

## **Undertaking the study**

### **Introduction**

- 2.1 This study has been undertaken in accordance with PPG17 and its Companion Guide. The Companion Guide suggests ways and means of undertaking such a study. It emphasises the importance of undertaking a local needs assessment, as opposed to following national trends and standards. The four guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are:
- (i) local needs will vary even within local authority areas according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics
  - (ii) the provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning but also on creative design, landscape management and maintenance
  - (iii) delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend much more on improving and enhancing existing open space rather than new provision
  - (iv) the value of open space depends primarily on meeting identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife and the environment.
- 2.2 PPG17 recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each local authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. The resulting conclusions and recommendations of this study are therefore representative of the local needs of the District of Salisbury.

### **Types of open space**

- 2.3 The overall definition of open space within the government planning guidance is:
- “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 also act as a visual amenity.”*
- 2.4 PPG17 identifies 10 open space typologies. This study includes the assessment of the following typologies:
- amenity greenspace
  - parks and gardens
  - natural and semi natural open space
  - provision for children (under 10 years of age)
  - provision for young people/teenagers (between 10 and 19 years of age)
  - outdoor sports facilities
  - allotments and community gardens
  - green corridors.

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- 2.5 The study takes into account open spaces provided, owned and managed by the Council and all other organisations, illustrating a more accurate picture of current provision within the District. Full details of these typologies, their definitions and primary purpose are outlined in Appendix B.

### **PPG17 – 5 step process**

- 2.6 The PPG17 Companion Guide sets out a five step process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process was used in undertaking this study to meet the requirements of the Council to plan, monitor and set targets for their existing and future provision of open space within the District. Although presented as a linear process below, in reality, some stages were undertaken in parallel.

- 2.7 The five step process is as follows:

- Step 1 – Identifying local needs
- Step 2 – Auditing local provision
- Step 3 – Setting provision standards
- Step 4 – Applying provision standards
- Step 5 – Drafting policies – recommendations and strategic priorities.

### **Our process**

- 2.8 The following steps indicate how the study has been undertaken in accordance with PPG17.

#### ***Step 1 - Identifying local needs***

- 2.9 In order to identify local needs, a series of consultations were carried out. These included:
- 5,500 household questionnaires disseminated across the District of Salisbury (users and non users of open space) using analysis areas split according to geographical and demographic boundaries
  - sports club surveys to all identified clubs
  - young people's internet survey – sent out to all the schools in the District
  - four 'drop in' neighbourhood sessions were held, encouraging local residents and groups to informally discuss their views on open space, sport and recreation. Sessions were held in Salisbury, Amesbury and Mere
  - press releases, a dedicated email address and text messaging service were set up to allow the general public to provide comments on open space
  - internal one-to-one consultations with Council officers
  - consultation with external agencies.
- 2.10 Specific details on the process adopted for Step 1, along with relevant questionnaires, can be found in Appendix C.

***Step 2 - Auditing local provision***

- 2.11 The Council had already compiled some limited data in GIS form on the open spaces in the District. PMP conducted a thorough audit of open spaces through desk research and site assessments. This included ensuring consistency of categorisation of open space sites into the PPG17 typologies used for this study.
- 2.12 A total of 843 sites were identified through the audit within settlement boundaries. Where accessible, these sites were assessed on quantity, quality, accessibility and value using a standard matrix and definitions, which can be found in Appendix D.
- 2.13 Each open space site was then digitised using GIS software and its associated ratings and characteristics were recorded on an Access database. This database will enable further updates of open spaces and varying forms of analysis to be undertaken. This allows a dynamic reporting and assessment mechanism and enables individual sites or specific geographical locations to be examined in detail where necessary.

***Steps 3 and 4 - Setting and applying provision standards***

- 2.14 From the analysis of the significant amount of data collected and site ratings in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and value of the sites we are able to:
- determine a set of provision standards for each type of open space
  - apply these standards for each type of open space
  - identify gaps in provision across the different types of open space and therefore the areas of priority.
- 2.15 The analysis has therefore been undertaken by type of open space looking at different areas across the local authority boundary (referred to as 'analysis areas' in this report), which were discussed and agreed by the Council.
- 2.16 The use of analysis areas allows examination of data at a more detailed local level, and provides a geographical background to the analysis, especially where some areas are sparsely populated and very rural in nature. Table 2.1, overleaf, provides details on the analysis areas used in this study and the parishes within each analysis area.

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**Table 2.1 Analysis area breakdown**

<b>Analysis Area 1 – Stonehenge</b>	<b>Analysis Area 3 – Nadder Valley</b>	<b>Analysis Area 5 – Four Rivers</b>
Allington	Ansty	Alvediston
Amesbury	Berwick St John	Barford St Martin
Bulford	Berwick St Leonard	Berwick St James
Cholderton	Chicklade	Bishopstone
Durnford	Chilmark	Broadchalke
Durrington	Donhead St Andrew	Bowerchalke
Figeldean	Donhead St Mary	Burcombe
Firsdow	Fonthill Bishop	Compton Chamberlayne
Idmiston	Fonthill Gifford	Dinton
Milston	Fovant	Ebbesbourne Wake
Newton Tony	Hindon	Great Wishford
Orcheston	Swallowcliffe	Netherhampton
Shrewton	Sutton Mandeville	Quidhampton
Tilshead	Tisbury	South Newton
Wilsford	Tollard Royal	Stapleford
The Winterbournes	West Tisbury	Steeple Langford
Woodford		Stratford Tony
		Teffont
		Wilton
		Winterbourne Stoke
		Wylve
<b>Analysis Area 2 – Mere and District</b>	<b>Analysis Area 4 – Southern</b>	<b>Analysis Area 6 – Salisbury City</b>
East Knoyle	Alderbury	City
Kilmington	Britford	
Maiden Bradley and Yarnfield	Clarendon Park	
Mere	Coombe Bissett	
Stourton with Gasper	Downton	
Sedgehill and Semley	Farley and Pitton	
West Knoyle	Grimstead	
Zeals	Landford	
	Laverstock	
	Odstock	
	Redlynch	
	West Dean	
	Whiteparish	
	Winterslow	

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- 2.17 Setting robust local standards based on assessments of need and audits of existing facilities will form the basis for addressing quantitative and qualitative needs through the planning process.
- 2.18 Further detail regarding the process for setting and application of each type of provision standard is outlined in Appendix E.

### ***Step 5 – Drafting policies - recommendations and strategic priorities***

- 2.19 Application of the standards provide strategic priorities and recommendations which are set out for each typology within the report.
- 2.20 The report also provides guidance for the application of Section 106 agreements and using best practice formula and costings based on the approach taken by other authorities and best practice.