

APPENDIX 3

OPEN SPACE QUALITY AND VALUE ASSESSMENTS

Quality

The quality criteria¹ used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised as follows:

- Physical access, e.g. public transport links, directional signposts
- Personal security, e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- Access-social, e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths
- Parking, e.g. availability, specific, disabled parking
- Information signage, e.g. presence of site information, notice boards
- Equipment and facilities, e.g. adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seating, bins, toilets, etc.
- Site problems, e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
- Healthy, safe and secure, e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
- Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g. condition of general landscape & features
- Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g. elderly, young people

With regards to the provision for children and young people a non-technical assessment² of the whole site including general equipment and surface quality/appearance plus an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision.

Value

Value is defined in best practice guidance in relation to the following three issues:

- Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value
- Level and type of use
- The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment

The value criteria set for the assessment was derived as:

- Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility
- Context of site in relation to other open spaces
- Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/area
- Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats

¹ Based on the Green Flag Award Scheme - a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy

² A technical assessment of play equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade was not undertaken as part of this study.

- Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
- Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote physical and mental well-being
- Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high-profile symbols of local area
- Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
- Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far

Children's and young people play provision is scored for value as part of the audit assessment. Value in particular, is recognised in terms of size of sites and the range of equipment it hosts. For instance, a small site with only one or two items is likely to be of a lower value than a site with a variety of equipment catering for wider age ranges.