Wealden Open Space Study
2016 – 2028

Open Space Area Profiles:
Introduction

(Part 2a)
(FINAL VERSION)
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Introduction to Open Space Area Profiles

1.0 Overview

This Open Space Study is one of four reports provided within the overall Wealden District Council Open Space, Sports and Recreation Assessment 2016. The four reports comprise:

1. Wealden Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (Local Needs Assessment);
2. Wealden Open Space Study (comprising a main report (part 1) and 13 area profiles and parish analysis areas (part 2a), in addition to a report on parishes not included within area profiles (part 2b));

The Wealden District Council Open Space Study is presented in two parts. The main report (part 1 of 2) comprises an overview of open space across the whole District and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space in the county. This report is the introduction to part 2a, which comprises open space area profiles which provide more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for 13 areas (as shown in figure 1). The purpose is to provide a more detailed level of information to aid planning and decision making at a more local level, taking into account characteristics and provision at the Parish level.

The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

- A description of the area;
- Maps showing the provision of open space;
- Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space;
- Analysis of access to open space;
- Summary of quality issues and opportunities;
- Analysis of future need for open space; and
- Suggested priorities for the area.

The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans. In particular they also help to inform the Wealden Local Plan, development management and the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Basic information is also included in the report on parishes not included within the area profiles (part 2b) in the form of open space provision maps, access maps, open space quality maps and quantity/supply tables.
The maps provided within the area profiles are intended to be used for indicative purposes. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

**Figure 1**  
Area profiles and parishes not included within an area profile
### 1.2 Analysis of existing quantity of open space

An analysis of the existing provision of open space for each open space area profile is provided. The analysis uses the quantity standards for open space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 1.

**Table 1 Summary of quantity standards of open space**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typology</th>
<th>Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allotments</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity Green Space</td>
<td>0.40 for assessing existing provision only. 1.0 to include amenity and natural green space for new provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Recreation Grounds (Public and Private Combined)</td>
<td>1.4 for public and private facilities combined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Space (Children)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Space (Youth)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Green Space</td>
<td>1.0 to include natural and amenity green space for new provision. ANGSt should be used for assessing existing provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchyards and Cemeteries</td>
<td>None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within the quantity provision tables in each area profile, the figures for ‘Park and Recreation Ground (Public and Private Combined)’, comprise the sum of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sport (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sport (Private).

The standard of 1.4 ha/1000 is only applicable to the Parks and Recreation Grounds (Public and Private Combined) typology, where the resulting supply is shown. The figures provided for Park and Recreation Ground, Outdoor Sport (Pitches) and Outdoor Sport (Private) in italics are for information only, to show the make up of provision.

Existing quantity figures are also provided for a number of typologies where there are no quantity standards for existing provision, these typologies are:

- Natural Green Space (as analysed using the ANGSt standard);
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed);
- Education; and
- Churchyard and Cemetery.
Even in cases where it has been assessed that there is no quantitative shortfall in open space against the standards, there may be the need for new provision due to accessibility issues (this is summarised in figure 19 of the main report (part 1)).

### 1.3 Analysis of existing access to open space

For each of the 13 open space area profiles (part 2a), and for each of the parishes not included within an area profile (part 2b), maps are provided showing access to different types of open space using the overall Wealden District access standards from the main report (part 1), as summarised in table 2. A summary of key access issues is provided within each open space area profile.

**Table 2**  
**Wealden access standards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typology</th>
<th>Access standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allotments</td>
<td>600 metres or 12-13 minutes’ walk time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity Green Space</td>
<td>600 metres or 12-13 minutes’ walk time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Recreation Grounds</td>
<td>600 metres or 12-13 minutes’ walk time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Space (Children)</td>
<td>480 metres or 10 minutes’ walk time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Space (Youth)</td>
<td>600 metres or 12-13 minutes’ walk time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Green Space</td>
<td>ANGST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1.4 Quality assessment

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall study. Following the initial consultation and mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds, education sites and allotments. Other sites were also excluded, these included small amenity green spaces (less than 0.15ha, unless they had been specifically identified by the parish council) and churchyards and cemeteries.

The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a site’s existing and potential quality rather than a full asset audit. The audits were undertaken in July 2016.

**Audit methodology**

**Open Spaces**

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment:

• Access;
• Welcoming;
• Hard landscaping;
• Soft landscaping;
• Litter;
• Dog fouling;
• Healthy, safe and secure;
• Community involvement; and
• Biodiversity.

Play Spaces

Children’s and youth play spaces were visited and a photographic record made, along with an assessment of the quality of the play space. Quality was assessed using the following criteria:

• Access;
• Play value;
• Quality of equipment;
• Safety; and
• Management and maintenance.

Existing quality score/rank

For each open space and play space, an existing quality score rank from A – D has been given, where sites that rank A are very good quality, and sites that rank D are very poor quality. These rank scores have been calculated as follows:

• For each open space or play space, a score for each of the above criteria is given between 1 and 5, where 1 is very poor and 5 is very good.
• The scores are totalled for each site and the following thresholds are used for assigning a rank:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Space existing quality scores</th>
<th>Play Space existing quality scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A is 38 to 45</td>
<td>A is 21 to 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B is 28 to 37</td>
<td>B is 16 to 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C is 18 to 27</td>
<td>C is 10 to 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D is 9 to 17</td>
<td>D is 5 to 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• These thresholds are based on the lowest and highest possible score that a site can obtain.
**Potential quality score/rank**

For each open space and play space, a ‘potential for improvement’ quality score rank from A-D has also been given, where sites that rank A have the most potential to be improved, and sites that rank D have the least potential to be improved. These potential rank scores have been calculated as follows:

- For each open space or play space, a ‘gap’ score for each of the above criteria is given between 0 and 4, where a gap of 0 means there is no/very low potential for improvement and a gap of 4 means there is very high potential for improvement. For example, for the ‘Welcoming’ criteria, if a park and recreation ground has attractive, well maintained entrances with good signage it might score 4 (i.e. good) for existing quality and also 4 for potential quality (i.e. no gap score, and therefore no improvements needed). On the other hand, if there was no signage or old/worn signage and the entrance had a broken gate and litter, it might score 1 for existing quality and 4 for potential (i.e. with a gap score of 3), so those sites with the highest ‘gap score’ between the existing quality and potential quality have the highest potential for improvement.

- The ‘gap’ scores are totalled for each site and the following thresholds are used for assigning a rank:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Space ‘gap’ scores</th>
<th>Play Space ‘gap’ scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A is 15-36</td>
<td>A is 13-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B is 10-14</td>
<td>B is 8-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C is 5-9</td>
<td>C is 4 to 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D is 0-4</td>
<td>D is 0 to 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although sites that rank D for potential have the least potential to be improved, local aspirations and information should be taken into account in addition to the quality audit, which can only provide a snap-shot in time.

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (appendix 2). Within the area profiles (part 2a), a summary of the sites that have the highest potential for improvement (i.e. those with a potential rank score of A, B or C) has been provided. Each site is listed and the following information provided:

- Site name;
- Typology;
- A brief description of the site;
- Recommendations for improvements;
- Existing score/rank;
- Potential score rank; and
- Grid reference.

In addition, each site within the quality audit spreadsheet (appendix 2), within the GIS provided to the Council, and also within the quality maps (appendix 4) has a unique ID which links the mapping to the spreadsheet, so that each site can be easily identified.