



BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE STUDY

UPDATE REPORT

AUGUST 2012

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Assessment prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to deliver an update of the 2010 Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study for Bassetlaw District Council (BDC). The report presents the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpins the study.

This update report provides an audit based assessment of both quantitative and qualitative open space, sport and recreation facilities. It utilises the guidance set out within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and PPG 17 Companion Guide entitled 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' published in September 2002. The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to provide:

- ◀ A comprehensive audit of existing provision of different types of open space detailing quantity, quality, accessibility and wider value to the community.
- ◀ An accurate assessment of supply and demand for open space provision.
- ◀ A robust evidence base to enable Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) to develop planning policies as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and other local development documents.

Report structure

Open spaces

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space facilities in Bassetlaw. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology on open spaces can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all the typologies defined in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG 17' and is structured as follows:

- Part 3: General open space issues.
- Part 4: Parks and gardens.
- Part 5: Natural and semi-natural greenspaces.
- Part 6: Amenity greenspace.
- Part 7: Provision for children and young people.
- Part 8: Allotments, community gardens and city farms.
- Part 9: Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds.
- Part 10: Civic spaces.

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Context

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

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

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are still required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including Sport England's Towards a Level Playing Field (TALPF) and PPG17. Despite the latter being replaced by the NPPF it still offers relevant guidance on undertaking a needs assessment; which can be enhanced by our own expert understanding and knowledge in this area.

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This assessment covers the following open space typologies as set out in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'

Table 1.1: PPG17 definitions

	PPG17 typology	Primary purpose
Greenspaces	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.
	Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
	Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Civic spaces	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians including the promenade	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

PART 2: METHODOLOGY

Auditing local provision

Database development

All information relating to open spaces across Bassetlaw is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an electronic file). Sites are identified and provided by BDC. Each site has been classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. All sites included within the audit, as identified and assessed by BDC, are included within the project database.

The database details for each site are as follows:

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping).
- ◀ Site name.
- ◀ Local authority reference number.
- ◀ Typology.
- ◀ Size (hectares).
- ◀ Site visit data.

Sites are identified by BDC during the audit using mainly official site names and/or road names and locations.

Site assessments

The site audit for this study was undertaken by BDC. In total, 330 open spaces are identified and audited to evaluate site quality. In addition to quality, an assessment for value of each site has been undertaken at the same time as the quality assessments made by BDC.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be in an inaccessible location and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores as follows.

Analysis of quality

Data collated from site visits is based upon those derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by the Green Flag Plus Partnership). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out are summarised in the following table.

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

- ◀ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts,
- ◀ Personal security, e.g., site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- ◀ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths
- ◀ Parking, e.g., availability, specific, disabled parking
- ◀ Information signage, e.g., presence of up to date site information, notice boards

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- ◀ Equipment and facilities, e.g., assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
- ◀ Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace
- ◀ Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti
- ◀ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., fencing, gates, staff on site
- ◀ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of general landscape & features
- ◀ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people
- ◀ Site potential

For provision for children and young people, the criteria is also built around Green Flag and is a non technical visual assessment of the whole site, including general equipment and surface quality/appearance but also includes an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision. This differs from an independent RosPA review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play value and risk assessment grade.

Analysis of value

Using data calculated from the site visits and desk based research a value score for each site is identified. Value is defined in the PPG17 Companion Guide in relation to the following three issues:

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

The value criteria set below is derived from the Companion Guide to PPG17:

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

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

Value - non site visit criteria (score)

- ◀ Designated site such as LNR or SSSI
- ◀ Educational programme in place
- ◀ Historic site
- ◀ Listed building or historical monument on site
- ◀ Registered 'friends of group' to the site

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Quality and value thresholds

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by PPG17); the results of the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green, adequate being amber and low being red).

The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

The base line threshold for assessing quality is, for most typologies, often set around 60%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is not always appropriate for every open space typology and is set to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Therefore the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect actual provision.

Typology	Quality threshold			Value threshold
	Low	Average	High	
Parks and gardens	< 30%	30-55%	>55%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	< 10%	10-20%	>20%	20%
Amenity greenspace	< 25%	25-36%	>36%	20%
Provision for children and young people	< 35%	35-60%	>60%	20%
Allotments	< 20%	20-34%	>34%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	< 25%	25-40%	>40%	20%
Civic space	< 45%	45-56%	>56%	20%

Street survey

A street survey was commissioned as part of the 2010 study to identify the attitudes and needs of the broader local community. The survey provides a robust sample of both users and non-users of open spaces across the area. A total of 510 street survey responses were gained from across Bassetlaw.

The results of the survey have been analysed and are presented in graph format with commentary in Part 3. Please note that there appears to be a number of results with high percentage of “no comment”. This does not always mean that the respondent does not know how often they have visited provision, for example. It may mean that the respondent could not answer because they do not have an interest in using the facility, rather than a lack of awareness.

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Analysis areas

Bassetlaw has been divided into settlement areas to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of open space deficiencies.

PPG17 Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' recommends that in rural areas, where there are villages with small populations and significant distances between settlements, application of a settlement hierarchy is considered.

Traditionally, a settlement hierarchy ranks individual settlements according to their shape, size and the availability of services and facilities. It should also reflect where the majority of development is likely to be directed. For example, often residents of more rural settlements accept that they have to travel further to access certain facility types, in particular the more formal types of provision such as sports facilities and parks. The rural nature of these settlements and the relatively easy access into the countryside also reduces the need to be able to access provision such as natural/semi-natural greenspace. However, access to facilities such as play areas and allotments often remains important to residents living in both urban and rural areas.

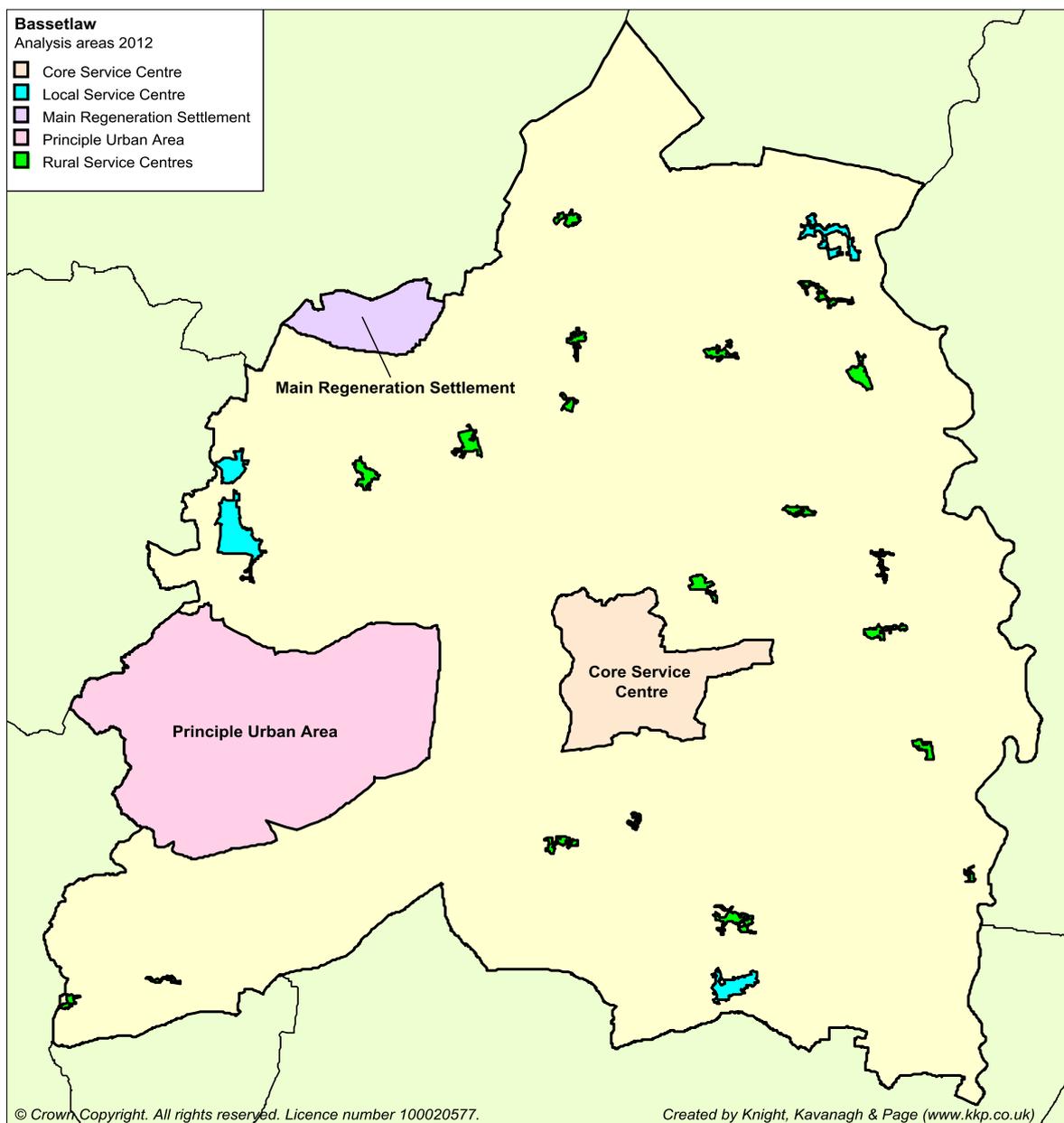
The settlement hierarchy used is as follows:

Classification	Description	Settlement
Principle Urban Area	The primary town within Bassetlaw. The focus of major housing, employment and town centre retail growth.	◀ Worksop
Core Service Centre	The focus for levels of housing, employment and town centre development to maintain and enhance its wider service role and market town character.	◀ Retford
Main Regeneration Settlement	A regeneration opportunity town and a focus that will drive a step change in the nature of the settlement.	◀ Harworth Bircotes
Local Service Centres	Settlements with smaller regeneration opportunities and the services, facilities and development opportunities available to support moderate levels of growth.	◀ Carlton in Lindrick/Langold ◀ Tuxford ◀ Misterton
Rural Service Centres	Rural settlements that offer a range of services and facilities, and the access to public transport, which makes them suitable locations for limited rural growth.	◀ Beckingham ◀ Blyth ◀ Clarbrough Hayton ◀ Cuckney ◀ Dunham ◀ East Markham ◀ Elkesley ◀ Everton ◀ Gamston ◀ Gringley on the Hill ◀ Mattersey ◀ Misson ◀ Nether Langwith ◀ North Leverton ◀ North Wheatley

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Classification	Description	Settlement
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Rampton ◀ Ranskill ◀ Sturton le Steeple ◀ Sutton cum Lound ◀ Walkeringham
Outside of hierarchy	The classification for all other settlements not identified in any of the above settlement hierarchy classifications. Designed to cover small clusters of housing that may have provision of one form of open space.	

Figure 2.1: Bassetlaw settlement hierarchy



PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE ISSUES

Introduction

Consultation with users and non-users of open spaces across Bassetlaw covered many issues. Typology and site specific issues are covered in the relevant sections of this report. This section describes the generic issues that cut across more than one typology, including a summary of the resident survey.

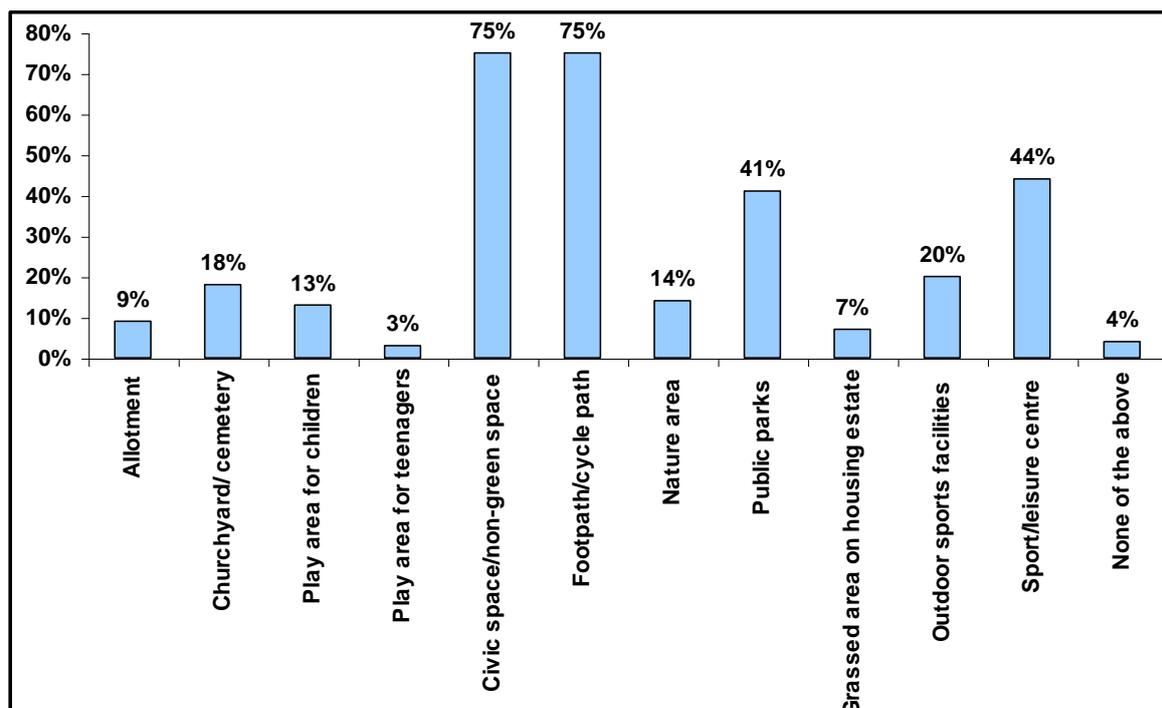
Key issues

Usage

The most popular typologies visited in the last twelve months by residents of Bassetlaw are civic space/non-green space (75%) and footpaths/cycle paths (75%). Only very small proportions have, in the last year, visited an allotment (9%) or a grassed area on a housing estate (7%). This is consistent with the findings from other local authority areas and reflects the user profile of these types of open spaces. However, it is unusual to record such low usage of visitors to grassed areas (7%); this could reflect a lack of provision or a lack of awareness of provision.

Only a small proportion (4%) of residents across Bassetlaw has not visited any open space in the previous 12 months.

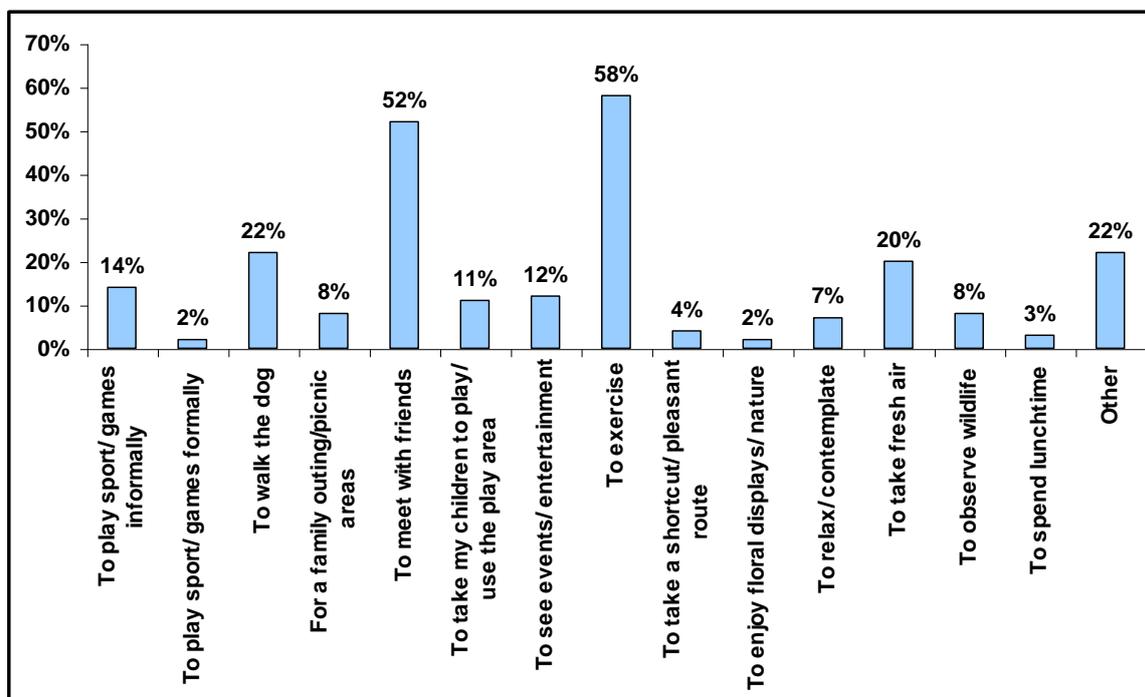
Figure 3.1: Types of open spaces visited in the previous 12 months



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The most popular reason for visiting open spaces in Bassetlaw is to exercise; well over half (58%) of users cite this. This also reflects that footpaths/cycle paths are one of the most popular types of open space. The role of open spaces in providing social interaction is also reflected in the results, with just over half (52%) using open spaces to meet with friends. Other popular reasons for having visited open spaces are to walk the dog (22%), to take fresh air (20%) and for other reasons (22%). All these indicate the value of open spaces as focal areas for local communities.

Figure 3.2 Reasons for usage of open space in the previous 12 months



Reasons given by the 22% of users who stated “other” as their reason for visiting open spaces included:

- ◀ Paying respects/tending to a graveyard.
- ◀ Shopping.
- ◀ Gardening.

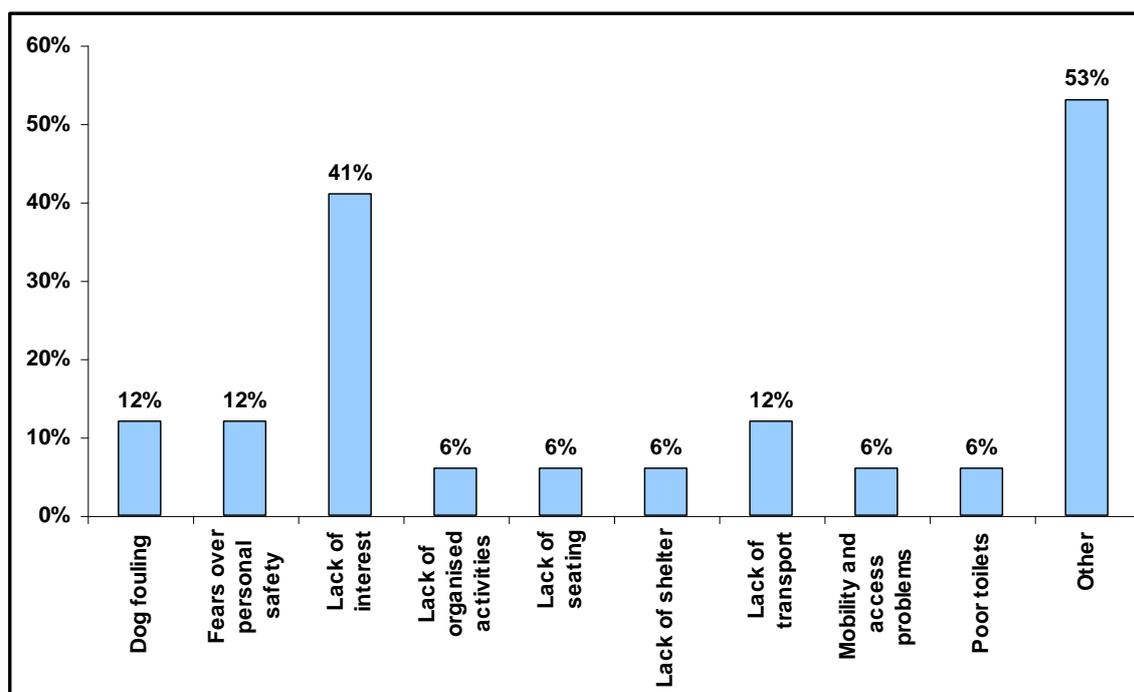
Residents from across Bassetlaw who had not visited any type of provision in the previous twelve months were asked why. The main reason given is lack of interest (41%). Other factors highlighted include lack of transport (12%), dog fouling (12%) and personal safety (12%). Just over half of respondents (53%) stated “other” as their reason for not visiting open space. Some reasons given by the 53% of users who stated “other” included:

- ◀ Being too busy.
- ◀ No reason given.

Responses indicate that the main action required to encourage greater usage of open spaces by current non-users is providing greater attractions and activities e.g. events, to enthuse residents to utilise the resources.

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Figure 3.3 Reasons for non-usage of open spaces



More than 70% of young people consulted at a forum for young people event feel unsafe using parks and open spaces in Bassetlaw. They attribute this to a number of reasons, including:

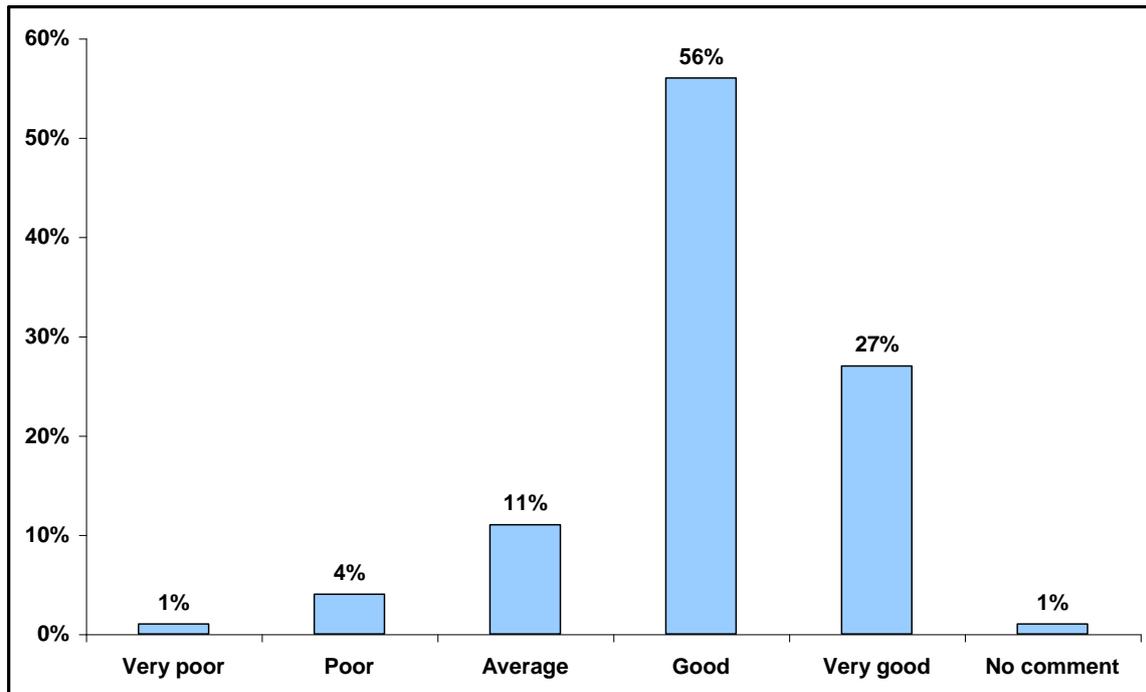
- ◀ Presence of older children is intimidating.
- ◀ Drug users.
- ◀ Perception of dangerous/"dodgy" area.
- ◀ Poor lighting, particularly at night.
- ◀ Vandalism.

Accessibility

The street survey shows that the majority of respondents (83%) rate the ease of travelling to open spaces in Bassetlaw as good/very good. Only a small proportion (1%) of respondents rates the ease of travelling to open spaces as very poor.

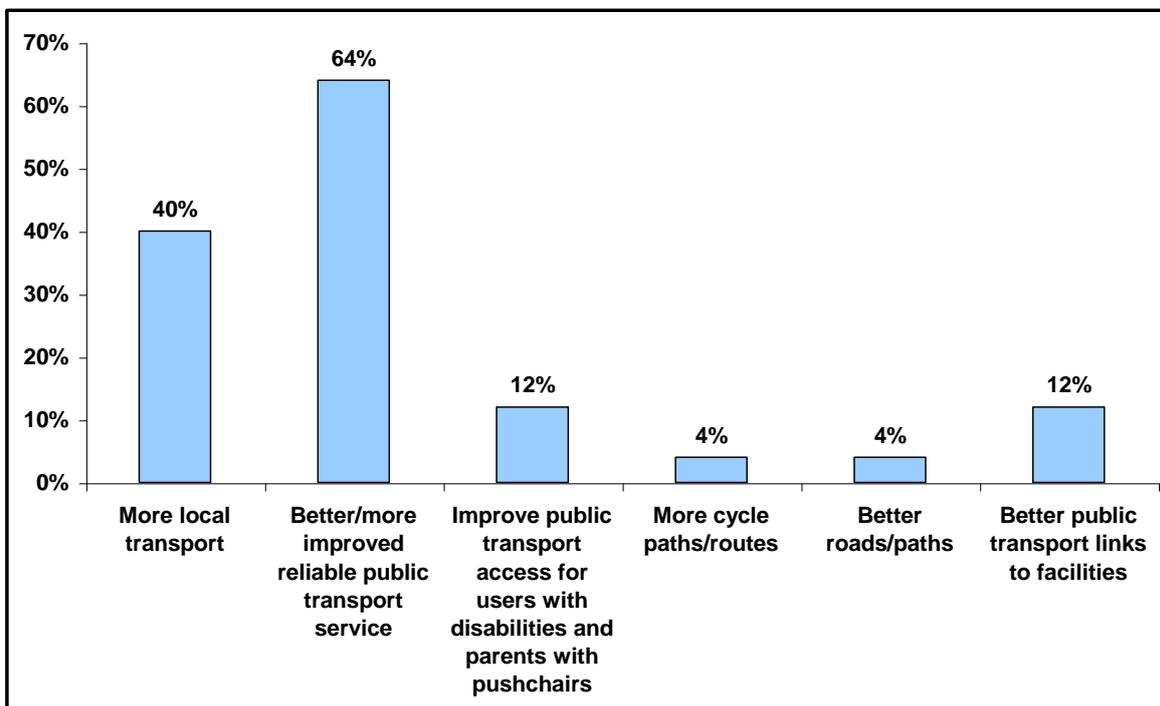
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Figure 3.4 Ease of travel to open spaces



Although over half of respondents rate accessibility to be good (56%), a significant proportion (64%) consider that travel to open spaces could be improved by providing “better/more” public transport; two out of five (40%) would like to see more local transport. The majority citing these improvements live in Worksop (81% and 60% respectively).

Figure 3.5 Transport improvements



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Consultation identifies a need to improve public transport services for rural communities to enable people to gain access to provision in the major service areas e.g. Worksop and Retford, as well as the major towns outside the district e.g. Doncaster and Sheffield. For example, residents stated that the rural bus services runs only three times a day and times are limited. For residents who wish to access sport and recreation provision, in particular children and young people, the early departure of the last bus inhibits access. There is demand for more affordable, regular transport to allow residents to access provision easily. This is particularly pertinent where there is a perceived lack of certain open space typologies in these areas.

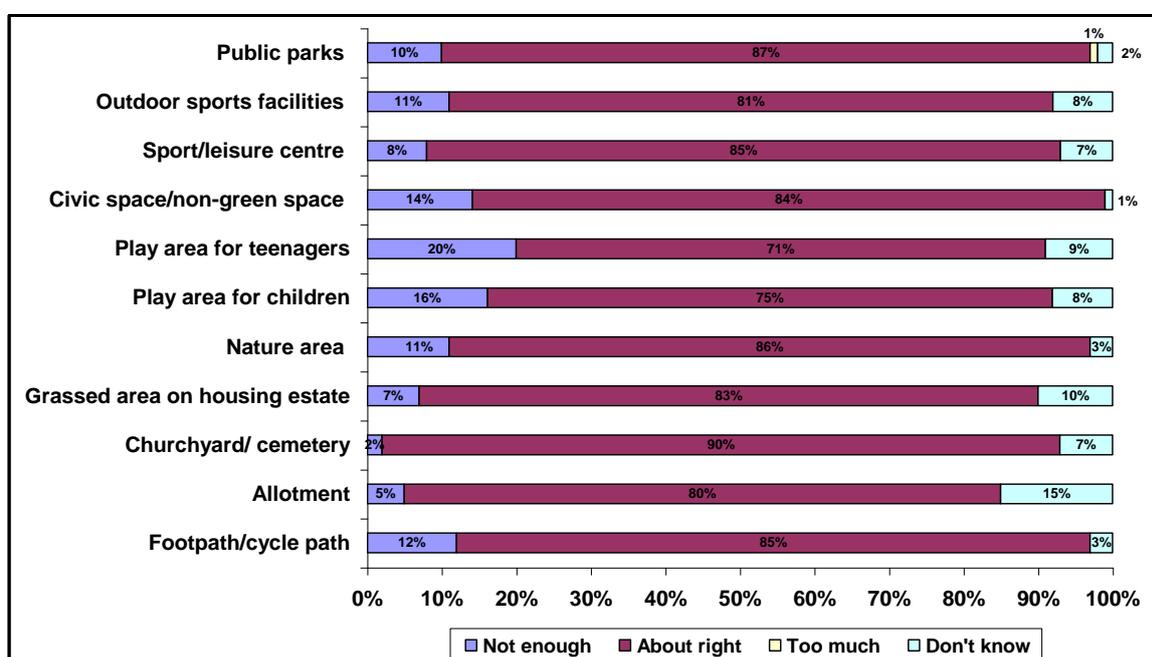
Poor public transport services, particularly between rural areas can impact on the usage of open spaces and sports facilities e.g. ticket cost, poor routes and timetables. There is a perception that young people, particularly in more rural areas, are disadvantaged by a lack of safe links and/or public transport. This has resulted in a recognised demand for a young person’s card for bus transport to tackle this.

Availability

Consultation identifies a perception amongst residents that Bassetlaw is well provided for in terms of open space. Particular reference was made to its rural nature offering access to the countryside. The countryside is a vital recreational resource as well as providing an identity and visual amenity to the built up areas of Bassetlaw. When rating availability of provision, nearly all (90%) respondents consider availability of churchyards/cemeteries to be “about right”, the highest of all the typologies. However, the vast majority of respondents consider the availability of provision of each typology to be “about right”.

The street survey also found provision for teenage play perceived to be lacking in Bassetlaw with one in five (20%) of respondents stating there is “not enough” at present. Slightly fewer respondents (16%) feel that play areas for children are also underprovided.

Figure 3.6 Availability of open spaces



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Parish councils suggest that residents of Bassetlaw believe in the need to preserve the development boundaries of settlements. Local residents appear to value the opportunities offered by open spaces and are keen to ensure that these spaces are protected. Some residents are aware of pressure for housing development and fear losing open spaces as a result.

Quality

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

Table 3.1: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Quality scores		
	Poor	Average	Good
Allotments	3	13	20
Amenity greenspace	22	25	63
Cemeteries	3	42	43
Civic spaces	1	3	4
Parks and Gardens	-	2	3
Provision for children & young people	4	24	38
Semi / Natural greenspaces	6	4	7
BASSETLAW	39	113	178

In terms of quality most open space sites (54%) are rated as being of a good quality. The majority of parks (60%) are rated as being of a good quality. This is closely followed by allotments (56%) and provision for children and young people (57%). Only 12% of all sites receive a poor quality score. Slightly more sites in the typologies of amenity greenspaces and natural/semi-natural greenspaces score poor; with 20% and 35% respectively.

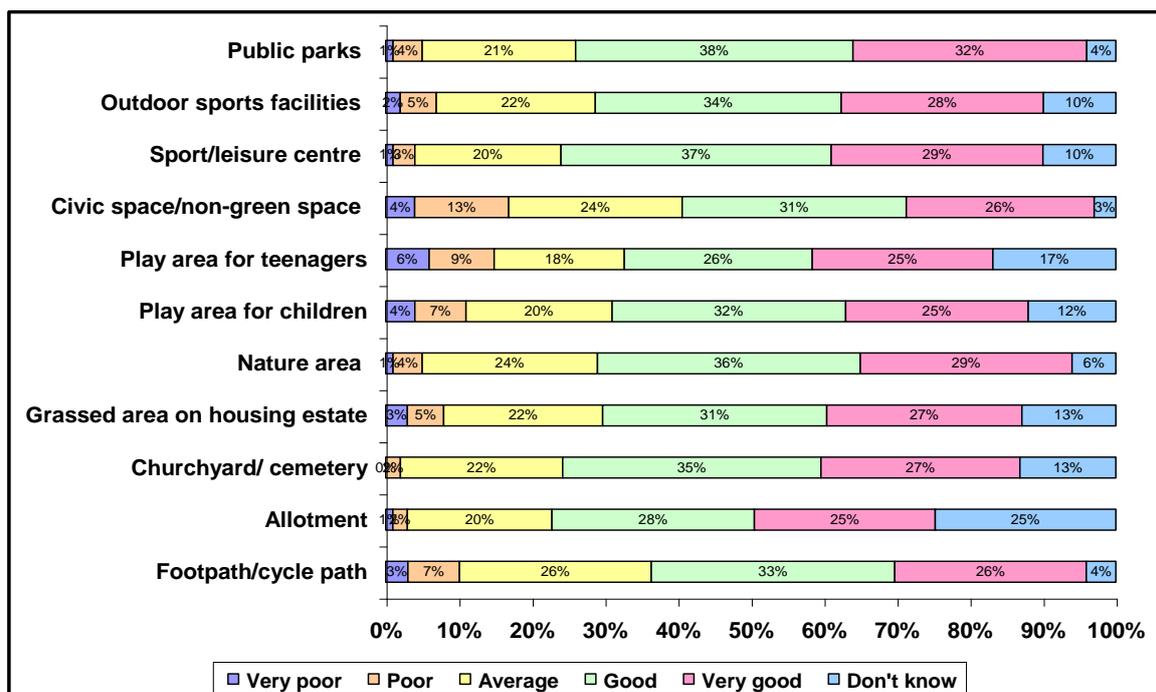
The street survey results show that parks and gardens (70%) and nature areas (65%) have the highest proportions of above average (good/very good) ratings of quality. However, civic space/non-green spaces are among the lowest rated type of open space; 17% of respondents consider the quality of this provision to be poor/very poor.

However, across the board, the majority of respondents consider the quality of provision of each typology to be good.

Both users and non-users of open spaces were asked to rate the quality of each type of open space. However, this resulted in a higher level of “don’t know” responses, particularly for allotments (25%) and play areas for teenagers (17%). Therefore, where possible users of these types of open space were consulted directly regarding the quality of provision. This is presented later in the report in the respective typology sections.

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Figure 3.7: Quality of provision of open space



Value

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

Table 3.2: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Value scores	
	Low	High
Allotments	10	26
Amenity greenspace	21	89
Cemeteries	13	75
Civic spaces	1	7
Parks and Gardens	-	5
Provision for children & young people	5	61
Semi / Natural greenspaces	4	13
BASSETLAW	54	276

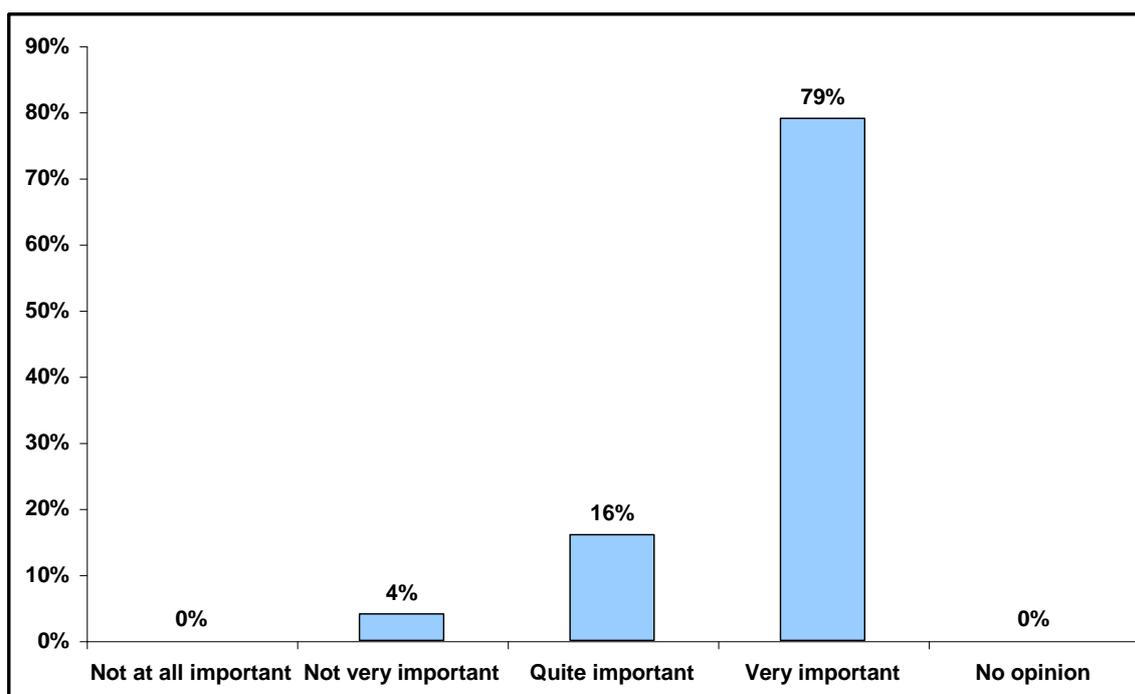
A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest for example play equipment, landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and are multi-functional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

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Consultation highlights that open spaces are a valuable resource for residents and visitors across Bassetlaw. The majority (84%) of sites are rated as high value. Only allotments (28%), amenity greenspace (19%) and natural/semi-natural (24%) have a notable proportion of low value sites, reflecting the importance placed upon open spaces in general.

Most street survey respondents (95%) view open spaces to be very or quite important. This highlights the high value placed on such provision by respondents, and the reasons for investment in open spaces by the Council and other providers. Only a small proportion of respondents (4%) viewed open space and sports recreation facilities to be not very important.

Figure 3.8: Importance of open spaces



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PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

Introduction

The typology of parks and gardens, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide 'accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.'

Key issues

Current provision

There are five sites classified as publicly accessible parks and gardens totalling almost 71 hectares. They are classified in the following ways to reflect their different characteristics:

Classification

- ◀ Local park - sites of 2 ha or less; smaller areas that attract almost all users from a particular area, normally located on the edge of housing estates and serving the immediate population.
- ◀ District park - sites between 2 and 20 ha; areas that attract a significant proportion of users from particular parts of the local area, designed principally for passive recreation, serving the recreational needs of the local population.
- ◀ Borough park - sites of principal significance to the local and wider community and urban landscape, with specialised areas. Attracting a diverse and large number of visitors from a wide area.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks and gardens

Settlement type	Local park		District park		Borough park		TOTAL provision	
	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)
Principle Urban Area	1	0.19	1	4.43	-	-	2	4.62
Core Service Centre	-	-	1	11.95	-	-	1	11.95
Main Regeneration Settlement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Service Centre	-	-	-	-	1	54.27	1	54.27
Rural Service Centre	1	0.08	-	-	-	-	1	0.08
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BASSETLAW	2	0.27	2	16.39	1	54.27	5	70.93

In addition to the above, there are a number of registered parks within Bassetlaw e.g. Clumber Park, Welbeck Abbey, Babworth Hall and Shireoaks Hall, which are not included within the audit due to the fact that access to them is restricted. However, it is important to recognise these provide an important recreational resource which impact upon perceptions with regard to other publicly accessible sites. For example, residents, due to the provision of such sites as Clumber Park, do not necessarily perceive the same gaps in provision that are identified through mapping.

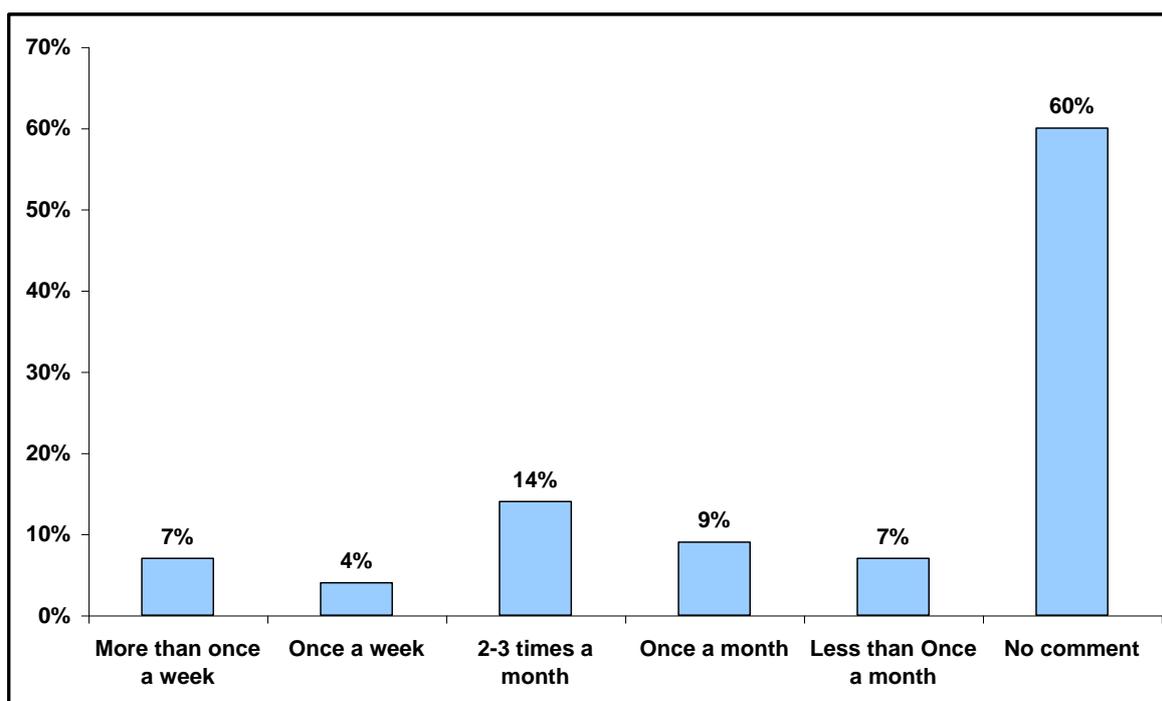
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Usage

Just over two out of five (41%) respondents have visited a public park in the last year. Usage is spread across Bassetlaw with respondents from the Worksop area (39%) and Retford (30%) visiting parks more than those from other areas. Of all users surveyed, the majority visit parks and gardens within Bassetlaw (34%), whilst only a small proportion (6%) visits parks and gardens both inside and outside of the area.

A large proportion of respondents (60%) provided no comment to this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage or very occasional use. Of those who do visit parks and gardens, a majority (14%) do so 2-3 times a month.

Figure 4.1: Frequency of usage of parks in the past 12 months



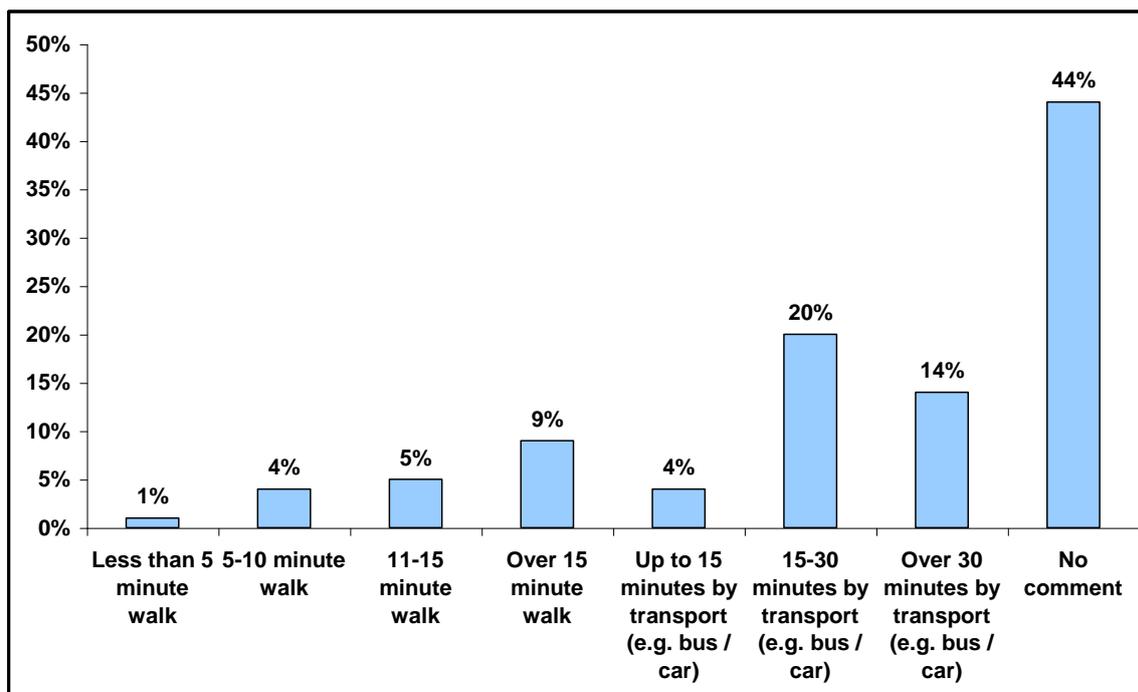
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Accessibility

In terms of travel time, nearly a half of all respondents (44%) do not comment on how far they would be willing to travel to a public park. One in five (20%) stated they would be willing to travel 15-30 minutes by transport, such as a car or bus. Only a small proportion (1%) would be willing to travel less than 5-minute walk.

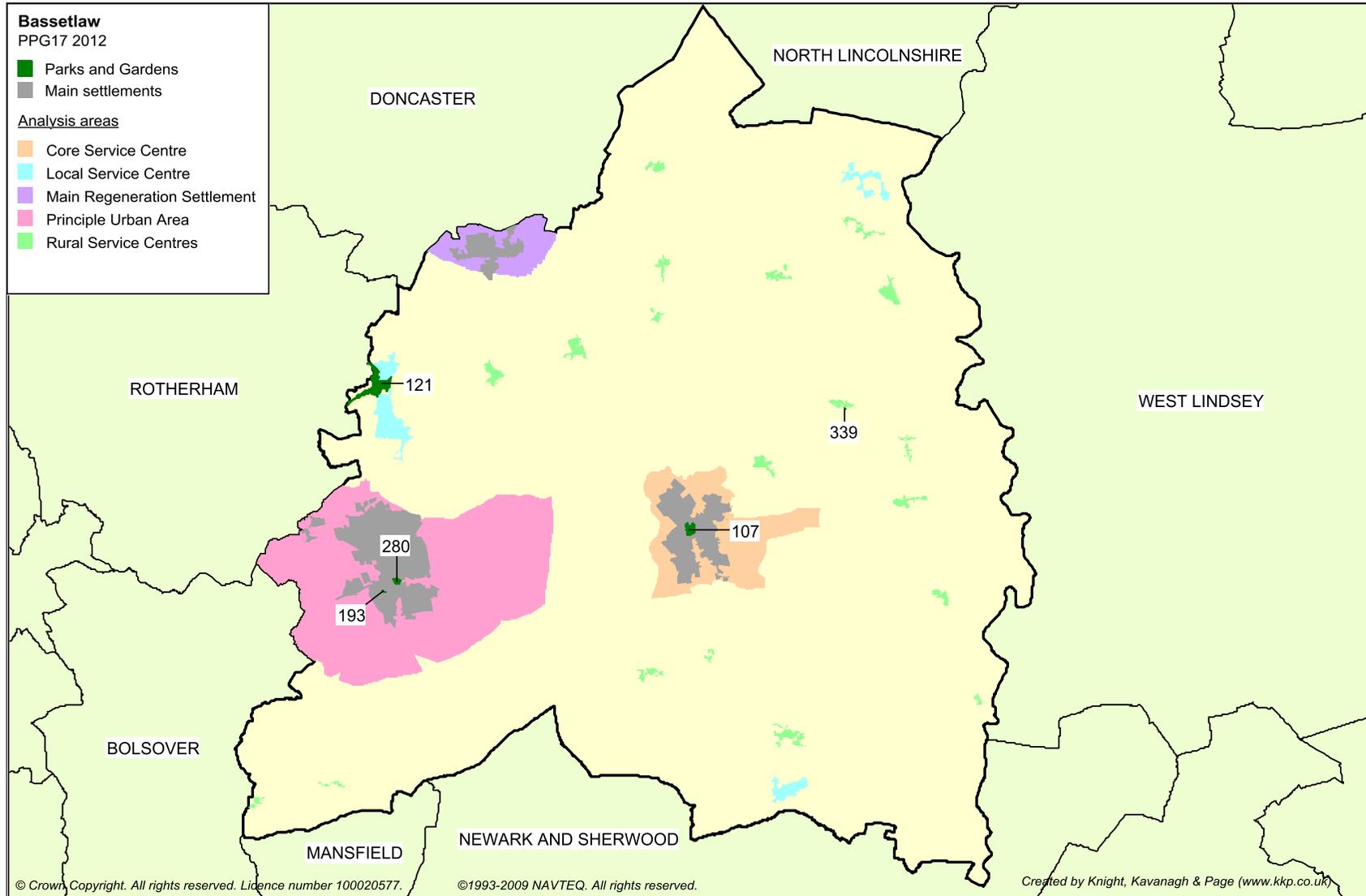
Almost half of respondents (44%) provided no comment to this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage and/or a lack of interest in accessing provision.

Figure 4.2: Time prepared to travel to access a park



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Figure 4.3: Parks mapped by settlement



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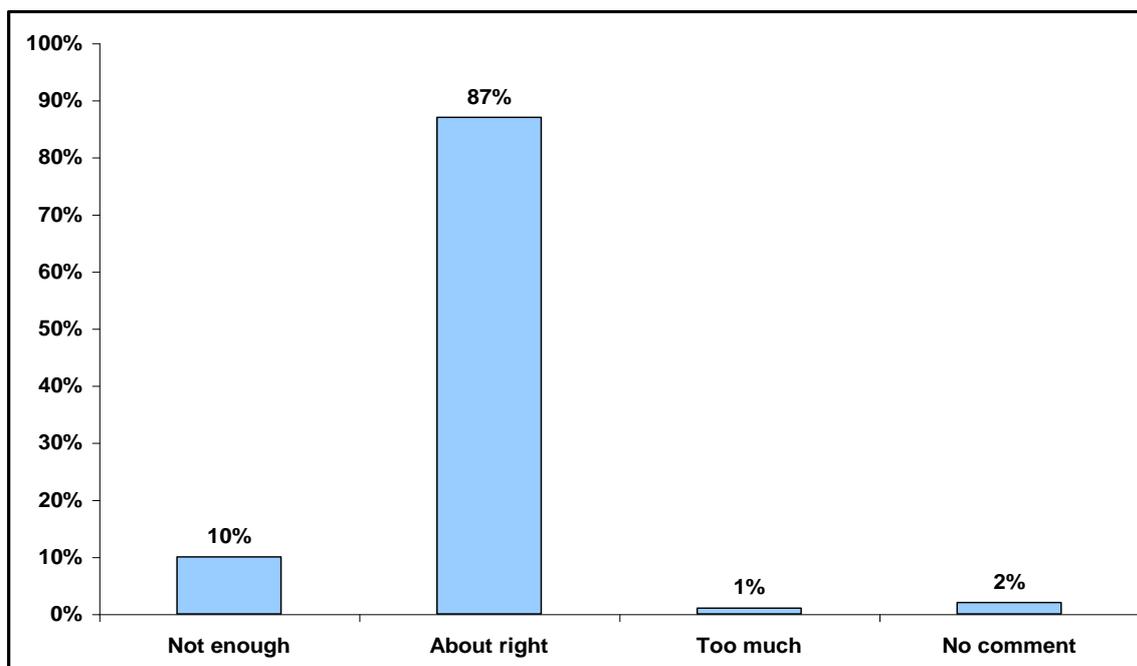
Key to sites mapped:

KKP Ref	Site	Sub-typology	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
107	Kings Park	District Park	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
121	Langold Country Park	Borough Park	Local Service Centres	Green	Green
193	Shipside Memorial/ Haslehurst Gardens	Local Park	Principle Urban Area	Yellow	Green
280	The Canch	Local Park	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
339	Sturton Road	District Park	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green

There is provision of at least one park and garden in the Principle Urban Area (Worksop) and Core Service Centre (Retford). Although provision is limited within settlements found in other settlement hierarchy classifications. With the exception of the Main Regeneration Settlement (Harworth), there are likely to be no settlements with significant populations to generate need for such provision.

The majority (87%) of respondents rate the availability of parks/gardens in Bassetlaw in terms of quantity as “about right”. A much smaller proportion (10%) consider there to be ‘not enough’. Nearly two thirds (67%) of respondents who stated the quantity of provision as ‘not enough’ were from Worksop. This is significantly higher than the proportion of respondents from Tuxford (19%) and Retford (13%). This indicates that there may be a lack of awareness of provision in Worksop or that access barriers prevent residents making use of available provision. Interestingly, over half (56%) of respondents from Worksop have not visited a park/garden in the last 12 months.

Figure 4.5: Availability of parks



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Management

The Parks and Open Spaces Unit within the Environment and Housing Services at BDC is responsible for the management and development of over 860 acres (or 348 ha) of amenity land throughout Bassetlaw. BDC grounds maintenance is all undertaken in-house and included within this are the three key parks:

- ◀ The Canch in Worksop
- ◀ Kings Park in Retford
- ◀ Langold Country Park

Guiding the strategic management and development of provision, a small number of sites have written management plans, including Kings Park (as part of its Green Flag application) and Langold Country Park. Preparing written management plans ensures that relevant policies and regimes (needed to be successful in achieving the Green Flag Award) are in place.

The BDC budget for ongoing maintenance has remained static over the last few years and it is becoming increasingly difficult to deliver the maintenance contract on the current budgets. This is exacerbated by a decreasing full time workforce that has resulted in the need to use agency staff. An apprentice scheme is in place, which is hoped will, in time, help to increase standards again.

In addition to BDC owned provision, there are a number of privately owned historic parks and gardens in Bassetlaw:

- ◀ Holbeck/Welbeck
- ◀ Clumber Park
- ◀ Babworth
- ◀ Shireoaks

Although these contribute to the overall amount of parks provision available to residents and visitors in the area, they all have restricted access. The National Trust site Clumber Park is the most available of the four sites, as it is only necessary to pay to park and therefore, local residents can access the park on foot without paying.

Green Flag

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

Bassetlaw (as of 2011/2012) has one Green Flag site; Kings Park in Retford. This has a good written management plan and high levels of community involvement. Other sites that could be considered in the future include the Canch and Langold Country Park, both considered to be flagship sites by residents. Greater community involvement is required at the Canch before entry to the award could be considered. However, Langold Country Park is in a good position as it has a management plan and an active 'friends of' group.

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Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks and gardens in Bassetlaw.

Table 4.2: Quality ratings for parks

Settlement type	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Principle Urban Area	-	1	1
Core Service Centre	-	-	1
Main Regeneration Settlement	-	-	-
Local Service Centre	-	-	1
Rural Service Centre	-	1	-
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-	-
BASSETLAW	-	2	3

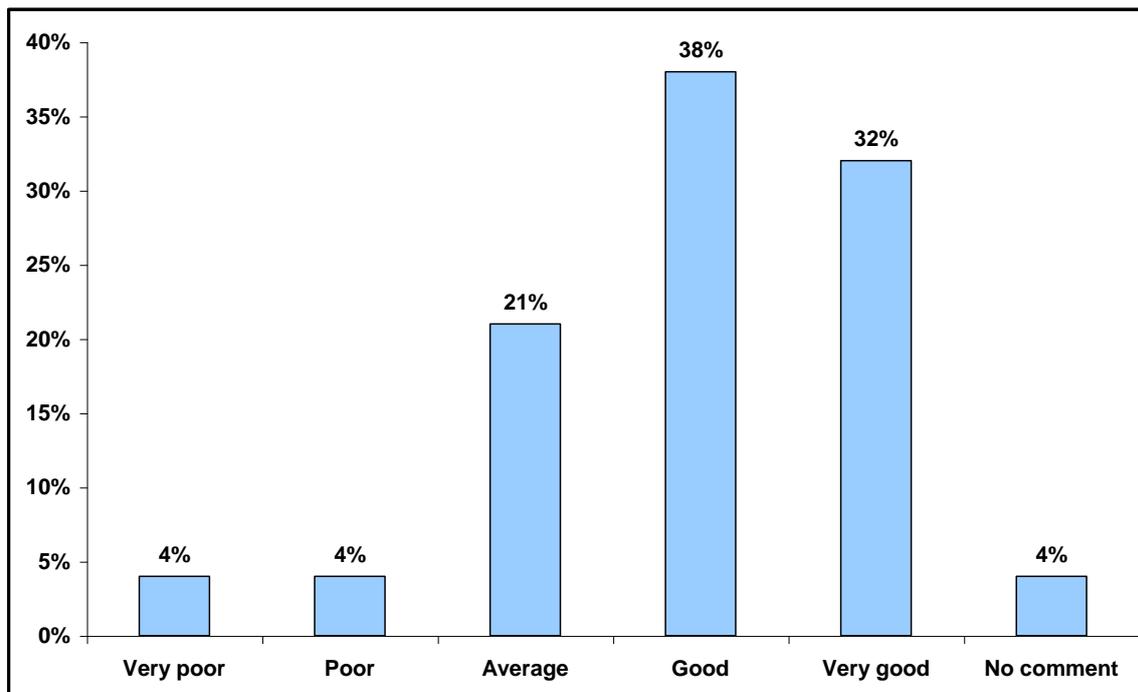
Although most sites were assessed as being good quality, the overall condition of Shippside Memorial and Sturton Road are considered to be average. Despite scoring high for quality Langold Country Park is noted as requiring some investment in order to improve elements such as landscaping and maintenance of ancillary facilities.

Illegal use of motorbikes and quad bikes in areas of Bassetlaw is a continuing issue even though there is a dedicated site in Harworth. The police have recently had a 'clamp down' on this issue, through the establishment of off-road motorcycle units to provide a rapid response to problems. Langold Country Park is a reported regular hotspot.

Over two thirds of all respondents (70%) rate the quality of parks/gardens across Bassetlaw as good/very good. However, a small number (8%) believe that provision is below average (poor/very poor) quality. Demonstrating a similar pattern to availability, over three quarters (77%) of respondents who stated that provision was poor were from Worskop, in comparison to 14% of respondents from Retford.

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Figure 4.6: Quality of provision of parks



Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks and gardens in Bassetlaw.

Table 4.3: Value scores for parks

Settlement type	Value rating	
	Low	High
Principle Urban Area	-	2
Core Service Centre	-	1
Main Regeneration Settlement	-	-
Local Service Centre	-	1
Rural Service Centre	-	1
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-
BASSETLAW	-	5

All parks and gardens are assessed as being of high value to users and the local community, recognising the high social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and amenity and sense of place. In particular, Kings Park scored the highest in terms of value.

Community involvement

There is currently high community involvement within two parks in Bassetlaw (Kings Park and Langold Country Park). BDC recognises the value of community engagement and ownership and aspires to encourage and support the formation of 'friends of' groups for the key sites; currently this is limited by available resources.

Summary

Parks and gardens summary

- ◀ There are five sites classified as publicly accessible parks and gardens totalling almost 71 hectares. In addition, there a number of registered parks within Bassetlaw (e.g. Clumber Park, Welbeck Abbey, Babworth Hall and Shireoaks Hall), which residents consider being important recreational resources even though access is restricted.
- ◀ The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access parks and gardens. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes. Therefore, KKP recommends that all residents in Bassetlaw are to be within 20 minute drive time of high quality provision.
- ◀ There is provision of at least one park and garden in the Principle Urban Area (Worksop) and Core Service Centre (Retford). Although provision is limited within settlements found in other settlement hierarchy classifications. With the exception of the Main Regeneration Settlement (Harworth) there are likely to be no settlements with significant populations to generate need for such provision.
- ◀ The majority (87%) of street survey respondents rate the availability of parks/gardens in Bassetlaw in terms of quantity as “about right”. A much smaller proportion (10%) consider there to be ‘not enough’, suggesting that new provision is not a priority.
- ◀ Bassetlaw currently (2011/2012) has one Green Flag site, Kings Park in Retford. Other sites that could be considered in the future include the Canch and Langold Country Park.
- ◀ Most sites are assessed as being good quality, although two sites (Shipside Memorial and Sturton Road) are considered to be average. The highest scoring site is Kings Park.
- ◀ All parks and gardens are assessed as being of high value to users and the local community, recognising the high social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and amenity and sense of place. This is further enhanced by good community involvement in parks across Bassetlaw, particularly Kings Park and Langold Country Park.

PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACES

Introduction

The typology of natural and semi natural greenspaces, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. downland, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), open running water, wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits). These provide ‘wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.’

Key issues

Current provision

There are 17 open spaces in Bassetlaw, totalling over 112 hectares, classified as natural and semi-natural greenspaces.

Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspaces

Settlement type	Natural/semi- natural greenspaces	
	Number	Size (ha)
Principle Urban Area	6	40.92
Core Service Centre	5	52.07
Main Regeneration Settlement	4	15.04
Local Service Centre	2	4.98
Rural Service Centre	-	-
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-
BASSETLAW	17	112.96

In addition to the above, there are a number of nature reserves and sites of special scientific interest (SSSI), including Eton Wood in Retford, Lady Lee Quarry in Rhodesia and Chainbridge Nature Reserve. Daneshill Lakes is currently designated as a local nature reserve (LNR). The promotion of access to sensitive sites such as the LNRs and SSSIs has to be managed in accordance with protecting the wildlife habitats.

Many natural/semi natural sites in Bassetlaw are developed from disused gravel workings and quarry sites. For example, Lady Lee Quarry is a disused flooded quarry, purchased from the British Coal Corporation in 1995, and Daneshill Lakes is an area of disused and flooded gravel pits covering 16 hectares. It is leased from Nottinghamshire County Council and is part of a Local Nature Reserve, which was established in 1985.

In partnership with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, BDC has designated three new local nature reserves at:

- ◀ Woodsetts Pond (9 hectares)
- ◀ Dyscarr Wood within Langold County Park (49 hectares)
- ◀ Retford Cemetery (10 hectares)

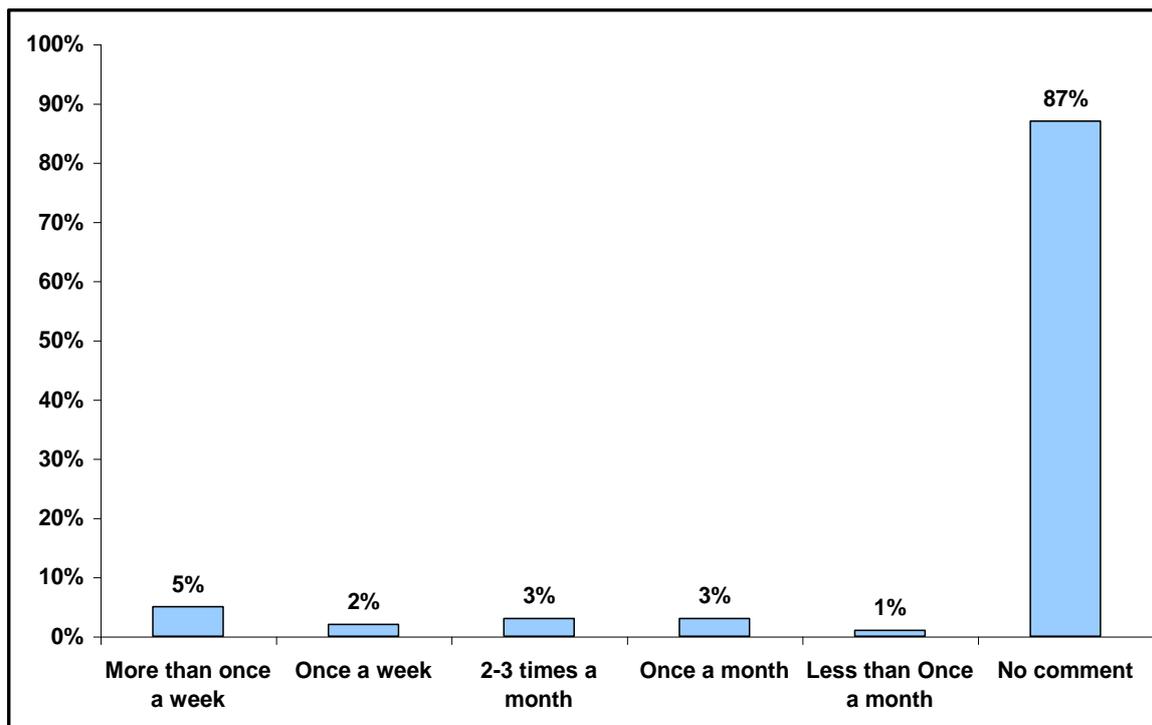
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Usage

Only a small proportion of respondents (14%) have visited a nature area in the previous twelve months. Usage is higher among respondents living in Worksop (39%) compared to those from Retford (30%), Tuxford and Harworth (10%) and other areas (11%).

The majority of respondents (87%) provided no comment to this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage or very occasional use. Only 5% access provision on a regular basis; once a week or more. It is likely that awareness of natural provision is low within Bassetlaw and could reflect the poor access to some sites which is identified later.

Figure 5.1: Frequency of usage of natural areas in the previous 12 months



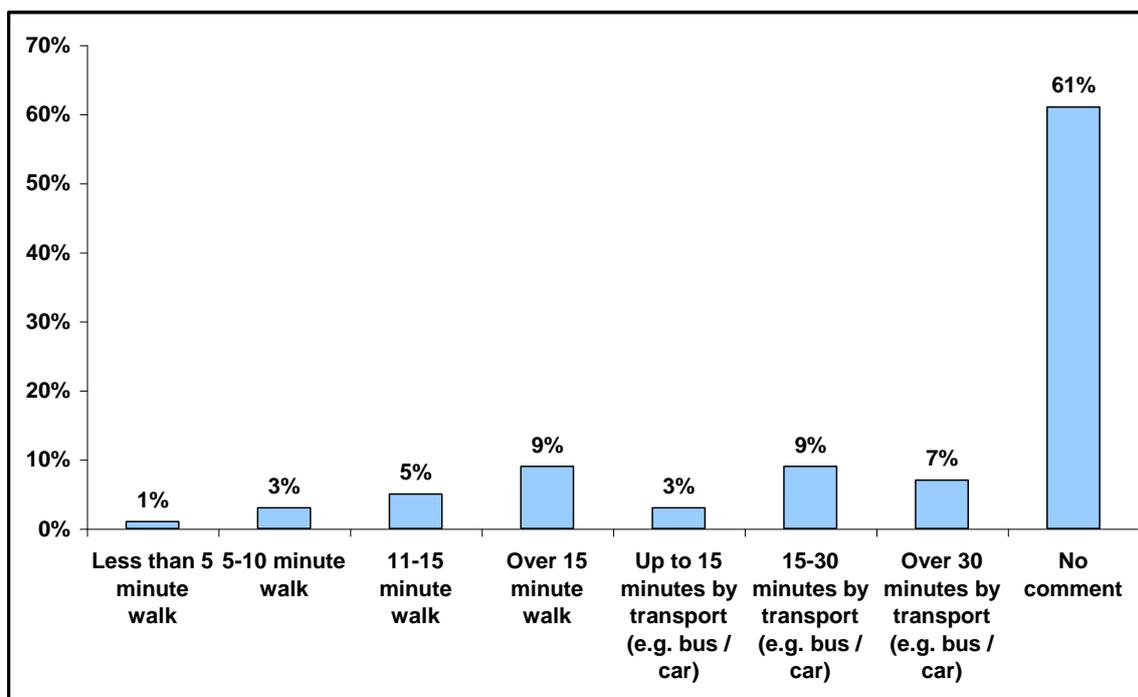
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Accessibility

Just over three fifths (61%) are unable to state how far they are willing to travel to access nature areas. There is no significant difference between how respondents will travel with 18% of all respondents willing to walk, whilst 19% will travel by other forms of transport to access provision.

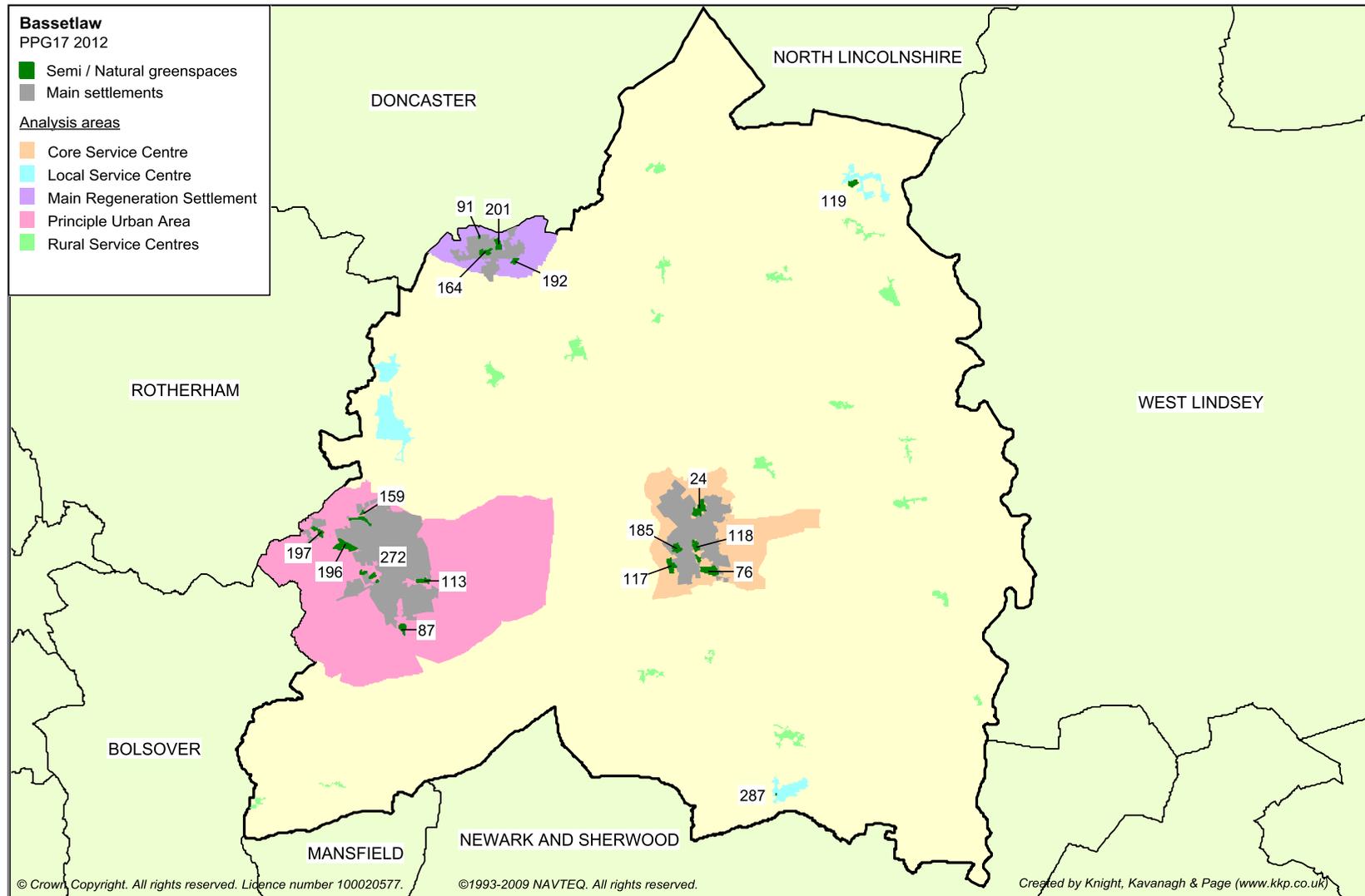
Almost three quarters of respondents (61%) provided no comment to this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage.

Figure 5.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a nature area



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Figure 5.3: Natural and semi-natural greenspaces mapped by settlement



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Key to sites mapped:

KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
24	Land off Bolham Lane	Core Service Centre	High	High
76	Land Off Goosemoor Lane	Core Service Centre	Low	Low
87	Hannah Park	Principle Urban Area	High	High
91	Hawkins Close	Main Regeneration Settlement	Low	Low
113	Land at and behind pumping station	Principle Urban Area	Medium	High
117	The Land Off the Oval	Core Service Centre	High	High
118	Land off Victoria Road	Core Service Centre	High	High
119	Ashdown Way	Local Service Centres	Medium	High
159	Old Gateford Road	Principle Urban Area	Medium	High
164	Piggeries	Main Regeneration Settlement	Low	Low
185	Sandhills, Jubilee Road	Core Service Centre	Medium	High
192	Scrooby Road	Main Regeneration Settlement	Low	High
196	Shireoaks Road	Principle Urban Area	Low	High
197	Shireoaks Road	Principle Urban Area	High	High
201	Snipe Park Wood	Main Regeneration Settlement	Low	Low
272	Stubbing Lane	Principle Urban Area	High	High
287	Old Lock Up	Local Service Centres	High	High

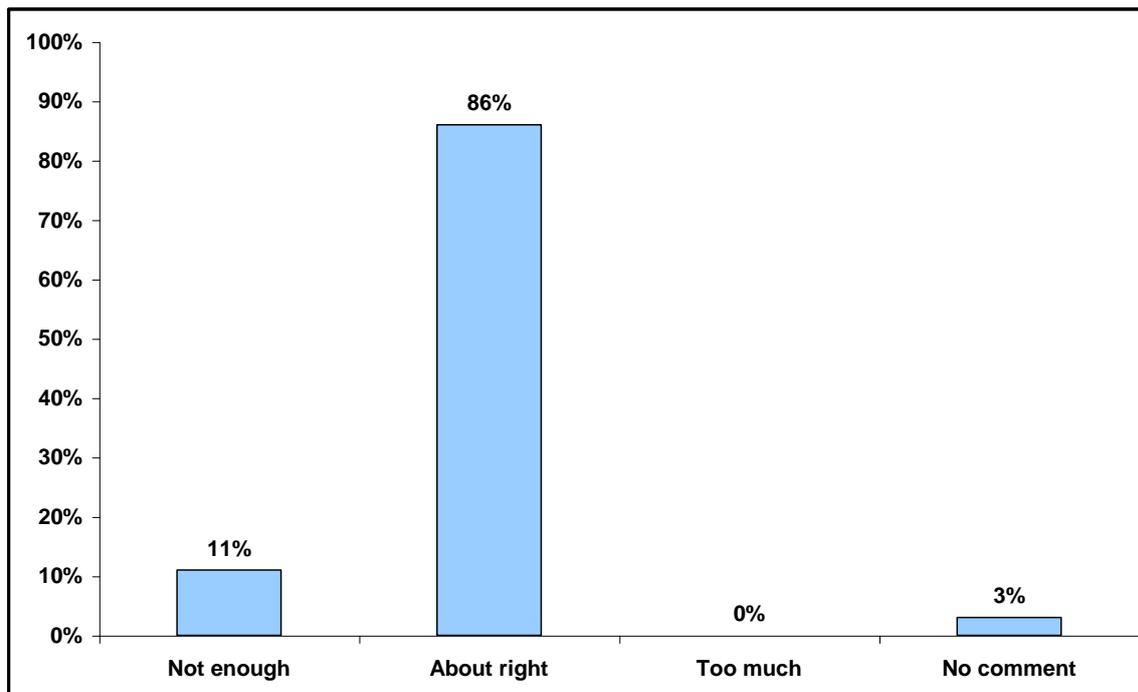
It is widely accepted that residents throughout Bassetlaw will travel a considerable distance to access natural greenspace sites. This is thought to reflect the relative proximity of regionally significant sites located just outside of Bassetlaw and associated to this typology such as Sherwood Forest.

The mapping shows a good distribution of natural/semi-natural greenspace provision in the Principle Urban Area (Worksop), Core Service Centre (Retford) and Main Regeneration Settlement (Harworth) with all areas of high population having access to provision of some kind. The rural nature of the area, with easy access to the countryside, impacts upon resident expectations in terms of natural greenspace availability. Although there is minimal provision in Tuxford, residents generally accept that they can access additional provision by either travelling to Retford or outside of the District in Newark and Sherwood.

Once again, the street survey reveals that opinion with regard to the level of provision considers it to be 'about right' (86%). Only a small number (11%) consider availability to be inadequate. One fifth (20%) of respondents living in Worksop think there is not enough provision of nature areas, in comparison to 18% in Tuxford and only 2% in Retford and other locations.

Only a small proportion (3%) is unable to rate the availability of nature areas. This suggests a good level of awareness among respondents with regard to provision.

Figure 5.5: Availability of natural and semi-natural greenspaces



Supporting the findings of the street survey and reflecting the mainly rural nature of much of the District, consultation highlights that residents are generally of the opinion that there is sufficient access to natural/semi-natural open space. The ‘countryside is on the doorstep’ and therefore perceived access to “naturalness” is considered to be excellent, particularly in the more rural settlements. However, it is important to ensure that residents within more urban settlements, e.g. Worksop and Retford, have sufficient opportunity to experience nature.

To increase opportunities for residents to experience nature, BDC recognises the value of introducing natural features to formal open space provision. As an example, the Council has developed natural features at Retford Cemetery and Langold Country Park to help meet deficiencies in local nature reserve provision.

Consultation highlights that the high level of access to natural/semi-natural sites is highly regarded by residents in terms of the recreational and natural play opportunities offered. In the more rural settlements there is less demand for equipped formal play provision and evidence that children utilise the countryside as a play resource e.g. den building. Although this does not eliminate the need to provide play areas for children in populated areas it is important to recognise the benefits offered by sites with natural elements.

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Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspaces in Bassetlaw.

Table 5.2: Quality ratings for natural and semi-natural greenspaces

Settlement type	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Principle Urban Area	1	2	3
Core Service Centre	1	1	3
Main Regeneration Settlement	4	-	-
Local Service Centre	-	1	1
Rural Service Centre	-	-	-
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-	-
BASSETLAW	6	4	7

Six sites are assessed by BDC as being in overall poor condition; the majority of these (four) are in the Main Regeneration Settlement (Harworth). This is generally due to a lack of ancillary facilities and site problems such as fire damage, motorbikes and broken glass.

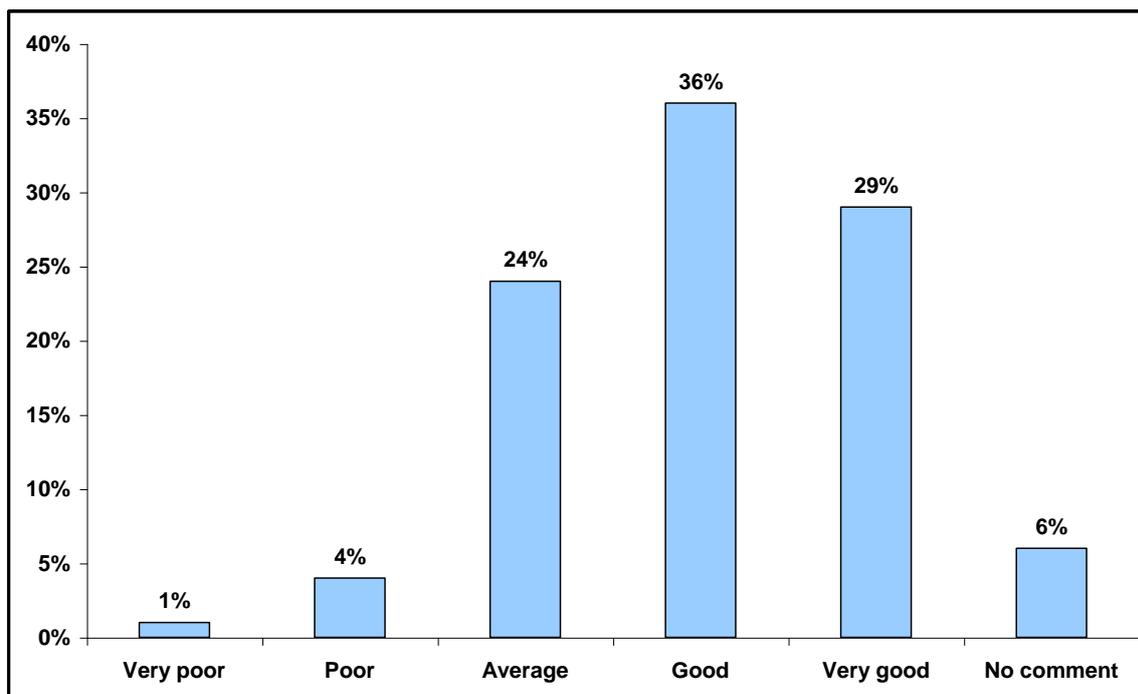
As noted within the site audits, fly tipping is an issue at open spaces across the District. Dyscarr Wood has previously suffered from this, probably due to the close proximity to housing on one side of its boundary, but this has now been cleared. Enforcement is difficult and BDC hopes that improving the quality of sites will help to reduce the likelihood of regular fly tipping.

The illegal use of motorbikes and quad bikes on natural areas is also a continuing issue even though there is a dedicated site in Harworth. As noted earlier, the police have recently sought to respond to this issue through the use of off-road motorcycle units to provide a fast response to reported problems.

Just over two thirds of all respondents (65%) rate the quality of nature areas as above average (good/very good). However, just under one quarter (24%) consider provision to be average. Only a small proportion (5%) considers nature areas in Bassetlaw to be of below average (poor/very poor) quality. A small number (6%) of respondents do not know how they rate the quality of nature areas.

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 5.6: Quality of nature areas



Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspaces in Bassetlaw.

Table 5.3: Value rating for natural and semi-natural greenspaces

Settlement type	Value rating	
	Low	High
Principle Urban Area	-	6
Core Service Centre	1	4
Main Regeneration Settlement	3	1
Local Service Centre	-	2
Rural Service Centre	-	-
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-
BASSETLAW	4	13

The sites scoring low for value is likely to be due to the number of site problems identified. Three of the four sites are noted as having issues with motorbike/quads. A total of four sites have more than one problem identified. However, all sites were recognised for their wildlife and ecological benefits.

As well as providing important nature conservation and biodiversity value, many sites, classified as natural/semi-natural open spaces are well used for recreational purposes and are a valuable open space resource for communities across Bassetlaw.

Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ In total, 17 open spaces in Bassetlaw, totalling just over 112 hectares, are classified as natural and semi-natural greenspaces.
- ◀ The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes. This is further reflected in the consultation with user groups which shows it is widely accepted that residents throughout Bassetlaw will travel a considerable distance to access natural greenspace sites. The rural nature of the area, with easy access to the countryside, impacts upon resident expectations in terms of natural greenspace availability. Therefore, KKP recommends that all residents are to be within 20 minute drive time of high quality provision.
- ◀ On this basis there are no gaps in the provision of natural greenspace in Bassetlaw. Although there is limited provision in Tuxford, residents generally appear to accept that they have to access provision by either travelling to Retford or outside of the District into Newark and Sherwood.
- ◀ Six sites are assessed by BDC as being in overall poor condition, with the majority of these being in Harworth. These are generally classified as such due to the number of site problems and lack of ancillary facilities. The illegal use of motorbikes and quad bikes on natural areas is also noted as an issue during consultation with users.
- ◀ Value of sites is generally high. However, four sites score low for value. This is likely to reflect the number of site problems identified on them. However, all sites were recognised for their wildlife and ecological benefits.

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PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

Introduction

The typology of amenity greenspace, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, defines sites as offering ‘opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas’. These include informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.’

Key issues

Current provision

There are 110 amenity greenspace sites, totalling over 114 hectares across the analysis areas in Bassetlaw. They are most often found in housing estates and function as informal recreation spaces or as open spaces along highways that provide a visual amenity.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace

Settlement type	Amenity greenspace	
	Number	Size (ha)
Principle Urban Area	48	79.07
Core Service Centre	13	10.18
Main Regeneration Settlement	7	5.39
Local Service Centre	13	6.60
Rural Service Centre	22	8.83
Outside of Hierarchy	7	3.98
BASSETLAW	110	114.05

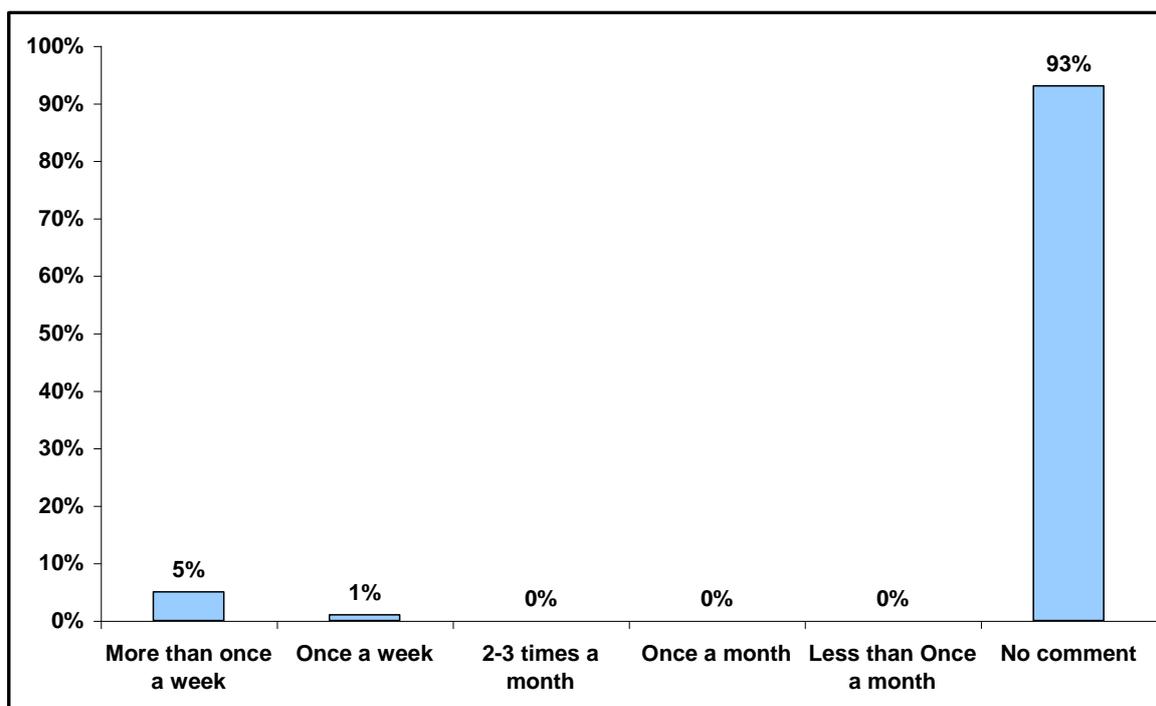
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Usage

The vast majority of respondents (93%) provided no comment to this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage or very occasional use. Reflecting the type of use we would expect for this type of provision i.e. dog walking, exercising or as a cut through, it is not uncommon, that of those that do use provision they do so frequently. It is worthy of note that the most responses to this question were generated from respondents living in Tuxford, suggesting that provision is better defined in these areas.

A small proportion of survey respondents (7%) have used a grassed area on a housing estate in the previous twelve months. The majority of those users are split between respondents from Worksop (39%) and Retford (30%).

Figure 6.1: Frequency of usage of grassed areas on housing estates

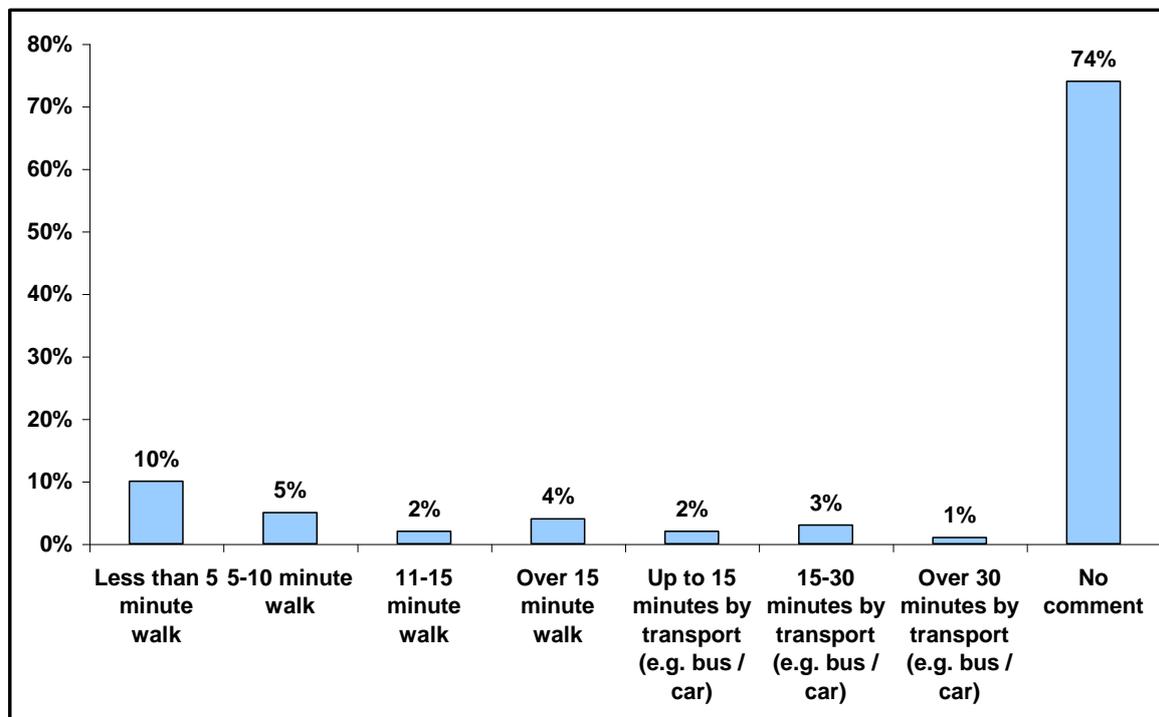


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Accessibility

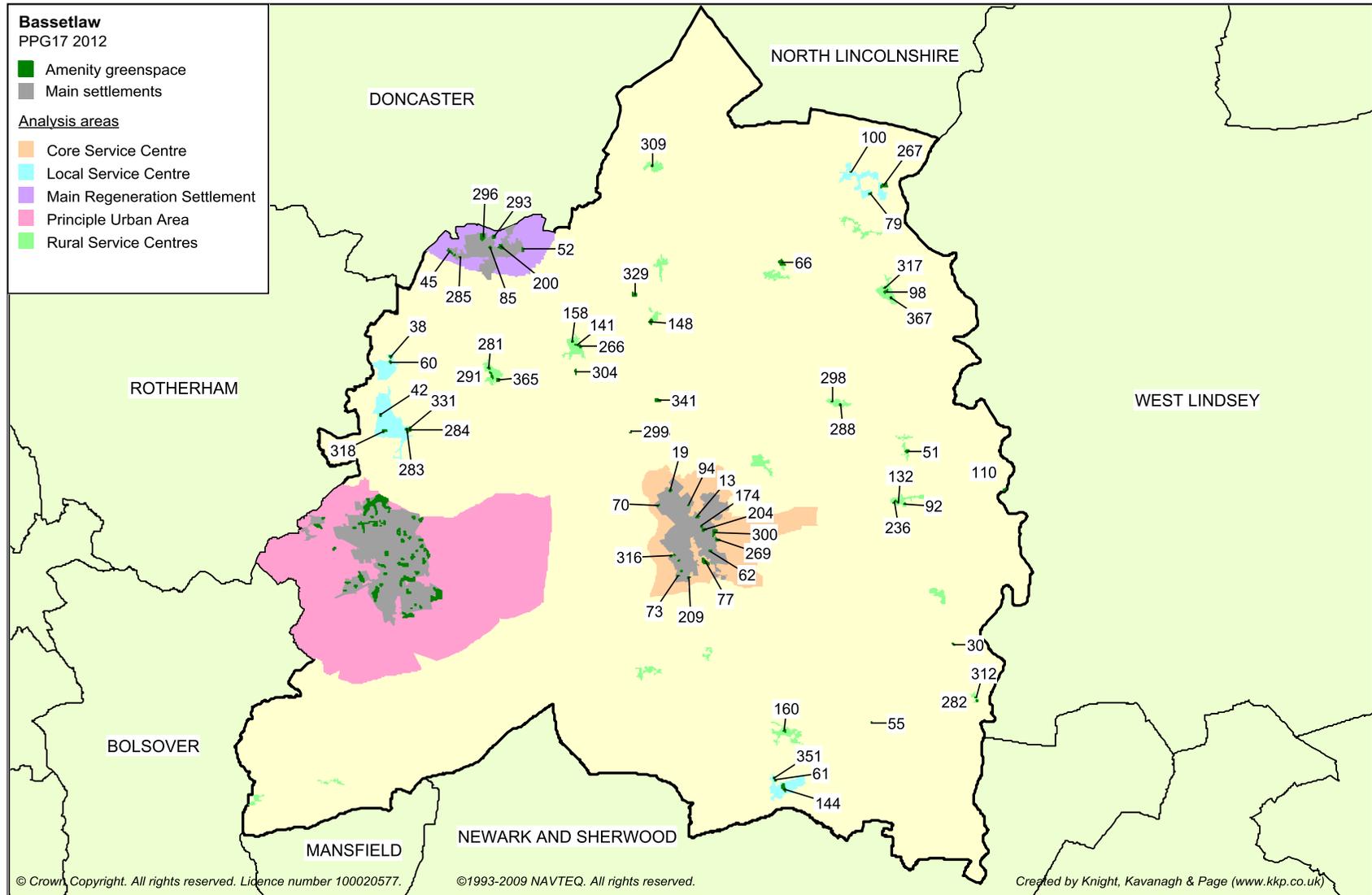
The majority of respondents (74%) provided no comment on how far they would be willing to travel to access grassed areas on housing estates and it is likely that this reflects non usage. However, 10% were willing to walk less than five minutes, whilst a further 5% would walk for just 5-10 minutes. This is not uncommon with provision of this nature, which is generally provided and accessed on a local basis.

Figure 6.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a grassed area on housing estates



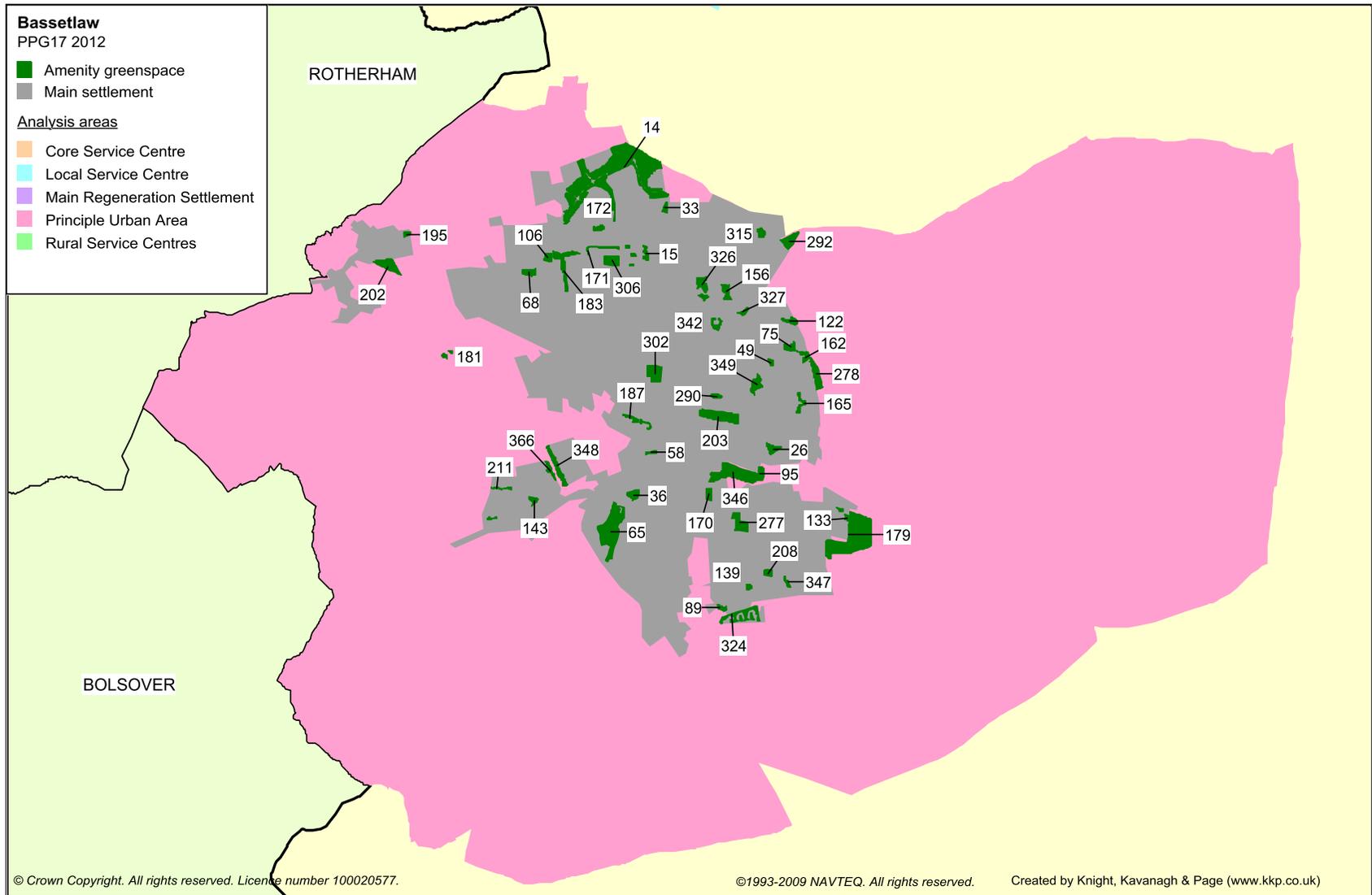
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Figure 6.3: Amenity greenspaces mapped by settlement



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Figure 6.4: Amenity greenspaces in Principle Urban Area (Worksop)



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Key to sites mapped:

KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
13	Amcott Way	Core Service Centre		
14	Gateford Common, Ashes Park Avenue	Principle Urban Area		
15	Raymoth Lane / Avon Way	Principle Urban Area		
19	Barnes Crourt	Core Service Centre		
26	Bracebridge Avenue	Principle Urban Area		
30	Broading Lane			
33	Carlton Road/Rydal Drive	Principle Urban Area		
36	Castle Hill, Norfolk St	Principle Urban Area		
38	Chestnut Road	Local Service Centres		
42	Cleveland Close	Local Service Centres		
45	Common Lane	Main Regeneration Settlement		
49	Plantation Hill, Cowper Close	Principle Urban Area		
51	Cross Street	Rural Service Centres		
52	Cumberland Close	Main Regeneration Settlement		
55	Darlton road	Outside of Hierarchy		
58	Dock Road	Principle Urban Area		
60	Dyscarr Close	Local Service Centres		
61	Eldon Green	Local Service Centres		
62	Grounds of Elms Hotel, London Road	Core Service Centre		
65	Farr Park, Westgate	Principle Urban Area		
66	Finkell Street	Rural Service Centres		
68	Fulmar Way	Principle Urban Area		
70	Galway Crescent	Core Service Centre		
73	Gleneagles Way	Core Service Centre		
75	Goldsmith Road	Principle Urban Area		
77	Goosemoor Lane	Core Service Centre		
79	Grange Avenue	Local Service Centres		
85	Grovsvenor Road	Main Regeneration Settlement		
89	Hannah Park View	Principle Urban Area		
92	Hawthorne Close	Rural Service Centres		
94	Heathfield Gardens	Core Service Centre		
95	Land off High Hoe Road	Principle Urban Area		
98	Land North of Beckingham Primary School Playing Fields	Rural Service Centres		
100	Land off High Street Opp war Memorial	Local Service Centres		
106	Blackbird Avenue	Principle Urban Area		
110	Littleborough road	Outside of Hierarchy		
122	Larwood Avenue	Principle Urban Area		
132	Manor Farm Rise	Rural Service Centres		
133	Manton Villas	Principle Urban Area		
139	Martlet Way	Principle Urban Area		
141	Mattersey Road	Rural Service Centres		
143	Meadow Lea	Principle Urban Area		
144	Memorial Hall	Local Service Centres		
148	Millenium Green	Rural Service Centres		
156	Northumbria Close	Principle Urban Area		

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KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
158	Oaks Close	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
160	Land off Old Hall Lane	Rural Service Centres	Red	Red
162	Osberton View	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
165	Plantation Hill	Principle Urban Area	Red	Red
168	Town Street	Outside of Hierarchy	Green	Green
170	Priory Church, Cheapside	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
171	Raymoth Lane / Buckingham Rise	Principle Urban Area	Yellow	Red
172	Raymoth Lane / Roundhouse Crescent	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
174	Land behind the Museum, Grove Street	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
179	Land off Retford Road	Principle Urban Area	Red	Green
181	Royds Crescent	Principle Urban Area	Red	Green
183	Sanderling Road	Principle Urban Area	Red	Green
187	Sandy Lane	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
195	Shireoaks Common	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
200	Snipe Park	Main Regeneration Settlement	Green	Green
202	South of Pembroke Road	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
203	South Parade	Principle Urban Area	Yellow	Green
204	Spa Common	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
208	Spur Crescent	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
209	Land off st Andrews Way	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Green
211	St Annes Drive	Principle Urban Area	Red	Green
236	Blacksmiths Playing Fields	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
266	Station Avenue	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
267	Fox Covert	Local Service Centres	Green	Green
269	Strawberry Road	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
277	Talbot Road, Radford Street	Principle Urban Area	Red	Green
278	Thackery Close	Principle Urban Area	Yellow	Green
281	The Church Green	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
282	The Green	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Red
283	The Green	Local Service Centres	Yellow	Red
284	The Green	Local Service Centres	Red	Green
285	The Green	Main Regeneration Settlement	Green	Red
288	The Old Mill Farm	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
290	The Oval	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
291	High Street	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
292	Thievesdale Lane	Principle Urban Area	Yellow	Green
293	Thoresby Close	Main Regeneration Settlement	Red	Green
296	Tommy Simpson Recreation ground, Land off Bawtry Road	Main Regeneration Settlement	Green	Green
298	Top Street	Rural Service Centres	Red	Green
299	Town Street	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
300	Trent Street	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Green
302	Turner Road	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
304	Underwood Avenue	Outside of Hierarchy	Green	Green
306	Valley Road	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
309	Village Green	Rural Service Centres	Green	Red
312	The Green, War Memorial	Rural Service Centres	Red	Red
315	Wensleydale Opp, Colsterdale	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green

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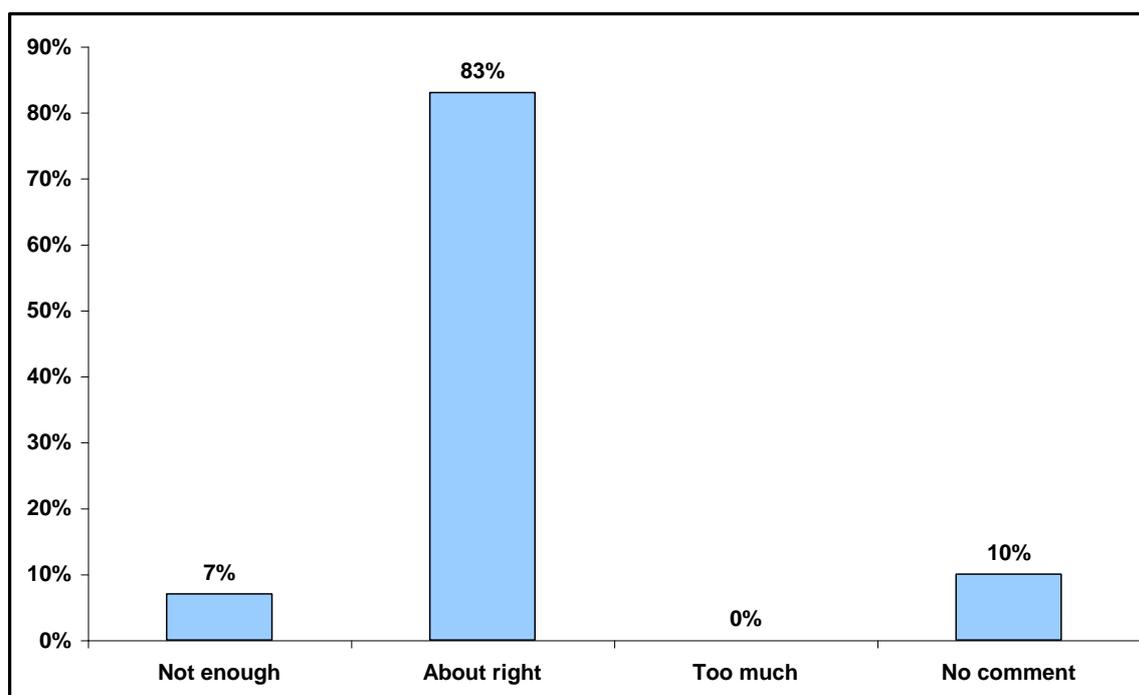
KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
316	Off West Hill Road	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
317	Land West of Rectory Gardens	Rural Service Centres	Red	Red
318	Land West of Village Hall	Local Service Centres	Green	Green
324	Windmill Lane	Principle Urban Area	Yellow	Green
326	Wingfield Avenue	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
327	Wingfield Avenue/Blyth Road	Principle Urban Area	Yellow	Red
329	Winston Green	Outside of Hierarchy	Red	Red
331	Woodhouse Lane	Local Service Centres	Green	Red
341	Daneshill Road	Outside of Hierarchy	Green	Green
342	Greenacre Training Centre	Principle Urban Area	Yellow	Red
346	Bracebridge	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
347	Kingston Road	Principle Urban Area	Yellow	Green
348	Beaumont Rise	Principle Urban Area	Green	Red
349	Kennedy Court/Keats Crescent	Principle Urban Area	Red	Red
351	Burleigh Court	Local Service Centres	Green	Green
365	Land behind Primary School, Blyth	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
366	St Annes Mews, Worksop	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
367	The Spinney	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green

Mapping shows that generally, settlements in the Core Service Centre, Main Regeneration Settlement and Local Service Centres contain amenity greenspace. Some gaps in provision are observed for the Principle Urban Area (Worksop). A number of settlements in the Rural Service Centre classification do not have access to provision.

On the whole it appears that respondents are happy with the provision of grassed areas with over four fifths (83%) rating availability as “about right”. Only a small proportion (7%) do not consider there to be enough provision across Bassetlaw. Of those who believe that there is “not enough” green space in housing estates, 84% are from Worksop and only 8% from both Retford and Tuxford.

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Figure 6.5: Availability of grassed area on housing estate



Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspace in Bassetlaw.

Table 6.2: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces

Settlement type	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Principle Urban Area	8	11	29
Core Service Centre	-	7	6
Main Regeneration Settlement	4	-	3
Local Service Centre	2	4	7
Rural Service Centre	6	2	14
Rural Other	2	1	4
BASSETLAW	22	25	63

In terms of quality most amenity greenspaces (57%) in the BDC audit are rated good. No significant problems or issues were raised with regard to the general quality of provision. However, broken glass is noted as being present on a number of sites in the Worksop area.

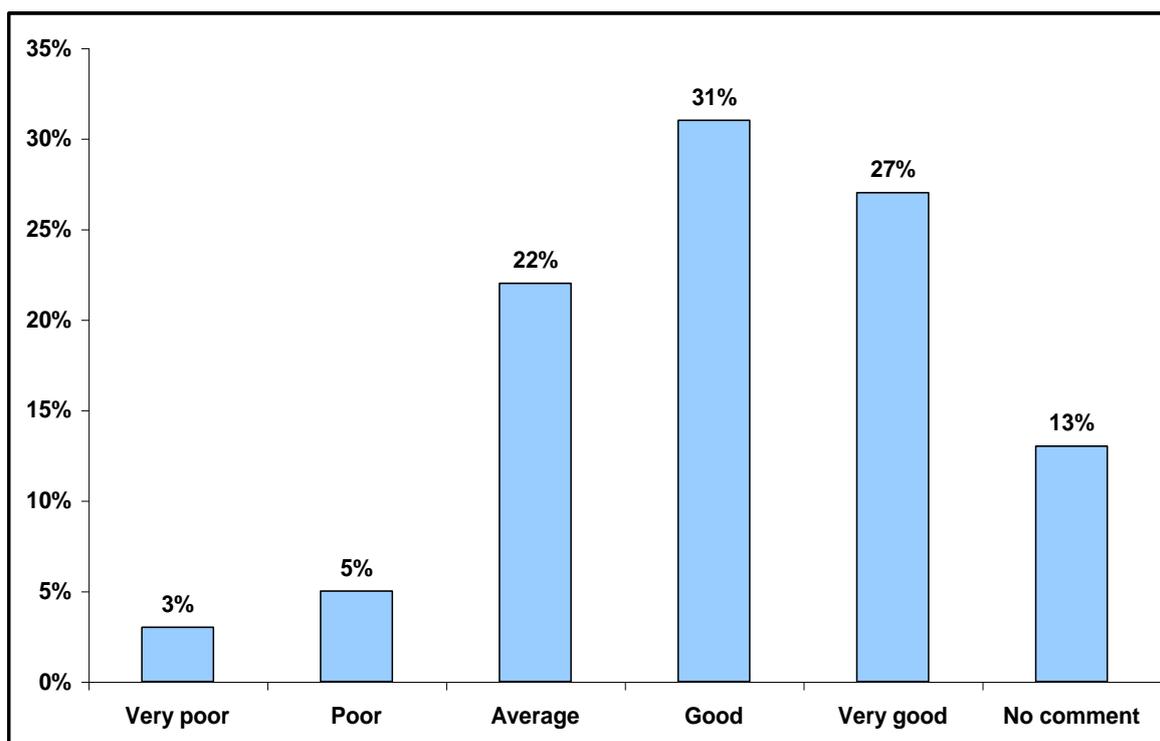
A significant proportion of the amenity greenspace in the District is composed of grassed areas and verges adjacent to housing or lining roads leading into settlements. Consultation identifies that residents consider this type of open space provision to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of the areas. Community groups highlight that

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good quality amenity greenspaces are well-used, valuable assets, providing social focal points for the community.

The street survey found that 58% of all respondents rate the quality of grassed areas on a housing estate as above average (good/very good) and just over one fifth (22%) rate them as average. Only 8% of respondents' believes them to be of below average quality (5% poor, 3% very poor). Notably, no respondents from Harworth rate the quality of grassed areas on housing estates to be poor or very poor. Over half (60%) of respondents from Harworth consider quality of provision to be good with the remainder rating it very good (36%) and average (4%). As is not uncommon within this survey, the vast majority (93%) of respondents who cited grassed areas as being very poor were from Worksop.

Figure 6.6: Quality of grassed area on housing estates



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Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for amenity greenspaces in Bassetlaw.

Table 6.3: Value ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Settlement type	Value ratings	
	Poor	Good
Principle Urban Area	6	42
Core Service Centre	1	12
Main Regeneration Settlement	4	3
Local Service Centre	2	11
Rural Service Centre	6	16
Rural Other	2	5
BASSETLAW	21	89

As stated earlier, a significant proportion of the amenity greenspace in the District is composed of grass verges adjacent to housing. Playing fields and recreation grounds also form an intrinsic aspect of the supply. Consultation identifies that residents consider this type of open space provision to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of housing estates and residential areas. Site assessments also recognise this with the majority (81%) scoring highly. Supporting this, a large proportion of sites assessed score for social inclusion and health benefits, particularly due to the play opportunities offered.

Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 110 amenity greenspace sites, totalling over 114 hectares across Bassetlaw. Provision is most often found in housing estates and function as informal recreation spaces or as open spaces along highways that provide a visual amenity.
- ◀ The majority of users would accept up to a 5 minute walk to access provision. However, a reasonable proportion would also accept up to 10 minute walk. Therefore, KKP recommends that all residents are to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision.
- ◀ Mapping shows that generally, settlements in the Core Service Centre, Main Regeneration Settlement and Local Service Centres contain amenity greenspace. Some gaps in provision are observed for the Principle Urban Area (Worksop). A number of settlements in the Rural Service Centre classification do not have access to provision. However, on the whole it appears that respondents are happy with the provision of grassed areas with over four fifths (83%) rating availability as “about right”.
- ◀ In terms of quality most amenity greenspace (57%) within the BDC audit are rated as good. No significant issues regarding quality are noted however broken glass is identified as being present on a number of sites in the Worksop area.
- ◀ Consultation identifies that residents consider this type of open space provision to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of housing estates and residential areas. Site assessments also recognise this with the majority (81%) scoring highly.

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PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Introduction

The typology of provision for children and young people, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes ‘areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.’

Key issues

Current provision

A total of 66 sites in Bassetlaw are classified as provision for children and young people, providing just over 15 hectares. The table below shows the distribution of play areas in Bassetlaw by settlement hierarchy. This, along with the mapping illustrates a high level of provision for the Rural Service Centre classification.

Table 7.1: Distribution of play areas

Settlement type	Children’s play areas	
	Number	Size (ha)
Principle Urban Area	13	5.20
Core Service Centre	9	2.41
Main Regeneration Settlement	2	0.29
Local Service Centre	13	2.60
Rural Service Centre	15	2.55
Rural Other	14	1.99
BASSETLAW	66	15.04

Play areas are classified in the following ways utilising Fields In Trust (FIT) guidance to identify their effective catchment (how far residents are willing, on average, to travel to access the different types).

- ◀ A local area for play (LAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.01 hectares and contain more than or equal to one piece of play equipment.
- ◀ A local equipped for play (LEAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.04 hectares and contain more than or equal to five pieces of play equipment.
- ◀ A neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.1 hectares and contain more than or equal to eight pieces of play equipment. This area may contain MUGA, skateparks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and is often included within large park sites.
- ◀ A settlement equipped play area (SEAP) caters for all ages and contains more than or equal to ten pieces of play equipment. This is likely to include multi-use games areas (MUGAs), skateparks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and is often included within large park sites.
- ◀ Skateboard/basketball/teenage shelter. This includes areas providing only provision for young people.

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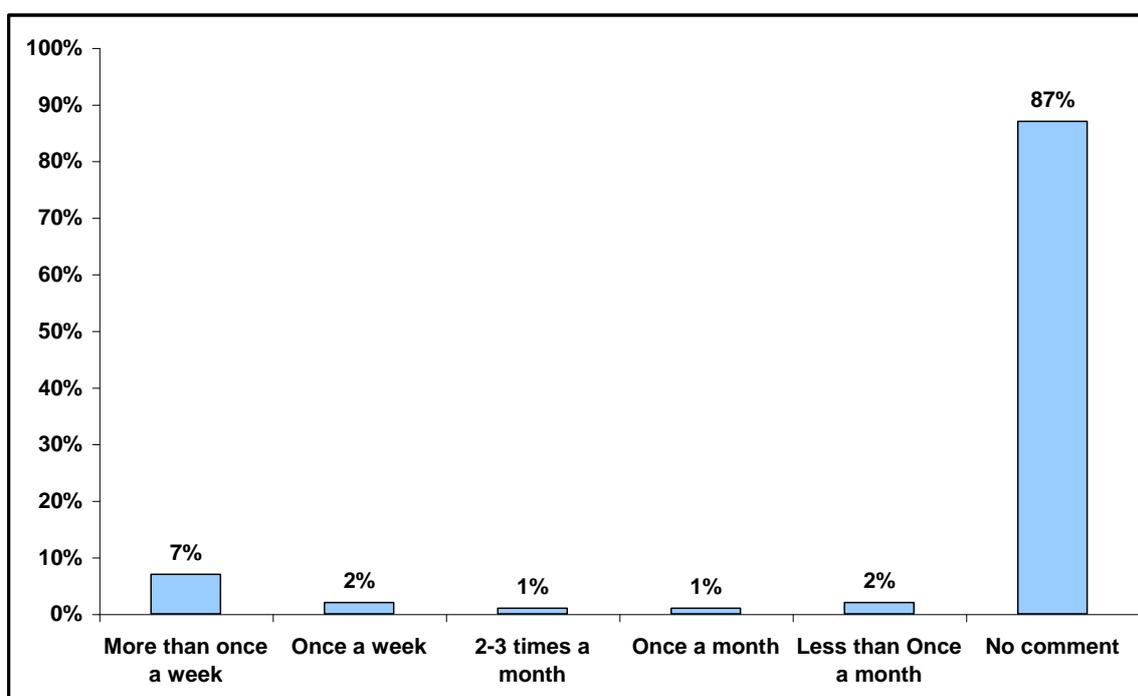
Of play provision in Bassetlaw, a total of 16 are classified as LAP, 13 as NEAP and a further 13 as LEAP. The majority of BDC sites are unclassified, meaning they do not meet either the NEAP or LEAP standard for one reason or another.

Usage

Just over one tenth of all respondents (13%) have visited a play area for children (PAC) in Bassetlaw in the previous 12 months. Of those that have visited PACs, 7% do so once a week or more.

The majority of respondents (87%) do not provide a comment. This is not uncommon, particularly when you consider that of these, 96% have no children aged 0-4, 92% have no children aged 5-9 and 92% have no children aged 10-15.

Figure 7.1: Frequency of usage of play areas for children in the last 12 months



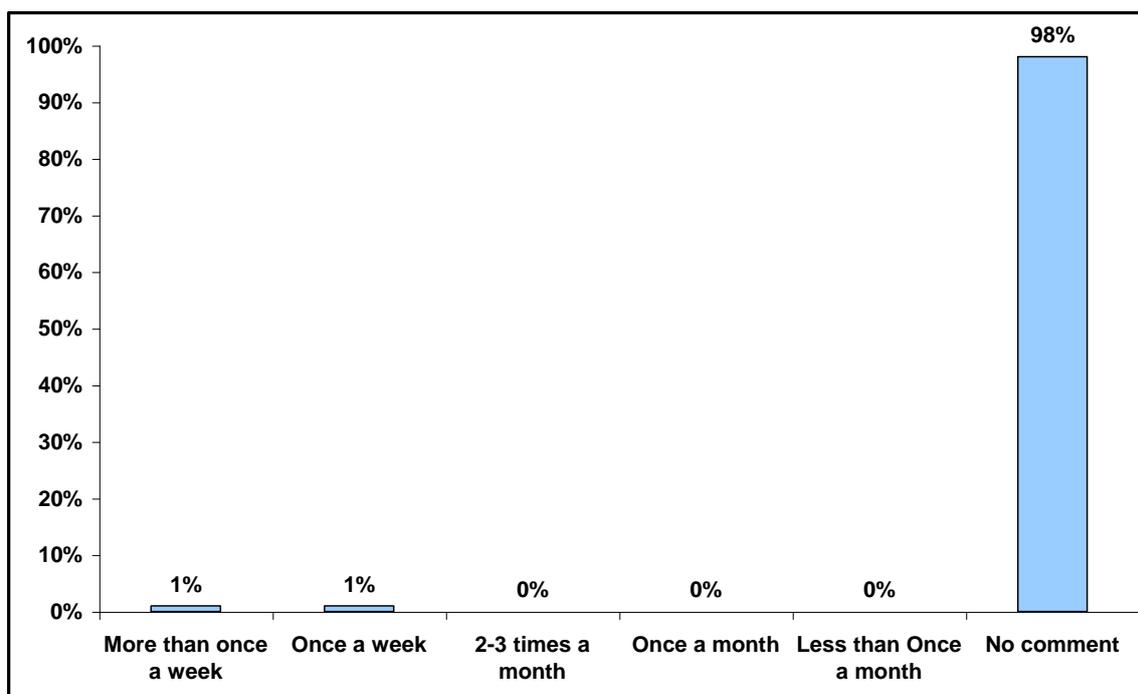
The usage figure is even lower when considering provision for teenagers (PFT) dropping to just 3%. However, it should be noted that the survey is conducted with people aged 16+ and it is, therefore, not surprising that the level of usage is comparably lower as teenagers tend to access such provision without adult supervision.

Only 11 respondents indicate that they visit PFTs; the results shown below (in percentage terms) showing usage and frequency should, thus, be treated with some caution.

Again, the vast majority of respondents (98%) do not provide a comment. This is not uncommon, particularly when you consider that of these, 93% have no children at home 16+ and 91% had no children aged 10-15

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Figure 7.2: Frequency of usage of teenage play areas in the previous 12 months



Accessibility

BDC provides play areas from toddler through to U14 age groups. There has traditionally been a gap in the provision of play areas for U14 – U18. However, this has been filled via provision of MUGAs across the District. BDC also provides three skate parks at The Canch, Kings Park and Langold County Park, which are seen to meet demand for youth provision. This is further reflected in the street survey results which show that 75% of respondents rate provision of teenage play to be about right.

Bassetlaw Play Strategy investigates ‘barriers to play’ which in Bassetlaw often includes, fear for safety from traffic and bullying. Parents believe these often prevent children from accessing a park or meeting point unless accompanied by an adult. This dependence on adult availability and inclination, results in children not accessing provision as often as they would like.

Consultation also reveals the extent of negative attitudes many members of the public have towards children and young people. In some cases these attitudes prevent children from moving freely around their local community. Barriers faced by children are often linked with “territories”. Consultation highlights a perception that the Manton area of Worksop is “undesirable” and there are issues with territorialism. This is thought to restrict children and young people from neighbouring areas using the play areas in Manton.

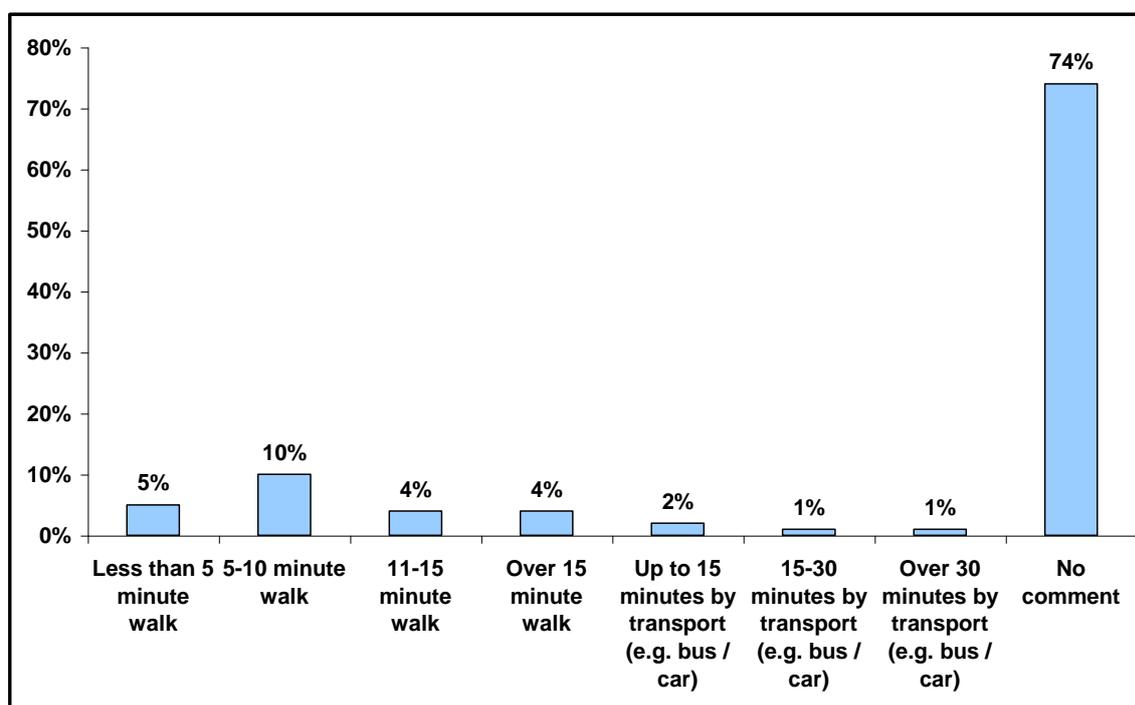
It is essential that parents, carers and members of the public are made aware of the importance of play and of children’s rights to play in their local communities. Creative and innovative ways need to be found to involve all sectors of the community in better understanding play.

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Just under one quarter (23%) of respondents will walk to reach a PAC; the majority (10%) willing to walk 5-10 minutes. Only a small proportion of respondents (4%) are willing to travel by transport (car, bus etc) in order to reach PACs. Consultation with mother and toddler groups further supports this, highlighting that accessing provision by public transport is difficult with young children and, whilst the bus service is considered to be inexpensive and regular, the routes do not always stop near to parks and play areas and, often more than one bus journey is required.

Significantly large proportions (74%) of street survey respondents provide no comment in relation to how far they are willing to travel to visit a PAC; this reflects the low usage level recorded amongst respondents (not uncommon for play areas as the survey respondents must be over 16 to take part). Consultation with parents of young children identifies that the majority of parents expect to be able to access a children's play area within a 5 to 15 minute walk.

Figure 7.3: Time prepared to travel to reach a children's play area

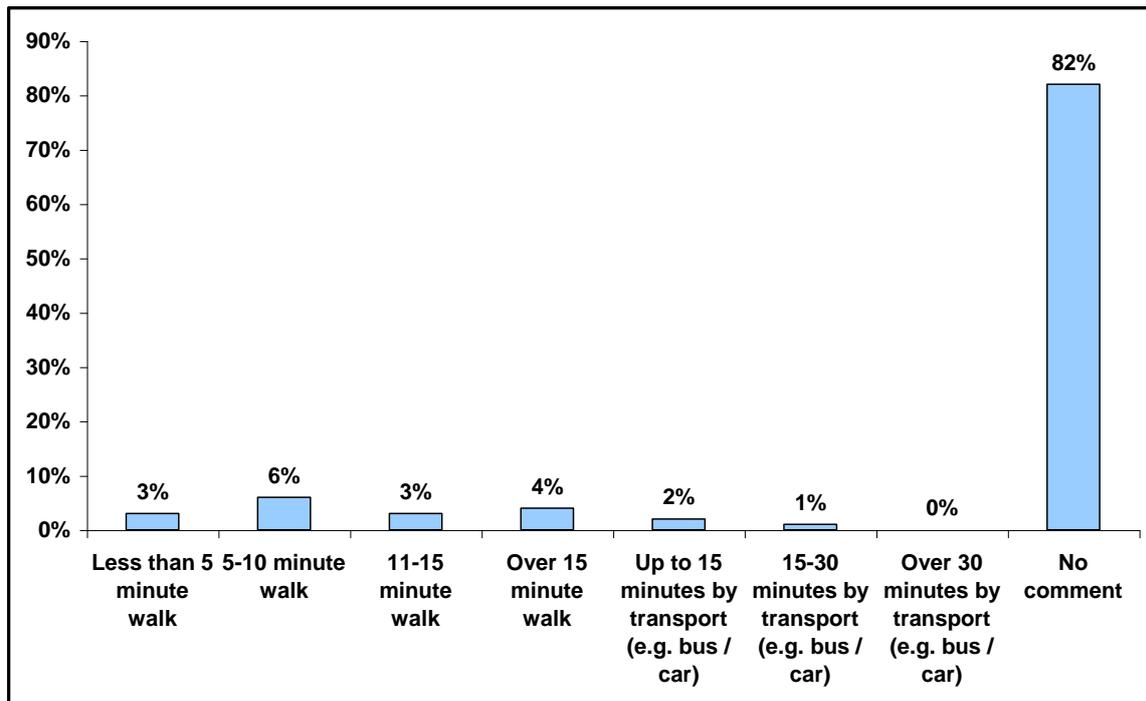


A total of 16% of respondents expect to walk to reach a facility for teenagers. Of these, just under a third will walk 5-10 minutes to access provision. Reflecting the low usage levels amongst respondents, the majority (82%) do not comment on how far they are willing to travel to access provision (again, this reflects the fact that the survey does not include people aged under 16).

Consultation with young people in Bassetlaw found that they prefer to have the option to access provision, such as parks, play areas and MUGAs and skate parks on foot or by bicycle; they are prepared to walk for an average of 20 minutes and cycle for slightly longer. Public transport and car use was the least popular method of transport and probably further reflects a lack of public transport stops near to provision and/or a lack of car parking at such sites.

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Figure 7.4: Time prepared to travel to reach a teenage play area



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Key to sites mapped:

KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
21	Beckett Avenue/West Ramsdon Crecent	Local Service Centres		
22	Blacksmiths Playing Fields	Rural Service Centres		
28	Briber Road/ Sherwood Crescent	Rural Service Centres		
41	Newark Road / Clark Lane	Local Service Centres		
47	York Place	Principle Urban Area		
341.2	Daneshill Road	Outside of Hierarchy		
56	Denby Drive	Outside of Hierarchy		
63	Elmsmere Drive	Outside of Hierarchy		
81	Grange Road	Core Service Centre		
97	High Holbeck	Outside of Hierarchy		
104	Keswick Road	Principle Urban Area		
105	Keyes Court	Outside of Hierarchy		
107.1	Kings Park	Core Service Centre		
121.1	Langold Country Park	Local Service Centres		
121.2	Langold Country Park	Local Service Centres		
124	Limetree Avenue	Local Service Centres		
125	Linden Avenue	Local Service Centres		
127	Station Road	Outside of Hierarchy		
129	Off Main Street	Outside of Hierarchy		
130	Norton Play Area, Main Street	Outside of Hierarchy		
131	Main Street	Outside of Hierarchy		
140	Mary Street	Principle Urban Area		
144.1	Memorial Hall Play Area 1	Local Service Centres		
145	Metcalf Recreation Ground , High Street	Rural Service Centres		
176	Behind Village Hall, opposite Kings Head	Rural Service Centres		
205	Spital Road	Rural Service Centres		
268	Land at the Junction of Stockwith Road and Mill Baulk Road	Rural Service Centres		
279	Princess Margaret Playground / Thackery Close	Principle Urban Area		
289	Rufford Ave	Core Service Centre		
303	Tuxford Road	Rural Service Centres		
310	Village Hall, Playing Field	Rural Service Centres		
311	Village Hall, Styrrup Lane	Outside of Hierarchy		
323	Windmill Gardens, Church Drive	Local Service Centres		
328	Winston Green	Outside of Hierarchy		
338	Low Pasture Lane	Rural Service Centres		
355	Shreswbury Road	Principle Urban Area		
356	Raymoth Lane	Principle Urban Area		
141.1	Mattersey Road Play Area	Rural Service Centres		
55.1	Darlton Road Play Area	Outside of Hierarchy		
362	Halcroft	Core Service Centre		
363	Leverton Road Play Area	Core Service Centre		
188.1	School Lane Play Area	Rural Service Centres		
326.1	Wingfield Avenue Play Area	Principle Urban Area		
144.2	Memorial Hall MUGA	Local Service Centres		
144.3	Memorial Hall Play Area 2	Local Service Centres		
66.1	Finkell Street Play Area	Rural Service Centres		

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KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
66.2	Finkell Street MUGA	Rural Service Centres		
341.1	Daneshill Road Play Area	Outside of Hierarchy		
267.1	Fox Covert Skatepark	Local Service Centres		
267.2	Fox Covert Play Area	Local Service Centres		
107.2	Kings Park Skate Park	Core Service Centre		
107.3	Kings Park MUGA	Core Service Centre		
296.1	Tommy Simpson Play ground Land off Bawtry Road	Main Regeneration Settlement		
280.1	The Canch Water Play Area	Principle Urban Area		
280.2	The Canch Play Area & Skate Park	Principle Urban Area		
364	Elkesley Play Area	Rural Service Centres		
368	Sandhill Street Play Area	Principle Urban Area		
65.1	Farr Park Play Area	Principle Urban Area		
77.1	Goosemoor Lane Play Area	Core Service Centre		
200.1	Snipe Park Play Area	Main Regeneration Settlement		
306.1	Valley Road Play Area	Principle Urban Area		
318.1	West of Village Hall Play Area	Local Service Centres		
269.1	Strawberry Road Play Area	Core Service Centre		
51.1	Cross Street Play Area	Rural Service Centres		
304.1	Underwood Avenue Play Area	Outside of Hierarchy		
315.1	Wensleydale Play Area	Principle Urban Area		

The mapping above highlights that nearly all settlements across the District has access to at least one play area. The most plentiful provision is in the Principle Urban Area and the Rural Service Centre classifications. Gaps on the outskirts of the larger settlements (e.g. Worksop, Retford and Harworth) are noted.

Health and safety fears, cost implications and vandalism fears all attribute to schools being notoriously difficult to persuade to open facilities to the community, particularly primary schools. This stalemate situation is further exacerbated by Nottinghamshire County Council, which in the past have sent all schools a letter highlighting issues around informal community use. Misson Primary School is a good example of a school that has opened up its facilities to meet local demand in the area.

The street survey results found that the majority (78%) of respondents who rate the availability of PACs as insufficient are from Worksop, compared to Retford (12%), Tuxford (9%) and other (1%). Similar results to these can be seen for the availability of PFTs (Worksop 74%, Retford 13%, Tuxford 11%, Harworth 1%, Other 1%). None of the survey respondents believe that there is too much provision of PACs or PFTs.

Three quarters (75%) of respondents consider provision of PACs to be “about right” and just over two thirds (71%) rate provision of PFTs as being “about right”.

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Figure 7.8: Availability of children's play areas

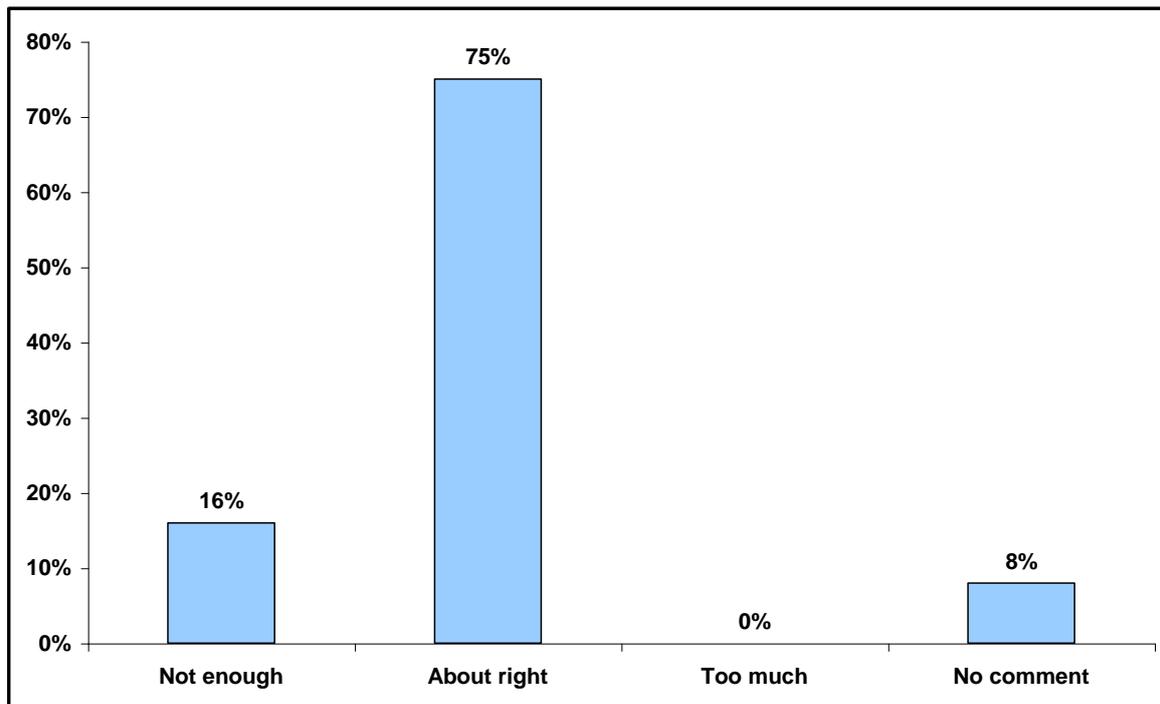
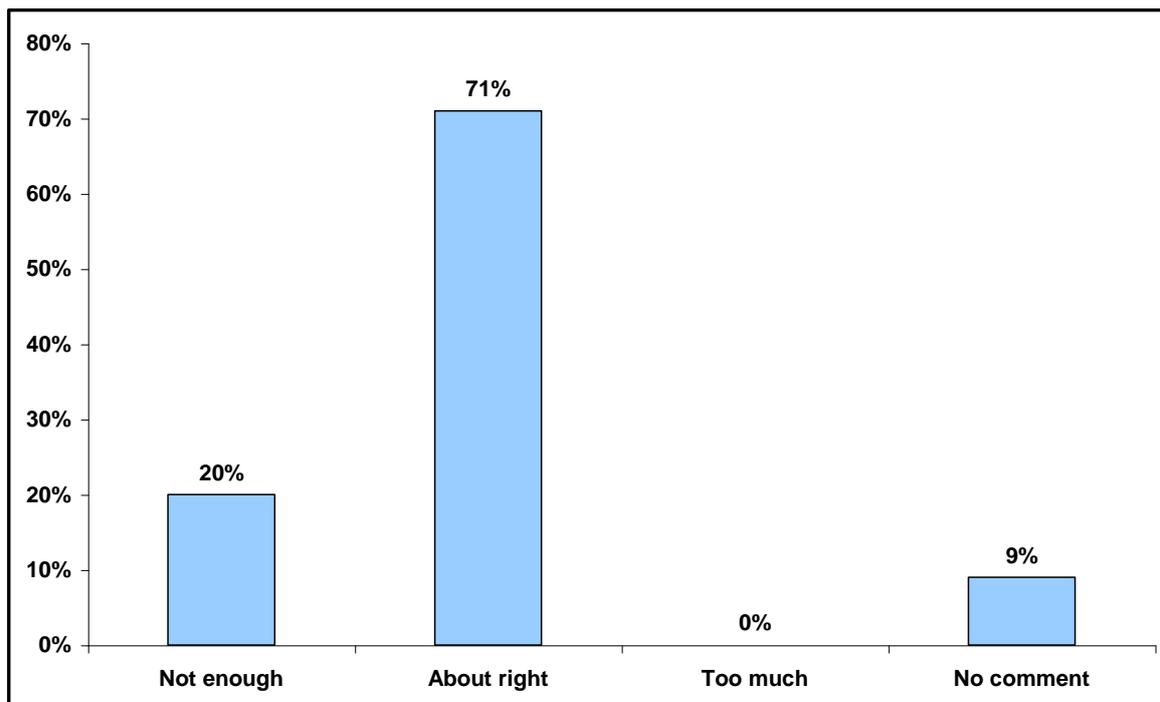


Figure 7.9: Availability of teenage play areas



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There are a number of opportunities for children and young people to meet in Bassetlaw. Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Services organise U14 clubs in Bircotes, Misterton and at Valley School in Worksop, which carry a nominal charge. It also runs a number of other youth projects across the area for young people aged over 13. The Youth Service runs adventure activity days, including water sports at Sandhill Lake, use of a mobile climbing wall and canoeing on the River Idle.

The Extended Schools Agenda (Blue Skies) looks at small village provision through schools, and linking communities together to provide clubs. A single village might not be able to support a club or groups, but three or four villages could. It also provides minibuss transport to facilities. Mobile youth buses are also in operation across the District.

The Phoenix Project is for 10-13 year olds and is aimed at disadvantaged and disaffected young people, particularly in the Manton area. It provides activity support, counselling and links to other services.

Aspirations have been expressed to convert the unused building adjacent to North Nottinghamshire Arena into a youth club/centre for young people and for the area to also provide physical play opportunities.

Management

Management of play provision primarily involves BDC and parish councils. Considering all provision across Bassetlaw, regardless of provider, the BDC Play Strategy outlines aims and objectives for the development of play across the District.

In Bassetlaw the potential for monies from Section 106 agreements to be prioritised for play provision is not always fully exploited. A scrutiny review Select Panel on Play Provision also identifies this as a key issue.

Key targets exist within the County Council's Children and Young Peoples Plan on development of new supplementary planning guidance to better inform planners and developers of the needs of children and young people, when allocating space for play. This includes reducing the immediate assumption of the need for fixed play equipment, which does not necessarily cater for all children and young people in the community.

The Play Strategy for Bassetlaw 2007 –2010

One of the driving forces in BDC producing a play strategy was the recognition that Bassetlaw needs safe places to play and meet friends. The Strategy (waiting to be updated) aims to assess and validate the opportunities to improve this position and identify programs, projects and delivery mechanisms which will deliver these improvements.

It presents a range of priorities and actions designed to be used by the essential deliverers of play, which include BDC, Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC), town and parish councils and voluntary/community groups. The Strategy also serves to develop best practice in play provision and secure added value by joining up services and provisions to improve play opportunities for young people.

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The Council's approach to play is based on the outcomes listed in "Best Play – What play provision should do for children" (Children's Play Council 2000). These are as follows:

- ◀ Extend the choice and control children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.
- ◀ Recognise the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need.
- ◀ Manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.
- ◀ Maximise the range of play opportunities.
- ◀ Foster independence and healthy self-esteem.
- ◀ Foster the child's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction.
- ◀ Foster the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge, understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.

Play Partnership

BDC has developed a Play Partnership (BPP), which will have an advocacy role with regard to play. It will seek to secure sustainable solutions to play provision by feeding into strategic arenas such as the Local Area Agreement and Local Strategic Partnership and ensuring that 'the voice for play' is heard as the future of the District is discussed.

Performance of play related projects is monitored through the BPP which reports through the Children and Young Persons Group to the Local Strategic Partnership using a standard framework. Each objective laid out in the action plan is linked to specific milestones. The monitoring of these milestones is part of the role of BPP.

BPP considers the evaluation methods detailed under each of the objectives in the 'Best Play – What Play Should Do For Children' document which forms the basis of the Councils approach to play. BPP also uses the 'Criteria for an enriched play environment' suggested within the 'Best Play' document to assess the value offered by projects, now and in the future. The following specific outcomes were also sought:

- ◀ Town and parish councils to undertake play value audits of all their play spaces.
- ◀ More successful bids for external funding for play opportunities.
- ◀ More dedicated teenage play equipment.
- ◀ More informal, adventurous outdoor play opportunities.
- ◀ More local voluntary/community groups offering play opportunities or positive activities for teenagers in their own neighbourhoods.
- ◀ More provision for children with special needs.
- ◀ All playgrounds to be brought up to agreed Local Standards of quality and accessibility (Parish and Town Councils to adopt proposed Local Standards).

The BPP seeks to monitor the various action plans using indicators developed by the Children's Play Council, which include:

- ◀ Increase in customer satisfaction levels for services for children and young people.
- ◀ That the Bassetlaw Play Working Group forms an official Play Partnership.
- ◀ Number of voluntary/community groups offering activities for teenagers.
- ◀ Number of parents having all their requests for integrated play provision met.
- ◀ Number of children and young people attending summer play schemes.
- ◀ Number of children and young people attending informal outdoor play opportunities.
- ◀ Number of opportunities for children/young people to attend play provision locally.
- ◀ Number of children with special needs attending BDC/NCC play-schemes.

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Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play areas in Bassetlaw.

Table 7.2: Quality ratings for play areas

Settlement type	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Principle Urban Area	-	5	8
Core Service Centre	-	2	7
Main Regeneration Settlement	-	-	2
Local Service Centre	2	5	6
Rural Service Centre	-	5	10
Outside of Hierarchy	2	7	5
BASSETLAW	4	24	38

In the main, play areas in Bassetlaw are of good quality. Those located in rural areas are generally of better quality. The majority of the play areas in Bassetlaw are kit, fence and carpet (KFC) which are negatively stereotyped, for example KFCs are considered unable to provide opportunities for children to play imaginatively.

There has been no budget allocated to renovate BDC play areas in recent years, only funding secured through Section 106 and Big Lottery funding. This in turn has raised the issue of longer term funding requirements for the maintenance of the new play areas.

Over half (57%) of all respondents rate PAC quality as above average (good/very good), and one fifth (20%) rate them average. In contrast, only a small proportion (11%) rate quality of PAC provision as below average (poor/very poor). When looking at individual analysis areas, a higher proportion of respondents from Worksop (20%) consider PACs poor/very poor compared to 6% in Retford and 4% in Tuxford. 12% of respondents did not provide an opinion on the quality rating for PACs.

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Figure 7.10: Quality of provision of children's play areas

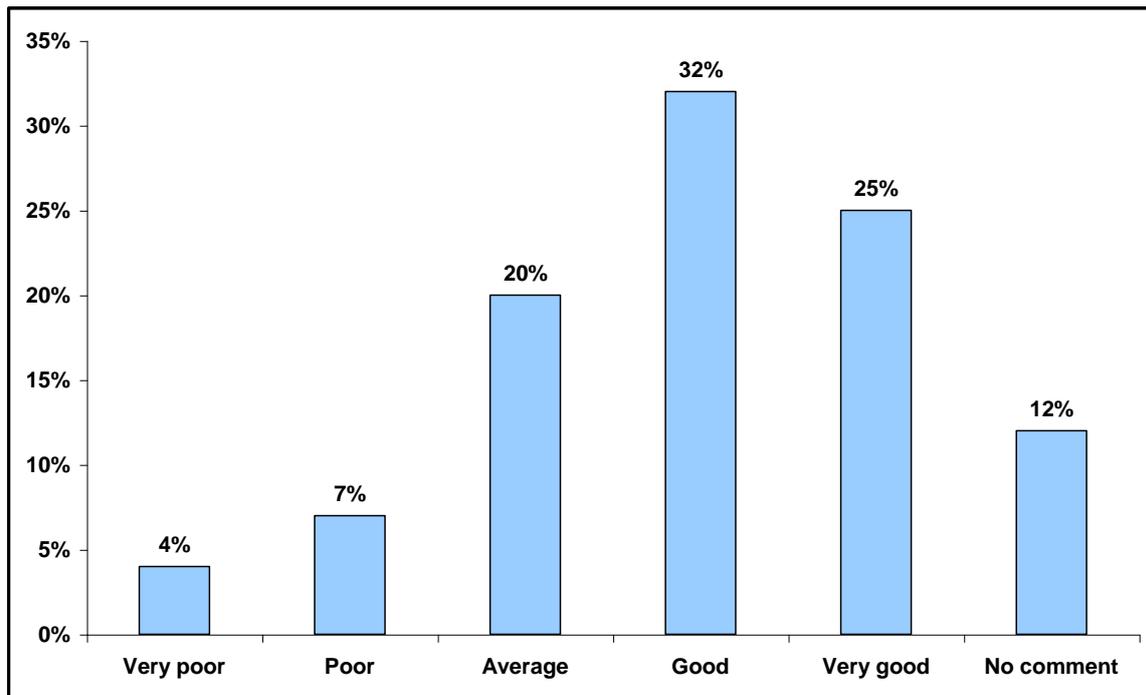
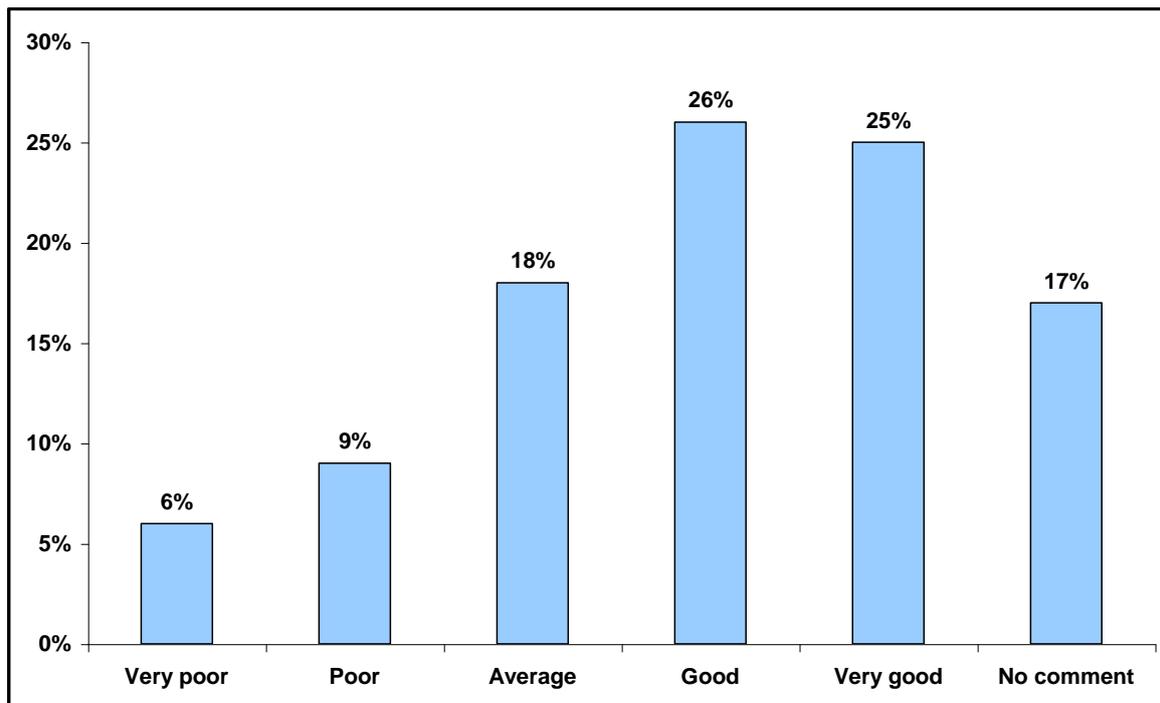


Figure 7.11: Quality of provision of teenage play areas



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Just over half of respondents (51%) rate the quality of provision of PFTs as above average (good/very good). A smaller proportion (18%) consider the quality of PFTs to be average, whilst 15% believe that sites across Bassetlaw are of below average (poor/very poor) quality. Once again, a larger number of respondents (29%) from Worksop consider quality of provision to be poor/very poor than those from Retford (7%), Tuxford (10%) and Harworth (2%).

Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment play areas in Bassetlaw.

Table 7.3: Value ratings for play areas

Settlement type	Value rating	
	Low	High
Principle Urban Area	-	13
Core Service Centre	1	8
Main Regeneration Settlement	-	2
Local Service Centre	-	13
Rural Service Centre	1	14
Outside of Hierarchy	3	11
BASSETLAW	5	61

The vast majority of play areas in Bassetlaw (92%) are assessed as high value, reflecting the consultation, which suggests that residents place high value upon play facilities. Only five sites score low for value. This is a reflection on the lack of equipment found onsite as well as poor level of use.

It is also important to recognise the benefits that play provides in terms of health, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus their developmental and educational value. Consultation identifies particular demand for the introduction of greater interactive, dynamic and natural play opportunities including elements of touch, sound and sight e.g. play panels, talk tubes, water based play, sand.

Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ In total, 66 sites in Bassetlaw are classified as provision for children and young people, totalling just over 15 hectares. The vast majority of BDC sites are unclassified and parish council owned play areas generally, do not have an annual inspection and are not classified.
- ◀ Consultation highlights that misuse of children's play areas by teenagers and "undesirables" can impede genuine usage by young children and their parents. It is perceived to be a particular issue at Snipe Park, Harworth and the Canch. However, both sites score high in the site assessment visits.
- ◀ The majority of users would walk to access play areas. Of these, the majority would travel 5-10 minutes. KKP recommends that all residents are to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision. On this basis, significant gaps in provision are identified on the outskirts of the major settlements in the District.
- ◀ There has traditionally been a gap in the provision of play areas for U14 – U18. However, these gaps have been filled through provision of MUGAs and skateparks. This is further reflected in the street survey results which show that 75% of respondents rate the provision of teenage play to be about right. However, young people did express a desire to have increased provision of BMX track facilities and skate ramps.
- ◀ BDC has seen an increase in the provision of new play areas from various recent funding streams. Given that there is no dedicated budget allocated for play area renovations, it is of concern that the sustainability of new play areas still requires attention.
- ◀ In the main, play areas in Bassetlaw are of an average to high quality; with play areas in the rural areas being of slightly better quality.
- ◀ Nearly all play areas (92%) in Bassetlaw are assessed as high value, recognising the benefits that play areas can provide in terms of health, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus their developmental and educational value.
- ◀ The play areas with the highest play value rating are at Langolds Country Park and The Canch. The lowest scoring site for value is Strawberry Road Play Area. Consultation identifies demand for introducing greater interactive, dynamic and natural play opportunities including elements of touch, sound and sight e.g. play panels, talk tubes.

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PART 8: ALLOTMENTS, COMMUNITY GARDENS AND CITY FARMS

Introduction

The typology of allotments, community gardens and city farms set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes sites, which provide ‘opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.’

Key issues

Current provision

A total of 36 sites are classified as allotments in Bassetlaw, equating to over 38 hectares.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotments

Settlement type	Allotments		
	Number	Size (ha)	Ha per 1,000 population
Principle Urban Area	11	18.85	0.46
Core Service Centre	16	12.69	0.59
Main Regeneration Settlement	1	0.22	0.03
Local Service Centre	2	2.87	0.22
Rural Service Centre	6	3.92	0.24
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-	-
BASSETLAW	36	38.56	0.39

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggest a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (i.e. 20 allotments per 2,000 people based on 2 people per house) or 1 allotment per 200 people. This equates to 0.125ha per 1,000 population based on an average plot size of 250 metres squared.

Based on the current population, Bassetlaw, as a whole District, meets the set NSALG standard.

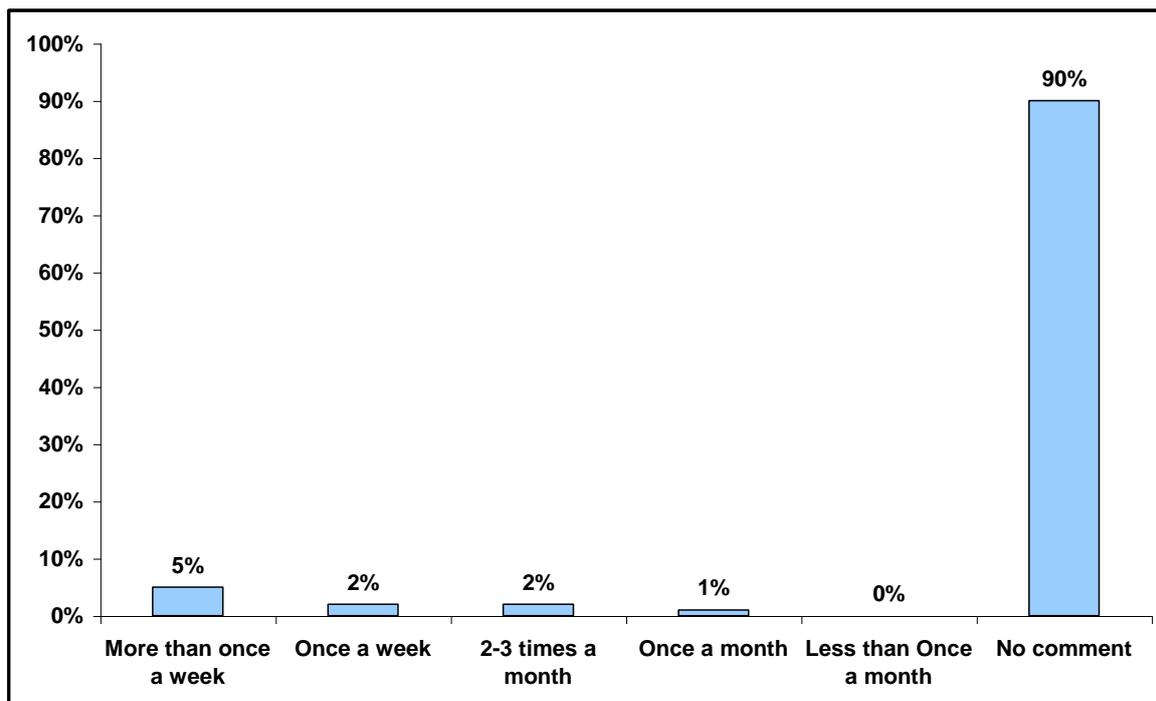
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Usage

Reflecting the specialist interest/usage of allotment sites across Bassetlaw, only 48 respondents (10%) from the street survey stated that they visited allotments in the previous twelve months. Consistent with the expected usage patterns, most visits (5%) take place on a relatively frequent basis (more than once a week).

We also found that of the non responses, 58% are female (which is higher than usual) and could suggest that awareness of allotment provision is lower in females in Bassetlaw and could be a potential target market, particularly in Worksop where demand for provision is lower.

Figure 8.1: Frequency of usage allotments in the previous 12 months



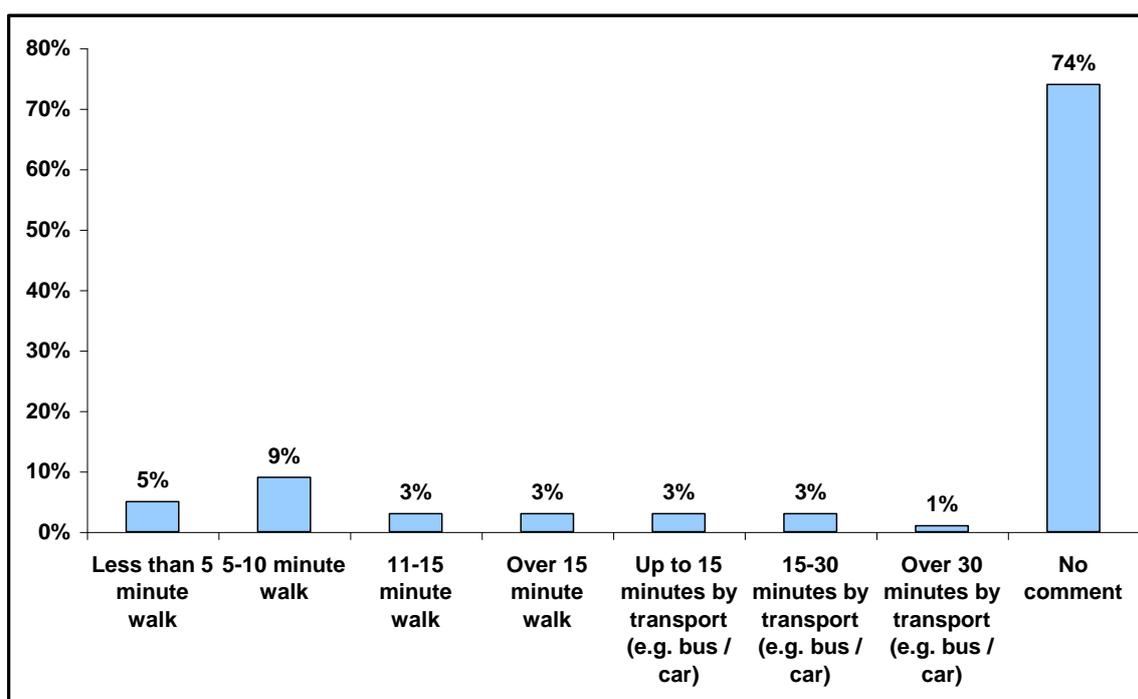
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Accessibility

All street survey respondents were asked how long they are willing to travel to access allotment provision. Reflecting the low usage level amongst respondents (not uncommon for this type of provision) almost three quarters (74%) did not comment; of those that did, the majority (9%) are willing to walk for between 5-10 minutes to access provision. This reflects the fact that residents expect allotments to be locally available.

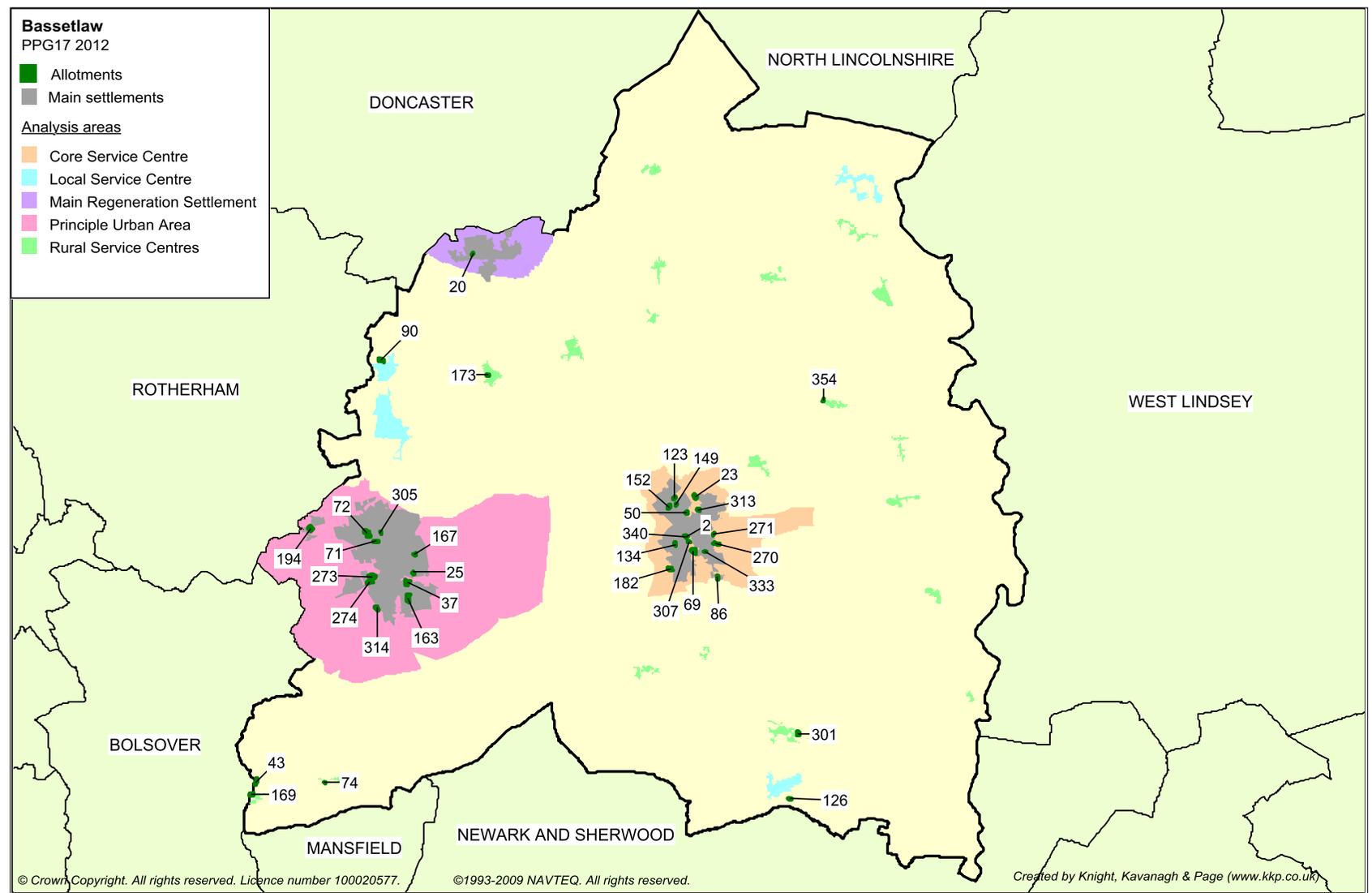
Of the non responses, 59% are female (reflection on the male trend of accessing allotments again) and 91% are from Retford, where a number of sites are rated as being of a poor value.

Figure 8.2: Time prepared to travel to access an allotment



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Figure 8.3: Allotments mapped by settlement



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Key to sites mapped:

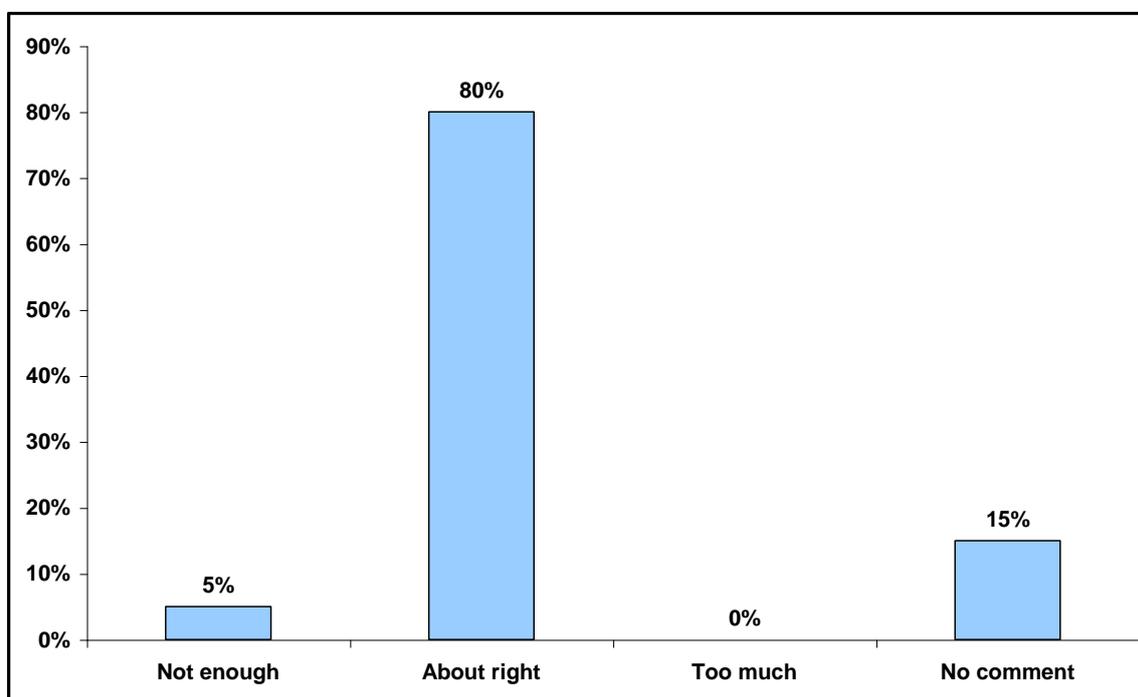
KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
2	Albert Road	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
20	Land off Bawtry Road	Main Regeneration Settlement	Yellow	Red
23	Bolham Lane	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Green
25	Bracebridge Avenue	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
37	Cheapside	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
43	Cockshut Lane	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
50	Cricket Field Lane	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Red
69	East of Century Road	Core Service Centre	Red	Red
71	Gateford Road	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
72	Claylands Ave	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
74	Glovers Close	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Red
86	Grove Road	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Red
90	Harrison Drive	LocalServiceCentres	Green	Green
123	Milnercroft (enclosed)	Core Service Centre	Red	Red
126	Lodge Lane	LocalServiceCentres	Yellow	Green
134	Manvers Road	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
149	Milner Croft	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Green
152	Leaffield/Denman	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
163	Lincoln Street	Principle Urban Area	Red	Red
167	Keats Crescent	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
169	Kitchen Terrace	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
173	Land Behind High Street	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
182	Rufford Ave	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Red
194	Shireoaks Common	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
270	Strawberry Road	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
271	Newtown	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
273	Stubbing Lane 2+3	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
274	Stubbing Lane 1	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
301	Land Off Trinity Lane	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Red
305	Valley Road	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
307	Victoria Road	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Green
313	Water Lane	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Green
314	Water Meadows	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
333	Whinney Moor Lane	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Red
340	Westfield	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
354	Top Street	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green

Provision exists in the Principle Urban Area, Core Service Centre and Main Regeneration Settlement. However, mapping shows that there is a lack of provision in the Local Service Centres including Carlton-in-Lindrick and Misterton. Consultation did suggest that demand for provision is generally higher where an allotment is situated within a 10 minute drive of a settlement without provision.

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Only a small proportion of street survey respondents (15%) were unable to comment on the availability of allotments. However, four fifths (80%) consider the level of provision to be about right. The remainder (5%) think there is not enough. Due to the low usage level recorded in the survey, the majority of responses are likely to be based on perception rather than experience.

Figure 8.4: Availability of allotments



There has been a rise in the calls for allotment provision locally that reflects a national growing trend. Of particular note are requests made by residents in Retford and rurally by parish councils such as Torworth Parish Council.

The combined allotment waiting list across Bassetlaw, of 78, demonstrates that the high demand for allotments is not being met by provision. Even considering the issue of double counting, as potential plot holders often sign up to more than one waiting list, these figures demonstrate high demand. Demand for allotments differs between Worksop and Retford. The vast majority of provision in Retford is operating at 100% capacity, together with over three quarters of the Bassetlaw waiting list total (60). The high demand for provision in Retford is fairly recent and new plot holders are thought to represent middle class demand for healthy living and home grown produce.

Although a waiting list still operates across Worksop sites, demand is much lower than in Retford (total of 18) and there are a number of vacant plots. Worksop has traditionally the bigger sites and plot sizes and therefore is generally able to cater for current demand. The largest sites in operation are all located in Worksop, probably reflecting the location of the majority of the Districts population. These are Claylands Allotments with 76 plots, followed by Stubbing Meadows 2 Allotments with 70 plots and Cheapside Allotments with 55 plots. It is interesting to note that there are no waiting lists at these sites and Cheapside and Stubbing Meadows 2 have vacant plots.

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Keats Crescent (12 plots) in Worksop is currently suspected as being unused; due to the number of disused plots on site. Although demand for allotments in Worksop appears to be lower than in Retford, with targeted promotion and community working, provision should look to be regenerated if possible.

As is not an uncommon national trend, there has also been a sharp increase in the uptake of plots by women. This tends to lead to an increase in demand for toilet provision. However, provision of toilets at local authority sites in Bassetlaw is noted to be good.

Management

Most allotment sites in Bassetlaw are owned and managed (in terms of management of plot allocations, rent collection and waiting list management) by BDC (20 in total). Site stewards are appointed by BDC to 'look after' sites on a day to day basis and two associations have been set up in Retford and Worksop which meet annually to lobby for improvements and share ideas.

In addition, a number of sites are also provided privately and/or via town and parish councils. For example, Bawtry Road allotments owned by Harworth and Bircotes Town Council and Top Street Allotments owned by North and South Wheatley Parish Council. Management of these sites vary; for the majority, parish clerks undertake administration tasks including waiting list management. They are generally reactive to internal site maintenance such as repairs of the water supply and boundary fencing.

Vacant plot management

In general, vacant plot management is efficient and vacant plots are allocated to meet waiting list demand as and when they become available. In some instances, tenants report that plots may fall out of use while still under lease and this can lead to them becoming neglected and overgrown. BDC continues to maintain overgrown plots twice a year by cutting them to increase their appeal to others. Tenants are encouraged to take on uncultivated plots through a year's free rental.

Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in Bassetlaw.

Table 8.2: Quality ratings for allotments

Settlement type	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Principle Urban Area	1	-	10
Core Service Centre	2	8	6
Main Regeneration Settlement	-	1	-
Local Service Centre	-	1	1
Rural Service Centre	-	3	3
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-	-
BASSETLAW	3	13	20

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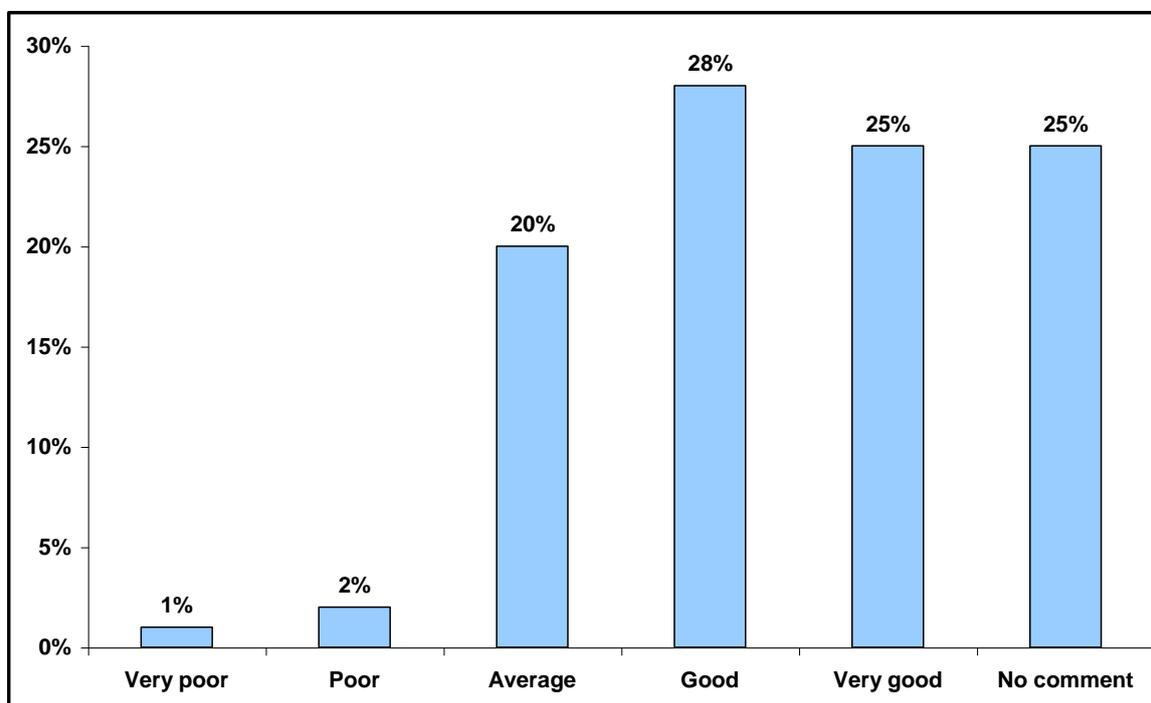
In terms of quality, over half (55%) of allotments within the BDC audit are rated as good. Sites currently not in use or with a significant number of vacant plots are generally those rated as lower in quality. Vandalism is a reported reoccurring issue in Worksop; however, the site audits did not necessarily reflect this.

Cheapside Allotments was originally designed as a flagship/model site in Bassetlaw and continues to be the basis for new site design (scoring the second highest mark for quality). New sites should, thus, still regard this as good practice development.

Milnercroft (enclosed) Allotments in Retford is landlocked by properties and can only be accessed via the houses. This large site (approx 0.5 ha) is significantly under-used due to its lack of access. BDC is presently unsure of its current status and the site scores low for quality within the audit due to this.

Only a small proportion of street survey respondents (3%) rate the quality of allotments as below average (poor/very poor). One fifth (20%) rate them as average. However, over half (53%) perceive allotment provision in Bassetlaw to be above average (good/very good) in terms quality. Of this number, one third (36%) are from Worksop.

Figure 8.5: Quality of provision of allotments



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Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for allotments in Bassetlaw.

Table 8.3: Value ratings for allotments

Settlement type	Value rating	
	Low	High
Principle Urban Area	1	10
Core Service Centre	6	10
Main Regeneration Settlement	1	-
Local Service Centre	-	2
Rural Service Centre	2	4
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-
BASSETLAW	10	26

Nearly three quarters (72%) of allotments are assessed as high value. This is due to their associated social inclusion and health benefits and also the amenity benefits and sense of place offered by provision. The value of allotments in Bassetlaw is further enhanced by the reasonable rental cost, which although differs across sites (due to the variation in plot sizes), is comparable with neighbouring authority charges. Users also suggest that there is a good community environment at allotments in Bassetlaw, adding to the value placed on allotments.

Community use

Allotments in Bassetlaw are generally well utilised by community groups. In particular, Cheapside Allotments has a wide variety of groups using the site including Portland School and Rethink Mental Health group is a well established user. It is thought that good disabled access and infrastructure helps to attract community groups to use the site. Gateford Road Allotments, also with good site infrastructure, is used by Valley's School.

Summary

Allotments summary

- ◀ There are 36 sites are classified as allotments in Bassetlaw, equating to just under 39 hectares.
- ◀ The majority of users would accept a 5-10 minute walk to access provision. Therefore, KKP recommends that all residents are to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision.
- ◀ Provision exists in the Principle Urban Area, Core Service Centre and Main Regeneration Settlement. However, mapping shows that there is a lack of provision in the Local Service Centres including Carlton-in-Lindrick and Misterton. Consultation did suggest that demand for provision is generally higher where an allotment is situated within a 10 minute drive of a settlement without provision.
- ◀ The combined allotment waiting list across Bassetlaw, of 78, demonstrates that the high demand for allotments is not currently being met by existing provision. Demand for additional provision is high in Retford. In addition, Torworth Parish Council is looking at developing a piece of land to be leased for allotments.
- ◀ Worksop has traditionally the bigger sites and plot sizes and therefore is generally able to cater for current demand. The issue in Worksop relates more to vacant plots and unused sites.
- ◀ In terms of quality, nearly three quarters (72%) of allotments within the BDC audit are rated as good. No significant problems or issues were raised with regard to the general quality of provision. Vandalism is a reported reoccurring issue in Worksop; however, the site audits did not necessarily reflect this.
- ◀ The majority of allotments are assessed as high value, reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits and also the amenity benefits and sense of place offered by the provision. Users also suggest that there is a good community environment at allotments in Bassetlaw, adding to the value placed on allotments.

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PART 9: CEMETERIES, CHURCHYARDS AND BURIAL GROUNDS

Introduction

The typology of cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes areas for 'quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.'

Key issues

Current provision

There are 88 sites classified as cemeteries, equating to over 57 hectares of provision in Bassetlaw.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries

Settlement type	Cemeteries	
	Number	Size (ha)
Principle Urban Area	8	12.05
Core Service Centre	7	15.77
Main Regeneration Settlement	3	1.87
Local Service Centre	7	5.36
Rural Service Centre	29	12.79
Outside of Hierarchy	34	9.01
BASSETLAW	88	57.30

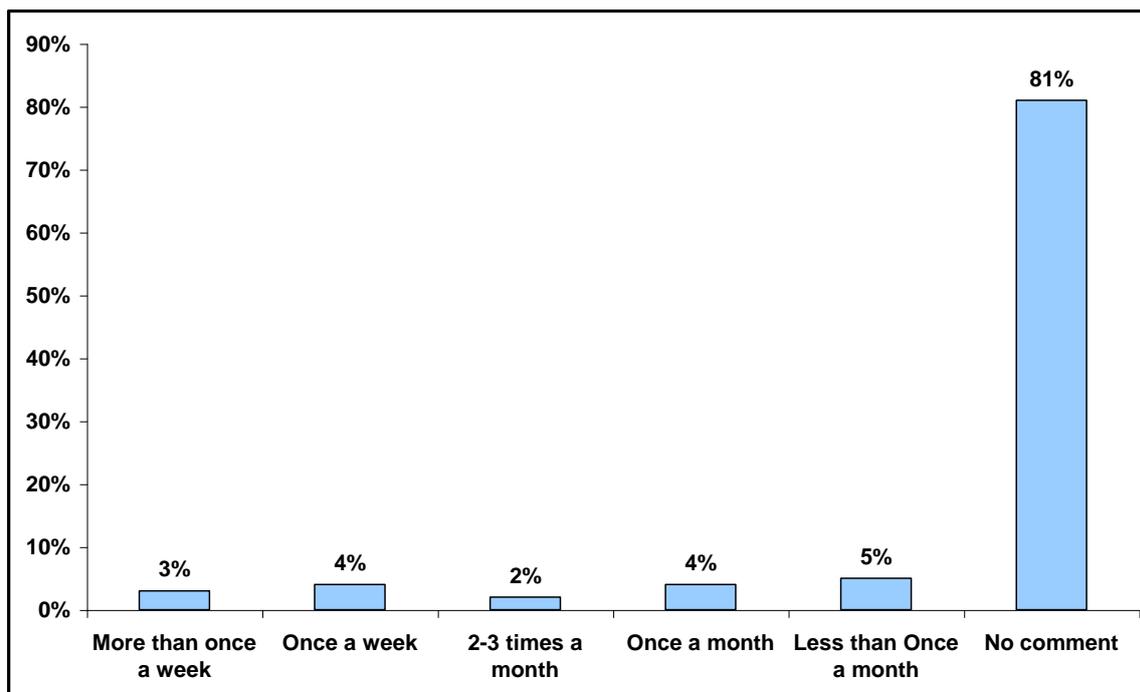
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Usage

Of all survey respondents under one fifth (18%) have visited a churchyard/cemetery in the last twelve months, a low number for what is often a regularly used typology. The majority (81%) of those that do visit churchyards/cemeteries do so in Bassetlaw. No respondents visit outside, or both inside and outside the study area.

The vast majority of respondents (81%) provided no comment on this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage and/or a lack of interest in accessing provision.

Figure 9.1: Frequency of usage of cemeteries/churchyards in the previous 12 months



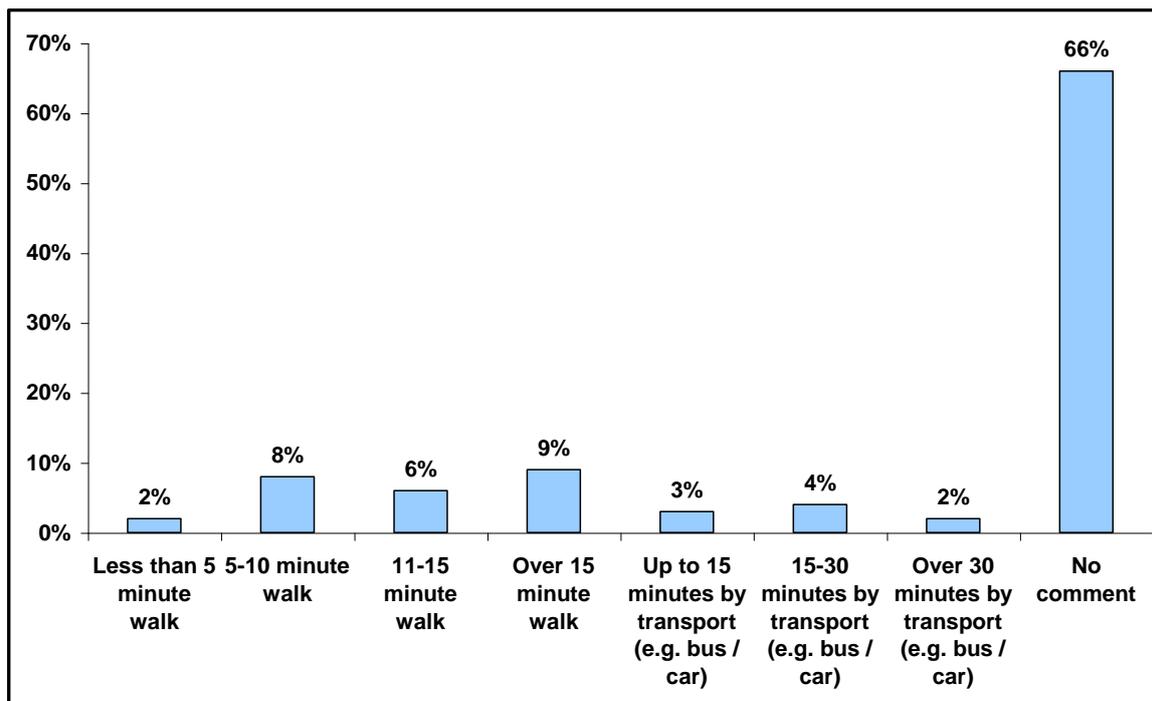
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Accessibility

Although some (25%) respondents are willing to walk to reach churchyards/cemeteries, the majority (66%) gave no comment on how far they are willing to travel.

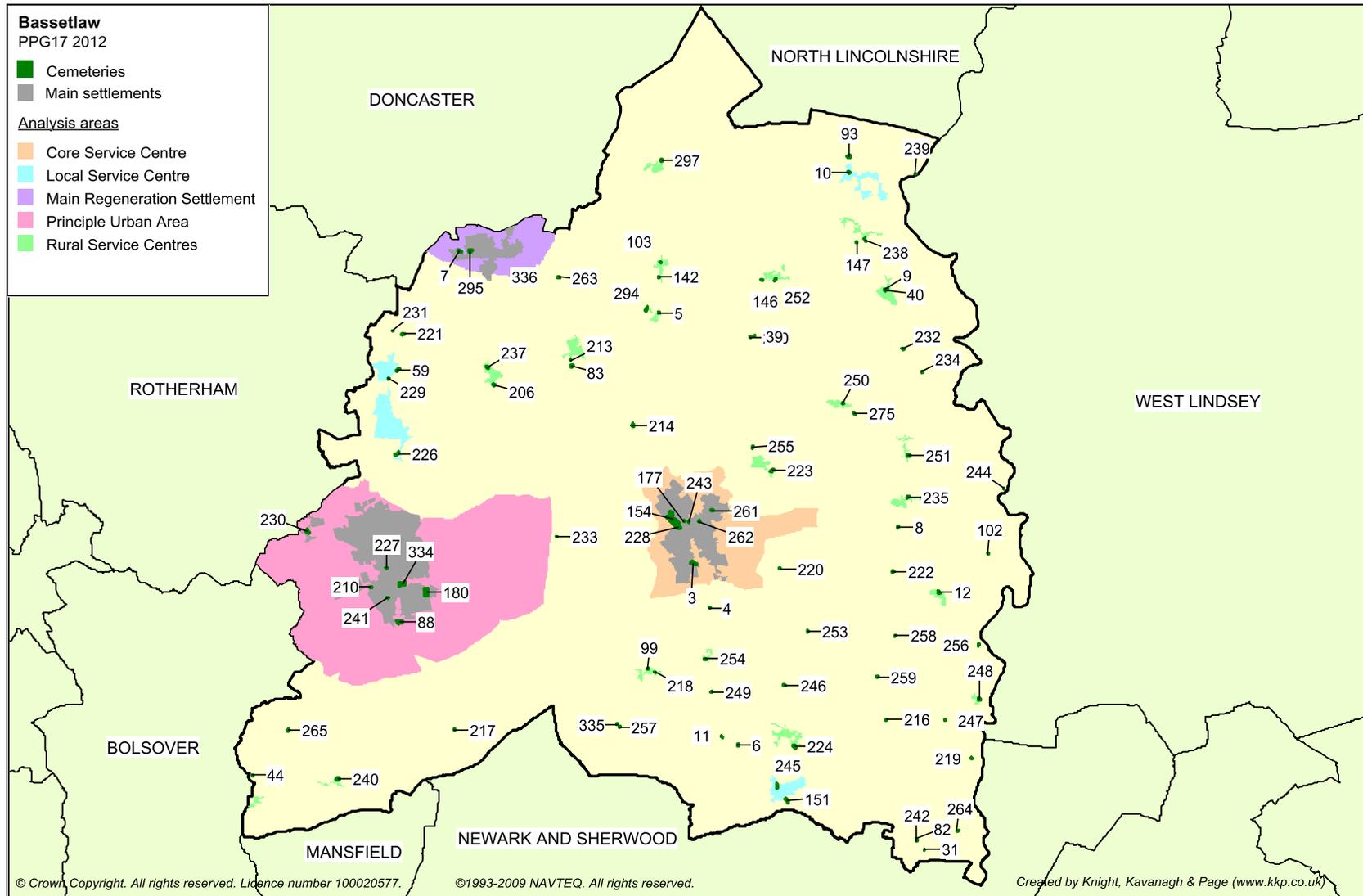
Again, the majority of respondents (66%) provided no comment on this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage and/or a lack of interest in accessing provision. It is interesting to note that the majority of these non responses (39%) came from respondents residing in Retford.

Figure 9.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a cemetery/churchyard



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Figure 9.3: Cemeteries mapped against settlement



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Key to sites mapped:

KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
3	All Hallows Church, Ordsall	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
4	All Saints Church	Outside of Hierarchy	Yellow	Green
5	All Saints Church	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
6	All Saints Church	Outside of Hierarchy	Green	Green
7	All Saints Church, Church Lane	Main Regeneration Settlement	Green	Green
8	All Saints Church, Church Street	Outside of Hierarchy	Green	Green
9	All Saints Church, Church Street	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
10	All Saints Church, High Street	Local Service Centres	Green	Green
11	All Saints Church, The Avenue	Outside of Hierarchy	Green	Green
12	All Saints Church, Torksey Street	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
31	Burial Ground, Brots Road	Outside of Hierarchy	Yellow	Green
39	Church Lane Cemetery	Outside of Hierarchy	Yellow	Green
40	Church Street Cemetery	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
44	Cockshut Lane Cemetery	Outside of Hierarchy	Yellow	Green
59	Doncaster Road Cemetery	Local Service Centres	Green	Red
82	Graveyard, Eastgate	Outside of Hierarchy	Yellow	Green
83	Great North Road Cemetery	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Red
88	Hannah Park Cemetery	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
93	Haxey Road Cemetery	Local Service Centres	Green	Green
99	High Street Cemetery	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
102	Holy Trinity Church	Outside of Hierarchy	Yellow	Red
103	Holy Trinity Church, Church Street	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
142	Mattersey Road Cemetery	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
146	Mill Hill Cemetery	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
147	Mill Lane Cemetery	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
151	Newark Road Cemetery	Local Service Centres	Green	Green
154	North Road Cemetery	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
177	Retford Baptist Church	Core Service Centre	Red	Red
180	Retford Road Cemetery	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
206	Spital Road Cemetery	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
210	St Anne's Church	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
213	St Barnabas	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
214	St Bartholomew	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
216	St Giles	Outside of Hierarchy	Yellow	Green
217	St Giles	Outside of Hierarchy	Yellow	Green
218	St Giles Church, High Street	Rural Service Centres	Green	Green
219	Church of Gregory	Outside of Hierarchy	Green	Green
220	St Helen Church	Outside of Hierarchy	Yellow	Green
221	St Helen's R C Church	Outside of Hierarchy	Yellow	Green
222	St John the Baptist Church	Outside of Hierarchy	Red	Red
223	St John the Baptist Church, Church Lane	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
224	St John the Baptist, Church Street	Rural Service Centres	Yellow	Green
226	St Johns Church, Church Lane	Local Service Centres	Yellow	Green
227	St John's Church, Gateford Road	Principle Urban Area	Yellow	Green
228	St Joseph Roman Cathlic	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Green

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KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
	Church			
229	St Luke's Church, Church Street	Local Service Centres		
230	St Lukes Church, Shireoaks Road	Principle Urban Area		
231	St Marks Church	Outside of Hierarchy		
232	St Martins Church	Outside of Hierarchy		
233	St Martins Church, Blyth Road	Principle Urban Area		
234	St Martins Church, East Street	Outside of Hierarchy		
235	St Martins Church, Main Street	Rural Service Centres		
237	St Mary and St Martin Church	Rural Service Centres		
238	St Mary Magdalene Church, Gringley Road	Rural Service Centres		
239	St Marys Church, Main Street	Outside of Hierarchy		
240	St Marys Church, Norton Lane	Rural Service Centres		
241	St Mary's Catholic Church	Principle Urban Area		
242	St Mathews Church, Tuxford Road	Outside of Hierarchy		
243	St Michael the Archangel Church	Core Service Centre		
244	St Nicholas Church	Outside of Hierarchy		
245	St Nicholas Church, Lincoln Road	Local Service Centres		
246	St Nicholas Church, Town Street	Outside of Hierarchy		
247	St Oswalds Church	Outside of Hierarchy		
248	St Oswalds Church, The Green	Rural Service Centres		
249	St Pauls Church, Church Lane	Outside of Hierarchy		
250	St Peter & St Pauls Church, Church Street	Rural Service Centres		
251	St Peter & St Pauls Church, Church Street	Rural Service Centres		
252	St Peter and St Pauls Church, Main Street	Rural Service Centres		
253	St Peters Church	Outside of Hierarchy		
254	St Peters Church, Church Lane	Rural Service Centres		
255	St Peters Church, Church Lane	Rural Service Centres		
256	St Peters Church, Church Laneham	Outside of Hierarchy		
257	St Peters Church, Main Street	Outside of Hierarchy		
258	Church of our Lady And St Peter	Outside of Hierarchy		
259	St Peters Church, North Green	Outside of Hierarchy		
260	St Peters Church, Wiseton Road	Outside of Hierarchy		
261	St Saviours Church, Welham Road	Core Service Centre		
262	St Swithuns Church	Core Service Centre		
263	St Wilfred's Church, Church Lane	Outside of Hierarchy		
264	St Wilfrids Church	Outside of Hierarchy		
265	St Winifreds Church	Outside of Hierarchy		
275	Sturton Road Cemetery	Rural Service Centres		
294	Thorpe Road Cemetery	Rural Service Centres		
295	Tickhill Road	Main Regeneration Settlement		
297	Top Road Cemetery	Rural Service Centres		
334	Worksop Priory, Priorswell Road	Principle Urban Area		

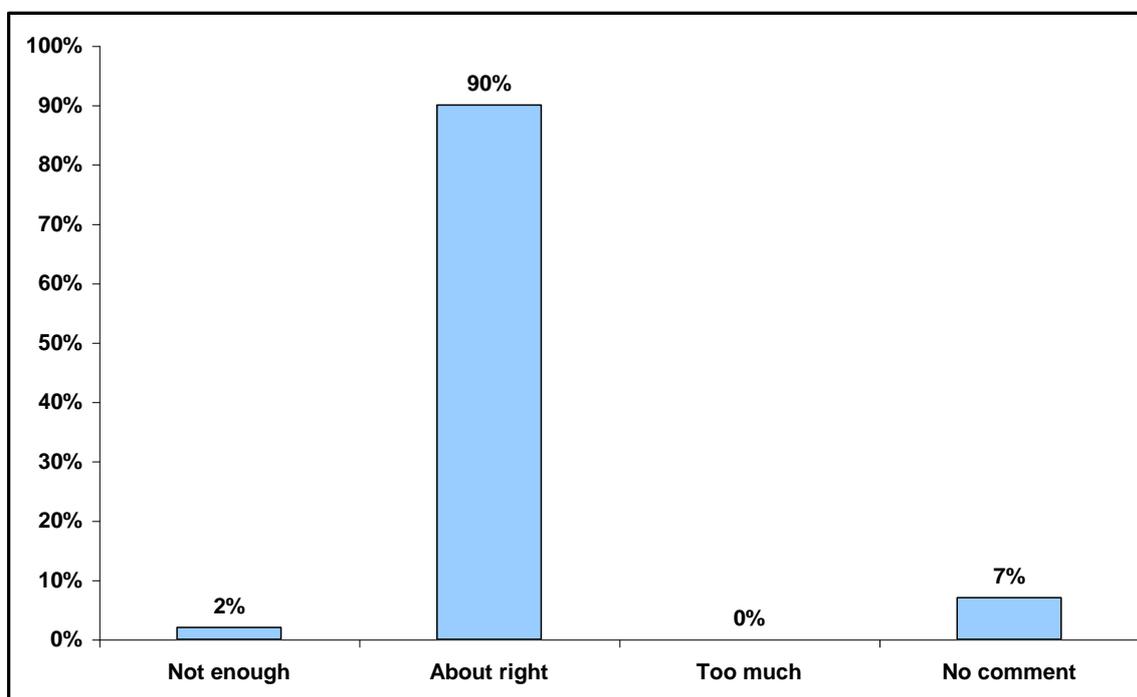
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KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
335	Bothamsall Cemetery	Outside of Hierarchy		
336	Harworth Methodist Church	Main Regeneration Settlement		

In terms of cemeteries, churchyards and disused burial grounds mapping shows provision in the vast majority of settlements. The need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by burial capacity requirement. Retford Cemetery still has spare burial capacity and there is also future potential for additional burial space to be developed on an adjacent field.

The majority of all respondents (90%) consider the level of provision of churchyards/cemeteries to be “about right”, whilst only a small proportion (2%) believes it to be inadequate. No respondents feel there are too many churchyards/cemeteries in Bassetlaw. Of note is that just over four fifths (82%) of respondents who consider there to be not enough churchyards/cemetery provision are from Worksop, which may reflect the distribution of current provision.

Figure 9.4: Availability of cemeteries/churchyards



Management

In addition to a number of closed churchyards, BDC Cemeteries Unit is responsible for administering all burials in its three main cemeteries at Retford Road and Hannah Park in Worksop and Retford Cemetery. In addition, it holds and maintains the records of all past and present burials that have taken place in each one.

The Unit does its best to make the cemetery environments as pleasant as possible. Retford Cemetery is a particularly good site and benefits from a woodland area, which has recently been given local nature reserve status. Consideration should be given to the

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site being a possible future Green Flag candidate. In addition, a woodland burial service is provided at both Hannah Park and Retford cemeteries, whereby BDC plants a tree on the plot and places a memorial plaque on an adjacent wall.

Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries in Bassetlaw.

Table 9.2: Quality ratings for cemeteries

Settlement type	Quality ratings		
	Poor	Average	Good
Principle Urban Area	-	2	6
Core Service Centre	1	2	4
Main Regeneration Settlement	-	1	2
Local Service Centre	-	2	5
Rural Service Centre	-	15	14
Outside of Hierarchy	2	20	12
BASSETLAW	3	42	43

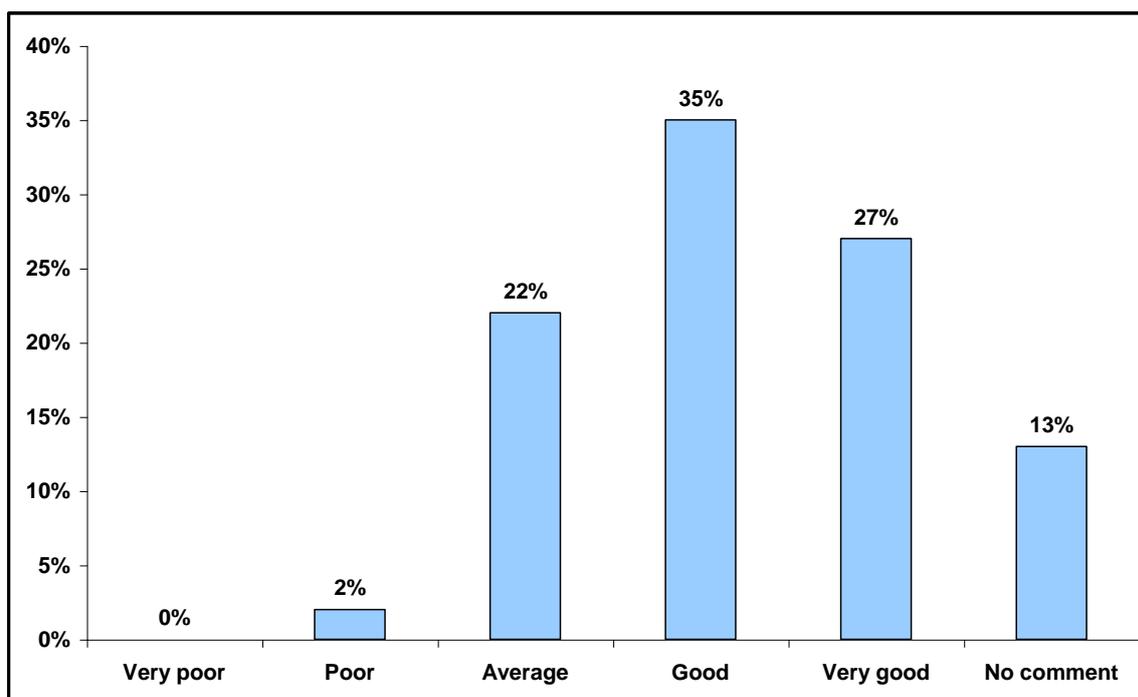
Most cemeteries within the BDC audit (49%) are rated as good quality. No significant problems or issues were raised with regard to the general quality of provision. To further support this, consultation suggests that BDC appears to visit its main sites once a week to undertake maintenance, and users accept this as adequate frequency.

Pathways at Retford Cemetery are good, with the larger paths having tarmac surfaces. Smaller pathways that branch off from the main ones can sometimes become overgrown, but this is not seen as a major issue. Consultation suggested that access to Hannah Park could be improved, particularly for wheelchair access.

Over three fifths of survey respondents (62%) rate the quality of churchyards/cemeteries as above average (good/very good). Only a small proportion (2%) perceives provision to be below average (poor/very poor) in terms of quality.

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Figure 9.5: Quality of churchyards/cemeteries



Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries in Bassetlaw.

Table 9.3: Value ratings for cemeteries

Settlement type	Value rating	
	Low	High
Principle Urban Area	-	8
Core Service Centre	1	6
Main Regeneration Settlement	2	1
Local Service Centre	2	5
Rural Service Centre	2	27
Outside of Hierarchy	6	28
BASSETLAW	13	75

Cemeteries are generally assessed as high value (85%), reflecting that provision has cultural/heritage value and provide a sense of place to the local community.

There is a high level of wildlife activity at Retford Cemetery due to the railway corridor and canal that run close by. A local group have previously undertaken a bat survey and believes there to be seven species of bats in situ. Other species spotted on site include hedgehogs, squirrels and rabbits.

Summary

Cemeteries summary

- ◀ There are 88 sites classified as cemeteries, equating to over 57 hectares of provision in Bassetlaw.
- ◀ The majority of users would walk up to 15 minutes to access provision. However, an accessibility standard is not recommended and the need for cemetery provision should be driven by the need for burial space.
- ◀ In terms of cemeteries, churchyards and disused burial grounds mapping shows provision in the vast majority of settlements. Retford Cemetery still has spare burial capacity and there is also potential for additional burial space to be developed on an adjacent field in the future.
- ◀ Retford Cemetery is a particularly good site and benefits from woodland which has recently been given local nature reserve status. Consideration should be given to the site being a possible future Green Flag candidate.
- ◀ Nearly half of all cemeteries within the BDC audit (49%) are rated as good quality. No significant problems or issues were raised with regard to the general quality of provision. However, consultation suggested that access to Hannah Park could be improved, particularly for wheelchair access.
- ◀ Cemeteries are generally assessed as being of high value in Bassetlaw, reflecting that provision has cultural/heritage value and provide a sense of place to the local community.

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PART 10: CIVIC SPACES

Introduction

The typology of civic space, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

Key issues

Current provision

There are eight civic spaces sites; just over three hectares of provision in Bassetlaw.

Table 10.1: Distribution of civic spaces

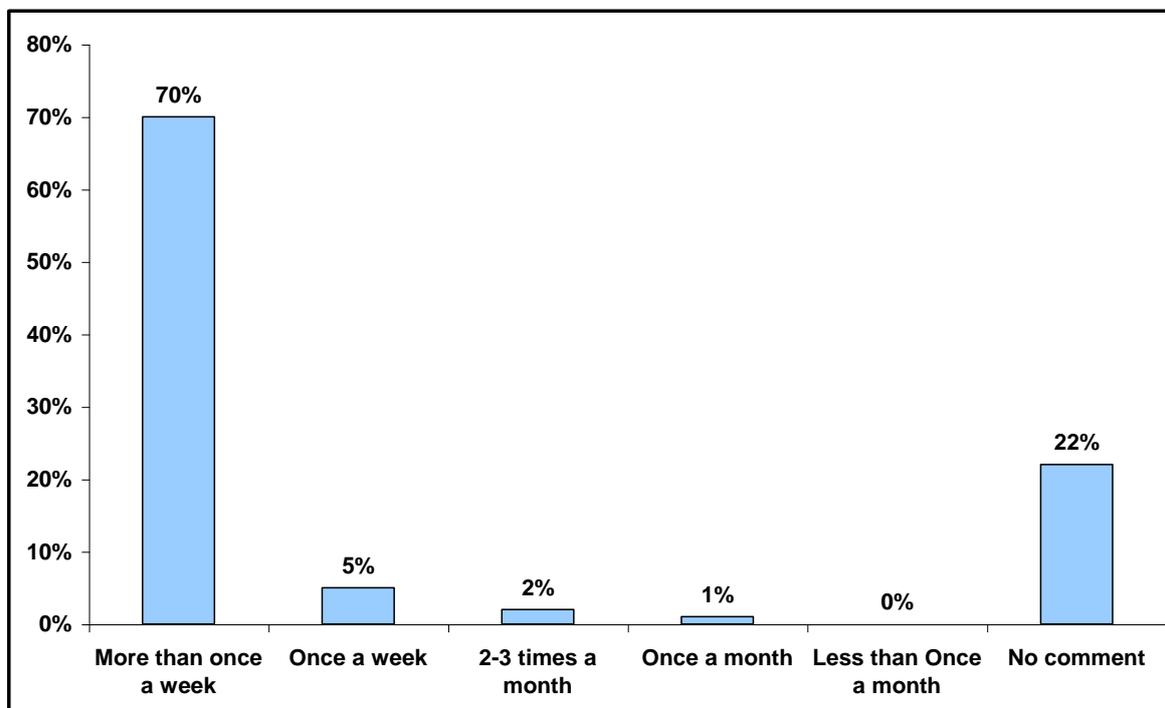
Settlement type	Civic spaces	
	Number	Size (ha)
Principle Urban Area	3	1.08
Core Service Centre	3	1.05
Main Regeneration Settlement	1	0.88
Local Service Centre	1	0.05
Rural Service Centre	-	-
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-
BASSETLAW	8	3.06

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Usage

Three quarters (75%) of all respondents have visited civic/non-green spaces in Bassetlaw in the previous twelve months. This reflects the level of provision. The majority (76%) visit civic/non green spaces inside Bassetlaw. A significant proportion visit civic space once a week or more (70%), while one quarter (22%) are unable to state how often they visit.

Figure 10.1: Usage frequency of civic space/non-green spaces in the previous 12 months

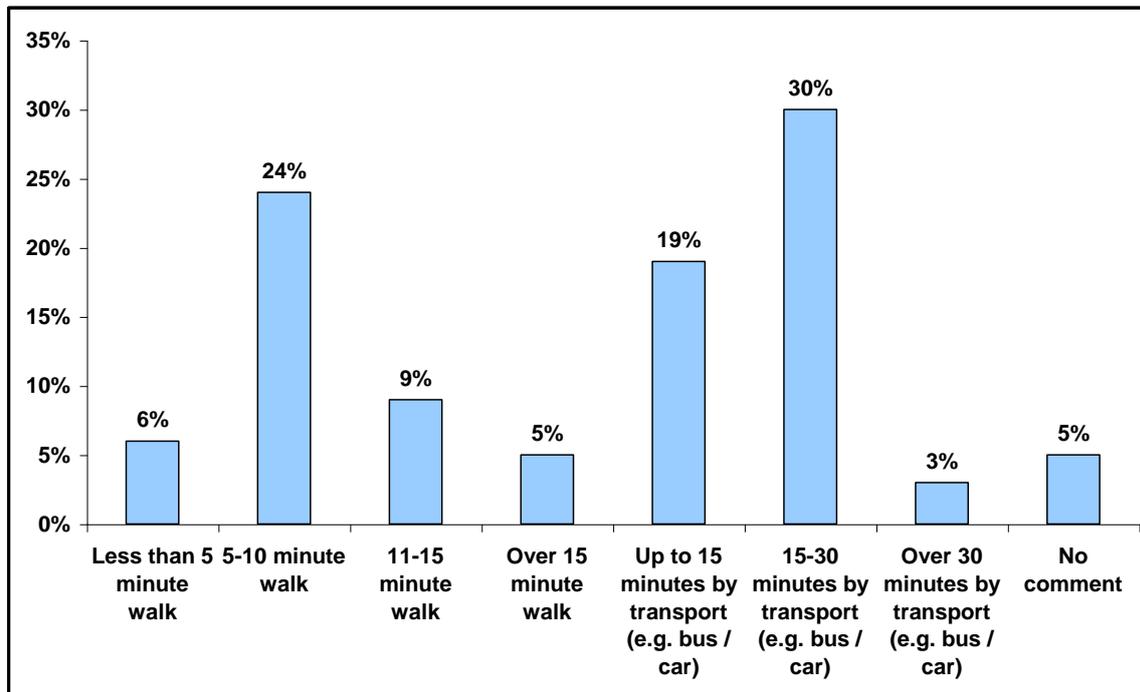


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Accessibility

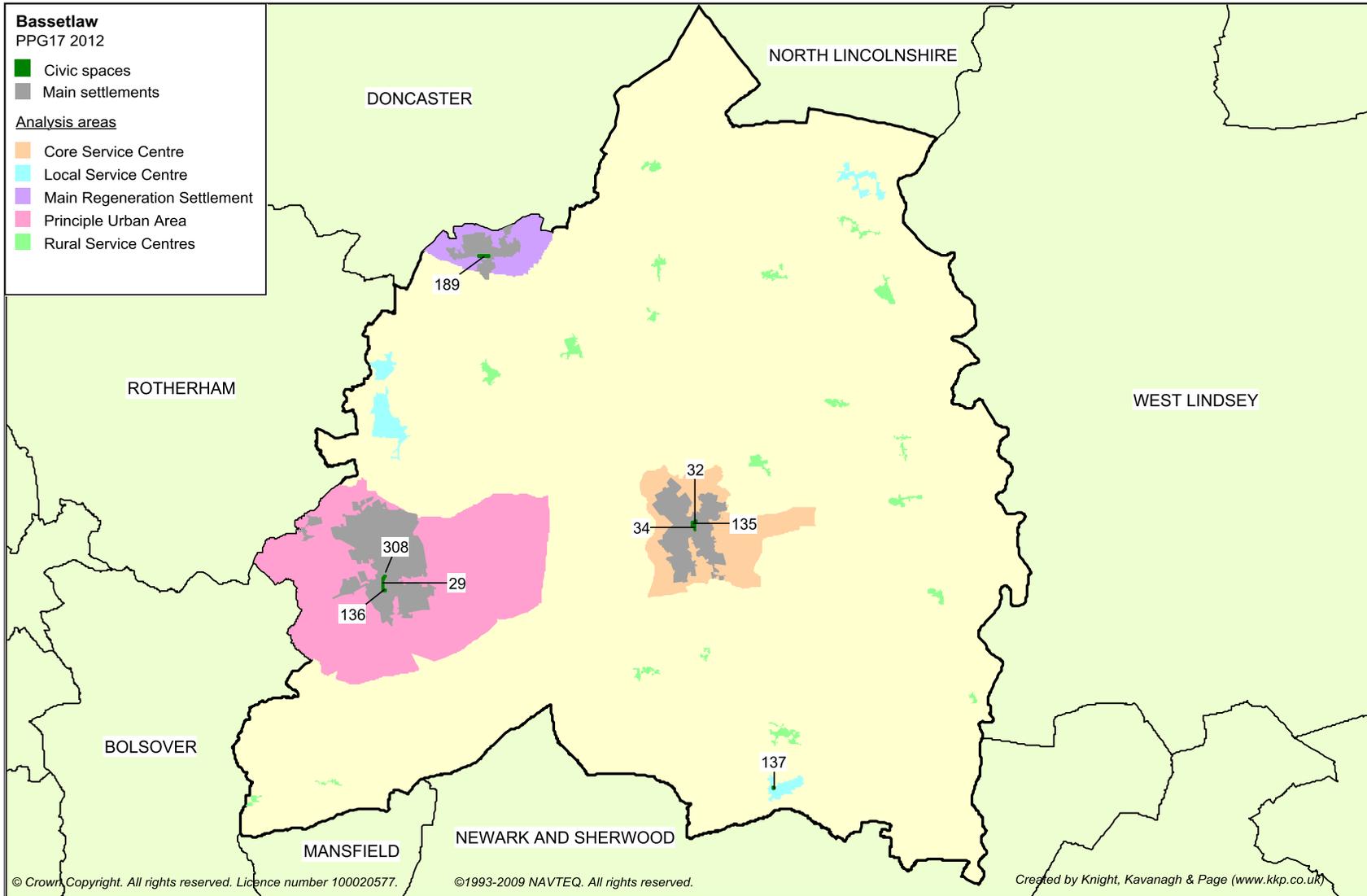
Just over one half (52%) of all respondents are willing to travel by transport to reach civic/non-green spaces, more specifically, of these under a third (30%) will travel between 15-30 minutes by transport. However, almost half (44%) of respondents are willing to walk to access civic space provision.

Figure 10.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a civic space/non-green space



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Figure 10.3: Civic spaces mapped by settlement



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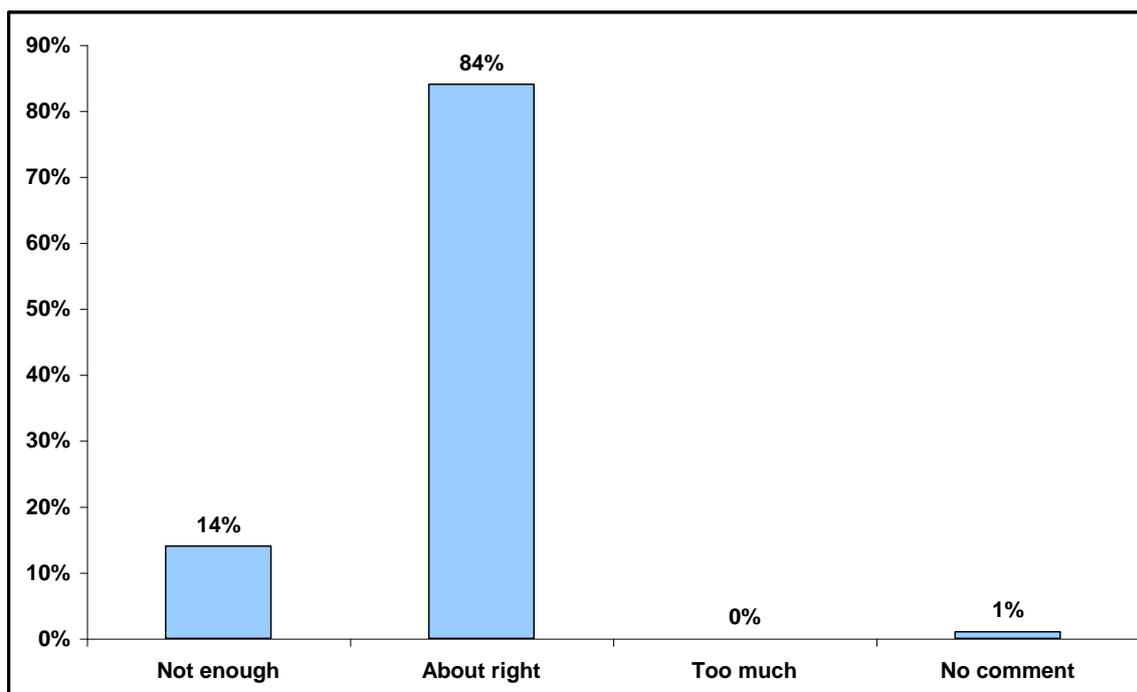
Key to sites mapped:

KKP Ref	Site	Settlement Hierarchy	Quality score	Value score
29	Bridge Street	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
32	Cannon Square	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
34	Carolgate	Core Service Centre	Green	Green
135	Retford Market Place	Core Service Centre	Yellow	Green
136	Market Place	Principle Urban Area	Green	Green
137	Market Place	LocalServiceCentres	Yellow	Green
189	Civic Space Scrooby Road	Main Regeneration Settlement	Yellow	Green
308	Victoria Square	Principle Urban Area	Red	Red

Mapping shows that civic spaces are provided in the Principle Urban Area, Core Service Centre and Main Regeneration Settlement. Nearly all the settlements classed as Local Service Centres (with the exception of Tuxford) and Rural Service Centres do not have provision.

The majority (84%) of survey respondents consider the level of provision of civic spaces to be about right. Only a small proportion of all respondents (14%) believe there is not enough. The remaining 1% was unable to offer any comments. Further consultation did not highlight the need for additional provision to be provided.

Figure 10.4: Availability of civic space/non-green space



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Quality

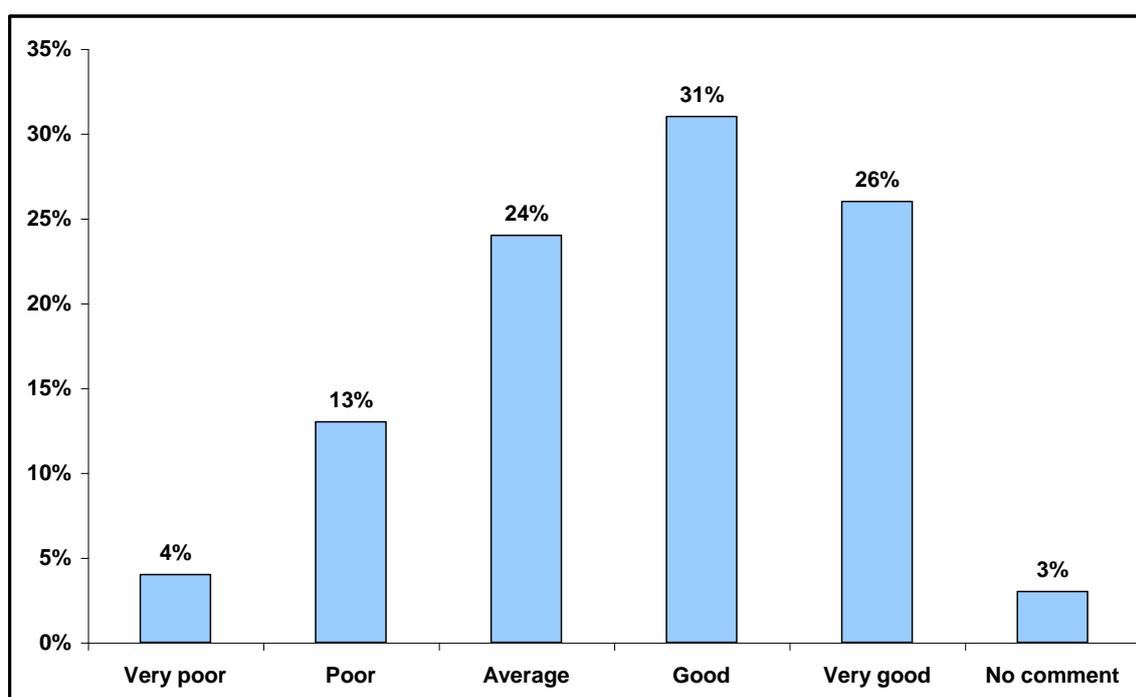
The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for civic spaces in Bassetlaw.

Table 10.2: Quality ratings for civic spaces

Settlement type	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Principle Urban Area	1	-	2
Core Service Centre	-	1	2
Main Regeneration Settlement	-	1	-
Local Service Centre	-	1	-
Rural Service Centre	-	-	-
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-	-
BASSETLAW	1	3	4

The quality of civic spaces is generally inconsistent across Bassetlaw; most sites in Worksop and Retford are identified as good quality. Sites outside of these areas are identified as either average or poor. This is relatively consistent with the street survey, which finds that almost one quarter (24%) of all respondents consider the quality of civic spaces to be average, and 57% consider them to be above average (good/very good). Nearly a fifth (17%) of respondents rate civic spaces in Bassetlaw as being below average (poor/very poor) in quality.

Figure 10.5: Quality of civic spaces



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Value

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

Table 10.3: Value ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Settlement type	Value ratings	
	Low	High
Principle Urban Area	1	2
Core Service Centre	-	3
Main Regeneration Settlement	-	1
Local Service Centre	-	1
Rural Service Centre	-	-
Outside of Hierarchy	-	-
BASSETLAW	1	7

Nearly all civic spaces are assessed as high value, reflecting that provision has cultural/heritage value and provide a sense of place to the local community. Only one site scores low for value.

Summary

Civic space summary

- ◀ There are eight sites classified as civic spaces equating to just over three hectares of provision in Bassetlaw.
- ◀ The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes. Therefore, KKP recommends that all residents are to be within 20 minute drive time of high quality provision.
- ◀ Mapping shows that civic spaces are provided in the Principle Urban Area, Core Service Centre and Main Regeneration Settlement. Nearly all the settlements classed as Local Service Centres (with the exception of Tuxford) and Rural Service Centres do not have provision. The majority (84%) of street survey respondents feel that the level of provision of civic spaces is about right.
- ◀ The quality of civic spaces is generally quite inconsistent across Bassetlaw. However, overall sites in Worksop and Retford are identified as being good quality.
- ◀ Nearly all civic spaces are assessed as high value, reflecting that provision has cultural/heritage value and provide a sense of place to the local community.

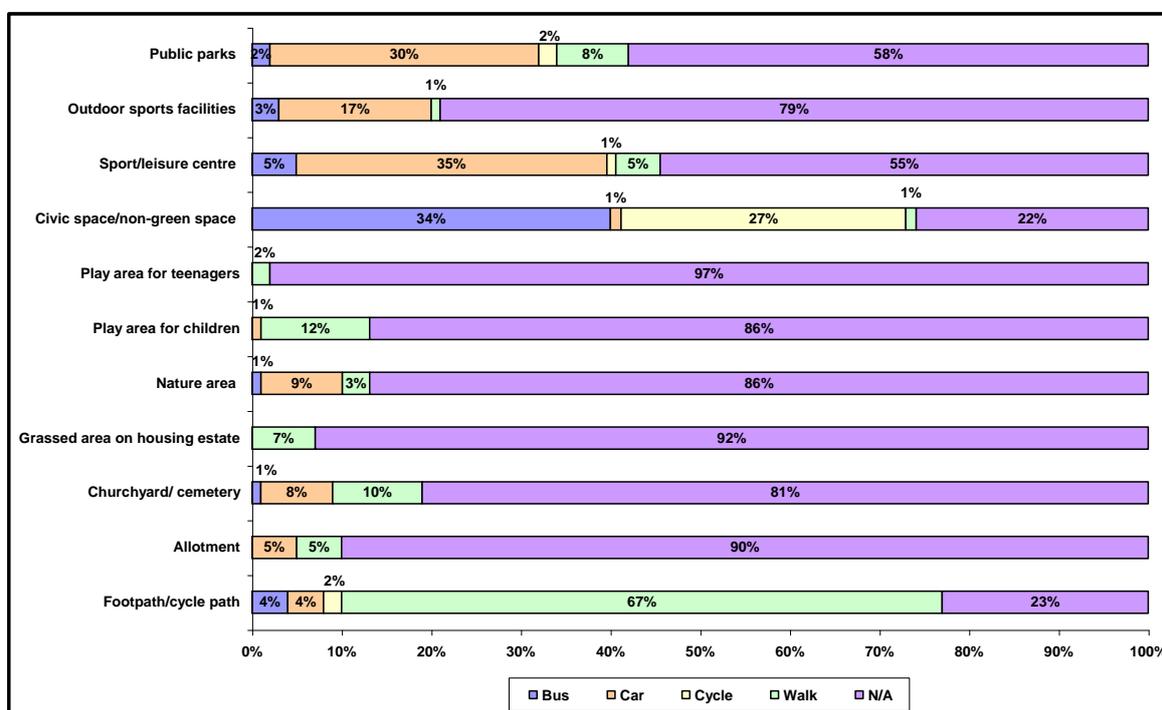
PART 11: IDENTIFYING DEFICIENCIES

Accessibility standards

Accessibility standards (often expressed as catchment areas) for different types of open space are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing provision. It is recognised that the factors that underpin accessibility varies from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. This problem has been overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance that would be travelled by the majority of users.

Guidance is offered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) (2002): 'Guide to preparing open space strategies' with regard to appropriate catchment areas for authorities to adopt. However, in order to make accessibility standards more locally specific to Bassetlaw, we have used data from the street survey to set appropriate catchments. The following responses were recorded in the survey in relation to how far residents would be willing to travel to access different types of open space provision:

Figure 11.1: Resident willingness to travel to open space provision



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The following table summarises the survey responses and recommends accessibility standards to apply in Bassetlaw:

Table 11.1: Summary of survey responses and proposed accessibility standards

Typology	Street survey responses
Allotments	The majority of users would accept a 5-10 minute walk to access provision.
Amenity greenspaces	The majority of users would accept up to a 5 minute walk to access provision. However, a reasonable proportion would also accept up to 10 minute walk.
Cemeteries/ churchyards	The majority of users would walk up to 15 minutes to access provision.
Civic space	The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes.
Natural/semi natural greenspace	The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes.
Parks and gardens	The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes.
Provision for children and young people	The majority of users would walk to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel 5-10 minutes.

Having taken into account the above information and national guidance available, we have refined and set the following accessibility standards for each typology by settlement type.

Table 11.2: Accessibility standards by settlement type

Typology	Settlement classification	Accessibility standard
Allotments	Principle Urban Area	All residents to live within 10 minute walk of allotment provision.
	Core Service Centre	
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	
	Rural Service Centres	No accessibility standard set.
Amenity greenspace	Principle Urban Area	All residents to live within 10 minute walk of amenity greenspace provision.
	Core Service Centre	
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	
	Rural Service Centres	Minimum of at least one informal open space
Cemeteries/ Churchyards	Principle Urban Area	Not standard set, the need for cemetery provision should be driven by the need for burial space.
	Core Service Centre	
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	
	Rural Service Centres	

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Typology	Settlement classification	Accessibility standard
Civic space	Principle Urban Area	All residents to live within 20 minute drive time of civic space provision.
	Core Service Centre	
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	
	Rural Service Centres	No accessibility standard set.
Natural/semi natural greenspace	Principle Urban Area	All residents to live within 20 minute drive time of natural/semi-natural greenspace provision.
	Core Service Centre	
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	
	Rural Service Centres	Minimum of at least one informal open space
Parks and gardens	Principle Urban Area	All residents to be 20 minute drive time of high quality provision.
	Core Service Centre	
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	
	Rural Service Centres	No accessibility standard set.
Provision for children and young people	Principle Urban Area	All residents to be 10 minute walk time of provision for children and young people provision.
	Core Service Centre	
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	
	Rural Service Centres	No accessibility standard set.

No accessibility standard has been set for Rural Service Centres. This is due to the settlement hierarchy ranking each settlement type according to its shape, size and potential for future development/growth. Rural Service Centres are identified as having limited growth.

Furthermore, rural settlements tend to have fewer requirements for an expansive range of provision due to their size and population levels.

However, demand may still exist for access to open space in Rural Service Centres and a quantitative standard has therefore been set to reflect such demand for provision. Therefore a Rural Service Centre should have access to a minimum of at least one formal and one informal open space, as shown in table 11.3. The typology of provision for children and young people is classified within both the formal and informal categories due to the diversity and variation in sites of this type.

Figure 11.3 Formal and informal open space types

Formal open space typologies	Informal open space typologies
Parks and gardens	Natural and semi-natural
Allotments	Amenity greenspace
Provision for children and young people	
Cemeteries	
Civic space	

No accessibility standard is set for those sites identified as being Outside of the settlement hierarchy. This is due to the infrequent occurrence and isolated location of such sites.

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Deficiencies

Shortfalls in provision are identified by examining the extent to which current provision meets the standards set. If a settlement does not have access to the required level of provision it is deemed deficient. KKP has estimated how many sites, of a minimum size are needed to provide comprehensive access to this type of provision (in hectares).

The minimum site size requirement to meet any deficiency identified has been calculated using average site sizes within each Area. Nationally recognised minimum size sizes (provided by Greater London Authority and in the National Playing Fields Association guidance) are used where there are not enough sites to calculate an average size.

Table 11.4: Minimum site sizes by settlement type

Typology	Settlement classification	Minimum site size (hectares)
Allotments	Principle Urban Area	1.71
	Core Service Centre	0.79
	Main Regeneration Settlement	0.22
	Local Service Centres	1.02
	Rural Service Centres	Not required
Amenity greenspace	Principle Urban Area	1.25
	Core Service Centre	0.64
	Main Regeneration Settlement	0.64
	Local Service Centres	0.42
	Rural Service Centres	0.37
Cemeteries/ Churchyards	Principle Urban Area	Standard should be based on demand for burial space
	Core Service Centre	
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	
	Rural Service Centres	
Natural/semi natural greenspace	Principle Urban Area	5.42
	Core Service Centre	2 (GLA)
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	
	Rural Service Centres	
Parks and gardens	Principle Urban Area	2 (GLA)
	Core Service Centre	0.4 (GLA)
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	0.4 (GLA)
	Rural Service Centres	Not required
Provision for children and young people	Principle Urban Area	0.04 (FIT – LEAP size)
	Core Service Centre	
	Main Regeneration Settlement	
	Local Service Centres	
	Rural Service Centres	Not required

Accessibility standards are applied overleaf in mapping format to identify shortfalls in provision. Gaps are identified as a settlement not covered by a catchment area (either drive time or walk time).

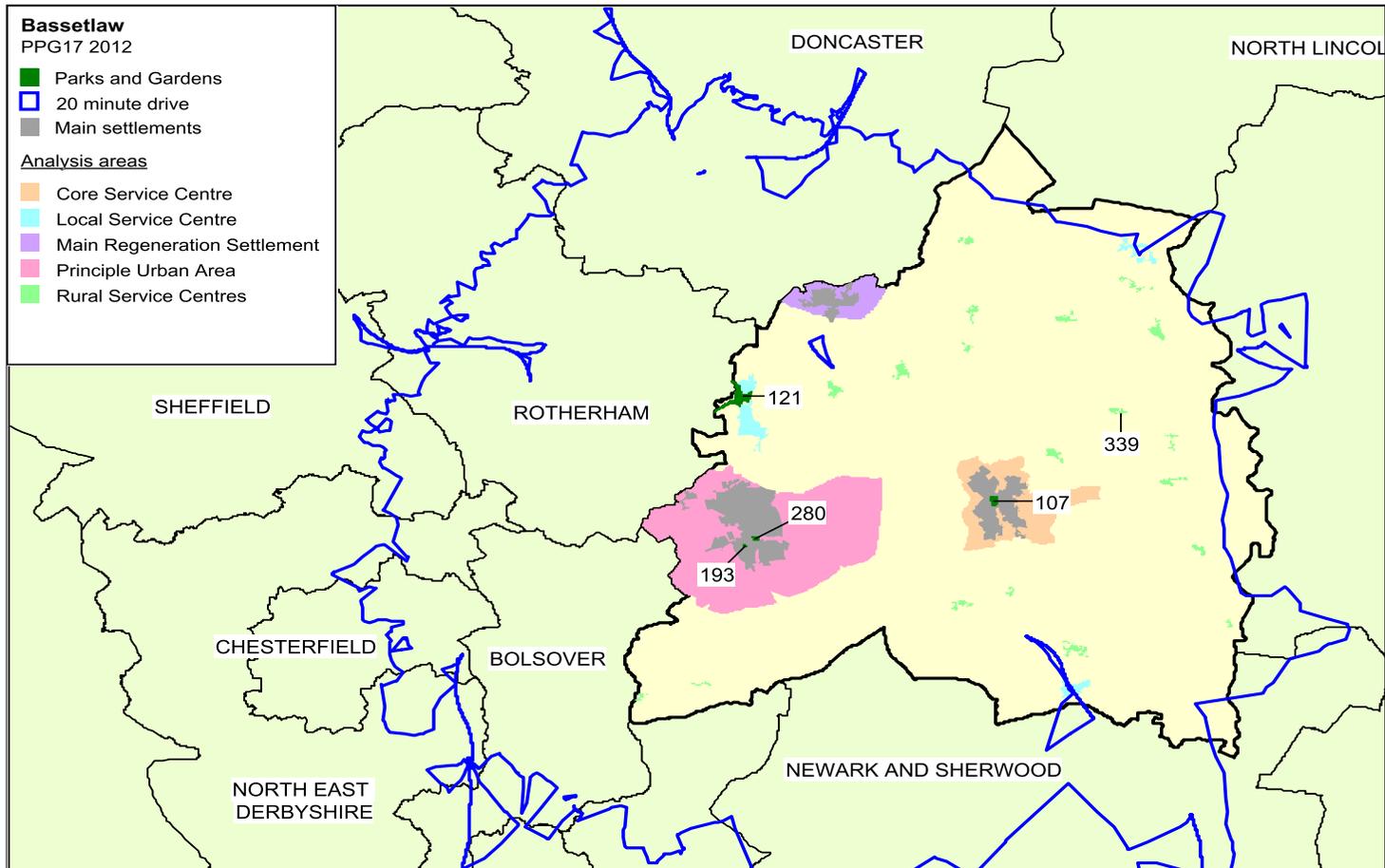
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Once gaps have been quantified, we have made a recommendation as to whether new provision is required to meet the gap or whether the deficiency can be met by other similar sites in the area.

No minimum site sizes are required for the classification of *outside of settlement hierarchy*, as no accessibility standard is set for this classification. The classification is a tool to ensure sites not located within settlements (i.e. isolated rural sites) are identified as part of the study. Subsequently, no quantity provision standards are set for this classification.

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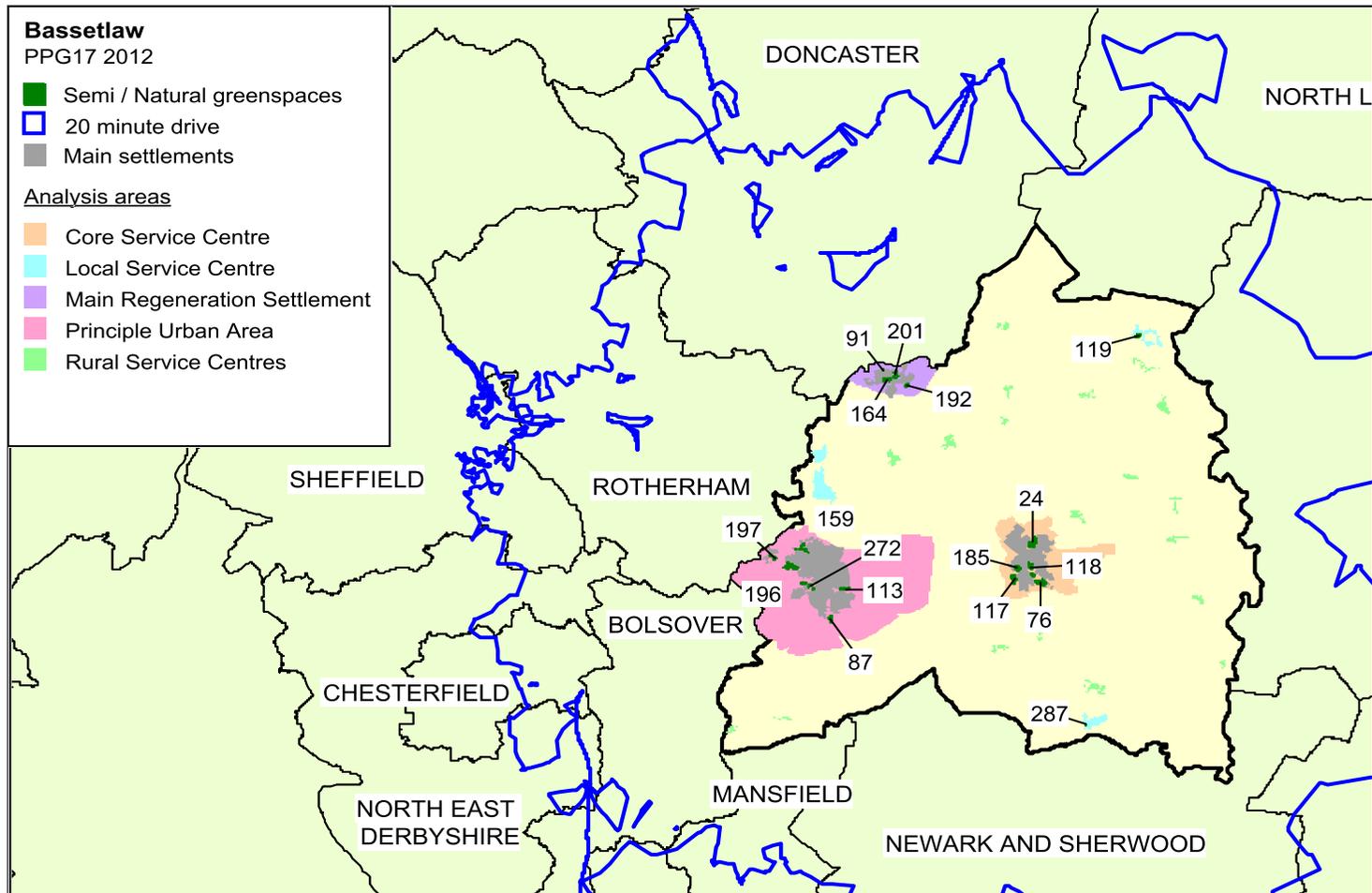
Figure 11.2: Parks and gardens



No deficiencies in provision are identified. Mapping demonstrates that all settlements, regardless of classification, are covered by the 20 minute drive time catchment set for the typology of parks and gardens.

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Figure 11.3: Natural and semi-natural greenspace



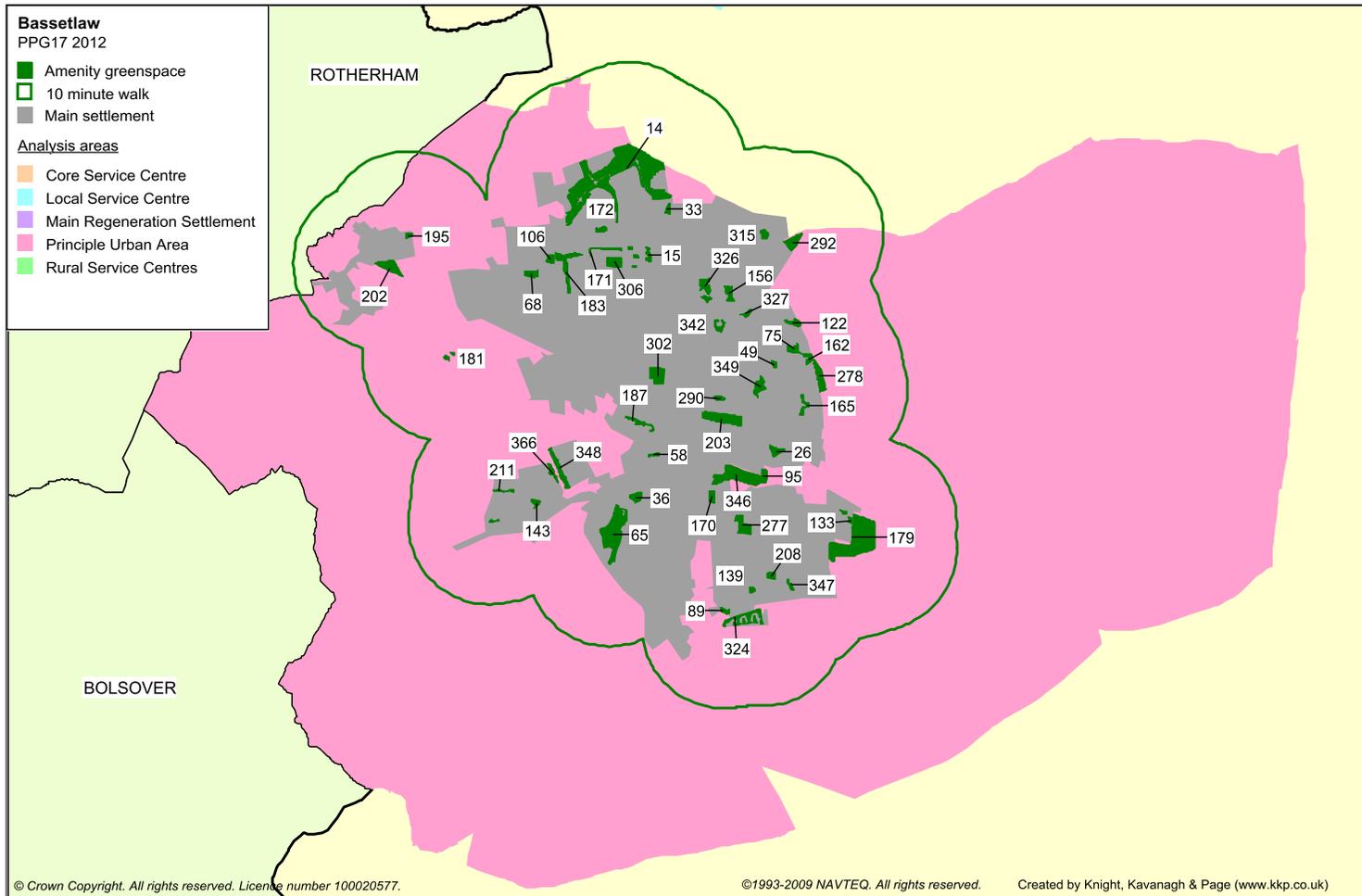
No deficiencies in provision are identified. Mapping demonstrates that all settlements, regardless of classification, are covered by the 20 minute drive time catchment set for the typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace. No settlement in the Rural Service Centre classification is identified as having provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace. Table 11.4 recommends in provision is required.

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A large proportion of Rural Service Centres have access to amenity greenspace. Settlements within the Rural Service Centre classification that do not have access to amenity greenspace are identified as being Elkesley, Nether Langwith and Rampton. Table 11.4 recommends whether new provision of this type is required for any of the three settlements.

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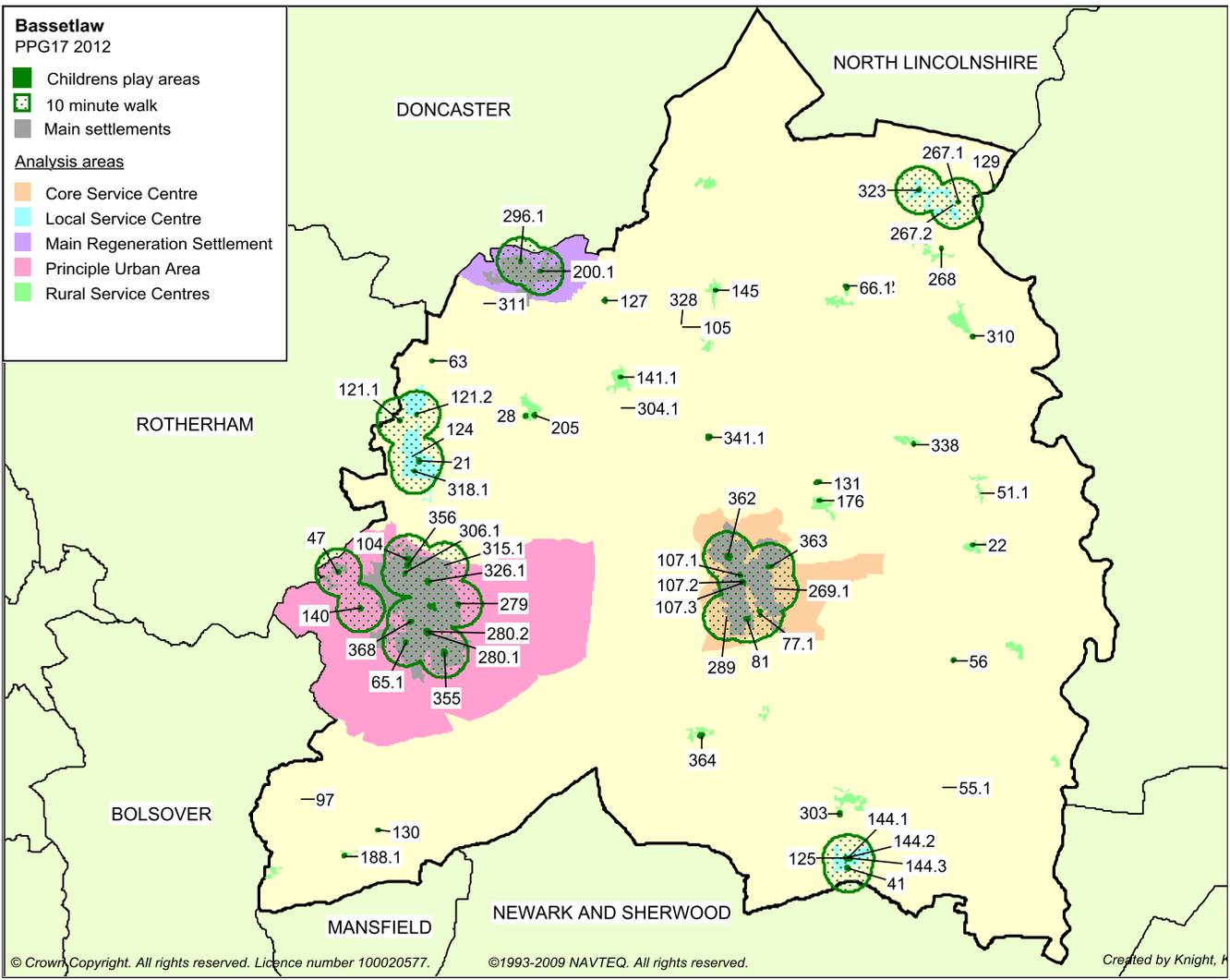
Figure 11.5: Amenity greenspace in Worksop



Mapping demonstrates that the Principle Urban Area (Worksop) is sufficiently covered by the 10 minute walk time catchment set for amenity greenspace.

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Figure 11.6: Provision for children and young people

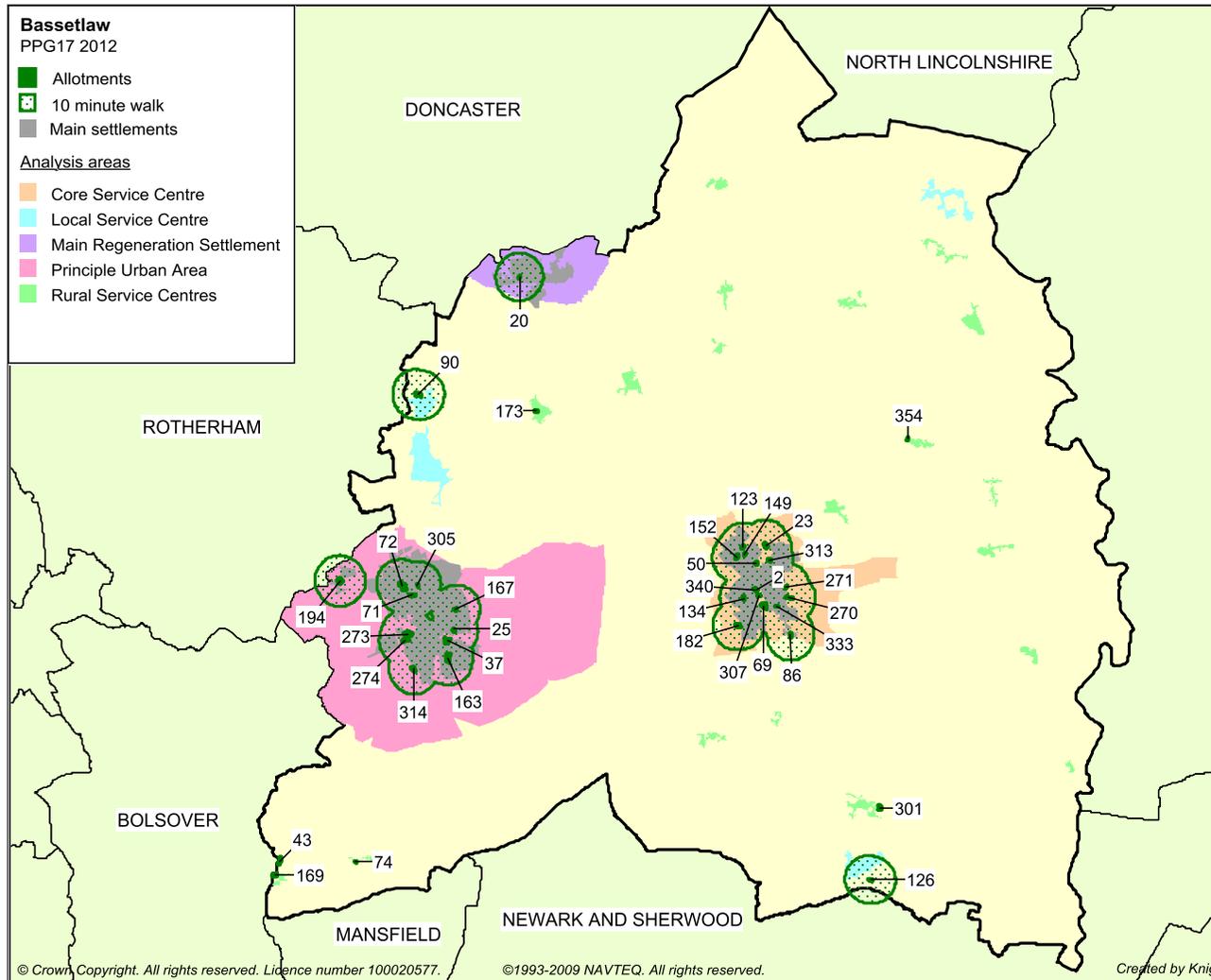


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All Local Service Centres and the Core Service Centre are sufficiently covered by existing provision. However, gaps are noted in both the Principle Urban Area of Worksop (in the Gateford area) and the Main Regeneration Settlement of Harworth Bircotes (to the west of the settlement). The catchment gap in Worksop is due to the Gateford area being a predominantly industrial location. Subsequently no new provision is recommended to meet the identified gap in provision. However, new play provision (minimum of 0.04 hectares) should be sought in order to meet the identified catchment gap in Harworth Bircotes. No accessibility standard is set for Rural Service Centres.

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Figure 11.7: Allotments



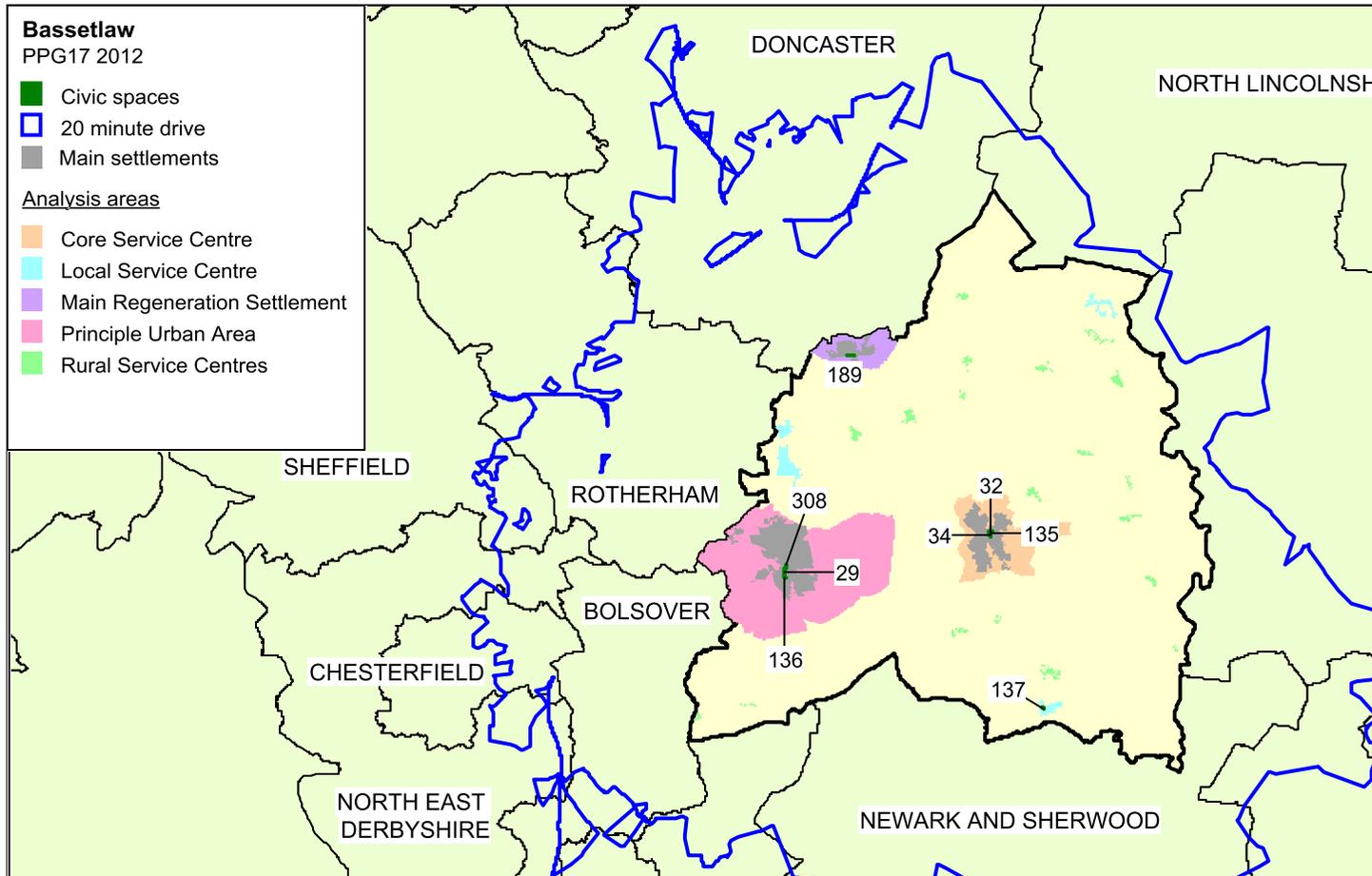
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The Core Service Centre and the majority of the Principle Urban Area have sufficient access to allotment provision. Minor gaps are noted for the Main Regeneration Settlement of Harworth Bircotes.

Mapping demonstrates that two Local Service Centres (Carlton-in-Lindrick and Misterton) are not adequately serviced by allotment provision (according to a 10 minute walk time). No accessibility standard is set for Rural Service Centres.

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Figure 11.8: Civic space



No deficiencies in the provision of civic spaces are identified. Mapping demonstrates that all settlements, regardless of classification, are fully accessible within a 20 minute drive time catchment.

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Summary of deficiencies

The table below summarises the gaps identified from the mapping across all settlements on a typology by typology basis.

Table 11.5: Summary of catchment deficiencies

Typology	Summary of deficiencies	Recommendation
Parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No deficiencies identified. 	-
Natural and semi natural greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No settlement in the Rural Service Centre classification is identified as having provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New informal open space provision should be sought in settlements where there is also no amenity greenspace (see below).
Amenity greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Rural Service Centre classification settlements of Elkesley, Nether Langwith and Rampton are identified as having no access to amenity greenspace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New informal open space provision (i.e. amenity greenspace or natural and semi natural greenspace) should be sought in each settlement (minimum of 0.37 hectares each).
Provision for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified catchment gap in Harworth Bircotes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New play provision (minimum of 0.04 hectares) should be sought.
Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor gap in Main Regeneration Settlement of Harworth Bircotes. Two Local Service Centres (Carlton-in-Lindrick and Misterton) are not serviced by adequate provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New provision is not considered a priority. New allotment provision (minimum of 1.02 hectares each) should be sought.

The deficiencies identified in the table above are used in the setting of quantitative standards calculated in Part 12.

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PART 12: SETTING OPEN SPACE PROVISION STANDARDS

Introduction

Target quantity standards are a guideline as to how much open space, sport and recreation provision per 1,000 people is needed to strategically serve Bassetlaw up to 2026. Standards for each type of provision have been created in relation to demand, access and future population growth and are provided on a settlement hierarchy basis.

Development of standards is undertaken for each individual typology as opposed to grouping similar types of open spaces together such as formal (parks, cemeteries and allotments) and informal (amenity greenspace, natural and semi natural greenspace). This is done in order to recognise the different values placed on each typology as identified during site visits and as placed on them by residents during the consultation. However, on a local level, some similar typologies such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace have been compared within the process and are recognised as providing a similar function.

A composite approach to the setting of open space provision standards has been applied in Bassetlaw. It has taken account of the other possible options including the application of national standards and believes that this is the most appropriate way to produce locally derived standards for Bassetlaw.

It is advised that the target local standards are adopted as part of the LDF and used within supplementary planning guidance in the context of planning applications (i.e. where applicants propose the removal/relocation of open space and/or where developer contributions can be gained to improve the quality of existing provision and if required provide new provision).

No quantity provision standard has been set for the settlement hierarchy classification of Rural Service Centres. Instead a minimum requirement of one formal and one informal type of open space has been applied to these settlements. On this basis, the three Rural Service Centres of Gamston, Nether Langwith and Rampton are identified as not meeting the standard of having at least one formal and one informal open space type.

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Methodology

The assessment report divides Bassetlaw into analysis areas. These have been adopted to allow more localised assessment of provision, examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies and local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The following example calculation is applied to each typology to calculate how much open space provision per 1,000 people is needed to strategically serve Bassetlaw in the future.

Analysis area	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total future provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2012-2026 (ha)
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
			$A/B \times 1,000$		$A+D$	$E/B \times 1,000$		$(F \times G / 1,000) - A$

The current level of provision (column A, B, C)

The current level of provision is calculated using the information collected and is presented earlier within the assessment report and analysed using the open spaces project database. Residents often base their judgement of future need on or around the amount of current provision. Therefore, the starting point for calculating recommended quantitative standards is total current provision.

Current deficiencies (column D)

Accessibility standards have been applied in the form of catchment mapping to demonstrate which areas are deficient in provision. If a settlement does not have access to the required level of open space provision (as stated above) it is deemed deficient. KKP has estimated how many sites, of a minimum size (as provided by the GLA guidance and typology averages), are needed to provide comprehensive access to this type of provision (in hectares).

Target standards (column F)

Once a new total provision is gained by adding in any deficiencies to the current provision (column E), this provides the basis to set aspirational standards.

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Future population growth (columns G)

Population figures used have been provided by BDC. The population percentage increase of 8.37% for the District up to 2026 is taken from the 2011 Adopted Core Strategy for Bassetlaw. The projections are trend based projections and may not take into account future local, regional or national policy and strategies. An increase of 8.37% is applied to each settlement classification to reflect the population projections at a more local level:

Population increase by settlement classification

Settlement classification	Current population	% Increase	Future population (2026)
Principle Urban Area	40,940	8.37%	44,367
Core Service Centre	21,565		23,370
Main Regeneration Settlement	7,610		8,247
Local Service Centres	13,035		14,126
Rural Service Centres	16,015		17,355

Future deficiencies (column H)

Future population growth is applied to the standard to calculate how much additional open space provision is needed to strategically serve population growth in Bassetlaw until 2026.

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Quantitative provision standards

Parks and gardens

Settlement type	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2012-2026 (ha)
Principle Urban Area	4.63	40,940	0.11	-	4.63	0.11	44,367	0.25
Core Service Centre	11.95	21,565	0.55	-	11.95	0.55	23,370	0.90
Main Regeneration Settlement	-	7,610	-	-	-	-	8,247	-
Local Service Centres	54.27	13,035	4.16	-	54.27	4.16	14,126	4.49
Rural Service Centres	0.08	16,015	0.005	-	0.08	0.05	17,355	0.007

Natural and semi natural

Settlement type	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2012-2026 (ha)
Principle Urban Area	40.87	40,940	0.99	-	40.87	0.99	44,367	3.05
Core Service Centre	52.07	21,565	2.41	-	52.07	2.41	23,370	4.25
Main Regeneration Settlement	15.04	7,610	1.98	-	15.04	1.98	8,247	1.29
Local Service Centres	4.98	13,035	0.38	-	4.98	0.38	14,126	0.39
Rural Service Centres	-	16,015	-	-	-	-	17,355	-

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Amenity greenspace

Settlement type	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2012-2026 (ha)
Principle Urban Area	79.07	40,940	1.93	-	79.07	1.93	44,367	6.56
Core Service Centre	10.18	21,565	0.47	-	10.18	0.47	23,370	0.80
Main Regeneration Settlement	5.39	7,610	0.71	-	5.39	0.71	8,247	0.47
Local Service Centres	6.60	13,035	0.51	-	6.60	0.51	14,126	0.60
Rural Service Centres	8.83	16,015	0.55	1.11	9.94	0.62	17,355	1.93

Play areas

Settlement type	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total future provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2012-2026 (ha)
Principle Urban Area	5.20	40,940	0.13	-	5.20	0.13	44,367	0.57
Core Service Centre	2.41	21,565	0.11	-	2.41	0.11	23,370	0.16
Main Regeneration Settlement	0.29	7,610	0.04	0.04	0.33	0.04	8,247	0.04
Local Service Centres	2.60	13,035	0.20	-	2.60	0.20	14,126	0.22
Rural Service Centres	2.55	16,015	0.16	-	2.55	0.16	17,355	2.78

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Allotment

Settlement type	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total future provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2012-2026 (ha)
Principle Urban Area	18.85	40,940	0.46	-	18.85	0.46	44,367	1.56
Core Service Centre	12.69	21,565	0.59	-	12.69	0.59	23,370	1.10
Main Regeneration Settlement	0.22	7,610	0.03	-	0.22	0.03	8,247	0.03
Local Service Centres	2.87	13,035	0.22	2.04	4.91	0.38	14,126	2.50
Rural Service Centres	3.92	16,015	0.24	-	3.92	0.24	17,355	0.25

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Seeking developer contributions

All new development should incorporate commitment to provision of open space to meet the needs of their residents or users in line with the above standards. This provision should be tailored to the character of the surrounding landscape. Irrespective of use, informal open space should be sustainably managed in partnership with the relevant environmental stakeholders.

How much open space is required?

The requirement for open spaces should be based upon the number of persons generated from the net increase in dwellings in the proposed scheme, using the average household occupancy rate of 2.32 persons per dwelling as derived from the Census 2001. On this basis, 1,000 persons at 2.32 persons per household represents a total of 431 dwellings.

The next stage is to calculate the open space requirement by typology per dwelling. This is calculated by multiplying 431 (dwellings) by the appropriate provision per dwelling by typology. Using amenity greenspace in the Core Service Centre as an example, the recommended standard is 0.47 ha (4,700 sq. metres) per 1,000 population or 431 dwellings. Therefore by dividing 4,700 sq. metres by 431 dwellings a requirement for 10.9 sq. metres per dwelling is obtained.

Table 12.1 shows the open space requirement per dwelling by typology. Figures in italics are the recommended standards from per 1,000 population, whilst the figures in **bold** are the open space requirements per dwelling in square metres.

Table 12.1: Open Space Requirements per Dwelling

	Principle Urban Area	Core Service Centre	Main Regeneration Settlement	Local Service Centres	Rural Service Centres
Open space					
Parks and gardens	<i>0.11</i> 2.55	<i>0.55</i> 12.76	- -	<i>4.16</i> 96.52	<i>0.05</i> 1.16
Semi/natural greenspace	<i>0.99</i> 22.97	<i>2.41</i> 55.92	<i>1.98</i> 45.94	<i>0.38</i> 8.82	- -
Amenity greenspace	<i>1.93</i> 44.78	<i>0.47</i> 10.90	<i>0.71</i> 16.47	<i>0.51</i> 11.83	<i>0.62</i> 14.39
Allotments	<i>0.46</i> 10.67	<i>0.59</i> 13.69	<i>0.03</i> 0.70	<i>0.38</i> 8.82	<i>0.24</i> 5.57
Provision for children and young people					
Equipped children's play	<i>0.13</i> 3.02	<i>0.11</i> 2.55	<i>0.04</i> 0.93	<i>0.20</i> 4.64	<i>0.16</i> 3.71

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How is the provision to be made?

The requirements for on-site or off-site provision will vary according to the type of open space to be provided.

Open space typologies recommendation:

The rural areas of Bassetlaw are set in natural surroundings with ready access to the countryside. For this reason it is not considered appropriate to require developer contributions for natural/semi natural greenspace. However, it is proposed that appropriate on-site provision may be negotiated with a developer on an application by application basis in accordance with the recommended standards, having regard to the location and characteristics of the site.

A financial (off site) contribution, where appropriate, will be required for the following subject to the relevant town or parish council providing and managing this form of open space provision:

- ◀ Parks and gardens
- ◀ Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Allotments

Equipped children's play areas recommendation:

Residential developments should normally be required to meet the need for children's play generated by the development on site, either as an integral part of the design, or through payment of a development contribution which will be used to install or upgrade play facilities in the vicinity of a proposed development.

Whilst the norm has been to expect provision to be made on site, consideration needs to be given to the feasibility of provision.

The Fields in Trust (FIT) recommended minimum area of a formal LAP (Local Area for Play) is approximately 0.01ha, or 100 sq. metres (0.01ha). Similarly, the FIT recommended area of a formal LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) is approximately 0.04 hectares, or 400 sq. metres per 1000 population. Therefore, a significant amount of new housing development would be required to warrant on-site provision of formal children's play space of a FIT standard (a similar issue is experienced with local provision standards). This means that for a significant number of development sites formal children's play space provision should take the form of developer contributions to upgrade local equipped children's play facilities in the vicinity of the development. However, informal provision may still need to be made on site in locations where the nearest existing play provision is deemed too far away.

The extent to which the amount of the required provision should be made on site by way of informal provision would be determined on a case by case basis subject to site size, shape, topography, the risk of conflict with existing neighbouring residential properties and feasibility. Any informal provision can include useable informal grassed areas but should not include landscaping areas as these are regarded as formal provision.

PART 13: ADDRESSING QUALITY AND VALUE ISSUES

Assessing the quality and value of open spaces is used below to identify those sites which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose. We present below a high/low classification giving the following possible combinations of quality and value for open spaces:

High quality/high value

Ideally all open spaces should have an aspiration to come into this category and the planning system should then seek to protect them.

High quality/low value

Wherever possible, the preferred policy approach to a space in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary purpose. If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose. Only if this is also impossible will it be acceptable to consider a change of use.

Average quality/high value

The policy approach to these spaces should be to enhance their quality, if and when possible, and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

Average quality/low value

Wherever possible, the preferred policy approach to a space in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary purpose. If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose. Sites in this category may become 'surplus to requirements' in terms of their present primary purpose if value is not increased.

Low quality/high value

The policy approach to these spaces should be to enhance their quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

Low quality/low value

Wherever possible, the policy approach to these spaces or facilities should be to enhance their quality provided it is possible also to enhance their value. If this is not possible, for whatever reason, the space or facility may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present primary purpose.

If there is a choice of spaces or facilities of equal quality to declare surplus, and no need to use one or part of one to remedy a deficiency in some other form of open space or sport and recreation provision, it will normally be sensible to consider disposing of the one with the lowest value. Similarly, if two are of equal value, it will normally be sensible to dispose of the one of lower quality.

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PART 14: OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN

The aim of the action plan is to identify site improvements and development, which BDC should work towards in partnership with agencies and other landowners across the District. It should also be used by BDC to inform the negotiation in securing developer contributions to ensure adequate Section 106 Agreements are sought for the improvement of open space and recreation facilities across Bassetlaw.

The recommendations contained within this report should be reviewed on a regular basis as outlined in the PPG17 Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' and to take account of adopted housing allocations and windfall developments as and when required.

The action plan is set out on a settlement-by-settlement basis in the order of settlement hierarchy classifications. Actions are presented by typology, taking into consideration the identified surpluses and deficiencies.

Principle Urban Area (Worksop)

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Allotments				
Lincoln Street	163			Retain site as future strategic reserve for allotments, bringing back into use in the long term if participation/demand increases in the area. Large investment would be required due to its poor quality
Amenity greenspace				
Plantation Hill	165			Review site maintenance procedures with a view to enhancing general quality of site.
Raymoth Lane/ Buckingham Rise	171			Look to increase biodiversity value of site if possible
Land of Retford Road	179			Explore potential to enhance quality through increasing recreational uses
Sanderling Road	183			Review site maintenance procedures with a view to enhancing general quality and level of use of site.
Wingfield Avenue/ Blyth Road	327			Explore potential to enhance value through improving general maintenance. Introduction of seating could be of benefit.
Kingston Road	347			Look to address reported issues of vandalism
Kennedy Court/ Keats Crescent	349			Enhance general site appearance and maintenance
Provision for children and young people				
Keswick Road	104			Increase general quality of the site and its range of play equipment.
Thackery Close	279			Review maintenance procedures/history with a view to increasing sites general quality
Sandhill Street Play Area	368			Explore potential to increase quality through providing ancillary features (e.g. seating, bins)
Wensleydale Play Area	315.1			Undertake identified site refurbishments

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Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Civic space				
Victoria Square	308			Look to increase general quality of site. Consider typology reclassification.
Parks and gardens				
The Canch	280			Consider for future Green Flag Award application
Semi-natural/ natural greenspace				
Land at and behind pumping station	113			Look to improve personal security and general appearance. Consider increasing habitat benefits.
Old Gateford Road	159			Further increase habitat provision and review accessibility of sites.
Shireoaks Road	196			Review site maintenance procedures with a view to enhancing general quality and appearance. Promote habitat value of site

Core Service Centre (Retford)

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Allotments				
Cricket field lane	50			Work with landowner to improve quality/value and increase availability of plots to help meet demand
East of Century Road	69			Work with landowner to improve quality and increase availability of plots to help meet demand in the area and increase value.
Grove Road	86			Consider potential expansion of site to meet waiting list demand and increase value.
Milnecroft	123			Further explore access and use of site given its enclosed nature.
Rufford Avenue	182			Ensure sufficient security measures are put in place. Investigate the potential to set up self management.
Whinney Moor Lane	333			Consider potential expansion of site to meet waiting list demand and increase value.
Amenity greenspace				
Barnes Court	19			In order to increase value, look to increase function. For example, provision of bins and/or seating.
Cemeteries				
Retford Baptist Church	177			Consider typology reclassification given sites hard urban surface
Provision for children and young people				
Rufford Avenue Play Area	289			Work to improve site quality, including updating and replacing play equipment.
Strawberry Road Play Area	269.1			Undertake identified site refurbishments
Semi-natural/ natural greenspace				
Land off Goosemoor Lane	76			Look to improve quality and value, particularly safety and accessibility features.

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Main Regeneration Settlement (Harworth)

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Allotments				
Land off Bawtry Road	20			Further explore access and use of site
Amenity greenspace				
Common Lane	45			Look to improve value through increasing function. For example, provision of seating and/or lighting may be of benefit. Consider introduction of play provision; mapping identifies a deficiency in locality.
Cumberland Close	52			Explore potential to enhance value of site.
Grosvenor Road	85			Explore potential to improve general site appearance and controls to prevent illegal use.
Semi-natural/ natural greenspace				
Hawkins Close	91			Ensure adequate mitigation for any future loss of provision in relation to this site. This could include investment in nearby sites to improve quality.
Piggeries	164			Review site maintenance procedures with a view to enhancing general quality of site.
Scrooby Road	192			Review site maintenance and address issues with drainage.
Snipe Park Wood	201			Review site maintenance procedures with a view to enhancing general quality of site. Explore need to address reported site problems.

Local Service Centres

Carlton in Lindrick

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Amenity greenspace				
Cleveland Close	42			Review site maintenance procedures with a view to enhancing general quality and appearance. Addition of seating may be of benefit.
The Green	283			Consider improving value through increasing function. For example, provision of seating and/or lighting may be of benefit.
The Green	284			Explore potential to enhance quality through improving the main entrance

Langold

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Cemeteries				
Doncaster Road Cemetery	59			Ensure permission to extend cemetery (along with housing development) is carried out to an appropriate standard.

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Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
St Luke's Church	229			Explore potential to enhance value through, for example, introducing seating.
Provision for children and young people				
Langold Country Park	121.2			Enhance site quality; including updating and improving the range of play equipment. Consider issue regarding levels of vandalism in wider site.

Misterton

No site actions required

Tuxford

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Provision for children and young people				
Newark Road/ Clark Lane	41			Improve quality of the site through expanding its range of play equipment.
Linden Avenue	125			Enhance quality of the site through expanding its range of play equipment.

Rural Service Centres

Beckingham

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Amenity greenspace				
Land North of Beckingham Primary School	98			Explore potential to improve quality of site through increasing level of use.

Blyth

No site actions required

Clarborough Hayton

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Cemeteries				
St Peters Church	255			Explore potential to enhance value through, for example, introducing seating

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Cuckney

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Allotments				
Glovers Close	74			Establish local need for allotments and consider alternative uses

Dunham

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Amenity greenspace				
The Green	282			In order to increase value, look to increase function. For example, provision of ancillary features such as bins and/or seating.
The Green, War Memorial	312			Consider increasing quality and value through improving function. For example, provision of ancillary features such as bins and/or seating.

East Markham

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Allotments				
Land off Trinity Lane	301			Work with plot holders to introduce an appropriate water supply on site
Amenity greenspace				
Land off Old Hall Lane	160			Consider improving quality and value through increasing function and ancillary features. For example, provision of seating may be of benefit.
Cemeteries				
St John the Baptist	224			Explore potential to increase quality through providing ancillary features (e.g. seating, bins)
Provision for children and young people				
Tuxford Road	303			Support parish council to improve quality and range of play equipment on site

Elkesley

No site actions required

Everton

No site actions required

Gamston

No site actions required

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Gringley on the Hill

No site actions required

Mattersey

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Amenity greenspace				
Millennium Green	148			Consider reclassifying typology of site to natural/ semi-natural greenspace.

Misson

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Amenity greenspace				
Village Green	309			Review site maintenance procedures with a view to enhancing overall cleanliness. Investigate potential drainage issues.

Nether Langwith

No site actions required

North Leverton

No site actions required

North Wheatley

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Amenity greenspace				
Top Street	298			Consider if reclassifying typology of site to natural/ semi-natural greenspace will improve quality.

Rampton

No site actions required

Ranskill

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Action
Cemeteries				
Great North Road Cemetery	83			Review sightlines and suitability of paths with regard to personal security

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Sturton le Steeple

No site actions required

Sutton cum Lound

No site actions required

Walkeringham

No site actions required