

Appendix C

Open Space Assessment

Shropshire Green Infrastructure Strategy Open Space Assessment

Final report

Prepared by LUC

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Shropshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

Open Space Assessment

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Contents

Chapter 1			
Introduction and context	4	Appendix A	
Introduction	4	Neighbouring authority open space accessibility standards	A-1
Context	4		
Structure of this report	4	Appendix B	
		Applied access catchments	B-1
Chapter 2			
Approach to mapping open space	6		
Introduction	6		
Categorisation of open spaces by typology	6		
Approach to mapping multi-functional sites	8		
Accessibility	8		
Chapter 3			
Defining access catchments	10		
Introduction	10		
Defining access catchments	10		
Chapter 4			
Population estimates and projections	12		
Introduction	12		
Population estimates	12		
Population projections	13		
Chapter 5			
Findings and recommendations	16		
Quantity of open space: by settlement / site	16		
Quantity of open space: provision per 1,000 population	19		
Application of access catchments	20		
Local sized accessible Public Open Space	20		
District size accessible public open space	24		
Provision for children and teenagers	26		
Allotments	28		
Integration of open space evidence and recommendations into the Green Infrastructure Strategy	30		

Chapter 1

Introduction and context

Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the findings of an assessment of open space provision in Shropshire. This assessment was undertaken in order to inform the Shropshire Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Context

1.2 LUC was commissioned to prepare a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Shropshire in November 2019. As this work progressed, it became clear that an updated open space assessment would be beneficial to support the Green Infrastructure Strategy and that this should include:

- An updated evidence base in relation to the location, quantity, accessibility and typology of open spaces;
- A review and update of access catchments and an assessment in accordance with these;
- An assessment based on the settlement boundaries in the Shropshire Council Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (2015) (hereafter referred to as the SAMDev Plan), rather than the Place-Plan boundaries used in the existing open space assessment.

1.3 This report sets out the methodology and findings of this assessment.

Structure of this report

1.4 The report is structured as follows:

- Chapter one (this chapter) sets out the context for this assessment.
- Chapter two sets out the methodology used to map the open spaces and classify them into different typologies.
- Chapter three sets out the how the accessibility catchments for different types of open space were defined.
- Chapter four sets out how population estimates and projections were derived.
- Chapter five sets out the findings and recommendations of the assessment.

- Appendix A includes accessibility standards reviewed to inform the accessibility catchments used in this assessment.
- Appendix B includes plans of the Strategic Settlement, Principal Centres, Key Centres and Strategic Sites showing open space provision by typology and relevant accessibility catchments.

Chapter 2

Approach to mapping open space

Introduction

2.1 Geographic information systems (GIS) software was utilised to identify, categorise and assess the open spaces in Shropshire. This supported the categorisation of open spaces into a number of different typologies. It was then possible to identify them on maps and generate distance buffers to help determine the relative accessibility of open space to residents in each settlement.

2.2 Shropshire Council provided the open space dataset upon which this assessment is based. In preparation for this assessment, Shropshire Council Officers reviewed and updated this to reflect the most accurate known position. Specifically, the following elements of the open space dataset were reviewed and updated where necessary:

- Open space boundaries
- Open space typology: primary and secondary
- Open space accessibility

Categorisation of open spaces by typology

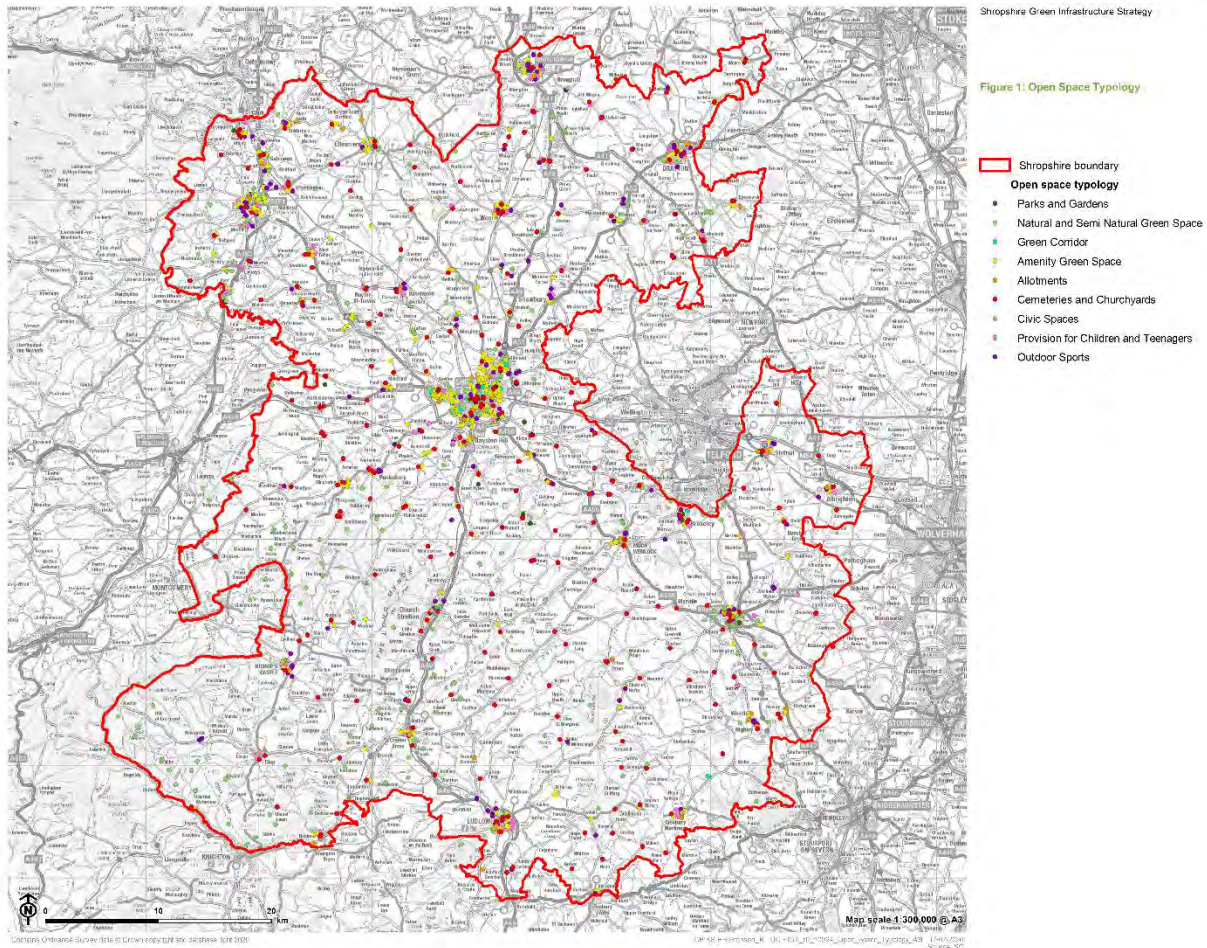
2.1 Each open space was assigned a primary typology based on key characteristics and functionality, in accordance with the descriptions set out in **Table 1**. The typology for each open space was reviewed and updated by Shropshire Council.

2.2 **Figure 1** shows all of the open spaces identified in Shropshire by their primary typology.

Table 1: Open space typology descriptions

Type of open space	Primary purpose
Parks and Gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. More multi-functional than other open space, offering space for quiet relaxation as well as a range of amenities and activities for visitors. Parks often include children's play, youth and/or outdoor sports facilities.
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	Access to nature, wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education awareness.
Green Corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
Amenity Green Space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work. Amenity Green Spaces provide a less formal green space experience than Park and Gardens, with generally fewer facilities and habitats.
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.
Civic Spaces	Providing a setting for civic buildings and community events.
Provision for Children and Teenagers	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
Outdoor Sports Provision	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics, or countryside and water sports.

Figure 1: Open Spaces in Shropshire



Approach to mapping multi-functional sites

2.3 Due to the multi-functional nature of the open spaces in Shropshire, some facilities (e.g. play spaces and sports pitches) are often located within other types of space, such as a natural and semi-natural green space. In order to ensure that the assessment took account of sites which provide for more than one type of use (as set out in **Table 1**), Shropshire Council indicated where sites had a 'secondary' typology.

Accessibility

2.4 Shropshire Council reviewed the accessibility of each open space, categorising each site in accordance with the descriptions set out in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Accessibility classification descriptions

Accessibility classification	Description
Freely accessible to the public	The open space is available for use by the general public all hours of the day and all days of the year, although may be closed on Christmas day. There may be certain areas within larger areas of these open spaces which are not always open, but these are relatively small areas which do not significantly affect access to the space.
Freely accessible to the public: opening hours	The open space is available for use the general public, however this access is restricted to certain opening hours.
Limited access: members or tenants only	The open space is accessible only to persons who have consent to use the space, for example members of a sports club.
No public access	The open space offers no public access.
Unknown access status	The access arrangements for the open space are unknown.

Chapter 3

Defining access catchments

Introduction

3.1 Access catchments were developed in order to understand the spatial variation in walking distances to open spaces, which is an indication of relative accessibility of open spaces to residents.

Defining access catchments

3.2 The development of access catchments draws on established guidance, existing standards set as part of the 2018 Shropshire Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment, and standards set by comparable neighbouring authorities (see **Appendix A**).

3.3 Access catchments are expressed as average walk time distances converted into straight line 'buffers' measured from the boundary of each site. Guidance produced by Fields in Trust¹ has been used as the basis for calculating walk time distances. This is shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Converting walk times into straight line distances

Straight line distance	Walking time (minutes)
250 metres	2-3
400 metres	5
800 metres	10
1.2 km	15
1.6 km	20

3.4 The resultant access catchments are outlined in **Table 4** below along with justification.

¹ As set out in Fields in Trust (2015) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard

Table 4: Access catchments for each open space typology

Typology	Suggested accessibility catchment	Justification
Parks and Gardens	District: 1.2km (only for sites of 20+ hectares) Local: 400m/800m (all sized sites)	2018 Shropshire Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment: between 10 minute walk (800m) and 20 minute drive (however there is no guidance convert driving time to distance as this is too variable). A hierarchy based approach (similar to Malvern Hills and Newcastle-under-Lyme) is suggested. Larger sites are likely to serve a wider area whilst smaller sites are more likely to provide local access. 400 and 800m catchments were applied to understand levels of access both locally and at a district level.
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	District: 1.2km (only for sites of 20+ hectares) Local: 400m/800m (all sized sites)	2018 Shropshire Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment: between 5 and 10 minute walk (400-800m) A hierarchy based approach (similar to Malvern Hills and Newcastle-under-Lyme) is suggested. Larger sites are likely to serve a wider area whilst smaller sites are more likely to provide local access. 400 and 800m catchments were applied to understand levels of access both locally and at a district level.
Amenity Green Space	400m/800m	2018 Shropshire Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment: 10 minute walk (800m). 400 and 800m catchments were applied in order to understand levels of access to amenity green space.
Allotments	1.2km	2018 Shropshire Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment: 10 minute drive, however there is no distance guidance for driving time as this is too variable). Neighbouring authorities use standards between 400-1200m. Guidance from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens (NSALG) suggests a 1.2km catchment which was used in this assessment.
Provision for Children and Teenagers	800m	2018 Shropshire Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment: 10 minute walk (800m). No audit work has been undertaken so it is not possible to use Local Area of Play (LAP) / Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP) / Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP) as used in some neighbouring authorities. In neighbouring authorities where LAP / LEAP / NEAP is not used, the suggested distances vary between 480m and 1000m. 800m fits into this range and was used in this assessment.

Chapter 4

Population estimates and projections

Introduction

4.1 The Shropshire Green Infrastructure Strategy was commissioned to provide an assessment and recommendations in relation to the Strategic Settlement of Shrewsbury, the Principal Centres, the Key Centres and three Strategic Sites. This open space assessment has been prepared to support the Green Infrastructure Strategy and therefore considers the same areas.

4.2 Specifically, the study areas include:

- **Strategic settlement:** Shrewsbury;
- **Principal Centres:** Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Oswestry and Whitchurch;
- **Key Centres:** Albrighton, Bishop's Castle, Broseley, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms, Ellesmere, Highley, Much Wenlock, Shifnal, Wem and Church Stretton; and
- **Three Strategic Sites to be proposed in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (2020):** Clive Barracks, Ironbridge Power Station and RAF Cosford.

Population estimates

4.3 In order to understand the provision of open space in relation to the population of the settlements / sites being considered, it is necessary to have up to date population estimates for these areas. Estimates were provided by Shropshire Council in accordance with the following methodology.

4.4 Population estimates were based on data released from the 2018 Mid Year Estimates published by Office of National Statistics (ONS). The approach used is the same methodology used by ONS for calculating the Built Up Area Population.

4.5 The ONS data provides a Population Weighted Centroid (PWC) at Census Output Area (OA) level - each OA has a PWC, a summary single point on the ground that represents how the population at Census time was spatially distributed and grouped within that OA. An OA is best fitted to an area if its PWC falls within the boundary of an area. The PWCs selected were those that fell within the study areas for the settlements and strategic sites assessed within the Shropshire

Green Infrastructure Strategy. The study areas are the boundaries of the settlements as defined in the SAMDev, or Strategic Sites (whichever is appropriate) plus a buffer of varying distances depending on the strategic importance of the settlement. The study area extents are set out in **Table 5**.

was multiplied by the average household size. The results of this are set out in **Table 6**.

Table 5: Study area extents

Settlement hierarchy / site	Study area extent
Strategic Centre	2km buffer of settlement boundary
Principal Centres	1.5km buffer of settlement boundary
Key Centres	1km buffer of settlement boundary
Proposed Strategic Sites	1km buffer of site boundary

Limitations

4.6 Although the population estimates will not be exact for the study areas, they are considered sufficiently robust to determine approximate provision of open space compared to population for the purposes of this open space assessment.

Population projections

4.7 In order to assess whether there are likely to be significant changes to levels of open space provision within the study areas over the Plan period, it is also important to consider how populations may change in the future. These were calculated based on the following methodology.

4.8 Population increases were calculated solely in relation to the amount of housing anticipated to come forward in each study area. Shropshire Council provided data on the number of new dwellings to be constructed within each of the relevant settlements and Strategic Sites between March 2019 until the end of the Plan period for the Shropshire Local Plan Review (2038). This included dwellings anticipated to come forward from sites allocated in the SAMDev Plan, sites proposed to be allocated as included in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (2020) and anticipated windfall sites.

4.9 In order to calculate the likely increase in population in each study area as a result of the proposed housing, the average household size projection for Shropshire set out in the ONS 2018 based household projections was used. This sets out an average household size of 2.1 persons per household. To create a population projection, the number of dwellings anticipated to be brought forward in each study area

Table 6: Population increase due to proposed dwellings

Settlement	Type of settlement / site	Total houses to be constructed 31 March 2019 - end of plan period	Average household size in 2038 (according to ONS 2018 Based household projections)	Population increase due to dwelling completions (assuming one household per dwelling)
Albrighton	Key Centre	476	2.1	999
Bishops Castle	Key Centre	142	2.1	298
Bridgnorth	Principal Centre	1,748	2.1	3,671
Broseley	Key Centre	122	2.1	256
Church Stretton	Key Centre	183	2.1	384
Cleobury Mortimer	Key Centre	170	2.1	357
Craven Arms	Key Centre	467	2.1	981
Ellesmere	Key Centre	688	2.1	1,445
Highley	Key Centre	178	2.1	374
Ludlow	Principal Centre	894	2.1	1,877
Market Drayton	Principal Centre	1,115	2.1	2,342
Much Wenlock	Key Centre	168	2.1	353
Oswestry	Principal Centre	1,588	2.1	3,335
Shifnal	Key Centre	895	2.1	1,880
Shrewsbury	Strategic Centre	6,882	2.1	14,452
Wem	Key Centre	471	2.1	989
Whitchurch	Principal Centre	1,340	2.1	2,814
Clive Barracks	Strategic Site	750	2.1	1,575
Ironbridge Power Station	Strategic Site	1,000	2.1	2,100
RAF Cosford	Strategic Site	N/A	N/A	N/A

4.10 It should be noted that the number of dwellings likely to be delivered at the proposed Strategic Sites of Clive Barracks and Ironbridge Power Station were taken from the Shropshire Local Plan Review Consultation on Strategic Sites (2019). No dwelling figures for RAF Cosford are available as this is proposed to continue to be a military base, and will not provide civilian dwellings.

Limitations

4.11 It is important to stress that the method used to calculate future population in the relevant settlements and Strategic Sites is extremely simplistic. For example, population projections will usually be based on a model setting out anticipated demographic changes as a result of natural change (birth rates and death rates) and migration. However, predicting these accurately for areas which are as small as those assessed (i.e. the study areas) is very challenging due to the small sample size, and to be more robust would require in depth analysis, possibly involving primary research, and the use of population prediction models.

4.12 It should also be noted that there is not a direct correlation between households and dwellings, however without a detailed population structure for each study area, it is not possible to apply household formation rates and vacancy rates to ascertain more accurate population numbers.

4.13 It is also important to note that the base date for the number of dwellings to be constructed is March 2019, compared to a population estimate base date of Mid 2018. This is due to the fact that housing figures have been calculated to meet Local Plan Review reporting requirements, and because more up to date population estimates are not available at the necessary geographic area level.

4.14 However, the population projections set out in this report are considered to be suitable for comparative assessment of the open space provision implications of the proposed dwellings in the Shropshire Local Plan Review.

Chapter 5

Findings and recommendations

Findings

Quantity of open space: by settlement / site

5.1 The total quantity of each open space typology by settlement / strategic site is outlined in **Table 7**. These figures include the open spaces that fall within the relevant 'settlement boundary' as defined in the SAMDev plan.

5.2 Total quantities of accessible open space (categorised as 'Freely accessible to public' or 'Freely accessible to public: opening hours' by Shropshire Council) by typology for each settlement / strategic site is outlined in **Table 8**. These include the open spaces that fall within the relevant 'settlement boundary' as defined in the SAMDev plan, or strategic site boundary as set out in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (2020).

Table 7: Total open space by settlement / site

Settlement	All open space (hectares)								
	Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	Green Corridor	Amenity Green Space	Allotments	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Civic Spaces	Provision for Children and Teenagers	Outdoor Sports
Albrighton	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.00
Bishop's Castle	1.78	0.01	0.00	0.70	0.93	1.01	0.01	0.19	0.82
Bridgnorth	3.10	8.48	0.00	0.55	0.71	0.55	0.00	2.17	6.57
Broseley	5.40	0.00	0.11	0.64	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.23	2.04
Church Stretton	2.90	5.28	0.03	2.38	0.00	1.05	0.03	0.00	4.65
Cleobury Mortimer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.00	1.08	0.01	2.34	0.18
Clive Barracks at Tern Hill	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Craven Arms	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.03	3.34	0.17
Ellesmere	0.00	1.12	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.00	3.12
Highley	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.34	1.06	0.00	0.06	2.49
Ironbridge Power Station	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.42
Ludlow	0.00	5.60	2.21	3.70	0.01	4.60	0.38	1.46	4.35
Market Drayton	1.19	4.52	0.00	5.17	1.36	3.16	0.00	1.40	9.53
Much Wenlock	0.00	0.20	0.27	1.20	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	3.52
Oswestry	3.40	9.46	2.30	6.09	0.98	0.50	0.00	0.69	4.29
RAF Cosford	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shifnal	0.41	0.00	0.25	0.66	0.31	0.13	0.00	2.77	0.00
Shrewsbury	22.46	99.56	11.75	68.21	7.73	20.96	0.00	1.61	31.92
Wem	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.74	1.03	1.66	0.00	3.40	2.24
Whitchurch	9.31	4.53	1.23	3.01	0.21	0.77	0.00	0.16	3.91

Table 8: Total accessible open space by settlement / site

Settlement / site	All open space (hectares)						
	Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	Green Corridor	Amenity Green Space	Civic Spaces	Provision for Children and Teenagers	Outdoor Sports
Albrighton	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.38	0.00
Bishop's Castle	1.78	0.01	0.00	0.70	0.01	0.19	0.00
Bridgnorth	3.10	8.48	0.00	0.55	0.00	2.17	0.00
Broseley	5.40	0.00	0.11	0.64	0.00	0.23	0.00
Church Stretton	2.90	5.28	0.03	2.38	0.03	0.00	4.65
Cleobury Mortimer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.01	2.34	0.00
Clive Barracks at Tern Hill	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Craven Arms	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.59	0.03	3.34	0.00
Ellesmere	0.00	1.12	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hiahlev	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.06	0.00

Settlement / site	All open space (hectares)						
	Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	Green Corridor	Amenity Green Space	Civic Spaces	Provision for Children and Teenagers	Outdoor Sports
Ironbridge Power Station	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ludlow	0.00	5.60	2.21	3.62	0.38	1.46	0.00
Market Drayton	1.19	4.52	0.00	5.17	0.00	1.40	0.00
Much Wenlock	0.00	0.20	0.27	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oswestry	3.40	9.13	2.30	6.03	0.00	0.69	0.26
RAF Cosford	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shifnal	0.41	0.00	0.25	0.66	0.00	2.77	0.00
Shrewsbury	22.46	95.38	11.75	68.01	0.00	1.61	0.00
Wem	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.74	0.00	3.40	0.00
Whitchurch	9.31	4.53	1.23	2.95	0.00	0.16	0.00

Quantity of open space: provision per 1,000 population

5.3 It is appropriate to consider the following typologies of open space together when assessing accessibility to open space, because they each provide the ability to be used flexibly for different kinds of activities, unlike play space and allotments, for example, within which the activities one can undertake are more defined.

- Parks and Gardens
- Natural and Semi Natural Green Space
- Amenity Green Space

5.4 As such, these typologies are all considered as 'public open space' within the following findings and recommendations sections.

5.5 The quantity of public open space per settlement / site is shown in **Table 9**. Only those spaces identified as 'Freely accessible to public' or 'Freely accessible to public: opening hours' by Shropshire Council have been included in this assessment. The average provision of accessible public open space within the study areas is 0.64Ha per 1000 population (using the 2018 figures). The study areas in which the provision is below the average are highlighted.

Table 9: Provision of public open space by settlement / site

Settlement / site	Population		Provision of public open space: hectares per 1,000 population	
	2018	2038	2018	2038
Albrighton	5,839	6,839	0.10	0.08
Bishop's Castle	1,888	2,186	1.32	1.14
Bridgnorth	14,799	18,470	0.82	0.66
Broseley	7,690	7,946	0.79	0.76
Church Stretton	4,834	5,218	2.19	2.02
Cleobury Mortimer	3,292	3,649	0.16	0.14
Clive Barracks at Tern Hill	1,567	3,142	0.00	0.00
Craven Arms	2,644	3,625	0.32	0.23
Ellesmere	5,014	6,459	0.31	0.24
Highley	3,736	4,110	0.10	0.09
Ironbridge Power Station	920	2,850	0.00	0.00
Ludlow	10,955	12,832	0.84	0.72
Market Drayton	13,821	16,163	0.79	0.67

Settlement / site	Population		Provision of public open space: hectares per 1,000 population	
	2018	2038	2018	2038
Much Wenlock	2,618	2,971	0.53	0.47
Oswestry	21,455	24,790	0.86	0.75
RAF Cosford ²	2,943	N/A	0.00	N/A
Shifnal	8,176	10,056	0.13	0.11
Shrewsbury	82,856	97,308	2.24	1.91
Wem	7,024	8,013	0.39	0.34
Whitchurch	10,324	13,138	1.63	1.28

5.6 The quantity of provision for children and teenagers per settlement / site is shown in **Table 10**. Note that there was no population data available for population aged 18 and below, therefore total population was used to generate the quantity provision.

5.7 All identified provision for children and teenagers was included in the provision calculation including sites where provision for children and teenagers was identified as a secondary typology. The assessment captures all open spaces that intersect with the relevant boundary.

5.8 The average provision across the study areas is 0.62 spaces per 1000 population (using the 2018 figures). The study areas in which the provision is below the average are highlighted.

Table 10: Current and future provision for children and teenagers in numbers of spaces per 1,000 population

Settlement / site	Total number of facilities	Population*		Provision for children and teenagers: number of facilities per 1,000 population	
		2018	2038	2018	2038
Albrighton	1	5,839	6,839	0.17	0.15
Bishop's Castle	4	1,888	2,186	2.12	1.83
Bridgnorth	5	14,799	18,470	0.34	0.27
Broseley	3	7,690	7,946	0.39	0.38
Church Stretton	1	4,834	5,218	0.21	0.19
Cleobury Mortimer	4	3,292	3,649	1.22	1.10

² Note the population projection for RAF Cosford cannot be calculated as no proposed dwelling figures are available.

Settlement / site	Total number of facilities	Population*		Provision for children and teenagers: number of facilities per 1,000 population	
		2018	2038	2018	2038
Clive Barracks at Tern Hill	0	1,567	3,142	0.00	0.00
Craven Arms	5	2,644	3,625	1.89	1.38
Ellesmere	2	5,014	6,459	0.40	0.31
Highley	2	3,736	4,110	0.54	0.49
Ironbridge Power Station	0	920	2,850	0.00	0.00
Ludlow	12	10,955	12,832	1.10	0.94
Market Drayton	11	13,821	16,163	0.80	0.68
Much Wenlock	0	2,618	2,971	0.00	0.00
Oswestry	8	21,455	24,790	0.37	0.32
RAF Cosford ³	0	2,943	N/A	0.00	N/A
Shifnal	3	8,176	10,056	0.37	0.30
Shrewsbury	35	82,856	97,308	0.42	0.36
Wem	9	7,024	8,013	1.28	1.12
Whitchurch	9	10,324	13,138	0.87	0.69

*Note the population data used included all age categories, population data for population aged 18 and below was not available.

5.9 The quantity of allotments per settlement / site is shown in **Table 11**. None of these sites are freely accessible to the public; they are only accessible to existing allotment holders.

5.10 The average provision of allotments across the study areas is 0.0495Ha per 1000 population (using the 2018 figures). The study areas in which the provision is below the average are highlighted.

Table 11: Current and future provision of allotments in hectares per 1,000 population

Settlement / site	Provision of allotments: hectares per 1,000 population	
	2018	2038
Albrighton	0.49	0.42
Bishop's Castle	0.05	0.04
Bridgnorth	0.00	0.00
Broseley	0.00	0.00
Church Stretton	0.00	0.00
Cleobury Mortimer	0.00	0.00

³ Note the population projection for RAF Cosford cannot be calculated as no proposed dwelling figures are available.

Settlement / site	Provision of allotments: hectares per 1,000 population	
	2018	2038
Clive Barracks at Tern Hill	0.00	0.00
Craven Arms	0.00	0.00
Ellesmere	0.00	0.00
Highley	0.00	0.00
Ironbridge Power Station	0.00	0.00
Ludlow	0.00	0.00
Market Drayton	0.10	0.08
Much Wenlock	0.00	0.00
Oswestry	0.05	0.04
RAF Cosford ⁴	0.00	N/A
Shifnal	0.04	0.03
Shrewsbury	0.09	0.08
Wem	0.15	0.13
Whitchurch	0.02	0.02

Application of access catchments

5.11 Access catchments were applied to the following open space typologies:

- Local sized (all) Parks and Gardens; Natural and Semi Natural Green Space; and Amenity Green Space (two different access buffers applied for comparison)
- District sized (20+ hectares) Parks and Gardens; and Natural and Semi Natural Green Space
- Provision for Children and Teenagers
- Allotments

5.12 The applied access catchments are shown by settlement / site in **Appendix B**. These were reviewed in order to identify whether additional provision could be recommended to address deficiencies – i.e. locations within the study areas which fall outside the catchment areas.

Recommendations

Local sized accessible Public Open Space

5.13 These recommendations relate to the areas of the following typologies of open space which are identified as 'Freely accessible to public' or 'Freely accessible to public: opening hours' by Shropshire Council :

⁴ Note the population projection for RAF Cosford cannot be calculated as no proposed dwelling figures are available.

- Parks and Gardens
- Natural and Semi Natural Green Space
- Amenity Green Space

5.14 The scenarios used to inform the recommendations are set out in **Table 12**.

Table 12: Accessible Open Space recommendation scenarios

Scenario	Recommendation
The provision of accessible public open space is below the 2018 average provision for the study areas (i.e. below 0.64Ha per 1000 population)	Provide more accessible public open space to make up for this relative deficiency
The provision of accessible public open space per 1000 population is predicted to decrease by 10% or more as a result of new dwellings	Provide more accessible public open space to mitigate impacts of new dwellings
If locations within the study area fall outside the 400m catchment area	Provide more accessible public open space to help provide access to more people geographically

5.15 The recommendations for each study area are set out in **Table 13**.

Table 13: Recommendations for accessible open space in the study areas

Settlement	Recommendation in relation to Accessible Public Open Space
Albrighton	Provide new accessible public open space to help address existing deficiencies, to account for new development and to help provide access to more people geographically
Bishops Castle	Provide new accessible public open space to help account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
Bridgnorth	Provide new accessible public open space to help account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
Broseley	Provide new accessible public open space to improve accessibility
Church Stretton	Provide new accessible public open space to improve accessibility
Cleobury Mortimer	Provide new accessible public open space to help address existing deficiencies, to account for new development and to help provide access to more people geographically
Clive Barracks at Tern Hill	Provide new accessible public open space to help account for new dwellings
Craven Arms	Provide new accessible public open space to help address existing deficiencies, to account for new development and to help provide access to more people geographically
Ellesmere	Provide new accessible public open space to help address existing deficiencies and account for new dwellings
Highley	Provide new accessible public open space to help address existing deficiencies and to help provide access to more people geographically
Ironbridge Power Station	Provide new accessible public open space to help account for new dwellings
Ludlow	Provide new accessible public open space to help account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
Market Drayton	Provide new accessible public open space to help account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
Much Wenlock	Provide new accessible public open space to help address existing deficiencies and account for new dwellings
Oswestry	Provide new accessible public open space to help account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
RAF Cosford	Provide new accessible public open space to help address existing deficiencies, to account for new development and to help provide access to more people geographically
Shifnal	Provide new accessible public open space to help address existing deficiencies, to account for new development and to help provide access to more people geographically
Shrewsbury	Provide new accessible public open space to help account for new dwellings
Wem	Provide new accessible public open space to help address existing deficiencies and account for new dwellings

Whitchurch	Provide new accessible public open space to help account for new dwellings
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District size accessible public open space

5.16 The application of the 1.2km catchment around district scale open spaces (20+Ha) results in the identification of areas that are less well served in terms of access to district level public open space.

5.17 **Table 14** sets out deficiencies in the study areas in relation to access catchments for district scale open space..

Table 14: Study areas deficient in access to District scale open space

Settlement	Deficiency in access to district scale accessible public open space
Albrighton	Whole study area
Bishops Castle	Whole study area
Bridgnorth	Western part of study area
Broseley	Southern part of study area
Church Stretton	No access deficiency
Cleobury Mortimer	Whole study area
Clive Barracks at Tern Hill	Whole study area
Craven Arms	South-Western part of study area
Ellesmere	Whole study area
Highley	No access deficiency
Ironbridge Power Station	Western part of study area
Ludlow	Eastern part of study area
Market Drayton	Whole study area
Much Wenlock	Eastern part of study area
Oswestry	Central / eastern part of study area
RAF Cosford	Whole study area
Shifnal	Whole study area
Shrewsbury	Western part of study area
Wem	Whole study area
Whitchurch	Whole study area

Provision for children and teenagers

5.18 The scenarios used to inform the recommendations are set out in **Table 15**.

Table 15: Provision for Children and teenagers recommendation scenarios

Scenario	Recommendation
The provision of facilities for children and teenagers is below the 2018 average provision for the study areas (i.e. below 0.62 facilities per 1000 population)	Provide more facilities for children and teenagers to make up for this relative deficiency
The provision of facilities for children and teenagers per 1000 population is predicted to decrease by 10% or more as a result of new dwellings	Provide more facilities for children and teenagers to mitigate impacts of new dwellings
If locations within the study area fall outside the 800m catchment area	Provide facilities for children and teenagers to help provide access to more people geographically

5.19 The recommendations for each study area are set out in **Table 16**.

Table 16: Recommendations for provision for Children and Teenagers in the study areas

Settlement	Recommendation in relation to provision for Children and Teenagers
Albrighton	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies, to help to account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
Bishops Castle	Provide new to help account for new dwellings
Bridgnorth	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies and help to account for new dwellings
Broseley	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies
Church Stretton	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies and help to provide access to more people geographically
Cleobury Mortimer	Cleobury Mortimer is not considered likely to face significant pressure in relation to provision for children and teenagers, although there may be opportunities to improve the quality of the current provision
Clive Barracks at Tern Hill	Provide more facilities to help to account for new dwellings
Craven Arms	Provide more facilities to help to account for new dwellings
Ellesmere	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies, to help to account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
Highley	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies and help to provide access to more people geographically
Ironbridge Power Station	Provide more facilities to help to account for new dwellings
Ludlow	Provide more facilities to help to account for new dwellings
Market Drayton	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies and help to provide access to more people geographically
Much Wenlock	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies and help to provide access to more people geographically
Oswestry	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies, to help to account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
RAF Cosford	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies and help to provide access to more people geographically
Shifnal	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies and help to account for new dwellings
Shrewsbury	Provide more facilities to address existing deficiencies, to help to account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
Wem	Provide more facilities to help to account for new dwellings
Whitchurch	Provide more facilities to help to account for new dwellings

Allotments

5.20 The scenarios used to inform the recommendations are set out in **Table 17**.

Table 17: Allotments recommendations scenarios

Scenario	Recommendation
The provision of accessible public open space is below the 2018 average provision for the study areas (i.e. below 0.0495Ha per 1000 population)	Provide more allotments space to make up for this relative deficiency
The provision allotments per 1000 population is predicted to decrease by 10% or more as a result of new dwellings	Provide more allotments to mitigate impacts of new dwellings
If locations within the study area fall outside the 1.2km catchment area	Provide more allotments to help provide access to more people geographically

- The recommendations for the study areas are set out in **Table 18**.

Table 18: Recommendations for allotments in the study areas

Settlement	Recommendation in relation to allotments
Albrighton	Provide new allotments to help account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
Bishops Castle	Provide new allotments to help account for new dwellings
Bridgnorth	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings
Broseley	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and to help provide access to more people geographically
Church Stretton	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings
Cleobury Mortimer	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings
Clive Barracks at Tern Hill	Provide new to help account for new dwellings
Craven Arms	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings
Ellesmere	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings
Highley	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings
Ironbridge Power Station	Provide new to help account for new dwellings
Ludlow	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings
Market Drayton	Provide new allotments to help account for new dwellings
Much Wenlock	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings
Oswestry	Provide new allotments to help account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
RAF Cosford	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings
Shifnal	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings
Shrewsbury	Provide new allotments to help account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
Wem	Provide new allotments to help account for new dwellings and to help provide access to more people geographically
Whitchurch	Provide new allotments to address existing deficiency and account for needs of new dwellings

Integration of open space evidence and recommendations into the Green Infrastructure Strategy

5.21 The Green Infrastructure Strategy utilises the recommendations in this report in combination with a number of other factors to provide specific recommendations in relation to the provision of open space in the study areas. These are set out in the proformas for each individual study area. A summary of the recommendations is included in **Table 19**.

Table 19: Summary of recommendations integrated into the green infrastructure strategy

Settlement	Summary of recommendations included in settlement / site proformas
Albrighton	Provision of new open space within proposed allocation to the north of the town to deliver accessible open space, food growing opportunities and play facilities
Bishops Castle	Provision of new open space within proposed allocation providing open space, play facilities. Recommendation in relation to provision of food growing opportunities within the centre.
Bridgnorth	Provision of new open space within proposed allocation to the west to deliver accessible open space, food growing opportunities and play facilities
Broseley	Explore opportunities in relation to opening up Willey Park wood for public access, allotments in the north of the town and enhanced play facilities at Cockshot Mound
Church Stretton	Provision of new accessible open space in allocated sites, including food growing and play provision (specifically in the proposed allocation to the south of the settlement)
Cleobury Mortimer	Consider improving existing play provision at Love Lane open space including the play provision here, and new accessible open spaces in SAMDev allocations, including food growing opportunities
Clive Barracks at Tern Hill	Provision of new open space to deliver accessible open space, food growing opportunities and play facilities
Craven Arms	Provision of new open spaces in SAMDev allocations to the west of the town, including allotments, play provision and accessible open space.
Ellesmere	Provision of new open spaces in proposed allocations to the west of the town, including allotments, play provision and accessible open space.
Highley	Improvements to youth facilities in the centre of the town and provision of new open space to include food growing opportunities and play provision in the proposed allocation
Ironbridge Power Station	Provision of new areas within the site to deliver accessible open space, food growing opportunities and play facilities
Ludlow	Provision of new open space at the proposed Fishmore Road allocation including play space and allotments in the east of the settlement
Market Drayton	Provision of new open space in allocation to the west of the town including play space and allotments
Much Wenlock	Provision of new open space in allocation to the south of the town including play space and allotments
Oswestry	Open space provision (allotments / children's / teenager facilities) within proposed allocations for housing and residential SAMDev allocation sites
RAF Cosford	Provision of new areas within the site to deliver accessible open space, food growing opportunities and play facilities
Shifnal	Proposed allocations and SAMDev allocations to include open space with play provision and food growing opportunities

Settlement	Summary of recommendations included in settlement / site proformas
Shrewsbury	Proposed allocations and SAMDev allocations to include open space with play provision and food growing opportunities
Wem	Proposed allocations in the north of the town will be expected to provide open space incorporating play provision and food growing opportunities
Whitchurch	Proposed allocations and SAMDev allocations to include open space with play provision and food growing opportunities

Appendix A

Neighbouring authority open space accessibility standards

A.1 A review of open space accessibility standards in local authorities neighbouring Shropshire was undertaken, the results of this review are outlined in **Table 20**.

Table 20: Summary of open space standards in local authority areas surrounding Shropshire

Typology	Cheshire West and Chester ⁵	Cheshire East ⁶	Newcastle-Under-Lyme ⁷	Telford and the Wrekin	Stafford Borough ⁸	South Staffs ⁹	Wyre Forest District ¹⁰	Malvern Hills District ¹¹	Herefordshire ¹²	Wrexham ¹³	Powys ¹⁴
Parks & Gardens	Urban Wards: 15 min walk (720m) Rural Wards 15 min drive ¹⁵	15-30 min walk (1-2km) or by sustainable travel methods	Local: 400m Neighbourhood: 800m District: 1600m		15 min walk / 600m OR 15 min cycle / 2250m OR 15 min drive / 5625m		710m / 9 min walk	Local Park: 400m OR District Park: 1,200m OR Borough Park: 3,200m	11.62 mins / 0.18 miles walking / 1.22 miles driving	15 min walk / 1200m	300m (included within Informal open spaces)
Natural & Semi-Natural Open Space	10 min walk ¹⁶	Ideally 5 – 10 min walk	600m		10 min walk / 600m OR 10 min cycle / 1500m OR 10 min drive / 3750m	Natural England ANGSt: 2ha size: 5 min walk / 300m	720m / 9 min walk	Up to 0.66ha in size: 120m OR 0.66-1ha in size: 1200m OR	12.06 mins / 0.58 miles walking / 3.87 miles driving	15 min walk / 1200m	300m (included within Informal open spaces)

⁵ Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study Appendix 1 (2017) https://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portal/cwc_ldf/cw_lp_part_two/ev_base/oss_pps?tab=files

⁶ Open Spaces Introductory Report (2012) *Cheshire East Council* https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/research_and_evidence/open_spaces_assessment_2012.aspx pg. 3-4

⁷ Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council Open Space Strategy (2017) <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/planning/planning-policy/north-staffordshire-green-space-strategy> pg 14

⁸ Stafford Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment Update (2013) <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/open-space-sport-and-recreation> Pg. 81-82, 125

⁹ South Staffordshire Council Open Space Strategy 2014 – 2028

¹⁰ <https://services.sstaffs.gov.uk/CMIS/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1D1TL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=JG5Xzi3S4nD8vbJHMGHTyVIFU%2Fn7eEG1CffzuDWJm%2BQigritTDYAvg%3D%3D&rUzwRPf%2BZ3zd4E7lkn8Lvw%3D%3D=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCTPHwdhUfCZ%2FLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4idQ%3D%3D&mCTIbCubSFFxsDGW9lXnlq%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9%2FpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2BAJvYtyA%3D%3D=ctNJf55vVA%3D&FqPIIEJYIotS%2BYGoBi5olA%3D%3D=NHdURQburHA%3D&d9Qij0ag1Pd993jsyQJgFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJf55vVA%3D&WGwmoAfeNR9xgBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJf55vVA%3D&WGwmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJf55vVA%3D>

¹¹ Wyre Forest District Council Open Space Study Standards Paper (2017) <https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/media/3669108/Wyre-Forest-OS-Standards-Paper-Final.pdf> Pg 13

¹² Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport & Recreational Study Assessment Report (2007) https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/MHDC_Openspace_Recreation_Assessment.pdf pg. 10-12

¹³ Herefordshire Council PPG17 Open Space Assessment (2006) https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1663/open_spaces_study.pdf Pg. 112-113

¹⁴ Wrexham County Borough Council Open Space Audit & Assessment of Need Report (2016) file:///C:/Users/Ward_H/Downloads/64.%20Open%20Space%20Report%20Oct%202016.pdf pg. 43

¹⁵ Powys Local Development Plan Open Space Assessment Version 2 (2018) <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/4902/Open-Space-Assessment-2018> pg.9

¹⁶ Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study Appendix 1 (2017) pg.26

¹⁷ Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study Appendix 1 (2017) pg. 26

Appendix A
 Neighbouring authority open space accessibility standards
 Shropshire Green Infrastructure
 July 2020

Typology	Cheshire West and Chester ⁵	Cheshire East ⁶	Newcastle-Under-Lyme ⁷	Telford and the Wrekin	Stafford Borough ⁸	South Staffs ⁹	Wyre Forest District ¹⁰	Malvern Hills District ¹¹	Herefordshire ¹²	Wrexham ¹³	Powys ¹⁴
						20ha size: 2km 100ha: 5km 500ha: 10km		1-10ha in size: 900m OR A site of more than 10ha			
Outdoor Sports Provision	Bowling Green: 10 min drive ¹⁷ Tennis courts: 10 min drive ¹⁸	Local facilities: 15 -20 min walk(1km) Strategic site: 20 min drive	MUGA: 700m		Open Access Playing Fields: 15 min walk / 600m OR 15 min cycle / 2250m OR 15 min drive / 5625m			"Teams to have access to appropriate site at relevant time"	School Playing field: 10.30 mins / 0.52 miles walking / 3.43 miles driving Sports Pitches: 10.52 mins / 0.53 miles walking / 3.51 miles driving	15 min walk / 1200m	Playing Pitches: 1.2km Athletics: 45 min drive Tennis: 20 mi drive Bowls: 20 min drive
Amenity Green Space	10 min walk time ¹⁹	Ideally 5-10 min walk	220m		5 min walk / 300m		480m / 6 min walk	Up to 0.66ha in size: 120m OR 0.66-1ha in size: 1200m OR	3.65 mins / 0.60 miles walking / 4.02 miles driving	15 min walk / 1200m	300m (included within Informal open spaces)

¹⁷ Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study Appendix 1 (2017) Pg 83

¹⁸ Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study Appendix 1 (2017) Pg 84

¹⁹ Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study Appendix 1 (2017) pg. 26

Typology	Cheshire West and Chester ⁵	Cheshire East ⁶	Newcastle-Under-Lyme ⁷	Telford and the Wrekin	Stafford Borough ⁸	South Staffs ⁹	Wyre Forest District ¹⁰	Malvern Hills District ¹¹	Herefordshire ¹²	Wrexham ¹³	Powys ¹⁴
								1-10ha in size: 900m OR A site of more than 10ha			
Provision for Children and Teenagers	Children (below 12): 10 minutes walking (480m) ²⁰ Young people (over 12): 50 min walk (720m) (With access to a strategic facilities within 15 min drive) ²¹	5-10 min walk	LAP: 100m LEAP: 400m NEAP: 1000m		"councils have generally sought to ensure that there is at least one equipped play area within a few minutes walk of every family house" "Develop a network of high quality destination play facilities complemented by neighbourhood level natural play facilities"	LAP (not necessarily equipped): 60m LEAP: 240m NEAP: 740m	100m – 1000m / 1-12.5 min walk	LEAP: 400m (pedestrian route) OR NEAP: 100m (pedestrian route) OR SEAP: 100m (straight line distance)	Play Areas: 7.94 mins / 0.4 miles walking / 2.65 miles driving Skate Parks: 25.96 minutes / 1.30 miles walking / 8.65 miles driving	10 min walk / 800m	LAPS: 60m LEAPS: 240m NEAPS: 600m

²⁰ Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study Appendix 1 (2017) Pg 65

²¹ Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study Appendix 1 (2017) Pg 65

Appendix A
 Neighbouring authority open space accessibility standards
 Shropshire Green Infrastructure
 July 2020

Typology	Cheshire West and Chester ⁵	Cheshire East ⁶	Newcastle-Under-Lyme ⁷	Telford and the Wrekin	Stafford Borough ⁸	South Staffs ⁹	Wyre Forest District ¹⁰	Malvern Hills District ¹¹	Herefordshire ¹²	Wrexham ¹³	Powys ¹⁴
					in residential areas" ²²						
Churchyards & Cemeteries					10 min walk / 600m OR 10 min cycle / 1500m OR 10 min drive /3750m			None Given		No standard set	300m (included within Informal open spaces)
Allotments	15 min walk time (720m) ²³	15-20 min walk (1km)	Urban: 400m (5-10 min walk) Rural: 15 min drive	720m				Up to 0.66ha in size: 120m OR 0.66-1ha in size: 1200m OR 1-10ha in size: 900m OR A site of more than 10ha		15 min walk / 1200m	
Green Corridors	No set standard		No Standards					None given		No standard set	

²² Stafford Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment Update (2013) pg. 81-82

²³ Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study Appendix 1 (2017) pg. 26

Appendix A
 Neighbouring authority open space accessibility standards
 Shropshire Green Infrastructure
 July 2020

Typology	Cheshire West and Chester ⁵	Cheshire East ⁶	Newcastle-Under-Lyme ⁷	Telford and the Wrekin	Stafford Borough ⁸	South Staffs ⁹	Wyre Forest District ¹⁰	Malvern Hills District ¹¹	Herefordshire ¹²	Wrexham ¹³	Powys ¹⁴
Other					Multifunctional green spaces: 5 min walk / 300m			Civic spaces – none given		Civic Space: No standard set	

Note: Telford and Wrekin it states that the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards are carried forwards from the 2008 Open Space, Sports and Recreation Assessment.

Note: The Standards for Herefordshire were taken from the previous open space assessment, as the most recent assessment did not define standards.