GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE BACKGROUND PAPER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and Policy Background</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Base</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Infrastructure Policy</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Policy Options</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Delivery Mechanisms</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX 1 Open Space Provision</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX 2 Current Open Space Standards</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE BACKGROUND PAPER

Introduction

1. The purpose of this background paper is to show how the policy background and evidence base studies have shaped the Green Infrastructure Policy.

Legal and Policy Background


2. The Government considers that a healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It wants this to be the first generation to leave the natural environment of England in a better state than it inherited. To achieve so much means taking action across sectors rather than treating environmental concerns in isolation. The Government will mainstream the value of nature across our society by:
   • facilitating greater local action to protect and improve nature;
   • creating a green economy, in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and whereby markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature;
   • strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both; and
   • showing leadership in the European Union and internationally, to protect and enhance natural assets globally.

3. One element relevant to this paper is the identification of urban green infrastructure in helping to complete the links in the national ecological network. Urban green space allows species to move around within, and between, towns and the countryside. It also has a number of other functions:
   • Cooling urban areas and reducing flood risk, along with helping communities to adapt to a changing climate.
   • Playing a key role in regeneration projects and supporting local economic growth.
   • Greening neighbourhoods and improving access to nature to improve public health and quality of life and reduce environmental inequalities.
   • Providing varied ecosystem services and contributing to coherent and resilient ecological networks.

4. The National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) highlights reductions in both the quality and the quantity of urban green space over the past half century and identifies the underperformance of urban ecosystems. The benefits of green infrastructure are unevenly distributed throughout society, and one in six urban local authorities says its green spaces are declining. The Government wants urban green spaces to be recognised as an essential asset and factored into the development of all our communities. They should be managed to provide diverse functions for the benefit of people and wildlife.

5. The White Paper defines green infrastructure:
**Green infrastructure** is a term used to refer to the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both urban and rural areas. It is often used in an urban context to cover benefits provided by trees, parks, gardens, road verges, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers and wetlands.

Green infrastructure is also relevant in a rural context, where it might refer to the use of farmland, woodland, wetlands or other natural features to provide services such as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification. Green infrastructure maintains critical ecological links between town and country.

Around the country local partnerships are seeking to use green infrastructure to drive economic growth and regeneration and improve public health, wellbeing and quality of life. It can also support biodiversity and the functioning of natural systems such as rivers and flood plains and help reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

**National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012)**

6. The National Planning Policy Framework points to a strategic approach to plan positively to create, protect, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.

**Emerging Borough Plan**

7. The following issues are relevant to the Green Infrastructure Policy:

- The distribution of open space and recreation grounds is uneven with most concentrated in the north around Barpool and neighbouring areas.
- The areas around Bulkington and the south west of the Borough are not well served by green corridors. This reduces biodiversity and opportunities for leisure activities in these areas.
- Life expectancy is the lowest in Warwickshire and lower than the national average. There are notable variations across the Borough with those living in the most deprived areas having the lowest life expectancy. Links can be made to poor health, lack of physical activity and obesity, all of which are high in the Borough.
- Few travel by public transport, cycle or walk. Improvements to provide more walking and cycling networks, cycle parking facilities, pedestrian priority areas and crossing facilities along with the need to address issues such as the frequency, reliability, integration and cost of public transport is required to facilitate benefits to the environment and health.
- There are only three LNR in the Borough. Accessibility to woodland is also lower than elsewhere in Warwickshire.
- The legacy of coal mining, quarrying and heavy engineering has had a negative impact on the landscape. The Borough has over 100 hectares of derelict land and more than 3000 potentially contaminated sites.

8. The following Spatial Objectives are relevant:

**Objective 5** - To ensure that all new development and investment contributes to a significant improvement in infrastructure and facilities that serve the Borough. In particular:
a) A step change in public transport provision along a north south corridor to link Nuneaton and Bedworth to Atherstone and Hinckley in the north and Coventry, Warwick and Leamington in the south.

b) Improved access to existing facilities, particularly the Borough’s two Town Centres and major leisure and community facilities (e.g. Bermuda, George Eliot Hospital, the Colleges and the Pingles and Bedworth Leisure Centres).

c) Retention and improvement of local shopping, health and other community facilities.

d) New development that integrates the required infrastructure and service provision to support it and where appropriate includes improvements to existing infrastructure and services. This includes:
  * A Northern Relief Road
  * An Eastern Relief Road
  * Connectivity improvements
  * Education provision
  * Leisure improvements
  * Sustainability measures

e) A Green Infrastructure network of high quality, well connected, multi-functional open spaces, corridors and links that deliver benefits to the landscape, wildlife and the public in line with the priority projects identified from the Borough’s five green infrastructure zones.

**Objective 6** - To ensure that new development enhances and improves the quality and appearance of the existing urban area. In particular:

a) Important open spaces such as Riversley Park, Miners Welfare Park, Whittleford Park and community and local parks are protected and enhanced. Landscape character, historic, geological and natural features such as Arbury Historic Park and Garden, Stockingford Railway Cutting and Ensor’s Pool are protected and enhanced.

b) Derelict, contaminated and untidy sites are brought back into beneficial use.

c) Minimise the negative impact of development and make improvements where possible to air quality in Air Quality Management Areas.

d) Maximise opportunities to use the River Anker, Wem Brook, the Coventry Canal and Ashby Canal as attractive focal points for open space and new development where there is no negative impact on the green network or the water quality.

e) Infill development positively responds to local character and does not result in town cramming.

f) High quality and sustainable design and construction in line with design standards.

**Objective 7** - To address climate change and encourage sustainability in all new development. In particular:

a) Avoid where possible sites that are at risk of flooding now or in the future.
b) Utilising appropriate sustainable urban drainage systems for flood or surface water attenuation and using water sustainably.

c) **Protect and enhance the Borough’s ecological network, in particular priority habitats and species and minimising impacts on biodiversity.**

d) Maximise energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, particularly those with greatest potential in the Borough. For example, combined heat and power district energy, biomass energy, ground source heat pumps, solar photovoltaics and solar thermal, along with any future renewable or low carbon technology that may become more suitable for the Borough during the plan period.

e) **Ensure development makes links to cycling and walking networks to encourage green travel.**

**Objective 8** - To create healthy and strong communities by:

a) Creating and improving networks that increase opportunities to walk and cycle to a range of facilities.

b) Enabling access to a range of high quality open spaces.

c) Enabling participation in active sport by building on the strengths of Pingles Leisure centre and other local facilities.

d) Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour through good design, raising aspirations and providing opportunities for the young.

e) Creating well planned and integrated communities that foster cohesion and accessibility for all.

9. The issues and options consultation did not specifically mention green infrastructure but it did mention issues which fall under the umbrella of green infrastructure. For example, nature reserves, parks and recreation grounds and the green corridor network.

**Evidence Base**

**Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Study (Land Use Consultants, 2011)**

10. The purpose of the study was to gather and analyse existing information to provide a shared evidence base for supporting a consistent approach to Green Infrastructure (GI) planning across the sub-region (Coventry, North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Solihull, Stratford on Avon and Warwick).

11. A key aspect of the study was to define and agree what would be considered to be a GI asset of sub-regional importance. The Planning Officer Group (POG) agreed that GI assets would be considered if they fell within the sub-region itself or within a 10km buffer outside of the sub-region. A set of criteria was established to systematically define and identify those GI assets in the study area that could be considered to be of sub-regional importance i.e. assets that have importance to people beyond their own local authority boundaries. These criteria are:

1) Sites over 100ha (County and Sub-Regional level sites as defined by ANGSt);

2) Canals, main rivers (not tributaries), large water bodies;
3) Long distance walking and cycling routes of national, regional or county level importance.
4) Clusters of sites that are within 500m of each other that collectively are over 100ha.
5) Sites that are under 100ha that may still be considered a sub-regional asset as nominated by each authorities POG representative.

12. The Study indicates that there are two sub-regional GI sites located within Nuneaton and Bedworth District; the Arbury Estate and Arbury Hall. Arbury Hall is a Registered Park and Garden. The Hall and the Estate both have limited access to the public (Arbury Hall is only open Sunday and Monday on each of the summer bank holidays and has a pay per entry policy). Despite, the Arbury Estate and Arbury Hall being located close to Nuneaton, the study considers, due to its limited accessibility, that Nuneaton and Bedworth is deficient in accessible sub-regional GI sites.

13. Nuneaton and Bedworth is deficient in accessible sub-regional GI sites. The Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies four GI priorities for the sub-region. The National Forest to Cotswolds link is most relevant for the Borough. It is a proposed north / south walking and cycling route to link the main cities and towns in the sub-region (Nuneaton, Bedworth, Coventry, Leamington Spa, Warwick and Stratford Upon Avon) with two significant areas of countryside, whilst also providing a useful commuter link between the settlements. Whilst further work is required, the cost of the project is estimated at £3 to £3.5 million.

14. Further work is being undertaken at the sub-regional level. A Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy was published for consultation in February 2013. This will be taken into account when developing the Green Infrastructure Policy for the Submission Draft.

Green Infrastructure Plan (Land Use Consultants, 2009)

15. The Green Infrastructure Plan establishes the policy context and the baseline for the Borough’s environment and socio economic character. It looks at green infrastructure standards and how Nuneaton and Bedworth measures against these standards. It also makes recommendations for a green infrastructure framework and key projects to deliver this.

16. The key messages for the green infrastructure plan are:
   • Landscape and biodiversity – Place and landscape as the integrator – the starting point for planning for multi-functionality
   • Climate Change Adaptation – Providing greater resilience for the environment in the face of climate change, and providing opportunities for responsible travel choices
   • Community and socio economic – Providing accessible recreational and educational green space resources for every age and social age group; restating communities’ historic links to their landscapes

17. Landscape zones are as suggested as a framework for Green Infrastructure. The zones respond to distinctive aspects of the landscape and environmental character of the Borough. The following zones are identified:
• **Forest of Arden landscape enhancement zone** for conservation, wider accessibility and greater resilience for this diverse historic landscape

• **Post industrial discovery zone** for understanding, accessing and enjoying the Borough’s post industrial geological heritage

• **Urban waterways and wetland zone** for restating the town’s relationship with its landscape and its strategic corridors (rivers and canals) and for creating connections for people and wildlife

• **Urban greening zone** for creating spaces for people and wildlife in town centres and creating microclimates with urban cooling to adapt to climate change (what about the wider urban environment?)

• **Strategic and local greenways and corridors** for a linked network, accessible by all users, of radial routes between key greenspaces connecting townscape and landscape

18. A range of projects were also identified in the Green Infrastructure Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Project Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a</td>
<td>Woodland Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b</td>
<td>Arbury Gateway Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2c</td>
<td>Canal towpath enhancements (Nuneaton South)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d</td>
<td>Midland Quarry Waterbody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Wetland management at Camp Hill (Whittleford Park/Barpool Valley)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b</td>
<td>Floodplain Parklands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3e</td>
<td>Anker Valley East – Floodplain Parklands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3f</td>
<td>Kereseley Wetland Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3g</td>
<td>Bulkington Community Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a</td>
<td>Street tree planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4b</td>
<td>Restoration of landscape structure to Nuneaton North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5a</td>
<td>Improved urban greenway link for Bedworth town centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5c</td>
<td>New green track on old Mineral Railway Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5e</td>
<td>New green track on disused railway line north of Nuneaton town centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Open Space Assessment** (Jones Plus Ltd, January 2007)

19. The report provides a quantitative and qualitative open space audit of sites of 0.2ha and above of various open space typologies, in line with Assessing Needs and Opportunities – A Companion Guide to PPG17. The Assessment:

• Identifies Local Needs through the use of questionnaires to households and nurseries, schools and colleges.

• Undertakes an Audit of Local Provision in terms of the quantity and quality of existing open space.

• Identifies Accessibility through maximum walking distance and driving distance thresholds for different types of open space

• Develops Local Provision Standards for quantity, quality and accessibility for different types of open space.
20. Appendix 1 gives details of accessible provision by typology as assessed by the Open Space Assessment.

**Quantity, Quality and Accessibility of Open Space**

21. A number of the Borough’s larger urban parks have been accorded significant local importance. Some of these have notable cultural/philanthropic associations, having been gifted to local communities, such as Miners Welfare Park within Bedworth, and Riversley Park, Nuneaton.

**Accessible Natural Green Space Standard**

22. The Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Study tells us that the sub-regional scale green spaces at Arbury Hall and Estate have limited public access. The Green Infrastructure Plan and the Open Spaces Strategy indicate that the nearest large scale green space is at Hartshill Hayes Country Park (55 hectares within 1km of Borough boundary, Coombe Abbey Country Park (154 hectares within 10km) and Kingsbury Water Park (260 hectares within 9km). The Borough, therefore, has a deficiency in sub-regional green space.

23. The largest open space within the Borough is Whittleford Park and Barpool Valley at Camp Hill (43 hectares). It comprises a swathe of semi natural green space, walking and cycling routes and an interpretive trail associated with the site’s industrial heritage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale of Provision</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Distance threshold</th>
<th>Deficiency</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub regional</td>
<td>Sites or habitats over 500ha</td>
<td>Within 10km</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Boroughwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Sites or habitats over 100ha</td>
<td>Within 5km</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Boroughwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Sites or habitats over 20ha</td>
<td>Within 2km</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bulkington, Keresley, Ash Green and Neals Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood sites</td>
<td>Sites or habitats over 2ha</td>
<td>Within 300m</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Specific locations in Bulkington, Bedworth, Keresley, Ash Green, Neals Green, Stockingford, Weddington, St Nicolas and Whitestone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24. The Open Space Assessment also shows that the quantitative standard is not being met as a large proportion of the Borough’s natural and semi-natural greenspace is not accessible to the general public. Therefore, when considering policy implications emphasis should be placed on protecting existing provision whilst seeking to increase
access within privately owned and/or inaccessible sites, such as the Arbury Estate and Newdigate Colliery. By allowing access, this would increase the amount of accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace provision.

**Quantity of Open Space**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Provision</th>
<th>Deficiency</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Gardens</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Arbury, Galley Common, Weddington and Whitestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bede, Heath and St Nicolas, Attleborough, Bar Pool, Bulkington, Kingswood and Whitestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Corridors</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bulkington, Keresley, Ash Green and Neals Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Sports</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Specific locations in Bulkington, Bedworth, Keresley, Ash Green, Neals Green, Stockingford, Weddington, St Nicolas and Whitestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity Green Space</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Abbey, Attleborough, Bede Exhall and Poplar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and Young People</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>All wards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allotments</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bedworth, Bulkington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries, Disused Churchyards and Other Burial Grounds</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quality of Open Space**

25. The quality of open space varies across the Borough. There are specific issues concerning:
   • The variability of play provision in parks and gardens;
   • A lack of basic amenities on natural and semi-natural green space;
   • A lack of street furniture and signage for green corridors;
   • Council maintained outdoor sports pitches are overused and lack basic facilities.

26. Existing parks and gardens should be protected, and importantly, the sites identified within this assessment should form the basis of the proposed parks and open spaces strategy. In addition, despite local opinion stating that there is adequate provision of parks and gardens, the audit identified that there are spatial inequalities in the Borough-wide distribution, resulting in some deficiencies of provision.

**Open Spaces Strategy** *(NBBC, 2011)*

27. Following on from the Open Space Assessment, the Borough Council has put together an Open Spaces Strategy. This includes a strategic assessment of open space sites within the Borough to identify:
   • The spatial distribution of open spaces
The quality, quantity and accessibility of sites
The surplus and deficits in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility of sites
The open spaces to be given priority for improvement and investment to meet standards
The locations where new open space is required to accompany new housing development. Need to ensure that open space is provided as part of housing development in the right places, of the right quantity and standards.

Hierarchy of Sites

28. The Strategy identifies a typology and hierarchy of sites to create a publically accessible Green Network. Criteria are set for each type of open space in terms of the scale of open space and the facilities that will be provided by each type of open space in the hierarchy. The following are included in the hierarchy:
- Regional Parks
- Destination parks
- Community Parks
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Incidental Open Space
- Cemeteries
- Allotments

29. It also looks at the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces. Standards are also set for quantity, quality and accessibility. The key findings are:

Quantity

30. There is more than 500 hectares of accessible green space in the Borough. The quantity of accessible green space is summarised:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accessible Green Space by Open Space Typology – Managed by NBBC</th>
<th>Provision (hectares)</th>
<th>Quantity per 1000 population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Parks</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community/Neighbourhood Parks</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>1.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Parks</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidental</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allotments</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>4.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31. Using the six acre standard (2.4 hectares per 1000 population), there is an overall deficit given that there is only 2.06 hectares per 1000 population. This includes open space managed by the Council. However, using the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGST), which includes space managed and maintained by others, there is sufficient
accessible green space at 2.24 hectares per 1000 population. These levels are comparable to the average levels of provision across the West Midlands.

32. Whilst, the quantity of open space is currently sufficient, there are other factors to take into consideration:
   • Future growth and the increase in population and households proposed by the Borough Plan.
   • The quality and accessibility of open space.

Quality

33. The Council will continue to strive to meet the standards of the Green Flag award scheme. Destination Parks will be managed to seek a ‘Good’ standard on the scale and other parks will be managed to reach a ‘Fair’ standard as a minimum. A total of 69 sites were initially assessed using a methodology derived from the Green Flag standard. No sites currently meet this standard and so there is a need to raise standards for all open spaces across the Borough.

34. The following standards, based on the Green Flag quality scale, are set out in the Open Spaces Strategy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Site</th>
<th>Green Flag Quality Scale</th>
<th>Current Average Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destination Sites</td>
<td>Good ie minimum score of 65%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community/Neighbourhood Sites</td>
<td>Fair - minimum score of 50%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Open Spaces</td>
<td>Fair – minimum score of 45%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accessibility

35. Walking distances thresholds identified by taking account of results of consultation on the Open Spaces Strategy. These are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Site</th>
<th>Catchment Area Radius</th>
<th>Walking Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destination Park</td>
<td>1000 metres</td>
<td>15-20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Park</td>
<td>600 metres</td>
<td>10-12 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Park</td>
<td>400 metres</td>
<td>5-8 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

36. The catchment areas of the different types of parks in the hierarchy were mapped to identify areas of deficiency in terms of accessibility. This shows that the majority of the Borough is within walking distance of a Destination Park. The rest of the population live within a short journey by alternative forms of travel. The Destination parks serve the function of both Local and Community Parks for a large proportion of the Borough.

37. To meet accessibility targets the Open Spaces Strategy indicates that all residents will have access to a Community Park. Deficiencies are identified at:
   • East of Whitestone, including the estate served by Thornhill Drive
• North of St Nicholas Park Drive, including the estate served by Milby Drive
• North end of The Longshoot, which borders Hinckley and the A5
• Ash Green and Wheelwright Lane, bordering Coventry
• West of Dark Lane, including the estate served by Cardigan Road
• East of Bulkington served by Wolvey Road.

38. To ensure all residents have access to a Community park, the current deficiencies will be addressed by:
• Improving and upgrading the following open spaces to create Community Parks at Changebrook Close, Buttermere Recreation Ground, St Giles, Blackberry Lane and Anderton Road;
• Providing new open space in Whitestone, the Longshoot and Bulkington.

Children and Young People

39. The Open Spaces Strategy recognises the need for all children and young people to have access to play provision and teenage facilities to meet their needs in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility. These standards are directly linked to the hierarchy of open space sites.

40. Appendix 2 sets out the open space requirements for on site and offsite provision for new development as currently set out in the Residential Design Guide 2004.

Cemeteries

41. Cemeteries are an important part of the Borough’s green space. They act as functional burial grounds and also as places of sanctuary for the bereaved, for quiet contemplation, areas for wildlife and biodiversity and as a historical archive.

42. The Council has five active sites and is currently looking for additional land to sustain burial space for the next 50-100 years. The following criteria are set for such sites:
• Good quality signage
• Horticultural quality
• Wide range of choice for the bereaved
• Safe
• Community/historical involvement

43. The Open Space Assessment notes that the Council already recognises that it will need to provide additional land for burials within the next 10 years. However, when looking to identify new cemetery sites, the accessibility standard should be considered. At present, there are small pockets within the southeast and southwest of the Borough that fall outside of the 15 minute driving catchment. Therefore, new sites should be located in areas that would address this.

Allotments

44. There are 23 council owned sites. These form an integral part of the strategic network of green space. The Council is working on an Allotment Strategy. This will identify quantity, quality and accessibility standards for providing allotments and the areas where there are deficiencies in allotment provision.
Outdoor Sport Provision

45. The background paper for the health policy covers this subject.

Green Infrastructure Policy

**Policy INF 2 - Green Infrastructure Policy**

This policy will:

Protect and improve the green infrastructure network to enhance landscape and biodiversity to manage the impacts of climate change and to improve the social and economic well-being and performance of the Borough. New development will be expected to contribute to:

- Creating a ‘Green Network’ of publically accessible and linked open spaces by:
  - Protecting the hierarchy of open spaces - Destination Parks, Community Parks and Neighbourhood Parks;
  - Protecting existing publically accessible natural and semi-natural green spaces;
- Improving access to nature where there is currently a deficit by providing:
  - the large scale project of the National Forest to Cotswolds walking and cycle route;
  - provision to meet District and neighbourhood scale deficiencies.
- Adopting quantity, quality and accessibility standards for open spaces and natural and semi-natural green spaces as set out on the Open Spaces Strategy and Green Infrastructure Plan;
- Addressing deficiencies in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility through new provision or improving existing provision;
- Providing space for communities to grow food where deficiencies in provision for allotments exist;
- Providing new or improving existing children’s play and facilities for young people to meet standards set out in the Open Spaces Strategy;
- Providing space for a cemetery to meet standards set out in the Open Spaces Strategy;
- Increasing the connectivity of green corridors for wildlife and walking and cycling routes for people by creating a network of Strategic and Local routes.

**Alternative Policy Options**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Reason for Rejection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate policies, (or a variation) for:</td>
<td>The preferred policy recognises the linkages between the different aspects of green infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Biodiversity / Geodiversity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Green Infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy Delivery Mechanisms

46. The following delivery mechanisms are relevant:
   • Allocation of housing sites and supporting infrastructure requirements / mitigation measures
   • Delivery of Open Places Strategy Action Plan
   • Setting out of Open Space Standards
   • Prepare Allotment Strategy and Play Strategy
   • Developer contributions – Section 106 and CIL through infrastructure policy (for open spaces, walking and cycling etc)
   • Implementing GI projects through non-planning mechanisms, such as grants and land management.
## APPENDIX 1 Open Space Provision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Parks &amp; Gardens (0.6Ha)</th>
<th>Natural and Semi-Natural (2Ha)</th>
<th>Green Corridors (0.357ha/1000)</th>
<th>Outdoor Sports Facilities (1.6Ha)</th>
<th>Amenity Greenspace (0.9 Ha)</th>
<th>Children &amp; Young People (0.6 + 0.3 Ha)</th>
<th>Allotments (0.3 Ha)</th>
<th>Cemeteries--no set standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbey</td>
<td>2.409</td>
<td>0.333</td>
<td>9.333</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>0.818</td>
<td>0.113</td>
<td>5.607</td>
<td>0.775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbury</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14.306</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14.354</td>
<td>2.618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attleborough</td>
<td>0.876</td>
<td>0.116</td>
<td>5.598</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14.104</td>
<td>1.865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar Pool</td>
<td>21.112</td>
<td>2.833</td>
<td>3.457</td>
<td>0.464</td>
<td>2.233</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>8.111</td>
<td>1.089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bede</td>
<td>6.169</td>
<td>0.913</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6.605</td>
<td>0.977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulkington</td>
<td>1.313</td>
<td>0.208</td>
<td>4.154</td>
<td>0.659</td>
<td>4.199</td>
<td>0.666</td>
<td>11.171</td>
<td>1.772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Hill</td>
<td>3.144</td>
<td>0.429</td>
<td>42.169</td>
<td>5.757</td>
<td>0.591</td>
<td>0.081</td>
<td>3.279</td>
<td>0.448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhall</td>
<td>2.984</td>
<td>0.404</td>
<td>9.907</td>
<td>1.342</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20.958</td>
<td>2.839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galley Common</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22.778</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.207</td>
<td>0.817</td>
<td>4.907</td>
<td>0.646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heath</td>
<td>3.142</td>
<td>0.493</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.616</td>
<td>0.724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingswood</td>
<td>3.772</td>
<td>0.548</td>
<td>4.044</td>
<td>0.588</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11.377</td>
<td>1.654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poplar</td>
<td>8.758</td>
<td>1.279</td>
<td>10.893</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>4.538</td>
<td>0.662</td>
<td>25.658</td>
<td>3.746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slough</td>
<td>2.177</td>
<td>0.308</td>
<td>13.416</td>
<td>1.901</td>
<td>1.679</td>
<td>0.238</td>
<td>0.955</td>
<td>0.135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Nicolas</td>
<td>2.245</td>
<td>0.317</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6.769</td>
<td>0.957</td>
<td>14.812</td>
<td>2.094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weddington</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8.475</td>
<td>1.163</td>
<td>9.585</td>
<td>1.316</td>
<td>25.523</td>
<td>3.503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wem Brook</td>
<td>5.16</td>
<td>0.729</td>
<td>13.074</td>
<td>1.846</td>
<td>5.871</td>
<td>0.829</td>
<td>15.616</td>
<td>2.205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitestone</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.386</td>
<td>0.052</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.787</td>
<td>0.509</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Total Provision** | **63.261** | **162** | **42.49** | **191.55** | **110.16** | **4.155** | **36.437** | **16.56** | **Source:** Open Space Assessment 2007**
APPENDIX 2 Current Open Space Standards

APPENDIX A to the RESIDENTIAL DESIGN GUIDE 2004
RECREATION, PLAY AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

**Amount of land required**
In accordance with the advice contained within PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002), the Council has adopted a standard based on the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) minimum requirements of 2.4-2.6 hectares per 1,000 population, which takes account of local circumstances.

The number of new dwellings requiring the full NPFA requirement will be calculated as follows:
\[
\frac{1,000 \text{ (population)}}{2.6 \text{ (average household size of Borough)}} = 385 \text{ dwellings}
\]

For simplicity the Council has rounded the figure up to 400. Where a planning application is in outline a theoretical density of 35 dwellings per hectare will be used.

Developers of less than 200 dwellings will not be expected to make on site provision but instead will be asked to make a financial contribution. The Council recognises that on smaller developments the area provided would be impractical to create a play area. A minimum threshold of 200 houses has been chosen, as this size of development is sufficient to provide an equipped children’s play area. This is in line with the policy of providing fewer but larger and more central facilities. It does not however mean that developments of less than 200 dwellings will not meet the recreational needs of the new occupants, merely that the contribution will be made in another way. The money will be added to that collected from other developments in the area and used either to upgrade existing provision or, when funds are sufficient, to purchase land and lay out a new play area, in the vicinity. Contributions sought will relate to a clearly identified need, which results from new development.

Developers of between 200-400 dwellings will be expected to provide on site an equipped children’s play area with associated informal buffer, and asked to make a financial contribution for the number of dwellings above 200. This will be calculated and used in the same way as for less than 200 dwellings (above).

Developers of more than 400 dwellings will be expected to provide on site the full NFPA standard (facilities for children, youths and adults). A financial contribution will be requested for the number of dwellings over 400. This will be calculated and used in the same way as for less than 200 dwellings (above). Recreation, play and open space facilities should be designed to be fully accessible to all and have regard to the Council’s design guide ‘Designing for Accessibility in Warwickshire’. A development brief will usually be prepared for large sites, setting out the requirement for any additional on site provision. If no such brief exists the matter will be subject to negotiations between the Council and the developer.
Dedication and maintenance of land
Most developers will want to dedicate open areas to the Council, rather than maintain liability once they have moved on. If so, the Council will require payment to cover the estimated cost of maintenance, normally for 20 years. This is usually covered by a Section 106 Agreement.

The Agreement shall where applicable: -

(i) ensure that play areas are fenced and appropriately signposted once development has begun and will give the Council the ability to carry out the work and charge for it in default;

(ii) require that the open space and play areas are provided before an agreed number of dwellings are occupied to ensure that the facilities are available for use without delay. Provision will be on a sliding scale to be agreed with the Council. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Council be prepared to agree to the open space and play area being provided after more than 40% of the dwellings are occupied.

(iii) provide for the conveyance of the open space and play area to the Council as soon as possible following completion of the works. The developer shall be responsible in every way for the whole site until conveyance and for the cost of conveyance.

(iv) detail the financial contribution from the developer towards the cost of maintaining and/ or providing the play area and open space. The Council will estimate the current cost of maintaining the facility for 20 years. The developer will normally make payment prior to the commencement of development or on larger developments at phased intervals to be agreed with the Council; and

(v) require the Council to establish a central fund into which the contributions will be paid. The contributions shall be calculated according to the section headed “Amount of Land Required”. All money shall be paid before the last house is occupied.