

Rother District Council – setting accessibility standards

Field	Comment
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Details of any existing national standards for each typology usually provided by national organisations e.g. English Nature make recommendations of access for 'Natural Green space'.
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	There maybe some existing local standards that will need to be taken into account and used as a guidance benchmark when setting new local standards.
Other Local Authorities Standards within Northamptonshire (by PMP)	These are figures detailing other local standards set by PMP within other green space and open space projects and provide another comparison benchmark when setting local standards for other Local Authorities.
Consultation (Household Survey - establish 75% threshold catchments)	Some statistical information that will come from the household questionnaire - need to take the 75% level as recommended by PPG 17 Companion Guide (ie from a list of responses - what is the time 75% are willing to travel).

Field	Comment
PMP Recommendation	PMP recommendation of a local standard for discussion and approval by the client - standard should be in time and/or distance.
PMP Justification	PMP reasoning and justification for the locals standard that has been recommended.
Client Approval	Client to approve local standard before analysis undertaken - any changes in standards at a later date during the project will impact on re-doing calculations, analysis and report - the standards drive the analysis.
Local Accessibility Standard	Final Local Standard agreed and approved that will be stated in the report and used for analysis purposes - standard should be in time and/or distance.

Accessibility standards - assumptions

Walking	All areas	average of 3mph
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Conversion (walking)

Time (mins)	Miles	metres	Factor Reduction	metres (straight line to be mapped)
5	0.25	400	40%	240
10	0.5	800	40%	480
15	0.75	1200	40%	720
20	1	1600	40%	960
25	1.25	2000	40%	1200
30	1.5	2400	40%	1440

Assumption

- 1.1 National Guidelines reduce actual distances into straight line distances by a 40% reduction. This is to allow for the fact that routes to open spaces are not straight line distances but more complex. The 40% reduction is based on robust research by the NPFA in numerous areas using a representative sample of pedestrian routes.

APPENDIX H – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

PARKS AND GARDENS			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No existing local standards.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 10 min (drive).	Corby BC – 10-15 min (walk).	South Northamptonshire – 5 min (walk) (incorporated amenity green space).
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 15 min (walk).	Northampton BC – 10 min (walk.)	East Northamptonshire – 15 min (walk).
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>Household questionnaire: 59% of people (who stated parks and gardens as their most frequently used open space) currently walk to park and gardens facilities and 32% drive. 20% travel less than 5 minutes, 59% up to 10 minutes and 79% up to 15 minutes .</p> <p>IT Young People Survey – across all open spaces: 34% travel less than 5 minutes, 57% up to 10 minutes and 77% up to 15 minutes. The most popular transport method was by walking (57%), by bike (18%) and car (17%).</p> <p>Across analysis areas: 75% threshold level was 20 minutes.</p>		

PARKS AND GARDENS

Other consultations:

All of the consultations highlighted the importance of parks both to residents and to the council as service providers. One of the main reasons cited by children in the IT Young People survey for using an open space was that it is located close to their home.

Internal consultations suggested the developments at Pebsham Countryside Park would improve accessibility for Rother residents. Drop-in sessions suggested that parking and paths need to be improved so that residents can access these sites more easily.

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PARKS AND GARDENS	
PMP Recommendation	Urban: 20 minute walk-time – (1.6 km). Rural: 20 minute drive-time.
PMP Justification	<p>There is a large majority in favour of walking to park and garden facilities both in terms of current travel patterns and expectations. The standard is set at 20 minutes walking to parks and gardens, based on the 75% threshold level district-wide (PPG17 compliant). The median and average support the 75% threshold.</p> <p>This standard is in line with the standard set slightly higher than those for other authorities in the area as these range from 10 – 15 minutes. This higher standard will mean that parks and gardens will serve a greater number of residents. It is therefore important that the size of the site is significant and that these centrally located areas are of high quality and are maintained to an expectable level given this high volume of users. It is also important that other forms of open space such as natural and semi-natural (pocket parks) and amenity green spaces offer a similar function to parks where appropriate.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard.

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NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha . Woodland Trust Access Standard recommend that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size and that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people’s homes.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No existing standards.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 20 min (walk).	Corby BC – 15 min (walk).	South Northamptonshire – 10 min (walk).
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 20 min (walk - urban), 15 min (walk – rural).	Northampton BC – 15 min (walk).	East Northamptonshire – 15 min (walk).
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>Household questionnaire: 62% of respondents (who stated natural and semi-natural open space as their most frequently used open space) currently walk to natural and semi-natural open spaces. 41% of respondents travel up to 5 minutes and 70% travel up to 10 minutes.</p> <p>IT Young People Survey – across all open spaces: 34% travel less than 5 minutes, 57% up to 10 minutes and 77% up to 15 minutes. The most popular transport method was by walking (57%), by bike (18%) and car (17%).</p>		

NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL	
	<p>Across analysis areas: 75% threshold level is 15 minutes.</p> <p>Other consultations:</p> <p>One of the main reasons cited by children in the IT Young People survey for using an open space was that it is located close to their home.</p> <p>Signage was raised as an issue that prevented use of certain sites. Signs need to map the accessible areas and provide information regarding possible routes and walk times. There also needs to be better signage from the road to indicate publicly accessible areas.</p> <p>The People and Wildlife Strategy proactively aims to increase participation in natural and semi-natural areas by means of publishing relevant information. This organisation also look to promote access to nature reserves but in a controlled fashion so as not to exhaust the natural features of the site.</p> <p>Internal consultations highlighted that access to natural and semi-natural sites in the rural area may be limited as a lot of the land is arable farming.</p> <p>Similarly, although there are a large number of woodlands in the district, there are is a large number that is not publicly accessible.</p> <p>External consultations highlighted the importance of balancing appropriate access to sites against the need to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p>

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NATURAL AND SEMI NATURAL	
PMP Recommendation	15 minutes walk time - (1.2 km).
PMP Justification	<p>The large majority of respondents currently walk to natural and semi-natural open spaces. In line with existing travel patterns and the promotion of sustainable transport patterns a walking distance standard has been set.</p> <p>The standard corresponds to the 75% threshold level district-wide of 15 minutes. This is in line with standards set for other authorities in the area, ranging from 10 to 20 minutes.</p> <p>The lack of public access to natural and semi-natural sites in rural areas, either due to limited transport links or limited public availability may reduce the appropriateness of implementing standards in many of the rural areas. In addition, a number of sites have been identified in the audit within the rural area, but walking to these sites will be difficult as they are outside of settlements. As such, it is not considered appropriate to set an access standard within the rural area but to undertake a spatial analysis focusing on sites with public access and improving transport links.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard.

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AMENITY GREEN SPACE			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	No existing standards.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 10 min (walk).	Corby BC – 5 min (walk).	South Northamptonshire – 5 min (walk) (incorporating parks and gardens).
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 10 min (walk).	Northampton BC – 5 min (walk).	East Northamptonshire – 5 min (walk).
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>Household questionnaire: 100% of respondents (who stated amenity green space as their most frequently used open space) currently take under 15 minutes to reach an amenity green space.</p> <p>IT Young People Survey – across all open spaces: 34% travel less than 5 minutes, 57% up to 10 minutes and 77% up to 15 minutes. The most popular transport method was by walking (57%), by bike (18%) and car (17%).</p> <p>Across analysis areas 75% threshold level: 15 minutes (urban) and 10 minutes (rural).</p>		

AMENITY GREEN SPACE	
	<p>Other consultations:</p> <p>One of the main reasons cited by children in the IT Young People survey for using an open space was that it is located close to their home.</p> <p>There is generally a lot of green space across the district that is easy to access.</p>

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AMENITY GREEN SPACE	
PMP Recommendation	10 minutes walk (800 metres).
PMP Justification	<p>A walking standard has been set in line with the consultation responses and the fact that this is a local type of open space that should be easy for residents to access.</p> <p>The 75% threshold level district-wide is between 10 and 20 minutes. Standards set for other authorities also ranges between 5 and 10 minutes but are generally set around 5 minutes walk.</p> <p>It is therefore a mixed picture with the general emphasis from the consultations on a 10 minute walk time standard. Although benchmarking is important, PPG17 stipulates that the standard should reflect local needs. The standard is set at 10 minutes in line with the 75% level.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard.

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PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	<p>(1) LAPs - aged 4-6; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line) ; min area size 100msq; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity greenspace.</p> <p>(2) LEAPs - aged min 5; min area size 400msq; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line).</p> <p>(3) NEAPs aged min 8 ; min area size 1000msq; should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line).</p>		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards	There are no existing local standards.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 5-10 min (walk).	Corby BC – children 8 min (walk), young people 10 min (walk).	South Northamptonshire – 10 min (walk).
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 10 min (walk – children and young people).	Northampton BC – children 5 min (walk), young people 10 min (walk).	East Northamptonshire – 10 min (walk).

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>Household questionnaire: Children – 61% of respondents (who stated children as their most frequently used type of open space) would walk to a facility. 18% would travel less than 5 minutes, 66% would travel up to 10 minutes and 84% would travel up to 15 minutes. Young people – low response rate but emphasis on walking and travelling up to 15 minutes.</p> <p>IT Young People Survey – across all open spaces: 34% travel less than 5 minutes, 57% up to 10 minutes and 77% up to 15 minutes. The most popular transport method was by walking (57%), by bike (18%) and car (17%). This is of particular relevance to this typology.</p> <p>Expectations – household questionnaire:</p> <p>Children: Across analysis areas 75% threshold level: 10 minutes.</p> <p>Young people: Across analysis areas 75% threshold level: 15 minutes.</p>

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
	<p>Other consultations:</p> <p>One of the main reasons cited by children in the IT Young People survey for using an open space was that it is located close to their home.</p> <p>Drop-in sessions highlighted a lack of youth clubs and associated facilities. There is a concern that the aging population of Bexhill means that youth facilities have not been a priority.</p> <p>Internal consultations also identified that the provision of open space to play informally was as important as providing equipped areas. There was concern that play areas were not located at the most conducive sites for encouraging participation.</p>

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PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
PMP Recommendation	<p>Children: 10 minute walk-time (800m).</p> <p>Young people – 15 minute walk-time (1200m).</p>
PMP Justification	<p>The majority of respondents to the household questionnaire indicate that they would expect to walk to a children or young people facility. This also reflects the fact that young people and children with parents should be able to access play sites easily. The 75% threshold level for children is 10 minutes and for young people 15 minutes. In line with the 75% threshold level and benchmarking of local authorities, the standard for children is 10 minutes and young people 15 minutes walk-time.</p> <p>Young People:</p> <p>Youth facilities can however range from a smaller facility such as a youth shelter and basketball hoop to a floodlit MUGA. However, it may be onerous to have a youth facility within fifteen minutes of every resident, particularly in the rural areas and in light of comments regarding the support of a smaller number of larger facilities. The standard is set for all areas in the District as it is a visionary standard that looks to create equality for all residents.</p> <p>Children:</p> <p>The analysis will identify those villages and smaller settlements without access to a play facility and it will be for the council to determine the appropriateness of providing facilities subject to detailed consultation. It may only be justifiable to create one type of facility and this will depend on further consultation with residents in order to identify potential users and current travel times of those in specific deficit areas.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard.

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OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	CPA Accessibility Standard: Residents should be within a 20 minute drive-time of a variety of three different facility types, one of which must meet a recognised quality assurance standard. (Sport England and the Audit Commission).		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards (includes any past surveys)	No existing standards.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 10 min (drive).	Corby BC – 15 min (walk).	South Northamptonshire - Grass pitches, MUGA's, Tennis Courts - 10 min (walk). Golf Courses, Bowling Clubs, STP's - 20 min (drive).
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 15 min (drive).	Northampton BC – 15 min (walk).	East Northamptonshire – 15 min (drive).
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>25% of respondents (who stated outdoor sports as their most frequently used open space) walk and 61% drive to facilities.</p> <p>41% would travel up to 5 minutes, 70% would travel up to 10 minutes and 78% would travel up to 15 minutes.</p>		

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES		
<p>IT Young People Survey – across all open spaces, 34% travel less than 5 minutes, 57% up to 10 minutes and 77% up to 15 minutes. The most popular transport method was by walking (57%), by bike (18%) and car (17%).</p> <p>Mode of transport: 47% walk / 41% drive 75% threshold: 15 minutes walk/drive.</p> <p>Rother’s CPA rating is currently (2006, Sport England) 27.27%. The national average is 32%. South East average is 27.49%.</p>		
<p>Grass pitches:</p> <p>Mode of transport: 58% walk / 34% drive 75% threshold: 11-15 minutes walk/drive.</p>	<p>STPs:</p> <p>Mode of transport: 27% walk / 61% drive 75% threshold: 16-20 minutes walk / 21-30 drive.</p>	
<p>Tennis Courts:</p> <p>Mode of transport: 46% walk / 45% drive 75% threshold: 16-20 minutes walk / drive.</p>	<p>Bowling:</p> <p>Mode of transport: 44%walk / 48% drive 75% threshold: 16-20 minutes walk/ drive.</p>	<p>Golf:</p> <p>Mode of transport: 19% walk / 73% drive 75% threshold: 21-30 minutes walk/ 16-20 minutes drive.</p>
<p>Other consultations:</p> <p>One of the main reasons cited by children in the IT Young People survey for using an open space was that it is located close to their home.</p> <p>The drop-in sessions identified that there should be greater public access to outdoor school sports pitches, as these are often the main source of provision, especially in more rural locations.</p>		

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OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	
PMP Recommendation	20 minute walk-time for outdoor sports facilities (1.6km).
PMP Justification	<p>There is a relatively even split between walking and driving overall although a slight emphasis on walking for grass pitches and an emphasis on driving for bowling and golf. In line with ensuring sustainable transport choices, to account for the wide mix of outdoor sports facilities within the standard and to meet all expectations (driving expectations will be covered by a walk time standard), a walk time standard has therefore been set.</p> <p>The 75% threshold level overall for outdoor sports facilities is 16-20 minutes, with the exception of grass pitches (11-15 minutes). There is an even split between driving and walking, a walk-time standard of 20 minutes is set (above the 75% level on account of the high proportion of people who would travel by car, a 15 minute walk time is considered unrealistic).</p> <p>This should exclude golf and bowls. If required, a 20 minute drive-time is appropriate for this sub-category, reflecting the 75% threshold.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard.

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ALLOTMENTS			
National Standards and/or Benchmarks	No national standards.		
Existing Local Accessibility Standards (includes any past surveys)	No existing standards.		
Other Local Authorities Standards (by PMP)	Harborough DC – 10 min (drive).	Corby BC – 15 min (walk).	South Northamptonshire – 10 min (walk).
	Borough Council of Wellingborough – 20 min (walk - urban), 10 min (walk – rural).	Northampton BC – 15 min (walk).	East Northamptonshire – 15 min (walk).
Consultation	<p>Current travel patterns:</p> <p>Household questionnaire: Of those respondents that stated they most frequently use allotments (low response rate), a high number of people would walk (44%) and the majority would walk up to 10 minutes (78%).</p> <p>Across analysis areas 75% threshold level: 10 minutes.</p>		

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ALLOTMENTS	
PMP Recommendation	20 minutes walk time - (1.6km).
PMP Justification	<p>There is a mixed response in terms of walking versus driving to allotment facilities. In line with creating sustainable transport patterns a walk-time standard has been set. However this should be applied as a guide only as it is a demand led typology and will not be appropriate to always have allotments within this catchment. The 75% threshold for walking was 10 minutes. In addition, benchmarking across other authorities shows standards set between 10 and 15 minutes. Due to the significant number of residents that drive, the standard has been set above the 75th percentile to accommodate a larger number of peripherally located users at more central sites. The larger standard allows flexibility for more qualitative improvements or expansions of existing sites to be made.</p> <p>The application of this standard will identify key areas of deficiency, which should be the focus for further investigation into the demand for allotments in that area.</p>
Client Approval	Local Accessibility Standard.

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Typology	Comments
Green Corridors	As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation.
Cemeteries / Churchyards	As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation.
Civic Spaces	As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation.