

Provision for children and young people

Definition

- 8.1 This type of open space includes areas such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters with the primary purpose of providing opportunities for play and social interaction involving children and young people.

Figure 8.1 – Islip Recreation Ground Play Area



Strategic context and consultation

- 8.2 East Northamptonshire Council does not have a play strategy, however a number of references to provision for children and young people are made, specifically within the SPG linked to the adopted local plan. This reinforces the value placed on provision for children and young people. The key points from this SPG are summarised below:
- developers building 15 or more dwellings must provide children's play areas, covering an area of 252m²
 - developments of 50 or more units should include a LEAP (local equipped area for play) that is distinct from LAP (local area for play) provision
 - it may not be necessary or practical to provide a NEAP (Neighbourhood equipped area for play) on-site. In such instances contributions should be made to upgrade nearby existing facilities or providing the necessary infrastructure for children to use the facilities safely (e.g. road crossing for children)

- the on-site maintenance of these open spaces and play areas is the responsibility of the developer over an agreed period of time, e.g. ten years.

8.3 The development of the new LDF and SPD is discussed in section 13, planning implementation. The above SPG will be replaced by the new SPD.

Consultation

8.4 The provision and quality of areas for children and young people was central throughout consultation, highlighting the real concern over the quality and quantity of these sites.

- play spaces for children up to 7 were considered important by almost three quarters of all residents responding to the household survey. Activities for older children were not perceived to be as important by the same group. This is perhaps surprising, as many comments at drop in sessions focused on the need to provide facilities for young people to detract from other pastimes. 34% of children responding to the IT for Young People survey indicated that they dislike the facilities currently provided.
- although it was suggested that there is insufficient provision for both age groups, almost 48% felt that there was not enough provision for teenagers, compared to 32% for younger children. It was noted that this deficiency may have adverse impacts on the behaviour of teenagers, encouraging delinquency, vandalism and graffiti in the area. This was reflected in research undertaken as part of the Market Towns Initiative Health Check, where provision for young people and children was prioritised in a number of the towns. Improvements focusing on the quality and quantity of provision for young people were central to almost all discussions.
- numerous issues with young people and anti social behaviour became evident during consultation, with many people feeling that other spaces are vandalised as a result of lack of facilities for children and young people
- it was suggested during internal consultations that the construction of strategically located Multi Use Games Area's (MUGA's) across the authority should be further considered, with the aim of providing for young people and simultaneously reducing vandalism. Consultation highlighted that this might be supported by the local community, many of whom highlighted the importance of local facilities.

Current position

8.5 The household survey indicated that the number of people using these sites on a daily / weekly basis is relatively small. The IT for young people survey however indicated that many young people visit parks, and the play areas within them on a daily basis (36%).

8.6 There is a relatively good distribution of play provision across the authority, with many of the larger parks and amenity areas providing localised play facilities. Despite this, there is relatively little provision for older children and teenagers. Recently developed sites have proved to be popular, and children's play provision in both Barnwell Country Park and Oundle Pocket Park is considered to be of high quality. The new wooden adventure style play equipment is particularly stimulating and the skatepark in Oundle has proved popular and has been successful in drawing children from the street.

- 8.7 Cultural Community Partnerships has recently secured funding to support the further development of adventure play provision in the rural areas.

Setting provision standards

- 8.8 In setting local standards for Provision for Children and Young People there is a need to take into account any national or local standards, current provision, other Local Authority standards for appropriate comparison, site assessments and consultation on local needs. Full justifications for the local standards are provided within Appendix K, L and M.

Quantity

- 8.9 The audit has been based on the site area as opposed to the number of play areas and therefore a local standard has been set in terms of hectares per 1,000 population.
- 8.10 The audit indicates that current provision of facilities for young people and children in East Northamptonshire equates to 6.78 hectares in total. Levels of provision in the urban and rural areas vary, with provision per 1000 population in the rural area equivalent to 0.13 hectares, compared to 0.07 in the urban area. This is reflective of the nature of the rural area, where due to geographical dispersion and isolation, facilities are frequently provided locally in each area (often by Parish Councils) as people are unlikely to travel long distances to this type of open space.

- 8.11 The main national standard for the provision of children and young people comes from the NPFA 6 acre standard which stipulates 2.43 ha of 'playing space' per 1,000 population, consisting of 0.81 ha per 1,000 population for children's playing space but this also includes amenity greenspace.

**RECOMMENDED LOCAL
STANDARD**
**Urban: 0.1 ha per 1,000
population**
**Rural: 0.14 ha per 1,000
population**

- 8.12 The adopted East Northamptonshire Local Plan requires developers to provide children's play equipment within housing developments of 15 or more dwellings. The stipulated amount of provision is aligned with the NPFA standards and therefore required 0.2 – 0.3 hectares per 1000 population.
- 8.13 One of the strongest messages emerging from consultations was the perception that there is insufficient provision for children and young people. This is also reflected in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy which highlights a lack of facilities for young people and children.
- 8.14 The majority of respondents commented that provision of play areas for children up to 6 years of age was insufficient, with the highest levels of deficiency perceived to be in areas one and four (36% and 31% respectively indicating that there was not enough). Although location was highlighted as important, the quality of existing facilities, in particular levels of vandalism also influenced decisions indicating that there are some qualitative issues affecting the overall perception of provision.
- 8.15 Almost half of all respondents indicated that there were insufficient facilities for young people and older teenagers (48%). In particular, a lack of facilities was highlighted by older residents who inferred that young people are a nuisance because they have nothing to do and nowhere to go. This is consistent for three of the analysis areas (South Urban, Thrapston and Rural area), significantly Area 2 (Thrapston) where 65% of the residents feel this to be true.

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- 8.16 On a whole, this typology is showing a lack of provision across the authority indicating the need for further development in this area. The responses are more significant for facilities for young people (over 7 years) highlighting that this is a particular area for concern.
- 8.17 Similarly, provision for children and young people was a key topic at the drop in sessions. Key themes include adequate provision of play areas in new housing developments and insufficient provision in general. Problems with anti-social behaviour and vandalism are frequently perceived to result from lack of provision for older children. Recent research, undertaken as part of the Market Towns Initiative Health Check, supports the view that there is insufficient provision for children and young people. Some work is currently being undertaken into the feasibility of strategically located MUGAs - this should be investigated further and dovetailed with the local standards for this type of provision.
- 8.18 The underlying message of insufficient provision for children and young people is therefore reflected in the recommended provision standards, with the target standard higher than existing provision and the age group that the provision caters for should be carefully considered. It must be noted however that this has maintenance implications which should be considered. The accessibility analysis will help to determine the areas where additional provision is required.
- 8.19 In terms of provision for young people in the urban area, current levels of provision in Oundle compares favourably to other areas and is considered 'about right' (28% compared to 13% across the authority as a whole). As such a standard of 0.10 ha per 1000 population has been set to reflect this.
- 8.20 The geographical dispersion and isolation experienced by people in rural areas is a significant feature, and the larger levels of provision in the rural areas are reflective of the need to provide in each area as people are unable to travel. A standard of 0.14 hectares per 1000 population therefore reflects the perception that there remains insufficient provision. There is already funding secured for additional provision in the rural areas where there is a perceived lack of facilities and access. Increased emphasis is being placed on outdoor adventure schemes in the rural areas where this funding has been provided and this is making use of existing facilities and providing a source of activity for this age group. Developments like these will go some way to addressing any deficiencies.
- 8.21 The content of play areas should depend on local needs and take into consideration the requirement for children of all age ranges. Linking the quantity standards with the accessibility standards will enable the definition of priority areas.

Quality

- 8.22 Local Areas of Play (LAPs), Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs) and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs) indicate some quality aspirations in terms of providing seating for adults, a varied range of equipment and teenager meeting places.
- 8.23 Overall, the quality of play areas was rated as reasonable in the

QUALITY VISION

"A site providing a clean and well-maintained, dog free enriched play environment which is free from litter and vandalism. The site should contain a variety of formal equipment tailored to meet the needs of users of varying ages and should be in a safe and secure location near to housing or on a multi purpose site. Seating for supervising adults should be provided. The management and development of the site should involve the community, and in particular young people wherever possible."

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site assessments, with few sites scoring below 50%, although site assessments highlight the varying quality with scores ranging from 80% through to 28%. Over 50% of playgrounds were rated as above average in terms of cleanliness and maintenance.

- 8.24 Four sites attained a score of 80%, the highest score for play facilities across East Northamptonshire. These included Clover Drive Play Area, Thrapston (Site ID 965), Yelden Close Play Area, South Urban (Site ID 274), Donne Close Play Area (Site ID 1997), Elliot Way Play Area (Site ID 904). In contrast, Sylmond Gardens Play Area (South Urban) achieved just 28%. Consultations highlighted that there are currently problems surrounding vandalism and graffiti, particularly at sites intended for older children.
- 8.25 The quality of provision for children and young people was disputed by residents, with many highlighting that vandalism is an inherent problem at many sites, and high levels of anti social behaviour take place at night, primarily in open space sites designed for children. Sites which are dedicated to the young children only are often badly vandalised and miss-used by older children which leads to them being under used by the younger children. The skate park in Jubilee Park, Rushden, was highlighted as an example of good practice provision in the area - the site was developed and designed in consultation with young people and children and this inclusion in the consultation phase has resulted in a sense of ownership and there has consequently been no vandalism or misuse of the site. On the whole, residents and young people indicated that the quality of play provision for both children and young people is poor. It was also suggested that much of the provision needs updating
- 8.26 The majority of provision for children and young people was perceived to offer amenity benefits and a sense of place, in addition to health and social inclusion benefits.
- 8.27 Respondents to the household survey highlighted that the highest rated aspirations for facilities for children of under 7 year olds are clean and litter free spaces providing equipment for children in addition to toilets, litter bins and seating. It is hoped that these areas are dog free. For children over the age of 7 there are similar aspirations, although a shelter and entertainment facility are aspired to.
- 8.28 As previously stated, the other consultations suggested a concern about the quality of facilities for children and young people.
- 8.29 The quality standard therefore reflects national standards and the views and aspirations of the local community. The quality vision for play areas is seen as particularly important due to the current lower levels of satisfaction with this type of open space. This standard aims to tackle the perceived significant problem of vandalism and misuse of children and young people sites. The standard incorporates the public aspirations of providing varied equipment in a clean and safe environment suitable for the children using the facilities. It is hoped that by providing facilities close to housing that vandalism and anti social behaviour will be minimised and facilities will be used for the purposes they are designed for.
- 8.30 The recommended local standard provides the vision for any new provision and also a benchmark to achieve for existing play areas. Appendix N highlights the links between the quality vision and the site assessments, converting the key factors of the vision into an expected score against the site assessment matrix used and consequently providing a minimum quality benchmark. It is important to set a benchmark indicator against which the comparative quality of sites within East

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Northamptonshire can be assessed. This standard can also serve to guide improvement programmes by aiming to achieve quality threshold score at all sites.

- 8.31 The key points that link the quality vision and site assessments are a well maintained site which is secure, clean and litter free and contains formal equipment and seating.
- 8.32 The quality site assessments are divided into sub categories and an expected score is assigned against each (shown in brackets). The full methodology is explained in N:
- cleanliness and maintenance (5)
 - safety and security (5)
 - vegetation (3)
 - ancillary accommodation (3)
- 8.33 This provides a quality vision percentage of 80% which is intended as an aspirational benchmark for the provision of facilities for children and young people in East Northamptonshire.

Accessibility

- 8.34 With regards to accessibility, there are recognised national standards linking to the LAP's, LEAP's and NEAP criteria. In brief these comprise:
- LAPs – aged 4-6 years; 1 minute walk or within 100 metres with a minimum area of 100m square. LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity green space.
 - LEAPs – aged a minimum of 5 years; minimum area of 400 square metres or within 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes
 - NEAPs – aged a minimum of 8 years; minimum area of 1000 square metres and should be located within 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes.
- 8.35 The average score for play areas in terms of accessibility was 55%, with the most accessible scoring 73.3%. This indicates that on the whole, the access to play facilities is average. The two highest scoring sites, both achieving 73.3% are:
- Duke of Wellington play area in South Urban and
 - Oundle Pocket Park Play area
- 8.36 The lowest scoring site was Spencer Park Play Area, scoring 43.3%, a poor rating. The main areas for improvement highlighted through site visits were information and signage and transport, rated as poor at the majority of sites for children and young people.
- 8.37 Analysis of the household survey indicated that a high proportion of people are satisfied with the visibility of the site entrance of play areas and the general opening times of sites. Signage was considered to be poor at existing young people and children sites.

**RECOMMENDED
LOCAL STANDARD**

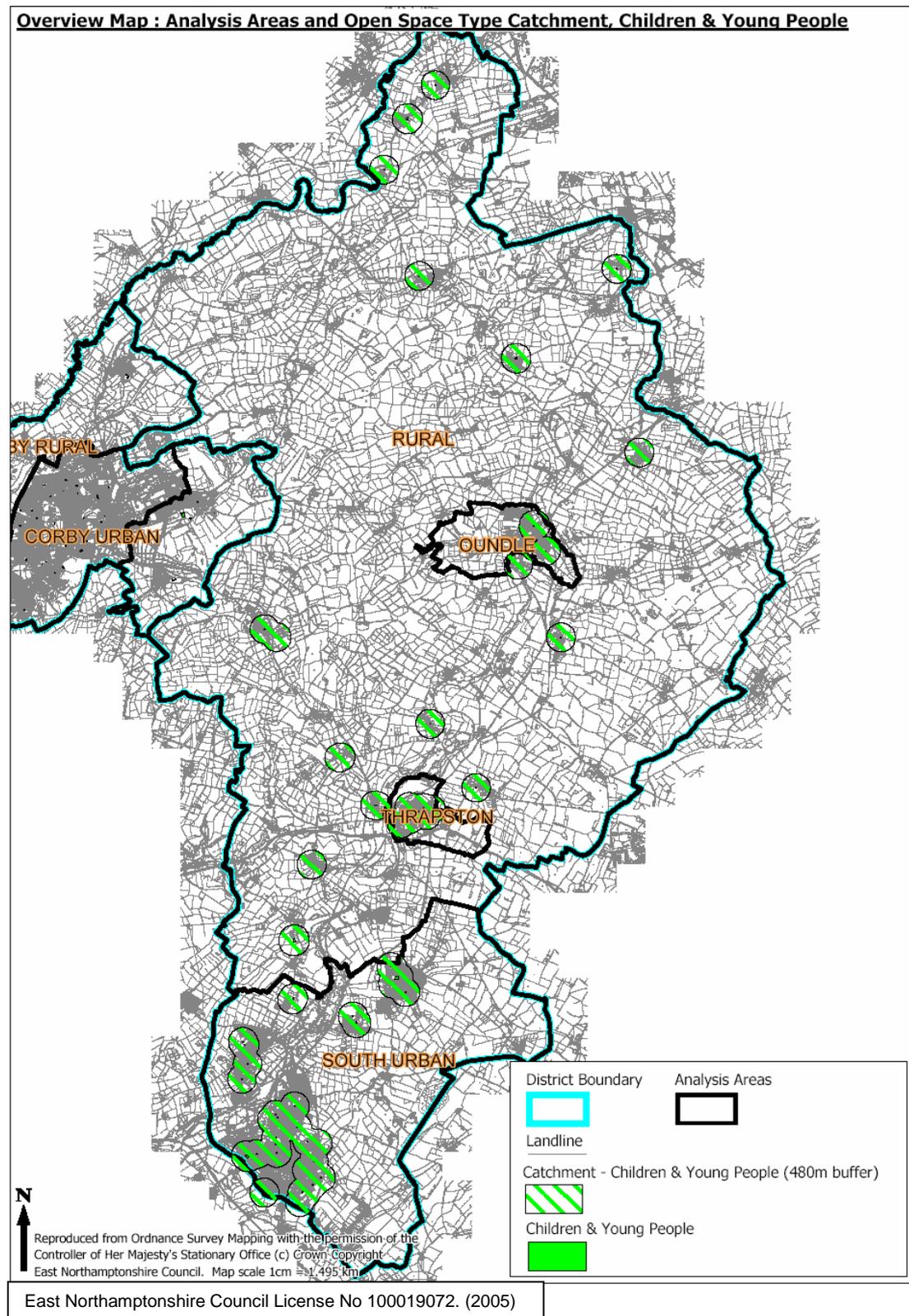
**10 minute walk
(480m)**

- 8.38 Feedback from the drop-in sessions highlighted that most residents wish to be within easy walking distance of a play area. The IT Young people indicates that current behaviour does not reflect this, with 75% of children and young people using these facilities travelling by car between 5 and 20 minutes.
- 8.39 Considering the 75% threshold level, the general consensus was that a 10 minute walk time was appropriate for children up to 6 years and a 15 minute walk time was more realistic for young people over the age of 6. This split in opinion reflects the consensus that older children can be expected to travel further, suggesting that there should be fewer sites providing appropriate equipment for this age group.
- 8.40 Given the emphasis placed on the importance of local play facilities at the drop in sessions, and in other consultations, a 10-minute travel time was considered appropriate, equivalent to 480m.
- 8.41 A straight line distance, of 480m has been used rather than the pedestrian distance of 800m. This is based on PMP's average walking distances and uses a factoring reduction of 40% to account for the fact that people do not walk in a straight line to access their open space facilities and is particularly appropriate for this typology. This 40% factoring is based on the National Playing Fields Association Six Acre Standard (See Table 3, page 25 of NPFA Six Acre Standard), which has been worked out from a trial of 4 – 14 year olds and the distance they travelled.

Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas

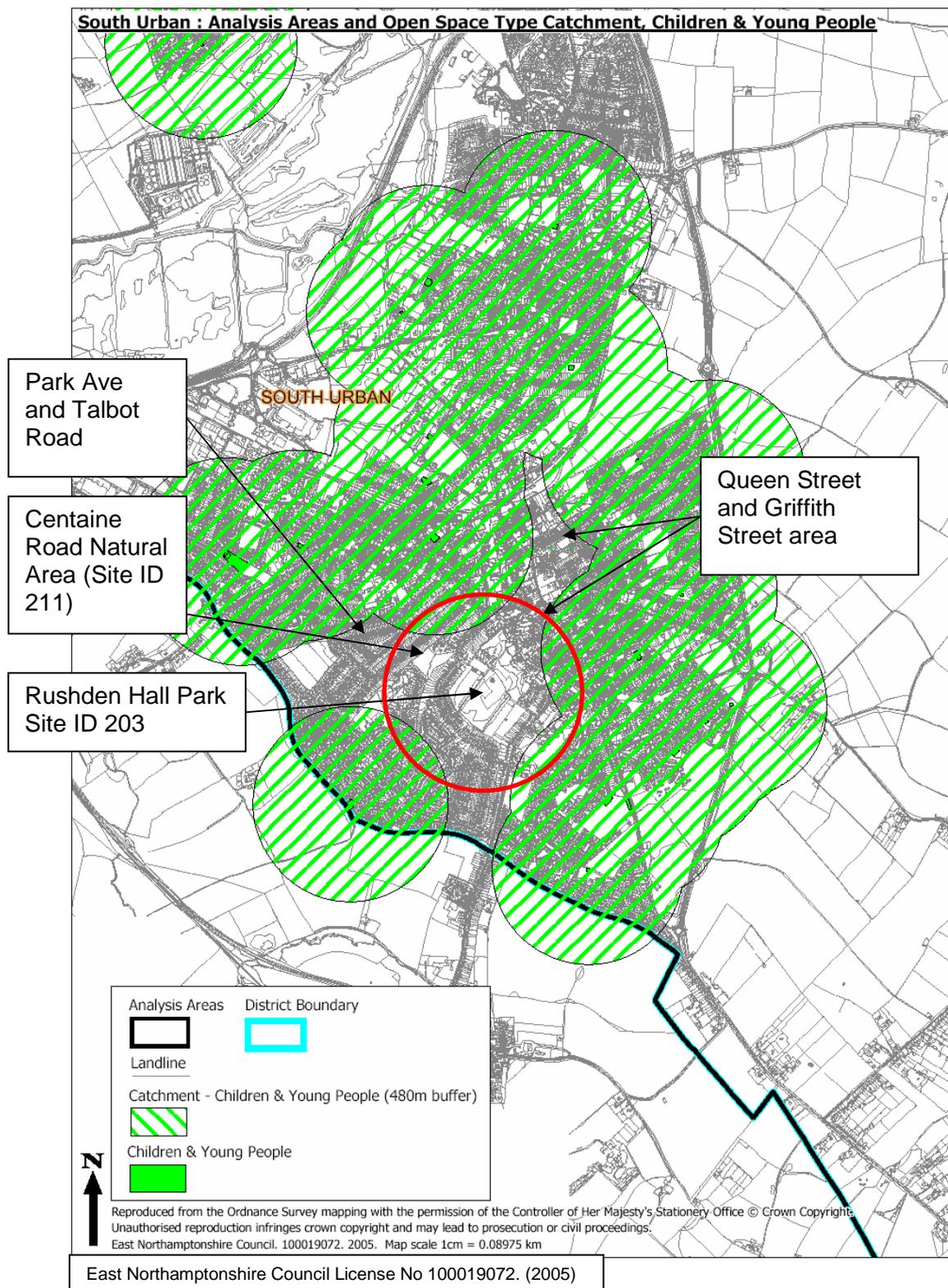
- 8.42 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with required local needs we can apply both the quantity and accessibility standards together, as mentioned previously. The quantity standards identify areas where provision does not meet the minimum standard and the accessibility standards will help to determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.
- 8.43 Map 8.1 overleaf highlights that there are a number of areas where residents currently fall outside the recommended catchment for provision for young people and children. These deficiencies reflect issues raised in consultations, and are also reinforced through the application of the quantity standards, where none of the four areas currently meet the recommended minimum standard.

Map 8.1 – Quantity and accessibility applied to children and young people typology



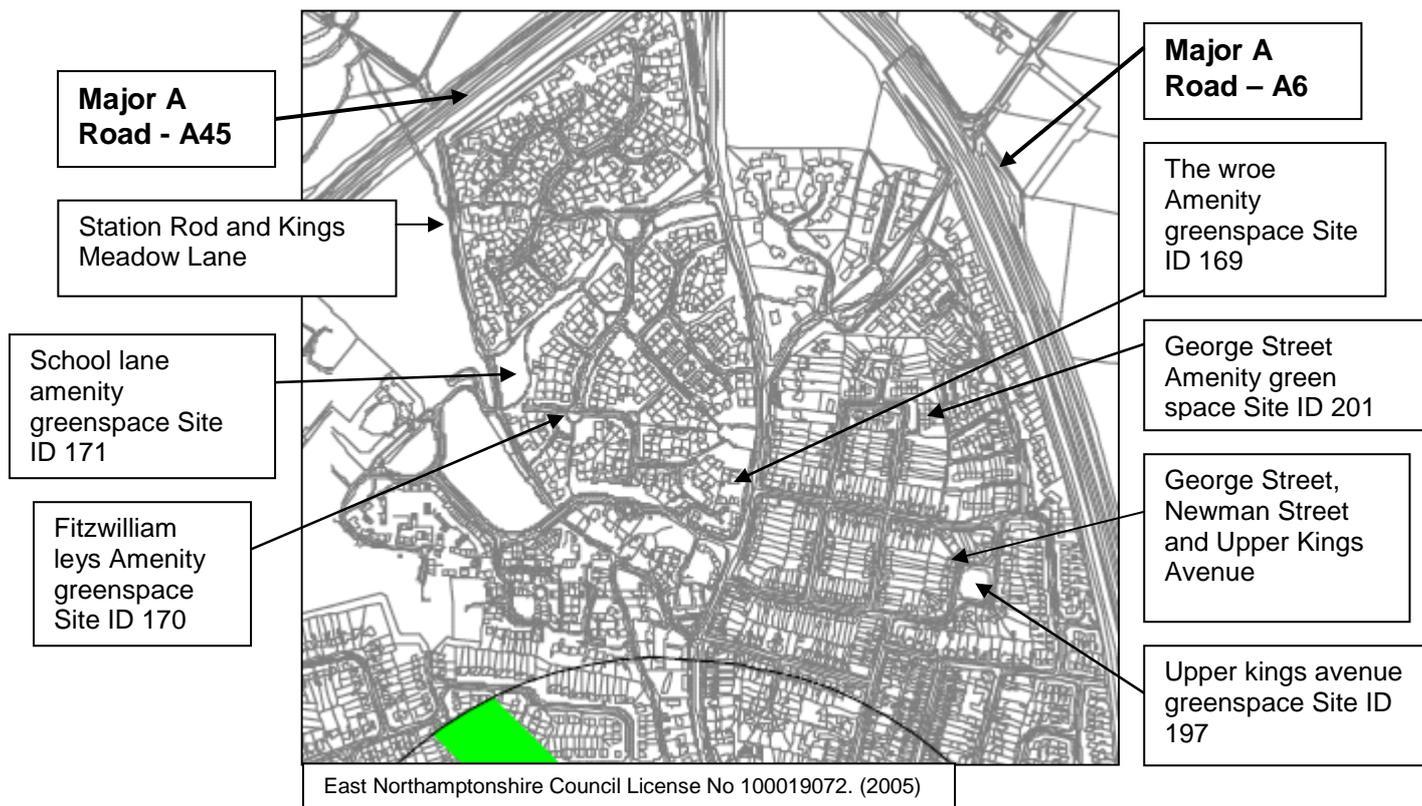
- 8.44 Provision of play facilities within the rural area is well distributed on the whole, with sites in many of the rural villages. The main area of deficiency is the North West of the authority where there are number of neighbouring villages with no facilities including Bulwick, Deene, Deenethorpe and Blatherwycke. Lutton, towards the eastern edge of the district also falls outside the recommended catchment. The funding secured for the development of outdoor adventure schemes in the rural area provides the opportunity to provide in these areas whilst simultaneously enhancing the quality of facilities provided. Prior to any development, consideration should be given to the population profile of each village and the associated demand for facilities.
- 8.45 Provision of facilities for children and young people falls below the suggested minimum standard in all three urban analysis areas.
- 8.46 Despite the quantitative shortfalls, as can be seen on map 8.1 all residents in Thrapston are within the recommended drivetime, indicating that there are no areas of priority deficiency.
- 8.47 In contrast, there are several areas within the south urban area where residents fall outside the catchment area. This is reflected by the application of the minimum quantitative standards, where the south urban area is characterised by the largest shortfalls within East Northamptonshire, a situation which was also reflected in consultation.
- 8.48 Maps 8.2 – 8.6 overleaf highlight these priority areas:

Map 8.2 – Area of deficiency in the South Urban analysis area for children and young people



- 8.49 As can be seen in map 8.2, many residents in South and West Rushden fall outside of the recommended catchment in terms of provision for children and young people. Rushden Hall Park (Site ID 203) is centrally located within this area, offering informal and formal recreation opportunities. There is potential to locate a new facility in this site, to increase provision and meet the needs of the local community. An approximate catchment of a new facility has been overlayed onto map 8.2, illustrating how new provision at this site would meet identified demand

Map 8.3 – Deficiencies in the north of Rushden



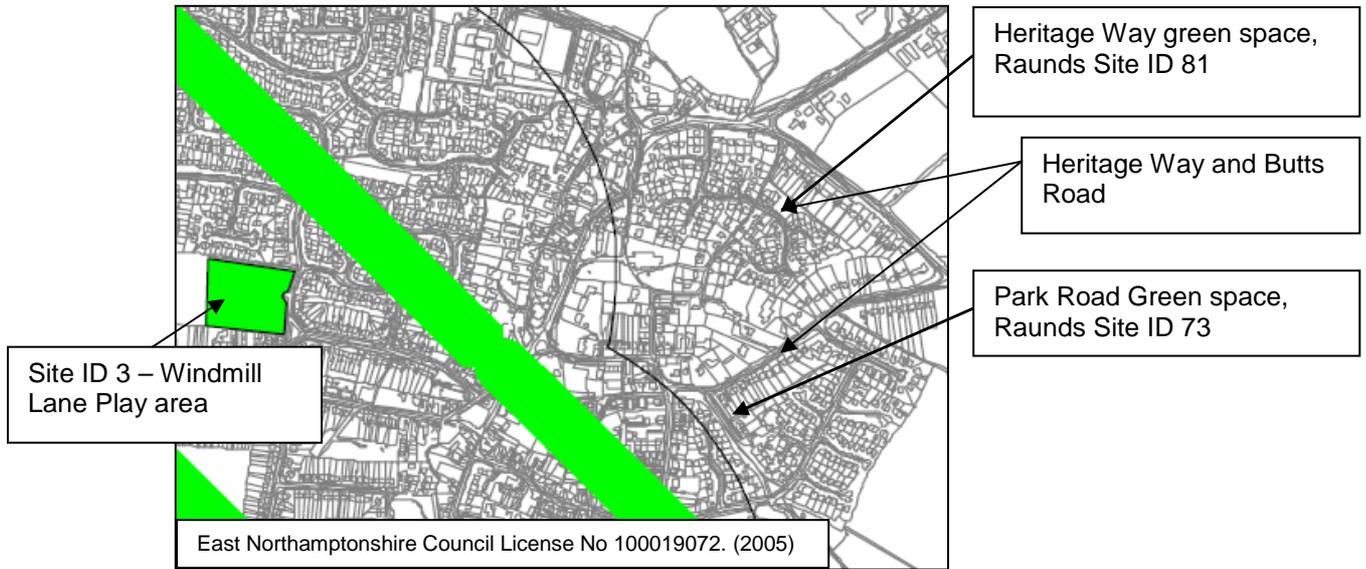
8.50 There is a relatively dense housing area between the A45 and A6 in northern Rushden where residents are not able to access provision for children and young people. There are several amenity greenspace sites (labelled on map 8.3 above) in the vicinity which could be used to develop facilities to meet the demands in this area that could potentially be developed to include the provision of facilities for children and/or young people. In particular, Site ID 169 The Wroe Amenity Greenspace is ideally located.

8.51 Although there are also areas of west Rushden outside the catchment area, this area should not be considered a priority as it is primarily focused around an industrial estate.

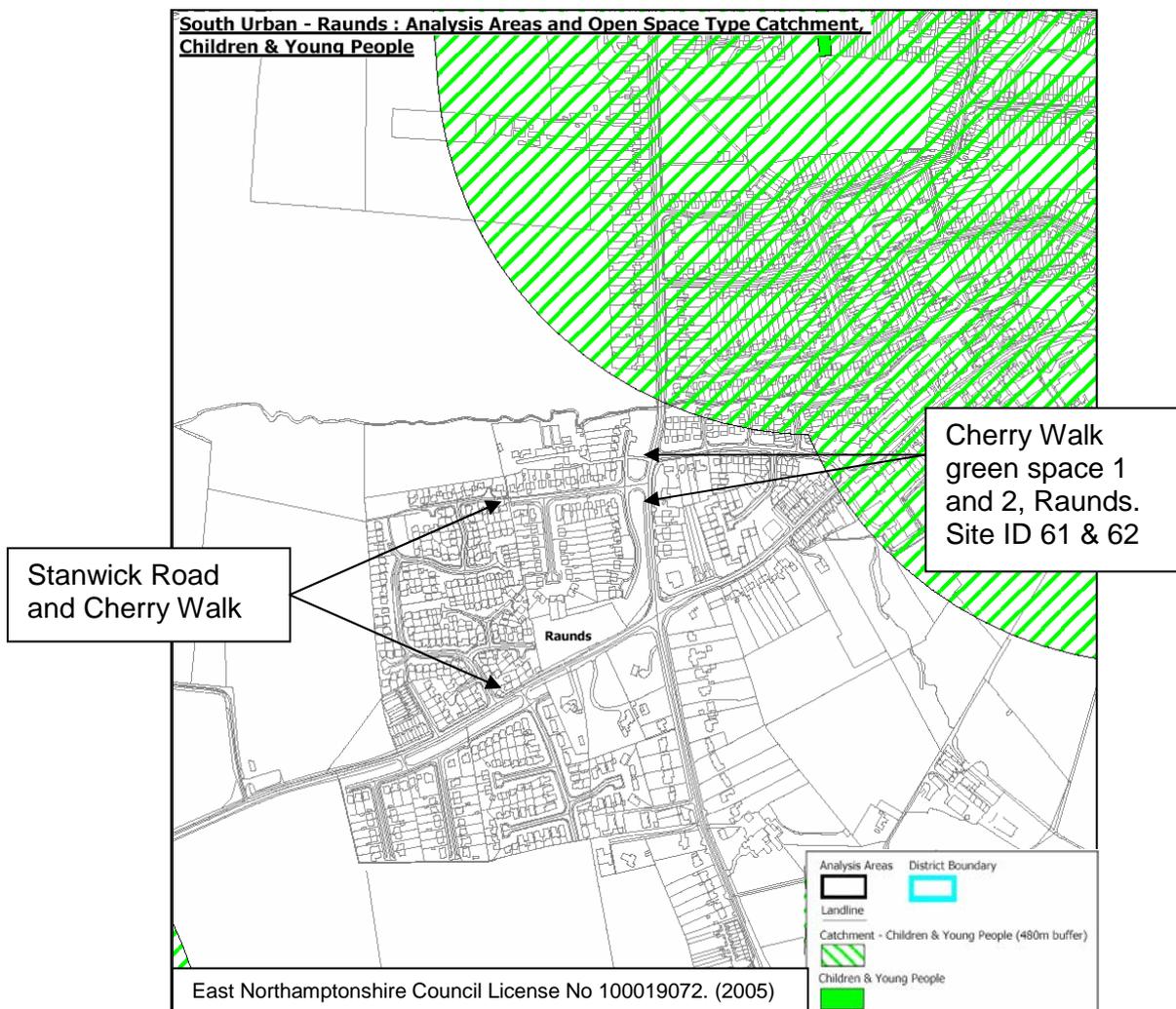
8.52 There is also a small area within Raunds falling outside the catchment. This includes Heritage Way and Butts Road, an area close to Raunds Memorial Garden and St Peters Church. Site ID 3, Windmill Hill Lane Play Area is located just outside the recommended 10 minute catchment area. This site is a large strategic site containing a hard surface play area, basket ball hoops, security cameras, bins, seats and parking. The site also includes public art and play structures, appealing to a wide variety of people. Although this site falls outside the recommended local standard, it is a larger site that could potentially serve a larger catchment.

8.53 Despite the presence of this site, opportunities for small localised provision should also be considered. It could be said that sites 81 and 73, both amenity green spaces currently provide informal recreation for children in this area. One of these sites could be formalised to contain a more specific facility as shown on the map overleaf:

Map 8.4 – Deficient area for children and young people in the north east of Raunds



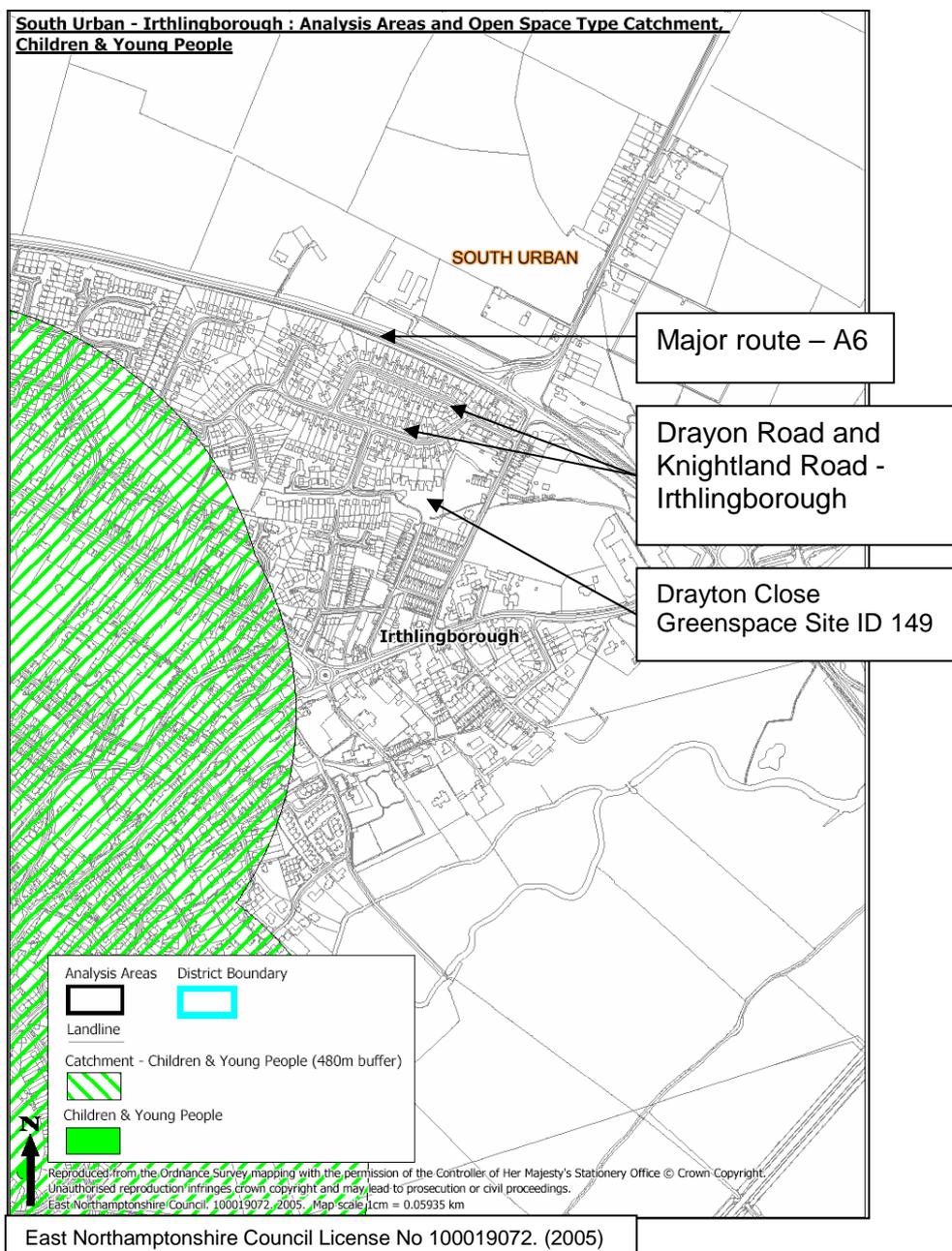
Map 8.5 – Deficient area for children and young people in the south west of Raunds



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- 8.55 Map 8.5 highlights the South Western area of Raunds, extending close to Stanwick. Again there are two small amenity green space sites which currently serve similar catchments which could be considered appropriate for development of play facilities.
- 8.56 The north eastern side of Irthlingborough, near to the A6 also requires additional consideration as highlighted overleaf in map 8.6. The closest site to the residents living in Drayton Road and Knightlands Road area is the skate park on the old bowls green and the facility at Irthlingborough Recreation Ground (Site ID 95), both of which are outside the recommended catchment area. A small facility on Drayton Close Amenity Greenspace (Site ID 149) may cater for the children and young people living in this deficient area. The skate park on the Old Bowls Green is currently considered to have poor quality and may therefore be a priority for enhancement given the lack of provision in this area.

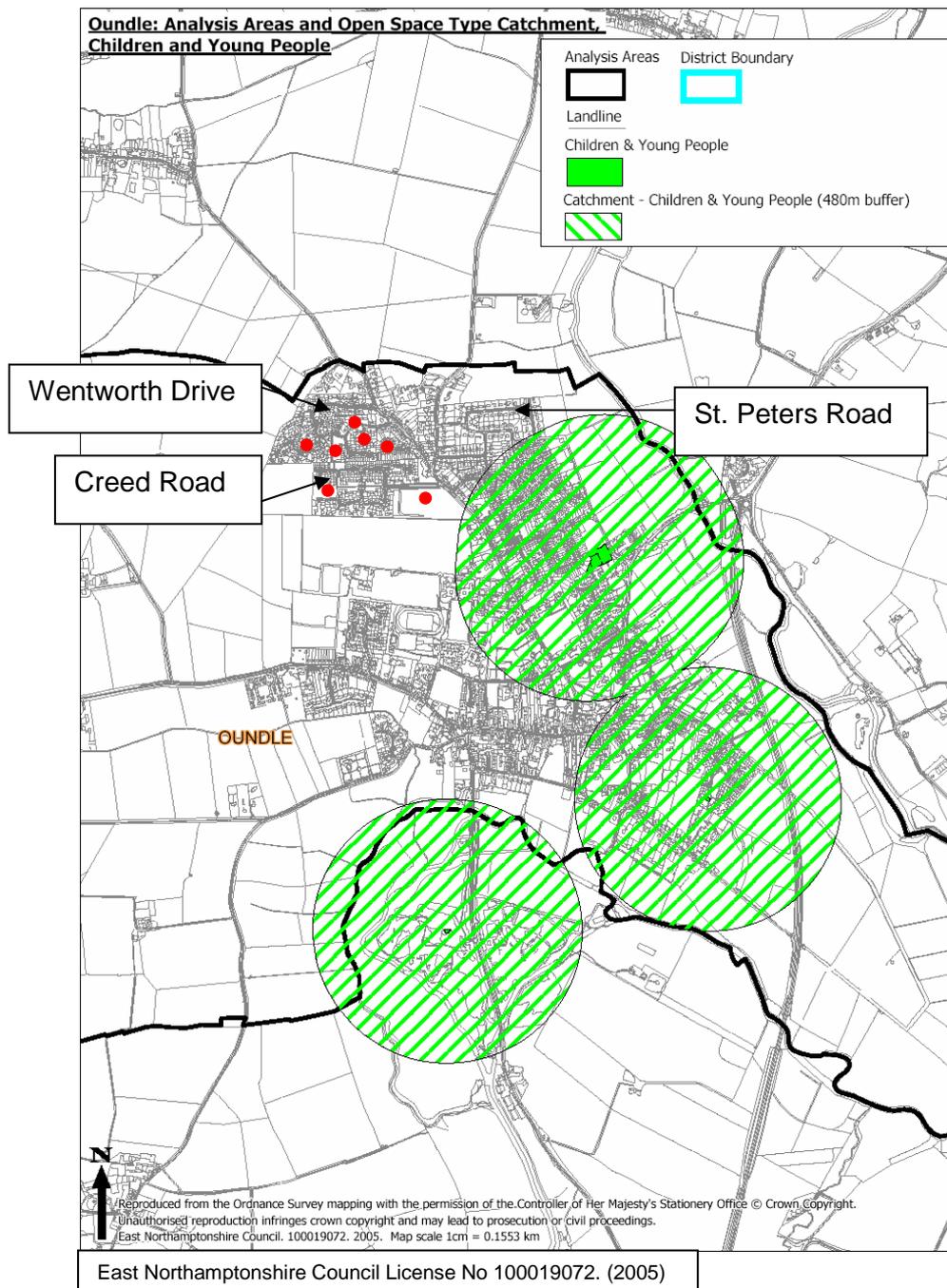
Map 8.6 - Deficient area for children and young people in the north east of Irthlingborough



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- 8.57 Prior to the development of any new facilities, consideration must be given to the long term maintenance costs and the level of localised demand.
- 8.58 The majority of residents living in Oundle are well served in terms of provision for children and young people. Map 8.7 highlights a small area currently outside of the recommended catchment. This area is characterised by a cluster of several amenity greenspace sites (marked with a coloured spot) which may offer the opportunity to provide a facility for children and young people. As provision of amenity green space in Oundle currently exceeds the minimum standard for amenity greenspace, these sites provide a good opportunity for redesignation.

Map 8.7 - Deficient area for children and young people in the north of Oundle



Quality benchmarking

- 8.59 The application of the quality benchmarking standard (set at a score of 80% on the site assessment for provision of young people and children) provides an indication of the desired level of quality at each sites and enables the comparison of sites across the authority. As described in N, it highlights sites which currently meet the visionary standard, and those sites falling significantly below and consequently where improvement is required. A full list of site scores can be found in Appendix N. The highest and lowest scoring sites are highlighted in figure 8.2 overleaf.

Figure 8.2 illustrates sites above and below the benchmark quality indicator.

V good	90% to 100%		
Good	70% to 90%		Clover Drive Play Area, Thrapston(Site ID 965) – 80% Yelden Close Play Area, North of Rushden (Site ID 274) – 80% Donne Close Play Area, North of Rushden (Site ID 1997) – 80% Elliot Way Play Area, Higham Ferrers (Site ID 904) – 80% Play Area off John Street, Thrapston (Site ID 966) – 80% Peace Memorial Park Play Area, Thrapston (Site ID 822) – 78%
Average	50% to 70%	↑	
Poor	30% to 50%		Meadow Street Road Play Area, south of Rushden (Site ID 2033) 48% Old Bowls Green Skate Park, Irthlingborough (Site ID 2019) 40% South Informal Basketball Court, North of Rushden (Site ID 2026) – 40%
V poor	Below 30%		Sylmond Gardens Play Area in west Rushden (Site ID 322) – 28%



80%

Value assessment – identifying specific sites

- 8.60 Assessing quality and value is fundamental to effective planning of future provision for children and young people. It is important to consider both the quality and accessibility of sites, in addition to accounting for the level of use at each site. At the present time there is no information regarding the usage of play areas.
- 8.61 Of the 59 dedicated sites for young people and children, there are five sites that are rated highly on both quality and accessibility, including:

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- Donne Close Play Area in the West of Rushden(Site ID 1997)
 - Play Area off John Street in Thrapston (Site ID 966)
 - Peace Memorial Park Play Area in Thrapston (Site ID 822)
 - Duke of Wellington Play Area, Stanwick (Site ID 930)
 - Barnwell Country Park Play Area (Site ID 1981)
- 8.62 Three of these sites currently exceed the quality benchmark criteria. As good quality and accessible sites, these play areas provide important community resources. Consultation also indicates that usage of several of these play areas is high, further enhancing their value.
- 8.63 Even if quality and accessibility is not high, sites that are well used are of paramount importance to the local community. Further investigations should be undertaken to consider the level of use at sites, and well used sites should be prioritised for appropriate improvements, ensuring that their value is retained. Although the skate park in Oundle was not one of the highest scoring sites in terms of quality, consultation reinforces the value of this key resource.
- 8.64 Sites that have received low quality and accessibility assessment ratings include:
- Sylmond Gardens play area in Rushden (Site ID 322) – *the quality of the site needs urgent attention, scoring 28% on quality and 52% on accessibility*
 - Skate Park on Old Bowls green in Irthlingborough (Site ID 2019) – *the quality of this site needs some improvement scoring 40% and 52% on accessibility*
 - The Hedges Play Area in Rushden (Site ID 243) – *the accessibility of this site was poor, specifically on information and signage. General quality improvements could be made to enhance the site*
- 8.65 One Sites with high quality but low accessibility assessment ratings is:
- Higham Ferrers Play Area (Site ID 901) – *the quality of this site has been rated very good, 76%, however the accessibility rating has been scored low with only 43.3%*
- 8.66 Usage on these sites should be considered as a priority in order to ascertain the value of these sites. Quality and accessibility are frequently interlinked with the level of usage (most sites with a low level of use would have an average or poor quality and access rating). Raising the quality of these sites may therefore enhance the usage and consequently the value of the site.

Summary

- 8.67 Lack of provision for children and young people was a key theme throughout consultation, not only in terms of a lack of facilities, but also regarding the impact that this has on the vandalism and subsequent quality of neighbouring facilities. There is perceived to be a particular deficiency in terms of provision for young people and teenagers.
- 8.68 Although the geographical dispersion of facilities for children and young people is good, the locational deficiencies expressed through consultation were evident when

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applying the accessibility standard (10 minute walk) and quantitative standards (0.1 for the urban area and 0.14 in the rural area). Specifically, there are a few locations outside the South Urban analysis area are currently outside the catchment in terms of provision for children and young people.

- 8.69 Despite some negative comments regarding the quality of play facilities, there are six play areas which currently exceed the aspirational quality benchmark. In contrast, there are also three play areas considered to be poor and one falls into the very poor category.
- 8.70 It is important to ensure that any decisions regarding the need for new play provision are undertaken in the context of local demand and ongoing maintenance requirements. Consultation emphasised the importance and benefits of local community involvement. This was also reinforced in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, which highlights the need to involve young people in local communities to prevent them from becoming involved in criminal activities.

Recommendations

CYP1	Produce an action plan for the protection, development and improvement of play areas within East Northamptonshire. This plan should incorporate provision owned by all providers, involve all providers and should identify indicative timeframes and priorities. This may be developed in the form of a play strategy. This work should link in with work underway as part of the Market Towns Health Check Initiative.
CYP 2	Capitalise on the funding received for adventure playgrounds in the rural area. The funding should be distributed to ensure maximum benefit, with a specific focus in the North West of the district. Support should also be given to Parish Councils / community groups wishing to develop facilities in the rural area, such as localised Multi Use Games areas or ball courts.
CYP 3	Consider the appropriateness of new provision. In areas where there are facilities for children, consider providing facilities for young people too in order to reduce vandalism and ensure that there is sufficient to occupy all young children. Much of the identified deficiency focused on provision for young people as opposed to children.
CYP 4	A full assessment of the level of usage of play areas should be undertaken in order to ascertain the sites which are not highly valued by the community. Following this, consideration should be given to strategic improvements to ensure all sites are used to their maximum potential and ensure that protection is afforded to those play areas identified as highly valued resources
CYP 5	Given the strong community feelings regarding provision for children and young people, consideration should be given to developing community ownership and management of play areas. The establishment of a youth forum may also be considered appropriate. This is reflective of ideas outlined in consultation.
CYP 6	Consideration should be given to the protection of play facilities within the LDF. Recommendations set out within the Planning Implementation section should also be incorporated, particularly with regards new provision.

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CYP 7	Strive to achieve the quality benchmarks at all sites (80%) and adhere to good practice guidance for the provision of play areas including NPFA and ROSPA, and target the achievement of the quality benchmark for all sites.
CYP 8	<p>Protect sites identified as high value (high quality and accessibility) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donne Close Play Area (Rushden West Site ID 1997) • Play Area off John Street in Thrapston (Site ID 966) • Peace Memorial Park Play Area, Thrapston (Site ID 822) • Barnwell Country Park Play Area (Site ID 1981)
CYP 9	<p>Enhance the quality and accessibility of sites receiving low ratings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sylmond Gardens Play Area in Rushden (Site ID 322) • Old Bowls Green Skate Park, Irthlingborough (Site ID 2019) – this is of particular importance given the deficiency in this area • The Hedges Play Area, North of Rushden (Site ID 243) • Higham Ferrers Play Area (Site ID 901)
CYP 10	<p>Address the priority deficiencies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South and West Rushden (Queen Street / Griffith Street, Manor Road, Park Avenue) – this shortfall could be reduced by providing a facility for young people and children in Rushden Hall Park • North Rushden (George Street, Newman Street and Upper Kings Avenue, Station Road, Kings Meadow Lane – development of The Wroe Amenity Greenspace (Site 169) • Raunds – Heritage Way and Butts Road – although Windmill Road Play Area is a large site with a potentially wider catchment area, site ID 81 or 73 could be considered as opportunities to provide small areas of formal provision • Raunds South West / Stanwick – Development of a small formal facility on Site ID 61 or 62 may help to address this shortfall • Irthlingborough – A small facility on Drayton Close AGS (Site ID 149) would address the shortfall in this area • North Oundle – St Peters Road, Wentworth Drive and Creed Road. There are a number of sites highlighted on Map 8.6 that could fulfil this requirement