



DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE STUDY ASSESSMENT REPORT

JULY 2019

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Glossary

AGS	Amenity greenspace
DBC	Dacorum Borough Council
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
Herts IQ	Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter
HSPAP	Herts Sports and Physical Activity Partnership
JSP	Joint Strategic Plan
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LAP	Local Area of Play
LDF	Local Development Framework
LEAP	Local Equipped Area of Play
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play
NPFA	National Playing Fields Association
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RoSPA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
SADC	St Albans and City District Council
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been jointly commissioned by three of the South West Herts group of local authorities (Three Rivers District Council, Dacorum Borough Council and Hertsmere Borough Council) to produce an Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study which includes production of an Open Space Study Assessment and Standards Paper for each of the local authority areas.

The Open Space Study Assessment and Standards Paper forms one part of the inter-related project that also includes a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy (ISFS) for each of the local authority areas.

The studies will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions on future strategic planning and any investment priorities for open spaces, indoor and outdoor sports facilities across each of the areas. It will also inform the preparation of the individual Local Plans and inform the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan.

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Dacorum Borough Council (DBC). It provides detail with regard to what open space provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. This document sets out the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping undertaken as part of this study.

The study also considers the future requirements for provision based upon population distribution, planned growth and findings. The accompanying Standards Paper will give direction on the future provision of accessible and high-quality open spaces.

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

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries and churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Green Corridors	Routes which provide for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. May also offer opportunities for wildlife mitigation.

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

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

Under paragraph 96 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

In accordance with best practice recommendations, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study (natural and semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace). This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited unless identified as being significant.

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

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

- ◀ Part 2: Methodology
- ◀ Part 3: Summary of survey and audit scores
- ◀ Part 4: Parks and Gardens
- ◀ Part 5: Natural/semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Part 6: Amenity Greenspace
- ◀ Part 7: Provision for children/young people
- ◀ Part 8: Allotments
- ◀ Part 9: Cemeteries
- ◀ Part 10: Green corridors

Associated strategies

The study sits alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS); also undertaken by KKP (provided in separate reports). The Companion Guidance to PPG17 included the open space typology of formal outdoor sports. This is predominantly covered within the associated PPS. The PPS is undertaken in accordance with the methodology provided in Sport England’s Guidance ‘Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy’ for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities (2013).

Any site initially categorised as outdoor sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e. available for wider community use) is included in this study as a type of open space. Pitch or sports sites purely for sporting use are solely included within the PPS.

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For sites with a multifunctional role, double counting between the two studies does not occur as the PPS looks at the number of pitch/sports facilities at a site and not hectares of land (as prescribed in Sport England Guidance).

1.2 National context

National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

This study provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal and informal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2018).

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 97 and 98 discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields".

Paragraphs 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities.

1.3 Local context

Dacorum Borough covers 81 square miles (200 square kilometres) of West Hertfordshire extending almost from the outskirts of Watford, northwards to the Chilterns Hills. The principal town is Hemel Hempstead, with two smaller market towns; Berkhamsted and Tring. In addition, there are a number of villages each with their own distinctive character. All the towns are surrounded by the Metropolitan Green Belt. This section identifies the key local documentation for DBC.

Dacorum Borough Council Corporate Plan 2015-2020

The Corporate Plan is a key element in DBC's strategic decision-making process. It outlines the Council's vision and priorities up to 2020 as well as providing a focus for service delivery and performance. The stated vision is: "working in partnership to create a borough which enables the communities of Dacorum to thrive and prosper." Its priorities and aims are:

- ◀ A clean, safe and enjoyable environment.
- ◀ Building strong and vibrant communities.
- ◀ Ensuring economic growth and prosperity.
- ◀ Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular, for those most in need.
- ◀ Delivering an efficient and modern council.

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As part of the building strong and vibrant communities strand, in 2014 DBC launched 'Get Set, Go Dacorum', a three-year community sports activation programme of health and wellbeing activities. This programme was jointly funded by £250,000 funding from Sport England, and £45,000 of financial investment and other in-kind support from the Council. It has also worked with Herts County Council on a £100,000 health and wellbeing project for the community. DBC aims to improve the fitness and the health and wellbeing of residents in local communities where it understands there to be relatively low levels of participation in sports and physical activity generally.

South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)

The three commissioning Councils, together with St Albans and Watford Councils have also begun work on a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for the wider South West Hertfordshire area. This is part of a wider partnership approach regarding house building.

The JSP is intended to set the longer-term strategic framework and shared priorities within which future local plans will be prepared. A key aim will be to ensure that infrastructure such as transport, schools, health and utilities are properly co-ordinated and delivered alongside the need for new homes and jobs, including across local authority boundaries.

To help with this joint working the five councils in South West Hertfordshire have agreed that each Local Plan will cover the period up to 2036.

Local Plan

The current development plan for Dacorum is made up of a number of documents.

Dacorum Borough Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan that will replace the documents listed above. This will provide a new planning framework for Dacorum up to 2036. The new Local Plan will set out the vision and objectives for the borough. It will consider housing and employment need and investigate ways of meeting that need more fully. It will allocate sites for housing, employment and other forms of development and will set out development management policies for the borough.

The Council consulted on a draft (Issues & Options) Plan during November/ December 2017.

The Councils current expectations for open space (referred to as Leisure Space) is set out in the relevant saved policies of the Local Plan 1991-2011.

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A summary to each of these is set out below.

Policy 73: Provision and distribution of leisure space in towns and large villages	A minimum 2.8 hectares per 1,000 population will be sought (in towns and large villages). This is derived from the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) standards. The NPFA is now known as Fields In Trust.
Policy 74: Provision of leisure space in other villages	Existing leisure space will be retained. New leisure space will be created only where identified needs and opportunities arise
Policy 75: Retention of leisure space	Building on leisure spaces will not be permitted unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The proposal is ancillary to the leisure use of land b) A sufficient proportion of the site with appropriate facilities is retained in open use to meet the formal and informal leisure needs of the local population c) There is a demonstrable surplus of sports pitches and informal space d) Leisure space lost is replaced to an equivalent or better standard in an accessible alternative location e) There is an overall benefit to sport as a result
Policy 76: Leisure space in new residential developments	Permission will not be granted for residential developments of over 25 dwellings or 1 hectare in area unless public leisure space is provided

House building and policy

DBC has capacity to provide 10,940 homes from existing and planned sites that are consistent with existing planning policies. Table 1.2 below shows how these new homes are spread across the borough (some 1,257 residences have already been built over the 2013-2016 period).

Table 1.2: Housing capacity in Dacorum

Location	Assumed housing capacity (2013-2036)
Hemel Hempstead	8,900
Berkhamsted	600
Tring	500
Bovingdon	90
Kings Langley	50
Markyate	200
Small villages and the countryside (combined)	600
Total	10,940

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Housing growth projections based on the draft upper Government housing option (Option 3) in the draft (Issues & Options) Plan are broken down by location in the table below:

Table 1.3: Draft upper Government housing option within Dacorum

Location	Housing growth projections
Hemel Hempstead	15,750
Berkhamsted	2,850
Tring	3,167
Bovingdon	525
Kings Langley	1,000
Markyate	800
Rest of Borough	1,208
Total	25,300

Hemel Hempstead is likely to have the most significant development with up to 15,750 new dwellings. Hemel Garden Communities (HGC) is a proposal for a major expansion to the east and north of the town, as identified in Figure 1.2. This 55-hectare development would sit equally across both the Dacorum and St Albans administrative areas, taking the best of the New Town heritage into the 21st century, providing over 10,000 homes and 10,000 jobs, with Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter (Herts IQ) at its heart (providing 8,000 out of the 10,000 jobs).

Recognising the exceptional need for growth DBC and St Albans City and District Council together with Hertfordshire County Council are taking a strategic approach to housing and employment expansion in Hemel Hempstead. This is being reflected within the individual local plans, as well as wider overarching county documents.

A point to note, any development within Dacorum is subject to being included within the Local Plan, following required assessment and consultation.

The HGC development would involve close partnership work between Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and local businesses to support the delivery of the Herts IQ. This aims to create an internationally recognised employment zone focusing on green technology, expanding on the pre-existing Maylands Business Park (already the largest business park in Hertfordshire), as well as the Building Research Establishment and Rothamsted Research, both of which fall within the St Albans District,

The Government has expressed its support for this new employment area, which will help deliver against its clean growth agenda. Furthermore, the proposal would be supported by significant investment in ambitious new infrastructure and community facilities, with the intention of transforming the town as a whole and providing a great legacy.

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Figure 1.2: Proposed Hemel Garden Community growth



The Crown Estate owns around 70% of the land concerned. It has begun preparing a masterplan for the whole area with input from senior officers from DBC, SADC, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Highways England and the Herts IQ.

In summary, the guiding principles for development are:

- ◀ Connective green infrastructure
- ◀ Transformative, mobility improvements
- ◀ Diverse employment opportunities
- ◀ Vibrant communities
- ◀ Exemplary design
- ◀ Empowering communities
- ◀ Innovative approaches to delivery
- ◀ Active local stewardship
- ◀ Strong corporate and political public leadership

St Albans City & District Council Planning

St Alban's Local Plan 2020-2036 sets out the planning policies and proposals for the future development of the City and District of St Albans. It establishes the Council's long-term spatial planning strategy for delivering and managing development and infrastructure, and for environmental protection and enhancement, from 2020 to 2036. St Alban's vision for the District is 'A thriving community, which is a great place to live and work and has a vibrant economy'.

The Local Plan is a statutory Development Plan Document (DPD). It must comply with legal requirements and pay due regard to Government national planning policy, principally the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It also needs to be based on proportionate and justifiable evidence.

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The Council is committed to joint work with other councils under the Duty to Co-operate and specifically to work on a Joint Strategic Plan for South West Hertfordshire (SW Herts). As identified earlier, the SW Herts area covers the administrative areas of Dacorum, Hertsmere, St Albans, Three Rivers and Watford.

Several proposed developments to the west of St Albans may directly impact on Dacorum. Policy S6 identifies the “Broad Locations” for development.” to contribute to meeting housing, infrastructure and other development needs over the plan period. These broad locations include:

- ◀ East Hemel Hempstead (North)
- ◀ East Hemel Hempstead (Central)
- ◀ East Hemel Hempstead (South)
- ◀ North Hemel Hempstead
- ◀ Chiswell Green

All Broad Locations and the associated revised Green Belt boundaries are highlighted in the March 2019 submission draft.

All Broad Locations must meet the Policies set out in the Local Plan and as shown on the Policies Map. Planning applications for development at the Broad Locations must materially accord with masterplans approved by the Council following consultation with local communities and stakeholders.

Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020

This strategy sets high level priorities, to optimise the health and wellbeing of people in the county throughout the course of their lives. This is based on the four life stages of Starting Well, Developing Well, Living and Working Well and Ageing Well. The vision is “with all partners working together we aim to reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of the people in Hertfordshire.” Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board agreed six principles which decide on the priorities to focus on up to 2020. They are as follows:

- ◀ Aim to keep people safe and reduce inequalities in health, attainment and wellbeing outcomes.
- ◀ Use public health evidence, other comparison information and Hertfordshire citizen’s views to make sure that we focus on the most significant health and wellbeing needs in Hertfordshire.
- ◀ Centre strategies on people, their families and carers, providing services universally but giving priority to the most vulnerable.
- ◀ Focus on preventative approaches – helping people and communities to support each other and prevent problems from occurring for individuals and families in the future.
- ◀ Always consider what can be done better together - focussing efforts on adding value as partners to maximise the benefits for the public.
- ◀ Encourage opportunities to integrate services to improve outcomes and value for taxpayers.

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Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership (HSPAP) Strategic Plan 2017-2021

HSPAP is the county sports partnership (CSP) which incorporates Dacorum. Its team provides services to partners involved with the delivery of sport, physical education and active recreation. Its vision is '*More people, more active, more often*'.

Its mission is to work strategically to deliver an inclusive, insight led and sustainable sport and physical activity sector in Hertfordshire. Its strategic objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase participation in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Improve health and wellbeing by reducing inactivity.
- ◀ Demonstrate the economic and social value of sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Strengthen the local delivery infrastructure.
- ◀ Make the Partnership fit for the future.

Dacorum Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2019-2024

The recently produced Physical Activity and Sport Strategy focuses on a vision for sports and physical activity across Dacorum. It examines the role of Dacorum's sports clubs, the Council and partners and how they can improve provision and opportunity for physical activity and sport for all residents. This has been developed following consultation across the borough. The strategy vision is: "to provide opportunities for Dacorum residents to be more active, helping to shape and promote a positive attitude towards physical activity and sport".

To achieve this DBC will:

- ◀ Provide leadership within the community. Working closely with partners from private, public and voluntary sectors to improve and promote access to resources, quality provision, and programmes of activity, with a particular focus on under-represented groups.
- ◀ Ensure there are high quality leisure facilities which meet the current and future needs of the borough.
- ◀ Champion and promote the benefits of physical activity and sport participation in achieving health, community cohesion and community safety outcomes.

The key outcomes of the Strategy are that:

- ◀ Everyone that lives and works in Dacorum will be able to find an activity or sport that meets their needs, which in turn will lead to increased participation and the benefits that come with this. Success will be measured through a series of key outcomes and targets.
- ◀ Setting measurable targets is a key part of being able to evaluate the success of DBC's actions and interventions. In those areas where it can use quantifiable targets it is important that it does so as this will be a valuable measure of progress for the strategy.

The key outcome targets set in the Strategy are:

- ◀ 2,000 more physically active Dacorum residents.
- ◀ A 3% increase in membership numbers of local sports clubs and leisure facilities.

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There are contributing factors in relation to individuals' health and wellbeing, but the Strategy also targets:

- ◀ A reduction in the mortality rate for persons under 75 from cardiovascular diseases and cancer (circa. 20 fewer people).
- ◀ 1,880 fewer adults (aged 18+) carrying excess weight.
- ◀ 36 fewer children reported as overweight or obese at year 6.

The Council will prepare an annual action plan in collaboration with partners; internal (e.g. Planning, Community Partnerships, Housing) and external (e.g. HSPAP, Public Health, DSN, Everyone Active) to deliver this strategy. In this, it will set out a series of more specific actions, which will take place throughout the coming years.

Dacorum Open Space Study 2008

Dacorum Open Space Study incorporates:

- ◀ An assessment of local needs for open space.
- ◀ An audit of existing open space provision.
- ◀ Assessment of the current quality, quantity and accessibility of open space.
- ◀ New local standards for future open space provision set out based on the above.
- ◀ Recommendations for prioritising the planning and management of green space.

Dacorum Playing Pitch Strategy 2015

This is a supply and demand analysis covering both natural and artificial grass sports pitches, collating information about all existing facilities across the Borough. It provides recommendations in terms of the usage and condition of facilities on a sport by sport basis, to ensure both current and future demand can be met. Updated in 2019.

Dacorum Indoor Built Facilities Strategy 2006

The indoor built facilities strategy provides a framework for improvements to indoor facilities across the borough over a ten-year period. Both the playing pitch and indoor built facilities strategies are being updated concurrently with the open space study.

Summary of local policy documentation

The key messages are summarised below:

- ◀ A key priority in the Corporate Plan (2016-2020) is to work in partnership to create a borough which enables the communities of Dacorum to thrive and prosper.
- ◀ Within the wider Hertfordshire area, the health and wellbeing strategy sets high level priorities, to optimise the health and wellbeing of people in Hertfordshire throughout the course of individuals' lives.
- ◀ DBC is aiming to improve the fitness and the health and wellbeing of residents in local communities where it understands there to be relatively low levels of participation in sports and physical activity generally.
- ◀ The recently developed Physical Activity and Sport Strategy (October 2018) will help to shape future engagement with harder to reach groups and specifically deliver targeted interventions.
- ◀ The Strategic Review of leisure facilities in 2016 found poor quality sports halls, sufficient water space to accommodate current demand and, latent demand for health and fitness facilities and gymnastics provision. This is re-assessed through the 2019 Indoor Leisure Facilities Assessment.

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

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

- ◀ 2.1: Population and analysis areas
- ◀ 2.2: Auditing local provision
- ◀ 2.3: Quality and value
- ◀ 2.4: Quality and value thresholds
- ◀ 2.5: Identifying local need

2.1 Population and analysis areas

In 2017 Dacorum was home to 153,000 people, making it the most densely populated district in Hertfordshire. The majority of residents live in the principal town of Hemel Hempstead which will continue to be the focus for development and change within the borough. This can be seen in figure 2.1 overleaf, which shows population density across the borough.

The population figure is used to help determine the current provision levels for different types of open space. Consequently, this will be used to inform and set a quantity provision standard.

The Standards Paper will look to analyse the potential current deficiencies and/or future priorities.

Analysis areas

To allow for a more localised analysis of open space provision, the local area has been sub divided into the following analysis areas seen in the Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1.

Population figures for each of the analysis areas has been provided by Dacorum Borough Council. The total population for Dacorum is taken from the ONS Mid-Year 2017 figures.

Table 2.1: Analysis areas with populations

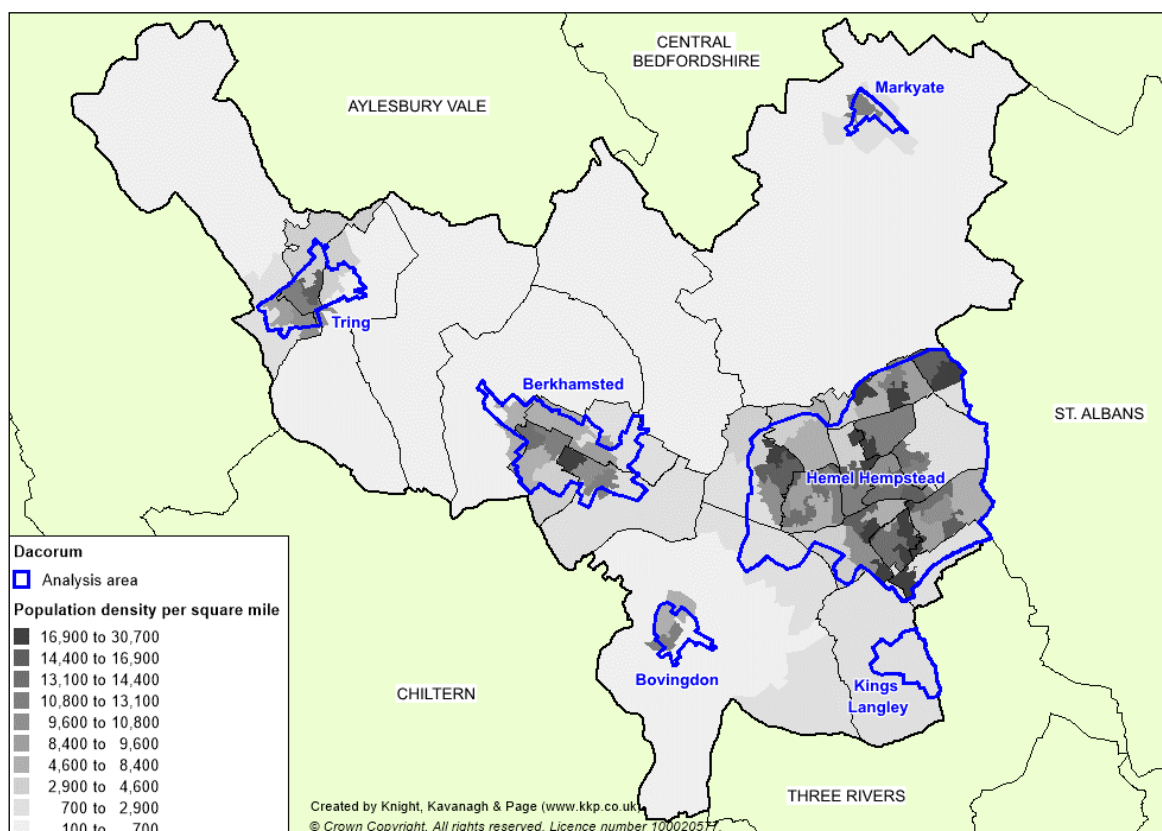
Analysis area	Estimated population
Berkhamsted	20,900
Bovingdon	5,000
Hemel Hempstead	92,550
Kings Langley	6,000
Markyate	3,000
Tring	12,100
Other	13,766
Dacorum	153,316*

It is important to recognise that there are open space sites and populations which sit outside the six analysis areas but which are still located within Dacorum.

* Total Dacorum population from ONS Mid-Year 2017

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Figure 2.1: Dacorum analysis areas including population density



The study focusses on these key settlements as they are the main potential areas of change in the borough. The smaller villages and wider countryside have been excluded from the analysis area as they are not anticipated to accommodate much growth or change significantly in the future. Therefore, it is not as critical to understand changes in, and standards of, open space provision in these locations.

2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The KKP Field Research Team undertook the site audit scoring for this study in 2018. Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Only sites publicly accessible are included (i.e. private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with best practice:

- ◀ Parks & gardens
- ◀ Natural & semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Provision for children & young people
- ◀ Allotments
- ◀ Cemeteries
- ◀ Green corridors

A total of 370 sites have been assessed for quality and value. In agreement with DBC, 181 have been visited with the rest receiving a desk-based assessment in order to check, review and allocate a quality and value score. All sites classified as parks and play provision have been visited with a mix of other types of open space also being undertaken.

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In accordance with best practice recommendations, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. Sites of a smaller size, particularly for the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace tend to have a different role. Often this is for visual purposes (e.g. small incremental grassed areas such as highway verges) and is therefore considered as offering less recreational use in comparison to other forms of open space. Subsequently sites below 0.2 hectares for these typologies are not audited. The exception is if any such sites are identified through consultation as being of significance. In this instance, no sites below 0.2 hectares were identified as being of significance.

Database development

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

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

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

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

2.3 Quality and value

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

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

Analysis of quality

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

The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised in the following table. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix Two.

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Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

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

For the provision for children and young people, criteria are also built around the Green Flag Award scheme. It is a non-technical visual assessment of the whole site, including general equipment and surface quality/appearance plus an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision. This differs, for example, from an independent Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RosPA) review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

Analysis of value

A value score is calculated for each site identified using the site visit data plus desk-based research. Value is defined in best practice guidance in relation to the following three issues:

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

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

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

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

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

2.4 Quality and value thresholds

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

The baseline threshold for assessing quality can be set on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (66%) as the site audit criteria is based on Green Flag. This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site audit criteria used for Green Flag is not appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Furthermore, all criteria are not used for all types of open space; as some criteria is more relevant for some forms of open space as opposed to others. Quality thresholds are, thus, adjusted to better reflect average scores for each typology. Consequently, the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	40%	20%
Amenity greenspace	50%	20%
Provision for children and young people	60%	20%
Allotments	45%	20%
Cemeteries	45%	20%

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

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PART 3: SUMMARY OF SURVEY AND AUDIT SCORES

This section describes generic trends and findings from the quality and value ratings for the site audit scores undertaken. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in the report.

3.1 Audit overview

A total of 370 sites accessible sites are identified and included within the whole of Dacorum, equating to 884 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural and semi natural greenspace (496 hectares); accounting for 56% of open space.

Table 3.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Park and gardens	10	60
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	70	496
Amenity greenspace	132	226
Provision for children & young people	77	7
Allotments	38	40
Cemeteries	32	32
Green corridors	11	23
TOTAL	370	884

3.2 Quality

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

Table 3.2: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Park and gardens	60%	55%	64%	86%	4	6
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	40%	17%	44%	83%	26	44
Amenity greenspace	50%	32%	56%	88%	49	83
Provision for children & young people	60%	27%	63%	90%	20	57
Allotments	50%	40%	52%	69%	7	31
Cemeteries	45%	28%	49%	72%	13	19
Green corridors	50%	43%	57%	80%	5	6
TOTAL	-	17%	-	90%	124	246

There is generally a reasonably good level of quality across most open space sites. This is reflected in 66% of sites scoring above their set threshold for quality.

* Rounded to the nearest whole number

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There are proportionally more allotments (82%) and provision for children and young people (74%) sites scoring above the threshold. In contrast proportionally more cemeteries (41%) and amenity greenspace (37%) sites score below the threshold than other typologies.

Green Flag

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

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

At present, there are five Green Flag sites in Dacorum. Three of these; the Water Gardens, Tring Memorial Garden and Canal Fields, are park sites. The remaining sites are natural and semi natural greenspaces (Chipperfield Common and Bunkers Park).

3.3 Value

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

Table 3.3: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Park and gardens	20%	28%	50%	68%	0	10
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		11%	28%	58%	3	67
Amenity greenspace		21%	30%	55%	0	132
Provision for children & young people		31%	40%	45%	0	77
Allotments		40%	41%	46%	0	38
Cemeteries		27%	34%	49%	0	32
Green corridors		27%	32%	44%	0	11
TOTAL		11%	-	68%	3	367

Only three out of the 370 assessed sites score below the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

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

3.5 Summary

- ◀ 370 sites are identified as open space provision. This is equivalent to 884 hectares.
- ◀ Of assessed sites, two thirds (66%) rate above the quality threshold.
- ◀ All sites, except for three natural and semi natural greenspace sites are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

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PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology often covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. Country park sites may also provide opportunities and functions often associated with parks and can therefore be included within this section (if present).

4.2 Current provision

There are 10 sites classified as parks and gardens in Dacorum, the equivalent of over 57 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all known sites are included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Berkhamsted	1	2.39	0.11
Bovingdon	-	-	-
Hemel Hempstead	7	56.47	0.61
Kings Langley	1	0.20	0.03
Markyate	-	-	-
Tring	1	0.93	0.08
<i>Other</i>	-	-	-
Dacorum	10	60.00	0.39

Dacorum has a current provision level of 0.39 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and the biggest contributor to provision is Gadebridge Park. This site is broken down into three separate areas; Gadebridge Park (east side), Gadebridge Park (west side) and Gadebridge Lane playing field. Whilst the latter predominantly consists of football pitches, it forms a key component of the wider Gadebridge Park. When the three areas are combined, there is an overall hectareage of 37.04.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, Dacorum is below this suggested standard.

4.3 Accessibility

Figure 4.1 overleaf shows the location of parks provision across Dacorum with a 710m catchment applied. This is based on FIT recommended accessibility standards.

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Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with a 710m catchment applied

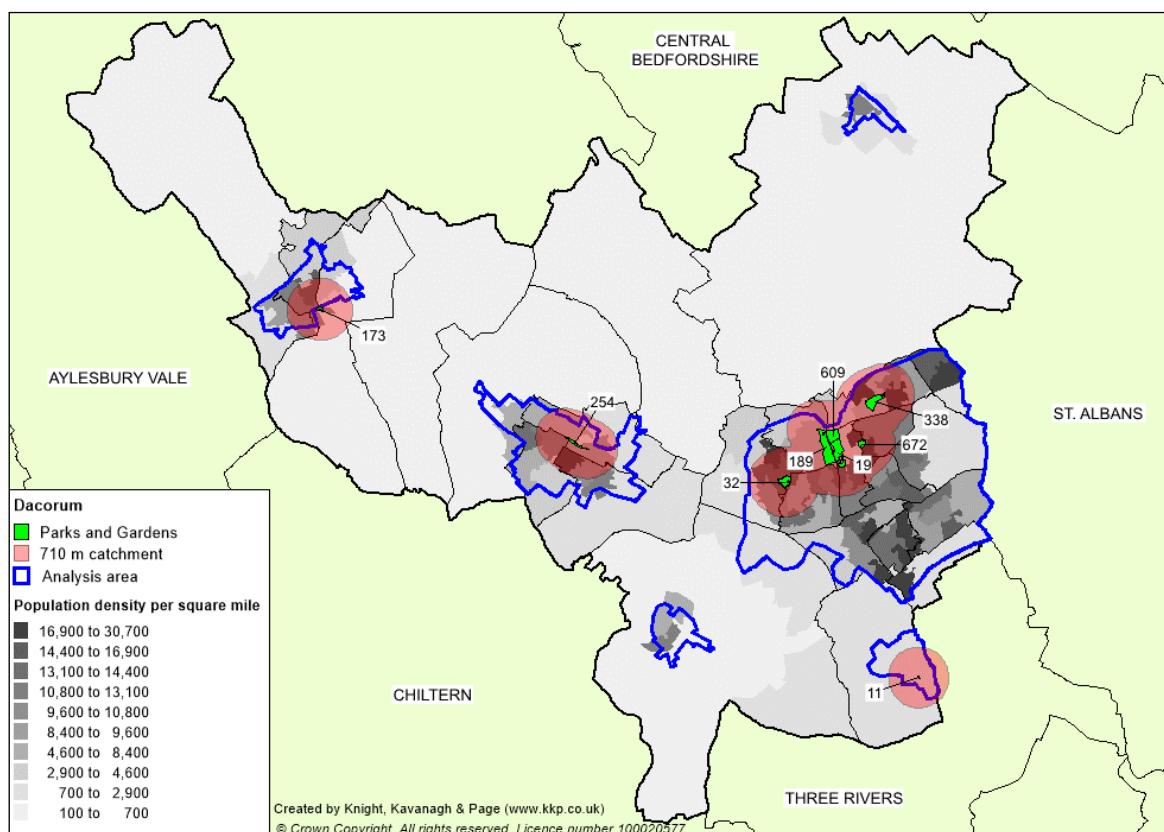


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
11	All Saints	Kings Langley	58.0%	43.6%
19	Gadebridge Park (east side)	Hemel Hempstead	85.7%	68.2%
32	Northridge Park	Hemel Hempstead	57.4%	45.5%
173	Tring Memorial Gardens	Tring	75.7%	59.1%
189	Gadebridge Park (west side)	Hemel Hempstead	56.7%	48.2%
254	Canal Fields Park	Berkhamsted	60.7%	48.2%
338	Margaret Lloyd Park	Hemel Hempstead	62.4%	52.7%
579	Water Gardens	Hemel Hempstead	65.1%	54.5%
609	Gadebridge Lane playing field	Hemel Hempstead	54.7%	28.2%
672	Randalls Park	Hemel Hempstead	60.1%	48.2%

As can be seen in Figure 4.1, most areas of denser population are served by parks and gardens provision. The exceptions are at the settlements of Markyate in the Eastern Villages Area, Bovingdon in the Southern Area and parts of the Hemel Area.

The Hemel Area is however likely to be served by other forms of open space such as Reith Fields, Grovehill Playing Fields and Bunkers Park.

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4.4 Quality

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

Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks in Dacorum

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Berkhamsted	61%	61%	61%	0%	0	1
Bovingdon	-	-	-	-	0	0
Hemel Hempstead	55%	63%	86%	31%	3	4
Kings Langley	58%	58%	58%	0%	1	0
Markyate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tring	76%	76%	76%	0%	0	1
<i>Other</i>	-	-	-	-	0	0
Dacorum	55%	64%	86%	31%	4	6

Over half of the parks in Dacorum score above the threshold for quality (60%). Two of the sites scoring below the threshold are connected to the highest scoring site Gadebridge Park (east side), which scores 86% and could be viewed as one site. No particular quality concerns are highlighted to any of those sites rating below the threshold.

Gadebridge Park as a whole is a very popular site and is described as the borough's principle park. This site has a lot to offer including play provision, a splash park, historic features such as the walled garden, daffodil field and a memorial garden. In addition, the site has a rich history and a rare chalk stream river (River Glade) running through it. These features are accompanied by good parking provision, informative signage, toilets, seats and picnic tables, lighting and pathways which are suitable for wheelchairs. In addition, the site is observed as being very well maintained.

Due to the rarity of chalk stream rivers, there is currently a river restoration project being explored at Gadebridge Park in collaboration with Affinity Water and the Environment Agency. The Local Authority also has aspirations to turn the historical building on site into a museum. The museum would provide visitors with insight into the site's past, including being a Roman archaeological site.

The sections of the park which score below the threshold are not observed as having any specific quality issues. The lower scores mainly reflect fewer features such as lighting, picnic tables and toilets. These areas of the park are mainly used for annual and sporting events such as cross-country racing. This will, however, increase the value of this site, which is discussed further in the subsequent value section.

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Tring Memorial Gardens is the second highest scoring site in Dacorum with a quality score of 76%. The site has historical links, with informative signage referring to this. It is described by the site assessment as having attractive landscaping, which incorporates natural features including giant redwood trees and a pond. The site also has ample seating, lighting and well-maintained pathways.

The sites attractive landscaping can partially be attributed to the hard work of the friends of group, which works to maintain and enhance the flower beds throughout the year, as well as carrying out regular cleanliness checks. The sites high quality is reflected in it having a Green Flag Award. Other parks sites with a Green Flag Award are the Water Gardens and Canal Fields.

Northridge Park scores below the threshold but again, is not observed as having any significant quality issues. The quality of the paths at this site are, however, noted as having potential to be improved, as well as some issues with drainage being observed. In general, though this site is well kept with seating, play provision and good personal security.

The Local Authority has aspirations around Gadebridge Park also becoming a Green Flag site. With its high quality score and associated friends of group, this is very likely achievable. In addition, there are aspirations for Margaret Lloyd Park to achieve Green Flag status. This may, however, be slightly further into the future, with potential site renovations being made possible on the back of future housing developments.

It is believed improvements to this site will provide connections between the existing housing estate and future residents of site allocation LA1 Marchmont Farm. Additionally, it is hoped this will also address occasional issues of anti-social behaviour at this site.

4.5 Value

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

Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area in Dacorum

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Berkhamsted	48%	48%	48%	0%	0	1
Bovingdon	-	-	-	-	0	0
Hemel Hempstead	28%	49%	68%	40%	0	7
Kings Langley	44%	44%	44%	0%	0	1
Markyate	-	-	-	-	0	0
Tring	59%	59%	59%	0%	0	1
Other	-	-	-	-	0	0
Dacorum	28%	50%	68%	40%	0	10

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All parks score above the threshold for value. As well as scoring the highest for quality, Gadebridge Park (east side) also scores the highest for value (68%). As mentioned in the previous section, this site has high cultural and heritage value, which in turn adds to its educational value. Furthermore, the site's chalk stream river sees it scoring high for ecological value.

The site also acts as a venue for community and sporting events, meaning it has a sense of place within the borough for both locals and people from further afield. This is reflected in the site having a dedicated friends of group. Tring Memorial Garden also scores particularly high (59%) for similar reasons.

Water Gardens (55%) is a historic registered park and garden, has a friends group, community garden and planting.

One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks is their ability to function as a multipurpose form of open space provision. Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area. Taking all this into account, parks and gardens are recognised as being heavily integrated into people's everyday lives.

4.6 Summary

Parks and gardens

- ◀ There are 10 sites classified as parks and gardens, the equivalent of 60 hectares.
- ◀ Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, the whole of Dacorum is below this with 0.39 ha per 1,000 population.
- ◀ Most of the parks provision in Dacorum (seven sites) is located in Hemel Hempstead.
- ◀ Bovingdon and Markyate do not currently have parks and gardens provision but are served by other forms of open space which may offer functions similar to parks.
- ◀ Six of the 10 parks in Dacorum rate above the quality threshold. Gadebridge Park (east side) scores the highest with 86%.
- ◀ None of the four parks which score below the quality threshold are observed as having any significant quality issues. They merely have less features than higher scoring sites.
- ◀ At present, there are five Green Flag sites in Dacorum. Three of these; Tring Memorial Garden Canal Fields and Water Gardens are park sites
- ◀ The Local Authority has aspirations around Gadebridge Park and Margaret Lloyd Park becoming Green Flag sites.
- ◀ All sites are assessed as being of high value, with the important social interaction, health benefits, historic value and sense of place sites offer being recognised.

PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits) and commons. Such sites are often associated with providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

5.2 Current provision

In total, 68 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 306 hectares of provision. These totals do not include all provision in the area as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, they may still make a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to community viability, quality of life and health and wellbeing.

Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Berkhamsted	7	14.18	0.68
Bovingdon	1	1.09	0.22
Hemel Hempstead	39	142.46	1.54
Kings Langley	5	20.69	3.45
Markyate	1	0.28	0.09
Tring*	3	6.06	0.50
<i>Other</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>121.66</i>	<i>8.84</i>
Dacorum	68	306.41	2.00

The largest natural and semi-natural greenspace site located within one of the six settlement analysis areas is Bunkers Park at over 35 hectares. The site is located within Hemel Hempstead. A large amount of provision sits outside of the six analysis areas.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 5.1 illustrates that Dacorum is above this suggested standard.

5.3 Accessibility

Figures 5.1 and 5.2 overleaf show the location of natural and semi-natural provision across Dacorum with a 720m catchment applied. This is based on FIT recommended accessibility standards.

* Sites significantly large in size such as Tring Park (92 ha), Tring Reservoir Nature Reserve (97 ha) and Ashridge Estate are excluded due to having a far reaching and appeal beyond Dacorum.

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Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural sites mapped with a 720m catchment applied

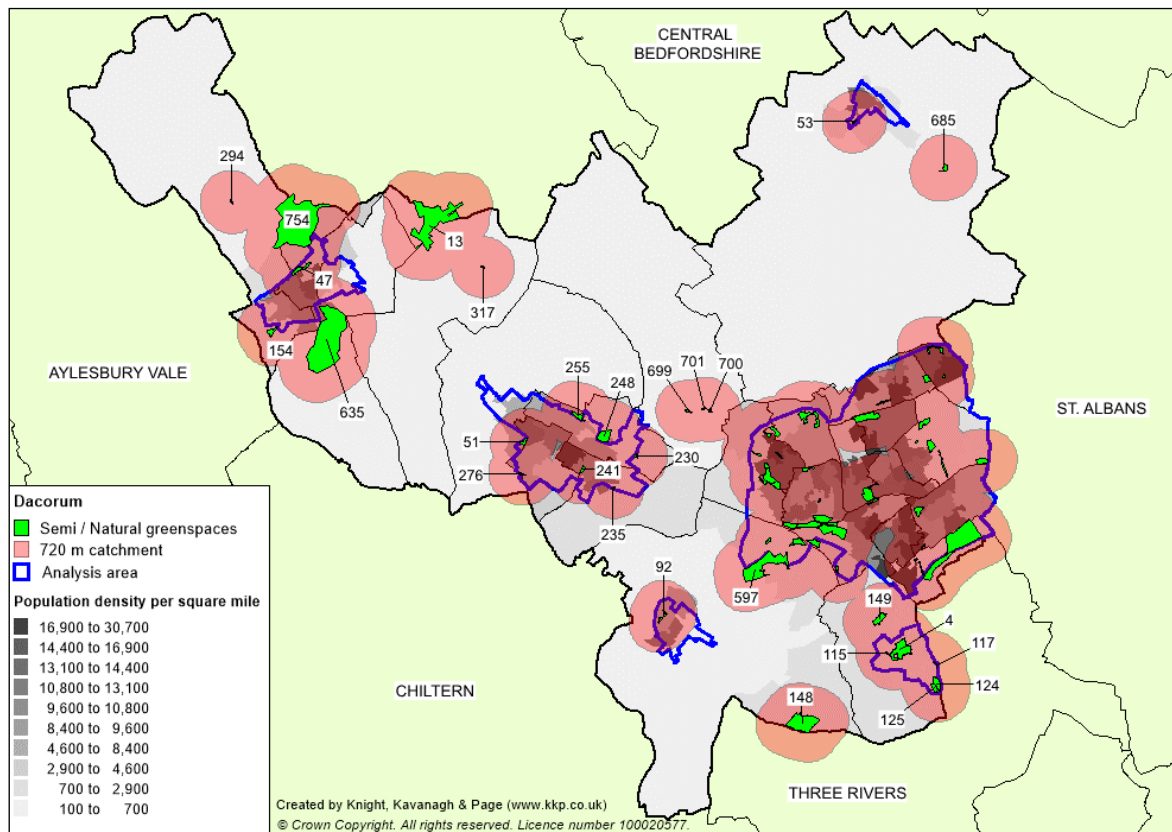
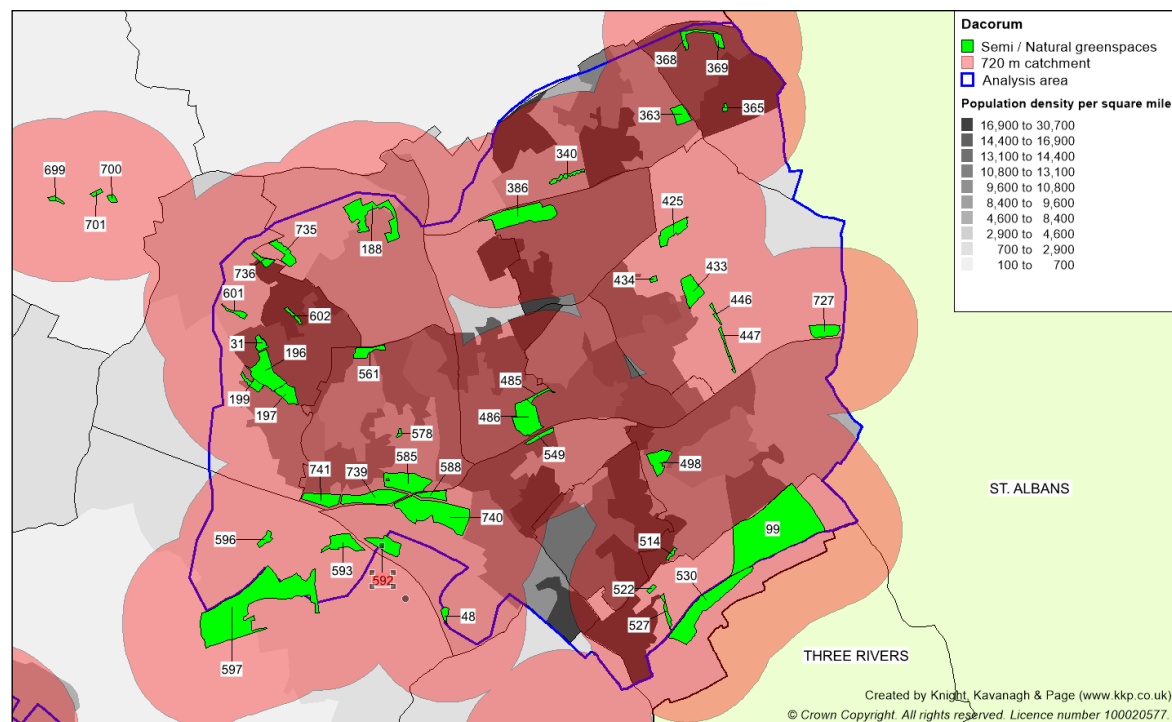


Figure 5.2: Natural and semi-natural sites mapped – Hemel Hempstead



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Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
51	Durrants Lane	Berkhamsted	37.5%	26.4%
230	My House Lane	Berkhamsted	26.6%	28.2%
235	Chestnut Drive	Berkhamsted	41.9%	30.0%
241	Alderley Court	Berkhamsted	35.3%	25.5%
248	Berkhamsted Castle	Berkhamsted	66.9%	58.2%
255	Castle Gate Way wood	Berkhamsted	27.7%	34.5%
276	The Spinney	Berkhamsted	33.7%	30.0%
699	Hempstead Lane	Other	40.8%	25.5%
700	The Laurels	Other	36.4%	29.1%
701	Rambling Way	Other	38.0%	20.0%
53	Pickford Road	Markyate	32.6%	23.6%
685	Priory Orchard	Other	35.3%	25.5%
31	Merrow Drive	Hemel Hempstead	50.5%	26.4%
48	Shearwater Road	Hemel Hempstead	29.9%	25.5%
99	Bunkers Park	Hemel Hempstead	60.3%	31.8%
188	Warners End/Home Woods	Hemel Hempstead	47.8%	30.0%
196	Shrub Hill Common	Hemel Hempstead	37.5%	26.4%
197	Jocketts Park wood	Hemel Hempstead	36.4%	30.0%
199	Long Chaulden	Hemel Hempstead	47.3%	30.9%
340	Hunting Gate	Hemel Hempstead	43.5%	26.4%
363	Grovehill Wood	Hemel Hempstead	45.1%	26.4%
365	Kimpton Close	Hemel Hempstead	49.5%	24.5%
368	Tattershall Drive	Hemel Hempstead	38.6%	30.0%
369	High Wood	Hemel Hempstead	28.3%	30.0%
386	Howe Grove Wood	Hemel Hempstead	54.9%	30.0%
425	Widmore Wood	Hemel Hempstead	54.9%	30.0%
433	Maylands Wood	Hemel Hempstead	62.0%	35.5%
434	Connaught Close	Hemel Hempstead	35.3%	24.5%
446	The Coppice	Hemel Hempstead	27.7%	24.5%
447	Arundel Close	Hemel Hempstead	43.5%	24.5%
485	Turners Hill	Hemel Hempstead	47.8%	26.4%
486	Turners Hill 2	Hemel Hempstead	57.8%	30.0%
498	Rant Meadow Wood	Hemel Hempstead	53.8%	30.0%
514	Barnacres Road	Hemel Hempstead	40.8%	19.1%
522	Chambersbury Lane	Hemel Hempstead	36.4%	29.1%
527	Chambersbury Lane	Hemel Hempstead	48.4%	25.5%
530	Bunkers Park	Hemel Hempstead	64.1%	30.9%
549	Fern Drive	Hemel Hempstead	42.9%	29.1%
561	Gravel Hill Spring	Hemel Hempstead	54.4%	25.5%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
578	Haybourn Mead	Hemel Hempstead	38.0%	20.0%
585	Blackbirds Moor	Hemel Hempstead	53.3%	26.4%
588	Heath Park	Hemel Hempstead	41.9%	30.0%
592	Lower Roughdown Common	Hemel Hempstead	40.8%	25.5%
601	Jasmin Way	Hemel Hempstead	52.7%	26.4%
602	Pulleys Lane	Hemel Hempstead	45.1%	25.5%
727	Buncefield Lane	Hemel Hempstead	16.8%	10.9%
735	Knights Orchard	Hemel Hempstead	53.8%	26.4%
736	Polehanger Lane	Hemel Hempstead	48.9%	26.4%
739	Station Moor	Hemel Hempstead	41.3%	30.9%
740	Hardings/Bulbourne Moors	Hemel Hempstead	45.7%	26.4%
741	Fishery Moor	Hemel Hempstead	40.2%	25.5%
4	Kings Langley Common	Kings Langley	50.5%	26.4%
92	Lancaster Drive	Bovingdon	29.9%	20.0%
115	Love Lane	Kings Langley	29.3%	19.1%
117	Grand Union Canal	Kings Langley	40.8%	30.9%
124	Gaywoods Fishery	Kings Langley	52.2%	29.1%
125	Home Park	Kings Langley	56.2%	20.9%
148	Chipperfield Common	Other	56.0%	50.0%
149	Rucklers Lane	Other	34.8%	24.5%
593	Upper Roughdown Common	Other	40.8%	26.4%
596	Copper Beech Close	Other	32.6%	30.0%
597	Sheethanger Common	Other	55.6%	30.9%
13	Aldbury	Other	44.9%	30.9%
47	Dundale	Tring	25.0%	25.5%
154	Duckmore Lane	Tring	52.2%	30.0%
294	Chapel Fields	Other	34.8%	23.6%
317	Toms Hill Road	Other	27.7%	30.0%
635	Tring Park	Tring*	60.9%	36.4%
754	Tring Reservoirs Nature Reserve	Tring*	82.6%	50.0%
757	Tring Park wildlife area	Tring	54.4%	40.0%

Mapping shows all areas of greater population density are served by natural and semi-natural provision. A minor gap is observed to the south of Hemel Hempstead. However, this is likely to be realistically served by large sites such as Long Deans Nature Reserve which are within proximity.

* Not included within quantity figures

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5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by best practice) scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Dacorum. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.3: Quality ratings for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Dacorum

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites*	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<40%	>40%
Berkhamsted	27%	39%	70%	43%	5	2
Bovingdon	30%	30%	30%	0%	1	0
Hemel Hempstead	17%	45%	64%	47%	10	29
Kings Langley	29%	46%	56%	27%	1	4
Markyate	33%	33%	33%	0%	1	0
Tring	25%	48%	83%	58%	1	4
Other	28%	40%	56%	28%	7	5
Dacorum	17%	43%	83%	66%	26	44

Natural and semi-natural greenspace has a lower quality threshold than some other open space typologies such as parks. This reflects the wide-ranging characteristics of provision. For instance, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation.

Of assessed natural and semi-natural provision, a total of 44 sites (63%) in Dacorum rate above the threshold set for quality. There are however 26 sites rating below the quality threshold applied.

All sites scoring below the threshold for quality tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as benches and bins. However, as previously mentioned, this can be due to their purpose as a habitat and even some higher scoring sites lack such features.

The lowest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Buncefield Lane (17%)
- ◀ Dundale (25%)

The sites lack ancillary features and score low for gradient and personal security. Drainage is poor at the latter site which also scores lower for paths. Both sites score lower for overall maintenance and cleanliness. However, Dundale has a water feature which adds to its overall quality. It should be recognised that there are several sites which score just below the quality threshold.

* Despite being omitted from quantity figures, significantly large sites such as Tring Park (92 ha) and Tring Reservoir Nature Reserve (97 ha) are given a quality and value rating

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Most sites scoring above the threshold are observed as being attractive due to the perceived higher levels of maintenance and cleanliness; often a reflection of their apparent regular use by people.

Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ✦ Tring Reservoirs Nature Reserve (83%)
- ✦ Berkhamsted Castle (70%)
- ✦ Bunkers Park (64%)
- ✦ Maylands Wood (62%)

The sites are viewed as well maintained, with good drainage and well used. However, despite Berkhamsted Castle being the second highest scoring semi natural site, it scores low for gradient and adequate for pathways. There is no parking on site, however, there is charged public parking close by.

The highest scoring site for quality is Tring Reservoirs Nature Reserve (83%). It scores excellent for main entrance score, pathways, personal security, bins, benches and good signage.

5.5 Value

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

Table 5.4: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Dacorum

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Berkhamsted	25%	33%	58%	33%	0	7
Bovingdon	20%	20%	20%	0%	0	1
Hemel Hempstead	11%	27%	35%	25%	2	37
Kings Langley	19%	25%	31%	12%	1	4
Markyate	24%	24%	24%	0%	0	1
Tring Area	24%	36%	50%	26%	0	5
<i>Other</i>	20%	29%	50%	30%	0	12
Dacorum	11%	28%	58%	47%	3	67

All but three natural and semi-natural greenspace sites rate above the threshold for value. These three sites are:

- ✦ Buncefield Lane (11%)
- ✦ Barnacres Road (19%)
- ✦ Love Lane (19%)

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Access seems difficult or restricted for the sites. This hinders usage and their ability to meet the needs of users. Barnacres Road is quite small and serves more as a visual amenity. Buncefield Lane is bigger but observed as being rarely used.

The highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ Berkhamsted Castle (58%)
- ◀ Chipperfield Common (50.0%)
- ◀ Tring Reservoirs Nature Reserve (50%)

The sites are also some of the highest scoring sites for quality. All are observed as being generally attractive forms of provision. Each are perceived to be well used and provide ecological, historical and social value. Tring Reservoirs Nature Reserve has high ecological value being recognised for its wealth of wildlife and habitats. Berkhamsted Castle is a site with high heritage/historic and educational value. It is managed by English Heritage, providing additional heritage and educational value. Chipperfield Common is a former heath now serving as woodland. The site has a high ecological value and contains several historic features. It is also well served by a network of pathways helping to boost its social value.

The high proportion of sites rating above the threshold for value demonstrates the added benefit natural and semi-natural greenspaces can provide especially in terms of contributing to flora and fauna promotion. Sites are recognised as providing habitat opportunities whilst also offering opportunities for informal recreational activities. Prominent sites of this type can even act as destination sites, attracting users from other areas of Dacorum.

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ In total, there are 68 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering over 306 hectares. A significant proportion of provision is located outside of the six analysis areas.
- ◀ Dacorum with 2.00 hectares per 1,000 population is above the FIT recommended standard of 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◀ Quantity figures do not include sites significantly large in size such as Tring Park (92 ha), Tring Reservoir Nature Reserve (97 ha) and the Ashridge Estate as they serve a much wider area and role than just Dacorum.
- ◀ No significant gaps in catchment mapping are identified.
- ◀ Of natural and semi-natural sites assessed, a total of 44 sites (63%) rate above the threshold set for quality. There are 26 sites that rate below the quality threshold applied.
- ◀ All but three sites rate above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the added benefit natural and semi-natural greenspaces can provide especially in terms of contributing to flora and fauna whilst also providing recreational opportunities.

PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

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

6.2 Current provision

There are 132 amenity greenspace sites in Dacorum equivalent to over 225 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Berkhamsted	13	16.09	0.77
Bovingdon	6	5.86	1.17
Hemel Hempstead	80	164.50	1.78
Kings Langley	1	0.34	0.06
Markyate	3	4.31	1.44
Tring	11	11.00	0.91
<i>Other</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>23.45</i>	<i>1.70</i>
Dacorum	132	225.55	1.47

It is important to note that whilst a large proportion of provision may be considered as being smaller grassed areas or roadside verges, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example, small sites such as Northridge Way at 0.20 hectares, to the largest, Grovehill playing fields at over 17 hectares. Larger recreation grounds and playing fields serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational and sporting activities due to their size.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests a guideline quantity standard of 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population. Table 6.1 shows that overall, Dacorum is above this suggested standard. Further to this, when analysis areas are considered separately, five are above the FIT guideline of 0.60 hectares. The exception being Kings Langley.

6.3 Accessibility

Figure 6.1 overleaf shows the location of amenity greenspace sites across Dacorum with a 480m catchment applied. This is based on FIT recommended accessibility standards.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace sites mapped with a 480m catchment applied

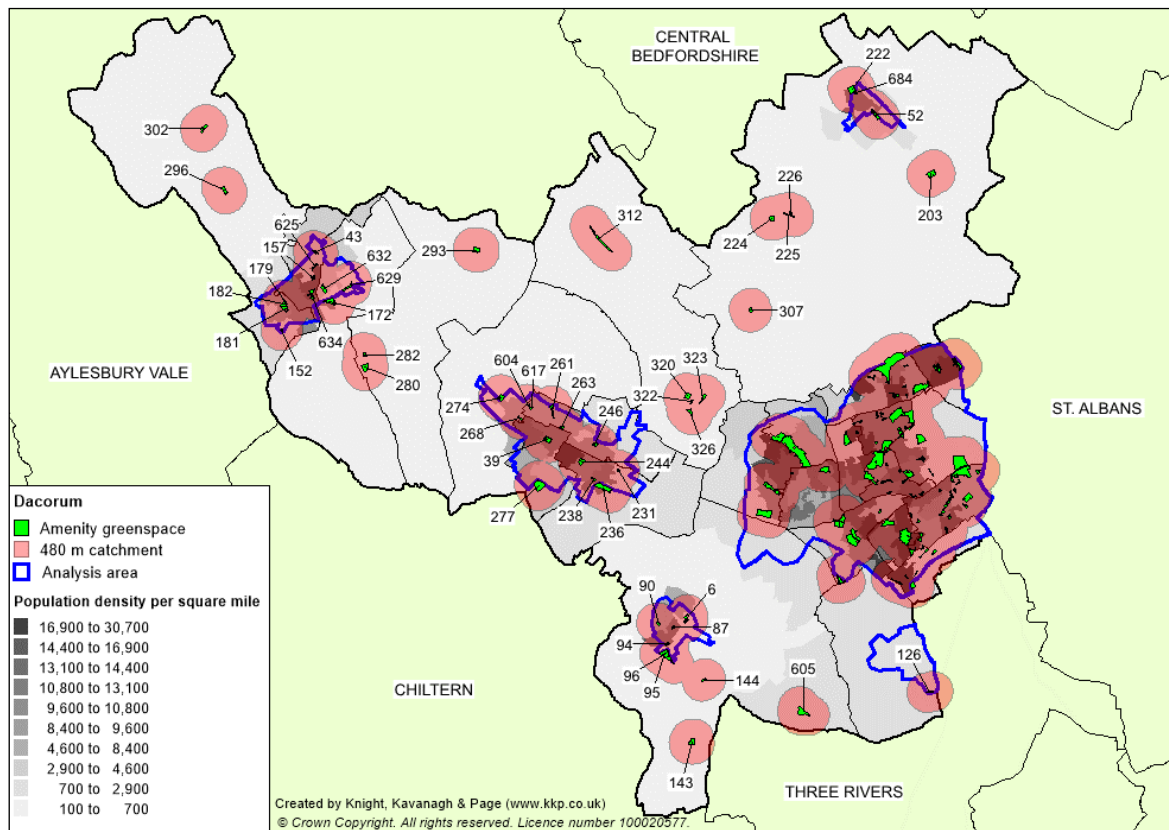
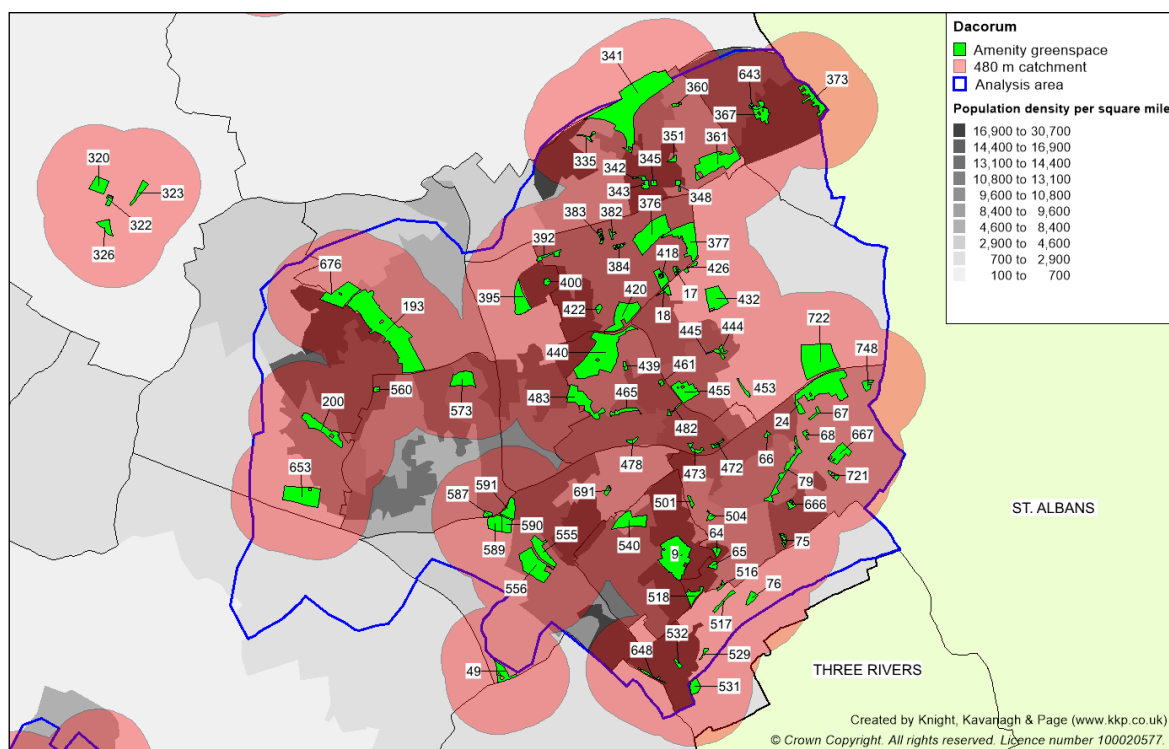


Figure 6.2: Amenity greenspace sites mapped with a 480m catchment – Hemel Hempstead



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Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
39	Lagley Meadow Recreation Ground	Berkhamsted	42.1%	44.0%
231	Lombardy Drive	Berkhamsted	50.0%	22.0%
236	Velvet Lawn	Berkhamsted	50.0%	29.0%
238	Loring Road	Berkhamsted	52.3%	33.0%
244	Butts Meadow	Berkhamsted	64.5%	29.0%
246	The Moor	Berkhamsted	65.4%	39.0%
261	Bridle Way	Berkhamsted	66.8%	28.0%
263	Normandy Drive	Berkhamsted	47.7%	22.0%
268	The Meads	Berkhamsted	49.5%	28.0%
274	Northchurch Recreation Ground	Berkhamsted	70.6%	28.0%
277	Shootersway playing field	Berkhamsted	57.9%	29.0%
312	Nettleden Road	Other	48.6%	23.0%
320	Potten End Sports Field	Other	66.8%	48.0%
322	Plough Lane	Other	39.3%	23.0%
323	Browns Springs	Other	50.5%	33.0%
326	Potten End Green	Other	76.2%	34.0%
604	Admiral Way	Berkhamsted	49.1%	33.0%
617	Peacocks Close	Berkhamsted	50.5%	22.0%
52	Pickford Road	Markyate	70.1%	34.0%
203	Flamstead Recreation Ground	Other	65.9%	29.0%
222	Markyate playing field	Markyate	79.0%	50.0%
224	Bradden Lane, Gaddesden Row	Other	32.2%	27.0%
225	Gaddesden Row	Other	75.7%	28.0%
226	Gaddesden Row	Other	41.1%	22.0%
307	Piper's Hill Recreation Ground	Other	46.3%	33.0%
684	Markyate Village Hall	Markyate	78.5%	44.0%
9	Belswains Playing Field	Hemel Hempstead	86.9%	45.0%
17	Matis House	Hemel Hempstead	46.3%	22.0%
18	Queensway	Hemel Hempstead	65.9%	33.0%
24	Marchmont Pond, Breakspear Way	Hemel Hempstead	39.3%	24.0%
49	Dunnock Close	Hemel Hempstead	52.3%	29.0%
64	Six Acres	Hemel Hempstead	48.6%	28.0%
65	Great Elms Road	Hemel Hempstead	52.3%	28.0%
66	Ritcroft Close	Hemel Hempstead	50.0%	22.0%
67	Poynders Hill	Hemel Hempstead	48.1%	22.0%
68	Cumberlow Place	Hemel Hempstead	49.1%	22.0%
75	Rathlin	Hemel Hempstead	46.3%	22.0%
76	Highclere Drive	Hemel Hempstead	44.9%	22.0%
79	Longfield	Hemel Hempstead	52.3%	23.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
193	Warners End Valley	Hemel Hempstead	51.9%	39.0%
200	Jocketts Road	Hemel Hempstead	74.8%	33.0%
335	Washington Avenue	Hemel Hempstead	64.5%	28.0%
341	Grovehill playing fields	Hemel Hempstead	83.2%	55.0%
342	Stevenage Rise	Hemel Hempstead	43.0%	23.0%
343	Hatfield Crescent	Hemel Hempstead	50.5%	23.0%
345	Redditch Court	Hemel Hempstead	48.6%	28.0%
348	Harlow Court	Hemel Hempstead	49.1%	28.0%
351	Waveney	Hemel Hempstead	44.9%	22.0%
360	Tresilian Square	Hemel Hempstead	50.5%	28.0%
361	Cupid Green Playing Field	Hemel Hempstead	82.2%	55.0%
367	Datchet Close	Hemel Hempstead	77.6%	33.0%
373	Holtsmere End Lane	Hemel Hempstead	53.3%	27.0%
376	Pennine Way Sports Ground	Hemel Hempstead	87.9%	29.0%
377	Yew Tree Wood/Redbourn Road	Hemel Hempstead	58.9%	28.0%
382	Airdale	Hemel Hempstead	50.9%	28.0%
383	Wharfdale	Hemel Hempstead	49.5%	28.0%
384	Cambrian Way	Hemel Hempstead	63.1%	29.0%
392	Fletcher Way	Hemel Hempstead	53.3%	23.0%
395	Fletcher Way	Hemel Hempstead	49.5%	28.0%
400	Broadcroft	Hemel Hempstead	49.5%	28.0%
418	Highfield House	Hemel Hempstead	48.6%	23.0%
420	Woodhall Lane	Hemel Hempstead	51.9%	33.0%
422	Thumpers	Hemel Hempstead	66.8%	28.0%
426	Dellcut Road	Hemel Hempstead	50.0%	23.0%
432	High Street Green	Hemel Hempstead	82.7%	44.0%
439	Commons Lane	Hemel Hempstead	50.5%	23.0%
440	Keens Fields	Hemel Hempstead	76.6%	44.0%
444	Leverstock Green Road	Hemel Hempstead	55.1%	27.0%
445	Tedder Road	Hemel Hempstead	50.5%	23.0%
453	Leverstock Green Road	Hemel Hempstead	44.9%	21.0%
455	Reith Fields	Hemel Hempstead	85.0%	49.0%
461	Old House Road	Hemel Hempstead	79.9%	28.0%
465	Broadfield	Hemel Hempstead	51.4%	24.0%
472	Homefield Road	Hemel Hempstead	50.0%	28.0%
473	Eastwick Row	Hemel Hempstead	65.9%	23.0%
478	Lower Yott	Hemel Hempstead	51.4%	28.0%
482	Longlands	Hemel Hempstead	55.1%	24.0%
483	Adeyfield	Hemel Hempstead	80.4%	40.0%
501	Bennetts End Road	Hemel Hempstead	49.5%	23.0%
504	Goldcroft	Hemel Hempstead	42.1%	22.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
516	Hill Common	Hemel Hempstead	50.5%	28.0%
517	Chambersbury Lane	Hemel Hempstead	52.3%	23.0%
518	Barnacres Road	Hemel Hempstead	77.6%	28.0%
529	Chambersbury Lane	Hemel Hempstead	50.5%	28.0%
531	Nash Mills Recreation Ground	Hemel Hempstead	40.2%	28.0%
532	Mill Close	Hemel Hempstead	53.3%	28.0%
540	Leys Road	Hemel Hempstead	50.5%	33.0%
555	Lawn Lane	Hemel Hempstead	47.2%	34.0%
556	Durrants Hill Road Playing Field	Hemel Hempstead	56.1%	24.0%
560	Northridge Way	Hemel Hempstead	52.3%	22.0%
573	Lockers Park Lane	Hemel Hempstead	48.1%	28.0%
587	Hemel Hempstead War Memorial	Hemel Hempstead	81.3%	34.0%
589	Heath Park cricket pitch	Hemel Hempstead	41.1%	23.0%
590	Balderson's Moor	Hemel Hempstead	57.0%	55.0%
591	Heath Park	Hemel Hempstead	74.8%	54.0%
643	Chaucer Walk	Hemel Hempstead	49.5%	28.0%
648	Swan Mead	Hemel Hempstead	50.9%	28.0%
653	Chaulden Lane Playing Field	Hemel Hempstead	47.7%	30.0%
666	Colonsay AGS*	Hemel Hempstead	50.0%	33.0%
667	Westwick Field	Hemel Hempstead	65.4%	34.0%
676	Galley Hill playing field	Hemel Hempstead	46.3%	38.0%
691	Evergreen Walk	Hemel Hempstead	51.4%	28.0%
721	Church Cottages	Hemel Hempstead	51.4%	27.0%
722	Breakspear Way	Hemel Hempstead	42.1%	28.0%
723	Breakspear Way (split site)	Hemel Hempstead	38.8%	23.0%
748	Breakspear Park car park	Hemel Hempstead	36.4%	22.0%
6	Church Lane Playing Field	Bovingdon	43.9%	29.0%
87	Old Dean	Bovingdon	45.8%	28.0%
90	Mitchell Close	Bovingdon	38.8%	22.0%
94	Windsor Close	Bovingdon	46.3%	21.0%
95	Bovingdon Green	Bovingdon	63.6%	24.0%
96	Bovingdon Green cricket pitch	Bovingdon	48.6%	39.0%
126	Station Footpath	Kings Langley	49.5%	33.0%
143	Flaunden Village Hall	Other	56.1%	22.0%
144	Flaunden Lane	Other	41.6%	27.0%
605	Chipperfield Common & cricket club	Other	68.2%	35.0%
43	Chapel Meadow	Tring	69.2%	28.0%
152	Woodland Close	Tring	47.7%	21.0%
157	Emma Rothschild Court	Tring	50.5%	28.0%
172	Pound Meadow Playing Field	Tring	69.2%	34.0%

* Amenity Greenspace.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
179	Okeford Close	Tring	45.3%	29.0%
181	Miswell Lane	Tring	56.5%	39.0%
182	Okeford Drive	Tring	43.9%	30.0%
280	Wick Road playing field	Other	43.0%	35.0%
282	The Hollies	Other	53.3%	24.0%
293	Aldbury Sports Ground	Other	65.9%	39.0%
296	Wilstone Village Hall	Other	73.8%	40.0%
302	Long Marston Park	Other	69.6%	34.0%
625	Silk Mill Way	Tring	46.7%	22.0%
629	Whytingham Road	Tring	50.5%	34.0%
632	Mortimer Hill	Tring	55.6%	28.0%
634	Pond Close	Tring	66.8%	35.0%

Mapping shows that all analysis areas in Dacorum are generally well served by amenity greenspace provision based on a 480m catchment. Minor gaps are observed to the west of Hemel Hempstead. However, this is likely served by other forms of provision such as natural and semi-natural greenspace like Blackbirds Moor, Station Moor and Fishery Moor.

6.4 Quality

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

Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspace in Dacorum

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<50%	>50%
Berkhamsted	42%	55%	71%	29%	4	9
Bovingdon	39%	48%	64%	25%	5	1
Hemel Hempstead	36%	56%	88%	51%	28	52
Kings Langley	49%	49%	49%	0%	1	0
Markyate	70%	76%	79%	9%	0	3
Tring Area	44%	55%	69%	25%	4	7
<i>Other</i>	32%	56%	76%	44%	7	11
Dacorum	32%	56%	88%	56%	49	83

A total of 63% of amenity greenspace sites in Dacorum rate above the threshold for quality.

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The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Pennine Way Sports Ground (88%)
- ◀ Belswains Playing Field (87%)
- ◀ Reith Fields (85%)

The three sites are observed as having good levels of maintenance and cleanliness, resulting in a positive overall appearance. In addition, they provide good levels of user security as well as containing recreational features.

The sites all have bins to deter excessive littering as well as good levels of seating and signage. These add to the quality and use of the sites. Pennine Way Sports Ground has the additional benefit of car parking as well as picnic tables. Both Belswains Playing Field and Reith Fields contain play provision.

Sites scoring below the threshold are generally smaller in size and are often observed as being basic pockets of green space. However, despite having little recreational use and fewer ancillary facilities, it is important to recognise they may provide a visual amenity. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites in Dacorum are:

- ◀ Bradden Lane (32%)
- ◀ Breakspear Park car park (36%)

These sites lack ancillary features and formal pathways. None have bins or seating and each scores lower for perceived levels of usage. Access to the sites is also noted as either difficult or not clear. Bradden Lane scores lower for entrances and personal security. Most sites scoring below the threshold have no significant issues but serve more as a visual amenity or cut through.

It is important to recognise that despite some sites rating below the threshold for quality, they may still have the potential to be important to the community. For instance, if a site is the only form of open space in that local area it may be of higher value given it is the only provision of its type. It may also provide a visual function. These kinds of open spaces can have a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to community viability, quality of life and health and wellbeing.

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6.5 Value

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

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace in Dacorum

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Berkhamsted	22%	30%	44%	26%	0	13
Bovingdon	21%	27%	39%	18%	0	6
Hemel Hempstead	21%	29%	55%	34%	0	80
Kings Langley	33%	33%	33%	0%	0	1
Markyate	34%	43%	50%	16%	0	3
Tring	21%	30%	39%	18%	0	11
<i>Other</i>	22%	31%	48%	26%	0	18
Dacorum	21%	30%	55%	34%	0	132

All amenity greenspaces rate above the threshold for value. Some of the highest scoring sites for value in Dacorum are:

- ◀ Grovehill playing fields (55%)
- ◀ Cupid Green Playing Field (55%)
- ◀ Balderson's Moor (55%)
- ◀ Heath Park (54%)

Both Grovehill playing fields and Cupid Green Playing Field are multi-functional sites providing good amenity value and also play areas adding to add to their social value. The Balderson's Moor and Heath Park sites are attractive greenspaces and contribute to ecological value.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Some sites in Dacorum offer a dual function and are an amenity resource for residents as well as being visually pleasing. These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. seating, landscaping and trees) this means that the better-quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 132 amenity greenspace sites in Dacorum; over 225 hectares of provision. This is an equivalent to 1.47 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◀ Dacorum is above the recommended FIT standard of 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population. Further to this when analysis areas are considered separately, five are above the FIT guideline of 0.60 hectares. Kings Langley is below with 0.06 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◀ Mapping shows that all areas of greater population density are generally well served by amenity greenspace provision based on a 480m catchment.
- ◀ Over half (63%) of amenity greenspace sites in Dacorum rate above the threshold for quality. Several of the low scoring sites are marginally below the threshold.
- ◀ The majority of sites scoring below the threshold are smaller sites and are observed as being basic, small pockets of green space and lack ancillary features.
- ◀ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence all sites rate above the value threshold.

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PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

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

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

7.2 Current provision

A total of 77 sites in Dacorum are identified as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over seven hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all known provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Berkhamsted	10	0.54	0.03
Bovingdon	3	0.08	0.02
Hemel Hempstead*	40	5.17	0.06
Kings Langley	3	0.13	0.02
Markyate	3	0.13	0.04
Tring	7	0.36	0.03
<i>Other</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0.80</i>	<i>0.06</i>
Dacorum	77	7.20	0.05

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, Dacorum has a current provision level of 0.05 hectares per 1,000 population which is below the recommended standard.

7.3 Accessibility

Figure 7.1 shows the location of provision for children and young people across Dacorum based on FIT accessibility standards (LAP - 100m, LEAP - 400m and NEAP including skateparks - 1,000m).

* March 2020: Additional play site at Butterfly Crescent (0.05 hectares) identified

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Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people mapped against FIT standards

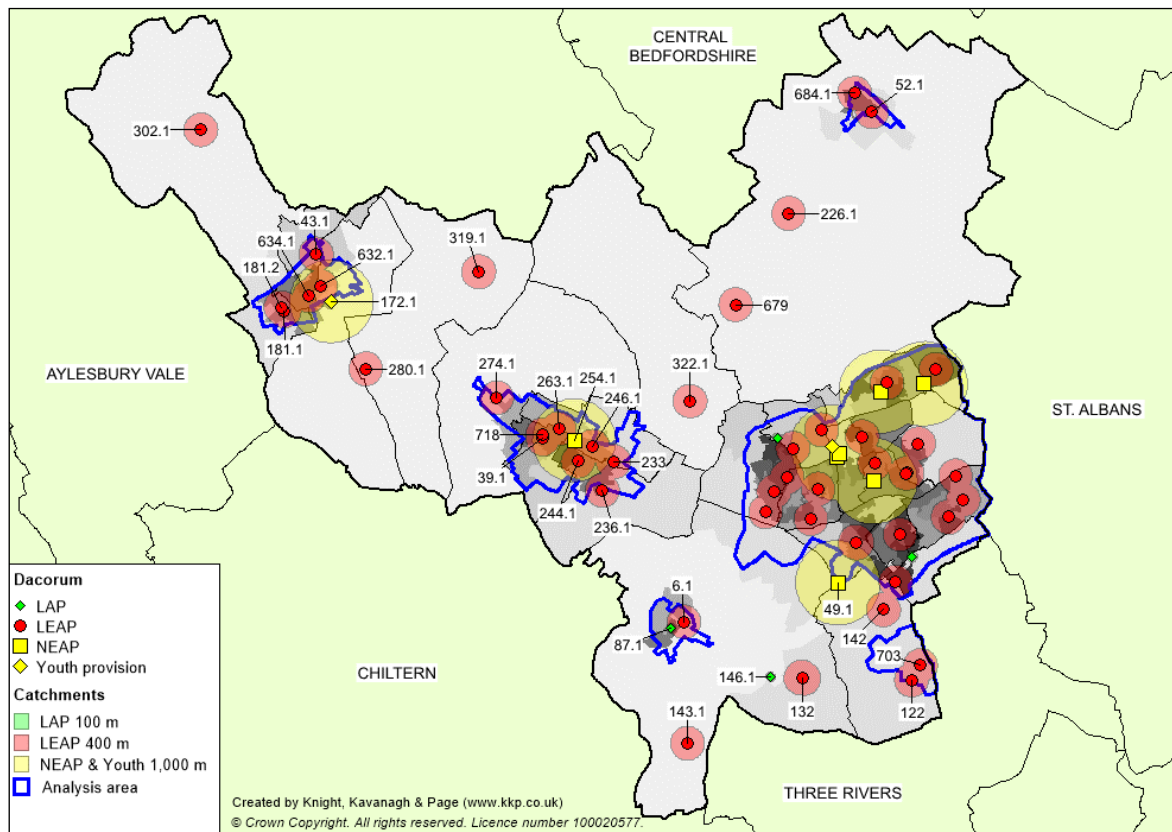
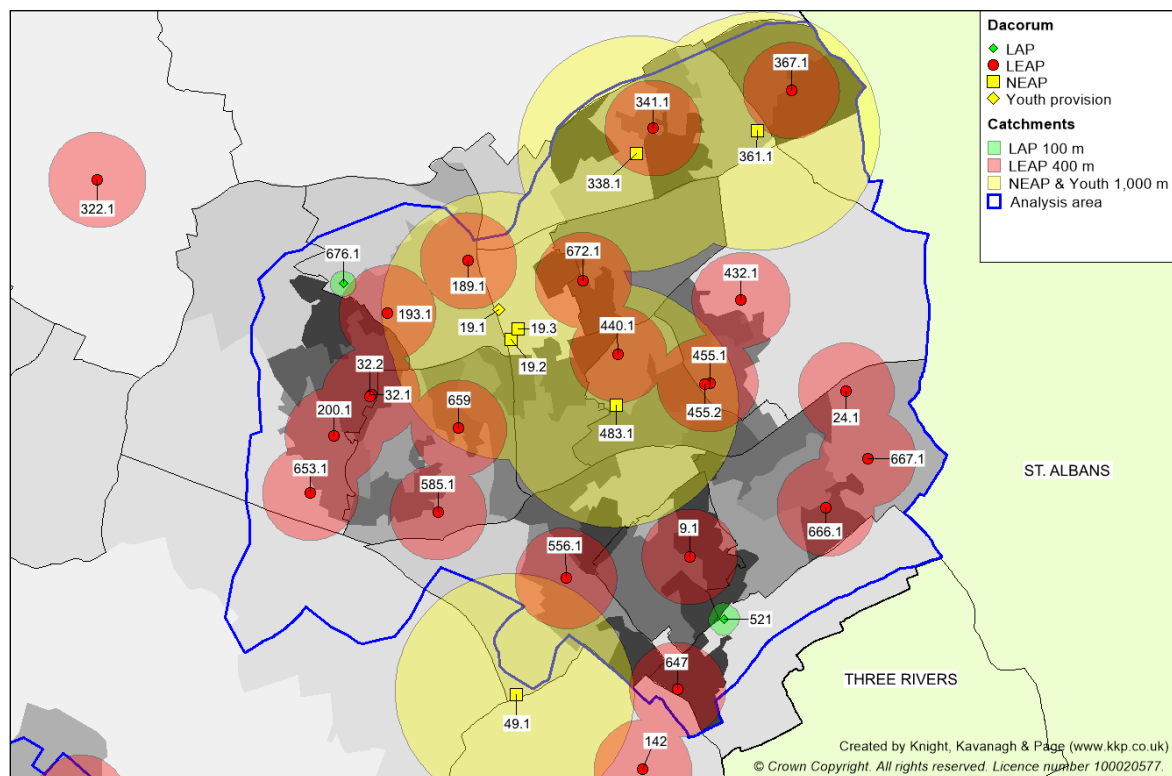


Figure 7.2: Provision for children and young people – Hemel Hempstead



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Table 7.2: Key to sites mapped*

Site ID	Site name	Sub-typology	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
6.1	Church Lane Playing Field play area and MUGA	LEAP	Bovingdon	68.0%	41.8%
6.2	Church Lane Playing Field MUGA	LEAP	Bovingdon		
9.1	Belswains Playing Field play area and MUGA	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	68.4%	38.2%
9.2	Belswains Playing Field MUGA	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead		
19.1	Gadebridge Skate Park	Youth provision	Hemel Hempstead	66.0%	41.8%
19.2	Gadebridge Park play area 2	NEAP	Hemel Hempstead	64.9%	38.2%
19.3	Gadebridge Splash Park	NEAP	Hemel Hempstead	79.7%	38.2%
24.1	Marchmont Pond play area, Breakspear Way	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	26.8%	38.2%
32.1	Northridge Park play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	66.7%	41.8%
32.2	Northridge Park MUGA	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	29.9%	38.2%
39.1	Lagley Meadow Recreation Ground play area	LEAP	Berkhamsted	66.0%	45.5%
43.1	Chapel Meadow play area	LEAP	Tring	67.0%	34.5%
46.1	Brook Street MUGA	MUGA only	Tring	62.9%	41.8%
49.1	Dunnock Close play areas (Manor Estate)	NEAP	Hemel Hempstead	90.4%	45.5%
52.1	Pickford Road play area 1	LEAP	Markyate	53.6%	41.8%
52.2	Pickford Road play area 2	MUGA	Markyate		
87.1	Old Dean play area	LAP	Bovingdon	68.0%	38.2%
122	Meadow Way play area	LEAP	Kings Langley	63.6%	38.2%
132	Croft Meadow play area	LEAP	Other	69.1%	38.2%
142	Rucklers Lane play area	LEAP	Other	68.0%	41.8%
143.1	Flauden Village Hall play area	LEAP	Other	62.9%	38.2%
146.1	Tower Hill play area	LAP	Other	52.6%	38.2%
172.1	Pound Meadow skate park	Youth provision	Tring	62.2%	41.8%
181.1	Miswell Lane play area	LEAP	Tring	75.3%	41.8%
181.2	Miswell Lane MUGA	LEAP	Tring	44.3%	41.8%
189.1	Gadebridge Park play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	49.5%	30.9%
193.1	Warners End Valley play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	62.5%	38.2%
199.1	Chaulden Adventure Playground	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	74.6%	45.5%
200.1	Jocketts Road play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	66.3%	41.8%
226.1	Gaddesden Row play area	LEAP	Other	54.6%	34.5%
233	George Street play area	LEAP	Berkhamsted	75.3%	45.5%
236.1	Velvet Lawn play area	LEAP	Berkhamsted	62.9%	38.2%

* Sites with multiple forms of provision completed under one assessment

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Site ID	Site name	Sub-typology	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
244.1	Butts Meadow play area	LEAP	Berkhamsted	67.0%	38.2%
246.1	The Moor play area	LEAP	Berkhamsted	45.0%	41.8%
254.1	Canal Fields Park play area	NEAP	Berkhamsted	67.7%	41.8%
263.1	Normandy Drive play area	LEAP	Berkhamsted	40.9%	41.8%
274.1	Northchurch Recreation Ground play area	LEAP	Berkhamsted	70.1%	41.8%
274.2	Hérons Elm Recreation Ground skate park	LEAP	Berkhamsted		
280.1	Wick Road playing field play area, Wigginton	LEAP	Other	66.7%	45.5%
296.1	Wilstone Village Hall play area	LEAP	Other	79.7%	45.5%
302.1	Long Marston Park play area	LEAP	Other	74.9%	38.2%
319.1	Trooper Road allotments play area, Aldbury	LEAP	Other	67.0%	38.2%
322.1	Plough Lane play area, Potten End	LEAP	Other	62.9%	41.8%
338.1	Margaret Lloyd Park play area	NEAP	Hemel Hempstead	73.9%	41.8%
341.1	Grovehill playing fields play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	71.5%	41.8%
361.1	Grovehill and Woodhall Farm Adventure Playground	NEAP	Hemel Hempstead	69.1%	38.2%
367.1	Datchet Close play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	66.0%	38.2%
367.2	Datchet Close games wall	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead		
432.1	High Street Green play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	64.9%	41.8%
440.1	Keens Fields play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	66.0%	34.5%
455.1	Reith Fields play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	62.9%	38.2%
455.2	Reith Fields MUGA	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	28.9%	41.8%
483.1	Adeyfield Adventure Playground	NEAP	Hemel Hempstead	82.8%	41.8%
521	Barnacres Road AGS & play	LAP	Hemel Hempstead	59.8%	34.5%
531.1	Nash Mills play area (Bunkers Lane)	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	43.6%	38.2%
542.1	Jarman Park play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	69.1%	38.2%
556.1	Durrants Hill Road play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	53.6%	38.2%
585.1	Blackbirds Moor play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	74.2%	41.8%
632.1	Mortimer Hill play area	LEAP	Tring	64.6%	38.2%

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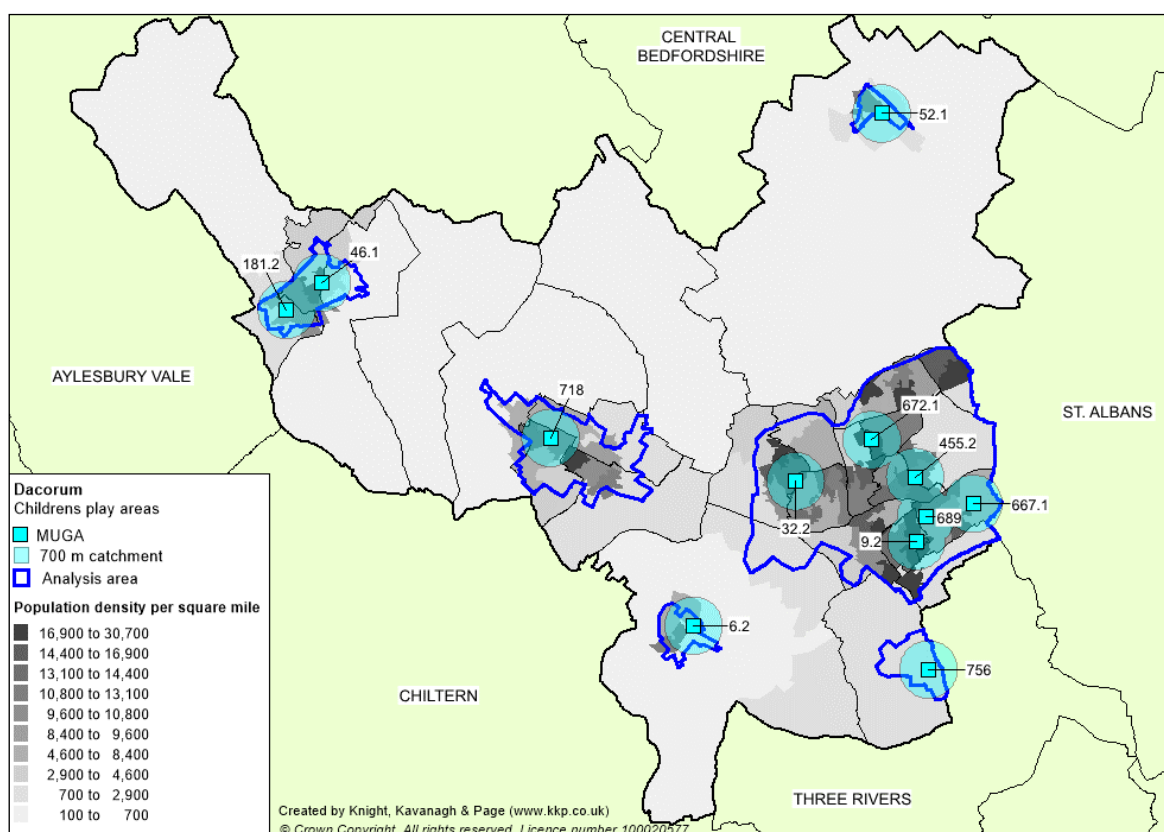
Site ID	Site name	Sub-typology	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
634.1	Pond Close play area	LEAP	Tring	70.1%	41.8%
647	Swan Mead play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	67.4%	41.8%
653.1	Chaulden Lane Playing Field play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	70.1%	41.8%
659	Hanger Close play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	65.3%	41.8%
660	Water Gardens play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	62.9%	38.2%
666.1	Malmes Croft play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	50.2%	38.2%
667.1	Westwick Field play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	79.4%	41.8%
667.2	Westwick Field MUGA	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead		
672.1	Randalls Park play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	68.4%	38.2%
672.2	Randalls Park MUGA	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead		
676.1	Galley Hill playing field play area	LAP	Hemel Hempstead	52.9%	34.5%
679	Church Meadow play area	LEAP	Other	62.5%	38.2%
684.1	Markyate Village Hall play area	LEAP	Markyate	73.2%	45.5%
689	Bennetts End Adventure Playground	LAP	Hemel Hempstead	51.2%	41.8%
703	The Nap play area	LEAP	Kings Langley	68.7%	38.2%
718	Gossoms End MUGA	LEAP	Berkhamsted	48.1%	38.2%
728	Marlowes play area	LEAP	Hemel Hempstead	48.5%	45.5%
756	Green Park MUGA	LEAP	Kings Langley	53.6%	45.5%

Mapping identifies that there is a generally good distribution of all forms of play provision across Dacorum. There are, however, some small gaps noted in the densely populated Hemel Area; particularly in sites classified as NEAP/Youth provision.

Consultation with the Local Authority highlights a shortfall of MUGAs in the area, specifically in the Tring Area.

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Figure 7.3: MUGA supply mapped across Dacorum



7.4 Quality

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

Table 7.3: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people in Dacorum

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<60%	>60%
Berkhamsted	41%	60%	75%	34%	3	7
Bovingdon	68%	68%	68%	0%	0	3
Hemel Hempstead	27%	63%	90%	64%	11	29
Kings Langley	54%	62%	69%	15%	1	2
Markyate	54%	63%	73%	19%	2	1
Tring	44%	64%	75%	31%	1	6
<i>Other</i>	53%	65%	80%	27%	2	9
Dacorum	27%	63%	90%	64%	20	57

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Quality of provision is generally good across Dacorum with 74% of sites assessed as above the threshold.

The relatively smaller number of sites to rate below the threshold (20), is likely attributed to a play provision refurbishment programme which the Local Authority has been undertaking with capital funding over the last six years. This programme is still ongoing with funds remaining to address those sites still requiring improvement.

There is a significant spread (63%) between the highest and lowest scoring sites, with Marchmont Pond play area (27%) compared to Dunnock Close play areas (90%).

The four highest scoring sites in Dacorum are:

- ◀ Dunnock Close (Manor Estate) play areas (90%)
- ◀ Adeyfield Adventure Playground (83%)
- ◀ Gadebridge Splash Park (80%)
- ◀ Westwick Field play area (79%)

These sites are observed as having good boundary fencing and safety barriers, litter bins (contributing to the site's cleanliness), ample seating, signage highlighting key information and good quality equipment. The only one of these sites identified as requiring improvements to equipment quality is Adeyfield Adventure Playground; however, the diversity of the equipment at this site contributed to its higher quality score.

In addition to Adeyfield Adventure Playground, there are three other adventure playgrounds across the borough; Grovehill and Woodhall Farm Adventure Playground, Chaulden Adventure Playground and Bennetts End Adventure Playground. All of which score above the quality threshold, except for Bennetts End Adventure Playground, which is noted as having a smaller range of equipment.

Since the audit took place Gadebridge Park play area (189.1) has been converted into additional car parking spaces. Ahead of this there has been investment in a new Gadebridge Park play area and Gadebridge Park splash park.

Consultation with the Local Authority highlights that the adventure playgrounds are in need of investment. Whilst there was some investment in these sites in 2015, they are now in need of further updates. All of these sites are manned and as a result are not open every day of the week.

The sites of lowest quality are Marchmont Pond play area (Breakspear Way) (27%), Reith Fields MUGA (29%) and Northridge Park MUGA (30%). These sites are noted as having a lack of ancillary features such as seating, signage, litter bins and boundary fencing. However, there are no issues with the standard or range of equipment offered at these sites. As such, any improvements to quality are achievable through provision of basic ancillary features.

Although not generally captured as formal play provision, it is worth noting that the Local Authority also has areas of informal play such as goal posts. Dacorum Borough Council is keen to explore other options of informal play such as Parkour and outdoor gym equipment and is considering locations for provision to encourage Parkour activity.

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7.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by best practice) site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the value assessment for children and young people in Dacorum. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.4: Value ratings for provision for children and young people in Dacorum

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Berkhamsted	38%	41%	45%	7%	0	10
Bovingdon	38%	40%	42%	4%	0	3
Hemel Hempstead	31%	40%	45%	15%	0	40
Kings Langley	38%	41%	45%	7%	0	3
Markyate	42%	44%	45%	3%	0	3
Tring	35%	41%	45%	10%	0	7
<i>Other</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>
Dacorum	31%	40%	45%	15%	0	77

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

Sites scoring particularly high for value (45%) tend to reflect a good range of quality equipment available at sites:

- ◀ Lagley Meadow Recreation Ground play area
- ◀ Dunnock Close (Manor Estate) play areas
- ◀ Chaulden Adventure Playground
- ◀ George Street play area
- ◀ Wick Road playing field play area
- ◀ Markyate Village Hall play area

These sites are observed as being well maintained with a good to reasonable variety of equipment, as well as having sufficient access. The sites are also assumed to be well used given their range and quality of equipment.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly impact on value. Provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play. For example, at Canal Fields Park play area, where there is a play area accompanied by a skatepark, outdoor gym equipment and a youth shelter.

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

7.6 Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are 77 play provision sites in Dacorum; totalling over seven hectares.
- ◀ Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, Dacorum has a current provision level of 0.05 hectares per 1,000 population which is below the recommended standard.
- ◀ The mapping highlights that all areas of greater population density across the borough have access to at least one form of play area. Small gaps are noted (particularly in Hemel Hempstead) for provision catering for older age ranges (i.e. MUGAs etc).
- ◀ Consultation with the Local Authority highlights a shortfall of MUGAs, specifically in Tring.
- ◀ Quality of provision is generally good across Dacorum with 75% of sites assessed as above the threshold. There are seven sites rating below the threshold.
- ◀ There is a significant spread (63%) between the highest and lowest scoring sites, with Marchmont Pond play area (27%) compared to Dunnock Close (Manor Estate) play areas (90%).
- ◀ All play provision rates above the threshold for value; reflecting the social, health and developmental benefits provision can provide.

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PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

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

8.2 Current provision

There are 38 sites classified as allotments in Dacorum, equating to over 40 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all known provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotments

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Berkhamsted	6	14.59	0.70
Bovingdon	0	-	-
Hemel Hempstead	18	9.55	0.10
Kings Langley	2	2.72	0.45
Markyate	1	1.36	0.45
Tring	3	3.74	0.31
<i>Other</i>	8	8.29	0.60
Dacorum	38	40.24	0.26

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

Based on Dacorum's current population (153,316), the NSLAG standard is being met as a current provision level of 0.26 hectares per 1,000 population exists.

8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1 overleaf shows the location of allotment sites across Dacorum. No accessibility standard is applied to allotment provision.

The supply and location of allotment provision provided within an area is best determined by demand for example, number of plots in use and waiting lists.

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Figure 8.1: Location of allotment provision in Dacorum

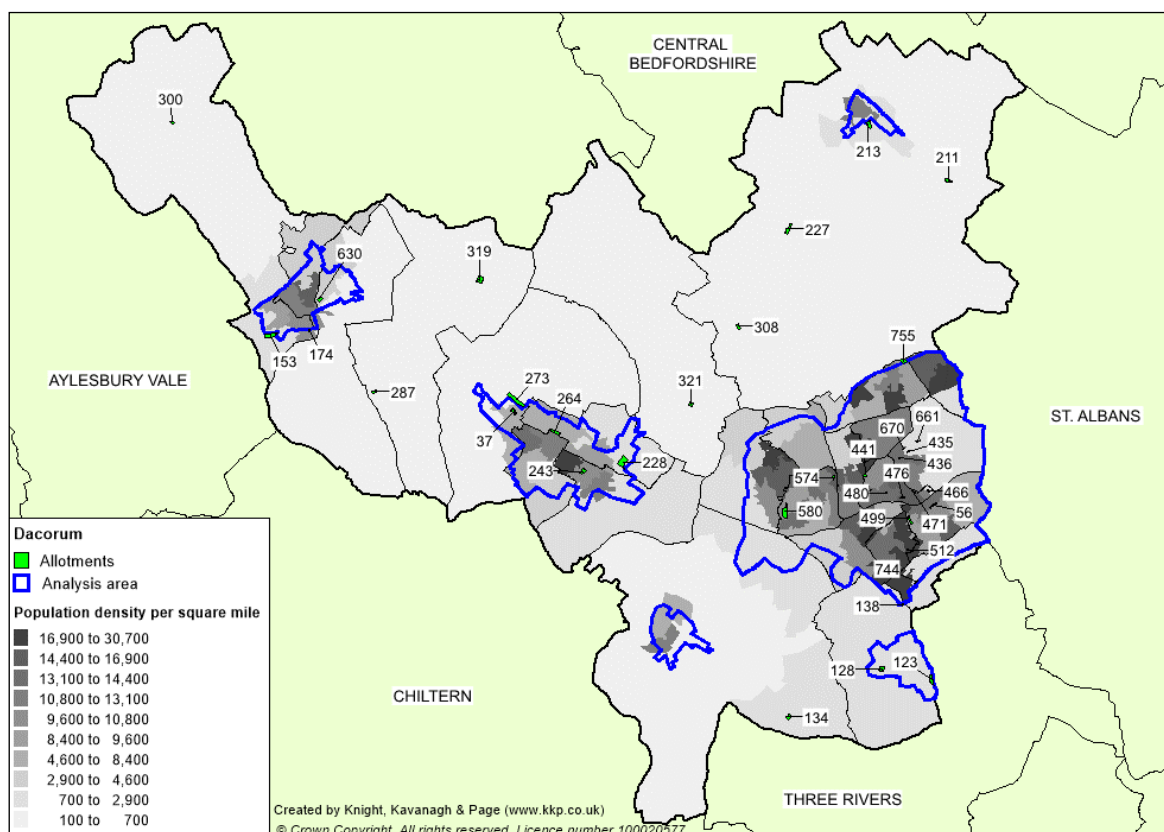


Table 8.2: Key to map

Site ID	Site*	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
37	Kite Field allotments	Berkhamsted	51.1%	41.0%
56	Brickmakers Lane allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	54.4%	41.0%
123	Church Lane allotments	Kings Langley	60.4%	41.0%
128	Biodynamic allotments	Kings Langley	68.1%	41.0%
134	Queen Street allotments	Other	51.7%	41.9%
138	Nash Mills allotments	Hemel Hempstead	51.7%	41.0%
153	Duckmore Lane allotments	Tring	59.3%	41.0%
174	Hastoe Lane allotments	Tring	45.1%	41.0%
211	Singlets Lane allotments	Other	52.8%	41.9%
213	Pickford Road allotments	Markyate	68.7%	41.9%
227	Gaddesden Row allotments	Other	63.7%	41.9%
228	Sunnyside allotments	Berkhamsted	63.7%	42.9%
229	Ivy House Lane allotments	Berkhamsted	63.7%	42.9%
243	Butts Meadow allotments	Berkhamsted	39.6%	41.0%
264	Princes Close allotments	Berkhamsted	58.2%	41.0%
273	Northchurch allotments	Berkhamsted	64.8%	41.0%

* All sites with an asterisks (*) are managed by Dacorum Borough Council.

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Site ID	Site*	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
287	Chesham Road allotments	Other	48.4%	41.0%
300	Potash Lane allotments	Other	50.6%	41.0%
308	Piper's Hill allotments	Other	42.3%	41.0%
319	Trooper Road allotments	Other	56.0%	41.0%
321	Potten End allotments	Other	50.6%	42.9%
435	Widmore Drive South allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	48.9%	41.0%
436	Hobletts Road allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	39.6%	41.0%
441	Adeyfield Road allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	49.5%	41.9%
466	Farland Road allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	40.7%	41.0%
471	Homefield Road allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	53.3%	41.0%
476	Windmill Road allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	47.8%	40.0%
480	Sheepcote Road allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	39.6%	41.0%
499	Bennett's End Road allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	46.2%	41.0%
512	Candlefield Walk allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	48.9%	41.0%
562	Gravel Hill allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	44.0%	41.9%
574	Bury Road allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	47.3%	41.9%
580	Chaulden allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	64.8%	45.7%
630	Westron Gardens allotments	Tring	68.3%	41.9%
661	High Street Green allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	57.1%	42.9%
670	Widmore Drive North allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	45.1%	40.0%
744	Chambersbury Lane allotments*	Hemel Hempstead	44.5%	41.0%
755	Grovehill allotments	Hemel Hempstead	51.1%	27.6%

The Local Authority manages 16 allotment sites. Most of the remaining sites are managed by town or parish councils.

It is understood that waiting lists exist for Dacorum Borough Council allotment sites. An average waiting time for a plot at a Council site is two years.

In addition, Berkhamsted Town Council and Great Gaddesden Parish Council highlight that waiting lists for allotment plots exist. Berkhamsted Town Council identify approximately 40 people on a waiting list. Great Gaddesden Parish Council highlights the existence of a waiting list but are unable to provide an exact number. Bovingdon Parish Council also cites a lack of allotment provision in the area.

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8.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by best practice) the site assessment scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in Dacorum. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments in Dacorum

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<45%	>45%
Berkhamsted	40%	55%	65%	25%	1	5
Bovingdon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hemel Hempstead	40%	49%	65%	25%	5	13
Kings Langley	60%	64%	68%	8%	0	2
Markyate	69%	69%	69%	0%	0	1
Tring	45%	58%	68%	23%	0	3
Other	42%	52%	64%	22%	1	7
Dacorum	40%	52%	69%	29%	7	31

The majority of allotment sites (82%) score above the threshold for quality. Site assessment highlights that sites across the Borough are generally well kept, with well-presented plots.

The highest scoring site in the borough is Pickford Road allotments (69%). This site scores particularly high due to having good ancillary features including toilets and shelter for users. Its pathways are also well maintained, as well as having clear signage, boundary fencing, controls to prevent unofficial use and good personal security. Furthermore, the site is observed as having a fresh water supply.

Other high scoring sites are observed as having similar characteristics; fresh water supply, good pathways around the site and shelter for plot holders. Westron Gardens allotments, the second highest scoring site in Dacorum (68%), is also noted to have ample parking. This is beneficial for those coming from further afield to access allotment provision.

The three sites which score the lowest for quality; Butts Meadow allotments, Hobletts Road allotments and Sheepcote Road allotments, can be attributed to fewer features, alongside less well-maintained pathways and lower levels of personal security. The latter is most likely a consequence of location, with these sites not being overlooked by housing or main roads. Whilst this is something which is not easily addressed, better maintenance of the pathways and surrounding areas would improve site quality.

A point to note, there are only seven sites to fall below the quality threshold. Furthermore, two sites; Chambersbury Lane allotments and Gravel Hill allotments, only score marginally below the threshold at 44%.

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8.5 Value

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

Table 8.5: Value ratings for allotments in Dacorum

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		<20%	>20%
Berkhamsted	41%	41%	43%	2%	0	6
Bovingdon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hemel Hempstead	28%	41%	46%	18%	0	18
Kings Langley	41%	41%	41%	0%	0	2
Markyate	42%	42%	42%	0%	0	1
Tring	27%	28%	31%	5%	0	3
<i>Other</i>	41%	41%	42%	1%	0	8
Dacorum	26%	29%	36%	10%	0	38

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

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

8.6 Summary

Allotments summary

- ◆ There are 38 sites classified as allotments in Dacorum, equating to over 40 hectares.
- ◆ Based on Dacorum's current population (153,316) it meets the NSLAG standard, with 0.26 hectares per 1,000 population.
- ◆ The Local Authority manages 16 allotment sites. The remaining sites are managed by town or parish councils or community organisations.
- ◆ Most allotment sites (82%) score above the threshold for quality. Site assessment highlights that sites are generally well kept, with well-presented plots.
- ◆ All allotments rate above the threshold for value. This reflects the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 9: CEMETERIES

9.1 Introduction

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

9.2 Current provision

There are 32 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 32 hectares of provision. This includes active burial sites as well as closed churchyards. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries and churchyards

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Berkhamsted	7	4.60
Bovingdon	1	1.57
Hemel Hempstead	6	14.60
Kings Langley	1	1.19
Markyate	1	0.35
Tring	4	3.29
<i>Other</i>	12	6.86
Dacorum	32	32.46

The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is Woodwells Cemetery (8.70 hectares). This site is located in Hemel Hempstead.

9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should be based on burial demand. Figure 9.1 overleaf shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis area

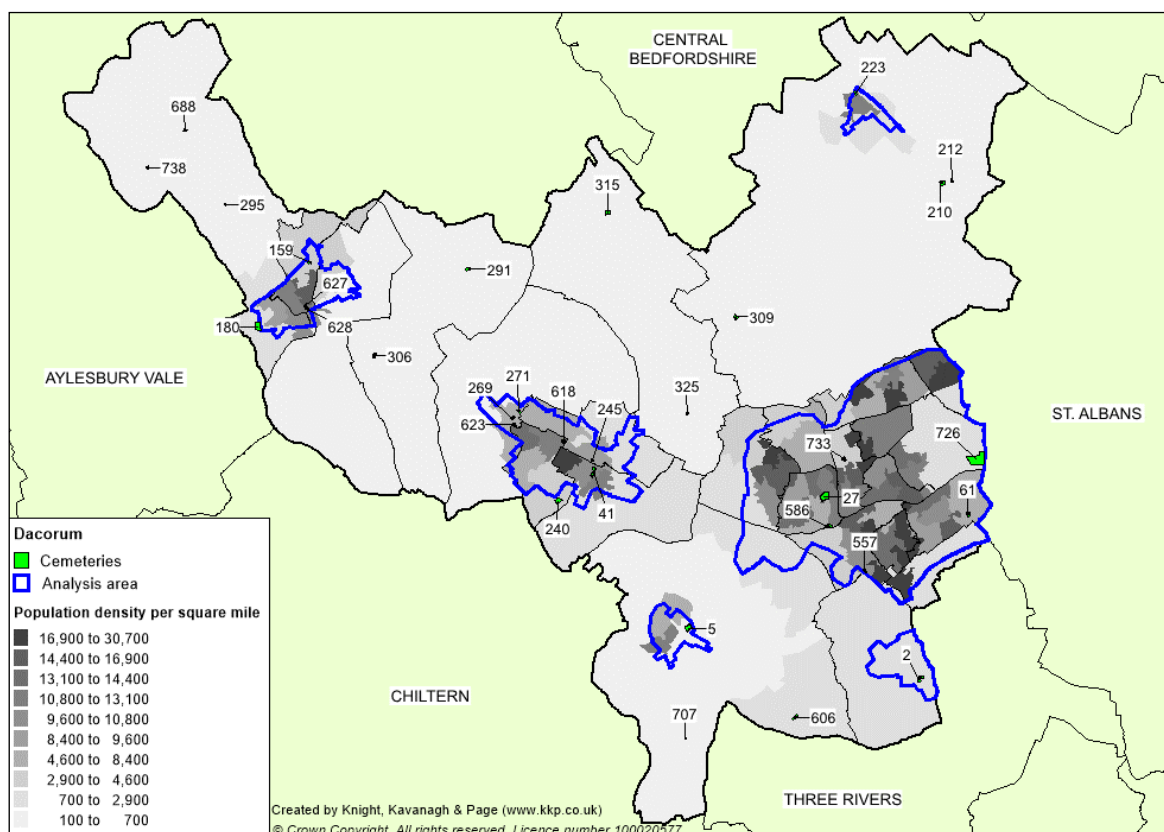


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
2	All Saints, Kings Langley	Kings Langley	52.7%	34.0%
5	St Lawrence Church	Bovingdon	57.1%	34.0%
27	Heath Lane Cemetery	Hemel Hempstead	58.4%	34.0%
41	Rectory Lane Cemetery	Berkhamsted	58.4%	33.0%
61	Holy Trinity, Leverstock Green	Hemel Hempstead	56.5%	38.0%
159	New Mill Baptist Church	Tring	42.2%	28.0%
180	Tring Cemetery	Tring	70.7%	40.0%
210	Parish Church of St Leonard	Other	57.8%	38.0%
212	Singlets Lane Cemetery	Other	33.5%	28.0%
223	Markyate Cemetery	Markyate	28.0%	27.0%
240	Kingshill Cemetery	Berkhamsted	68.9%	40.0%
245	Parish Church of Saint Peter	Berkhamsted	57.4%	39.0%
269	St Mary's Northchurch	Berkhamsted	46.0%	28.0%
271	South Bank Road Cemetery	Berkhamsted	34.5%	28.0%
291	St John the Baptist, Aldbury	Other	31.1%	27.0%
295	Wilstone Church St Cross	Other	35.7%	27.0%
306	St Bartholomew's	Other	54.1%	49.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
309	St John the Baptist, Great Gaddesden	Other	56.5%	33.0%
315	St Peter and St Paul Church	Other	33.5%	33.0%
325	Holy Trinity, Potten End	Other	52.5%	33.0%
557	St Mary's	Hemel Hempstead	34.2%	28.0%
586	Saint John the Evangelist	Hemel Hempstead	54.0%	34.0%
606	St Pauls Church	Other	62.5%	33.0%
618	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Berkhamsted	40.7%	38.0%
623	Northchurch Baptist Church	Berkhamsted	43.4%	27.0%
627	St Peter & St Paul Cemetery	Tring	38.5%	33.0%
628	St Peter & St Paul	Tring	51.1%	40.0%
688	All Saints, Long Marston	Other	46.2%	33.0%
707	Flaunden Baptist Chapel	Other	38.5%	27.0%
726	Woodwells Cemetery	Hemel Hempstead	72.5%	39.0%
733	St Mary's, Old Town	Hemel Hempstead	47.8%	38.0%
738	St Mary, Puttenham	Other	42.7%	38.0%

9.4 Quality

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

Table 9.4: Quality ratings for cemeteries

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low	High
					<45%	>45%
Berkhamsted	34%	50%	69%	35%	3	4
Bovingdon	57%	57%	57%	30%	0	1
Hemel Hempstead	34%	54%	72%	38%	1	5
Kings Langley	53%	53%	53%	0%	0	1
Markyate	28%	28%	28%	0%	1	0
Tring	38%	51%	71%	33%	2	2
<i>Other</i>	31%	45%	62%	31%	6	6
Dacorum	28%	49%	72%	45%	13	19

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Over half of cemeteries in Dacorum (59%) score above the threshold for quality. The three sites scoring highest for quality are:

- ◀ Woodwells Cemetery (72%)
- ◀ Tring Cemetery (70%)
- ◀ Kingshill Cemetery (70%)

These sites demonstrate high levels of cleanliness and maintenance and are well equipped with ancillary features including signage, seating, litter bins and controls to prevent illegal use. In addition, all three sites have pathways that allow for wheelchair access. Both Woodwells Cemetery and Tring Cemetery also provide toilets.

Those sites scoring below the threshold tend to be smaller sites, which as a result have fewer ancillary features including benches. It is also noted that a number of these sites have pathways that are less accessible for wheelchairs. Such sites most likely to be attached to churches.

9.5 Value

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

Table 9.5: Value ratings for cemeteries

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Berkhamsted	27%	33%	40%	13%	0	7
Bovingdon	34%	34%	34%	0%	0	1
Hemel Hempstead	28%	35%	39%	11%	0	6
Kings Langley	34%	34%	34%	0%	0	1
Markyate	27%	27%	27%	0%	0	1
Tring	28%	35%	40%	12%	0	4
<i>Other</i>	27%	33%	49%	22%	0	12
Dacorum	27%	34%	49%	22%	0	32

All identified cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value, reflecting their role within local communities. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide for local people is acknowledged in the assessment scoring. High scoring sites for value offer visually attractive landscape benefits and opportunities to serve an important function for a local community. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can often offer important low impact recreational benefits to the local area (e.g. habitat provision, wildlife watching).

The Rectory Lane Cemetery Project was established in 2014 and the Friends Group has begun a three-year project to transform the cemetery by creating a new community space with enhanced wildlife and heritage features. Funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund has enabled a neglected area on site to be restored. Future plans for a garden of remembrance and new surface paths are in place.

9.6 Summary

Cemeteries summary

- ◀ There are 32 cemeteries and churchyards, equating to over 32 hectares. The largest contributor to provision is Woodwells Cemetery (8.70 hectares) located in Hemel Hempstead.
- ◀ No quantity or accessibility standards are set for cemeteries. The need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.
- ◀ Over half of cemeteries in Dacorum (59%) score above the threshold for quality.
- ◀ Those sites scoring below the threshold tend to be smaller sites, which as a result have fewer ancillary features including benches.
- ◀ All identified cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value.

PART 10: GREEN CORRIDORS

10.1 Introduction

The green corridors typology includes sites that offer opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration. This can include river and canal banks as well as road and rail corridors which may provide opportunities to connect wildlife habitats.

10.2 Current provision

There are 11 forms of green corridor provision identified in Dacorum equivalent to 23 hectares.

Table 6.1: Distribution of green corridors

Analysis area	Green corridors	
	Number	Size (ha)
Berkhamsted	1	8.79
Bovingdon	0	-
Hemel Hempstead	7	7.60
Kings Langley	2	3.48
Markyate	0	-
Tring	1	3.20
<i>Other</i>	<i>0</i>	-
Dacorum	11	23.07

There are no green corridors identified in Bovingdon, Markyate or in the rest of the borough.

As villages are surrounded by green belt land, residents are likely to have easier access to the wider countryside.

10.3 Accessibility

It is difficult to assess green corridors against catchment areas due to their linear nature and usage. Figure 10.1 shows green corridors mapped across the area.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 10.1: Green corridors mapped against analysis area

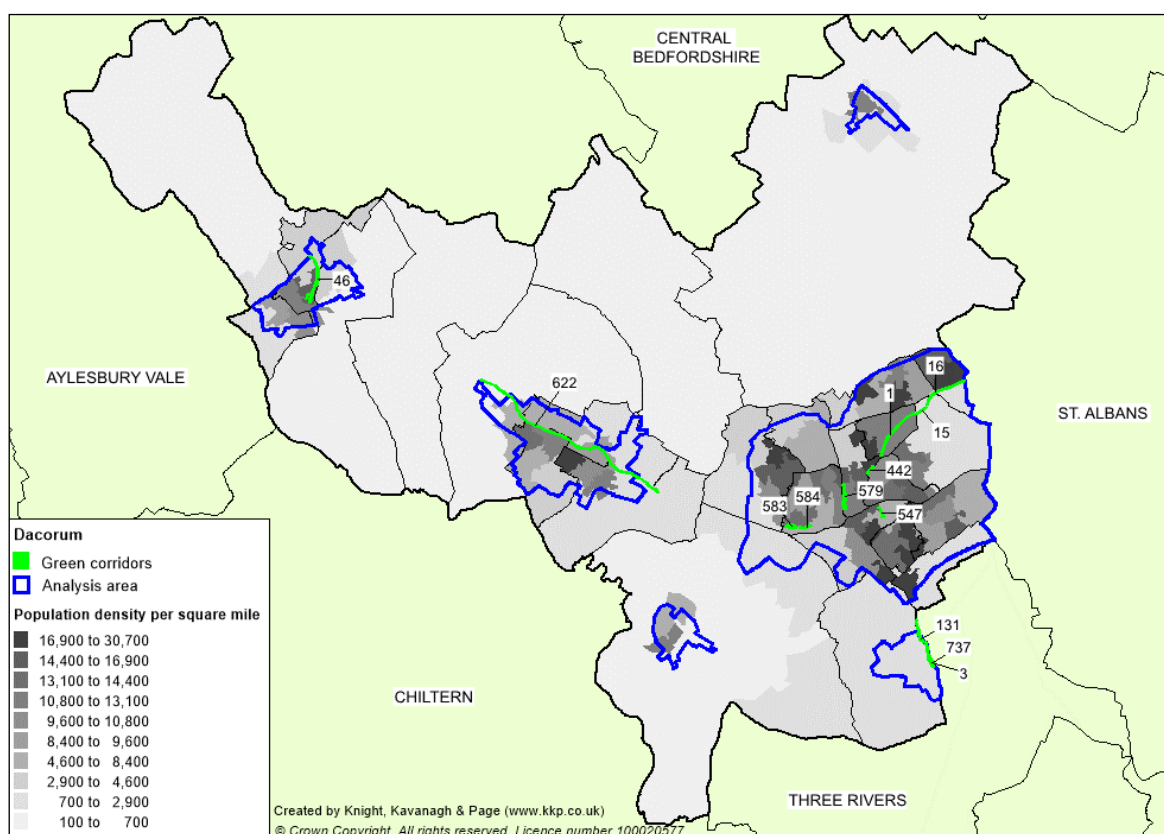


Table 10.1 Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value Score
622	Grand Union Canal	Berkhamsted	80.4%	44.0%
1	The Nickey Line 1	Hemel Hempstead	45.1%	28.0%
15	The Nickey Line 2	Hemel Hempstead	45.1%	28.0%
16	The Nickey Line 3	Hemel Hempstead	43.1%	27.0%
442	The Nickey Line 4	Hemel Hempstead	74.5%	29.0%
547	Pinewood Gardens	Hemel Hempstead	75.2%	33.0%
583	Fishery Wharf	Hemel Hempstead	52.9%	39.0%
584	River Park	Hemel Hempstead	45.1%	29.0%
3	Water Side	Kings Langley	56.2%	34.0%
131	Grand Union Canal	Kings Langley	45.1%	35.0%
46	Brook Street	Tring	55.6%	28.0%

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10.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by best practice), site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for green corridors. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.2: Quality ratings for green corridors

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High ≥60%
Berkhamsted	80%	80%	80%	0%	0	1
Bovingdon	-	-	-	-	0	0
Hemel Hempstead	43%	54%	75%	32%	4	3
Kings Langley	45%	51%	56%	11%	1	1
Markyate	-	-	-	-	0	0
Tring Area	56%	56%	56%	0%	0	1
Other	-	-	-	-	0	0
Dacorum	43%	56%	80%	37%	5	6

There are five green corridors which rate below the threshold for quality due to a lack of ancillary features such as seating and bins. This could reflect a focus on biodiversity intended to limit human presence. However, none have any significant quality issues and score quite well for overall maintenance.

The other seven sites all score above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Grand Union Canal (80%)
- ◀ Pinewood Gardens (75%)

These sites both have good boundary fencing, excellent paths, litter bins, dog foul bins and are well maintained attractive sites.

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10.5 Value

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

Table 10.3: Value ratings for green corridors

Analysis area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
Berkhamsted	44%	44%	44%	0%	0	1
Bovingdon	-	-	-	-	0	0
Hemel Hempstead	27%	30%	39%	12%	0	7
Kings Langley	34%	35%	35%	1%	0	2
Markyate	-	-	-	-	0	0
Tring Area	28%	28%	28%	0%	0	1
Other	-	-	-	-	0	0
Dacorum	27%	32%	44%	17%	0	11

All green corridors rate above the threshold for value. Green corridors have high health benefits, encouraging people to walk and cycle and reducing the potential use of cars, thus helping to contribute to healthier lifestyles. Green corridors also offer important habitat corridors and, therefore, the ecological benefits are recognised.

10.6 Summary

Summary

- ◆ There are 11 main green corridors identified. The most significant contributor in terms of size is Grand Union Canal.
- ◆ The sites offer important recreational opportunities such as walking and cycling as well as attracting visitors to the area. They also provide important habitat and wildlife benefits.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX ONE: CONSULTATION SUMMARY WITH PARISH COUNCILS

Parish/Town Council	Is there enough open space to meet needs?	Concerns and general information
Berkhamsted Town Council	No	Generally good quality existing open spaces. Allotment waiting lists (40). Shortage of pitches. Kick about area adjacent to Lagley Meadow Youth Centre is poor quality-fenced off and out of use following repeated vandalism.
Bovingdon Parish Council	No	Have just started to work on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan.
Great Gaddesden Parish Council	Yes	Allotment waiting list. Number unknown.
Tring Parish Council	Yes	Enough open space but new development must provide sufficient space for non-structural recreation.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX TWO: SITE ASSESSMENT SURVEY EXAMPLE

OPEN SPACE SITE ASSESSMENT				KKPref:	
Name of site					
Road name					
Primary typology of open space			Sub typology		
Land owner					
Date		Time		Weather	
Physical access		(Tick if present)		Access - social	
Public transport links/stops				Minimum entrance widths of 1.5m (to allow for wheelchair access)	
Safe crossing places				Directional signposts	
Main entrance					
Entrance does not open onto safe/busy areas and no natural surveillance from public spaces, roads, footpaths		Entrance opens onto reasonably safe/busy area with some natural surveillance from public spaces, roads and footpaths		Entrance opens onto safe/busy areas with natural surveillance from public spaces, roads, footpaths	
1		2		3	
Other entrances					
Entrances do not open onto safe/busy areas and no natural surveillance from public spaces, roads, footpaths		Entrance opens onto reasonably safe/busy area with some natural surveillance from public spaces, roads and footpaths		Entrance opens onto safe/busy areas with natural surveillance from public spaces, roads, footpaths	
1		2		3	
Gradient and value					
Steep slope (whole site)		Steep sloped area/s		Some irregular land	
1		2		3	
Personal security					
Not overlooked		Overlooked by other land use		Overlooked by housing on one side	
1		2		3	
Ramps and guard rails					
				Yes	
				No	
Are ramps and guard rails installed within the site?					
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?					
Adequacy					
Some ramps/guard rails, but noticeable gaps that require attention.		Adequate number of ramps/guard rails within the site but could be improved.		Appropriate number and location of ramps/guards rails within the site to improve access. No improvements required.	
1		2		3	
Boundary fencing					
				Yes	
				No	
Is boundary fencing installed around the site?					
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?					
Adequacy					
Noticeable gaps that require attention. Poor quality		Adequate fencing but could be improved. Variable quality		Appropriate fencing for the site. No improvements required. Good condition.	
1		2		3	
Controls to prevent illegal use					
				Yes	
				No	
Are there any controls to prevent illegal use installed within the site?					
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?					

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Parking		Yes	No
Is specific car parking available for the site?			
Is there parking for disabled users?			
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?			
Adequacy			
Inadequately meets the needs of the site in terms of size and type.		Reasonable number of spaces but may be at capacity during peak times.	Adequately meets the needs of the site in terms of size and type.
1	2	3	5
Appropriateness of provision			
Car park is poorly located (e.g., for disabled/elderly users) and is inappropriate i.e. is too big or unnecessary.		Reasonably appropriate for the size, type and usage of the site.	Car park is well located and appropriate for the size, type and usage of the site.
1	2	3	5
Quality			
Poor quality i.e. pot holes, poorly marked, uneven, weeds present, secluded, poor lighting.		Reasonable quality	Good quality i.e. level surface, well marked, free from pot holes, feels safe.
1	2	3	5
Information/signage		Information/signage	
	(Tick if appropriate)		(Tick if appropriate)
Parking well signed		Signs situated at entrance and strategic points	
Easy to read/clear messages (including warning of potential hazards)		(Where appropriate) maps and graphics used	
Well maintained and free from graffiti/vandalism		Evidence of site marketing (e.g., noticeboard)	
Basic up to date information given		Signs at accessible height	
Signage that detracts from the quality of the site i.e. too many signs that clutter a site			
Toilets		Yes	No
Toilets provided within/adjacent to the site			
Disabled toilet available			
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?			
Accessibility and appearance			
No signage, poor access, poorly maintained and graffiti/vandalism		Toilets reasonably signed, reasonable access, reasonably maintained, some evidence of graffiti/vandalism	Toilets well signed, easy access, well maintained and free from graffiti/vandalism
1	2	3	5
Seats/benches		Yes	No
Are seats/benches provided at the site			
How many seats/benches are provided			
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?			
Number and location			
Small number of seats/benches, none of which are located at strategic places		Reasonable number of seats/benches, some of which are placed at strategic places	Adequate number of benches, all located at appropriate strategic places
1	2	3	5
Appropriateness of provision			
Seats/benches poorly designed (e.g., for disabled/elderly users) and is inappropriate for the size, type and character of the site		Approximately half of seats/benches appropriately designed and appropriate for the size, type and character of the site.	All of seats/benches appropriately designed and appropriate for the size, type and character of the site.
1	2	3	5
Maintenance			
Seats/benches poorly maintained with graffiti/vandalism		Some seats/benches poorly maintained with graffiti/vandalism	All seats/benches well maintained with no graffiti/vandalism
1	2	3	5

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SITE QUALITY				
Overall maintenance and cleanliness				
General appearance is very poor. Litter, graffiti is considered a large problem	Poor appearance with evidence of dog foul, graffiti and/or litter	Adequate	Good appearance with little evidence of litter, graffiti and/or dog fouling	Excellent appearance with no litter/dog foul
1	2	3	4	5
Drainage				
The site is poorly drained (evidence of significant water pools)		Some evidence of water pools		The site is well drained (no evidence of water pools)
1	2	3	4	5
Landscaping design				
Landscape, shrub, grassed areas and/or flowerbeds are not attractive in design		Half of landscape, shrub, grassed areas and/or flowerbeds are attractive in design		Landscape, shrub, grassed areas and/or flowerbeds are attractive in design
1	2	3	4	5
Landscaping maintenance				
Landscape, shrub and flowerbeds not well maintained (not pruned, not weed/litter free)		Some well maintained (some evidence of pruning, some areas not weed/litter free)		Landscape, shrub and flowerbeds well maintained (pruned, weed/litter free)
1	2	3	4	5
Paths				
Poor surface quality with potholes and/or uneven paving. Unsuitable surface material. Unsuitable for all users.		Reasonable quality with some evidence of damage to surface and suitable for some users.		Good surface quality free from pot holes and even. Appropriate surface material. Suitable for a range of users including wheelchairs, pushchairs, elderly
1	2	3	4	5
Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora				
Very poor - evidence of vandalism	Poor condition - little observation of areas managed to provide habitats	Adequate - some evidence of conservation, e.g., meadow or bird/bat boxes	Good condition - environmental education facilities, maintained to attract wildlife.	Very good - Priority conservation site (SSSI or LNR)
1	2	3	4	5
Buildings and artifacts (not toilets)			Yes	No
Are there any buildings and artifacts on site				
If yes, please describe				
Maintenance				
Very poor condition - vandalism and graffiti	Poor condition - some evidence of vandalism and graffiti	Adequate - not in keeping with site heritage, little evidence of vandalism	Good condition - no evidence of graffiti or vandalism	Excellent - designed with relevance to site design. No graffiti etc.
1	2	3	4	5

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (please tick if present) only answer for the PRIMARY typology currently being assessed				
Parks and gardens			Cemeteries	
Sufficient disabled access			Sufficient disabled access	
Wildlife areas			Full to capacity	
Water feature i.e. pond, lake, fountain etc			Wildlife area	
Semi natural greenspace			Loose headstones	
Sufficient disabled access			Garden of remembrance	
Environmental education facilities			Furniture	
Visitor facilities			Burial of various religions	
Water feature i.e. pond, lake, fountain etc			Room for expansion	
Green corridors			Book of remembrance	
Sufficient disabled access			Child burial area	
Surface suitable for wheelchairs			Civic spaces	
Amenity greenspace			Sufficient disabled access	
Sufficient disabled access			Functions held on site	
Evidence of ball games being played			Car access	
Highway verge/roundabout			Used as car park	
Possible to redevelop as another typology			Electricity points	
Possible to play ball games			Heritage site	
Allotments			Good quality surface	
Sufficient disabled access			Water feature i.e. pond, lake, fountain etc	
Fresh water supply			Play areas	
Room for expansion			Safety Barrier at ALL entrance(s)	
Toilet facilities			Sufficient disabled access	
Shelter			Ownership information on display with relevant contacts provided	
Additional site benefits				
Cultural value - artwork/events/bandstand/links to BME community /other				
Health benefits - describe specifics eg. trim trial, footpaths, cycleways				
Space meets the needs of:				
Elderly			Site potential:	
Juniors (under 12s)			Site being developed at moment	
Teenagers			Re-evaluate the site	
Disabled			Good site	
Families			Potential to be enhanced	
Visual amenity				
Other _____				
SITE VALUE				
Connectivity			Yes	No
Does this site connect to any other type of open space that you are aware of? i.e. via a cyclepath or footpath				
If so, what type of site or sites (please detail)				
Level of use (observations only)				
Poorly used		Reasonably used		Well used
1	2	3	4	5

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Biodiversity value	Please tick			
Low value eg hard urban space				
Medium value eg Sports field with good hedge boundaries and a line of mature trees				
High value eg Local nature reserve (LNR)				
Further comments on biodiversity value if required				
			High value	Low value
Structural and landscape benefits				
If high, please provide example				
Ecological benefits				
If high, please provide example				
Educational benefits				
If high, please provide example				
Social inclusion and health benefits				
If high, please provide example				
Cultural and heritage benefits				
If high, please provide example				
Amenity benefits and a sense of place				
If high, please provide example				
Economic benefits				
If high, please provide example				

