

Gloucester City Council
Open Space Strategy
2021-2026



Adopted version
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Gloucester City Council

Open Space Strategy

2021-2026

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1. Foreword

I am delighted to be able to introduce Gloucester's Open Space Strategy, which will cover the period 2021 to 2026.

From sports fields and playgrounds to formally managed parks and natural landscapes, the city of Gloucester boasts a rich diversity of publicly accessible open spaces.

Gloucester's open spaces provide residents and visitors with opportunities for formal and informal recreation, and daily contact with nature. Open spaces provide venues for sports, social events, entertainment, relaxation and celebration. Our open spaces are democratic places where people from our City's many diverse communities can come together to rest and play.

Open spaces also form part of a vital biodiversity network, providing habitat for wildlife and bringing the countryside into the heart of the city. Over the next five years the council will be embarking on an exciting programme of biodiversity and habitat improvement schemes aimed at making our green spaces even more wildlife friendly.

Green spaces also provide areas where natural processes like evaporation and the interception of water run off can occur. These natural processes will become even more vital in the future in helping to protect our City and its residents from the effects of climate change.

The city council has significantly invested in park improvements in the past decade and will continue to improve facilities utilising funding contributions from developers and grant giving bodies where available.

Gloucester is proud to be the first Bee Guardian City, planting flower meadows to provide food for wildlife and we also fly the Green Flag Award for quality in three of our parks.

We are pleased to be able to work with many partner organisations, groups, residents and volunteers who, like us, are committed to enhancing and protecting our green spaces for future generations, to create a strong and resilient natural environment for Gloucester.

***Councillor Richard Cook, Leader, Gloucester City Council
and Cabinet Member for Environment***



2. Executive Summary

The open space strategy sets out how Gloucester City Council plans to protect, manage and enhance its open spaces over the next five years and beyond.

Purpose of the Open Space Strategy

The strategy has a threefold purpose, it provides;

- a sound body of evidence for developing robust, sustainable open space policies within the proposed City Plan;
- a series of objectives for council officers and partner organisations to work towards and;
- a clear understanding, for city residents, of the city council's open space aspirations and open space priorities, including opportunities for residents to get involved in caring for their local green spaces.

The importance of green space

The contribution that good quality, safe and accessible open spaces can make to the overall quality of life within a community is well documented. There are numerous health, social, cultural, environmental and educational benefits.

The city has a wide range of open spaces including natural wild space, formal sports grounds, parks and play areas. It is important that there is a clear and sustainable plan for looking after all of these spaces, to ensure their long-term protection, care and enhancement.

Key facts about Gloucester's open spaces

- There are over 200 areas of public open space in the city, including formal and informal green spaces, allotments, cemeteries, Robinswood Hill Country Park and Alney Island Nature Reserve, a total open space area of over 555 hectares.
- There are six designated Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the city.
- Almost 14% of the city's total land area is publicly accessible green space.
- There are 56 formal children's play areas in the city. The city council manages 51 of these. Over £750k was invested in upgrading play areas between 2014-2019.
- There are some larger sports grounds and facilities that serve the city as a whole, such as the Oxstalls Sports Centre/Plock Court outdoor pitches and Blackbridge Jubilee Athletics track.
- Between April 2014 (when the previous strategy was adopted) and October 2019, the council has secured, through the planning process, an additional 15 hectares of new open space and over £2million for improvements to existing parks and open spaces across the city.

Key themes of the Open Space Strategy

The document assesses the existing quality and quantity of open space provision within the city. In terms of overall open space provision, it identifies that the distribution of open space across the city is adequate, but rather uneven.

Due to the densely built-up nature of many of the city's residential areas, creating additional new open spaces where there are shortfalls will not be possible. Instead, the strategy seeks to improve the quality of facilities and accessibility to existing green spaces, as well as providing residents with plenty of information about parks and recreational opportunities in adjacent areas.

Since the publication of Gloucester's previous Open Space Strategy in 2014, climate change and loss of biodiversity have become increasingly important issues. This updated strategy contains measures which seek to enhance the contribution that Gloucester's green spaces make to mitigating the effects of climate change and increase the provision of habitat for wildlife.

Ensuring the city's green spaces are managed and maintained cost effectively and using sustainable practices, is also vital. Inviting the community to help look after some open spaces is important and helps residents develop a sense of ownership and pride in their local parks.

Although many are not directly under the city council's control, protection of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities is also a key priority. Ensuring the council has robust planning policies to protect or mitigate against the loss of open spaces to potential development sites and ensuring there is sufficient new open space provision falls within the remit of this strategy, in conjunction with policies set out in the Gloucester City Plan and the Joint Core Strategy for Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury.

Funding the improvements

Council budgets for the management and improvement of open space are limited, so careful consideration must be given to ensure that any works carried out are affordable and sustainable in the long term.

The strategy acknowledges that although funding is limited, there are still opportunities for the council to work with partners, groups, and volunteers to deliver safe, active and well managed spaces. Sources of additional external funding will also be secured where possible, including through the planning process.

Conclusion

Gloucester City Council is committed to providing an integrated network of safe, accessible parks and green spaces, where biodiversity and the natural environment are protected and enhanced, and appropriate, high quality, facilities are provided.

3. Introduction and Key Themes

Gloucester's open space portfolio provides a much-valued resource for city residents and visitors. There are places for formal and informal sport and physical activity, reflection, relaxation and daily contact with nature. These places contribute immeasurably to the life of the city and can help improve health and well-being.

Biodiversity and climate change

Parks and open spaces also represent a substantial biological repository and, through habitat protection, improvement and enhancement schemes, provide an opportunity for the council to help address issues in relation to biodiversity loss. Through processes like evaporation and the interception of water runoff, green spaces also help to mitigate the effects of climate change and help to make the city more liveable.

Protecting and enhancing

Safeguarding and improving the quality of the city's open spaces remains one of the council's top priorities. However, the challenge of budget constraints is ever-present, so continuing to look at ways to work more efficiently and reduce maintenance costs is therefore important.

Population growth

Gloucester has a growing population, although there are few sites for large-scale residential development left in the city. Demands on urban land for infill sites for housebuilding often means there is added pressure on the city's open spaces. The council has robust policies in place to protect the majority of public and private open spaces, but it also recognises that in some cases allowing the development of small areas of poor quality, inaccessible or marginal open space in return for funds to improve the quality and facilities on sites elsewhere may be appropriate.

Infill and brownfield development is unlikely to generate substantial new open space provision, but contributions from all new housing development can be invested in improving the quality and accessibility of our existing spaces. Additional pressure on open space facilities in Gloucester is also likely from housing developments just outside the city boundary (e.g. Longford, Twigworth and Innsworth) and this has been considered when assessing the impact on existing provision.

Heritage

The City of Gloucester has grown organically over many centuries and this is reflected in the extensive heritage assets found around the city, including many within green spaces. Some parks and gardens have their own history, others contain listed structures or underground Scheduled Monuments or archaeology or are located within a wider historic Conservation Area.

To ensure that the historic environment elements in open spaces are fully considered and appreciated, any management plans drawn up for open spaces will include measures to protect and improve heritage assets and provide interpretation boards where appropriate.

The Heritage Strategy also references the potential to further protect some green spaces through a Local List or Local Green Space Designation, as set out in the NPPF (Para 100).

The open space challenge

This strategy sets out a vision and framework for the city's open spaces. It takes into consideration the numerous policies, aims and aspirations contained in other council documents and plans (see list in Section 6 below).

There are no easy answers to these challenges, and green spaces often have to perform multiple functions, so the strategy seeks to set down solid principles to ensure that the true value of open spaces is understood, and the best-informed decisions are made in future years.

An assessment of the impact of the previous document (2014-2019) is included in Section 4. An updated vision and strategic open space objectives are set out in Section 5.

The information presented in this report should be used to inform the City Plan and supplementary planning documents. It helps to identify key themes for protecting existing spaces, identifying priorities for improvement, as well as considering the need for future additional provision as a result of further population increase. If necessary, the objectives and guidance set out within this document may be reviewed and amended during the life of the strategy (subject to any necessary formal ratification process).

The document will also provide a baseline study, to:

- Aid decision making by Councillors and Officers.
- Support external funding bids and applications.
- Support developer discussion around CIL and S106.
- Support potential work with neighbouring authorities.
- Provide an appropriate evidence base for the emerging strategy City Plan and future reviews of the Joint Core Strategy.



4. Review of previous strategy

The previous five-year Open Space Strategy was approved in April 2014. There were a number of aims and objectives set out within the strategy, many of which were successfully achieved, despite the ongoing financial challenges within in local government. A short summary is set out below:

- **An increase in the overall quantity of open space in Gloucester**
A number of new areas of public open space have been created and laid out as part of residential development sites, with an additional 30 hectares now included in the open space audit.
- **Investment of at least £200k per year (£1 million total) in upgrading the quality of open space and facilities**
Well over £1 million of capital investment works to playing pitches, play areas, parks drainage and infrastructure have been completed in Gloucester's parks since 2014.
- **To create or refurbish at least two children's play areas per year (ten in total)**
Sixteen existing play areas have been refurbished, with a total capital investment of over £550k. In addition to this, seven new play areas have been created across the city.
- **Increase community involvement in open space management by providing support to new or existing Friends and community groups**
The council continues to work closely with a number of Friends groups and other agencies across the city and has supported groups such as Podsmead Big Local and Friends of Elmbridge, who have raised external funds for play area improvements.
- **Increase to three parks achieving the Green Flag Award**
In 2014 Gloucester had one Green Flag Park, at Barnwood Park and Arboretum. In 2019, Gloucester has three Green Flag Parks, the two additional sites being Robinswood Hill Country Park and Saintbridge Pond and Allotments.
- **Publish and implement a Playing Pitch Strategy for Gloucester**
The council formally adopted its Playing Pitch Strategy in January 2016 and has been working to implement the Acton Plan since then. A Built Facilities Strategy is also in progress.
- **Publish an Allotment Strategy for Gloucester**
The council formally adopted its Allotment Strategy in December 2014 and continues to work closely with allotment associations and plot holders. A review of the Allotment Strategy was undertaken in Summer 2020, and allotment associations consulted. An updated Allotment Strategy for 2021 is included as an Appendix in this Open Space Strategy.
- **Ensure policies are put in place in the council's City Plan to protect existing open space and playing fields and to help negotiate new open space in housing development**
The City Plan (Pre-Submission consultation draft published Sept 2019) contains appropriate policies to protect existing open spaces in the city and secure the provision of new open space as part of future housing developments.

5. Vision and Objectives

Open Space Strategy 2021-2026

Vision - *To create, maintain and protect a diverse network of good quality, sustainable and accessible open spaces which serve the needs and aspirations of the residents of Gloucester, facilitate frequent contact with the natural world and help tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.*

Objectives - 2021-2026

- *To promote Gloucester's open spaces as attractive places to sustain and improve physical and mental health & well-being.*
- *To utilise green space to help mitigate and reverse the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss, through habitat creation and management, increased tree planting, water management schemes and other appropriate measures.*
- *To review the council's grounds maintenance contract and identify opportunities for less intensive open space management, to increase biodiversity, sustainability and ensure best use of available resources.*
- *To continue to improve the quality and provision of the council's formal outdoor sports pitches and facilities through the council's Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan.*
- *To ensure that planning policies are in place in the council's City Plan (and the Joint Core Strategy) to retain and protect existing open spaces and playing fields, to create high-quality open spaces, link new communities and provide effective green infrastructure for new housing developments, both within and just beyond the city boundary.*

(continued on next page)

Open Space Objectives 2021-2026 (continued)

- *To encourage greater community and partnership involvement in managing and developing the city's green spaces especially through Friends and other community groups.*
- *To support the health & wellbeing agenda and help address health inequalities, by improving existing open space facilities in areas of the city where there is a deficit in the provision of open space, and where the scope to provide additional open space is limited.*
- *To develop site improvement plans or site management plans for larger/priority open spaces and sites with the greatest potential for increasing biodiversity to create a connected green infrastructure network through the city.*
- *To maintain Green Flag Award status for existing sites and to seek opportunities to increase the number of Green Flag parks in Gloucester.*
- *To continue to protect, maintain, develop and invest in high quality, accessible open spaces and facilities, including heritage assets, utilising external funding wherever possible.*
- *To regularly review the city's open space portfolio and identify sites or areas for investment, alternative use, or disposal, investing any income directly back into park infrastructure.*



6. Policy Background/population growth

National Policy

National planning policy is set out in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2019) and associated planning policy guidance. The NPPF states that open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms and can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development.

The NPPF recommends that local authorities robustly assess the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision in their area. Assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses in the local area, taking into consideration local circumstances where necessary.

The NPPF includes the ability for local communities to further protect the most important community spaces with a Local Green Space designation via local and neighbourhood plans. Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

The NPPF also states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

In addition to national planning policy, there is an ever-increasing awareness of the importance of the population being healthy and active, to maintain and improve both physical and mental wellbeing, and providing well-kept, accessible open spaces can play a major role in this. Other national organisations have produced strategies that support these aims, for example:

- ***Public Health England: Everybody Active, Everyday (2014)***
- ***Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)***

The Environment Bill

The government introduced The Environment Bill in October 2019. Under the Environment Bill, measures would be introduced to address environmental governance gaps following withdrawal from the EU and beyond. The Bill would put into legislation a series of environmental principles and establish an Office for Environmental Protection, which would have scrutiny, advice and enforcement functions. It

would also make provision for the setting of long-term, legally binding environmental targets in four “priority areas” of air quality, water, biodiversity, resource efficiency and waste reduction, along with the production of statutory Environmental Improvement Plans.

Following a commitment in the 25 Year Environment Plan (August 2018), the Government published a consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain in December 2018. This was followed by a commitment to apply a requirement for Biodiversity net gain of 10% for developers through the planning system. This gain will be measured using a biodiversity metric that has been developed by DEFRA.

The Environment Bill would legislate for the creation of the net gain requirement, expand the duty on relevant authorities from conserving to ‘*conserving and enhancing*’ biodiversity, and legislate for the creation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies to cover the whole of England.

In Nov 2020, the Bill was reported to the House of Commons with amendments and is due to have its report stage and third reading on a date in 2021, yet to be announced.

The emerging Environment Bill plans to strengthen the current requirement placed on Local Authorities to ‘*have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.*’ (the general biodiversity objective - Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006).

Once the Bill is in place, the general biodiversity objective will most likely be strengthened to include the requirement to not only ‘*conserve*’ but ‘*enhance*’ biodiversity and Local Authorities will be required to ‘*consider what action can properly be taken, to further the general biodiversity objective*’.

To this end Local Authorities will be required to ‘*determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective, and take such action as it considers appropriate, in the light of those policies and objectives, to further that objective*’.

Whilst the Gloucester Open Space Strategy promotes the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as an important element of the authority’s commitment to sustainability, it is also intended that this strategy should comply with the requirements of the Environmental Bill (in so far as they are currently understood).

To this end, the Open Space Strategy includes an informal assessment of the current biodiversity value of each of the authority’s open spaces, and an estimate of the potential for enhancing the biodiversity value of each site. This is seen as a starting point, and where it is considered that there is the potential to achieve significant biodiversity gains, a more formal site assessment will be carried out (using the DEFRA biodiversity assessment metric), which will result in individual biodiversity enhancement plans being created and implemented.

This Strategy will be reviewed in light of any changes in legislation resulting from the passing into law of the Environment Bill in 2021 or beyond, with the intention of delivering biodiversity net gain within the council’s green spaces wherever possible.

Local Policy

Along with the overarching national policies set out above, there are a number of locally adopted strategies and plans, many of which have aims and objectives that overlap those presented within this open space strategy. The cumulative impact of these inter-related documents serves to further emphasise the vital role that good-quality, accessible open space plays for both local communities and the natural environment within the city and beyond.

- **Joint Core Strategy (JCS), adopted Dec 2017**
 - Co-ordinated strategic development plan that sets out how the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury area will develop up to 2031. Adopted in by all three councils in December 2017.
 - Vision and policies include a commitment to build new developments to the highest standards of design, without increasing the risk of flooding, and focus on protecting the quality and distinctiveness of each community. Developments will be designed with respect for the natural and built environment and all residents and businesses will benefit from improved infrastructure, which includes roads, public transport and series and community facilities.
 - Gloucester’s natural environment will continue to be safeguarded and improved, particularly through the protection and enhancement of landscape features and key habitats within the City’s boundary, such as Robinswood Hill and adjacent to it at Chosen Hill.
 - Duty to co-operate, where open space serves a wider area.
 - Sets out Community infrastructure Levy (CIL) requirements for Gloucester, a charge applied to most new residential buildings that will be used to help deliver infrastructure to support development (including open space improvements). CIL adopted from January 2019.

- **Gloucester City Council – City Plan (2016-2031)**
 - City Plan delivers the JCS at a local level and also will set out policies that seek to address local issues and opportunities in the city.
 - Identifies where and how new development will take place, to ensure it positively contributes to the City’s needs.
 - Strategic objectives include conserving and enhancing the environment, delivering excellent design in new developments, protecting and improving playing fields and open spaces, meeting the challenge of climate change and promoting healthy communities.
 - Other policies include a ‘Building with Nature’ Standard, as well as tree and hedgerow protection.
 - City Plan is likely to undergo an Examination in Public in May 2021, with a likely adoption date of early 2022.

- **Gloucestershire 2050 vision**
 - *‘Gloucestershire: A great place to live, work and do business, with a thriving future’.*
 - Key outcomes include:
 - *an inclusive county ensuring that the economic and social benefits are felt by all*
 - *a prosperous county: rising productivity and household income, offering higher living standards*
 - *a healthy, happy, and safe county: people have a good work/life balance and see improved health and wellbeing*
 - *a sustainable county: more efficient use of resources and more use of sustainable energy*

- **Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board**

 - The Board is responsible for overseeing the development and delivery of the *Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy* - a 20-year strategy which aims to improve the lives of people in Gloucestershire. The principles that underpin the plan are:
 - Supporting communities to take an active role in improving health
 - Encouraging people to adopt healthy lifestyles to stop problems from developing
 - Taking early action to tackle symptoms or risks
 - Helping people to take more responsibility for their health
 - Helping people to recover quickly from illness and return home to their normal lives
 - Supporting individuals or communities where life expectancy is lower than the county average or where quality of life is poor.
 - *Joint Policy for Enabling Active Communities in Gloucestershire (2015)* – action plan working to enable local communities to become more active, stronger and more sustainable, and in turn improve the health and wellbeing of local people.
 - *GloW – Gloucestershire Wellbeing* - Gloucestershire health and wellbeing board's commitment for better mental health. Gloucester City Council is signed up to this county-wide initiative, which sets out what it takes to promote good mental health and wellbeing and help prevent mental illness.

- **Gloucester City Council – Council Plan 2017-2020**

 - Focus on regeneration, housing, leisure and culture
 - Core values include: *Efficiency and value for money, forward thinking with innovation, making residents lives better, passionate about the city and working together to make it happen.*

- **Gloucester City Vision 2012-2022**

 - 'Gloucester will be a flourishing, modern and ambitious city, which all residents can enjoy'.
 - Key aims include: *A city which improves through regeneration and development, a city where people feel safe and happy in their community, a healthy city with opportunities for all.*

- **Gloucester's cultural vision and strategy 2016-2026**

 - *'Putting Culture at the Heart of Gloucester for the Good of All'*
 - Key objectives include: *'Broaden the cultural offer so as to support social and economic development, develop a vibrant city full of cultural things to do.'*

- **Gloucester City Council climate emergency declaration (July 2019)**

 - Proposal to make the city carbon neutral (net zero carbon dioxide emissions) by 2050
 - City council to have a net-zero carbon footprint by 2030 and to find impacts of climate change when reviewing the council's strategies, policies and plans.

- **Green Infrastructure Strategy 2014**

 - Part of the JCS evidence base – providing a strategic development plan for the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury area up to 2031. Strategy is currently under review.
 - Focus on connectivity and water.

- Vision that everyone should be able to access green infrastructure within 5 mins walk of home and use a series of interconnected, multifunctional green spaces to access the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or the River Severn and its washlands.

- **Gloucester City Council Heritage Strategy 2019-2029**

- Heritage is a key component in the effective delivery of sustainable growth. The historic environment is an integral part of the wider regeneration, economic development, tourism and cultural aspirations of the City of Gloucester.

- The strategy places a strategic focus on enhancing Gloucester's heritage for all and provides a key component of the evidence base informing the emerging Gloucester City Plan and its policies.

Projected population growth

- The current city population (2017 census) is 129,083.
- Estimated city population by 2024 is 137,200.
- Estimated city population by 2041 is 151,100.
- Gloucester has a faster growth rate of children and young people 0-19yrs (+6.8%), compared to the wider county (+2.1%) and England as a whole (+5.5%).

It is important that the development and management of the city's open space network has full regard for the expected future increases in population, including from development sites located just outside the city boundary.

Wherever possible, new green space provision will be secured within major housing developments or existing spaces will be provided with improved facilities, funded by developer contributions, to cater for additional users.

The following pages set out the anticipated new residential developments in Gloucester and criteria for any resulting open space provision.

New housing allocations in Gloucester

The JCS sets the number of new homes that will be required to meet Gloucester’s needs until 2031. However, within the city, there are few sites left to accommodate large-scale housing development.

The list below sets out the remaining larger sites that have been allocated within the Gloucester City Plan (or already granted planning consent) for new housing and indicates the amount and type of open space that should be provided as part of each development.

Smaller developments would not have sufficient space to provide on-site open space, and in these cases off-site financial contributions to improve existing open spaces would be sought, through the S.106 or CIL process.

Location	Indicative housing capacity	Ward	Open space implications
Land at Winneycroft Farm (two sites)	600 units in total	Matson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal play and sports facilities to be provided on site. Allotments to be provided on site.
Land at Great Western Rd sidings (to include improvements to Great Western Rd Rest Garden (E) open space)	200 units	Kingsholm and Wotton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A LEAP play area or equivalent facility for children and young people to be provided on site. Off-site contribution for formal sport (and allotments) to be provided.
Land at St Oswald’s Retail Park	300 units	Westgate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A LEAP play area or equivalent facilities for children and young people should be provided on site. Connectivity to Westgate Park, including improved cycle access. Off-site contribution for formal sport (and allotments) to be provided.
Land at King’s Quarter	156 units	Westgate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-site contribution for formal play and sport to be provided.
Land at The Wheatridge (<i>allocated as a school site, but with a fallback use as residential if no school use required</i>)	-	Abbeydale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A LEAP play area or equivalent facility for children and young people to be provided on site. Off-site contribution for formal sport to be provided.
Other small allocation sites, less than 50 units per site	Total up to 350 units	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites over 35 units would normally be expected provide some on-site open space. Off-site contributions to upgrade existing nearby open spaces, including allotments, formal sport and play, to be provided.

The expected level of provision for new open spaces, sports facilities and play areas, as indicated in the table above, should be generally in accordance with the council's locally set standards (see Appendix 6 for full details), which are adapted to suit Gloucester's local needs, and are generally derived from the benchmark standards set out in the Fields in Trust '**Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard, 2015**' or any subsequent update.

The City Council would expect any new open spaces to be a minimum 0.2ha in size and of a usable/practical shape (for example, long, narrow, linear strips of land would not generally be acceptable, unless they adjoin a larger space where informal recreation such as ballgames can take place).

Where larger sites are proposed to be phased or sub-divided, we will expect to use the whole site for the purpose of determining what the public open space requirement will be.

The FiT guidance states that '*Quantity guidelines should not be interpreted as maximum levels of provision, and it is recommended that these are adjusted to take account of local circumstances.*' The document also sets out accessibility guidelines, indicated as walking distance from dwellings and these should also be taken into account when proposing new open space facilities.

Where playing pitches or sports facilities are required as part of any larger development, a playing pitch needs assessment should be undertaken, in line with the priorities identified within the city's Playing Pitch Strategy.

Section 7 of this document sets out in more detail the local considerations and limitations for the provision of new open space in Gloucester City and the methodology for calculation new open space provision is set out in Appendix 6.



New housing allocations adjoining the city boundary

There are a number of significant new or proposed housing developments that are located on the ‘urban fringe’, just outside of the Gloucester City administrative boundary. Residents living in these locations are likely to closely associate with Gloucester and will use the infrastructure within the city, including open spaces and sports facilities.

Some of these larger new developments will also provide their own open space, sports and play facilities on-site, which residents living within the city would be able to access.

The table below sets out the expected additional housing numbers. This housing growth, and the increased demand created on the city’s outdoor sports facilities has been factored in to the adopted Playing Pitch Strategy and the likely impact will also need to be considered when developing or upgrading open space facilities located nearby. Funds for investment in these spaces may be available through the CIL process.

Expected and potential housing numbers just outside city boundary:

Already granted planning consent:		Allocated sites or being promoted in JCS/local plan:	
Site	Number of homes	Site	Expected number of homes
Longford (Tewkesbury Borough Council)	570	N. Brockworth (Tewkesbury Borough Council)	Up to 1,500
Innsworth & Twigworth (Tewkesbury Borough Council)	2,295	Hardwicke (Stroud District Council)	Up to 1,500
Hardwicke (Stroud District Council)	300	Hunt’s Grove (Stroud District Council)	Up to 750
Hunt’s Grove (Stroud District Council)	1,750	Whaddon (Stroud District Council)	Up to 2,400
Churchdown (Tewkesbury Borough Council)	1,100		

7. Open Space Standards

National Open Space Standards

There are no statutory open space standards for the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space provision, but for many years the benchmark for quantity has been the 'Six-Acre Standard' (aiming to provide six acres, or 2.4ha of open space per 1000 population), originally created by the National Playing Fields Association, now known as Fields in Trust (FiT).

The headline FiT standards were most recently updated in 2015, in the document '*Beyond the Six Acre Standard*' (England edition) but the more detailed 2008 document – '*Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play*' also remains a useful guidance tool. The 2015 guidance breaks down the benchmark standard for quantitative provision into individual typologies for both formal outdoor space (including sport and play areas) and informal outdoor space (parks, amenity, natural and semi-natural spaces), but also draws out new recommendations for accessibility, for flexible application of standards, and includes the minimum expected dimensions of formal outdoor space.

It should be noted that when assessing quantity levels for **Parks and Gardens, Amenity Greenspace and Natural/Semi-natural Greenspace**, FiT state that their '*Quantity guidelines are provided as minimum guidelines and should not be interpreted as maximum levels of provision; and it is recommended that they are adjusted to take account of local circumstances.*' - the city council sets out its own local standards within this Open Space Strategy document.

In the case of **Playing Pitches, other Outdoor Sports, Equipped Play Areas and MUGAs/skate ramps** etc, FiT guidance states: '*Quantity guidelines should not be interpreted as either a maximum or minimum level of provision; rather they are benchmark standards that can be adjusted to take account of local circumstances.*'

In order to fully understand Gloucester's playing pitch requirements now and in the future, methods for assessing and setting targets for **Formal Outdoor Sports Pitch Provision** have been undertaken using Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013). The resulting Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Gloucester is a fully detailed study of the city's existing sports provision and future needs, and sits alongside this document, so this Open Space Strategy does not go into any additional detail in relation to outdoor sports provision. The PPS provides a level of detail to ensure that sports provision is tailored to fit the city's needs as far as possible. The city's Built Facilities Strategy (2019) which assesses indoor sports provision, will provide further insight into Gloucester's current and future needs and aspirations.

Allotment provision (quantity) is based on a standard recommended by the National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG).

There are no quantity standards set for **Cemeteries or Civic Spaces**.

In terms of quality standards, the principal provider of parks quality assessment in the UK is the Green Flag Award. However, this approach is really only relevant to the best quality parks and open spaces, which provide 'above standard' facilities and is not appropriate for assessing every open space typology. Therefore, although the aspiration is to achieve a Green Flag 'pass' standard for the city's principal and

best-kept spaces, a simpler rating system, as set out in Appendix 2, has been used to assess the majority of spaces, to give a general indication of each site's quality and community value, as well as the existing and potential biodiversity value. The assessment is intended to reflect local circumstances and includes information on open space distribution and indices of deprivation for each site's location within the city.

8. Open Space assessment and analysis

For the purposes of this strategy, 'Open Space' is taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also bodies of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as an ecological and visual amenity.

It should be noted that in accordance with best practice recommendations, generally only green spaces of 0.2 hectares or larger have been audited. However, some smaller spaces have been included, where these fall just below 0.2ha or it is felt that they are of particular value to the city or local community and are often in locations where open space provision is limited.

There are a broad range of open spaces of public value and these can generally be broken down into different typologies. Larger open spaces can have multiple functions and some, such as allotments, are more use specific. However, even a specific 'use', such as a cemetery, can also have high value for wildlife and natural habitat, so in many cases there can be multiple typologies within one space.

The breakdown of each open space, set out at Appendix 1, identifies the primary typology and any other notable typologies within the space (e.g. sports ground with play area and natural green space around boundaries). It is intended to give a general overview, so is not fully exhaustive and other small areas of different typologies are probably present in many spaces.

Other open space functions have been taken into consideration, but not specifically identified quantified. These are:

- **Strategic functions** – defining and separating urban areas, providing community greenways, 'green lungs' or landscape buffers within urban areas.
- **Urban quality** – helping to support regeneration and improving quality of life by providing visually attractive green spaces close to where people live.
- **Promoting health and well-being** – providing opportunities to people of all ages for informal recreation, to walk, cycle or ride within parks and open space, or along paths, bridleways, river and canal banks. Allotments also provide physical exercise and other health benefits.
- **Havens and habitats for flora and fauna** – sites may also have potential to be corridors or stepping-stones from one habitat to another and may contribute towards achieving local biodiversity objectives.
- **As a community resource** – a place for congregating and holding community events.
- **As a visual amenity** – even without public access, people enjoy having open space near to them, to provide an outlook, variety in the urban form, or as a positive element in the landscape.
- **As a setting for historic monuments or other heritage assets** – Many open spaces contain historic features, which provide a connection and insight into past uses of the city.

Due to the built-up nature of Gloucester, with few remaining major development opportunities, it is unlikely that any significant increase in open space provision will be achieved in the future.

Therefore, it is important to concentrate instead on achievable targets, the retention of all existing parks and gardens, enhancement of the quality of park facilities and maintenance, especially where quantitative provision in a ward is limited, as well as improving site accessibility wherever possible. Ensuring that any open spaces within new developments just outside the city boundary are functionally connected, to benefit both existing and new communities across the boundary, will also be imperative.



Open Space Typologies

The eight standard open space typologies used in this document are defined as follows:

- **Parks and Gardens**

Accessible, high quality spaces with opportunities for formal and informal recreation, including community events.

- **Amenity Green Space**

Open space areas with opportunities for informal activities close to home or work, or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.

- **Natural and Semi-natural Green Space**

Areas managed primarily for wildlife conservation, biodiversity, environmental education and awareness. Can include river/canal and other green corridors, balancing ponds, urban woodland and other green infrastructure.

- **Formal Sport (outdoor)**

Areas for participation in outdoor sport, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports.

- **Children's play and facilities for Young People (including formal equipped play areas)**

Areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts (MUGAs), skateboard areas, BMX tracks and youth shelters.

- **Cemeteries**

Spaces for quiet contemplation and which are often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Includes disused churchyards and burial grounds.

- **Allotments**

Areas for people to grow produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. Includes community gardens and urban farms.

- **Civic Spaces**

Areas providing a setting for civic buildings or monuments, community events and activities. Includes market squares and hard surfaced areas.

Local open space standards - Quantity

The modern City of Gloucester has developed organically over hundreds of years and as a result there will have been periods, when there was an urgent demand for new housing, that providing new open spaces, sports and play facilities may not have been a priority. Many of the densely built areas of the city also pre-date modern open space planning guidance and could not be expected to meet the currently recommended levels.

As a result, there are parts of the city that are much better served with open space provision than others. It is not possible to easily redress the imbalance at this point in time, as most of the city's land area has now been developed or allocated to other uses.

However, the city is also situated within a wider landscape of open countryside, with opportunities available just outside the city for recreation and enjoyment using country parks, public rights of way and other accessible green spaces, including woodlands. Easy access to the canal, Gloucester Docks, Quays and to long distance footpaths such as the Severn Way provide an additional resource for residents.

These factors are part of the local considerations that have been taken into account when setting out the proposed open space recommendations for Gloucester City, an approach supported by national guidance.

There are currently a total of **555.57** hectares of open space in Gloucester, across over 200 individual spaces, which equates to an indicative overall provision of **4.30ha** of open space per 1000 population.

The detailed breakdown by typology (see table below) shows that over half of this provision comes from natural and semi-natural green spaces, including the very large sites at Robinswood Hill Country Park and Alney Island Nature Reserve.

Other types of open space, such as formal play/youth facilities are underserved within the city, but most of these are set within larger open spaces, so children and young people should be able to utilise the additional surrounding green space for other informal recreation activities. However, where an opportunity arises to increase the size of a dedicated play area or youth facility, this should be taken whenever possible.

It should be noted that there are several city-centre areas that have not been included in the general open space calculations – these are located at the Gloucester Cathedral precincts, Gloucester Docks and Gloucester Quays. These spaces play a key role in providing a civic setting to some of the city's most important buildings and are used by residents and visitors throughout the year, including events, activities, processions and festivals, they generally provide open, public access but are not formally designated as public open spaces. The Gloucester-Sharpness Canal corridor and towpath has also not been included in the overall calculations, but this resource provides further informal recreation opportunities, including water sports.

There are a number of other privately-owned open spaces, such as school playing fields or private sports grounds, which are also accessible to the wider community, through shared-use community

agreements, formal or informal arrangements. These are an important part of the city's open space network but are not included in any of the open space calculations.

Breakdown of Gloucester's open space provision by typology

Typology	Current quantity of provision (Hectares)	Current ratio of provision in Gloucester City (ha per 1000 population)	National guidance benchmark standard (ha/1000)
<i>Parks and gardens</i>	<i>52.19</i>	<i>0.40</i>	<i>0.80</i> <i>(FiT, 2015)</i>
<i>Natural and semi-natural green space</i>	<i>278.56</i>	<i>2.16</i>	<i>1.8</i> <i>(FiT, 2015)</i>
<i>Amenity greenspace</i>	<i>70.08</i>	<i>0.54</i>	<i>0.6</i> <i>(FiT, 2015)</i>
<i>Formal sport (outdoor)</i> <i>(*for reference only - refer to Gloucester's Playing Pitch Strategy for detailed study)</i>	<i>98.74</i>	<i>0.76*</i> <i>For reference only</i> <i>See Note 1 below</i>	<i>1.6*(FiT, 2015)</i> <i>(inc 1.2 playing pitches)</i> <i>See Note 1 below</i>
<i>Formal play/youth facilities</i>	<i>7.39</i>	<i>0.06</i>	<i>0.25 (play)</i> <i>(plus 0.3 - youth facilities)</i> <i>(FiT, 2015)</i>
<i>Allotments</i>	<i>17.19</i>	<i>0.13</i>	<i>0.25</i> <i>(NSALG)</i>
<i>Cemeteries</i>	<i>27.80</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Civic spaces</i>	<i>3.62</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Total	555.57	4.30	-

FiT = Fields in Trust Beyond the Six Acre Standard, Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play (England) October 2015, ANGSt = Natural England, Access to Natural Green Space Standard, 2008, NSALG = National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.

Note 1: Gloucester has a detailed Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Playing Pitch Assessment Report in place, which includes a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance. The PPS and assessment report provide a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities. This information is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary. Therefore, when calculating the required provision for new outdoor sports and playing pitch provision within new development, the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator will be utilised in place of the generic FiT standard, as this is directly informed by Gloucester's PPS and generates the outdoor sport requirements specifically in respect of Gloucester's locally derived needs.

Opportunities for new open space provision

Section 6 sets out the remaining recognised housing development sites and allocations within the city, most of which will not be able to provide substantial on-site open space provision due to the development sites being constrained or too small to practically accommodate open space and facilities of at least the required minimum 0.2ha in size. It is therefore unlikely that the national benchmark standard will be achievable for the under-served typologies, but should opportunities come forward, open space should generally be provided at a quantity in line with the current national guidance (Fields in Trust).

It should also be clearly noted that where there are existing levels of provision that exceed the national minimum or benchmark standard, this does not mean that there is surplus provision, and all such provision is likely to be well-used. Similarly, typologies cannot simply be interchanged, to create more space of another type. This would need very careful consideration, including full public consultation.

The quantity standards set out herein reflect only the importance relating to a list of given recreational activities or uses. The value of most open space is multi-functional and far greater than any individual typology '*label*' it has been assigned. It will hold additional intrinsic value for many other reasons, including ecological and visual value. The full value of all open space must always therefore be viewed in the context of broader environmental and planning considerations.

Where new development is not able to provide on-site open space, including allotments, then provision should be made for an off-site financial contribution. This may be via the CIL or S.106 process, depending on the site. The process of how to calculate the level of contribution is set out at Appendix 6. For outdoor sports provision, the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator and Sports Facility Calculator should be used to determine the expected demand and level of provision required.

There may be further new housing sites identified in Gloucester during the life of this strategy (including apartment schemes within the city centre). These should follow the same guiding principles in terms of the expected level of open space and associated facilities (or equivalent financial contributions) as required.

It should also be noted that should future housing schemes come forward where there is a multi-phased development across inter-related sites (e.g., along the canal front), although each phase may fall below the threshold of 35 housing units, the cumulative total should be considered as one total provision, and open space provided in accordance with the standards, as necessary.

As a general guide, sites of 35+ housing units should provide the equivalent of a LEAP play area and some formal sports facilities. Developments of 100 units or more should provide the equivalent of a NEAP play area (including a MUGA or similar) as well as formal sports provision, such as playing pitches, and other general open space provision. Sites of between 10-35 units would be expected to provide a financial contribution to improve existing local open space facilities nearby (via CIL or S106 as appropriate) if provision cannot be made on-site. S.106 provision must align to opportunities identified in this strategy (and those in the PPS for outdoor sport).

Local open space standards - Quality

The majority of existing open spaces across the city are managed by Gloucester City Council. However, there are a few exceptions to this – there are a number of sites in the Quedgeley and Kingsway area which are managed by Quedgeley Town Council (the only formal parish council within the city boundary). Parishes are able to charge a precept to fund the council and activities they undertake on behalf of the community; the precept is an additional charge to all residents located in the parish boundary and is collected via the Gloucester City council tax.

There is also a small (and growing) number of public open space sites in Gloucester that are maintained by a management company on behalf of a private landowner (often a housebuilding company). This is where the landowner chooses not to ask the council to formally adopt and maintain the open spaces in perpetuity but instead retains legal ownership. Generally, a service charge is paid by every property on the development to look after the green spaces (and sometimes roads and other amenities).

Any open spaces not maintained by the city council should be clearly signed, with a contact address, phone number or email, to allow residents to report any issues to the owner.

The city council would expect these privately managed open spaces to be maintained at least to the same standard as the council's green spaces.

Because there are some areas of the city where the quantity of open space is limited, and there is little likelihood of an increase, it is more important than ever that the quality of the open spaces that are available to residents in these areas is as good as it can be. Recent studies have shown that providing good quality, well-maintained open spaces and facilities attracts a larger number of regular and returning users. The quality of an open space is usually valued by visitors above the quantity or accessibility and there is much good practice guidance to support this.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) advocates for '*high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation*', as does the Fields in Trust (FiT) open space guidance. It is also recommended that local considerations are included when assessing sites for quality, to allow adjustments to be made for the particular circumstances in each strategy area.

The Green Flag Award scheme represents the only recognised national standard for assessing the quality of parks and open spaces across the UK. Only the best, most well-managed sites will be able to achieve the standard. Gloucester currently has three Green Flag spaces, an increase from one in 2015.

However, assessing all open spaces/typologies against the detailed Green Flag criteria, which are designed to measure an exceptionally high standard of site, would not be appropriate for the majority of the city's green space areas. For the purpose of this strategy therefore, and in line with guidance, a locally set site quality assessment has been undertaken for each area of open space. High/Med/Low scores are given against a basic expected level of quality/maintenance as well as potential for biodiversity and community value.

The assessment results are set out in Appendix 2 and provide a comparative overview of the current quality of all spaces in the city. Additional local factors, such as how many similar spaces there are nearby and the level of IMD (Indices of Multiple Deprivation – National Quintile) for the site location are included and considered, so as to ensure that a general picture of each site and its value to the community within the local setting can be assessed.

A short analysis of the site assessments is set out below, which identifies the number of sites that fall below the expected standard.

Site Quality Assessment - summary

Low Quality – site falls short of expected standard and requires some improvement.

Medium Quality – Site is in fair to good condition but may benefit from further improvement.

High Quality – Site and facilities are of good quality and are generally well-managed.

- **20% of open spaces in Gloucester were assessed as Low Quality**
 - **71% of open spaces were assessed as Medium Quality**
 - **9% of open spaces were assessed as High Quality**

Children’s play areas have been assessed separately, using the Play England Play Assessment Tool. The overview and analysis for play areas can be viewed at Appendix 4.



Local open space standards - Accessibility

Accessibility is the way that people get to open spaces, whether on foot, cycling or by car. Barriers to access include busy roads. Accessibility guidelines set out acceptable distances that people can be expected to walk from home to access their nearest types of open space. FiT recommend that local factors and obstacles to pedestrian and cycle movement should be taken into account. Ideally, open spaces and play facilities should also be accessible from bus routes.

As previously outlined, open space provision across Gloucester is not evenly and consistently spread. Some parts of the city have more limited areas of open space, and there is very little chance of increasing provision in densely built-up neighbourhoods. In these areas, it is important that the open spaces available to residents are clearly signposted and access routes made as user friendly as possible, to encourage a slightly longer travel-to-play time where necessary.

The table below sets out Gloucester's recommended accessibility standards for each type of open space. These are based on local factors, including barriers to access where there are limited crossing points, such as main roads, railway lines, the river and canal.

Recommended local accessibility standards for Gloucester:

Open Space Typology	Gloucester City walking distance <i>metres from dwelling</i> <i>(1.2mins per 100m = 5kph)</i>	National benchmark guidance (walking distance) FiT/ANGSt/NSALG	Notes
Parks and Gardens	800m <i>(9.5-minute walk)</i>	710m <i>(9-minute walk)</i>	<i>Accessibility to parks, gardens and larger amenity green spaces of approx. 1ha or larger has been considered together, as these can often provide the same functions (e.g. informal recreation, play, informal kickabout etc).</i>
Amenity green space	1ha or larger - 500m <i>(6-minute walk)</i>	480m <i>(6-minute walk)</i>	
Natural and semi-natural green space	A 1ha space within 5 mins walk & A 20ha space within 2km & A 100ha space within 5km & A 500ha space within 10km	A 2ha space within 300m <i>(5 mins walk)</i> A 20ha space within 2km A 100ha space within 5km A 500ha site within 10km	<i>All parts of the city are within 5km of Robinswood Hill (100ha) and Alney island (80ha).</i> <i>All parts of the city are within 2km of Alney Island, Robinswood Hill, The Gloucester-Sharpness Canal, Plock Court or Horsbere FAS (all over 20ha)</i> <i>Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods SSSI (690ha) is within 10km of all parts of the city</i>

Formal sport	'Travel to play' area – covers whole City – refer to Playing Pitch Strategy for details	1200m walking distance	Based on detailed needs assessment in Gloucester's Playing Pitch Strategy
Formal play and youth facilities	LEAP – 400m (5-minute walk) NEAP – 1,000m (12-minute walk) Skate/MUGA – 1,500m (18 min walk)	LEAP – 400m (5 mins walk) NEAP – 1000m (15 mins walk) Skate, MUGA etc - 700m (9-10 mins walk)	It is considered that older children would be prepared to travel for 20mins to access good quality skate/MUGA facilities
Allotments	1,200m (14.5-minute walk)	1,200m (15 mins walk)	
Cemeteries	n/a	No standard set	
Civic Spaces	n/a	No standard set	

Overall, the city has a good level of accessibility for the majority of residents to parks, gardens and larger areas of amenity greenspace. Many of Gloucester's large amenity spaces provide similar functions to a park (the exact distinction between a park and amenity greenspace is not easily defined).

When mapped, there are just a few areas of residential development where accessibility to a park or large amenity space is not possible within the stated walking distances. These are the NW corner of Hucclecote ward, parts of central Longlevens, the SE corner of Grange ward and a central block through Quedgeley Severnvale and Quedgeley Fieldcourt wards (west of the A38).

Natural and Semi-natural green space is quite accessible in all parts of the city, with many smaller local spaces distributed across the city (as well as the canal and River Severn corridors). Larger sites, at Alney Island Nature Reserve and Robinswood Hill Country Park, which are managed by the City Council's Countryside Unit, are accessible to all residents (within 5km). The Gloucester-Sharpness Canal corridor (and to a lesser degree the River Severn) also provide good accessibility to natural greenspace in the west and south west of the city. Gloucester is located on the edge of the Cotswolds AONB and residents are able to access other larger natural spaces just beyond the city, such as the Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods SSSI (690ha), which is within 10km.

Formal play spaces and youth facilities (skateparks/MUGAs) are not distributed evenly across the city. Whilst some wards have a good choice of LEAPs (play area) within walking distance, there are parts of Elmbridge, Longlevens, Hucclecote, Abbeydale, Matson & Robinswood, Kingsholm & Wotton, Tuffley and Quedgeley where a play area is well over 5 mins walk away.

Similarly, the distribution of NEAPs (larger play areas that include a youth facility such as a MUGA, skatepark or similar) leaves some parts of Elmbridge, Barnwood, Hucclecote, Kingsholm & Wotton Matson & Robinswood, Quedgeley with poor coverage.

Although there are few opportunities to increase provision in all of these areas, a new play area with small MUGA has been built at Ayland Gardens (Barton & Tredworth ward) and new play areas built at Hucclecote Playing Field (Hucclecote ward), Fieldcourt Drive (Quedgeley Fieldcourt ward) and Lasborough Drive (Grange ward), funding for these was secured via S.106 developer contributions. New play areas are being planned and funded through S.106 funds at Plock Court (Longlevens ward), and the Canalside Park (Quedgeley Severnvale ward).

There will also be new play areas incorporated by developers into housing schemes at Bristol Rd (Podsmead ward) and Grange Road (Tuffley ward). A new play area at Westgate Park would be of benefit - to provide improved coverage for residents in the NW of the city.

Some of the city's larger spaces with a good range of facilities (e.g. Robinswood Hill Country Park, Gloucester Park) draw visitors from a much wider catchment, often arriving by car, cycle or bus, as many people are prepared to travel a little further and spend longer there.

Making green spaces welcoming and safe for everyone

'People experience open space differently according to who they are and their social, cultural and economic background. Some may even feel unable to use open space because they do not feel welcome or safe, or the space does not have important facilities such as accessible public toilets. Others may feel that they are only able to use spaces at certain times or when other types of users are not present.'

CABE Space, Open Space Strategies, Best Practice Guidance, 2009

The council will endeavour to ensure that all open space is safe to use and welcoming to all. It is important to ensure, wherever possible, that particular user groups such as women, families, or those with disabilities, feel they can safely access and use the city's parks and their facilities.

Where projects or improvements are planned, it is important that the council considers the existing and potential future demographic of a park's catchment area, and, where resources allow, to consult and survey residents to assess their aspirations and need. Surveys should include questions relating to how spaces are used/or not visited, patterns of use – including daily, weekly or seasonal variations, the facility needs/aspirations of different ages or user groups, as well as travelling methods or barriers to access around and within the green space.

Where changes are made to open spaces, such as to improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity, the council will ensure that, where possible, users are still able to safely access and use the space, for example, by mowing footpaths through areas of longer meadow grass.

Local open space standards – Biodiversity

The city has a wide range of green spaces, managed in different ways depending on the use of the space. Historically, many green areas were kept regularly mown, with short grass providing minimal habitat value. However, in recent years there has been an increased effort to improve the natural habitat value of the city's green spaces wherever possible, without directly impacting on other functions such as formal sport or drainage infrastructure. For example, many of the city's areas of close-mown amenity grass could be re-assigned to develop a much more diverse wildflower sward, or planted with trees, which would provide substantial benefits to wildlife.

The site assessments undertaken for this strategy comprise a simple baseline assessment of the existing biodiversity value of each site and an indication of the spaces where biodiversity improvements could be undertaken to improve this value.

Where it is considered that there is the potential to achieve significant biodiversity gains, a more formal site assessment will be carried out, using the DEFRA biodiversity assessment metric, which provides a way of measuring and accounting for biodiversity losses and gains. Individual Biodiversity Enhancement Plans will then be created and implemented for those sites. Where sites already have high biodiversity value, measures to protect and further improve them will be taken.

Many of the city's green spaces also have a dual function as part of the wider Green Infrastructure (GI) network, often containing watercourses or areas with sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) built in to the landscape, which manage surface water runoff during heavy rainfall events. The council has both a Green Infrastructure Strategy (JCS) and a SUDS Strategy, which set out the aims and objectives for these areas. These documents will be reviewed and updated as necessary. The GI/SUDS sites can be rich in existing biodiversity or have good habitat potential and the council will ensure that their management protects and enhances the natural habitat and associated wildlife wherever possible.

Further information on the assessment criteria/methodology for existing and potential Biodiversity Value are set out in Appendix 2.

Local open space standards – Community Value

The benefits of open spaces. Local green spaces are often a hub for local communities. They are free to access, can be used for a range of activities and provide space and tranquility in an often busy and complicated world. Some communities have additional challenges – perhaps being very densely populated or within a socially deprived ward with associated health and employment challenges. In these places green space can be even more important, providing access to nature, clean air and enhanced recreational opportunities.

Even some of our smallest spaces assist in shaping local identity, helping people to overcome social isolation and creating a sense of belonging. Parks also offer people from all walks of life and all parts of our society somewhere to come together, enjoy each other's company and take advantage of the opportunities that accessible, free and attractive open spaces can provide.

Whilst all open space has positive intrinsic and quantitative value, there are some spaces within the city which are especially highly valued by the local community. These spaces have additional value in this respect and should be prioritised for enhanced investment, community involvement in their management and future improvement where possible.

Further information on the assessment criteria/methodology for Community Value set out in Appendix 2. A summary and analysis of the Community Value Assessments for each open space is set out in Appendix 3.

9. Working with partners and the community

The council manages and improves the city's open spaces with input and assistance from a wide range of voluntary, public and private sector partners. Some act in an advisory role, others actively manage the spaces, provide specialist services, perform community liaison, or help with raising funds for specific projects.

Partnership working brings significant benefits and integrating open space improvements with wider community-led neighbourhood programmes can often bring better outcomes.

The council is committed to further developing partnerships and community projects in parks and open spaces. Examples of recent community-led, externally funded projects are the new play areas at Tuffley Park (funded via Podsmead Big Local) and Armscroft Park (funded via Friends of Elmbridge).

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is also working in the city, to help bring improvements to urban wild habitats and encourage residents to explore and learn about Gloucester's wild places. Initiatives to date include All Paths Lead to the Hill, Wild Kingsway, and the Milton Avenue Green Space project.

Examples of local partners (some provide or manage their own public spaces; others work within the council's spaces):

- 'Friends' groups, e.g., Friends of Barnwood Arboretum, Friends of Hillfield Gardens
- Community groups, sports clubs and teams
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
- University of Gloucestershire
- Aspire Sports and Cultural Trust
- Active Gloucestershire
- Quedgeley Town Council
- Amey (grounds maintenance partner)
- Gloucester Quays/Docks Management Company
- Diocese of Gloucester
- Canal and River Trust/Environment Agency/Internal Drainage Board
- Community payback/probation service
- Other charity organisations, e.g. Play Gloucestershire, Get Up and Go Gloucester
- Gloucester Civic Trust
- Gloucester City Homes
- Gloucestershire County Council

The council is very fortunate to have many dedicated and committed volunteers and Friends groups working across the city. These groups hold volunteer work days, fund-raising events, undertake site management, cleaning and litter picking. Many volunteers also dedicate long hours to carry out enhanced grounds maintenance for sports pitches and manage clubhouses and pavilions located on open spaces.

The council will continue to support and encourage the formation of local Friends groups and community-led maintenance and management of open spaces across the city. In order to ensure that the council and Friends groups (or other organisations) are working together effectively, it is important to have a mutually agreed set of objectives, procedures, and priorities for each site. Ideally this should be set out in a Friends Group/volunteer protocol made in agreement with the City Council. It is also important for the council to ensure that anyone working within public spaces has sufficient health and safety and risk awareness and this would also be part of the written agreement. Most groups will need to have Public Liability Insurance to cover their activities when working in green spaces.

The council recognises the value of enabling local community partners to take more responsibility for local services and assets, a process which can also help to secure external funding for its sites. With suitable safeguards in place, the process can bring real benefits to both residents and the council. This may be via Community Asset Transfer (CAT) or a similar method and would be aligned with Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) principles.

Tenure and lease agreements for individual sports facilities, playing pitches and changing rooms can be negotiated with the council's Asset Management Team.



10. Funding

Local authorities are facing ongoing restrictions on spending, which is unlikely to change for the foreseeable future and there is an inevitable impact on the council's ability to provide and maintain its wide range of services and facilities.

The city council has innovated and looked at best practice wherever possible, to deliver revenue savings and efficiencies without impacting on provision. For parks and open spaces, priorities are sustainability in the medium to long term, adapting sites to take account of climate change, reducing waste and streamlining maintenance services.

Capital spending can be sourced from a variety of providers. Since 2001, the council has successfully negotiated Section 106 funds from housing developers, through residential planning applications, which are secured by legal agreement to improve public open space, allotments, sport and play facilities. Although the S.106 process has now evolved (becoming the Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL] which is applied instead in certain instances), there are still some new sites which will provide S.106 funds and some residual funds to be put towards open space projects in the city.

Any new housing developments will be required to calculate appropriate on-site open space provision or apply the CIL or S.106 process to provide a financial contribution that can be used to upgrade existing sites nearby. Details of the process and methods of calculating the open space requirements for new development are set out in Appendix 6.

The council, as well as local community groups and other organisations, will seek to source other capital funding for open space projects through external grant-providers and partnership working wherever possible.

Grounds maintenance

The Council's current contract with Amey PLC for the provision of grounds maintenance services, comes to an end in April 2022. At present no decision has been taken with regard to the future provision of these services, but the authority is currently considering a range of options.

Any requirements in respect of grounds maintenance provision resulting from this strategy will be considered in the development of any future grounds maintenance specification.

11. Monitoring and review

The aims and objectives set out in this strategy will be regularly reviewed and an annual monitoring report on progress will be produced and presented to the Council Cabinet after the end of each financial year.

12. Appendices

Further details of the assessment, analysis and breakdown of the open spaces within the city are set out in the following appendices.

- Appendix 1 – Ward Maps and breakdown of open space by quantity & type
- Appendix 2 – Summary of Open Space Site Quality and Biodiversity Value Assessments
- Appendix 3 - Summary and Analysis of Community Value Assessments
- Appendix 4 – Summary and analysis of Play Area Assessments
- Appendix 5 – Updated Allotment Strategy for Gloucester (Jan 2021)
- Appendix 6 – Planning Obligations Calculator



APPENDIX 1

Breakdown of open space quantity by ward

Overview

A local audit of open spaces in the city was undertaken in early 2020, to provide an understanding of the current amount, location, and condition of each type (see page 15 for a breakdown of the open space typologies).

Summary – Quantity

Totals	Parks and Gardens	Amenity open spaces	Natural/semi natural	Formal sport	Formal play/youth sport	Cemetery	Allotment	Civic		Total
Abbeymead	1.31	5.23	13.52	2.40	0.10					22.56
Abbeylea		8.09	9.26	1.75	0.07		4.17			23.34
Barnwood	10.12	7.23	5.01	6.28	0.55					29.19
B&T	1.13	1.00			0.42					2.55
Coney Hill	3.89	0.87			0.14	12.67	0.16			17.73
Elmbridge	3.85	0.76	6.83	7.84	0.39	0.15				19.82
Grange	8.92	4.22	1.58	5.47	0.78					20.97
Hucclecote	1.4	1.86	4.64	8.59	0.12					16.61
K&W	1.38	2.29			0.30		0.15			4.12
Kingsway		2.99	18.94	5.17	0.66					27.76
Longlevens		7.87	10.38	21.18	0.27		7.86			47.56
M&R	4.34	6.45	105.06	5.39	0.82	14.98	0.80			137.84
Moreland		3.36		5.01	0.47		1.68			10.52
Podsmead		3.61	1.00	15.70	0.57		0.28			21.16
QF		4.03	6.24	5.42	0.49		1.15			17.33
QSV		1.77	7.19		0.34					9.30
Tuffley		5.92			0.53		0.89			7.34
Westgate	15.85	2.53	88.91	8.54	0.37		0.05	3.62		119.87
Total	52.19	70.08	278.56	98.74	7.39	27.80	17.19	3.62		555.57

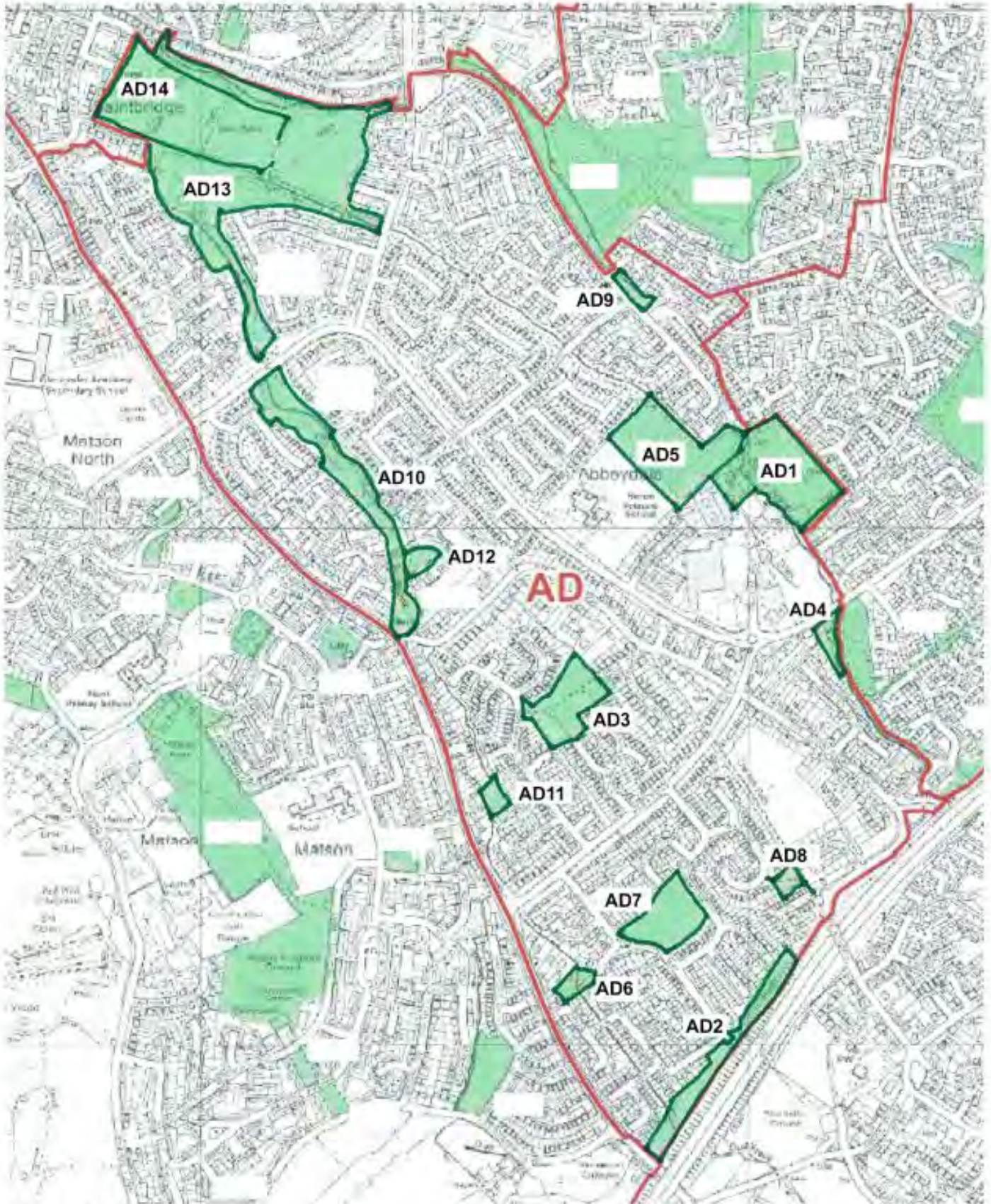
Population by ward (2017 census)

Ward name	Population (2017)	Ward name	Population (2017)
Abbeylea	7554	Kingsway	7984
Abbeymead	6269	Longlevens	9370
Barnwood	6825	Matson & Robinswood	9541
Barton & Tredworth	11493	Moreland	10437
Coney Hill	3347	Podsmead	3124
Elmbridge	6426	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	6028
Grange	6749	Quedgeley Severnvale	6369
Hucclecote	6129	Tuffley	5955
Kingsholm and Wotton	7451	Westgate	8032
		Total for Gloucester City	129,083

Ward Maps & breakdown of open space by quantity and type

Abbeydale ward

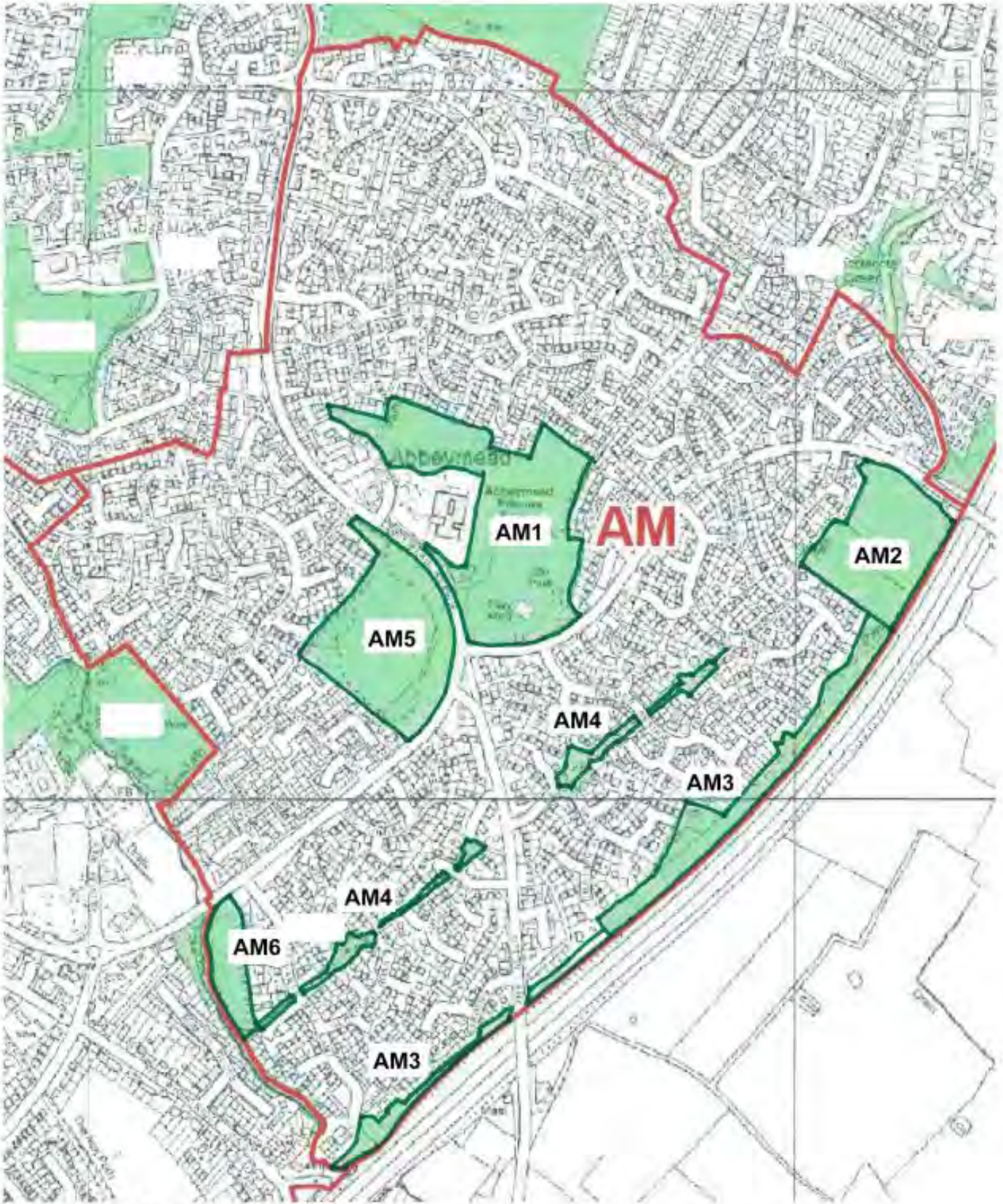
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Abbeydale (AD)						6269
AB1	AD1	Glevum Way Park	2.41	PARK 1.31	sport 1.0	play 0.1		
AB3	AD2	M5 Linear Park (S)	included in AM3					
AB4	AD3	The Richmonds	1.37	amenity				
AB8 (part)	AD4	Stewart's Mill (W)	included in AM6					
AB5	AD5	Heron Park	2.88	amenity 1.48	sport 1.4			
AB9	AD6	The Lawns	0.29	amenity				
AB10	AD7	Meerstone Way	1.29	amenity				
AB11	AD8	Oxmoor	0.16	amenity				
AB12	AD9	Bittern Avenue	0.19	amenity				
AB13/MR14	AD10	Heron Way Open Space	3.98	Natural/semi-natural				
AB14	AD11	Almond Close	0.22	amenity				
AB15	AD12	Awebridge Way	0.23	Amenity				
BA2	AD13	Saintbridge Balancing Pond	9.54	Natural/semi-natural				
BA24	AD14	Saintbridge Allotments	4.17	Allotments				
		Total	26.73	Natural 13.52	Amenity 6.54	Sport 2.4	Play 0.1	Allotments 4.17



Abbeydale ward

Abbeymead ward

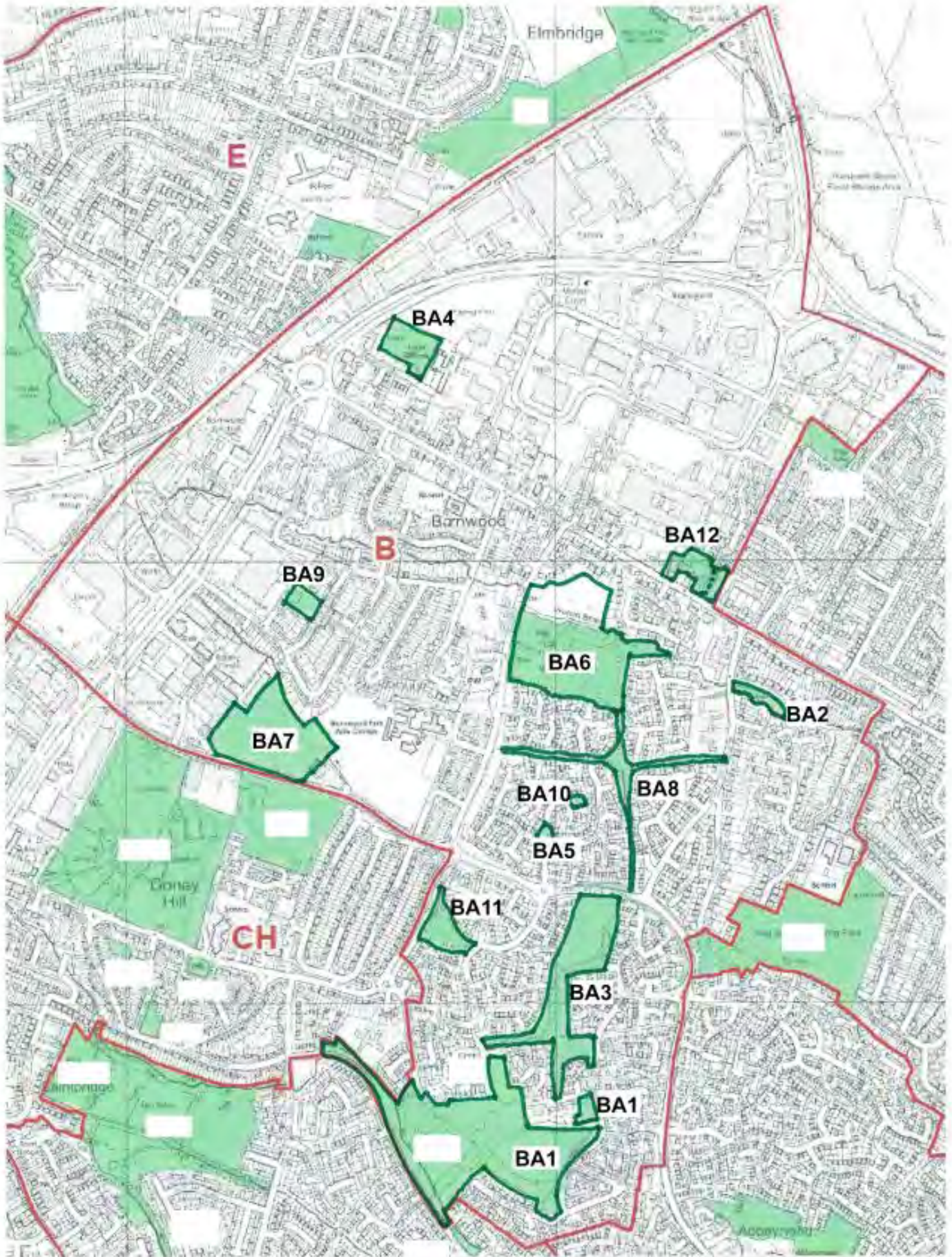
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Abbeymead (AM)						7554
HU7	AM1	Lobley's Drive/Mead Rd	5.68	Amenity 3.86	sport 1.75	play 0.07		
AB2	AM2	Hucclecote Hay Meadows	2.69	Natural/semi-natural				
AB3	AM3	M5 Linear Park (N), inc AD2	4.39	Natural/semi-natural				
AB6	AM4	Palmer Avenue	0.55	amenity				
AB7	AM5	Contour Park	3.68	amenity				
AB8	AM6	Stewart's Mill (E), inc AD4	2.18	Natural/semi-natural				
		Total	19.17	Natural 9.26	Amenity 8.09	Sport 1.75	Play 0.07	



Abbeymead ward

Barnwood ward

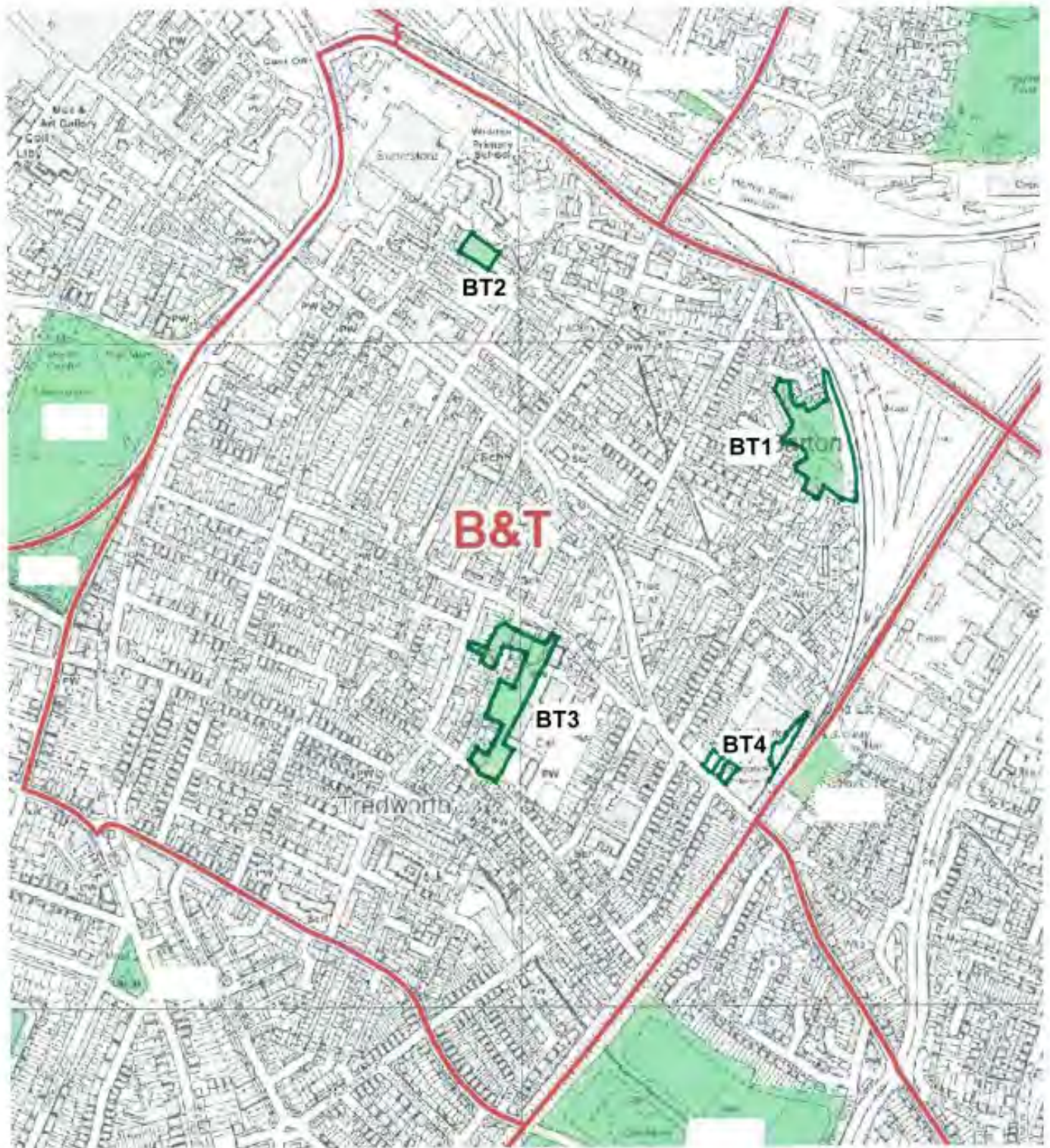
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Barnwood (BA)						6825
BA3/BA19	BA1	Clock Tower Park	9.79	PARK 5.44	natural 3.5	sport 0.7	play 0.15	
BA4	BA2	Lilliesfield Avenue	0.34	Amenity				
BA5	BA3	The Oaks	4.1	amenity 3.55	Sport 0.5	Play 0.05		
BA9	BA4	Saw Mills End	1.03	sport				
BA12	BA5	Broad Leys/Spinney Road	0.08	amenity				
BA13	BA6	Barnwood Park and Arboretum	6.19	PARK 4.68	Natural 1.51			
BA14	BA7	Coney Hill RFC	3.99	sport				
BA15	BA8	Churchview Drive/Abbeymead Ave	1.41	amenity				
BA16	BA9	Durham Rd/Chester Rd	0.36	play 0.2	amenity 0.16			
BA17	BA10	Snowhill Close	0.07	amenity				
BA21	BA11	Blake Hill Way Balancing Pond	0.87	amenity				
BA22	BA12	Greenways	0.96	amenity 0.75	play 0.15	sport 0.06		
		Total	29.19	Natural 5.01	Amenity 17.35	sport 6.28	Play 0.55	



Barnwood ward

Barton and Tredworth ward

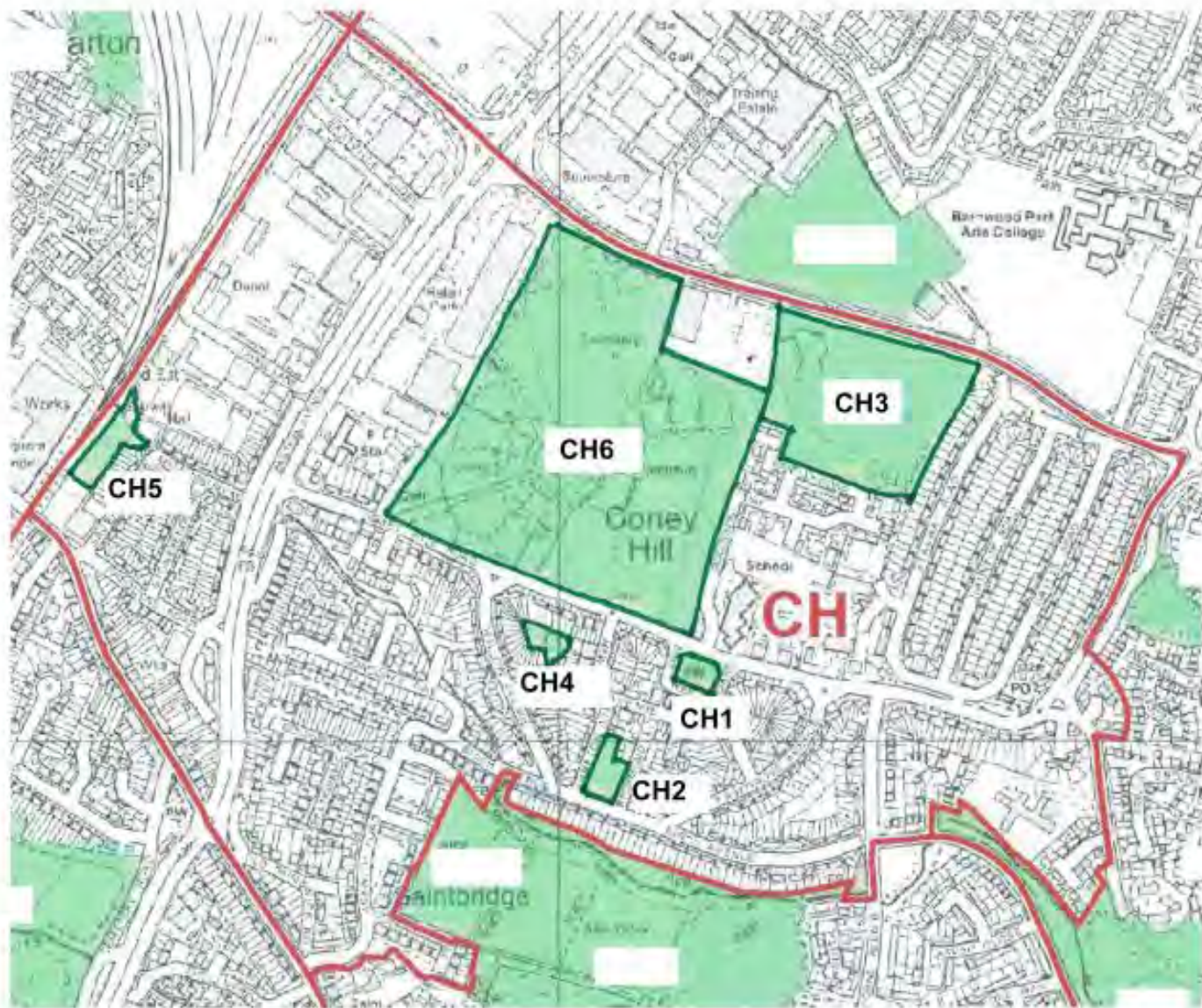
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Barton and Tredworth (BT)						11493
BT1	BT1	Ayland Gardens/Bishopstone Rd open space	0.97	amenity 0.93	play 0.04			
BT2	BT2	Napier Street	0.18	play				
BT3	BT3	St James' Park	1.2	PARK 1.13	play 0.07			
-	BT4	Diamond Jubilee Close	0.2	play 0.13	amenity 0.07			
		Total	2.55	amenity 2.13	play 0.42			



Barton & Tredworth ward

Coney Hill ward

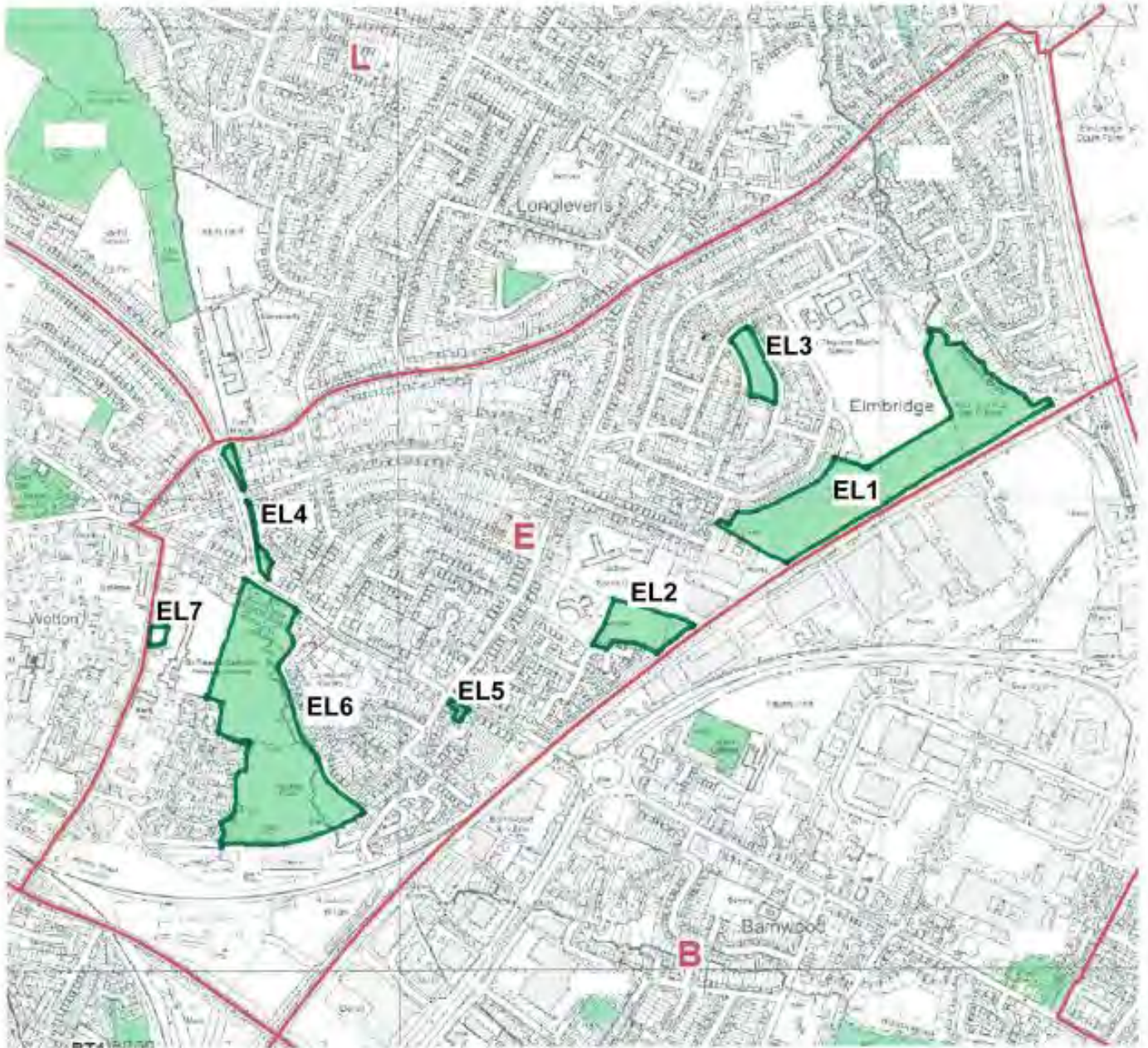
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Coney Hill (CH)						3347
BA6	CH1	Maytree Square	0.26	amenity				
BA7	CH2	Birch Avenue	0.33	amenity 0.29	play 0.04			
BA8	CH3	Coney Hill Park	3.99	PARK 3.89	play 0.1			
BA10	CH4	Willow Way	0.16	allotments				
BA11	CH5	Savernake Road	0.32	amenity				
BA20	CH6	Coney Hill Cemetery	12.67	Cemetery				
		Total	17.73	amenity 4.76	play 0.14	allotments 0.16	cemetery 12.67	



Coney Hill ward

Elmbridge ward

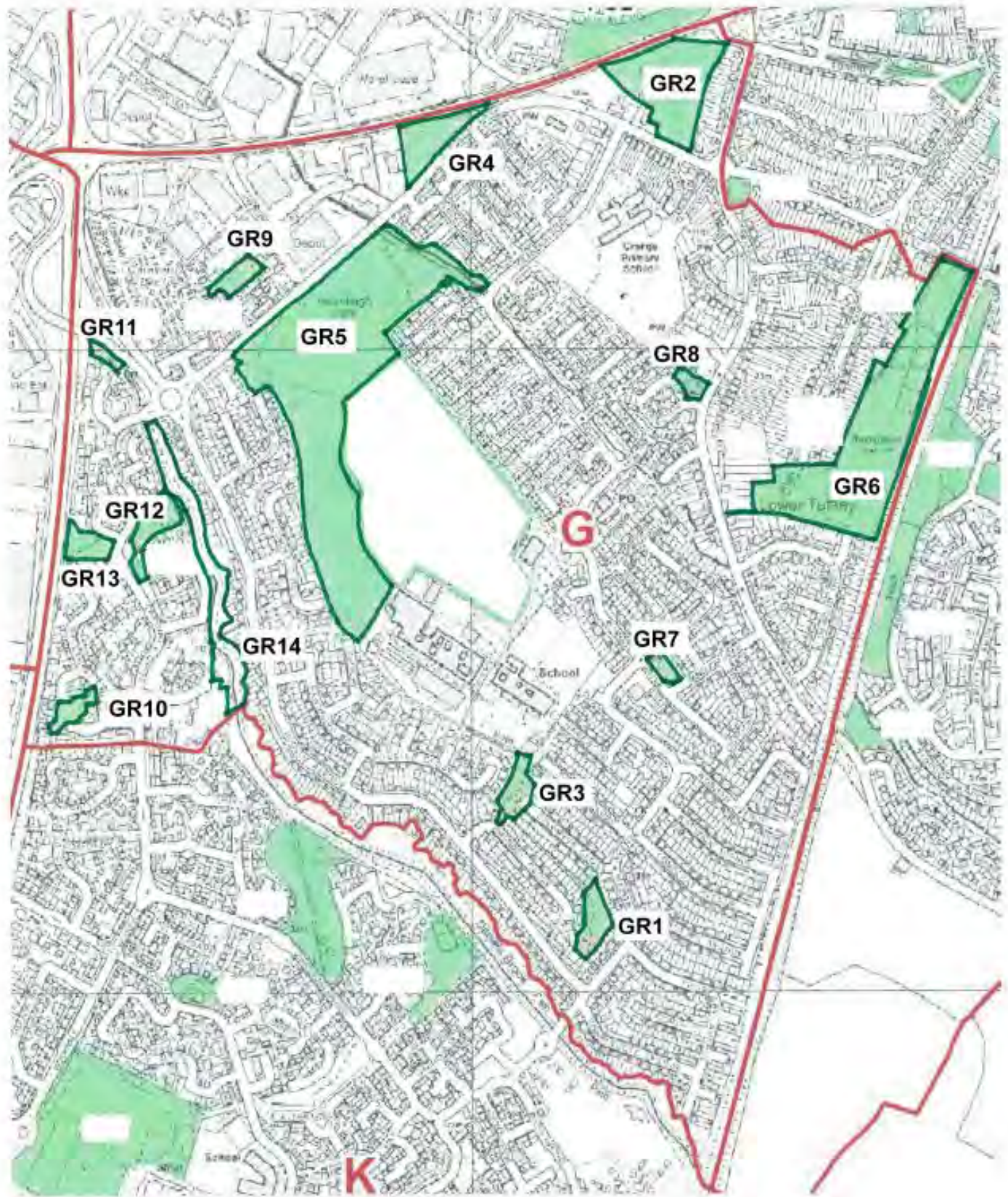
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Elmbridge (EL)						6426
EL1	EL1	Elmbridge Playing Field (Sandyleaze)	7.96	sport 4.96	natural 3.0			
EL2	EL2	Elmbridge Park (Windfall Way)	1.32	sport 1.28	play 0.04			
EL3	EL3	Meadowleaze	0.87	amenity 0.67	play 0.2			
EL4	EL4	Estcourt Gardens	0.53	natural				
EL5	EL5	Cross Keys Rest Garden	0.09	amenity				
EL7/KW7	EL6	Armscroft Park	8.9	PARK 3.85	natural 3.3	sport 1.6	play 0.15	
	EL7	Horton Rd cemetery	0.15	cemetery				
		Total	19.82	natural 6.83	amenity 4.61	sport 7.84	play 0.39	cemetery 0.15



Elmbridge ward

Grange ward

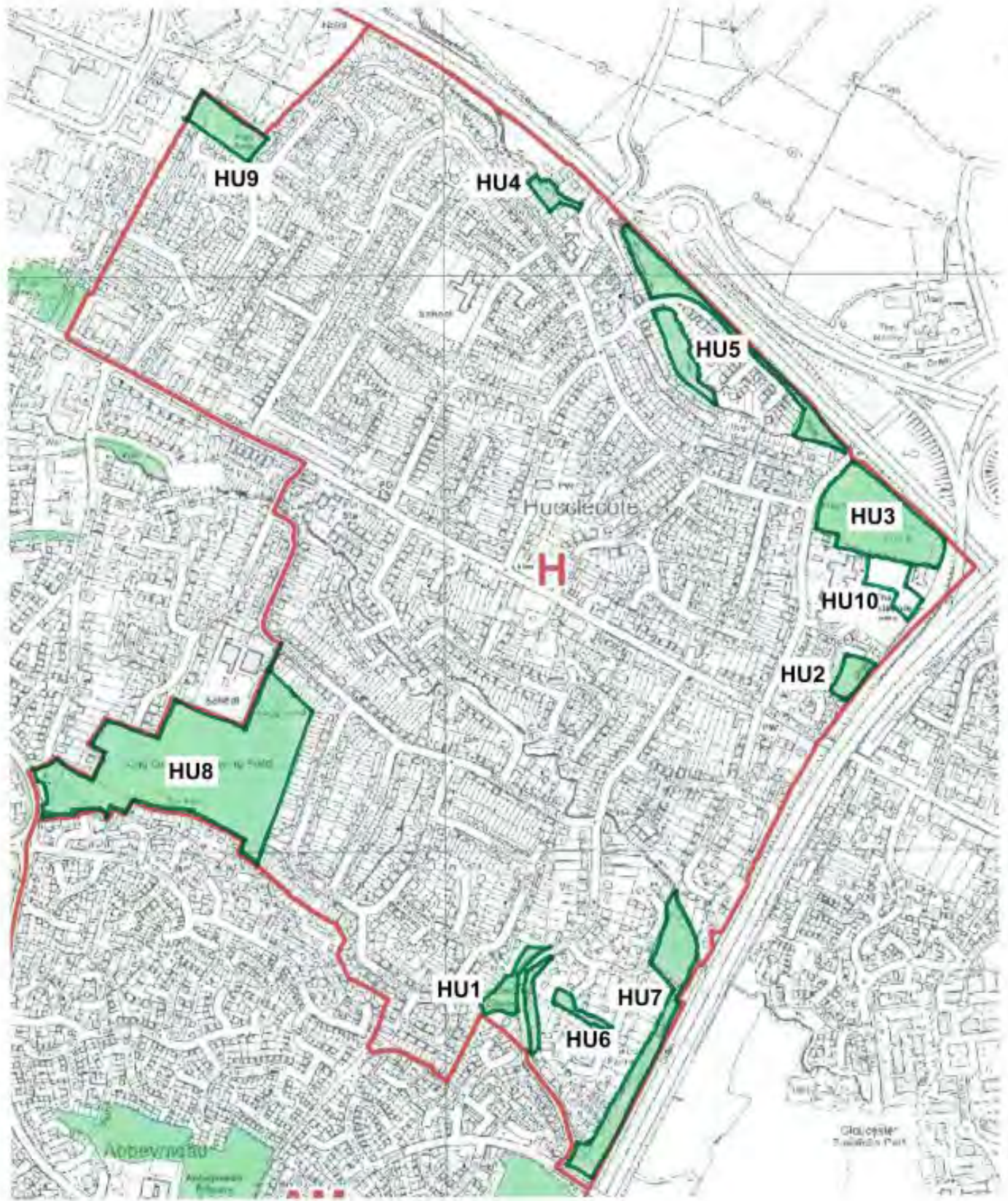
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Grange (GR)						6749
GR1	GR1	Chatsworth Avenue	0.42	amenity				
GR2	GR2	Tuffley Lane/Cole Avenue Playing Field	1.83	sport				
GR3	GR3	Denham Close/Chatsworth Ave	0.38	amenity				
GR4	GR4	Tuffley Lane (The Gladiator)	0.63	amenity				
GR5	GR5	Holmleigh Park	8.65	PARK 5.91	sport 2.44	play 0.3		
GR6/TU3	GR6	Randwick Park	4.61	PARK 3.01	sport 1.2	play 0.4		
GR7	GR7	Windsor Drive	0.12	amenity				
GR8	GR8	Meredith Way	0.83	amenity 0.79	play 0.04			
GR9/GR10	GR9	Tolsey Gardens	0.28	amenity				
QF14	GR10	Watermint Drive	0.25	amenity				
QS12/1	GR11	Greenhill Drive	0.12	amenity				
QS12/2	GR12	Streamside balancing pond	0.88	amenity				
none	GR13	The Warren	0.35	amenity				
	GR14	Daniel's Brook corridor (N) inc Lasborough	1.62	natural 1.58	play 0.04			
		Total	20.97	natural 1.58	amenity 13.14	sport 5.47	play 0.78	



Grange ward

Hucclecote ward

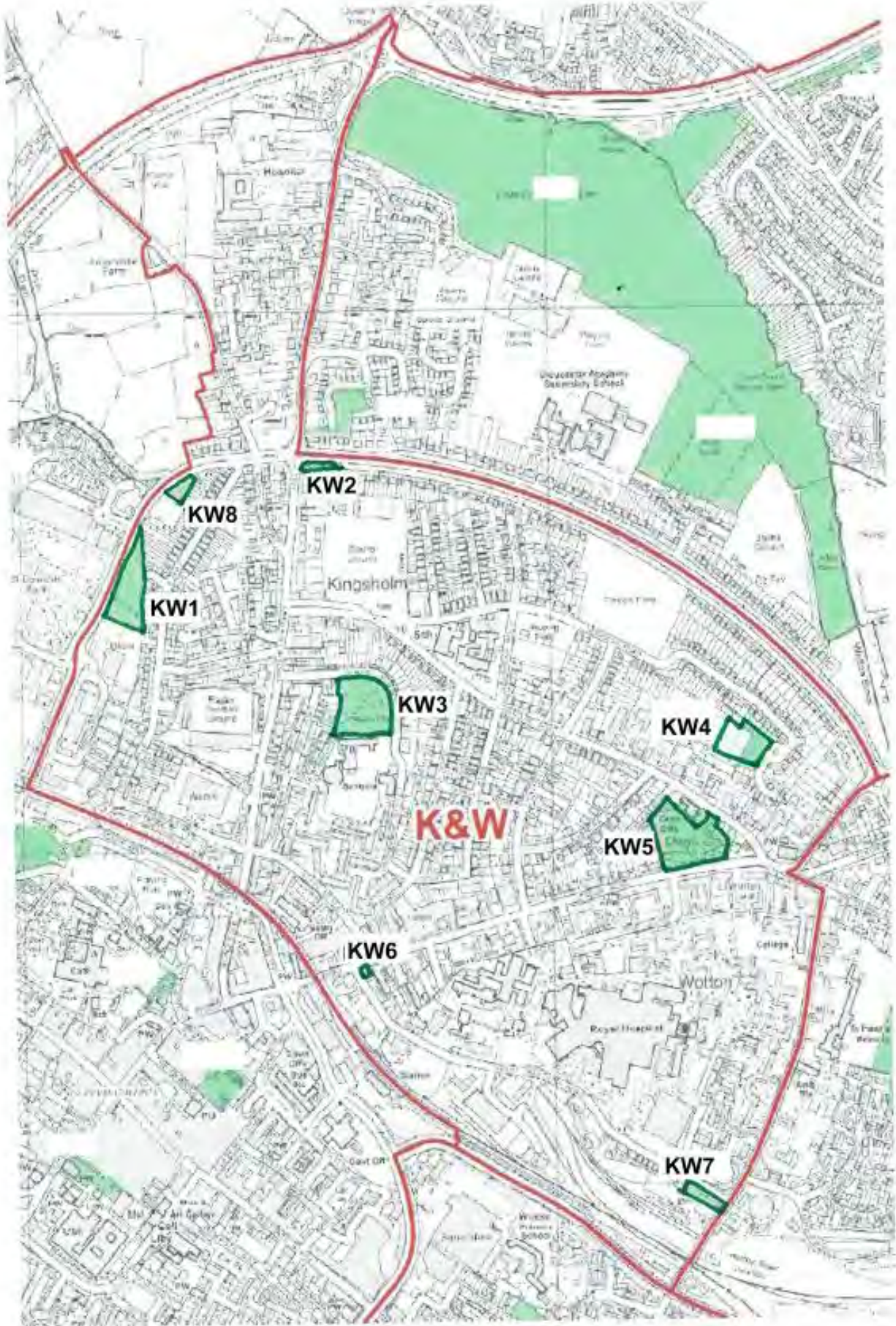
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Hucclecote (HU)						6129
HU1	HU1	Hucclecote Green	0.83	natural				
HU2	HU2	Buscombe Gardens	0.35	amenity				
HU3	HU3	Hucclecote Playing Field	2.45	sport				
HU4	HU4	Colwell Avenue	0.21	amenity				
HU5	HU5	Millfields/Pitt Mill Gardens	1.84	natural				
HU6	HU6	Green Lane/The Orchards (Green Farm woodland)	0.2	amenity				
HU8	HU7	Appleton Way Balancing Pond /Green Farm Nature Reserve	1.97	natural				
BA1	HU8	King George V Playing Field	7.34	sport 5.89	PARK 1.4	play 0.05		
BA18	HU9	Duncroft Road	0.72	amenity 0.65	play 0.07			
	HU10	Bircher way (Hucclecote Centre)	0.7	amenity 0.45	sport 0.25			
		Total	16.61	natural 4.64	amenity 3.26	sport 8.59	play 0.12	



Hucclecote ward

Kingsholm and Wotton ward

Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Kingsholm and Wotton (KW)						7451
KW1	KW1	Dean's Way Meadow	0.71	amenity 0.61	play 0.1			
KW2	KW2	Kingsholm Rest Garden	0.05	amenity				
KW3	KW3	Sebert Street Recreation Ground	1.16	Amenity 0.96	play 0.2			
KW4	KW4	Hampton Court (Lansdown Rd)	0.49	amenity				
KW5	KW5	Hillfield Gardens	1.38	PARK				
KW6/1	KW6	Great Western Rd rest garden (London Road)	0.02	amenity				
KW6/2	KW7	Great Western Rd rest garden (Horton Rd)	0.16	amenity				
KW8	KW8	Dean's Way allotments	0.15	Allotments				
		Total	4.12	amenity 2.29	play 0.3	allotments 0.15	Park 1.38	

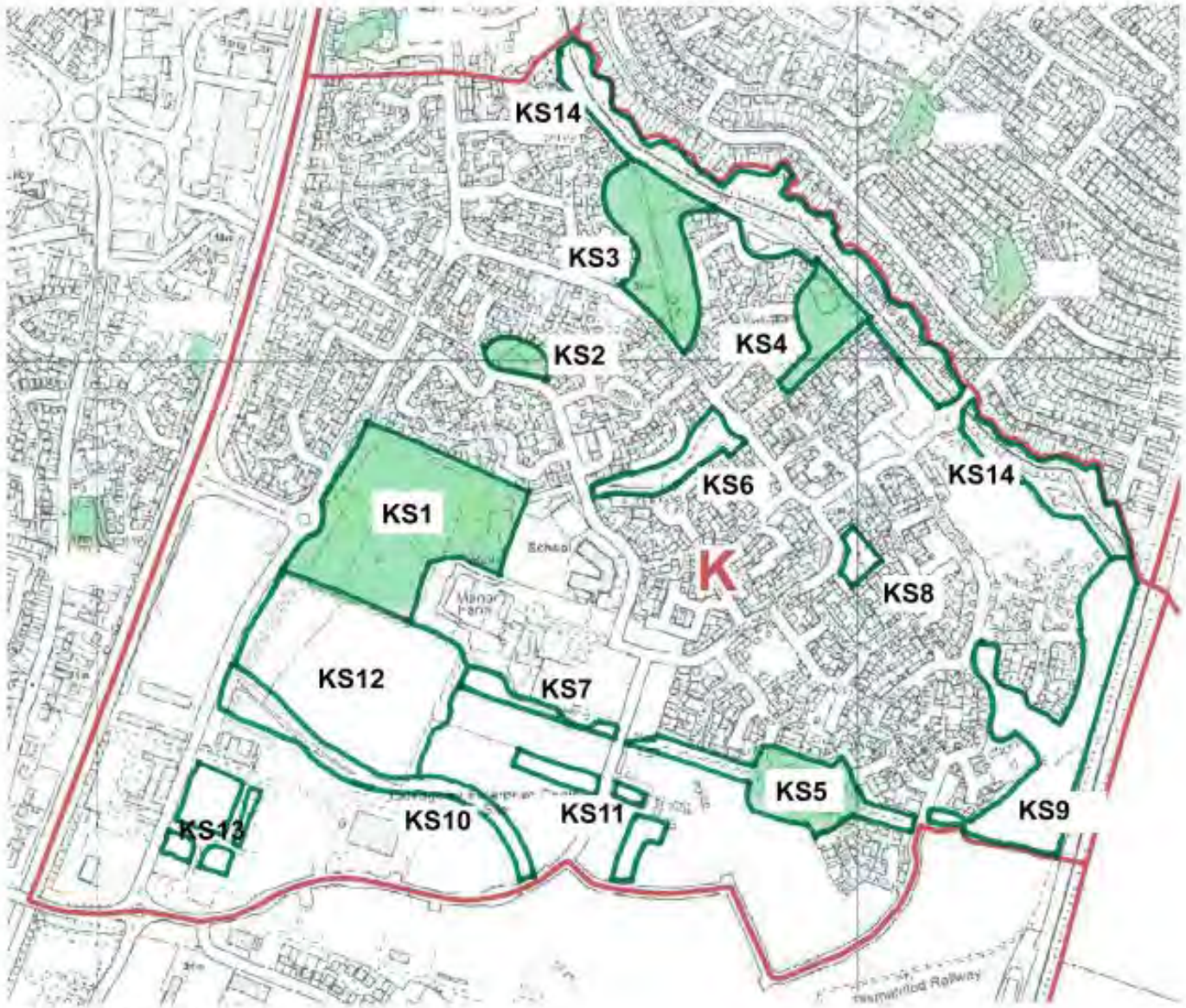


Kingsholm & Wotton ward

Kingsway ward

Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Kingsway (KS)						7984
QF7	KS1	Manor Farm Open Space	4.81	natural 3.71	sport 1.0	play 0.1		
QF8	KS2	Valley Gardens	0.33	amenity 0.27	play 0.06			
QF9	KS3	Thatcham Avenue	2.03	natural				
QF10	KS4	Daniel's Meadow	0.85	natural				
QF13	KS5	Buckenham Sports Park	1.64	amenity 1.32	play 0.2	sport 0.12		
NEW	KS6	Aldergrove	0.99	natural				
NEW	KS7	Wycombe Rd	0.38	amenity				
NEW	KS8	Coningsby Walk (Central Square)	0.22	amenity				
NEW	KS9	Staxton Drive	3.2	natural 3.12	play 0.08			
NEW	KS10	FP5 Buffer, Rudloe Drive	0.86	natural				
	KS11	TG29 & TG32	0.91	natural				
	KS12	Kingsway Sports Ground	4.86	sport 4.05	bmx (play) 0.22	natural 0.59		
	KS13	Newhaven Road(ex cricket)	0.8	amenity				
	KS14	Daniel's Brook Corridor (S)	5.88	natural				
		Total	27.76	natural 18.94	amenity 2.99	sport 5.17	play 0.66	

(Please note Kingsway allotment sites are located within Quedgeley Fieldcourt Ward)



Kingsway ward

Longlevens ward

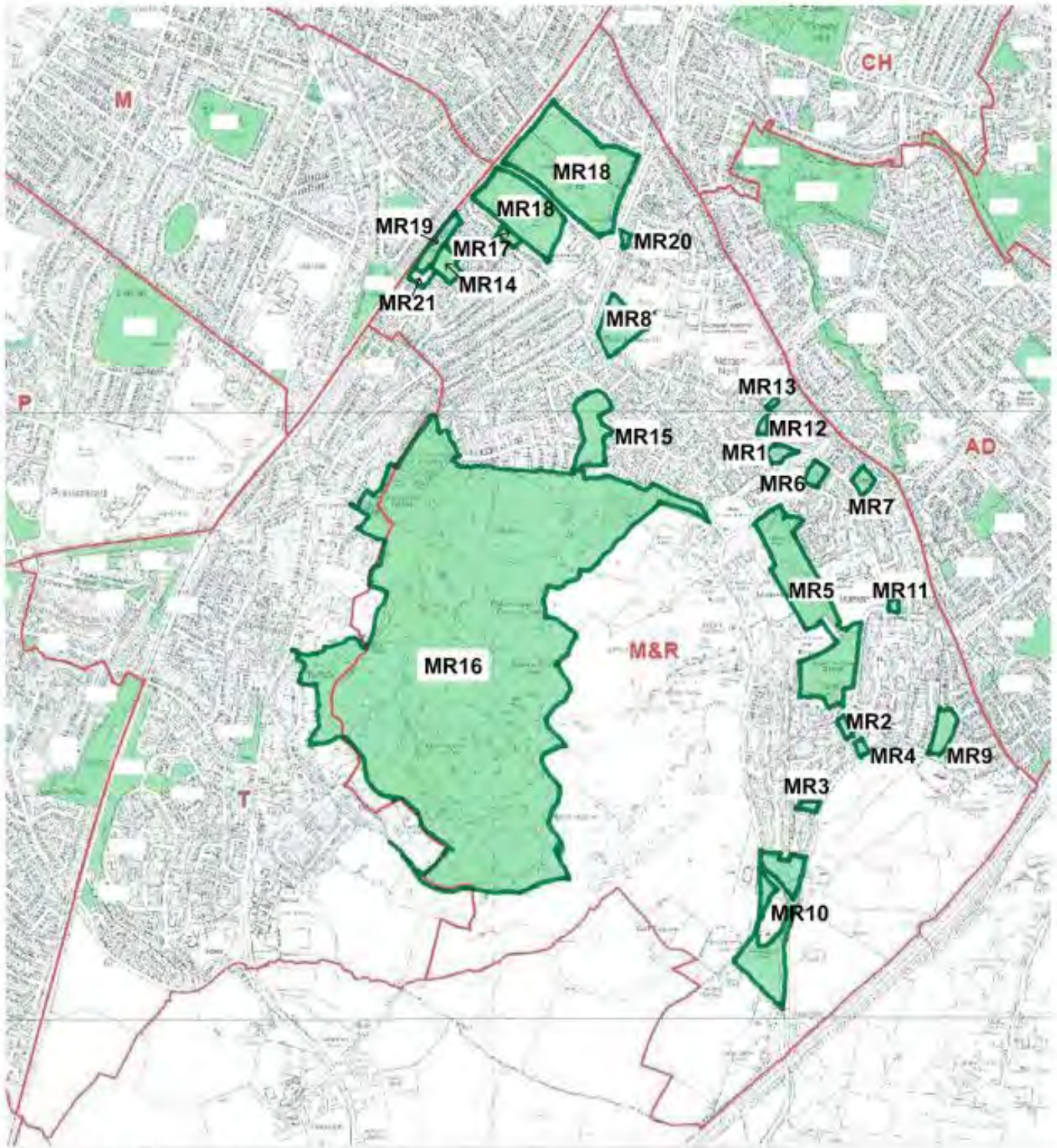
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Longlevens (LO)						9370
LO1	LO1	Alders Green	0.55	amenity				
LO2	LO2	Gambier Parry Gardens	0.5	amenity				
LO3	LO3	Lacy Close	1.47	amenity				
LO4	LO4	Longlevens Recreation Ground	5.91	sport 5.78	play 0.13			
LO5	LO5	Plock Court	23.16	sport 14	natural 9.16			
LO6/LO12	LO6	Innsworth Lane Playing Field	2.65	sport 1.4	amenity 1.25			
LO7	LO7	Paygrove Lane	0.74	amenity 0.7	play 0.04			
LO8	LO8	Greyhound Gardens	2.43	amenity 2.33	play 0.1			
LO9	LO9	Blackwater Way	0.52	amenity				
LO10	LO10	Horsbere Meadow	1.22	natural				
LO11	LO11	The Triangle	0.55	amenity				
LO13	LO12	Innsworth Lane Allotments	2.17	Allotments				
LO14	LO13	Estcourt Park Allotments	1.7	Allotments				
LO15	LO14	Estcourt Close Allotments	3.99	Allotments				
		Total	47.56	natural 10.38	amenity 7.87	sport 21.18	play 0.27	allotments 7.86



Longlevens ward

Matson and Robinswood ward

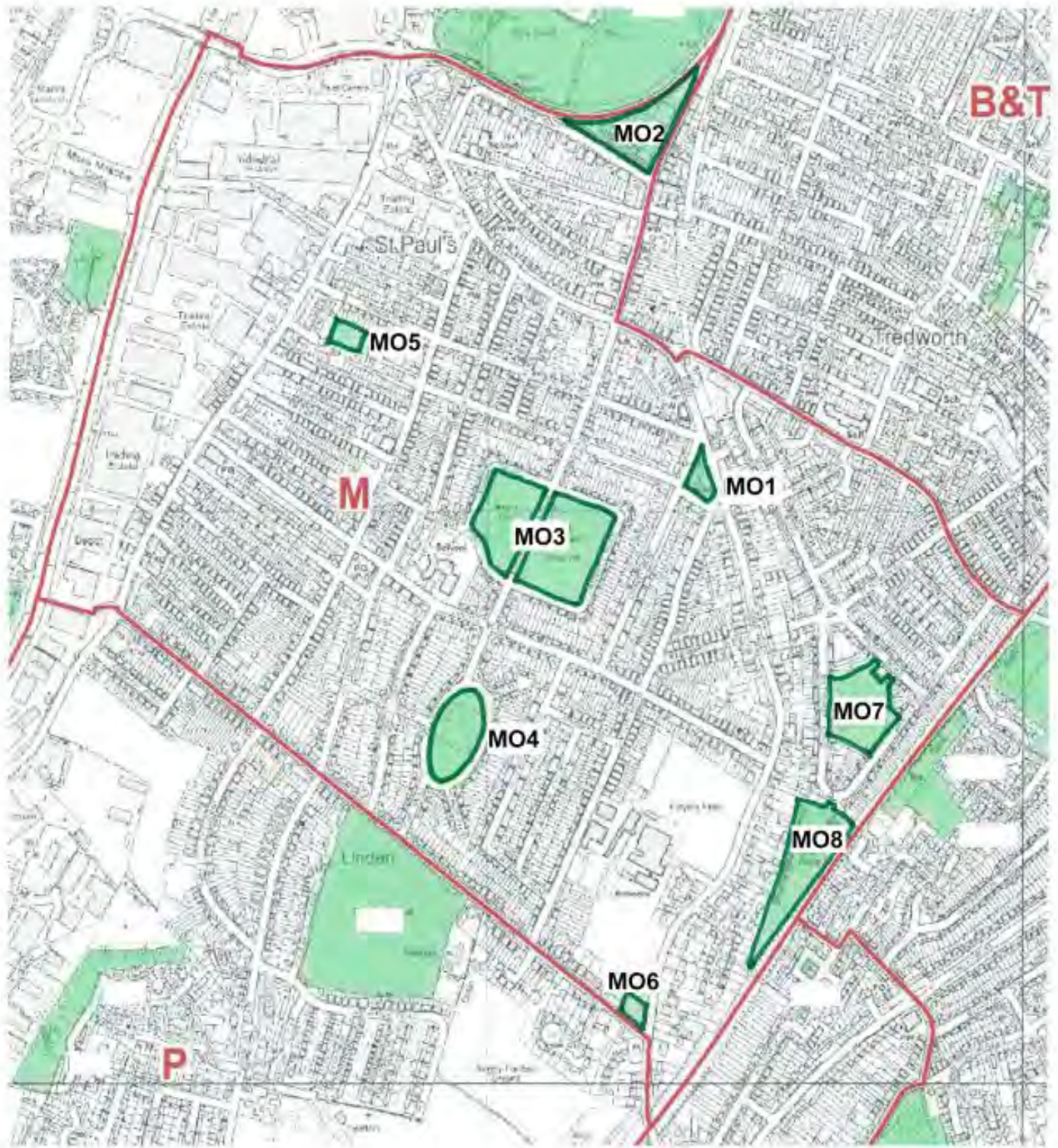
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)		
		Matson and Robinswood (MR)						9541		
MR1	MR1	Evan's Walk	0.42	amenity 0.38	play 0.04					
MR2	MR2	Matson Ave/Redwell Rd	0.19	amenity						
MR3	MR3	Caledonian Avenue	0.09	amenity						
MR4	MR4	Matson Ave/Winneycroft Lane	0.2	amenity						
MR5	MR5	Matson Park (incl new Marlstone Close area)	8.99	PARK 4.34	sport 3.45	natural 1.0	play 0.2			
MR6	MR6	Rectory Rd gardens	0.48	amenity						
MR7	MR7	Matson Library	0.41	amenity						
MR8	MR8	Saintbridge Recreation Ground	1.94	sport						
MR9	MR9	Haycroft Drive	1	amenity						
MR10	MR10	Sneedhams Green (North and South)	4.43	natural						
MR11	MR11	St Peter's Rd/Matson Ave	0.14	amenity						
MR12/1	MR12	Penhill Rd (south)	0.21	amenity						
MR12/2	MR13	Penhill Rd (north)	0.14	amenity						
MR13	MR14	Northfield Road open space	0.72	amenity						
MR15	MR15	Baneberry Road	2.28	amenity 2.24	play 0.04					
MR17/TU12	MR16	Robinswood Hill Country Park	99.73	99.63 natural	play 0.1					
MR18	MR17	Bibury Road	0.25	amenity						
MR19	MR18	Tredworth Road cemeteries (east 9.85 and west 5.13)	14.98	cemetery						
MR20	MR19	White City Allotments	0.7	Allotments						
MR21	MR20	Cotteswold Rd allotments	0.1	Allotments						
	MR21	The Venture white city adventure playground	0.44	play						
		Total	137.84	natural 105.06	amenity 6.45	sport 5.39	play 0.82	allotments 0.8	cemetery 14.98	parks 4.34



Matson & Robinswood ward

Moreland ward

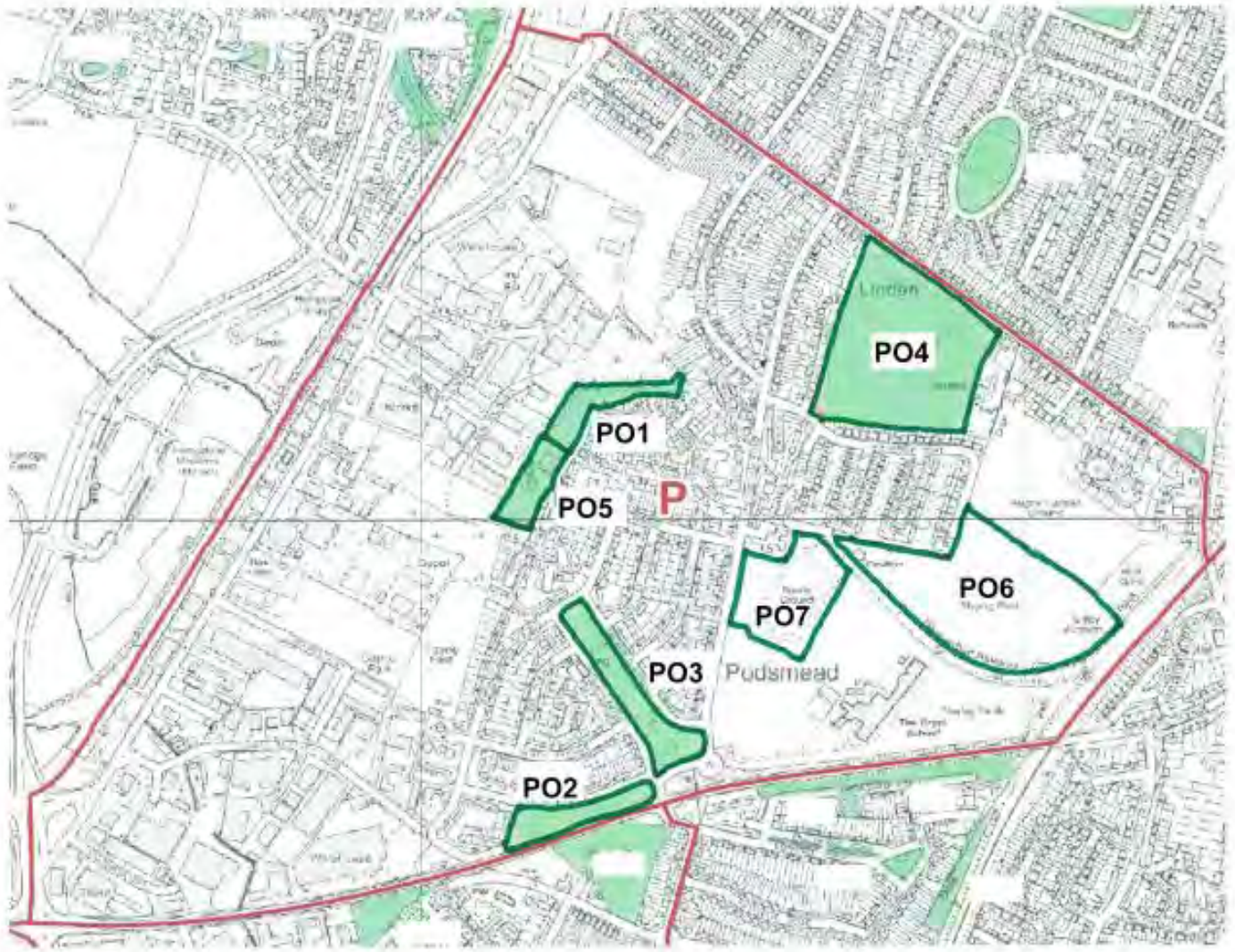
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Moreland (MO)						10437
MO1	MO1	Sydenham Gardens	0.29	amenity				
MO2	MO2	Baker's Field	1.31	sport				
MO3	MO3	The Lannett	3.97	sport 2.35	amenity 1.47	play 0.15		
MO4	MO4	The Oval	1.35	sport				
MO5	MO5	Alma Place	0.26	play				
MO6	MO6	Tuffley Ave Rest Garden	0.2	amenity				
MO7	MO7	Parry Field	1.46	amenity 1.4	play 0.06			
MO8	MO8	Hawthorns and Tredworth Fields Allotments	1.68	Allotments				
		Total	10.52	amenity 3.36	sport 5.01	play 0.47	allotments 1.68	



Moreland ward

Podsmead ward

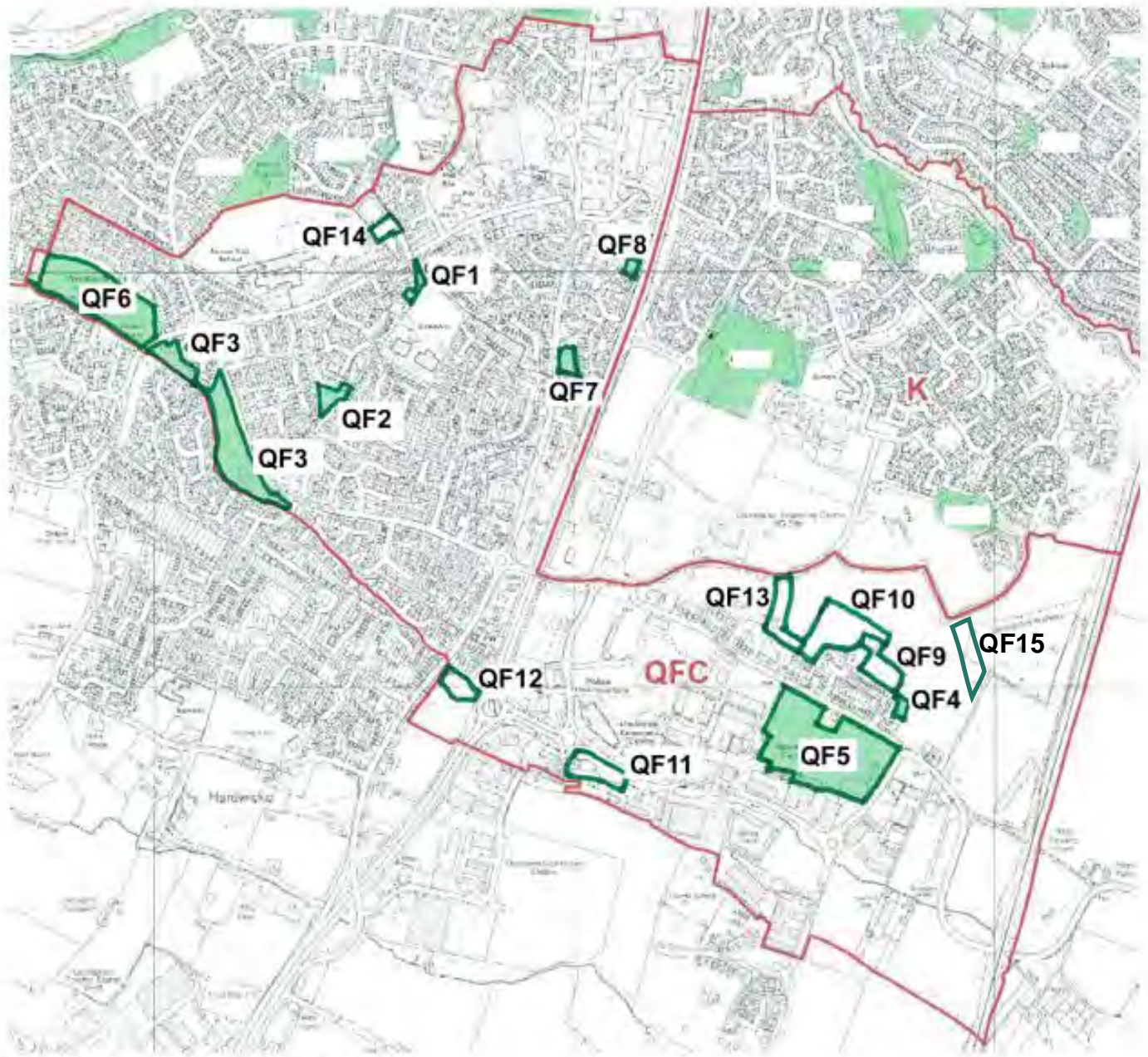
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Podsmead (PO)						3124
PO1	PO1	Badger Vale (balancing pond), Milton Ave	1	natural				
PO2	PO2	Byron Avenue	1.08	amenity				
PO3	PO3	Scott Avenue	2.08	amenity 1.88	play 0.2			
PO4	PO4	Tuffley Park (Winget)	6.83	sport 6.73	play 0.1			
PO5	PO5	Milton Avenue	0.92	amenity 0.65	play 0.27			
	PO6	BLACKBRIDGE playing fields	6.33	sport				
	PO7	Blackbridge Athletics Track	2.64	sport				
		Blackbridge Allotments	0.28	Allotments				
		Total	21.16	natural 1	amenity 3.61	sport 15.7	play 0.57	allotments 0.28



Podsmead ward

Quedgeley Fieldcourt ward

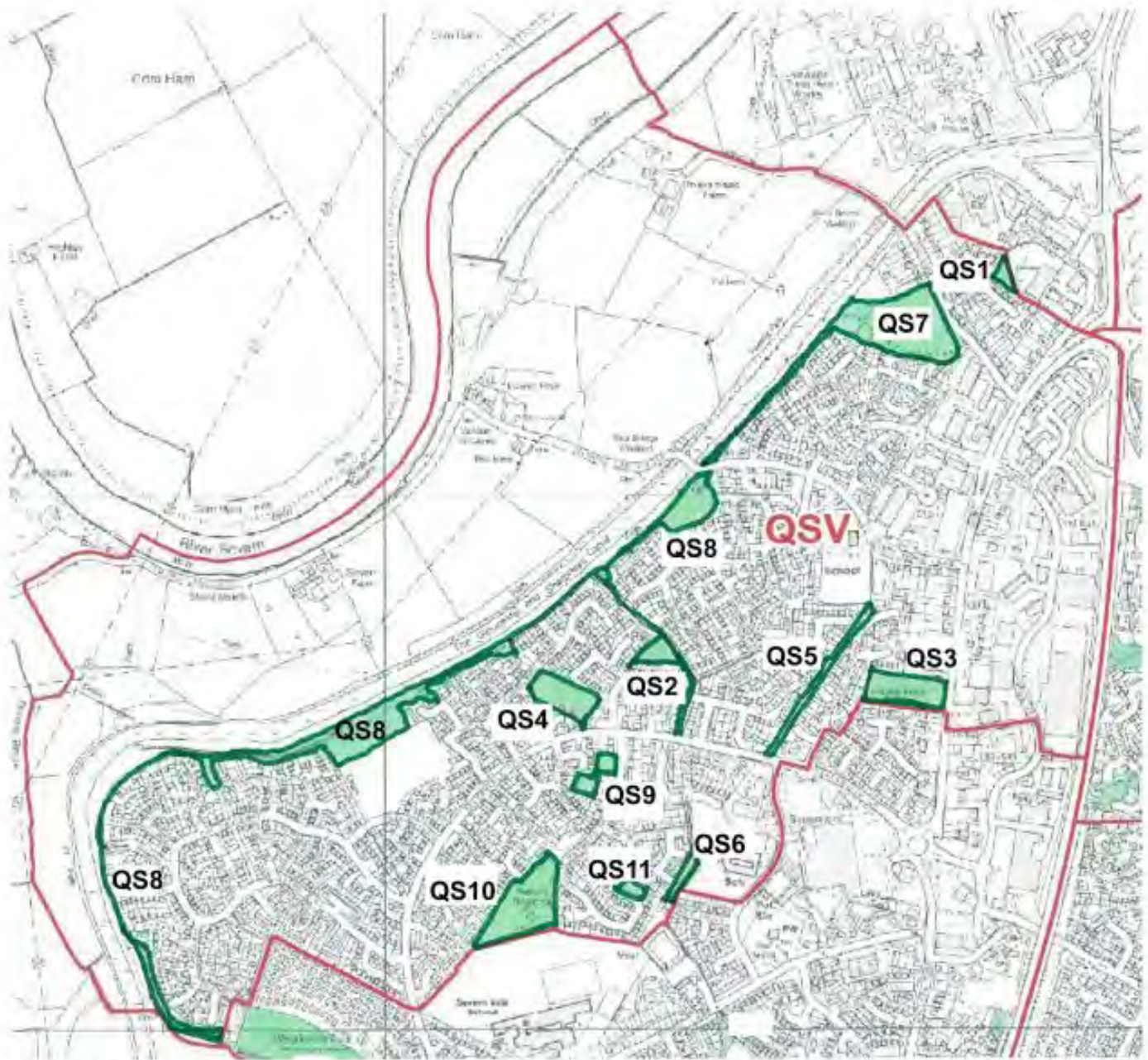
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Quedgeley Fieldcourt (QF)						6028
QF1	QF1	Druid's Oak	0.2	amenity 0.17	play 0.03			
QF2	QF2	Fieldcourt Gardens	0.4	amenity				
QF3	QF3	Field Court Drive (east and west)	2.83	Amenity 1.73	natural 1.0	play 0.1		
QF4	QF4	Needham Avenue	0.17	amenity				
QF5	QF5	Waterwells Playing Field	5.41	sport 3.92	natural 1.27	play 0.22		
QF6	QF6	Dimore Playing Field	3.31	natural 1.81	sport 1.5			
QF11	QF7	Coltishall Close	0.31	natural 0.27	play 0.04			
QF12	QF8	Stanbridge Way orchard	0.14	amenity				
	QF9	Kingsway allotments (1) Goose Bay Drive	0.62	Allotments				
	QF10	FP4 Neap and POS, Attlebridge Way	1.3	amenity 1.2	play 0.1			
	QF11	Waterwells Drive balancing pond	1.1	Natural				
	QF12	Foxwhelp Way (Mayo's Land)	0.4	Natural				
	QF13	FP5 buffer (2) south	0.39	natural				
	QF14	Scholar's Walk (not inc moat)	0.22	amenity				
	QF15	Kingsway allotments (2) Ampney Drive	0.53	Allotments				
		Total	17.33	natural 6.24	amenity 4.03	sport 5.42	play 0.49	allotments 1.15



Quedgeley Fieldcourt ward

Quedgeley Severnvale ward

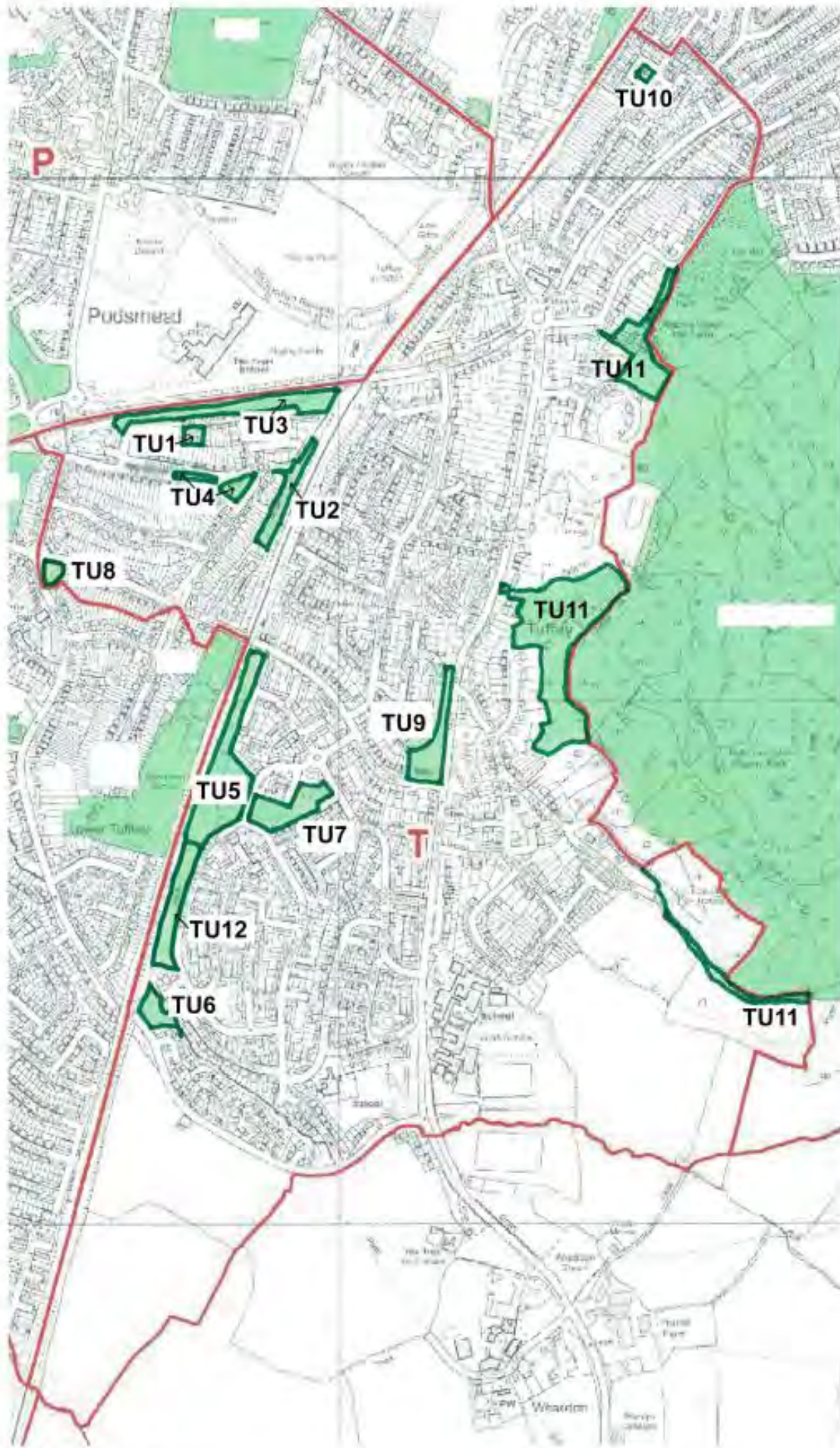
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Quedgeley Severn Vale (QS)						6369
QS1	QS1	Woolstrop Way play area	0.14	play				
QS2	QS2	Vensfield Rd Woodland	0.41	natural				
QS3	QS3	Bristol Rd Recreation Ground	0.87	amenity 0.67	play 0.2			
QS4	QS4	Severnvale Drive Woodland	0.72	natural				
QS5	QS5	Saddler's Rd/Carter's Orchard	0.37	amenity				
QS6	QS6	Park Drive (off St James)	0.27	amenity				
QS7	QS7	Green Farm Orchard (Canalside Park North)	2.33	natural				
QS8	QS8	Canalside Park (South)	2.18	natural				
QS9	QS9	Curtis Hayward Drive	0.34	Amenity				
QS10	QS10	Quedgeley Arboretum LNR	1.55	natural				
QS11	QS11	Silver Birch Close	0.12	Amenity				
		Total	9.3	natural 7.19	amenity 1.99	play 0.34		



Quedgeley Severnvale ward

Tuffley ward

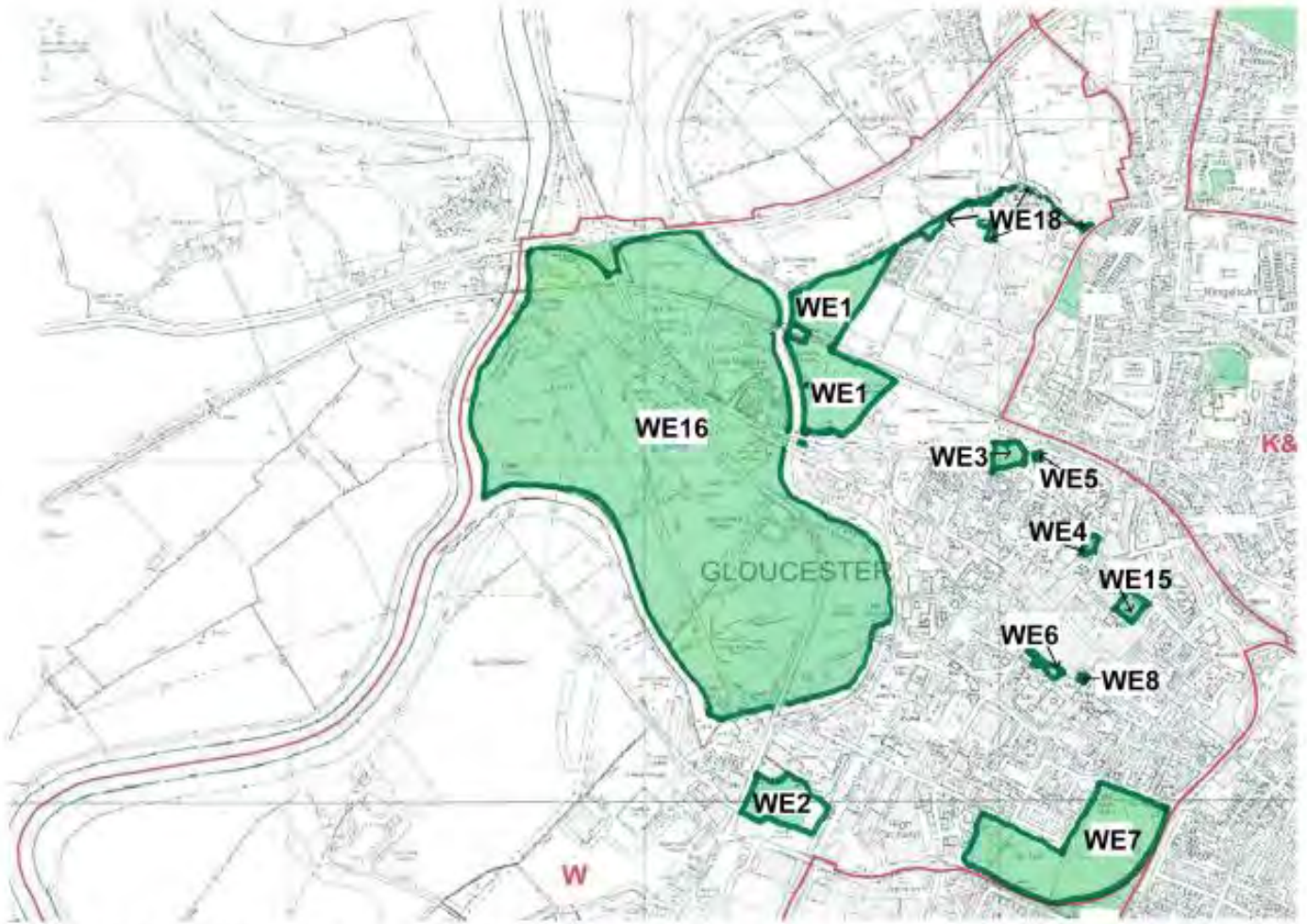
Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)
		Tuffley (TU)						5955
TU1	TU1	Arlingham Road	0.09	Amenity				
TU2	TU2	Brookthorpe Close	0.55	Amenity				
TU4	TU3	Arlingham Rd/Cole Ave	1.12	Amenity				
TU5	TU4	Slimbridge Rd	0.54	Amenity				
TU6	TU5	Seventh Ave/Holst Way	1.89	Amenity 1.49	MUGA/play 0.4			
TU7	TU6	Grange Park	0.34	Amenity				
TU8	TU7	Seventh Ave/Kemble Close	0.81	Amenity 0.68	Play 0.13			
TU9	TU8	Grange Rd rest Garden	0.17	Amenity				
TU10	TU9	Stroud Rd/Rissington Rd	0.83	Amenity				
TU11	TU10	Northfield Square	0.11	Amenity				
TU12	TU11	Part of RWH (counted in M&R ward)						
TU13	TU12	Robert Raikes Allotments	0.89	Allotments				
		Total	7.34	amenity 5.92	play 0.53	allotments 0.89		



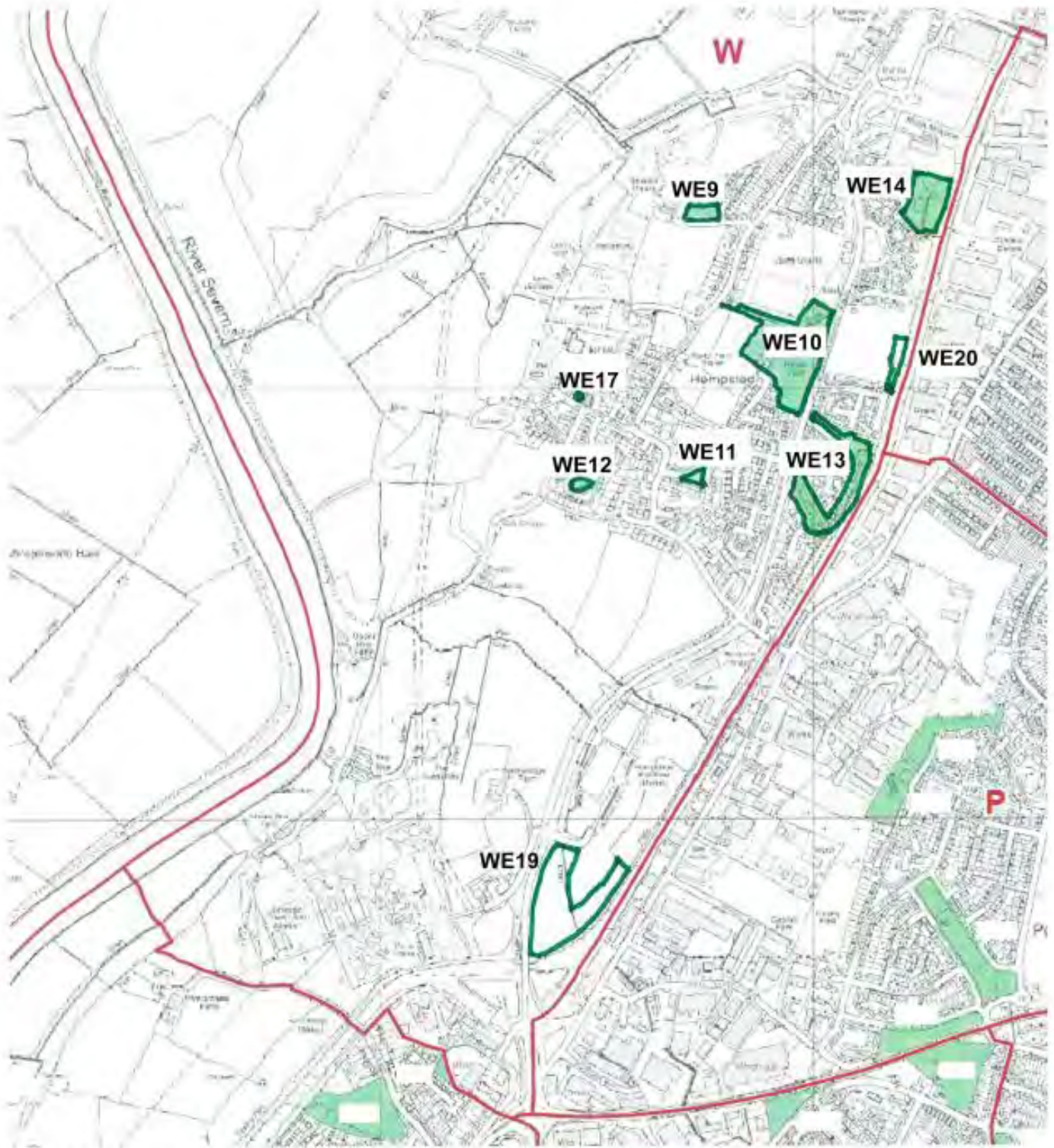
Tuffley ward

Westgate ward

Previous ref number	Site number	Ward and site name	Size (ha)	Primary Typology & size	2nd type & size	3rd type & size	4th type and size	Pop figure (2017)		
		Westgate (WE)						8032		
WE1	WE1	Westgate Park (Archdeacon Meadows) & boating lake	8.98	5.16 PARK	3.82 Natural					
WE3	WE2	Llanthony Secunda Priory	2.2	civic						
WE4	WE3	St Oswald's Priory	0.65	civic						
WE5	WE4	St Lucy's Garden	0.18	amenity						
WE6	WE5	Priory Rd rest garden	0.09	amenity						
WE7	WE6	Greyfriars (St Mary de Crypt)	0.33	civic						
WE8	WE7	Gloucester Park	11.57	PARK 8.41	sport 2.93	play 0.23				
WE9	WE8	Jubilee Gardens	0.04	amenity						
WE10	WE9	Honeythorne Close	0.3	amenity						
WE11	WE10	Hempsted Recreation Ground	3.07	PARK 2.28	Sport 0.75	play 0.04				
WE12	WE11	Court Gardens	0.14	Amenity						
WE13	WE12	High View	0.12	Amenity						
WE14	WE13	Soren Larsen Way	1.52	natural 1.48	play 0.04					
WE15	WE14	Monk Meadow open space	1.12	natural 0.71	amenity 0.35	play 0.06				
WE16	WE15	King's Square	0.44	Civic						
WE17	WE16	Alney Island inc All Blues	84.86	Natural 80	sport 4.86					
WE18	WE17	Hempsted Allotments	0.05	Allotments						
WE19	WE18	St Oswald's Park (Longhorn Avenue areas)	1.06	Amenity						
new	WE19	Hempsted Meadows	2.9	Natural						
new	WE20	Quayside Way	0.25	amenity						
				Natural/semi	Amenity	Sport	Play	Allotments	Civic	Parks
	202	Total	119.87	88.91	2.53	8.54	0.37	0.05	3.62	15.85



Westgate ward (northern section)



Westgate ward (southern section)

Privately owned open space

The city council does not own or manage all green spaces in the city. Those classed as ‘private’ open space are identified in the table below. Although privately owned, many of these facilities provide formal and informal recreational opportunities for residents and local communities. Even if they are not directly accessible, some spaces are valued for their visual amenity and create additional ‘green lungs’ within the urban fabric of the city. Planning policies in the Gloucester City Plan and the Joint Core Strategy provide protection against the loss of playing fields and promotes design for shared (community) use for new sports facilities in schools and colleges.

There are a number of shared use facilities available to residents in local secondary schools across the city. Access to these facilities, particularly sports pitches, is an important part of the city’s open space network, and the council will continue to liaise with the schools and education authority to ensure this provision is sustained. Most primary schools do not have shared community use of their playing fields, although there are one or two exceptions in the city.

There are other private playing fields and associated facilities, owned by companies or organisations that also share their use with the public (or via a club membership). Loss of such playing fields can have a significant impact on residents’ options for accessing formal sports facilities. Planning policies are in place to ensure that these spaces are protected from development wherever possible, but should development be given the go ahead, as part of the planning process, the policies enable the council to negotiate with the developer to provide equivalent alternative facilities, to replace those being lost.

There are several sites across the city where areas of undeveloped private land are used informally as open space, although there is no formal, legal right of access. Many residents see these undeveloped sites as integral part of the open space network, however, most of these sites are now proposed for residential or other development. The council will seek to secure formal open space provision within new residential developments on these sites wherever possible, but development of the site would not constitute a formal loss of POS.

Privately owned and other accessible open spaces

Site name and ward	Size (indicative)	Description
Abbeydale ward		
Abbeydale Community Centre, Glevum Way	0.17ha	Public use – bookable synthetic sports pitch
Land off The Wheatridge	2.28ha	County council owned land, reserved for future school or development, but currently used as informal open space.
Barnwood Ward		
Wall’s Club playing field, Hammond Way	3.64ha	Football pitches, some community use
British Energy site, Barnett Way	0.31ha	Sports facilities used by employees – tennis/bowls
Barnwood Park Arts College, St Lawrence Road	1.5ha	Cricket pitch, shared use

Site name and ward	Size (indicative)	Description
Barton & Tredworth Ward		
The Glebe (rear of Kingfisher church), Moor St.	0.56ha	Some use by groups - by agreement with owner (county council).
MUGA Widden School, Sinope Street	0.09ha	Hard surfaced sports court, currently with limited or no public use
Conduit St Community Garden, Conduit Street	0.03ha	Currently not open to the public.
St James City Farm, Albany Street (generally accessible to the public during the day. This site has been included in the general open space calculation for St James Park.)	-	Urban farm, open to the public (land currently leased, but is owned by the city council)
Coney Hill Ward		
Friendship Cafe MUGA, Chequers Bridge, Barton Street	0.06ha	Currently no regular public access, but within grounds of community facility
Coney Hill (Echoes) MUGA Druid's Close	0.1ha	Community use
Elmbridge Ward		
Sir Thomas Rich's School, Oakleaze	4.0ha	Shared use sports facilities Rugby/football/cricket
Sisson Rd bowling club	0.22ha	Bowling green (membership)
Elmscroft Community Centre, Coronation Grove	-	Community facility with small outdoor garden space
Green Pippin Close central green space	0.05ha	Small, informal space
Grange Ward		
Beaufort Co-operative Academy, Windsor Drive	0.24 ha (MUGA)	Playing fields and shared use MUGA
Kingsholm & Wotton Ward		
High School for Girls, Lansdown Rd	-	Shared use grass pitches (rugby – Spartans RFC), tennis courts with no shared use currently.
Wotton Tennis Club	0.54ha	Tennis courts (membership)
Kingsholm Square	0.15ha	Private garden for residents (2 x grass tennis courts)

Site name and ward	Size (indicative)	Description
Longlevens Ward		
Longlevens Infant School	0.9ha	Shared use for weekend junior football
GALA club, Plock Court	1.42ha	Members use, football pitch
Land off Leven Close	-	County council owned land, with planning consent for future development, which will include small playing field POS area. Currently unavailable for recreation.
Land at Bishop's College, Estcourt Close (not included in open space calculations)	-	Currently being redeveloped for housing, A playing field will be provided as POS on completion of the development.
Matson & Robinswood Ward		
Gloucester Academy, Painswick Road	-	Some shared use pitches/facilities
Old Centralians ground, Painswick Road	0.9ha	Rugby pitches (some shared use, linked with Gloucester Academy?)
Matson Shops island Matson Avenue	0.23ha	Highway or housing land, in public use, informal green space
Gloucester Golf Club, Matson Lane	-	Golf - not included in FiT sports pitch designation
Gloucester Ski and Snowboard Centre, Matson Lane	-	Not included in FiT sports pitch designation
Moreland Ward		
Ribston Hall School, Calton Road	1.4ha	Some shared use, grass football pitches
Podsmead Ward		
Crypt School, Podsmead Road	1.6ha	Some shared use - cricket & rugby
Old Cryptians/Memorial Ground, Tuffley Avenue	4.6ha	Rugby pitches, used by two clubs
Winget bowls club, Tuffley Avenue	0.18ha	Bowling green (membership)
Tuffley Rovers FC	2.07ha	Football pitch (club use)
Quedgeley Severnvale Ward		
Clearwater Drive reserved site, Clearwater Drive	2.15ha	Formerly an area of informal green space, permitted public use, now with planning consent for primary school
Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and towpath (towpath is located in both Westgate and Quedgeley Severnvale wards)	-	Extensive linear footpath and green corridor with permitted public access, rowing, fishing, cycling etc.

Site name and ward	Size (indicative)	Description
Quedgeley Fieldcourt Ward		
Woolstrop Moat	0.5ha	Currently no public use (scheduled monument)
Severnvale School	0.6ha	Some shared use for sports teams (synthetic pitch, tennis)
Tuffley Ward		
St Peters High School, Stroud Road	1.57ha	Shared use synthetic and rugby pitch
Westgate Ward		
Gloucester Cathedral grounds, College Court	-	Informal recreation/gardens with public access
Severn Trent nature reserve (Netheridge WTW), off Rea Lane	-	Wildlife reserve, no formal public access
Netheridge Farm (Barn Owl Centre), off Secunda Way	-	Access via entry to centre or informal access via public footpath network
Hempsted Meadows, off Secunda Way	-	Informal access via public footpath network
Sudmeadow Landfill site (some parts still active), Hempsted Lane	-	Informal access via public footpath network
Gordon League RFC Hempsted Lane	3.90ha	Rugby pitches, club use
Brunswick Square	0.44ha	Private garden, informal public access allowed
Town Ham field (ex. Allotments)	1.2ha	Owned by city council, but not currently in use due to condition of land
St Michael's Square garden, Brunswick Road	0.08ha	Informal public access
Gloucester Docks and Gloucester Quays/Peel Centre	-	Docks open spaces and quayside paths, public access permitted
Port Ham/Castlemeads, off Castlemeads Way	-	Canal and River Trust land, informal public access on local footpaths
Llanthony Lock (Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Canal Trust)	-	Informal public access permitted on local footpath network
Riverside Leisure Centre, Westgate Street	0.23ha	Outdoor tennis courts for members use
Gloucester and Sharpness Canal and towpath (towpath is located in both Westgate and Quedgeley Severnvale wards)	-	Canal and River Trust land, informal public access permitted

APPENDIX 2

Open Space – Site Quality and Value Assessments

Assessing site quality and value

All open space is inherently of value and there is unlikely to be a scenario where it is considered appropriate to dispose of any large areas of open space (for general guidance no sites over 0.2ha would be considered for disposal) in Gloucester. Even if a development proposal were to meet one or more of the exemptions required as part of the formal town planning process (refer to City Plan/JCS), new open space of equivalent or better quality and value would be expected to be provided in place of any areas lost.

Undertaking a baseline, desktop assessment of the quality and value of the city's open spaces (spring 2020) has allowed the council to identify the sites which are currently most used and valued by the community (within the individual circumstances of the local context for each site), those with the greatest potential for improvement and those that require additional investment as a priority. In addition to site quality and community value, the existing and potential biodiversity value* for each site has been considered. This enables priorities to be set for protecting or improving the quality of the natural habitat within green spaces across the city.

**This is a general snapshot of city sites, considering the urban setting and does not compare them to national standards set by other organisations. The assessment enables comparison with the qualities and values of other sites of each type across the city and allows sites to be prioritised for certain types of improvement. Where sites are identified as a priority for improvement, further assessment and studies will be undertaken against other standards where appropriate.*

The sites have been assessed as LOW, MEDUM or HIGH against three main criteria:

- **Site quality**
- **Community Value**
- **Current and Potential Biodiversity Value**

In line with good practice guidance, consideration has been given to adapting the national guidance to set local standards, which take into account the local context of each site when scoring each space. For example, additional factors such as general scarcity of open space in the locality, the prevalence (or shortage) of each type of space and the IMD (Indices of Multiple Deprivation) rating for each ward have been taken into account.

Assessment methodology

Sites were assessed as high, medium or low against the three main criteria categories, against other sites in the city within the same typology, using elements such as those illustrated below to inform the assessment.

Site quality

Site creates a sense of place, possibly with locally distinctive elements.	Site and associated facilities are well maintained and appropriate for their setting.	Site provides visual green break in the built environment.
Site supports (or has potential) a Friends group or other community action group.	Site has been awarded (or has potential) to achieve Green Flag Award status.	Site has a positive or connected relationship to adjacent built development.
Site contains good infrastructure (where appropriate for type) such as footpaths, seating, planting etc,	Site has good linkages and accessibility (pedestrian/cycle), including nearby public transport connections.	Site has other specific features, elements or benefits e.g., educational, heritage, ecological.


Community Value

Location – site central to, or in close proximity to the community it serves and is easily accessible. Provides surfaced routes or other good connections within the locality.	Community uses - Site is used (or has potential) to host community activities, events, fairs or similar or includes a community facility such as bandstand, play area, skate park etc. appropriate for the community it serves.	Local deprivation – site provides access to green space, food growing, sport or play activities, which can boost mental and physical health and well-being by providing facilities to help reduce health inequalities.
Site contributes to (or has potential) the social wellbeing, social or cultural interests of the community.	Site provides facilities (or has potential) which help to reduce inactivity and promote a healthy lifestyle.	Community safety - Site is well overlooked, provides a safe and welcoming environment.
Site contributes to (or has potential) the quality of life of people of all ages and backgrounds.	Site has the ability (or potential) to support sports and recreational activities or informal social activities such as picnics.	Scarcity - Site is the only space of this type or size within the locality.

Biodiversity Value


Site contains a designated wildlife or habitat/geological protection area (e.g. LNR, SSSI) or other BAP priority habitat.	Site contains woodland, veteran or historic trees, or another significant native tree plantation.	Site supports a protected wildlife species or provides high quality foraging areas.
Site contains a watercourse or other water-related element.	Site contains unimproved (or re-naturalised) meadow grassland.	Site supports (or has potential) a wide range of flora and fauna.
Site forms integral part of a wider, connected green infrastructure corridor or network.	Site provides a patchwork of varied and connected habitat types.	Site offers urban residents an experience of nature close to home, helps reduce impacts on the wider countryside.

Summary of Site Quality and Value Assessments

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Biodiversity value	
				Existing	Potential
Abbeydale					
AD1	Glevum Way Park	med	high	med	high
AD2	M5 Linear Park (S)	med	low	med	med
AD3	The Richmonds	med	low	low	med
AD4	Stewart's Mill (W)	med	med	med	high
AD5	Heron Park	high	med	low	med
AD6	The Lawns	med	low	low	med
AD7	Meerstone Way	med	med	low	med
AD8	Oxmoor	med	low	low	med
AD9	Bittern Ave	med	low	low	med
AD10	Heron Way open space	med	high	med	high
AD11	Almond Close	med	low	low	med
AD12	Awebridge Way	low	low	med	med
Green Flag Park  (AD13 & AD14)	Saintbridge Balancing Pond	high	high	high	high
	Saintbridge Allotments	med	high	med	med

Abbeymead		Site quality	Community Value	Biodiversity value	
Site ref no:	Site name			Existing	Potential
AM1	Lobley's Drive/Mead Rd	med	med	med	high
AM2	Hucclecote Meadows SSSI	high	high	high	high
AM3	M5 Linear Park (N)	med	low	med	med
AM4	Palmer Ave	med	med	med	med
AM5	Contour Park	med	med	med	high
AM6	Stewart's Mill (E)	med	med	med	high

Summary of Site Quality and Value Assessments (continued)

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Biodiversity value	
				Existing	Potential
Barnwood					
BA1	Clock Tower Park	low	med	med	high
BA2	Lilliesfield Avenue	med	low	med	med
BA3	The Oaks	med	med	med	high
BA4	Saw Mills End	high	med	low	low
BA5	Broad Leys/Spinney Rd	med	low	med	med
Green Flag Park  (BA6)	Barnwood Park & Arboretum	high	high	high	high
BA7	Coney Hill RFC	med	high	low	low
BA8	Churchview Dr/Abbeymead Ave	med	med	med	med
BA9	Durham Rd/Chester Rd	med	med	low	med
BA10	Snowhill Close	med	low	med	med
BA11	Blake Hill Way Balancing Pond	med	med	med	high
BA12	Greenways	med	med	low	med
Barton & Tredworth					
BT1	Ayland Gdns/Bishopstone Rd	low	med	med	med
BT2	Napier Street Play Area	med	high	low	low
BT3	St James' Park	low	high	med	med
BT4	Diamond Jubilee Close	med	med	low	low
Coney Hill					
CH1	Maytree Square	low	low	low	med
CH2	Birch Avenue	low	med	low	low
CH3	Coney Hill Park	low	high	med	high
CH4	Willow Way	med	high	med	med
CH5	Savernake Road	low	low	low	med
CH6	Coney Hill Cemetery	med	high	med	med

Summary of Site Quality and Value Assessments (continued)

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Biodiversity value	
Site ref no:				Existing	Potential
Elmbridge					
EL1	Elmbridge Playing Field (Sandyleaze)	med	high	med	high
EL2	Elmbridge Park (Windfall Way)	med	med	med	med
EL3	Meadowleaze	med	med	low	med
EL4	Estcourt Gardens	low	low	med	high
EL5	Cross Keys Rest Garden	low	low	low	med
EL6	Armscroft Park	med	high	med	high
EL7	Horton Rd Cemetery	low	low	med	high
Grange					
GR1	Chatsworth Avenue	med	med	low	med
GR2	Tuffley Lane/Cole Ave Playing Field	med	med	low	med
GR3	Denham Close/Chatsworth Ave	med	med	low	med
GR4	Tuffley Lane (The Gladiator)	low	low	low	med
GR5	Holmleigh Park	low	high	med	high
GR6	Randwick Park	low	med	med	high
GR7	Windsor Drive	med	low	low	med
GR8	Meredith Way	low	low	med	med
GR9	Tolsey Gardens	med	med	low	med
GR10	Watermint Drive	med	med	med	med
GR11	Greenhill Drive	low	low	med	med
GR12	Streamside Balancing Pond	med	med	low	med
GR13	The Warren	med	low	med	med
GR14	Daniel's Brook Corridor (1) Including Lasborough Drive	med	med	med	med


Summary of Site Quality and Value Assessments (continued)

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Biodiversity value	
Site ref no:				Existing	Potential
Hucclecote					
HU1	Hucclecote Green	high	med	med	high
HU2	Buscombe Gardens	med	med	low	high
HU3	Hucclecote Playing Field	med	high	low	low
HU4	Colwell Ave	low	med	med	med
HU5	Millfields/Pitmill Gdns	med	med	med	med
HU6	Green Lane/The Orchards	low	low	med	med
HU7	Appleton Way balancing pond	med	med	high	high
HU8	King George V Playing Field	med	high	med	med
HU9	Duncroft Road	med	med	med	med
HU10	Bircher Way (Hucclecote Centre)	low	low	low	med
Kingsholm & Wotton					
KW1	Dean's Way Meadow	med	med	low	med
KW2	Kingsholm Rest Garden	low	low	low	low
KW3	Sebert St Recreation Ground	med	high	low	med
KW4	Hampton Court (Lansdown Rd)	med	med	med	med
KW5	Hillfield Gardens	med	high	med	med
KW6	Great Western Rd Rest Garden (London Rd)	low	low	low	low
KW7	Great Western Rd Rest Garden (Horton Rd)	low	low	low	med
KW8	Dean's Way Allotments	med	high	low	med

Summary of Site Quality and Value Assessments (continued)

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Biodiversity value	
Site ref no:				Existing	Potential
Kingsway					
KS1	Manor Farm Open Space	med	high	med	high
KS2	Valley Gardens	med	med	med	med
KS3	Thatcham Avenue	med	med	med	med
KS4	Daniel's Meadow	med	med	med	med
KS5	Buckenham Sports Park	high	high	low	med
KS6	Aldergrove	med	med	med	med
KS7	Wycombe Road	med	med	med	med
KS8	Coningsby Walk (Central Square)	med	med	low	low
KS9	Staxton Drive	med	med	med	med
KS10	Rudloe Drive (FP5 Buffer - north)	med	med	med	med
KS11	TG29 & TG32 (various streets)	med	med	med	med
KS12	Kingsway Sports Ground	high	high	med	med
KS13	Newhaven Rd (ex-cricket ground)	med	med	med	med
KS14	Daniel's Brook Corridor (S)	med	high	high	high
Longlevens					
LO1	Alders Green	low	med	med	med
LO2	Gambier Parry Gardens	high	med	med	med
LO3	Lacy Close	med	med	med	med
LO4	Longlevens Recreation Ground	med	high	low	med
LO5	Plock Court	med	high	med	high
LO6	Innsworth Lane Playing Field	med	high	med	high
LO7	Paygrove Lane	med	med	med	med
LO8	Greyhound Gardens	med	high	med	high
LO9	Blackwater Way	med	med	low	med
LO10	Horsbere Meadow	med	med	med	high
LO11	The Triangle	med	low	low	med
LO12	Innsworth Lane allotments	med	high	med	med
LO13	Estcourt Park allotments	med	high	med	med
LO14	Estcourt Close allotments	med	high	med	med


Summary of Site Quality and Value Assessments (continued)

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Biodiversity value	
Site ref no:				Existing	Potential
Matson & Robinswood					
MR1	Evan's Walk	med	med	low	med
MR2	Matson Avenue/Redwell Rd	med	med	low	med
MR3	Caledonian Avenue	med	med	low	med
MR4	Matson Ave/Winneycroft Lane	med	med	low	med
MR5	Matson Park (inc Marlstone Close)	low	high	high	high
MR6	Rectory Rd Gardens	low	high	low	med
MR7	Matson Library	med	med	low	med
MR8	Saintbridge Recreation Ground	low	low	low	med
MR9	Haycroft Drive	med	med	med	high
MR10	Sneedham's Green	med	med	med	high
MR11	St Peter's Road/Matson Ave	med	med	med	med
MR12	Penhill Road (South)	med	med	med	med
MR13	Penhill Rd (North)	med	med	low	med
MR14	Northfield Rd open space	low	high	low	med
MR15	Baneberry Road	med	high	low	med
Green Flag Park  MR16	Robinswood Hill Country Park	high	high	high	high
MR17	Bibury Road	low	high	low	med
MR18	Tredworth Rd cemeteries	med	med	med	med
MR19	White City Allotments	med	high	med	med
MR20	Cotteswold Road Allotments	med	med	low	low
MR21	The Venture (White City)	med	high	low	low

Summary of Site Quality and Value Assessments (continued)

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Biodiversity value	
				Existing	Potential
Moreland					
MO1	Sydenham Gardens	low	low	low	low
MO2	Baker's Field	med	high	med	med
MO3	The Lannett	med	high	low	med
MO4	The Oval	med	med	med	med
MO5	Alma Place	med	high	med	med
MO6	Tuffley Ave Rest Garden	low	med	med	med
MO7	Parry Field	med	med	med	med
MO8	Hawthorns/Tredworth Allotments	med	high	med	med
Podsmead					
PO1	Milton Avenue Community Space (Badger Vale pond)	med	high	med	high
PO2	Byron Avenue	med	low	low	med
PO3	Scott Avenue	med	high	low	med
PO4	Tuffley Park (Winget)	high	high	low	med
PO5	Milton Avenue playground	med	high	low	med
PO6	Blackbridge Playing Field	low	high	low	med
PO7	Blackbridge Athletics Track	high	high	low	med
Quedgeley Fieldcourt					
QF1	Druid's Oak	low	med	med	med
QF2	Fieldcourt Gardens	med	med	low	med
QF3	Field Court Drive (E & W)	med	med	med	med
QF4	Needham Avenue	low	low	low	low
QF5	Waterwells Playing Field	med	high	med	high
QF6	Dimore Playing Field	med	high	med	med
QF7	Coltishall Close	med	med	med	med
QF8	Stanbridge Way Orchard	med	med	med	med
QF9	Kingsway Allotments (1)	high	high	med	med
QF10	FP4 NEAP (Attlebridge Way)	high	med	med	med
QF11	Waterwells Drive Balancing Pond	low	med	med	high
QF12	Foxwhelp Way (was Mayo's Land)	med	med	med	med
QF13	Rudloe Drive (FP5 Buffer - south)	med	med	med	med

Summary of Site Quality and Value Assessments (continued)

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Biodiversity value	
Site ref no:				Existing	Potential
Quedgeley Severnvale					
QS1	Woolstrop Way play area	med	med	low	low
QS2	Vensfield Rd woodland	med	med	med	med
QS3	Bristol Rd Recreation Ground	med	med	low	med
QS4	Severnvale Drive Woodland	low	med	med	med
QS5	Saddler's Road/Carter's Orchard	med	med	low	med
QS6	St James	low	low	med	med
QS7	Green Farm Orchard (Canalside Park North)	med	high	med	high
QS8	Canalside Park South (inc Clearwater Drive open space)	med	high	med	high
QS9	Curtis Hayward Drive	med	med	med	med
QS10	Quedgeley Arboretum LNR	med	med	high	high
QS11	Silver Birch Close	high	med	med	med
QS12	Scholars Walk (Woolstrop Moat)	med	low	low	low
Tuffley					
TU1	Arlingham Road	med	med	low	low
TU2	Brookthorpe Close	low	low	med	med
TU3	Arlingham Rd/Cole Ave	med	med	low	med
TU4	Slimbridge Road	med	med	low	low
TU5	Seventh Ave/Holst Way	med	med	med	med
TU6	Grange Park	low	low	med	med
TU7	Seventh Ave/Kemble Close	med	high	low	med
TU8	Grange Rd rest Garden	low	low	low	med
TU9	Stroud Rd/Rissington Rd	med	med	med	med
TU10	Northfield Square	med	med	low	low
 Green Flag Park MR16	Part of Robinswood Hill	high	high	high	high
TU12	Robert Raikes Allotments	med	high	med	med

Summary of Site Quality and Value Assessments (continued)

Ward	Site	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Biodiversity value	
Site ref no:				Existing	Potential
Westgate					
WE1	Westgate Park (N & S)	med	med	med	high
WE2	Llanthony Secunda Priory	high	high	med	med
WE3	St Oswald's Priory	med	med	med	med
WE4	St Lucy's Garden	med	med	low	low
WE5	Priory Rd Rest Garden	med	low	low	low
WE6	Greyfriars (St Mary de Crypt)	med	med	low	low
WE7	Gloucester Park	med	high	med	high
WE8	Jubilee Gardens	low	low	low	low
WE9	Honeythorne Close	med	med	low	med
WE10	Hempsted Recreation Ground	med	high	med	high
WE11	Court Gardens	med	med	low	low
WE12	High View	med	med	med	med
WE13	Soren Larsen Way	med	med	med	med
WE14	Monk Meadow open space	med	high	med	high
WE15	King's Square	med	high	low	low
WE16	Alney Island Nature Reserve (inc. All Blues Rugby ground)	high	high	high	high
WE17	Hempsted Allotments	med	med	low	low
WE18	St Oswald's Park (Longhorn Ave sites)	med	med	med	med
WE19	Hempsted Meadows	med	med	med	high
Total sites = 201					

Full information on IMD (Indices of Multiple Deprivation, National Quintile), as used in site assessments, can be found at <https://inform.gloucester.gov.uk/deprivation>

Summary of Site Assessments - analysis by ward

Ward	Site Quality (%)			Community Value (%)			Current biodiversity value (%)			Potential biodiversity value (%)		
	low	med	high	low	med	high	low	med	high	low	med	high
Abbeydale	7	79	14	50	21	29	50	43	7	0	71	29
Abbeymead	0	83	17	17	66	17	0	83	17	0	34	66
Barnwood	8	75	17	25	58	17	34	58	8	17	50	33
Barton and Tredworth	50	50	0	0	50	50	50	50	0	50	50	0
Coney Hill	67	33	0	33	17	50	50	50	0	17	66	17
Elmbridge	43	57	0	43	28	29	29	71	0	0	43	57
Grange	36	64	0	36	57	7	50	50	0	0	86	14
Hucclecote	30	60	10	20	60	20	30	60	10	10	60	30
Kingsholm and Wotton	38	62	0	38	24	38	75	25	0	25	75	0
Kingsway	0	86	14	0	71	29	14	79	7	7	79	14
Longlevens	7	86	7	7	43	50	21	79	0	0	71	29
Matson and Robinswood	24	71	5	5	57	38	62	28	10	10	71	19
Moreland	25	75	0	12	38	50	25	75	0	12	88	0
Podsmead	14	57	29	14	0	86	86	14	0	0	86	14
Quedgeley Fieldcourt	23	62	15	8	69	23	15	85	0	8	77	15
Quedgeley Severnvale	17	75	8	17	66	17	34	58	8	17	58	25
Tuffley	25	67	8	25	50	25	50	42	8	25	67	8
Westgate	5	84	11	11	58	31	42	53	5	37	32	31
Total 201 sites	20	71	9	19	50	31	40	55	5	13	65	22

Sample site assessment sheet

Open Space Assessment Sheet 2019 – Gloucester City

Site name:			Ward:
Ref no:	Size: ha	Main use type:	
Other use type(s):			


Site quality			Community value			Biodiversity value		
<i>Scoring: Low – site requires some improvement. Medium – fair to good quality, but may benefit from further improvement High – good quality and generally well managed.</i> (note: value descriptions are brief summaries)			<i>Low - little used or poorly used, perhaps due to poor access or limited facilities. Med - quite well used for type but may benefit from some improvement. High - well used, often with community involvement and events.</i> (note: level of use from informal observations only)			<i>Low – limited habitat and wildlife value due to monoculture or other factors Med – some wildlife value that contributes to overall ecological network High – statutory designated sites or a good level of existing or potential wildlife/ habitat value.</i> Existing biodiversity value:		
LOW	MED	HIGH	LOW	MED	HIGH	LOW	MED	HIGH
Notes:						Potential biodiversity value:		
						LOW	MED	HIGH
						Notes:		

Site value - additional considerations: <i>circle/underline as appropriate</i>			
Similar type of open space facilities nearby (& accessible – 10 min walk, within 800m)?			
many others / several / some / few / very few or none			
Notes:			
Indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) rank (by ward) 2015 National Quintile: <i>highlight/underline as appropriate</i>			
low IMD (areas of lowest deprivation)	medium IMD	high IMD (within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD)	Notes:
Potential improvement opportunities: <i>highlight/underline/add as appropriate</i>			
Community benefits	Landscape/ecological benefits	Social inclusion/health benefits	
Management/maintenance benefits	Educational benefits	Amenity/economic benefits	
Cultural/heritage benefits	Other:		

APPENDIX 3

Summary and Analysis of Community Value Assessments

Assessment of Community Value by site, with local considerations

Site ref no:		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	IMD High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Abbeylea					
AD1	Glevum Way Park	med	high	few	low
AD2	M5 Linear Park (S)	med	low	few	low
AD3	The Richmonds	med	low	few	low
AD4	Stewart's Mill (W)	med	med	some	low
AD5	Heron Park	high	med	several	low
AD6	The Lawns	med	low	several	low
AD7	Meerstone Way	med	med	some	low
AD8	Oxmoor	med	low	several	low
AD9	Bittern Ave	med	low	several	med
AD10	Heron Way open space	med	high	several	low & high
AD11	Almond Close	med	low	some	low
AD12	Awebridge Way	low	low	some	low
Green Flag Park  (AD13 & AD14)	Saintbridge Balancing Pond	high	high	very few or none	med
	Saintbridge Allotments	med	high	very few or none	med
Abbeylea					
AM1	Lobley's Drive/Mead Rd	med	med	several	low
AM2	Hucclecote Meadows SSSI	high	high	few	low
AM3	M5 Linear Park (N)	med	low	some	low
AM4	Palmer Ave	med	med	some	low
AM5	Contour Park	med	med	some	low
AM6	Stewart's Mill (E)	med	med	some	low


Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
Site ref no:		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Barnwood					
BA1	Clock Tower Park	low	med	several	low
BA2	Lilliesfield Avenue	med	low	some	low
BA3	The Oaks	med	med	some	low
BA4	Saw Mills End	high	med	very few or none	low
BA5	Broad Leys/Spinney Rd	med	low	several	low
Green Flag Park (BA6)	Barnwood Park & Arboretum	high	high	very few or none	low
BA7	Coney Hill RFC	med	high	few	med
BA8	Churchview Dr/Abbeymead Ave	med	med	several	low
BA9	Durham Rd/Chester Rd	med	med	very few or none	med
BA10	Snowhill Close	med	low	several	low
BA11	Blake Hill Way Balancing Pond	med	med	few	low
BA12	Greenways	med	med	very few or none	low
Barton & Tredworth					
BT1	Ayland Gdns/Bishopstone Rd	low	med	very few or none	high
BT2	Napier Street Play Area	med	high	very few or none	high
BT3	St James' Park	low	high	very few or none	high
BT4	Diamond Jubilee Close	med	med	very few or none	high
Coney Hill					
CH1	Maytree Square	low	low	some	med
CH2	Birch Avenue	low	med	few	med
CH3	Coney Hill Park	low	high	several	high
CH4	Willow Way	med	high	very few or none	med
CH5	Savernake Road	low	low	some	high
CH6	Coney Hill Cemetery	med	high	very few or none	med

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
Site ref no:				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	IMD High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Elmbridge					
EL1	Elmbridge Playing Field (Sandyleaze)	med	high	very few or none	med
EL2	Elmbridge Park (Windfall Way)	med	med	very few or none	med
EL3	Meadowleaze	med	med	very few or none	med
EL4	Estcourt Gardens	low	low	few	low
EL5	Cross Keys Rest Garden	low	low	some	med
EL6	Armscroft Park	med	high	very few or none	med
EL7	Horton Rd Cemetery	low	low	very few or none	med
Grange					
GR1	Chatsworth Avenue	med	med	several	low
GR2	Tuffley Lane/Cole Ave Playing Field	med	med	few	med
GR3	Denham Close/Chatsworth Ave	med	med	several	low
GR4	Tuffley Lane (The Gladiator)	low	low	several	med
GR5	Holmleigh Park	low	high	very few or none	med
GR6	Randwick Park	low	med	few	low
GR7	Windsor Drive	med	low	several	low
GR8	Meredith Way	low	low	several	med
GR9	Tolsey Gardens	med	med	several	med
GR10	Watermint Drive	med	med	few	med
GR11	Greenhill Drive	low	low	few	med
GR12	Streamside Balancing Pond	med	med	some	med
GR13	The Warren	med	low	several	med
GR14	Daniel's Brook Corridor (1) Including Lasborough Drive	med	med	several	med

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
Site ref no:				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	IMD High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Hucclecote					
HU1	Hucclecote Green	high	med	very few or none	low
HU2	Buscombe Gardens	med	med	some	low
HU3	Hucclecote Playing Field	med	high	very few or none	low
HU4	Colwell Ave	low	med	few	low
HU5	Millfields/Pitmill Gdns	med	med	few	low
HU6	Green Lane/The Orchards	low	low	some	low
HU7	Appleton Way balancing pond	med	med	few	low
HU8	King George V Playing Field	med	high	very few or none	low
HU9	Duncroft Road	med	med	few	low
HU10	Bircher Way (Hucclecote Centre)	low	low	very few or none	low
Kingsholm & Wotton					
KW1	Dean's Way Meadow	med	med	very few or none	high
KW2	Kingsholm Rest Garden	low	low	few	med
KW3	Sebert St Recreation Ground	med	high	few	high
KW4	Hampton Court (Lansdown Rd)	med	med	med	med
KW5	Hillfield Gardens	med	high	very few or none	med
KW6	Great Western Rd Rest Garden (London Rd)	low	low	few	high
KW7	Great Western Rd Rest Garden (Horton Rd)	low	low	few	med
KW8	Dean's Way Allotments	med	high	very few or none	high

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	IMD High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Kingsway					
KS1	Manor Farm Open Space	med	high	few	med
KS2	Valley Gardens	med	med	few	med
KS3	Thatcham Avenue	med	med	some	med
KS4	Daniel's Meadow	med	med	some	med
KS5	Buckenham Sports Park	high	high	few	med
KS6	Aldergrove	med	med	some	med
KS7	Wycombe Road	med	med	some	med
KS8	Coningsby Walk (Central Square)	med	med	very few or none	med
KS9	Staxton Drive	med	med	some	med
KS10	Rudloe Drive (FP5 Buffer - north)	med	med	some	med
KS11	TG29 & TG32 (various streets)	med	med	some	med
KS12	Kingsway Sports Ground	high	high	very few or none	med
KS13	Newhaven Rd (ex-cricket ground)	med	med	some	med
KS14	Daniel's Brook Corridor (S)	med	high	few	med

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
Site ref no:		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	IMD High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Longlevens					
LO1	Alders Green	low	med	some	low
LO2	Gambier Parry Gardens	high	med	few	low
LO3	Lacy Close	med	med	several	low
LO4	Longlevens Recreation Ground	med	high	very few or none	low
LO5	Plock Court	med	high	very few or none	low
LO6	Innsworth Lane Playing Field	med	high	very few or none	low
LO7	Paygrove Lane	med	med	very few or none	low
LO8	Greyhound Gardens	med	high	some	low
LO9	Blackwater Way	med	med	some	low
LO10	Horsbere Meadow	med	med	few	low
LO11	The Triangle	med	low	few	low
LO12	Innsworth Lane allotments	med	high	some	low
LO13	Estcourt Park allotments	med	high	some	low
LO14	Estcourt Close allotments	med	high	some	low

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
Site ref no:				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	IMD High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Matson & Robinswood					
MR1	Evan's Walk	med	med	some	high
MR2	Matson Avenue/Redwell Rd	med	med	several	high
MR3	Caledonian Avenue	med	med	several	high
MR4	Matson Ave/Winneycroft Lane	med	med	several	high
MR5	Matson Park (inc Marlstone Close)	low	high	very few or none	high
MR6	Rectory Rd Gardens	low	high	very few or none	high
MR7	Matson Library	med	med	several	high
MR8	Saintbridge Recreation Ground	low	low	very few or none	high
MR9	Haycroft Drive	med	med	very few or none	med
MR10	Sneedham's Green	med	med	very few or none	med
MR11	St Peter's Road/Matson Ave	med	med	some	high
MR12	Penhill Road (South)	med	med	some	high
MR13	Penhill Rd (North)	med	med	some	high
MR14	Northfield Rd open space	low	high	very few or none	high
MR15	Baneberry Road	med	high	very few or none	med
Green Flag Park  MR16	Robinswood Hill Country Park	high	high	very few or none	med
MR17	Bibury Road	low	high	very few or none	high
MR18	Tredworth Rd cemeteries	med	med	very few or none	med
MR19	White City Allotments	med	high	very few or none	high
MR20	Cotteswold Road Allotments	med	med	very few or none	med
MR21	The Venture (White City)	med	high	very few or none	high

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
Site ref no:				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	IMD High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Moreland					
MO1	Sydenham Gardens	low	low	very few or none	high
MO2	Baker's Field	med	high	very few or none	high
MO3	The Lannett	med	high	very few or none	high
MO4	The Oval	med	med	very few or none	med
MO5	Alma Place	med	high	very few or none	med
MO6	Tuffley Ave Rest Garden	low	med	very few or none	med
MO7	Parry Field	med	med	very few or none	high
MO8	Hawthorns/Tredworth Fields Allotments	med	high	very few or none	high
Podsmead					
PO1	Milton Avenue Community Space (Badger Vale pond)	med	high	few	high
PO2	Byron Avenue	med	low	several	high
PO3	Scott Avenue	med	high	few	high
PO4	Tuffley Park (Winget)	high	high	few	med
PO5	Milton Avenue playground	med	high	few	high
PO6	Blackbridge Playing Field	low	high	few	med
PO7	Blackbridge Athletics Track	high	high	very few or none	high

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
Site ref no:				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	IMD High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Quedgeley Fieldcourt					
QF1	Druid's Oak	low	med	very few or none	med
QF2	Fieldcourt Gardens	med	med	very few or none	low
QF3	Field Court Drive (E & W)	med	med	few	low
QF4	Needham Avenue	low	low	some	med
QF5	Waterwells Playing Field	med	high	very few or none	med
QF6	Dimore Playing Field	med	high	few	low
QF7	Coltishall Close	med	med	very few or none	med
QF8	Stanbridge Way Orchard	med	med	very few or none	med
QF9	Kingsway Allotments (1)	high	high	very few or none	med
QF10	FP4 NEAP (Attlebridge Way)	high	med	several	med
QF11	Waterwells Drive Balancing Pond	low	med	very few or none	med
QF12	Foxwhelp Way (was Mayo's Land)	med	med	few	med
QF13	Rudloe Drive (FP5 Buffer - south)	med	med	some	med

Full information on IMD (Indices of Multiple Deprivation, National Quintile), as used in site assessments, can be found at <https://inform.gloucester.gov.uk/deprivation>

Ward	Site name	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
Site ref no:		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	IMD High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Quedgeley Severnvale					
QS1	Woolstrop Way play area	med	med	very few or none	low
QS2	Vensfield Rd woodland	med	med	some	med
QS3	Bristol Rd Recreation Ground	med	med	very few or none	med
QS4	Severnvale Drive Woodland	low	med	some	med
QS5	Saddler's Road/Carter's Orchard	med	med	some	med
QS6	Park Drive (off St James)	med	low	several	med
QS7	Green Farm Orchard (Canalside Park North)	med	high	very few or none	low
QS8	Canalside Park South (inc Clearwater Drive open space)	med	high	few	low
QS9	Curtis Hayward Drive	med	med	some	low
QS10	Quedgeley Arboretum LNR	med	med	very few or none	low
QS11	Silver Birch Close	high	med	some	med
QS12	Scholars Walk (Woolstrop Moat)	med	low	some	med
Tuffley					
TU1	Arlingham Road	med	med	many	med
TU2	Brookthorpe Close	low	low	few	med
TU3	Arlingham Rd/Cole Ave	med	med	many	med
TU4	Slimbridge Road	med	med	many	med
TU5	Seventh Ave/Holst Way	med	med	several	med
TU6	Grange Park	low	low	few	low
TU7	Seventh Ave/Kemble Close	med	high	few	med
TU8	Grange Rd rest Garden	low	low	some	low
TU9	Stroud Rd/Rissington Rd	med	med	some	low
TU10	Northfield Square	med	med	very few or none	med
Green Flag Park MR16	Part of Robinswood Hill	high	high	some	med

TU12	Robert Raikes Allotments	med	high	very few or none	low
Ward	Site	Assessment rating (quality and value)			
Site ref no:		Site Quality	Community Value	Other local considerations	
				Similar spaces nearby (within 10min walk)	IMD High = within the 10% most deprived nationally for overall IMD
Westgate					
WE1	Westgate Park (N & S)	med	med	very few or none	high
WE2	Llanthony Secunda Priory	high	high	very few or none	med
WE3	St Oswald's Priory	med	med	very few or none	high
WE4	St Lucy's Garden	med	med	some	high
WE5	Priory Rd Rest Garden	med	low	some	high
WE6	Greyfriars (St Mary de Crypt)	med	med	few	high
WE7	Gloucester Park	med	high	very few or none	high
WE8	Jubilee Gardens	low	low	few	high
WE9	Honeythorne Close	med	med	few	med
WE10	Hempsted Recreation Ground	med	high	very few or none	med
WE11	Court Gardens	med	med	few	med
WE12	High View	med	med	few	med
WE13	Soren Larsen Way	med	med	few	med
WE14	Monk Meadow open space	med	high	few	med
WE15	King's Square	med	high	very few or none	high
WE16	Alney Island Nature Reserve (inc. All Blues Rugby ground)	high	high	very few or none	med
WE17	Hempsted Allotments	med	med	very few or none	med
WE18	St Oswald's Park (Longhorn Ave sites)	med	med	few	high
WE19	Hempsted Meadows	med	med	very few or none	med
Total sites = 201					

Analysis

(1) Sites of **high community value** + **high scarcity** (few/very few/none) + **high IMD**

Whenever possible, these sites should be prioritised for improvement and investment, to update existing facilities or provide new features, with full community consultation.

Ward	Site	Site quality
Barton and Tredworth	BT2 - Napier St	med
	BT3 - St James Park	low
Kingsholm and Wotton	KW3 - Sebert St Recreation Ground	med
	KW8 - Deans Way Allotments	med
Matson & Robinswood	MR5 - Matson Park	low
	MR6 - Rectory Road Gardens	low
	MR14 - Northfield Rd open space	low
	MR17 - Bibury Rd	low
	MR19 - White City Allotments	med
	MR21 - The Venture	med
Moreland	MO2 - Baker's Field	med
	MO3 - The Lannett	med
	MO8 - Hawthorns/Tredworth Fields Allotments	med
Podsmead	PO1 - Milton Avenue Community Green Space	med
	PO3 - Scott Avenue	med
	PO5 - Milton Avenue play area	med
	PO7 - Blackbridge Athletics Track	high
Westgate	WE7 - Gloucester Park	med
	WE15 - King's Square	med

(2) Sites with low community value + High IMD

Whenever possible, these sites should be prioritised for improvement, investment or consideration given to possible disposal (subject to planning requirements and including options for new alternative uses), with full community consultation.

Ward	Site	Site quality
Coney Hill	Savernake Road	low
Kingsholm & Wotton	Great Western Road rest garden (London Rd)	low
Matson & Robinswood	Saintbridge Recreation Ground	low
Moreland	Sydenham Gardens	low
Podsmead	Byron Avenue	med
Westgate	Jubilee Gardens	low
	Priory Rd rest garden	med

(3) Sites of high community value + medium scarcity (several/some) + high IMD

These sites would benefit from some improvement as soon as possible, to update existing facilities or provide new features, with full community consultation.

Ward	Site	Site quality
Abbeydale	AD10 – Heron Way Open Space (nb: one side of the brook is HIGH IMD, one side is LOW IMD)	med
Coney Hill	CH3 – Coney Hill Park	low

(4) Sites of med community value + high scarcity (few/very few/none) + high IMD

These sites would benefit from some improvement as soon as possible, to update existing facilities or provide new features, with full community consultation.

Ward	Site	Site quality
Barton & Tredworth	BT1 - Ayland Gardens/Bishopstone Road	low
	BT4 - Diamond Jubilee Close	med
Kingsholm & Wotton	KW1 – Dean’s Way Meadow	med
Moreland	MO7 – Parry Field	med
Westgate	WE1 – Westgate Park	med
	WE3 - St Oswald’s Priory	med
	WE6 – Greyfriars (St Mary de Crypt churchyard)	med
	WE18 – St Oswald’s Park (Longhorn Avenue sites)	med

(5) Sites of low quality + high community value

These sites would additionally benefit from some improvement, to update existing facilities, create better management regimes, or provide new features. Full community consultation should accompany any proposed changes.

Ward	Site	notes
Barton & Tredworth	BT3 - St James Park	Overall improvements to all facilities and management would be desirable. Upgrade of small MUGA would be of benefit.
Coney Hill	CH3 – Coney Hill Park	Overall improvements to all facilities and management would be desirable. Upgrade of small MUGA would be of benefit.
Grange	GR5 – Holmleigh Park	Overall improvements to all facilities and management would be desirable. Play area in particular needs overall updating. Provision of a MUGA facility would be of benefit.
Matson & Robinswood	MR5 – Matson Park	This site is a ‘hidden gem’ with excellent mature trees, lake/stream, play features, SUDS, pitch, but worn-out paths etc. The site requires a well-thought out management plan, and investment in the infrastructure to help provide great facilities for residents, whilst preserving and enhancing the natural habitat.
	MR6 – Rectory Rd Gardens	A fenced, underused but highly valuable green space. Would benefit from removal of dated flower beds and provision of new facilities such as outdoor fitness hub, play features, food-growing spaces, new paths, seating etc.
	MR14 – Northfield Rd	Very small green space with hedges/shrubs around edges. Would benefit from new tree planting. Residents views crucial for any changes.
	MR17 – Bibury Rd	A valuable small kickabout space, but with poor facilities in need of investment. Currently owned and managed by a Housing Association.
Podsmead	PO6 – Blackbridge Playing Field	Site is being developed to provide a 3G pitch and community sports hub building. Site currently owned by Glos County Council.

(6) Sites of low quality + low community value

Consideration should be given to new or additional uses for these sites – new features, improved maintenance and clearly defined functions would be of benefit. Some sites might be considered for disposal (with all proceeds invested in other nearby open space improvement). Any disposals should only comprise very small spaces or a small part of a larger open space and would need to meet the planning policy exemption criteria. Full community consultation highly recommended.

Ward	Site	notes
Abbeydale	AD12 – Awebridge Way (0.23ha)	Management unclear – parts should be left quite wild (badger sett was present on lower area), others need better management, priority for wildlife.
Coney Hill	CH1 – Maytree Square (0.26ha)	Underused space on busy road with unclear function – seating & path through centre. Perhaps plant lots more trees or add extra functions?
	CH5 – Savernake Rd (0.32ha)	Secluded space to rear of housing and alongside railway line. Backs on to Friendship Café. No clear function, old bike humps. Care should be taken if providing new use to take account of close neighbours. Possible community food-growing space (subject to contamination) or potential disposal?
Elmbridge	EL4 - Estcourt Gardens (0.53ha)	Series of linear spaces along Wotton Brook and Estcourt Rd. Overgrown conifer trees, unmanaged flower beds – gives an air of neglect. Could be improved for wildlife (watercourse improvements?) or for other uses such as food growing or fitness route. One part used to house a public toilet block.
	EL5 – Cross Keys Rest Garden (0.09ha)	On busy road, underused space, degraded low-level dry-stone retaining wall and flower beds. Could be re-used for food-growing or potential disposal? Mature ash tree and fruit trees on site.
	EL7 – Horton Rd Cemetery (0.15ha)	No longer managed by City Council, but potentially a much more pleasant space currently very overgrown. Historic burial ground with gravestones, ideally managed for wildlife.
Grange	GR4 – Tuffley Lane (The Gladiator) (0.63ha)	Large ‘verge’ on very busy Cole Ave with mature poplar trees – potential site for diversification of habitat, native tree planting/biodiversity improvements/climate mitigation along connected road corridor green spaces.
	GR8 – Meredith Way (0.83ha)	Site with play area under management company. Not well maintained and currently play area closed

		off – play equipment needs to be upgraded and suitable future management secured.
	GR11 – Greenhill Drive (0.12ha)	Rather secluded space – it is unclear that it is actually POS. Would benefit from better management and possibly additional orchard planting with wildflower margins.
Hucclecote	HU6 – Green Lane/ The Orchards (0.2ha)	Area of woodland next to housing. No clear management plan.
	HU10 – Bircher Way (Hucclecote Centre) (0.7ha)	Issues with lack of grass cutting etc (possibly now resolved). More tree planting would be beneficial. Play area now installed in this space (Dec 2020).
Kingsholm & Wotton	KW2 – Kingsholm Rest Garden (Estcourt Rd) (0.05ha)	Development of Civil Service site may disrupt this space – issues with crumbling low-level stone wall & unclear function. New planting would be of benefit.
	KW6 – Great Western Rd Rest Garden (London Rd) (0.02ha)	Space closed off due to anti-social behaviour. Proposed improvements still to be implemented.
	KW7 – Great Western Rd Rest Garden (Horton Rd) (0.16ha)	Space underused, function unclear. May benefit from adjacent development of railway sidings for housing (size and facilities may increase).
Matson & Robinswood	MR8 – Saintbridge Rec'n Ground (1.94ha)	Previously a rugby pitch but currently unused for sport, function now unclear, needs a new use such as outdoor fitness, other sports use, biodiversity improvements or food growing.
Moreland	MO1 – Sydenham Gardens (0.29ha)	Valuable space containing monument, but damaged paths, poor quality perimeter railing and overgrown conifer trees. Could be given additional functions suitable for local community. Would benefit from a proper railing fence to provide safe enclosure for small children and dog exercise.
Quedgeley Fieldcourt	QF4 – Needham Avenue (0.17ha)	Access off private road, this poorly located local space has no facilities and function is unclear. Waterwells Playing Field is now very close by. Other uses possible, could be a site for disposal?
Tuffley	TU2 - Brookthorpe Close (0.55ha)	Linear 'wild' space to rear of properties, not well overlooked, poor access, no defined management plan.

	TU6 – Grange Park (0.34ha)	Small ‘wild’ space to rear of properties, not well overlooked, poor access, no defined management plan.
	TU8 – Grange Rd rest garden (0.17ha)	Degraded formal flower garden. Poor quality, lack of function – consider new use such as outdoor fitness, food growing, tree planting or disposal?
Westgate	WE8 – Jubilee Gardens (0.04ha)	Small, former ornamental garden ‘Aviation Garden’- with plane sculptures (now relocated to Jet Age Museum). Much anti-social behaviour resulted in site being closed off. Consider new uses (or possible disposal?). Next door to Conservative Club and former Greyfriars bowling green.



APPENDIX 4

Summary and analysis of Play Area Assessments

All of Gloucester's play areas were assessed in early 2020 using criteria based on the Play England *Playable Space Quality Assessment Tool*. Each site was scored from 1 (serious weaknesses, improvement needed) to 5 (excellent) against criteria for the following:

- Location
- Play Value
- Care and Maintenance

Play Value

60% of play areas scored above median for the quality of the site's play value.

The top five sites in Gloucester for play value were:

- **Longlevens Recreation Ground** in Longlevens ward
- **Matson Park** in Matson & Robinswood ward
- **Sebert Street Recreation Ground** in Kingsholm & Wotton ward
- **Gloucester Park** in Westgate ward
- **Randwick Park** in Grange ward

Location

51% of play areas scored above the median for the quality of the site's location/setting.

The top five sites in Gloucester for location were:

- **Longlevens Recreation Ground** in Longlevens ward
- **Buckenham Sports Park** in Kingsway ward
- **Sebert Street Recreation Ground** in Kingsholm & Wotton ward
- **The Venture** in Matson & Robinswood ward
- **Napier Street** in Barton & Tredworth ward

Care and Maintenance

51% of play areas scored above the median for the quality of the site's ongoing care and maintenance.

The top five sites in Gloucester for the quality of care and maintenance were:

- **The Venture** in Matson & Robinswood ward

- **Robinswood Hill** in Matson & Robinswood ward
- **Glevum Way** in Abbeydale ward
- **Gloucester Park** in Westgate ward
- **Longlevens Recreation Ground** in Longlevens ward

When looking cumulatively at the assessments (based on scores in all categories), there are five city council managed sites that would benefit the most from some improvement as soon as possible are:

- Parry Field (Moreland ward)
- Evan's Walk (Matson and Robinswood ward)
- The Oaks (Barnwood ward)
- Baneberry Road (Matson and Robinswood ward)
- Coltishall Close (Quedgeley Fieldcourt ward)

Three of the sites managed by Quedgeley Town Council are also recommended for improvement as soon as possible:

- Bristol Rd Recreation Ground (Quedgeley Severnvale ward)
- Woolstrop Way (Quedgeley Severnvale ward)
- Druid's Oak (Quedgeley Fieldcourt ward)

Finally, the play area under a management company at:

- **Meredith Way** in Grange Ward is also recommended for improvement as soon as possible.

(note: The Venture is managed by White City Adventure Playground Association)



Play Area Assessment Summary (using Play England Play Assessment Tool)

Site	Play Value Score (%)	Location score (%)	Care and Maintenance Score (%)	Notes
Longlevens Rec	88	89	69	Ballgames on MUGA/grass pitches
Matson Park	88	69	57	Ballgames on MUGA/grass pitches
Sebert Street	86	94	63	Ballgames on small court/grass pitch
Gloucester Park	84	86	74	MUGA/skate ramps/large grass areas
Randwick Park	80	69	60	Ballgames on MUGA/tennis/grass
The Venture	78	91	77	Ballgames on adjacent field
Milton Avenue	78	77	57	Ballgames on adjacent grass area
Glevum Way	76	86	69	Ballgames on adjacent playing field
Seventh Avenue	76	83	69	Ballgames on field/MUGA across road
Meadowleaze	76	83	51	Ballgames on adjacent grass area
Scott Avenue	76	71	63	Ballgames on MUGA/grass pitch
Waterwells PF	76	66	69	Ballgames on field/small panna court
Manor Farm Kingsway	74	80	57	MUGA/skate ramps/grass pitch
Chester Road	72	80	51	Grass kickabout area with goals
Alma Place	70	83	60	Small MUGA (one goal end)
Clock Tower Park	70	69	51	Small MUGA/tennis nearby
Coney Hill Park	70	69	51	MUGA/pump track/grass pitch areas
The Lannett	68	86	63	Ballgames on adjacent field/court
Soren Larsen Way	68	77	60	Small site, can't cater for full age range
Duncroft Road	68	77	57	Small grass area for kickabout
Greenways	68	74	63	MUGA/tennis court/small grass area
Tuffley Park	68	71	60	Ball games outside on field
Robinswood Hill	68	63	71	
Buckenham Sports Park	66	97	54	MUGA/tennis/grass area/bike ramps
Napier Street	66	89	60	
King George V	66	80	57	Ballgames on adjacent grass pitches
Monk Meadow	66	74	63	Ballgames on adjacent grass area
Hempsted Rec	66	60	63	Ballgames on adjacent playing field
Mead Road	64	83	69	Ballgames on adjacent grass field
Holmleigh Park	64	71	60	Ballgames on adjacent playing field
Armscroft Park (North) (Friends of Elmbridge)	62	71	63	Fenced MUGA nearby
Paygrove Lane	62	63	60	Ballgames on adjacent grass area
Birch Avenue	60	86	51	Grass kickabout area
Valley Gardens	60	71	60	
Greyhound Gardens	58	74	60	Small grass area for kickabout
St James Park	58	66	51	Ballgames on adjacent field/court

Attlebridge Way (Kingsway)	56	77	60	Fenced panna football court
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Site	Play Value Score (%)	Location score (%)	Care and Maintenance Score (%)	Notes
Elmbridge Park	56	74	54	Ballgames on adjacent field
Staxton Drive Kingsway	56	69	57	
Dean's Way	56	63	54	Small grass pitch for kickabout
Armscroft Park (South)	54	80	54	Grass pitches/MUGA nearby
Parry Field	54	57	49	MUGA & grass pitch for ballgames
Coltishall Close	48	63	54	Small grass area adjacent
Evan's Walk	46	63	54	Small grass area for kickabout
Diamond Jubilee Close	44	83	63	
Meredith Way (Grange Rd)	44	69	54	
Baneberry Road	42	57	57	Grass field/outdoor table tennis
The Oaks	42	57	54	Ballgames on adjacent field
Woolstrop Way	42	49	51	
Bristol Rd Rec	42	46	46	Grass pitch area/basketball goal
Druid's Oak	32	54	46	
<i>Median score:</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>(bold font indicates median score or better)</i>

The site assessments were carried out using criteria based on the Play England *Playable Space Quality Assessment Tool*, further details of which can be viewed at www.playengland.org.uk/media/211694/quality-assessment-tool.pdf



APPENDIX 5

Updated Allotment Strategy for Gloucester 2021

The Allotment Strategy sets out how Gloucester City Council plans to protect, manage and enhance its allotments over the next five years and beyond.

Allotment provision is a statutory function of the council, forming an invaluable part of the city's overall open space portfolio, and provision needs to meet the growing population as well as the growing demand for allotment space. Allotments provide an opportunity for improved health and well-being for its allotment users, provide a good setting for biodiversity and a space for individuals from diverse communities to work and be part of a community together.

This strategy sets out how the allotments will be developed, in many instances jointly with the allotment associations that are managing the day-to-day functioning of the sites, to meet the need for personal food growing in the City.



The **Allotment** Strategy



Updated January 2021

Allotment Strategy for Gloucester 2021

(Reviewed June 2020)

Introduction

Allotments have a long and honourable history. Their popularity has come and gone depending on need and fashion. However, in the last few years they have enjoyed what appears to be a sustained revival as people realise the benefits of home-grown food, as well as the feelgood factor of open-air activity.

Certainly, allotments fulfil many of the objectives of the healthy living agenda and, as such, the City Council is keen to support them, and engender an environment where they can thrive and add to the well-being of the city.

Providing allotments in urban areas provides a direct improvement to the health and social wellbeing to those who own them. The availability of green spaces through the use of allotments helps lead to a wider improvement to mental health that goes beyond the allotment holder. Individuals who own allotments are more in touch with nature and the outdoors, which can help to reduce fatigue and stress.

Allotments are also social outlets and provide a vehicle for people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures to come together in pursuit of a common goal - that of growing fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Allotments are open, undeveloped spaces in what are often dense urban areas. They provide open space, a valuable green lung, and a refuge for a surprising amount of wildlife.

Improvements to physical health are also improved with maintenance and cultivation requiring some form physical activity averaging 20 hours a week, helping to reduce physical ailments and diseases. It has been found that just a 30-minute session working on allotments can have considerable physiological benefits.

Significant progress and improvements have been made across Gloucester's allotments over the past few years. Much of this has been in partnership with Allotment Associations and other volunteer organisations, without which so much progress would not have been possible.

Gloucester City Council City Plan Policy:

Emerging City Plan Policy C2: Allotments: Existing allotments are protected from redevelopment to alternative uses, unless alternative provision is made by the developer, of equivalent or better quality, in an accessible and appropriate location to the community where the loss would occur. Provision of new allotments will be supported where they would meet identified need within a community.

3.3.12 Gloucester is a small urban authority with an increasing population and finite land supply. Allotments are an incredibly important resource, supporting local food growth, physical activity and health and wellbeing. Within the city there are public allotments sites which collectively provide 955 individual allotment plots on 16 hectares of land. At the time of writing, there are waiting lists for all of the allotment sites. It is therefore important to protect against the loss of city's existing allotments sites.

3.3.13 Opportunities for new allotments are limited, however where demand arises and the proposal is in a suitable location to meet that demand, they will be supported by the City Council.

Open Space Strategy

The city's Open Space strategy concludes that:

Currently our allotment land is 17.19 hectares with a population of 129,083 (2017 census), which equates to 0.13 per 1000 population. The current national standard from NSALG is 0.25 per 1000 head.

So, Gloucester City currently has a shortfall in allotment provision against the nationally set standard. The allotment provision has increased during 2020 with new allotment sites being completed in Blackbridge (New Dawn View) and Kingsway (Goose Bay Drive), and a further site in Kingsway (Ampney Drive) is due to open in early 2021.

Key action areas:

- Identify, select and secure new sites (work is currently under way to create more capacity, on a new site in the Hempsted area of the City). Also, to work with private landowners to understand if new sites can be provided on their land.
- Retain and expand existing sites where possible.
- Maximise tenancy levels on all sites.
- Aim to ensure that new developments in the area result in an appropriate net increase of allotment plots.
- Encourage allotment sites within existing developments.
- Protect boundaries on existing allotment plots.

What is an allotment?

There are two types of allotment provision: Allotments and Allotment Gardens.

An '**allotment**' is a parcel of land not more than 5 acres in extent, cultivated as a garden or farm.

An '**allotment garden**' is a parcel of land not exceeding 40 poles, (1,012m²), cultivated by the occupier for the provision of vegetables and fruit crops for himself and his family.

By definitions outlined in the Allotment Act of 1922, an allotment garden is wholly or mainly cultivated

by the occupier for the production of fruit or vegetables for consumption by himself and his family. The definition gives allotment authorities some flexibility to determine what is grown, but care should be taken when relaxing restrictions so that the character of the site is maintained.

All allotment sites provided by Gloucester City Council are allotment gardens.

Allotment provision is a statutory function and whilst an authority *may* provide allotments, there is a statutory obligation for Gloucester City to provide allotment gardens sufficient to meet the demand.

There are both statutory and non-statutory allotments. The former were acquired or appropriated by the City Council for use as allotments. These cannot be sold or used for other purposes without the consent of the Secretary of State. Non-statutory allotments are on land allocated for other uses but leased or rented for use as allotments (not necessarily in City Council ownership).

Purpose of this strategy

As the population in Gloucester grows, residential gardens get smaller and as concerns about food and its provenance increase, we expect demand for allotments to grow. The purpose of the strategy is to

- ensure that allotments space is used as efficiently as possible
- to provide a structure for the provision of new allotments and
- to ensure that the service is as good as it can be within quite strict financial constraints.

Self-management is a means of achieving this and for many allotment communities outside of Gloucester this is how allotments are run.

Allotment associations are now running in most of the larger allotment sites in the city. They have incredibly motivated volunteers working to ensure that plot allocation happens swiftly, and that plot turnover when people give up plots is prompt so that more people can enjoy the benefits of allotment gardening.

Provision should be made on allotment sites for food growing for those with additional needs. A number of sites have raised beds, for example, to allow accessibility for those with limited mobility to use. These adaptations should be encouraged to ensure access for all abilities to allotment sites.

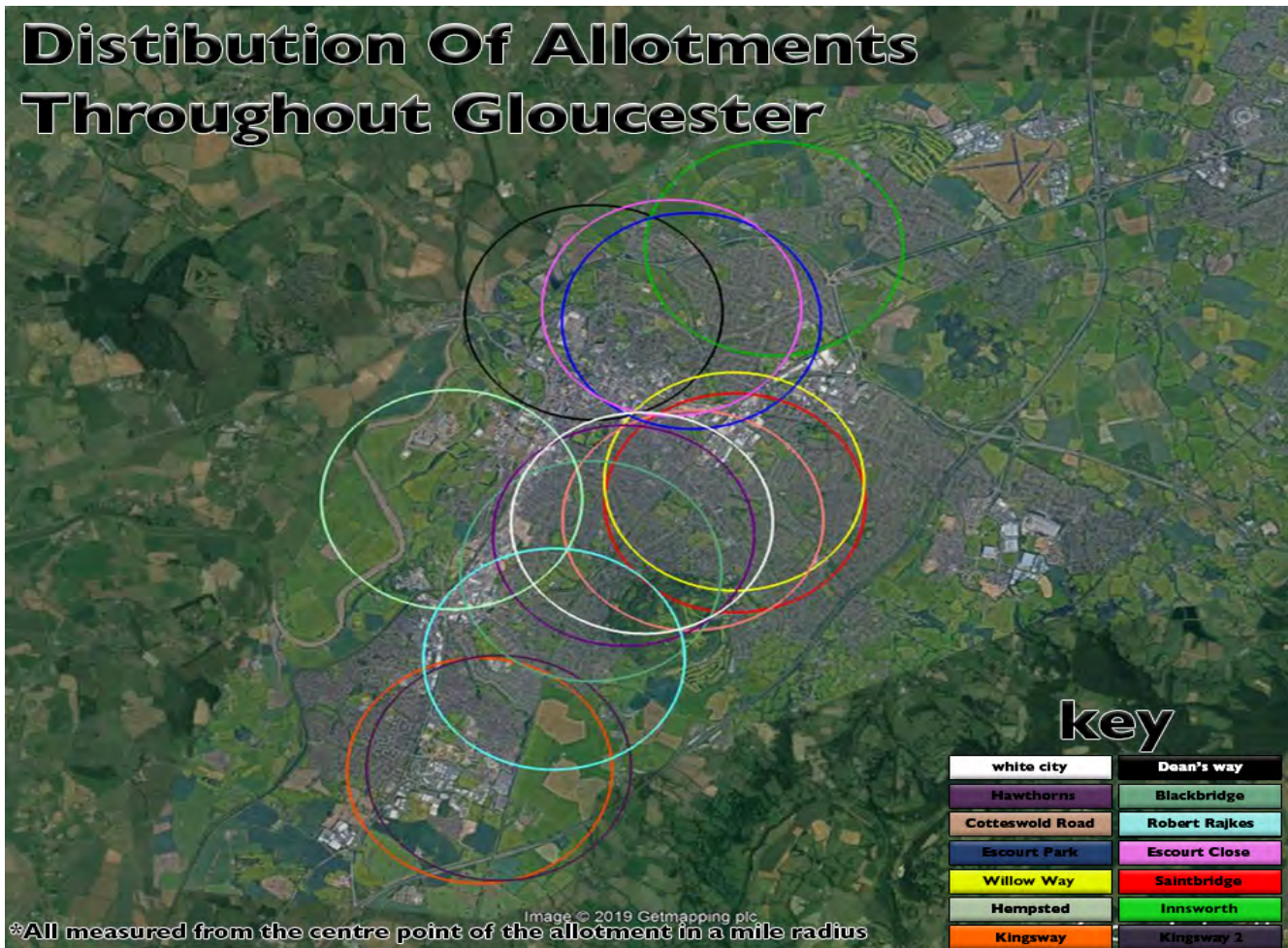
Current provision

In Gloucester City provision, there are 12 allotment sites managed by the city council, providing 955 allotments varying in size from 12m² up to 370m², the most common allotment size being the old 5 perch (half 10 perch) or 126m².

The following table is a brief resume of each of the separate sites detailing how many there are, their status etc. There has been a new site opened at Blackbridge within the development at New Dawn View which is already in full use. There is new provision in Kingsway of 72 plots in two sites, varying in size from 138m² to 64m². These serve the local community and are managed separately by Quedgeley Town Council.

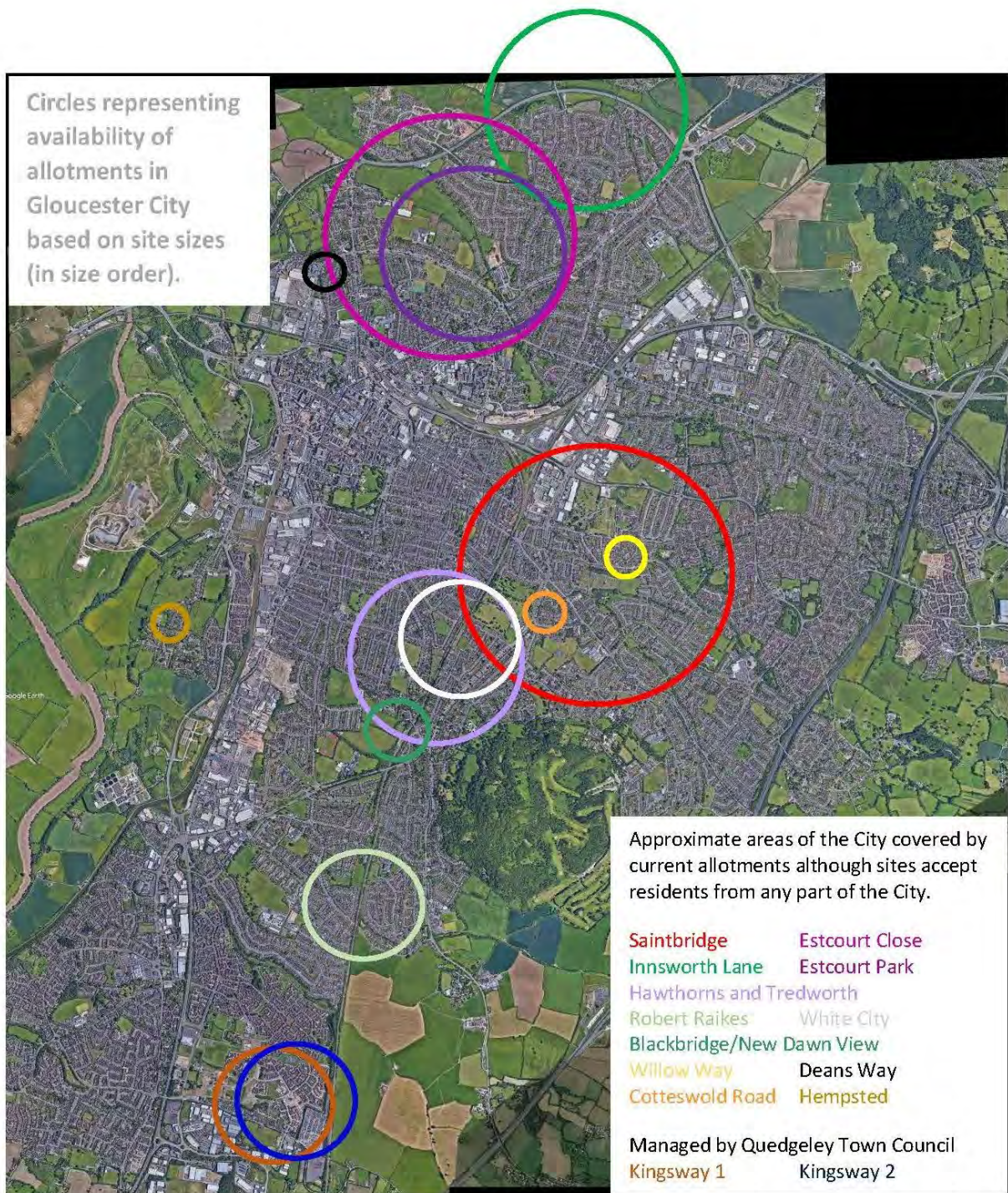
Location	Size - Ha	Current no. of plots	Awaiting new tenants	Waiting List	Statutory/ Non-statutory	Ward
Cotteswold Road	0.10	7	0	4	Non-statutory	Matson & Robinswood
Deans Way	0.15	8	0	15	Non-statutory	Kingsholm & Wotton
Estcourt Close	3.99	215	6	44	Statutory	Longlevens
Estcourt Park	1.70	101	2	51	Statutory	Longlevens
Hawthorns & Tredworth Fields	1.68	105	3	36	Statutory	Moreland
Hempsted	0.05	3	0	10	Non-statutory	Westgate
Innsworth	2.17	131	1	25	Statutory	Longlevens
Robert Raikes	0.89	62	1	29	Statutory	Tuffley
Saintbridge	4.17	262	10	70	Statutory	Abbeydale
White City	0.70	35	1	8	Statutory	Matson & Robinswood
Willow Way	0.16	10	1	3	Non-statutory	Coney Hill
New Dawn View (Blackbridge)	0.28	16	0	21	Statutory	Podsmead
Kingsway 1* (Goose Bay Drive)	0.62	-	-	-	Statutory	Quedgeley Fieldcourt
Kingsway 2* (Ampney Drive?)	0.53	-	-	-	Statutory	*Allotments managed by Quedgeley Town Council
Totals:						
City Council managed sites	16.04	955	25	316	Note: All figures correct as of 1/9/20	
Quedgeley Town Council managed sites	1.15	-	-	-		
Overall total:	17.19					

Distribution Of Allotments Throughout Gloucester



Allotment distribution across Gloucester

It is considered that 1 mile (1600m) – approx. 10-12 mins walking time - is a reasonable walking distance to access an allotment. Using this assumption, a mile radius was measured from the centre of each allotment, to find the overall coverage of allotments, the result of which can be seen in the image here. This implies there is good coverage across the city, but some of these sites are particularly small to fully meet the demand.



Allotment demand

As previously mentioned, there appears to be a revival in demand for allotments, as evidenced by the length of the waiting lists for all of the sites. These have been growing over the past few years and currently stand at 316.

There are now new allotment facilities at Blackbridge and Kingsway which should shorten the lists, but there is still a very real need for more allotments as shown by this representation of coverage of the City. The city council is working towards creating a new allotment site in the Hempsted area of

the city and this should meet some of the demand in the area. We will also look for other sites for allotments in the city, especially in areas where there is currently little provision, such as Hucclecote and Quedgeley.

Presently when people ask for an allotment they are added to the list for the nearest site unless special circumstances dictate otherwise. Plots are then allocated on a first come, first served basis.

In trying to provide for that demand, we need to make the most efficient use of the available plots and, where possible, identify new sites.

There are a number of ways of doing this:

Subdividing plots: There are still a lot of 10 perch (253m²) and even larger plots. As a matter of course, unless there is no waiting list and a new plot holder requires a large plot, then each large plot will be subdivided into smaller plots depending on the level of demand.

Limiting plot holders to the number of plots they hold: Currently there is no limit to how many plots people can hold. With a long waiting list this can be changed to ensure no more than 2 full plots (4 half plots), may be held by any one individual, which gives a generous allocation of 506 sqm of land. This can be waived perhaps in times when the lists are not so long. Current plot holders with multiple plots will be asked to reduce their plot holdings as deemed necessary.

New allotments: As part of large-scale developments the City Council, as planning authority, will look to negotiate new allotment sites. This is all the more important given the size of gardens in new developments. Kingsway was the first such provision for a number of years and provides 22 half plots (136m²), over 50 quarter-sized plots (64m²) plus a number of raised beds for those with mobility impairment. The forthcoming City Plan (the Spatial Planning document for Gloucester) will include policies encouraging new provision in large development sites.

Re-use of other open space: The Public Open Space Strategy identifies a number of open spaces within the City that do not really function as amenity land. There may be an opportunity to use some of these in a more productive manner and convert them to allotments or some other growing space. Finally, there are areas within the City that have poor provision, in particular Hucclecote, Quedgeley and Hempsted. These tend to be on the periphery of the City and the City Council will work with Town and Parish Councils, community groups, private landowners and others to increase provision either within or, potentially, outside the administrative boundary of Gloucester to increase provision. A new site in the Hempsted area could meet some of the demand for Quedgeley too.

Allotment Squatting: For all sorts of reasons, at some point in their lives, people will have to give up their allotment. This can be straight forward, with the authority being informed and the allotment being allocated to another individual. Sometimes, however, it is not straightforward, and months can pass before the allotment is re-allocated. This is a difficult area as there may be very legitimate reasons why an individual cannot tend their plot. It may be, for example, that they have an illness and once better they may well be able to tend their allotment again. This is not always the case and sometimes holders 'sit' on their allotment when really they have little intention of using it productively again. In these instances, we need to be sympathetic but firm, especially when there are long waiting lists. Self-managed allotments tend to police this issue better.

Under-utilised sites and disposals. Allotments are currently popular and there are waiting lists for all sites. However, this may not always be the case. While we should not dispose of allotments due to a short drop in demand, if over a long period of time, allotments do remain vacant, then the

authority should not shy away from finding alternative uses. There may indeed be small areas on larger sites that are unpopular, even though as a whole, the site is well cultivated. Any change from allotments needs to be thought through very carefully as inevitably it will be permanent. If money is raised as part of this process, then it should be ring fenced to be used on allotments elsewhere. If it is part of a larger site that is lost, then a proportion of any money raised should be spent on that particular site. There may of course be covenants and other restrictions on some sites preventing alternative uses.

Self-management and processes towards it

There are many different models of allotment management and these will vary across the country. In some areas the Local Authority is very much the lead partner. In others they have little involvement other than as a planning authority, i.e., protecting sites from development. Between these two extremes there are many combinations.

In Gloucester City, the lead role leans towards the local authority and while there are certain benefits to this, it can be frustrating for Allotment Associations who perhaps want to have a little more control in how their allotments are run.

There are also potential financial benefits to the Associations from community-based control as funders are always happier supporting local groups rather than local authorities.

The City Council, therefore, will be supportive of any requests by Allotment Associations either individually or collectively to pursue greater self-management. At one extreme this could mean total control being invested in the association, allowing them to set a charge, collect rents and do the things that the City Council does (or would like to do) now. At the other extreme, the City Council would still maintain overall responsibility and control, but certain aspects of allotment management, such as allocating plots, could be carried out by the association.

The process by which associations would move towards more self-management is contained at appendix 1 towards the end of this document. Also included is a list of the sort of tasks/responsibilities that could be passed over from the City to an Association.

It is assumed that associations will want a level of self-management somewhere between the two extremes and we will actively engage with associations and other stakeholders to help them achieve what they think is best for their particular site.

What must be clear, however, is that before any significant control of any site can be handed over to an Association then some sort of mandate must be gained, not just from association members, but from allotment holders on the site as a whole.

The City will assist any allotment association in this process to allow an appropriate vote to take place. More modest transfers of authority will not need vote.

Tenancy agreement/finances

There are a number of charging methods used by local authorities and allotment associations across the UK and they all have their supporters and detractors. After previous discussions we continue to charge by the square metre as the fairest system. Concessions arrangement will have to be changed as we progress onto universal credit. Council will have to make a decision on this matter.

The price will increase by inflation on an annual basis. This is standard practice and the indices used throughout the Council will be utilized.

The allotment year now starts in November for invoicing in line with the seasonal requirements associated with the allotments.

Sustainability

Allotments are inherently sustainable. They provide a means of local food production that is inevitably less intensively produced than commercially produced fruit, vegetables and flowers. Allotments also contribute to community well-being, healthy active lifestyles and many other un-costed benefits to society as a whole.

They are also open spaces in their own right providing relief from urban form and attract a surprising diversity of wildlife.

Of course, sustainability is a relative concept, and some allotments will be more sustainable than others. While we would not wish to get into too much detail as what is and is not acceptable practice, there are issues around water consumption and being a good neighbour that do need addressing.

Water use

Water is a precious resource and while often there is far too much, we have had a number of summers where there has been too little. Plants need water to grow and for some fruit and veg irrigation is often essential. However, water from standpipes costs money and this has to come out of allotment rents. There is a financial as well sustainability argument as to why we should all be careful with water use.

If self-management becomes more widespread this is something that associations may wish to address themselves – however, in the interim, the City Council will investigate how to reduce piped water use on allotment sites. As a starting point no sprinklers will be used on site and hose use demand investigated.

Green waste

Good soil-husbandry depends on organic matter. Compost is a simple means of providing this. All allotment holders will be encouraged to compost all their green waste, although it is accepted that some waste may be diseased and, along with pernicious weeds cannot be composted in a normal heap, may need separate disposal.

Burning (only occasional burning of dry, diseased waste) is unlikely to be allowed to happen in the future, and waste will be needed to be taken off site. We will also continue the occasional deliveries of soil conditioner organised with help from the Council's waste contractor dependant on demand and cost.

Occasional skips for one-off clearances when asked for by Associations will be favourably looked upon.

Other issues

What can and cannot be grown

The original Allotment Acts required a plot to be cleared at the end of each season. Technically, growing rhubarb was not allowed as it was a permanent perennial. Yet perennials are a sustainable and often a low maintenance means of extracting productivity from an allotment and would be looked upon favourably nowadays.

While the City Council is largely responsible for allotments, it will not be too involved in what can and cannot be grown on an allotment. Whilst not wishing to be too prescriptive, the council does provide a guide, which we will update as required, and this details what is generally appropriate to grow on an allotment.

Some sites ask for 75% of the plot to be in cultivation at some point in the year, which could be looked on as a good standard to follow. This and the guidelines on sheds/structures and the role of animals (e.g., bees and chickens) may be something that Allotment Associations decide they want to control. We will support this.

Selling of produce

Allotment legislation requires that an allotment garden is '*wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of fruit or vegetables for consumption by himself and his family*'. Selling on a commercial basis is therefore considered unacceptable; however, small scale sales/donations of excess produce, for example, through associations, would be appropriate.

Vandalism and theft

For some allotment holders this can be a real problem. To have carefully tended produce pointlessly trashed or stolen is heart breaking and may even cause some plot holders to give up. We will encourage individuals to report all incidents of theft and vandalism to the police and will do what we can within the tight financial constraints to work with allotment holders and associations to make allotments as secure as possible, without making them look like a fortress. Where appropriate, we will seek external funding and make the most of opportunistic works to improve security.

We also need to work with local communities, the police and other stakeholders to try and address the problem at source. Certainly, we will be aiming to bring our Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) expertise to play in engaging with local people.

The role of our grounds-maintenance contractor

The role of the grounds-maintenance contractor will vary from site to site; however, they tend to look after the large paths and non-cultivated areas within allotments as well as the boundary fences. As with other matters, associations may wish to have more control over this aspect of maintenance.

Education

While we do give new plot holders a welcome pack to help them, too many still give up after the first season. Often it is just that they needed more information/training about what to grow and how to grow it.

We will direct new plot holders to get help from the allotment association on the ground to get them started. We will also direct them to websites and forums offering online help and good practice.

Conclusion

Local Government is going through an era of unprecedented reform. Local communities are increasingly taking control of their neighbourhoods and it is the expectation that the decision-making process and funding for many local government functions will be moved further down to users.

Allotments are no different, and Gloucester City Council will pursue an allotment strategy where more control sits with associations and plot holders than is the case now. Where there is a desire therefore, from associations and plot holders for a more active role then we will do our best to facilitate their needs.

As mentioned at the beginning of this strategy, allotments have a long and honourable history. Gloucester City Council wishes to build on this and ensure that allotments are as fit for purpose in the 21st century as they were when they first appeared in the 19th.

Allotment Strategy Delivery Plan

The following delivery plan will seek to ensure that the proposals set out in the strategy are implemented.

With limited funding some of the proposals will take time. Actions have been given a timeframe of short (up to 1 year), medium (1-5 years) and long term (more than 5 years).

Task	Funding	How	Comment	Timescale
Pursue self-management where there is support from the association	Officer time. Association resource.	Work with Associations and other groups to facilitate a higher degree of self-management.	Any significant degree of self-management will have to be with consent of allotment holders.	Short-long.
Planning Policy is incorporated into the new City Plan protecting allotments and requiring new ones as part of large-scale development.	Part of City Plan process. Officer time.	Incorporate allotment policies into City Plan.	City Plan is being updated and will be in place by the end of 2020.	Short.
Address areas of poor provision through alternative uses for council and privately owned land.	Officer time.	Work with parish councils, private landowners and other bodies to identify potential allotment sites. Negotiate provision on large development sites (see above).	POS strategy contains proposals for finding alternative uses (inc. allotments) for POS. Private land can become allotments with willing land owner. Work to progress a new allotment site in Hempsted.	Short-long.
Increase provision through subdivision and stricter requirements on abandoned allotments.	Officer time. Association resource.	Continue policy of large plot subdivision. With associations pursue firm action on uncultivated plots. Ensure plots are held by City residents .	It is assumed that, if Allotment Associations pursue a more active role, they will want to manage their areas in a rigorous manner to ensure that allotments tenancies are not abused.	Short-long.
Encourage more sustainable use of water.	Officer time. Association resource.	Unattended sprinklers to be banned. All buildings to be fitted with a water butt. Hosepipe restrictions may need to be introduced.	It is expected that water provision will increasingly be an issue. The modest measures suggested will be reviewed. More stringent controls may be introduced.	Short-long.
Allow a more proactive policy on what can and cannot be grown/done on an allotment.	Officer time. Association resource.	Adopt policy that allows certain produce to be grown such as top fruit. Allow Associations to rule	Top fruit can be a low maintenance means of having a productive Allotment. Associations can deal with the	Short.

		on issues such as bee hives and chickens.	more local issues of bees, etc if they wish.	
Promote environmental sustainability and community cohesion on allotment sites	Officer time,	<p>Sites to be accessible to the community by cycling and walking and include cycle storage.</p> <p>Connected to green infrastructure such as trees/hedges/ponds etc.</p> <p>Providing communal space e.g. picnic space, orchards.</p> <p>Involving the community in proposals to accommodate local needs. Make leaf mould and woodchips available on sites.</p>	Community cohesion and sustainability to be encouraged in conversations with the allotment associations allowing their ideas to come to fruition.	Short-med
Provide a high-quality management and maintenance system	Officer time	<p>Ensure good use is made of colony database between Public Open Spaces Team and Business Support Team.</p> <p>Continue to streamline processes where possible, to reduce the number of uncultivated plots/ speed up eviction of tenants who aren't cultivating and thus reduce waiting lists.</p> <p>Use e-mail address and digital format of documents where-ever possible to reduce postage.</p> <p>Ensure Website is up to date with robust information.</p>	Ensure good co-ordination between allotment associations and council staff and good co-ordination within different staff teams to ensure smooth running of the allotment process from waiting list to allocation to enforcement if uncultivated.	Short

Appendix A. Moving towards Self-Management

Process involved in moving towards self-management followed by a description of services and functions currently undertaken, either in whole or in part by the City Council that could be carried out by an Association.

- All large sites now have an active allotment association. Smaller ones will be encouraged to look at this option too, but currently often have informal associations in place. Any changes to the roles they currently deliver can be looked at under this option.
- Associations discuss with City Council as to whether their aspirations need formal vote or can be carried out with informal agreement.
- Associations enter dialogue with their members.
- If can be carried out without vote then implement changes, if not carry on the process
- If still interested Associations to hold EGM/ AGM to formally discuss matters with their members.
- Associations to submit business case (on 1-2 sides of A4) detailing what they would like to do, their capacity as an Association/group, and how they intend to do it. Associations to be properly constituted
- If business case broadly in line with Allotment Strategy and legislation, then City to instigate vote. Any questions from plot holders can be met by for example a FAQs compiled with help from The National Allotment Society .
- City Council writes to plot holders and initiates vote. Simple majority vote on yes or no motion. Only one vote per year per association
- Depending on vote, begin handing over powers to associations.
- Depending on level of engagement City Council to negotiate with associations on the nature of the relationship. This may or may not need some sort of legal agreement.
- Handover responsibility.

The following is a list of functions/services that Associations can if they wish, take over. It is not exhaustive and is not a hierarchy. Some of these functions can be carried out without recourse to the above process.

Functions	Progress on action	Actions for future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information of plot holders. 	This has started happening, ensuring good compliance with GDPR process.	This will continue within GDPR rules and permissions of plot holders given.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot checking to see if plots cultivated 	All Associations whether formal or informal do this very effectively.	Associations will continue with this role.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site management (monitoring) • Site management (implementation) 	Associations do this for example checking and upgrading fences and security and providing extra facilities such as compost toilets.	Associations to continue to liaise with council in this role.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing up of site management plans 	Some associations already do this	Other associations encouraged to do this to gain external funding for example.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing up of additional allotment rules and guidelines 	Associations can draw up additional guidelines such as no bonfires or no chickens and assist with periodic review of council guidelines.	Continue to encourage the individual setting of rules where necessary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of allotment rules 	Associations will often inform the council if rules are broken for the council to take action.	It is unlikely that associations as volunteers would wish to take on this role, but they could if desired.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal leasehold arrangement 	Most of the council's allotment sites are statutory sites and could be leased if desired.	No appetite has been shown for this to happen yet.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billing /invoicing, chasing bad debts. 	If they wished to do this, additional 'Colony' software additions can be purchased to make this happen.	It is unlikely that allotment associations would wish to take on this role, but interest could be gauged, and costs investigated.

Appendix 6

Planning Obligations Calculator

(TO FOLLOW)