

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

OPEN SPACE

Wiltshire Core Policy 52 (Green Infrastructure) covers the provision of open space for the community in accordance with the Wiltshire Open Space Standards, currently in draft form (March 2011).

Currently there are standards set out for children's equipped play, general recreation of natural green space, outdoor sports and allotments. These are:

Children's equipped play:

Definition	Provision for children and teenagers including non equipped LAP
Quantity	0.3ha per 1,000 people. Minimum size 200m ²
Accessibility (threshold / catchment distances)	Fields in Trust guidelines (formerly six acre standard) LAP 100 metres LEAP 400 metres NEAP 1,000 metres In rural settlements, i.e. villages, hamlets and not of 'Town' or 'City' status this is consolidated: Any play area type within 4-800 metres.
Quality	Fields in Trust Play Value Assessment

Local Area for Play (LAP)

LAPs are small landscaped areas of open space specifically designated for young children under 6 years old and their parents or carers for play activities and socialisation close to where they live. A LAP should be a safe, attractive and stimulating environment which will give young children the opportunity to play and interact with their peers away from their own back garden, thus encouraging the development of a range of social and educational skills. The site should ideally be within 5 minutes safe walking time of the homes it is designated to serve. The sites should be located close enough to neighbouring dwellings to allow a degree of implied supervision and any planting or fencing surrounding them should be kept low enough to provide adequate views in and out of the area.

Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)

A LEAP is an unsupervised play area mainly for children of early school age between four and twelve years old but with consideration for other ages. Unlike a LAP a LEAP is equipped with formal play equipment and it should provide a focal point for children when they are responsible enough to move away from the immediate control of parents. The area should have a range of play equipment which will stimulate physical, creative, intellectual, social and solitary play and wherever possible there should be provision for children with special needs.

LEAP's should ideally be located within 10 minutes safe walking time of the homes they are designed to serve. If possible they should be sited to allow informal supervision, for example by being overlooked by nearby houses or from well used pedestrian routes.

Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)

A NEAP will serve a substantial residential development and as such should cater for a wide range of children including those with special needs. Play equipment should be aimed primarily at those aged between 4 and 14 and should aim to stimulate physical, creative, intellectual, social and solitary play. Teenage provision should be in the form of kickabout/basketball areas, opportunities for wheeled play (skateboarding, roller-skating, etc.) and meeting areas.

A NEAP should be sited within 15 minutes safe walking time of the homes it is designed to serve and as a neighbourhood area covering a whole estate should normally be located in a central position.

General recreation of natural green space

Definition	Country parks, nature/ecology areas, city parks, POS, amenity land; of significant recreation function
Quantity	1.0ha per 1,000 people including 0.5ha per 1,000 people for children's natural play (minimum size of 2,000m ²)
Accessibility (threshold / catchment distances)	Areas of less than 1ha: 300 metres Areas of 2-20ha: 2 km Areas of greater than 20ha: 5 kms
Quality	Locally derived standard based on Natural England , NPFA and other neighbouring and comparable authorities

Outdoor sports

Definition	(With natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned) – including MUGA's, tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas, including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas (e.g. "hanging out" areas, teenage shelters)
Quantity	1.6ha per 1,000 people; including 1.2ha per 1,000 people for sports pitches and 0.4ha per 1,000 people for children/youth/adult formal play areas court.
Accessibility (threshold / catchment distances)	Fields in Trust guidelines (formerly six acre standard) Playing pitches: within 1.2km of all dwellings in major residential areas. Other outdoor sports: Athletics: one synthetic track with floodlighting per 250,000 people living within 30 minutes drive time (45 minutes in rural areas) of proposed location Tennis: community tennis courts within 20 minutes travel time (walking in urban areas, by car in rural areas)
Quality	Sport England, local standards

Allotments

Definition	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban) farms
Quantity	0.3ha per 1,000 people (minimum size 4 allotments)
Accessibility (threshold / catchment distances)	800 metres
Quality	Local Standard and fully serviced

NORTH WILTSHIRE OPEN SPACE STUDY

This study was published in 2004 and one of its conclusions in paragraph 4.76 was that there was a significant deficiency of Public Open Space in the District. Cricklade was identified as one of the settlements with the most acute deficiency of POS. Paragraph 4.25 identified that Cricklade was also lacking provision in the form of a District Park and paragraph 4.47 stated that there were no allotment sites in Cricklade (correct at the time of the report). The study also suggested that there was a Community Park in Cricklade although the subsequent analysis/audit failed to identify/evaluate one.