

**Ploszajski Lynch
Consulting Ltd.**



Blaby District Council

Open Space Audit

December 2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aims of the assessment

1) The aims of the assessment are to:

- To review the standards set out in BDC's Core Strategy Policy CS15 for the open space sport and recreation facilities requirements of local communities, covering quantity, quality and access.
- To audit the district's open space sport and recreation facilities, including an assessment of the current quality of provision.
- To use the local standards of provision to evaluate the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision in the district, including the identification of surpluses or deficiencies.
- To undertake a districtwide and parish-specific assessment, including the identification of surpluses or deficiencies in provision at both levels.
- To map all forms of provision at parish levels using Geographic Information System (GIS) maps, to show catchments based upon the adopted accessibility standards.
- To identify the costs of provision of different types and scales of provision based on previous local projects.
- To produce a calculator tool to establish what developer contributions for open space should be made on a site-specific basis, for the purposes of development management and the Section 106 contributions that will be made for individual planning applications.

What the assessment covers

2) The assessment covers the following types of publicly accessible open space:

- Parks and gardens.
- Natural greenspace.
- Accessible open space.
- Play provision for children and young people.
- Allotments.
- Churchyards and cemeteries.
- Grass pitches (football, cricket and rugby).
- Synthetic turf pitches.
- Bowls greens.
- Tennis courts.
- Golf courses.
- Village and community halls.

About Blaby district

3) **Population** - Based on the 2011 Census, Blaby district has a population of 93,900 (ONS, 2012). Whilst the age structure is relatively similar to national norms, the slightly older than average age profile suggests that demand for less vigorous forms of sport and physical activity are likely to be proportionately higher.

- 4) **Ethnicity** - Black and minority ethnic groups comprise 11.5% of the local population, well below the national average. The relatively high proportion of people of south Asian heritage, with their traditional affinity with cricket, may have a specific impact on demand for this sport.
- 5) **Growth** - The Office for National Statistics projections Blaby forecast that the population of the district will increase by 9.7% by 2029, which will create additional demand for open space. However, significant changes towards a more elderly age profile will alter demand patterns.
- 6) **Health** - Local health indices that are close to the national norms locally underline the importance of ensuring access to open spaces, as part of a wider strategy to ensure that the local population remains physically active and increases its participation.
- 7) **Deprivation** - Deprivation indices for the district are relatively low. Since deprivation is associated with lower rates of sport and physical activity, local demand is likely to be relatively high.

Meeting local and wider priorities

- 8) **The Blaby Plan 2015-2018 (2015)** - The Blaby Plan includes a strong high-level policy commitment to ‘improve access and use of sports, recreation and open space facilities’.
- 9) **Core Strategy (2013)** - The Local Plan Core Strategy contains positive policies on the provision and retention of open space.
- 10) **Green Spaces Strategy (2012)** - The Strategy for Blaby District provides a valuable steer on the management of open spaces and identifies nine strategically important sites.
- 11) **Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17) Study (2009)** - The study provides a useful preliminary assessment of the adequacy of open space provision in the district, based upon adopted local standards.
- 12) **Neighbouring areas** - Open space assessments in the six neighbouring local authorities, show that there are some significant shortfalls in adjoining areas which might cause demand to migrate to Blaby district. Equally, for types of open space and sports provision that is deficient in Blaby, demand is likely to be exported to neighbouring areas.
- 13) **National Planning Policy Framework (2012)** - Government policy on open spaces is contained in the National Planning Policy Framework, which makes clear the importance of protecting and enhancing open space through evidence-based assessments of local need to inform the statutory planning process.
- 14) **Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity** - National policy in ‘*Planning Practice Guidance*’ (2014) underlines the significance of linkage between open spaces, both within the district and in relation to sub-regional networks.
- 15) **Sport** - Sport England’s target to increase participation rates year-on-year will drive up demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities if it is achieved.

Local demand

- 16) **Demand for open space** - Surveys for the *'Blaby Green Space Strategy'* (2012) identified that the informal open spaces in Blaby district are the most frequently used types of provision.
- 17) **Views on provision** - The quality of the provision and management of parks and open spaces in Blaby district is rated very highly in a 2013 local residents' survey, although conversely, they are given a relatively low rating in terms of their priority in relation to other public services delivered by BDC.
- 18) **Rates of physical activity** - Local rates of participation in sport and physical activity recorded by the *'Active People'* survey (2015) are well above the regional and national averages.
- 19) **Local variations** - There are some quite significant local geographical variations in participation rates. Whetstone, Narborough and Braunstone have high participation rates, whereas Blaby, Glen Parva and Enderby are below the national average.
- 20) **Sport-specific demand** - Sport-specific demand is as follows:
 - **Football** - Local participation rates for youth football and mini-soccer are particularly high. 233 teams draw their membership from within the district.
 - **Cricket** - 85 cricket teams draw their membership from within the district.
 - **Rugby Union** - 40 rugby teams play in the district, mostly concentrated in the urban areas. There is limited scope for expansion at several clubs at present because of limited pitch capacity.
 - **Hockey** - There are no hockey clubs in the district, but local needs are met by five clubs located nearby in the City of Leicester.
 - **Bowls** - Seven clubs play in the district, the majority of which have experienced declining membership in recent years.
 - **Tennis** - Four clubs are based in the district and there are also opportunities for casual play on parks courts.
 - **Golf** - Five clubs are based in the district. All have spare capacity and allow 'pay-and-play' usage of their courses.
- 21) **Parish and town councils** - The majority of parish and town councils believe that existing open space provision is adequate to meet local demand, although a shortage of allotments was identified in several areas.
- 22) **Schools demand** - On-site open space and outdoor sports provision does not meet the needs of 80% of schools respondents, although none makes significant use of off-site provision to compensate for this. There is a strong local community use ethos amongst schools, which is reflected in extensive use of their facilities by community users and a willingness to extend this where demand arises.

Local supply

- 23) **Park and gardens** - There are seven parks and gardens in the district, totalling 16.80ha, primarily in the more built-up parts of the district. However, there is no provision in several of the larger parishes, including Enderby, Glen Parva and Leicester Forest East. The quality of provision is generally good. Given the limited number of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 16 minute driving time catchment from the *'Blaby Green Space Strategy'* (2012) embraces only around half of the district population.

- 24) **Natural greenspace** - There are 41 natural greenspace sites, totalling 243.89ha, or 2.60ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but two parishes, although per capita levels of provision are generally better in the more rural parishes. The quality of around one in five sites is rated as below 'average'. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 25 minute driving time catchment from the *Blaby Green Space Strategy* (2012) includes the entire district population.
- 25) **Informal open space** - There are 198 informal open space sites, totalling 92.22ha, or 0.99ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but one parish, although per capita levels of provision vary widely. The quality of provision is variable, although only 15.5% of the larger sites assessed (0.2ha or more) were rated as below 'average' quality. Many of the smaller sites offer little more than visual amenity, although some serve an important role providing links between other key sites in the wider green infrastructure network. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 10 minute driving time catchment from the *Blaby Green Space Strategy* (2012) includes the entire district population.
- 26) **Provision for children and young people** - There are 48 equipped play sites, totalling 5.76ha, or 0.06ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all parishes. The quality of provision is generally high, with only 9.8% of sites rated as below 'average'. However, provision for disabled users is often poor, with little or no disabled equipment and poor physical access to play areas for disabled children and/or disabled carers. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 13 minute travel time catchment from the *Blaby Green Space Strategy* (2012) includes the entire district population.
- 27) **Allotments** - There are 17 allotment sites, totalling 23.53ha, or 0.25ha per 1,000 residents. There is no provision in seven parishes, including two of the more urban areas (Leicester Forest East and Glen Parva). There are waiting lists at several sites and the survey of parish councils identified a number of areas where demand outstrips supply, in particular Blaby and Stoney Stanton. The quality of all sites is rated as 'average' or better. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 18 minute driving time catchment from the *Blaby Green Space Strategy* (2012) includes the entire district population.
- 28) **Cemeteries and churchyards** - There are 30 cemeteries and churchyards, totalling 19.60ha, or 0.21ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but two parishes, although per capita levels of provision vary widely. The quality of provision is variable, although only 10.0% of sites are rated as below 'average'. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the *Blaby Green Space Strategy* (2012) includes the entire district population.
- 29) **Adult football pitches** - There are 45 adult football pitches with community use and used, supplemented by two that are available but not used and two that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are relatively even across the district, with only five parishes without at least one pitch. Only one pitch is rated as 'poor' and therefore in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at eight sites, but several other sites score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.

- 30) **Youth football 11v11 pitches** - There are 9 youth football (11v11) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by one that is available but not used and three that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the larger parishes. Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.
- 31) **Youth football 9v9 pitches** - There are 11 youth football (9v9) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by 12 that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the larger parishes. Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.
- 32) **Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches** - There are 10 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by one that is available but not used and 16 that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the larger parishes. Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.
- 33) **Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches** - There are 13 mini-soccer (5v5) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by one that is available but not used five that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the larger parishes. Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.
- 34) **Cricket pitches** - There are 20 cricket pitches with community use and used, supplemented by five which are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the more rural parishes. Pitch and outfield quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at five sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range. Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey includes the entire district population.
- 35) **Rugby pitches** - There are 13 rugby pitches with community use and used. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the larger parishes. Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are also rated as at least 'standard' quality. The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.

- 36) **Synthetic turf pitches for hockey** - There are no synthetic turf pitches for hockey in Blaby district, but local needs are served by nine pitches in neighbouring areas, whose catchments overlap the district boundary. All the pitches are rated as at least 'standard' quality and are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.
- 37) **'3G' football turf pitches** - There is one full-sized '3G' football turf pitch in the district, supplemented by five smaller facilities suitable for training. The pitch is rated as 'good' quality and is therefore not in a condition that will compromise its levels of use. The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.
- 38) **Bowls greens** - There are seven bowls greens in the district, equivalent to 1: 13,414 people, which is just above the mean for the neighbouring local authorities. There is a bowls green in seven parishes. The quality of all greens and changing facilities is at least 'standard' and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. Disabled access is poor at three sites. The entire district population is within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.
- 39) **Tennis courts** - There are 39 tennis courts in the district, equivalent to 1: 2,403 people, which is the best per capita figure for the neighbouring local authorities. There is at least one court in nine parishes. The quality of all court surfaces is at least 'above average' and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. Changing is related as below 'average' at two sites and disabled and general access at one sites. The entire district population is within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.
- 40) **Golf courses** - There are five golf courses in the district, equivalent to 1: 23,475 people, which is well above the mean for the neighbouring local authorities. The quality of all aspects of all courses is at least 'average' and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.
- 41) **Village and community halls** - There are 43 village and community halls in the district, equivalent to 1: 2,184 people. Only three halls are rated as below 'average' for sports capacity, whilst five need some quality improvements. The entire district population is within the locally identified 10 minute driving time catchment from the 2015 clubs survey.

The balance between supply and demand

42) Based upon a supply-demand analysis, the following current needs have been identified:

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.20ha of parks and gardens per 1,000 people in all parishes of 6,000 people or larger. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 16 minutes travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit of 0.06ha • Localised shortfall in 6 of the 9 urban parishes partly offset by surpluses in Blaby, Braunstone and Glenfield parishes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrance and boundary improvement needed at Northfield Park. • Paths improvements needed at Franklin Park. • Planting improvements needed at Bouskell Park, Franklin Park, Narborough Recreation Ground and 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Natural greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.35ha of natural greenspace per 1,000 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 25 minutes travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide surplus of 0.05ha • Localised shortfall in 12 of the 19 parishes offset by surpluses elsewhere. 	Quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countesthorpe Country Park • Enderby Balancing Lake • Kings Walk Spinney • Land at Hinckley Way • Land at New Bridge Road • Land at Oakcroft Avenue • Land east of Riverside Way • Land north-east of Croft Hill • Glenfield Wildlife and Recreation Area • Sapcote Gravel Pit 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Informal open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.00ha of informal open space per 1,000 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 10 minutes travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit of 1.45ha. • Localised shortfalls in 13 of the 19 parishes. 	Quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon Road open space • Blaby Road open space • Brickman Close open space • Cranmer Close open space • Lane Close open space • Langham Drive open space • Lincoln Drive open space • Smithy Farm Drive open space • Thornborough Close open space • Woodhouse Road open space 	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.
Provision for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.06ha of equipped play space per 1,000 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 13 minutes travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide surplus of 0.14ha • Localised shortfall in 9 of the 19 parishes. 	Quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crescent play area • Fosse Meadows play area • Stafford Leys Community Centre 	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.

Typology	Standard	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.25ha of allotments per 1,000 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 18 minutes travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide surplus of 0.05ha • Shortfall in 12 of the 19 parishes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quality improvements required. 	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.
Cemeteries and churchyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.21ha of churchyards per 1,000 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 10 minutes travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit of 0.12ha • Shortfall in 6 of the 19 parishes offset by surpluses elsewhere. 	Quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldeby Churchyard and Cemetery (Enderby) • All Saints' Church, Sapcote (Sapcote) • St. Mary the Virgin, Wigston Parva (Sharnford) 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Adult football pitches	No standard set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 18 good quality pitches. • 6 sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • 18 sites have some spare usage capacity. 	Drainage improvements needed at Willoughby Road Playing Field (Countesthorpe). Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground (Cosby) • Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground (Glen Parva) • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground (Kirby Muxloe) • Mossdale Meadows (Kilby) • Northfield Park (Blaby) • Oakfield Park (Blaby) • Willoughby Road Playing Field (Countesthorpe) 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Youth football (11v11) pitches	No standard set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit equivalent to 0.5 standard quality pitches. • 4 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 1 site usage is balanced • 2 sites have some spare capacity. 	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leicester Road Recreation Ground (Enderby) • Mossdale Meadows (Kilby) 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Youth football (9v9) pitches	No standard set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit equivalent to 1 standard quality pitch. • 6 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 2 sites usage is balanced • 1 site has some spare capacity. 	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground (Cosby) • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground (Kirby Muxloe) • Leicester Road Recreation Ground (Enderby) • Mossdale Meadows (Kilby) 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

Typology	Standard	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	No standard set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 7.5 standard quality pitches • All sites have some spare capacity. 	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground (Cosby) • Mossdale Meadows (Kilby) • Oakfield Park (Blaby) • Warwick Road Recreation Ground (Whetstone) 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	No standard set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 10 good quality pitches • All sites have some spare capacity. 	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground (Cosby) • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground (Kirby Muxloe) • Mossdale Meadows (Kilby) • Oakfield Park (Blaby) 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Cricket pitches	No standard set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 53 good quality wickets. • 2 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 1 site usage is balanced • 16 sites have some spare capacity. 	Wicket quality improvements needed at Northfield Park. Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Lissman Fields • Meadows Sports Ground • Northfield Park • Winstanley Community College • Winston Avenue Sports Ground 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Rugby pitches	No standard set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage improvements are needed at the 2 sites which are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • 3 sites have some spare capacity. 	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Leicester Forest Rugby Club • Old Newtonians Rugby Club • Vipers Rugby Club 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	No standard set	Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 2 pitches at facilities in neighbouring areas.	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
'3G' football turf pitches	No standard set	Deficit of 2.33 '3G' pitches based on FA calculations	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Bowls greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 green per 13,500 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 15 minutes drive. 	No additional facilities needed.	Disabled improvements needed at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenfield Bowls Club (Glenfield) • Narborough & District BC (Narborough) • Shakespeare Park BC (Braunstone) 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 court per 2,350 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 15 minutes drive. 	No additional facilities needed.	Court improvements at Shakespeare Park (Braunstone) Changing improvements needed at : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enderby Tennis Club (Enderby) • Thorpe Astley TC (Braunstone) Access improvements needed at Enderby Tennis Club (Enderby)	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 course per 23,500 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 20 minutes drive. 	No additional facilities needed.	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Village and community halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hall per 2,850 people. • All aspects of quality at least 'average'. • Within 10 minutes drive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some capacity issues at Huncote Community Centre. • Neither of the sites identified as having deficient sports capacity has the potential to improve this aspect. 	Quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croft Community Centre • Huncote Community Centre • Narborough Parish Centre • Stoney Stanton Village Hall • Whetstone Memorial Hall 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

Dealing with deficiencies

43) Addressing deficiencies in open space and sports facilities provision can be achieved in a number of ways:

- **New provision** - Providing entirely new open space and sports facilities may be the only means of securing additional provision in the right location. This can be achieved by identifying new sites or extending existing provision.
- **Upgrading and refurbishing** - Upgrading and refurbishing existing open space and sports facilities would help to meet some of the qualitative deficiencies identified. Physically expanding the area of an existing site or facility will increase its capacity for use and may enhance its wildlife and biodiversity value. Providing linkages between existing areas of greenspace can help to create green corridors and strategic routes for green travel and wildlife migration.
- **Formal agreements** - Securing improved access through the development of formal agreements serves to safeguard public usage of open space and in some cases may provide sufficient security of tenure to allow external funding applications to be sought, to provide further enhancements. One example is the designation of Access Land under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000), which allows additional public access at specified sites in addition to traditional linear footpaths and bridleways.

- **Physical improvements** - A number of physical improvements to greenspace sites can improve access, especially for people who are generally less mobile such as the elderly and disabled. Examples include surfaced pathways, the provision of accessible gates and stiles and in the case of sites in rural areas that are relatively distant from the urban parts of the district, dedicated car parking.
- **Rights of way improvements** - Improving the rights of way network to ensure that there are appropriate linkages between key open space sites and settlements in the district would improve access and promote more sustainable forms of transport. The designation of additional named and/or themed trails in and around the district would promote the use of key routes.
- **Information and awareness** - The provision of interpretive panels at sites with nature conservation interest can help to educate and inform users and enhance the user experience. Similarly, good on-site signposting can improve user confidence in exploring larger sites or following marked trails. By the same token, off-site signposting creates greater awareness of sites by non-users and may therefore encourage usage. Finally, the development and distribution of publicity materials promoting open space sites will also raise awareness amongst potential users.
- **Integrated provision** - There are already a number of sites in the district where several open space functions are served at the same site. When making new provision, there are a number of advantages in integrating open spaces. The combination of different uses of open space will encourage a wider range of users, including family groups and will promote community cohesion. Maintenance will be simplified and rationalised if more provision is concentrated at a single site, rather than on a dispersed basis.
- **Reinstating playing pitches** - Reinstating playing pitches where usage has, for a variety of reasons, been discontinued in recent times, affords a straightforward response to increased local demand, as does converting pitches of a type for which there is local spare capacity into a type for which there is a deficiency.

Delivery partners

- 44) **Blaby District Council** - The council is likely to play the lead role in co-ordinating the development of the larger, more strategic open space and sports facility sites, in conjunction with other partners where appropriate.
- 45) **Town and parish councils** - Town and parish councils will continue to play a valuable role in providing and maintaining open space and sports facilities.
- 46) **Schools** - Many schools in Blaby district already provide sports facilities from which local communities benefit and there will be further opportunities both to provide additional facilities on school sites to extend and formalise community access to a range of existing provision.
- 47) **Sports clubs** - Local sports clubs are significant providers of sports facilities and will continue to do so. Some clubs may be interested in taking on delegated management responsibilities for facilities management and maintenance from Blaby District Council or parish councils.

48) **Voluntary and charitable organisations** - Local and national conservation trusts (such as the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) also provide and manage natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, including the creation of new areas from time to time. Sustrans is responsible for promoting and maintaining the National Cycle Network and also for promoting sustainable transport.

49) **Developers** - The developers of new housing and commercial projects in Blaby district are required either to provide new open space and sports facilities as part of an individual development, or to make a financial contribution towards the costs of such provision on site or elsewhere in the vicinity. The key principle is that the provision must meet the needs of the residents of the new developments, as opposed to rectifying any pre-existing deficiencies and requests for financial contributions must comply with the tests set out in the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations.

50) **Partnership arrangements** - Partnership arrangements involving combinations of any of the above providers will help to share the costs of provision, management and maintenance of additional provision.

Action plan to meet existing needs

51) The action plan identifies the ways in which current deficiencies might be met.

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Districtwide deficit of 0.06ha. ● Entrance and boundary improvements needed at Northfield Park, but no practical means to achieve this. ● Paths improvements needed at Franklin Park. ● Planting improvements needed at Bouskell Park and Narborough Recreation Ground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upgrade path surfaces at Franklin Park. ● Implement planting schemes needed at Bouskell Park, and Narborough Recreation Ground.
Natural greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. ● Access and management issues need to be resolved at Countesthorpe Country Park. ● Quality improvements needed at eight sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	Resolve the access and management issues with Countesthorpe Country Park. Enhance signage and information at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enderby Balancing Lake. ● Kings Walk Spinney. ● Land Hinckley Way. ● Land at New Bridge Road. ● Land at Oakcroft Avenue. ● Land east of Riverside Way. ● Land north-east of Croft Hill. ● Glenfield Wildlife & Recreation Area. ● Sapcote Gravel Pit.

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Informal open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Districtwide deficit of 1.45ha. ● Quality improvements needed at 10 sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<p>Develop additional informal open space as opportunities become available. Install benches and litter bins at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Avon Road open space ● Blaby Road open space ● Brickman Close open space ● Cranmer Close open space ● Lane Close open space ● Langham Drive open space ● Lincoln Drive open space ● Smithy Farm Drive open space ● Thornborough Close open space ● Woodhouse Road open space
Provision for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. ● Quality improvements needed at three sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify opportunities to provide new or extended play areas in parishes with the current deficits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Braunstone - Countesthorpe - Enderby - Glenfield ● Improve disabled access and equipment at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crescent play area - Fosse Meadows play area - Sharnford play area - Stafford Leys Community Centre
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, although localised deficits exist in some of the larger parishes. ● Quality improvements needed at two sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify opportunities to provide new or extended allotments in parishes with the greatest deficits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Glenfield - Glen Parva - Leicester Forest East ● Improve disabled access and equipment at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salisbury Avenue allotments - Windermere drive allotments
Cemeteries and churchyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Districtwide deficit of 0.12ha. ● Quality improvements needed at three sites. ● No significant accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify opportunities to provide new or extended cemeteries and churchyards in parishes with the greatest deficits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Braunstone - Glenfield - Glen Parva ● Install benches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aldeby Churchyard and Cemetery - All Saints' Church, Sapcote - St. Mary the Virgin Church, Wigston Parva

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Adult football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but six sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Pitch quality improvements needed at one site. ● Changing improvements needed at seven sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosby Recreation Ground - Kings Drive Playing Field - Meadows Sports Ground - Whetstone Youth Club - Willoughby Road Playing Field - Winston Avenue Sports Ground ● Make pitch quality improvements at Willoughby Road Playing Field ● Make changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosby Recreation Ground - Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows - Northfield Park - Oakfield Park - Willoughby Road Playing Field
Youth football (11v11) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Districtwide deficit of 0.5 pitches. ● Four sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Changing improvements needed at two sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convert spare capacity at existing adult football pitches to overcome the youth 11v11 deficit. ● Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brockington College - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Meadows Sports Ground - Winston Avenue Sports Ground ● Make changing improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows.
Youth football (9v9) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Districtwide deficit of one pitch. ● Six sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Changing improvements needed at four sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convert spare capacity at existing adult football pitches to overcome the youth 9v9 deficit. ● Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brockington College - Cosby Recreation Ground - Glenfield Sports Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Whetstone Recreation Ground ● Make changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosby Recreation Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs and no sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Changing improvements needed at four sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<p>Make changing improvements at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cosby Recreation Ground ● Mossdale Meadows ● Oakfield Park
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs and no sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Changing improvements needed at four sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<p>Make changing improvements at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cosby Recreation Ground ● Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground ● Mossdale Meadows ● Oakfield Park
Cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but two sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Pitch quality is poor at Northfield Park. ● Changing improvements needed at six sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve pitch quality at Northfield Park. ● Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploing demand at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enderby Cricket Club - Thurlaston Sports Club ● Make changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosby Recreation Ground - Lissman Fields - Meadows Sports Ground - Northfield Park - Winstanley Community College - Winston Avenue Sports Ground
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Changing improvements needed at five sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate the feasibility of improved pitch drainage to increase capacity at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leicester Forest Rugby Club - Vipers Rugby Club ● Investigate the feasibility of providing or accessing a rugby-compliant '3G' pitch to accommodate residual unmet capacity. ● Make changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosby Recreation Ground - Old Newtonians Rugby Club - Vipers Rugby Club
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. ● No quality improvements needed. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
'3G' football turf pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deficit equivalent to 2.35 pitches. ● No quality improvements needed. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate the feasibility of developing '3G' pitches in sub-areas with the greatest shortfall of grass pitches (Narborough and Whetstone). ● Investigate the feasibility of providing a rugby-compliant '3G' pitch as a means of jointly addressing football and rugby needs. ● Seek funding for the developments if the feasibility is proven.
Bowls greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. ● Disabled access improvements needed at three sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<p>Make disabled access improvements at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Glenfield Bowls Club ● Narborough and District Bowls Club ● Shakespeare Park Bowls Club
Tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. ● Court surface improvements needed at one site. ● Changing improvements needed at two sites. ● Access improvements needed at one site. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make court surface improvements at Shakespeare Park. ● Make changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enderby Tennis Club - Thorpe Astley Tennis Club ● Make access improvements at Enderby Tennis Club.
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. ● No quality improvements needed. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required
Village and community halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but there are capacity issues in Huncote. ● Sports capacity improvements needed at three sites, but there are no practical ways to achieve this. ● General condition improvements needed at five sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate the feasibility of developing additional hall capacity in Huncote. ● Make general condition improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Croft Community Centre - Huncote Community Centre - Narborough Parish Centre - Stoney Stanton Village Hall - Whetstone Memorial Hall

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) was appointed by Blaby District Council (BDC) to undertake an open space audit for the district that complies with the latest relevant guidance and national policy dealing with open space, sport and recreation.

1.2 The study aims

The aims of the Audit are to provide the evidence base to inform BDC's Local Plan, update its Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and subsequently to request open space contributions from development proposals.

1.3 The study objectives

The objectives of the Audit are as follows:

- To review the standards set out in BDC's Core Strategy Policy CS15 for the open space requirements of local communities, covering quantity, quality and access.
- To audit the district's open space, sport and recreation facilities, including an assessment of the current quality of provision.
- To use the local standards of provision to evaluate the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision in the district, including the identification of surpluses or deficiencies.
- To undertake a districtwide and parish-specific assessment, including the identification of surpluses or deficiencies in provision at both levels.
- To map all forms of provision at parish levels using Geographic Information System (GIS) maps, to show catchments based upon the recommended accessibility standards.
- To identify the costs of different types and scales of open space, sport and recreation provision based on previous local projects and comparable projects elsewhere.
- To produce a calculator tool to establish what developer contributions for open space should be made on a site-specific basis, for the purposes of development management and the Section 106 contributions that will be made for individual planning applications.

1.4 The scope of the study

1.4.1 Types of provision

The types of provision covered in the audit are as follows:

- Parks and gardens.
- Natural greenspace.
- Informal open space.
- Provision for children and young people.

- Allotments.
- Churchyards and cemeteries.
- Grass pitches for football, cricket and rugby,
- Artificial turf pitches.
- Tennis courts.
- Bowls greens.
- Golf courses.
- Village and community halls.

1.4.2 Geographical scope

The audit covers the area administered by BDC and includes an assessment of provision in neighbouring areas, where it is used by individuals and clubs from within the district.

1.4.3 Exclusions

The following issues were not included in the study brief and are therefore not considered in the audit:

- **Burial capacity at cemeteries and churchyards** - The audit is concerned solely with the open space functions of cemeteries and churchyards as ‘publicly-accessible green spaces providing opportunities for quiet contemplation’. Many sites have historic and cultural value and some sustain wildlife conservation and biodiversity. The assessment of the adequacy of provision is therefore based exclusively on their capacity to accommodate open space usage and not their primary function as burial sites.
- **Public Rights of Way** - Public Rights of Way, in particular footpaths, bridleways, cycle paths and byways, are of great importance in providing non-vehicular access to and within open spaces. The audit considers the quality of paths within open space sites, but an assessment of the overall rights of way network between sites was outside the scope of the brief.

1.5 The study methodology

The methodology for the study follows the current best practice guidance as follows:

1.5.1 Open spaces

The types of open space assessed using the following methodology are parks and gardens, natural greenspace, accessible open space, children’s play, allotments and cemeteries and churchyards.

Although Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) *‘Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation’* (2002) has been superseded, its *‘Companion Guide’* remains the template for undertaking open space studies. It advocates a five stage approach which we applied as follows:

- **Identifying local needs** - We collected and analysed data on local demand and need for open spaces.
- **Auditing existing provision** - We compiled information on the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces in the district, which included visits to audit each site.

- **Setting provision standards** - We developed evidence-based local standards of provision for each type of open space, with quantitative, qualitative and accessibility elements.
- **Applying provision standards** - We applied the standards of provision to assess the adequacy of existing provision.
- **Drafting policies** - We drafted policies and an action plan for the provision, improvement and retention of open space in Blaby district.

1.5.2 Sports facilities

The types of sports facility assessed using the following methodology bowls greens, tennis courts, golf courses and village/community halls.

The methodology for the study follows the '*Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance*' (2014), developed by Sport England.

- **Preparing and tailoring the approach** - We established the local strategic context for outdoor sports facility provision.
- **Gathering facility supply information** - The Quality, quantity and accessibility of outdoor sports facilities provision was compiled, including site visits to audit all provision.
- **Gathering facility demand information** - We compiled demand information by looking at the local population profile, sports participation trends and local demand priorities.
- **Consultation** - We initiated and circulated several local surveys on local facilities demand to the governing bodies and local sports clubs of all the sports that use facilities included in the audit and all town and parish councils in Blaby district.
- **Bringing the information together** - We applied the data on supply and demand to build a picture of the level of provision by layering information on the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of facilities to build up the assessment. We also developed evidence-based standards of provision against which to assess current needs.

1.5.3 Playing pitches

The types of playing pitch assessed using the following methodology are adult and youth football (11v11 and 9v9), mini-soccer (7v7 and 5v5), cricket, rugby, synthetic turf pitches for hockey and '3G' football turf pitches.

Sport England's '*Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*' (2013) approach to playing pitch assessments, has been applied as follows:

- **Preparing and tailoring the approach** - We convened a Project Steering Group (PSG) involving representatives of BDC, Sport England, the Leicester-shire and Rutland Sports Partnership, the Football Association, the England and Wales Cricket Board and the Rugby Football Union.

- **Gathering supply data** - Qualitative and quantitative information on pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision was compiled from a range of sources and the data was checked and challenged by the PSG and other local users and providers.
- **Gathering demand data** - Pitch and outdoor sports facilities demand information was compiled from consultation with sports clubs, facility providers including town and parish councils, local league secretaries and the governing bodies of sport.
- **Understanding the situation at individual sites** - We developed a site overview at all pitch and outdoor sports facilities sites by comparing the current carrying capacity of each site with its current use, identifying the peak demand periods and establishing the key issues impacting upon the usage of each site.
- **Developing the picture of current and future provision** - We established an overview of current provision by developing a picture of the position regarding all sites, establishing the extent of displaced and latent demand, identifying the views and key issues and determining the situation at priority sites.
- **Identifying the key findings and issues** - We assessed the findings to establish whether there is enough accessible and secured provision to meet current demand and whether the quality is adequate.

1.6 Audit format

The structure of the assessment is as follows:

- The local context.
- Local strategic influences.
- Wider strategic influences.
- Open space demand in Blaby district.
- Open space supply in Blaby district.
- The balance between supply and demand.
- Planning considerations.
- Action plan.

2 THE BLABY CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

This section identifies the context within which open space provision is made in Blaby district. It covers the following:

- Geography
- Landscape
- Population
- Deprivation indices
- Health indices
- Implications for open space provision.

2.2 Geography

Blaby District is located immediately to the south west of Leicester. It covers an area of 50 square miles, comprises 25 towns and villages and is home to 93,900 people (2011 Census).

- The northern part of the district is predominantly urban in character, where the five settlements of Glenfield, Braunstone Town, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East, Lubbethorpe and Glen Parva are part of the Leicester Principal Urban Area.
- A number of larger villages to the south of the city boundary, including Narborough, Enderby, Blaby, Countesthorpe and Whetstone have good functional relationships with Leicester and offer a wide range of facilities and services.
- The south of the district is more rural in character, comprising a number of smaller villages which have stronger links with Hinckley.

2.3 Landscape

There are some important areas of natural environment and landscape character in Blaby district. Whilst it is predominantly low lying, there are some significant landscape features including granite outcrops at Croft Hill and Enderby. The District contains six Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) of ecological and geological importance and two areas of ancient woodland. It also contains a diverse range of protected habitats and species. Key green corridors bisect the urban area including those around the Grand Union Canal, Rothley Brook and Rivers Soar and Sence.

2.4 Population

Based on the 2011 Census, Blaby district has a population of 93,900 (ONS, 2012). This represents growth of 7.1% (around 6,200 people) since the previous census in 2001.

2.4.1 Age structure

The age structure is set out below, with comparative figures for the East Midlands and England as a whole. The figures show that the district has an age structure that is relatively close to the national average, although the proportion of people aged under 25 is slightly lower and those aged over 50 is proportionately higher.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Blaby</i>	<i>Blaby%</i>	<i>East Midlands %</i>	<i>England %</i>
0-14	16,300	17.4%	18.4%	18.9%
15-24	10,900	11.6%	12.4%	12.9%
25-49	31,400	33.4%	33.6%	34.5%
50-64	18,500	19.7%	17.9%	16.9%
65+	16,800	17.9%	17.7%	16.8%
Total	93,900	100%	100%	100%

Source: 2011 Census: Resident Population Estimates by Broad Age Band (ONS, 2012)

2.4.2 Ethnicity

The proportion of the population from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in the district (11.5%) is well below the average for the East Midlands and for England as a whole. The largest minority ethnic group is made up of people of south Asian origin.

<i>Group</i>	<i>Blaby</i>	<i>Blaby %</i>	<i>East Midlands%</i>	<i>England %</i>
White British	112,588	88.5%	85.4%	79.8%
White Other	14,258	2.5%	3.9%	5.7%
Mixed	5,386	1.6%	1.9%	2.2%
Asian	17,932	6.1%	6.4%	7.7%
Black	6,202	0.9%	1.7%	3.4%
Other ethnic	1,113	0.4%	0.6%	1.0%

Source: 2011 Census (ONS, 2012)

2.4.3 Population density

Blaby district has a relatively high population density, with 720 persons per hectare, compared with the national average of 398 persons per hectare.

2.4.4 Population growth

The Office for National Statistics has produced long-term sub-national population projections to indicate the future trends in population by age and sex. They are trend-based projections which means assumptions on future levels of births, deaths and migration are based on observed levels over the previous five years. They show what the population will be if recent trends continue.

Based upon these figures, the population of Blaby district is projected to be 103,000 by 2029, an increase of 9,100 people or 9.7%. Projected changes in the age structure are as follows:

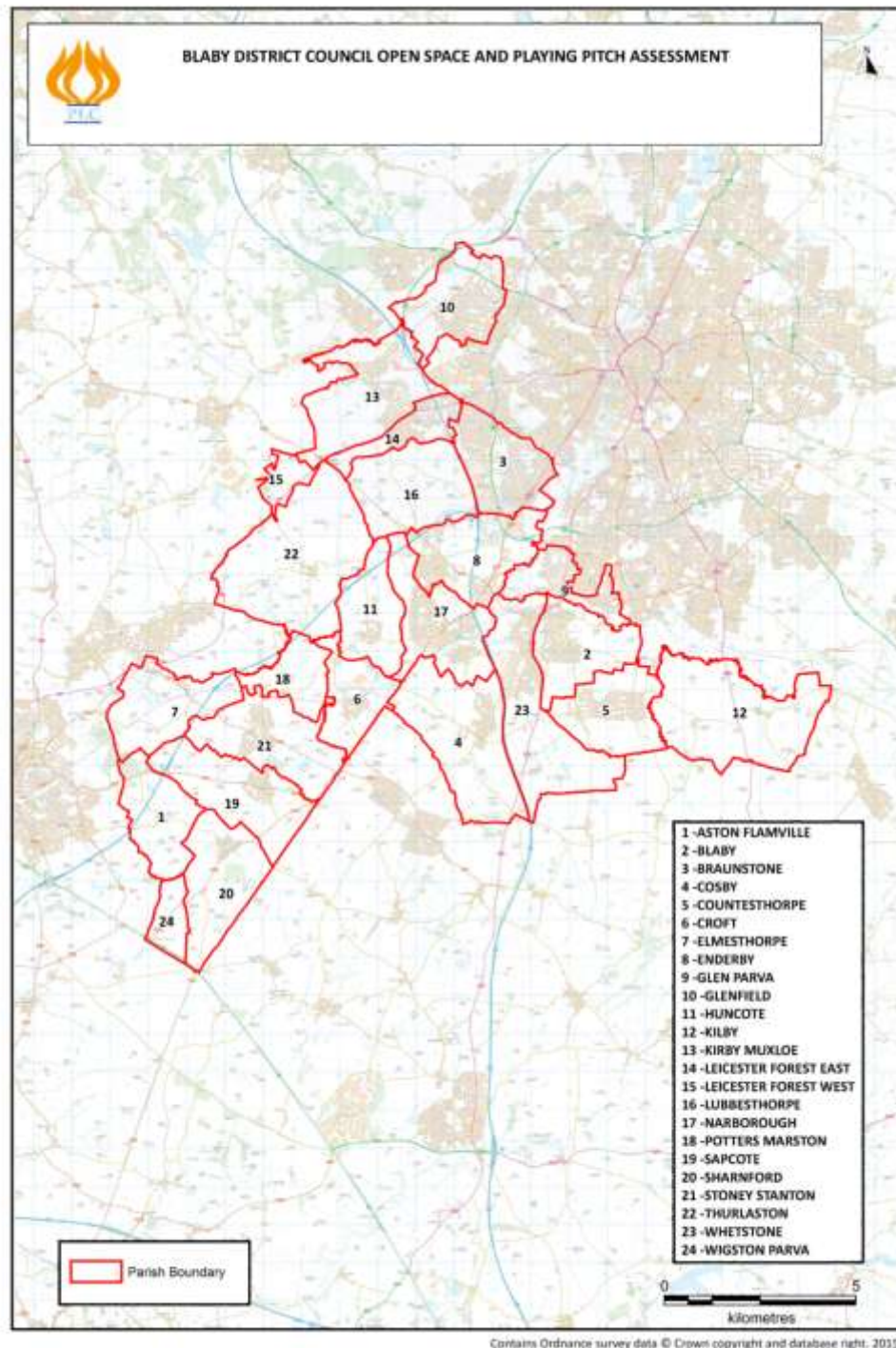
<i>Age</i>	<i>Blaby 2015</i>	<i>Blaby 2029</i>	<i>% Change</i>
0-14	16,300	12,000	-26.4%
15-24	10,900	11,000	+0.9%
25-49	31,400	30,000	-4.5%
50-64	18,500	19,000	+2.7%
65+	16,800	26,000	+54.8%
Total	93,900	103,000	+9.7%

Source: '2012-based Sub-national Population Projections for Local Authorities in England' (ONS, 2014)

2.5 Parish structure

Blaby district has 26 parishes, but for the purposes of the audit, some of the smaller parishes that are represented by parish meetings rather than parish councils, have been combined to create slightly larger analysis areas. These include:

- Elmesthorpe with Potters Marston.
- Leicester Forest East with Leicester Forest West.
- Sharnford with Aston Flamville and Wigston Parva.



2.6 Health indices

Public Health England's *Health Profile for Blaby* (2014) contains the following details on local health indices:

- The health of people in Blaby district is generally better than the England average. Deprivation is below average, although 9.9% of children (1,700) are classified as living in poverty, compared with 20.6% nationally.
- Life expectancy for both men (80.7 years and women (84.6 years) are both well above the respective national averages (79.2 years and 83.0 years).
- There is relatively little health inequality, with life expectancy almost the same for men and women in the most deprived areas of the district as it is in the least deprived areas.
- 16.7% of children aged 10 - 11 in Blaby are classified as overweight or obese, which is well below the national average of 18.9%.
- 25.6% of adults in Blaby are classified as overweight or obese, which is well above the England average of 23.0%.

2.7 Deprivation indices

According to the Government's Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010, Blaby district was ranked at 297 out of 354 local authorities in England, where 1 was the most deprived area and 354 the least deprived. This means that there is relatively limited deprivation in the district.

2.8 Summary of the local context

The implications for open space provision in Blaby district are as follows:

- Whilst the age structure is relatively similar to national norms, the slightly older than average age profile suggests that demand for less vigorous forms of sport and physical activity are likely to be proportionately higher.
- Black and minority ethnic groups comprise 11.5% of the local population, well below the national average. The relatively high proportion of people of south Asian heritage, with their traditional affinity with cricket, may have a specific impact on demand for this sport.
- Local population density is almost double the national average, which emphasises the pressures on the relatively limited areas of open space.
- The population is projected to increase by 9.7% by 2029, which will create additional demand for open space. However, significant changes towards a more elderly age profile will alter demand patterns.
- Local health indices that are close to the national norms locally underline the importance of ensuring access to open spaces, as part of a wider strategy to ensure that the local population remains physically active and increases its participation.

- Deprivation indices for the district are relatively low. Since deprivation is associated with lower rates of sport and physical activity, local demand is likely to be relatively high.



Oakfield Park Play Area

3 LOCAL STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

3.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of local strategic policies and priorities on open space provision in Blaby district, including the impact of neighbouring areas.

3.2 The Blaby Plan

The *'Blaby Plan 2015 - 2018'* (2015), sets out the council's ambitions and how it and its partners will deliver its priorities to the local community.

3.2.1 Vision

The vision is that 'Blaby district is made up of thriving and vibrant communities where people are happy to live, work and visit'.

3.2.2 Priorities

One of the council's key priorities is health and well-being, with residents healthy, fulfilled and confident for their future. One underpinning objective is to 'improve access and use of sports, recreation and open space facilities'.

3.3 The Blaby Local Plan Core Strategy

The *'Blaby District Local Plan Core Strategy'* (2013) sets out the vision, objectives, strategy and core policies for the spatial planning of the district up to 2029. The main material of relevance to open space provision is as follows:

3.3.1 Vision

Aspects of the overall vision for the district that relate to open space are as follows:

- 'The residents of Blaby district will enjoy a clean, attractive and safe environment, where new developments will be of a high quality and where the special character of the district's natural and built environment will be protected and enhanced'.
- 'Greater community facilities (including public open space and sports provision) will be provided to meet the needs of the population'.
- 'There will be a comprehensive and connected network of green infrastructure where habitats will be protected and a variety of species will be encouraged to thrive. Access to the countryside and open spaces will be enhanced particularly through a network of green wedges'.

3.3.2 Strategic objectives

Aspects of the strategic objectives for the Core Strategy that relate to open space are as follows:

- **To maximise sport and recreation opportunities** - ‘Health and well-being’ is a key priority of the Blaby Community Plan. The provision of play, open spaces, sports and recreation facilities will help to achieve this objective. A recent study of play and open spaces has indicated widespread shortfalls of facilities. Redressing this through spatial planning policies and working with partners is therefore a key objective.
- **To protect the important areas of the district’s natural environment** - To improve bio-diversity, wildlife habitats and corridors through the design of new developments and the management of existing areas by working with partners. A Phase 1 Habitat Survey has indicated that the district has a rich but dispersed pattern of important species, habitats and sites of geological importance. Whilst these areas are numerous, there is a lack of bio-diversity within the district when compared to neighbouring authorities.

3.3.3 Spatial strategy

The spatial strategy sets out how the council intends to address the key issues and objectives and how it envisages different parts of the district changing in the context of these issues. Aspects of the spatial strategy that relate to open space are as follows:

- **Housing delivery** - The strategy for delivering housing will be to focus the majority of development (at least 5,750 dwellings) within and adjoining the Principal Urban Area in the northern part of the district. The majority of housing and employment (some 4,250 dwellings and 21 hectares of employment area) will be delivered in one large Strategic Growth Area, including a Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) and Strategic Employment Site (SES).
- **Green Infrastructure** - The strategy is to improve the provision and access to a network (of all types) of green space around the district. The SUE will give an opportunity to link existing urban areas to open countryside through green links. Existing green wedges, which are located in and adjacent to the northern and central parts of the district, will continue to be protected subject to a detailed review of their boundaries. Where possible, BDC will work with the ‘Stepping Stones’ project, in order to improve access to, and quality of, Green Wedges. Where there is a demonstrable lack of play and open space facilities, the Council will seek to secure high quality provision as part of new developments.

3.3.4 Spatial policies

The spatial policies that relate to open space are as follows:

- **Policy CS14 Green Infrastructure** - BDC and its partners will seek to protect existing, and provide new networks of multi-functional green spaces. This network will comprise public and privately owned land. Green Infrastructure can include formal open spaces for sport and recreation, green areas that can be used for informal recreation, areas that are valuable for their biodiversity (flora and fauna and network links), areas that are of cultural importance (heritage assets and their settings), areas that maintain natural and ecological processes (such as floodplains) and other areas that contribute to the health and quality of life of communities.

- **Policy CS15 Open space, sport and recreation** - BDC will seek to ensure that all residents have access to sufficient, high quality, accessible open space, sport and recreation facilities. In order to achieve this, the following standards, which indicate the provision of open space sport and recreation per 1000 population, will be used. For development likely to contain less than 1,000 people, a pro-rata approach will be used. The figures in brackets indicate desirable access standards in distance:
 - **Parks and recreation grounds** - 0.8 ha (800m).
 - **Outdoor sports space** - 1.0 ha (480m).
 - **Children and young people’s space** - 0.30ha (Junior 450m/Youth 800m).
 - **Informal open space** - 0.5 ha (480m).
 - **Natural greenspace** - 1.0 ha (960m).

The above standards will be used to ensure that development proposals provide sufficient accessible open space, sport and recreation, taking into account any local deficiencies. New on-site provision or financial contributions to improve the quality of, or access to, existing open space, will be expected and commuted maintenance sums will be sought.

Existing open space, sport and recreation facilities will be protected and where possible enhanced. Where development is proposed on existing open space, sport and recreation facilities, land should not be released, either in total or in part unless it can be demonstrated that:

- It is surplus to requirements for its current play and open space function; and,
- It is not needed for another type of open space, sport and recreation facility; or,
- Alternative provision of equivalent quantity, quality and accessibility, or better, can be provided in the local area.

3.4 The Blaby Green Space Strategy

The ‘*Blaby District Green Space Strategy*’ (2012) is ‘the reference point for all the Council’s decisions in relation to the design, development, management, maintenance and funding of green spaces’.

3.4.1 Vision

The strategic vision for Blaby’s green spaces is ‘to provide green spaces that make a positive contribution to the quality and diversity of the local environment and to the health and well-being of our residents. Our green spaces can be used, valued and enjoyed by everyone’.

3.4.2 Key themes

These are identified as follows:

- Protect and enhance existing sites.
- Increase play areas and facilities for young people.
- Increase and improve rural provision.

- Develop multi-functional sites.
- Improve access and quality of sites.
- Increase allotment provision.
- Utilise existing natural green space.

3.4.3 Planning standards

The planning standards which were subsequently included in the Local Plan Core Strategy (see above) were proposed.

3.4.4 Strategic sites

These are identified as follows:

- Fosse Meadows (Sharnford).
- Bouskell Park (Blaby).
- Glen Hills Nature Reserve (Glen Parva).
- Crow Mills Way (South Wigston).
- Osiers Nature Reserve (Braunstone).
- Jubilee Park (Enderby).
- Whetstone Way (Whetstone).
- Whistle Way (Narborough/Enderby).
- Countesthorpe Country Park (Countesthorpe).

3.4.5 Action plan

This is as follows:

- **Provide** - We will seek to provide sufficient accessible green space to meet current and future demand.
- **Improve** - We will seek to maintain and raise the quality of our green spaces.
- **Connect** - We will work in partnership to develop and manage continuous green networks for people and wildlife.
- **Involve** - We will work in partnership with the community and stakeholders to develop, manage and promote green spaces.
- **Resource** - We will seek to ensure sufficient resources are available to develop, manage and maintain green spaces.
- **Sustain** - We will work to ensure that the management of our green spaces has a positive impact on people, the local economy and the environment.
- **Conserve** - We will ensure that green space biodiversity, landscape and natural heritage is protected and conserved.

3.5 The PPG17 Study for Blaby District

The 'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report' (2009) provided much of the open space, sport and recreation evidence base that informed the development of the Green Spaces Strategy and the Local Plan Core Strategy. It was produced using the methodology proposed in PPG17 and its companion guide. The adequacy of provision of each type of open spaces was assessed at both parish level and in the context of five 'sub-areas' of the district. The key findings were as follows:

3.5.1 Parks and gardens

- **Quantity** - Supply varies from parish to parish, although overall no sub area has 'sufficient supply' to meet the established standard.
- **Quality** - In general, there is a need to improve the quality of provision in the district. Specifically:
 - There is an opportunity to provide larger, better quality and more exciting play areas within many of the sites.
 - There is a lack of signage and information within these open spaces. This has an impact on the welcoming aspect of the space and limits opportunity for community involvement.
 - There are significant differences in the quality of maintenance across the district, especially of safety surfaces in play areas, sports pitches and pavilions.
- **Access** - Only seven parishes do not have any provision of parks and gardens, whilst the large majority have good access.

3.5.2 Outdoor sports space

- **Quantity** - Only one sub-area does not meet the outdoor sports standard.
- **Quality** - Many tennis courts are in need of re-surfacing.
- **Access** - There is a large stock of limited access sports space, which will be of some benefit to the wider community.

3.5.3 Children and young people's provision

- **Quantity** - All areas have less than the required provision to meet the quantity standards set. Natural play areas should be considered in order to meet the required children and young people's standard.
- **Quality** - The quality of play areas varies vastly, but overall quality is average with very few examples of recent investment and good design. Most of the smaller play areas are out dated, poor quality and offer little play value. Provision within the larger settlements tends to be of higher quality than the more rural parishes.
- **Access** - 17 parishes do not have any form of youth provision, with only seven parishes having sufficient access to youth provision to meet the required standard.

3.5.4 Informal open space

- **Quantity** - No sub-area has an overall shortfall in the provision of informal green space, although the pattern is skewed by high provision in some settlements set against little or none in others.
- **Quality** - In general, the quality of informal open space was found to be above average or good and sites were generally well maintained. Where sites have been identified as having the potential to improve, this can be achieved relatively easily and at a reasonable cost with developments such as enhanced planting and improved footpath surfacing.
- **Access** - The informal spaces within the majority of parishes form a green visual network of sites, which offer more in terms of aesthetic quality than use.

3.5.5 Natural greenspace

- **Quantity** - The district is well provided for in terms of natural greenspace offering a variety of habitats with both biodiversity and recreational value. This asset should be maintained and protected.
- **Quality** - The quality of management for biodiversity is good, with appropriate levels of access balanced with areas for biodiversity. The provision of information and signage is varied across the district but there is a need to improve information provision across many of the sites.
- **Access** - Access is generally good throughout the district.

3.5.6 Allotments

- **Quantity** - Four of the five sub-areas and 19 of the 24 parishes have a deficiency in allotment provision.
- **Quality** - Only a limited quality audit was undertaken.
- **Access** - 17 out of 24 parishes do not have any allotment provision.

3.6 Neighbouring local authorities

Given the proximity of six neighbouring local authorities to Blaby district and the movement of individuals and teams across the administrative boundaries, assessments of open space provision in the surrounding areas provide important context for the study:

3.6.1 City of Leicester

Leicester City Council's *Leicester Greenspace Strategy* (2009) sets out the council's vision for greenspace. The findings of relevance to Blaby district are as follows:

- **Quantity of provision** - Based upon the application of its adopted standards, there is an adequate supply of parks, informal open space, natural greenspace and allotments, whilst there is an under supply of outdoor sports space and equipped play facilities across the city.
- **Quality of provision** - The quality of open space varies widely. Six sites have achieved the coveted 'Green Flag' designation, but many other smaller sites less well maintained. Many of the smaller equipped children's play areas have very limited play value.
- **Access to provision** - Access to parks, outdoor sports facilities and allotments is good throughout the city, although there are some gaps in access to informal open space, natural greenspace and children's play. The Council wants to focus activity and resources on a limited number of sites by creating six new 'District Parks' and eight 'Hub Sites' for pitch sports. In terms of the latter, the Council is currently producing a playing pitch strategy.

The implications for Blaby district are as follows:

- **Imported demand** - The shortfall in outdoor sports space and children's play provision is likely to mean that demand is imported to facilities in those parts of Blaby district that border the City of Leicester.
- **Exported demand** - The concentration of resources on creating and maintaining larger sites is likely to attract users from a wider catchment, including some from Blaby district.

3.6.2 Oadby and Wigston

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council produced '*Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study*' (2009) and it has reviewed provision at ward level on an annual basis since then. The most recent assessment contains the following material of relevance to Blaby district:

- **Parks and recreation grounds** - Five of the ten wards have surplus supply, with only the settlement of Wigston showing a small amount of under supply. The Borough as a whole has a good level of oversupply.
- **Outdoor sports space** - All of the Borough's ten wards show a deficiency in this typology, however if Limited Access Outdoor Sports were to be included (as the report suggests) the oversupply within the Borough would be significant. The Council has produced a draft playing pitch strategy, but this has yet to be endorsed by Sport England or the governing bodies of sport.
- **Children and young people's provision** - There is an under provision of equipped children's play, in particular youth provision.
- **Informal open space** - Three out of the ten wards within the Borough have surplus supply of this typology. Overall the Borough has a small under supply of 0.1 hectares per 1000 population.
- **Allotments** - Three out of the ten wards have allotment space provision. There is a deficiency when looking at the Borough as a whole.

The implication for Blaby district is that with deficiencies identified in all categories of open space, additional pressure will be placed on those sites in the district that border Oadby and Wigston. Equally, for types of open space and sports provision that is deficient in Blaby, demand is likely to be exported to neighbouring areas where there is spare capacity.

3.6.3 Harborough

Harborough District Council produced '*Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities and Assessment of Local Needs*' (2004). The document contains the following material of relevance to Blaby district:

- **Parks and gardens** - There is a deficiency of parks and gardens in all areas of the district, but the quality and accessibility is generally good.
- **Natural and semi-natural greenspace** - There is considered to be an oversupply of natural and semi-natural open spaces. The majority of sites are rated as 'good' quality and several are close to the border with Blaby district.
- **Amenity greenspace** - Most parts of the district have insufficient amenity greenspace to meet the required standard. The biggest shortfalls are in the areas neighbouring Blaby district. The majority of sites are rated as 'good' quality.
- **Children and young people's provision** - There is a total deficiency across the District equating to over 10 hectares of provision. However, the majority of sites are rated as 'good' quality and several are close to the border with Blaby district.
- **Outdoor sports facilities** - No quantitative assessment was undertaken, but the quality of 81% of sites was rated as 'good'. The catchment of several facilities overlaps the border of Blaby district.
- **Allotments** - There is an overall deficiency of allotments of 4.54 hectares in the district, much of which is focused in the areas adjoining Blaby district. The quality of most sites is generally below 'average'. None of the sites has a catchment which overlaps the border of Blaby district.

Whilst some sites in Harborough district have catchments that will serve some residents of Blaby district, for most types of provision there is a deficiency in the sub-areas closest to Blaby, which suggests that some demand will be imported from Harborough. The Council recently commenced work on a playing pitch strategy which should refine the needs assessment for pitches.

3.6.4 Rugby

Rugby Borough Council produced the '*Green Space Strategy: Making Green Space Your Space*' (2014), to guide the management and delivery of publicly accessible green space. The document builds upon earlier open space and green infrastructure studies, which concluded the following:

- **Parks and gardens** - There is a deficiency of parks and gardens within the urban area. There is a surplus within the rural area mainly due to the large country parks but when these are taken out of the equation there is deficiency in seven out of the eight rural analysis areas.

- **Natural and semi-natural greenspace** - There is an overall surplus within rural areas. However when omitting the large scale borough-wide provision, there are deficiencies with regards to local needs provision in six out of the eight rural wards.
- **Amenity greenspace** - Five rural sub-areas that have a slight deficiency.
- **Children and young people's provision** - There are slight deficiencies of equipped provision for children and young people in the urban sub-areas.
- **Outdoor sports facilities** - There is a surplus of outdoor sports facilities in all parts of the borough.
- **Allotments** - There are also some slight deficiencies of provision within four rural sub-areas.

The borough shares only a short boundary with Blaby district so the impact of levels of provision in Rugby is likely to be minimal.

3.6.5 Hinckley and Bosworth

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council produced the '*Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Study*' (2013). The document contains the following material of relevance to Blaby district:

- **Parks and gardens** - There is a minor shortfall in the quantity of formal parks in the borough.
- **Natural and semi-natural greenspace** - There are high levels of provision, but uneven distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace in the borough. Several large sites are located in close proximity to the border with Blaby district.
- **Amenity greenspace** - There is currently a minor shortfall in the quantity of amenity green space across in the borough.
- **Children and young people's provision** - Based on the recommended local standard, the provision of children's play areas is insufficient to meet demand, with a shortfall of 0.67ha. The largest shortfall is in the rural areas.
- **Outdoor sports facilities** - The provision of outdoor sports facilities is below the recommended minimum standard. There is a shortfall in the number of tennis courts, athletics tracks and synthetic turf pitches, although bowling green and golf course provision is considered to be adequate.
- **Allotments** - The provision of allotments is below the minimum standard, with a large deficiency in the urban areas partially offset by a surplus in the rural villages and key rural centres.

The borough shares a long boundary with Blaby district and many facilities and sites have catchments that will serve some Blaby residents.

3.6.6 Charnwood

Charnwood Borough Council produced *'The Open Spaces Strategy 2013 - 2028'* (2013). The document contains the following material in relation to the sub-area closest to Blaby district:

- **Parks and gardens** - There is a surplus in the quantity of formal parks in the sub-area.
- **Natural and semi-natural greenspace** - There is a significant shortfall in provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace.
- **Amenity greenspace** - There is a minor shortfall in the quantity of amenity green space.
- **Children and young people's provision** - A deficiency was identified.
- **Outdoor sports facilities** - There is a shortfall of youth football and mini-soccer pitches.
- **Allotments** - The provision of allotments is below the minimum standard.

The borough shares only a short boundary with Blaby district so the impact of levels of provision in Charnwood is likely to be minimal.

3.7 Summary of local strategic influences

The Blaby Plan includes a strong high-level policy commitment to 'improve access and use of sports, recreation and open space facilities'.

The Local Plan Core Strategy contains positive policies on the provision and retention of open space.

BDC's Green Spaces Strategy provides a valuable steer on the management of open spaces and identifies nine strategically important sites.

The *'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report'* (2009) is a useful preliminary assessment of the adequacy of open space provision in the district, based upon adopted local standards.

Open space assessments in the six neighbouring local authorities, show that there are some significant shortfalls in adjoining areas which might cause demand to migrate to Blaby district. Equally, for types of open space and sports provision that is deficient in Blaby, demand is likely to be exported to neighbouring areas where there is spare capacity.



St. Peter's Churchyard, Aston Flamville

4 WIDER STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

4.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of national strategic policies and priorities on open space provision in Blaby district.

4.2 National planning policy

4.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework

In March 2012, the Government published the *'National Planning Policy Framework'* (2012), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policies of greatest relevance to open space are as follows:

- **Sustainable development** - 'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.
- **Health and well-being** - 'Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being'.
- **Open space, sports and recreational facilities** - 'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. The planning system has a role in helping to create an environment where activities are made easier and public health can be improved. Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required'.
- **Local Green Space** - Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.
- **Preservation of open space** - 'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss’.

4.2.2 Planning Practice Guidance

The Government also issued *Planning Practice Guidance*’ in 2014 and the following is of particular relevance to open space:

- **Open space, sport and recreation provision** - ‘Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby’.
 - ‘Authorities and developers may refer to Sport England’s guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities’.
 - ‘Local planning authorities are required to consult Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields. Where there is no requirement to consult, local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility, the creation of a site for one or more playing pitches, artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility or a residential development of 300 dwellings or more’.
- **Local Green Space Designations** - Local Green Space Designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Sites will be included in Local Plans or Community Plans and designation will be subject to local discretion. There are no maximum or minimum size criteria and all forms of greenspace are eligible.
- **Health and well-being** - ‘Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making’.
 - ‘Development proposals should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to do’.
 - ‘Opportunities for healthy lifestyles must be considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity and promotes high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation)’.

4.3 Green infrastructure policy

The 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Project Board produced the *'Green Infrastructure Strategy: Sub-Regional Strategic Framework'* (2010). The Strategy proposes a strategic green infrastructure network for the three counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire and for the three cities of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham (the 6Cs). It also sets out a vision for green infrastructure in the area, a set of strategic objectives and provides recommendations for the content of policies within Local Plans.

4.3.1 Green infrastructure hierarchy

The strategy proposes a hierarchy of green infrastructure as follows:

- **Regional Green Infrastructure** - Strategic river corridors and regional parks.
- **Sub-regional Green Infrastructure** - Strategic river corridors and tributaries and landscape-scale forest initiatives.
- **City Green Infrastructure** - Main watercourses, National Cycle Network, greenways, local country parks, flood alleviation schemes and major historic sites.
- **Local Green Infrastructure** - Watercourses, public parks, pedestrian paths and public rights of way, conservation areas and road/rail verges.
- **Site Green Infrastructure** - Domestic gardens, footpaths, sustainable drainage systems, tress, hedges, ponds, allotments, green roofs, cemeteries and churchyards.

4.3.2 Spatial priorities

The strategy identifies the following priorities for investment:

- **Sub-regional Green Infrastructure Corridors** - Broadly defined corridors which reflect significant wildlife habitat corridors/areas that link with strategic green infrastructure in surrounding areas at the sub-regional level and have an important role to play in maintaining the overall integrity of the overall network in the long term.
- **Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones** - Broadly defined zones that form the immediate landscape setting to and encompass the countryside in and around the principal urban areas and sub-regional centres. These zones are subject to the greatest usage pressures and therefore need for enhanced provision.
- **City-Scale Green Infrastructure Corridors** - Collectively, these broadly defined corridors connect the above designations with the principal urban areas and sub-regional centres. They provide linkages for people and wildlife through the countryside between settlements, extending into the urban areas.

4.3.3 The implications for Blaby

These are as follows:

- **Sub-regional Green Infrastructure Corridors** - The Sence Strategic River Corridor and Grand Union Canal bisect Blaby district from south-west to north-east and link with the City of Leicester.
- **Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones** - The Leicester Principal Urban Area includes the northern part of Blaby district and is a designated Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zone.
- **City-Scale Green Infrastructure Corridors** - Blaby district also forms part of the Leicester Strategic Green Infrastructure Network, which includes three City-Scale Green Infrastructure Corridors linking the district with neighbouring local authorities.

4.4 Biodiversity policy

'*Space for Wildlife: The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan*' (2010) was produced by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust has three main objectives:

- To promote the restoration, management and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats.
- To promote the creation of new wildlife habitats in the wider countryside.
- To survey, monitor and promote favourable management of existing good sites through the Local Wildlife Sites system.

One of five *Living Landscape* schemes in the county, the Soar and Wreake Floodplain, is partly located in Blaby district and the Trust is keen to expand its landholdings in the area to protect and develop habitat.

4.5 Sports policy

4.5.1 Overall policy

The '*Sport England Strategy 2012 - 2017*' (2012) sets out national sports policy objectives:

- **Overall aims** - In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, sport in England will be transformed, so that sport becomes a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:
 - See more people taking on and keeping a sporting habit for life.
 - Create more opportunities for young people.
 - Nurture and develop talent.
 - Provide the right facilities in the right places.
 - Support local authorities and unlock local funding.
 - Ensure real opportunities for communities.

- Sport England is seeking a year-on-year increase in the proportion of people who play sport once a week for at least 30 minutes. In particular it hopes to raise the percentage of 14-25 year olds playing sport once a week and reduce the proportion dropping out of sport.

4.5.2 Playing pitch policy

Sport England's national policies in relation to playing pitches are contained in *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013). It contains a policy of resisting the loss of pitches unless one or more of the following five conditions are met:

- A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of facility provision in the catchment and that the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or outdoor sports facility and does not affect the quantity or quality of facilities or adversely affect their use.
- The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming a playing pitch or outdoor sports facility and does not result in:
 - The loss or loss of use of any facility (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins).
 - A reduction in the size of the playing area of any facility.
 - The loss of any other sports/ancillary facilities on site.
- The playing field or outdoor sports facility which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by facilities of an equivalent or better quality, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the development.
- The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of playing field or current outdoor facility.

4.6 Summary of wider strategic influences

Government planning policy is supportive of undertaking local assessments of need and protecting open space, which is helpful context for local planning policies in Blaby district.

Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity policies underline the significance of linkage between open spaces, both within the district and in relation to sub-regional networks.

Sport England's target to increase participation rates year-on-year will drive up demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities if it is achieved.

5 DEMAND FOR OPEN SPACE IN BLABY DISTRICT

5.1 Introduction

This section analyses the demand for open space in Blaby district. It draws upon the following material:

- The general community survey on open space, undertaken in connection with the *PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report* (2009).
- BDC's 2013 Residents' Survey.
- Sport England's *'Active People'* survey data for Blaby district.
- Sport England's *'Market segmentation'* data for Blaby district.
- Sports team data supplied by the governing bodies of the sports featured in the audit.
- A survey of local sports clubs undertaken in conjunction with the current audit.
- A survey of local schools undertaken in conjunction with the current audit.
- A survey of town and parish councils undertaken in conjunction with the current audit.

5.2 Community survey

The general community survey on open space, undertaken in connection with the *PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report* (2009) attracted 280 responses from street surveys and focus groups. The key data on demand is recorded below:

5.2.1 Frequency of use

The frequency with which the residents of Blaby district use different types of open space:

<i>Type</i>	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>Fortnightly</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Less often</i>	<i>Never</i>
Woodland areas	5%	8%	9%	18%	14%	46%
Country parks	4%	7%	6%	24%	11%	48%
Nature reserves	4%	6%	8%	18%	15%	49%
Areas to sit	8%	17%	6%	6%	9%	54%
Grass pitches	9%	17%	4%	6%	10%	54%
Local parks	0%	22%	8%	5%	7%	55%
Recreation grounds	4%	15%	7%	8%	9%	57%
Equipped play areas	5%	18%	5%	5%	8%	59%
Cemeteries/Churchyards	1%	5%	7%	10%	18%	59%
Tennis courts	0%	8%	3%	7%	16%	66%
Synthetic turf pitches	0%	4%	2%	5%	11%	78%
Teenage facilities	0%	1%	0%	2%	19%	78%
Allotments	2%	0%	0%	5%	9%	84%
Golf courses	0%	1%	1%	4%	10%	84%

5.2.2 Most important features of open space

Respondents to the survey identified the following features of open space provision as being important:

<i>Factor</i>	<i>% Respondents</i>
They should be clean and free from litter and graffiti	62%
They should be safe and secure for those using them	36%
There should be control of noise and antisocial behaviour	35%
There should be adequate control of dogs and be free from dog fouling	30%
They should be easy to get to for all members of the community	25%
Equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained	24%
They should be easy to get around by all members of the community	18%
They should have a range of facilities including cafes and toilets	15%
Cost of use	14%
There should be good footpath and cycleway links to and between them	9%
They should be well supervised and have staff on-site	8%
They should have good signposting and information about what's available	4%

5.2.3 The quantity of open space

Respondents to the survey were asked their views on the levels of provision of open space:

<i>Type</i>	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Very poor</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Woodland areas	1%	21%	51%	14%	4%	9%
Country parks	1%	21%	45%	19%	2%	12%
Nature reserves	1%	19%	54%	20%	3%	3%
Areas to sit	0%	23%	37%	26%	7%	7%
Grass pitches	1%	14%	22%	30%	11%	22%
Local parks	3%	50%	35%	9%	3%	0%
Recreation grounds	1%	23%	42%	21%	3%	10%
Equipped play areas	4%	32%	25%	24%	2%	13%
Cemeteries/Churchyards	0%	17%	36%	24%	2%	21%
Tennis courts	1%	13%	22%	30%	11%	23%
Synthetic turf pitches	1%	10%	23%	20%	7%	39%
Teenage facilities	5%	8%	25%	37%	4%	21%
Allotments	0%	10%	25%	25%	3%	37%
Golf courses	1%	16%	18%	20%	1%	44%

5.2.4 Modes of transport

Respondents to the survey were asked to identify their preferred modes of transport to reach open spaces:

<i>Type</i>	<i>Walk</i>	<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Car</i>	<i>Other</i>
Woodland areas	13%	12%	74%	1%
Country parks	12%	10%	77%	1%
Nature reserves	23%	8%	68%	1%
Areas to sit	89%	1%	19%	0%
Grass pitches	58%	0%	42%	0%
Local parks	91%	0%	8%	1%
Recreation grounds	81%	0%	18%	1%

<i>Type</i>	<i>Walk</i>	<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Car</i>	<i>Other</i>
Equipped play areas	83%	0%	14%	3%
Cemeteries/Churchyards	40%	6%	50%	4%
Tennis courts	62%	2%	36%	0%
Synthetic turf pitches	30%	0%	70%	0%
Teenage facilities	54%	3%	40%	3%
Allotments	33%	7%	60%	0%
Golf courses	30%	0%	70%	0%

5.2.5 Effective catchments

Effective catchments are defined as the time/distance that 80% of users are prepared to travel to reach different types of open space. The travel time tolerances of 80% of survey respondents are recorded below:

<i>Type</i>	<i>Effective catchment</i>
Woodland areas	20 minutes
Country parks	20 minutes
Nature reserves	25 minutes
Areas to sit	10 minutes
Grass pitches	17 minutes
Local parks	16 minutes
Recreation grounds	20 minutes
Equipped play areas	13 minutes
Cemeteries/Churchyards	15 minutes
Tennis courts	18 minutes
Synthetic turf pitches	20 minutes
Teenage facilities	15 minutes
Allotments	18 minutes
Golf courses	25 minutes

5.2.6 Key findings

The implications of the survey responses on open space demand in Blaby district are as follows:

- The more informal types of open space in Blaby district are the most frequently used types of provision.
- Respondents believe that the types of open space in the district with the poorest levels of provision are sports pitches, tennis courts and facilities for teenagers.
- Driving is the most popular form of transport for those types of open space like nature reserves and specialist sports facilities, for which users are prepared to travel further.

5.3 Residents' survey

BDC commissioned a survey of 1,100 residents in 2013, to gather views on a wide range of local issues. The material of relevance to open spaces is summarised below:

5.3.1 Overall satisfaction with services

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with a range of public services. Those relating to open spaces are recorded below:

<i>Service area</i>	<i>Satisfaction rating (%)</i>
Parks and open spaces	92%
Cleanliness of public spaces	86%
Sport and leisure facilities	84%
Provision for children and young people	53%

5.3.2 Priorities for improvement

Respondents were asked what priority they would give a range of public services. Those relating to open spaces are recorded below:

<i>Service area</i>	<i>High priority rating (%)</i>
Cleanliness of public spaces	59%
Provision for children and young people	43%
Parks and open spaces	40%
Sport and leisure facilities	27%

5.3.3 Key findings

The quality of the provision and management of parks and open spaces in Blaby district is rated very highly, although conversely, they are given a relatively low rating in terms of their priority in relation to other public services delivered by BDC.

5.4 The 'Active People' survey

The 'Active People' survey was first commissioned by Sport England in 2005 and has been carried out annually ever since. The survey is the largest study of patterns of adult (people aged over 16) involvement in sport and physical activity ever undertaken and involved telephone interviews with a representative sample of between 500 and 1,000 residents of each local authority borough in the country. Eight surveys have been undertaken to date, which has enabled trends to be tracked over a nine year period. The following Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are measured and the results for each are tabulated below:

- **Overall participation** - 'Taking part on at least one day a week in moderate intensity sport and active recreation (at least four days in the last four weeks) for at least 30 minutes continuously in any one session'.
- **Volunteering** - 'Volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week'.
- **Club membership** - 'Being a member of a club particularly so that you can participate in sport or recreational activity in the last four weeks'.

- **Receiving tuition** - ‘Having received tuition from an instructor or coach to improve your performance in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months’.
- **Organised Competition** - ‘Having taken part in any organised competition in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months’.
- **Satisfaction** - ‘The percentage of adults who are very or fairly satisfied with sports provision in their local area’.
- **Organised sport** - ‘The percentage of adults who have done at least one of receiving tuition in the last twelve months and/or taken part in organised competition in the last twelve months and/or been a member of a club to play sport’.
- **Satisfaction with local sports provision:** ‘The percentage of adults who are satisfied with local sports provision’.
- **Participation in individual sports:** ‘The percentage of adults who have participated at least once in a sport in the preceding four weeks’.

5.4.1 Overall participation

Overall rates of regular adult participation in sport and physical activity (at least one session of 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week) show rates in Blaby district have fluctuated during the survey period as a whole, but the trend is generally upwards. In every survey period, participation rates in Blaby have been well above the regional and national averages.

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>	<i>2013/14</i>
Blaby	35.2%	41.6%	36.6%	39.3%	34.6%	38.5%	41.0%	38.4%
East Midlands	33.6%	35.6%	36.0%	34.7%	33.8%	35.6%	34.3%	34.5%
England	34.2%	35.8%	35.7%	35.3%	34.8%	36.0%	35.7%	35.5%

5.4.2 Volunteering

Rates of volunteer support for sport in Blaby district have varied over recent survey periods but have consistently been below the regional and national averages:

				<i>2012/13</i>
Blaby	2.8%	7.2%	-	4.4%
East Midlands	4.8%	7.6%	8.2%	7.0%
England	4.5%	7.2%	7.6%	6.0%

5.4.3 Sports club membership

In line with national trends, rates of sports club membership in Blaby district have fluctuated over recent survey periods but remain above the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
Blaby	24.1%	27.3%	29.7%	21.3%
East Midlands	23.0%	22.3%	23.3%	20.3%
England	23.9%	23.3%	22.8%	21.0%

5.4.4 Sports coaching/tuition

The proportion of adults in Blaby district who received sports coaching or tuition in the previous 12 months has fluctuated during the survey period but remains below the national average:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
Blaby	13.7%	18.6%	16.5%	14.9%
East Midlands	16.5%	15.3%	15.7%	14.8%
England	17.5%	16.2%	16.8%	15.8%

5.4.5 Organised competition

The proportion of adults in Blaby district who took part in organised sports competitions in the previous 12 months has fluctuated during the recent survey periods, but in line with regional and national trends has shown an overall decline:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
Blaby	16.1%	17.9%	17.4%	10.5%
East Midlands	15.0%	13.9%	14.9%	12.2%
England	14.4%	14.3%	13.3%	11.2%

5.4.6 Satisfaction with local sports provision

The proportion of adults in Blaby district who are satisfied with local sports provision decreased during the two recent survey periods when this element was included, but on both occasions was well above the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
Blaby	69.7%	64.5%
East Midlands	69.0%	61.5%
England	68.0%	60.3%

5.4.7 Participation in individual sport

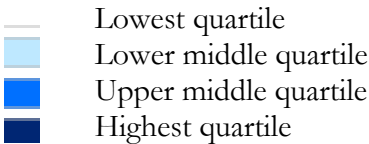
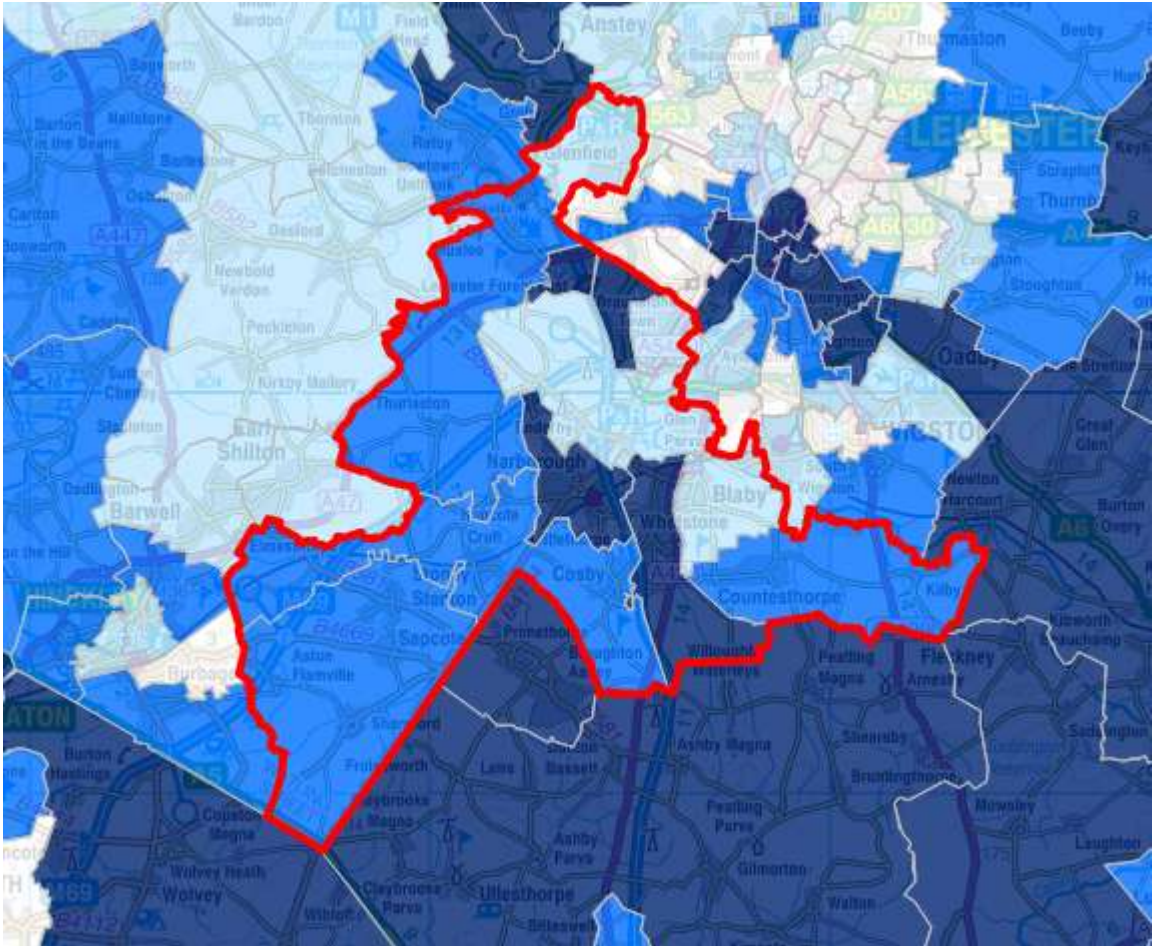
The most popular sports in which respondents from Blaby participated in the four weeks prior to the 2012/13 survey are listed below, along with the respective regional and national figures. The local participation rates for football are well above the regional and national averages:

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Blaby</i>	<i>East Midlands</i>	<i>England</i>
Swimming	10.9%	10.8%	11.5%
Football	10.3%	6.5%	6.3%
Health and fitness	9.3%	10.0%	10.9%
Cycling	7.7%	8.5%	8.1%

5.4.8 Local variations

Sport England’s ‘Active People Interactive’ tool enables local participation data to be mapped, to give a more detailed picture of participation rates at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) level (equating to populations between 5,000 and 7,200 people).

The map below shows the MSOAs covering Blaby district and it reveals the extent to which local participation varies between the respective quartiles. Whetstone, Narborough and Braunstone have participation rates in the highest quartile, whereas Blaby, Glen Parva and Enderby are in the lower middle quartile.



5.4.9 The implications for Blaby district

- Overall rates of participation in sport and physical activity in Blaby district have fluctuated since 2005/6 but the general trend is upwards and in every survey period local rates have been well above the regional and national averages. This suggests that local demand for open space, playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities will be proportionately high and this is borne out by figures from the most recent ‘Active People’ survey, which show that football participation is well above the regional and national averages.

- In line with regional and national trends, the other participation indices are also falling, including involvement in organised, formal competitive activities like the pitch sports.
- Levels of satisfaction with local sports provision decreased over the two recent survey periods for which they were measured but in both cases were well above the regional and national averages. This implies that the quantity and quality of local provision is judged by the majority of participants as adequate to meet their needs.
- There are some quite significant local geographical variations in participation rates.

5.5 Market Segmentation

Sport England has identified 19 adult sporting market segments, defined by age and lifestyle, to better understand specific motivations and barriers to doing sport and physical activity. The data provides a useful way of anticipating demand for activities, based upon the extent to which segments are represented in the local population.

The proportion of the Blaby district population in each market segment is tabulated below, with the East Midlands and national figures for comparison:

<i>Segment</i>	<i>Blaby</i>	<i>East Midlands</i>	<i>England</i>
Competitive male urbanites	3.7%	4.3%	4.9%
Sports team drinkers	1.6%	5.2%	5.4%
Fitness class friends	3.6%	3.9%	4.7%
Supportive singles	1.8%	4.2%	4.3%
Career focused females	3.2%	4.1%	4.5%
Settling down males	8.4%	8.2%	8.8%
Stay at home mums	5.2%	4.2%	4.4%
Middle England mums	4.9%	5.5%	4.9%
Pub league team mates	1.7%	5.7%	5.9%
Stretched single mums	0.6%	3.3%	3.7%
Comfortable mid-life males	9.1%	9.4%	8.6%
Empty nest career ladies	5.3%	6.3%	6.1%
Early retirement couples	7.4%	7.6%	6.8%
Older working women	2.5%	5.2%	4.9%
Local 'old boys'	1.1%	3.8%	3.7%
Later life ladies	0.4%	1.9%	2.1%
Comfortable retired couples	2.2%	3.6%	4.2%
Twilight years gents	3.8%	4.7%	4.0%
Retirement home singles	5.9%	8.6%	8.0%

5.5.1 Dominant segments

Sport England classifies the 'dominant' market segments as those with more than 7% of the local population. In Blaby district these comprise 'settling down males', 'comfortable mid-life males' and 'early retirement couples'. The key characteristics of each dominant market segment and the type of activities that appeals to them are as follows:

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sports that appeal</i>
Settling down males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Age 26-45 ● Married ● Owner-occupied ● Employed full-time ● 50% have children ● Social class ABC1 ● 32% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week ● 27% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Canoeing ● Skiing ● Cricket ● Golf ● Cycling ● Squash ● Football
Comfortable mid-life males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Age 36-65 ● Married ● Owner-occupied ● Employed full-time ● 50% have children ● Social class ABC1 ● 26% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week ● 39% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sailing ● Gym ● Football ● Jogging ● Badminton ● Golf ● Cycling ● Cricket
Early retirement couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Age 56-65 ● Married ● Owner-occupied ● Retired/employed full-time ● No dependent children ● Social class ABC1 ● 19% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week ● 54% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Swimming ● Sailing ● Walking ● Golf ● Aqua aerobics ● Shooting ● Bowls ● Fishing

5.5.2 The implications for Blaby district

Based upon the activities likely to appeal to the dominant market segments, demand for bowls, golf and the pitch sports should be higher than the national average.

5.6 Sport-specific demand

5.6.1 Introduction

Because of the organisation of team sport, there is some detailed data on demand for most of the sports that use the types of pitches and facilities included in the Audit. This section summarises that data, in accordance with the provisions of Sport England's *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* (2013)

5.6.2 Football

The data on demand for football in Blaby district is detailed below. It was compiled from the Football Association's *Football Participation Report* for Blaby for 2014/2015.

- **Football Conversion Rates** - The FA calculated the following Football Conversion Rates, to compare the number of people playing football with the local population in each age group, to produce a percentage of each age group that plays football.

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Blaby (%)</i>	<i>East Midlands (%)</i>	<i>England (%)</i>
Adult male (ages 17 - 44)	5.6%	5.4%	4.7%
Adult female (ages 17 - 44)	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Youth male (ages 10 - 16)	24.3%	20.2%	18.7%
Youth female (ages 10 - 16)	5.5%	2.1%	1.8%
Mini-soccer (ages 5 - 9)	16.0%	11.4%	10.1%
TOTAL	10.3%	5.2%	4.9%

The Football Conversion Rates show that for youth football and mini-soccer in particular, participation rates in Blaby district are significantly higher than the regional and national averages.

- **Benchmarking** - As a benchmarking exercise, the conversion rates for Blaby district have been compared by the FA with those of the 20 most demographically similar local authorities. The results are listed in order of their overall conversion rate in the table below and show that Blaby is ranked sixth:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Adult male</i>	<i>Adult female</i>	<i>Youth male</i>	<i>Youth female</i>	<i>Mini-soccer</i>	<i>Overall</i>
South Gos.	6.7%	0.6%	29.1%	5.1%	17.3%	11.8%
Warrington	3.9%	0.2%	33.0%	1.3%	20.1%	11.7%
East Cambs.	5.7%	0.7%	27.2%	3.8%	18.4%	11.1%
South Staffs.	3.0%	0.4%	31.9%	3.7%	15.4%	10.9%
South Ribble	4.1%	0.2%	29.2%	2.3%	16.3%	10.4%
Blaby	5.6%	0.1%	24.3%	5.5%	16.0%	10.3%
Mid Suffolk	8.5%	0.2%	25.2%	1.9%	14.8%	10.1%
Maidstone	4.4%	0.3%	28.1%	2.5%	14.4%	9.9%
Eastleigh	6.1%	0.6%	27.1%	1.6%	14.1%	9.9%
Lichfield	3.9%	0.2%	27.9%	3.1%	13.6%	9.7%
Selby	7.5%	0.4%	24.2%	1.5%	14.7%	9.6%
NW Leics.	5.6%	0.6%	26.1%	2.1%	13.3%	9.5%
Huntingdonshire	5.3%	0.1%	25.4%	2.4%	12.8%	9.2%
Fareham	4.1%	0.1%	29.5%	1.1%	11.0%	9.2%
Harborough	6.0%	0.1%	25.0%	1.2%	13.0%	9.0%
Melton	4.9%	0.4%	21.6%	2.8%	14.5%	8.8%
Hinckley/Bosworth	6.4%	0.0%	21.6%	1.3%	14.6%	8.8%
Wyre Forest	6.2%	0.3%	20.5%	2.0%	14.4%	8.7%
West Oxon	7.6%	0.2%	20.6%	3.6%	10.3%	8.5%
Castle Point	6.7%	0.1%	21.2%	1.9%	12.3%	8.5%

- **Charter Standard Clubs** - Of the 55 football clubs in the district, 15 (27.3%) have achieved the FA's quality assured Charter Standard (compared with 27.0% nationally). 91.8% of youth and mini-soccer teams are part of a Charter Standard club, compared with a national average of 81.1% and above the national target of 80%.

- **Football clubs and teams in Blaby district** - The following clubs and teams currently play in the district. Clubs that have achieved the FA's quality assured 'Charter Standard' accreditation are marked with an asterisk. 'Home' venues outside the borough are marked in italics:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Advanced Football Academy	Whetstone Youth Club	0	2	0
AFC Bees Knees	Mossdale Meadows	1	0	0
AFC Woolly	Memorial Playing Fields	1	0	0
Blaby & Whetstone Athletic*	Whetstone Youth Club	2	1	0
Blaby & Whetstone Boys Club*	Whetstone Youth Club	0	8	7
Blaby & Whetstone Girls*	Whetstone Youth Club	0	3	1
Blaby Bulls FC*	Oakfield Park	0	1	3
Blaby United (Sunday) FC	Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	2	0	0
Braunstone Trinity FC*	Mossdale Meadows	2	4	6
Cosby United FC	Victory Park, Cosby	2	0	0
Cosby United Youth & Junior*	Victory Park, Cosby	0	6	4
Cosby Utd. Youth/Junior Girls*	Victory Park, Cosby	0	7	1
Countesthorpe Athletic FC	Willoughby Road Playing Field	1	4	0
County Hall FC	County Hall Sports Ground	1	0	0
Croft Juniors (2013) FC*	Winston Avenue Sp. Ground	0	7	5
Enderby Bullets FC	Winston Avenue Sp. Ground	1	0	0
Enderby Social Club FC	Southey Close Playing Fields	1	0	0
Enderby Mission United FC	Countsthorpe Comm. College	1	0	0
Epworth Forest Junior FC*	Kings Drive Playing Fields	0	5	2
FC Bulls Head	Memorial Playing Fields	1	0	0
FC Blaby Foxes	Whetstone Youth Club	2	0	0
FC Tumar	Northfield Park	1	0	0
Football & Fitness Academy	Brockington College	0	4	6
Forest East FC	Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	1	0	0
Forest Park FC	Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	1	0	0
Glenfield Town FC	Glenfield Sports Ground	2	0	0
Glenfield United FC	Glenfield Sports Ground	0	6	3
Huncote (Sunday) FC	Huncote Sports & Social Club	1	0	0
Huncote Sports & Social Club*	Huncote Sports & Social Club	3	1	0
Kingsway Rangers Juniors FC*	Mossdale Meadows <i>Manor House Playing Fields</i>	0	5	5
Kirby Muxloe FC*	Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	3	0	0
Kirby Muxloe 88 Junior FC*	Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	2	8	3
Leicestershire Constabulary FC	Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	1	0	0
Leics & Rutland FA	Holmes Park	0	3	0
Magna 73 FC	Meadows Sports Ground	2	0	0
Medz FC	Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	1	0	0
Narborough & Enderby Foxes FC*	Leicester Road Recn. Ground <i>Desford Recreation Ground</i>	1	9	2
Oadby/Wigston Ladies Dynamo*	Meadows Sports Ground	3	10	0
Saffron Dynamo FC*	Saffron Dynamo FC	2	7	6
Star & Garter FC	Meadows Sports Ground	1	0	0

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Studs Junior FC	Winstanley Comm. College	0	6	2
Suecastle FC	Countsthorpe Comm. College	1	0	0
The Alliance FC	Meadows Sports Ground	1	0	0
Thurlaston Magpies FC*	Thurlaston Sports Club	4	6	1
United Revolution FC*	Huncote Sports & Social Club	1	0	0
Whetstone Juniors FC*	Lutterworth Road Recn Grd. Warwick Road Sports Ground	1	6	8
Whetstone Veterans FC	Warwick Road Sports Ground	2	0	0
TOTALS	-	53	117	63

- **Governing body of sport consultation** - The Leicestershire Football Association identified the following key issues in relation to football in Blaby District:
 - **Priority clubs** - The FA's priority clubs in Blaby district are Oadby and Wigston Ladies Dynamo, Whetstone Juniors FC and Saffron Dynamo FC.
 - **'3G' pitches** - There is a need for additional '3G' football turf pitch provision in the district, with only one full-sized facility at present.
 - **School pitches** - There is currently limited use of school pitches by community users in the district.
 - **Pitch drainage** - Pitch drainage is poor at several sites in the district, which leads to frequent postponements.
 - **Changing facilities** - Changing facilities for women and girls in the district is generally poor.
- **Football club survey findings** - 12 clubs responded to the survey (representing 112 teams or 48.1% of those in the district). The key findings on demand were as follows:
 - **Membership trends** - 10 clubs (83.3%) have experienced an increase in membership over the past three years, whilst two (16.7%) have had falling memberships.
 - **Development aspirations** - 10 clubs (83.3%) have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.
 - **Access to pitches** - 9 clubs (75.0%) are able to access the pitches they need at their favoured location, whilst three (25.0%) are only able partially to do so, primarily because there are insufficient pitches to accommodate all their teams at a single site.
- **Casual demand for football** - In addition to formal pitch use by football clubs for official matches and training sessions, casual use such as informal/friendly matches may also impact on pitches. Consultation with pitch providers and local clubs in the district, revealed that whilst there is some informal use of pitches in parks and recreation grounds with general public access, in no instances are levels of use significant enough to affect the quality or carrying capacity of the pitches concerned.

- **Education demand for football** - Schools and colleges generate significant demand for pitches. The majority have their own playing pitches but some may also use other sites in addition to their own. The survey of schools in Blaby district conducted as part of the Audit revealed that three schools (60.0% of respondents) have football pitches that meet all their curricular and extra-curricular needs. However, two schools (40.0%) require access to off-site pitches to supplement their curricular and extra-curricular needs.
- **Displaced demand for football** - Displaced demand relates to play by teams from the study area which takes place outside the area. Only five (2.2%) of the teams in the district play on pitches in adjacent areas so displaced demand for football is minimal.
- **Unmet demand for football** - Unmet demand takes a number of forms. Teams may have a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa, or pitches of a particular type may be unavailable. The football clubs survey conducted as part of the audit indicated that all teams are able to access pitches at their favoured location for as much time as they need.
- **Latent demand for football** - Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. The FA uses ‘Team Growth Potential’ as a measure of latent demand by targeting the 75th percentile figures of the comparator local authorities (listed above). Growth Potential represents the number of teams for each football type that the local authority would need to develop to reach the ‘Conversion Target’ value. In the case of Blaby district, because football participation rates are already high, the FA calculates that there is ‘Team Growth Potential’ for only two additional adult female teams, so latent demand is very low.

5.6.3 Cricket

- **Cricket Clubs** - Data on demand for cricket was supplied by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The following ECB-affiliated clubs and teams currently play in the district. Clubs that have achieved the quality assured ‘Club Mark’ accreditation are marked with an asterisk:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Junior Teams</i>
Anstey & Glenfield Cricket Club	Gynsill Lane Sports Ground	2	0
Blaby Cricket Club	Northfield Park, Blaby	1	0
Braunstone Cricketers CC	Winstanley Community College	2	0
Cosby Cricket Club*	Victory Park, Cosby	3	5
Countesthorpe Cricket Club*	Countesthorpe Cricket Club	3	7
Croft Cricket Club	Winston Avenue Recn. Ground	2	4
Enderby Cricket Club*	Enderby Cricket Club	4	5
Friar Lane Taverners Cricket Club	Thurlaston Sports Ground	1	0
Huncote Cricket Club	Huncote Sports & Social Club	2	0
Kirby Muxloe Cricket Club*	Kirby Muxloe Sports & Soc. Club	2	4
Leicester Forest Cricket Club	Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club	1	0
Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club*	Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club	4	4
Leicestershire Teachers & Mossdale CC	Saffron Dynamos FC	4	0
Narborough & Littlethorpe CC*	Leicester Road Recn. Ground	3	9
Sapcote Cricket Club	Sapcote Recreation Ground	2	0
Sharnford Cricket Club	Lissman Fields	2	0

SPA Cricket Club	Kirby Muxloe Sports & Soc. Club	1	0
Thurlaston Cricket Club	Thurlaston Sports Club	1	0
Whetstone Cricket Club	Warwick Road Recn. Ground	2	0
Wigston Town Cricket Club	Meadows Sports Ground	3	1
TOTALS	-	45	39

- **Governing body of sport consultation** - Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket identified the following key issues in relation to the sport in Blaby District:
 - **Club structure** - Cricket is relatively strong in Blaby district with 20 clubs. However, only six of these clubs have Club Mark. Of these clubs, Leicester Ivanhoe, plays at a high standard, but the majority are recreational/village clubs.
 - **Facility improvements** - The majority of clubs in the district play in the Leicester and Rutland Cricket League. The league has recently linked the standard of facilities to a club's prospects for promotion, which is leading to clubs looking more to upgrade their facilities. Many clubs have poor or non-existent nets and training facilities. Artificial wickets would improve mid-week practice facilities in a cost effective manner. The pitch used by Blaby CC at Northfield Park is so poor that they have been informed by the League that unless it is improved for the 2016 season, they could face not being able to play given the danger their pitch poses to player safety.
 - **Security of tenure** - Part of cricket's national strategy is to encourage clubs to have fewer cancellations. This means clubs will need to invest in improved drainage and wicket covers. Security of tenure on club grounds needs to be secured for funding bids for these items and to allow clubs to plan for the long term.
 - **Grounds maintenance** - There are few contract groundstaff so clubs rely on volunteers. There is a clear training need in this area.
- **Cricket club survey findings** - Ten clubs responded to the survey (representing 22 teams or 26.2% of those in the district). The key findings on demand were as follows:
 - **Membership trends** - Two clubs (20.0%) have experienced an increase in membership over the past three years, three (30.0%) have experienced static membership, whilst five (50.0%) have had falling memberships.
 - **Development aspirations** - Eight clubs (80.0%) have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.
 - **Access to pitches** - 8 clubs (80.0%) are able to access the pitches they need at their favoured location, whilst two are only able partially to do so, primarily because there are insufficient wickets to accommodate all their teams at a single site.
- **Casual demand for cricket** - Consultation with pitch providers and local clubs in the district, supplemented by observations during pitch quality assessment site visits revealed that whilst there is some informal use of pitches in parks and recreation grounds with general public access, in no instances are levels of use significant enough to affect the quality or carrying capacity of the pitches concerned.

- **Education demand for cricket** - The survey of schools in Blaby district conducted as part of the Audit revealed that three schools (60.0% of respondents) have cricket pitches that meet all their curricular and extra-curricular needs. The others do not offer cricket as part of their curricular and extra-curricular programmes.
- **Displaced demand for cricket** - No cricket teams from Blaby district have to access provision in neighbouring areas.
- **Unmet demand for cricket** - The responses to the cricket clubs survey conducted as part of the audit indicate that all are able to access pitches at their favoured location for as much time as they need.
- **Latent demand for cricket** - Consultation with the secretaries of the main leagues in which clubs in the district play identified that the numbers of teams playing has decreased over the past ten years. This suggests that there is no local latent demand for cricket.

5.6.4 Rugby

- **Rugby Clubs** - Data on demand for rugby in the district was supplied by the Rugby Football Union. The following clubs and teams currently play in Blaby district. Clubs that have achieved the quality assured 'RFU Club Accreditation' are marked with an asterisk.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Adult Teams</i>	<i>Youth Teams</i>	<i>Mini Teams</i>
Cosby Rugby Club	Victory Park, Cosby	1	0	0
Leicester Forest Rugby Club*	Leicester Forest RFC	3	7	7
Leicester Lions Rugby Club*	Westleigh Park	2	0	4
Old Newtonians Rugby Club*	Hinckley Road	2	0	0
Vipers Rugby Club*	Vipers Rugby Club	4	5	5
TOTAL	-	12	12	16

- **Governing body of sport consultation** - The Rugby Football Union identified the following key issues in relation to the sport in Blaby District:
 - **Club structure** - Leicester Forest RFC is a 'Growth Club' for the RFU at the adult male and colts age groups with focused delivered through its 'Holding on' workstrand, denoting a club which assists in the support of transiting players from youth to adult Rugby. There is also expected growth at Leicester Lions RFC through their mini section.
 - **Pitch developments** - Leicester Lions RFC recently sold part of their site for housing, although there will be no reduction in the number of pitches and overall carrying capacity will be improved by drainage improvements.
 - **Changing facilities** - Changing facilities need improving at most sites. Old Newtonians RFC have an adult women's team, but poor quality female changing provision. Leicester Forest RFC would like to develop girl's rugby, but the changing facilities are currently inadequate for this purpose.

- **Floodlights** - There is increasing demand for midweek matches requiring floodlights. Cosby RFC and Vipers RFC recently received grants from the RFU for floodlighting.
- **Rugby club survey findings** - The key findings on demand were as follows:
 - **Membership trends** - Three clubs (60.0%) have experienced an increase in membership over the past three years whilst two (40.0%) have experienced static membership.
 - **Development aspirations** - All clubs (100.0%) have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.
 - **Access to pitches** - All clubs (100.0%) are able to access the pitches they need at their favoured location.
- **Casual demand for rugby** - Almost all of the rugby pitches in the district are on sites with controlled access, so there is no casual use of pitches.
- **Education demand for rugby** - The survey of schools in Blaby district conducted as part of the Audit revealed that both secondary school respondents have rugby pitches that meet all their curricular and extra-curricular needs.
- **Displaced demand for rugby** - No rugby teams from Blaby district have to access provision in neighbouring areas, although some of the local demand is imported from Leicester.
- **Unmet demand for rugby** - The responses to the rugby clubs survey conducted as part of the audit indicate that all are able to access pitches at their favoured location for as much time as they need.
- **Latent demand for rugby** - Consultation with local clubs indicates that all are able to accommodate additional members, which suggests that there is no local latent demand for rugby.

5.6.5 Hockey

- **Governing body consultation** - England Hockey confirmed that there are no hockey clubs in Blaby district, with needs met by clubs in Leicester city. England Hockey has no plans to encourage further local club formation and therefore the absence of any synthetic turf pitches for Hockey in Blaby at present is not regarded as a strategic priority.
- **Hockey clubs** - There are no hockey teams based in Blaby district. Demand from within the district is met by clubs based in Leicester (Leicester HC, Panthers HC, Leicester Thursday HC, Leicester Westleigh HC and South Leicester Youth Hockey).
- **Casual demand for hockey** - There is no evidence of casual demand for hockey.

- **Education demand for hockey** - The survey of schools in Blaby district conducted as part of the Audit revealed that both secondary school respondents deliver curricular and extra-curricular hockey using on-site grass pitches.
- **Displaced demand for hockey** - In the absence of a synthetic turf pitch for hockey in the district, all local demand is currently displaced to the City of Leicester.
- **Unmet demand for hockey** - Given the close proximity of five hockey clubs in Leicester, there is no evidence of unmet demand for hockey.
- **Latent demand for hockey** - Given the close proximity of five hockey clubs in Leicester, there is no evidence of latent demand for hockey.

5.6.6 Bowls

- **Governing body consultation** - The Bowls Development Alliance confirmed that Blaby district is not in one of its development ‘Hot Spots’. None of the clubs in the district has applied for the ‘Package Support’ funding that is available.
- **Bowls clubs** - Data on demand for bowls in Blaby district is detailed below. The following seven clubs currently play in the district. Whilst most clubs allow ‘pay-and-play’ access to their greens for casual use by non-members, the vast majority of bowls activity is played through the network of clubs.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Green</i>
Blaby Bowling Club	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ
Countesthorpe Bowls Club	46, Station Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5TA
Enderby Bowls Club	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX
Glenfield Bowls Club	Ellis Park, Dominion Road, Glenfield LE3 8FB
Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EN
Narborough & District BC	Coventry Road, Narborough LE19 2GT
Shakespeare Park Bowls Club	Shakespeare Park, Braunstone LE3 3AA

- **Bowls club survey findings** - Four clubs responded to the survey (57.1% of those in the district). The key findings on demand were as follows:
 - **Membership trends** - One club (25.0% of respondents) has experienced static membership, whilst three (75.0%) have had falling memberships.
 - **Development aspirations** - Three clubs (75% of respondents) have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.
 - **Access to greens** - All clubs are able to access the facilities they need at their favoured location.
- **Casual demand for bowls** - Most clubs allow ‘pay-and-play’ access to their greens for casual use by non-members, but there is relatively little demand for this.

- **Education demand for bowls** - No schools offer bowls as part of their curricular or extra-curricular sports programme.
- **Displaced demand for bowls** - There is no evidence that bowlers have to play outside the district, because all local clubs have spare capacity.
- **Unmet demand for bowls** - There is no evidence of any unmet local demand for bowls.
- **Latent demand for bowls** - Consultation with local clubs indicates that all are able to accommodate additional members, which suggests that there is no local latent demand for bowls.

5.6.7 Tennis

- **Governing body consultation** - The Lawn Tennis Association confirmed that Blaby district is not one of its development 'Priority Areas', but that the game is buoyant in the district with good levels of court usage.
- **Tennis clubs** - The following clubs currently play in the district. Clubs that have achieved the quality assured 'Club Mark' accreditation are marked with an asterisk.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Home Courts</i>
Blaby Victoria Tennis Club	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ
Enderby Tennis Club	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX
Leicester Forest East Tennis Club	Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East LE3 3PJ
Stoney Stanton Tennis Club	Carey Hill Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LA

- **Tennis club survey findings** - Three clubs responded to the survey (representing 75.0% of those in the district). The key findings on demand were as follows:
 - **Membership trends** - One club (33.3% of respondents) has experienced an increase in membership over the past three years, one (33.3%) has experienced static membership, whilst one (33.3%) have has falling memberships.
 - **Development aspirations** - All clubs have aspirations to expand the number of teams they field.
 - **Access to courts** - All clubs are able to access the facilities they need at their favoured location.
- **Casual demand for tennis** - In addition to club-based play, casual tennis is available free-of-charge at four sites in parks and recreation grounds in the district and some schools allow community access to their courts.
- **Education demand for tennis** - All secondary schools offer tennis as part of their curricular or extra-curricular sports programmes and all are able to do so using on-site hard or seasonal grass courts.

- **Displaced demand for tennis** - There is no evidence that tennis players have to access courts outside the district.
- **Unmet demand for tennis** - There is no evidence of any unmet local demand for tennis.
- **Latent demand for tennis** - Consultation with local clubs indicates that all are able to accommodate additional members, which suggests that there is no local latent demand for tennis.

5.6.8 Golf

- **Golf clubs** - Data on demand for golf in Blaby district is detailed below. The following five clubs are located in the district. All clubs allow ‘pay-and-play’ access to their courses.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Green</i>
Blaby Golf Club	Lutterworth Road, Blaby LE8 4DP
Cosby Golf Club	Chapel Lane, Cosby LE9 1RG
Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX
Kirby Muxloe Golf Club	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EP
Whetstone Golf Club	Cambridge Road, Whetstone LE9 1SJ

- **Golf club survey findings** - Four clubs responded to the survey (representing 80.0% of those in the district). The key findings on demand were as follows:
 - **Membership trends** - Two clubs (50.0% of respondents) have experienced an increase in membership over the past three years, one (25.0%) has experienced static membership, whilst one (25.0%) has falling membership.
 - **Development aspirations** - All clubs have aspirations to attract additional members.
- **Casual demand for golf** - All five clubs allow ‘pay-and-play’ access to their courses.
- **Education demand for golf** - No schools offer golf as part of their curricular or extra-curricular sports programme.
- **Displaced demand for golf** - There is no evidence that golfers have to access courses outside the district.
- **Unmet demand for golf** - There is no evidence of any unmet local demand for golf.
- **Latent demand for golf** - Consultation with local clubs indicates that all are able to accommodate additional members, which suggests that there is no local latent demand for golf.

5.7 The views of town and parish councils

The views of town and parish councils on demand for open space in the district were sought via an on-line questionnaire. Nine councils (50% of the total) responded, representing 46,132 people (49.1% of the district population). The key findings were as follows:

5.7.1 Demand for open space

Five councils (55.6% of the total) believe that demand for open space is met by current provision in their respective areas. Of those that do not, a shortfall of allotment provision was identified in Blaby and Stoney Stanton and a need for additional cemetery provision in Leicester Forest East and Enderby.

5.7.2 Demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities

Six councils (66.7% of the total) believe that demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities is met by current provision in their respective areas. Of those that do not, a shortfall of football pitches was identified in Blaby, a synthetic turf pitch in Leicester Forest East and outdoor gym provision in Enderby.

5.8 Demand from local schools

5.8.1 Demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities

Although education use of schools pitches and outdoor sports facilities for curricular and extra-curricular purposes is outside the terms of the Audit, some schools may need to access community facilities to meet all their needs, if their own are inadequate, whilst others may have spare capacity which might, in the right circumstances, be made available to community users. The views of local schools were therefore sought via an on-line questionnaire. Five schools responded, two secondary schools and three primary schools. The information sought was as follows:

- The extent to which their on-site provision meets all their curricular and extra-curricular needs.
- Their dependence on off-site provision to meet their curricular and extra-curricular needs.
- The nature and extent of any existing community use of their on-site provision.
- Their views on the potential to accommodate external users in the future.

5.8.2 Key findings

The key findings were as follows:

- **Adequacy of on-site provision** - Four schools (80%) feel that their on-site provision is inadequate to meet all their curricular and extra-curricular needs, with a requirement for additional all-weather pitches being the most frequent deficiency.
- **Use of off-site provision** - Despite their on-site deficiencies, none of the schools uses off-site open space, pitch or outdoor sports facilities to meet their needs.
- **Community use** - Both secondary schools allow extensive community use of their on-site provision, which is regulated by a formal community use agreement. Where they have

facilities, all the primary schools say that they are available for external use, but that there is no local demand for this.

- **Additional community use** - All respondents would be prepared to accommodate additional community use.

5.9 Summary of open space demand in Blaby district

The implications of the survey responses on open space demand in Blaby district are as follows:

- **Demand for open space** - The more informal types of open space in Blaby district are the most frequently used types of provision.
- **Views on provision** - The quality of the provision and management of parks and open spaces in Blaby district is rated very highly, although conversely, they are given a relatively low rating in terms of their priority in relation to other public services delivered by BDC.
- **Rates of physical activity** - Local rates of participation in sport and physical activity are well above the regional and national averages.
- **Local variations** - There are some quite significant local geographical variations in participation rates. Whetstone, Narborough and Braunstone have high participation rates, whereas Blaby, Glen Parva and Enderby are below the national average.
- **Sport-specific demand** - Sport-specific demand is as follows:
 - **Football** - Local participation rates for youth football and mini-soccer are particularly high. 233 teams draw their membership from within the district. 83.3% of local clubs have increased their membership over the past three years.
 - **Cricket** - 85 cricket teams draw their membership from within the district. 50% of local clubs have experienced a decrease in membership over the past three years.
 - **Rugby Union** - 40 rugby teams play in the district, mostly concentrated in the urban areas. There is limited scope for expansion at several clubs at present because of limited pitch capacity.
 - **Hockey** - There are no hockey clubs in the district, but local needs are met by five clubs located nearby in the City of Leicester.
 - **Bowls** - Seven clubs that play in the district, the majority of which have experienced declining membership in recent years.
 - **Tennis** - Four clubs are based in the district and there are also opportunities for casual play on parks courts.
 - **Golf** - Five clubs are based in the district. All have spare capacity and allow 'pay-and-play' usage of their courses.
- **Parish and town councils** - The majority of parish and town councils believe that existing open space provision is adequate to meet local demand, although a shortage of allotments was identified in several areas.

- **Schools demand** - On-site open space and outdoor sports provision does not meet the needs of 80% of schools respondents, although none makes significant use of off-site provision to compensate for this. There is a strong local community use ethos amongst schools, which is reflected in extensive use of their facilities by community users and a willingness to extend this where demand arises.



Blaby Bowls Club

6 OPEN SPACE SUPPLY IN BLABY DISTRICT

6.1 Introduction

This section analyses the supply of open space in Blaby district.

6.2 Definitions

6.2.1 Open space

For the purposes of the Audit, open spaces have been defined on the basis of their primary function, although many also serve valuable supplementary roles. Some sites have a range of different types of open space, in which case the primary roles of each part of the sites have been designated and measured in spatial terms, to facilitate the overall assessment of provision of each individual open space typology.

- **Parks and gardens** - Parks and gardens are publicly-accessible, multi-functional greenspaces providing high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events, typically in urban areas. They incorporate formal and informal features, such as flower beds, trees, landscaped areas and ancillary provision such as toilets and seating areas.
- **Natural greenspace** - Natural greenspace sites are defined as those sites with public access where wildlife, conservation, biodiversity and environmental education take precedence over recreational uses in determining management regimes. This includes areas with protective statutory designations and also comprises publicly accessible countryside areas.
- **Informal open space** - Informal open space is defined as publicly-accessible sites that provide opportunities for informal leisure and physical activity, close to home or work, or which enhance the appearance of residential or other areas. The size and utility of such spaces vary widely, with some having provision such as paths, benches, rubbish bins and planting schemes, whilst others comprise only grassed areas. Some provide linkages within the green infrastructure network to other open spaces.
- **Provision for children and young people** - This is defined as publicly-accessible areas designed and equipped primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
- **Allotments** - Allotments and community gardens are defined as publicly-accessible green spaces that provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce, as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
- **Churchyards and cemeteries** - In open space terms, cemeteries and churchyards are defined as publicly-accessible green spaces providing opportunities for quiet contemplation. Many sites have historic and cultural value and some sustain wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

6.2.2 Playing pitches

The pitches included in the Audit are defined as natural or artificial turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings, with the following dimensions for club-level play as specified in Sport England's 'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts' (2011), the FA's 'Guide to Pitch Dimensions' (2013) and the RFU's 'New Rules of Play and Progression Pathway 2015-16' (2015), have community access and are used for competitive play.

<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Pitch length</i>	<i>Pitch width</i>	<i>Size including run-offs</i>
Adult football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U17-U18)	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U15-U16)	91m	55m	97m x 61m
Youth football (U13-U14)	82m	50m	88m x 56m
Youth football (9v9)	73m	46m	79m x 52m
Mini-soccer (7v7)	55m	37m	61m x 43m
Mini-soccer (5v5)	37m	27m	43m x 33m
Adult cricket	20.12m	Max. 36.6m/Min. 3.05m	111.56m x 106.69m
Junior cricket	19.2m	Max. 27.45m/Min. 3.05m	92.36m x 88.41m
Adult rugby	Max. 100m	Max. 70m	Max. 110m x 80m
Junior rugby (U14-U18)	100m	70m	Max. 110m x 80m
Junior rugby (U13)	90m	60m	-
Mini-rugby (U11-U12)	60m	43m	-
Mini-rugby (U10)	60m	35m	-
Mini-rugby (U9)	60m	30m	-
Mini-rugby (U8)	45m	22m	-
Mini-rugby (U7)	20m	12m	-
Artificial Grass Pitch for Hockey	91.4m	55m	101.4m x 63m
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	100m	64m	106m x 70m

6.2.3 Sports facilities

- **Bowls green** - A flat grass playing area, ideally 40m x 40m, surrounded by a ditch between 200mm and 380mm wide and 50mm and 200mm deep. The width of each individual rink is between 4.3m and 5.8m.
- **Tennis court** - A rectangular flat surface, usually of tarmac, grass, clay, concrete or synthetic turf. The court is 23.78m x 10.97m with a net across the middle of the court and regulation line markings. Recommended run-off areas at the sides of the playing area should be 4m, with 7m at each end of the court.
- **Golf course** - A dedicated community accessible facility, permanently laid out with tees, fairways and greens, comprising nine or eighteen holes.
- **Village and community hall** - A multi-purpose indoor facility that is capable of accommodating a range of sports or physical activities. Depending on the design of the hall this can range from provision for formal sports such as table tennis, badminton and carpet bowls to spaces which can accommodate activities such as yoga and aerobics, or spaces which are simply meeting rooms that can provide valuable space for club committees and similar functions.

6.3 Community accessibility

A key consideration in assessing pitch and facilities supply is the extent to which provision is available for unrestricted community use and subject to formalised access arrangements that cannot easily be rescinded. Sport England has produced a formal classification for access which is set out below.

- **Available for community use and used** - Pitches in any ownership which are available for hire by, or leased to the community (e.g. leased to a sports club) and currently in use by community teams, for example:
 - For educational pitches community use relates to pitches used by the community over and above the educational establishments own use i.e. over and above a school's curricular and extracurricular use.
 - For company sports grounds, sports and social clubs or third sector sports organisations community use relates to pitches where there are no restrictions on its use i.e. not having to be an employee, or related to an employee of the company to access provision.
- **Available for community use but unused** - Pitches that are available for hire to the community but are not currently used by community teams; this may apply to some school sites and sites which are available but unused as they are expensive to hire.
- **Not available for community use** - Pitches which, as a matter of policy or practice, are not available for use by community teams. This includes professional club pitches and some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- **Not available as disused** - Any sites which remain undeveloped and where pitches were once, but are no longer, marked out.

6.4 Parks and gardens

6.4.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the seven parks and gardens in Blaby district are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Bouskell Park	Welford Road, Blaby LE8 4FT	Blaby	3.73ha
Ellis Park	Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL	Glenfield	2.55ha
Franklin Park	Welcombe Avenue, Braunstone Town LE3 2TA	Braunstone Town	4.46ha
Glen Parva Memorial Garden	Dorothy Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JD	Glen Parva	0.10ha
Glenfield Millennium Green	Groby Road, Glenfield LE3 9QP	Glenfield	1.36ha
Narborough Recn. Ground	Desford Road, Narborough LE19 2EL	Narborough	1.22ha
Northfield Park	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GR	Blaby	3.39ha
TOTAL	-	-	16.80ha

Because they are principally an urban typology, per capita levels of parks and gardens in each urban parish in Blaby district (defined as those with 6,000 people or more) are listed below. There are large variations in levels of provision, most parishes having none at all. The overall per capita level of provision in all urban parishes is 0.23ha per 1,000 urban residents:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>Ha. per 1,000 people</i>
Blaby	6,194	7.12ha	1.15ha
Braunstone	16,850	4.46ha	0.26ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	0	-
Enderby	6,314	0	-
Glenfield	9,643	3.91ha	0.41ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0.1ha	0.02ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0	-
Narborough	8,448	1.22ha	0.14ha
Whetstone	6,566	0	-
BLABY DISTRICT	73,300	16.80ha	0.23ha

6.4.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of parks and gardens in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The criteria assessed were as follows and the definitions of what constituted ‘high quality’ (scored as a ‘5’), ‘above average’ (scored as a ‘4’), ‘average’ (scored as a ‘3’), ‘below average’ (scored as a ‘2’) and ‘poor quality’ (scored as a ‘1’) are contained in Appendix II):

- Main entrance.
- Site boundaries.
- Roads/paths/cycleways.
- Planted areas.
- Grassed areas.
- Litter bins.
- General cleanliness.
- Safety and security
- Parking and general access.

The average scores for each site were as follows:

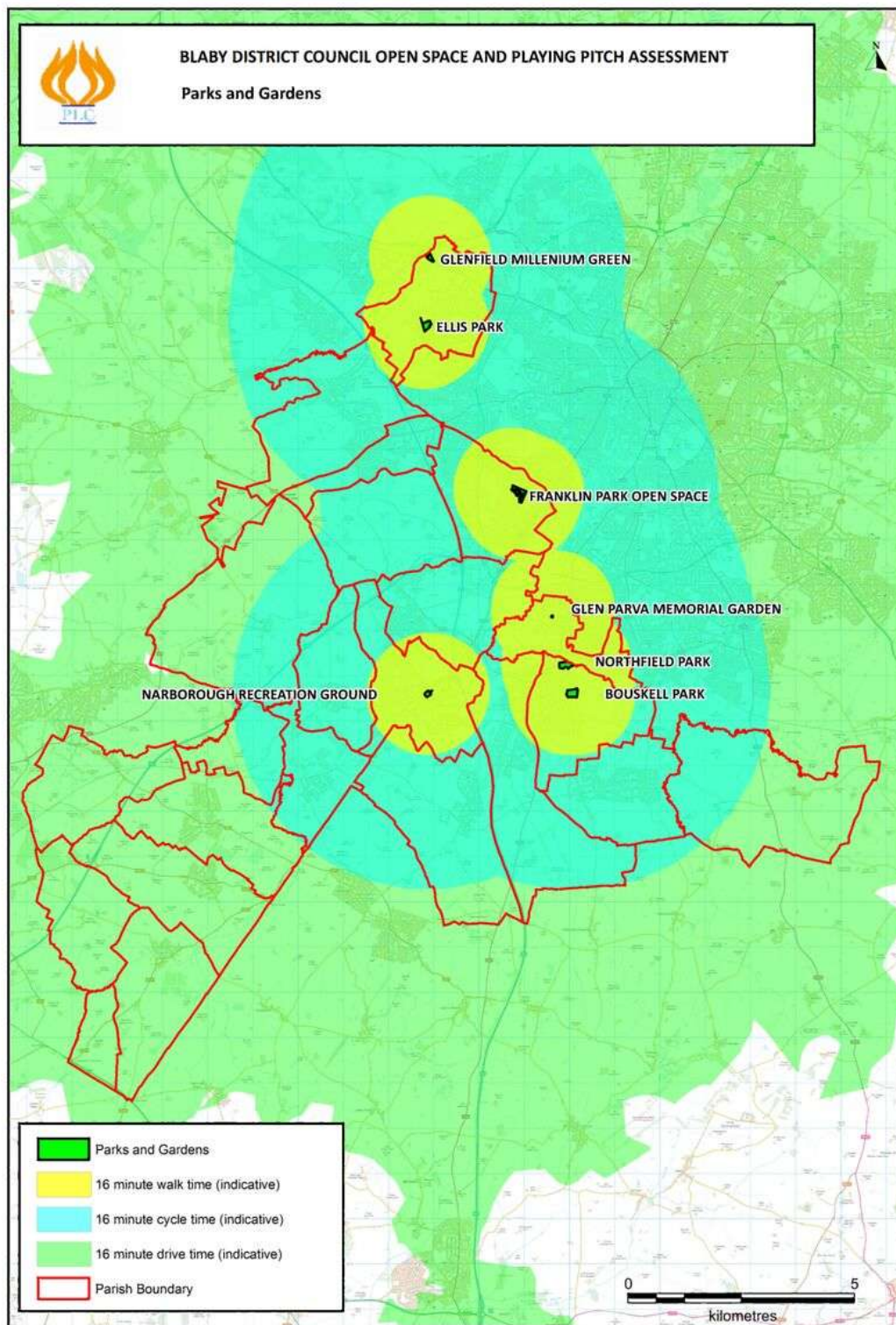
<i>Site</i>		<i>Aspects below ‘average’</i>
Bouskell Park	4	Planted areas
Ellis Park	3	None
Franklin Park	4	Paths
Glen Parva Memorial Garden	4	None
Glenfield Millennium Green	4	None
Narborough Recreation Ground	4	Planted areas
Northfield Park	3	Main entrance and site boundaries

6.4.3 Accessibility analysis

Based on the community survey in the ‘PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report’ (2009), 16 minutes travel time is the typical maximum journey for most parks users. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 16 minutes drive of their nearest park and garden.

- **Cycling** - About 60,000 people (63.9% of the district population) are within 16 minutes cycle of their nearest park and garden.
- **Walking** - About 25,000 people (26.6% of the district population) are within 16 minutes walk of their nearest park and garden.



6.5 Natural greenspace

6.5.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 41 publicly-accessible natural greenspace sites in Blaby district are listed below.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Aston Firs	Smithy Lane, Elmesthorpe	Elmesthorpe	30.36ha
Aylestone Holt	Glen Rise, Glen Parva LE2 9HA	Glen Parva	3.44ha
Back Lane Meadows	Station Street, Whetstone LE8 6JS	Whetstone	2.10ha
Blaby Oaks	Hospital Lane, Blaby LE8 4FE	Blaby	5.61ha
Countesthorpe Country Park	Scalborough Close, Countesthorpe LE8 5XU	Countesthorpe	9.40ha
Croft Pasture	Marston Road, Croft LE9 3GX	Croft	1.07ha
Croft Hill	Huncote Road, Croft LE9 3GU	Croft	4.37ha
Croft Quarry	Marion's Way, Croft LE9 3GP	Croft	2.45ha
Enderby Balancing Lake	Leicester Lane, Enderby LE19 2AB	Enderby	3.57ha
Forest East Park	Somerfield Way, Leicester Forest East LE3 3RW	Leics. Forest E	6.20ha
Fosse Meadows	Fosse Way, Sharnford LE10 3AB	Sharnford	57.38ha
Foxholes Spinney	Dunstall Avenue, Braunstone Town LE3 3DN	Braunstone	3.35ha
Glen Parva & Glen Hills NR	Dorothy Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JD	Glen Parva	9.84ha
Glenfield Flood Relief Basin	Kirby Road, Glenfield LE3 8QF	Glenfield	0.91ha
Great Central Way Cycle Route	Needham Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JL	Glen Parva	2.92ha
Stelle Way Meadow	Stelle Way, Glenfield LE3 8HN	Glenfield	2.34ha
Glenfield Arboretum	Stelle Way, Glenfield LE3 8HN	Glenfield	1.29ha
Jubilee Park	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 2BH	Enderby	8.21ha
Kings Walk Spinney	Kings Walk, Leicester Forest East LE3 3JP	Leics. Forest E	0.67ha
Kirby Muxloe Castle	Oakcroft Avenue, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2DH	Kirby Muxloe	0.78ha
Grand Union Canal/River Sence	New Bridge Road, Glen Parva LE2 9TB	Glen Parva	2.04ha
Land E of Grand Union Canal	Needham Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JA	Glen Parva	4.49ha
Land E of Lubbesthorpe Way	Lubbesthorpe Way, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	10.01ha
Land at New Bridge Road	New Bridge Road, Glen Parva LE2 9TG	Glen Parva	0.64ha
Land at Oakcroft Avenue	Oakcroft Avenue, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2DG	Kirby Muxloe	0.41ha
Land East of Riverside Way	Riverside Way, Littlethorpe LE19 2PT	Narborough	1.09ha
Land East of The Ford	The Ford, Glen Parva LE2 9TL	Glen Parva	1.02ha
Rothley Brook North	Grobby Road, Glenfield LE3 3GJ	Glenfield	1.43ha
Land NE of Croft Hill	Croft Hill Road, Huncote LE9 3GR	Huncote	19.38ha
Glenfield Wildlife & Recn. Area	Gynsill Lane, Glenfield LE7 7AG	Glenfield	2.40ha
Land North of the Ford	The Ford, Glen Parva LE2 9TL	Glen Parva	0.31ha
Land South of River Sence	New Bridge Road, Glen Parva LE2 9TG	Glen Parva	2.40ha
Long Spinney	Goodheart Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3RX	Braunstone	0.69ha
Long Walk	Bouskell Park, Welford Road, Blaby LE8 4FT	Blaby	1.10ha
Merrileys Park	Lubbesthorpe Bridle Rd., Braunstone LE3 3AH	Braunstone	3.01ha
Narborough Bog Nature Reserve	Leicester Road, Narborough LE19 2AZ	Narborough	9.24ha
Normanton Wood	Earl Shilton Road, Thurlaston LE9 7TG	Thurlaston	6.63ha
Sapcote Gravel Pit	Leicester Road, Sapcote LE9 4JF	Sapcote	3.19ha
Stoney Stanton Recn. Ground	Carey Hill Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LA	Stoney Stanton	4.36ha
The Osiers	Watergate Lane, Lubbesthorpe LE3 2XF	Braunstone	7.41ha
Whistle Way	Snowdrop Close, Narborough LE19 3YB	Narborough	6.39ha
TOTALS	-	-	243.89ha

Per capita levels of provision of natural greenspace in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. There are large variations in levels of provision, with the more rural parishes generally having the higher per capita levels of provision and three parishes having none at all:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>Ha. per 1,000 people</i>
Blaby	6,194	6.71ha	1.08ha
Braunstone	16,850	24.47ha	1.45ha
Cosby	3,506	0	-
Countesthorpe	6,377	9.40ha	1.47ha
Croft	1,639	7.89ha	4.81ha
Elmesthorpe	509	30.36ha	59.65ha
Enderby	6,314	15.35ha	2.43ha
Glenfield	9,643	8.37ha	0.87ha
Glen Parva	6,189	27.10ha	4.38ha
Huncote	1,756	19.38ha	11.04ha
Kilby	270	0	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.19ha	0.25ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	6.87ha	1.02ha
Narborough	8,448	16.72ha	19.8ha
Sapcote	2,442	3.19ha	1.31ha
Sharnford	985	57.38ha	58.25ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	4.36ha	1.15ha
Thurlaston	807	6.63ha	8.24ha
Whetstone	6,566	2.10ha	0.32ha
BLABY DISTRICT	93,674	243.89ha	2.60ha

6.5.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of natural greenspace in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The assessments involved establishing the quality of the following criteria and the definitions of what constituted ‘high quality’ (scored as a ‘5’), ‘above average’ (scored as a ‘4’), ‘average’ (scored as a ‘3’), ‘below average’ (scored as a ‘2’) and ‘poor quality’ (scored as a ‘1’) are contained in Appendix II):

- Signposting to the site.
- Information board(s)/interpretation panel(s).
- Marked paths.
- Clear entrance.
- Dedicated car parking.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

The assessed scores were as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Aston Firs	3	Rothley Brook North	3
Aylestone Holt	4	Land E of Grand Union Canal	3
Back Lane Meadows	5	Land E of Lubbesthorpe Way	3
Blaby Oaks	3	Land at New Bridge Road	2
Countesthorpe Country Park	1	Land at Oakcroft Avenue	2

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Croft Pasture	3	Land East of Riverside Way	2
Croft Hill	5	Land East of The Ford	3
Croft Quarry	5	Land NE of Croft Hill	2
Enderby Balancing Lake	2	Glenfield Wildlife & Recreation Area	2
Forest East Park	5	Land North of the Ford	3
Fosse Meadows	5	Land South of River Sence	3
Foxholes Spinney	3	Long Spinney	3
Glen Parva & Glen Hills NR	4	Long Walk	3
Glenfield Flood Relief Basin	3	Merrileys Park	3
Grand Union Canal/River Sence	3	Narborough Bog Nature Reserve	3
Great Central Way Cycle Route	3	Normanton Wood	3
Gynsills Meadow	3	Sapcote Gravel Pit	1
Gynsills Nature Area	4	Stoney Stanton Recn. Ground	3
Jubilee Park	3	The Osiers	3
Kings Walk Spinney	2	Whistle Way	5
Kirby Muxloe Castle	5		

Seven sites (17.1%) were rated as ‘high quality’, three (7.3%) were rated as ‘above average’, 22 (53.7%) as ‘average’, seven (17.1%) as below average and two (4.9%) as ‘poor quality’.



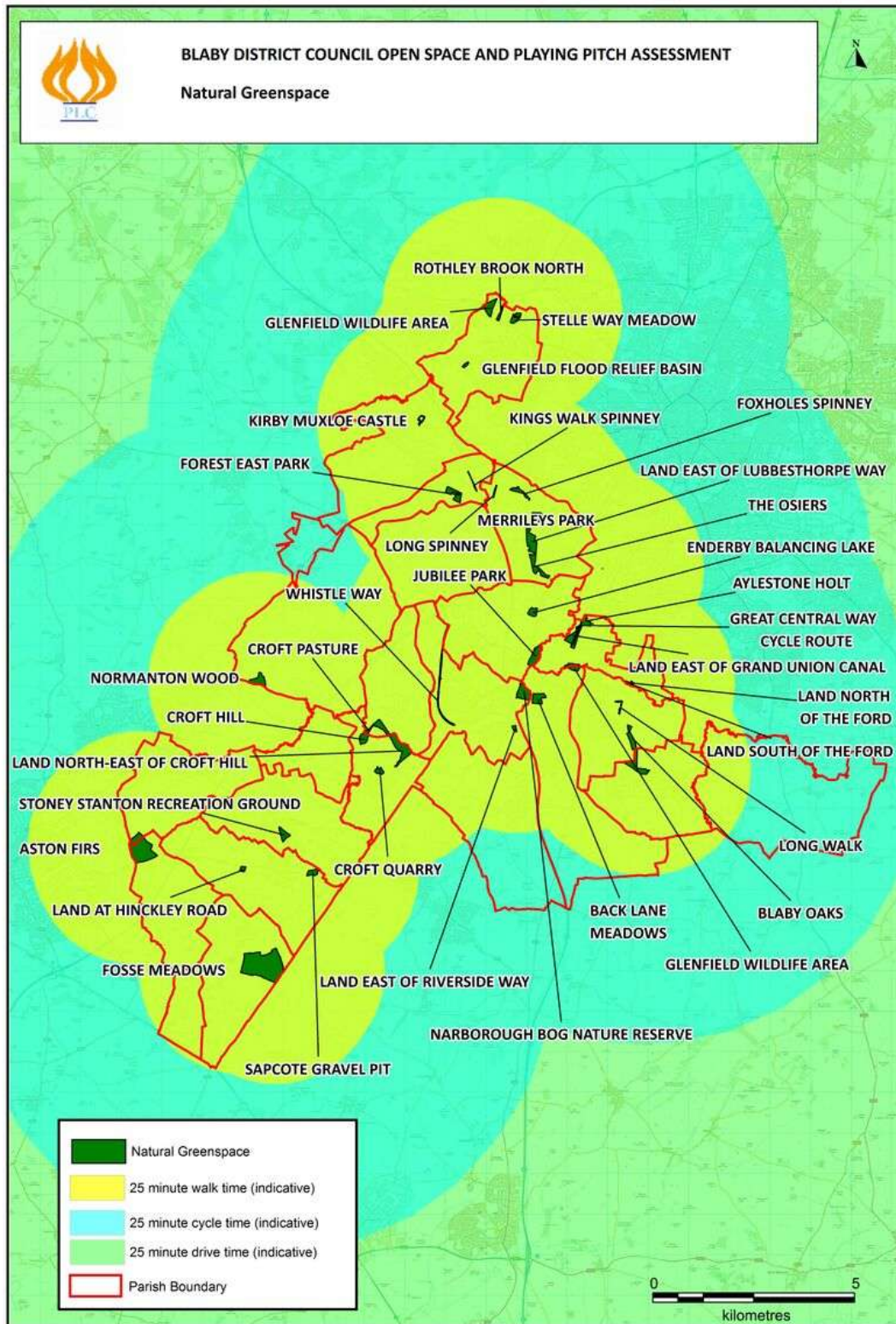
Fosse Meadows

6.5.3 Accessibility analysis

The community survey in the ‘PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report’ (2009) identified that the median distance travelled by residents of Blaby district to reach natural greenspace was 25 minutes. For this reason, a 25 minute drivetime catchment has been selected and 25-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 25 minutes drive of their nearest natural greenspace site.

- **Cycling** - The whole population is within within 25 minutes cycle of their nearest natural greenspace site.
- **Walking** - About 85,000 people (90.5% of the district population) are within 25 minutes walk of their nearest natural greenspace site.



6.6 Informal open space

Details of the 198 publicly-accessible informal open space sites in Blaby district are listed below. Whilst the Study has aimed to identify all sites in the district and has consulted extensively with town and parish councils to minimise the risk of errors, it is possible that some of the smallest sites may not have identified and assessed. Any such omissions are unintentional and should any sites have accidentally been excluded, they should not be regarded as surplus to requirements:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Acacia Close open space	Acacia Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3PX	LFE	0.09ha
Albert Road open space	Albert Road, Countesthorpe LE8 4XH	Countesthorpe	0.23ha
Allysum Way open space	Allysum Way, Narborough LE19 3WP	Narborough	0.04ha
Arbor Road open space	Arbor Road, Croft LE9 3GD	Croft	0.13ha
Ashover Close open space	Ashover Close, Kilby LE9 1TJ	Kilby	0.12ha
Avon Road open spaces	Avon Road, Braunstone Town LE3 3AA	Braunstone	0.26ha
Barley Close open spaces	Barley Close, Glenfield LE3 8SB	Glenfield	0.10ha
Beechwood Avenue open space	Beechwood Ave, Leicester Forest East LE19 2HZ	LFE	0.32ha
Bees Knees open space	Meridian Way, Braunstone Town LE19 1LU	Braunstone	0.30ha
Biggs Close open space	Biggs Close, Whetstone LE8 6WG	Whetstone	0.13ha
Blaby Road open spaces	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 4AR	Enderby	0.26ha
Blackthorn Road open space	Blackthorn Road, Glenfield LE3 8QP	Glenfield	0.06ha
Blue Banks Avenue open space	Blue Banks Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JA	Glen Parva	0.11ha
Bolus Road open space	Bolus Road, Braunstone Town LE3 3EH	Braunstone	0.18ha
Bostock Close open space	Bostock Close, Elmesthorpe LE9 7SR	Elmesthorpe	0.06ha
Brantings open spaces	Groby Road, Glenfield LE3 8GL	Glenfield	0.20ha
Brickman Close open space	Brickman Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NJ	LFE	0.21ha
Brierfield Road open space	Brierfield Road, Cosby LE9 1TW	Cosby	0.18ha
Brindley Close open space	Brindley Close, Stoney Stanton LE9 4GJ	Stoney Stanton	0.18ha
Broadbent Close open space	Broadbent Close, Whetstone LE8 6NN	Whetstone	0.22ha
Broadfield Way open space	Broadfield Way, Countesthorpe LE8 5XR	Countesthorpe	0.08ha
Brook House Gardens	Brook Street, Huncote LE9 3AB	Huncote	0.40ha
Brookes Avenue open space	Brookes Avenue, Croft LE9 3GJ	Croft	0.11ha
Broom Way open space	Broom Way, Narborough LE19 3RY	Narborough	0.09ha
The Spinney open spaces	Buckingham Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5QD	Countesthorpe	0.52ha
Burchnall Road open spaces	Burchnall Road, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	4.96ha
Bute Way open space	Bute Way, Countesthorpe LE8 5TX	Countesthorpe	0.02ha
Camelot Way open space	Camelot Way, Narborough LE19 3BT	Narborough	0.13ha
Chiltern Close open space	Chiltern Close, Cosby LE9 1UG	Cosby	0.14ha
Churchill Drive open space	Churchill Drive, Leicester Forest East LE3 3QB	LFE	0.27ha
Clarence Road open space	Clarence Road, Enderby LE19 2BJ	Enderby	0.47ha
Clover Close open space	Clover Close, Narborough LE19 3FT	Narborough	0.04ha
Collins Close open space	Collins Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3RE	Braunstone	0.43ha
Coltbeck Avenue open space	Coltbeck Avenue, Narborough LE19 3EJ	Narborough	0.08ha
Cooke Close open space	Cooke Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3RG	Braunstone	0.06ha
Cornwall Street open space	Cornwall Street, Enderby LE19 4NF	Enderby	0.04ha
Coventry Road open space	Coventry Road, Narborough LE19 2GD	Narborough	0.21ha
Cranmer Close open space	Cranmer Close, Blaby LE8 4AY	Blaby	1.28ha
Dale Acre open space	Dale Acre, Countesthorpe LE8 5QL	Countesthorpe	0.29ha

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Darien Way open space	Darien Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3TT	Braunstone	0.71ha
Denman Lane open space	Denman Lane, Huncote LE9 3AL	Huncote	0.08ha
Disney Close open space	Disney Close, Stoney Stanton LE9 4BU	Stoney Stanton	0.07ha
Duncan Avenue open space	Duncan Avenue, Huncote LE9 3AN	Huncote	0.04ha
Edward Drive open space	Edward Drive, Glen Parva LE2 9UR	Glen Parva	0.39ha
Eliot Close open space	Eliot Close, Whetstone LE8 6QX	Whetstone	0.73ha
Equity Road open space	Equity Road, Enderby LE19 4NN	Enderby	0.05ha
Falcon Close open space	Falcon Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NP	LFE	0.27ha
Field Close open space	Field Close, Littlethorpe LE19 2JY	Narborough	0.07ha
Fletchers Close open spaces	Fletchers Close, Narborough LE19 2PX	Narborough	0.04ha
Foxglove Close open space	Foxglove Close, Narborough LE19 3ER	Narborough	0.12ha
Foxon Close open spaces	Foxon Close, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	1.37ha
Gavin Close open space	Gavin Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3UG	Braunstone	0.06ha
Glen Rise open space	Glen Rise, Glen Parva LE2 9HA	Glen Parva	0.10ha
Goodheart Way open space	Goodheart Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3RX	Braunstone	0.22ha
Grizedale Road open space	Grizedale Road, Narborough LE19 3YU	Narborough	0.10ha
Guinevere Way open space	Guinevere Way, Leicester Forest East LE3 3RN	LFE	0.13ha
Halford Close open space	Halford Close, Whetstone LE8 6EX	Whetstone	0.50ha
Hampton Close open space	Hampton Close, Glen Parva LE2 9SE	Glen Parva	0.27ha
Hardwick Road open spaces	Hardwick Road, Narborough LE19 3LU	Narborough	0.07ha
Harecroft Crescent open space	Harecroft Crescent, Sapcote LE9 4FX	Sapcote	0.31ha
Harvester Close open space	Harvester Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3QS	LFE	0.04ha
Haskell Close open spaces	Haskell Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3UA	Braunstone	0.12ha
Heawood Way open space	Heawood Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3TJ	Braunstone	0.02ha
Heighton Crescent open space	Heighton Crescent, Littlethorpe LE19 2JN	Narborough	0.04ha
Hilcot Green	Hilcot Green, Braunstone Town LE3 3SY	Braunstone	0.13ha
Hill View Drive open spaces	Hill View Drive, Cosby LE9 1US	Cosby	0.12ha
Holden Close open space	Holden Close, Whetstone LE8 6XS	Whetstone	0.35ha
Huncote Road open space	Huncote Road, Narborough LE19 3RQ	Narborough	0.49ha
Hunter's Way open space	Hunter's Way, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NB	LFE	0.14ha
Ilmington Close open space	Ilmington Close, Glenfield LE3 8BF	Glenfield	0.22ha
Impey Close open spaces	Impey Close, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	1.83ha
Iona Way open space	Iona Way, Countesthorpe LE8 5WW	Countesthorpe	0.19ha
Isabella Road open space	Isabella Road, Braunstone Town LE3 3UL	Braunstone	0.07ha
Jewsbury Way open space	Jewsbury Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3RR	Braunstone	0.11ha
Jubilee Park open space	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 4AR	Enderby	1.16ha
Kensington Close open space	Kensington Close, Glen Parva LE2 9UD	Glen Parva	0.04ha
Kilby Playing Fields	Brecon Close, Kilby LE18 1AN	Kilby	0.42ha
Kingcup Close open space	Kingcup Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3JU	LFE	0.05ha
Kings Drive Playing Fields	Kings Drive, Leicester Forest East LE3 3JB	LFE	0.93ha
Kingsway open space	Kingsway, Braunstone Town LE3 2TW	Braunstone	3.61ha
Lady Leys open space	Lady Leys, Cosby LE9 1RJ	Cosby	0.30ha
Lancelot Close open spaces	Lancelot Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3RW	LFE	0.13ha
Lane Close open space	Lane Close, Glenfield LE3 8FL	Glenfield	0.27ha
Langham Drive open space	Langham Drive, Narborough LE19 3EY	Narborough	0.31ha
Latimer Close open space	Latimer Close, Blaby LE8 4AB	Blaby	0.10ha
Leicester Road open spaces	Leicester Road, Sharnford LE10 3PR	Sharnford	0.38ha

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Leicester Road open space	Leicester Road, Enderby LE10 2BF	Enderby	1.11ha
Leysland Avenue open space	Leysland Avenue, Countesthorpe LE8 5XX	Countesthorpe	0.04ha
Lime Grove open space	Lime Grove, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2DF	Kirby Muxloe	0.07ha
Lincoln Drive open space	Lincoln Drive, Blaby LE8 4AR	Blaby	0.42ha
Linley Green open spaces	Linley Green, Cosby LE9 1UT	Cosby	0.21ha
Little Masons Close open space	Little Masons Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3TE	Braunstone	0.03ha
Littlethorpe Recn. Ground	Sycamore Way, Littlethorpe LE19 2HU	Narborough	2.29ha
Loughland Close open spaces	Winchester Avenue, Whetstone LE8 4JZ	Whetstone	0.27ha
Lutterworth Road open space	Lutterworth Road, Blaby LE8 4DX	Blaby	0.64ha
Magnolia Close open space	Magnolia Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NL	LFE	0.26ha
Main Street open space	Main Street, Cosby LE9 1UU	Cosby	0.11ha
Maple Avenue open spaces	Maple Avenue, Blaby LE8 4AT	Blaby	0.27ha
Marshall Close open space	Marshall Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3RQ	Braunstone	0.12ha
Marston Crescent open space	Marston Crescent, Countesthorpe LE8 5PY	Countesthorpe	0.16ha
Mays Farm Drive open space	Mays Farm Drive, Stoney Stanton LE9 4HA	Stoney Stanton	0.16ha
Meadow Court open space	Meadow Court, Narborough LE19 3DX	Narborough	2.44ha
Meadow Edge open space	Forest Road, Narborough LE19 3LD	Narborough	0.05ha
Meridian Way open space	Meridian Way, Braunstone Town LE19 1LU	Braunstone	0.93ha
Mill Lane Recreation Ground	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LH	Enderby	1.58ha
Mull Way open space	Mull Way, Countesthorpe LE8 5RZ	Countesthorpe	0.07ha
Murby Way open spaces	Murby Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3UH	Braunstone	0.01ha
Narborough Road S open space	Narborough Rd .South, Braunstone Town LE3 2PB	Braunstone	17.45ha
Navigation Drive open spaces	Navigation Drive, Glen Parva LE2 9TB	Glen Parva	0.35ha
Netherfield Way open spaces	Netherfield Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3TQ	Braunstone	0.02ha
New Road open space	New Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LQ	Stoney Stanton	0.35ha
Newquay Drive open space	Newquay Drive, Glenfield LE3 8PY	Glenfield	0.27ha
Nowell Close open space	Nowell Close, Glen Parva LE2 9SZ	Glen Parva	0.03ha
Oak Spinney Park open space	Oak Spinney Park, Kirby Muxloe LE3 3AW	Kirby Muxloe	1.28ha
Oliver Park open space	Badger Drive, Whetstone LE8 6ZW	Whetstone	0.25ha
Owen Close open spaces	Owen Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3TZ	Braunstone	0.03ha
Packhorse Drive open space	Packhorse Drive, Enderby LE19 2RN	Enderby	0.09ha
Park Drive open space	Park Drive, Glenfield LE3 8RH	Glenfield	0.16ha
Park House Court open space	Park House Court, Blaby LE8 4DN	Blaby	0.10ha
Park Road open space	Park Road, Narborough LE19 2GQ	Narborough	0.13ha
Parson's Drive open space	Parson's Drive, Glen Parva LE2 9NS	Glen Parva	0.15ha
Peacock Drive open space	Peacock Drive, Whetstone LE8 6YF	Whetstone	0.12ha
Peartree Close open space	Peartree Close, Glenfield LE3 8RG	Glenfield	0.51ha
Pendragon Way open space	Pendragon Way, Leicester Forest East LE3 3EY	LFE	0.10ha
Penfold Drive open space	Penfold Drive, Countesthorpe LE8 5TP	Countesthorpe	0.04ha
Petunia Close open space	Petunia Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3QZ	LFE	0.03ha
Priestman Road open space	Priestman Road, Braunstone Town LE3 3UJ	Braunstone	0.40ha
Primrose Close open space	Primrose Close, Narborough LE19 3FW	Narborough	0.09ha
Quarry View Close open space	Quarry View Close, Huncote LE9 3EH	Huncote	1.38ha
Queen's Drive open space	Queen's Drive, Enderby LE19 2LL	Enderby	0.02ha
Reedpool Close open space	Reedpool Close, Countesthorpe LE8 5RE	Countesthorpe	0.19ha
Richmond Drive open space	Richmond Drive, Glen Parva LE2 9TJ	Glen Parva	0.06ha
Rose Crescent open space	Rose Crescent, Leicester Forest East LE3 3QX	LFE	0.07ha

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Rosebank Road open space	Rosebank Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5QY	Countesthorpe	0.42ha
Robotham Close open space	Robotham Close, Narborough LE19 2RH	Narborough	0.13ha
Roundhills Park	The Roundhills, Elmesthorpe LE9 7SJ	Elmesthorpe	1.04ha
Salisbury Avenue open space	Salisbury Avenue, Croft LE9 3EJ	Croft	0.08ha
Sanderson Close open space	Sanderson Close, Whetstone LE8 6ER	Whetstone	0.15ha
Sandhill Drive open space	Sandhill Drive, Enderby LE19 2LP	Enderby	0.13ha
Seacole Close open spaces	Seacole Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3TX	Braunstone	0.11ha
Sharpe Way open spaces	Sharp Way, Narborough LE19 3GN	Narborough	0.07ha
Shelduck Close open space	Shelduck Close, Whetstone LE8 6ZF	Whetstone	1.33ha
Sherrard Way open space	Sherrard Way, Braunstone Town LE3 3TN	Braunstone	0.04ha
Smart Close open space	Smart Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3RS	Braunstone	0.10ha
Smithy Farm Drive open space	Smithy Farm Drive, Stoney Stanton LE9 4WH	Stoney Stanton	0.22ha
Snowdrop Close open space	Snowdrop Close, Narborough LE19 3YB	Narborough	0.17ha
Somerfield Way open spaces	Somerfield Way, Leicester Forest East LE3 3LX	LFE	0.10ha
Southey Close open space	Southey Close, Enderby LE19 4QZ	Enderby	0.16ha
Southfield Close open space	Southfield Close, Glen Parva LE2 9NW	Glen Parva	0.20ha
Southway open space	Southway, Blaby LE8 4BB	Blaby	0.13ha
Spa Drive open space	Spa Drive, Sapcote LE9 4FN	Sapcote	0.44ha
Speedwell Close open space	Speedwell Close, Narborough LE19 3WJ	Narborough	0.11ha
Spinney Halt open spaces	Spinney Halt, Whetstone LE8 6HU	Whetstone	1.09ha
Springwell Drive open space	Springwell Drive, Countesthorpe LE8 5SQ	Countesthorpe	0.07ha
Squirrel Close open space	Squirrel Close, Narborough LE19 3WF	Narborough	0.21ha
St. David's Close open space	St. David's Cl., Leicester Forest East LE3 3LU	LFE	0.17ha
St. Michael's Court open space	St. Michael's Court, Stoney Stanton LE9 4TH	Stoney Stanton	0.02ha
Station Close open space	Station Close, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2ES	Kirby Muxloe	0.08ha
Station Park	Station Road, Glenfield LE3 8DT	Glenfield	0.48ha
Station Road open space	Station Road, Croft LE9 3EL	Croft	0.06ha
The Paddock open space	Station Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5TB	Countesthorpe	0.76ha
Sunbury Rise open spaces	Sunbury Rise, Countesthorpe LE8 5XP	Countesthorpe	0.65ha
Swallow's Close open space	Swallow's Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NY	LFE	0.18ha
Tansey Crescent open space	Tansey Crescent, Stoney Stanton LE9 4BT	Stoney Stanton	0.13ha
Teal Close open spaces	Teal Close, Leicester Forest East LE3 3NR	LFE	0.22ha
Teasel Close open space	Teasel Close, Narborough LE19 3DZ	Narborough	0.12ha
The Burrows open space	The Burrows, Narborough LE19 3WS	Narborough	0.12ha
The Coppice open spaces	The Coppice, Narborough LE19 3FB	Narborough	0.07ha
The Crescent open spaces	The Crescent, Blaby LE8 4FP	Blaby	0.30ha
The Fleet open space	The Fleet, Stoney Stanton LE9 4DY	Stoney Stanton	0.27ha
The Green	The Green, Croft LE9 3EQ	Croft	0.03ha
The Green	The Green, Huncote LE9 3BF	Huncote	0.34ha
The Green	The Green, Wigston Parva LE10 3AN	Sharnford	0.10ha
The Pastures open spaces	The Pastures, Narborough LE19 3YP	Narborough	0.24ha
The Pavilion	Sportsfield Lane, Huncote LE9 3BN	Huncote	5.73ha
The Spinney open space	The Woodlands, Countesthorpe LE8 5RU	Countesthorpe	0.37ha
Thomas Boyer Centre	Forest House La., Leicester Forest East LE3 3NU	LFE	0.05ha
Thornborough Close open space	Thornborough Close Narborough LE19 3WA	Narborough	0.42ha
Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	Darien Way, Thorpe Astley LE3 3TT	LFE	5.33ha
Tilley Close open space	Tilley Close, Braunstone Town LE3 3TD	Braunstone	0.03ha

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Rosebank Road open space	Rosebank Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5QY	Countesthorpe	0.42ha
Robotham Close open space	Robotham Close, Narborough LE19 2RH	Narborough	0.13ha
Roundhills Park	The Roundhills, Elmesthorpe LE9 7SJ	Elmesthorpe	1.04ha
Tournament Crossroads open space	Tournament Road, Glenfield LE3 8FE	Glenfield	0.25ha
Trafalgar Way open space	Trafalgar Way, Glen Parva LE2 9UP	Glen Parva	0.06ha
Vicarage Lane open space	Daybell Close, Whetstone LE8 6YT	Whetstone	0.13ha
Walnut Way open space	Walnut Way, Countesthorpe LE8 5TJ	Countesthorpe	0.16ha
Warner Close open space	Warner Close, Whetstone LE8 6XU	Whetstone	0.31ha
Warren Lane open space	Warren Lane, Leicester Forest East LE3 3LW	LFE	0.37ha
Warren Park Way open space	Warren Park Way, Enderby LE19 4SA	Enderby	0.02ha
Westminster Drive open spaces	Westminster Drive, Glen Parva LE2 9UJ	Glen Parva	0.13ha
Wheatfield Close open spaces	Wheatfield Close, Glenfield LE3 8SD	Glenfield	0.41ha
Windermere Drive open space	Windermere Drive, Croft LE9 3HE	Croft	0.07ha
Wistow Road open spaces	Wistow Road, Kilby LE18 3TH	Kilby	0.20ha
Woodhouse Road open space	Woodhouse Road, Narborough LE19 3ZA	Narborough	0.46ha
Woollaton Close open space	Woollaton Close, Glenfield LE3 8QN	Glenfield	0.08ha
Wychwood Road open space	Wychwood Road, Whetstone LE8 6WA	Whetstone	0.59ha
York Close open space	York Close, Glen Parva LE2 9UE	Glen Parva	0.04ha
TOTALS	-	-	92.22ha

Per capita levels of provision of informal open space in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. There are large variations in levels of provision, with the more rural parishes generally having the higher per capita levels of provision and one parish having none at all:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>Ha. per 1,000 people</i>
Blaby	6,194	3.34ha	0.54ha
Braunstone	16,850	33.85ha	2.01ha
Cosby	3,506	1.06ha	0.58ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	4.26ha	0.67ha
Croft	1,639	0.48ha	0.29ha
Elmesthorpe	509	1.10ha	2.16ha
Enderby	6,314	5.09ha	0.81ha
Glenfield	9,643	3.28ha	0.34ha
Glen Parva	6,189	1.93ha	0.31ha
Huncote	1,756	7.97ha	4.54ha
Kilby	270	0.74ha	2.74ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.43ha	0.31ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	9.94ha	1.48ha
Narborough	8,448	8.95ha	1.06ha
Sapcote	2,442	0.75ha	0.31ha
Sharnford	985	0.48ha	0.49ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	1.40ha	0.37ha
Thurlaston	807	0	-
Whetstone	6,566	6.17ha	0.94ha
BLABY DISTRICT	93,674	92.22ha	0.99ha

6.6.1 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of informal open space in Blaby district involved visits to all sites of 0.2ha or larger, to undertake non-technical visual inspections. Whilst site visits were not carried out on the smaller sites, they still perform a valuable function to their local communities in terms of providing recreational space and are included in the overall amount of provision accordingly.

The assessments for each site involved establishing the quality of the following criteria and the definitions of what constituted ‘high quality’ (scored as a ‘5’), ‘above average’ (scored as a ‘4’), ‘average’ (scored as a ‘3’), ‘below average’ (scored as a ‘2’) and ‘poor quality’ (scored as a ‘1’) are contained in Appendix II):

- General access.
- Grassed areas and planting.
- Marked paths.
- Seating.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

The assessed scores for the 91 sites of 0.2ha or larger were as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Albert Road open space	3	Darien Way open space	3
Avon Road open spaces	2	Edward Drive open space	5
Beechwood Avenue open space	3	Eliot Close open space	3
Bees Knees open space	3	Falcon Close open space	3
Blaby Road open spaces	2	Foxon Close open spaces	4
Brantings open space	3	Frith Close open space	3
Brickman Close open space	2	Goodheart Way open space	3
Broadbent Close open space	3	Frith Close open space	3
Brook House Gardens	5	Halford Close open space	4
Buckingham Road open spaces	4	Hampton Close open space	4
Burchnall Road open spaces	3	Harecroft Crescent open space	3
Churchill Drive open space	4	Holden Close open space	3
Clarence Road open space	3	Huncote Road open space	3
Collins Close open space	3	Ilmington Close open space	4
Countesthorpe Recreation Ground	4	Linley Green open spaces	3
Coventry Road Open Space	3	Littlethorpe Recreation Ground	3
Cranmer Close open space	2	Loughland Close open spaces	5
Dale Acre open space	4	Mossdale Meadows	4
Impey Close open spaces	3	Sandhill Drive open space	4
Jubilee Park open space	3	Shelduck Close open space	3
Kilby Playing Fields	4	Smithy Farm Drive open space	2
Kings Drive Playing Fields	4	Southfield Close open space	3
Kingsway open space	4	Spa Drive open space	4
Lady Leys open space	3	Spinney Halt open spaces	5
Lane Close open space	1	Squirrel Close open space	3
Langham Drive open space	2	Station Park	4
Leicester Road open spaces	3	Station Road open space	4
Lincoln Drive open space	2	Sunbury Rise open spaces	4

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Lutterworth Road open space	4	The Fleet, Stoney Stanton	3
Magnolia Close open space	4	The Green, Huncote	4
Maple Avenue open spaces	3	The Pastures open spaces	5
Meadow Court open space	3	The Pavilion, Huncote	4
Meridian Way open space	3	The Woodlands open space	3
Mill Lane Recreation Ground	4	Thornborough Close open space	2
Narborough Road South open space	3	Thorpe Astley Community Centre	4
Navigation Drive open spaces	4	Tournament Crossroads open space	3
New Road open space	4	Warner Close open space	3
Newquay Drive open space	3	Warren Lane open space	3
Oak Spinney Park open space	4	Wheatfield Close open spaces	3
Oliver Park open space	4	Wistow Road open spaces	3
Peartree Close open space	4	Woodhouse Road open space	2
Priestman Road open space	3	Rosebank Road open space	5
Quarry View open space	4	Roundhills Park	4
Teal Close open spaces	3	Wychwood Road open space	3
The Crescent, Blaby	4		

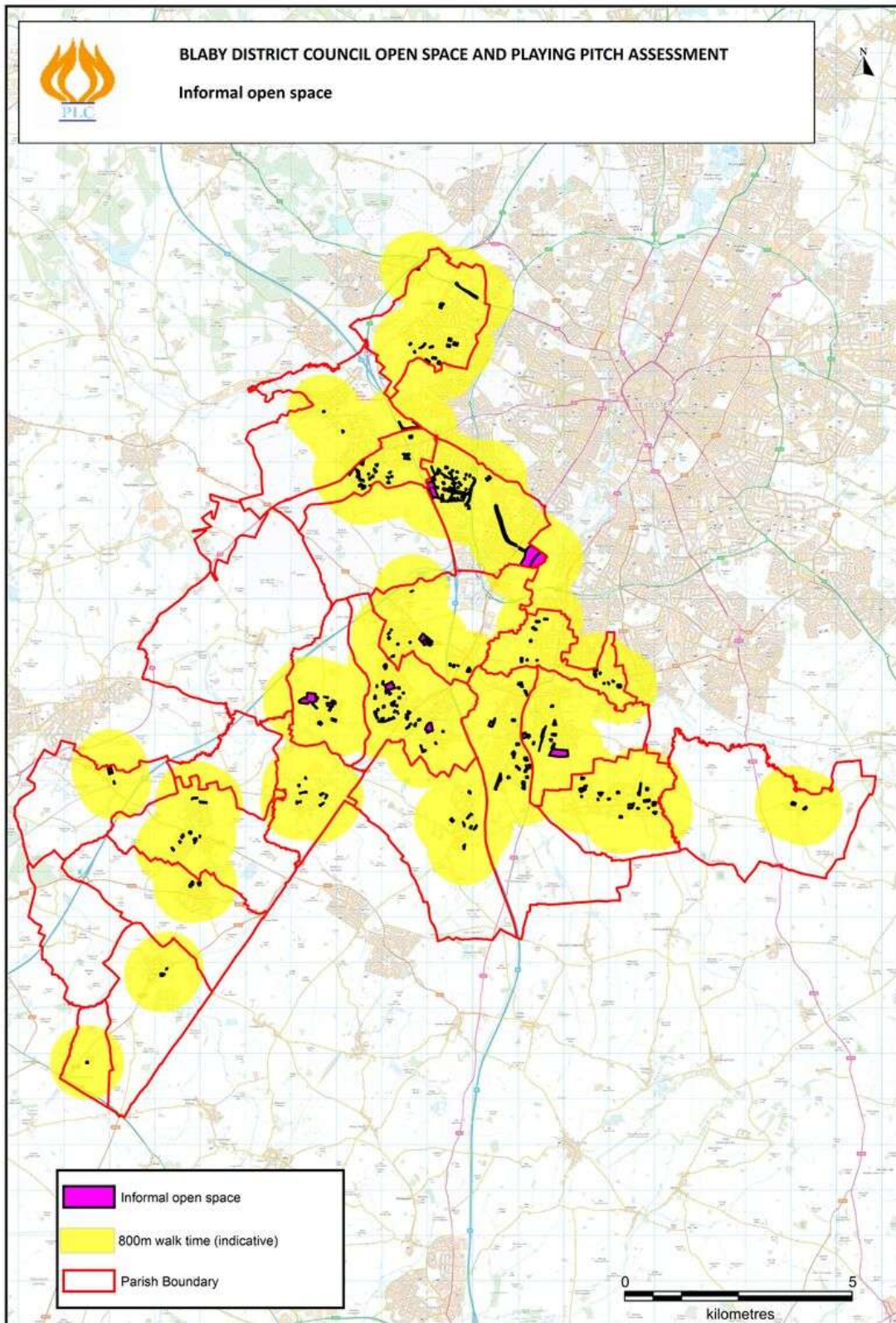
Six sites (6.6%) were rated as ‘high quality’, 30 (33.0%) were rated as ‘above average’, 45 (49.5%) as ‘average’, nine (9.9%) as below average and one (1.0%) as ‘poor quality’.



Snowdrop Close open space

6.6.2 Accessibility analysis

The community survey in the ‘PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report’ (2009) identified that the median distance travelled by residents of Blaby district to reach informal open space was 10 minutes and 89% of respondents walk. For this reason, a 10 minute walking catchment has been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that about 70,000 people (74.5% of the district population) are within 10 minutes walk of their nearest informal open space site.



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6.7 Provision for children and young people

6.7.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 48 equipped play areas in Blaby district are listed below.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Albert Road play area	Albert Road, Countesthorpe LE8 4XH	Countesthorpe	0.04ha
Aldeby Close Play Area	Aldeby Close, Enderby LE19 2BA	Enderby	0.05ha
Brindley Close play area	Brindley Close, Stoney Stanton LE9 4GJ	Stoney Stanton	0.03ha
Clarence Road play area	Clarence Road, Enderby LE19 2BJ	Enderby	0.05ha
Crescent play area	The Crescent, Blaby LE8 4FP	Blaby	0.05ha
Croft Fun Park	The Bridle, Croft LE9 3EA	Croft	0.15ha
Dale Acre play area	Dale Acre, Countesthorpe LE8 5QL	Countesthorpe	0.15ha
Dorothy Avenue play area	Dorothy Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JD	Glen Parva	0.36ha
Ellis Park play area	Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL	Glenfield	0.32ha
Elmesthorpe play area	Roundhills, Elmesthorpe LE9 7SJ	Elmesthorpe	0.01ha
Forest East Park play area	Somerfield Way, Leicester Forest East LE3 3RW	LFE	0.13ha
Foulds Lane play area	Foulds Lane Whetstone LE8 4JZ	Whetstone	0.02ha
Fosse Meadows picnic area	Fosse Way, Sharnford LE10 3AB	Sharnford	0.05ha
Franklin Park play area	Welcombe Ave., Braunstone Town LE3 2TA	Braunstone	0.50ha
Hardwick Road play area	Hardwick Road, Narborough LE19 3LU	Narborough	0.10ha
Hilcot Green play area	Hilcote Green, Thorpe Astley LE3 3SY	Braunstone	0.01ha
Holmfield Park play area	Warden's Walk, Braunstone Town LE3 3GF	Braunstone	0.10ha
Huncote play area	Denman Lane, Huncote LE9 3AL	Huncote	0.21ha
Impey Close play area	Impey Close, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	0.04ha
Isobella Road play area	Isobella Road, Thorpe Astley LE3 3UL	Braunstone	0.01ha
Jubilee Park play area	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 4AR	Enderby	0.05ha
Kings Walk play area	Kings Walk, Leicester Forest East LE3 3HR	LFE	0.11ha
Kirby Muxloe play area	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EN	Kirby Muxloe	0.20ha
Leysland play area	Sunbury Rise, Countesthorpe LE8 5XP	Countesthorpe	0.10ha
Littlethorpe Recreation Ground	Sycamore Way, Littlethorpe LE19 2HU	Narborough	0.08ha
Marshall Close Play Area	Marshall Close, Thorpe Astley LE3 3RQ	Braunstone	0.02ha
Memorial Pl. Fields play area	Carey Hill Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LA	Stoney Stanton	0.16ha
Mill Lane play area	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LH	Enderby	0.06ha
Millennium Green play area	Groby Road, Glenfield LE6 0AU	Glenfield	0.02ha
Mosssdale Meadows play area	Kingsway, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP	Braunstone	0.06ha
Narborough Recn. Grd. play area	Desford Road, Narborough LE19 2EL	Narborough	0.32ha
Navigation Drive play area	Navigation Drive, Glen Parva LE9 9TB	Glen Parva	0.01ha
Northfield Park play area	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ	Blaby	0.60ha
Nowell Close play area	Nowell Close, Glen Parva LE2 9SZ	Glen Parva	0.01ha
Oakfield Park play area	Hospital Lane, Blaby LE8 4FE	Blaby	0.20ha
Oliver Park play area	Wychwood Road, Whetstone LE8 6WA	Whetstone	0.06ha
Priestman Road play area	Priestman Road, Thorpe Astley LE3 3UJ	Braunstone	0.04ha
Sapcote play area	Hinckley Road, Sapcote LE9 4FS	Sapcote	0.20ha
Shakespeare Park play area	Shakespeare Park, Braunstone LE3 3AA	Braunstone	0.07ha
Sharnford play area	Park View, Sharnford LE10 3PT	Sharnford	0.04ha
Southey Close play area	Southey Close, Enderby LE19 4QZ	Enderby	0.02ha
Stafford Leys Comm. Centre	Stafford Leys, Leicester Forest East LE3 3LJ	LFE	0.02ha

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	Darien Way, Thorpe Astley LE3 3TT	Braunstone	0.07ha
Thurlaston Recn. Grd. play area	Church Street, Thurlaston LE9 7TA	Thurlaston	0.11ha
Victory Park play area	Park Road, Cosby LE9 1RL	Cosby	0.32ha
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	Warwick Road, Whetstone LE8 6LW	Whetstone	0.01ha
Whetstone play area	Trinity Rd., Whetstone LE8 6JW	Whetstone	0.35ha
Winston Avenue play area	Winston Avenue, Croft LE9 3GQ	Croft	0.07ha
TOTALS	-	-	5.76ha

Per capita levels of provision for children and young people in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. Levels of provision are remarkably consistent between parishes:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>Ha. per 1,000 people</i>
Blaby	6,194	0.85ha	0.14ha
Braunstone	16,850	0.92ha	0.06ha
Cosby	3,506	0.32ha	0.09ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	0.29ha	0.05ha
Croft	1,639	0.22ha	0.14ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0.01ha	0.02ha
Enderby	6,314	0.23ha	0.04ha
Glenfield	9,643	0.34ha	0.04ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0.38ha	0.06ha
Huncote	1,756	0.21ha	0.12ha
Kilby	270	-	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	0.20ha	0.04ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0.26ha	0.04ha
Narborough	8,448	0.50ha	0.06ha
Sapcote	2,442	0.20ha	0.08ha
Sharnford	985	0.09ha	0.09ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.19ha	0.05ha
Thurlaston	807	0.11ha	0.14ha
Whetstone	6,566	0.44ha	0.07ha
BLABY DISTRICT	93,674	5.76ha	0.06ha

In addition to the children's play equipment at the above sites, the following nine sites are equipped as outdoor gyms with exercise equipment suitable for all age groups:

- Dale Acre Play Area
- Dorothy Avenue playing fields
- Forest East Park
- Glenfield Millennium Green
- Huncote play area
- Kings Drive playing field
- Oakfield Park
- Warwick Road sports ground
- Winston Avenue

6.7.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of children’s play provision in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The assessments involved establishing the quality of the following criteria and the definitions of what constituted ‘high quality’ (scored as a ‘5’), ‘above average’ (scored as a ‘4’), ‘average’ (scored as a ‘3’), ‘below average’ (scored as a ‘2’) and ‘poor quality’ (scored as a ‘1’) are contained in Appendix II):

- The variety, quantity and quality of the play equipment.
- Perimeter fencing and gates.
- Seats and litter bins.
- Disabled access.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

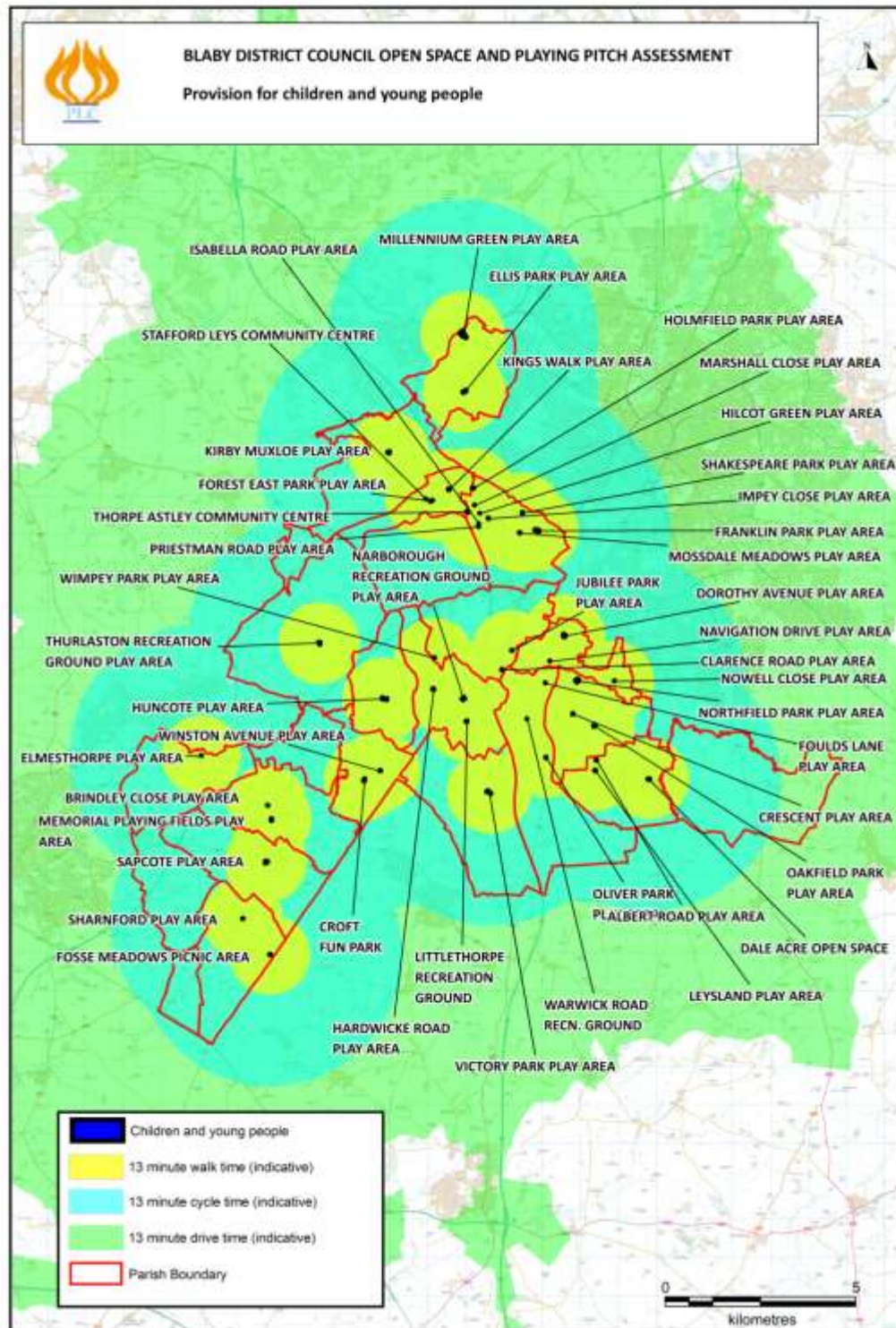
<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Albert Road play area	3	Littlethorpe Recreation Ground	4
Aldeby Close play area	4	Marshall Close Play Area	3
Brindley Close play area	4	Memorial Playing Fields play area	5
Clarence Road play area	3	Mill Lane Recreation Ground	5
Crescent play area	2	Millennium Green play area	3
Croft Fun Park	4	Mossdale Meadows play area	4
Dale Acre open space	5	Narborough Recn. Ground play area	5
Dorothy Avenue play area	5	Navigation Drive play area	3
Ellis Park play area	5	Northfield Park play area	4
Elmesthorpe play area	3	Nowell Close play area	3
Forest East Park play area	4	Oakfield Park play area	5
Foulds Lane play area	4	Oliver Park play area	4
Fosse Meadows picnic area	2	Priestman Road play area	3
Franklin Park play area	4	Sapcote play area	4
Hardwick Road play area	4	Shakespeare Park play area	3
Hilcot Green play area	4	Sharnford play area	3
Holmfield Park play area	4	Southey Close play area	4
Huncote play area	4	Stafford Leys Community Centre	2
Impey Close play area	4	Thorpe Astley Community Centre	4
Isobella Road play area	3	Thurlaston Recn. Ground play area	3
Jubilee Park play area	3	Victory Park play area	5
Kings Walk play area	3	Warwick Road Recn. Ground	4
Kirby Muxloe play area	4	Whetstone play area	4
Leysland play area	4	Winston Avenue play area	4

Eight sites (16.7%) were rated as ‘high quality’, 23 (47.9%) were rated as ‘above average’, 14 (29.2%) as ‘average’, three (6.2%) as below average and none as ‘poor quality’.

6.7.3 Accessibility analysis

The community survey in the ‘PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report’ (2009) identified that the maximum distance travelled by 80% of residents of Blaby district to reach children’s play provision was 13 minutes. For this reason, a 13 minute drivetime catchment has been selected and 13-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 10 minutes drive of their nearest play site.
- **Cycling** - About 93,500 people (99.6% of the district population) are within 10 minutes cycle of their nearest equipped play site.
- **Walking** - About 80,000 people (85.2% of the district population) are within 10 minutes walk of their nearest equipped play site.



6.8 Allotments

6.8.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 17 allotment sites in Blaby district are listed below.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Arbor Road Allotments	Arbor Road, Croft LE9 3GD	Croft	1.21ha
Blaby Allotments	Enderby Road, Blaby LE8 4GD	Blaby	1.89ha
Braunstone Close Allotments	Braunstone Close, Braunstone LE3 2GA	Braunstone	3.82ha
Cosby Allotments	Croft Road, Cosby LE9 1SF	Cosby	1.99ha
Cottage Homes Allotments	The Drive, Countesthorpe LE8 5PB	Countesthorpe	0.69ha
Countesthorpe Allotments	Glebe Drive, Countesthorpe LE8 5QR	Countesthorpe	0.98ha
Donkey Lane Allotments	Donkey Lane, Sapcote LE9 4LD	Sapcote	1.39ha
Glenfield Allotments	Main Street, Glenfield LE3 8DG	Glenfield	0.48ha
Kirby Muxloe Allotments	Desford Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2AU	Kirby Muxloe	1.10ha
Narborough Allotments	Leicester Road, Narborough LE19 2AZ	Narborough	1.53ha
Peatling Road Allotments	Peatling Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5RD	Countesthorpe	0.64ha
Place to Grow	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LH	Enderby	1.48ha
Rosamund Avenue Allotments	Rosamund Avenue, Braunstone LE3 2GP	Braunstone	2.82ha
Sapcote Allotments	Leicester Road, Sapcote LE9 4JF	Sapcote	0.54ha
Stoney Stanton Allotments	Holt Close, Stoney Stanton LE9 4GP	Stoney Stanton	0.63ha
Townsend Field Allotments	Eunice Avenue, Huncote LE9 3AQ	Huncote	1.50ha
Whetstone Allotments	The Dicken, Whetstone LE8 6LE	Whetstone	0.56ha
TOTAL	-	-	23.53ha

Per capita levels of provision of allotments in each parish in Blaby district are listed below.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>Ha. per 1,000 people</i>
Blaby	6,194	1.89ha	0.31ha
Braunstone	16,850	6.64ha	0.39ha
Cosby	3,506	1.99ha	0.57ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	2.31ha	0.36ha
Croft	1,639	1.21ha	0.61ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0	-
Enderby	6,314	1.48ha	0.23ha
Glenfield	9,643	0.48ha	0.05ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0	-
Huncote	1,756	1.50ha	0.85ha
Kilby	270	0	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.10ha	0.24ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0	-
Narborough	8,448	1.53ha	0.18ha
Sapcote	2,442	1.93ha	0.79ha
Sharnford	985	0	-
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.63ha	0.17ha
Thurlaston	807	0	-
Whetstone	6,566	0.56ha	0.09ha
BLABY DISTRICT	93,674	23.53ha	0.25ha

6.8.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of allotments in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The assessments for each site involved establishing the presence of the following features. A ‘high quality’ site scored ‘5’, an ‘above average’ site scored ‘4’, an ‘average’ site scored ‘3’, a ‘below average’ site scored a ‘2’ and a ‘poor quality’ site scored a ‘1’):

- Site boundaries fenced.
- Water supply on site to all plots.
- Secure sheds/huts provided.
- Toilets provided on site.
- Dedicated car parking.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Arbor Road Allotments	4	Narborough Allotments	4
Blaby Allotments	3	Peatling Road Allotments	3
Braunstone Close Allotments	4	Place to Grow	5
Cosby Allotments	3	Rosamund Avenue Allotments	4
Cottage Homes Allotments	3	Sapcote Allotments	3
Countesthorpe Allotments	4	Stoney Stanton Allotments	5
Donkey Lane Allotments	3	Townsend Field Allotments	3
Glenfield Allotments	4	Whetstone Allotments	3
Kirby Muxloe Allotments	3		

Two sites (11.8%) were rated as ‘high quality’, six (35.3%) were rated as ‘above average’, nine (52.9%) as ‘average’, none were ‘below average’ or ‘poor quality’.

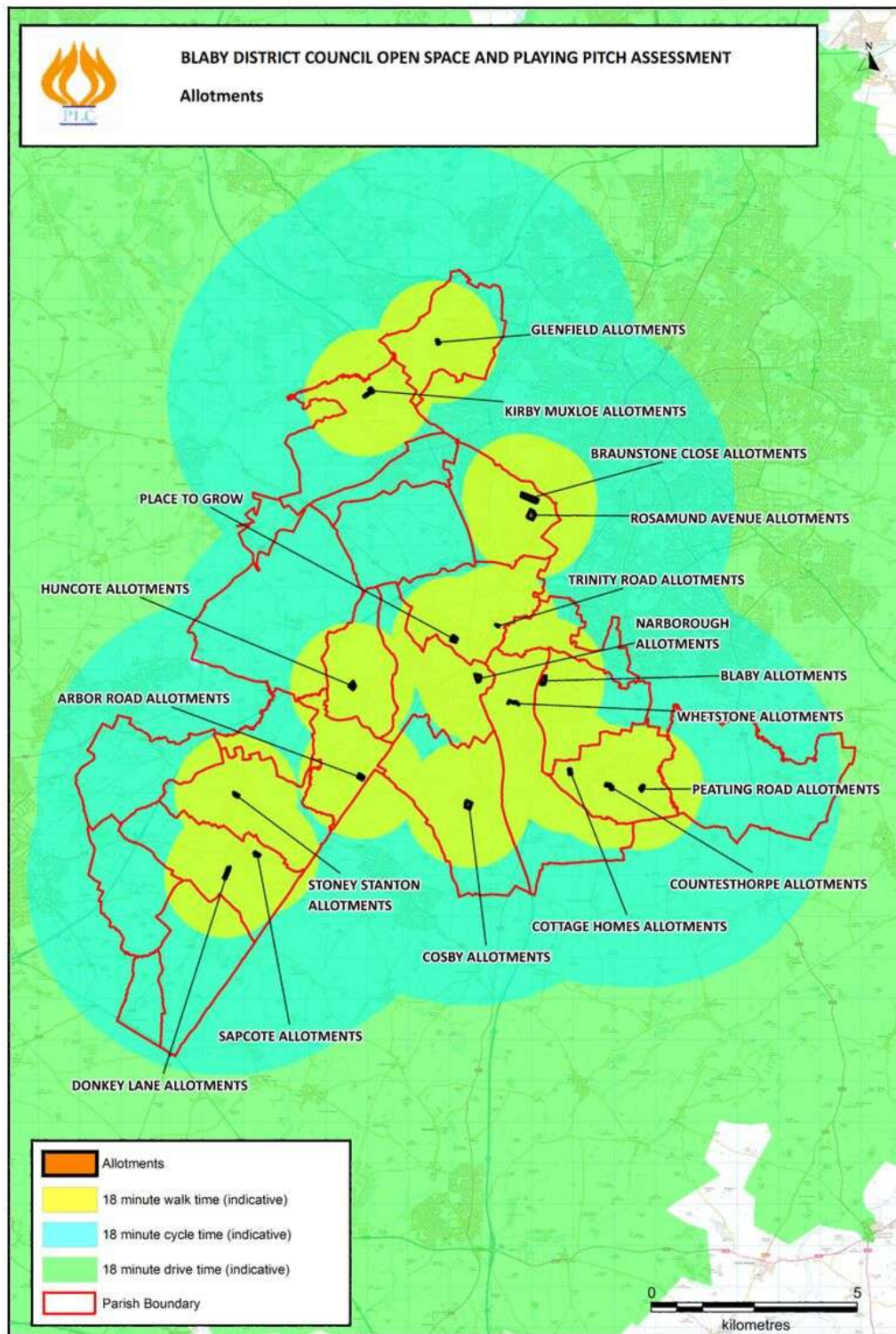


Blaby Allotments

6.8.3 Accessibility analysis

The community survey in the ‘PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report’ (2009) identified that the maximum distance travelled by 80% of residents of Blaby district to reach allotments was 18 minutes. For this reason, an 18 minute drivetime catchment has been selected and 18-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 18 minutes drive of their nearest allotment.
- **Cycling** - About 93,500 people (99.6% of the district population) are within 18 minutes cycle of their nearest allotment.
- **Walking** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 18 minutes walk of their nearest allotment.



6.9 Churchyards and cemeteries

6.9.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 30 churchyards and cemeteries in Blaby district are listed below.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Size</i>
Aldeby Churchyard	Aldeby Close, Enderby LE19 2BA	Enderby	0.32ha
All Saints' Church	Church Street, Blaby LE8 4FA	Blaby	0.18ha
All Saints' Church	Church Lane, Narborough LE19 2GL	Narborough	0.28ha
All Saints' Church	Church Street, Sapcote LE9 4FF	Sapcote	0.50ha
All Saints' Church	Church Street, Thurlaston LE9 7TA	Thurlaston	0.41ha
Blaby Cemetery	Mill Lane, Blaby LE8 4FG	Blaby	2.59ha
Cosby Cemetery	Narborough Road, Cosby LE9 1TA	Cosby	0.68ha
Countesthorpe Cemetery	Foston Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5QP	Countesthorpe	1.43ha
Croft Cemetery	Huncote Road, Croft LE9 3GS	Croft	0.71ha
St. John the Baptist/Enderby Cm	Leicester Lane, Enderby LE19 4AR	Enderby	1.94ha
Huncote Cemetery	Forest Road, Huncote LE9 3BG	Huncote	0.43ha
Kirby Muxloe Cemetery	Desford Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2BD	Kirby Muxloe	1.76ha
Narborough Cemetery	School Lane, Narborough LE19 2FU	Narborough	1.50ha
Sapcote Cemetery	Donkey Lane, Sapcote LE9 4LD	Sapcote	0.57ha
St. Andrew's Church	Main Street, Countesthorpe LE8 5QX	Countesthorpe	0.26ha
St. Andrew's Church	Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East LE3 3PW	LFE	0.58ha
St. Bartholomew's Church	Main Street, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2AL	Kirby Muxloe	0.26ha
St. Bartholomew's Church	Barley Lane, Foston LE8 5WQ	Countesthorpe	0.28ha
St. Helen's Church	Leicester Road, Sharnford LE10 3PP	Sharnford	0.35ha
St. Mary Magdalene Church	Main Street, Kilby LE18 3TD	Kilby	0.43ha
St. Mary's Church	Elmesthorpe Lane, Elmesthorpe LE9 7PT	Elmesthorpe	0.51ha
St. Mary's Church	Pingle Lane, Potters Marston LE9 3JR	Elmesthorpe	0.03ha
St. Mary the Virgin's Church	Church Lane, Wigston Parva LE10 3AN	Sharnford	0.09ha
St. Michael's Church	Church Street, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LQ	Stoney Stanton	0.66ha
St. Michael & All Angels Church	Main Street, Cosby LE9 1UW	Cosby	0.18ha
St. Michael & All Angels Church	Hill Street, Croft LE9 3GT	Croft	0.29ha
St. Peter's Church	Sharnford Road, Aston Flamville LE10 3AF	Sharnford	0.41ha
St. Peter's Church	Church Road, Glenfield LE3 8DP	Glenfield	0.82ha
St. Peter's Church	Church Lane, Whetstone LE8 6BA	Whetstone	0.44ha
Whetstone Cemetery	Cemetery Road, Whetstone LE8 6LL	Whetstone	0.67ha
TOTAL	-	-	19.60ha

Per capita levels of provision for churchyards and cemeteries in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. Levels of provision vary widely:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>Ha. per 1,000 people</i>
Blaby	6,194	2.77ha	0.45ha
Braunstone	16,850	0	-
Cosby	3,506	0.86ha	0.25ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	1.97ha	0.31ha
Croft	1,639	1.00ha	0.61ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0.54ha	1.06ha

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>Ha. per 1,000 people</i>
Enderby	6,314	2.26ha	0.36ha
Glenfield	9,643	0.82ha	0.09ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0	-
Huncote	1,756	0.43ha	0.24ha
Kilby	270	0.43ha	1.59ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	2.02ha	0.43ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0.58ha	0.09ha
Narborough	8,448	1.78ha	0.21ha
Sapcote	2,442	1.07ha	0.44ha
Sharnford	985	0.85ha	0.86ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.66ha	0.17ha
Thurlaston	807	0.41ha	0.51ha
Whetstone	6,566	1.11ha	0.17ha
BLABY DISTRICT	93,674	19.60ha	0.21ha

6.9.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of churchyards and cemeteries in Blaby district in terms of their open space functions involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The assessments for each site involved establishing the presence of the following features. A 'high quality' site scored '5', an 'above average' site scored '4', an 'average' site scored '3', a 'below average' site scored a '2' and a 'poor quality' site scored a '1':

- Paths.
- Grassed areas.
- Seats.
- Clear entrance.
- Dedicated car parking.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

The assessed scores were as follows:

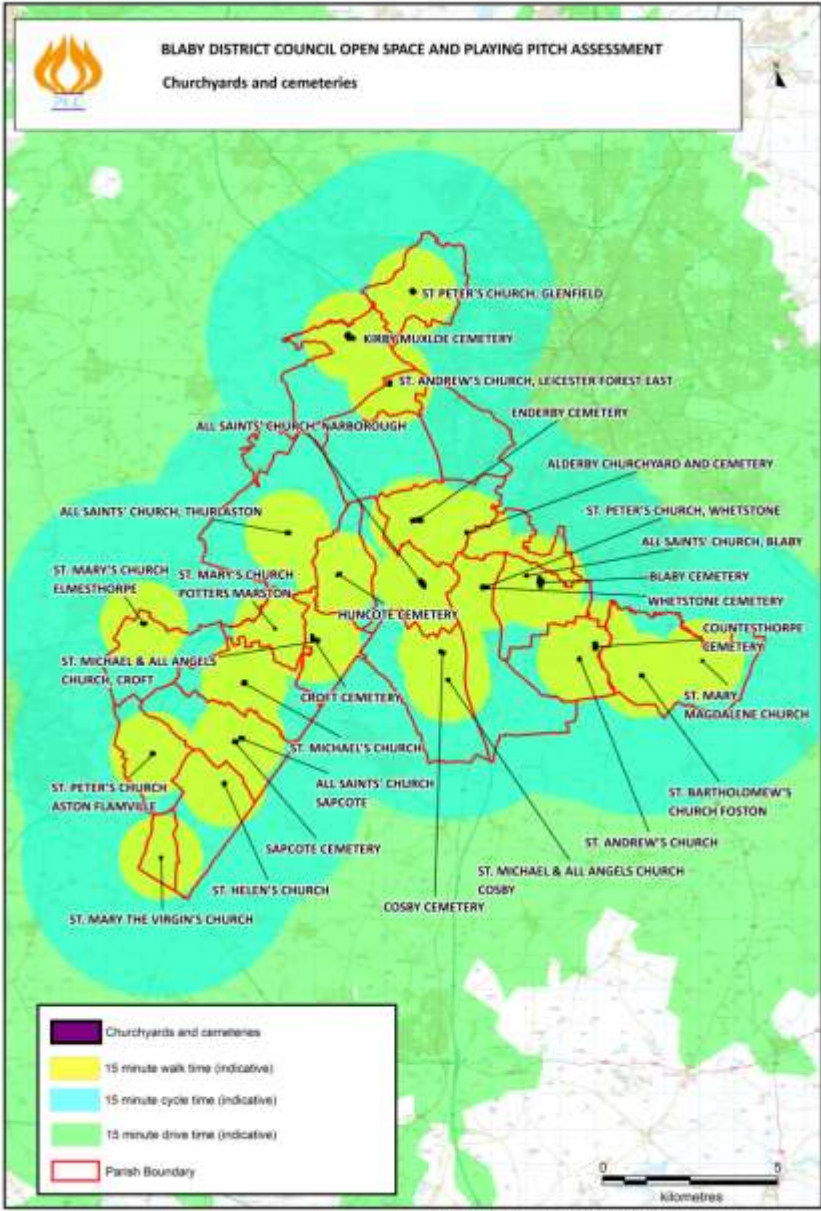
<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Aldeby Churchyard & Cemetery	2	St. Andrew's Church, LFE	3
All Saints' Church, Blaby	3	St. Bartholomew's, Kirby Muxloe	3
All Saints' Church, Narborough	3	St. Bartholomew's Church, Foston	3
All Saints' Church, Sapcote	2	St. Helen's Church, Sharnford	3
All Saints' Church, Thurlaston	3	St. Mary Magdalene Church, Kilby	3
Blaby Cemetery	4	St. Mary's Church, Elmesthorpe	2
Cosby Cemetery	4	St. Mary's Church, Potter's Marston	4
Countesthorpe Cemetery	5	St. Mary the Virgin, Wigston Parva	1
Croft Cemetery	4	St. Michael's Church, Stoney Stanton	3
St. John the Baptist/Enderby Cemetery	3	St. Michael & All Angels, Cosby	4
Huncote Cemetery	3	St. Michael & All Angels, Croft	3
Kirby Muxloe Cemetery	5	St. Peter's Church, Aston Flamville	4
Narborough Cemetery	3	St. Peter's Church, Glenfield	3
Sapcote Cemetery	4	St. Peter's Church, Whetstone	4
St. Andrew's Church, Countesthorpe	3	Whetstone Cemetery	5

Three sites (10.0%) were rated as 'high quality', eight (26.7%) were rated as 'above average', 15 (50.0%) as 'average', three (10.0%) as below average and one (3.3%) as 'poor quality'.

6.9.3 Accessibility analysis

The community survey in the 'PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report' (2009) identified that the maximum distance travelled by 80% of residents of Blaby district to reach churchyards and cemeteries was 15 minutes. For this reason, a 15 minute drivetime catchment has been selected and 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest site.
- **Cycling** - The whole population is within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest site.
- **Walking** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest cemetery or churchyard.



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6.10 Playing pitch quantitative analysis

6.10.1 Pitches available for community use and used

Details of all pitches within Blaby district available for community use and used are listed below. The information was compiled from data supplied by BDC and the governing bodies of sport, Sport England's 'Active Places Power' database and the site visits.

Site	Parish	Adult football	Youth football (11v11)	Youth football (9v9)	Mini-soccer (7v7)	Mini-soccer (5v5)	Cricket	Rugby	'3G'
Brockington College	Enderby	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cosby Recreation Ground	Cosby	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	-
Countesthorpe Comm College	Countesthorpe	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Countesthorpe Cricket Club	Countesthorpe	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
County Hall Sports Ground	Glenfield	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	Glen Parva	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enderby Cricket Club	Enderby	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Glenfield Sports Ground	Glenfield	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Gynsill Lane Sports Ground	Glenfield	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Holmes Park	Whetstone	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Huncote Sports & Social Club	Huncote	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Kings Drive Playing Fields	LFE	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	Kirby Muxloe	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	-
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	Kirby Muxloe	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Leicester Forest Rugby Club	LFE	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Leicester Ivanhoe CC	LFE	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Leicester Road Recn. Ground	Narborough	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
Lissman Fields	Sharnford	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Lutterworth Road Recn. Grd.	Whetstone	2	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Meadows Sports Ground	Countesthorpe	2	2	-	2	1	1	-	-
Mossdale Meadows	Braunstone	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Northfield Park	Blaby	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Oakfield Park	Blaby	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Old Newtonians Rugby Club	LFE	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Saffron Dynamo FC	Cosby	2	-	1	2	2	1	-	-
Sapcote Recreation Ground	Sapcote	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Shakespeare Park	Braunstone	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	Braunstone	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thurlaston Sports Club	Thurlaston	2	-	-	1	2	1	-	-
Vipers Rugby Club	Blaby	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
War Memorial Playing Fields	Stoney Stanton	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	Whetstone	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
Westleigh Park	Blaby	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Whetstone Youth Club	Whetstone	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Willoughby Road Pl. Field	Countesthorpe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winstanley Comm. College	Braunstone	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Winston Avenue Sports Grd.	Croft	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	-	45	9	11	10	13	20	13	1

6.10.2 Pitches available for community use but unused

Details of all pitches within Blaby district available for community use but currently unused are listed below. The information was compiled from data supplied by BDC and the governing bodies of sport, Sport England's 'Active Places Power' database and the site visits.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Youth football (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth football (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini-soccer (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini-soccer (5v5)</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Rugby</i>
Ellis Park	Glenfield	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Littlethorpe Recn. Ground	Narborough	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Mill Lane Playing Field	Enderby	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Pavilion, Huncote	Huncote	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
War Memorial Playing Fields	Stoney Stanton	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
TOTALS	-	2	1	0	2	2	0	0

6.10.3 Pitches not available for community use

Details of all pitches within Blaby district that are not currently available for community use and used are listed below. The information was compiled from data supplied by BDC and the governing bodies of sport, Sport England's 'Active Places Power' database and the schools survey.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Youth football (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth football (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini-soccer (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini-soccer (5v5)</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Rugby</i>
All Saints Primary School, Sapcote	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Blaby Stokes Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Blaby Thistly Meadow Primary School	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Cosby Primary School	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Croft Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Danemill Primary School	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Enderby Danemill Junior School	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Glen Hills Academy Primary School	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Glenfield Primary School	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Greenfield Primary School, Countesthorpe	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
Greystoke Primary School, Narborough	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Huncote Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kingsway Primary School	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Leysland High School, Countesthorpe	2	2	-	-	-	1	-
Manorfield Primary Sch., Stoney Stanton	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Millfield Academy Primary School	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Narborough Pastures Primary School	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ravenhurst Primary School, Braunstone	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Red Hill Field Primary Sch., Narborough	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
St. Peter's Primary School, Whetstone	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Stafford Leys Primary School, LFE	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
The Hall School, Glenfield	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Whetstone Badgerbrook Primary School	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	3	12	16	5	5	0

The facilities above may have some potential to meet community needs in the future, subject to demand and to suitable access arrangements being negotiated.

6.10.4 Pitches not available as disused

The adult football pitch at Holmfield Park in Braunstone has been taken out of use by Braunstone Parish Council due to lack of current demand.

6.10.5 Parish analysis

Per capita levels of provision of pitches available for community use and used in each parish of Blaby district are listed below, based upon population figures from the 2011 Census.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Popn.</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Youth football (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth football (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini-soccer (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini-soccer (5v5)</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Rugby</i>	<i>'3G'</i>
Blaby	6,194	1: 3,097	-	-	-	1: 6,194	1: 6,194	1: 2,065	-
Braunstone	16,850	1: 2,407	1: 16,850	1: 16,850	1: 16,850	1: 16,850	1: 16,850	-	-
Cosby	3,506	1: 877	-	1: 1,753	1: 1,167	1: 1,167	1: 1,753	1: 3,506	-
Countesthorpe	6,377	1: 709	1: 3,189	-	1: 3,189	1: 6,377	1: 3,189	-	-
Croft	1,639	1: 1,639	1: 1,639	-	-	-	1: 1,639	-	-
Elmesthorpe	509	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enderby	6,314	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1: 6,314
Glenfield	9,643	1: 3,214	1: 4,822	1: 9,643	-	-	1: 4,822	-	-
Glen Parva	6,189	1: 3,095	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Huncote	1,756	1: 585	-	-	-	-	1: 1,756	-	-
Kilby	270	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1: 2,334	1: 4,667	1: 4,667	-	1: 2,234	1: 2,334	-	-
Leicester Forest East	6,719	1: 6,719	-	-	-	1: 6,719	1: 3,360	1: 1,120	-
Narborough	8,448	-	1: 8,448	1: 8,448	-	-	1: 8,448	-	-
Sapcote	2,442	1: 2,442	-	-	-	-	1: 2,442	-	-
Sharnford	985	-	-	-	-	-	1: 985	-	-
Stoney Stanton	3,793	1: 1,264	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thurlaston	807	1: 404	-	-	1: 807	1: 404	1: 807	-	-
Whetstone	6,566	1: 1,313	-	1: 2,189	1: 3,283	1: 3,283	1: 6,566	-	-
BLABY DISTRICT	93,674	1: 2,082	1: 10,408	1: 8,519	1: 9,357	1: 7,205	1: 4,942	1: 7,206	1: 93,900

The figures reveal the following:

- **Adult football** - Only five parishes have no adult football pitch provision.
- **Youth football** - Youth football pitches are mainly concentrated in the built-up areas.
- **Mini-soccer** - Mini-soccer pitches are mainly concentrated in the built-up areas.
- **Cricket** - Cricket pitches occur in 14 parishes, with better representation in the rural areas.
- **Rugby** - Rugby pitches are focused in the built-up areas of the district.

- **‘3G’ football turf pitches** - The only ‘3G’ pitch in the district is in Enderby.

6.10.6 Synthetic Turf Pitches for hockey

There are no full-sized synthetic turf pitches for hockey (water-based, sand-filled or sand-dressed) in Blaby district, although there are two ‘small-sided’ pitches at Ellis Park and Kirby Muxloe Sports Club (see the table in section 6.10.8 below), which provide for some training needs. However, the following full-sized facilities in adjacent areas have catchments which overlap with the boundary of Blaby district (the ‘distance’ column refers to the distance to the Blaby district boundary):

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Surface</i>
Groby Community College	Ratby Road, Leicester LE6 0GE	1 mile	Sand-filled
William Bradford Academy	Heath Lane, Earl Shilton LE9 7PD	1.5 miles	Sand-filled
John Cleveland College	Butt Lane, Hinckley LE10 1LE	2 miles	Sand-filled
St. Margaret’s Pasture	St. Margaret’s Way, Leicester LE1 3EA	2 miles	Sand-dressed
Moat Community College	Maidstone Road, Leicester LE2 0TU	2.5 miles	Sand-filled
Roger Bettles Sports Centre	Manor Road, Leicester LE2 2LL	3 miles	Sand-filled
Soar Valley College	Gleneagles Avenue, Leicester LE4 7GY	3.5 miles	Sand-filled
Leicester Grammar School	Great Glen, Leicester LE8 9FF	4 miles	Water-based
Leicester Grammar School	Great Glen, Leicester LE8 9FF	4 miles	Sand-filled

6.10.7 ‘3G’ Football Turf Pitches

There is one full-sized ‘3G’ football turf pitch in Blaby district, as detailed below:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>
Brockington College	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 4AQ

6.10.8 Small-sided synthetic turf pitches

The following small-sided pitches provide additional training opportunities:

<i>Facility</i>			<i>Surface</i>
Ellis Park	Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL	32m x 16m (x2)	Sand-filled
Holmes Park	Dog and Gun Lane, Whetstone LE8 6FA	44m x 30m	‘3G’
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	Ratby Lane, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2AQ	40m x 26m	Sand-filled
Leysland High School	Winchester Rd., Countesthorpe LE8 5BX	44m x 30m	‘3G’
The Pavilion	Sportsfield Lane, Huncote LE9 3BN	35m x 20m (x2)	‘3G’
Whetstone Youth Club	Warwick Road, Whetstone LE8 6LW	30m x 20m	‘3G’

6.11 *Playing pitch qualitative analysis*

6.11.1 Methodology

The qualitative analysis of pitches in Blaby district involved visits to all pitches available for community use and used, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by each of the pitch sport governing bodies for Sport England’s *‘Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance’* (2013). The criteria assessed are detailed in Appendix II.

6.11.2 Football site scores

The assessment generates ‘scores’ for each site by evaluating the condition of:

- **The playing surface** - This includes grass cover, pitch dimensions, gradient, evenness, length of grass, drainage and evidence of any unauthorised use.
- **The changing facilities** - This includes the availability of changing rooms, kitchen and/or bar, the interior and exterior appearance, showering and toilet provision, medical room, disability access and parking arrangements.
- **Grounds maintenance** - This includes the frequency of grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing.

The percentages equate to ‘Good’ for scores of 100% - 75%, ‘Standard’ for scores of 74.9% - 50%, ‘Poor’ for scores of 49.9% - 25% and ‘Unsuitable’ below 25%. Where there is more than one pitch at a site, the average quality rating is given, although the condition of individual pitches has been taken into account in the site-specific supply and demand analysis in section 7 below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>		<i>Changing</i>	
	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Brockington College	72%	Standard	51%	Standard
Cosby Recreation Ground	67%	Standard	44%	Poor
Countesthorpe Community College	64%	Standard	66%	Standard
County Hall Sports Ground	76%	Good	79%	Good
Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	64%	Standard	44%	Poor
Glenfield Sports Ground	67%	Standard	86%	Good
Holmes Park	90%	Good	93%	Good
Huncote Sports & Social Club	81%	Good	86%	Good
Kings Drive Playing Fields	69%	Standard	71%	Standard
Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground	64%	Standard	23%	Poor
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	81%	Good	72%	Standard
Leicester Road Recreation Ground	64%	Standard	-	-
Lutterworth Road Recreation Ground	67%	Standard	64%	Standard
Meadows Sports Ground	72%	Standard	67%	Standard
Mossdale Meadows	63%	Standard	34%	Poor
Northfield Park	64%	Standard	20%	Poor
Oakfield Park	67%	Standard	34%	Poor
Saffron Dynamo FC	77%	Good	86%	Good
Sapcote Recreation Ground	67%	Standard	79%	Good
Shakespeare Park	63%	Standard	67%	Standard
Southey Close Playing Fields	56%	Standard	-	-
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	69%	Standard	50%	Standard
Thurlaston Sports Club	69%	Standard	51%	Standard
War Memorial Playing Fields	64%	Standard	50%	Standard
Warwick Road Recreation Ground	64%	Standard	20%	Poor
Whetstone Youth Club	76%	Good	86%	Good
Willoughby Road Playing Field	49%	Poor	37%	Poor
Winstanley Community College	64%	Standard	71%	Standard
Winston Avenue Sports Ground	69%	Standard	67%	Standard

The pitch quality assessments show that:

- Only one pitch is rated as ‘poor’ quality and therefore in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity.
- Changing facilities are rated as ‘poor’ at seven sites and are absent from two sites, but several other sites score towards the lower end of the ‘standard’ quality range.

6.11.3 Cricket site scores

The assessment generates ‘scores’ for each site by evaluating the condition of:

- **Grass wickets** - This includes presence of line markings, evidence of rolling, grass cut and height, repaired wickets, grass coverage and ball bounce.
- **Outfield** - This includes grass coverage, length of grass, evenness and evidence of unofficial use or damage to the surface.
- **Non-turf wickets** - This includes integration with the surrounding grass, evenness, stump holes any evidence of moss, tears or surface lifting and ball bounce.
- **Changing facilities** - This includes the presence or absence of umpires provision, toilets, hot/cold water, heating and an assessment of the condition of the building.
- **Non-turf practice nets** - This includes integration with the surrounding grass, evenness, stump holes any evidence of moss, tears or surface lifting, ball bounce, safety and integrity of the steel frame and nets and safety signage.

The percentages equate to ratings of ‘Good’ for scores of 81% or more ‘Standard’ for scores of 80% - 51% and ‘Poor’ for scores of 50% or below. Blank cells in the table mean that the feature concerned is absent from the site in question:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Wicket</i>		<i>Non-turf</i>		<i>Outfield</i>		<i>Changing</i>		<i>Practice nets</i>	
	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Cosby Recreation Ground	100%	Good	86%	Good	93%	Good	40%	Poor	-	-
Countesthorpe Cricket Club	100%	Good	86%	Good	93%	Good	100%	Good	75%	Standard
County Hall Sports Ground	100%	Good	86%	Good	73%	Standard	80%	Standard	-	-
Enderby Cricket Club	100%	Good	86%	Good	93%	Good	92%	Good	75%	Standard
Gynsill Lane Sports Ground	100%	Good	14%	Poor	73%	Standard	100%	Good	67%	Standard
Huncote Sports & Social Club	100%	Good	-	-	93%	Good	100%	Good	-	-
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	67%	Standard	-	-	67%	Standard	60%	Standard	-	-
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	100%	Good	86%	Good	93%	Good	100%	Good	-	-
Leicester Ivanhoe CC	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good
Leicester Road Recn. Ground	100%	Good	86%	Good	93%	Good	100%	Good	83%	Good
Lissman Fields	100%	Good	-	-	63%	Standard	40%	Poor	-	-
Meadows Sports Ground	67%	Standard	-	-	67%	Standard	12%	Poor	-	-
Northfield Park	45%	Poor	-	-	53%	Standard	40%	Poor	-	-
Saffron Dynamo FC	100%	Good	-	-	80%	Standard	100%	Good	-	-
Sapcote Recreation Ground	67%	Standard	-	-	80%	Standard	100%	Good	-	-
Thurlaston Sports Ground	83%	Good	-	-	70%	Standard	80%	Standard	-	-
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	67%	Standard	-	-	70%	Standard	80%	Standard	-	-
Winstanley Comm. College	67%	Standard	-	-	67%	Standard	-	-	-	-
Winston Ave. Sports Ground	83%	Good	29%	Poor	57%	Standard	40%	Poor	-	-

The ratings above have been cross referenced against the pitch, outfield and other facilities marks supplied by the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League for all sites in Blaby district for the 2015 season.

One pitch is rated as ‘poor’ and five as ‘standard’ so these are therefore in a condition to compromise their levels of use, or ‘pitch carrying capacity’. This is factored into the supply-demand analysis in section 8 below.

<i>Element</i>	<i>Good</i>		<i>Standard</i>		<i>Poor</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Pitch	13	68.4	5	27.8	1	5.3
Non-turf pitch	7	75.0	0	0.0	2	25.0
Outfield	7	33.3	12	66.7	0	0.0
Pavilion	9	47.4	4	21.0	6	31.6
Practice nets	2	40.0	3	60.0	0	0.0

6.11.4 Rugby site scores

The assessment generates ‘scores’ for each pitch by evaluating the condition of:

- **Pitch drainage** - Inadequately naturally drained (scores D0), adequately naturally drained (scores D1) pipe drained (scores (D2) and pipe and slit drained pitches (scores D3).
- **Grounds maintenance** - Frequency of aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing. This generates scores of ‘Poor’ (M0), ‘Adequate’ (M1) and ‘Good’ (M2)

The scores for each rugby pitch site in Blaby district are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Drainage</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>
Cosby Recreation Ground	D1	M1
Leicester Forest Rugby Club	D1	M1
Old Newtonians Rugby Club	D1	M1
Vipers Rugby Club	D1	M2
Westleigh Park	D1	M1

The number of match equivalents per week that can be accommodated by pitches with different drainage and maintenance regimes is as follows and this is reflected in the supply-demand balance calculations in section 7.18 below:

<i>Drainage</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>		
	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>
Natural inadequate	0.5	1.0	2.0
Natural adequate	1.5	2.0	3.0
Pipe drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and slit drained	2.0	3.0	3.5

The quality of changing facilities at each site was assessed as follows:

<i>Site</i>		<i>Notes</i>
Cosby Recreation Ground	Poor	Poor quality and no security of tenure
Leicester Forest Rugby Club	Standard	Good quality changing facilities
Old Newtonians Rugby Club	Poor	Poor quality clubhouse
Vipers Rugby Club	Good	More changing facilities needed
Westleigh Park	Good	Good quality changing facilities

6.11.5 Synthetic turf pitch scores

The assessment generates an overall ‘score’ for each full-sized pitch by evaluating the condition of the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of ‘Good’ for scores of 80% or more ‘Standard’ for scores of 79% - 51% and ‘Poor’ for scores of 50% or below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Brockington College	73%	Standard

6.12 Playing pitch accessibility analysis

The accessibility of playing pitches in Blaby district is illustrated in the maps below. The catchments have been mapped as follows, using travel time software to take account of road conditions and any natural barriers to travel.

- **Driving times** - Most participants travel by car to reach their chosen pitch and the typical maximum duration that they are prepared to travel has been mapped for each type of pitch.
- **Cycling times** - Cycling time catchments have also been mapped, using the Transport for London ‘Moderate’ cycling standard, which equates to 16km per hour, or 4km for a 15 minute travel time catchment (or equivalent for pitches or facilities with larger catchments).
- **Walking times** - Walking time catchments have also been mapped, to illustrate the accessibility of pitches and facilities on foot. A distance criterion of 1,200m walking in 15 minutes (or equivalent for facilities with larger catchments) has been applied.

6.12.1 Adult football

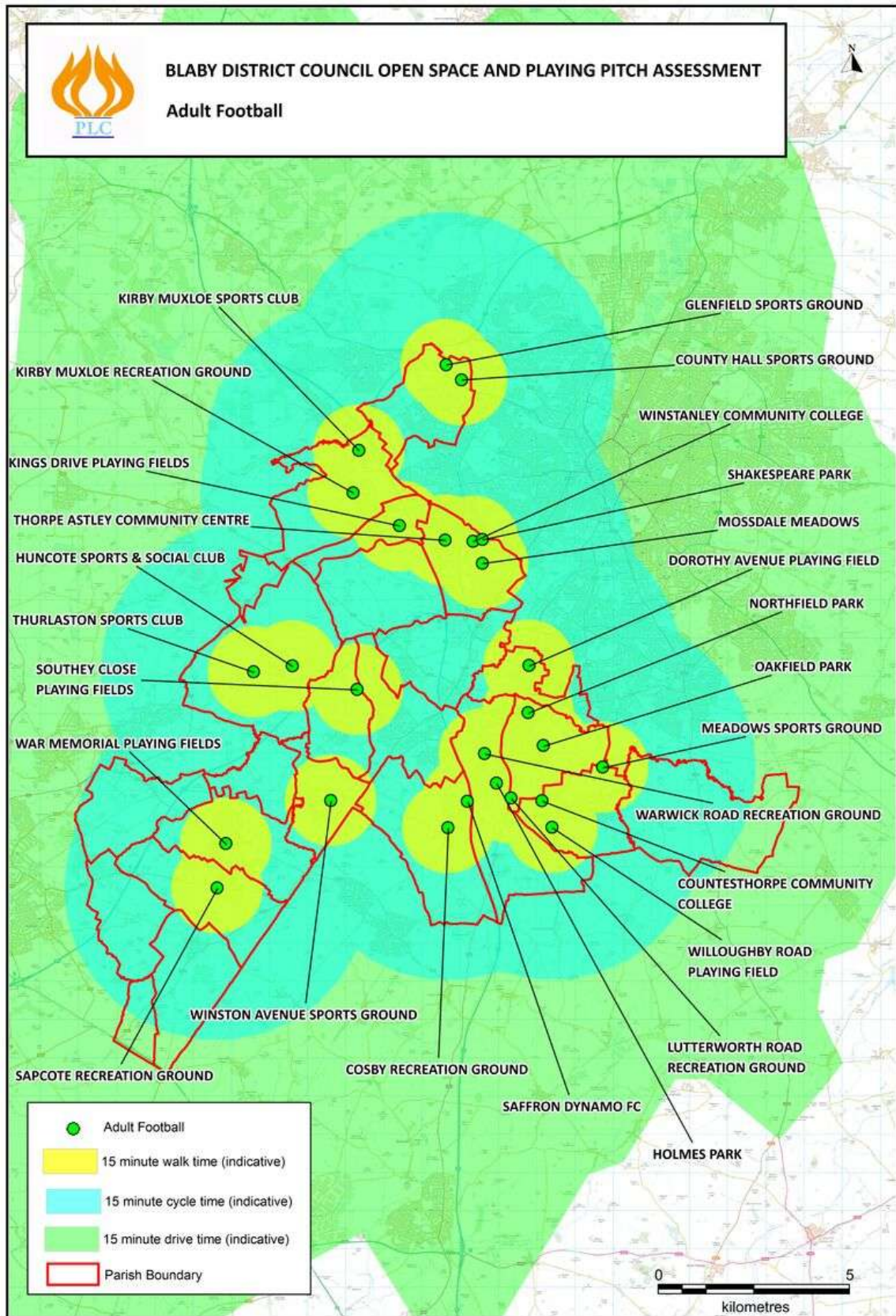
The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 93,500 people (99.6% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Adult Football

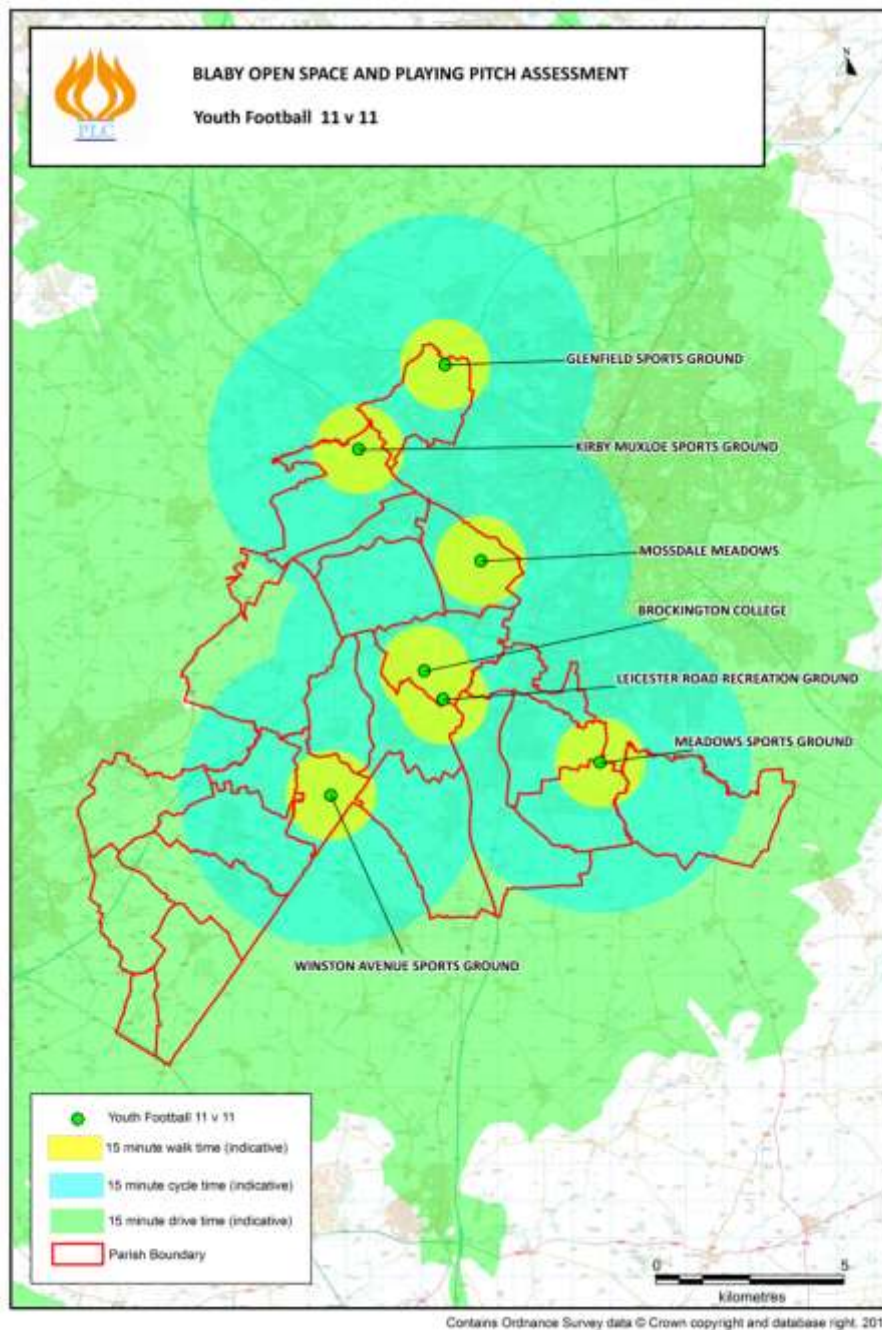


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6.12.2 Youth football (11 v 11)

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

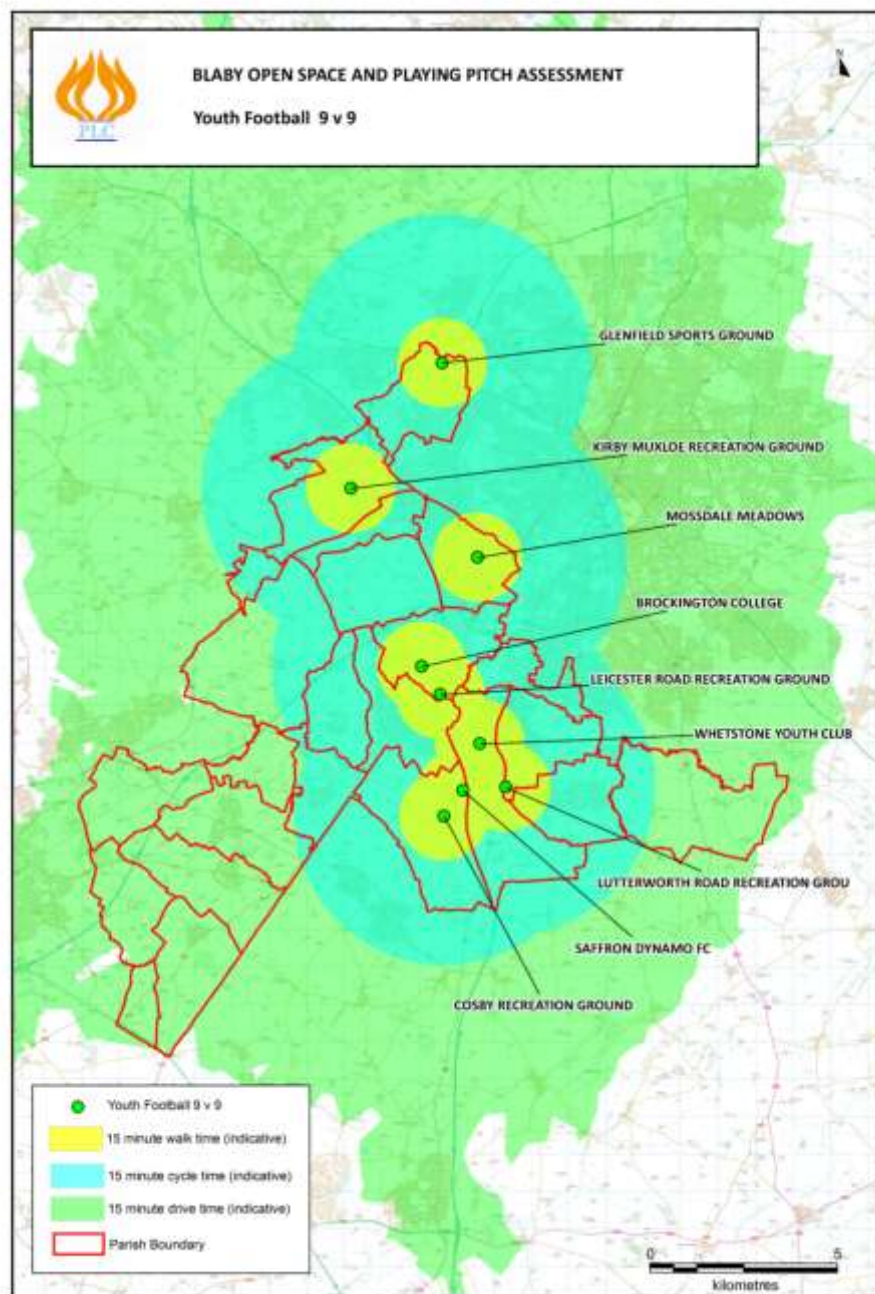
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 85,000 people (90.5% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 30,000 people (31.9% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.3 Youth football (9 v 9)

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

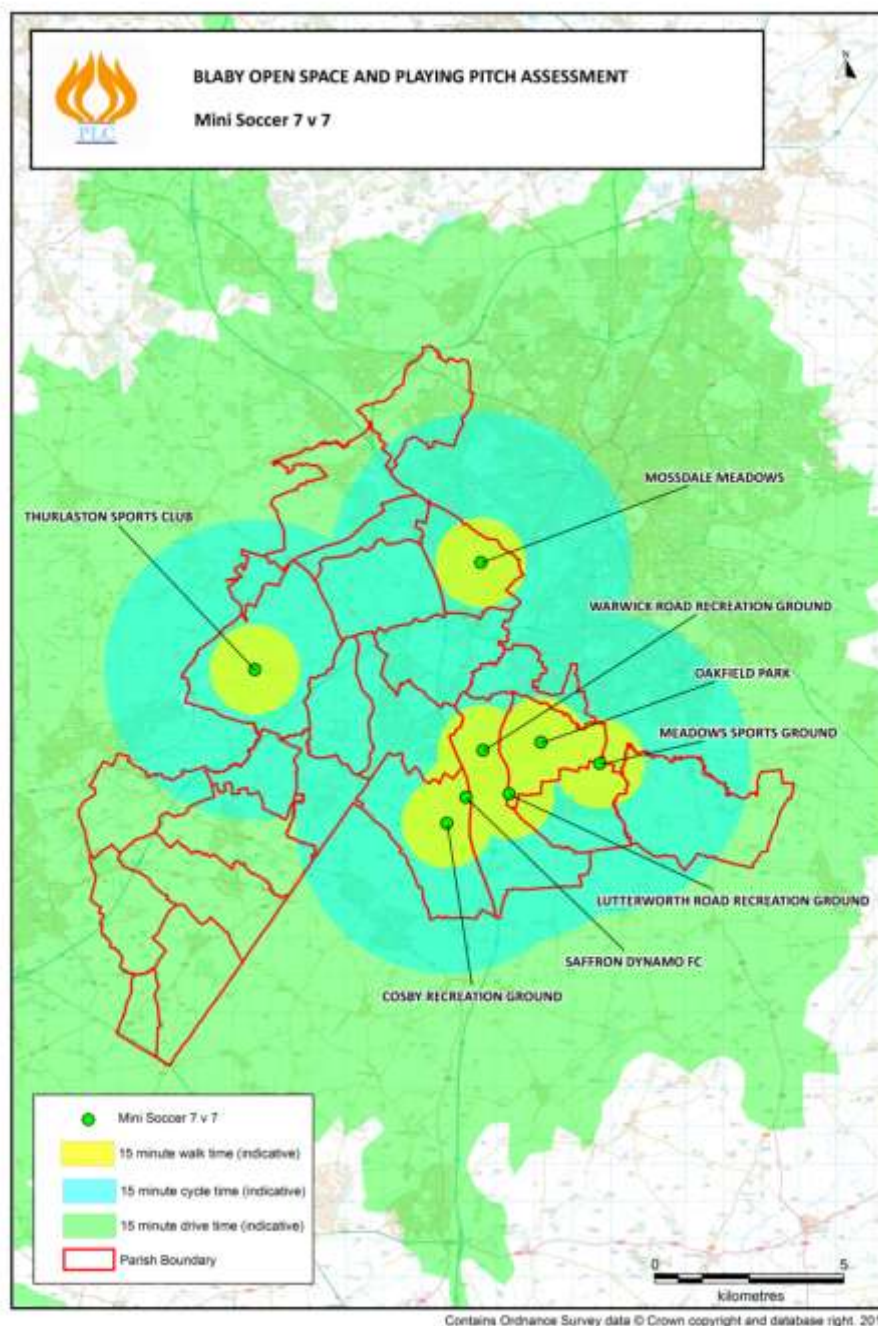
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 25,000 people (26.6% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.4 Mini-soccer (7 v 7)

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

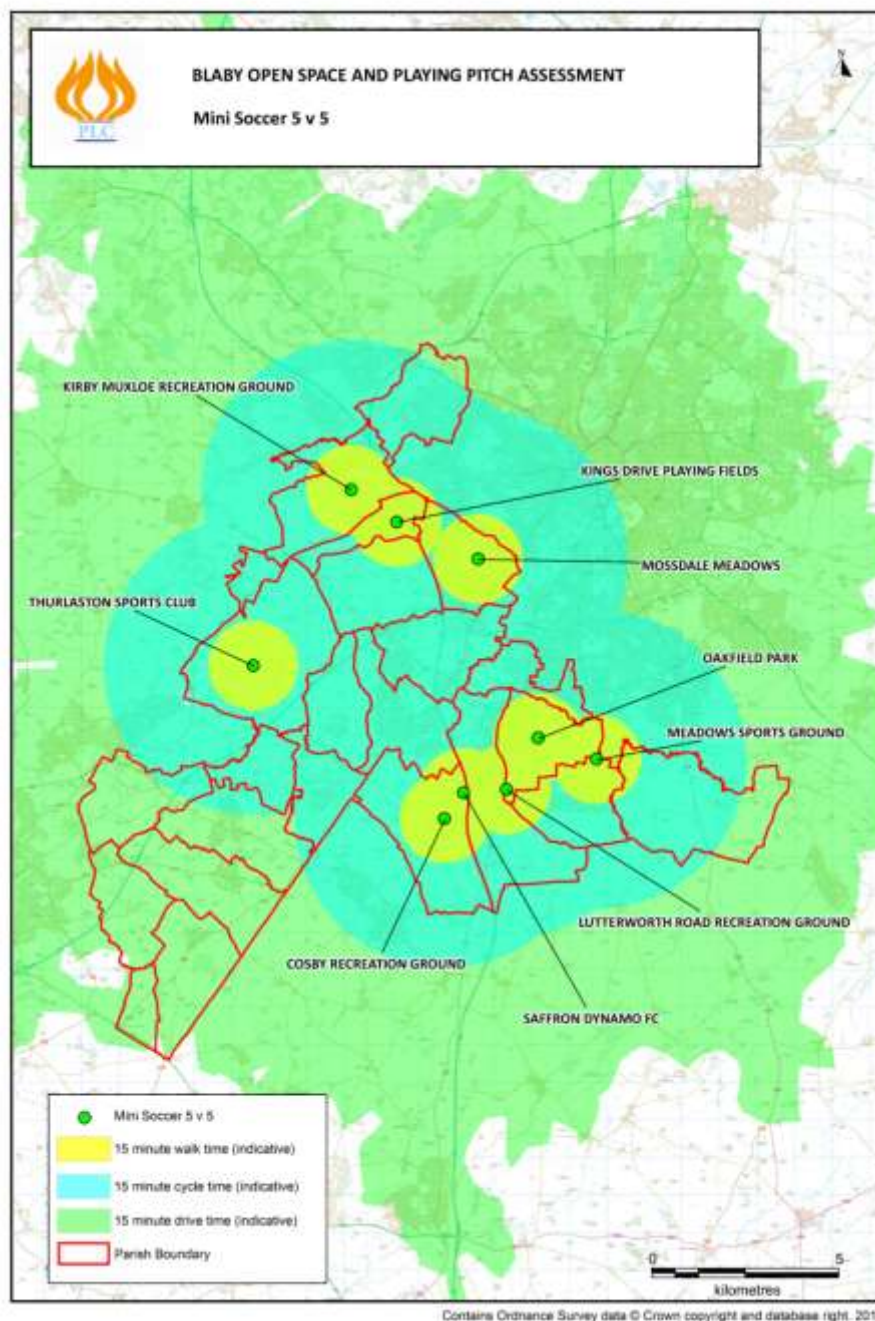
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 90,000 people (95.8% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 35,000 people (37.3% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.5 Mini-soccer (5 v 5)

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

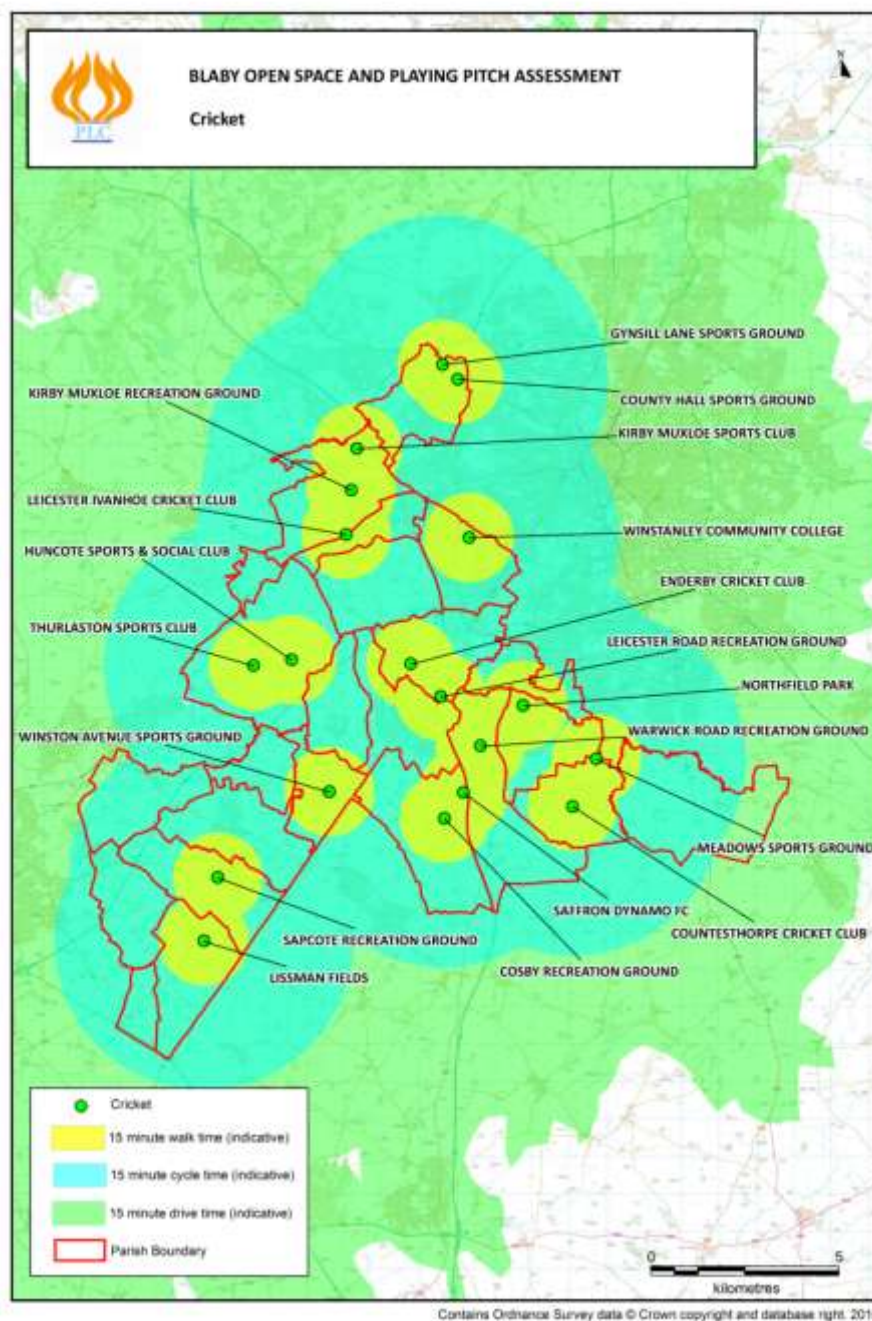
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 92,000 people (98.0% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 40,000 people (42.6% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.6 Cricket

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

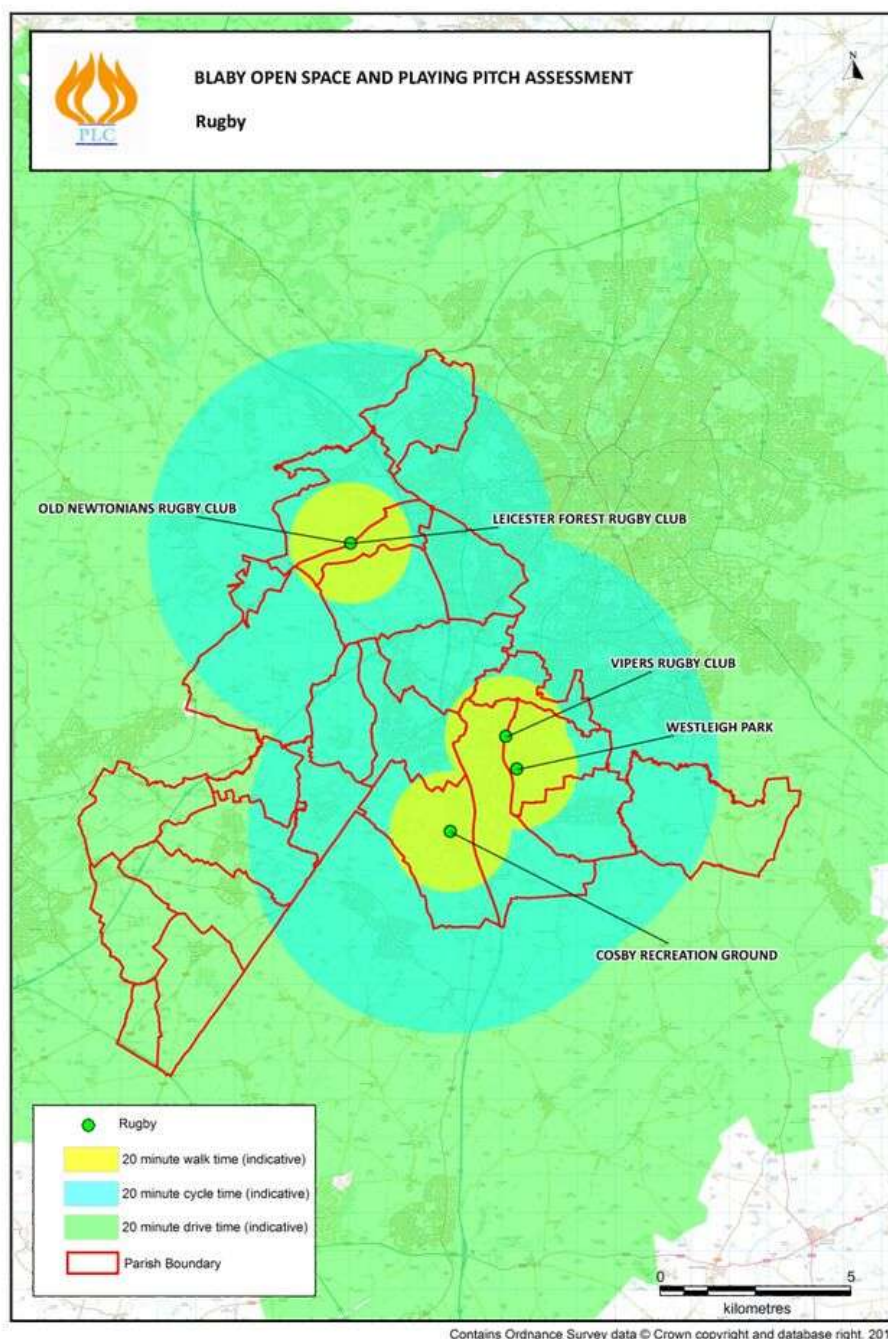
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 93,000 people (99.7% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 50,000 people (53.2% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.7 Rugby

The clubs survey showed that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 20 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 20-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

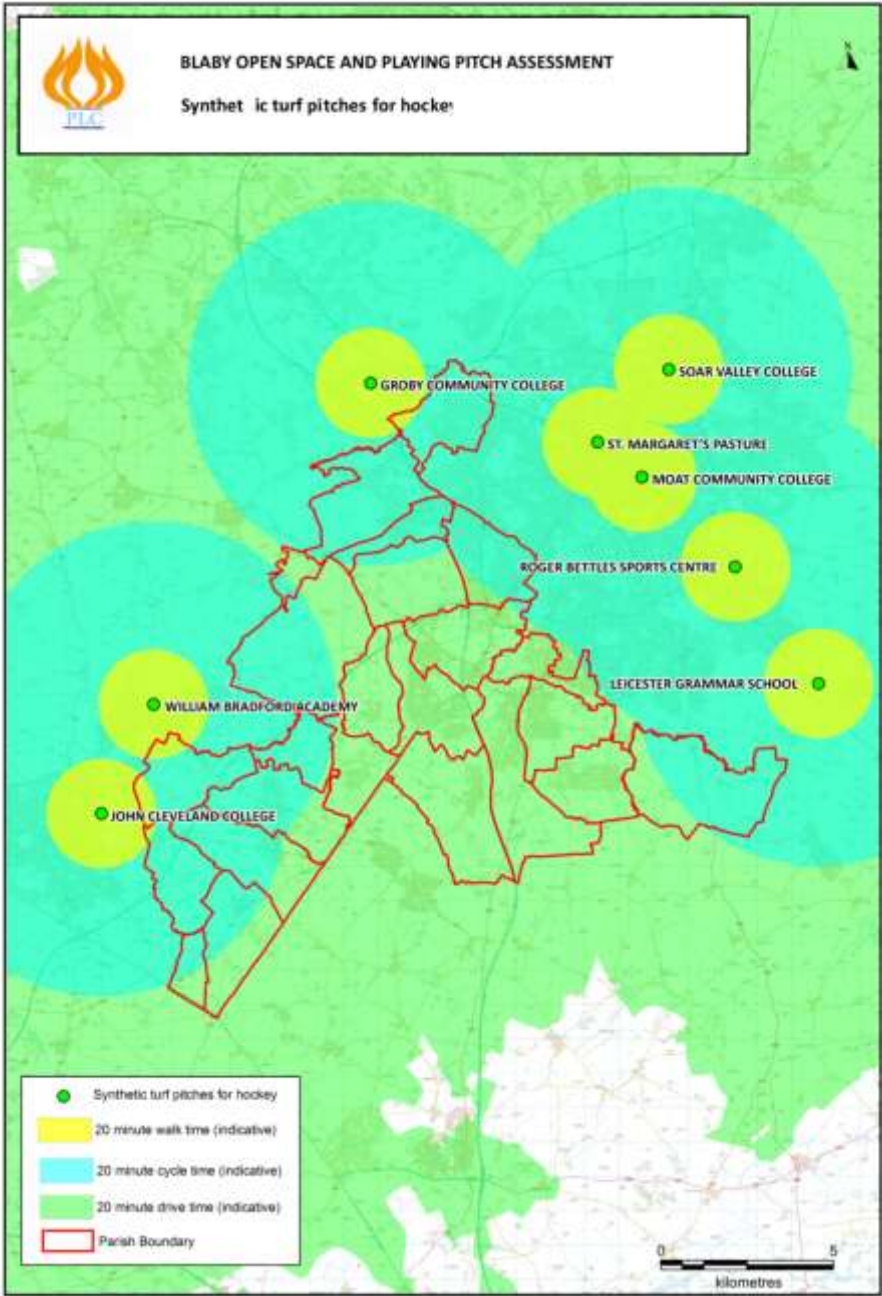
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 20 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 20,000 people (21.3% of the district population) are within 20 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.8 Synthetic turf pitches for hockey

The clubs survey showed that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 20 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 20-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

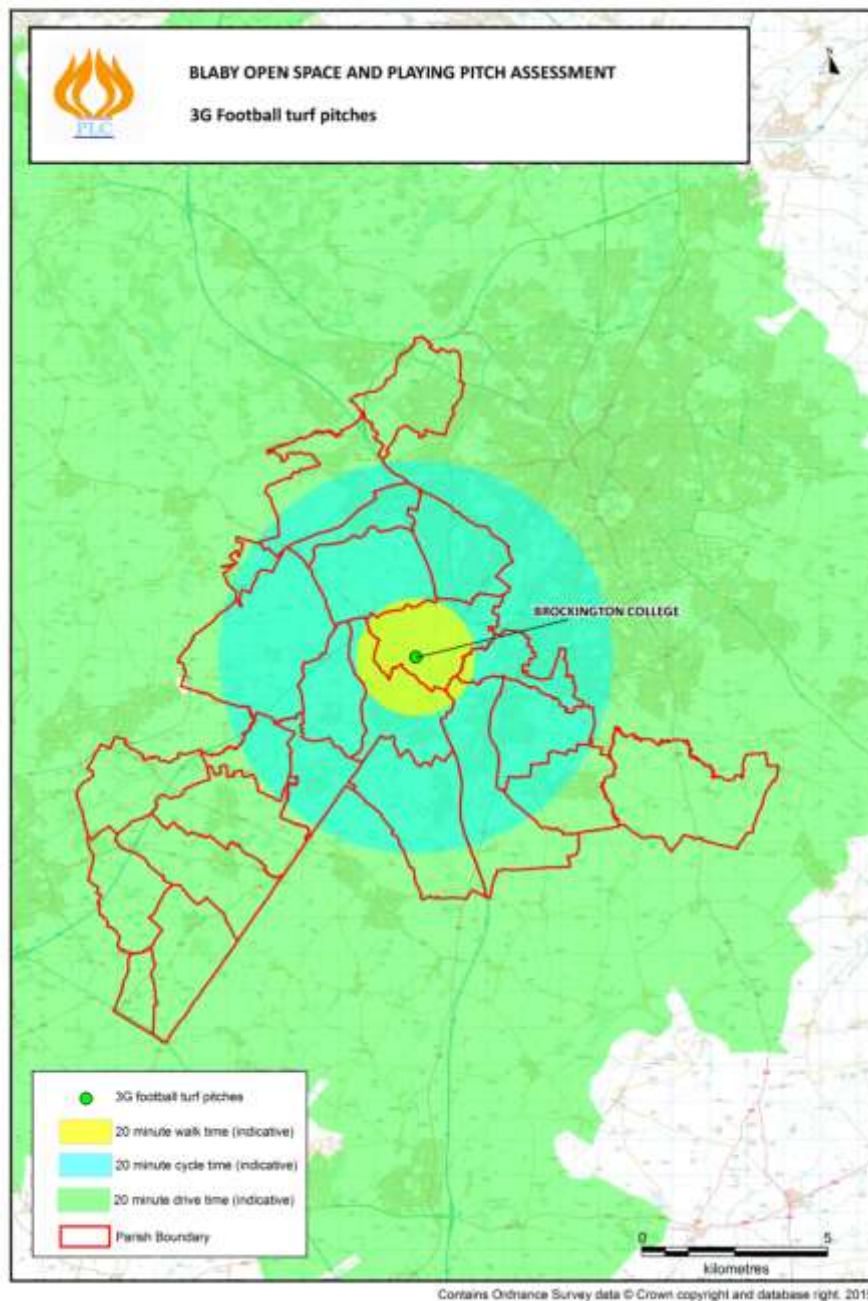
- **Driving** - The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 15,000 people (16.0% of the district population) are within 20 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 2,000 people (2.1% of the district population) are within 20 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.12.9 '3G' football turf pitches

The clubs survey showed that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most players. A 20 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 20-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole district population is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest pitch.
- **Cycling** - About 70,000 people (74.5% of the district population) are within 20 minutes cycle of their nearest pitch.
- **Walking** - About 20,000 people (21.3% of the district population) are within 20 minutes walk of their nearest pitch.



6.13 Bowling greens

6.13.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the seven bowling greens with community access in Blaby district are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Blaby Bowling Club	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ
Countesthorpe Bowls Club	46, Station Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5TA
Enderby Bowls Club	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX
Glenfield Bowls Club	Ellis Park, Dominion Road, Glenfield LE3 8DL
Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EN
Narborough & District Bowls Club	Coventry Road, Narborough LE19 2GT
Shakespeare Park Bowls Club	Shakespeare Park, Braunstone LE3 3AA

The number of bowling greens per capita in each parish in Blaby district, based upon population figures from the 2011 Census, is as follows. Most of the larger parishes have a bowls green, with the exception of Glen Parva and Leicester Forest East:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Greens per capita</i>
Blaby	6,194	1: 6,194
Braunstone	16,850	1: 16,850
Cosby	3,506	-
Countesthorpe	6,377	1: 6,377
Croft	1,639	-
Elmesthorpe	509	-
Enderby	6,314	1: 6,314
Glenfield	9,643	1: 9,643
Glen Parva	6,189	-
Huncote	1,756	-
Kilby	270	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1: 4,667
Leicester Forest East	6,719	-
Narborough	8,448	1: 8,448
Sapcote	2,442	-
Sharnford	985	-
Stoney Stanton	3,793	-
Thurlaston	807	-
Whetstone	6,566	-
BLABY DISTRICT	93,900	1: 13,414

Per capita levels of bowls provision in the neighbouring local authorities are as follows. They show that levels of provision in Blaby district are just above the mean of 1:13,588 for its neighbours:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. Greens</i>	<i>Greens per capita</i>
Hinckley & Bosworth	105,300	10	1: 10,530
Oadby & Wigston	56,000	5	1: 11,200
Harborough	85,700	7	1: 12,243
Charnwood	165,900	13	1: 12,761
Blaby	93,900	7	1: 13,414
Rugby	100,500	7	1: 14,357
City of Leicester	329,800	16	1: 20,612

6.13.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of bowling greens in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The criteria assessed were the quality of the playing surface, the changing facilities, disabled access and car parking/general access. The numerical scores equate to 'High Quality' for a 5, 'Above Average' for a 4, 'Average' for a 3, 'Below Average' for a 2 and 'Poor Quality' for a 1. The definitions for each criterion are contained Appendix II:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Access</i>
Blaby Bowling Club	5	5	4	5
Countesthorpe Bowls Club	5	5	4	5
Enderby Bowls Club	5	5	5	5
Glenfield Bowls Club	4	5	1	5
Kirby Muxloe Bowls Club	5	5	3	4
Narborough & District BC	4	3	1	3
Shakespeare Park BC	4	3	2	4

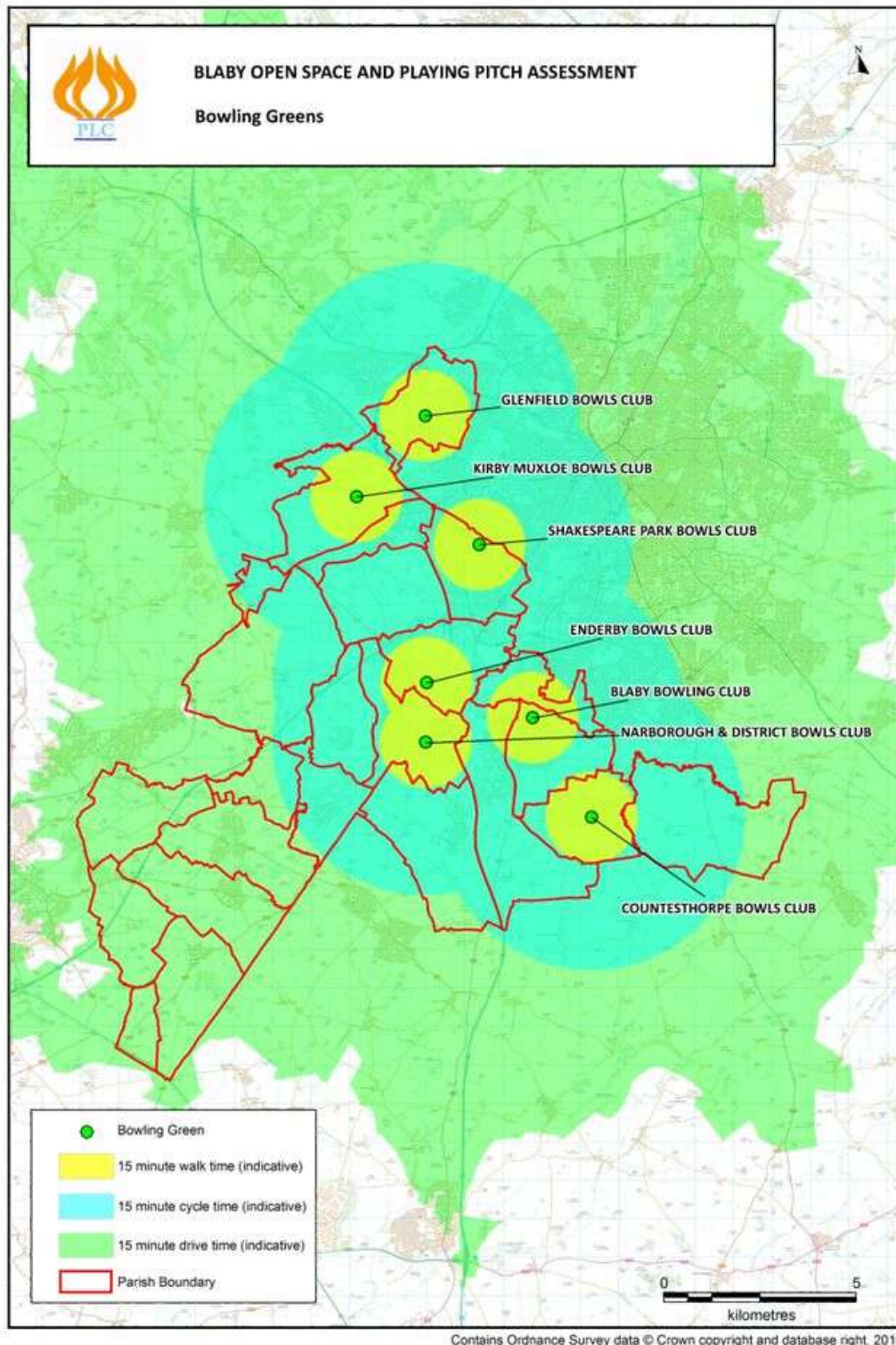
The quality assessment can be summarised as follows:

- **Greens** - Four greens (57.1%) are classified as 'high quality', whilst the remaining three (42.9%) are 'above average' quality, so in no instances should the capacity for play be adversely affected.
- **Changing** - Five changing facilities (71.4%) are rated as 'high quality', with the remaining two (28.3%) rated as 'average', which should enable them to meet the needs of most bowlers.
- **Disabled access** - Disabled access (which includes an assessment of the degree of disabled access throughout the site, including the green and dedicated disabled facilities) is rated as 'below average' or 'poor' at three facilities (42.9%).
- **Parking and general access** - The convenience of general access was rated as above 'average' at six facilities and 'average' at the other.

6.13.3 Accessibility analysis

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most bowlers. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest bowls green.
- **Cycling** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest bowls green.
- **Walking** - About 25,000 people (26.6% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest bowls green.



6.14 Tennis courts

6.14.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the 39 tennis courts with community access in Blaby district are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Blaby Victoria Tennis Club	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ	3 tarmac
Brockington College	Blaby Road, Enderby LE19 4AQ	4 tarmac
Countesthorpe Community College	Winchester Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5BX	7 tarmac
County Hall Tennis Club	Leicester Road, Glenfield LE3 9RA	3 artificial turf
Croft Park tennis court	Croft Park, Wigston Avenue, Croft LE9 3ZG	1 tarmac
David Lloyd Club (Narborough)	Carlton Park, Leicester LE19 0LF	6 artificial turf
Enderby Tennis Club	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX	3 tarmac
Leicester Forest East Tennis Club	Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East LE3 3PJ	4 artificial turf
Shakespeare Park tennis courts	Shakespeare Park, Braunstone LE3 3AA	2 concrete
Stoney Stanton Tennis Club	Carey Hill Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LA	4 tarmac
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	Darien Way, Thorpe Astley LE3 3TT	2 tarmac

In addition, there are two disused tennis courts at Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground and one at Winston Avenue Sports Ground.

Per capita levels of provision of tennis courts in each parish in Blaby district are listed below. Most of the larger parishes have tennis courts, with the exception of Glen Parva and Whetstone:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
Blaby	6,194	1: 2,065
Braunstone	16,850	1: 4,213
Cosby	3,506	-
Countesthorpe	6,377	1: 911
Croft	1,639	1: 1,639
Elmesthorpe	509	-
Enderby	6,314	1: 902
Glenfield	9,643	1: 3,214
Glen Parva	6,189	-
Huncote	1,756	-
Kilby	270	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	-
Leicester Forest East	6,719	1: 1,680
Narborough	8,448	1: 1,408
Sapcote	2,442	-
Sharnford	985	-
Stoney Stanton	3,793	1: 948
Thurlaston	807	-
Whetstone	6,566	-
BLABY DISTRICT	93,900	1: 2,408

To benchmark levels of provision in Blaby district, per capita provision in the neighbouring local authorities is as follows. It shows that levels of provision in the district are by far the best for any of its neighbours:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>No. Courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
Blaby	93,900	39	1: 2,408
Oadby & Wigston	56,000	15	1: 3,733
Charnwood	165,900	41	1: 4,046
City of Leicester	329,800	70	1: 4,711
Hinckley & Bosworth	105,300	21	1: 5,014
Rugby	100,500	17	1: 5,912
Harborough	85,700	13	1: 6,592

6.14.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of tennis courts in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The criteria assessed were the quality of the playing surface, the fencing, the changing facilities and disabled/general access. The numerical scores equate to ‘High Quality’ for a 5, ‘Above Average’ for a 4, ‘Average’ for a 3, ‘Below Average’ for a 2 and ‘Poor Quality’ for a 1. The definitions for each criterion are contained in Appendix II:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Court</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Access</i>
Blaby Victoria Tennis Club	5	5	4	3
Brockington College	3	4	3	4
Countesthorpe Community College	3	3	4	4
County Hall Tennis Club	5	5	4	4
Croft Park tennis court	5	5	5	5
David Lloyd Club (Narborough)	5	5	5	5
Enderby Tennis Club	5	5	2	2
Leicester Forest East Tennis Club	4	5	5	4
Shakespeare Park tennis courts	2	4	3	4
Stoney Stanton Tennis Club	5	5	5	5
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	3	4	2	3

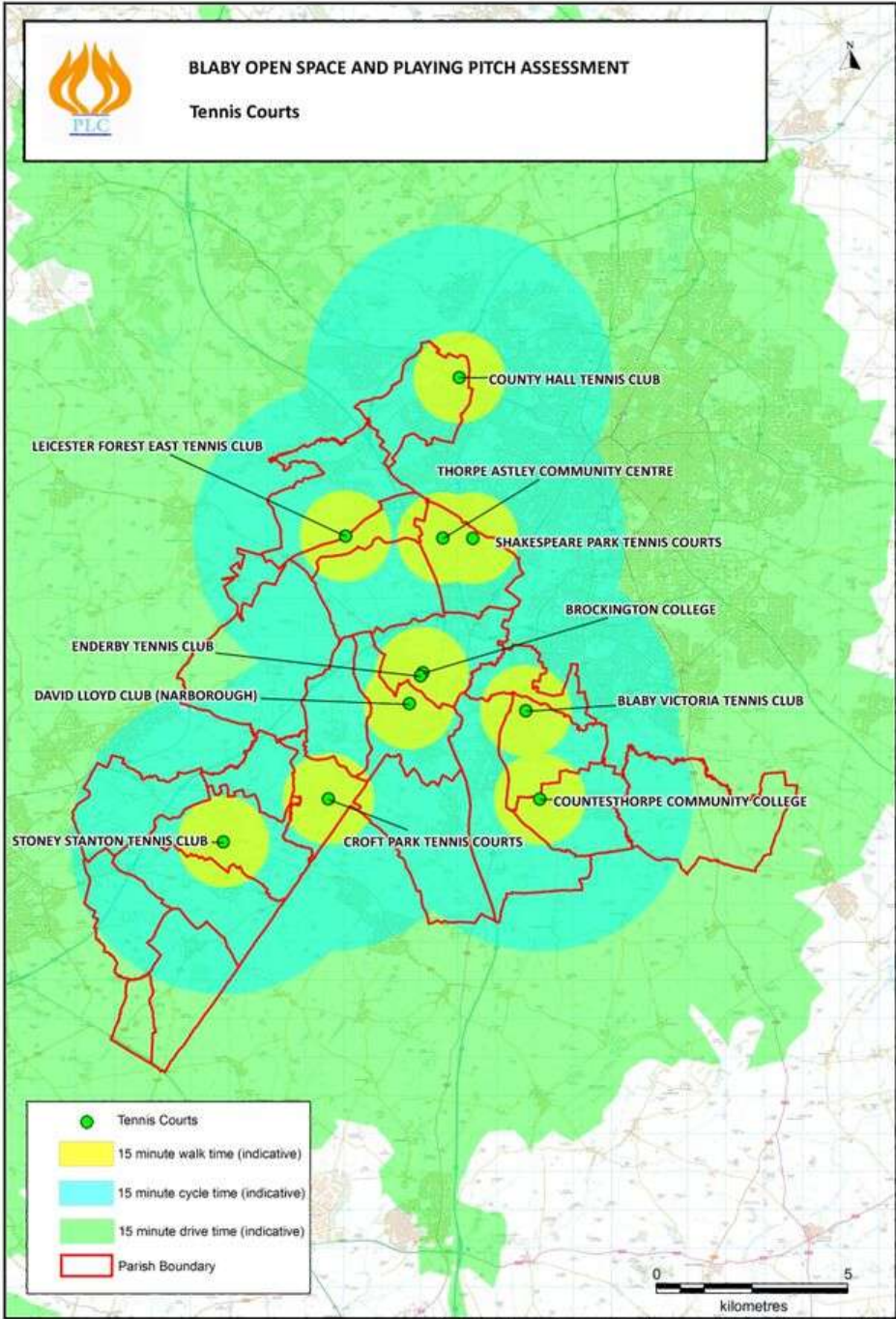
The quality assessment can be summarised as follows:

- **Courts** - 37 courts are rated as at least ‘average’ quality and only two as below ‘average’.
- **Fencing** - Court fencing is rated as ‘above average’ or better at all sites.
- **Changing** - Changing facilities are rated as ‘below average’ two sites.
- **Disabled and general access** - Access is rated as ‘below average’ at only Enderby Tennis Club, due to the difficulties of accessing the courts by disabled people.

6.14.3 Accessibility analysis

The clubs survey showed that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for most tennis players. A 15 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 15-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest tennis court.
- **Cycling** - About 92,000 people (98.0% of the district population) are within 15 minutes cycle of their nearest tennis court.
- **Walking** - About 40,000 people (42.6% of the district population) are within 15 minutes walk of their nearest tennis court.



6.15 Golf courses

6.15.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the five golf courses (four 18-hole units) in Blaby district are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. holes</i>
Blaby Golf Club	Lutterworth Road, Blaby LE8 4DP	9
Cosby Golf Club	Chapel Lane, Cosby LE9 1RG	18
Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	Mill Lane, Enderby LE19 4LX	9
Kirby Muxloe Golf Club	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EP	18
Whetstone Golf Club	Cambridge Road, Whetstone LE9 1SJ	18

The distribution of 18-hole golf course units in each parish is detailed below. Only five parishes have a golf course, but since they serve a wider than parish catchment, this does not necessarily indicate a deficiency in provision:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>18-hole courses per capita</i>
Blaby	6,194	1: 12,388
Braunstone	16,850	-
Cosby	3,506	1: 3,506
Countesthorpe	6,377	-
Croft	1,639	-
Elmesthorpe	509	-
Enderby	6,314	1: 12,628
Glenfield	9,643	-
Glen Parva	6,189	-
Huncote	1,756	-
Kilby	270	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1: 4,667
Leicester Forest East	6,719	-
Narborough	8,448	-
Sapcote	2,442	-
Sharnford	985	-
Stoney Stanton	3,793	-
Thurlaston	807	-
Whetstone	6,566	1: 6,566
BLABY DISTRICT	93,900	1: 23,475

To benchmark levels of provision in Blaby district, per capita provision in the neighbouring local authorities is as follows. It shows that levels of provision in the district are well above the mean figure (1: 38,311) for its neighbours:

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>18-hole courses</i>	<i>18-hole courses per capita</i>
Harborough	85,700	5	1: 17,140
Rugby	100,500	5	1: 20,100
Blaby	93,900	4	1: 23,475
Charnwood	165,900	6.5	1: 25,523
Hinckley & Bosworth	105,300	2	1: 52,650
Oadby & Wigston	56,000	1	1: 56,000
City of Leicester	329,800	4.5	1: 73,289

6.15.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of golf courses in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. The criteria assessed were the quality of the course, the clubhouse and disabled/general access. The numerical scores equate to 'High Quality' for a 5, 'Above Average' for a 4, 'Average' for a 3, 'Below Average' for a 2 and 'Poor Quality' for a 1. The definitions for each criterion are contained in Appendix II:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Clubhouse</i>	<i>Access</i>
Blaby Golf Club	4	3	3
Cosby Golf Club	4	4	3
Enderby Leisure & Golf Centre	4	3	4
Kirby Muxloe Golf Club	5	5	5
Whetstone Golf Club	5	4	4

The quality assessment can be summarised as follows:

- **Course** - All the courses are rated as at least 'above average'.
- **Clubhouse** - All the clubhouses are rated as at least 'average'.
- **Disabled and general access** - This is rated as at least 'average' at every site.

6.15.3 Accessibility analysis

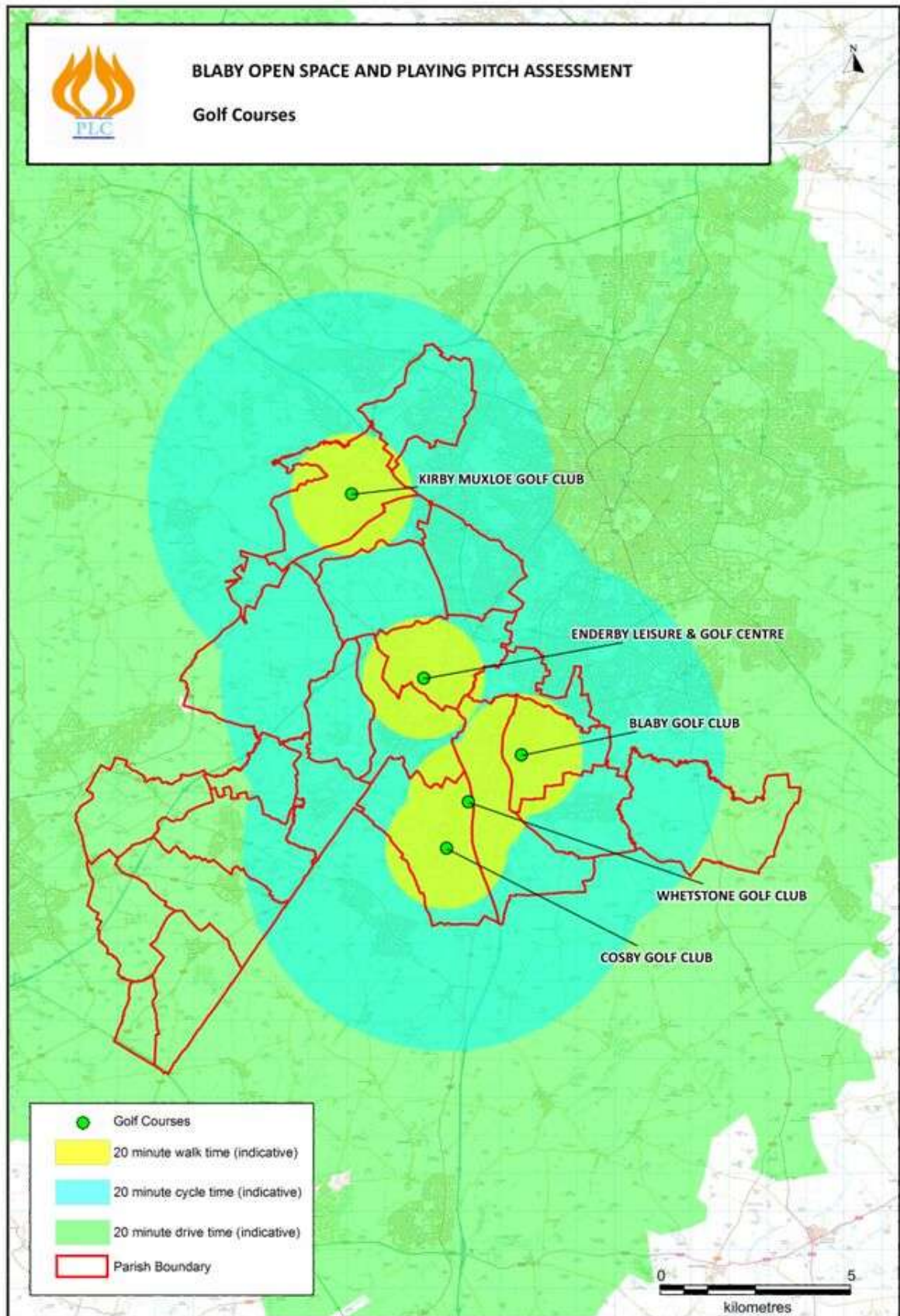
Accessibility to golf in Blaby district is mapped below. England Golf Union research shows that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for golfers. A 20 minute travel time catchment has therefore been applied. 20-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest golf course.
- **Cycling** - About 75,000 people (79.9% of the district population) are within 20 minutes cycle of their nearest golf course.
- **Walking** - About 25,000 people (26.6% of the district population) are within 20 minutes walk of their nearest golf course.



BLABY OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Golf Courses



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6.16 Village and community halls

6.16.1 Quantitative analysis

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>
All Saints' Church Hall	Church Street, Sapcote LE9 4FG
All Saints' Parish Hall	Church Lane, Narborough LE19 2GL
Blaby & District Social Centre	Leicester Road, Blaby LE8 4GQ
Braunstone Civic Centre	209, Kingsway, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP
Braunstone West Social Centre	St. Mary's Avenue, Braunstone LE3 3FT
Bunning Hall	Main Street, Cosby LE9 1TT
Cosby Community Church	The Baptist Chapel, Croft Road, Cosby LE9 1SE
Cosby Village Hall	Park Road, Cosby LE9 1RN
Countesthorpe Village Hall	Station Road, Countesthorpe LE8 5TB
Croft Community Centre	Brookes Avenue, Croft LE9 3GJ
Elmesthorpe Village Hall	Wilkinson Lane, Elmesthorpe LE9 7SG
Enderby Civic Centre	King Street, Enderby LE19 4NT
Enderby and District Social Club	Coleridge Drive, Enderby LE19 4QF
Enderby Village Institute	Cross Street, Enderby LE19 4NJ
Glen Parva Memorial Hall	Dorothy Avenue, Glen Parva LE2 9JD
Glenfield Memorial Hall	Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL
Glenfield Park House	Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL
Glenfield St. Peter's Church Hall	Church Road, Glenfield LE3 8DP
Gynsill Lane Pavilion	Gynsill Lane, Glenfield LE7 7AG
Huncote Community Centre	Denman Lane, Huncote LE9 3BS
Kirby Muxloe Community Centre	Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EN
Leicester Forest Parish Hall	Kings Drive, Leicester Forest East LE3 3JE
Littlethorpe Village Hall	Biddle Road, Littlethorpe LE19 2HE
Narborough Parish Centre	Desford Road, Narborough LE19 2EL
Robjohn Hall	School Lane, Narborough LE19 2GS
St Andrew's Church Centre	Main Street, Countesthorpe LE8 5PQ
St. Andrew's Hall	Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East LE3 3LX
St. James' Church Hall	Narborough Road, Huncote LE9 3AW
St. John's Community Centre	Packhorse Drive, Enderby LE19 2RP
St. Peter's Church Parish Centre	High Street, Whetstone LE8 6BA
Sapcote Club	19-21, Hinckley Road, Sapcote LE9 4FS
Sapcote Methodist Church Hall	Leicester Road, Sapcote LE9 4JE
Sapcote Sports Pavilion	Hinckley Road, Sapcote LE9 4FS
Sharnford Evergreen Hall	Leicester Road, Sharnford LE10 3PP
Sharnford Youth and Community Centre	Park View, Sharnford LE10 3PT
Stafford Leys Community Centre	Stafford Leys, Leicester Forest East LE3 3LJ
Stoney Stanton Community Hall	Station Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 3PT
Stoney Stanton Village Hall	New Road, Stoney Stanton LE9 4LQ
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	Off Lakin Drive, Braunstone Town LE3 3RU
Thurlaston Village Hall	Desford Road, Thurlaston LE9 7TE
Whetstone Baptist Church Hall	King Street, Whetstone LE8 6LS
Whetstone Memorial Hall	High Street, Whetstone LE8 6LP
Whetstone United Reformed Church Hall	High Street, Whetstone LE8 6LP

The distribution of village and community halls in each parish is detailed below:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Halls per capita</i>
Blaby	6,194	1: 6,194
Braunstone	16,850	1: 5,617
Cosby	3,506	1: 1,169
Countesthorpe	6,377	1: 3,189
Croft	1,639	1: 1,639
Elmesthorpe	509	1: 509
Enderby	6,314	1: 1,579
Glenfield	9,643	1: 2,411
Glen Parva	6,189	1: 6,189
Huncote	1,756	1: 1,756
Kilby	270	-
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1: 4,667
Leicester Forest East	6,719	1: 2,240
Narborough	8,448	1: 2,112
Sapcote	2,442	1: 611
Sharnford	985	1: 493
Stoney Stanton	3,793	1: 1,897
Thurlaston	807	1: 807
Whetstone	6,566	1: 1,642
BLABY DISTRICT	93,900	1: 2,184

No benchmark data was available for per capita levels of provision of village and community halls in the neighbouring local authorities.

6.16.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of village and community halls in Blaby district involved visits to all sites to undertake non-technical visual inspections. Two sets of criteria were assessed:

The capacity to accommodate a wide range of sport and physical activity, scored as follows:

- **Provision for formal sport** - Including dedicated sports facilities and markings and changing rooms. These were given a rating of 5 or 4.
- **Available for informal activities** - The provision of a space which can be used for exercise classes such as yoga or aerobics. These were given a rating of 3.
- **Not for physical activity but with meeting space** - These were given a rating of 2.
- **Social Clubs** - These were given a rating of 1

The overall condition of the building. The numerical scores equate to 'High Quality' for a 5, 'Above Average' for a 4, 'Average' for a 3, 'Below Average' for a 2 and 'Poor Quality' for a 1.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Sports capacity</i>	<i>Overall condition</i>
All Saints' Church Hall	3	3
All Saints' Parish Hall	3	3
Blaby & District Social Centre	3	4
Braunstone Civic Centre	3	5
Braunstone West Social Centre	3	4
Cosby Community Church	2	3
Cosby Village Hall	3	4
Countesthorpe Village Hall	3	5
Croft Community Centre	3	2
Elmesthorpe Village Hall	3	4*
Enderby Civic Centre	3	3
Enderby and District Social Club	3	3
Enderby Village Institute	3	3
Glen Parva Memorial Hall	3	5
Glenfield Memorial Hall	3	5
Glenfield Park House	3	5
Glenfield St. Peter's Church Hall	3	3
Gynsill Lane Pavilion	3	5
Huncote Community Centre	3	2
Kirby Muxloe Community Centre	3	4
Leicester Forest Parish Hall	3	5
Littlethorpe Village Hall	3	4
Narborough Parish Centre	3	2
Robjohn Hall	3	3
St Andrew's Church Centre	3	3
St. Andrews Hall	3	4
St. James' Church Hall	2	3
St. John's Community Centre	3	3
St. Peter's Church Parish Centre	3	3
Sapcote Club	1	3
Sapcote Methodist Church Hall	3	4
Sapcote Sports Pavilion	4	5
Sharnford Evergreen Hall	3	5
Sharnford Youth and Community Centre	3	3
Stafford Leys Community Centre	4	4
Stoney Stanton Community Hall	3	3
Stoney Stanton Village Hall	3	2
Thorpe Astley Community Centre	4	5
Thurlaston Village Hall	3	3
Whetstone Baptist Church Hall	3	3
Whetstone Memorial Hall	3	2
Whetstone United Reformed Church Hall	3	3

* Overall condition good, but poor quality toilets.

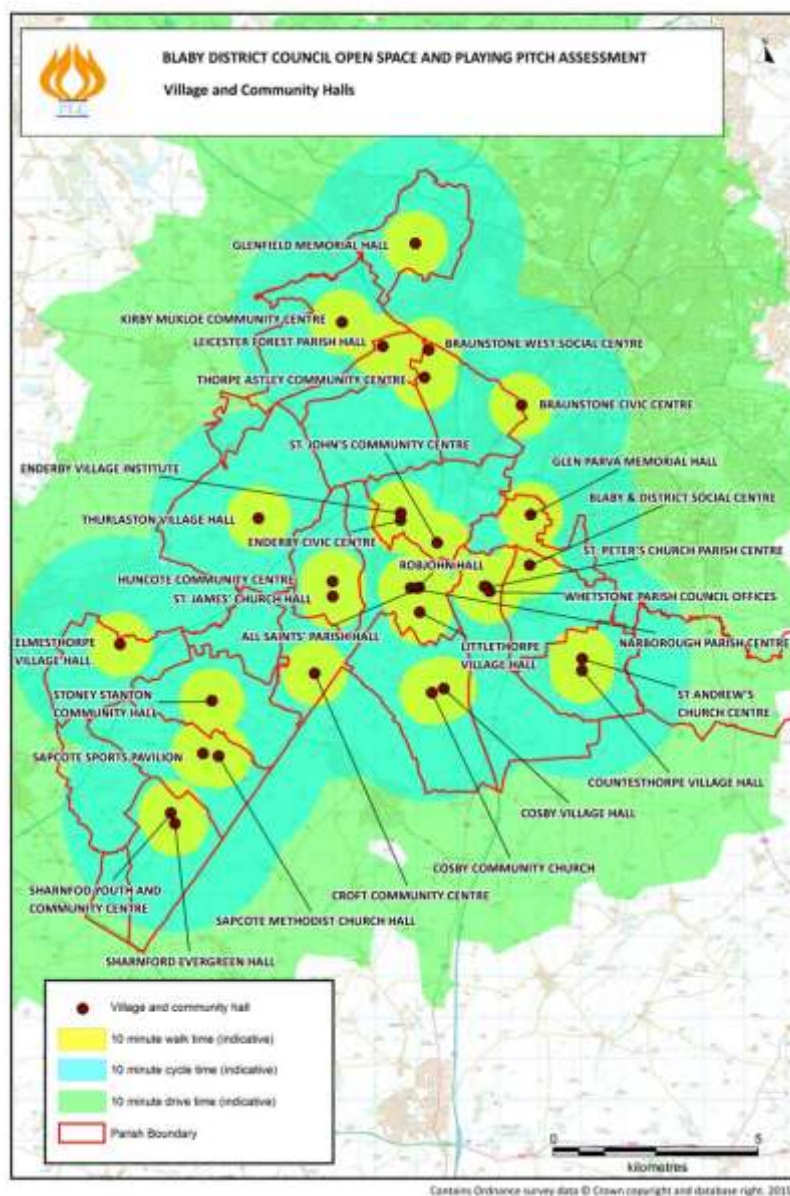
The quality assessment can be summarised as follows:

- **Sports capacity** - Only three halls (9.1%) are rated as below 'average' for sports capacity.
- **Overall condition** - Only five halls (15.2%) are rated as below 'average' condition.

6.16.3 Accessibility analysis

Because village halls are effectively local scale facilities, a 10 minute travel time catchment has been applied. 10-minute cycling and walking catchments have also been marked around each site. The accessibility analysis in the map below shows that:

- **Driving** - The whole population is within 10 minutes drive of their nearest hall.
- **Cycling** - About 90,000 people (95.8% of the district population) are within 10 minutes cycle of their nearest village or community hall.
- **Walking** - About 60,000 people (63.9% of the district population) are within 10 minutes walk of their nearest village or community hall.



6.17 Summary of open space supply in Blaby district

6.17.1 Parks and gardens

There are seven parks and gardens in the district, totalling 16.80ha, primarily in the more built-up parts of the district. However, there is no provision in several of the larger parishes, including Enderby, Countesthorpe, Leicester Forest East and Whetstone..

The quality of provision is generally good.

Given the limited number of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 16 minute travel time catchment embraces only around half of the district population.

6.17.2 Natural greenspace

There are 41 natural greenspace sites, totalling 243.89ha, or 2.60ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but two parishes, although per capita levels of provision are generally better in the more rural parishes.

The quality of around nine sites is rated as below ‘average’.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 25 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.3 Informal open space

There are 198 informal open space sites, totalling 92.22ha, or 0.99ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but one parish, although per capita levels of provision vary widely.

The quality of provision is variable, although only 11.7% of the larger sites assessed (0.2ha or more) were rated as below ‘average’ quality. Many of the smaller sites offer little more than visual amenity, although some serve an important role providing links between other key sites in the wider green infrastructure network.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 10 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.4 Provision for children and young people

There are 48 equipped play sites, totalling 5.76ha, or 0.06ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but one parish.

The quality of provision is generally high, with only 6.2% of sites rated as below ‘average’. However, provision for disabled users is often poor, with little or no disabled equipment and poor physical access to play areas for disabled children and/or disabled carers.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 13 minute travel time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.5 Allotments

There are 17 allotment sites, totalling 23.53ha, or 0.25ha per 1,000 residents. There is no provision in six parishes, including two of the more urban areas (Leicester Forest East and Glen Parva). There are waiting lists at several sites and the survey of parish councils identified a number of areas where demand outstrips supply, in particular Blaby and Stoney Stanton.

No sites are rated as below 'average' quality.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 18 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.6 Churchyards and cemeteries

There are 30 cemeteries and churchyards, totalling 19.60ha, or 0.21ha per 1,000 residents. There are sites in all but two parishes, although per capita levels of provision vary widely.

The quality of provision is variable, although only 13.3% of sites are rated as below 'average'.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.7 Adult football Pitches

There are 45 adult football pitches with community use and used, supplemented by two that are available but not used, two that are unavailable on school sites and one that is unused. Per capita levels of pitch provision are relatively even across the district, with only five parishes without at least one pitch.

Only one pitch is rated as 'poor' and therefore in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at eight sites, but several other sites score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.8 Youth football (11 v 11) Pitches

There are nine youth football (11v11) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by one that is available but not used and three that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the more built-up parishes.

Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at one site, is absent from another and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.9 Youth football (9 v 9) Pitches

There are 11 youth football (9v9) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by none that are available but unused and 12 which are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are generally better in the larger parishes.

Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.10 Mini-soccer (7 v 7) Pitches

There are 10 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by two that are available but not used and 16 that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are generally better in the larger parishes.

Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.11 Mini-soccer (5 v 5) Pitches

There are 13 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches with community use and used, supplemented by two that are available but not used and five that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are generally better in the larger parishes.

Pitch quality is rated as at least 'standard' at all sites and therefore is not in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at several sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.12 Cricket Pitches

There are 20 cricket pitches with community use and used, supplemented by five that are unavailable on school sites. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the more rural parishes.

Pitch and outfield quality is rated as 'poor' at one site and 'standard' at five other sites and these facilities are therefore in a condition that will compromise its usage capacity. Changing facilities are rated as 'poor' at six sites, there is no dedicated pavilion at one of the school sites and a number more score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range.

Given the widespread distribution of sites, accessibility within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment includes the entire district population.

6.17.13 Rugby Pitches

There are 13 rugby pitches with community use and used. Per capita levels of pitch provision are better in the more urban parishes.

Pitch drainage and maintenance is at least 'adequate' at all sites. Changing facilities at four sites are rated as 'poor' quality.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.14 Synthetic turf Pitches for hockey

There are no synthetic turf pitches for hockey in Blaby district, although there are two 'small-sided' which provide for some training needs. Local needs are served by nine pitches in neighbouring areas, whose catchments overlap the district boundary.

All the pitches are rated as at least 'standard' quality and are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.15 '3G' football turf Pitches

There is one full-sized '3G' football turf pitch in the district, supplemented by one five smaller facilities suitable for training.

The full-sized and 'small-sided' pitches are all rated as 'good' quality and are therefore not in a condition that will compromise their levels of use.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.16 Bowls greens

There are seven bowls greens in the district, equivalent to 1: 13,414 people, which is just above the mean for the neighbouring local authorities. There is a bowls green in seven parishes.

The quality of all greens and changing facilities is at least 'standard' and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. Disabled access is poor at three sites.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.17 Tennis courts

There are 39 tennis courts in the district, equivalent to 1: 2,403 people, which is the best per capita figure for the neighbouring local authorities. There is at least one court in nine parishes.

The quality of all court surfaces is at least ‘above average’ at 38 courts and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use. However, the courts in Shakespeare Park are rated ‘below average’ which will adversely affect their usage capacity. Changing is rated as below ‘average’ at two sites and disabled and general access is below ‘average’ at one site.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 15 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.18 Golf courses

There are five golf courses in the district, equivalent to 1: 23,475 people, which is well above the mean for the neighbouring local authorities.

The quality of all aspects of all courses is at least ‘average’ and they are therefore in a condition that will not compromise their levels of use.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 20 minute driving time catchment.

6.17.19 Village and community halls

There are 43 village and community halls in the district, equivalent to 1: 2,184 people.

Only three halls are rated as below ‘average’ for sports capacity, whilst five need some quality improvements.

The entire district population is within the locally identified 10 minute driving time catchment.



Countesthorpe Village Hall

7 THE BALANCE BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND

7.1 Introduction

This section analyses the balance between the supply of and demand for open space in Blaby district.

The methodology applied to assess the supply-demand balance for different types of open space follows the recommended guidance and is summarised below:

7.2 Open space methodology

To identify the current balance between supply and demand of open spaces in Blaby district, generating and applying locally-derived, evidence-based standards of provision is the most appropriate way of assessing the adequacy of provision. The standards involve three elements:

7.2.1 Quantity

The quantity of provision is assessed by identifying a per capita standard based upon:

- Establishing existing levels of provision of each type of open space per capita.
- Local consultation to identify views on the extent to which the number of open space sites meets existing needs.

7.2.2 Quality

The quality of provision is assessed by identifying a quality standard based upon:

- The standardised definitions of the quality of each aspect of each open space type assessed through the site audits.
- The policy position of the local authority on the quality threshold to which all open space sites should conform (e.g. to seek to achieve at least an 'average' rating for all sites).

7.2.3 Accessibility

The accessibility standard is identified by:

- Survey data on the time and or distance that at least 80% of open space users are prepared to travel to access facilities in the study area.
- Survey data on the travel mode preferences of facility users to access open space in the study area (i.e. reflecting current behavioural patterns).
- The policy position of the local authority on whether it wishes to influence future accessibility factors - for example, should accessibility be defined in relation to walking time catchments discourage car usage.

The standards are then applied to establish the extent to which residents are served or under-provided in relation to each type of open space by applying the respective standards at both a districtwide and sub-area level. It is important to emphasise that the proposed standards of provision represent the minimum recommended levels and that any ‘surpluses’ thus identified do not imply that sites can be disposed of, because in many cases the spaces concerned have the potential to compensate for shortfalls in other types of open space provision.

7.3 Playing pitch methodology

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate over an appropriate period of time without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent’ sessions at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which natural grass pitches are being used during their respective peak periods.
- The key issues with and views on the provision at a site and its use.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

- **Being overplayed** - where use exceeds the carrying capacity.
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain** - where use matches the carrying capacity.
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play** - where use falls below the carrying capacity.

The situation at individual sites can then be assessed to identify the potential for excess demand at some sites to be accommodated by excess supply at others in the locality. Other factors can also be assessed such as:

- The extent of any demand being accommodated on sites with unsecured community access.
- The impact of latent or displaced demand.
- The situation at priority sites.

This analysis then enables an assessment to be made of the adequacy of existing pitch provision.

7.4 Sports facilities methodology

The patterns of usage of other types of sports facilities differ from playing pitches, in that they typically involve significant elements of frequently ‘unmetered’ casual usage, rather than exclusively organised team play.

As a result, generating and applying locally-derived, evidence-based standards of provision is the most appropriate way of assessing the adequacy of current and future provision. The standards involve three elements:

7.4.1 Quantity

The quantity of provision is assessed by identifying a per capita standard based upon:

- Establishing existing levels of provision of each type of facility per capita.
- Local consultation to identify views on the extent to which the number of facilities meets existing needs.
- Benchmarking levels of provision with neighbouring local authority areas.
- The views of the respective governing bodies of sport on facility needs, including size and capacity.
- Governing body of sport or Sport England guidance on dimensions and facility specifications.

7.4.2 Quality

The quality of provision is assessed by identifying a quality standard based upon:

- The standardised definitions of the quality of each aspect of each facility type assessed through the site audits.
- Any governing body of sport or Sport England quality thresholds.
- The policy position of the local authority on the quality threshold to which all facilities should conform (e.g. to seek to achieve at least an ‘average’ rating for all sites).

7.4.3 Accessibility

The accessibility standard is identified by:

- Survey data on the time and or distance that at least 80% of facility users are prepared to travel to access facilities in the study area.
- Survey data on the travel mode preferences of facility users to access facilities in the study area (i.e. reflecting current behavioural patterns).
- The policy position of the local authority on whether it wishes to influence future accessibility factors - for example, should accessibility be defined in relation to walking time catchments to discourage car usage.

The standards are then applied to establish the extent to which residents are served or under-provided in relation to each type of pitch and outdoor sports and recreation facility by applying the respective standards at both a districtwide and parish level.

7.5 Parks and gardens

7.5.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for parks and gardens was devised:

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	0.23ha of parks and gardens per 1,000 people in all larger parishes of 6,000 people or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are 0.23ha per 1,000 residents of the larger parishes. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). • 88% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of parks and gardens in the district are 'average' or better. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009). • Parks and gardens provide high quality, multi-function green spaces to compensate for the absence or relative shortage of other forms of open space in urban areas. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). • There is no evidence of any unmet demand for parks and gardens in the district at present, so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is appropriate - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of all parks and gardens should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole urban population within 16 minutes travel time of the nearest park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of local parks users. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009). • 91% of local parks users walk to access their nearest park. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009).

7.5.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - On the basis of applying the standard of provision at the larger parish level, the surpluses of provision in Blaby, Braunstone and Glenfield parishes partially offset the deficits elsewhere, leaving a small overall districtwide deficiency in larger parishes of 0.06ha:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Existing provision</i>	<i>Required provision</i>	<i>Surplus/ (Deficit)</i>
Blaby	6,194	7.12ha	1.42ha	5.70ha
Braunstone	16,850	4.46ha	3.88ha	0.58ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	0	1.47ha	(1.47ha)
Enderby	6,314	0	1.45ha	(1.45ha)
Glenfield	9,643	3.91ha	2.22ha	1.69ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0.10ha	1.42ha	(1.32ha)
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0	1.55ha	(1.55ha)
Narborough	8,448	1.22ha	1.94ha	(0.72ha)
Whetstone	6,566	0	1.51ha	(1.51ha)
BLABY DISTRICT	73,300	16.80ha	16.86ha	(0.06ha)

- **Quality of provision** - The following aspects of specific parks and gardens are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits:

<i>Entrance</i>	<i>Boundaries</i>	<i>Paths</i>	<i>Planted areas</i>
Northfield Park	Northfield Park	Franklin Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bouskell Park • Narborough Recreation Ground

- **Accessibility of provision** - There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

7.6 Natural greenspace

7.6.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for natural greenspace was devised:

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	2.60ha of natural greenspace per 1,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision equate 2.60ha per 1,000 people – <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit (2015)</i>. • 74% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of natural greenspace in the district is 'average' or better. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report' (2009)</i>. • There is no evidence of any unmet demand for natural greenspace in the district at present, so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is appropriate - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit (2015)</i>.
Qualitative	All aspects of all sites should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit (2015)</i> .
Accessibility	The whole population within 20 minutes travel time of the nearest natural greenspace site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of natural greenspace site users. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report' (2009)</i>. • 70% of local natural greenspace users drive to access their site. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report' (2009)</i>.

7.6.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is a small collective surplus of 0.34ha of natural greenspace in the district as a whole, but a notional deficit in provision in 13 of the 19 parishes, more than offset by the large surpluses in provision primarily in the more rural parishes.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Existing provision</i>	<i>Required provision</i>	<i>Surplus/ (Deficit)</i>
Blaby	6,194	6.71ha	16.10ha	(9.39ha)
Braunstone	16,850	24.47ha	43.81ha	(19.34ha)
Cosby	3,506	0	9.12ha	(9.12ha)
Countesthorpe	6,377	9.40ha	16.58ha	(7.18ha)
Croft	1,639	7.89ha	4.26ha	3.63ha

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Existing provision</i>	<i>Required provision</i>	<i>Surplus/ (Deficit)</i>
Elmesthorpe	509	30.36ha	1.32ha	29.04ha
Enderby	6,314	15.35ha	16.41ha	(1.06ha)
Glenfield	9,643	8.37ha	25.07ha	(16.60ha)
Glen Parva	6,189	27.10ha	16.09ha	11.01ha
Huncote	1,756	19.38ha	4.57ha	14.81ha
Kilby	270	0	0.70ha	(0.70ha)
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.19ha	12.13ha	(10.94ha)
Leicester Forest East	6,719	6.87ha	17.47ha	(9.12ha)
Narborough	8,448	16.72ha	21.96ha	(5.24ha)
Sapcote	2,442	3.19ha	6.35ha	(3.16ha)
Sharnford	985	57.38ha	2.56ha	54.82ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	4.36ha	9.86ha	(5.50ha)
Thurlaston	807	6.63ha	2.10ha	4.53ha
Whetstone	6,566	2.10ha	17.07ha	(14.97ha)
<i>BLABY DISTRICT</i>	<i>93,674</i>	<i>243.89ha</i>	<i>243.55ha</i>	<i>0.34ha</i>

- **Quality of provision** - The following sites are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits:

<i>Sites</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countesthorpe Country Park • Enderby Balancing Lake • Kings Walk Spinney • Land at New Bridge Road • Land at Oakcroft Avenue • Land east of Riverside Way • Land north-east of Croft Hill • Glenfield Wildlife and Recreation Area • Sapcote Gravel Pit

- **Accessibility of provision** - There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

7.7 Informal open space

7.7.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for informal open space was devised:

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	1.00ha of informal open space per 1,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate 0.99ha per 1,000 people - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). 60% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of informal open space in the district are ‘average’ or better. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009). There is no evidence of any unmet demand for informal open space in the district at present, so a standard close to to current levels of provision is appropriate - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of all sites should rate ‘average’ or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least ‘average’ quality. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 10 minutes travel time of the nearest informal open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of informal open space users. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009). 89% of informal open space users walk to access their site. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009).

7.7.2 Applying the standard

- Quantity of provision** - There is a districtwide deficit of 1.45ha and a notional deficit in 13 of the 19 parishes. Given the limited 10 minutes travel catchment, the surpluses in provision in the remaining parishes are beyond the travel time tolerance of some residents, leaving some further local deficiencies.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Existing provision</i>	<i>Required provision</i>	<i>Surplus/ (Deficit)</i>
Blaby	6,194	3.34ha	6.19ha	(2.85ha)
Braunstone	16,850	33.85ha	16.85ha	17.00ha
Cosby	3,506	1.06ha	3.51ha	(2.45ha)
Countesthorpe	6,377	4.26ha	6.38ha	(2.12ha)
Croft	1,639	0.48ha	1.64ha	(1.16ha)
Elmesthorpe	509	1.10ha	0.51ha	0.59ha
Enderby	6,314	5.09ha	6.31ha	(1.22ha)
Glenfield	9,643	3.28ha	9.64ha	(6.36ha)
Glen Parva	6,189	1.93ha	6.18ha	(4.26ha)
Huncote	1,756	7.97ha	1.76ha	6.21ha
Kilby	270	0.74ha	0.27ha	0.47ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.43ha	4.67ha	(3.24ha)
Leicester Forest East	6,719	9.94ha	6.72ha	3.22ha
Narborough	8,448	8.95ha	8.45ha	0.50ha
Sapcote	2,442	0.75ha	2.44ha	(1.69ha)
Sharnford	985	0.48ha	0.99ha	(0.51ha)
Stoney Stanton	3,793	1.40ha	3.79ha	(2.39ha)
Thurlaston	807	0	0.81ha	(0.81ha)
Whetstone	6,566	6.17ha	6.57ha	(0.40ha)
BLABY DISTRICT	93,674	92.22ha	93.67ha	(1.45ha)

- **Quality of provision** - The following sites are rated as below ‘average’ quality on the basis of the site audits:

<i>Sites</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon Road open space • Blaby Road open space • Brickman Close open space • Cranmer Close open space • Lane Close open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Langham Drive open space • Lincoln Drive open space • Smithy Farm Drive open space • Thornborough Close open space • Woodhouse Road open space

- **Accessibility of provision** - There are some accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.8 Provision for children and young people

7.8.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for equipped play areas was devised:

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	0.06ha of equipped play areas per 1,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision equate 0.06ha per 1,000 people - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). • 61% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of equipped play areas in the district are ‘average’ or better. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009). • There is no evidence of any unmet demand for equipped play areas in the district at present, so a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is appropriate - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of all sites should rate ‘average’ or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least ‘average’ quality. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 13 minutes travel time of the nearest equipped play area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of equipped play area users. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009). • 83% of equipped play area users walk to access their site. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009).

7.8.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is a small surplus at a district level, although provision in nine of the 19 parishes shows a small deficit.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Existing provision</i>	<i>Required provision</i>	<i>Surplus/ (Deficit)</i>
Blaby	6,194	0.85ha	0.37ha	0.48ha
Braunstone	16,850	0.92ha	1.01ha	(0.17ha)
Cosby	3,506	0.32ha	0.21ha	0.11ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	0.29ha	0.38ha	(0.09ha)
Croft	1,639	0.22ha	0.10ha	0.12ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0.01ha	0.03ha	(0.02ha)
Enderby	6,314	0.23ha	0.38ha	(0.15ha)
Glenfield	9,643	0.34ha	0.58ha	(0.24ha)
Glen Parva	6,189	0.38ha	0.37ha	0.01ha
Huncote	1,756	0.21ha	0.11ha	0.10ha
Kilby	270	-	0.02ha	(0.02ha)
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	0.20ha	0.28ha	(0.08ha)
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0.26ha	0.40ha	(0.14ha)
Narborough	8,448	0.50ha	0.51ha	(0.01ha)
Sapcote	2,442	0.20ha	0.15ha	0.05ha
Sharnford	985	0.09ha	0.06ha	0.03ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.19ha	0.23ha	(0.04ha)
Thurlaston	807	0.11ha	0.05ha	0.06ha
Whetstone	6,566	0.44ha	0.39ha	0.05ha
BLABY DISTRICT	93,674	5.76ha	5.62ha	0.14ha

- **Quality of provision** - The following sites are rated as below ‘average’ quality on the basis of the site audits:

<i>Site</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crescent play area • Fosse Meadows play area • Stafford Leys Community Centre

- **Accessibility of provision** - There are some accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.9 Allotments and community gardens

7.9.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for allotments and community gardens was devised:

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	0.25ha of allotments per 1,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate 0.25ha per 1,000 people - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). 53% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of allotments in the district are 'average' or poorer. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009). 22% of parish councils surveyed identified local shortfalls in allotment provision - <i>Blaby District Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). Whilst there is evidence of some unmet demand for allotments in the district at present, there are also vacant plots at some sites so a standard equivalent to the current levels of provision is appropriate - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of all sites should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 18 minutes travel time of the nearest allotments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of allotment users. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009). 60% of allotment users walk to access their site. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report</i> (2009).

7.9.2 Applying the standard

- Quantity of provision** - There is a small surplus of 0.05ha at a district level, but 12 of the 19 parishes show a shortfall in provision.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Existing provision</i>	<i>Required provision</i>	<i>Surplus/ (Deficit)</i>
Blaby	6,194	1.89ha	1.55ha	0.34ha
Braunstone	16,850	6.64ha	4.21ha	2.43ha
Cosby	3,506	1.99ha	0.88ha	1.11ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	2.31ha	1.59ha	0.72ha
Croft	1,639	1.21ha	0.41ha	0.80ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0	0.13ha	(0.13ha)
Enderby	6,314	1.48ha	1.58ha	(0.10ha)
Glenfield	9,643	0.48ha	2.41ha	(1.93ha)
Glen Parva	6,189	0	1.55ha	(1.55ha)
Huncote	1,756	1.50ha	0.44ha	1.06ha
Kilby	270	0	0.07ha	(0.07ha)
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	1.10ha	1.17ha	(0.07ha)
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0	1.68ha	(1.68ha)
Narborough	8,448	1.53ha	2.11ha	(0.58ha)
Sapcote	2,442	1.93ha	0.61ha	1.32ha
Sharnford	985	0	0.20ha	(0.20ha)
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.63ha	0.95ha	(0.32ha)
Thurlaston	807	0	0.20ha	(0.20ha)
Whetstone	6,566	0.56ha	1.64ha	(1.08ha)
BLABY DISTRICT	93,674	23.53ha	23.48ha	0.05ha

- **Quality of provision** - All sites are rated as ‘average’ quality or above on the basis of the site audits:
- **Accessibility of provision** - There are some accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.10 Cemeteries and churchyards

7.10.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision for the open space functions of cemeteries and churchyards was devised:

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	0.21ha of cemeteries and churchyards per 1,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision equate 0.21ha per 1,000 people - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit (2015)</i>. • 53% of respondents to survey of Blaby residents believe that levels of provision of cemeteries and churchyards in the district are ‘average’ or better. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report’ (2009)</i>. • 11% of parish councils surveyed identified local shortfalls in cemetery provision - <i>Blaby District Quantitative Audit (2015)</i>. • Given the limited evidence of any unmet demand for cemeteries and churchyards in the district at present, a standard equivalent to current levels of provision is appropriate - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit (2015)</i>.
Qualitative	All aspects of all sites should rate ‘average’ or better.	All aspects of the quality of all open spaces in Blaby District should aspire to be of at least ‘average’ quality. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit (2015)</i> .
Accessibility	The whole population within 15 minutes travel time of the nearest cemetery or churchyard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 minutes is the effective catchment for 80% of cemetery and churchyard users. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report’ (2009)</i>. • 50% of cemetery and churchyard users drive to access their site. - <i>PPG17 Study for Blaby District Council - Final Report’ (2009)</i>.

7.10.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is a small collective deficit of 0.12ha at a district level, although provision in 6 of the 19 parishes shows a deficit.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Existing provision</i>	<i>Required provision</i>	<i>Surplus/ (Deficit)</i>
Blaby	6,194	2.77ha	1.30ha	1.47ha
Braunstone	16,850	0	3.54ha	(3.54ha)
Cosby	3,506	0.86ha	0.74ha	0.12ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	1.97ha	1.34ha	0.63ha
Croft	1,639	1.03ha	0.34ha	0.69ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0.51ha	0.11ha	0.40ha
Enderby	6,314	2.26ha	1.33ha	0.93ha
Glenfield	9,643	0.82ha	2.03ha	(1.21ha)

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Existing provision</i>	<i>Required provision</i>	<i>Surplus/ (Deficit)</i>
Glen Parva	6,189	0	1.30ha	(1.30ha)
Huncote	1,756	0.43ha	0.37ha	0.06ha
Kilby	270	0.43ha	0.06ha	0.37ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	2.02ha	0.98ha	1.04ha
Leicester Forest East	6,719	0.58ha	1.41ha	(0.83ha)
Narborough	8,448	1.78ha	1.77ha	0.01ha
Sapcote	2,442	1.07ha	0.51ha	0.56ha
Sharnford	985	0.85ha	0.21ha	0.64ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0.66ha	0.80ha	(0.14ha)
Thurlaston	807	0.41ha	0.17ha	0.24ha
Whetstone	6,566	1.11ha	1.38ha	(0.27ha)
BLABY DISTRICT	93,900	19.60ha	19.72ha	(0.12ha)

- **Quality of provision** - The following sites are rated as below ‘average’ quality on the basis of the site audits:

<i>Site</i>
• Aldeby Churchyard and Cemetery
• All Saints’ Church, Sapcote
• St. Mary the Virgin Church, Wigston Parva

- **Accessibility of provision** - There are no significant accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.11 Overall open space provision at parish level

Because spare capacity in some forms of open space may offset deficiencies in other forms, analysis of overall levels of provision at a parish level gives a helpful insight into the wider context of local provision. The table below sets out overall provision in each parish and maps of the open space sites in each parish are contained in Appendix I.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Popn.</i>	<i>Parks & Gardens</i>	<i>Natural greenspace</i>	<i>Informal open space</i>	<i>Children’s play</i>	<i>Allotments</i>	<i>Cemeteries churchyards</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Ha./ 1,000</i>
Blaby	6,194	7.12ha	6.71ha	3.34ha	0.85ha	1.89ha	2.77ha	22.68ha	3.66ha
Braunstone	16,850	4.46ha	24.47ha	33.85ha	0.92ha	6.64ha	0	70.34ha	4.17ha
Cosby	3,506	0	0	1.06ha	0.32ha	1.99ha	0.86ha	4.23ha	1.21ha
Countesthorpe	6,377	0	9.40ha	4.26ha	0.29ha	2.31ha	1.97ha	18.23ha	2.86ha
Croft	1,639	0	7.89ha	0.48ha	0.22ha	1.21ha	1.03ha	10.83ha	6.61ha
Elmesthorpe	509	0	30.36ha	1.10ha	0.01ha	0	0.54ha	32.01ha	62.89ha
Enderby	6,314	0	15.35ha	5.09ha	0.23ha	1.48ha	2.26ha	24.41ha	3.87ha
Glenfield	9,643	3.91ha	8.37ha	3.28ha	0.34ha	0.48ha	0.82ha	17.20ha	1.78ha
Glen Parva	6,189	0.1ha	27.10ha	1.93ha	0.38ha	0	0	29.51ha	4.77ha
Huncote	1,756	0	19.38ha	7.97ha	0.21ha	1.50ha	0.43ha	29.49ha	16.79ha
Kilby	270	0	0	0.74ha	-	0	0.43ha	1.17ha	4.33ha
Kirby Muxloe	4,667	0	1.19ha	1.43ha	0.20ha	1.10ha	2.02ha	5.94ha	1.27ha
Leics Forest E.	6,719	0	6.87ha	9.94ha	0.26ha	0	0.58ha	17.65ha	2.63ha
Narborough	8,448	1.22ha	16.72ha	8.95ha	0.50ha	1.53ha	1.78ha	30.70ha	3.63ha
Sapcote	2,442	0	3.19ha	0.75ha	0.20ha	1.93ha	1.07ha	7.14ha	2.92ha

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Popn.</i>	<i>Parks & Gardens</i>	<i>Natural greenspace</i>	<i>Informal open space</i>	<i>Children's play</i>	<i>Allotments</i>	<i>Cemeteries churchyards</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Ha./1,000</i>
Sharnford	985	0	57.38ha	0.48ha	0.09ha	0	0.85ha	58.80ha	56.70ha
Stoney Stanton	3,793	0	4.36ha	1.40ha	0.19ha	0.63ha	0.66ha	7.24ha	1.91ha
Thurlaston	807	0	6.63ha	0	0.11ha	0	0.41ha	7.15ha	8.86ha
Whetstone	6,566	0	2.10ha	6.17ha	0.44ha	0.56ha	1.11ha	10.38ha	1.58ha
<i>DISTRICT</i>	<i>93,900</i>	<i>16.80ha</i>	<i>243.89ha</i>	<i>92.28ha</i>	<i>5.76ha</i>	<i>23.53ha</i>	<i>19.60ha</i>	<i>401.86ha</i>	<i>4.28ha</i>

The analysis provides a general snapshot of respective levels of local open space provision and the variations therein. Whilst there are wide local variations, per capita levels of provision are generally below the district average in the larger parishes and this underlines the importance of maintaining and where possible enhancing levels of provision in these parts of the district.

7.12 Adult football pitches

7.12.1 Site-specific assessment

The site specific analysis for adult football pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as ‘match equivalent’ sessions.

In line with FA guidance, it has been assumed that a ‘good’ quality adult pitch will accommodate three match equivalents per week, a ‘standard’ quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week and a ‘poor’ quality pitch will accommodate one match equivalent per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Cosby Recn. Ground	2	4.0	Cosby United FC Cosby United Youth FC	4.5*	-0.5	* Use of adult pitches by youth teams
Countesthorpe Comm. College	6	6.0*	Enderby Mission Utd. FC Suecastle FC	1.0	+5.0	* Capacity reduced by education usage
County Hall Sports Ground	1	3.0*	County Hall FC	0.5	+2.5	* ‘Good’ quality pitch
Dorothy Avenue Playing Field	2	4.0	Blaby United FC Medz FC	1.5	+2.5	
Glenfield Sports Ground	2	4.0	Glenfield Town FC	1.0	+3.0	
Holmes Park	1	3.0	Leicestershire FA	1.5	+1.5	
Huncote Sports & Social Club	2	6.0	Huncote SSC FC Huncote Sunday FC United Revolution FC	3.0	+3.0	
Kings Drive Playing Field	1	2.0	Epworth Forest Juniors FC	2.5*	-0.5	* Use of adult pitches by youth team
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Kirby Muxloe 88 JFC	1.0*	+1.0	* Use of adult pitches by youth teams
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	1	3.0*	Kirby Muxloe FC	1.5	+1.5	* ‘Good’ quality pitch
Lutterworth Rd. Recn. Ground	2	4.0	Whetstone Juniors FC	1.5	+2.5	

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Meadows Sports Ground	2	4.0	Magna 73 FC Oadby & Wigston Ladies Star & Garter FC The Alliance FC	4.5	-0.5	
Memorial Playing Fields	3	6.0	AFC Woolley FC Bulls Head	1.0	+5.0	
Mossdale Meadows	2	4.0	AFC Bees Knees Braunstone Trinity FC	1.5	+2.5	
Northfield Park	1	2.0	FC Tumar	0.5	+1.5	
Oakfield Park	1	2.0	Blaby Bulls FC	0.5*	+1.5	* Use of adult pitch by youth team
Saffron Dynamo FC	2	6.0*	Saffron Dynamo FC	2.0	+4.0	* 'Good' quality pitches
Sapcote Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Broughton Astley FC	2.0	Balanced	
Shakespeare Park	1	2.0	Braunstone Juniors FC*	1.0	+1.0	* Use of adult pitch by youth team
Southey Close Playing Fields	1	2.0	Enderby Social Club FC	0.5	+1.5	
Thorpe Astley Comm. Centre	1	2.0	Forest East FC Forest Park FC Leics. Constabulary FC	1.5	+0.5	
Thurlaston Sports Club	2	4.0	Thurlaston Magpies FC	3.0	+1.0	
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Whetstone Veterans FC Whetstone Juniors FC*	2.0	Balanced	* Use of adult pitch by youth team
Whetstone Youth Club	1	3.0*	Blaby & Whetstone Ath. FC Blaby Foxes	4.5	-1.5	* 'Good' quality pitch
Willoughby Road Pl. Field	1	1.0*	Countesthorpe Athletic	2.5	-1.5	* Capacity reduced by poor quality pitch
Winstanley Comm. College	3	3.0*	Studs Junior FC	1.0**	+2.0	* Capacity reduced by education usage ** Use of adult pitches by youth teams
Winston Avenue Sports Ground	1	2.0	Enderby Bullets FC	2.5	-0.5	
TOTALS	45	88.0	-	48.0	+38.0	-

7.12.2 Qualitative analysis

The following aspects of sites that provide adult football pitches are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

<i>Pitch quality</i>	<i>Changing facilities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willoughby Road Playing Field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground. • Mossdale Meadows • Northfield Park • Oakfield Park • Willoughby Road Playing Field

7.12.3 Summary

The key findings on adult football pitches are as follows:

- Six sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- Usage is balanced at two sites.
- 19 sites have some spare usage capacity.



Leicester Road Recreation Ground, Enderby

7.13 Youth football (11v11) pitches

7.13.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for youth football (11v11) pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as ‘match equivalent’ sessions.

In line with FA guidance, it has been assumed that a ‘good’ quality youth pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week, a ‘standard’ quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week and a ‘poor’ quality pitch will accommodate one match equivalent per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Brockington College	1	1.0*	Football & Fitness Academy	2.0	-1.0	* Capacity reduced by education usage
Glenfield Sports Ground	2	4.0	Glenfield United YFC	2.0	+2.0	
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	1	4.0*	Kirby Muxloe 88 FC	2.5	+1.5	* ‘Good’ quality pitch

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Leicester Road Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Narborough & Enderby Foxes FC	2.5	-0.5	
Meadows Sports Ground	2	4.0	Oadby & Wigston Ladies	5.0	-1.0	
Mosssdale Meadows	1	2.0	Braunstone Trinity FC	2.0	Balanced	
Winston Avenue Sports Ground	1	2.0	Croft Juniors (2013) FC	4.0	-2.0	
TOTALS	9	19.0	-	20.0	-1.0	-

7.13.2 Qualitative analysis

The changing facilities at Mosssdale Meadows that serve youth football (11v11) pitches are rated as ‘poor’ quality on the basis of the site audits and there are no changing facilities at all at Leicester Road Recreation Ground, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience.

7.13.3 Summary

The key findings for youth football pitches are as follows:

- Four sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- At one site usage is balanced
- Two sites have some spare usage capacity.

7.14 Youth football (9v9)pitches

7.14.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for youth football (9v9) pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as ‘match equivalent’ sessions.

In line with FA guidance, it has been assumed that a ‘good’ quality youth pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week, a ‘standard’ quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week and a ‘poor’ quality pitch will accommodate one match equivalent per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Brockington College	1	1.0*	Football & Fitness Academy	3.0	-2.0	* Capacity reduced by education usage
Cosby Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Cosby United Youth FC	6.5	-4.5	
Glenfield Sports Ground	2	4.0	Glenfield United YFC	4.5	-0.5	

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Kirby Muxloe 88 FC	4.0	-2.0	
Leicester Road Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Narborough & Enderby	3.0	-1.0	
Lutterworth Rd. Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Whetstone Juniors FC	2.0	Balanced	
Mossdale Meadows	1	2.0	Braunstone Trinity FC Kingsway Rangers JFC	2.0	Balanced	
Saffron Dynamo FC	1	4.0*	Saffron Dynamo FC	3.5	+0.5	* 'Good' quality pitch
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Whetstone Juniors FC	2.0	Balanced	
Whetstone Youth Club	1	4.0*	Advanced Football Acad. Blaby & Whetstone FC	5.0	-1.0	* 'Good' quality pitch
TOTALS	11	25.0	-	26.5	-1.5	-

7.14.2 Qualitative analysis

The following changing facilities that serve youth football (9v9) pitches are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits and in the case of Leicester Road Recreation Ground there is no provision, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

<i>Site</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground • Leicester Road Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows

7.14.3 Summary

The key findings for youth football (9v9) pitches are as follows:

- Six sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- At two sites usage is balanced
- One site has some spare usage capacity.

7.15 Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches

7.15.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for mini-soccer (7v7) pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions.

In line with FA guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality mini-soccer pitch will accommodate six match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Cosby Recn. Ground	1	4.0	Cosby United Youth FC	1.5	+2.5	
Lutterworth Rd. Recn. Ground	1	4.0	Whetstone Juniors FC	2.0	+2.0	
Meadows Sports Ground	2	8.0	Oadby & Wigston Ladies	2.0	+6.0	
Mossdale Meadows	1	4.0	Braunstone Trinity FC Kingsway Rangers JFC	2.5	+1.5	
Oakfield Park	1	4.0	Blaby Bulls FC Wigston Youth FC	2.5	+1.5	
Saffron Dynamo FC	2	12.0*	Saffron Dynamo FC	1.5	+10.5	* 'Good' quality pitches
Thurlaston Sports Club	1	4.0	Thurlaston Magpies FC	1.0	+3.0	
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	1	4.0	Aylestone Park FC Whetstone Juniors FC	4.0	Balanced	
TOTALS	10	44.0	-	17.0	+27.0	-

7.15.2 Qualitative analysis

The following changing facilities that serve mini-soccer (7v7) pitches are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

<i>Site</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Oakfield Park • Warwick Road Recreation Ground

7.15.3 Summary

Usage at one site is balanced, but all other sites have some spare usage capacity.

7.16 Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches

7.16.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for mini-soccer (5v5) pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions.

In line with FA guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality mini-soccer pitch will accommodate six match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Cosby Recn. Ground	1	4.0	Cosby United YFC	2.0	+2.0	
Kings Drive Playing Fields	1	4.0	Epworth Forest JFC	1.0	+3.0	
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	2	8.0	Kirby Muxloe 88 FC	3.0	+5.0	
Lutterworth Rd. Recn. Ground	2	8.0	Whetstone Juniors FC	2.0	+6.0	
Meadows Sports Ground	1	4.0	Oadby & Wigston Ladies	1.5	+2.5	
Mosssdale Meadows	1	4.0	Braunstone Trinity FC Kingsway Rangers JFC	3.0	+1.0	
Oakfield Park	1	4.0	Blaby Bulls FC Wigston Youth FC	2.0	+2.0	
Saffron Dynamo FC	2	12.0*	Saffron Dynamo FC	1.5	+10.5	* 'Good' quality pitches
Thurlaston Sports Club	2	8.0	Thurlaston Magpies FC	1.0	+7.0	
TOTALS	13	56.0	-	17.0	+39.0	-

7.16.2 Qualitative analysis

The following changing facilities that serve mini-soccer (5v5) pitches are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

<i>Site</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe recreation Ground • Mosssdale Meadows • Oakfield Park

7.16.3 Summary

All sites have some spare usage capacity.

7.17 Cricket pitches

7.17.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for cricket pitches in Blaby district is set out below. As per Sport England guidance, capacity is expressed as match equivalents per **season**, as opposed to per **week** for all other pitch types.

- In line with ECB guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality wicket will accommodate 5 matches per season, a 'standard' quality wicket will accommodate 4 matches per season and a 'poor' quality wicket will accommodate 3 matches per season.

- Adult teams account for an average of 0.5 ‘home’ games per week and junior teams for 0.36 ‘home’ games per week.
- Artificial turf wickets are shown in brackets in the table below and will accommodate 35 matches per season.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Seasonal capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Seasonal demand</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Cosby Recn. Ground	10(1)	85	Cosby Cricket Club	66.0	+19.0	
Countesthorpe Cricket Club	12(1)	95	Countesthorpe Cricket Club	80.4	+14.6	
County Hall Sports Ground	8(1)	67	County Hall Cricket Club	10.0	+57.0	
Enderby Cricket Club	6(1)	50	Enderby Cricket Club	76.0	-26.0	
Gynsill Lane Sports Ground	9(1)	65	Anstey & Glenfield CC	20.0	+45.0	
Huncote Sports & Social Club	10	50	Huncote Cricket Club	20.0	+30.0	
Kirby Muxloe Recn. Ground	8	32	SPA Cricket Club	20.0	+12.0	
Kirby Muxloe Sports Club	9(1)	80	Kirby Muxloe Cricket Club	48.8	+31.2	
Leicester Ivanhoe CC	16(1)	115	Leicester Forest Cricket Club Leicester Ivanhoe Cricket Club	78.8	+36.2	
Leicester Road Recn. Ground	12(1)	95	Narborough & Littlethorpe CC	94.8	+0.2	
Lissman Fields	6	24	Sharnford Cricket Club	20.0	+4.0	
Meadows Sports Ground	10	40	Wigston Town Cricket Club	37.2	+2.8	
Northfield Park	4	12*	Blaby Cricket Club	10.0	+2.0	* ‘Poor’ quality wicket.
Saffron Dynamo FC	8	40	Leicester Teachers & Mosssdale	40.0	Balanced	
Sapcote Recn. Ground	6	24	Sapcote Cricket Club	20.0	+4.0	
Thurlaston Sports Club	4	16	Friar Lane Taverners CC Thurlaston Cricket Club	20.0	-4.0	
Warwick Road Recn. Ground	6	24	Whetstone Cricket Club	20.0	+4.0	
Winstanley Comm. College	(1)	35	Braunstone Cricketers CC	20.0	+15.0	
Winston Ave. Sports Ground	8(1)	67	Croft Cricket Club	48.8	+18.2	
TOTALS	143(9)	1016	-	750.2	+265.8	-

7.17.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of the Northfield Park wicket is ‘poor’ and without improved maintenance will not be usable in future seasons. Two non-turf wickets are also rated as ‘poor’ and this is reflected in the individual site capacity calculations.

The following pavilions that serve cricket pitches are rated as below ‘average’ quality on the basis of the site audits and in the case of Winstanley Community College, there is no dedicated pavilion, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

<i>Site</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Lissman Fields • Meadows Sports Ground • Northfield Park • Winstanley Community College • Winston Avenue Sports Ground

7.17.3 Summary

The key findings for cricket pitches are as follows:

- Two sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- At one site usage is balanced
- 16 sites have some spare usage capacity.

7.18 Rugby pitches

7.18.1 Site-specific analysis

The site specific analysis for adult rugby pitches in Blaby district is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance are expressed as ‘match equivalent’ sessions at peak times.

- In line with RFU guidance it has been assumed that pitch capacity will reflect drainage and maintenance regimes as follows.

<i>Drainage</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>		
	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Good</i>
Natural inadequate	0.5	1.0	2.0
Natural adequate	1.5	2.0	3.0
Pipe drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and slit drained	2.0	3.0	3.5

- Adult and junior teams account for an average of 0.5 ‘home’ games per week and mini-rugby teams for 0.25 ‘home’ games per week.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Cosby Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Cosby Rugby Club	1.0	+1.0	
Leicester Forest RFC	3	6.0	Leicester Forest Rugby Club	9.75	-3.75	
Old Newtonians RFC	3	6.0	Old Newtonians Rugby Club	4.0	+2.0	
Vipers Rugby Club	3	6.0	Vipers Rugby Club	7.25	-1.25	
Westleigh Park	3	6.0	Leicester Lions Rugby Club	3.0	+3.0	
TOTALS	13	26.0	-	25.0	+1.0	

7.18.2 Qualitative analysis

Drainage improvements at Leicester Forest RFC and Vipers RFC would increase capacity to accommodate some, but not all, current demand. The balance of training needs could be met through the provision of a rugby-compatible '3G' pitch. The following changing facilities require improvement and upgrading:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cosby Recreation Ground• Old Newtonians Rugby Club• Vipers Rugby Club

7.18.3 Summary

The key findings for rugby pitches are as follows:

- Two sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- Three sites have some spare usage capacity.
- Changing facilities require improvement at all sites.

7.19 Standards for grass pitches

The most accurate method for assessing a per capita standard for grass pitches is to:

- Identify the number of pitches needed at present, based upon the application of the playing pitch guidance supply-demand methodology.
- Divide the number of pitches thus identified by the current population.

The table below contains the calculations for Blaby district:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Pitches required</i>	
Adult football	26	1: 3,612
Youth football (11v11)	10	1: 9,390
Youth football (9v9)	13	1: 7,223
Mini-soccer (7v7)	7	1: 13,414
Mini-soccer (5v5)	8	1: 11,738
Cricket	19	1: 4,942
Rugby	13	1: 7,223

7.20 Synthetic Turf Pitches for hockey

7.20.1 Site-specific analysis

There are no synthetic turf pitches for hockey in Blaby district, but the supply and demand data for the facilities with catchments that overlap the district boundaries is set out below.

In line with Sport England guidance weekly capacity is expressed in terms of availability at peak times only. In addition to hockey use there is football training on most pitches.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Groby Community College	25.0	Football training and casual hire	22.0	+3.0	
William Bradford Academy	25.0	Football training and casual hire	10.0	+15.0	
John Cleveland College	25.0	Football training and casual hire	20.0	+5.0	
St. Margaret's Pasture	25.0	Leicester Thursday HC Leicester Westleigh HC Panthers Hockey Club South Leicester Hockey	25.0	Balanced	
Moat Community College*	25.0	Football training and casual hire	21.0	+4.0	
Roger Bettles Sports Centre	25.0	Football training and casual hire	25.0	Balanced	
Soar Valley College	25.0	Football training and casual hire	20.0	+5.0	
Leicester Grammar School	25.0	Leicester Hockey Club	20.0	+5.0	
Leicester Grammar School	25.0	Leicester Hockey Club	20.0	+5.0	
TOTALS	225.0	-	183.0	+42.0	-

7.20.2 Qualitative analysis

All synthetic turf pitches for hockey with catchments that overlap the district boundaries are rated as at least 'standard' quality.

7.20.3 Summary

All but two of the synthetic turf pitches for hockey with catchments that overlap the Blaby district boundaries have some spare capacity.

7.21 '3G' Football Turf Pitches

7.21.1 Site-specific analysis

The site specific analysis for '3G' football turf pitches in Blaby district is set out below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Brockington College	25.0	Football training and casual hire	25.0	Balanced	

7.21.2 Qualitative analysis

The pitch is rated as 'good' quality.

7.21.3 Football Association Assessment of '3G' pitch needs

The Football Association has devised an internal mapping exercise to establish an estimated baseline figure for the number of '3G' pitches required to meet football needs in a locality. The calculation involves the following assumptions:

- Every football team in a locality will require one training 'slot' per week on a '3G' pitch, defined as one-third of the area of a full-sized pitch for one hour.
- Based upon Sport England national research on synthetic turf pitch usage, an average of 55 training 'slots' per week will be available at a full-sized '3G' pitch.
- Smaller and/or commercially provided '3G' pitches are capable of accommodating 10 training 'slots' per week.

With one full-sized '3G' pitch in Blaby district) and five smaller '3G' pitches, 105 training 'slots' per week are available. With 233 football teams in the district, there is a notional shortfall of 128 slots per week, equivalent to 2.33 full-sized '3G' pitches.

7.21.4 Summary

The key findings for '3G' football turf pitch use are as follows:

- The only '3G' football turf pitch in Blaby district at present is used to full capacity.
- The FA's calculation identifies a need for 2.33 additional '3G' pitches for football usage. This equates to one '3G' football turf pitch per 22,165 people.

7.22 *Bowls greens*

7.22.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues and consultation with local clubs, the following standard of provision for outdoor bowls greens was set:

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	One outdoor bowls green per 13,500 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one outdoor bowls green per 13,414 people - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). The number of outdoor bowls greens per capita in Blaby district is just above the mean for the neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are around the norm for similar areas. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). Based on the above evidence, a standard around the current per capita levels of provision is appropriate - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a green and its ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Blaby district should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 15 minutes drive of the nearest green.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Most users will live locally and travel less than 15 minutes. 90% of users will travel by car'. - <i>'Bowls Design Guidance'</i> (2005). The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest bowling green. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).

7.22.2 Applying the standard

- Quantity of provision** - There is no shortfall in the number of bowls greens in Blaby district at present and no evidence of any latent demand.
- Quality of provision** - The disabled access at the following facilities are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits:

<i>Site</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glenfield Bowls Club Narborough & District BC Shakespeare Park BC

- Accessibility of provision** - There are no significant accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.23 Tennis courts

7.23.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues and consultation with local clubs and the Lawn Tennis Association, the following standard of provision was set:

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	One outdoor tennis court per 2,400 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one outdoor tennis court per 2,403 people - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). The number of tennis per capita in Blaby district is the best for the neighbouring local authorities, which suggests that existing levels of provision are above the norm for similar areas, although there is no evidence of significant spare capacity locally. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). Based on the above evidence, a standard around the current per capita levels of provision is appropriate - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a court and its ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Blaby district should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 15 minutes drive of the nearest court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research commissioned by the Lawn Tennis Association revealed that outdoor tennis court users typically travel for up to 15 minutes to reach their chosen facility and more than 70% travel by car. - <i>LTA</i> (2002). The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest tennis court. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).

7.23.2 Applying the standard

- Quantity of provision** - There is no shortfall in the number of tennis courts in Blaby district at present and no evidence of any latent demand.
- Quality of provision** - The aspects of the following facilities that are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits are tabulated below:

<i>Courts</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Access</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enderby Tennis Club Thorpe Astley Tennis Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enderby Tennis Club

- Accessibility of provision** - There are no significant accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.24 Golf courses

7.24.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues and consultation with local clubs and the English Golf Union, the following standard of provision was set:

Element	Standard	Justification
Quantitative	One golf course per 23,500 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one golf course per 23,475 people - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). The number of golf courses per capita in Blaby district is well above the mean for the neighbouring areas, although there is no evidence of significant spare capacity locally. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). Based on the above evidence, a standard around the current per capita levels of provision is appropriate - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a course should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Blaby district should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the nearest golf course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research commissioned by the English Golf Union revealed that golfers typically travel for up to 20 minutes to reach their chosen course and more than 90% travel by car. - <i>EGU</i> (2004) The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest golf course. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).

7.24.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is no shortfall in the number of golf courses in Blaby district at present and no evidence of any latent demand.
- **Quality of provision** - All aspects of golf courses and their ancillary facilities in Blaby district are rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Accessibility of provision** - There are no significant accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.25 Village and community halls

7.25.1 Standard of provision

Based upon an examination of local supply and demand issues, the following standard of provision was set:

Element	Standard	Justification
Quantitative	One village or community hall per 2,200 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one village or community hall per 2,184 people - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). There is no evidence that current levels of provision are inadequate to meet local needs - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a course should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Blaby district should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 10 minutes drive of the nearest hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As local scale facilities, 10 minutes travel time is an appropriate catchment. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015). The whole population is within 10 minutes drive of their nearest hall. - <i>Blaby District Open Space Audit</i> (2015).

7.25.2 Applying the standard

- **Quantity of provision** - There is no shortfall in the number of village and community halls in Blaby district at present, but there is some evidence of additional capacity needs in Huncote.
- **Quality of provision** - The aspects of the following village and community halls that are rated as below 'average' quality on the basis of the site audits are tabulated below. None of the sites identified as deficient in sports capacity have the potential to improve this aspect:

<i>Sports capacity</i>	<i>Overall quality</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Community Church • St. James' Church Hall • Sapcote Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croft Community Centre • Huncote Community Centre • Narborough Parish Centre • Stoney Stanton Village Hall • Whetstone Memorial Hall

- **Accessibility of provision** - There are no significant accessibility shortfalls in the district.

7.26 Summary of current needs

Based upon the supply-demand analysis, the following current needs have been identified:

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit of 0.06ha • Localised shortfall in 6 of the 9 urban parishes partly offset by surpluses in Blaby, Braunstone and Glenfield parishes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrance and boundary improvement needed at Northfield Park. • Paths improvements needed at Franklin Park. • Planting improvements needed at Bouskell Park, Franklin Park, Narborough Recreation Ground and 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Natural greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide surplus of 0.05ha • Localised shortfall in 12 of the 19 parishes offset by surpluses elsewhere. 	Quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countesthorpe Country Park • Enderby Balancing Lake • Kings Walk Spinney • Land at Hinckley Way • Land at New Bridge Road • Land at Oakcroft Avenue • Land east of Riverside Way • Land north-east of Croft Hill • Glenfield Wildlife and Recreation Area • Sapcote Gravel Pit 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Informal open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit of 1.45ha. • Localised shortfalls in 13 of the 19 parishes. 	Quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon Road open space • Blaby Road open space • Brickman Close open space • Cranmer Close open space • Lane Close open space • Langham Drive open space • Lincoln Drive open space • Smithy Farm Drive open space • Thornborough Close open space • Woodhouse Road open space 	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.
Provision for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide surplus of 0.14ha • Localised shortfall in 9 of the 19 parishes. 	Quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crescent play area • Fosse Meadows play area • Stafford Leys Community Centre 	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide surplus of 0.05ha • Shortfall in 12 of the 19 parishes. 	No quality improvements required.	There are some localised accessibility deficiencies.
Cemeteries and churchyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit of 0.12ha • Shortfall in 6 of the 19 parishes offset by surpluses elsewhere. 	Quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldeby Churchyard and Cemetery • All Saints' Church, Sapcote • St. Mary the Virgin, Wigston Parva 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Adult football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 19 good quality pitches. • 6 sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • 19 sites have some spare usage capacity. 	Drainage improvements needed at Willoughby Road Playing Field. Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Northfield Park • Oakfield Park • Willoughby Road Playing Field 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Youth football (11v11) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit equivalent to 0.5 standard quality pitches. • 4 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 1 site usage is balanced • 2 sites have some spare capacity. 	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leicester Road Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Youth football (9v9) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit equivalent to 1 standard quality pitch. • 6 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 2 sites usage is balanced • 1 site has some spare capacity. 	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground • Leicester Road Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

Typology	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 7 standard quality pitches • All sites have some spare capacity. 	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Oakfield Park • Warwick Road Recreation Ground 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 10 good quality pitches • All sites have some spare capacity. 	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Kirby Muxloe recreation Ground • Mossdale Meadows • Oakfield Park 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 53 good quality wickets. • 2 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • At 1 site usage is balanced • 16 sites have some spare capacity. 	Wicket quality improvements needed at Northfield Park. Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Lissman Fields • Meadows Sports Ground • Northfield Park • Winstanley Community College • Winston Avenue Sports Ground 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage improvements are needed at the 2 sites which are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. • 3 sites have some spare capacity. 	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosby Recreation Ground • Old Newtonians Rugby Club • Vipers Rugby Club 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	Districtwide spare capacity equivalent to 2 pitches at facilities in neighbouring areas.	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
'3G' football turf pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deficit of 2.33 '3G' pitches based on FA calculations. • Need a rugby-compliant '3G' pitch. 	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Bowls greens	No additional facilities needed.	Disabled improvements needed at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenfield Bowls Club • Narborough & District BC • Shakespeare Park BC 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Tennis courts	No additional facilities needed.	Court improvements at Shakespeare Park Changing improvements needed at : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enderby Tennis Club • Thorpe Astley Tennis Club Access improvements needed at Enderby Tennis Club	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Golf courses	No additional facilities needed.	No quality improvements required.	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.
Village and community halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some capacity issues at Huncote Community Centre. • Neither of the sites identified as having deficient sports capacity has the potential to improve this aspect. 	Quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croft Community Centre • Huncote Community Centre • Narborough Parish Centre • Stoney Stanton Village Hall • Whetstone Memorial Hall 	There is no significant accessibility shortfall in the district.

8 PLANNING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Introduction

This section examines the considerations that Blaby District Council will take into account in refining sport and recreation facilities planning policies in the study area.

8.2 Locally-derived standards of provision

The National Planning Policy Framework states that ‘Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities’.

The assessment in the *‘Blaby District Council Open Space Audit’* follows Sport England’s recommended methodologies and is based upon a detailed assessment of local needs. It therefore comprises a robust and defensible basis for assessing the adequacy of local provision.

8.3 Recommended standards of provision

Based upon the findings of the *‘Blaby District Council Open Space Audit’*, the following standards of provision are recommended, to supercede those contained in policy CS15 in the *‘Blaby District Local Plan Core Strategy’* (2013):

- **Parks and gardens** - 0.23ha per 1,000 people in the larger parishes with 6,000 people or more, within 16 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least ‘average’ quality.
- **Natural greenspace** - 2.60ha per 1,000 people within 20 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least ‘average’ quality.
- **Informal open space** - 1.00ha per 1,000 people within 10 minutes walk and with all sites rated as at least ‘average’ quality.
- **Children’s play** - 0.06ha of equipped play areas per 1,000 people within 13 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least ‘average’ quality.
- **Allotments** - 0.25ha per 1,000 people within 18 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least ‘average’ quality.
- **Cemeteries and churchyards** - 0.21ha per 1,000 people for open space needs within 15 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least ‘average’ quality.
- **Grass pitches for football, cricket and rugby** - As per the assessment in section 7.19.
- **Synthetic turf pitches for hockey** - no standard set.

- **'3G' football turf pitches** - one pitch per 55 football teams (one per 22,165 people) within 20 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Bowling greens** - one green per 13,500 people within 15 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Tennis courts** - one court per 2,400 people within 15 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Golf courses** - one 18-hole course per 23,500 people within 20 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.
- **Village and community halls** - one hall per 2,200 people within 10 minutes travel time and with all sites rated as at least 'average' quality.

8.4 Protection of existing provision

To protect existing provision, it is recommended that BDC adopts the following policy.

'Blaby District Council will resist the loss of open space and sports facilities, unless one of more of the following policy exceptions applies:

- A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated that there is an excess of provision in the catchment and that the site has no special significance to the local community or the interests of sport.
- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as open space or a sports facility and does not affect the quantity or quality of provision or adversely affect its use.
- The open space or sports facility which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by provision of an equivalent or better quantity and quality, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the development'.

8.5 Provision relating to new developments

To secure appropriate levels of provision relating to new developments, it is recommended that BDC adopts the following policy.

The following principles should apply:

- All new developments which result in an increase in the number of dwellings should contribute towards the provision of open space and sports facilities. For smaller developments where on-site provision is not achievable, a financial contribution will be sought from developers towards the improvement of provision elsewhere, where appropriate schemes can be identified within the defined catchment.

- The precise nature, composition and size of open space and sports facilities provision in new developments will be determined in relation to the overall size of the development and with reference to the minimum standards of provision.

8.6 The costs of provision

The following costings have been identified as representative of the capital and revenue costs of meeting additional open space and sports facilities needs and as such will help to inform negotiations with developers over financial contributions. The sources of the cost data are indicated alongside each table and these were verified against locally-derived information:

8.6.1 Capital costs

- **Open spaces** - Source data from the Spons 'External Works and Landscape Price Book 2016' (2015).

	<i>Standard of provision</i>	<i>Cost per square metre (£)</i>
Parks and gardens	0.23 ha per 1,000 people	£26.21
Natural greenspace	2.60 ha per 1,000 people	£3.76
Informal open space	1.00 ha per 1,000 people	£13.29
Provision for children and young people	0.06ha per 1,000 people	£119.31
Allotments	0.25ha per 1,000 people	£5.79
Cemeteries and churchyards	0.21ha per 1,000 people	£20.03

- **Sports facilities** - Source data from Sport England's 'Facilities Cost Guidance - First Quarter 2015' (2015).

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Per capita needs</i>	<i>Cost per facility (£)</i>
Adult football pitches	1 pitch per 3,612 people	£75,000
Youth (11v11) football pitches	1 pitch per 9,390 people	£65,000
Youth (9v9) football pitches	1 pitch per 7,223 people	£65,000
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	1 pitch per 13,414 people	£20,000
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	1 pitch per 11,738 people	£20,000
Cricket pitches	1 pitch per 4,942 people	£245,000
Rugby pitches	1 pitch per 7,223 people	£105,000
'3G' football turf pitch	1 pitch per 22,165 people	£940,000
Bowls greens	1 green per 13,500 people	£125,000
Tennis courts	1 court per 2,350 people	£90,000

- **Village and community halls** - Source data from the Spons 'Architects' and Builders' Price Book 2016' (2015), East Midlands cost variation.

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Per capita needs</i>	<i>Cost per hall (£)</i>
Village/Community Halls	1 hall per, 2,220	£1,072,136

8.6.2 Maintenance costs

- **Open spaces** - Source data from the Spons 'External Works and Landscape Price Book 2016' (2015).

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Cost per square metre for 20 years (£)</i>
Parks and gardens	£32.53
Natural greenspace	£6.07
Informal open space	£14.47
Provision for children and young people	£91.00
Allotments	£4.56
Cemeteries and churchyards	£84.79

- **Sports facilities** - Source data from Sport England's 'Facilities Cost Guidance - First Quarter 2015' (2015).

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Cost per facility for 20 years (£)</i>
Adult football pitches	£106,092
Youth (11v11) football pitches	£83,687
Youth (9v9) football pitches	£57,535
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	£36,303
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	£19,760
Cricket pitches	£88,286
Rugby pitches	£159,756
'3G' football turf pitch	£912,982
Bowls greens	£194,749
Tennis courts	£142,445

- **Village and community halls** - Source data from the Spons 'Architects' and Builders' Price Book 2016' (2015).

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Cost per hall for 20 years (£)</i>
Village/Community Halls	£397,709

8.7 Regular review

Because the assessment of the adequacy of open space and sports facilities provision is based upon an aggregation of supply and demand factors which may vary over time, the assessment will be regularly reviewed to ensure that the information upon which it is based remains current.

8.8 Summary

The planning policy considerations will inform local planning policy on open space and sports facilities, which will in turn protect existing provision where appropriate and define the basis for achieving additional facilities to meet identified needs.

9 ACTION PLAN

9.1 Introduction

This section comprises an action plan for meeting the deficiencies identified in this Audit. It examines the options for meeting the shortfalls, the delivery partners and an action plan that specifies what needs to be provided and where and proposes how best this might be achieved.

9.2 Dealing with deficiencies

9.2.1 New provision

Providing entirely new open space and sports facilities may be the only means of securing additional provision in the right location. This can be achieved by:

- Identifying entirely new sites for provision in appropriate locations.
- Extending existing provision where feasible.
- Disposing of existing provision to reinvest the capital receipt in new provision of at least equivalent quantity, quality and accessibility.
- Incorporating open space and sports facilities into new community provision and housing developments.

9.2.2 Upgrading and refurbishing

Upgrading and refurbishing existing open space and sports facilities would help to meet some of the qualitative deficiencies identified:

- Physically expanding the area of an existing site or facility will increase its capacity for use and may enhance its wildlife and biodiversity value. Providing linkages between existing areas of greenspace can help to create green corridors and strategic routes for green travel and wildlife migration.
- Providing additional play equipment in children's play areas, to expand the range of ages and abilities catered for, will attract additional users. Habitat restoration and development improves the biodiversity value of natural greenspace.
- The provision of floodlights for some outdoor sports facilities would extend the period in which they can be used.
- Changing facilities are poor or absent at some facility sites in the district and improvements would significantly enhance the experience of users.

9.2.3 Enhanced access

Improving access to existing open space and sports facilities can be achieved in a number of ways:

- **Formal agreements** - Securing improved access through the development of formal agreements serves to safeguard public usage of open space and in some cases may provide sufficient security of tenure to allow external funding applications to be sought, to provide further enhancements. One example is the designation of Access Land under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000), which allows additional public access at specified sites in addition to traditional linear footpaths and bridleways. Another option is to investigate the possibility of developing community access to open space on school sites.
- **Physical improvements** - A number of physical improvements to greenspace sites can improve access, especially for people who are generally less mobile such as the elderly and disabled. Examples include surfaced pathways, the provision of accessible gates and stiles and in the case of sites in rural areas that are relatively distant from the more built-up parts of the district, dedicated car parking.
- **Rights of way improvements** - Improving the rights of way network to ensure that there are appropriate linkages between key open space sites and settlements in the district would improve access and promote more sustainable forms of transport. The designation of additional named and/or themed trails in and around the district would promote the use of key routes.
- **Information and awareness** - The provision of interpretive panels at sites with nature conservation interest can help to educate and inform users and enhance the user experience. Similarly, good on-site signposting can improve user confidence in exploring larger sites or following marked trails. By the same token, off-site signposting creates greater awareness of sites by non-users and may therefore encourage usage. Finally, the development and distribution of publicity materials promoting open space sites and sports facilities will also raise awareness amongst potential users.

9.2.4 Integrated provision

There are already a number of sites in the district where several open space functions are served at the same site. A good example is the many village recreation grounds, where sports pitches are often located alongside children's play facilities, other outdoor sports facilities and amenity greenspace. When making new provision in the future, there are a number of advantages in integrating open spaces:

- **Community cohesion** - The combination of different uses of open space will encourage a wider range of users, including family groups and will promote community cohesion.
- **Maintenance** - Maintenance will be simplified and rationalised if more provision is concentrated at a single site, rather than on a dispersed basis.

9.2.5 Reinstating playing pitches

Reinstating playing pitches where usage has, for a variety of reasons, been discontinued in recent times, affords a straightforward response to increased local demand.

9.3 Delivery partners

A wide range of organisations will have a role in implementing the recommendations in the *Blaby District Council Open Space Audit*. The type of roles are summarised below.

9.3.1 Blaby District Council

The council is likely to play the lead role in co-ordinating the development of the larger, more strategic open space and sports facility sites, in conjunction with other partners where appropriate.

9.3.2 Town and Parish Councils

Town and parish councils will continue to play a valuable role in providing and maintaining open space and sports facilities.

9.3.3 Schools

Many schools in Blaby district already provide sports facilities from which local communities benefit and there will be further opportunities both to provide additional facilities on school sites to extend and formalise community access to a range of existing provision.

9.3.4 Sports clubs

Local sports clubs are significant providers of sports facilities and will continue to do so. Some clubs may be interested in taking on delegated management responsibilities for facilities management and maintenance from Blaby District Council or parish councils.

9.3.5 Voluntary and charitable organisations

Local and national conservation trusts (such as the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) also provide and manage natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, including the creation of new areas from time to time. Sustrans is responsible for promoting and maintaining the National Cycle Network and also for promoting sustainable transport.

9.3.6 Developers

The developers of new housing and commercial projects in Blaby district will be required either to provide new open space and sports facilities as part of an individual development, or to make a financial contribution towards the costs of such provision on site or elsewhere in the vicinity. The key principle is that the provision must meet the needs of the residents of the new developments, as opposed to rectifying any pre-existing deficiencies.

9.3.7 Partnership arrangements

Partnership arrangements involving combinations of any of the above providers will help to share the costs of provision, management and maintenance of additional provision.

9.4 Action plan for meeting existing needs

The action plan identifies the ways in which current deficiencies might be met.

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit of 0.06ha. • Entrance and boundary improvements needed at Northfield Park, but no practical means to achieve this. • Paths improvements needed at Franklin Park. • Planting improvements needed at Bouskell Park and Narborough Recreation Ground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade path surfaces at Franklin Park. • Implement planting schemes needed at Bouskell Park, and Narborough Recreation Ground.
Natural greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Access and management issues need to be resolved at Countesthorpe Country Park. • Quality improvements needed at nine sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Resolve the access and management issues with Countesthorpe Country Park. Enhance signage and information at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enderby Balancing Lake. • Kings Walk Spinney. • Land Hinckley Way. • Land at New Bridge Road. • Land at Oakcroft Avenue. • Land east of Riverside Way. • Land north-east of Croft Hill. • Glenfield Wildlife & Recreation Area. • Sapcote Gravel Pit.
Informal open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide deficit of 1.45ha. • Quality improvements needed at 10 sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Develop additional informal open space as opportunities become available. Install benches and litter bins at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon Road open space • Blaby Road open space • Brickman Close open space • Cranmer Close open space • Lane Close open space • Langham Drive open space • Lincoln Drive open space • Smithy Farm Drive open space • Thornborough Close open space • Woodhouse Road open space

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Provision for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. ● Quality improvements needed at three sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify opportunities to provide new or extended play areas in parishes with the current deficits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Braunstone - Countesthorpe - Enderby - Glenfield ● Improve disabled access and equipment at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crescent play area - Fosse Meadows play area - Stafford Leys Community Centre
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, although localised deficits exist in some of the larger parishes. ● Quality improvements needed at two sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify opportunities to provide new or extended allotments in parishes with the greatest deficits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Glenfield - Glen Parva - Leicester Forest East - Whetstone
Cemeteries and churchyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Districtwide deficit of 0.12ha. ● Quality improvements needed at three sites. ● No significant accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify opportunities to provide new or extended cemeteries and churchyards in parishes with the greatest deficits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Braunstone - Glenfield - Glen Parva ● Install benches at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aldeby Churchyard and Cemetery - All Saints' Church, Sapcote - St. Mary the Virgin Church, Wigston Parva
Adult football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but six sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Pitch quality improvements needed at one site. ● Changing improvements needed at seven sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosby Recreation Ground - Kings Drive Playing Field - Meadows Sports Ground - Whetstone Youth Club - Willoughby Road Playing Field - Winston Avenue Sports Ground ● Make pitch quality improvements at Willoughby Road Playing Field ● Make changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosby Recreation Ground - Dorothy Avenue Recreation Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows - Northfield Park - Oakfield Park - Willoughby Road Playing Field

Typology	Current assessed deficiency	Action plan for meeting deficiency
Youth football (11v11) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Districtwide deficit of 0.5 pitches. ● Four sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Changing improvements needed at two sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convert spare capacity at existing adult football pitches to overcome the youth 11v11 deficit. ● Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brockington College - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Meadows Sports Ground - Winston Avenue Sports Ground ● Make changing improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows.
Youth football (9v9) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Districtwide deficit of one pitch. ● Six sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Changing improvements needed at four sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convert spare capacity at existing adult football pitches to overcome the youth 9v9 deficit. ● Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brockington College - Cosby Recreation Ground - Glenfield Sports Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Whetstone Recreation Ground ● Make changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosby Recreation Ground - Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground - Leicester Road Recreation Ground - Mossdale Meadows
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs and no sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Changing improvements needed at four sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<p>Make changing improvements at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cosby Recreation Ground ● Mossdale Meadows ● Oakfield Park ● Warwick Road recreation Ground
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs and no sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Changing improvements needed at four sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<p>Make changing improvements at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cosby Recreation Ground ● Kirby Muxloe Recreation Ground ● Mossdale Meadows ● Oakfield Park

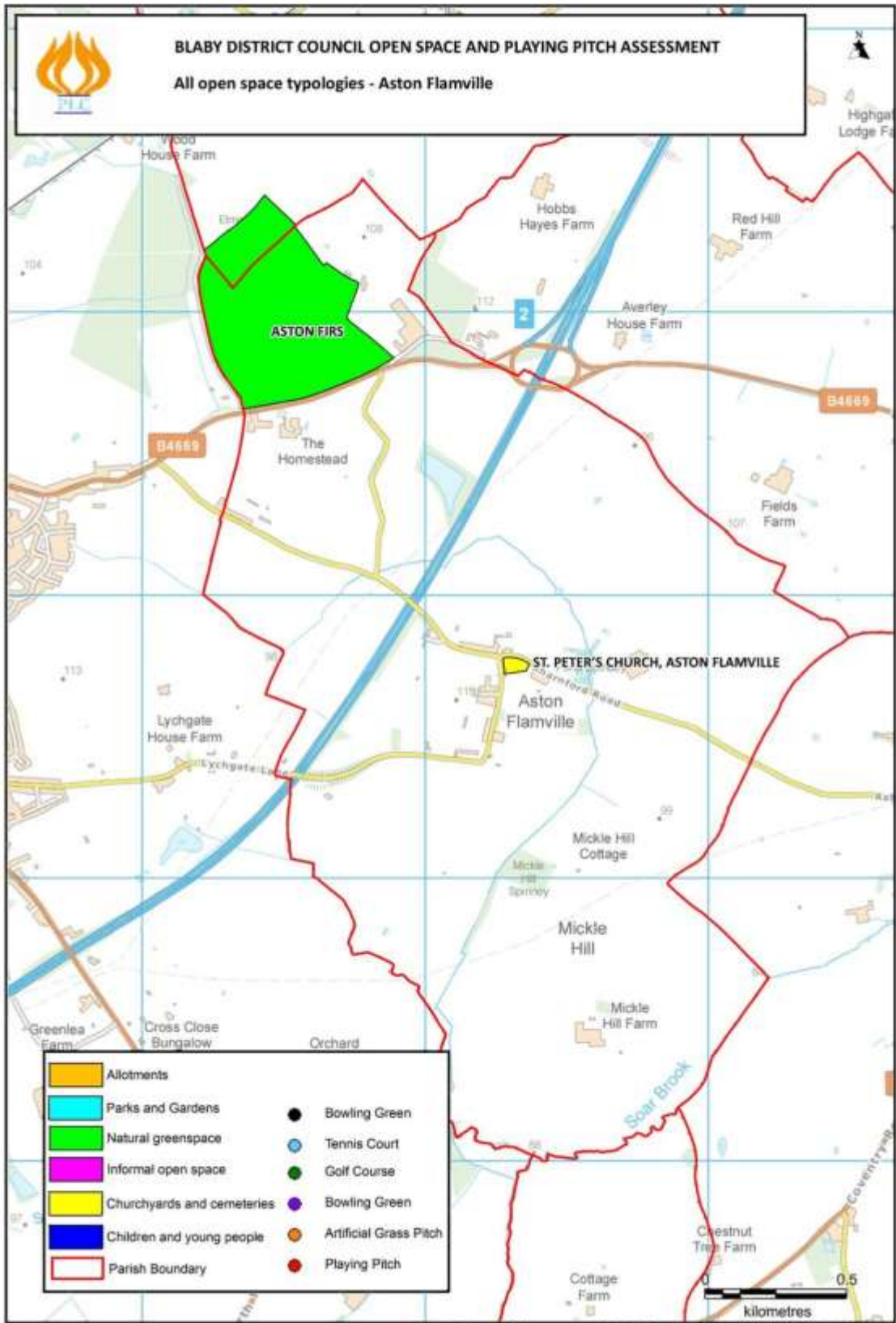
<i>Typology</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but two sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Pitch quality is poor at Northfield Park. ● Changing improvements needed at six sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve pitch quality at Northfield Park. ● Investigate the feasibility of developing additional pitch capacity or redeploying demand at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enderby Cricket Club - Thurlaston Sports Club ● Make changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosby Recreation Ground - Lissman Fields - Meadows Sports Ground - Northfield Park - Winstanley Community College - Winston Avenue Sports Ground
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two sites are operating above their sustainable capacity. ● Changing improvements needed at five sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate the feasibility of improved pitch drainage to increase capacity at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leicester Forest Rugby Club - Vipers Rugby Club ● Investigate the feasibility of providing or accessing a rugby-compliant '3G' pitch to accommodate residual unmet capacity. ● Make changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosby Recreation Ground - Old Newtonians Rugby Club - Vipers Rugby Club
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. ● No quality improvements needed. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required
'3G' football turf pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deficit equivalent to 2.35 pitches. ● No quality improvements needed. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate the feasibility of developing '3G' pitches in sub-areas with the greatest shortfall of grass pitches (Narborough and Whetstone). ● Investigate the feasibility of providing a rugby-compliant '3G' pitch as a means of jointly addressing football and rugby needs. ● Seek funding for the developments if the feasibility is proven.
Bowls greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. ● Disabled access improvements needed at three sites. ● No accessibility deficiency. 	<p>Make disabled access improvements at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Glenfield Bowls Club ● Narborough and District Bowls Club ● Shakespeare Park Bowls Club

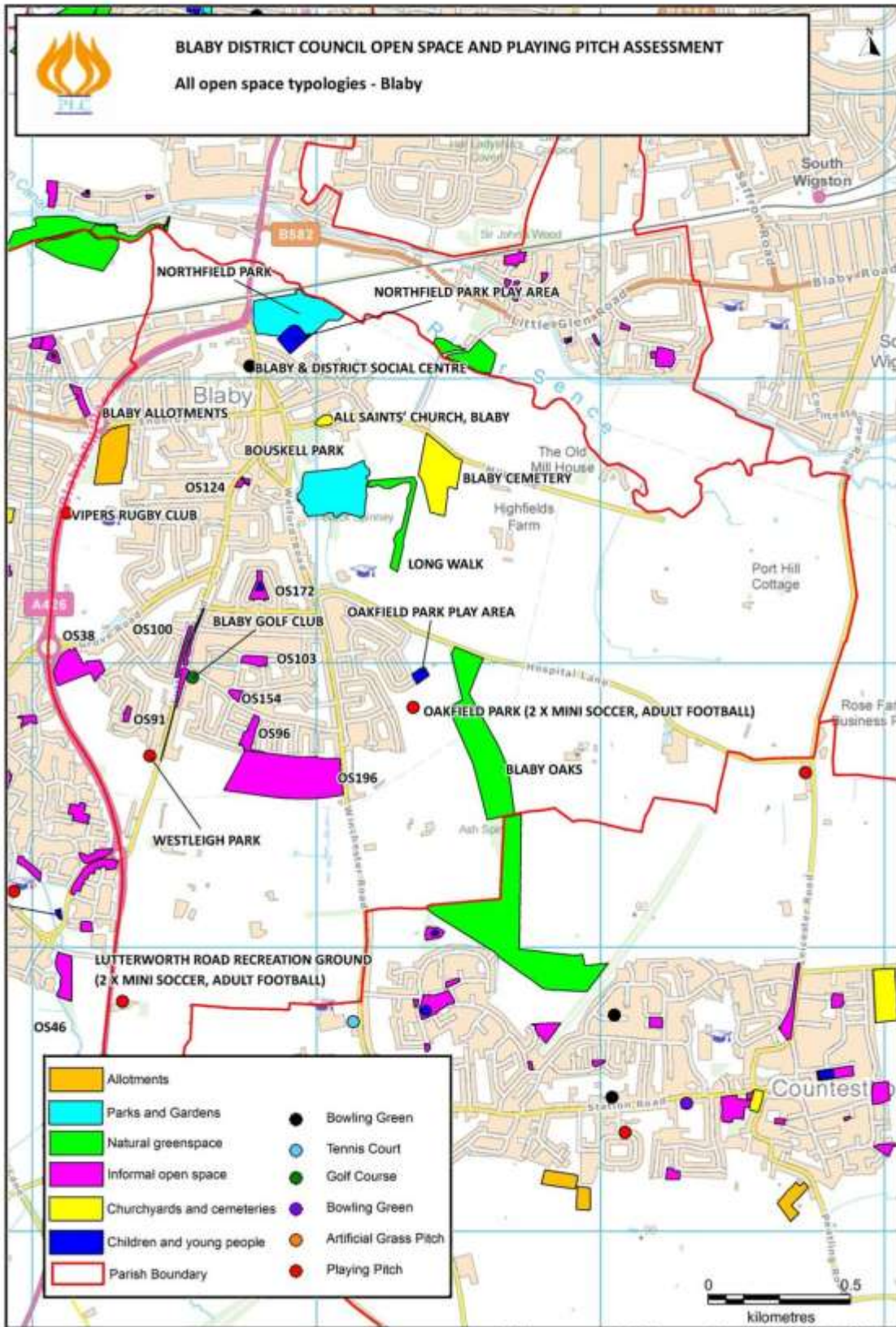
<i>Typology</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Court surface improvements needed at one site. • Changing improvements needed at two sites. • Access improvements needed at one site. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make court surface improvements at Shakespeare Park. • Make changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enderby Tennis Club - Thorpe Astley Tennis Club • Make access improvements at Enderby Tennis Club.
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required
Village and community halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but there are capacity issues in Huncote. • Sports capacity improvements needed at three sites, but there are no practical ways to achieve this. • General condition improvements needed at five sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of developing additional hall capacity in Huncote. • Make general condition improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Croft Community Centre - Huncote Community Centre - Narborough Parish Centre - Stoney Stanton Village Hall - Whetstone Memorial Hall

9.5 Provision for reviews

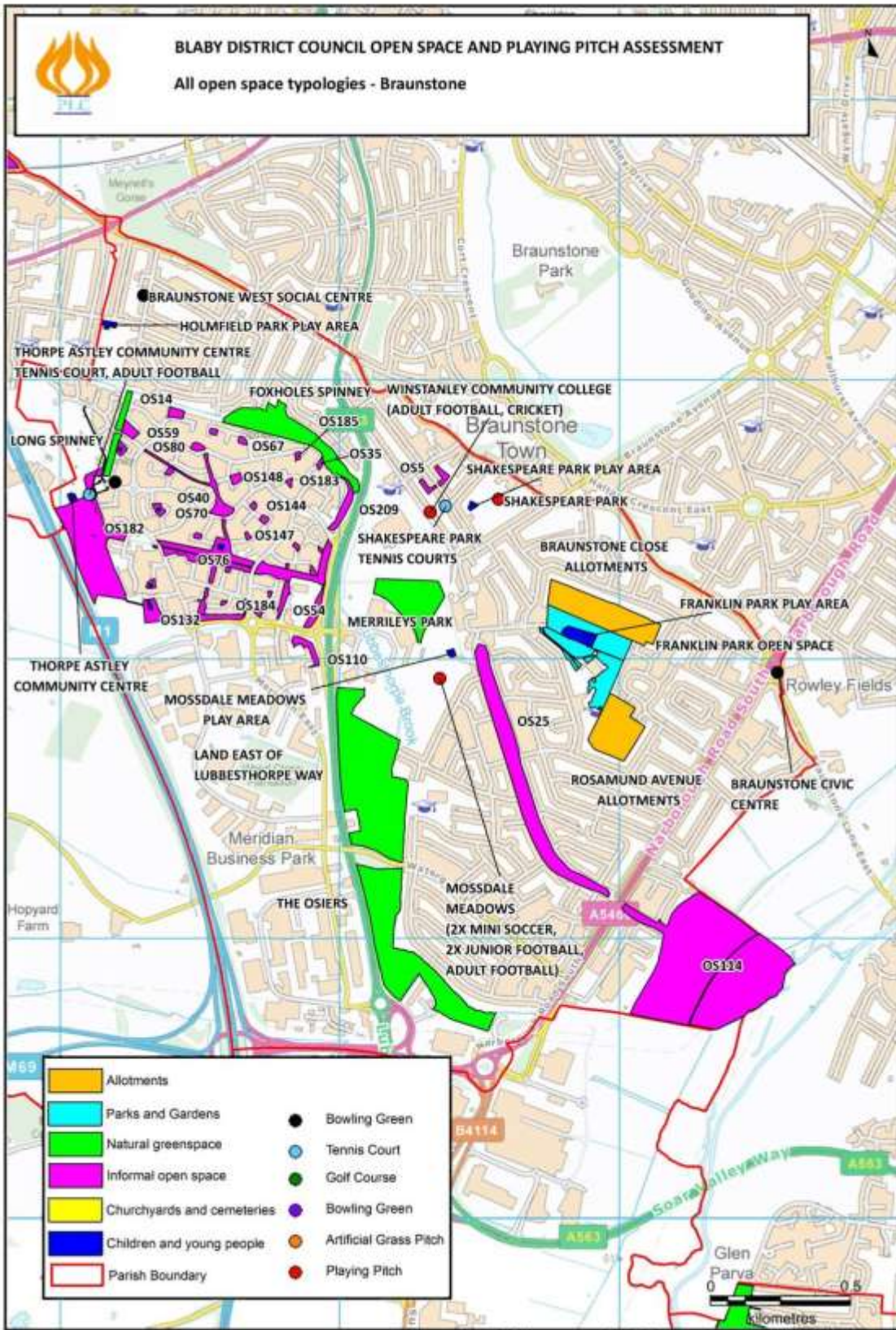
Because sport and physical activity is a rapidly changing environment, to ensure that the proposals in the strategy continue to address local needs and strategic priorities, the situation will be reviewed regularly.

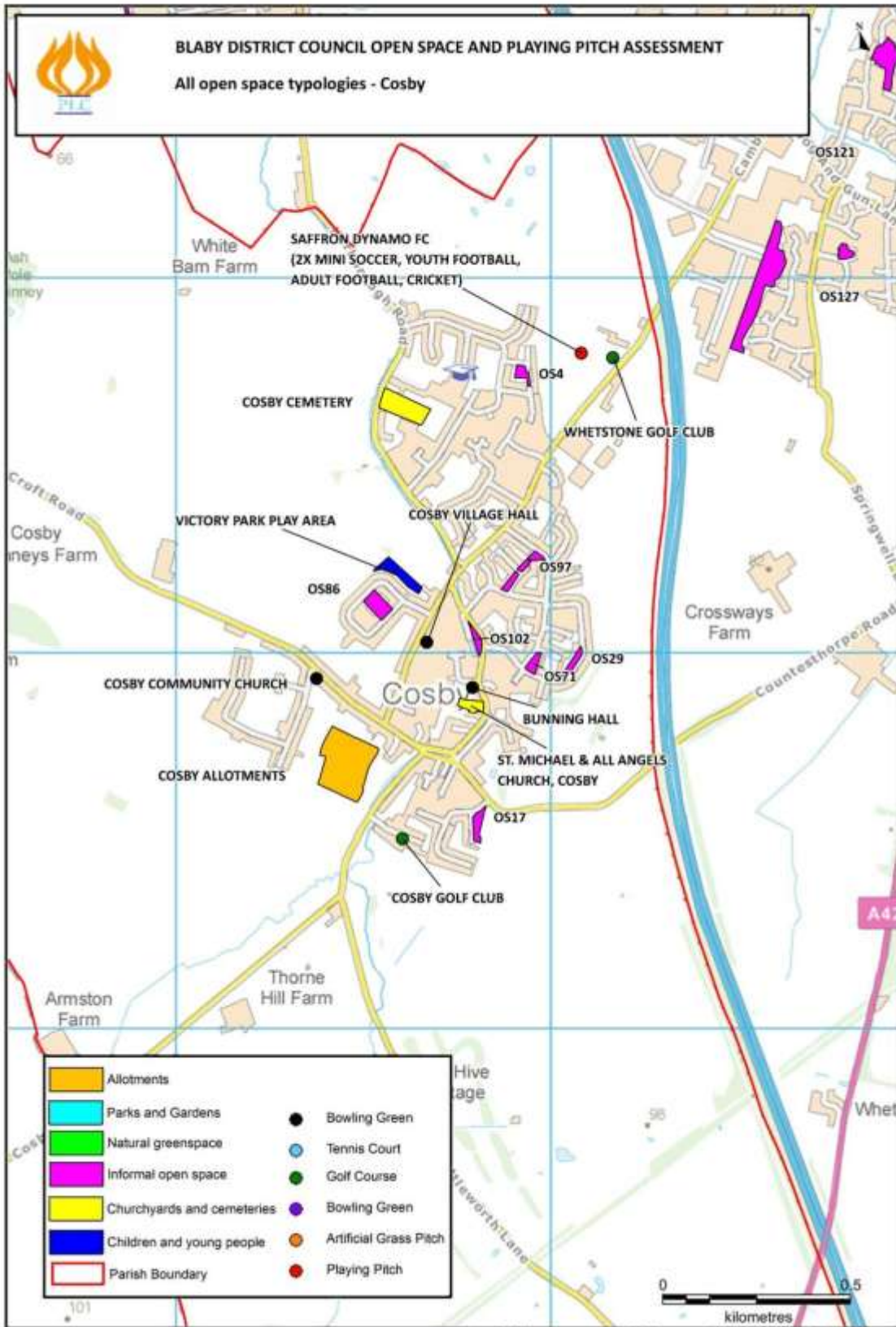
APPENDIX I
PARISH MAPS

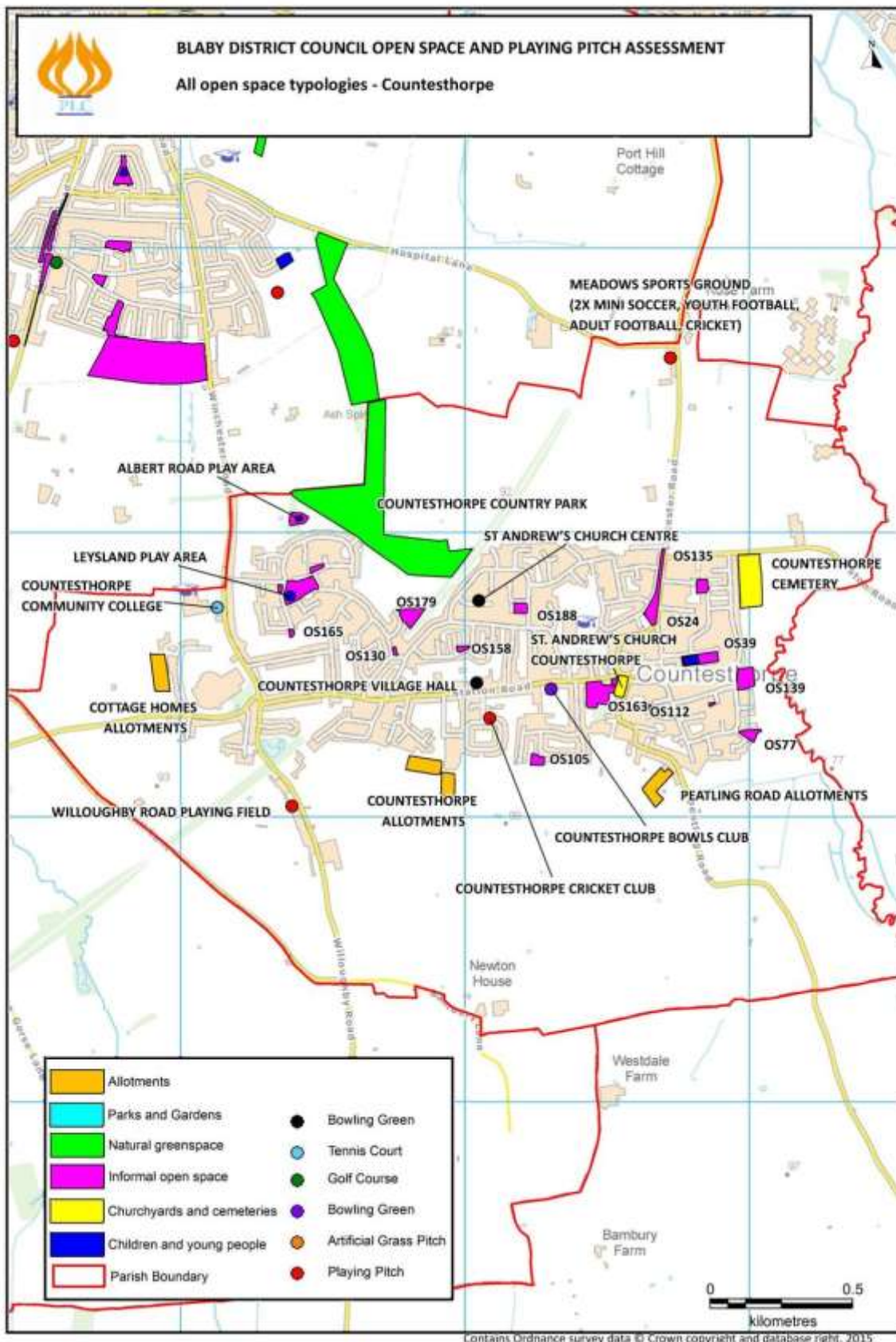


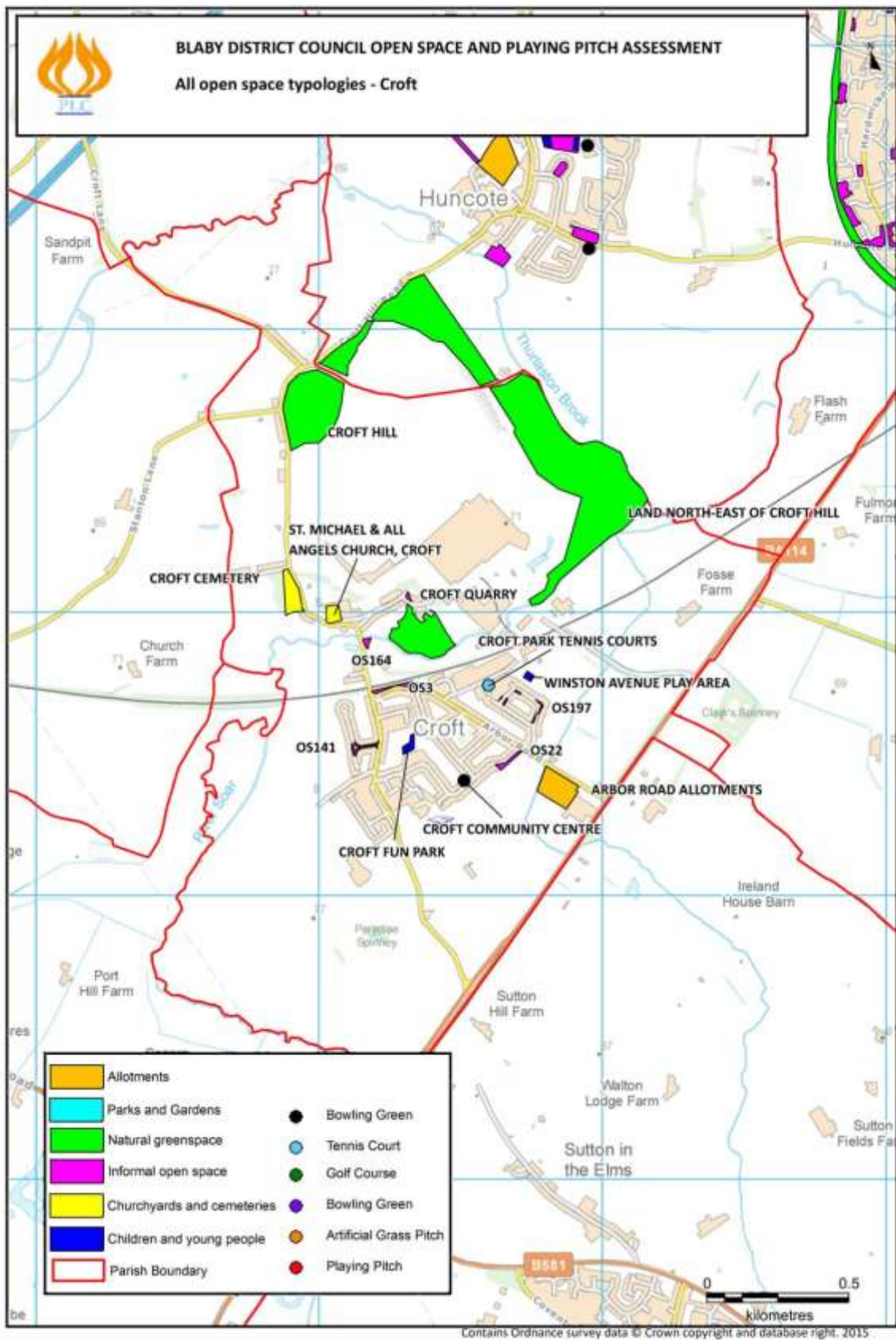


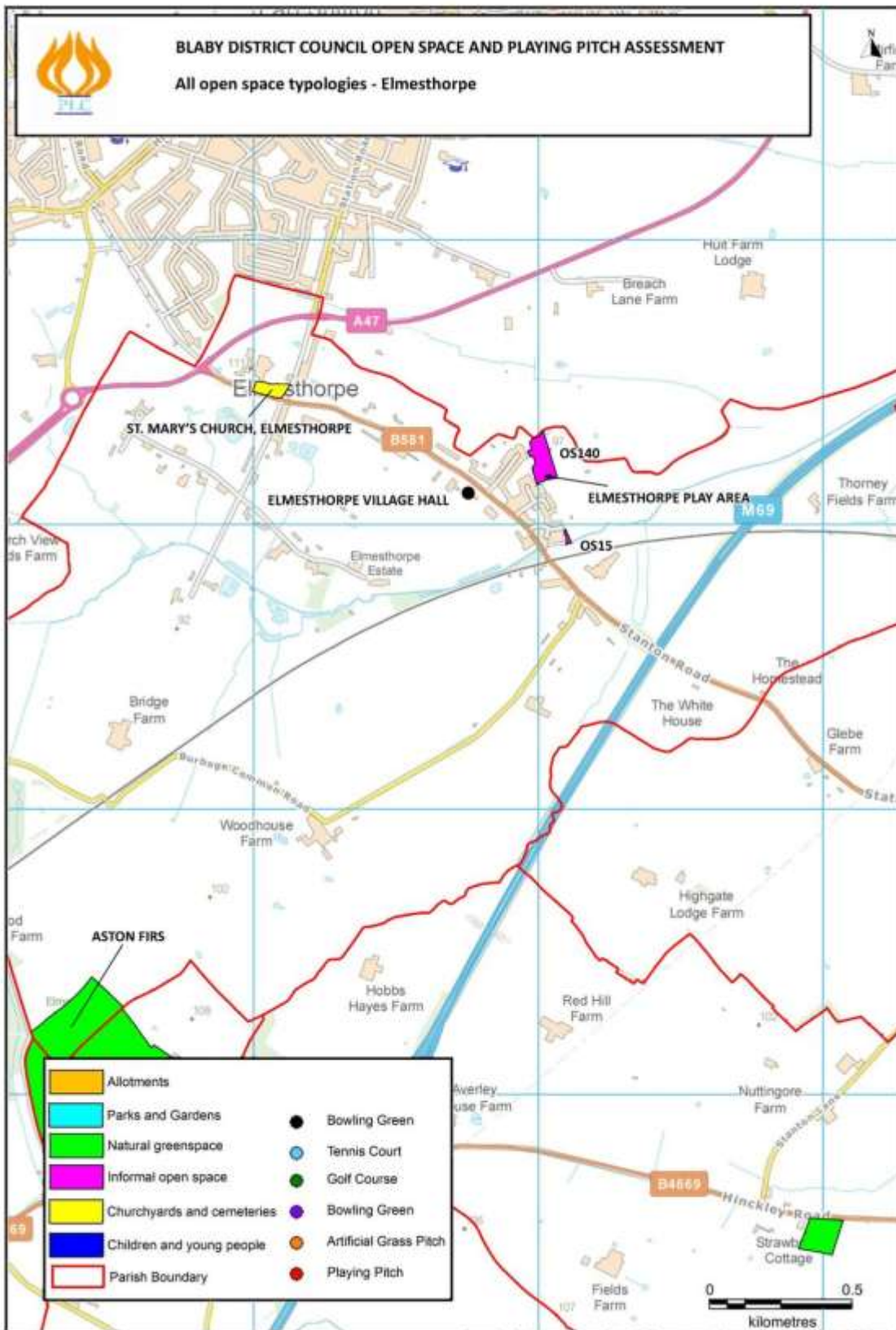
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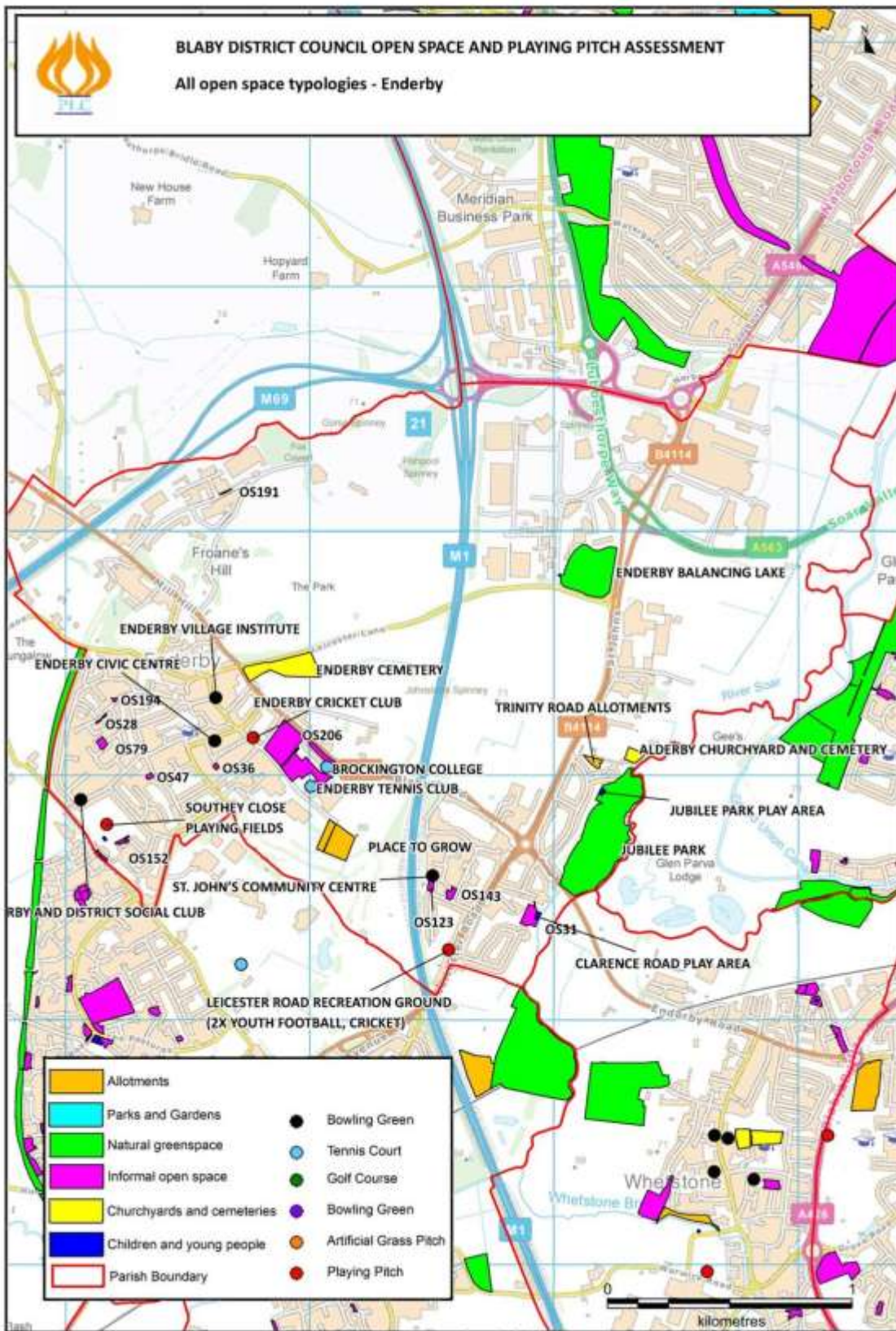


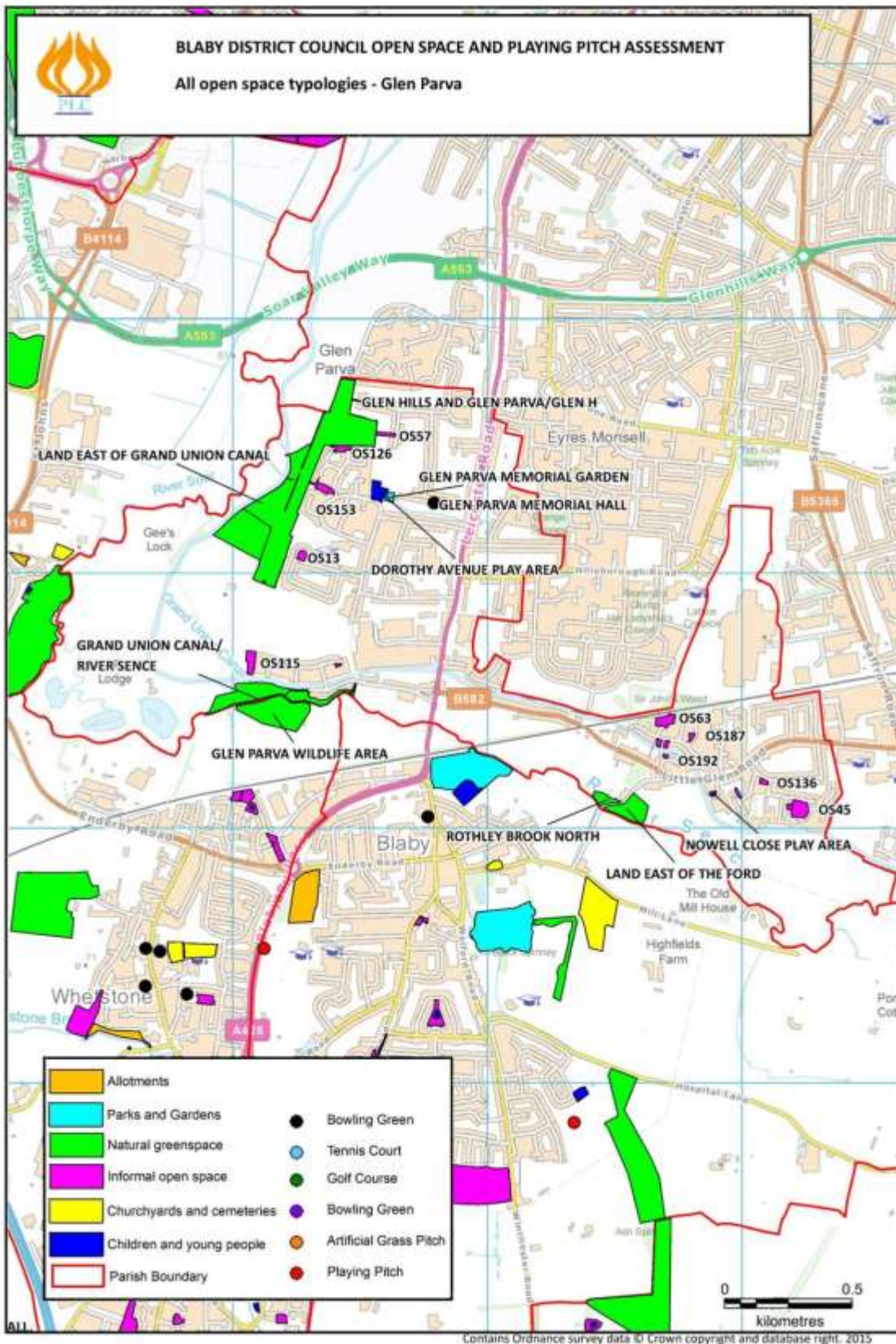


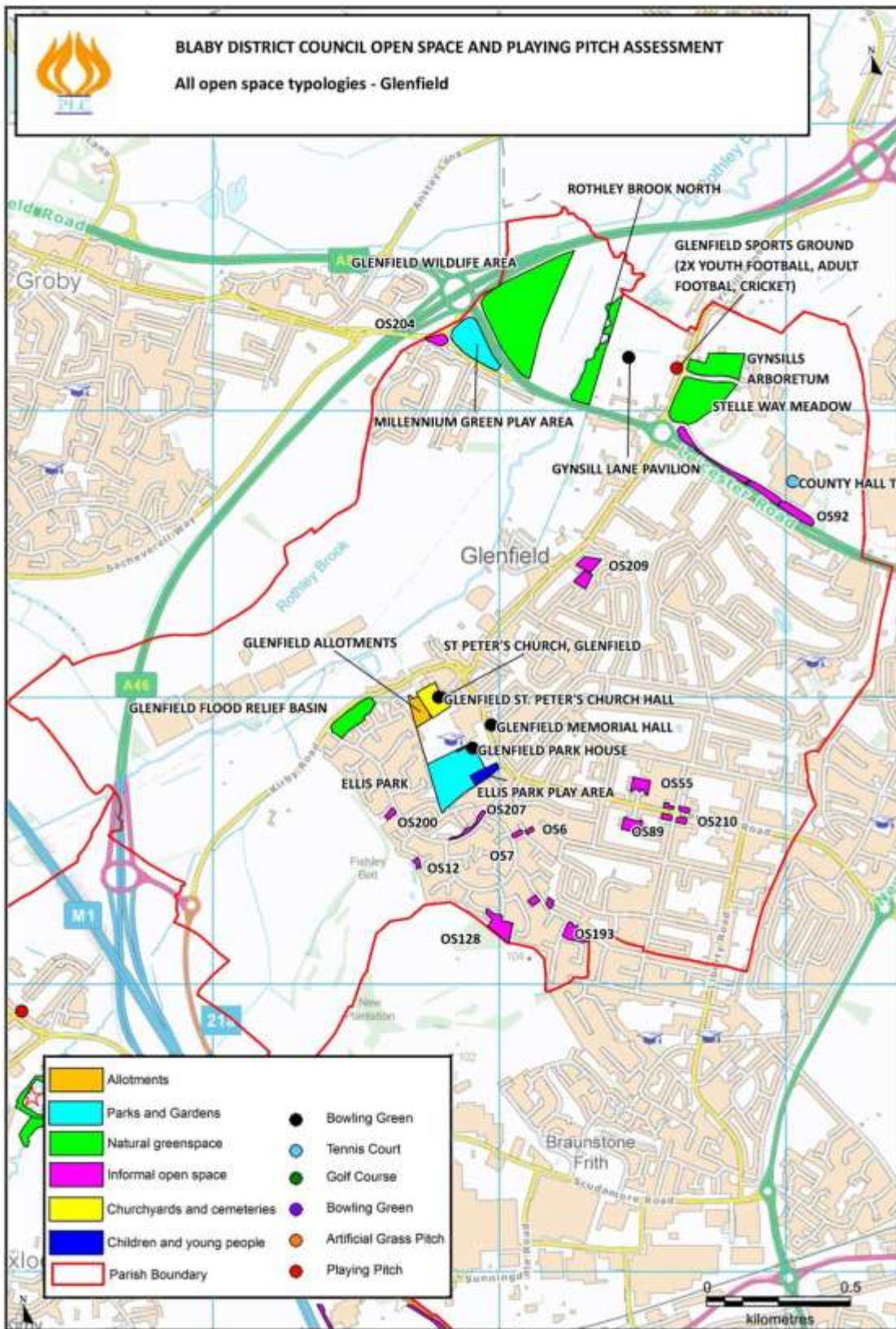


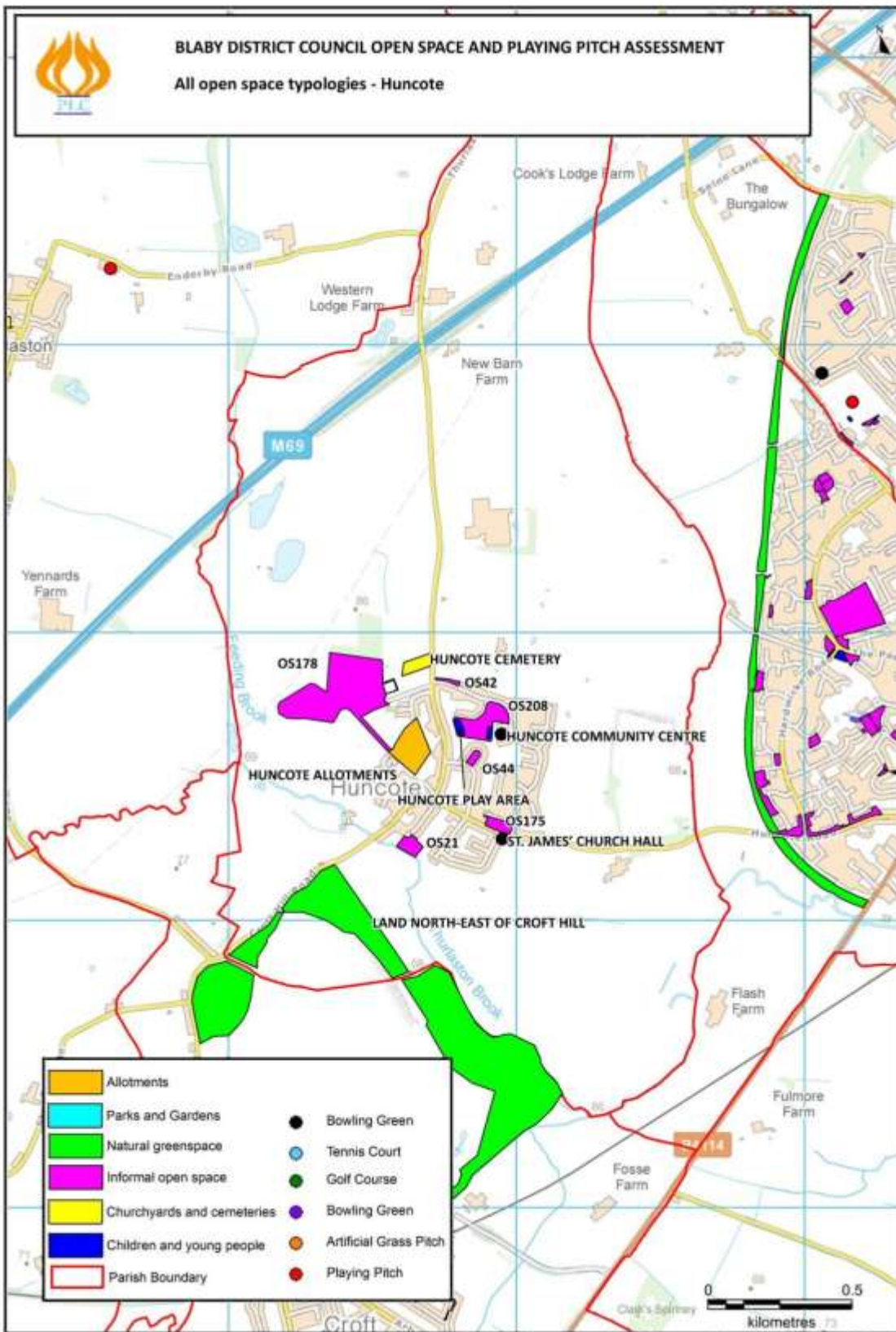


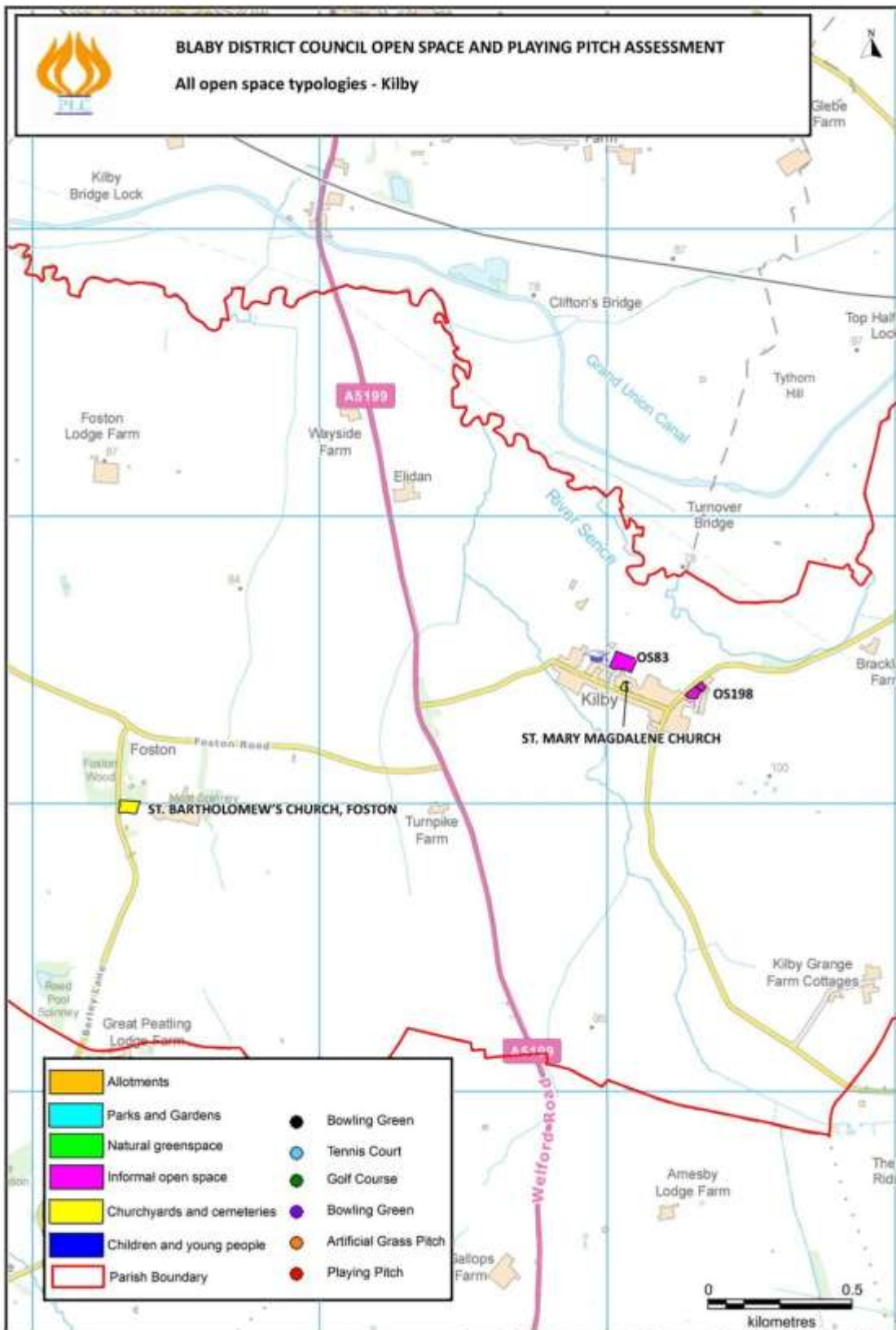


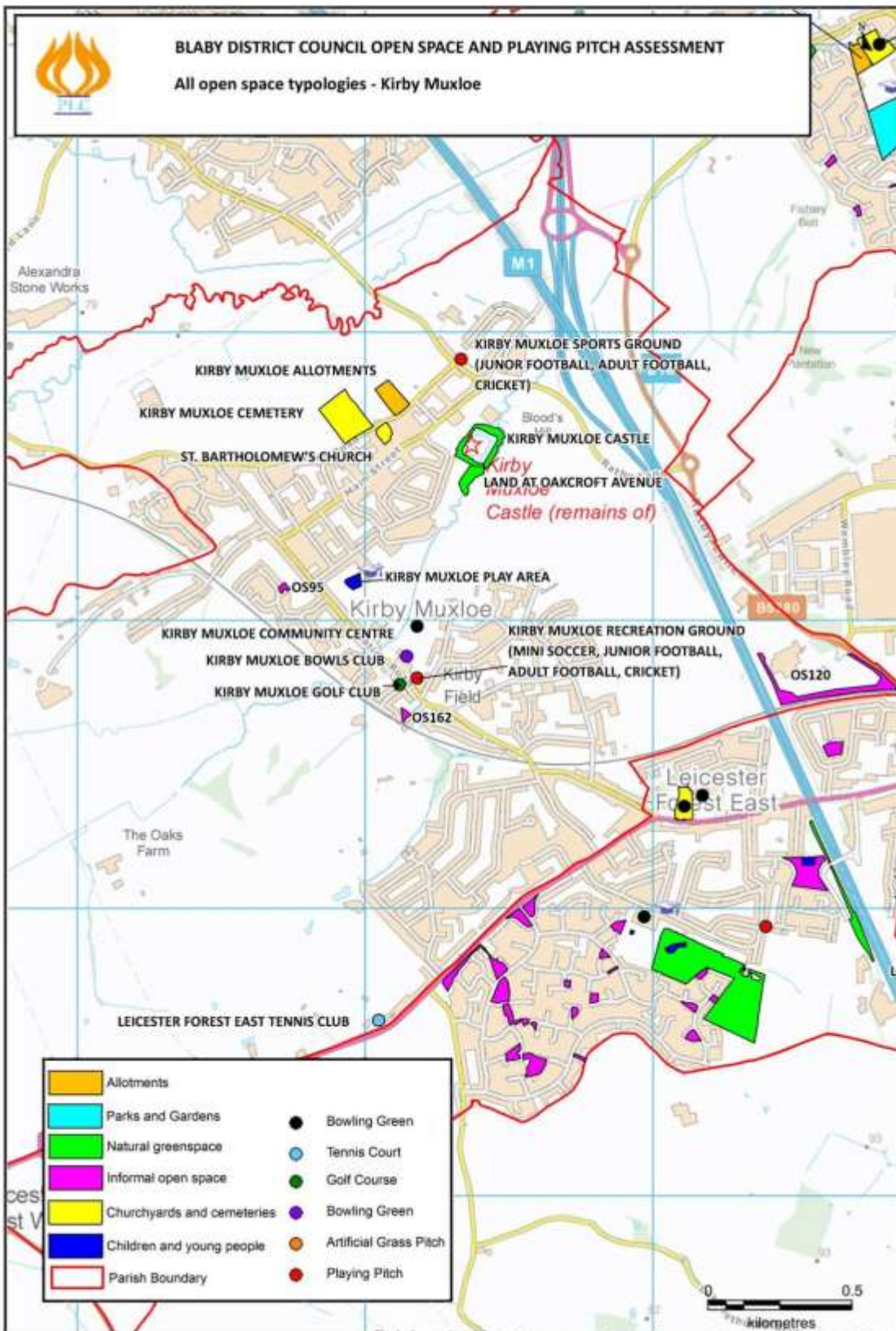


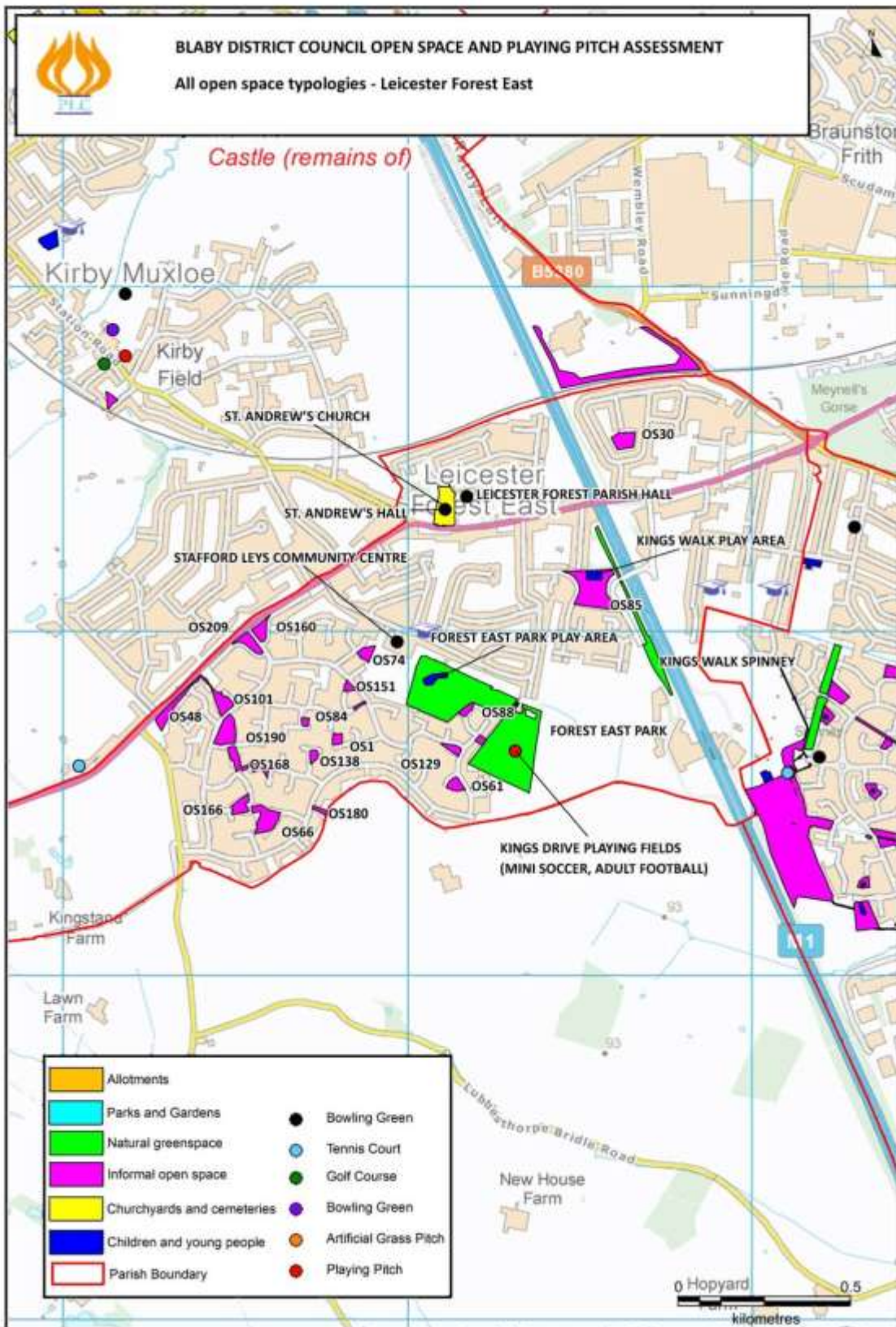


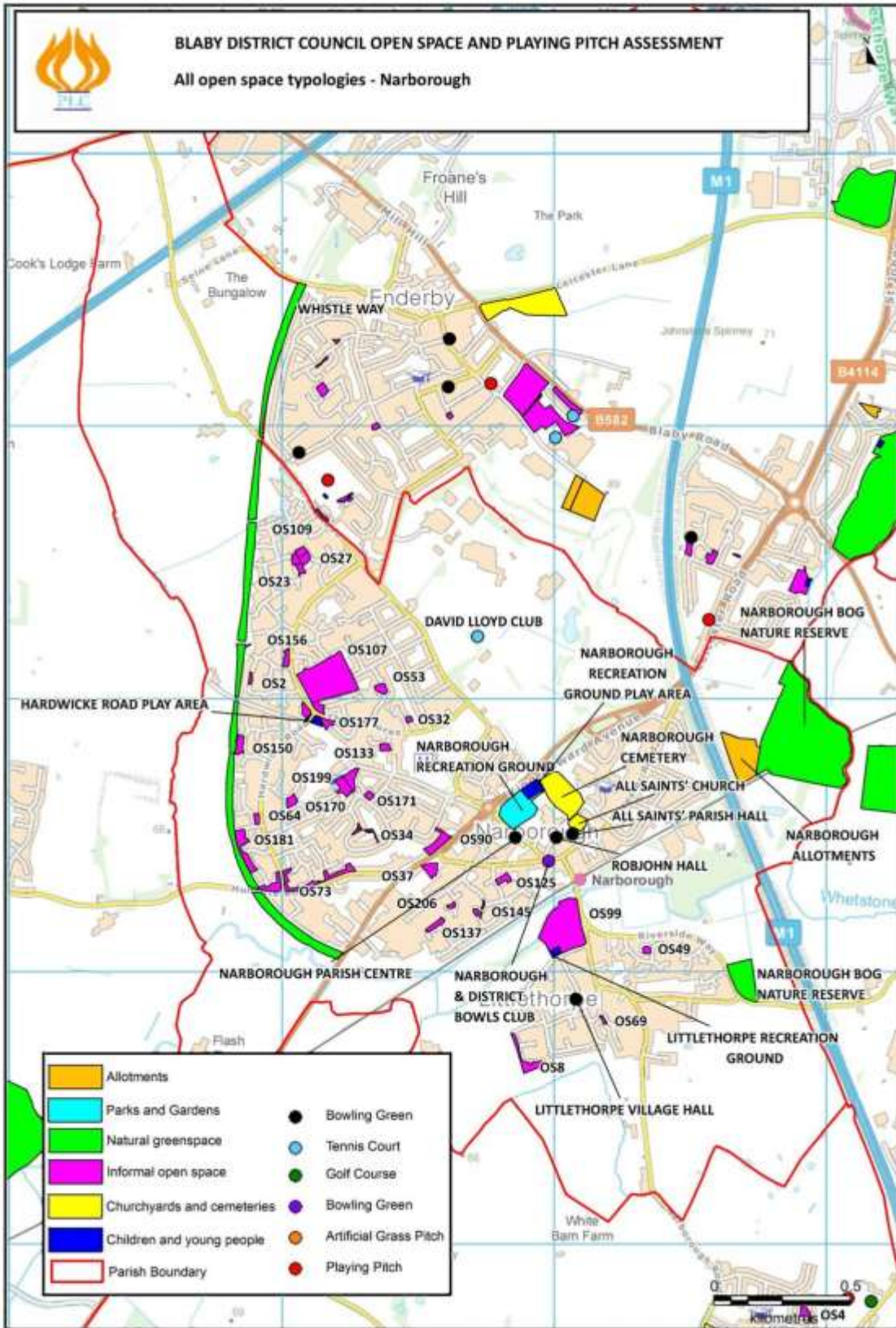


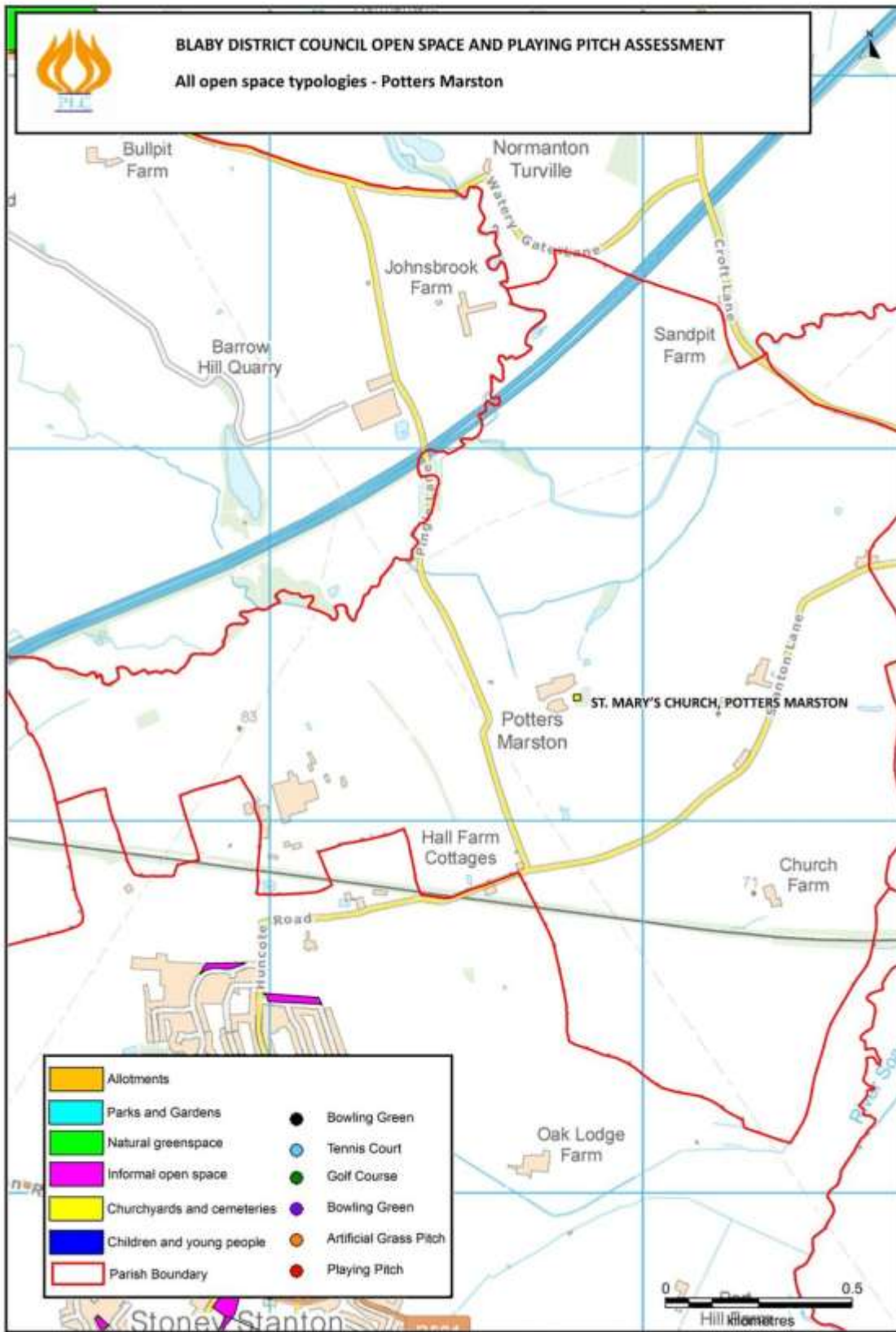


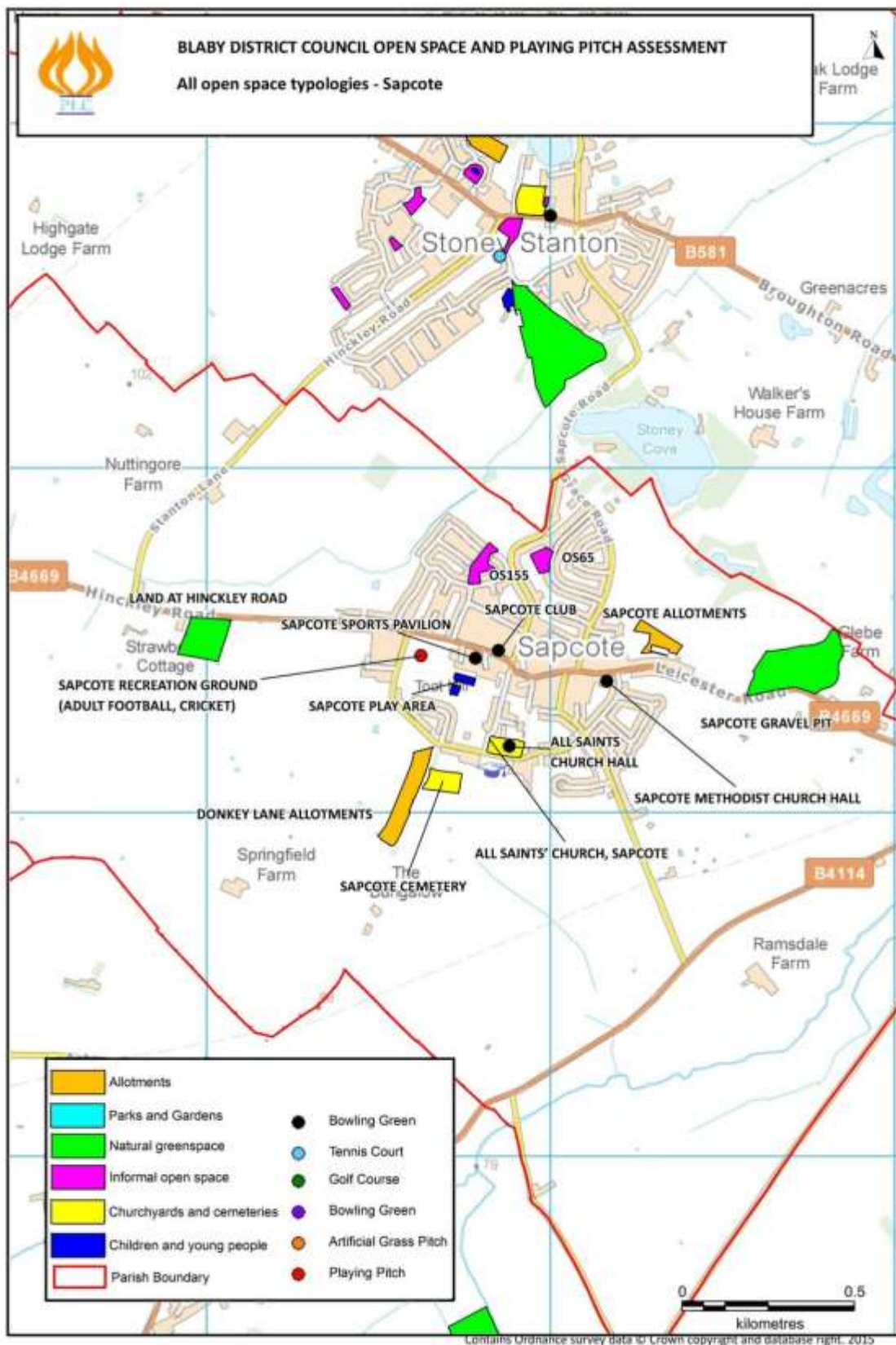


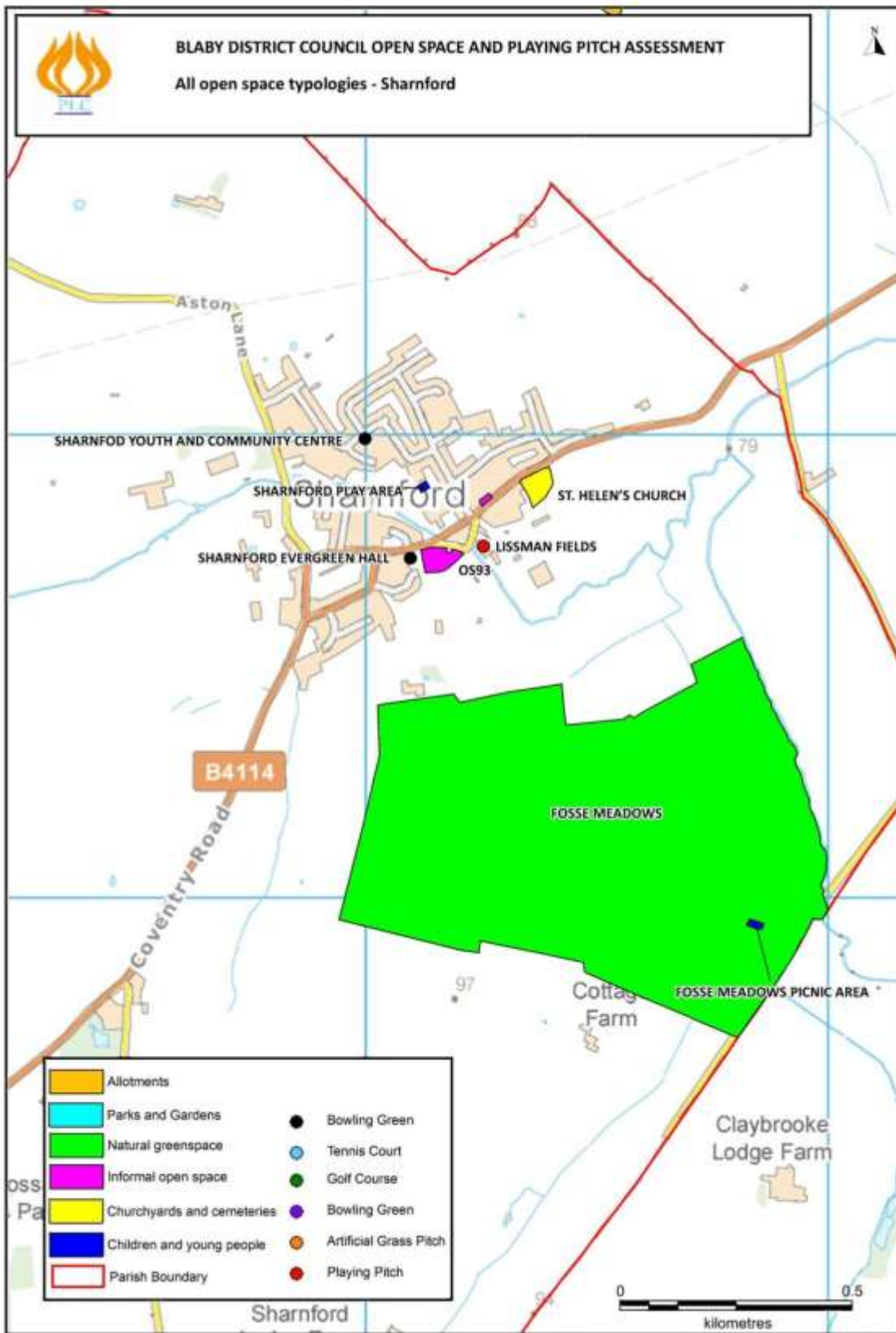


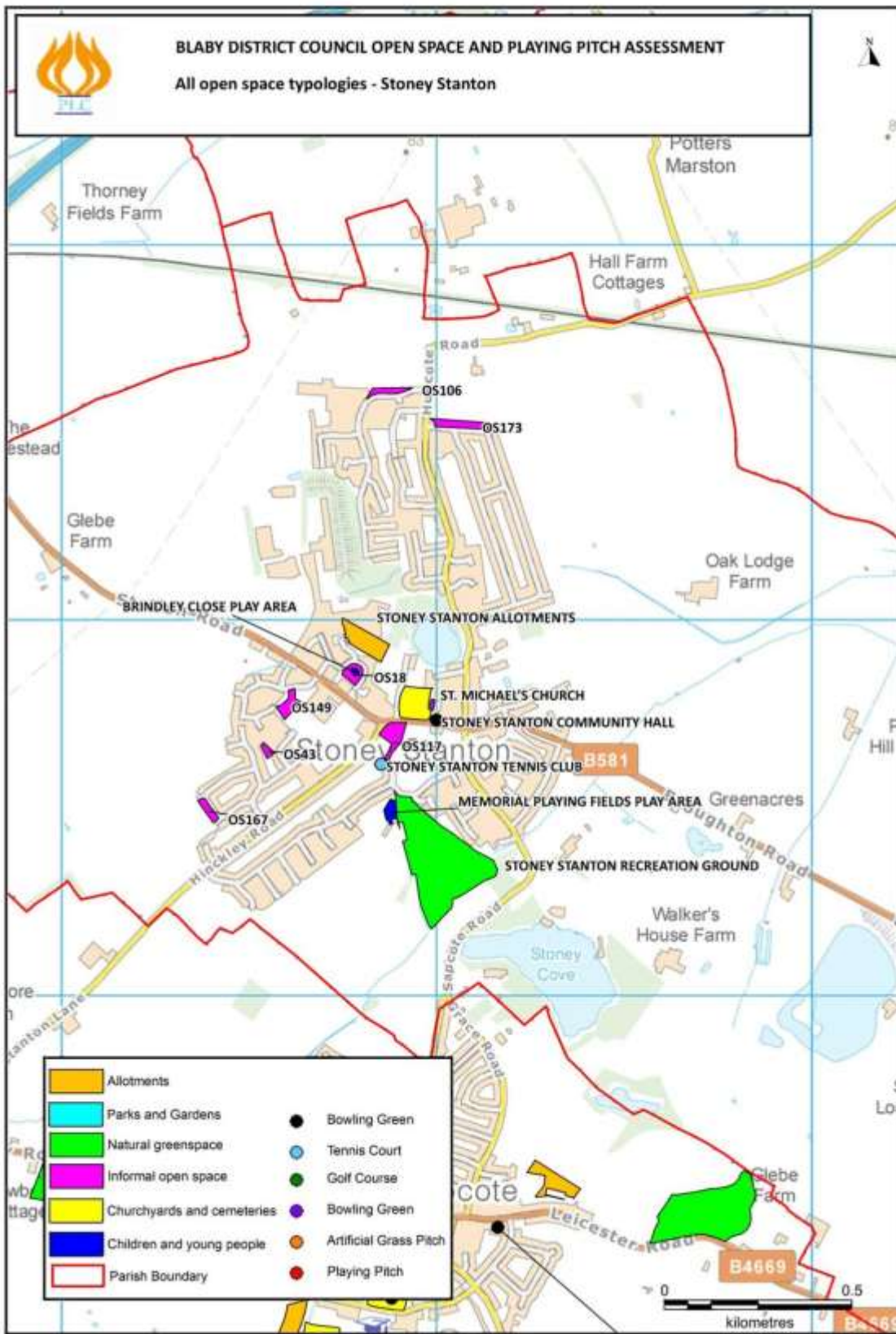


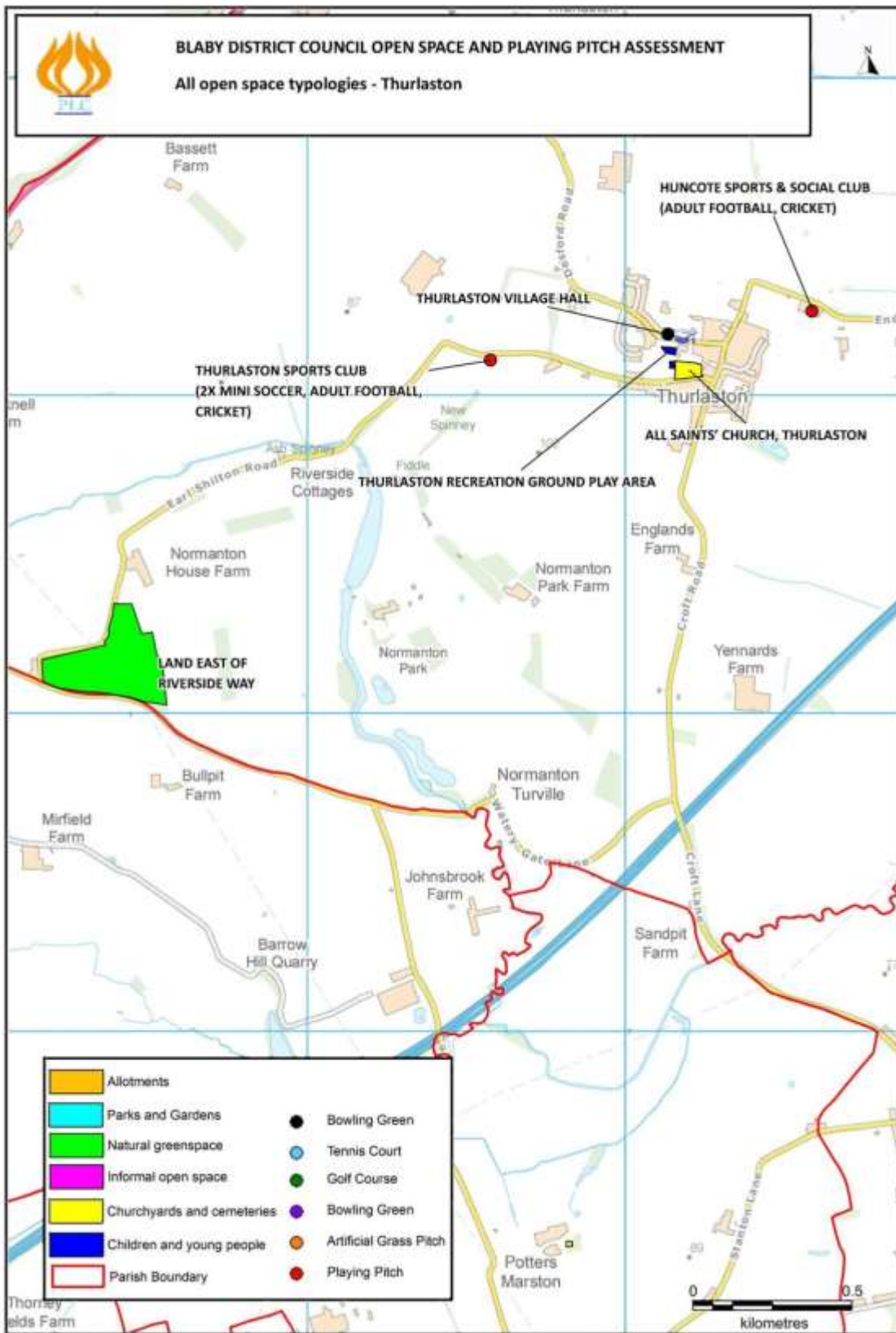


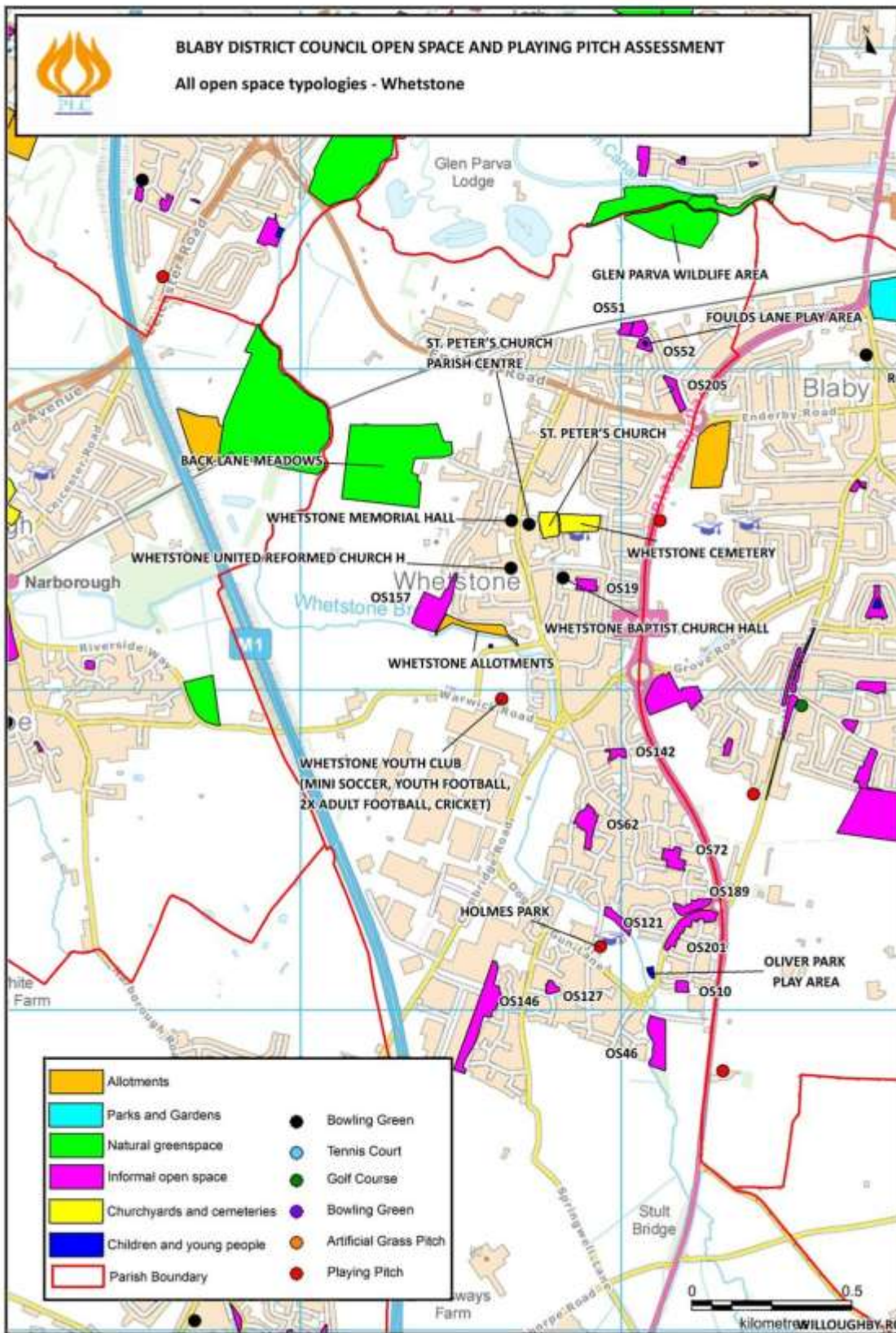


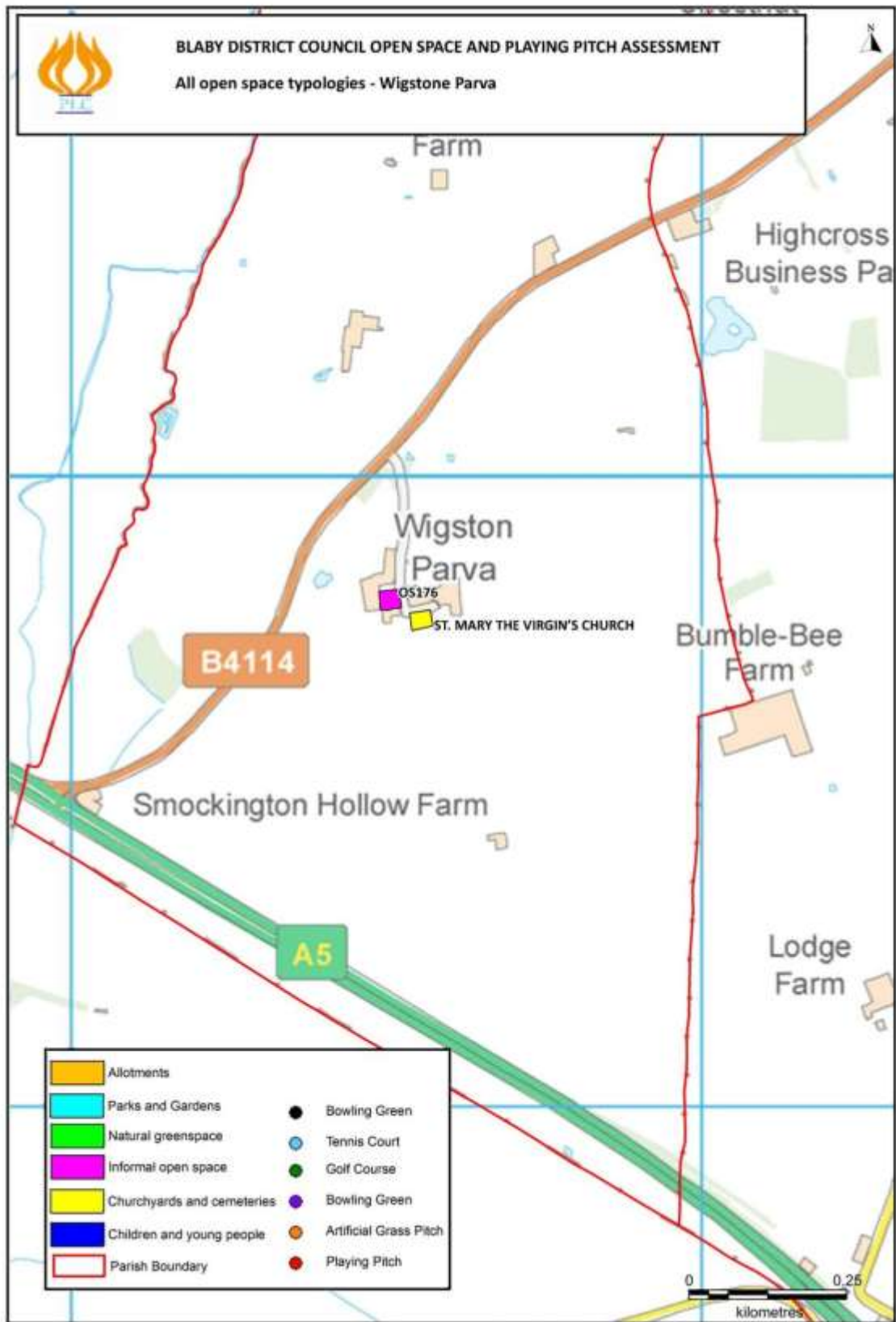












APPENDIX II
QUALITATIVE AUDIT METHODOLOGY

1) **PARKS AND GARDENS:**

a) **Main entrance:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Easy to find with a welcome/advisory sign, appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well-maintained and inviting.	5
Above Average	Appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well-maintained and inviting.	4
Average	Obvious, open, inviting, adequately maintained and clean.	3
Below Average	Apparent as an entrance and clean.	2
Poor quality	Obscure as an entrance, dirty and poorly maintained.	1

b) **Site boundaries:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	All clearly defined and well-maintained.	5
Above Average	All clearly defined, maintenance 'patchy'.	4
Average	All clearly defined, maintenance 'patchy'.	3
Below Average	Mostly clearly defined, maintenance 'patchy'.	2
Poor quality	Poorly defined and poorly maintained.	1

c) **Roads, paths, cycleways and access:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well-defined, surfaces clean, debris and weed free and good disabled access throughout.	5
Above Average	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well-defined and disabled access in most areas.	4
Average	Suitable materials, level for safe use and some disabled access.	3
Below Average	Suitable materials but with some faults and poor disabled access.	2
Poor quality	Roads and paths in the correct place, but in need of obvious repair, disabled access poor and very restricted.	1

d) **Planted areas:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Numerous plants, with appropriate mix, installed and maintained to a high standard.	5
Above Average	Numerous plants, with appropriate mix, installed and maintained to a reasonable standard.	4
Average	Numerous plants, with appropriate mix of plants and 'patchy' maintenance.	3
Below Average	Limited range of plants, maintenance acceptable.	2
Poor quality	Limited planting with limited maintenance.	

e) **Grassed areas:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut.	5
Above Average	Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut, few weeds, grass cut frequently to keep it short.	4
Average	Full grass cover throughout main area but some thin patches evident, some bald areas discrete, grass cut frequently but length excessive between cuts, cut quality good.	3
Below Average	General grass cover patchy, with some bald areas, cut infrequently or at poor frequency, clippings obvious or cut quality poor.	2
Poor quality	General grass cover poor, wear has led to patchy/poor cover with little or no attempt to correct the problem, clippings obvious and cut quality poor.	1

f) **Litter bins:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Numerous and in good condition.	5
Above Average	Numerous and in average condition.	4
Average	Adequate number and in good/average condition.	3
Below Average	Insufficient number but in good condition.	2
Poor quality	Insufficient number and in poor condition.	1

g) **Seating:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Numerous for the size of site and in good condition.	5
Above Average	Numerous for the size of site and in average condition.	4
Average	Adequate number and in good/average condition.	3
Below Average	Insufficient seats but in good condition.	2
Poor quality	Insufficient seats and in poor condition.	1

h) **General cleanliness:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	No evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	5
Above Average	Very limited evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	4
Average	Some evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	3
Below Average	Substantial evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	2
Poor quality	Widespread evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	1

i) **Safety and security:**

High Quality	A very good sense of safety at all times, with excellent sight lines throughout the entire site, good lighting of appropriate areas and no obvious safety hazards.	5
Above Average	A good sense of safety at all times, with good sight lines throughout the site, reasonable lighting of appropriate areas and no obvious safety hazards.	4
Average	A reasonable sense of safety at all times, with good sight lines throughout most of the site and no obvious safety hazards.	3
Below Average	A reasonable sense of safety in daylight, with reasonable sight lines across some of the site and some limited safety hazards.	2
Poor quality	A poor sense of safety, with concealed areas throughout the site and several obvious safety hazards.	1

j) **Parking and general access:**

High Quality	Parking provided integral, or adjacent to, the green space, with adequate spaces, site clean, tidy in good condition and well sign posted.	5
Above Average	Parking provided integral, or adjacent to, the green space, with adequate spaces, but maintenance could be better.	4
Average	Parking provided integral, or adjacent to, the green space, with limited spaces and reasonable maintenance.	3
Below Average	Parking provided integral, or adjacent to, the green space, with limited spaces and poor maintenance.	2
Poor quality	Parking provision very limited.	1

2) **NATURAL GREENSPACE:**

The presence/absence of:

- Signposting to the site.
- Information board(s)/interpretation panel(s).
- Marked paths.
- Clear entrance.
- Dedicated car parking.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

High Quality	Complies with six/five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

3) **INFORMAL OPEN SPACE:**

The presence/absence of:

- General access.
- Grassed areas and planting.
- Marked paths.
- Seating.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

4) **CHILDREN'S PLAY:**

The presence/absence of:

- The variety, quantity and quality of the play equipment.
- Perimeter fencing and gates.
- Seats and litter bins.
- Disabled access.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

5) **ALLOTMENTS:**

The presence/absence of:

- Site boundaries fenced.
- Water supply on site to all plots.
- Secure sheds/huts provided.
- Toilets provided on site.
- Dedicated car parking.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

High Quality	Complies with six/ five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

6) **CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS:**

The presence/absence of:

- Paths.
- Grassed areas.
- Seats.
- Clear entrance.
- Dedicated car parking.
- Linkage to the wider green infrastructure network.

High Quality	Complies with six/ five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

7) FOOTBALL PITCHES

Element		Rating				
Playing surface						
Grass Cover	Good <80%	Adequate 60-80%	Poor >60%			
Does the pitch meet minimum size?					Yes	No
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)		Flat	Moderate	Poor		
Length of grass		Good	Too long	Too short		
Evenness of pitch		Good	Adequate	Poor		
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks		None	Yes - some	Yes - lots		
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/ damage to the surface		None	Yes - some	Severe		
Typical weekly usage (match equivalent sessions)		4 or less	5 to 7	8 plus		
Pitch facilities						
Are goalposts safe?					Yes	No
Is the site secure or open?		Secure	Open	Boundary fence		
Is the pitch floodlit?					Yes	No
Is there a perimeter rail around the pitch?					Yes	No
Is there a training area separate to the pitch(es)?					Yes	No
Is there a covered stand?					Yes	No
Ancillary facilities						
Is there a clubhouse on site?					Yes	No
Is there changing accommodation?					Yes	No
Total number of changing rooms						
Quality of the changing (exterior)			Good	Adequate	Poor	
Quality of changing (interior)			Good	Adequate	Poor	
Are the showers communal or self contained?			Communal	Self contained		
Is there access to spectator toilets?		More than 5	1 to 4	None		
Are the toilets for players self contained?			Communal	Self contained		
Is there an officials changing room ?					Yes	No
Is there a dedicated medical room?					Yes	No
Are accessible (DDA compliant) facilities provided?					Yes	No
Is appropriate car parking available?					Yes	No
Maintenance programme Are any of the items applied to the pitches?						
Sand			Yes	No	Not known	
Seed			Yes	No	Not known	
Feed			Yes	No	Not known	
Weed kill			Yes	No	Not known	
Pitch maintenance How often a year is each carried out?						
Aerated		three or more times	twice	once	never	Not known
Sand dressed		three or more times	twice	once	never	Not known
Fertilised		three or more times	twice	once	never	Not known
Weed killed		three or more times	twice	once	never	Not known
Chain harrowed		three or more times	twice	once	never	Not known
Drainage type		Natural (adequate)	Pipe and slit drained		natural (inadequate)	
Pipe Drained			Unknown			

8) CRICKET PITCHES

Element	Rating			Guidance notes
About the cricket outfield				
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	<80% is below ECB basic standard
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 12mm - 25mm
Evenness	Even	Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required e.g .informal, casual use.	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required eg from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc.	
Artificial Wickets				
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes	No	There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even	Uneven	There should be no contours in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes	No	Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes	No	There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes	No	If "yes" contact site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes	No	If "yes" contact site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes	No		
Grass Wickets				
Presence of line markings	Yes	No		
Evidence of rolling	Yes	No	i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform	
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes	No	3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No		
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No	Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80%> = No	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface bounce?	Yes	No		
Changing/ Pavilion				
Umpires provision	Yes	No		
Toilets	Yes	No		
Hot/cold water	Yes	No		
Heating	Yes	No		
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention	
Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets				
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes	No		
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even	Uneven		
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes	No		
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes	No		
No rips or surface lifting	Yes	No		
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes	No		
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes	No		
Is the steel frame/ posts upright?	Yes	No		
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes	No		
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes	No		
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes	No		
Is appropriate safety/ supervisory signage present?	Yes	No		

9) **RUGBY PITCHES:**

Qualitative information (gathered on site)				
Grass Coverage	Good	Adequate	Poor	
Size of pitch	Acceptable		Not acceptable	
Length of grass	Too Long	Good	Too short	
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None	Yes - some	Yes lots	
Are goalposts installed?			Yes	No
Is there any obvious danger on posts?			Yes	No
Are the posts stable in the ground?			Yes	No
Is the crossbar fixed securely?			Yes	No
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?			Yes	No
Is the pitch floodlit?			Yes	No
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?			Yes	No
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?			Yes	No
Aerated (per year)	three or more times	twice	once	never
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times	twice	once	never
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times	twice	once	never
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times	twice	once	never
Chain harrowed	every week	fortnightly	monthly	never

10) **SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES:**

Element	Rating			
	less than 2 years	2-5 years	5-10 years	over 10 years
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)		None	Yes - some	Yes - lots
Loose gravel (macadam surface)		None	Yes - some	Yes - lots
Holes or rips in surface		None	Yes - some	Yes - lots
Grip underfoot		Good	Adequate	Poor
Line markings - quality		Good	Adequate	Poor
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter		None	Yes - some	Yes - lots
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use		None	Yes - some	Yes - lots
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface		None	Yes - some	Yes - lots
Access for disabled players. i.e. width of gates		Good	Adequate	Poor
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals		Good	Adequate	Poor
Surrounding fencing		Good	Adequate	Poor
Adequate safety margins (where appropriate)		Yes - fully	Adequate	Inadequate
Is the AGP floodlit?			Yes	No
Is the AGP left open at all times?			Yes	No
Are there dug outs?			Yes	No
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?			Yes	No
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?			Yes	No

11) **BOWLS GREENS:**

a) **Playing surface:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	An entirely flat surface with uniform grass cover and regulation banks and ditches.	5
Above Average	An effectively flat surface with almost uniform grass cover and regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter.	4
Average	An effectively flat surface with wear around the ends of each rink and regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter.	3
Below Average	A slightly uneven surface with some wear and non-regulation banks and ditches.	2
Poor quality	A significantly uneven surface, with non-uniform, worn grass cover and non-regulation banks and ditches.	1

b) **Pavilion/changing facilities:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	On-site facilities with social area, separate male, female and disabled changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	5
Above Average	On-site facilities with social area and male and female changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	4
Average	On-site facilities with limited social area and changing facilities, adequately maintained and cleaned.	3
Below Average	Some limited on-site changing facilities, poorly maintained and cleaned.	2
Poor quality	No on-site changing facilities.	1

c) **Disabled access:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Full disabled access throughout the site and provision of a ramp to the green, dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.	5
Above Average	Disabled access to all key areas of the site, including a ramp to the green dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.	4
Average	Disabled access to most of the site, including a ramp to the green, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities and no ramp to the green.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities.	1

d) **Car parking and general access:** Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

		Score
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

12) **TENNIS COURTS:**

a) **Playing surface:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	An entirely flat, non-slip surface with accurate line markings for tennis.	5
Above Average	An effectively flat, non-slip surface with accurate line markings for tennis.	4
Average	A reasonably flat surface, non-slip with appropriate footwear with line markings for tennis.	3
Below Average	An uneven surface, with some cracks and slippery when wet, with limited line markings for tennis.	2
Poor quality	A very uneven, frequently slippery surface, with many cracks/holes and with limited line markings for tennis.	1

b) **Fencing of the courts:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Playing area fully enclosed by a high surrounding fence in good repair, with lockable gate.	5
Above Average	Playing area fully enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair.	4
Average	Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair.	3
Below Average	Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in poor repair.	2
Poor quality	No perimeter fence	1

c) **Disabled access:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Full disabled access to the court(s), including adequate width access gates and a level or ramped paved path to any changing facilities.	5
Above Average	Full disabled access to the court(s), including adequate width access gates and a paved path to any changing facilities.	4
Average	Full disabled access to the court(s), including adequate width access gates but no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access to the court(s) due to adequate width access gates and no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access to the court(s) - access gate width is too narrow, steps up to the track and no dedicated path to any changing facilities.	1

d) **Car parking and general access:** Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

13) **GOLF COURSES:**

a) **The course:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	An 18-hole course, with high-quality greens and fairways.	5
Above Average	An 18-hole course, with good-quality greens and fairways.	4
Average	A 9-hole course, with high-quality greens and fairways.	3
Below Average	A 9-hole course, with reasonable quality greens and fairways.	2
Poor quality	An 18 or 9-hole course, with poor-quality greens and fairways.	1

b) **Clubhouse/changing facilities:**

High Quality	On-site facilities with social area, separate male, female and disabled changing facilities, well maintained and cleaned.	5
Above Average	On-site facilities with social area and male and female changing facilities, well-maintained and cleaned.	4
Average	On-site facilities with limited social area and changing facilities, adequately maintained and cleaned.	3
Below Average	Some limited on-site changing facilities, poorly maintained and cleaned.	2
Poor quality	No on-site changing facilities.	1

c) **Disabled access:**

Rating	Definition	Score
High Quality	Full disabled access throughout, dedicated disabled toilet and changing.	5
Above Average	Disabled access to all key areas, dedicated disabled toilet and changing.	4
Average	Disabled access to most of the site, dedicated disabled toilet and changing.	3
Below Average	Limited disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities.	2
Poor quality	No disabled access with no dedicated disabled facilities.	1

d) **Car parking and general access:** Presence/absence of:

- Dedicated car parking.
- Number of spaces meets Sport England standards.
- Dedicated spaces for mums/toddlers and disabled.
- Good signposting.
- Adequate lighting levels over the whole area.

Rating		Score
High Quality	Complies with all five of the criteria	5
Above Average	Complies with four of the criteria	4
Average	Complies with three of the criteria	3
Below Average	Complies with two of the criteria	2
Poor quality	Complies with one or none of the criteria	1

14) **VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALLS:**

a) **Sports capacity:** The capacity of the halls to accommodate a wide range of sport and physical activity, which was scored as follows:

- **Provision for formal sport** - Including dedicated sports facilities and markings and changing rooms. These were given a rating of 5 or 4.
- **Available for informal activities** - The provision of a space which can be used for exercise classes such as yoga or aerobics. These were given a rating of 3.
- **Not available for physical activity but with meeting space** - These were given a rating of 2.
- **Social Clubs** - These were given a rating of 1

b) **The overall quality and condition of the building:** The numerical scores equate to 'High Quality' for a 5, 'Above Average' for a 4, 'Average' for a 3, 'Below Average' for a 2 and 'Poor Quality' for a 1.