



DERBYSHIRE DALES OPEN SPACE STUDY

ASSESSMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2016

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DDDC	Derbyshire Dales District Council
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group (including users groups and advisory groups)
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
NP	National Park
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PDNP	Peak District National Park
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

DERBYSHIRE DALES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC). It focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpins the study.

It forms part of a suite of reports that together make up the Open Space, Built Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch study.

The Assessment Report provides detail with regard to what provision exists in Derbyshire Dales, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It also considers the demand for provision based on population distribution, planned growth and consultation findings. The Strategy (to follow the assessment reports) will give direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable provision for open spaces, sport and recreation in Derbyshire Dales.

Although Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) has now been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), this assessment of open space facilities is carried out in accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guide entitled 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' published in September 2002 as it remains the only national guidance on carrying out an open space assessment.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are 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 the PPG17 Companion Guidance.

'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17' still reflects the Government policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out previously in PPG17. The long-term outcomes aim to deliver:

- ◀ Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors that are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ◀ An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision.
- ◀ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision.

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This audit covers the following open space typologies:

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

	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, MUGAs, 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.
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
	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.

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space facilities in Derbyshire Dales. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all open spaces originally defined in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'; it is structured as follows:

- ◀ Part 3: General open space summary
- ◀ Part 4: Parks and gardens
- ◀ Part 5: Natural and semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Part 7: Provision for children and young people
- ◀ Part 8: Allotments
- ◀ Part 9: Cemeteries/churchyards
- ◀ Part 10: Civic space
- ◀ Part 11: Green corridors

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Associated strategies

The study sits alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Sports Facilities Strategy being undertaken by KKP. The playing pitch strategy is conducted in accordance with the guidance provided in Sport England's Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' for assessing supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities. The Built Sports Facilities Strategy is also carried out using guidance provided by Sport England 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide' (ANOG) for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. These strategies are provided separate reports.

1.2 National context

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes that 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 paragraph 73 of the NPPF, 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 paragraph 74 of 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.

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

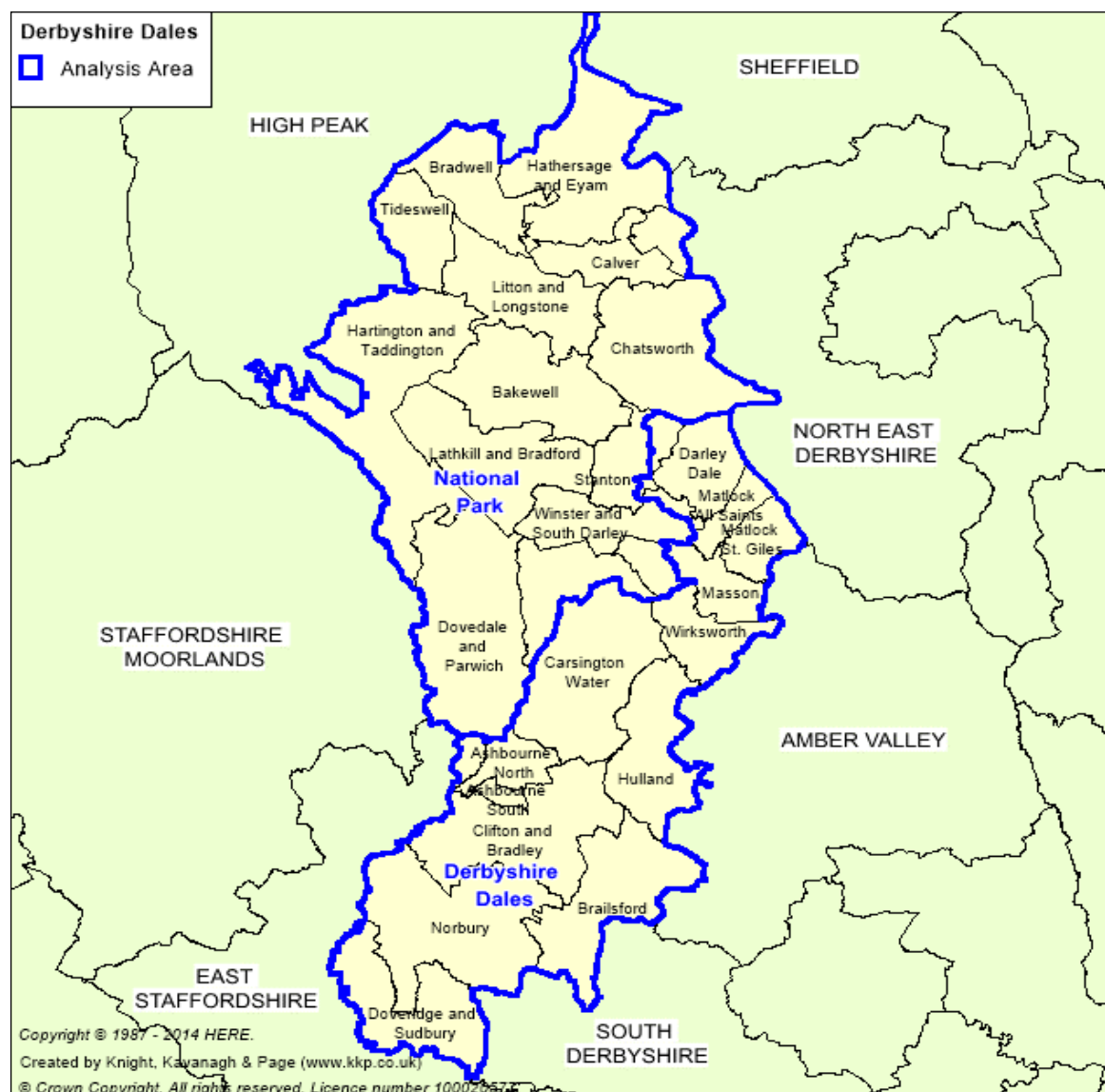
2.1 Analysis areas

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, the following analysis areas are applied (reflecting the geographical and demographical nature of the area). Analysis areas allow more localised assessment of provision in addition to examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies at a more local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. Derbyshire Dales is therefore, broken down as follows:

Table 2.1: Population by analysis area

Analysis area	Population (2015)
Derbyshire Dales	43,780
National Park	25,322
Derbyshire Dales	69,102

Figure 2.1: Derbyshire Dales analysis areas



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2.2 Supply data

In total, 226 accessible open spaces (including provision for children and young people) are identified within the audit (regardless of ownership or management). An initial list of sites was generated from the previous audit contained within the 2008 Peak Sub-Region Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study and updated for this study based on consultation with parish/town councils and DDDC officers.

Each site has been classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and therefore the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with guidance (as detailed further in Table 1.1):

- ◀ Allotments
- ◀ Cemeteries/churchyards
- ◀ Civic space
- ◀ Green corridors
- ◀ Parks and gardens
- ◀ Natural and semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Provision for children and young people

Database development

All information relating to open spaces across Derbyshire Dales is collated in the accompanying project open space database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites included within the audit, as identified and assessed, are included within it. The database details for each site include the following:

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ◀ Site name
- ◀ Ownership
- ◀ Management
- ◀ Typology
- ◀ Size (hectares)
- ◀ Site visit data

Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

2.3 Assessment of quality and value

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 with each typology of open space receiving separate quality and value scores. This allows application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus to a particular open space typology.

Each identified open space is assessed and audited based on set criteria and each site receives a separate score for Quality and Value. The site audits for this study were undertaken by the KKP Field Research Team. Of the total 226 sites in Derbyshire Dales, 187 have been assessed to evaluate quality and value. Reasons for sites not being assessed include restricted access and issues locating sites.

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Criteria for assessing quality

Criteria assessed during 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 Keep Britain Tidy).

This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited (out of a maximum for each typology). Scores are then converted into percentage figures for inclusion within the Report and to allow application of percentage thresholds (to identify high and low quality).

The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out are summarised in the following table.

Quality criteria for open space assessments

- ◀ 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
- ◀ 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 the 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 including an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision. This differs, for example, from an independent RoSPA review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

Children's and young people play provision is scored for value as part of the audit assessment. In particular, value is recognised in terms of size of sites and the range of equipment they host. For instance, a small site with only a single piece of equipment is likely to be of a lower value than a site with several different forms of equipment designed to cater for wider age ranges.

Criteria for assessing value

Criteria assessed is based upon those derived from a Companion Guide to PPG17 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 criteria are assessed during site visits and through subsequent desk based research.

This is utilised to calculate a value score for each site (out of a maximum for each typology). Scores are then converted into percentage figures for inclusion within the Report and to allow application of percentage thresholds (to identify high and low value).

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The value criteria used for the open space assessments carried out are summarised in the following table.

<p>Value criteria for open space site visits (score)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ 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/ area◀ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats◀ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes◀ 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
<p>Value - non site visit criteria (score)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ 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

Scoring and weighting

For each element of the criteria, either a 'Yes/No' or a rating of '1-5' answer is required. These scores combine to provide an actual total score for each site which is then calculated against the maximum score for that particular typology.

Not all criteria are used in calculating the actual and potential score of a site (this is subject to its typology). For example, some criteria are more applicable to a Park site than compared to an Allotment site. Criteria is therefore weighted accordingly to its typology.

2.4 Quality and value thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the site assessments percentage scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green 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 baseline threshold for assessing quality can often be set around 66%; 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 quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is not appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Quality thresholds are, thus, worked out so as to better reflect average scores for each typology. Consequently, the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

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For value there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from our experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites. Whilst 20% may initially seem low it is relative score - designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). A table setting out the quality and value scores for each typology is provided overleaf.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	55%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	35%	20%
Amenity greenspace	35%	20%
Provision for children and young people	50%	20%
Allotments	40%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	50%	20%
Civic space	50%	20%
Green Corridors	35%	20%

2.5 Identifying local need (demand)

Consultation to identify local need for open space provision has been carried out through face-to-face meetings and online surveys.

Face to face meetings were held with town councils and larger parish councils. In addition, a postal questionnaire was sent to all other parish councils. This helped to pick up on issues, problems and concerns relating to open space provision at a more local level, as well as identifying the attitudes and needs of the broader local community. It also allowed any local issues and aspirations to be identified.

The Parks and Open Spaces Online Survey was distributed by DDDC communications team through both the Council website and social media outlets and took place through September and October 2016. It generated a total of 401 responses.

2.6 Accessibility standards

Accessibility standards for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. This problem is 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) (2008): 'Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance' and Fields in Trust (FIT). Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard' with regard to appropriate catchment areas for authorities to adopt. These standards are used to set appropriate catchments.

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The following standards are based on responses to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey in relation to how far individuals are willing to travel to access different types of open space provision in Derbyshire Dales.

Table 2.3: Accessibility standards to travel to open space provision

Typology	Applied standard
Parks and gardens	15 minute walk time (1200m)
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	30 minute drive time
Amenity greenspace	15 minute walk time (1200m)
Provision for children and young people	15 minute walk time (1200m)
Allotments	15 minute walk time (1200m) and 15 minute drive time
Cemeteries/churchyards	No standard set
Civic spaces	No standard set
Green corridors	No standard set

The majority of open space typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 15-minute walk time. However, natural and semi-natural provision has a 30-minute drive time, due to residents highlighting they would travel further to access natural sites.

No standard is set for the typologies of cemeteries, green corridors or civic spaces. It is difficult to assess such typologies against catchment areas due to their nature and usage. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

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PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section includes a summary of the responses received from the Parks and Open Space online survey. It also includes generic trends and findings from the quality and value assessment for each typology. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in the report.

The typologies of open space (Table 1.1) were given a slightly different name for the purposes of the community survey and respondents. This was to ensure the questions were clear about what types of open space were being covered. Most are similar but the table below links the study typology and the survey typology together.

Table 3.1: Summary of survey typologies used

Survey typology	Study typology
Local park or public garden	Parks and gardens
Country parks	Parks and gardens
Nature reserve, common or woodland	Natural and semi-natural greenspace
Play area for young children	Provision for children and young people
Teenage provision	Provision for children and young people
General amenity greenspace	Amenity greenspace
Allotments and community schemes	Allotments
Cemeteries/churchyards	Cemeteries/churchyards
Civic spaces, war memorials etc.	Civic spaces
Outdoor networks	Green corridors

3.1 Usage

Survey participants were asked how often they visit each type of open space. A high proportion of respondents identify visiting typologies such as parks more than once a week (37%); an indication of the popularity of provision of this type. Other popular open spaces also visited on a regular basis (i.e. more than once a week) include outdoor networks (42%), general amenity greenspace (22%) and nature reserves (21%).

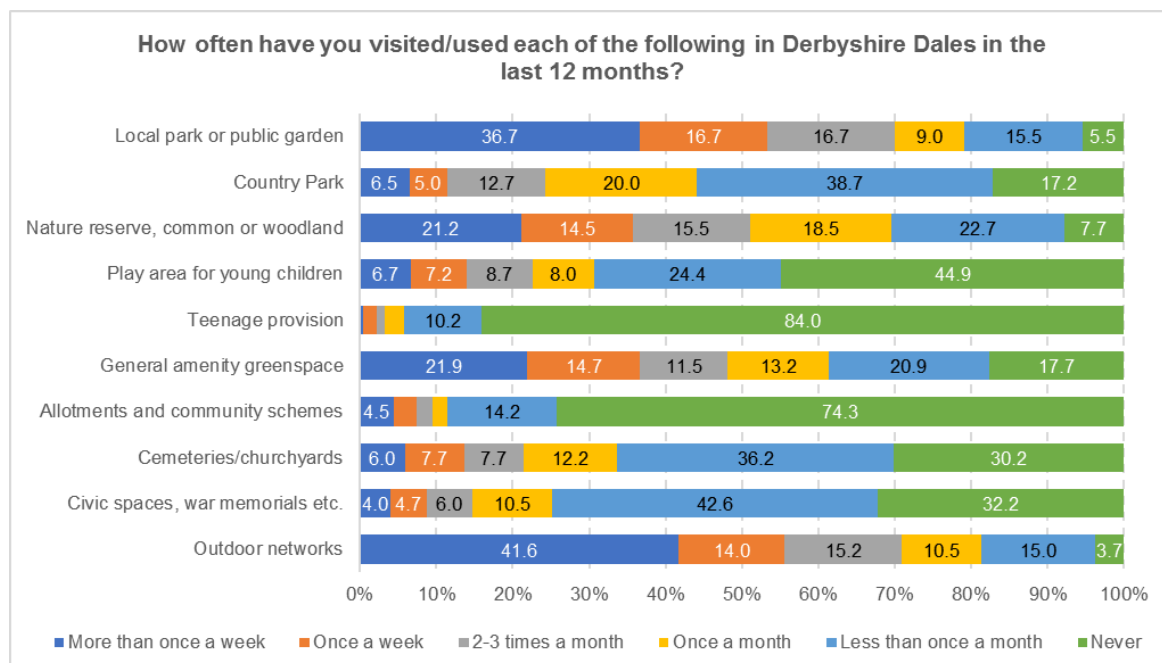
Provision such as cemeteries and churchyards are visited on a less frequent basis with more respondents (36%) stating they visit this type of site less than once a month. This is relatively typical of this type of provision.

Other typologies have a slightly more mixed rate of usage. For nature reserves visits seem to be fairly evenly split between less than once a month (23%), once a month (19%) and 2-3 times a month (16%). However, this type of provision also receives a proportion of respondents that state they visit more than once a week (21%). A similar trend can also be seen for general amenity greenspace. This may reflect the wide range of sites that make up such forms of provision.

The majority of respondents indicate they do not access teenage provision (84%). Not surprising given the age range of the majority of respondents (66%) is between 25-64.

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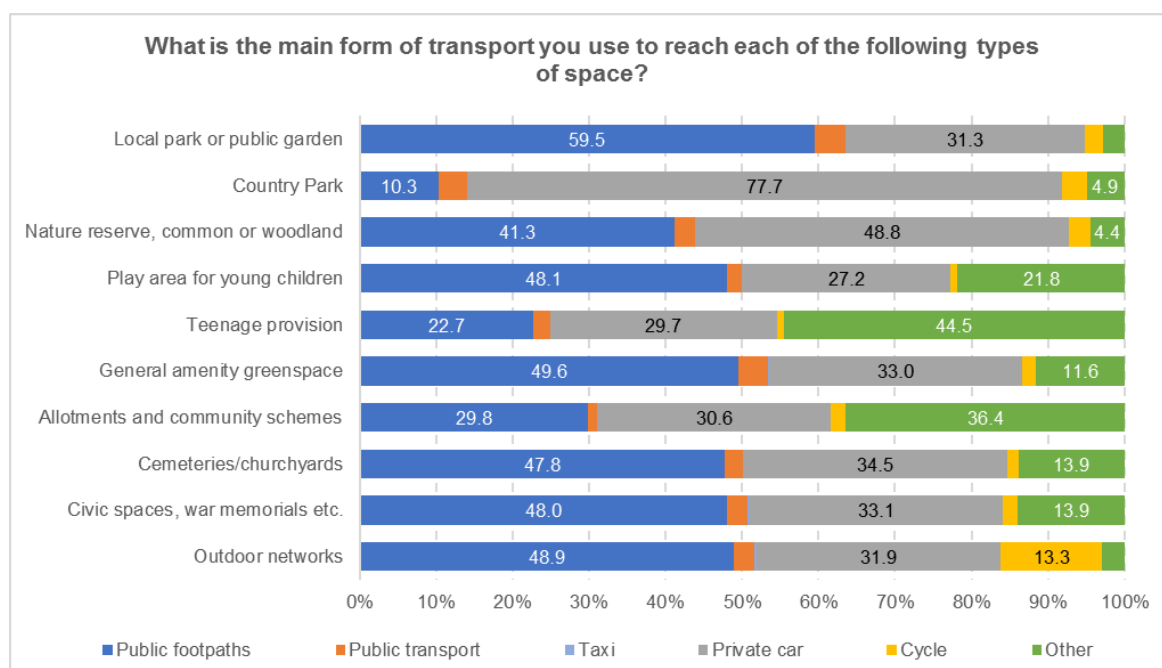
Figure 3.1: Types of open space visited in the previous 12 months



3.2 Accessibility

Findings from the Open Spaces Communities Survey show that the majority of individuals prefer to travel on foot in order to access different types of open space provision.

Figure 3.2.1: Method of travel to open space sites (%)



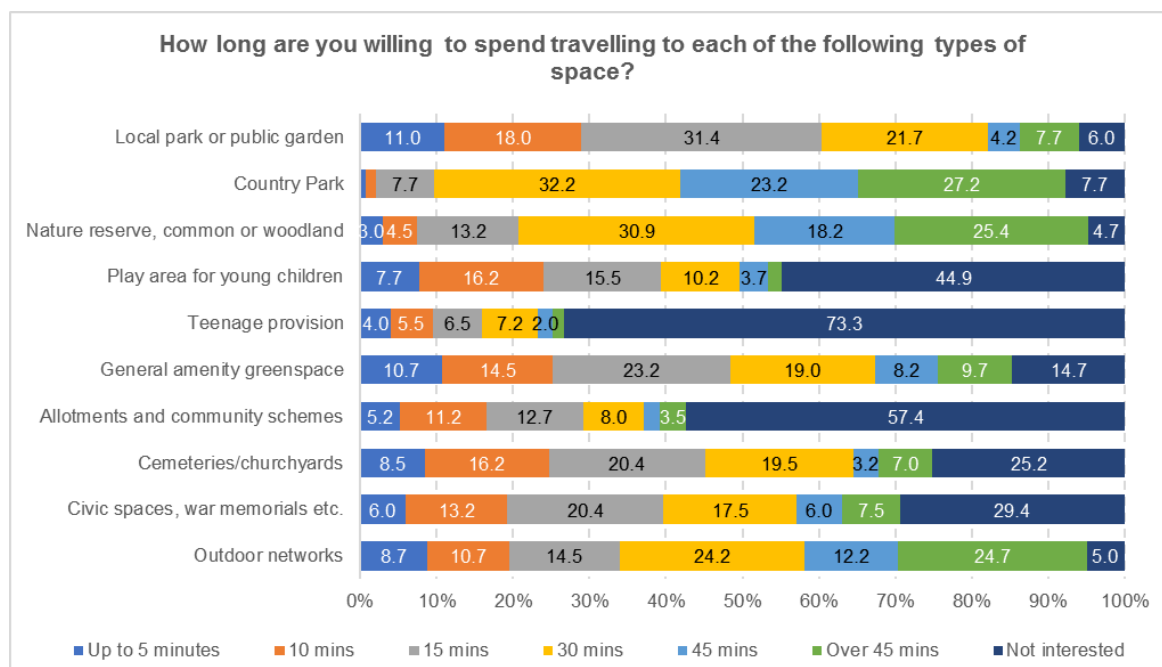
A preference of walking to access provision particularly for local parks and public gardens is evident. The majority of respondents (60%) indicate a willingness to walk to provision of this type; with a 15-minute walk time (31%) most common.

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There is, however, for some typologies, a clear willingness to travel a greater distance by transport. For instance, respondents indicate more of a preference to travel by transport (private car) to access country parks (78%), nature areas (49%) and allotments (31%).

A higher proportion of non-responses are received for teenage provision. Again, this is not unusual as such provision has a niche user attraction. Therefore, it can be expected, to some extent, for the general public to not have a strong opinion.

Figure 3.2.2: Time willing to travel to open space sites (%)



3.3 Availability

For most typologies respondents generally consider the availability i.e. the amount of provision, to be either quite or very satisfactory.

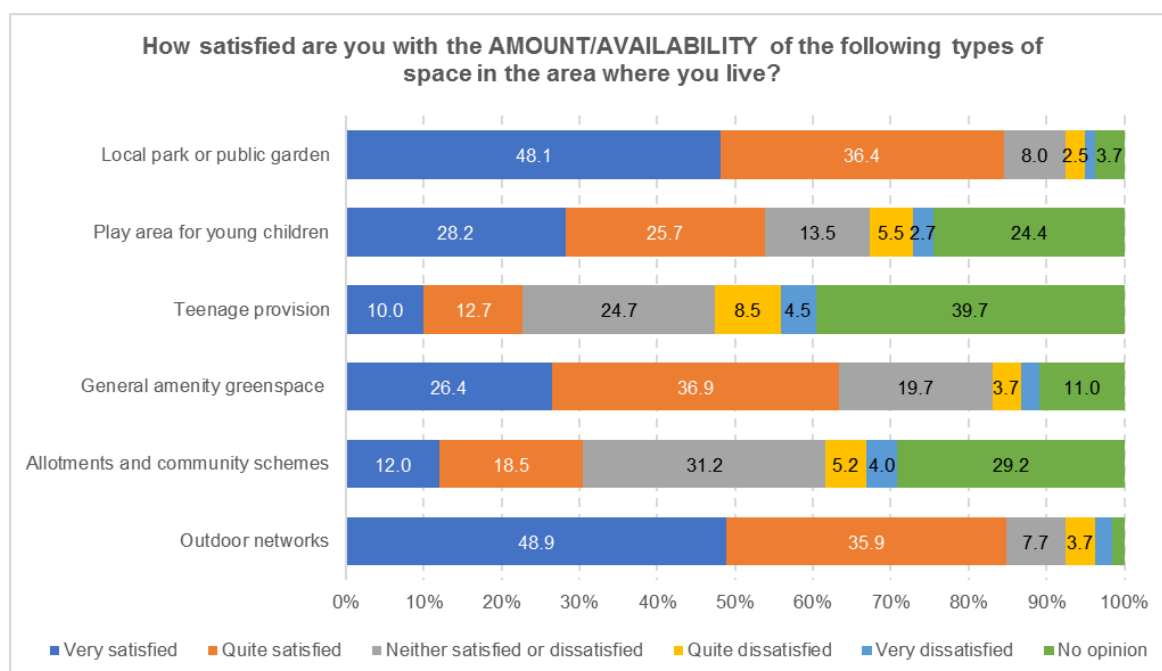
Typologies such as parks, amenity greenspace and outdoor networks are viewed as predominantly being to a satisfactory level in terms of availability. All three receive a higher proportion of responses for being quite satisfactory; parks (36%), amenity greenspace (36%) and outdoor networks (35%). For parks (48%) and outdoor networks (49%) a large proportion of respondents also rate availability as very satisfactory.

Availability of amenity greenspace is also viewed as either very satisfactory (26%) or quite satisfactory (37%). Similarly, play areas for younger children also receive a reasonable proportion of respondents that rate availability as either very satisfactory (28%) or quite satisfactory (25%).

A higher proportion of respondents have no opinion on the availability of teenage provision. As noted earlier this is a niche form of provision and tends to not stimulate much consideration in the wider public eye other than for its specific users.

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Figure 3.3: Satisfaction with availability of open spaces (%)



3.4 Quality

Quality and value ratings are provided for a total of 205 sites. The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. Table 3.2, below summarises the results of all the quality assessment for open spaces across Derbyshire Dales. It shows the number of sites which score above and below the quality threshold and also the lowest, highest and average score for each typology.

The majority (63%) of assessed open spaces in Derbyshire Dales rate above the quality threshold set. Proportionally more cemetery (81%) and green corridor (75%) provision scores highly for quality than other typologies. However, there is a generally high quality of open space provision throughout Derbyshire Dales with 67% of amenity greenspace, 60% of play provision and 65% of natural and semi-natural provision scoring above the threshold.

The typology with the highest proportion of sites scoring below the set threshold for quality is parks and gardens. However, this can be attributed to the high threshold set for this typology in order to keep assessment of quality standards high, in line with the Green Flag Award pass rate of 66%.

Management and maintenance responsibilities of open space are undertaken by a number of organisations across Derbyshire Dales including housing developers, the County Council, the Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust. However, the majority of sites are managed and maintained by Derbyshire Dales District Council's 'Clean and Green Team'.

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Table 3.2: Quality scores for all open space typologies

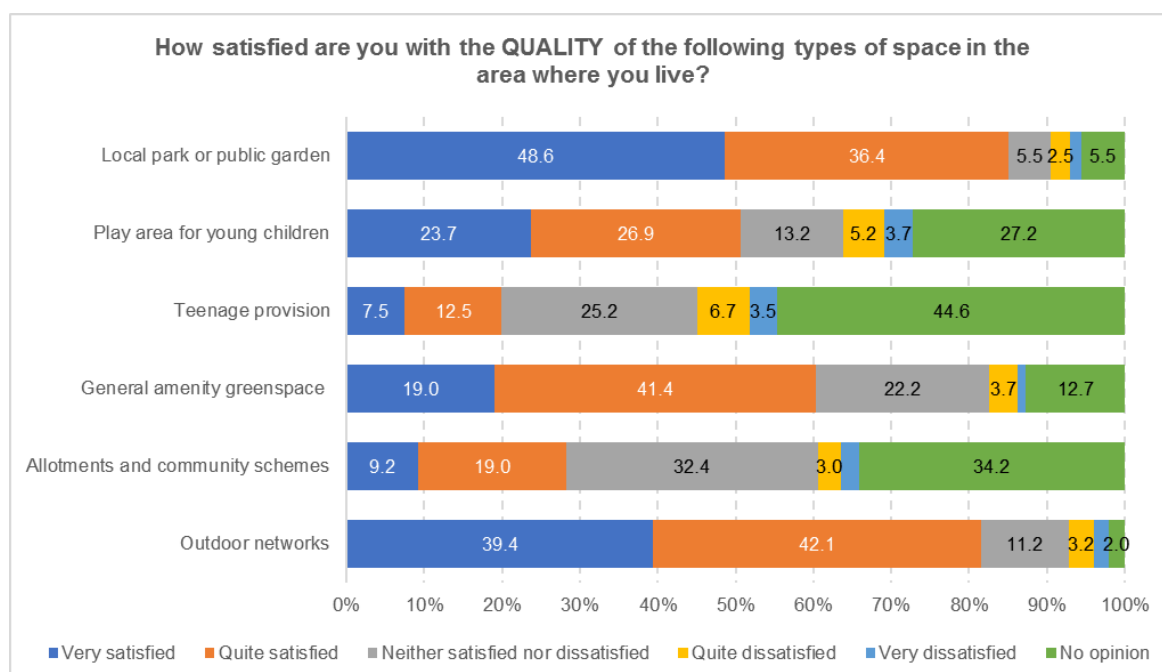
Typology	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	40%	58%	34%	9	8
Amenity greenspace	42%	73%	65%	24	49
Cemeteries/ churchyards	55%	78%	40%	3	13
Provision for children and young people	55%	82%	56%	19	29
Civic spaces	52%	71%	31%	4	4
Green corridors	58%	93%	69%	3	9
Parks and gardens	58%	84%	49%	7	6
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	43%	83%	61%	6	11
				75	130

Proportionally there are a higher percentage of parks and gardens (49%) and outdoor (39%) that respondents rate in the very satisfied category. This is a reflection to their general good appearance and high standard.

Nearly all typologies are viewed by respondents as being quite satisfactory in terms of quality; with the exception of teenage provision. The typology receives a higher percentage of respondents with no opinion (44%).

Open space types viewed as being very and quite satisfactory includes parks and gardens, outdoor networks and amenity greenspace; a reflection to their popularity and frequency of use as highlighted above.

Figure 3.4: Quality scores for all open space typologies



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3.5 Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The 3.3, below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces across Derbyshire Dales. It shows the number of sites which score above and below the value threshold and also the lowest, highest and average score for each typology. The majority of sites (91%) are assessed as being of high value.

A higher proportion of amenity greenspace sites rate low for value. This reflects the number of sites within the typology that lack any particular ancillary features. This can make these sites less attractive to visitors. Amenity greenspace also contains a number of smaller sized sites. However, the role these sites play in providing a visual and recreational amenity may still be important in a wider context.

All provision for parks and gardens, civic space, children and young people and allotments rate high for value reflecting their role to local communities. There are also only a single cemetery and natural and semi-natural greenspace site which score low for value.

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 and landscaping.

Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those that offer limited functions and that are thought of as bland and unattractive.

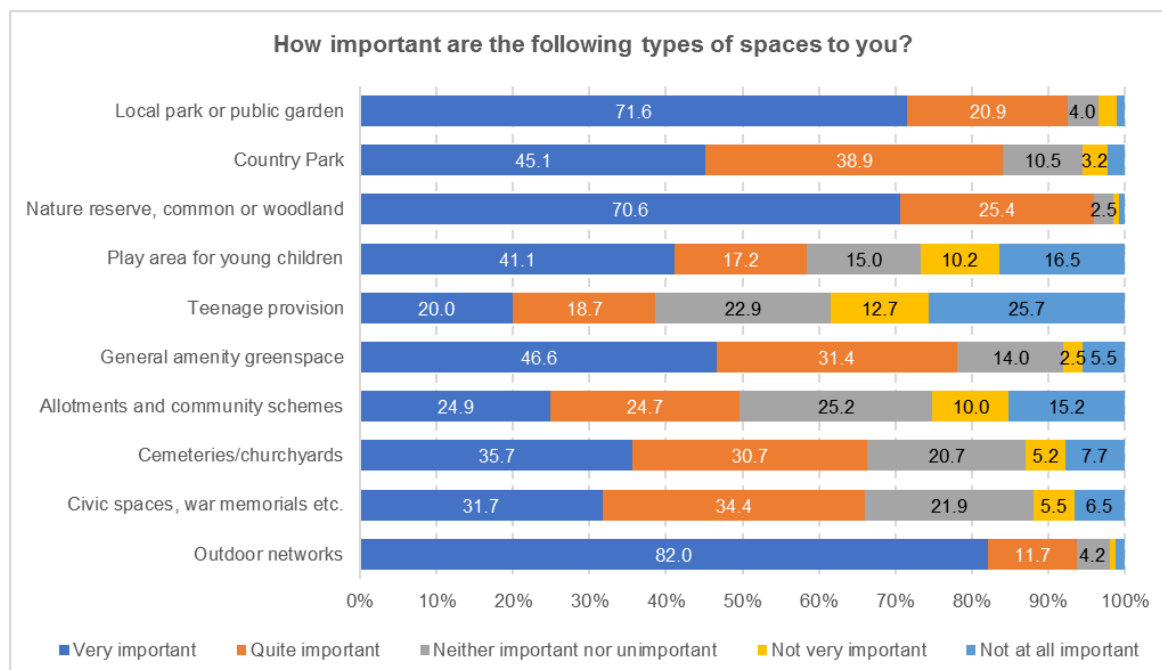
Table 3.3: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Max. score	Scores			No. of sites	
			Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	105	11%	32%	51%	40%	4	13
Amenity greenspace	100	7%	43%	75%	68%	10	63
Cemeteries/ churchyards	100	11%	72%	80%	69%	1	15
Provision for children and young people	55	40%	61%	78%	38%	0	48
Civic spaces	100	35%	54%	75%	40%	0	8
Green Corridors	100	13%	45%	75%	62%	2	10
Parks and gardens	110	24%	57%	77%	54%	0	13
Natural and semi- natural greenspace	110	15%	45%	73%	58%	1	16
						18	187

The survey also asked respondents, how important each different type of open space is to them. Overall, all forms of open space are identified as important. However, provision such as outdoor networks (82%) local parks and gardens (72%), nature reserves (71%) and are considered very important in general.

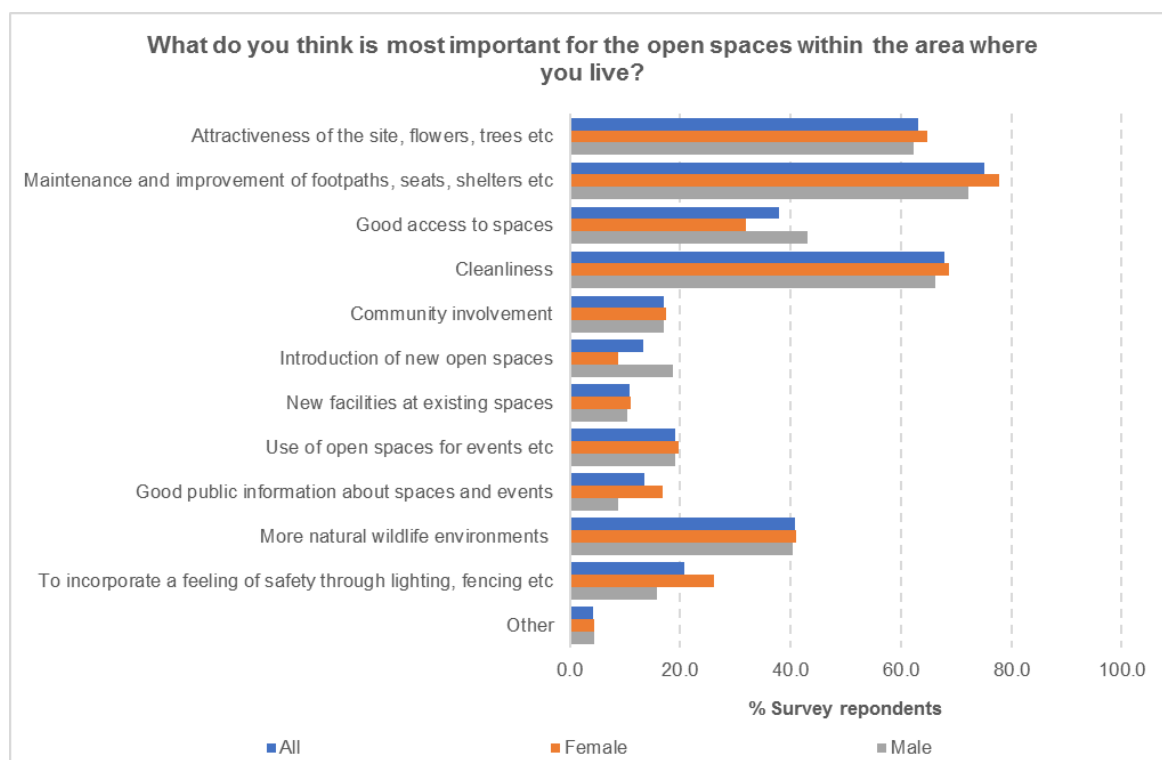
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Figure 3.5.1: Importance of open spaces (%)



Respondents were asked what they thought was most important for open spaces within the areas where they live. The most common answer was maintenance and improvement of features on sites such as footpaths, seating etc. (75%). This is followed by cleanliness (67%) and general attractiveness of the site (63%).

Figure 3.5.2: Important for open spaces in your area (%)



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3.6 Summary

General summary

- ◀ In total 205 sites in Derbyshire Dales are identified as open space provision and given a quality and value score. This is equivalent to over 541 hectares. There are an additional 40 sites (equivalent to over 151 hectares) that do not receive a quality and value score.
- ◀ There are therefore 245 open space sites, an equivalent of over 692 hectares, identified in Derbyshire Dales.
- ◀ Most open spaces (63%) rate above the thresholds set for quality. Most noticeably, more cemeteries and green corridors score above the thresholds for quality. However, the fact that nearly all typologies have a high number of sites scoring high for value reflects their role in and importance to local communities and environments.
- ◀ The majority of all open spaces (93%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects the importance of open space provision and its role offering social, environmental and health benefits.

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PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

The typology of parks and gardens covers urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide ‘accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events’.

4.2 Current provision

There are 13 publicly accessible sites classified as parks and gardens across Derbyshire Dales, an equivalent of 19.66 hectares. In addition to these sites, there are five park and garden sites, equating to 398.38 hectares, which have restricted access:

- ◀ Heights of Abraham
- ◀ Sudbury Hall
- ◀ Sydnop Hall
- ◀ Willersley Castle
- ◀ Ednaston Manor

Due to restrictions in access because of entry fees, these sites have not been assessed. Therefore, they do not receive a quality and value score. Furthermore, they have not been included in the current standard.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	11	16.78	0.38
Peak District National Park	2	2.88	0.11
Derbyshire Dales	13	19.66	0.28

Both analysis areas have park and garden provision. However, Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area has the highest proportion of provision with eleven out of the thirteen sites (16.78ha). This analysis area also contains the largest publically accessible park site in the area, Whitworth Institute, at 7.17 hectares. As a result, Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area has a significantly greater amount of provision per 1,000 population, with 0.38 hectares.

The smallest park and garden site in the area is Cromford Memorial Gardens, at just 0.03 hectares. This site is also within the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area.

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4.3 Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 15-minute walk time has been set across Derbyshire Dales. This is based on responses from the Parks and Open Space Survey, distributed to residents throughout Derbyshire Dales. A total of 31% of respondents report being willing to travel up to 15-minutes to access park and garden provision. In addition, 57% of respondents state they prefer to use public footpaths to get to such provision.

Figure 4.1 shows parks and gardens mapped against the analysis areas with accessibility catchments

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped against analysis area

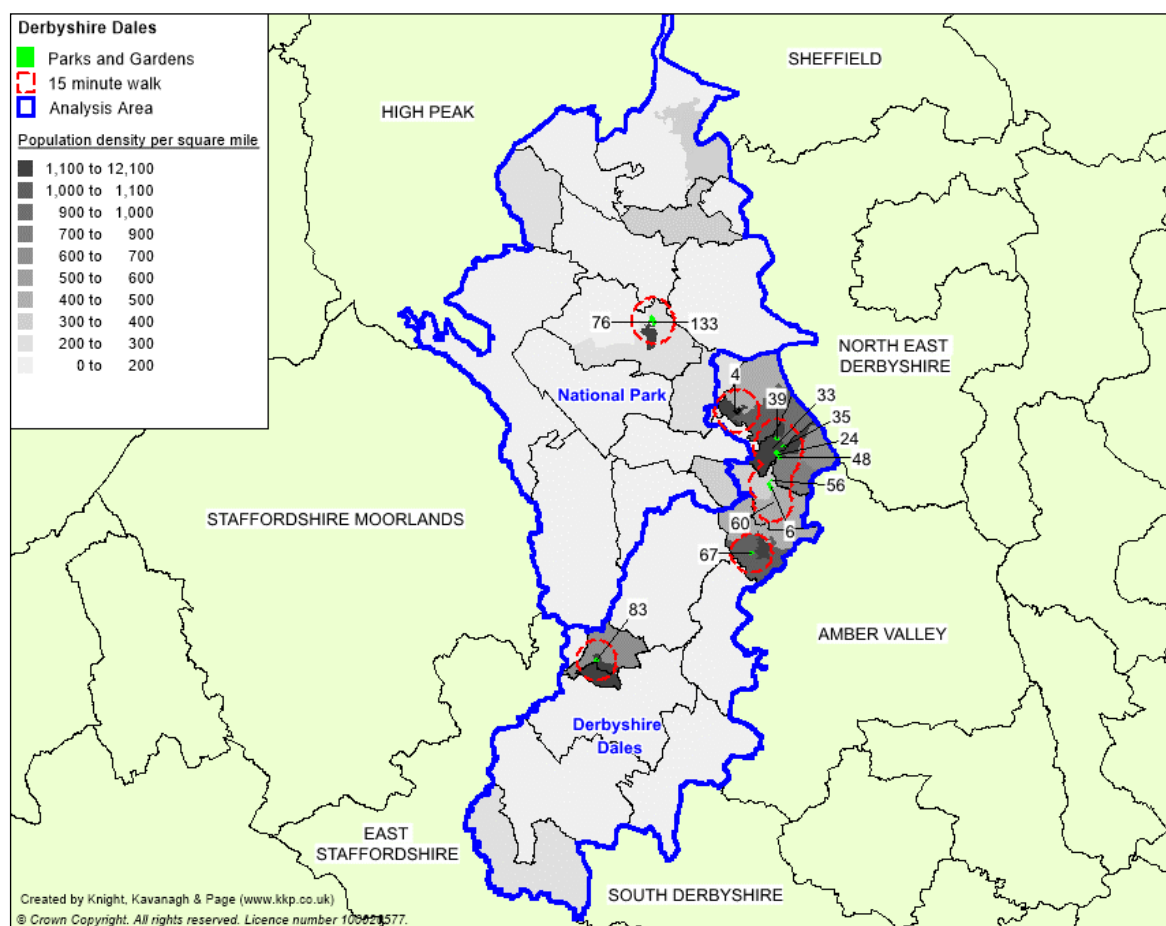


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Quality score	Value score
4	Whitworth Institute	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	77.6%	59.1%
6	Derwent Gardens	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	72.9%	72.7%
24	Hall Leys Park	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	84%	72.7%
33	Allen Hill Park	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	46.5%	46.4%
35	Smedley Street Park Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	55.3%	59.1%
39	Cavendish Road Park	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	37.3%	23.6%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Quality score	Value score
48	Knowleston Place Park	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	50.2%	50.0%
56	Matlock Bath Mem. Gardens	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	54.6%	52.7%
60	Cromford Memorial Gardens	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	50%	48.2%
67	Yokecliffe Park	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	35.1%	41.8%
83	Ashbourne Memorial Park	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	DDDC	72.9%	59.1%
76	Bath Gardens	Peak District National Park	DDDC	68.2%	77.3%
133	Riverside Gardens	Peak District National Park	DDDC	51.6%	72.7%

Catchment gaps are identified in both analysis areas. However, within the Peak District National Park Analysis Area, areas of a higher population density are covered by the 15-minute walk time catchment.

There are notable gaps in provision within densely populated areas in the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area. These gaps can be seen in the north east and west of the analysis area. Despite this, other forms of open space such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace do serve these settlements. These other typologies may help to offer functions and opportunities similar to those of parks and gardens. As such, it is not recommended that new provision is needed.

Management and maintenance

All parks provision within Derbyshire Dales is managed and maintained by the 'Clean and Green Team' at Derbyshire Dales District Council. Sites receive regular maintenance visits, which include regimes such as grass cutting, weeding and general site preservation (e.g. bin emptying, bench refurbishment and visual checks). Hall Leys Park currently has two dedicated members of staff which are responsible to the maintenance of this site, as well as other sites across the Matlock area.

4.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 55% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <55%	High >55%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	181	35%	56%	82%	47%	6	5
Peak District National Park	181	52%	60%	68%	17%	1	1
Derbyshire Dales	181	35%	56%	82%	47%	7	6

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Seven out of the thirteen park and garden sites in Derbyshire Dales score below the threshold for quality. However, this does not mean that these sites have any specific quality issues. The threshold for park provision is set particularly high to stay in line with the national standard set by the Green Flag Award Scheme of 66%. If Green Flag was to be set as the standard, only four sites would score above the threshold. Bath Gardens would only marginally rate above this 66% mark.

The six sites to score above the quality threshold set for Derbyshire Dales are:

- ◀ Hall Leys Park (84%)
- ◀ Whitworth Institute (78%)
- ◀ Derwent Gardens (73%)
- ◀ Ashbourne Memorial Park (73%)
- ◀ Bath Gardens (68%)
- ◀ Smedley Street Park Area (55%)

Hall Leys Park is the highest scoring park site in Derbyshire Dales for quality with 84%. This site is noted as having a wide range of features and facilities such as equipped play provision, toilets, café, a bowling green, tennis courts, lake, miniature railway, CCTV, signage, seating, lighting and WiFi. Appearance and design of the site is described as being excellent, as are the pathways, which allow for disabled access. The site's quality is reflected in its status as a Green Flag Award accredited site.

Hall Leys Park was part of the Matlock Parks Project, which took place between 2001 and 2007. This project saw significant regeneration, as well as the linking together of a number of sites including Hall Leys Park, Pic Tor, High Tor, Lovers Walk and Derwent Gardens. These sites combined are known as the Derwent Valley Heritage way.

The Whitworth Institute is the second highest scoring park site in Derbyshire Dales for quality with 78%. Similarly, to Hall Leys Park, this site is noted as having a wide range of features and facilities such as an equipped play area, skate park, football pitches, bowling green, café, signage, lighting and seating. Furthermore, the appearance and design of the site is described as being excellent, as are the pathways, which allow for disabled access. In addition, the site is observed as having good conservation of natural features such as mature trees.

Derwent Gardens and Ashbourne Memorial Park achieve joint third for park provision quality in the area. As mentioned above, Derwent Gardens was part of the Matlock Parks Projects and also makes up a section of the Derwent Valley Way.

Similarly to Hall Leys Park, Derwent Gardens also has a number of features and facilities including signage, seating, lighting, a water feature, bowling green and basketball area. Further to this, the site is observed as being well designed and maintained to a high standard, with pathways providing access for all abilities due to their good condition. A point to note, this site also scores highly for its conservation of natural features and levels of personal security.

Ashbourne Memorial Gardens is adjoined to Ashbourne Recreation Ground, which is further discussed in the Amenity greenspace section. Ashbourne Memorial Gardens again, has lots to offer including a water feature, wildlife area and attractive landscaped areas. In addition, the site has features and facilities such as toilets, parking and signage. Moreover, the site has good user security and disabled access.

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The two park sites that score significantly lower than any other sites are Yokecliffe Park (35%) and Cavendish Road Park (37%). Both these sites are reported as having a poor gradient and lower standards of maintenance, which encompasses the condition of the pathways. Further to this, these sites lack features and facilities such as seating, lighting and toilets. A point to note however, these sites do not have any concerning quality issues. As previously mentioned, the lower quality scores for these sites can be attributed to them being compared to exceptionally high quality sites such as Hall Leys Park.

Green Flag

The Green Flag Award scheme is licensed and managed by Keep Britain Tidy. It 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. This in turn impacts upon the way parks and gardens are managed and maintained.

A survey conducted by improvement charity GreenSpace highlights that parks with a Green Flag Award provide more satisfaction to members of the public compared to those sites without it. The survey of 16,000 park users found that more than 90% of Green Flag Award park visitors were very satisfied or satisfied with their chosen site, compared to 65% of visitors to non-Green Flag parks.

There is currently one site in Derbyshire Dales identified as achieving Green Flag status; Hall Leys Park. As highlighted earlier, the site is maintained to a high standard and provides a pivotal role to the Derbyshire Dales Area.

Should the District Council have a desire to have more Green Flag status sites within the area, high scoring sites such as Derwent Gardens and Ashbourne Memorial Gardens could be considered; however, it is noted that this can be a costly process.

4.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	110	24%	53%	73%	49%	0	11
Peak District National Park	110	73%	75%	77%	5%	0	2
Derbyshire Dales	110	24%	56%	77%	54%	0	13

All parks are assessed as being of high value and are noted as having social inclusion and health benefits. For example, sports opportunities at Hall Leys Park and Derwent Gardens. Hall Leys Park and Derwent Gardens also have economic, heritage and cultural value, bringing tourism to the area through their contribution to the Derwent Valley Way, a route walked by a high volume of people every year. Further to the two parks mentioned, Derwent Gardens holds the annual Matlock Bath Illuminations. This event has been running for over 100 years and again brings many tourists to the area. A point to note, Ashbourne Memorial Gardens also has a high cultural and heritage value as a result of its links to war.

Another reason for the high value placed on park and garden provision is their contribution to biodiversity and wildlife habitats as well as their creation of opportunities for local communities and people to socialise. The ability for people to undertake a range of different activities such as walking, dog walking or taking children to the play area are generally recognised. In addition, the use of such sites to accommodate events is important. An example of this is Hall Leys Park being used for weekly Walking for Health sessions.

4.5 Conclusions

Parks and gardens summary

- ◀ There are 13 sites classified as accessible parks and gardens totalling 19.66 hectares. The majority of this provision (85%) is situated in the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area.
- ◀ Catchment gaps are identified in both analysis areas. However, within the Peak District National Park Analysis Area, areas of a higher population density are covered by the 15-minute walk time catchment. Gaps in the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area are met by other open space typologies such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace.
- ◀ Seven out of the thirteen park and garden sites in Derbyshire Dales score below the threshold for quality. However, this does not mean that these sites have any specific quality issues. The threshold for park provision is set particularly high to stay in line with the national standard set by the Green Flag Award Scheme of 66%.
- ◀ The highest scoring site for quality is Hall Leys Park, which is further reflected in its Green Flag status.
- ◀ Other sites, which significantly surpass the Green Flag pass mark of 66%, are the Whitworth Institute, Derwent Gardens and Ashbourne Memorial Park.
- ◀ No sites scoring below the threshold are observed as having any specific quality issues. Their low scores are merely a result of their comparison to sites of exceptional quality.
- ◀ All sites are assessed as being of high value, with the important social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value, economic value, educational value and sense of place sites offer being acknowledged.

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Recommendations

- ◀ Further formal provision could be sought in identified gaps within the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area where opportunity arises but is not considered to be a priority as the gaps are met by the less formal typologies of amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace.
- ◀ Ensure that more formal features and landscaping are added to more informal sites such as amenity greenspaces in areas of deficiency.
- ◀ Look to make improvements where possible to park and garden sites that fall below the quality threshold. This can be achieved through increasing the number features and facilities available to users.
- ◀ Consider additional sites for the Green Flag Award Scheme including sites such as Derwent Gardens and Ashbourne Recreation Ground and Memorial Gardens.
- ◀ Work to increase the involvement of community and friends of groups in the management and maintenance of sites across the District, as this can reduce some pressure placed on the Council and meets the criterion of the Green Flag Award Scheme.

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PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology includes woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, 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.'

The typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace has a relatively low quality threshold compared to other open space typologies. This is in order to reflect the characteristic of this kind of provision. For instance, many natural and semi-natural sites are intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater flora and fauna activity.

5.2 Current provision

There are 21 sites classified as accessible natural and semi-natural greenspaces, totalling just over 519 hectares of provision. Totals may not include all provision in Derbyshire Dales as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Guidance recommends that sites smaller than this may be of less recreational value to residents. In addition, sites which are identified as grazing land are not included.

Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	13	372.45	8.50
Peak District National Park	8	146.59	5.78
Derbyshire Dales	21	519.04	7.51

Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area has the highest number of sites as well as a greater proportion of provision with over 372 hectares. Subsequently this analysis area has a greater quantity standard, having 8.50 hectares per 1,000 population.

The largest single site contributor to the natural and semi-natural greenspace provision in Derbyshire Dales is Carsington Water (307.77 ha). Derbyshire Dales has a variety of natural and semi-natural provision including woodlands, nature reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Designations

Within Derbyshire Dales there are sites designated as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are two sites classified as LNRs, Dunsley Meadow and Lovers Walk (which also has SSSI designation). Further to this, Priestcliffe Lees is a SSSIs. Below is a list of nature reserve sites:

- ◀ Chee Dale (KKP 138)
- ◀ Cramside Wood (KKP 139)
- ◀ Gang Mine (KKP 140)
- ◀ Hartington Meadows (KKP 141)

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- ◀ Holly Wood (KKP 142)
- ◀ Hopton Quarry (KKP 143)
- ◀ Miller's Dale (KKP 144)
- ◀ Rowsley Sidings (KKP 147)

Management

The Wildlife Trust manages all nature reserves, listed in the above section. Derbyshire Dales District Council manages the remaining sites. This is with the exceptions of Endcliff Wood, which is managed by the Woodland Trust and Stoney Wood, which is managed by the Stoney Wood Group on behalf of Wirksworth Town Council.

5.3 Accessibility

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. These standards recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

- ◀ An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (five minutes walk) from home
- ◀ At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home
- ◀ One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home
- ◀ One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home
- ◀ One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserve per thousand population

On this basis a population such as Derbyshire Dales (69,102) is recommended to have approximately 69 hectares of LNR. As it stands, there is currently has 13.38 hectares of LNR. Therefore, the area currently falls short of the ANGSt by 113.90 ha.

This study, in order to comply with guidance uses locally informed accessibility standards. It does not focus on the ANGSt standard as this uses a different methodology for identifying accessible natural greenspace.

The highest proportion of Parks and Open Space Survey respondents (31%) are willing to travel up to 30 minutes by car to access natural and semi natural greenspace. Based on these findings, a 30-minute drive time catchment has been applied. Figure 5.1 shows this standard applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against analysis area

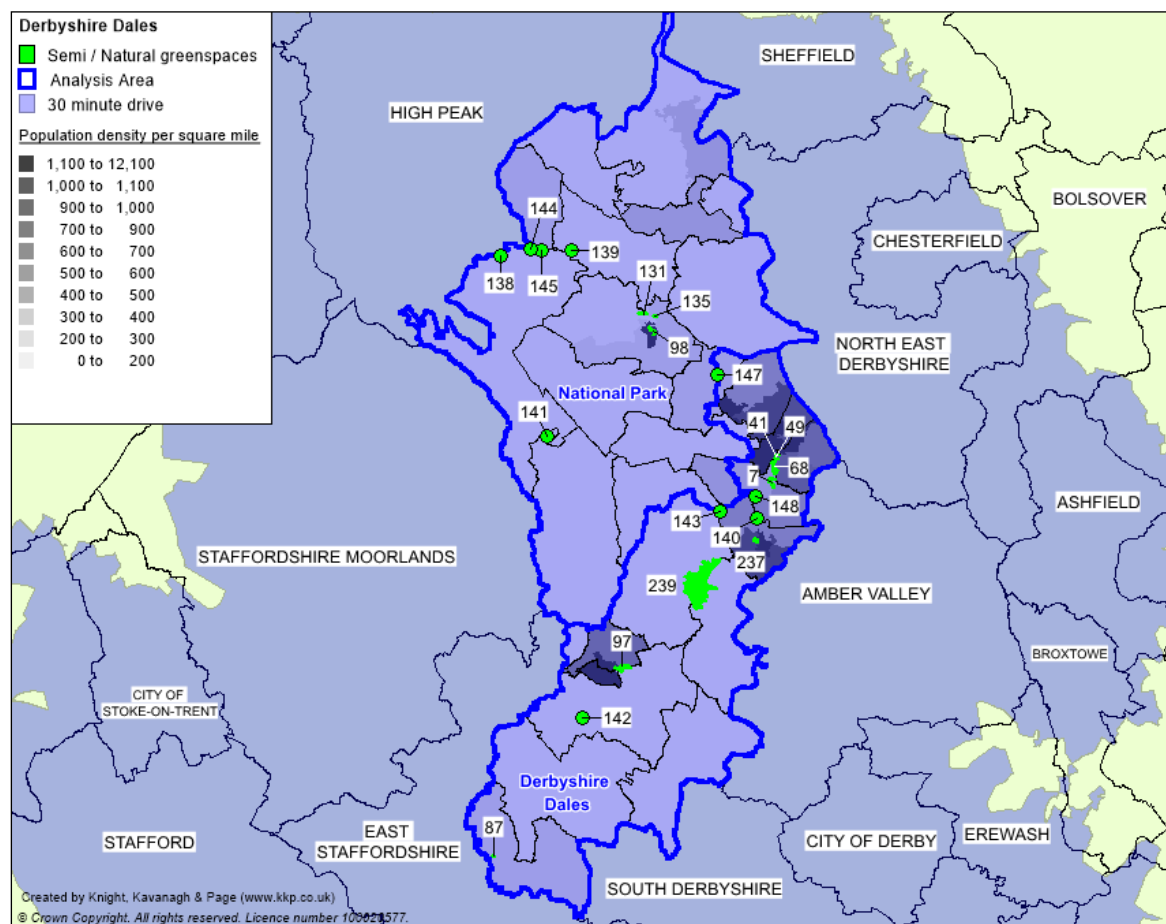


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
7	Lovers Walk	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	65.5%	72.7%
41	Knowleston Pl. Footpath	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	43.6%	50.0%
49	Swan House Grass Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	48.2%	40.9%
68	High Tor Pleasure Grounds	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	67%	50%
87	Doveridge Pond/Grass Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	46.3%	63.6%
97	Bradley Wood	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	37.9%	34.5%
140	Gang Mine	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	41.5%	43.6%
142	Holly Wood	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	26.3%	41.8%
143	Hopton Quarry	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	30.7%	32.7%
147	Rowsley Sidings	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	22%	43.6%
148	Dunsley Meadow	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	32%	43.6%
237	Stoney Wood	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	45.3%	34.5%
239	Carsington Water	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	82.7%	68.2%
98	Catcliffe Woodland	Peak District National Park	24.6%	14.5%
131	Endcliff Wood	Peak District National Park	28.5%	39.1%
135	Castle Hill	Peak District National Park		
138	Chee Dale	Peak District National Park		
139	Cramside Wood	Peak District National Park	55.9%	39.1%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
141	Hartington Meadows	Peak District National Park	55.9%	39.1%
144	Miller's Dale	Peak District National Park		
145	Priestcliffe Lees	Peak District National Park		

There is a good spread of natural and semi-natural greenspaces across the Area and as such all areas are covered by a 15-minute drive time catchment. It is worth noting that due to the variety of sites captured within this typology, it is likely that for some sites, residents would only want to walk to access provision, however, there are a number of destination sites such as High Tor Pleasure Grounds that people are willing to travel by car to access. Further to this, consultation with parish/town councils does not highlight further demand to access natural and semi-natural greenspaces.

Consultation with Baslow and Bubnell Parish Council highlights a desire to develop a woodland site attached to Baslow & Bubnell Recreation Ground. It has plans to turn it into a nature reserve with educational purposes as well as putting a play area and some fitness equipment on the site.

5.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 35% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.3: Quality rating for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <35%	High >35%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	139	22%	42%	67%	45%	4	9
Peak District National Park	139	25%	38%	56%	31%	2	2
Derbyshire Dales	139	22%	41%	67%	45%	6	11

Of the 21 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, 17 receive a quality and value score. Four sites were not visited as although accessible, it was felt that these sites would not benefit from a quality assessments due to their size and nature:

- ⚡ Chee Dale (KKP 138) – large area of land which forms part of a wider route
- ⚡ Cramside Wood (KKP 139) – large area of open land managed by the Wildlife Trust
- ⚡ Miller's Dale (KKP 144) - large area of open land managed by the Wildlife Trust
- ⚡ Priestcliffe Lees (KKP 145) – large marsh land which forms part of a wider route

Over half (65%) of accessed of natural and semi-natural sites rate above the threshold applied for quality. Proportionally the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area has more sites that rate above the threshold (69%) than below the threshold. In the Peak District National Park, half of sites score above the threshold. Only one site, Catcliffe Woodland, scores below the threshold for both quality and value.

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The highest scoring natural and semi-natural site is Carsington Water. This can be attributed to the sites broad range of recreation opportunities such as walking routes, water sports, play area, orienteering and areas for bird watching. Furthermore, the site is observed as being attractive and maintained to a high standard. In addition, the site has a variety of ancillary features such as a café, visitors centre, shops, shelters, seats, picnic tables, signage, toilets and lighting. This site also offers excellent levels of conservation.

Other sites scoring high for quality are High Tor Pleasure Grounds (67%) and Lovers Walk (66%). These sites are observed as being attractive and well maintained; offering features such as seats, signage, picnic tables, lighting and litter bins. The sites also have good links to public transport, good levels of user security and controls to prevent illegal use. They are also noted as conserving natural features such as trees, flora and fauna, as well as providing recreational opportunity for people of different ages.

A point to note, Lovers Walk is part of the previously discussed Derwent Valley Way, which was regenerated through the Matlock Parks Project between 2001 and 2007.

The lowest scoring sites for quality are Rowsley Sidings (22%) and Catcliffe Woodland (25%). This is because these sites are primarily managed for their biodiversity rather than for public accessibility and as such score low against the criteria for not having basic features such as seats and bins. Furthermore, they do not appear to be maintained to as higher standard as other similar sites.

Consultation identifies a three-year project 'Derwent Wise' which is seeking to improve sites attached to the Derwent Valley Heritage Way. This involves making woodland more accessible, increasing biodiversity and increasing educational opportunities within existing sites.

5.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.4: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low	High
						<20%	>20%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	110	33%	46%	64%	31%	0	13
Peak District National Park	110	15%	35%	49%	35%	1	3
Derbyshire Dales	110	15%	43%	64%	49%	1	16

The vast majority (94%) of natural and semi-natural greenspaces rate above the threshold for value, with only one site, Catcliffe Woodland, scoring low for value (although only just below the threshold). Although the site scores well for biodiversity and as a visual amenity, as a publicly accessible space it scores less i.e. the footpaths are not well maintained and there are less features.

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Natural and semi natural sites often receive high value scores because of their ecological value and contribution to biodiversity. Furthermore, they often provide recreational and educational opportunities. For example, the Wildlife Trust use High Tor Pleasure Grounds for school visits.

The highest scoring sites for value is Lovers Walk (73%). This can be attributed to its high levels of social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and educational offer through interpretation boards. Further to this, forming part of the Derwent Valley Way, it offers important structural and landscape value as well as ecological value to the area through tourism. It is also important to recognise the high ecological value of this ancient woodland site, which holds a SSSI designation.

Another site worthy of mention is Stoney Wood, which has a high level of community involvement. This is evidence through the Parks and Open Space Survey where locals highlighted their fondness of the site. The Stoney Wood Group formed 20 years ago and manages the old quarry site on behalf of Wirksworth Town Council. The site is highly valued within the community, with events being held here on a regular basis. These events include apple picking at the community orchard, live music events and the 'wish upon a star' event. The Stoney Wood Group has played a key role in developing the site, receiving a Heritage Lottery Grant to create the community orchard and star disc, which was designed by a local artist. Further to this, Forest Schools access the site for educational purposes.

5.5 Conclusions

Natural and semi-natural summary

- There are 21 sites classified as accessible natural and semi-natural greenspaces, totalling just over 519.04 hectares of provision.
- Derbyshire Dales is well served by natural and semi-natural greenspaces based on a 30-minute drive time catchment. The provision in the area also serves neighbouring authorities.
- Within Derbyshire Dales there are sites designated as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are two sites classified as LNRs and two SSSIs.
- Derbyshire Dales is recommended to have approximately 69 hectares of LNR. As it stands, there is currently has 13.38 hectares of LNR. Therefore, the area currently falls short of the ANGSt by 113.90 ha.
- Over half (65%) of natural and semi natural greenspaces score above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring site for quality are Carsington Water, High Tor Pleasure Grounds and Lovers Walk.
- The majority (93%) of natural and semi natural sites score high for value; this can be attributed to their ecological value and contribution to biodiversity. Furthermore, they often provide recreational and educational opportunities.
- Only one site, Catcliffe Woodland, scores low for value. Although the site scores well for biodiversity and as a visual amenity, as a publicly accessible space it scores less i.e. the footpaths are not well maintained and there are less features.
- Given the rural characteristics of the area and containment of part of the Peak District National Park, need for additional natural and semi-natural provision is highly unlikely.

Recommendations

- Where appropriate, work to improve the quality of natural and semi natural greenspaces as publicly accessible sites including, for example, increasing interpretation signage and footpath maintenance.
- Where possible, work with partners to designate existing nature reserve sites.

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PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

The typology of amenity greenspaces is defined as sites 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.’

6.2 Current provision

There are a total of 73 amenity greenspaces identified in Derbyshire Dales totalling just 101 hectares. Amenity spaces are most often found in housing estates or settlement centres and function as informal recreation spaces or as open spaces along highways that provide a visual amenity. There are also a number of recreation grounds which have been classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	49	52.77	1.20
Peak District National Park	24	48.71	1.92
Derbyshire Dales	73	101.47	1.47

Site sizes vary from the smallest incidental open space on housing estates, to the largest such as Bakewell South Playing Fields at just over nine hectares.

The Derbyshire Dales (outside the National Park) Analysis Area currently has the most provision in terms of hectares. However, the Peak District National Park Analysis Area has the most provision per 1,000 population (1.92 hectares).

It is important to note that whilst the majority of provision is considered as being small grassed areas in and around housing or visual landscaped space, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example recreation grounds can be included under amenity greenspace, such as Northwood Recreation Ground (Derbyshire Dales). These serve a different purpose to grassed areas in housing estates and often provide an extended range of opportunities for recreational activities compared to grass areas. In addition, these sites are often larger in size.

6.3 Accessibility

The highest proportion of Parks and Open Space Survey respondents (23%) are willing to walk 15 minutes to access amenity greenspace. Based on these findings, a 15-minute walk time catchment has been applied. The figures below show this standard applied to amenity greenspaces to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located. In addition, 42% of respondents state they prefer to use public footpaths to get to such provision.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace mapped against analysis area

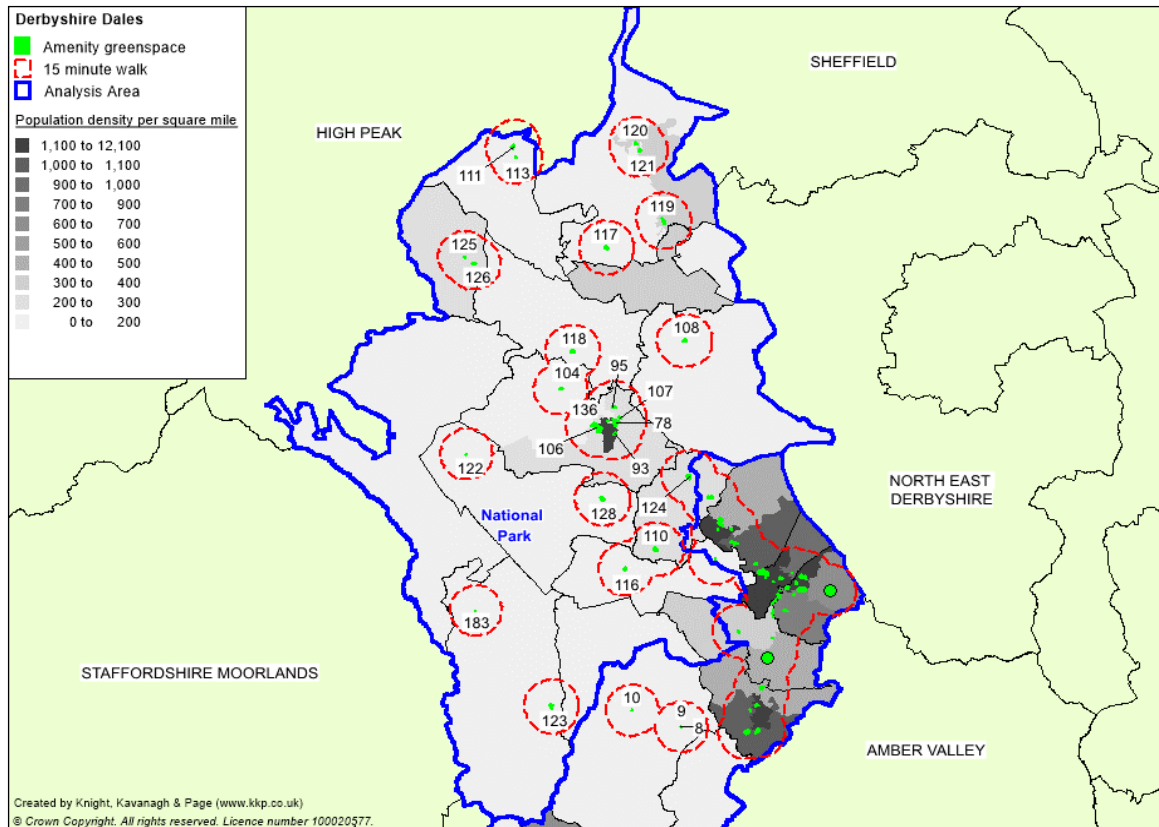
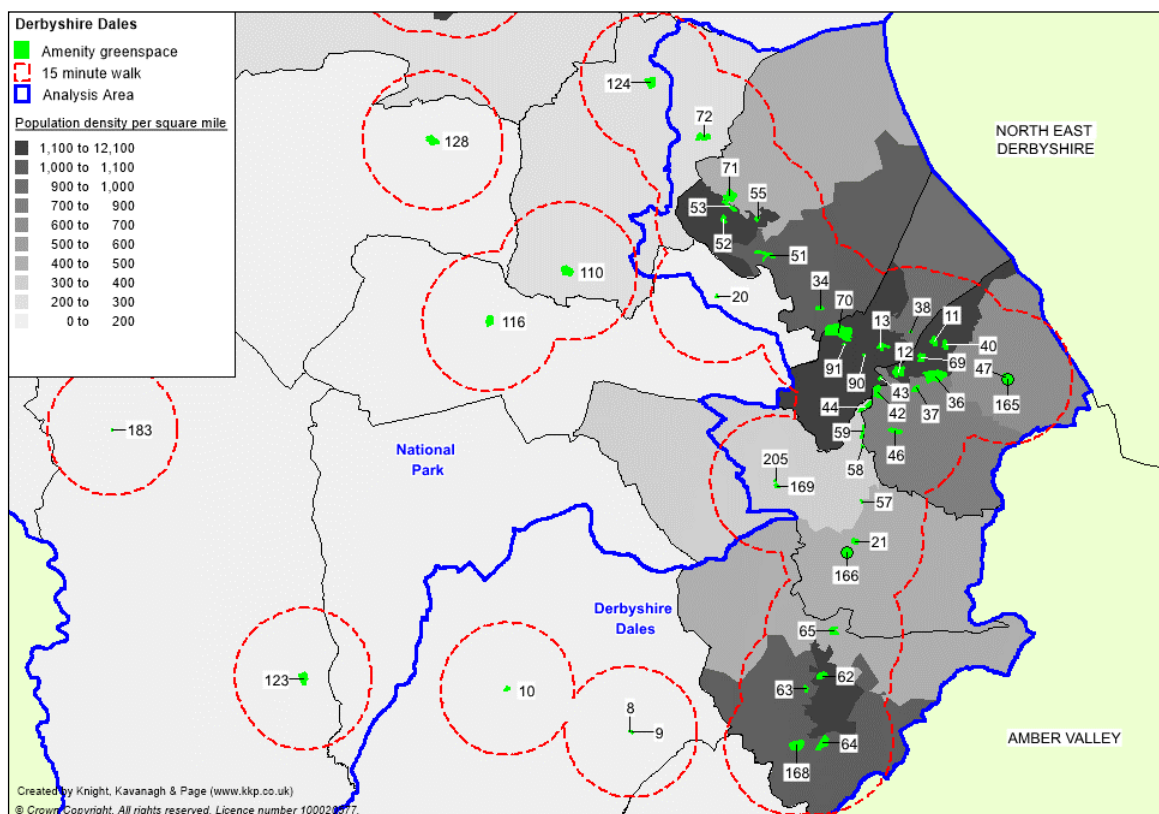


Figure 6.2: Amenity greenspace mapped against analysis area



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Figure 6.3: Amenity greenspace mapped against analysis area

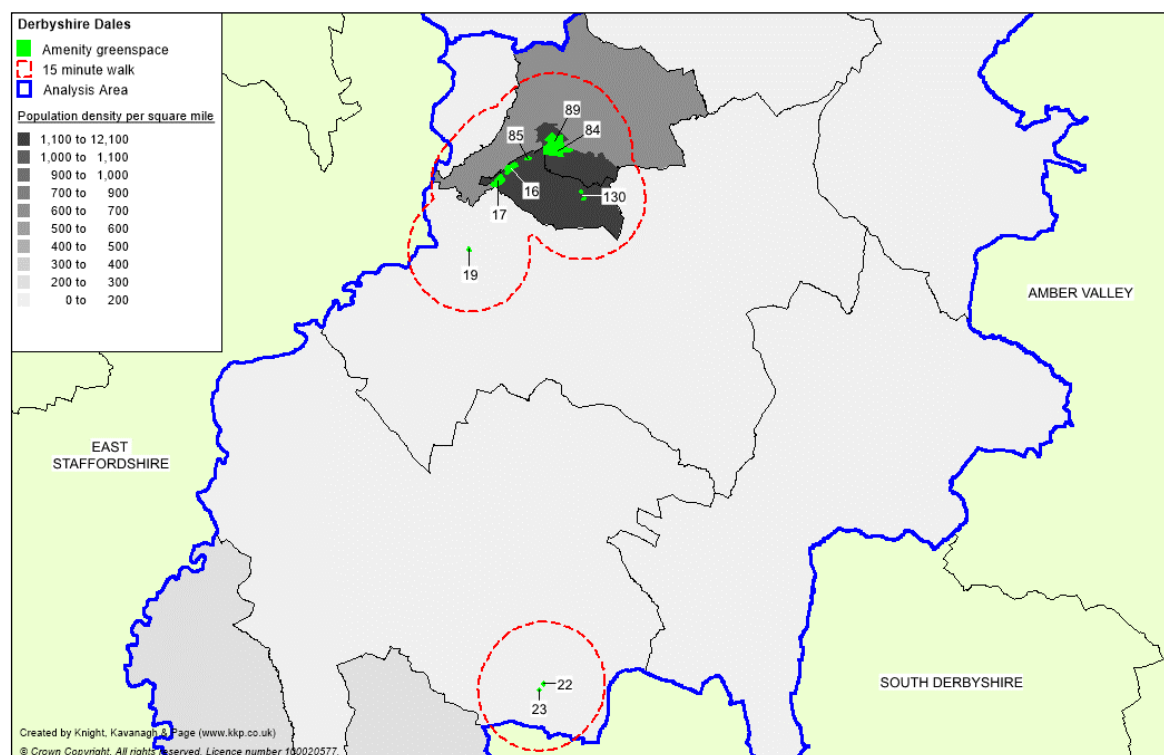


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
8	Land Opposite the Garden House, Carsington	Derbyshire Dales	49%	70.0%
9	Land Opposite the Glebe House, Carsington	Derbyshire Dales	42.4%	70.0%
10	Land Adjacent to Brassington Hall	Derbyshire Dales	27.6%	38.0%
11	Bailey's Tump	Derbyshire Dales	45.8%	53.0%
12	Dene Fields, Court, Land Off Lime Tree Road, Matlock	Derbyshire Dales	49.4%	45.0%
13	Land Adjacent to County Offices, Bank Road, Matlock	Derbyshire Dales	32%	18.0%
16	Land Adjacent to Oswald's Church, Ashbourne	Derbyshire Dales	23.9%	36.0%
17	Land to The Rear Of 40 - 120 Mayfield Road, Ashbourne	Derbyshire Dales	12.3%	11.0%
19	Land Adjacent to Hollies Close, Clifton	Derbyshire Dales	18.6%	43.0%
20	Darley Bridge	Derbyshire Dales	32.3%	16.0%
21	Land to Rear of Greyhound Hotel, Off Water Lane, Cromford	Derbyshire Dales	70.3%	55.0%
22	Land In Between Hillcroft and Montamana House, Boylestone	Derbyshire Dales	8.2%	16.0%
23	Land Between St John's Church and School House, Boylestone	Derbyshire Dales	41.8%	48.0%
34	Stanton View	Derbyshire Dales	17.7%	11.0%
36	Hurst Farm Open Space	Derbyshire Dales	28.6%	18.0%
37	Hunts Bridge Grass Area	Derbyshire Dales	35.9%	43.0%
38	Wellington Street Shrubbery	Derbyshire Dales	47.4%	58.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
40	Wishingstone Grass Area	Derbyshire Dales	23.9%	43.0%
42	War Memorial Pic Tor	Derbyshire Dales	35.6%	60.0%
43	Shrubs Rear Old English	Derbyshire Dales	58.4%	75.0%
44	Artist Corner Picnic Area	Derbyshire Dales	59.4%	40.0%
46	Starkholmes Playing Field	Derbyshire Dales	33.4%	47.0%
47	Tansley Village Green	Derbyshire Dales	54.6%	49.0%
51	The Promenade Grass Area	Derbyshire Dales	40.0%	22.0%
52	Butts Road Small Park	Derbyshire Dales	44.7%	28.0%
53	Lime Grove Subway	Derbyshire Dales	28.6%	7.0%
55	Park Avenue Grass Area	Derbyshire Dales	41.5%	33.0%
57	Grass Area Opp. New Bath	Derbyshire Dales	33.6%	16.0%
58	Tor Dale Grass Area	Derbyshire Dales	23.3%	11.0%
59	Riverside Picnic Area	Derbyshire Dales	34.7%	23.0%
62	Fanny Shaw Playing Field	Derbyshire Dales	46.6%	53.0%
63	The Dale Shrub Area	Derbyshire Dales	29.7%	36.0%
64	Gorsey Bank Playing Field	Derbyshire Dales	42.0%	50.0%
65	Bolehill Recreation Ground	Derbyshire Dales	42.3%	53.0%
69	The Orchard	Derbyshire Dales	35.7%	53.0%
70	Dimple Recreation Ground	Derbyshire Dales	53.4%	44.0%
71	Broadwalk Rec. Ground	Derbyshire Dales	40.1%	27.0%
72	Northwood Recreation Ground	Derbyshire Dales	35.6%	23.0%
78	Rutland Recreation Ground	National Park	73.4%	70.0%
84	Fishpond Meadow	Derbyshire Dales	51.5%	49.0%
85	Bankcroft Picnic Area	Derbyshire Dales	49.5%	60.0%
89	Ashbourne Rec. Ground	National Park	63.1%	49.0%
90	Hillside	Derbyshire Dales	45.2%	48.0%
91	Megdale	Derbyshire Dales	24.7%	13.0%
93	Burton Closes Hall	National Park	27.6%	28.0%
95	Open Space on Castle Mount Crescent, Bakewell	National Park	10.6%	36.0%
104	Ashford in the Water Playing Field	National Park	72.4%	65.0%
106	Bakewell South Playing Fields	National Park	46.4%	43.0%
107	Bakewell South Show Ground	National Park	51.6%	50.0%
108	Baslow & Bubnell Recreation Ground	National Park	64.0%	65.0%
110	Birchover Recreation Ground	National Park	25.8%	32.0%
111	Town End Recreation Ground, Bradwell	National Park	47.4%	60.0%
113	Bradwell Recreation Ground	National Park	52.3%	59.0%
116	Elton	National Park	55.3%	54.0%
117	Eyam Recreation Ground	National Park	59.9%	65.0%
118	Great Longstone Recreation Ground	National Park	70.2%	65.0%
119	Grindleford Playing Fields	National Park	70.3%	65.0%
120	Hathersage Recreation Ground	National Park	38.6%	58.0%
121	Oddfellows Recreation Ground, Hathersage	National Park	72.6%	70.0%
123	Parwich	National Park	56.9%	59.0%
124	Rowsley Recreation Ground	National Park	64.5%	39.0%
125	Condliff Terrace, Tideswell	National Park	36.5%	48.0%
126	Tideswell Bowling Green	National Park	56.5%	65.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
128	Youlgreave Playing Field	National Park	59.2%	48.0%
130	Stanton Road	Derbyshire Dales	28.3%	39.0%
136	Dagnall Gardens	National Park	40.5%	38.0%
146	Rose End Meadows	Derbyshire Dales	21.5%	26.0%
165	Mason Terrace, off Spout Lane, Tansley	Derbyshire Dales	28.3%	43.0%
166	Land off St Mary's Close, Cromford	Derbyshire Dales	45.1%	30.0%
168	Kingsfield Recreation Ground	Derbyshire Dales	25.6%	59.0%
169	Bonsall Recreation Ground	Derbyshire Dales	43.1%	39.0%
205	Yeoman Street Gardens	Derbyshire Dales	36.1%	27.0%
183	Biggin Recreation Ground	National Park	40.5%	50.0%

Catchment mapping with a 15-minute walk time applied shows a reasonable level of coverage across Derbyshire Dales as a whole. In most instances areas with a greater population density have reasonable access to provision. However, some gaps are identified due to the accessibility standard set for amenity greenspace being relatively small (as provision is often deemed to be locally significant). For example, on the outskirts of Darley Dale and Matlock.

It is unlikely that new provision is required as gaps are served by other forms of open space provision such as natural and semi natural. Furthermore, no issues regarding a deficiency in amenity greenspace are highlighted from the consultation.

Management

Council managed open spaces, including amenity greenspaces, are managed as part of the open spaces portfolio by the District Council. Sites receive regular maintenance visits which include regimes such as grass cutting, weeding and general site preservation (e.g. bin emptying, bench refurbishment and path checks).

6.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 35% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <35%	High >35%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	147	8	37	70	62	21	28
Peak District National Park	147	10	50	72	62	3	21
Derbyshire Dales	147	8	42	72	64	24	49

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Most amenity greenspaces (67%) receive a quality rating above the threshold. In particular, sites in Peak District National Park Analysis Area, score well, with 88% of sites scoring above the threshold. The four lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites in Derbyshire are:

- ✦ Land In Between Hillcroft And Montamana House, Boylestone (8.2%)
- ✦ Open Space in Castle Mount Crescent, Bakewell (10.6)
- ✦ Land to The Rear of 40 - 120 Mayfield Road, Ashbourne (12.3%)
- ✦ Stanton View (17.7%)

Both Land in between Hillcroft and Montamana House, and Castle Mount Crescent, Bakewell have a lack of ancillary facilities and features such as bins, seating, signage, parking and lighting. Furthermore, Hillcroft and Montamana is described as being of poor cleanliness and maintenance due to overgrown shrubs and vegetation. This contributes to Hillcroft and Montamana being the lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites.

The highest scoring sites are Rutland Recreation Ground (73%) and the Ashford in the Water Playing Field (72%) score respectively for quality, both of these sites are within the National Park.

This is due to the range of ancillary facilities available as well as the high standard of appearance, maintenance and landscape design of the sites. Ancillary facilities observed include bins, seating, signage and lighting. The sites are also noted to have good access and personal security. Features such as these contribute to their overall quality and help to create more opportunities and reasons for people to access them.

6.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for amenity greenspace in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	100	7	38	75	68	10	39
Peak District National Park	100	28	53	70	42	0	24
Derbyshire Dales	100	7	43	75	68	10	63

Similar to quality, more amenity greenspaces are rated as being above the threshold for value (86%). Ten sites (14%) receive a low value rating of below 20%. Proportionally Derbyshire Dales (outside the National Park) has more sites below the threshold than the National Park, which has no sites below the threshold.

In general, all sites scoring below the threshold for value are essentially viewed as formal grassland with few or no other noticeable features. Hence their low value scores.

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However, they are often acknowledged as having a sense of place and providing some form of visual amenity to their locality.

It is important to keep in mind that the main role for some sites is to simply act as a grassed area, providing breaks in the urban form. Subsequently such sites are likely to score lower compared to others.

There are ten sites, which score low for both quality and value. The majority of these sites are identified as being generally small in size (i.e. below 0.3 hectares). In general, a sites small size and lack of facilities are contributors to a low value score. This is due to quality often having a direct impact on value.

As highlighted earlier, the majority of amenity greenspace sites (86%) score high for value. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Shrubs Rear Old English (75%) ▶ Ashford in the Water Playing Field (60%)
- ◀ Rutland Recreation Ground (70%) ▶ Baslow & Bubnell Recreation Ground (60%)

Amenity greenspaces should be recognised for their multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. The greater these opportunities, combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping, trees), the more sites are respected and valued by the local community.

The highest scoring site for value is recognised for the accessible recreational opportunities they offer as well as key features and attractiveness. In particular, the highest scoring site is Shrubs Rear Old English which has a specialist sensory garden.

Aside from structured recreational activities, amenity greenspaces can often be used for informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many amenity greenspaces in the district have a dual function and are used as amenity resources for residents. They can also offer visual amenity and ecological value in built up areas.

6.6 Conclusions

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ A total of 73 amenity greenspace sites are identified in the Derbyshire Dales, totalling over 101 hectares of amenity space.
- ◀ Most amenity greenspace sites are located in the area outside the National Park (49). However, the National Park Analysis Area has the greatest amount of provision proportionally per 1,000 population with 1.92 (compared to 1.47 for Derbyshire dales as a whole as a whole).
- ◀ The multifunctional role of amenity greenspace to local communities is recognised and as such the expectation exists for provision to be locally accessible. There are no significant gaps in provision that are not serviced by other similar types of provision.
- ◀ Just over two thirds of amenity greenspace sites (67%) score above the quality threshold. However, there is still one third which rate below the quality threshold. However, this can be partly attributed to a number of sites being below 0.2 hectares, resulting in a lack of ancillary facilities.
- ◀ In addition to the multifunctional role of sites, amenity greenspace provision is, in general, particularly valuable towards the visual aesthetics for communities. This is demonstrated by the 86% of sites rating above the threshold for value. The contribution these sites provide as a visual amenity and for wildlife habitats should not be overlooked.
- ◀ It is unlikely that new provision is required as the small gaps in more densely populated areas (i.e. outskirts of Darley Dale and Matlock) are served by other forms of open space provision such as natural and semi natural.

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Recommendations

- ◀ Work towards ensuring the quality of provision is sustained or improved.
- ◀ Work to increase the involvement of community and friends of groups in the management and maintenance of sites across the Area.
- ◀ Ensure that more formal features and landscaping are added to amenity greenspaces, for example, sites such as Lime Grove Subway and Open Space on Castle Mount Crescent, Bakewell.

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PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

The typology of provision for children and young people, 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.

Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can also include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges. It can include facilities such as skateparks, BMX, basketball courts, youth shelters, MUGAs and informal kick-about areas.

7.2 Current provision

A total of 50 sites for provision for children and young people are identified in Derbyshire Dales. This combines to create a total of just over four hectares of provision. The table below shows the distribution of provision by analysis area. In addition, there may be a number of small play area sites within villages that have not been identified due to some parish councils not responding to consultation requests.

A point to note, there may also be some small play areas within Derbyshire Dales not identified, due to some parish councils not responding to consultation requests.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	34	3.07	0.07
Peak District National Park	16	1.21	0.05
Derbyshire Dales	50	4.28	0.06

Unsurprisingly, Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area has the most provision for children and young people due to being the more densely populated area. Subsequently, this analysis area also has the most provision per 1,000 population (0.06 hectares).

Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience utilising Fields in Trust (FIT) guidance. FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

- ◀ LAP - a Local Area of Play. Usually small landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.
- ◀ LEAP - a Local Equipped Area of Play. Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users; often containing a wider range of equipment types.
- ◀ NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater for all age groups. Such sites may contain a MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large open space sites.

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Play provision in the Area is summarised using the FIT categories. Most is identified as being of LEAP (52%) classification; sites with a wider amount and range of equipment; designed to predominantly cater for unsupervised play.

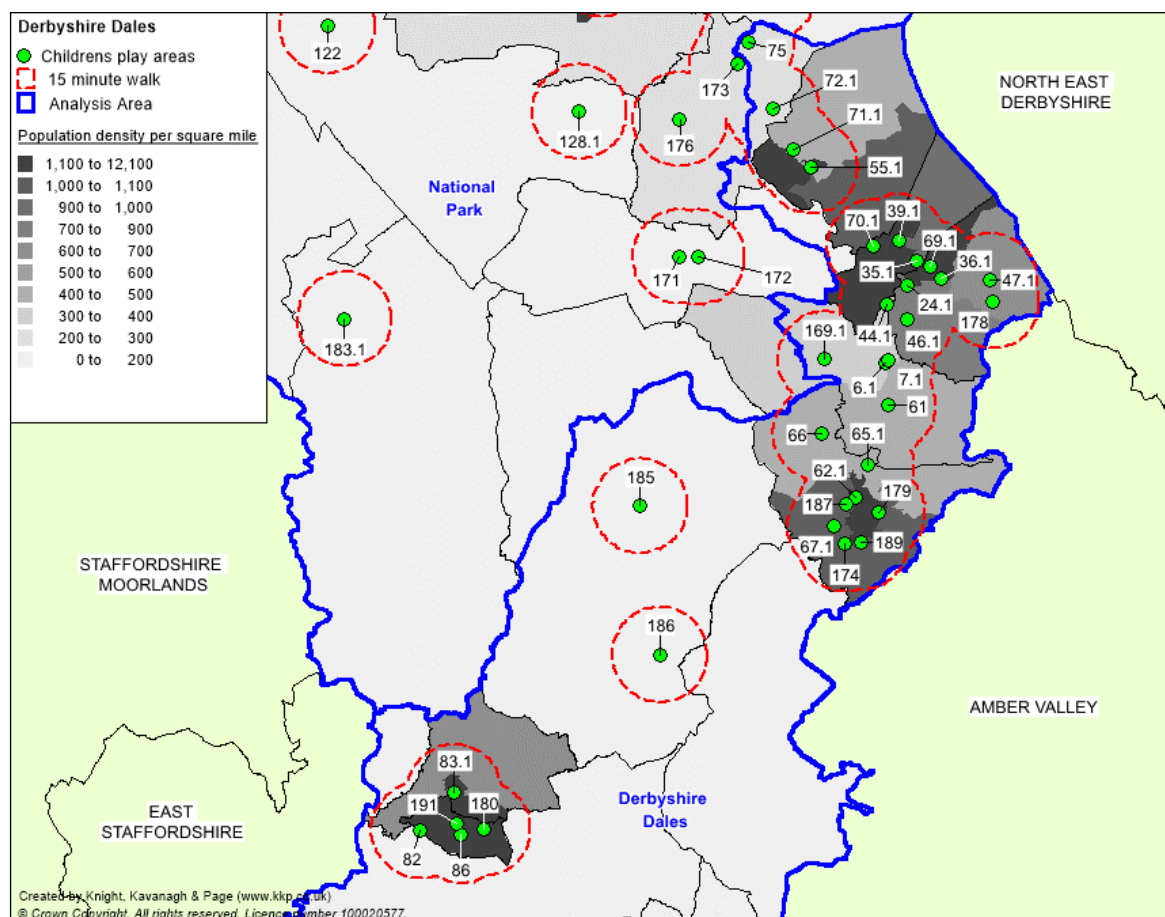
Table 7.2: Distribution of provision for children and young people by FIT category

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people			
	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	TOTAL
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	8	20	6	34
Peak District National Park	3	6	7	16
Derbyshire Dales	11	26	13	50

7.3 Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 15-minute walk time for play provision has been set across Derbyshire Dales. This is based on responses from the Parks and Open Space Survey, distributed to residents throughout Derbyshire Dales. Of respondents that had an opinion, 27% report being willing to travel 15 minutes by foot to access play provision.

Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people mapped against Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) analysis areas



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Figure 7.2: Provision for children and young people mapped against Peak District National Park analysis areas

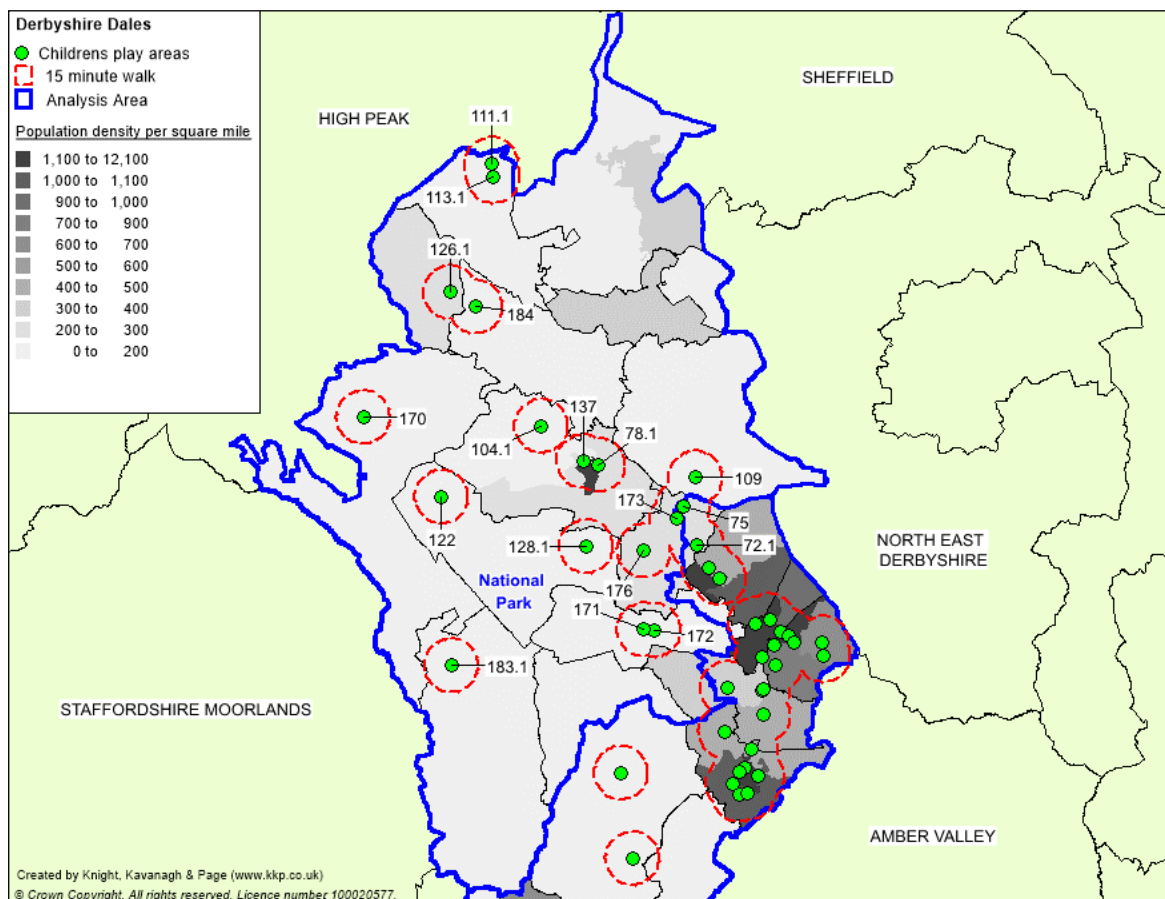


Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
6.1	Derwent Gardens Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	49.2%	60.0%
7.1	Lovers Walk Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	60.1%	72.7%
24.1	Hall Leys Park Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	66.5%	63.6%
35.1	Smedley Street Park Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	47.3%	60.0%
36.1	Hurst Farm Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	48.2%	69.1%
39.1	Cavendish Road Park Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	68.2%	56.4%
44.1	Artist Corner Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	44.1%	65.5%
46.1	Starkholmes Playing Field Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	57.2%	56.4%
47.1	Tansley Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	57.5%	56.4%
55.1	Park Avenue Grass Area Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	53.1%	54.5%
61	Cromford Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	37.8%	65.5%
62.1	Fanny Shaw Playing Field Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	30.2%	56.4%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
65.1	Bolehill Recreation Ground Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	30.2%	56.4%
66	Middleton Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	54.4%	69.1%
67.1	Yokecliffe Park Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	54.7%	56.4%
69.1	The Orchard Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	41.2%	56.4%
70.1	Dimple Recreation Ground Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	45.4%	65.5%
71.1	Broadwalk Rec. Ground Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	38.9%	43.6%
72.1	Northwood Recreation Ground Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	50.3%	43.6%
75	Rowsley Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	35.2%	40.0%
82	Highfield Road Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	35.2%	72.7%
83.1	Ashbourne Memorial Park Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	78.2%	60%
86	Brickyard Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	52.5%	65.5%
169.1	Bonsall Recreation Ground play area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	48.2%	69.1%
174	Kingsfield Park, Wirksworth	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	41.5%	56.4%
178	Thatchers Croft Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	31.7%	47.3%
179	Wash Green, Wirksworth	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	72.8%	56.4%
180	Cavendish Drive Play Area, Ashbourne	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	48.6%	56.4%
185	Brassington Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	54.9%	60.0%
186	Hognaston Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	69.1%	65.5%
187	The Dale Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	52.0%	65.5%
189	Gorsey Bank Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	29.1%	65.5%
191	Thorpe View Play Area	Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	64.8%	56.4%
78.1	Rutland Recreation Ground Play Area	Peak District National Park	70.2%	72.7%
104.1	Ashford In The Water Playing Field Play Area	Peak District National Park	71.5%	72.7%
109	Beeley	Peak District National Park	74.1%	60.0%
111.1	Town End Recreation Ground Play Area, Bradwell	Peak District National Park	57.7%	60.0%
113.1	Bradwell Recreation Ground Play Area	Peak District National Park	58.8%	63.6%
122	Monyash	Peak District National Park	70.0%	60.0%
126.1	Tideswell Bowling Green Play Area	Peak District National Park	70.0%	63.6%
128.1	Youlgreave Play Area, Youlgreave	Peak District National Park	70.4%	56.4%
137	Yeld Road Play Area	Peak District National Park	58.0%	47.3%
170	Chelmorton Play Area	Peak District National Park	51.0%	69.1%
171	Winster Play Area, Woodhouse Lane	Peak District National Park	40.0%	60.0%
172	Winster Play Area, Wensley Road	Peak District National Park	80.3%	69.1%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
173	Peaktor Lane Play Area	Peak District National Park	81.8%	56.4%
176	Stanton in the Peak Play Area	Peak District National Park	45.8%	63.6%
183.1	Biggin Recreation Ground Play Area	Peak District National Park	52.1%	60%
184	Litton	Peak District National Park	82.1%	78.2%

There is a reasonable spread of play provision across the Area. The walk time catchment covers most of the areas of higher population density. There are some small gaps noted in the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area, in particular in the north east. Therefore, enhancing existing play provision, for example, increasing the size of LAPs to create a LEAP. It is highly likely that people are willing to travel further to access larger, higher quality sites.

Management

The District Council maintains just over half (56%) of play provision, with the remaining sites being maintained by a variety of providers including the housing association and parish/town councils. For example, by parish councils or housing developers.

7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The following table summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Quality assessments of play sites do not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment.

Table 7.4: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	89	26%	51%	78%	52%	17	17
Peak District National Park	89	40%	65%	83%	43%	2	14
Derbyshire Dales	89	40%	56%	83%	43%	19	31

Birchover Recreation Ground Play Area has been discounted from the audit due to being unusable following concerns regarding health and safety during its last inspection. Birchover Parish Council confirms that this play area is in poor condition and is in need of replacement.

Most play areas are assessed as high quality (62%) against the site visit criteria. However, there is a significant spread between the highest and lowest scoring sites, particularly in the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area. For instance, Hurst Farm

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Play Area scores 26% compared to Ashbourne Memorial Park Play Area, which scores 78%.

Hurst Farm Play Area is the lowest scoring site and consists of just one piece of equipment, a climbing unit of six elements. As a result, this site only caters for one age group of young people. Furthermore, the quality and appearance of the equipment and surfaces within the site are observed as being poor.

Other play provision sites that score particularly low for quality are listed below. A point to note, Gorsey Bank Play Area is classified as a NEAP. Therefore, should be providing play provision to a wider area. However, due to issues surrounding quality, this may not be the case.

- ◀ Gorsey Bank Play Area (29%)
- ◀ Bolehill Recreation Ground Play Area (30%)
- ◀ Thatchers Croft, Tansley (32%)

Similarly to Hurst Farm Play Area, these sites are observed as having a lower standard of quality and appearance of equipment and surfaces. For example, Thatchers Croft, Tansley is described as having weeds growing through the bark beneath play units and Bolehill Recreation Ground Play Area is reported as having poorly maintained equipment. These factors in turn result in lower levels of use.

A site worth mentioning which scores below the quality threshold, albeit marginally, is Cavendish Road Play Area, Ashbourne (49%). This site is currently owned and maintained by a housing developer and is soon to be transferred to the District Council which has stated it will not add the play area to its portfolio until present health and safety issues are addressed.

In contrast, sites to receive particularly high scores for quality include:

- ◀ Litton (82%)
- ◀ Main Street, Stanton in the Peak (82%)
- ◀ Peaktor Lane Play Area, Rowsley (80%)

The highest scoring site, as noted above is Litton which is reported as having a good range of play equipment to cater to a number of ages, including a basketball area. A number of additional features are also present such as a sensory garden, seats, bins and informative signage. Furthermore, the site is maintained to a high standard. A point to note, this site is a reasonably new site which is managed by Litton Parish Council, with the site having set opening times.

Other high scoring sites are reported as being attractive sites which are well maintained. In addition, the equipment is in good condition as are the other features on site such as signage, benches and bins.

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7.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for children and young people in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.5: Value ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	55	27%	59%	73%	46%	0	34
Peak District National Park	55	47%	63%	78%	31%	0	16
Derbyshire Dales	55	27%	61%	78%	46%	0	50

All play provision is rated as being of high value in Derbyshire Dales. This demonstrates the role such provision provides in allowing children to play but also the contribution sites can offer in terms of creating aesthetically pleasing local environments, giving children and young people safe places to learn and to socialise with others.

The highest scoring site for value is Litton (78%), which is unsurprising given that it is also the highest scoring site for value. Quality often has a direct impact on value as the higher a sites quality the more likely people are to visit the site.

There is a generally high level of value placed upon play provision sites across Derbyshire Dales with 36% of sites scoring above 65% for value.

It is important to recognise the benefits that play provides in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value. 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.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages is also essential. Provision such as the skate parks and BMX tracks are highly valued forms of play. Opportunities to further expand these types of provision, such as the skate park at Hall Leys Park, which cater towards older age ranges, should be explored and encouraged where possible.

7.6 Conclusions

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are a total of 50 sites across Derbyshire Dales identified as play provision with most being classified as LEAPs (26 sites).
- ◀ The Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area has the most provision for children and young people. Subsequently, this analysis area also has the most provision per 1,000 population (0.06 hectares).
- ◀ There is a reasonable spread of play provision across the area. The walk time catchment covers most of the areas of higher population density. There are some small gaps noted in the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area, in particular in the north east.
- ◀ The majority of play sites (62%) are assessed as being overall high quality. The highest scoring sites are observed as having a high standard of quality and appearance of equipment and surfaces.
- ◀ All provision is rated as being of high value. This is due to the recognised benefits that play provides in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value.

Recommendations

- ◀ In order to address noted catchment gaps in the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area), enhancement of existing play provision, for example, increasing the size of LAPs to create LEAPs should be considered.
- ◀ Look to improve the quality of equipment and surfaces where possible at lower scoring sites. In particular, at Gorseley Bank Play Area, which is classified as a NEAP.
- ◀ Work towards increasing opportunity for activities for young adults and children. In particular, opportunities to improve and further expand existing provision to cater towards older age ranges.

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PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

Allotments is a typology which covers open spaces that 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. This may include provision such as allotments, community gardens and city farms.

8.2 Current provision

There are seventeen sites classified as allotments in Derbyshire Dales, equating to over 11 hectares. Please note that some allotment sites may have been counted as one site when in actual fact there are three parcels of land making up the one site, for example, there are two separate parcels of land containing allotments in Youlgrave which are both managed by the parish council but these have been classified as one site for the purposes of the audit as they are located in close proximity to each other.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	11	7.32	0.16
Peak District National Park	6	3.83	0.15
Derbyshire Dales	17	11.15	0.16

Most allotment provision is located in Derbyshire Dales (outside the National Park), equating to just over seven hectares. The National Park has four sites, which equates to over two hectares of provision.

In addition, there are a number of small allotment sites, sometimes just one or two plots in villages across Derbyshire Dales which have not been captured within the audit. For example, in Chelmorton there is a small site known locally as 'the Ditch', in Beeley there is a small site with six plots and in Baslow there is a site with nine plots.

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (i.e. 20 allotments per 2,000 people based on two people per house) or one allotment per 200 people. This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population based on an average plot-size of 250 metres squared (0.025ha per plot).

Based on the current population of 69,102 people (ONS mid-2015 population estimates) Derbyshire Dales, as a whole, does not meet the NSALG standard. Using the suggested national standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Derbyshire Dales would be 17.28 hectares which equates to a shortfall of 6.13 hectares.

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8.3 Accessibility

Two accessibility standards have been applied across Derbyshire Dales, a 15-minute walk time and a 15-minute drive time reflecting the most popular responses from the Parks and Open Space Survey. Of respondents, which had an opinion, 28% report being willing to travel up to 15-minutes to access allotment provision. In addition, again of those which had an opinion, 30% report public footpaths being their preferred means of transport and a further 30% report a private car as their preferred means of transport.

Figure 8.1 shows the accessibility standards applied to allotments to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped against 15 minute drive time and walk time

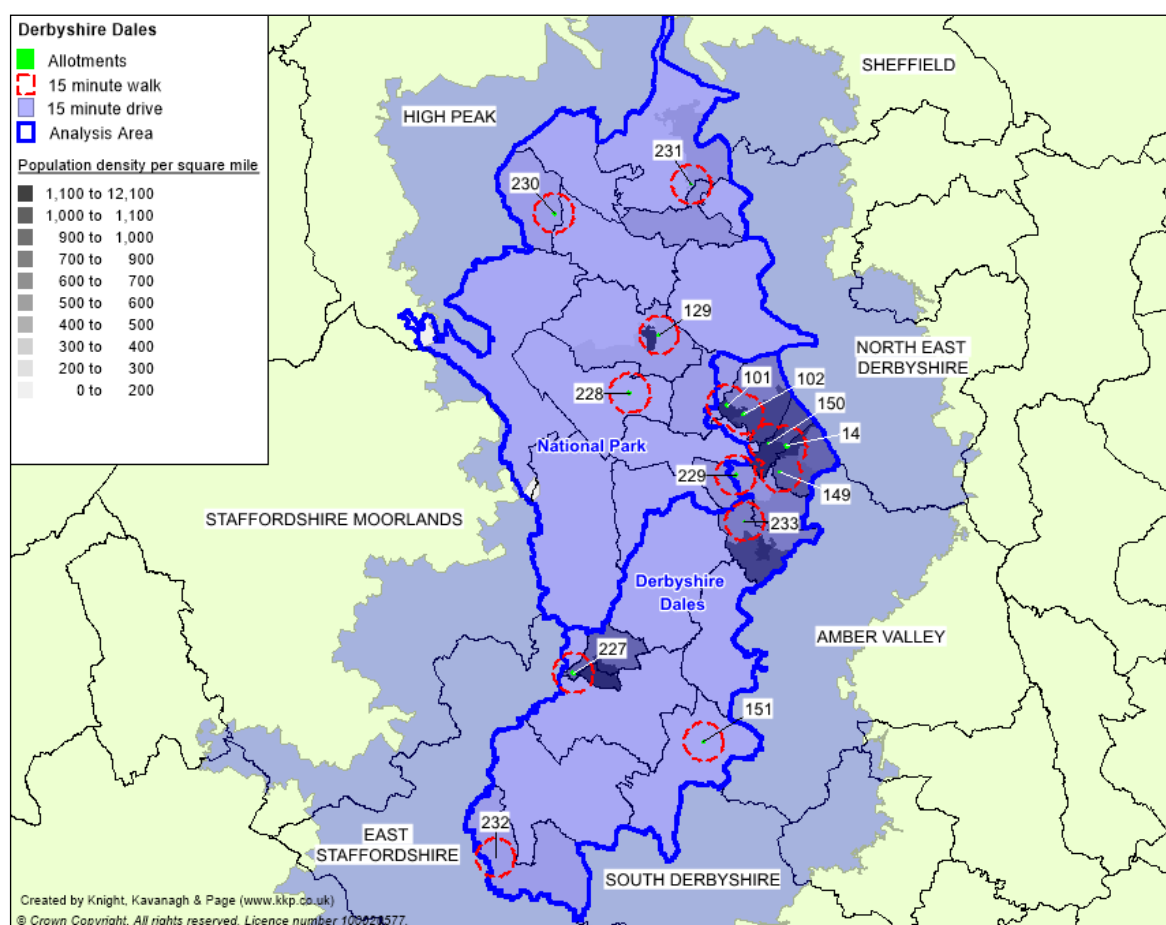


Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Management	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
14	Well Field Allotments, Chesterfield Road, Matlock	Matlock Town Council	Derbyshire Dales	50.9%	47.6%
101	Church Road Allotments, Darley Dale	Darley Dale Town Council	Derbyshire Dales	55.4%	51.4%
102	Oddford Lane Allotments, Darley Dale	Darley Dale Town Council	Derbyshire Dales	44.7%	41.9%
129	Haddon Road Allotments, Bakewell	Derbyshire Dales District Council	National Park	25.4%	46.7%

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Site ID	Site name	Management	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
149	Starkholmes Allotments	Private	Derbyshire Dales	57.8%	42.9%
150	Hurds Hollow Allotments, Matlock	Derbyshire Dales District Council	Derbyshire Dales	43.7%	41.9%
151	Brailsford Allotments	Allotment Association	Derbyshire Dales	33.1%	42.9%
227	Ashbourne Allotments	Allotment Association	Derbyshire Dales	42.0%	25.0%
228	Youlgrave Allotments	Youlgrave Parish Council	National Park	33.9%	33.3%
229	Bonsall Allotments	Allotment Association	Derbyshire Dales	39.7%	27.6%
230	Church Lane Allotments, Tideswell	Allotment Association	National Park	55.4%	33.3%
231	Grindleford Allotments	Allotment Association	National Park	48.0%	42.9%
232	Hawthorn Close Allotments	Doveridge Parish Council	Derbyshire Dales	38.3%	31.4%
233	Middleton Allotments	Private	Derbyshire Dales	41.0%	20.0%
234	Main Street Allotments, Over Haddon	Over Haddon Parish Council	National Park	38.0%	26.7%
235	Wenslees Allotments	South Darley Parish Council	Derbyshire Dales	23.7%	25.7%
236	Trinkley Lane Allotments	Stoney Middleton Parish Council	National Park	35.9%	38.1%

Allotment provision is generally focused in and around Matlock and Darley Dale. Although there is good coverage of allotments when mapped against a 15 minute drive time, the picture is not the same when mapped against a 15 minute walk time.

Small gaps in catchment mapping can be seen in the more populated areas of the District, the most significant gap, based on a 15 minute walk time, is in Wirksworth. Further to this, consultation with Wirksworth Town Council highlights local demand for allotment provision. The nearest allotment provision can be found in Middleton (private) and although this is only located five minutes drive away, this is not considered locally accessible for people living in Wirksworth.

The Wirksworth Neighbourhood Development Plan estimates that the plan area needs a minimum of one hectare of allotment land. Although there are possible sites on the edge of Wirksworth, land close to the settlement often has residential value, so landowners are not keen to sell for allotment use. While there is no land currently owned by the Town Council which is suitable for the purpose, there is a statutory requirement for the Council to provide allotment space and it could compulsorily purchase private land under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908. It is therefore likely that the Town Council will provide more allotments during the plan period.

There is also a gap in provision of allotments in Ashbourne based on a 15 minute walk time, although the existing site in Ashbourne is a significant size providing 110 plots, it is located on the outskirts of the area and also has a waiting list of 11 people.

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Ownership/management

The majority of allotment sites within Derbyshire Dales are owned and managed by a mixture of allotment associations and parish/town councils, whereby managing waiting lists and maintenance of these sites is the responsibility of the relevant body. Two sites are managed and owned by the District Council, Haddon Road Allotment and Hurds Hollow allotment. A further site, Ashbourne Allotment Association is also owned by the District Council but is managed by the Association.

Demand

Although there has been an increase in provision of allotments across Derbyshire Dales in recent years, consultation highlights a steady demand for the continuing provision of allotment sites and plots across the area. Currently demand appears to outweigh supply; demonstrated by the fact that all allotments are operating at full capacity and most have waiting lists in place. This reflects the trend to have an allotment from a healthy living and self-sufficiency perspective.

Table 8.4: Summary of waiting lists

Site ID	Site name	No. of plots	No. of people on the waiting list
14	Well Field Allotments, Chesterfield Road, Matlock	59	unknown
101	Church Road Allotments, Darley Dale	37	unknown
102	Oddford Lane Allotments, Darley Dale	20	unknown
129	Haddon Road Allotments, Bakewell	12	4
149	Starkholmes Allotments	unknown	unknown
150	Hurds Hollow Allotments, Matlock	6	35
151	Brailsford Allotments	unknown	unknown
227	Ashbourne Allotments	110	11
228	Youlgrave Allotments	27	2
229	Bonsall Allotments	unknown	unknown
230	Church Lane Allotments, Tideswell	unknown	unknown
231	Grindleford Allotments	12 half plots	unknown
232	Hawthorn Close Allotments	6	7
233	Middleton Allotments	unknown	unknown
234	Main Street Allotments, Over Haddon	20	-
235	Wenslees Allotments	17	10
236	Trinkley Lane Allotments	30	2

Although the number of people on the waiting list is often unknown (as can be seen above), it is evident that all are operating at full capacity and most providers state that they have a waiting in place.

Given the mixture of provider, it is difficult to be an exact latent demand figure on the number of people on waiting lists as technically people can be on more than one waiting list at any one time.

Some larger waiting lists have now been closed, for example at Hurds Hollow Allotments, which has 35 people on the waiting list. This is due to a relatively slow turnaround of allotments and few plots, resulting in individuals waiting long lengths of time before an allotment plot becomes available.

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Further to the above, Bradwell Parish Council identifies that due to a lack of provision in the Area that it hopes to provide allotment gardens in the future but no land has yet been identified.

8.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	98	24%	43%	58%	34%	4	7
Peak District National Park	98	25%	36%	48%	23%	5	1
Derbyshire Dales	98	24%	36%	58%	34%	9	8

47% of allotment provision scores above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring site is Starkholmes in the Derbyshire Dales (outside the National Park) Analysis Area. The site scores 57.8% for quality and is owned and maintained privately. The next highest scoring sites, Church Road Allotments, Darley Dale (55%) and Well Field Allotments, Matlock (51%) are owned and maintained by the respective parish and town councils. All three sites are noted as having good access, including disabled access, parking, informative signage and controls to prevent illegal use such as fencing.

Nine allotment sites rate below the threshold for quality. However, a number of sites only fall marginally below the threshold. Wenslees Allotments (23%) and Haddon Road Allotments (25%), managed by an Allotment Association and the District Council respectively, are the lowest scoring allotment sites in the area. Observations from the assessments note that these sites are smaller in size and lack ancillary features such as fencing, signage, lighting, well maintained pathways and seating. Both sites also lower for maintenance and cleanliness, being described as looking untidy. In addition, approximately half of the plots at Wenslees Allotments appear to be unused. This is also reported to be an issue at Main Street Allotments, Over Haddon.

8.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for allotments in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 8.5: Value ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	105	20%	37%	51%	31%	0	11
Peak District National Park	105	27%	37%	47%	20%	0	6
Derbyshire Dales	105	20%	33%	51%	31%	0	17

All allotments in Derbyshire Dales assessed are assessed as high value. This is a reflection of the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such types of provision.

As discussed earlier, all allotment sites are operating at full capacity and most have waiting lists in place. This offers further evidence towards the high values scored by sites within this typology.

A further seven sites were unassessed for value, however, anecdotal evidence and consultation with parish councils suggests that the value of these sites is high.

8.6 Conclusions

Allotments summary

- ◀ There are seventeen sites classified as allotments in Derbyshire Dales, equating to over 11 hectares.
- ◀ Current provision is below the nationally recommended amount. This is supported by the fact that all sites are operating at capacity and most have a waiting list, suggesting demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply.
- ◀ The most significant gaps in provision, based on a 15 minute walk time, are in Wirksworth and Ashbourne. Provision within the National Park is also sporadic.
- ◀ More than half of allotments score high for quality. The lowest scoring sites are identified as being small and lacking in ancillary features.
- ◀ Wenselees Allotments and Main Street Allotments, Over Haddon are reported to have around 50% of plots not in use.
- ◀ All allotments in Derbyshire Dales are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.

Recommendations

- ◀ Work with providers to deliver a more coordinated approach to the provision of allotments across the District including management of waiting lists and maintenance of sites.
- ◀ Work towards increasing provision of allotments across Derbyshire Dales and in particular within Wirksworth, Ashbourne and the National Park.
- ◀ On existing sites continue to encourage measures to provide additional plots at existing sites i.e. through providing half plots.
- ◀ Ensure existing sites are serviced by adequate ancillary facilities in order to allow maximised use.

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PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

9.1 Introduction

Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

9.2 Current provision

There are 33 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 24 hectares of provision in Derbyshire Dales. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision identified is included within the audit. There are 17 active churchyards within Derbyshire Dales, which have all been assessed, apart from Wirksworth Baptist Church due to the site researcher not being able to gain access. There are also 16 closed churchyards that have not been assessed.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Churchyards/cemeteries	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Derbyshire Dales	24	16.87
National Park	9	6.53
Derbyshire Dales	33	24.24

Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider in some areas particularly in rural areas. Indeed, there are a large number of sites for this type of open space due to most settlements, regardless of size, containing a village church.

The largest contributor to burial provision is Darley Dale Cemetery which is 2.14 hectares in size.

Within the identified provision, there are also a number of closed churchyard sites. These are sites that are no longer able to accommodate any new burials.

9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for the typology of cemeteries and churchyards. Furthermore, there is no realistic requirement to set accessibility standards for such provision. Instead, provision should be based on burial demand.

Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis area

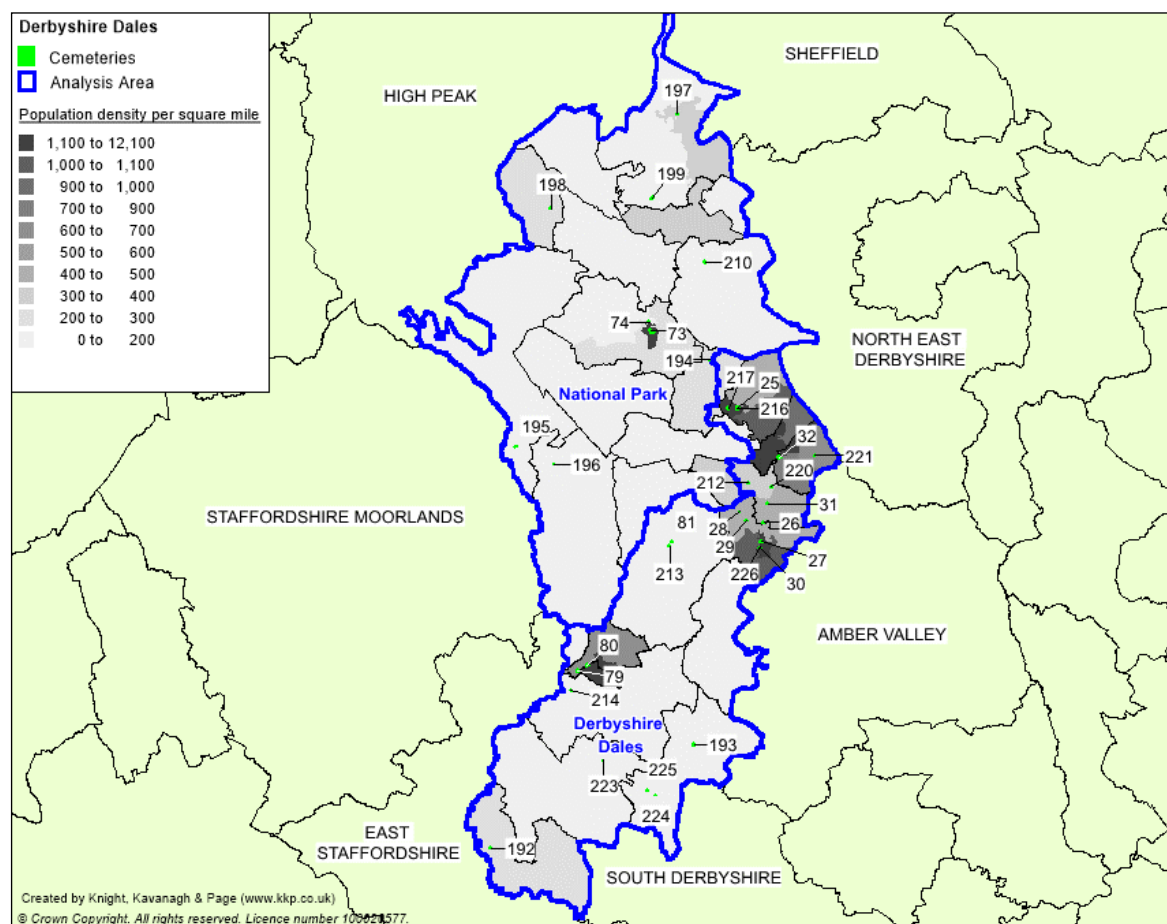


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
25	Darley Dale Cemetery	Derbyshire Dales	60.9%	73.0%
26	Steeple Arch Cemetery	Derbyshire Dales	50.8%	80.0%
27	Fanny Shaw Cemetery	Derbyshire Dales	55.2%	79.0%
28	Middleton Cemetery	Derbyshire Dales	51.9%	79.0%
29	Holy Trinity Church	Derbyshire Dales	57.1%	75.0%
30	St Marys Church	Derbyshire Dales	55.8%	75.0%
31	St Marks Churchyard	Derbyshire Dales	40.0%	63.0%
32	St Giles Churchyard	Derbyshire Dales	57.7%	80.0%
73	Bakewell Cemetery	National Park	65.7%	80.0%
74	All Saints Church	National Park	68.2%	80.0%
79	Ashbourne Cemetery	Derbyshire Dales	50.4%	74.0%
80	St. Oswald's Churchyard	Derbyshire Dales	77.6%	80.0%
81	Brassington Cemetery	Derbyshire Dales	61.6%	74.0%
192	Doveridge Cemetery	Derbyshire Dales	37.4%	11.0%
193	Brailsford Cemetery	Derbyshire Dales	58.0%	78.0%
224	Longford burial ground	Derbyshire Dales	38.8%	68.0%
226	Wirksworth Baptist Church	Derbyshire Dales		

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Table 9.2.1 List of Closed Churchyards not assessed.

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
194	St Katherines Church	National Park
195	Hartington Church	National Park
196	Biggin Church	National Park
197	Hathersage Church	National Park
198	Tideswell Church	National Park
199	Eyam Church	National Park
210	Baslow St Annes	National Park
212	Bonsall St James	Derbyshire Dales
113	Brassington St James	Derbyshire Dales
214	Clifton Holy Trinity	Derbyshire Dales
216	Darley Dale Methodist	Derbyshire Dales
217	Darley Dale St Helenas	Derbyshire Dales
220	Matlock Bath Holy Trinity	Derbyshire Dales
221	Tansley Holy Trinity	Derbyshire Dales
223	Yeaveley Holy Trinity	Derbyshire Dales
225	Longford St Chads	Derbyshire Dales

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates it is evenly distributed across Derbyshire Dales. The need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

The management and operation of open churchyards is generally the responsibility of a combination of the District Council and parish/town councils, with the closed churchyards being responsible of the individual parishes, churches and/or the Diocese of Derbyshire.

9.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.3: Quality ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Derbyshire Dales	139	37	53	77	40	3	11
National Park	139	65	67	68	3	0	2
Derbyshire Dales	139	37	55	77	40	3	13

The majority of cemeteries and churchyards (81%) are rated as being of above the threshold for quality.

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A large proportion of the sites are noted as being well maintained and therefore have a good quality appearance.

The highest scoring sites for quality are St. Oswald's Churchyard, All Saints Church and Bakewell Cemetery. These sites receive a quality score above the threshold of 77%, 68% and 65% respectively. This is due to them being maintained to a high level. The general access to and on site is also noted as being good. Furthermore, preservation of natural features such as trees and flora is also noted on these sites.

There are three sites which score below the threshold for quality with the lowest scoring sites being:

- ◀ Doveridge Cemetery (37%)
- ◀ Longford Burial Ground (38%)
- ◀ St Marks Churchyard (40%)

The lowest scoring site for quality is Doveridge Cemetery. The site receives a quality score of 37%. However, this site has only just been allocated as allotment provision and therefore is not yet in use.

The remaining sites, which score below the threshold, are reported to have no specific quality issues. The main reason for these sites receiving a low quality score is their lack of ancillary features. However, this could be attributed to them being community churchyards, which are small in size.

9.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.4: Value ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Derbyshire Dales	100	11	70	80	69	1	13
National Park	100	80	80	80	0	0	2
Derbyshire Dales	100	11	71	80	69	1	15

All cemeteries and churchyards apart from one in Derbyshire Dales score high for value. The only site that is below the threshold is Doveridge Cemetery (also scoring low quality). However, as previously mentioned this site is not yet in use.

A number of sites also offer additional value to the local community:

- ◀ All Saints Church (80%)
- ◀ Fanny Shaw Cemetery (79%)

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◀ Brailsord Cemetery (78%)

Cemeteries and churchyards are important natural resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g. wildlife watching).

9.6 Conclusions

Cemeteries summary

- ◀ There are 33 sites classified as cemeteries, equating to over 24 hectares of provision.
- ◀ There are 17 active churchyards and 16 closed churchyards.
- ◀ The majority of cemeteries and churchyards are rated as high quality. However, three sites score below the quality threshold. This is a reflection of the lack of ancillary facilities (e.g. benches, signage), sense of security and general maintenance observed.
- ◀ All cemeteries bar one site is assessed as high value, reflecting that generally provision has cultural/heritage value and provide a sense of place to the local community.

Recommendations

- ◀ Provision of cemeteries and burial provision should continue to be driven by the demand for burials and assessment of available capacity.
- ◀ Consider the future application of high quality scoring cemeteries and churchyards within the Green Flag Award Scheme.
- ◀ Work to ensure all provision is of a good quality and look to increase ancillary provision within sites where possible. For example, signage.

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PART 10: CIVIC SPACE

10.1 Introduction

The civic space typology includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

10.2 Current provision

There are 12 formal civic space sites identified in Derbyshire Dales, equating to over 0.48 hectares of provision.

In addition, there are likely to be other informal pedestrian areas, streets or squares, which residents may view as providing the same role as a civic space.

Table 10.1: Distribution of civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Civic space		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Derbyshire Dales	4	0.24	0.005
National Park	4	0.24	0.009
Derbyshire Dales	8	0.48	0.006

A point to note, due to late inclusion four sites are not included within the quantity calculations, due to their size being unknown. These sites have also not been assessed for quality or value. However, they have been included within catchment mapping.

10.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for civic spaces. Figure 10.1 overleaf shows civic spaces mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 10.1: Civic spaces mapped against analysis areas

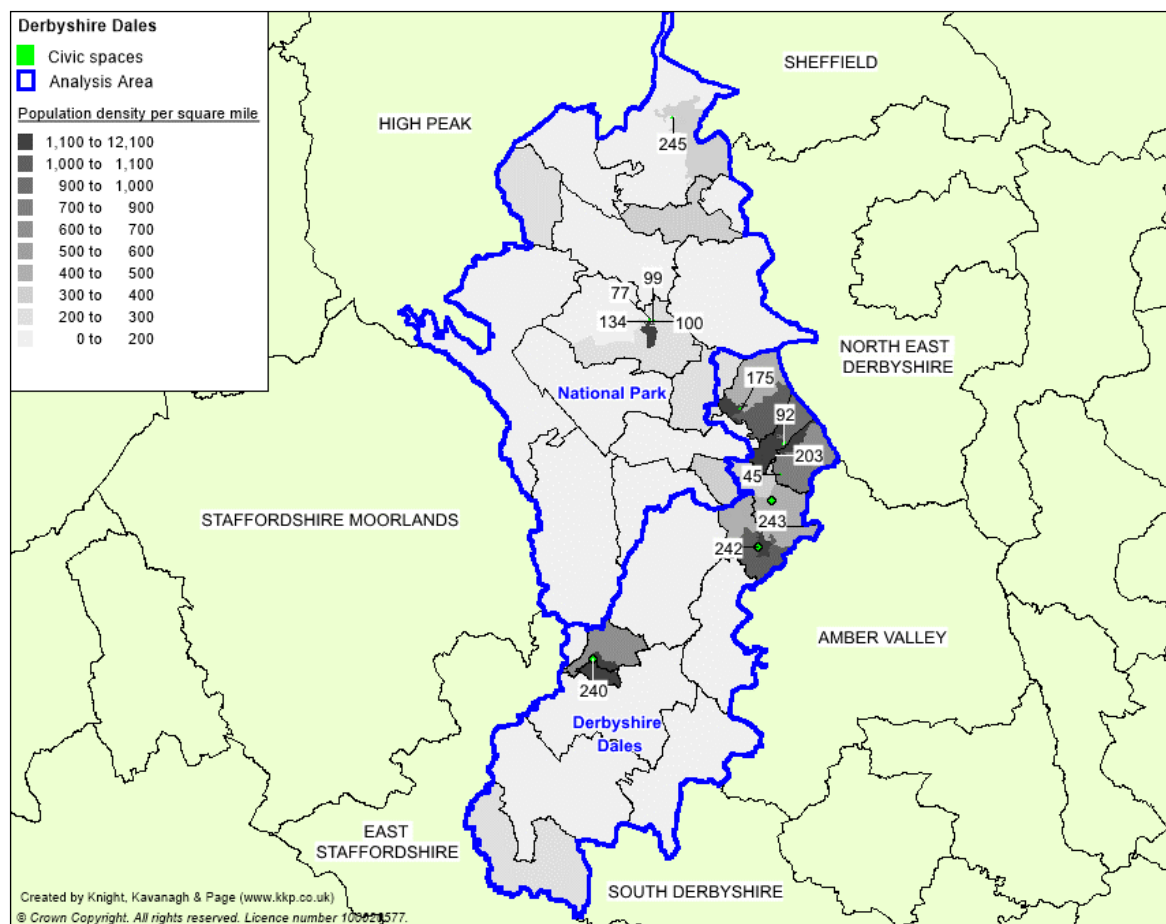


Table 10.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
45	Starkholmes Memorial	Derbyshire Dales	45.4%	37.0%
77	Buxton Road Gardens	National Park	40.0%	57.0%
92	Victoria Gardens	Derbyshire Dales	43.9%	60.0%
99	Market Street Car Park	National Park	56.9%	35.0%
100	Granby Road Car Park	National Park	71.0%	65.0%
134	Riverside Crescent	National Park	55.3%	75.0%
175	Whitworth Civic space	Derbyshire Dales	57.3%	48.0%
203	Dale Road Rest Area	Derbyshire Dales	48.0%	58.0%
240	Market Place Ashbourne	Derbyshire Dales		
241	Civic Square Ashbourne	Derbyshire Dales		
242	Wirksworth Market Place	Derbyshire Dales		
243	Scarthin Cromford/Market Place	Derbyshire Dales		
245	Main Road, Hathersage	National Park		

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10.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The following table summarises the results of the quality assessment for civic spaces in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.3: Quality ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	152	43	48	57	14	3	1
Peak District National Park	152	40	55	71	31	1	3
Derbyshire Dales	152	40	52	71	31	4	4

The quality of civic spaces overall in Derbyshire Dales is mixed with an equal number of sites falling below and above the quality threshold. There is a distinctive difference between the quality of civic spaces within the National Park and those located in Derbyshire Dales (outside the National Park). The majority of civic space sites within the National Park are above the quality threshold and most civic spaces Derbyshire Dales (outside the National Park) below the threshold.

10.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for civic spaces in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.4: Value ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	100	37	50	60	23	0	4
Peak District National Park	100	35	58	75	40	0	4
Derbyshire Dales	100	35	54	75	40	0	8

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All of the civic space sites are assessed as being of high value, reflecting their cultural/heritage role whilst also providing a sense of place to the local community and area.

This is further supported by site visit observations, which confirms the social and cultural value of the site through its use as recreational space and as an area to sit, socialise and relax outside.

10.6 Conclusions

Civic space summary

- ◀ There are twelve sites classified as civic spaces in Derbyshire Dales equating to over half a hectare of provision.
- ◀ There are also likely to be other forms of provision in the Area (e.g. main streets, parks) that will provide localised opportunities associated with the function of civic space.
- ◀ The value of the sites is deemed to be good overall with a generally acceptable maintenance and appearance. They have a unique cultural/heritage value whilst providing a sense of place to the local community.

Recommendations

- ◀ Work to ensure high quality civic spaces are provided which are capable of hosting local community events which help to promote towns and villages.

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PART 11: GREEN CORRIDORS

11.1 Introduction

The green corridors typology includes sites that offer opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. Such sites also provide opportunities for wildlife migration. This may include river and canal banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, pedestrian paths, rights of way and permissive paths.

11.2 Current provision

There is currently 1,146 kilometres (km) of fully accessible public footpaths and 158 km of accessible bridleways within Derbyshire Dales. Of the 1,304 km, 36.84km have been categorised as green corridors.

Table 11.1: Distribution of green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of sites
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	13
Peak District National Park	-
Derbyshire Dales	13

All identified green corridors are located in the Derbyshire Dales (outside NP) Analysis Area.

Both the practical and legal management of the PROW network within Derbyshire Dales falls to the PROW team within the Countryside Service of Derbyshire County Council (DCC). As a highway, surveying and access authority, DCC is responsible for protecting and maintaining the network and keeping the definitive map up to date. This is with the expectation of Wishingstone Footpath which is maintained by the District Council.

11.3 Accessibility

It is difficult to assess green corridors against catchment areas due to their nature and usage, as often they provide access to other open spaces. Therefore, no accessibility standard has been set for green corridors. Figure 11.1 shows green corridors mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 11.1: Green corridors mapped against analysis areas

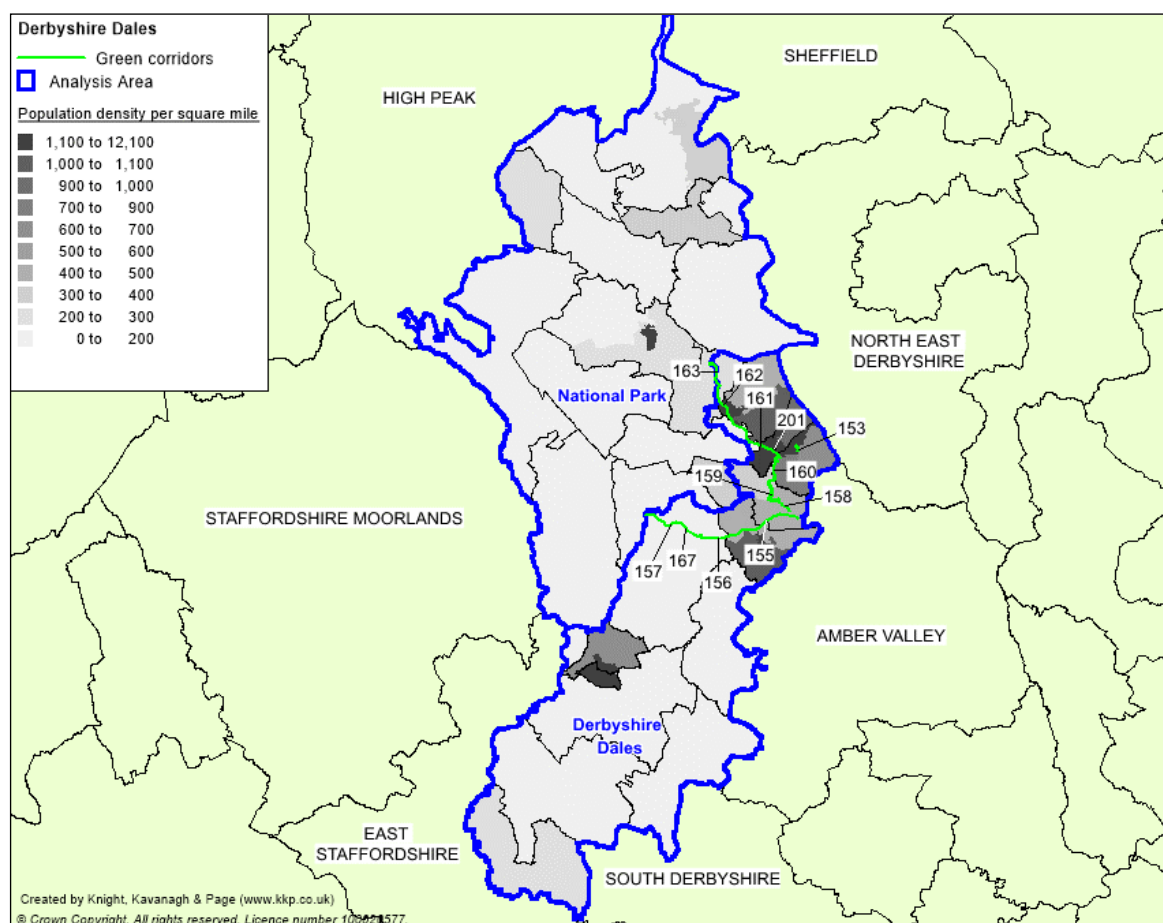


Table 11.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
153	Wishingstone Footpath	Derbyshire Dales	20.8%	28.0%
155	High Peak Trail (part 1)	Derbyshire Dales	77.6%	54.0%
156	High Peak Trail (part 2)	Derbyshire Dales	75.9%	49.0%
157	High Peak Trail (part 3)	Derbyshire Dales	77.6%	49.0%
158	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 1, Cromford Canal)	Derbyshire Dales	96.2%	75.0%
159	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 2)	Derbyshire Dales	28.9%	21.0%
160	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 3)	Derbyshire Dales	70.9%	63.0%
161	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 4)	Derbyshire Dales	45.3%	43.0%
162	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 5)	Derbyshire Dales	56.6%	45.0%
163	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 6)	Derbyshire Dales	68.8%	59.0%
167	Pennine Bridleway	Derbyshire Dales	57.7%	45.0%
201	Imperial Road Path	Derbyshire Dales	23.9%	13.0%

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11.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The following table summarises the results of the quality assessment green corridors in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 11.3: Quality ratings for green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	79	24%	59%	93%	69%	3	10
Peak District National Park	79	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0
Derbyshire Dales	79	24%	60%	93%	69%	3	10

The two highest scoring green corridors are Derwent Valley Heritage Way (Part 1, Cromford Canal) (93%) and Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 3) (71%). Both these sites are observed as having an excellent overall appearance with well maintained pathways. In addition, these sites have a number of features such as seats, bins, picnic benches and informative signage. The reason for Derwent Valley Heritage Way (Part 1, Cromford Canal) (93%) scoring significantly above any other sites can be attributed to ancillary features including toilets and parking.

The lowest scoring site for quality was Imperial Road Path (24%). This is followed by Wishingstone Footpath (30%). These sites are observed as having no additional features or facilities. Moreover, the appearance and standard of maintenance at these sites is highlighted as being much lower. This includes the maintenance of pathways, which given its main function to act as a public right of way may need addressing.

A point to note, the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire (2007-2012) has been updated with a new statement of action. This new Statement of Action is up to 2017. This aims to build on the success of the previous plan. The five main aims of the new Statement of Action up to 2017 are:

- ◀ Ensure that the public rights of way network is open and available for use
- ◀ Provide an up-to-date and widely available map of public rights of way in the county, known as the Definitive Map and Statement
- ◀ Provide a more connected, safe and accessible network of paths suitable for all users
- ◀ Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network
- ◀ Encourage greater community involvement in managing rights of way

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11.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value; the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for civic spaces in Derbyshire Dales. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 11.4: Value ratings for green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	Max. score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Derbyshire Dales (outside NP)	100	13%	43%	75%	62%	1	12
Peak District National Park	100	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0
Derbyshire Dales	100	13%	43%	75%	62%	1	12

The vast majority (84%) of green corridor provision in Derbyshire Dales scores above the threshold for quality.

Again, the two highest scoring sites for quality are Derwent Valley Heritage Way (Part 1, Cromford Canal) (75%) and Derwent Valley Heritage Way (Part 3) (63%). This can partly be accounted to their high levels of quality attracting visitors and increasing levels of use.

Both these sites have high heritage value due to their links to the areas past. Furthermore, being part of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way means they offer structural and landscape value to the area, as well as encouraging tourism and thus contributing to the areas economy. In addition, Derwent Valley Heritage Way (Part 1, Cromford Canal) is designated as a SSSI due to it acting as habitat to a wide range of wildlife.

All green corridors are assessed as being of high value and are noted as having social inclusion and health benefits. This is due to their primary purpose to encourage exercise and make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open-air recreation.

The only site to score below the threshold is and Imperial Road Path (13%). This is likely to be a result of its small size (0.13km) and low quality. A site of lower quality is less likely to attract users.

11.6 Conclusions

Green corridor summary

- ◀ There is currently 1,146 kilometres (km) of fully accessible public footpaths and 158 km of accessible bridleways within Derbyshire Dales. Of the 1,304 km, 36.84km have been categorised as green corridors.
- ◀ The majority of sites (77%) score above the threshold for quality, with the two highest scoring sites being Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 1, Cromford Canal) (93%) and Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 3) (71%).
- ◀ The lowest scoring sites are less attractive in appearance and have lower standards of maintenance.
- ◀ All but two site scores above the threshold for value. The only site to score below the threshold, Imperial Road Path is small in size and also scores low for quality. Therefore, it is less likely to attract users.

Recommendations

- ◀ Continue to work towards aims set out in the new Statement of Action up to 2017 following on from the success of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire (2007-2012).