified as outdoor gyms. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

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

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Chatham	42	2.68	0.03
Cuxton and Halling	12	0.68	0.05
Gillingham	34	4.49	0.07
Rainham	15	1.59	0.04
Rochester	9	0.66	0.03
Rural	36	1.84	0.06
Strood	15	0.96	0.04
Medway	163	12.90	0.05

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 7.1 shows that overall, Medway is below this. Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience utilising FIT guidance.

FIT category	Explanation	FIT catchment
LAP	a Local Area of Play. Usually small landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.	100m
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.	400m
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.	1000m
Casual/Youth	Provision often catering for older ages such as MUGAs, skate parks, basketball areas, fitness equipment	700m

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On this basis, most play sites across Medway are categorised as LEAP. Across all analysis areas it is the most common type of play provision. Proportionally, the Cuxton and Halling (8%), Gillingham (12%) and Rochester (11%) analysis areas have a lower proportion of sites categorised as casual/youth compared to Medway as a whole (18%). This could suggest a potential lack of provision catering for such age groups.

Table 7.2: Distribution of sub-categories for children and young people in Medway

Analysis area	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Casual/Youth	Total
Chatham ⁸	8	22	4	7	41
Cuxton and Halling	-	8	3	1	12
Gillingham	4	20	6	4	34
Rainham	1	8	2	4	15
Rochester	1	5	2	1	9
Rural	1	17	10	8	36
Strood	-	10	-	5	15
Medway	15	90	27	30	162

Furthermore, it is important to consider recent best practice guidance from Make Space for Girls which provides direction for parks and public spaces (including play provision) to be designed to work well for girls and young women, not just boys and young men.

Key factors include identifying barriers to play via specific consultation with women and girls and developing new policies to support inclusive spaces. Some practical examples of how parks and play areas could be made to work better for girls and young women include:

- ◀ Visible footpaths with clear routes.
 - Distinguishing between different areas could be through changes in levels, colours, planting or differences in surfaces (not just fencing or hedges)
- ◀ Good lighting.
- ◀ Spaces divided into smaller sub-zones.
 - MUGAs could be split to encourage more diverse use. For example, only half could be painted with pitch markings or additional structures could be attached
- ◀ Wide entrances and exits.
- ◀ Areas for rest and socialising
 - Not just traditionally benches but seating arrangements which encourage conversations such as benches facing one another, raised platforms, hammocks etc.
- ◀ Shelter.
- ◀ Games such as netball, volleyball, and badminton.
- ◀ More swings and equipment for climbing and balancing.
- ◀ Good quality toilets.

⁸ One site (Khartoum Road Play Area) is not allocated a sub-category due to not being viewable

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7.3 Accessibility

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

Figure 7.1: Play provision with different applied catchments mapped

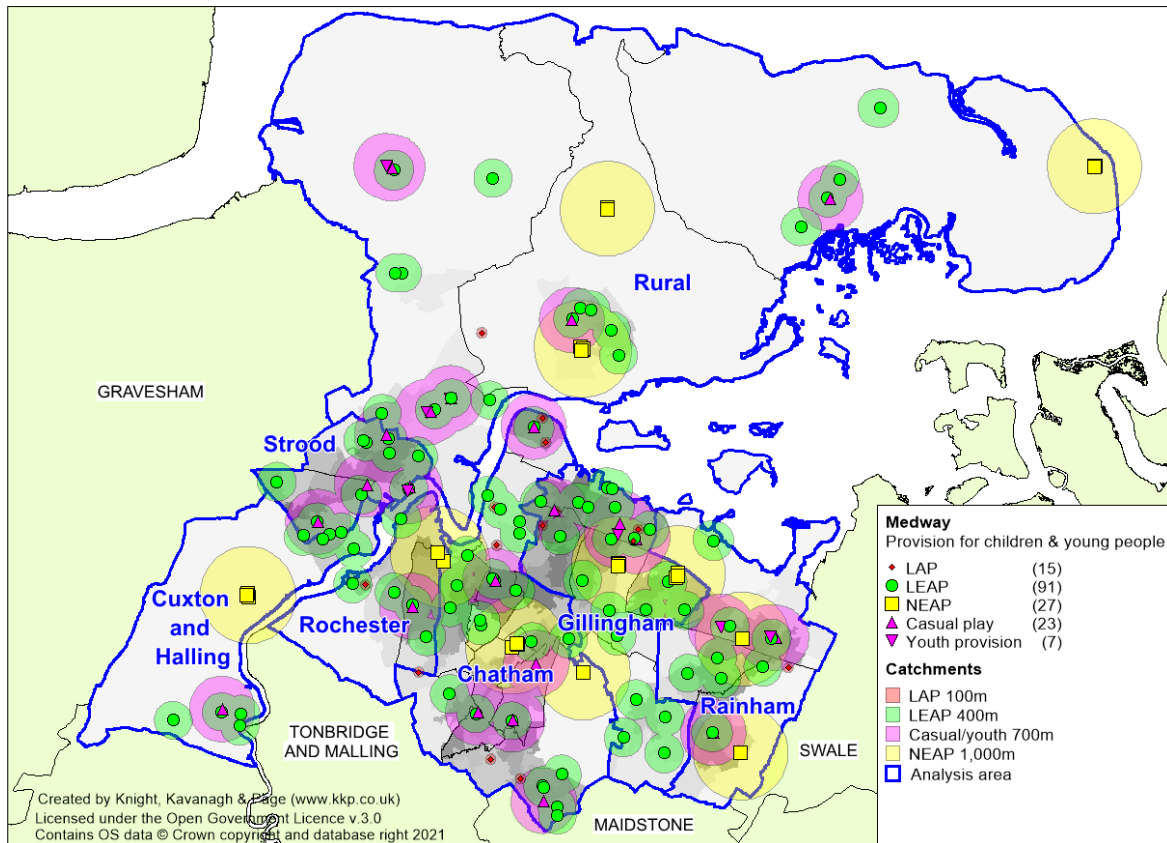
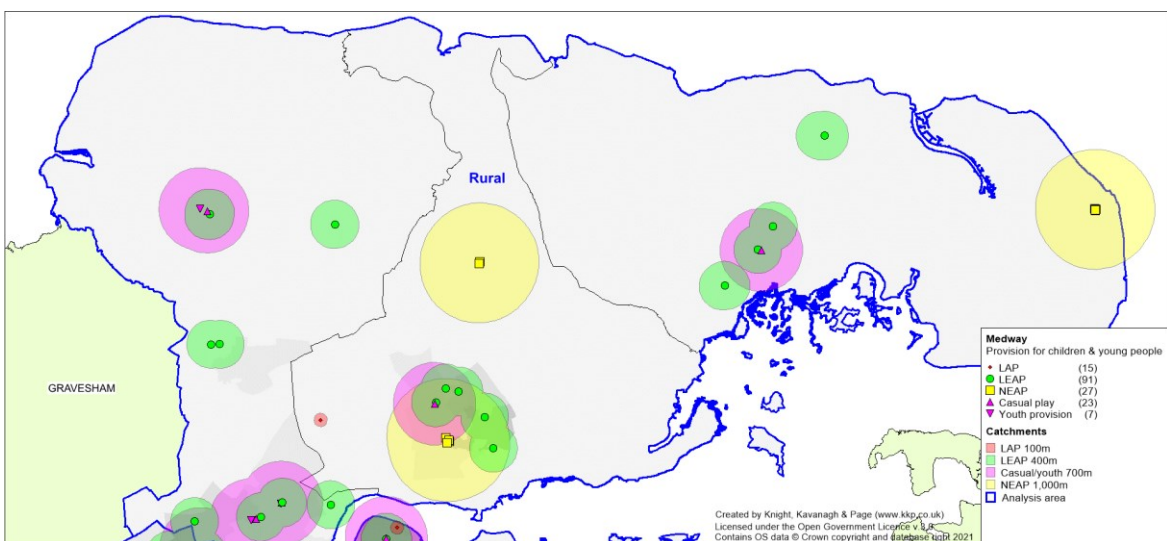


Figure 7.2: Play provision (North Medway) with different applied catchments



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Figure 7.3: Play provision (South Medway) with different applied catchments

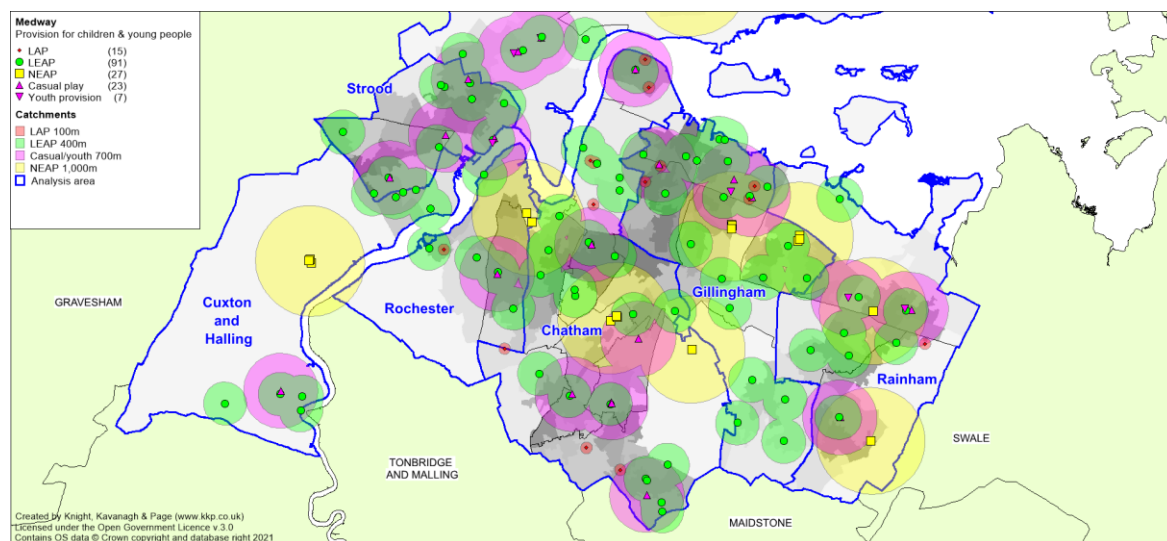


Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1.00	108 Maidstone Road Play Area	Rainham	0.09	64.3%	47.3%
7.01	Shelduck play area	Rural	0.11	75.3%	34.5%
8.01	Allhallows Road Play Area	Rural	0.04	65.3%	25.5%
15.01	Archbishops Crescent Play Area	Gillingham	0.04	73.9%	50.9%
21.01	Balfour Road Recreation Play Area	Chatham	0.04	77.0%	50.9%
23.00	Ballens Road Play Area (Children)	Chatham	0.09	73.9%	63.6%
25.01	Balmoral Gardens Play Area	Gillingham	0.06	82.1%	41.8%
30.01	Barnfield Rec Play Area (Children)	Chatham	0.02	77.3%	50.9%
30.02	Barnfield Older Children play area	Chatham	0.09	54.6%	38.2%
30.03	Barnfield MUGA	Chatham	0.06	33.0%	50.9%
32.00	Bayswater Drive Play Area	Rainham	0.15	75.9%	38.2%
34.01	Beechings Way Play Area	Gillingham	0.14	75.6%	50.9%
34.02	Beechings Way Skate Park	Gillingham	0.05	56.4%	50.9%
34.03	Beechings Way Playing Field Basketball Court	Gillingham	0.11	28.9%	50.9%
38.01	Berberis Gardens Play Area	Rural	0.05	78.4%	34.5%
42.01	Bishop's Palace Play Area		0.07	27.8%	34.5%
50.01	Borstal Rec Play Area	Rochester	0.05	74.2%	47.3%
52.00	Bradford's Close play area	Chatham	0.04	77.3%	38.2%
53.00	Braithwaite Court play area	Gillingham	0.006	47.8%	16.4%
54.00	Britton Street play area	Gillingham	0.02	45.7%	25.5%
55.01	Garden Street Play Area	Chatham	0.02	63.6%	29.1%
56.01	Broomhill Park Juniors play area	Strood	0.08	71.5%	50.9%
56.02	Broomhill Park Play Area Woodland	Strood	0.07	84.5%	50.9%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
63.01	Bush Road MUGA	Cuxton and Halling	0.13	25.8%	16.4%
63.02	Bush Road Fitness Equipment	Cuxton and Halling	0.06	26.8%	38.2%
63.03	Cuxton Recreation Ground Play Area	Cuxton and Halling	0.08	69.4%	47.3%
66.01	Canal Road Play Area	Strood	0.07	72.2%	38.2%
66.02	Canal Road basketball area	Strood	0.007	53.6%	47.3%
66.03	Canal Road outdoor gym	Strood	0.02	72.2%	38.2%
70.01	Capstone Farm C.P. Play Area	Chatham	0.14	75.3%	54.5%
75.00	Castlemaine Avenue MUGA	Gillingham	0.03	38.8%	47.3%
79.01	Chalkpit Hill Play Area	Chatham	0.02	74.2%	29.1%
79.02	Chalkpit Hill MUGA	Chatham	0.03	74.2%	29.1%
84.00	Chatham Dockyard play area	Chatham	0.09	85.9%	50.9%
88.01	Cherry Trees Play Area	Rainham	0.08	83.5%	54.5%
94.01	Church Green Kickabout & Play area	Strood	0.07	74.6%	47.3%
103.00	Cliffe MUGA	Rural	0.06	68.4%	47.3%
104.00	Cliffe Play Area	Rural	0.28	79.4%	50.9%
106.01	Cliffe Recreation Ground Skate Park	Rural	0.02	41.6%	47.3%
108.01	Cliffe Road Play Area	Strood	0.07	68.0%	38.2%
113.01	Cliffe Woods Juniors play area	Rural	0.03	68.7%	38.2%
113.02	Cliffe Woods Rec Play Area	Rural	0.05	79.4%	65.5%
114.01	Cobham Rise Play Area	Gillingham	0.03	79.7%	50.9%
119.01	Cooling play area	Rural	0.04	61.5%	38.2%
121.00	Coplins Kickabout Play Area	Gillingham	0.29	77.7%	47.3%
124.01	Copperfield Open Space Play Area	Rochester	0.07	71.8%	47.3%
124.02	Copperfield Park MUGA	Rochester	0.07	36.1%	47.3%
126.01	Cozenton Park Play Area	Rainham	0.09	74.6%	54.5%
126.02	Cozenton Park Skate Park	Rainham	0.08	61.2%	54.5%
130.00	Crestway Play Area	Chatham	0.07	69.8%	60.0%
140.00	Academy Drive Play Area	Gillingham	0.08	75.6%	50.9%
142.01	Darnley Road Play Area	Strood	0.20	79.0%	38.2%
148.01	Downlands Walk play area	Chatham	0.04	77.7%	50.9%
148.02	Downland Walk half MUGA	Chatham	0.005	77.7%	50.9%
148.03	Downland Walk youth shelter	Chatham	0.001	77.7%	50.9%
155.00	Elmwood Road play area	Rural	0.05	74.9%	25.5%
156.01	Esplanade Play Area	Rochester	0.07	64.6%	29.1%
159.00	Farman Drive Play Area	Rural	0.06	52.2%	34.5%
163.01	Fordwich Drive play area	Rural	0.02	76.6%	25.5%
172.01	Friston Way Play Area	Rochester	0.07	66.7%	50.9%
178.01	Gamelan Crescent Play Area	Rural	0.04	50.9%	29.1%
184.01	Gillingham Park Play Area	Gillingham	0.15	72.2%	50.9%
189.01	Goudhurst Road Play Area	Gillingham	0.04	64.9%	47.3%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
193.01	Grain Play Area	Rural	0.03	60.8%	63.6%
193.02	Grain Skate Park	Rural	0.03	60.8%	63.6%
193.03	High Street MUGA	Rural	0.07	60.8%	63.6%
193.04	Grain Recreation Ground outdoor gym	Rural	0.01	60.8%	63.6%
199.00	Great Lines Play Park	Chatham	0.15	75.3%	47.3%
207.01	Halling Recreation Ground Play Area	Cuxton and Halling	0.08	77.3%	90.9%
207.02	Halling Recreation Ground MUGA	Cuxton and Halling	0.04	77.3%	90.9%
210.00	Hamilton Road Play Area	Gillingham	0.25	66.7%	29.1%
211.00	Hancock Close play area	Strood	0.008	69.1%	41.8%
214.01	Hazlemere Drive Play Area	Gillingham	0.02	78.7%	50.9%
217.01	Hempstead Play Areas	Gillingham	0.15	76.3%	54.5%
224.01	Heron Way Play Area	Rural	0.03	64.9%	25.5%
224.02	Heron Way Skate Park	Rural	0.02	64.9%	25.5%
228.01	High Halstow play area	Rural	0.05	79.0%	50.9%
228.02	High Halstow Recreation Ground outdoor gym	Rural	0.05	79.0%	50.9%
231.01	Hillyfields Community Park Play Area	Gillingham	0.57	76.3%	60.0%
232.01	Hogarth Close Play Area	Rural	0.04	79.4%	38.2%
234.00	Holding Street play area	Rainham	0.11	75.6%	47.3%
238.01	Hoo Recreation Ground North/Kingshill Play Area	Rural	0.08	71.1%	38.2%
238.02	Hoo Recreation Ground North/Kingshill MUGA	Rural	0.01	71.1%	38.2%
242.01	Pottery Road Recreation Ground Play Area (a)	Rural	0.14	75.3%	50.9%
242.02	Pottery Road Recreation Ground Play Area (b)	Rural	0.04	75.3%	50.9%
242.03	Pottery Road Recreation Ground MUGA	Rural	0.02	75.3%	50.9%
242.04	Pottery Road Recreation Ground outdoor gym	Rural	0.03	75.3%	50.9%
244.01	Hook Meadow Play Area	Chatham	0.04	68.0%	50.9%
244.02	Hook Meadow MUGA	Chatham	0.04	50.2%	50.9%
249.00	Iona Close Play Area	Chatham	0.03	75.6%	50.9%
252.01	Jackson's Rec Play Area	Rochester	0.20	72.9%	41.8%
252.02	Jackson's Field Skate Park	Rochester	0.06	60.8%	47.3%
255.00	James Street Play Area	Gillingham	0.03	76.3%	25.5%
256.00	Jenkins Dale play area	Chatham	0.14	66.0%	25.5%
258.00	Kestrel Road MUGA	Chatham	0.03	38.1%	47.3%
259.00	Keswick Court Play Area	Gillingham	0.06	75.3%	20.0%
260.01	Khartoum Road play area	Chatham	0.04		
262.00	Kings Bastion play area	Chatham	0.19	66.3%	29.1%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
264.01	Kingsfrith Play Area	Gillingham	0.18	77.7%	54.5%
270.01	Knights Place Rec Play Area	Strood	0.12	78.0%	29.1%
271.01	Lilac Road/Laburnum Recreation Ground Play Area	Strood	0.09	39.2%	25.5%
271.02	Laburnum Recreation Ground MUGA	Strood	0.01	39.2%	34.5%
272.01	Temple Wharf Play Area	Cuxton and Halling	0.02	76.3%	38.2%
273.00	Lamplighters Close Play Area	Gillingham	0.10	84.2%	50.9%
280.01	Lordswood Leisure Centre Play Area	Chatham	0.06	79.4%	47.3%
282.01	Low Meadow Play Area	Cuxton and Halling	0.02	72.9%	50.9%
290.01	Luton Rec Play Area	Chatham	0.06	75.3%	54.5%
292.00	Magpie Hall Road play area ⁹	Chatham	0.03		
293.01	Maidstone Road Sports Ground Play Area	Chatham	0.08	76.6%	54.5%
293.02	Maidstone Road Sports Ground MUGA	Chatham	0.07	49.5%	47.3%
303.01	Melville Court (Lower) play area	Chatham	0.02	56.7%	25.5%
303.02	Melville Court (Upper) play area	Chatham	0.11	65.6%	29.1%
305.00	Mercury Close play area	Rochester	0.02	72.9%	54.5%
311.01	Moonstone Drive Play Area	Chatham	0.02	63.6%	29.1%
314.00	Moor Park Close Play Area	Rainham	0.02	58.4%	38.2%
318.01	Northcote Recreation Ground football goal	Strood	0.01	33.0%	34.5%
326.01	Park & Ride Play Area	Chatham	0.02	72.5%	16.4%
332.01	Parkwood Green (8-14 Yrs) Play Area	Rainham	0.24	76.3%	54.5%
332.02	Parkwood Green MUGA	Rainham	0.04	45.4%	34.5%
333.00	Perry Street Play Area	Chatham	0.03	77.3%	25.5%
336.01	Platters Park Play Area	Rainham	0.03	67.7%	47.3%
345.01	Priestfields Rec Play Area	Rochester	0.05	78.0%	50.9%
347.01	Mill Road Play Area	Gillingham	0.51	76.6%	50.9%
349.01	Princes Avenue Play Area	Chatham	0.04	69.1%	47.3%
350.01	Princes Park MUGA	Chatham	0.07	41.2%	47.3%
352.01	Queen Elizabeth and Castlemaine pump track	Gillingham	0.29	60.8%	47.3%
360.01	Rainham Rec Play Area	Rainham	0.19	79.0%	54.5%
360.02	Rainham Rec MUGA	Rainham	0.03	79.0%	54.5%
360.03	Rainham Rec Fitness Equipment	Rainham	0.01	39.2%	38.2%
365.01	Willowherb Close play area	Chatham	0.05	68.0%	29.1%
368.01	Riverside Country Park Play Area	Rainham	0.30	78.4%	54.5%
375.01	Rookery Fields Recreation Play Area	Gillingham	0.12	66.7%	54.5%
375.02	Rookery Fields Recreation MUGA	Gillingham	0.03	45.0%	50.9%

⁹ Closed at time of visit

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
375.03	Rookery Fields Outdoor Gym	Gillingham	0.02	47.4%	38.2%
378.00	Rotary Gardens play area	Gillingham	0.02	77.3%	47.3%
381.00	Rushdean Road Play Area	Strood	0.13	74.9%	38.2%
383.01	Ryetop Play Area	Rainham	0.11	76.3%	50.9%
387.00	Saunders Street MUGA	Gillingham	0.05	68.4%	50.9%
388.01	Schooner Walk Play Area	Rural	0.03	74.6%	29.1%
395.01	Silver Streak Way play area	Cuxton and Halling	0.04	43.3%	38.2%
395.02	Eustace Crescent/Silver Streak Way play area	Cuxton and Halling	0.05	47.1%	38.2%
425.01	Grange Road Play Area	Gillingham	0.03	75.3%	38.2%
451.01	Sycamore Road Play Area	Cuxton and Halling	0.06	78.4%	38.2%
455.00	Teal Drive play area	Chatham	0.34	77.3%	38.2%
455.01	Teal Drive MUGA	Chatham	0.03	77.3%	38.2%
466.01	Fort Apache Play Area	Gillingham	0.21	84.5%	63.6%
466.02	The Strand Play Area	Gillingham	0.40	83.5%	41.8%
469.00	The Street Play Area, Upper Stoke	Rural	0.10	37.8%	25.5%
474.01	Town Hall Gardens Play Area	Chatham	0.02	63.9%	29.1%
478.01	Halling play area	Cuxton and Halling	0.02	75.6%	50.9%
479.01	Vale Drive Play Area	Chatham	0.08	77.0%	60.0%
482.01	Victoria Gardens Play Area	Chatham	0.11	67.0%	25.5%
485.01	Vinalls Park Play Area	Gillingham	0.22	73.2%	50.9%
489.01	Wainscott Recreation Ground play area	Rural	0.08	52.6%	47.3%
489.02	Wainscott Recreation half MUGA	Rural	0.004	52.6%	47.3%
489.03	Wainscott Recreation outdoor gym*	Rural	0.02		
494.01	Whimbrel Walk Play Area	Chatham	0.02	73.2%	50.9%
498.00	Wigmore Park Play Area	Gillingham	0.07	56.4%	54.5%
501.01	Windmill Street MUGA	Strood	0.003	38.1%	34.5%
504.01	Woodchurch Crescent Play Area ¹⁰	Gillingham	0.12		
511.01	Wainscott fields play area	Rural	0.07	56.4%	50.9%
511.02	Wainscott fields MUGA*	Rural	0.02		
511.03	Wainscott Fields outdoor gym*	Rural	0.008		

* No score attributed but sites viewed as being of good quality.

Some sites have been assessed under the same assessment form where there are multiple forms of play provision. Note that Magpie Hall Road play area has not been assessed due to being closed for health and safety reasons. Similarly, Woodchurch Crescent Play Area was also closed and awaiting landscaping work. Khartoum Road Play Area has not been assessed as it appears the site has not been built yet as part of a development.

¹⁰ Closed at time of visit

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There is overall a reasonably good spread of play provision across Medway. However, there are gaps in catchments observed to some areas, in particular Chatham and Gillingham analysis areas. The following sites may help to serve some of the gaps in catchments if play equipment can look to be introduced and/or the amount and range of play equipment can be expanded.

Table 7.4: Sites with potential to help serve gaps in play provision catchments

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Chatham	Downlands Walk play area (ID 148.1) Kings Bastion play area (ID 262)
Cuxton and Halling	Temple Wharf Play Area (ID 272.1)
Gillingham	Mill Road Play Area (ID 347.1)
Strood	Knights Place Rec Play Area (ID 270.1)

7.4 Quality

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

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

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

Area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Chatham	33%	68%	86%	7	33
Cuxton and Halling	26%	56%	78%	5	7
Gillingham	29%	68%	85%	8	25
Rainham	39%	68%	84%	3	12
Rochester	36%	66%	78%	1	8
Rural	38%	66%	79%	7	29
Strood	33%	62%	85%	5	10
Medway	26%	66%	86%	36	124

Over three quarters (78%) of play sites rate above the quality threshold. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ✦ Chatham Dockyard play area (86%)
- ✦ Broomhill Park Play Area Woodland (85%)
- ✦ Fort Apache Play Area (85%)
- ✦ Lamplighters Close Play Area (84%)

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These sites are observed as being safe and secure with sufficient litter bins (contributing to the sites cleanliness), seating, signage, and good quality play equipment. All four sites score highly for maintenance and drainage as well as sufficient disabled access. Except for Lamplighters Close Play Area, the sites also have the additional benefit of car parking.

Broomhill Park Play Area Woodland (85%) is observed as visually appealing and of a good quality. It benefits from benches, good signage, and fencing. In addition, there is a junior swing that is disabled-friendly. Likewise, Fort Apache Play Area (85%) contains a wheelchair friendly roundabout and four disabled-friendly swings adding to its offer.

Noticeably there are a number of sites which contain provision catering for older age ranges such as skatepark, MUGAs and/or pump tracks. Beechings Way Playing Field features a play area, basketball court and skate park. Grain Recreation Ground features a play area, skate park, MUGA and outdoor gym.

Other high scoring sites include The Strand Play Area (85%) Cherry Trees Play Area (84%) and Balmoral Gardens Play Area (82%). All three sites have good entrances, safe crossings, user security, fencing, signage, benches, and litter bins adding to their quality. The Strand Play Area and Balmoral Gardens Play Area have the additional benefit of car parking. They are all identified as being well used with good quality equipment, surfaces, and drainage.

Although Allhallows Road Play Area (65%) scores above the quality threshold, the wet pour surface looked tired with evidence of moss noted at the time of assessment. Also, the only signage information displayed was about no dogs.

There are 33 sites rating below the threshold. Sites rating lower for quality is often due to maintenance/appearance observations and/or the range and quality of equipment on site.

Some of the lower scoring sites are:

- ◀ Bush Road MUGA (26%)
- ◀ Bush Road Fitness Equipment (27%)
- ◀ Beechings Way Playing Field Basketball Court (29%)

The sites are all noted as having few ancillary features with none featuring signage, seating or bins. However, all three sites score well for drainage and have reasonable entrances. Bush Road MUGA (26%) scores low for overall site quality, equipment quality and surfaces. Consequently, the site is perceived as hardly used. The site has good fencing but lacks signage, seating, and bins.

Castlemaine Avenue MUGA (39%) benefits from good fencing, controls to prevent illegal use, good user security and benches. However, the site lacks signage and bins and it is noted that the basketball hoops were missing at the time of visit.

It is important to note that there are some sites that score just below the quality threshold such as Wainscott fields play area (56%). This site has good entrances, user security, bins and some benches. However, there is a lack of information on the sign with just the ownership displayed.

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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. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.6: Value ratings for provision for children and young people

Area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Chatham	16%	42%	64%	1	39
Cuxton and Halling	16%	44%	91%	1	11
Gillingham	16%	46%	64%	1	32
Rainham	35%	48%	55%	0	15
Rochester	29%	46%	55%	0	9
Rural	25%	40%	65%	0	36
Strood	25%	39%	51%	0	15
Medway	16%	43%	91%	3	157

There are three sites to rate below the value threshold due to limited equipment and/or ancillary features and are therefore potentially of lower value and use.

Braithwaite Court play area (16%) is a very small site with limited equipment. The site features three springies and is therefore of limited amenity and social value. There is also no signage. Park & Ride Play Area (16%) also has limited equipment in terms of its amount and variety and appears hardly used. Bush Road MUGA (16%) scores low for maintenance, surface and drainage. It is considered to be rarely used contributing to a lower value score.

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

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

- ◀ Halling Recreation Ground Play Area (91%)
- ◀ Cliffe Woods Rec Play Area (66%)
- ◀ The Strand Play Area (64%)
- ◀ Grain Play Area (64%)
- ◀ Ballens Road Play Area (Children) (64%)

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The sites are observed as being well maintained with a good to reasonable variety of equipment, as well as having sufficient access. The sites are also assumed to be well used given their range and quality of equipment, particularly for the highest scoring sites. All five sites excluding Halling Recreation Ground Play Area feature disabled-friendly equipment providing enhanced inclusivity.

Halling Recreation Ground Play Area (91%) is the highest scoring play area site for value. It features a variety of good quality equipment offering high amenity and social benefits as well as physical activity opportunities

The Strand Play Area (64%) is a large popular play area with a range of good quality equipment. It has high amenity and social value due to these features as well as several benches and picnic tables. The site features monkey bars and climbing units providing high physical activity opportunities. Moreover, the play area has high social inclusion and inclusivity due to featuring a wheelchair friendly roundabout and four swings that are also disability friendly.

Grain Play Area (also 64%) is located adjacent to St James C of E Primary School therefore likely to be well used providing high amenity and social value. There is also a MUGA, skate park and outdoor gym on site, further adding to its benefits. Cliffe Woods Rec Play Area has additional educational value due to containing three play panels.

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

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PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

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

8.2 Current provision

There are 38 sites classified as allotments in Medway equating to over 29 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites in Medway

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Chatham	5	6.11	0.07
Cuxton and Halling	2	1.54	0.12
Gillingham	12	9.42	0.15
Rainham	4	3.30	0.09
Rochester	4	3.14	0.12
Rural	7	2.95	0.09
Strood	4	3.22	0.13
Medway	38	29.69	0.11

The largest site in Medway is Woodlands Road Allotment (4.06 hectares).

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

Medway based on its current population (279,819) is below the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision is 69.95 hectares. Existing provision of 29.69 hectares therefore does not meet this guideline.

The previous open space study established there was 14.26 plots per 1000 population. Based on known plot numbers (Table 8.3), there are 24.47 plots per 1000 population. This is likely due to increases in the number of plots and due to the trend of reduced plot sizes.

8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1 shows allotments mapped across Medway.

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Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped against analysis areas

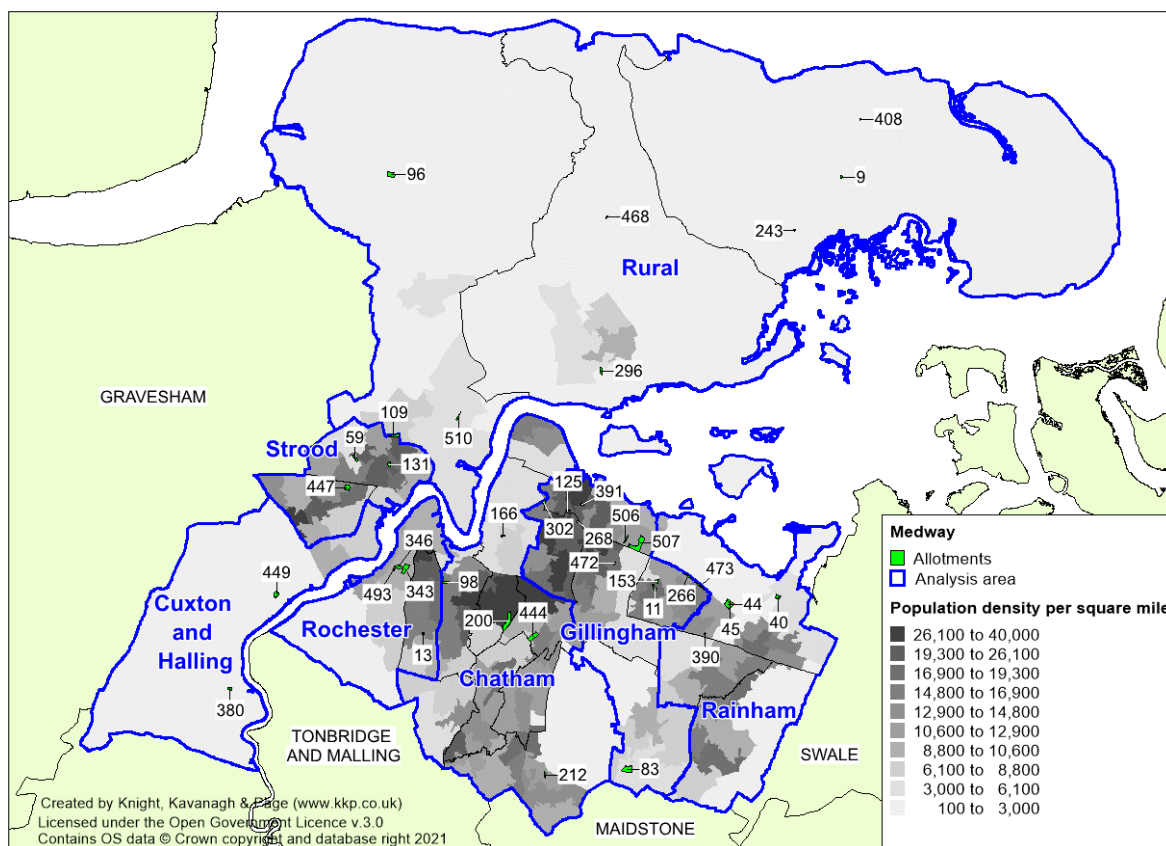


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality Score	Value score
9	Allhallows Road allotments	Rural	0.21	29.7%	21.9%
11	Allington Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.52	48.7%	27.6%
13	Anchor Road St Williams Way Allotment	Rochester	0.14	30.6%	23.8%
40	Berengrave Chalk Pit Allotment	Rainham	0.74	38.8%	33.3%
44	Bloors Lane Allotment	Rainham	1.67	56.0%	38.1%
45	Bloors Lane Church Allotment	Rainham	0.82	42.2%	31.4%
59	Broomhill Road Allotment	Strood	0.58	61.2%	37.1%
83	Chapel Lane	Gillingham	2.44	68.1%	33.3%
96	Church Street allotments	Rural	1.60	48.3%	28.6%
98	City Way Allotment	Chatham	0.60	51.7%	26.7%
109	Cliffe Road Allotment	Strood	1.08	46.6%	22.9%
125	Cornwall Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.13		
131	Cromer Road Yoke Close Allotment	Strood	0.45	44.4%	23.8%
153	Eastcourt Lane/Featherby Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.24	44.8%	21.9%
200	Great South Allotment	Chatham	2.94	65.5%	42.9%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality Score	Value score
212	Hatton Road Allotment	Chatham	0.31	42.2%	26.7%
243	Hoo Road allotments	Rural	0.08		
266	Kingsnorth Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.30	35.8%	26.7%
268	Kingswood Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.08	35.8%	26.7%
296	Main Road allotments	Rural	0.56	34.5%	26.7%
302	Medway Park Mill Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.35	46.1%	21.9%
343	Priestfields Lower Site Allotment	Rochester	1.95	55.2%	47.6%
346	Priestfields Upper Site Allotment	Rochester	0.80	54.3%	28.6%
380	Rugby Road allotments	Cuxton and Halling	0.46	44.0%	21.9%
390	Seaview Road Allotment	Rainham	0.06	23.7%	21.9%
391	Selbourne Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.27	32.3%	26.7%
408	St Davids Road allotments	Rural	0.10	23.7%	21.9%
444	Street End Road Allotment	Chatham	2.03	62.1%	33.3%
447	Strood Hill Allotment	Strood	1.11	64.7%	22.9%
449	Sundridge Hill allotments	Cuxton and Halling	1.09	54.3%	28.6%
468	The Street allotments	Rural	0.08	28.0%	21.9%
472	Third Avenue Allotment	Gillingham	0.14	26.3%	21.9%
473	Thornham Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.41	51.7%	21.9%
493	Watts Meadow allotments	Rochester	0.26	44.4%	27.6%
506	Woodlands Chalk Pit Allotment	Gillingham	0.47	20.7%	10.5%
507	Woodlands Road Allotment	Gillingham	4.06	62.9%	28.6%
510	Wulfere Way allotments	Rural	0.32	28.4%	17.1%

Cornwall Road Allotments (ID 125 in Gillingham Analysis Area) is closed due to asbestos therefore does not receive a quality or value score.

The known waiting lists and plot numbers are displayed below in Table 8.3. Note that the waiting lists and plot numbers are from September 2023 and are provided by Medway Council or from parish council returns. The figures are updated every month on the Council's website. Priestfields Lower Site Allotment has the highest known waiting lists with 190.

Table 8.3: Allotment plot numbers and waiting lists

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Number of plots ¹¹	Waiting lists
9	Allhallows Road allotments	Rural	0.21	12	-
11	Allington Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.52	22	27
13	Anchor Road St Williams Way Allotment	Rochester	0.14	9	85
40	Berengrave Chalk Pit Allotment	Rainham	0.74	41	137
44	Bloors Lane Allotment	Rainham	1.67	103	36
45	Bloors Lane Church Allotment	Rainham	0.82	31	12

¹¹ Plot numbers marked with an * are taken from the previous study

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Number of plots ¹¹	Waiting lists
59	Broomhill Road Allotment	Strood	0.58	32	77
83	Chapel Lane	Gillingham	2.44	131	152
96	Church Street allotments	Rural	1.60	42*	-
98	City Way Allotment	Chatham	0.60	31	154
109	Cliffe Road Allotment	Strood	1.08	53	109
125	Cornwall Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.13	7 ¹²	
131	Cromer Road Yoke Close Allotment	Strood	0.45	21	64
153	Eastcourt Lane/Featherby Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.24	14	40
166	Fort Amherst Victorian Allotments	Chatham	0.23	-	-
200	Great South Allotment	Chatham	2.94	168	70
212	Hatton Road Allotment	Chatham	0.31	25	145
243	Hoo Road allotments	Rural	0.08	2*	-
266	Kingsnorth Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.30	21	13
268	Kingswood Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.08	4	19
296	Main Road allotments	Rural	0.56	40	10
302	Medway Park Mill Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.35	21	125
343	Priestfields Lower Site Allotment	Rochester	1.95	87	190
346	Priestfields Upper Site Allotment	Rochester	0.80	38	99
380	Rugby Road allotments	Cuxton and Halling	0.46	25*	-
390	Seaview Road Allotment	Rainham	0.06	3	16
391	Selbourne Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.27	5	15
408	St Davids Road allotments	Rural	0.10	12*	-
444	Street End Road Allotment	Chatham	2.03	100	129
447	Strood Hill Allotment	Strood	1.11	71	69
449	Sundridge Hill allotments	Cuxton and Halling	1.09	80	4
468	The Street allotments	Rural	0.08	5*	-
472	Third Avenue Allotment	Gillingham	0.14	6	34
473	Thornham Road Allotment	Gillingham	0.41	28	23
493	Watts Meadow allotments	Rochester	0.26	1346	29
506	Woodlands Chalk Pit Allotment	Gillingham	0.47	18	42
507	Woodlands Road Allotment	Gillingham	4.06	188	81
510	Wulfere Way allotments	Rural	0.32	11	-

The previous open space study established there was 14.26 plots per 1000 population. Based on known plot numbers in the table above, there are 24.47 plots per 1000 population. This is likely due to increases in the number of plots and due to the trend of reduced plot sizes.

¹² Closed in 2022 due to asbestos on site

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The following site information has been provided via the parish council consultations:

ID	Site name	Parish council information
9	Allhallows Road allotments	All Hallows Parish Council identifies the site has 12 plots, a small waiting list and fresh water supply.
296	Main Road allotments	Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Parish Council states the site has 40 plots, a waiting list of 10 and fresh water supply.
449	Sundridge Hill allotments	Cuxton Parish Council identifies the site has 80 plots, 4 on the waiting list and fresh water supply.
510	Wulfere Way allotments	Frindsbury Extra Parish Council rates the site as poor quality. The site has 11 plots and fresh water supply. The PC has plans to develop a new allotment site.

8.4: Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality 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. A threshold of 40% is applied to distinguish high from low quality. Further explanation of quality scores can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.3: Quality ratings for assessed allotments

Area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<40%	>40%
Chatham	42%	55%	66%	0	4
Cuxton and Halling	44%	49%	54%	0	2
Gillingham	21%	43%	68%	5	6
Rainham	24%	40%	56%	2	2
Rochester	31%	46%	55%	1	3
Rural	24%	32%	48%	5	1
Strood	44%	54%	65%	0	4
Medway	21%	43%	66%	13	22

Most assessed allotment sites rate above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring quality sites are:

- ✦ Chapel Lane (68%)
- ✦ Great South Allotment (66%)
- ✦ Strood Hill Allotment (65%)
- ✦ Woodlands Road Allotment (63%)

These sites are all large in size with over 100 plots and benefit from good entrances, signage and appear well maintained. They each have fresh water supply adding to their benefits. Strood Hill Allotment and Woodlands Road Allotment have the additional benefit of shelter/council sheds, the latter also featuring on-site car parking. Given their size and large number of plots, all four sites are perceived as well used.

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Chapel Lane (68%), the highest scoring site for quality, with 129 plots of mixed size. There is one wide vehicle access gate and three additional pedestrian gates. There is access to fresh water and onsite parking. However, the Council highlight that there has been a recent break in of sheds causing damage. The current waiting list stands at a high 146, demonstrating high demand.

Great South Allotment (66%) is another large site with more than 160 plots of mixed size. The site benefits from six pedestrian access gates and access to fresh water. There is no onsite parking, however, the site has a toilet (through funds raised by plot holders). The current waiting list stands at 96.

Street End Road Allotment (62%) scores above the quality threshold. However, there have been many break ins at the site despite security repairs. The site has a wide entrance and signage. The current waiting list stands at 128.

Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to have poorer access to and within the site with narrow entrances and/or pathways. The lowest scoring quality sites are:

- ◀ Woodlands Chalk Pit Allotment (21%)
- ◀ Seaview Road Allotment (24%)
- ◀ St Davids Road allotments (24%)
- ◀ Third Avenue Allotment (26%)

These sites generally lack ancillary features and score lower for paths, overall maintenance, entrances, and user security. They all have one entrance/access point and are generally small in size.

The Council highlight that Woodlands Chalk Pit Allotment (21%) is currently under review due to the overgrown condition. Some areas have been abandoned for years and Medway Council plan to investigate.

Seaview Road Allotment (24%) has low to reasonable entrance, access and user security. The site has a noticeboard and good boundary fencing however, does not have access to fresh water or on-site parking. Furthermore, the site is between housing and access is via a narrow path, lowering its benefits.

8.5: Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value 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 distinguish high from low value. Further explanation of the value scores and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 8.4: Value ratings for assessed allotments

Area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Chatham	27%	32%	43%	0	4
Cuxton and Halling	22%	25%	29%	0	2
Gillingham	10%	24%	33%	1	10
Rainham	22%	31%	38%	0	4
Rochester	24%	32%	48%	0	4
Rural	17%	23%	29%	1	5
Strood	23%	27%	37%	0	4
Medway	10%	27%	48%	2	33

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

Priestfields Lower Site Allotment is the highest scoring site for value (48%). It is a large site with 97 plots of mixed size. It appears well used and maintained providing high amenity benefits. The site has a car park, toilet (funded by the lottery) and concrete paths adding to its benefits. In addition, the RAGA (Rochester Allotments and Gardeners association) has an area of raised beds offering social inclusion.

Great South Allotment (43%) is a large and well-used site with more than 168 plots. The site has 6 pedestrian access gates and access to water providing high amenity and inclusivity benefits. Furthermore, the site has a toilet, signage and good user security adding to its value.

Two sites (Woodlands Chalk Pit Allotment and Wulfere Way allotments) score below the value threshold. The former site is currently under review due to the overgrown condition with some areas being abandoned for years. The latter site is viewed as poor quality by Frindsbury Extra Parish Council however they have plans to develop a new allotment site.

Allotments should generally be considered as highly valued as they are often identified by the local community as important forms of provision.

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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

There are 79 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 67 hectares of provision in Medway. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries in Medway

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)
Chatham	21	19.18
Cuxton and Halling	4	1.79
Gillingham	16	18.76
OUTSIDE	1	6.26
Rainham	6	1.79
Rochester	13	8.36
Rural	12	5.08
Strood	6	6.65
Medway	79	67.87

The largest contributor to burial provision is Palmerston Road Cemetery at over 13 hectares. Note that Medway Crematorium is located outside of the Medway boundary. However, it is included in the study as it is managed by Medway Council.

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

9.3 Accessibility

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

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Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis areas

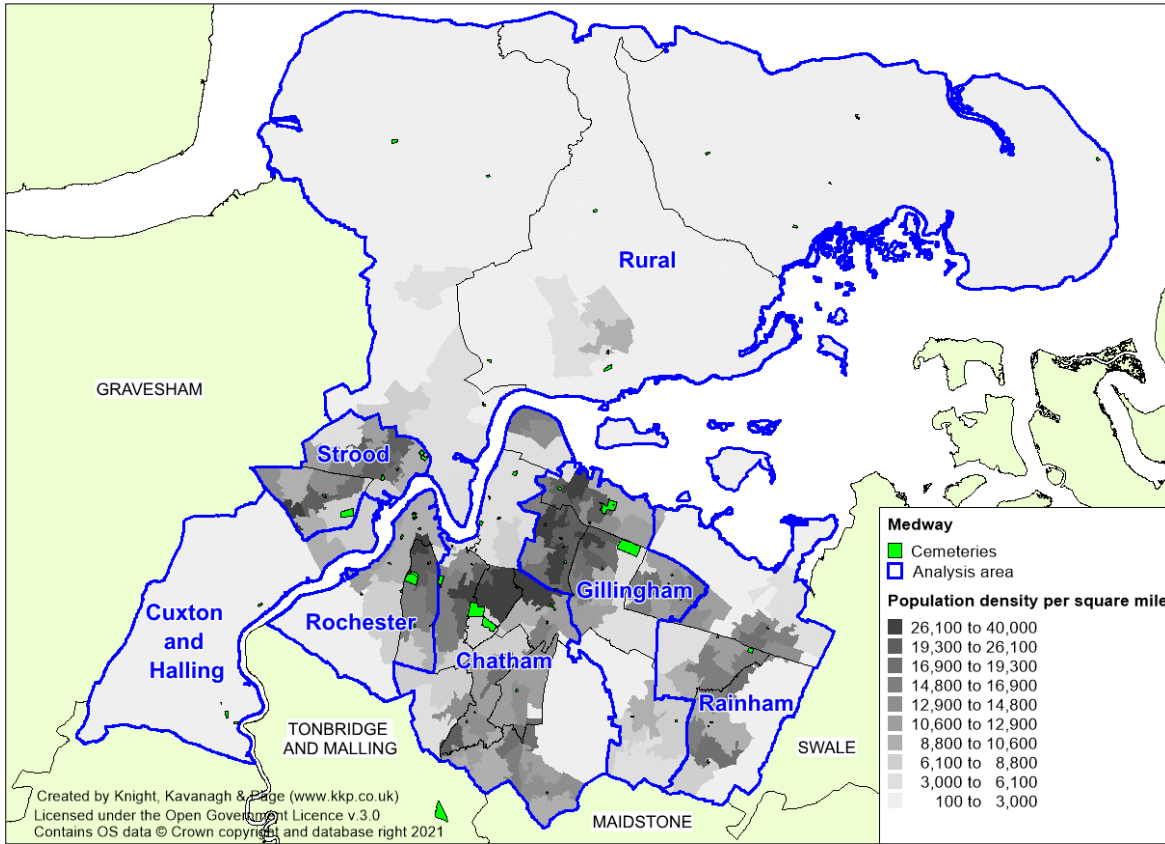
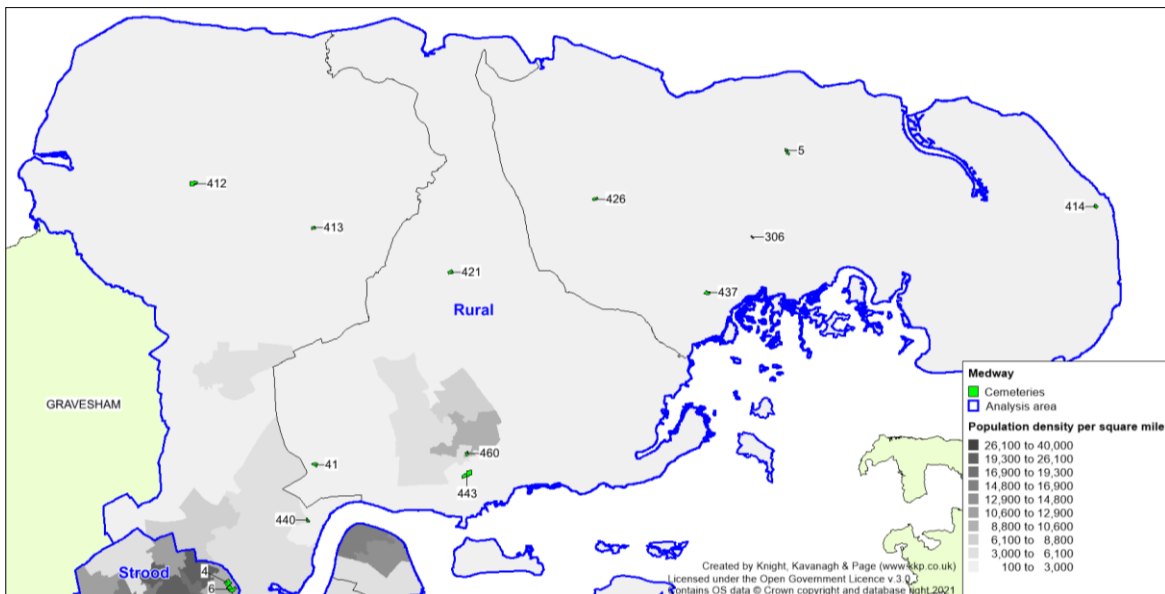


Figure 9.2: Cemetery sites mapped and labelled against analysis areas in North Medway



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Figure 9.2: Cemetery sites mapped and labelled against analysis areas in South Medway

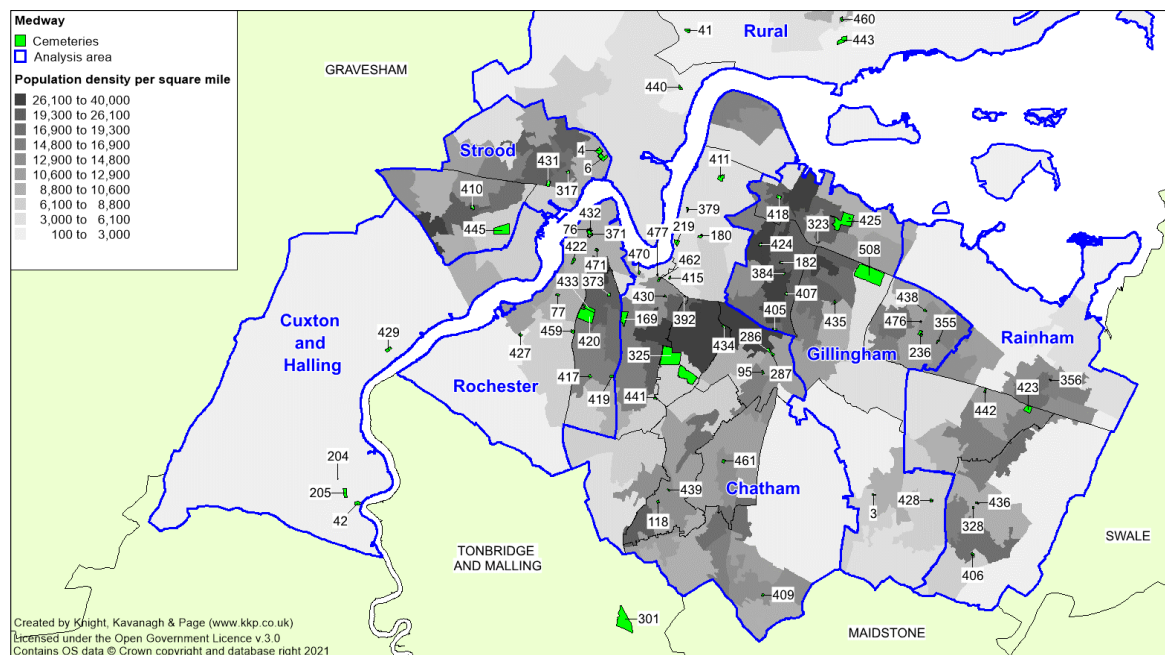


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
3	All Saints' Church (Hempstead Village Hall)	Gillingham	0.10
4	All Saints' Church Cemetery, Frindsbury	Strood	0.79
5	All Saints' Church, Allhallows	Rural	0.37
6	All Saints' Church, Frindsbury	Strood	1.04
41	Bishop Gundulph Church	Rural	0.44
42	Bishop's Palace	Cuxton and Halling	0.49
76	Catalpa Tree	Rochester	0.07
77	Cathedral Cemetery	Rochester	0.17
95	Church of the Sacred Heart	Chatham	0.16
118	Congregational Church	Chatham	0.17
169	Fort Pitt Military Cemetery	Chatham	1.72
180	Garrison Church	Chatham	0.27
182	Gillingham Congregational Church	Gillingham	0.14
204	Halling Baptist Chapel	Cuxton and Halling	0.04
205	Halling Cemetery	Cuxton and Halling	0.78
219	Heritage Centre Greenspace	Chatham	0.53
236	Holy Trinity Church	Gillingham	0.44
286	Luton Christ Church	Chatham	0.28
287	Luton Christ Church Graveyard	Chatham	0.22
301	Medway Crematorium	OUTSIDE	6.26
306	Methodist Church	Rural	0.11

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
317	New Testament Church of God	Strood	0.26
323	Our Lady of Gillingham Catholic Church	Gillingham	0.09
325	Palmerston Road Cemetery	Chatham	13.19
328	Park Wood Free Church	Rainham	0.08
355	Rainham Christian Fellowship Baptist Church	Gillingham	0.16
356	Rainham Methodist Church	Rainham	0.08
371	Rochester Cathedral	Rochester	0.59
373	Rochester Parish Church	Rochester	0.20
379	Royal Dockyard Church	Chatham	0.18
384	Sale Church of Nazarene	Gillingham	0.09
392	Seventh Day Adventist Church	Chatham	0.04
405	St Augustine's Church, Gillingham	Gillingham	0.18
406	St Augustines of Canterbury Catholic Church	Rainham	0.22
407	St Barnabas' Church	Gillingham	0.21
409	St Davids United Church	Chatham	0.15
410	St Francis of Assisi Church	Strood	0.31
411	St George's Centre	Chatham	0.83
412	St Helen's Church	Rural	0.76
413	St James Church, Cooling	Rural	0.26
414	St James' Church, Isle of Grain	Rural	0.32
415	St John's Church	Chatham	0.13
417	St Justus, Rochester	Rochester	0.21
418	St Luke's Church	Gillingham	0.39
419	St Luke's Methodist Church	Rochester	0.20
420	St Margaret's Cemetery	Rochester	4.72
421	St Margaret's Church, High Halstow	Rural	0.42
422	St Margaret's Church, Rochester	Rochester	0.38
423	St Margarets Church, Rainham	Rainham	1.04
424	St Mark's Church	Gillingham	0.20
425	St Mary Magdalene Church and Graveyard,	Gillingham	5.63
426	St Mary's Church, Hoo	Rural	0.34
427	St Matthew's Church, Borstal	Rochester	0.22
428	St Matthew's Church, Wigmore	Gillingham	0.20
429	St Michael's Church, Cuxton	Cuxton and Halling	0.43
430	St Michael's RC Church	Chatham	0.13
431	St Nicholas' Church, Downside	Strood	0.55
432	St Nicholas' Church, Rochester	Rochester	0.11
433	St Nicholas's Cemetery and St Margaret's Church	Rochester	1.06
434	St Paul with All Saints Church, Chatham	Chatham	0.17
435	St Paul's Methodist Church	Gillingham	0.22

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
436	St Pauls Church	Rainham	0.14
437	St Peter and St Paul's Church	Rural	0.43
438	St Peter Prince of the Apostle	Gillingham	0.15
439	St Philip & St James Church	Chatham	0.10
440	St Philip and St James Church	Rural	0.26
441	St Stephen's Church	Chatham	0.19
442	St Thomas of Canterbury Church	Rainham	0.22
443	St Werburgh's Church	Rural	1.13
445	Strood Cemetery	Strood	3.70
459	The Catholic Church of St John	Rochester	0.25
460	The Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity	Rural	0.25
461	The Church of Christ the King	Chatham	0.24
462	The King's Church	Chatham	0.25
470	The Synagogue	Chatham	0.15
471	The Vines Church	Rochester	0.18
476	Twydall Evangelical Church	Gillingham	0.07
477	Unitarian Church of the Great Companions	Chatham	0.06
508	Woodlands Road Cemetery	Gillingham	10.49

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

Note that Medway Adult Education (MAE) run weekly gardening/ planting and growing sessions, alongside St Augustine's Church volunteers at St Augustine's Church (ID 405). These sessions are open to all adults and participants need to sign-up with MAE. In addition, food growing activities occur at the community garden at St Justas Church, Rochester (ID 417).

MEDWAY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 10: CIVIC SPACES

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 gatherings and community events.

10.2 Current provision

There are six civic space sites identified across Medway equating to almost four hectares. In addition, there are likely to be other informal pedestrian areas, streets or squares which may be viewed as providing similar roles and functions as civic space.

Table 10.1 Distribution of civic spaces in Medway

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)
Chatham	2	1.98
Cuxton and Halling	-	-
Gillingham	1	0.66
Rainham	1	0.22
Rochester	1	0.93
Rural	-	-
Strood	1	0.16
Medway	6	3.95

10.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Figure 10.1 shows the distribution of civic spaces across Medway.

MEDWAY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 10.1: Civic spaces mapped across Medway

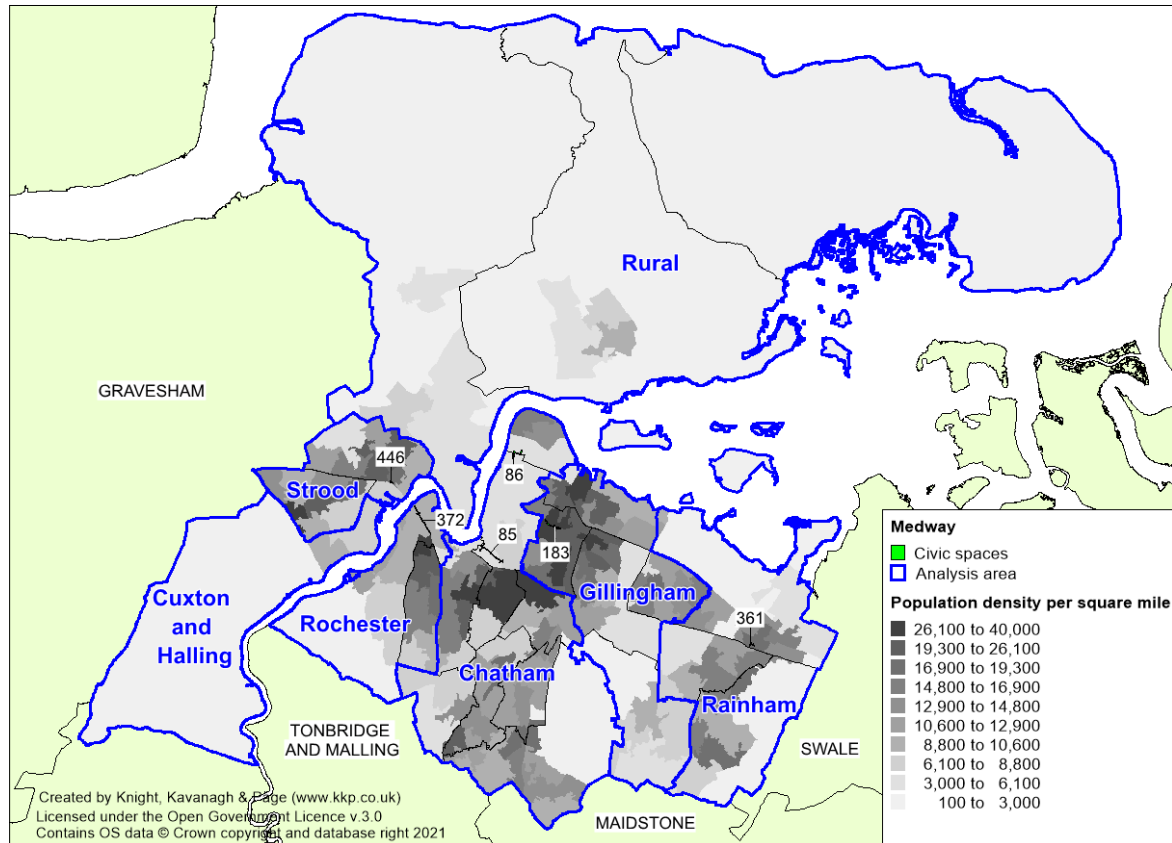


Table 10.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
85	Chatham High Street	Chatham	1.04
86	Chatham Maritime	Chatham	0.94
183	Gillingham High Street	Gillingham	0.66
361	Rainham Shopping Centre	Rainham	0.22
372	Rochester High Street	Rochester	0.93
446	Strood Centre - Friary Precinct/Angel Corner	Strood	0.16

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PART 11: GREEN CORRIDORS

11.1: Introduction

The green corridors typology includes sites that offer opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration. This can also include river and canal banks. For the purposes of this study, the Public Rights of Way (PROW) network has been used.

No quality or value ratings are provided for such forms of provision as it cannot be assessed in the same way as other provision types.

11.2: Current Provision

There are 452 forms of green corridor provision identified across Medway. These are categorised as bridleways, byways, restricted byways and footpaths. The lengths in metres for each of the sub-typologies are displayed below.

Table 11.1: PROW categorisations

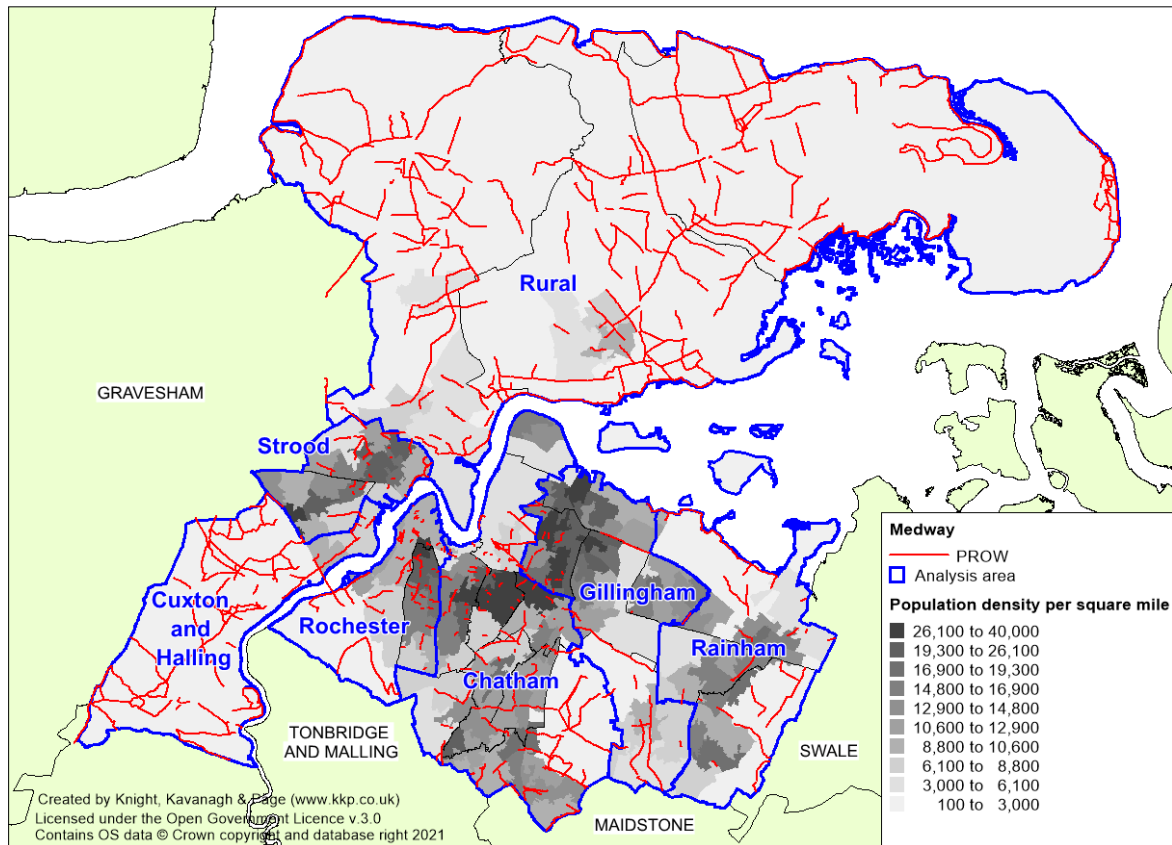
Public Right of Way type	Length (m)
Footpath	258,348
Bridleway	20,059
Byway	11,993
Restricted Byway	12,165
TOTAL	302,565

11.3: Accessibility

It is difficult to assess provision against catchment areas due to their linear nature and usage. Figure 11.1 shows provision mapped across Medway.

MEDWAY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 11.1: Map of Medway public rights of way (PROW)



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PART 12: OUTDOOR SPORTS

12.1: Introduction

Outdoor Sports provision is included in this report to provide an overview of provision. For the purposes of this report, Outdoor Sports refers to sites considered to have a primary function as sports provision including dedicated grass pitches and artificial pitches (i.e., floodlit, available for use in evenings and weekends). These include football clubs, bowling greens and tennis courts.

The Medway Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) sets out the current and future supply and demand requirements for all playing pitch provision including football, cricket, rugby and hockey. This should be sought with regard to any supply and demand queries.

12.2: Current provision

There are 135 outdoor sports facilities equating to almost 77 hectares of provision. Note that four of these sites (Bly Spartans Football, Wingets Sports Club Bowls, Wingets Lawn Tennis Club 1 and Wingets Lawn Tennis Club 2 are located just outside the Authority). Since the 2019 PPS, two bowling greens have closed: Darnley Road in Strood and at Jacksons Field in Rochester

Table 12.1: Current outdoor sports in Medway

Analysis Area	Number	Total hectares (ha)
Chatham	41	24.56
Cuxton and Halling	5	1.82
Gillingham	34	17.36
Rainham	7	2.99
Rochester	16	11.20
Rural	21	14.17
Strood	7	3.38
OUTSIDE	4	1.21
Medway	135	76.69

12.3: Accessibility

FIT suggest a catchment of 1,200m for outdoor sports provision. However, Sport England guidance for playing pitch provision advises that catchment mapping does not reflect how each individual sport is played. Instead, the supply and demand analysis of a PPS should be used. Consequently, it is not necessary for this study to assess outdoor sports against catchment areas. Figure 11.1 shows outdoor sports sites mapped across Medway.

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Figure 11.1: Outdoor Sports Mapped

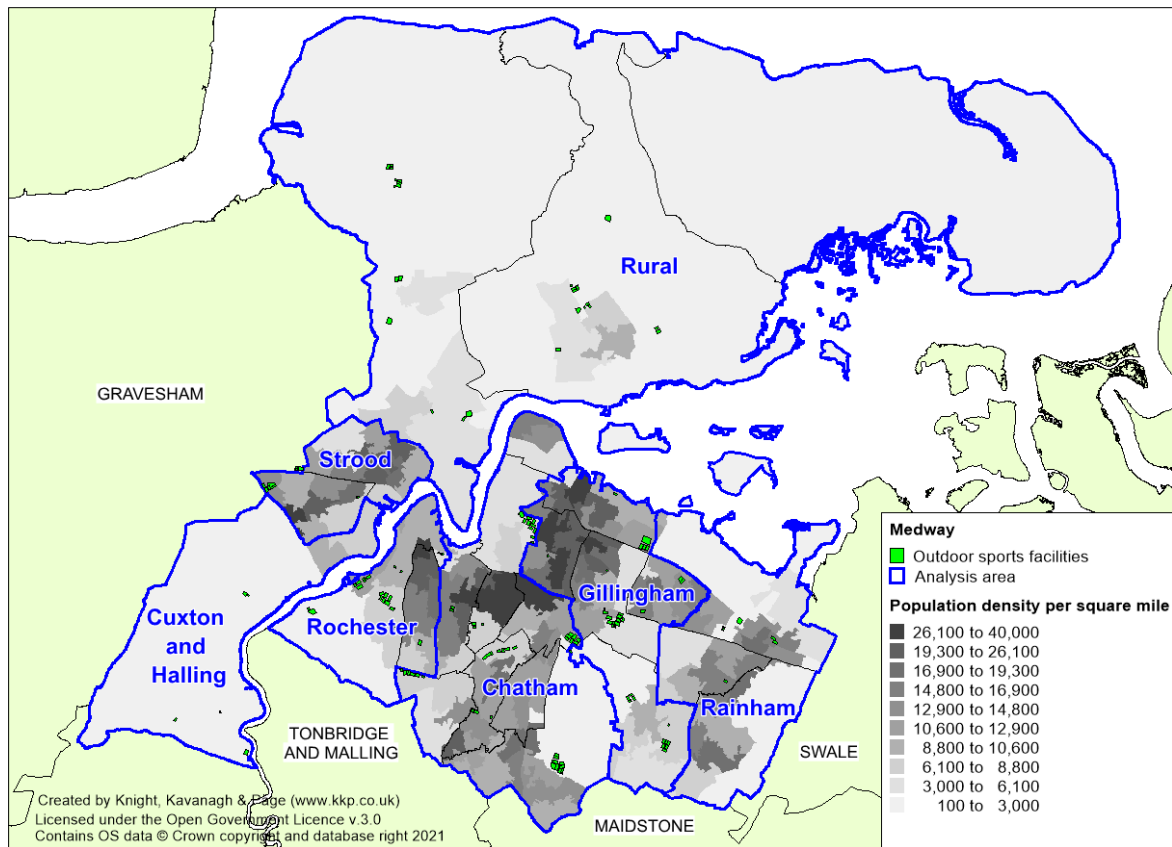
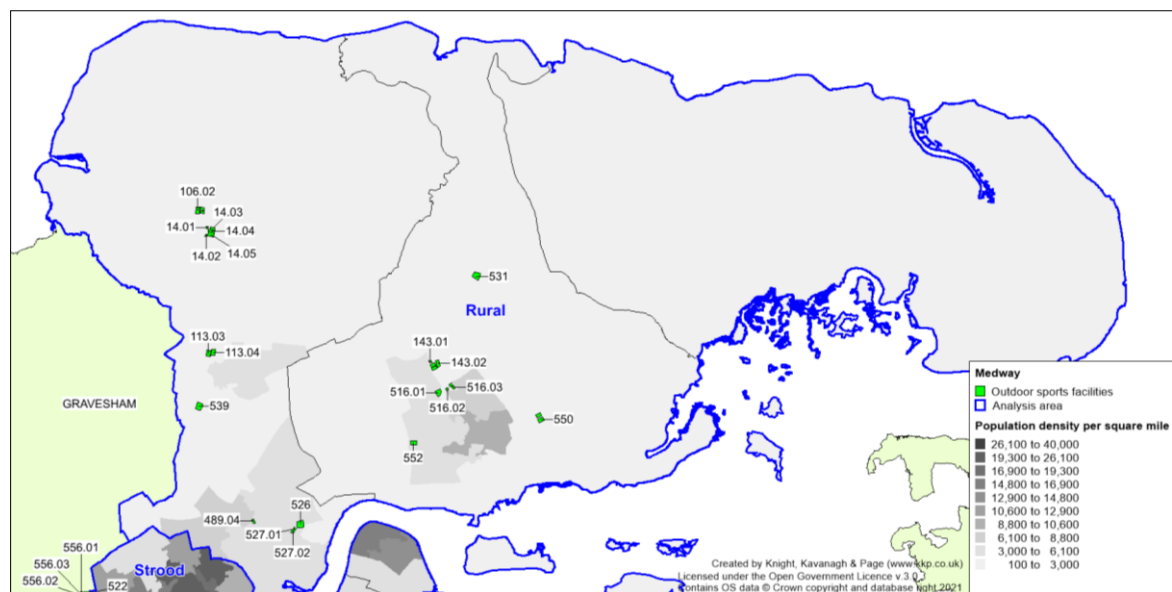
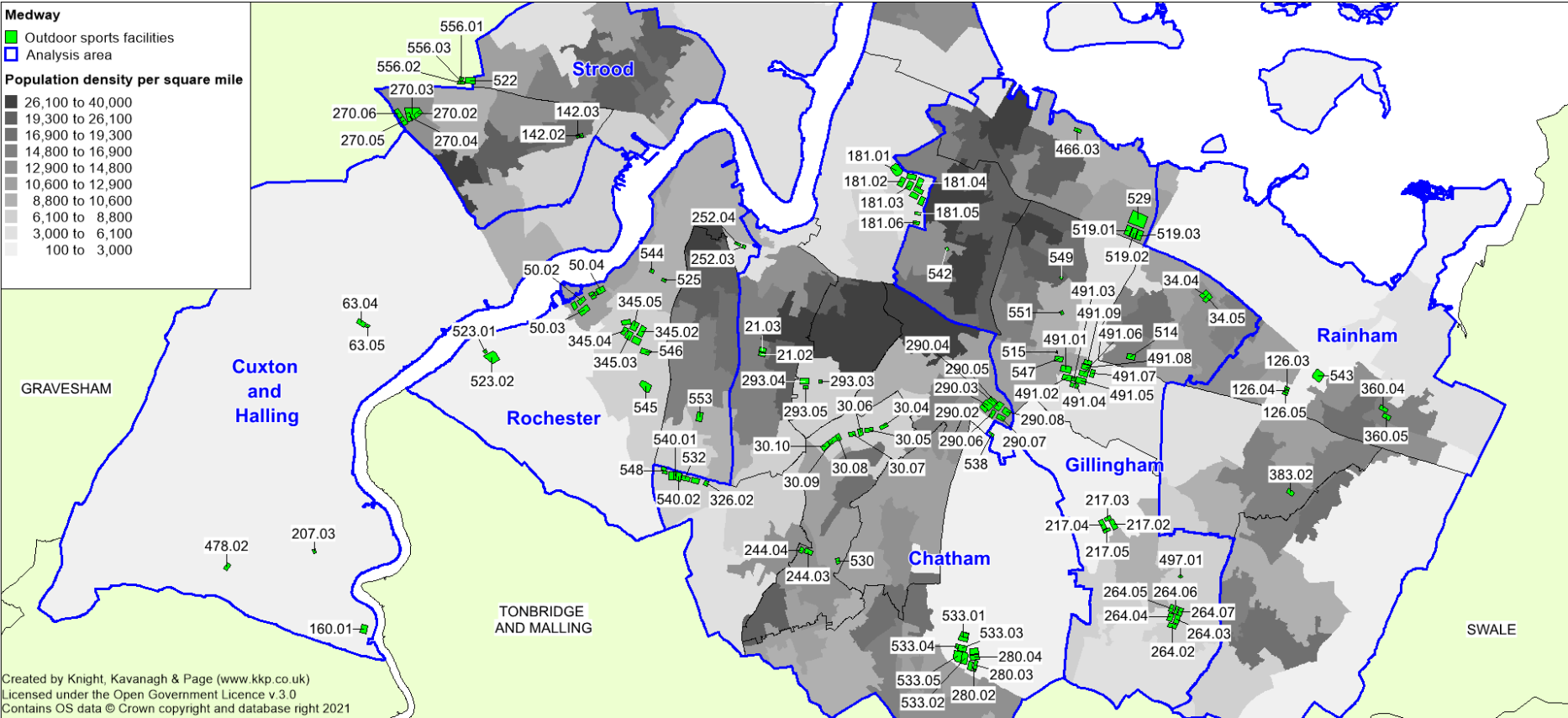


Figure 12.2: Outdoor sports facilities in north Medway



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Figure 12.3: Outdoor sports facilities in south Medway



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Table 12.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
14.01	APCM bowls	Rural	0.15
14.02	APCM tennis	Rural	0.12
14.03	APCM football 1	Rural	0.44
14.04	APCM cricket	Rural	0.42
14.05	APCM football 2	Rural	0.71
21.02	Balfour football 1	Chatham	0.34
21.03	Balfour football 2	Chatham	0.34
30.04	Barnfield football 1	Chatham	0.43
30.05	Barnfield football 2	Chatham	0.44
30.06	Barnfield football 3	Chatham	0.39
30.07	Snodhurst football 4	Chatham	0.39
30.08	Snodhurst football 5	Chatham	0.33
30.09	Snodhurst football 6	Chatham	0.55
30.10	Snodhurst football 7	Chatham	0.55
34.04	Beechings Way football 1	Gillingham	0.54
34.05	Beechings Way football 2	Gillingham	0.55
50.02	Borstal Recreation Ground football 1	Rochester	0.86
50.03	Borstal Recreation Ground football 2	Rochester	0.78
50.04	Shorts Way football 3	Rochester	1.11
63.04	Cuxton football	Cuxton and Halling	0.50
63.05	Bush Road tennis	Cuxton and Halling	0.13
106.02	Cliffe football	Rural	1.35
113.03	Merry Boys Road football 1	Rural	0.72
113.04	Merry Boys Road football 2	Rural	0.72
126.03	Cozenton Park football 1	Rainham	0.16
126.04	Cozenton Park football 2	Rainham	0.16
126.05	Cozenton Park football 3	Rainham	0.16
142.02	Darnley Road bowls	Strood	0.15
142.03	Darnley Road tennis	Strood	0.11
143.01	Deangate Ridge Sports Centre tennis	Rural	0.17
143.02	Deangate Ridge football	Rural	1.53
160.01	Ferry Meadow football	Cuxton and Halling	0.69
181.01	RSME Garrison Ground rugby	Chatham	1.19
181.02	RSME Garrison Ground football 1	Chatham	1.19

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
181.03	Garrison Stadium STP	Chatham	0.59
181.04	Garrison football 2	Chatham	2.25
181.05	Upbury Manor North football 3	Chatham	0.23
181.06	Upbury Manor North football 4	Chatham	0.23
207.03	Halling football	Cuxton and Halling	0.17
217.02	Hempstead Recreation Ground football 1	Gillingham	0.58
217.03	Hempstead Recreation Ground football 2	Gillingham	0.28
217.04	Hempstead Recreation Ground football 3	Gillingham	0.58
217.05	Hempstead Recreation Ground football 4	Gillingham	0.28
244.03	Hook Meadow football 1	Chatham	0.47
244.04	Hook Meadow football 2	Chatham	0.29
252.03	Jackson Recreation Ground bowls	Rochester	0.15
252.04	Jackson Recreation Ground tennis	Rochester	0.21
264.02	Kingsfrith football 1	Gillingham	0.47
264.03	Kingsfrith football 2	Gillingham	0.52
264.04	Kingsfrith football 3	Gillingham	0.52
264.05	Kingsfrith football 4	Gillingham	0.39
264.06	Kingsfrith football 5	Gillingham	0.39
264.07	Kingsfrith football 6	Gillingham	0.39
270.02	Knights Place football 1	Strood	0.45
270.03	Knights Place cricket	Strood	1.19
270.04	Knights Place football 2	Strood	0.47
270.05	Knights Place football 3	Strood	0.52
270.06	Knights Place football 4	Strood	0.49
280.02	Lordswood Leisure Centre football 1	Chatham	0.07
280.03	Lordswood Leisure Centre football 2	Chatham	0.40
280.04	Lordswood Leisure Centre football 3	Chatham	1.69
290.02	Luton Recreation football 1	Chatham	0.41
290.03	Luton Recreation cricket	Chatham	0.75
290.04	Luton Recreation football 2	Chatham	0.62
290.05	Luton Recreation football 3	Chatham	0.65
290.06	Luton Recreation football 4	Chatham	0.44
290.07	Luton Recreation football 5	Chatham	0.50
290.08	Luton Recreation football 6	Chatham	0.57
293.03	Palmerstone Road bowls	Chatham	0.15
293.04	Maidstone Road Sports Ground football	Chatham	0.68

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
293.05	Maidstone Road Sports Ground tennis	Chatham	0.19
326.02	Old Holcombian Club football	Chatham	0.25
345.02	Priestfields rugby 1	Rochester	1.50
345.03	Priestfields football 1	Rochester	0.56
345.04	Priestfields football 2	Rochester	0.46
345.05	Priestfields rugby 2	Rochester	1.18
360.04	Rainham Recreation Ground football 1	Rainham	0.46
360.05	Rainham Recreation Ground football 2	Rainham	0.51
383.02	Ryetop football	Rainham	0.40
466.03	The Strand tennis	Gillingham	0.28
478.02	Upper Halling football	Cuxton and Halling	0.33
489.04	Wainscott football	Rural	0.30
491.01	Watling Street rugby 1	Gillingham	0.82
491.02	Watling Street rugby 2	Gillingham	0.63
491.03	Watling Street football 1	Gillingham	0.21
491.04	Watling Street football 2	Gillingham	0.42
491.05	Watling Street rugby 3	Gillingham	0.74
491.06	Watling Street STP	Gillingham	0.63
491.07	Watling Street football 3	Gillingham	0.47
491.08	Watling Street football 4	Gillingham	0.57
491.09	Watling Street football 5	Gillingham	0.47
497.01	Wigmore Park tennis	Gillingham	0.12
514.00	44Two Sports & Social Club football	Gillingham	0.57
515.00	Anchorians Hockey Club STP	Gillingham	0.05
516.01	BAE Systems cricket	Rural	0.89
516.02	BAE Systems bowls	Rural	0.15
516.03	BAE Systems football	Rural	0.53
519.01	Beechings Crossing football 1	Gillingham	0.69
519.02	Beechings Crossing football 2	Gillingham	0.69
519.03	Beechings Crossing football 3	Gillingham	0.69
522.00	Bly Spartans football	OUTSIDE	0.78
523.01	Borstal Bowls Club	Rochester	0.15
523.02	Borstal Cricket Club	Rochester	1.44
525.00	City Lawn Tennis Club	Rochester	0.17
526.00	Clarion Cricket Club	Rural	1.25
527.01	Frindsbury Lawn Tennis Club 1	Rural	0.16

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
527.02	Frindsbury Lawn Tennis Club 2	Rural	0.32
529.00	GFC Training Ground football	Gillingham	2.69
530.00	Greenacre School STP	Chatham	0.25
531.00	High Halstow Cricket Club	Rural	1.26
532.00	Holcombe Hockey & Sports Club STP	Chatham	1.00
533.01	Lordswood Sports & Social Club cricket 1	Chatham	0.98
533.02	Lordswood Sports & Social Club rugby	Chatham	1.26
533.03	Lordswood Sports & Social Club football	Chatham	0.62
533.04	Lordswood Sports & Social Club STP	Chatham	0.13
533.05	Lordswood Sports & Social Club cricket 2	Chatham	1.11
538.00	Luton Church Lawn Tennis Club	Gillingham	0.19
539.00	Mockbeggar Cricket Club	Rural	1.19
540.01	Old Holcombians Club cricket	Chatham	0.23
540.02	Old Holcombians Club rugby	Chatham	1.04
542.00	Palm Cottage bowls	Gillingham	0.12
543.00	Rainham Cricket Club	Rainham	1.13
544.00	Rochester Bowls Club	Rochester	0.21
545.00	Sherwood Sports Club cricket	Rochester	1.11
546.00	Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School STP	Rochester	0.61
547.00	Star Meadow Sports & Social football	Gillingham	0.55
548.00	Stirling Centre tennis	Chatham	0.35
549.00	Sturdee Sports Club bowls	Gillingham	0.10
550.00	Sturdee Sports Club football	Rural	1.14
551.00	The Avenue Lawn Tennis Club	Gillingham	0.16
552.00	The Hundred of Hoo School STP	Rural	0.64
553.00	The Thomas Aveling School STP	Rochester	0.69
556.01	Wingets Sports Club bowls	OUTSIDE	0.16
556.02	Wingets Lawn Tennis Club 1	OUTSIDE	0.11
556.03	Wingets Lawn Tennis Club 2	OUTSIDE	0.17

MEDWAY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 13: IDENTIFYING SHORTFALLS AND PRIORITIES

deficiencies and surpluses for open space are set in terms of quality, accessibility, and quantity.

13.1: Quality and value

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

Quality and value matrix

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

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

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

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

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13.2: Accessibility

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

Table 13.2.1: Accessibility catchments

Open space type		Catchment
Parks & Gardens		9-minute walk time (710m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		9-minute walk time (720m)
Amenity Greenspace		6-minute walk time (480m)
Provision for children and young people	LAP	1-minute walk time (100m)
	LEAP	5-minute walk time (400m)
	NEAP	12.5-minute walk time (1000m)
	Other provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	9-minute walk time (700m)
Allotments		No standard set
Cemeteries		No standard set
Outdoor sport		1,200m*

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

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

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

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

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

* Sport England guidance for playing pitch provision advises that catchment mapping does not reflect how each individual sport is played. Instead, the supply and demand analysis of a PPS should be used

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Vinalls Park (ID 485) Queen Elizabeth and Castlemaine (ID 352) Teynham Green (ID 458) Eastcourt Lane (ID 152) Beechings Green (ID 33) Beechings Way Playing Field (ID 34) Leeds Square (ID 274) Wingham Close (ID 503) Hawthorne Avenue (ID 213) Petham Green (ID 334) Woodchurch Crescent (ID 504)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rainham	Brooms Wood (ID 60) Cherry Tree Orchard (ID 89) Craigie Walk Greenspace (ID 129) Foxburrow Wood (ID 170) Silverspot Wood (ID 397) Glistening Glade (ID 186) Parkwood Green Open Space (ID 332) Peveral Green Open Space (ID 335) Shorefields (ID 360) Ten Acre Way (ID 457)	Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rochester	Batys Marsh (ID 31) Fleet Road Lower (MHS) (ID 161) Fleet Road Upper (MHS) (ID 162) Watts Meadow (ID 492) Borstal Sports Ground (ID 50) Priestfields Recreation Ground (ID 345) Shaws Pond (ID 394) Copperfield Road Recreation Ground (ID 124) Mooring Road (MHS) (ID 315) Friston Way Open Space (ID 172) City Way (ID 97)	Natural Natural Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rural	Frog Island Pond (ID 175) Hoo Common (ID 237) Gamelan Crescent Recreation Ground (ID 178) Rivenhall Way/Hogarth Close (ID 367) Herbert Cuckow Grove (ID 218) Pottery Road Recreation Ground (ID 242) Hogarth Close (ID 232) Berberis Gardens (ID 38) Blossom Gardens (ID 46) Sopwith Drive (ID 401) Fordwich Drive (ID 163)	Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Strood	Rede Common (ID 363) Cliffe Road (ID 108) Knights Place Sports Ground (ID 270)	Natural Amenity Amenity

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Motorway Meadow (ID 316) Norwich Close (ID 322) Fulmar Road (ID 176) Laburnham Recreation Ground (ID 271) Carnation Road Lower (ID 71) Willow Road (ID 499) Carnation Road Upper (ID 73)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

Table 13.1.3: Sites helping to serve gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Chatham	Victoria Gardens (ID 482) Maidstone Road Sports Ground (ID 293) Chalkpit Hill (ID 79) Luton Millenium Green (ID 288) Claremont Way (ID 100) Balfour Road Recreation Ground (ID 21) Fort Pitt Gardens (ID 168) Dorset Square (ID 147)	Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Gillingham	Gillingham Park (ID 184) Hillyfields Open Space (ID 231) Balmoral Gardens (ID 25) Forge Lane (ID 165) Queen Elizabeth and Castlemaine (ID 352) The Strand (ID 466) Woodchurch Crescent (ID 504) Vinalls Park (ID 485) Petham Green (ID 334) Wingham Close (ID 503) Leeds Square (ID 274) Beechings Green (ID 33) Beechings Way Playing Field (ID 34) Eastcourt Lane (ID 152) Teynham Green (ID 458)	Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rainham	Cozenton Park (ID 126) Platters Park (ID 336) Moor Park Close (ID 313) Ten Acre Way (ID 457) Vancouver Drive (ID 481)	Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rochester	Castle Gardens (ID 74) Dickens Gardens (ID146) Boley Hill Open Space (ID 48) Cathedral Gardens (Private) (ID 78) War Memorial (ID 490)	Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rural	Gamelan Crescent Recreation Ground (ID 178) Rivenhall Way/Hogarth Close (ID 367) Herbert Cuckow Grove (ID 218)	Amenity Amenity Amenity

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Hogarth Close (ID 232) Pottery Road Recreation Ground (ID 242) Blossom Gardens (ID 46) Berberis Gardens (ID 38) Sopwith Drive (ID 401)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Strood	Broomhill Park (ID 56) Windmill Street (ID 501) Northcote Recreation Ground (ID 318) Marabel Gardens off Clarendon Drive (ID 101) Cliffe Road (ID 108) Clarendon Drive/Lychfield Drive (ID 102) Church Green Recreation Ground (ID 94)	Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

Table 13.1.4: Sites helping to serve gaps in amenity greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Chatham	Gillingham Park (ID 184) Chestnut Wood (ID 92) Daisy Banks (ID 136) Great Lines (ID 198) Horsted Valley (ID 248) Island Way East (ID 250) Island Way West (ID 251)	Parks Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural
Cuxton and Halling	Temple Marsh (ID 456) Rede Common (ID 363)	Natural Natural
Gillingham	Gillingham Park (ID 184) Hillyfields Open Space (ID 231) Lower Lines Park (ID 284) Darland Banks West (ID 139) Kelly Drive (ID 257) Prince Arthur Park (ID 347)	Parks Parks Parks Natural Natural Natural
Rainham	Cozenton Park (ID 126) Platters Park (ID 336) Callums Scrubs (ID 64) East Hoath Wood (ID 151)	Parks Parks Natural Natural
Rochester	Fleet Road Upper (MHS) (ID 162)	Natural

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

Table 13.1.5: Sites helping to serve gaps in play provision catchments

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Chatham	Downlands Walk play area (ID 148.1) Kings Bastion play area (ID 262)
Cuxton and Halling	Temple Wharf Play Area (ID 272.1)
Gillingham	Mill Road Play Area (ID 347.1)
Strood	Knights Place Rec Play Area (ID 270.1)

13.3: Quantity

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

Setting quantity standards

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

Shortfalls in quality and accessibility are identified across the authority for different types of open space (as set out in Parts 13.1 and 13.2). Consequently, the Council should seek to ensure new developments contribute to the overall provision of open space.

The current provision levels are used as a basis to inform and identify potential shortfalls in existing provision. These can also be used to help determine future requirements as part of new developments (see Part 14 for more).

Table 13.3.1: Summary of current provision levels

Typology	Quantity level (Hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	0.58
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.09
Amenity greenspace	0.80
Provision for children & young people	0.05
Allotment	0.11
Outdoor sport*	0.27

The current provision levels can be used to help identify where areas may have a shortfall. Table 13.3.2 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall for each type of open space.

* Sport England guidance does not advocate using quantity standards to inform current and future requirements

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Table 13.3.2a: Current provision shortfalls by analysis area (hectares per 1,000 population)

Analysis area	Parks and gardens (inc country parks)		Natural & Semi-natural		Amenity greenspace		Allotments		Play provision		Outdoor sports	
	0.58		3.09		0.80		0.11		0.05		0.27	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Chatham	0.84	+0.26	1.93	-1.16	0.71	-0.09	0.07	-0.04	0.03	-0.02	0.30	+0.03
Cuxton and Halling	-	-0.58	20.25	+17.16	2.26	+1.46	0.12	+0.01	0.05	Level	0.14	-0.13
Gillingham	0.26	-0.32	1.02	-2.07	0.77	-0.03	0.15	+0.04	0.07	+0.02	0.27	Level
Rainham	1.55	+0.97	1.02	-2.07	0.24	-0.56	0.09	-0.02	0.04	-0.01	0.08	-0.19
Rochester	0.50	-0.08	0.24	-2.85	1.11	+0.31	0.12	+0.01	0.03	-0.02	0.43	+0.16
Rural	-	-0.58	10.07	+6.98	1.42	+0.62	0.09	-0.02	0.06	+0.01	0.45	+0.18
Strood	0.19	-0.39	0.46	-2.63	0.78	-0.02	0.13	+0.02	0.04	-0.01	0.14	-0.13

All analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space.

If country parks provision is excluded from park and gardens provision (Table 13.3.2b), a noticeable difference in provision levels is observed. Most analysis areas are noted as being above the current provision level.

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Table 13.3.2b: Current parks provision shortfalls (excluding country parks)

Analysis area	Parks and gardens (exc country parks)	
	0.17	
	Current provision	+ / -
Chatham	0.07	-0.10
Cuxton and Halling	-	-0.17
Gillingham	0.26	+0.09
Rainham	0.19	+0.02
Rochester	0.50	+0.33
Rural	-	-0.17
Strood	0.19	+0.02

13.4 Future Population

It is also useful to apply the current provision levels to population projections to help inform the potential future supply of open space including any surpluses or deficiencies.

ONS based population projections estimate the population of Medway in 2040 will be 290,734. Based on a current population of 279,819*, this is an increase of approximately 3.90%. Table 13.4.1 applies this increase across all relevant analysis areas.

Table 13.4.1: Future population projection to 2040

Analysis area	Current population	2040 Population projection
Chatham	82,107	85,309
Cuxton and Halling	13,158	13,671
Gillingham	64,120	66,621
Rainham	38,231	39,722
Rochester	26,239	27,262
Rural	31,740	32,978
Strood	24,224	25,169
TOTAL	279,819	290,734

On this basis, it is possible to calculate the amount of provision required in 2040 to maintain the current provision levels and compare this to existing provision in order to determine if a shortfall in provision may exist in 2040. This is presented by typology and for each analysis area. Projected populations are multiplied by the current quantity level for each typology (Table 13.4.1) in order to calculate provision required in 2040.

* ONS Mid-Year estimates 2021

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Table 13.4.2: Future projections for parks and gardens

A	B	C	D	E
Analysis area	2040 Population projection	Current provision	Provision required in 2040 (hectares)	Difference
Chatham	85,309	68.70	49.48	+19.22
Cuxton and Halling	13,671	-	7.93	-7.93
Gillingham	66,621	16.56	38.64	-22.08
Rainham	39,722	59.44	23.04	+36.40
Rochester	27,262	12.99	15.81	-2.82
Rural	32,978	-	19.13	-19.13
Strood	25,169	4.52	14.60	-10.08
TOTAL	290,734	162.21	168.63	-6.42

The figures in the table are based on the current provision levels including country parks provision. Consequently, these large sites skew the difference levels calculated.

Table 13.4.3: Future projections for natural and semi-natural greenspace

A	B	C	D	E
Analysis area	2040 Population projection	Current provision	Provision required in 2040 (hectares)	Difference
Chatham	85,309	167.00	263.60	-96.60
Cuxton and Halling	13,671	267.21	42.24	+224.97
Gillingham	66,621	65.34	205.86	-140.52
Rainham	39,722	39.05	122.74	-83.69
Rochester	27,262	9.24	84.24	-75.00
Rural	32,978	319.62	101.90	+217.72
Strood	25,169	11.03	77.77	-66.74
TOTAL	290,734	878.49	898.37	-19.88

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Table 13.4.4: Future projections for amenity greenspace

A	B	C	D	E
Analysis area	2040 Population projection	Current provision	Provision required in 2040 (hectares)	Difference
Chatham	85,309	61.24	68.25	-7.01
Cuxton and Halling	13,671	14.93	10.94	+3.99
Gillingham	66,621	49.46	53.30	-3.84
Rainham	39,722	9.02	31.78	-22.76
Rochester	27,262	24.06	21.81	+2.25
Rural	32,978	44.95	26.38	+18.57
Strood	25,169	18.85	20.14	-1.29
TOTAL	290,734	222.51	232.59	-10.08

Table 13.4.5: Future projections for play provision for children and young people

A	B	C	D	E
Analysis area	2040 Population projection	Current provision	Provision required in 2040 (hectares)	Difference
Chatham	85,309	2.68	4.27	-1.59
Cuxton and Halling	13,671	0.68	0.68	level
Gillingham	66,621	4.49	3.33	+1.16
Rainham	39,722	1.59	1.99	-0.40
Rochester	27,262	0.66	1.36	-0.70
Rural	32,978	1.84	1.65	+0.19
Strood	25,169	0.96	1.26	-0.30
TOTAL	290,734	12.90	14.54	-1.64

Table 13.4.6: Future projections for allotments

A	B	C	D	E
Analysis area	2040 Population projection	Current provision	Provision required in 2040 (hectares)	Difference
Chatham	85,309	6.11	9.38	-3.27
Cuxton and Halling	13,671	1.54	1.50	+0.04
Gillingham	66,621	9.42	7.33	+2.09
Rainham	39,722	3.30	4.37	-1.07
Rochester	27,262	3.14	3.00	+0.14
Rural	32,978	2.95	3.63	-0.68
Strood	25,169	3.22	2.77	+0.45
TOTAL	290,734	29.69	31.98	-2.29

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Table 13.4.7: Future projections overview

Analysis area	Parks	NSN	AGS	Play	Allotments	Combined
Chatham	+19.22	-96.60	-7.01	-1.59	-3.27	-88.25
Cuxton and Halling	-7.93	+224.97	+3.99	level	+0.04	+221.06
Gillingham	-22.08	-140.52	-3.84	+1.16	+2.09	-163.19
Rainham	+36.40	-83.69	-22.76	-0.40	-1.07	-71.51
Rochester	-2.82	-75.00	+2.25	-0.70	+0.14	-76.13
Rural	-19.13	+217.72	+18.57	+0.19	-0.68	+216.67
Strood	-10.08	-66.74	-1.29	-0.30	+0.45	-77.95
TOTAL	-6.42	-19.88	-10.08	-1.64	-2.29	-40.30

As to be expected, increases in population will result in the requirement for greater open space provision. In many areas the amounts required in 2040 will be greater than the current provision levels (demonstrated in Table 13.4.7).

For some types of open space, the current provision levels may be sufficient to also meet the amounts of provision required in 2040. However, all analysis areas show a deficiency in some type of open space and whilst some types appear to have an over provision, further analysis shows these are unlikely to form 'surplus open space'.

Consequently, there is a need to ensure new developments contribute to the provision of open space across the area in order to prevent shortfalls as a result of population increases.

Identifying priorities

The focus for areas identified as being sufficient against the existing quantity standards will be for priorities to ensure quality and accessibility standards are being met. Table 13.3.2, highlight those areas of the Borough with current quantity shortfalls in provision.

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

If this is not considered viable, the column signalling whether an area is sufficient or has a shortfall against the recommended quantity standards may be used to help inform the priorities for each type of open space within each area (i.e., the priorities may be where a shortfall has been identified). Where provision is sufficient in terms of quantity, a focus should be on ensuring contributions to enhancing the quality and accessibility of existing open space provision.

Areas identified as being sufficient against the existing quantity levels (Table 13.3.2) as well as in context of future requirements (Table 13.4.7) should be considered as being most likely to have potential surpluses in provision.

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13.5: Identifying priorities and recommendations

The following provides several priorities and recommendations based on the key findings of the report. It incorporates and recommends what the Council should be seeking to achieve in order to help address the issues highlighted.

Recommendation 1

- ◀ Ensure new housing developments provide sufficient high quality open space for their new residents across all typologies.

The recommended quantity standards (Part 14) should be used to determine the open space requirements as part of new housing developments. In the first instance, all types of provision should look to be provided as part of new housing developments.

Recommendation 2

- ◀ Target areas of shortfall

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

Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to these sites should also be endorsed. Further insight to the shortfalls is provided within each summary (Parts 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3).

Recommendation 3

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

Part 13.2 identifies sites that help or have the potential to serve existing identified gaps in provision.

Table 13.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
2	Albemarle Road Countryside Area	Natural greenspaces	Parks
21	Balfour Road Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Natural
24	Ballens Rough	Natural greenspaces	Parks
25	Balmoral Gardens	Amenity greenspace	Natural
31	Batys Marsh	Natural greenspaces	Parks
34	Beechings Way Playing Field	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
38	Berberis Gardens	Amenity greenspace	Parks

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
43	Bishops Hoath Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
46	Blossom Gardens	Amenity greenspace	Parks
48	Boley Hill Open Space	Amenity greenspace	Natural
50	Borstal Sports Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks
51	Bower Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks
56	Broomhill Park	Parks and Gardens	Natural
60	Brooms Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
64	Callums Scrubs	Natural greenspaces	Amenity
71	Carnation Road Lower	Amenity greenspace	Parks
73	Carnation Road Upper	Amenity greenspace	Parks
74	Castle Gardens	Parks and Gardens	Natural
78	Cathedral Gardens (Private)	Amenity greenspace	Natural
79	Chalkpit Hill	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
89	Cherry Tree Orchard	Natural greenspaces	Parks
91	Chestnut Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks
92	Chestnut Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
94	Church Green Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Natural
97	City Way	Amenity greenspace	Parks
100	Claremont Way	Amenity greenspace	Natural
101	Marabel Gardens off Clarendon Drive	Amenity greenspace	Natural
102	Clarendon Drive/Lychfield Drive	Amenity greenspace	Natural
108	Cliffe Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks
116	Concord Avenue	Amenity greenspace	Parks
117	Coney Banks	Natural greenspaces	Parks
124	Copperfield Road Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks
126	Cozenton Park	Parks and Gardens	Natural
129	Craigie Walk Greenspace	Natural greenspaces	Parks
136	Daisy Banks	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
137	Dargets Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
139	Darland Banks West	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
145	Depot Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
146	Dickens Gardens	Parks and Gardens	Natural
147	Dorset Square	Amenity greenspace	Natural
148.1	Downlands Walk play area	Childrens play areas	Play
150	Duchess of Kent Drive	Amenity greenspace	Parks
151	East Hoath Wood	Natural greenspaces	Amenity
152	Eastcourt Lane	Amenity greenspace	Natural
161	Fleet Road Lower (MHS)	Natural greenspaces	Parks
162	Fleet Road Upper (MHS)	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
163	Fordwich Drive	Amenity greenspace	Parks
165	Forge Lane	Amenity greenspace	Natural
168	Fort Pitt Gardens	Amenity greenspace	Natural
170	Foxburrow Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
172	Friston Way Open Space	Amenity greenspace	Parks
175	Frog Island Pond	Natural greenspaces	Parks
176	Fulmar Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks
178	Gamelan Crescent Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
184	Gillingham Park	Parks and Gardens	Natural and amenity
186	Glistening Glade	Amenity greenspace	Parks
187	Golding Close	Amenity greenspace	Parks
189	Goudhurst Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks
198	Great Lines Heritage Park	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
203	Hall Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
213	Hawthorne Avenue	Amenity greenspace	Parks
218	Herbert Cuckow Grove	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
221	Heritage Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks
231	Hillyfields Open Space	Parks and Gardens	Natural and amenity
232	Hogarth Close	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
237	Hoo Common	Natural greenspaces	Parks
242	Pottery Road Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
244	Hook Meadow Greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Serves gap in parks
247	Hook Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
248	Horsted Valley	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
250	Island Way East	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
251	Island Way West	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
257	Kelly Drive	Natural greenspaces	Amenity
262	Kings Bastion play area	Childrens play areas	Play
270	Knights Place Sports Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks
270.1	Knights Place Rec Play Area	Childrens play areas	Play
272	Knights Templar Way	Amenity greenspace	Parks
274	Leeds Square	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
278	Lords Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
279	Lords Wood Lane	Amenity greenspace	Parks
280	Lordswood Leisure Centre	Amenity greenspace	Parks
284	Lower Lines Park	Parks and Gardens	Amenity
288	Luton Millenium Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
291	Magpie Hall Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks
293	Maidstone Road Sports Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
299	Mckenzie Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks
300	Mead Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks
309	Millfordhope Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks
311	Moonstone Drive	Amenity greenspace	Parks
313	Moor Park Close	Amenity greenspace	Natural
315	Mooring Road (MHS)	Amenity greenspace	Parks
316	Motorway Meadow	Amenity greenspace	Parks
322	Norwich Close	Amenity greenspace	Parks
332	Parkwood Green Open Space	Amenity greenspace	Parks
334	Petham Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
335	Peveral Green Open Space	Amenity greenspace	Parks
336	Platters Park	Parks and Gardens	Natural and amenity
339	Polhill Woodland	Natural greenspaces	Parks
345	Priestfields Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks
347	Prince Arthur Park	Natural greenspaces	Amenity
347.1	Mill Road Play Area	Childrens play areas	Play
349	Princes Avenue Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks
350	Princes Park	Natural greenspaces	Parks
352	Queen Elizabeth and Castlemaine	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
360	Rainham Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks
362	Ranscombe Farm Nature Reserve	Natural greenspaces	Parks
363	Rede Common	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
365	Restharrow Way (private)	Amenity greenspace	Parks
366	Ridgeway Banks	Natural greenspaces	Parks
367	Rivenhall Way/Hogarth Close	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
386	Sanctuary Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks
394	Shaws Pond	Amenity greenspace	Parks
397	Silverspot Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
398	Sindal Shaw	Natural greenspaces	Parks
401	Sopwith Drive	Amenity greenspace	Parks
448	Sundridge Drive	Amenity greenspace	Parks
456	Temple Marsh	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
457	Ten Acre Way	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
458	Teynham Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
466	The Strand	Amenity greenspace	Natural
479	Vale Drive	Amenity greenspace	Parks
481	Vancouver Drive	Amenity greenspace	Natural
482	Victoria Gardens	Parks and Gardens	Natural
485	Vinalls Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
490	War Memorial	Amenity greenspace	Natural
492	Watts Meadow	Natural greenspaces	Parks
494	Whimbrel Walk Countryside Area	Natural greenspaces	Parks
499	Willow Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks
501	Windmill Street	Amenity greenspace	Natural
503	Wingham Close	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
504	Woodchurch Crescent	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural

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

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

These sites should therefore be viewed as open space provision that are likely to provide multiple social and value benefits. It is also important that the quality and value of these sites is secured and enhanced (Recommendation 4).

Recommendation 4

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

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to the applied standards. A list of low quality and/or value sites currently helping to serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 13.4.2 below. This also includes sites without a quality/value rating.

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

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Table 13.4.2: Summary of low quality/value sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
2	Albemarle Road Countryside Area	Natural greenspaces	Parks
24	Ballens Rough	Natural greenspaces	Parks
43	Bishops Hoath Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
51	Bower Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks
60	Brooms Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
124	Copperfield Road Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks
126	Cozenton Park	Parks and Gardens	Natural
136	Daisy Banks	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
137	Dargets Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
145	Depot Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
151	East Hoath Wood	Natural greenspaces	Amenity
168	Fort Pitt Gardens	Amenity greenspace	Natural
198	Great Lines Heritage Park	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
203	Hall Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
218	Herbert Cuckow Grove	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
244	Hook Meadow Greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Parks
247	Hook Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
248	Horsted Valley	Natural greenspaces	Parks and amenity
270	Knights Place Sports Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks
278	Lords Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks
279	Lords Wood Lane	Amenity greenspace	Parks
280	Lordswood Leisure Centre	Amenity greenspace	Parks
284	Lower Lines Park	Parks and Gardens	Amenity
288	Luton Millenium Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
335	Peveral Green Open Space	Amenity greenspace	Parks
336	Platters Park	Parks and Gardens	Natural and amenity
349	Princes Avenue Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks
350	Princes Park	Natural greenspaces	Parks
352	Queen Elizabeth and Castlemaine	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural
366	Ridgeway Banks	Natural greenspaces	Parks
398	Sindal Shaw	Natural greenspaces	Parks
485	Vinalls Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks and natural

Recommendation 5

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

This study identifies 95 sites currently below their quality and value thresholds. For an area with a quantity sufficiency in one type of open space, and where opportunities allow, a change of primary typology could be considered for some sites of that same type.

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

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

Recommendation 6

- ◀ Allotment action plan – work with partners towards identifying making better use of existing sites and feasibility of new sites

Demand for allotments is evidenced through known waiting lists and consultation with providers. Exploring opportunities to continue to provide additional plots should be encouraged. A specific action plan could look to be created in order to help address demand and future need.

Recommendation 7

- ◀ Keeping data, report and supporting evidence base up to date in order to reflect changes over time

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

PART 14: PROVISION STANDARDS

The following section details the provision standards recommended for Medway Council, how this compares to up-to-date existing provision levels and relevant national benchmarks, and whether any adjustment to the Medway Council standards are required based on this comparison.

14.1: Accessibility

Accessibility catchments are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors underpinning catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process the concept of 'effective catchments' are used, defined as the distance that most users would travel.

The accessibility catchments do not consider if a distance is on an incline or decline. They are therefore intended to act as an initial form of analysis to help identify potential gaps.

Guidance on walking distance and times is published by FIT in its document *Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015). Appropriate accessibility distances for children's play provision vary depending on the type of play provision. FIT do not set accessibility standards for allotments, churchyards/cemeteries, civic space or green corridors.

The accessibility catchments set out as part of the *Open Space Report (2024)* are based on the distances suggested by FIT. These are also in keeping with those used by some neighbouring local authorities. For play provision, most neighbouring local authorities utilise catchments based on the FIT suggestion.

Accessibility catchments are a tool to help identify gaps in provision. They can also be used to help inform where development contributions can be allocated. Consequently, a larger catchment area provides greater opportunities and flexibility with where monies can be directed.

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Table 14.1.1: Comparison of accessibility catchments

Open space type	FIT	Open Space Report (2024)	Open Space Study (2017)	Ashford	Canterbury	Gravesham	Maidstone	Swale	Thurrock
Parks & Gardens	710m	710m	Metropolitan: 3.2 km District: 1.2 km Local: 800m Small: 400m Pocket: 400m 1,200m	Strategic	2,000m (destination) 800m (other)	15-minute walk	n/a	2,000m	Satellite 400m Local 700m Community 1km
Amenity Greenspace	480m	480m	200m	400m	710m (recreation) 480m (other)	5-minute walk	400m	400m	100m
Natural & Semi-natural	720m	720m	Within 400m of 2ha site. Within 600m of 2ha site. Within 2km of 20ha site Within 5km of 100 ha site Within 10km of 500ha site	400m	720m, or 2km (20+ ha)	10-minute walk	300m (2 Ha) 2km (20 Ha) 5km (100 Ha) 10km (500 Ha)	2,000m (destination) 800m (local) 400m (neighbour)	Within 300m Within 2km of 20ha site Within 5km of 100 ha site Within 10km of 500ha site
Provision for children and young people	LAP	100m	100m	100m	100m	10-minute walk	400m	400m	100m
	LEAP	400m	400m	400m	400m				400m
	NEAP	1,000m	1,000m	1,000m	1,000m				1,000m
Allotment	n/a	n/a	+50 plots- 1200m 21-50 plots – 900m <21 plots – 600m	Strategic	n/a	15-minute walk	1,000m	800m	+100 plots- 1200m 50-99 plots – 900m 10-49 plots – 600m <10 plots – 300m
Outdoor sports	1,200m	n/a	15 minutes' walk time	800m	n/a	n/a	1,000m	800m	n/a
Cemeteries	n/a	n/a	n/a	Strategic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Civic space	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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No catchments are generally suggested for allotments, civic space, green corridors or cemeteries. For such provision it is difficult to assess such provision against catchment mapping as in some instances (i.e., for cemeteries and allotments) it is better to determine need for provision based on known demand (e.g., capacity, waiting lists etc).

Whilst FIT and some neighbouring local authorities set an accessibility catchment for outdoor sports, Sport England guidance for sport/pitch provision does not promote the use of provision standards such as accessibility catchments. Instead the supply and demand of such provision should be assessed in accordance to how each sport is played.

The Medway PPS sets out the current and future supply and demand requirements for all playing pitch provision including football, cricket, rugby and hockey. This should be sought to help inform supply and demand requirements for outdoor sports.

In summary, the following accessibility standards are recommended

Table 14.1.2: Recommended accessibility standards

Open space type		Recommended standard
Parks & Gardens		9-minute walk time (710m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		9-minute walk time (720m)
Amenity Greenspace		6-minute walk time (480m)
Provision for children and young people	LAP	1-minute walk time (100m)
	LEAP	5-minute walk time (400m)
	NEAP	12.5-minute walk time (1000m)
	Other provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	9-minute walk time (700m)
Allotments		No standard set
Cemeteries		No standard set
Outdoor sports		1,200m*

14.2: Quantity

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

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

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

* Sport England guidance for playing pitch provision advises that catchment mapping does not reflect how each individual sport is played. Instead, the supply and demand analysis of a PPS should be used

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

Table 14.2.1 sets out the figures for existing quantity standards, current provision levels identified, national benchmarks and neighbouring local authorities.

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Table 14.2.1: Comparison of quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)

Open space type	FIT guideline	Open Space Report (2024)	OSS (2017)	Ashford	Canterbury	Gravesham	Maidstone	Swale	Thurrock
Parks & Gardens	0.80	0.58	0.40	0.30	0.80	0.21	n/a	1.11	0.70
Amenity Greenspace	0.60	0.80	0.78	2.00	2.25	0.92	0.70	0.45	0.80
Natural & Semi-natural	1.80	3.09	1.35	4.36	4.00	6.42	6.50	4.36	2.0
Provision for children and young people	0.25	0.05	0.08	0.50	0.25 (child) 0.30 (young people)	0.04	0.25	0.24	1 piece per 33 children
Allotment	0.25	0.11	0.18	0.20	0.37	0.15	0.20	0.20	0.37
Outdoor sports	1.60	0.27	0.50	1.60	0.87	n/a	1.60	1.09	1.25
Cemeteries	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.60	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Civic space	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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The proposed standards from Medway Council are a combination of existing provision levels and guidance such as FIT.

For amenity and natural and semi-natural greenspace the existing provision levels figures are recommended to be used.

For outdoor sports, it is important to recognise that best practice recommends a PPS is used to inform decision making as this sets out the current and future supply and demand requirements for playing pitch provision including football, cricket, rugby and hockey.

In summary, the following quantity standards are recommended

Table 14.2.2: Recommended quantity standards

Type	Recommended Quantity Standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Parks & recreation	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.09
Amenity greenspace	0.80
Provision for children & young people	0.25
Allotment	0.25
Total	5.19

The recommended standards can be used to help inform the contributions from new developments to the provision of open space across the area. Whilst the current provision levels can be used to help identify the priorities for provision in an area.