



**SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK
LOCAL PLAN**

South Downs Open Space Study **(DRAFT)**

May 2026

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Important Notice - Limitations of Use

In relation to the information contained within the draft South Downs Open Space Study (the “draft study”) and the South Downs Open Space and Play Space Interactive Map (the “interactive map”) - and any other reports relating to the findings of the draft study and interactive map – the South Downs National Park Authority makes the following disclaimer without prejudice:

- **The draft study and interactive map is one of many pieces of evidence that will inform the new South Downs Local Plan and planning applications.**
- **The draft study and interactive map have been prepared using a desktop analysis of publicly available and submitted information.** As such, any identified and categorised open space and play space – and their boundaries, offer, and quality - have not been verified with site visits. Further information about specific sites may be available in other publicly accessible documents including, but not limited to, neighbourhood development plans (NDPs), parish priorities statements (PPS), and Local Authority Open Space Assessments.
- **The draft study and interactive map help to provide a quantitative assessment of open space and play space, but do not provide a qualitative assessment .**
- **The draft study and interactive map do not provide a quantitative or qualitative assessment of outdoor sports.** However, the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) Mapping includes “playing fields” and “other sports facilities”, and quantitative and qualitative assessments may be found in other publicly accessible documents including, but not limited to, neighbourhood development plan (NDPs), parish priorities statements (PPS) and Local Authority Built Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies.
- **The draft study and interactive map do not allocate or designate sites as open space and play space.** Instead, the draft study and interactive map identify sites that may be used as open space and play space. The identification and categorisation has been carried out using the data sources listed in Table 4.2 of this draft study.
- **The draft study and interactive map have applied Fields in Trust (FIT) maximum walking guidance “as the crow flies”.**

- **The draft study and interactive map identify and categorise play spaces as equipped designated play space or informal play provision**, but do not categorise the above further into Local Areas of Play (LAP), Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP) and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAP) due to time constraints and lack of information. Because of this a maximum walking guidance of 400m (middle range) has been used.
- **There are similarities and differences between the interactive map and the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) Mapping in terms of identification and categorisation.**
- **The draft study and interactive map provide high-level identification, categorisation and quantitative findings.** The determination of planning applications – and awarding of community infrastructure levy (CIL) and other funding - will require a much greater level of detail and understanding of site constraints and opportunities, and local and wider provision of public open space, sports, and recreational facilities. All planning applications and funding bids will continue to be considered against appropriate policies and considerations.
- **The omission – or incorrect categorisation - of a site as a open space, and/or play space does not preclude the possibility of a site being used for – or being a different typology of – open space and/or play space.**
- **All findings are a “snap-shot” of information held at the time of writing.** Therefore, some of the information held within the draft study and interactive map will have changed. The determination of planning applications, and award of funding, should use the most up-to-date and relevant information.
- **Any reference to current or existing land use is based on desktop analysis and/or submitted information and is not confirmation or a determination of the lawful use of land.**

1. Introduction

1.1 The purposes of the draft South Downs Open Space Study (the “draft study”) is:

- 1) To understand the quantitative deficits of open space and play space in settlements with proposed site allocations of more than 10 (Class C3) dwellings in the new South Downs Local Plan; and
- 2) To inform quantitative standards in the new South Downs Local Plan for public open space, sports, and recreational facilities.

1.2 The above will inform the following in the new South Downs Local Plan:

Green, Blue and Community Spaces

- Policy SDG3 Public Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities.

Site Allocations

- Site Allocation Policies (*as appropriate and relevant*).

What is Open Space?

1.3 The current 2024 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the emerging 2026 NPPF, define “open space” as:

“all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity”.

1.4 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) [Paragraph 001, ref. 37-005-20140306] further explains that open space can:

- Include all open space of public value and can take many forms – i.e., formal sports pitches to open areas, linear corridors and country parks;
- Provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby;
- Have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure; and
- Be an important part of the landscape, setting of built development, and component in the achievement of sustainable development.

1.5 Further definitions, explanations, and examples of different typologies and sub-typologies of public open space, sports, and recreational facilities can be found in **Table 4.1**. This table is based on Fields in Trust (FIT) Benchmark Standards and sets out the typologies (and sub-typologies) of “open space”, “outdoor sports” and “play space”. Please note, this draft study does not go into further detail about “outdoor sports”, and does not go into further detail about private sports and recreational facilities that can only be used by the public at the landowner’s discretion.

2. National Policy and Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF was first published in 2012 and has been amended a handful of times; the most recent iteration is dated December 2024. At the time of writing, a revised draft of the NPPF has been published for consultation until 10 March 2026, with a final version anticipated for adoption in Summer 2026. It is anticipated that the new South Downs Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State (Regulation 22) before 31 December 2026 and, therefore, will be examined under the current 2024 NPPF. However, it is still important to be mindful of emerging national policy.

The Current 2024 NPPF

2.2 The NPPF states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of **sustainable development**. At a high level, this can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In achieving sustainable development, the NPPF highlights three overarching and interdependent objectives which need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. The three objectives are economic, environmental and social. The **social objective** is relevant to this draft study and **2024 NPPF Paragraph 8b** explains that this is:

“To support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural wellbeing”.

2.3 The **2024 NPPF Paragraphs** of relevance are set out in **Table 2.1** below.

The Current 2024 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	
Paragraph	Text
88d	Planning policies and decisions should enable the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

The Current 2024 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	
Paragraph	Text
98a	To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.
103	Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.
104	Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Table 2.1 – The current 2024 NPPF paragraphs which are relevant to public open space, sports, and recreational facilities.

- 2.4 The **2024 NPPF Paragraph 103** recognises that access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sports and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities.
- 2.5 Paragraph 103 explains that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreational facilities – including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses – and opportunities for new provision. In response, the Authority has prepared this draft study to understand the **quantitative deficits and surpluses of open space and play**

space in the National Park. Further explanation is provided in Sections 4 and 6 below, and the reasons for the omissions of further assessments are as follows:

- The qualitative assessments of the need for public open space have not been carried out due to time and resource constraints. However, evidence can be found in other assessments such as, but not limited to, neighbourhood development plans (NDPs), parish priorities statements (PPS), parish plans, and local authority open space assessments; and
- The assessments of the need for sports and recreational facilities – including quantitative and qualitative deficits and surpluses – are set out in the Built Facilities Strategies and Playing Pitch Strategies prepared by the 12 borough, city, and district councils (“the 12 local authorities”).

2.6 Paragraph 103 also explains that information gained from assessments (see above) should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is needed, and that local plans should then seek to accommodate it. In response, the Authority will use the findings of this draft study – and other up-to-date and robust assessments as appropriate and relevant – to inform provisions of public open space, sports, and recreational facilities on proposed site allocations and other development opportunities – see Section 6 and Appendix 1.

2.7 The **2024 NPPF Paragraph 104** explains that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land (including playing fields and formal play spaces) should not be built on unless certain exceptions are met. The wording of this paragraph has remained broadly consistent since the first iteration of the NPPF – see 2012 NPPF Paragraph 74. Given that the wording of this NPPF paragraph has remained broadly unchanged – and Policy SD46 of the adopted South Downs Local Plan was found “sound” when examined against similar NPPF wording – **Criteria 4 of Policy SDG3** remains broadly the same to that of Policy SD46.

The Emerging 2026 NPPE

2.8 The emerging NPPF revises the **social objective** (2026 NPPF Paragraph 16b) to:

“To support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible community facilities, public services infrastructure and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural wellbeing”.

2.9 The emerging NPPF retains the same glossary definition of “open space” as the current 2024 NPPF, and separates national policies into plan-making policies and decision-making policies. The former is relevant to the preparation of a local plan, while the latter will be used in the determination of planning applications. In terms of plan-making policies, Policies HC1 (Planning for Healthy Communities) considers public open space, sports, and recreational facilities, see **Table 2.2**.

The Emerging 2026 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	
Policy	Text
HC1(1d) Planning for Healthy Communities	<p>To promote the creation of healthy and inclusive places, and the provision, retention and enhancement of appropriate community facilities and public service infrastructure, development plans should, at the most appropriate level set local standards for the provision of different types of outdoor recreational land, including for play, sport, informal recreation and allotments. In doing so they should draw upon relevant national standards and best practice, tailoring these as necessary to local circumstances and evidence⁵⁸. Policies for play and informal recreation should aim to secure a connected network of high quality, inclusive and accessible opportunities as part of the wider network of green space provision, secured through both on-site provision in conjunction with land allocated for development and through other contributions and investment.</p> <p>Footnote 58 - These include the suite of Green Infrastructure Standards for England published by Natural England, the standards for open space, outdoor sport and play recommended by Fields in Trust (https://fieldsintrust.org/insights/standards) and published Sport England Guidance (including Assessing Needs and Playing Pitch Strategy guidance Sport England).</p>

Table 2.2 – The emerging 2026 NPPF plan-making policy which is relevant to public open space, sports and recreational facilities.

2.10 It is anticipated that the new South Downs Local Plan will be examined under the current 2024 NPPF. However, it is still important to be mindful of emerging national policy, especially in relation to drawing upon 2023 Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) Standards and 2024 Fields in Trust (FIT) Benchmark Standards – see Footnote 58 (**Table 2.2**) and Section 4 (below).

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

2.11 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides advice and information on how to interpret and implement the NPPF and is subject to regular amendments. In terms of public open space, sports and recreational facilities, the PPG addresses many common questions and can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

2.12 The following PPG paragraphs are relevant and have been summarised below:

Paragraph 001 (ref. 37-005-20140306) – How should open space be taken into account in planning?

Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. Open space - which includes all open space of public value - can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure; be an important part of the landscape and setting of built development; and be an important component in the achievement of sustainable development.

It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.

Paragraph 002 (ref. 37-002-20140306) – How do local planning authorities and developers assess the needs for sports and recreation facilities?

Authorities and developers may refer to Sport England's guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities:

https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=assessing_needs_and_playing_pitch_strategy_guidance

Paragraph 003 (ref. 37-003-20140306) – Who should local planning authorities consult in cases where development would affect existing open space, sports and recreation facilities?

Local planning authorities are required to consult Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields. Where there is no requirement to consult, local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to:

- Loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility;
- Proposals leading to loss of use for sport of a major body of water;
- Creation of a major sports facility;
- Creation of a site for one or more playing pitches;
- Development which creates opportunities for sport (such as the creation of a body of water bigger than 2 hectares following sand and gravel extraction);
- Artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility; and
- A residential development of 300 dwellings or more.

Authorities should also consider whether there are planning policy reasons to engage other consultees.

Summary 2: National Policy and Guidance

- The **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** highlights three objectives in relation to achieving sustainable development, of which the **social objective** is relevant to public open space, sports, and recreational facilities.
- The **2024 NPPF Paragraph 103** and **Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)** explain that policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need for open space, sports, and recreational facilities.
- **This draft study has been prepared to understand quantitative deficits of open space and play space** while: qualitative assessments of the need for public open space may be found in a variety of local evidence (i.e., neighbourhood development plans, parish priorities statements, parish plans, and local authority assessments); and quantitative and qualitative assessments of need for sports and recreational facilities may be found in the Built Facilities Strategies and Playing Pitch Strategies prepared by the 12 local authorities.
- The **2024 NPPF Paragraph 104** (of which the wording has remained broadly consistent since 2012) explains that open space, sports, and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless certain exceptions are met.
- The **2026 NPPF Policy HC1 (and Footnote 58)** explains that development plans should **set local standards** for the provision of different types of outdoor recreational land (including for play, sport, informal recreation and allotments) and that these should draw upon relevant national standards and best practice (tailoring these as necessary to local circumstances and evidence) such as the **2023 Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) Standards, 2024 Fields in Trust (FIT) Standards**, and **Sports England Guidance**.

3. National Park Context

National Parks

3.1 The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (“the 1949 Act”) enabled the creation of National Parks. The 1949 Act, as amended by Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, requires all relevant authorities to seek to further the statutory purposes of National Parks in England. The Government has also placed a corresponding duty upon National Park Authorities in pursuit of the two statutory purposes:

- **Purpose 1:** To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
- **Purpose 2:** To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.
- **Duty:** To seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park.

3.2 The provision and protection of public open space, sports, and recreational facilities is particularly related to the **Duty**.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

3.3 DEFRA is the government department responsible for the funding and management of National Parks.

3.4 The **Vision and Circular for English National Parks and the Broads (2010)** explains how National Parks provide a myriad of opportunities for outdoor recreation, and that National Park Authorities should continue to identify and promote new access and recreational opportunities. It also states that:

“The Parks provide some of the best quality ‘green infrastructure’ – the interconnected network of parks, woods, waterways, and other types of green space that acts as one of the life support systems for our towns, cities and rural areas. This helps create a healthy environment for people, communities and businesses, improving air and water quality, reducing ill-health.” [Paragraph 30].

3.5 The **8 Point Plan for England’s National Parks (2016-20)** includes a priority to promote innovative schemes for National Parks to serve national health, and a priority to realise potential for outdoor recreation in National Parks.

3.6 The **25 Year Environment Plan (2018)** aims to connect people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing by making sure there are high-quality, accessible, and natural spaces close to where people live and work.

National Parks England (NPE)

- 3.7 The NPE represents all English National Parks. The **Great National Parks Plan (2024)** acknowledges the “health crisis”, explains how the designation of National Parks was intended to play a role in ensuring access to nature and improved health and wellbeing, and explains there is still a need for National Parks to help address the physical and mental health of people.

South Downs National Park

- 3.8 The South Downs National Park was designated on 31 March 2010 and stretches across 12 borough, city, and district council (or “12 local authority”) areas.
- 3.9 The South Downs National Park Authority (“the Authority”) was established on 01 April 2011 as the local, minerals and waste planning authority for the whole of the South Downs National Park.

South Downs Special Qualities (2015)

- 3.10 The South Downs National Park has seven special qualities which define its sense of place and attract people to live in, work in, and visit it. The provision and protection of public open space, sports, and recreational facilities is particularly related to **Special Qualities 5 and 7** which are replicated below:
- **(5)** Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences; and
 - **(7)** Distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real pride in their area.

South Downs State of the Park Report (2024)

- 3.11 The South Downs is the most populated National Park in the United Kingdom with 113,300 people living within its boundary, and significantly more people living in the major urban areas and villages that surround it.
- 3.12 The National Park is cherished for its tranquillity and unspoiled landscapes which offer a profound sense of peace and open space. It offers diverse opportunities for residents, visitors, and lifelong learners, and is ideal for walking, cycling, horse riding, and other formal and informal recreational activities. In terms of open space and play space, the report highlights that:
- The National Park has great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences (Special Quality 5).
 - The National Park is a popular visitor destination, with people drawn by its landscapes, cultural heritage, wildlife and recreational opportunities.

- There are significant health benefits from accessing (and exercising in) nature – i.e., improved fitness, mental wellbeing, and social interactions.
- Open access is a challenge and impacts of recreation can degrade habitats.
- 90% of households within the National Park are located within 2km of a 20ha site of accessible natural green space (ANGS).

South Downs Partnership Management Plan (PMP) (2026-31)

3.13 The South Downs Partnership Management Plan (PMP) [December 2025] is the main policy document for the South Downs National Park Authority. It outlines shared goals and strategies across various organisations to fulfil the National Park's statutory purposes. The PMP sets out aims, objectives, and principles related to nature recovery, climate action, clean water, young people, welcome and access, arts and heritage, and a thriving greener place. The following PMP aims and principles are of relevance to this draft study, and the planning principles have been used as objectives in the new South Downs Local Plan:

- **Aim 1:** The South Downs National Park is a nature-rich, resilient working landscape where wildlife flourishes.
 - **Planning Principle 1:** We will support development that is landscaped, follows regenerative development and design principles and has an overall positive impact on natural beauty, landscape and townscape character, natural ecosystems and biodiversity.
- **Aim 5:** A valued South Downs National Park is welcoming and accessible to all.
 - **General Principle 7:** We will promote and encourage the responsible use of the National Park to enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
- **Aim 7:** A thriving rural economy and local communities sit at the heart of South Downs National Park.
 - **Planning Principle 13:** We will support development that provides visitor experiences and access that benefit our communities inside and outside the National Park, and enhances the landscape, encourages the use of the National Park as a place for healthy outdoor activity and relaxation and supports a regenerative visitor economy.

Summary 3: National Park Context

- The South Downs National Park Authority has a **Duty** to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities within the National Park.
- The special qualities of the South Downs National Park which are relevant to this draft study are **Special Qualities 5 and 7**.
- The South Downs National Park has great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences, but **open access is a challenge** and **impacts of recreation** can degrade habitats.
- The aims and principles of the South Downs Partnership Management Plan (PMP) (2026-31) which are relevant to this draft study are **PMP Aims 1, 5 and 7; PMP General Principle 7; and PMP Planning Principles 1 and 13**.

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4. Evidence

- 4.1 The representations to the Regulation 18 public consultation (January to March 2025) of the new South Downs Local Plan (see Section 6) supported the use of both 2023 Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) Standards and 2024 Fields in Trust (FIT) Benchmark Standards.
- 4.2 This sections sets out the two standards, along with evidence and mapping to identify and categorise different typologies and sub-typologies of open space and play space in the South Downs National Park. The mapping can be found in:

The South Downs Open Space and Play Space Interactive Map:
<https://shared.xmap.cloud/?map=8aac4ca8-d1f2-41d7-bd96-e537c4c3c1c4>

2023 Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF)

- 4.3 Natural England was established in 2006 and is the Government's statutory adviser for the natural environment in England. Natural England published its Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) in 2023 to help increase the amount of green cover to 40% in urban residential areas.
- 4.4 The GIF provides a structure to analyse where green space in urban environments is needed most. It aims to support equitable access to green space across the country, with an overarching target for everyone being able to reach good quality green space in their local area. It includes five voluntary headline standards:
- 1) Urban Nature Recovery Standard;
 - 2) Urban Greening Factor Standard;
 - 3) Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard;
 - 4) **Accessible Greenspace Standard (AGSt)**; and
 - 5) Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 4.5 This draft study has considered **Headline Standard 4 (Accessible Greenspace Standard, AGSt)** because:
- Headline Standard 1 (Urban Nature Recovery Standard) – and nature recovery in general - is addressed Policy SDN1 (Nature Recovery).
 - Headline Standard 2 (Urban Greening Factor) and Headline Standard 3 (Urban Tree Canopy Cover) may not necessarily align with the Authority's landscape-led, regenerative, and eco-system services approach which requires development to be considered on a case-by-case basis within its context and landscape rather than as percentages or fixed amounts.
 - Headline Standard 5 (Green Infrastructure Strategy) includes 15 principle of green infrastructure which have been considered in the preparation of Policy SDG2 (Green and Blue Infrastructure).

Natural England – 2023 Accessible Greenspace Standard (AGSt)

4.6 The Accessible Greenspace Standard (AGSt) includes the following criteria:

- **Size and Proximity:** Everyone has access to green and blue spaces within a 15 minute walk from their home as broken down in **Figure 4.1** below; and
- **Capacity:** There is (at least) 3ha of publicly accessible green space per 1,000 population; and
- **Quality:** Green space meets the Green Flag Award Criteria and best practice in accessibility for all.

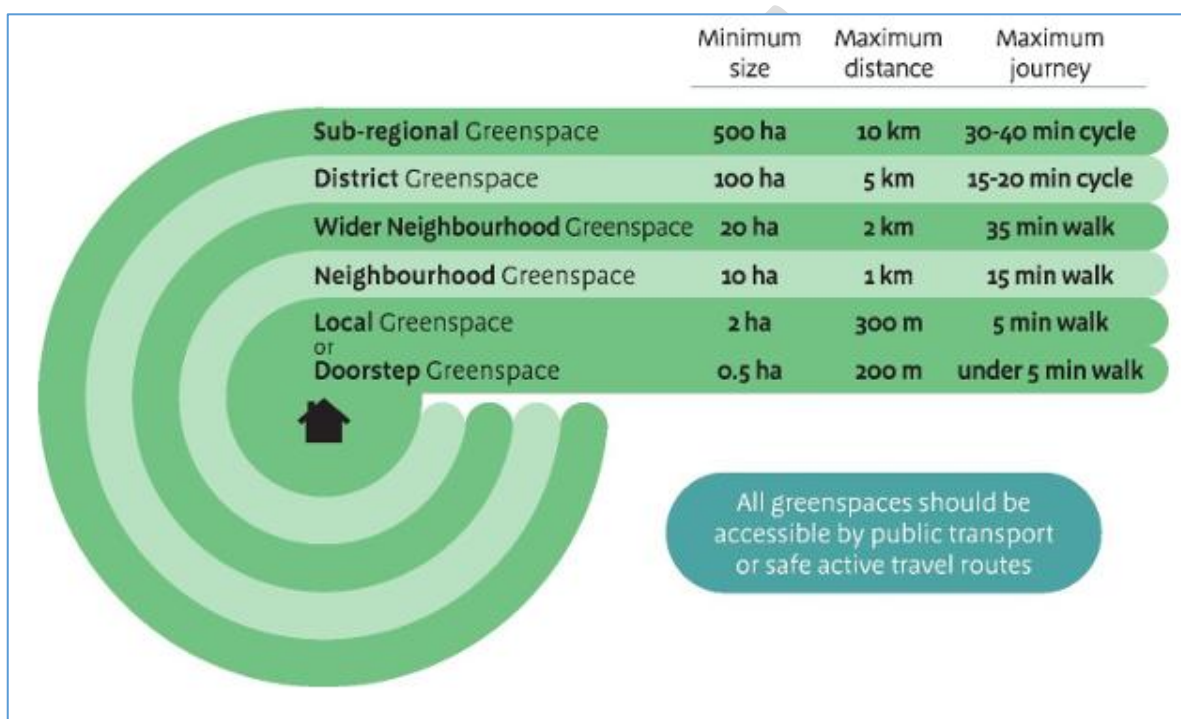


Figure 4.1 – Accessible Greenspace Standards (AGSt).

Source – Natural England Accessible Greenspace Standard User Guide (Sep 2024).

4.7 The **Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) Mapping** (Version 2.2, October 2025) features enhanced accessible green space data, innovative habitat mapping, and experimental naturalness indicators. It can be found online: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Map.aspx>

4.8 At the time of writing, Version 2.3 is anticipated for publication later in 2026.

2024 Fields in Trust (FIT)

- 4.9 The Fields in Trust (FIT) is a charity which was established in 1925 and works to protect parks and green spaces. The charity's benchmark standards have been – and continue to be - used and adopted by Local Planning Authorities.
- 4.10 The FIT pioneered the first minimum standards for the provision of parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and green spaces in the 1930s. Over time, the standards have evolved to reflect policy changes and address the challenges of the day. The most recent iteration of FIT standards is dated November 2024 and are aimed at local authorities, developers, planners, urban designers, and landscape architects for all stages of planning, design and management of multifunctional green spaces.

Fields in Trust (FIT) – Green Space Index

- 4.11 The FIT Green Space Index provides a spatial analysis of current and projected levels of open space in a local area based on population numbers and walking routes. The latest FIT Green Space Index found that nationally and locally:
- Around 44% and 43% of the population in Britain and South East England live more than a 10-minute walk from their nearest playing field, respectively.
 - There is growing inequality in access to recreational spaces that are essential for physical activity, social connection, and community wellbeing.
 - Of the 12 local authorities, it appears Chichester, East Hampshire, Wealden and Winchester have more green space provision per person in square metres (sqm) than the national average, while the other local authorities appear to have less green space provision per person.
 - It is predicted that the 12 local authorities will see 0-15% of green spaces lost in their administrative areas between now and 2043.
 - It appears that the 12 local authorities all have a percentage of their population in their administrative areas that live more than a 10 minute walk from green space, the highest being Chichester.

Fields in Trust (FIT) – 2024 Benchmark Standards

- 4.12 The FIT explains that it is important to assess local need to ensure that sufficient provision of open space is created. This can be achieved by the assessment and mapping of existing provision in relation to local population data to understand if FIT Standards are being met, or if there is a shortfall of open space provision.
- 4.13 The FIT Benchmark Standards are a starting point to enable calculations to be made on the quantity and accessibility of different typologies of open space, outdoor sports, and play space per 1000 people. The benchmark standards give a consistent and instructive guide which can be used alongside local knowledge and other standards to create betterment, meet local needs, and support the multi-functional use of open spaces.

4.14 The FIT Benchmark Standards set out a minimum need for the following typologies of public open space, sports, and recreational facilities:

- 3.2ha of **open space** per 1000 population (or 32sqm per person);
- 1.6ha of **outdoor sports** per 1000 population (or 16sqm per person); and
- 0.55ha of **play space** per 1000 population (or 5.5sqm per person).

4.15 The FIT explain that defining and grouping typologies can be challenging as there can often be cross over between typologies. The above typologies have been broken down into sub-typologies and expanded upon further using FIT guidance (in relation to minimum quantity guidelines, maximum walking guidelines, and sub-typology examples) and Authority Officer experiences (in relation to allotments and other food growing areas, burial grounds and cemeteries, and nuances amongst FIT sub-typology examples) in [Table 4.1](#) below.

4.16 It is the Authority's view that:

- Allotments and other food growing areas usually have restricted access (with access limited to tenants and groups) and needs are locally specific; and
- Burial ground and cemeteries can form part of the green infrastructure network and it is beneficial to map such sites for information.

Typology	Sub-Typology	Minimum Quantity Guideline (per 1000 population)	Maximum Walking Guidance (from dwellings)	Authority Note
Open Space	Amenity Green Space	0.6ha (or 6sqm per person)	300-1000m	<p>All dwellings should be within 200-300m walking distance of an open space sub-typology, and within 1000m of the full range of open space sub-typologies.</p> <p>This sub-typology can include informal recreation spaces, communal green spaces in and around housing, village greens, urban commons, and other publicly accessible, useable, and incidental hard and/or green spaces.</p> <p>The FIT standards refer to allotments and other growing spaces as an example of this sub-typology. However, the Authority has mapped and considered allotments and other growing spaces separately because access is usually restricted to tenants and groups, needs are usually locally specific, and 2026 NPPF Policy HC1 specifically references allotments.</p>

Typology	Sub-Typology	Minimum Quantity Guideline (per 1000 population)	Maximum Walking Guidance (from dwellings)	Authority Note
Open Space	Parks and Gardens	0.8ha (or 8sqm per person)	300-1000m	<p>All dwellings should be within 200-300m walking distance of an open space sub-typology, and within 1000m of the full range of open space sub-typologies.</p> <p>This sub-typology can include urban parks and squares, regional parks, forest parks, and formal gardens.</p> <p>The FIT standards refer to country parks as an example of this sub-typology. However, the Authority has mapped and considered the country parks in the National Park – Queen Elizabeth in Hampshire, and Seven Sisters in East Sussex – as natural and semi-natural green space due to Authority Officer experiences and local knowledge.</p>

Typology	Sub-Typology	Minimum Quantity Guideline (per 1000 population)	Maximum Walking Guidance (from dwellings)	Authority Note
Open Space	Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	1.8ha (or 18sqm per person)	300-1000m	<p>All dwellings should be within 200-300m walking distance of an open space sub-typology, and within 1000m of the full range of open space sub-typologies.</p> <p>This sub-typology can include publicly accessible woodland, scrub, grassland, heath or moor, wetlands, open and running water, and open access land. The Authority has also mapped and considered country parks under this sub-typology, along with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRoW Act 2000 Land; • Forestry Commission Woods for All; • Local Authority Shapefiles; • Local Nature Reserves (LNR); • National Nature Reserves (NNR); • National Trust Land (always open); and • RSPB Reserves (public).

Typology	Sub-Typology	Minimum Quantity Guideline (per 1000 population)	Maximum Walking Guidance (from dwellings)	Authority Note
Open Space	Allotments or Other Food Growing	n/a	n/a	This is not a sub-typology of open space in its own right under the FIT Benchmark Standards. However, the Authority has mapped and considered allotments and other growing spaces separately because access they are usually restricted to tenants and groups, needs are usually locally specific, and 2026 NPPF Policy HC1 specifically references allotments.
Outdoor Sports	Pitch Sports	1.2ha	1200m	This sub-typology can include football, rugby, hockey and cricket pitches.
Outdoor Sports	Courts and Greens	0.4ha	1200m	This sub-typology can include tennis, netball, basketball, padel ball, volleyball, and bowling greens.
Outdoor Sports	Tracks and Trails	0.4ha	1200m	This sub-typology can include athletics tracks, graded mountain biking trails, canoeing, open water swimming, and outdoor gym trails.

Typology	Sub-Typology	Minimum Quantity Guideline (per 1000 population)	Maximum Walking Guidance (from dwellings)	Authority Note
Play Space	Equipped Designated Play Areas	0.25ha (or 2.5sqm per person)	100m (LAP) 400m (LEAP) 1000m (NEAP)	<p>This sub-typology can include Local Areas for Play (LAPs), Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs), and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). The above are based on size, location, and the age of children which they are designed for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A LAP is for very young children to play close to where they live, allowing for informal observations and supervision. It should provide a minimum area of 100sqm (which can be distributed as a playable route) and every home should be within 100m of a LAP. • A LEAP is for young and independent children – i.e., adults with young children, and children beginning to play independently with friends. It should have features for informal recreation including play equipment. It should provide a minimum area of 400sqm and every home should be within 400m of a LEAP. • A NEAP is for older and more independent children and should have wider play experiences, along with space for group games, seating, and shelter. It should have a minimum area of 1000sqm and every home should be within 1000m of a NEAP.

Typology	Sub-Typology	Minimum Quantity Guideline (per 1000 population)	Maximum Walking Guidance (from dwellings)	Authority Note
Play Space	Informal Play Provision	0.3ha (or 3sqm per person)	700m	This sub-typology can include multi-use game areas (MUGAs), pump tracks, bouldering walls, ball courts, social areas, and skateboard areas. Larger games areas for older children should be within 700m walking distance from home and have a minimum area of 1000 sqm – please note, a typical MUGA court dimension is 40x20m.
Burial Ground and/or Cemetery	n/a	n/a	n/a	This is not a typology of the FIT Benchmark Standards but has been included in this draft study because burial grounds and cemeteries can form part of the green infrastructure network, and because such sites are referenced in SD46 (adopted local plan), SDG3 (new local plan), and some local authority mapping.

Table 4.1 – The typologies and sub-typologies of public open space, sports, and recreational facilities, based on FIT Benchmark Standards, and supplemented and expanded on by Authority Officer experiences and local knowledge.

South Downs National Park Authority

South Downs Access Network & Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGS) Study (2013)

4.17 The 2013 ANGS Study focused on the provision of access to semi-natural sites of over 2ha, and provided an initial evidence base for green infrastructure in and around the National Park. As set out in the South Downs State of the Park Report (2024) – see Section 3 above - 90% of households in the National Park are located within 2km of a 20ha site of accessible natural green space (ANGS).

South Downs People and Nature Network (PANN) (2020)

4.18 The Authority began developing a Green Infrastructure Framework with partners in October 2014, and this later became known as the PANN. The PANN aims to protect, enhance and create a network of green and blue spaces which sustainably meet the needs of local communities, support natural ecosystem services, and respect the special qualities of the National Park.

4.19 The PANN includes health and wellbeing, and recreation and access, as two of six themes. The PANN explains that access to green space is very important in areas of poor health and deprivation, and advises that green spaces need to be close to where people live; easy to access; closely connected to residential and commercial areas; attractive, well-maintained and feel safe; and have a wide range of facilities to attract different people. Moreover, the PANN highlights:

- Access routes and open space can provide multi-functional benefits to society, including amenity and landscape setting, ecological value, flood storage, human health and recreation, and as a setting to heritage assets.
- There are deficits in open space, more green space is needed, and some open spaces are inaccessible due to physical barriers and/or distance.
- The provision of new open space is becoming increasingly reliant on major developments, either onsite or offsite via s106 agreements or CIL payments.
- There is a lack of comparable information on open space between different local authority areas.
- There are different open space standards in different Local Authority Areas of the National Park – please note, PANN Table 5 is similar to SD46 Figure 7.6.
- There is a lack of access to natural green space in the East Hampshire and Winchester Local Authority Areas of the National Park.
- There is a deficit of open space in the Horsham, Lewes and Wealden Local Authority Areas of the National Park.
- There is a deficit of open space in areas outside of the National Park, particularly the coastal conurbation between Bognor and Brighton.
- Although standards for open space may be set locally, they are often adopted from established standards – examples include ANGSt (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard), FIT (Fields in Trust Standard) and/or Woodland Access Standard.

South Downs Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2020-25)

4.20 The strategy explains the National Park is an underutilised and under-recognised asset for improving health and wellbeing. The National Park provides a universal offer of inspiring landscapes rich in culture and wildlife, and includes visitor services, access routes, and opportunities for volunteering and learning. The strategy summarises evidence about the positive effects of green spaces on physical and mental health and wellbeing, including reductions in anxiety, depression, fatigue, loneliness, social isolation and stress; improvements in cognitive functioning and frequency of physical exercise; and how spending time in green spaces is good for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and dementia. The strategy identifies the following key issues in the National Park:

- Lack of access to, and deficit in, natural green spaces;
- Lack of access to facilities and services in local towns and villages;
- Lack of access to public transport into and around the National Park;
- Issues with accessibility and infrastructure for people with disabilities;
- Impacts of climate change (i.e., air pollution, flooding, heat, water quality and lack of access to healthy food); and
- Severance and connectivity issues (i.e., major roads) preventing many communities from easily accessing the National Park.

Identification and Mapping of Open Space and Play Space

4.21 The Authority carried out a PPG17 GIS Data Assessment of the 12 local authority areas of the National Park in July 2014. This concluded that – as there was such a wide variation of data – it was not possible to use the data to compare provision across all local authority areas of the National Park.

4.22 The preparation of the new local plan (see Section 6) – and recognition in the South Downs PANN (see above) that there is a lack of comparable information on open space between different local authority areas – has required the Authority to reconsider the 2014 position.

4.23 The Authority has sought to map the open spaces and play spaces identified from the data sources in **Table 4.2** (below) and categorise them as per the typologies and sub-typologies in **Table 4.1** (based on the 2024 FIT Benchmark Standards). This identification and categorisation is shown in the South Downs Open Space and Play Space Interactive Map. It is important to note that there are similarities and differences between this interactive map and the Natural England GIF mapping.

Data Source	Authority Note
Local Authority Shapefiles	Information requested in January 2025 and received from 10 of 12 local authorities.
Local Green Space (LGS) Assessment	Most recent dated January 2026. Please note, not all LGS are public open space.
Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP)	All NDPs made on or before 12 March 2026.
Parish and Village Design Statements (P/VDS)	All P/VDS adopted as supplementary planning documents on or before 12 March 2026.
Parish Priorities Statements (PPS)	All PPSs received on or before 12 March 2026.
Town and Parish Councils	Information requested in February 2023 and received from 23 of 176 town and parish councils. There was some confusion amongst returns as to which sites were truly publicly accessible and useable.
SDNPA Officer Identification	SDNPA Officer knowledge and/or identification via aerial mapping, and reviews of local authority assessments, studies, and evidence.

Table 4.2 – The data sources used to identify open space and play space in the South Downs National Park.

4.24 This draft study has been prepared in a limited timeframe and the extent and quality of data sources in **Table 4.2** has varied. As such, the South Downs Open Space and Play Space Interactive Map – and the findings of this draft study – has limitations – see “Importance Notice – Limitations of Use” at the start of this draft study. In addition to the notice:

- The local authority shapefiles do not include shapefiles from two local authority areas – Chichester and Winchester; and
- The boundaries and categorisations of sites varied amongst data sources so the Authority used the most recent or most detailed source.

- 4.25 The Authority is grateful for all the data and information provided by the local authorities and town and parish councils (**Table 4.2**), and looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with local councils to ensure that residents living in the National Park have access to all typologies of open space and play space. In the spirit of partnership working, it is anticipated that the Authority will write to local councils during the Regulation 19 consultation of the Proposed Submission Local Plan to verify the identified open spaces and play spaces and to understand if further sites need to be identified and categorised.

Summary 4: Evidence

- The **Natural England Accessible Greenspace Standard (AGSt)** includes criteria around proximity (access to green and blue spaces within a 15 minute walk from homes) and capacity (at least 3ha of publicly accessible green space per 1000 people).
- The **FIT Green Space Index** shows – in terms of the 12 local authorities and their administrative areas - variations in green space provision per person compared to national average; predictions of up to 15% of green space loss in some areas between now and 2043; and there are residents who live more than a 10-minute walk from green spaces.
- The **FIT Benchmark Standards** have been – and continue to be – used and adopted by Local Planning Authorities. The standards are a starting point to enable calculations to be made on the quantity and accessibility of different typologies of open space, outdoor sports, and play space per 1000 people.
- The **South Downs PANN** highlights that open space can provide multi-functional benefits; more green space is needed; some open spaces are inaccessible due to physical barriers and/or distance; provision of new open space is becoming increasingly reliant on major developments; there are deficits in terms of open space (Horsham, Lewes and Wealden Areas) and access to natural green space (East Hampshire and Winchester Areas) in the National Park; and there is a lack of comparable information on open spaces between local authority areas.
- The **South Downs PANN** also highlights that although standards for open space may be set locally, they are often adopted from established standards – examples of which include ANGSt, FIT, and/or Woodland Access Standards.
- The **South Downs Health and Wellbeing Strategy** identifies a lack of access to, and deficit in, natural green spaces, along with accessibility, connectivity and severance issues for communities and people with disabilities.

5. The Adopted South Downs Local Plan (2014-33)

- 5.1 The South Downs Local Plan (2014-33) - “the adopted local plan” - was adopted on 02 July 2019 and was supported by the South Downs Open Space, Sports and Recreation Background Paper (November 2017) (“the 2017 background paper”).
- 5.2 The adopted local plan includes **Policy SD46** (Provision and Protection of Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities and Burial Grounds / Cemeteries). **Criterion 1 and Figure 7.6** set out different standards for open space, sports and recreational facilities for each local authority area of the National Park.
- 5.3 The 2017 background paper explains that the adopted standards in **Criterion 1 and Figure 7.6** were compiled from assessments, evidence studies and adopted policies of the 12 local authorities, and that these standards only focus on the typologies of amenity space, parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities, and provisions for children and teenagers. The 2017 background paper also explains that the remaining policy criteria aim to:
- **Criterion 2** – Aims to ensure proposals for new buildings providing local sport and recreational facilities, and proposals for new or improved playing surfaces, are located within defined settlement boundaries.
 - **Criterion 3** – Aims to ensure loss of open space is avoided or, where it cannot be avoided, a like-for-like provision is made in close proximity.
 - **Criterion 4** – Aims to ensure proposals for new cemeteries and burial grounds are appropriately sited, and designed to enhance or provide new opportunities for biodiversity, habitats and green infrastructure, while having no adverse impact on ground or surface water.

Summary 5: The South Downs Local Plan (2014-33)

Policy SD46 of the adopted local plan sets out different standards for public open space, sports and recreational facilities for each local authority area of the National Park. The policy’s supporting text explains that these standards were informed by the assessments, evidence studies and adopted policies of the 12 local authorities.

6. Approach in the New South Downs Local Plan (2024-42)

- 6.1 The new South Downs Local Plan (2024-42) – “the new local plan” – is being prepared to capture legislation and regulation changes, capture national planning policy updates, and ensure the local plan is up-to-date and addresses important issues such as nature recovery, climate change, affordable housing, and helping local communities to thrive.
- 6.2 As set out in the 2017 background paper, the Authority’s understanding of its statutory responsibility for public open space, sports, and recreational facilities is that – as the local planning authority – it needs to make provision for, and protect existing, public open space, sports, and recreational facilities through its planning policy and development management functions. However, this needs to be in partnership with the 12 local authorities who provide technical advice and who link – and typically undertake assessments of need jointly – with Sports England, especially in relation to the sports and recreational facilities.

Adopted Standards

- 6.3 The Authority has considered whether to adopt either of the following standards in **Policy SDG3 (Public Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities)**:
- The 2023 Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) Accessible Greenspace Standards (AGSt); or
 - The 2024 Fields in Trust (FIT) Benchmark Standards.
- 6.4 **The Authority has selected the 2024 Fields in Trust (FIT) Benchmark Standards** on the basis that these standards provide a more detailed focus on minimum quantity guidelines, and maximum walking guidance, for different typologies and sub-typologies of public open space, sports, and recreational facilities. This will be particularly helpful when considering individual settlements.

Interactive Map

- 6.5 The Authority has endeavoured to prepare the **South Downs Open Space and Play Space Interactive Map**: <https://shared.xmap.cloud/?map=8aac4ca8-d1f2-41d7-bd96-e537c4c3c1c4>
- 6.6 The interactive map includes the Authority’s own identification and categorisation of open spaces and play spaces using 2024 Fields in Trust (FIT) Benchmark Standards and the data sources set out in **Table 4.2**. It is acknowledged that there are similarities and differences between the interactive map and the Natural England GIF mapping. The interactive map provides an initial identification of potential open space and play space.

Quantitative Assessment

- 6.7 **Appendix 1** sets out quantitative deficits for FIT typologies of open space and play space for settlements wholly within the South Downs National Park, which have proposed site allocations of 10+ (Class C3) homes in the new South Downs Local Plan, but where planning permission has not been granted. The Authority has been conservative in identifying existing provisions, focusing on sites which are known to be publicly available from desktop analysis. The upcoming Regulation 19 consultation provides an opportunity to verify this analysis.
- 6.8 The proposed site allocations or other future development may provide opportunities to deliver new, or provide more of existing, typologies and sub-typologies of open space and play space. In terms of proposed site allocations on the boundary of the National Park, applicants and site promoters will need to consider neighbouring local planning authority open space assessments when applying the 2024 Fields in Trust (FIT) Benchmark Standards in Policy SDG3. Similarly, planning applications for allocations in made neighbourhood development plans (NDPs) will also need to apply the 2024 FIT Benchmark Standards.

Qualitative Assessment

- 6.9 This draft study has not carried out a qualitative assessment (nor an assessment of accessibility) of identified open space and play space due to time constraints. However, qualitative information may be found in other publicly accessible documents – i.e., neighbourhood development plans (NDPs), parish priorities statements (PPS), Local Authority Built Facilities Strategies and Playing Pitch Strategies, and others.
- 6.10 The National Park includes vast areas of countryside and “naturalness”. However, this typology of natural and semi-natural green space may not always meet the needs of all residents, especially those with access and mobility issues who may be more reliant on other typologies and sub-typologies of public open space, sports, and recreational facilities within and adjacent to settlements.
- 6.11 The new local plan provides an opportunity to deliver new, and expand existing, public open space, sports, and recreational facilities – especially where there is a specific deficit or certain typologies or sub-typologies – through new development to ensure new and existing residents have a full range of provision in proximity of their homes. Proposals for new – and proposals to extend and/or improve – public open space, sports, and/or recreational facilities will need to be accessible, high-quality, inclusive and safe.

Next Steps

- 6.12 The Authority will continue to review updated evidence and will update the draft study and interactive map accordingly prior to submission of the new South Downs Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

Summary 6: The New South Downs Local Plan (2024-42)

- The new South Downs Local Plan is proposing to **adopt the 2024 Fields in Trust (FIT) Benchmark Standards** in Policy SDG3 (Public Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities) in order to deliver a variety of typologies and sub-typologies of public open space, sports and recreational facilities through new site allocations and other development opportunities.
- The South Downs National Park Authority has endeavored to identify and categorise open spaces and play spaces using 2024 Fields in Trust (FIT) Benchmark Standards and the data sources set out in Table 4.2. This can be found in the **South Downs Open Space and Play Space Interactive Map**: <https://shared.xmap.cloud/?map=8aac4ca8-d1f2-41d7-bd96-e537c4c3c1c4>

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Appendix 1: FIT Standards - Deficits of Open Space and Play Space in Settlements with Proposed Site Allocations in the New South Downs Local Plan

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Amberley, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 560 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village would benefit from allotments (or other food growing), more play space, and more (or better access to) natural and semi-natural green space. It is noted that St Michael's Church and cemetery need to be added. Further investigation is required to understand the existing type of equipped play provision, if the Football Field should remain categorised as amenity green space, and if the Village Pond should be categorised as amenity green space or natural / semi-natural green space – it is currently categorised as both and so is currently double-counted.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 560 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	17,920sqm	34,410sqm	No overall deficit.
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	3,360sqm	23,200sqm	19,840sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	4,480sqm	9,400sqm	4,920sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	10,080sqm	1,810sqm	Deficit – 8,270sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	0	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	3,080sqm	1,000sqm	Deficit – 2,080sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	1,400sqm	900sqm	Deficit – 500sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	1,680sqm	100sqm	Deficit – 1,580sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	0	-

Binsted, Hampshire

2021 Census Population: 734 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village would benefit from amenity green space, more play space, and more (or better access to) natural and semi-natural green space. It is noted that Holy Cross Church and cemetery need to be added, and further investigation is required to understand the existing type of equipped play provision.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 734 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	23,488sqm	17,100sqm	Deficit – 6,388sqm
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	4,404sqm	0	Deficit – 4,404sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	5,872sqm	17,100sqm	11,228sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	13,212sqm	0	Deficit – 13,212sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	500sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	4,037sqm	300sqm	Deficit – 3,737sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	1,835sqm	300sqm	Deficit – 1,535sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	2,202sqm	0	Deficit – 2,202sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	0	-

Bury, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 392 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village would benefit from all typologies and sub-typologies of open space and play space. Although Bury Recreation Ground (parks and gardens) exceeds the minimum quantity, it is not easily accessible on foot from the main village. In addition, further investigation is required to understand existing play provision, and whether The Wharf should be categorised as amenity green space or natural / semi-natural green space - it is currently categorised as both and so is currently double counted.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 392 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	12,544sqm	23,900sqm	No overall deficit
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	2,352sqm	1,600sqm	Deficit – 752sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	3,136sqm	22,300sqm	19,164sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	7,056sqm	1,600sqm	Deficit – 5,456sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	0	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	2,156sqm	2,200sqm	No overall deficit.
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	980sqm	2,200sqm	1,220sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	1,176sqm	0	Deficit – 1,176sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	3,900sqm	-

Cheriton and Hinton Marsh, Hampshire

2021 Census Population: 996 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village is linear with all existing provision found in the historic core in the northernmost part of the village. The proposed site allocation is in New Cheriton and Hinton Marsh in the southernmost part of the village with no existing provision.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 996 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	31,872sqm	21,300sqm	Deficit – 10,572sqm
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	5,976sqm	1,800sqm	Deficit – 4,176sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	7,968sqm	19,500sqm	11,532sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	17,928sqm	0	Deficit – 17,928sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	0	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	5,478sqm	500sqm	Deficit - 4,978sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	2,490sqm	500sqm	Deficit – 1,990sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	2,988sqm	0	Deficit – 2,988sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	5,800sqm	-

Coldwaltham, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 595 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village would benefit from more place space and further investigation is required to understand existing play provision. In terms of open space, the recreation ground (parks and gardens) is in the hamlet of Watersfield outside and south of the village, and most of the natural and semi-natural space is east of the railway line.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 595 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	19,040sqm	See below.	No overall deficit.
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	3,570sqm	2,700sqm	Deficit – 870sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	4,760sqm	24,700sqm	19,940sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	10,710sqm	No deficit, most east of railway.	No deficit, but most east of railway.
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	4,500sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	3,272.5sqm	1,400sqm	Deficit – 1,872.5sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	1,487.5sqm	1,400sqm	Deficit – 87.5sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	1,785sqm	0	Deficit – 1,785sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	4,600sqm	-

Easebourne, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 1,173 people.

Draft Conclusion: The majority of the village's existing provision is at Easebourne Park (circa 20,400sqm) split between a park and equipped designated play. The village would benefit from amenity green space, natural and semi-natural green space, and informal play provision. Further investigation is required to understand the existing play provision at Easebourne Park.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 1,173 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	37,536sqm	10,000sqm	Deficit – 27,536sqm
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	7,038sqm	0	Deficit – 7,038sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	9,384sqm	10,000sqm	616sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	21,114sqm	0	Deficit – 21,114sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	8,000sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	6,451.5sqm	10,400sqm	No overall deficit.
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	2,932.5sqm	10,400sqm	7,467.5sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	3,519sqm	0	Deficit – 3,519sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	8,000sqm	-

Findon, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 1,589 people.

Draft Conclusion: The open space provision within the village is to the north (amenity green space) and east (parks and gardens, i.e., Nepcote Green), and provision outside the village is to the south-east (natural and semi-natural green space, i.e., Cissbury Ring). The village would benefit from more play space, more amenity green space, and more (or better access to) natural and semi-natural green space.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 1,589 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	50,848sqm	31,300sqm	Deficit - 19,548sqm
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	9,534sqm	7,200sqm	Deficit – 2,334sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	12,712sqm	24,100sqm	11,388sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	28,602sqm	0 (within 300m)	Deficit – 28,602sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	1,600sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	8,739.5sqm	300sqm	Deficit – 8,439.5sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	3,972.5sqm	300sqm	Deficit – 3,672.5sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	4,767sqm	0	Deficit – 4,767sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	16,900sqm	-

Lewes, East Sussex

2021 Census Population: 16,726 people.

Draft Conclusion: The town would benefit from more amenity green space, natural and semi-natural green space, and play space. Further investigation is required to understand the type of existing equipped play and informal play provisions.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 16,726 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	535,232sqm	534,000sqm	Deficit – 1,232sqm
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	100,356sqm	30,200sqm	Deficit – 70,156sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	133,808sqm	295,600sqm	161,792sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	301,068sqm	208,200sqm	Deficit – 92,868sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	47,400sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	91,993sqm	12,500sqm	Deficit – 79,493sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	41,815sqm	9,400sqm	Deficit – 32,415sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	50,178sqm	3,100sqm	Deficit – 47,078sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	59,200sqm	-

Liss, Hampshire

2021 Census Population: 4,841 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village's overall open space provision is by virtue of its parks and gardens, and natural and semi-natural green space – the latter of which is focused on the Riverside Railway Walk (RRW) and Kippences SANG to the west of the railway line. The village would benefit from more amenity green space and play space. Further investigation is required to understand the type of existing equipped play and informal play provisions.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 4,841 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	154,912sqm	192,400sqm	No overall deficit
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	29,046sqm	25,000sqm	Deficit – 4,046sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	38,729sqm	59,200sqm	20,471sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	87,138sqm	108,200sqm	21,062sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	35,300sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	26,625sqm	5,700sqm	Deficit - 20,925sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	12,102.5sqm	5,100sqm	Deficit - 7,002.5sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	14,523sqm	600sqm	Deficit - 13,923sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	11,900sqm	-

Midhurst, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 5,365 people.

Draft Conclusion: The Common is adjacent to the west of the town and is an asset in terms of natural and semi-natural green space. However, the areas of “Holmbush Caravan Park” and “Land east of Pitsham Lane” are more than 300m from existing open space provision and the town would benefit from more amenity green space and parks and gardens. The town would also benefit from more play space, especially in the eastern and southern areas of the town.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 5365 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	171,680sqm	See below.	No overall deficit by virtue of The Common.
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	32,190sqm	11,200sqm	Deficit – 20,990sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	42,920sqm	13,600sqm	Deficit - 29,320sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	96,570sqm	No deficit by virtue of The Common	No deficit by virtue of The Common
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	6,700sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	29,507.5sqm	4,600sqm	Deficit – 24,907.5sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	13,412.5sqm	900sqm	Deficit – 12,512.5sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	16,095sqm	3,700sqm	Deficit – 12,395sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-		-

Milland, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 891 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village would benefit from allotments (or other food growing) and natural and semi-natural green space, and more amenity green space and play space. Further investigation is required to understand the type of existing equipped play provision.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 891 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	28,512sqm	17,400sqm	Deficit – 11,112sqm
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	5,346sqm	3,100sqm	Deficit – 2,246sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	7,128sqm	14,300sqm	7,172sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	16,038sqm	0	Deficit – 16,038sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	0	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	4,900.5sqm	300sqm	Deficit – 4,600.5sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	2,227.5sqm	300sqm	Deficit – 1,927.5sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	2,673sqm	0	Deficit – 2,673sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	0	-

Northchapel, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 619 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village would benefit from natural and semi-natural green space, more amenity green space, and more play space. Further investigation is required to understand the type of existing equipped play provision.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 619 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	19,808sqm	18,000sqm	Deficit – 1,808sqm
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	3,714sqm	2,700sqm	Deficit – 1,014sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	4,952sqm	15,300sqm	10,348sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	11,142sqm	0	Deficit – 11,142sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	4,800sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	3,404.5sqm	700sqm	Deficit - 2,704.5sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	1,547.5sqm	700sqm	Deficit – 847.5sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	1,857sqm	0	Deficit – 1,857sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	5,100sqm	-

Petersfield, Hampshire

2021 Census Population: 14,039 people.

Draft Conclusion: The town's natural and semi-natural green space hides deficits of amenity green space and parks and gardens. The town would benefit from more amenity green space, parks and gardens, and play space. Further investigation is required to understand the type of existing equipped play and informal play provisions.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 14,039 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	449,248sqm	846,700sqm	No overall deficit.
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	84,234sqm	12,500sqm	Deficit – 71,734sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	112,312sqm	101,100sqm	Deficit – 11,212sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	252,702sqm	733,100sqm	480,398sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	15,500sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	77,214.5sqm	11,900sqm	Deficit – 65,314.5sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	35,097.5sqm	10,600sqm	Deficit – 24,497.5sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	42,117sqm	1,300sqm	Deficit – 40,817sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	28,400sqm	-

Petworth, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 2,589 people.

Draft Conclusion: Further investigation is required to understand how much of the grounds of Petworth House is truly publicly available without payment. Otherwise, the town would benefit from more amenity green space, parks and gardens, and play space. This benefit would be greatest in the south of the town when considering the locations of existing provisions.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 2,589 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	82,849sqm	See below.	No overall deficit by virtue of Petworth House
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	15,534sqm	14,200sqm	Deficit – 1,334sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	20,712sqm	1,400sqm	Deficit – 19,312sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	46,602sqm	No deficit by virtue of Petworth House	No deficit by virtue of Petworth House
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	15,300sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	14,239.5sqm	1,500sqm	Deficit – 12,739.5sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	6,472.5sqm	1,500sqm	Deficit - 4,972.5sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	7,767sqm	0	Deficit – 7,767sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	22,800sqm	-

Rogate, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 682 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village would benefit from allotments (or other food growing), more amenity green space, and more play space. Further investigation is required to understand the type of existing equipped play provision.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 682 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	21,824sqm	44,500sqm	No overall deficit.
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	4,092sqm	2,500sqm	Deficit – 1,592sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	5,456sqm	18,700sqm	13,244sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	12,276sqm	23,300sqm	11,024sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	0	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	3,751sqm	800sqm	Deficit – 2,951sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	1,705sqm	800sqm	Deficit – 905sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	2,046sqm	0	Deficit – 2,046sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	6,400sqm	-

Stedham, West Sussex

2021 Census Population: 560 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village would benefit from more play space and further investigation is required to understand the type of existing equipped play provision. The majority of natural and semi-natural green space is south of the A272.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 560 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	17,920sqm	See below.	No overall deficit.
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	3,360sqm	7,400sqm	4,040sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	4,480sqm	22,900sqm	18,420sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	10,080sqm	No deficit - most south of A272.	No deficit - most south of A272.
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	1,800sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	3,080sqm	700sqm	Deficit – 2,380sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	1,400sqm	700sqm	Deficit – 700sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	1,680sqm	0	Deficit – 1,680sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	4,000sqm	-

Stroud, Hampshire

2021 Census Population: 474 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village would benefit from allotments (or other food growing), amenity green space, and more play space. Further investigation is required to understand the type of existing equipped play provision, and whether Stroud End (a natural and semi-natural green space) is publicly accessible in its entirety.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 474 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	15,168sqm	17,000sqm	No overall deficit
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	2,844sqm	0	Deficit – 2,844sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	3,792sqm	1,900sqm	Deficit – 1,892sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	8,532sqm	15,100sqm	6,568sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	0	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	2,607sqm	300sqm	Deficit – 2,307sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	1,185sqm	300sqm	Deficit – 885sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	1,422sqm	0	Deficit – 1,422sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	0	-

Twyford, Hampshire

2021 Census Population: 1,415 people.

Draft Conclusion: The village would benefit from natural and semi-natural green space and more play space. Further investigation is required to understand the type of existing equipped play provision.

Typology / Sub-Typology	(a) Minimum Quantity (per person)	(b) Minimum Quantity [(a) x 1,415 people]	(c) Provision	(d) Deficit? [b-c]
Open Space	32sqm	45,280sqm	54,100sqm	No overall deficit.
Amenity Green Space	6sqm	8,490sqm	11,700sqm	3,210sqm
Parks and Gardens	8sqm	11,320sqm	42,400sqm	31,080sqm
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	18sqm	25,470sqm	0	Deficit – 25,470sqm
Allotments and Other Food Growing	-	-	4,500sqm	-
Play Space	5.5sqm	7,782.5sqm	2,600sqm	Deficit - 5,182.5sqm
Equipped Designated Play Areas	2.5sqm	3,537.5sqm	2,100sqm	Deficit - 1,437.5sqm
Informal Play Provision	3sqm	4,245sqm	500sqm	Deficit - 3,745sqm
Burial Grounds and/or Cemeteries	-	-	6,800sqm	-