



An analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace
provision in Sedgemoor

Appendix C

Existing Core Strategy policy relevant to accessible greenspace



Policy D19 Healthy Lifestyles

All development proposals, where appropriate, should promote healthy and active living. Proposals which promote the following will be supported;

- Walking and cycling;
- Accessibility of green spaces and contributing to enhancing the green infrastructure network; and
- Enhancement of the quality and quantity of recreational, sport and leisure facilities and children's play space and access to them.

Policy D20 Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure (GI) will be safeguarded, maintained, improved, enhanced and added to, as appropriate, to form a multi-functional resource which meets the following objectives:

- Provide an accessible network of green spaces which meet recreational needs, cultural needs including education and interpretation, are safe and secure, and support physical health and mental wellbeing;
- Provide opportunities for attractive walking and cycling routes and also horse riding if appropriate
- Contribute to climate change adaptation (shade, sustainable drainage systems, cooling etc);
- Maintain and improve biodiversity and contact with nature;
- Support essential life-support functions such as air and water quality and food production;
- Maintain or enhance amenity, landscape character and the image of the area;
- Provide enhanced settings for existing and proposed developments and create pleasant and sustainable places in which to live in, work in or visit; and
- Identifying, safeguarding and developing sites and routes, within and around urban areas, which will facilitate efficient pedestrian and cycle access in an attractive setting (continuous green corridors and/or punctuation of on-road routes)

Priority will be given to:

- The protection and enhancement of parks and gardens, play areas, sports pitches, recreation grounds and allotments;
- The provision of green spaces in association with all major developments, having particular regard to extending the connectivity of a green infrastructure network;
- The protection and planting of trees for public amenity and climate change mitigation; Increasing the services / environmental benefits delivered by existing /new public open spaces, where appropriate and achievable, through taking a more multi-functional approach to their design and management;
- The continued development of a network of green spaces, water bodies, paths and cycle routes in and around the urban areas, including improved or enhanced access to canal, river and other waterside locations as well as improved connections to the National Cycle Network;
- The development of strategic green corridor routes from urban areas and coastal tourist areas to surrounding villages and countryside;
- Safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity including contribution to targets and actions identified in Biodiversity Action Plans;
- Projects that help to meet the Natural England '*Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard*' (ANGSt);
- Projects identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Policy D20 Green Infrastructure cont...

- Development should include green infrastructure of an appropriate type, standard and size, and make appropriate provision for future maintenance. Where on-site provision is not possible, contributions will be sought for appropriate off-site provision. All residential development should be ANGSt compliant or otherwise appropriately contribute to improving access to natural greenspace.
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- New green infrastructure provision should be an exemplar of best practice and innovation in the design and management of new green infrastructure and make appropriate use of natural resources, encourage the use of sustainable materials and minimise the production of waste.
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- All activity should aim to maximise the multiple uses of green infrastructure from the detailed scale to the sub regional scale.
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- If loss of existing green infrastructure assets is unavoidable in order to accommodate necessary development, appropriate mitigation of the loss will be required.
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- In all cases, including proposals for increased access to rural areas, development will need to demonstrate that there are no significant adverse impacts on biodiversity interests as set in Policy D14: Natural Environment.

Saved Local Plan Policy RLT1: Protection of Recreational Open Space

Development which would result in the loss of recreational open space will not be permitted unless:

- a) The existing sports and recreation facilities can be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site; or
- b) A replacement facility of equivalent sports and/or recreation benefit is made available; or
- c) The proposed development provides sports and/or recreation facilities of greater benefit than the long-term recreational value of the open space that would be lost.

Saved Local Plan policy RLT2: Outdoor Playing Space and new Residential Areas

- a) All new housing which can potentially be occupied by households with children should include appropriate provision for children's outdoor playing space. In determining the form of facilities to be provided, account will be taken of the nature of existing facilities in the vicinity but provision should normally be to the following standards:
 - b) a) increase the stock of children's play space at a rate of 20 square metres per new dwelling; and
 - c) b) in the case for a site for 15 or more dwellings, a suitable range of play spaces should be equipped and accessible as follows:
 - d) i) all new houses to be within 100 metres of a "Local Area for Play" (LAP); and
 - e) ii) all new houses to be within 400 metres of a "Local Equipped Area for Play" (LEAP); and
 - f) iii) all new houses to be within 1000 metres of a "Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP).
 - g) Where the requirement for play space cannot be fully met on site, the developer will be expected to make provision for appropriate new or improved off-site facilities.

Saved Local Plan Policy RLT3: Outdoor Sports Facilities and New Residential Areas

All new housing developments will normally be expected to contribute towards the provision of outdoor sites for sport at a rate of 40 square metres per dwelling. In determining the nature of the provision required, account will be taken of the type of dwellings proposed and the quantity and quality of existing outdoor sports provision in the area.