



LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

APRIL 2015

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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Glossary

DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LBRuT	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area using a synthetic grass or hard surface for playing sports)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRuT). It focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpins the study.

It forms part of a suite of reports that together make up the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study.

- ◀ Open spaces
- ◀ Playing pitches and outdoor sports
- ◀ Indoor sports facility

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

This study replaces a previous set of reports, referred to as the Borough's Sport, Open Space and Recreation Study 2008.

Although Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) has now been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), this assessment of open space facilities is carried out in accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guide entitled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

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the PPG17 Companion Guidance.

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

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

In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. However, some sites below the threshold (i.e. those that are identified through consultation as being of significance) are included. The table below details the open space typologies and thresholds:

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Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

	Typology	Primary purpose	Size threshold
Greenspaces	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.	n/a
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.	0.2 hectares
	Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.	0.2 hectares
	Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.	n/a
	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.	n/a
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.	n/a
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.	n/a
Civic spaces	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians including the promenade	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.	n/a

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

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

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

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Associated strategies

The study sits alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Sport Facilities Reports being undertaken by KKP. The former is in accordance with the methodology provided in Sport England's Draft Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities. Both are provided in separate reports.

1.2 National context

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

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

Under paragraph 73 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 74 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

1.3 Local context

This study and its audit findings are important in their contribution to the production of the Council's Local Plan development and are an integral part of identifying and regulating the open space infrastructure. Through recognising the provision of open spaces in plan form, provision can be assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, whilst strengthening its presence in planning policy for the future and looking to maximise opportunities for investment.

LBRuT Core Strategy

The document makes up part of the Local Development Framework for the Borough. It sets out the framework of strategic planning for the area over the next 15 years.

The vision for the LDF and the Core Strategy has three themes:

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- ◀ A sustainable future
- ◀ Protecting local character
- ◀ Meeting people's needs

Open spaces are cited as part of the 'protecting local character' theme. Setting out that outstanding natural and historic environments as well as biodiversity will be protected and enhanced. Both the River Thames and River Crane are identified as key priorities.

Paragraph 4.4.25 and 6.2.2 reiterate the need to make the best use of existing facilities and the importance of local biodiversity. The latter, especially, in the pressure for both built development and recreation.

Policy CP10 Open Land and Parks states open environment will be protected and enhanced. In particular metropolitan open land and other land of townscape importance will be safeguarded and improved for biodiversity, sport, heritage and visual reasons. It highlights that many of the Borough's parks and open spaces are of metropolitan importance for providing recreational opportunities. This is in addition to also having historic and biodiversity value.

Furthermore, it details that new provision will be encouraged in areas of open space deficiency; with developments being expected to incorporate appropriate elements of open space in order to make a positive contribution (in accordance with Planning Obligations policies and Strategy).

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Analysis areas

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, the Borough is divided into three analysis areas (reflecting the geographical and demographical nature of the area).

These allow more localised assessment of provision in addition to examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies at a more local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The Borough is therefore, broken down as follows:

Table 2.1: Population by analysis area

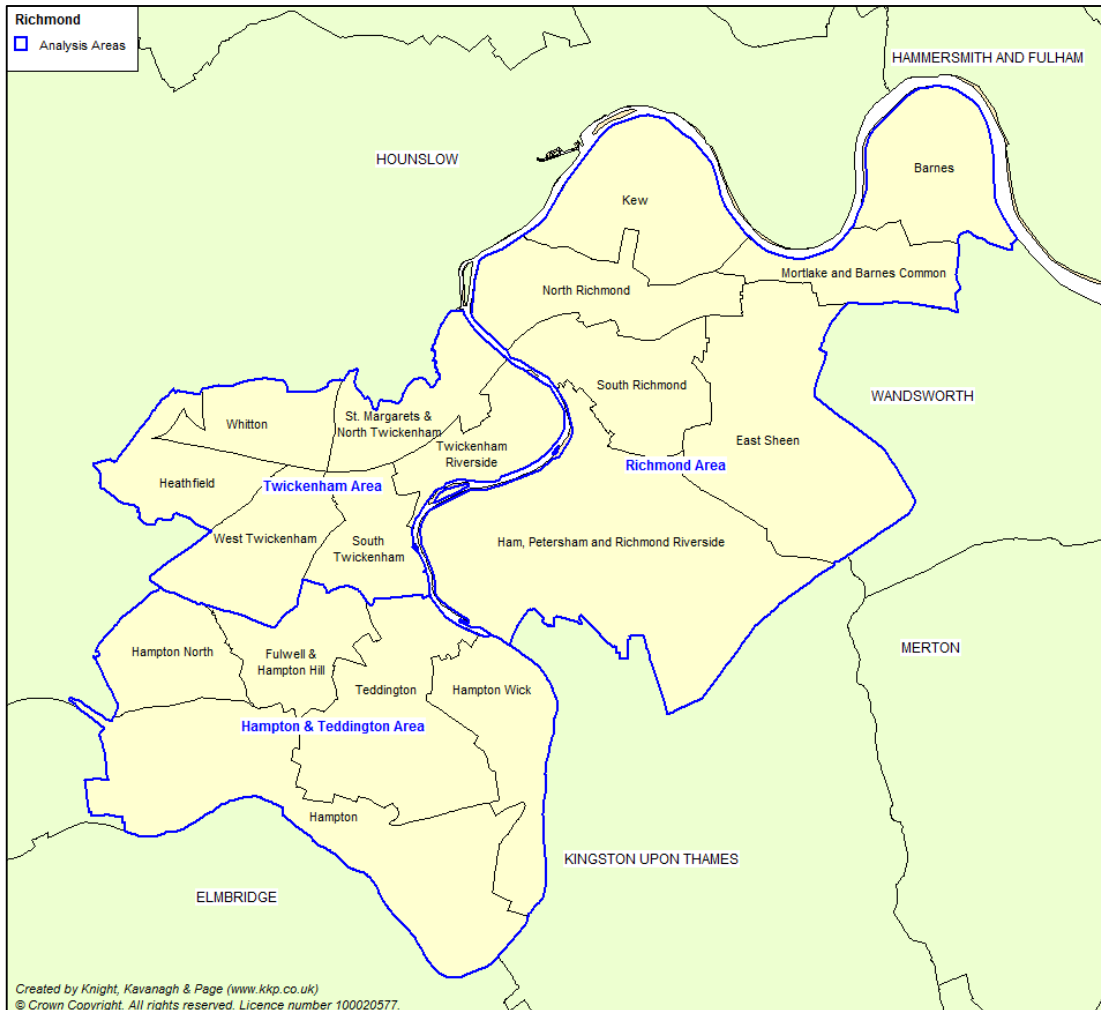
Analysis area	Population (2014)*
Hampton & Teddington	51,709
Richmond	77,160
Twickenham	64,445
LBRuT	193,314

Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the map of analysis areas with population density.

* Source: ONS 2012 based population projections

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Figure 2.1: Analysis areas in LBRuT



2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The site audit for this study was undertaken by the KKP Field Research Team. In total, 203 open spaces (including provision for children and young people) are identified, plotted on GIS and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and therefore the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with guidance:

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards
7. Green corridors
8. Civic space

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In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. However, some sites below the threshold (i.e. those that are identified through consultation as being of significance) are included. The table below details the threshold for each typology:

Typology	Size threshold
Parks and gardens	no threshold
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	0.2 ha
Amenity greenspace	0.2 ha
Provision for children and young people	no threshold
Allotments	no threshold
Cemeteries/churchyards	no threshold
Green corridors	no threshold
Civic space	no threshold

Database development

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

Data held on open spaces database (summary)
◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
◀ Site name
◀ Ownership
◀ Management
◀ Typology
◀ Size (hectares)
◀ Site visit data

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

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2.3 Quality and value

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be in an inaccessible location and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. This will also allow application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus to a particular open space typology.

Analysis of quality

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

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)
◀ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts,
◀ Personal security, e.g., site is overlooked, natural surveillance
◀ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths
◀ Parking, e.g., availability, specific, disabled parking
◀ Information signage, e.g., presence of up to date site information, notice boards
◀ Equipment and facilities, e.g., assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
◀ Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace
◀ Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti
◀ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., fencing, gates, staff on site
◀ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of general landscape & features
◀ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people
◀ Site potential

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

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

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Analysis of value

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

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

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

<p>Value criteria for open space site visits (score)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility◀ Context of site in relation to other open spaces◀ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity and character of the area◀ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats◀ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes, people and features◀ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being◀ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high profile symbols of local area◀ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks◀ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far
<p>Value - non site visit criteria (score)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ Designated site such as LNR or SSSI◀ Educational programme in place◀ Historic site◀ Listed building or historical monument on site◀ Registered 'friends of' group to the site

2.4 Quality and value thresholds

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

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

The base line threshold for assessing quality can often be set around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is not always appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Quality thresholds have therefore been based to reflect average scores more for each typology.

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Consequently baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	45%	20%
Amenity greenspace	55%	20%
Provision for children and young people	60%	20%
Allotments	45%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	55%	20%
Civic space	50%	20%

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

2.5 Identifying local need (demand)

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

This has been undertaken with key local authority officers and community groups or associations with knowledge of local sites and areas relating to each typology. An online community survey was also created and used to gather the wider views of local people. We have therefore utilised the findings of the consultation and survey carried out to further support the results of the quality and value assessment.

2.6 Accessibility standards

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

Guidance is offered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) (2008): 'Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance' with regard to appropriate catchment areas for authorities to adopt. However, in order to make accessibility standards more locally specific to the Borough, we propose to use data from the survey consultation to set appropriate catchments. The following standards are recorded in the survey in relation to how far residents are willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

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Table 2.3: Accessibility standards to travel to open space provision

Typology	Applied standard
Parks and gardens	15 minute walk time (1200m)
Natural and semi-natural	15 minute walk time (1200m)
Amenity greenspace	5 minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people	10 minute walk time (800m)
Allotments	15 minute walk time (1200m)
Cemeteries	No standard set
Green corridors	No standard set
Civic spaces	No standard set

Most typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 15 minute walk time. However, for certain typologies, such as amenity greenspace and provision for children and young people, accessibility is deemed to be more locally based. Subsequently shorter accessibility standards have been applied.

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

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PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section describes generic trends and findings from the quality and value ratings for each typology in the Borough. It also includes a summary of the responses from the local communities survey. The site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in this report.

3.1 Usage

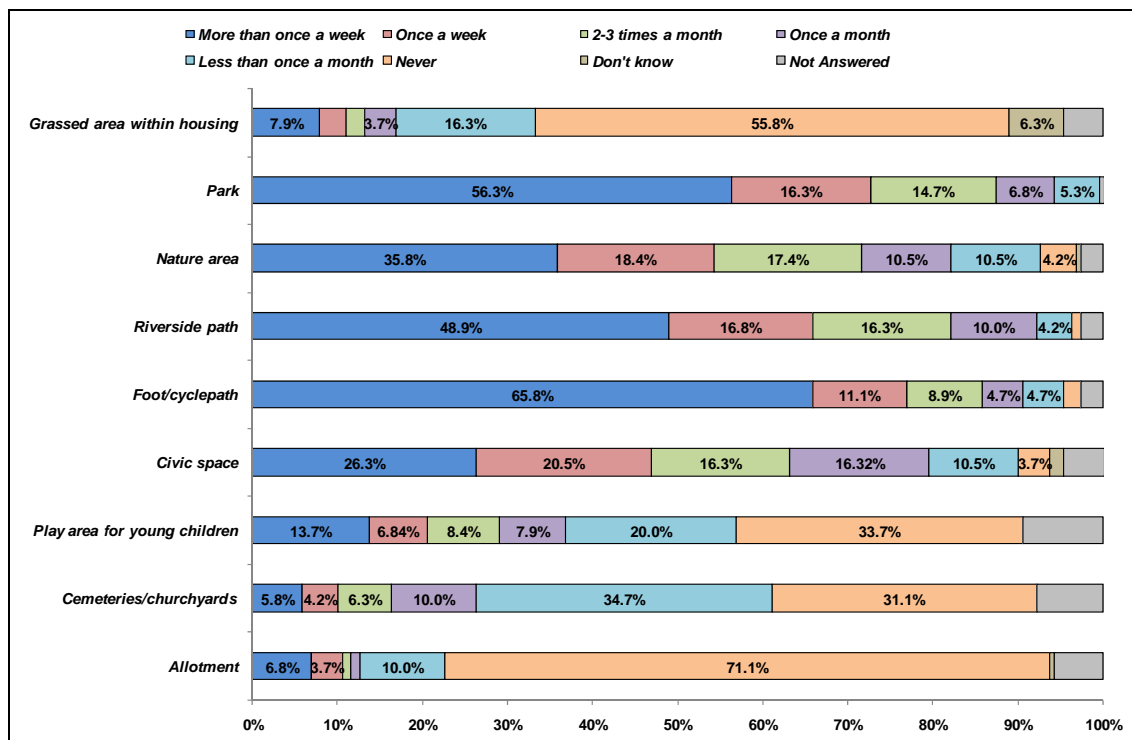
Survey participants were asked how often they visit each type of open space. Most respondents identify that they visit typologies such as parks (56%), green corridors (riverside paths - 49%, and foot/cycle paths - 66%) and nature areas (36%) more than once a week; an indication of the popularity of provision of this type.

Provision such as cemeteries and churchyards are visited on a less frequent basis with more respondents (35%) stating they visit this type of site less than once a month. This can be expected given the type of provision.

Other typologies have a more mixed rate of usage. For the typologies such as allotments (71%) and grassed areas within housing estates (56%) the majority of respondents indicate they never access such forms of provision. For the latter this may represent a lack of awareness of provision. In addition, it may suggest that individuals are more willing to travel to access greater forms of open space provision such as parks.

It is not uncommon for allotments to receive percentages of this kind as they are a niche form of open space provision; only attracting use from those with a specific interest.

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



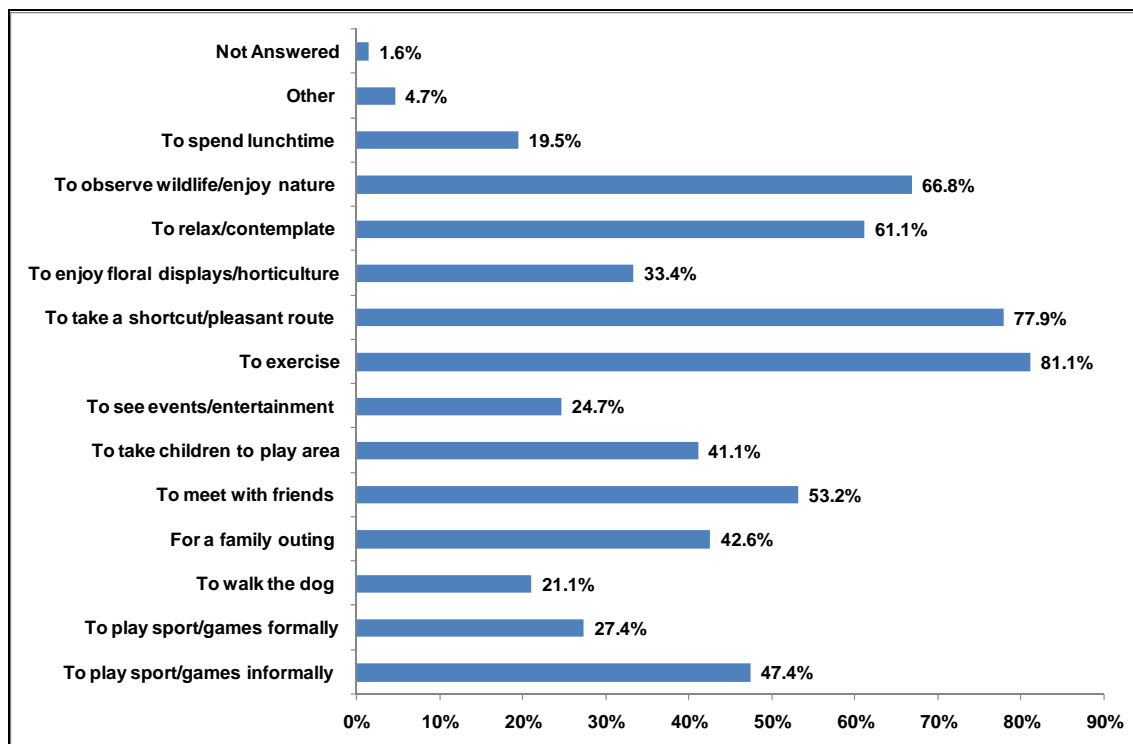
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The most popular reason for visiting open spaces in the Borough is to exercise (81%); followed by to take a shortcut/pleasant route (78%). This may also correspond with why provision such as parks, footpaths/cycle paths and rivers/canals are popular types of open space which are visited frequently.

Similarly, other popular reasons such as to observe wildlife/enjoy nature (67%) may correspond with the popularity of nature areas.

The role of open spaces in the context of social interaction and health benefits is also reflected in the results. Other popular reasons for visiting open spaces are to relax/contemplate (61%), to meet with friends (53%) and to play sport/games informally (47%). All these indicate the value of open spaces as focal points for local communities.

Figure 3.2: Reasons for visiting open space sites in previous 12 months



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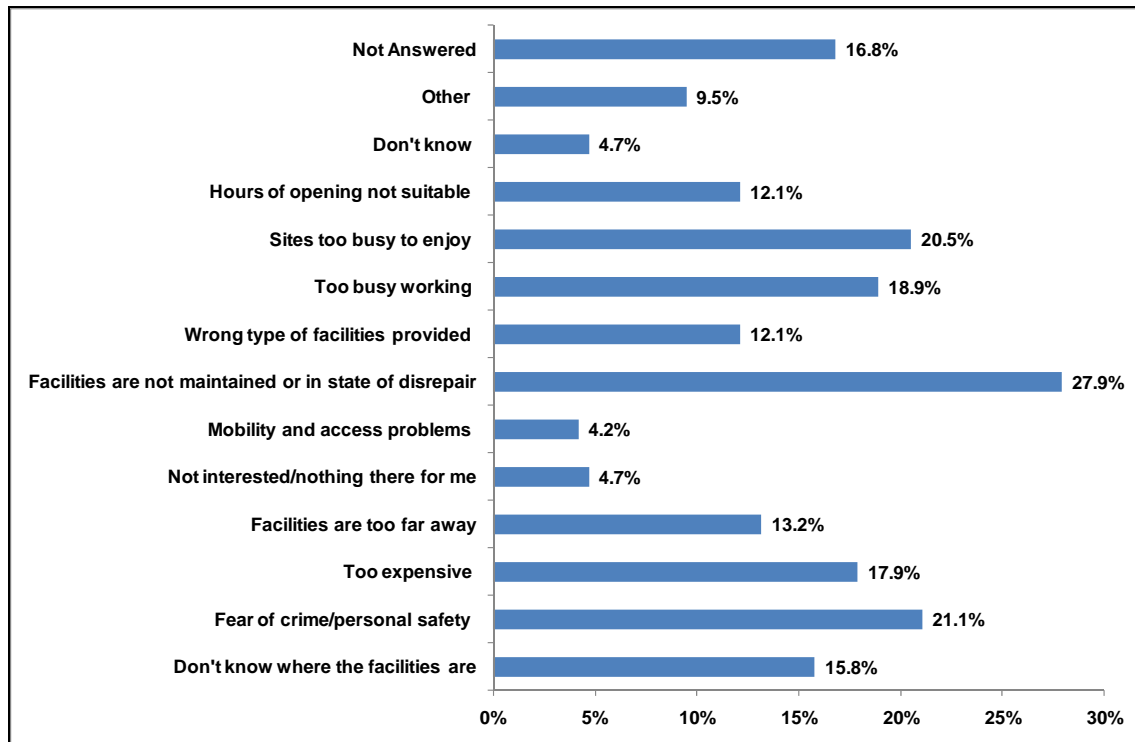
As part of the survey, respondents were asked what the main reasons might be which prevent them from using open spaces. The most common reason given was that facilities were not maintained sufficiently or are in a state of disrepair (28%). Postcode data from these respondents tells us that greater percentages are from the following postcode areas:

- ◀ TW1 – 19%
- ◀ TW9 – 13%
- ◀ TW10 – 21%

All three postcode areas are to the north of the Richmond and Twickenham analysis areas; suggesting provision may be perceived to be less well maintained.

Other common responses include fear of crime/personal safety (21%), sites being too busy (20%) and individuals stating they are too busy working (19%).

Figure 3.3: Reasons for not visiting open space sites in previous 12 months



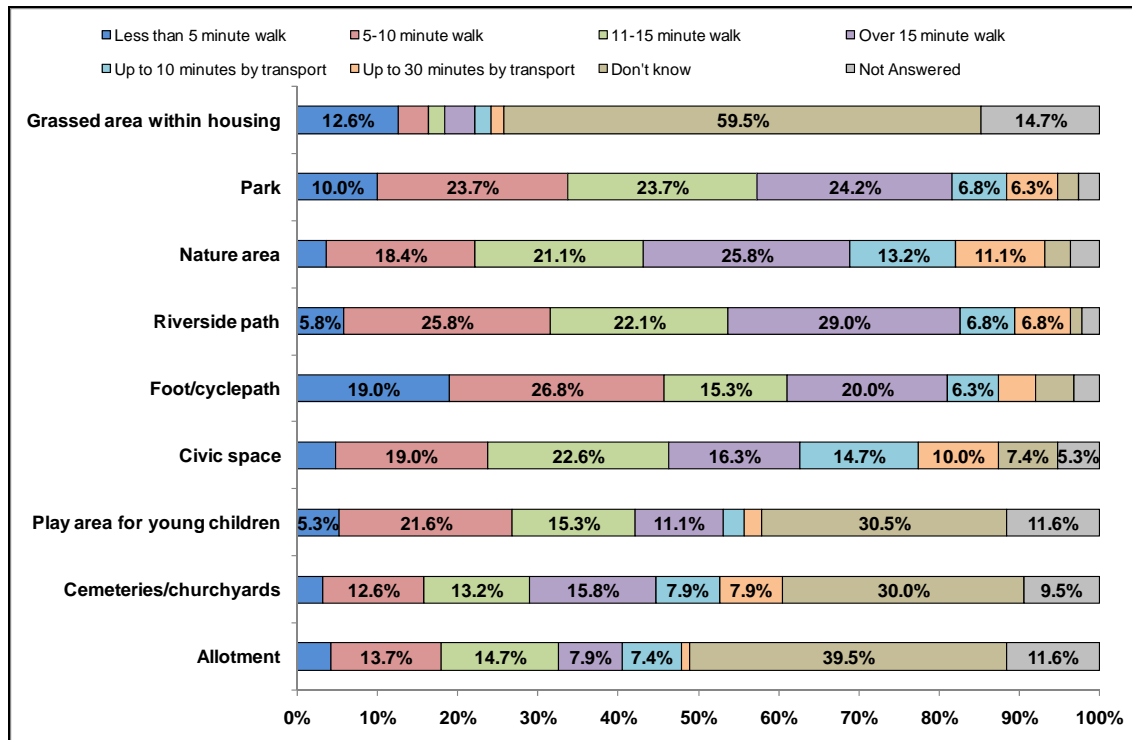
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3.2 Accessibility

Results from the survey shows that most individuals are willing to travel anything between a 5-10 minute walk and up to over a 15 minute walk.

Figure 3.4: Time willing to travel to open space sites



3.3 Availability

In general, respondents consider the availability of provision to be above average. Most rate availability for typologies as either very good or good. In particular, open space types such as riverside paths (52%), parks (46%) and nature areas (42%) are viewed as very good in terms of availability.

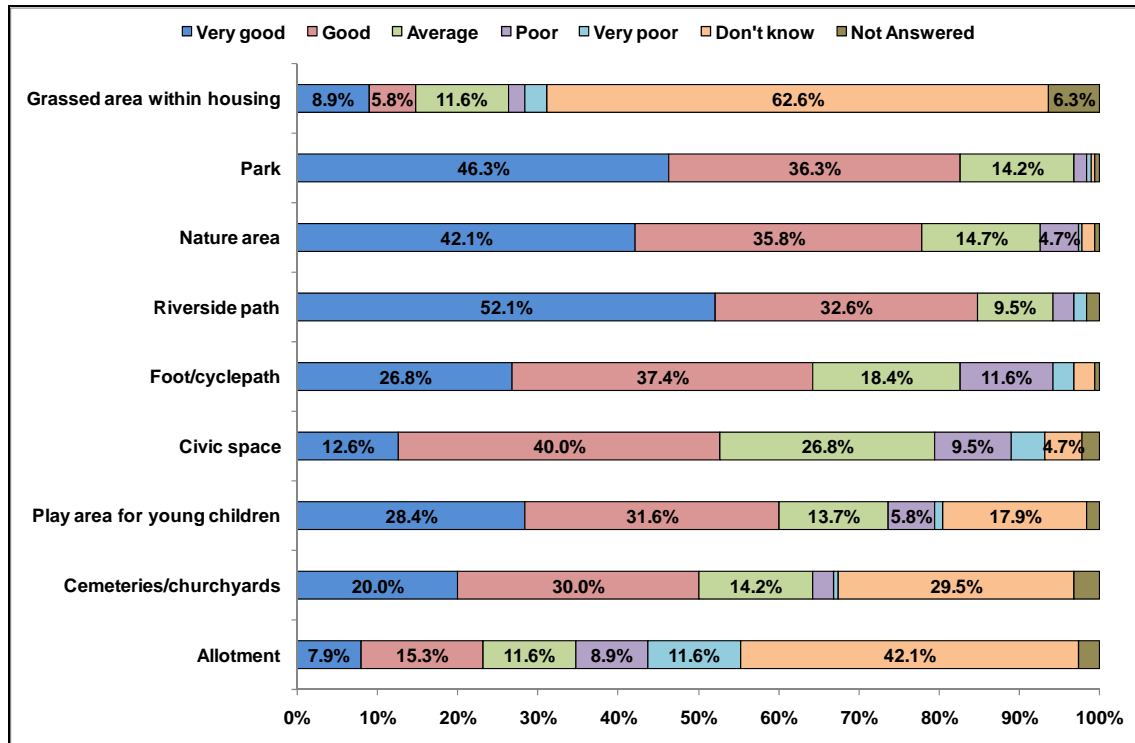
The only typologies considered to not be good or very good for availability are grassed areas within housing and allotments. As noted earlier allotments are a niche form of provision and often do not stimulate much consideration in the wider public eye other than for the specific users of such sites.

The high proportion of respondents which don't know how they would rate the availability of grassed areas within housing may reflect a lack of awareness or a misunderstanding towards the type of open space.

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Figure 3.5: Availability of open spaces



3.4 Quality

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

The majority of assessed open spaces in the Borough (86%) rate above the quality thresholds set. Although proportionally fewer sites for the typologies of civic space (60%), cemeteries/churchyards (70%) and amenity greenspaces (76%) rate above the threshold than compared to other typologies.

For amenity greenspace this is a reflection towards the sometimes smaller and less attractive appearance of provision, often without additional features or facilities.

For both the civic space and cemeteries/churchyard typologies the general maintenance at certain sites is deemed to be less extensive compared to other sites of the same type.

Proportionally there are a high percentage of children's play provision (95%), natural and semi-natural greenspace (92%) and allotments (92%) that rate above the threshold for quality. This is often a reflection of their excellent appearance and high standard.

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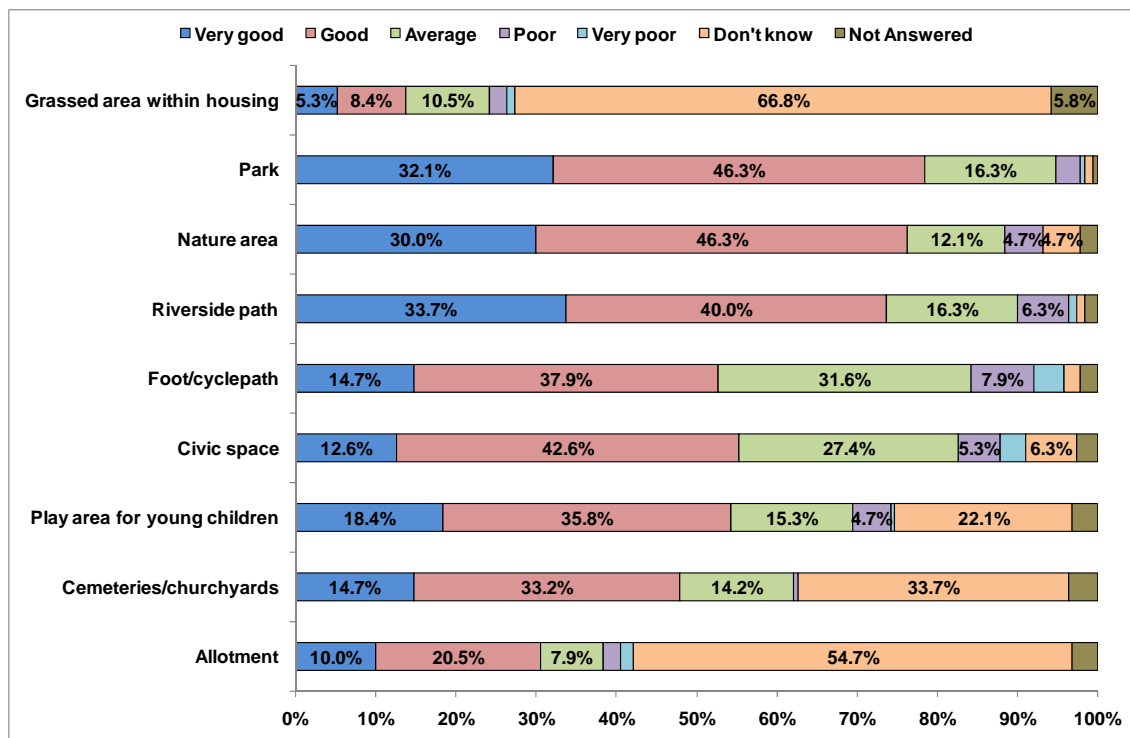
Table 3.1: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Maximum score	Scores			No. of sites	
			Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	45%	124	40%	53%	69%	2	22
Amenity greenspace	55%	116	36%	62%	90%	14	45
Cemeteries/churchyards	55%	161	47%	59%	75%	3	7
Provision for children & young people	60%	97	31%	76%	87%	2	42
Civic space	50%	136	47%	53%	64%	2	3
Green corridors	60%	51	39%	65%	76%	1	7
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	45%	112	29%	52%	73%	2	22
Park and gardens	60%	164	57%	65%	73%	1	14
TOTAL	-	161	29%	62%	90%	27	162

All typologies are viewed by respondents as being of either good or very good quality; with the exception of allotments and grassed areas within housing. Some categories such as foot paths/cycle paths receive a slightly higher percentage for average (32%) however it still receives more responses for good (38%).

Types of open space to be viewed particularly as good or very good quality include riverside paths, parks and nature areas.

Figure 3.6: Quality of open spaces



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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

3.5 Value

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

The majority of sites (98%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. Similar to the quality scores; amenity greenspaces have a slightly higher proportion of low value sites. This reflects a lack of ancillary features at some sites. The typology also contains a number of smaller sized sites. However, the value these sites provide in offering a visual and recreational amenity as well as a break in the built form remains important.

Nearly all other typologies rate high for value reflecting their role to local communities and environments.

Table 3.2: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Maximum score	Scores			No. of sites	
			Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	20%	95	25%	34%	52%	-	24
Amenity greenspace	20%	100	15%	36%	76%	3	56
Cemeteries/churchyards	20%	100	21%	33%	50%	-	10
Provision for children & young people	20%	55	20%	44%	64%	-	44
Civic space	20%	100	28%	45%	61%	-	5
Green corridor	20%	100	20%	33%	49%	-	8
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	20%	110	17%	39%	70%	1	23
Park and gardens	20%	110	25%	47%	67%	-	15
TOTAL	20%	110	15%	39%	76%	4	185

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

The majority of survey respondents (91%) view open spaces as very important reflecting the high value placed on such provision by respondents, and the importance of the continuing presence and availability of open spaces. Only a very small proportion of respondents viewed provision to be not very (2%) or not at all (1%) important.

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

3.6 Summary

General summary

- ◀ In total there are 200 sites identified in the Borough as open space provision. This is an equivalent of 527 hectares across the Borough.
- ◀ Most typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 15 minute walk time. For certain typologies, such as play or amenity greenspace, lower walk times of 10 and 5 minutes respectively have been applied.
- ◀ Over four fifths of all open spaces (83%) score above the thresholds set for quality. Most noticeably, more play provision and natural and semi-natural sites score above the thresholds for quality compared to other typologies; reflecting the generally excellent standard of sites.
- ◀ Conversely civic space, cemeteries and amenity greenspace have fewer sites scoring above the threshold. For amenity greenspace this tends to be due to the smaller and less attractive appearance of provision.
- ◀ The majority of all open spaces (98%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. A reflection towards the importance of provision in providing social, environmental and health benefits.

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

The typology of parks and gardens covers urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide ‘accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events’. No country parks are identified as being located within the Borough.

4.2 Current provision

There are 15 sites classified as LBRuT parks and gardens across the Borough, an equivalent to just less than 76 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton & Teddington	3	14.38	0.28
Richmond	4	47.25	0.61
Twickenham	8	14.34	0.22
LBRuT	15	75.97	0.39

There are also an additional five sites of significant size in the Borough provided by non-council authorities which contribute over 1,700 hectares of multifunctional open space:

- ◀ Bushy Park (Royal Park, 417 hectares)
- ◀ Richmond Park (Royal Park, 973 hectares)
- ◀ Hampton Court (Historic Royal Palace, 175 hectares)
- ◀ Home Park (Historic Royal Palace, 174 hectares)
- ◀ Marble Hill (English Heritage, 27 hectares)

These sites have not been included as part of creating the standards. However, it is acknowledged that they all provide a substantial role in the access and use of open space; not just for individuals within the LBRuT but for other London Boroughs and nationally. Furthermore, the sites cannot be classified simply as a single type of open space as they offer a function associated with several typologies (e.g. parks, natural and semi-natural greenspace, amenity greenspace).

All analysis areas are identified as having provision of parks and gardens. The greatest amount of council managed provision (47.5 hectares) is found in the Richmond Analysis Area. This is predominantly due to the Old Deer Park site being located in the analysis area. At nearly 29 hectares the site is the single largest site. Owned by Crown Estates it is managed by the Council. Subsequently the analysis area has a significant greater amount of provision per 1,000 head of population compared to the other analysis areas.

Other significant sized sites include Palewell Common and Fields (11.7 hectares) in the Richmond Analysis Area and Hatherop Recreation Ground (9.4 hectares) in the Hampton and Teddington Analysis Area.

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4.3 Accessibility

The Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents in order to access a park was over a 15 minute walk (24.2%); closely followed by an 11-15 minute walk (23.7%) or a 5-10 minute walk (23.7%). Therefore for the purpose of mapping a 15 minute walk time has been applied.

Figure 4.1 shows the standard applied to parks and gardens to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped against analysis area

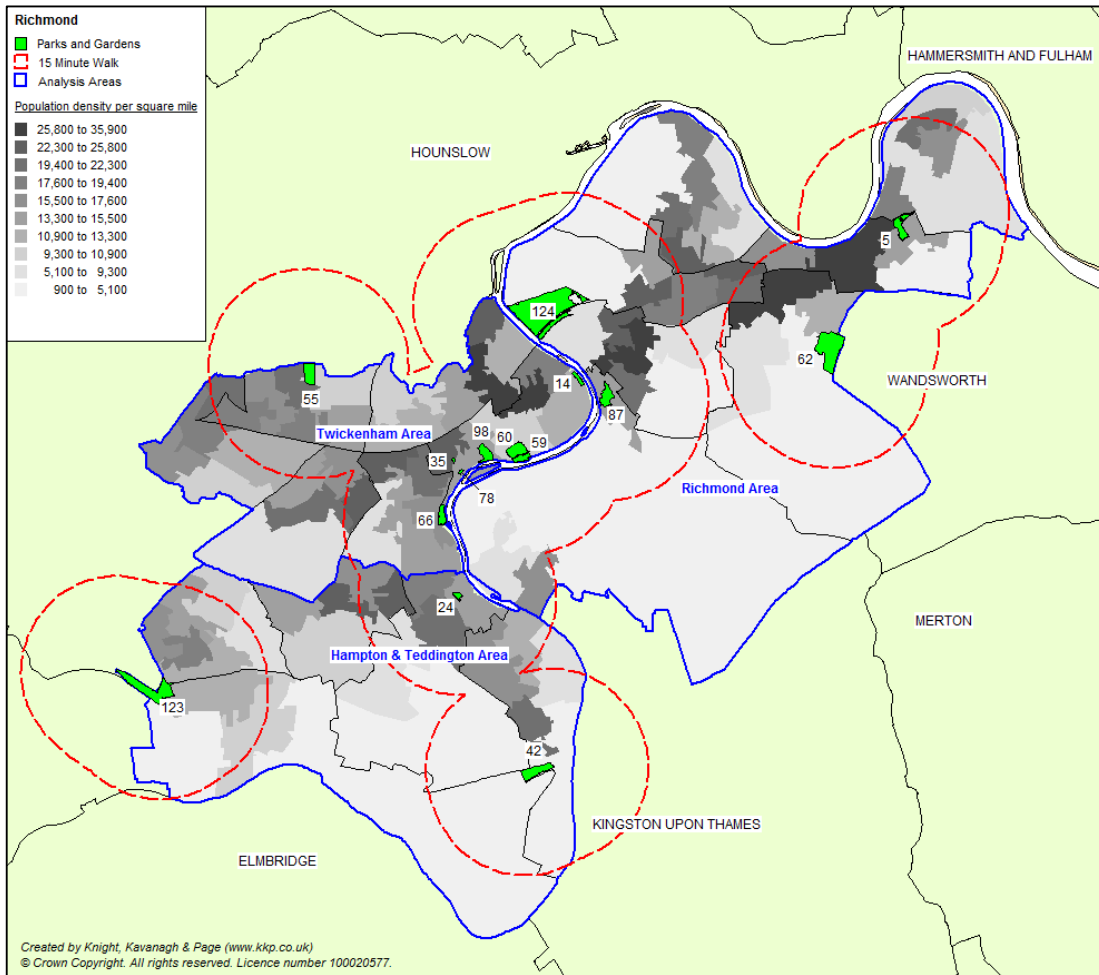


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
5	Barnes Green	Richmond	High	High
14	Cambridge Gardens	Twickenham	High	High
24	Grove Gardens	Hampton & Teddington	High	High
35	Holly Road Garden Of Rest	Twickenham	Low	High
42	Kings Field	Hampton & Teddington	High	High
55	Murray Park	Twickenham	High	High

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
59	Orleans Gardens	Twickenham		
60	Orleans House Gardens	Twickenham		
62	Palewell Common & Fields	Richmond		
66	Radnor Gardens	Twickenham		
78	Secret Garden	Twickenham		
87	Terrace Gardens	Richmond		
98	York House Gardens	Twickenham		
123	Hatherop Park	Hampton & Teddington		
124	Old Deer Park	Richmond		

In general there is good coverage of parks based on a 15 minute walk time. There are no significant deficiencies; however, there are some small gaps in provision noted.

The larger areas not covered by the catchment mapping to the south of the Richmond and Hampton & Teddington analysis areas are sufficiently provided by the two Royal Parks (not mapped).

The gap in provision to the south west of Twickenham is served by sites classified as other forms of open space such as Crane Park and Hounslow Heath. Similarly, gaps to the north of Richmond are covered by other typology sites like Kew Green and North Sheen Recreation Ground.

Furthermore, no issue regarding a deficiency in parks and gardens is highlighted from the consultation or the Communities Survey results. The majority of respondents rate the availability of parks and gardens as either very good (46%) or good (36%). Very few respondents rate availability negatively such as poor (2%) or very poor (1%).

Council managed open spaces, including parks and gardens, are managed as part of the Parks and Open Spaces Team portfolio by Continental Landscapes. Sites generally receive daily inspections covering elements such as litter. Regular visits also take place which include regimes such as grass cutting, weeding and general site preservation (e.g. bench refurbishment, path checks).

Consultation with local groups supports that in general the level of maintenance sites receive is good. Several groups highlight that in recent years the growing relationship between the Council and local friends of groups is very good; allowing for reasonable and continually improvements and ideas to be developed at sites. Furthermore, as part of the 2013 Parks Customer Satisfaction Survey over three quarters of respondents (77%) gave positive feedback on the rating for maintenance at sites.

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

4.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks in the Borough. A threshold of 60% (to reflect Green Flag pass mark) is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Hampton & Teddington	164	62%	64%	65%	3%	-	3
Richmond	164	62%	67%	73%	11%	-	4
Twickenham	164	57%	64%	69%	12%	1	7
LBRuT	164	57%	65%	73%	20%	1	14

Most park and garden sites in LBRuT (93%), with the exception of one site, score above the threshold set for quality. However, the site does rate close to the set threshold.

Holly Road Garden of Rest (57%) is a unique site; it is mostly a children's play area with surrounding areas of historic graves around the perimeter. It scores just below the threshold due to a lack of signage/interpretation found on site.

Sites are generally assessed highly and are rated above the 60% threshold. The highest individual scoring sites are:

- ◀ Palewell Common and Fields (73%)
- ◀ Cambridge Gardens (69%)
- ◀ York House Gardens (67%)
- ◀ Murray Park/ Radnor Gardens/ Terrace Gardens (66%)

Palewell Common and Fields is the highest scoring site in LBRuT for quality with 73%. It is noted as having a range of facilities such as equipped play provision for children as well as sports pitches and pitch & putt. Consultation highlights these features as key attractions and reasons for visiting the site. Maintenance of the park and the presence of interpretation boards are also very good. This reflects the sites status as a Green Flag Award accredited site.

The second highest scoring site for quality is Cambridge Gardens (69%). Again it is an aesthetically pleasing and well maintained site with plenty of appeal to a variety of users; especially families. A particularly noteworthy feature is the information boards on the sites history and use.

As part of the 2013 Parks Customer Satisfaction Survey nearly three quarters of respondents (73%) rate the overall quality of parks managed by the Council as either excellent or good; a further 15% rate quality as satisfactory.

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Similarly, results from the Communities Survey found 78% of respondents rate the quality of parks as either very good (32%) or good (46%). Only 3% of survey respondents view quality of provision as poor.

Green Flag

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

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

There are currently 16 council sites in the LBRuT identified as achieving Green Flag Award status. A total of seven of these sites are classified as parks and gardens:

- ◀ Cambridge Gardens
- ◀ The Kings Field
- ◀ Hatherop Park
- ◀ Palewell Common & Fields
- ◀ Radnor Gardens
- ◀ Terrace Gardens
- ◀ York House Gardens

In addition, both the Royal Parks (Bushy and Richmond) have been accredited Green Flag winners.

To be successfully awarded the Green Flag sites are obviously maintained to a high standard. The work of both the Council maintenance team/contractors and the Friends of Groups at sites are important to their continuing achievement.

4.5 Value

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

Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hampton & Teddington	110	25%	43%	63%	38%	-	3
Richmond	110	46%	54%	63%	17%	-	4
Twickenham	110	38%	45%	67%	25%	-	8
LBRuT	110	25%	47%	67%	42%	-	15

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All parks are assessed as being of high value from the site visit assessments. This is supported throughout the consultation. That all sites score above the threshold demonstrates the high social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place that park and garden sites offer.

One of the key aspects towards the value placed on parks provision is that they are able to provide opportunities for local communities and people to socialise. The ability for people to undertake a range of different activities such as exercise, dog walking or taking children to the play area are recognised. These activities are cited as the top three main reasons for visiting a park site in the 2013 Parks Customer Satisfaction Survey. The most popular reasons for visits in order are taking children to play (39%), walk the dog (34%) and to exercise (31%).

4.6 Summary

Parks and gardens

- ◀ There are 15 sites classified as parks and gardens managed by the Council totalling over 75 hectares. However, there are several non-council managed sites (such as the Royal Parks) which provide over 1,700 additional hectares of multifunctional open space.
- ◀ Minor catchment gaps are noted in areas. However, these are thought to be sufficiently serviced by other forms of open space such as amenity greenspace which provide similar recreational functions to parks.
- ◀ Nearly all parks score above the threshold for quality with the exception of one site; Holly Road Garden of Rest. The site lacks signage/interpretation boards.
- ◀ High scoring sites for quality, such as Palewell Common/Park and Cambridge Gardens, do so due to the wide range of provision and excellent standard of maintenance within them.
- ◀ There is currently seven park sites in LBRuT with Green Flag Award status. A demonstration of the high quality of provision in the Borough.
- ◀ All parks are assessed as being of high value, with the important social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being acknowledged.

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology includes woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits) and commons. Such sites are often associated with providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

5.2 Current provision

In total 26 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 278 hectares of provision. These totals may not include all provision in the Borough as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Guidance recommends that sites smaller than this may be of less recreational value to residents. However, there are three sites under 0.2 hectares that are included in the audit.

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

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton & Teddington	4	18.11	0.35
Richmond	19	237.78	3.08
Twickenham	3	22.47	0.35
LBRuT	26	278.36	1.44

Of the 26 sites, two are identified as having restricted access (Kilmorey Mausoleum and Pensford Field) but are included in the audit as both still have public access. Kilmorey Mausoleum is open at certain times of the year whilst the Pensford Field site has a locked gate which can be accessed through a key code mechanism.

The majority of the provision across the Borough is located in the Richmond Analysis Area (237 hectares). Over half of the total provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace in the Borough can be attributed to three large sites which are all located in the analysis area; Ham Lands (71 hectares), Ham Common Woods (38 hectares) and Barnes Common (45 hectares). Subsequently it has the greater proportion of provision per 1,000 population with 3.08 hectares. This is a significantly greater standard than other analysis areas of Twickenham or Hampton & Teddington (both with 0.35 hectares per 1,000 population).

LBRuT has a variety of natural and semi-natural sites including woodlands, nature reserves and commons. Furthermore, non-council managed sites such as Bushy Park, Richmond Park and the Barn Elms Wetland Centre provide opportunities and activities associated with natural and semi-natural types of open space.

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Designations

In terms of national designations, there are five publically accessible local nature reserves (LNRs) identified in the Borough:

- ◀ Barnes Common (48 hectares)
- ◀ Crane Park – Island (1.93 hectares)
- ◀ Ham Common (30 hectares)
- ◀ Ham Lands (80 hectares)
- ◀ Leg O Mutton (8.06 hectares)

In addition there are a number of sites with other forms of conservation designations. For example, Richmond Park (847 hectares) is one of London's two National Nature Reserves as well as being a Special Area of Conservation.

Within the LBRuT there are also other designations for sites such as:

- ◀ Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation
- ◀ Sites of Borough Grade I Importance for Nature Conservation
- ◀ Sites of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation
- ◀ Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Many of the latter designations are on sites not necessarily classified as natural and semi-natural greenspace. For instance, Twickenham Cemetery, Hampton Park and Moor Mead Recreation Ground are identified as cemetery, park and amenity greenspace provision but are designated as Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation in recognition of their contribution to flora and fauna levels.

5.3 Accessibility

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

- ◀ An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home
- ◀ At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home
- ◀ One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home
- ◀ One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home
- ◀ One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population

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

The Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents is an over 15 minute walk (25.8%). This is closely followed by an 11-15 minute walk (21.1%). Therefore for the purpose of mapping a 15 minute walk time has been applied.

Figure 5.1 shows the standards applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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

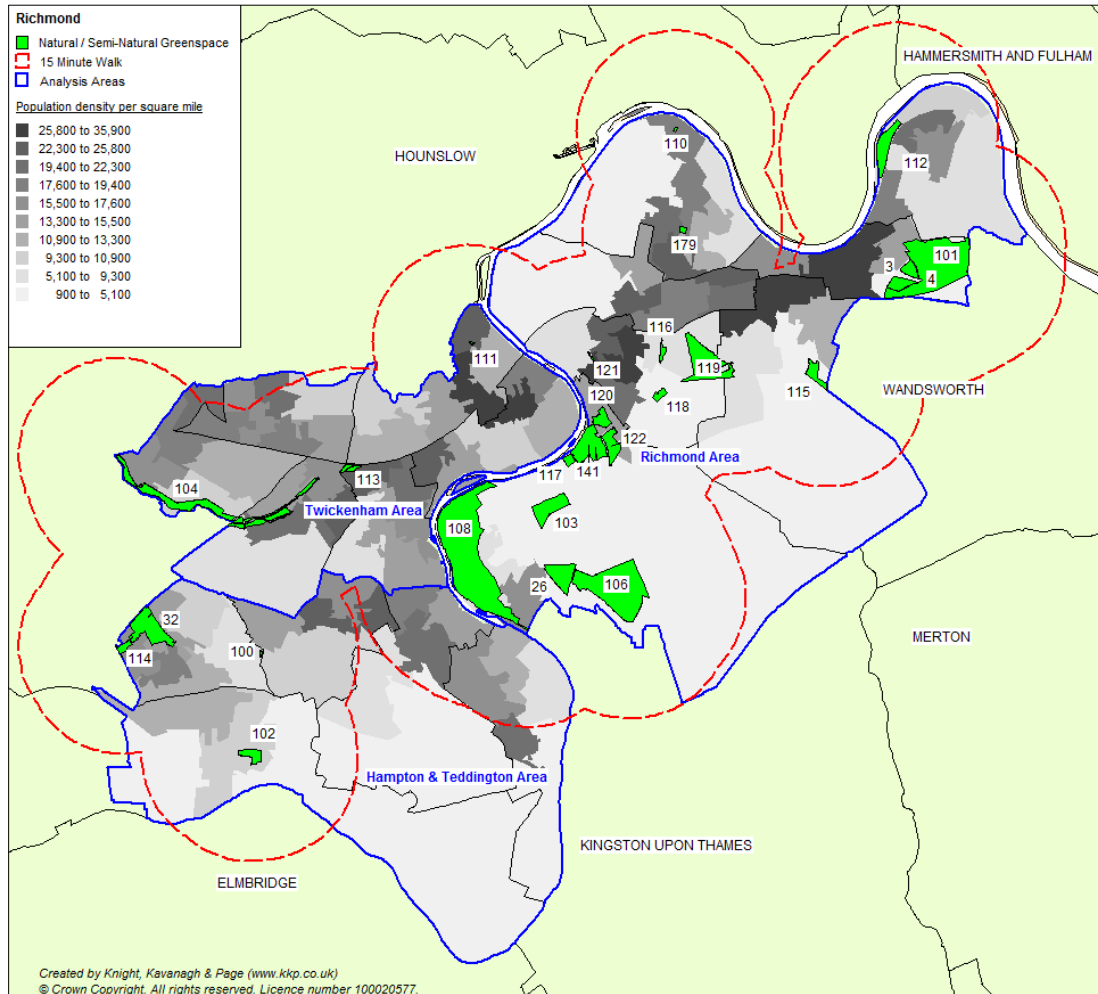


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
3	Barnes Common Cricket	Richmond	Green	Green
4	Barnes Common Football	Richmond	Green	Green
26	Ham Common	Richmond	Green	Green
32	Hampton Common	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
100	Arundel Close Wildlife Site	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Red
101	Barnes Common	Richmond	Green	Green
102	Beveree Wildlife Site	Hampton & Teddington	Red	Green
103	Copse, The	Richmond	Green	Green
104	Crane Park	Twickenham	Green	Green
106	Ham Common Woods	Richmond	Green	Green
108	Ham Lands	Richmond	Green	Green
110	Kew Pond	Richmond	Green	Green
111	Kilmorey Mausoleum	Twickenham	Green	Green
112	Leg O Mutton	Richmond	Green	Green

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
113	Mereway Nature Park	Twickenham	Green	Green
114	Oak Avenue Local Nature Reserve	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
115	Palewell Common Woods	Richmond	Green	Green
116	Pesthouse Common	Richmond	Green	Green
117	Petersham Lodge Woods	Richmond	Red	Green
118	Richmond Old Cemetery	Richmond	Green	Green
119	Sheen Common Woods	Richmond	Green	Green
120	Terrace Walk & Field	Richmond	Green	Green
121	Vineyard Passage Cemetery	Richmond	Green	Green
122	Petersham Common	Richmond	Green	Green
141	Petersham Meadow	Richmond	Green	Green
179	Pensford Field	Richmond		

All analysis areas are covered by the 15 minute walk time catchment. Gaps to the south of the Richmond and Hampton & Teddington analysis areas are well served by provision at the Royal Parks.

Supporting this, the majority of respondents to the Communities Survey rates the availability of nature areas as either very good (42%) or good (36%). There is only a small proportion that rate availability as poor (5%) or very poor (1%).

The management and maintenance of most of the identified natural and semi-natural sites is with the Council. Even in exceptions of ownership, such as Barnes Common and East Sheen Common which are owned by the Church Commissioners and the National Trust respectively, the Council is the agreed body responsible for site management. The one exception is the management of the Petersham Meadows site which is leased from the Council to the National Trust.

Similar to other types of open space there are many Friends of Groups associated with natural and semi-natural sites. These add great benefit to the regular upkeep and promotion of provision across the Borough. An example of the working relationship and strength of some of the groups is demonstrated by the Friends of Barnes Common which are currently in discussions with the Council to take over the full management of the site.

5.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in the Borough. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Hampton & Teddington	112	29%	43%	53%	24%	1	3
Richmond	112	31%	52%	69%	38%	1	17
Twickenham	112	52%	62%	73%	21%	-	2
LBRuT	112	29%	52%	73%	45%	2	22

Please note the Kilmorey Mausoleum in Twickenham and Pensford Field in Richmond could not be assessed for quality or value as they were locked and inaccessible at the time of the site visits. However, both are considered highly valued and of a good quality.

The majority of natural and semi-natural sites (92%) in the Borough rate above the threshold set for quality. However, two sites score below the quality threshold applied; Beveree Wildlife Site (29%) and Petersham Lodge Woods (31%).

The former was observed from the site assessment as having limited regular maintenance and use other than as a place providing opportunities for wildlife habitats. In addition, it lacked any noticeable evidence of onsite promotion such as signage. However, it is understood that a Friends of Group has been set up recently in order to assist in improving the site. As part of this, permission has just been given for an orchard to be planted on site.

Peterham Lodge Wood is generally viewed as a pleasant woodland site. It rates below the threshold due to being observed as having a lot of litter present. Furthermore, many areas are noted as being overgrown and therefore challenging to access.

Sites scoring above the threshold are generally observed as being attractive and well maintained; offering plenty of good quality ancillary features such as bins, benches and pathways. They are also recognised as being well used. Sites scoring particularly high include:

- ◀ Crane Park (73%)
- ◀ Sheen Common Woods (69%)
- ◀ Leg O Mutton (63%)
- ◀ Barnes Common (63%)

The high quality of provision in the Borough is supported by an extensive number of Friends of Groups across sites. Approximately 15 out of the 25 natural and semi-natural greenspaces identified in LBRuT have a Friends of Group. Most groups are very active at sites assisting in supplementary work such as maintenance through regular working parties or providing onsite improvements through the addition of features such as planting, seating and signage.

Further supporting the high quality of natural and semi-natural greenspace is the proportion of respondents to the Communities Survey which rate the quality of provision as either good (46%) or very good (30%).

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5.5 Value

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

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

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hampton & Teddington	110	17%	33%	56%	39%	1	3
Richmond	110	26%	39%	58%	32%	-	18
Twickenham	110	27%	49%	70%	43%	-	2
LBRuT	110	17%	39%	70%	53%	1	23

Please note the Kilmorey Mausoleum in Twickenham and Pensford Field in Richmond could not be assessed for quality or value as they were locked and inaccessible at the time of the site visits. However, both are considered highly valued and of a good quality.

The majority of natural and semi-natural greenspace (96%) score high for value with only one site scoring below the threshold. Arundel Close Wildlife Site receives a score of 17% for value. It is an unusual site as it does not appear to be particularly well used although the habitat opportunities it provides are recognised.

The highest scoring site for value is Crane Park (70%). It is observed as being an extensive and attractive site offering various opportunities to a range of activities (e.g. nature enthusiasts, sports and families).

As mentioned earlier, the value of sites across the LBRuT is recognised by the high number and activity of Friends of Groups as well as the level and quantity of conservation designations on sites.

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ The Borough is identified as having 26 individual natural and semi-natural greenspace sites. This totals over 278 hectares of provision.
- ◀ In addition, other sites such as Richmond Park and Barn Elms Wetland Centre add to the function and opportunities associated with natural greenspace
- ◀ An accessibility standard of a 15 minute walk time shows no major deficiencies are identified across the Borough.
- ◀ There are five sites designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) across LBRuT, equating for over 60% of natural and semi-natural provision. Furthermore, there are several other forms of conservation designations at sites across the Borough.
- ◀ Natural greenspace sites are generally viewed as being of a good quality. This is reflected in the audit assessment with the majority (92%) scoring above the threshold. The two sites to score below the threshold do due to general maintenance issues.
- ◀ Over half of the identified sites (60%) have a Friends of Group associated to them. Most of these are recognised as being very active helping to add to the quality and value of sites.
- ◀ The majority of sites (96%) are rated as being above the set threshold for value. Although one site is identified as scoring below the threshold; Arundel Close Wildlife Site. This relates to an apparent lack usage on site, other than for habitat provision.
- ◀ The higher scoring sites for value, such as Crane Park, Ham Common and Hampton Common, provide a range of opportunities and uses for visitors. Such sites also, in general, provide additional information that will help provide greater learning opportunities.

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PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

The typology of amenity greenspaces is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. These include informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.

6.2 Current provision

There are a total of 60 amenity greenspace sites identified in the Borough. This results in there being over 100 hectares of provision. Amenity spaces are most often found within areas of housing or 'village' centres and function as informal recreation spaces or as open spaces along highways that provide a visual amenity. There are also a number of recreation grounds which have been classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton & Teddington	20	20.53	0.40
Richmond	31	57.62	0.75
Twickenham	9	22.05	0.34
LBRuT	60	100.20	0.52

Of the 60 sites, one is identified as having restricted access (Bucklands Open Space) but is included in the audit as it may still have public access.

Site sizes vary from the smallest incidental open space amongst buildings, such as tapestry Court at 0.04 hectares, to the largest, Barn Elms Playing Field, at over 17 hectares.

It is important to note that whilst a large proportion of provision may be considered as being small grassed areas or visual landscaped space, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example recreation grounds are included under amenity greenspace, such as Broom Road Recreation Ground and Heathfield Recreation Ground. These sites will serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational activities due to their size and facilities.

6.3 Accessibility

The Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents is a five minute walk (12.6%) in order to access grassed areas near housing. However, for recreation grounds individuals are willing to walk further. For the purpose of mapping a five minute walk time has been applied.

Figure 6.1 shows the standard applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace mapped against analysis area

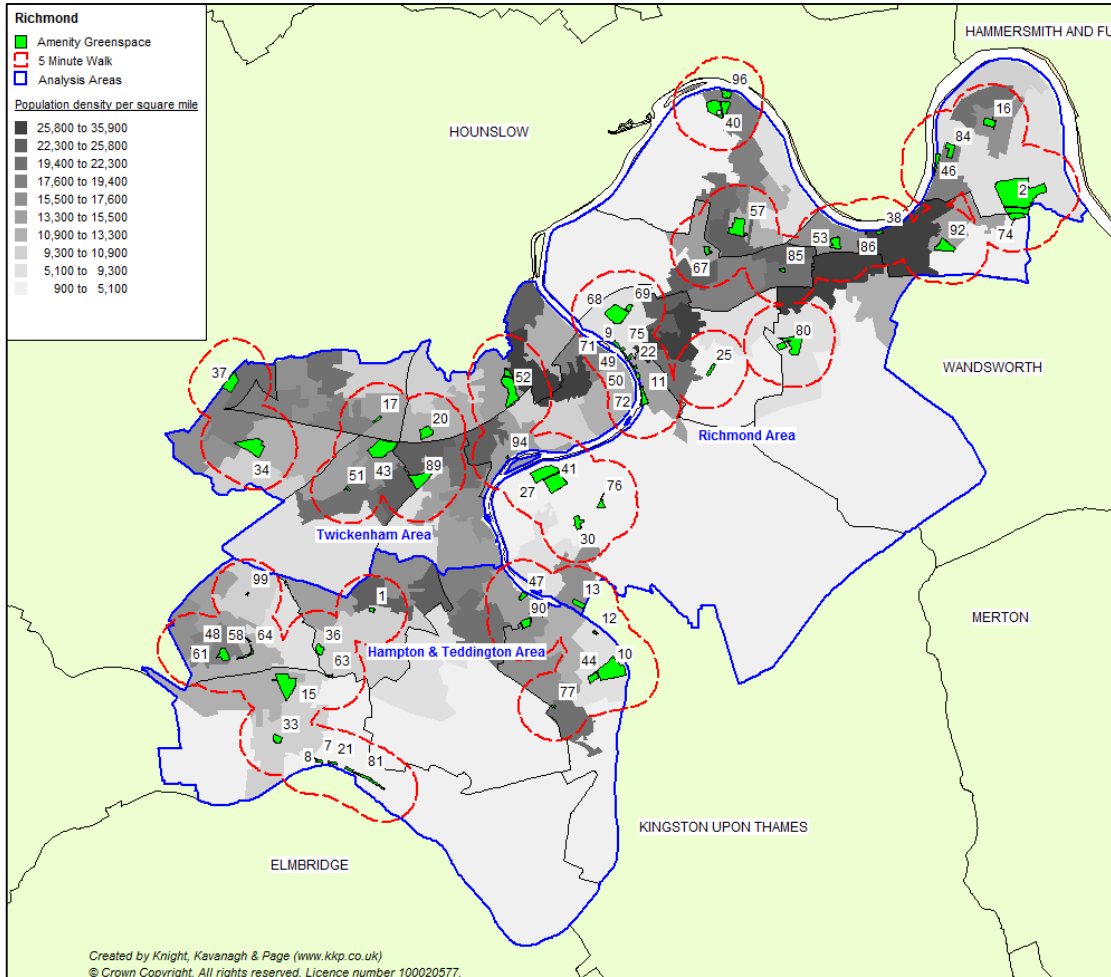


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
1	Alpha Road Open Space	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
2	Barn Elms Playing Field	Richmond	Green	Green
7	Bell Hill Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
8	Benn's Alley	Hampton & Teddington	Red	Green
9	Bridge House Gardens	Richmond	Green	Green
10	Broom Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
11	Buccleuch Gardens	Richmond	Green	Green
12	Bucklands Open Space	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
13	Burnell Avenue Open Space	Richmond	Red	Green
15	Carlisle Park	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
16	Castelnau Recreation Ground	Richmond	Green	Green
17	Chase Green	Twickenham	Red	Green
20	Craneford Way Recreation Ground	Twickenham	Green	Green
21	Garricks Lawn	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
22	Gothic Site	Richmond	Red	Green
25	Grove Road Gardens	Richmond	Green	Green
27	Ham Riverside Pitches	Richmond	Red	Green
28	Ham Sports Frontage	Richmond	Red	Green
30	Ham Village Green	Richmond	Green	Green
33	Hampton Village Green	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
34	Heathfield Recreation Ground	Twickenham	Green	Green
36	Holly Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
37	Hounslow Heath	Twickenham	Green	Green
38	Jubilee Gardens	Richmond	Green	Green
40	Kew Green	Richmond	Green	Green
41	King Georges Field	Richmond	Green	Green
43	Kneller Gardens	Twickenham	Green	Green
44	Langdon Park	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Red
46	Lonsdale Road Plantation	Richmond	Green	Green
47	Manor Road Recreation Ground	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
48	Maple Close Open Space	Hampton & Teddington	Red	Green
49	Mears Walk	Richmond	Red	Green
50	Midhurst Site	Richmond	Green	Green
51	Mill Road Open Space	Twickenham	Red	Green
52	Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground	Twickenham	Green	Green
53	Mortlake Green	Richmond	Green	Green
57	North Sheen Recreation Ground	Richmond	Green	Green
58	Nursery Green	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
61	Pages Green	Hampton & Teddington	Red	Green
63	Pantile Bridge Open Space	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
64	Partridge Green	Hampton & Teddington	Red	Green
67	Raleigh Road Recreation Ground	Richmond	Green	Green
68	Richmond Green	Richmond	Green	Green
69	Richmond Little Green	Richmond	Green	Green
71	Richmond Riverside	Richmond	Green	Green
72	Riverdale Gardens	Richmond	Green	Green
74	Rocks Lane Recreation Ground	Richmond	Green	Green
75	Rotary Gardens	Richmond	Green	Green
76	Sandy Lane Recreation Ground	Richmond	Red	Green
77	School House Lane Orchard	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
79	Sheen Cemetery Drive	Richmond	Red	Red
80	Sheen Common	Richmond	Green	Green
81	St Albans Riverside	Hampton & Teddington	Red	Green
84	Suffolk Road Recreation Ground	Richmond	Green	Green
85	Tangier Green	Richmond	Green	Green
86	Tapestry Court	Richmond	Green	Red
89	Twickenham Green	Twickenham	Green	Green
90	Udney Hall Gardens	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
92	Vine Road Recreation Ground	Richmond		
94	Water Lane Open Space	Twickenham		
96	Westerley Ware Recreation Ground	Richmond		
99	Dean Road Open Space	Hampton & Teddington		

Catchment mapping with a five minute walk time applied shows a reasonable level of coverage across the Borough.

In most instances areas with a greater population density have access to provision. However, some gaps are identified due to the accessibility standard set for amenity greenspace being relatively small (as provision is often deemed to be locally significant).

There are some gaps in provision noted to the east of Richmond Green, west of Kneller Gardens and to the north of Teddington. It is unlikely that new provision is required as the areas are served by other forms of open space provision such as parks or cemeteries. For instance the gap to the east of Richmond Green is served by play provision at Worple Way but it is also covered by catchment of Old Deer Park. The gap to the west of Kneller Gardens may be served to some extent by Twickenham Cemetery. Similarly the gap in amenity greenspace to the north of Teddington is served by Grove Gardens and Teddington Cemetery. Options to address identified deficiencies, if required, will be discussed in the Strategy.

Furthermore, no issues regarding a deficiency in amenity greenspace is highlighted from the consultation or survey results. More respondents rate the availability of grassed areas near housing as average (11.6%). Although most (62.6%) do not know how they would rate availability.

6.4 Quality

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

Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <55%	High >55%
Hampton & Teddington	116	36%	59%	78%	42%	6	13
Richmond	116	40%	65%	90%	50%	5	26
Twickenham	116	36%	57%	76%	40%	3	6
LBRuT	116	36%	62%	90%	54%	14	45

Please note the Bucklands Open Space in Hampton & Teddington could not be assessed for quality or value as it was locked and inaccessible at the time of the site visits.

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Most amenity greenspace in the Borough (76%) receive a quality rating above the threshold. In particular, sites in the Richmond Analysis Area score well, with 84% of sites being rated above the threshold.

Proportionally there are slightly more sites in the Hampton and Teddington Analysis Area (32%) and the Twickenham Analysis Area (33%) that score below the threshold. Both areas contain a number of sites that are lacking in ancillary facilities and features. Subsequently sites can be small and unattractive with a lack of reason for people to visit. However, it is important to recognise that despite scoring below the threshold for quality, sites may still have the potential to be of a high value to the community. For instance, if a site is the only form of open space in that local area it may be of high value given it is the only provision of its type. It may also provide an aesthetically pleasing function.

Some of the lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites in the Borough are:

- ◀ Gothic Site (40%)
- ◀ Mill Road Open Space (39%)
- ◀ Benn's Alley (36%)
- ◀ Water Lane Open Space (36%)

Sites such as these are observed as being fairly basic pockets of green space with a lack of ancillary facilities to encourage extensive recreational use.

Further to those identified above, some specific issues relating to maintenance are observed at a number of sites from the site assessments. At the time of the visits the following sites were noted as showing evidence of issues/problems:

Site	Comment
Bell Hill Recreation Ground	Landscaping could be enhanced. Toilet on site in need of restoration and possibly better security.
Benn's Alley	Poorly maintained, could benefit from extra benches and maintenance.
Richmond Little Green	Nice site but number of sleeping homeless people.
North Sheen Recreation Ground	Benches poor quality, overgrown in places and litter noted.

Only one of these sites is assessed as being below the threshold. Benn's Alley rates below the threshold with a quality score of 36%. Despite the observations all four sites score above the threshold for value; highlighting their importance. North Sheen Recreation Ground is also mentioned through consultations as a site which suffers from an issue with litter.

High scoring sites are a reflection of the range of ancillary facilities available as well as the good standard of appearance and maintenance of the sites. They also have plenty of ancillary facilities such as bins, benches, picnic tables and in some cases parking in addition to excellent information/signage. Features such as these contribute to their overall quality and help to create more opportunities and reasons for people to access.

There are numerous friends of groups in the Borough associated with amenity greenspace sites. These often work, in partnership with the Council, to provide added benefit to the overall quality of provision. Groups often hold regular working parties to assist in the maintenance and appearance of sites. Many lead on organising and hosting seasonal community events. They also act as a form of discussion board for the Council when any maintenance or improvement works are required on sites.

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Green Flag

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

There are currently 16 council sites in the LBRuT identified as achieving Green Flag Award status. A total of seven of these sites are classified as amenity greenspace:

- ◀ Garricks Lawn
- ◀ Ham Village Green
- ◀ Kew Green
- ◀ Kneller Gardens
- ◀ Richmond Green
- ◀ Twickenham Green
- ◀ Westerley Ware Recreation Ground

To be successfully awarded the Green Flag sites have to be maintained to a high standard. The work of both the Council maintenance team/contractors and the Friends of Groups at sites are important to their continuing achievement. The success of the Ham Village Green and Westerley Ware Recreation Ground sites in achieving Green Flag status in 2014 is an indication of the hard work of and continuing improvement of provision.

6.5 Value

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

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hampton & Teddington	100	15%	39%	76%	61%	2	17
Richmond	100	16%	35%	63%	47%	1	31
Twickenham	100	21%	36%	57%	36%	-	9
LBRuT	100	15%	36%	76%	61%	3	56

Please note the Bucklands Open Space in Hampton & Teddington could not be assessed for quality or value as it was locked and inaccessible at the time of the site visits.

Similar to quality, the majority of amenity greenspaces (95%) rate above the threshold for value. Overall more sites are rated as high value than high quality. There are only five sites that receive a low value rating of below 20%.

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In general, the sites scoring below the threshold for value are essentially viewed as grassed areas with no other noticeable features. Three of the sites are roadside verges and are therefore small in size and lack any noticeable features. Hence their low value scores. However, they are acknowledged as providing some form of visual amenity to their locality. It is important to keep in mind that the main role for some sites is to simply act as a grassed area, providing breaks in the urban form. The five sites to score low for value are:

- ◀ Langdon Park (15%)
- ◀ Tapestry Court (16%)
- ◀ Dean Road Open Space (17%)

Dean Road Open Space is the only site to score low for quality and value. It is a roadside verge with no additional features.

As highlighted earlier, the majority of amenity greenspace sites score above the threshold for value. Some of the highest scoring sites in the Borough are:

- ◀ Garricks Lawn (76%)
- ◀ Bell Hill Recreation Ground (72%)
- ◀ Ham Village Green (67%)
- ◀ Richmond Green (63%)
- ◀ Sheen Common (63%)

These are recognised for the accessible recreational opportunities they offer to an excellent quality and aesthetically pleasing standard. This is demonstrated by three of the sites having a Green Flag Award; Garricks Lawn, Ham Village Green and Richmond Green.

In general the role amenity greenspaces play as a form of open space provision is supported by the fact the majority of sites score high for value. Compared to quality where 76% of sites score above the threshold. This suggests even though a number of sites may score low for quality, they still receive a high value rate. Often the visual and environmental benefits these sites provide are recognised.

Amenity greenspaces should also be recognised for their multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. They can often be used for informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many amenity greenspaces in the Borough have a dual function and are used as amenity resources for residents but also to provide visually pleasing areas.

These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of amenity greenspace. The greater these features, combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping, trees), the greater sites are respected and valued by the local community.

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ A total of 60 amenity greenspace sites are identified in the Borough, totalling just over 100 hectares of amenity space.
- ◀ A greater amount of amenity greenspace is located in the Richmond Analysis Area (58 hectares). Not surprisingly, it has the greatest amount of provision proportionally per 1,000 populations with 0.75 (compared to 0.40 and 0.34 for Hampton & Teddington and Twickenham areas).
- ◀ An accessibility standard of a 5 minute walk has been set. Gaps in provision are observed across the Borough. However, these tend to be served by other open space typologies such as parks and cemeteries.
- ◀ Overall the quality of amenity greenspaces is positive. The majority of sites (76%) are rated as above the threshold for quality in the site visit audit. Only a handful of sites are identified as having any specific issues. Often a site with a below threshold quality score is due to its size and nature and therefore it lacks any form of ancillary feature.
- ◀ In addition to the multifunctional role of sites, amenity greenspace provision is, in general, particularly valuable towards the visual aesthetics for communities. This is demonstrated by the 95% of sites rating above the threshold for value. The contribution these sites provide as a visual amenity and for recreational opportunities should not be overlooked.

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PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

The typology of provision for children and young people, includes 'areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters'.

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

7.2 Current provision

A total of 44 sites are identified in the Borough as provision for children and young people managed by the Council. This combines to create a total of more than six hectares. A further three sites are provided by the Royal Parks. The table below shows the distribution of provision. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

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

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton & Teddington	12	1.17	0.02
Richmond	17	3.49	0.05
Twickenham	15	1.59	0.02
LBRuT	44	6.26	0.03

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

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

Play provision in the Borough is summarised using the (FIT) classifications. Most play provision in the Borough is identified as being of LEAP (41%) or NEAP (41%) classification, which is often viewed as sites with a wider amount and range of equipment; designed to predominantly cater for unsupervised play.

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

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people				
	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Unclassified /other	TOTAL
Hampton & Teddington	1	6	5	-	12
Richmond	2	6	7	2	17
Twickenham	3	6	6	-	15
LBRuT	6	18	18	2	44

Provision catering for older age ranges, such as skate parks or BMX tracks, is found at site classified as NEAPs. Analysis areas contain provision of this type with skate provision noted at Murray Park and at Kings Field as well as BMX at Hampton Common.

For youth provision, sites only identified as standalone forms of provision are specifically identified. Where equipment catering for older age groups is found on a play area as part of a wider range of provision it has been included within that NEAP or LEAP site. Several sites also feature other forms of play provision like a MUGA or a basketball area that may cater for a wide range of ages.

7.3 Accessibility

The Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents is a 5-10 minute walk (21.6%). This is followed by an 11-15 minute walk (15.3%). Therefore for the purpose of mapping a 10 minute walk time has been applied.

Figure 7.1 shows the standards applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people mapped against analysis areas

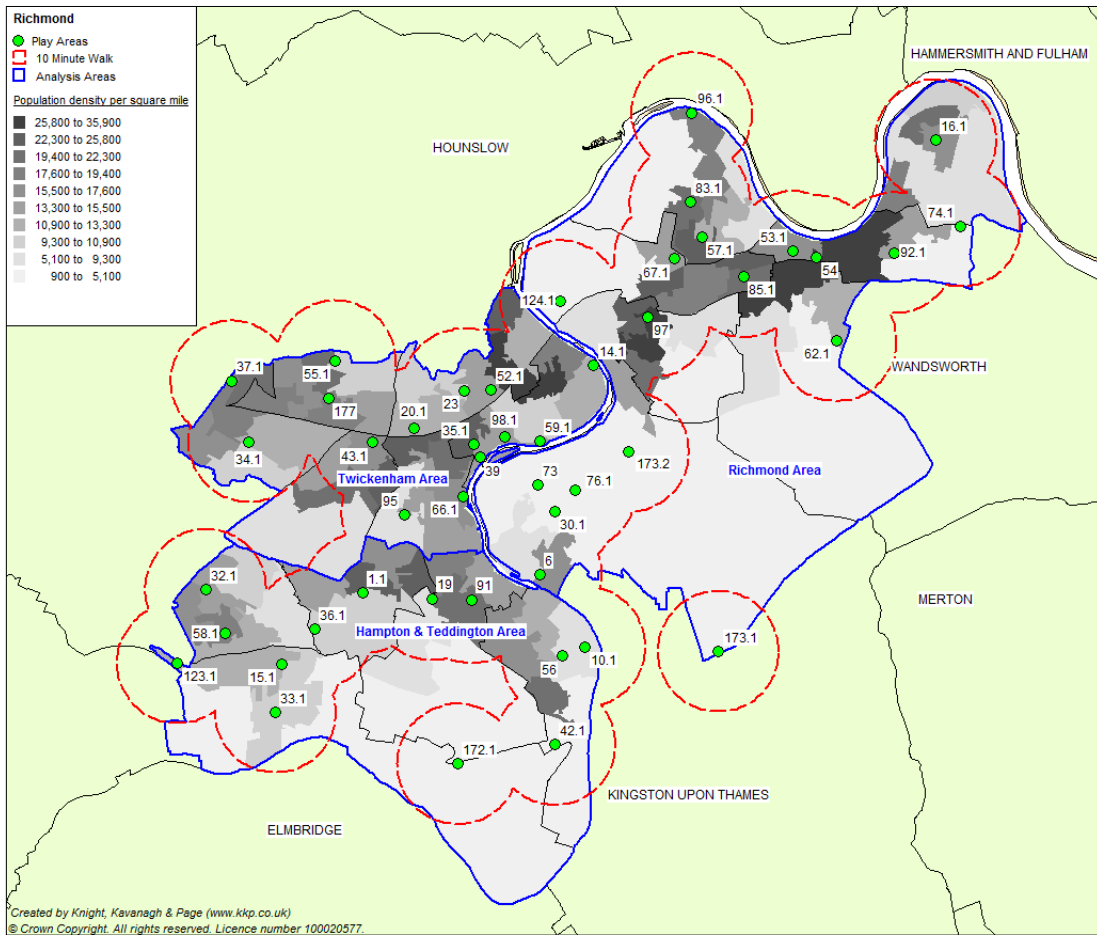


Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
6	Beaufort Court Playground	Richmond		
19	Church Road Play Area	Hampton & Teddington		
23	Grimwood Road Recreation Ground	Twickenham		
39	Jubilee Gardens (Twickenham)	Twickenham		
54	Mullins Path Open Space	Richmond		
56	Normansfield Play Park	Hampton & Teddington		
73	Riverside Drive Playground	Richmond		
91	Vicarage Road Play Area	Hampton & Teddington		
95	Wellesley Road Play Area	Twickenham		
97	Worple Way Recreation Ground	Richmond		
1.1	Alpha Road OS Play Area	Hampton & Teddington		
14.1	Cambridge Gardens Play Area	Twickenham		
15.1	Carlisle Park Play Area	Hampton & Teddington		
16.1	Castelnau Recreation Ground Play Area	Richmond		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
98.1	Champions Wharf Play Area	Twickenham		
20.1	Craneford Way Recreation Ground Play Area	Twickenham		
177	Cypress Avenue Play Area	Twickenham		
30.1	Ham Village Green Play Area	Richmond		
32.1	Hampton Common Play Area	Hampton & Teddington		
33.1	Hampton	Hampton & Teddington		
123.1	Hatherop Recreation Ground Play Area	Hampton & Teddington Area		
34.1	Heathfield Recreation Ground Play Area	Twickenham		
35.1	Holly Road Garden Of Rest Play Area	Twickenham		
36.1	Holly Road Recreation Ground Area	Hampton & Teddington		
37.1	Hounslow Heath Play Area	Twickenham		
42.1	Kings Field Play Area	Hampton & Teddington		
43.1	Kneller Gardens Play Area	Twickenham		
10.1	Broom Road Recreation Ground Play Area	Hampton & Teddington		
52.1	Moormead & Bandy Recreation Ground Play Area	Twickenham		
53.1	Mortlake Green Play Area	Richmond		
55.1	Murray Park Play Area	Twickenham		
57.1	North Sheen Recreation Ground Play Area	Richmond		
58.1	Nursery Green Play Area	Hampton & Teddington		
124.1	Old Deer Park Play Area	Richmond		
59.1	Orleans Gardens Play Area	Twickenham		
62.1	Palewell Common Play Area	Richmond		
66.1	Radnor Gardens Play Area	Twickenham		
67.1	Raleigh Road Recreation Ground Play Area	Richmond		
74.1	Rocks Lane Recreation Ground	Richmond		
76.1	Sandy Lane Recreation Ground Play Area	Richmond		
83.1	St. Lukes Open Space Play Area	Richmond		
85.1	Tangier Green Play Area	Richmond		
92.1	Vine Road Recreation Ground Play Area	Richmond		
96.1	Westerley Ware Recreation Ground Play Area	Richmond		

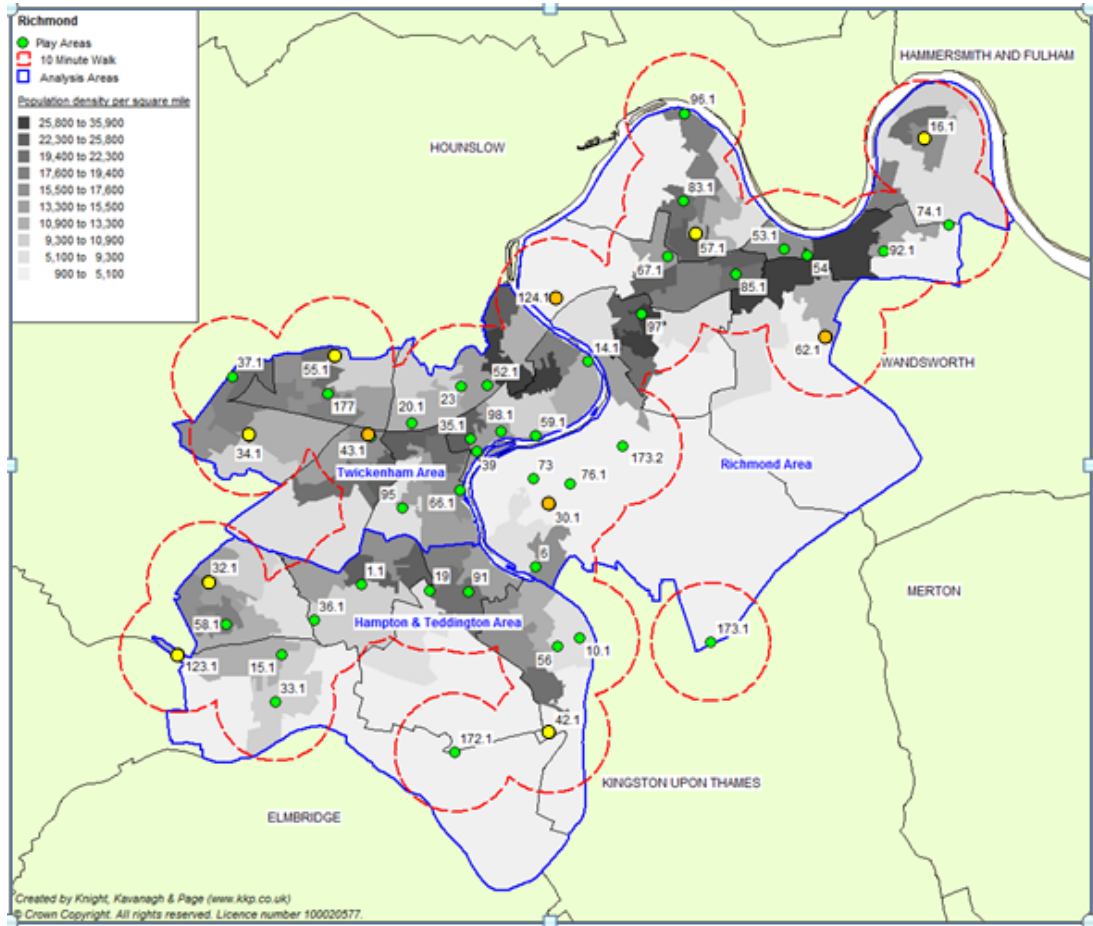
There is generally a good spread of provision across the Borough. In addition, the greatest areas of population density are within walking distance of a form of play provision. The areas of low population density not covered by catchments are the two Royal Parks located in the Borough.

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Not surprisingly the availability of play provision is rated as good (32%) or very good (28%) by most respondents to the Communities Survey; a further 14% rates availability as average.

Comments from the consultation occasionally cite the potential for a greater range and scope of play provision particularly catering towards older age ranges.

Figure 7.2: Older age range provision



Sites identified as containing provision such as skate parks, BMX and MUGAs tend to be positioned around the edges of the Borough (indicated by yellow dots). However, sites with provision such as fitness equipment are located more centrally (indicated by orange dots). Mapping shows that there does appear to be a slight gap in skate, BMX and/or MUGA provision in the more densely populated areas of Twickenham and Teddington.

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people in the Borough. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Quality assessments of play sites do not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment. For an informed report on the condition of play equipment the Council's own inspection reports should be sought.

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

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Hampton & Teddington	97	59%	76%	85%	26%	1	11
Richmond	97	31%	74%	84%	53%	1	16
Twickenham	97	73%	79%	87%	14%	-	15
LBRuT	97	31%	76%	87%	56%	2	42

The majority of sites are assessed as above the quality threshold (95%). However, there is a significant spread between the highest and lowest scoring sites particularly in the Richmond Analysis Area.

For instance, the Beaufort Court Playground scores 31% compared to the Rocks Lane Recreation Ground which scores 83%. The low score for the Beaufort Court Playground is a reflection of its limited range of play equipment; as the site only contains a small kick about area. In contrast, Rocks Lane Recreation Ground receives the highest score in the analysis area due to its range and condition of play equipment. The site also benefits from additional features such as seating, bins and fencing. Furthermore, it has site specific car parking available.

Other sites to receive particularly high scores for quality include:

- ◀ Cypress Avenue Play Area (87%)
- ◀ Carlisle Park Play Area (85%)
- ◀ Craneford Way Recreation Ground Play Area (84%)
- ◀ Old Deer Park Play Area (84%)
- ◀ Hatherop Recreation Ground Play Area (81%)

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These sites are all noted as having a range and good standard of equipment catering for different ages. In addition, the other features present at sites such as benches and bins are assessed as being in excellent condition. The highest scoring site, Cypress Avenue Play Area, receives such a high score as it is a relatively new site.

Another site to score highly due to it being a relatively new form of provision is the Champions Wharf Play Area in Twickenham. The Viking boat inspired site receives a score of 80%.

In total there are two sites that score below the threshold; Alpha Road Play Area and Beaufort Court Playground. The latter is located in the Richmond Analysis Area. As mentioned previously, the site scores low as it only contains a small kick about area. The range and lack of alternative forms of play equipment and space found at a site will limit its potential for use; which will subsequently impact on its overall quality.

No specific issues are highlighted for the Alpha Road Play Area; it is likely that the site scores below the threshold given the limited range of equipment in comparison to sites with larger and more expansive forms of play.

There are a few sites observed as having specific quality issues but which still rate above the threshold for quality. North Sheen Recreation Ground Play Area, Murray Park Play Area and Castelnau Recreation Ground Play Area are all observed as having some pieces of equipment that could be in a better condition. Furthermore, Hounslow Heath Play Area is noted as having some surface damage. A summary is set out below;

Site name	Comment
Castelnau Recreation Ground Play Area	Equipment looks worn and tired
Hounslow Heath Play Area	grass surface well worn, in need of re-turfing
Murray Park Play Area	Some equipment looks worn and tired
North Sheen Recreation Ground Play Area	Basketball court on site in need of maintenance

Most respondents to the Communities Survey rate the quality of play areas as good (35%); supporting the generally high quality of provision. A further 18% rates provision as being of a very good quality with 15% viewing play sites as average. Only a small proportion of respondents rates provision as poor (5%) or very poor (1%).

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7.5 Value

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

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

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hampton & Teddington	55	33%	48%	55%	22%	-	12
Richmond	55	20%	37%	55%	35%	-	17
Twickenham	55	36%	49%	64%	22%	-	15
LBRuT	55	20%	44%	64%	44%	-	44

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

Sites scoring high for value tend to reflect the size and amount/range of equipment present on site. Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages is also essential. Unique provision such as fitness and skate parks/BMX facilities are highly valued forms of play. Sites containing such forms of provision include:

- ◀ Castelnau Recreation Ground Play Area – Fitness and MUGA
- ◀ Ham Village Green Play Area - Fitness
- ◀ Hampton Common Play Area – BMX track and Fitness
- ◀ Hatherop Recreation Ground Play Area – Fitness and MUGA
- ◀ Heathfield Recreation Ground Play Area – Fitness and MUGA
- ◀ Kings Field Play Area – Skate park
- ◀ Kneller Gardens Play Area – Fitness
- ◀ Murray Park Play Area – Fitness, MUGA and Skate park
- ◀ North Sheen Recreation Ground Play Area – basketball court
- ◀ Old Deer Park Play Area – Fitness
- ◀ Palewell Common Play Area – Fitness
- ◀ Worples Way Recreation Ground Play Area - MUGA

Furthermore, there are four sites in the Borough which also feature unique forms of play such as paddling pools; Castelnau Recreation Ground, North Sheen Recreation Ground, Palewell Common and Vine Road Recreation Ground. The pools are well regarded as a special feature at sites but are only operational during periods of good weather.

It is also important to recognise the benefits that play provides in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value. It is essential that parents, carers and members of the public are made aware of the importance of play and of children's rights to play in their local communities.

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

7.6 Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are a total of 44 sites identified as play provision in the Borough managed by the Council. There are an additional three sites located at the Royal Parks.
- ◀ The Borough contains a high proportion of LEAP and NEAP sized play areas, many of which score high for quality and value.
- ◀ Proportionally the Richmond Analysis Areas has the highest amount of provision per 1,000 population. Not surprisingly it has the greatest number of play sites in the Borough.
- ◀ No major gaps in provision are identified against the 10 minute walk time accessibility standard.
- ◀ The majority of play sites (95%) are assessed as being above the threshold for quality. Although there are a couple of sites which do not. Sites rated below the threshold are often due to a lack in range and quality of equipment.
- ◀ All play provision is rated as being of high value from the site visit audit. Reflecting their role in providing access across the Borough.

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

Allotments is a typology which covers open spaces that provide ‘opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.’ This may include provision such as allotments, community gardens and city farms.

8.2 Current provision

There are 24 sites classified as allotments in the Borough, equating to over 28 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton & Teddington	3	3.20	0.06
Richmond	13	12.48	0.16
Twickenham	8	6.14	0.10
LBRuT	24	28.22	0.15

Most sites are located in the Richmond Analysis Area (13). Not surprisingly, the most hectareage (12.5 hectares) is found in the same area.

Overall, there are a combined total of circa 2,000 plots, including half plots, identified at sites across the Borough. The number of plots offered at each site varies with the largest at Bushy Park in the Richmond Analysis Area (+350 plots). Other significant contributors are the Manor Road and Briar Road sites in Richmond and Twickenham. The smallest allotment site in the Borough is Brook Road in Twickenham Analysis Area with eight plots.

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

Based on the current population of 193,314 (GLA 2013 round trend based population projections) the LBRuT, as a whole, does meet the NSALG standard. Using the suggested national standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for LBRuT is 24.16 hectares. The existing provision of 28.22 hectares therefore meets the standard. However, the current standards for the individual analysis areas of Hampton & Teddington and Twickenham do not meet the NSALG standard.

Table 8.2 details the number of sites and plots located within each analysis area. Where it was not possible to gather the number of plots during consultation, an estimated number of plots was used.

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In total there are over 2,000 plots identified in the Borough. The greatest number of sites and plots are in the Richmond Analysis Area; with a total of circa 824 plots. This is followed by Hampton and Teddington Analysis Area and the Twickenham Analysis Area with 762 and 460 plots respectively.

Table 8.2: Allotment sites and plots

Analysis area	Number of sites	Number of plots
Hampton & Teddington	3	762
Richmond	13	824
Twickenham	8	460
LBRuT	24	2,046

8.3 Accessibility

A significant proportion of respondents (39%) state they do not know how far they would be willing to travel in order to access an allotment. This is not uncommon as it is likely to reflect the niche attraction of such open space type.

The Communities Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents would be a 10-15 minute walk (14.7%) or a 5-10 minute walk (13.7%). Therefore for the purpose of mapping a 15 minute walk time has been applied.

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

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Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped against analysis areas

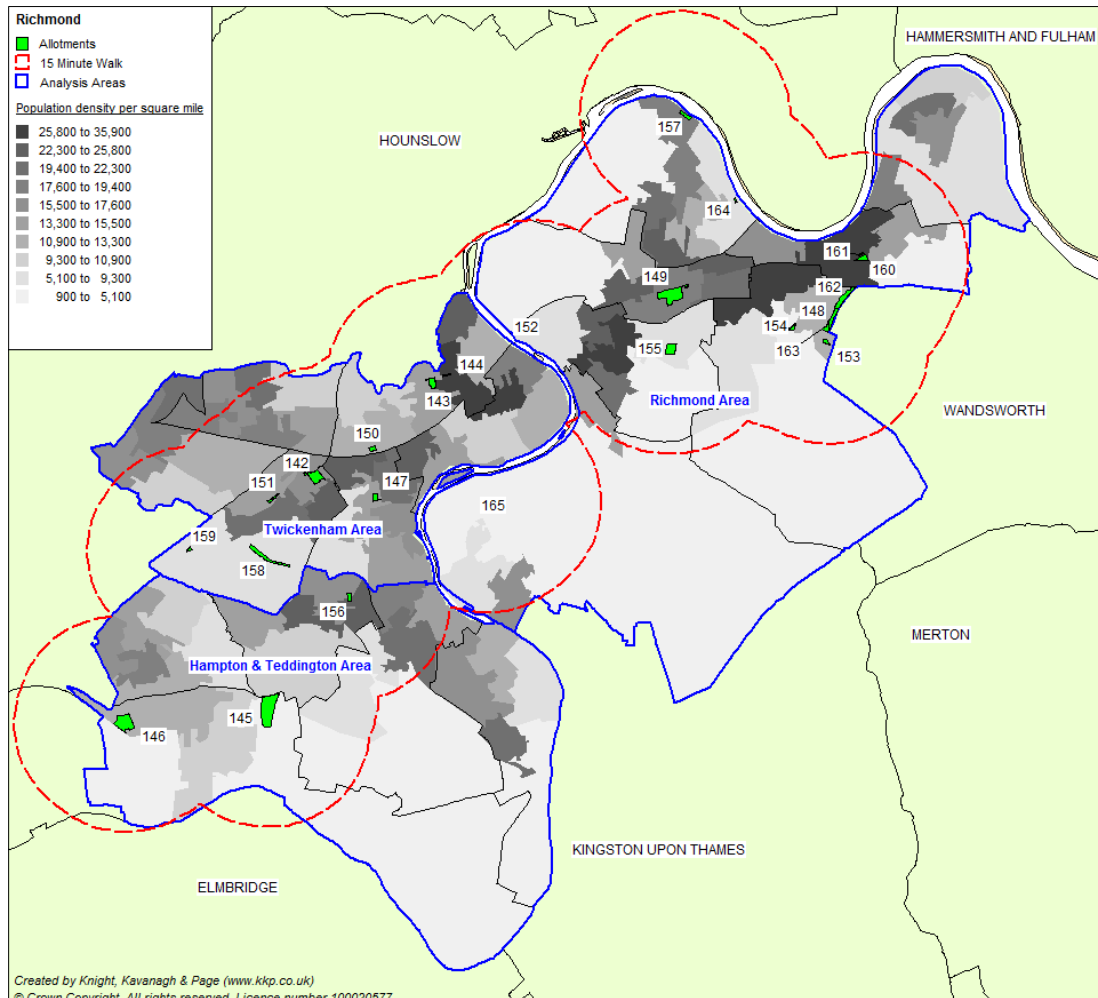


Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
142	Briar Road Allotment	Twickenham	Green	Green
143	Cavendish House Allotment	Twickenham	Green	Green
144	Brook Road Allotment	Twickenham	Red	Green
145	Bushy Park Allotment	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
146	Hatherop Road Allotment	Hampton & Teddington	Green	Green
147	Heath Gardens Allotment	Twickenham	Green	Green
148	Hertford Avenue Allotment	Richmond	Green	Green
149	Manor Road Allotment	Richmond	Green	Green
150	Marsh Farm Allotment	Twickenham	Red	Green
151	Mill Road Allotment	Twickenham	Green	Green
152	Old Palace Lane Allotment	Richmond	Green	Green
153	Palewell Pavilion Allotment	Richmond	Green	Green
154	Palewell Park Road Allotment	Richmond	Green	Green

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
155	Queens Road Allotment	Richmond		
156	Shacklegate Lane Allotment	Hampton & Teddington		
157	Short Lots Allotment	Richmond		
158	Sixth Cross Road Allotment	Twickenham		
159	South Close Allotment	Twickenham		
160	Westfields Allotment	Richmond		
161	Westfields (2 nd site) Allotment	Richmond		
162	The Priory Allotment	Richmond		
163	The Triangle Allotment	Richmond		
164	Townmead Allotment	Richmond		
165	Walnut Tree Meadow	Richmond		

The majority of areas with a greater population density are covered by the 15 minute walk time catchment. However, there are gaps to the east of Teddington and to the west of Twickenham.

Of the respondents that provided an answer to the Communities Survey, most rate the availability of provision as good (15%). This is closely followed by those rating availability as average (12%) or very poor (12%). The mixed response, coupled with the waiting lists present at sites, suggests the need for more provision is required.

Ownership/management

The majority of sites are owned by LBRuT Council. The exception is the Bushy Park site which is owned by Crown Estates. However, this is operated by LBRuT Council. Weekly inspections of sites are undertaken during the growing season by the Council.

In addition, there are several allotment sites across the Borough with an association or committee. Such sites are, for instance, responsible for managing waiting lists. Sites identified as having an association are:

- ◀ Briar Road
- ◀ Cavendish House
- ◀ Hertford Avenue
- ◀ Manor Road
- ◀ Old Palace Lane
- ◀ Shorts Lots
- ◀ Sixth Cross Road
- ◀ St Anne's
- ◀ The Priory
- ◀ Walnut Tree
- ◀ Westfields

Consultation highlights a steady demand for the continuing provision of allotment sites and plots across the Borough. Currently demand appears to outweigh supply; demonstrated by the waiting lists present at sites. This reflects the trend in having an allotment from a healthy living aspect but also as a form of self sufficiency.

Most allotments in the Borough are operating at 100% capacity with few vacant plots identified. Currently there is a combined waiting list across the Borough with the average waiting time thought to be a minimum of approximately 18 months.

To help meet demand and reduce the waiting time for plots LBRuT Council operate a policy for its allotments whereby any new plots that become available are split into half plots.

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The Council is also considering some sites becoming self managed to help provide a more efficient process of plot management. However, no decisions have been made yet.

8.4 Quality

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

Table 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Hampton & Teddington	124	51%	58%	69%	18%	-	3
Richmond	124	46%	55%	69%	23%	-	13
Twickenham	124	40%	49%	61%	5%	2	6
LBRuT	124	40%	53%	69%	29%	2	22

In terms of quality, the majority of the allotment sites in the Borough (92%) score highly. The highest scoring sites are Bushy Park and The Priory in Hampton & Teddington and Richmond analysis areas respectively. Both sites receive a score of 69% for quality. The sites score well due to an excellent general appearance and level of maintenance (e.g. good paths, clean and tidy). Consultation identifies that the Bushy Park site can suffer from flooding due to low lying ground areas. Despite this, the site still scores highly for quality.

There are two allotment sites across the Borough that rate below the threshold for quality (Table 8.3); Brook Road and Marsh Farm. Both sites are located in the Twickenham Analysis Area and receive scores just below the threshold of 43% and 40% respectively. Observations from the site assessments note that these sites tend to be much smaller in size compared to others. The narrow entrance way at Brook Road and the isolated position of the Marsh Farm site contribute to them not reaching the quality threshold.

In general, consultation highlights no significant problems with regard to the overall quality of provision across the Borough; demonstrated by most sites currently being in full use. However, security at sites is highlighted as a common issue. As a result the problem of theft at sites is believed to be increasing in recent years; both in terms of equipment and produce. LBRuT is continually looking at improving fencing at sites as a means to try and reduce the issue.

The quality of provision is generally positive with most respondents to the Communities Survey rating allotments as good (20%); a further 10% rates provision as very good. over half of respondents (55%) state they do not know how they would rate the quality of allotments. This is not uncommon as it reflects the niche use of this type of open space.

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8.5 Value

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

Table 8.5: Value ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hampton & Teddington	95	32%	37%	47%	10%	-	3
Richmond	95	26%	35%	52%	26%	-	13
Twickenham	95	25%	31%	37%	12%	-	8
LBRuT	95	25%	34%	52%	27%	-	24

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

The value of allotments is further demonstrated by the existence of waiting lists identified at sites signalling demand for provision. Furthermore, the general value of allotment sites is high due to all sites having access to running water.

Two of the highest scoring sites for value, Bushy Park (47%) and Manor Road (52%), are identified as containing shops in order for produce and supplies to be sold. Such a facility adds to the overall dynamic and contribution to a site.

8.6 Summary

Allotments summary

- ◀ A total of 24 sites are classified as allotments in the Borough, equating to more than 28 hectares. The majority of sites are owned and managed by LBRuT. However, several sites do have associations attached to them.
- ◀ The current provision of 28 hectares is above the NSALG recommended amount. However, the Hampton & Teddington Analysis Area does fall well short of the standard.
- ◀ In addition, there are waiting lists across the Borough suggesting demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply.
- ◀ The majority of allotments (92%) score above the threshold for quality. The exceptions are two sites, Brook Road and Marsh Farm, which score low due to security reasons.
- ◀ Consultation suggests the number of thefts occurring is on the increase. To try and prevent such problems the Council is continually looking to improve fencing at sites.
- ◀ All allotments are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
- ◀ Waiting list numbers suggest that continuing measures should be made to provide additional plots in the future.

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

9.1 Introduction

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

9.2 Current provision

There are 10 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to just over 32 hectares of provision in the Borough. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision identified is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton & Teddington	4	7.73	0.15
Richmond	5	17.01	0.22
Twickenham	1	7.79	0.12
LBRuT	10	32.53	0.17

The largest contributor to burial provision in the Borough is Richmond Cemetery equating to 8.88 hectares. This is closely followed by Twickenham Cemetery with 7.79 hectares. Both sites form part of the six sites managed and maintained by LBRuT. These are:

- ◀ East Sheen Cemetery (located next to Richmond Cemetery)
- ◀ Hampton Cemetery
- ◀ Old Mortlake Burial Ground
- ◀ Richmond Cemetery
- ◀ Teddington Cemetery
- ◀ Twickenham Cemetery

There are also an additional four sites identified as closed churchyards. Closed churchyards are sites that are no longer able to accommodate any new burials. The four sites are:

- ◀ Richmond Parish Church
- ◀ St Andrew's Church
- ◀ St James Church Memorial
- ◀ St Marys Church

9.3 Accessibility

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

Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis area

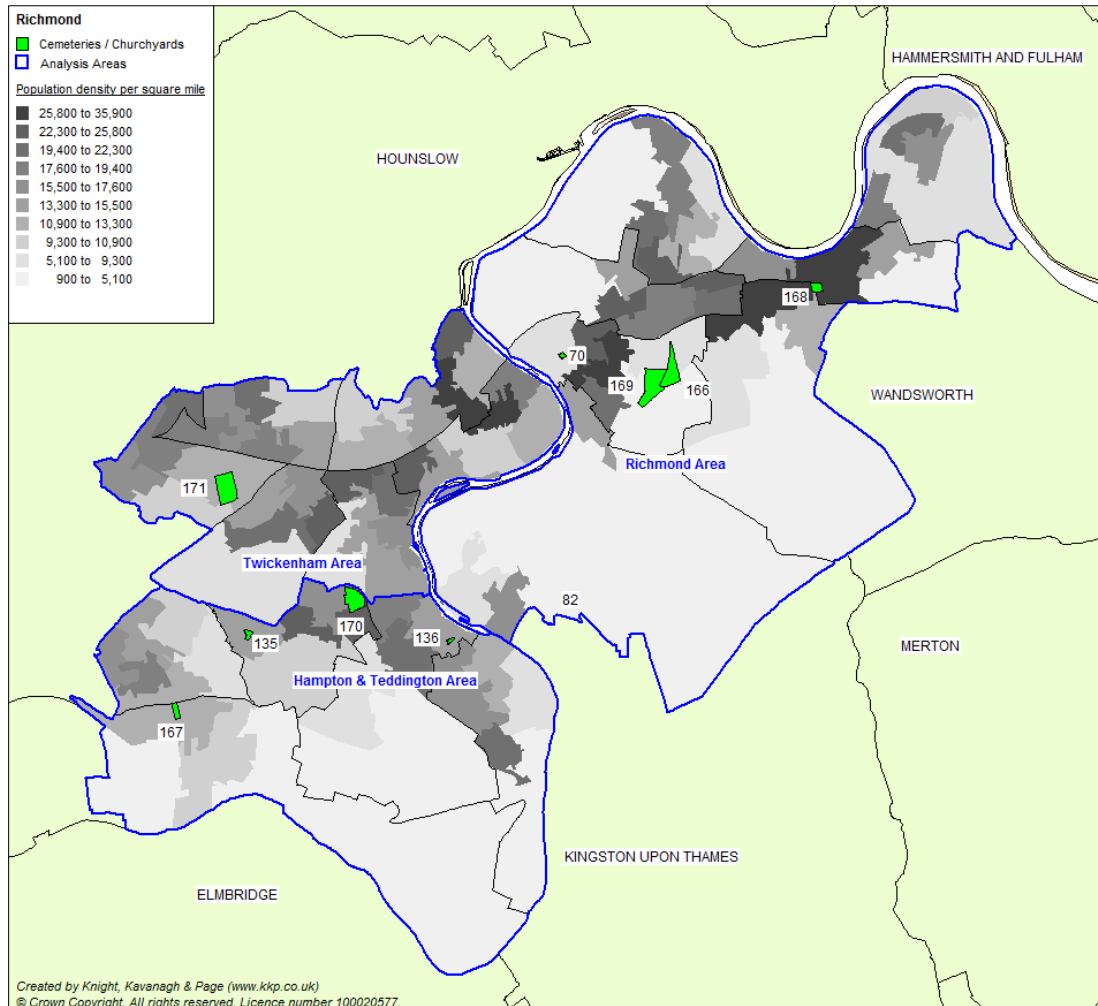


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
70	Richmond Parish Church	Richmond		
82	St Andrew's Church	Richmond		
135	St James Church Memorial	Hampton & Teddington		
136	St Marys Church	Hampton & Teddington		
166	East Sheen Cemetery	Richmond		
167	Hampton Cemetery	Hampton & Teddington		
168	Old Mortlake Burial Ground	Richmond		
169	Richmond Cemetery	Richmond		
170	Teddington Cemetery	Hampton & Teddington		
171	Twickenham Cemetery	Twickenham		

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

Respondents to the Communities Survey tend to rate the availability of cemetery provision as good (30%) or very good (20%). There are a further 14% which rates provision as average.

Management

The cemeteries team at LBRuT Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of the six active burial sites. Maintenance of the other 'closed' sites is undertaken as part of the maintenance for the Council's parks team.

Three cemetery sites have staff based onsite; Richmond, Teddington and Twickenham. Staff at these sites carry out maintenance and work on a mobile basis moving from site to site particularly during the summer months (April to September). Additional agency staff is also used during the summer in order to cope with the extra work required.

In terms of burial capacity, there is estimated to be approximately 3,200 new graves available for adults and 500 new graves for children at sites across the Borough. The majority of this provision is located at Twickenham Cemetery. A breakdown of the approximate availability is provided in the table below.

Table 9.3: Remaining burial space

Site	Remaining burial space
East Sheen Cemetery	180 traditional graves plus 50 new graves on existing sections
Hampton Cemetery	Possible 10 new graves
Old Mortlake Burial Ground	Potential for up to 40 graves on an area previously a pathway
Richmond Cemetery	Approximately 870 graves (including 200 children's graves). Also potential for use of 50 unused graves and a further 100 graves in an area currently overgrown
Teddington Cemetery	Circa 320 graves available (including 85 children's graves)
Twickenham Cemetery	1,825 traditional and lawn graves available. Plus 185 children's graves

9.4 Quality

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

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Table 9.4: Quality ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <55%	High >55%
Hampton & Teddington	161	48%	58%	64%	16%	1	3
Richmond	161	47%	58%	75%	28%	2	3
Twickenham	161	68%	68%	68%	-	-	1
LBRuT	161	47%	59%	75%	28%	3	7

The majority of cemeteries and churchyards in the Borough (70%) are rated as being above the threshold set for quality.

The highest scoring sites for quality are East Sheen Cemetery, Twickenham Cemetery and Teddington Cemetery with respective scores of 75%, 68% and 64%. The high scores are predominantly due to them being maintained to an excellent level. As highlighted earlier all three sites (East Sheen being managed in partnership with Richmond Cemetery) have onsite staff which will contribute to the general standard of provision.

Observations from the site visits and from the consultation highlight the generally high level of provision overall. A large proportion of the sites are noted as being well cared for and therefore score well for quality of appearance. In addition, no issues with flooding or vandalism are identified at any site across the Borough.

However, there are three sites that score just below the quality threshold; St Marys Church (48%), St Andrew's Church (48%) and Richmond Parish Church (47%). The latter two sites are located in the Richmond Analysis Area.

The three sites score below the threshold due to general maintenance and path quality scoring less compared to other sites. This is likely to reflect their role as closed sites which therefore offer less frequent use and maintenance to active sites. In particular, St Marys Church is observed as being slightly un-kept and having uneven paths.

The quality of provision is generally positive with a third of respondents to the Communities Survey rating provision as good (33%); a further 15% rates provision as very good with an additional 14% citing quality as average.

9.5 Value

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

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 9.5: Value ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hampton & Teddington	100	21%	31%	42%	21%	-	4
Richmond	100	22%	34%	50%	28%	-	5
Twickenham	100	40%	40%	40%	-	-	1
LBRuT	100	21%	33%	50%	29%	-	10

All identified cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value, reflecting the role they provide in communities lives. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide to the local community are acknowledged in the site assessment data. Sites also receive a score for value from their contribution to wildlife/habitats or sense of place to the local environment.

Even those sites scoring below the threshold for quality rate above the threshold for value. Despite this, they still obviously provide a role to the communities they serve.

Cemeteries and churchyards are important natural resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g. wildlife watching). All six of the active cemetery sites are identified as having wildlife encouraging features such as bird and bat boxes.

9.6 Summary

Cemeteries summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ LBRuT is identified as having 10 sites classified as cemeteries and churchyards, equating to just over 32 hectares of provision. ◀ Management of the main active cemetery site is undertaken by the Councils cemeteries team. Maintenance of other 'closed' churchyards is carried out by the parks team. ◀ There is a fairly evenly distribution of provision across the Borough. The need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity. ◀ As one of the main providers for future burial capacity, Twickenham Cemetery is noted as having circa 1,825 graves available. Richmond Cemetery is next with circa 1,000 graves. ◀ The majority of cemeteries and churchyards are rated as high quality. However, a few sites score below the quality threshold. These are closed churchyards and are likely a reflection of the general maintenance observed. ◀ All cemeteries are assessed as high value in the Borough, reflecting that generally provision has a cultural/heritage role and provide a sense of place to the local community.

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PART 10: CIVIC SPACE

10.1 Introduction

The civic space typology includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events. For the purpose of this study the designation also includes war memorials.

10.2 Current provision

There are five civic space sites, equating to less than one hectare of provision, identified in the Borough.

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

Table 10.1: Distribution of civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Civic space		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Hampton & Teddington	3	0.09	0.002
Richmond	2	0.84	0.011
Twickenham	-	-	-
LBRuT	5	0.93	0.005

A significant proportion of the civic space provision in the LBRuT is due to the Sheen Lane Health Centre; at 0.80 hectares. The other forms of provision are mostly war memorials (three sites).

There are sites and areas that will function in a secondary role as civic space provision. For example, park sites such as the Royal Parks, York House Gardens and Twickenham Secret Garden provide uses associated with civic spaces such as local community events. For the purposes of this report sites such as these have not been classified as civic space provision due to their more prominent primary function and use.

10.3 Accessibility

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

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Figure 10.1: Civic spaces mapped against analysis areas

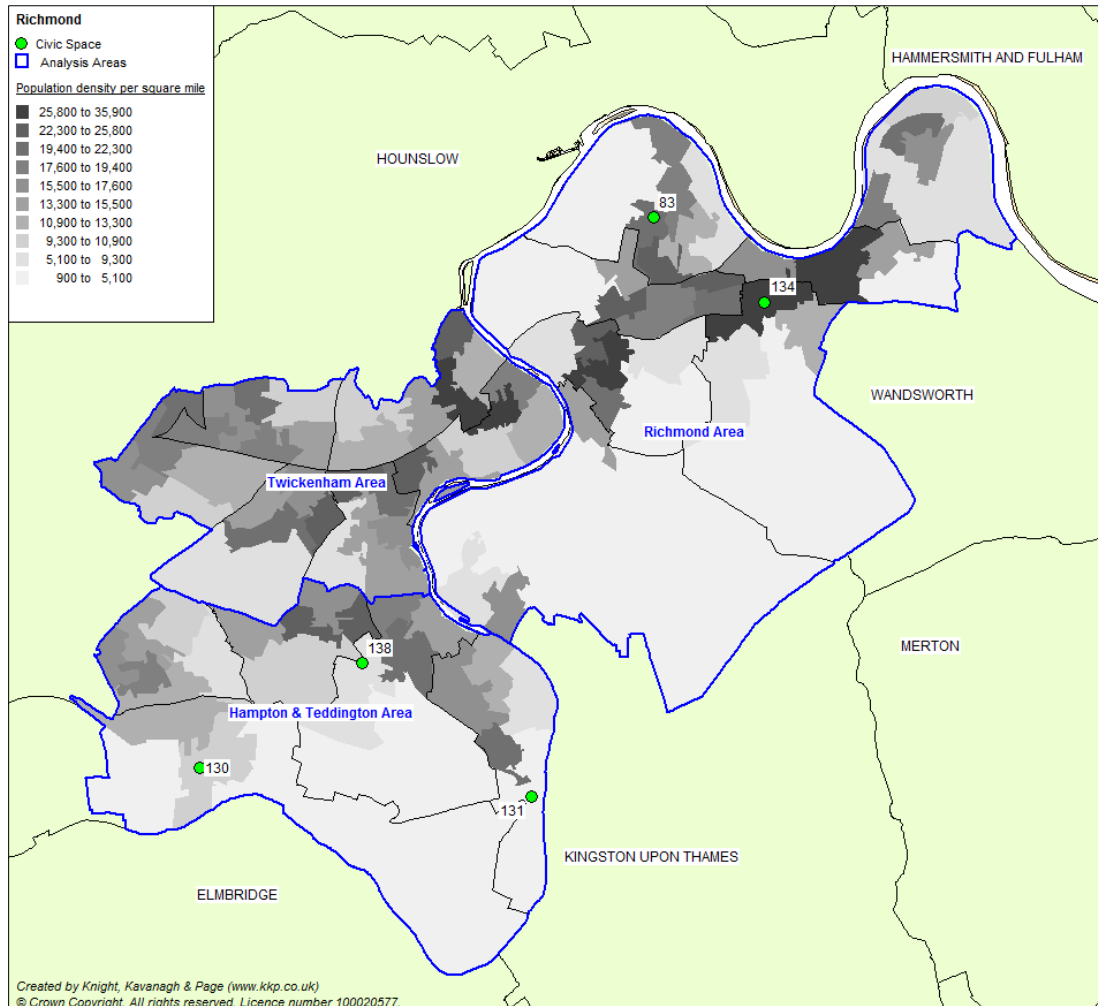


Table 10.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
83	St. Lukes Open Space	Richmond		
130	Hampton War Memorial	Hampton & Teddington		
131	Hampton Wick War Memorial	Hampton & Teddington		
134	Sheen Lane Health Centre	Richmond		
138	Teddington War Memorial	Hampton & Teddington		

The Twickenham Analysis Area is without access to civic space provision. However, it is reasonable to accept that formal civic space may only beat existing sites of provision. In addition, some civic facilities may be unrecorded due to difficulty classifying such spaces where, for example, they are multipurpose spaces that double up as parks or car parks.

Most respondents to the Communities Survey rate the availability of civic space as good (40%). A further 27% rate provision as average followed by 13% who score provision as very good.

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10.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for civic spaces in the Borough. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.3: Quality ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Hampton & Teddington	136	49%	51%	52%	3%	1	2
Richmond	136	47%	56%	64%	17%	1	1
Twickenham	136	-	-	-	-	-	-
LBRuT	136	47%	53%	64%	17%	2	3

Three out of the five civic spaces in the Borough rate above the threshold set for quality. All three are small but functional sites providing pleasant areas to sit and rest.

The two sites to score below the threshold are St Luke's Open Space and Teddington War Memorial with scores of 47% and 49% respectively. The latter is noted as being reasonably well in terms of appearance but that it seems to have an issue with cigarette ends being found throughout the site; a result of it being well used by individuals from the adjacent hospital.

The quality of provision is positive with 43% of respondents to the Communities Survey rating provision as good; a further 27% rates provision as average with an additional 13% citing quality as very good.

10.5 Value

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

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Table 10.4: Value ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hampton & Teddington	100	53%	56%	61%	8%	-	3
Richmond	100	28%	29%	29%	1%	-	2
Twickenham	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
LBRuT	100	28%	45%	61%	-	-	5

All five civic spaces are assessed as being of high value, reflecting that provision has a cultural/heritage role whilst also providing a sense of place to the local community and area.

This is further supported by site visit observations, which confirms the social and cultural value of the sites through their use as spaces for remembrance or as areas to sit and relax outside.

10.6 Summary

Civic space summary

- ◀ There are five sites classified as civic spaces in the Borough, equating to less than one hectares of provision.
- ◀ There are also other forms of provision in the Borough (e.g. parks and gardens) that will provide localised opportunities associated with the function of civic space.
- ◀ Most of the civic space provision identified are war memorials; providing a specific role and function to the local community.
- ◀ The quality and value of most sites is deemed to be of a good overall level with a generally acceptable maintenance and appearance. The exception is the Teddington War Memorial which is observed as having a litter issue relating to cigarette ends. Otherwise sites have a unique cultural/heritage value whilst providing a sense of place to the local communities.

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PART 11: GREEN CORRIDORS

11.1 Introduction

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

For the purposes of the Communities Survey, the typology was split into two categories under the headings 'riverside pathway' and 'footpath/cyclepath' in order to simplify the definition for respondents.

11.2 Current provision

There are eight green corridors, equating to just over four hectare of provision, identified in the Borough.

Table 11.1: Distribution of green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	Green corridors	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Hampton & Teddington	1	0.19
Richmond	6	3.74
Twickenham	1	0.25
LBRuT	8	4.18

Most of the green corridor sites in the Borough are within the Richmond Analysis Area. Only a single site is identified in each of the Twickenham and Hampton & Teddington analysis areas.

However, there are many more sites and areas that function in a secondary role as green corridors. For example, park sites such as the Royal Parks and Old Deer Park as well as natural and semi-natural greenspaces like Barnes Common and Ham Lands offer similar opportunities and uses. For the purposes of this report sites such as these have not been classified as green corridor provision due to their more prominent primary role and use.

The importance of these sites in having a secondary function as green corridors is significant and should be considered in any future decision making. This is especially the case for activities such as walking and cycling. Furthermore such provision should also be recognised in the use of linking other open space sites and Wards together.

11.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for green corridors. Figure 11.1 shows green corridors mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 11.1: Green corridors mapped against analysis areas

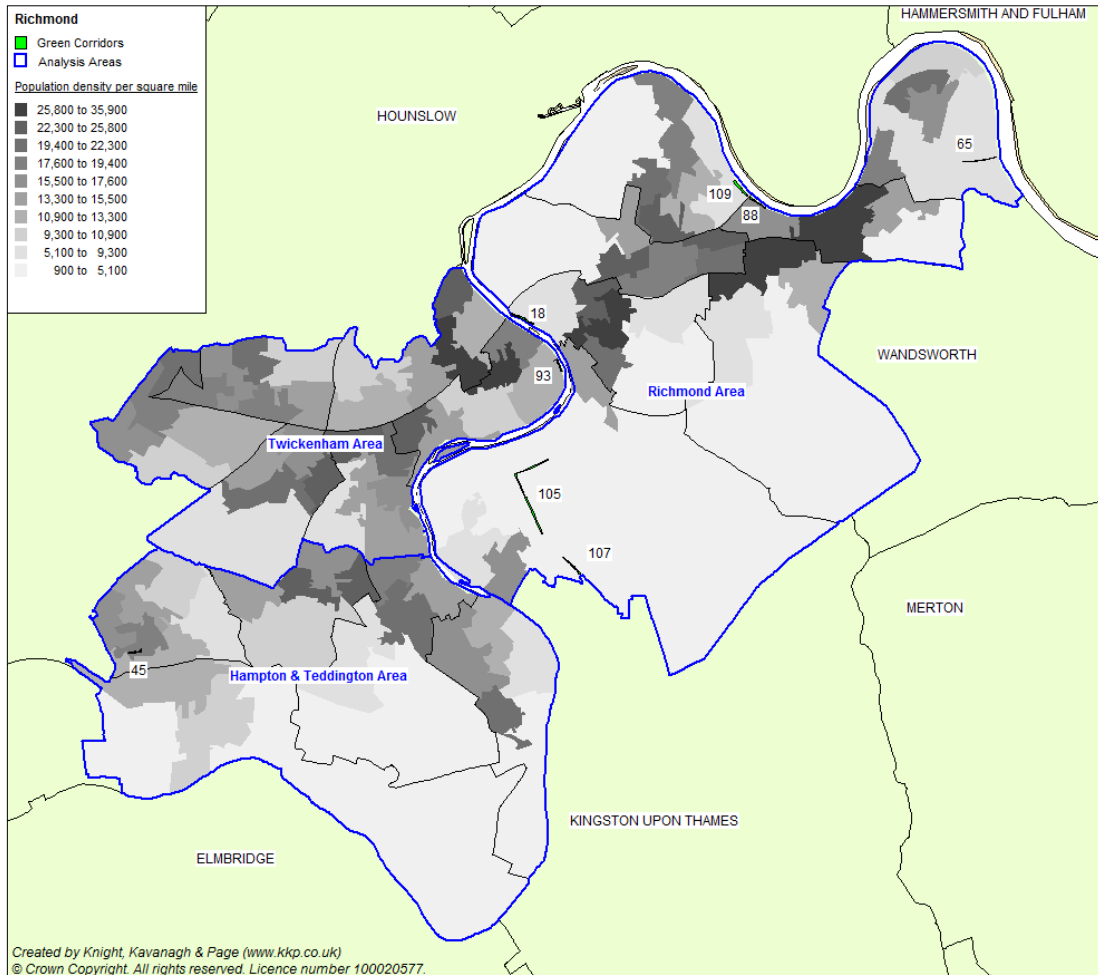


Table 11.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
18	Cholmondeley Walk	Richmond		
45	Linear Walk	Hampton & Teddington		
65	Queen Elisabeth Walk (Parks)	Richmond		
88	Thames Bank	Richmond		
93	Warren Gardens	Twickenham		
105	Ham Avenue	Richmond		
107	Ham Farm Road	Richmond		
109	Kew Meadow Towpath	Richmond		

Most respondents to the Communities Survey rate the availability of Footpath/cycle paths as either good (37%) or very good (27%). A further 18% rate provision as average followed by only 12% who score provision as poor. Of the 12% to score provision as poor, the majority (77%) are from the Twickenham or Hampton & Teddington analysis areas.

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An even higher proportion of respondents rate the availability of Riverside pathways positively. Over half of respondents (52%) rate provision as very good with a further third (33%) rating availability as good. Only a small proportion views provision as poor (3%) or very poor (2%).

Comments from consultations also suggest the riverside path routes in the Twickenham and Hampton & Teddington areas are underused.

11.4 Quality

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

Table 11.3: Quality ratings for green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Hampton & Teddington	51	67%	67%	67%	-	-	1
Richmond	51	39%	65%	76%	37%	1	5
Twickenham	51	65%	65%	65%	-	-	1
LBRuT	51	39%	65%	76%	37%	1	7

All except one green corridor site identified in the Borough rates above the threshold set for quality.

The site to score below the threshold is Ham Farm Road with a score of 39%. It is noted as rating reasonably well in terms of appearance but does seem to be overgrown. It is however likely to provide some habitat value for wildlife.

All other sites rate above the threshold and are observed as being pleasant and functional providing good surfaces for all uses.

The quality of Footpath/cycle path provision is generally positive with 38% of respondents to the Communities Survey rating provision as good; a further 15% rates provision as very good. However, nearly a third of respondents (32%) rate provision as average.

Responses for Riverside pathways is better; with 40% of respondents rating quality as good followed by 34% citing very good.

Minor comments from consultations suggest sometimes provision is not viewed as being maintained as well as other types of open space. In addition, a couple of respondents to the survey highlight concerns with cyclists travelling at fast speeds along paths making them potentially dangerous to other users.

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11.5 Value

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

Table 11.4: Value ratings for green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Hampton & Teddington	100	20%	20%	20%	-	-	1
Richmond	100	20%	36%	49%	29%	-	6
Twickenham	100	29%	29%	29%	-	-	1
LBRuT	100	20%	33%	49%	29%	-	8

All eight green corridors are assessed as being of high value, reflecting that provision has amenity and health benefits whilst also providing important network and movement to local communities and areas. Sites can also offer important habitat corridors and, therefore, the wildlife benefits are also recognised.

It is important to remember that the use and role of provision of this type also forms significant elements of other sites not classified as Green corridors. For instance, parks, such as Richmond Park, and many of the natural and semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace sites (particularly along the River Thames) also offer access and opportunities associated with green corridor activities.

11.6 Summary

Green corridor summary

- ◀ There are eight sites classified as green corridors in the Borough, equating to over four hectares of provision.
- ◀ There are also other forms of provision in the Borough (e.g. parks, natural and semi-natural sites) that provide additional opportunities associated with green corridors.
- ◀ Availability and access to riverside provision is generally positive with the majority of respondents rating it as good or very good.
- ◀ Quality is also rated highly as evidenced in assessment scores. However, a greater proportion of respondents rate provision as average compared to other types of open space; suggesting improvements could be undertaken. Most comments cite regular maintenance as the main concern.
- ◀ The value of all identified sites is rated above the threshold representing the social and health benefits provision offers.

