

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## A Strategic Approach

- 1.1 A strategy for open space has been defined as ‘a means to matching the availability of open space to changing demands for its leisure use, whilst also recognising its environmental and economic roles.’ A strategy should provide a policy framework for more detailed, site-based management plans or for individual subject strategies. The adoption of a strategic approach to the planning and management of open space means that an objective assessment of the benefits of open space can be made, which can then be evaluated against possible alternative uses.
- 1.2 The current layout of open space in most areas tends to be the result of opportunistic provision, rather than a planned approach, and will often not reflect current population densities nor provide an equitable distribution of facilities. The preparation of a strategy can help to identify where demand and supply can be brought into better balance and ensure that all functions of open space - environmental, recreational, amenity, cultural, economic, educational and social - are given due consideration. The provision, design, management and protection of a network of public open spaces in our cities, towns and villages are issues right at the heart of sustainability.

## Reasons for the Strategy

- 1.3 The current Strategy was commissioned by the Planning Policy, Parks and Amenities and Sport and Recreation Units of North Devon District Council. The main impetus was provided by the Inspector’s Report into the North Devon Local Plan Inquiry in 1997 which recommended that local standards of open space provision should be provided. However, the Parks and Amenities and Sport and Recreation Departments had also identified the need to record and evaluate the provision of parks, sports facilities and other open space within the district, and an integrated approach was adopted. Since the project commenced, the revised draft PPG 17(2001) advocates the development and use of local standards of open space and recreation provision rather than using national standards as supplied, for example, by the NPFA.
- 1.4 The purpose of the project was defined at the outset as:  
  
“To produce an Open Space Strategy for North Devon which provides clear direction to the District Council, Town Councils, Parish Councils and other statutory bodies and voluntary and community groups on an overall approach to the provision of sports pitches and adequate open spaces to meet the current and future needs of the community. This will include the preparation of draft standards for inclusion within the North Devon Local Plan”

- 1.5 It is a long standing and well accepted principle that new residential development – and, increasingly, employment-related development also - should include the provision of appropriate areas of public open space. Moreover, all such development should actually contribute to the provision of open space (and other facilities) which is required to meet the needs generated by the development and prevent deficiencies and shortfalls increasing.

### **Definitions of ‘open space’**

- 1.6 The subject of open space is complex; the term itself tends to be applied loosely to all land used for purposes which do not involve a substantial proportion of the site being covered with buildings; and in this respect a definition could include derelict and waste or vacant land. It is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground, but there are other types of public and private open space of public value.
- 1.7 Planning for open space needs to deal with its complex typology. The predominant public perception of open space is often municipal parks and gardens, but it also encompasses heaths and commons, playing fields and recreation grounds, allotments, agricultural land, cemeteries, golf courses, and near-natural heaths and ancient woodlands.
- 1.8 Open space is put to many different uses, often within a single site. The public park, which had its origins in crowded 19<sup>th</sup> century cities, was always seen as multi-purpose, providing opportunities for organised sport (football pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens etc), informal leisure (pleasure gardens and boating lakes etc), and simply getting away from it all (for the growing urban multitudes having no private gardens and limited access to the countryside). Some open spaces are single use, such as playing fields, golf courses, allotments and cemeteries. More recent times have seen nature conservation as an increasing use of open space.

### **Scope of the Study**

- 1.9 The detailed scope of the project has embraced the following:
- an update of the 2000 Playing Pitch Strategy for North Devon, which used the Sport England/NPFA methodology to produce a detailed assessment of the number of sports pitches required to meet identified demand
  - a review of other outdoor sports facilities and an assessment of demand through consultation with local clubs and governing bodies.
  - identification, evaluation and mapping of data supplied by the Parks and Amenities unit to produce a review of children’s play space
  - identification of recreation grounds, public open space and informal open space within settlements on the basis of their size, location and function
  - a brief review of other areas of open space which form part of the overall stock of open space in North Devon (woodlands, long distance routeways, beaches, nature reserves).

- 1.10 The study area was defined as the North Devon District Council area, with a population in 2000 of 91,838 (Devon County Council figures; population normally resident). Apart from the major urban areas of Barnstaple, Braunton, Ilfracombe and South Molton, it is predominantly a rural area. Out of 62 parishes, just eight have populations of more than 2000 people, with Barnstaple Town, by far the most populated with 20,731 inhabitants. The next four largest parishes are Ilfracombe (11,062), Fremington (10,288), Braunton (7371) and South Molton (4278). The parishes of Landkey, Combe Martin and Tawstock each have between 2000 and 3000, whilst the remaining 55 parishes have less than 2000 inhabitants (see **Table 1**).
- 1.11 Based on parish population projections adjusted to the Registrar-General's data, the district's population has increased by some 8% between 1991 and 2000, with especially marked increases demonstrated by the parishes of Tawstock (up by 38%), Fremington (up by 27%), Combe Martin (up by 12%) and Instow (up by 11%). Most recently available figures indicate that the district has already exceeded projections based on the 1991 Census for the population in 2005.
- 1.12 The age structure is shown in **Table 2**. Of those parishes with around 1000 or more inhabitants, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe and Landkey have above average (for the district) proportions of people aged less than 25 years. The parishes with above district-wide averages for people aged over 60 include Chulmleigh, Witheridge, Tawstock, Georgeham, Combe Martin, Braunton, Fremington and South Molton.
- 1.13 It is important to note that for the analysis of existing and proposed provision of open space those parishes within Exmoor National Park have been excluded. Open space land within these parishes is recorded in the database but is not included within the totals of open space land. Excluding the parishes wholly within Exmoor National Park (Countisbury and Brendon, Lynton and Lynmouth, Martinhoe, Parracombe and Trentishoe) gives a population for North Devon, in 2000, of 89,429.
- 1.14 The data for the strategy has been gathered on a parish and ward basis, as this is the smallest demographically cohesive area. For ease of handling the data, the district has been divided into four sub-areas, broadly corresponding with the Area Committees. However, parish boundaries do not always match settlement boundaries and adjustments have been made:
- **Barnstaple Area:** This includes all of Barnstaple Town (six wards) and Tawstock parishes, but Fremington and Landkey parishes have been split. The Barnstaple Area includes Roundswell and Bickington in Fremington parish and the Whiddon Valley area of Landkey parish.
  - **Ilfracombe**
  - **Northern Rural Area:** parishes of Arlington, Ashford, Atherington, Berryarbor, Bishop's Tawton, Bittadon, Bratton Fleming, Braunton, Challacombe (part Exmoor), Combe Martin (part Exmoor), East Down, Fremington (village), Georgeham, Goodleigh, Heanton Punchardon, Instow, Kentisbury (part Exmoor), Landkey (village), Loxhore, Marwood, Morteheo, Newton Tracey, Shirwell, Stoke Rivers, Swimbridge, West Down, West Pilton, Westleigh. Also the following parishes wholly within Exmoor: Countisbury

and Brendon, Lynton and Lynmouth, Martinhoe, Parracombe and Trentishoe)

- **South Molton Area:** Bishop's Nympton, Brayford (part Exmoor), Burrington, Chittlehamholt, Chittlehampton, Chulmleigh, East & West Buckland, East Anstey (part Exmoor), East Worlington, Filleigh, George Nympton, King's Nympton, Knowstone, Mariansleigh, Meshaw, Molland (part Exmoor), North Molton (part Exmoor), Queen's Nympton, Rackenford, Romansleigh, Rose Ash, Satterleigh and Warkleigh, South Molton, Twitchen (part Exmoor), West Anstey (part Exmoor) and Witheridge.

1.15 These four areas have been subdivided into a total of 15 areas for the purposes of Parish Profiles (see **Map** on inside back cover and **Area Profiles – Section 9**).

### **The Planning context**

1.16 Any assessment of open space provision needs to be within the context of national and regional planning policy for open space. These are explored more fully in **Appendix 1: National Planning Context** but the key ones are:

- The recently issued draft PPG17.
- The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) six-acre standard for playing fields and children's play spaces (currently in a revised draft format)
- The Greater London Development Plan/London Planning Advisory Committee hierarchy of publicly accessible open spaces, used for some years in urban areas especially
- Special open space designations, including Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land.
- Nature conservation policies overlapping with open space policies.

### **Issues and Problems Encountered**

1.17 There were a number of difficulties encountered early in on the study, especially in relation to:

- Defining the term 'open space' particularly in relation to its different functions and in the context of a predominantly rural area like North Devon
- Assessing the needs of the different sections of the community
- How best to deal with issues such as accessibility and quality of provision
- Establishing the most effective and efficient way of recording and analysing all existing recreational open space, particularly in the context of a large rural geographic area and the variety of ownerships.

### **Categories used in this study**

1.18 The Strategy has recognised the different functions that open space plays. There are many ways of categorising open space, according to its form and function, and for the purpose of this strategy the following broad categories have been defined:

- Open Space for Sport
- Open Space for Children and Young People
- Informal open space
- Other recreational open space resources (including countryside)

## **This report**

1.19 The following sections are set out in this Main Report:

- The methodology, definitions and standards employed by the study (**Section 2**)
- The main findings in respect of the provision of:
  - Open Space for Sport (**Section 3**)
  - Open Space for Children and Young People (**Section 4**)
  - Informal open space (**Section 5**)
  - Other open space resources (**Section 6**)
- Overall conclusions on developing standards for provision (**Section 7**)
- Recommendations for the key points in developing an open space strategy (**Section 8**)

Followed by

- **Section 9:** Area Profiles – 15 sub-areas, with key points presented on a parish basis

1.20 In the interests of clarity, some of the above Sections are very brief and reference should be made to the Technical Appendix where supporting information in the form of Tables and background text is presented in corresponding sections.



## 2 DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

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### The value of open space

- 2.1 Open spaces within settlements make an important contribution to urban life. They enhance the built environment by contributing to the setting of buildings and the appearance of the area. They also enhance the character of special urban features such as conservation areas, listed buildings and historic landscapes. Such spaces also have a role in the urban regeneration process through attracting investment from business and tourism sectors of the economy. The open environment also plays a role in health and education, has environmental benefits, promotes biodiversity and is an important social and cultural resource. These roles supplement their important and more traditional role of providing a valuable resource for informal recreation, active sport and children's play.

### Data collection/Supply Assessment

- 2.2 Open spaces have been included in this study where they satisfy the following criteria:
- the open space is of recreational or amenity value
  - the open space makes an important and readily identifiable contribution in terms of size and character to the settlement form
  - the open space is readily accessible to the general public
  - the open space is located within, or adjoining, the urban area or within defined village boundaries.
- 2.3 An audit was conducted of all known open space within North Devon District. Information was obtained from:
- North Devon District Council Parks and Amenities Unit (database of sites owned and maintained by the Unit)
  - North Devon District Council: other sources and officer knowledge
  - Playing Pitch Strategy
  - Survey of parish councils (land identified by parish councils as having an open space use, including play areas, pitches, greens etc owned by the parish council and sometimes other parties)
  - Parish appraisals
  - North Devon Coast and Countryside Service.
  - Survey of statutory and other organisations with landholding interests (e.g. National Trust, Forestry Commission)
- 2.4 A considerable amount of information was collected for each site, including name, address, size, function, whether adjacent to public walkway etc (see **Schedule 1**).
- 2.5 Each site was then classified on the basis of its size, form and function into one of the following five general classifications:

- District Park
- Community Park
- Mini Park
- Open Space
- Sports Areas

2.6 These were defined as follows:

***District Park***

These should be a minimum of 1.5 hectares and designed and maintained primarily to meet the needs of the main settlement and surrounding areas, although many neighbourhood needs may also be met. Functions will be varied and facilities can include children's playgrounds, sports areas, concert facilities, water areas, picnic facilities, natural/landscaped areas and multi use open fields. All district parks should have accessible toilet facilities and phones.

***Community Park***

These should be a minimum of 0.25 hectares and designed and maintained primarily to meet the needs of the local community/neighbourhood. Facilities may include a combination of children's playgrounds, picnic facilities, natural/landscaped areas and multi use open fields.

***Mini Park***

These are usually less than 0.5 hectares and are designed, managed and maintained to provide recreation and aesthetic benefit, primarily in areas of high population density or commercial areas with high pedestrian use. Facilities and amenities may include one or more of the following: children's playgrounds, plazas, turf, picnic areas, special features and informal kickabout areas.

***Open Space***

This is a general category that includes all undeveloped land with public access and which is set aside for passive recreation, habitat, buffering of areas of habitation and/or agriculture. This includes many small areas which may be used locally or just be buffer zones but which have no formal designation and very little maintenance. The size could vary from 10m<sup>2</sup> up to areas of over 1000m<sup>2</sup>.

***Sports Areas***

These areas include school playing fields, grass pitches and dedicated sports provision such as tennis courts and bowling greens and are classified as 'sports areas' if they have not already been included within the other classifications above.

2.7 The distribution of the above categories of open space within the main towns and settlements has been mapped.

## **Data Collection/Demand Assessment**

2.8 The approach to assessing the demand for open space in North Devon was carried out with due regard to the complexity of the task. It was agreed to use existing sources of information wherever possible, and to supplement this with new, targeted survey work where feasible and demographic analysis.

2.9 The following were undertaken:

**Community Voice Survey:** A balanced and representative cross-section of residents in North Devon was consulted, through the mechanism of the Community Voice survey database which holds the names of 1000 people throughout the district. A survey of views on countryside and open space had been undertaken late in 1999 and this was analysed with a specific emphasis on matters of relevance to this study.

**Parish and Town Council Survey:** all parish and town councils were contacted for information on the stock of open space in their areas and issues regarding open space provision

**Sporting organisations:** All known outdoor sports clubs were contacted with a questionnaire about their facilities and factors relevant to their needs for new provision

**Community organisations:** A wide cross section of community organisations were contacted with a questionnaire about the facilities they used and their views on aspects of sporting and open space provision in North Devon.

**Statutory organisations:** Around thirty statutory organisations with an open space interest (The National Trust, South West Tourism, English Nature, for example) were contacted seeking information on sites which they own in North Devon and their views on open space provision (**Appendix 10**)

**Schools and colleges:** All six secondary schools and colleges and around 30 primary schools were contacted with questionnaires for completion by students (secondary schools) and classes (primary schools).

2.10 The following themes emerged from a combination of data collected:

- The natural environment and countryside is highly prized.
- The four most important issues in relation to open spaces are cleanliness, transport and accessibility, and safety. For women, community projects and safety score more highly; for men, sporting facilities.
- What people perceive to be their main area of open space depends heavily on where people live. The predominance of Rock Park and Braunton Burrows emerged strongly.
- Fouling of public open space by dogs is perceived to be a major problem
- The majority of young people (60%) feel think there is enough open space in the area where they live. However, only around 20% thought there were enough sports facilities. Young people's main reason for going to open spaces is to meet friends.
- In rural areas, open space such as village greens are a focus for year round community activity
- Skateparks or rollerblade area were requested by pupils from schools across the district in various locations
- The main desire from sports clubs was for better/more pitch facilities and all weather training areas.

2.11 **Appendix 2** gives a fuller summary of the survey results from Community Voice and the surveys of local organisations and schools. The findings from the surveys of sports clubs are presented in **Appendix 3** and **Appendix 4**.

## Open Space Standards

- 2.12 Standards are a widely used tool in planning for outdoor recreation. At their most basic, standards are a simple expression of the desired amount of open space/play space per capita. More sophisticated forms of standard can embrace a 'spatial' element, designed to reflect an ideal geographical distribution of open space within a given area. Although standards have become an important and valuable planning tool they also have significant drawbacks including their inflexibility in taking into account local circumstances.
- 2.13 Indeed, the inherent difficulties in developing a standard which takes into account the myriad uses and definitions of open space is probably one reason why, even today, there are no universally accepted standards for open space provision. What does exist is the NPFA standard and because it is so broadly used and is currently still the only widely accepted standard in connection with open space provision, it is worth considering in a little more detail.
- 2.14 The Six Acre Standard dates back to 1925 based on the observations that, for every 1,000 population, 500 were below the age of 40 and of these it was assumed that 150 would either not want to play sport or would be unable to because of infirmity. A further 150 would use school facilities. Thus 200 people in every 1,000 would need to be catered for. Given the size of teams and frequency of play it was estimated that their needs could be accommodated on:
- 1 senior football pitch
  - 1 junior football pitch
  - 1 cricket pitch
  - 1 x 3 rink bowling green
  - 2 tennis courts
  - 1 children's playground of 0.5 acre and
  - 1 pavilion.
- 2.15 These facilities would occupy 6 acres, hence the standard of 6 acres of open space per 1,000 population. The standard has been reviewed at intervals and has not fundamentally changed; a further review is currently being undertaken and is likely to include greater definition on requirements in rural areas.
- 2.16 With reference to North Devon, 47% are aged less than 40 years (as opposed to 50% within the NPFA standard), and of these, it is likely that between a quarter and a third would use school facilities (30% in the NPFA standard). It is not possible to make any more detailed comparisons, the school age having risen since the standard was introduced, more sports development work undertaken and probably a higher proportion of men and women generally wishing to take part in sport.
- 2.17 The Six Acre Standard is presented in detail in **Schedule 1** but basically comprises 1.6 – 1.8 hectares per thousand population for youth and adult use, including 0.6 – 0.8 hectares for children's playspace.

## **Other Approaches**

2.18 Other bodies and local authorities have from time to time attempted to produce guidelines or standards for provision, including:

- English Nature considers that everyday contact with nature is important for quality of life, and recommends that people living in towns and cities should have a natural greenspace within walking distance of their homes
- The Devon Playing Fields Association (DPFA) states that the provision of a football pitch sized ball game area should be the minimum that every parish strives for. Every settlement above a certain population should ideally aim to have an equipped children's play area, with a minimum of at least five types of play equipment and seating for accompanying adults. No child should have to cross a busy main road to get to a play area.



## 3 OPEN SPACE FOR SPORT

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### PLAYING PITCHES

- 3.1 Within towns, due to the concentration of open space within a small number of large allocations, many residential areas have a limited supply of open space in the immediate vicinity. Playing fields, particularly school playing fields, thus form a significant proportion of open space in urban areas as well as being a vital component of the sporting infrastructure.
- 3.2 Rural settlements often lack any form of public open space and therefore playing fields may provide the only accessible open space available to a residential community. Consequently playing fields have an amenity function in addition to their purely recreational function and merit protection.

#### The Playing Pitch Update in 1999

- 3.3 An Update of the 1996 Playing Pitch Strategy was carried out in 1999. This concluded that although there had been a number of encouraging developments in terms of both new and improved provision, particularly in some smaller settlements, the underlying deficiencies in pitch provision within Barnstaple and Ilfracombe have not yet been addressed and indeed are now more serious than originally identified. Moreover the acute deficiency in Braunton was only temporarily relieved because of the demise of two clubs which ran 4 teams between them.
- 3.4 A further review of the situation for playing pitches has been undertaken for the preparation of this study. See **Schedule 2** for supporting information. Progress towards the targets identified in the 1999 Update is shown in **Table 3**, with numbers and location of pitches then and now in Table 4.

### OTHER OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

#### Court sports

- 3.5 For both tennis and netball the primary need is for floodlit all weather courts which can facilitate play throughout the year and during evenings and accommodate significant levels of use, rather than grass courts which are expensive to maintain and offer limited use. The study has highlighted areas where localised deficiencies exist.
- 3.6 The 'multi use games area concept can embrace a wide range of facilities, from a one tennis court area in a remote rural village to a many court centre capable of catering for large netball or soccer competitions (80m x 105m) or for hockey (70m x 100m). Any area should be floodlit to allow for intensive use. Minimum size 20m x 40m can be accommodated on a site of 0.25 acres (0.1 hectares).

## **Bowls**

- 3.7 9 bowling greens equates to 1 green per 9,956 which is an acceptable level of provision.
- 3.8 No targets for provision are recommended, but the District Council should give sympathetic consideration to the provision of new bowling greens, where demand is apparent.

## **Golf and pitch and putt facilities**

- 3.9 All of these are private and are not included in the open space assessment as being very large areas of land. No emerging problems or generic issues have been identified other than a need for pay and play facilities, at existing courses where possible.
- 3.10 Other outdoor sports, for the sake of simplicity confined to those sports covered in the NPFA's definition of outdoor sport, and including the athletics track at Braunton have been listed as covering 11 hectares of land. No specific issues have been identified. See also **Table 6 and 6A** which list all facilities.

## **Recommendations for new provision**

3.11 The principal findings from the club survey are presented in **Appendix 3 and 4**. In essence, this identifies the following requirements:

### **Playing Pitches**

#### ***Barnstaple area***

- At least one additional adult football pitch to serve Barnstaple teams
- The provision of playing pitches as necessary to keep pace with development in Roundswell
- An additional youth soccer pitch, the development of a mini soccer centre and the need for an ongoing review of pitches for youth football
- One football pitch to meet North Devon League Premier Division requirements (fenced off and dug-outs)

#### ***Ilfracombe area***

- The upgrading of adult and junior pitches at Marlborough Park
- Additional rugby pitch(es)
- Additional senior and junior football pitches (minimum of one each)
- The provision of mini soccer pitches

#### ***Northern Rural area***

- Additional pitches to serve Fremington village
- Further two adult football pitches in Braunton
- Further two football pitches (senior and junior) and cricket pitch in Swimbridge
- Football and cricket pitch provision in Combe Martin
- Pitch provision in Instow

#### ***South Molton area***

- Additional football pitches in South Molton to include mini soccer
- Junior football pitches at other locations e.g. East Anstey

### **Multi use games areas/court sports**

3.12 In view of the need to provide such areas to cater for a wide variety of training and competition needs in pitch and court sports, it is recommended that proposals for MUGAs should be supported in all settlements of 1000+ and in settlements of 500+ where demand is proven. There should be at least two multi-use games areas in both Barnstaple and Ilfracombe and one in each of Braunton, Chulmleigh and South Molton, preferably on school sites with full community use.

### **Artificial Turf Pitches**

3.13 The proposals for upgrading the outdoor pitch at Pilton Community College to a synthetic turf pitch and the provision of a half-size synthetic turf pitch at Ilfracombe are supported.



## 4 OPEN SPACE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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### Children's Play Areas

- 4.1 The NPFA standards (**Schedule 3**) are set out according to walking distance and time from home to the play area, its minimum size and types of equipment provided. However, it is not practical to adopt this approach in all settlements; in many rural communities housing is far too scattered for this hierarchy of provision to be relevant. Similarly, the number of under-14 year olds in some villages is too small to justify the provision of more than one play area, so one area will need to cater for a broad range and location will be of increased importance. In addition, teenagers often use play areas as a meeting place because there are few alternative suitable sites. The needs of this age range are often not compatible with younger age groups and therefore should be given specific, but separate attention at the design stage.
- 4.2 There are no LAPs (Local Areas for Play as defined by the NPFA) recorded in North Devon, although casual play space will serve this purpose. Analysis undertaken by the Parks and Amenities Department shows that there are 9 'LEAPs' (Local Equipped Areas for Play), 8 'NEAPs' (Neighbourhood Areas for Play) and 41 'Unclassified sites' (i.e. play areas which have equipment but which have not (through lack of knowledge or not exact compliance with the requirements of LEAPs and NEAPs) been able to be placed in these categories. (See **Table 7.**)
- 4.3 There is some inconsistency over the sizing here and it is thought that these areas only relate to the Activity Zone rather than the Activity Zone and the Buffer Zone. Unclassified play areas range in size from 0.02 ha upwards, although due to lack of information some have been recorded as the same size as the site in which they lie.
- 4.4 The distribution of play areas is very uneven; hectareage of equipped play areas per thousand population varies considerably and a number of parishes have none at all. In Barnstaple, Pilton ward has no equipped play areas (EPAs); the most well provided for are Trinity and Yeo wards. The NPFA standards recommends 0.2 - 0.3 for equipped play but we are not convinced that the sizes are correct. The only parishes to approach this level of provision are Chulmleigh, Witheridge, Landkey village and Shirwell. Analysis of areas of equipped children's play areas shows Pilton ward having no play areas and above average (for the district) numbers of children under 14 years, although Pilton Park is adjacent. (see **Table 8**).
- 4.5 The following points are noted when regarding the needs for children's play:
- Different ages have different play needs and the provision of suitable play spaces should be considered within a framework of opportunities for both informal recreation and more structured leisure activities.

- Children seek social contact with their friends through their play activity outdoors and to achieve this they need to be able to move around the roads and pavements near to their home as widely and safely as possible and from an early age.
- Pedestrian and cycling paths are very popular where they exist and help to reduce the proportion of children at play on vehicular roads. This reduces the risk of traffic accidents and extends the range of the children, since the majority of play outdoors is active involving walking, running, ball games, use of wheeled vehicles and play equipment.

4.6 Demand for equipped play areas is very localised and dependent on many factors relating to accessibility, character of catchment population, type of play area. This study, for an overview of provision, highlights areas of deficiency and suggests a basic minimum level of provision based on areas of good supply within the district.

### **Casual Play Space**

4.7 As well as 'equipped play space' (LEAPs and NEAPs), the NPFA standard also includes elements for Casual Play Space, which can include LAPs.

4.8 In the study it has been difficult to determine which areas are for 'casual, informal play'. The sites must be suitable for this purpose and safe, but it is not always possible to determine this from size or even location; there is a need to view each site and its safety and suitability. There are a number of sites - at least 53 - where children do play casually and informally and which do not have an equipped play area and it is suggested that some demand for such a facility would exist here and that these should be further investigated. A number have been singled out as being very suitable for development in this way, such as Sunset Heights, St Mary's Barnstaple and Lagoon View, Yelland.

4.9 This study of open space is breaking with the format of the NPFA standard to exclude land for 'casual informal use' by children from the overall playspace standard (i.e. it is just looking at the equipped play area element). Although one difficulty is of interpretation, the other issue is that land used informally by children is also likely to be used informally by adults. It is therefore appropriate to consider casual and informal use within the wider category of informal open space.

### **Facilities for young people**

4.10 Facilities for youth are those facilities primarily aimed at the 14 years+ age range but in reality these will be likely to cater for children and young people at either end of this target group in addition. Such facilities include:

- BMX tracks
  - Skateboard ramps and pipes
  - Kickabout areas
  - Street basketball facilities
  - Floodlit multi use games areas
  - Youth shelters
  - Purpose built outdoor meeting areas for young people
  - Games walls and graffiti walls.
- 4.11 There are no national planning guidelines or standards relating to the provision of these to which local authorities can refer. They are not traditional club based sports or activities, and it is therefore difficult to quantify demand. However, the school surveys have revealed a very high demand for such facilities within the district. In particular, demand has been expressed for skateboarding facilities in Woolacombe and Combe Martin and 'Barnstaple Bandits' are also looking for new sites in Barnstaple.
- 4.12 It needs to be borne in mind that:
- Young people do not like mixing with younger age groups
  - Somewhere for young people to call their own is a prime requirement. It will be of crucial importance that decisions relating to actual youth facilities are reached on the basis of extensive consultation with young people and the local community. It is necessary to engender a sense of local responsibility and important to ensure young people feel a sense of ownership of the development to minimise vandalism
  - Provision needs to be informal, not associated with the establishment and whilst apparently unsupervised does need some form of control
- 4.13 Relatively few types of this provision exist. As in many other local authority areas, there is little evidence of any planned or consistent provision for this particular age group within North Devon. Given the current popularity of skateboarding and BMX activities, the lack of any such provision is particularly noteworthy.
- 4.14 It is recommended that provision of such facilities should be considered to cater for young people aged 14 – 24 years in settlements with more than 1000 inhabitants and for settlements in excess of 500 inhabitants where demand has been expressed on the basis of a minimum size of 0.15 (see **Table 8**). As far as standards are concerned, the aim should be that one such area is provided per 300 young people.

## **Recommendations for new provision**

### **Equipped play areas**

4.15 The following areas are identified as being particularly deficient in equipped children's play areas and should be given priority in the development of new facilities.

- Barnstaple: Longbridge ward
- Barnstaple: Newport ward
- Barnstaple: Trinity ward
- Ilfracombe: Central ward
- Ilfracombe: West ward
- Bishop's Nympton
- Bishop's Tawton
- Braunton: East ward
- Chulmleigh
- Combe Martin
- Instow
- South Molton
- Swimbridge
- Tawstock

### **Facilities for young people**

4.16 The following areas are identified as being particularly deficient in facilities for young people and should be given priority in the development of new facilities.

- Barnstaple                      2 areas (including Roundswell and Whiddon Valley areas)
- Ilfracombe                      1 area
- Braunton                        1 area
- Fremington                    1 area
- Landkey                         1 area
- South Molton                  1 area
- Chulmleigh                    1 area
- Combe Martin                 1 area
- Morteheo                       1 area

And other settlements where demand has been expressed, such as:  
Swimbridge, Bishop's Tawton, North Molton, Instow, and Bishop's Nympton

## 5 INFORMAL OPEN SPACE

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### Functions and Definitions

- 5.1 This category of open space covers areas of land which have a recreational or amenity function but which do not have attributes (marking/use for formal pitches or other sports, equipped play areas) which would classify them more formal recreational areas. Although no nationally accepted standards exist, it is a purpose of the current study to provide them.
- 5.2 It is helpful to divide informal open space into two types: informal recreation space and amenity areas.

### Informal recreation space

- 5.3 This is public open space which can be used for recreational activity, including walking, sitting and informal games. Such areas can often be quite extensive, forming parts of parks, village greens etc and those parts of ornamental parks and gardens which are not marked as formal sports areas. Use may not be formally recorded, but such areas make an important contribution to the quality of life of residents in general and particularly children

### Amenity areas

- 5.4 These are areas of land which are required to improve the setting, layout and visual impact of housing or other built development. This is essentially space which allows occupiers of housing developments to enjoy visual and physical open space by way of relief from enclosed open space and bricks and mortar. Such areas can thus be provided by elements of the following:
- open spaces around buildings which contribute to their design and setting
  - communal gardens or courtyards
  - incidental green breaks (between houses, around protected trees or nature conservation features)
  - soft landscaping
  - grass verges, edging roads and footpaths
  - hard landscaping with seating and planters
- 5.5 Often such areas are used by children for kickabout and other games and have traditionally been included within the NPFA's requirement for children's play. Whilst there may be sites in North Devon where the amenity open space is large enough and of appropriate design to safely accommodate casual children's play, this study has taken the view, for the reasons advanced in Section 4, that because:

- the precise suitability of the land as children's playspace is sometimes difficult to establish and
  - such land often has an important amenity or recreational value for adults also it is more appropriate to include such areas within the 'informal open space' category.
- 5.6 The database lists hundreds of small sites (ranging in size from 0.003has to around 3 has) which can be classified as informal open space. Some of these have great potential for development as more formal or planned areas and these are presented in the Databases (**Appendices 5, 6, 7 & 8**).
- 5.7 Levels of provision vary hugely, even between wards, for example from 2.21 has/000 in Ilfracombe East to 0.53 has/000 in Ilfracombe Central (see **Table B** in this report). It is recognised that computation of these levels of provision is very sensitive to interpretation of the following:
- the main use of a site
  - the actual area of land included and
  - the area served by the area in question (catchment area), particularly if this extends beyond its immediate ward/parish.
- 5.8 Levels of informal open space are also much lower in rural areas than the towns. This is for a number of reasons:
- because of its value and comparative scarcity within settlements, open space in urban areas tends to be closely managed and thus is more likely to be recorded
  - open space in rural settings is often perceived as 'countryside' and not recorded separately
  - the database was compiled by NDDC which has more extensive landholdings and knowledge of open space in towns than in rural areas, and therefore many sites outside the towns are less likely to be included.
- 5.9 The other difficulty is that demand for informal open space is very difficult to quantify. One needs to study in some detail the current distribution, quality and existing levels of use - similar to that required for other areas of open space - before reaching a conclusion.

## **Recommendations for new provision**

- 5.10 The following areas are relatively poorly provided for informal open space and should be given priority in determining new areas of provision:
- Barnstaple wards: Pilton, St Mary's and Trinity
  - Tawstock parish
  - Ilfracombe Central and West wards
  - Braunton East ward
  - Chulmleigh
  - Combe Martin (south)
  - Instow
  - Mortehoe
  - Georgeham
  - Swimbridge
  - Bishop's Tawton
  - North Molton
  - Bishop's Nympton
- 5.11 Priority should also be given to improving linkages (walkways, footpaths and cycleways) between existing linear routeways and between areas of existing and proposed open space. Section 9 presents specific recommendations.



## **6 OTHER OPEN SPACE WITHIN NORTH DEVON**

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### **Definitions**

- 6.1 This Chapter considers two further categories of open space, classified in this way following a detailed examination of the situation in North Devon:
- 1 Amenity open space within settlements
  - 2 Amenity open space outside settlements and countryside open space resources

### **Amenity open space within settlements**

- 6.2 The definition of 'amenity open space' for this study is different to that to which the term is often applied. It encompasses the following:
- allotments
  - cemeteries
  - woodlands/orchards
  - nature reserves
  - vacant/otherwise unclassified land with potential for open space use

where these are settlement based, or closely related to existing settlements. These types of open space are felt to perform valuable recreational and amenity functions, although their specialised nature excludes them from the other categories so far used.

#### *Allotments*

- 6.3 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners considers that the target for provision should be 20 allotment plots per 1000 households based on a national allotment survey undertaken in 1997. This allows for some growth in demand as forecast in the House of Commons Select Committee report 'The Future of Allotments' (1998). The target figure equates to a recommended spatial standard of 0.25 has per 1000 population. Figures for North Devon suggest that provision is less than this but it is recognised that the database currently omits several sites.

#### *Cemeteries*

- 6.4 No standards are needed, and land should be proposed as it is required.

#### *Woodlands/orchards, nature reserves*

- 6.5 These are included where settlement based. For further information on nature reserves, reference should be made to the recent report on local nature conservation sites and biodiversity networks in North Devon undertaken by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre in conjunction with the Devon Wildlife Trust.

*Vacant/otherwise unclassified land with potential for open space use*

- 6.6 There are many such areas and can be obtained from the database. All are worthy of a closer look to investigate their potential and possibilities.
- 6.7 Small areas planted as shrub bed and flower beds only (e.g. within car parks) whilst included on the database are not included in the computation of any standards. Nevertheless they have an important amenity role in enhancing social tarmac areas.
- 6.7 Work has been undertaken to assess levels of provision, in general terms, of amenity open space within settlements. Across the district as a whole, a figure of around **72 hectares or 0.08 has/000** emerges. However, it is believed that many such sites are omitted, especially allotments and cemeteries in the rural areas, and it may be more appropriate to limit the calculation of such a standard to the main urban areas. Nevertheless such open space has great intrinsic amenity and recreational value in the context of an open space strategy for North Devon

**Amenity open space outside settlements and countryside open space resources**

- 6.8 There are many areas of open space in a rural district like North Devon which help to define its overall character and are not related to public access e.g.
- nature reserves
  - beaches
  - community woodlands (South West Forest etc)
  - Braunton Burrows
  - major woodland/forest areas
  - major linear parks/walks ('greenways') (e.g. Tarka Trail and Braunton/Barnstaple Railway Line)
- 6.9 Such areas are not included in the computation of any standards in this report. However, the importance of such areas should not be underestimated in an open space strategy.
- 6.10 The countryside is widely acknowledged (and highlighted within the Community Needs Survey) as being fundamental to the character and people's perception of North Devon. However, accessibility to this from existing open space networks within settlements and its management for recreation and amenity purposes (especially following the foot and mouth epidemic) is very topical and dealt with in other corporate documents.

See **Appendix 9 and 10** also.

## **Recommendations for new provision**

- 6.11 In settlements near to beaches, the coastline, forests and other woodlands and commons it is recommended that there should be good linkages and accessibility to enhance their function as recreational open space.
- 6.12 It is also recommended that additional commons, parks and woods are promoted close to the main settlements in association with South West Forestry Initiatives as a means of increasing the provision of informal open space for all sections of the community. In particular,; in the Barnstaple area at Frankmarsh, Waytown/Maidenford and Larkbeare and in South Molton (south of Pathfields), Swimbridge, North Molton, Bratton Fleming and Fremington (Chill Park).



## 7 TOWARDS STANDARDS OF PROVISION

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### The Value of Standards

- 7.1 The value of setting standards may be summarised as:
- to establish a baseline level of provision for comparative purposes
  - to establish local and community needs
  - to enable the Council to objectively assess where the worst deficiencies occur and do something about it
  - to set appropriate targets and priorities, for different groups within the community
  - to support fair and even handed internal decision making on priority funding between competing areas of demand, and
  - to support external funding bids
  - to provide a negotiating position for developers, both for on-site provision and commuted payments as part of new development proposals
- 7.2 There are well known difficulties with this approach, but it still remains the principal tool at present for securing developer contributions through the planning system and must thus be approached rigorously. However, some of the difficulties include:
- Minor omissions/additions to total hectareage can have major impact on standards and thus the reliability of data is important.
  - Standards do not reflect catchment areas or the quality of the open space
  - It is difficult for standards to reflect open space in a holistic way, rather than as various smaller, separate areas (equipped play areas, pitches etc)
- 7.3 Developing standards for open space provision is an emerging area of planning and to date no widely acceptable standards or targets exist. The nomenclature and definitions of open space planning is also not yet standardised and with the recent publication of the draft PPG17 and a list of definitions by ILAM, some clarification is required.
- 7.4 The methodology used for this strategy has approached the subject from a usage, rather than type, perspective i.e. open space has been classified according to its use, rather than the type of use it attracts. All known open space in the district has been recorded on a database, with its main use and features and size, where known. As close estimates as possible have been made of the area of land within each site used for the following:

- **Open Space for Sport**, divided into:
  - Playing pitches (excluding schools)
  - School grounds (whether or not community use)
  - Other sports areas
  
- **Open Space for Children and Young People**  
 Measurement of purpose built equipped play areas (whether NDDC or other, LEAP, NEAP or unclassified) and assessment of facilities for young people such as skateboard and BMX areas.
  
- **Informal Open Space**  
 Land used for informal recreation and amenity purposes, which includes land used for children for casual play. Where an equipped play area or a sports use forms part of a site, the area of that use has been subtracted from the total site area to give a more accurate estimate of the area for informal open space.

### **Calculating an Open Space Standard for North Devon**

- 7.5 For each site, a calculation/estimation has been made of the area of land in the above principal use. Areas were totalled on a ward basis and parish basis for all parishes with around or over a population of 1000, and then related to the population to obtain an existing 'standard' (see **Table B** in this report). Estimates were then made of the land required to implement recommendations for new provision to the year 2005, and these added to existing totals to obtain a minimum target standard for provision.

## Recommendations for Standards of Provision

### FACILITIES FOR OUTDOOR SPORT

#### Playing Pitches

- 7.6 Computing the standards of playing pitch provision is difficult, given the fact that the standard should ideally be based on:
- the area of playing pitches themselves and not the whole site area
  - pitches which have 'secure community use' only; an estimate thus has to be made of the amount of school pitches which have community use.
- 7.7 **Tables 5A and 5B in the Technical Appendix** present an analysis of playing field provision showing that current levels of provision, if school pitches are excluded, range from 0.21 hectares/000 (hectares per thousand population) in Fremington village, 0.48 hectares/000 in Barnstaple and 0.24 hectares/000 in Ilfracombe to over 3 hectares/000 in a few settlements. If an informed estimate is made of pitches with community use at schools and these are included, the average figure district wide rises to around 0.9 hectares per thousand (81 hectares in total for a population of 89,429).
- 7.8 This study has undertaken a locally based assessment of deficiencies and existing and latent demand. From this, it is recommended that in addition to the existing 81 hectares with community use in North Devon, a further 22 hectares of playing pitches are required throughout the district as a whole to serve needs up until 2005. This gives a minimum target standard of 1.2 hectares per thousand population, district-wide.
- 7.9 However, it is stressed that this is a minimum standard of provision and there will be local variations within this as a minimum area of land is required to provide a football pitch. In urban areas, standards of provision are usually much lower; for example, in Barnstaple, existing provision of 18 hectares of playing pitches and a recommended addition of 4 hectares, gives a target of 22 hectares in all or 0.7 hectares/000. In Ilfracombe, the recommended addition of 5 hectares onto the existing 4 hectares gives a similar target. This is balanced by rural settlements where a town such as Bratton Fleming, which has around 3.4 hectares in playing pitch use to serve a population of just under 1000 has a standard of provision of 3.5 hectares/000.
- 7.10 It is recommended that a minimum interim target of 0.7 hectares/000 should be aimed at those settlements where major deficiencies have been identified and which currently exhibit a relatively low standard of provision (i.e. Area Centres of Barnstaple, Ilfracombe and Braunton, and Local Centres of Fremington and Combe Martin and Swimbridge).
- 7.11 Elsewhere, the target should be related to the actual pitches recommended, with the aim of 1.2 hectares/000 across the district as a whole. It should be stressed that some settlements which currently exhibit relatively high standards of provision (e.g. South Molton) are still considered deficient in pitch provision because of the local assessment undertaken of supply and demand.

### **Multi Use Games Areas**

- 7.12 This assessment has concentrated on multi-use games areas, including tennis courts, for which the average area involved is estimated at around 0.25 hectares. It is recommended that around 20 such areas are required throughout the district, giving a land requirement of an additional 5 hectares to the 8 hectares already in such use. This gives a target standard of 0.2 hectares/000.

## **FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **Equipped Children's Play Areas**

- 7.13 It is assumed that an equipped play area can be provided on an area of 0.2 hectares and that, in general, a minimum of one equipped play area should be provided for every 200 children aged less than 14 years. At least 11 such areas are required in Barnstaple, 2 in Ilfracombe and 10 throughout the remainder of the district.
- 7.14 This gives a total land requirement of around 5 hectares to add to the existing 7.5 hectares in such use, giving a target standard of 0.15 hectares/000.

### **Facilities for Young People**

- 7.15 It is recommended that provision of such facilities should be considered to cater for young people aged 14 – 24 years in settlements with more than 1000 inhabitants and for settlements in excess of 500 inhabitants where demand has been expressed on the basis of a minimum size of 0.15 . As far as standards are concerned, one could aim for one such area per 300 young people. A total of 15 such areas are required, with a land requirement of around 3 hectares (around 0.03 hectares/000).
- 7.16 It is thus recommended that a minimum target of 0.2 hectares/000 for equipped facilities for children and young people be adopted.

## **INFORMAL OPEN SPACE**

- 7.17 As an interim measure, this study has looked at areas of good supply in North Devon, where a figure of between 2 and 2.5 hectares/000 emerges. It is recommended that a target figure of 2.5 hectares/000 should be provided, which includes areas for casual play for children (i.e. unequipped areas).

## TOTAL OPEN SPACE

7.17 Together this makes a total of 4 hectares of open space per thousand of the population across North Devon district.

	Hectares per thousand population			
	Playing pitches	Multi use games areas	Equipped facilities for children and young people	Informal open space
<b>District Total</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.50</b>

7.18 However it should be stressed:

- This is a minimum level of provision across the district as a whole
- Local variations will occur related to the recommendations made in **Sections 3 – 5** and summarised in **Table A**.
- This standard does not include land allocated for outdoor sports use other than multi use games areas/courts
- Informal open space relates to areas within and closely related to existing settlements and does not include the wider countryside.

### Supplementary approach: Hierarchy of provision

7.19 There is an implicit acknowledgement that open space and its use is hierarchical. Small open spaces and children's play areas should normally be provided within 400m of people they are intended to serve. Larger areas of formal and informal open space and specialist facilities can be provided further away.

7.20 Another approach is to recommend provision on the basis of size of settlement and this approach has been used in determining priorities within the rural areas (see **Table A**), and is set out on the next page.

## **Suggested hierarchy of provision for open space in North Devon**

### **Hamlet/small village (below 500)**

- community open space: area of accessible informal open space with basic equipped play area where need identified (mini park)

### **Village (500 - 1,000)**

- community open space: informal open space and mini parks
- playing field of sufficient size to accommodate a football pitch (together with necessary ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and car parking)
- equipped play area
- for settlements of 500+, a floodlit MUGA, capable of accommodating tennis, netball, five-a-side football, basketball etc (priority in settlements of 500+ and provision on an opportunistic basis in smaller settlements)

### **Local centres (Fremington, Combe Martin, Mortehoe/Woolacombe, Chulmleigh and Witheridge) and other settlements between 1,000 and 4,000 population where appropriate**

- community open space: informal open space, range of mini parks plus community parks where appropriate
- floodlit MUGA
- skateboarding/BMX/facilities for young people
- range of playing pitches for football, rugby and cricket
- outdoor bowling (if demand proven)

### **Area centres (Ilfracombe, Braunton, and South Molton)**

- community open space: district park and/or community woodland and range of community and/or mini parks
- floodlit MUGA
- skateboarding/BMX/facilities for young people
- range of pitches
- outdoor bowling (if demand proven)

### **Area Centre: Barnstaple**

- Full range of open space and outdoor sports facilities.

## 8 TOWARDS A STRATEGY

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- 8.1 This strategy is entitled 'Creation and Enhancement' to emphasise the importance of the benefits to accrue from improving and enhancing existing open space resources as well as providing new areas.
- 8.2 Each area of open space has important attributes which can be used, either singly or together, to assign a key function or assess its inherent value when developing local strategies for open space. They include:
- strategic/structural function: its contribution to local image and structure
  - amenity: its contribution to the balance of open space and buildings and/or the street scene
  - urban quality/regeneration: its contribution to regeneration by increasing its amenity
  - promoting health: its contribution to physical and mental wellbeing through its use for informal and formal recreation and as a pleasant feature of the environment
  - ecology: its capacity for contributing towards nature and wildlife conservation and acting as a green corridor important to wildlife
  - community resources/meeting place: its role for social interaction – whether organised or unorganised
  - educational: its existing use or potential as a learning resource
  - sport and culture: its contribution to the district's sporting and cultural resources
- 8.3 The North Devon District Open Space Database will enable land to be further classified and an index of quality to be developed at the local level by, for example, affording each area a value based on such factors as its accessibility, the overall level of supply, use, its visual quality, its functions and its facilities.
- 8.4 The Strategy is a living document which will need to evolve and change as circumstances allow. The following summarises some of the challenges which the North Devon Open Space Strategy must take on board:
- The pressure to find additional land for housing which continues to grow. Campaigns to save the countryside are directing more pressure on urban areas: former industrial land and urban open space are in the direct line of fire, with allotments and playing fields particularly at risk.
  - The need to consider both capital and revenue funding for the creation, restoration and regeneration of open space. In this respect, the New Opportunities Fund and its resourcing of the Green Spaces Initiative is very important. Within North Devon, these funds should be particularly targeted towards the North Molton, Bishop's Nympton, Chittlehampton, Bratton Fleming, Chulmleigh, Swimbridge and Marwood rural wards. The urban wards of Trinity and St Mary's in Barnstaple and Ilfracombe Central and East wards are priority wards within this programme and could be eligible for enhanced funding of up to 90%. There are also potential sources of funding in such projects as the South West Forestry Initiative.

- To find new ways of creating open space, especially through retail, industrial and residential schemes which will provide opportunities for new provision.
- The need to take more account of the needs of different landowners. In the private sector and increasingly in the public sector, open space is seen as a reliable resource for capital receipts.
- The increasing focus on the 'public realm' - hard open space, such as piazzas and squares, the value of which has been highlighted by the Urban Task Force and is likely to become more prominent in urban planning.
- Ultimately, the long term value and quality of open space depends not only on the planning system to protect and provide it, but on effective management and maintenance, coupled with strong community support, to safeguard it and realise its true community and environmental value.
- Sustainable development: the need to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats and managing open space in more appropriate ways.
- Issues covered in the open space strategy should be cross cutting and the Strategy should recognise the importance of linking to other District Council strategies and other interested local and national agencies and stakeholders.
- The tremendous importance of the countryside and coastline to people's perception of North Devon and the influence of this on providing and managing other areas of open space.
- The requirement for open space to meet the needs of different groups within the population and to be accessible to all ages.

8.5 In summary, certain themes have emerged from the survey work, around which the Strategy should be based. These are summarized below.

- 1 Deficiencies in provision and the need for new areas of open space
- 2 Deficiencies in existing provision and the need for improvement and enhancement – making the best use of existing provision.
- 3 The need to protect and conserve existing areas of open space
- 4 Ensuring there are good, efficient open space linkages and routeways between existing open space areas
- 5 Ease of travel to open space and accessibility for all the community
- 6 The benefits of involving the local community in planning, managing and enhancing open space
- 7 The role of open space in contributing to the quality of life and regeneration
- 8 Ensuring that open space in North Devon meets the needs of all the community

8.6 These themes are further considered under the following 'Key Policy Considerations' and provide a framework for the development of more detailed policies. It is also recommended that the District Council should adopt the following statement of intent:

*'North Devon District Council recognises the recreational and non-recreational roles and value of open space, particularly its benefits with regard to health and education, the environment, regeneration and the local economy, sport and*

*culture and wishes to promote these to, and in consultation with, the local community and visitors alike.'*

## 1 BARNSTAPLE AREA (including Bickington, Roundswell, Whiddon Valley and Tawstock parish)

### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Longridge ward	1659		
Newport ward	4196		
Pilton ward	4211		
St Mary's ward	3220		
Trinity ward	5321		
Yeo ward	3411		
Barnstaple Total	22018	31.7%	20.4%
Fremington parish - part (Roundswell & Bickington)	approx. 5178		
Landkey parish - part (Whiddon Valley)	approx. 1400		
Tawstock parish	2922	25.1%	29.3%

### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

#### A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excludin g school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Longridge ward	0.05 (1)	0	0	0	0	3.57	3.62
Newport ward	0.18 (2)	10.63	3.41	5.72	1.50	7.63	18.44
Pilton ward	0 (0)	16.01	9.60	6.21	0.20	2.24	18.25
St Mary's ward	0.16 (2)	0.5	0	0.50	0	1.39	2.05
Trinity ward	0.27 (3)	1.08	0	0.93	0.15	3.31	4.66
Yeo ward	0.22 (4)	0	0	0	0	8.69	8.91
Barnstaple Total	0.9 (11)	28.2	13.01	13.36	1.85	26.83	53.80
Fremington parish - part	0.96 (n/a)	3.7	2.00	1.20	0.5	6.99	11.65
Landkey parish - part	0.24 (1)	1.00	0	1.00	0	3.09	4.33
Tawstock parish	0.08 (1)	1.21	0	1.21	0	1.11	2.40

#### B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Longridge ward	0.03			2.15	2.18
Newport ward	0.04	2.53	0.81	1.82	4.39
Pilton ward	0	3.80	2.28	0.53	4.33
St Mary's ward	0.05	0.16		0.43	0.64
Trinity ward	0.05	0.20		0.62	0.88
Yeo ward	0.06			2.55	2.61
Barnstaple Total	0.04	1.28		1.22	2.54
Fremington parish - part	0.19	0.71		1.35	2.25
Landkey parish - part	0.17	0.71		2.21	3.09

Tawstock parish	0.03	0.41		0.38	0.82
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**C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database**

	Longbridge	Newport	Pilton	St Mary's	Trinity	Yeo	Fremington (part)	Landkey (part)	Tawstock
<b>Allotments</b>	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Burial grounds</b>	0.14	0.00	0.00	3.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Car park</b>	1.36	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.00
<b>Community Parks</b>	0.91	3.25	0.00	0.00	1.40	5.51	8.89	2.19	0.00
<b>District Park</b>	0.00	6.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Mini Park</b>	0.35	0.18	0.12	0.64	0.04	0.36	0.76	0.00	1.08
<b>Greenways</b>	0.23	0.35	30.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.00
<b>Open Space</b>	2.21	1.59	2.15	0.94	3.40	3.04	0.85	1.26	0.12
<b>School Grounds</b>	0.00	5.72	6.21	0.50	0.93	0.00	1.20	1.00	1.21
<b>Sports</b>	0.00	1.50	9.80	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Woodlands</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	4.50	2.18	0.00

**KEY SITES**

- Rock Park/The Park School
- Pilton Park
- Pottington Road Sports pitches
- Whiddon Valley Woodlands
- Anchor Wood Bank & Dripping Well
- Frankmarsh Community Woodlands
- Secondary schools: The Park School, Pilton Community College and North Devon College
- Tews Lane sports ground
- Seven Brethren
- Braunton/Barnstaple Old Railway Line

**KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES**

**Open Space for Sport**

- Barnstaple Town FC require extra playing facilities. General upgrading of changing rooms, stands and club house at the Mill Road ground also needed.
- Women's football: dedicated pitch and appropriate changing facilities for women's football required.
- There are no public facilities in Barnstaple for clubs playing in the North Devon premier League
- Greater provision for football is required in Fremington and Roundswell, both to meet existing local demand and accommodate some overflow demand from Barnstaple itself.

- Low usage of the artificial cricket wicket at Rock Park and number of casual, friendly or mid week league matches in the Barnstaple area has greatly decline.
- Need to replace and possibly increase number of rugby pitches after Downstream Bridge
- Park School ATP used to capacity on Saturdays and sustains high level of winter use.
- Pilton Community College redgra pitch is in urgent need of upgrading.
- Aspirations for a BMX and skateboard park and roller rink facility
- Multi use games areas are required

### **Children's Play Areas**

- In Barnstaple, Pilton ward has no EPA but above average (for the district) numbers of children under 14 years, although Pilton Park is adjacent.
- The most well provided for are Trinity, St Mary's and Yeo wards with around 0.05 hectares/000. (The NPFA standards recommends 0.2 - 0.3 hectares/000 for equipped play but this may involve measuring a larger site area than that recorded in the database).

### **Informal open space**

- Many sites identified as having potential
- Best provided for wards are Longbridge, Newport and Yeo. Trinity, Pilton and St Mary's have low levels of informal open space.
- Northern Tawstock is very deficient in informal open space.

### **Other open space resources**

- Addressing needs of the community in respect of access to open countryside
- Importance of Rock Park and Tarka Trail
- Important natural features are the rivers and estuary, the green hills around the town and woodland features.
- Provision of community woodlands following on from one developed in Whiddon valley, Frankmarsh Valley is a likely priority

### **General**

- Facilities for young people
- Community facilities at Raleigh
- Reconstruction of Barnstaple's Parks starting with reconstruction of Rock Park with better layout, enhancement of its facilities and better traffic management
- Wildlife habitat creation in selected areas of parks and open spaces
- Management of Anchorwood
- A local nature reserve in the Pottington/Bradiford Water area
- Community involvement e.g. in the provision of 'pocket' nature reserves
- Problems of litter along river and dog fouling
- Need better access (buses) running to special places such as Snowdrop valley (Whiddon Valley)

### **Site Specific**

- Tower View Park in poor condition. Closure of Grange Avenue Park means no local parks available.
- Dog fouling and poor equipment at Ellerslie Park
- Many views about Rock Park: e.g. concern about Park & Ride; desire for enhancement etc – perceived as major open space in Barnstaple

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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**New**

- Additional adult and youth football pitches, development of mini soccer centre
- At least two floodlit multi use games areas, where practical on school sites with full community use
- Upgrading Pilton Community College redgra to a synthetic turf pitch
- Equipped play areas to serve poorly provided parts of Longbridge, Newport and Trinity wards and Tawstock
- Facilities for young people, particularly to serve Roundswell and Whiddon Valley areas
- Linkages: Tarka Trail and Estuary/Anchor Wood to the Tarka Trail/ link along River Taw linking Tarka Trail and Anchor Wood to Longbridge
- Development of additional 'Urban Parks', for example, to west of river
- Additional informal open space, particularly in Pilton, St Mary's and Trinity wards and Tawstock.
- Community woodland development: Frankmarsh, Waytown/Maidenford and Larkbeare and other sites where appropriate

**Enhancement of existing provision**

For example:

- Mill Road Sports pitches
- Mini parks where problems identified e.g. Tower View Parks and Ellerslie Parks
- Rock Park Enhancement Programme

## 2 ILFRACOMBE

### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Ilfracombe Central Ward	4321		
Ilfracombe East Ward	3191		
Ilfracombe West Ward	4438		
Ilfracombe Total	11950	28.2%	24.6%

### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

#### A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excludin g school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Ilfracombe Central Ward	0.8 (5)	1.8	0.9	0.61	0.25	2.3	4.8
Ilfracombe East Ward	0.1 (1)	5.0	2.0	2.00	1.00	7.1	12.1
Ilfracombe West Ward	0.3 (3)	0.5		0.02	0.50	2.6	3.4
Ilfracombe Total	1.1 (9)	7.3	2.9	2.63	1.75	11.9	20.3

#### B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Ilfracombe Central Ward	0.17	0.41	0.21	0.53	1.11
Ilfracombe East Ward	0.02	1.57	0.63	2.21	3.80
Ilfracombe West Ward	0.07	0.12		0.58	0.77
Ilfracombe Total	0.10	0.61	0.24	0.99	1.70

**C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database**

	<b>Total Area (has)</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>West</b>
<b>Allotments</b>	1.16	0.34	0.60	0.22
<b>Burial grounds</b>	4.90	0	0	4.90
<b>Car park</b>	1.04	0.31	0.73	0
<b>Community Parks</b>	3.46	0.50	2.96	0
<b>District Park</b>	7.45	0	5.80	1.65
<b>Mini Park</b>	1.23	0.73	0.10	0.40
<b>Greenways</b>	21.02	0	0	21.02
<b>Open Space</b>	4.35	1.75	1.29	1.31
<b>School Grounds</b>	2.63	0.61	2.00	0.02
<b>Sports</b>	1.22	1.22	0	0
<b>Woodlands</b>	35.14	0	20.14	15.00

**KEY SITES**

- Brimlands
- Marlborough Park
- Killacleave
- Bicclescombe Park
- Hillsborough Local Nature Reserve
- Larkstone area
- The Cairn Cycleway

**KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES****Open Space for Sport**

- Ilfracombe has the most severe playing pitch deficiency recorded
- There is a gross shortage of football provision in Ilfracombe
- Unmet demand for floodlit training facilities in Ilfracombe
- Shortage of rugby pitches has made it difficult to maintain mini rugby activity in particular
- Lack of sustained provision for, and development of youth cricket

**Children's Play Areas**

- Bicclescombe Park is the main park but some difficulties over allocation of space between young children and much older children wishing to play tag or football.
- East ward has only one play area to serve at least 450 young children.

### **Informal open space**

- There is great variation between the different wards, as East ward has access to the Larkstone areas with plentiful supplies of informal open space (and also Hillsborough, although this is a Local Nature Reserve and thus not included)
- The other two wards are relatively poorly provided with informal open space, particularly housing to the north of Bicclescombe Park.

### **Other open space resources**

- Footpaths not always continuous
- Most people very appreciative of the open space and countryside that there is and for which large parts of Ilfracombe are quite accessible.

### **General**

- Enhanced facilities required to maintain the status and credibility of the tourism market/urban regeneration
- Improvements to local amenities to address the under provision of suitable car parking and sports facilities.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **New**

- Additional adult, junior and mini soccer pitches and rugby pitches
- Additional rugby pitches
- Floodlit multi-use games area and half-size synthetic turf pitch
- Equipped play areas to serve central and west Ilfracombe
- Facility for young people
- Informal open space in central and west Ilfracombe

### **Enhancement of existing sites**

- Improvement of links to coast and out to surrounding countryside
- Woodland areas, where issues identified

### 3 BRAUNTON

#### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Braunton East	3974		
Braunton West	3976		
Braunton Total	7950	24.3%	32.3%
Heanton Punchardon	1710	37%	19%
Ashford	286		

#### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

##### A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Braunton East	0.1 (1)	5.3	0.9	4.40		1.1	6.5
Braunton West	0.4 (3)	3.9	3.4		0.15	3.0	7.3
Heanton Punchardon	0.1 (1)	7.5	5.5	0.34	2.00	1.5	9.1

##### B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Braunton East	0.03 (1)	1.33	0.22	0.27	1.63
Braunton West	0.09 (2)	0.98	0.86	0.75	1.82
Heanton Punchardon	0.06 (1)	4.39	3.22	0.85	5.29

##### C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database for Braunton and Heanton Punchardon together

	Total area (has)
Allotments	
Burial grounds	
Car Parks with shrub beds	0.01
District Park	0.00
Community Parks	1.49
Mini Parks	1.16
Greenways	
Open Space	4.34
School grounds	4.40
Sports	11.39
Woodlands	

#### KEY SITES

- Braunton Community College facilities (including Tweedies)
- Braunton Recreation Ground
- Lobb Fields

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- RAF Chivenor
- Braunton Burrows
- North Devon Athletics Track

## KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

### Open Space for Sport

- Future of Chivenor: loss of pitches
- Shortage of adult football pitches
- Shortage of outdoor training areas

### Children's Play Areas

- Low level of equipped play area provision, especially in East Braunton – one play area to serve more than 550 children
- Loss of children's play area at Pill Gardens ?

### Informal open space

- East Braunton relatively poorly provided with informal open space – residents have to cross the main road to get to areas in the west.

### Other open space resources

- Proximity of Braunton Burrows as a major recreational resource. Issues of accessibility and standards of ancillary facilities e.g.
  - Possibility of reopening 'American road' providing- vehicle access to crow point via this route from Braunton Burrows car park.
  - Braunton Burrows should be used less for MoD training - damage being caused to top greenway and paths by heavy vehicles.
  - Lack of proper toilet/washroom facilities at Saunton Sands and Braunton Burrows

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Additional two adult football pitches in Braunton
- Floodlit multi use games area in Braunton, preferably on school site with full community use
- Additional equipped play areas especially Braunton East
- Facility for young people
- Informal open space in East Braunton
- Improved links to Braunton Burrows and other surrounding countryside
- Enhancement of facilities at Lobb Field
- Securement of community access to facilities at Chivenor

## 4 FREMINGTON (excluding Roundswell and Bickington)

### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Fremington village	4250		
Instow	911	20.5%	36.7%
Westleigh	375		
Horwood, Lovacott & Newton Tracey	445		

### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

#### A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excludin g school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Fremington village	0.5	1.8	0.9	0.43	0.45	3.2	5.4
Instow	0	1.6	1.6	0	0	0.08	1.7

#### B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Fremington village	0.12	0.42	0.21	0.74	1.28
Instow	0	1.78	1.78	0	1.87

#### C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database in Fremington village

	Total area (has)
Allotments	
Burial grounds	
Car Parks with shrub beds	
District Park	
Community Parks	3.46
Mini Parks	0.81
Greenways	
Open Space	0.52
School grounds	0.43
Sports	0.25
Woodlands	

### KEY SITES

- Beechfield Playing Field, Fremington
- Griggs Field, Fremington
- North Devon Cricket Ground, Instow
- Merchant's Park, Westleigh

- Lovacott Village Field
- Land in Newton Tracey

## KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

- Fremington: Parish has acquired 8 hectares for recreational open space. Currently fairly well provided for with play areas but additional pitch provision required. Potential of Fremington Quay and Yelland Power Station for recreational use.support for sensitive development
- Instow: home of North Devon cricket ground, but no other pitches (not even at school), no equipped play areas, only 0.1 has of informal open space. Even beach is privately owned.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Additional football pitches in Fremington
- Facilities for young people in Fremington and Instow
- Pitch provision in Instow
- Provision of informal open space and equipped children's play areas in Instow
- Community woodland accessible to Fremington
- Improvement of links between open spaces, particularly to Tarka Trail
- Development of Fremington Quay and Yelland Power Station

## 5 LANDKEY

### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Landkey village	874		
Bishop's Tawton	1228	25.8%	25.9%
Goodleigh	458		
Swimbridge	1441	25.8%	23.7%
Atherington	506		

### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

#### A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Bishop's Tawton	0 (0)	1.3	0.6	0.64		0.3	1.6
Landkey village	0.3 (1)	1.6	0.9	0.70		2.2	4.1
Goodleigh	n/a (2)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Swimbridge	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.2

**B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population**

	<b>Equipped play areas</b>	<b>Total Sport</b>	<b>Pitches (excluding school)</b>	<b>Informal open space</b>	<b>Total recreational open space</b>
Bishop's Tawton		1.02	0.50	0.28	1.29
Landkey village	0.33	1.82	1.02	2.53	4.68
Swimbridge	0			0.12	0.12

**C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database**

	<b>Bishop's Tawton</b>	<b>Landkey</b>	<b>Swimbridge</b>
<b>Allotments</b>			
<b>Burial grounds</b>			
<b>Car Parks with shrub beds</b>			
<b>District Park (Rock Park)</b>			
<b>Community Parks</b>		2.29	
<b>Mini Parks</b>		1.10	
<b>Greenways</b>			
<b>Open Space</b>	0.32	0.15	0.17
<b>School grounds</b>	0.64	0.7	
<b>Sports</b>	0.61		
<b>Woodlands</b>			

**KEY SITES**

- Stanley Verne Playing Fields, Bishop's Tawton
- Tanners Lane, Landkey
- Goodleigh Playing Field

**KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES**

- Landkey village – Millennium Green has added to open space provision
- Bishop's Tawton deficient in open space – playing field too small for competitive games, no equipped play areas and low informal open space
- Goodleigh – only small pitch outside of village
- Swimbridge – need for substantial pitch provision; no equipped play areas

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Landkey – facilities for young people
- Goodleigh – floodlit multi use games area
- Bishop's Tawton – equipped play area, multi use games area, facility for young people and more informal open space
- Swimbridge – football and cricket pitches, equipped play area, multi use games area, facilities for young people and more informal open space. Access to community woodland

## 6 GEORGEHAM

### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Georgeham	1644	22.4%	28.9%
Moretehoe	1785	26.1%	24.8%
West Down	615		
Bittadon	31		

### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

#### A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Georgeham	0.2 (1)	1.1	0.8	0.30		0.4	1.7
Moretehoe	0.3 (2)	1.6	1.4	0.15		0.1	2.0

#### B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Georgeham	0.09	0.68	0.49	0.24	1.01
Moretehoe	0.17	0.88	0.80	0.07	1.12

#### C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database

	Georgeham	Mortehoe
Allotments		
Burial grounds		
Car Parks with shrub beds		0.21
District Park (Rock Park)		
Community Parks		
Mini Parks	0.5	0.3
Greenways		
Open Space	0.05	0.13
School grounds	0.3	0.15
Sports	0.81	1.42
Woodlands		

### KEY SITES

- Georgeham Recreation Ground
- Woolacombe, The Meadow

## KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

- Low informal open space in Georgeham
- Ruda have closed some footpaths
- Proximity to beaches and coast, as long as adequate access

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Georgeham - Additional informal open space and possibly multi use games area. Extension of Glebefield football pitch
- Maintenance of The Meadow, Woolacombe as major sporting resource
- Mortehoe – facilities for young people, multi use games area and more informal open space
- Additional informal open space in West Down

## 7 COMBE MARTIN

### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Combe Martin	2736	25.9%	28.6%
Berrynarbor	774		
Marwood	867		
East Down	191		
Kentisbury	329		
Arlington	105		
Shirwell	374		

### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

#### A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Combe Martin	0.2 (1)	1.2	0.9	0.16	0.15	2.0	3.4
Berrynarbor	n/a (1)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shirwell	n/a (1)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

#### B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Combe Martin	0.05	0.44	0.33	0.73	1.23

**C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database**

	Combe Martin
Allotments	
Burial grounds	
Car Parks with shrub beds	0.1
District Park	
Community Parks	
Mini Parks	0.75
Greenways	0.15
Open Space	0.25
School grounds	0.16
Sports	2.05
Woodlands	2.6

**KEY SITES**

- Berrynarbor Playing Field
- Hollands Park, Combe Martin
- Adderstable Woods, Combe Martin

**KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES**

- Hollands Park being developed to include additional football pitch and new cricket pitch
- Shortage of informal open space in south of village

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Combe Martin: football and cricket pitches, facility for young people, equipped play area and multi use games areas
- More informal open space in Combe Martin, particularly south of village
- Improvement in footpath links in area

**8 BRATTON FLEMING****AREA COVERED**

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Bratton Fleming	979	28.1%	21.4%
Challacombe	133		
Loxhore /Stoke Rivers	351		

**PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS****A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares**

	Equipped play	Total	Pitches (excludin	School sports	Other	Informal open	Total recreational

	areas (No.)	Sport	g school)	areas	sports	space	open space
Bratton Fleming	0.2 (1)	3.4	3.4	0	0	0.8	4.4

### B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Bratton Fleming	0.20	3.47	3.47	0.83	4.5

### C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database

	Bratton Fleming
Allotments	
Burial grounds	
Car Parks with shrub beds	
District Park (Rock Park)	
Community Parks	
Mini Parks	0.83
Greenways	
Open Space	0.18
School grounds	
Sports	3.40
Woodlands	

#### KEY SITES

- Comer Clarke Ground, Bratton Fleming
- Loxhore Village Playing Field

#### KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

- Bratton Fleming fairly well provided for with all forms of open space. Overflow facility available at the Glebeland.
- The sports ground is a suitable site for more facilities if demand is apparent.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Access to community woodland

## 9 EXMOOR

#### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Lynton & Lynmouth	1727	23%	28%
Countisbury/Brendon	208		
Martinhoe	106		

Parracombe	321		
Trentishoe	47		

### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

Not calculated for Exmoor parishes

### KEY SITES

- Brendon Recreation Ground
- Lynton Holman Park
- Lynton Valley of the Rocks Playing Field
- Parracombe Coronation Field
- National Trust Land

### KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

- Fairly good level of sports provision in Lynton and Lynmouth
- Access to countryside could be improved via cycleways and other routeways
- Parracombe Coronation Field recently extended to include MUGA

No specific recommendations

## 10 BISHOP'S NYMPTON

### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Bishop's Nympton	866	25%	27%
Twitchen	64		
Molland	216		
West Anstey	156		
East Anstey	304		
Knowstone	243		

### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

#### A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Bishop's Nympton	n/a (1 small)	1.6	1.4	0.18		0.5	2.0

#### B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Bishop's Nympton	0	1.82	1.62	0.52	2.34

### C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database

	Bishop's Nympton
Allotments	
Burial grounds	
Car Parks with shrub beds	
District Park	
Community Parks	
Mini Parks	
Greenways	
Open Space	0.45
School grounds	0.18
Sports	1.40
Woodlands	

#### KEY SITES

- Bishop's Nympton Cricket Field
- East Anstey Village Green

#### KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

- No formal football pitch facilities in Bishop's Nympton
- No play area in Bishop's Nympton

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bishop's Nympton: equipped play area, facilities for young people and more informal open space

## 11 CHITTLEHAMPTON

#### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Chittlehampton	854	27%	24%
Satterleigh & Warkleigh	165		
Chittlehamholt	197		
King's Nympton	385		
Mariansleigh	164		
Romansleigh	91		

#### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

Not calculated for some parishes, as populations relatively small.

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**A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares**

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excl. school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
King's Nympton	(1)						

**KEY SITES**

- Chittlehampton Playing Fields
- Chittlehampton Cricket Field
- King's Nympton Playing Field

**KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES**

- Football and cricket facility proposed – King's Nympton

No specific recommendations

**12 CHULMLEIGH****AREA COVERED**

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Chulmleigh	1257	24.1%	31.9%
Burrington	576		
East Worlington	240		

**PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS****A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares**

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Chulmleigh	0.4 (1)	8.5	2.9	5.59		1.0	9.9
Burrington	n/a(1)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

**B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population**

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space

Chulmleigh	0.29	6.77	2.32	0.77	7.84
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**C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database**

	Chulmleigh
Allotments	
Burial grounds	
Car Parks with shrub beds	
District Park	
Community Parks	0.37
Mini Parks	
Greenways	
Open Space	0.98
School grounds	5.59
Sports	2.92
Woodlands	

**KEY SITES**

- Chulmleigh Community College land
- Chulmleigh Great Mills Park
- Chulmleigh Playing Fields
- Burrington Village Green

**KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES**

- Extensive playing fields at College in Chulmleigh
- Only one equipped play area in Chulmleigh and low levels of informal open space.
- Proposals for tennis courts
- MUGA being provided at Burrington

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Equipped play areas, facilities for young people, multi use games area (preferably on school site with full community use) and more informal open space in Chulmleigh.

**13 NORTH MOLTON****AREA COVERED**

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
North Molton	1081	27%	25.3%
Brayford	375		

**PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS****A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares**

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excl. school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
North Molton	0.1 (1)	4.6	4.6			0.5	5.2

**B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population**

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
North Molton	0.06	4.26	4.26	0.49	4.82

**C Numbers of sites as classified on Master Database (area in brackets)**

	North Molton
Allotments	
Burial grounds	
Car Parks with shrub beds	
District Park	
Community Parks	
Mini Parks	0.31
Greenways	
Open Space	0.30
School grounds	
Sports	4.61
Woodlands	

**KEY SITES**

- Rocksfield, North Molton

**KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES**

- North Molton is well served for sports facilities by Rocksfield
- Only one equipped play area
- Relatively low levels of informal open space

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- North Molton: multi use games area, facilities for young people and more informal open space.
- Access to community woodland in North Molton

**14 SOUTH MOLTON****AREA COVERED**

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
South Molton	4272	27.6%	29.4%
East & West Buckland	663		
Filleigh	289		
George Nympton	164		
Queen's Nympton	24		

<b>PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS</b>
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**A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares**

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excl. school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
South Molton	0.2 (3)	11.4	5.6	5.02	0.8	3.3	14.9

**B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population**

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
South Molton	0.04	2.68	1.32	0.77	3.49

**C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database**

	South Molton
Allotments	
Burial grounds	
Car Parks with shrub beds	3.41
District Park	
Community Parks	
Mini Parks	0.34
Greenways	
Open Space	3.19
School grounds	5.02
Sports	6.42
Woodlands	8.90

<b>KEY SITES</b>
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- South Molton Community College
- Central Park, South Molton
- Old Alswear Road football ground, South Molton
- Pathfields and Unicorn park rugby grounds, South Molton
- South Molton Recreation Ground
- Deer Park, Filleigh

<b>KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES</b>
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- South Molton is fairly well provided for with playing pitches, although mini soccer needs to be kept under review
- Community woodland is a valued resource
- Possible deficiency in play areas
- Several recreational open space sites, but not well linked or integrated; full potential not realised.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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- South Molton: Mini soccer pitches, multi use games area (preferably on school site with fill community use), equipped play area and facilities for young people
- Development of a good quality town park/enhancement of existing open space
- Improvements in linkages between open space/Access to community woodland

## 15 WITHERIDGE

### AREA COVERED

Parish/ward	Population 2000	%age <24 years (NDDC av. = 27.7%)	%age >60 years (NDDC av. = 25.3%)
Witheridge	1178	23.3%	35%
Rackenford	339		
Rose Ash/Meshaw	473		

### PRINCIPAL OPEN SPACE STATISTICS

#### A Breakdown of type of open space – Area in hectares

	Equipped play areas (No.)	Total Sport	Pitches (excl. school)	School sports areas	Other sports	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Witheridge	0.4 (2)	2.1	1.8	0.30		1.3	3.8
Rackenford	n/a (1)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

#### B Existing standards of provision – Hectares per thousand population

	Equipped play areas	Total Sport	Pitches (excluding school)	Informal open space	Total recreational open space
Witheridge	0.34	1.80	1.54	1.08	3.22

#### C Area of open space (hectares) as classified on Master Database

	Witheridge
Allotments	
Burial grounds	
District Park	
Community Parks	
Mini Parks	1.01
Greenways	
Open Space	0.68
School grounds	0.30
Sports	1.82
Woodlands	

### KEY SITES

- Rackenford Common
- Haresdown Cricket Pitch, Rackenford (no longer in use ?)
- The Sports Field, Witheridge

### KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES

- Witheridge is fairly well provided for by the range of recreational open space

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Witheridge – multi use games area

