



**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY**

**OPEN SPACES ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**JUNE 2009**

**Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration**

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### **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

This is the Open Space Assessment prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) and forms part of a wider PPG17 Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study. It focuses on reporting the findings of the extensive research, consultation, site assessment, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpins the study.

This factual report provides an audit based assessment of both quantitative and qualitative sport and recreation facilities in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and the Companion Guide entitled “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” published in September 2002. The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to provide:

- ◀ A comprehensive audit of existing provision of different types of open space detailing quantity, quality, accessibility and wider value to the community.
- ◀ An accurate assessment of supply and demand for open space provision.
- ◀ A robust evidence base to enable East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) to develop planning policies as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and other local development documents.

#### **Report structure**

##### ***Open spaces***

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open spaces facilities in East Staffordshire. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology on open spaces can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all the typologies defined in ‘Assessing Needs & Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG 17’ and is structured as follows:

- Part 3: General open space issues.
- Part 4: Parks and gardens.
- Part 5: Natural and semi-natural greenspaces.
- Part 6: Green corridors.
- Part 7: Amenity greenspace.
- Part 8: Provision for children and young people.
- Part 9: Allotments, community gardens and city farms.
- Part 10: Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds.
- Part 11: Civic spaces.

##### ***Sports facilities***

The study also incorporates an assessment of outdoor sports facilities in accordance with the methodology provided in the Sport England ‘Towards a Level Playing Field – A guide to the production of playing pitch strategies’ for assessing demand and supply. This report can be found separately in a report called ‘Outdoor Sports Assessment’.



### Context

PPG17 describes the role of the planning system in assessing opportunities and needs for sport and recreation provision and safeguarding open space that has recreational value.

The guidance observes that it is part of the function of the planning system to ensure that, through the preparation of development plans, adequate land and water resources are allocated for organised sport and informal recreation.

It states that local planning authorities should take account of the community's need for recreational space, having regard to current levels of provision and deficiencies and resisting pressures for development of open space where such development would conflict with the wider public interest.

It discusses the role of all levels of plan, planning agreements, and the use of local authority land and compulsory purchase powers. It discusses provision in urban areas, the urban fringe, Green Belts and the countryside and of particular sports including football stadia, watersports and golf. (Original release date September 1991).

'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17' reflects the Government policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out in PPG17. The long term outcomes of PPG17 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, are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ◀ An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision.
- ◀ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision.

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This assessment covers the following open space typologies as set out in 'Assessing needs and opportunities: Planning Policy Guidance 17 Companion Guide.'

Table 1.1: PPG17 definitions

	<b>PPG17 typology</b>	<b>Primary purpose</b>
<b>Greenspaces</b>	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland and beaches	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
	Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
	Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	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.
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
<b>Civic spaces</b>	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.

### PART 2: METHODOLOGY

#### Background information

An extensive range of background information has been reviewed and incorporated into the assessment of key issues for each typology. Other background documentation reviewed for the study is listed below:

- ◀ Branston Water Park Management Plan, Version 4, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Jan 2008.
- ◀ Burton Town Centre Area Action Plan: Issues and Options Consultation, Summary of responses, Jan 2008.
- ◀ Burton Town Centre Healthcheck, Burton Town Centre Management Ltd, 2007.
- ◀ Green Infrastructure Study, East Staffordshire Borough Council. 2008.
- ◀ Heart of Burton household survey, Heart of Burton Partnership, 2008.
- ◀ Kingfisher Trail Management Plan, East Staffordshire Borough Council, 2008-2011.
- ◀ Play East Staffordshire, A play strategy for children and young people in East Staffordshire, DRAFT, East Staffordshire Borough Council, 2007-2012.
- ◀ Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Staffordshire, Staffordshire County Council, 2007.
- ◀ The National Forest, the Strategy, 2004-2014.
- ◀ Uttoxeter Gravel Pit Feasibility Study, Final Report, Acorn Tourism Consulting Partnership/East Staffordshire Borough Council, Jan 2009.
- ◀ Various East Staffordshire Borough Council information leaflets e.g. Stapenhill Woodland Walks, Events in East Staffordshire – Parks, Countryside and Gardening.
- ◀ Winshill Together, Heart of Burton Partnership, Feb 2008.

### Auditing local provision

#### *Database development*

All information relating to open spaces across East Staffordshire is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an electronic file). Sites were originally identified and provided by the clients. Additional sites identified during consultation have also been added to the database. Each site has now been classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once.

Sites under 0.2 hectares were originally excluded from the audit as they are deemed to have less recreational value. However, where sites were identified during consultation as being of high value to residents, they have been included, e.g., all allotments and all play areas have been included due to their important contribution to overall provision.

The database details for each site:

#### **Data held on open spaces database (summary)**

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping).
- ◀ Site name.
- ◀ Local authority reference number.
- ◀ Nearest road/settlement.
- ◀ Ownership.
- ◀ Typology.
- ◀ Size (hectares).
- ◀ Access.
- ◀ Site visit data.

Sites are identified by official site names and road names/locations where possible. However, for some typologies, e.g., amenity greenspaces and natural and semi natural sites which, in the main, do not have official names anyway, this has not been possible.

#### **Site assessments**

In total, 283 open space assessments were carried out to evaluate the quality and value of sites. The open space assessment form used is tailored to reflect the individual characteristics of different open spaces and a scoring system (i.e. different maximum scores) is applied to each typology to provide a more meaningful evaluation. Examples of the different assessment forms used can be found in the appendices document.

KKP assessed both quality and value during site visits. They are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be located where it is inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; while, if a run down (poor quality) space is the only one in an area, it may be immensely valuable. Therefore, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Each type of open space assessed receives separate quality and value scores.

### ***Analysis of quality***

Data collated from site visits has been utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as total and percentage figures.

#### *Open space assessment form*

The criteria used for the main open space assessments are summarised below. They are based upon those used for Green Flag (national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by the Civic Trust) and 'Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide', published by CABESpace (2004).

#### **Open space site visit criteria for quality (summary)**

- ◀ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts.
- ◀ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths.
- ◀ Parking, e.g., disabled parking.
- ◀ Information signage, e.g., presence of up to date site information.
- ◀ 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., staff on site.
- ◀ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of landscape.
- ◀ Typology specific profile, e.g., presence of environmental education facilities (natural/semi-natural provision).
- ◀ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people.
- ◀ Site potential.

### ***Analysis of value***

The value of sites has been assessed by analysis of two sets of criteria: (i) site visit assessment data; and (ii) other data and information as detailed in the table below. As stated earlier, scores in the database are presented as total and percentage figures.

PPG17 describes site value 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.

#### **Value - site visit criteria (summary)**

- ◀ Level of use (observations only).
- ◀ Context of site in relation to other open spaces.
- ◀ Structural and landscape benefits.
- ◀ Ecological benefits.
- ◀ Educational benefits.
- ◀ Social inclusion and health benefits.
- ◀ Cultural and heritage benefits.
- ◀ Amenity benefits and a sense of place.
- ◀ Economic benefits.

#### **Value - non site visit criteria (summary)**

- ◀ 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.

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### ***Weighting and scoring system***

KKP utilises one site visit assessment sheet to assess all open space typologies (allotments, amenity greenspace, parks and gardens, green corridors, natural and semi natural greenspace). Its weighting and scoring system takes account of the individual typologies and reflects their different natures and characteristics (each typology will therefore have a different maximum score). For example, the maximum score for allotments does not include one for picnic benches. Similarly, the maximum score for amenity greenspace does not include scores for toilets. Maximum scores achievable for each typology are set out below together with the equivalent data for value.

*Table 2.1: Maximum scores for quality and value of open spaces in East Staffordshire*

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality - maximum score</b>	<b>Value – maximum score</b>
Allotments	124	105
Amenity greenspace	121	100
Cemeteries	161	100
Children's play areas	97	55
Civic spaces	146	100
Green corridors	56	100
Parks and Gardens	159	110
Semi / Natural greenspaces	132	110

On the assessment form itself some elements receive a direct score (1 – 5 scale) and other elements simply have a tick option if present (receiving a score of 3 for every tick). Some tick options are simply collated and analysed as additional data, receiving no score. Examples of the applied scoring and weighting can be found in the appendices document.

### ***Setting thresholds for quality and value***

Drawing upon the extensive consultation findings, survey results and site visit assessment scores and in order to determine sites as high or low quality (as recommended by PPG17) we colour code each site visited against a set threshold (high is green and low is red). The base line threshold for assessing quality is, for most typologies, set around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria. This is the only national benchmark available (site visit criteria is also based on Green Flag criteria) for parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria for Green Flag is not always appropriate for every open space typology.

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

The table below summaries the consultation and audit findings for each typology and proposes a quality threshold which is applied within each typology section. This information will inform the development of policy options within the Strategy.

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Typology	Consultation findings	Recommended quality score
Parks	<p>There is some variation in the quality of parks across the Authority with the mean quality score being 51%. The usual quality threshold set for park provision is 60% reflecting the Green Flag Award pass mark. However, to successfully identify low quality sites for prioritisation the suggested threshold to set for East Staffordshire at the moment is 50%.</p> <p>Consultation indicates that residents generally consider the quality of parks and gardens to be adequate. The majority (70%) of citizen panel respondents believe parks and gardens to be at least average in terms of quality and almost half (45%) consider quality of provision to be good/very good.</p>	50%
Town Parks		66%
Natural/semi natural greenspace	<p>Almost half (45%) of citizen panel respondents rate the quality of nature areas as good or very good. Semi-natural sites have one of the largest spreads in terms of quality scores across the Borough. The mean quality score for the Borough lies at 37%. To identify low quality sites for prioritised action the suggested quality threshold to set for natural/semi-natural provision is 40%.</p>	40%
Green corridors	<p>User consultation identifies that the provision of PROW, in terms of quality, is considered to be variable throughout the Borough. 43% of citizen panel respondents rate quality to be good or very good.</p>	66%
Amenity greenspace	<p>The quality scores vary significantly. However, most sites score highly for overall maintenance and cleanliness and over half (53%) of citizen panel respondents rate quality to be average or better. To reflect the actual quality standards it is suggested that the threshold be set just below the Borough wide mean quality score.</p>	40%
Play areas	<p>Consultation and site assessments identify that quality of play areas varies significantly across the Borough with a mean score of 59%. To identify low quality sites for prioritisation for improvement the suggested quality threshold to apply is 60%.</p>	66%
Allotments	<p>Users are, in the main, content with the quality and management of provision. The mean quality score is 39%. To clearly identified sites for improvement the suggested threshold is just above this.</p>	40%
Cemeteries	<p>Over half of the respondents from the citizen panel survey rate the quality of churchyards/cemeteries to be good or very good (56%). All the sites score highly for landscape design and maintenance and overall maintenance and cleanliness. Consultation identifies that residents generally perceive quality standards to be high with few quality issues impacting upon site usage. To identify sites of a low quality the suggested threshold to apply to provision is just below the Borough average of 53%.</p>	50%



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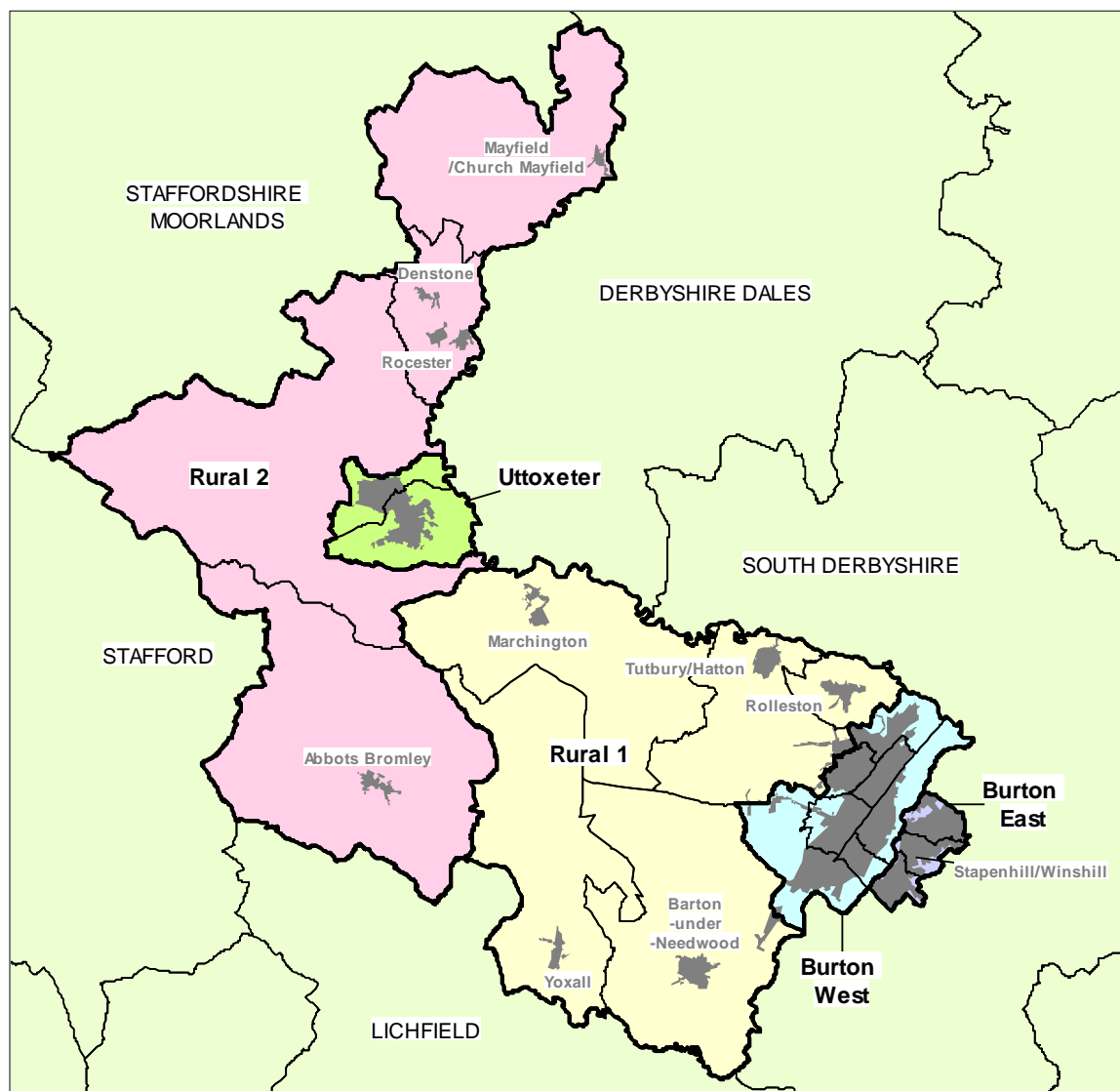
## Value

The threshold for assessing value has been set at 20%. There are no national benchmarks available for assessing value and therefore, this is based on KKP's experience and expertise in carrying out PPG17 assessments and has been tried and tested with a number of local authorities. The threshold for assessing value is set much lower than the quality thresholds. This reflects that if a site scores highly for one element (i.e. education benefits) the site will be deemed high value.

## Analysis areas

East Staffordshire has been divided into five analysis areas (shown opposite). These allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

Figure 2.1: Analysis areas in East Staffordshire



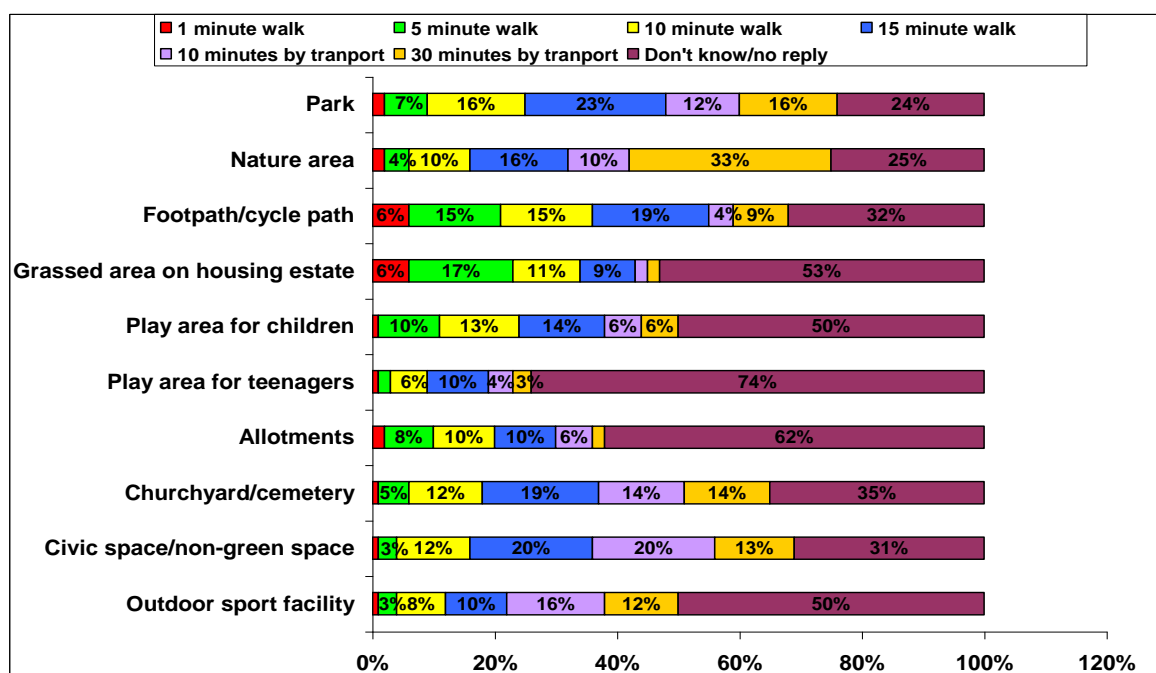
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## Catchment areas

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

## Open space catchment areas

Guidance is offered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) (2002): 'Guide to preparing open space strategies' with regard to appropriate catchment areas for authorities to adopt. However, in order to make accessibility standards more locally specific to East Staffordshire, we propose to use data from the citizen panel survey to set appropriate catchments. The following responses were recorded in the survey in relation to how far residents would be willing to travel to access different types of open space provision:



The following table summarises the survey responses and recommends accessibility standards to apply in East Staffordshire:

Typology	Street survey	East Staffordshire
Allotments	Majority of users would accept a 10 - 15 minute walk to access provision.	All residents to be 15 minute walk time of high quality allotment provision.
Amenity greenspace	Majority of users would accept up to a 10 minute walk to access provision.	Given the variation in the type of site included within this typology, for example, recreation grounds which serve quite a different purpose to grassed areas in housing estate which provide a visual break around development or small scale opportunities for play/relaxation, no accessibility catchment is recommended.

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Typology	Street survey	East Staffordshire
Cemetery/churchyard	Majority of users would accept up to a 15 minute walk to access provision.	Not recommended as provision is driven by burial capacity rather than accessibility.
Civic space	Majority of users would accept up to a 15 minute walk to access provision.	Not recommended as no provision is identified in East Staffordshire.
Green corridors	Majority of users would accept up to a 15 minute walk to access provision.	Not recommended due to linear nature of provision.
Natural/semi natural greenspace	Majority of users would accept up to 30 minutes drive time.	All residents to be at least 20 minute drive time of high quality nature areas.
Parks and gardens	Majority of users would accept up to a 15 minute walk to access provision.	All residents to be 15 minute walk time of high quality parks provision.
Provision for children & young people	Majority of users would accept up to a 15 minute walk to access provision. Although there is not significant differences between 5, 10 and 15 minute walk time.	All residents to be 10 minute walk time of high quality children's play areas.

Where proposed, the above catchment mapping is applied within each typology section to identify deficiencies.

### Identifying local need

#### *Consultation*

Local need has been assessed via:

- ◀ Community consultation (face-to-face or telephone interviews and focus groups) with key officers, agencies and stakeholders.
- ◀ Citizen panel survey.

The core of this phase revolved around extensive consultation with over 100 stakeholders, including key individuals, interest and community groups, sports clubs, ESBC officers, Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and agencies working in and around the Borough. Qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted either face-to-face or by telephone with a list of consultees provided by the clients along with those uncovered by KKP during consultation. A full list of consultees is included in the appendices document.

The key findings of the stakeholder consultation are presented under key issues within the individual typology sections. Issues covered include the following:

- ◀ Attitudes towards open spaces in terms of quality of provision.
- ◀ Opinions towards open spaces in terms of the amount of provision.
- ◀ Time taken/distance travelled to open spaces.
- ◀ Attitudes towards open spaces in terms of how accessible provision is.
- ◀ Future provision and what it should look like.

The presentation of key issues emerging from the consultation is driven by a broad understanding of open space. KKP brings a pragmatic approach to consultation in order to manage the expectations of stakeholders and presents a realistic picture of issues, together with the aspirations of residents and users.

### **Citizen panel survey**

#### ***Introduction***

KKP undertook a survey with the ESBC citizen panel to identify the attitudes and needs of the broader local community.

The survey was sent out by ESBC to all 800 members of the panel.

344 surveys were completed and returned for analysis. Received responses are split between the analysis areas as follows:

◀ Burton East	124
◀ Burton West	66
◀ Rural 1	91
◀ Rural 2	32
◀ Uttoxeter	31

This provides a robust sample, capable of sub-analysis, e.g., by area, gender, age etc. Variations are highlighted in analysis for the individual typologies. Data is particularly useful when assessing walk/cycle/drive-time catchments. Key issues covered include the following:

- ◀ Current usage of open spaces.
- ◀ Reasons for usage/non-usage of open spaces.
- ◀ Time taken/distance travelled to open spaces.
- ◀ Attitudes to open spaces (e.g., adequacy, quality, accessibility).

Survey results (generic issues, which cut across more than one typology) have been analysed and are presented in graph format with relevant commentary below. Questions relevant to individual typologies are covered in the specific sections of the Report.

Results are provided for the descriptions used in the survey itself. For example, the survey refers to 'nature areas' as opposed to 'natural and semi natural greenspace' in order to simplify the definition for respondents.

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To reflect the local demographics, responses were broken down by gender, age and ethnicity to enable sound sub-analysis and provide a representation of respondents. The age and gender splits for each area are as follows:

Analysis area	Total	Age groups					Gender		
		16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Not given	Male	Female	Not given
<b>Burton East</b>	124	-	21	56	31	16	53	58	13
<b>Burton West</b>	66	1	15	29	13	8	24	31	11
<b>Rural 1</b>	91	-	20	40	27	4	39	45	7
<b>Rural 2</b>	32	-	1	14	13	4	16	11	5
<b>Uttoxeter</b>	33	-	7	18	4	2	14	14	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>39</b>

Only one respondent is younger than 25 years. Consultation with children and young people for the study was covered through focus groups with representative groups such as youth clubs.

Variations between sub-groups are highlighted in the analysis of the individual typologies. In particular, the data gathered from the citizen panel survey is used as a starting point to generate travel time catchments for the different types of open spaces.

### PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE ISSUES

#### Introduction

Consultation with users and non-users of open spaces across East Staffordshire covered many issues. Typology and site specific issues are covered in the relevant sections of this report. This section describes the generic issues that cut across more than one typology, including a summary of the resident and visitor survey.

Open space is owned and managed by a wide variety of agencies across East Staffordshire, including ESBC, town and parish councils and external agencies such as Denstone Youth Fund. Developing an accurate picture of open spaces in the area is, therefore, complex. There is evidence however, of good partnership work between different landowners and managers.

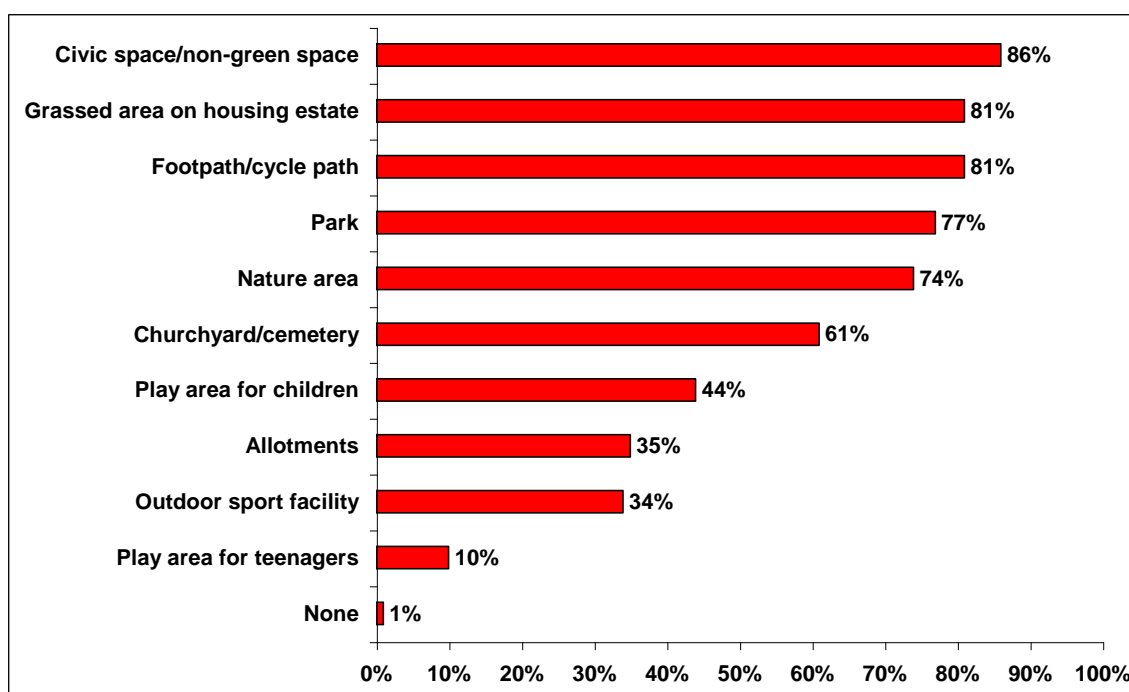
#### Key issues

##### Usage

The most popular typologies visited in the last twelve months by respondents are civic spaces (86%), grassed areas on housing estates (81%) and footpaths/cycle paths (81%). Over half of all respondents have also visited park provision (77%), nature areas (74%) and churchyards/cemeteries (81%) in the previous 12 months.

The typology visited by the least number of respondents over the last twelve months is play provision for teenagers (10%). This reflects the age range of survey respondents, with only one being younger than 25 years. Only a small proportion (1%) of respondents across East Staffordshire have not visited any open space in the previous 12 months. The reasons preventing usage of provision are explored later in this section.

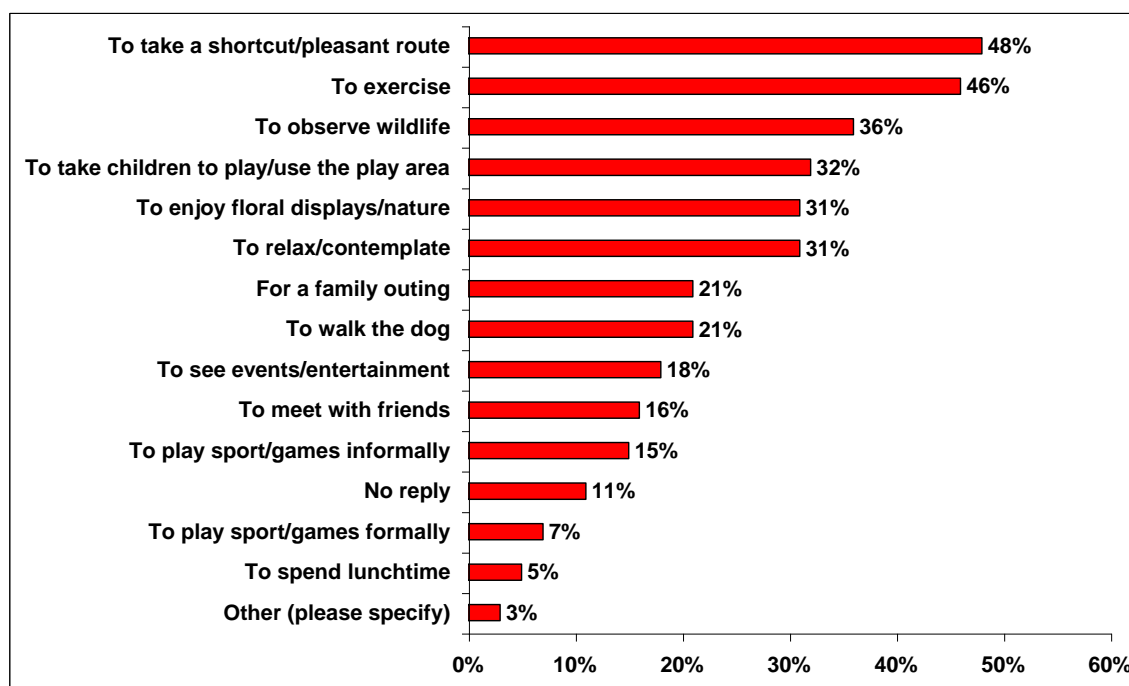
Figure 3.1: Types of open spaces visited in the previous 12 months (residents)



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The most popular reason for visiting open spaces in East Staffordshire is to take a shortcut/pleasant route; almost half (48%) of users cite this. Just under a further half (46%) use open spaces to exercise and over one third (36%) utilise them for observing wildlife. All these indicate the functionality of open spaces for local communities. The health and well-being benefits of provision are reflected in the results with almost one third of users (31%) accessing open space to relax/contemplate. Other popular reasons to visit include for children to play (32%), to enjoy floral displays/nature (31%), for family outings (21%) and for dog walking (21%).

Figure 3.2 Reasons for usage of open space in the previous 12 months



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Residents from across East Staffordshire were asked for the main reasons preventing use of open space and or/outdoor sports facilities. The main one given is “too busy” (17%); a response given by just under one fifth of respondents. The other main reasons given relate to the location and accessibility of provision (10%) and perception of personal safety (10%). These aside, there are no other common barriers to usage and indeed almost half of respondents (47%) did not identify any reasons preventing use of open space and/or outdoor sport facilities.

Figure 3.3 Reasons for non-usage of open spaces



ESBC has been taking part in the GreenSTAT system, an online survey that gives local residents the opportunity to comment on the quality, management and maintenance of local parks and open spaces. In January 2009 analysis of responses with regard to provision in East Staffordshire were analysed. As part of this, users of parks and open spaces were asked what would encourage them to use a specific park or open space more, or stay longer. The findings are presented below.

Open space	Responses
Bramshall Road Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toilets</li> <li>Better safety</li> <li>Improved children's play area</li> <li>Improved maintenance and drainage</li> <li>No dogs</li> <li>Café/shop</li> <li>Moving the skate park to another area</li> </ul>
Branston Water Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better public transport links</li> <li>Larger visitor centre/better toilets</li> <li>Café</li> </ul>
Hazelwalls Community Park & Heath Road Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path allowing park to be walked all the way across</li> <li>Further play equipment so children have more variety and don't get bored</li> </ul>



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Open space	Responses
Outwoods Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More equipment for under 5's</li> <li>• More benches</li> <li>• Basketball hoop</li> <li>• Improved landscaping</li> </ul>
Stapenhill Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing lake</li> <li>• Brass bands/more events</li> <li>• Somewhere to get s drink/tea bar</li> <li>• Improved toilets</li> <li>• The park is well maintained but vandalism is a problem at the weekends and greater litter enforcement is required</li> </ul>
Stapenhill Hollows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved security to tackle drink/drugs</li> <li>• Anything to attract people to this park of parkland</li> </ul>
Upper Mills Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better links to new housing and more locally run events</li> <li>• Better interpretation of walks</li> <li>• Park still a bit isolated</li> </ul>

Up until April 2009 there was an extensive and varied ESBC events and activities programme utilising parks and open spaces across the Borough. This includes guided wildlife walks, hedge laying, woodland planting and activities such as bid box making. These have proved to be valuable at encouraging usage of the open spaces and raising awareness of the wildlife and the well being value offered. However, many of these activities have been developed and led by the ESBC ranger service. From April 2009 this is being reduced and there will be less capacity, within ESBC, to sustain such level of activities. To proactively address this ESBC intends to further partnership working with voluntary organisations e.g. Uttoxeter Lions, to ensure that community events are sustained.

Consultation identifies that one of the main issues impacting negatively on the genuine usage of open spaces across the Borough is the perceived level of anti-social behaviour. However it is likely that perception is greater than reality and this needs to be overcome. The main issue is the congregation of young people in open spaces e.g. Horninglow Community Park, Stretton. Many residents relate this type of activity with a lack of provision for young people across the Borough.

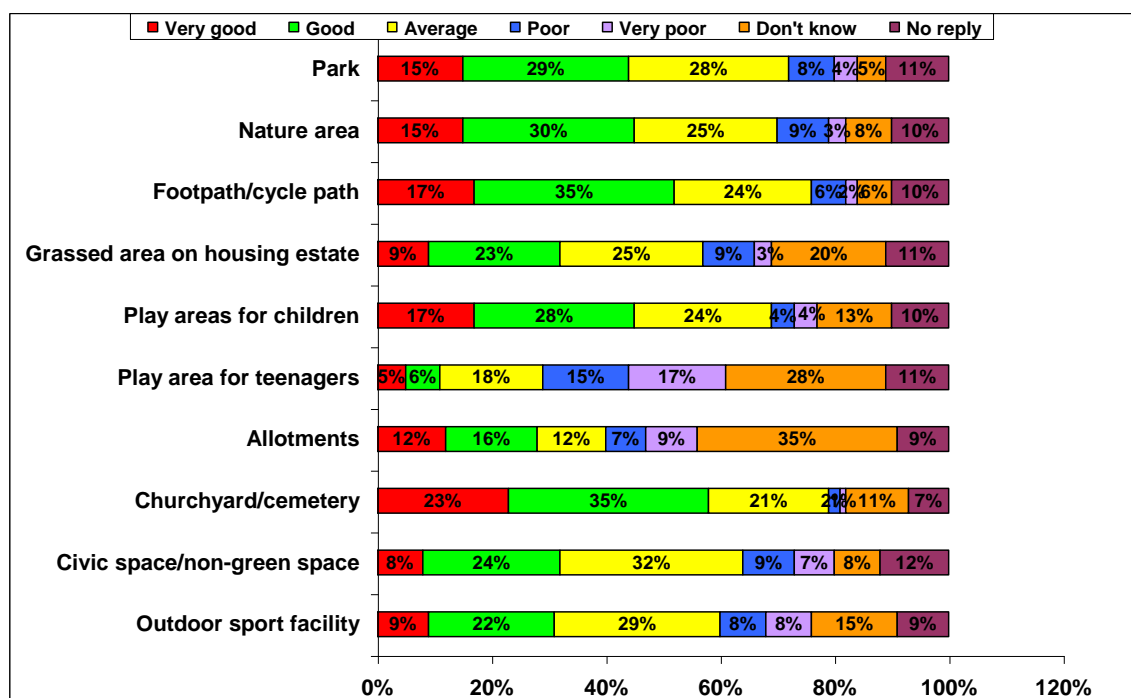
There is also sporadic misuse of open spaces by off-road motorbikes e.g. Shobnall Fields. ESBC works in partnership with the Police to address this. Consultation highlighted an area of land, off Derby Road, Uttoxeter, which is currently being made good use of by young people on scrambler bikes. There is nowhere else for them to pursue this activity and consultation indicates that this site is an appropriate location as it away from residential areas and is, thus, not causing nuisance or significant damage. However, the site being used is the potential location of the new cattle market development or industrial estate development.

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## Availability

The availability of open spaces is very highly rated for several typologies, most notably churchyards/cemeteries (58%), footpaths/cyclepaths (52%), play areas for children (45%), nature areas (45%) and parks (44%). Even where the overall proportion is lower, e.g. outdoor sports facilities and grassed area on housing estates, the proportion rating provision as good outweighs those rating it as poor. In these cases, a sizeable proportion of respondents are not able to comment on availability.

Figure 3.4 Availability of open spaces



The citizen panel survey reinforces the findings of consultation. This identifies a perception amongst residents that the Borough is generally well provided for in terms of open spaces, with particular reference being made (on numerous occasions) to the easy access to the countryside. With the exception of allotments and play provision for teenagers, for each type of open space at least half of respondents believe availability to be adequate or better. In terms of allotments and play provision for teenagers two fifths are unable to rate the availability, which reflects the low usage levels of these typologies amongst respondents.

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Out of 30 parish council responses only a small proportion (23%) stated there is insufficient open space provision in their parish as illustrated below:

Parish Council	Identified demand for greater provision
Anslow Parish Council	The parish council owns no land and therefore cannot provide any facilities. The churchyard within the parish is at capacity; therefore an identified priority is to obtain land for provision of a new cemetery.  There are good play facilities at the local school. However, these are not available for community use at present.
Burton Parish Council	It's the nature of the area that there is not enough. The only open space area is the Washlands, by the river. Provision of children's play areas is limited.
Kingstone Parish Council	The Parish Council is finishing work on Kingstone play area at the moment. There are no immediate plans for further development of the site but it would like to add play area/equipment for toddlers (<5 years) to ensure that all ages are catered for.
Newborough Parish Council	The play area is old, has equipment for small children and a grassed area used for football. The Parish Council is actively trying to develop this area and would like to relocate the young children's play equipment to another part of the site, across the stream. Following this it then intends to provide new equipment for older children (11+ years) on the play area. It would also like to provide a football net (there is not enough space for a pitch). A committee is being formed to oversee this and raise funds etc. Consultation has been undertaken with the local school and youth club to identify demand and aspirations.  There are no sport facilities in the village. A football pitch would be welcomed.
Rocester Parish Council	The Parish Council has received some enquiries about allotments. It does own a small piece of overgrown land to the rear of the houses on Northfield Avenue, which has potential to be used as allotments.  There is also demand for a picnic area as a large amount of visitor traffic passes through the area, on route to Alton Towers. There is a picnic area/lake at the JCB site, which is privately owned.
Tutbury Parish Council	No comment given.
Uttoxeter rural Parish Council	Bramshall village has no open space provision. The Parish Council has been attempting to obtain land for over two years unsuccessfully. There is identified need for provision of children's play areas in Bramshall and Stramshall, both parish plans show a need for play areas.

There are a number of developments planned in the long-term across the Borough, particularly in Uttoxeter, which may have an impact upon the level of open space provision e.g. there is potential for parkland to be provided through development of the JCB site for retail and housing and a feasibility study has been conducted for Uttoxeter Gravel Pits/Leasowes Farm for provision of recreational activities.

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Part of the National Forest falls within East Staffordshire, taking in the southern part of the Borough including Burton upon Trent. The aim of the National Forest is to transform 200 square miles of central England creating a forested landscape by increasing woodland cover to a third of all land within its boundary. In 1996, this stood at just 6% but by 2008, has risen to 18% through planting schemes led by the National Forest Company. The National Forest Strategy aims to make the countryside more accessible for local people and visitors, with 90% of woodland sites within the National Forest being open to all.

Burton upon Trent is the largest community in the Forest and is the subject of an Urban Forest Strategy. Both strategies form an important part of the context for the East Staffordshire Local Plan, which is one of the main ways of achieving the objectives.

The National Forest Company offers a range of unique funding schemes for landowners to encourage tree planting and the creation of wildlife habitats within the National Forest. Creating a welcoming and accessible forest is a priority, with one aim being to create a resource for public access and recreation for local residents and visitors through provision of high-quality recreation and sporting experiences based on outdoor activity.

ESBC pursues a robust and imaginative approach towards development in the area, whilst ensuring that the commercial return from development will help to support implementation of the Forest. In negotiating, to maximise the potential for tree planting, as part of the housing proposals in the Forest, the Borough Council will accept the agreed scheme as incorporating the open space requirement, apart from children's play spaces.

### **Quality**

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessments for open spaces across East Staffordshire and applies the proposed quality standard as detailed earlier in the report.

*Table 3.1: Quality scores for all open space typologies*

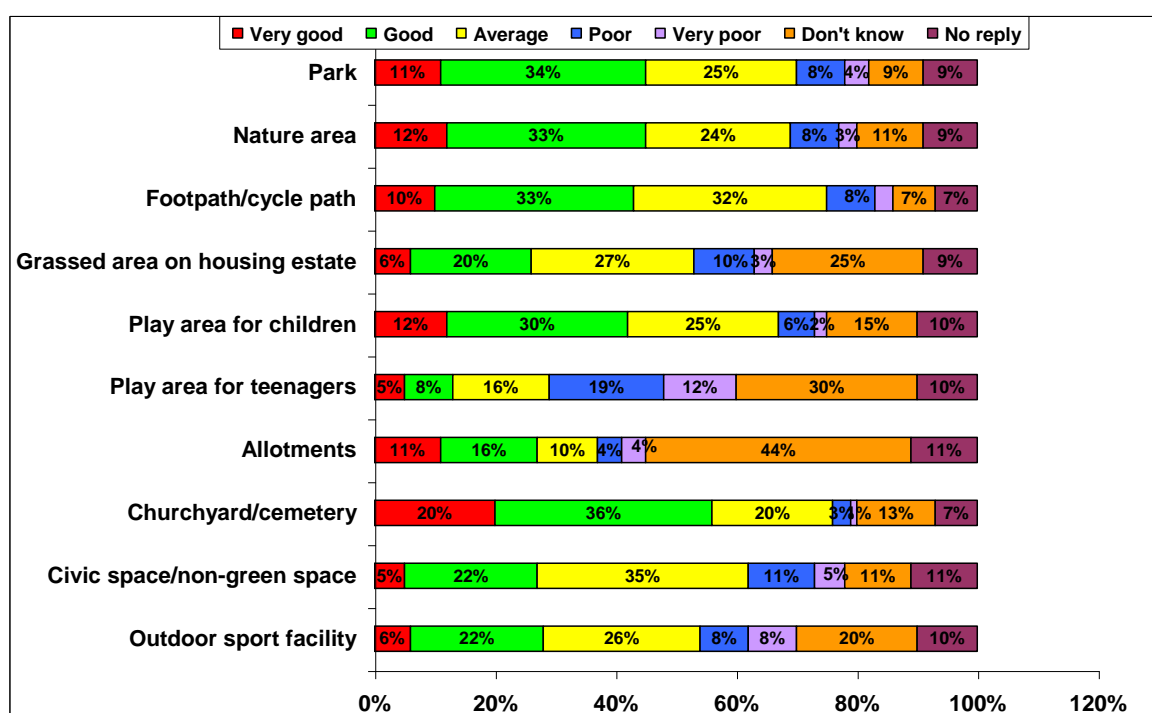
Typology	Threshold	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below threshold	Above threshold
Allotments	30%	14%	29%	56%	43%	12	10
Amenity greenspace	45%	0%	42%	73%	73%	68	51
Closed churchyards	50%	21%	49%	70%	48%	12	14
Open Churchyards	66%	21%	49%	70%	48%	23	3
Civic spaces	60%	53%	58%	62%	9%	3	2
Green corridors	66%	18%	63%	98%	80%	7	7
Natural/semi greenspaces	30%	14%	30%	66%	52%	15	17
Strategic Parks	66%	53%	65%	75%	22%	4	4
District and Local Parks	50%	26%	55%	84%	58%	4	13
Play areas	55%	24%	53%	73%	49%	40	37

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Consultation highlights that in general, residents are content with the quality of open space provision across East Staffordshire. However, site assessments demonstrate that quality standards vary significantly across open spaces, the greatest across provision for children and young people with a spread of 71% between the highest and lowest scoring sites.

In terms of quality over two thirds of respondents consider provision of churchyard/cemeteries, footpaths/cyclepaths, parks, nature areas and play areas for children to be average or better (76%, 75%, 70%, 69%, 68% respectively). The only type of provision where the rating of quality as poor is higher than the rating as good is play provision for teenagers. This again may reflect the age range of respondents and therefore a lack of awareness. A sizeable proportion (40%) of respondents are not able to comment on availability.

Figure 3.5: Quality of provision of open space



The majority (86%) of parish councils rate the quality of open space provision in their area as adequate or better (Adequate – 33%, good – 43%, very good – 10%). Only 10% (Draycott-in-the-Clay, Newborough and Mayfield) consider provision of open space in their area to be poor in terms of quality.

The main quality issue raised during consultation is the perceived level of dog foul in open spaces, particularly parks and amenity greenspaces, which are popular resources for dog walkers e.g. Shobnall Fields and Heaton Community Park. ESBC recognises the problem and is proactive in working to deal with it. The Council is in the process of providing combined bins for general litter and dog waste within key sites and the community wardens have enforcement powers and engage with dog owners to educate and raise awareness about the issue. A recent initiative, the 'Clean Up Dog Poo' Campaign has been launched along the Kingfisher Trail in Burton. Enforcement officers

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are marking dog waste with a fluorescent pink spray to raise awareness of the problem and to encourage dog owners to be responsible.

Grounds maintenance of ESBC open spaces is undertaken by on a contract basis by English Landscapes. Indicating high standards of grounds maintenance the monthly performance for English Landscapes is currently at 80% and ESBC reports no concerns with regard to the service being provided via the contract. Recognising the high levels of maintenance English Landscapes has won an award from the British Association of Landscape Industries for grounds maintenance at Stapenhill Gardens. Through a recent re-structure of the open space and countryside team grounds maintenance now falls under the same umbrella as greenspaces which will probably lead to further improvement in efficiency and standards.

### **Improvements to open spaces**

When asked to state the two most important ways in which open spaces can be improved, citizens panel respondents identified a wide range of improvements. These are listed in appendix 6. The main ways identified are tackling dog foul, more supervision, improved safety, high standards of maintenance and cleanliness and greater provision, particularly in relation to children and young people.

At the moment the wardens are not involved with the community in terms of improvement. However, as the number of people in the ranger service is decreasing the wardens do operate within the Parks.

### **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 East Staffordshire.

*Table 3.2: Value scores for all open space typologies*

Typology	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below threshold	Above threshold
Allotments	105	13%	28%	44%	30%	1	29
Amenity greenspace	100	3%	23%	67%	64%	34	57
Cemeteries	100	16%	27%	47%	31%	2	9
Children's play areas	55	9%	31%	76%	67%	12	77
Civic spaces	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green corridors	100	47%	47%	47%	0%	-	1
Parks and Gardens	110	17%	36%	69%	52%	2	27
Semi / Natural greenspaces	110	11%	25%	52%	41%	12	17

Consultation identifies that open spaces are a valuable resource to residents across the Borough. Site assessments recognise the health, social and well-being benefits offered by open spaces and is was reflected in the site assessment scoring with all the mean scores lying above 20%. Consultation also highlights the significance placed on sites

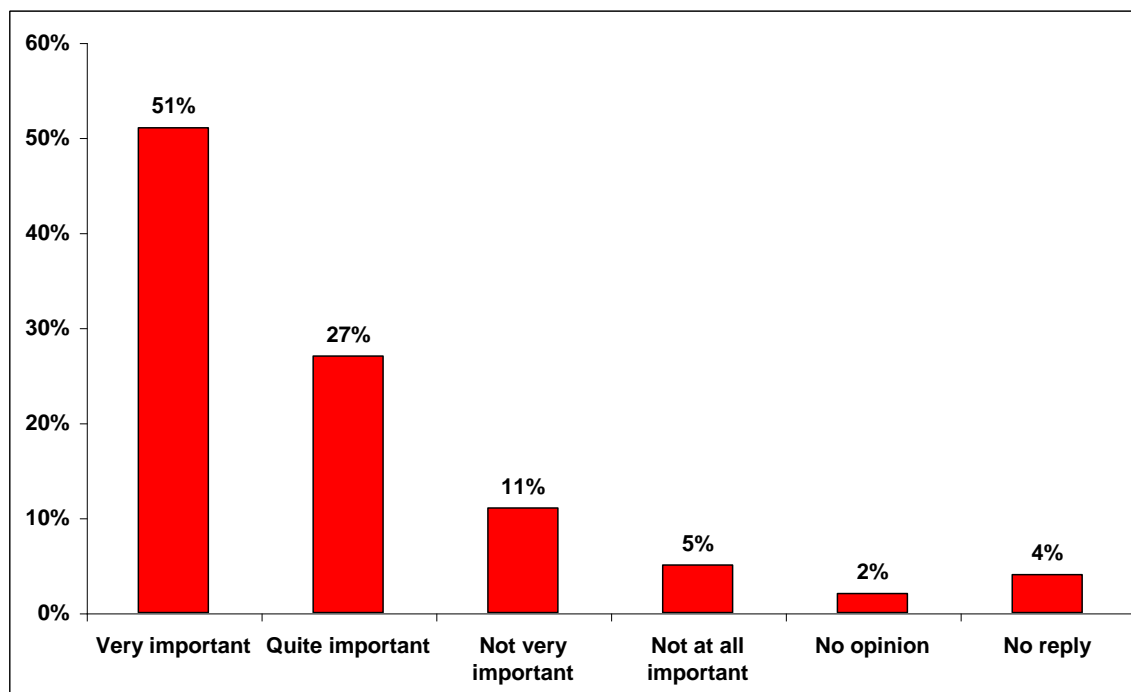
## EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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which, although perceived as low quality, are of high value to local communities, particularly where they are the only accessible provision in an area.

The majority of citizen panel respondents view open spaces to be very or quite important (78%). This reinforces the high value placed on such provision by residents of East Staffordshire and the investments made in it by the local authority and other providers.

*Figure 3.6: Importance of open spaces*



Although there is a lack of site specific 'friends of' groups in the Borough there remains high community involvement in open spaces across East Staffordshire through activities undertaken by civic societies (e.g. Burton Civic Society undertakes bulb planting), and Burton Conservation Volunteers and engagement of residents at the Stapenhill Greenhouse and Environment Centre and Branston Water Park and the Kingfisher Trail. The majority of these are active working groups operating in partnership with the local authority to identify and undertake relevant site enhancements.



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### PART 4: PUBLIC PARKS

#### Introduction

The typology of parks and gardens, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide ‘accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.’

#### Key issues

##### *Current provision*

There are 28 sites classified as publicly accessible parks and gardens totalling just over 142 hectares. Parks and gardens are classified in the following ways to reflect their different characteristics:

- ◀ Town Parks – Historic formal parks which serve a wider area and possibly a whole settlement. While including a range of facilities, they also contain a degree of aesthetic features and cater for out larger events. Examples are: Stapenhill Gardens & Hollows, Bramshall Park, plus also the Remembrance and Memorial Gardens maybe included if sufficiently revamped.
- ◀ Country Parks – Complements the above from a rural perspective.
- ◀ Community Parks – These are a focus for play for all ages and informal sports. They serve a local area or community. They have no fixed minimum size but must be able to accommodate the necessary facilities. One of the original priorities for these was providing positive activities as an antidote to anti-social behaviour.

*Table 4.1: Distribution of parks and gardens sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Town park		County park		Community park		TOTAL provision	
	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)
Burton East							19	91.82
Burton West							3	26.91
Rural 1							1	2.74
Rural 2							1	0.04
Uttoxeter							4	20.80
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>							<b>28</b>	<b>142.33</b>

Consultation indicates that residents generally consider the quantity of parks and gardens to be adequate within East Staffordshire. Each analysis area, with the exception of Rural 1, has provision of at least one local park. Both Borough parks (Branston Water Park and The Washlands) are located within Burton and consultation identifies that Bramshall Park is considered as a key park for residents in Uttoxeter. Provision of parks and gardens is greater in Burton East than the other four analysis areas combined.



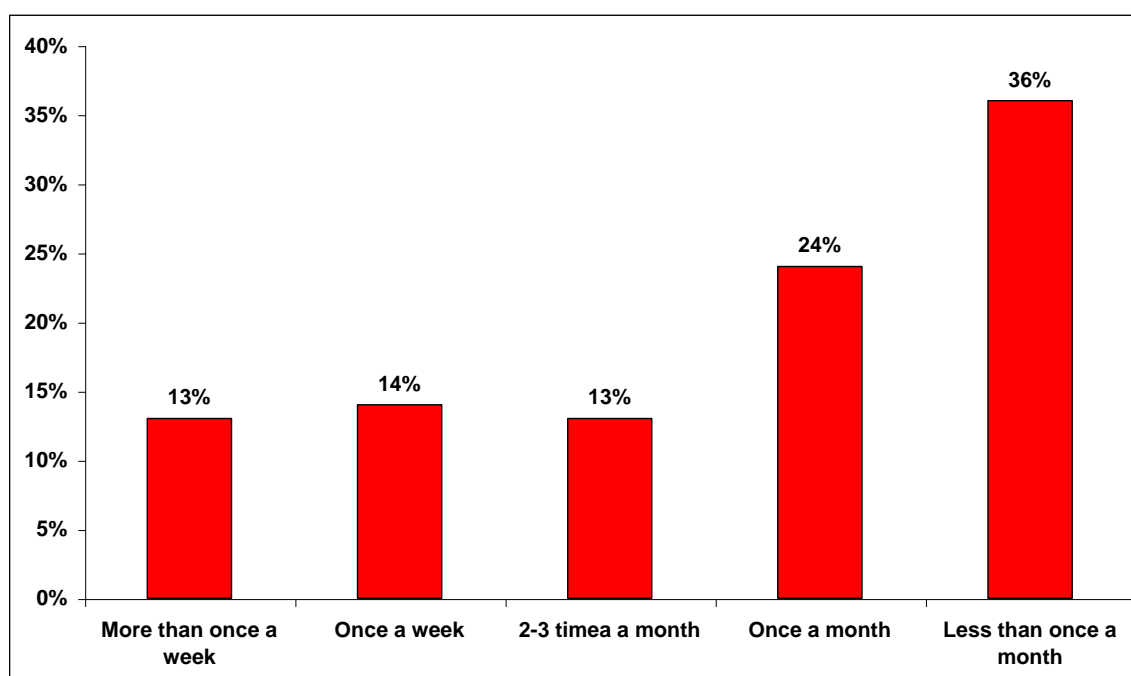
## Usage

Over three quarters (77%) of citizen panel respondents stated that they had visited parks and gardens in the last year, over one quarter (27%) of whom do so at least once a week or more often. However, an interesting result is that almost two thirds (60%) of users access provision on an infrequent basis, once a month or less.

Quality and usage can be directly linked. Higher quality parks across East Staffordshire feel safer and offer users good quality facilities. Many high quality sites were also recorded as having high usage (at the time of the visit). These include Bramshall Park, Branston Water Park and Pennycroft Community Park.

During the site audits over half (55%) of all sites classified as parks and gardens were noted as being well used at time of visit. The only site recorded as having low usage levels is Burton Mail Centenary Woodland (KKP Ref 70), which also received the lowest quality and the lowest value score.

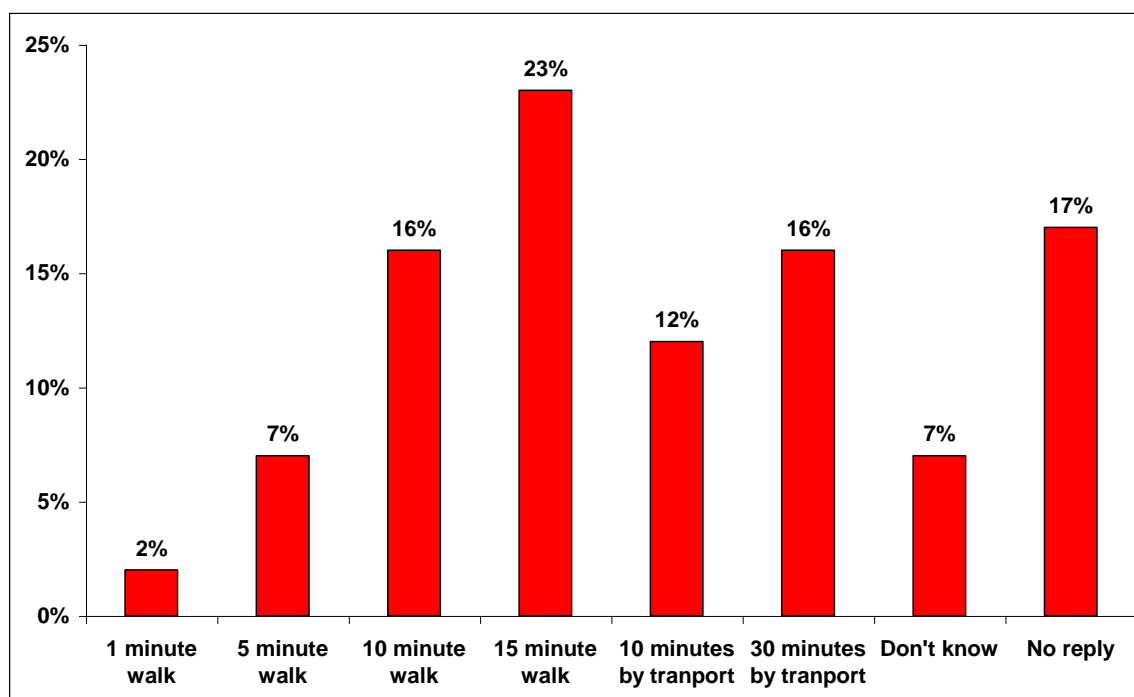
Figure 4.1: Frequency of usage of parks in the previous 12 months



## Accessibility

Almost half (48%) of citizen panel respondents would expect to walk to access park provision, with almost one quarter (23%) willing to walk for up to 15 minutes. Of the 28% of respondents who are willing to drive/take the bus to visit parks, over half (57%) are willing to travel for up to 30 minutes. A third of respondents willing to travel by transport reside in Rural 1 analysis area. The willingness to travel perhaps reflects the expectations of residents in more rural settlements as well as limited park and garden provision in this analysis area.

Figure 4.2: Time prepared to travel to access a park



Given that the majority of users would accept a walk of up to 15 minutes to access provision, we recommend an accessibility standard that all residents in East Staffordshire are within a 15 minute walk time of high quality parks provision. This is also consistent with National Guidelines issued by Greater London Authority (GLA) (2009): 'Guide to preparing open space strategies' that states that an appropriate catchment for District sized parks of between 2 and 20 hectares is 1,200 metres (which converts to 0.75 miles or 15 minute walk). The mapping overleaf plots all sites with this catchment applied in order to identify any deficiencies in provision.

Figure 4.3: Parks and gardens with 15 minute walk catchments

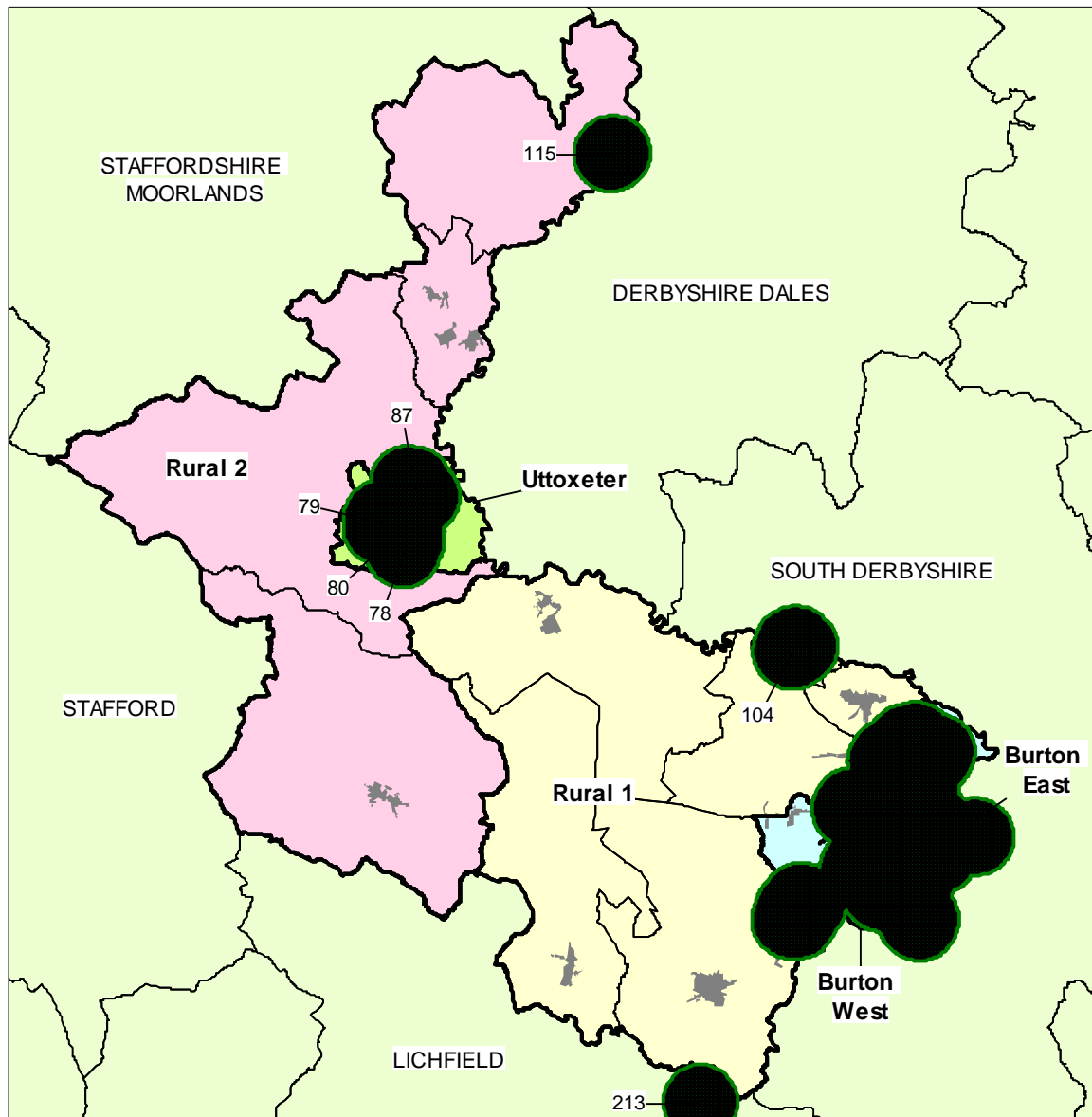
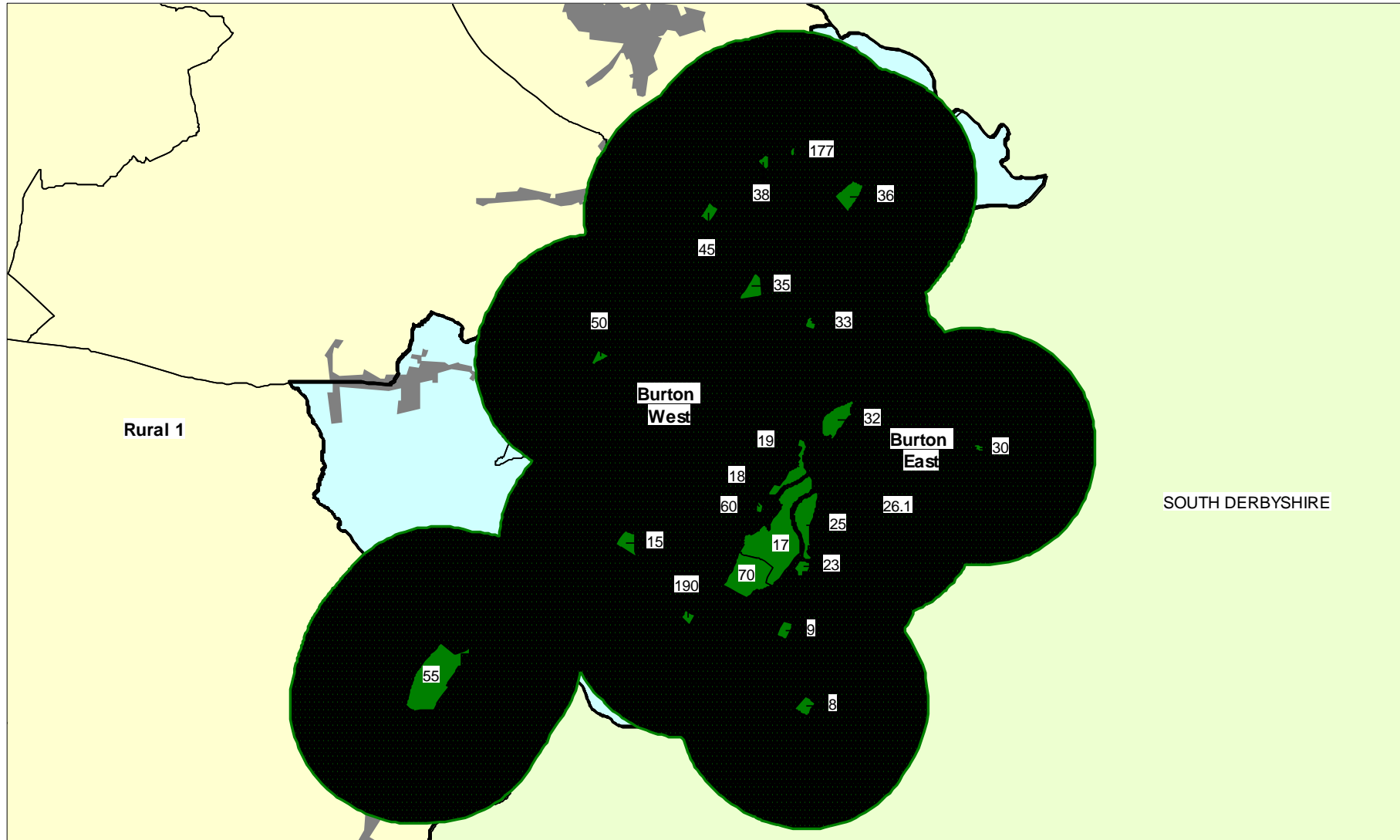


Figure 4.4: Parks and gardens in Burton with 15 minute walk catchments



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Key to sites mapped:

KKP Ref	Site	Classification	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
9	Heath Road Community Park	Community Park	Burton East	48.4%	30.9%
15	Anglesey Community Park	Community Park	Burton East	53.4%	40.0%
17	The Washlands	-	Burton East	52.4%	39.1%
18	The Memorial Gardens	-	Burton East	61.8%	27.3%
19	Remembrance Gardens	-	Burton East	52.2%	31.8%
23	The Washlands - Stapenhill Gardens	Town Park	Burton East	73.0%	30.9%
25	The Washlands - Stapenhill Hollows	Town Park	Burton East	65.6%	29.1%
26.1	Forget-me-not Garden	-	Burton East	44.0%	19.1%
30	Canterbury Community Park	Community Park	Burton East	39.0%	25.5%
32	Newton Road Park	Community Park	Burton East	47.2%	31.8%
33	Wetmore Community Park	Community Park	Burton East	42.1%	32.7%
35	Eton Community Park	Community Park	Burton East	40.9%	33.6%
36	Hillfield Lane Park	-	Burton West	42.8%	32.7%
38	Bitham Lane Park	-	Burton West	42.8%	24.5%
60	Uxbridge Gardens	-	Burton East	35.9%	32.7%
70	Burton Mail Centenary Woodland	-	Burton East	21.4%	17.3%
177	Millenium Garden	-	Burton East	48.0%	22.7%
190	Upper Mills Community Park	Community Park	Burton East	24.4%	30.9%
45	Horninglow Community Park	Community Park	Burton West	52.8%	30.0%
50	Outwoods Park		Burton West	51.2%	27.3%
55	Branston Water Park	Country Park	Burton West	82.4%	69.1%
115	Memorial Gardens, Ashbourne Road	-	Rural 2	40.9%	30.0%
78	Hazelwalls Community Park	Community Park	Uttoxeter	53.0%	50.9%
79	Bramshall Park	Town Park	Uttoxeter	70.9%	60.9%
80	Oldfield Park	Town Park	Uttoxeter	54.1%	52.7%

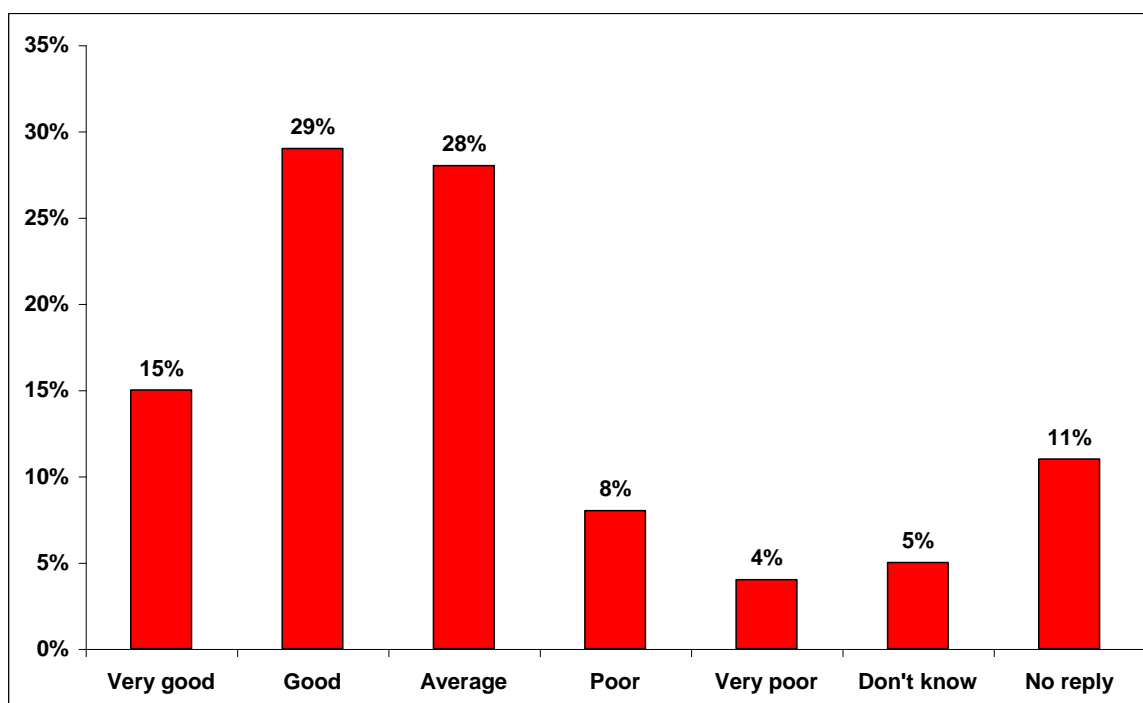
## EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

KKP Ref	Site	Classification	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
87	Pennycroft Community Park	Community Park	Uttoxeter	62.3%	61.8%
104	The Mill Field, Tutbury	Community Park	Rural 1	74.1%	66.0%

There is provision of at least one park and garden in each major settlement across the Borough (Burton-upon-Trent and Uttoxeter). Although provision is limited within the rural analysis areas this is to be expected as, with the exception of Barton-under-Needwood there are no settlements with significant populations to generate need for such provision.

Almost half (44%) of the citizen panel respondents rate the provision/accessibility of parks and gardens to be good (29%) or very good (15%). Only a small proportion (12%) of respondent's rate availability as poor, one third (36%) of which are from the Rural 1 analysis area reflecting the lack of provision highlighted by the audit and mapping.

Figure 4.5: Availability of parks



### Management

The Parks and Countryside team within ESBC's Cultural Services is responsible for overseeing the general operational management and day-to-day maintenance of local authority owned parks and gardens throughout East Staffordshire. A contractor, English Landscapes, undertakes grounds maintenance on behalf of ESBC.

ESBC has recently signed up to GreenSTAT<sup>1</sup>, a web system that gives local residents the opportunity to comment on the quality of their open spaces and how well they feel they

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.greenstat.org.uk/>

are being managed and maintained. Managers then evaluate the results against comparable local authorities across the country. It also provides ESBC with a regular statement of local opinion on parks and open spaces, thus enabling the relevant department to respond to issues as they arise. The results from January 2009 are summarised in Part 3.

Guiding the strategic management and development of provision a small number of sites have written management plans. ESBC has aspirations to expand this to all key sites, as and when resources allow. It intends to produce a management plan for the Washlands in the near future. Working towards written management plans ensures that relevant policies and regimes, required to be successful in achieving the Green Flag Award, are in place.

### ***Green Flag***

The Green Flag Award Scheme, managed by the Civic Trust, provides a national standard for parks and greenspaces across England and Wales. Public service agreements, identified by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) highlight the national importance placed on Green Flag status as an indicator of high quality parks. This in turn has an impact on the way in which parks and gardens are being managed and maintained.

There are currently (2008/2009) two Green Flag status sites in East Staffordshire, both located in Burton (Branston Water Park and the Kingfisher Trail). These sites have written management plans and high levels of community involvement. ESBC has aspirations, as outlined in its Service Plan, to get an additional Green Flag status site by 2010. There are a number of potential sites for this. Qualitative scores from site visits undertaken by KKP suggest that the Washlands/Stapenhill Gardens in Burton and Bramshall Park and Pennycroft Community Park in Uttoxeter have a good chance of success in the field assessment element of the award if considered for Green Flag entry in the future. All score above 60%, which is indicative of a high quality site. Greater community engagement is required in Uttoxeter to move towards meeting this requirement of the award. ESBC would like to revive interest in a 'friends of' group for Pennycroft Park and is currently undertaking tree planting activities with local community members and school children to encourage this. Greater community involvement is required at the Washlands before entry to the award is considered. Although Stapenhill Park is located 1 mile from the centre of Burton consultation highlights that it is regarded as a flagship park.

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### Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks and gardens in East Staffordshire. The threshold for assessing high and low quality is set at 50% reflecting the average score gained for parks and gardens in East Staffordshire.

Table 4.2: Quality scores for parks and garden sites by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 50%	Above 50%
Burton East	159	21%	46%	73%	52%	13	6
Burton West	159	51%	62%	82%	31%	0	3
Rural 1	159	56%	56%	56%	0%	0	1
Rural 2	159	41%	41%	41%	0%	1	0
Uttoxeter	159	53%	60%	71%	18%	0	4
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

Quality scores for parks and gardens range from just 21% (Burton Mail Centenary Woods, KKP Ref 70) to 82% (Branston Water Park, KKP 55). 14 sites scored above 50%, indicating high standards of grounds maintenance with all sites scoring 4 or 5 out of 5 for overall maintenance and cleanliness.

Assessment against the Green Flag pass mark of 66% highlights four high quality sites, The Washlands - Stapenhill Hollows, Bramshall Park, The Washlands - Stapenhill Gardens and Branston Water Park.

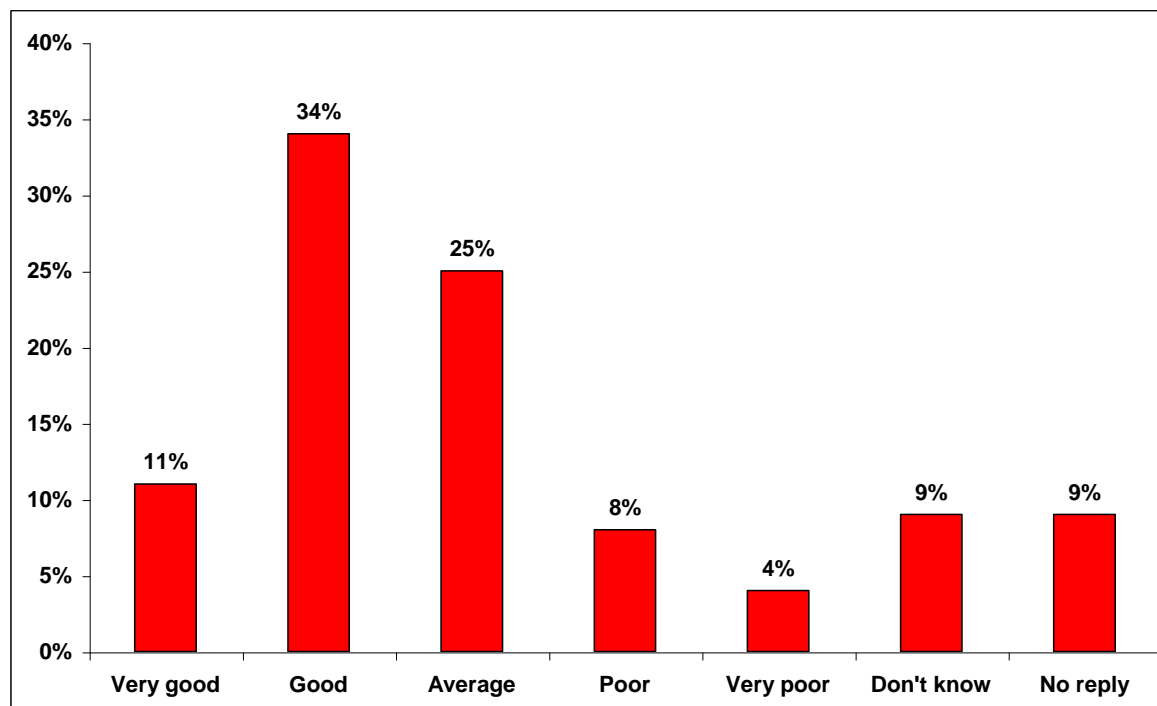
Consultation indicates that residents generally consider the quality of parks and gardens to be adequate. The main quality issue raised during consultation is the perceived problem of irresponsible dog owners. Consultation suggests that residents perceive dog foul to be a problem in sites across East Staffordshire e.g. Bramshall Park and Heath Road Community Park. However, site assessments did not pick this up as a significant issue in parks. The only site where it was deemed to be appropriate to install more dog foul bins was Upper Mills Community Park, Burton East to help tackle the issue. The ESBC community wardens are pro-active in tackling the issue e.g. handing out poop scoop bags and educating offenders.

As shown in the figure below, 70% of citizen panel respondents believe parks and gardens to be at least average in terms of quality and almost half (45%) of respondents consider quality of provision to be good or very good. Provision, in terms of quality, is rated highest by respondents from Burton East (50% of respondents from this area rate quality as good). A smaller proportion from the two rural analysis areas rate quality of provision as good (Rural 1 – 24%, Rural 2 – 22%). Interestingly two fifths (41%) of respondents from Rural 2 cannot comment on the quality of current provision. This may reflect the low usage of park provision indicated by respondents from this area, with almost one third (28%) stating that they had not accessed provision in the previous 12 months.



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Figure 4.6: Quality of provision of parks



## Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks and gardens in East Staffordshire. A score of 20% or less is considered to indicate that a site has low value.

Table 4.3: Value scores for parks and garden sites by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 40%	Above 40%
Burton East	110	17%	30%	40%	23%	2	17
Burton West	110	27%	42%	69%	42%	0	3
Rural 1	110	60%	60%	60%	0%	0	1
Rural 2	110	30%	30%	30%	0%	0	1
Uttoxeter	110	51%	57%	62%	11%	0	4
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>

In terms of value, the average score across the Borough is 36%, ranging from 69% for Branston Water Parks to just 17% for Burton Mail Centenary Woodland. This reflects the quality scores gained by these two sites. Two sites are identified as low value, Burton Mail Centenary Woodland and Forget-me-not Garden. Burton Mail Centenary Woodland also scored low within the quality assessment (21%) and it is thought that if its quality was increased it could potential increase its value to local residents.

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Social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and amenity and sense of place are recognised benefits in sites, which resident consultation identifies as being of high value to the local community, such as Branston Water Park.

Recognising the wildlife value that can be offered by park provision a habitat management plan is currently being written, by ESBC, for the Washlands. ESBC has also educated local residents about accepting the wildlife value of brambles and thistles introduced on the boundary of the site.

### *Community involvement*

There is currently high community involvement within the two Green Flag sites. However, community engagement is generally lacking in parks and gardens across the Borough. When ESBC provided the ten community parks a 'friends of' group was established for each. However, these proved unsustainable and have since disbanded. ESBC recognises the value of community engagement and ownership and aspires to encourage and support the formation of 'friends of' groups for the key sites; currently this is limited by available resources.

### **Summary**

This section collates issues raised during consultation with regard to provision of parks and gardens in East Staffordshire. It is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers those about which comment was made during consultation.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Pennycroft Community Park (KKP Ref 87)	This is a large site with a wide range of facilities suitable for a variety of different users. It is multi-functional, providing formal areas, play provision, informal recreation opportunities and opportunities to experience nature through provision of wildlife habitats. The site audit notes that the site offers lots of scope for imaginative play.
Branston Water Park (KKP Ref 55)	The site audit recognises that this is a large, very attractive, well-managed water park. It is fully accessible for users of wheelchairs and parents with pushchairs. There is a lot to occupy the visitor and good provision of interpretation opportunities. This is regarded as an excellent amenity.

### Public parks summary

- ◀ 25 sites are classified as publicly accessible parks and gardens totalling just over 133 hectares.
- ◀ The citizen panel survey identifies high usage levels of current provision with over three quarters (77%) of respondents stating that they had visited provision in the last year.
- ◀ Almost half (48%) of citizen panel respondents would expect to walk to access park provision, with almost one quarter (23%) willing to walk for up to 15 minutes.
- ◀ There is provision of at least one park and garden in each of the major settlements across the Borough (Burton-upon-Trent and Uttoxeter). However, provision is lacking in the more rural settlement areas. Almost half (44%) of the citizen panel respondents rate the provision/accessibility of parks and gardens to be good (29%) or very good (15%).
- ◀ The mean quality score for the Borough lies at 51%. Consultation indicates that residents generally consider the quality of parks and gardens to be adequate. The main quality issue raised during consultation is the perceived problem of dog foul negatively impacting upon site quality and therefore usage.
- ◀ Social inclusion and health, habitat and wildlife value and amenity and sense of place are recognised benefits of park and garden provision.
- ◀ As and when resources allow ESBC should work to encourage and support the formation of 'friends of' groups to increase community engagement in the management and development of parks and gardens.

**PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACES**

**Introduction**

The typology of natural and semi natural greenspaces, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. downland, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), open running water, wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits). These provide ‘wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.’

**Key issues**

***Current provision***

In total, 29 open spaces in East Staffordshire, totalling almost 165 hectares, are classified as natural and semi-natural greenspaces. Three of these are closed or restricted access.

*Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspaces sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Natural/semi - natural greenspaces	
	Number	Size (ha)
Burton East	12	76.33
Burton West	7	20.00
Rural 1	8	63.73
Rural 2	-	-
Uttoxeter	2	4.46
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>164.52</b>

The Borough has a large proportion of locally and regionally important semi-natural sites. There are numerous sites of special scientific interest (SSSI), including Blithfield Reservoir, Stanton Pastures and Cuckoocliff Valley, Braken Hurst and Forest Banks. One site, Scalpcliffe Hill, is currently designated as local nature reserves (LNR). In 1996, English Nature (now Natural England) recommended that there should be one hectare of designated LNR per 1,000 population. To put this into local context, with a population of 107, 700 (mid 2006 estimate), across the Borough there should be provision of least 107 hectares of LNR. The designated site covers 8 hectares, leaving a shortfall of some 99 hectares.

ESBC is working towards designating a total of five LNR’s by 2010. In the near future applications are to be submitted to Natural England for designation of Branston Water Park and the Kingfisher Trail. If successful these will increase LNR provision to 36 ha leaving a shortfall of 71 hectares.

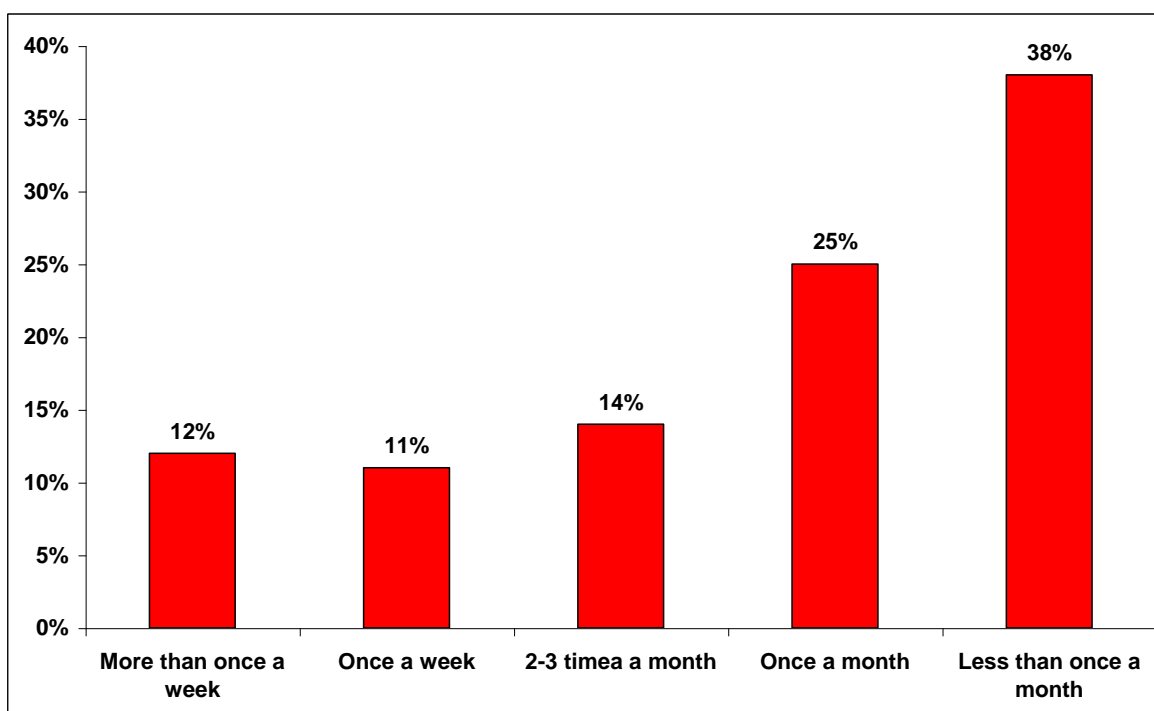
The promotion of access to sensitive sites such as the LNRs and SSSIs has to be managed in accordance with protecting the wildlife habitats.

**Usage**

Three quarters (74%) of citizen panel respondents have visited a nature area in the previous 12 months. Level of usage is consistent across responses from all analysis areas. Of those respondents that have visited a nature area the majority (38%) do so fairly infrequently.

Over one third (38%) of respondents who visited nature areas in the previous twelve months do so fairly infrequently, less than once a month. However, the majority (62%) visit nature areas at least once a month indicating their importance as recreational resources.

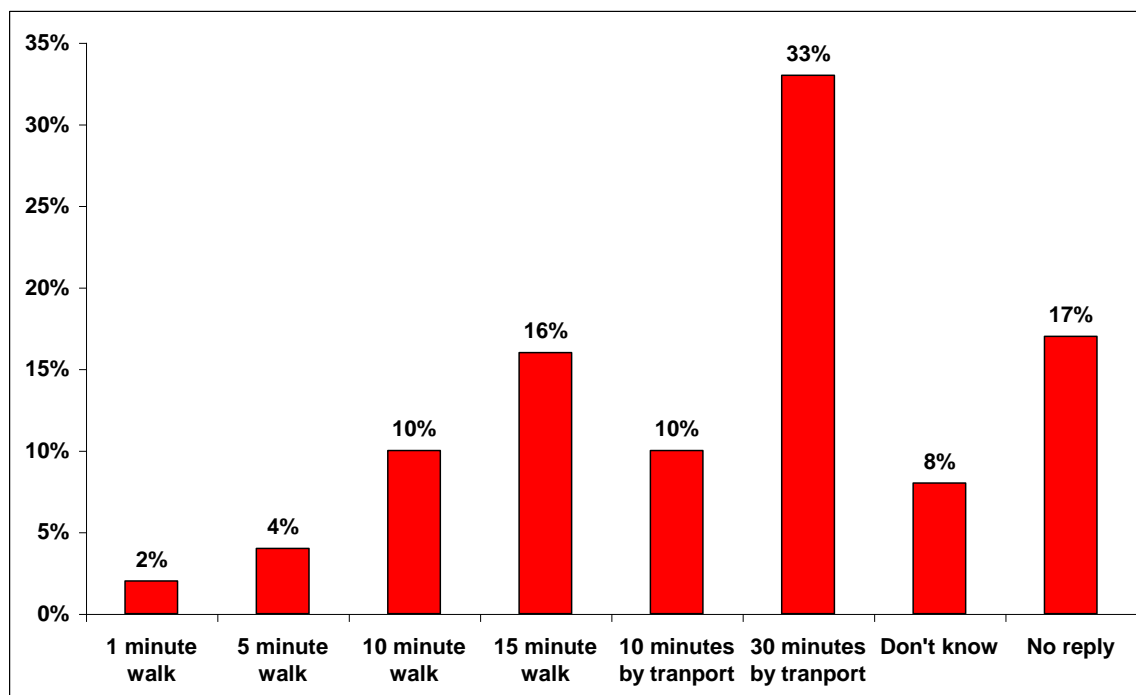
*Figure 5.1: Frequency of usage of natural areas in the previous 12 months*



**Accessibility**

The citizen panel survey indicates that residents of East Staffordshire are most likely to use transport to access natural areas (43%). Reflecting the rural nature of the Borough one third (33%) of respondents' state that they are willing to travel up to 30 minutes by transport; one third (34%) of these being from Burton East. One third (32%) of respondents from Uttoxeter cannot give a response with respect to the distance they are willing to travel to visit provision. This reflects the fact that one quarter of respondents from Uttoxeter state that they have not visited a nature area in the last year.

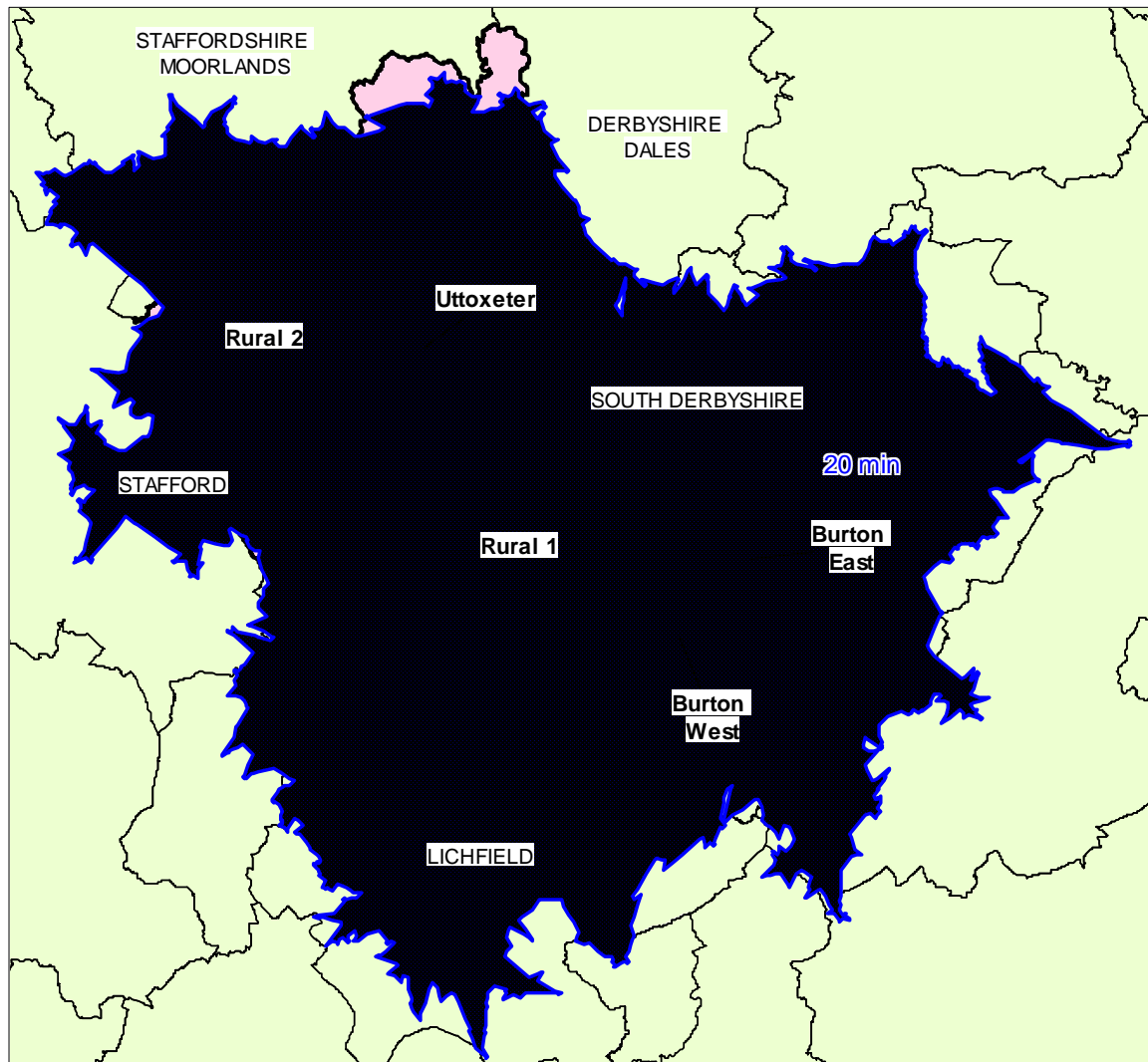
Figure 5.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a nature area



The majority of users would accept a drive time of up to 30 minutes to access provision, which can cover quite a significant distance (although not uncommon in East Staffordshire where the consultation suggests that many residents perceive this type of provision to be outwith East Staffordshire). National guidelines, as set out by English Nature, in the form of the *ANGSt Model*, states that no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace (equating to only 0.2 miles).

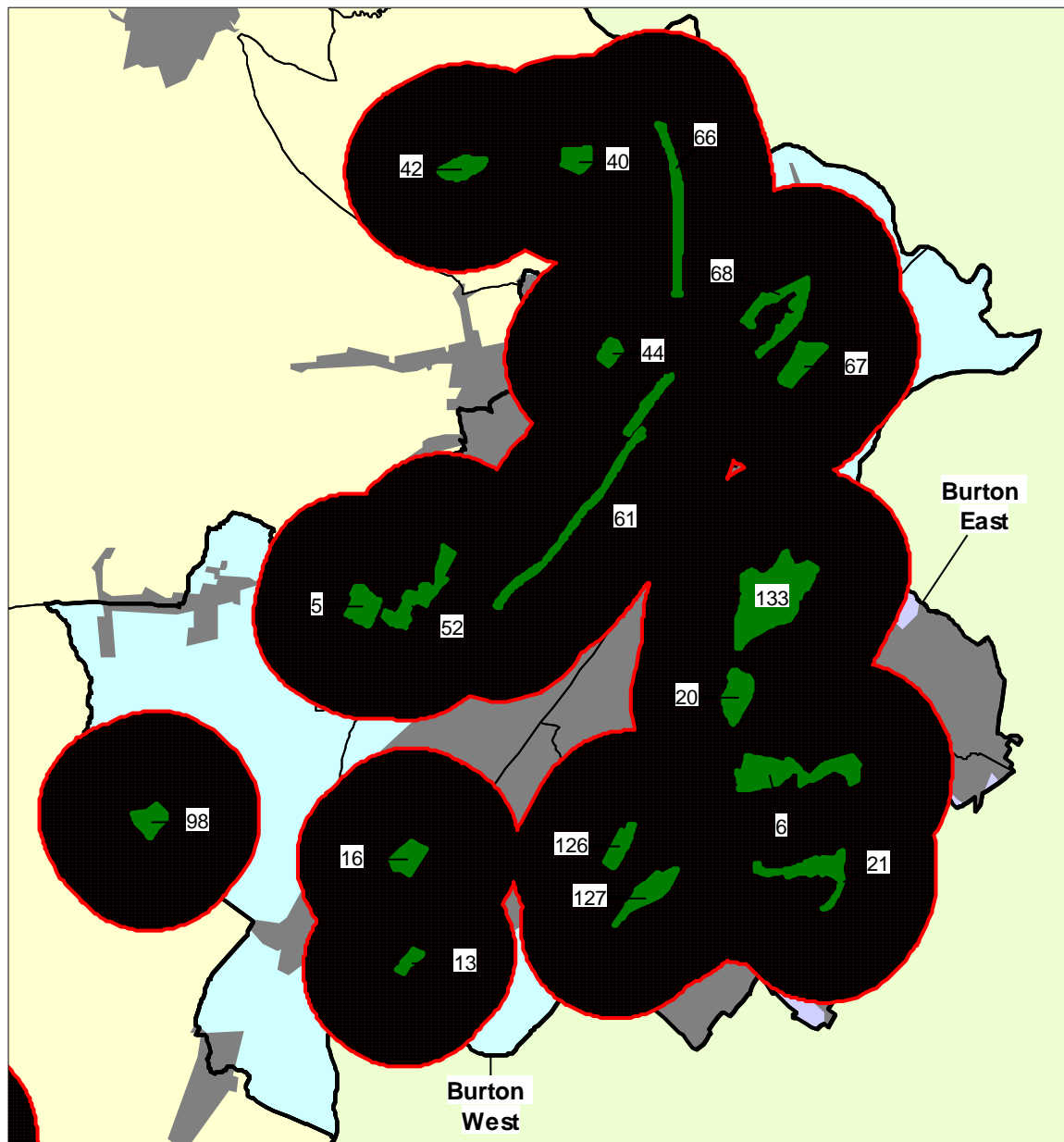
On this basis, and we recommend an accessibility standard that all residents in East Staffordshire are within a 20 minute drive time of high quality natural greenspace provision. The mapping overleaf plots all sites with this catchment applied in order to identify any deficiencies in provision. This is particularly important in Burton, where the aspiration, given the National Forest implications, should be higher and we therefore, recommend that in Burton an accessibility standard of 10 minute walk time to provision.

*Figure 5.3: Natural and semi-natural greenspaces with 20 minute drive-time catchment*



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*Semi Natural greenspaces in Burton with 10 minute walk (750 m) catchments*



*Key to sites mapped*

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
6	Scalpccliffe Local Nature Reserve	Burton East	39.4%	27.3%
20	The Broadholme	Burton East	19.7%	15.5%
21	Redhill / Redhill Woodlands	Burton East	24.2%	11.8%
44	Bitham Claypits	Burton East	31.1%	22.7%
53	Stretton Balancing Pond	Burton East	28.0%	23.6%
61	Horninglow Linear Park (The Kingfisher Trail)	Burton East	46.2%	26.4%



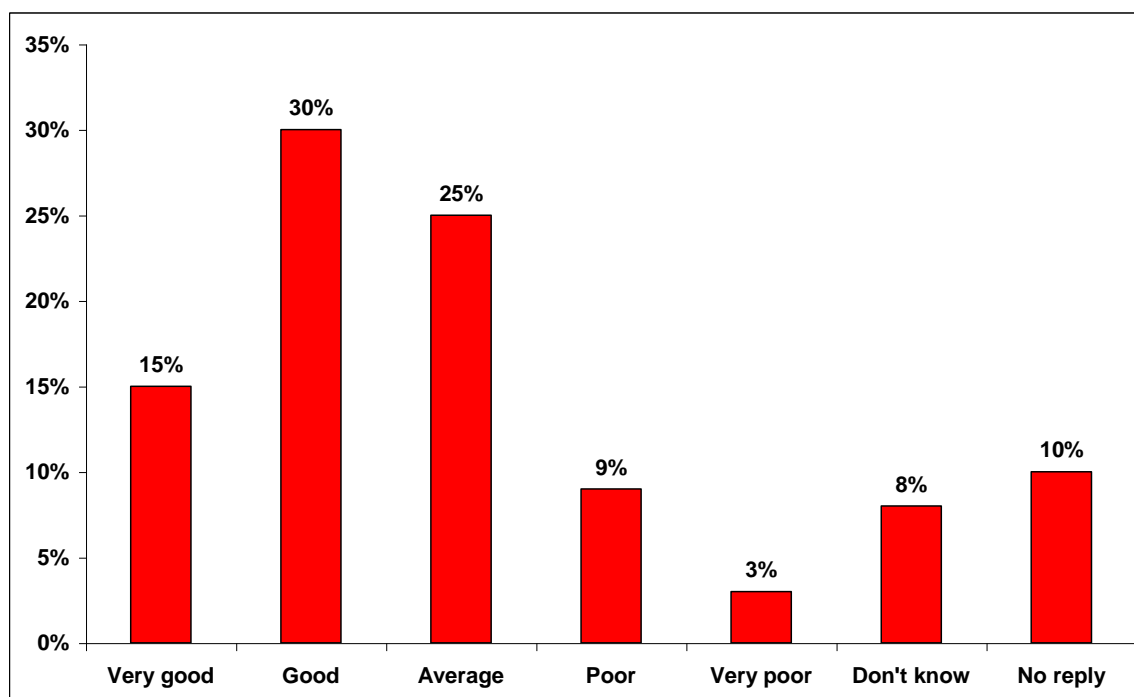
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KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
67	Claymills Pool	Burton East	28.8%	13.6%
68	Stretton Woodlands	Burton East	39.4%	23.6%
69	Tower Woods	Burton East	46.2%	13.6%
126	Grazing Land off Watson Street	Burton East	15.2%	10.9%
127	Upper Mills Farm	Burton East	16.7%	15.5%
133	Bass Meadow Forest Tender Scheme	Burton East	31.8%	16.4%
5	The Brickyards	Burton West	23.5%	14.5%
13	The Toadhole	Burton West	52.3%	41.8%
16	Beans Covert	Burton West	26.5%	14.5%
49	Percy's Grove	Burton West	27.3%	22.7%
51	Outwoods Park Extension	Burton West	29.5%	23.6%
52	Oaks Wood	Burton West	40.2%	23.6%
98	Battlestead Wood	Burton West	48.0%	46.4%
40	Craythorne Woods	Rural 1	35.6%	12.7%
42	Brook Hollows	Rural 1	47.7%	19.1%
66	The Jinny Trail	Rural 1	51.5%	21.8%
91	Barton Pool	Rural 1	56.6%	28.2%
97	Dunstall Estate	Rural 1	43.9%	47.3%
106	Goose Green	Rural 1	54.5%	37.3%
107	Swarbourn Meadow	Rural 1	61.9%	37.3%
128	National Forest Tender Scheme	Rural 1	45.2%	40.9%
74	Mallard Close Woodland	Uttoxeter	43.2%	51.8%
88	Penny Croft Surplus Site	Uttoxeter	11.4%	13.6%

The mapping shows a good distribution of natural/semi-natural greenspace provision across the Borough with all areas of high population having access to provision of some kind. Although there is no identified provision in Rural 2 analysis area there are no settlements of significant population generating need for provision. Also the rural nature of this area, with easy access to the countryside, impacts upon resident expectations in terms of natural/semi-natural greenspace availability. There are some small pockets of deficiency in Burton using a 10 minute walk time.

The availability of nature areas is rated as good or very good by almost one half (45%) of citizen panel respondents. Only a small proportion of respondents (12%) rate availability as poor. Perceptions of availability are split evenly amongst respondents from Uttoxeter with 30% rating it as good or very good and 30% rating it as poor or very poor. Almost half (47%) of respondents rating availability as good are from Burton East, this reflects the amount of provision in this analysis area.

Figure 5.4: Availability of natural and semi-natural greenspaces



Supporting the findings of the street survey and reflecting the mainly rural nature of much of the Borough, consultation highlights that residents are generally of the opinion that there is sufficient access to natural/semi-natural open space. The 'countryside is on the doorstep' and therefore perceived access to "naturalness" is considered to be excellent, particularly in the more rural settlements. However, it is important to ensure that residents within more urban settlements, e.g. Burton and Uttoxeter, have sufficient opportunity to experience nature.

To increase opportunities for residents to experience nature, ESBC recognise the value of introducing natural features to formal open space provision e.g. the Council is developing natural features at Penny Croft Park, Uttoxeter, as there is a perceived lack of accessible natural areas for wildlife within the area.

Consultation highlights that the high level of access to natural/semi-natural sites is highly regarded by residents in terms of the recreational and natural play opportunities offered. In the more rural settlements there is less demand for equipped formal play provision and evidence that children utilise the countryside as a play resource e.g. den building. Although this does not eliminate the need to provide play areas for children in populated areas it is important to recognise the benefits offered by sites with natural elements.

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### Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspaces in East Staffordshire. The threshold for assessing high and low quality is set at 40% reflecting the average score gained for natural and semi-natural greenspaces in East Staffordshire.

Table 5.2: Quality scores for natural and semi-natural greenspaces sites by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 40%	Above 40%
Burton East	132	15%	31%	46%	31%	10	2
Burton West	132	23%	35%	52%	29%	4	3
Rural 1	132	36%	50%	62%	26%	1	7
Rural 2	132	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0
Uttoxeter	132	11%	27%	43%	32%	1	1
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>

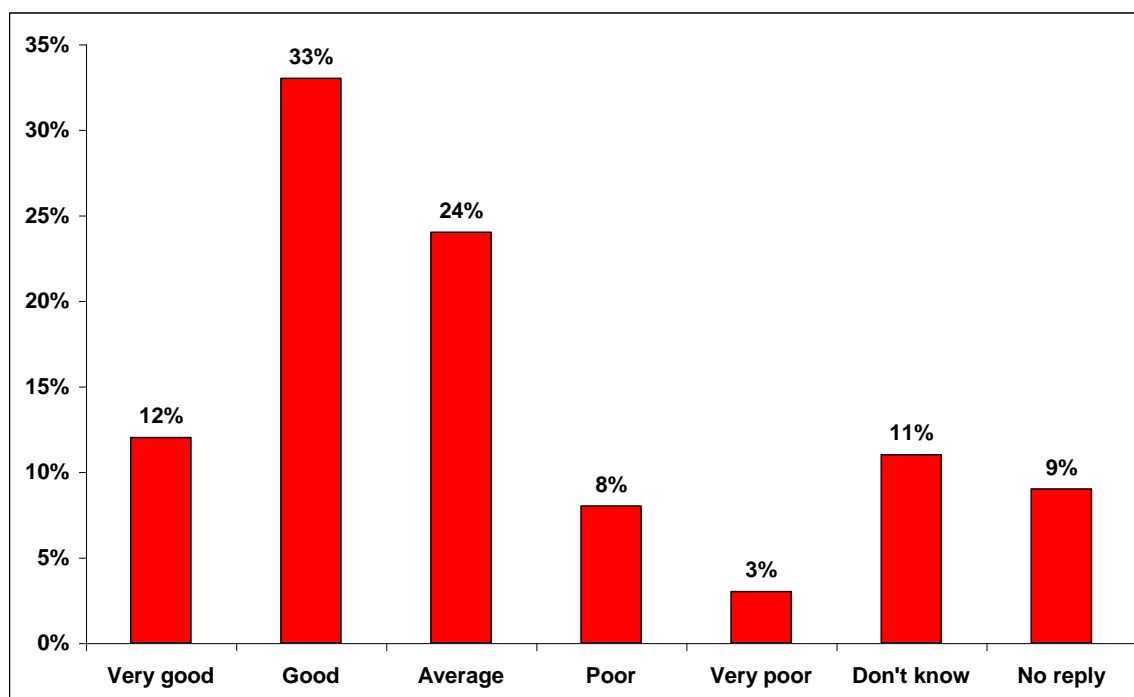
Quality scores for natural/semi-natural sites vary significantly across the Borough, from 62% for Swarbourn Meadow (KKP Ref 107) to only 11% for Pennycroft surplus site (KKP Ref 88).

Consultation and site assessments indicate that the majority of sites are attractive and maintained to a high standard. Almost all (94%) of sites assessed are noted to be good sites on the audit but lose scores on the availability of environmental education facilities and visitor facilities.

Almost half (45%) of citizen panel respondents rate the quality of nature areas as good or very good with a very small proportion (11%) rating the quality of provision to be poor. Once again, one quarter (26%) of respondents from Uttoxeter cannot comment on quality.

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Figure 5.5: Quality of nature areas



## Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspaces in East Staffordshire. A score of 20% or less is considered to indicate that a site has low value.

Table 5.3: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 20%	Above 20%
Burton East	110	11%	18%	27%	16%	7	5
Burton West	110	15%	27%	46%	32%	2	5
Rural 1	110	13%	31%	47%	35%	2	6
Rural 2	110	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0
Uttoxeter	110	14%	33%	52%	38%	1	1
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>

All sites classified as natural/semi-natural scored for at least one element of value. Recognising the landscape, ecological and education benefits offered by sites the mean score for the Borough lies at 25%, ranging from 11% for Grazing Land off Watson Street (KKP Ref 126) to 52% for Mallard Close Woodland (KKP Ref 74).

During the site assessments over half (52%) of sites were noted as having high biodiversity value. As well as providing important nature conservation and biodiversity value, many sites, classified as natural/semi-natural open spaces are well used for

recreational purposes and are a valuable open space resource for communities across East Staffordshire. For example site assessments recorded evidence of sites being utilised for informal play (den making at Forest Road open space, KKP Ref 47, BMX usage at Mallard Close Woodland, KKP Ref 74 and dog walking at Penny Croft surplus site, KKP Ref 88).

Over half (52%) of sites are assessed as having high biodiversity value.

### ***Community involvement***

There is good community involvement in the management of natural and semi-natural open spaces across the Borough through ESBC organised activities e.g. hedge laying on the Kingfisher Trail. Volunteer groups, e.g. Burton Conservation Volunteers, are a valuable resource contributing greatly to the physical habitat management and conservation tasks undertaken at a number of open spaces across the Borough.

### **Summary**

#### **Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary**

- ◀ In total, 29 open spaces in East Staffordshire, totalling almost 165 hectares, are classified as natural and semi-natural greenspaces.
- ◀ There is currently one designated LNR, Scalpcliffe Hill, totalling eight hectares. ESBC has an aspiration to have a total of five designated LNR's by 2010 and application are currently submitted for designated of Branston Water Park and the Kingfisher Trail.
- ◀ The citizen panel survey identifies high usage levels of natural/semi-natural provision with three quarters (74%) of respondents stating that they had visited such provision in the previous 12 months.
- ◀ Residents of East Staffordshire are most likely to use transport to access natural areas (43%). Reflecting the rural nature of the Borough one third (33%) of citizen panel respondents state that they are willing to travel up to 30 minutes by transport to reach provision.
- ◀ The availability of nature areas is rated as good or very good by almost one half (45%) of citizen panel respondents.
- ◀ All sites classified as natural/semi-natural scored for at least one element of value. Recognising the landscape, ecological and education benefits offered by sites the mean score for the Borough lies at 25%.

### PART 6: GREEN CORRIDORS

#### Introduction

The typology of green corridors, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes sites that offer opportunities for 'walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration'. This also includes river and canal banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes within towns and cities, pedestrian paths within towns and cities, rights of way and permissive paths.

#### Key issues

##### *Current provision*

There is an extensive Public Rights of Way (PROW) network in East Staffordshire, the total length of which is broken down by the Staffordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) as follows:

Footpaths	Bridleways	Byways	Total (km)
638.187km (91.30%)	59.415km (8.50%)	0.699km (0.10%)	<b>699.633</b>

Although there appears to be significant PROW coverage across the Borough figures demonstrate the limited extent of bridleway provision. Bridleways make up only 8.5% of the PROW network across East Staffordshire; this is considerably less than the County average of 15.40%.

There are four promoted long distance walking/riding routes running through the Borough providing high quality, accessible recreational routes linking residents with the wider countryside:

- ◀ Way for the Millennium.
- ◀ Staffordshire Way.
- ◀ Sabrina Way.
- ◀ Limestone Way.

In addition, the Trent and Mersey Canal, administered by British Waterways, runs through Burton-upon-Trent providing a valuable green corridor for both residents and visitors to the area. Pedestrian access is permitted on the towpath and informal access on bicycles is permitted where appropriate.

#### **Management**

Both the practical and legal management of the PROW network within the Borough falls to the PROW team within SCC. As a highway authority, SCC is responsible for protecting and maintaining the network and keeping the definitive map up to date. To effectively deliver this SCC works in partnership with other organisations e.g. district and parish councils, Natural England, British Waterways, Sustrans and user and voluntary groups.

The Staffordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) covers East Staffordshire. It identifies a number of actions to be undertaken over a ten year period to improve the quantity, quality and accessibility of the PROW network across the County and meet the

needs of users, as identified through the extensive consultation that underpins it. It establishes a framework for managing the network of rights of way and sets out priorities for improving provision to meet the needs of user's. The Statement of Action set out by the RoWIP is based on the following five key themes that emerged from consultation:

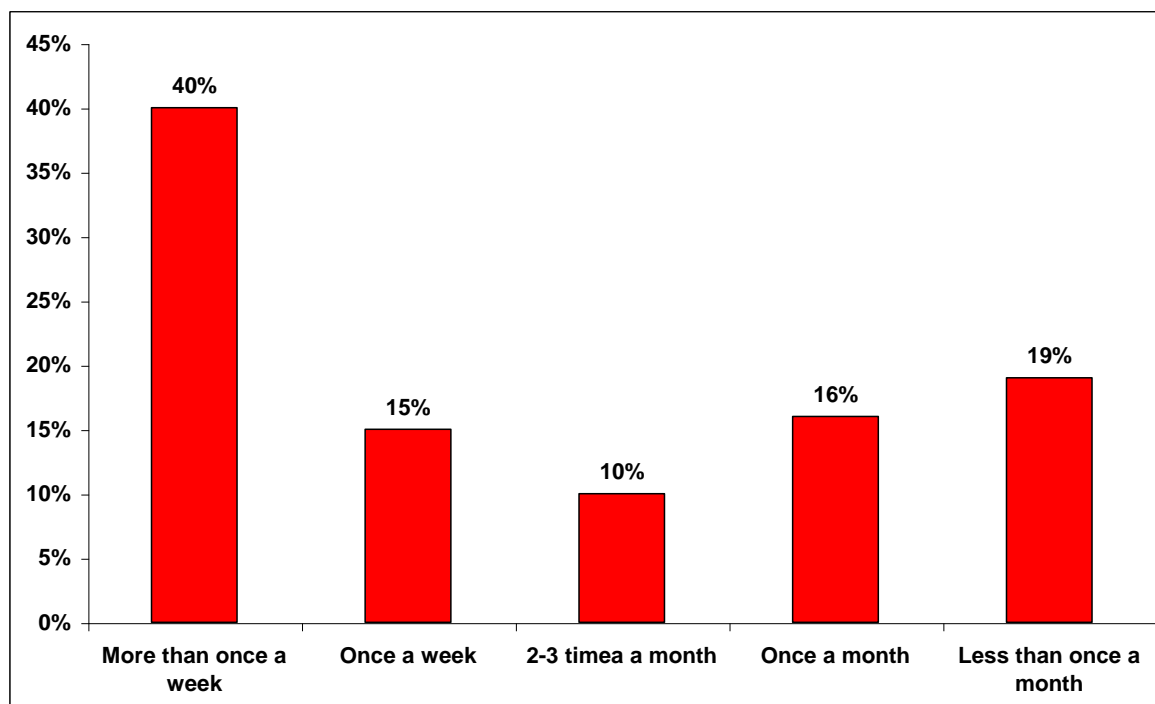
- ◀ A better signed, maintained and accessible path network (to encourage greater use of the countryside and to make the network more accessible).
- ◀ A more connected and safer network (to address safety concerns and shortfall in access to provision for horse riders and cyclists, improving the connectivity if the network and more off-road routes).
- ◀ Encouraging greater community involvement.
- ◀ Protecting the path network.
- ◀ Encouraging greater use of the network.

### Usage

Usage of foot and cycle paths by residents of the East Staffordshire is high with over four fifths (81%) of citizen panel respondents using these green corridors. Of those that make use of this type of provision usage is frequent with over half (55%) doing so at least once a week.

The greatest proportion of people who access foot and cycle paths at least once a week live in Burton East.

Figure 6.1: Frequency of usage of footpaths/cyclepaths in the previous 12 months

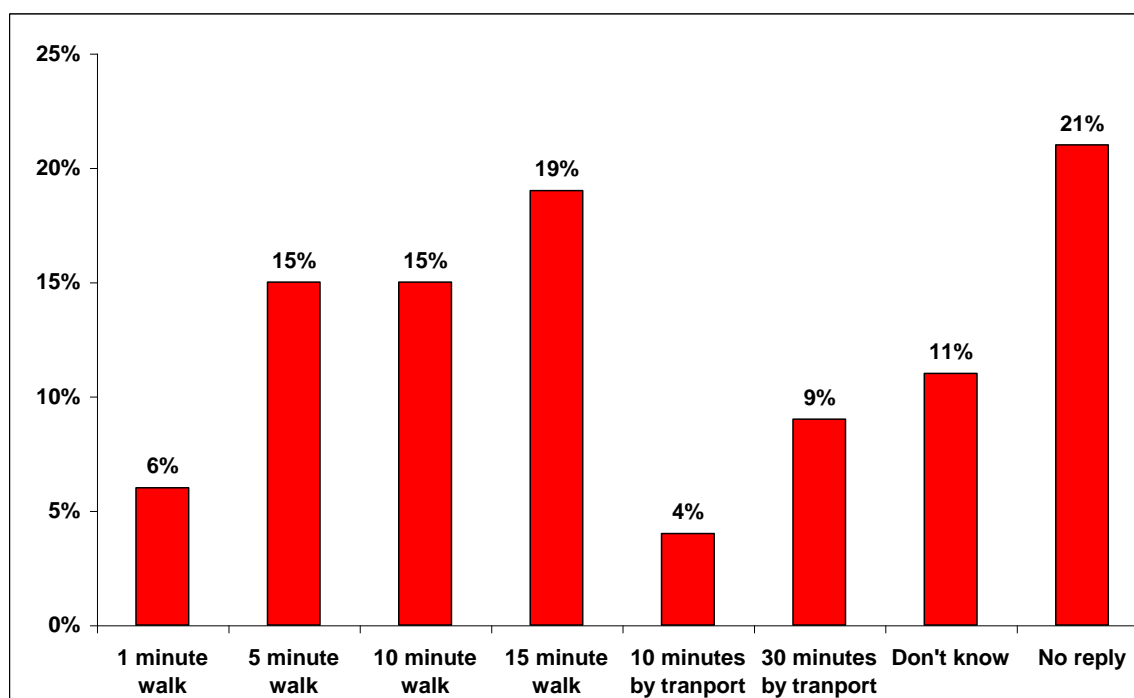


## Accessibility

It is difficult to assess green corridors against catchment areas due to their nature and usage, as often they provide access to other open spaces. However, as shown below, 55% of citizen panel respondents will travel on foot to reach a footpath or cycle path. Of those stating that they would be willing to travel up to 30 minutes by transport two fifths (40%) reside in Rural 1 analysis area.

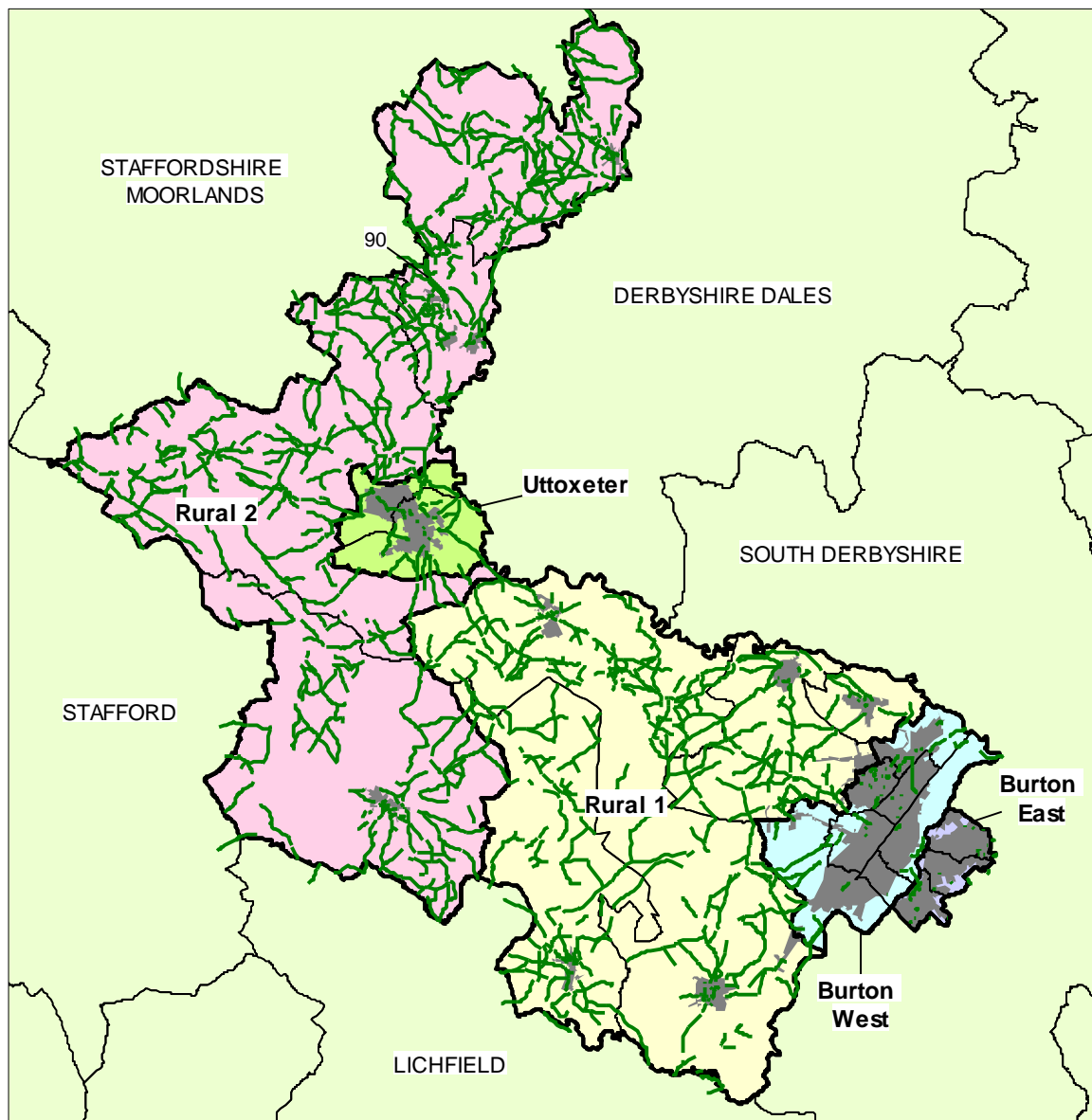
Almost one quarter (21%) of respondents did not know how far they are willing to travel to reach a footpath/cyclepath. Over one third (37%) of respondents from Rural 2 could not give a response.

Figure 6.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a footpath/cyclepath



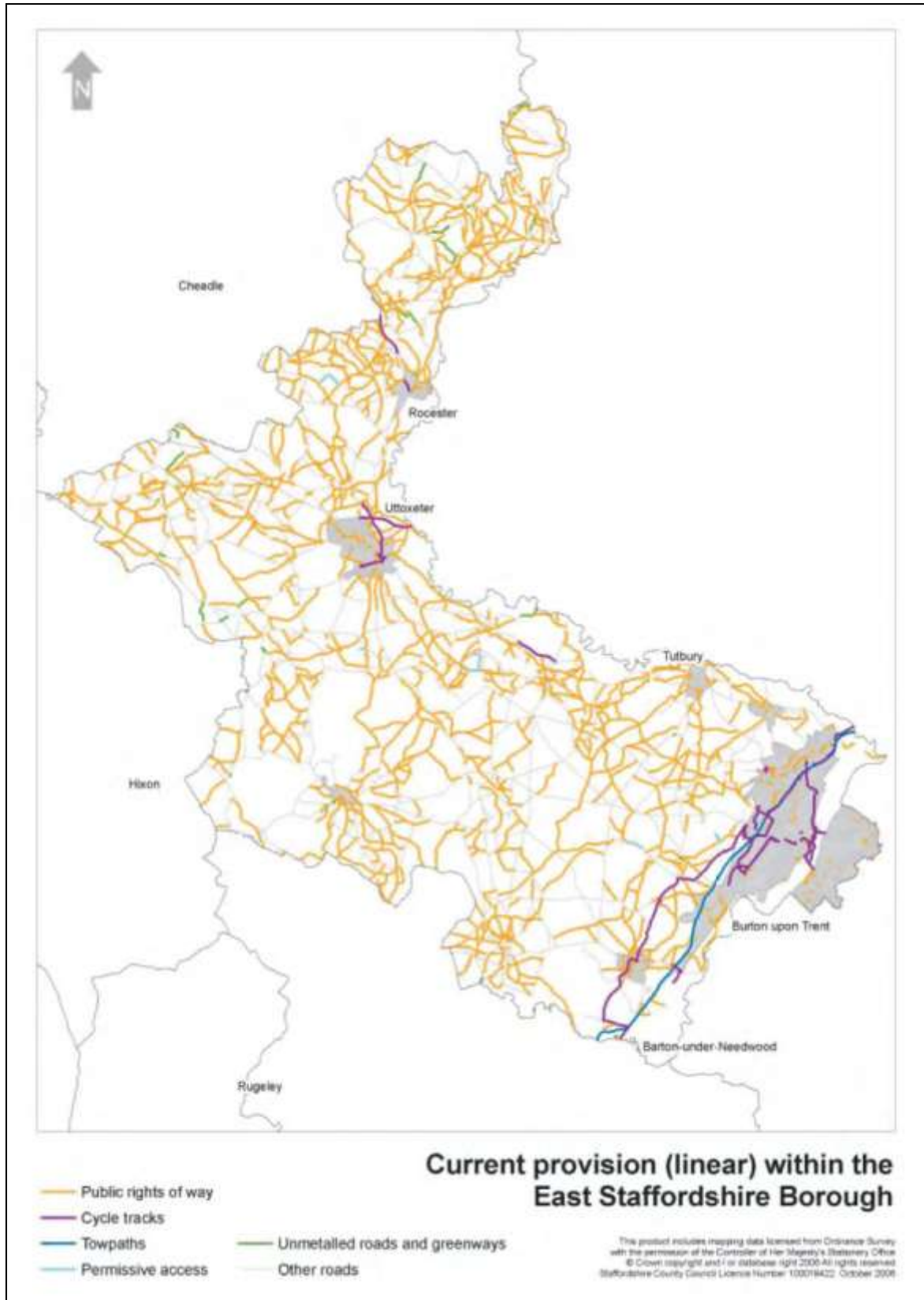


*Figure 6.3: Green corridors mapped against settlement areas*



# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 6.4: Linear provision mapped for the Staffordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan



## EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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Mapping of the Green corridor provision has been undertaken using information supplied by Staffordshire County Council and the County Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP). In addition, Denstone Old Railway (KKP Ref 90) has been digitised and added to the open space database. The mapping demonstrates the extensive PROW network available across the Borough, particularly covering the rural areas. However, it highlights the limited availability within more urban settlements e.g. Burton-upon-Trent and also illustrates the extent to which the network is disjointed. Better connectivity is a key issue identified through consultation impacting upon the usage of green corridor provision.

User consultation conducted for the Staffordshire RoWIP identifies that provision for walkers on PROW in East Staffordshire is considered to be adequate. However, comprising just 8.5% of the PROW network there is only limited bridleway provision across the Borough. Provision for off-road cycling is considered to be poor around Uttoxeter and within the Needwood Forest area of East Staffordshire.

Although the Kingfisher Trail in Burton-upon-Trent (KKP Ref 61) is classified primarily as semi-natural open space provision for this study, it also functions as a green corridor. Consultation highlights that it is a valuable and well-used amenity amongst local residents and it has successfully been awarded Green Flag status for 2008/2009 recognising the high quality standards to which the site is maintained.

Users report provision of PROW across the Borough to be good or just right in terms of quantity and there is demand for this level to be sustained. Main concerns identified during consultation revolve around the limited bridleway network.

Consultation identifies that PROW users consider the limited bridleway network in the Borough to be fragmented, impeding usage. There is demand for “connectivity” of the bridleway network to be improved through upgrade and re-designation of intersecting footpaths to bridleway status. Users express the desire for priority to be given to those footpaths that, if upgraded to bridleway status, would create off-road circular horse riding and off road cycling provision and linkages, for which there is identified demand. Users and officers are keen to see improvements to the bridleway network initiated and guided via implementation of the Staffordshire RoWIP.

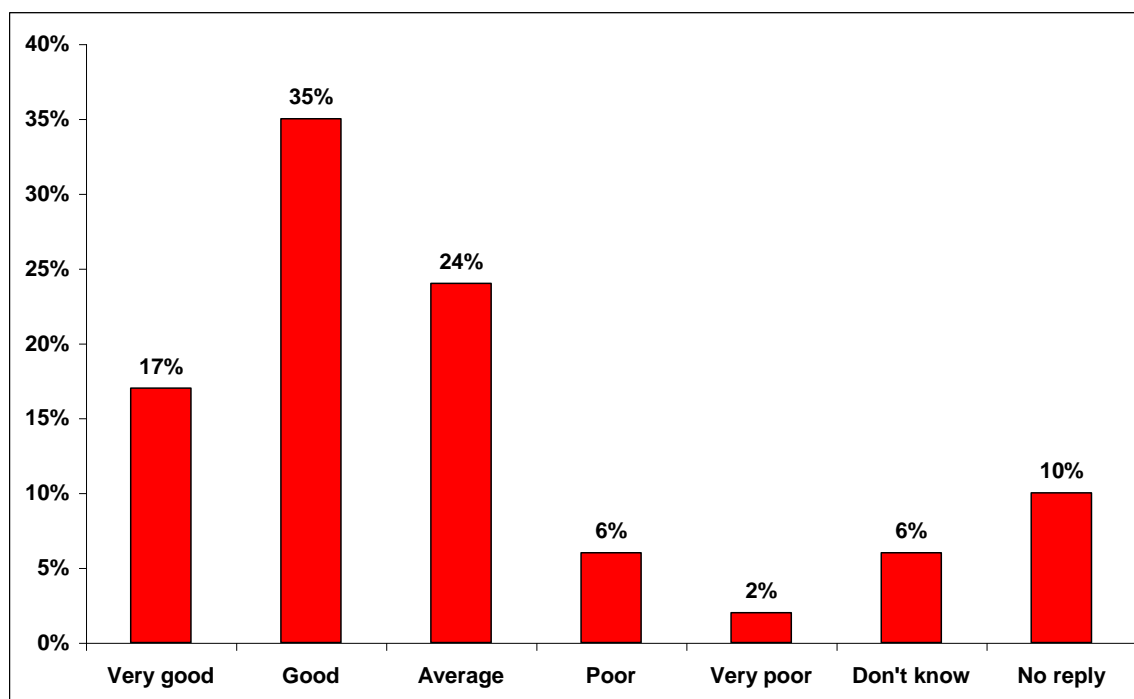
Provision of footpaths is felt to be sufficient in terms of quantity. However, as with bridleways, there is user demand for the network to be better connected with improved linkages, particularly to create off-road circular routes and those that reach a destination and link settlements. This is one of the main concerns expressed by users during consultation conducted for the Staffordshire RoWIP and there is demand for this to be a priority.

Consultation undertaken for the Staffordshire RoWIP also suggests that there is demand for greater promotion of green corridors through better signage and waymarking on the ground in order to provide a more connected, accessible network. (45% of the Staffordshire County Council user survey respondents raised lack of waymarking and signage as a deterrent to use).

SCC is striving to improve access for all on the green corridor network throughout the County. The County RoWIP outlines the County Council’s commitment to improving access for all users and SCC has been supporting the replacement of stiles with kissing gates for a number of years.

More than half of citizen panel respondents consider availability of footpaths and cycle paths in East Staffordshire to be good or better. Availability is highly rated by respondents from the Rural 2 analysis area with 63% rating provision as good or very good.

Figure 6.5: Availability of footpaths/cyclepaths



### Quality

Due to the extent and length of the green corridor network, including PROW, across the Borough, site assessments have not been undertaken for every site. The only green corridor digitised and included within the open space database is Denstone Old Railway. This is a 7km railway track from Denstone to Oakamoor. It is well surfaced and horse-riding permits are available, from SCC, enabling equine access to the Greenway. The site scores 65% against the green flag criteria, just under the 66% site assessment pass mark. It is a high quality green corridor, scoring the maximum score for overall maintenance and cleanliness.

Consultation identifies that the Trent and Mersey Canal, running through Burton-upon-Trent, provides a good green corridor link between residential areas and service areas of Burton. Consultation highlights that it is a well used recreational resource for walkers and cyclist and signage is considered to be good. Users report that the section between Shobnall Arena and Horninglow is in very good condition. However, travelling further north of Burton, towards Stretton the quality deteriorates and there is demand for the surface to be upgraded with stony surfacing (as the path is often muddy even on a dry day). Users consider the proximity of the A38 to the canal to spoil the experience of accessing the provision. They would like the possibility or erecting noise fencing between the edge of the canal and the A38 to be investigated by British Waterways.

There are a series of finger/sign posts from the canal towpath to local amenities e.g. pubs, restaurants. This encourages users of the green corridor to venture into Burton for

services and thus contribute to the local economy. There is also provision of an information board with graphics highlighting areas of interest along the route and providing interpretation opportunities.

User consultation identifies that the provision of PROW, in terms of quality, is considered to be variable throughout the Borough. Maintenance priorities are felt to be targeted at PROW with greater public access/usage. Although this is generally considered to be appropriate, consultation for the Staffordshire RoWIP notes that generally, walkers expect a higher level of maintenance on routes closer to urban areas. There are also concerns that some less well used PROW are deteriorating in quality. This, in turn, impacts negatively on the levels of usage and may lead to them being at risk of being lost.

The main suggestions for improving the PROW network across Staffordshire identified during the production of the Staffordshire RoWIP include:

- ◀ More bridleways.
- ◀ Better stiles for the less agile.
- ◀ Improve overall maintenance.
- ◀ Improved public transport links.

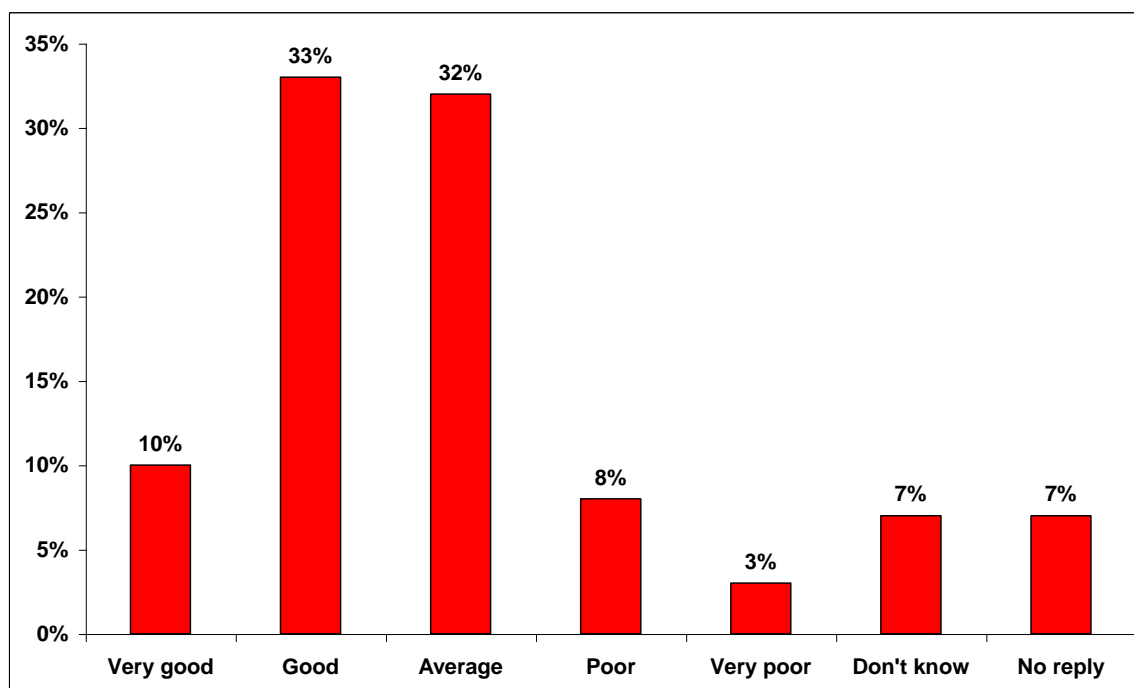
The main deterrents to PROW access in Staffordshire, as identified during the production of the Staffordshire RoWIP, include:

- ◀ Lack of signposting and waymarking.
- ◀ Overgrowing vegetation.
- ◀ General lack of information.
- ◀ Problems experienced with stiles, gates and other obstructions.
- ◀ Dog fouling.

Local community consultation highlights that the main issue impacting upon the quality of provision within urban areas is the presence of dog foul. Schools are reportedly deterred from accessing the Trent and Burton Canal due to the presence of dog foul.

In general the quality of the green corridors within East Staffordshire is considered to be average or better, as shown in the figure below. Only small proportions of respondents rate provision as poor or are unable to respond. These results are very positive for East Staffordshire, indicating an overall high level of satisfaction.

Figure 6.6: Quality of green corridors



### **Value**

The PROW and Greenway network is a very valuable asset to the Borough. The extent of the network provides easy access into the countryside and encourages healthy lifestyles. The network also offers important habitat corridors and, therefore, the wildlife benefits are recognised.

Denstone Old Railway scores highly in terms of value (47%). The assessment notes that the many tree varieties and wet ditches offer multiple habitats that support biodiversity. The site assessment also recognises the structural/landscape value of the site, the educational opportunities offered through interpretation of its history, the social inclusion and health benefits offered by walking and cycling opportunities and also the fact that the site is well used by the local community as an amenity.

Consultation highlights that the Trent and Mersey Canal, running through Burton-upon-Trent, provides a valuable link between residential areas and service areas around the Town. Although it is popular with walkers and cyclists' consultation indicates that it could be better utilised as a leisure resource to promote health benefits.

### **Community involvement**

SCC promotes active community involvement in the management of the PROW network. To ensure that users have the opportunity to input into the management of the PROW in Staffordshire there is a Staffordshire, Stoke and Wolverhampton Joint Local Access Forum.

The primary purpose is to provide advice to SCC on how to make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open-air recreation with the intention is to encourage and

influence a strategic approach to recreational provision across Staffordshire. The Forum is closely involved with overseeing the delivery of the RoWIP.

A good example of successful partnership work between organisations and communities is the Kingfisher Trail. The project was started as a neighbourhood regeneration initiative. It involved five local schools, which now use the site as an outdoor classroom. There are 27 partners in the Kingfisher Project; the canal is owned and managed by British Waterways, the cycle track falls to ESBC and the surface run-off ditch is the responsibility of Trent and Seven Water. Trent and Dove Housing own the adjacent housing and the tenant and resident association (TARA) was instrumental in initiating the project. Since the beginning of the project there has been a large increase in the usage of the trail, which is fully accessible.

### Summary

#### Green corridors summary

- ◀ There is an extensive PROW network covering the Borough, totalling just over 699km. Demonstrating the limited extent of the bridleway network bridleway provision makes up only 8.5% of the total network.
- ◀ A number of long distance routes pass through the Borough offering opportunities to access the countryside.
- ◀ The Trent and Mersey canal provides a valuable green corridor through Burton-upon-Trent. It is well used but consultation indicates that it could be better utilised for recreation.
- ◀ Mapping demonstrates the extensive PROW network available across the Borough, particularly covering the rural areas. However, it highlights the limited availability within more urban settlements e.g. Burton-upon-Trent and also illustrates the extent to which the network is disjointed.
- ◀ SCC has undertaken significant consultation and research for the Staffordshire RoWIP. This sets out a 10-year action plan to improve the provision of the PROW network across the County in line with the needs of users.



**PART 7: AMENITY GREENSPACE**

**Introduction**

The typology of amenity greenspace, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, defines sites as 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.’

To reflect the dual use of many amenity greenspaces in East Staffordshire that often contain sporting/recreation provision, the standard PPG17 typology for playing fields has been incorporated into amenity green spaces.

**Key issues**

***Current provision***

There are 90 amenity greenspace sites, totalling just over 72 hectares across East Staffordshire. They are most often found in housing estates and function as informal recreation spaces or as open spaces along highways which provide a visual amenity.

*Table 7.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace	
	Number	Size (ha)
Burton East	25	23.35
Burton West	13	6.25
Rural 1	23	27.59
Rural 2	18	13.25
Uttoxeter	11	2.33
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>72.80</b>

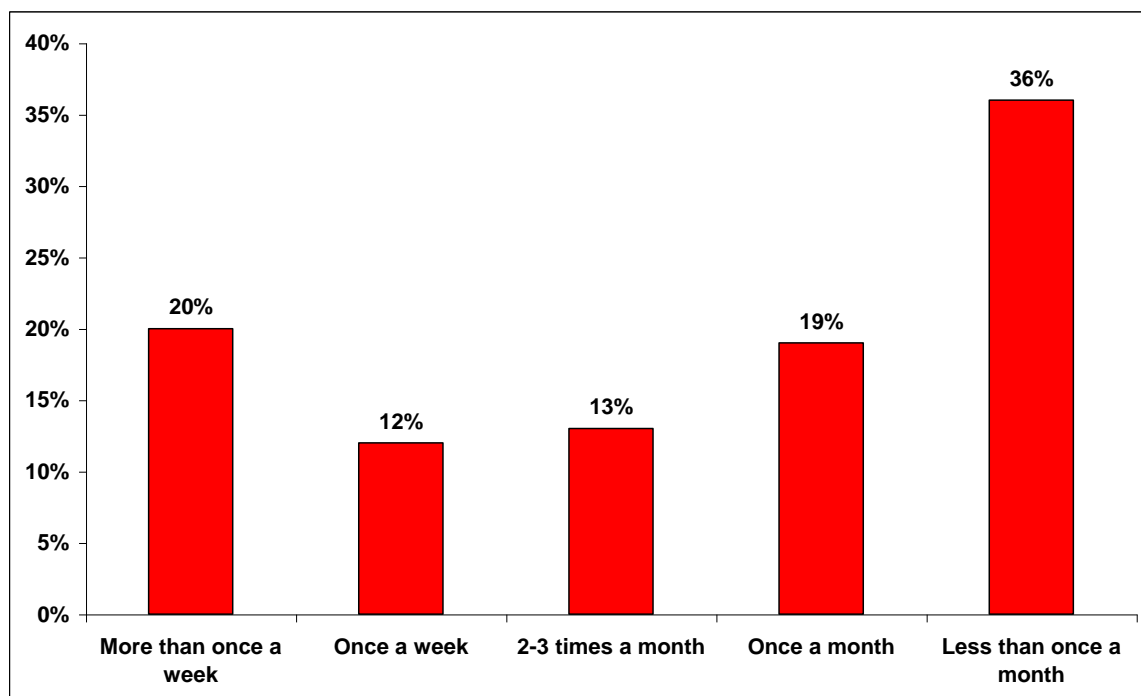


### Usage

Site visits indicate that the majority (91%) of sites classified as amenity greenspaces across the Borough appear to be reasonably well used. However, less than half (48%) of citizen panel respondents have visited a grassed area on a housing estate or recreation ground in the last 12 months. Over half of respondents from Rural 1 and Rural 2 analysis areas have not visited such provision in the last year as well as two fifths of respondents aged 65+ years.

Of those that do visit this type of provision, usage is generally infrequent, with over half (55%) doing so once a month or less.

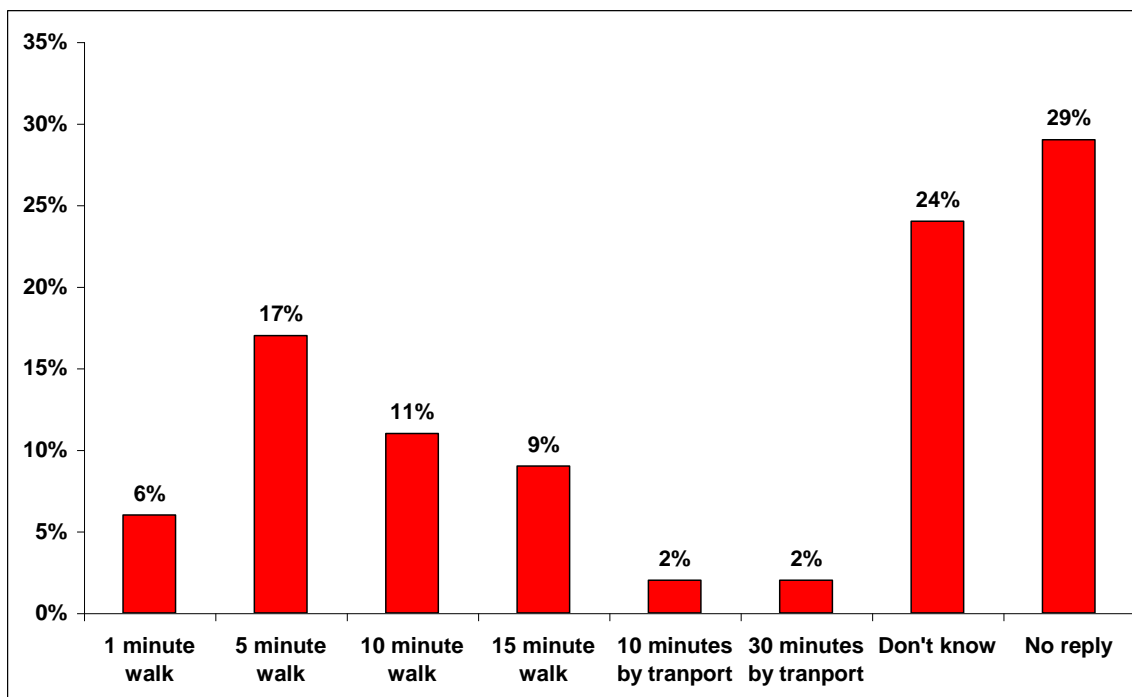
Figure 7.1: Frequency of usage of grassed areas on housing estates



## Accessibility

Reflecting the low usage levels expressed by citizen panel respondents over half are unable to state how far they would be prepared to travel to reach a grassed area. Linked to the fact that this type of provision often operates at a very local level the majority of respondents are willing to travel on foot to access a grassed area on a housing estate or a recreation ground. One third (34%) of all respondents state that they are willing to travel 10 minutes or less on foot to visit such provision.

Figure 7.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a grassed area on housing estate



Given the variation in the type of site included within this typology, for example, recreation grounds which serve quite a different purpose to grassed areas in housing estate which provide a visual break around development or small scale opportunities for play/relaxation, no accessibility catchment is applied to amenity greenspace.

# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 7.3: Amenity greenspace sites mapped against settlement areas

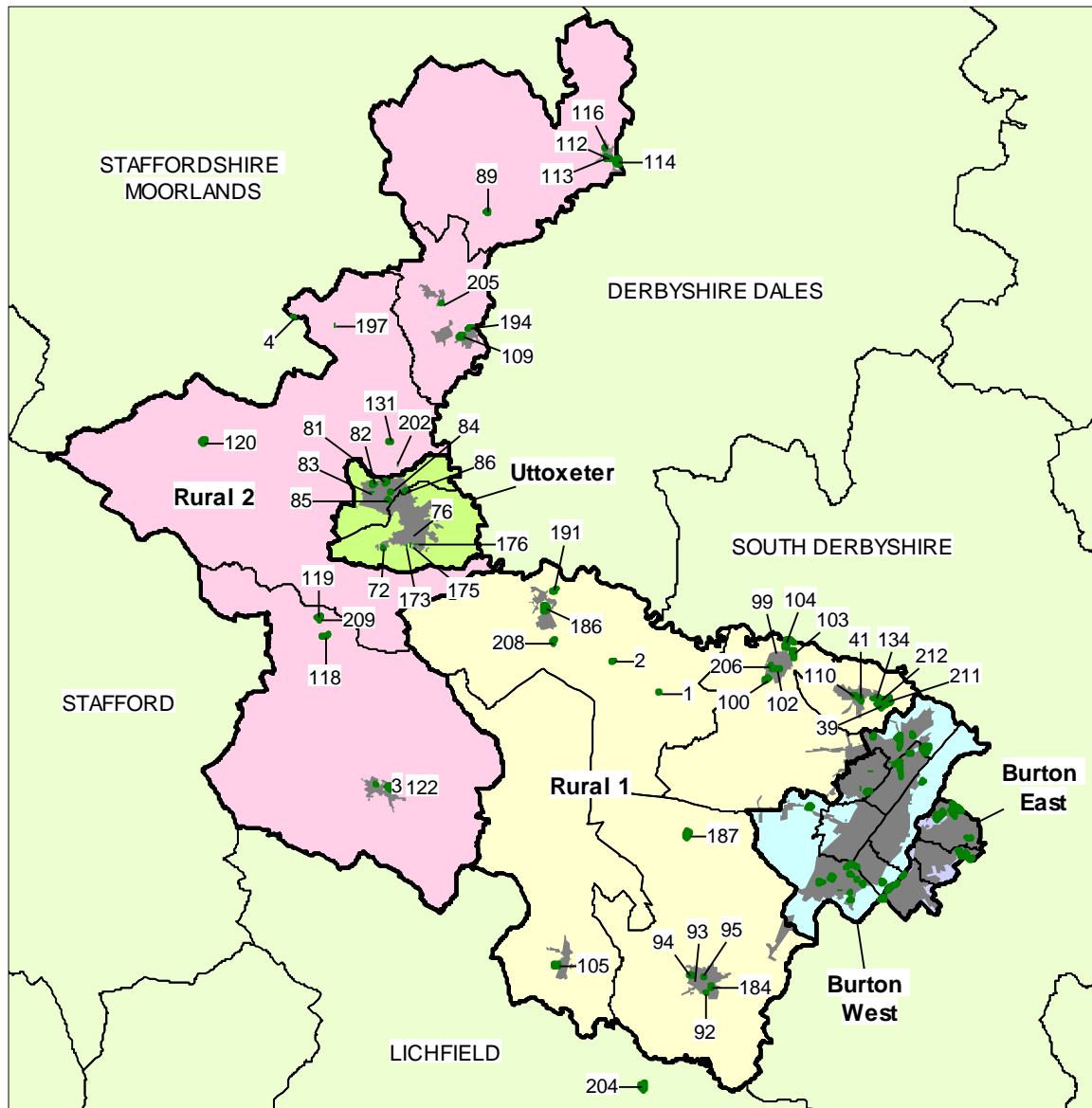
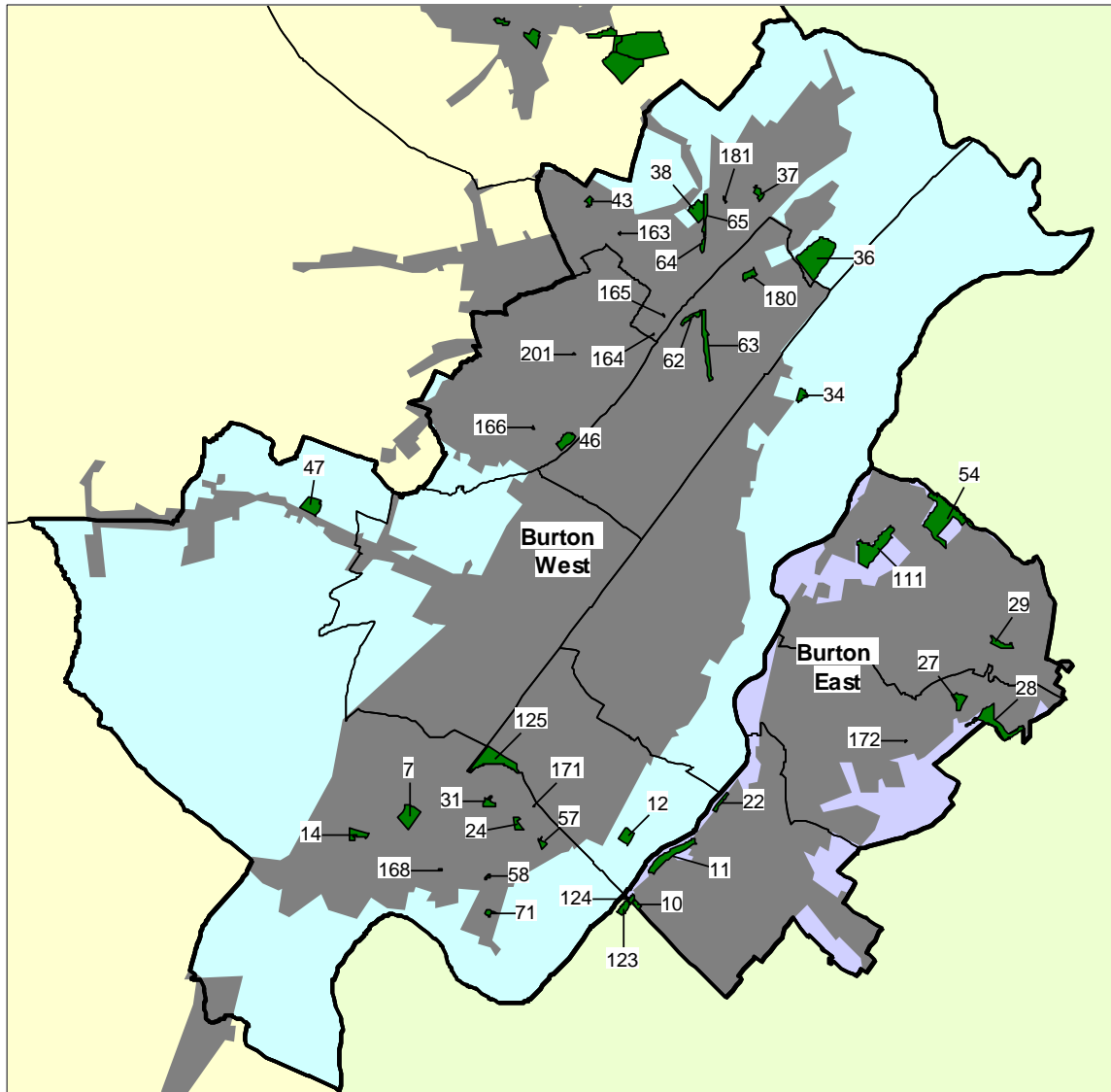


Figure 7.4: Amenity greenspace sites in Burton mapped against settlement area



## EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
1	Wood Lane Playing Fields	Rural 1	51.0%	38.0%
2	Hollow Lane Playing Fields	Rural 1	20.9%	18.0%
3	Abbots Bromley Millennium Green	Rural 2	45.9%	24.0%
4	Great Gate Village Green	Rural 2	28.9%	20.0%
7	Clay's Lane Recreation Ground	Burton West	36.6%	22.0%
10	Suffolk Road Island Open Space	Burton East	34.4%	18.0%
11	Waterside Open Space A	Burton East	47.1%	34.0%
12	Blackpool Street Recreation Ground	Burton East	57.3%	39.0%
14	Land off Lynwood Road	Burton West	39.3%	16.0%
22	Waterside Open Space B	Burton East	56.2%	28.0%
24	Shipleigh Close Play Area	Burton West	36.4%	14.0%
27	Land off Beaufort Road	Burton East	58.4%	20.0%
28	Carpenter Close Play Area	Burton East	42.4%	24.0%
29	Land off Vancouver Drive	Burton East	35.5%	18.0%
31	Higgot Close Play Area	Burton West	60.0%	20.0%
34	Westbury Homes Site Play Area	Burton East	24.8%	8.0%
37	Fairham Avenue Open Space	Burton East	45.5%	15.0%
39	Craythorne Road Playing Fields	Rural 1	49.6%	25.0%
41	Elizabeth Avenue Recreation Ground	Rural 1	52.1%	21.0%
43	Athlestan Way Open Space	Burton East	37.2%	14.0%
46	Carver Road Open Space	Burton West	29.8%	23.0%
47	Forest Road Open Space	Burton West	51.7%	26.0%
54	Wheatley Lane Recreation Ground	Burton East	44.6%	24.0%
57	Lonsdale Recreation Ground	Burton West	33.9%	31.0%
58	Mellor Road Open Space	Burton West	31.8%	4.0%
62	Weston Park Avenue (Linear Park Extension)	Burton East	53.4%	22.0%
63	Princess Way Open Space A	Burton East	39.7%	22.0%
64	Princess Way Open Space B	Burton East	43.8%	18.0%
65	Station Walk	Burton East	63.2%	27.0%

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KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
71	Torrance Close Open Space	Burton West	39.7%	15.0%
72	Blount's Drive Open Space	Uttoxeter	44.6%	29.0%
76	Avocet Close Open Space	Uttoxeter	33.6%	13.0%
81	Greenacres Drive	Uttoxeter	26.4%	20.0%
82	Davies Drive Recreation Ground	Uttoxeter	42.6%	15.0%
83	The Willows Open Space	Uttoxeter	50.0%	28.0%
84	Grange Road Recreation Ground	Uttoxeter	41.0%	34.0%
85	Weaver Lodge Open Space	Uttoxeter	57.0%	27.0%
86	Harvey Place	Uttoxeter	38.4%	16.0%
89	Church Lane Playing Fields	Rural 2	60.3%	57.0%
92	Oak Road Play Area	Rural 1	60.0%	20.0%
93	Park Road Open Space B	Rural 1	26.4%	19.0%
94	Park Road Open Space	Rural 1	37.2%	30.0%
95	Collinson Road Play Area	Rural 1	70.0%	30.0%
99	Tutbury Castle Triangle	Rural 1	26.4%	16.0%
100	Ferrers Avenue Playing Field	Rural 1	20.9%	12.0%
102	Park Pale	Rural 1	46.8%	41.0%
103	Cornmill Lane Playing Field	Rural 1	51.2%	31.0%
105	Ferrers Field	Rural 1	48.9%	46.0%
109	Rocester Parish Playing Fields	Rural 2	56.5%	26.0%
110	The Croft	Rural 1	67.8%	26.0%
111	Mill Hill Lane Open Space	Burton East	46.3%	24.0%
112	The Crescent Open Space	Rural 2	50.1%	22.0%
113	Sycamore Road Open Space	Rural 2	42.2%	30.0%
114	Mayfield Playing Fields	Rural 2	57.2%	42.0%
116	Moorlands Drive Play Area	Rural 2	25.6%	10.0%
118	Kingstone Playing Fields	Rural 2	72.7%	67.0%
119	Birches Corner	Rural 2	18.2%	3.0%
120	Church Leigh Recreation Ground	Rural 2	67.8%	62.0%
122	Anglesey Playing Field	Rural 2	42.2%	35.0%
124	Waterside Open Space C	Burton East	28.1%	23.0%
125	Land to south of Anglesey Community Park	Burton East	24.0%	10.0%
131	Stramshall Playing Field	Rural 2	51.8%	42.0%
134	Meadow View Open Space	Rural 1	40.5%	19.0%
163	Bitham Court Open Space	Burton East	52.9%	16.0%
164	Totnes Close Open Space	Burton East	25.6%	13.0%

## EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
165	Knightsbridge Way Open Space	Burton East	47.9%	26.0%
166	Pensgreave Road Open Space	Burton West	26.4%	15.0%
168	Portland Avenue Open Space	Burton West	29.8%	20.0%
171	Palmer Close Open Space	Burton West	27.3%	17.0%
172	Grassmere Close Open Space	Burton East	47.1%	25.0%
173	Silver Birch Drive Open Space	Uttoxeter	48.3%	15.0%
175	Brooklands Close Open Space	Uttoxeter	41.7%	19.0%
176	Skylark Close Open Space	Uttoxeter	26.4%	20.0%
180	Land at Beech Lane	Burton East	28.9%	21.0%
181	The Green	Burton East	33.3%	32.0%
184	Ash Tree Road Open Space	Rural 1	28.9%	25.0%
186	Silver Lane Playing Fields	Rural 1	29.8%	20.0%
187	Rangemore Playing Fields	Rural 1	37.7%	30.0%
191	The Green, Marchington	Rural 1	19.8%	15.0%
194	Open Space at rear of Northfield Avenue	Rural 2	23.1%	16.0%
197	Croxden Village Green	Rural 2	28.1%	20.0%
201	Dover Road Open Space	Burton West	28.1%	16.0%
202	Spath Village Green	Rural 2	30.6%	25.0%
205	Denstone Recreation Ground	Rural 2	35.5%	25.0%
206	Wakefield Road Open Space	Rural 1	19.8%	4.0%
208	Hillsea Crescent Open Space	Rural 1	50.4%	31.0%
209	Birches Corner verge	Rural 2	38.8%	17.0%
211	Burton College Playing Fields	Rural 1	19.8%	20.0%
212	Rolleston Open Space	Rural 1	28.9%	16.0%

Mapping shows that generally, main settlement areas, where there is greatest population density, contain amenity greenspace. Across the Borough consultation identifies that where amenity greenspaces are provided e.g. village greens, they play a valuable role in community life, providing social focal points for community events and opportunities for informal play and recreation. However, there is little demand for additional provision, particularly in the more rural settlements of the Borough, as residents in these areas consider access to the surrounding countryside to provide adequate informal recreation opportunity.

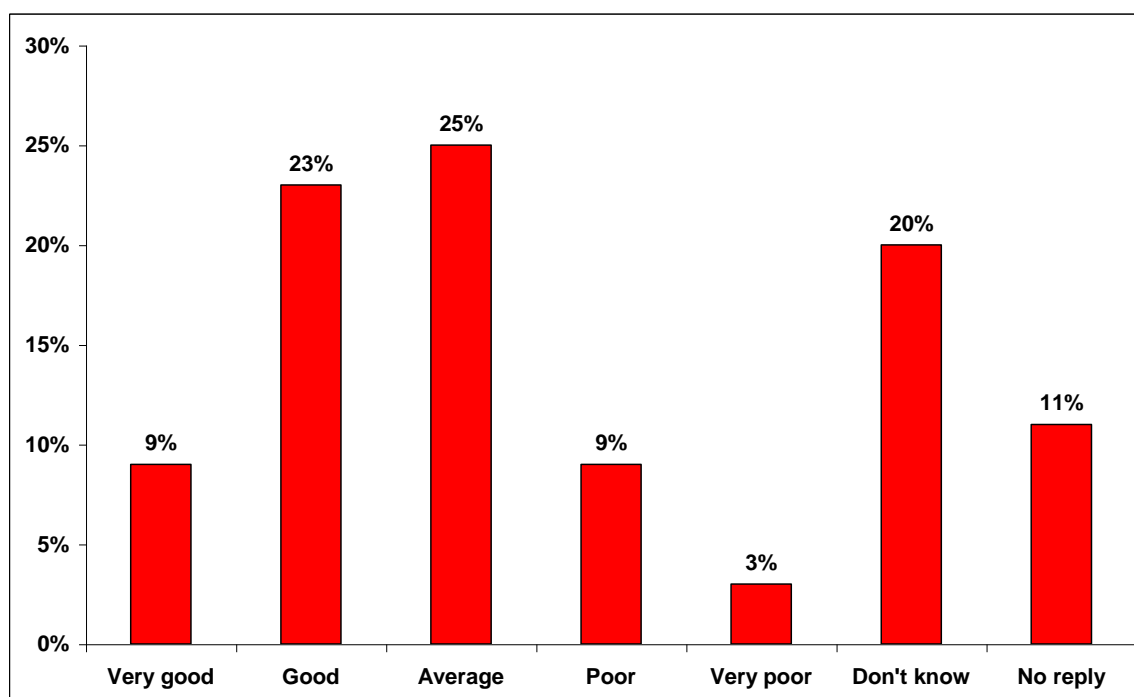
Most parishes throughout East Staffordshire have a village green or area of amenity greenspace. Consultation indicates that these are highly valued by local residents due to

the lack of formal open space provision, particularly in more rural settlements. Village greens often act as a community focus hosting community activities such as fetes.

There is concern amongst residents in Uttoxeter with regard to the potential loss of the sports ground located on Sunnyside Road due to possible extension to the Fox's factory. Although this is recorded as sports provision rather than amenity greenspace resident consultation highlights that the site is considered to be a valuable open space resource offering informal recreation opportunity.

On the whole it appears that respondents are content with the provision of grassed areas with almost three fifths (57%) rating availability to be average or better. The biggest proportions of respondents that cannot rate availability reside in Rural 1(30%) and Rural 2 (50%) analysis areas. This, perhaps, reflects the low usage level of such provision by people from these areas, as stated earlier.

*Figure 7.5: Availability of grassed area on housing estate*





# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces in East Staffordshire. The threshold for assessing high and low quality is set at 40% reflecting the average score gained for amenity greenspaces in East Staffordshire.

Table 7.2: Quality scores for amenity greenspace sites by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 40%	Above 40%
Burton East	121	24%	42%	63%	39%	11	14
Burton West	121	26%	36%	60%	34%	11	2
Rural 1	121	20%	39%	70%	50%	12	11
Rural 2	121	18%	43%	73%	55%	8	10
Uttoxeter	121	26%	41%	57%	31%	4	7
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>44</b>

The quality scores for amenity greenspaces range from 18% for Birches Corner (KKP Ref 119) to 74% for Tutbury Mill Open Space (KKP Ref 104). 46 sites are classified as low quality, assessed against 40%. However, only four sites score less than three out of five for overall maintenance and cleanliness.

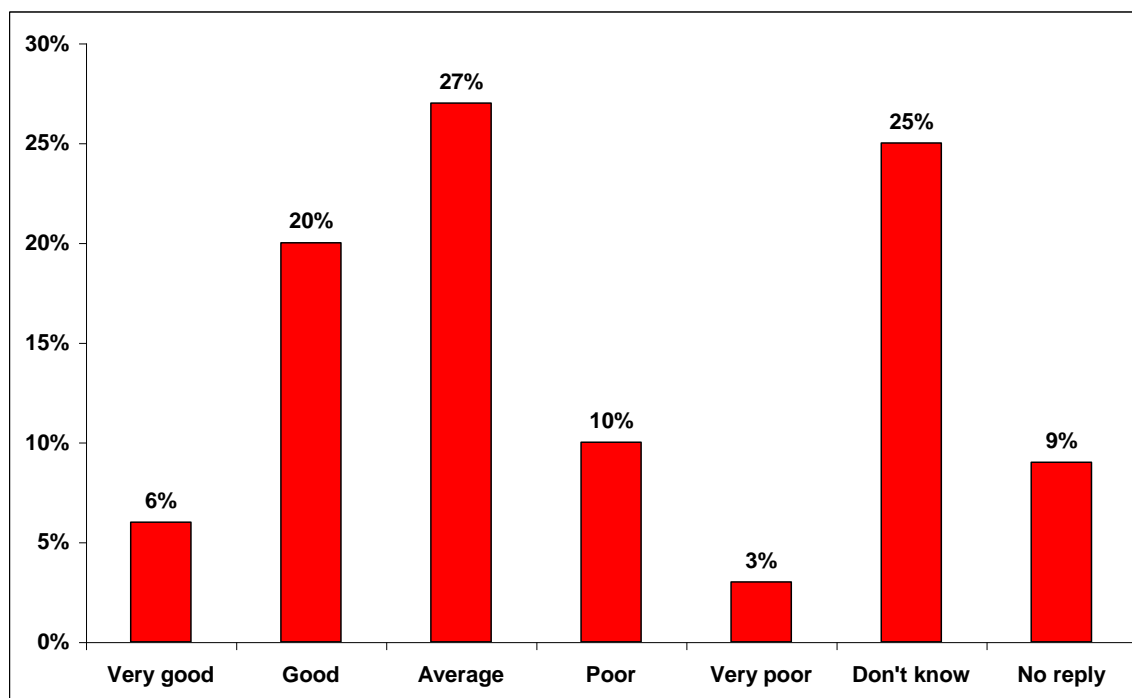
A significant proportion of the amenity greenspace in the Borough is composed of grassed areas and verges adjacent to housing or lining roads leading into settlements. Consultation identifies that residents consider this type of open space provision to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of the areas. Community groups highlight that good quality amenity greenspaces are well-used, valuable assets, providing social focal points for the community.

Amenity greenspaces are popular sites for recreational dog walking. The associated issue of dog foul is a common concern. Other users of such space highlight that the problem impacts negatively on usage of sites, particularly by children for informal play. A typical example is Weaver Lodge Open Space (KKP Ref 85). This has led to demand for a fenced area for local children attending the playgroup at the community hall to safely use for activities in the summer. There is demand for greater provision of dog foul bins and enforcement. However, the resource implications of providing bins are significant, as they need to be emptied on a regular basis, particularly in summer. As dog waste is no longer considered hazardous it can now be disposed off in ordinary litterbins. Awareness of this could be raised to encourage responsible behaviour by dog owners. ESBC recognises that the issue of dog foul is significantly impacting on the quality and usage of sites in the area and is being proactive to address the problem. This action includes education campaigns to raise awareness and handing out poop scoop bags to dog owners e.g. the Kingfisher Trail.

In terms of quality of grassed areas and recreation grounds the majority of citizen panel respondents rate provision as average or better. Once again indicating low usage levels expressed by respondents and therefore a lack of awareness and opinion over one quarter of respondents do not know about the quality of grassed areas.

# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 7.6: Quality of grassed area on housing estate



## Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for amenity greenspaces in East Staffordshire. A score of 20% or less is considered to indicate that a site has low value.

Table 7.3: Value scores for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 20%	Above 20%
Burton East	100	8%	22%	39%	31%	9	16
Burton West	100	4%	18%	31%	27%	7	6
Rural 1	100	4%	23%	46%	42%	9	14
Rural 2	100	3%	30%	67%	64%	4	14
Uttoxeter	100	13%	21%	34%	21%	5	6
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>57</b>

In terms of value, the mean score across the Borough lies at 23%. As stated earlier, a significant proportion of the amenity greenspace in the Borough is composed of grass verges adjacent to housing. Playing fields and recreation grounds also form an intrinsic aspect of the supply. Consultation identifies that residents consider this type of open space provision to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of housing estates and residential areas. Site assessments also recognise this with just over a half (51%) scoring for amenity and sense of place value. Supporting the views of residents that amenity greenspaces are a valuable community resource, almost half (45%) of sites

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assessed score for social inclusion and health benefits, particularly due to the play opportunities offered by such sites.

### Summary

This section collates issues raised during consultation regarding provision of amenity greenspaces in East Staffordshire. It is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers sites about which particular comment was recorded during consultation.

Site	Comments
Avocet Close Open Space (KKP Ref 76)	The site assessment records that this amenity greenspace lacks interest and has scope for a more imaginative layout.
Burton College Playing Fields (KKP Ref 211)	This site has restricted access and is not formally available for community usage as an open space. However, the site assessment notes evidence that it is much used by local residents for dog walking.
Ferrers Field (KKP Ref 105)	This is a multi-functional site offering recreation opportunities for a variety of users. However, the site assessment highlights that quality improvements are required to upgrade the picnic benches and tackle litter, graffiti and vandalism.
Harvey Place (KKP Ref 86)	Currently this amenity greenspace lacks functionality. It is located within a residential area but offers no facilities such as seating or play equipment. The site assessment notes that it is "uninteresting and does not encourage community spirit". There is potential for the open space to be developed as a community garden/allotment.
Park Pale (KKP Ref 102)	This is a large open space amongst new residential housing. The site assessment notes some evidence of motorbike usage and that provision of seating would benefit the site.
Rocester Parish Playing Fields (KKP Ref 109)	The site audit indicates that the grassed area appears to have been left unmown and is currently too rough to be utilised for ball games. The site suffers from litter and damaged perimeter fencing impacting negatively upon the quality.
Wakefield Road Open Space (KKP Ref 206)	The local TARA is currently working with the landowner, Trent and Dove Housing, to convert the open space into a community garden for local residents. Funding has been raised to provide fencing, gates, re-landscaping, a bandstand and internal paths. It is hoped that the site will be complete by summer 2009 after which the TARA will take on the responsibility for maintenance.
Richmond Street, Burton-upon-Trent	There is a very small piece of land owned by Trent and Dove Housing. Local residents are currently fundraising with the hope to provide a children's activity trail and create a community garden.

### **Amenity greenspace summary**

- ◀ There are 94 amenity greenspace sites, totaling just over 103 hectares across East Staffordshire.
- ◀ Almost one quarter (23%) of all respondents state that they are willing to travel 5 minutes or less, on foot, to visit provision.
- ◀ Residents generally consider provision of amenity greenspace to be adequate in terms of quantity. Where provision exists it often functions as a valuable community resource for informal play and recreation.
- ◀ Quality standards vary across provision. However, the majority of sites score highly for maintenance and cleanliness. The main quality issue impacting upon provision and raised during consultation is the perceived levels of dog foul.

### PART 8: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

#### Introduction

The typology of provision for children and young people, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide 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.'

#### Key issues

##### *Current provision*

In total, 88 sites in East Staffordshire are classified as provision for children and young people, totalling just over three hectares.

Play areas are classified in the following ways utilising Fields In Trust (FIT) guidance to identify their effective catchment (how far residents are willing, on average, to travel to access the different types).

- ◀ A local area for play (LAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.01 hectares and contain more than or equal to one piece of play equipment.
- ◀ A local equipped for play (LEAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.04 hectares and contain more than or equal to five pieces of play equipment.
- ◀ A neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.1 hectares and contain more than or equal to eight pieces of play equipment. This area may contain MUGA, skateparks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and is often included within large park sites.
- ◀ A settlement equipped play area (SEAP) caters for all ages and contains more than or equal to ten pieces of play equipment. This is likely to include multi-use games areas (MUGAs), skateparks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and is often included within large park sites.
- ◀ Skateboard/basketball/teenage shelter. This includes areas providing only provision for young people.

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Table 8.1: Distribution of play areas by analysis area

Analysis area	LAP		LEAP		NEAP		SEAP		Skateboard / Basketball / Teenage shelter		Total	
	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)
Burton East	7	0.13	10	0.51	4	0.36	-	-	2	0.02	23	1.03
Burton West	10	0.13	6	0.24	1	-	1	0.21	-	-	18	0.60
Rural 1	7	0.65	7	0.12	3	0.10	1	0.18	1	-	19	1.07
Rural 2	6	0.09	3	-	3	0.22	-	-	-	-	12	0.32
Uttoxeter	10	0.16	7	0.27	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	0.43
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1.16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>3.47</b>

## Usage

Overall, 44% of citizen panel respondents have visited play areas for children (PAC) in the last 12 months. This figure is much lower (10%) when considering provision for teenagers (PAT). Usage of PAC is highest amongst respondents aged 25-44 years with 75% of these stating that they had visited a PAC within the last 12 months opposed to only 37% of respondents aged 45-64 years and 38% of respondents aged above 65 years. The 25-44 year age range is the one where respondents are most likely to have more children and are, hence, more likely to visit play provision.

The figures below shows that the majority of users access this type of provision on an infrequent basis with 74% of PAC users and 82% of PAT users visiting provision once a month or less often.

Figure 8.1: Frequency of usage of children's play areas in the previous 12 months

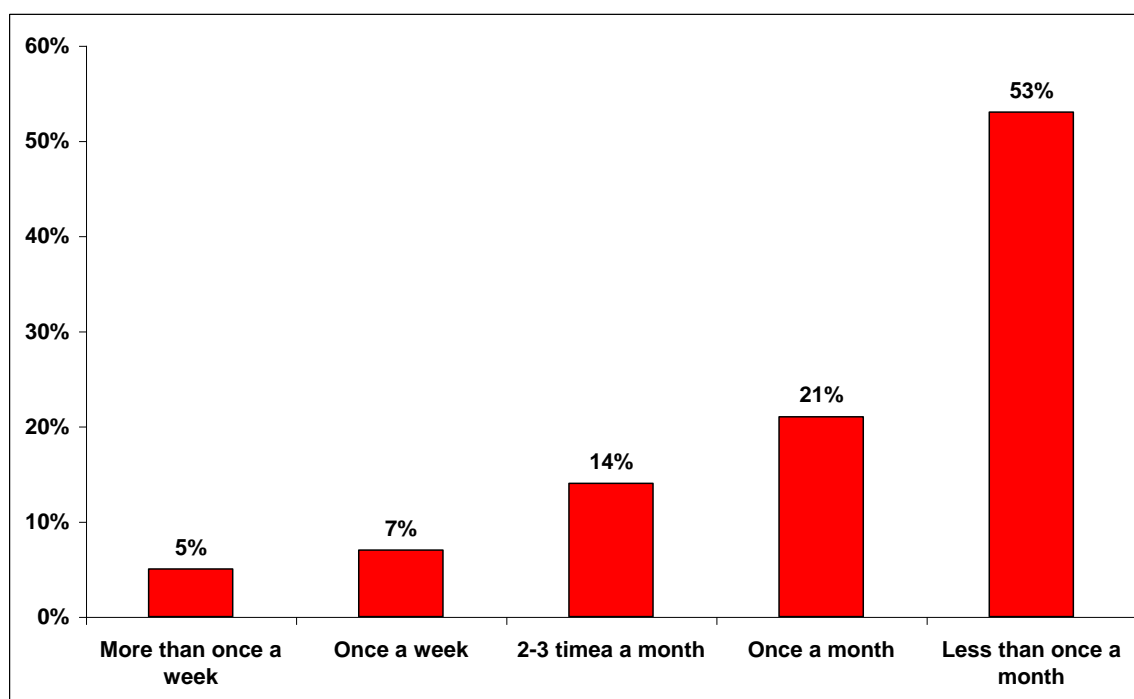
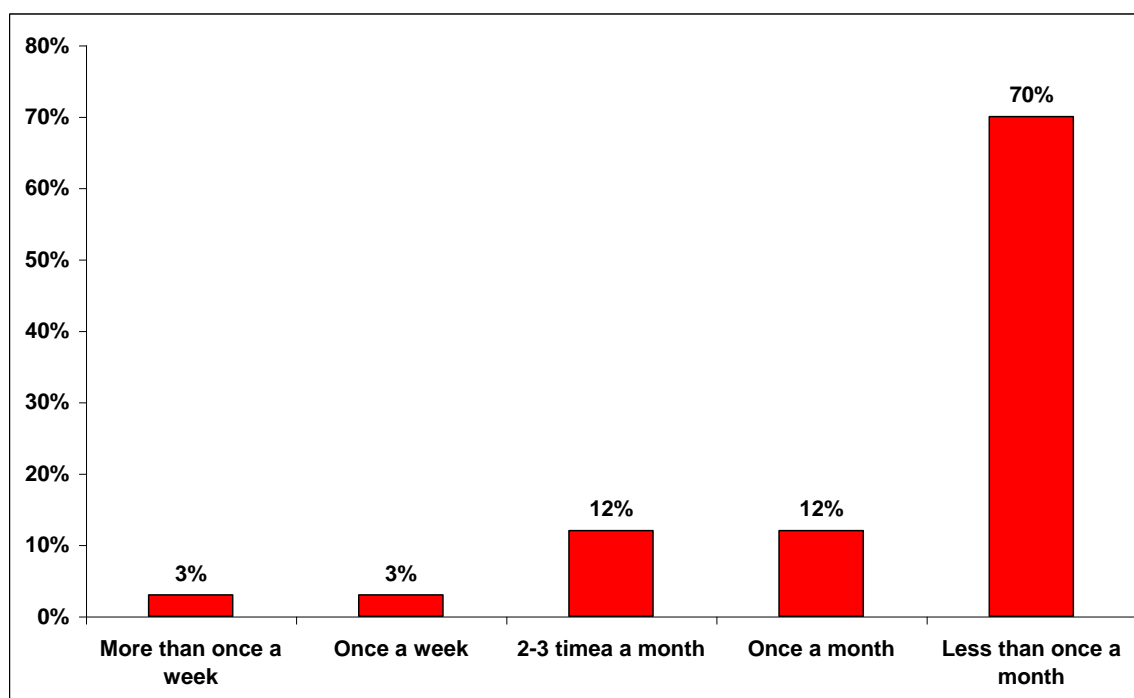


Figure 8.2: Frequency of usage of teenage play areas in the previous 12 months



Consultation highlights that misuse of children's play areas by young people and undesirables impedes genuine usage by young children and their parents. Users identify a number of play areas perceived to be 'hot-spots' for anti-social behaviour and misuse e.g. Anglesey Road Community Park, Canterbury Road Community Park, Carver Road play area. The children's play area located at Uttoxeter Leisure Centre is reported to be a popular congregation location for large groups of young people. Parents report that they are often deterred from taking their children to play here for fear of foul language and intimidation.

Just over one quarter (27%) of the play area sites assessed during the audit were recorded as having low usage levels (observation and judgement only on the day of assessment).

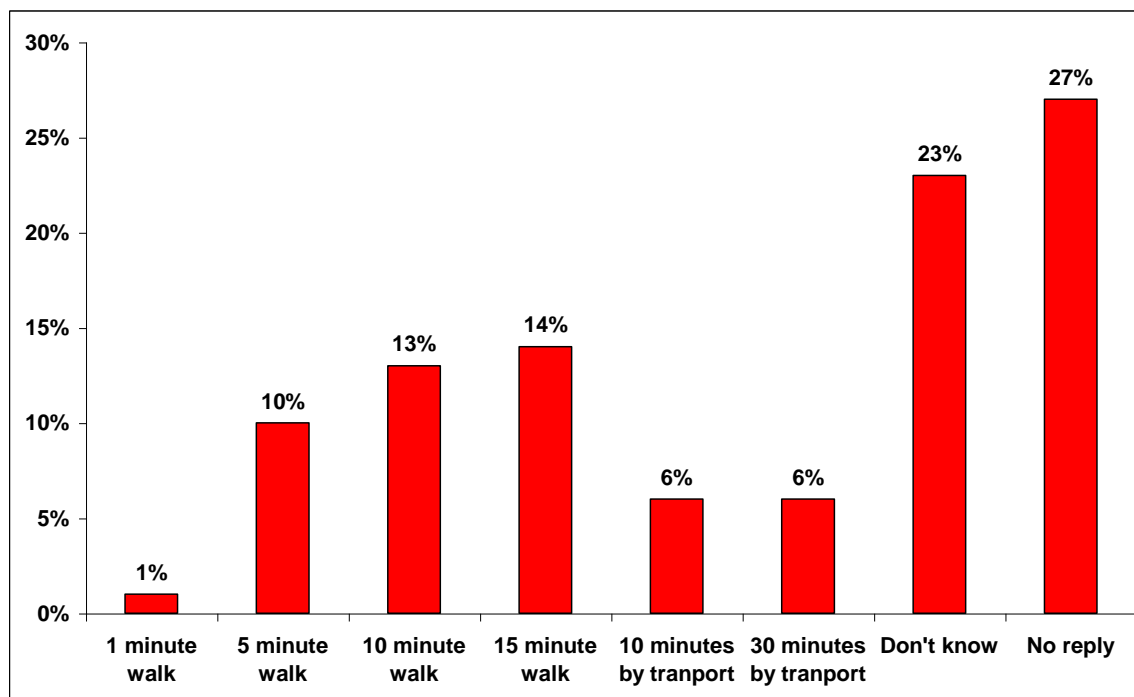
### **Accessibility**

Reflecting the low usage levels amongst citizen panel respondents, the majority do not know how long they would travel to reach a PAC (50%) or a PAT (82%). For both types of play provision the majority of respondents providing travel distance preferences indicate that they would choose to access provision on foot (38% PAC and 19% PAT). The figures below show that the majority of respondents expressing a preference are willing to walk for up to 15 minutes on foot (14% PAC and 10% PAT).

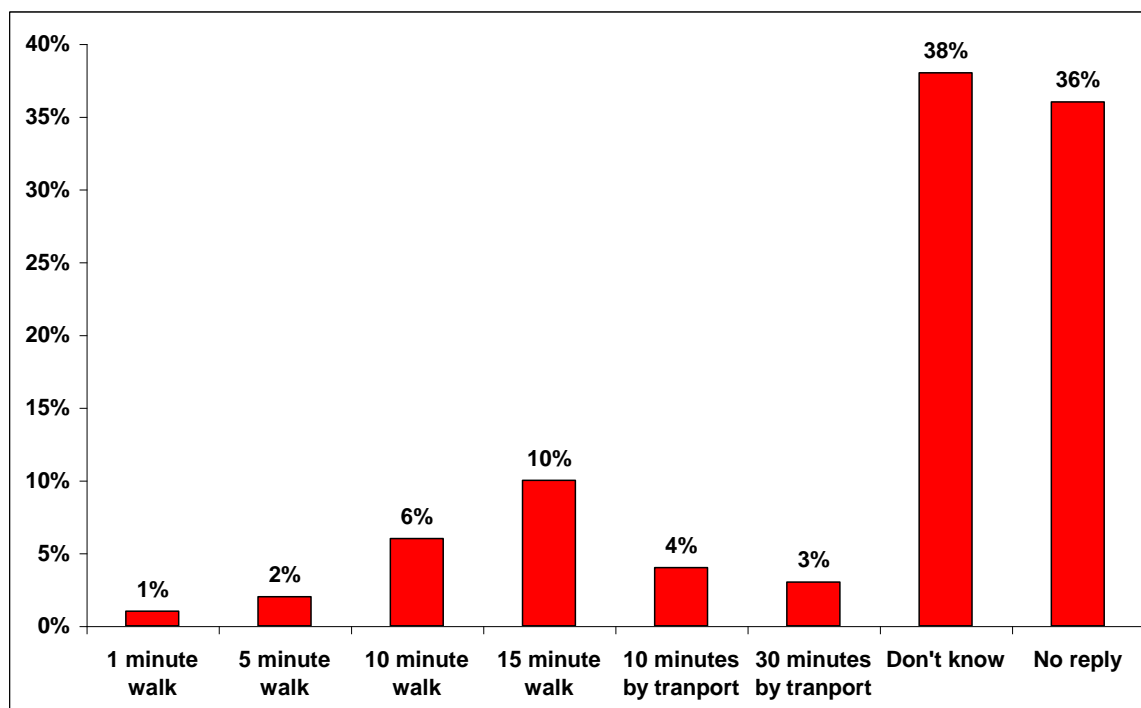
Consultation with parents of young children identifies that, in the main, parents expect to be able to access a children's play area within a 5 to 15 minute walk.



*Figure 8.3: Time prepared to travel to reach a children's play area*



*Figure 8.4: Time prepared to travel to reach a teenage play area*

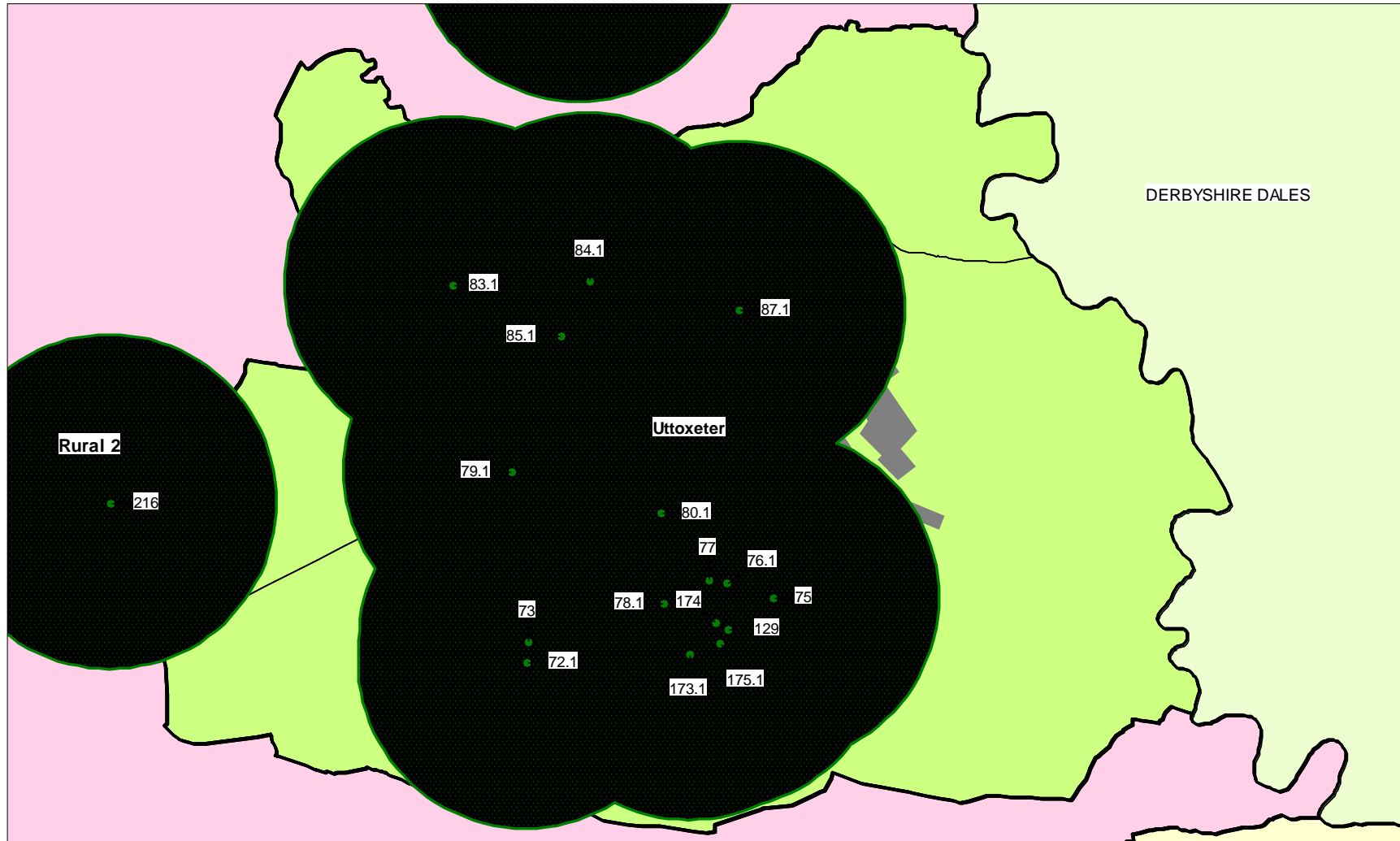


On the basis that there is not much distinction between 5, 10 and 15 minute walk time preferences of travel to a play area; we recommend an accessibility standard that all residents in East Staffordshire are within a 10 minute walk of high quality play areas. In terms of provision for young people, existing provision is mapped against a 15 minute



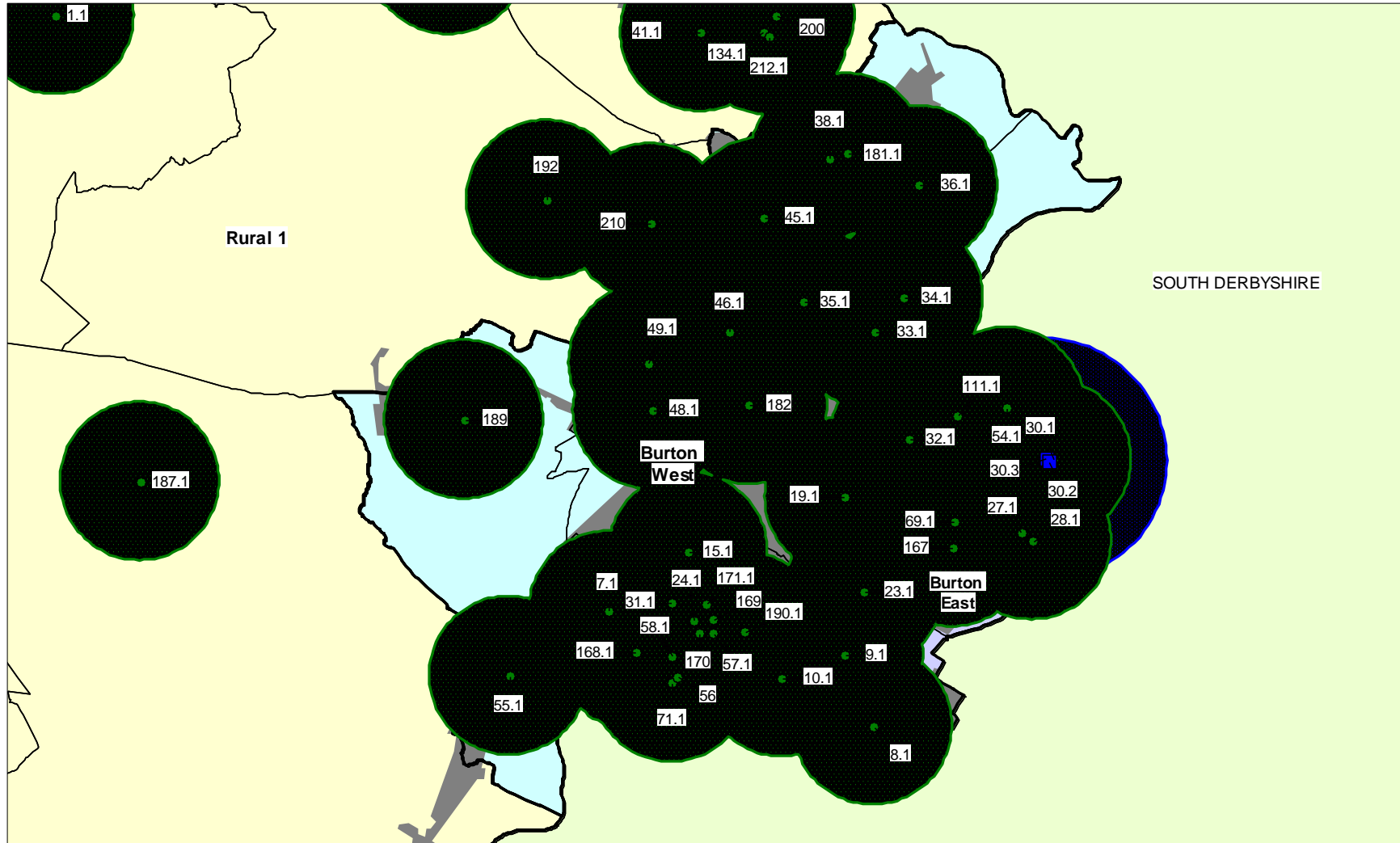
# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 8.6: Provision for children and young people in Uttoxeter mapped against settlement areas



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Figure 8.7: Provision for children and young people in Burton mapped against settlement areas



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*Key to sites mapped:*

<b>KKP Ref</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Sub-typology</b>	<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Quality score</b>	<b>Value score</b>
9.1	Heath Road Community Park Play Area	LEAP	Burton East	72.2%	34.5%
10.1	Suffolk Road Island Play Area	NEAP	Burton East	54.6%	38.2%
15.1	Anglesey Community Park Play Area	LEAP	Burton East	75.3%	36.4%
19.1	Remembrance Gardens Play Area	LEAP	Burton East	71.5%	41.8%
23.1	Stapenhill Gardens Play Area	LAP	Burton East	73.5%	36.4%
27.1	Land off Beaufort Road	LAP	Burton East	29.2%	9.1%
28.1	Carpenter Close Play Area	LAP	Burton East	63.9%	9.1%
30.1	Canterbury Community Park Play Area	LEAP	Burton East	60.0%	20.0%
30.2	Canterbury Community Park teen area	Teen area	Burton East	60.0%	20.0%
30.3	Canterbury Community Park MUGA	Teen area	Burton East	60.0%	20.0%
32.1	Newton Road Play Area	LEAP	Burton East	20%	29.1%
33.1	Wetmore Community Park Play Area	LEAP	Burton East	60.0%	34.5%
34.1	Westbury Homes Site Play Area	LEAP	Burton East	51.9%	38.2%
35.1	Eton Community Park Play Area	NEAP	Burton East	66.0%	36.4%
36.1	Hillfield Lane Recreation Ground	NEAP	Burton East	71.8%	32.7%
38.1	Bitham Lane Recreation Ground	LAP	Burton East	52.6%	30.9%
54.1	Wheatley Lane Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	Burton East	60.0%	20.0%
69.1	Tower Woods Play Area	LEAP	Burton East	62.2%	27.3%
111.1	Mill Hill Lane Play Area	LAP	Burton East	60.0%	20.0%
167	Ashbrook Open Space	LAP	Burton East	67.0%	18.2%
181.1	The Green Play Area	LAP	Burton East	73.5%	34.5%
190.1	Upper Mills Community Park Play Area	NEAP	Burton East	64.3%	23.6%
7.1	Clay's Lane Recreation Ground	LEAP	Burton West	44.7%	27.3%
24.1	Shipleigh Close Play Area	LAP	Burton West	45.0%	18.2%
31.1	Higgot Close Play Area	LEAP	Burton West	69.4%	23.6%
45.1	Horninglow Community Park Play Area	LEAP	Burton West	74.2%	38.2%
46.1	Carver Road Play Area	LAP	Burton West	64.6%	38.2%
48.1	Shobnall Fields Play Area	SEAP	Burton West	79.0%	38.2%
49.1	Percy's Grove PA	NEAP	Burton West	72.2%	20.0%
55.1	Branston Water Park Play Area	LAP	Burton West	72.9%	30.9%
56	Nicklaus Close Play Area	LAP	Burton West	43.0%	9.1%
57.1	Lonsdale Recreation Ground PA	LEAP	Burton West	75.6%	56.4%
58.1	Mellor Road Play Area	LAP	Burton West	58.4%	30.9%
71.1	Torrance Close Play Area	LEAP	Burton West	51.9%	21.8%

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KKP Ref	Site	Sub-typology	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
168.1	Portland Avenue Open Space PA	LAP	Burton West	56.4%	29.1%
169	Newman Drive Open Space	LAP	Burton West	77.0%	38.2%
170	Glencroft Close Open Space	LAP	Burton West	79.0%	29.1%
171.1	Palmer Close Open Space PA	LAP	Burton West	72.9%	38.2%
182	Unity Park	LEAP	Burton West	60.8%	45.5%
189	Millennium Play Area, Branston	LAP	Burton West	67.7%	34.5%
1.1	Wood Lane Playing Fields PA	LAP	Rural 1	62.5%	69.1%
2.1	Hollow Lane Playing Fields PA	LAP	Rural 1	16.8%	34.5%
41.1	Elizabeth Avenue Recreation Ground PA	LEAP	Rural 1	46.0%	32.7%
92.1	Oak Road Play Area	NEAP	Rural 1	69.8%	30.9%
95.1	Collinson Road Play Area	NEAP	Rural 1	78.7%	36.4%
101	Cromwell Close Play Area	LAP	Rural 1	28.9%	14.5%
102.1	Park Pale PA	LEAP	Rural 1	60.0%	34.5%
104.1	Tutbury Mill Play Area	LEAP	Rural 1	68.0%	21.8%
104.2	Tutbury Mill Youth Play Area	Teen area	Rural 1	60.0%	21.8%
105.1	Ferrers Field PA	LEAP	Rural 1	26.1%	30.9%
117	Elton Close Playing Field	SEAP	Rural 1	78.4%	76.4%
130	Hillsea Crescent Play Area	NEAP	Rural 1	72.9%	54.5%
134.1	Meadow View Play Area	LAP	Rural 1	63.6%	18.2%
186.1	Silver Lane Playing Fields PA	LEAP	Rural 1	64.6%	29.1%
187.1	Rangemore Playing Fields PA	LAP	Rural 1	32.6%	32.7%
192	Beamhill Road Play Area	LAP	Rural 1	62.9%	21.8%
200	Laland Street PA	LEAP	Rural 1	64.3%	21.8%
210	Forest Edge Way PA	LAP	Rural 1	33.7%	21.8%
212.1	Rolleston Open Space PA	LEAP	Rural 1	36.8%	30.9%
3.1	Abbots Bromley Millennium Green PA	LEAP	Rural 2	54.0%	30.9%
89.1	Church Lane Playing Fields Play Area	LAP	Rural 2	60.0%	20.0%
90.1	Denstone Old Railway PA	LAP	Rural 2	70.1%	36.4%
109.1	Rocester Parish Playing Fields	NEAP	Rural 2	70.8%	25.5%
114.1	Mayfield Playing Fields Play Area	LAP	Rural 2	53.3%	20.0%
116.1	Moorlands Drive Play Area	LAP	Rural 2	73.5%	32.7%
118.1	Kingstone Playing Fields PA	LEAP	Rural 2	54.6%	58.2%
120.1	Church Leigh Recreation Ground PA	NEAP	Rural 2	57.7%	58.2%
131.1	Stramshall Playing Field PA	LEAP	Rural 2	60.1%	20.0%
132	Mill Bank Drive Play Area	LAP	Rural 2	87.6%	41.8%
188	Denstone Youth Fund PA	LAP	Rural 2	66.3%	32.7%
195	Lakeside Club Play Area	NEAP	Rural 2	33.3%	32.7%
72.1	Blount's Drive Play Area (2)	LAP	Uttoxeter	72.5%	30.9%

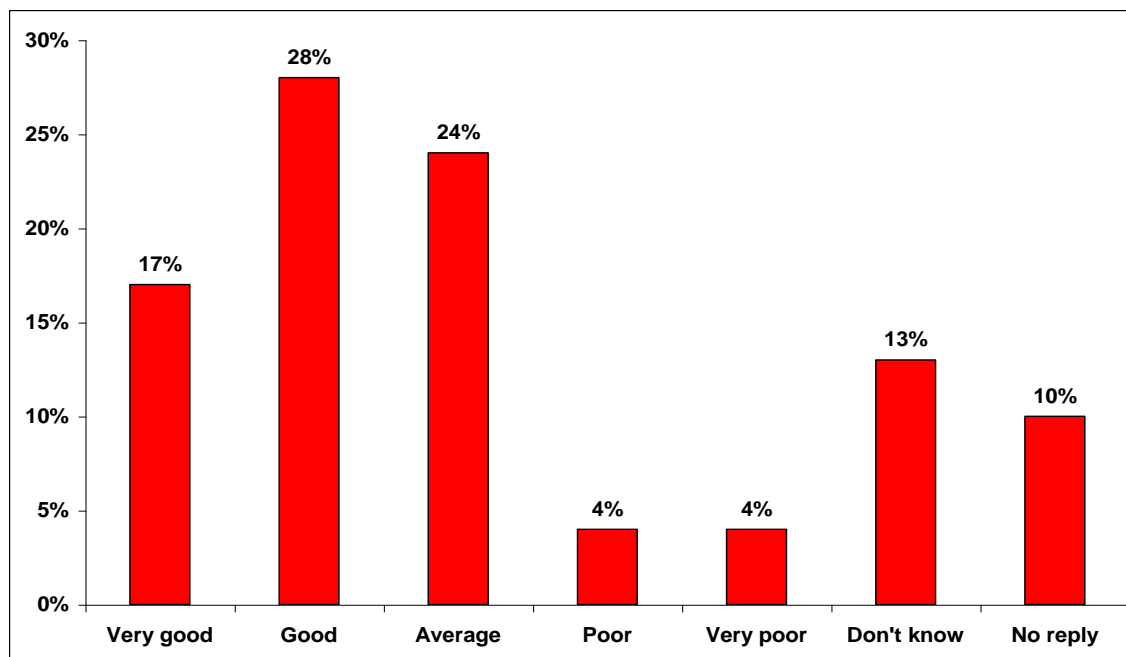
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KKP Ref	Site	Sub-typology	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
73	Blount's Drive Play Area (1)	LAP	Uttoxeter	49.8%	14.5%
75	George Elliott Close Play Area	LAP	Uttoxeter	46.7%	20.0%
76.1	Avocet Close Play Area	LAP	Uttoxeter	57.0%	21.8%
77	Kestrel Close Play Area	LEAP	Uttoxeter	55.7%	30.9%
78.1	Hazelwalls Community Park Play Area	LAP	Uttoxeter	61.2%	21.8%
79.1	Bramshall Park Play Area	LEAP	Uttoxeter	64.3%	32.7%
80.1	Oldfield Park Play Area	LEAP	Uttoxeter	58.1%	21.8%
83.1	The Willows Play Area	LEAP	Uttoxeter	66.0%	36.4%
84.1	Grange Road Recreation Ground Play Area	LAP	Uttoxeter	38.5%	36.4%
85.1	Weaver Lodge Play Area	LEAP	Uttoxeter	54.0%	36.4%
87.1	Pennycroft Community Park Play Area	LEAP	Uttoxeter	60%	34.5%
129	Chaffinch Drive Play Area	LAP	Uttoxeter	51.9%	9.1%
173.1	Silver Birch Drive Open Space	LAP	Uttoxeter	71.8%	47.3%
174	Heron Drive Open Space	LAP	Uttoxeter	54.3%	12.7%
175.1	Brooklands Close Open Space	LAP	Uttoxeter	55.3%	47.3%
216	Mallens Croft, Bramshall Village PA	LEAP	Uttoxeter	-	-

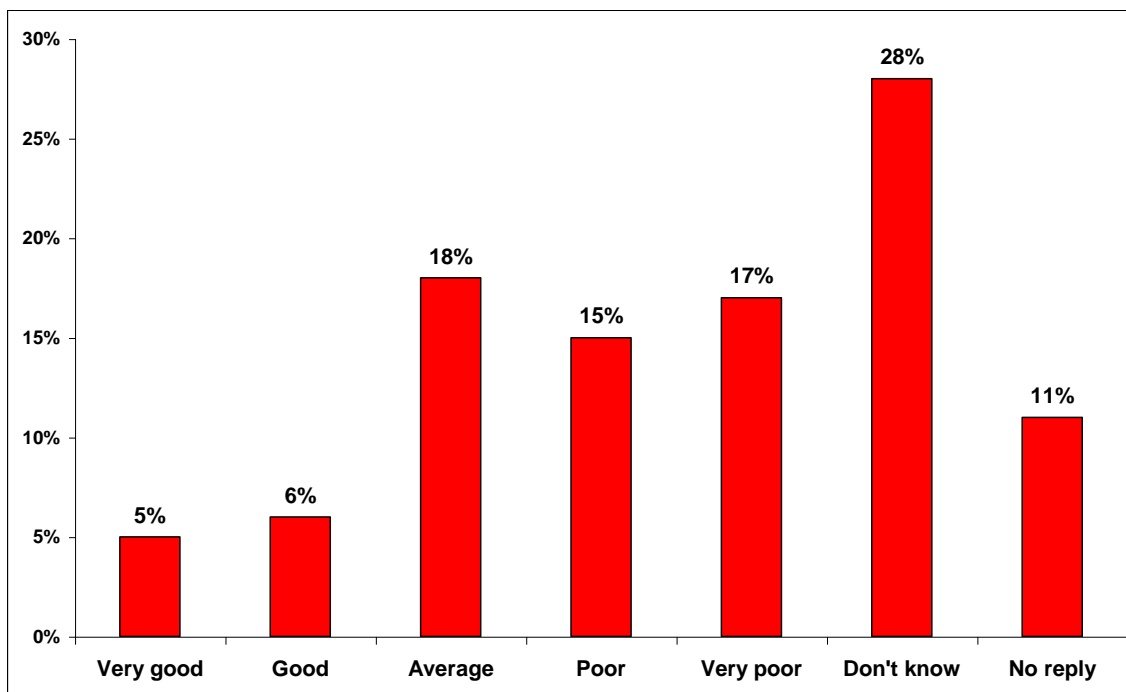
The mapping above highlights that each significant settlement area across the Borough has access to at least one children's play area. The most plentiful provision is in Burton East and, with the exception of Uttoxeter, each analysis areas has provision of at least one play area of NEAP standard. Almost half (45%) of all play area provision across East Staffordshire is of LAP standard. Catchment mapping highlights the opportunity to rationalise play area provision through investment in fewer site of higher quality and value.

Awareness of provision is much higher amongst citizen panel respondents for PAC than for PAT. Only 23% of respondents cannot rate availability of PAC as opposed to 39% for PAT. Availability of PAC across the Borough is also rated higher amongst respondents than availability of PAT. Almost half (45%) of all respondents rate provision of PAC as good or very good in terms of provision. However, almost one third (32%) of respondents rate availability of PAT as poor or very poor.

*Figure 8.8: Availability of children's play areas*



*Figure 8.9: Availability of teenage play areas*



In general, consultation identifies a perception that children under 12 years of age are well catered for in terms of access to play provision. However, consultation with parents highlights that there is a lack of variety of play equipment at existing play areas across the Borough. Users indicate that equipment does not often cater for a range of ages or abilities. There is demand for more challenging and adventurous play equipment suitable for older children (11+ yrs) e.g. zip wire, web climbers. There is also a desire for greater



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provision of interactive play equipment e.g. sounds, colour, touch, such as mirrors, sand pits, panel grids and talk tubes.

There is a reported gap in provision for over 12's. Consultation identifies a consensus amongst residents across the Borough that there is a lack of facilities for young people. There is demand for greater provision of spaces designated for use by young people, of which, they can take ownership, so that they are not moved from place to place. Often young people just want somewhere safe and dry to 'hang out'. This is true in Uttoxeter, where demand is identified for teenage provision similar to that provided in Tutbury. In 2008 Staffordshire Police undertook a survey to assess the need for provision for young people in Uttoxeter. 700 pupils attending Thomas Alleyne's High School responded and the main demand identified was for teen shelters and skate parks. In response, the Police, in partnership with ESBC, are investigating the potential to provide youth shelters at Uttoxeter Leisure Centre and Pennycroft Park. These two locations are already the preferred locations for young people to meet and socialise.

Staffordshire Police has also set up, and is leading, an Extreme Sport Support Group in Uttoxeter. This is campaigning for provision of a skatepark in the town. The only current provision is at Bramshall Park. However, consultation indicates that there are social access barriers preventing residents from the opposite end of Uttoxeter travelling to access this provision. Local resident consultation indicates that there is desire for skate provision within Pennycroft Park, which is already a well-used open space resource by local residents. At present, it only offers play provision for very young children.

Consultation has also identified significant demand for skate provision in Winshill. This was a priority in the Winshill Parish Plan and the need is recognised by ESBC. However, there is a lack of suitable locations to host such provision. Local young people suggest that Wheatley Lane Recreation Ground (KKP Ref 54) would be a preferred site and state that the main reason they do not travel to access the skate provision at Shobnall Leisure Complex because of the high cost of public transport between Winshill and Burton (£1.10 single fare on the bus).

Young people from Barton have expressed demand for provision of a youth shelter on the Holland Sports Ground, as this is the main area where local young people congregate and meet with friends.

In general, young people in Tutbury are considered to be well provided for, with provision at Tutbury Mill and on Cornmill Lane. However, consultation with local young people highlights demand for further provision of a BMX track and youth shelter, preferably in the vicinity of Holt's Lane.

Denstone Youth Fund was established in 2005 in response to the need to provide play facilities for local children and young people. Following consultation with young people and extensive fund raising the organisation has, in recent year, successfully provided two play areas, once for young children and one for older children. Both were welcomed and are well used by local residents. In response to identified need for provision for young people in the area the Tom Boden Memorial Trust has aspirations to provide a MUGA on the open space off Oak Road. Currently goal posts are provided to facilitate informal ball games but the Trust believes there to be a local need for an all weather sports area and planning permission has been submitted to ESBC. However, opinion as to the suitability of the area for such provision is split amongst local residents. Residents living adjacent to the site have concerns about the nuisance that may be generated by such provision

and the location is considered to be too isolated and not to have sufficient parking opportunities for safe usage.

### **Management**

Management of provision for children and young people involves ESBC and town/parish councils. Considering all provision across East Staffordshire, regardless of provider, ESBC has a written play strategy outlining aims and objectives for the development of play, across the Borough. This sets out a vision that:

*“East Staffordshire should be a place where children and young people are able to play freely and safely making their own choices about where and when to play”*

To achieve this vision the Strategy outlines the following objectives:

- ◀ To raise the profile of play within the Borough of East Staffordshire.
- ◀ To develop and widen the scope of play provision within the Borough.
  - ◀ To develop satellite play provision and play days within the parish areas.
  - ◀ To develop natural play opportunities.
- ◀ To reduce barriers to play.
- ◀ To facilitate access to play training.
- ◀ To improve understanding of the importance of play with parents and carers.
- ◀ To improve the quality of play space across the Borough.
  - ◀ To rationalise and improve the quality of existing play space.
  - ◀ To ensure proper developments across the Borough.

Through the play strategy ESBC has successfully attracted recent funding (£242,000) from the Big Lottery’s Children’s Play Programme covering play opportunities for children up to 19 years. Through this, a number of sites across the Borough have been identified for/received investment including a £50,000 contribution to the Unity Park play area (this was developed in summer 08) and £40,000 for a teenage play area in Tutbury.

The consultation process for this study identified major aspirations for improvements in play provision. Although the Big Lottery Fund can meet a modest proportion of these aspirations, other agencies must also contribute to improvements in play provision if the vision of better play is to be achieved.

To assist with the development of local play provision, ESBC provides grants for community groups, schools and parish councils to develop play facilities in rural parts of the Borough for children under the age of 16.

There is some localised concern amongst residents in the Borough area with regard to planning policy for the provision of children’s play areas within new residential developments. Consultation highlights that sites promised do not necessarily materialise e.g. Regents Park Estate, Branston where a piece of land, off Jephson Road, was identified as a play/park area when the estate was developed. However, it remains unused and there is local demand for provision of a play area or for the site to be developed as a community park.

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### Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for children's play areas in East Staffordshire. The threshold for assessing high and low quality is set at 60% reflecting the average score gained for play areas in East Staffordshire.

Table 8.2: Quality scores for play areas sites by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 60%	Above 60%
Burton East	97	20%	61%	75%	55%	5	18
Burton West	97	43%	65%	79%	36%	6	12
Rural 1	97	17%	54%	79%	62%	7	12
Rural 2	97	33%	62%	88%	54%	5	7
Uttoxeter	97	38%	57%	73%	34%	10	6
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>55</b>

Consultation and site assessments identify that quality of play areas varies significantly across the Borough from only 17% for Hollow Lane Playing Fields play area (KKP Ref 2.1) to 88% for Mill Bank Drive play area (KKP Ref 132). Better quality play areas tend to be located in Burton West analysis area.

Only four play areas scored poorly for general site appearance during the audit:

- ✦ Newton Road Recreation Ground.
- ✦ Hollow Lane Playing Fields Play Area.
- ✦ Ferrers Field Play Area.
- ✦ Lonsdale Road Play Area.

Although Newton Road Recreation Ground Play Area does not score as the lowest site in the audit, according to consultation, it is very outdated and has minimal play value due to its poor quality. Its location on the site is one of the main issues as it is in an isolated location away from residential properties.

Six play areas scored poorly for surface quality during the audit:

- ✦ Blount's Drive Play Area.
- ✦ Rangemore Playing Fields Play Area.
- ✦ Wetmore Community Park Play Area.
- ✦ Ferrers Field Play Area.
- ✦ Clay's Lane Recreation Ground Play Area.
- ✦ Percy Grove Play Area.

Consultation highlights a perception that children's play areas are regularly vandalised and there is demand for greater policing of sites. However, this perception is probably greater than reality and fuelled by the regular presence of young people congregating on, and littering children's play areas. In particular, consultation highlights Anglesey Community Park play area (KKP Ref 15.1), Canterbury Community Park play area (KKP

## EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

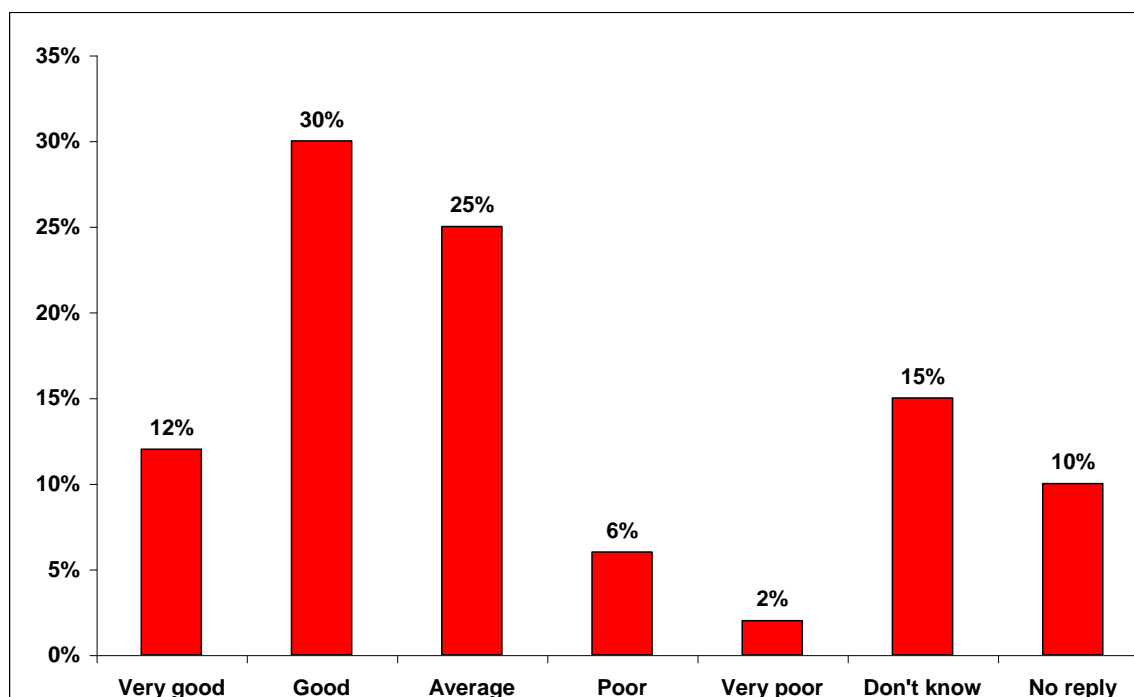
Ref 30.1) and Carver Road play area (KKP Ref 46.1) as 'hot-spot' areas for vandalism and damage to play surfaces.

Parents of young children would like to see greater provision of seating and picnic areas in and around provision for children to encourage socialising amongst families and to cater for parents while their children are playing.

Once again, ability to rate quality of provision is much higher amongst citizen panel respondents for PAC (only 25% cannot rate) than for PAT (40% cannot rate). As shown in the figures below, rating of quality follows similar patterns as the rating of availability. Over two fifths of respondents rate the quality of PAC provision to be good or very good across the Borough. However, a much smaller proportion (13%) of respondents rate the provision of PAT to be good or better in terms of quality. Only 8% of respondents consider provision of PAC to be of poor quality whereas almost one third (31%) of respondents perceive PAT provision to be poor in terms of quality.

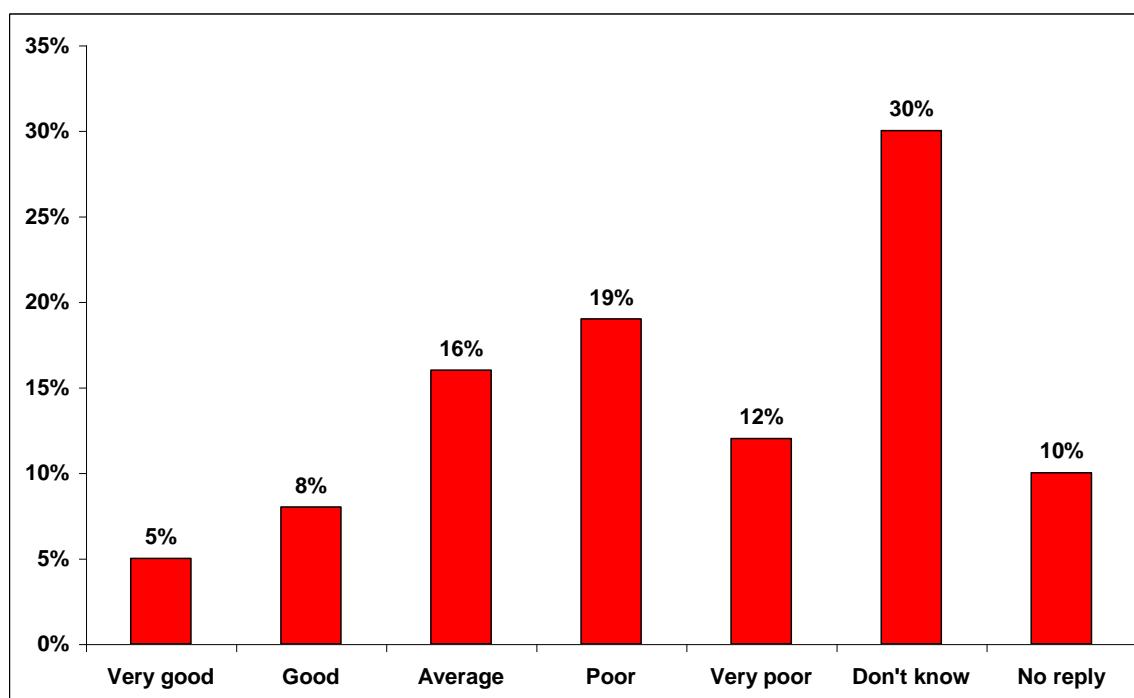
Respondents from Uttoxeter appear to have a higher opinion of PAC with almost half (49%) of respondents from this area rating provision as good or very good in terms of quality. One third of respondents from Burton East (34%), Rural 1 (34%) and Rural 2 (32%) rate quality of PAT provision as poor or very poor.

Figure 8.10: Quality of provision of children's play areas



# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 8.11: Quality of provision of teenage play areas



## Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for children's play areas in East Staffordshire. A score of 20% or less is considered to indicate that a site has low value.

Table 8.3: Value scores for play areas by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 20%	Above 20%
Burton East	55	9%	28%	42%	33%	5	18
Burton West	55	9%	32%	56%	47%	2	16
Rural 1	55	15%	33%	76%	62%	2	17
Rural 2	55	20%	34%	58%	38%	0	12
Uttoxeter	55	9%	28%	47%	38%	3	13
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>77</b>

Value scores for play areas across the Borough are generally high, with the mean score for all analysis areas being above the threshold of 20%. Although this is supported by consultation, which suggests that residents place a high value upon play facilities, ESBC officers suggest that together with some very good sites, there are a lot of small sites of very low value often far too close to housing.

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It is important to recognise the benefits that play opportunities provide in terms of health, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus their developmental and educational value. In particular, consultation identifies demand for introducing greater interactive, dynamic and natural play opportunities including elements of touch, sound and sight e.g. play panels, talk tubes, water based play, sand.

Just over one quarter (27%) of the play area sites assessed during the audit were recorded as having low usage levels (observation and judgement only on the day of assessment). Almost half of these (48%) are classified as low value (below 20%) and therefore require further investigation as to the need to retain.

The type and variety of play equipment is one of the main factors that impacts on the value of play areas. Consultation with parents highlights a perceived lack of variety of play equipment provided at sites across the Borough offering limited opportunities catering for a range of ages. This is noted on a number of site assessments e.g. George Elliot Close play area (KKP Ref 75) and Meadow View play area (KKP Ref 134.1). This reflects the fact that almost half (45%) of all play area provision across East Staffordshire is of LAP standard. There is an opportunity to rationalise play area provision to invest in fewer but higher quality sites offering much higher play value.

### Summary

This section collates issues raised during consultation with community groups regarding provision for children and young people in East Staffordshire. This is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers those sites about which comment was recorded during consultation.

Site	Comments
Bramshall Park Play Area (KKP Ref 79.1)	<p>There is ongoing demand for additional play facilities. Parents of young children consider the provision of play equipment to be limited. There is demand for greater provision of equipment suitable for children under the age of 5 years. There is also expressed demand for greater provision suitable for older children, above the age of 11 years, which is adventurous and challenging e.g. zip-wire, web climber.</p> <p>This is a popular congregation area for young people. Consultation indicates that the youth shelter is misused and that the BMX/skate ramps are considered to be old and in need of improvement.</p>
Canterbury Community Park Play Area (KKP Ref 30.1)	<p>This is a popular site for large groups of young people to congregate. Consultation with local teenagers suggests demand for a larger youth shelter to provide greater seating areas. Young people report that they 'hang out' here due to its location close to where they live.</p>
Carver Road Play Area (KKP Ref 46.1)	<p>ESBC is currently pursuing funding opportunities through the BIG Lottery Play Builder Fund with a target to replace the old equipment with natural and more varied play provision.</p>
Church Leigh PA (KKP Ref 120.1)	<p>The site audit notes that there is evidence of wear and tear to the swing seats and small areas of damage to the safety surfacing. The basketball hoop at the site is of poor quality.</p>
Clay's Lane Recreation Ground (KKP Ref 7)	<p>Consultation with young people highlights a perceived deficiency for young people in the Branston area. Clay Lane is reported to be a key location for young people to meet and socialise and young people suggest this as a good location for provision of a youth shelter.</p>

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Site	Comments
Davies Drive Recreation Ground (KKP Ref 82)	The play area at this site has been removed in the last 12 months due to vandalism and the need to upgrade. New equipment has not yet been provided and there is expressed demand from local residents for provision of play equipment in this area.
Elton Close playing field play area (KKP Ref 117)	The site assessment notes that this as a pleasant and imaginative play area with sturdy and exciting equipment.
Eton Community Park Play Area (KKP Ref 35.1)	ESBC has plans to upgrade the equipment provided at the site.
Ferrer's Field PA (KKP Ref 105.1)	The site assessment notes that the equipment is very worn and there is evidence of graffiti/litter. The wetpore safety surface is badly damaged. The youth seating is of poor quality as it is rotting and the basketball goal is broken.
Glencroft Close (KKP Ref 170)	The site assessment notes that this is a very small and claustrophobic site with provision of only one swing. It is not considered to be very sociable or attractive for users.
Hillsea Crescent play area (KKP Ref 130)	The entrance to this site is via long passageways between high garden fences. This is intimidating and creates a negative safety perception. The site assessment also notes that there is evidence of littering and fly tipping.
Lonsdale Road Play area (KKP Ref 57.1)	The site assessment highlights this site to be a well-designed play area providing imaginative equipment and youth facilities. However, at the time of the assessment there was much litter, including drink cans, and some minor vandalism to seat and equipment present impacting negatively upon site quality.
The Willows Play Area (KKP Ref 83.1)	This is a well used site by local residents. Consultation indicates that it would benefit from provision of seating for parents and this is supported by the findings of the site assessment. Users report that the play equipment suffers from sporadic incidents of graffiti.
Tutbury Mill play area (KKP Ref 104.1)	The site assessment notes that the site provides imaginative and challenging equipment, which caters for a range of ages.



### **Provision for children and young people summary**

- ◀ In total, 88 sites in East Staffordshire are classified as provision for children and young people, totalling just over three hectares.
- ◀ Overall, 44% of citizen panel respondents have visited play areas for children (PAC) in the last 12 months. This figure is lower (10%) when considering provision for teenagers (PAT).
- ◀ For both types of play provision the majority of respondents providing travel distance preferences indicate that they are willing to walk for up to 15 minutes to access provision.
- ◀ Each significant settlement area across the Borough has access to at least one children's play area. Almost half (45%) of all play area provision across East Staffordshire is of LAP standard.
- ◀ Residents are generally content with the quantity of provision but there is demand for a greater variety of play opportunities. In particular there is demand for increased provision for young people.
- ◀ Consultation and site assessments identify that quality of play areas varies significantly across the Borough. Residents report that children's play areas suffer from regular vandalism and there is demand for greater policing of sites. However, this perception is considered to be greater than reality and fuelled by the regular presence of young people congregating on and littering children's play areas.
- ◀ Value scores for play areas across the Borough are generally high, with the mean score for all analysis areas being above the suggested threshold of 20%. Residents place a high value upon play facilities recognising the benefits that play can provide in terms of health, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value.
- ◀ Consultation identifies demand for introducing greater interactive, dynamic and natural play opportunities including elements of touch, sound and sight e.g. play panels, talk tubes, water based play, sand.



# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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### PART 9: ALLOTMENTS, COMMUNITY GARDENS AND CITY FARMS

#### Introduction

The typology of allotments, community gardens and city farms, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes sites, which 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.'

#### Key issues

##### *Current provision*

30 sites are classified as allotments in East Staffordshire, equating to just over 24 hectares.

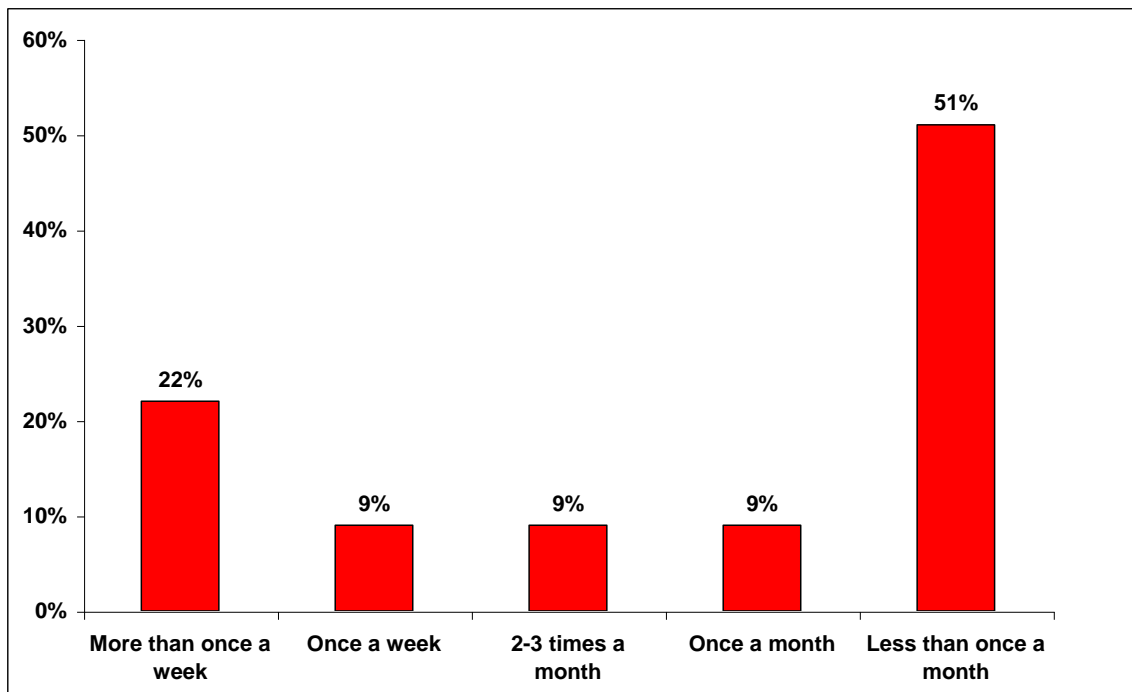
*Table 9.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Allotments	
	Number	Size (ha)
Burton East	11	13.55
Burton West	5	4.26
Rural 1	7	3.02
Rural 2	2	0.49
Uttoxeter	5	2.73
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24.05</b>

**Usage**

Only 10% of citizen panel respondents report visiting an allotment in the previous 12 months. This is consistent with the level reported in other local authorities. Although overall levels of usage are low, those that use allotments tend to visit them regularly (31% visiting once a week or more).

*Figure 9.1: Frequency of usage allotments in the previous 12 months*

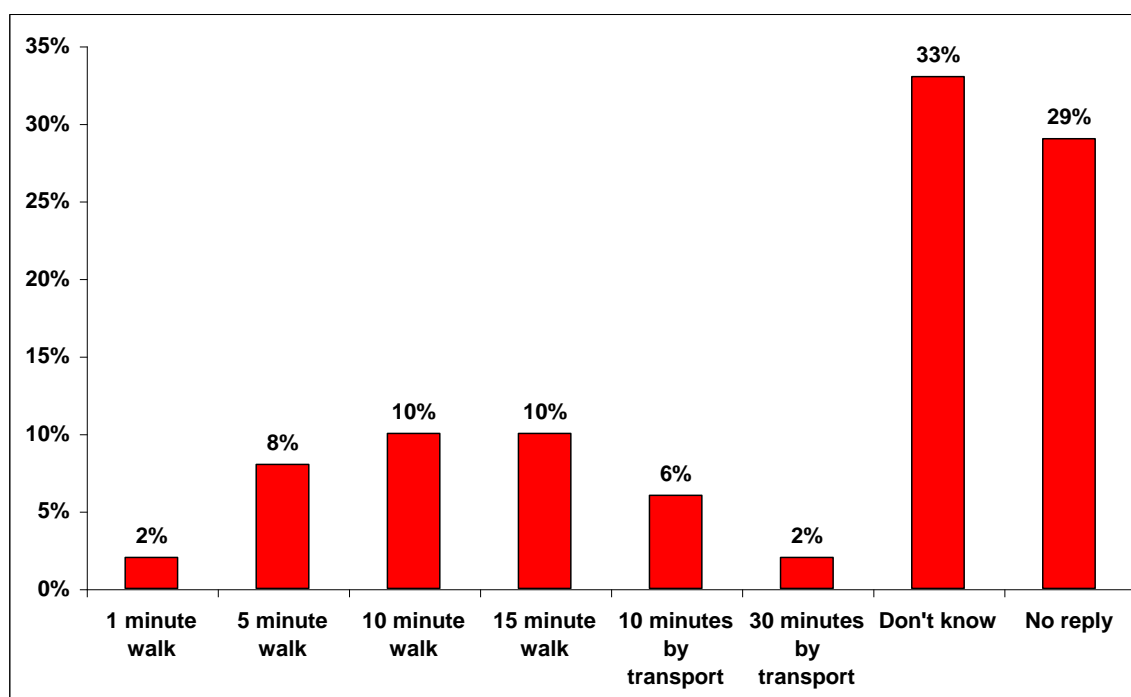


## Accessibility

Reflecting the relatively small proportion of the population that use allotments, the majority of respondent (62%) are unable to state how far they would travel to access one. Of those that did, the majority (20%) are willing to walk for between 10 and 15 minutes to access provision. This also reflects that residents expect allotments to be locally available. User consultation further reflects this trend, indicating that the vast majority of tenants tend to be residents from the local area and will travel up to two miles to access provision (equating to a 15 minute walk or five minutes by transport).

A small proportion of residents will travel further by car to access available provision, for example tenants at Wheatley Allotments are known to travel up to 20 minutes by car to use one.

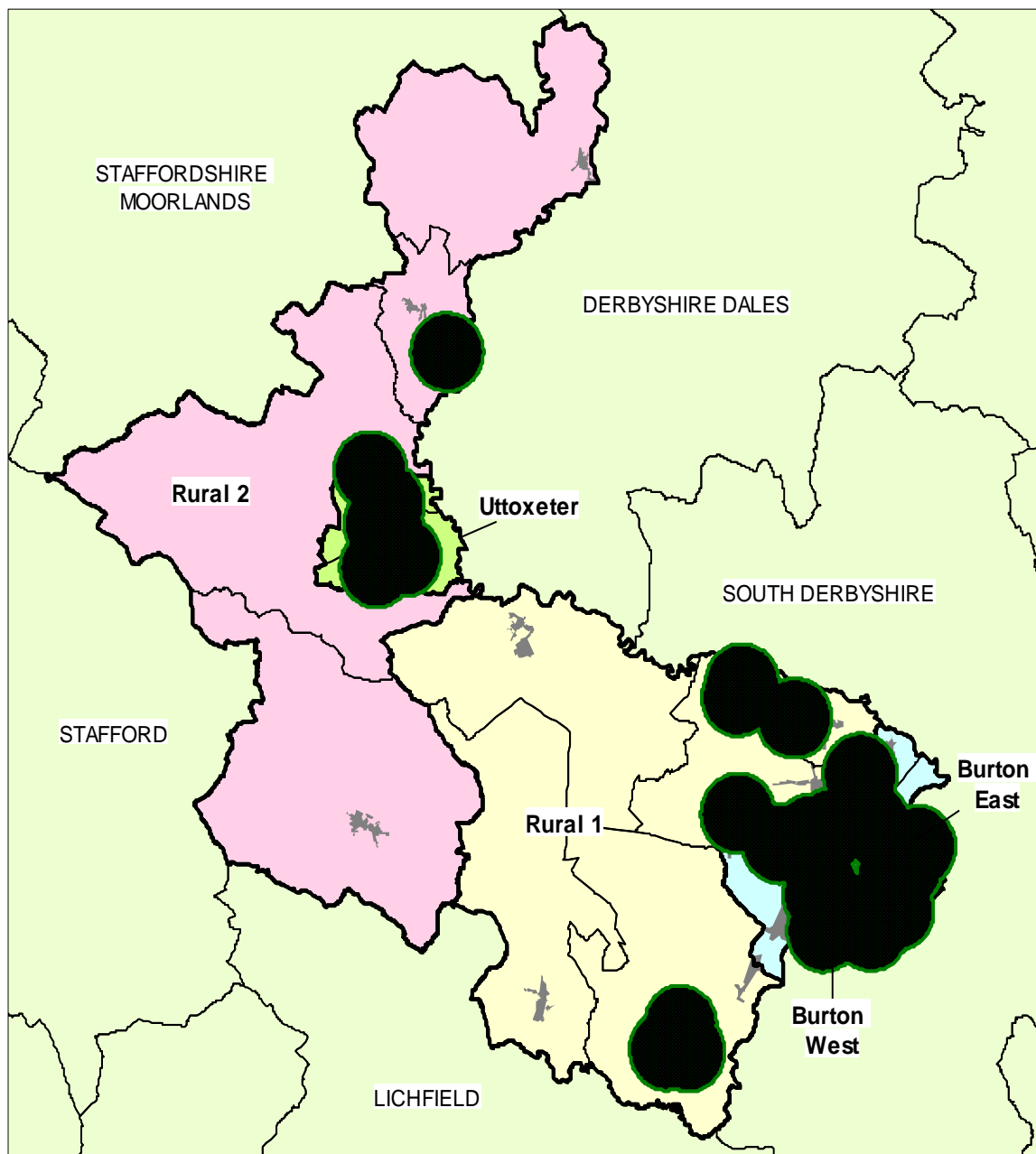
Figure 9.2: Time prepared to travel to access an allotment



Given that the majority of users would accept a walk of between 10 - 15 minutes to access provision, we recommend an accessibility standard that all residents in East Staffordshire are within a 15 minute walk time of high quality allotment provision. This is also consistent with National Guidelines issued by Greater London Authority (GLA) (2009): 'Guide to preparing open space strategies' that states that an appropriate catchment for allotments sized between 0.66ha and 1ha (which the majority in East Staffordshire are) is 1,200 metres (which converts to 0.75 miles or 15 minute walk). The mapping overleaf plots all sites with this catchment applied in order to identify any deficiencies in provision.

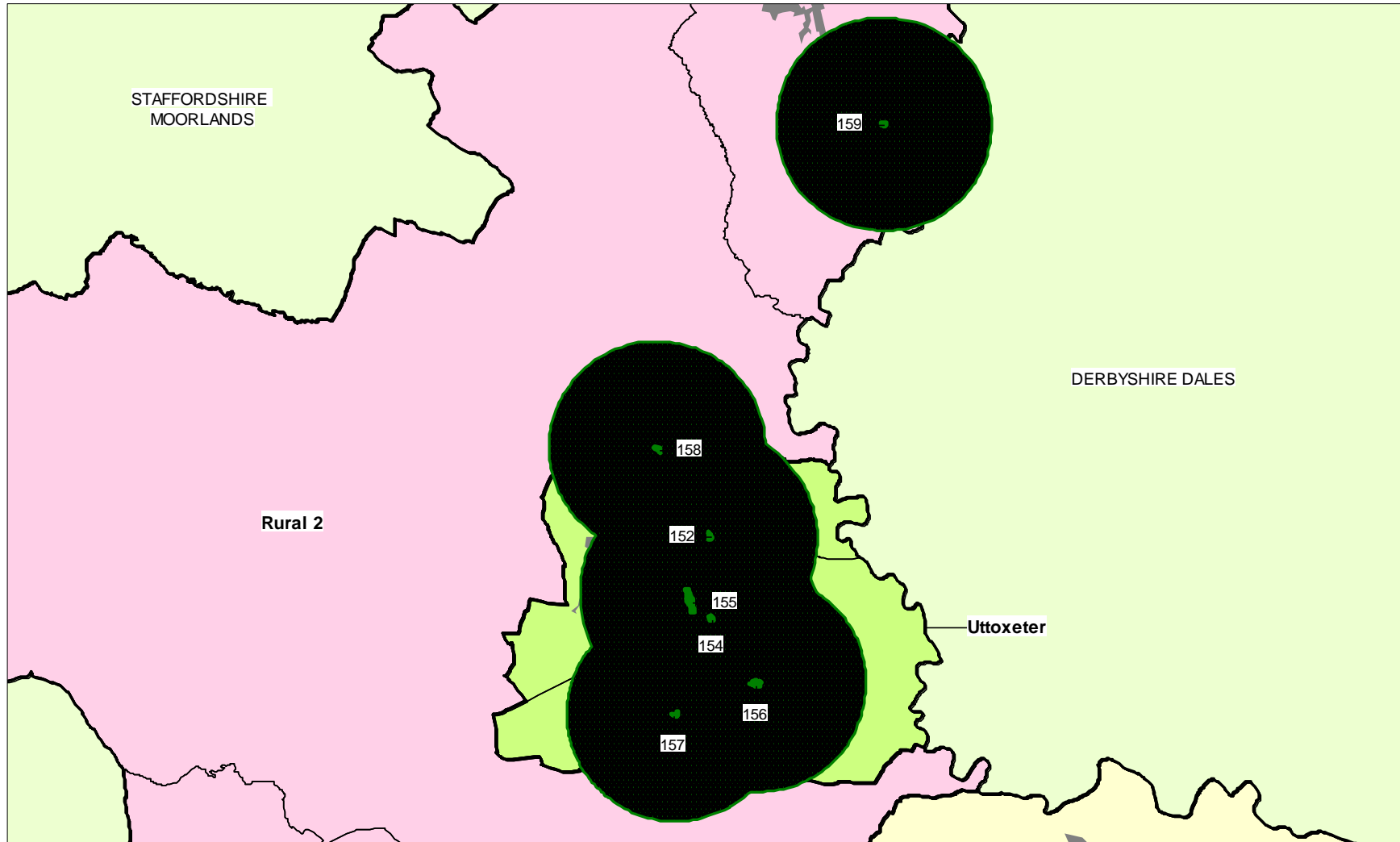
# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 9.3: All allotments with 15 minute walk catchments (0.75 mile)



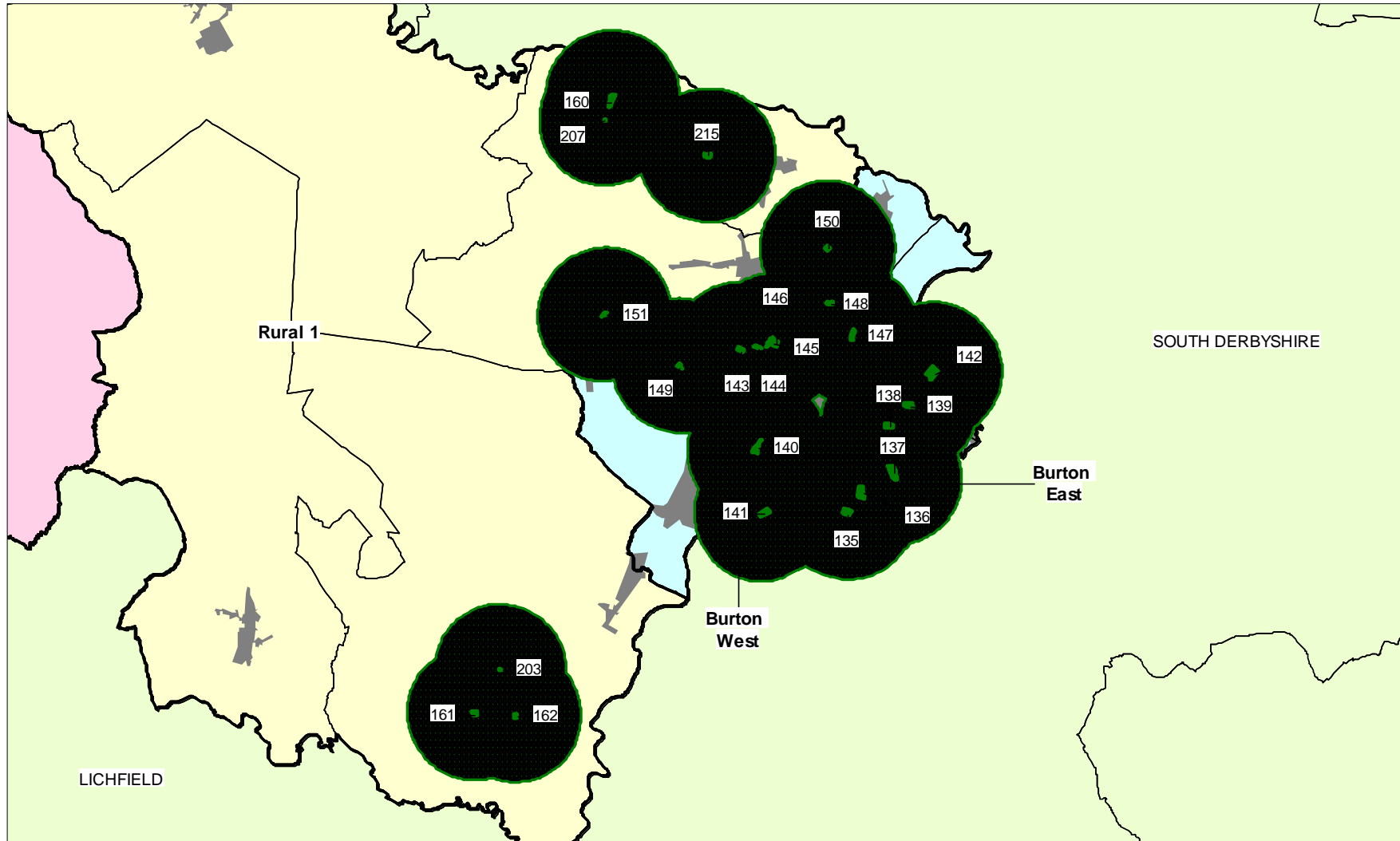
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*Allotments in Uttoxeter with 15 minute walk catchments (0.75 mile)*



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*Allotments in Burton with 15 minute walk catchments (0.75 mile)*



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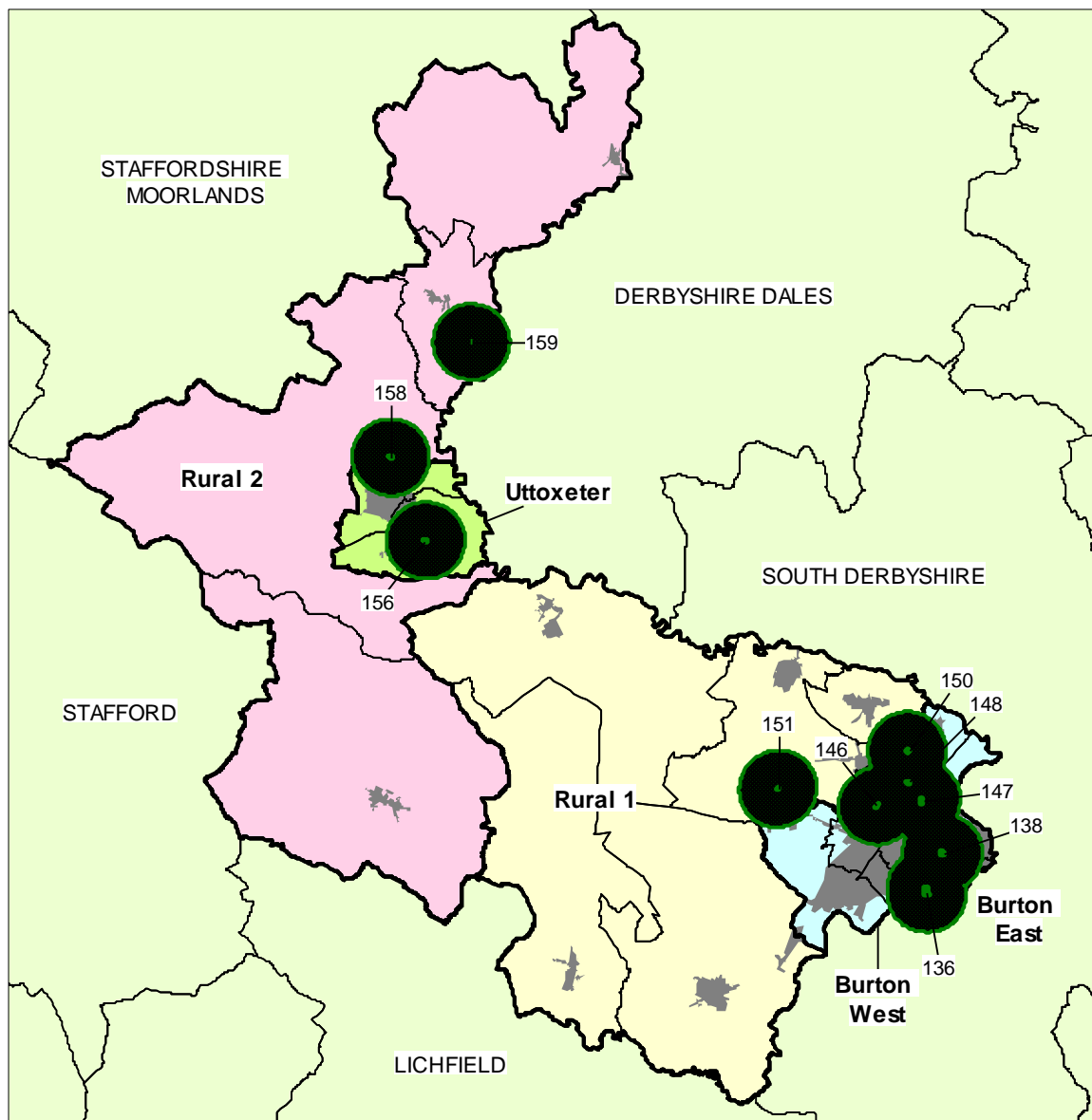
*Key to sites mapped:*

<b>KKP Ref</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Quality score</b>	<b>Value score</b>
135	Rosliston Road Allotments	Burton East	42.7%	26.7%
136	Fiveland's Allotments	Burton East	34.7%	25.7%
137	Stapenhill Lane Allotments	Burton East	31.5%	23.8%
138	Claverhouse Allotments	Burton East	42.7%	23.8%
139	Bearwood Hill Allotments	Burton East	47.6%	25.7%
140	Anglesey Allotments	Burton East	39.5%	26.7%
141	Regatta Lane Allotments	Burton West	36.3%	24.8%
142	Wheatley Lane Allotments	Burton East	35.5%	24.8%
143	Belvoir Road Allotments	Burton West	37.9%	28.6%
144	Belvedere Allotments	Burton West	41.1%	27.6%
145	Bradmore Road Allotments	Burton West	38.7%	27.6%
146	Mona Lands 'C' Allotments	Burton East	38.7%	28.6%
147	Wetmore Allotments	Burton East	38.7%	27.6%
148	Eton Road Allotments	Burton East	29.0%	20.0%
149	Outwoods Parish Council Allotments	Burton West	33.9%	21.9%
150	Stretton Parish Allotment Site	Burton East	44.4%	31.4%
151	Hopeley Road Allotments	Rural 1	44.4%	40.0%
152	Park Avenue Allotments	Uttoxeter	39.5%	22.9%
154	Alexandra Crescent Allotments	Uttoxeter	43.5%	36.2%
155	Victoria Allotments	Uttoxeter	53.2%	41.0%
156	Leighton Road Allotments	Uttoxeter	47.6%	43.8%
157	Westland Road Allotments	Uttoxeter	49.2%	39.0%
158	Stramshall Allotments	Rural 2	47.6%	35.2%
159	Ashbourne Road Allotments	Rural 2	10.5%	13.3%
160	Castle Street Allotments	Rural 1	36.3%	30.5%
161	Dogshead Lane Allotments	Rural 1	41.9%	29.5%
162	Efflinch Lane Allotments	Rural 1	53.2%	29.5%
203	St James Road Allotments	Rural 1	35.5%	29.5%
207	Holts Lane Allotments	Rural 1	25.8%	25.7%
215	Rolleston Allotments	Rural 1	60.0%	20.0%

Although provision exists in all analysis areas, the mapping shows that there is no provision in the more rural settlements of Abbotts Bromley, Marchington, Yoxall and Denstone. Some allotment associations did indicate that demand for provision is generally higher where an allotment is situated within a 10 minute drive of a settlement without provision. For example, Dogshead Lane Allotments operates the greatest waiting list in East Staffordshire (20 people) and currently has tenants from nearby Yoxall.

# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 9.3: Allotments with no waiting list with 15 minute walk catchments (0.75 mile)



Key to map:

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area
136	Fivelands Allotments	Burton East
138	Claverhouse Allotments	Burton East
146	Mona Lands 'C' Allotments	Burton East
147	Wetmore Allotments	Burton East
148	Eton Road Allotments	Burton East
150	Stretton Parish Allotment Site	Burton East
151	Hopeley Road Allotments	Rural 1
156	Leighton Road Allotments	Uttoxeter
158	Stramshall Allotments	Rural 2



## EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area
159	Ashbourne Road Allotments	Rural 2

The vast majority of allotment sites are currently operating at almost 100% capacity. The combined allotment waiting list across East Staffordshire, of 145, demonstrates that the high demand for allotments is not currently being met by provision. Although there are seven allotment sites in Uttoxeter, consultation suggests that there is particularly high demand for more provision. This is also demonstrated by high waiting lists operated at these sites, standing at over 45 across all sites in Uttoxeter. Park Avenue Allotment Association is keen to seek additional land to extend and has identified vacant land on New Road.

The largest site in operation is at Regatta Lane with 130 plots, followed by Wheatley Lane Allotments (74 plots) and Stapenhill Lane Allotments (75 plots). Even the largest sites operate a waiting list, with the greatest demand in Stapenhill, which has a waiting list of 14.

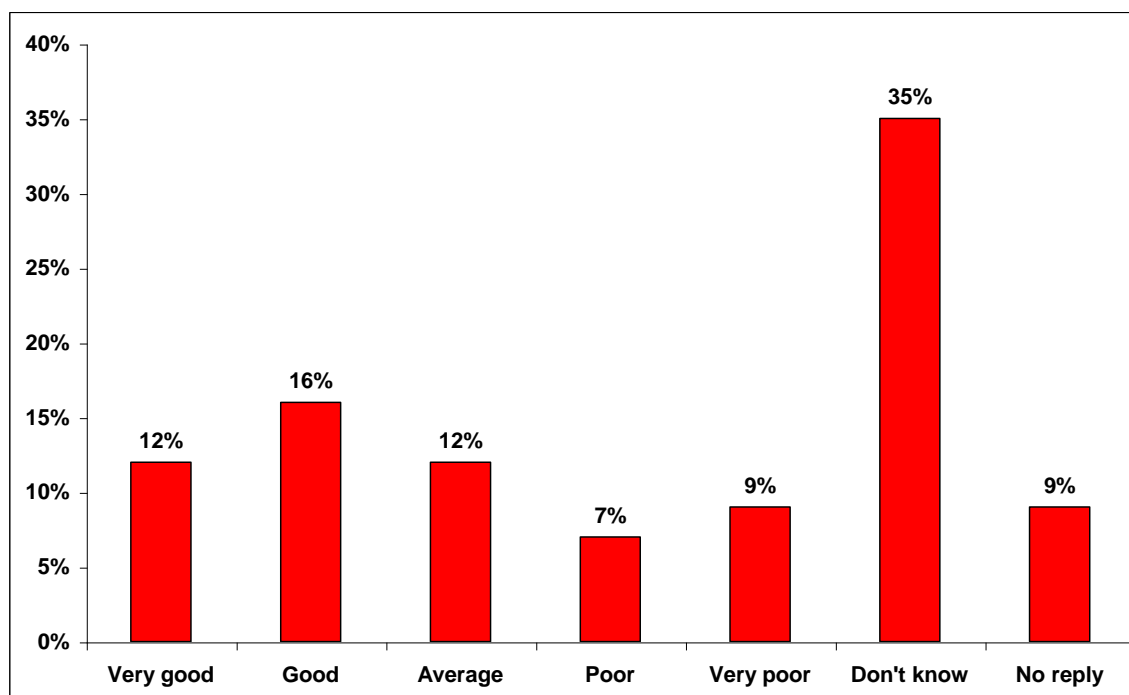
Throughout East Staffordshire there is a lack of promotion of allotments and their associated health and well being benefits. However, as current provision cannot meet the high demand that already exists, it may not be in the best interest of users, for the time being, to promote the benefits of taking up an allotment as further demand may be generated. This could, in the future, be achieved through increased information accessible on the ESBC website, production and distribution of a promotional leaflet and establishment of allotment starter packs to provide relevant information for new tenants with tips regarding how to cultivate plots and achieve maximum benefit.

During consultation little specific demand was expressed for raised plots. Anglesey Allotment Society highlighted some demand to introduce raised beds, particularly for elderly tenants. Although provision currently exists at Victoria and Wheatley allotments, demand maybe low due to the lack of plots for users with disabilities. This is an area that ESBC and allotment associations should consider investigating further to ensure that there is fully inclusive provision. This could take the form of a policy stating that if demand for raised beds arose, ESBC would endeavour to provide for that demand if and where possible.

All allotment associations note an increase in demand from women taking up plots. This is leading to a general increase in demand for toilet provision, although most accept the practicalities and costs association with installing such facilities. This is further supported through a recent ESBC allotment survey which shows that almost a quarter of respondents (22%) suggest that a lack of toilets is the greatest inhibitor to access and 29% would change or improve toilet provision at allotments.

Almost half of respondents (44%) are unable to comment on the availability of allotments. Again, this probably reflects a lack of awareness of allotment provision. Almost a third of respondents (28%) rate the availability of allotments as good or very good compared to the smaller proportion (16%) that state availability is poor or very poor.

Figure 9.4: Availability of allotments



## **Management**

The majority of allotment sites in East Staffordshire are owned by ESBC (14 in total) and are leased to allotment associations to self-manage, taking on the management of plot allocations, rent collection and waiting list management.

A number of sites are provided privately and through town and parish councils. For example, Castle Street Allotments is owned by Tutbury Parish Council and Stapenhill Lane Allotments are owned by a local church. Uttoxeter Town Council owns three allotment sites in Uttoxeter. Management of these sites varies, with the majority of parish clerks undertaking administration tasks including waiting list management. They are generally reactive to internal site maintenance such as repairs of the water supply and boundary fencing.

Self-management is not considered to be working as efficiently as it could be and a review of allotments would be of benefit. There is a lack of strategic management in terms of maintenance and development. Recognising this, ESBC has aspirations to write an allotment strategy during 2009 and within this process, establish an allotment forum. User consultation highlights support for this, with associations suggesting that the sharing of management skills and advice on funding opportunities would be beneficial.

Consultation finds that users are, in the main, content with the quality and management of allotment provision, although waiting list figures indicate that current provision is not meeting demand. An allotment strategy should ensure that they are being promoted to a wider audience e.g. women, families, BME, young people. There is an increasing amount of community usage and ESBC encourage sites to have at least one community plot and also encourage provision of raised beds.

### *Vacant plot management*

In general, vacant plot management is efficient and vacant plots are allocated to meet waiting list demand as and when they become available. In some instances, tenants report that plots may fall out of use while still under lease and this can lead to them becoming neglected and overgrown. Residents in Winshill perceive there to be disused/vacant plots at Wheatley Lane Allotments. Winshill Residents Association rents a plot at a site and is trying to encourage the local community to take on more plots. The allotment association reports that three plots are currently unused but tenanted and is considering reducing plot sizes to create more to resolve the issue. An allotment strategy could provide guidance on better plot management in order to increase take by those that have expressed demand.

### *Waiting lists*

As noted above, in total, there is a combined waiting list of 145 for allotments in East Staffordshire. Even considering the issue of double counting, as potential plot holders could sign up to more than one waiting list, these figures demonstrate high demand. This is supported by consultation findings. Currently there are 851 individual plots provided across the sites, the vast majority of which are tenanted. Consultation highlights efficient waiting list management by associations and parish councils, with few sites having vacant plots that are not being utilised to meet waiting list demand.

User consultation suggests that large plot sizes and tenants renting more than one plot can be an isolated issue. However, Dogshead Lane Allotments has four tenants renting two plots and one renting three plots. Given that the site has a waiting list of 20 people, this could be reduced by six people. Examples are also identified where plots that are particularly large, could be split to create more manageable areas and cater for more users. Wheatley Lane Allotment Association could, for example, consider splitting unused tenanted plots. This could also be considered at Regatta Lane, Bearwood and Westlands Road allotments. This has worked well on Belvedere Road and Belvoir Road and is reflected in the low waiting lists currently being operated, six and two respectively.

Restricting allotment allocation to local residents and vacation if they move outside the town/settlement boundary could also help to reduce waiting lists (although the demand will still exist).

# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in the East Staffordshire. The threshold for assessing high and low quality is set at 40% reflecting the average score gained for allotments in East Staffordshire.

Table 9.2: Quality scores for allotment sites by analysis area

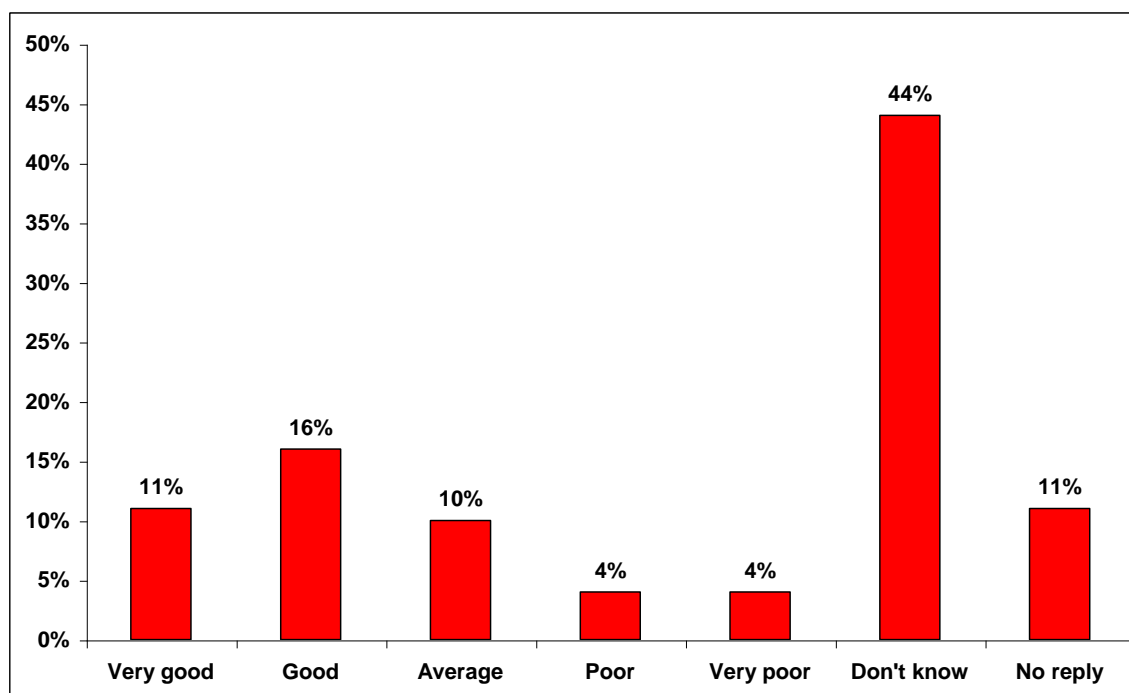
Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 40%	Above 40%
Burton East	124	29%	39%	48%	19%	7	4
Burton West	124	34%	38%	41%	7%	4	1
Rural 1	124	26%	42%	60%	34%	3	4
Rural 2	124	10%	29%	48%	37%	1	1
Uttoxeter	124	40%	47%	53%	14%	1	4
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>

Users are, in the main, content with the quality and management of allotment provision in East Staffordshire. However, there is a significant spread of 43% in the scoring of sites, suggesting an inconsistent approach to management/maintenance, probably reflected in the variation of ownership/management. Sites in Rural 2 such as Ashbourne Road Allotments (scoring 10%) are considered to be of lower quality than other areas of East Staffordshire. This is, in part, due to poor quality paths within sites and their general visual quality. Although the majority of sites have been assessed as low quality, user consultation identifies very few concerns.

Almost half of residents (44%) are unable to rate quality, reflecting usage and, probably, awareness. Amongst those that do rate provision, a higher percentage considers it to be good (16%) than poor (4%).

# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 9.5: Quality of provision of allotments



## Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for allotments in East Staffordshire. A score of 20% or less is considered to indicate that a site has low value.

Table 9.3: Value scores for allotment sites by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 20%	Above 20%
Burton East	105	20%	26%	31%	11%	-	11
Burton West	105	22%	26%	29%	7%	-	5
Rural 1	105	20%	29%	40%	20%	-	7
Rural 2	105	13%	24%	35%	22%	1	1
Uttoxeter	105	23%	37%	44%	21%	-	5
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>

Although many allotments scored poorly on quality, the vast majority score high on value, with the average value score across East Staffordshire being 29%. This is due to the associated social inclusion and health benefits of allotments and also the amenity benefits and sense of place offered by the provision. The value of allotments in East Staffordshire is further enhanced by the reasonable rental cost, which on average is £20 per annum. Users suggest that there is a good community environment at allotments in East Staffordshire.

# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Summary

This section collates issues raised during consultation with regard to allotments in East Staffordshire. It is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers those sites, about which comments were recorded during consultation.

Site	Comments
Dogshead Lane Allotments	<p>Large waiting list of 20. There is a large field adjacent to the site, which may, in the future become available to allow a site extension.</p> <p>No water supply on site. Enquires have been made about installing this but cost appears to be prohibitive. Access at the site has recently been improved.</p>
Fiveland's Allotments	<p>Private allotments. Originally this site had 75 plots (now 45). However, parts fell into disrepair when demand for allotments was low (5 years ago) and the company sold part of the site for development. Plots/tenants still exist on this land; however, the developer is seeking planning permission. It is unclear where these tenants can be relocated.</p>
Rolleston Allotments	<p>Large waiting list of 16. Owned by ESBC this is a temporary site, which may, in the future, be required for a cemetery extension. There is a general feeling of insecurity regarding its future as an allotment and the Association is keen to work with ESBC and Rolleston Parish Council to identify a new site.</p>
Park Avenue Allotments	<p>Waiting list of five and consultation suggests demand is high in the area (Uttoxeter). The Association is keen to identify land to extend and has identified vacant land of New Road but is unclear who owns it.</p> <p>There is considered to be growing demand for the installation of toilets to cater for the increased female membership.</p>
Rosliston Road Allotments	<p>Waiting list of nine. There is a piece of overgrown land fenced off at the rear of the site which used to belong to the allotments and could be re cultivated to cater for demand. However, the new lease from ESBC does not show this land as being included and the Association is unclear as to its future.</p>
Efflinch Lane Allotments	<p>This parish council site is generally in good condition. However, the access road is worn and requires levelling if funding can be sought.</p>
Stapenhill Lane Allotments	<p>Waiting list of 14. Rubbish dumped at the top of the site could be removed to create a greater space for car parking. Fencing recently erected for a new footpath next to the site is deemed to be inadequate and is creating a security problem for the allotments.</p>

### Allotments summary

- ◀ There are 30 classified allotment sites in East Staffordshire, equating to just over 24 hectares.
- ◀ The majority of are identified as low quality, in part, due to poor quality paths within sites and general visual quality. Despite this, user consultation identifies very few concerns with provision. The value of allotments in East Staffordshire is high due to the associated social inclusion and health benefits and also the amenity benefits and sense of place offered by provision.
- ◀ The vast majority of sites are operating at almost 100% capacity. The combined allotment waiting list across East Staffordshire, of 145, demonstrates that the high demand is not currently being met by provision. There is particularly high demand for more provision in Uttoxeter.
- ◀ A demand based equation is identified in the calculation of standards to determine the future requirements for allotments. This will take into account that some rural settlements, notably Abbots Bromley, Marchington, Yoxall and Denstone have no access to allotment provision.
- ◀ Consultation and street survey analysis suggests that residents are willing to travel between 10 and 15 minutes walk to access allotment provision.
- ◀ Management of allotment sites is split between allotment associations and town/parish councils. There is a lack of strategic management of provision across East Staffordshire. However, this does not appear to impact on the usage of provision and ESBC recognise the need to produce an allotment strategy in the near future. Users indicate that it would be beneficial to have an allotment forum to help share and improve site management.
- ◀ Opportunity exists to split some large sized plots into smaller plots to encourage greater take up, as smaller plots are more manageable, and to work towards meeting waiting list demand.

**PART 10: CEMETERIES, CHURCHYARDS AND BURIAL GROUNDS**

**Introduction**

The typology of cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes areas for ‘quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.’

**Key issues**

***Current provision***

11 sites are classified under this typology equating to just over 20 hectares of provision in East Staffordshire.

*Table 10.1: Distribution of cemeteries sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Cemeteries spaces	
	Number	Size (ha)
Burton East	3	12.85
Burton West	1	1.09
Rural 1	4	2.72
Rural 2	2	0.63
Uttoxeter	1	3.18
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20.50</b>

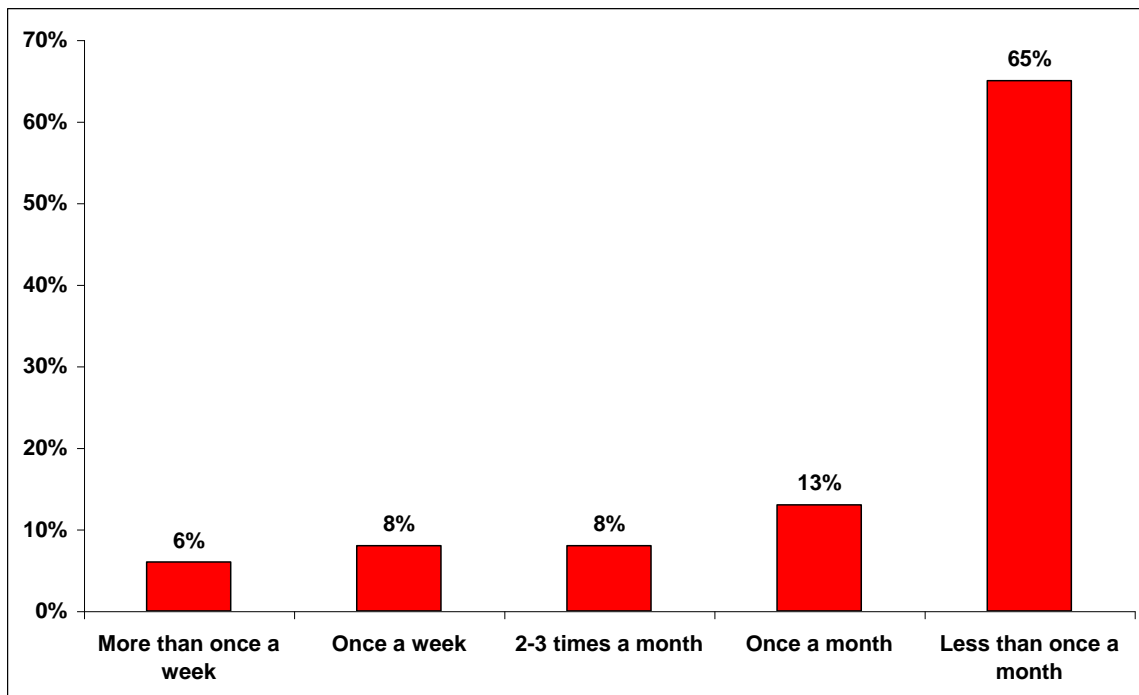


**Usage**

The usage levels of cemeteries/churchyards appears to be high with almost two thirds (61%) of citizen panel respondents stating that they had visited a cemetery/churchyard in the previous twelve months.

Reflecting the nature of most visits to churchyards/cemeteries over two thirds (65%) of users only visit cemeteries and churchyards less than once a month.

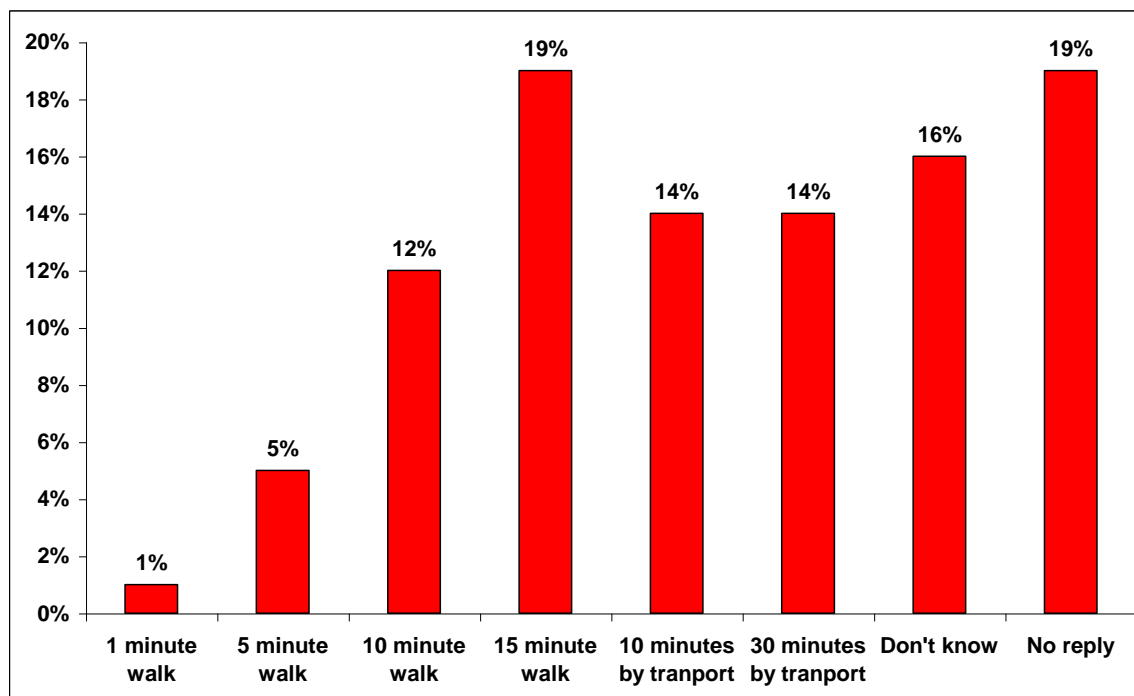
*Figure 10.1: Frequency of usage of cemeteries/churchyards in the previous 12 months*



## Accessibility

Over one third of respondents (35%) to the survey are unable to state for how long they would travel to reach a cemetery or churchyard. Of those that provided a response the majority (37%) are willing to walk with a smaller proportion (28%) stating they would expect to access provision by transport. Almost one fifth of all respondents (19%) are willing to walk up to 15 minutes to reach a cemetery/churchyard.

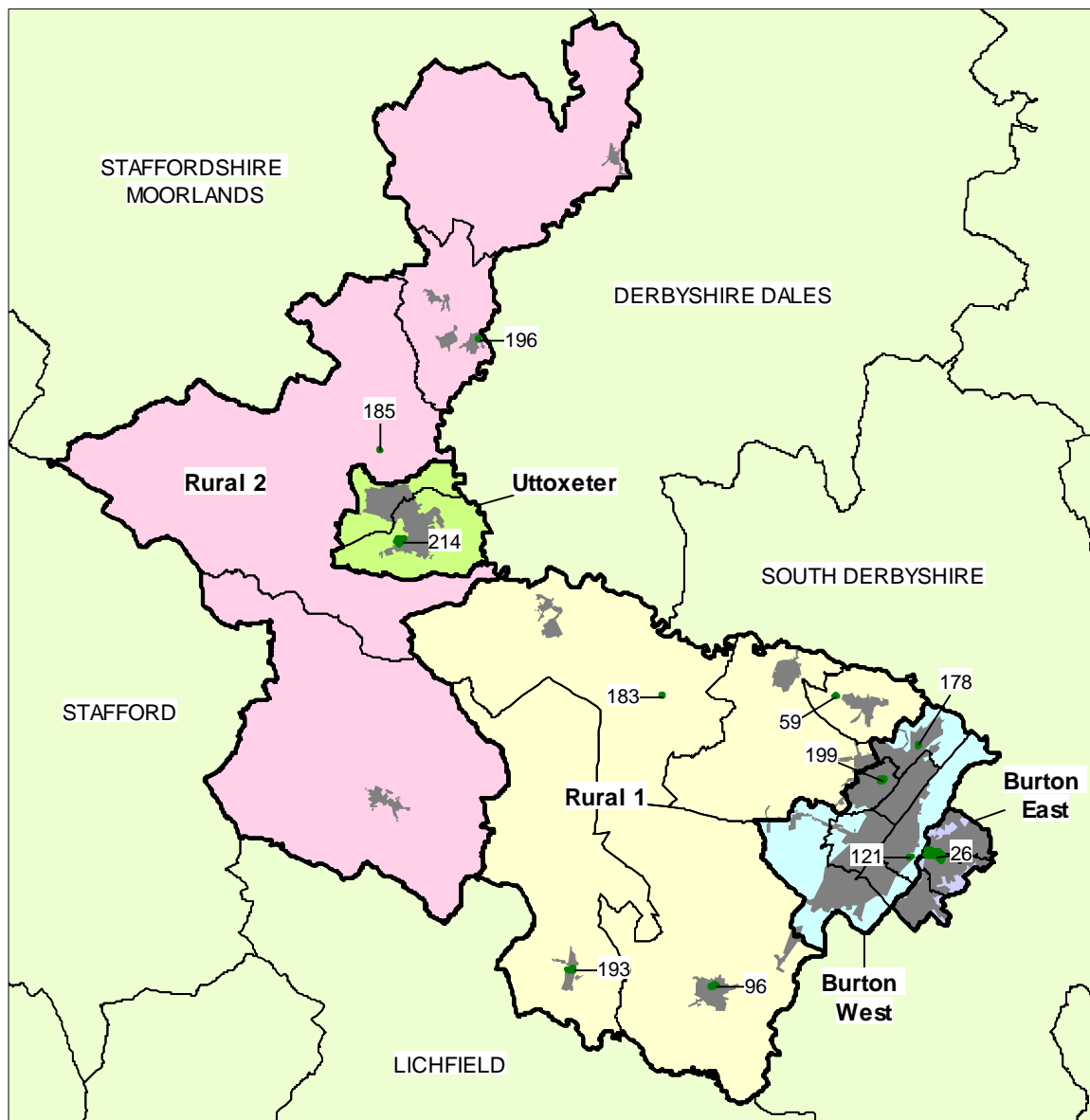
Figure 10.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a cemetery/churchyard



Although the majority of users would accept up to a 15 minute walk to access provision, we recommend that new cemetery provision is driven by the need for burial capacity rather than accessibility.

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Figure 10.3: Cemeteries sites mapped against settlement areas



Key to sites mapped:

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
26	Stapenhill Cemetery	Burton East	74.9%	26.0%
59	Rolleston Cemetery	Rural 1	54.7%	26.0%
96	Barton Church	Rural 1	62.1%	42.0%
121	St Modwens Churchyard	Burton East	59.6%	23.0%
178	St Mary's Church	Burton East	47.8%	16.0%
183	St Werburgh's Churchyard	Rural 1	47.6%	21.0%
185	St Michael's Churchyard	Rural 2	28.6%	20.0%
193	St Peter's Churchyard	Rural 1	48.5%	25.0%
196	Roman Fort/Graveyard, Rocester	Rural 2	44.7%	27.0%

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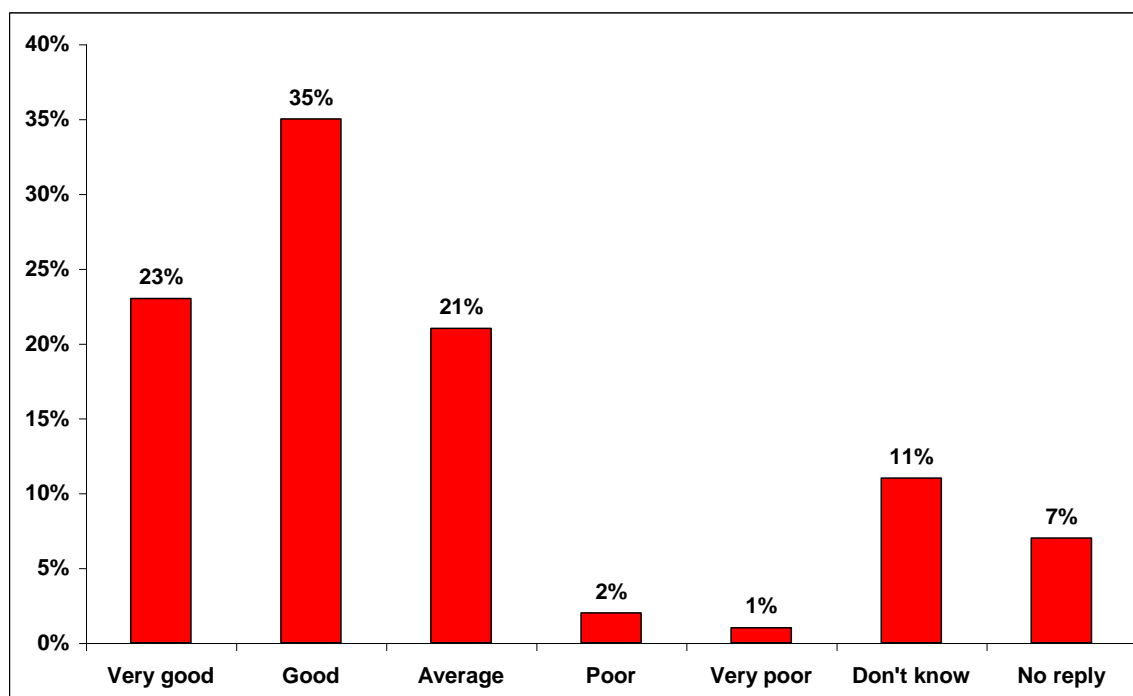
KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
199	Churchyard	Burton West	51.6%	19.0%
214	Uttoxeter Cemetery	Uttoxeter	59.5%	47.0%

In terms of cemeteries, churchyards and disused burial grounds mapping shows provision in the main settlement areas. The main deficiency in a populated area appears to be in Tutbury, the remaining gaps are associated with rural areas. However, for cemetery provision, need is driven by burial capacity requirement. There is currently 10 years burial capacity remaining at Stapenhill Cemetery and 25 years burial capacity remaining at Rolleston (on Dove) Cemetery. To ensure that need for future burial space can be met in the future ESBC is currently investigating the potential for an extension to Stapenhill Cemetery to increase capacity for a further 50 years.

The user survey suggests that the main issue is access/parking. ESBC would like to incorporate proper car parking facilities as part of Stapenhill Cemetery expansion.

The availability of churchyards and cemeteries is rated as good or very good by over half (58%) of respondents. Only a very small proportion (3%) rates it as poor.

Figure 10.4: Availability of cemeteries/churchyards



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### **Management**

ESBC has responsibility for maintaining two operational cemeteries, Stapenhill and Rolleston and two closed churchyards (St Modwins's and St Peter's, Burton). Grounds maintenance for Rolleston Cemetery and the closed churchyards is undertaken as part of the contract with English Landscapes. However, grounds maintenance for Stapenhill Cemetery is undertaken by ESBC in-house. For the past two years site-based staff have undertaken maintenance and management duties at the site and officer consultation indicates that the benefits of this are recognised. There are no plans to change the management arrangement.

Uttoxeter Town Council own and manages Uttoxeter Cemetery. A private contractor undertakes grounds maintenance for the site. The Cemetery has recently benefited from considerable investment and a tree management program has been established (all the trees have been identified and tagged). This is considered to be a high quality open space, which is well used.

### **Quality**

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries in East Staffordshire. The threshold for assessing high and low quality is set at 50% reflecting the average score gained for cemeteries in East Staffordshire.

*Table 10.2: Quality scores for cemeteries sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 50%	Above 50%
Burton East	161	48%	61%	75%	27%	1	2
Burton West	161	52%	52%	52%	0%	0	1
Rural 1	161	48%	53%	62%	14%	2	2
Rural 2	161	29%	37%	45%	16%	2	0
Uttoxeter	161	60%	60%	60%	0%	0	1
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

Although there is a wide variance between the highest quality score (75%, Stapenhill Cemetery) and the lowest quality score (29%, St Michael's Churchyard) all the sites score highly for landscape design and maintenance and overall maintenance and cleanliness. Consultation identifies that residents generally perceive quality standards to be high with few occurrences of vandalism. Although some sites do experience occasional problems with children and young people creating a nuisance, it is not considered to have a significant impact upon quality and usage. All sites are regarded as being a visual amenity.

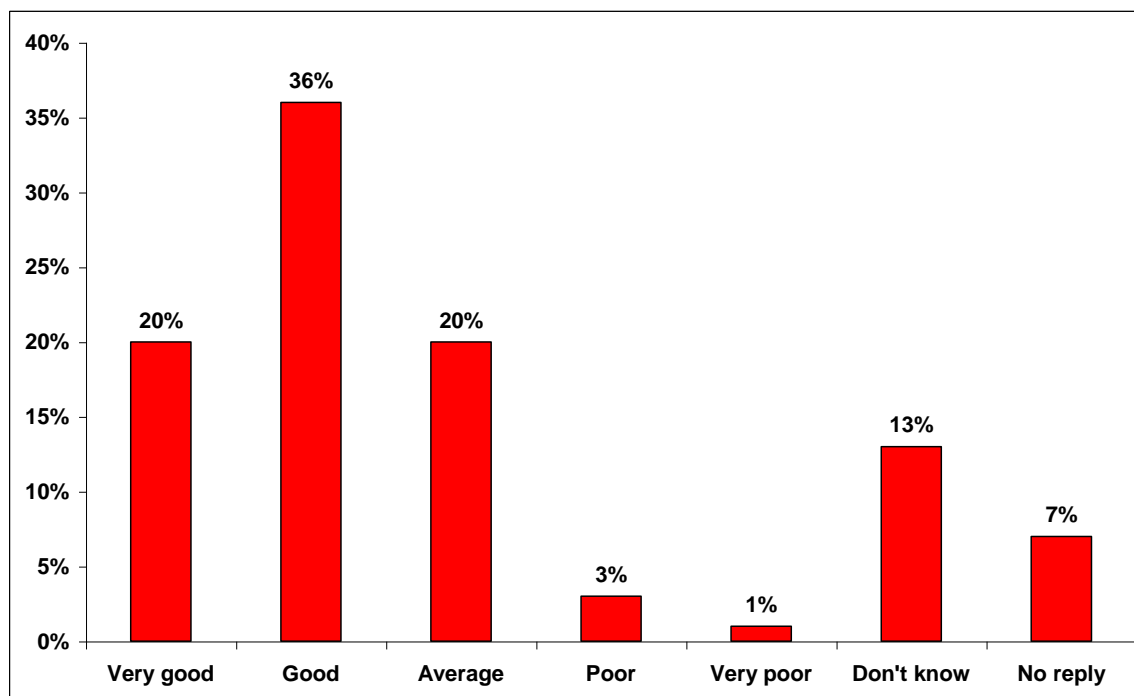
## EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Recognising the recent investment that has been made in Uttoxeter Cemetery the site scores highly for quality. Uttoxeter Town Council has recently undertaken improvement work to upgrade internal paths, provide new toilets and establish a tree management scheme. Consultation highlights that it is considered to be a high quality well used site. Due to its elevated location the site offers good views of the surrounding area and therefore provides a valuable open space amenity for local residents.

As the highest scoring site during the quality assessment (75%) there is identified potential to submit Stapenhill Cemetery for the Green Flag Award. The site is maintained to a very high standard and consultation confirms that it is well used by local residents; this is, in part, due to the presence of the ESBC greenhouse and the environmental centre.

Over half of the respondents from the citizen panel survey rate the quality of churchyards/cemeteries to be good or very good (56%). Only a small proportion (4%) regards the quality of provision across East Staffordshire to be below average. Half of these respondents that rated quality of provision as poor or very poor, reside in Burton.

Figure 10.5: Quality of churchyards/cemeteries



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### Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries in East Staffordshire. A score of 20% or less is considered to indicate that a site has low value.

Table 10.3: Value scores for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 20%	Above 20%
Burton East	100	16%	22%	26%	10%	1	2
Burton West	100	19%	19%	19%	0%	1	-
Rural 1	100	21%	29%	42%	21%	-	4
Rural 2	100	20%	24%	27%	7%	-	2
Uttoxeter	100	47%	47%	47%	0%	-	1
<b>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

Cemeteries are generally assessed as being of high value. Site assessments identify that all provision has cultural/heritage value and provides a sense of place to the local community.

Although already embedded in some places there is potential for work to demonstrate the value of cemeteries in the context of, for example, what they offer for education and wildlife habitats. Cemeteries can also offer a valuable amenity resource and can be used by local residents for walking and uncovering historical interest. ESBC recognises the habitat and wildlife value that some sites can offer and has embraced this at Stapenhill Cemetery where there is a wildflower meadow, woodland burial and a bird/bat box scheme.

Opportunities also exist to engage local communities and schools to explore the educational benefits offered by sites in terms of the historical/heritage value.

### Summary

#### **Cemeteries summary**

- ◀ 11 sites are classified under this typology equating to just over 20 hectares of provision in East Staffordshire.
- ◀ The citizen panel survey highlights high usage levels; almost two thirds (61%) of respondents stating that they had visited a cemetery/churchyard in the previous twelve months. Reflecting the nature of most visits to churchyards/cemeteries over two thirds (65%) of users only visit cemeteries and churchyards less than once a month.
- ◀ Almost one fifth of all respondents (19%) are willing to walk up to 15 minutes to reach a cemetery/churchyard.
- ◀ Although quality standards vary across provision, on the whole sites are assessed highly for landscape design and maintenance and overall maintenance and cleanliness. Consultation identifies that residents generally perceive quality standards to be high.
- ◀ There is potential to recognise the high quality standard achieved at Stapenhill Cemetery by entering the site for the Green Flag Award.
- ◀ There is opportunity to better promote the use of provision as an open space resource recognising the historical and educational opportunities offered by sites and the wildlife value.



## **PART 11: CIVIC SPACES**

### **Introduction**

The typology of civic space, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

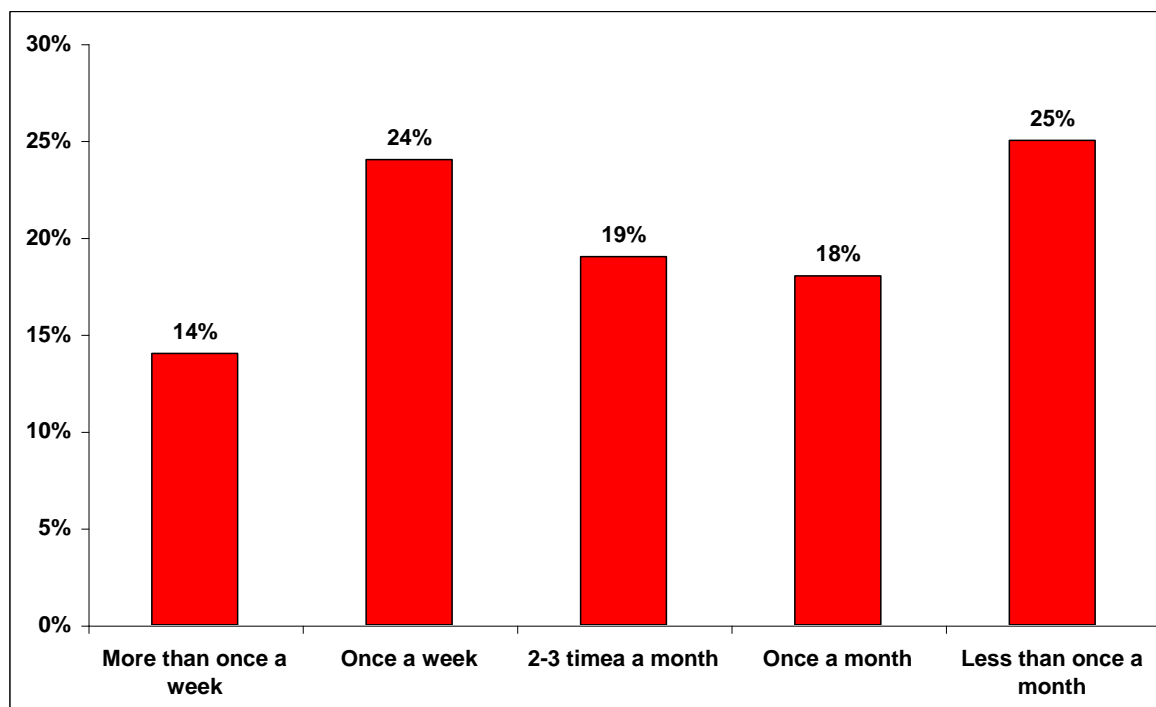
### **Key issues**

#### ***Usage***

Although no civic space sites were identified during the audit, the citizen panel responses indicate that residents perceive there to be provision of civic/non-green space across East Staffordshire with a large proportion (86%) stating that they had accessed such provision during the last 12 months.

Amongst users, civic space is a frequently visited open space typology, with 75% visiting once a month or more often.

*Figure 11.1: Frequency of usage of civic space/non-green spaces in the previous 12 months*

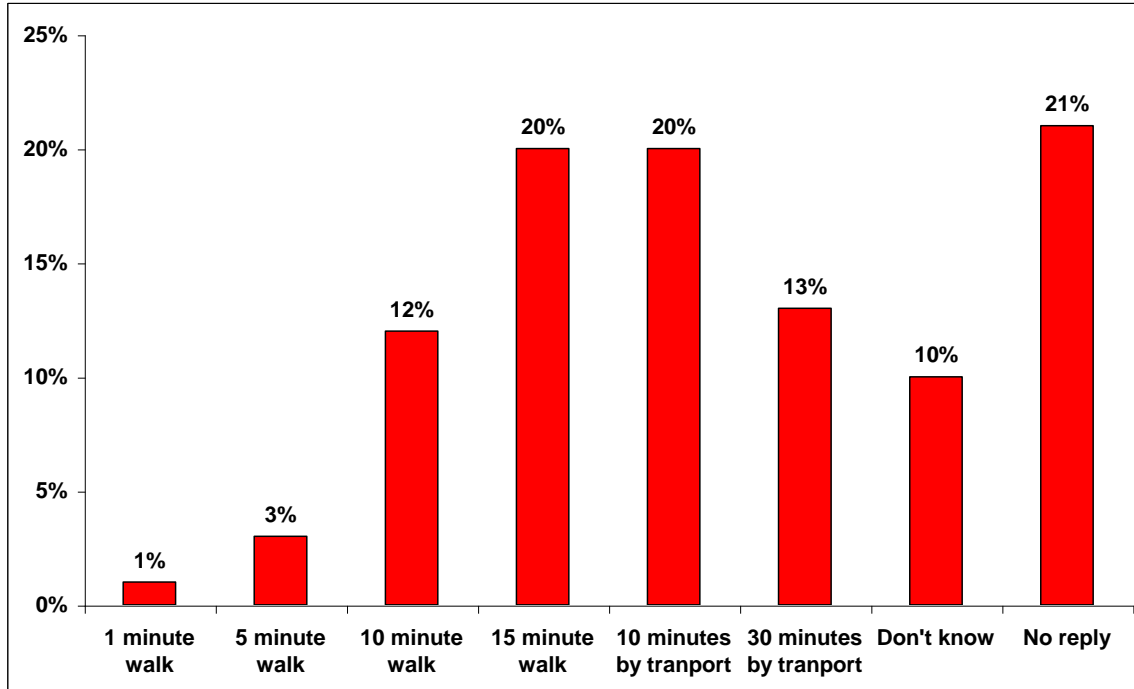


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## Accessibility

Over one third of citizen panel respondents (36%) are willing to walk to this typology with one fifth (20%) willing to travel up to 15 minutes on foot. Perhaps reflecting availability, a further third (31%) of respondents are unable to provide a response.

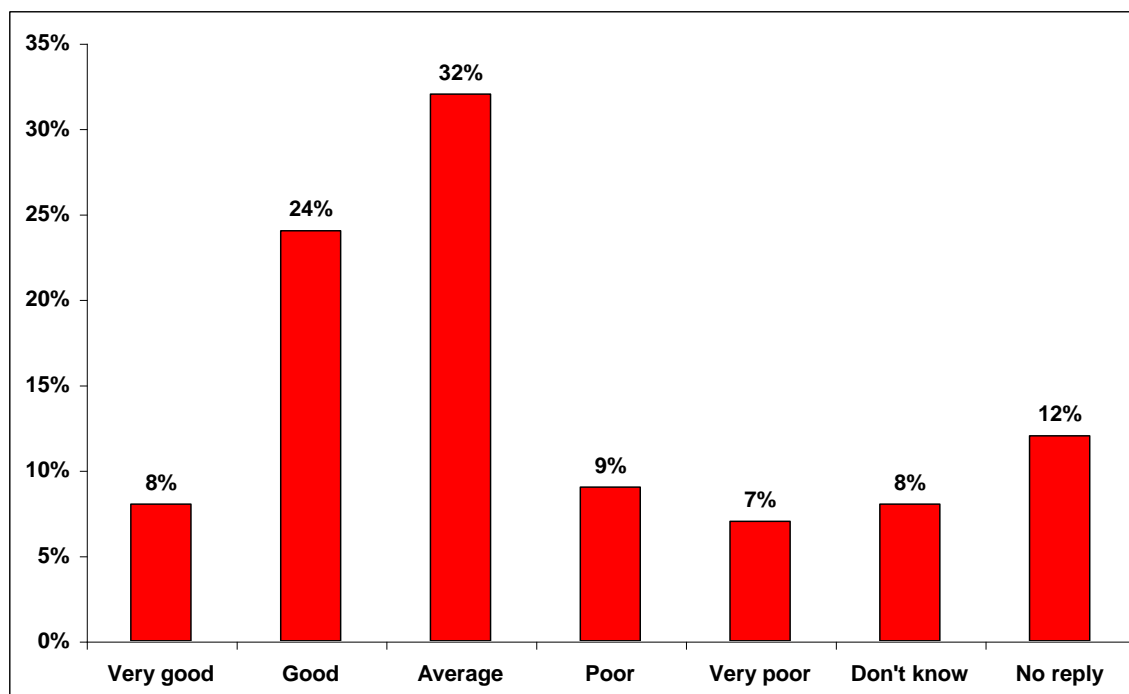
Figure 11.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a civic space/non-green space



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The availability of civic spaces is rated as average or better by two thirds of respondents (64%). Only a small proportion (16%) rates it as poor.

Figure 11.3: Availability of civic space/non-green space



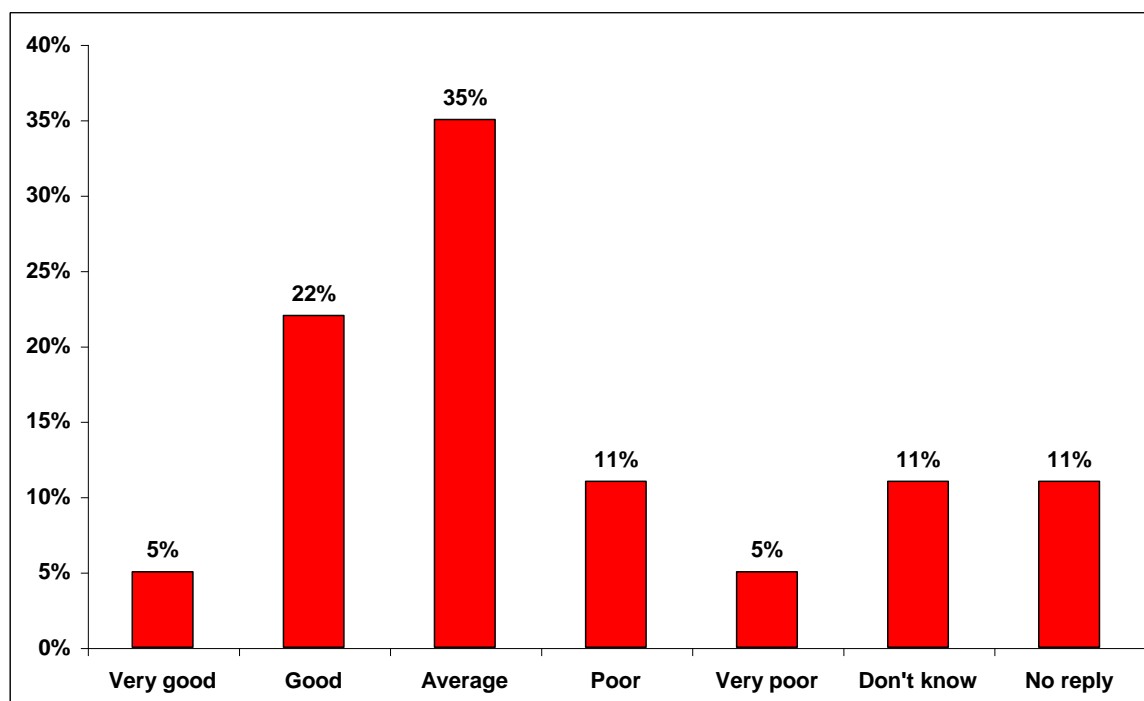
Consultation indicates that Burton Market Place functions, to some extent, as civic space provision. It is a large hard surface square in Burton Town Centre, which provides a link from the Town Centre through to Remembrance Gardens (KKP Ref 19) and the Washlands. However, use of the space as a civic amenity is restricted by its primary role as use a public highway. Markets are held at the site three times a week (Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays) and consultation indicates that seating and public art would enhance the space. The Burton Town Centre Masterplan, which is going to consultation in July 09, which may result in greater provision of public space throughout the Town Centre. Currently there is no location for provision of a town centre Christmas tree and the parking area outside the College is the only area that can be used for the Christmas light switch on event each year.

Consultation with Burton College identifies that it is keen to work with ESBC to further improve Burton Market Place. The College has aspirations to develop an 'educational/cultural quarter' from St Peter's Bridge through to Burton Market Square and Memorial Garden.

### Quality

Almost two thirds (62%) of respondents from the citizen panel survey rate the quality of civic spaces as average or better. Only a very small proportion (16%) of total respondents consider provision to be of poor quality.

Figure 11.4: Quality of civic spaces



Maintenance of Burton town centre is undertaken by ESBC. Consultation highlights that maintenance and cleanliness is perceived to be poor with users identifying litter and chewing gum to be problems impacting upon quality.

The work undertaken for Burton 'in bloom' is to be commended. The scheme plays an important role in ensuring that Burton town centre, in particular, is maintained to a high standard and has an attractive appearance. This was recognised through the attainment of the gold award for 2008/2009. Planting for the scheme is undertaken at Stapenhill Greenhouse and Environment Centre and as such members of the community, through weekly meetings of the Burton Community Gardeners, are involved in creating displays for the scheme. ESBC would like to take a strategic approach to the competition to ensure that the work undertaken for it contributes to the landscape of the area. There are also aspirations to include sustainable planting displays, e.g. shrub planting, rather than all formal planting displays and hanging baskets.