

# Gedling Borough Council's Green Space Strategy

2021-2026



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# Foreword



**Councillor John  
Clarke**

Leader of the Council

*“Gedling Borough contains an array of green spaces that can be enjoyed by all its residents. Green spaces are a valuable asset that bring a multitude of social, economic and environmental benefits to the borough. They provide places where children can play, promote community cohesion and contribute to positive health and wellbeing outcomes. In light of the borough’s commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, the role green spaces play in this transition cannot be ignored, therefore they must remain safeguarded.”*

*This green space strategy aims to protect and enhance the borough’s green spaces, setting ambitious standards for their improvement over the next five years by creating a network of ‘green lungs’ across the district. In doing so, we hope to also deliver on a number of the council’s strategic priorities, serving the borough’s ethos of ‘Serving People, Improving Lives’, this will ensure that Gedling continues to be a place where people choose to live, do business and spend their time. The maintenance of high-quality green spaces in the borough requires support from its residents. I hope you will join the council in helping to achieve our goals for green space within the borough, to ensure that they can continue to flourish for both present and future generations.”*

**Gedling**  
Borough Council



# Executive Summary

Gedling Borough has an array of superb green spaces where people of all ages can relax, play, enjoy nature and take part in sport and recreational activities. They incorporate important historic landscapes and include nature reserves, woodland and meadows that provide vital habitats, creating environments where biodiversity can flourish.

The borough's accessible green spaces which cover an area of 1,695.58 ha enhance its appeal and significantly add to resident's sense of fulfilment with their local area. The Gedling Conversation residents' satisfaction survey completed in 2019 revealed that 73% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of parks and open spaces in the borough<sup>1</sup>.

The profile of green space in recent years has risen up the political agenda as its benefits and ability to deliver a range of corporate, strategic and community priorities at relatively low cost have been realised. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the value of green space, particularly in its contribution to improved health and wellbeing outcomes. It is estimated that equitable access to green space in England would result in health cost savings of around £2.1bn through higher levels of physical activity and consequent reductions in conditions such as obesity, stroke and coronary heart disease<sup>2</sup>.

Green spaces play a significant role in enhancing the sustainability and resilience of cities and communities to climate-induced risks, which include flooding and elevated temperatures. The value of green space is recognised within recent policy, such as the Environment Bill which considers the enhancement of such spaces a key factor in the attainment of net-zero. Gedling Borough's 2019 climate emergency declaration will intensify action to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, a commitment with which green space will play a crucial role, through its ability to sequester atmospheric carbon, a primary contributor to global climate warming.

The resolve to preserve, protect and enhance Gedling's green spaces now and for future generations is further strengthened in light of population growth. Fields in Trust's Green Space Index (2020) reported that Britain's parks and green spaces are at 'significant risk of loss to development'<sup>3</sup> and hence, with an estimated 2730 new homes planned for construction in Gedling by 2026<sup>4</sup>, it is vital to ensure that the borough's green spaces are not only protected but also enhanced. Therefore, this strategy is key for the management and continued improvement of green space within Gedling to ensure that such spaces meet the current and future needs of the borough's residents and its visitors.

This document sets out to review the green space strategy completed in 2012, assess the achievements delivered since and ensure that the strategy is underpinned by relevant policy and emerging issues. Outlined within the document are key priorities for the period 2021-2026 that will help to achieve the council's vision ***'to provide sufficient quality, inviting green spaces that are open and accessible to all and that enhance the quality of life of everyone, living, working or visiting Gedling Borough.'***

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<sup>1</sup> Gedling Conversation: Satisfaction Survey Results 2019

<sup>2</sup> Public Health England: Improving Access to Greenspace – A New Review for 2020

<sup>3</sup> Fields in Trust: Green Space Index, 2020

<sup>4</sup> Gedling Borough Council: Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment 2020





# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 What is Green Space?

Green space is defined as any area of vegetated land or water within an urban area<sup>5</sup>. However, it is important to note, that similar concepts are often described by different names, with terms such as open space, natural environment and green infrastructure used interchangeably.

## 1.2 The Importance of Green Space

Green spaces provide a multitude of benefits to human populations offering significant opportunities to develop the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of our community, supporting the delivery of the council's corporate plan.

### 1.2.1 Social

Green spaces:

- Combat loneliness through providing an environment for social interaction and community integration, in turn supporting an increased sense of belonging.
- Contribute to reductions in violence, stress and aggression, frequent precursors to crime.

*Health*

- Result in positive health outcomes due to increased physical activity. It is estimated that if everyone in England had good access to green spaces, a saving to health costs of £2.1bn could be made<sup>6</sup>.
- Contribute to improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes. Exposure to green space is associated with reduced levels of depression, anxiety and mental fatigue.

*Education*

- Provide opportunities for education and learning first-hand about the natural environment, providing a stimulus for many areas such as art and design.

### 1.2.2 Environmental

Green spaces:

- Mitigate and alleviate the effects of climate change.
- Contribute to the management of surface water runoff, playing an important role in flood alleviation and flood risk management.

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<sup>5</sup> Greenspace Scotland: What is Greenspace?

<sup>6</sup> Public Health England: Improving access to greenspace – A review for 2020.



- The primary benefits of green spaces are rainfall interception from vegetation's canopy and stem areas, increased soil infiltration, water uptake and storage, which in turn, delay peak flows.
- Improve air quality, through the absorption of gaseous pollutants by vegetation.
- Provide habitats for biodiversity.

### 1.2.3 Economic

Green spaces:

- Enhance the value of nearby property - in England and Wales, houses and flats within 100m of public green space are an average of £2,500 more expensive than they would be if they were greater than 500m away<sup>7</sup>.
- Create and safeguard jobs.
- Generate revenue for local businesses.
- Provide employment and volunteering opportunities, in turn enabling the development of skills in a practical, work-based environment.
- Improve the image of an area and build the confidence and pride of communities, making them attractive places for households and businesses to invest and locate in, and for tourists to visit.



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<sup>7</sup> ONS (2019): Urban green spaces raise nearby house prices by an average of £2,500

### 1.3 Why do we need a Green Space Strategy?

Gedling Borough Council recognises the importance of green space and the contribution that it makes to the health, wellbeing, image and identity of the borough. In the face of climate change, population growth and consequent urbanisation, the resolve to maintain and enhance the quality and quantity of green space, alongside its accessibility are further enhanced.

This strategy is designed to enable long-term strategic planning and guides both the development and management of green spaces within the borough. It ensures they continue to evolve to meet the changing needs and aspirations of the community and are maintained to high standards against a backdrop of budgetary constraints resulting from the current recession.

As such, the purpose of the Borough's Green Spaces Strategy is to:

- Protect and improve Gedling Borough's accessible parks and open spaces to meet community needs and aspirations.
- Provide a strategic vision, aims, a robust evidence base and, a set of objectives that together provide a strategic framework for the planning, development and management of parks and open spaces.
- Provide the council with a robust basis for making development decisions and negotiating planning gain.
- Identify ways in which parks and open spaces can be improved in a coordinated way whilst providing value for money.
- Enable the council to prioritise, spend and plan resources across Gedling.
- Make an effective case for investment.

### 1.4 Progress following the 2012 Strategy

Since the publication of the last green space strategy in 2012, the following key achievements have been made:

- New green spaces have been created, for example, Gedling Colliery has been transformed into one of the borough's destination parks: Gedling Country Park, a 240ha site, offers opportunities for both recreation and play and has also been given a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status.
- Other LNR designations include the Hobbucks at Killisick and in terms of new semi natural green space, a nature trail at Burton Road Jubilee Park has been established, such sites offer green site respite within the urban conurbations of the borough.
- Increased the number of parks friends of groups and the amount of volunteering hours within our parks.
- Increased the number of Green Flag awarded parks in the borough, from one to four.

- The Cinder Path in Netherfield has been completely renovated and re-landscaped and now includes street lighting which illuminates the area, enhancing people's feelings of safety which allows for the site to be enjoyed for greater periods of time throughout the day.
- Three new play areas at Gedling Country Park, Haywood Road and Conway Recreation Ground have been created and the council has also refurbished a number of sites referenced within this document.
- Aligned to this strategy, the Playing Pitch Strategy 2016, identified a shortage of 3G pitches in the borough, overall, in terms of sports pitch provision, two new adult sized 3G pitches have been provided and the playing pitches and changing cabins at Lambley Lane Recreation Ground have both been improved and replaced.
- For those less able, we have reduced the size of some allotment plots, to enable them to be effectively maintained.
- An allotment forum has been established to share best practice and help in the overall management and administration of allotments borough wide.
- As Redhill Cemetery is reaching capacity for new burials, we have laid out new land for burials at Carlton Cemetery, which will ensure 25 years of additional burial space for the borough. Additionally, the council has extended the remembrance garden at the site.
- The number of activities undertaken in our parks has increased, including fitness boot camps, dog shows and orienteering events.
- Improvements to cycle ways in the borough that link green corridors have been made which help to reduce local congestion. New cycle lanes are planned to run alongside the Gedling Access Road, linking with Gedling Country Park. Such green corridors provide habitats and resources for wildlife, whilst providing urban populations mobility networks and access to green spaces.

## 1.5 Scope of the Strategy

As evidenced above in section 1.3, following the 2012 strategy, many improvements have been made to the borough's green spaces, however, several objectives need carrying over to this revised document. The 2021-2026 Green Space Strategy builds on the work of the previous 2012-2017 strategy, taking into account relevant national, regional and local policies.

For this review, the term green space is used generically to describe the network of open spaces that are freely available to the public irrespective of the landowner for outdoor recreation. However, the main impetus will be on those areas that are managed by Gedling Borough Council and therefore, this document excludes green spaces closed to the public such as private gardens.

The strategy considers eight typologies of green space that are protected under Policy LPD20 of Gedling's Local Planning Document; parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space, amenity green space, play provision for children and young people, outdoor sports facilities, allotments and community gardens, cemeteries and churchyards and green corridors, these are defined in Section 3 of this document.



## 1.6 Limitations of the Strategy

It should be noted that the Green Space Strategy has a specific scope and therefore has the following limitations:

- It is not a day-to-day guide to service management and therefore will not set out policies relevant to green space.
- It is not an investment programme and therefore will not set out specific investment projects, these are instead, delivered via authorised business plans laid out within annual service plans. However, it is envisaged that the Green Space Strategy will serve as a critical decision-making framework within which investment decisions are made.

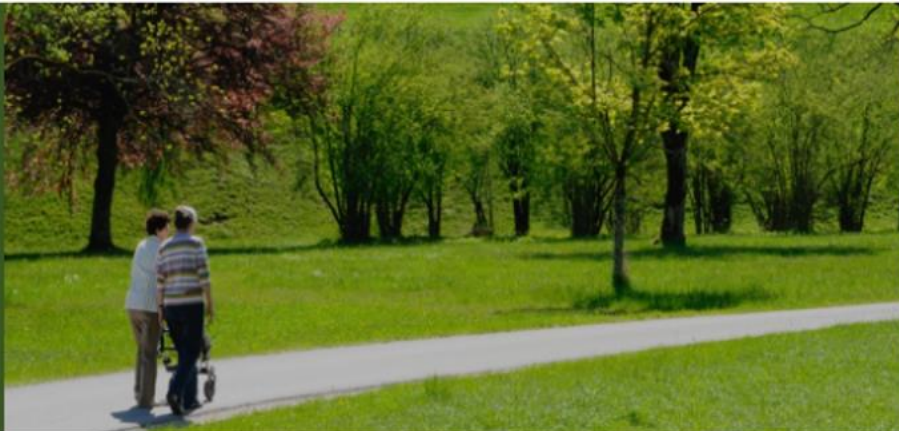
The strategy focuses primarily on questions of adequate provision and projected demand, setting the strategic direction for community engagement concerning both the improvement and maintenance of the borough's green spaces. The strategy does not cover commercial events held in parks and open spaces.

## 1.7 Our Vision for Green Space

*“To provide sufficient quality, inviting green spaces that are open and accessible to all and that enhance the quality of life of everyone living, working or visiting Gedling Borough.”*

This vision will be achieved by focusing on the following priorities, in order to provide a range of green spaces and recreational experiences over the next five years up to 2026:

- To enhance people’s quality of life through the provision of sufficient, accessible and attractive green spaces.
- To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the borough’s biodiversity, sustainability and heritage.
- To provide green spaces and play and sports facilities to enable residents to undertake a wide range of recreational and educational activities for healthy living.
- To actively involve the community in their local green spaces.
- To increase participation in green spaces for sport and recreation.



## 1.8 How have we developed the Strategy?

An audit of green space alongside extensive consultation are seen as crucial elements in the development of the borough's Green Space Strategy. These have been undertaken to devise local standards for the provision of green space within the borough and enables for the identification of surpluses or deficiencies in provision.

The previous 2012-2017 strategy document undertook an audit of green space typologies outlined within Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17) to assess the quality, quantity and accessibility of Gedling's green spaces. However, PPG17 typologies have now been superseded by those contained within policy LPD20 of the Gedling Local Planning document, where the typologies have been updated but not radically changed.

To achieve a balanced and co-ordinated approach that ensures maximum public participation, a series of consultations were carried out over a phased period with the local community. This was conducted to establish the views on green space provision among users and non-users within Gedling Borough. The public consultation survey set out to identify and establish the following:

- The usage of green space, sport and community recreational facilities by residents within the borough.
- The value local people attach to green space, sport and community recreational facilities and their attitudes towards these.
- The attitudes to the level of existing provision and facilities.
- The frequency residents use the differing types of provision.
- The primary mode of transport used to access green space, sport and community recreational facilities.
- The views of residents on the accessibility of green space, sport and community recreational facilities.
- The barriers that prevent or reduce local use of green space, sport and community recreational facilities.
- Local needs and expectations.





The key methods used were:

**Public consultation surveys:** Questionnaires were distributed to every household within the borough to assess residents' views on the quality, quantity and accessibility of open spaces and sports facilities.

**Door to door survey of residents:** Residents from door-to-door surveys were asked questions about the parks and open spaces within the borough.

**Surveys conducted with users of the parks:** To inform the green space audit, nine parks across the borough were surveyed individually to ascertain user's frequency of visits, length of stay, methods of travel, activities undertaken and the quality of the park.

**Young people's survey:** All schools in the borough were invited to participate in a survey on the frequency of children and young people's visits to parks and green spaces and their opinion of the quality of facilities in their area.

**Sports club survey:** As part of the Playing Pitch Strategy published in 2016, surveys were sent to all sports clubs using outdoor sports facilities in the borough, questions were related to the quality and the sufficiency of open space facilities used.

**Allotment association survey:** Surveys concerning the range of facilities provided, quality, current usage, the main issues, future priorities were sent to five allotment associations in the borough.

**Friends of groups survey:** Questionnaires about the quality and future plans for their associated park were sent to Friends of Groups.

**Parish council survey:** Questionnaires were sent to Parish Councils to determine the level of usage, condition and identify any future aspirations of the parishes.

**School survey:** Questionnaires were forwarded to all primary and secondary schools in the borough, with schools being asked to rate the quality of their facilities.

**Internal consultation:** Internal consultation was carried out with council officers, from Planning, Direct services and Leisure Services to ensure that internal officers and council members were aware of the developments of the assessment and strategy.

The main findings were:

- The most frequently used green spaces were parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural green space, whilst the least used were allotments and cemeteries.

- The most common method of travel to green spaces is by foot or car. Significantly more people walk to parks and gardens, natural green space, amenity green space, provision for children and young people, school playing fields and green corridors than drive.
- 97% of responders felt that the travelling time to green spaces was acceptable.
- 79% of respondents thought there were sufficient publicly accessible green space in the borough whilst 16% did not.
- Across the type of green spaces, the quality in the borough is considered as good. Parks and Gardens were considered as very good.
- Cleanliness was rated as the best aspect of green spaces with 67% of respondents considering it as good or better.
- The primary reasons for visiting green space in Gedling were to go for a walk, to relax, to improve health and to visit with the family.
- Barriers relating to quality were higher priorities than barriers relating to access. The most common reason given as a barrier was dog fouling, with 14% of respondents feeling this was an issue.

For full details on the consultation process and the results obtained, please refer to Appendix 1.

Lastly, to understand the context of green space in Gedling, the updated strategy has been developed in accordance with relevant national, regional and local policies to ensure all pertinent elements that apply to the management, protection and enhancement of the borough's green spaces are considered.







## 2 Context



## 2.1 About Gedling Borough

Gedling Borough is located in the heart of Nottinghamshire and includes a substantial part of the Greater Nottingham conurbation. It borders Sherwood Forest to the north, the River Trent to the south-east and the City of Nottingham to the south-west. The name is derived from the present-day suburban village of Gedling, which was referred to as Ghellinge in the Domesday survey of 1086.



The borough has a distinctive mix of urban and rural areas. It is comprised of Greater Nottingham's north and eastern suburbs and villages located in some of Nottinghamshire's most picturesque countryside. It covers an area of 120km<sup>2</sup>, with a large proportion situated on undulating terrain.



In 2019, the estimated population of the borough was 117,896<sup>8</sup>, with the majority of residents living in the main suburban areas of Arnold, Carlton, Gedling, Mapperley and Netherfield. The remainder live in the ten rural parishes of Bestwood Village, Burton Joyce, Calverton, Lambley, Linby, Newstead, Papplewick, Ravenshead, Stoke Bardolph and Woodborough. The borough's eleventh parish, Colwick, forms part of the suburban area.

The borough's industrial heritage is based on textiles and coal, but both industries have now all but disappeared. The entire borough falls within the principal economic area of Greater Nottingham, which also includes the City of Nottingham, the boroughs of Broxtowe and Rushcliffe, and the town of Hucknall. As a result, the majority of the borough's residents look to Greater Nottingham for employment.

### 2.1.1 Gedling's Green Spaces

Green spaces in this strategy document are defined as areas of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, lakes, canals and reservoirs) which offer vital opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity. Gedling Borough has 1,695.58 hectares of community green spaces, with the majority being owned and managed by the council. Gedling's parks and green spaces are popular with residents and visitors to the borough. Their broad appeal is reflected in resident surveys, which reveal high satisfaction ratings. Results from the Gedling Conversation survey conducted in 2019, revealed that 73% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of parks and open spaces in the borough<sup>9</sup>.

### 2.1.2 Challenges to Gedling's Green Space

One of the greatest challenges likely to affect both the quantity and quality of green spaces within the borough pertains to budgetary constraints resulting from austerity spending cuts. Over the past 10 years, the borough's budget for green spaces has decreased by £448,100. This has led to a variety of impacts, including changes to grounds maintenance specification in open grassland habitats, reductions in floral displays and, due to a halving of summer agency labour, a significant reduction in mowing cycles. It is anticipated that budgets for green spaces will come under increased pressure, which therefore heightens the need to set out how we, as a council will help ensure that the borough's green spaces are maintained for Gedling's residents, both now and in the future.

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<sup>8</sup> ONS (2020) United Kingdom population mid-year estimate 2019

<sup>9</sup> Gedling Conversation – Satisfaction Survey Results 2019

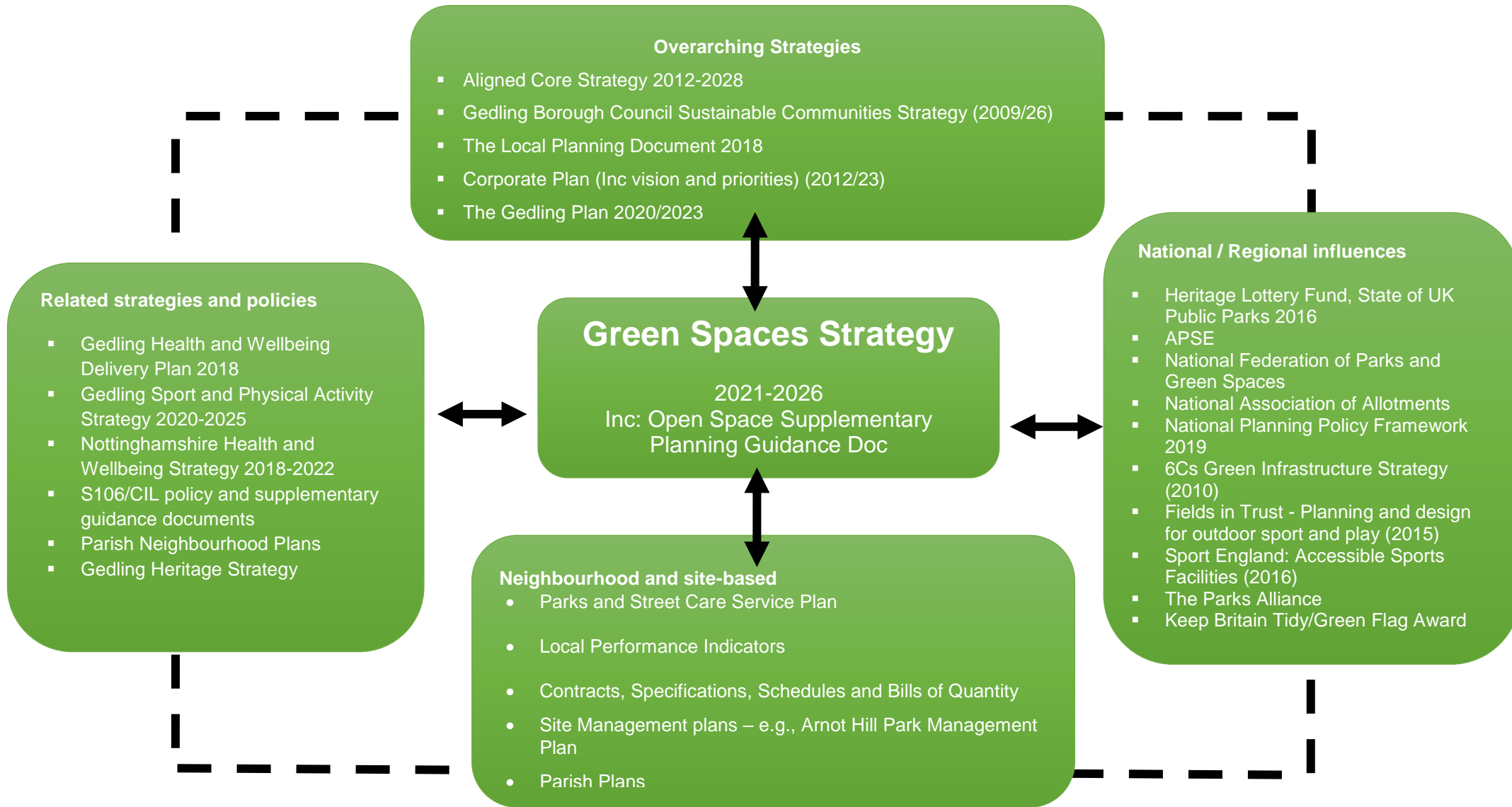
## 2.2 Policy Context

In developing a green space strategy, it is important to consider the strategic factors that will influence the strategy both internally from existing policies and practices within Gedling Borough Council and externally by identifying the implications from strategies and policies of key government departments and other agencies.

The legislation and policies have three levels national, regional and local. Within this context, there are different types of legislation and policy: those that are directly concerned with green space provision and those where green space makes a contribution, but is not the principal subject of a wider policy initiative.



## 2.2.1 Diagram linking strategies and policies



## 2.2.2 National

**National Planning Policy Framework, 2019** - The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out government planning policy for England and how this is expected to be applied. The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, of which there are three dimensions; economic, social and environmental. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for development can be produced. The framework acknowledges the need for high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation in its contribution to both the health and wellbeing of communities. The importance of open spaces is also highlighted in terms of its contribution to biodiversity provision and climate change adaptation and resilience. The NPPF refers to open space as opposed to green space, however, in the context of this strategy, the two terms can be considered interchangeable.

**Localism Act 2011** - The Localism Act seeks to decentralise power, placing it back into the hands of local councils, communities and individuals to act on local priorities. Under the act, new rights and powers were introduced for local people. The first; right to challenge, gives local people the opportunity to become more involved in the running of local services, and the second; right to bid, gives local communities greater ability to protect local buildings and land that are valued as community assets.

**Sport England: Towards an Active Nation, 2016-2021** - Sport England's Towards an Active Nation is a strategy that goes beyond participation and acknowledges how sport can change lives and become a force for good, contributing to improvements in physical and mental health. It has five outcomes at its core: Physical wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. This document was used in the production of the Playing Pitch Strategy for the Borough (2016).

**Heritage Lottery Fund: State of UK Parks, 2016** - The Heritage Lottery Fund's report on the State of UK Parks, through nationally undertaken surveys provides an analysis and overview of the state of the UK's public parks in 2016. The report highlights the growing deficit between the rising usage of UK parks and the declining resources available to manage them.



**Public Health England: Improving Access to Greenspace, 2020** – This recently published document reviews the health benefits of living in greener communities and provides a set of recommendations to assist local authorities, policymakers and developers in maintaining, and increasing the provision of green space.

**Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play; Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015)** - Fields in Trust provides benchmark standards on the provision of outdoor space for sport and recreation which are recommended as a tool for assisting in the development of local standards.

**Fields in Trust: Green Spaces for Good (2018-2022)** – This strategy acknowledges the benefits green space provides in the delivery of positive social outcomes and seeks to change the conversation around parks and green spaces and how their contribution to communities are measured. Fields in Trust has developed a new method of financially quantifying the critical importance of green spaces to the communities in which they are located.

**Natural England: Accessible Natural Green Space Standards** – Provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to green spaces near to where people live.

**Communities and Local Government Committee: Public Parks, 2017** – The Communities and Local Government Committee launched a Public Parks Inquiry in 2016 to assess the challenges facing the parks sector, including local budget cuts. It acknowledges the contribution of parks to important strategic objectives comprising climate change mitigation, public health and community integration, and offers subsequent recommendations on how to secure a sustainable future for UK parks.

**Nesta: Learning to Rethink Parks, 2016** – This report reviews the impact of Rethinking Parks – a project established to find, support and test new approaches to raising income and reducing costs for UK Public Parks to ensure that they remain free, open and valued assets.





**Green Flag Award** - An internationally recognised awards scheme that recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting a benchmark against which the quality of freely accessible provision can be measured. It is based on eight broad criteria which were defined after extensive consultation with organisations concerned with nature conservation, public safety, community health, education and children's play. They are that parks and green spaces should:

- Be welcoming
- Be healthy, safe and secure
- Be clean and well maintained
- Be managed in a sustainable manner
- Promote the conservation of wildlife and the built heritage
- Reflect community needs and promote community involvement
- Be well marketed in accordance with a marketing plan
- Be well managed in accordance with a clear management plan



### 2.2.3 Regional

**Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan 1998** - The Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) published in response to the 1994 UK BAP, outlines how the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group will work to conserve, enhance and promote biodiversity in the area.

**Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies: Part 1 Local Plan, 2014** – Prepared in accordance with the NPPF, the Aligned Core Strategy forms Part 1 of the Local Plan for Gedling Borough Council and provides the strategic planning framework for the Part 2 Local Planning Document for Gedling Borough. The Strategy provides a broad guide to development and growth in the areas and includes strategic planning policies to guide and control the overall scale, type and location of development, including the allocation of strategic sites. The Local Planning Document recognises that each Council has local issues and priorities and hence more detailed planning policies are included within the Local Planning Document for Gedling Borough.

## 2.2.4 Local

**Gedling Borough Local Planning Document, Part 2 Local Plan (2018)** - Sets out the economic, social and environmental priorities for development within the borough and, in accordance with the NPPF, contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

**Gedling Plan 2020-2023** - The Borough Council Plan's 2020-2023 vision is *“serving people, improving lives.”*

The Council's corporate priorities are listed below and serve as drivers to the Green Space Strategy:

- **Cohesive, Diverse and Safe Communities**
- **High Performing Council**
- **Vibrant Economy**
- **Sustainable Environment**
- **Healthy Lifestyles**

Table 1 below illustrates the association between the priorities and objectives of the council's corporate plan to the relevance of green spaces in helping to deliver those objectives. It also identifies the corporate portfolio.

*Table 1: The link between the priorities and objectives of the council's corporate plan and the significance of green space*

Priorities	Objectives	Green Space Link	Corporate Portfolio
<b>Cohesive, Diverse and Safe Communities</b>	Promote and encourage pride, good citizenship and participation	<i>Well managed green spaces provide an excellent venue for community and volunteer events.</i>	<b>Community Development</b>
	Reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime	<i>Well-designed and maintained green spaces can help reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.</i>	<b>Public Protection</b>

<p><b>High Performing Council</b></p>	<p>Improve the customer experience of engaging with the council</p> <p>Maintain a positive and supportive working environment and strong employee morale</p>	<p>On a bi-annual basis, Gedling Borough Council seeks the views of its residents through the residents' satisfaction survey, the parks department scores highly. In 2019, 73% of residents reported being satisfied with the quality of parks and open spaces in the borough.</p> <p><i>Well trained and motivated Parks and Street Cleansing Staff who have a positive attitude create a good impression with our customers, who are both residents and visitors to the borough.</i></p>	<p><b>Growth and Regeneration</b></p> <p><b>Leader of the Council</b></p>
<p><b>Vibrant Economy</b></p>	<p>Creative thriving and vibrant town and local centres</p>	<p><i>Well managed green spaces are attractive venues for events and festivals, for example, Arnold Carnival held in Arnot Hill Park. Such green spaces attract a suite of businesses and employment opportunities and increase visitor footfall to the borough, thereby improving the local economy.</i></p>	<p><b>Growth and Regeneration</b></p>
<p><b>Sustainable Environment</b></p>	<p>Provide an attractive and sustainable local environment that local people can enjoy</p> <p>Improve transport infrastructure and connectivity</p> <p>Conserve, enhance, promote and celebrate our heritage</p> <p>Promote and protect the environment by minimising pollution and waste and becoming carbon neutral</p>	<p><i>Well managed green spaces help to create a good image and give a sense of 'place'.</i></p> <p><i>Green spaces and well-connected green corridors make walking and cycling more pleasant and therefore encourage active travel, in turn reducing the carbon footprint of the borough.</i></p> <p><i>The borough's green spaces include Bestwood and Gedling Country Parks, which have significant heritage connections. Gedling Country Park, our flagship park has strong links to the borough's mining heritage and is instrumental as a focal point for the borough's heritage activity.</i></p> <p><i>Green spaces provide green lungs to mitigate against climate change and provide a haven for wildlife. Enforce the Council ban on the use of neonicotinoids and glyphosate on Council owned land.</i></p>	<p><b>Environment</b></p> <p><b>Growth and Regeneration</b></p> <p><b>Community Development</b></p> <p><b>Environment</b></p>

<p><b>Healthy Lifestyles</b></p>	<p>Support physically active lifestyles</p> <p>Increase recreational activities</p> <p>Reduce levels of loneliness and isolation</p>	<p><i>Well managed green spaces facilitate physically active lifestyles through the provision of sports pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts.</i></p> <p><i>Green spaces provide recreational areas for people of all ages.</i></p> <p><i>The presence of green space encourages positive social interactions and provide the opportunity to participate in shared social activities.</i></p>	<p><b>Housing, Health and Well-being</b></p>
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**The Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Project for Gedling Borough** – A document which highlights where the greatest opportunities are for nature in the borough. This document should be considered during review of the borough’s green space management plans, and where possible, depending on the resources available the opportunities outlined should be delivered.





## 2.3 Green Space Typologies

The key national planning document for the previous Green Space Strategy of 2012-2017 was Planning Policy Guidance PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002). In 2018, this was superseded by the Gedling Local Planning Document, within which Policy LDP20, recommends that the protection of open space includes:

- Parks and Gardens
- Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
- Amenity Green Space
- Play Provision for Children and Young People
- Outdoor Sport Facilities
- Allotments and Community Gardens
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Green Corridors

Table 2 below illustrates the land typologies with descriptions and examples.

*Table 2: Details of the land typologies found within Gedling Borough, with corresponding examples*

Type	Description	Examples from Gedling Borough Council
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>	Including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens	Arnot Hill Park
<b>Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space</b>	Including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas – cliffs, quarries and pits	Burnstump Country Park, Netherfield Lagoons, Gedling House Woods
<b>Amenity Green Space</b>	Including informal recreational spaces, green spaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens	Gedling Road, opposite the arrow pub
<b>Provision for Children and Young People</b>	Including play areas, skate parks, outdoor basketball hoops, ball courts and other informal areas (teenage hanging out areas and shelters)	Church Lane Play Area Papplewick Play Area

<b>Outdoor Sport Facilities, including School Playing Fields (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned)</b>	Including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields and other outdoor sporting areas	Burton Road Jubilee Park, Conway Recreation Ground
<b>Allotments and Community Gardens</b>	Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.	Killisick & Robin Hood Allotments
<b>Cemeteries and Churchyards</b>	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.	Carlton & Redhill Cemetery
<b>Green Corridors</b>	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.	The River Trent

A wide, green lawn with a line of trees in the background under a blue sky. The trees are lush and green, and the sky is a clear, light blue with some wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

## **3 Green Space Provision and Deficiencies**



Sections 4 to 11 outline the main findings from both the public consultation and audit of current provision for each green space typology. Locally determined green space standards were then devised through a process of assessing the current provision of green space against national and local standards whilst accounting for local needs. The application of standards enables for the identification of surpluses and deficiencies in green space, so as to ensure that there is an adequate provision of accessible, high-quality green spaces located throughout the borough.

There are three distinct components to Gedling Borough Council's green space standards:

**Quantity Standard:** the 'ideal' quantity of a specific green space typology expressed in terms of ha per 1,000 head of population.

**Quality Standard:** a measure of the condition of green spaces.

**Accessibility Standard:** the reasonable distance residents should expect to travel to a green space, expressed as average walking times. In this document, it is assumed that the average person walks 100m in 1 minute 15 seconds (equivalent to a speed of 3mph). For driving, the assumption has been made that on average, it will take drivers 1 minute 33 seconds to cover a distance of 1km (equivalent to a speed of 24mph). Please note, equivalent distances for travel times have been rounded to the nearest ten.

*It is important to note that the standards outlined in this strategy should be considered a guide to minimum provision rather than used as an absolute rule. There will be a need to apply the standards with a degree of flexibility on occasions due to geographical or demographical reasons.*

In the sections below, the following assumptions have been applied:

- To calculate the population within the borough's urban and rural areas, the proportion of urban (80.3%) and rural (19.7%) residents from the 2012 green space strategy has been applied to the 2019 ONS mid-year population estimate for Gedling Borough of 117,896<sup>10</sup>. Therefore, the assumption has been made that 94,670 people reside within the urban areas of the borough, whilst the remaining 23,226 residents are located within the rural areas.

Population forecasts for 2026 were calculated from the borough's annual housing requirement within the Five-Year Housing Lands Supply Assessment 2020<sup>11</sup>, which indicates that by 2026, 2,730 new homes are to be built. Based on an average dwelling occupation of two people per household (2.37 being the average household in the UK<sup>12</sup>), a total population increase of 5,460 can be estimated, resulting in a total population of 123,356.

*It is worth noting that when compared to the ONS 2018-based subnational population projections, which forecasts a 3,144 rise in population between 2021 and 2026, the population growth projection of 5,460 used in this document may be at the higher end of the growth range. Although use of a lower population growth projection would help to alleviate deficiencies in green space provision, the ONS estimate does not account for new housing development*

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<sup>10</sup> ONS (2020) United Kingdom population mid-year estimate 2019

<sup>11</sup> Gedling Borough Council: Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment 2020

<sup>12</sup> ONS (2019) Families and Households

# 4 Parks and Gardens

## 4.1 Definition

Parks and gardens contain grass and trees as a minimum and are defined as formalised outdoor spaces set aside for human leisure and recreation or the protection of wildlife and natural habitats. They may include play spaces, wildlife areas, woodland, cafes, flower beds, landscaped areas and water features<sup>13</sup>.

## 4.2 Context

Policy LPD20 of the Local Planning Document<sup>14</sup> describes parks and gardens as areas including urban parks, formal gardens and country parks which provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community activity. The State of UK Public Parks report published in 2016<sup>15</sup> considers parks as an integral part of human life that provide places where people can relax, play, and exercise. The report recognises the importance of such spaces in their contribution to long-term physical and mental wellbeing, supporting community cohesion and enhancing biodiversity.



<sup>13</sup> Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC: Open Space Categories

<sup>14</sup> Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

<sup>15</sup> Heritage Lottery Fund: State of UK Public Parks

## 4.3 Where are we now?

### 4.3.1 Quantity

The audit recorded 708ha of parks and gardens in the borough. These sites vary considerably in size and include small areas such as the garden accompanying Woodthorpe Library and much larger sites, for example, Bestwood Country Park. For the full quantity audit of the sites in the borough with a primary function of a park and garden, please refer to Appendix 2a.

With a population of 117,896, the current provision of parks and gardens in the borough equates to 6ha per 1,000. This is comprised of 0.6ha per 1,000 in the urban areas and 7.3ha per 1,000 in the rural areas of the borough, indicating that there is an uneven distribution in the provision of such spaces. However, a larger number of sites are in fact located within the urban areas, with the disparity in provision resulting from the classification of the larger country parks as being within the rural areas, on the edge of the conurbation.

Public consultation highlighted that although the number of parks and gardens in the borough is deemed adequate, the council needs to remain vigilant and ensure that this valuable space is not reduced.

### 4.3.2 Quality

#### 4.3.2.1 Consultation

Public consultation results revealed that the overall quality rating of parks and gardens was very good, with 84% of responders rating these spaces within the borough as good or better (as per Table 3). However, several individual comments concerning the quality of parks and gardens in the borough were provided. The most frequent comments related to:

- litter and dog fouling
- car parking
- safety and concern regarding gangs and unleashed dogs
- wheelchair access



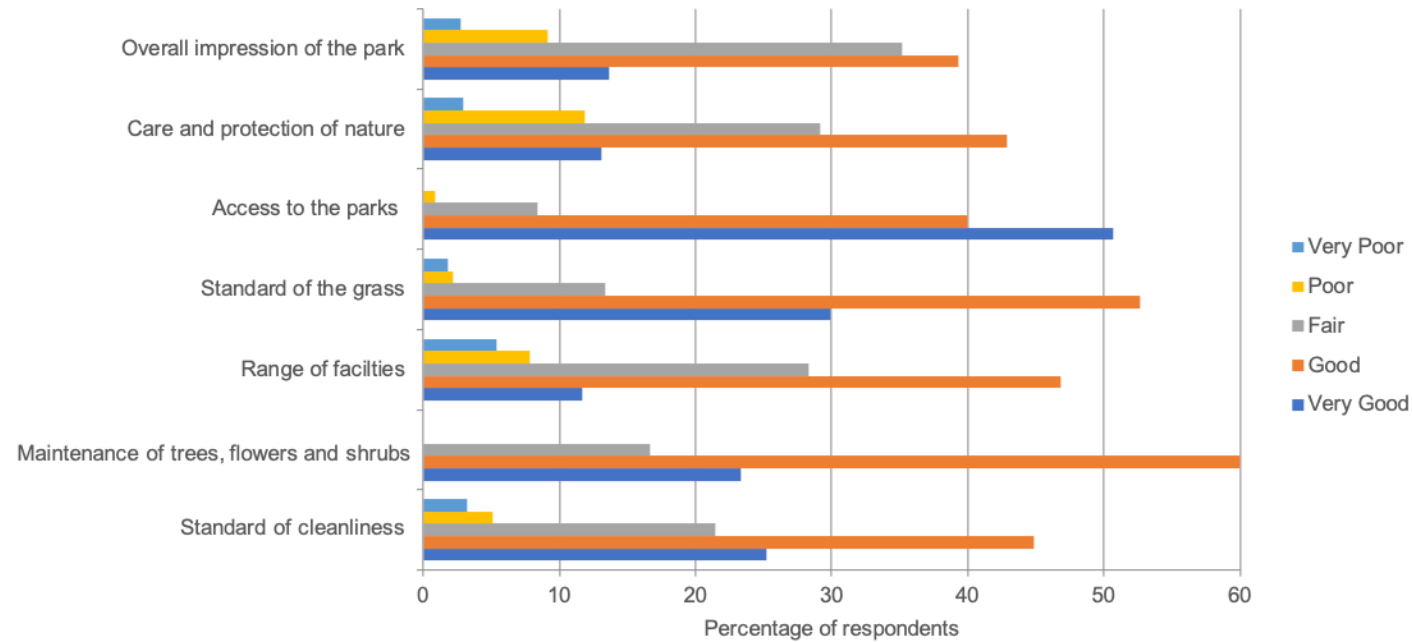
Table 3: Public consultation quality rating of parks and gardens

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
45%	39%	14%	2%	0%

User consultation was held at all the green spaces across the borough categorised as a park and garden using the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) classifications. Appendix 2b contains details of the APSE classification categories.

As evidenced by Figure 1, the standard of grass and maintenance of trees, flowers and shrubs were rated as the best aspects of the parks and gardens throughout Gedling borough, with 83% of respondents rating these factors as either good or better. Cleanliness also rated well, with 70% of respondents deeming this to be of a good standard or better throughout the parks and gardens in the borough. Consultation results concerning the quality of individual parks and gardens can be viewed in Appendix 2c.

Figure 1: Overall quality of parks and gardens



#### 4.3.2.2 Site Quality Assessments

Site quality assessments of parks and gardens classified under APSE categories A, B, C and D were undertaken based on the Green Flag Award criteria<sup>16</sup> outlined below:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Well Maintained and Clean

<sup>16</sup> Raising the Standard: The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual (2016) Pages 12-14

- Environmental Management
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing and Communication
- Management

*Note: Detailed criteria of the Green Flag Award are provided in Appendix 2d.*

According to the criteria above, parks and gardens were then scored a value between 0-10 as per Figure 2.

*Figure 2: Green Flag Award scoring line*

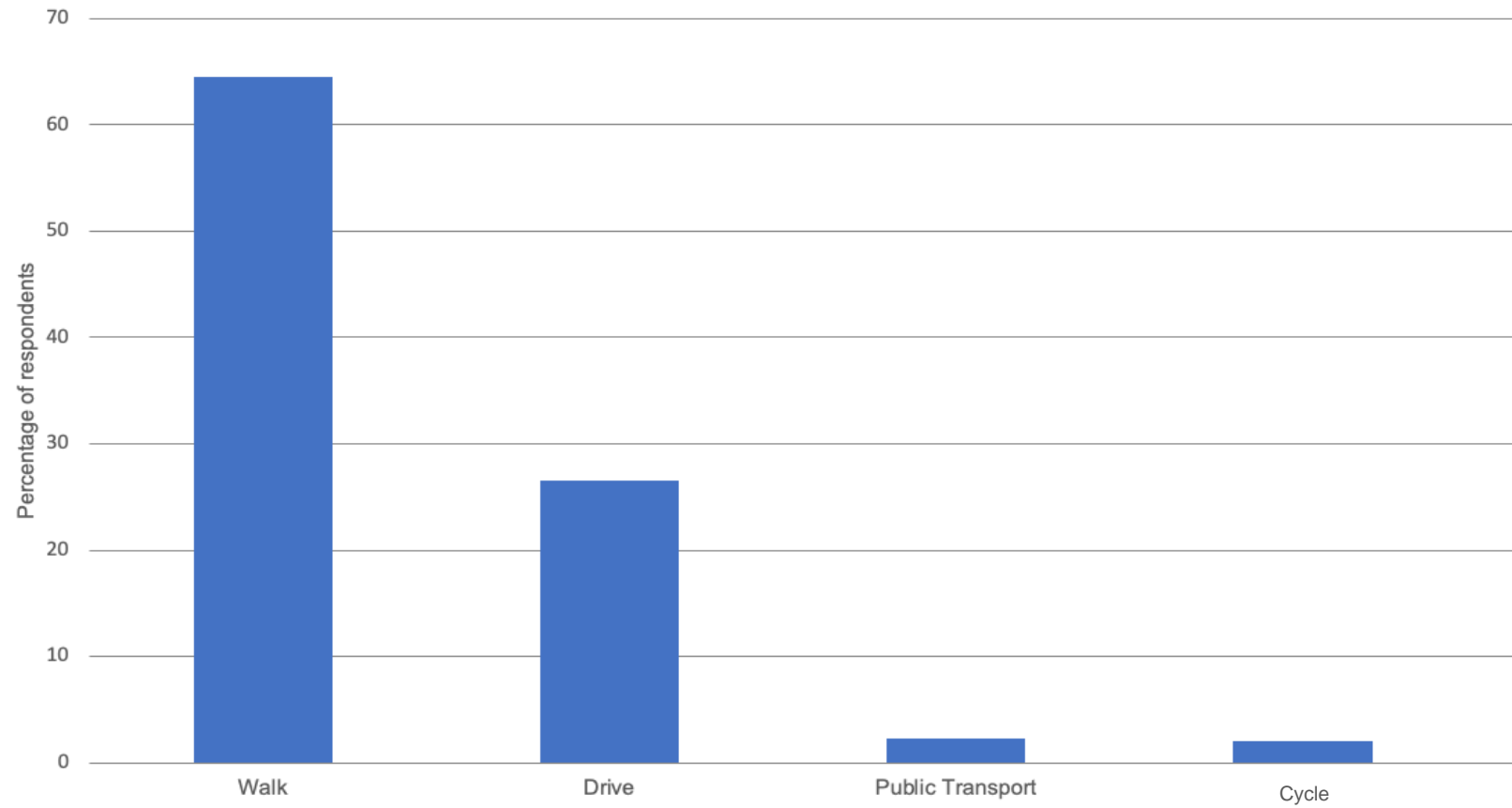


The average quality score for the borough was 6.1% which, according to Figure 2 above, is classified as 'fair'. The highest scoring site was Arnot Hill Park, which received a score of 8.4, whilst the lowest scoring site was Lambley Lane South which scored a value of 5.2. Included in Appendix 2e are the results of the specific site quality assessment.

### 4.3.3 Accessibility

From a user's perspective, access to the parks and gardens was one of the most highly rated aspects of the green space consultation, with 91% of respondents deeming access to be either good or better. Figure 3 shows that the most popular mode of transport to parks and gardens was on foot, justifying the case to set a walking accessibility standard.

Figure 3: Preferred mode of transport used to access parks and gardens





## 4.4 Setting the Standard

### 4.4.1 Quantity

Fields in Trust<sup>17</sup> provides a national benchmark quantity standard for parks and gardens of 0.8 ha per 1,000 population, which would require that Gedling Borough had 94.3ha of such spaces. However, public consultation revealed satisfaction with the current level of supply and therefore, the quantity standard for the borough remains 613.7ha higher than that of the national standard, reducing pressure on the council in terms of provision.

**Quantity Standard**  
6ha per 1,000 population

### 4.4.2 Quality

Taking into account public consultation and the Green Flag quality assessment scores, the following quality standard for parks and gardens has been set.

**Quality Standard**  
A welcoming, clean, well maintained site that is free from vandalism and dog fouling. That not only provides a range of facilities for all users, but creates a feeling of safety<sup>6</sup>  
All destination parks to achieve a Green Flag Standard score of at least 8, whilst all other parks and gardens to achieve a standard of 5 or above.

### 4.4.3 Accessibility

Fields in Trust<sup>14</sup> provides the national benchmark accessibility standards for parks and gardens, stating that they should be within a 710m walking distance or a 9-minute walk away from residents' homes. However, across the borough, in consultation, 75% of respondents believe that a reasonable travel time is a 15-minute walk to parks and gardens and therefore this is the standard that has been set.

**Accessibility Standard**  
15-minute walk/1210m

<sup>17</sup> Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)

## 4.5 Application of Standards

To ensure that local need is met, we apply both the quantity and accessibility standards together. The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, whilst the accessibility standards help to determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.

According to Gedling Borough's Five-Year Lands Supply Assessment published in 2020<sup>18</sup>, an additional 2,730 homes are required in the period 2020 to 2026. Therefore, based on an average dwelling occupation of two people per household (2.37 being the average household in the UK<sup>19</sup>), an estimated total population increase of 5,460 can be calculated, resulting in a total population of 123,356. If no additional parks and gardens are provided, provision will be reduced to 5.7ha per 1,000 by 2026, a shortfall of 32.8ha. However through Policy 21 of the Local Planning Document<sup>14</sup> we will ensure that new developments are built with the correct amount of green space, which requires all sites of 0.4ha and above to provide a minimum of 10% open space, meaning provision will not fall significantly below that of the local standard. This Policy also extends to Provision and Young People and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

Figure 4A below shows the location of the parks and gardens included in the quantity audit and their 15-minute walking distance catchment areas. It excludes Newstead Abbey located to the west of Ravenshead due to the access charge for vehicles, which limits public accessibility. When using this data, several areas with a deficiency in provision are apparent, however, it is worth noting that this map does not account for the following:

- Parks and gardens located within the boundaries of neighbouring authorities that could fall within the catchment area of Gedling Borough's residents.
- Small gardens will not have the same catchment area as a large municipal park.
- Many parks have been excluded from this map due to holding an alternative primary function despite residents recognising them as a park and garden. For example, Lambley Lane playing field has been audited as an outdoor sports facility because of its primary use as a football pitch.

Such sites include facilities for sports such as grass pitches, tennis or bowls, whilst others provide fixed play equipment or multi-use courts for children and young people. These are reflected in Figure 4B as APSE A, B, C & D Category parks and hence, this map shows a more realistic coverage of what residents would consider to be a local 'park or garden' in their local area.

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<sup>18</sup> Gedling Borough Council: Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment 2020

<sup>19</sup> ONS (2019) Families and Households

Figure 4A: A map of parks and gardens included in the quantity audit and their 15-minute walking distance catchment areas

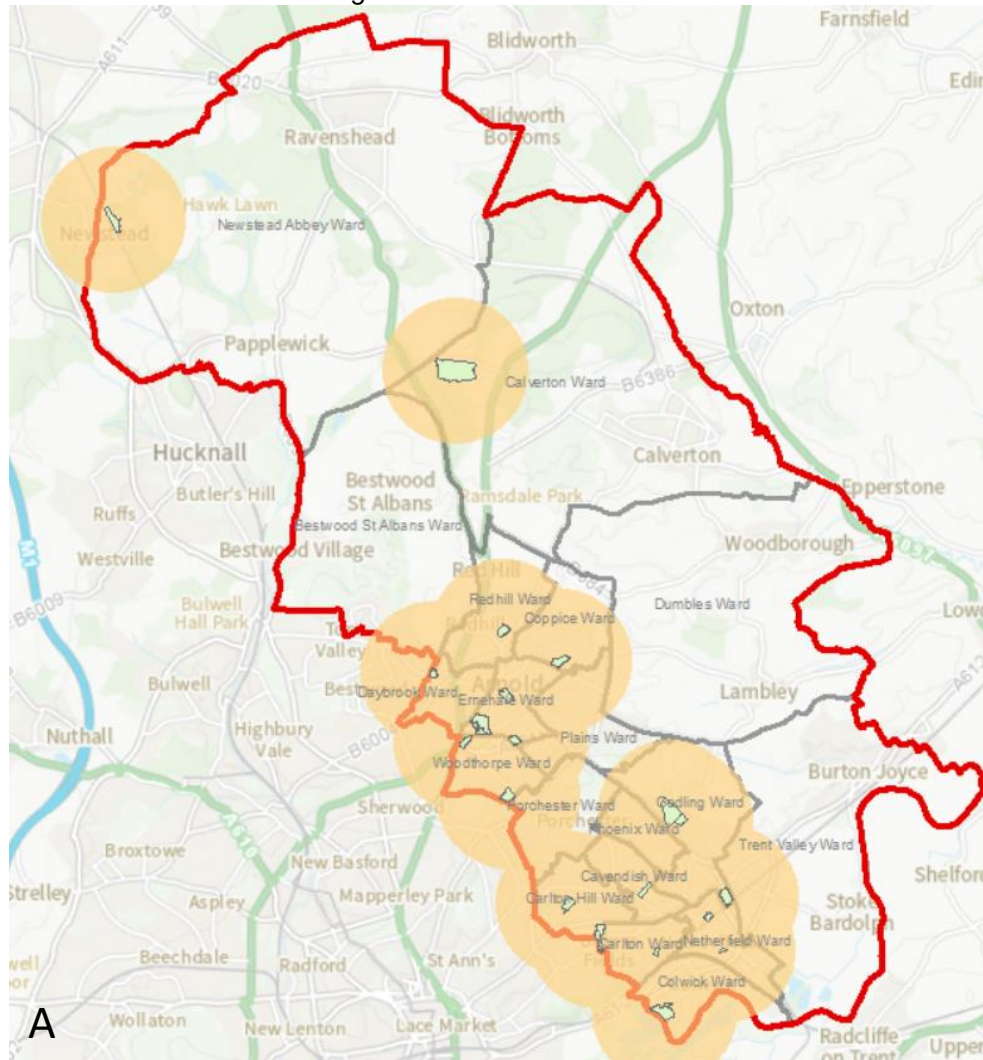


Figure 4B: Map of parks and gardens, including those considered as APSE A, B, C and D category parks and their catchment areas

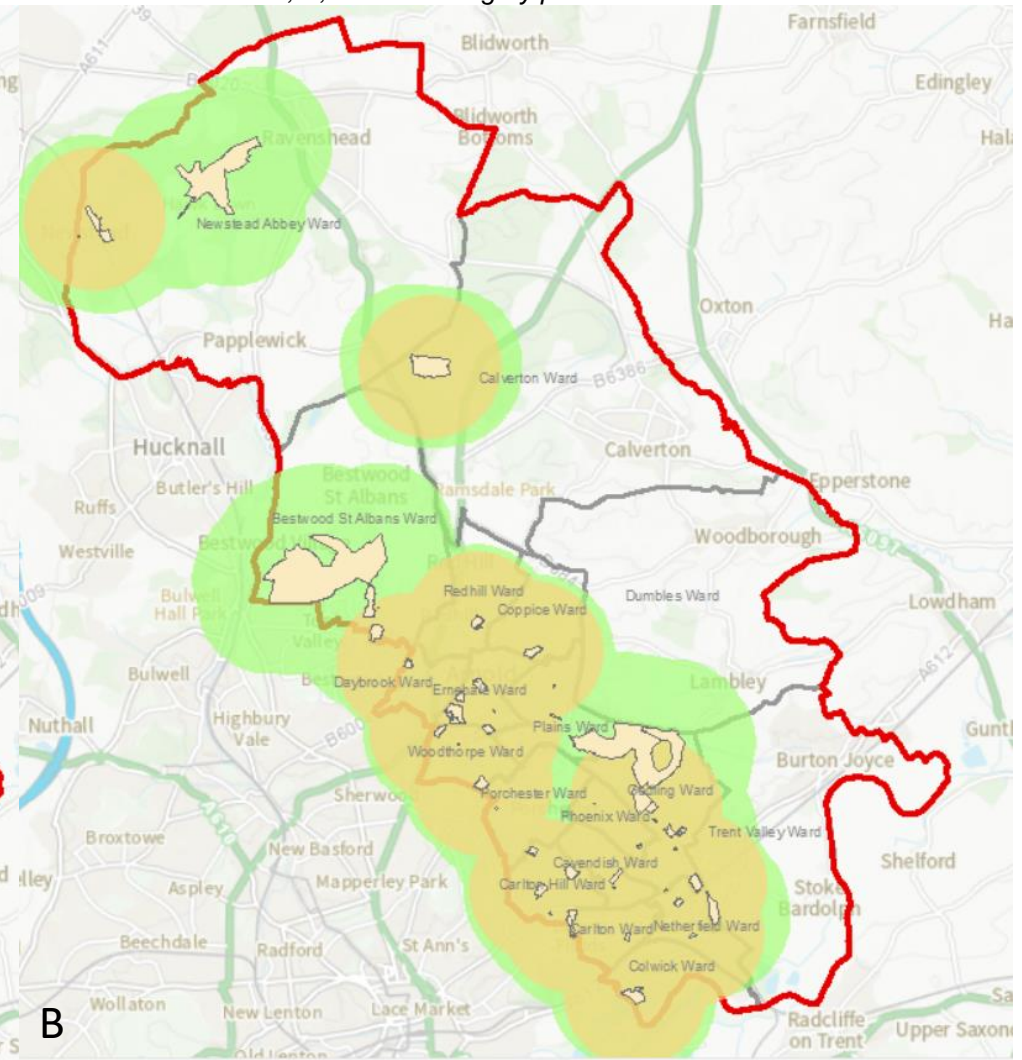


Figure 4.4A above displays the walking catchments of green spaces with a primary purpose of a park and garden and 4.4B displays those green spaces with the APSE parks and gardens classification of A, B, C and D.

These parks and gardens provide a wide range of facilities and are capable of providing space for a large number of people and activities as well as attracting visitors from outside the borough. As public consultation recognised the importance of having these spaces within walking distance from their homes, the map only displays the walking catchments of parks and gardens. However, it must be noted that the larger municipal parks are more attractive to access by vehicle as they offer a greater range of facilities.

Figure 4A and 4B show that despite the Carlton area being the most comprehensively covered location for parks and gardens in Gedling, there remain pockets of areas without provision. Other deficiency areas include Bonington, St Mary's and the boundary between Woodthorpe and Porchester wards. Both Figure 4A and 4B indicate that there is a large deficiency of parks and gardens in the rural areas, however, many of these areas contain natural and semi-natural green space. Therefore, only the rural areas considered deficient in both natural and semi-natural green space and parks and gardens should be considered areas for improvement.

## 4.6 Cross Boundary Analysis

Green spaces provided by the City Council are within the catchment areas of some residents of Gedling Borough, these include:

- Woodthorpe Grange Park
- Colwick Country Park
- Parks and gardens on Valley Road

## 4.7 Summary

Parks and gardens are valued assets and are often integral to the lives of the communities in which they are located. They provide places for leisure, relaxation and exercise, but are also fundamental to community cohesion, health and wellbeing and support biodiversity. It is, therefore, essential that they are both protected and enhanced and that additional Green Flag parks in the borough are established.



## 4.8 Recommendations

- When enhancing provision, ensure that priority is made in the urban areas of deficiency, as these contain the largest concentration of residents.
- The council should aspire to maintain Green Flag status at Arnot Hill Park, Gedling and Bestwood Country Parks, Burton Road Jubilee Park and aspire to establish another site as a Green Flag destination park.
- To make improvements in the quality and diversity of existing provision, in particular the protection and enhancement of wildlife where possible.
- To prioritise improvement to parks and gardens based on the Green Flag Award criteria.



# 5 Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space



## 5.1 Definition

Natural and semi-natural green spaces can be defined as land, water and geological features naturally colonised by plants and animals that are accessible on foot to large numbers of residents<sup>20</sup>.

## 5.2 Context

Within Policy LPD20 of the Local Planning Document<sup>21</sup>, natural and semi-natural green spaces are referred to as areas with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity which include woodlands, urban forestry, shrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, nature reserves and previously developed land.

Natural and semi-natural green spaces exist as a distinct typology but also as discrete areas within the majority of other green space typologies, ranging from small areas amongst housing estates to those situated in country parks. They deliver a form of ecological, structural and landscaping benefits such as providing a buffer between housing and other areas.

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<sup>20</sup> Harrison, C, Burgess, J, Millward, A, and Dawe, G (1995) Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities English Nature Research Report 153, English Nature

<sup>21</sup> Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

## 5.3 Where are we now?

### 5.3.1 Quantity

An audit of natural and semi-natural green space revealed that there is a total of 549ha across the borough, with 91.7% of sites located in the rural areas. This includes Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and other areas within Gedling that, through consultation have been classified as natural or semi-natural green space.

143ha of the natural and semi-natural green space in the audit displayed in Appendix 3 is also classified under other typologies such as cemeteries but have been included due to being defined as a LWS. A remaining 406ha of natural and semi-natural green space is not classified under any other typology. With a current population estimate of 117,896 and a total of 549ha of natural and semi-natural green space, the current provision equates to 4.7ha per 1,000 population.

Public consultation suggests the current level of provision is substantial, with 90% of respondents believing that there were enough natural and semi-natural green spaces within the borough.



### 5.3.2 Quality

Public consultation revealed that the overall quality rating of natural and semi-natural green space from those who responded was good. Table 4 below shows that 81% of responders felt the standard was either good or better.

Table 4: Public consultation quality rating of natural and semi-natural green space

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
37%	44%	16%	2%	1%

Individual comments concerning the quality of natural and semi-natural green spaces in the borough were provided by public consultation. These were not always areas classified primarily as a natural and semi-natural green space.

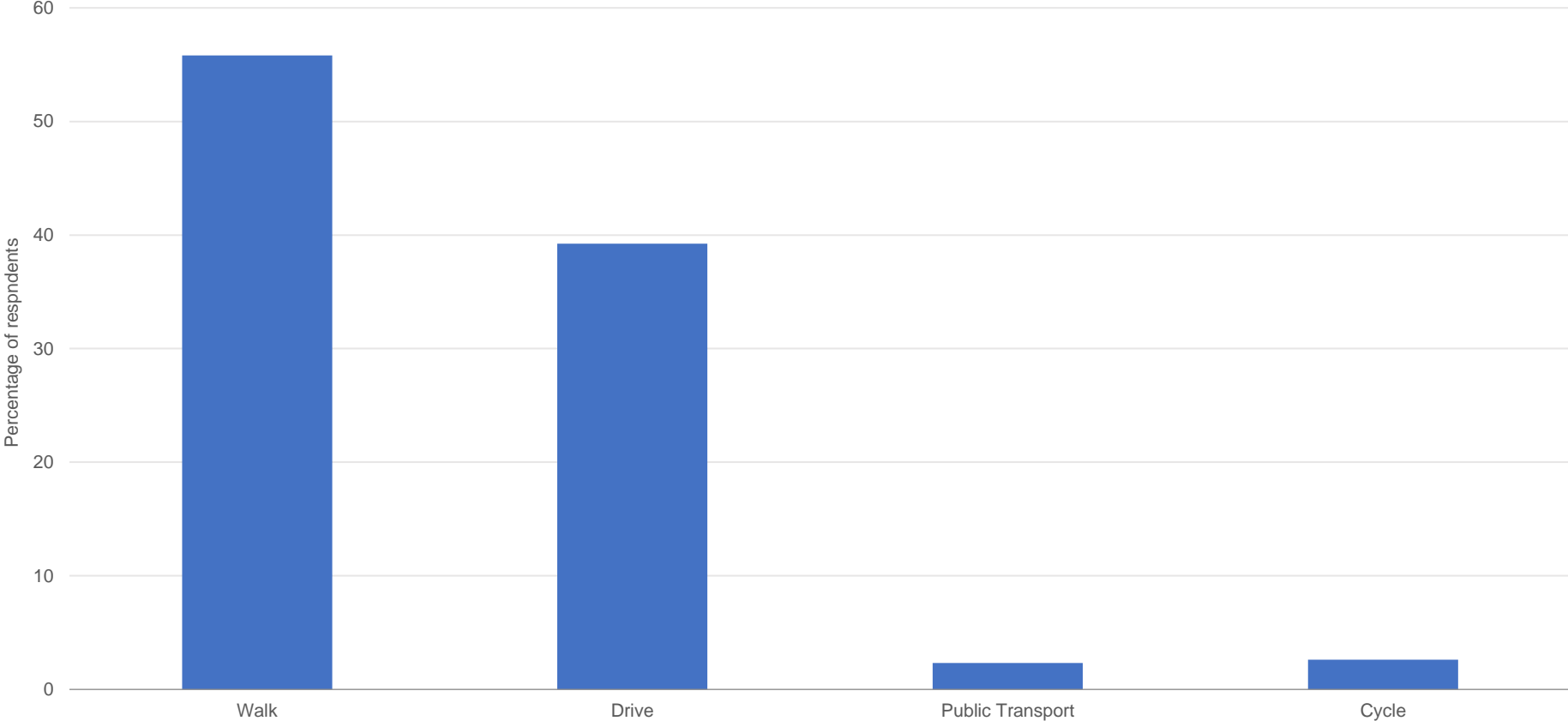
It is useful to note that user consultation revealed that one of the highest demands for improvement to green spaces was to the care and protection of nature and the environment. This implies that there is a need to maintain the current level of natural and semi-natural green space whilst improving both the care and protection of nature and wildlife in all green spaces across the borough.

### 5.3.3 Accessibility

Public consultation revealed that 56% of respondents across the borough preferred walking to natural and semi-natural green space, with 75% of those who use these spaces at least once per week opting to walk (see Figure 5). This information indicates a requirement to set a walking accessibility standard. Across the borough, 75% of respondents believed that a reasonable travel time to a natural and semi-natural green space is 15 minutes.



Figure 5: Preferred mode of transport used to access natural and semi-natural green space



## 5.4 Setting the standard

### 5.4.1 Quantity

Despite there being a national quantity standard for natural and semi-natural green space of 1.8ha per 1,000 set by Fields in Trust<sup>22</sup>, the recommended local quantity standard for the borough has been derived from public consultation and the audit of provision. As such, the current provision of natural and semi-natural green space is 337ha greater than the national quantity standard.

**Quantity Standard**  
4.7ha per 1,000 population

### 5.4.2 Quality

The local quality standard set is based on public aspirations and reflects the quality guideline outlined by Fields in Trust<sup>20</sup>.

**Quality Standard**  
A publicly accessible, spacious, clean and litter-free site with clear pathways and natural features that encourages wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Sites should be maintained to protect nature conservation interest with interpretative signage and safety features where appropriate.

### 5.2.3 Accessibility

Natural England's Nature Nearby<sup>23</sup> provides a range of benchmark accessibility standards for natural and semi-natural green spaces, these include:

- an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size, no more than 300m (3 minute 44 second walk) from home
- at least one accessible 20-hectare site within 2000m of home
- one accessible 100 ha site within 5000m of home
- one accessible 500 ha site within 10,000m of home

<sup>22</sup> Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)

<sup>23</sup> Natural England (2010): 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance

Due to the historic density of the housing within the Nottingham conurbation, Gedling Borough Council cannot offer natural and semi-natural green space within a 4-minute walk from all households. Therefore, upon consultation, which revealed that 75% of respondents believed that a 15-minute walk was acceptable, we have created our own local standard of a 15-minute walk to a 2ha site (1210m distance) to reflect the localised accessibility to natural and semi-natural green space.

**Accessibility Standard**  
2ha: 15-minute walk/1210m  
20ha: 34-minute walk/2740m

## 5.5 Application of Standards

### 5.5.1 Quantity

Utilising the information provided in Gedling Borough's Five-Year Lands Supply Assessment as referenced in the parks and gardens typology section 4, it is expected that the population in 2026 will rise to 123,356, reducing the provision of natural and semi-natural green space to 4.45ha per 1,000. Therefore, in order to maintain the current level of provision, an additional 25.4ha of natural and semi-natural green space will need to be allocated.

### 5.5.2 Accessibility

Figure 6A displays the 15-minute walking distance threshold to designated LWSs and LNRs. The buffer zones of the LWSs and LNRs are displayed in green and purple respectively. The maps show that there is a good provision of LWSs in the rural areas and LNRs in the south of the borough. In addition to the LWSs and LNRs, there are other green spaces considered to contain valuable natural or semi-natural green space, these spaces, however, are classified under other typologies and therefore are not displayed on the map, however, have been taken into account when identifying areas of deficiency.

Figure 6: Maps of natural and semi-natural green space in Gedling, where A, depicts a 15-minute walking catchment from natural and semi-natural green space and B, natural and semi natural green space over 20ha with a 2,740m catchment.

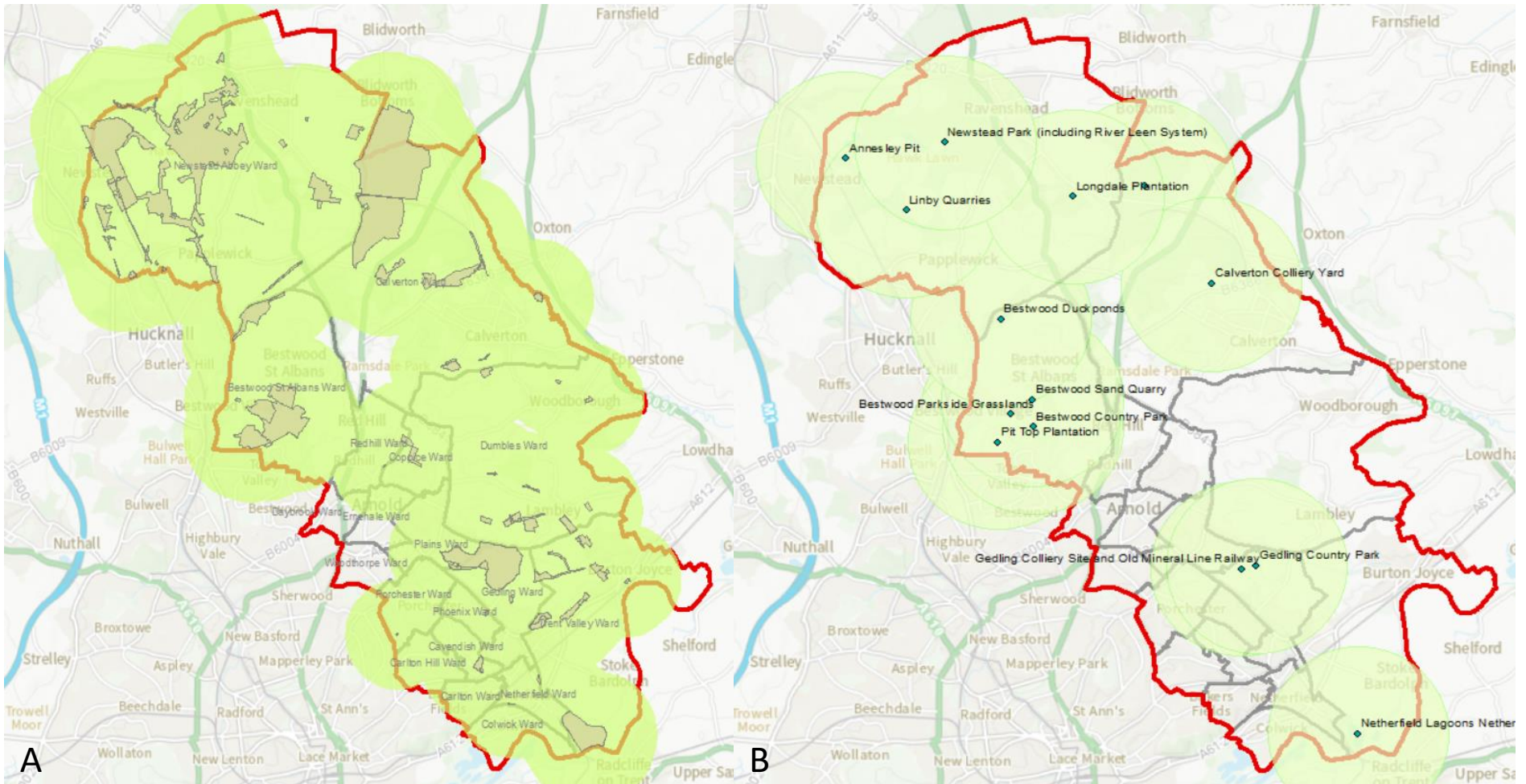




Figure 6B displays the 2,740m catchment of the natural and semi natural green spaces in the borough that have a site of over 20ha. It is evident that when considering both maps, there are large areas where there is currently no provision of natural and semi-natural green space. In the rural areas, this includes the north of Ravenshead and the north of Calverton. This conclusion is supported by responses provided during the public consultation where Ravenshead was perceived as having a lack of natural and semi-natural green space, likely due to Newstead Abbey not being freely accessible due to the requirement of visitors to pay to access the site.

In the urban areas, the main deficiencies are located in the central wards of the borough. Particular wards in the urban conurbation with a deficiency include Bonington, Daybrook, Woodthorpe, Mapperley Plains, St Mary`s Ward, Carlton and Carlton Hill. For these deficiencies to be addressed, natural and semi-natural green space will need to be created in the wards mentioned above, however, due to limited available green space, the opportunities for further creation are expected to be restricted.

## 5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural green spaces play a critical role in biodiversity and wildlife conservation. Although the quantity of natural and semi-natural green space in the borough is considered sufficient and exceeds the national standard, when assessing accessibility to such green spaces, it is evident that there are deficiencies in the urban conurbation and the northeast of Ravenshead village. It is therefore these areas where the council should prioritise new provision, providing there is land available to do so.

## 5.7 Recommendations

- Protect the current level of provision of natural and semi-natural sites across both the rural and urban areas of Gedling, including those which are LWSs or LNRs.
- To conduct a quality audit of natural and semi-natural green space in the borough.
- Consult with Natural England on potential sites for LNR status and consider LNR status for Bestwood Country Park.
- Analyse urban deficiency areas to assess whether other types of green space can fulfil the natural and semi-natural function, or whether new provision is required in certain areas providing there is space available.

# 6 Amenity Green Space



## 6.1 Definition

Amenity green space is defined as open land, often landscaped and situated in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens 'that makes a positive contribution to the appearance of an area or improves the quality of the lives of people living or working within the locality<sup>24</sup>.'

## 6.2 Context

Policy LPD20 of the Local Planning Document<sup>25</sup> describes amenity green space as land most commonly found within areas of housing, including informal recreation spaces and green spaces which provide opportunities for informal activities or enhance the appearance of residential areas. Amenity green space can also serve other important functions, such as reducing noise from busy roads or providing shelter from prevailing winds<sup>22</sup>.

<sup>24</sup> Planning Portal; Amenity Green-space

<sup>25</sup> Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

## 6.3 Where are we now?

### 6.3.1 Quantity

The audit of amenity green space recorded a total of 59ha of such spaces within the borough, equivalent to 0.5ha per 1,000 population. This is comprised of 38ha of amenity green space within the urban conurbation, equating to 0.40ha per 1,000 population and 21ha within the rural areas, equating to 0.90ha per 1,000. This indicates that a disproportionate amount of amenity green space is located within the rural areas of the borough, which encompass the four large country parks within the borough boundary. Despite being within the rural boundary, these parks are accessed by the urban population via vehicle as opposed to on foot and hence the figures do not reflect in reality, the usage of these spaces. A full site audit of amenity green space in the borough is provided in Appendix 4.

*Please note: Amenity green space sites under 0.2ha are considered by the council to have insufficient recreational value and, for the purpose of this strategy, these areas have been excluded.*

Public consultation revealed an overall satisfaction with the current quantity of amenity green space in the borough, however, Ravenshead and Newstead were areas perceived as having a lack of amenity green space.

### 6.3.2 Quality

According to the public consultation, the overall quality of amenity green space across the district is perceived as good, with 68% of respondents deeming the quality standards as either good or better. Dog fouling and littering, however, were considered critical issues across the whole of the borough, with the highest rated aspirations for amenity green space being that they are clean and litter-free.

### 6.3.3 Accessibility

Public consultation revealed that 70% of respondents felt that it was appropriate to be able to walk to amenity green space, with a walking time of 8-minutes considered as acceptable.

## 6.4 Setting the Standard

### 6.4.1 Quantity

Fields in Trust<sup>26</sup> recommends a benchmark quantity standard of 0.6ha per 1,000 population of amenity green space. As such, the quantitative standard for amenity greenspace has been set at 0.6ha per 1,000 population, this would help to improve public levels of satisfaction with amenity green space provision.

**Quantity Standard**  
0.6ha per 1,000 population

### 6.4.2 Quality

Fields in Trust<sup>24</sup> provides the national benchmark quality standard for amenity green space which requires that such spaces are to be appropriately landscaped, positively managed, provide footpaths and designed to be free of the fear of harm or crime. This criterion, in turn, reflects Green Flag quality standards and has been adopted as the local quality standard.

**Quality Standard**  
Amenity green spaces should be planned and designed to be free of the fear of crime and meet local needs, aiming for Green Flag status as a quality benchmark. They should be appropriately landscaped, positively managed and should be provided with good access footpaths, be clean and litter free and be appropriately landscaped with shrubs, trees and flowers.

### 6.4.3 Accessibility

Accessibility standards have been adopted from the Fields in Trust<sup>24</sup> recommended benchmark guidance, which states that households should be within a 480m walking distance or a 6-minute walk from amenity green space.

**Accessibility Standard**  
6-minute walk/482m

<sup>26</sup> Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)



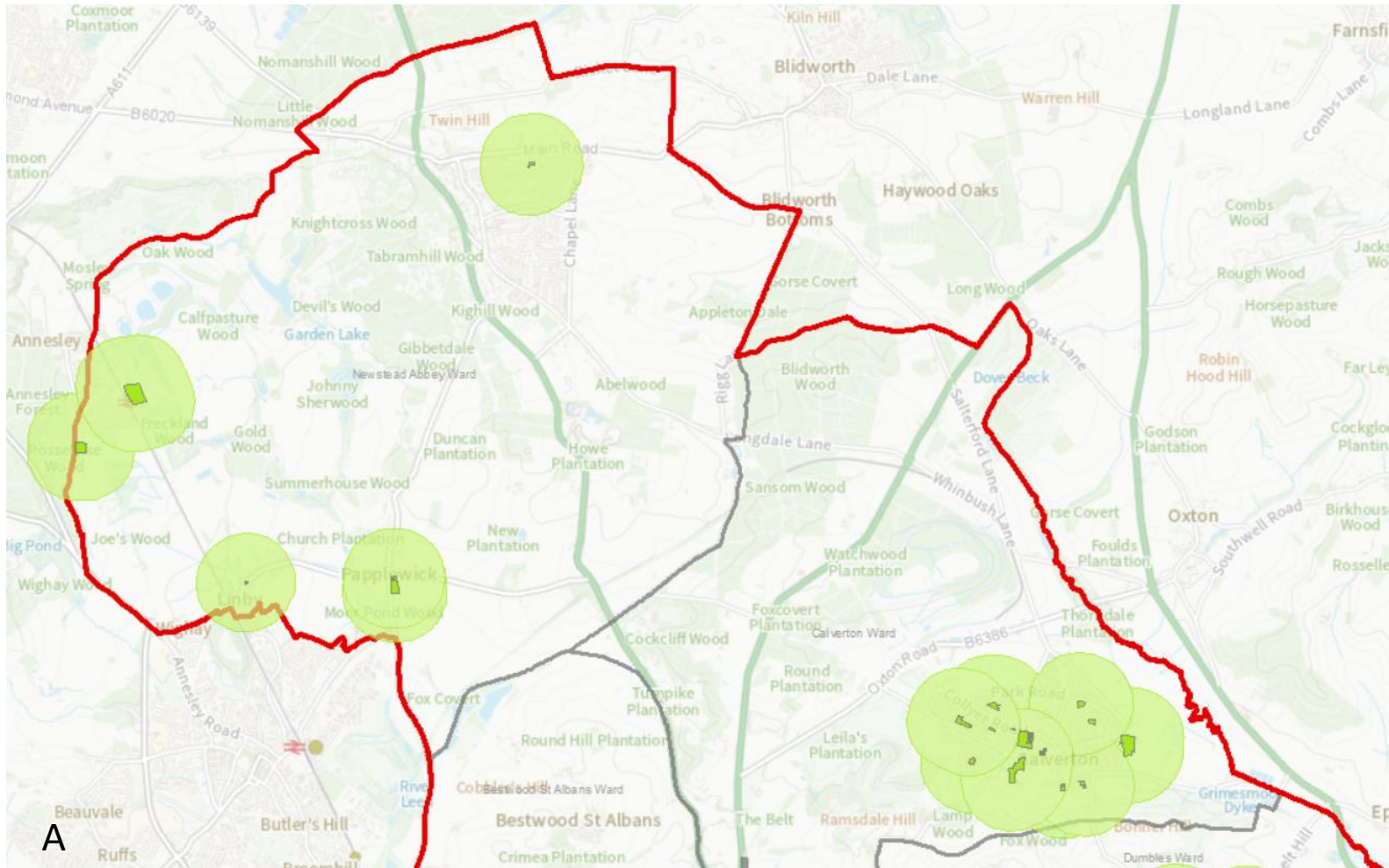
## 6.5 Application of Standards

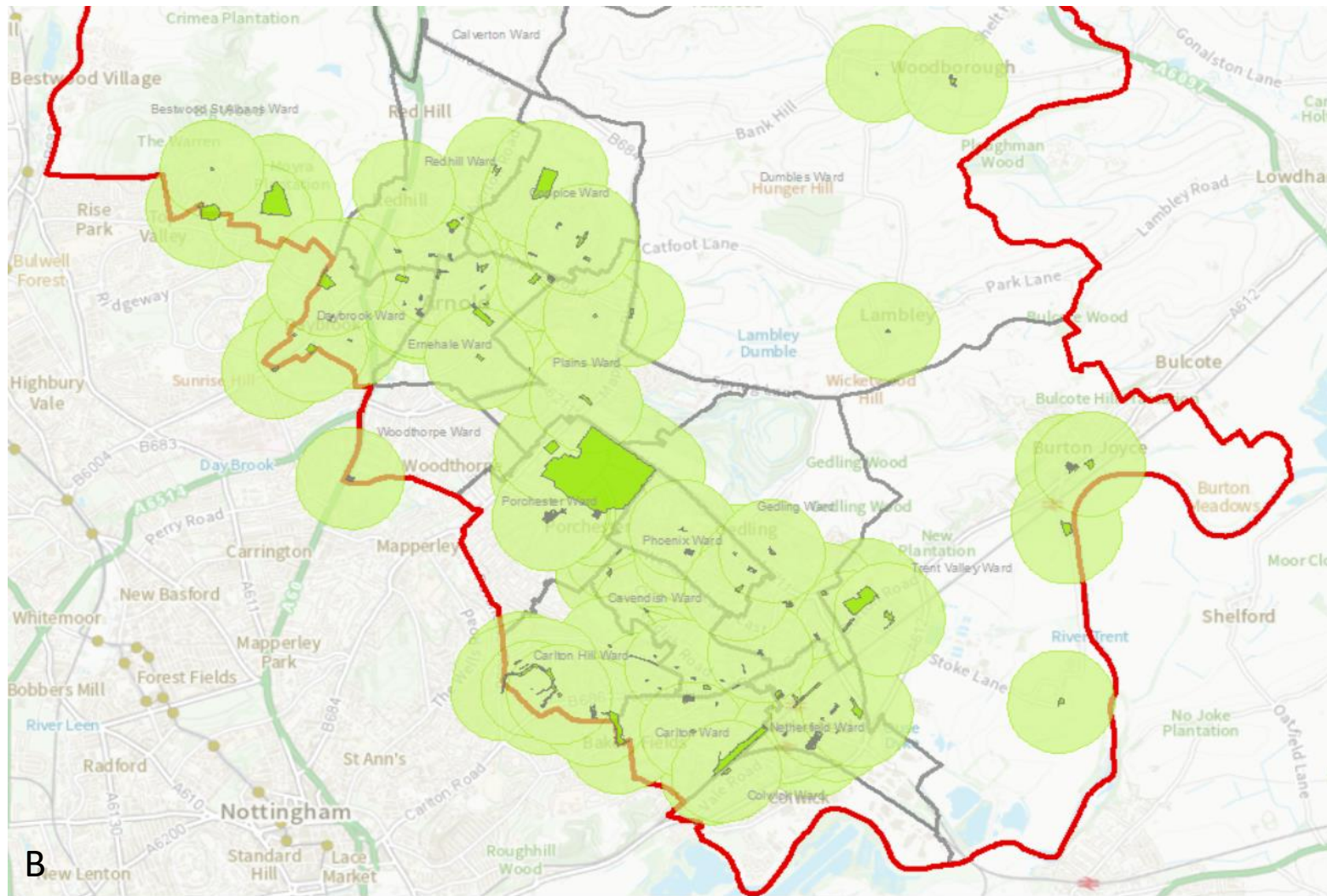
To attain the local quantity standard, an additional 11.7ha of amenity green space is required. Furthermore, utilising the information provided in Gedling Borough's Five-Year Lands Supply Assessment as referenced in section 4, it is expected that the population in 2026 will rise to 123,356, which will consequently reduce the provision of amenity green space to 0.48ha per 1000. Therefore, in order to ensure that the recommended quantity provision is maintained, an additional 3.27ha of amenity green space is required by 2026.

To identify deficiencies in amenity green space within the borough, we apply both the quantity and accessibility standards together as per Figure 7. However, when assessing levels of provision, it is important to consider the other typologies of green space within an area. For example, in Bestwood Village, there is an abundance of alternative green space typologies within the specified 6-minute accessibility standard, which include outdoor sports provision and Bestwood Country Park. Therefore, when accounting for other green space typologies, the areas in Gedling considered to have a deficiency in amenity green space are:

- The north-west of Ravenshead Village.
- The south-west of Porchester Ward.
- The northern corner of St James Ward.

Figure 7: Maps of amenity green space over 0.2 ha with a 6-minute walk where map A displays the north of the borough and B the south





## 6.6 Summary

Amenity green space sites vary in value, due to their differing sizes which in turn, determine their purpose. They range from large areas of land to small pockets found within housing estates that may be too small to have any significant recreational value. However, in most cases, they serve as valued functional areas, particularly within the urban wards of the borough, facilitating informal activities and social interaction, whilst significantly enhancing the appearance of residential areas. Although the overall quantity of amenity greenspace across the borough is considered to be sufficient, the accessibility maps demonstrate that some areas lack this type of green space and hence, it is at these locations, where the council should prioritise new provision, provided there is land available to do so.

## 6.7 Recommendations

- Protect and enhance all amenity green space in the district if it is considered to hold recreational value (over 0.2ha).
- Ensure that all new developments located in areas without amenity green space allow for the establishment of such areas, except where residents are within accessible distance to other types of green space which can also fulfil its role.
- When amenity green space is provided, ensure that is located as a focal amenity for the local community.
- Establish a measurable quality standard for amenity green space which will allow for comparison of standards over time and more accurately identify recreational value for each site.



# 7 Provision for Children and Young People

## 7.1 Definition

Play has been defined by Play England<sup>27</sup> as ‘what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons.’

## 7.2 Context

Under the Children’s Act<sup>28</sup>, local authorities have a responsibility to provide appropriate provision for children and young people, to support their development and deliver on the key outcomes of the act. This includes addressing community safety needs, by providing safe and secure play facilities for children and young people.

Policy LPD20 of the Local Planning Document<sup>29</sup> categorises equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters as the green space typology ‘provision for children and young people’. These areas provide opportunities for social interaction and physical activity which, in turn, can provide the following benefits outlined by Play England<sup>25</sup>:

- Develop children’s language and reasoning skills.
- Improve children’s physical and mental health.
- Promote children’s imagination, independence and creativity.
- Provide opportunities for developing social skills and learning.
- Reduce the involvement of children and young people in anti-social behaviour, helping to facilitate social cohesion.
- Builds resilience through risk-taking and challenge, problem-solving and dealing with novel situations.

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<sup>27</sup> Play England (2020); Why play is important

<sup>28</sup> Legislation.gov.uk; Children Act 1989

<sup>29</sup> Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan



In order to appropriately assess children's play areas, it is important to categorise the facilities based on their main characteristics. Children's play areas in Gedling have been sub-divided into the following categories in line with the Fields in Trust Beyond the Six Acre Standard<sup>30</sup> and additional details are provided in Table 5:

- **Local Area for Play (LAP)** - aimed at very young children (up to 5 years), with a minimum size of 100m<sup>2</sup> and a 5m separation between the activity zone and nearest property containing a dwelling (also known as a buffer zone).

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<sup>30</sup> Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)

- **Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)** - aimed at children who can go out to play independently (6-8 years), with a minimum size of 400m<sup>2</sup> and a 20m buffer zone.
- **Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)** - aimed at older children (9-12) and young adults, with a minimum size of 1000m<sup>2</sup> and a 30m buffer zone.

*Note: LAP, LEAP and NEAP are the subcategories contained within the broader Equipped/Designated Play Area Category*

- **Informal Play Facilities** (equivalent to Other Outdoor Provision within Fields in Trust) - these include multi-use games areas (MUGA), skateboard parks, outdoor gym equipment and teen shelters, aimed at teenagers and young adults, with a minimum size of 800m<sup>2</sup> and a 30m buffer zone.

Further details on the characteristics of LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs are provided in Appendix 5a.

*Table 5: Gedling Borough Council play area categories (the minimum number of play units is dependent on the size of the play facility)*

Play area type	Min. size equipped play area	Min. no. of play units	Age
LAP	100m <sup>2</sup>	Less than 5 types of play unit	Up to 5 years
LEAP	400m <sup>2</sup> , 600m <sup>2</sup> and 800m <sup>2</sup>	5, 6 and 7 types of play unit	6-8 years
NEAP	1,000m <sup>2</sup> , 1,200m <sup>2</sup> and 1,400m <sup>2</sup>	8, 9 and 10 types of play unit	9-12 years
Informal Play Facilities	800m <sup>2</sup>	N/A	Teenagers and Young Adults

*Note: For planning purposes, the same equipped play area designations are used for calculating section 106 and community infrastructure levy contributions from new housing developments for open space provision including children's play areas and informal sports facilities. Such calculations can be found within the supplementary planning guidance for open space provision published by the council.*

## 7.3 Where are we now?

### 7.3.1 Quantity

Table 6 below shows that there are a total of 50 equipped play areas in the borough, covering an area of 7.57ha. This comprises 3.87ha of Gedling Borough Council owned facilities, 3.6ha of Parish owned facilities and 0.1ha of joint use play areas. Taking into account the population of children up to the age of 18, who comprise 24,722 or 20.9% of the borough's overall population<sup>31</sup>, the provision of equipped play facilities in the borough equates to 0.3ha per 1,000 population. Across the borough, there are a total of 53 informal play facilities that include MUGAs, skateboard parks, outdoor gym equipment and teen shelters, covering an area of 5ha. The provision of informal play facilities equates to 0.2ha per 1,000 population of children up to 18-years of age.

Table 6: Summary of the number and area of equipped and informal play facilities in the borough

Equipped Play Facilities	Quantity	Total Area (ha)
LAP	12	0.71
LEAP	22	2.95
NEAP	16	3.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>7.57</b>
Informal Play Facilities	Quantity	Total Area (ha)
MUGA	29	4.45
Skateboard Parks	10	0.56
Outdoor Gym Equipment	6	0.006
Teen Shelters	8	0.0008
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>12.1</b>

<sup>31</sup> ONS (2019) Families and Households



Table 7 below shows that, overall, there is a greater number of play facilities within the urban conurbation of the borough. However, when comparing the distribution of equipped play facilities per population up to the age of 18 between the rural and urban areas, there is an uneven distribution. This results in a provision of 0.19 and 0.68ha per 1,000 population in the respective urban and rural wards of the borough. The allocation of informal play facilities, however, is spread more evenly between the rural and urban areas, with a 0.04ha per 1,000 population lower provision in the rural areas compared to the urban conurbation. The disparity in the per population provision of play facilities across the borough is related to density of the urban conurbation, which means that the establishment of play facilities within these wards is a priority.

*Note: The population of the rural and urban areas has been calculated using the methodology outlined in section 3, and, in order to derive a population estimate for those up to the ages of 18, their proportion of the total overall population for the borough (20.9%) has been applied to the rural and urban population estimates. This results in a population of 19,786 in the urban, and 4,854 in the rural areas of the borough.*

Previous consultation concerning children's play provision was conducted as part of the public consultation and children and young people's consultation. At the time this revealed a lack of provision in the Mapperley Plains area, and therefore, in order to reduce this deficiency, a play facility on Bailey Drive at the top of Arnold Lane was installed, in addition, a facility on Haywood road has been built using S106 funds. There was also demand for more play provision in Calverton and following the publication of the 2012 green space strategy, an equipped play facility was created at Stonebridge Way. In addition to the three play facilities mentioned above, a further four have been installed, these are located at Ley Street, Conway Road, Gelding Country Park and Ashington Drive. The Council is currently reviewing its Supplementary Planning Guidance for Open Space Provision (2001), the new document will indicate what open space is required in new development proposals and guidance on the S106 financial contributions required.

The feedback from the consultation suggested that the largest deficiency in provision was for play facilities aimed at older children and consequently, new skate park facilities have been installed at Burton Road Jubilee Park, Colwick Recreation Ground and King George V Park in Arnold. Furthermore, new multi-use games courts have been provided at Bestwood Village, Queensbower, Muirfield and Onchan Park Recreation Grounds.

Table 7: Audit of equipped and informal play facilities in the borough

**Equipped Play Facilities**

	Ward	Location	Category	Ha
Urban	Phoenix	Adbolton/Phoenix Avenue	LAP	0.04
		Stanhope School	LEAP	0.05
	Carlton	Oakdale Road Rec/Onchan Park	LEAP	0.7
	Carlton Hill	Albert Avenue/Carlton Hill	LEAP	0.06
		Carnarvon Grove	LAP	0.08
		Valley Road, Carlton	LEAP	0.05
		King George V, Standhill Rec	NEAP	0.08
	Ernehale	Arnot Hill Park	NEAP	0.12
		Arno Vale Road	NEAP	0.07
		King George V, Arnold	LEAP	0.04
	Porchester	Bailey Drive, Plains Road	LAP	0.04
		Digby Avenue/Golf Course	NEAP	0.04
		Haywood Road	LAP	0.08
	Woodthorpe	Breckhill Road	LEAP	0.12
		Thakerays Lane	LEAP	0.03
	Gedling	Burton Road	NEAP	0.5
		Lambley Lane Youth Area	NEAP	0.08
		Lambley Lane Children's Area	LAP	0.05
		Willow Park	LEAP	0.01
	Plains	Edison Way	LAP	0.03
		Coppice Farm	LEAP	0.05
	Cavendish	Cavendish Road	NEAP	0.6
	Redhill	Church Lane	LEAP	0.08
		Ashington Drive, The Point	LEAP	0.05
	Colwick	Colwick Rectory	NEAP	0.17
		Valeside Gardens	LAP	0.07
	Netherfield	Conway Road Rec/Carlton	LAP	0.12

		Jackie Bells Field	NEAP	0.08
		Ley Street	LAP	0.05
	Coppice	Killisick Rec	NEAP	0.06
	St Albans	Muirfield Road	LEAP	0.05
	Daybrook Road	Queensbower	NEAP	0.05
		Salop Street/Shelley Street	LEAP	0.05
<b>Urban Total</b>				<b>3.75</b>
<b>Rural</b>	Gedling/Plains	Gedling Country Park	NEAP	0.1
	Bestwood	Bestwood The Square	LEAP	0.1
		Bestwood Country Park Teenage	NEAP	0.08
		Bestwood Country Park Play Area	LEAP	0.06
	Calverton	Stonebridge Way, Calverton	LEAP	0.12
		James Seeley Park, Calverton	LAP	0.04
		William Lee Memorial Park	NEAP	0.07
	Ravenshead	Newstead School	LEAP	0.07
		Newstead Teenage	NEAP	0.06
		Linby Village Hall	LEAP	0.5
		Ravenshead Milton Drive	LEAP	0.01
		Ravenshead Haddon Road	LEAP	0.2
		Ravenshead Swallow Crescent	LAP	0.01
	Woodborough	Lingwood Lane	NEAP	1.75
	Dumbles	Catfoot Lane	LEAP	0.05
Trent Valley	Stoke Lane	LAP	0.1	
	Roberts Recreation Ground	LEAP	0.5	
<b>Rural Total</b>				<b>3.82</b>
<b>Total Equipped Play Areas</b>				<b>7.57</b>

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**Informal Play Facilities**

	Ward	Skatepark	Ha
<b>Urban</b>	Ernehale	Arnot Hill Park	0.06
		King George V, Arnold	0.06
	Gedling	Burton Road	0.05
		Lambley Lane	0.03
	Carlton Hill	King George V, Standill Rec	0.07
	Netherfield	Jackie Bells	0.03
	Colwick	Colwick Rec	0.1
<b>Urban Total</b>			<b>0.4</b>
<b>Rural</b>	Bestwood	Bestwood BMX, Bestwood Country Park Teenage (x2)	0.03
	Calverton	William Lee Memorial	0.07
	Newstead	Newstead Teenage	0.06
<b>Rural Total</b>			<b>0.16</b>
<b>Overall Total Skateparks</b>			<b>0.56</b>
	Ward	MUGA	Ha
<b>Urban</b>	Ernehale	Arno Vale	0.04
		Arnot Hill Park	0.04
	Coppice	Killisick Road	0.04
	Netherfield	Jackie Bells Field	0.04
		Conway Road Rec	0.04



		Deabil Street	0.04
	Cavendish	Cavendish Road	0.04
	Porchester	Digby Park	0.04
	Daybrook	Queensbower	0.04
	St Albans	Muirfield Road	0.04
	Redhill	Church Lane	0.04
		Redhill Academy	1
	Carlton	Oakdale Rec MUGA, Tennis Court and Table Tennis	0.2
	Carlton Hill	Valley Road	0.04
	Trent Valley	Carlton Le Willows	1
	Plains	Arnold Hill Academy (X 6)	1
	Colwick	Colwick Rec	0.04
	Gedling	Lambley Lane	0.04
<b>Urban Total</b>			<b>3.8</b>
<b>Rural</b>	Bestwood	Bestwood CP	0.14
	Calverton	William Lee Memorial	0.04
	Newstead	Newstead MUGA	0.05
		Ravenshead Leisure Centre (X 3)	0.42
<b>Rural Total</b>			<b>0.65</b>
<b>Overall Total MUGA</b>			<b>4.45</b>
	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Gym Equipment</b>	<b>Ha</b>
<b>Urban</b>	Killisick	Killisick Rec	0.001
	Ernehale	King George V Arnold	0.001

	St Albans	Muirfield Road	0.001
	Gedling	Burton Road	0.001
	Carlton Hill	Honeywood Estate	0.001
<b>Urban Total</b>			<b>0.005</b>
<b>Rural</b>	Bestwood	Bestwood CP	0.001
<b>Rural Total</b>			<b>0.001</b>
<b>Overall Total Gym Equipment</b>			<b>0.006</b>
	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Youth Shelter</b>	<b>Ha</b>
<b>Urban</b>	Ernhale	Arnot Hill Park	0.0001
	Gedling	Lambley Lane Rec	0.0001
	Colwick	Colwick Rec 1	0.0001
		Colwick Rec 2	0.0001
	Netherfield	Jackie Bells Field	0.0001
	Porchester	Digby Avenue	0.0001
	Carlton Hill	King George V, Standill Rec	0.0001
<b>Urban Total</b>			<b>0.0007</b>
<b>Rural</b>	Newstead	Newstead	0.0001
<b>Rural Total</b>			<b>0.0001</b>

<b>Overall Total Youth Shelters</b>	<b>0.0008</b>
<b>Total Informal Play (Sports Facilities): Urban: 4.2 Rural: 0.81</b>	<b>5</b>

### 7.2.2 Quality

Public consultation results revealed that the overall quality rating of children’s play areas from those who responded was good. Table 8 below shows that 67% of responders felt the standard was either good or better. Although this is considered as very positive, when comparing respondent’s perception of the quality of children’s provision to other typologies, it was rated as the 6th highest in quality, indicating that there are still improvements to be made.

*Table 8: Public consultation ratings of children’s play areas*

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
23%	44%	26%	6%	1%

Since the 2012 public consultation, which returned comments on play facilities considered by respondents in need of updating, Bestwood Country Park, Muirfield Road Recreation Ground, Valeside Gardens, King George V, Arnot Hill Park, Salop Street, Carnarvon Grove Play Area and Burton Road Jubilee Park have all been refurbished, including the addition of a new Skate Park and Outdoor Gym Facility at Burton Road Jubilee Park. Breckhill Recreation Ground is shortly to be refurbished (Spring 2021) and depending on a current funding bid (Summer 2021), Killisick Recreation Ground is pending.

Following comments pertaining to a lack of facilities for particular age groups, Church Lane has been refurbished with new equipment to cater for both a younger and older demographic and Breckhill is soon to be. Arnovale has now been equipped with a multi-use games area for older children. In terms of facilities suitable for children with disabilities being made more accessible, Queensbower and Muirfield Road Recreation

Grounds have had wheelchair accessible paths installed to facilitate access to the playground facilities, whilst, Gedling Country Park, Arnot Hill Park, Haywood Road Recreation Ground, King George V Arnold and Conway Road Rec have all had play equipment installed suitable for those with disabilities.

Play areas should be designed to reduce situations that may be perceived by some as threatening and, therefore, the factors in Figure 8 below need careful consideration. Public consultation and the children's consultation reported issues concerning antisocial behaviour, including vandalism to play areas and the presence of gangs, who have been known to congregate in certain areas. However, this is addressed by the presence of community wardens and police community support officers in the borough.

Figure 8: What prevents children from feeling safe

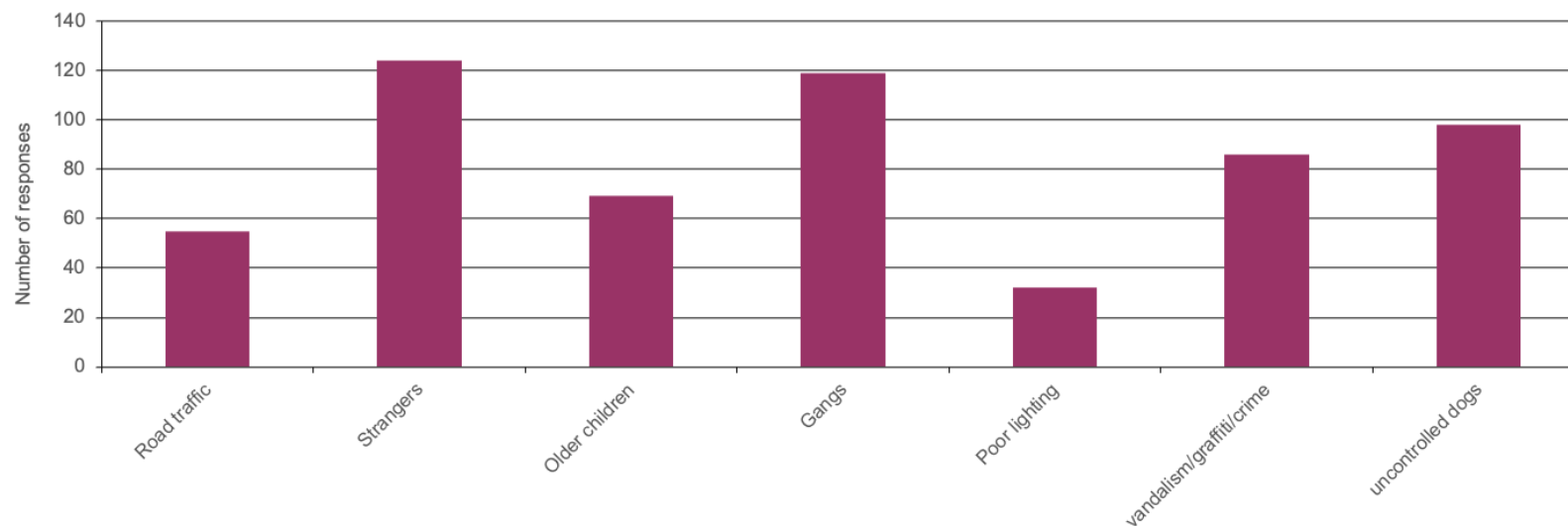


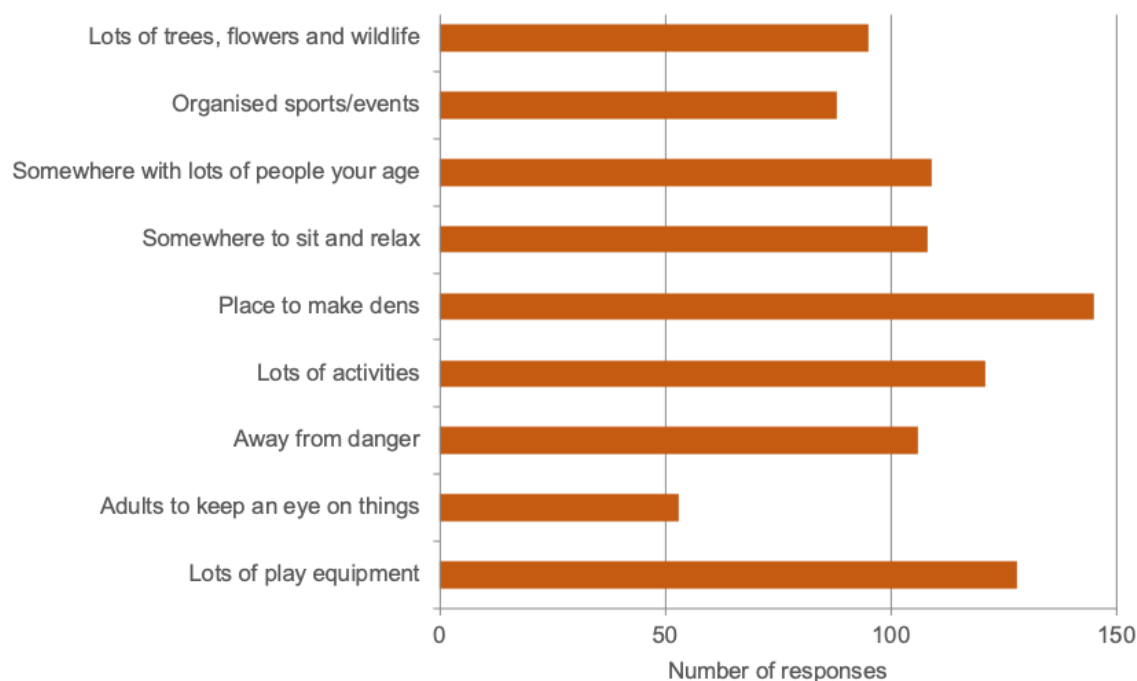
Figure 8 displays the results from the children's consultation, where children reported strangers and gangs as being the most significant issues preventing them from feeling safe when playing outside. In addition to what prevents children from feeling safe, the children were asked several questions concerning play spaces within the borough. The key findings are outlined below:

- 40% of children chose playing in the playgrounds or play areas as one of their most popular activities.
- 70% of children enjoy playing in large play areas compared to 30% of children who enjoy playing in small play areas.



Children were asked what improvements could be made to the play facilities in their area, the results are displayed in Figure 9. The most popular responses were 'places to make dens' and 'lots of play equipment'. Qualitative responses revealed a demand for new facilities which increase the element of risk through adventure and natural play such as woodland and rocks.

Figure 9: Improvements that children believed could be made to play facilities in the borough



### 7.2.2.1 Site Quality Audits

All fixed play areas in Gedling were audited taking account of Play England, Fields in Trust and ROSPA guidelines in order to establish local standards for the quality of play areas. This has enabled a quality score to be derived, which, depending on the attainment of certain criteria outlined within Appendix 5b, ranks facilities as poor, below average, average, good or excellent. This then allowed for children's play areas to be benchmarked across the borough.

Overall, 52% of the borough owned equipped play facilities are categorised as good or better, 29% rated as average, whilst the remaining 19% of play facilities fall below the 46% quality threshold, placing them into a category that falls below average. Based on the results of the quality audit, it is recommended that in order to improve the overall quality rating score in of Gedling borough-owned facilities, focus should be placed on those play facilities which have a score of below 46%.

Table 9: Value line analysis of play area quality for Gedling Borough Council owned sites

<30% <b>Poor</b>	31%-45% <b>Below Average</b>	46%-60% <b>Average</b>	61%-75% <b>Good</b>	76%< <b>Excellent</b>
Oakdale Play Area	Colwick Rectory Play Area	Newstead Village Play Areas	Digby Ave Play Area	Carnarvon Grove Play Area
Willow Park	Killisick Rec Play Area	Cavendish Rec Play Area	Coppice Farm Play Area	Salop Street Play Area
Edison Way Play Area		Adbolton Play Area	Stanhope School Play Area	Muirfield Rec Play Area
Lambley Lane Play Area		Arno-Vale Play Area	Albert Ave Play Area	Gedling Country Park Play Area
Jackie Bells Field Play Area		Standhill Rec Play Area	Arnot Hill Park Play Area	Haywood Road Play Area
		Church Lane Play Area	King George V Arnold	Breckhill Play Area
		Queens Bower Play area	Burton Road Rec Play Area	Ashington Drive/The Point
		Valley Road Play Area	Bailey Drive Play Area	Conway Road Rec
		Thackeray's Lane Play Area	Ley Street Play Area	
			Stonebridge Way Play Area	
			Bestwood Country Park Play Area	
			Valeside Gardens Play Area	

## 7.3 Accessibility

Fields in Trust advises that where possible, actual walking distance should be used to determine the catchment area of a particular play facility. This is supported by the public consultation, where 75% of respondents preferred to walk or cycle to such sites.

It is important that younger children have access to play space that is within an average of a 10-minute walking distance from home and that teenagers, who would be prepared to walk further to bigger and better facilities, have access to spaces to hang out independently with friends. Those children with a disability have identified a range of access needs which will be taken into consideration as part of any new area design and installation.

Public consultation revealed that the majority of respondents were satisfied with the distance they have to travel to play areas within the borough. 44% of respondents reported it took them less than five minutes to reach their nearest play facility, with 82% of respondents falling within a 10-minute travelling distance threshold, a time which resident's expressed satisfaction.



## 7.4 Setting the Standard

### 7.4.1 Quantity

For planning purposes, the recommended local standards are shown below, of which the standard for equipped play facilities reflect the recommended benchmark guidelines outlined by Fields in Trust<sup>28</sup>. For informal play facilities, the fields in trust recommended benchmark standard will be taken into consideration, however, the local standard chosen directly reflects the current provision of such facilities across the borough. This is because the density of the urban fabric will limit expansion of such provision, however, the council aspires to enhance provision where possible and in new housing developments.

**Quantity Standard**  
LAP, LEAP, NEAP: 0.25ha per 1,000  
population  
Informal Play Facilities: 0.2ha per 1,000  
population

### 7.4.2 Quality

The local quality standard set reflects the recommendations outlined within Play England's Quality in Play framework document<sup>32</sup>, which, in turn, will help ensure high levels of resident satisfaction.

**Quality Standard**  
A site providing a suitable mix of well-maintained formal equipment which provides an enriched play environment to encourage both formal and informal play and recreation by children and young people. A clean, safe and secure location with good access that includes ancillary facilities such as teen shelters, ball courts and skateboard areas and seating where appropriate. To strive for all play sites to have a quality assessment score of 46% or above.

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<sup>32</sup> Play England (2020); Quality in Play

### 6.4.3 Accessibility

Fields in Trust<sup>28</sup> recommends that equipped play areas should be located within a range of 100m to 1,000m walking distance from people's homes (LAPs = 100m, LEAPs = 400m and NEAPs = 1,000m), whilst other outdoor play facilities, a 700m walking distance away. Whilst the local accessibility standard has been influenced by the national benchmark standard, due to the urban housing in the borough, these national standards cannot always be met, and this has been reflected in the local accessibility standards set. These standards also account for local expectations and hence, the selected standards incorporate the findings derived from public consultation.

#### Accessibility Standard

All residents are to have access to a site with provision for children and young people within the distances stated below

LAP, LEAP: 5-minute walk/400m

NEAP: 15-minute walk/1,210m

Informal Play Facilities: 15-minute walk/1,210m

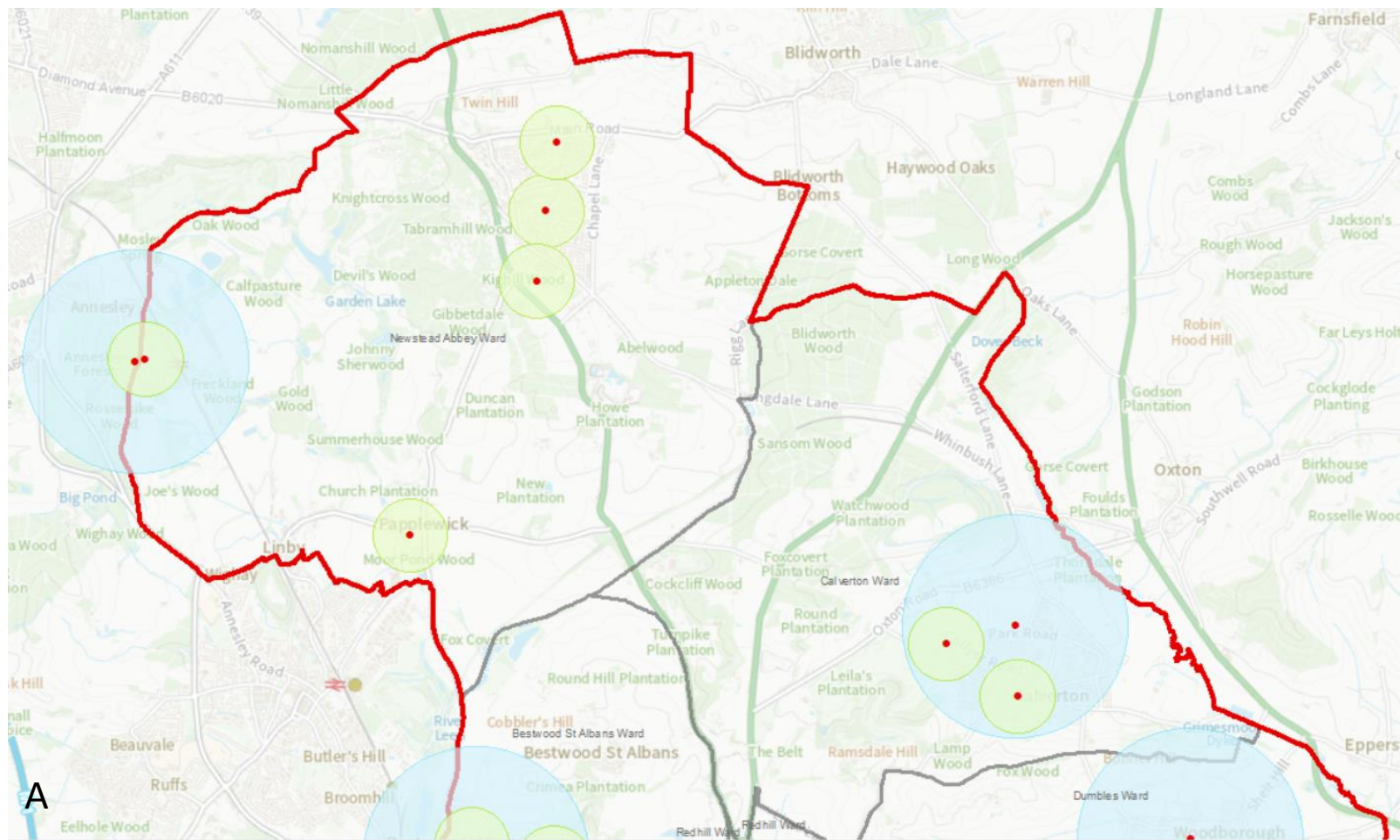
### 7.6 Application of Standards

Utilising the information provided in Gedling Borough's Five-Year Lands Supply Assessment as referenced in section 4, it is expected that the population in 2026 will rise by 2.3% to 123,356. Applying this percentage rise to the population of those in the borough below 18 years of age, we can estimate that the population of children will increase by 569 to 25,291 in 2026. This rise in population will not affect the provision of equipped nor informal play facilities in the borough, requiring no additional land to be allocated to the establishment of such facilities.

The local accessibility standards have been applied to each play facility in the borough and the results are displayed in the figures below. Comparing Figure 10A and 10B, it is evident that due to the density of the Nottingham conurbation, the south of the borough contains a greater number of play facilities than in the rural north. From Figure 10B, it is apparent that the walking distance catchment for equipped play facilities encompasses the majority of the urban areas, with some parts of the borough falling within the catchment area of more than one equipped play facility. Porchester is the only ward within the Nottingham conurbation containing a small zone of land that does not fall within the walking distance catchment for LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs. However, due to the larger walking distance catchment for informal play facilities, this area is covered by the catchment for informal play facilities, which cover a greater proportion of the borough.



Figure 10: Overview of the catchment area of equipped play areas in the borough using the local accessibility standard, where A, displays the north of the borough, and B, the south



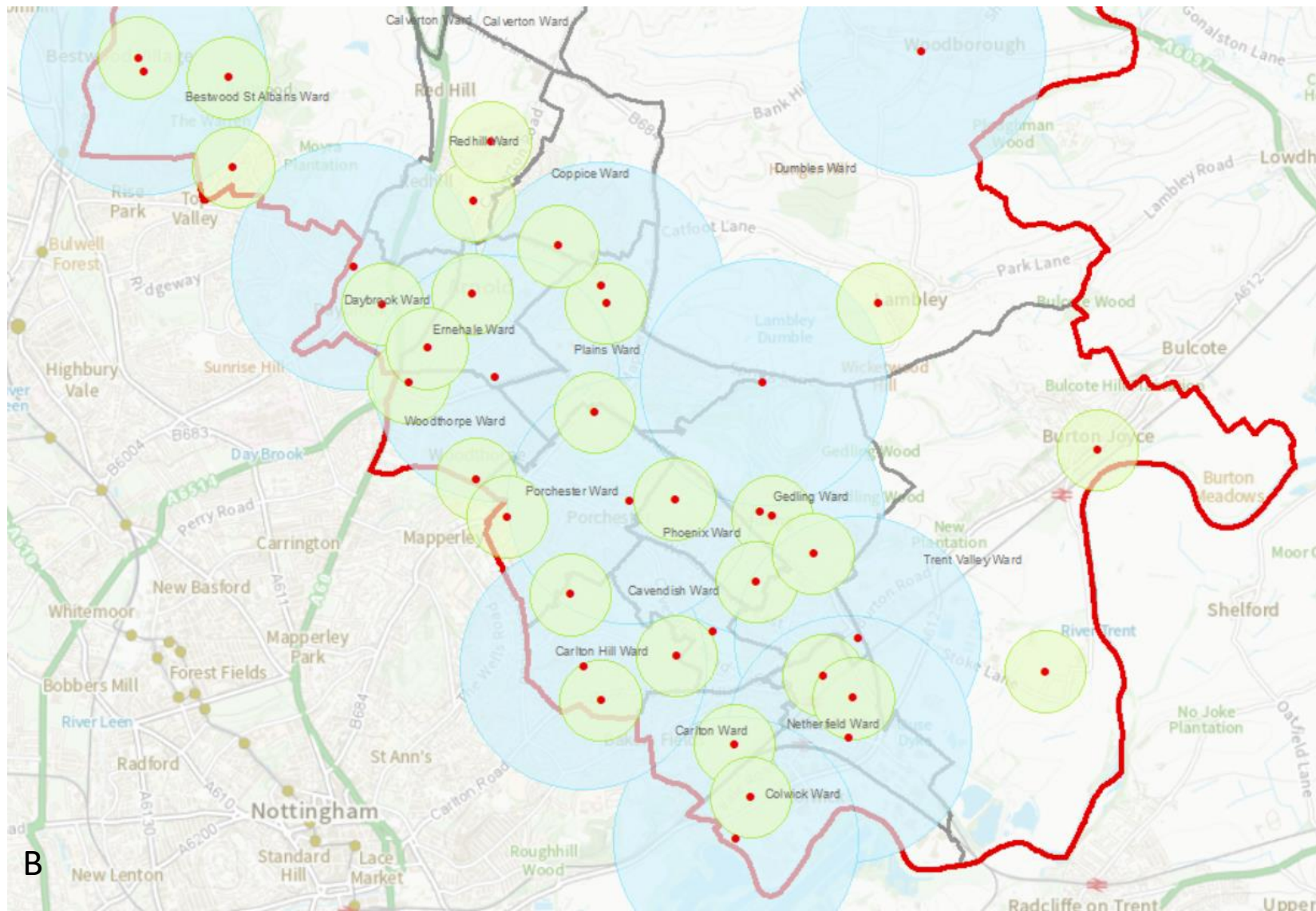
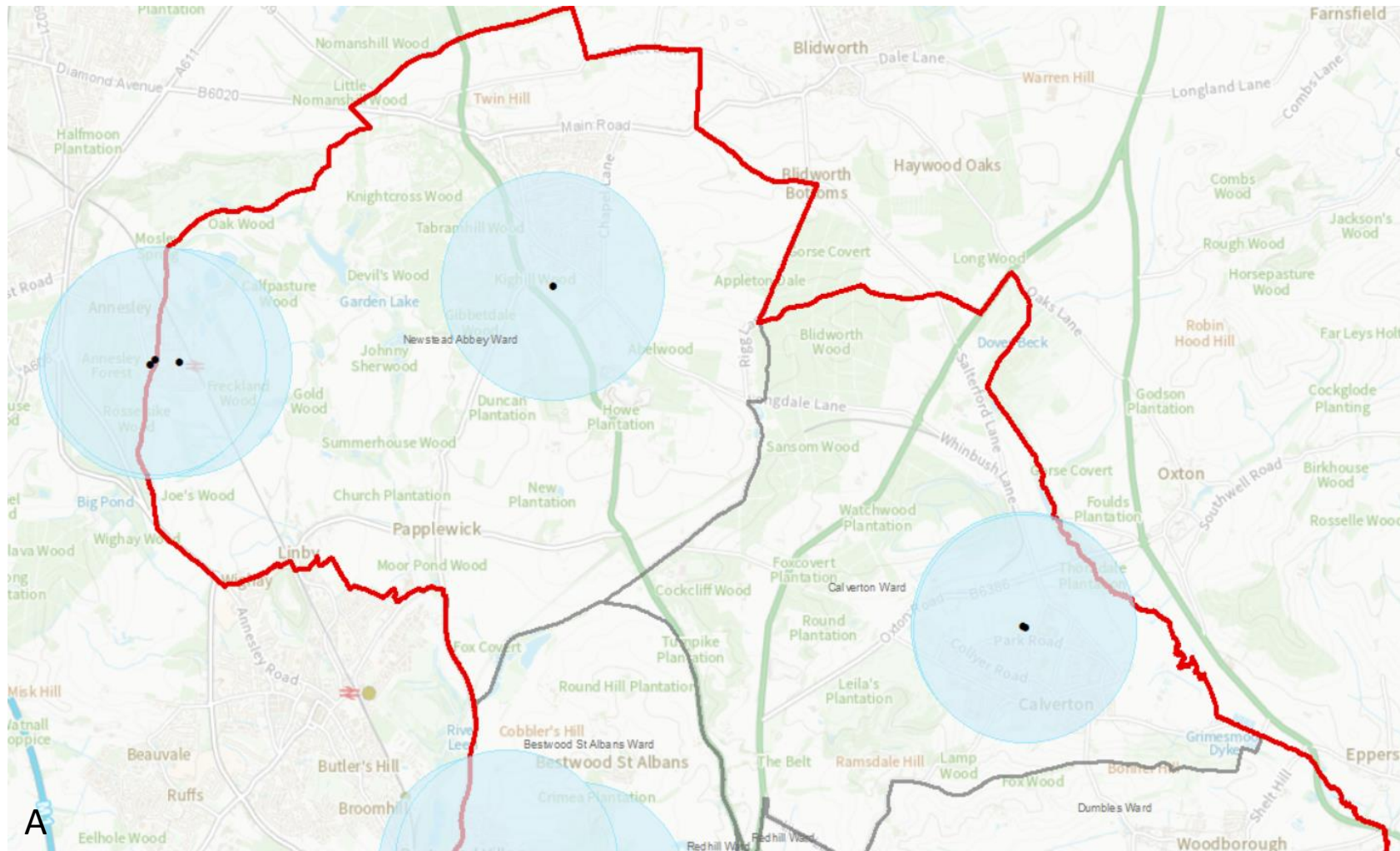




Figure 11: A map of the informal play facilities in the borough displaying the local accessibility catchment, where A, depicts the north of the borough, and B, the south



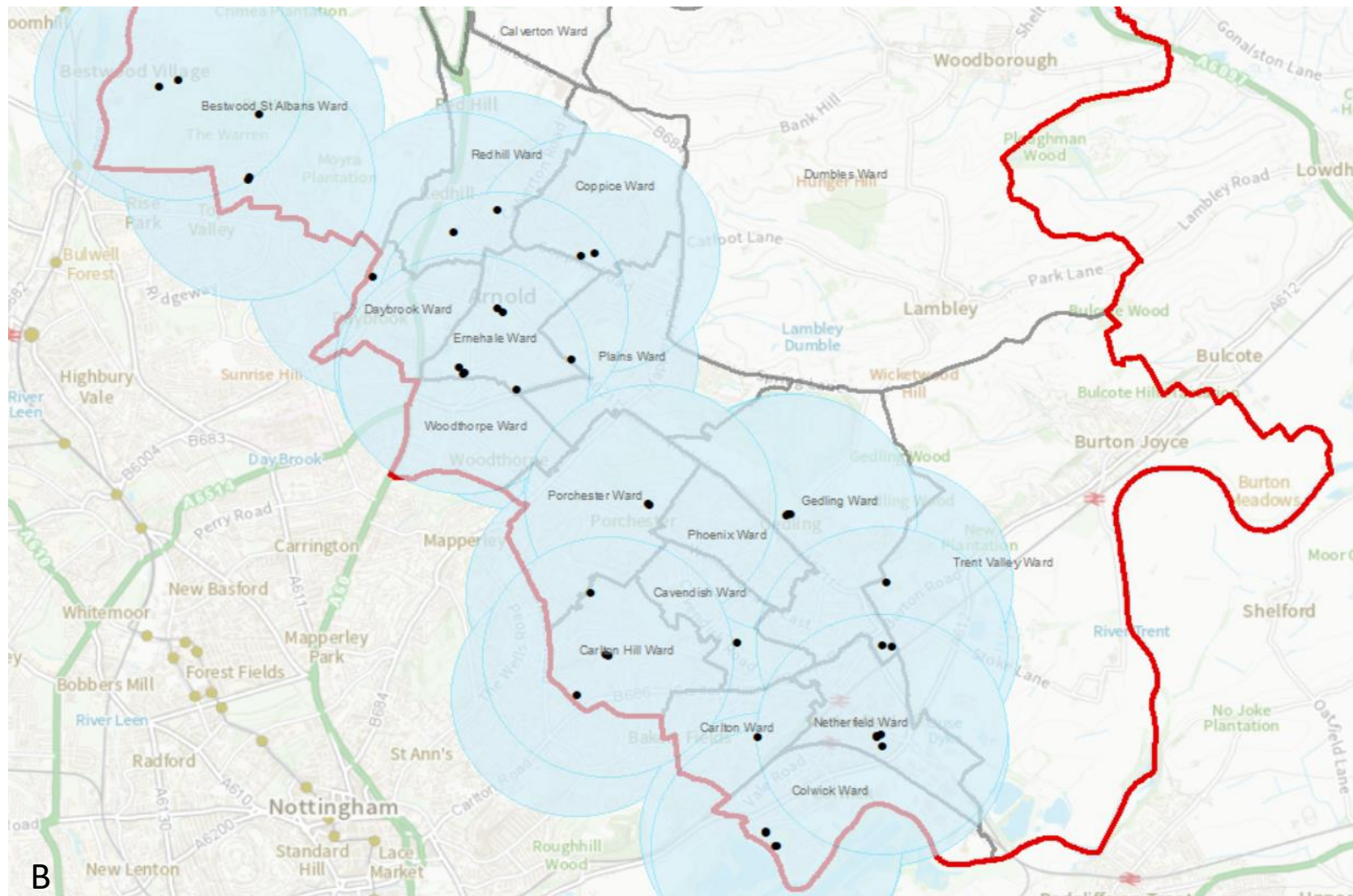
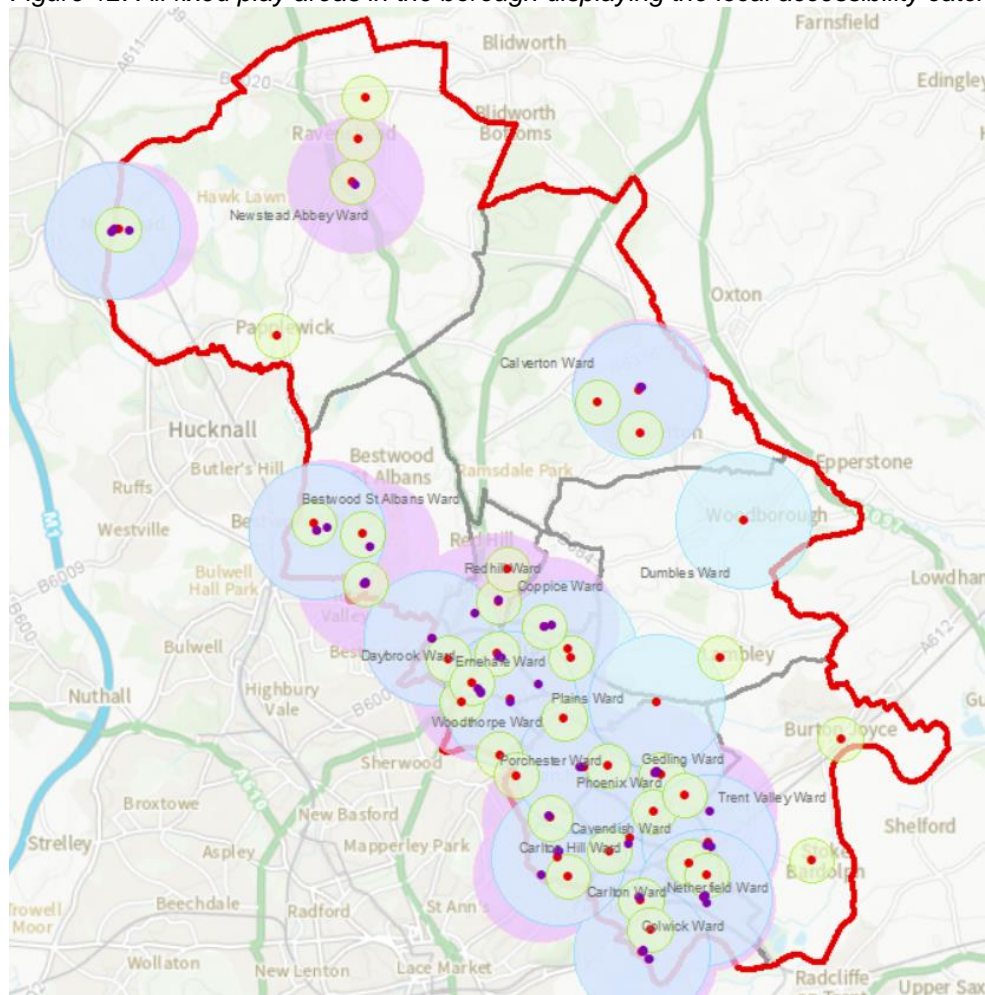




Figure 12 below combines all the equipped and informal play facilities in the borough, applying the local accessibility catchment area standards to each facility. When prioritising areas for new play provision, it is recommended to ensure there are sufficient facilities in all new housing developments which will serve to improve play provision in any deficient areas accordingly. For example, Ashington Drive play area. This new facility now serves to fill a deficiency in provision in the Redhill ward area.

Figure 12: All fixed play areas in the borough displaying the local accessibility catchment areas





## 7.6 Summary

The Council appreciates the benefits of play to a child or young person's cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being and therefore seeks to ensure the adequate provision and maintenance of play facilities in the borough, accounting for resident's aspirations.

The majority of provision for children and young people in the borough is of a satisfactory quality and easily accessible. However, it should be a priority of the council, working in partnership with the borough's parish council's to not only maintain, but to improve the quality of all located sites falling below a quality score of 46%.

Accounting for local needs, it may be possible where appropriate to construct play areas within sites where there are no such facilities, for example, within amenity green space and park and gardens. Although this would help achieve the local standard for this typology, it would reduce the hectareage of the other typologies, however, this is not considered to be a significant issue and therefore, it is recommended that each site is individually assessed to ensure that the provision for other typologies is maintained. To meet the aspirations of young people in the borough and combat vandalism and misuse, the use of natural features rather than traditional equipped play facilities should also be considered.

## 7.7 Recommendations

- Continue to maintain and enhance all children and young person's sites in the borough.
- Develop an action plan to upgrade all sites that fall below a 40% quality score, whilst striving to improve children and young people's experiences through landscape design and natural play.
- Investigate whether any amenity green space or park and garden site in areas where there is a deficiency of play equipment could be used to locate a play facility. When doing this, consideration needs to be given to deficiencies between different age groups.
- When constructing new play areas, ensure the Fields in Trust minimum acceptable size requirements are applied to guarantee that the correct area of play space is provided.
- Offer support to Parish Councils to help improve play provision in their area.
- Subject to the land being available, investigate the possibility for the provision of new play areas.

# 8 Outdoor Sports Facilities

## 8.1 Definition

Outdoor sports refer to physical activities undertaken in an open-air setting. The Council of Europe describes sport as ‘all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels<sup>33</sup>.’

## 8.2 Context

Outdoor sports facilities are described within the Gedling Local Planning Document as areas including natural surfaces, both publicly and privately owned which are used for sport and recreation. Examples include school playing fields, playing pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts<sup>34</sup>. Sport England highlights the value of sporting activities in their ability to contribute to physical and mental wellbeing, individual and economic development<sup>35</sup>. In its recently published strategy ‘Uniting the Movement’, Sport England<sup>36</sup> highlights the role that sport and physical activity has to the creation of ‘a nation of more equal, inclusive and connected communities’, where people can lead happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives.

Outdoor sports facilities within strategy document include:

- Football Pitches
- Cricket Pitches
- Rugby Union Pitches
- Artificial Grass Pitches
- Hockey
- Bowling Greens
- Tennis Courts
- Netball
- Athletics

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<sup>33</sup> Council of Europe (2001); Committee of Ministers; Recommendation No. R (92) 13 REV of the committee of ministers to member states on the revised European sports charter

<sup>34</sup> Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

<sup>35</sup> Sport England (2015) Getting Active Outdoors A study of Demography, Motivation, Participation and Provision in Outdoor Sport and Recreation in England

<sup>36</sup> Sport England (2021): Uniting the Movement

- Softball
- Golf Courses

## 8.3 Where are we now?

### 8.3.1 Quantity

The overall amount of land dedicated to outdoor sports facilities across the borough equates to 396ha, this is spread over a total of 92 sites. Of these 92 sites, 30 do not allow any form of community access. In addition to the fact that many sites do not allow for community access, it is important to consider that the total amount of hectares account for the whole of the recreation site which, in many cases incorporates facilities within other typologies such as provision for children and young people. Therefore, following Fields in Trust<sup>37</sup> standards, the data has been adjusted to take into account the footprint of the outdoor facility and only include those facilities which allow for community access. This results in a total of 306ha available for outdoor sports use as per Table 10, equating to 2.6ha per 1,000 population.

Table 10: Audit of outdoor sports facilities available for community use, a list of these sites is included in Appendix 6

Sport	No of Pitches	Total Area (ha)
Football (grass pitches)	106	90
Football & Hockey (3G ATP's)	13	3
Cricket	15	5.16
Rugby Union	12	14
Hockey	3	1.5
Bowling Greens	8	1.2
Tennis Courts	48	1.25
Netball	33	1.54
Athletics	1	0.14
Softball	1	0.5
Golf Courses	3	186.8

<sup>37</sup> Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)

<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>306</b>
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Public consultation indicates that there is a sufficient quantity of outdoor sports facilities in the borough.

### 8.3.1.1 Assessment of local demand

An audit of sports demand was undertaken in 2016 by the consultancy Knight Kavanagh and Page to develop the Gedling's Playing Pitch Strategy<sup>38</sup>, this involved consultation with sports clubs across the borough. Table 11 below provides a summary of the provisional shortfalls.

Table 11: Audit of the quantitative provisional shortfalls for outdoor sports facilities in the borough

Sport	Provisional Shortfall	Future Demand
Football (grass pitches)	11.25 adult match sessions 1.5 youth 11v11 match sessions 2 Youth 9v9 match sessions	13.75 adult match sessions 7 youth 11v11 match sessions 6.5 youth 9v9 match sessions
Football (3G AGPs)	5 full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting	
Cricket	Demand is currently met	Demand can be met
Rugby Union	5.25 senior match sessions	7.75 senior match sessions
Hockey	1 full sized AGP (given existing pitches are condemned)	1 full sized AGP (given existing pitches are condemned)
Bowling Greens	Demand is currently met	Demand can be met
Tennis Courts	Demand is currently met	Demand can be met

### 8.3.2 Quality

A non-technical visual pitch quality assessment was carried out based the scoring standards outlined in Table 12, derived from the NPFA (Field in Trust) guidelines which covered a basic assessment of the following:

- Grass Length/Sward Height Assessment
- Surface Drainage

<sup>38</sup> Gedling Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan August 2016

- Surface Hardness
- Pitch Markings
- Performance Quality Standards
- Sward Assessment
- Surface Level Assessment
- Pitch Dimensions and Orientation Assessment

Based on the facilities meeting the criteria above, sports facilities were then categorised into good, standard or poor-quality ratings as per Table 13.

Table 12: Local non-technical quality scoring standards based on the NPFA (Fields in Trust) guidance.

<b>&lt;15%</b>	<b>16%-30%</b>	<b>31%-45%</b>	<b>46%-60%</b>	<b>61%-75%</b>	<b>76%&lt;</b>
<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

Note: Where very poor, poor and below average equate to poor quality. Average and good, equates to standard quality. Excellent equates to good quality.

The rating of standard and good quality has been applied to pitches that have a good maintenance regime coupled with good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc. In terms of ancillary facilities, under these standards, quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking. Poor quality, in contrast, refers to pitches that have poor levels of maintenance coupled with inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to the inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior.

Table 13: Results of local non-technical visual pitch quality assessment based on NPFA (Field in Trust) quality scoring standards.

Sports	Good Quality	Standard Quality	Poor Quality
Football (grass pitches)	16%	71%	13%
Football (3G AGPs)	33%	15%	51%
Cricket	33.3%	53.3%	13.3%
Rugby Union	0%	70.6%	29.4%
Hockey	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Bowling Greens	66.7%	0%	33.3%



Tennis	33%	38%	29%
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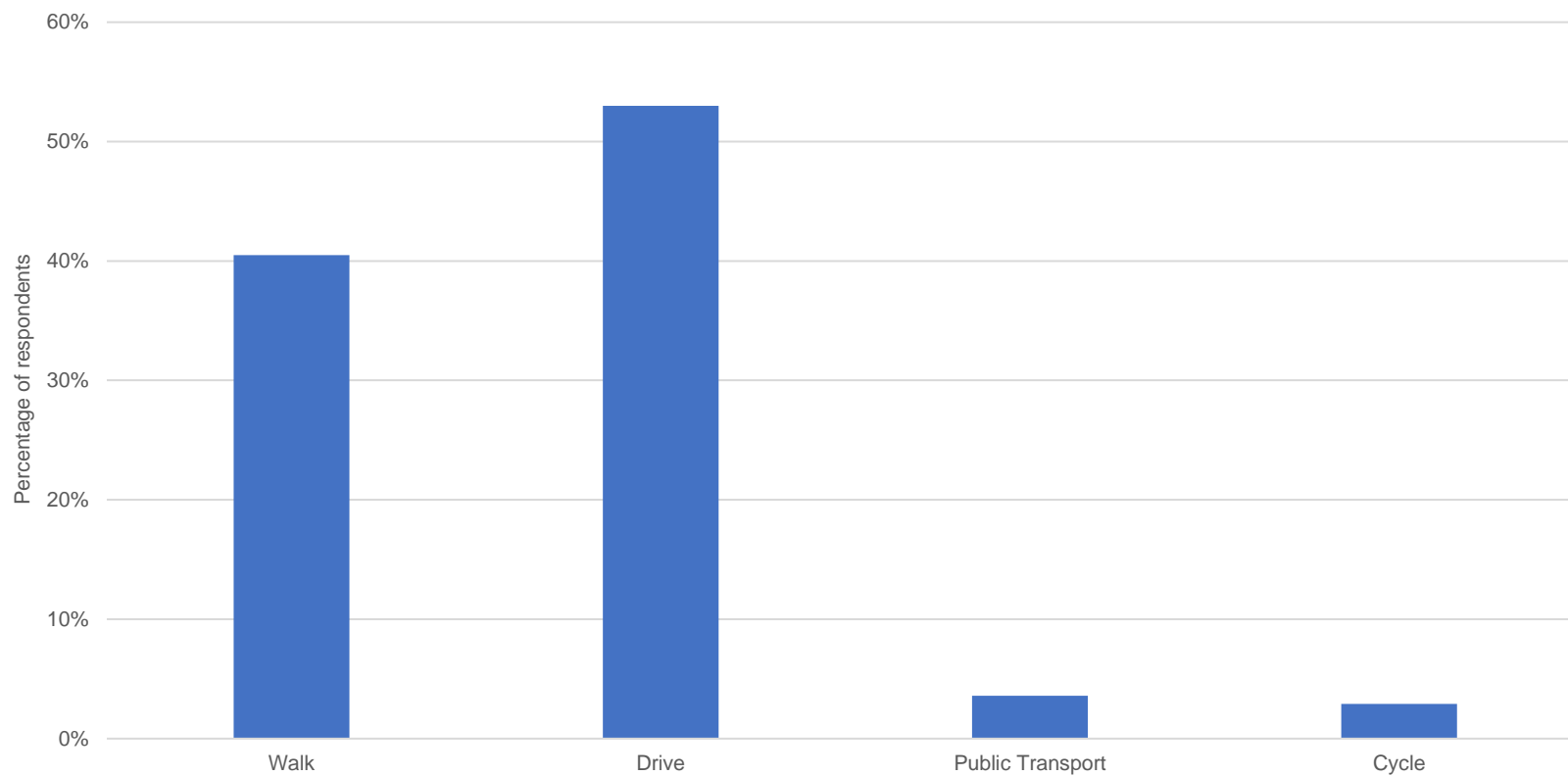
The main quality issues emerging from the Playing Pitch Strategy audit indirectly influence this strategy, however, the council does not own some of these facilities and can only improve quality where it is able.

- In terms of public and private changing facilities, there is a limited number, particularly to accommodate female football and rugby.
- At several public football pitches, poor playing surfaces were found due to overplay, poor drainage and limited maintenance due to council budgetary reductions.
- In the case of privately-run hockey facilities, the quality of the playing surface is affected by the age of pitches.
- In general, there is a lack of maintenance on both private and public bowling, cricket, rugby and football facilities across the borough.

### 8.3.3 Accessibility

Public consultation revealed that 99% of respondents felt that outdoor sports facilities were within an acceptable travelling distance from their homes. The 53% of respondents as per Table 13, who expressed a preference to travel by car to access outdoor sports facilities reported a desire to be within a distance of no less than 15 minutes' drive, whilst the 41% who preferred to travel by foot deemed a 10-minute or less walk as satisfactory.

Figure 13: Preferred mode of transport used to access outdoor sports facilities



## 8.4 Setting the Standard

### 8.4.1 Quantity

The recommended local quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities has been derived from the local needs consultation, audit of provision and the national benchmark quantity standard provided by Fields in Trust<sup>35</sup> of 1.6ha per 1,000 population. However, this standard should be applied for broad planning purposes only and used to determine the amount of space that should be set aside for outdoor sports facilities. Localised decisions as to the type of facilities that are required should instead then be taken.

**Quantity Standard**  
2.6ha per 1,000 population

### 8.4.2 Quality

The quality standard has been set based on the key aspirations of existing users, through quality assessments of each site and informed by the quality guideline outlined by Fields in Trust<sup>35</sup>.

**Quality Standard**  
All outdoor sports facilities should be free from dog fouling, vandalism, graffiti and litter, with level, well-drained and good quality surfaces. Sites should provide good quality ancillary facilities, where appropriate, including changing accommodation, toilets, car parking and facilities for a range of age groups. The maintenance and management of sites should continue to ensure safety and effective usage. Gedling Borough Council owned facilities should aim to meet the outdoor facility standard score of 60% as per the Fields in Trust national methodology for scoring quality standards.

### 8.4.3 Accessibility

The national accessibility benchmark standard for outdoor sports facilities is set by Fields in Trust<sup>35</sup>, which recommends that such facilities are to be within a 1,200m distance or 15-minute walk of people's homes. However, local consultation results revealed a threshold of a 10-minute walk as the time people were comfortable to travel to an outdoor sports facility. This is reflective of the fact that a large area of the borough is covered by the Nottingham conurbation and therefore, a local walking accessibility standard of 10-minutes has been selected – a value below that of the recommended national standard.

**Accessibility Standard**  
10-minute walk/800m  
15-minute drive/9660m (6 miles)

## 8.5 Application of Standards

Utilising the information provided in Gedling Borough's Five-Year Lands Supply Assessment as referenced in the parks and gardens section 4, it is expected that the population in 2026 will rise to 123,356. Therefore, if no additional outdoor sports facilities are provided, provision will be reduced to 2.48ha per 1,000, requiring an additional 14.2ha to be provided to maintain the local standard. The Local Football Facility Plan<sup>39</sup> for Gedling Borough has identified opportunities to target investment in 4 full-size 3G pitches, 7 small sided facilities, in addition to the improvement works to 46 grass pitches and the creation of 3 additional changing rooms/pavilions/clubhouses. If these projects are delivered, not only will the identified deficiencies in the supply of football pitches be alleviated, but quality will be significantly improved.

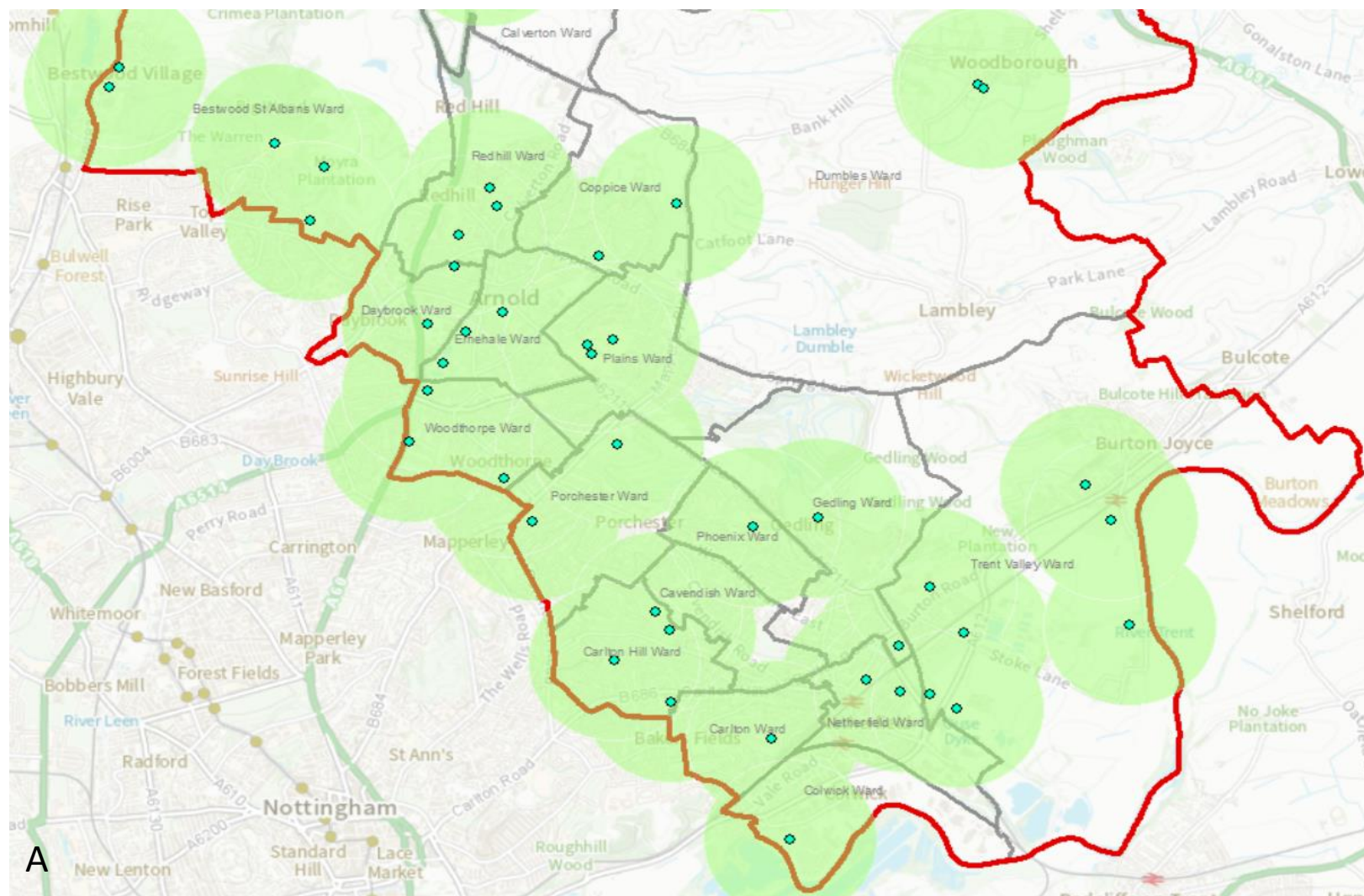
To identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with unmet local needs, we apply only the accessibility standard for this typology. This is because a quantity standard for outdoor sports provision can be misleading as different outdoor sporting facilities have differing hectares, e.g., a golf course is incomparable with an outdoor bowling facility in terms of size. A 15-minute drive has been based on driving 24 miles per hour which equates to 6 miles. Within a 15-minute drive, a person can travel across a large proportion of the borough and therefore, without using a geographical information system, it is evident that there is an adequate supply of outdoor sports provision across the borough available for community use, with no areas in the borough that do not fall within the 15-minute catchment drive to an outdoor sports facility.

Figure 14A and 14B show that several areas within the borough are not within the 10-minute walking catchment of community outdoor sports facilities. The main areas include the north of Ravenshead ward, Mapperley Plains south, the south of Kingswell ward and the majority of the Porchester ward. The only outdoor provision located outside of the borough boundaries that are within a walking distance from Gedling borough residents are those located at Woodthorpe Grange. Consultation with sports clubs shows that for those who belong to a club, travelling distance from home to the outdoor sports facility varies. Generally, the acceptable travelling time is longer than that obtained during the public consultation and therefore, it is recommended that this is considered when identifying suitable locations for sports clubs in the future.

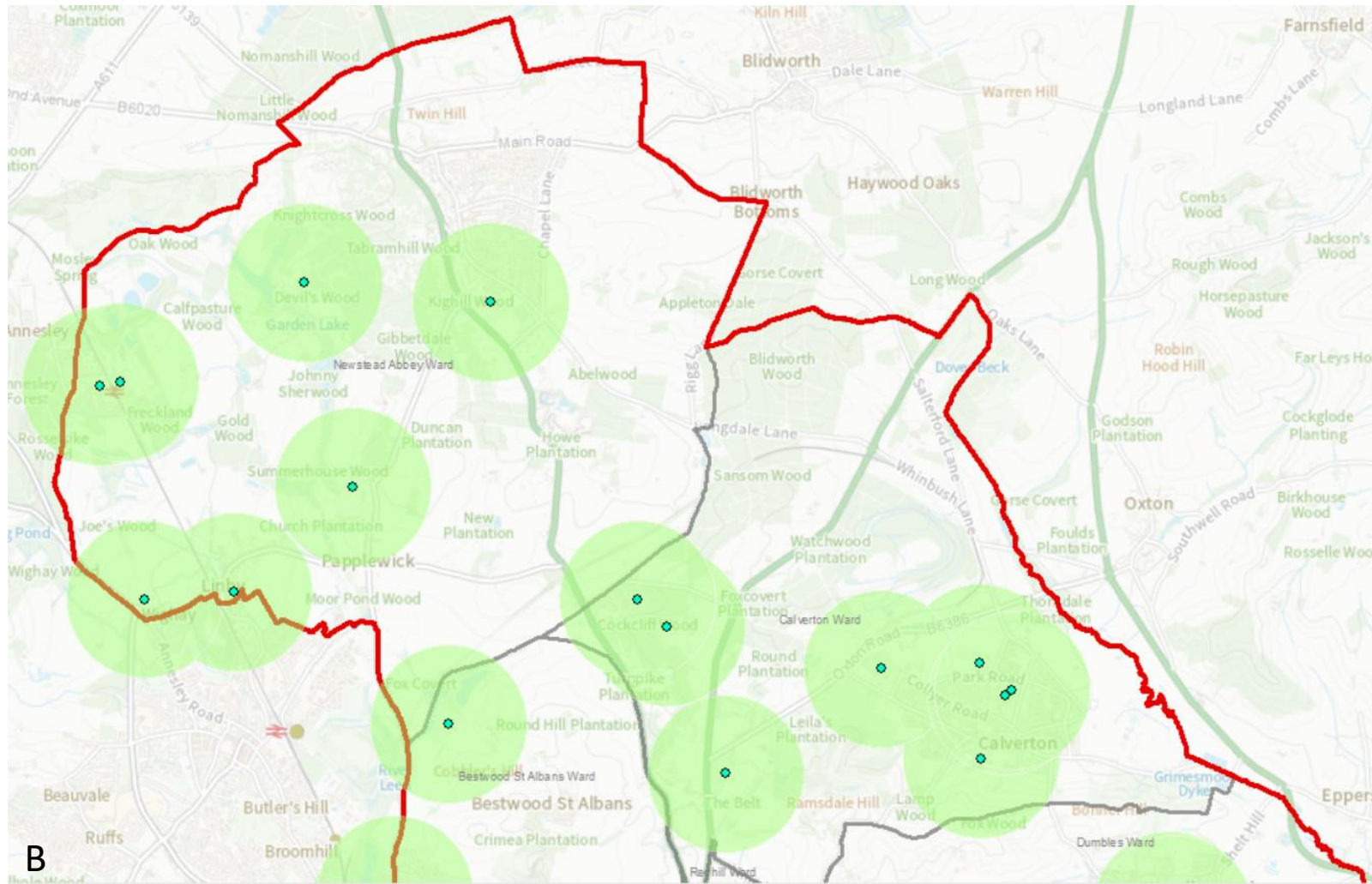
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<sup>39</sup> Football Foundation (2019) Gedling Local Football Facility Action Plan

Figure 14: Maps displaying a ten-minute walking catchment distance from outdoor sports facilities, excluding inaccessible facilities for clubs audited in A, the south of the borough and B, the north of the borough







## 8.6 Summary

The provision of outdoor sports facilities creates an environment that promotes physical activity and active lifestyles which in turn, help to contribute to improved health and wellbeing outcomes and fosters social and community development. Across the borough, sports clubs report a static or steady increase in membership, however the need for a specific type of pitch varies throughout.

Initial findings justify the case for seeking additional playing pitches from new development. The 2016 Playing Pitch strategy revised in 2018, evidences that some demand is now being met through the recently funded 3G sports facilities at both Redhill Leisure Centre and Carlton Le Willows Academy. Additionally, the borough's academies have realised the benefit of offering their pitches at weekends and in the evenings when they are not in use, as an income-generating initiative. This has resulted in Gedling Southbank Football Club, in particular, relocating from existing borough pitches to use the academy facilities, which has freed up some short-term capacity. Work has also been undertaken to improve the quality of existing outdoor sports provision, particularly at Breckhill and is ongoing at Lambley Lane Recreation Grounds. The strategic site allocations in the Aligned Core Strategy and non –strategic site allocations in the local planning document indicate that contributions will be sought for open space, which may include on or off site provision for sports pitches. This in turn, should help encourage greater participation in sport and recreation.

## 8.7 Recommendations

- Protect existing sports and recreation facilities from redevelopment.
- Improve the quality of sports pitches through improved maintenance regimes.
- Acquire new sports facilities on larger developments e.g., the forthcoming Teal Close football pitches.
- Develop and ensure access to sufficient changing provision particularly at Rugby and Football facilities e.g., Lambley Lane.
- Work with educational establishments to maximise and secure access to pitches on education sites in order to help address future demand for pitches for the local community.
- Continue to seek funding opportunities for the provision of 3G playing surfaces taking into account future demand for football in the south of the borough and meet the demands for rugby in the north of the borough.



# 9 Allotments and Community Gardens



## 9.1 Definition

The Allotments Act 1925 defines the term allotment as 'an allotment garden, or any parcel of land not more than five acres in extent cultivated or intended to be cultivated as a garden farm, or partly as a garden farm and partly as a farm.' An 'allotment garden' is defined in the Allotments Act 1922 as 'an allotment not exceeding 40 poles (or 1,000m<sup>2</sup>) which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of fruit or vegetables for consumption by himself and his family<sup>40</sup>.'

## 9.2 Context

Like other green space typologies, allotments can provide several wider benefits to the community as well as the primary use of growing produce. Within Policy LPD20 of the Local Planning Document<sup>41</sup>, allotment and community gardens are described as areas of land that provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion, which may also include urban farms. The wider benefits include:

<sup>40</sup> Memorandum by the Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions (AL 23): The Future for Allotments (1998)

<sup>41</sup> Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

- bringing together people of different cultural backgrounds, in turn, promoting social cohesion
- improving physical and mental health
- providing a source of recreation
- providing a wider contribution to green space within the borough

The benefits outlined above are recognised within the Local Government Association Document - Growing in the community<sup>42</sup>, published to 'assist those responsible for managing allotments to work efficiently and effectively by emulating examples of good practice.' The document also seeks to support allotment stakeholders to understand the opportunities that allotments provide for the attainment of multiple and inter-related benefits.

## 9.3 Where are we now?

### 9.3.1 Quantity

Overall, as per Table 14, there are fourteen allotment sites in the borough, consisting of 862 allotment plots covering an estimated 29.32ha. Following the recommendations of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners<sup>43</sup>, provision is measured on a per household basis which assumes that two people reside in a single household. The current population of the borough is 117,896 which when divided by two to account for two person households, results in a current provision of 14.6 allotments per 1,000 households.

Table 14: Audit of allotments in the borough

Allotment Name and Area	Urban/Rural	Management and Responsibility	Site Area (ha)	Number of Plots
<b>Arnold &amp; Redhill</b>				
Gedling Grove	Urban	Trustees	1.28	46
Howbeck Road	Urban	GBC	0.55	20

<sup>42</sup> Local Government Association (2015) Growing in the community (second edition)

<sup>43</sup> The National Allotment Society; How to get an allotment

Killisick, Hawthorn Crescent	Urban	GBC	0.84	27
Leapool, Redhill	Urban	Trustees	2.61	97
Rookery Gardens	Urban	GBC	0.17	9
<b>Burton Joyce</b>				
Crifftin Road/ Trent Lane	Rural	Parish	4.3	89
<b>Calverton</b>				
Bonner Lane/ Paddock Close	Rural	Parish	2.5	60
Collyer Road	Rural	Parish	1.89	66
<b>Carlton</b>				
Robin Hood Cavendish Road/ Huckerbys Field	Urban	Trustees	4.69	130
<b>Gedling</b>				
Stoke Lane & Victoria Allotments	Urban	Trustees	5.43	209
<b>Netherfield</b>				
Chandos Street	Urban	Trustees	1.76	56
<b>Newstead</b>				
Tilford	Rural	Parish	0.05	8
Botton Gardens	Rural	Parish	2.25	15
<b>Woodborough</b>				
Foxwood Lane	Rural	Parish	1	30
<b>Total</b>			<b>29.32</b>	<b>862</b>



Gedling Borough Council is responsible for eight allotment sites within the urban conurbation, comprised of 579 allotment plots, which occupy an area of 17.3ha. Leapool, Gedling Grove, Chandos Street, Robin Hood and Stoke Lane allotments are operated through self-managed trustee associations. Those at Killisick, Howbeck Road and Rookery Gardens are managed directly by Gedling Borough Council PASC services. Allotments within the rural areas of the borough are managed by the parish councils at Bonner Lane, Collyer Road, Trent Lane, Tilford Road, Botton Gardens and Foxwood Lane. These are comprised of a total of 262 occupying an area of 12ha. Out of the rural wards, there is no provision of allotments within the catchments of Ravenshead and Lambley. Lambley village, however, is within the driving catchment area of Woodborough's parish council's allotment provision and those in the urban conurbation of the borough. Based on a household count of 58,948 in the urban areas of the borough and a total of 870 allotment plots, the current provision of allotments equates to 15 allotments per 1,000 households.

Conversation with the parishes, allotment trustees and council owned allotment plot holders evidenced that demand is outstripping supply for allotment plots. This is shown by the waiting list figures displayed within Table 15. Allotment sites with the greatest demand are found at Stoke Lane and Howbeck in Arnold. It is important to note, however, that residents often apply for plots at various sites simultaneously and therefore, the exact level of demand may be difficult to ascertain. Furthermore, allotment demand has seen a significant increase during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to question whether or not this trend is likely to continue.

*Table 15: September 2020 allotment waiting list figures*

Allotment Site	Waiting List Totals
Stoke Lane	29
Robin Hood	9
Gedling Grove	7
Leapool	9
Chandos Street	8
Killisick	18
Howbeck	27
Rookery Gardens	18
Parishes	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>

### 9.3.2 Quality

Public consultation revealed that the overall quality of allotments was good, with 67% of respondents rating the quality of allotments as good or better (as per Table 16).

Table 16: Public consultation quality rating of allotments and community gardens

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
29%	38%	27%	3%	3%

Allotment plot holders were asked how they would rate the quality of their allotments, as evidenced from Table 17 below, all sites in the borough except for Newstead were rated at a minimum standard of good.

Table 17: Allotment plot holders' quality rating

Allotment Site	Standard Rating
Leapool	Good
Stoke Lane	Good
Chandos	Excellent
Gedling Grove	Good
Howbeck Allotment Site	Good
Killisick Allotment	Good
Rookery Gardens	Good
Robin Hood	Good
Trent Lane	Good
Newstead (*2)	Average
Calverton (*2)	Good
Woodborough	Good

The main issues raised by those who manage the allotments in the borough and what the managers felt should be the priorities for future are listed below:

- No Toilets (Collyer Road)
- Vandalism (Chandos, Stoke Lane, Robin Hood, Collyer Road, Newstead)
- Availability of land
- Expectations of new allotment holders – turnover among new plot holders remains high due to plot condition on starting and an underestimation of the time and hard work involved in allotment gardening
- Poor service from the council concerning repairs (Chandos, Stoke Lane) and identifying more land
- Water supply (Trent Lane, Robin Hood, Newstead)
- Poor dissemination of good practice
- Voluntary nature of allotment committees

For additional details about the facilities at each allotment site, please refer to Appendix 7.

### 9.3.3 Accessibility

Public consultation revealed that 68% of users are within an average of a 10-minute driving distance from their allotment site, with 76% of non-regular users stating that they similarly within a 10-minute drive to an allotment site. This indicates that there are no significant issues with the current location of allotments.

## 9.4 Setting the standard

### 9.4.1 Quantity

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners<sup>42</sup> recommends that the minimum provision of allotments should be 20 standard plots of 250m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 households or 1 plot per every 50 households. This information has been used to set the quantity standard for Gedling.

**Quantity Standard**  
20 allotment plots per 1,000 households

### 9.4.2 Quality

There are no definitive national or local standards for allotment quality provision and, therefore, consultation has informed the borough's allotment quality standards.

**Quality Standard**  
A clean, well-kept and secure site with clearly marked pathways to and within the site that encourages sustainable communities, biodiversity and healthy living with appropriate ancillary facilities to meet local needs.

### 9.4.3 Accessibility

Two accessibility standards have been set, as the vast majority of plot holders either drive or walk to their allotments. As there are no definitive national and local accessibility standards for allotments, the standard has been derived from consultation findings, where allotment users reported a driving time between 5-10 minutes and walking time of 10-20 minutes, therefore the upper bounds of these ranges have been selected.

**Accessibility Standard**  
20-minute walk/1610m  
10-minute drive/6440m (4 miles)

## 9.5 Application of standards

### 9.5.1 Quantity

Upon application of the proposed quantity standards, it is evident that there is a deficiency in the number of allotments within the borough. To satisfy the proposed quantity standard based on the current number of households within the borough, a total of 1,179 allotment plots are required, meaning an additional 317 plots are needed, which would encompass an estimated area of 7.9ha (based on each allotment plot being 250m<sup>2</sup>).

To account for the 2,730 increase in households expected in the borough by 2026, 55 allotment plots are required to maintain the quantity standard. Therefore, in total, 372 allotment plots need to be created to meet the quantity standard by 2026, if each allotment plot is 250m<sup>2</sup>, this will equate to a total area of 9.3ha.

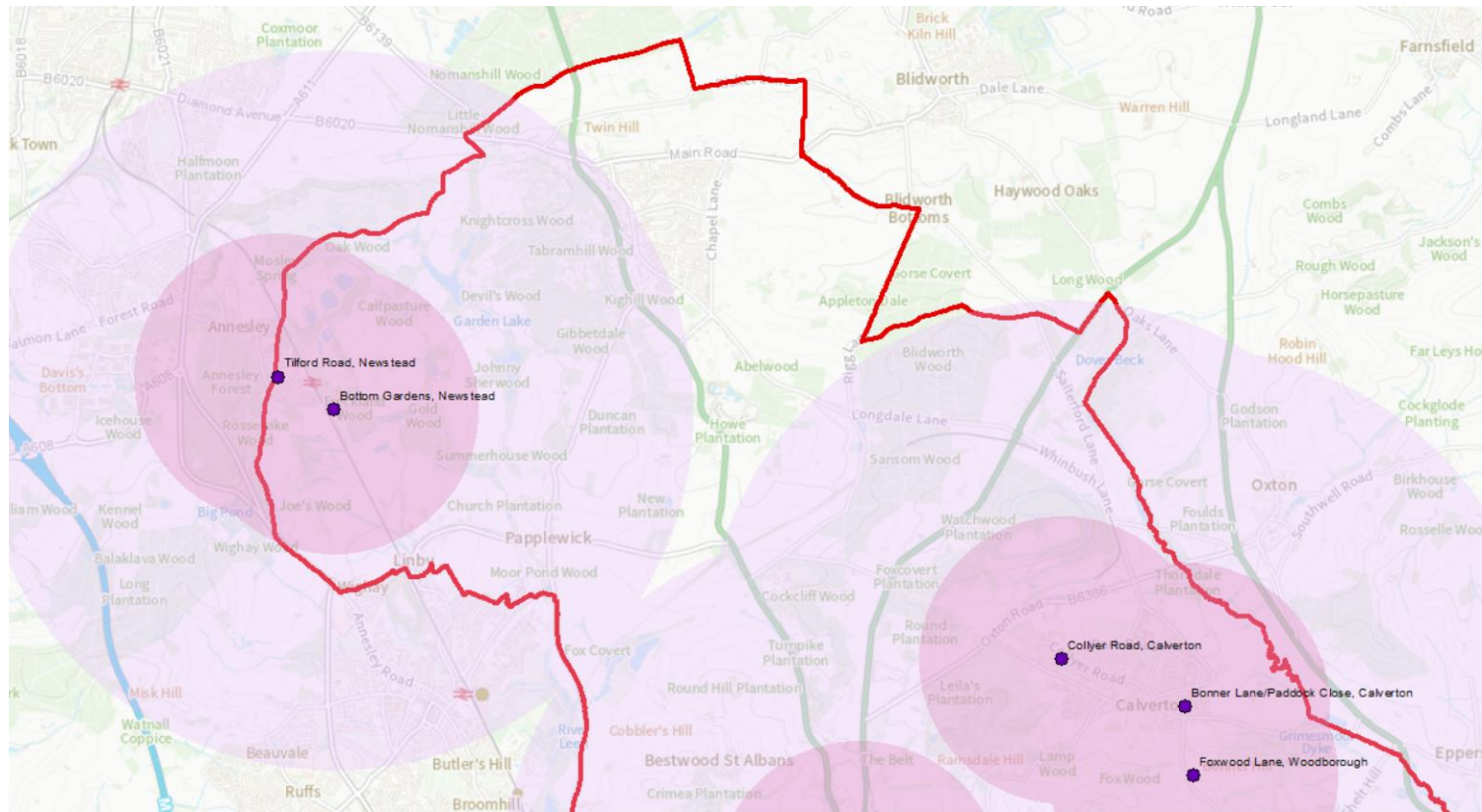
Clearly there is a shortfall in the supply of allotment plots. Some future demand could be met through a reduction in allotment plot size as many residents on the waiting list are wanting to take on smaller plots. Current demand within the parishes is difficult to accurately ascertain, particularly as housing developments come online. Therefore, it is necessary that close consultation is held with the parishes to ensure green space provision and in particular, allotment provision is accounted for. Gedling Borough Council has ensured that future developments at Teal Close, Top Wighay and Bestwood have been fully consulted to guarantee that allotments are provided for new residents.



## 9.5.2 Accessibility

Figures 15 and 16 below identify the accessibility boundaries of each site based on a 20-minute walk and a 10-minute drive. The purple and light blue shading denote the respective driving and walking catchment areas.

Figure 15: Allotments and threshold areas in the north of the borough



Upon assessment of Figure 15, it is evident that:

- Residents who live in Ravenshead do not have an allotment site within an acceptable travelling distance.
- Despite Bestwood village being within the driving catchment area of the Leapool allotment site, this is only approachable by road and hence it is considered to be an area of deficiency.
- Due to the location of the allotments in Woodborough, the majority of its residents do not have access to an allotment within the walking distance standard. However current usage indicates that the majority are willing to drive.
- Residents in Lambley have accessibility issues concerning being able to walk to allotments, however, they are within the driving accessibility standard of other sites in the urban areas of the borough such as Stoke Lane and Howbeck. Note: only Woodborough residents are allowed access to plots at Woodborough allotments due to parish policy.
- Within the urban areas, residents who live in the Bonington ward and on the west side of Daybrook ward do not have an allotment within the walking distance standard, however, are within a driving distance.





Figure 16: Allotments and threshold areas in the south of the borough

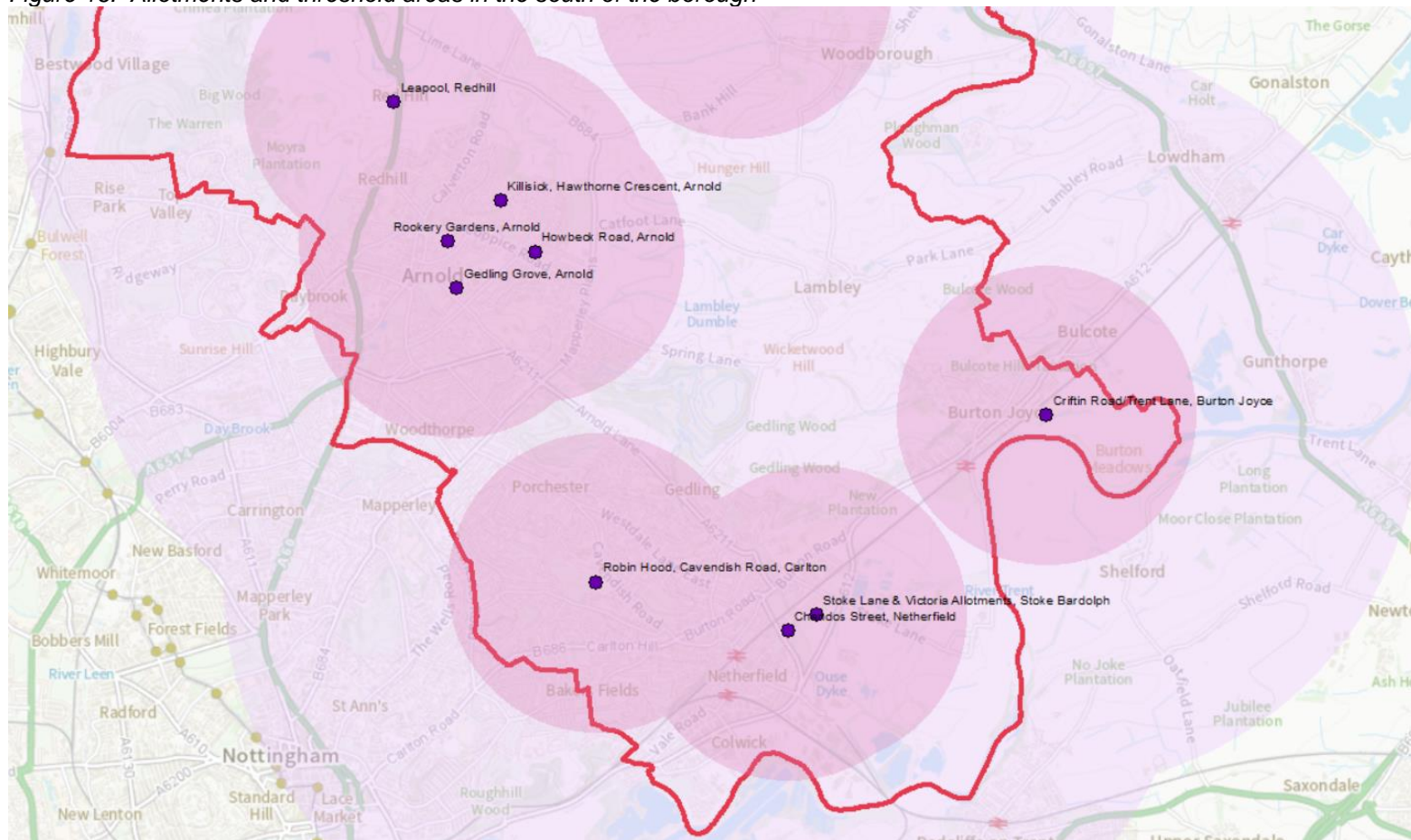


Figure 16 indicates that in the south of the borough, Gedling, Netherfield, Colwick, Porchester and Woodthorpe are highlighted as the areas that do not meet the walking accessibility threshold standard and are only considered accessible via vehicle, meeting the driving accessibility standard. In addition, the location of the allotments within Burton Joyce means that some areas of Burton Joyce are not within a 20-minute walking distance.

Deficiencies in allotment space have been identified throughout the borough by applying the local accessibility standards. The majority of these deficiencies arise from the allotments not being within the 20-minute walking distance threshold. However, public consultation revealed that

accessibility to the current provision of allotment plots in the borough is considered as acceptable. Taking this into account, it can be concluded that driving to allotment sites is an acceptable option but having an allotment site within walking distance is preferred.

## 9.6 Cross Boundary Analysis

When assessing the deficiencies in the provision of allotments, it is useful to identify whether there is scope to alleviate provisional deficiencies via the application of accessibility thresholds to sites across borough boundaries. The neighbouring borough councils of Nottingham City, Ashfield District and Newark and Sherwood all contain allotments which fall within the borough's walking and driving thresholds. However, these local authorities have policies that only permit their residents to use their allotment plots. Despite there being a possibility for applications from Gedling Borough's residents to be accepted, it is important to note that the residents of the neighbouring boroughs will always be prioritised.

## 9.7 Summary

Allotments and community gardens deliver a wide variety of benefits to plot holders, which in turn, are likely to improve physical and mental wellbeing outcomes. These include but are not limited to reduced levels of loneliness through the provision of community engagement opportunities, reductions in levels of stress and fatigue through contact with nature and, increased levels of physical activity. Furthermore, in the face of a growing population and climate change, allotments will increasingly provide a source of food security. These benefits strengthen the need for securing allotment provision in the borough, where currently, the demand for allotment plots is outpacing supply. All allotment sites should therefore be protected from development unless:

- Long term poor usage is shown, and an alternative location exists for site relocation.
- Alternative land can be utilised for allotment provision.

## 9.8 Recommendations

- Identify additional land for allotment provision, extensions to sites at Leapool on the north side of the borough and Stoke Lane in the south is recommended.
- Support Newstead and Lambley Parish Councils in meeting their current level of demand for allotment provision.
- Introduce a policy allowing one community allotment plot per Gedling Borough Council owned site.
- Assist allotment associations and parishes in site quality improvements, including seeking external funding.

# 10 Cemeteries and Churchyards



## 10.1 Definition

Churchyards are encompassed within the walled boundary of a church and are commonly used for burial purposes, whilst cemeteries are larger burial grounds located outside the confines of a church<sup>44</sup>.

## 10.2 Context

Although the primary purpose of cemeteries and churchyards is for the burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, these areas can provide a significant amount of green space, particularly in rural areas<sup>43</sup>. In other locations, they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of land but can provide areas of nature conservation and are often among the few areas of green space where the local community is able to have some contact with the natural world. Many cemeteries and churchyards have restricted access and as a result, due to being relatively undisturbed compared to other types of green space, a wide variety of flora and fauna can flourish<sup>45</sup>. Additionally, many burial grounds have architectural and

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<sup>44</sup> Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

<sup>45</sup> Department for Constitutional Affairs (2005); Guide for Burial Ground Managers



landscape interest, shedding light on a time gone by and they, therefore, can be considered as an irreplaceable historical resource<sup>46</sup>. Table 10.1 shows that, in Gedling, eight churches have listed status and hold heritage protection.

## 10.3 Where are we now?

### 10.3.1 Quantity

Within Gedling Borough, there are eight cemeteries and nine Church of England churchyards covering a total of 40.7ha. Of this total, Parish Councils are responsible for five cemeteries located at Woodborough, Lambley, Calverton, Burton Joyce and Newstead. The remaining three cemeteries are found at Gedling, Carlton and Redhill and owned by Gedling Borough Council. The churchyards in the borough are found within the churches listed below in Table 18. Maintenance at All Hallows, St Helen's, St Wilfred's, Holy Trinity and St Swithun falls to the responsibility of Gedling Borough Council as these are now closed to burials. St Mary's is also closed; however, Gedling Borough Council is only responsible for the maintenance of hedges at the site.

Table 18: Churchyards in Gedling and their listed status

Churchyards in Gedling Borough	Listed Status
All Hallows, Gedling	Grade 1
St Michael's, Linby	Grade 2
St James', Papplewick	Grade 1
St Helen's, Burton Joyce	Grade 1
St Luke's, Stoke Bardolph	Not Listed
St Wilfrid's, Calverton	Grade 2
Holy Trinity, Lambley	Grade 1
St Swithun Woodborough	Grade 2
St Mary's, Arnold	Grade 2

<sup>46</sup> CABE SPACE (2007); Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds

### 10.3.1.1 Demand for cemeteries

Upon examination of data related to population, burial rate and existing burial space capacity, the council can approximate the amount of land that is required for the burial of the borough's current and future population.

The ONS 2018 mid-year population estimates<sup>47</sup> indicate that the average mortality rate in England and Wales equates to 8.2 deaths per 1,000 population. Assessment of the population profile of Gedling demonstrates that it is comparable to that of England and Wales (see Table 19) and hence it is likely that the death rates for both regions are similar.

Table 19: Population profile of Gedling Borough and England and Wales, 2019 from ONS mid-year estimates

Age Group	Gedling	England and Wales
Under 16	17.9%	19.4%
16-24	8.7%	10.7%
25-64	52.4%	52.3%
65+	21.1%	18.8%

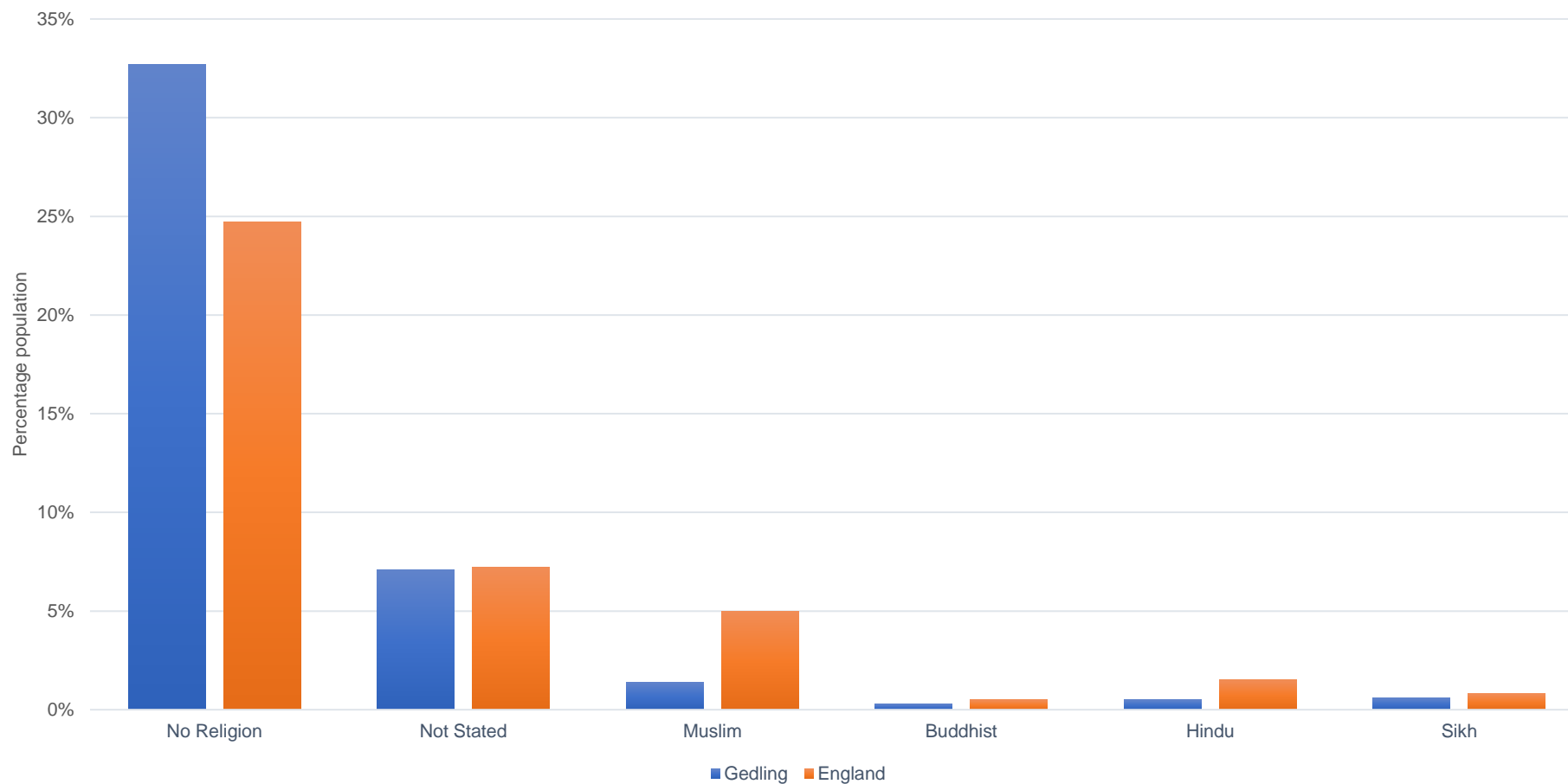
Further to this, when assessing the future need for cemeteries and burial space, it is important to consider the proportion of individuals with religious affiliations within the borough. Table 20 shows that there is a low proportion of individuals of Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist faiths who typically desire cremation and hence, this is unlikely to have a significant impact on the burial space required. However, since the opening of Gedling Crematorium on Catfoot Lane in Lambley, the borough now has an operational crematorium. This is expected to have some impact on burial requirements, as cremation is becoming a popular alternative to traditional burial due to religious and personal reasons.

The Cremation Society<sup>48</sup> calculated that in the UK, the proportion of deaths in 2018 that resulted in cremation equated to 78.1%. However, as the borough contains a lower proportion of residents of faiths which typically prefer cremation, a 70% cremation estimate has been applied to the borough. Further to this, the ethnic origin of the population also affects demand for burial space and therefore, the proportion of different ethnicities in the borough has been presented in Appendix 8.

<sup>47</sup> ONS (2019) Families and Households

<sup>48</sup> The Cremation Society; United Kingdom 2019

Table 20: The proportion of residents belonging to particular religious faiths in the borough (this excludes those residents with Christian faith who comprise of 57.1% of Gedling's and 59.4% of the UK's population), from Gedling Borough Council Equality Information 2019/20



### 10.3.1.2 Existing Burial Space

The burial space audit displayed in Table 21 revealed an 18-year average burial capacity in the borough, ranging from less than a year at Linby, Woodborough and Calverton to 50 years at Burton Joyce. This accounts for the burial rate in the cemeteries and churchyards, including those in re-opened graves and the total number of unused plots. Across the borough's open cemeteries and churchyards, the total number of unused plots equates to 2,261, covering an area of 1.9 acres (0.8ha). 97% of this available space (2,200 plots) is located within the borough's eight cemeteries, whilst the remaining 3% is found at the churches of St Luke's in Stoke Bardolph and St James' in Papplewick. St Michael's in Linby is considered open, however only to one re-open burial, where an existing family grave containing space can be 're-opened' to take a further interment. The potential for increased capacity at these churchyards has been explored, however grave excavation at these sites is somewhat challenging due to:

- Rock at 350mm depth at St Michael's, Linby
- A high-water table at St James', Papplewick restricting the churchyard to graves of a single depth.
- A high-water table at St Luke's, Stoke Bardolph restricting the churchyard to graves of a single depth.

Therefore, it is likely that once capacity is reached at these locations, the churchyards will be closed to burials and maintenance of the sites will either then fall to the responsibility of the local Parish Councils or Gedling Borough Council.

Table 21: Burial space audit conducted at the borough's open Church of England churchyards and Parish and Council owned cemeteries

	Size of Cemetery (ha)	Unused Plots	Total Plots	Burials per year			Years left
				New	Reopen	Total	
<b>GBC-owned</b>							
Gedling	0.73	90	1457	7	3	10	10
Carlton	9.162	1,500	14,691	50	80	130	25
Redhill	6.03	25	12,036	35	128	163	6 months
<b>Parish Churchyards</b>							
Linby	0.4	-	370	-	1	1	-
Papplewick	0.51	52	442	1	1	2	40
Stoke Bardolph	0.08	9	97	1-2	-	2	32
<b>Parish Cemeteries</b>							
Woodborough	0.2	150	1,287	6	-	6	-
Lambley	0.05	35	380	3-4	2	5-6	10
Calverton	3.9	20	2,495	11	13	24	-
Burton Joyce	1.15	180	375	8	-	8	50
Newstead	0.9	200	-	5-6	-	5-6	30
<b>Total</b>	23	2,261	33,630	129	228	357	18-year average remaining capacity



### 10.3.1.3 Future burial space requirement for Gedling

As a burial authority, we need to ensure that there is enough burial space to meet the requirements of the current and future population of Gedling, this includes taking into account the provision available outside of the local authorities' ownership.

Various factors can be used to calculate the burial provision that Gedling should provide for its resident population. Table 22 contains data required to calculate the future provision for 25 years.

Table 22: Future burial provision for 25 years

Factor	Calculation	Notes
Population of the area	117,896	Office of National Statistics 2019
Death rate per 1,000 per annum	8.2	ONS 2018 Mid-year estimates
Cremation rate in the area	70.0%	Estimate based on the rate in UK being 78% (2018), but Gedling has a lower proportion of faiths who typically opt for cremation
Percentage of burials in existing grave	33%	Based over an averaged three-year period (2008-2010)
Grave space size	9ft x 4ft (36ft <sup>2</sup> )	Standard plot size
Number of burial plots required for projected use Equivalent area	<b>4,858</b> <b>4 acres/1.6ha</b>	Projected figure

Figure 21 shows that there are currently 2,261 unused plots in the borough's cemeteries, equating to an area of 1.9 acres. Therefore, with a projected 25-year requirement for 4,858 grave spaces (as per Table 22), requiring 4.02 acres, a deficiency of 2.15 acres can be calculated. Further, allocating for roads and landscaping within cemeteries which are estimated to account for an average of 30% of a cemeteries' footprint, an additional 0.65 acres is required. Therefore, unless additional cemetery spaces are provided in the borough within the next 25 years, we expect a shortfall of 2.95 acres or 1.2ha.

### 10.3.2 Quality

Public consultation revealed that 68% of respondents felt that the standard of cemeteries and churchyards in the borough was either good or better, with 29% of respondents categorising the quality as average (as per Table 23).

Table 23: Public consultation quality rating of cemeteries and churchyards

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
24%	44%	29%	2%	1%

Public consultation produced only one comment concerning cemeteries which requested they were kept open for longer and that additional lighting was provided.

### 10.3.3 Accessibility

Public consultation revealed that 98.5% of residents felt cemeteries and churchyards were within an acceptable travelling distance. 83% of respondents reported a travelling distance of fewer than 20 minutes, and 50% stated there was a cemetery or churchyard within a 10-minute travelling distance from their home. These percentages were similar when comparing those who used cemeteries and those who did not, indicating that residents feel there are no significant issues with the current location of these facilities.

Cemetery users were asked what their most frequent mode of transport was to their local cemetery or churchyard. 45% of users walk, 51% drive, 3% cycle and 1% travel by bus. When comparing the preferred mode of transport to travelling time in Table 24, it is evident that there is a minor difference between the travelling time and mode of transport. Consultation of cemetery and churchyard users revealed that the majority of respondents preferred a travelling distance of fewer than 20 minutes.

Table 24: The percentage of respondents who either walk or drive to cemeteries and churchyards within a certain time range

	Less than 5-minutes %	6-10 minutes %	11 to 20 minutes %	21 to 30 minutes %	31-60 minutes %	More than 60 minutes %
Walk	30	28	30	10	2	0
Drive	28	28	30	11	3	0

## 10.4 Setting the Standard

### 10.4.1 Quantity

With regards to quantity, there are no definitive national or local standards for cemeteries and churchyards. Despite there being few opportunities to have a strategic influence over these types of areas, there is a future need for burial space within the borough. Therefore, a quantity standard for cemeteries and churchyards has been set based on an evaluation of population and burial patterns.

#### Quantity Standard

4858 burial plots, equating to  
4.02 acres or 1.6 hectares.

### 10.4.2 Quality

There are no definitive national or local standards for the quality of cemeteries and churchyards. However, the quality standard has been informed by the Green Flag Award criterion.

#### Quality Standard

A well maintained, clean and safe site with the provision of seating areas, clear footpaths and car parking either on site or nearby. The site will encourage biodiversity by providing varied vegetation and aim to be an oasis for personal quiet contemplation.

### 10.4.3 Accessibility

With regards to accessibility, there are no definitive national or local standards and no requirement to set catchments for cemeteries and churchyards. This is because there is little opportunity to have a strategic influence over this type of green space. However, consultation revealed that a travelling distance time of fewer than 20 minutes was considered as acceptable and hence this is the standard that has been selected.

#### Accessibility Standard

Less than a 20-minute walk/drive – Walk: 1610m and  
Drive: 12870m (8 miles)  
(including access to public transport)

## 10.5 Application of Standards

The location of existing cemeteries and churchyards across the borough is meeting residents' expectations. However, burial spaces in the north of the borough are becoming limited due to Redhill Cemetery forecasted to be at capacity within one year, highlighting an urgent need for a new burial ground in the area. There is currently an approved planning application in place for a cemetery facility on George's Lane, north of Arnold, totalling 5.5ha that will incorporate traditional, natural and woodland burial space, with ancillary facilities. This cemetery is expected to provide 7,200 additional burial spaces, which will help fulfil the cultural and religious requirements of the local community. Additionally, this cemetery would alleviate the shortfall of 2.95 acres projected to arise in 25 years, based on a calculation that incorporates a number of factors including the death and cremation rates in the borough as per Table 10.5.

Following consultation, most residents were satisfied with a 20-minute drive to their local cemetery, fortunately, the borough is currently well provisioned, and this is facilitated. Due to the limited availability of land for prospective cemeteries, the only obtainable spaces will be those located on the outside of the urban area. As this will likely restrict resident's ability to walk, car parking facilities must be provided in addition to a preference for sites close to public transport links. It is recommended that the Accessible Settlements Study for Greater Nottingham<sup>49</sup> is considered when locating a new cemetery, as this report highlights the areas that are within a 5-minute walk (400m) from public transport facilities which operate at an hourly or better service.

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<sup>49</sup> Accessible Settlements Study for Greater Nottingham (2010)

## 10.6 Summary

As a burial authority, we need to anticipate future demand alongside current provision to ensure that there are sufficient, high quality burial spaces in the borough. Therefore, the standards outlined in section 10.6 should guide the future development and improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the borough.

Although a necessity for the burial of the dead, cemeteries and churchyards provide green space that can be used on an opportunity-led basis – i.e., where there are churchyards and cemeteries, there are opportunities for wildlife and use of the space by the public for walking and relaxing. This must be taken into account when applying provision standards across the borough for other types of green space due to land having multiple purposes, for example, cemeteries can also provide an area of natural green space.

## 10.7 Recommendations

- Seek additional land for cemeteries, taking into account the burial spaces in the borough that will reach capacity in the next 30 years. This includes Redhill, Carlton, Gedling cemeteries, parish council-owned sites and privately-owned burial spaces.
- Continue with the current pricing policy for non-residents.
- Conduct site audits of the cemeteries using the Green Flag quality assessment model resulting in a measurable quality standard for each cemetery. This should be used to maintain the cemeteries at their current standard.
- Conduct consultation with users of cemeteries by holding annual surveys, allowing users to provide feedback on the service and facilities.
- Conduct a burial space audit for the borough as this was last completed in March 2004 and consequently requires updating.



# 11 Green Corridors



## 11.1 Definition

Green corridors are described by Designing Buildings as linear routes of land ‘established to enable the bridging of habitat populations that have been split by human development such as a road, settlement or other human activity<sup>50</sup>.’

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<sup>50</sup> Designing Buildings Wiki, Green Corridor (2021)

## 11.2 Context

Green corridors include towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycle ways, rights of way and disused railway lines. Their primary purpose is to provide opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration<sup>51</sup>. The importance of green corridors is recognised by Forest Research<sup>52</sup> which highlights the following functions of green corridors:

- Assists the movement of wildlife and reverse the effects of habitat fragmentation.
- Promotes environmentally sustainable forms of transport, such as walking and cycling, in turn, improving health and well-being.
- Aids connectivity to a wide range of green spaces via a network of footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways from doorstep to the countryside, in turn, providing opportunities to link green spaces within urban areas, and to urban areas with the countryside.

The Council's Aligned Core Strategy (ACS) (Policy 18) ensures priority for the location of new or enhanced green infrastructure to locations for major residential development identified in Policy 2 of the same document. These are the strategic river corridors of the Trent, Erewash and Leen Rivers, Canal Corridors, the Greenwood Community Forest and urban fringe areas. Work has commenced on review of the ACS which will be supported by new green and blue infrastructure strategies. These will identify strategic and non-strategic green and blue infrastructure corridors and opportunities through the plan making process to deliver development alongside the creation of multi-functional and accessible green and blue infrastructure. Gedling borough already has a wealth of green and blue infrastructure assets, which also includes our country parks, numerous formal parks and open spaces and extensive rights of way networks that link the city and rural settlements to the wider countryside. Such corridors cross local authority boundaries, including the Bestwood to Newstead corridor, incorporating country parks, parts of the River Leen and National Cycle Route 6, which all could be priorities for future enhancements.

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<sup>51</sup> Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

<sup>52</sup> Forest Research (2021) Urban Green Networks, Corridors and Linkages

## 11.3 Where are we now?

### 11.3.1 Quantity

For this report, all corridors including public rights of way have been included.

Gedling falls within a high-pressure area for traffic because it lies between the city of Nottingham and Mansfield, situated to the north of the borough. The urban nature of the borough creates substantial pressure on the remaining countryside and in particular, public rights of way, of which there are 800. The council has re-examined and updated the green corridor network assessment undertaken for the original green space strategy in 2012. It was found that this assessment is still fit for purpose and accurately reflects the borough's existing network, which is included within the 'Heels, Wheels and Hooves' booklet.

*Table 25: The proportionate spread of rights of way in the borough which equate to 1.03 ha*

Definitive Classification	Length (kilometres)
Byways	0.32km
Footpaths	103.176km
Bridleways	17.869km

Figure 17 shows that numerous bridleways and footpaths are located in the rural areas of the borough. Although these are not all interconnected, the council's series of circular walks and rides aim to improve access opportunities and form some useful links with the river Trent and natural and semi-natural green space.

Figure 17: The public rights of way in the borough

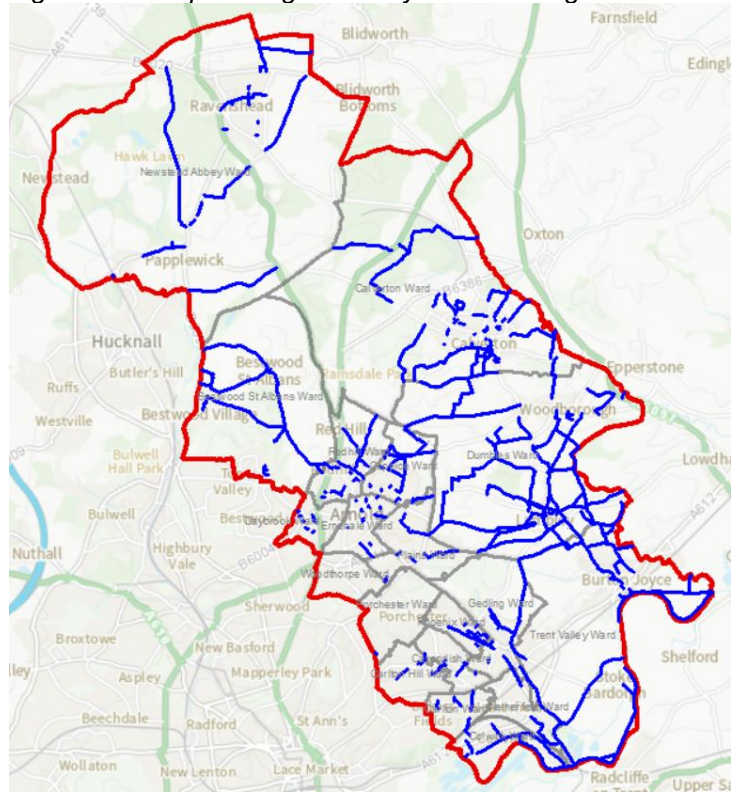


Figure 18 shows that there are very few public rights of way located within the urban conurbation and, where they exist, these are very often over a small distance and do not connect with other green spaces. However, due to the density of the urban conurbation, there is limited opportunity to develop any green corridors in these areas. It is important to note that Figure 18 does not display all the paths in the urban conurbation, it excludes those that do not have a primary purpose of a green corridor. For example, the stretch of land running from the traffic lights at the bottom of Gedling Road to the Mapperley Plains has been classified as amenity green space and therefore is not visible within the map below.



Figure 18: Public rights of way within the urban conurbation of the borough

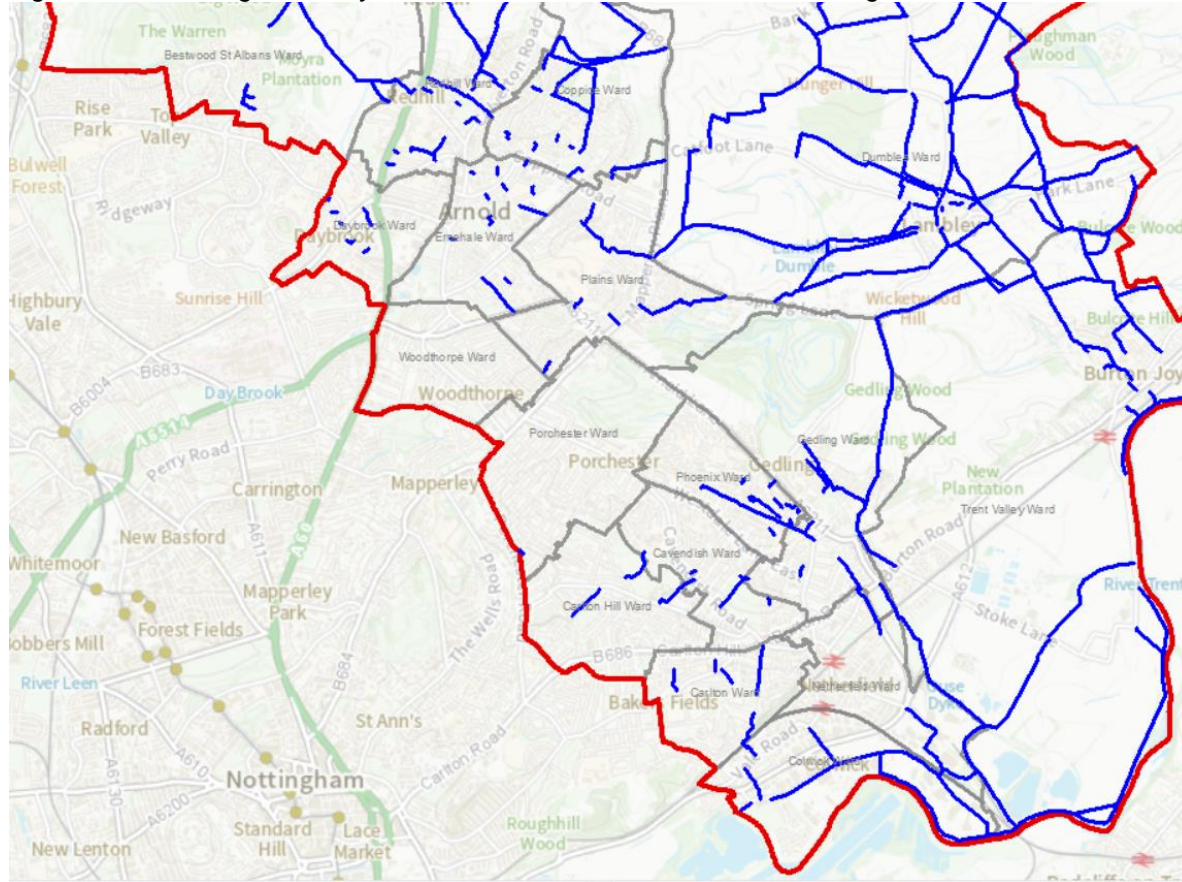
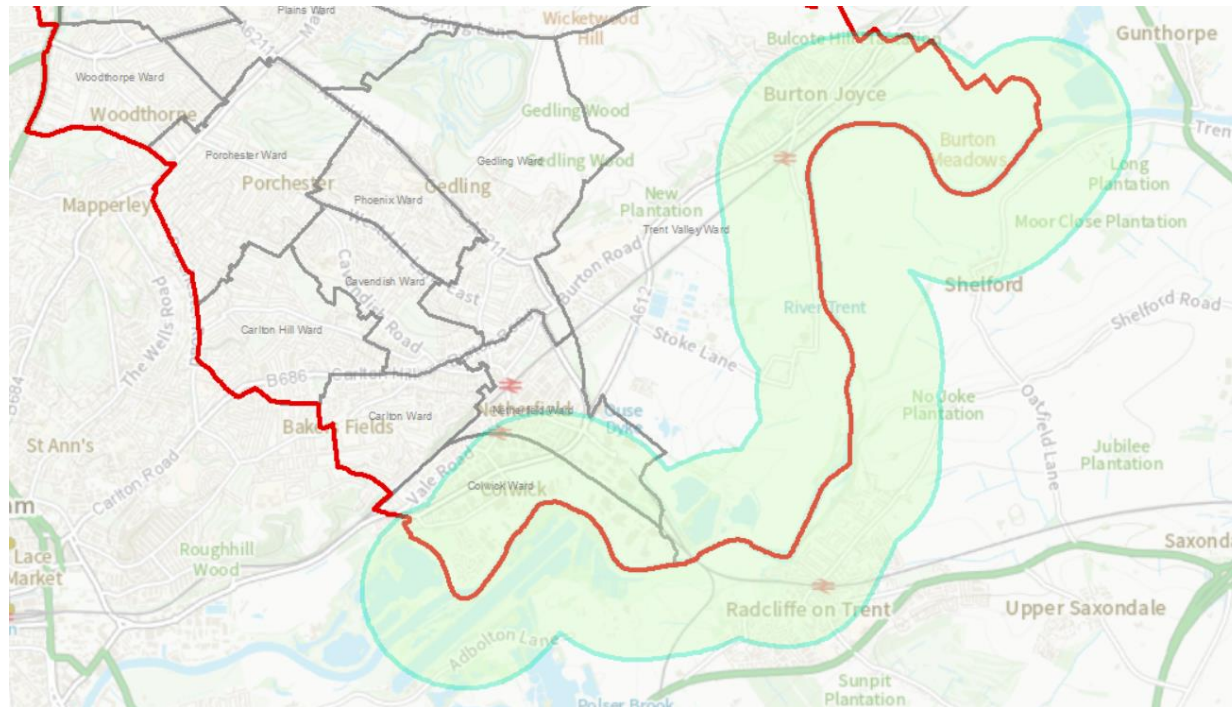


Figure 19 below displays the 10-minute walking distance catchment area for Gedling's only formalised recognised green corridor situated along the river Trent. However, few residential areas are located within this catchment and hence, this corridor does not provide a transport link between facilities.



Figure 19: A 10-minute walking distance catchment area for the River Trent corridor (as highlighted by the light blue line)



### 11.3.2 Quality

Public consultation results revealed that the overall quality rating of green corridors from those who responded was good, with 67% of respondents rating the standard as either good or better (as per Table 26).

Table 26: Public consultation quality rating of green corridors

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
19%	49%	27%	5%	0%

### 11.3.3 Accessibility

There is no real requirement to set catchments for green corridors as they cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation and are very much opportunity-led rather than demand-led. Given that, it is not appropriate to set any local quantity or accessibility standards or state areas of deficiency and/or need and therefore, current accessibility has not been assessed.

## 11.4 Setting the Standard

### 11.4.1 Quantity

No quantity standards have been set for green corridors as quantity is not a key determinant of adequate provision of green corridors.

**Quantity Standard**  
No local standard to be set

### 11.4.2 Quality

The quality standard outlined below reflects the issues outlined during the public consultation.

**Quality Standard**  
Clean, well maintained, safe and secure routes with clear, level and well drained paths, which are provided with the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation. The green corridor should provide links to major green spaces, urban areas and community facilities. Sites should provide a natural wildlife and accommodation such as seating, toilets cyclist provision where appropriate.

### 11.4.3 Accessibility

**Accessibility Standard**  
No local standard to be set

## 11.5 Summary

Gedling borough is fortunate to have a key green corridor that stretches the length of the district. Although this corridor is located on the southern border of the borough, it provides opportunities for informal recreation, including walking and cycling. However, with the current location of green corridors in the borough, there is limited opportunity to incorporate this into everyday routines such as travelling to work. Therefore, the development of a green corridor network will not only help to provide opportunities for informal recreation but through the promotion of environmentally sustainable forms of transport, improve the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Future development needs to encompass linkage provision between large areas of green space, create opportunities to develop the green corridor network and utilise potential development sites such as dismantled railway lines and public rights of way that already exist. For example the planned green corridor linking Digby Park next to Mapperley Golf Course over Arnold Lane via the new housing development into Gedling Country Park.

## 11.6 Recommendations

- Continue with local planning protection policies to stop inappropriate development at green corridor sites. This includes the protection of disused railways, such as the Mineral Line, as they are key to the transport policies affecting green space, sport and recreation facilities.
- Ensure that appropriate green corridor linkages and improvements are central to all new large housing sites where possible.
- Adopt the quality standard for all current and future green corridors and conduct a quality audit on green corridors.
- Improve the promotion of green corridors and circular routes around the borough with aspirations of developing disused railways into formal pathways.

# 12 Summary

## 12.1 Introduction

Green spaces provide a multitude of benefits that ensure both human populations and nature can flourish. This in turn, contributes to a sustainable society, resilient to the risks posed by climate change. The benefits of restoring and enhancing nature and green spaces are recognised within the policy statement of the Environment Bill 2020 and, in light of climate change, will help deliver upon both the Government's and Gedling Borough Council's ambitious net-zero commitment, through the contribution of green space to carbon sequestration.

This strategy has been designed to enable long-term strategic planning. It guides both the development and management of green spaces within the borough, ensuring they continue to evolve to meet the changing needs and aspirations of the community and are maintained to high standards. The 2021-2026 Green Space Strategy reflects upon previous audits and strategies related to the borough's green space. There is a total of 1,695.58 ha of community green space audited under the typologies of parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space, amenity green space, provision for children and young people, outdoor sports facilities, allotments and community gardens, cemeteries and churchyards and green corridors.

The overall aim of the project was to:

- Conduct an audit of green space across the borough.
- Identify local needs through consultation.
- Audit all public and private existing green space, sport and recreational facilities within the district, including school sites, allotments and built facilities.
- Set and apply local provision standards.
- Produce a series of recommendations through an assessment of current provision.

This section summarises the key findings for each green space typology.

## 12.2 Overview of Quantity analysis

Table 27 below provides a summary of the quantitative findings of green space based on its primary typology, of which, in total equates to 1,705ha. Areas of green space may contain several typologies, for example, a park may include a children’s play area and a sports pitch, however, the green space may have been classified by the typology which accounts for a higher percentage of the total area. The only exception to this are children’s play areas, where all play facilities have been included despite being accounted for on a site classified under a different typology. Although this has resulted in duplication, the impact is minimal as only 7.07 ha has been classified as fixed play areas.

*Table 27: Overview of the quantitative findings of green space typologies within Gedling*

Typology	Total Area (ha)	Current Provision	National Guidelines	Proposed Local Standard	Justification
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>	708	6ha per 1,000 population	0.8ha per 1,000  Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)	6ha per 1000 population	Public consultation revealed high satisfaction with the quantity of parks and gardens within the borough and therefore the current provision was selected as the standard.
<b>Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space</b>	549	4.7ha per 1,000 population Local Nature Reserve 0.51 per 1000 population	1.8ha per 1,000 Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)	4.7ha per 1000 population	The local needs consultation and audit of provision informed the local standard.
<b>Amenity Green Space</b>	59	0.5ha per 1,000 population	0.6ha per 1,000 population Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)	0.6ha per 1000 population	Guided by the national benchmark standard.



<b>Provision for Children and Young People</b>	12.1 Of which 7.57ha is comprised of equipped play facilities and 5ha of informal play facilities	Equipped play areas: 0.31ha per 1,000 population of children between 0-18-years of age  Informal Play Facilities: 0.2ha per 1,000 population of children between 0-18-years of age	Equipped play areas: 0.25ha per 1,000 population  Other outdoor provision: 0.3ha per 1,000 population  Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)	LAP, LEAP, NEAP: 0.25ha per 1,000 population  Informal Outdoor Provision: 0.20ha per 1000 population	Guided by the recommended benchmark guidelines outlined by Fields in Trust, whilst accounting for the density of the urban fabric.
<b>Outdoor Sports Facilities</b>	306	2.6ha per 1,000 community use	1.6ha per 1000 population  Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)	2.6ha per 1,000 population	Derived from the local needs consultation and the audit of provision.
<b>Allotments and Community Gardens</b>	29.3	14.6 allotment plots per 1,000 households.	20 allotment plots per 1,000 households  The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners	20 allotments plots per 1,000 households	Guided by the recommendations of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.
<b>Cemeteries and Churchyards</b>	40.7	N/A	N/A	4858 burial plots, equating to 4.02 acres or 1.6 hectares, based on the forecasted requirement by 2026	N/A

<b>Green Corridors</b>	1.03	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,705</b>				

## 12.3 Quality standards

Quality standards have been set and where possible, have been made measurable to improve the ability of the council to monitor improvements.

### **Parks and Gardens**

A welcoming, clean, well maintained site that is free from vandalism and dog fouling. That not only provides a range of facilities for all users but creates a feeling of safety. All destination parks to achieve a Green Flag Standard score of at least 8, whilst all other parks and gardens to achieve a standard of 5 or above.

### **Natural and Semi Natural Green Space**

A publicly accessible, spacious, clean and litter free site with clear pathways and natural features that encourage wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Sites should be maintained to protect nature conservation interest with interpretative signage and safety features where appropriate.

### **Amenity Green Space**

Amenity green spaces should be planned and designed to be free of the fear of crime and meet local needs, aiming for Green Flag status as a quality benchmark. They should be appropriately landscaped, positively managed and should be provided with good access footpaths, be clean and litter free and be appropriately landscaped with shrubs, trees and flowers.

### **Provision for Children and Young People**

A site providing a suitable mix of well-maintained formal equipment which provides an enriched play environment to encourage both formal and informal play and recreation by children and young people. A clean, safe and secure location with good access that includes ancillary facilities such as teen shelters, ball courts and skateboard areas and seating where appropriate. To strive for all play sites to have a quality assessment score of 46% or above.

### **Outdoor Sports Facilities**

All outdoor sports facilities should be free from dog fouling, vandalism, graffiti and litter, with level, well drained and good quality surfaces. Sites should provide good quality ancillary facilities, where appropriate, including changing accommodation, toilets, car parking and facilities for a range of age groups. The maintenance and management of sites should continue to ensure safety and effective usage. Gedling Borough Council owned

facilities should aim to meet the outdoor facility standard score of 60% as per the Fields in Trust national methodology for scoring quality standards.

### **Allotments and Community Gardens**

A clean, well-kept and secure site with clearly marked pathways to and within the site that encourages sustainable communities, biodiversity and healthy living with appropriate ancillary facilities to meet local needs

### **Cemeteries and Churchyards**

A well maintained, clean and safe site with the provision of seating areas, clear footpaths and car parking either on site or nearby. The site will encourage biodiversity by providing varied vegetation and aim to be an oasis for personal quiet contemplation.

### **Green Corridors**

Clean, well maintained, safe and secure routes with clear, level and well drained paths, which are provided the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation. The green corridor should provide links to major green spaces, urban areas and community facilities. Sites should provide a natural wildlife and accommodation such as seating, toilets cyclist provision where appropriate.

## 12.4 Recommendations

The following summarises the key findings by typology.

### **Parks and Gardens**

- When enhancing provision, ensure that priority is given to urban areas of deficiency, as this covers the largest concentration of residents.
- The council should aspire to maintaining Green Flag status at Arnot Hill Park, Gedling and Bestwood Country Parks and Burton Road Jubilee Park, seeking to establishing another site as a Green Flag destination park.
- To make improvements in the quality and diversity of existing provision, in particular the protection and enhancement of wildlife where possible.
- To prioritise improvement to parks and gardens based on the Green Flag Award criteria.

### **Natural and Semi Natural Green Space**

- Protect the current level of provision of natural and semi natural sites across both rural and urban areas of Gedling Borough including those which are SINCS or LNRs.
- Conduct a quality audit of natural and semi natural green space in the borough.
- Consult with Natural England on potential sites for LNR status and consider LNR status for Bestwood Country Park.
- Analyse urban deficiency areas to assess whether other types of green space can fulfil the natural and semi-natural function, or whether new provision is required in certain areas providing there is space available.

### **Amenity Green Space**

- Protect and enhance all amenity green space in the district if it is considered to hold recreational value (over 0.2ha).
- Ensure all new developments located in areas without amenity greenspace allow for the establishment of such spaces, except where residents are within accessible distance to other types of green space which can also fulfil its role.
- When amenity green space is provided ensure they are located as a focal amenity for the local community.

- Establish a measurable quality standard for amenity green space which will allow for comparison of standards over time and more accurately identify recreational value for each site.

### **Provision for Children and Young People**

- Continue to maintain and enhance all children and young person's sites in the borough.
- Develop an action plan to upgrade all sites that fall below a 40% quality score, whilst striving to improve children and young people's experiences through landscape design and natural play.
- Investigate whether any amenity green space or park and garden sites in areas where there is a deficiency of play equipment could be used to locate a play facility on them. When doing this, consideration needs to be given to deficiencies between different age groups.
- When constructing new play areas ensure the Fields in Trust minimum acceptable size requirements are applied to ensure the correct area of space is provided.
- Offer support to Parish Councils to help improve play provision in their area.
- Subject to the land being available, investigate the possibility for provision of new play areas.

### **Outdoor Sports Facilities**

- Protect existing sports and recreation facilities from redevelopment.
- Improve the quality of sports pitches through improved maintenance regimes.
- Acquire new sports facilities on larger developments e.g., the forthcoming Teal Close football pitches.
- Develop and ensure access to sufficient changing provision particularly at Rugby and Football facilities e.g., Lambley Lane.
- Work with educational establishments to maximise and secure access to pitches on education sites in order to help address future demand for pitches for the local community.
- Continue to seek funding opportunities for the provision of 3G playing surfaces taking into account future demand for football in the south of the borough and meet the demands for rugby in the north of the borough.

### **Allotments and Community Gardens**

- Identify additional land for allotment provision, extensions to sites at Leapool on the north side of the borough and Stoke Lane in the south is recommended.
- Support Newstead and Lambley Parish Councils in meeting their current level of demand for allotment provision.



- Introduce a policy allowing one community allotment plot per Gedling Borough Council owned site.
- Assist allotment associations and parishes in site quality improvements, including seeking external funding.

### **Cemeteries and Churchyards**

- Seek additional land for cemeteries, taking into account the burial spaces in the borough that will reach capacity in the next 30 years. This includes Redhill, Carlton, Gedling cemeteries, parish council-owned sites and privately-owned burial spaces.
- Continue with the current pricing policy for non-residents.
- Conduct site audits of the cemeteries using the Green Flag quality assessment model resulting in a measurable quality standard for each cemetery. This should be used to maintain the cemeteries at their current standard.
- Conduct consultation with users of cemeteries by holding annual surveys, allowing users to provide feedback on the service and facilities.
- Conduct a burial space audit for the borough. The last was completed in March 2004 and consequently requires updating.

### **Green Corridors**

- Continue with local plan protection policies to stop inappropriate development at green corridor sites. This includes the protection of disused railways as they are key to the transport policies affecting green space, sport and recreation facilities.
- Ensure that appropriate green corridor linkages and improvements are key to all new large housing sites where possible.
- Adopt the quality standard for all current and future green corridors and to conduct a quality audit on green corridors.
- Improve the promotion of green corridors and circular routes around the borough with aspirations of developing disused railways into formal pathways.

## **12.5 Conclusions**

The application of the quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards established in this document allows for the identification of deficiencies in green space provision. As such, this document provides the broad framework for the future planning of green space across the borough, providing a degree of guidance for the targeting of resources and investment for the next five years and beyond. In light of the council's budgetary constraints, targeted action is crucial in maximising resource efficiency. In some of the more densely populated urban parts of the borough, opportunities for meeting the identified deficiencies in the typologies of green spaces are limited by the absence of available space. Similarly, in some rural areas where most land is in private ownership, securing public access to green spaces may not be possible. However, the opportunities

presented by new residential developments may offer the flexibility to achieve enhanced levels of green space provision, recognising that the current standards represent an assessment of the minimum amounts required.

It is estimated that in order to meet the local quantity standards, a total of 19.6ha of additional green space is required, this is comprised of 11.7ha of amenity green space and 7.9ha of allotments and community gardens. In addition to this, to attain the provisional standards by 2026 (excluding the provision required for cemeteries and churchyards), a further 77ha is needed. It is anticipated that a majority of this additional space will be created from future housing developments, following the requirement within policy LPD20 of the local planning document that any 'loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of its usefulness, attractiveness, quantity and quality in a suitable location'. However, the council must ensure existing areas also benefit else there is a danger of creating an unhealthy distinction between provision within the new and old developments.

The relationship between the council and parish councils remains critical in meeting the borough's quality, quantity and accessibility standards. The impact of policy change with regards to reductions of parish revenue support grants and the introduction of the Parish Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be assessed to identify the impact this will have on the installation and maintenance of green space provision. Equally, overhauls to the planning system by the Government, which may replace Section 106 agreements with a new flat rate levy will deliver on-site affordable housing, however, it remains to be seen whether green space will be delivered as the government claims.

However, in light of the above, it is important to be aware that not all of the shortfalls in provision will be able to be addressed, and therefore, it is recommended that the council focuses on work that best meets the priorities of the borough outlined within the Gedling Plan. For example, although children and young people's provision has less usage than other typologies it will be important to focus work on this area to provide activities that reduce anti-social behaviour, which is a key objective. It is also recognised that some quality issues, for example, an unsafe children's play area, will need immediate attention and requires prioritisation. In addition, new forms of funding may require a shift in priorities.

# 13 Delivering the Strategy

The detailed actions necessary to deliver the vision, aims and objectives adopted in this strategy are set out in the following action plan. For each objective a set of actions is given with timescales and those responsible for delivery. The action plan will be reviewed and updated yearly until the end of the strategy period.

The Green Space Strategy action plan will be delivered using the existing revenue budget. However, it is unknown how the recession resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic will affect Gedling Borough Council's funds in the long term and hence the delivery of this strategy. However, regardless, the service continues to look for efficiency savings, income generation and greater use of local community volunteers to deliver the actions outlined below.

# 14 Action Plan

Aim 1: To enhance people's quality of life through the provision of sufficient, accessible, attractive green spaces

What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<b>Objective 1.1:</b> To address supply and demand issues for identified typologies to meet existing and future needs of residents and visitors to the borough	The strategy sets recommended quantity standards for all the relevant typologies in order to ensure that the borough has a minimum standard of green space provision.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that Gedling Borough has the agreed amount of green space typologies according to set standards within this document.</li> </ul>	2021 onwards	Parks & Street Care Services (PASC) Planning Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the standards set to identify parts of the borough that are currently deficient in the various green space typologies, to inform any proposals to increase, or if necessary, decrease green spaces.</li> </ul>	2021 - 2026	All stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the provision of green space in line with population growth.</li> <li>Use the strategy to inform Planning Services in</li> </ul>	2021 - 2026	Planning / PASC Services

	support of the Local Plan and any local community/neighbourhood plans to identify areas where there are deficiencies in provision.	2021 - 2026	Planning Services and Parks & Street Care Services (PASC)
<b>Objective 1.2:</b> To achieve clean, attractive high-quality green spaces across the borough, including spaces that are nationally recognised for their quality and attractions.	The strategy sets recommended quality standards for all the relevant typologies in order to ensure that the borough has a good provision of high-quality green space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the standards to identify green spaces within the borough that fall below the acceptable standard to inform proposals and actions to improve green spaces. Continued work to the existing specifications will automatically ensure that the quality standards are maintained.</li> <li>• Review site management plans for all large sites, along with maintenance specifications and schedules for all other sites.</li> <li>• Further develop the park's volunteer action plan.</li> <li>• Increase the number of Green Flag Awarded parks to achieve six Green Flag accredited green spaces.</li> <li>• Increase the standard of all green spaces in the borough to achieve a Green Flag Score of at least five and above.</li> <li>• Achieve service standards set out in the ground's maintenance specification standards.</li> <li>• When installing new or refurbishing existing play areas, apply best practice, design principles and utilise in-house skills and specialists where appropriate.</li> </ul>	2021 - 2026	Head of Environment
		Annually	Parks Development Officer
		2021 - 2026	Parks Development Officer and Parks Rangers
		2021 - 2026	PASC Services All Teams
		2021 - 2026	PASC Services All Teams
		2021 - 2026	PASC Services All Teams
		2021 - 2026	Head of Service/Parks Development Officer
		2021, then annually	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise site management plans for the borough's Green Flag and destination parks.</li> <li>• Consult with community safety on the introduction of no smoking zones within play areas.</li> <li>• Ensure delivery of the Public Space Protection Order for dog fouling (2020) in all parks and open spaces.</li> <li>• Achieve the performance indicator set in the Annual Service Plan to remove offensive graffiti.</li> <li>• Review cleanliness standards on a quarterly basis and ensure staff teams continue to maintain a high quality.</li> <li>• Utilise the Community Payback Teams to conduct environmental cleansing and improvements within the borough.</li> <li>• Draft a new Tree Strategy document for adoption, then work to the contained policy to provide quality tree management and foster the provision of urban tree planting for its environmental benefits and areas for further planting.</li> <li>• Conduct cyclical tree surveys on a risk assessed basis to determine and complete required works in a timely manner.</li> <li>• Create a skilled workforce through the apprenticeship scheme, subject to funding availability and an appropriate curriculum becoming available from local colleges. Additionally, provide two internships and student placements.</li> </ul>	<p>2022</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Risk assessed Inspections on a 1-, 2- and 3-year basis.</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>Yearly</p> <p>2021 / 2026</p>	<p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Operations Manager PASC &amp; Street Cleansing Teams</p> <p>Neighbourhood Warden Service</p> <p>Head of Environment and Street Cleansing</p> <p>Operations Manager, PASC and Street Cleansing Teams</p> <p>Operations Manager, PASC and Parks Rangers</p> <p>PASC Tree Inspector</p> <p>PASC Tree Inspector</p> <p>Service Manager PASC</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a skilled workforce through performance management, the implementation of the training matrix and the appraisal system. Keep training up to date with relevant legislation.</li> <li>• Develop clear employment pathways with lead and key partners such as West Notts College.</li> </ul>	<p>2021 – 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p>	
<p><b>Objective 1.3:</b> To ensure everyone living, working and visiting Gedling Borough has easy access to well-maintained safe open spaces</p>	<p>The strategy sets recommended access standards for all the relevant typologies in order to ensure that Gedling Borough has a good provision of accessible green space that is fully DDA compliant.</p> <p>Where there is a deficiency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the standards to identify the parts of the borough that are currently deficient in terms of access to the various green space typologies to inform proposals to improve access.</li> <li>• Increase the provision of accessible green space in line with on new developments.</li> <li>• Ensure that the borough has a good balance of different types of accessible green space in line with population growth.</li> <li>• Apply the following principles to the location and design of play spaces and engage all stakeholders: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Play England manual ‘Design for Play’. 10 principals for Play.</li> <li>2. Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents design guides.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>2021 onwards</p> <p>On all new developments</p> <p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2021 onwards</p>	<p>Development Officers</p> <p>Planning Services / PASC Services</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Development Officers and Service Manager PASC / Groundwork / Nottingham City Council / County Council</p>

	<p>3. The Association of Play Industries design guidelines. Which state:</p> <p>Play spaces should be located where there is good surveillance from street and neighbouring houses. Play spaces should be located on accessible green space where feasible and include elements of natural and free play. A buffer zone should be provided around play areas. Design all play areas so that they are inclusive for children and young people with disabilities. Identify where there are deficiencies and recommendations and act upon these.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the possibility of increasing levels of cycling within the borough's green infrastructure through the provision and establishment of routes to schools through parks and green spaces and promote family-based cycling activities.</li> <li>• Conduct disability access audits for all the main parks and open spaces and then develop a plan to prioritise and implement access improvements identified in the access audits.</li> </ul>	<p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p>	<p>Development Officers</p> <p>Development Officers</p>
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Aim 2: To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the borough's biodiversity, sustainability and heritage

What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<p><b>Objective 2.1:</b> Protect the biodiversity of the many habitats found in the borough's urban and rural green spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that any action delivered is in line with the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping initiative for Gedling Borough and that any development work protects and conserves vulnerable habitats and that any losses that may occur are recorded and mitigated against. This should be a routine part of the decision-making process.</li> </ul>	2021 onwards	PASC Services / Planning Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake biodiversity surveys for all applicable sites and update the specification to account for any changes. Work to reduce sources of harm to habitats and associated species whilst creating and developing new habitat sites, including green corridors.</li> </ul>	2021 onwards	Parks Development Officer / Notts Wildlife Trust / County Council / Park Rangers / Volunteers / Universities / Planning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act on national guidance and best practice guidelines, e.g., DEFRA hedge cutting principals and review the specification accordingly in relation to aspects such as habitat piles from cuttings for invertebrates, reptiles and small mammals.</li> </ul>	2021 onwards	County Council / PASC Services /Parks Development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where applicable, analyse grass cutting regimes and machinery used, review changes to accommodate best practice to encourage biodiversity. For example, leaving cuttings in piles on site to be used by invertebrates and reptiles.</li> </ul>	2021 onwards	PASC Services Operational Staff
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit current practices to determine where pesticides are being used, for what purposes and which chemicals are used. Particular attention should be paid to fine turf areas, rose gardens and hard surfaces.</li> </ul>	2021 onwards	PASC Services Operational Staff

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with volunteer groups and other partners to develop and manage green space areas within cemeteries and establish initiatives such as wildflower meadow and other suitable habitat creation.</li> <li>• Implement organic cultural methods or Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies in parks and enforce the Council ban on the use of Glyphosate and Neonicotinoids on Council owned land.</li> <li>• Review management plans for Bestwood, Burntstump and Gedling Country Parks. Management statements for all other countryside sites, LNR's, SSSIs and SINCs with action plans for delivery. Consult and involve relevant local groups regularly on proposed management.</li> <li>• Explore the protection of valuable green space by designating them as Local Nature Reserves.</li> <li>• Work with Gedling Conservation Trust and the Royal Society for Protection of Birds on making the Trent Valley area, and in particular the Netherfield Lagoons a valuable green corridor and important LNR for the borough residents.</li> </ul>	<p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2012 onwards</p>	<p>PASC Operations Manager, PASC Services / Development Officer</p> <p>PASC Services Operational Grounds Maintenance Staff</p> <p>Parks Development / Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust / County Council / Park Rangers / Volunteers / Universities</p> <p>Parks Development / Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust / Parks Rangers</p> <p>Parks Development / Gedling Conservation Trust / County Council / Park Rangers / Volunteers / RSPB</p>
<p><b>Objective 2.2:</b> Promoting Sustainability within the Parks Service and modify practices to adapt to Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycle 100% of tree produce for either biomass or as a timber product for carving and joinery</li> <li>• Ensure that local residents recognise the role that green spaces can play in mitigating the effects of climate change so that the potential benefits of green space for the borough as a whole can be maximised.</li> <li>• Provide a peat free service - source suppliers who</li> </ul>	<p>Yearly</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 – 2026</p>	<p>PASC Tree Team</p> <p>PASC Services / Sustainability Officer</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager</p>

	<p>use peat free compost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use water retaining pellets in flower beds, hanging baskets, shrub beds to reduce the amount of watering required.</li> <li>• Where possible, plant perennials and reduce bedding plants.</li> <li>• Broaden native tree and other plant species selection to cope with climate change and research potential new habitats whilst controlling invasive species.</li> <li>• Review the management of existing green spaces and trees within the borough to help reduce the risk of flash flooding from intense periods of rainfall causing high levels of surface water run-off.</li> <li>• Review maintenance regimes of gulley's, grids and drainage assets, continue to identify priority areas most at risk such as the Lambley Dumbles, and amend as required to cope with changing climate conditions. (Inc. Sandbag materials and storage for emergency response)</li> <li>• Plant 500 new trees per year in the borough's parks and open spaces.</li> <li>• Look at effective cost-effective ways of green waste recycling and provide education and learning opportunities regards disposal of waste by recycling via junior ranger events.</li> </ul>	<p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>2021 onwards</p>	<p>PASC Grounds Maintenance Operative Team</p> <p>Grounds Maintenance Team</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager/ PASC Operations Team</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager / PASC Operations Team</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager / PASC Operations Team</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager / PASC Operations Team / Woodland Trust /Volunteer Groups</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager / PASC Development Officer / Parks Rangers / School Groups</p>
<p><b>Objective 2.3:</b> Protect and preserve the archaeological features and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforce the by-laws to deter metal detecting, bottle digging, unauthorised vehicle use and other</li> </ul>	<p>Throughout strategy</p>	<p>PASC Services</p>



heritage in Parks and Open Spaces	<p>activities which may damage archaeological remains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closely monitor the potential impact that events and other activities may have on historic landscapes and fabric, and, where necessary, take action to limit or preclude such activities where there is a clear risk of significant erosion or damage.</li> </ul>	Throughout strategy	PASC Services
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Aim 3: To provide green spaces and play and sports facilities to enable residents to undertake a wide range of recreational and educational activities for healthy living.

What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<p><b>Objective 3.1:</b> To promote the role green spaces play in contributing to the boroughs health and well-being by promoting sport and physical activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver the recommendations outlined within the 2016 Playing Pitch Strategy.</li> </ul>	2021 onwards	Sports Development / Parks Development Officer / Service managers PASC / Leisure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop further links with the local health service to promote physical activity within parks and open spaces.</li> </ul>	2021 - 2026	Sports Development / Parks Development Officer / Service managers PASC / Leisure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide free training for volunteer leaders of health walks.</li> </ul>	2021 – 2026	Sport Development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with sports development teams to encourage external clubs to utilise parks. E.g. tennis coaching, fitness classes etc.</li> </ul>	2021 - 2026	Sports Development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor usage in parks and play areas</li> </ul>	2021 - 2026	Development Officers / Groundwork
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote parks through the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Marketing Plans.</li> </ul>	2021 – 2026	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase free opportunities to exercise.</li> </ul>	2021 – 2026	Parks Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the effects (using Primary Care Trust</li> </ul>	2021 - 2026	PASC Management Team

	<p>standard Health Questionnaire) in order to gather a robust evidence base.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore partnerships with Gedling Leisure</li> <li>• Review lease agreements with boot camp trainers</li> <li>• Aim to achieve the Allotments standards.</li> <li>• Continue to build on existing relationships with allotment trustee groups and plot holders sharing best practice by the allotment forum.</li> <li>• Following the 2021 allotment review, figures for the number of plots, occupancy of sites and accurate waiting list data have been updated. Suggest another similar review in five years' time. Continue to ask sites to submit their data on a quarterly basis and ensure equitable allotment use.</li> <li>• 100% utilisation of current allotments.</li> </ul>	<p>2021 – 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Throughout Strategy</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p>	<p>Head of Environment</p> <p>Parks Development Officers</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p>
<p><b>Objective 3.2:</b> Expand on the Opportunities for and from the Education Sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage university students to undertake dissertations and research projects in parks and open spaces.</li> <li>• Work with local schools to become more involved in parks and open spaces either as outdoor classroom, education about the environment e.g. pond dipping to gain a greater understanding and respect for parks and open spaces.</li> <li>• Develop clear employment pathways.</li> </ul>	<p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 – 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p>	<p>Parks Development Officers</p> <p>Parks Development Officers</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager</p>
<p><b>Objective 3.3:</b> Promoting Links between Green Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct surveys of the borough to map and assess the green infrastructure. Such data can then be</li> </ul>	<p>2021 - 2026</p>	

	<p>used to identify any deficient areas that might receive priority action and any linking areas that might be used to establish green walking and cycling routes including any required signage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include options for linked green spaces within any Community / Neighbourhood Plans.</li> </ul>	2021 - 2026	<p>Parks Development Officer / Sustrans</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager</p>
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**Aim 4: To actively involve the community in their local green spaces.**

What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<p><b>Objective 4.1:</b> To promote community cohesion and community involvement in the stewardship and use of green spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote stewardship of green spaces through support for the Green Flag Award.</li> </ul>	2021 – 2026	Development Officers / Friends Groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the Green Flag Community Award for community groups and work to develop new park's friends' groups.</li> </ul>	2021 – 2026	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft a Parks Service Marketing Plan to increase community awareness and involvement and implement any recommendations.</li> </ul>	2021/22	PASC Management Staff / Parks Development Officers /
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve the local and wider community in decision making around major improvement projects and in the design of new green spaces.</li> </ul>	2021 – 2026	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an annual programme of events and activities taking place on parks and open spaces.</li> </ul>	2021 - 2026	Development Officers / Leisure / Marketing & Communications / Local Media
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the work of the Friends Groups to other internal and external agencies.</li> </ul>	2021 – 2026	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop partnership working</li> </ul>	2021 onwards	

	opportunities such as those already in place with Groundwork and Greenwood Trust, Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Group.		Development Officers / Friends Groups
<b>Objective 4.2:</b> Increase the number of active volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of active volunteers by 5% 2021 then 2% annually.</li> <li>• Promote physical activity through volunteering on conservation tasks within parks and open spaces.</li> </ul>	2021 onwards	Development Officers / Friends Groups
		2021 onwards	Development Officers / Friends Groups
<b>Objective 4.3:</b> Support new and existing community involvement in the design of green space and play areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct resident, community and school consultations when upgrading or redesigning existing green space and when designing and constructing new green spaces.</li> <li>• Ensure local people have the opportunity to participate in decision making. Investigate the feasibility of forming a 'Friends of' group to take effective community ownership of existing and new green spaces.</li> </ul>	2021 onwards	Head of Service / Development Officers / Friends Groups
		2021 onwards	Head of Service / Development Officers / Friends Groups

# 15 Monitoring and evaluating the strategy

It is recommended that a steering group is created that consists of a representative from relevant departments who can meet twice annually, with more regular meetings for any smaller sub groups required. This group should focus on the delivery of the action plan for the strategy which they can monitor and evaluate.

A report will be compiled by the Parks and Street Care Section of the Council for each year of the strategy detailing the main achievements and projects which have taken place. This report will be circulated to all partners involved in the strategy. The report should include case studies showing the positive impact it has had on the local communities.

There are recommendations within the strategy advising for additional work to be completed on the audit process. For example, this includes conducting quality audits on typologies which previously have not been audited. It is therefore recommended to introduce a rolling programme of updates to the green space audit that account for the recommendations outlined within this document. This will ensure resources are managed and the improvements are monitored and measured.

A draft of the strategy has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and actions from this assessment were considered in the production of the action plan for the strategy.