



LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

APRIL 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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Glossary

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

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRuT) commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver an Open Space Assessment. This document focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, 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. Since a previous study was undertaken in 2015, the focus of this review is on updating the previous study, assessing losses and gains, changes to boundaries, and capturing key changes in quality.

It will help inform direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable provision for open spaces. It can help to inform future priorities for open space provision.

The purpose of an Open Space Study is to recognise the role of open space provision as a resource across the area. Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and movement for people and wildlife. The impact of climate change is a recognised concern, and one which open space provision has the ability to help contribute towards tackling through measures such as tree planting, landscaping, re-wilding and creation of new wild areas. There has been a focus since the Covid-19 pandemic on access to local open spaces. 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 advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; *Assessing Needs and Opportunities*’ 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 still remains the only national best practice guidance on the conduct of an open space assessment.

Under paragraph 98 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.

This update is to inform the Council’s emerging Local Plan, which is based on the “Living Locally” concept that prioritises a holistic approach to ensuring most things you need are easily accessible, including making it easier to be physically active through walking and cycling and access to high quality public spaces. The update also reflects the Council’s ongoing commitment to investing in parks and open spaces, with the Council continually undertaking improvements with policies and plans to maintain facilities and increase standards. The Council’s vision for arts, libraries, parks and sport and fitness services is set out in Culture Richmond 2021 – 2031 which aims to support the growth of culture and creativity in the borough, while adapting to be resilient.

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessing-needs-and-opportunities-a-companion-guide-to-planning-policy-guidance-17>

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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 and churchyards	Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife.
Civic space	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public gatherings and community events.
Green corridors	Routes providing walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. May also offer opportunities for wildlife mitigation.

1.1 Report structure

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

- ◀ Part 3: 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

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 as updated on the Council's [evidence base webpage in relation to sport needs](#)). 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 (2021), (MHCLG)

The National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021) (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (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 98 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 99 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 Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015), Fields in Trust

As part of its protection work, Fields in Trust (FiT) offers guidance on open space provision and design. This is to ensure that the provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space is of a sufficient size to enable effective use; is located 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

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Everybody Active, Every Day (2014), Public Health England

In October 2014 Public Health England (PHE) produced a plan to tackle low activity levels across the country. Along with making the case for physical activity, the plan identifies four areas where measures need to be taken at a national and local level:

- ◀ Active society: creating a social movement. Shifting social norms so that physical activity becomes a routine part of daily life.
- ◀ Moving professionals: activating networks of expertise. Making every contact with the health sector count to push the 'active' message and to deliver the message through other sectors including education, sports and leisure, transport and planning.
- ◀ Active environments: creating the right spaces. Making available and accessible appropriate environments that encourage people to be active every day.
- ◀ Moving at scale: scaling up interventions that make us active. Maximising existing assets that enable communities to be active.

Open space provision has an important role in working towards these measures. There is a need to ensure accessible facilities that can help meet the physical activity needs of everyone including the physically and mentally disabled and those with learning difficulties and debilitating diseases.

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. Engaging residents to take up and retain a minimum or better level of physical literacy* 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 report makes an assessment of open space provision from which recommendations and policy can be formulated.

* 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:

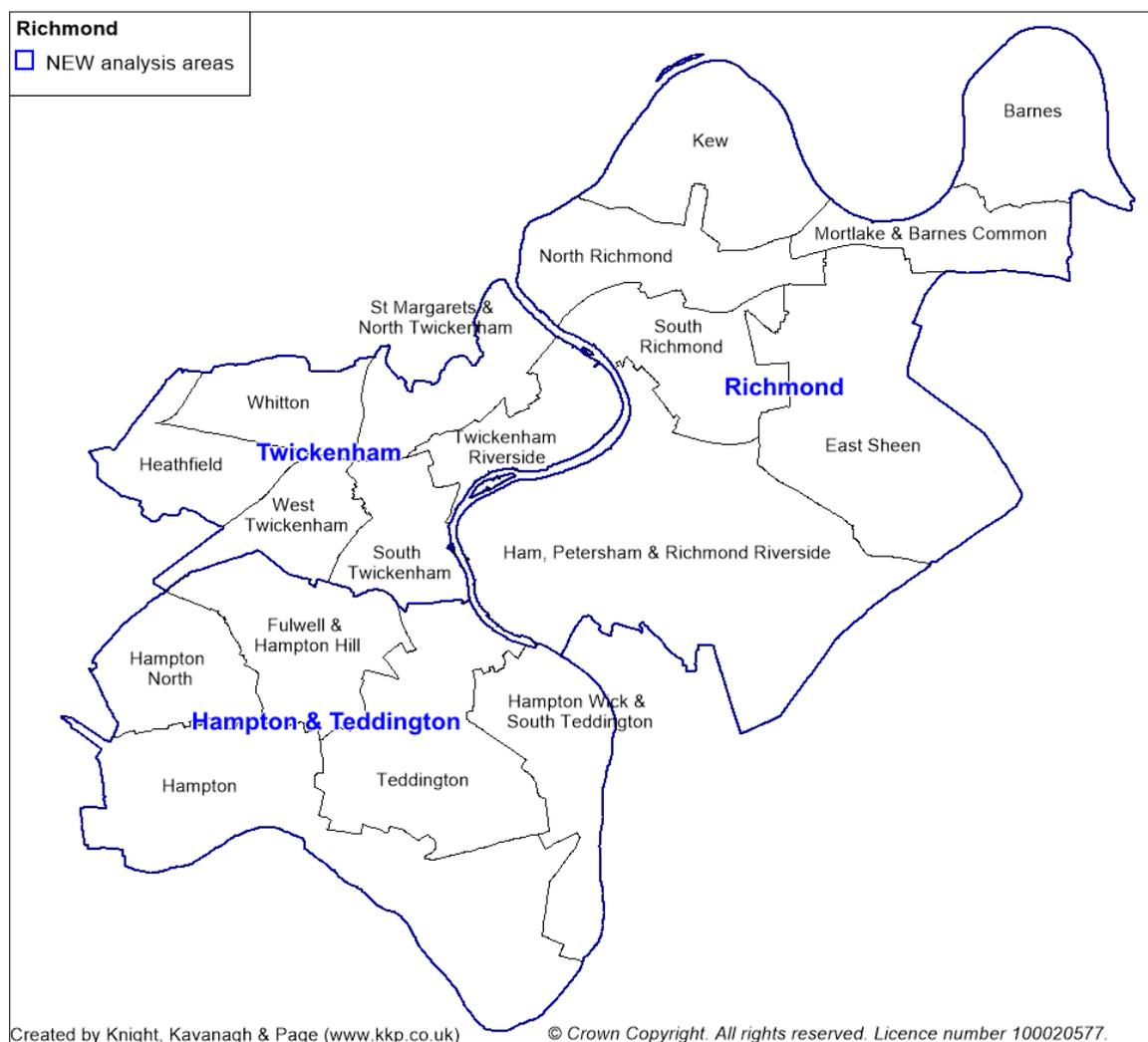
- ↳ 2.1 - Analysis areas
- ↳ 2.2 - Auditing local provision
- ↳ 2.3 - Open space provision standards
- ↳ 2.4 - Quality and value
- ↳ 2.5 - Quality and value thresholds
- ↳ 2.6 - Accessibility catchments

2.1 Analysis area

The study area comprises the whole of LBRuT. 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 borough broken down into these analysis areas in tandem with population density. Population is considered in more detail below.

Figure 2.1: Map of LBRuT including analysis areas



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Table 2.1: Analysis areas and populations

Analysis area	Population*
Hampton & Teddington	55,717
Richmond	80,129
Twickenham	62,295
LBRuT	198,141

2.2 Auditing local provision

A review of the previous 2015 site audit was undertaken to reflect any known changes in provision since the last study. Given many of the borough's open space sites are protected and are not subject to significant change, it was considered appropriate to approach this as a refresh, with a focus on reviewing and updating the previous study, assessing losses and gains, changes to boundaries, and capturing key changes in quality. Sites that were reassessed in 2022 are identified against the site name with *. This provides a snapshot in time. Not all changes since 2015 have been captured, particularly more small-scale improvements or aspects of quality that may change frequently such as observance of litter.

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 freely, are not included – such as Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and the London Wetland Centre).

Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, 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

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.

* ONS Mid-Year Estimates 2020

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

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

Database development

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

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

- ◀ 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 12).

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 most types of open space receive 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.

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

Analysis of quality

Audit data is 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. 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

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 tranquillity and richness of wildlife.

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

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 Covid-19 has been the importance and vital role open space provision can provide to local communities, with some places in the borough also providing recreational opportunities for those living in neighbouring and other London boroughs, acting as a green lung for southwest London. 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 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.

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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.

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.

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.

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 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%	
Amenity greenspace	50%	
Provision for children and young people	60%	
Allotments	45%	
Cemeteries/churchyards	55%	
Civic space	60%	
Green corridors	60%	

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2.6 Accessibility catchments

Accessibility catchments can be used as a tool to identify deficiencies of open space in a local area. This is achieved by applying them to create a distance catchment. The report 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’.

Accessibility guidance from Fields In Trust (FIT)* provides suggested catchment distances for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and provision for children and young people. These are set out in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: FIT accessibility guidelines

Open space type		Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
Parks & Gardens		710m	9 minutes
Amenity Greenspace		480m	6 minutes
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		720m	9 minutes
Equipped/designated play areas and other provision	LAP	100m	1 minute
	LEAP	400m	5 minutes
	NEAP	1,000m	12 ½ minutes
	Other provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	700m	9 minutes

FIT do not set an accessibility catchment for allotments or cemeteries/churchyards. Cemetery provision is unique in its function with new provision only occurring in exceptional circumstances based on factors beyond the scope of this study (i.e. burial demand). Consequently, it would not be appropriate to set an accessibility catchment.

The 2015 Open Space Report utilised a 1,200m accessibility catchment for allotments. This is retained to help identify any potential deficiency in access.

For amenity greenspace, a 400m accessibility catchment is used, as a local amendment to the FIT guidelines is considered justified. The Council’s adopted public open space deficiency standard was 400m, and it is not considered appropriate to increase this catchment, particularly given the focus on “Living Locally” in the emerging Local Plan. This approach is to reflect the distance for local open space provision cited within the London Plan, as the benchmark for Local Parks and Open Spaces set out in Policy G4 and Table 8.1, and similarly the deficiency in access to open space measure from the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL).

* <https://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf>

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Table 2.4: LBRuT accessibility catchments 2023

Open space type		Catchments
Parks & Gardens		710m
Amenity Greenspace		400m
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		720m
Play provision	0-4 age	100m
	5-11 age	400m
	12+ age	800m
Allotments		1,200m

For the typologies of parks, natural greenspace, amenity greenspace, play provision and allotments, this uses only publicly available open space, and the accessibility catchments utilise data available for site entry points and the road network. This provides catchments more reflective of how people will travel to access such provision. This is as opposed to radial catchments which use 'as the crow flies' distances.

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PART 3: SUMMARY OF PARKS SATISFACTION SURVEY AND SITE AUDIT

The LBRuT Council undertakes a regular Parks Customer Satisfaction Survey* to assess the overall satisfaction of council managed parks and to highlight any areas for improvement. It helps the Parks and Open Spaces Team to understand what matters to residents and helps ensure spending reflects views of residents and park users. The following is a summary of the 2021 survey which received 577 responses.

3.1 Parks Satisfaction Survey

Overall, the survey indicates that Parks and Open Spaces continue to operate to a high standard. General satisfaction measures at 94% for all council managed parks, and positive feedback for rating of local council managed parks is at 90%. Significantly, 97% of respondents rate the ease of access in parks as excellent, good or satisfactory.

There has been some major changes since 2019 on why residents visit parks. This can predominantly be attributed to the effects of the Covid19 pandemic. Globally there has been a significant rise in people visiting parks during in lockdowns, with LBRuT also experiencing increases in users. With an increase in people accessing Parks and Open Spaces the survey found a rise in residents accessing parks for exercise (47%), for peace and quiet (39%) and for flowers, trees and wildlife (37%).

The most consistent negative feedback relates to toilet and pavilion facilities in parks. The Council is taking steps to improve the facilities available across several parks. For example, renovation works of the old toilet block to create a new café have been completed in Buccleuch Gardens. The Council are also working on pavilion projects at Heathfield Recreation Ground, Moormead Recreation Ground and Vine Road Recreation Ground as well as the café at Carlisle Park.

3.2 Audit overview

Within the audit there is a total of 258 sites equating to approximately 650 hectares of open space. The largest contributor is natural greenspace (300 hectares); accounting for 46%.

Table 3.2.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)†
Allotments	26	36
Amenity greenspace	75	112
Cemeteries	22	65
Civic space	8	1
Green corridors	22	44
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	31	300
Park and gardens	17	86
Provision for children & young people	57	6
TOTAL	258	650

* https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/23211/2021_parks_customer_satisfaction_report.pdf

† Rounded to the nearest whole number

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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.

Table 3.3: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest	Average	Highest	Low	High
Allotments	45%	55%	71%	0	24
Amenity greenspace	18%	62%	90%	7	56
Cemeteries	53%	61%	75%	1	11
Civic space	47%	59%	71%	2	6
Green corridors	63%	67%	76%	0	10
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	46%	55%	78%	0	20
Park and gardens	61%	65%	71%	0	17
Provision for children & young people	31%	76%	87%	1	56
				11	200

There is generally a good quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in 94% of sites scoring above their set thresholds for quality.

There are slightly more amenity greenspace sites to rate below the quality thresholds. This is reflective of the purpose of some of these sites which is to act as visual amenities that are often without ancillary facilities.

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.

Table 3.4: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest	Average	Highest	Low	High
Allotments	28%	32%	47%	0	24
Amenity greenspace	6%	39%	76%	2	61
Cemeteries	23%	38%	57%	0	12
Civic space	28%	41%	56%	0	8
Green corridors	20%	35%	49%	0	10
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	20%	35%	75%	0	21
Park and gardens	25%	53%	63%	0	18
Provision for children & young people	20%	47%	69%	0	57
				2	211

Nearly all sites (99%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

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PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology 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 the borough, the equivalent to over 86 hectares (Table 4.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology. All analysis areas have parks provision.

Table 4.1: Current parks provision in LBRuT

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton and Teddington	4	17.74	0.32
Richmond	5	49.12	0.61
Twickenham	8	19.67	0.32
LBRuT	17	86.53	0.44

For parks and gardens, there is a current provision level of 0.44 hectares per 1,000 head of population.

All analysis areas are identified as having provision of parks and gardens. The greatest amount of council managed provision is found in the Richmond Analysis Area. This is predominantly due to the Old Deer Park site. At 28 hectares the site is the single largest site. Owned by Crown Estates it is managed by the Council. Subsequently the analysis area has a significant greater amount of provision per 1,000 head of population compared to the other analysis areas.

There are also an additional six sites of significant size in the borough provided by non-council authorities which contribute almost 1,575 hectares of multifunctional open space:

- ◀ Bushy Park (Royal Park, 364 hectares)
- ◀ Hampton Court Park (Historic Royal Palace, 201 hectares)
- ◀ Ham House (National Trust, 11 hectares)
- ◀ Kew Gardens (Royal Botanic Gardens, 124 hectares)
- ◀ Marble Hill Park (English Heritage, 25 hectares)
- ◀ Richmond Park (Royal Park, 851 hectares)

These sites have not been included as part of creating the standards. However, it is acknowledged that they all provide a substantial role in the access and use of open space; not just for individuals within the LBRuT but for other London Boroughs and nationally. Furthermore, the sites cannot be classified simply as a single type of open space as they offer a function associated with several typologies (e.g. parks, natural and semi-natural greenspace, amenity greenspace).

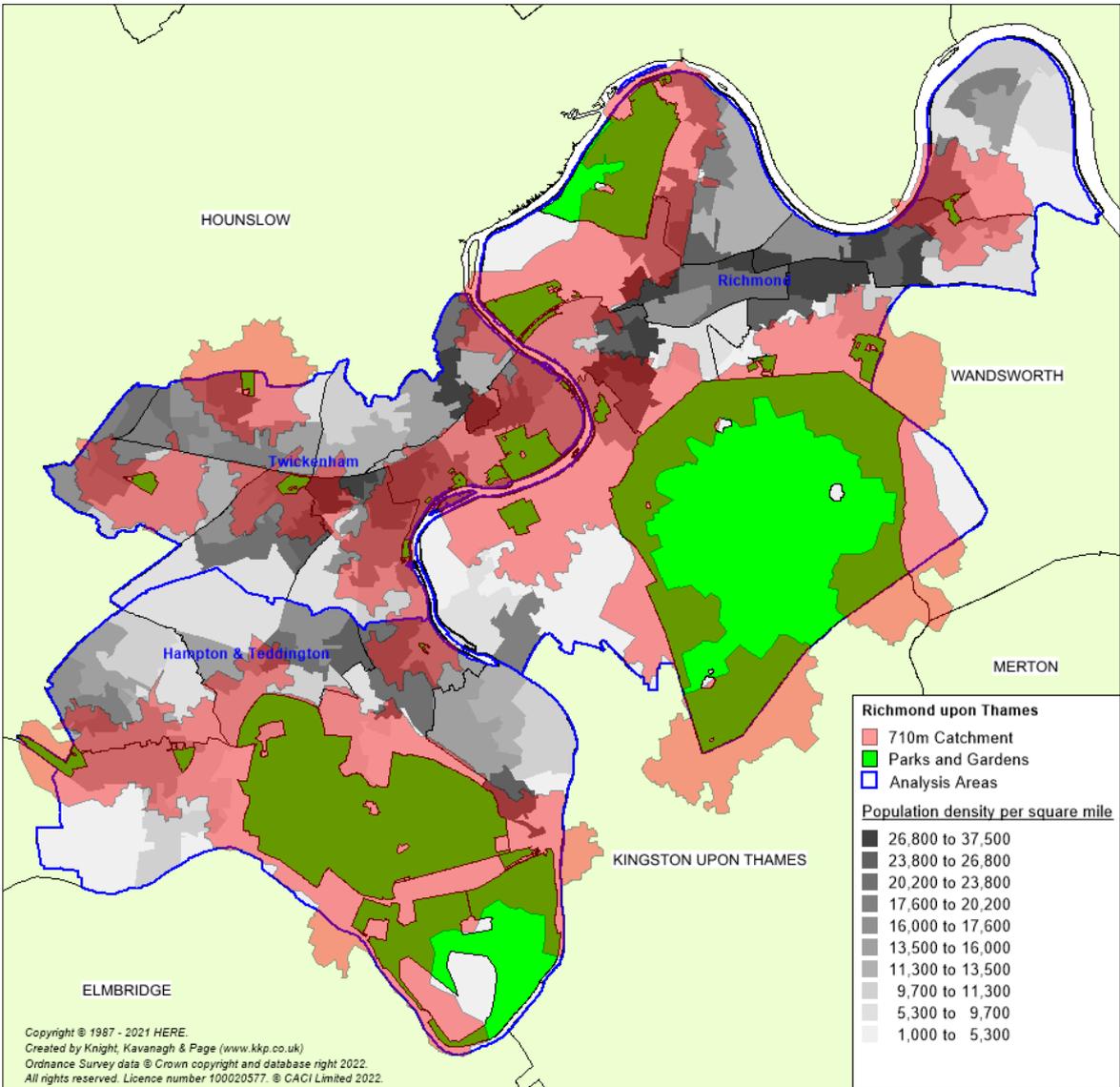
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It is also important to note that some open space sites across LBRuT will help to serve a similar function to parks provision but are primarily classified as a natural/semi-natural greenspace or amenity greenspace. For example, Barnes Common has similar features to a park however is classified as natural/semi-natural greenspace.

4.3 Accessibility

Catchment mapping utilises the Fields in Trust (FIT) accessibility guidelines. FIT guidance recommends an accessibility walking guideline of 710m. This is an equivalent to nine minutes' walk time. Figure 4.1 shows the catchments applied to parks and gardens to help inform where potential deficiencies in provision may be located. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take account of topography.

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with catchments



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Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
5*	Barnes Green	Richmond	3.33		
14	Cambridge Gardens	Twickenham	0.67		
15*	Carlisle Park	Hampton & Teddington	4.04		
24	Grove Gardens	Hampton & Teddington	0.46		
34*	Heathfield Recreation Ground	Twickenham	4.40		
42*	Kings Field	Hampton & Teddington	3.92		
43*	Kneller Gardens	Twickenham	4.73		
55*	Murray Park	Twickenham	3.15		
60	Orleans House Gardens	Twickenham	2.94		
62	Palewell Common & Fields	Richmond	10.94		
66	Radnor Gardens	Twickenham	1.52		
78	Diamond Jubilee Gardens	Twickenham	0.20		
80	Sheen Common	Richmond	3.64		
87	Terrace Gardens	Richmond	3.30		
98	York House Gardens	Twickenham	2.08		
123*	Hatherop Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	9.32		
124	Old Deer Park	Richmond	27.91		

Figure 4.1 highlights some gaps in catchments across the borough. However, other sites classified as a different type of open space provision are identified (Table 4.3) within most of these areas. Such sites may help to serve as an alternative within the accessibility gap for parks whilst also helping to ensure sufficient access to open space provision. This is explored further in Part 12.

Exploring the potential to introduce and/or enhance features and secondary functions on some of these sites could be considered. For some sites, enhancements and increasing the recreational use may be difficult due to the need to balance other important roles such as nature conservation. (It is noted that a Nature Conservation Review has been underway during 2021 and 2022 reviewing existing sites and potential new ones, although the outputs are due to be finalised in 2023 to inform the new Local Plan; for this study existing information on nature conservation has been used.)

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Table 4.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Hampton & Teddington	Broom Road Recreation Ground (ID 10) Hampton Common (ID 32) Hampton Village Green (ID 33) Langdon Park (ID 44) Udney Hall Gardens (ID 90) Vicarage Road (ID 91) Oak Avenue Local Nature Reserve (ID 114) Elmfield Gardens (ID 214) Hampton Library (ID 228) Jubilee Gardens (ID 238)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Civic Amenity Civic
Richmond	Burnell Avenue (ID 13) Castelnau Recreation Ground (ID 16) Ham Common (ID 26) Ham Village Green (ID 30) Mortlake Green (ID 53) North Sheen Recreation Ground (ID 57) Raleigh Road Recreation Ground (ID 67) Suffolk Road Recreation Ground (ID 84) Barnes Common (ID 101) The Copse (ID 103) Ham Common Woods (ID 106) Ham Lands (ID 108) Leg O Mutton (ID 112) Pesthouse Common (ID 116) Sheen Common Woods (ID 119) Pensfold Field (ID 179)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural
Twickenham	Craneford Way Recreation Ground (ID 20) Hounslow Heath (ID 37) Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground (ID 52) Twickenham Green (ID 89) Crane Park (ID 104) Mereway Nature Park (ID 113) Twickenham Junction Rough (ID 175) Wellesley Crescent (ID 207) Land at Harlequins (ID 208)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural Natural Natural Amenity Natural

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4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table 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).

Table 4.4: Quality ratings for assessed parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Hampton and Teddington	61%	63%	64%	0	4
Richmond	65%	67%	71%	0	5
Twickenham	61%	63%	67%	0	8
LBRuT	61%	65%	71%	0	17

Of the assessed park and garden sites, all rate above the quality threshold.

Consultation with LBRuT highlights the pavilion at Kneller Gardens (64%) has been redeveloped into a cafe. The site also benefits from signage, benches, litter bins, dog bins and scores well for overall maintenance.

Sites assessed as being of particularly high quality and as such, rate well above the threshold are Palewell Common & Fields (71%), Cambridge Gardens (67%) and Heathfield Recreation Ground (66%).

Palewell Common & Fields (71%), the highest scoring park site for quality, is observed as a large park/common offering numerous sport and exercise opportunities including cricket and football pitches, pitch and putt course, tennis courts and a play area. There is also a café and a Friends Group, further adding to the benefits of the site. The site scores very well for entrances, controls to prevent illegal use, boundary fencing. Moreover, the site benefits from good signage, benches, bins, paths and car parking.

Similarly, Heathfield Recreation Ground (66%) has a variety of features including a play area, MUGA and gym. Consultation with LBRuT Council highlights the site, since the previous study, has had a MUGA, outdoor gym and biodiversity features added. The site has good entrances, signage, safe crossing places and wide pathways. It scores high for overall maintenance and cleanliness and landscape design. The site has a Green Flag Award demonstrating its high standards.

Carlisle Park and Murray Park (both scoring 64%) have also had improvements. Both have had outdoor gyms installed. The latter has had the play area, path layout and landscaping at the south end of the site all redeveloped.

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Cambridge Gardens (67%) is identified as a lovely site with lots going on for many different age groups is visually pleasing and well maintained. The site contains a play area, tennis courts and a café. The site has the additional benefit of toilets, lighting, signage, benches, picnic benches and bins, further adding to the quality of the site.

Other high scoring sites to note include York House Gardens and Old Deer Park (both score 65% respectively). The sites benefit from a range of ancillary features and facilities including benches, bins and signage. The latter site has the additional benefits of an Adizone outdoor gym, play areas, tennis courts and sports pitches. Conversely, York House Gardens is more of a formal park which features an ornamental garden, fountain and sea nymph statues. This Green Flag Award site is attractive, well maintained, has picnic benches and numerous benches, further adding to its quality.

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 value scores can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.5: Value ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Hampton and Teddington	25%	48%	63%	0	4
Richmond	46%	59%	67%	0	5
Twickenham	42%	51%	63%	0	8
LBRuT	25%	53%	67%	0	17

All assessed sites rate above the threshold for value. Terrace Gardens (67%) and Sheen Common (66%) are the highest scoring site for value. The sites have high amenity and social value due to featuring good paths, recreational and exercise opportunities such as a cricket pitch and tennis courts. Moreover, Sheen Common has interpretation boards about the history of the site providing enhanced educational value as well as cultural and heritage benefits. The site is adjacent to East Sheen Common Woods providing structural landscape benefits and ecological value.

Carlisle Park (63%) also has high amenity and social value due to the site containing a play area and sports provision including football pitches, a cricket pitch, bowling green and several tennis courts. Consultation with LBRuT identifies that the site has a new gym further adding to its social/health value. The boundary of hedges and trees offers some biodiversity and ecological value. It is observed as an attractive site, well used and maintained, therefore scores highly for visual and landscape benefits.

Similarly, Cambridge Gardens (63%) is observed as an attractive, well used park. This site has additional economic value due to featuring a café. The interpretation boards provide historical information, enhancing educational benefits as well as heritage value.

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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.

4.6 Summary

Parks and gardens

- ◀ There are 17 sites classified as parks and gardens managed by the Council totalling over 86 hectares. However, there are several non-council managed sites (such as the Royal Parks) which provide over 1,575 additional hectares of multifunctional open space.
- ◀ Some catchment gaps are noted. However, these are thought to be sufficiently serviced by other forms of open space such as amenity and natural greenspace which provide similar recreational functions.
- ◀ All parks score above the threshold for quality. High scoring sites for quality, such as Palewell Common & Fields and Cambridge Gardens, do so due to the wide range of provision and excellent standard of maintenance within them.
- ◀ All parks are assessed as being of high value, with the important social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being acknowledged.

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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 this study, the focus is on sites providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

5.2 Current provision

In total, there are 31 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites identified in the borough, equating to over 300 hectares.

Table 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace in LBRuT

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton and Teddington	5	5.32	0.10
Richmond	19	267.82	3.34
Twickenham	7	26.99	0.43
LBRuT	31	300.14	1.51

The figures do not include sites such as the Royal Parks, Hampton Court and Kew Gardens due to how such sites are accessed (i.e. entry fees etc). However, such sites may be perceived to influence provision of this type.

The Richmond Analysis Area has the most natural and semi-natural provision with a total of over 267 hectares. This makes up 89% of identified provision across the LBRuT.

The largest sites are Ham Lands (69 hectares) and Barnes Common (50 hectares), both in the Richmond Analysis Area. Collectively, these make up over a third (40%) of the natural and semi-natural greenspace provision.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. There is an overall current provision level of 1.51 hectares per 1,000 head of population which is below the FIT guidelines. This is also the case for all the analysis areas except for the Richmond Analysis Area (3.34 ha per 1,000 population). This excludes sites such as the Royal Parks. If such provision is added, a total of 7.65 hectares per 1,000 population is observed.

Consultation with LBRuT highlights that Jubilee Meadow and Twickenham Junction Rough are new natural/semi-natural greenspace sites created since the 2015 study.

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5.3 Accessibility

Catchment mapping utilises the Fields in Trust (FIT) accessibility guidelines. FIT guidance recommends an accessibility walking guideline of 720m. This is an equivalent to nine minutes' walk time. Figure 5.1 shows the catchments applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace to help inform where potential deficiencies in provision may be located. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take account of topography.

Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped with catchment

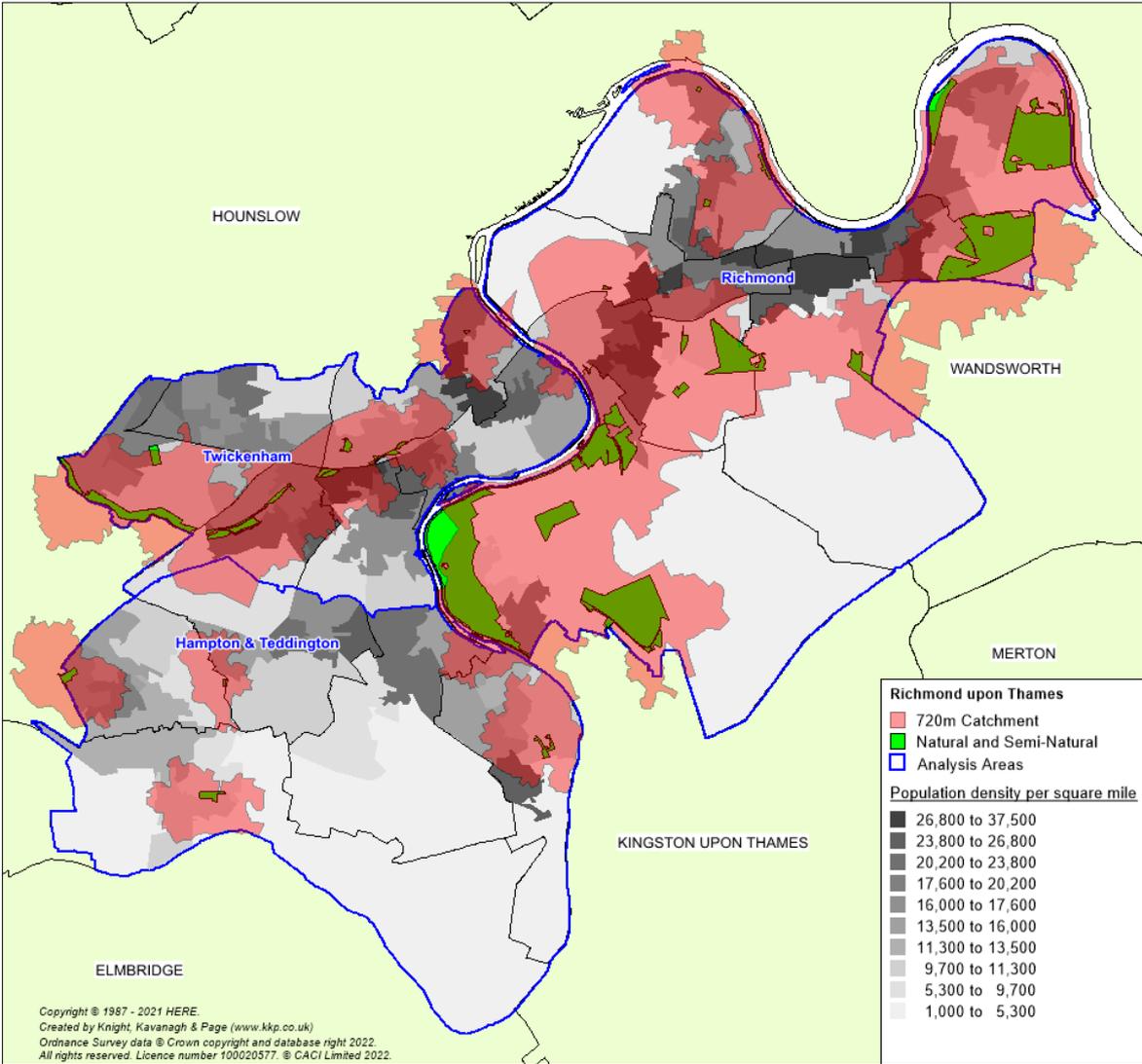


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
79*	Jubilee Meadow	Twickenham	1.77		
100*	Arundel Close wildlife site	Hampton & Teddington	0.19		
101	Barnes Common	Richmond	50.55		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
102*	Beveree wildlife site	Hampton & Teddington	1.81		
103	The Copse	Richmond	8.73		
104*	Crane Park	Twickenham	21.14		
106*	Ham Common Woods	Richmond	41.79		
108*	Ham Lands	Richmond	69.55		
110	Kew Pond	Richmond	0.17		
111	Kilmorey Mausoleum	Twickenham	0.15		
112	Leg O Mutton	Richmond	8.16		
113	Mereway Nature Park	Twickenham	1.40		
114	Oak Avenue Local Nature Reserve	Hampton & Teddington	1.60		
115	Palewell Common Woods	Richmond	3.72		
116	Pesthouse Common	Richmond	1.16		
117*	Petersham Lodge Woods	Richmond	1.27		
119	Sheen Common Woods	Richmond	17.73		
120	Terrace Walk & Field	Richmond	3.32		
122	Petersham Common	Richmond	6.25		
141	Petersham Meadow	Richmond	12.18		
175	Twickenham Junction Rough	Twickenham	1.38		
179	Pensford Field	Richmond	0.56		
185	Devereux Lane	Richmond	0.96		
193	Heidegger Crescent	Richmond	0.36		
199	Michels Row	Richmond	0.22		
208	Land at Harlequins, Twickenham	Twickenham	0.98		
220	London Wetland Centre	Richmond	40.95		
225	Part of Normansfield	Hampton & Teddington	1.06		
226	Compass Hill	Richmond	0.17		
230	Trematon Place	Hampton & Teddington	0.66		
236	Meadway Orchard, Twickenham	Twickenham	0.16		

Figure 5.1 highlights some gaps in catchments across the borough. However, other sites classified as a different type of open space provision are identified within most of these areas (Table 5.3). Such sites may help to serve as an alternative within the accessibility gap for natural greenspace whilst also helping to ensure sufficient access to open space provision. This is explored further in Part 12.

Exploring the potential to introduce and/or enhance features and secondary functions on some of these sites could be considered. For some sites, enhancements and increasing the recreational use may be difficult or impractical due to the need to balance other important roles.

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Table 5.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Hampton & Teddington	Alpha Road (ID 1) Carlisle Park (ID 15) Grove Gardens (ID 24) Hampton Common (ID 32) Hatherop Recreation Ground (ID 123) Bushy Park (ID 172) Elmfield Gardens (ID 214) Jubilee Gardens (ID 238)	Amenity Park Park Amenity Park Park Civic Civic
Richmond	Jubilee Gardens (ID 38) Mortlake Green (ID 53) North Sheen Recreation Ground (ID 57) Raleigh Road Recreation Ground (ID 67) Richmond Park (ID 173) Kew Riverside (ID 211) Kew Gardens (ID 218)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Park Amenity Park
Twickenham	Hounslow Heath (ID 37) Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground (ID 52) Murray Park (ID 55) Orleans Gardens (ID 59) Orleans House Gardens (ID 60) Radnor Gardens (ID 66) Diamond Jubilee Gardens (ID 78) Twickenham Green (ID 89) York House Gardens (ID 98) Marble Hill Park (ID 198) Wellesley Crescent (ID 207)	Amenity Amenity Park Amenity Park Park Park Amenity Park Park 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).

The typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace has a relatively lower quality threshold compared to other open space typologies. This is in order 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 conservation of flora and fauna activity.

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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<45%	>45%
Hampton and Teddington	46%	48%	51%	0	3
Richmond	46%	55%	78%	0	14
Twickenham	50%	59%	76%	0	4
LBRuT	46%	55%	78%	0	20

Please note the Kilmorey Mausoleum in Twickenham could not be assessed for quality or value as it was locked and inaccessible at the time of the site visits. However, it is considered highly valued and of a good quality.

All assessed natural and semi-natural sites rate above the quality threshold, indicating a high level of quality.

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

- ◀ London Wetland Centre (78%)
- ◀ Crane Park (76%)
- ◀ Sheen Common Woods (69%)
- ◀ Leg O Mutton (63%)
- ◀ Barnes Common (63%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as informative signage and litter bins. The sites are also observed as having good to reasonable pathways. All five sites, with the exceptions of, Leg O Mutton and Barnes Common have the additional benefit of benches. London Wetland Centre (78%), the highest scoring natural/semi-natural greenspace site, has the additional benefits of dog bins and picnic benches adding to its quality. It also features signage and interpretation boards, habitats and wildlife promotion, bird hides, car park and cycle park. It likely attracts large visitor numbers.

Sheen Common Woods has bins, benches, accessible tracks and informal paths, nature trails and interpretation boards adding to its quality. Consultation with LBRuT highlights it has a new natural play area (East Sheen Common Play Area). The site appears very well used. It also has a Friends Group helping to support its range of benefits.

Crane Park (76%) is also an extensive site with a good network of paths. The site features bins and an abundant supply of benches. There is also a play area within Crane Park (however this is just outside the LBRuT boundary).

Despite Barnes Common scoring very high for quality, it is noted that further within the site, the footpaths quality decreases making it unsuitable for some users.

Other high scoring sites include Jubilee Meadow (60%) which is a new site (open summer 2022) and is adjacent to Heathfield Recreation Ground. The site features a level gravel footpath around the southern half of the site and a mown path around the northern half. The site is fenced on all sides. It contains seating including a couple of easy access benches.

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LBRuT Council identify that hedge/tree planting is planned for winter (2022), interpretation is in development and wildlife features such as insect hotels and hedgehog habitats have been built with more features planned.

Twickenham Junction Rough is a new site which opened in 2018 that connects Craneford Way and London Road along the River Crane.

Consultation with the Council identifies that the southern section of Ham Lands has had significant scrub removal, enhancing landscape maintenance score and boosting its quality.

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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Hampton and Teddington	22%	24%	28%	0	3
Richmond	20%	37%	75%	0	14
Twickenham	23%	40%	61%	0	4
LBRuT	20%	35%	75%	0	21

All assessed natural and semi-natural sites score above the threshold for value. This is due to many sites having ecological value, contributing to flora and fauna, as well as providing habitats for local wildlife.

Sites can also 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 spaces to relax and reflect.

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

- ◀ London Wetland Centre (75%)
- ◀ Crane Park (61%)
- ◀ Sheen Common Woods (55%)

These sites offer high amenity and social value due to good paths and recreation and exercise opportunities. All are well located and of high quality, providing attractive landscapes, and enhancing structural and landscape benefits. In addition, each has high ecological value due to providing habitats for a flora and fauna and all contain a water feature.

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Barn Elms Reservoir (75%) is the highest scoring site for both quality and value as it has added social and amenity value due to its various events such as Illuminature and woodland walks. It contains environmental educational and visitor facilities including a café, restaurant and toilets enhancing educational and economic value. It has high ecological and biodiversity value due to the offer of an otter enclosure, bird hides and a reservoir.

Crane Park (61%) features good paths and provides a variety of habitats providing an attractive, welcoming landscape for a range of users including families and walkers. The play area provides additional amenity, health and social benefits. Likewise, Sheen Common Woods (55%) also features a play area, providing enhanced amenity benefits of the site. The natural equipment is new and provides structural and landscape benefits.

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ The borough is identified as having 31 individual natural and semi-natural greenspace sites. This totals over 300 hectares of provision.
- ◀ In addition, other sites such as the Royal Parks and Hampton Court Park add to the function and opportunities associated with natural greenspace
- ◀ Some catchment gaps are noted. However, these are thought to be sufficiently serviced by other forms of open space such as parks and amenity greenspace which provide similar recreational functions.
- ◀ Natural greenspace sites are generally viewed as being of a good quality. This is reflected in the audit assessment with all sites scoring above the threshold.
- ◀ All sites are rated as being above the set threshold for value. High scoring sites for value such as London Wetland Centre, Crane Park, and Sheen Common Woods provide a range of opportunities and uses for visitors. Such sites also, in general, provide additional information that will help provide greater learning opportunities.

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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 75 amenity greenspace sites in LBRuT equating to over 111 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: Current amenity greenspace in LBRuT

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton and Teddington	24	37.57	0.67
Richmond	35	58.82	0.73
Twickenham	16	15.42	0.25
LBRuT	75	111.82	0.56

This typology has a broad range of purposes and as such varies significantly in size. For example, Riverdale Gardens 0.26 hectares, acts as an important visual/communal amenity. In contrast, Barn Elms Playing Field at over 15 hectares, is a large recreation ground 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 the LBRuT is slightly below this. The Hampton and Teddington and Richmond analysis areas are both above.

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

Catchment mapping utilises a 400m accessibility distance. This is to reflect the distance for local open space provision cited within the London Plan and the deficiency in access to open space from the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL). Figure 6.1 shows the catchments applied to amenity greenspace to help inform where potential deficiencies in provision may be located. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take account of topography.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspaces with catchments

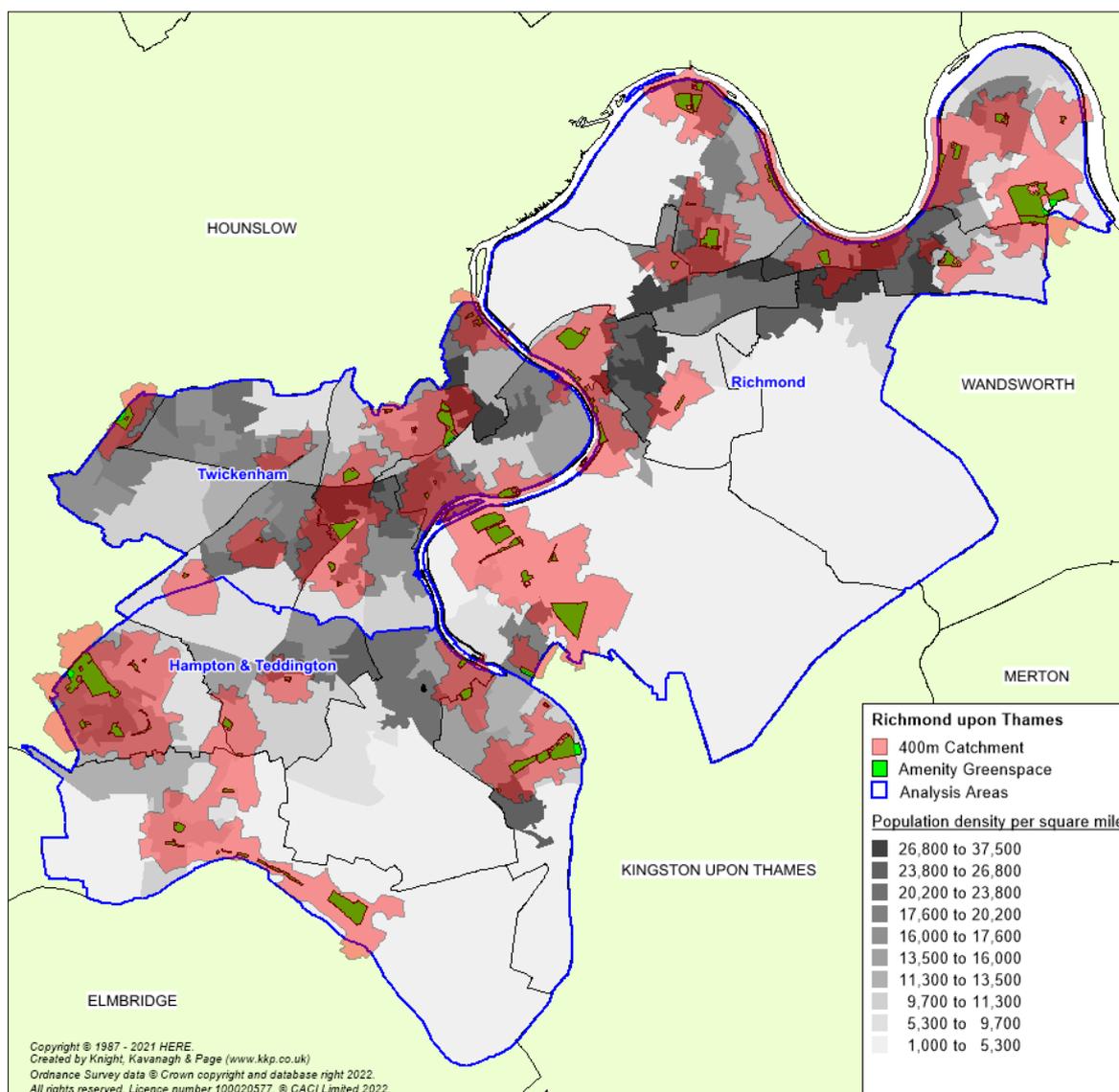


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1	Alpha Road	Hampton & Teddington	0.23		
2	Barn Elms playing field	Richmond	15.31		
7	Bell Hill Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	0.06		
8*	Benn's Alley	Hampton & Teddington	0.04		
9	Bridge House Gardens	Richmond	0.19		
10	Broom Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	5.47		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
11*	Buccleuch Gardens	Richmond	1.02		
12	Bucklands	Hampton & Teddington	0.15		
13*	Burnell Avenue	Richmond	0.91		
16	Castelnau Recreation Ground	Richmond	0.98		
20	Craneford Way Recreation Ground	Twickenham	1.64		
21	Garricks Lawn	Hampton & Teddington	0.32		
22*	Gothic Site	Richmond	0.14		
23	Grimwood Road Recreation Ground	Twickenham	0.16		
25	Grove Road Gardens	Richmond	0.49		
26*	Ham Common	Richmond	8.38		
27	Ham Riverside pitches	Richmond	3.97		
28	Ham Sports frontage	Richmond	0.17		
30	Ham Village Green	Richmond	0.99		
32*	Hampton Common	Hampton & Teddington	12.73		
33	Hampton Village Green	Hampton & Teddington	0.91		
35*	Holly Road Garden of Rest	Twickenham	0.19		
36*	Holly Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	0.77		
37	Hounslow Heath	Twickenham	2.41		
38	Jubilee Gardens (Mortlake)	Richmond	0.27		
40	Kew Green	Richmond	4.05		
41	King Georges Field	Richmond	3.70		
44	Langdon Park	Hampton & Teddington	3.64		
46	Lonsdale Road Plantation	Richmond	0.77		
47	Manor Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	0.46		
48	Maple Close	Hampton & Teddington	0.11		
49*	Mears Walk	Richmond	0.18		
50*	Midhurst Site	Richmond	0.13		
51	Mill Road	Twickenham	0.14		
52	Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground	Twickenham	4.37		
53	Mortlake Green	Richmond	1.35		
57	North Sheen Recreation Ground	Richmond	3.08		
58	Nursery Green	Hampton & Teddington	1.29		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
59*	Orleans Gardens	Twickenham	1.37		
61	Pages Green	Hampton & Teddington	0.37		
63	Pantile Bridge	Hampton & Teddington	0.14		
64*	Partridge Green	Hampton & Teddington	0.57		
67	Raleigh Road Recreation Ground	Richmond	0.33		
68	Richmond Green	Richmond	4.19		
69	Richmond Little Green	Richmond	0.49		
71*	Richmond Riverside	Richmond	0.29		
72*	Riverdale Gardens	Richmond	0.26		
73	Riverside Drive	Richmond	1.20		
74	Rocks Lane Recreation Ground	Richmond	0.17		
75	Rotary Gardens	Richmond	0.13		
76*	Sandy Lane Recreation Ground	Richmond	0.53		
77	School House Lane Orchard	Hampton & Teddington	0.10		
81*	St Albans Riverside	Hampton & Teddington	1.22		
84	Suffolk Road Recreation Ground	Richmond	1.19		
86	Tapestry Court	Richmond	0.04		
89	Twickenham Green	Twickenham	3.08		
90	Udney Hall Gardens	Hampton & Teddington	1.04		
92*	Vine Road Recreation Ground	Richmond	1.82		
94*	Water Lane	Twickenham	0.07		
95	Wellesley Road	Twickenham	0.10		
96	Westerley Ware Recreation Ground	Richmond	0.61		
99*	Dean Road	Hampton & Teddington	0.08		
181	Bishops Grove	Hampton & Teddington	0.32		
182	Chase Green, Whitton	Twickenham	0.11		
183	Court Close	Twickenham	0.18		
186*	Garfield Road Twickenham	Twickenham	0.09		
190	Hampton Court Green	Hampton & Teddington	6.72		
196	Manor Gardens	Hampton & Teddington	0.36		
197	Marlow Crescent	Twickenham	0.24		
207	Wellesley Crescent	Twickenham	0.51		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
211	Kew Riverside	Richmond	1.05		
212	Wyatt Drive	Richmond	0.27		
228	Hampton Library	Hampton & Teddington	0.48		
231	Lawn Crescent, Kew	Richmond	0.19		
232	Former Brunel University, St Margaret's	Twickenham	0.76		

Figure 6.1 highlights some gaps in catchments across the borough. However, other sites classified as a different type of open space provision are identified (Table 6.3) within most of these areas. Such sites may help to serve as an alternative within the accessibility gap for amenity greenspace whilst also helping to ensure sufficient access to open space provision. Ensuring the quality and access to such sites is crucial. This is explored further in Part 12.

Table 6.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in amenity catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Hampton & Teddington	Carlisle Park (ID 15)	Park
	Hatherop Recreation Ground (ID 123)	Park
	Bushy Park (ID 172)	Park
Richmond	Terrace Gardens (ID 87)	Park
	Barnes Common (ID 101)	Natural
	Pesthouse Common (ID 116)	Natural
	Sheen Common Woods (ID 119)	Natural
	Michaels Row (ID 199)	Natural
Twickenham	Heathfield Recreation Ground (ID 34)	Park
	Murray Park (ID 55)	Park
	Radnor Gardens (ID 66)	Park
	Crane Park (ID 104)	Natural
	Marble Hill Park (ID 198)	Park

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6.4 Quality

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

Table 6.4: Quality ratings for assessed amenity greenspaces

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Hampton and Teddington	18%	59%	78%	2	19
Richmond	29%	65%	90%	3	29
Twickenham	39%	58%	69%	2	8
LBRuT	18%	62%	90%	7	56

Over three quarters of assessed amenity greenspaces (89%) rate above the quality threshold. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Richmond Riverside (90%)
- ◀ Richmond Green (89%)
- ◀ Barn Elms playing field (84%)

These three sites are observed as having high standards of maintenance and cleanliness, resulting in a good overall appearance. In addition, they score well for user security and benefit from signage and lighting. All three sites have bins to prevent excessive littering and pathways suitable for various users. Richmond Riverside and Richmond Green have the additional benefit of numerous benches.

Richmond Riverside (90%) is observed as a visually pleasing and lovely riverside site which is well maintained. The site has boat hire opportunities, is very well used and has lighting and signage, contributing to very good user security and controls to prevent illegal use. Consultation with LBRuT identifies that this site has been re-turfed and re-landscaped since the last study.

Richmond Green (89%) and Barn Elms Playing Field (84%) are spacious greenspaces providing opportunities for ball games, walking and exercise. The latter has numerous sports facilities including football, cricket and tennis further adding to its quality. The site has the additional benefits of car parking (including disabled parking) and toilets.

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

There are three sites (Water Lane, Dean Road and Ham Riverside pitches) that score just below the threshold between 41% and 49%. With some minor improvements, these could meet the quality threshold of 50%.

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Only seven assessed sites (11%) rate below the quality threshold. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:

- ◀ Bucklands (18%)
- ◀ Ham Sports frontage (33%)
- ◀ Riverside Drive (34%)

These sites score lower due to a lack of features such as pathways, signage, seating or bins. Ham Sports frontage (29%) scores low due to being observed as a small roadside verge which lacks facilities and features. Bucklands (18%) is only accessible by boat and provides an area for short public moorings.

Riverside Drive (31%) is a linear greenspace beside the road. The site benefits from a play area. However, the site could benefit from a path leading to the play area. Furthermore, there is no seating or bins outside of the play area.

6.5 Value

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

Table 6.5: Value ratings for assessed amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Hampton and Teddington	6%	39%	76%	2	19
Richmond	20%	38%	65%	0	32
Twickenham	21%	39%	52%	0	10
LBRuT	6%	39%	76%	2	61

Most amenity greenspace sites (97%) rate above the threshold for value. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Garricks Lawn (76%)
- ◀ Bell Hill Recreation Ground (72%)
- ◀ Hampton Village Green (67%)
- ◀ Richmond Riverside (65%)

These sites are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational and social opportunities they offer for a wide range of users. All four sites have seating and attractive welcoming landscapes providing structural and landscape benefits as well as social and amenity benefits. Three of these sites are riverside sites offering visual views.

Garricks Lawn (76%), the highest scoring site for value. It is a historic site featuring Garrick’s Temple to Shakespeare and contains wildlife information providing high educational value.

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Hampton Village Green (67%) has enhanced amenity and social benefits due to containing a play area.

Richmond Riverside (65%) is observed as a lovely, well maintained site providing structural and landscape benefits. The site features wide paths and bins enhancing social inclusion benefits. In addition, the surrounding bars and restaurants as well as the opportunity to hire a boat, provide enhanced economic value. Consultation with the Council identifies that this site has been re-turfed and re-landscaped boosting both the quality and value of the site. Gothic Site (35%) has also been re-landscaped.

Consultation with the Council identifies that Buccleuch Gardens (47%) has a new café in the former closed public toilet block, enhancing economic value and amenity benefits. Furthermore, Vine Road Recreation Ground (64%) is now home to Friends of Barnes Common, who have made improvements to play and landscaping. This Green Flag Award site also scores high for quality (73%).

The lowest scoring sites for value are often due to access difficulties or questions over whether they are accessible. These include Langdon Park and Bucklands (scoring 15% and 6%).

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

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

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace

- ◆ A total of 76 amenity greenspace sites are identified in the borough, totalling just over 111 hectares of provision.
- ◆ A greater amount of amenity greenspace is located in the Richmond Analysis Area (58 hectares). Not surprisingly, it has the greatest amount of provision proportionally per 1,000 populations with 0.73 (compared to 0.68 and 0.25 for Hampton & Teddington and Twickenham areas).
- ◆ Some catchment gaps are noted. However, these are thought to be sufficiently serviced by other forms of open space such as parks and natural greenspace which provide similar recreational functions.
- ◆ Overall the quality of amenity greenspaces is positive. The majority of sites (89%) are rated as above the threshold for quality in the site visit audit. Only a handful of sites are identified as having any specific issues. Often a site with a below threshold quality score is due to its size and access and therefore it lacks any form of ancillary feature.
- ◆ In addition to the multifunctional role of sites, amenity greenspace provision is, in general, particularly valuable towards the visual aesthetics for communities. This is demonstrated by the 97% of sites rating above the threshold for value. The contribution these sites provide as a visual amenity and for recreational opportunities should not be overlooked.

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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 and MUGAs.

7.2 Current provision

A total of 57 sites are identified in LBRuT as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over six hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such, all provision is identified and included within the audit.

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

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton and Teddington	15	1.65	0.03
Richmond	20	2.75	0.03
Twickenham	22	1.97	0.03
LBRuT	57	6.37	0.03

There are also an additional three play areas within Royal Parks that are excluded from the quantity figures and standards. These are play provision in Bushy Park, Richmond Park (Kingston Gate) and Richmond Park (Petersham Gate).

Sheen Common Play Area and Strawberry Woods Play Area are new sites that have been created since the last study.

Play areas have been classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience based on age range.

- ◀ 0 to 4 age - Usually small, landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.
- ◀ 5 to 11 age - Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users: often containing a wider range of equipment types.
- ◀ 12+ age - Cater for older age groups. Such provision may contain MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment.

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Table 7.2: Distribution of provision for children and young people by age range

Provision for children and young people		
0-4	5-11	12+
55	57	32

A site can feature provision catering for more than one age group. Consequently, the total number is different to that in Table 7.1. All sites cater for the 5-11 age group. Over half of sites cater for the 12+ age group.

7.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of mapping walk time catchments based on the play provision age range are used.

Table 7.3: Catchments for play provision

Form of play provision	Catchment
0-4	100m
5-11	400m
12+	800m

Figure 7.1 shows the catchments applied to provision for children and young people to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people with catchments

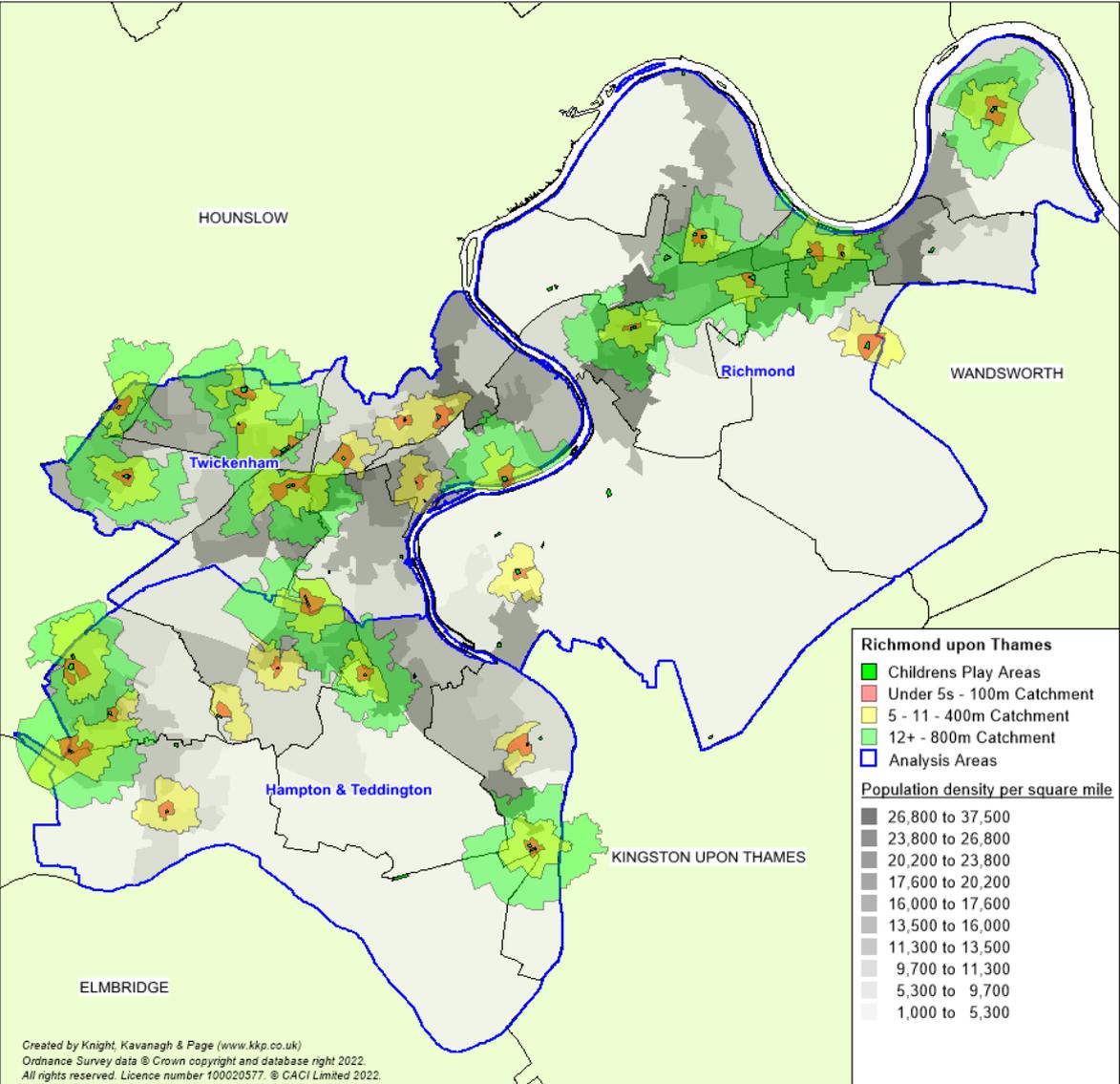


Table 7.4: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1.1*	Alpha Road play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.02		
10.1	Broom Road Recreation Ground play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.10		
14.1	Cambridge Gardens play area	Twickenham	0.03		
15.1	Carlisle Park play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.16		
16.1	Castelnau Recreation Ground play area	Richmond	0.14		
16.2	Castelnau Recreation Ground basketball	Richmond	0.08		
17.1	Chase Green play area	Twickenham	0.10		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
17.2	Chase Green MUGA	Twickenham	0.05		
19	Church Road play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.05		
20.1	Craneford Way Recreation Ground play area	Twickenham	0.10		
23.1	Grimwood Road Recreation Ground play area	Twickenham	0.05		
30.1	Ham Village Green play area	Richmond	0.19		
32.1	Hampton Common play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.30		
32.2	Hampton Common BMX track	Hampton & Teddington	0.13		
33.1	Hampton Village Green play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.04		
34.1	Heathfield Recreation Ground play area	Twickenham	0.18		
34.2*	Heathfield Recreation Ground MUGA	Twickenham	0.03		
34.3*	Heathfield Recreation Ground Gym	Twickenham	0.01		
35.1	Holly Road Garden of Rest play area	Twickenham	0.008		
36.1	Holly Road Recreation Ground play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.13		
37.1	Hounslow Heath play area	Twickenham	0.09		
42.1	Kings Field play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.14		
42.2	Kings Field skatepark	Hampton & Teddington	0.10		
43.1	Kneller Gardens play area	Twickenham	0.13		
44.1	Normansfield Play Park	Hampton & Teddington	0.04		
52.1	Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground play area	Twickenham	0.15		
53.1	Mortlake Green play area	Richmond	0.13		
54	Mullins Path	Richmond	0.05		
55.1	Murray Park play area	Twickenham	0.27		
55.2	Murray Park MUGA	Twickenham	0.02		
55.3	Murray Park skatepark	Twickenham	0.02		
57.1	North Sheen Recreation Ground play area	Richmond	0.22		
58.1	Nursery Green play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.12		
59.1	Orleans Gardens play area	Twickenham	0.22		
62.1	Palewell Common & Fields play area	Richmond	0.27		
66.1	Radnor Gardens play area	Twickenham	0.10		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
67.1	Raleigh Road Recreation Ground play area	Richmond	0.23		
73.1	Riverside Drive play area	Richmond	0.13		
74.1	Rocks Lane Recreation Ground play area	Richmond	0.04		
76.1	Sandy Lane Recreation Ground play area	Richmond	0.07		
78.1	Jubilee Gardens play area	Twickenham	0.04		
83.1	St. Lukes play area	Richmond	0.02		
84.1	Suffolk Road Recreation Ground play area	Richmond	0.08		
85	Tangier Green play area	Richmond	0.22		
91.1	Vicarage Road play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.22		
92.1	Vine Road Recreation Ground play area	Richmond	0.19		
95.1	Wellesley Road play area	Twickenham	0.04		
96.1	Westerley Ware Recreation Ground play area	Richmond	0.07		
97	Worple Way Recreation Ground	Richmond	0.13		
98.1	Champions Wharf Play Beach	Twickenham	0.02		
108.1*	Beaufort Court play area	Richmond	0.17		
119.1*	Sheen Common Play Area	Richmond	0.10		
123.1	Hatherop Recreation Ground play area	Hampton & Teddington	0.06		
123.2	Hatherop Recreation Ground MUGA	Hampton & Teddington	0.04		
124.1	Old Deer Park play areas	Richmond	0.22		
177	Cypress Avenue play area	Twickenham	0.02		
237*	Strawberry Woods play area	Twickenham	0.16		

There is a good spread of play provision across the borough. However, potential gaps in catchments are observed to some areas of greater population density. In the first instance, exploring opportunities to expand the offer of play at existing sites to accommodate other age ranges should be considered. In some gaps, the potential to introduce play provision may need to be explored.

The following existing sites may help to serve some of the gaps in catchments if the amount and range of play equipment can be expanded.

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Table 7.5: Sites with potential to help serve gaps through expansion

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Hampton & Teddington	Alpha Road play area (ID 1.1) Hampton Village Green play area (ID 33.1) Holly Road Recreation Ground play area (ID 36.1)
Richmond	Ham Village Green play area (ID 30.1) Palewell Common & Fields play area (ID 62.1)
Twickenham	Craneford Way Recreation Ground play area (ID 20.1) Grimwood Road Recreation Ground play area (ID 23.1) Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground play area (ID 52.1) Champions Wharf Play Beach (ID 98.1)

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 7.6: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Hampton and Teddington	62%	76%	85%	0	15
Richmond	34%	74%	84%	1	19
Twickenham	70%	78%	87%	0	22
LBRuT	31%	76%	87%	1	56

Nearly all assessed play sites (98%) rate above the quality threshold. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Cypress Avenue play area (87%)
- ◀ Carlisle Park play area (85%)
- ◀ Old Deer Park play areas (84%)
- ◀ Craneford Way Recreation Ground play area (84%)
- ◀ Rocks Lane Recreation Ground play area (83%)
- ◀ Riverside Drive play area (83%)

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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. The sites also score highly for drainage, equipment quality and surface quality. All have good fencing and controls to prevent illegal use and are perceived as well used.

Carlisle Park play area, Old Deer Park play areas and Rocks Lane Recreation Ground play area have the additional benefit of a car park. Old Deer Park play areas features play equipment for a wide range of ages including an outdoor gym. Cypress Avenue play area (87%) is noted as looking quite new whilst Riverside Drive play area (83%) is observed as an excellent play area set on very extensive verge area opposite housing. There is also a bike rack outside the fence.

Noticeably there are a number of sites which contain provision catering for older age ranges such as skateparks and MUGAs. Heathfield Recreation Ground features a play area, MUGA and gym. Murray Park contains a play area, MUGA and skate park, further adding to the quality of the sites.

Sheen Common play area and Strawberry Woods play area (scoring 67% and 70%) are new natural play areas. Sheen Common play area is located within Sheen Common Woods whereas Strawberry Woods play area is a stand-alone play area. Both sites feature seating, signage, litter bins and are well used. They score well for general site appearance and drainage.

Only one site rates below the quality threshold. Beaufort Court play area (34%). The site is observed as a small kickabout pitch with a poor surface. The site lacks signage, fencing and controls to prevent illegal use. As a result, it is perceived as poorly used. However, the site does benefit from benches and bins. The Council is looking to refurbish the site.

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 7.7: Value ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Hampton and Teddington	42%	53%	62%	0	15
Richmond	20%	41%	58%	0	20
Twickenham	27%	50%	69%	0	22
LBRuT	20%	47%	69%	0	57

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All play sites rate 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.

The highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ Heathfield Recreation Ground play area (69%)
- ◀ Champions Wharf Play Beach (64%)
- ◀ Carlisle Park play area (62%)
- ◀ Kneller Gardens play area (62%)
- ◀ Hatherop Recreation Ground play area (62%)

The sites above 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. Heathfield Recreation Ground features a play area, MUGA and outdoor gym providing high amenity, health and social benefits.

Champions Wharf Play Beach and Heathfield Recreation Ground play area are seen as in attractive landscapes and are well located, enhancing structural and landscape benefits.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly impact on value. Provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play. For example, Heathfield Recreation Ground caters for a wide age range as it contains a play area, MUGA and outdoor gym equipment. Likewise, Murray Park also features a range of play provision as it has a play area, MUGA and skate park, enhancing amenity and health value benefits.

7.6 Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are a total of 57 sites identified as play provision in the borough managed by the Council. There are an additional three sites located at the Royal Parks.
- ◀ The borough contains a high proportion of sites catering for 0-4 and 5-11 age groups.
- ◀ Gaps in provision are identified against the accessibility catchments. Exploring opportunities to expand the play offer at certain as well as the possibility of introducing new forms of play should be considered.
- ◀ The majority of play sites (98%) are assessed as being above the threshold for quality. Only one site rates below the quality threshold due to a lack of ancillary features.
- ◀ All play provision is rated as being of high value from the site visit audit. Reflecting their role in providing access across the borough.

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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 26 sites classified as allotments in LBRuT, equating to over 36 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: Current allotments in LBRuT

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton and Teddington	4	15.56	0.28
Richmond	14	14.54	0.18
Twickenham	8	6.14	0.10
LBRuT	26	36.23	0.18

Most sites are located in the Richmond Analysis Area (15). Not surprisingly, the most hectareage (15 hectares) is found in the same area. The largest site is Bushy Park allotment (5.75 hectares) in the Hampton and Teddington Analysis Area.

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotment plots per 1,000 households. For LBRuT, this equates to 20 per 2,301 people (based on 2.301 people per household, GLA 2016) or one per 115 people.

The NSALG standard uses an average plot size of 10 rods (0.025 ha). This equates to 0.5 hectares of allotments per 1,000 households. Using this plot size, LBRuT is below the NSALG standard, based on its current population (198,141*) and household size (2.301) - the minimum amount of allotment provision would be 43.55 hectares against existing provision of 36.23 ha.

However, considering the current demand for allotments in London and with support from a number of organisations, including the GLA, to split plots and create smaller, more flexible plots that appeal to a wider array of people, the Council's Allotments Strategy (Cultivating the Future, 2019) suggests that simply 20 allotments per 1,000 households is an appropriate standard for an Outer London Borough to be judged by. In Richmond, this equates to a standard of 20 allotment plots per 2,301 people, which the borough meets by having 28.7.

* ONS Mid-Year Estimates 2020

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In total there are over 2,000 plots identified. The greatest number of sites and plots are in the Richmond Analysis Area; with a total of circa 906 plots. This is followed by Hampton and Teddington Analysis Area and the Twickenham Analysis Area with 674 and 490 plots respectively. The waiting lists numbers across LBRuT is around 3,800 suggesting a continuously high level of demand.

Table 8.2: Council sites and plots

Analysis area	Number of sites	Number of plots
Hampton & Teddington	3	674
Richmond	13	906
Twickenham	8	490
LBRuT	24	2,070

If the Royal Paddocks Allotment is also included (in the Hampton and Teddington Analysis Area) there is a total of 956 plots in the analysis area.

8.3 Accessibility

Catchment mapping utilises a 1,200m accessibility distance*. Figure 8.1 shows the catchments applied to allotments to help inform where potential deficiencies in provision may be located. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take account of topography.

* Previously used in the 2015 study

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Figure 8.1: Allotments with catchments

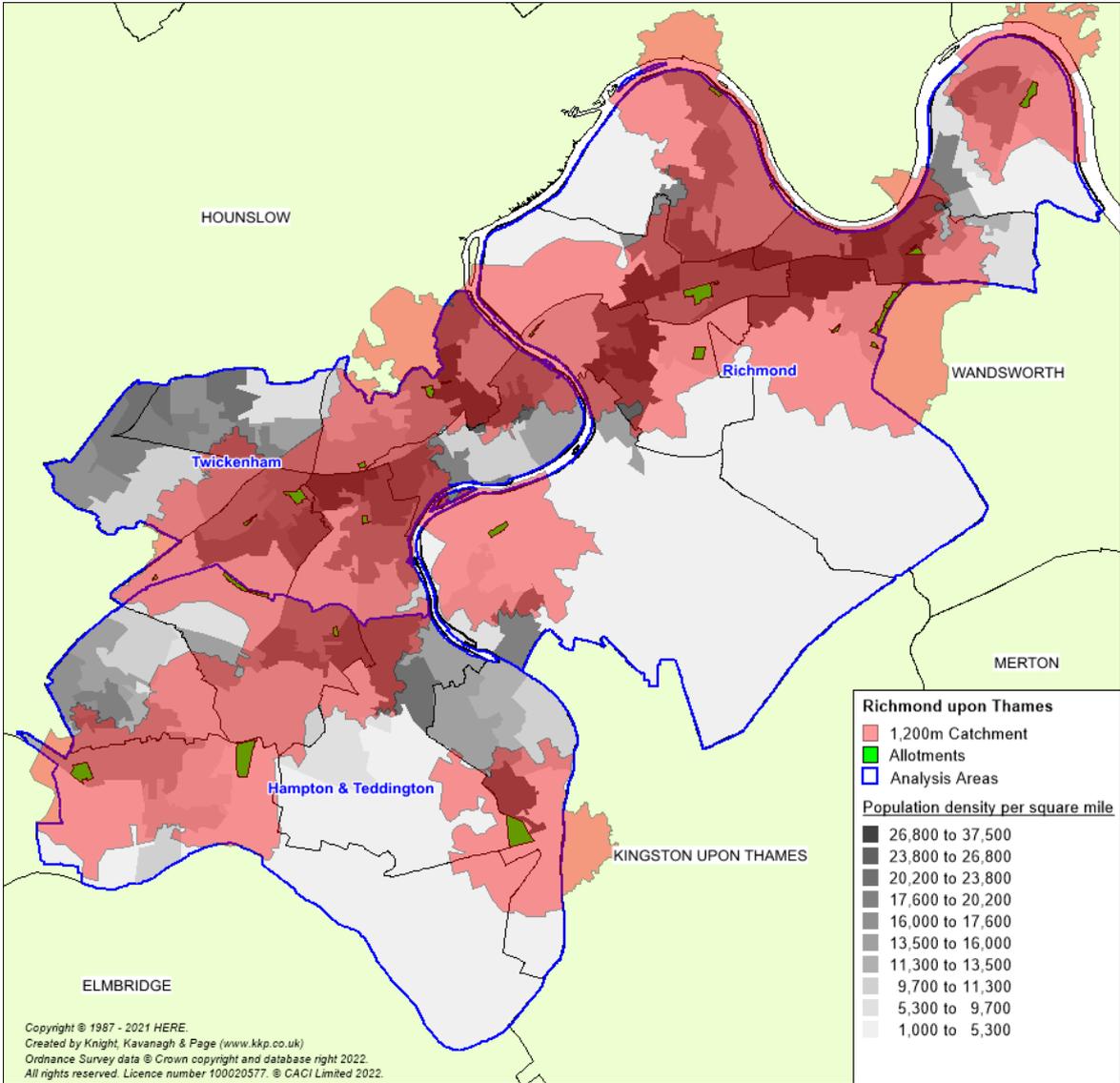


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
62.2	Palewell Pavilion allotment	Richmond	0.28		
142	Briar Road allotment	Twickenham	1.96		
143	Cavendish House allotment	Twickenham	0.93		
144*	Brook Road allotment	Twickenham	0.15		
145	Bushy Park allotment	Hampton & Teddington	5.75		
146	Hatherop Road allotment	Hampton & Teddington	3.42		
147	Heath Gardens allotment	Twickenham	0.50		
148	Hertford Avenue allotment	Richmond	1.04		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
149	Manor Road allotment	Richmond	4.07		
150*	Marsh Farm allotment	Twickenham	0.37		
151	Mill Road allotment	Twickenham	0.33		
152	Old Palace Lane allotment	Richmond	0.42		
154	Palewell Park Road allotment	Richmond	0.31		
155	Queens Road allotment	Richmond	1.40		
156	Shacklegate Lane allotment	Hampton & Teddington	0.42		
157	Short Lots allotment	Richmond	0.53		
158	Sixth Cross Road allotment	Twickenham	1.73		
159	South Close allotment	Twickenham	0.17		
160	Westfields allotment	Richmond	0.68		
161	St Annes allotment	Richmond	0.11		
162	The Priory allotment	Richmond	1.52		
163	The Triangle allotment	Richmond	0.46		
164	Townmead allotment	Richmond	0.14		
165	Walnut Tree Meadow	Richmond	1.41		
219	Barn Elms allotments	Richmond	2.19		
240	Royal Paddocks allotments	Hampton & Teddington	5.96		

Figure 8.1 highlights most of the LBRuT is served by allotment provision. However, noticeable gaps in catchments are noted in areas of greater population density to parts of west and east Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area and the Twickenham Analysis Area.

8.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) the site assessment scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table summarises the results. A threshold of 45% 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 8.3: Quality ratings for assessed allotments

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<45%	>45%
Hampton and Teddington	53%	60%	71%	0	3
Richmond	48%	57%	68%	0	13
Twickenham	45%	52%	61%	0	8
LBRuT	45%	55%	71%	0	24

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All assessed allotment sites rate above the threshold for quality. Site assessments highlight that such sites are generally well kept. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Bushy Park allotment (71%)
- ◀ The Priory allotment (68%)
- ◀ Hertford Avenue allotment (68%)
- ◀ Manor Road allotment (65%)

These sites are observed as having good fencing, signage, pathways and are well maintained. All four sites contain car parking and fresh water supply adding to the quality of the sites. Despite The Priory allotment scoring well above the quality threshold, it is noted as having some minor vandalism. The site is observed as being well kept though and featuring a wheelchair accessible path.

8.5 Value

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

Table 8.4: Value ratings for allotments

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Hampton and Teddington	29%	33%	43%	0	3
Richmond	29%	33%	47%	0	13
Twickenham	28%	30%	33%	0	8
LBRuT	28%	32%	47%	0	24

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

Manor Road Allotment is the highest scoring site for value (47%). It is recognised for its well-presented appearance and its social and amenity benefits. It has an association, and the central concrete path enables disabled access, enhancing social inclusion benefits.

8.6 Summary

Allotments summary

- ◀ A total of 26 sites are classified as allotments, equating to more than 36 hectares.
- ◀ The current provision of 28 hectares is below the NSALG recommended amount. In addition, there are waiting lists across the borough suggesting a continuously high level of demand.
- ◀ All assessed allotments are noted as high quality and value reflecting the associated social inclusion, health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
- ◀ Waiting list numbers suggest that continuing measures should be made to provide additional plots in the future.

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PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

9.1 Introduction

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

9.2 Current provision

There are 22 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 65 hectares of provision in LBRuT. 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 LBRuT

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Hampton & Teddington	5	8.05
Richmond	12	41.79
Twickenham	5	15.39
LBRuT	22	65.23

The largest contributor to burial provision is Mortlake Cemetery West (12 hectares). The site features disabled facilities, a book of remembrance and Grade 2 listed building. Furthermore, the site benefits from car parking.

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

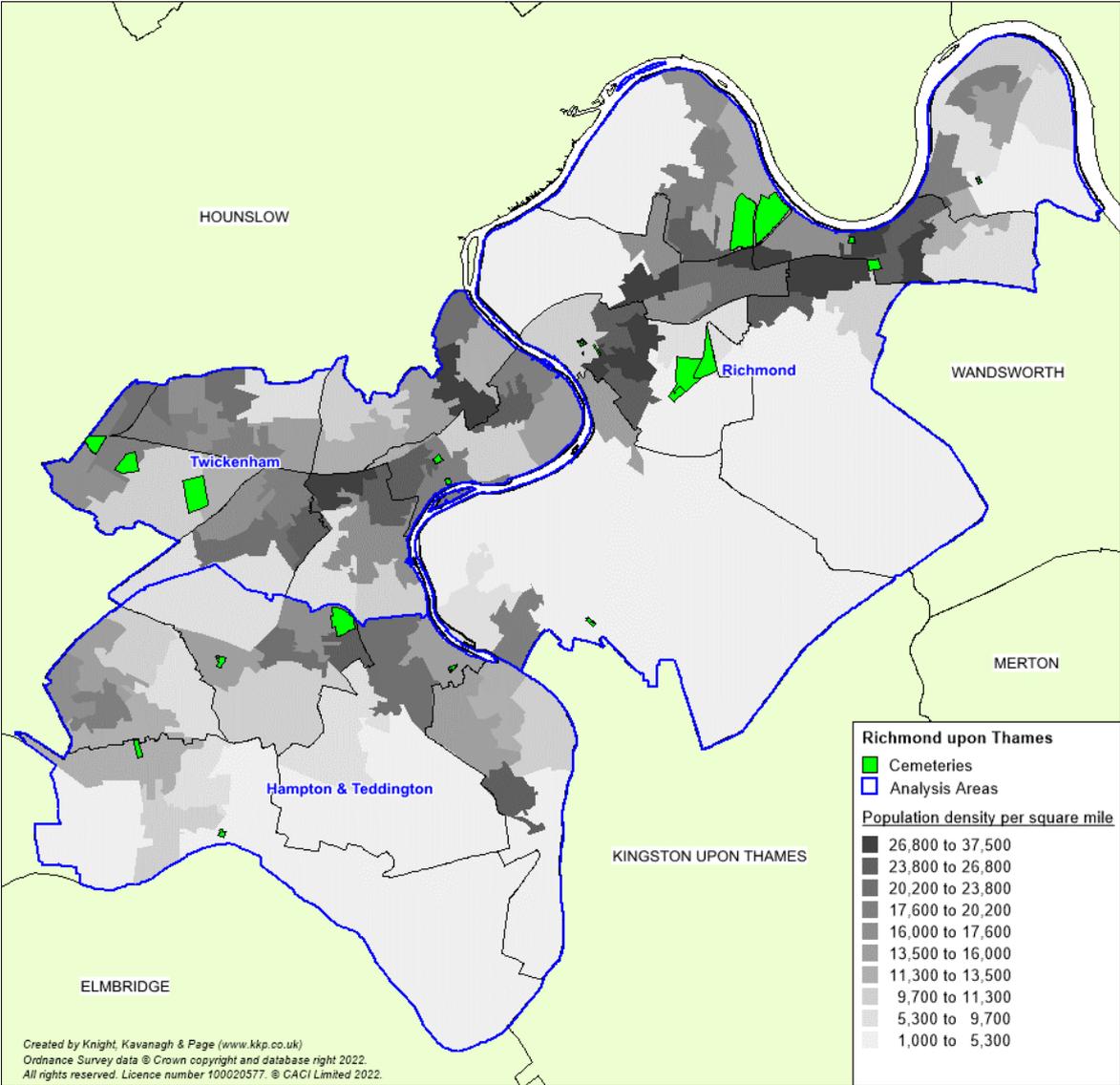


Table 9.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
56	St Mary the Virgin, Hampton	Hampton & Teddington	0.42		
70	Richmond Parish Church	Richmond	0.32		
82*	St. Andrew's Church	Richmond	0.42		
118	Richmond Old Burial Ground	Richmond	1.51		
121*	Vineyard Passage Cemetery	Richmond	0.22		
125	Bethlehem Chapel	Richmond	0.02		
135	St. James's Church Memorial	Hampton & Teddington	0.77		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
136	St. Marys Church	Hampton & Teddington	0.33		
153	Oak Lane Cemetery	Twickenham	0.57		
166	East Sheen Cemetery	Richmond	5.86		
167	Hampton Cemetery	Hampton & Teddington	1.05		
168	Old Mortlake Burial Ground	Richmond	1.40		
169	Richmond Cemetery	Richmond	7.37		
170	Teddington Cemetery	Hampton & Teddington	5.48		
171	Twickenham Cemetery	Twickenham	7.79		
174	St Mary the Virgin, Twickenham	Twickenham	0.24		
215	Mortlake Crematorium	Richmond	11.84		
223	North Sheen Cemetery	Richmond	12.15		
224	Hounslow Cemetery	Twickenham	2.70		
233	St Mary's Church, Barnes	Richmond	0.09		
234	Borough Cemetery	Twickenham	3.96		
241	St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake	Richmond	0.40		

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.

9.4 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 55% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.5: Quality ratings for assessed cemeteries

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<55%	>55%
Hampton and Teddington	59%	61%	64%	0	4
Richmond	53%	60%	75%	1	6
Twickenham	70%	70%	70%	0	1
LBRuT	53%	61%	75%	1	11

Most assessed cemeteries (92%) rate above the quality threshold.

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Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ East Sheen Cemetery (75%)
- ◀ Twickenham Cemetery (70%)

Both these large sites have good entrances, boundary fencing, controls to prevent illegal use and great signage. In addition, both benefit from benches, litter bins, good pathways and car parking. East Sheen Cemetery has the additional benefit of lighting and a garden of remembrance. Both feature child burial areas are well used.

Richmond Old Burial Ground (41%) is the only assessed site to rate below the threshold. It noted as having no paths and as being difficult to access. However, the site is a closed burial ground now managed as an undisturbed nature site.

9.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table 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 9.6: Value ratings for assessed cemeteries

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Hampton and Teddington	29%	37%	42%	0	4
Richmond	23%	39%	57%	0	7
Twickenham	45%	45%	45%	0	1
LBRuT	23%	39%	57%	0	12

All assessed cemetery sites rate above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the role cemeteries provides in communities lives. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide to the local community are acknowledged in the site assessment data. Sites also receive a score for value from their contribution to wildlife/habitats or sense of place to the local environment.

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).

The highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ Vineyard Passage Cemetery (57%)
- ◀ East Sheen Cemetery (50%)

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Vineyard Passage Cemetery is observed as a very pleasant site with numerous educational signs about heritage and wildlife. Commonwealth war graves and a South African Cenotaph is found at East Sheen Cemetery providing enhanced cultural and heritage value. The site also features good concrete paths enabling disabled access, offering social inclusion.

9.6 Summary

Cemeteries/churchyards

- ◀ LBRuT is identified as having 22 sites classified as cemeteries and churchyards, equating to just over 65 hectares of provision.
- ◀ Management of the main active cemetery site is undertaken by the Councils cemeteries team. Maintenance of other 'closed' churchyards is carried out by the parks team.
- ◀ There is a fairly evenly distribution of provision across the borough. Need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.
- ◀ The majority of cemeteries and churchyards are rated as high quality. Only one site rates below the quality threshold. This is a closed churchyard and a reflection of its undisturbed habitat role.
- ◀ All cemeteries are assessed as high value, reflecting that provision has a heritage and ecological role whilst often providing a sense of place to the local community.

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PART 10: CIVIC SPACE

10.1 Introduction

The civic space typology includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public gatherings and community events.

10.2 Current provision

There are eight civic space sites, equating to just over one hectare, identified across LBRuT. 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 LBRuT

Analysis area	Civic space	
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Hampton and Teddington	6	0.36
Richmond	2	0.82
Twickenham	-	-
LBRuT	8	1.18

All analysis areas have civic space provision except for Twickenham. The largest site is Sheen Lane Health Centre at 0.80 hectares.

10.3 Accessibility

Figure 10.1 shows civic space mapped across LBRuT.

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Figure 10.1: Civic space mapped

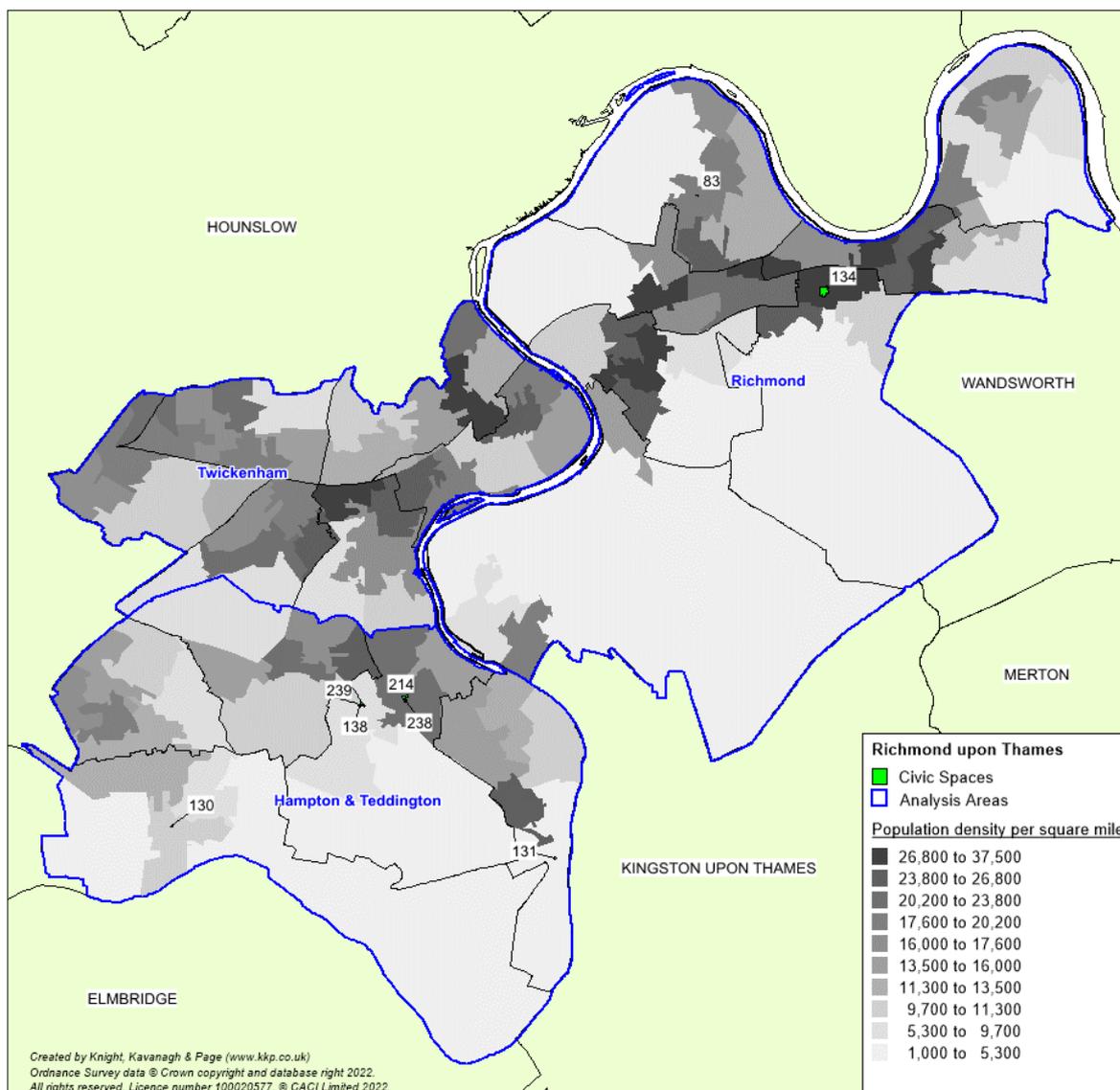


Table 10.2: Summary of sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
83*	St. Luke's	Richmond	0.02	High	High
130	Hampton War Memorial	Hampton & Teddington	0.02	High	High
131	Hampton Wick War Memorial	Hampton & Teddington	0.04	High	High
134	Sheen Lane Health Centre	Richmond	0.80	High	High
138	Teddington War Memorial	Hampton & Teddington	0.04	High	High
214	Elmfield Gardens	Hampton & Teddington	0.16	High	High
238	Jubilee Gardens	Hampton & Teddington	0.05	Low	High
239	Teddington Memorial Gardens	Hampton & Teddington	0.06	Low	High

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The Twickenham Analysis Area is without a form of civic space. However, some civic facilities may be unrecorded due to difficulty classifying such spaces where, for example, they are multipurpose spaces that double up as parks or car parks. (It is noted that a scheme at Twickenham Riverside is proposing a new space capable of being used for civic functions and activities.)

The Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area has a number of civic spaces. There are also others unrecorded, for example Hampton Square provides a modern and welcoming focal point for Hampton North, with seating, landscaping, a water feature, and space for community activities.

When considering the purpose of civic spaces of providing space for public gatherings and community events, they are likely to be located in areas of higher population density, where people may congregate. Furthermore, areas are likely to also be served by other forms of provision such as park and gardens.

Rather than looking to provide new standalone provision of this type, the focus may be towards ensuring areas within existing sites, can be used for community events and gatherings.

10.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance), the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for civic spaces. A threshold of 60% 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 10.3: Quality ratings for civic spaces

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Hampton and Teddington	47%	58%	63%	2	4
Richmond	61%	66%	71%	0	2
Twickenham	-	-	-	-	-
LBRuT	47%	59%	71%	2	6

An even mix number of civic spaces rate above and below the threshold set for quality.

The sites to score below the threshold are Jubilee Gardens and Teddington Memorial Gardens. No significant quality issues are highlighted.

The width of entrance at Teddington Memorial Gardens is potential restricting for some users. A lack of signage is observed at Jubilee Gardens.

Sheen Lane Health Centre (71%) is the highest rating site for quality. It is well maintained, has sufficient disabled access, and features numerous benches. It also has signage and bins.

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10.5 Value

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

Table 10.4: Value ratings for civic spaces

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Hampton and Teddington	28%	45%	56%	0	6
Richmond	28%	29%	29%	0	2
Twickenham	-	-	-	-	-
LBRuT	28%	41%	56%	0	8

All civic spaces are rated as being above the value threshold, reflecting their role as an important function to the local communities and areas. Most civic spaces are well located, well maintained, attractive sites providing high structural landscape benefits. Seating is provided at most of the sites, encouraging people to sit and relax providing high amenity value. Due to the nature of these sites, most have enhanced cultural and heritage value due to featuring memorials and other historical landmarks.

10.6 Summary

Civic space

- ◀ There are eight sites classified as civic spaces in the borough, equating to just over one hectares of provision.
- ◀ There are also other forms of provision in the borough (e.g. parks and gardens) that will provide localised opportunities associated with the function of civic space.
- ◀ Most of the civic space provision identified are war memorials or small gardens; providing a specific role and function to the local community.
- ◀ The quality and value of most sites is deemed to be of a good overall level with a generally acceptable maintenance and appearance. Otherwise sites have a unique cultural/heritage value whilst providing a sense of place to the local communities.

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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.

11.2 Current provision

There are 22 forms of green corridor provision identified across LBRuT equating to over 44 hectares of provision.

Table 11.1: Distribution of green corridors in LBRuT

Analysis area	Civic space	
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Hampton and Teddington	2	10.48
Richmond	14	31.76
Twickenham	6	1.94
LBRuT	22	44.18

All analysis areas have green corridors provision. Most of the green corridor sites and provision is in the Richmond Analysis Area. The largest sites are Ham Towpath (12.68 hectares) and Hampton Court towpath (10.29 hectares).

There are many more sites and areas that function in a secondary role as green corridors. For example, park sites such as the Royal Parks and Old Deer Park as well as natural and semi-natural greenspaces like Barnes Common offer similar opportunities and uses. For the purposes of this report sites such as these have not been classified as green corridor provision due to their more prominent primary role and use.

The importance of these sites in having a secondary function as green corridors is significant and should be considered in any future decision making. This is especially the case for activities such as walking and cycling. Furthermore such provision should also be recognised in the use of linking other open space sites and Wards together.

11.3 Accessibility

Figure 11.1 shows green corridors mapped across the area.

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Figure 11.1: Green corridors mapped

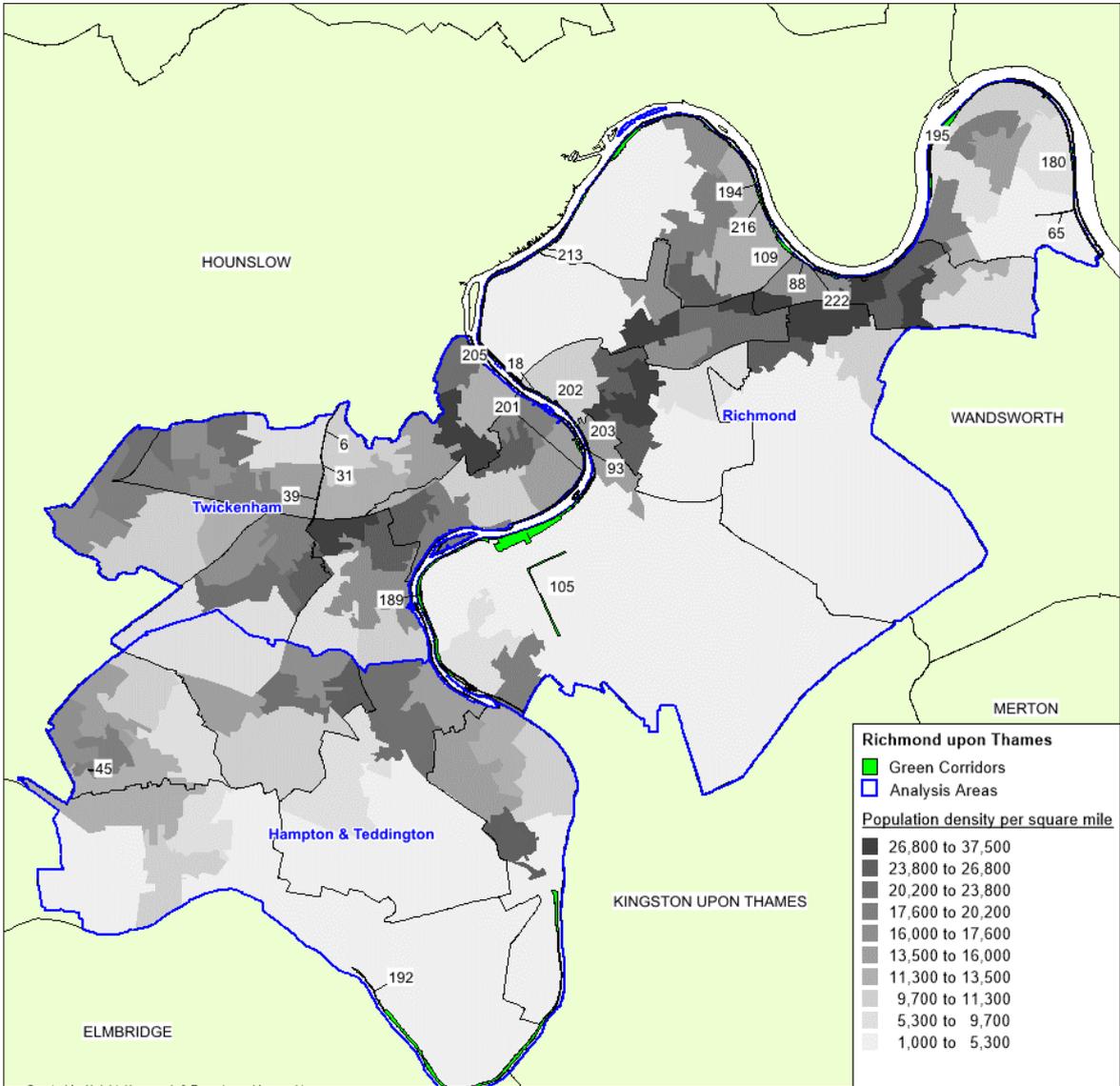


Table 11.2: Summary of sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
6	Duke of Northumberland's River	Twickenham	0.18		
18	Cholmondeley Walk	Richmond	0.17		
31*	Duke of Northumberland's River	Twickenham	0.03		
39*	Duke of Northumberland's River	Twickenham	0.25		
45	Linear Walk	Hampton & Teddington	0.19		
65	Queen Elizabeth Walk (Parks)	Richmond	0.24		
88	Thames Bank	Richmond	0.20		
93	Warren Gardens	Twickenham	0.25		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
105	Ham Avenues	Richmond	1.91		
109	Mortlake Meadow towpath	Richmond	0.55		
180	Barn Elms towpath	Richmond	2.21		
189	Ham Towpath	Richmond	12.68		
192	Hampton Court towpath	Hampton & Teddington	10.29		
194	Kew towpath	Richmond	1.83		
195	Lonsdale Road towpath	Richmond	3.37		
201	Warren Towpath	Twickenham	0.93		
202	Richmond Riverside towpath	Richmond	0.50		
203	Richmond Riverside South	Richmond	0.29		
205	Isleworth Promenade	Twickenham	0.30		
213	Old Deer Park - Kew Gardens towpath	Richmond	4.95		
216	Kew Riverside towpath	Richmond	1.98		
222	Mortlake towpath	Richmond	0.87		

11.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance), the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for green corridors. A threshold of 60% 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 11.3: Quality ratings for assessed green corridors

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Hampton and Teddington	67%	67%	67%	0	1
Richmond	63%	65%	76%	0	5
Twickenham	61%	62%	65%	0	4
LBRuT	63%	67%	76%	0	10

All assessed green corridors score above the quality threshold. Cholmondeley Walk and Thames Bank (75% and 76%) are the highest scoring green corridor sites. Both feature benches and litter bins and are observed as attractive sites. The latter site has the additional benefit of signage. However, both could benefit from some landscaping to enhance the sites' quality.

The Duke of Northumberland's River sites score high for quality (63%, 61% and 61%). Consultation with LBRUT Council highlights that the sites have had investment to upgrade the footpaths, landscaping and habitats.

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11.5 Value

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

Table 10.4: Value ratings for assessed green corridors

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Hampton and Teddington	25%	25%	25%	0	1
Richmond	31%	39%	49%	0	5
Twickenham	29%	37%	39%	0	4
LBRuT	20%	35%	49%	0	10

All green corridors are rated as being above the value threshold, reflecting their role as an important function to the local communities and areas. Most green corridors are well located, well maintained, attractive sites providing high structural landscape benefits. Sites also offer important habitat corridors and, therefore, the wildlife benefits are also recognised.

It is important to remember that the use and role of provision of this type also forms significant elements of other sites not classified as green corridors. For instance, parks, such Richmond Park, and many of the natural and semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace sites (particularly along the River Thames) also offer access and opportunities associated with green corridor activities.

11.6 Summary

Green corridors

- ◀ There are 22 sites classified as green corridors in the borough, equating to over 44 hectares.
- ◀ There are also other forms of provision in the borough (e.g. parks, natural and semi-natural sites) that provide additional opportunities associated with green corridors.
- ◀ Availability and access to riverside provision is generally positive with the majority of respondents rating it as good or very good.
- ◀ Quality is rated highly as evidenced in assessment scores. The value of all identified sites is also rated above the threshold representing the social and health benefits provision offers.

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PART 12: PROVISION STANDARDS

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

12.1: Quality and value

Most types of open space receive 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 and those which require enhancement. When analysing the quality/value of a site, it should be done in conjunction with regard to the quantity 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:

		Quality	
		High	Low
Value	High	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	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.

The sites that rate below the thresholds for quality and value are set out in each relevant typology section.

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.

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12.2: 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. Section 2.6 of this report explains the methodology for how these have been set.

Table 10.2.1: Accessibility catchments

Open space type		Catchments
Parks & Gardens		710m
Amenity Greenspace		400m
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		720m
Play provision	0-4 age	100m
	5-11 age	400m
	12+ age	800m
Allotments		1,200m walk

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.

Some gaps in catchment mapping are noted for individual typologies. However, in most instances where a gap exists in one form of open space provision, a different type of open space exists to help serve the area.

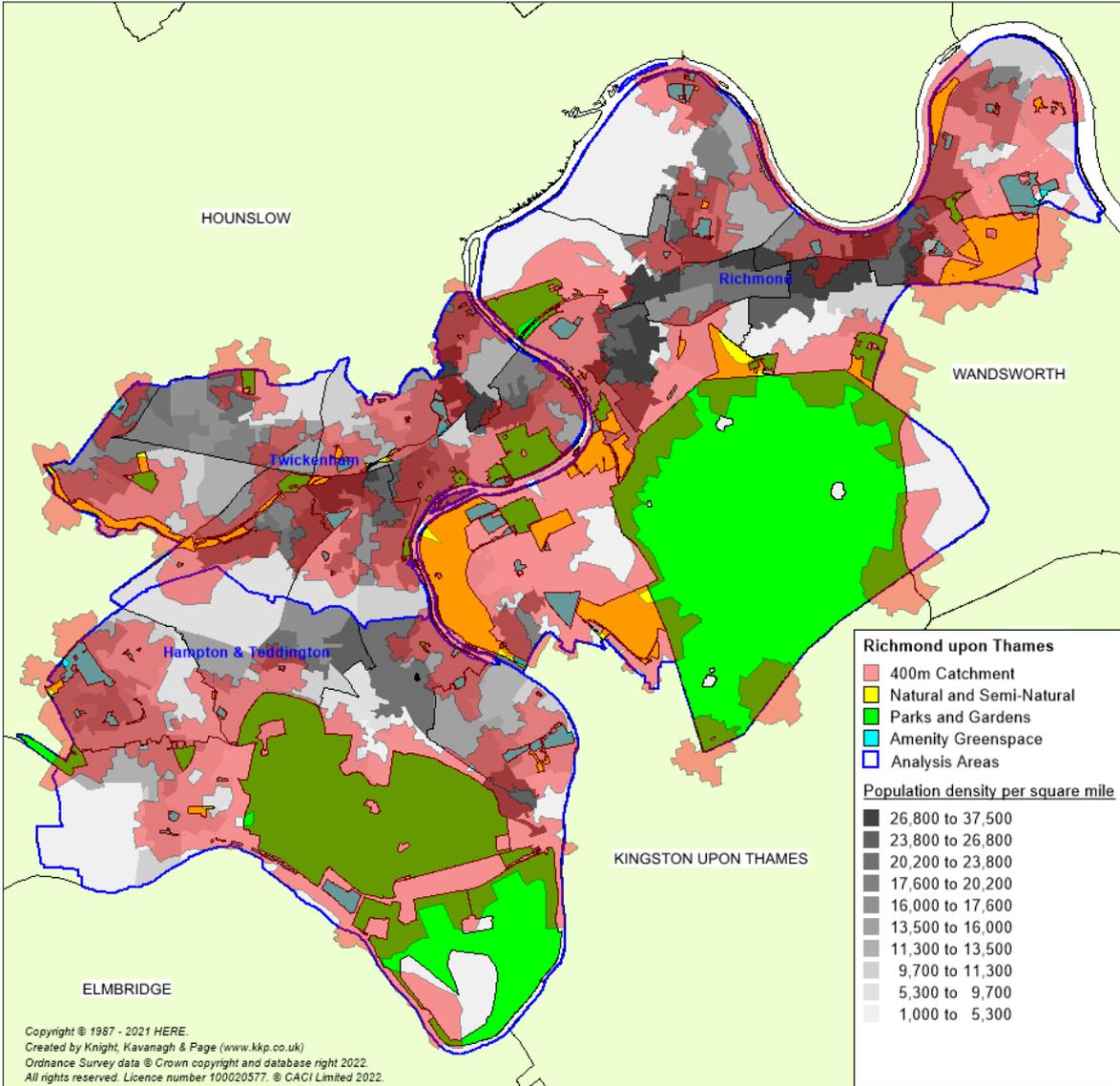
Against the 400m access to open space (used by GiGL), there are some areas of the borough not shown to be within 400m of an open space site (as demonstrated in Figure 12.1 and 12.2).

Figure 12.1 shows the combined accessibility catchment areas in red (i.e. it shows areas served by catchments).

Figure 12.2 is the reverse imagine with the red shading highlighting areas not covered by a catchment (i.e. it shows areas of accessibility deficiency). These have enlarged from the Council’s previous open space deficiency mapping, due to the improvements in catchment mapping (no longer relying on radial ‘as the crow flies’ distances).

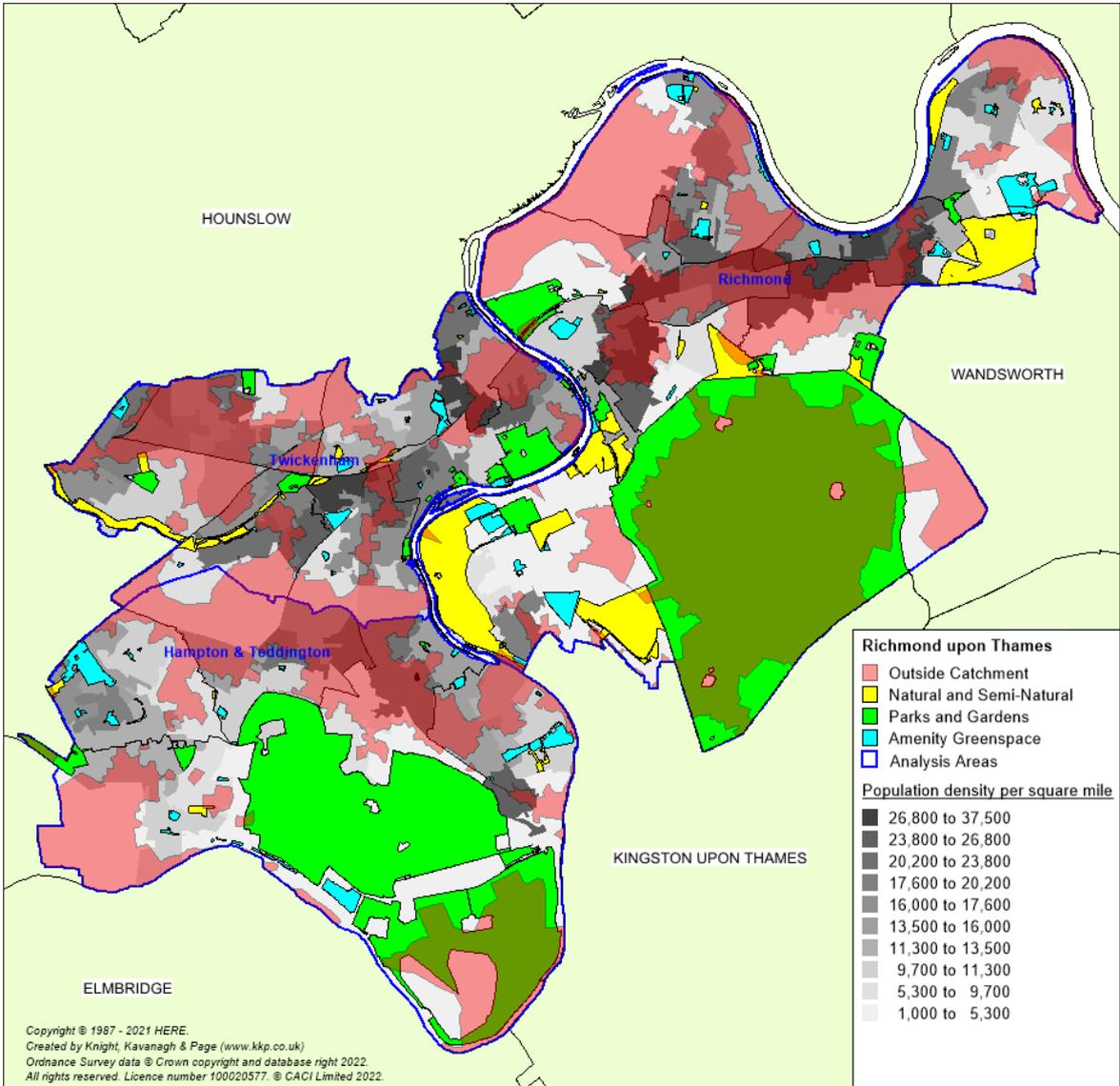
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Figure 12.1: Access to open space



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Figure 12.2: Areas of public open space deficiency*



The following tables summarise the deficiencies identified from the application of the accessibility catchments. 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. While there may be opportunities for new provision in the borough, given limited land supply there are few major developments that tend to come forward.

* Red shading within large sites such as Richmond Park etc should be ignored

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Table 12.2.2: Sites helping to serve gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Hampton & Teddington	Broom Road Recreation Ground (ID 10) Hampton Common (ID 32) Hampton Village Green (ID 33) Langdon Park (ID 44) Udney Hall Gardens (ID 90) Vicarage Road (ID 91) Oak Avenue Local Nature Reserve (ID 114) Elmfield Gardens (ID 214) Hampton Library (ID 228) Jubilee Gardens (ID 238)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Civic Amenity Civic
Richmond	Burnell Avenue (ID 13) Castelnau Recreation Ground (ID 16) Ham Common (ID 26) Ham Village Green (ID 30) Mortlake Green (ID 53) North Sheen Recreation Ground (ID 57) Raleigh Road Recreation Ground (ID 67) Suffolk Road Recreation Ground (ID 84) Barnes Common (ID 101) The Copse (ID 103) Ham Common Woods (ID 106) Ham Lands (ID 108) Leg O Mutton (ID 112) Pesthouse Common (ID 116) Sheen Common Woods (ID 119) Pensfold Field (ID 179)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural Natural
Twickenham	Craneford Way Recreation Ground (ID 20) Hounslow Heath (ID 37) Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground (ID 52) Twickenham Green (ID 89) Crane Park (ID 104) Mereway Nature Park (ID 113) Twickenham Junction Rough (ID 175) Wellesley Crescent (ID 207) Land at Harlequins (ID 208)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural Natural Natural Amenity Natural

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Table 12.2.3: Sites helping to serve gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Hampton & Teddington	Alpha Road (ID 1) Carlisle Park (ID 15) Grove Gardens (ID 24) Hampton Common (ID 32) Hatherop Recreation Ground (ID 123) Bushy Park (ID 172) Elmfield Gardens (ID 214) Jubilee Gardens (ID 238)	Amenity Park Park Amenity Park Park Civic Civic
Richmond	Jubilee Gardens (ID 38) Mortlake Green (ID 53) North Sheen Recreation Ground (ID 57) Raleigh Road Recreation Ground (ID 67) Richmond Park (ID 173) Kew Riverside (ID 211) Kew Gardens (ID 218)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Park Amenity Park
Twickenham	Hounslow Heath (ID 37) Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground (ID 52) Murray Park (ID 55) Orleans Gardens (ID 59) Orleans House Gardens (ID 60) Radnor Gardens (ID 66) Diamond Jubilee Gardens (ID 78) Twickenham Green (ID 89) York House Gardens (ID 98) Marble Hill Park (ID 198) Wellesley Crescent (ID 207)	Amenity Amenity Park Amenity Park Park Park Amenity Park Park Amenity

Table 12.2.4: Sites helping to serve gaps in amenity greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Hampton & Teddington	Carlisle Park (ID 15) Hatherop Recreation Ground (ID 123) Bushy Park (ID 172)	Park Park Park
Richmond	Terrace Gardens (ID 87) Barnes Common (ID 101) Pesthouse Common (ID 116) Sheen Common Woods (ID 119) Michaels Row (ID 199)	Park Natural Natural Natural Natural
Twickenham	Heathfield Recreation Ground (ID 34) Murray Park (ID 55) Radnor Gardens (ID 66) Crane Park (ID 104) Marble Hill Park (ID 198)	Park Park Park Natural Park

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Table 12.2.5: Sites with potential to serve gaps in play provision

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Hampton & Teddington	Alpha Road play area (ID 1.1) Hampton Village Green play area (ID 33.1) Holly Road Recreation Ground play area (ID 36.1)
Richmond	Ham Village Green play area (ID 30.1) Palewell Common & Fields play area (ID 62.1)
Twickenham	Craneford Way Recreation Ground play area (ID 20.1) Grimwood Road Recreation Ground play area (ID 23.1) Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground play area (ID 52.1) Champions Wharf Play Beach (ID 98.1)

For gaps in allotment provision, no alternative open spaces can serve the same function. Exploring opportunities for new provision where local demand warrants it should continue to be encouraged.

12.3: 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 standards are identified across the borough for different types of open space (as set out in Parts 12.1 and 12.2). 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 look to be used to help determine future requirements as part of new developments.

Table 12.3.1: Summary of current provision levels

Typology	Quantity level (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	0.44
Amenity greenspace	0.56
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.51
Provision for children & young people	0.03
Allotment	0.18

The current provision levels can be used to help identify where areas may have a shortfall. Table 12.3.2 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.

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Table 12.3.2: Current provision shortfalls by analysis area

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-natural (Hectares per 1000 population)		Amenity greenspace		Combined	
	0.44		1.51		0.56		2.51	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Hampton and Teddington	0.32	-0.12	0.10	-1.41	0.67	+0.11	1.09	-1.42
Richmond	0.61	+0.17	3.34	+1.83	0.73	+0.17	4.68	+2.17
Twickenham	0.32	-0.12	0.43	-1.08	0.25	-0.31	1.00	-1.51

The Richmond Analysis area is the only analysis area that has no shortfalls identified. The Hampton and Teddington Analysis Area has shortfalls noted except for amenity greenspace. The Twickenham Analysis Area is identified as having shortfalls across all typologies.

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Allotments

Table 12.3.3 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall against the recommended standard for allotments.

Table 12.3.3: Current allotments against recommended quantity standard

Analysis area	Hectares per 1000 population	
	Current provision	Sufficiency/deficiency against 0.18 recommended standard
Hampton and Teddington	0.28	+0.10
Richmond	0.18	Level
Twickenham	0.10	-0.08

Provision for children and young people

Table 12.3.4 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall against the recommended standard in terms of provision for children and young people.

Table 12.3.4: Current play provision against recommended quantity standard

Analysis area	Hectares per 1000 population	
	Current provision	Sufficiency/deficiency against 0.03 recommended standard
Hampton and Teddington	0.03	Level
Richmond	0.03	Level
Twickenham	0.03	Level

Identifying priorities

Several quantity shortfalls in the open space typologies are highlighted across the borough. However, creating new provision to address these shortfalls is unrealistic (as significant amounts of new forms of provision would need to be created). A more realistic approach is to ensure sufficient accessibility and quality of existing provision.

Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to these sites should be endorsed. Further insight to the shortfalls is provided within each provision standard summary (Parts 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3).

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

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12.4: Recommendations

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

The Council is already dedicated to continual improvement of open spaces in the borough. The biennial Parks Satisfaction Survey continues to demonstrate high levels of satisfaction with local parks. There are 21 [parks awarded Green Flags](#) in 2022; to be entered into the award scheme each site must have a management plan. The [Friendly Parks for All initiative](#) has aimed to improve access to five borough parks to date. There are boroughwide policies and plans in place and kept regularly up to date to support ongoing improvements. This includes a yearly programme of works for parks, play and infrastructure improvements, including substantial investment in a range of improvements including path surfacing, signage, and links with nature conservation. Informed by this evidence base, this focuses on improving sites that may be below a quality threshold, improving high value sites with lower quality scores, and improving priority sites assessed as just above the quality threshold. There are over 70 Friends and other Community Groups directly involved in the management of their parks and open spaces, which reflects the value placed on them and informs the approach to improvements.

Recommendation 1

- ◀ *Explore low quality sites and their potential for enhancement*

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality (i.e. high quality) where possible. This is especially the case if the site is deemed to be of high value.

The summary of low quality/value sites identifies those sites that should be given consideration for enhancement if possible. Priority sites should be those highlighted as helping or with the potential to serve gaps in provision (Recommendation 2).

If no improvement to quality and/or value can be implemented for sites identified as low, a change of primary typology should be considered or strengthening of secondary functions to another type of open space (Recommendation 3 and 4).

Recommendation 2

- ◀ *Sites helping or with the potential to serve areas identified as having gaps in catchment mapping should be recognised through opportunities for enhancement*

The implications summary for the accessibility catchment mapping (Section 12.2) highlights those sites that help or have the potential to serve identified gaps in provision. A summary of the sites helping to serve catchment gaps is set out in Table 12.4.1.

Table 12.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Type of open space	Helps to serve gap in provision of:
1	Alpha Road	Amenity	Natural
1.1	Alpha Road play area	Play	Play
13	Burnell Avenue	Amenity	Parks

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Site ID	Site name	Type of open space	Helps to serve gap in provision of:
15	Carlisle Park	Parks	Natural, Amenity
16	Castelnau Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks
20	Craneford Way Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks
20.1	Craneford Way Recreation Ground play area	Play	Play
23.1	Grimwood Road Recreation Ground play area	Play	Play
24	Grove Gardens	Parks	Natural
26	Ham Common	Amenity	Parks
30	Ham Village Green	Amenity	Parks
30.1	Ham Village Green play area	Play	Play
32	Hampton Common	Amenity	Parks, Natural
33	Hampton Village Green	Amenity	Parks
33.1	Hampton Village Green play area	Play	Play
34	Heathfield Recreation Ground	Parks	Amenity
36.1	Holly Road Recreation Ground play area	Play	Play
37	Hounslow Heath	Amenity	Parks, Natural
38	Jubilee Gardens (Mortlake)	Amenity	Natural
44	Langdon Park	Amenity	Parks
52	Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks, Natural
52.1	Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground play area	Play	Play
53	Mortlake Green	Amenity	Parks, Natural
55	Murray Park	Parks	Natural, Amenity
57	North Sheen Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks, Natural
59	Orleans Gardens	Amenity	Natural
60	Orleans House Gardens	Parks	Natural
62.1	Palewell Common & Fields play area	Play	Play
66	Radnor Gardens	Parks	Natural, Amenity
67	Raleigh Road Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks, Natural
78	Diamond Jubilee Gardens	Parks	Natural
84	Suffolk Road Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks
87	Terrace Gardens	Parks	Amenity
89	Twickenham Green	Amenity	Parks, Natural
90	Udney Hall Gardens	Amenity	Parks
98	York House Gardens	Parks	Natural
98.1	Champions Wharf Play Beach	Play	Play
101	Barnes Common	Natural	Parks, Amenity
103	The Copse	Natural	Parks
104	Crane Park	Natural	Parks, Amenity
106	Ham Common Woods	Natural	Parks
108	Ham Lands	Natural	Parks

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Site ID	Site name	Type of open space	Helps to serve gap in provision of:
112	Leg O Mutton	Natural	Parks
113	Mereway Nature Park	Natural	Parks
114	Oak Avenue Local Nature Reserve	Natural	Parks
116	Pesthouse Common	Natural	Parks, Amenity
119	Sheen Common Woods	Natural	Parks, Amenity
123	Hatherop Recreation Ground	Parks	Natural, Amenity
172	Bushy Park	Parks	Natural, Amenity
173	Richmond Park	Parks	Natural
175	Twickenham Junction Rough	Natural	Parks
179	Pensford Field	Natural	Parks
198	Marble Hill Park	Parks	Natural, Amenity
199	Michels Row	Natural	Amenity
207	Wellesley Crescent	Amenity	Parks, Natural
208	Land at Harlequins, Twickenham	Natural	Parks
211	Kew Riverside	Amenity	Natural
214	Elmfield Gardens	Civic	Natural, Parks
228	Hampton Library	Amenity	Parks
238	Jubilee Gardens (Teddington)	Civic	Natural, Parks

Sites in Table 12.4.1 currently help to meet identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies (related to parks, amenity 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 catchments.

Such sites should be viewed as key forms of open space provision. It is important that the Council looks to maintain sites of this classification to as high a standard as possible.

Recommendation 3

- ◀ *Ensure lower quality sites helping to serve potential gaps in accessibility catchments are prioritised for enhancement*

There are seven sites of lower quality (or without a rating) helping to serve catchment gaps in other types of open space.

These sites should first be explored for any potential enhancements in terms of quality. Some of these have public access but may be in private ownership, so it would depend on the willingness of the landowner to engage with the Council, as well as funding. If enhancements are not an option, consideration could be given to changing the primary typology (see Recommendation 4) 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 be enhanced.

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A list of the lower-quality sites (or sites without a rating) which currently help to serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 12.4.2.

Table 12.4.2: Summary of low quality and/or value sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Type of open space	Helps to serve gap in provision of:
179	Pensford Field	Natural	Parks
199	Michels Row	Natural	Amenity
207	Wellesley Crescent	Amenity	Parks, Natural
208	Land at Harlequins, Twickenham	Natural	Parks
211	Kew Riverside	Natural	Amenity
228	Hampton Library	Civic	Parks
238	Jubilee Gardens (Teddington)	Civic	Natural

Recommendation 4

- ◀ *Recognise low quality and value sites and how they may be able to meet other needs*

This study identifies 12 sites currently rated as low quality and/or value. Where sites of low quality or value appear to fall within an area of sufficiency, a change of primary typology should be considered. If no shortfall of other open space type is noted (Section 12.3) or the practicality of enhancing the site is not cost effective, then the site may be redundant in its current form.

Further exploration into these sites should be undertaken to establish whether they could be better at serving the borough as a different open space type. For example, allotment demand is identified as being high. Consequently, some sites could look to be repurposed on this basis.

Recommendation 5

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

The Open Space Report 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 as a result of Covid-19, for the Council to undertake regular reviews of the data (i.e. every 3-5 years) to ensure decisions are being based on evidence which is as accurate as possible.

This is particularly important for the areas of open space deficiency, so that opportunities to remove barriers and seek improvements can be explored. There could be potential for greening of small-scale 'grey' areas, if there is space in highways/on footways, through to promoting the creation of new open space from new major developments.

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The Council is dedicated to continual improvement of open spaces in the borough. For example, boroughwide policies and plans are in place which are kept regularly up to date to support ongoing improvements.

This includes a yearly programme of works for parks, play and infrastructure improvements, including substantial investment in a range of improvements including path surfacing, signage, and links with nature conservation. Continuing to keep action plans and the baseline evidence up to date is an important step to ensure regular reviews respond to changes and reflect priorities for investment.

Next steps

Emerging Local Plan

The draft Local Plan is proposing an approach which recognises the importance of a clear policy requirement to provide open spaces on-site as part of new major development, as well as recognising the broader links to biodiversity and climate change in recognising the multi-functional value of the borough’s open spaces. There is emphasis on the overall network of green and blue infrastructure, with benefits including for nature conservation and biodiversity value, as well as for health and wellbeing of future occupants and users, including surrounding communities.

New major developments lead to increases in usage and are therefore highly likely to put an additional burden and pressure on the capacity of existing provision. Major developments in Public Open Space deficiency areas will be required to provide new on-site open space. For all other major developments, where there is inadequate existing provision, or limited access to such facilities, to serve the new development, on-site Public Open Space will be expected in order to mitigate the impacts of the new development on the existing provision. This approach is considered logical given the limited opportunities on large sites in the borough. Appropriate management of new sites can be ensured through the use of planning conditions and obligations.

This approach can be taken forward in the final draft of the Local Plan (consultation on the ‘Publication’ version is anticipated in 2023) using the outputs from this study, in particular the updated hierarchy and categorisation, and the new Public Open Space deficiency mapping and based on the updated catchment sizes for the new typologies, which can be reflected in Policy 37. The enlargement of the areas of Public Open Space deficiency is considered a useful tool to identify where major developments will be required to provide new on-site open space, given the importance of access to open space across the borough.

A site specific boundary amendment will be proposed to the public open space designation at Heathfield Recreation Ground. In the past part of the site was removed to allow for redevelopment of Heathfield School and to provide a secondary school in the 2000s, which is no longer proposed, and therefore it is logical to reinstate this area into the wider public open space. Although in practical terms this does not result in any change to how the open space is used, it is worthwhile to reinstate with the formal designation covering the whole site.

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OPEN SPACE REPORT

Supplementary Planning Document

The Council's adopted Planning Obligations SPD (2020) sets out its approach to developer contributions for public open space, along with other public realm and environmental improvements. This includes guidance to inform, if on-site provision cannot be met due to site requirements, the approach to an equivalent financial contribution for off-site provision or improvements to an existing public open space. The Council may wish to update the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide further detail on the policies and proposals within the Local Plan, including any further details on the open space provision standards and how they will be applied, which could assist in the consideration and determining of planning applications.

