



Cherwell Green Spaces Strategy 2008–2016

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Introduction

The strategy: The Cherwell Green Spaces Strategy identifies the green spaces that we have in the district and assesses what areas are needed to meet current shortfalls and future needs. It builds upon a previous study of open space, sport and recreation in the district and both documents were produced in accordance with the Government's Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17). The detailed background evidence from which the strategy was derived, is available from the Council on request as a separate document.

The green space included: The types of green space that are included in the strategy are as follows:

- a) Parks and gardens (areas providing high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events).
- b) Natural and semi-natural green space (areas providing for wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness).
- c) Amenity green space (areas providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas).
- d) Provision for children and young people (areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, multi-use games areas, skateboard parks and teenage shelters).
- e) Outdoor sports facilities (facilities for participation in outdoor sports).
- f) Allotments and community gardens (areas providing opportunities for those who wish to grow their own produce as part of the promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion).
- g) Cemeteries and churchyards (areas providing for quiet contemplation and the burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and diversity). The issue of the primary function of cemeteries and churchyards, to provide burial space, will be addressed by another study to inform the Local Development Framework.
- h) Green corridors (linear areas providing for walking, cycling and horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration).
- i) Civic spaces (civic and market squares designed mainly for use by pedestrians).

Strategic Vision and Policy Overlay

Vision: The vision for green spaces in Cherwell is

‘to provide, safeguard and develop a network of safe, accessible and attractive green spaces that are valued, well managed and maintained and enhance the quality of life, sense of well-being, health and learning opportunities of all sections of the community’.

Policy overlay: In support of the vision, the following policies are reflected in the assessment of green spaces provision in the strategy:

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- a) **Locally derived standards of provision:** PPG17 states that ‘the Government believes that open space, sport and recreation standards are best set locally. Local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set robust local standards. These should form the basis for redressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process’. The standards of provision proposed in the Cherwell Green Spaces Strategy are therefore based upon a detailed assessment of local needs. In most cases this has involved:
- Identifying the levels of green space provision per capita in six designated ‘sub-areas’ of the district.
 - Consulting with local communities to seek their views on the current adequacy of provision.
 - Setting a district wide standard that in most cases relates to the highest levels of provision at present, where local people feel that the quantity of green space is ‘about right’.
- b) **Minimum standards of provision:** The standards of provision for green spaces should be regarded as the minimum levels required to meet existing needs. This means that it will be appropriate to:
- Seek higher levels of provision in appropriate circumstances where opportunities permit it.
 - Regularly review and amend the standards as needs like increased rates of physical activity evolve over time.
- c) **Urban and rural differences:** PPG17 states that ‘residents in rural areas cannot realistically expect to have the same level of access to the full range of different types of green spaces that are generally available in the more densely populated urban areas. Equally, if the total amount of open space in rural areas is assessed against an ‘urban’

provision standard, there might appear to be a surplus. This means that some local authorities may require both urban and rural standards'. For this reason, the standard of provision and associated assessment of natural and semi-natural green space and amenity green space in Cherwell includes differential urban and rural standards. For clarity it should be noted that developments on brown field sites in urban areas will use the urban standard however the rural standard will be applied to edge of town or urban extension developments.

- d) **Existing and new developments:** In some of the more densely populated urban parts of the district, opportunities for meeting identified deficiencies in green spaces are limited by the absence of opportunities in such built-up areas. Similarly, in some rural areas where most land is in private ownership, securing public access to green spaces may not be possible. However, the opportunities presented by new residential developments may offer the flexibility to achieve enhanced levels of greenspace provision, recognising that the current standards represent an assessment of the minimum amounts that are needed.
- e) **Quality of provision:** Quality criteria were set in consultation with local communities, to define the condition to which each green space in the district should aspire. The quality of each site was assessed in relation to a set of objective criteria relating to wider norms and over time all identified qualitative deficiencies will be addressed progressively as resources and opportunities allow.
- f) **Multi-functionality:** The form of assessment advocated by PPG17 requires green spaces to be categorised in relation to their primary function only. The advantage of this is that there is no 'double counting' of sites, but the disadvantage is that the multi-function nature of many sites is downplayed. As an example, an area designated as a playing pitch may be used for its primary function for only 1.5 hours per week and as amenity greenspace for the remainder of the time, but the latter function will not be included in the formal assessment. For this reason, combined standards of provision for the following collective types of green space provision will be applied to new developments:
- General green space (combining parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space and amenity green space).
 - Playspace (combining provision for younger and older children).
 - Outdoor sports provision (combining tennis courts, bowling greens, golf courses and playing pitches).
 - Allotments.
- g) **Environmental sustainability:** To reflect the principles of environmental sustainability, green space provision will normally be made within walking distance catchments, the details of which will reflect local travel time tolerances. New areas of green space will therefore

be located wherever possible to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.

h) **Provision relating to new developments:** The following principles will apply in residential and other new developments:

- All new dwellings should contribute towards the provision of green spaces. For smaller developments where on-site provision is not achievable, a financial contribution will be sought from developers towards the improvement of provision elsewhere, where appropriate schemes can be identified within the defined catchment.
- On-site provision of green space will be sought on developments of ten dwellings or more in urban areas and six dwellings or more in rural areas.
- The precise nature, composition and size of green space provision in new developments will be determined in relation to the overall size of the development and with reference to the minimum standards of provision.
- The identification of schemes in each defined catchment area for which financial contributions will be sought will be defined in the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, to be progressed in tandem with the Core Strategy and Delivery Development Plan Documents. In some cases the catchments areas will relate to wards, in some to villages and in others to clusters of villages, but in each case will take account of the likelihood of development coming forward at a rate sufficient to provide the identified schemes.
- Financial contributions will relate to the size of each dwelling and their anticipated occupancy rates.
- It may be appropriate to seek green space provision, or a financial contribution towards such provision, in conjunction with other forms of development.

i) **'Surplus' provision:** In some instances the application of district wide standards at ward or parish level produces an apparent 'surplus' of green space provision. However, this should not be interpreted as signifying that the 'surplus' could be disposed of because:

- The standards against which the 'surplus' was assessed are the minimum that are required to meet current local needs. Local concentrations of existing demand and future increases in green space usage will both inflate the amount of provision needed to levels well above the minimum stipulation.
- An apparent 'surplus' in one form of green space will often compensate for shortfalls in other types of provision locally.

- Some of the larger areas of green space serve wider than local needs, with usage catchments well beyond the immediate boundaries of the parish or ward in which they are located. In such cases, it is clearly inappropriate to assess the adequacy of provision solely in relation to the size of the local population.
- j) **Community involvement:** In determining the precise nature of new and improved green space in each locality, Cherwell District Council will:
- Consult with those with a specific interest in the use of the green space (such as young people with play provision), to ensure that wherever possible the new provision meets their needs.
 - Involve town and parish councils in confirming local needs and the optimum way of meeting them, both in terms of additional provision and its ongoing management.
- k) **Public art:** It is Cherwell District Council policy, to encourage developers to make suitable provision for public art as part of any new development and to include public art in any of its own schemes. Public art can produce an environment which is more stimulating, which will enhance the visual impact of the district and provide heritage of significance for future generations to enjoy.



Why Green Spaces Matter

National green space policy: Government policy emphasises the value of green spaces for:

- a) Social inclusion and community cohesion.
- b) Environmental benefits and biodiversity.
- c) Health and well being.
- d) Sustainable development.
- e) Social and economic regeneration.

National planning policy: Local authorities are encouraged to:

- a) Assess local green space needs and opportunities.
- b) Set local green space standards.
- c) Maintain an adequate supply of green spaces.
- d) Plan for new green spaces.

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District policy: The Cherwell Community Plan identifies several policy areas where green space provision can contribute to wider policy agendas, in particular improving health and well-being.

District planning policy: The Local Plan has a range of policies to protect and enhance green space provision.

District environmental policies: The Environment Strategy embeds environmental principles in all other planning areas.

About the District

Population profile: The current population of Cherwell district is 131,785. The relatively young age profile of the district population means that proportionately more people are in the age groups with higher demand rates for outdoor sports facilities and children's play provision.

Demography: The population is relatively affluent, healthy and has high levels of personal mobility (car ownership). All these features are associated with higher than average use of green space provision.

Population increases: A 4.9% growth in population is forecast between 2001 and 2016, but is concentrated in specific geographical areas, particularly Banbury and Bicester. Demand for green space in these areas is therefore likely to rise proportionate to the population. In the longer term, a 14.6% increase in population is projected between 2008 and 2026, with the strongest growth in the numbers of people aged over 50.



Landscape character: Many of the district's green spaces are part of a high quality landscape network.

District sub-areas: To enable green space provision to be analysed and deficiencies highlighted at a more localised than district level, the PPG17 Study undertaken in 2005 identified the following sub-areas and these were also applied in the Green Spaces Strategy:

Sub-Area	Wards	Population
Banbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Banbury Calthorpe ● Banbury Easington ● Banbury Grimsbury and Castle ● Banbury Hardwick ● Banbury Neithrop ● Banbury Ruscote 	41,863
Bicester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bicester East ● Bicester North ● Bicester South ● Bicester Town ● Bicester West 	28,705
Kidlington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kidlington North ● Kidlington South 	13,743
Rural North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adderbury ● Bloxham and Bodicote ● Cropredy ● Hook Norton ● Sibford ● Wroxton 	18,846
Rural Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Caversfield ● Deddington ● Fringford ● The Astons and Heyfords 	12,594
Rural South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ambrosden and Chesterton ● Kirtlington ● Launton ● Otmoor ● Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton 	16,236

The Green Space we have

Current green space provision in the district was analysed in the 2005 PPG17 Study and is summarised below, with some minor revisions to reflect changes since the study was carried out. The assessment of provision was based upon:

- a) An audit of the number and size of green spaces in the district.
- b) Site visits to assess the quality of each site.
- c) Community consultation to establish local views on the adequacy of what is provided at present.

Type of green space	Summary of existing provision
Parks and gardens	<p>Quantity: There are five parks and gardens in the district, all of which are in Banbury (four) and Bicester (one). These collectively total 22.88 ha., equivalent to 0.17 ha. per 1,000 population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general view from 55% of respondents to the household survey conducted in conjunction with the Study, is that the existing level of provision is ‘about right’. • Other consultation indicated that residents of Kidlington were unhappy with local levels of provision of parks and gardens. <p>Quality: The average quality score for parks in the district was high at 69%.</p>
Natural/semi-natural green space	<p>Quantity: There are 54 natural and semi-natural green space sites in the district, 12 of which are located within urban areas. These collectively total 203.99ha., equivalent to 1.55ha. per 1,000 population. The distribution by analysis area is as follows and the local household survey concluded that the existing level of provision is ‘about right’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banbury: 6 sites, totalling 20.85ha. • Bicester: 5 sites, totalling 16.35ha. • Kidlington: 1 site, totalling 7.57ha. • Rural North: 10 sites, totalling 22.36ha. • Rural Central: 18 sites, totalling 84.70ha. • Rural South: 14 sites, totalling 52.16ha. <p>Quality: The average quality score for natural and semi-natural green space in the district was average at 56%.</p> <p>Accessibility shortfalls: Overall, the geographical distribution of natural and semi-natural green space in the district is poor. However, this is mitigated for the most part by significant areas of accessible countryside that are served by a good network of public rights of way.</p>
Amenity green space	<p>Quantity: There are 299 amenity green space sites in the district, which collectively total 69.77ha., equivalent to 0.53ha. per 1,000 population. The average size of an amenity green space in the district is 0.22ha. The distribution by analysis area is as follows and the local household survey suggests that there are greater levels of satisfaction for current levels of provision in rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banbury: 86 sites, totalling 28.51ha. • Bicester: 44 sites, totalling 9.75ha. • Kidlington: 16 sites, totalling 4.75ha. • Rural North: 68 sites, totalling 10.06ha. • Rural Central: 37 sites, totalling 9.72ha. • Rural South: 48 sites, totalling 8.66ha. <p>Quality: The average quality score for amenity green space in the district was good at 63%.</p>
Play provision	<p>Quantity: There are 177 dedicated, equipped play areas, which collectively total 13.64 ha., equivalent to 0.48ha. per 1,000 population. The average size of a play area in the district is 0.076ha. The distribution by analysis area is as follows and local consultation suggests that the biggest lack of provision is for older children:</p>

Type of green space	Summary of existing provision
Play provision <i>continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banbury: 54 sites, totalling 5.19ha. • Bicester: 58 sites, totalling 3.27ha. • Kidlington: 7 sites, totalling 0.38ha. • Rural North: 20 sites, totalling 1.81ha. • Rural Central: 18 sites, totalling 0.98ha. • Rural South: 21 sites, totalling 1.91ha. <p>Quality: The average quality score for children’s play in the district was relatively good at 63%.</p>
Multi-Use Games Areas	<p>Quantity: There are 24 MUGAs in the district. The distribution by analysis area is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banbury: 8 MUGAs. • Bicester: 5 MUGAs. • Kidlington: 2 MUGAs • Rural North: 4 MUGAs • Rural Central: 4 MUGAs. • Rural South: 1 MUGA.
Outdoor sports	<p>Quantity: The following outdoor sports facilities (excluding playing pitches which are assessed in a separate strategy) are currently provided in Cherwell. Local consultation suggests that there is a need for more facilities, with 43% stating that current provision is inadequate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 tennis courts. • 10 bowling greens. • 7 golf courses. <p>Quality: The average quality score for outdoor sport in the district was relatively good at 68%.</p>
Allotments	<p>Quantity: There are 49 allotment sites, which collectively total 40.55 ha., equivalent to 0.31 ha. per 1,000 population. The average size of an allotment in the district is 0.81ha. 89% of those responding to the household survey do not use allotments. Of those that do, opinion was equally divided on whether or not there is sufficient provision at present. The distribution by analysis area is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banbury: 6 sites, totalling 6.86ha. • Bicester: 5 sites, totalling 3.51ha. • Kidlington: 6 sites, totalling 3.21ha. • Rural North: 12 sites, totalling 7.08ha. • Rural Central: 11 sites, totalling 9.87ha. • Rural South: 9 sites, totalling 10.02ha. <p>Quality: The average quality score for allotments in the district was relatively good at 62%.</p>
Churchyards/ cemeteries	<p>Quantity: There are 93 cemeteries and churchyards, which collectively total 37.56 ha.</p> <p>Quality: The average quality score for cemeteries and churchyards in the district was relatively good at 66%.</p>
Green corridors	<p>Quantity: The main green corridor in Cherwell is formed by the Oxford Canal and River Cherwell, which run the length of the district. This is supplemented by a network of footpaths and bridleways, including the Oxfordshire Way, the Jurassic Way and two branches of the National Cycle Network.</p> <p>Quality: No formal assessment of the quality of green corridors has been undertaken.</p>
Civic spaces	<p>Quantity: There are two civic spaces in the district, Market Place/Cornhill in Banbury and Market Square /Market Hill in Bicester. The general view from 56% of respondents to the household survey conducted in conjunction with the Study, is that the existing level of provision is ‘about right’.</p> <p>Quality: Litter was cited by 33% of respondents to the household survey as being the main factor detracting from the quality of civic spaces at present.</p>

The Green Space we need now

To establish the extent to which different types of green space meet needs at present, minimum recommended standards of provision have been developed, based upon an analysis of need and the views expressed by local people in community surveys. The standards are as follows:

Type of green space	Standard
Parks and gardens	<p>Quantity: 0.48 hectares of parks and gardens per 1,000 urban residents, equivalent to the highest existing levels of provision in the district.</p> <p>Quality: 'A welcoming, clean, well maintained site that is free from vandalism and graffiti and provides a range of facilities for all users, with a good variety of well kept flowers, trees and shrubs and ancillary facilities that will enhance the user's visit and feeling of safety. The site should reflect local traditions and allow for the viewing of public art'.</p> <p>Accessibility: 15 minutes walking time (1,200m).</p>
Natural/semi-natural green space	<p>Quantitative standard: Urban and rural standards for existing provision were set as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In urban areas, 0.53ha. per 1,000 people (equivalent to the average levels of provision in urban parts of the district at present). • In rural areas, 3.74ha. per 1,000 people (equivalent to the average levels of provision in rural parts of the district at present). • For future provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In urban areas, 0.53ha. per 1,000 people (equivalent to the average levels of provision in urban parts of the district at present). • In rural areas, 1.55ha. per 1,000 people (equivalent to the average levels of provision for the district as a whole at present). <p>Quality: 'A publicly accessible, spacious, clean and litter free site with clear pathways and natural features that encourage wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Sites should be maintained to protect nature conservation interest, with interpretive signage and safety features where appropriate'.</p> <p>Accessibility: 15 minutes walking time (1,200m).</p>
Amenity green space	<p>Quantitative standard: This was set as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In urban areas, 0.5 ha. per 1,000 people (slightly above the highest levels of provision in urban parts of the district at present, to achieve equality of provision between the three urban areas). • In rural areas, 0.75 ha. per 1,000 people (equivalent to highest levels of provision in rural parts of the district at present). <p>Quality: 'A clean and well-maintained green space site with well kept grass and varied vegetation and large enough to accommodate informal play. Sites should have appropriate ancillary facilities (benches, litter bins) and landscaping in the right places, providing a spacious outlook and overall enhancing the appearance of the local environment'.</p> <p>Accessibility: 5 minutes walking time (240m).</p>
Play provision	<p>Quantitative standard: This was set as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For younger children, 0.59 ha. per 1,000 people. • For older children, 0.19 ha. per 1,000 people. <p>Quality: 'A site providing a suitable mix of well-maintained formal equipment and an enriched play environment to encourage informal play and recreation by children and young people. A safe and secure location with good access to the site that includes ancillary facilities such as teen shelters and seating'.</p> <p>Accessibility: 5 minutes walking time (480m) for younger children's play facilities and 15 minutes walking time (1,200m) for older children's provision.</p>

Type of green space	Standard
Multi-Use Games Areas	<p>Quantitative standard: One MUGA per 5,000 people, to be provided in conjunction with children’s play space allocations.</p> <p>Quality: Safe and secure locations with good access to sites that include ancillary facilities such as teen shelters and seating.</p> <p>Accessibility: Within 15 minutes walking time (1,200m) of the whole population.</p>
Tennis courts	<p>Quantitative standard: One outdoor court per 3,500 people.</p> <p>Quality: Courts should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be free from dog fouling, vandalism, graffiti and litter. • Have level, well-drained and good quality surfaces. • Have good quality ancillary facilities. • Have maintenance and management that ensures safety and effective usage. <p>Accessibility: Within 15 minutes walking time (1,200m) of the urban population and 15 minutes driving time (12km) of the rural population.</p>
Bowling greens	<p>Quantitative standard: One bowling green per 12,000 people.</p> <p>Quality: Greens should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be free from dog fouling, vandalism, graffiti and litter. • Have level, well-drained and good quality surfaces. • Have good quality ancillary facilities. • Have maintenance and management that ensures safety and effective usage. <p>Accessibility: Within 15 minutes driving time (12km) of the whole population.</p>
Golf courses	<p>Quantitative standard: One 18-hole golf course per 17,500 people.</p> <p>Quality: Courses should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be free from dog fouling, vandalism, graffiti and litter. • Have level, well-drained and good quality surfaces. • Have good quality ancillary facilities. • Have maintenance and management that ensures safety and effective usage. <p>Accessibility: Within 15 minutes driving time (12km) of the whole population.</p>
Allotments	<p>Quantitative standard: 0.31 ha. per 1,000 people (equivalent to the average level of provision in the district at present).</p> <p>Quality: ‘A clean, well kept and secure site that encourages sustainable communities, bio-diversity and healthy living with appropriate ancillary facilities to meet local needs, clearly marked pathways to and within the site’.</p> <p>Accessibility: 10 minutes walking time (800m).</p>
Churchyards/ cemeteries	<p>Quantitative standard: No standard was set because PPG17 states that in terms of their greenspace function, ‘the only provision standard that will be required is a qualitative one’.</p> <p>Quality: ‘A well maintained, clean and safe site with the provision of seating areas, clear footpaths and car parking either on site or nearby. The site will encourage biodiversity by providing varied vegetation and aim to be an oasis for quiet contemplation’.</p> <p>Accessibility: No standard was set because PPG17 states that in terms of their greenspace function, ‘the only provision standard that will be required is a qualitative one’.</p>
Green corridors	<p>Quantitative standard: No standard set because PPG17 states that ‘the need for green corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable form of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard’.</p> <p>Quality: ‘Clean, well maintained safe and secure routes with clear, level and well drained paths, which are provided by the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation. The green corridor should provide links to major open spaces, urban areas and community facilities. Sites should provide a natural wildlife habitat, cyclist provision and ancillary accommodation such as seating and toilets where appropriate’.</p> <p>Accessibility: No standard set because the PPG17 Study states that there is no need to develop an accessibility standard for green corridors because ‘they cannot easily be influenced by planning policy and are very much opportunity-led than demand-led’.</p>
Civic spaces	<p>Quantitative standard: No standard was set in the PPG17 Study.</p> <p>Quality: ‘A clean, safe, litter and graffiti free community site which encourages a sense of place where local distinctiveness and traditions can be celebrated. The civic space will provide public art and ancillary facilities, where appropriate, to accommodate a wide range of users’.</p> <p>Accessibility: No standard was set in the PPG17 Study.</p>

Providing more and better Green Spaces

Banbury: Based upon the above standards, the current shortfalls in green space provision in Banbury and an action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Current shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Parks and gardens	0.0ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No identified quantitative shortfall. Improve the quality of existing parks, to achieve 'Green Flag' designation by 2015.
Natural/semi-natural green space	1.34ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop 1.4ha of community woodland as part of the Bankside development. Improve the quality of existing natural and semi-natural green space, especially access.
Amenity green space	0.0ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No identified quantitative shortfall. Improve the quality of existing amenity green space, especially access.
Younger children's play	19.51ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other appropriate forms of existing green space. Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Older children's play	2.76ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other appropriate forms of green space. Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Multi-Use Games Areas	0 MUGA	No identified quantitative shortfall.
Tennis courts	3 courts	Provide three new courts in appropriate locations, in conjunction with existing MUGAs where appropriate.
Bowling greens	0 greens	No identified quantitative shortfall.
Golf courses	0 courses	No additional provision required – Cherwell Edge GC and surplus provision in Rural North meet current and future needs.
Allotments	6.12ha	Provide 6.1ha of space, with priority provision in Calthorpe ward.

Bicester: Based upon the above standards, the current shortfalls in green space provision in Bicester and an action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Current shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Parks and gardens	10.90ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an 'urban edge' park totalling at least 10.9ha around the outskirts of the town (including land designated along Skimmingdish Lane), linking existing greenspaces and with sign-posted footpaths and cycleways connecting to the town centre. • Improve the quality of The Garth, to achieve 'Green Flag' designation by 2015.
Natural/semi-natural green space	0.0ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No identified quantitative shortfall. • Improve the quality of existing natural and semi-natural green space, especially access.
Amenity green space	4.60ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop 4.6ha of space (including land designated to the north of Gavray Drive). • Improve the quality of existing natural and semi-natural green space, especially access.
Younger children's play	13.67ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other appropriate forms of existing green space. • Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Older children's play	2.18ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other appropriate forms of green space. • Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Multi-Use Games Areas	1 MUGA	Provide one new MUGA at Pingle Field.
Tennis courts	1 court	Provide one new court in SW Bicester development.
Bowling greens	1 green	Provide one new green at Pingle Field, subject to demand from a local club.
Golf courses	1 course	Encourage a club/commercial operator to provide one additional course in the Chesterton area - surplus provision in rural central meets other current and future needs.
Allotments	5.39ha	Provide 5.4ha of space, with priority provision in North and West ward (Skimmingdish Lane).

Kidlington: Based upon the above standards, the current shortfalls in green space provision in Kidlington and an action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Current shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Parks and gardens	6.59ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a park in the vicinity of Exeter Hall, with additional provision on the northern outskirts of the town. Achieve 'Green Flag' designation by 2015.
Natural/semi-natural green space	0.0ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No identified quantitative shortfall. Improve the quality of existing natural and semi-natural green space, especially access.
Amenity green space	2.12ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop 2.2ha of space, with priority provision in South ward. Improve the quality of existing amenity green space, especially access.
Younger children's play	7.73ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other forms of existing green space. Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Older children's play	2.23ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space. Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Multi-Use Games Areas	1 MUGA	Provide one new MUGA at Orchard Recreation Ground.
Tennis courts	2 courts	Provide two new courts at Exeter Hall.
Bowling greens	0 greens	No identified quantitative shortfall.
Golf courses	0	No additional provision required – North Oxford GC meets current and future needs.
Allotments	1.05ha	Provide 1.1ha of space.

Rural North: Based upon the above standards, the current shortfalls in green space provision in wards in the Rural North sub-area (Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote, Cropredy, Hook Norton, Sibford and Wroxton), together with an action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Current shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Natural/semi-natural green space	48.12ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate public access agreements to privately owned natural/ semi-natural green space, to meet shortfalls in Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote, Cropredy, Hook Norton and Sibford wards. Improve the quality of existing natural and semi-natural green space, especially access.
Amenity green space	4.08ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop 4.1ha of space, with priority provision in Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote, Cropredy and Wroxton wards. Improve the quality of existing amenity green space, especially access.
Younger children’s play	9.24ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other forms of existing green space. Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Older children’s play	1.70ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space. Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Multi-Use Games Areas	0 MUGA	No identified quantitative shortfall.
Tennis courts	0 courts	No identified quantitative shortfall.
Bowling greens	0 greens	No identified quantitative shortfall.
Golf courses	0 courses	No additional provision required.
Allotments	0.0ha	No additional provision required.

Rural Central: Based upon the above standards, the current shortfalls in green space provision in wards in the Rural Central sub-area (Caversfield, Deddington, Fringford and the Astons and Heyfords), together with an action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Current shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Natural/semi-natural green space	0.0ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No identified current shortfall. Improve the quality of existing natural and semi-natural green space, especially access.
Amenity green space	0.0ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No identified current shortfall. Improve the quality of existing amenity green space, especially access.
Younger children's play	6.45ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other appropriate forms of existing green space. Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Older children's play	1.41ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other appropriate forms of green space. Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Multi-Use Games Areas	0 MUGAs	No identified quantitative shortfall.
Tennis courts	0 courts	No identified quantitative shortfall.
Bowling greens	0 greens	No identified quantitative shortfall.
Golf courses	0 courses	Same provision as for Bicester above.
Allotments	0.00ha	No identified current shortfall.

Rural South: Based upon the above standards, the current shortfalls in green space provision in wards in the Rural South sub-area (Ambrosden and Chesterton, Kirtlington, Launton, Otmoor and Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton), together with an action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Current shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Natural/semi-natural green space	8.56ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate public access agreements to privately owned natural/ semi-natural green space, to meet the shortfalls in Launton, Otmoor and Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton. Improve the quality of existing natural and semi-natural green space, especially access.
Amenity green space	3.52ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop 3.6ha of space, with priority provision in Kirtlington, Launton, Otmoor and Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton wards. Improve the quality of existing amenity green space, especially access.
Younger children’s play	7.67ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other appropriate forms of existing green space. Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Older children’s play	1.17ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiency to be met through a combination of new equipped play areas, MUGAs and additional play opportunities using other appropriate forms of green space. Improve the quality of existing play areas.
Multi-Use Games Areas	2 MUGAs	Provide one new MUGA at Kirtlington Recreation Ground and one at Islip Recreation Ground.
Tennis courts	3 courts	Provide three new courts at Kirtlington Recreation Ground.
Bowling greens	0 greens	No identified quantitative shortfall.
Golf courses	0 courses	No additional provision required.
Allotments	0.00ha	No identified current shortfall.

The Green Space we need in the future

The minimum recommended standards of provision can also be applied to calculate how much green space will be needed in the future, based on projected population increases. A 14.6% increase in the district population is predicted by 2026, taking the overall figure to 157,000. Most of the increase will be accounted for by the residents of new housing developments and whilst it is unclear exactly what new housing will be provided and where, some assumptions can be made on district sub-area basis to enable future green space needs to be calculated.

Banbury: Based upon the identified local standards, the future shortfalls in green space provision in Banbury and an outline action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Future shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Parks and gardens	3.28ha	Develop a 3.3ha park, ideally on the north-west outskirts of the town.
Natural/semi-natural green space	3.67ha	Develop an additional 3.7ha of space through new provision or public access agreements to privately owned sites.
Amenity green space	3.44ha	Develop 3.5ha of space.
Younger children's play	4.09ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Older children's play	1.32ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas, MUGAs and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Multi-Use Games Areas	2 MUGAs	Provide two new MUGAs.
Tennis courts	2 courts	Provide two new courts in conjunction with MUGAs.
Bowling greens	1 green	Provide one new green, subject to local demand.
Golf courses	0 courses	No additional provision required – Cherwell Edge GC and surplus provision in rural north meet current and future needs.
Allotments	2.14ha	Provide an additional 2.1ha of allotments once current deficiencies have been met.

Bicester: Based upon the identified local standards, the future shortfalls in green space provision in Bicester and an outline action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Future shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Parks and gardens	6.93ha	A new 7.0ha park, based on sites around the periphery of Bicester, linking with the planned circular route.
Natural/semi-natural green space	3.34ha	Develop 3.4ha of space through new provision or public access agreements to privately owned sites.
Amenity green space	4.22ha	Develop a further 4.2ha of space.
Younger children's play	4.97ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Older children's play	1.61 ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas, MUGAs and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Multi-Use Games Areas	1 MUGA	Provide one new MUGA.
Tennis courts	3 courts	Provide three new courts.
Bowling greens	0 greens	No identified future shortfall.
Golf courses	0 courses	No identified future shortfall.
Allotments	2.61 ha	Provide an additional 2.6ha of allotments

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Kidlington: Based upon the identified local standards, the future shortfalls in green space provision in Kidlington and an outline action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Future shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Parks and gardens	0.36ha	Extend the new park, ideally on the northern outskirts of the town by a further 0.4ha.
Natural/semi-natural green space	0.11 ha	Develop 0.1ha of natural and semi-natural green space, ideally in the new park.
Amenity green space	0.38ha	Develop a further 0.4ha of space.
Younger children's play	0.44ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Older children's play	0.14ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas, MUGAs and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Multi-Use Games Areas	0 MUGAs	No identified future shortfall.
Tennis courts	0 courts	No identified future shortfall.
Bowling greens	0 green	No identified future shortfall.
Golf courses	0 courses	No identified future shortfall.
Allotments	0.23ha	Provide an additional 0.2ha of allotments, subject to local demand.

Rural North: Based upon the identified local standards, the future shortfalls in green space provision in the Rural North sub-area and an outline action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Future shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Natural/semi-natural green space	5.23ha	Develop an additional 5.3ha of space through new provision or public access agreements to privately owned sites, once current deficiencies are met.
Amenity green space	2.55ha	Develop a further 2.6ha of space.
Younger children's play	2.00ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Older children's play	0.65ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas, MUGAs and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Multi-Use Games Areas	1 MUGA	Provide one new MUGA.
Tennis courts	0 court	No identified future shortfall.
Bowling greens	0 green	No identified future shortfall.
Golf courses	0 courses	No identified future shortfall.
Allotments	0.00ha	No identified future shortfall.

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Rural Central: Based upon the identified local standards, the future shortfalls in green space provision in the Rural Central sub-area and an outline action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Future shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Natural/semi-natural green space	0.0ha	No identified quantitative shortfall. Improve the quality of existing amenity green space, especially access.
Amenity green space	1.49ha	Develop a further 1.5ha of space.
Younger children's play	1.39ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Older children's play	0.45ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas, MUGAs and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Multi-Use Games Areas	0 MUGAs	No additional provision required.
Tennis courts	0 courts	No additional provision required.
Bowling greens	0 greens	No identified future shortfall.
Golf courses	1 course	Encourage a club/commercial operator to provide one additional course in the Chesterton area.
Allotments	0.0ha	No identified future shortfall.

Rural South: Based upon the identified local standards, the future shortfalls in green space provision in the Rural South sub-area and an outline action plan for meeting them, are as follows:

Type of green space	Future shortfall	Action plan for meeting shortfall
Natural/semi-natural green space	5.50ha	Develop an additional 5.5ha of space through new provision or public access agreements to privately owned sites, once current deficiencies are met
Amenity green space	2.66ha	Develop a further 2.7ha of space.
Younger children's play	2.10ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Older children's play	0.68ha	Meet deficiencies through a combination of new equipped play areas, MUGAs and additional play opportunities using other forms of green space.
Multi-Use Games Areas	1 MUGA	Provide one new MUGA.
Tennis courts	1 court	Provide one new court.
Bowling greens	1 green	Provide a new green, subject to local demand.
Golf courses	0 courses	No identified future shortfall.
Allotments	0.0ha	No identified future shortfall.



Summary of current and future Green Space needs

The overall green space requirements in Cherwell district, both now and in the future, can be summarised as follows. In some instances the overall district-wide totals differ from the sum of the sub-area totals in the action plan above. This is because the action plan does not list any notional localised ‘surpluses’ of provision, because no immediate action is required in relation to making additional provision in these areas:

Type of green space	What we ve got now	The extra space we need now	The extra space we ll need by 2026, once current shortfalls are met	The total space we ll need in 2026
Parks and gardens	22.88ha	17.49ha	10.57ha	48.20ha
Natural/semi-natural green space	203.99ha	58.02ha	17.88ha	244.39ha
Amenity green space	71.45ha	14.31ha	14.74ha	92.94ha
Play (younger children)	13.54ha	64.34ha	14.99ha	92.87ha
Play (older children)	13.54ha	11.52ha	4.82ha	29.88ha
Multi-Use Games Areas	24 MUGAs	3 MUGAs	5 MUGAs	32 MUGAs
Tennis courts	35 courts	3 courts	6 courts	45 courts
Bowling greens	10 greens	0 greens	2 greens	12 greens
Golf courses	7 courses	0 courses	1 course	8 courses
Allotments	40.55ha	0.37ha	7.85ha	48.77ha

Implementing the Green Spaces Strategy

Delivery partners: A range of organisations will be involved in implementing the strategy to provide more and better green spaces, including the following both individually and in partnership:

- a) Cherwell District Council.
- b) Town and parish councils.
- c) Schools.
- d) Voluntary organisations.
- e) Commercial organisations.
- f) Housing developers.

Implementation options: There are several options for providing additional green space:

- a) **New provision.**
- b) **Upgrading provision:** This can be achieved through:
 - Extended provision.
 - Improved provision.
- c) **Enhanced access:** Improving access to existing greenspace provision can be achieved in a number of ways:
 - Formal agreements.
 - Physical improvements.
 - Public transport improvements.
 - Rights of way improvements.
 - Information and awareness.
- d) **Integrated provision:** Combining different types of greenspace provision can broaden the appeal of a site.

Funding options: There several external funding options including:

- a) Developer contributions.
- b) Lottery funding.
- c) Landfill tax and aggregates levy.
- d) Charities and trusts.

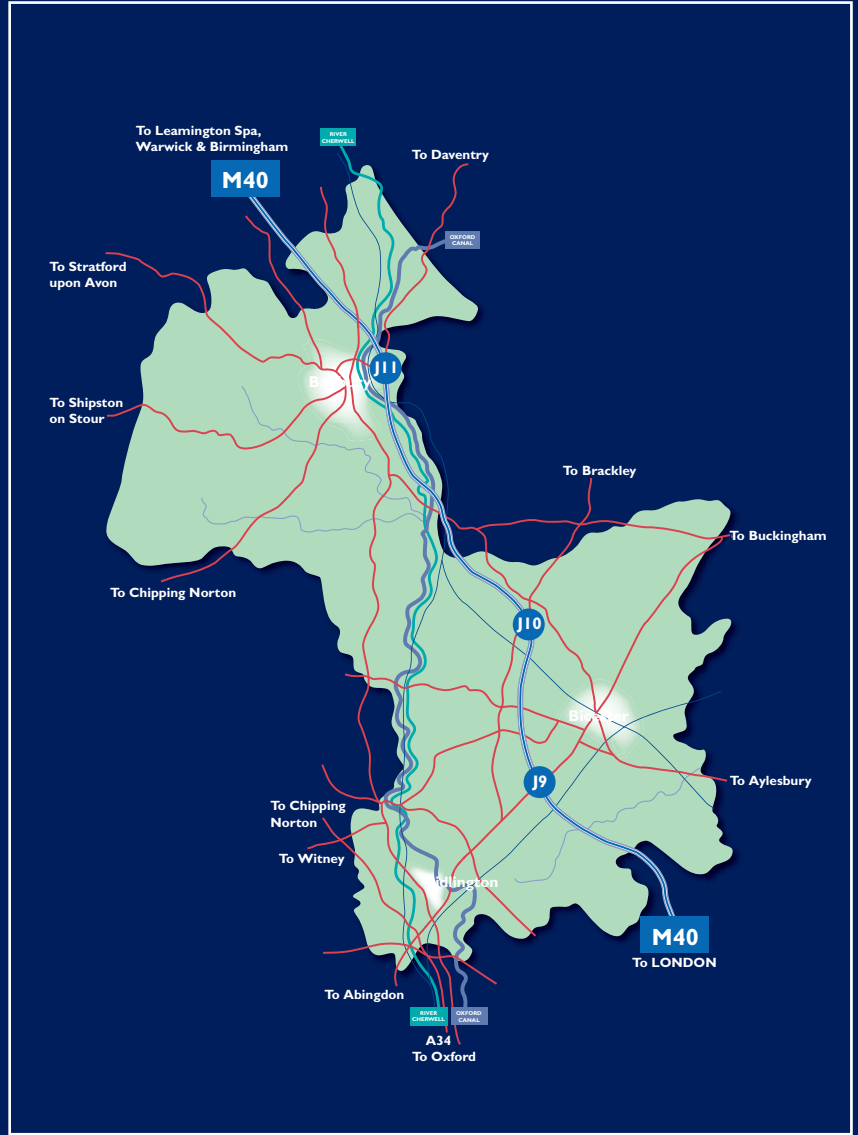
Summary

PPG17 highlights the fact that green spaces play a key role in enhancing people's quality of life. Other benefits that it identifies that they provide include:

- a) **Supporting an urban renaissance:** Local networks of high-quality, well-managed and maintained green spaces helps to create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe.
- b) **Supporting a rural renewal:** Green spaces within rural settlements and accessibility to local sports and recreation facilities contribute to the quality of life and well-being of people who live in rural areas.
- c) **Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion:** Well planned and maintained green spaces can help play a major part in improving people's sense of well-being in the place they live. As a focal point for community activities, they can bring together members of deprived communities and provide opportunities for social interaction.
- d) **Health and well being:** Green spaces have a vital role to play in promoting healthy living and preventing illness and in the social development of children of all ages through play, sporting activities and interaction with others.
- e) **Promoting more sustainable development:** By ensuring that green spaces form multi-functional networks, they provide opportunities for environmentally-friendly forms of transport like walking and cycling.

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The Cherwell Green Spaces Strategy provides a blueprint for the expansion and improvement of green spaces in the district over the next twenty years and identifies the current and future shortfalls that need to be addressed to ensure that the existing and prospective inhabitants of the district can enjoy to the full the many benefits such spaces provide.



Call **01295 221572**

or visit **www.cherwell.gov.uk**

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