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Rushmoor open space, sport and recreation study

Volume 1: Main report

Prepared by LUC in association with Continuum Sport and Leisure

December 2014



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Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

An audit and assessment of need for open space and indoor sport facilities

Prepared by LUC in association with Continuum Sport and Leisure

December 2014

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Executive summary

This study assesses the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing provision for sport, physical activity and amenity in Rushmoor. It provides the basis of a strategy for the protection and improvement of the public open space and recreational facilities and will be used to develop detailed policies within the emerging Local Plan and will inform the determination of planning applications against development plan policies.

The methodology for the study was informed by Government guidance on open space planning, together with Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance and the Playing Pitch Methodology.

Covering an area of just under 40km², Rushmoor is located in the east of Hampshire and has a population of 93,807 split between the towns of Aldershot and Farnborough. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has greatly influenced the character of the borough and is the largest custodian of open space in Rushmoor which includes significant tracts of heathland which form part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. The MoD also contributes to the provision of indoor sport and recreation facilities, including Hampshire's only 50m swimming pool at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre.

The future population projections for Rushmoor show a potential steady increase of just over 400 people per annum with the population in 2027 reaching 100,534. The majority of this growth is likely to be focused within the Aldershot Urban Extension which will provide up to 3,850 new homes. The 2011 census revealed that the borough is the most ethnically diverse area in Hampshire, with the Nepalese community contributing 6.5% of the population.

Rushmoor's population is generally affluent although there are pockets of the borough which are within the most deprived 40% in the country. Open spaces, sport and recreation facilities therefore have an important role in the borough to help to improve the health and wellbeing of the borough's residents.

The assessment of provision identified 123 publicly accessible open spaces in Rushmoor which fell within the following typologies: parks and gardens; natural and semi-natural green space; green corridors; amenity green space; allotments; cemeteries and churchyards; provision for children and young people; and roadside verges. A further 14 sites were identified as offering one or more of the following facilities: swimming pools; sports hall; health and fitness sites; indoor bowls facilities; squash courts; martial arts facilities; and gymnastics facilities.

Detailed site audits of each open space and indoor recreational facility were carried out to inform the Strategy by quantifying the value and quality of each site and to provide a basis for a site by site improvement plan. This was supported by extensive consultation and meetings with national governing bodies to provide a strong basis for the local needs assessment.

The Strategy identifies a number of issues relating to the quantity of provision within Rushmoor, with some areas deficient in parks and gardens and/ or natural and semi-natural green space. There is also a deficiency of allotments throughout the borough, with residents facing long waiting times for plots to become available. There are also opportunities to increase provision for some indoor sport facilities such as badminton and netball.

The Strategy identifies notable issues relating to the condition and value of facilities across Rushmoor, with a particular need to improve the provision of small parks and gardens, which consultation revealed are the most valued open spaces within Rushmoor. There are also opportunities to improve the swimming, and health and fitness facilities at the Aldershot Pools Complex and to improve squash courts at Farnborough Leisure Centre.

The Strategy provides recommendations on the protection of existing assets, addressing deficiencies in provision and on the strategic direction for future enhancement of open spaces, sport and recreational facilities in Rushmoor. It highlights the contribution that the MoD makes to the provision of publicly accessible open spaces and indoor recreational facilities in Rushmoor. It will therefore be important for RBC to work with the MoD to ensure these sites continue to be available for public use and enjoyment.

In terms of future planning policies, it is suggested that RBC should consider the following for inclusion in the Delivering Development Plan:

1. Implementation of the open space standards as set out in **Table 16.1** at the end of this report.
2. Ensure sites which have been considered as low value and/ or low quality are prioritised for enhancement subject to reflecting the Council's corporate responsibilities.
3. The Council should consider developing a holistic approach to open space and green infrastructure through the development of an Environmental Assets Policy/ Green Infrastructure Plan, together with more specific policies for particular topics where appropriate.
4. Sport and recreational facilities should be protected and where possible enhanced based on the findings of this study using the recommendations set within **Sections 9 – 15** of this report and **Appendix 7**.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework, published in 2012, sets out that:

"Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities, and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area."

- 1.2 In August 2013 Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC) commissioned LUC and Continuum Sport and Leisure (CSL) to prepare this open space, indoor recreation and sport study for the borough. The preparation of the study has involved a collaborative approach to utilise the strengths of RBC, LUC and CSL to ensure that local knowledge and wider expertise are shared across the team together with consultation with stakeholders.

Scope and objectives for the study and strategy

- 1.3 Rushmoor Borough is situated in the east of Hampshire in the South East of England. It is a relatively small borough, of just under 40km². The M3 motorway runs along the northern edge of the borough, and two railway lines cross the borough; east west through Farnborough and north east to south west through Aldershot. Farnborough airport, which caters for business aviation, is located in the centre of the borough. Rushmoor is located to the north of the Surrey Hills AONB, and also to the north of the South Downs National Park. The Blackwater Valley Countryside Path/Area abuts the borough's eastern boundary. The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA), which covers parts of Rushmoor, is a composite site which extends through Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire. The SPA supports important breeding bird populations.
- 1.4 The purpose of this study is to provide a robust assessment of the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing provision for sport, physical activity and amenity in Rushmoor. The study provides the basis of a strategy for the protection and improvement of the public open space and recreational facilities. The results of the study will be used to develop detailed policies within the emerging Local Plan and will inform the determination of planning applications against development plan policies.
- 1.5 The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To establish an up to date baseline of current open space and sport provision.
- To identify deficiencies or surpluses in the provision of open space sport and recreation.
- To use the audit and assessment to set locally derived open space and recreation provision standards for quantity, quality and accessibility including possible thresholds above which developers should be required to provide on- site open space
- To provide robust and comprehensive evidence base to underpin the development of detailed planning policies in a future Local Plan.
- To provide information to justify the collection of developer contributions towards open space.
- To provide information to help inform the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.

The strategy

- 1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is clear about the role that open space and sport can play in delivering sustainable communities by promoting health and well-being and improving people's quality of life. Sport England, working within the provisions of the NPPF, wishes to see local planning policy protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need, as well as helping to realise the wider benefits that participation in sport can bring.
- 1.7 This Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for Rushmoor (alongside the revised Playing Pitch Strategy) provides detailed evidence that supports the NPPF and Sport England's aspirations and ensures that the importance of open space, sports and recreation facility provision remains a central part of planning policy and development management within Rushmoor. RBC recognises that open spaces, sport and recreation facilities are essential components of the borough's infrastructure which both drive and respond to growth and improvement across Rushmoor.
- 1.8 Good quality open spaces contribute significantly to the character of the borough, often containing features of local heritage importance whilst also providing opportunities for formal recreation and quiet relaxation. Frequently they contain habitats supporting a broad range of species and opportunities to respond to a changing climate.
- 1.9 The Council acknowledges that sport and recreation make a wider contribution to society than a narrow focus on sports participation might suggest. Sport and recreation play a key role in meeting key corporate policy priorities by contributing to improvements in the health and quality of life of residents. The Council also notes that sport and recreation are integral and beneficial elements of shared service provision, such as school sites meeting the sporting needs of both education providers and the wider community.
- 1.10 This detailed assessment of open spaces, sport and recreation facility needs in Rushmoor is a vital part of the Council's wider aim of developing and delivering sound policies. Sound policy is best developed in the context of objectively assessed needs, which are in turn used to inform the development of a strategy for open space, sport and recreation. The priorities and high level policies which are referred to within this study document focus on how best to protect, enhance and provide appropriate open spaces and facilities and represent the basis for consistent application through development management within Rushmoor.
- 1.11 Following the most up to date guidance from Sport England as well as current best practice guidance for open space assessment, this study takes a clearly justified and positive approach to planning for future open space and indoor recreation provision. The study has been prepared with an objective consideration of local needs, is consistent with national policy, is justified through considering alternatives, and is effective in its ability to be deliverable. This combination of factors ensures that the study provides a sound basis for future policies.
- 1.12 The soundness of an evidence base will be tested through the scrutiny of such policy where it is used to justify a particular position. This study does not advocate one single measure of the soundness of evidence, but by providing up-to-date data and an evidence base which has been systematically prepared in line with national guidance and best practice it will ensure Rushmoor can continue to present a logical and defensible position for the provision of open space, sport and recreation.

Structure of report

- 1.13 The report comprises five main sections:
 - A. Methodology and context - sets out the methodology used to identify the sites and facilities to be included in the audit and the methodology for auditing the sites. It also describes the development of typologies which have been used to categorise the sites and structure the data analysis. This section also establishes the context for the study, in terms of relevant plans and strategies which inform the study. It also provides an overview of open space, sport and recreation needs, based on socio-economic data and public consultation;

- B. Framework for analysis – describes the open space typologies and hierarchy of sites used to frame the analysis;
- C. Assessment of open space provision – reviews each typology in turn, describes how provision standards have been set, applies the standards and identifies key issues to be addressed in terms of future management and delivery of new facilities;
- D. Assessment of indoor and outdoor sport provision - sets out the quantity, quality and accessibility for each indoor sports facility type. It also outlines the key findings of the supply and demand analysis non-technical quality assessment, accessibility assessment, and consultation process (identifying local needs).
- E. Conclusions and recommendations – provides an overview of the key issues identified through the study and sets out recommendations for addressing deficiencies.

Section A: Methodology and study context

2 Approach to the study

2.1 This section describes the approach and methods adopted for each element of the strategy, beginning with the approach taken for the assessment of open spaces. In line with Sport England’s guidance LUC and CSL worked with the Council to ensure the assessment was agreed and focused on the needs of the Borough. This included:

- Establishment of a Project Steering Group to oversee the study process.
- Detailed review of the specific needs for RBC.
- Approval of proposed methodology with RBC and Sport England.
- Agreement of sites for inclusion in study with RBC and Sport England.
- Agreement of parameters of the study with RBC and Sport England, including facility types to be included within the assessment and specifications.
- On-going consultation with Sport England regarding the use of national planning tools and approach taken in carrying out this assessment.

Approach to the assessment of open space provision in Rushmoor

2.2 The methodology for the assessment of open spaces reflects the requirements of the NPPF and follows the five steps as set out in the Practice Guidance to Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation Companion Guide. This provides useful guidance on the process for determining appropriate open space standards for local authorities. LUC refined this method, based on experience elsewhere, and enhanced it to reflect the needs/opportunities within Rushmoor. During the preparation of this study, Sport England published draft new guidance on assessing needs and opportunities of indoor and outdoor sport facilities. In light of this, the methodology used within this assessment was reviewed and was subsequently considered to be consistent with the principles of the new guidance. An overview of the tasks taken in the preparation of the open space strategy is provided in **Table 2.1** below.

Table 2.1 Approach to the assessment of open space provision

Task	Scope
Task 1: Policy review, contextual information and consultation	<p>A review of the relevant national and local planning policy context was undertaken to identify the land use implications of policies and strategies for open space, sport and recreation.</p> <p>To provide an understanding of the specific needs of the Borough, information was collated on the geographic, demographic and socio-economic context of Rushmoor which could influence the level of need. This contextual information is detailed in this section.</p>
Task 2: Assessment of local needs	<p>In order to understand the needs, attitudes and expectations of local people towards existing provision of open spaces, a programme of community consultation was undertaken. This entailed online surveys, a workshop with stakeholders and organisations associated with the planning and management of open spaces. The Nepali community were also consulted through attendance at Maddhat Shamuha. Consultation findings are detailed further in Section 4. Appendix 3 provides details of the consultation method and feedback.</p>
Task 3: Existing	<p>Data on potential open space sites was provided by Rushmoor Borough Council. This</p>

Task	Scope
open space provision	<p>data was derived from the 2009 open space study produced by KMC. To supplement this data, an overview of the aerial photography for the Borough was made, and any significant open space sites were identified. During the site audits, a number of additional sites were identified and mapped.</p> <p>The open space sites needed to be categorised into a typology. The typology set out in the PPG17 Companion Guide was used as a basis for this. This is set out as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Parks and Gardens B. Natural and semi-natural green space C. Green corridors D. Amenity green space E. Allotments F. Cemeteries and churchyards G. Civic space H. Provision for children and young people K. Outdoor sport facilities <p>Sites within the original data set that would not be considered as open space sites were excluded, this included categories such as after school clubs, children’s centres, and indoor sites.</p> <p>Outdoor sports facilities (typology K) were identified separately, as these were to be audited as part of the playing pitches strategy (to be carried out separately).</p> <p>A number of MOD managed sites were identified and these sites were also included within the analysis.</p> <p>A number of small sites within the database were contained within other sites (e.g. playgrounds and an allotment garden site). These sites were audited as part of the larger, containing site.</p> <p>Within three types of spaces, any sites which were less than 0.4ha in area were excluded. These types were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Natural and semi-natural green space D. Amenity green space L. Roadside verges <p>Rushmoor has a considerable number of small open spaces (e.g. some amenity green space in and around housing estates), and given the limited resources of the project, it was considered sensible to exclude these sites from a full audit. These excluded sites generally did not contain any facilities, such as benches, bins and play equipment.</p> <p>Sites which were excluded from analysis will be referred to in relevant sections, either to show additional potential open space (e.g. space that is currently inaccessible and in private ownership) or to show examples of existing public open space that was too small to be audited (e.g. Amenity green space < 0.4ha).</p> <p>No Civic Space sites (typology G) were identified within the borough.</p> <p>Two further types were identified within the original data set:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Indoor Recreation sites – these were audited by Continuum Leisure. J. Schools sites - schools sites with playing pitches were included within the outdoor sports facilities (typology K) and referred to within the playing pitch assessment. <p>A full list of sites audited is included in Appendix 1 (site list).</p> <p>The site audit form was developed (see example in Appendix 2) based around the themes of the Green Flag Award criteria, which is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The use of the Green Flag themes ensured sufficient information was gathered in order to understand the quality and value of</p>

Task	Scope
	<p>existing spaces. The Green Flag themes and a brief description of each are set out below.</p> <p>The open space audit comprised a comprehensive audit of all categories of open space, building on the Council's existing work, in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and value • Quantity • Accessibility
Task 4: Setting and applying provision standards and application	<p>All audit findings were compiled in an integrated geodatabase and supported by a map of the site location and images of the site.</p> <p>Having identified the types of open spaces in Rushmoor, a detailed hierarchy was drawn up to develop a framework for analysis. This was developed with reference to national and regional guidance (e.g. Natural England's ANGSt, Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy) but with consideration of the characteristics of Rushmoor Borough to be locally relevant.</p> <p>Combined analysis was then completed for quality and value findings, and implications for future provision in Rushmoor. Conclusions were drawn on current accessibility of Borough's open spaces in order to inform priorities for future management. Locally-derived standards were defined for quality and value, quantity, and accessibility. General conclusions were also drawn on the adequacy of provision in Rushmoor, for open space categories where it is difficult to define a quantified standard (e.g. Green Corridors). The locally-derived standards, and areas/sites of deficiency are outlined in Sections 7 & 8.</p>
Task 5: Recommendations for Rushmoor's DPD	<p>The findings of the open space assessment informed the development of policy recommendations regarding sites for protection/enhancement in the emerging Local Plan. The policy recommendations respond to the application of the open space standards, and provide suggestions on areas of Rushmoor where there is adequate open space, deficient open space, or a surplus of poor quality open space. These findings have informed priorities for future provision and/or investment in open space.</p>

Audit of open space provision

- 2.3 Site audits were carried out in the period July – October 2013. Audits were carried out for all publicly accessible open spaces over a prescribed threshold size depending on the type of open space (see **Table 3.1** for details of the size thresholds). Sites were selected using the data provided by the Council. Overall, 123 spaces were audited and the characteristics of the sites are discussed further below. **Figure 2.1** indicates the location and typology of all open spaces included in the audit.
- 2.4 A site audit form was developed (see **Appendix 2**) based around the criteria of the Green Flag Award, which is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The use of the Green Flag themes ensured sufficient information was gathered in order to understand the quality of existing spaces. The Green Flag themes and a brief description of each are set out below:

Green Flag Award criteria

1. A Welcoming Place

Welcoming, good & safe access, signage, equal access for all

2. Healthy, Safe and Secure

Safe equipment & facilities, personal security, dog fouling, appropriate provision of facilities, quality of facilities

3. Clean and Well Maintained

Litter & waste management, grounds maintenance & horticulture, building & infrastructure maintenance, equipment maintenance

4. Sustainability

Environmental sustainability, pesticides, peat use, waste minimisation, arboriculture & woodland management

5. Conservation and Heritage

Conservation of nature features, wild flora & fauna, conservation of landscape features, conservation of buildings & structures

6. Community Involvement

Community involvement in management & development including outreach work, appropriate provision for the community

7. Marketing

Marketing & promotion, provision of appropriate information, provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information

8. Management

Implementation of management plan

- 2.5 A Microsoft Access database was developed to hold all of the information from the site audits, including addresses and further site specific information drawn from the consultation. The database is linked to a GIS dataset of the sites to enable spatial analysis.

Application of standards for open space provision

- 2.6 The standards were applied to the open space data for each typology to identify:
- Areas which do and do not have access to different types of spaces by virtue of their geographic location;
 - Parts of the borough which have above or below the recommended standard in terms of quantity of provision per 1,000 people;
 - Sites and facilities which are performing well and less well in terms of quality and value.
- 2.7 Part of the process of developing open space standards, has been to benchmark the proposed Rushmoor standards against those of other local authorities. This is a useful reality-check on standards considered acceptable and feasible in other parts of the country.

Approach to the assessment of sport and recreation facilities

- 2.8 When assessing the quantity, quality and accessibility of sport and recreation facilities in a particular area it is important to consider the propensity of the local population to be active and participate in sport and active recreation. An understanding of local participation levels and preferences helps to inform an assessment of levels of need and demand for particular sport and recreation facility types. It also provides useful insight on how existing facilities can be enhanced to better meet the needs of local people.
- 2.9 An overview of local participation levels in Rushmoor based on Sport England's Active People Survey results is provided within this section of the study. Sport England's Market Segmentation research is also examined to determine priority groups and issues within Rushmoor. This research offers useful information about the potential barriers to participation, motivating factors and the sports and activities that population segments within Rushmoor are most likely to want to participate in.

Sport England's Active People Survey

- 2.10 Sport England's Active People Survey provides the most comprehensive assessment of levels of sports participation across the country at a local authority, county, regional and national level. The annual survey results can be used to identify general patterns and trends in participation across a number of years. The following analysis utilises data from seven surveys that have been

conducted by Sport England: APS 1 (2005/6), APS 2 (2007/8), APS 3 (2008/9), APS 4 (2009/10), APS 5 (2010/11), APS 6 (2011/12) and APS 7 (2012/13). This evolving body of data allows for a comparison of performance over time across a range of sport and physical activity participation indicators.

- 2.11 The data within this main study report focuses on general participation and indoor sport. Further details on participation for outdoor sports are set out in the separate Playing Pitch Strategy document.
- 2.12 **Table 2.2** illustrates how overall adult sports participation rates (at least 1 x 30 minutes moderate intensity sport per week) in Rushmoor compare with the county, regional and national averages between 2005 and 2013. In 2009/10 the sports participation rate in Rushmoor was in line with the county and regional averages and above the national average. Since then Rushmoor has consistently outperformed the county, region and country as a whole on this measure. The latest APS (2012/13) results show a participation rate of 38% in Rushmoor, which is just over 1% higher than the county and regional averages and more than 2% above the national average. These findings suggest that adults in Rushmoor have an above average propensity to participate in sport and use sport and recreation facilities.

Table 2.2 Participation in Rushmoor

Area	Participation in 30 minutes moderate intensity sport at least once a week (people aged 16+)						
	2005/06 (APS1)	2007/08 (APS2)	2008/09 (APS3)	2009/10 (APS4)	2010/11 (APS5)	2011/12 (APS6)	2012/13 (APS7)
England	34.2%	35.8%	35.7%	35.3%	34.8%	36.0%	35.7%
South East	36.7%	38.0%	36.9%	37.0%	35.7%	37.4%	36.9%
Hampshire	38.6%	38.0%	38.0%	37.0%	36.9%	37.6%	36.8%
Rushmoor	39.1%	35.4%	35.8%	37.0%	41.9%	41.4%	38.0%

- 2.13 **Table 2.3** illustrates how rates of adult non-participation in sport (zero days participation 1 x 30 minutes moderate intensity sport) in Rushmoor compare with the county, regional and national averages between 2005 and 2013. The rate of non-participation in sport has consistently been below the national average since 2005/6, remaining fairly constant in this period at just below 50%. The latest APS results (2012/13) show the non-participation rate to be 43.2%, which is more than 7% below the county and regional averages and 9% below the national average. These findings suggest that whilst adults in Rushmoor are more likely to participate in sport than average and less likely to be non-participants, close to half currently do not participate in any sport. High quality, accessible, attractive and affordable sport and recreation facilities will play a key role in increasing the adult participation rate in Rushmoor and getting more people playing sport and being active in the borough.

Table 2.3 Non-participation in Rushmoor

Area	Non Participation in Sport (people aged 16+)						
	2005/06 (APS1)	2007/08 (APS2)	2008/09 (APS3)	2009/10 (APS4)	2010/11 (APS5)	2011/12 (APS6)	2012/13 (APS7)
England	54.3%	51.2%	52.3%	52.5%	51.5%	51.1%	52.3%
South East	51.2%	47.9%	50.0%	50.6%	49.5%	48.9%	50.4%
Hampshire	49.9%	47.7%	49.5%	50.8%	49.0%	47.5%	50.5%

Area	Non Participation in Sport (people aged 16+)						
	2005/06 (APS1)	2007/08 (APS2)	2008/09 (APS3)	2009/10 (APS4)	2010/11 (APS5)	2011/12 (APS6)	2012/13 (APS7)
Rushmoor	48.6%	49.9%	52.2%	50.8%	49.2%	43.7%	43.2%

2.14 **Table 2.4** illustrates how indoor sports participation rates (at least 1 x 30 minutes moderate intensity indoor sport per week) in Rushmoor compare with the county, regional and national averages between 2005 and 2013. This measure is particularly important given that this main study focuses on indoor sport and recreation facilities which meet particular specifications. Since 2009/10 the indoor sports participation rate amongst adults in Rushmoor has been consistently higher than the county, regional and national averages. At 31.7% in 2012/13 the indoor sports participation rate is almost 8% higher than at the county, regional and national levels. These findings suggest that indoor sports facilities in Rushmoor are likely to be well used and satisfying high levels of demand for participation in indoor sports. It is vitally important that the indoor sports facilities in Rushmoor continue to provide high quality, accessible participation opportunities to an active population with a particular interest in indoor sports.

Table 2.4 Participation in indoor sport in Rushmoor

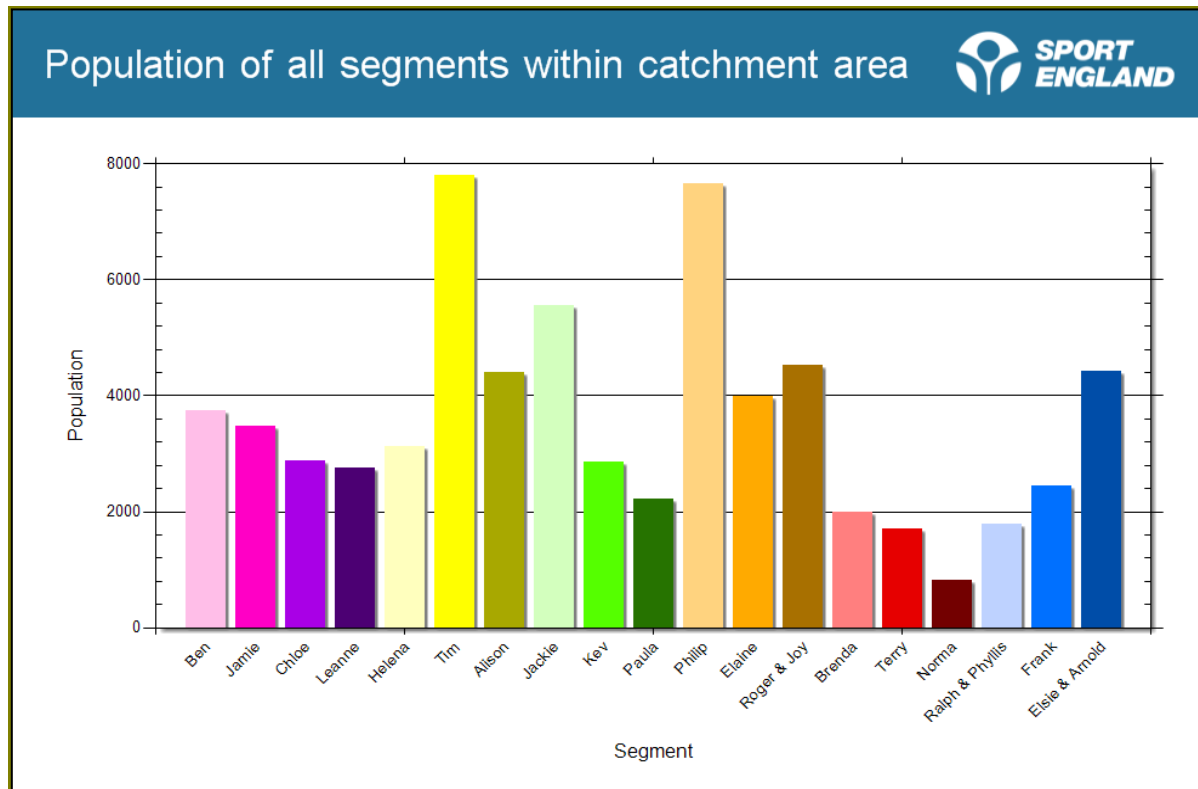
Area	Participation in Indoor Sports (people aged 16+)						
	2005/06 (APS1)	2007/08 (APS2)	2008/09 (APS3)	2009/10 (APS4)	2010/11 (APS5)	2011/12 (APS6)	2012/13 (APS7)
England	23.7%	24.5%	24.4%	24.1%	23.5%	23.8%	23.6%
South East	24.6%	25.8%	24.7%	24.7%	23.5%	23.8%	23.4%
Hampshire	25.5%	25.4%	25.1%	24.2%	23.6%	23.4%	23.3%
Rushmoor	27.3%	22.6%	24.5%	26.8%	31.9%	29.4%	31.7%

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool

2.15 In order to develop the Market Segmentation Tool, Sport England analysed its own research and data on the English adult population (aged 18+) and produced 19 Market Segments with distinct sporting behaviours and attitudes. The Market Segmentation Tool provides a range of information including specific sports and activities that people want to take part in as well as identifying leading motivating factors for participating in sport, the propensity to participate and the barriers to doing more sport facing particular groups. Market Segmentation data is useful to consider alongside the findings of the Active People Survey, as it allows an assessment of people's propensity to participate in certain sports and activities. Market Segmentation can give an indication of why some groups may not be participating, and what could encourage them to participate more.

2.16 **Figure 2.2** shows how Rushmoor's 18+ population is estimated to be split between Sport England's 18 market segments.

Figure 2.2: Market segmentation breakdown in Rushmoor (Sport England)



2.17 The five dominant market segments in Rushmoor are:

- Tim: Settling Down Males (26-45)
- Philip: Comfortable Mid-Life Males (46-55)
- Jackie: Middle England Mums (46-55)
- Roger and Joy: Early Retirement Couples (56-65)
- Elsie and Arnold: Retirement Home Singles (66+)

2.18 The market segmentation findings show that Rushmoor has a relatively old adult population, with four of the five dominant segments aged 46 and over. However, the two younger male segments (Tim and Philip) are both very active types and likely to participate in a variety of indoor sports and activities, including badminton, squash, football and gym. The most active female segment on the list (Jackie) is likely to participate in indoor sports and activities such as swimming, dance, body pump and aqua aerobics. The older segments (Roger and Joy / Elsie and Arnold) are likely to participate in bowls, dance, swimming, aqua aerobics, low-impact exercise and racquet sports indoors.

2.19 Market segmentation research suggests that a large proportion of adults in Rushmoor are likely to participate in or prefer to participate in indoor sports and activities, which is consistent with the findings of the Active People Survey. This makes it increasingly important that the quantity, quality and accessibility of indoor sport and recreation facilities in Rushmoor is sufficient to meet the needs and demands generated by the borough’s population and offer them an excellent participation experience.

2.20 Market segmentation research is drawn on later in this study to assess the likely market for a range of different indoor sports facilities in Rushmoor when considering the findings of the facility analysis, standard setting and analysis.

Methodology and approach

2.21 This section explains the methodologies and approaches followed for the two elements of the study related solely to sport and recreation facilities: the Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities

Review and Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The methodologies follow Sport England's recommended approach to such studies as set out in the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) document and Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology. Both documents were recently published and RBC has ensured close alignment to emerging guidance on best practice to provide a robust Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study.

2.22 This overall methodology and approach employed for the study, based on robust assessment of needs and opportunities related to community sport, covers both the Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities Review and PPS. However, the detailed description that follows covers the assessment of the indoor sports facilities only. The separate PPS document sets out a more detailed methodology and approach designed specifically for the playing pitch element of the study.

2.23 Drawing on Sport England's best practice guidance the Consultant Team undertook the following process to assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of indoor sports provision in Rushmoor.

a) Prepare and tailor the approach

2.24 The parameters of this study for the indoor sports facility types assessed and their respective specifications are set out below:

- Indoor Sports Halls over 3 courts in size (or 27m x 17m) with community access.
- Swimming Pools over 20m in length with community access.
- Health and Fitness Facilities (gym space) offering over 20 stations.
- Specialist sports facilities within Rushmoor – including the following:
 - Gymnastics
 - Martial arts (dedicated permanent facilities)
 - Indoor bowls
 - Squash

2.25 For the Playing Pitch Strategy it was agreed that the focus should be on the four major pitch sports of football, cricket, rugby (both codes) and hockey.

2.26 The rationale for exclusion of bowls and tennis is that these sports also take place indoors and are being considered in the wider Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities Review as well as the fact that bowls facilities have been outsourced by RBC to community organisations.

2.27 The rationale for exclusion of other minority pitch sports such as American Football, Gaelic Football and so forth is that there are no clubs offering these sports active in the study area.

b) Gather Information

2.28 The Consultant Team analysed the available data held by RBC on sports facilities, including:

- Sport Facilities Report, Rushmoor Borough, Sport Hampshire and IoW (2009)
- Rushmoor Borough Council Cultural Strategy Research (2009)
- Rushmoor Infrastructure Plan, RBC (2010)
- Rushmoor Infrastructure Plan Update, RBC (2012)
- Active Places Power database (Sport England)
- Usage data for all available facilities
- FPM runs and Facilities Audit Data made available by Sport England for key facility types

Planning tools

2.29 The Consultant Team also undertook detailed supply and demand analysis using a range of national planning tools. They are listed below with an explanation of the rationale for utilising them:

- Active Places Power database, Sport England: to assess the type and quantity of indoor sport and recreation facilities in Rushmoor. The database lists sports halls, swimming pools, health

and fitness suites, indoor tennis centres, indoor bowls facilities and squash courts in Rushmoor.

- Facilities Planning Model (FPM), Sport England: to assess the strategic provision of sports halls and swimming pools in Rushmoor, including an analysis of supply and demand which assesses the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport to meet local demand for that sport taking into account how far people are prepared to travel to a facility. FPM findings are only available for sports halls and swimming pools in Rushmoor.
- Sports Facility Calculator (SFC), Sport England: to estimate the amount of demand for indoor sport and recreation facilities in Rushmoor that is created by a given population. Specifically the SFC helps to quantify how much additional demand for indoor sport and recreation facilities is generated by populations of new growth, development and regeneration areas such as the Aldershot Urban Extension (AUE). The SFC can only be used for sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls centres in Rushmoor.
- Market Segmentation Tool, Sport England: to explore which adult market segments in Rushmoor are most likely to play or want to play particular sports and use particular indoor sport and recreation facilities. This helps to determine demand and latent demand in Rushmoor for particular facilities.

Site audits

2.30 Based on the parameters for the Sport and Recreation Facilities Review which were agreed with RBC, the Consultant Team developed a list of indoor sports facility sites which would be the subject of a non-technical quality assessment. A list of 14 sites to be audited and assessed was agreed with RBC. The 14 agreed sites are:

- Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre
- Aldershot Pools Complex
- Connaught Leisure Centre
- Farnborough Leisure Centre
- Fernhill School and Language College
- Fight Science
- Fit4Less¹
- Pavilion Health and Fitness Club
- Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy
- Farnborough Sixth Form College
- The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College
- Village Leisure Club
- Virgin Active Club
- Wavell Campus Leisure

2.31 It should be noted that The Gym Group (Farnborough) was not listed on the Active Places Power database at the time of the facility audit and was therefore omitted from the non-technical quality assessment process. As a major health and fitness facility in Farnborough offering 170 stations this facility has however been included within the quantitative supply and demand analysis.

2.32 Each of the 14 sites audited by the Consultant Team was the subject of an outline quality assessment and scored out of 5 across the following 7 key areas:

- Playing Area: the quality of the main sport and recreation facilities at the site (e.g. sports hall playing surface).
- Maintenance: decorative order and cleanliness of the facilities at the site.

¹ This facility has since closed and has therefore not been considered within the analysis of indoor recreation facilities in this report.

- Changing Facilities: the quality of the changing provision at the site.
- Ancillary Facilities: the quality of the ancillary facility offer at the site (e.g. storage, seating, café, meeting rooms)
- Community Access: how accessible the site is to the community.
- Accessibility for Disabled People: the quality of the facilities and accessibility of the site for disabled people.
- Car Parking: the quality of the car parking offer at the site.

2.33 The scoring metric used in the facility quality assessments is set out below:

- 1 = very poor quality/unacceptable
- 2 = poor quality
- 3 = average/adequate
- 4 = high quality
- 5 = very high quality/excellent

2.34 Based on the results of the non-technical quality assessment each site was given a mean quality score. This was done by calculating the mean/average of the scores across the 7 assessment areas.

Strategy and policy review

2.35 In order to ensure that the Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities Review takes account of relevant local, regional and national policies and priorities the Consultant Team reviewed a range of strategies, policies and plans. The focus of this element of the methodology is to identify specific corporate priorities for Rushmoor Borough Council which both influence and can be influenced by indoor sports facility provision. Moreover, the strategy and policy review identifies how Rushmoor's indoor sports facility stock impacts on regional and national policy agendas, as well as how this impact can be enhanced in the future.

Consultation process

2.36 The Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities Review element of this study is underpinned by a thorough and robust consultation process to ensure that the conclusions and recommendations are sound and firmly grounded in local need and demand. The consultation process consisted of the following key elements:

- Face to face meetings with RBC Head of Community Services, Planning Policy and Conservation Manager and Chief Health and Physical Activity Officer.
- Detailed telephone interviews with relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) for indoor sports.
- A targeted online survey of local sports clubs, school and community groups.
- A consultation workshop with key partners and stakeholders.

2.37 The focus of this element of the methodology was to canvas the views of a wide range of partners, stakeholders, facility users and local people on the quantity, quality and accessibility of indoor sport and recreation provision in Rushmoor.

c) Bring Information Together

2.38 Following completion of stages A and B of the methodology the Consultant Team was in a position to draw conclusions and make recommendations based on a large, detailed and robust evidence base. The key findings of the review process are presented in sports facility specific sections which present the following information for each facility type under review:

- Quantitative Assessment
 - Supply and Demand Analysis
- Qualitative Assessment

- Non-Technical Quality Assessment
 - Accessibility Assessment
 - Distance thresholds
 - Local Needs and Consultation
 - Priorities and Standards for each facility type
- 2.39 The priorities identified for each facility type are based on a detailed assessment of needs and opportunities through multiple planning tools, research techniques and consultation methods. The priorities identified for the different indoor sports facility types relate to:
- Quantitative Standards
 - Qualitative Standards
 - Accessibility Standards

Setting standards for provision – revised and updated approach

- 2.40 The focus of Sport England’s latest guidance on strategic planning for community sports facilities is for all local authorities and planning departments to provide a more localised picture of need, based on local evidence and the use of national planning tools in the most relevant and robust way. Sport England is advising local authorities and their planning departments to move away from a blanket approach to setting standards for sports facility provision based on numerical standards and comparisons with other local authorities (where supply and demand can be influenced by a wide range of other factors).
- 2.41 Sport England has recently published its new Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance which provides updated direction on the development of a robust local needs assessment. Whilst the Consultant Team has continued to follow the PPG17 Companion Guide and its logical staged approach, it considers the process for setting standards to be based upon a wider range of factors than a single measure of assessment (such as per 1,000 population supply).
- 2.42 Sport England advises against focusing on one single tool for determining standards for sports facility provision on the basis that a more detailed, layered and localised approach to the assessment of needs and opportunities at a local authority level is required as a basis for future policy. The Consultant Team has therefore assessed the leading indoor facility types based on the supply and demand balance as well as levels of unmet demand, utilising the planning tools described in the methodology alongside findings from the detailed consultation process, online survey results, non-technical quality assessments and accessibility assessments. This has resulted in the formation of a more localised picture of needs and priorities for each indoor sports facility type which should be considered in the context of future supply and demand changes as well as evolving investment requirements.
- 2.43 Rushmoor Borough Council is following Sport England guidance with regard to forward planning and the priorities set out in this study are based on a meticulously assembled local picture. The priorities identified are specific to each of the leading indoor facility types that have been assessed and are categorised under the Protect, Enhance and Provide headings:
- **PROTECT** sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment.
 - **ENHANCE** existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management.
 - **PROVIDE** new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.
- 2.44 Rushmoor Borough Council is keen to follow this new guidance on strategic planning and assessing needs and opportunities whilst maintaining a pragmatic approach to any new facility provision given the difficult economic circumstances that all local authorities are currently experiencing and will continue to experience for many years across all areas of service provision.
- 2.45 This process culminates in a clear and reasoned set of priorities for Rushmoor Borough Council which are rooted in a thorough and robust assessment of needs and opportunities related to indoor sport and recreation facility provision in Rushmoor.

Other recreational facilities in Rushmoor

2.46 In addition to the sites outlined in **paragraph 2.30**, Rushmoor also contains the following recreation facilities:

- Aldershot military athletics stadium
- Alpine snow sports centre
- Southwood golf club
- Army golf club
- Runways End Outdoor Centre

Aldershot military athletics stadium

2.47 Aldershot military athletics stadium is located on Queen's Avenue, Aldershot. The stadium is the home of the British Army football team and the Army Athletics Association. It contains a floodlit 400m, eight-lane mondo track and full field event facilities, which is also used for football. The stadium has a seated capacity of 1,128, changing rooms, VIP lounge and control room.

2.48 Although primarily used by the MOD, the stadium is leased to the Aldershot, Farnham & District Athletic Club who has access on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Although not open to the general public, the stadium can be hired for corporate fun days, school athletic days and charity events.

Alpine snow and sport centre

2.49 The alpine snow and sport centre is located in Aldershot and is only one of two snow centres in the local area (the other centre is located in Bracknell). The centre is owned by RBC and managed on their behalf by Active Nation. Active Nation is a charity which aims to persuade the nation to be active and therefore reduce the risk of serious illnesses.

2.50 The centre includes three dry ski slopes; the wall, leaner's hill, and the donut arena. The centre is available for open sessions and lessons together with parties and activities for children during school holidays. The slopes are floodlit for evening lessons, and there is a bar, function area and ski shop on site. Free parking is available just outside the centre.

Golf provision in Rushmoor

2.51 The borough contains two golf courses; Southwood Golf Club, Farnborough; and Army Golf Club, Aldershot.

Southwood Golf Club

2.52 Southwood Golf Club is a public course located to the west of Farnborough town centre. The course is owned by RBC but is managed by Mack Trading on their behalf. The course covers an area of approximately 6,000 metres and is suitable for beginners and low handicapped players. It contains a 18-hole, 69 par course with club house and shop together with practice areas, including two practice nets, a putting green and short game area. The site is used for events including the annual Bob Hammond Texas Scramble Open and provides a venue for meetings. The golf club opened in 1977 and with holes named after the aircraft.

2.53 The golf course is considered to be in a good condition although suffers from waterlogging following periods of very wet weather.

Army Golf Club

2.54 The army golf course is located in Aldershot and provides a challenging 18-hole course which is for members only with a valid club handicap certificate. The course is open to members and casual visitors on production of evidence of membership to the Council of National Golf Union or a valid club handicap certificate. Visitors are able to play the course on weekdays but must be accompanied by a club member at weekends. Military personnel may play the course on weekdays and after 2pm on weekends.

- 2.55 The course covers an area of 165 acres and is one of the longest golf courses in the area and includes areas of low, undulating woodland. Many holes of the par 71 course are considered to be particularly challenging. The greens are considered to be some of the best in Hampshire with ditches ensuring excess rainfall is removed.

Runways End Outdoor Centre

- 2.56 The Runways End Outdoor Centre is an activity centre providing opportunities for indoor and outdoor climbing, archery, rifle shooting, orienteering, caving, kayaking and canoeing. There are also plans for mountain biking and rafting.
- 2.57 The centre can be pre-booked by groups who are able to stay in indoor facilities, which can sleep up to 60 people, or use the campsites which sleep up-to 200 people. The centre is supported by Hampshire County Council, Scouts and Rushmoor Borough Council. The centre is primarily used by youth community groups but is also for corporate fun and team building days. The centre also contains conference facilities and meeting rooms.

Approach to study: Implications for Rushmoor's open spaces, sport and recreation study

- The method adopted for this study is based on the PPG17 and latest Sport England guidance as set out in the latest draft of Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance, and is designed to be robust, transparent and evidence-based.
- The Green Flag criteria provide a good basis for the open space quality assessment.
- Benchmarking against the standards adopted by other local comparable authorities has acted as a reality-check and helps to ensure that the proposed standards are appropriate.
- There is an extensive network of open space in Rushmoor, and this study has enabled these open spaces to be accurately mapped and categorised.
- 123 open space sites were audited as part of this study and smaller sites, although too small to be audited in detail, contribute to the wider open space provision across Rushmoor.
- 14 indoor sports facilities were audited as part of this study.
- Evidence of Rushmoor residents' needs and aspirations in relation to open space has been gathered through both the open space audit and the community consultation.

3 Policy and strategic context

National planning policy context

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in March 2012 to replace the older Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs). The NPPF explains the statutory provisions and provides guidance to local authorities and others on planning policy and the operation of the planning system.
- 3.2 Open space is defined in the NPPF as space of public value, not just land, but areas of water – rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs – which provide visual amenity and offer opportunities for sport and recreation. The delivery of multifunctional open spaces for wildlife, health, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage and food production is highlighted as a core planning principle of the NPPF. Paragraph 73 emphasises the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation for the health and well-being of communities; it stresses the need for robust and up-to-date assessments of local open space, sports and recreation facility, demand and opportunity, assessments which identify specific deficits or surpluses to determine what is needed where.
- 3.3 The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) which aims to provide simplified guidance on how to implement statutory provisions. The NPPG suggests that Sport England’s guidance may be referred to when assessing sports and recreation facilities. However the NPPG does not currently recommend an appropriate guidance document for the assessment of publicly accessible open spaces. As a result the PPG17 Companion Guide is therefore still widely acknowledged as the most robust methodology for assessment of open space provision.

Protecting open spaces

- 3.4 Paragraph 76 of the NPPF outlines how local communities through local and neighbourhood plans can identify green areas for special protection and designate land as ‘Local Green Space’, safeguarding land from new development other than in exceptional circumstances consistent with green belt policy.
- 3.5 In order to designate land as ‘Local Green Space’ communities must demonstrate that the land in question is demonstrably special to a local community holding particular local character and significance for beauty, history, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of wildlife. The space cannot be an extensive tract of land and can only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed.
- 3.6 The planning system is not the only route available to local groups wanting to protect the community spaces they value, local communities can make the legal case for designating open green spaces as ‘assets of community value’ under the Localism Act 2011 or ‘Town or Village Greens’ under the Commons Act 2006.

Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance

- 3.7 In late 2013, Sport England launched draft guidance for the assessment of indoor and outdoor sport facilities. The draft guidance document was issued for consultation with the adopted guidance intended to replace the sport facilities aspects contained within “*Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17*” (DCLG, 2001). The guidance focuses on the practicalities of producing a robust assessment and to assist local authorities with meeting the requirements of the NPPF. The final guidance document is expected to be published at the end of July 2014.
- 3.8 The methodology adopted to assess provision of indoor sport facilities in Rushmoor was reviewed on publication of the draft Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance and was considered to be consistent with the principles of the revised recommended approach.

Regional planning policy

South East Plan

- 3.9 The former regional spatial strategy for the South East, the South East Plan, was adopted in May 2009 to set out a vision for the region on strategic issues such as housing, the economy and environment. In February 2013, a Partial Revocation order was placed on the South East Plan which came in to force in March 2013 revoking all but Policy NRM6: Thames Basin Heath SPA, which remains a material consideration in Rushmoor.
- 3.10 The Thames Basin Heath SPA is designated under European Directive 79/409/EEC because of its populations of three heathland species of birds – Dartford Warbler, Nightjar and Woodlark.
- 3.11 Policy NRM6 requires new residential development that is likely to have a significant effect on the Special Protection Area (SPA) to put in place suitable measures to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects. Of specific relevance to the Open Space Strategy is the provision of Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspaces (SANGs). 8 hectares of SANG are required for every 1,000 new occupants. SANGs are areas of existing, or new, publicly accessible open space that have been identified for enhancement so that they can be made more accessible and attractive to visitors, with the intention of providing alternatives for outdoor recreation and therefore resulting in no additional impact on the protected Thames Basin Heaths.

Local planning policy context

The existing evidence base

Rushmoor Open Space Study (2009)

- 3.12 In accordance with PPG17, the study covered the existing and future needs of the Rushmoor community. Existing sites were assessed to determine their location and accessibility, size and quality, level of use and satisfaction and quality. The study concluded that Rushmoor residents use their local sites rather than travelling elsewhere indicating good usage and a general level of satisfaction. Sites are generally of a fair to good quality with some need for investment. The study also concluded that further cost benefit analysis was required to determine whether each site should a) be retained or b) receive further investment.
- 3.13 The findings suggested that Aldershot has significantly more Natural Greenspace, but significantly less recreation ground and outdoor sports facilities when compared to Farnborough, whereas playground space is more evenly distributed. Compared to NPFA standards, Rushmoor was found to be deficient in both play and recreational space only having 7.75% and 26.75% of the recommended areas, respectively (8m² per person and 16m² per person, respectively).

Rushmoor Infrastructure Plan 2011 and Update 2012

- 3.14 The Infrastructure Plan (IP) provides background evidence as to the key elements of physical and social infrastructure likely to be needed in the Borough up to 2027 to support delivery of the Rushmoor Core Strategy, including open, sport and recreational space. The IP covers Green Infrastructure (GI), making reference to a forthcoming Green Infrastructure Plan which will address the future planning of GI.
- 3.15 The Rushmoor Infrastructure Plan 2011, and the Infrastructure Plan Update 2012 identify that key areas of infrastructure that require funding are:
- the provision of mitigation for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (in the form of SANGs);
 - green infrastructure (including open space provision);
 - transport improvements; and
 - education.
- 3.16 A funding gap of approximately £40 million has been identified to deliver the infrastructure requirements.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule

- 3.17 Once the Council adopts a CIL Charging Schedule, CIL will be spent on the infrastructure needed to support future development in the Borough. Section 216 of the Planning Act 2008 as amended defines infrastructure as including 'road and other transport facilities, flood defences, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreational facilities and open spaces'.
- 3.18 The Council currently pools S106 contributions towards the provision of mitigation measures for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, towards transport and open space provision and improvements. In view of the proposed restrictions to the future pooling of S106 contributions, it is important that the Council introduces CIL to provide the infrastructure that is needed to support future development in the Borough.

Rushmoor Biodiversity Action Plan (2009-2014)

- 3.19 The Rushmoor Biodiversity Action Plan states that Rushmoor contains 930 hectares of land designated for its nature conservation value. There are five SSSI's that lie either wholly or partly within Rushmoor Borough, these are:
- Yateley & Hawley Common
 - Foxlease & Ancell's Meadows
 - Eelmoor Marsh
 - Bourley & Long Valley
 - Basingstoke Canal
- 3.20 There is one Local Nature Reserve in Rushmoor, Rowhill Copse in Aldershot. However it should be noted that the majority of this site falls within Waverley Borough. There are 36 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in Rushmoor and they vary greatly in size and reason for designation, from small roadside verge sites that support nationally scarce species, to larger areas of heathland and grassland habitats.

Rushmoor Local Plan Review 2006 to 2011 (2000)

- 3.21 The Rushmoor Local Plan Review was adopted in August 2000. It contains many of the planning policies used to encourage and guide development in the Borough. However, the adoption of the Rushmoor Plan, Core Strategy in 2011 marked the start of policies in the Local Plan Review being progressively superseded by new planning policy. The saved Rushmoor Local Plan Review policies still hold weight until the Council adopts replacement policies. Particularly important development management policies include ENV4 which seeks to the visual and physical assets of the Borough's most important open spaces:
- Farnborough Hill Convent
 - St Michael's Abbey
 - Hawley Common
 - Land at M3 Minley interchange (Hawley Meadow)
 - Queen's Parade
 - MoD Playing Fields/Mons Hill
- 3.22 Other policies relevant to the Open Space Strategy include:
- ENV 5 – Green Corridors
 - OR4 – Public Open Space Provision
 - OR5 – Allotments
 - OR6 – Noisy Sports
 - OR7 – Indoor Sports and Recreation
 - OR8 – Informal Countryside Recreation

Rushmoor Plan Core Strategy 2011

3.23 The Rushmoor Plan is the local planning portfolio of documents that contains the latest local planning policies shaping development and land use in the Borough. The Rushmoor Plan is a work in progress. The Core Strategy, the principal document of the new plan containing a long term vision for the Borough and the strategic planning policies aimed at achieving the vision, was adopted in October 2011. The most relevant planning policy is CP12 Open Space, Sport and Recreation, which ensures good provision of high quality and accessible open space to meet a wide range of recreation, outdoor sport and open space needs in Rushmoor, including publicly accessible natural green space, principally by maintaining and improving provision and accessibility for all and focussing most investment on Rushmoor's District Parks and Recreation Grounds:

- Aldershot Park
- Blunden Road Recreation Ground
- Cove Green Recreation Ground
- Ivy Road Recreation Ground
- King George V Playing Fields
- Manor Park
- Moor Road Recreation Ground
- Municipal Gardens
- Osborne Road Recreation Ground
- Queen Elizabeth Park
- Queens Road Recreation Ground
- Rectory Road Recreation Ground
- Southwood Playing Fields

3.24 Other strategic planning policies relevant to an Open Space Strategy include:

- CP10 – Infrastructure Provision
- CP11 – Green Infrastructure Network
- CP13 – Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area
- CP14 – Countryside
- CP15 – Biodiversity
- SP3 – Aldershot Town Centre
- SP4 – Farnborough Town Centre

Aldershot Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document

3.25 The Aldershot Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (ATC SPD) was adopted in January 2009 and is a material consideration in decision-making for development proposals in and around Aldershot town centre. It sets out the vision for the environmental and physical improvement of Aldershot town centre for the next 10-15 years to create a thriving, accessible and revitalised town centre, which enhances the local character of the town and capitalises on the opportunities provided by the Aldershot Urban Extension development. Plans for open space feature heavily:

- the Concept Plan describes the need for green corridors for people and wildlife to link strategic open spaces and woodlands;
- The SPDs Public Realm Principles set the foundations for attractive, accessible, well lit, culturally and economically diverse, locally distinctive, connected, high quality, managed and maintained public places.

Farnborough Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document

- 3.26 The Farnborough Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (FTC SPD) was adopted in July 2007 and is a material consideration in decision-making for development proposals in and around Farnborough town centre. It sets out a vision for Farnborough and a series of objectives, one of which commits the Council to creating a high quality network of streets and spaces to provide a more attractive town centre environment. The Documents Public Realm Principles include creating a new, high quality open space at the southern end of Queensmead and, in addition, improve existing spaces so that they are easier to move through, well lit, clearly signed posted and lined with mature vegetation, safe and culturally and economically diverse. The SPD is supported by the Farnborough Prospectus, which sets out opportunities for development in Farnborough Town Centre for the next ten years.

Policy and strategic context specific to sport and recreation facilities

- 3.27 In order to ensure that the Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities Review takes account of relevant local, regional and national policies and priorities the Consultant Team reviewed a range of strategies, policies and plans. The focus of this element of the methodology is to identify specific corporate priorities for Rushmoor Borough Council which both influence and can be influenced by indoor sports facility provision. The strategy and policy review which follows in this section also identifies how Rushmoor's indoor sports facility stock contributes to regional and national policy agendas.

National strategy

'A Sporting Habit for Life: Sport England Strategy 2012-2017', Sport England

- 3.28 Through its strategy, 'A Sporting Habit for Life', Sport England will invest over £1 billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding between 2012 and 2017 with the aim of creating a meaningful and lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level.
- 3.29 By 2017 Sport England aims to have transformed sport so that it becomes a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy sets out the following overarching aims which specifically relate to facilities:
- Provide the right facilities in the right places.
 - Support local authorities and unlock local funding.
- 3.30 The key targets which Sport England will be working towards up to 2017 are:
- A year-on-year increase in the proportion of people who play sport once a week for at least 30 minutes.
 - Raise the percentage of 14-25 year olds playing sport once a week and reduce the proportion dropping out of sport.
- 3.31 With regards to investment in facilities, Sport England will invest £160 million into building and improving sports facilities. In addition to investing in facilities, Sport England recognises the need to develop activity and ensure that facilities are well used.
- 3.32 Enhancing indoor facilities in Rushmoor and ensuring that existing facilities are maximised will help to achieve Sport England's objectives at a local level in Rushmoor.
- 'Start Active, Stay Active: A report on physical activity for health from the four home countries' Chief Medical Officers', Chief Medical Officers for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, 2011*
- 3.33 This document recognises that there is strong scientific evidence to suggest that being physically active can help people to lead healthier and happier lives and that inactivity is a particular health risk. It establishes a UK-wide consensus on the amount and type of physical activity which should be achieved for particular age groups, providing guidelines for early years, children and young people, adults and older people.

- 3.34 Protecting, enhancing and providing good quality facilities for sport and recreation in Rushmoor can support the following recommended activity levels:
- Children and young people: Moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity for at least 60 minutes per day.
 - Adults: Physical activity to improve muscle strength on at least two days a week and 30 minutes activity on at least 5 days a week or 75 minutes vigorous intensity activity per week.
- 3.35 In addition to developing formal facilities for sport, there are opportunities to improve access to outdoor spaces in Rushmoor for running, walking and cycling, utilising the natural habitat, green space and the water areas playing an important role in improving the health and wellbeing of local people, particularly if activities which target those who are currently least likely to be active are offered. These are considered in more detail in the open spaces assessment and recommendations within this overall study.

Regional strategy

'Sport Hampshire and IOW Strategy 2010-2013'

- 3.36 This strategy provides a strategic framework for the development and co-ordination of sport and physical activity for Hampshire and the unitary authorities of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight for the period 2010-2013. The vision is 'Sport Hampshire and IOW inspiring more people to be more active, more often.'
- 3.37 Relevant aims set out in this strategy include:
- To plan strategically and provide a range of high quality, active environments and appropriate facilities supporting introductory activities, participation and performance sport.
- 3.38 Relevant specific activities to support this aim are as follows:
- Strengthening the planning evidence base to support the provision of sport, physical activity and active travel infrastructure, at a local and sub-regional level.
 - Increasing the use of community, private and natural settings to support sport and physical activity provision.
 - Enhancing the provision of high quality clubs, facilities and other sport and physical activity settings.
- 3.39 Providing quality indoor facilities in Rushmoor and enhancing usage of existing facilities will help to achieve Sport Hampshire and IOW's aims and objectives at a local level within Rushmoor. Alongside this is the detailed evidence base that Rushmoor has developed for this study to support the continued provision and enhancement of facilities for sport and recreation.

Local strategy

'The Rushmoor Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2026'

- 3.40 This strategy sets out how Rushmoor will achieve its vision of 'a thriving, innovative and attractive borough, proud of its heritage...which has great places to go and lots to do.'
- 3.41 Quality indoor facilities for sport can contribute to the following specific priorities in Rushmoor:
- To take a Neighbourhood Renewal approach to improving Mayfield, North Town and Heron Wood.
 - To encourage a healthy weight for children and adults
- 3.42 Improving resident satisfaction levels with the areas they live in is recognised as being important and this is something that high quality, well-used indoor facilities for sport and recreation can support. Regular participation in sport is a key measure for Rushmoor overall and high quality indoor facilities for sport and recreation are vital to ensuring that residents in Rushmoor has access to sufficient quality opportunities to be active.

'Rushmoor Plan: Planning for Rushmoor's Future Core Strategy October 2011'

- 3.43 The Core Strategy is a key policy document for Rushmoor and will be used to guide the location, scale and type of future development in Rushmoor up to 2027.
- 3.44 Relevant key challenges which relate to the provision of quality facilities for indoor sport include the following.
- Key challenge 1: Accommodating the needs of the future population profile
 - Reflect the future population profile in the provision of physical infrastructure.
 - Key challenge 3: Regeneration of Aldershot and Farnborough town centres
 - Identify the future role of each centre and appropriate levels and types of development.
 - Require a high quality environment.
 - Promote accessibility/transport improvements.
 - Protect and enhance the vitality of the town centres.
 - Key challenge 11: Improve health outcomes
 - To ensure access to open space and leisure.
 - To ensure access to health facilities.
 - Key challenge 14: To provide an appropriate range of open space, sport and recreational facilities.
 - To protect facilities from inappropriate development.
 - To ensure adequate provision/enhancement of new facilities.
 - Specific objectives which relate to the provision of indoor facilities for sport include:
 - To ensure high quality, well designed development is delivered in the borough.
 - To enhance the vitality and viability of Aldershot and Farnborough town centres through delivery of planned regeneration.
 - To improve quality of life for residents, minimising inequalities across the borough and particularly to focus on reducing pockets of multiple deprivation in Mayfield, North Town and Heron Wood.
- 3.45 This document also states that there are high levels of satisfaction amongst residents with sports and recreation facilities in Rushmoor. The main priority for the future is stated to be protecting existing facilities and improving and maintaining their quality. This is further supported by the findings within this study.

'Health Improvement Plan for Rushmoor 2010-2013'

- 3.46 This plan is designed to improve the health of residents in the borough. The plan notes that obesity in adults and children is an issue for Rushmoor and that physical activity can help to address obesity. Relevant actions include promoting local facilities and developing and promoting physical activity options.

Policy and strategic context: Implications for Rushmoor's open spaces, sport and recreation study

- The NPPF provides strong national support for the provision of multifunctional open spaces for wildlife, health, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage and food production and emphasises the importance of access to high quality open space and opportunities for sport and recreation for the health and well-being of communities.
- There is a need for a robust evidence of the nature, typology and extent of green space within Rushmoor.
- The NPPF indicates that 'the Community Infrastructure Levy should support and incentivise new development, particularly by placing control over a meaningful proportion of funds raised with the neighbourhoods where development takes place'.
- The NPPF requires that existing open space 'should not be built on unless an assessment clearly shows the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements'. This study will help to define whether there is any surplus open space in Rushmoor.
- The NPPF requires that development should be delivered on 'land of less environmental value'. This study will identify which land delivers environmental, social and economic benefits to Rushmoor.
- Policies need to be based on local needs and aspirations of Rushmoor's residents.
- The Core Strategy and extant policies within the Rushmoor Local Plan Review contain a number of guidelines of relevance to the provision of open spaces. These will be reviewed in light of the study findings.
- The saved Policy NRM6: Thames Basin Heath SPA of the South East Plan is a material consideration in Rushmoor and requires new residential development that is likely to have a significant effect on the SPA to put in place suitable measures to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects through the provision of SANGs.
- The Rushmoor Open Space assessment of 2009 recorded parts of the Borough as being deficient in both play and recreational space.
- The Infrastructure Plan (2011 & 2012 update) identifies that key features which require funding include provision of SANGs, green infrastructure, transport improvements and open space provision.
- Rushmoor contains 930 hectares of open space which is designated for its nature conservation value and there are five SSSIs that lie either wholly or partly within the Borough.
- The Aldershot Town Centre and Farnborough Town Centre SPDs promote the enhancement of the urban environment to provide a high quality network of open spaces.
- This overview of relevant strategies demonstrates that the continued provision of quality facilities for sport in Rushmoor, and increased usage of those facilities, can contribute directly to a range of strategic priorities in Rushmoor, Hampshire and nationally. Developing a sound evidence base and ensuring that the benefits of improving and maintaining Rushmoor's infrastructure for sport are well-recognised through the Development Plan Document will be a priority for Rushmoor and this study provides a sound basis upon which to do this.

Section B: Assessment of local needs

4 Local needs assessment

Local authority profile

Current population

- 4.1 Based on the 2011 census, Rushmoor has a population of 93,807. As shown in **Figure 4.1**, the population density varies throughout the borough, there are three main concentrations of population based around the urban centres of Aldershot and Farnborough, whilst much of the rest of the borough has a relatively low population density.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

- 4.2 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (2010) shows that the vast majority of the borough falls within the least deprived 40% of the country, with a significant proportion within the least deprived 20% nationwide. However, as shown in **Figure 4.2**, there are six pockets which contain areas within the most deprived 40% of the country. The levels of greater deprivation largely correlate with the more densely populated urban areas; the most significant pockets of deprivation are located in:
- One area of north Farnborough, to the north of Mayfield Road, and south of Farnborough Town Football Club.
 - One area in the east of Aldershot, to the north of the industrial sites (around Denmark Square and Pegasus Avenue)
 - One area in the south of Aldershot, around Aldershot Park and the Crematorium.
- 4.3 There are very similar patterns when considering individual 'domains' of the IMD. The Living Environment domain of the IMD considers four indicators:
- Social and private housing in poor condition
 - Houses without central heating
 - Air quality
 - Road traffic accidents
- 4.4 Of these indicators, two are of relevance to open space. If there is a considerable amount of social and private housing in poor condition, the importance of access to good quality open space becomes even greater. If air quality is poor, open space can act as a buffer against road derived air pollution, providing much needed 'breathing spaces' away from air pollution².
- 4.5 **Figure 4.3** (Index of Multiple Deprivation – Living Environment) shows that on the whole Rushmoor does not have high levels of deprivation relating to the Living Environment. Three pockets of higher levels (within the 20-40 percentile) are shown in Aldershot and Farnborough.
- 4.6 The Health domain of the IMD refers to morbidity, disability, premature mortality and mental health. There is considerable evidence to link activity and exercise to an improvement in many of these things, and open space provides an important facility for such activity³.
- 4.7 **Figure 4.4** (Index of Multiple Deprivation – Health) shows a very similar pattern to the overall IMD; most of the borough falls within the least deprived 60% of the country, but there are a few pockets of greater deprivation, clustered around the two urban areas.

² Improving Air Quality – Benefits of Green Infrastructure Evidence Note ([http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/urqp_evidence_note_006_Improving_air_quality.pdf/\\$file/urqp_evidence_note_006_Improving_air_quality.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/urqp_evidence_note_006_Improving_air_quality.pdf/$file/urqp_evidence_note_006_Improving_air_quality.pdf))

³ <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/linkingpeople/health/default.aspx>

Demographic indicators

Access to private gardens

- 4.8 Using Census 2011 data it is possible to use housing type as a proxy for the proportion of households which are unlikely to have access to a private garden. Housing type is differentiated into the following three main categories:
- Whole house or bungalow (including detached, semi-detached and terraced)
 - Flat, maisonette or apartment (including purpose built flats, converted or shared houses and flats within commercial properties)
 - Caravans or other mobile or temporary structure
- 4.9 We have worked on the assumption that most whole houses or bungalows will have access to a private garden, and that other housing types (flats, maisonettes, apartments and caravans or other mobile or temporary structures) will not.
- 4.10 **Figure 4.5** (Proportion of Households Unlikely to have Access to a Private Garden) shows that throughout the borough, there is a relatively high proportion of households that are likely to have access to a private garden. However, a few pockets of areas around the urban areas have concentrations of housing types unlikely to have access to a private garden. In these areas, the need for good quality, accessible open space is much greater. In the borough as a whole, just over 25% of households (9,878 households) live in housing types that are unlikely to have access to private gardens.

Armed Forces

- 4.11 As Rushmoor has a military base in Aldershot, there is a significant number of armed forces personnel (and their families) based within the borough. According to the 2011 census 2,480 people in Rushmoor are employed by the Armed Forces (about 2.6% of the total population). Of these, 1,529 live in a household, so are likely to have dependents living with them.

Ethnic diversity

- 4.12 Rushmoor is the most ethnically diverse area in Hampshire⁴. According to the 2011 census, 6,131 people in Rushmoor are Nepalese (6.5%). As set out in the Ethnic Diversity and Migration Data Sheet produced by Rushmoor Borough Council in January 2013, due to the links between the Gurkha's and Aldershot Garrison (the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment is based at Aldershot Garrison), there is a particularly strong Nepali community presence in Rushmoor. There was a High Court ruling in 2008 which gave Ghurkas who retired before 1997 and their dependent families the right to settle in the UK.

Health indicators

- 4.13 The Public Health England profile for Rushmoor (2013)⁵ echoes the diverse picture painted by the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Although deprivation is lower than the England average overall, around 2,600 children live in poverty. In Year 6, 18.5% of children are classified as obese, and an estimated 25.4% of adults are obese. Rates of hospital stays for self-harm are significantly worse than the England average. Open space, recreation and sports provision all have a role to play in tackling these health issues.

Future population

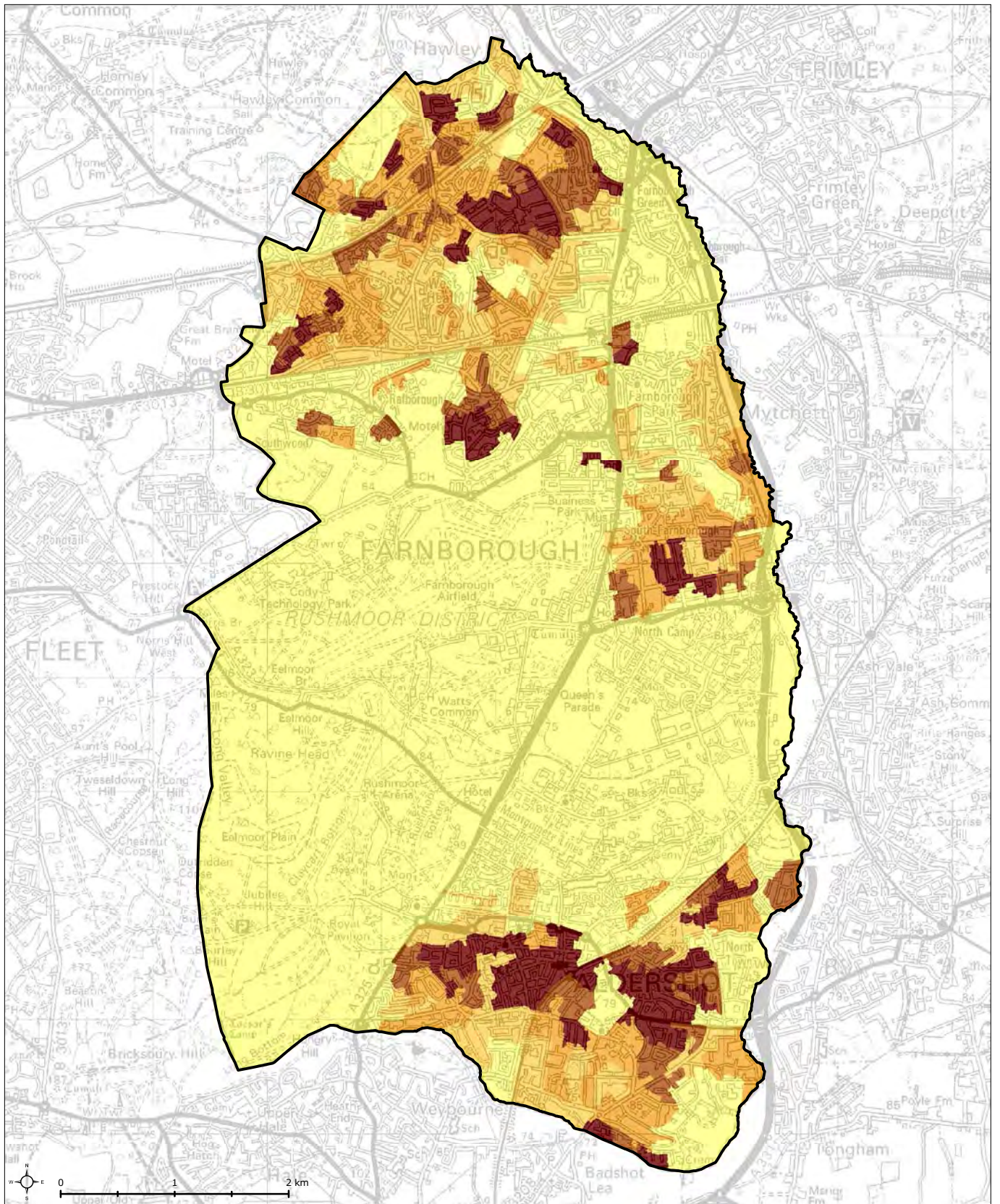
- 4.14 Hampshire County Council produces long term population projections, running to 2026⁶. The figures are projected forward from the 2001 census. As set out in the guidance to the projection: "The main assumption underlying the projections is that the number of dwellings built between 2006 and 2026 in each district will be consistent with the overall numbers put forward in the South East Plan. The period 2001-2008 is based on actual dwelling completions."⁷

⁴ Ethnic diversity and migration data sheet, Rushmoor Borough Council, January 2013

⁵ <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=50215&SEARCH=Rushmoor&SPEAR=>

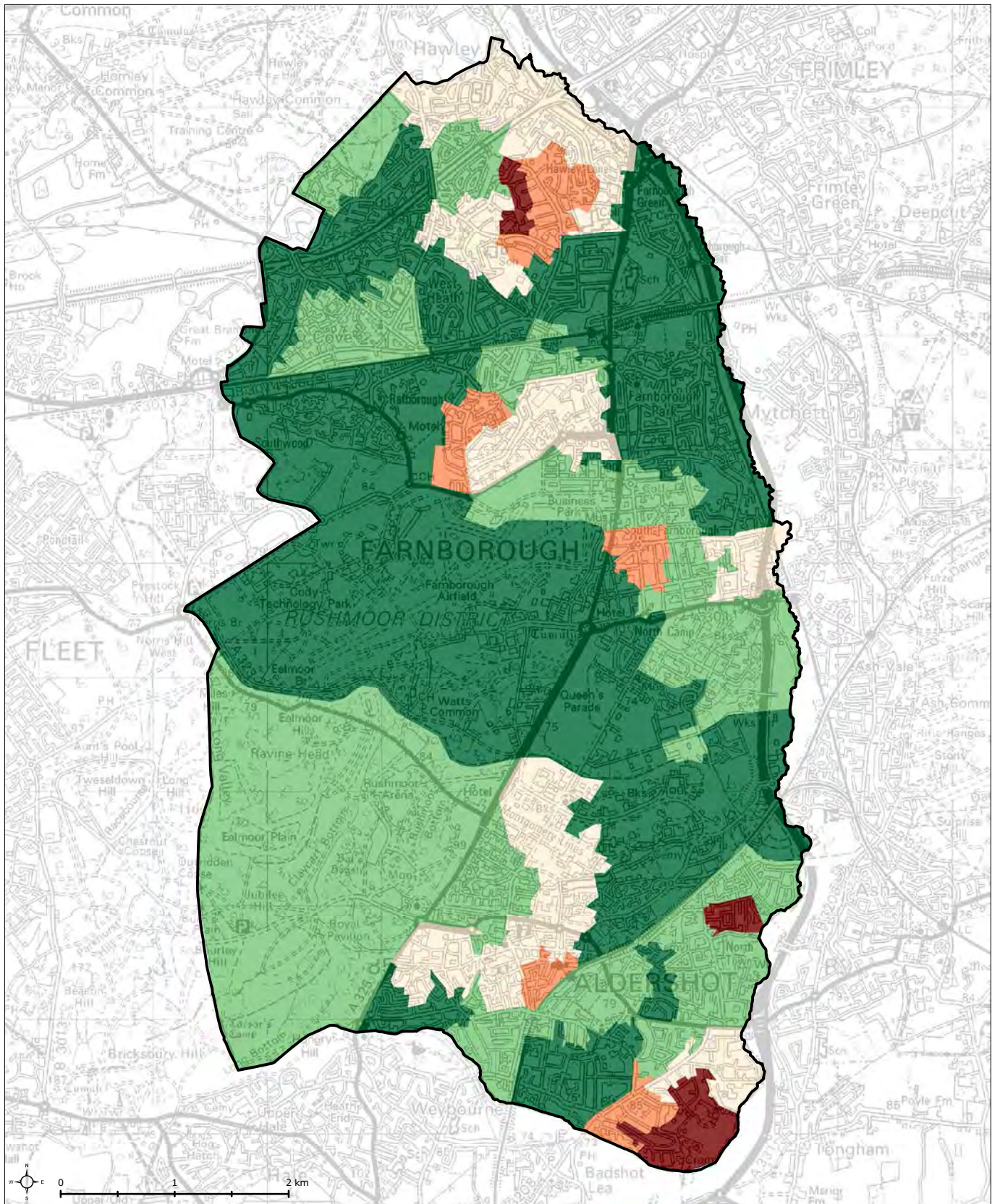
⁶ <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/population-statistics/pop-estimates/long-term-proj.htm>

⁷ <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/population-statistics/pop-estimates/long-term-proj/long-term-projections-explained.htm>




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Rushmoor Borough boundary	Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study										
<p>Number of persons per hectare</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="159 1892 231 1937">Light Yellow</td> <td data-bbox="247 1892 383 1937">0.7 - 30.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="159 1937 231 1982">Yellow-Orange</td> <td data-bbox="247 1937 383 1982">30.1 - 45.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="159 1982 231 2027">Orange</td> <td data-bbox="247 1982 383 2027">45.1 - 60.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="159 2027 231 2072">Dark Orange</td> <td data-bbox="247 2027 383 2072">60.1 - 75.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="159 2072 231 2116">Dark Red</td> <td data-bbox="247 2072 383 2116">75.1 - 248.8</td> </tr> </table>		Light Yellow	0.7 - 30.0	Yellow-Orange	30.1 - 45.0	Orange	45.1 - 60.0	Dark Orange	60.1 - 75.0	Dark Red	75.1 - 248.8
Light Yellow	0.7 - 30.0										
Yellow-Orange	30.1 - 45.0										
Orange	45.1 - 60.0										
Dark Orange	60.1 - 75.0										
Dark Red	75.1 - 248.8										




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 Rushmoor Borough boundary


Deprivation indicator (Percentile - England wide)

 0 - 20% (Most deprived)

 20 - 40%

 40 - 60%

 60 - 80%

 80 - 100% (Least deprived)

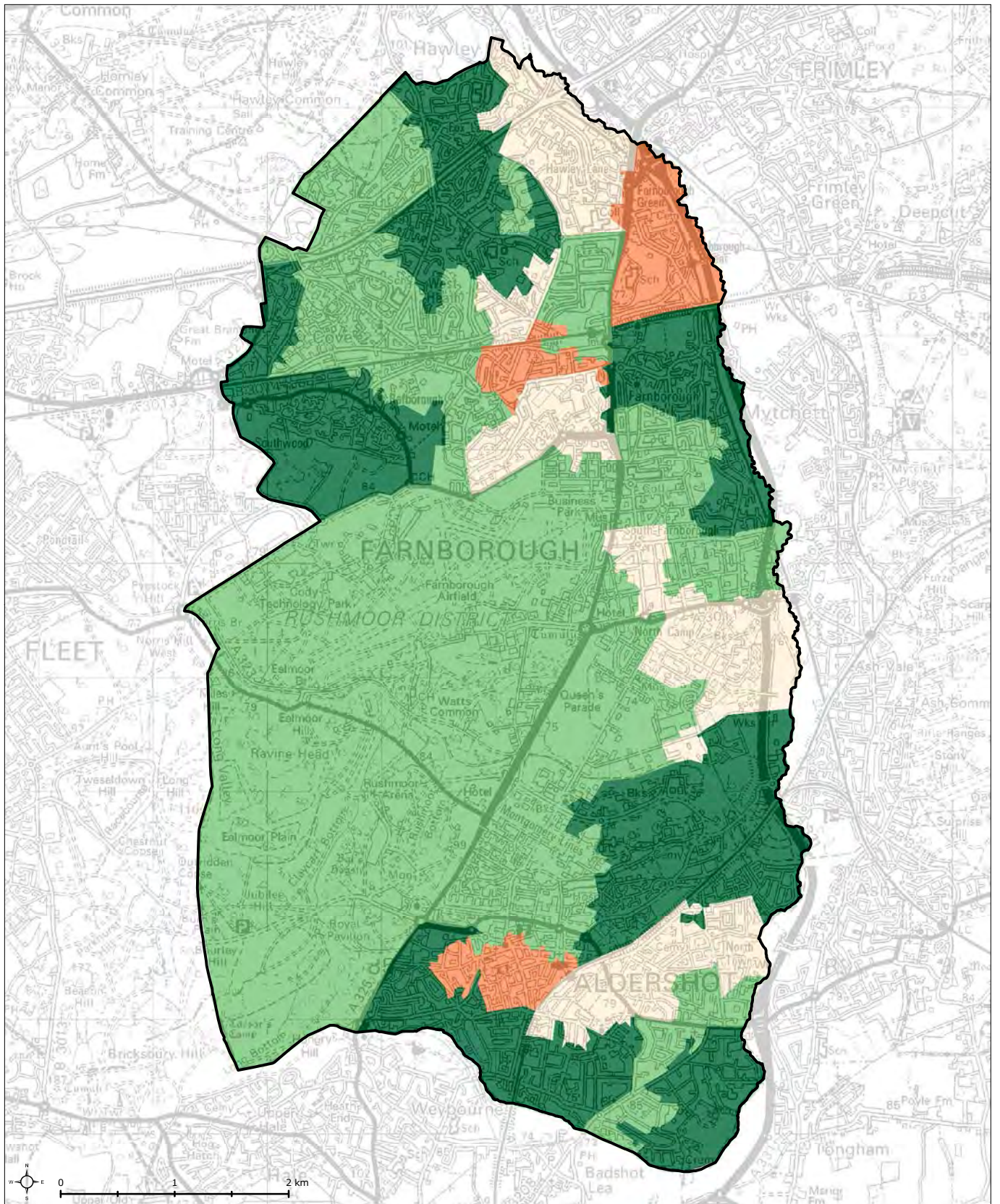
Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 4.2
Index of Multiple Deprivation



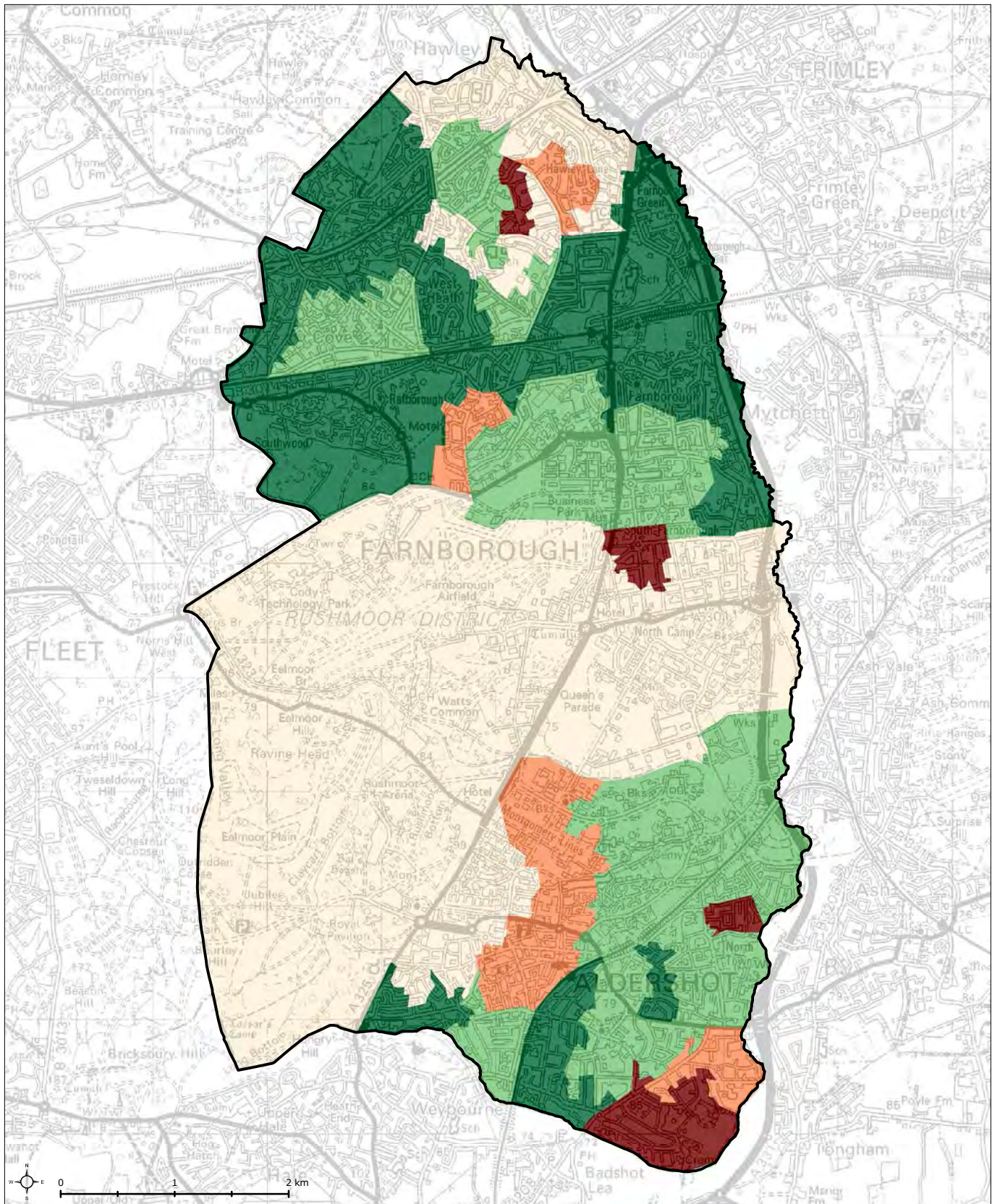
Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Source: Office of National Statistics



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	Rushmoor Borough boundary	<p>Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</p> <p>Figure 4.3</p> <p>Index of Multiple Deprivation (Living Environment)</p>
<p>Living environment indicator (Percentile - England wide)</p>		
	0 - 20% (Most deprived)	<p>LUC</p>
	20 - 40%	
	40 - 60%	
	60 - 80%	
	80 - 100% (Least deprived)	
<p>Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000</p>		<p>Source: Office of National Statistics</p>



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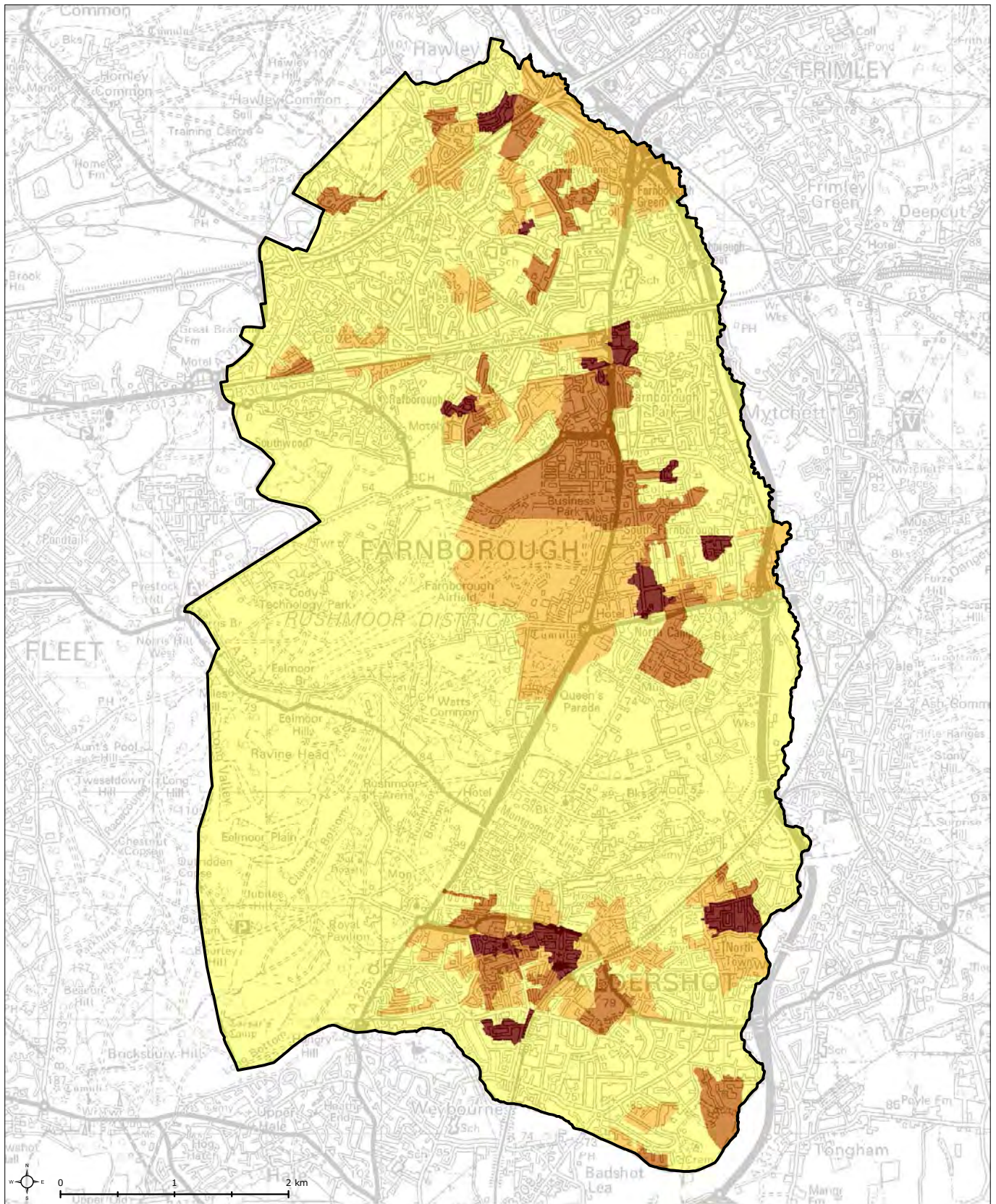
Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 4.4
Index of Multiple Deprivation (Health)



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Source: Office of National Statistics



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Rushmoor Borough boundary	Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
<p>Percentage of households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.0 - 25.0 25.1 - 50.0 50.1 - 75.0 75.1 - 100.0 	
<p>Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000</p>	

4.15 A significant caveat accompanies the HCC projections, which is that:

"...these projections are based on the housing policies contained in the South East Plan. However the Coalition Government revoked all Regional Strategies including the South East Plan in July 2010 and intends to abolish them as part of its Localism Bill. As a consequence the dwelling numbers brought forward in local planning documents may be different to those in the South East Plan and the population projections based on them will vary accordingly. In the meantime, and subject to the caveats above, these projections remain the best available."⁸

4.16 The HCC projections for Rushmoor are set out in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1: Long term population projections, Hampshire County Council.

Rushmoor	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026
Dwellings	36,232	37,930	39,479	41,029	42,579	44,129
Population	90,974	93,858	95,959	97,495	98,882	100,727

4.17 However, the 2011 census has demonstrated a lower population for Rushmoor than that projected for 2011, so Rushmoor Borough Council have re-projected the data, based on the same percentage increases, using the 2011 census data as a base. This data is shown in **Table 4.2** below.

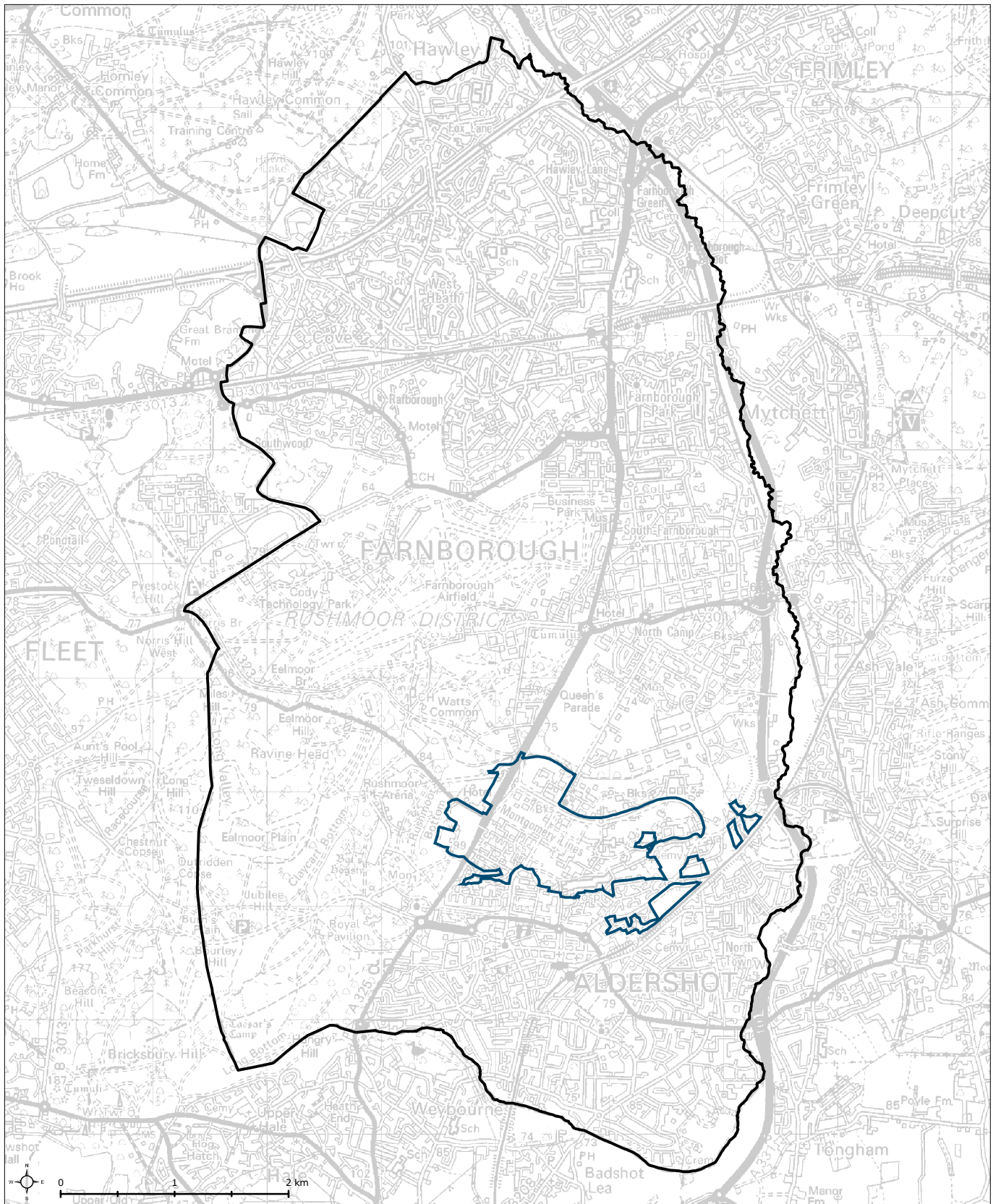
Table 4.2: Revised population projections for Rushmoor

Year	2011	2016	2021	2026	2027
Age group					
0-4	6,747	6,621	6,735	6,813	6,812
5-15	12,206	12,335	12,878	13,149	13,195
16-29	18,782	18,361	17,625	17,550	17,624
30-44	22,579	22,250	23,161	24,326	24,438
45-64	22,049	22,470	22,842	22,611	22,516
65-74	6,242	7,250	7,577	7,702	7,890
75-84	3,626	3,925	4,401	5,285	5,357
85+	1,576	1,834	2,174	2,578	2,702
All Ages	93,807	95,046	97,393	100,014	100,534
Percentage increase		1.32	2.47	2.69	0.52



4.18 Overall, this shows a potential steady increase of just over 400 people per annum.

4.19 The majority of growth in Rushmoor is likely to be focused within the Aldershot Urban Extension (AUE). The AUE will provide up to 3,850 new homes for Rushmoor, together with associated infrastructure. The proposals for the AUE show the creation of a new public open space (Parade Park) at the centre of the development and approximately 110 ha of SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space). The SANGS aim to provide mitigation to avoid adding additional recreational pressure to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). The AUE is to the north of Aldershot town centre, as shown on **Figure 4.6**. Planning consent was granted subject to the completion of a S106 agreement for the AUE in July 2013.

⁸ <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/population-statistics/pop-estimates/long-term-proj.htm>



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-  Rushmoor Borough boundary
-  Aldershot Urban Extension (AUE)

Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 4.6
Aldershot Urban Extension



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Key findings from open space consultation

- 4.20 The purpose of the consultation is to understand the needs of the community and the perceptions of the community regarding the current levels of provision.

Method

- 4.21 Rushmoor Borough Council hosted a workshop with key stakeholders to discuss how the open spaces in Rushmoor are used and to identify key issues and opportunities. The workshop was attended by representatives of local sports groups, national governing bodies and local community groups (e.g. Friends groups and Societies). Rushmoor Officers were also present as were representatives of surrounding authorities. Attendees were divided into the following four groups; indoor sport facilities, outdoor sport facilities, football and open spaces. This workshop was supplemented with attendance at the Maddhat Shamuha to seek views from the Nepalese community who were known to be keen users of public open spaces in the Borough.
- 4.22 To capture responses from a wider group, a web based consultation was held for 10 weeks from 20/09/2013 to 02/12/2013. There were 328 respondents to the survey, of whom 280 completed the full survey. Of the respondents, 52% were male and 48% female. A broadly similar proportion of people (around 20%) fell into each ten year age band ranging between 35 and 74, with the majority (24%) being 55-64. Just one respondent (0.4%) was in the 18-24 age band. Over 10% of those who answered considered themselves to have conditions or disabilities which limit their daily activities.
- 4.23 White British respondents accounted for 88% of the responses. The next biggest group (4%) were those that elected not to state their ethnicity. Almost two thirds of the respondents (63%) had lived in Rushmoor for over 20 years, and 22% had lived in the borough for between 11 and 20 years. Just 4% of the respondents had lived in Rushmoor for less than 5 years.

Key findings

From stakeholder workshop

- 4.24 The open spaces group included the Council's ecology and biodiversity officer, Friends of Cove Brook, Rowhill Nature Reserve Society, Rushmoor Planning Officer, Blackwater Valley Partnership, Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust and the Farnborough Society. The comments received from the group discussing the open space network are provided below.

Incidental open spaces

- In addition to the sites audited, there are a lot of small areas of amenity grassland surrounding housing. These areas could be improved through providing elements of natural play and increasing biodiversity. These smaller open spaces are important and their function should be considered.
- Functionality of road verges could be improved e.g. increasing biodiversity, SuDS etc.

Community involvement

- There are number of established community groups active in the management of open spaces throughout the borough but further community involvement should be encouraged.
- The Blackwater Valley partnership has been successful in bringing groups together and coordinating works.
- There is not a clear structure for existing voluntary groups to share information although issues may be discussed at RBC's 'Environmental panel'.
- Local businesses have been involved in projects at Queen Elizabeth Park and this is an effective way of delivering one-off projects.

Connectivity of open spaces

- There are issues with the connectivity of open spaces through lack of signage and the network of footpaths is fragmented due to railway lines and busy highways (crossing points could be better).
- People should be encouraged to walk and to become involved in active recreation.
- Directional signage could be improved to link open spaces and other features e.g. neighbourhood centres, leisure facilities etc.
- Queen Elizabeth Park provides a good network of footpaths which could be better connected to the wider rights of way network.
- There are opportunities to create a destination and marketing partnership to promote and interpret open spaces and access routes through the borough.
- Heritage walks have been formed but these could be better promoted and the Pilgrims route to the Parish Church is good.
- Southwood signage has been a major success.
- More access points from the Blackwater Valley corridor particularly into Aldershot and to Cove Brook and Southwood.
- Cove Brook Greenway group has completed path works.
- There are no rights of ways across either of the borough's golf courses.

Ministry of Defence sites

- Public rights of way are not encouraged by MoD or Aspire although Caesar's camp is well-managed.
- Hawley Wood is not officially a publicly accessible open space although many people use it for informal recreation.
- MoD land is patrolled by military vehicles making it feel unwelcoming to the general public.
- Some open spaces surrounding MoD land are not managed and have become overgrown.
- Although sections of land owned by the MoD are being developed as part of the Aldershot Urban Extension, the actual population of military personnel will increase (increase in personnel by approx. 750) so there is a need to retain existing quantity of open spaces.

General comments on open spaces

- Larger public open spaces are very good and well used. However they could be more multi-functional, balancing recreation with biodiversity value.
- Illumination of sport pitches causes disruption to wildlife through both light pollution and extending use.
- Litter can accumulate at times even though the grounds maintenance contractor makes regular collections.
- There is no access to Eelmoor Marsh.
- Parks and gardens offer a range of facilities for play and some teen provision with skate parks provided in Farnborough and Aldershot. However provision for teenagers could be improved through installing green gyms and trim trails etc.
- There could be greater provision for other recreation activities such as angling.
- The location of the skate park at Manor Park is not sympathetic to the heritage of the Park and lighting disrupts wildlife.
- The study needs to consider open spaces outside of the borough.
- Funds for the improvement of open spaces should be secured from developers to tackle most important projects. Developer contributions should be used for long-term revenue projects.

From Maddhat Shamuha

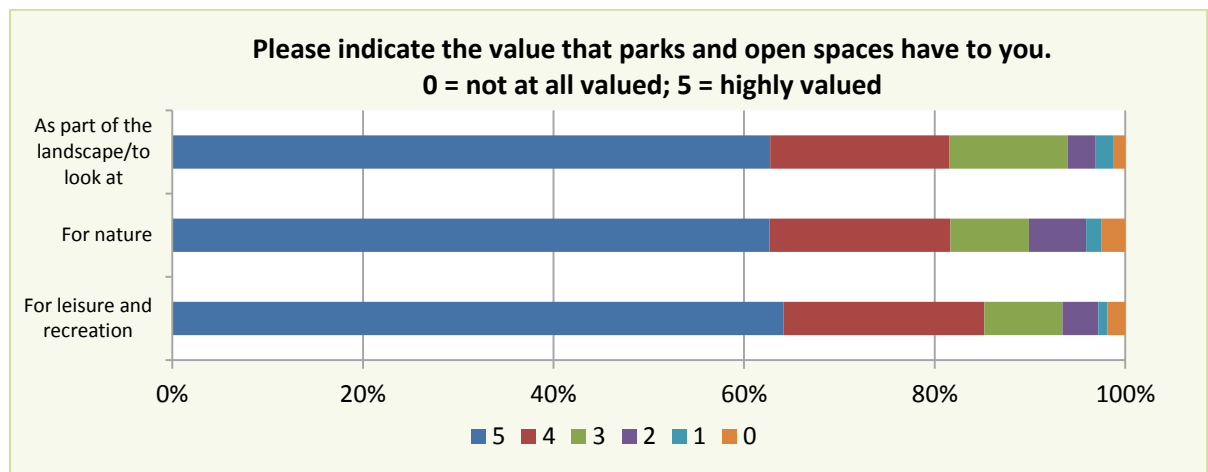
4.25 LUC and RBC Officers attended the Maddhat Shamuha on 29th November 2013 to seek the views from members of the Nepalese community. The open space strategy was explained to attendees, and they were given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire. LUC and RBC Officers were also on hand to speak to attendees. Eight questionnaires were returned and the following key points were provided at the meeting.

- People use open spaces for leisure and recreation, for nature and as part of the landscape/ to look at.
- Most tended to visit open spaces for between 30 mins and 2 hours and at least once per week visiting throughout the day.
- Most travel to the open space on foot or using public bus services.
- Most use the sites for exercise, to meet friends and observe wildlife.
- Respondents also use the sites for children and for family outings.
- Respondents were very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the amount and quality of open spaces and that they are able to get to their open spaces easily.

From questionnaire

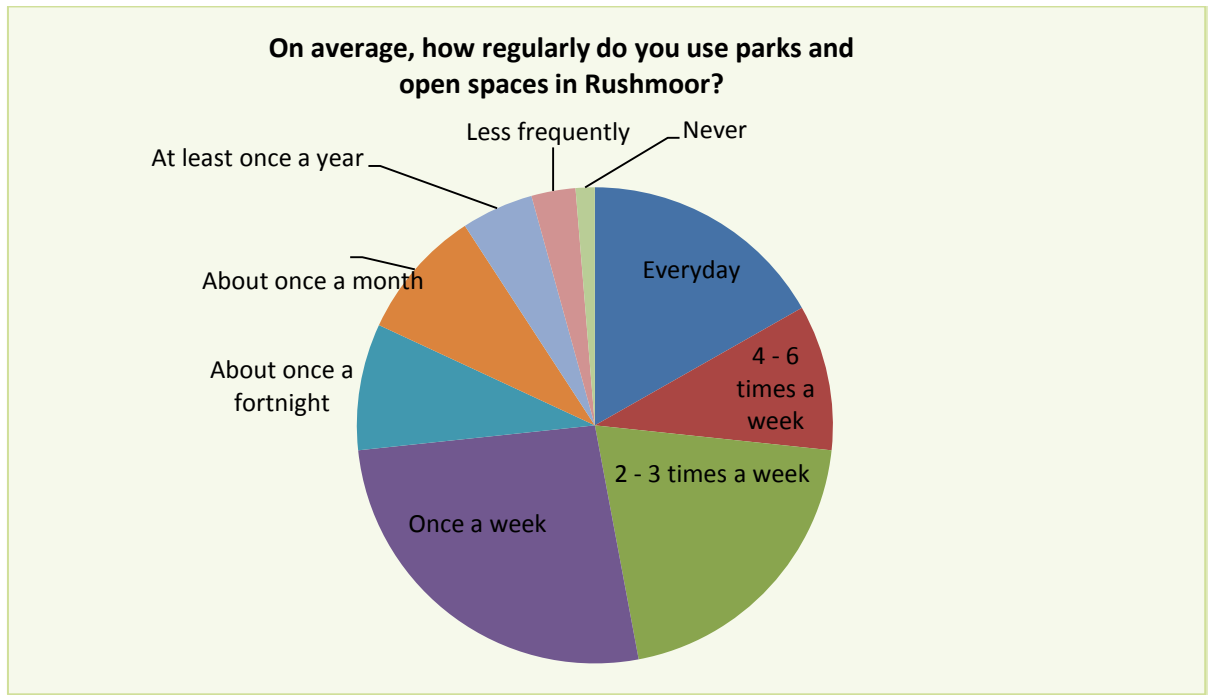
4.26 As shown in **Figure 4.7** people value parks and open spaces broadly equally amongst the three categories (as part of the landscape / to look at, for nature and for leisure and recreation). Within each category, over 80% of respondents rated the value of each as 'highly valued' (i.e. a 4 or above).

Figure 4.7: The value that parks and open spaces have to you



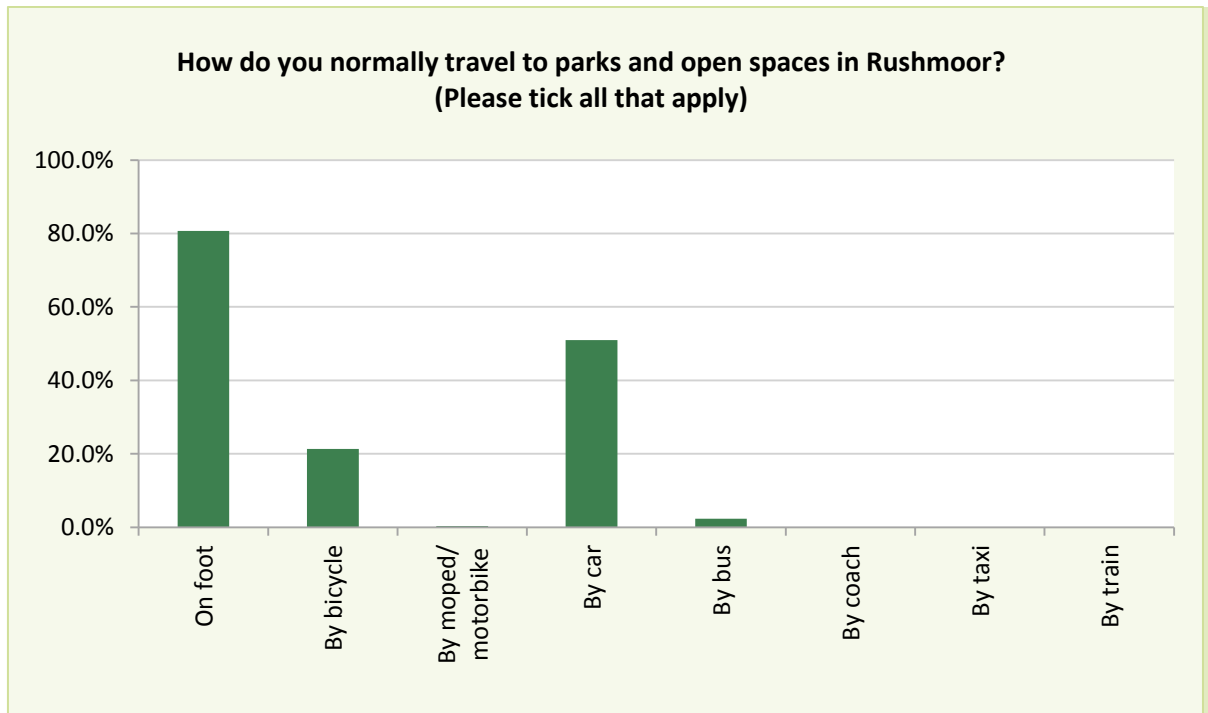
4.27 As shown in **Figure 4.8**, over 70% of respondents use parks and open spaces once a week or more frequently, and 43% spend between 2 and 7 hours each week taking part in leisure and recreational activities. About three quarters of the respondents (75%) spend between 30 minutes and two hours per visit. Respondents showed that spaces were visited at all times of day, and at the weekend, with almost 50% of people visiting them in the afternoon (between 1pm and dusk), and a similar proportion visiting at weekends.

Figure 4.8: Regularity of use



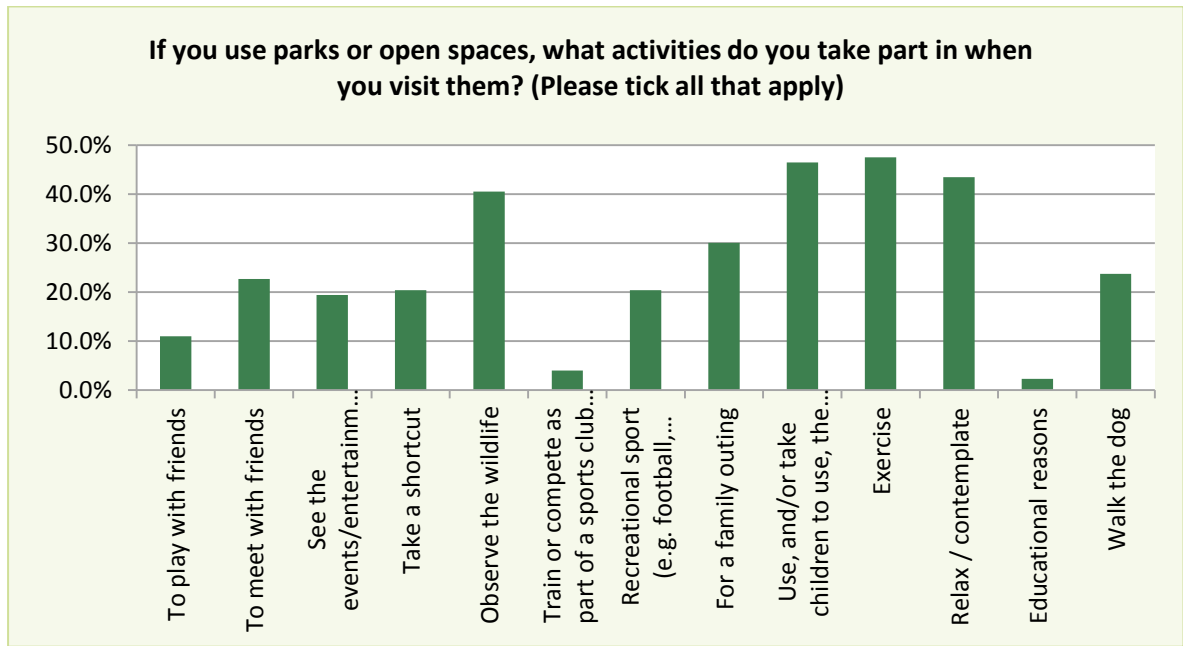
4.28 As shown in **Figure 4.9**, 81% of people travel to parks and open spaces on foot, and over 20% by bicycle; 51% travel by car.

Figure 4.9: Travel to parks and open spaces



4.29 As shown in **Figure 4.10**, respondents use parks and open spaces for a diverse range of activities. 48% use them for exercise, 47% to take children to use the play facilities, and 44% to relax and contemplate. A significant 41% use the parks and open spaces to observe the wildlife. A number of other activities were noted, including using an allotment, geocaching and Tai Chi.

Figure 4.10: Activities within parks and open spaces



4.30 Of the 11% of respondents who said they didn't use parks and open spaces regularly (i.e. once a month or less) a diverse range of reasons were given for the lack of use, including illness or lack of mobility, lack of time, and also anti-social behaviour by other groups of users.

4.31 **Table 4.3** shows the parks and open spaces named as those which respondents used most frequently.

Table 4.3: Most frequently named parks / open spaces

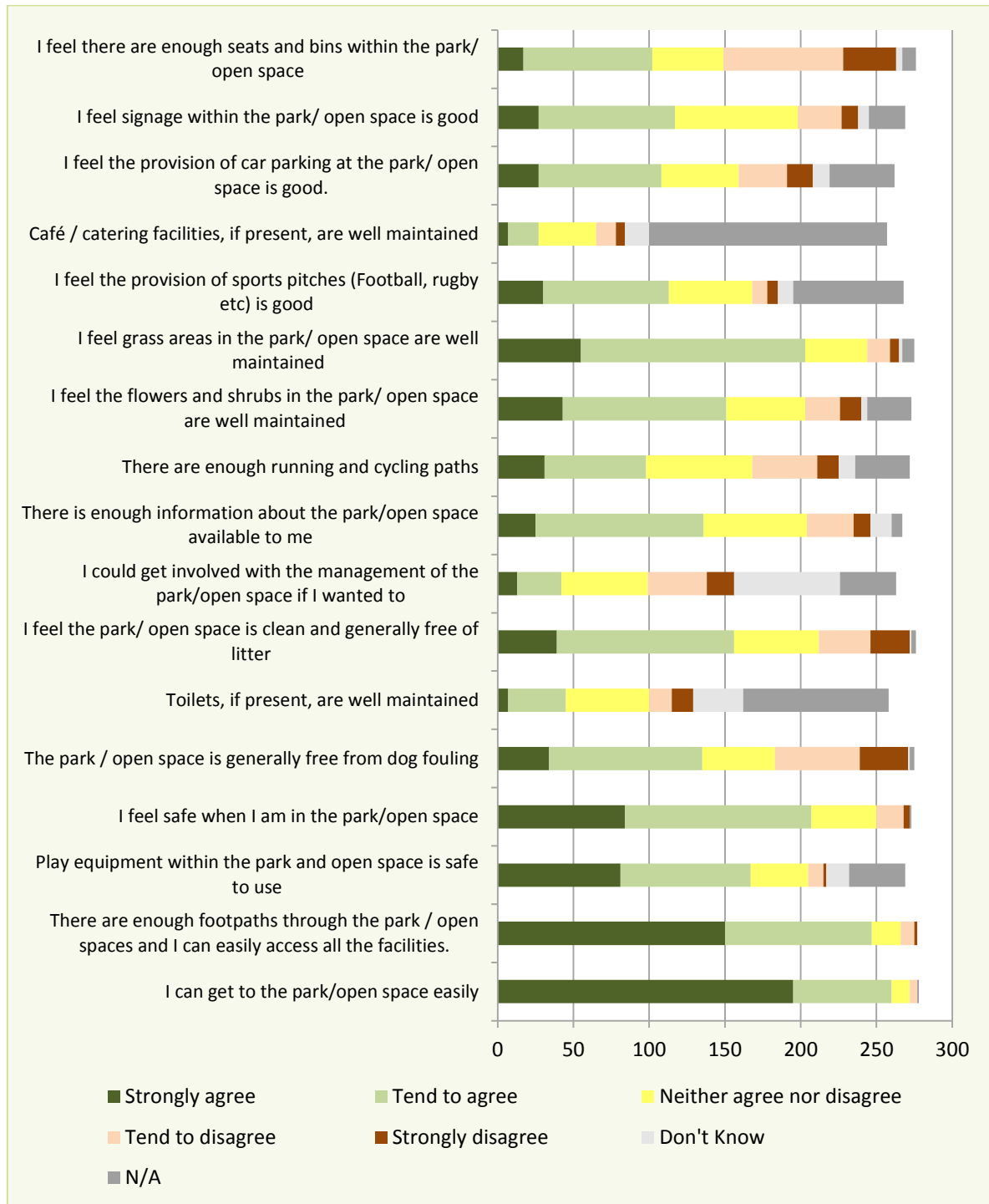
Park or open space used most frequently	Number of respondents
King George VI	37
Manor Park	34
Queen Elizabeth	32
Cove Green	23
Aldershot Park	22
Cove Brook	11
Municipal Gardens	10

4.32 As set out in **Figure 4.11**, when considering their local park / open space, most people (94%) strongly agree or tend to agree that they can get to the space easily. 89% of people strongly agree or tend to agree that there are enough footpaths in the park, and that they can easily access all the facilities.

4.33 In terms of provision within and maintenance of the parks and open spaces, some less positive feedback is given. 32% of respondents feel that their park / open space is not generally free from dog fouling, and 22% feel that the space is not clean nor generally free from litter. 41% of respondents feel that the provision of seats and bins within their park is not sufficient. 43% of respondents feel that signage within the open spaces is good, suggesting that this could also be improved.

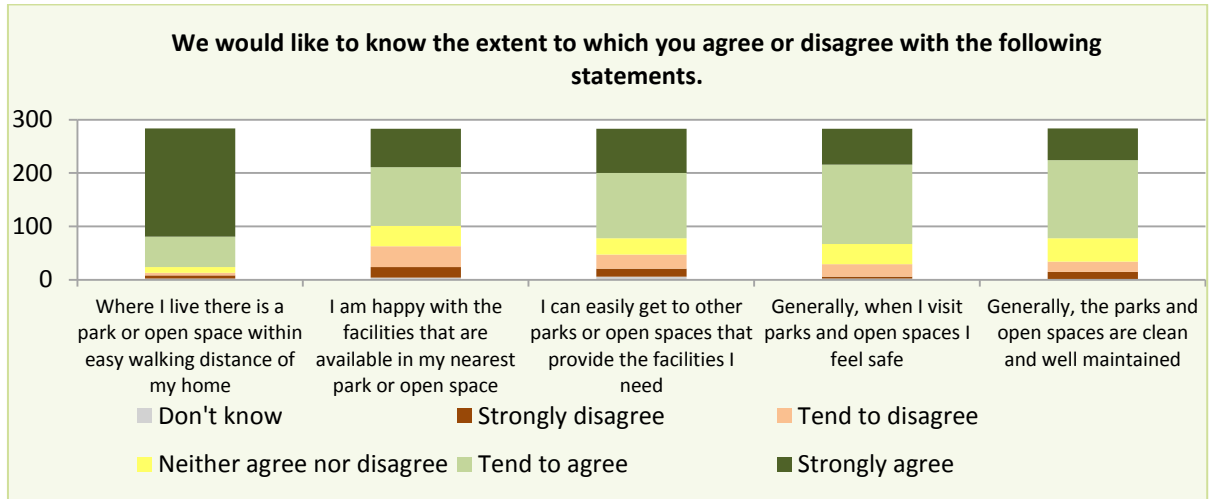
4.34 76% of respondents agree that they feel safe when they are in the park / open space. 62% agree that play equipment within the park is safe to use. 42% of respondents feel that the provision of sports pitches is good.

Figure 4.11: Rating of factors for local parks and open spaces



- 4.35 As set out in **Figure 4.12**, and supporting other consultation feedback, 92% of respondents agree that there is a park or open space within walking distance of their home. A significantly smaller proportion (64%) agree that they are happy with the facilities available at their nearest park or open space, however almost three-quarters of respondents (72%) agree that they can easily get to other parks or open spaces that provide the facilities they need.
- 4.36 Around three-quarters of respondents (76%) agree that they feel safe when using parks and open spaces, and a similar proportion, (73%) feel that generally the parks and open spaces are clean and well maintained.

Figure 4.12: Extent of agreement on statements



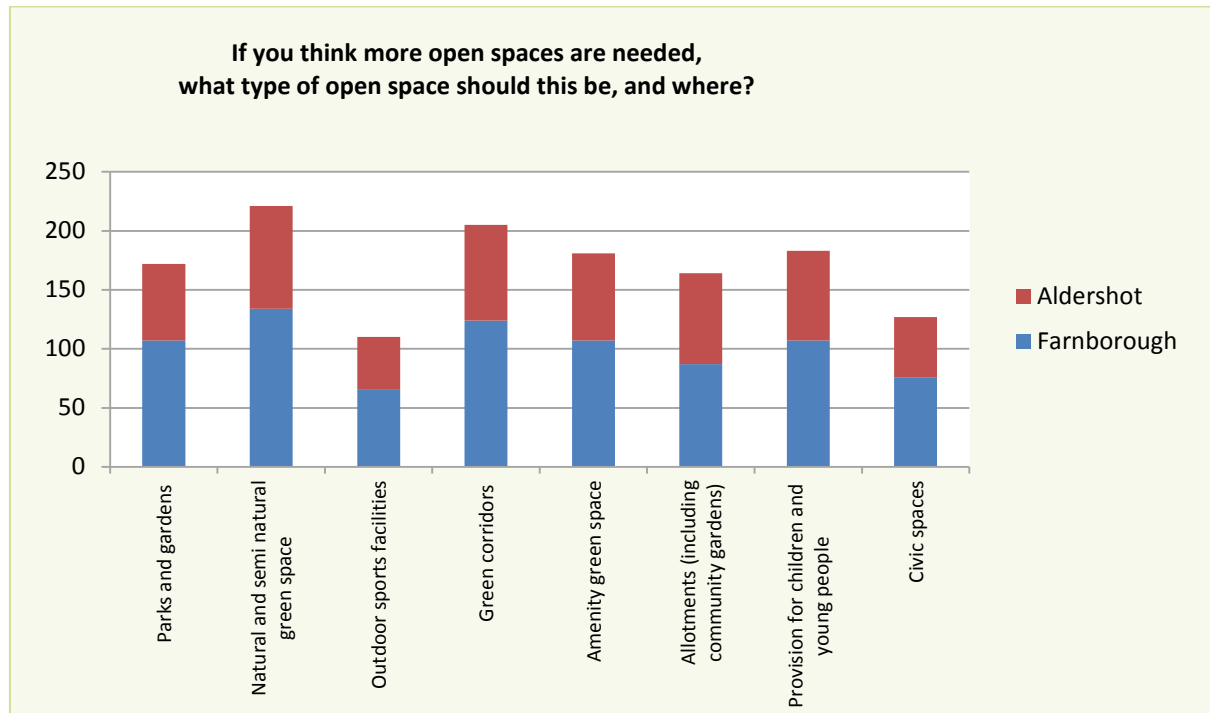
4.37 As shown in **Figure 4.13**, in terms of satisfaction with the amount and the quality of parks and open spaces, 74% of respondents state that they are very or fairly satisfied with the amount of open space in Rushmoor, and almost the same proportion state that they are very or fairly satisfied with the quality of parks and open spaces in the borough. Marginally more people are very satisfied with the quantity of open space than those who are very satisfied with quality.

Figure 4.13: Extent of satisfaction with the amount of parks and open space in Rushmoor



4.38 As set out in **Figure 4.14**, if additional open space were provided within the Borough, across every type of open space, respondents suggested that more provision should be provided in Farnborough than Aldershot. Natural and semi-natural green space is the type of provision that the majority of respondents feel should be provided.

Figure 4.14: Additional open space provision



Allotments

4.39 5.7% of respondents said that they use allotments within Rushmoor. An additional 3.8% are on a waiting list for an allotment. Almost a fifth of respondents (19%) said that they would be interested in managing an allotment plot. Excluding those who answered n/a, 41% of respondents were dissatisfied or fairly dissatisfied with the current waiting times for allotments in Rushmoor, a further 47% were 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'.

4.40 In terms of improvements to allotments, 37 respondents suggested improvements, including:

- Improved management of plots, so that those not fully cultivated are quickly passed on to others (although a number of people commented that they had given up allotment plots, after pressure from allotment managers to give up a plot if it wasn't in 100% cultivation; this suggests that sub-dividing plots into smaller partitions may be beneficial);
- Greater security on the plots, with protection from theft and vandalism;
- Provide help to maintain common paths and drives;
- Improve access arrangements for deliveries of supplies such as compost;
- Provide additional facilities – including toilets and tool storage facilities;
- Mentoring or guidance schemes to pass on knowledge from more experienced allotment holders to novices;
- Increase the number of plots available through providing additional allotments.

Equipped Play Areas

4.41 Just under half of the respondents (44%) use the equipped play facilities within Rushmoor.

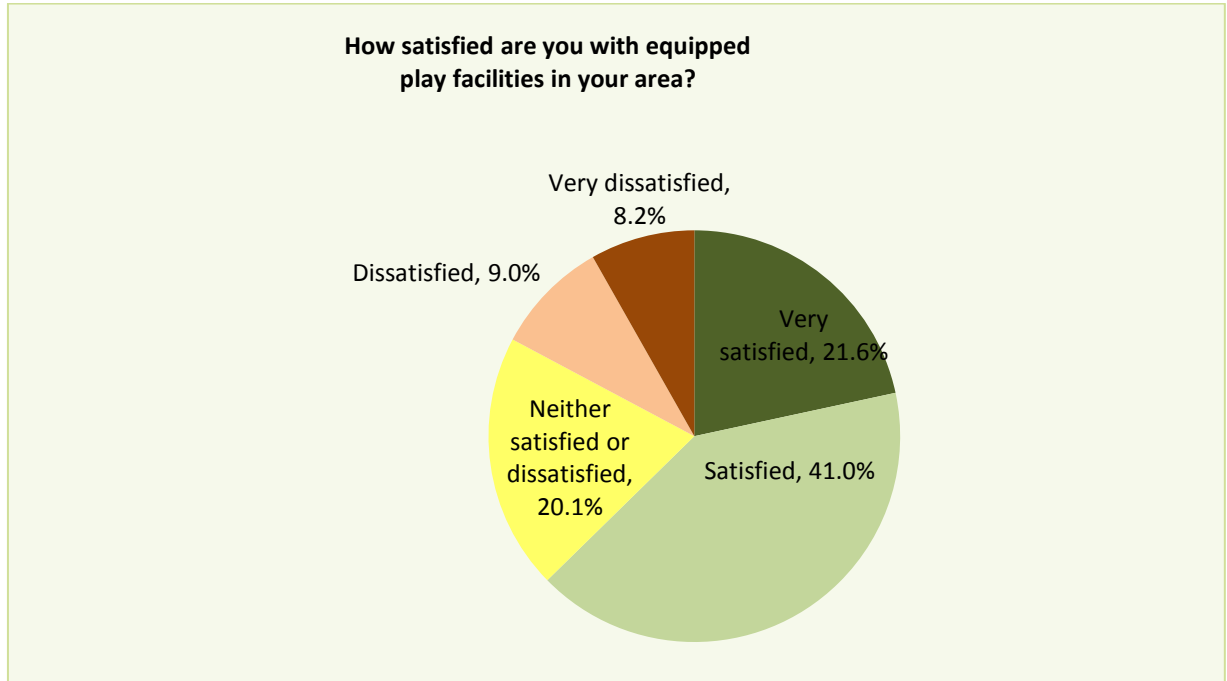
4.42 The most popular play areas that respondents said they use most often included:

- King George V
- Aldershot Park
- Manor Park
- Cove Green

- Queen Elizabeth Park

- 4.43 Of those who use play areas, more than half the respondents (56%) said that they used them once a week or more frequently.
- 4.44 In terms of satisfaction with play areas, 63% said they were very satisfied or satisfied with equipped play facilities in the area, but a further 17% were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, as shown in **Figure 4.15**.

Figure 4.15: Satisfaction with equipped play facilities



- 4.45 As shown in **Figure 4.16**, 60% of respondents are very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the amount of play areas in Rushmoor, and 56% are very or fairly satisfied with the quality of play areas.

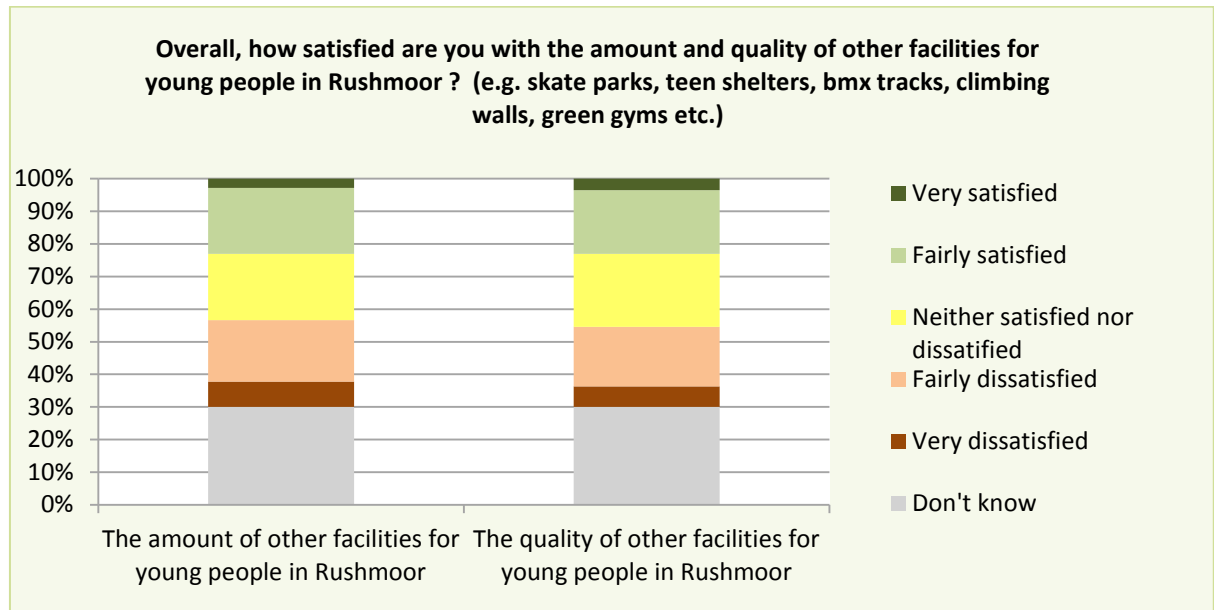
Figure 4.16: Satisfaction with the amount and quality of play areas in Rushmoor



- 4.46 Satisfaction levels with the amount and quality of other facilities for young people in Rushmoor are significantly lower than for equipped play areas. 27% of respondents are fairly or very

dissatisfied with the amount of other facilities for young people in Rushmoor, and 24% are dissatisfied with the quality of these other facilities, as shown in **Figure 4.17**.

Figure 4.17: Satisfaction with the amount and quality of other facilities for young people in Rushmoor

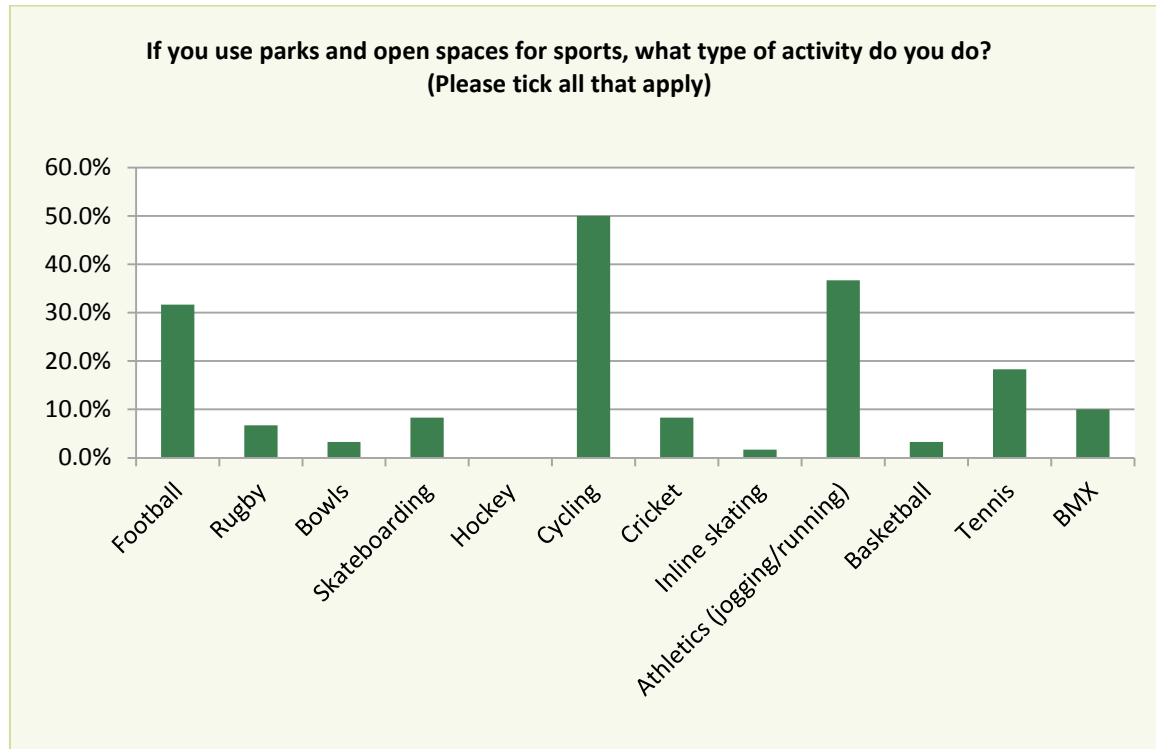


- 4.47 In terms of improvements to the equipped play areas and other facilities for young people in the borough, 58 respondents suggested improvements, including:
- Provide more and improved youth facilities (relaxing/socialising facilities such as benches and shelters, another skate park, graffiti wall, BMX track, climbing walls). This suggestion was made repeatedly;
 - Play equipment in need of replacing, updating or repairing (in Municipal Park, Manor Park, Osborne Road, Queens Road). Respondents noted that even within the parks where equipment provision is better that there are facilities in need of repair, such as the slide steps and roundabout in King George V play area;
 - Provide more imaginative play equipment;
 - Ensure flood lights are working (noted that maintenance is generally carried out in daylight hours, so flood lights are not frequently checked);
 - Prevent older children from using play areas meant for younger children (the provision of better spaces for older children / young people would facilitate this);
 - Provision of outdoor gym equipment;
 - Provide play equipment for children with disabilities (such as safe swings).
- 4.48 Additional comments in relation to provision for children and young people include:
- Address the lack of provision in the North Town area, and across the borough provide more small play areas for young children;
 - Improve the maintenance of spaces;
 - Consider alternatives to equipment provision, such as informal bike tracks, which are cheap to create and very popular;
 - Improve the facilities for children and young people with disabilities;
 - Carry out direct consultation with young people, to find out what they need.

Outdoor Sports

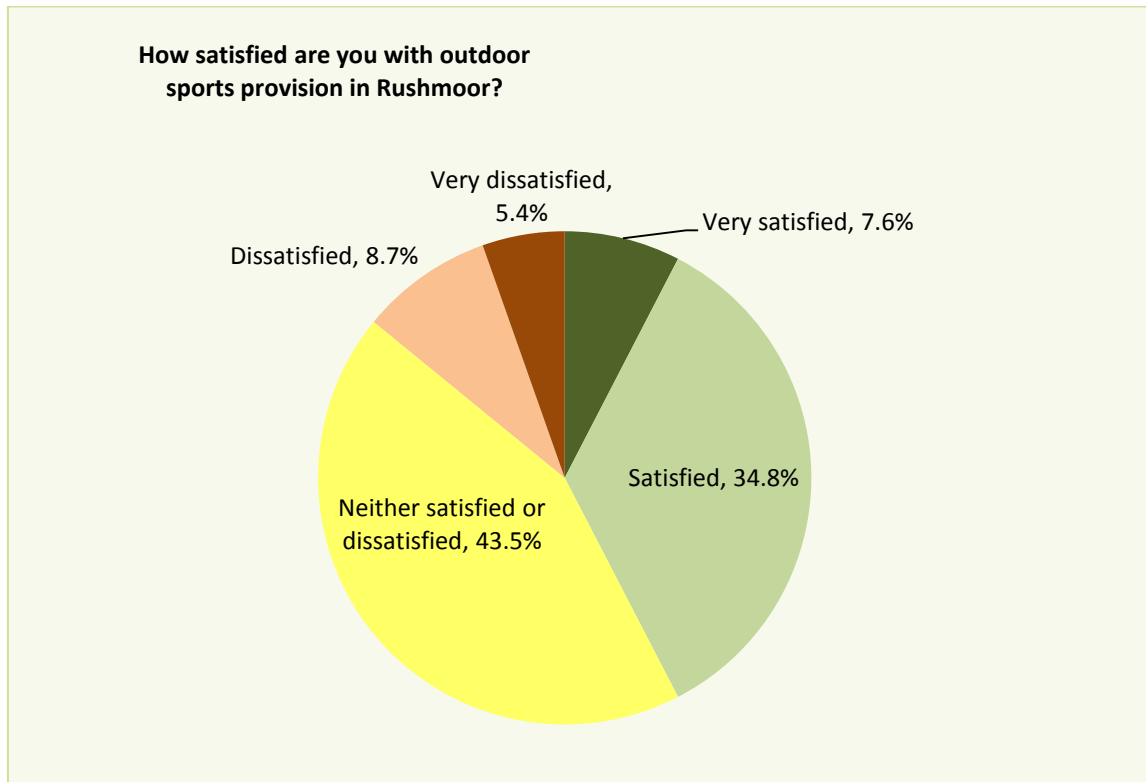
4.49 As set in **Figure 4.18**, over a fifth of respondents (21%) said that they used Rushmoor's parks and open spaces for sports. The most popular activities noted are cycling (50%), athletics, including jogging and running (37%), and football (32%). Golf and Tai Chi were also mentioned within the 'other' category.

Figure 4.18: Sports activities within parks and open spaces



4.50 Fewer than half the respondents (42%) said they are very satisfied or satisfied with the outdoor sports provision in Rushmoor, and a similar proportion (44%) are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, as set out in **Figure 4.19**.

Figure 4.19: Satisfaction with outdoor sports provision



- 4.51 In terms of improvements to outdoor sports provision in Rushmoor, suggestions include the following:
- Provide better cycling provision (to separate cyclists from pedestrians, provide off-road cycling, and link up to long distance cycle paths);
 - Refurbishment of tennis courts;
 - Better enforcement of dog fouling laws;
 - Improve facilities (including cricket pitches, skate parks, golf provision and tennis courts);
 - Provide marked running / jogging trails.

Assessing local needs: Implications for Rushmoor's open spaces

- It is estimated that the population of the Rushmoor will increase steadily by 400 people per annum from 93,807 in 2011 to 100,534 in 2027.
- The majority of the growth is likely to be associated with the Aldershot Urban Extension which will involve the construction of 3,840 new homes. The future open space provision for this development has been agreed.
- Sections of the borough fall within the most deprived 40% of the country which generally correlates with the densely populated urban areas. The same areas tend to also have concentrations of social or private housing in poor condition which are unlikely to have access to private gardens.
- The borough contains significant number of military personnel and is the most ethnically diverse area in Hampshire with a strong Nepali community.
- Generally people are happy with the quantity of open spaces in the borough but the quality of some open spaces could be improved.
- If additional open space were provided within the borough more respondents suggested that there is a need for greater provision in Farnborough than Aldershot. Natural and semi-natural green space is considered the type of provision that the majority of respondents want improved.
- Rushmoor's open spaces are well used and are considered to be well-maintained although there are concerns about dog fouling and litter.
- Future investment should focus on maintaining and, where possible, enhancing the quality and value of existing open spaces particularly spaces which receive the highest levels of use to ensure they achieve the required standards.
- Improve the provision of allotments in the borough through creating more allotment sites, reducing the standard size of a plot and ensuring management is improved to ensure un-worked plots are returned to use.
- Connectivity has been highlighted as an area for improvement through better promotion of the rights of way network and increasing directional signage.
- Smaller open spaces have an important role in Rushmoor and future management should promote the multi-functional nature of such provision.
- The need for more and improved teen facilities was made repeatedly and there is need to improve play equipment with more imaginative and accessible play equipment.

Key findings from indoor sport consultation

- 4.52 The study has already presented information about the demographics and population profile in Rushmoor, participation levels in sport and physical activity and the strategic need for continued investment in and provision of facilities that support sport, recreation and physical activity in Rushmoor.
- 4.53 Ahead of the detailed analysis of provision and the supply and demand of facilities in order to further build a picture of need and priority for sport within this study and for Rushmoor's emerging planning policies a process of consultation with key partners and stakeholders was undertaken.

- 4.54 The consultation process detailed within this report focuses on the indoor sports provision with the detailed process for the playing pitch strategy set out within the separate PPS document.
- 4.55 The consultation process included the following:
- Telephone interviews with national governing bodies of sport with specific focus on indoor sports.
 - A workshop with key stakeholders.
 - On-line surveys for secondary schools and sports clubs with an interest in indoor facilities for sport and physical activity.
- 4.56 The following data from previous consultation exercises has also been considered as part of this review and incorporated where relevant and appropriate. Information is taken from:
- 2009 Rushmoor Borough Council Cultural Strategy research (sport and leisure findings)
 - DC Leisure surveys and customer feedback for Farnborough and Aldershot Pools.
- 4.57 This section of the report provides a summary of the findings from this consultation process and highlights the emerging findings related to demand and supply relating to provision of facilities for indoor sport in Rushmoor.

Consultation with National Governing Bodies (NGBs)

- 4.58 Summaries of the telephone interviews which were conducted with key NGBs relating to the provision of indoor facilities for sport are detailed within **Table 4.4** which follows.

Table 4.4: National Governing Body Consultation Summary

NGB	Current Provision in RBC	Future Demands	Future Facility Needs	Indoor Priorities
Amateur Swimming Association.	Currently RBC has sufficient provision in terms of water space and the level of unmet demand. ASA are aware that clubs are keen on additional water space and peak hour clashes with usage.	If access to the Garrison 50m pool continues (or could be improved to meet growing demand for clubs) the amount of water space is sufficient for the population increases and the identified unmet demand in RBC.	Aldershot Pool upgrade would be of benefit. Enhanced hours at Garrison 50m pool for club based activities.	Aldershot Pool upgrade.
British Judo	Judo is well developed in RBC with clubs and facilities meeting needs for the sport.	Main judo centre at Maida Gymnasium allows for Osaka club to grow and meet demands.	None within RBC – the martial arts facility at the Garrison would be of huge benefit to local clubs for training and competition. However the site is the main rehabilitation centre for the Army and access is unlikely to be forthcoming for community sport understandably.	Any new facilities proposed – suitable storage for judo is a must.
England Hockey	Hockey is very well developed in Rushmoor with a number of clubs active in the area. In terms of competitive hockey, Aldershot & Farnham and Yatley Hockey Clubs are considered to be particularly strong and active.	Specifically in terms of indoor hockey, activity is less well developed and LM considers there to be potential to improve this on the basis that hockey is well developed and relatively popular locally.	The majority of 4 court sports halls in Rushmoor can currently be used for indoor hockey, but not for competitive indoor hockey. In order to accommodate competitive indoor hockey, facility providers could purchase boards which can be put in place when facilities are being used for indoor hockey.	If improvements to sports hall facilities in Rushmoor are being made consideration of the needs for competitive indoor hockey should be made in the future.
Badminton England	Badminton is quite well developed in Hampshire. The County Association is relatively strong and facility provision is generally quite good. The NGB aim is to drive up participation via Community Badminton Networks, which feed into performance centres. These networks are intended to be self-sustaining and result in local	NGB advised that as part of Badminton England’s focus on the 14-25 age group, their new programme Smash Up (which combines recreational badminton and music) is a big priority. The aim is to get this programme delivered in more schools and particularly in schools with better facilities, as well as in more leisure centres. The Garrison Sports Centre is currently on a priority list as it is a facility which LW and Badminton England would like to	None evident – access to Garrison facilities seen as important to growth.	None.

NGB	Current Provision in RBC	Future Demands	Future Facility Needs	Indoor Priorities
	growth in participation in badminton. There is currently no active Community Badminton Network in Rushmoor.	see more badminton activity at that site.		
Squash and Racketball	The NGB advised that there are two quality facilities for squash in Rushmoor; a six court glass backed facility at Aldershot Garrison and a four court facility at Farnborough Leisure Centre, operated by DC Leisure. For the development of quality squash activity, a facility with at least three courts is required with facilities of four, five and six courts being particularly valuable.	No issues with the quality of the facility at Farnborough Leisure Centre. The facility is considered to be important by England Squash and Racketball and the NGB would not like to see provision reduced at this facility, or at Aldershot Garrison.	None evident.	When new facilities are being developed or improved in Rushmoor provision of squash courts should be considered particularly as it is possible to develop facilities with moveable walls, allowing them to be used for squash as well as for other fitness activities. Facilities with three or more courts are of greatest interest to the NGB as smaller facilities are more limited in terms of what squash activities can be developed.
Football Association	Football is relatively well developed in Hampshire in terms of club activity. Larger clubs include Rushmoor Community Football Club, who have their own facility, and Rushmoor Saints and Aldershot Boys and Girls who are spread across a number of sites. Rushmoor Saints in particular would probably prefer to operate out of a single facility but securing	Growth in junior football continues in Rushmoor. Demand for indoor space is limited – the FA would like to see a futsal centre but priorities are on the core elements of the game and the national priorities. The newer AGP facilities will hopefully free up indoor space for other uses as more football can be provided on all-weather facilities.	None related to indoor.	Futsal provision but lower priority than outdoor needs.

NGB	Current Provision in RBC	Future Demands	Future Facility Needs	Indoor Priorities
	<p>space for this is an issue.</p> <p>Youth male and mini soccer are particularly well serviced by clubs. Adult male football has seen a slight dip in participation but still remains strong in Rushmoor and there are three youth female and one adult female teams currently.</p> <p>Recent AGP provision has been very beneficial to clubs and football development.</p>			
England Netball	<p>Rushmoor hosts a lot of netball activity. Rushmoor Netball Club is a large and active club with junior and senior teams and Wavell League is also popular and provides opportunities for a number of adult teams and Back to Netball is popular in the area.</p> <p>The NGB considers facility provision in Rushmoor to be reasonably strong, with key facilities including Wavell School which offers eight outdoor netball courts and the sports halls at the Garrison and Farnborough Leisure Centre which both provide a double sports hall.</p>	<p>Priorities for the NGB include growing the Back to Netball programme and this can be particularly challenging during winter. Ideally these sessions would take place indoor during winter, as they need to provide as welcoming an environment as possible in order to attract new participants.</p>	<p>No significant issues with the quality or number of facilities in Rushmoor, although there are some issues with demand for indoor sports hall space.</p>	<p>Additional capacity at indoor sports hall sites for development activities.</p>
British Gymnastics	<p>There are some strong and active clubs in Rushmoor, particularly Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy and also Fox Gymnastics Club and</p>	<p>Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy.</p>	<p>NGB not aware of any great need to improve the facility offer at any of the school or leisure centre facilities. If improvements are</p>	<p>Extension of Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy.</p>

NGB	Current Provision in RBC	Future Demands	Future Facility Needs	Indoor Priorities
	<p>Rushmoor Amateur Gymnastics Club.</p> <p>Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy has its own facility and caters for under-fives up to adult participants and provides recreational activities as well as competitive training. The England Women's Squad also use the facility for training and it can be used for international and national competitions. Fox Gymnastics Club uses Fernhill School and Rushmoor Amateur Gymnastics Club uses Farnborough Leisure Centre, Connaught Leisure Centre and facilities at Aldershot.</p>		needed this will be identified by the leading clubs.	
British Cycling	<p>A number of active clubs in and around Rushmoor, particularly Farnborough and Camberley Cycling Club which caters for new and recreational cyclists as well as competitive cycling. The majority of its members are adult although the club does have some junior members. The club offers regular road cycling sessions and welcomes beginners as well as experienced cyclists. Members also travel to use the cycling tracks in Calshot and Reading and there is some formal and informal usage of the MOD land for cycling.</p>	Not for indoor – closed road circuits are the main areas.	Not for indoor.	n/a
Volleyball England	<p>Farnborough Volleyball Club compete in the Berkshire League and train at the Aldershot Garrison</p>	<p>In terms of priorities for England Volleyball, Dorset and Hampshire are being considered as a single zone and is likely to be one of England</p>	<p>None evident from the NGB – suitable floor fittings for any refurbishment project or new</p>	<p>Suitable floor fittings for any refurbishment project or new project</p>

NGB	Current Provision in RBC	Future Demands	Future Facility Needs	Indoor Priorities
	Sports Centre.	Volleyball's five investment zones, depending on confirmation of the area's ability to deliver. However, in terms of facility needs in Rushmoor the area does not have a high number of clubs and would not be considered a particularly high priority.	project would be desirable.	would be desirable.
English and Wales Cricket Board	Regarding indoor NGB view was that club feedback would be best source of information.	None for indoor evident.	None for indoor evident.	n/a
England Table Tennis	ETTA unable to advise on Rushmoor provision.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Triathlon England	TE unable to advise on Rushmoor provision.	n/a	n/a	n/a

National governing body consultation conclusion

- 4.59 The National Governing Body consultation findings highlight that Rushmoor is relatively well catered for with regard to indoor sports provision. The NGBs have not highlighted any major areas of deficiency and priorities relate instead to the need for better access to a number of facilities and making specific improvements to the current facility stock so that it is more suitable for the identified sports needs for the borough.
- 4.60 Comments from those NGBs who were engaged in this process indicate that there is a lot of sports activity in Rushmoor and a lot of strengths in terms of access to facilities. Generally, NGBs advise that access to school facilities seems to be working reasonably well and that there is club activity taking place in specialist facilities as well as in schools, leisure centres and military facilities.
- 4.61 Generally NGBs did not raise issues with the quality of facilities in Rushmoor (outside of the need for investment into Aldershot Pools) but advised that it can be difficult for clubs to access sports hall space as there is a lot of demand for access to these facilities during peak times. Now that there are some new artificial pitches in Rushmoor there is an expectation that some sports hall space will become more accessible as some five a side football activity will move to these pitches. It will be important to monitor this and assess the impact on access to sports halls as this appears to be an issue for some sports.
- 4.62 Some sports are able to get access to MOD facilities although the majority of NGBs report that while there is community access, there can be issues with community usage due to last minute cancellations of bookings. Some facilities, such as those for martial arts, are not available for any community usage.
- 4.63 A number of NGBs reported that clubs and local community partners will be best placed to identify any specific issues with venues for indoor sport in Rushmoor. The sections which follow set out findings from online surveys which were distributed to clubs and schools in Rushmoor.

Assessing local needs: Priorities from national governing body consultation

- Rushmoor appears to be relatively well catered for many sports and the majority of NGBs do not have any major facility priorities.
- Access to the Garrison is viewed as an important aspect of indoor facility provision and any extension of that usage would be welcome. Opportunities to enhance access and ensure access is not regularly disrupted should be explored.
- Capacity at sports halls were seen as a notable issue for a number of sports including netball and hockey. Additional Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) provision for football is expected to help address this by more accessible sports hall time currently used for five-a-side football. It would be beneficial to work with facility operators to identify whether this has the predicted impact.
- Additional equipment and investment to enable indoor sports such as hockey and volleyball would enhance opportunities for the development of these sports.
- In terms of swimming, Aldershot Pools Complex is considered dated and refurbishment and upgrade is required.

Consultation with schools in Rushmoor

- 4.64 In order to ascertain the demands and needs related to school provision with Rushmoor as a key area of supply for indoor sport in the borough, an online survey was sent to ten secondary schools in Rushmoor, as shown in the table below.

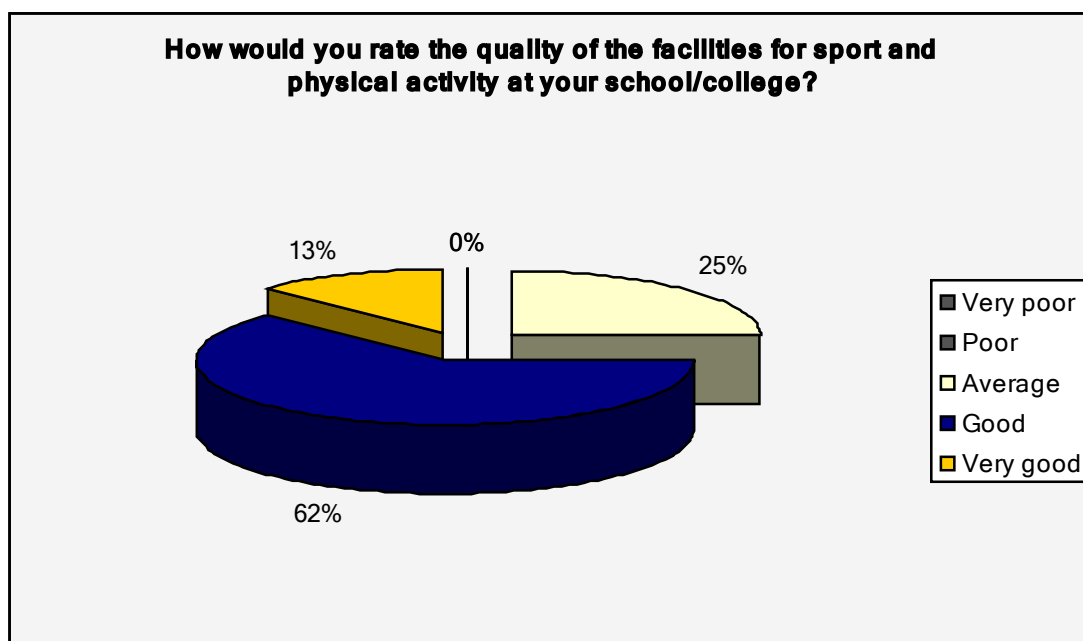
Table 4.5: School survey distribution list

Connaught School	The Wavell School – no response
Cove School – no response	Farnborough College of Technology
Fernhill School & Language College	Farnborough Sixth Form College
Henry Tyndale School	Salesian College
Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College	Farnborough Hill

Facility provision and community usage at school sites

4.65 Schools were asked to rate and comment on their own facilities for sport and physical activity. A summary of responses to this question is provided in **Figure 4.20**.

Figure 4.20: Rating and quality of facilities at school sites



4.66 Figure 4.20 shows that five schools (62%) stated that their facilities for sport are good, two (25%) stated that they are average and one school, Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College, rated their facilities as very good. Comments from schools relating to this question include:

- "I've ticked good as we rely on both school and community facilities to provide sport very well. If we had access to our own school facilities only we would not be able to meet needs." Henry Tyndale School
- "We have good playing fields but lack a sports hall or 3G Astro." Salesian College

4.67 Schools were asked about community usage of their facilities, in order to determine whether there is scope to increase usage of facilities at school sites and what support would be needed to enable this. Key findings relating to this summarised in **Table 4.6** below.

Table 4.6: Community usage of indoor school sports facilities

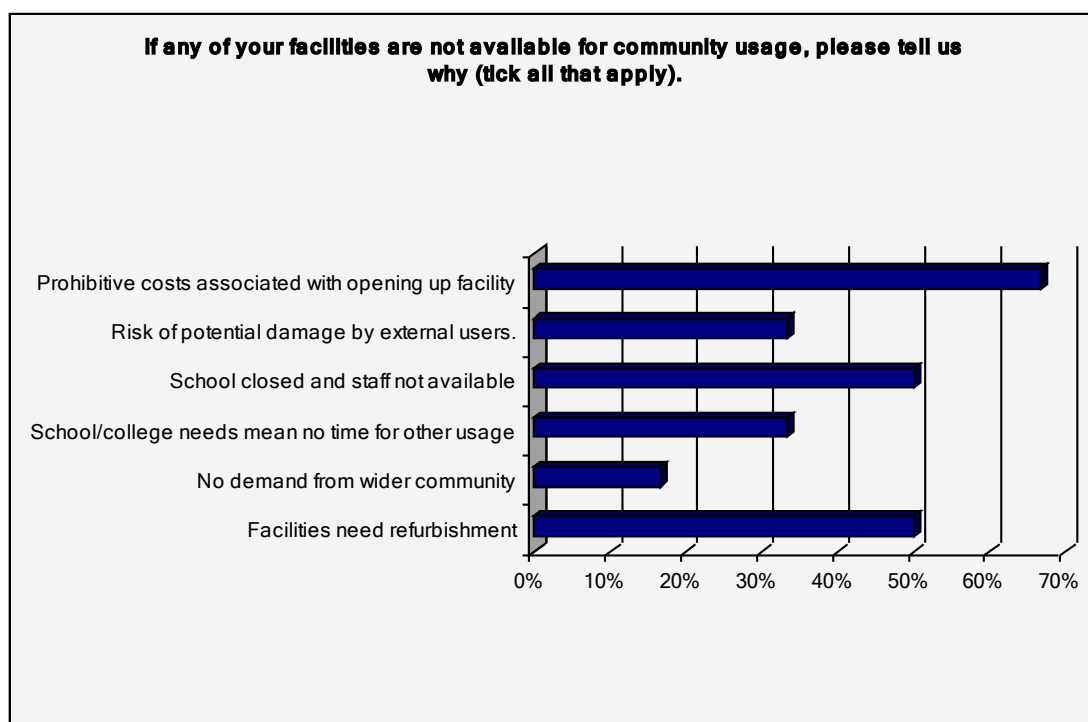
School	Facilities	Community Usage
Fernhill School	4+ court sports hall	25+ hours per week
Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College	4+ court sports hall, small sports hall and dance studio	16-20 hours per facility
Farnborough Hill	20 station health and fitness suite, small swimming pool, 4+ court sports	11-15 hours at swimming pool, no community usage at

School	Facilities	Community Usage
	hall and dance studio	other facilities
Farnborough Sixth Form College	13 station health and fitness suite, 2 X 4+ court sports halls and 1 small hall	0 hours at health and fitness suite, 6-10 hours at large sports hall and 1-5 hours at small hall
Henry Tyndale School	School hall and hydrotherapy pool	Hall is hired out for community groups but not for sport, pool is regularly hired out.
Farnborough College of Technology	25 station health and fitness suite and dance studio	No community usage
Salesian College	Small school hall	No community usage
The Connaught School	No response provided	No response provided

4.68 **Table 4.6** suggests that there are opportunities to open up some school facilities for more usage, particularly the larger sports halls at Farnborough Sixth Form College and Farnborough Hill. This is something that should be explored further particularly as access to sports hall facilities appears to be an issue for clubs.

4.69 Schools were also asked to explain why some or all of their facilities were not available for community usage. **Figure 4.21** provides an overview of the main reasons schools provided for not increasing community usage of their facilities.

Figure 4.21: Reasons why facilities are not available for community usage



4.70 **Figure 4.21** shows that the main reason that schools do not open up their facilities for more community usage is the prohibitive cost, with refurbishment needs and the fact that staff are not available at evenings and weekends also cited as an issue for schools.

4.71 Schools were asked if they intend to improve their facility offer in the coming years. Four schools indicated that they did not intend to improve their facility in the coming years. Three said they did and one school did not respond to this question. Comments from schools who do not intend to improve their facility offer in the coming years are as follows:

- "We have no resources to further develop indoor facilities at present." Henry Tyndale School

- “There are long term plans for an astro pitch but no plans relating to indoor facilities.”
Farnborough Hill
- Farnborough College of Technology – no comments provided
- Farnborough Sixth Form College – no comments provided

4.72 Responses from those schools that are planning to develop indoor facilities for sport in the coming years indicate the following plans:

- *Salesian College have secured planning permission for a sports hall but have not identified sufficient funding to proceed with this at present.*
- *Fernhill School hope to refurbish their gymnasium and increase usage of their indoor facilities outside of regular school hours.*
- *Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College intends to improve and refurbish their existing facilities and increase community usage of their facilities but did not provide details of specific plans.*

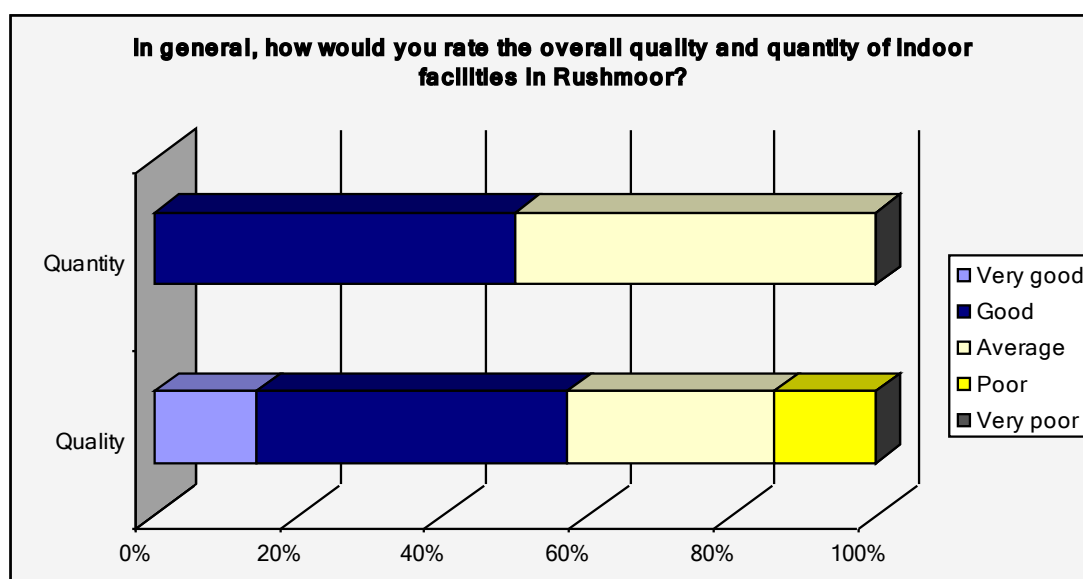
4.73 It appears from the responses provided that no schools have immediate plans for large scale refurbishment of their existing indoor facilities or development of new indoor facilities for sport.

Usage of Rushmoor facilities

4.74 Schools were also asked about their experience and usage of community facilities in Rushmoor. Five schools said that they use facilities at other locations in Rushmoor and two said they did not. One school didn't answer.

4.75 Schools were then asked to rate the quality and quantity of indoor sports provision in Rushmoor overall. Responses to this question are summarised in **Figure 4.22** which follows.

Figure 4.22: Quality and quantity of indoor sports provision in Rushmoor

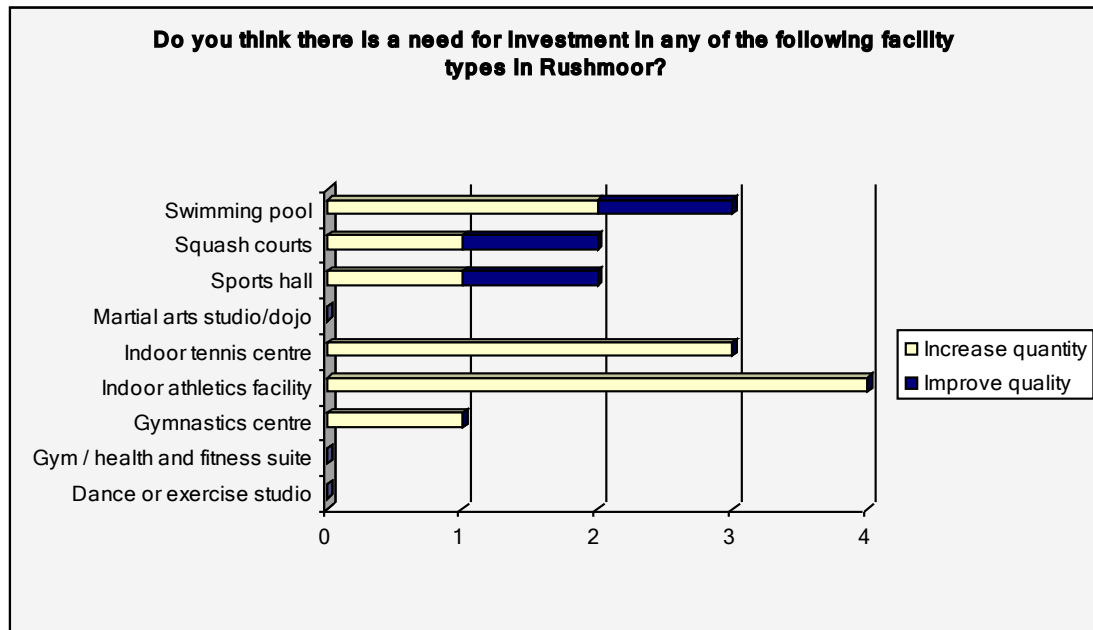


4.76 **Figure 4.22** shows that in terms of quantity, 50% of respondents said that quantity was average and 50% said it was good. In terms of quality, 14% said quality was very good and 43% said it was good. 28% said quality was average and 14% said quality was poor. No respondents said that quantity or quality was very poor. Generally, it appears that schools are reasonably satisfied with facilities for community sport.

Future facility needs

4.77 Clubs were asked about the need for investment into specific types of indoor facility in Rushmoor. Key findings from this question are summarised in **Figure 4.23** which follows.

Figure 4.23: Investment needs for indoor facilities



4.78 **Figure 4.23** shows that the main facility priorities for schools include the provision of additional facilities for indoor athletics and indoor tennis as well as improved quality and increased quantity of swimming facilities, sports halls and squash courts. Opportunities to address these needs in Rushmoor and increase access to existing facilities should be explored.

School consultation conclusion

4.79 Consultation with schools reveals that they are broadly satisfied with indoor provision for sport and physical activity in Rushmoor. No major issues with access to facilities in Rushmoor or with their own facilities are identified. Findings do indicate that there may be scope to support schools to open up some of their facilities for more community usage, although this will depend on ensuring that doing so is financially viable for schools. It may also be possible to introduce schools in Rushmoor to additional existing facilities as a number of facilities do not currently appear to be familiar to secondary schools within Rushmoor. This may help to increase usage of existing facilities in Rushmoor and improve the experience of students in Rushmoor.

Assessing local needs: Priorities from school consultation

- Further explore opportunities linked to potential refurbishments of indoor facilities at Salesian College, Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College and Fernhill School and work to ensure that any facility improvements result in enhanced community access where possible.
- Work with schools to overcome barriers and support financial planning so that additional community usage of indoor facilities can be secured, particularly those schools with 4+ court sports halls (Fernhill School, Farnborough Hill, Farnborough Sixth Form College and Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College).

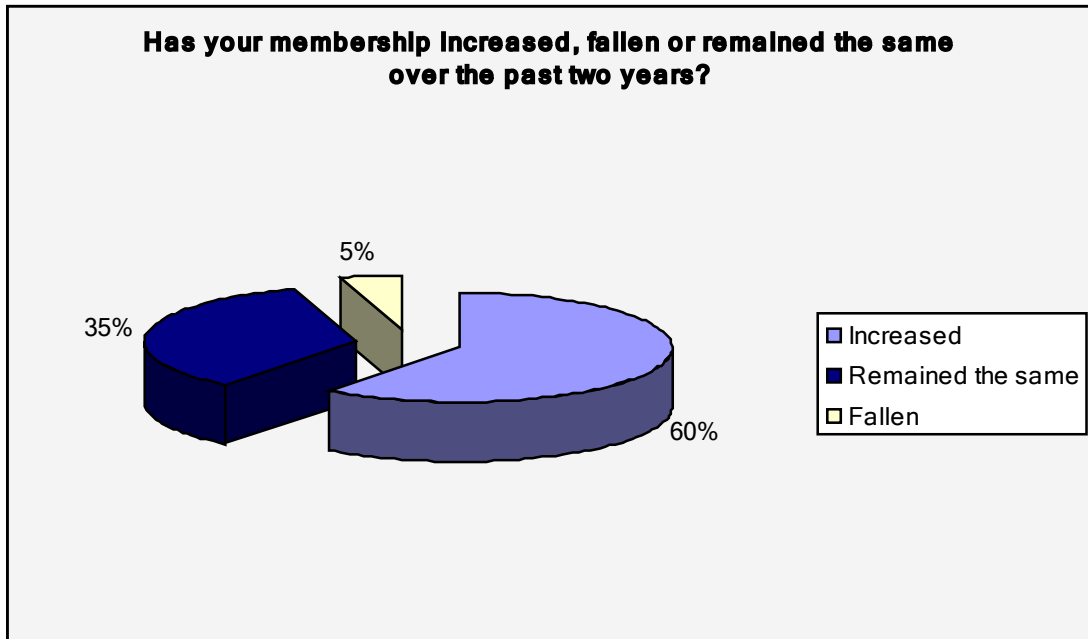
Consultation with clubs in Rushmoor

- 4.80 In line with the consultation of NGBs and Schools to assess needs, demands and priorities for indoor sport in Rushmoor an on-line survey was also sent to community sports clubs in Rushmoor.
- 4.81 The survey was sent to 76 clubs from NGB and RBC sources which received a 43% response rate (44 responses in total representing 33 clubs).

Membership and growth

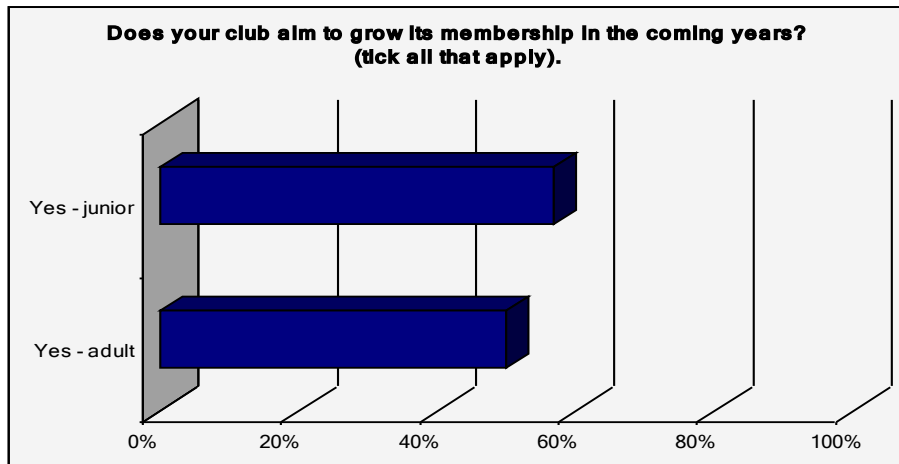
- 4.82 Clubs were asked about their membership levels over the past two years, in order to identify any increased demand for access to indoor facilities in Rushmoor. Responses to this question are summarised in **Figure 4.24**.

Figure 4.24: Membership levels over the past two years



- 4.83 **Figure 4.24** shows that 60% of respondents have had increased membership over the past two years, 35% have had membership stay the same and 5% have had a decrease in membership.
- 4.84 Clubs were also asked about their priorities over the coming years, again to help inform planning for future facility needs. **Figure 4.25** provides a summary of responses to this question.

Figure 4.25: Plans to grow membership

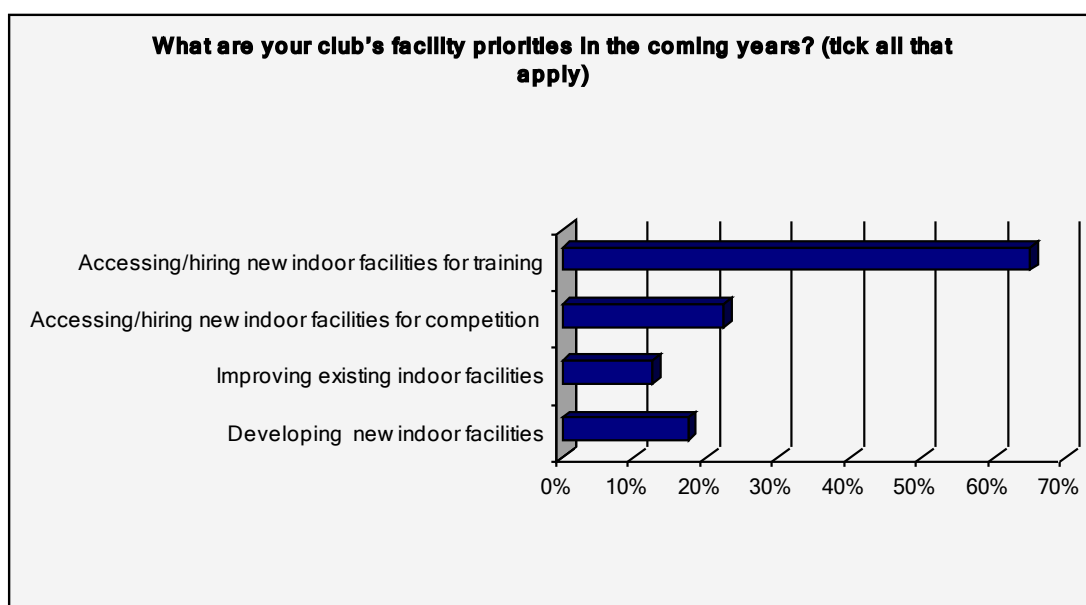


- 4.85 **Figure 4.25** shows that 50% of clubs intend to grow membership in adults and 57% of clubs intend to grow junior membership.
- 4.86 Given that clubs are generally experiencing an increase in membership and expecting to further grow adult and junior membership, it is particularly important that 30% of clubs stated that the hours of activity they currently offer are **not sufficient to meet demand for their activities**.
- 4.87 It appears from the above that a number of clubs are experiencing growth in participation and are likely to require more access to facilities to support this. A significant proportion of clubs intend to grow both adult and junior membership levels. While the majority of clubs feel that the hours they are currently able to offer are sufficient, a significant proportion indicate that they will require additional access to facilities in order to meet growing demand.

Facility priorities and needs

- 4.88 Clubs were also asked about their facility priorities in the coming years. Responses to this question are summarised in **Figure 4.26** which follows.

Figure 4.26: Facility priorities in the coming years

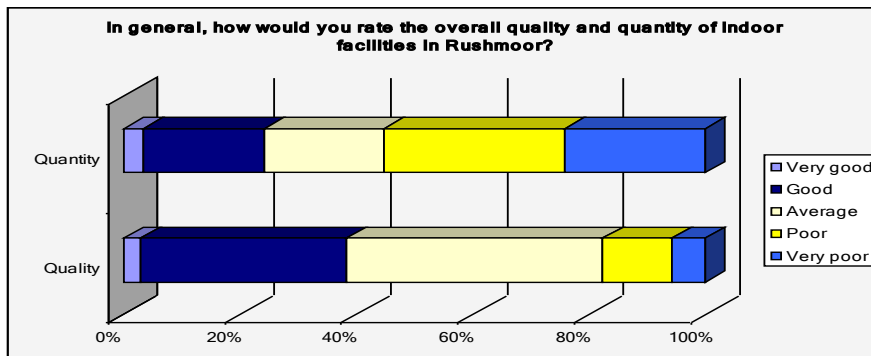


- 4.89 **Figure 4.26** shows that the majority of respondents (65%) want to access additional indoor facilities for training and 23% want to access additional facilities for competition. 18% hope to develop their own new indoor facilities and 13% intend to improve their existing facilities.

Quality and quantity of existing provision in Rushmoor

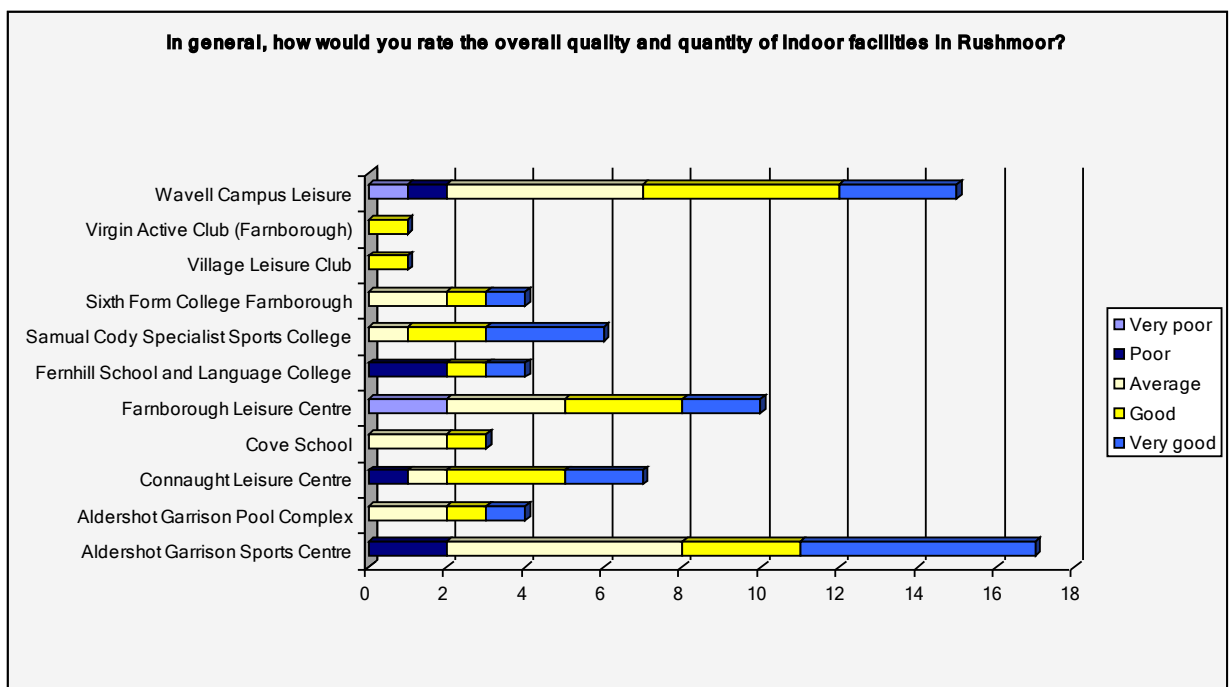
- 4.90 Clubs were asked to rate the quality and quantity of existing facilities for indoor sport in Rushmoor. **Figure 4.27** sets out responses to this question.

Figure 4.27: Rate the quality and quantity of indoor facilities in Rushmoor



- 4.91 As shown, 44% of respondents think that the quality of facilities in Rushmoor is average while 35% think quality is good and 18% think that quality is poor or very poor. In terms of quantity, 25% of respondents think that the quantity of facilities in Rushmoor is very poor and 31% think that the quantity of provision is poor. 41% think that the quantity of provision is average or good and 3% think the quantity is very good.
- 4.92 Clubs were then asked about specific facilities in Rushmoor in order to identify any specific issues. Responses to this question are summarised in **Figure 4.28** which follows.

Figure 4.28: School specific facilities in Rushmoor

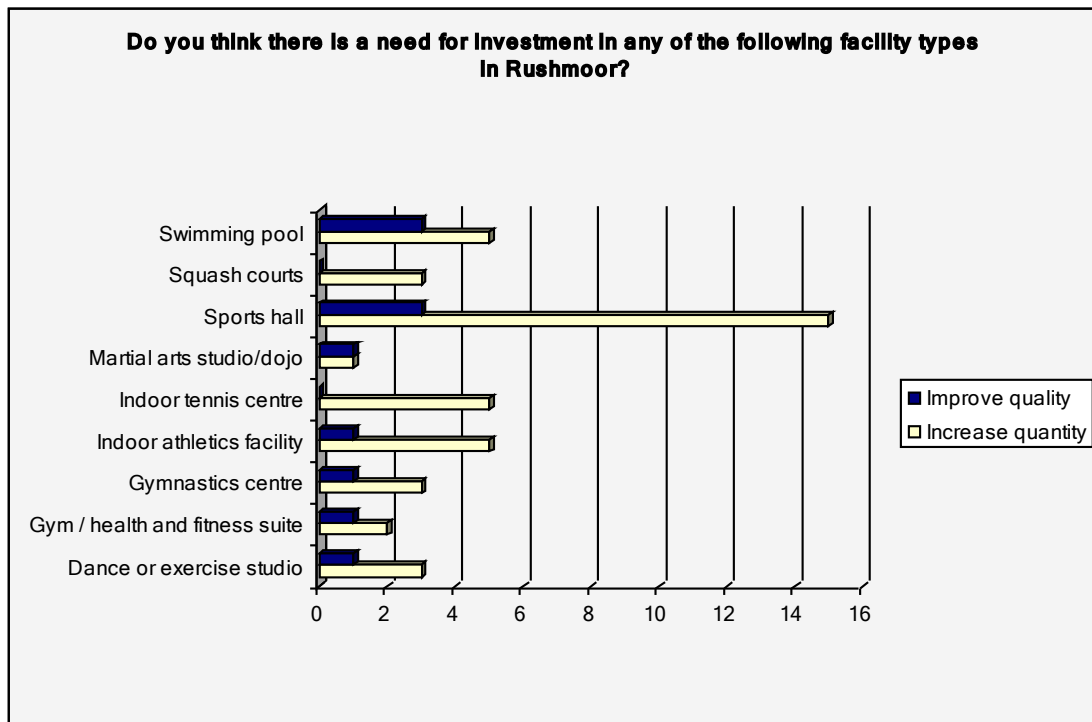


- 4.93 The figure demonstrates that while clubs are satisfied with a number of facilities there are specific issues, particularly relating to cost, availability and suitability of equipment with a number of clubs indicating that they are unable to secure regular bookings at suitable venues. These facility specific issues should be considered should there be potential to amend booking policies or upgrade specific facilities to improve access for particular clubs, for example by providing improved lighting or floor surfaces.

Future facility needs

- 4.94 Clubs were asked about future needs for investment in indoor sport in Rushmoor. Responses to this question are summarised in
- 4.95 **Figure 4.29** which follows.

Figure 4.29: Investment needs for indoor facilities



4.96 The top priority identified in this question is for increased access to sports halls in Rushmoor. This is unsurprising given previous comments relating to availability and expense at some venues and is something that should be addressed either by improving access to existing facilities or increasing provision where possible. Increased quantity of swimming pools, indoor tennis centres and indoor athletics provision also score highly with clubs.

Club consultation conclusion

4.97 Club consultation findings indicate that while there are some facilities of good quality in Rushmoor, there are a number of issues affecting clubs. Clubs report higher levels of dissatisfaction with access to school facilities and also raise concerns about the price and quality of facilities. The majority of clubs using indoor sports facilities in Rushmoor are dependent on hiring facilities and do not own facilities or have a long term lease. This is a usual picture for community sports clubs and they are dependent on the various facility providers offering facilities at a consistent price and of consistent quality. It is therefore vital that feedback from clubs is taken into account in setting out recommendations as part of this important study for Rushmoor.

Assessing local needs: Priorities from club consultation

- Improve access to school facilities as referenced above, in order to ensure that clubs are able to access sufficient hours to meet the needs of their members.
- Work with those clubs that have identified specific facility improvement plans to provide support so that these projects can be realised and have the best possible impact on provision for community sport in Rushmoor (including Cove Cricket Club, Farnborough Lawn Tennis Club, Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club and Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy).

Cultural survey research, February 2009

- 4.98 Research to inform the development of a joint cultural strategy between Rushmoor Borough Council and Hampshire County Council included consultation relating to provision and participation in sport in Rushmoor and desk-based analysis of research on participation and facility provision levels. Details of the number of people surveyed as part of this research have not been provided. Although this research was published in 2009, it nonetheless provides some useful information about public perceptions of sports facility provision in Rushmoor.
- 4.99 Key findings from this research which relate to this report are as follows:
- Sport and recreation was ranked as second important in terms of facility/service provision, behind parks and countryside but ahead of libraries, commercial leisure, arts/entertainment and heritage/museums.
 - Levels of satisfaction with provision in Rushmoor were found to be above the Hampshire average.
 - Improving services and facilities for sport and recreation was a priority for 50% of survey respondents.
 - The need to improve services for facilities for sport and recreation was ranked highest for Aldershot with a lower importance ranking in Farnborough and North Camp.
- 4.100 This research does not provide detailed findings relating to specific facilities and improvements which are needed, but provides an indication of the importance of facilities and services for sport and recreation to people living in Rushmoor.

DC Leisure surveys and customer feedback

- 4.101 The Consultant Team liaised with DC Leisure, the Council's Leisure Provider, to review and incorporate the relevant findings from annual surveys relating to the two leading leisure centres in Rushmoor to supplement research that informs this report.
- 4.102 These surveys provide an overview of satisfaction with particular facilities in Rushmoor and include data relating to satisfaction with staff information, cleanliness, facilities, car park provision and reception areas. For the purposes of this report, key findings relating to facility provision and quality in particular have been identified. Findings from these surveys in 2013 are as follows:
- Car park facilities had high satisfaction ratings with 1% of responses indicating that signage is below average and 2% indicating that ease of parking is below average. Car park facilities were rated as being above average, with 'very good' receiving the highest response.
 - All respondents stated that the availability of adult activities was above average and less than 1% stated that the availability of child activities was below average. The largest response to these questions was 'very good'.
 - Standard of equipment and cleanliness of facilities for sport and physical activity were also generally rated as 'very good' with less than 1% responding 'below average'.
 - Overall, 98% of respondents were satisfied with their centre and 99% thought that their centre offered good value for money.
- 4.103 These survey findings indicate that generally, adults visiting facilities in Rushmoor which are operated by DC Leisure are satisfied with the facilities and no major issues were identified.

Indoor sport consultation summary and recommendations

- 4.104 Having reviewed consultation findings from NGB representatives, online surveys which were completed by schools and clubs and findings from prior consultation exercises which were provided to the consultant team, the following recommendations are made.

Assessing local needs: Overall priorities from indoor sport consultation

- Opportunities to enhance access to indoor facilities at Aldershot Garrison and ensure access is not regularly disrupted should be further explored.
- Additional equipment and investment to enable indoor sports such as hockey and volleyball would enhance opportunities for the development of these sports.
- Further explore opportunities linked to potential refurbishments of indoor facilities at Salesian College, Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College and Fernhill School and work to ensure that any facility improvements result in enhanced community access where possible.
- Work with schools to overcome barriers and support financial planning so that additional community usage of indoor facilities can be secured, particularly those schools with 4+ court sports halls - Fernhill School, Farnborough Hill, Farnborough Sixth Form College and Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College.
- Explore opportunities to upgrade Aldershot Pools Complex and improve the quality of what is offered.
- Work with those clubs that have identified specific facility improvements plans to provide support so that these projects can be realised and have the best possible impact on provision for community sport in Rushmoor (including Cove Cricket Club, Farnborough Lawn Tennis Club, Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club and Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy).

Section C: Assessment of open spaces

5 Existing open space provision

- 5.1 This section of the report presents the results of the audit of open spaces within Rushmoor. The completed audit forms were entered into an Access database (database available on request). As set out in **Table 5.1**, open spaces audited can be categorised using typologies set out in PPG17⁹. Whilst it is recognised that many spaces will serve a variety of functions the PPG17 Companion Guidance recommends that open spaces are categorised by its 'primary' typology. Although now replaced by the National Planning Policy Guidance, PPG17 Companion Guidance is still widely acknowledged as the most robust approach to the assessment of open space provision. The results of the open space audit will be used to develop provision standards by typology for Rushmoor.

Management and ownership

Rushmoor Borough Council

- 5.2 Rushmoor Borough Council is responsible for managing the parks and open spaces under its ownership. The Community team is responsible for administering the grounds maintenance together with running the cemeteries and crematorium. The grounds maintenance contract is currently held by Veolia Environmental Services which is also responsible for refuse and recycling collections, street cleansing and maintenance of highway verges. Play inspections are carried out by RBC Community Patrol Team within Environmental Services with detailed annual inspections carried out by a specialist contractor.
- 5.3 RBC's Environment team is supported by the Leisure and Youth team who are responsible for parks and open spaces, sport and recreation, childcare and play, arts and entertainment, tourism and heritage and Rushmoor in Bloom. The parks and open spaces under this ownership are covered by Byelaws.



Play area at King George V Recreation Ground



Cove Green Allotments

Ministry of Defence

- 5.4 The Ministry of Defence is the largest owner of open space within Rushmoor. Such spaces range from large areas of heathland in the south west of the Borough which is used periodically for training purposes to formal parks and recreation grounds adjacent to the Barracks. However much of this land is accessible to the public and is also designated as Special Protection Area. However the MOD also owns and manages parks and gardens which are used by the general public as well as the Aldershot Military Cemetery. All of the open spaces under the ownership of

⁹ Outdoor sport provision has not been assessed as part of this study and is assessed as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

the MOD are covered by specific guidelines and open spaces can be removed from public use at any time.



Example of grassland habitats managed by MOD.



Example of signage and facilities provided on some of the MOD owned sites.

Community involvement and management

5.5 There are many community groups dedicated to supporting the management of open spaces in Rushmoor:

- Southwood Woodland Group
- Cove Brook Greenway Group
- Farnborough Society
- Parkside (Aldershot and District Mencap)
- Rowhills Nature Reserve Society
- Friends of Brickfields Park
- Aldershot Civic Society
- Rushmoor Healthy Living
- North Lane Green Steps
- Aldershot and District Allotment Association (own and management Church Road Allotments, Aldershot)
- Rushmoor Urban Wildlife Group

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership

5.6 The Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP) is responsible for co-ordinating work in the Valley working towards a vision of:

"A continuous green space along the Blackwater Valley;
attractive to wildlife and the community."

5.7 The role of the BVCP is to deliver an expert, experienced and centralised resource to:

- Co-ordinate projects and actions of all involved parties and stakeholders in the Blackwater Valley for mutual benefit.
- Increase sustainable usage of the Blackwater Valley especially for informal outdoor recreation.
- Ensure wildlife and landscape protection.

5.8 The BVCP is also active in the local planning process and comments on local plans and individual planning applications in order to ensure that the Blackwater Valley remains a continuous green space attractive to wildlife and the community.

- 5.9 The Blackwater Valley Strategy 2011 - 2015 provides a framework for action in the Valley and contains general policy guidelines for conservation and recreation.
- 5.10 The core funding for their work is provided by a partnership of the local authorities that border the River Blackwater. Councillors representing the partners meet annually, usually in October, to inspect projects that have progressed during the year and to decide on future projects and finance.
- 5.11 RBC is one of 13 local authority funding partners which also includes Farnham Town Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council, Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council. Funding for special projects can come from a variety of sources such as the aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 5.12 Work to improve the Valley has been supported by landowners, voluntary organisations and individual volunteers.

Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust

- 5.13 The Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust (BVCT) is a registered charity working for the conservation, protection and improvement of the Blackwater Valley. Working closely with the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, local authorities and local groups, the BVCT aims to improve the environment for people and wildlife through:
- Promoting public access to the countryside by means of a programme of events, including walks and talks
 - Identifying improvement projects and raising funds to progress them
 - Encouraging volunteers to assist with projects
- 5.14 The Blackwater Valley Countryside area / path is located on the eastern boundary of Rushmoor and is formed of a string of lakes and wetland habitats which form the floodplain of the River Blackwater. The BVCT raises funding through applications for grant funds such as the Landfill Communities Fund.

Basingstoke Canal Authority

- 5.15 The Basingstoke Canal is owned by Surrey County Council and Hampshire County Council, with the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) set up in 1992 to manage the Canal. The Authority is funded by Hampshire County Council and there is a service level agreement with partnership local authorities including Rushmoor Borough Council.
- 5.16 The vision for the Basingstoke Canal is:
- "To create a thriving natural environment for wildlife and public enjoyment and a vibrant recreation and heritage resource. Central to the vision is to create an accessible waterway serving the public. The vision seeks to unlock the potential economic contribution of the Canal and its corridor and also to become a focal point for increased community and volunteer involvement and use. The ambition is to become a well-loved, distinctive and well-known destination for an extended market including day visitors and tourists attracted to discover and enjoy its peaceful setting and unique character."*¹⁰
- 5.17 The Authority work to a series of strategic actions plans:
- Strategic development framework
 - Conservation management plan
 - Canal visitor centre and recreational development plan
 - Service plan
 - Asset management plan

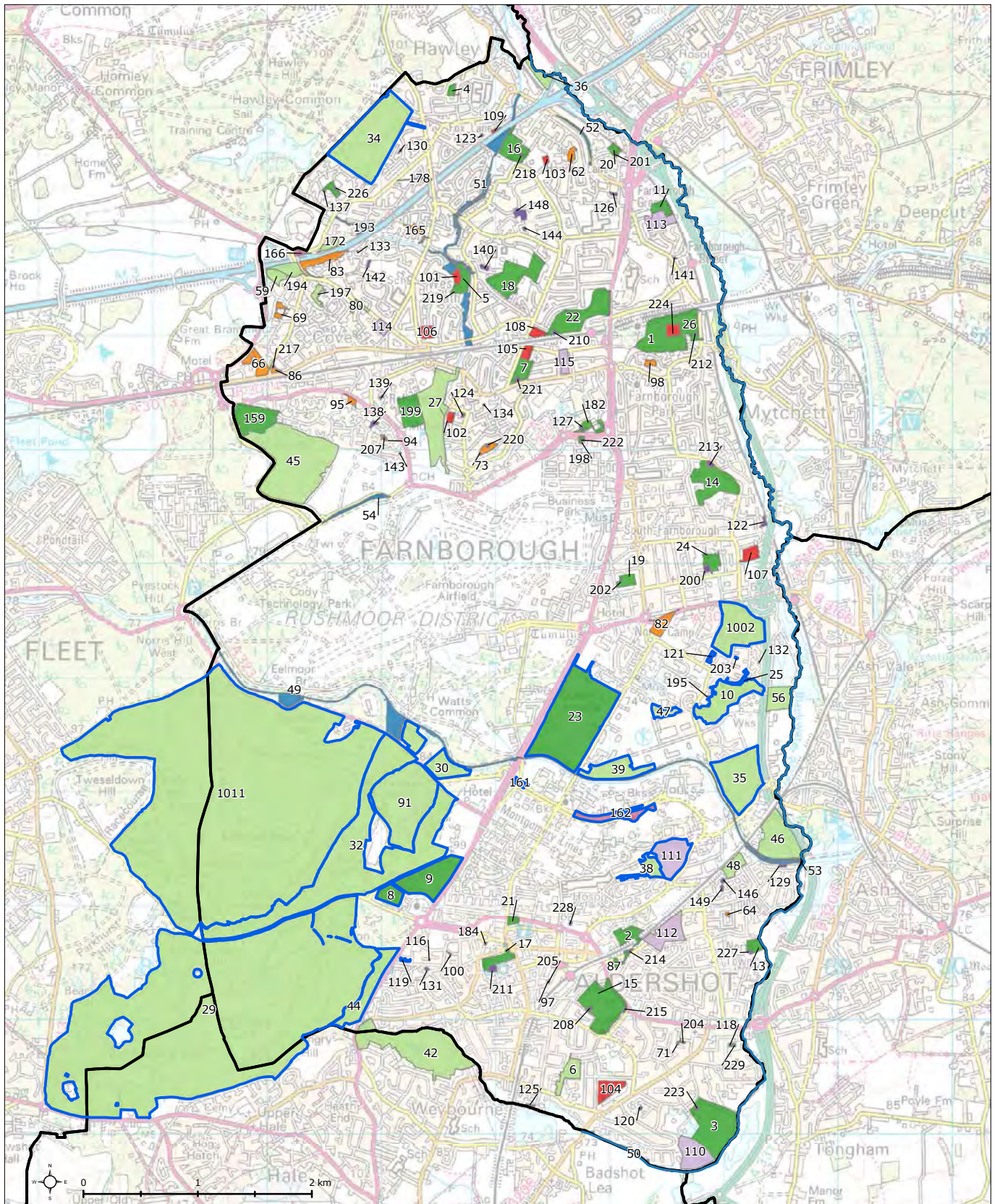
¹⁰ <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/basingstoke-canal/canal-authority.htm>

Classification by type











- 5.18 The open space categories are set out in **Table 5.1** below, and shown on **Figure 5.1**. Within these typologies, there is potential for secondary typologies to exist. For example, many parks and gardens will contain play areas for children, or outdoor sports pitches.

Table 5.1 Open space typologies recorded in Rushmoor

Type of open space	Primary purpose
A. Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education awareness.
C. Green corridor	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
D. Amenity Green Space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work.
E. Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
G. Provision for Children/ Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
H. Outdoor Sports Provision	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics, or countryside and water sports.



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	MOD owned site		D. Amenity green space
	District boundary		E. Allotments
Open space type			
	A. Parks and gardens		F. Cemeteries and Churchyards
	B. Natural and semi-natural green space		G. Provision for children and young people
	C. Publicly accessible green corridors		H. Roadside verges

Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 5.1

All Open Space by Type

LUC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

5.19 **Table 5.2** below records the quantity of open space within each typology and separates the quantity of green space owned by the Ministry of Defence. By far the greatest number of sites are owned and managed by Rushmoor Borough Council. Although only 24 sites are owned by the MoD, this land accounts for 77.56% of total green space in Rushmoor and therefore contributes significantly to the borough's open space network. 72.01% of the total land area is MoD land within the Natural and semi-natural green space typology.

Table 5.2 Quantity of publicly accessible open space recorded in Rushmoor

Type	Non MOD sites			MOD owned sites		Percentage of total area of green space
	Number of sites	Total area (ha)	Percentage of total area of green space	Number of sites	Total area (ha)	
A. Parks and gardens	27	103.22	8.45%	3	52.68	4.31%
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	13	101.42	8.30%	13	879.76	72.01%
C. Green corridors	8	26.27	2.15%			0.00%
D. Amenity green space	12	9.01	0.74%	2	2.73	0.22%
E. Allotments	11	10.42	0.85%			0.00%
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards	5	17.78	1.46%	1	7.77	0.63%
G. Provision for children and young people	50	5.59	0.46%	3	0.44	0.04%
H. Roadside verges	1	0.42	0.03%	2	4.25	0.35%
Number of sites	127			24		
Total area		274.13	22.44%		947.63	77.56%

Aldershot Urban Extension and provision of open space

5.20 Subject to the completion of a S106 agreement, Outline Planning Permission has been granted for development of the Aldershot Urban Extension (AUE) which will involve the creation of up to 3,850 new homes. Using the percentage of households in the UK¹¹, it is calculated the AUE may result in an increase of population of over 8,700 people. The proposals for the development area include the creation of the following elements:

- 110 ha of a woodland park (SANG's)
- 10 ha of on-site woodlands
- Improved access to the Canal side walks
- Creation of a heritage trail
- Access to previously restricted Lakes at Camp Farm
- 2.4 ha of new allotments (approximately 800 pitches)
- Large destination play area
- Sports pitches and a brand new pavilion (total quantity of sport provision will be c.10ha)
- A new central park following the historic Stanhope Lines
- Two school sites with playing fields

5.21 It is also proposed that existing MOD pitches and the changing rooms to the west of Farnborough Road will be transferred to the Council for public use. A crossing will be provided on Farnborough Road to improve access to pitches including the upgrading of the existing changing facilities.

¹¹ Office for National Statistics, [Families and Households Data](#), 2012

6 Developing a hierarchy

- 6.1 To develop a framework for analysis of the sites, a detailed hierarchy was drawn up, using a combination of the size of the sites and the type classifications shown in **Section 5**. This structure is set out in **Table 6.1**. This has been developed with reference to existing example standards including Natural England's ANGSt, the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy 2012, and the Greater London Authority Best Practice Guidance but with consideration of the characteristics of Rushmoor Borough to be locally relevant.

Table 6.1: Hierarchy for analysis

Type	Regional provision	Borough provision	Local provision	Small local provision
A. Parks and Gardens		A1. Borough parks and gardens	A2. Local parks and gardens	A3. Small local parks and gardens
		20-60ha	2-20ha	0.1-2ha
B. Natural and semi-natural green spaces	B1. Regional natural and semi-natural green space	B2. Borough natural and semi-natural green space	B3. Local natural and semi-natural green space	B4. Small local natural and semi-natural green space
	20-400ha	12-20ha	2-12ha	0.4-2ha
C. Green corridors			C. Green corridors (further division into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate for green corridors).	
			0.31 - 14ha	
D. Amenity green space			D. Amenity green space (further division into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate for amenity green space, as this is predominantly a local provision).	
			0.01 - 5ha	
E. Allotments			E. Allotments (further division into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate for allotments, as this is predominantly a local provision).	
			0.06 - 3ha	
F. Cemeteries and churchyards			F. Cemeteries and churchyards (further division into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate for cemeteries and churchyards, as this is predominantly a borough wide provision).	
			1 - 8ha	

Type	Regional provision	Borough provision	Local provision		Small local provision
G. Provision for children and young people			NEAPS	LEAPS	LAPS
H. Roadside verges				H. Roadside verges (further division into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate for roadside verges, as this is predominantly a local provision, provided where opportunity arises).	
				0.4 – 4ha	

6.2 Each of these categories is examined in greater detail below and a summary of the number of sites at each level of hierarchy is also provided.

A. Parks and Gardens

6.3 **Figure 6.1** shows the Parks and Gardens within the borough, divided into the hierarchy set out above. The number and total area of sites within each level is shown below.

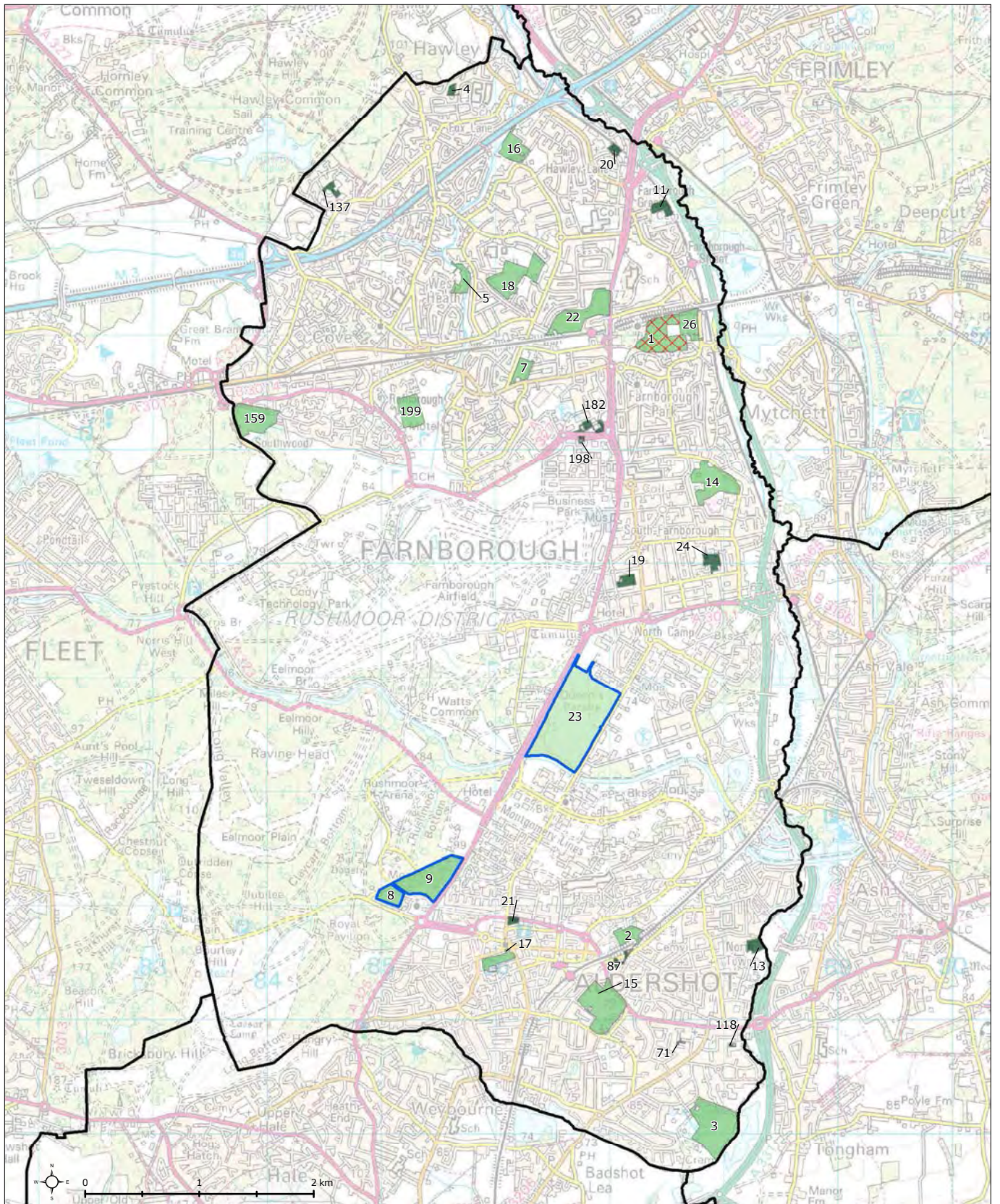
Table 6.2: Parks and Gardens by hierarchy

	A1. Borough parks and gardens	A2. Local parks and gardens	A3. Small local parks and gardens
Size	20-60ha	2-20ha	0.1-2ha
No. of sites (excluding MOD owned)	-	13	13
Total area of sites (excluding MOD owned)	-	81ha	12ha
No. of sites (MOD owned)	1	2	-
Total area of sites (MOD owned)	38ha	14ha	-
Number of sites in private ownership and inaccessible	-	1	-
Total area of sites in private ownership and inaccessible	-	10ha	-


6.4 A list of these sites is shown in **Appendix 4**.

A1. Borough parks and gardens

6.5 As shown in **Figure 6.1**, the only Borough level Park and Garden (Queens Parade Recreation Ground) is owned and managed by the MOD. The Queens Parade Recreation Ground contains sport pitches which are used by the MOD. However, public access is permitted and the site is used by the local community for informal recreation such as dog walking. The site contains some basic amenities such as benches and litter bins. It is also used to hold large-scale events including the annual Aldershot Garrison Show.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District boundary MOD owned site In private ownership and not publicly accessible 	<p>Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</p>
<p>A. Parks and gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A1. Borough parks and gardens A2. Local parks and gardens A3. Small local parks and gardens 	<p>Figure 6.1</p> <p>Type A. Parks and Gardens by Hierarchy Level</p>
<p>Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000</p>	

A2. Local parks and gardens

- 6.6 There are 12 local parks and gardens within the borough, totalling 73ha. This type of provision therefore provides the greatest quantity of parks and gardens within the borough. These sites generally provide opportunities for play and active recreation and often contain a pavilion, car parking and sport pitches. Two sites contain skate parks, a further seven sites contain Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and three sites contain rebound walls.
- 6.7 Most of the sites are formed of large areas of short amenity grassland, often interspersed with veteran trees and may contain low hedgerows. The sites may also contain features of biodiversity value including small woodland compartments and ponds. However, there are few areas of ornamental planting or wildflower meadows.
- 6.8 Abbey Fields is privately owned and although this site is essentially not publicly accessible there is a public right of way through the site, and the area to the east of this path is accessed by the public. Two local Parks and Gardens are owned by the MOD.

A3. Small local parks and gardens

- 6.9 There are 13 small local parks and gardens, totalling 12ha, all of which are owned by RBC. These sites often provide a range of facilities for use by local residents including space for informal play and possibly some provision for active recreation such as a junior football pitch or goal posts. Sites generally contain site furniture such as litter bins and benches.

Table 6.3: Parks and gardens – key characteristics

	A1. Borough parks and gardens	A2. Local parks and gardens	A3. Small local parks and gardens
Size	20 – 60ha	2 -20ha	0.4 – 2ha
Key characteristics	Serves borough needs and although predominantly visited by borough residents sites attract visitors from further afield.	Serves the needs and predominantly visited by borough residents.	Serves local needs and predominantly visited by local residents.
	Contributes to character of surrounding area. May include landmark features and heritage value.	Contributes to character of surrounding area and may be recognised through inclusion in Conservation Area designation.	Contributes to character of surrounding area and may be recognised through inclusion in Conservation Area designation.
	Provides a welcoming place to all park users with entrances and boundaries well defined and in good condition.	Provides a welcoming place to all park users with entrances and boundaries well defined and in good condition.	Provides a welcoming place to all park users with entrances and boundaries well defined and in good condition.
	Provides good access enabling all sectors of the community to use and enjoy the open space.	Provides good access enabling all sectors of the community to use and enjoy the open space.	Provides good access enabling all sectors of the community to use and enjoy the open space.
	Active and passive recreation – contain play equipment of a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play and provision for	Active and passive recreation – mostly contain play equipment (where appropriate to the character of the site) of at least Local Equipped Area for Play	Active and passive recreation – mostly contain play equipment (where appropriate to the character of the site) with at least Local Areas

	young people, and contains sporting provision.	providing for at least two age groups, may contain sporting provision.	for Play (although on a smaller scale to the borough and local parks and gardens), may contain sporting provision.
	Range of habitats which contributes to the local biodiversity acknowledged by SINC designation.	Range of habitats which contributes to local biodiversity and may be acknowledged SINC designation.	Range of habitats which contributes to local biodiversity and may be acknowledged SINC designation.
	Good provision of basic amenities including seating, litter bins and entrance signs, interpretation signs, public notice board, may contain toilets, and community building.	Good provision of basic amenities including seating, litter bins and entrance signs. May contain toilets and community building.	Good provision of basic amenities including seating, litter bins and entrance signs.
	Readily accessible by public transport	Accessible to the local community	Accessible to the local community

B. Natural and semi-natural green space

6.10 **Figure 6.2** shows the natural and semi-natural green space within the borough, divided into the hierarchy set out above. The number and total area of sites within each level is shown below.

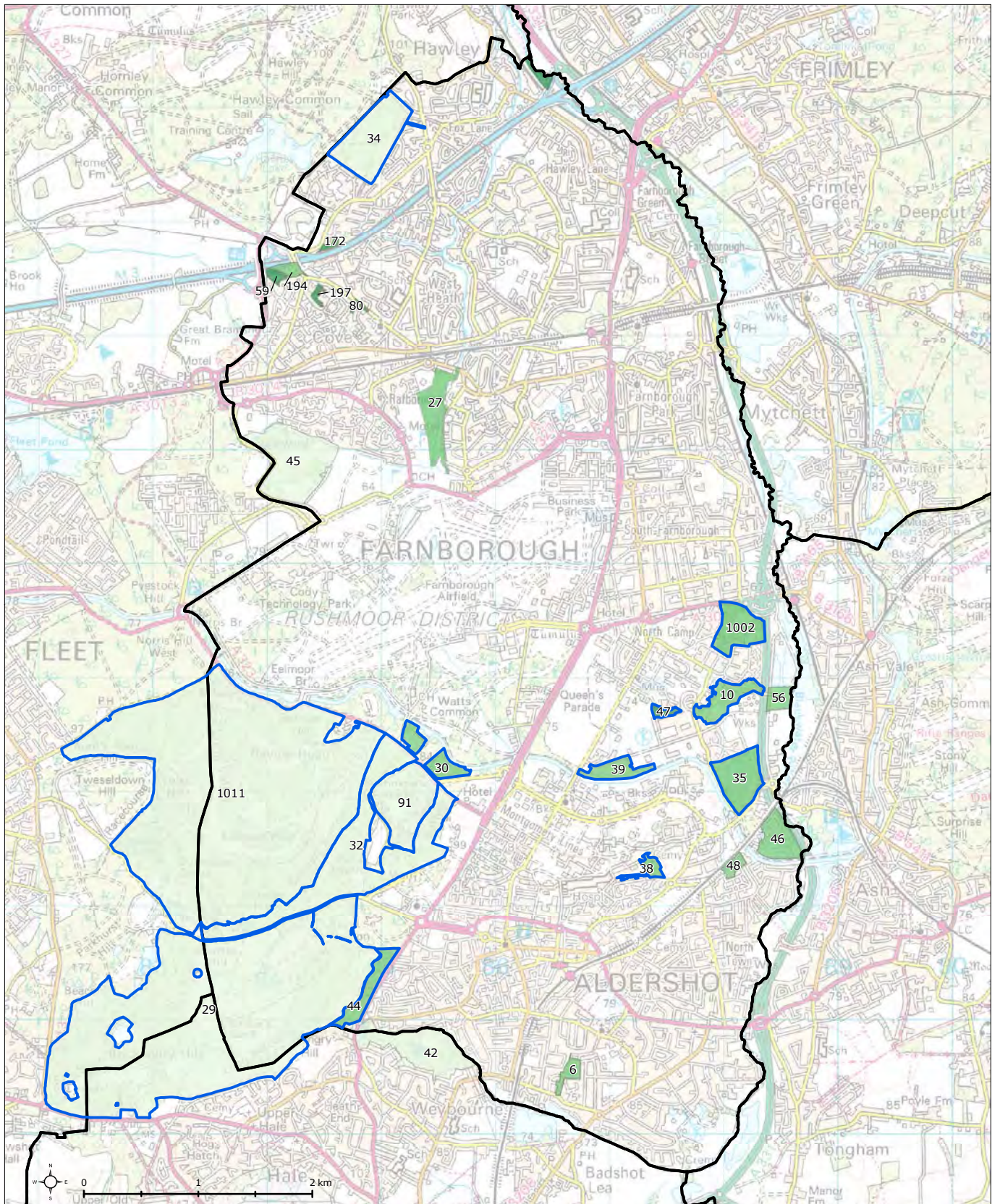
Table 6.4: Natural and semi-natural green space by hierarchy

	B1. Regional natural and semi-natural green space	B2. Borough natural and semi-natural green space	B3. Local natural and semi-natural green space	B4. Small local natural and semi-natural green space
Size	20-400ha	12-20ha	2-12ha	0.4-2ha
No. of sites (excluding MOD owned)	2	1	5	5
Total area of sites (excluding MOD owned)	58ha	14ha	22ha	6ha
No. of sites (MOD owned)	5	2	5	1
Total area of sites (MOD owned)	810ha	30ha	38ha	2ha



6.11 A list of these sites is shown in **Appendix 4**.

B1. Regional natural and semi-natural green space





6.12 Eight regional natural and semi-natural green spaces have been recorded in the borough. Two of these, Southwood Woodland and Rowhill Nature Reserve are owned solely by RBC. However, although Rowhill Nature Reserve is owned by RBC, the vast majority of this site is within Waverley. A third site, Hawley Meadow, is owned Hampshire County Council but is used as a shared SANG by RBC, Surrey Heath Borough Council and Hart District Council. Five sites are owned by the MOD covering an area of 810ha, of which four are publicly accessible. Rushmoor Arena is used by MOD for the training purposes and events including stock-car racing and stunt shows. There is no public access to the site when events are not taking place.



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-  District boundary
-  MOD owned site

B. Natural and semi-natural green space

-  B1. Regional natural and semi-natural green space
-  B2. Borough natural and semi-natural green space
-  B3. Local natural and semi-natural green space
-  B4. Small local natural and semi-natural green space

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Figure 6.2
Type B: Natural and Semi-natural Green Space by Hierarchy Level



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

- 6.13 The following five sites form part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) and part of each is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):
- Bourley & Long Valley
 - Hawley Common
 - Eelmoor Training Area
 - Claycart Bottom/ Rushmoor Hill
 - Eelmoor Marsh
- 6.14 Hawley Meadow, Southwood Woods and Rowhill Local Nature Reserve are designated as SANGs. All sites are Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Bourley & Long Valley contains a Scheduled Monument and Hawley Common is included at Grade II on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. Southwood Woods, Bourley & Long Valley, Hawley Meadows and Eelmoor Training Area are within a Flood Risk Zone.
- 6.15 These larger natural/ semi-natural green spaces attract visitors from throughout the region as well as borough residents. They offer a broad range of habitats which is acknowledged through designations. The sites owned by MOD offer a limited range of facilities for public use however it would be inappropriate to increase the provision on these sites as they form part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. The SANG sites offer more facilities for public recreation including signage, car parking and site furniture.

B2. Borough natural and semi-natural green space

- 6.16 Three sites have been recorded within the Borough natural and semi-natural green space hierarchy. Southwood Meadows is the only site which is owned by RBC and is located in Farnborough. The site is designated a SINC and is located within a Flood Risk Zone forming part of the Cove Brook Greenway. This site contains basic features for recreation but provides defined routes, interpretation panels and a noticeboard.
- 6.17 Hill and Lake, and Ramilies Park are both owned and managed by the MOD and provide some public access. Hill and Lake is designated as a SINC.

B3. Local natural and semi-natural green space

- 6.18 Four of the 10 sites included within the hierarchy are owned by RBC of which three (Spring Lakes, Brickfields Country Park and Aldershot Stubbs/ Hollybush Lane) are designated as SINCS. Spring Lakes is also within a Conservation Area.
- 6.19 Brickfields Country Park has a range of woodland and grassland habitats and a pond. It also provides a range of facilities for public access including a car park, seating and litterbins. There is also an active Friends group who help manage the open space and deliver an annual family event during the summer.
- 6.20 None of the sites have trim trails or nature trails but there is evidence that these sites are used for walking and dog walking. None of the sites contain operational toilets and none contain a café.

B4. Small local natural and semi-natural green space

- 6.21 There are five small local natural and semi-natural green spaces recorded within the Borough. Three of these sites (Bramshot Lane, Sandy Lane and Chestnut Tree Woods) are owned by RBC. Bramshot Lane is an area of wet meadow managed by the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust and designated a SSSI. The site is grazed by cattle and is used for informal recreation. Sandy Lane and Chestnut Tree Woods are areas of deciduous woodland which are used for informal recreation such as walking dogs. Minley Road Amenity Land is owned by the MOD and offers some access for public use and informal recreation.

Table 6.5: Natural and semi-natural green space – key characteristics

	B1. Regional natural/semi-natural green spaces	B2. Borough natural/semi-natural green spaces	B3. Local natural/semi-natural green spaces	B4. Small local natural and semi-natural green space
Size	20-400ha	12-20ha	2-12ha	0.4-2ha
Essential characteristics	Attract visitors from throughout the region and inside the borough	Attract visitors from both outside and inside the borough	Serves local needs and predominantly visited by local residents	Serves local needs
	Broad range of habitats	Broad range of habitats	Limited range of habitats	Limited range of habitats
	Marked walking routes	Marked walking routes	Provision for informal recreation	Provision for informal recreation
	Sufficient facilities to enable long stays e.g. car park and litter bins	Sufficient facilities to enable long stays e.g. car park and litter bins	Basic amenities include seating, litter bins and entrance signs	Basic amenities include seating, litter bins and entrance signs

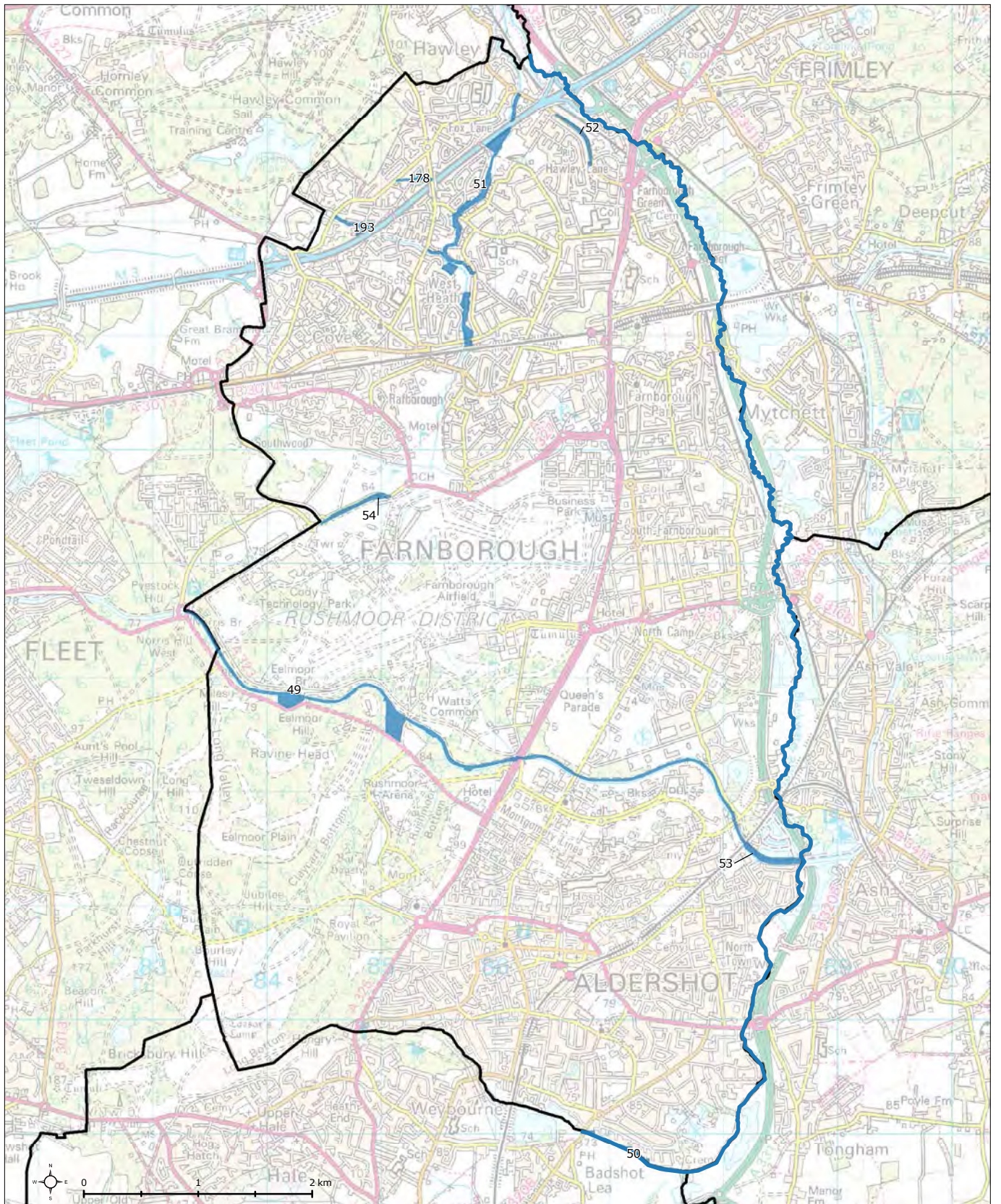
C. Green corridors

- 6.22 Eight green corridors were recorded during the audit work as set out in **Table 6.6** below and shown in **Figure 6.3**.



Table 6.6: Green corridors by hierarchy

	C. Green corridors
Size	Variable sizes (0.3 – 14ha)
No. of sites (excluding MOD owned)	8
Total area of sites (excluding MOD owned)	25ha
No. of sites (MOD owned)	-
Total area of sites (MOD owned)	-

- 6.23 A list of these sites is shown in **Appendix 4**.



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-  District boundary
-  C. Publicly accessible green corridors

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Figure 6.3
Type C: Publicly Accessible Green Corridors



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

- 6.24 Green corridors provide green routes along transport and public rights of way. They may support a range of habitats important for nature conservation or provision for informal recreation. These include the Basingstoke Canal, the Blackwater Valley and Cove Brook Green Way. The key characteristics of green corridors are set out in **Table 6.7** below.

Table 6.7: Green corridors – key characteristics

	C. Green corridors
Essential characteristics	Contain a range of habitats for nature conservation.
	Provides for informal recreation.
	Basic facilities could include bins/ dog bins.
	Contribute to local character.
	Act as a buffer to local transport routes of industry.

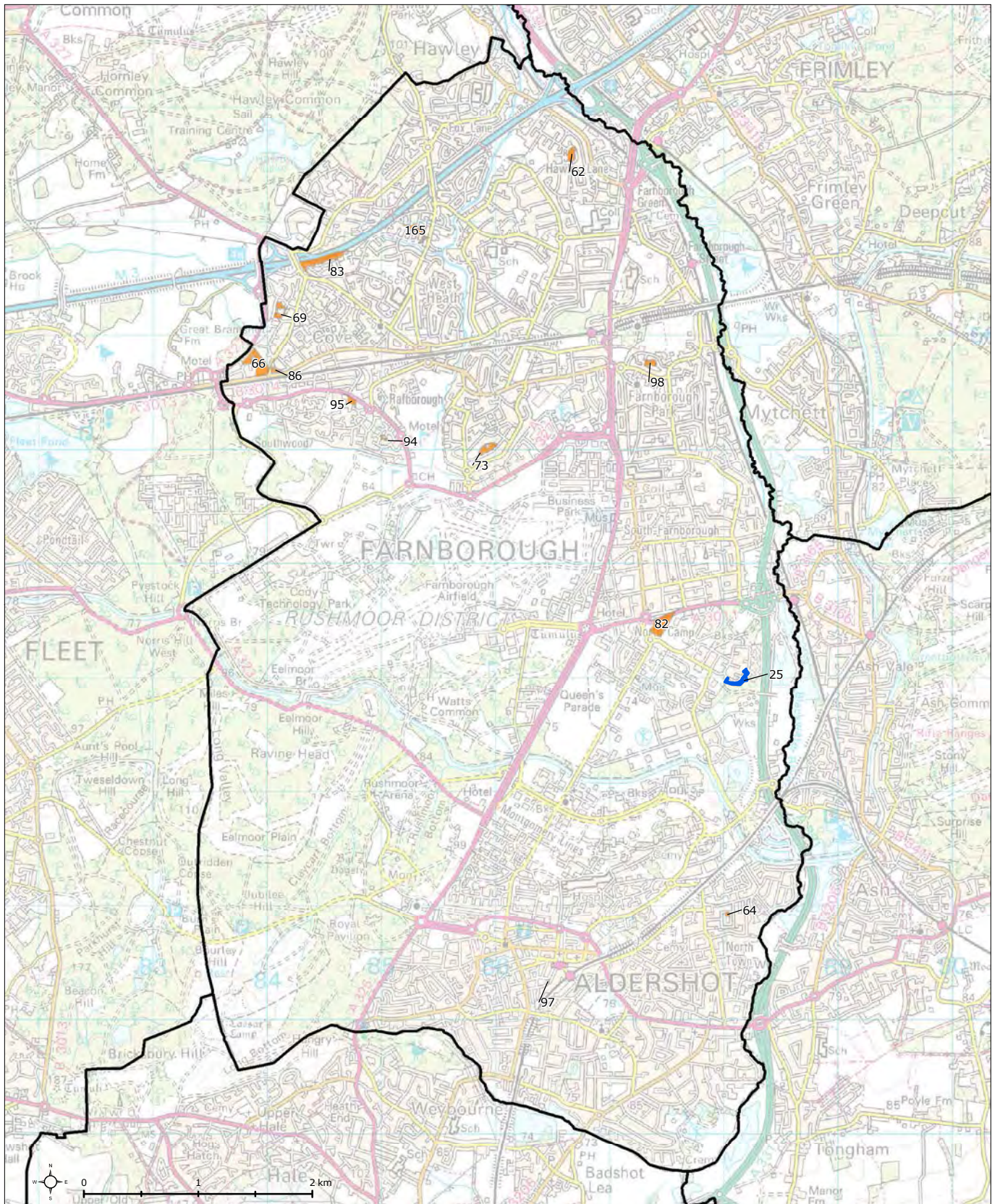
D. Amenity green space

- 6.25 14 amenity green spaces over the 0.4 ha threshold were recorded during the audit as set out in **Table 6.8** below and shown in **Figure 6.4**.




Table 6.8: Amenity green space by hierarchy

	D. Amenity green space
Size	Generally 0.4 – 3ha
No. of sites (excluding MOD owned)	12
Total area of sites (excluding MOD owned)	8ha
No. of sites (MOD owned)	1
Total area of sites (MOD owned)	1ha
Number of sites owned by MOD but leased to RBC	1
Total area of sites owned by MOD but leased to RBC	2ha
Number of sites in private ownership and inaccessible	-
Total area of sites in private ownership and inaccessible	-

- 6.26 A list of these sites is shown in **Appendix 4**.
- 6.27 Amenity green spaces include Pystock Crescent, Nightingale Close and Southwood Village Amenity Land. Amenity green spaces provide less formal experience than parks and gardens and generally fewer habitats. However the sites provide important spaces for informal recreation close to where people work and live. The key characteristics of amenity green space in Rushmoor are provided in **Table 6.9** below.



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-  District boundary
-  MOD owned site
-  D. Amenity green space

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Figure 6.4
Type D Amenity Green Space



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Table 6.9: Amenity green space – key characteristics

	D. Amenity Green Space
Essential characteristics	Basic provision for informal recreation (seating and bins)
	Entrance signs for enclosed spaces including no dog fouling notices
	Limited range of habitat

E. Allotments

- 6.28 There are 11 allotment sites in Rushmoor as shown in **Table 6.10** below and shown in **Figure 6.5**.

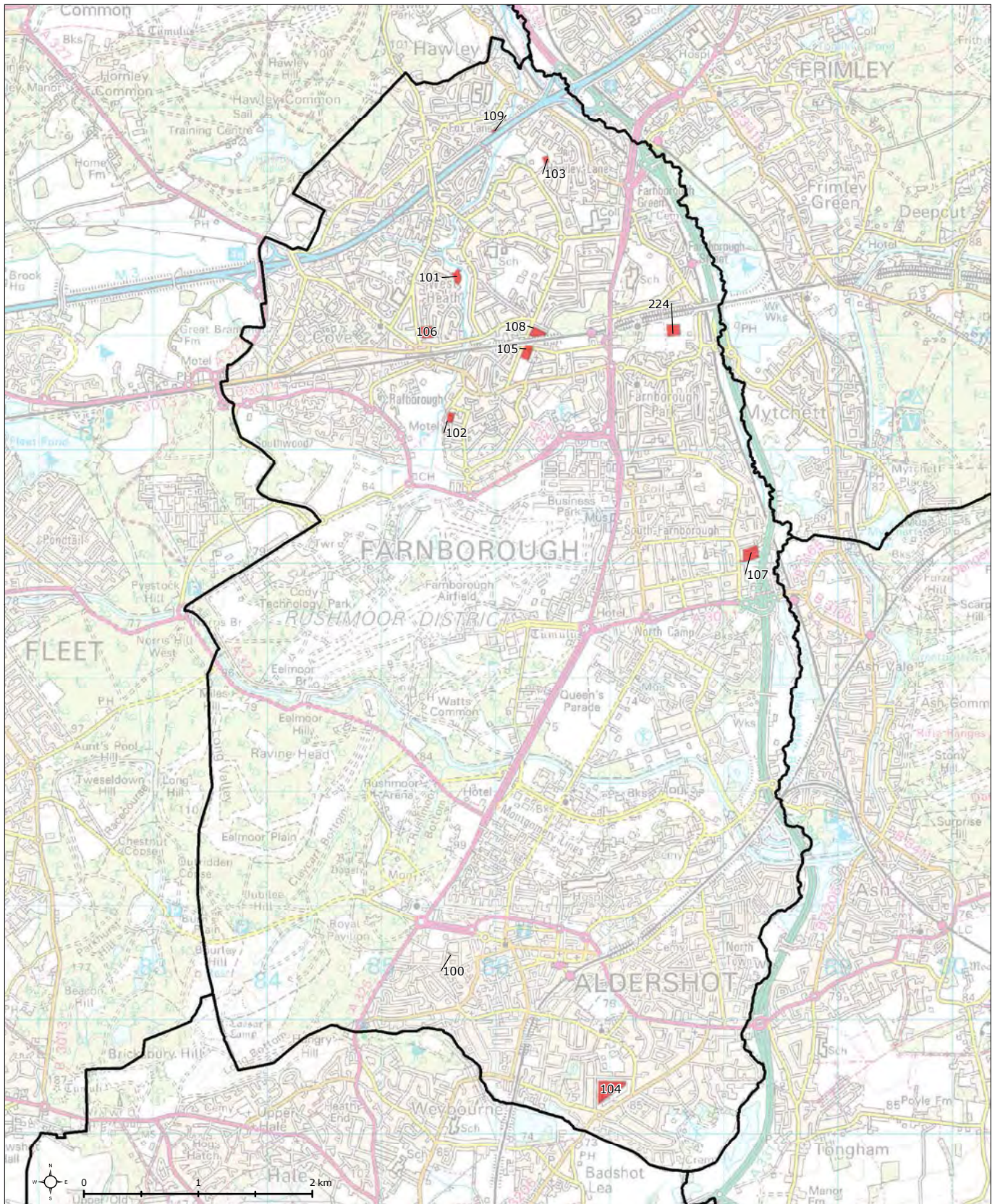
Table 6.10: Allotments by hierarchy

	E. Allotments
Size	Variable sizes
No. of sites (excluding MOD owned)	10
Total area of sites (excluding MOD owned)	8ha
No. of sites (MOD owned)	-
Total area of sites (MOD owned)	-
Number of sites owned by Aldershot & District Allotments Association	1
Total area of sites owned by Aldershot & District Allotments Association	3ha



- 6.29 A list of these sites is shown in **Appendix 4**.
- 6.30 The characteristics of allotment sites are outlined in the Table below. In general, allotment sites in Rushmoor provide basic facilities such green waste recycling, signage and public notice board. Some sites also provide space for the storage of tools and limited on site car parking. They should have secured and well-presented boundaries and entrances complete with signs providing contact and membership details.

Table 6.11: Allotments – key characteristics

	E. Allotments
Essential characteristics	Entrance signs and public notice board.
	Basic amenities might include litter bins and/ or seating.
	Green waste composting facilities.
	Range of habitats.



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-  District boundary
-  E. Allotments

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Figure 6.5
Type E: Allotments



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

F. Cemeteries and churchyards

- 6.31 There are six cemeteries in Rushmoor; three sites in Aldershot and three sites in Farnborough as shown below and in **Figure 6.6**.

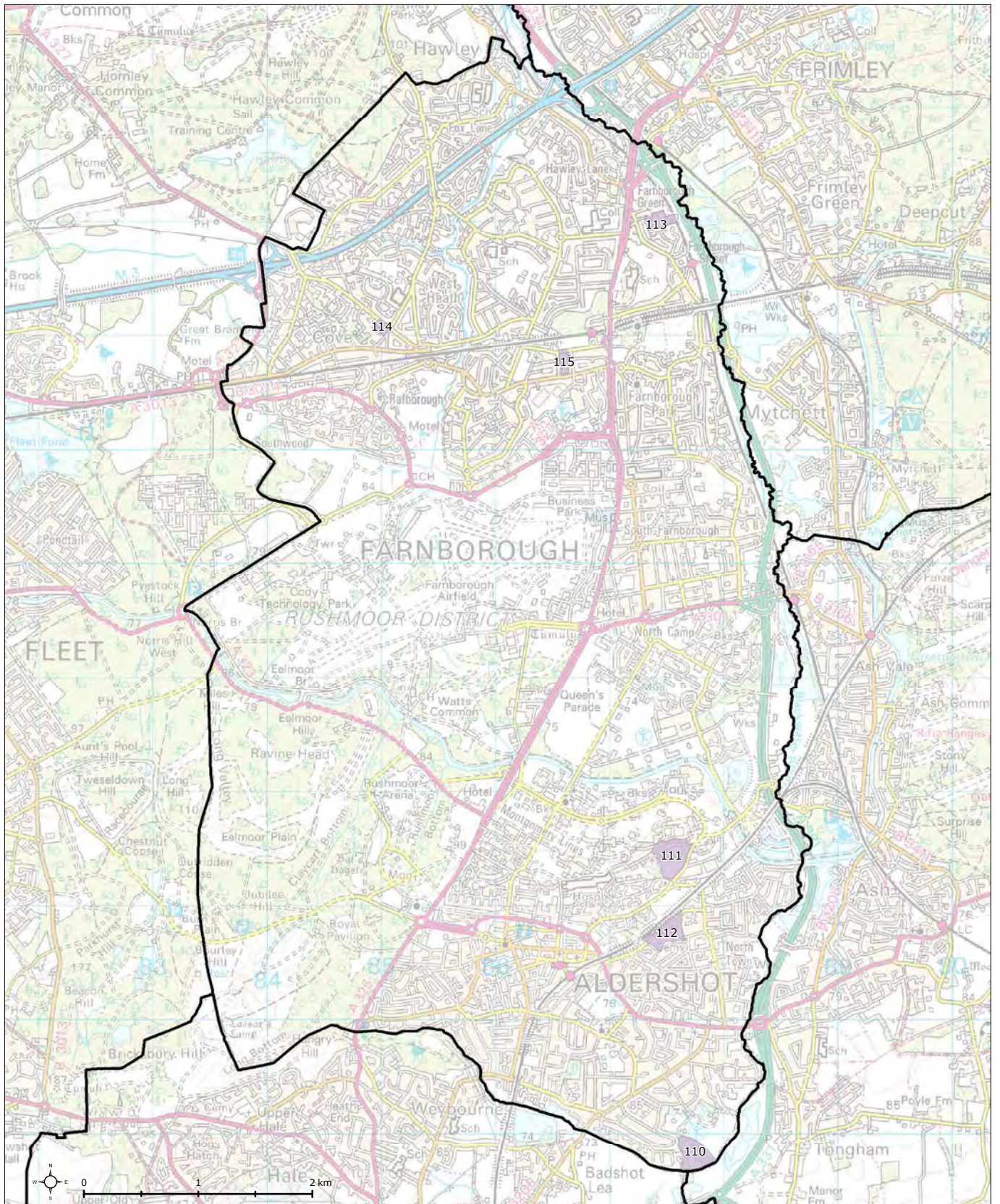
Table 6.12: Cemeteries and churchyards

	F. Cemeteries and churchyards
Size	-
No. of sites (excluding MOD owned)	5
Total area of sites (excluding MOD owned)	18ha
No. of sites (MOD owned)	1
Total area of sites (MOD owned)	8ha



- 6.32 A list of these sites is shown in **Appendix 4**.
- 6.33 As well as fulfilling their original, primary role of a burial ground, the sites in this category may also provide spaces for informal recreation, in terms of places to sit and as places of quiet reflections. They may also contain a range of wildlife habitats. The characteristics of cemeteries and churchyards in Rushmoor are provided in the **Table 6.13** below.

Table 6.13: Cemeteries and churchyard – key characteristics

	F. Cemeteries and churchyards
Essential characteristics	Provision for informal recreation including basic amenities of litter bins and seating.
	Range of habitats.
	Landmark feature(s) present sense of place.
	Heritage value acknowledged by inclusion in Conservation Area or subject to Listed Building designation.
	Entrance signs and public notice boards.



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-  District boundary
-  F. Cemeteries and churchyards

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Figure 6.6
Type F: Cemeteries and Churchyards



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

G. Provision for children and young people

- 6.34 There are 54 sites categorised as provision for children and young people as shown in **Figure 6.7**. The number and total area of sites within each level is shown below.
- 6.35 Provision for children and young people has not been categorised based on the size of the site alone, as with the other types of space. A more appropriate classification has been set, which follows guidance from Fields in Trust. The sites are categorised as LAPS (Local Areas for Play), LEAPs (Local Equipped Areas for Play) and NEAPS (Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play).

Table 6.14 Provision for children and young people

	LAPS	LEAPS	NEAPS
Size	-	-	-
No. of sites (excluding MOD owned)	26	15	8
Total area of sites (excluding MOD owned)	1.5ha	2.8ha	1.3ha
No. of sites (MOD owned)	3	1	-
Total area of sites (MOD owned)	0.3ha	0.3ha	-

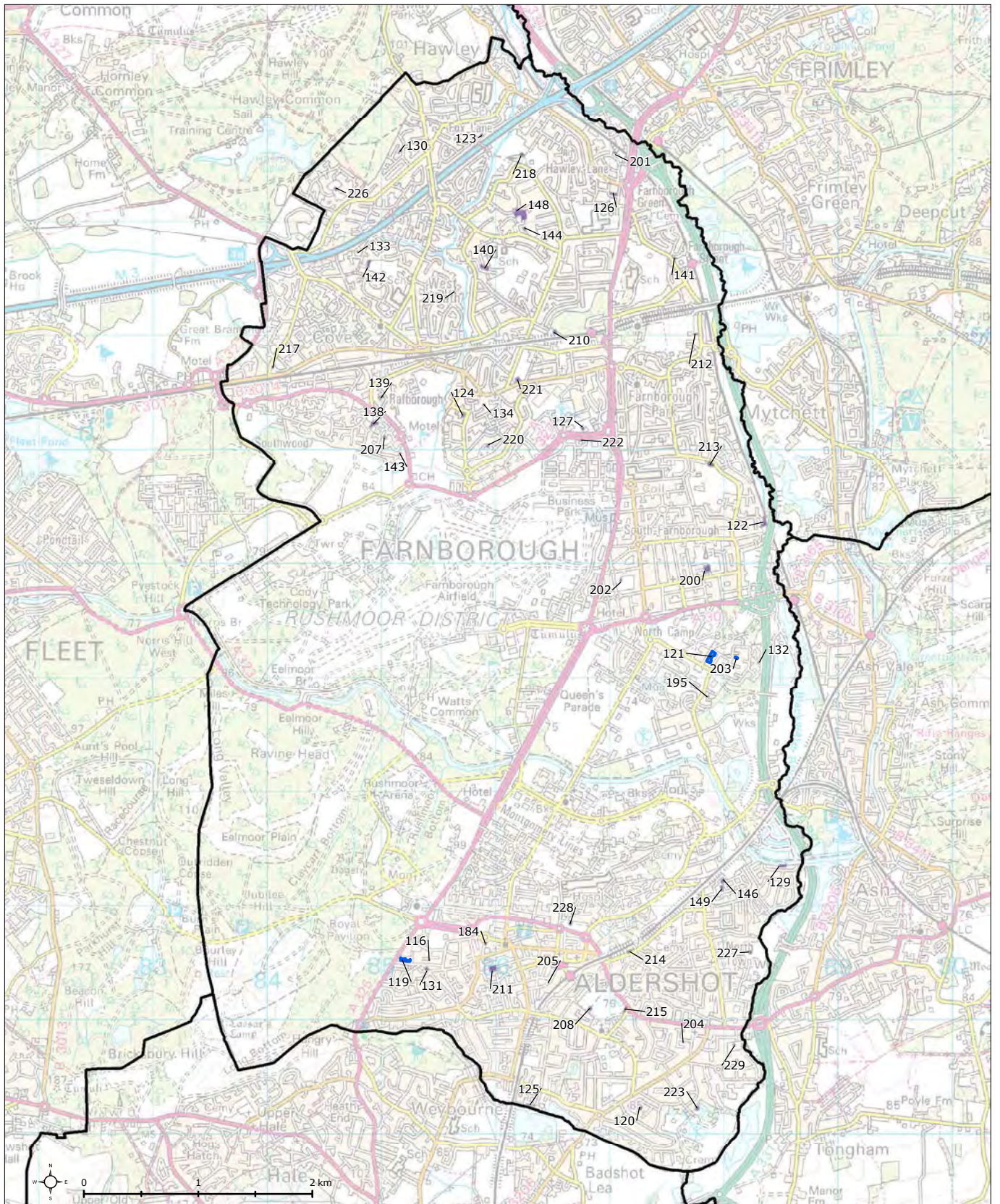
- 6.36 A list of these sites is shown in **Appendix 4**.
- 6.37 The LAP/LEAP/NEAP definitions were established in the 1992 version of 'The Six Acre Standard' by Fields in Trust (formerly known as the National Playing Fields Association). The key characteristics of each category are described below (Source, Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play. Fields in Trust (2008)):

Table 6.15: Description and key characteristics of G. Provision for children and young people (LAPS / LEAPS / NEAPS)




Type	Description	Key characteristics
Local Area for Play (LAP)	Small area of open space specifically designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live i.e. within 1 minute walking time. The LAP requires no play equipment as such, relying more on demonstrative features indicating that play is positively encouraged.	<p>Primarily for children up to the age of 6.</p> <p>Minimum activity zone is 100 m²</p> <p>It may contain demonstrative features that allow young children to identify and claim the space as theirs.</p> <p>There should be a sign indicating that the area is for children's play and that dogs are not welcome.</p> <p>Depending on the location it may have a 600mm guard rail, low fence or planting to indicate the perimeter.</p> <p>(Other design features are noted, for more details see the Fields in Trust guidance).</p>
Local Equipped Area for	An area of open space specifically	Intended primarily for children who are

Type	Description	Key characteristics
Play (LEAP)	<p>designated and laid out with features including the equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently close to where they live, usually within 5 minutes walking time.</p> <p>Play features including equipment are an integral part of the LEAP and the attractiveness of such spaces, though it is also important that the space can be used for physical activity and games.</p>	<p>beginning to go out and play independently.</p> <p>Within 5 minutes walking time of the child's home.</p> <p>Minimum activity zone is 400m².</p> <p>(Other design features are noted, for more details see the Fields in Trust guidance).</p>
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	<p>An area of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children but with play opportunities for younger children as well.</p> <p>Located within 15 minutes' walk from home, the NEAP is sufficiently large to enable provision for play opportunities that cannot be provided within a LAP or LEAP.</p> <p>The NEAP can provide a greater variety of opportunity for both active and passive play. It can provide play equipment, and a hard surface area for ball games, or wheeled activities such as roller skating or cycling. It may provide other facilities such as a ramp for skateboarding, a rebound wall, a shelter for meeting and socialising. The facilities are linked in the one site because children of different ages and abilities like to take part in a range of activities, as do their siblings.</p>	<p>Destination play spaces intended primarily for use by older children of relative independence, who have the freedom to range further from home.</p> <p>Within 15 minutes walking time of the child's home.</p> <p>Minimum activity zone is 1000m², comprising of features to enable formal play activities, and a hard surfaced area of at least 465m² (the minimum needed to play 5-a-side football).</p> <p>Designed to provide a stimulating and challenging play experience that may include equipment and other features providing opportunities for balancing, rocking, climbing, overhead activity sliding, swinging, jumping, crawling, rotating, imaginative play, social play, play with natural materials such as sand and water, ball games, wheeled areas or other activities.</p> <p>The number and nature of equipment and structures is a matter for local consultation and decision, though provision for a minimum number of nine play experiences is recommended.</p> <p>(Other design features are noted, for more details see the Fields in Trust guidance)</p>

Source: Planning and design for outdoor sport and play. Fields in Trust (2008)



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-  District boundary
-  MOD owned site
-  G. Provision for children and young people

Rushmoor Open Space,
Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 6.7
Type G: Provision for Children and Young People



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Source: Rushmoor Borough Council

H. Roadside verges

- 6.38 Three roadside verges we identified during the audit as being over 0.4ha in size are shown in **Table 6.16** below.

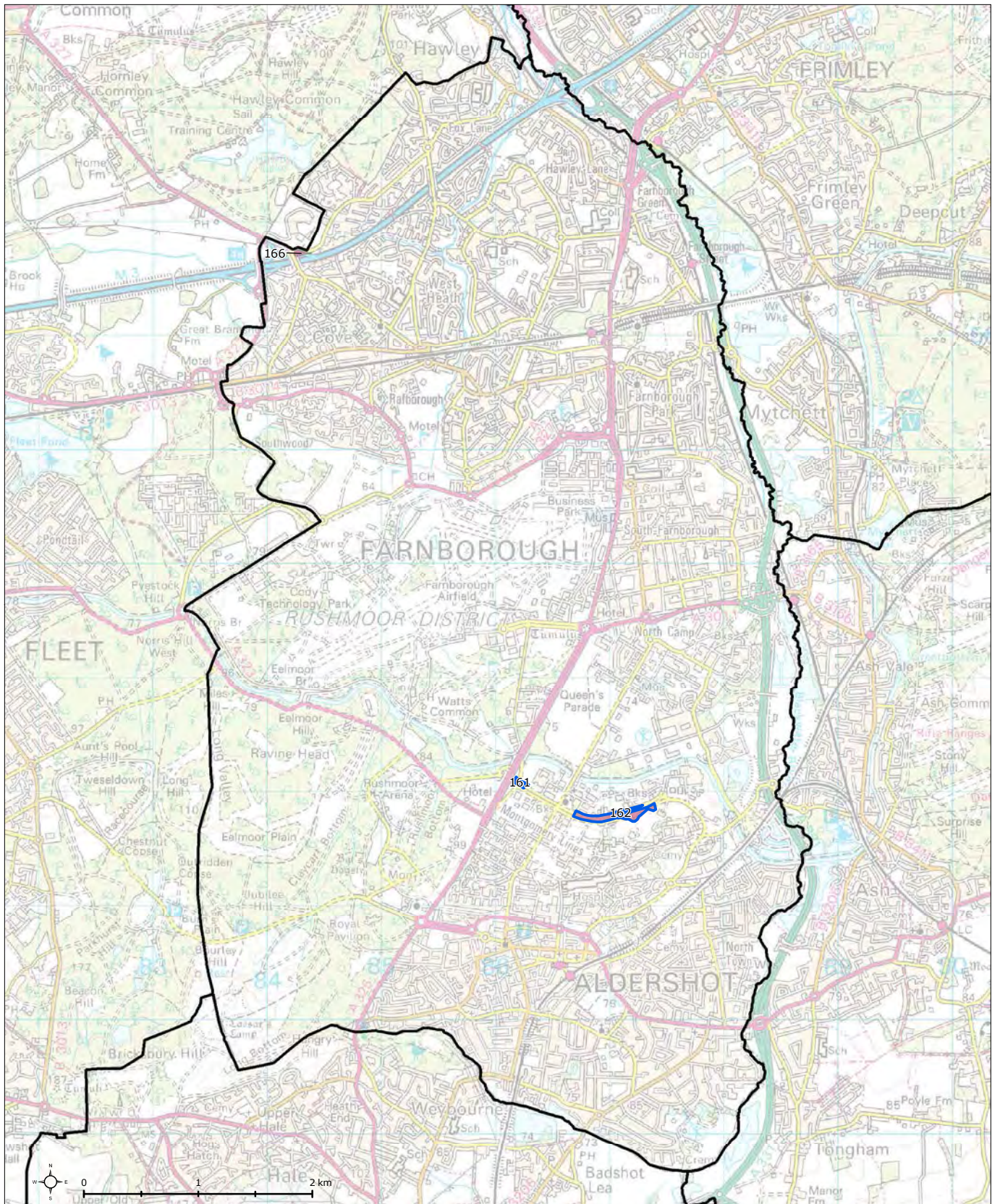
Table 6.16: Roadside verges by hierarchy

	H. Roadside verges
Size	-
No. of sites (excluding MOD owned)	1
Total area of sites (excluding MOD owned)	0.4ha
No. of sites (MOD owned)	2
Total area of sites (MOD owned)	4ha

- 6.39 A list of these sites is shown in **Appendix 4**.
- 6.40 The larger roadside verges tend to contain areas of short amenity grassland with individual trees or occasional copse. The nature of these sites makes them unsuitable for recreation but they may line transport routes and public rights of way. The key characteristics of roadside verges are outlined in **Table 6.17** below.

Table 6.17: Roadside verges – key characteristics

	H. Roadside verges
Essential characteristics	Contain a range of habitats for nature conservation.
	Contribute to local character.
	Act as a buffer to local transport routes of industry.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District boundary MOD owned site H. Roadside verges 	<p>Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</p>
<p>Figure 6.8</p> <p>Type H: Roadside Verges</p>	
<p>LUC</p>	

Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

7 Setting future provision standards

- 7.1 This section recommends open space provision standards. These were defined through review of the existing provision of open space, alongside the comments received through the various forms of public consultation, as well as consideration of nationally recognised provision standards, and those adopted by neighbouring authorities. There are four types of open space standard:
- **Accessibility:** The maximum distance residents should be required to travel to use an open space of a specific typology.
 - **Quantity:** The provision (measured in m² or hectares) of each open space typology which should be provided as a minimum per 1000 population.
 - **Quality:** The quality of the open space provided in each typology, assessed using the Green Flag criteria.
 - **Value:** The value of the open space provided in each typology.
- 7.2 The main national standards relating to open space are the National Playing Field Association (NPFA) standards, and Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGSt) standards. These standards cover the accessibility and quantity elements of open space. We have also considered the standards recommended by the Greater London Authority and those recommended for Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Areas.
- 7.3 The standards were applied to the open space data for each typology to identify:
- Areas which do and do not have access to different types of spaces by virtue of their geographic location.
 - Parts of the borough which have above or below the recommended standard in terms of quantity of provision per 1,000 people.
 - Sites and facilities which are performing well and less well in terms of quality and value.
- 7.4 Part of the process of developing open space standards, has been to benchmark the proposed Rushmoor standards against those of adjacent authorities. This is a useful reality-check on standards considered acceptable and feasible in other parts of Hampshire and surrounding counties.
- 7.5 Quantity or accessibility standards have not been proposed for churchyards and cemeteries, or green corridors or verges. This reflects the fact that these spaces offer limited opportunity for recreation and the proximity to such spaces is not generally considered to be a requirement. However it is important to record such spaces as it may be desirable to "enhance" these sites in areas deficient in other open space typologies.

Accessibility standard

- 7.6 The accessibility standard defines the maximum distance that users can be reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision. This can be presented spatially by use of an 'accessibility catchment' which is effectively a mapped buffer around facilities and spaces. Accessibility standards are based on relevant national and local information as well as the strategic context of Rushmoor and consultation findings. The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) Six Acre Standard gives guidance on distance thresholds for different size categories of open space.
- 7.7 Accessibility catchments were mapped by applying a radius around the site as per the accessibility standard e.g. 1.2km for a local park. Where barriers such as busy roads and railway lines are apparent, the catchment areas were adjusted to reflect this. We have developed these accessibility standards through review of:

- Existing national guidance, e.g. from Natural England, the NPFA and the Greater London Authority;
- Benchmarking against other local authorities;
- Review of feedback received through public consultation.

7.8 The accessibility standards aim to guide provision to ensure that people have access to open space of suitable types and size. It aims to ensure that appropriate types of open spaces are in appropriate locations to be accessed by the people of the borough. The accessibility standards are broken down into types of spaces and into the hierarchy described in **section 6**.

7.9 The recommended accessibility standards for Rushmoor have been derived based on best practice guidance, as set out in **Table 7.1**, and through analysis of the results of the consultation activities, e.g. 81% of people who responded to the online survey stated that they travel to open spaces by foot although 51% of respondents also stated that they travel by car. Consideration was also given to the results of a recent survey RBC carried out in the borough's play areas, which suggested the larger parks and gardens within the borough (e.g. Aldershot Park and King George V) have a much larger catchment area than those of comparable size in smaller districts (see **Appendix 5** for the catchment areas recorded during these surveys).

Table 7.1: Proposed accessibility standards

Hierarchy level	Size range of sites	Other sites to be included within standard	Distance of accessibility buffer	Justification / Guidance used	Notes
A1. Borough parks and gardens	20-60ha	None	3.2km	GLA Best Practice Guidance: District Open Spaces (20-60ha) – 1.2km from homes.	Evidence gathered through public surveys carried out at Rushmoor's play areas in 2013 (see Appendix 5) revealed that Borough and Local sized parks and gardens have a much larger catchment area than those of comparable size in similar districts. The accessibility buffer for these sites has been set to reflect this.
A2. Local parks and gardens	2-20ha	A1	1.2 km	GLA Best Practice Guidance: Local Open Spaces (2-20ha) – 400m from homes (or 280m to take into account barriers to access).	Evidence gathered through public surveys carried out at Rushmoor's play areas in 2013 (see Appendix 5) revealed that Borough and Local sized parks and gardens have a much larger catchment area than those of comparable size in similar districts. The accessibility buffer for these sites has therefore been set to reflect this.

Hierarchy level	Size range of sites	Other sites to be included within standard	Distance of accessibility buffer	Justification / Guidance used	Notes
A3. Small local parks and gardens	0.4-2ha	A1, A2	400m	GLA Best Practice Guidance: Small Local Open Spaces (0.4-2ha) – 400m from homes (or 280m to take into account barriers to access).	
B1. Regional natural and semi-natural green space	20-400ha	None	5km	<p>Natural England ANGSt standard: one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home.</p> <p>Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy 2012: SANG of 20ha catchment of 5km.</p> <p>GLA Best Practice Guidance: Metropolitan Open Spaces (60-400ha) 3.2km from homes.</p>	Thames Basin Heaths SPA Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy provides the most up to date and locally relevant assessment of natural green space standards to use.
B2. Borough natural and semi-natural green space	12-20ha	B1	4km	<p>Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy 2012: SANG of 12-20ha catchment of 4km.</p> <p>Natural England ANGSt standard: at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre of home.</p>	

Hierarchy level	Size range of sites	Other sites to be included within standard	Distance of accessibility buffer	Justification / Guidance used	Notes
				GLA Best Practice Guidance: District Open Spaces (20-60ha) 1.2km from homes.	
B3. Local natural and semi-natural green space	2-12ha	B1, B2	2km	Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy 2012: SANG of 2-12ha catchment of 2km. Natural England ANGSt standard: at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two of home.	Thames Basin Heaths SPA Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy provides the most up to date and locally relevant assessment of natural green space standards to use. As the size categories do not correspond directly, the catchment proposed is an average of the two relevant SANGS categories.
B4. Small local natural and semi-natural green space	0.4 – 2ha	B1, B2, B3	400m	GLA Best Practice Guidance: Small Local Open Spaces (0.4-2ha) – 400m from homes (or 280m to take into account barriers to access). (Below size threshold for SANGs site). (Below size threshold for ANGSt standard).	GLA Best Practice Guidance provides guidance as neither SANGS guidance nor ANGSt standards are applicable for this size of site.
C. Green corridors	Variable sizes (0.3 – 14ha)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Accessibility buffers are not relevant to this type of space. This reflects the purpose of green corridors as access routes, rather than a destination to which residents should have good access.
D. Amenity green space	Generally 0.4 – 3ha. Some sites	A1, A2, A3, A4.	400m	GLA Best Practice Guidance: Small Local Open	

Hierarchy level	Size range of sites	Other sites to be included within standard	Distance of accessibility buffer	Justification / Guidance used	Notes
	below 0.4ha threshold have been included if they include equipment.			Spaces (0.4-2ha) – 400m from homes (or 280m to take into account barriers to access).	
E. Allotments	Variable sizes, size is not relevant to catchment as access to individual plots is more significant	None	800m	There are no nationally recommended standards for access to allotments.	Sustainability – walking emphasis. Little car parking provision.
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards	(Accessibility catchment not appropriate)	n/a	n/a	n/a	proximity is not considered to be a requirement of this open space type.
G. Provision for children and young people					
LAPS	100m2	None	60m	Play England Guidance: A technical guide to Play England local play indicators. October 2009.	
LEAPS	400m2	LAPS	240m	Play England Guidance: A technical guide to Play England local play indicators. October 2009.	
NEAPS	1000m2	LEAPS LAPS	600m	Play England Guidance: A technical guide to Play England local play indicators. October 2009.	

Hierarchy level	Size range of sites	Other sites to be included within standard	Distance of accessibility buffer	Justification / Guidance used	Notes
H. Roadside verges	(Accessibility catchment not appropriate)	n/a	n/a		Green roadside verges are considered to be appropriate wherever there is opportunity, but it is not desirable to have an accessibility catchment to roadside verges.

Quantity standards for open space provision

- 7.10 The quantitative standards define the amount of open space that should be available to the communities of Rushmoor. The standards provide a measure against which existing provision can be assessed and guidance for additional provision in new development. Published guidance provides a useful reference for setting the quantity standard, but, in order to ensure the standards are relevant to Rushmoor, they reflect the findings of the audits in terms of existing levels of provision and take into account consultation findings to gauge whether the community considers the level of existing provision to be sufficient or not. The PPG17 Companion Guide states that quantity standards can be expressed as "a combination of a unit of 'useful area' of provision and a population" e.g. x hectares of parks per 1,000 people.
- 7.11 The quantity standards were developed by assessing the existing quantity of all publicly accessible open spaces within each typology and comparing this to the feedback received during the consultation activities. This was then reviewed against both national guidelines on open space provision, for example Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards and the Greater London Authority's Open Space provision standards, as well as the adopted open space standards of surrounding and other comparable authorities which are shown in **Table 7.2**. Comparable local authorities have been selected through reviewing the CIPFA nearest neighbour's on-line report using the following comparators:
- Population
 - % of population aged 0 to 17
 - % of population aged 75 to 84
 - % of population aged 85 plus
 - Enumeration district based density
 - ED based sparsity
 - Taxbase per head of population
 - % unemployment
 - % daytime net inflow
 - Shops per 1,000 population
 - Housing benefit caseload (weighted)
 - % of people born outside UK, Eire, EC, Old Commonwealth & USA
 - % of households with less than 4 rooms
 - % of households in purpose-built flats rented from LA or HA

- % of persons in lower social classes
- Standard morbidity ratio for all persons
- Authorities with coast protection expenditure
- Non-Domestic rateable value per head of population
- % of properties in Bands A to D
- % of properties in Bands E to H
- Area cost adjustment (other services block)

7.12 The open space strategies for the top 15 local authorities identified through this process were reviewed and the authorities with quantity standards most comparable with Rushmoor included in **Table 7.2** below.

Table 7.2: Quantity standards adopted by surrounding and other comparable authorities

Typology	Quantity standards by comparable Local Authority (ha per 1000 head of population)						
	Hart District Council	Surrey Heath Borough Council	Cherwell District Council	Colchester Borough Council	Gravesham Borough Council	Rugby Borough Council	Worcester City Council
Parks and gardens	Formal parks and gardens, recreation grounds and amenity green space: 2.74	0.35	0.48	1.76	0.20	Urban: 1.5 Rural: 10	0.61
Natural and semi natural green space	N/A	Urban: 11.53 Rural: 47.72	Urban: 0.53 Rural: 1.55	9.83	8.11	Urban: 2.5 Rural: 10	2.0
Amenity green space	Included above	Urban: 0.9 Rural: 0.5	Urban: 0.5 Rural: 0.75	1.10	0.99	Urban: 1.1 Rural: 0.5	0.5
Allotments	0.075	0.14	0.31	2.1	0.14	Urban: 0.65 Rural: 0.8	0.4
Cemeteries and churchyards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.15	N/A	N/A

7.13 The review of comparable local authorities reveals that Rushmoor has very similar provision of parks and gardens per 1,000 head of population as Colchester Borough Council and Rugby Borough Council. Furthermore, Rushmoor's provision for natural and semi-natural green space is similar to that of Surrey Heath Borough Council, Colchester Borough Council, Gravesham Borough Council and rural areas within Rugby Borough Council. This review has revealed that the open space provision in Rushmoor is within the range of comparable boroughs.

7.14 Public consultation carried out as part of this study revealed that respondents are generally happy with the quantity of open space within Rushmoor (e.g. 92% of respondents agree that there is a park or open space within walking distance of their home, and 74% of respondents state that they are very or fairly satisfied with the amount of open space in Rushmoor). However the consultation also highlighted the need to increase the number of allotment sites in the Borough.

7.15 The proposed quantity standards for Rushmoor are set out by type of space in **Table 7.3**. These standards are based on current provision of publicly accessible open spaces which includes sites which are owned and managed by the MOD. The Council is not aware of any changes to the use of these sites in the short-term but MOD are able to prevent access to open spaces as required.

There would be implications for Rushmoor as a whole if these sites were to become unavailable for public use and enjoyment. Due to the characteristics of green corridors and roadside verges it was considered that it would not be appropriate to provide quantity standards for these sites. The quantity standards for provision for children and young people are set out in **Table 7.5**.

Table 7.3: Quantity of open space within Rushmoor

Type	Aldershot quantity per 1000 head of population (ha)	Farnborough quantity per 1000 head of population (ha)	Rushmoor quantity per 1000 head of population (ha)	Rushmoor standard
A. Parks and gardens (excluding MOD)	0.90	1.24	1.10	1.66 ha/ 1,000 head of population
A. Parks and gardens (MOD owned)	1.40	0.00	0.56	
A. Parks and gardens (TOTAL)			1.66	
B. Natural and semi-natural green space (excluding MOD)	1.20	1.00	1.08	10.46 ha/ 1,000 head of population
B. Natural and semi-natural green space (MOD owned)	22.56	0.50	9.38	
B. Natural and semi-natural green space (TOTAL)			10.46	
D. Amenity green space	0.00	0.16	0.10	0.13 ha/ 1,000 head of population
D. Amenity green space (MOD owned)	0.07	0.00	0.03	
D. Amenity green space (TOTAL)			0.13	
E. Allotments	0.07	0.14	0.11	0.18 ha/ 1,000 head of population
E. Allotments (TOTAL)			0.11	
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.32	0.10	0.19	0.27 ha/ 1,000 head of population
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards (MOD owned)	0.21	0.00	0.08	
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards (TOTAL)			0.27	
Total quantity per 1000 head of population (excluding MOD)	2.56	3.06	2.86	
Total quantity per 1000 head of population (MOD owned)	24.24	0.50	10.05	

7.16 The proposed quantity standards for provision for children and young people in Rushmoor are set out in the table below. The current population within the three age groups are set out in **Table 7.4** below.

Table 7.4: Population used for calculation of the quantity standards for the provision for children and young people in Rushmoor

Town	Number of people aged between 0 to 7 in Rushmoor	Number of people aged between 8 to 14 in Rushmoor	Number of people aged between 15 to 19 in Rushmoor
Aldershot	4,348	2,892	2,380
Farnborough	5,949	4,566	3,636
Rushmoor	10,297	7,458	6,016

7.17 **Table 7.5** sets out the quantity of provision for children and young people in Rushmoor by LAP, LEAP and NEAP.

Table 7.5: Quantity of provision for children and young people in Rushmoor

Type of provision for children and young people	Aldershot		Farnborough		Rushmoor	
	Nr. of sites	Nr. of sites per 1000 head of population within appropriate age group	Nr. of sites	Nr. of sites per 1000 head of population within appropriate age group	Nr. of sites	Recommended standard Nr. of sites per 1000 head of population within appropriate age group
LAP (including LEAPS and NEAPS containing equipped play spaces)	21	4.83 sites per 1000 head of population within 0 to 7 age group	29	4.87 sites per 1000 head of population within 0 to 7 age group	50	4.86 sites per 1000 head of population within 0 to 7 age group
LEAP (including NEAPs containing equipment play spaces)	9	3.11 sites per 1000 head of population within 8 to 14 age group	12	2.63 sites per 1000 head of population within 8 to 14 age group	21	2.82 sites per 1000 head of population within 8 to 14 age group
NEAP (including sites containing only skate parks or MUGAs)	3	1.26 sites per 1000 head of population within 15 to 19 age group	4	1.09 sites per 1000 head of population within 15 to 19 age group	7	1.16 sites per 1000 head of population within 15 to 19 age group

Future provision of publicly accessible open space in Rushmoor

7.18 It is anticipated that the population of Rushmoor will gradually increase from 93,807 residents recorded in 2011 to 100,534 residents in 2027. **Table 7.6** below compares the quantity of open space per 1,000 head of population based on Rushmoor's population in 2011 with its projected population in 2027. The proposed quantity standards (outlined in **Table 7.3** above) are also provided to give an indication of how the future quantity of open spaces per 1,000 head of population will correspond to the adopted standards.

Table 7.6: Implications of population changes in Rushmoor

Type	Total area (ha)	Quantity of open space per 1,000 head of population in 2011 (based on a population of 93,807)	Quantity of open space per 1,000 population in 2027 (based on a projected population of 100,534)	Anticipated additional provision needed to meet standard (ha / 1,000 head of population)
A. Parks and gardens	155.9	1.66	1.55	0.11
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	981.18	10.46	9.76	
C. Green corridors	26.27	0.28	0.26	N/A
D. Amenity green space	11.74	0.13	0.12	
E. Allotments	10.42	0.11	0.10	
F. Cemeteries and churchyards	25.55	0.27	0.25	
G. Provision for children and young people	6.03	0.06	0.06	See Table 7.6 for quantity standards
H. Roadside verges	4.67	0.05	0.05	N/A
Total quantity of all types of open space		13.02 ha of all types of open space per 1,000 head of population	12.15 ha of all types of open space per 1,000 head of population	

- 7.19 Based on the projected figures, it is anticipated the population of Rushmoor will increase by 6,727. Therefore a further 0.87 ha of publicly accessible open space will need to be provided per 1,000 head of population to meet the current provision levels. Furthermore, RBC aspires to increase the existing quantity of allotments from 0.11 ha per 1,000 head of population to 0.18 ha per 1,000 head of population. RBC will therefore need to seek opportunities to increase open space provision accordingly throughout Rushmoor to ensure that the prescribed quantity standards set above are achieved.
- 7.20 If it is not possible to increase the quantity of open space to meet the current standard, then it may be possible to improve the quality and value of existing sites to respond to pressures from additional use. It may also be possible to 'upgrade' sites by changing typologies (e.g. upgrading an amenity green space to a park or garden).
- 7.21 The projected population data for Rushmoor does not provide estimates for the number of children and young people within the three age groups identified in **Table 7.4**. It has therefore not been possible to assess the additional quantity of play features required to maintain the prescribed standards set out in **Table 7.5**.

Quality and value standards for open space provision

- 7.22 The quality standard provides a benchmark against which the existing condition and need for enhancement of existing spaces can be measured. It can also provide a guide to the qualitative attributes that should be expected of a newly created space or facility.

Quality assessment

- 7.23 As part of the site audit, each site was assessed for quality against the Green Flag criteria, and the condition of the various components of a site rated as good, fair or poor. This assessment was then transposed through a scoring system into a quality score. In order to develop a quality standard which is appropriate for the type and function of open spaces in Rushmoor, the existing quality of provision was reviewed by typology and the associated hierarchy level (where hierarchy refers to the scale and size of the open space, e.g. is it of local or borough significance). Through reviewing the range of quality scores it was possible to form a quality threshold score, i.e. a minimum level of quality which should be achieved at any open space. A threshold score has been defined for each level of the hierarchy reflecting the ideal score scenario for a good quality site.

Value assessment

- 7.24 Value is fundamentally different from quality; a space can be valued for a range of reasons even if it is of low quality. As set out in PPG17 Companion Guide, 'value' mainly relates to the following:
- **Context:** e.g. an easily accessible space is higher value than one that is inaccessible to potential users, equally the value of a space may diminish if it is immediately adjacent to several others which provides the same function.
 - **Level and type of use:** the primary purpose and associated use of a space can increase its value - well used spaces are of high value to people, similarly spaces with diverse habitats can be well used by wildlife and can be interpreted as having a higher value.
 - **Wider benefits:** i.e. the benefits a space generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment including the following –landscape, ecological, education, social inclusion and health benefit, cultural and heritage, amenity benefits, 'sense of place' and economic benefits.
- 7.25 The site audit included information to be evaluated as part of the value assessments such as the value of play spaces, the presence of community facilities and the biodiversity value of habitats. The relevant audit information was reviewed to develop a value threshold score specific to the different types of open space in Rushmoor. A list of key characteristics was developed which could be expected of sites of a particular typology and at a particular level of the hierarchy.
- 7.26 In order to assess the sites consistently the audit forms were scored. The scores for each site were separated into factors that relate to quality and value. As set out in the PPG17 Companion Guide "quality and value are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated". For example, an open space may be of high quality but if it is not accessible it is of little value, while if an open space is poor quality but has a wide range of facilities it is potentially of high value.
- 7.27 When assessing scored sites, it should be noted that the scoring varies according to the complexity of the site as well as the condition of the site which limits the extent to which one should directly compare scores across different types of space. In essence this means that the quality score for a good quality park or garden will differ from that of a good quality amenity green space, reflecting the different provision that can be expected within each.
- 7.28 The value and quality scoring can be reviewed by total score or by the audit themes (linked to the Green Flag criteria). Each site was audited using a standard form with scores allocated to relevant criteria. The breakdown of the scoring can be seen in **Appendix 2**.

Development of quality and value standards

- 7.29 The quality and value standards have been derived from the results of the audit data, consideration of the community views and a judgement on the quality which can be delivered. Both standards are aspirational and provide benchmarks against which to measure the quality and value of any existing open space in order to determine the need for enhancement and to ensure there is a consistent level of provision across the Borough and to set priorities in a transparent manner. They can also be used to monitor improvements over time as part of the Best Value process. The standards also provide a useful starting point in negotiations with developers over on-site provision.

- 7.30 The quality and value standards for Rushmoor are based on expert judgement of the open space provision within Rushmoor. This was informed by the following methodology:
1. Identification of appropriate features and qualities of each typology and hierarchy using the Green Flag Award criteria as a guide to give an “ideal” score;
 2. Reviewing of the overall range of scores of open spaces within each typology and hierarchy and calculation of the mean average score;
 3. Identification of sites which achieve the mean average score and comparing these with sites which were considered to have been performing well during the site audits;
 4. Comparison of open spaces within Rushmoor to those within other parts of the country which are considered to be of high standard (e.g. The National Trust and The Royal Parks).
- 7.31 The judgements were also informed by an understanding of the community’s perception of open spaces within Rushmoor with the results of the consultation revealing:
- Open spaces are highly valued, with King George V, Manor Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, Cove Green, Aldershot Park, Cove Brook and Municipal Gardens highlighted as spaces most visited;
 - Natural and semi-natural green space is considered to be the type of provision that majority of respondents felt should be improved;
 - Open spaces are considered to be well maintained although there are concerns about dog fouling and litter;
 - Play areas are highly valued with King George V, Aldershot Park, Manor Park, Cove Green and Queen Elizabeth Park highlighted as the most used play spaces;
 - Only approximately half of respondents are happy with the quality of play areas;
 - There is a need to improve teen facilities and play equipment.
- 7.32 The range of scores achieved by each site within each typology and hierarchy is set out in **Appendix 4**.

Quality and value ratings combined

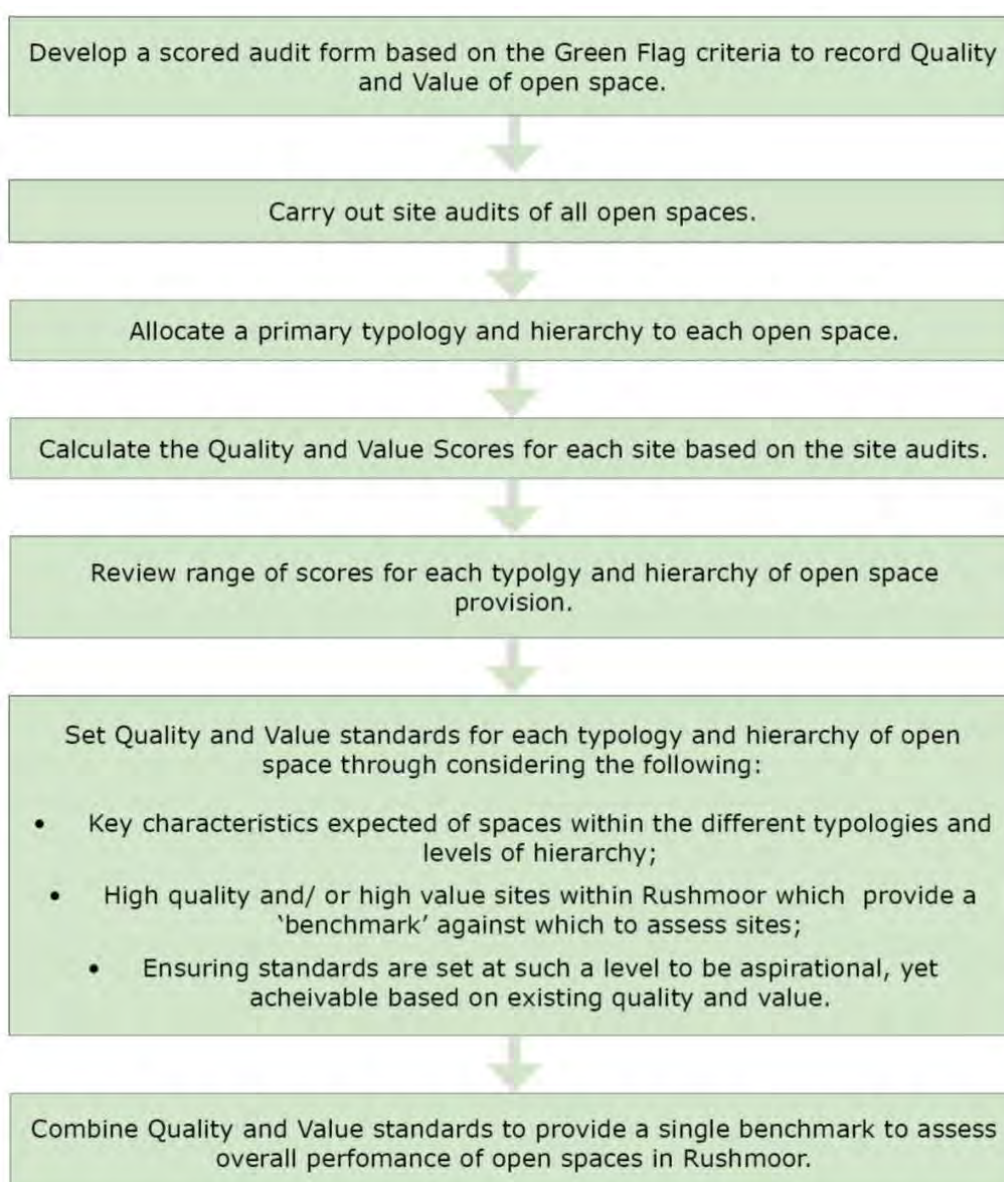
- 7.33 Using a combination of the value and quality ratings it is possible to identify sites which are performing above the required standards and should be protected, sites which require enhancement, and sites which may no longer be needed for their present purpose. Each site has therefore been rated with a combined Value and Quality band and grouped into bandings using the format of +/- symbols to annotate each band (i.e. high value/high quality is shown as ++, high value/low quality is shown as +-). The **Table 7.7** suggests the future management approach to open spaces within each band.

Table 7.7: Value and quality matrix (adapted from PPG17 Companion Guide)

High value/high quality	Low value/high quality
+ +	- +
<p>These sites are considered to be the best open spaces within the borough offering the greatest value and quality for the surrounding communities.</p> <p>Future management should seek to maintain the standards for these spaces and ensure they continue to meet the requirements of the communities they serve.</p> <p>Ideally all spaces should fall into this category.</p>	<p>These sites have been scored as being of a high quality but of a low value.</p> <p>Wherever possible, the preferred management approach to a space in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary typology or purpose.</p> <p>If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose.</p>
High value/low quality	Low value /low quality

High value/high quality	Low value/high quality
+ -	- -
<p>These spaces meet or exceed the required value standard but fall below the required quality standard.</p> <p>Future management should therefore seek to enhance their quality to ensure that the open spaces are welcoming and safe for use by the local community.</p>	<p>These spaces are falling below the applicable value and quality standards and therefore their future enhancement should be considered to be a priority.</p> <p>If this is not possible, for whatever reason, the space or facility may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present primary purpose.</p>

7.34 These standards should also be applied to guide the quality of future provision of open space. The process followed to establish the benchmark standards is shown in the flowchart below. The quality and standard thresholds proposed for Rushmoor are shown in **Table 7.8**.



Process taken to establish the benchmark standards

7.35 **Table 7.8** displays the range of scores recorded within each typology and hierarchy together with the proposed benchmarks for quality and value. The benchmark standards for Rushmoor have

been set through reviewing the range of scores compared to the number of sites audited. The standards have been set to clearly identify those sites which are performing well and those which should be a priority for enhancement. The individual scores for each site can be seen in **Appendix 4**.

Table 7.8 Quality and value scores by type and hierarchy

Type	Hierarchy level	Example of good quality/value site used as benchmark	Number of sites	Range of scores for quality	Quality standard	Range of scores for value	Value standard
A. Parks and gardens	A1. Borough parks and gardens	Queen's Parade Recreation Ground is the only site within this typology and hierarchy but it was not considered to offer the quality and value required of such a site.	1	45	83	29	66
	A2. Local parks and gardens	Quality: Queen Elizabeth Park Value: Cove Green Recreation Ground	16	0-85	52	3-87	43
	A3. Small local parks and gardens	Quality: Elles Close Value: Aspen Grove Park	13	22-64	33	11-58	31
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	B1. Regional natural and semi-natural green space	Quality: Rowhill Nature Reserve Value: Hawley Common	8	0-53	45	2-32	24
	B2. Borough natural and semi-natural green space	Quality: Hill and Lake Value: Hill and Lake	3	15-39	39	8-22	15
	B3. Local natural and semi-natural green space	Due to the characteristics of these spaces and the range of scores the quality and value benchmarks have not been set to a specific site.	10	0-44	26	2-22	12

Type	Hierarchy level	Example of good quality/value site used as benchmark	Number of sites	Range of scores for quality	Quality standard	Range of scores for value	Value standard
	B4. Small local natural and semi-natural green space	Quality: Sandy Lane Value: Sandy Lane	5	0-29	17	-1-16	11
C. Green corridors		Quality: South of Ively Road Value: Blackwater Walk & Westfield Estate	8	9-45	20	9-30	15
D. Amenity green space		Quality: Southwood Village Green – Summit Avenue Value: Ethy Copse	14	19-43	27	7-32	16
E. Allotments		Quality: Brookhouse Road Value: Cherrywood Road	11	17-40	21	7-15	10
F. Cemeteries and churchyards		Quality: Military Cemetery Value: Aldershot Crematorium	6	44-72	51	16-23	20
G. Provision for children and young people	NEAP	Quality: Aldershot Play Area Value: Queen's Road Play Area	30	0-4	4	1-23	35
	LEAP	Quality: Cove Green Play Area Value: Greenway Play Area	16	2-4	3	17-33	22
	LAP	Quality: Redan Gardens Value: Bell Chase	8	0-4	3	0-47	15
H. Roadside verges		Quality: Alison's Road Verges Value: Alison's Road Verges	3	0-35	16	-1-14	7

Summary of standards recommended for Rushmoor's open spaces

7.36 **Table 7.9** summarises the standards established in the previous section.

Table 7.9: Summary of standards by typology and hierarchy

Type	Hierarchy level	Accessibility standard	Quantity standard	Quality standard	Value standard
A. Parks and gardens	A1. Borough parks and gardens	3200	2.12 ha/ 1,000 head of population	83	66
	A.2 Local parks and gardens	1200		52	43
	A3. Small local parks and gardens	400		33	31
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	B1. Regional natural and semi-natural green space	5000	10.8 ha/ 1,000 head of population	45	24
	B2. Borough natural and semi-natural green space	4000		39	15
	B3. Local natural and semi-natural green space	400		26	12
	B4. Small local natural and semi-natural green space	400		17	11
C. Green corridors	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	15
D. Amenity green space	N/A	N/A	0.13 ha/ 1,000 head of population	27	16
E. Allotments	N/A	N/A	0.18 ha/ 1,000 head of population	21	10
F. Cemeteries and churchyards	N/A	N/A	0.27 ha/ 1,000 head of population	51	20
G. Provision for children and young people	NEAP	600m	1.16 sites per 1,000 head of population within the 15 to 19 age group	4	35
	LEAP	240m	2.82 sites per 1,000	3	22

Type	Hierarchy level	Accessibility standard	Quantity standard	Quality standard	Value standard
			head of population within 8 to 14 age group		
	LAP	60m	4.86 sites per 1,000 head of population within 0 to 7 age group	3	15
H. Verges	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	7

8 Applying provision standards for open spaces

- 8.1 This section of the report applies the standards that were established in the previous section to identify and illustrate where surpluses/deficiencies can be found. This will provide an indication of which areas of Rushmoor has adequate provision of open space, and where there is a need for enhancement. **Figures 8.1 - 8.15** show the open space provision by typology and hierarchy. The key below provides an indication of the colour coding used to denote the quality and value rating of each open space by typology and hierarchy.

++	Above Value/ Above Quality/ Above Quantity
+-	Above Value/ Below Quality
-+	Below Value/ Above Quality
--	Below Value/ Below Quality/ Below Quantity

A. Parks and gardens

Quantity of parks and gardens compared to standard

- 8.2 The quantity standard for parks and gardens in Rushmoor is set in the Table below together with a breakdown of the current quantity in Aldershot and Farnborough.

Table 8.1: Quantity of parks and gardens in Rushmoor

Area	Ha / 1,000 head of population
Quantity in standard	1.56
Quantity in Aldershot	2.37
Quantity in Farnborough	1.02

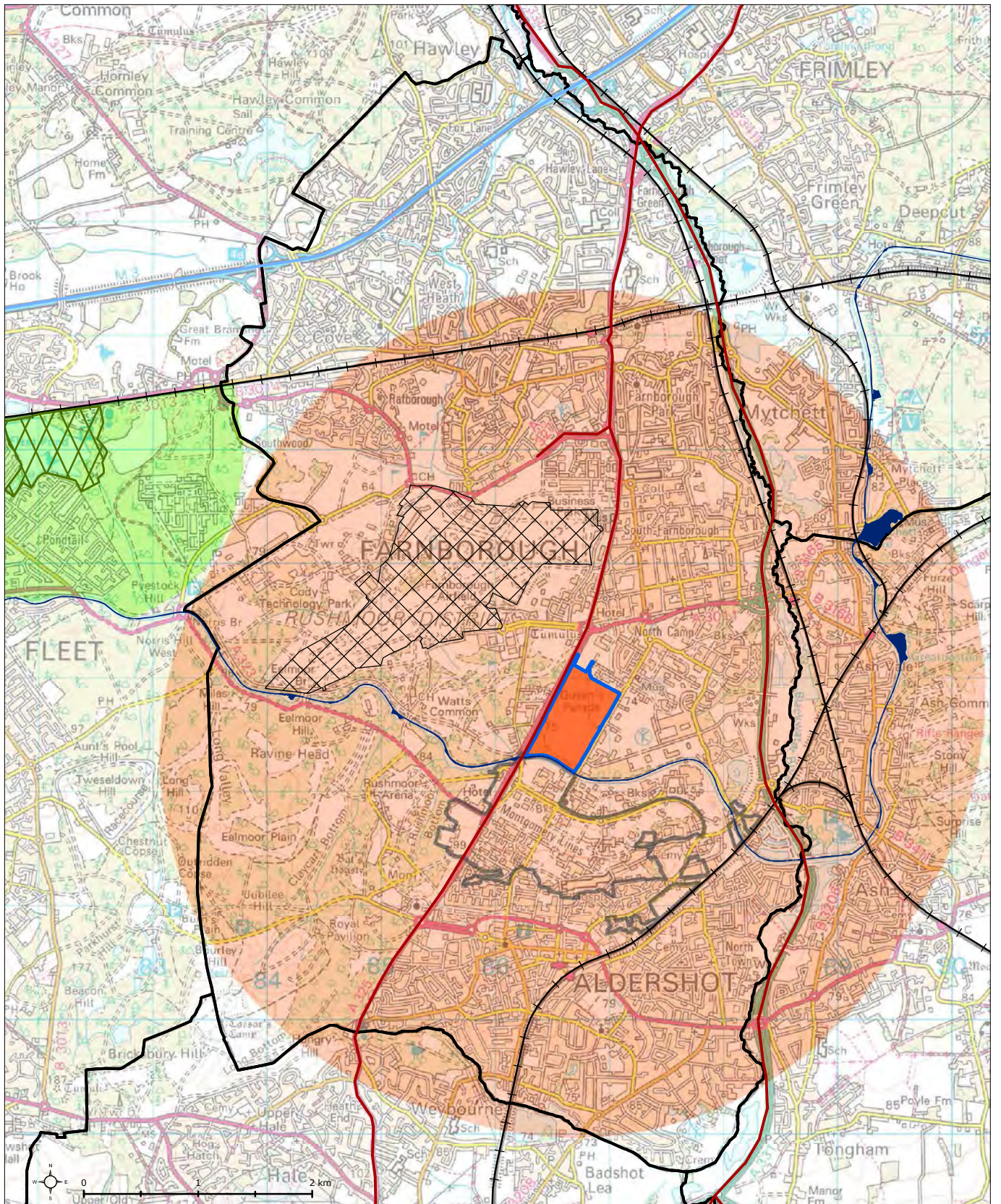
- 8.3 The current quantity of parks and gardens in Aldershot is currently 0.81 ha above the required quantity standard. However Farnborough has 0.54 ha below the required quantity standard.

A1. Borough parks and gardens

- 8.4 The borough scale parks and gardens in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.1**.

Table 8.2: A1. Borough parks and gardens in Rushmoor

Site ID	Site name	Area (ha)	Owner	Location	VQ Rating
23	Queen's Parade Recreation Ground	38.41	MOD	Aldershot	--



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	MOD owned site	Accessibility catchment (3.2km)		Excluding MOD owned	Barriers to access		A-roads
	Open space outside Rushmoor		MOD owned		Outside of Rushmoor boundary excluding MOD owned (1.2km)		Motorway
Value & quality rating			District boundary		Basingstoke Canal		Rail lines
	High value/High quality (++)		Aldershot Urban Extension		Aerodrome operating area		
	Low value/High quality (+)						
	High value/Low quality (+/-)						
	Low value/Low quality (-/-)						

Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 8.1
A1. Borough Parks and Gardens with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment



Accessibility

- 8.5 Queen’s Parade Recreation Ground is the largest park and garden in Rushmoor and is the only Borough sized space. The recreation ground is located within North Camp to the north of Aldershot. Although the site offers limited facilities for public recreation, the site is popular with residents of Rushmoor as a whole and the site receives visitors from across the borough with many arriving to site by car. It therefore has a larger accessibility than may have been expected of a Borough sized park and garden. North Farnborough and the southern tip of Aldershot fall outside the catchment area of this site.

Value and quality

- 8.6 Queen’s Parade Ground falls below the required benchmarks for both value and quality primarily due the suitability of the site for general use by the public. The site is predominantly used by the MOD for formal recreational activities such as football and rugby with the main public use based around informal recreational activities such as walking and dog walking. There are limited facilities for public recreation. As this site is not owned or managed by RBC there are limited opportunities to enhance this space.

A2. Local parks and gardens

- 8.7 The local parks and gardens in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.2**.

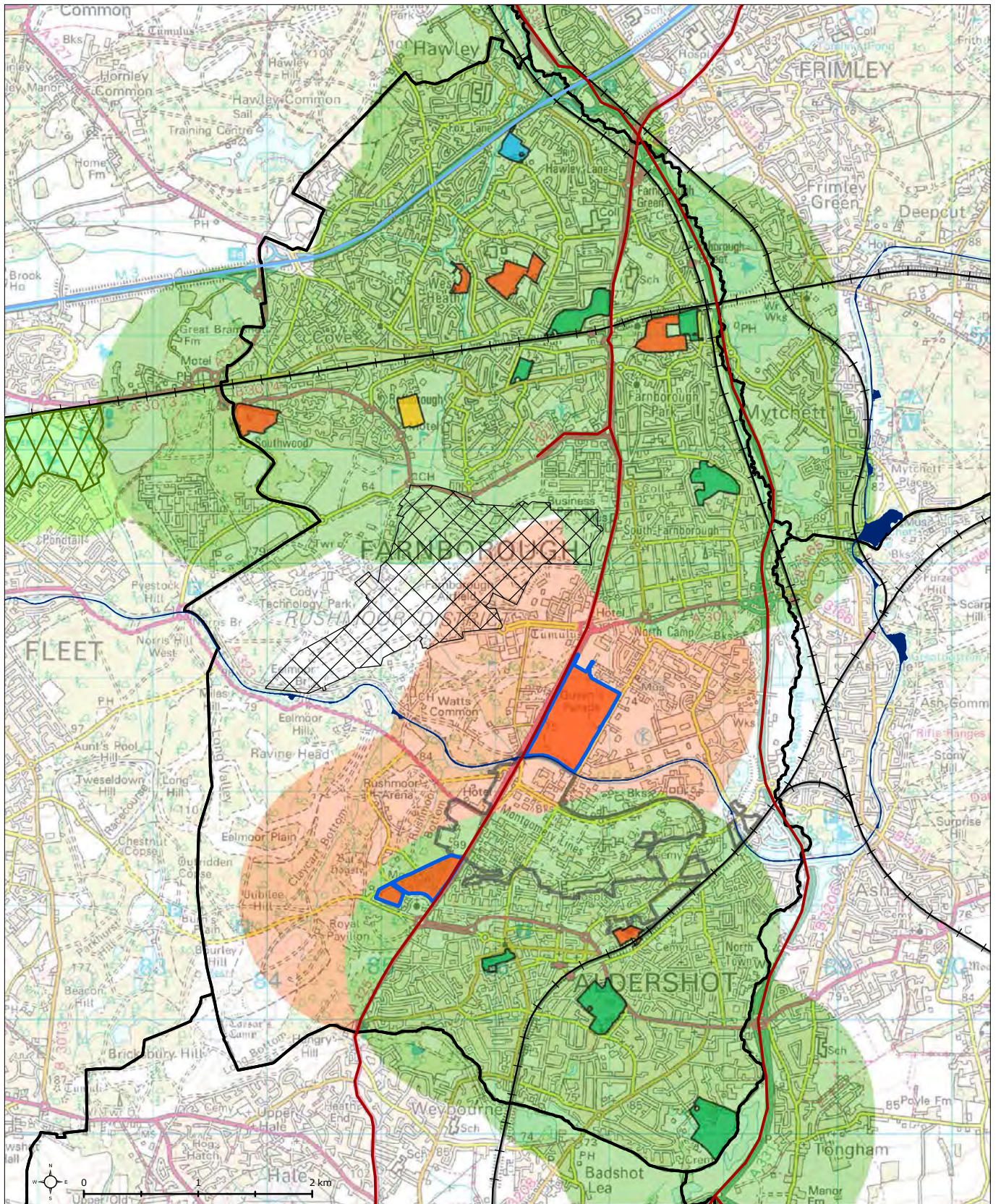
Table 8.3: A2. Local parks and gardens in Rushmoor

Site ID	Site name	Area (ha)	Owner	Location	VQ Rating
3	Aldershot Park	14.32	RBC	Aldershot	++
14	King George V Playing fields	8.47	RBC	Farnborough	++
15	Manor Park	11.55	RBC	Aldershot	++
26	Rectory Road Recreation Ground	3.71	RBC	Farnborough	++
22	Queen Elizabeth Park (Woodland Park)	9.34	RBC	Farnborough	++
7	Cove Green Recreation Ground	2.27	RBC	Farnborough	++
17	Municipal Gardens	2.29	RBC	Aldershot	++
16	Moor Road Playing Field	4.17	RBC	Farnborough	+-
199	Southwood Playing Field	4.74	RBC	Farnborough	-+
2	The Redan Fortification	2.63	RBC	Aldershot	--
5	Blunden Road Recreation Ground	2.41	RBC	Farnborough	--
18	Oak Farm Playing Fields	8.40	RBC	Farnborough	--
159	Kennels Lane Sports Ground	7.54	Hart	Farnborough	--
1	Abbey Fields*	9.73	St Michael's Abbey	Farnborough	--
8	Dolly's Hill	2.92	MOD	Aldershot	--
9	Duke of Wellington Open Space	11.35	MOD	Aldershot	--

*Not audited in full as in private ownership and not publicly accessible.

Accessibility

- 8.8 16 Local parks and gardens have been identified in Rushmoor with 10 of these sites located in Farnborough and six in Aldershot. Aldershot Park is the largest site covering an area of 14.32ha with other large sites including Manor Park (11.55 ha) and Duke of Wellington Open Space (11.35ha).
- 8.9 Abbey Fields is the largest Local park and garden in Farnborough however this site offers limited public accessibility and falls below the required benchmarks for Local parks and gardens. King George V Playing Fields (8.47ha) and Queen Elizabeth Park (9.34ha) are the two largest parks and gardens in Farnborough and both are above the required benchmarks for value and quality.



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MOD owned site Open space outside Rushmoor Value & quality rating High value/High quality (++) Low value/High quality (+-) High value/Low quality (+-) Low value/Low quality (--) 		Accessibility catchment (1.2km) Excluding MOD owned MOD owned Outside of Rushmoor boundary excluding MOD owned (400m) District boundary Aldershot Urban Extension 		Barriers to access A-roads Motorway Rail lines Basingstoke Canal Aerodrome operating area 		<p>Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</p> <p>Figure 8.2</p> <p>A2. Local Parks and Gardens with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment</p> <p>LUC</p>
<p>Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000</p>						

- 8.10 The vast majority of Rushmoor is within the catchment area of a local park and garden. However, parts of North Camp fall outside the catchment area of Local parks and gardens owned by RBC but this area is within the catchment area of Queen’s Parade Ground.
- 8.11 The limited provision of Regional and Borough parks and gardens increases the importance of local parks and gardens in the borough. In general these spaces offer the widest range of facilities for recreation within the Borough and often hold local events and activities. 12 of the Local parks are owned by Rushmoor Council and two are owned by the MOD. All sites are publicly accessible.
- 8.12 These sites are clustered around Farnborough and Aldershot main rail stations. There are areas of both towns which are outside the catchment areas of these sites including much of the area to the west and north- west of Farnborough town centre and south west Aldershot and North Town. However the areas to the north- west of Farnborough town centre are within the catchment areas of small local parks. Farnborough Green is also outside of the catchment area for local parks although this area is within the catchment area of small local parks and gardens. There are no Local Parks and Gardens within North Camp although there are two small local parks.
- 8.13 Aldershot Park is located in an area which falls within the 0-20 percentile in the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Value and quality

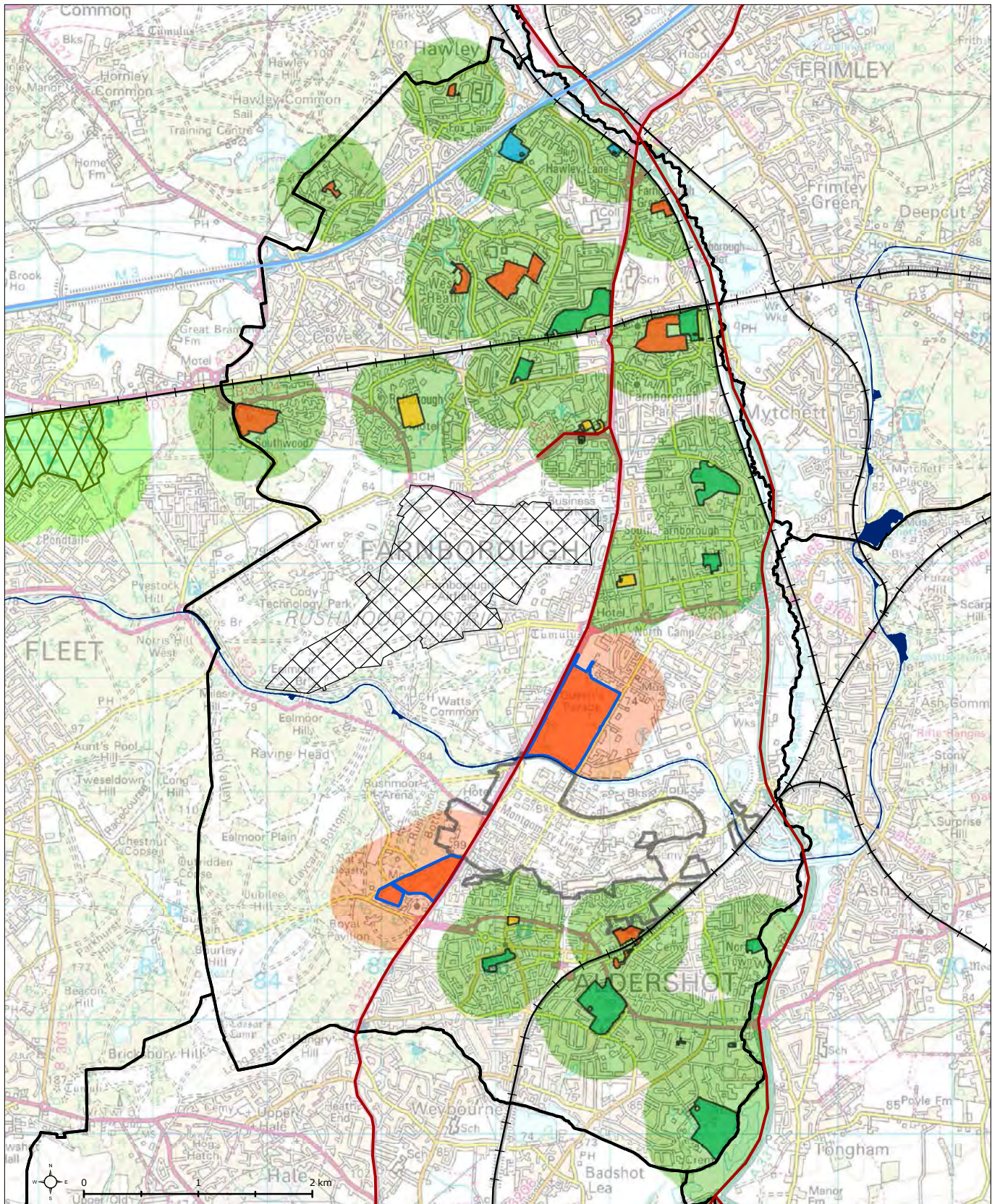
- 8.14 The public consultation revealed that open spaces within this typology and hierarchy are the most visited spaces within Rushmoor.
- 8.15 Seven sites achieve the required benchmark for value and quality. Four of these sites are located in Farnborough and three in Aldershot. Moor Road Playing Field achieves the required benchmark for value but falls below the quality benchmark. This is primarily due to the poor quality of entrances, access to and within the site, and planting.
- 8.16 Six sites fall below the value and quality benchmarks. Three of these sites (The Redan Fortification, Blunden Road Recreation Ground and Oak Farm Playing Field) are owned by RBC. Two sites (Dolly’s Hill and Duke of Wellington Open Space) are owned by the MOD. Abbey Fields also falls below both benchmarks and offers limited accessibility.

A3. Small local parks and gardens

















- 8.17 The small local parks and gardens in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.3**.

Table 8.4: A3. Small local parks and gardens

Site ID	Site name	Area (ha)	Owner	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating
24	Queen’s Road Recreation Ground	1.77	RBC	Farnborough	++
198	Elles Close	0.25	RBC	Farnborough	++
13	Ivy Road Recreation Ground	1.49	RBC	Aldershot	++
20	Prince Charles Crescent Recreation Ground	0.74	RBC	Farnborough	+-
118	Aspen Grove Park	0.17	RBC	Aldershot	+-
19	Osborne Road Recreation Ground	1.42	RBC	Farnborough	-+
182	Elles Pond Park	1.30	RBC	Farnborough	-+
21	Prince’s Gardens	0.65	RBC	Aldershot	-+
137	Pinewood Park	0.88	RBC	Farnborough	--
87	Redan Gardens	0.73	RBC	Aldershot	--
71	Highclere Road	0.13	RBC	Aldershot	--
11	Farnborough Gate Recreation Ground	0.13	RBC	Farnborough	--
4	All Saints Crescent Recreation Ground	0.61	RBC	Farnborough	--



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	MOD owned site	Accessibility catchment (400m)	Barriers to access	Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
	Open space outside Rushmoor	 Excluding MOD owned	 A-roads	
Value & quality rating		 MOD owned	 Motorway	Figure 8.3
	High value/High quality (++)	 Outside of Rushmoor boundary excluding MOD owned	 Rail lines	
	Low value/High quality (+)	 District boundary	 Basingstoke Canal	A3. Small Local Parks and Gardens with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment
	High value/Low quality (+/-)	 Aldershot Urban Extension	 Aerodrome operating area	
	Low value/Low quality (-/-)			LUC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Accessibility

- 8.18 Only sections of Rushmoor's residents are within the 400m catchment area for small local parks and gardens. In Farnborough such spaces are located on the northern boundary with two other sites with Elles Close and Elles Pond Park providing the setting to the town centre and sections of the residential communities which surround. Areas to the east and west of Farnborough town centre fall outside of the catchment area for this type and size of open space as is the majority of Cove and parts of north Farnborough.
- 8.19 Although the majority of Aldershot is within 400m of a park and garden communities located along Rushmoor's southern boundary are outside this catchment area. As are areas to the north east of Aldershot town centre. The A325 restricts access to the MOD managed parks and gardens to the east of Aldershot.
- 8.20 The AUE area is currently outside the 400m catchment area for parks and gardens but the proposals for the development includes its own open space provision so should relieve the deficiency.
- 8.21 All of the small local parks and gardens are owned by RBC. Small local parks and gardens complement the larger open spaces within Rushmoor providing a range of facilities for the immediate communities.

Value and quality

- 8.22 Three sites (Queen's Road Recreation Ground, Elles Close and Ivy Road Recreation Ground) achieve the require benchmarks for quality and value. Prince Charles Crescent Recreation Ground and Aspen Grove Park achieve the required value benchmark but fall below the benchmark for quality. These sites received low scores for condition of entrances and boundary features together with cleanliness.
- 8.23 Three further sites (Osborne Road Recreation Ground, Elles Pond and Prince's Gardens achieve the benchmark for quality but fall below the benchmark for value. These sites could be improved by increasing the range of facilities provided and increasing the diversity of landscape management (e.g. increasing feature of biodiversity interest).
- 8.24 The remaining four sites (Redan Gardens, Highclere Road, Farnborough Gate Recreation Ground and All Saints Crescent Recreation Ground) fall below both the quality and value benchmark.

Key finding and issues: parks and gardens

- There is currently a deficiency in the quantity of parks and gardens in Farnborough offering 1.02 ha per 1,000 head of population compared to the required standard of 1.56 ha. Aldershot currently exceeds the quantity standard with 2.37 ha per 1,000 head of population.
- The Queen's Parade Ground is the only borough sized park and garden in Rushmoor and has a catchment area which covers the whole of Aldershot and the southern neighbourhoods of Farnborough. However the site received scores below the required benchmarks for both quality and value as it offers limited facilities for public enjoyment. As this site is not owned or managed by RBC there are limited opportunities for enhancement of this space. It will be important to continue to liaise with MOD to ensure the Queens Parade Ground continues to contribute to the publicly accessible open space network.
- The limited provision of Regional and Borough parks and gardens increases the importance of local parks and gardens in the borough. In general these smaller spaces offer the widest range of facilities for recreation and the results of the public consultation activities revealed these sites are the most visited open spaces in Rushmoor.
- In general, the parks and gardens in Rushmoor offer limited diversity of landscape features with spaces typically being dominated by amenity grassland interspersed with mature trees. There is therefore potential to increase areas of ornamental planting and diversification of landscape management practices to promote nature conservation value of these sites.

B. Natural and semi-natural green space

Quantity of natural and semi-natural green space compared to standard

- 8.25 The quantity of natural and semi-natural green space within Aldershot and Farnborough compared to the required standard is set out in the Table below.

Table 8.5: Quantity of natural and semi-natural green space in Rushmoor

Area	Ha / 1,000 head of population
Quantity in standard	10.46
Quantity in Aldershot	23.76
Quantity in Farnborough	1.50

- 8.26 Aldershot currently has 13.30ha more natural and semi-natural green spaces per 1,000 head of population than the required standard which is set at 10.46 ha / 1,000 head of population. However Farnborough has just 1.50 ha / 1,000 head of population.

B1. Regional natural and semi-natural green space

- 8.27 The regional scale natural and semi-natural green space in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.4**.

Table.8.6: B1. Regional natural and semi-natural green space

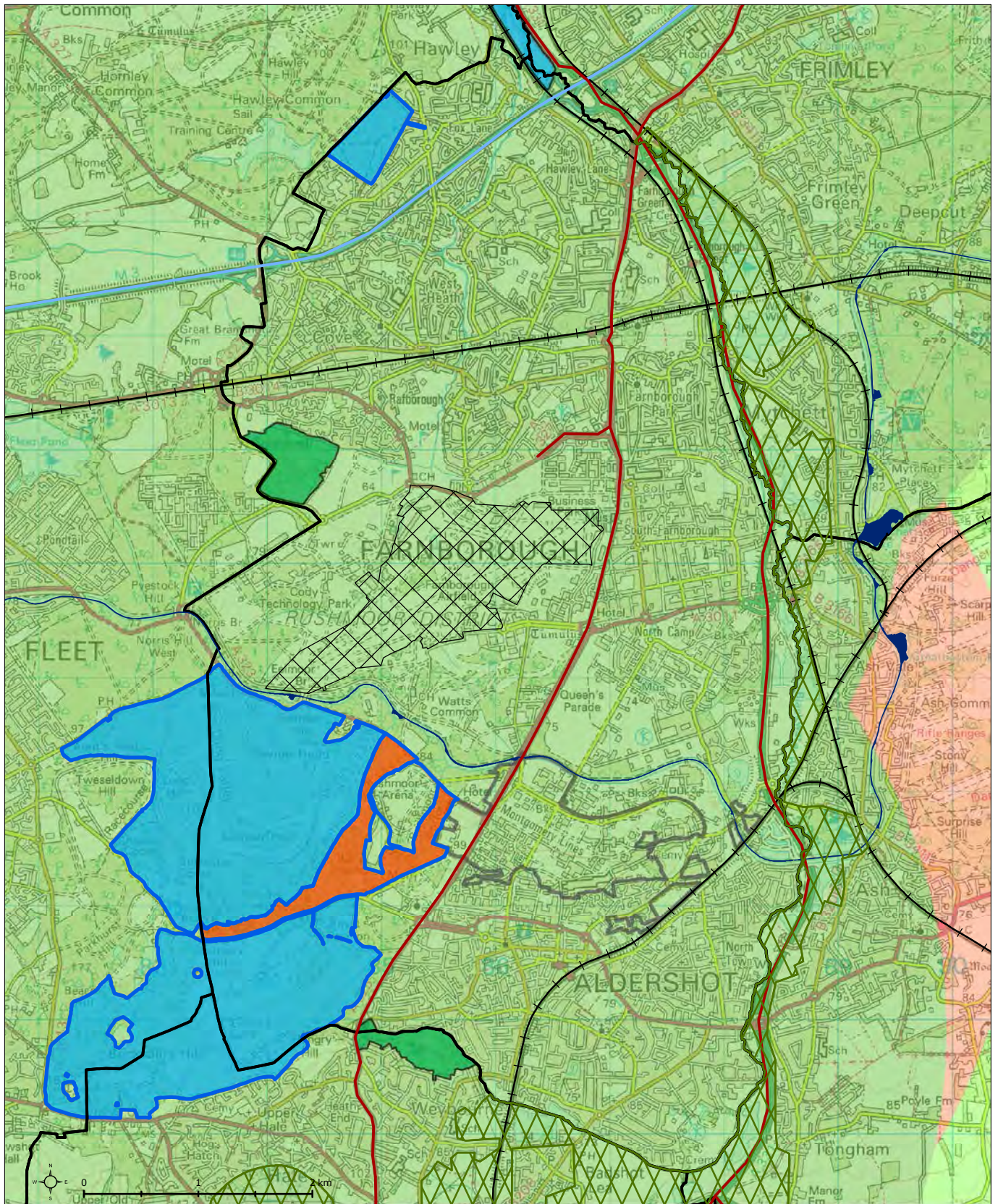
Site ID	Site name	Area (ha)	Owner	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating
45	Southwood Woodland	33.51	RBC	Farnborough	++
42	Rowhill Nature Reserve	24.91	RBC	Aldershot	++
29	Bourley & Long Valley	316.12	MOD	Aldershot	+-
34	Hawley Common	28.18	MOD	Farnborough	+-
1011	Eelmoor Training Area	363.00	MOD	Aldershot	+-
32	Claycart Bottom / Rushmoor Hill	74.69	MOD	Aldershot	--

Accessibility

- 8.28 There are six publicly accessible regional natural and semi-natural green spaces within Rushmoor. The majority of the borough is within the 5km catchment area of sites owned and managed by RBC. However the majority of Aldershot falls outside of the catchment of RBC owned sites but it is within the 5km catchment area of sites owned by the MOD.

Value and quality

- 8.29 Southwood Woodland and Rowhill Nature Reserve achieve the required benchmarks for quality and value and reflect the importance of these sites as SANG. However Eelmoor Training Area and Claycart Bottom/ Rushmoor Hill fall below the required benchmark for quality and value. Both these sites are owned by the MOD. Bourley & Long Valley and Hawley Common fall below the required benchmark for quality but achieve the benchmark for value. These sites are also managed by the MOD.



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<p>Value & quality rating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High value/High quality (++) Low value/High quality (-+) High value/Low quality (+-) Low value/Low quality (--) 		<p>Accessibility catchment (5km)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excluding MOD owned MOD owned Outside of Rushmoor boundary excluding MOD owned District boundary Aldershot Urban Extension 	<p>Barriers to access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A-roads Motorway Rail lines Basingstoke Canal Aerodrome operating area 	<p>Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</p> <p>Figure 8.4</p> <p>B1. Regional Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment</p> <p>LUC</p>
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Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

B2. Borough natural and semi-natural green space

- 8.30 The borough natural and semi-natural green spaces in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.5**.

Table 8.7: B2. Borough natural and semi-natural green space

Site ID	Site name	Area	Owner	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating
27	Southwood Playing Fields	14.45	RBC	Farnborough	+-
35	Hill and Lake	15.87	MOD	Aldershot	++
1002	Ramillies Park	13.52	MOD	Aldershot	--

Accessibility

- 8.31 Three borough size natural and semi-natural green spaces have been recorded in Rushmoor. All of Farnborough is within the 4km catchment area of Southwoods Playing Fields which is owned by RBC. However, only the northern part of Aldershot is within the catchment area of this site with the remainder of the town within the catchment area of Hill and Lake and Ramillies Park which are owned by the MOD.

Value and quality

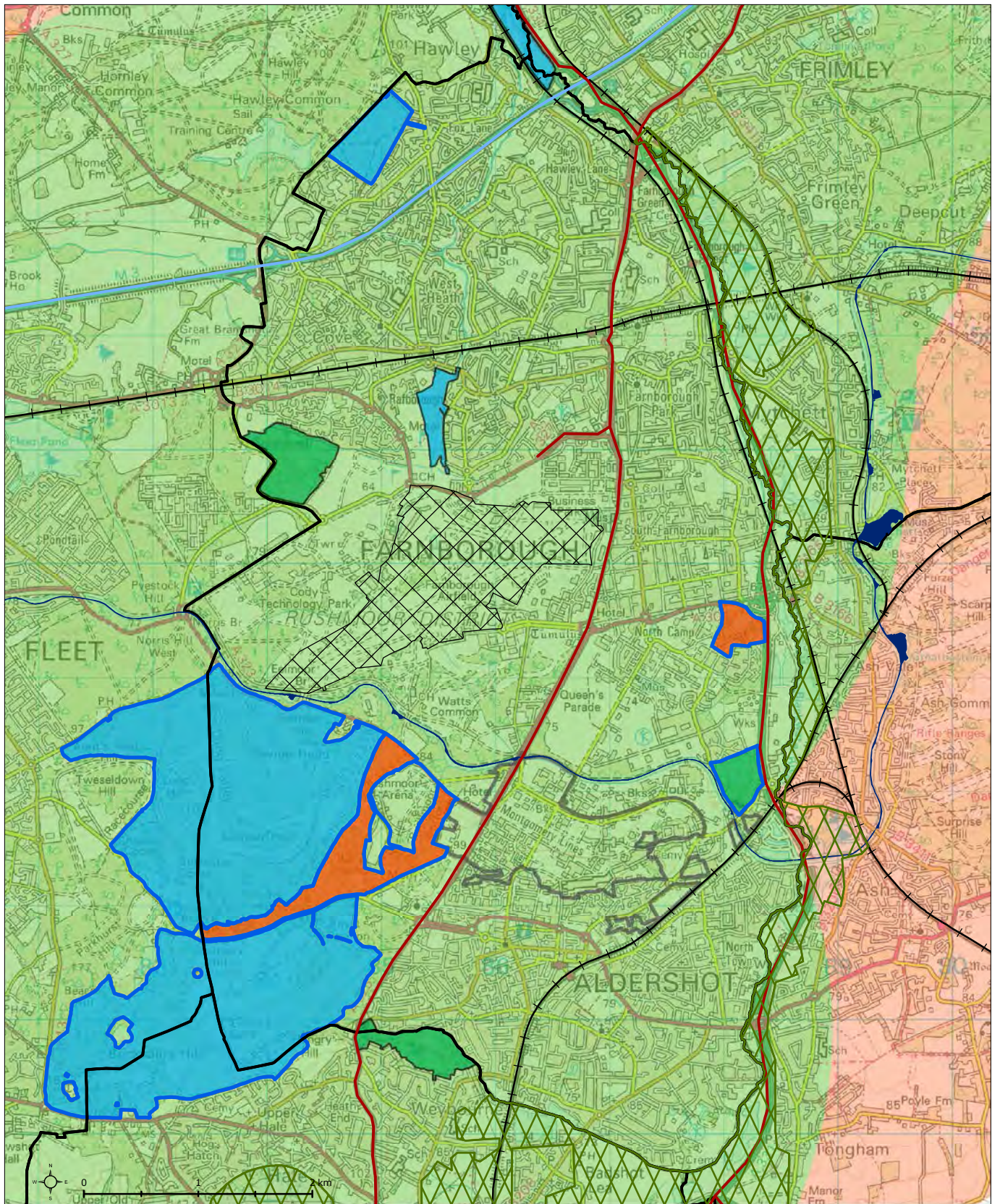
- 8.32 Southwood Playing Fields achieves the benchmark for value but falls below the quality benchmark. This site received a low score for accessibility so could be enhanced through improving entrances and footpaths.
- 8.33 Hill and Lake is the only borough natural and semi-natural green space in Rushmoor which achieves the benchmark for value and quality. Although this site is owned by the MOD, it is freely accessible to the public subject to military byelaws for informal recreation such as walking/ dog walking and also provides facilities for fishing. There is also onsite parking for cars and signage including a noticeboard.
- 8.34 Ramillies Park is an area of open grassland which is publicly accessible but offers limited features for public enjoyment. Although there is a tarmac footpath through the site which has street lighting, people may be deterred from using this route as surrounding vegetation is beginning to encroach disrupting visibility.

B3. Local natural and semi-natural green space

- 8.35 The local natural and semi-natural green spaces in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.6**.

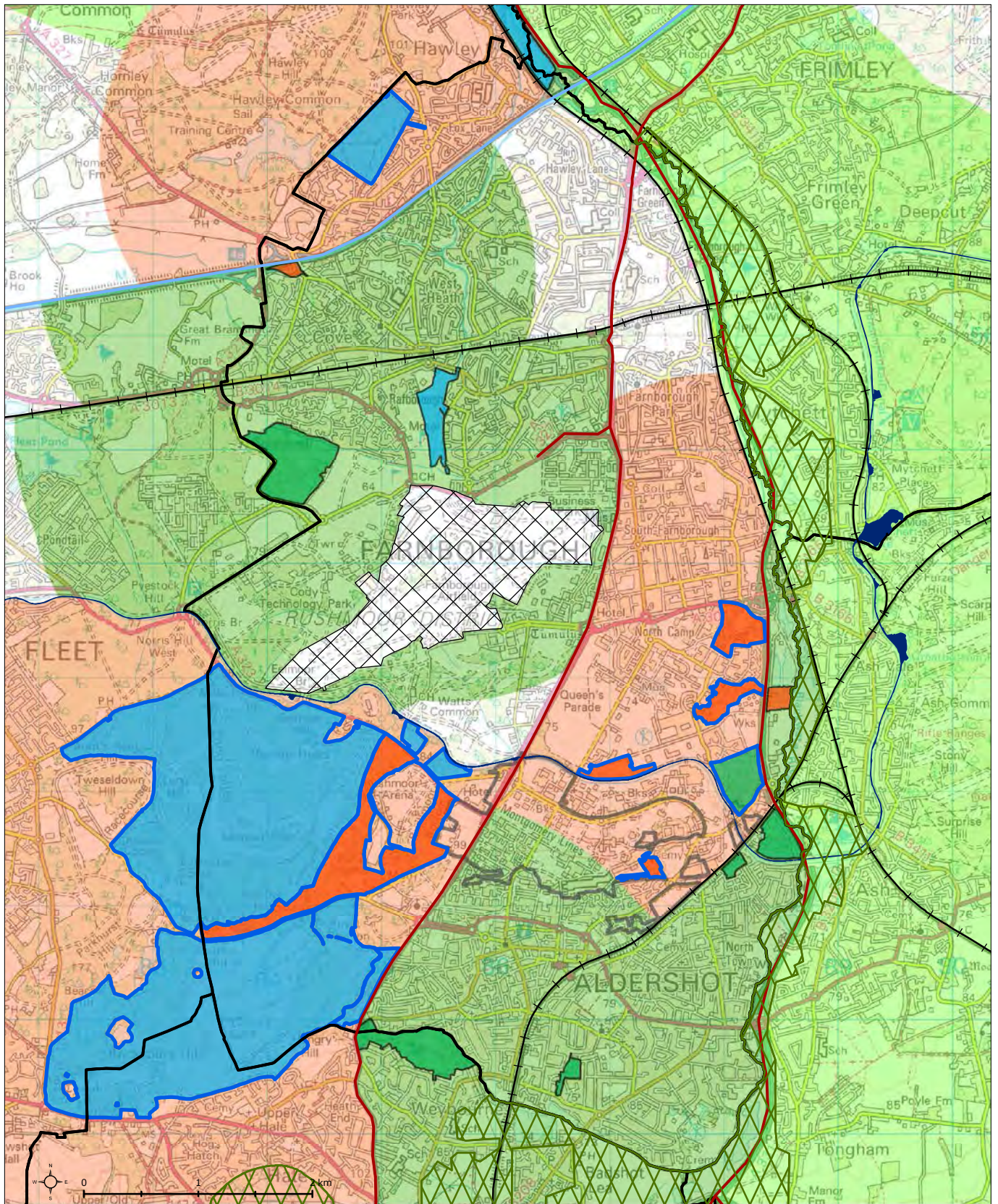
Table 8.8: Local natural and semi-natural green space

Site ID	Site name	Area	Owner	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating
46	Spring Lakes	10.70	RBC	Aldershot	++
6	Brickfields Country Park	3.13	RBC	Aldershot	++
48	Woodlands Walk (Old Boots)	2.20	RBC	Aldershot	++
56	Aldershot Stubbs/Hollybush Lane	4.43	RBC	Aldershot	--
44	Skirmishing Hill - Eastern Edge	8.98	MOD	Aldershot	+-
30	Claycard Hill Open Space	8.74	MOD	Aldershot	+-
38	Peaked Hill	2.99	MOD	Aldershot	--
10	Dukes Park	10.38	MOD	Aldershot	--
39	Prince's Avenue Wood	7.47	MOD	Aldershot	--
194	Minley Road Open Space	2.23	unknown	Farnborough	--



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MOD owned site	Accessibility catchment (4km)	Barriers to access	<p>Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</p> <p>Figure 8.5</p> <p>B2. Borough Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment</p> <p>LUC</p>
Open space outside Rushmoor	Excluding MOD owned	A-roads	
Value & quality rating	MOD owned	Motorway	
High value/High quality (++)	Outside of Rushmoor boundary excluding MOD owned	Rail lines	
Low value/High quality (-+)	District boundaries	Basingstoke Canal	
High value/Low quality (+-)	Aldershot Urban Extension	Aerodrome operating area	
Low value/Low quality (--)		Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000	



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MOD owned site	Accessibility catchment (2km)	Barriers to access	Rushmore Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
Open space outside Rushmore	Excluding MOD owned	A-roads	
Value & quality rating	MOD owned	Motorway	Figure 8.6 B3. Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment
High value/High quality (++)	Outside of Rushmore boundary excluding MOD owned	Rail lines	
Low value/High quality (--)	District boundaries	Basingstoke Canal	
High value/Low quality (+-)	Aldershot Urban Extension	Aerodrome operating area	
Low value/Low quality (--)		Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000	

Accessibility

- 8.36 Highways and railway lines within Rushmoor restrict accessibility to local natural and semi-natural green space. Significant parts of Farnborough are outside of the catchment areas of sites owned by Rushmoor Borough Council, with the north-eastern part of the town outside the catchment area of all sites. This is at least in part due to the presence of the M3 corridor and the railway line. The vast majority of Aldershot is within the catchment area of a local natural and semi-natural green space which is owned by Rushmoor Borough Council with Rowhill Nature Reserve, Brickfields Country Park located in the south of the town and Woodland Walk (Old Boots) and Aldershot Stubbs/ Hollybush Lane in the north-eastern part of the town. Access to Aldershot Stubbs/ Hollybush Lane is restricted from the rest of the borough due to the location of the A331 Blackwater Valley Road.
- 8.37 Access to the MOD land to the south-west of the borough is restricted due to the A325 Farnborough Road. South Farnborough and North Camp are within the catchment area of open spaces owned by the MOD.

Value and quality

- 8.38 Three of the sites owned by Rushmoor Borough Council achieve the required benchmark for quality and value. However Aldershot Stubbs/ Hollybush Lane falls below the benchmark standard for both quality and value. The audit revealed that access within the site is difficult and there is little provision for public use and enjoyment.
- 8.39 Three of the five sites owned by the MOD fall below the prescribed benchmark for quality and value with the other two sites achieving the benchmark for value but falling below the standard for quality.

B4. Small local natural and semi-natural green space

- 8.40 The small local natural and semi-natural green spaces in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.7**.

Table 8.9: Small local natural and semi-natural green space

Site ID	Site name	Area	Owner	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating
59	Bramshot Lane	1.56	RBC	Farnborough	++
172	Sandy Lane	0.79	RBC	Farnborough	++
197	Chestnut Tree Woods	1.01	RBC	Farnborough	+-
36	Hawley Meadow	1.98	Hampshire County Council	Farnborough	++
80	Minley Road Amenity Land	0.52	MOD	Farnborough	--

Accessibility

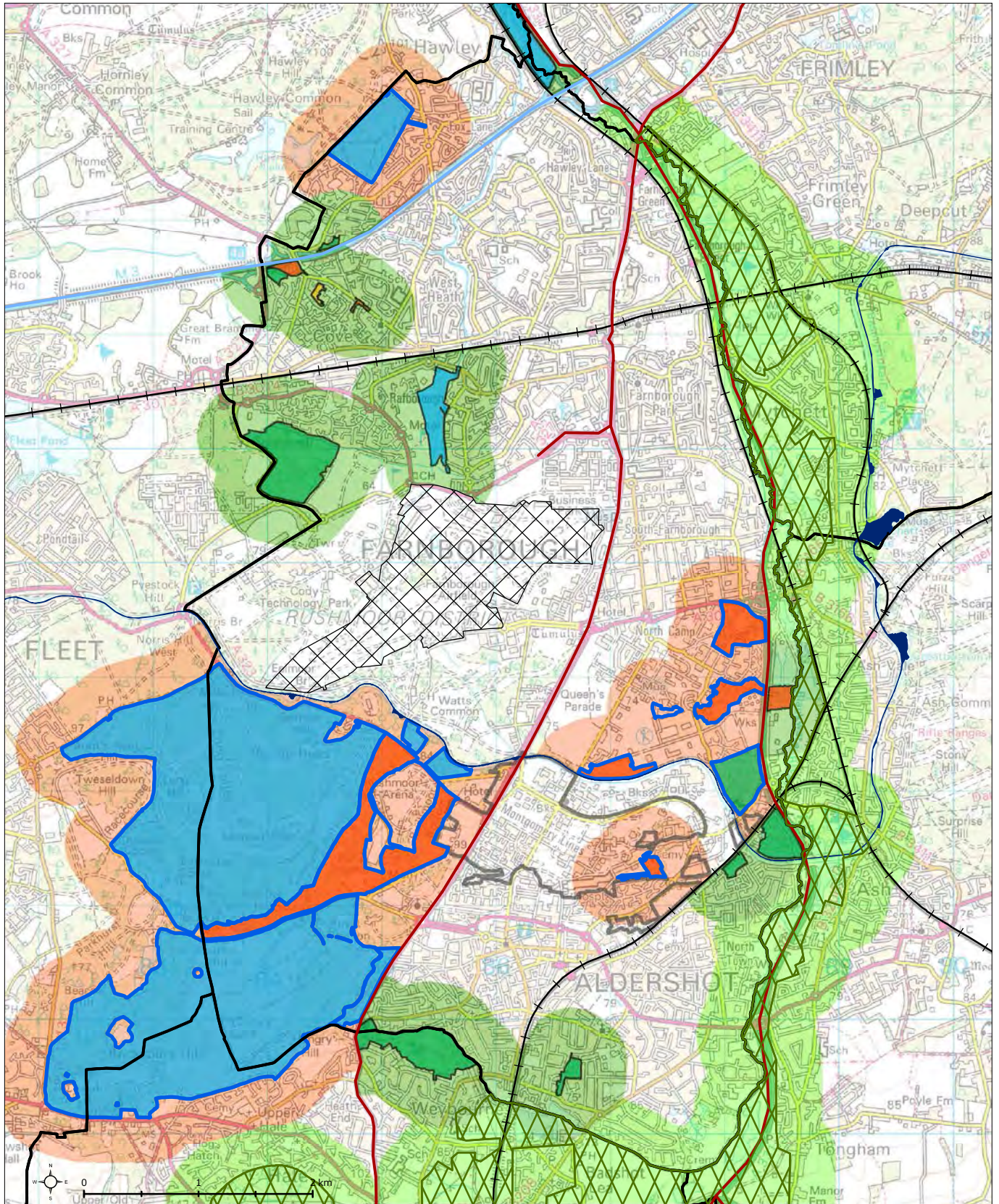
- 8.41 Much of the borough is outside the catchment area of small local natural and semi-natural green spaces.

Value and quality

- 8.42 Bramshott Lane and Sandy Lane achieve the required benchmark for value and quality as they contain habitats and offer some access for informal recreation. Chestnut Tree Woods achieves the benchmark for quality but not value. The value of this site could be increased through promoting greater access and increasing biodiversity interest.

Key findings and issues: natural and semi-natural green space

- There is currently a deficiency in the quantity of publicly accessible natural and semi-natural green space within Farnborough, which currently provides 1.50 ha per 1,000 per head of population compared to 23.76 ha per 1,000 per head of population in Aldershot and the quantity standard of 10.46 per 1,000 head of population.



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MOD owned site	Accessibility catchment (400m)	Barriers to access	Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
Open space outside Rushmoor	Excluding MOD owned	A-roads	
Value & quality rating	MOD owned	Motorway	Figure 8.7 B4. Small Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment
High value/High quality (++)	Outside of Rushmoor boundary excluding MOD owned	Rail lines	
Low value/High quality (--)	District boundaries	Basingstoke Canal	LUC
High value/Low quality (+-)	Aldershot Urban Extension	Aerodrome operating area	
Low value/Low quality (--)		Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000	

- The whole of the borough is within the accessibility standard for regional and borough natural and semi-natural green spaces. However north eastern neighbourhoods of Farnborough fall outside of the accessibility standard for local natural and semi-natural green space. South Farnborough and North Camp are only within the required accessibility standard of sites owned by the MOD. Accessibility to these sites could be improved through strengthening routes to the adjacent Blackwater Valley where accessibility is severed by the A331 Blackwater Valley Road and Railway line.
- The MOD owns the largest areas of natural and semi-natural green space within the Borough but as these sites offer limited facilities these fall below the quality and value thresholds. However, many of these sites form part of the TBHSPA and therefore it would be inappropriate to promote the recreational use of these sites.
- There are seven regional natural and semi-natural green spaces which are publicly accessible within the Borough. Southwood Woodlands and Rowhill Local Nature Reserve are both SANGs owned by RBC and are equal to or above the value and quality benchmark. Hawley Meadow is the third SANG but falls below the quality benchmark due to the difficulty in accessing this site from Rushmoor.
- Due to limited opportunities to increase SANGs in the borough it will be important to ensure the SANG sites are managed for public enjoyment as well as to conserve the biodiversity. Smaller areas of natural and semi-natural open spaces within the borough should be conserved and enhanced to promote greater use and ensuring accessible footpaths are provided and signposted to link with the surrounding area. Efforts should be made to link the ecological connectivity of sites through diversifying the management of roadside verges and green corridors.

C. Green corridors

8.43 The green corridors in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.8**.

Table 8.10: Green corridors

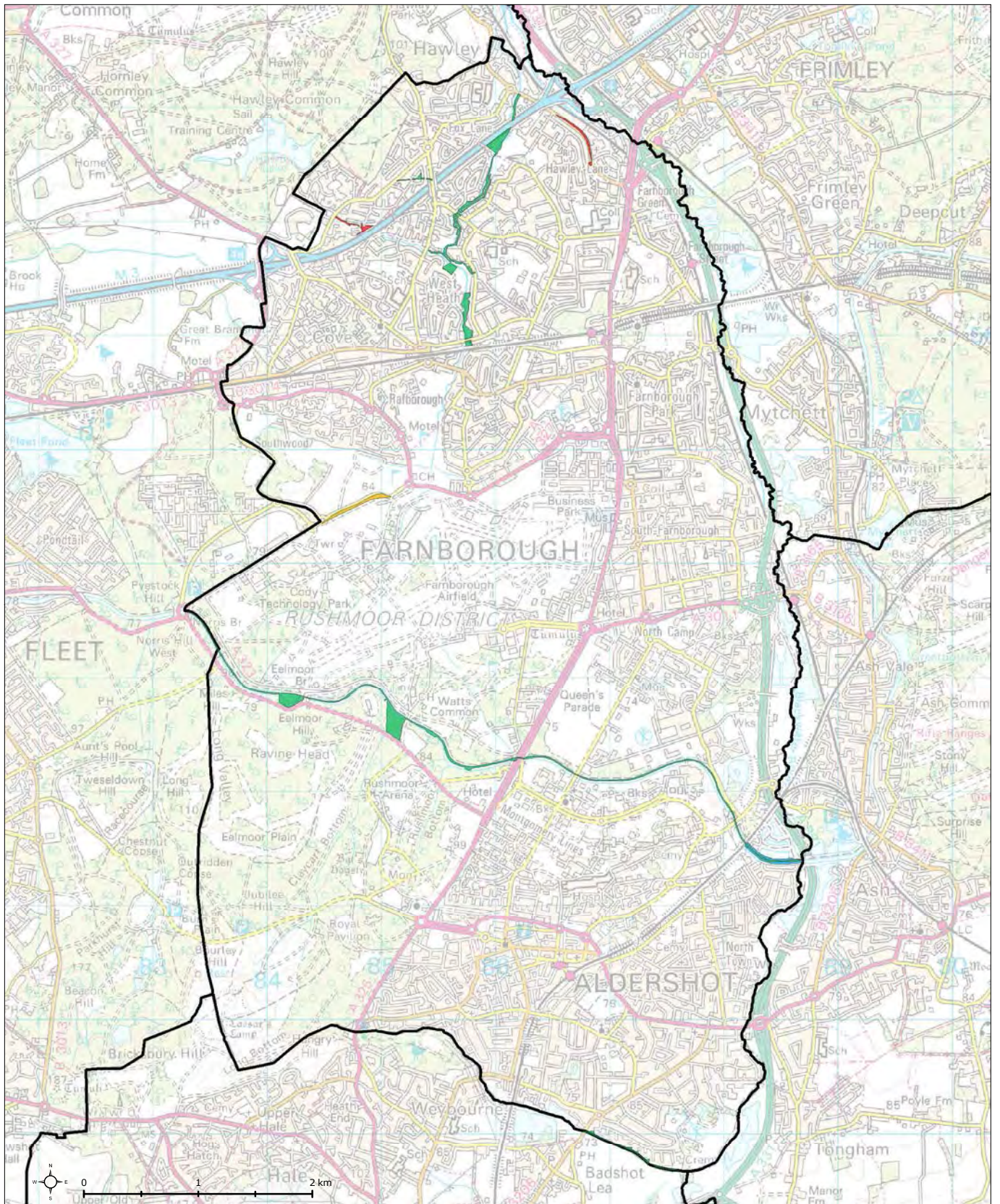
Site ID	Site name	Area	Owner	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating
49	Basingstoke Canal	13.04	RBC	Farnborough	++
51	Cove Brook Greenway (Conservation)	7.14	RBC	Farnborough	++
50	Blackwater Walk	1.31	RBC	Aldershot	++
178	Westfield Estate	0.31	RBC	Farnborough	++
53	Green Way Canal Embankment	1.49	RBC	Aldershot	+-
54	South of Ively Road	1.47	RBC	Farnborough	-+
193	Sandy Lane	0.67	RBC	Farnborough	--
52	Grange Estate, Grange Road	0.84	RBC	Farnborough	--

Accessibility

8.44 Accessibility standards have not been provided for green corridors.

Value and quality

8.45 Basingstoke Canal, Cove Brook Greenway and Blackwater Valley have achieved the required benchmarks for value and quality as they allow for unrestricted public access and a range of features/ facilities for informal recreation and/ or biodiversity. Green Way Canal Embankment, located in Aldershot, achieves the value benchmark but falls below the benchmark for quality due to the low scores associated with accessibility and presentation of the entrances. The green corridor south of Ively Road achieved the benchmark for quality but only part of the site is publicly accessible so falls below the value benchmark. Sandy Lane and Grange Estate fall below the benchmarks for both value and quality.



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<p>□ District boundary</p> <p>Value & quality rating</p> <p>■ High value/High quality (++)</p> <p>■ Low value/High quality (-+)</p> <p>■ High value/Low quality (+-)</p> <p>■ Low value/Low quality (--)</p>	<p>Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</p>
<p>Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000</p>	<p>Figure 8.8</p> <p>C. Green Corridors with Value/Quality Rating</p> <p>LUC</p>

Key findings and issues: green corridors

- These multi-functional spaces contribute significantly to the borough’s green infrastructure network as accessible paths, valuable wildlife habitats and key features of Rushmoor’s heritage.
- The stakeholder and public consultation revealed that access to open spaces in the borough is fragmented by industry and transport infrastructure with limited connectivity between Blackwater Valley, Cove Brook Greenway and Aldershot town centre. Opportunities should therefore be sought to enhance existing green corridors and where possible create new routes linking with the wider open space network.

D. Amenity green space

8.46 The amenity green spaces in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.9**. This Figure also locates other types of green space (e.g. parks and gardens) which have similar characteristics to amenity green spaces and therefore supplement the provision of such spaces in Rushmoor.

Table 8.11: Amenity green space

Site ID	Site name	Area ha	Owner	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating
73	Keith Lucas Road Amenity & Play Area	0.81	RBC	Farnborough	++
94	Southwood Village - Amenity Land	0.14	RBC	Farnborough	++
86	Pyestock Crescent	0.21	RBC	Farnborough	++
82	Napier Gardens	2.19	MOD (leased to RBC)	Aldershot	++
83	Nightingale Close	2.43	RBC	Farnborough	++
165	Manor House Estate	0.66	RBC	Farnborough	++
97	The Grove*	0.03	RBC	Aldershot	+-
66	Ethy Copse/Howard Drive	2.32	RBC	Farnborough	+-
69	Herbs End	0.71	RBC	Farnborough	-+
95	Southwood Village Green - Summit Avenue	0.41	RBC	Farnborough	-+
98	The Mounts	0.47	RBC	Farnborough	--
64	Denmark Square*	0.16	RBC	Aldershot	--
62	Churchill Crescent	0.66	RBC	Farnborough	--
25	Ramilies Park	0.54	MOD	Aldershot	--

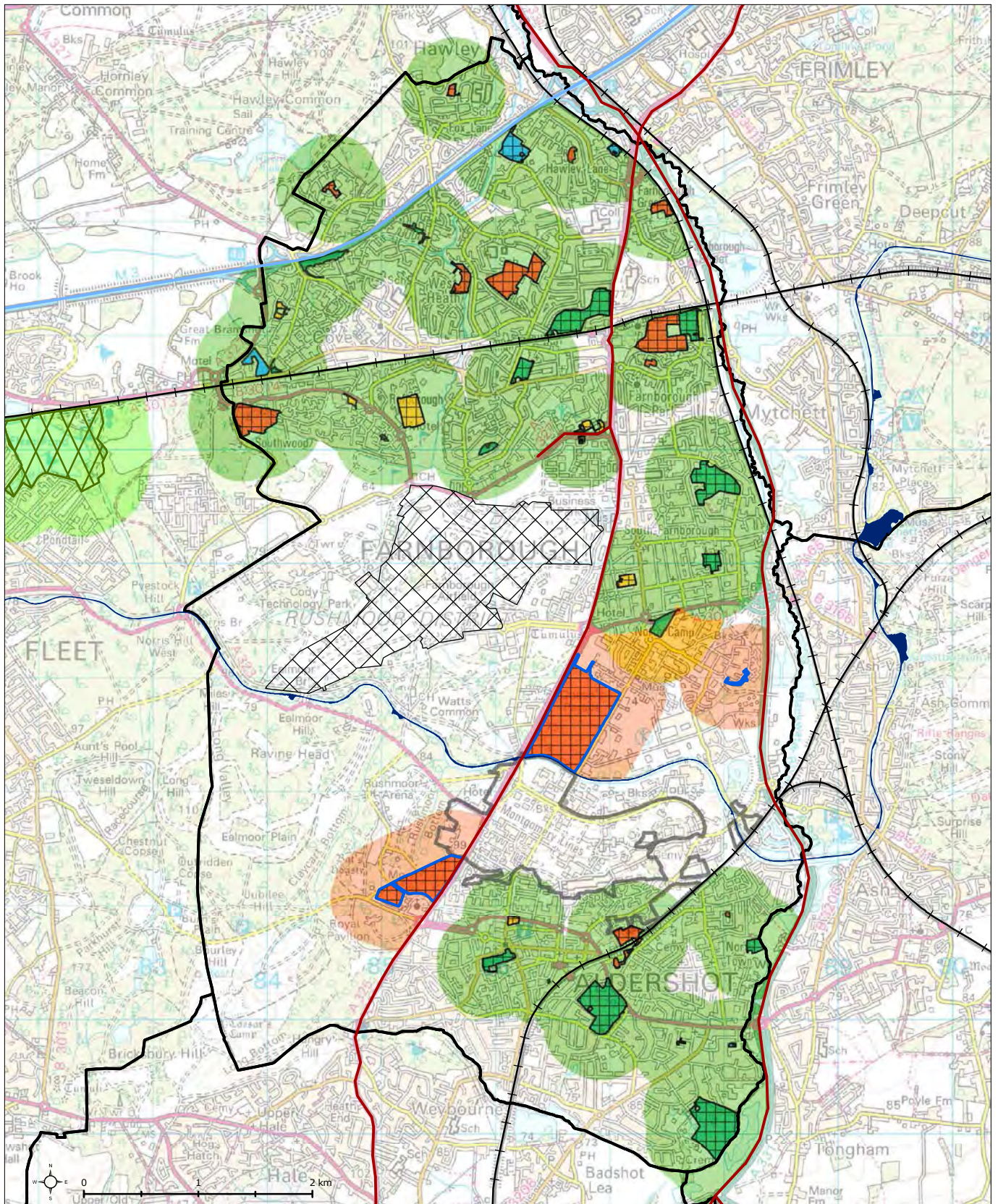
*Included as although it is <0.4ha it contains features such as site furniture

Accessibility

8.47 The majority of the borough’s residents are within the 400m catchment area of amenity green spaces or parks and gardens. However there are pockets in both Farnborough and Aldershot outside the catchment area including parts of Cove, North Farnborough together with eastern and southern parts of Aldershot. Large parts of North Camp (including the AUE area) are also outside the catchment area of an appropriate open space.

Value and quality

8.48 Five of the 10 amenity green spaces within Farnborough achieve the benchmarks for quality and value. Two sites achieve the standard for Quality and one for Value. Two sites fall below both benchmarks. In Aldershot, one of the four amenity green spaces achieves the benchmark for quality and value; one site achieves just the value benchmark; and two sites fall below both benchmarks.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOD owned site Publicly accessible open space outside Rushmoor <p>Value & quality rating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High value/High quality Low value/High quality High value/Low quality Low value/Low quality Other green spaces that offer similar characteristics and which could be substituted for Amenity Green Space 	<p>Accessibility catchment (400m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excluding MOD owned MOD owned MOD owned (leased to RBC) Outside of Rushmoor boundary excluding MOD owned District boundary Aldershot Urban Extension 	<p>Barriers to access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A-roads Motorway Rail lines Basingstoke Canal Airport operating area
--	--	--

Rushmoor Open Space,
Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 8.9

**D. Amenity Green Space
with Value/Quality Rating
and Accessibility
Catchment**

LUC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Key findings and issues: amenity green space

- 11.74 ha of amenity green space over the size threshold of 0.4 ha were recorded in this study of which Farnborough contains 8.82 ha and Aldershot 2.92 ha. Amenity green spaces contribute to the borough's built environment providing opportunities for informal recreation and often providing a valuable separation in residential areas.
- In addition to the larger amenity green spaces audited in this the study there are many smaller green spaces which also contribute significantly to the borough's open space network. The value of these spaces could be enhanced through diversifying management operations creating a broader range of wildlife habitats and creating opportunities for play through the installation of natural play features.
- There is potential to enhance the amenity green spaces (increasing facilities e.g. seating, recreation facilities). in areas where there is a deficiency in quantity or which fall outside the accessibility catchment areas for the local or small local parks and gardens e.g. eastern sections of Farnborough and North Town in Aldershot.
- Aldershot contains very few amenity green spaces over the relevant size threshold. The amenity green space in the north east of Aldershot town centre could be enhanced to meet deficiency of parks and gardens in this area.

E. Allotments

Quantity of allotments compared to standard

- 8.49 The quantity of allotments within Aldershot and Farnborough compared to the required standard is set out in the Table below.

Table 8.12: Quantity of allotments in Rushmoor

Area	Ha / 1,000 head of population
Quantity in standard	0.18
Quantity in Aldershot	0.07
Quantity in Farnborough	0.13

- 8.50 Assessment of the consultation results and review of the waiting list for allotment plots indicates the current provision of allotments in Rushmoor is insufficient. As a result the quantity standard has been set at 0.18ha/ 1,000 head of population. Currently Aldershot provides just 0.07ha of allotments/ 1,000 head of population and Farnborough just 0.13 ha per 1,000 head of population.
- 8.51 The allotments in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.10**.

Table 8.13: Allotments

Site ID	Site name	Area	Owner	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating
105	Cove Green	1.00	RBC	Farnborough	++
104	Church Road Allotments	2.74	Aldershot & District Allotments Association	Aldershot	++
103	Cherrywood Road	0.34	RBC	Farnborough	++
109	Ratcliff Road	0.14	RBC	Farnborough	+-
108	Prospect Road	0.90	RBC	Farnborough	-+
102	Brookhouse Road	0.52	RBC	Farnborough	-+
224	Jubilee Allotment Gardens (Farnborough Abbey)	1.20	RBC	Farnborough	-+
106	Fernhill Road	1.13	RBC	Farnborough	--

100	Alexandra Road	0.06	RBC	Aldershot	--
107	Park Road	1.59	RBC	Farnborough	--
101	Birchett Road	0.80	RBC	Farnborough	--

Accessibility

8.52 There is sporadic coverage of allotments in Rushmoor with eastern and western parts of Farnborough outside the 800m catchment area for this type of site. Northern parts of Aldershot are also outside the 800m catchment area. There are currently no allotment sites within North Camp.

Value and quality

8.53 Three of the 11 sites achieve the value and quality benchmark for allotments. These sites have a good range of facilities with the majority of plots being actively managed. The allotment site on Ratcliff Road achieves the benchmark for value with most plots being managed. However the main access to the site is via the site used by the local Scout group and it appears that many of the plots are being used as an extension of adjoining properties.

8.54 Three sites (Prospect Road, Brookhouse Road and Jubilee Allotment Gardens) are of sufficient quality but fall below the value benchmark. Four sites (Fernhill Road, Alexandra Road, Park Road and Birchett Road) do not achieve the required benchmarks for value or quality. This could be due to the poor condition of boundary features and a limited range of facilities.

Key findings and issues: allotments

- There is a deficiency of allotments in Rushmoor with a considerable number of people on the current waiting list. Both Aldershot and Farnborough fall below the quantity standard which is set at 0.18 ha per 1,000 head of population; Aldershot contains just 0.07 ha per 1,000 head of population; and Farnborough containing 0.13 ha per 1,000 ha per 1,000 head of population.
- The consultation revealed opportunities to reduce the waiting time for allotment plots through a combination of improved management to release plots no longer being actively worked, decreasing the size of allotment plots and providing new sites.
- There are considerable areas of the borough which are outside the accessibility buffer for allotments and where possible future provision should target these areas as a priority.
- The audit of the allotments revealed that there is a need to increase facilities and security of the sites. In some instances boundary fences have been removed without being replaced. Other improvements could include: Better parking provision; cycle parking; raised beds; better paths; consider smaller plots; aim to get all plots into production; and opportunities to increase biodiversity.

F. Cemeteries and churchyards

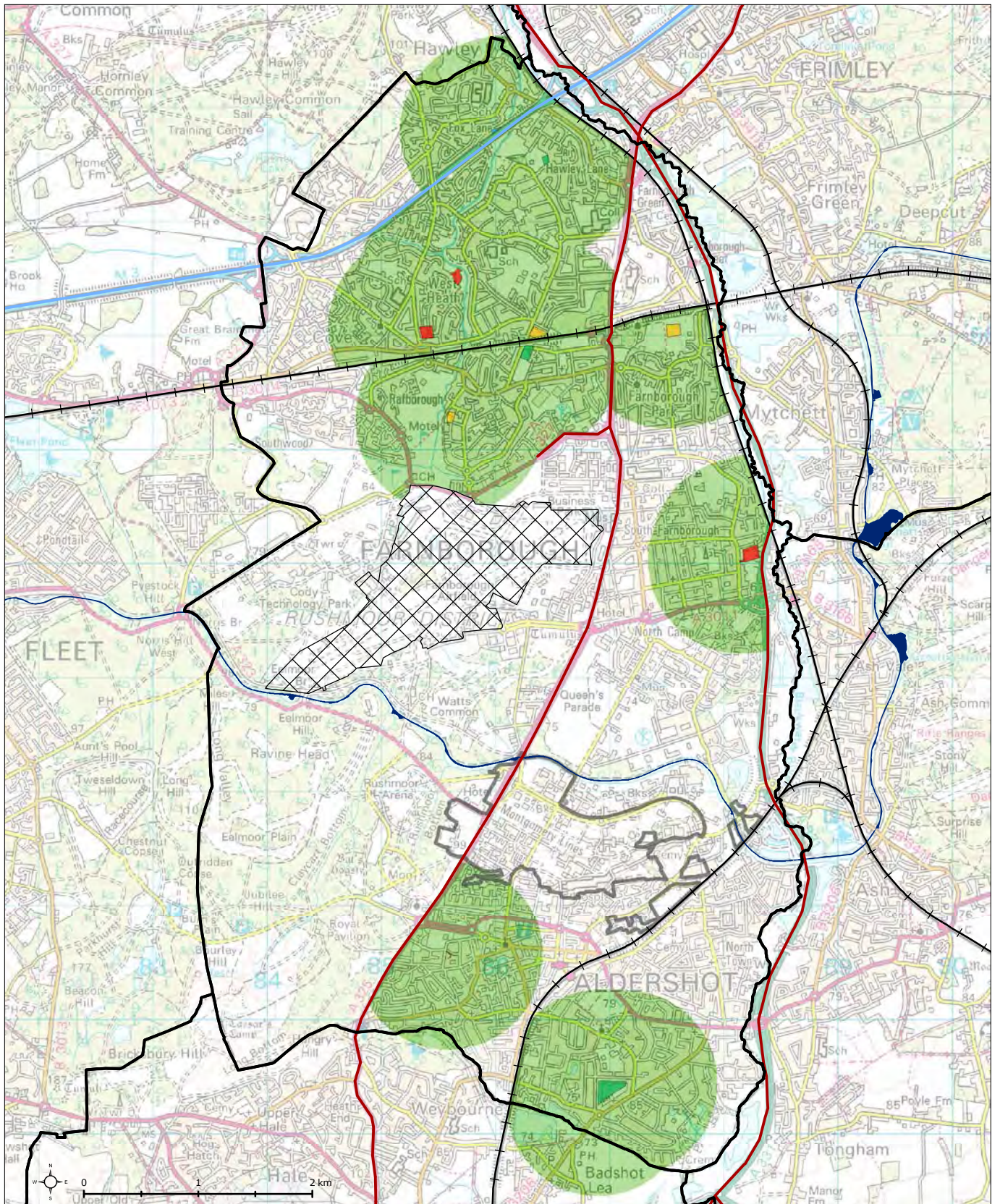
8.55 The cemeteries and churchyards in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.11**.

Table 8.14: Cemeteries and churchyards

Site ID	Site name	Area ha	Owner	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating
110	Aldershot Crematorium	6.22	RBC	Aldershot	++
113	Ship Lane Cemetery	2.92	RBC	Farnborough	++
112	Redan Road Cemetery	5.81	RBC	Aldershot	+-
114	St John's Churchyard	1.28	RBC	Farnborough	--
115	Victoria Road Cemetery	1.55	RBC	Farnborough	--
111	Military Cemetery	7.77	MOD	Aldershot	++

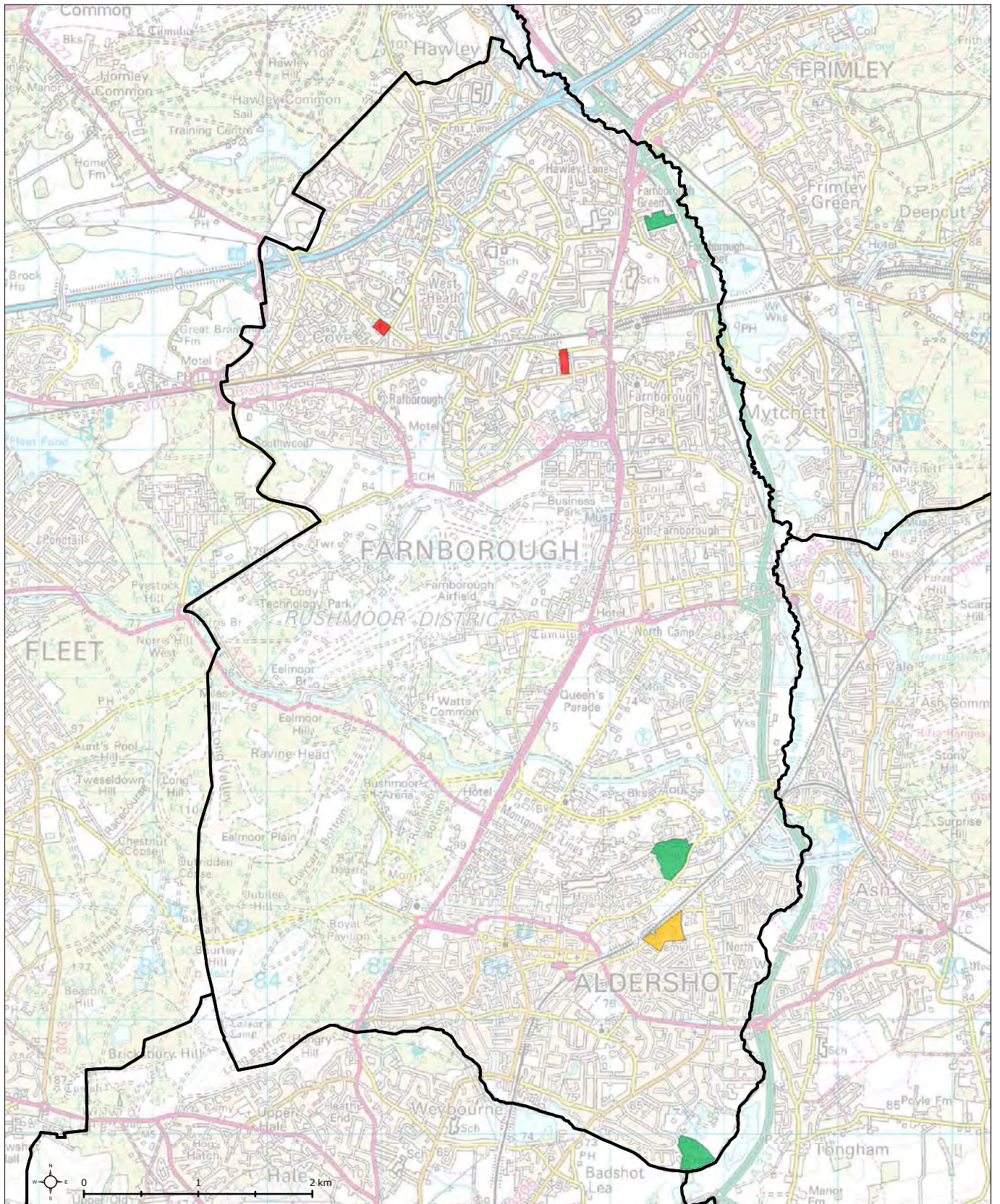
Accessibility

8.56 Accessibility standards have not been provided for cemeteries and churchyards.



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MOD owned site	Accessibility catchment (800m)	Barriers to access	Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
Publicly accessible open space outside Rushmoor	Excluding MOD owned	A-roads	
Value & quality rating	MOD owned	Motorway	Figure 8.10 E. Allotments with Value/ Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment
High value/High quality (++)	District boundary	Rail lines	
Low value/High quality (--)	Aldershot Urban Extension	Basingstoke Canal	
High value/Low quality (+)		Airport operating area	
Low value/Low quality (--)			Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000



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□ District boundary

Value & quality rating

- High value/High quality (++)
- Low value/High quality (-+)
- High value/Low quality (+-)
- Low value/Low quality (--)

Rushmoor Open Space,
Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 8.11
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Value and quality

- 8.57 Aldershot Crematorium and Ship Lane Cemetery (in Farnborough) both achieved the required benchmarks for value and quality. Redan Road Cemetery falls below the benchmark for value and St. John's Churchyard and Victoria Road Cemetery fall below both benchmarks. The chapel at Victoria Road Cemetery is currently fenced off from the rest of the cemetery as it is considered to be an unsafe structure.

Key findings and issues: cemeteries and churchyards

- The borough's cemeteries and churchyards contribute to Rushmoor's open space network providing opportunities for quiet contemplation and biodiversity. However the future use of these open spaces could be enhanced to help resolve areas deficient in other types of open space. For example Victoria Road Cemetery and St John's Churchyard in Farnborough could be enhanced to meet deficiencies in Parks and Gardens, and natural and semi-natural green space. St John's Churchyard is located in an area which falls outside the accessibility catchment area for local and small local parks and gardens as well as amenity green space.

G. Provision for children and young people

Neighbourhood equipped area of play

Quantity of provision for children and young people compared to standard

- 8.58 The quantity of provision for children and young people by NEAP in Aldershot and Farnborough is provided in the Table below.

Table 8.15: Quantity of neighbourhood equipped area of play in Rushmoor

Area	Standard
Rushmoor	1.16 sites per 1000 head of population within 15 to 19 age group
Aldershot	1.26 sites per 1000 head of population within 15 to 19 age group
Farnborough	1.09 sites per 1000 head of population within 15 to 19 age group

- 8.59 Provision within Rushmoor is evenly spread with Farnborough containing 1.09 sites per 1000 head of population within the 15 to 19 age group which is just below the benchmark standard. However it should be noted that the consultation results revealed the need to increase provision for teenagers throughout the borough.
- 8.60 The NEAPs recorded in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.12**.

Table 8.16: Neighbourhood equipped area of play

Site ID	Site name	Area (ha)	Owner	Neighbourhood	QV Rating	Nr. of other play items on site	Quality of other play items
3	Aldershot Park Play Area	0.12	RBC	Aldershot	++	1	3
14	Sycamore/ King George V Playground	0.25	RBC	Farnborough	++	1	3
24	Queens Road Recreation Ground Play Area	0.32	RBC	Farnborough	++	2	2.5
22	Queen Elizabeth Play Area	0.12	RBC	Farnborough	-+	-	-

15	Manor Park Play Area	0.10	RBC	Aldershot	--	1	5
127	Elles Pond Skate Park	0.11	RBC	Farnborough		2	4.5
146	Vixen Drive Games Court	0.13	Privately owned	Aldershot		3	4.3

Accessibility

- 8.61 Much of the borough falls outside of the 600m accessibility standard including northern and eastern parts of Farnborough and eastern parts of Aldershot. However it should be noted the consultation results revealed respondents were pleased with the amounts of play areas, perhaps suggesting people are willing to travel further distances to visit larger play spaces.

Value and quality

- 8.62 Five of the seven NEAPs recorded in the borough contain equipped play areas. The remaining two NEAPs consist of other play features such as a skate park, multi-use games court and/ or a teen shelter. Of the five equipped play areas audited, three sites achieved the benchmarks for value and quality. This is due the presence of equipped play areas providing a range of play activities and also the presence of other play items. These sites were considered to be of a good condition. The play area within Queen Elizabeth Park is considered to achieve the required benchmark for quality but scores lower than other sites for play value; this is partly due to the site not offering other items of play aside from the play area. Manor Park Play Area achieved a score below the required benchmarks for value and quality. This is supported by the consultation results.
- 8.63 Elles Pond Skate Park and Vixen Play Court have been scored separately to the more traditional equipped play spaces and therefore have not be compared to the prescribed value and quality benchmark. However the audit and consultation revealed these sites provide an important facility for young people in the borough and is considered to be of a good quality.

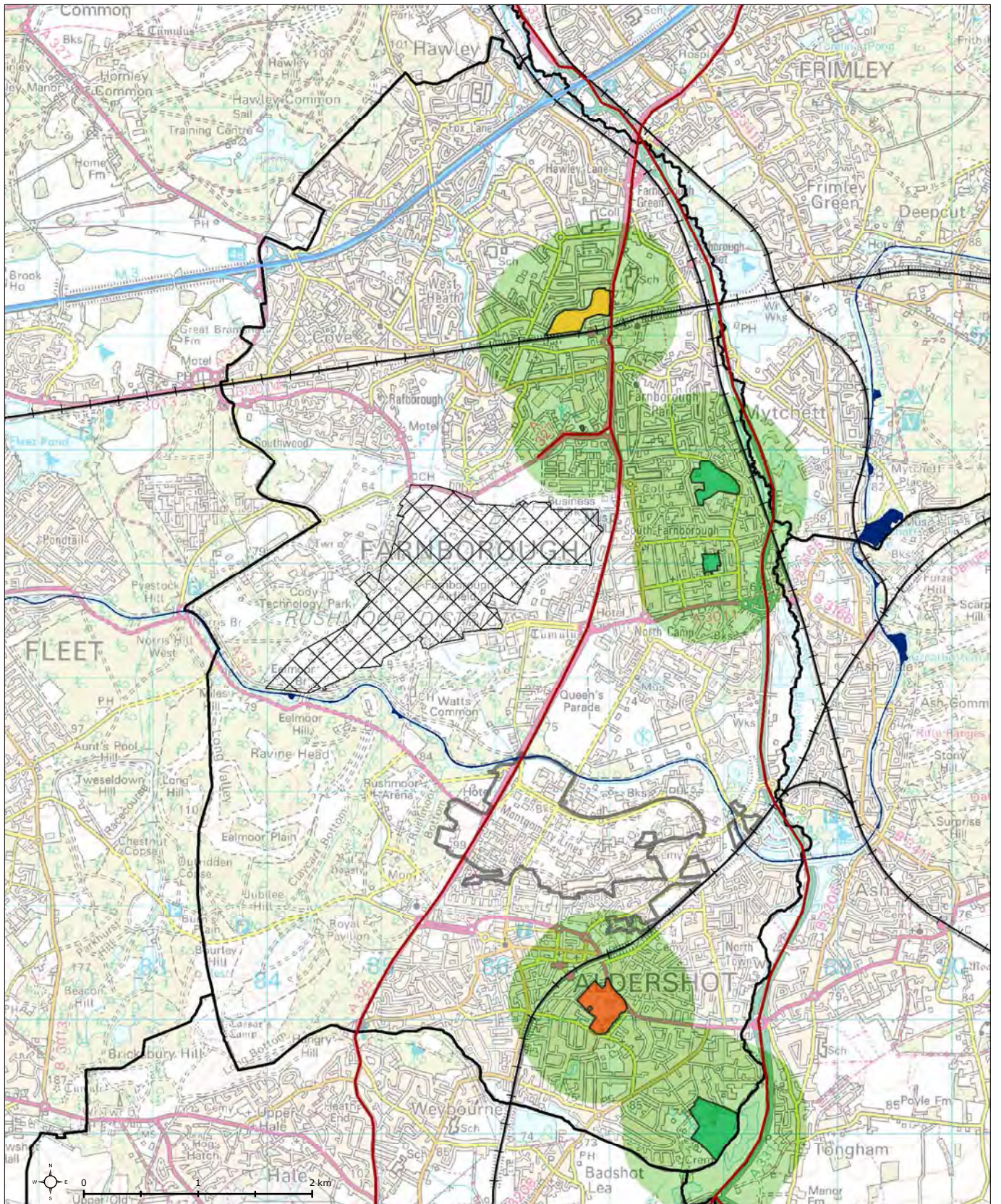
Local equipped area of play

- 8.64 The quantity of provision for children and young people by LEAP in Aldershot and Farnborough is provided in the Table below.

Table 8.17: Quantity of local equipped areas of play in Rushmoor

Area	Standard
Rushmoor	2.82 sites per 1000 head of population within 8 to 14 age group
Aldershot	3.11 sites per 1000 head of population within 8 to 14 age group
Farnborough	2.63 sites per 1000 head of population within 8 to 14 age group

Farnborough contains slightly fewer LEAPs (2.63 site per 1000 head of population within 8 to 14 age group) than Aldershot (3.11 site per 1000 sites per head of population within 8 to 14 age group).



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Value & quality rating	Barriers to access		
High value/High quality (++)	A-roads	District boundary	Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
Low value/High quality (-+)	Motorway	Aldershot Urban Extension	
High value/Low quality (+-)	Rail lines		Figure 8.12 Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPS) with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment
Low value/Low quality (--)	Basingstoke Canal		
No quality & value rating	Airport operating area		
Accessibility catchment (600m)			Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

8.65 The LEAPs in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.13**.

Table 8.18: Local equipped play area

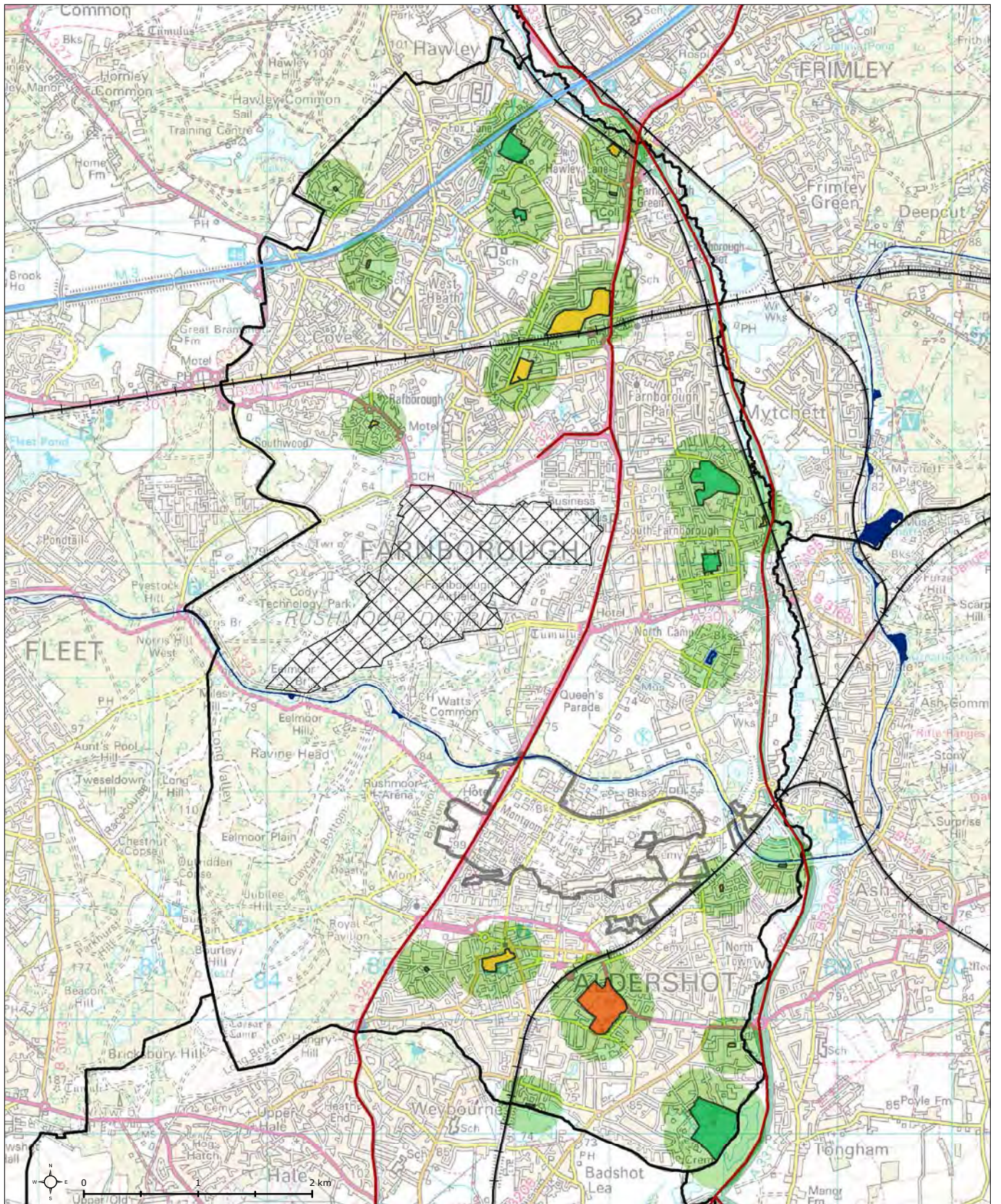
Site ID	Site name	Area (ha)	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating	Nr. of other play items on site	Average quality of other play items
148	Water Lane	0.75	Farnborough	++	5	4.2
16	Moor Road Play Area	0.08	Farnborough	++	2	3
131	Kingsway Play Area	0.09	Aldershot	++	-	-
126	Fairfax Road Play Area	0.15	Farnborough	++	-	-
129	Greenway Play Area	0.17	Aldershot	++	-	-
121	Cadogan Road Playground	0.31	Aldershot	+-	1	2
17	Municipal Gardens Play Area	0.31	Aldershot	-+	2	5
7	Cove Green Play Area	0.15	Farnborough	-+	2	4.5
20	Prince Charles Crescent Play Area	0.05	Farnborough	-+	-	-
118	Aspen Grove Play Area	0.04	Aldershot	-+	1	2
122	Cumbria Court	0.24	Farnborough	-+	-	-
149	Woodland Walk Play Area	0.14	Aldershot	-+	-	-
226	Pinewood Park Play Area	0.08	Farnborough	-+	2	5
125	Egret Gardens Play Area	0.11	Aldershot	-+	-	-
142	Sunnybank Road Play Area	0.15	Farnborough	-+	-	-
138	Richmond Close Play Area	0.25	Farnborough	-+	-	-

Accessibility

8.66 Much of the borough falls outside of the accessibility standard for LEAPs. South Farnborough has little provision of LEAPs but much of this part of the borough is within the catchment area for NEAPs. Parts of Cove, West Heath and Southwood, all in Farnborough, fall outside the catchment areas for NEAPs and LEAPs. As does North Town and the south eastern part of Aldershot, adjacent to Rowhills Nature Reserve.

Value and quality

8.67 Five of the sites audited achieved the value and quality benchmarks with Water Lane providing a good range of play activities together with five other play items (including a multi-use games area, skateboard ramps and a teen shelter). Cadogan Road Playground provides a good range of play activities so achieved the value benchmark standard but is considered to be below the standard required for quality. Ten sites achieved the required benchmark for quality but offer limited play value so were scored below the value benchmark. The audit revealed that all LEAPs achieved at least one of the benchmark standards for value and quality.



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Value & quality rating	Barriers to access		
High value/High quality (++)	A-roads	District boundary	Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
Low value/High quality (-+)	Motorway	Aldershot Urban Extension	
High value/Low quality (+-)	Rail lines	MOD owned site	Figure 8.13 Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPS) with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment
Low value/Low quality (--)	Basingstoke Canal		
Accessibility catchment (240m)	Airport operating area		Includes NEAPS which have provision for a wide age range.
			Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Local area for play

8.68 The quantity of provision for children and young people by LAP in Aldershot and Farnborough is provided in the Table below.

Table 8.19: Quantity of local area of play in Rushmoor

Area	Standard
Rushmoor	4.86 sites per 1000 head of population within 0 to 7 age group
Aldershot	4.83 sites per 1000 head of population within 0 to 7 age group
Farnborough	4.87 sites per 1000 head of population within 0 to 7 age group

8.69 The LAPs in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.14**.

Table 8.20: Local area for play

Site ID	Site name	Area (ha)	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating	Other provision value score	Other provision average quality
73	Keith Lucas Road Play Area	0.06	Farnborough	++	-	-
198	Elles Close Play Area	0.03	Farnborough	++	-	-
26	Priory Street (Rectory Road Recreation Ground)	0.05	Farnborough	++	-	-
124	Dene Road Playground	0.08	Farnborough	++	-	-
130	Irvine Drive Play Area	0.08	Farnborough	++	-	-
86	Trunk Road Play Area (Pyestock Crescent)	0.04	Farnborough	++	-	-
94	Southwood Village Play Area	0.06	Farnborough	++	-	-
141	Ship Lane Play Area	0.04	Farnborough	++	-	-
119	Beaumont Park Play Area	0.11	Aldershot	++	-	-
133	Meon Close Playground	0.03	Farnborough	++	-	-
140	Shelley Rise Playground	0.25	Farnborough	++	2	3
19	Osbourne Road Play Area	0.05	Farnborough	++	-	-
71	Highclere Road Play Area	0.02	Aldershot	++	-	-
184	Bell Chase	0.05	Aldershot	++	-	-
5	Blunden Road Play Area	0.03	Farnborough	++	-	-
87	Redan Gardens	0.08	Aldershot	++	-	-
120	Bryce Gardens Play Area	0.09	Aldershot	++	-	-
123	Curly Bridge Close	0.05	Farnborough	++	-	-
132	Marlborough Park	0.03	Aldershot	++	-	-
139	Rydal Close	0.06	Farnborough	++	-	-
143	Tarn Close	0.03	Farnborough	++	-	-
134	Montgomery Road Play Area	0.04	Farnborough	++	-	-
13	Ivy Road Play Area	0.08	Aldershot	++	2	3.5
144	Totland Close	0.10	Farnborough	++	2	3

81	Napier Close	0.07	Aldershot	--	-	-
61	Cassino Close Play Area	0.08	Aldershot	--	-	-
97	The Grove Play Area	0.01	Aldershot	--	-	-
195	Dukes Park Play Area	0.03	Aldershot	--	-	-
116	Alexandra Road	0.02	Aldershot	--	1	1

Accessibility

8.70 29 LAPs were audited as part of this study. These sites are distributed evenly throughout the borough providing play spaces for the immediate area thus complementing the play provision provided by NEAPs and LEAPs. These sites are often located within neighbourhood areas and offer play opportunities for parts of the borough which fall outside the accessibility buffer for larger play sites e.g. West Heath, Cove and north Farnborough.

Value and quality

8.71 14 of the sites audited achieved the required benchmark for value and quality. 10 of the sites achieved the required benchmark standard for quality but fall below the value benchmark. The remaining five sites fall below the required benchmark for quality and value. All of these sites are located in Aldershot and only three sites in Aldershot achieved the value and quality benchmarks.

Key findings and issues: provision for children and young people

- Sites which contain provision for children and young people are evenly distributed throughout the borough. The results of the consultation revealed the need to improve the provision in North Town.
- Improvements to youth facilities (e.g. relaxing/ socialising facilities, another skate park, graffiti wall, BMX track, climbing walls) were also highlighted as an issue.
- In general, the audit revealed that equipped play areas are of sufficient quality but many sites fall below the required benchmark for value due to the limited range of play activities offered.
- All of the LAPs which fall below the required benchmark standards for value and quality are located in Aldershot. LAPs are important features of the open space network in Rushmoor providing accessible spaces for young families within close proximity to homes.

8.72 **Figure 8.15** shows all of the sites which offer provision for children and young people in Rushmoor.

H. Roadside verges

8.73 The roadside verges over 0.4ha in Rushmoor are listed in the Table below and shown in **Figure 8.16**.

Table 8.21: Roadside verges

Site ID	Site name	Area ha	Owner	Neighbourhood	VQ Rating
161	Alison's Road / Farnborough Road Junction	0.46	RBC	Aldershot	++
162	Alison's Road Verges	3.79	MOD	Aldershot	++

Accessibility

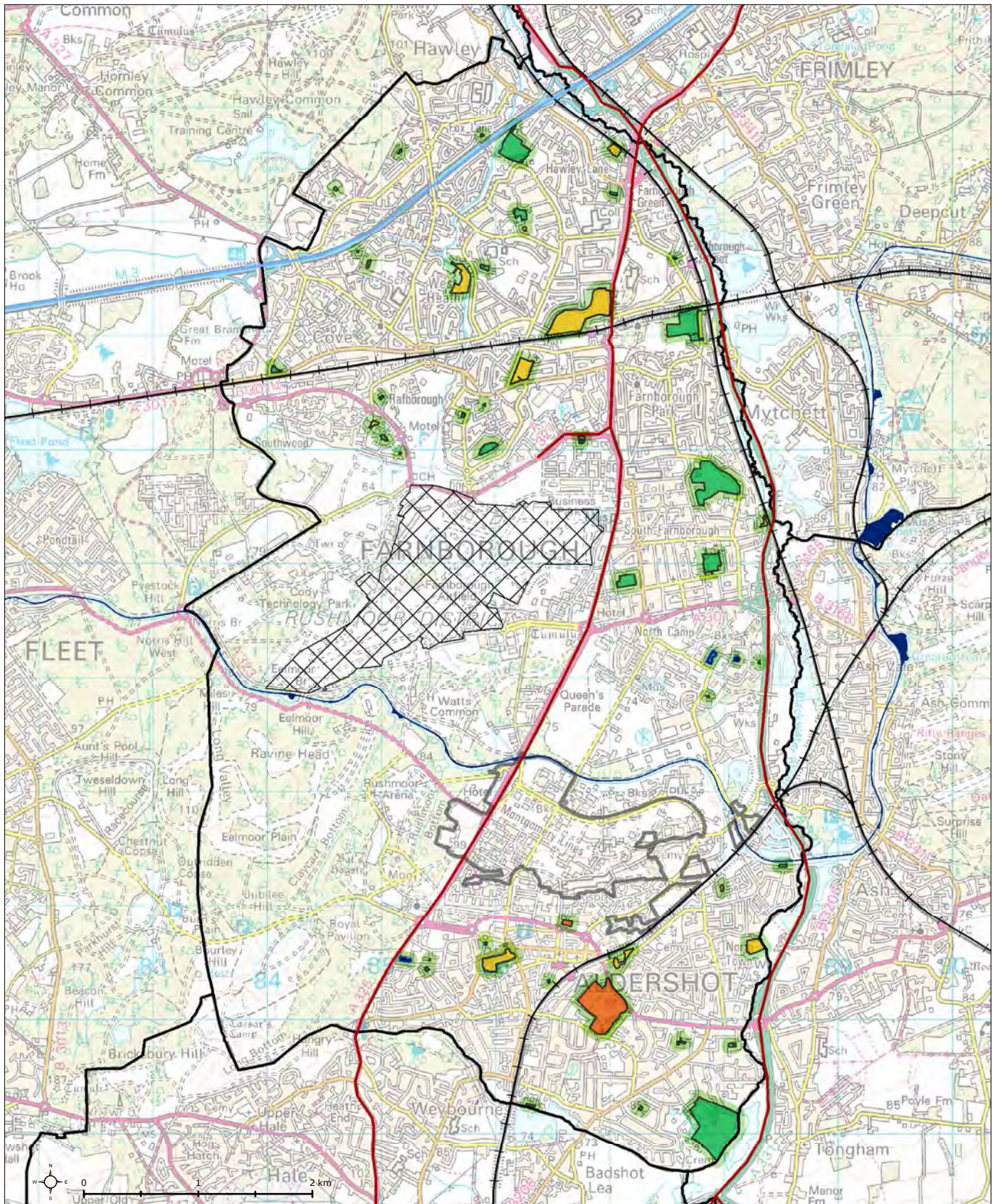
8.74 Accessibility standards have not been provided for roadside verges.

Value and quality

8.75 The two roadside verges audited as part of the study achieved the required benchmark for value and quality as it was felt both sites provide a sufficient level of landscape features and are of a good quality.

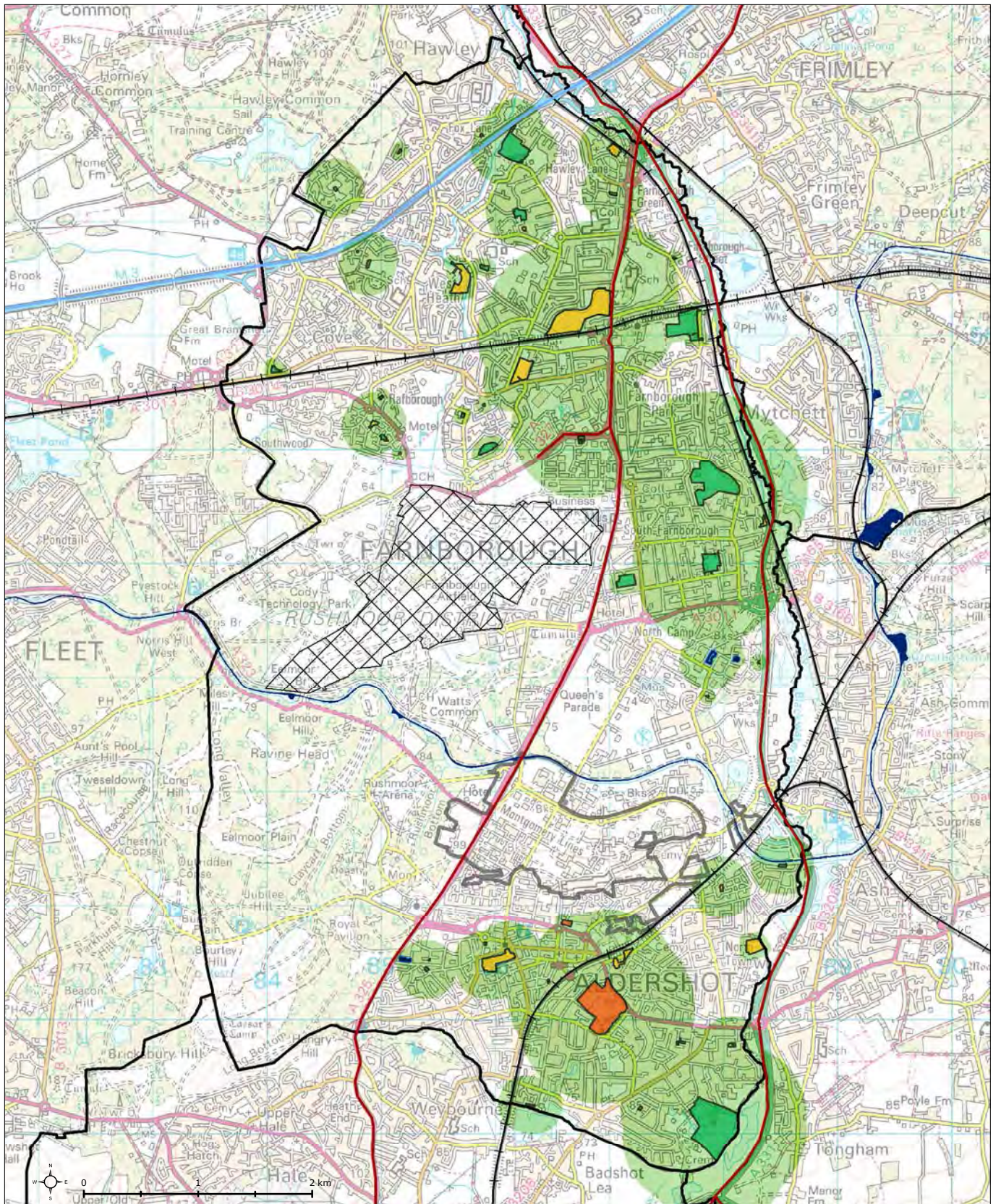
Key findings and issues: Roadside verges

- Only two verges which are above the size threshold were audited as part of the study. Both sites contain some habitats for nature conservation, contribute to local character and act as a buffer to local transport routes and/ or industry so therefore achieve the required value and quality benchmarks.
- In addition to the two sites audited in this study there are a large number of smaller verges throughout the borough which also have a valuable function.



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Value & quality rating	Barriers to access		
High value/High quality (++)	A-roads	District boundary	Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
Low value/High quality (-+)	Motorway	Aldershot Urban Extension	
High value/Low quality (+-)	Rail lines	MOD owned site	Figure 8.14 Local Areas for Play (LAPs) with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment
Low value/Low quality (--)	Basingstoke Canal		
Accessibility catchment (60m)	Airport operating area		Includes LEAPS and NEAPS which have provision for a wide age range.
			Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000



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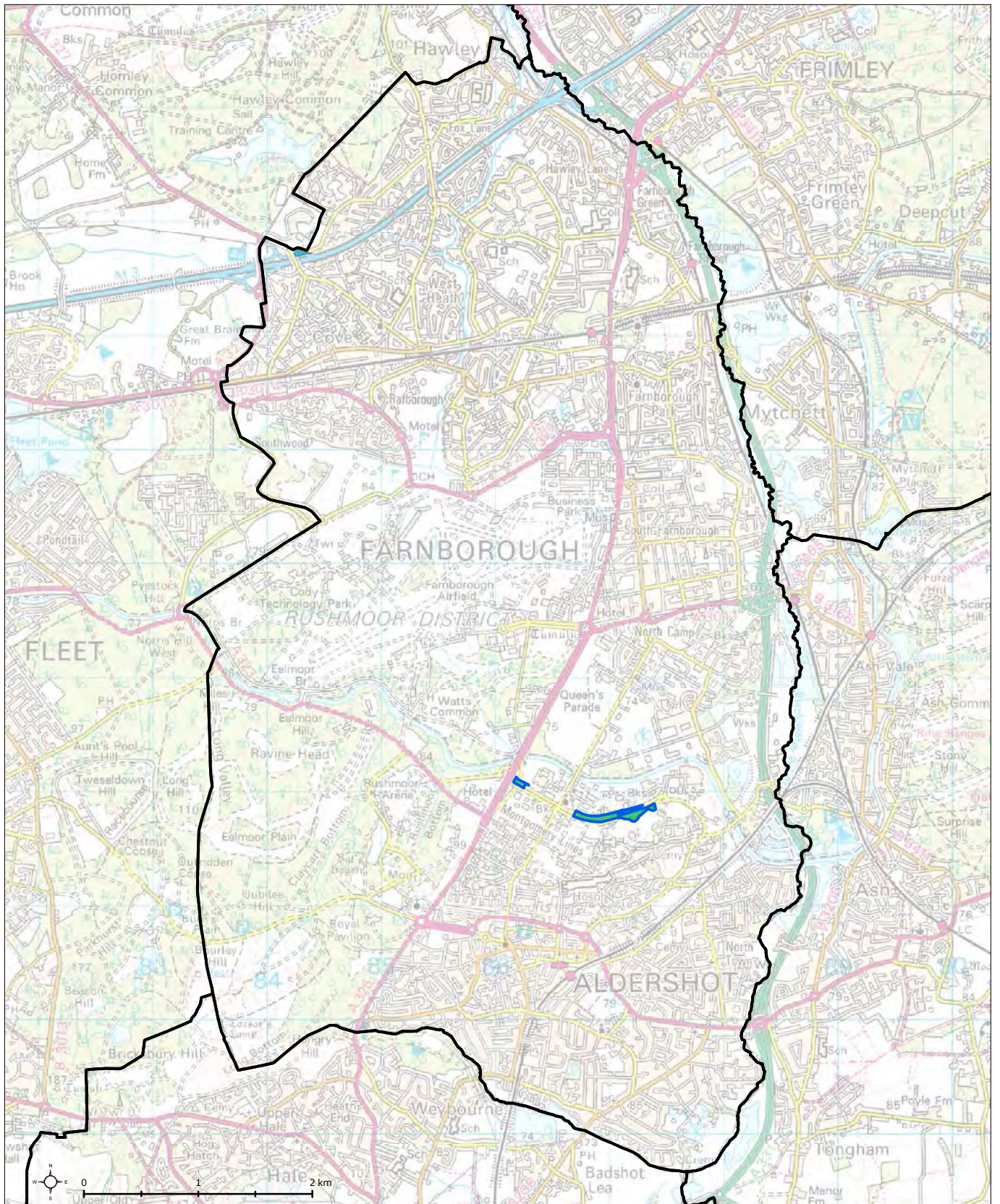
Value & quality rating High value/High quality (++) Low value/High quality (-+) High value/Low quality (+-) Low value/Low quality (--) Accessibility catchment LAPS - 60m LEAPS - 240m NEAPS - 600m		Barriers to access A-roads Motorway Rail lines Basingstoke Canal Airport operating area		District boundary Aldershot Urban Extension MOD owned site	
--	--	---	--	--	--

Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study







Figure 8.15
LAPS, LEAPS and NEAPS with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment

LUC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000



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-  District boundary
-  MOD owned site
- Value & quality rating**
-  High value/High quality
-  Low value/High quality
-  High value/Low quality
-  Low value/Low quality

Rushmoor Open Space,
Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 8.16
H. Roadside Verges with Value/Quality Rating and Accessibility Catchment



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Section D: Assessment of indoor and outdoor sport provision

9 Indoor sports provision: priorities and standards for future provision

- 9.1 The sections which follow set out the quantity, quality and accessibility assessments undertaken by the Consultant Team for each indoor sports facility type identified within the methodology. For each facility type these sections set out the key findings of the supply and demand analysis (quantitative assessment), non-technical quality assessment (qualitative assessment), accessibility assessment (including distance thresholds), and consultation process (identifying local needs). Each section sets out conclusions and makes recommendations based on this detailed and robust evidence base. The completed audit forms used for the assessment of indoor recreation facilities can be seen in **Appendix 6**.

Priorities and standards for provision

- 9.2 Sport England advises against focusing on one single tool for determining standards for sports facility provision on the basis that a more detailed, layered and localised approach to the assessment of needs and opportunities at a local authority level is required as a basis for future policy. The following sections make comparisons with county, regional and national data where appropriate but do not establish standards for provision based on any single measure or set priorities based on comparison with other areas (which by definition experience different supply and demand side conditions).

Mapping and catchments

- 9.3 Each of the facilities audited in the supply and demand analysis has been mapped and are presented in the following facility specific sections. Catchments based on distance are applied to each individual site. The distance catchments applied are summarised below with an explanation of the rationale for applying them:
- 1 mile (1.6km) walk-to catchment: based on the Sport England's recommended 20 minute walk-to catchment. User data from two main municipal leisure centres in Rushmoor (Aldershot Pools Complex and Farnborough Leisure Centre) shows that nearly 20% of users walk to access the facilities.
 - 3 mile (4.8km) drive-to catchment: based on both Sport England's guidance (for facilities within a 20 minutes drive time) and on user data from two main municipal leisure centres in Rushmoor (Aldershot Pools Complex and Farnborough Leisure Centre) which shows that the vast majority of users travel to the facilities by car (79% travel by car) and that the average journey time is less than 20 minutes (94% of users travelled under 20 minutes).

Rushmoor's local profile

- 9.4 Rushmoor is a relatively small borough with a relatively small population. In general, facilities are concentrated within the town centres of Aldershot and Farnborough to meet the needs of residents. These local geographical and demographic circumstances should be taken into account when reading the following sections and interpreting the maps.

10 Swimming pools

- 10.1 The summary below provides the quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments for swimming pool provision within Rushmoor alongside the leading outcomes from the detailed consultation process. The priorities and standards to be adopted for swimming pool provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.
- 10.2 As per the methodology presented earlier, swimming pools 20m+ in length have been included within the sport and recreation facility analysis. Teaching/learner pools at sites which include a main pool 20m+ in length have also been included in the audit and analysis.

Quantitative assessment

Supply and demand analysis

- 5 sites across Rushmoor provide swimming pools which are 20m+ in length. 2 of the sites (Aldershot Pools Complex and Farnborough Leisure Centre) also offer a teaching/learner pool alongside the main pool.
- 3 of the 5 swimming pool sites fall outside of the ownership and management control of Rushmoor Borough Council (Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre, Village Leisure Club Farnborough and Virgin Active Club Farnborough).
- 3 of the sites offer access to their swimming pools on a pay and play basis, whilst 2 can be accessed by registered members only.
- The 5 swimming pool sites currently offer a total of 2,124m² of water space.
- Currently there are 22.4m² of water space in Rushmoor per 1,000 of the population. This compares to a ratio of 12.7m² per 1,000 of the population across Hampshire and 14.0m² per 1,000 of the population in the South East region.
- Data from Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) shows that there is a positive supply/demand balance within Rushmoor equivalent to 797.07m² of water space (equivalent to two 8 lane 25m pools), meaning that the supply of pools is greater than demand for use of those pools from Rushmoor's population.
- When the total level of unmet demand for use of swimming pools located in Rushmoor (from people living within and outside of Rushmoor) is calculated, the FPM shows that unmet demand is equivalent to 35.99m² of water space currently.
- The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) suggests that the supply of water space in Rushmoor is sufficient to meet the demand generated by the borough's current (2013) and future (2021) populations. This also accounts for any population growth resulting from the Aldershot Urban Extension (AUE).
- When the 50m pool at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre is removed from the calculations, the SFC finds that there remains sufficient water space in Rushmoor to meet demand generated by the borough's population both now and up to 2021. This also accounts for any population growth resulting from the AUE.
- 96.5% of demand for use of swimming pools generated by Rushmoor's 2013 population is satisfied, which is above the county (92.2%), regional (92.9%) and national (91.1%) averages.
- Swimming pools in Rushmoor are operating at 55.7% capacity in peak periods and being used less heavily than at the county (68.1%), regional (61.2%) and national (64.3%) levels. This level of used capacity is below the Sport England recommended maximum capacity in peak times (70%).

- 52% of this used capacity is retained within Rushmoor, meaning that it relates to visits to swimming pools in Rushmoor by Rushmoor residents. 48% of this used capacity is imported, meaning that it relates to visits to swimming pools in Rushmoor by people living outside of the borough. Rushmoor experiences the highest rate of imported visits to swimming pools in Hampshire.
- The Active People Survey found that in 2012/13 9.2% of Rushmoor’s population aged 16+ participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of swimming at least once a week, which is above the regional (6.8%) and national (6.7%) averages.
- The Active People Survey found that in 2012/13 8.9% of Rushmoor’s population aged 16+ would like to do more swimming than they currently do, which is below the regional (10.1%) and national (10.4%) averages.
- Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool shows that 29.2% of Rushmoor’s adult (18+) population currently participate or would like to participate in a ‘water environment’, which is below the regional average (29.4%) but above the national average (28.8%). This represents a potential adult market for swimming in Rushmoor of 19,884 people based on Market Segmentation data.

Qualitative assessment

Non-technical quality assessment

- 10.3 Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the two swimming pool sites under the control of Rushmoor Borough Council achieved a lower non-technical ‘Mean Quality Score’ than the facilities under commercial/ MOD ownership and management. These scores are summarised below and the full assessments are provided in the Appendices.

Table 10.1: Mean quality score: swimming pool sites in Rushmoor

Site	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre	4.4
Aldershot Pools Complex	2.7
Farnborough Leisure Centre	3.9
Village Leisure Club (Farnborough)	4.3
Virgin Active Club (Farnborough)	4.3

- 10.4 The quantity of swimming pool provision in Rushmoor is sufficient to satisfy demand generated by the borough’s population. However, Rushmoor experiences a high level of imported demand for swimming pool use and a large proportion of visits to pools in the borough are from people living outside of the borough. This is largely due to the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre offering one of only three 50m pools in Hampshire, which attracts visitors from the wider county and region, which in turn displaces local demand and places additional pressure on the swimming facilities in Rushmoor. Given the importance of swimming pool provision to the borough’s residents and the demand and popularity of swimming in Rushmoor, the priority for the Council should be to ensure that the swimming pool sites under its management control offer facilities of a similar quality to those under commercial and MOD operation. There is also a need to ensure that school and community pools less than 20m in length are being well used and satisfying demand for swimming.

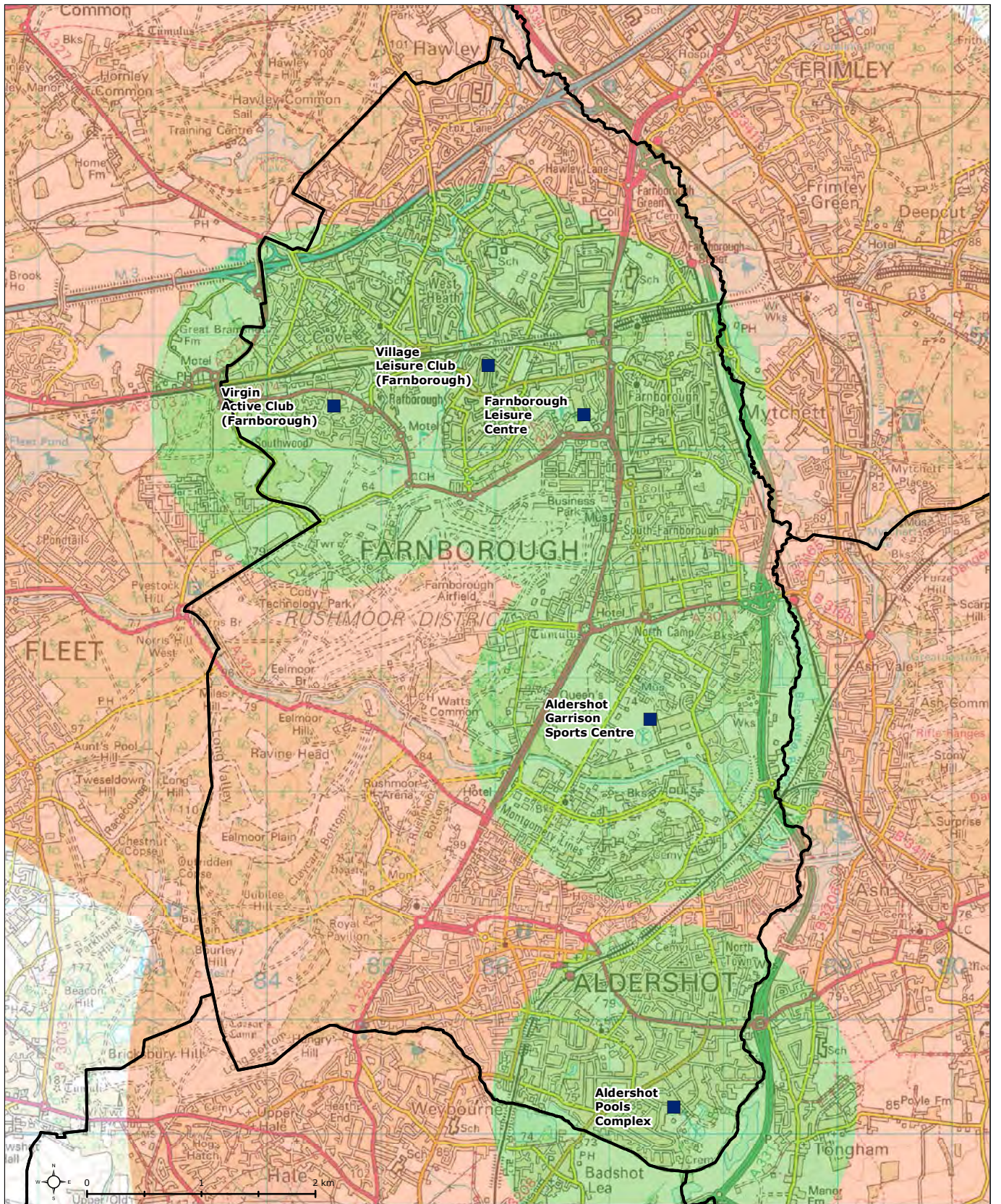
Accessibility assessment

- 10.5 **Figure 10.1** identifies 1 mile/ 20 minute walk-to catchments and 3 mile/20 minute drive-to catchments for each of the swimming pool facilities within Rushmoor. The map illustrates that almost the entire borough is located within a 3 mile catchment of a swimming pool which is at least 20m in length. The only area within Rushmoor which falls outside of a 3 mile catchment of one of Rushmoor’s 20m+ swimming pools is a small pocket in the far south west (where Rushmoor borders Hart and Waverley). The map shows that the very north of the borough, as well as areas in the south and south west, fall outside of a 20 minutes walk-to catchment of a swimming pool. Any loss of community use of the 50m pool at Aldershot Garrison Sport Centre would leave a notable gap in provision in the area between the town centres of Farnborough and Aldershot based on the 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchment. It should be noted that the west of Rushmoor is largely rural with large quantities of MOD land. As such population density and demand for use of sports facilities are significantly lower than in the east of the borough.
- 10.6 The distance threshold indicated on the map that follows covers both the walk-to catchments and also the associated drive time catchments that are set out earlier in the study report.






Table 10.2: Swimming pools in Rushmoor 20m+ in length

Map point	Facility name	Postcode	Area (m ²)	Nr. of lanes	Access type	Ownership type	Management type	Year built (Year refurbished)
1	Aldershot Garrison Sport Centre	GU11 2LQ	900	8	Pay and Play	MOD	MOD	2000 (2004)
2	Aldershot Pools Complex	GU12 4BP	300 + 144	6 + 0	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	1975
3	Farnborough Leisure Centre	GU14 7LD	396 + 94	6 + 0	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	1973 (2003)
4	Village Leisure Club (Farnborough)	GU14 7BF	200	3	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2009
5	Virgin Active Club (Farnborough)	GU14 0NA	160	1	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2001 (2007)
Total water space (m ²)			2124					

- 10.7 **Figures 10.2 and 10.3** below show the location of the swimming pool sites in Rushmoor under review in the context of provision in neighbouring boroughs and aggregated unmet demand for use of swimming pools in Rushmoor and its neighbouring boroughs. **Figure 10.2** indicates that a number of pools are located in Rushmoor’s neighbouring authorities to the north in Hart, Bracknell Forest and Surrey Heath. There is a notable lack of swimming pool provision to the immediate east of Rushmoor in Guildford. **Figure 10.3** illustrates that the highest level of unmet demand for use of swimming pools in Rushmoor is located in the east and north east of the borough. Aggregated unmet demand for pools is relatively low in Rushmoor with Bracknell Forest, Surrey Heath and Woking all experiencing higher levels.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">  District boundary  Swimming pool 		Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  1 mile (1.6km) walk-to catchment 		Figure 10.1 Swimming Pool Facilities and Accessibility Catchments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  3 mile (4.8km) drive-to catchment 		

Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Figure 10.2: Location of swimming pools (20m+) in Rushmoor and neighbouring boroughs

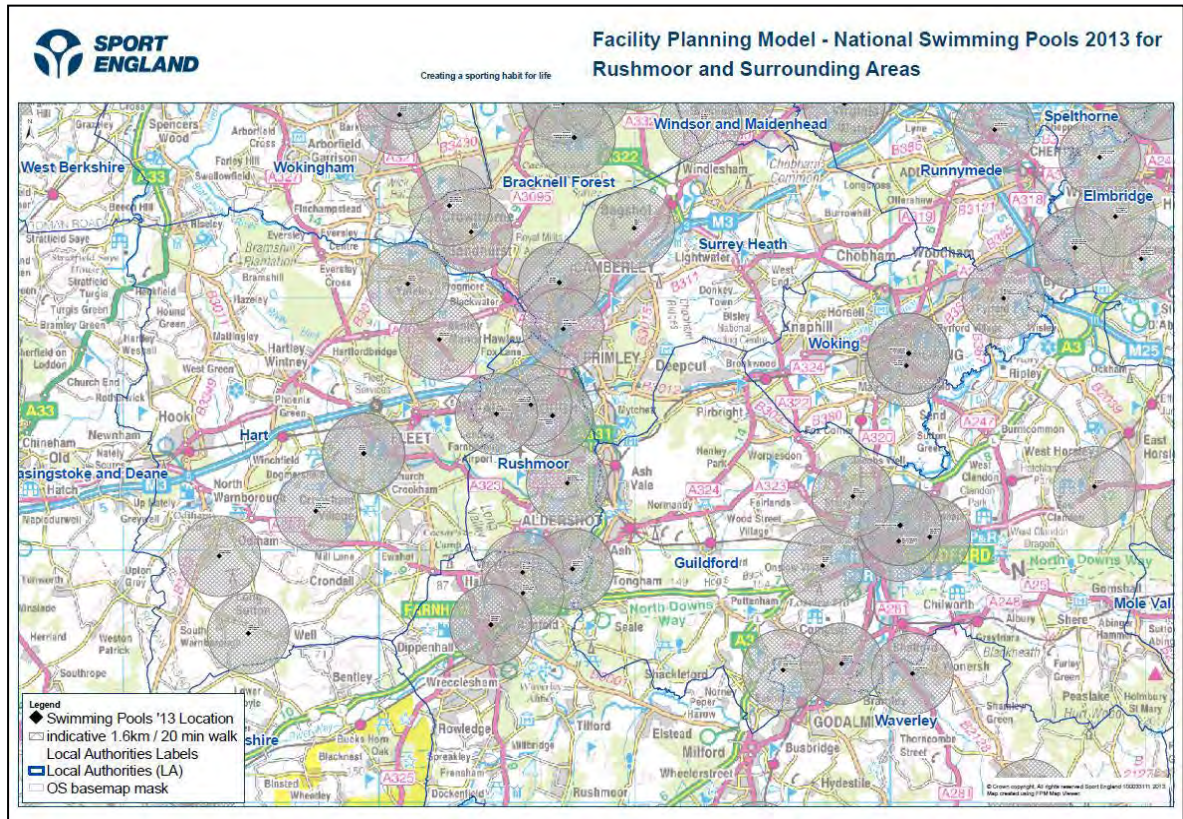
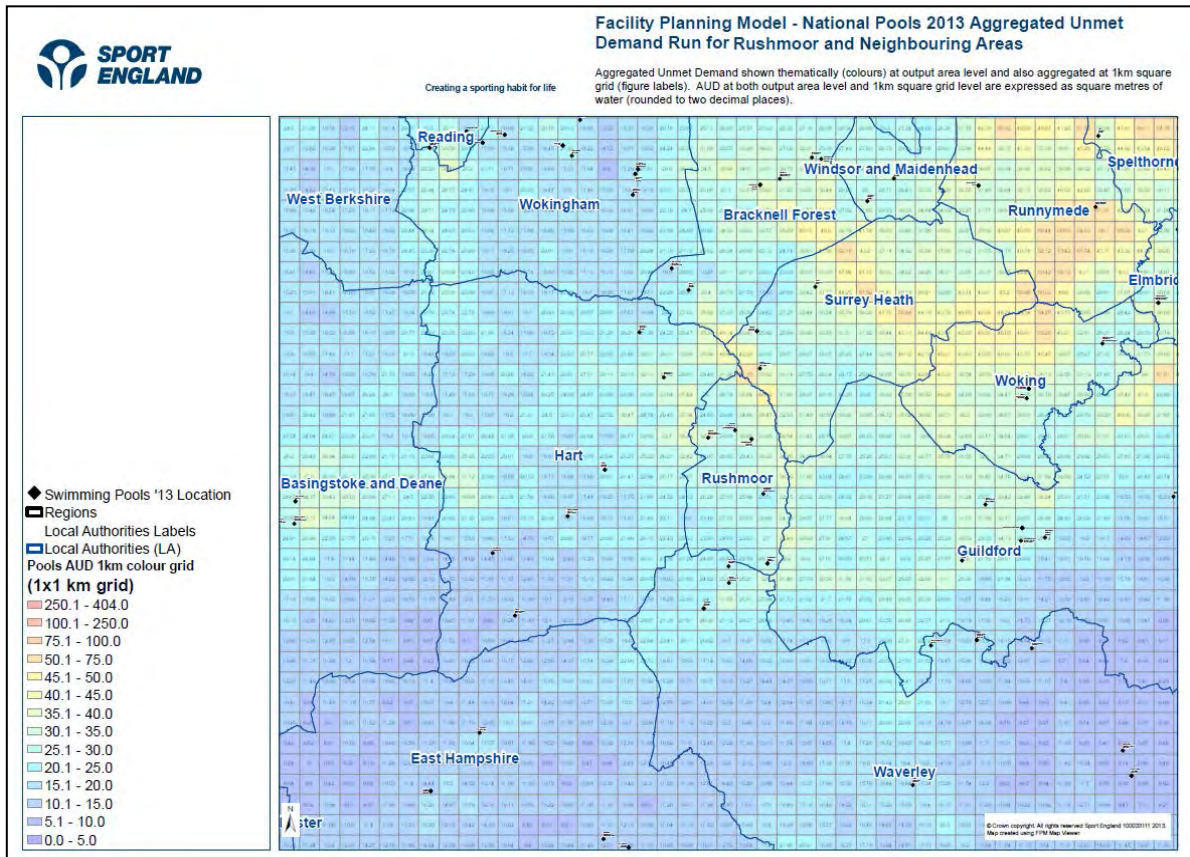


Figure 10.3: Aggregated unmet demand for swimming pools (20m+) in Rushmoor and neighbouring boroughs



Local needs and consultation

- Currently there is sufficient water space in Rushmoor and a relatively low level of unmet demand for access to swimming pools.
- Swimming clubs in Rushmoor currently experience peak hour swimming pool usage clashes and require improved access to water space or improved programming opportunities.
- Some of Rushmoor’s swimming pool facilities are considered to be out of date and in need of investment, for example Aldershot Pools Complex.
- Community access to the 50m swimming pool at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre could be enhanced to more effectively meet the needs of the community and growing demand from clubs. This will need to be undertaken via further discussions with Aspire Defence.
- Outside of the MOD facilities, Rushmoor lacks a suitable and regularly accessible competitive swimming offer to meet the needs of local clubs. Issues such as pool length, spectator seating, ancillary facilities and access hours need to be taken into account to ensure that sites are suitable to host competitions.

Priorities and standards for swimming pools

10.8 The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide as detailed previously in the methodology.

10.9 The Table below sets out the swimming pool improvements and priorities for Rushmoor.

Table 10.3: Priorities and improvements for swimming pools

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain existing level of water space (m ²) and swimming pools 20m+ in length. Of particular note is the retention of the water space associated with both Farnborough Leisure Centre and Aldershot Pools.	Make improvements to the pool hall, changing and ancillary facilities at Aldershot Pools Complex.	No additional water space required up to 2021 unless any facilities from the Council’s main stock are lost.
Maintain the positive swimming pool supply/demand balance as measured by the annual national FPM runs for swimming pools.	Improve the pool hall and ancillary facilities at Farnborough Leisure Centre.	Test the viability of replacing Aldershot Pools Complex as part of the wider plans for the lido to bring the facility up to modern standards.
Monitor the level of unmet demand for use of Rushmoor’s swimming pools (measured by the FPM) and maintain it at a reasonable level through appropriate programming at/use of existing facilities in the borough.	Enhance the quality of the swimming offer at both of Rushmoor Borough Council’s swimming pool sites to match other swimming provision in the borough. Achieve and maintain a mean quality score of at least 4 out of 5 for these sites.	
All Rushmoor residents should live within a 20 minute drive time of an indoor swimming pool (this includes swimming provision located outside of the borough).		

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<p>Maintain community and club access to the 50m swimming pool at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre.</p>	<p>Explore the feasibility of installing a moveable boom at the Farnborough Leisure Centre swimming pool to create a more flexible offer (25m pool and teaching pool).</p>	<p>Work with schools and community sites which offer swimming pools less than 20m in length and lidos to ensure that they are satisfying demand for swimming.</p>

11 Sports halls

- 11.1 The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for sports hall provision within Rushmoor alongside the leading outcomes from the detailed consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities and standards to be adopted for sports hall provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.
- 11.2 As per the methodology presented earlier, sports halls offering at least 4 badminton courts have been included within the sport and recreation facility audit and analysis.

Quantitative assessment

Supply and demand analysis

- There are 7 sites across Rushmoor which offer sports halls which are at least 4 badminton courts in size.
- The 7 sports hall sites provide a combined total of 8 sports halls or 42 badminton courts.
- The largest sports halls in Rushmoor are located at Farnborough Leisure Centre (10 courts) and Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre (8 courts). The remaining sports halls are 4 badminton courts in size.
- 2 of the 7 sports hall sites are within the ownership and management control of Rushmoor Borough Council (Connaught Leisure Centre and Farnborough Leisure Centre). There are 4 educational sites in Rushmoor which provide 4+ badminton court sports halls. The 8 court sports hall at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre falls outside of the ownership and management control of Rushmoor Borough Council.
- 5 of the sites provide access to their sports halls on a pay and play basis whilst 2 of the educational sites (Fernhill School and Language College and Farnborough Sixth Form College) offer access to sports clubs/community associations.
- Currently there are 4.2 badminton courts in Rushmoor per 10,000 of the population. This compares to a ratio of 4.3 badminton courts per 10,000 of the population across Hampshire and 4.2 badminton courts in the South East region.
- Data from Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) shows that there is a positive supply/demand balance in Rushmoor equivalent to 7.78 badminton courts, meaning that the supply of courts is greater than demand for use of those courts.
- When the total level of unmet demand for use of sports halls located in Rushmoor (from people living within and outside of Rushmoor) is calculated, the FPM shows that unmet demand is equivalent to only 1.36 badminton courts currently.
- The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) suggests that the supply of sports hall space in Rushmoor is sufficient to meet the demand generated by the borough's current (2011) and future (2021) populations. This also accounts for any population growth resulting from the Aldershot Urban Extension (AUE).
- The 8 court surplus in Rushmoor identified through the supply/demand balance calculation suggests that even if the 8 court sports hall at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre were no longer available for community use, there would be sufficient sports hall space in Rushmoor to satisfy demand for this facility type generated by the borough's population.
- 95.1% of demand for use of sports halls generated by Rushmoor's 2013 population is satisfied, a level of satisfied demand very similar to the county (95.3%) and regional (94.6%) averages.

- 69.1% of satisfied demand for use of sports halls in Rushmoor is retained within the borough (met by facilities located within Rushmoor), whilst 30.9% is exported to other local authority areas (met by facilities located outside of Rushmoor).
- The vast majority (83.5%) of satisfied demand for use of sports halls is amongst Rushmoor residents travelling by car. This is just below the county average (85%) for demand satisfied through car travel and just above the regional average (81.6%).
- 90% of visits to sports halls in Rushmoor are made by road travel and 10% by foot.
- Only 4.9% of demand for use of sports halls generated by Rushmoor's 2013 population is unmet, which is marginally above the county average but lower than the regional and national averages. The vast majority (95.7%) of this unmet demand is due to Rushmoor residents being located outside the catchment of a sports hall, with just 4.3% of unmet demand due to a lack of capacity at existing sports halls in Rushmoor.
- Sports halls in Rushmoor are operating at 67.5% capacity in peak periods, meaning they are being used more heavily than at the county (59.4%) and regional (65.4%) levels. This level of used capacity is close to the Sport England recommended maximum capacity in peak times (70%).
- 60.9% of this used capacity is retained within Rushmoor, meaning that it relates to visits to sports halls in Rushmoor by Rushmoor residents. 39.1% of this used capacity is imported, meaning that it relates to visits to sports halls in Rushmoor by people living outside of the borough. Rushmoor experiences the second highest rate of imported visits to sports halls in Hampshire behind Eastleigh.
- The Active People Survey found that in 2012/13 31.7% of Rushmoor's population aged 16+ participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of indoor sport at least once a week, which is above the regional (23.4%) and national (23.6%) averages.
- The Active People Survey found that in 2012/13 24.9% of Rushmoor's population aged 16+ would like to do more indoor sport than they currently do, which is above the regional (22.9%) and national (23.7%) averages.
- Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool shows that 33.6% of Rushmoor's adult (18+) population currently participate or would like to participate in a 'sports/leisure hall environment', which is marginally below the regional average (33.7%) but above the national average (33.1%). This represents a potential adult market for participation in a sports/leisure hall environment in Rushmoor of 25,252 people based on Market Segmentation data.

Qualitative assessment

Non-technical quality assessment

- 11.3 Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the highest scoring sports hall site is Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre, which is owned and operated by the MOD. The 2 sports hall sites under the direct control of Rushmoor Borough Council achieved a different non-technical 'Mean Quality Score', with Farnborough Leisure Centre achieving the second highest score of the 7 sites and Connaught Leisure Centre achieving the joint lowest score. These scores are summarised below and presented in more detail in the Appendices.

Table 11.1: Mean quality score: sports hall sites in Rushmoor

Site	Mean quality score (out of 5)
Aldershot Garrison Sports Complex	4.4
Connaught Leisure Centre	2.9
Farnborough Leisure Centre	4.0
Fernhill School and Language College	2.9
The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College	3.6
Farnborough Sixth Form College	3.7
Wavell Campus Leisure	3.0

- 11.4 Whilst the quantity of sports hall provision is positive for Rushmoor, given the importance of access to sports halls to the borough's residents and the demand and popularity of indoor sports in Rushmoor, the priority for the Council should be to ensure that the sports hall at Connaught Leisure Centre offers facilities of a similar quality to those under commercial and MOD operation.

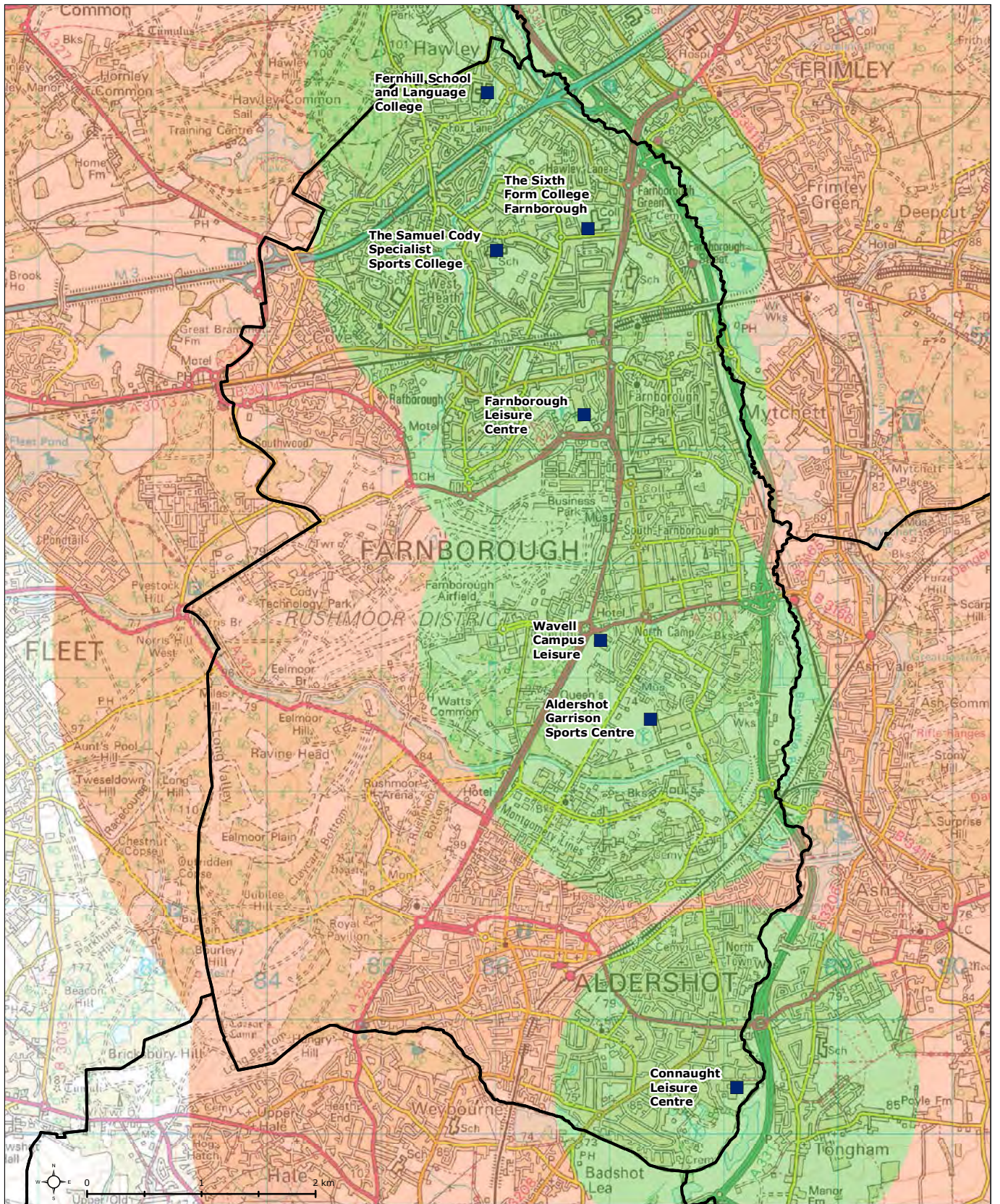
Accessibility

- 11.5 **Figure 11.1** identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments and 3 mile/20 minute drive-to catchments for each of the sports hall facilities within Rushmoor. The map illustrates that almost the entire borough is located within a 3 mile catchment of a sports hall which is at least 4 badminton courts in size. The only area within Rushmoor which falls outside of a 3 mile catchment of one of Rushmoor's 4+ court sports halls is a small pocket in the far south west (where Rushmoor borders Hart and Waverley). Sports hall provision in Rushmoor is clustered in the east of the borough with a fairly even distribution from north to south. The distribution of sports halls across the borough reflects population distribution, with the west of the borough largely rural land and areas under MOD ownership with a low population density.
- 11.6 The distance threshold indicated on the map covers both the walk to catchments and also the associated drive time catchments that are set out earlier in the study report.
- 11.7 **Table 11.2** provides further information on each of the sports hall sites audited in this study.





Table 11.2: Sports halls in Rushmoor with four or more badminton courts

Map point	Facility name	Postcode	Number of Badminton Courts	Access type	Ownership type	Management type	Year built (Year refurbished)
1	Aldershot Garrison Sport Centre	GU11 2LQ	8	Pay and Play	MOD	MOD	2000 (2006)
2	Connaught Leisure Centre	GU12 4AS	4	Pay and Play	Community school	Local Authority (in house)	1991 (2006)
3	Farnborough Leisure	GU14 7LD	10	Pay and Play	Local	Commercial Management	1973

Map point	Facility name	Postcode	Number of Badminton Courts	Access type	Ownership type	Management type	Year built (Year refurbished)
	Centre				Authority		(2010)
4	Fernhill School and Language College	GU14 9BY	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College / University (in house)	2010
5	The Samuel Cody Specialist Sport College	GU14 8SN	4	Pay and Play	Community Special School	School/College / University (in house)	1972 (2010)
6	Farnborough Sixth Form College	GU14 8JX	4 + 4 (2 sports halls)	Sports Club / Community Association	Further Education	School/College / University (in house)	2006 / 1960
7	Wavell Campus Leisure	GU14 6BH	4	Pay and Play	Community school	School/College / University (in house)	1991 (2004)
Total badminton courts			42				



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">  District boundary  Sports hall  1 mile (1.6km) walk-to catchment  3 mile (4.8km) drive-to catchment 	<p>Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</p> <p>Figure 11.1</p> <p>Sports Hall Facilities and Accessibility Catchments</p> <p>LUC</p>
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Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

11.8 **Figures 11.2 and 11.3** below show the location of the sports hall sites in Rushmoor under review in the context of provision in neighbouring boroughs and aggregated unmet demand for use of sports halls in Rushmoor and its neighbouring boroughs.

Figure 11.2: Location of sport halls (4 + courts) in Rushmoor and neighbouring boroughs

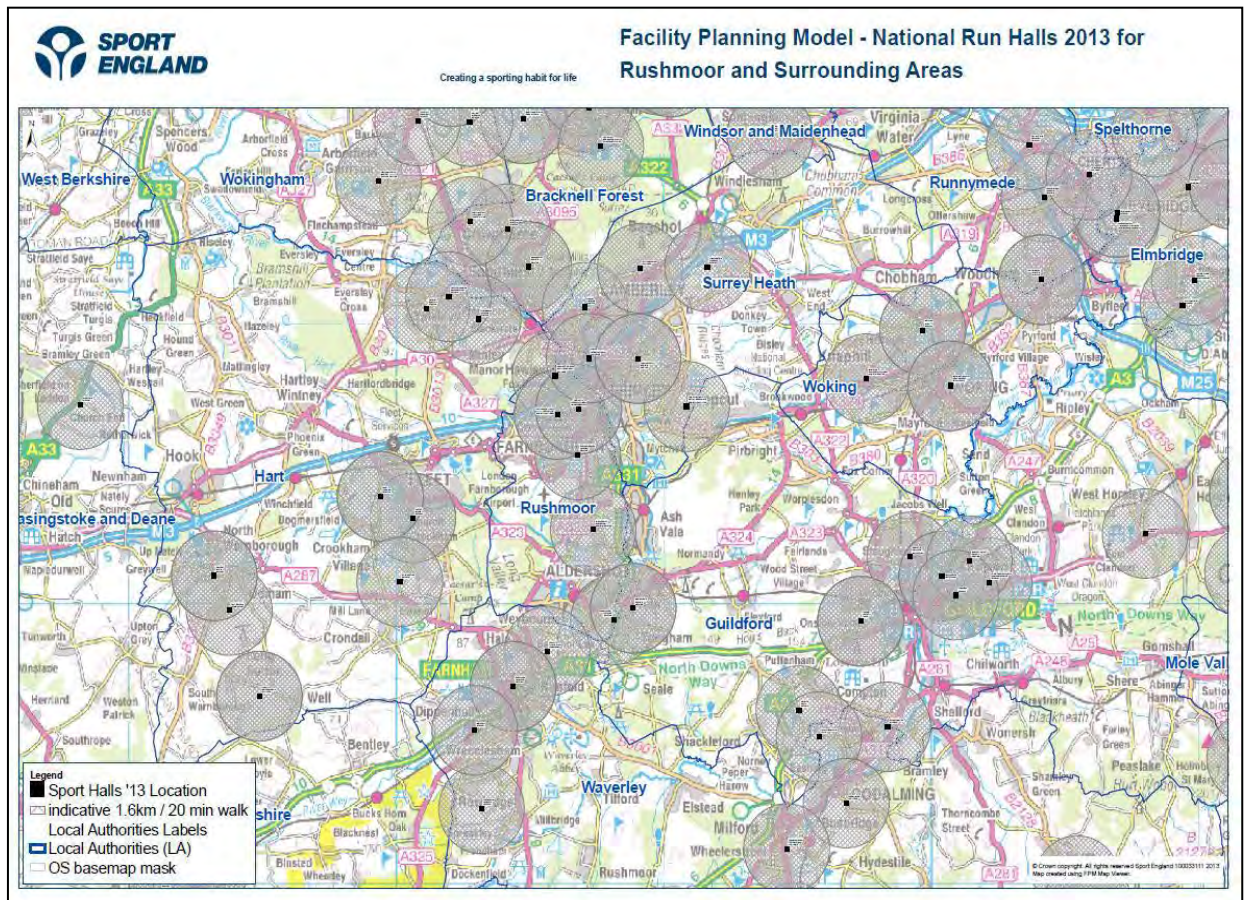
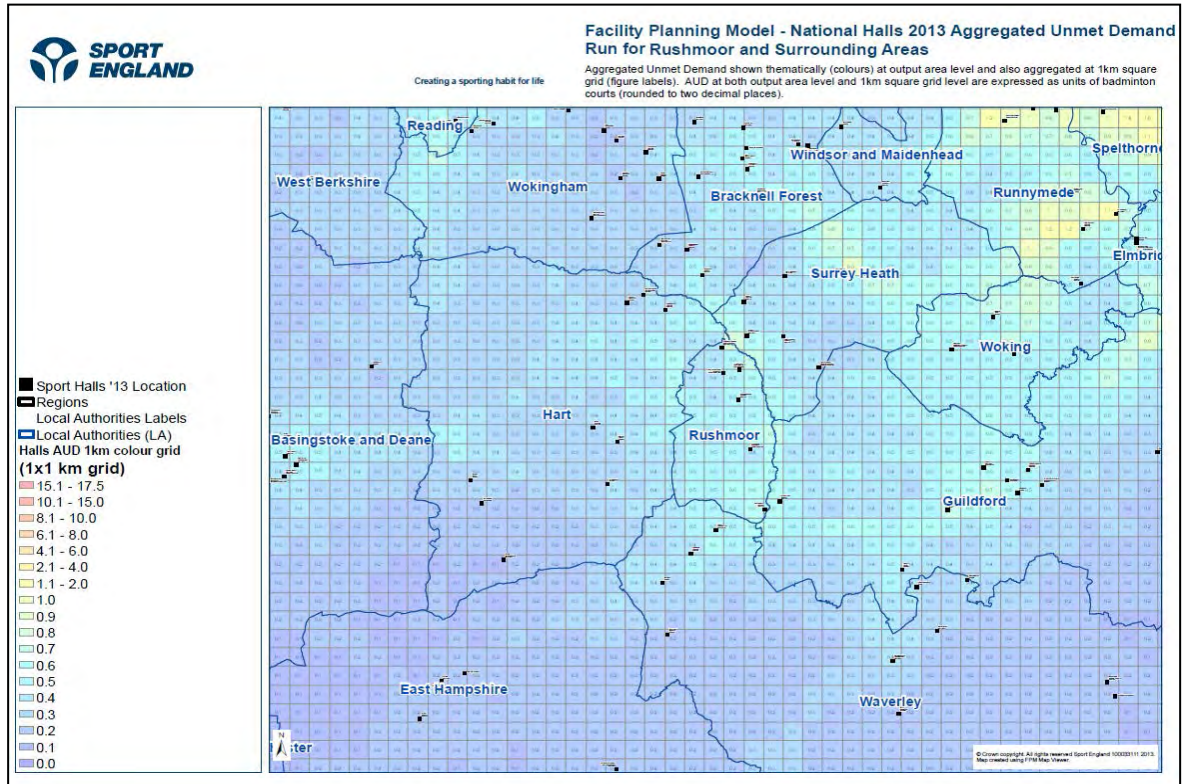


Figure 11.3: Aggregated unmet demand of sport halls in Rushmoor and neighbouring boroughs



11.9 **Figure 11.2** indicates that a number of halls are located in Rushmoor's neighbouring authorities to the north in Hart, Bracknell Forest and Surrey Heath, to the west in Hart and to the south in Waverley. There is a notable lack of sports hall provision to the immediate east of Rushmoor in Guildford. **Figure 11.3** illustrates that the unmet demand for use of sports halls in Rushmoor is evenly spread across the borough. Whilst unmet demand for sports halls is low in Rushmoor, its neighbouring boroughs all contain areas where aggregate unmet demand is lower than in Rushmoor. This reflects the high level of demand for use of sports halls in Rushmoor and the relatively high levels of used capacity at sports hall sites across the borough.

Local needs and consultation

- Increased access to indoor space for sport in Rushmoor is a key priority for a number of NGBs.
- Badminton England considers facility provision for badminton to be generally good in Rushmoor and the sport to be reasonably well developed. However, there is currently no active Community Badminton Network in Rushmoor which feeds into a Performance Centre.
- The 8 court sports hall at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre is a key venue for the development and growth of badminton within the borough. It is on England Badminton's priority list of venues where the NGB would like to see more badminton activity taking place.
- Badminton clubs reported a lack of access to suitable, affordable sports halls for training and league fixtures. Clubs consider the existing facilities to be of varying quality and identified a need for either improved access at peak hours or increasing the quantity of suitable venues.
- Rushmoor is a hotbed for netball with a number of clubs based in the borough. Rushmoor Netball Club is a large and active club with junior and senior teams. The Wavell League is popular and provides opportunities for a number of adult teams.
- England Netball considers facility provision for netball to be relatively good in Rushmoor. Key facilities include Wavell School, which offers eight outdoor netball courts, and the sports halls

at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre and Farnborough Leisure Centre, which both provide a double sports hall.

- Growing the Back to Netball programme is a priority for England Netball. Ideally these sessions would take place indoors during winter. Rushmoor experiences a high level of demand for use of indoor sports hall space and additional capacity is required to meet the needs of netball clubs and teams.
- A number of netball clubs reported difficulties in accessing suitable, affordable indoor facilities for training and competitions, particularly at peak times. Whilst the existing indoor facility provision for netball is considered to be of a reasonably good quality, clubs stated that there are insufficient affordable indoor courts to meet demand. An indoor three court netball venue with viewing gallery would meet competition standards.
- There is limited demand in Rushmoor for use of indoor space for football. The FA would like to see a Futsal centre developed in the borough but is more interested in ensuring appropriate outdoor provision.
- New AGP facilities such as those at Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College and Cove FC, as well as the new pitch being developed at Connaught Leisure Centre, are freeing up indoor space for other sports and activities.
- Volleyball clubs reported difficulties in accessing suitable, affordable indoor facilities for training and competitions, particularly at peak times. Ensuring that venues have appropriate, good quality equipment for volleyball (floor fixings, posts, nets etc.) is a priority for clubs.

Priorities and standards for sports halls

11.10 The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide as detailed previously in the methodology.

11.11 The Table below sets out the sports hall improvements and priorities for Rushmoor.

Table 11.3: Sports halls in Rushmoor with four or more badminton courts

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Maintain the current level of sports hall provision across Rushmoor and the positive supply / demand balance for indoor space.	Enhance the changing, ancillary and sports hall facilities at Connaught Leisure Centre to improve the community sports offer at the site.	Work with schools and Hampshire County Council to provide better access at current school sites which are not available for community use to address current gaps in demand for indoor sports hall space and the growing needs of indoor sports which are a priority in Rushmoor (such as badminton and netball).
Monitor the level of unmet demand for use of Rushmoor’s sports halls (measured by the FPM) and maintain it at a reasonable level through appropriate programming at/use of existing facilities in the borough.	Work with the school and Hampshire County Council to enhance the sports hall and ancillary facilities at Fernhill School and Language College to improve the community sports offer at the site.	
Maintain the current situation in which Rushmoor residents live within a 20 minute drive time of a publicly accessible sports hall (this includes sports hall provision located outside of the borough).	Enhance the quality of the sports hall offer at Council and school managed sites to match other sports hall provision in the borough. Achieve and maintain a mean quality score of at least 4 out of 5 for these sites.	Support Salesian School in its plans to develop a new sports hall and provide technical guidance on making any new facility fully accessible to the community.

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<p>Maintain the current situation in which the majority of Aldershot and Farnborough residents live within a 20 minute walk of a publicly accessible sports hall.</p>	<p>The development of outdoor artificial grass pitches is linked to the opening up of programming time for indoor sports hall space and the better placement of indoor sports clubs such as netball, volleyball and badminton.</p>	<p>Support The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College and Fernhill School and Language College in its plans for refurbishment to enable greater community access and usage for indoor sport.</p>

12 Health and fitness sites

- 12.1 The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for health and fitness provision within Rushmoor alongside the leading outcomes from the detailed consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities and standards to be adopted for health and fitness provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.
- 12.2 As per the methodology presented earlier, health and fitness suites offering more than 20 stations have been included within the sport and recreation facility audit and analysis.

Quantitative assessment

Supply and demand analysis

- There are 10 sites across Rushmoor which offer health and fitness suites with more than 20 stations. It should be noted that Spirit Health Club (Farnborough) and The Gym (Farnborough) were not assessed as part of the site audit because they were not listed on the Active Places Power database at this time.
- The 10 health and fitness suites provide a combined total of 810 stations.
- The largest health and fitness suites in Rushmoor in terms of the number of stations provided are Virgin Active Farnborough (174 stations), The Gym Group Farnborough (170 stations) and Farnborough Leisure Centre (120 stations).
- 3 of the 10 health and fitness sites are within the ownership and management control of Rushmoor Borough Council (Aldershot Pools Complex, Connaught Leisure Centre and Farnborough Leisure Centre). 6 of the sites are commercially owned and managed whilst Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre is an MOD facility.
- 5 of the sites provide access to their health and fitness suites on a pay and play basis whilst 5 of the private sites offer access to registered members only.
- Currently there are 8.56 health and fitness stations in Rushmoor per 1,000 of the population. This compares to a ratio of 4.66 stations per 10,000 of the population in Hampshire and 5.03 stations per 1,000 of the population in the South East region.
- Analysis using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for health and fitness suites.
- The Active People Survey found that in 2012/13 22.9% of Rushmoor's population aged 16+ participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of keep fit and gym activities at least once a week, which is above the regional (15.0%) and national (15.1%) averages.
- The Active People Survey found that in 2012/13 7.5% of Rushmoor's population aged 16+ would like to do more indoor sport than they currently do, which is below the regional (8.8%) and national (9.0%) averages.
- Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool shows that 23.7% of Rushmoor's adult (18+) population currently participate or would like to participate in keep fit and gym activities, which is marginally below the regional average (23.8%) and just above the national average (23.3%). This represents a potential adult market for keep fit and gym activities in Rushmoor of 17,775 people based on Market Segmentation data.

Qualitative assessment

Non-technical quality assessment

- 12.3 Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the highest scoring health and fitness sites are Village Leisure Club (Farnborough) and Virgin Active Club (Farnborough), both of which are private facilities accessible to registered members only. The 3 health and fitness suites sports under the direct control of Rushmoor Borough Council achieved varying non-technical 'Mean Quality Score', with Farnborough Leisure Centre achieving the fourth highest score of the 9 sites assessed and Connaught Leisure Centre achieving the joint lowest score. These scores are summarised below and the full assessments are provided in the Appendices.

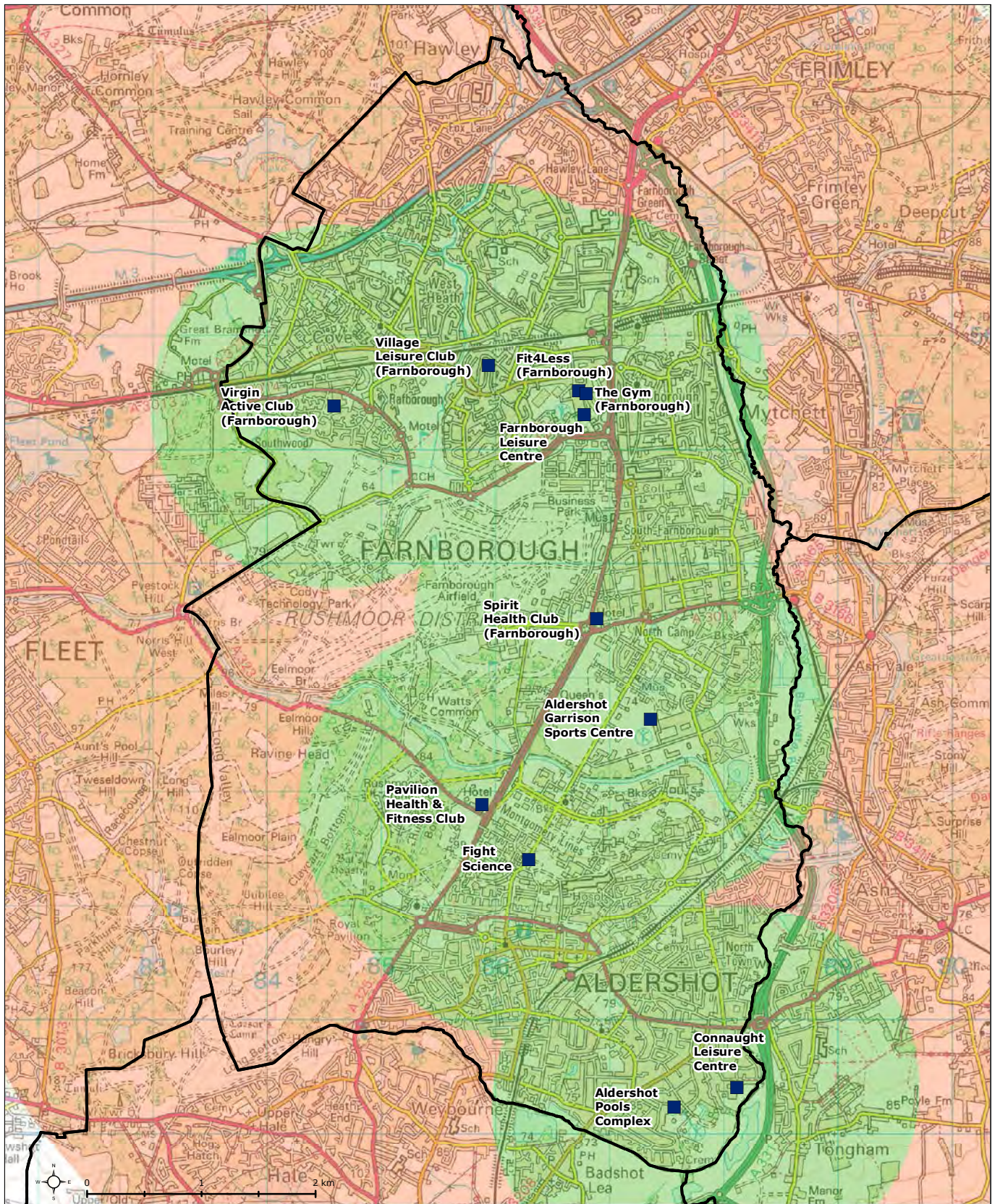
Table 12.1: Mean quality score: health and fitness in Rushmoor

Site	Mean quality score (out of 5)
Aldershot Garrison Sports Complex	4.4
Aldershot Pools Complex	3.0
Connaught Leisure Centre	2.7
Farnborough Leisure Centre	4.1
Fight Science	2.9
Pavilion Health & Fitness Club	2.7
Village Leisure Club (Farnborough)	4.6
Virgin Active Club (Farnborough)	4.6

- 12.4 The supply of health and fitness suites offering over 20 stations is very positive for Rushmoor, at almost double the county supply per 1,000 of the population. However, a number of health and fitness are commercial facilities accessible by registered members only. The priority for Rushmoor Borough Council is to ensure that the pay and play health and fitness facilities under its control (Aldershot Pools Complex, Connaught Leisure Centre and Farnborough Leisure Centre) provide a high quality participation experience at an affordable rate. In particular, there is a need to improve the health and fitness offer and ancillary facilities at Aldershot Pools Complex and Connaught Leisure Centre to make them more attractive to current and potential future users.

Accessibility assessment

- 12.5 **Figure 12.1** identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments and 3 mile/20 minute drive-to catchments for each of the health and fitness facilities within Rushmoor. The map illustrates that the entire borough is located within a 3 mile catchment of a health and fitness facility offering more than 20 stations. When the 1 mile catchments are considered it becomes clear that health and fitness provision is clustered in the east of the borough and is fairly evenly distributed between north (Farnborough) and south (Aldershot). It should be noted that the west of Rushmoor is largely rural with large quantities of MOD land. As such population density and demand for use of sports facilities are significantly lower than in the west of the borough.
- 12.6 The distance threshold indicated on the map covers both the walk to catchments and also the associated drive time catchments that are set out earlier in the study report.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">  District boundary  Health and fitness suite  1 mile (1.6km) walk-to catchment  3 mile (4.8km) drive-to catchment 	<p>Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</p>
<p>Figure 12.1 Health and Fitness Facilities and Accessibility Catchments</p>	
	<p>Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000</p>

Table 12.2: Health and fitness sites in Rushmoor with more than 20 stations

Map Point	Facility name	Postcode	Nr. of stations	Access type	Ownership type	Management type	Year built (Year refurbished)
1	Aldershot Garrison Sport Centre	GU11 2LQ	70	Pay and Play	MOD	MOD	2000 (2004)
2	Aldershot Pools Complex	GU12 4BP	50	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	1995 (2010)
3	Connaught Leisure Centre	GU12 4AS	30	Pay and Play	Community school	Local Authority (in house)	1991 (2005)
4	Farnborough Leisure Centre	GU14 7LD	120	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	2003 (2009)
5	Fight Science	GU11 2BY	50	Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial Management	2012
6	Pavilion Health & Fitness Club	GU11 2ET	32	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1993
7	Spirit Health Club (Farnborough)	GU14 6AZ	23	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1987 (2012)
8	The Gym (Farnborough)	GU14 7RT	170	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2012
9	Village Leisure Club (Farnborough)	GU14 7BF	91	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2009
10	Virgin Active Club (Farnborough)	GU14 0NA	174	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2001 (2007)
Total stations			810				

Local needs and consultation

- Consultation revealed a positive supply of health and fitness facilities in Rushmoor, with 585 stations provided by the commercial sector alone.
- The health and fitness market in Rushmoor is characterised by high levels of competition.
- The health and fitness suites under the control of Rushmoor Borough Council face stiff competition from the commercial sector in terms of both pricing and the quality of offer.
- Whilst there are sufficient health and fitness facilities in Rushmoor to satisfy demand for this facility type, it is important that Rushmoor Borough Council continues to offer high quality, affordable facilities which are accessible on a pay and play basis.

Priorities and standards for health and fitness facilities

- 12.7 The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide as detailed previously in the methodology.
- 12.8 The Table below sets out the health and fitness site improvements and priorities for Rushmoor.

Table 12.3: Priorities and improvements for health and fitness sites

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Maintain the existing level of health and fitness station supply at Aldershot Pools Complex, Connaught Leisure Centre and Farnborough Leisure Centre and ensure affordable community access to these facilities.	Enhance the health and fitness offer at Aldershot Pools Complex and Connaught Leisure Centre to improve the participant experience and compete with commercial competitors.	No additional health and fitness stations required unless any facilities from the Council’s main stock are lost.
The Council has limited influence over commercial health and fitness provision but should encourage health related businesses via planning policy.	Enhance the quality of the health and fitness offer at Rushmoor Borough Council’s sites. Achieve and maintain a mean quality score of at least 4 out of 5 for these sites.	The Council has no control over supply side factors within the health and fitness market.
	Make improvements to the health and fitness suite and changing facilities at Connaught Leisure Centre. This includes extending the current gym area.	

13 Indoor bowls facilities

- 13.1 The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for indoor bowls provision within Rushmoor alongside the leading outcomes from the detailed consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities and standards to be adopted for indoor bowls provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.
- 13.2 As per the methodology presented earlier, all indoor bowls facilities listed on Sport England's Active Places Power database have been included within the sport and recreation facility audit and analysis.

Quantitative assessment

Supply and demand analysis

- There is 1 site across Rushmoor which provides indoor bowls facilities. Farnborough Leisure Centre provides a 6 rink indoor bowls facility.
- The indoor bowls facilities at Farnborough Leisure Centre are accessible on a pay and play basis.
- The indoor bowls facilities at Farnborough Leisure Centre are within the ownership and management control of Rushmoor Borough Council. DC Leisure operates the facilities on behalf of the Council.
- Currently there are 0.63 indoor bowls rinks in Rushmoor per 10,000 of the population. This compares to a ratio of 0.45 rinks per 10,000 of the population in Hampshire and 0.44 rinks per 10,000 of the population in the South East region.
- The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) suggests that the current supply of 6 indoor bowls rinks in Rushmoor is sufficient to meet the demand generated by the borough's current and future populations, accounting for any population growth resulting from the AUE.
- Taking into account the AUE, the SFC suggests a need for 5.76 rinks in 2013 and 5.88 rinks in 2021.
- The Active People Survey found that in 2012/13 0.54% of Hampshire's population aged 16+ participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of bowls at least once a week, which is below the regional (0.69%) and national (0.62%) averages.
- The Active People Survey found that in 2012/13 0.72% of Hampshire's population aged 16+ participated in some bowls, which is below the regional (0.83%) and national (0.75%) averages.
- Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool shows that 0.94% of Rushmoor's adult (18+) population currently participate or would like to participate in bowls, which is below the regional (1.2%) and national (1.1%) averages. This represents a potential adult market for bowls in Rushmoor of 709 people based on Market Segmentation data.

Qualitative assessment

Non-technical quality assessment

- 13.3 Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the indoor bowls facilities at Farnborough Leisure Centre achieved a 'Mean Quality Score' of 4.3. This score is summarised below and presented in more detail in the Appendices.

Table 13.1: Mean quality score: Indoor bowls facilities in Rushmoor

Site	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Farnborough Leisure Centre	4.3

13.4 Both the quantity and quality of indoor bowls provision in Rushmoor appear to be satisfying local need and demand. Facility users are satisfied with the quality of the rinks and ancillary facilities whilst the supply of indoor bowls rinks per 10,000 of the population is greater than at the county and regional levels. Moreover, the SFC suggests that the current supply of indoor bowls facilities in Rushmoor is sufficient to meet existing and future needs. The priority for Rushmoor Borough Council is to ensure that the indoor bowls provision at Farnborough Leisure Centre is retained in order to offer participation opportunities in the winter. It is also important that the facilities are well maintained and continue to offer a high quality experience to users.

Accessibility assessment

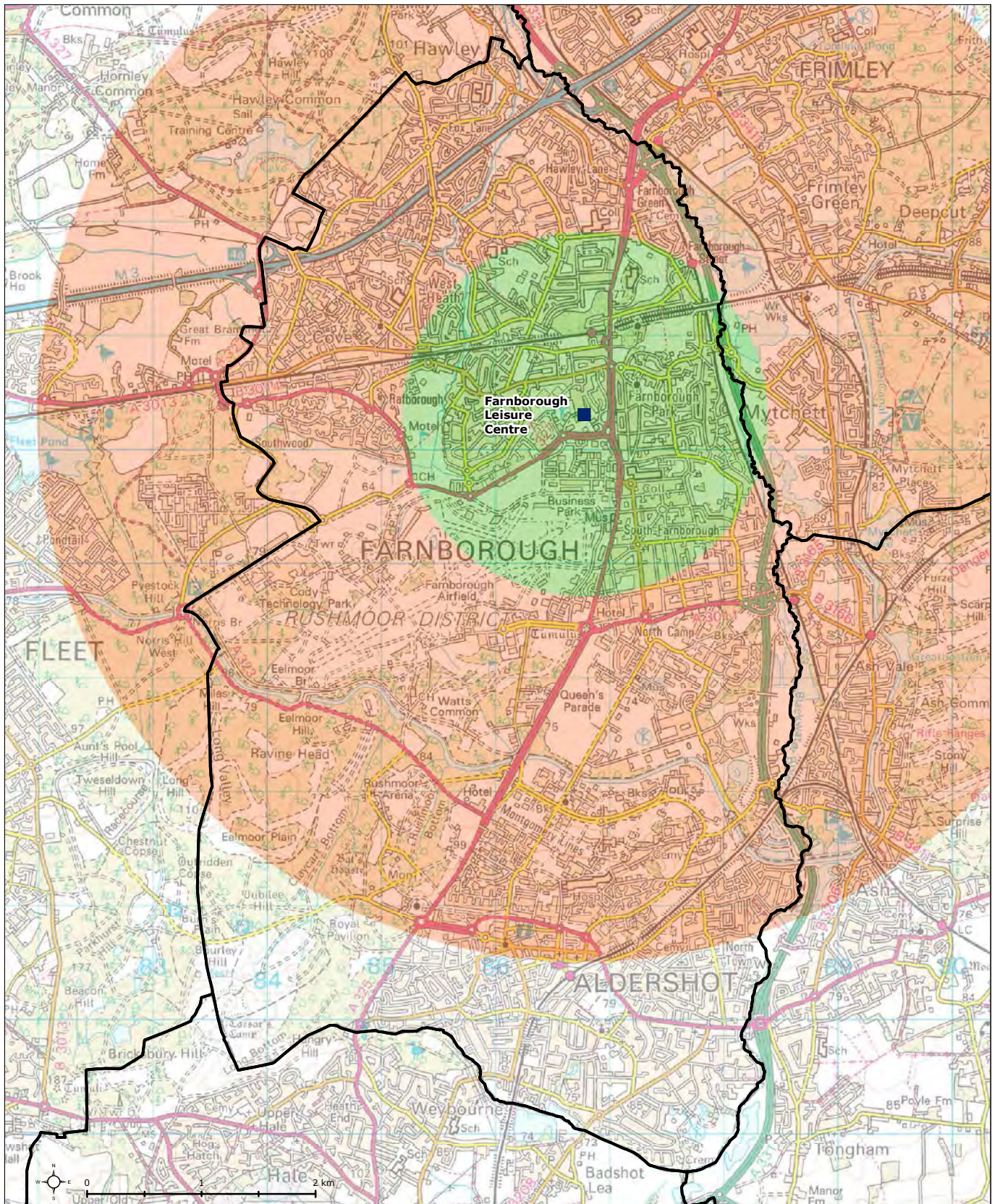
13.5 **Figure 13.1** identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments and 3 mile/20 minute drive-to catchments for the single indoor bowls site within Rushmoor. The map illustrates that much of the borough is located within a 3 mile catchment of an indoor bowls facility. The south east and south west of the borough falls outside of the 3 mile catchment of the indoor bowls facility at Farnborough Leisure Centre. It should be noted that there is no indoor bowls facility in Aldershot and parts of the town fall outside of the 3 mile catchment of an indoor rink. When the 1 mile catchment is considered it becomes clear that large areas of the borough fall outside of a 20 minute walk-to catchment of an indoor bowls facility. However, it should be noted that as a specialist indoor facility for a sport with limited demand in Rushmoor the larger catchment is considered more appropriate. It should also be noted that the west of Rushmoor is largely rural with large quantities of MOD land. As such population density and demand for use of sports facilities are significantly lower than in the west of the borough.

13.6 The distance threshold indicated on the map covers both the walk to catchments and also the associated drive time catchments that are set out earlier in the study report.





13.7 **Table 13.2** provides further information on the indoor bowls sites audited in this study.

Table 13.2: Indoor bowls facilities in Rushmoor (Active Places Power)

Map point	Facility name	Postcode	Number of rinks	Access type	Ownership type	Management type	Year built (Year refurbished)
1	Farnborough Leisure Centre	GU14 7LD	6	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	1973 (2004)
TOTAL BOWLS RINKS			6				



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-  District boundary
-  Indoor bowls
-  1 mile (1.6km) walk-to catchment
-  3 mile (4.8km) drive-to catchment

Rushmoor Open Space,
Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 13.1
Indoor Bowls
Facilities and
Accessibility
Catchments



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Local needs and consultation

- The indoor bowls facilities at Farnborough Leisure Centre are generally considered to be good quality but are not used during the summer months.
- Rushmoor Indoor Bowling Club, which is based at Farnborough Leisure Centre, considers the facilities to be of average quality.
- There are a number of outdoor bowling greens which are used by clubs outside of the winter months.
- Some outdoor bowls club members use the indoor bowls facilities at Farnborough Leisure Centre during winter (some are also members of Rushmoor Indoor Bowling Club).
- There is a custom built indoor bowls centre at Camberley which attracts some of the members of outdoor bowls clubs in Rushmoor during winter.

Priorities and standards for indoor bowls facilities

- 13.8 The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide as detailed previously in the methodology.
- 13.9 The Table below sets out the indoor bowls improvements and priorities for Rushmoor.

Table 13.3: Priorities and improvements for health and fitness sites

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the 6 rink indoor bowls facility at Farnborough Leisure Centre.	Make improvements to the indoor bowls facilities at Farnborough Leisure Centre when required to ensure that they continue to meet local needs and retain the high quality score for this facility.	No additional indoor bowls rinks required in Rushmoor unless the current supply is reduced.

14 Squash courts

- 14.1 The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for squash court provision within Rushmoor alongside the leading outcomes from the detailed consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities and standards to be adopted for squash court provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.
- 14.2 As per the methodology presented earlier, all squash courts listed on Sport England's Active Places Power database have been included within the sport and recreation facility audit and analysis.

Quantitative assessment

Supply and demand analysis

- There are two sites across Rushmoor which offer squash courts.
- The two squash court sites provide a combined total of 10 squash courts.
- Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre offers the most squash courts (six courts). Farnborough Leisure Centre provides four squash courts.
- The squash courts at both sites are accessible on a pay and play basis.
- The squash courts at Farnborough Leisure Centre are within the ownership and management control of Rushmoor Borough Council whilst the 6 courts at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre are under MOD ownership and management.
- Currently there are 1.06 squash courts in Rushmoor per 10,000 of the population. This compares to a ratio of 1.09 courts per 10,000 of the population in Hampshire and in the South East region.
- Analysis using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for squash courts.
- Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool shows that 2.0% of Rushmoor's adult (18+) population currently participate or would like to participate in squash and racketball, which is marginally above the regional (1.9%) but above the national (1.8%) averages. This represents a potential adult market for squash and racketball in Rushmoor of 1,490 people based on Market Segmentation data.

Qualitative assessment

Non-technical quality assessment

- 14.3 Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the highest scoring squash court site is Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre, which achieves a score of 4.4 and is owned and operated by the MOD. The squash courts under the direct control of Rushmoor Borough Council at Farnborough Leisure Centre achieved a non-technical 'Mean Quality Score', of 3.9. These scores are summarised below and the full assessments are provided in the Appendices.

Table 14.1: Mean quality score: squash courts in Rushmoor

Site	Mean quality score (out of 5)
Aldershot Garrison Sports Complex	4.4

Site	Mean quality score (out of 5)
Farnborough Leisure Centre	3.9

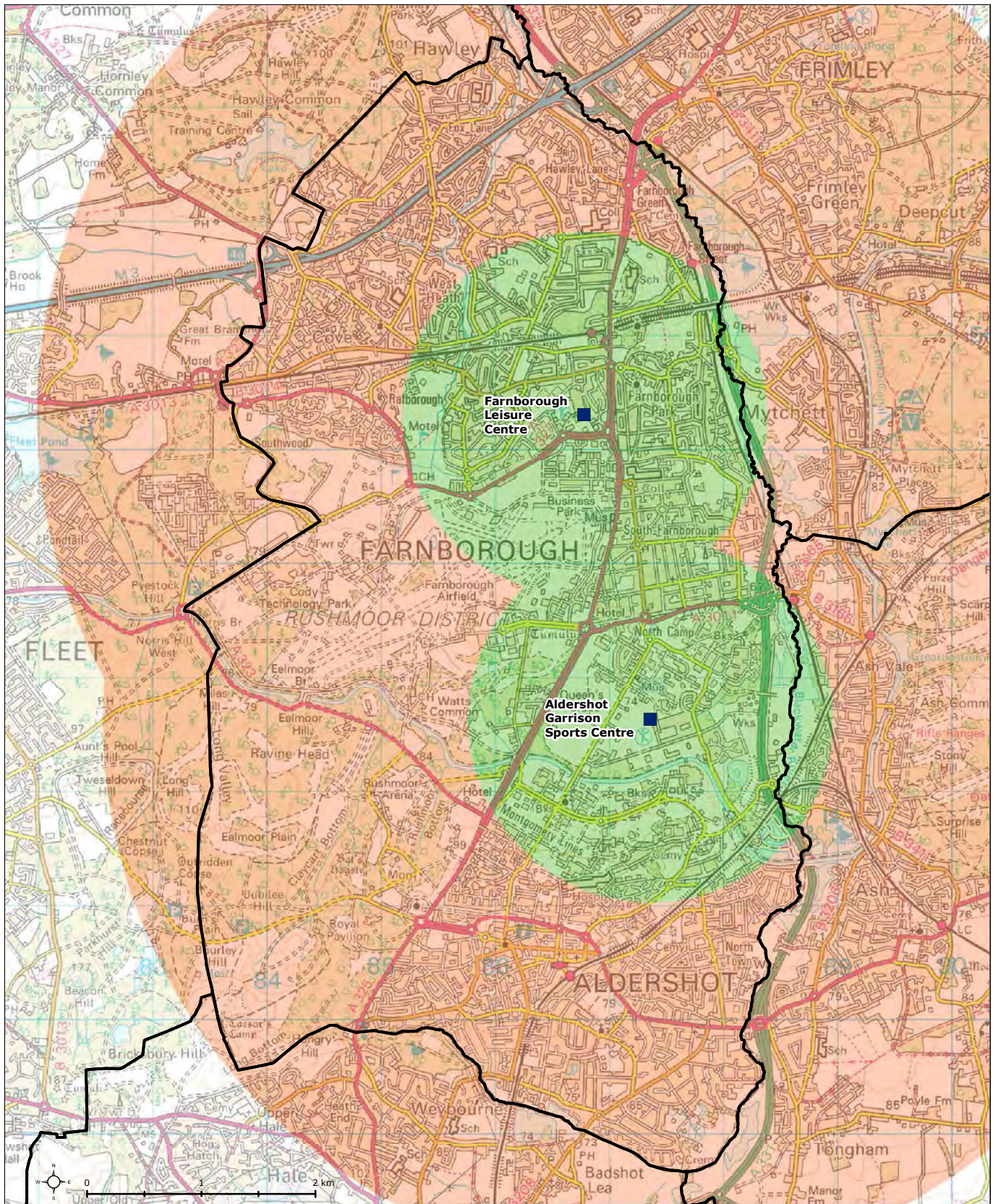
- 14.4 Both the quantity and quality of squash facilities in Rushmoor appear to be satisfying local need and demand. The supply of squash courts per 10,000 of the population in Rushmoor is very similar to the county and regional averages and consultation did not reveal unmet demand for use of squash courts. The courts at Farnborough Leisure Centre are considered to be of reasonable quality and Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre offers high quality glass back courts. The priority for Rushmoor Borough Council should be to ensure that pay and play squash provision is retained at Farnborough Leisure Centre, with the courts being upgraded when required. It is also important to work with Aspire Defence to safeguard continued community access to the courts at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre. Any loss of squash court provision and community access to courts in Rushmoor could take the borough below the appropriate level of supply for a population of this size.

Accessibility assessment





- 14.5 The map below identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments and 3 mile/20 minute drive-to catchments for each of the squash court sites within Rushmoor. The map illustrates that almost the entire borough is located within a 3 mile catchment of a squash court. The only area within Rushmoor which falls outside of a 3 mile catchment of one of Rushmoor's squash court sites is a small pocket in the far south west (where Rushmoor borders Hart and Waverley). When the 1 mile catchments are considered there are apparent gaps in squash court provision in the north, south and west of the borough, with provision clustered in the east and central areas. Aldershot lacks publicly accessible squash court provision because Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre is located outside of a 20 minute walk-to catchment of the town centre. It should be noted that the west of Rushmoor is largely rural with large quantities of MOD land. As such population density and demand for use of sports facilities are significantly lower than in the west of the borough.
- 14.6 The distance threshold indicated on the map covers both the walk to catchments and also the associated drive time catchments that are set out earlier in the study report.

Table 14.2: Squash Courts in Rushmoor (Active Places Power)

Map point	Facility name	Postcode	Number of courts	Access type	Ownership type	Management type	Year built (Year refurbished)
	Aldershot Garrison Sport Centre	GU11 2LQ	6	Pay and Play	MOD	MOD	2000 (2004)
	Farnborough Leisure Centre	GU14 7LD	4	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	1973
Total squash courts			10				



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">  District boundary  Squash court  1 mile (1.6km) walk-to catchment  3 mile (4.8km) drive-to catchment 	<p>Rushmoor Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study</p>
<p>Figure 14.1 Squash Court Facilities and Accessibility Catchments</p>	
<p>LUC</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000</p>	

Local needs and consultation

- Consultation with England Squash and Racketball revealed no evident facility needs in Rushmoor.
- Consultation revealed no issues over the quality of the squash courts in Rushmoor.
- The NGB considers the two squash and racketball facilities in Rushmoor to be of a high quality. Both sites meet the NGBs minimum court requirement expected for high quality squash and racketball development (three courts). As such both sites are strategically important and the NGB would oppose the loss of provision at either site.
- The facilities in Rushmoor are particularly valuable to England Squash and Racketball because they each offer more than three courts: a six court glass backed facility at Aldershot Garrison and a four court facility at Farnborough Leisure Centre, operated by DC Leisure.
- The squash courts at Aldershot Garrison Sport Centre are more heavily used than the courts at Farnborough Leisure Centre. The site visit revealed that one of the squash courts at Farnborough Leisure Centre is being used for table tennis.
- When new facilities are being developed or improved in Rushmoor provision of squash courts should be considered particularly as it is possible to develop facilities with moveable walls, allowing them to be used for squash as well as for other fitness activities

Priorities and standards for squash courts

- 14.7 The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide as detailed previously in the methodology.
- 14.8 The Table below sets out the squash court improvements and priorities for Rushmoor.

Table 14.3: Priorities and improvements for squash courts

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain existing supply of squash courts in Rushmoor.	Consider making improvements to the squash courts at Farnborough Leisure Centre to make them more attractive to clubs and community users.	No additional squash courts required in Rushmoor unless the current supply is reduced.
Maintain community and club access to the six squash courts at Aldershot Garrison Sports Complex, which are strategically important to the NGB.		

15 Specialist sport facilities

- 15.1 This section covers specialist sports facilities in Rushmoor which play a key role within the community sports offer across the borough. It covers dedicated martial arts facilities and dedicated gymnastics facilities as these are the specialist sites located in Rushmoor.

Martial arts facilities

- 15.2 The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for dedicated martial arts provision within Rushmoor alongside the leading outcomes from the detailed consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities and standards to be adopted for dedicated martial arts provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.
- 15.3 As per the methodology presented earlier, dedicated martial arts facilities identified through consultation with relevant NGBs and Rushmoor Borough Council have been included within the sport and recreation facility audit and analysis.

Quantitative assessment

Supply and demand analysis

- There is 1 dedicated martial arts/combat sports facility in Rushmoor, Fight Science. Fight Science also provides a 50 station health and fitness suite which has been included within the health and fitness facility assessment.
- Fight Science is a privately owned and managed facility which is accessible to the community on a pay and play basis.
- Analysis using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for martial arts facilities.
- Sport England's Active People Survey found that in 2012/13 0.66% of Hampshire's population aged 16+ participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of 'combat sports' at least once a week, which is below the regional (0.93%) and national (1.11%) averages. The sample size for Rushmoor was insufficient to give a statistical robust result for this measure.
- Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool shows that 1.7% of Rushmoor's adult (18+) population currently participate or would like to participate in martial arts/combat sports, which is the same as the regional average and national averages (1.7%). This represents a potential adult market for martial arts/combat sports in Rushmoor of 1,297 people based on Market Segmentation data.

Qualitative assessment

Non-technical quality assessment

- 15.4 Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the martial arts/combat sports facilities at Fight Science achieve a 'Mean Quality Score' of 3.1. These scores are summarised below and the full assessments are provided in the Appendices.

Table 15.1: Mean quality score: dedicated martial arts sites in Rushmoor

Site	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Fight science	3.1

- 15.5 Fight Science provides high quality facilities for a wide range of martial arts and combat sports. Whilst the provision for martial arts and combat sports is considered to be very good, there is scope to improve the changing facilities, ancillary facilities, parking provision and design of the building to make it more accessible to the community. These improvements to the building will enhance the overall offer at the site and make it more accessible as a community sports facility which meets the needs of a wider variety of Rushmoor residents.

Accessibility assessment

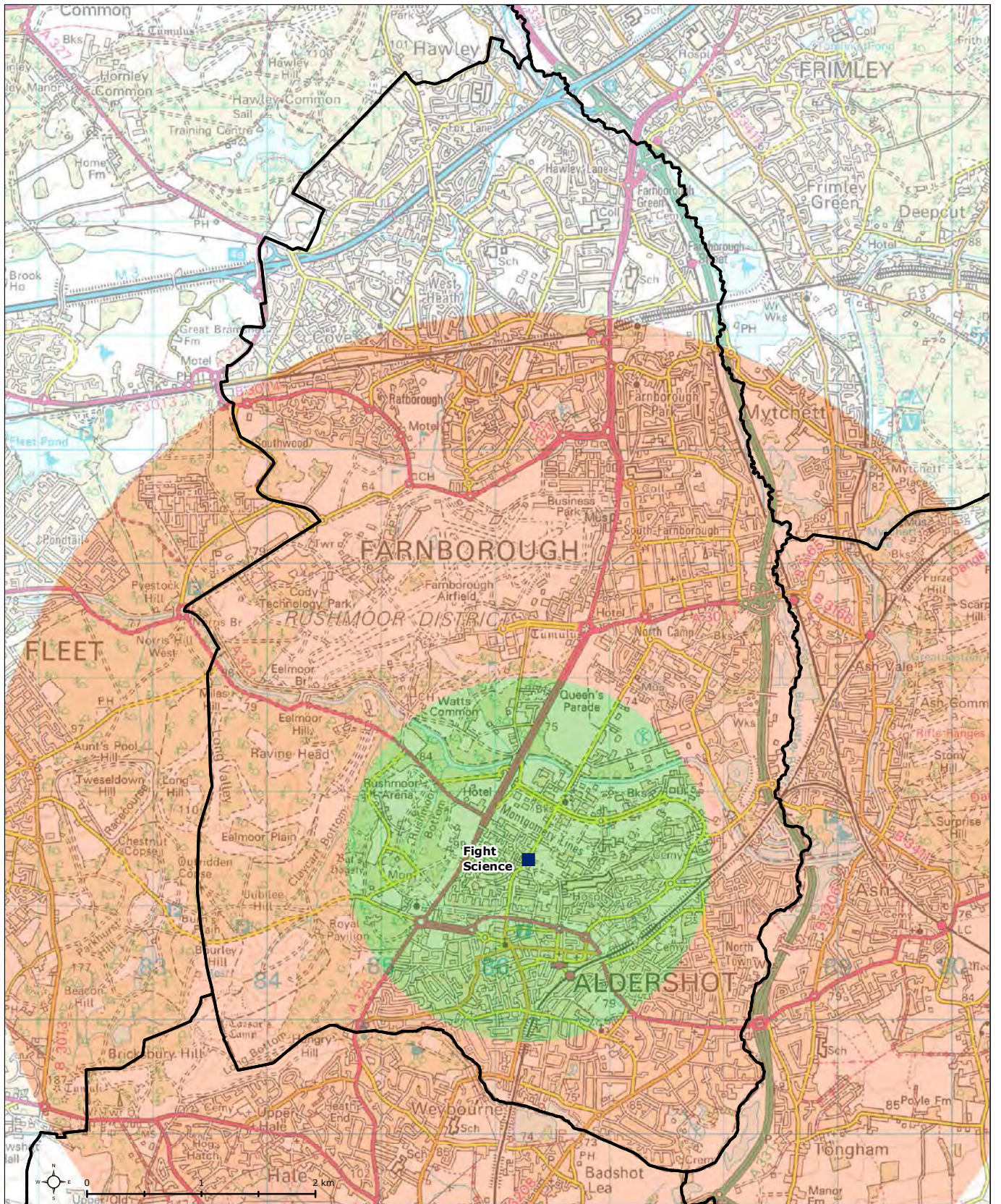
- 15.6 **Figure 15.1** identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments and 3 mile/20 minute drive-to catchments for the single dedicated martial arts/combat sports facility within Rushmoor. The map illustrates that much of the borough is located within a 3 mile catchment of a specialist martial arts/combat sports facility. The north of the borough falls outside of the 3 mile catchment of Fight Science. When the 1 mile catchment is considered it becomes clear that large areas of the borough fall outside of a 20 minute walk-to catchment of a dedicated martial arts/combat sports facility. However, it should be noted that as a specialist facility for sports and activities with limited demand in Rushmoor the larger catchment is considered more appropriate. It should also be noted that other indoor facilities in Rushmoor, such as sports halls and studios, can cater for martial arts. It should be noted that the west of Rushmoor is largely rural with large quantities of MOD land. As such population density and demand for use of sports facilities are significantly lower than in the west of the borough.
- 15.7 The distance threshold indicated on the map covers both the walk to catchments and also the associated drive time catchments that are set out earlier in the study report.

Table 15.2: Dedicated martial arts facilities in Rushmoor





Map point	Facility name	Postcode	Access type	Ownership type	Management type	Year built (Year refurbished)
1	Fight Science	GU11 2BY	Registered Membership	Commercial	Commercial	2012

Local needs and consultation

- A supply of one regionally significant and dedicated martial arts/combat sports facility is considered to be sufficient to meet demand for these sports generated by the population of a borough of Rushmoor's size.
- No need for additional martial arts facilities was identified through the consultation process.
- British Judo confirmed that judo is relatively well developed in Rushmoor with the clubs and facilities in the borough effectively supporting the development of the sport.
- Fight Science is considered by British Judo to be a good quality facility and is their only performance coaching centre within Hampshire. Osaka Judo Club uses the facilities at Fight Science and has around 110 members.
- British Judo stated that Osaka Judo Club is satisfied with Fight Science as a training base but in the coming years it would be beneficial for the club to have access to additional facilities to launch further satellite clubs.
- There is a very good quality facility which could be used for martial arts operated by the MOD. It is heavily used by the MOD for rehabilitation and other activities and it would be unlikely to be made available for community use. British Judo would be interested in using this facility if it were made available for community use.
- Indoor facilities on school sites are generally accessible for martial arts although as with other sports, it can be difficult for clubs to access facilities at peak times and to have access to suitable storage space for their equipment.



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-  District boundary
-  Martial arts centre
-  1 mile (1.6km) walk-to catchment
-  3 mile (4.8km) drive-to catchment

Rushmoor Open Space,
Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 15.1
Martial Arts Facility
and Accessibility
Catchment



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Priorities and standards for dedicated martial arts facilities

- 15.8 The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England’s priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide as detailed previously in the methodology.
- 15.9 The Table below sets out the dedicated martial arts facility improvements and priorities for Rushmoor.

Table 15.3: Priorities and improvements of martial arts facilities

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Retain the existing level of dedicated martial arts provision across the borough.	Work with Fight Science to improve the overall offer at Maida Gym in order to continue to offer high quality opportunities to participate in martial arts and combat sports.	No additional dedicated martial arts/combat sports facilities required in Rushmoor.
	Work with schools to improve club access to suitable indoor facilities for martial arts.	
	Explore the potential to secure community access to the MOD martial arts facility.	

Gymnastics facilities

- 15.10 The summary below provides the **quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessments** for dedicated gymnastics provision within Rushmoor alongside the leading outcomes from the detailed consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities and standards to be adopted for gymnastics provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.
- 15.11 As per the methodology presented earlier, dedicated gymnastics facilities identified through consultation with Rushmoor Borough Council and British Gymnastics have been included within the sport and recreation facility audit and analysis.

Quantitative assessment

Supply and demand analysis

- There is 1 dedicated gymnastics facility in Rushmoor, Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy.
- Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy is a community sports club which owns and operates its own gymnastics centre. The facilities are accessible to registered members of the club.
- Analysis using Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is not available for gymnastics facilities.
- A supply of one regionally significant and dedicated gymnastics centre is considered to be sufficient to meet demand for the sport generated by the population of a borough of Rushmoor’s size.
- Sport England’s Active People Survey found that in 2012/13 0.11% of England’s population aged 16+ participated in a minimum of 30 minutes of gymnastics and trampolining at least once a week. The sample sizes for Rushmoor, Hampshire and the South East region were insufficient to give a statistical robust result for this measure. The proportion of adults in the South East region participating in any gymnastics and trampolining (0.20%) was fractionally above the national average (0.17%).
- Sport England’s Market Segmentation Tool shows that 0.36% of Rushmoor’s adult (18+) population currently participate or would like to participate in gymnastics and trampolining,

which is more than the regional average (0.34%) and national averages (0.33%). This represents a potential adult market for gymnastics and trampolining in Rushmoor of 267 people based on Market Segmentation data.

- The Active People Survey and Market Segmentation findings reflect the fact that participants in gymnastics and trampolining are predominantly children aged under 16.

Qualitative assessment

Non-technical quality assessment

- 15.12 Based on the non-technical quality assessments (as described in the methodology earlier in the report), the gymnastics facilities at Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy achieves a 'Mean Quality Score' of 3.7. This score is summarised below and presented in more detail in the Appendices.

Table 15.4: Mean quality score: dedicated gymnastics sites in Rushmoor

Site	Mean Quality Score (out of 5)
Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy	3.7

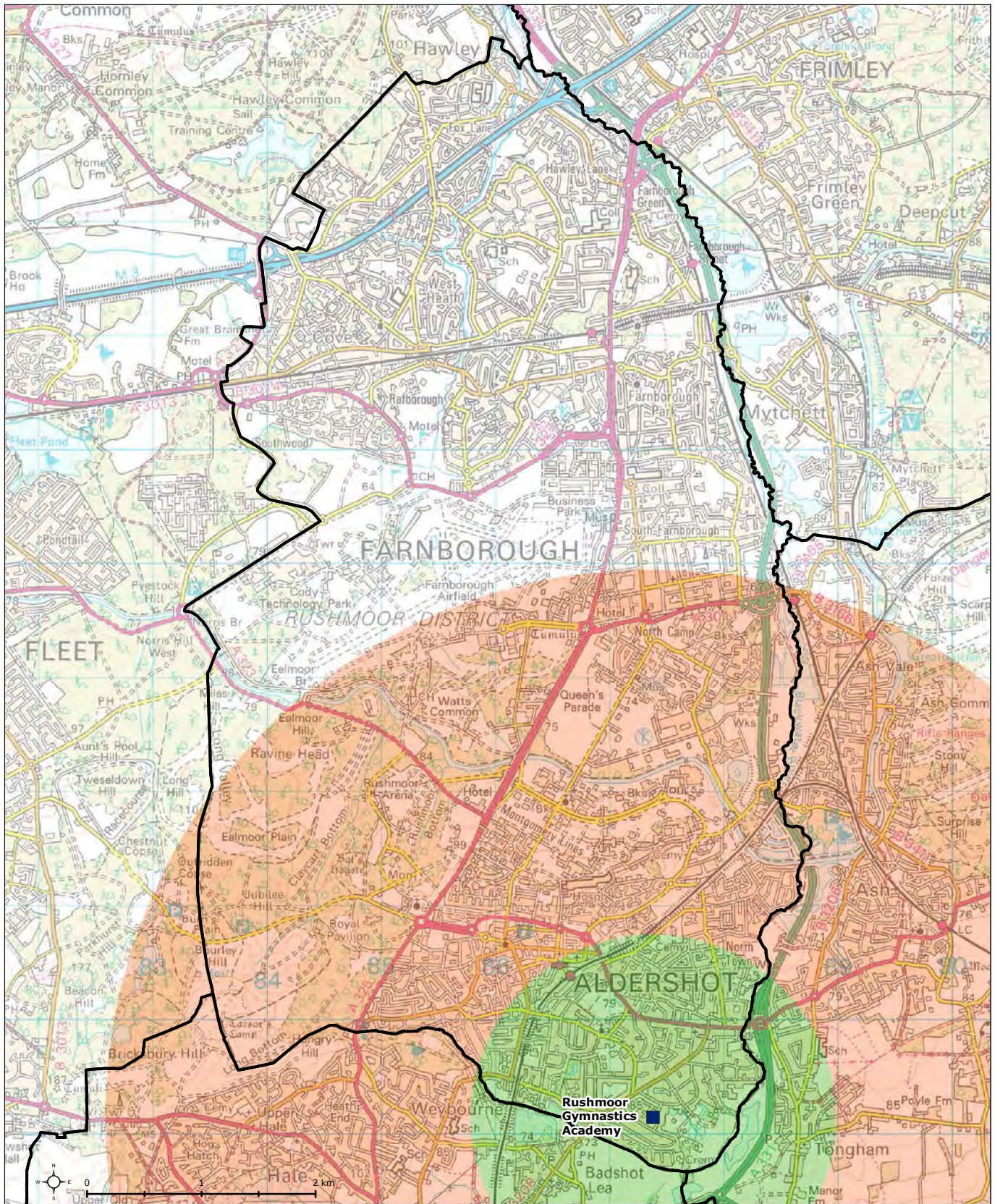
- 15.13 Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy provides a high quality gymnastics facility which hosts regional, national and international events and training camps. Whilst the gymnastics facilities and equipment are considered to be of a high standard, there is scope to improve the changing and accommodation facilities. Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy is a key regional club which British Gymnastics has identified as a regional priority. Rushmoor Borough Council should support Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy to improve its overall offer by improving the changing facilities, ancillary facilities (including accommodation), access points and parking provision to bring them up to a similar standard to the equipment and field of play facilities provided at the site which are of very good quality.

Accessibility assessment





- 15.14 **Figure 15.2** below identifies 1 mile/20 minute walk-to catchments and 3 mile/20 minute drive-to catchments for the single dedicated gymnastics facility within Rushmoor. Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy is located in the very south of the borough close to the borders with Waverley and Guildford. The map illustrates that much of the south of the borough is located within a 3 mile catchment of a specialist gymnastics facility. The north of the borough falls outside of the 3 mile catchment of Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy. When the 1 mile catchment is considered it becomes clear that almost the whole borough falls outside of a 20 minutes walk-to catchment of a dedicated gymnastics facility. However, it should be noted that as a specialist facility of regional/national significance which hosts gymnastics events, a much larger catchment area is appropriate for this particular site. It should be noted that the west of Rushmoor is largely rural with large quantities of MOD land. As such population density and demand for use of sports facilities are significantly lower than in the west of the borough.
- 15.15 The distance threshold indicated on the map covers both the walk to catchments and also the associated drive time catchments that are set out earlier in the study report.

Table 15.5: Dedicated gymnastics facilities in Rushmoor

Map point	Facility name	Postcode	Access type	Ownership type	Management type	Year built (Year refurbished)
	Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy	GU11 3SN	Registered Membership	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club / Community Association	2000



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-  District boundary
-  Gymnastics centre
-  1 mile (1.6km) walk-to catchment
-  3 mile (4.8km) drive-to catchment

Rushmoor Open Space,
Sport and Recreation Study

Figure 15.2
Dedicated
Gymnastics Facility
and Accessibility
Catchment



Map Scale @ A4: 1:48,000

Local needs and consultation

- British Gymnastics considers Rushmoor to be generally well provided for in terms of gymnastics facilities, with quality dedicated space at Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy as well as a number of school and leisure centre facilities that accommodate gymnastics.
- Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy is considered by British Gymnastics to be a regionally significant club and facility. The club has its own facility and caters for under 5's up to adult participants, providing recreational activities as well as competitive training. The facility is of an international standard and one of the top training and competition venues in the country. The club is very successful and has had a major impact on increasing gymnastics participation in Rushmoor.
- The England Women's Squad uses Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy for training and the facilities are suitable for international and national competitions.
- Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy facility is also hired by other clubs for a range of sports and activities, including ju-jitsu, karate, pilates and ballet.
- Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy has aspirations to improve its facility. The club is operating close to maximum capacity and aims to develop its training facilities for boys as well as providing accommodation for teams who travel to the site to train. The plan is to extend the existing building to increase the amount of space for training facilities and dormitories.
- British Gymnastics confirmed that there are a total of 4 gymnastics clubs in Rushmoor (Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy; Rushmoor Amateur Gymnastics club uses Farnborough Leisure Centre and Connaught Leisure Centre; Fox Gymnastics Club based at Fernhill School), but other than Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy these are very small and focus on recreational gymnastics.
- Rushmoor Amateur Gymnastics Club confirmed that the facilities it uses meet the club's needs but the club requires financial support to purchase new equipment.
- British Gymnastics identified the need for sufficient suitable storage space for gymnastics equipment at school/community sites a key issue and challenge in Rushmoor. The smaller clubs also require support to purchase fit for purpose equipment.
- British Gymnastics is keen to ensure that facilities which currently accommodate gymnastics can continue to do so and that Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy continues to be able to satisfy demand and maintain its facility to a high standard.

Priorities and standards for dedicated gymnastics facilities

15.16 The priorities below are set out in line with Sport England's priorities for forward planning under the headings of protect, enhance and provide as detailed previously in the methodology. The Table below sets out the dedicated gymnastics facility improvements and priorities for Rushmoor.

Table 15.6: Priorities and improvements for dedicated gymnastics facilities

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Protect and retain the facilities at Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy.	Continue to support this regionally significant club and gymnastics venue in the borough. Work with Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy to extend their existing building to provide additional training space and fit for purpose accommodation.	No additional dedicated gymnastics facilities required in Rushmoor unless Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy is no longer in operation.
Retain indoor space at other sites which are currently providing for gymnastics use.	Work with British Gymnastics to enhance club access to sport halls and dance studios on educational sites for gymnastics.	

Section E: Recommendations for implementation

16 Recommendations for Rushmoor's Local Plan

- 16.1 This section discusses the implications of the study for Rushmoor's Local Plan. The study has provided a sound evidence base to inform the Local Plan, and policy recommendations are outlined in relation to the following:
- Open space provision
 - Planning policy recommendations
 - Application of the standards
 - Approach to funding and the Community Infrastructure Levy
- 16.2 Local Plan policies should be updated to reflect the specific standards that have been identified for each open space typology, the deficiencies identified, and the opportunities proposed to enhance provision in Rushmoor.

Open space provision

- 16.3 In light of the detailed and comprehensive assessment of open space and local need analysis the following open space standards are recommended for adoption in the future Local Plan:

Table 16.1: Open space standards for Rushmoor

Open space typology	Accessibility standard	Quantity standard
Parks and gardens	Borough parks and gardens: 3.2km Local parks and gardens: 1.2km Small local parks and gardens: 400m	1.66 ha per 1000 head of population
Natural green space	Regional natural and semi-natural green space: 5km Borough natural and semi-natural green space: 4km Local natural and semi-natural green space: 2km Small local natural and semi-natural green space: 400m	10.46 ha per 1000 head of population
Green Corridor	N/A	N/A
Amenity green space	400m	0.13 ha per 1000 head of population
Allotments	800m	0.18 ha per 1000 head of population

Open space typology	Accessibility standard	Quantity standard
Churchyards and cemeteries	N/A	0.27 ha per 1000 head of population
Provision for children and young people: NEAPs	600m	1.16 site per 1000 head of population with 15 to 19 age group
Provision for children and young people: LEAPs	240m	2.82 sites per 1000 head of population within 8 to 14 age group
Provision for children and young people: LAPs	60m	1.16 sites per 1000 head of population within 0 to 7 age group

16.4 These standards have also been compared with adjoining and other similar authorities together with national standards, where appropriate. The quantity standards should be used to enhance the open space network in Rushmoor and to prioritise provision in areas which currently fall below the required standard. The quantity standard should also be used to guide future provision in relation to new development. However whilst these standards recommended for future planning purposes, it is important that some flexibility is allowed with respect to provision standards to take into account individual circumstances. As such the Council may well consider it is appropriate to enhance an existing facility rather than require new provision of a lesser facility. These situations will be limited and should be down to the Council's discretion on a case by case basis.

Open space provision

16.5 This study has identified key differences between Aldershot and Farnborough in terms of open space provision. Farnborough falls below the quantity standard for parks and gardens, and natural green spaces, while Aldershot exceeds the quantity standards for open space in these typologies. Both Aldershot and Farnborough fall below the quantity standards for allotments. Rushmoor should seek to address spatial deficiencies where possible to ensure good provision of all typologies in both towns. **Section 8** identifies which open spaces fall below the required value and quality standards and this should help inform planning for future provision.

16.6 Due to the constraints of the borough, it is unlikely that it will be possible to create any large open spaces within the centre of Farnborough or Aldershot. Therefore the existing network of local parks and gardens should be protected and where possible enhanced to acknowledge the importance of these sites to the local community. Sites which fall below the value and/ or quality benchmarks should be enhanced and access to local parks and gardens should be promoted through providing better signage to the site and ensuring facilities are available for parking and cycle parking. It will be important that features are appropriate to the site and are robust to respond to the anticipated increase in Rushmoor's population. Management and maintenance resources will also need to be set at sufficient levels to ensure the fabric of open spaces is able to withstand an increase in use.

16.7 Some key observations include:

- The MOD owns the largest amount of land which is accessible subject to military byelaws to the public in the borough, accounting for approximately 950 ha out of a total of 1,240 ha recorded in this study (or 77% of land offering public access). It is therefore important for RBC to work with the MOD to ensure this land continues to be available for public use and enjoyment. Where possible, opportunities to enhance these spaces should be sought, particularly Queen's Parade Ground which is the largest park and garden in the Borough.
- The local and small local parks and gardens are the most valued open spaces in Rushmoor offering the broadest range of facilities and therefore opportunities for recreation. Sites which currently fall below the required benchmarks should be prioritised for enhancement.

- In areas deficient in parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space or allotments, consideration should be given to enhancing areas of amenity green space, and cemeteries and churchyards thereby ensuring these spaces have a greater role in the borough's open space network.
- There is a deficiency in the provision of allotments in Aldershot and Farnborough. The deficiency in allotments could be redressed through ensuring plots which are not actively managed are made available to members on the waiting list and reducing the standard size of allotment plots.
- Of the 13 LAPs recorded in Aldershot, only three achieve the required benchmarks for quality and value with five falling below both benchmarks and the remaining falling below the standard for value.
- Given the constrained nature of the borough it will be important SANGs are continued to be managed and to promote access to other natural and semi-natural green space to prevent disturbance of the TBH SPA sites.
- It is recommended that policies are provided to enhance provision for walking and cycling and connectivity within the borough, to ensure that where there are deficiencies in provision of open spaces, efforts are made to enhance access.
- There are a number of community groups actively involved in the management of open spaces within the borough, many of which work closely with the Blackwater Valley Partnership. Opportunities should be sought to bring community groups together to share knowledge and skills and encourage greater community involvement in Rushmoor's open space network.

16.8 Although this study has audited many open spaces in the borough, there will inevitably be sites which were not audited in detail due to their size. These sites are generally found in the neighbourhood areas and provide for a range of uses including amenity spaces, places for biodiversity and as play opportunities. The overall protection of these smaller spaces is important as they contribute to the overall provision in Rushmoor but also to the wider Green Infrastructure network by providing a network of sites at the lower level. The Council should consider on a case by case assessment of the significance of smaller scale sites to meet open space needs (amongst other criteria) before considering the release of these sites for development.

16.9 The overarching approach to open space planning in the future should be on improving the quality and value of existing sites (bringing their condition up to current standards) and, where possible, increasing the quantity of publicly accessible open space in areas currently falling the below the quantity standard through planning obligations.

Planning policy recommendations

16.10 As part of updating the Council's approach to open space planning in Rushmoor the policies in existing Local Plan were reviewed and the following recommendations made in light of the analysis in this report.

Table 16.2: Recommendations for extant policies contained in the Local Plan

Local Plan Policy	Recommendations from this study
<p>ENV4: Important open areas will be maintained at:</p> <p>(i) Farnborough Hill Convent</p> <p>(ii) St Michael's Abbey</p> <p>(iii) Hawley Common</p> <p>(iv) Land at M3 Minley interchange [Hawley Meadow]</p> <p>(v) Queen's Parade</p> <p>(vi) MoD Playing Fields/Mons Hill</p>	<p>This policy is still relevant.</p>

Development which would diminish these areas visually or physically will not be permitted	
<p>ENV5: Green Corridors - The Council will seek to conserve and enhance green corridors (as shown on the proposals map). The Council will expect any development within or adjoining the green corridors to include proposals to enhance their landscape and amenity value.</p>	<p>This policy is still relevant and should be supported by the emerging Green Infrastructure study (see Core Strategy policy CP11).</p>
<p>OR4: Open Space for new housing development - New residential development will be required to make appropriate provision for public open space in accordance with the minimum standard per 1000 people of:</p> <p>Urban parks/amenity open space 1.6 hectares Equipped children’s play space 0.2 hectares Sports grounds 1.0 hectares 2.8 hectares</p> <p>An average occupancy of 2.5 persons per dwelling or 1 person per bedspace will be assumed. Provision must be made at an early stage of development and arrangements secured for adequate long term maintenance. The Council will allow some flexibility between the categories for non-family housing and to allow priority to be given to the provision of equipped children’s play space and sports grounds.</p> <p>OR4.1 The Council may accept financial contributions as an alternative to on-site provision of public open space on the following basis:-</p> <p>Sites of 1-10 dwellings - all open space requirements Sites of 11-39 dwellings - children’s play space (where there is an existing facility in the vicinity) and sports grounds Sites of 40 or more dwellings - sports grounds</p>	<p>This policy should be revised to refer directly to the standards set out in this study. New residential development should be required to contribute to the provision, in line with the standards set out in this study. However, it may be more appropriate for the developer to contribute to open space provision via the Community Infrastructure Levy as outlined in policy OR4.1.</p>
<p>OR5: Allotments - The Council will not permit the development of allotments to another use unless the following criteria are satisfied:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the allotments are not required to meet demand in Rushmoor in the long term; or (ii) alternative provision is made elsewhere in Rushmoor to provide an equivalent community benefit; or (iii) the proposal is for other recreational purposes. 	<p>This study has revealed a deficiency in the quantity of allotments in Rushmoor so existing sites should be conserved and enhanced.</p> <p>Opportunities should be sought to create additional allotment sites to meet current demand.</p>
<p>OR6: Proposals for noisy sports, may be permitted in accordance with other policies of the plan provided that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iv) the amenities of residents in the vicinity would not be adversely affected; (v) the amenity of other users of recreation or countryside areas would not be harmed; (vi) noise emissions would be within acceptable limits by virtue of location and/or attenuation measures; and (vii) the site is sufficiently large to accommodate landscaping required to reduce the impact on the surrounding area. 	<p>Individual elements of this policy remain relevant but future policies might also consider the impacts of noise on biodiversity.</p>
<p>OR7: Indoor sport - Proposals to improve the range of indoor recreation, arts, and entertainment facilities</p>	<p>This policy could be extended to respond to the</p>

<p>will normally be permitted within the built-up area, unless they would be detrimental to the character of the area or the amenities of nearby residents.</p> <p>Proposals for large-scale facilities should be close to other traffic generating activities, to minimise journeys, and be readily accessible by public transport.</p>	<p>findings of this study.</p> <p>The approach should be to retain, maintain and enhance recreational facilities with Rushmoor based of the findings of this study including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of facilities at Aldershot Pool Complex, Farnborough Leisure Centre and Connaught Leisure Centre to ensure they meet local needs. • Increase provision of swimming pools and indoor sport hall space through working with school and other community sites. • Work with Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy to extend their existing building and with British Gymnastics to enhance club access to sport halls and dance studios on educational sites. • Explore the potential to secure community access to the MOD martial arts facility. <p>The Council should work with Sport England, National Governing Organisations, clubs and other partner organisations to monitor usage and to ensure provision continues to meet with demand.</p> <p>Refer to relevant sections of this report for detailed recommendations.</p>
<p>OR8: Land at Southwood - The Council will permit informal recreation on land at Southwood, including the provision of footpath/cycleway links between the development and Kennel Lane and along the southern edge of the Southwood development.</p>	<p>This study highlights the contribution Southwood makes to Rushmoor’s open space network and importance of improving connectivity of open spaces throughout the borough including to the Cove Brook Greenway and the Blackwater Valley. This policy is still relevant.</p>

Table 16.3: Recommendations for policies contained in Rushmoor’s Core Strategy

Core Strategy policy	Recommendations from this study
<p>Policy CP11 - Green Infrastructure Network</p> <p>A diverse network of accessible, multi-functional green infrastructure across the borough will be protected and enhanced for its biodiversity, economic, recreational, accessibility, health and landscape value by permitting development provided that it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does not result in a loss, fragmentation, or significant impact on the function of, the green infrastructure network; Provides green infrastructure features within the development site, or where this is not feasible, makes appropriate contributions towards other strategic enhancement, restoration and creation projects where the proposal will result in additional pressure on the green infrastructure network; Maximises opportunities for improvement to the green infrastructure network including restoration of fragmented parts of the network. 	<p>This study acknowledges the importance of green infrastructure and the need for multi-functional open spaces and links. This policy is still relevant.</p>
<p>Policy CP12 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation</p> <p>Development will not be permitted on areas of open space used for recreation or outdoor sport or having visual amenity unless:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The open space or facilities in the built up area are not required to meet need in the long term; and/or Replacement provision is made elsewhere of equivalent 	<p>This study has highlighted the need to retain the existing quantity of open spaces and recreation facilities. It is therefore important the existing quantity of provision is retained and where possible open spaces and recreation facilities are enhanced to ensure these features are of a high quality and value, and are accessible. New development should make appropriate provision for open space in accordance with the standards set out in this</p>

Core Strategy policy	Recommendations from this study
<p>community benefit; and/or</p> <p>c. Recreation facilities in the built up area can best be retained and enhanced through the development of ancillary facilities on a small part of the site.</p> <p>The strategy is to ensure good provision of high quality and accessible open space to meet a wide range of recreation, outdoor sport and open space needs in Rushmoor, including publicly accessible natural green space by:</p> <p>i. Maintaining and improving provision and accessibility for all.</p> <p>ii. Focusing major investment in play equipment in Rushmoor's District Parks and Recreation Grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldershot Park • Blunden Road Recreation Ground • Cove Green Recreation Ground • Ivy Road Recreation Ground • King George V Playing Fields • Manor Park • Moor Road Recreation Ground • Municipal Gardens • Osborne Road Recreation Ground • Queen Elizabeth Park • Queens Road Recreation Ground • Rectory Road Recreation Ground • Southwood Playing Fields <p>iii. Permitting new development which makes appropriate provision for open space in accordance with the Council's adopted standards.</p>	<p>study. However whilst these standards are recommended for future planning purposes, it is important that some flexibility is allowed to take into account individual circumstances. As such the Council may well consider the enhancement of an existing facility rather than require new provision of a lesser facility. These situations will be limited and should be down to the Council's discretion on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Opportunity for play should continue to be provided for at a local level with provision enhanced where possible to achieve the standards for quality, quantity and value as set out in this study. Where appropriate, traditional playgrounds could be enhanced through the creation of natural play spaces.</p>
<p>Policy CP13 - Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area</p> <p>New development which is likely to have a significant effect on the ecological integrity of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA), including all net new dwellings, will be required to demonstrate that adequate measures are put in place to avoid or mitigate any potential adverse effects. The mechanism for delivering this policy is set out in the Council's Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy and in the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework prepared by the Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership.</p> <p>No residential development resulting in a net gain of units will be permitted within 400m of the SPA boundary, unless in agreement with Natural England an Appropriate Assessment demonstrates that there will be no adverse effect on the SPA.</p> <p>Where mitigation measures are applicable, as set out in the Delivery Framework, the following standards will apply unless an evidence based alternative strategy has been agreed with Natural England:</p> <p>A minimum of 8 hectares of SANG land (after discounting to account for current access and capacity) should be provided in perpetuity per 1,000 new occupants either through contributions towards the provision of SANG identified by the Borough Council, or through on site SANG agreed with</p>	<p>This policy is still relevant.</p>

Core Strategy policy	Recommendations from this study
<p>Natural England; Contributions towards Strategic Access Management and Monitoring measures.</p>	
<p>Policy CP14 - Countryside</p> <p>Development for which a countryside location is required will not be permitted in the countryside outside the built up areas of Aldershot and Farnborough where it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adversely affects the character, appearance or landscape of the countryside, or b. Leads to harmful physical or visual coalescence between Aldershot or Farnborough and neighbouring settlements, or c. Is detrimental to recreational use. <p>The Council will provide positive encouragement to schemes which result in environmental and landscape improvements, enhance biodiversity and nature conservation, support better accessibility and promote suitable recreational uses.</p>	<p>This policy is still relevant.</p>
<p>Policy CP15 - Biodiversity</p> <p>The Council will seek to protect, maintain and enhance the Borough's biodiversity and geological resources by:</p> <p>Permitting development provided that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Retains, protects and enhances features of biological and geological interest and provides for the appropriate management of those features; b. Improves biodiversity by designing-in provisions for wildlife and ensuring any adverse impacts are avoided, or if unavoidable, are appropriately mitigated for and in association with other partners, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Protecting the nature conservation interest and objectives of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (in accordance with Policy CP13); ii. Protecting, enhancing and managing the nature conservation value of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs); iii. Supporting a programme of survey of habitats and species, and designation of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation; iv. Seeking the inclusion of measures which protect and strengthen populations of protected and target species and contribute to the habitat restoration targets identified in the Hampshire and Rushmoor Biodiversity Action Plans; v. Seeking the inclusion of measures to protect and enhance local watercourses, including the River Blackwater, Cove Brook, and Basingstoke Canal and their tributaries; vi. Maintaining a borough wide network of local wildlife sites and wildlife corridors, between areas of natural green spaces to prevent the fragmentation of existing habitats; vii. Supporting measures to increase local understanding of the importance of biodiversity in the Borough. 	<p>This policy is still relevant.</p>

Future policy recommendations

- 16.11 In terms of future planning policies the Council should consider the following for inclusion in the Delivering Development Plan:
1. The open space standards set out in **Table 16.1** above.
 2. Ensure sites which have been considered as low value and/ or low quality are prioritised for enhancement subject to reflecting the Council's corporate priorities.
 3. The Council should consider developing a holistic approach to open space and green infrastructure through the development of an Environmental Assets Policy/ Green Infrastructure Plan, together with more specific policies for particular topics where appropriate.
 4. Sport and recreation facilities should be protected and where possible enhanced based on the findings of this study using the recommendations set out within **Sections 9 – 15** of this report and in **Appendix 7**.
- 16.12 The findings of this study should also be used to inform priorities for future investment.

Application of the Open Space Standards for new development

- 16.13 The application of the open space standards to planned new development in Rushmoor should be appropriate to the scale of development proposed. Large residential developments should be required to incorporate new open space which reflects the accessibility, quantity and quality standards outlined in this report. These spaces should be multi-functional wherever possible.
- 16.14 Other new residential development should be required to contribute funds towards the creation/enhancement of open space on a per dwelling basis.

Approach to funding and the Community Infrastructure Levy

- 16.15 External funding streams include those administered by the EU, national government bodies or independent organisations. They tend to be available for capital projects only, and there is little external funding available for maintaining open space, sport and recreation facilities. Local authorities are eligible to apply for some funding streams, although some funding is restricted to charities and charitable trusts. Rushmoor Borough Council should consider partnering with charitable organisations to secure funding, or establishing a charitable trust to open up more funding options. These include the Forestry Commission's annual grant payments, the Woodland Premium Scheme and the Woodland Management Scheme.
- 16.16 If established, a trust could also have a 'trading subsidiary' element. This enables commercial activities to be undertaken by the trust, to help secure funding. This could be beneficial at sites such as , where public consultation revealed an aspiration for more activities, events and concerts to take place.

Developer contributions to be secured through Community Infrastructure Levy

- 16.17 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced through the Planning Act (2008) as a capital cost payable by developers towards the cost of local and sub-regional infrastructure to support development. Open space and recreational facilities are included in the types of infrastructure that are eligible for CIL funding. CIL should 'support and incentivise new development' and therefore local authorities should test the viability of the development when setting future CIL.
- 16.18 The Council will need to develop a tariff for developers to contribute to GI and open space. This could contribute to both delivery of opportunities, and also to maintenance. The broad approach would involve the following tasks:
- Identify future open space, sport and recreation needs (in terms of enhancement and creation) based on the application of the standards set out in this report to the preferred option for development;
 - Broadly cost the necessary open space, sport and recreation investment needed;

- Identify funding likely to be available for open space, sport and recreation;
- Identify the potential funding gap (difference between the funding required and the funding available); review the potential effect of required CIL on the economic viability of new development in the borough;
- Quantify the approximate open space, sport and recreation tariff per household, based on the total funding gap divided by the planned number of new dwellings