

Appendix 1 Legislative Context

Legislation	Headline Action
Open Spaces Act 1906	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing powers for local authorities to acquire open spaces for recreation
New Towns Act 1946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide for the creation of new towns by means of development corporations, and for purposes connected therewith
The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced the concept of National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs), important for their flora and fauna, geological or physiographical (landform) features; and conferred powers on local authorities to create nature reserves
The Countryside Act 1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A duty to have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside in the exercise of functions relating to land
Highways Act 1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powers and Duties relating to the management and maintenance of Public Rights of Way
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of wildlife habitats through restoration of mineral workings/reclamation of derelict land; • Managing local authority land so that account is taken of its wildlife interest/environmental improvement schemes • Educational activities and the provision of information about conservation.
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Section 106)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) A local planning authority may enter into an agreement with any person interested in land in their area for the purpose of restricting or regulating the development or use of the land, either permanently or during such period as may be prescribed by the agreement. • (2) Any such agreement may contain such incidental and consequential provisions (including financial ones) as appear to the local planning authority to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the agreement.
The Planning and Compensation Act 1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved local planning authorities' abilities to safeguard conservation and amenity areas by strengthening their planning enforcement and development control powers. It also required structure, local and unitary development plans to include policies in respect of the conservation of the natural beauty and amenity of the land.
EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora: The Habitats Directive (1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to the conservation of bio-diversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status in the Community, giving effect to both site and species protection objectives.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New rights of access on foot for open air recreation on access land – predominantly mountain, moor, heath or down • Establishment of Local Access Forums – to advise on

	<p>access to land for all types of open air recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of Rights of Way Improvement Plans • Greater protection for nature conservation – due regard for biodiversity and increased powers regarding Sites of Special Scientific Interest
The Local Government Act 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act provides new powers for local authorities to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of their area; a duty to develop Community Strategies; and establishes a new ethical framework for local government
Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005	<p>A range of measures to improve the quality of the local environment by giving Local Authorities and the Environment Agency additional powers to deal with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fly-tipped waste • litter • nuisance alleys • fly-posting and graffiti • abandoned and nuisance vehicles • dogs • noise, • nuisance from artificial lighting and insect, and other issues affecting the local environment. <p>It also puts the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) on a statutory basis.</p>
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of responsibilities to safeguard and enhance biodiversity • Additional legislation relating to Rights of Way – specifically Byways

Legal compliance:

In addition to the above, there are a number of legal provisions and statutory obligations that affect the delivery of park services that need to be duly considered and if necessary reflected in management plans. These include:

- Statutory Instrument 2004 No.118 Prescribed Descriptions (England) Order 2004 (established statutory crime and disorder strategies);
- Local Government Acts 1972, 1999 (established Best Value Authorities) and 2000 (established promotion of economic, social or environmental well-being);
- Local Government and Rating Act 1997;
- Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996;
- Environmental Protection Act 1990;
- Litter Act 1983;
- Parish Councils and Burials Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970;
- Public Health Acts 1848 to 1875;
- Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908;•;
- Enclosure Act 1845.

The provisions of these Acts enable local authorities to hold land, provide services, enforce byelaws and in some cases impose fines. Further details can be obtained from www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk

Strategic Background

BFBC's over-arching vision is: *"To make Bracknell Forest a place where all people can thrive; living, learning and working in a clean, safe and healthy environment."*

The Council's plans for the period 2007-11 are laid out within four over-arching priorities. Within these, 10 Medium Term Objectives set out the targets for this period:

Priority one: a Town fit for the 21st century

1. To build a vibrant Bracknell town centre that residents are proud of

Priority two: protecting and enhancing our environment

2. To keep our parks, open spaces and leisure facilities accessible and attractive by:
 - Restoring South Hill Park grounds
 - Preparing a new cultural strategy for the Borough
 - Reviewing management options for leisure sites in order to maintain quality and generate secured investment
 - Preparing a new parks and open spaces strategy
 - Improving the quality of the countryside and open space by targeted projects and by engaging the voluntary sector
3. To promote sustainable housing and infrastructure development
4. Keep Bracknell Forest "clean and green"

Priority three: promoting health and well-being

5. To improve health and well being within the Borough
6. To improve the outcomes for children and families through the Children and Young People's Plan
7. To promote independence and choice for vulnerable adults and older people
8. Seek to ensure that every resident feels included and able to access the services they need

Priority four: safe and secure

9. To reduce crime and increase people's sense of safety in the Borough
10. To be accountable and provide excellent value for money by:

Bracknell Forest Sustainable Community Plan (2005)

Bracknell Forest Partnership is a collaboration which brings together agencies that deliver public services (the Councils, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, and Primary Care Trust) with businesses and people that represent voluntary organisations and the community.

Bracknell Forest Partnership aspires to have an open dialogue with people that live, work and study in Bracknell Forest, along with visitors, so that it can understand what really matters to local people. From information gathered, the Partnership has put together a shared vision for Bracknell Forest and a list of local priorities. This material has been published in the Bracknell Forest Sustainable Community Plan, which is being used by all the partners to align their work to ensure that all working to a common goal, as set by the whole community.

“In 2015, the community of Bracknell Forest will be self-confident, socially cohesive, economically buoyant and renowned for its “can do” attitude. Living and working in Bracknell Forest will mean having an excellent quality of life. Local people will be safe and healthy. They will have a home that meets their needs and be able to travel easily around the borough, particularly by public transport. The distinctive, quality environment of Bracknell Forest will be enhanced and the community and learning will be valued throughout people’s lives”

The Bracknell Forest Sustainable Community Plan has eight priorities:

- *Promoting learning and training for all ages*
- *Protecting and enhancing the environment*
- *Improving health and well being*
- *Providing decent and affordable housing*
- *Developing a town fit for the 21st Century*
- *Improving travel and transport*
- *Promoting community safety*
- *Improving community engagement*

Priority 2 includes the following aims:

- *Reduced waste and pollution*
- *Increased biodiversity*
- *Reduced environmental crime*
- *Increased awareness of environmental issues leading to changes in behaviour*
- *Reduced impact of local developments on the natural environment*
- *Increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy*

Priority 8 includes:

Greater satisfaction with Bracknell Forest as a place to live

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (January 2002)

The local plan, adopted in 2002, sets out a clear statement of Bracknell Forest Borough Council's strategy for land use planning to 31 March 2006.

Relevant policies:

- POLICY EN1: *Protecting tree and hedgerow cover*
- POLICY EN4: *Local Nature Reserves, Wildlife Heritage Sites and Regionally Important Geological Sites*
- POLICY EN8: *Development on land outside settlements*
- POLICY R1: *Loss of open space of public value*
- POLICY R7: *Countryside recreation*

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework 2007 (LDF)

The Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework (LDF) is a portfolio of documents that together will guide future development in the borough.

While documents in the LDF are being prepared, policies in the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (2002) will be used to guide the development until they are replaced.

The Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Adopted in December 2007) contains policies which set out an over-arching planning framework to guide the location and level of development in the borough for the next 20 years.

The Core Strategy policies are divided into six themes:

1. *Sustainable Growth*
2. *Quality of Life*
3. *The Environment*
4. *Somewhere to Live*
5. *Somewhere to Work and Shop*
6. *Transport*

Within these themes, 24 policies are set out and form the basis for more details policies and proposals to be set out in other Local Development Documents.

Relevant policies listed in the Core Strategy are:

- POLICY CS1: *Sustainable Development Principles*
- POLICY CS6: *Limiting the Impact of Development*
- POLICY CS7: *Design*
- POLICY CS8: *Recreation and Culture*

Of particular relevance is:

- *Policy CS8: Recreation and Culture*
Development will be permitted which;
 - i. Retains, improves and maintains existing Recreational Facilities; and/or*
 - ii. Provides and maintains new Recreational Facilities.*

Berkshire Structure Plan 2001-2016

Produced by the Joint Strategic Planning Unit, who carry out strategic planning functions for the county, this document replaces the 1991-2006 Structure Plan. The plan was prepared by the six Unitary Authorities which make up the former county of Berkshire and was adopted by the Secretary of State on 15 July 2005.

Relevant policies:

- POLICY DP6 : *Land Outside Settlements*
- POLICY DP7 : *Gaps and Green Wedges*
- POLICY EN1 : *Landscape*
- POLICY EN3 : *Biodiversity*
- POLICY EN4 : *Historic Environment*

'Life is for Living Two' Bracknell Forest Cultural Strategy 2008-2012

Vision: To improve the look and feel of Bracknell Forest making it a stimulating and enjoyable place to visit, and contributing to a thriving community where all people are happy to live, work and achieve.

This vision is supported through three strategic themes:-

- Enhance Town Centre, villages and neighbourhoods
- Improving the sense of belonging and community spirit for all
- Continue to support and improve the range of high quality facilities and services

The following points are the relevant proposed Action Plans for each theme:

Theme 1: Enhance Town Centre, villages and neighbourhoods

- Provide appropriate facilities and activities for young people
- Providing purposeful leisure opportunities as diversionary activities
- Encourage residents to care for their local environment
- Increase participation in and enjoyment of art, sport and recreation
- Encourage best practice in conservation management of archaeological sites
- Safeguard and enhance the natural environment
- Create new Conservation Areas

Theme 2: Improving the sense of belonging and community spirit for all

Encouraging participation and enjoyment:

- Improve community cohesion through culture and sport (*Local Area Agreement- LAA*)
- Improve the health and wellbeing of adult residents (LAA)
- Improve health and wellbeing in the community and in the workplace
- Support schools with increasing the cultural content of after school and holiday activities
- Implement the Play Strategy
- Establish woodland crafts and forest heritage project to enhance local identity and skills
- Encourage the voluntary sector to increase quality and range of activities
- Increase community involvement in parks by establishing liaison and Friends of Groups
- Seek to provide community development in new neighbourhoods

Reducing Barriers to Access:

- Remove physical barriers that prevent access by those with physical disabilities
- Seek to provide facilities close to where people live
- Provide more community arts activities in local community venues

Celebrating:

- Encourage civic pride and civic participation in the local area

Improving information and awareness:

- Promote sense of place through raising awareness of local parks, countryside and heritage resources
- Promote awareness and care of the Borough's splendid tree stock and landscape character

Theme 3: Continue to support and improve the range of high quality facilities and services

Improving infrastructure:

- Implement the Rights of Way Improvement Plan

- Continually improve green spaces using the 'plus one' principle
- Improve non car access to sites by improving facilities for walking and cycling

Encouraging use:

- Support appropriate local sports clubs to achieve improvements in their facilities and services
- Encourage sports development through community and voluntary groups
- Encourage use of parks and community centres by older people
- Improve access for disabled people to all buildings and to green spaces
- Encourage countryside recreation on low impact sites so as to meet the needs of the SPA Mitigation Strategy
- Continue to support the voluntary footpath warden scheme and local conservation volunteers
- Improve consultation and community engagement in shaping the future of services
- Promote good practice through cultural accreditation schemes e.g. Chartermark, Green Flag
- Promote 3 x 30 (LAA), the government aspiration for the adult population (age 16+) to participate in 30 minutes of sport of moderate intensity physical activity on at least three days in any one week.

PPG17 Study (2006)

The BFBC PPG17 Study (2006) comprised a report on open space and indoor sport and recreational facilities and provides a clear vision and priorities for the future, based on local need:

"A high quality, accessible network of clean, safe and attractive green spaces and facilities which allow people to improve their health and well-being through recreation and sport now and in the future"

The 'plus one' principal is being followed to ensure that the quality of existing recreational facilities and open space is progressively improved from its current assessed quality rating (as stated in the PPG17 Audit) into the next quality category, for example from an 'Average' rating to 'Good' or 'Good' to 'Very Good' (with 'Good' as the minimum standard to be attained).

The study followed a five-stage process:

- Step 1: Identifying Local Needs
- Step 2: Auditing Local Provision
- Step 3: Setting Provision Standards
- Step 4: Applying Provision Standards
- Step 5: Draft Policy Principles

The Study demonstrated that the quality of lives is a priority; with several clear themes emerging from consultation:

- Open space and facilities are important, and in many ways are seen as the Borough's best assets. There is overall support to maintain the existing level of provision and provide new where needed.
- People want to see their open space and facilities improved.
- The character of the borough is undoubtedly defined to a large extent by its greenness and open spaces. Open space landscaping also serves to soften the hard edge of an urban environment.

- Open space and recreational facilities are an important contribution towards achieving truly sustainable communities, either through maintaining or enhancing existing communities or in helping create new communities.
- All seven Councils (Bracknell Forest Borough Council and the six parish or town councils) have prided themselves on their active management of open space and facilities. The high quality ratings of spaces from the results of the audit prove this point.
- Open space and recreational facilities are well used for both passive and active recreation. Visitor surveys and other counts prove their popularity.

Biodiversity Action Plan 2006-2011

The Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan includes individual action plans for 24 species of plants and animals in Bracknell Forest known as the "Bracknell 24". These species have been carefully chosen to include a wide cross-section ranging from internationally rare or protected species, to more common species which are locally valued or special. Actions to conserve the "Bracknell 24" and their habitats will also have beneficial knock-on effects for other species.

The BAP has the following aims and objectives:

1.1 *Aim*

To conserve and enhance biodiversity within Bracknell Forest Borough

1.2 *Objectives*

- *Comprehensive Monitoring: of species and habitats in the Borough to enable decisions to be informed, with up to date and detailed records.*
- *Proactive Policies: on planning and conservation, to ensure that important sites are protected and that where development occurs actions are taken to achieve the best result for wildlife in the Borough.*
- *Positive Management: on sites owned and/or managed by the Borough Council and its partners that aims to maintain, restore and create habitat for wildlife and balance the varied uses on open spaces in the area.*
- *Effective Communication: between partners, landowners and the public to raise awareness, encourage partnership working, and inform decision-making*

A Strategy for our Heritage (2004)

This heritage strategy results from the findings of a Member-led working group established in August 2002 to consider the role of heritage as an aspect of the Community Plan and Cultural Strategy; both of which seek to develop a sense of place and increase local identity amongst residents of Bracknell Forest.

The result of these site visits led to the framework for the Heritage Strategy which includes five strands

1. Community Participation
2. Audit & Assessment
3. Collection & Protection
4. Interpretation & Dissemination
5. Funding

Through these strands the views of the Heritage Working Group have been focused onto a series of outcomes. Of particular relevance are the following sections:

2.1 *Bracknell Forest Borough Council's role in protecting the heritage*

- *Management of several locally important historic parks and gardens for public enjoyment - Pope's Meadow, South Hill Park, Lily Hill Park, Easthampstead Park, Snaprails Park, Ambarrow Court.*

The Bracknell Forest Heritage Strategy forms a basis from which to devise new policies and action plans, develop partnerships, encourage self-sustaining community participation and to actively seek new funding opportunities.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006

Vision: Bracknell Forest Borough Council, through the Bracknell Forest Rights of Way Improvement Plan, aims to provide a public rights of way network:

- on which up-to-date information is readily available by a variety of means;
- that is physically accessible for all where practicable;
- which meets the needs of a wide variety of users for both recreation and access.

Relevant Policies:

- **POLICY ROWIP 1: *Rights of Way Users***

Protect and enhance the public rights of way network. Place priority on improving accessibility of the network for the mobility or visually impaired.

- **POLICY ROWIP 2: *Maintenance***

Continue to maintain the public rights of way network to a high level based on BVPI standards and aim to increase the accessibility of the network where practical.

- **POLICY ROWIP 3: *Routes and Links***

Where practicable, reclassify existing paths or create new paths to provide further network linkages and create further safe circular routes, particularly for horse-riders, cyclists and carriage-drivers.

- **POLICY ROWIP 4: *Information and Marketing***

Provide information on and promote the public rights of way network to the public through online information, leaflets, route guides, press releases and on-site information.

- **POLICY ROWIP 5: *Non Users***

Consider non-users of the public rights of way network as potential future users; examine reasons for non-use and take action on those which might easily attract new users.

- **POLICY ROWIP 6: *Responsible Use / Landowners and Managers***

Promote and publicise legal and responsible use of the public rights of way network and access to the countryside; landowners and land managers with areas open to public access will be supported regarding public use of their land.

Play Strategy (2007)

The Play Strategy (2007) adopts the seven 'Best Play' objectives published in "Best Play: What play provision should do for children" (Children's Play Council). These

objectives are broad statements intended to set out how the definition of play and the underpinning values and principles should be put into practice. They form the basis against which play provision and future developments can be evaluated.

- *Objective 1: The provision extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.*
- *Objective 2: The provision recognises the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need.*
- *Objective 3: The provision manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.*
- *Objective 4: The provision maximises the range of play opportunities.*
- *Objective 5: The provision fosters independence and self-esteem.*
- *Objective 6: The provision fosters children's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction.*
- *Objective 7: The provision fosters the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.*

The strategy then sets out an action plan with 9 areas of work:

1. *Play rangers*
2. *Training and education*
3. *Inclusive play*
4. *General infrastructure of parks and open spaces*
5. *Opening up school grounds*
6. *Urban design*
7. *Jabadeo programme*
8. *Cultural change*
9. *A place for young people*

Safer Communities Strategy (2005-2008)

The Bracknell Forest Safer Communities Partnership is made up of representatives from the Local Authority, Police, Health, Thames Valley Police Authority, Probation Service and the Fire Service all of whom are statutory partners. This 3 year strategy is produced in consultation with these partners and members of the community and outlines the intentions of BFBC to reduce the crimes that cause the community the most harm.

The strategy has 4 target areas:

- Reducing crime
- Drugs and alcohol
- Perceptions and anti-social behaviour
- Young people

The partnership has agreed rights and responsibilities such as 'the right to feel safe from traffic in streets and public places' and will continue to support and protect such public rights and whilst encouraging the community to exercise the associated responsibilities.

Disability Awareness

Bracknell Forest Borough Council is committed to providing an accessible environment for all the community. In recognising the access needs of disabled people, the Borough Council aims to improve the built environment, services and

facilities for all users, creating an inclusive environment for all those who live, work or visit Bracknell Forest.

The Borough Council runs an Access Advisory Panel. The Panel is made up of local representatives of disability organisations within the Borough and four councillors. The Panel works to improve services and facilities in Bracknell Forest for disabled people.

Designing for Accessibility Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted at a meeting of the Executive of Bracknell Forest Borough Council on 20 June 2006. This document sets out the standards now expected in new development to create an accessible environment for all within the Borough. It promotes the design of an inclusive built environment for all and has chapters on legislation, policy, best practice and design advice.

Planning Policy Guidance

<p>Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development</p>	<p>PPS1 sets out the overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. These policies complement, but do not replace or override, other national planning policies and should be read in conjunction with other relevant statements of national planning policy.</p> <p>Four aims for sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone • Effective protection of the environment • The prudent use of natural resources • The maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment
<p>Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green belts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States the general intentions of Green Belt policy, including its contribution to sustainable development objectives • Reaffirms the specific purposes of including land in Green Belts, with slight modifications • Gives policy a more positive thrust by specifying for the first time objectives for the use of land in Green Belts • Confirms that Green Belts must be protected as far as can be seen ahead, advises on defining boundaries and on safeguarding land for longer-term development needs • Maintains the presumption against inappropriate development within Green Belts and refines the categories of appropriate development, including making provision for the future of major existing developed sites and revising policy on the re-use of buildings
<p>Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting an urban renaissance - local networks of high quality and well managed and maintained open spaces, sports and recreational facilities help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe. Green spaces in urban areas perform vital functions as areas for nature conservation and biodiversity and by acting as 'green lungs' can assist in meeting objectives to improve air quality. • Supporting a rural renewal - the countryside can provide opportunities for recreation and visitors can play an important role in the regeneration of the economies of rural areas. Open spaces within rural settlements and accessibility to local sports and recreational facilities contribute to the quality of life and well being of people who live in rural areas. • Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion - well planned and maintained open spaces and good quality sports and recreational facilities can 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 people for social interaction. • Health and well being - open spaces, sports and recreational facilities 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. • Promoting more sustainable development - by ensuring that open space, sports and recreational facilities are easily accessible by walking and cycling and that more heavily used or intensive sports and recreational facilities are planned for

	<p>locations well served by public transport.</p> <p>The guidance specifically relates to assessments of needs, audits of provision and future opportunities and policy</p>
<p>Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</p>	<p>Key Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development plan policies and planning decisions should be based upon up-to-date information about the environmental characteristics of their areas. These characteristics should include the relevant biodiversity and geological resources of the area. In reviewing environmental characteristics local authorities should assess the potential to sustain and enhance those resources. • Plan policies and planning decisions should aim to maintain, and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. In taking decisions, local planning authorities should ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national and local importance; protected species; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment. • Plan policies on the form and location of development should take a strategic approach to the conservation, enhancement and restoration of biodiversity and geology, and recognise the contributions that sites, areas and features, both individually and in combination, make to conserving these resources. • Plan policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features within the design of development. • Development proposals where the principal objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests should be permitted. • The aim of planning decisions should be to prevent harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. Where granting planning permission would result in significant harm to those interests, local planning authorities will need to be satisfied that the development cannot reasonably be located on any alternative sites that would result in less or no harm. In the absence of any such alternatives, local planning authorities should ensure that, before planning permission is granted, adequate mitigation measures are put in place. Where a planning decision would result in significant harm to biodiversity and geological interests which cannot be prevented or adequately mitigated against, appropriate compensation measures should be sought. If that significant harm cannot be prevented, adequately mitigated against, or compensated for, then planning permission should be refused.
<p>Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the historic environment</p>	<p>The Government urges local authorities to maintain and strengthen their commitment to stewardship of the historic environment, and to reflect it in their policies and their allocation of resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is fundamental to the Government's policies for environmental stewardship that there should be effective protection for all aspects of the historic environment. • The physical survivals of our past are to be valued and protected for their own sake, as a central part of our cultural heritage and our sense of national identity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They are an irreplaceable record which contributes, through formal education and in many other ways, to our understanding of both the present and the past.• Their presence adds to the quality of our lives, by enhancing the familiar and cherished local scene and sustaining the sense of local distinctiveness which is so important an aspect of the character and appearance of our towns, villages and countryside.• The historic environment is also of immense importance for leisure and recreation.
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Appendix 3 Defining Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation encompasses a wide variety of activities, both formal and informal. In addition, the range and choice of possible locations is extensive. Accordingly, the topic can be difficult to conceptualise and define.

As part of work identifying and establishing early priorities, the confederate organisations which formed Natural England were working jointly on a recreation strategy for the new organisation. This included commissioning discussion papers to inform the strategy. As set out within Paper 1 of the Henley Centre Headlight Vision report (2005); outdoor recreation can be broadly defined as:-

Just being outdoors – watching wildlife, looking at the view, picnicking

Creative activities – art, photography, story telling, music

Health or relaxation – walking, jogging, dog walking, horse riding, cycling

Utility Journeys – which also provide a recreation experience (e.g. Greenways to connect people and place)

Informal games and play – kite flying, model aircraft, glider flying, sand castles, sledging

High adrenalin, non-competitive activities – canoeing, mountain biking, caving, climbing and bouldering

Commercially run activities

Study of the natural environment

Educational activities and programmes

Conservation volunteering

Sustainable journeys to outdoor recreation

Added to this are activities such as organised sports, history and archaeology and visiting friends and family.

Henley Centre Headlight Vision have also devised a matrix to illustrate the process of planning and travelling undertaken by users in determining recreational choice.

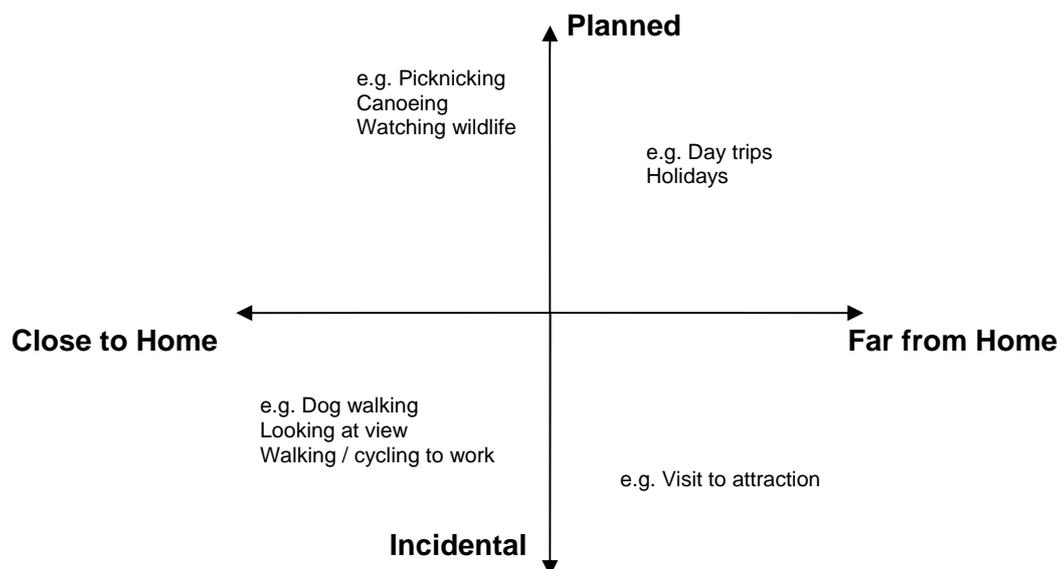
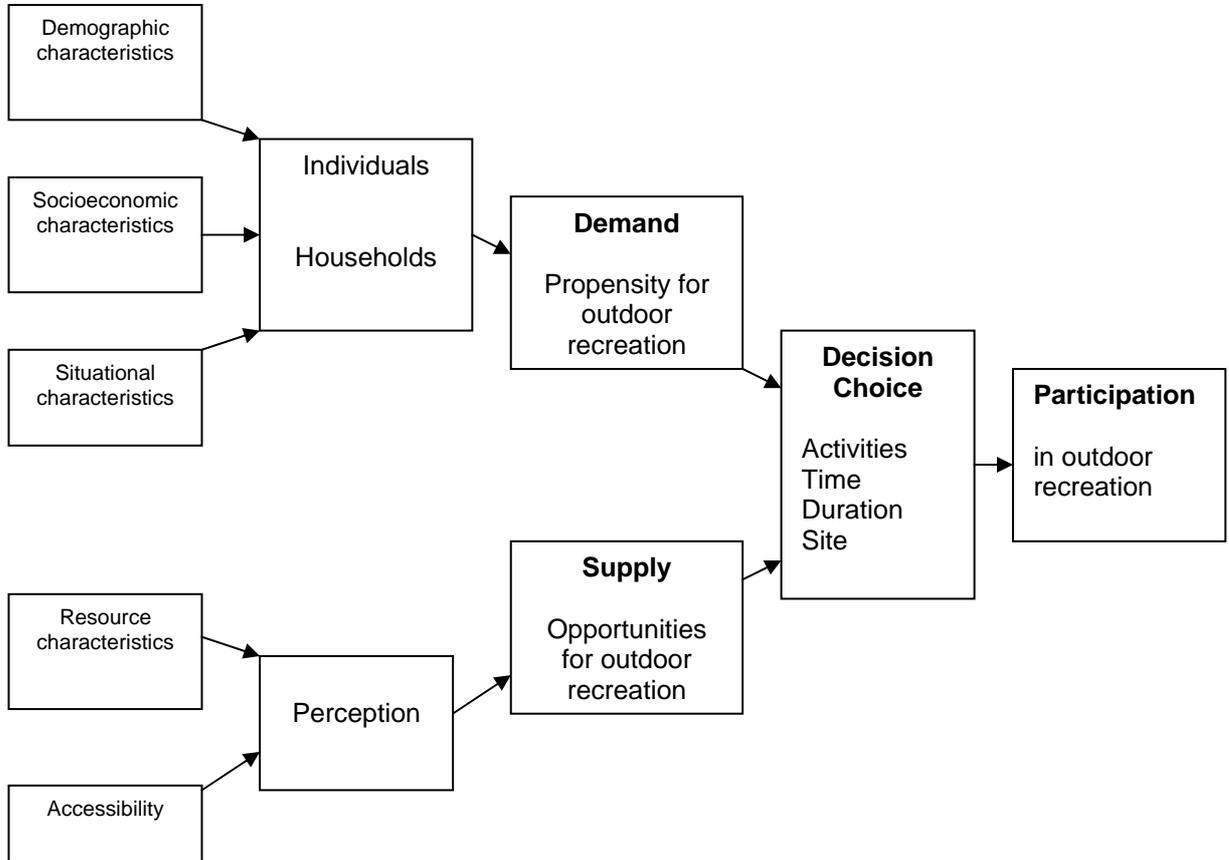


Figure: The decision making process in outdoor recreation (as summarised by Pigram, 1983)



Assessing Risk

Nature of Risk	Description	Level		Impact	Actions
		Likelihood	Severity		
Technical					
Understanding of Asset	Insufficient knowledge and awareness of green infrastructure	Low	Medium	Inadequate level of provision Poor quality standards Public dissatisfaction Diminished Quality of Life	Strategic approach adopted with all actions meeting and delivering policy priorities PPG17 Audit undertaken (Study of open spaces, recreational and leisure facilities) Master-plans created for new developments Use of Planning system to influence future provision (S106 Agreements, Unilateral Undertakings, Environmental Impact Assessments, Planning Conditions) Management Plans for key sites
Biodiversity Value	Incomplete understanding of habitats and wildlife value	Low	High	Loss of habitat and / or species Inability to maximise value Failure to meet regulatory / legislative requirements	Actions in accordance with and support delivery of the Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan Projects developed and delivered utilising appropriate expertise Key activities to include ecological survey, with watching brief and subsequent monitoring Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy produced
Historic Significance	Incomplete understanding of heritage value	Low	High	Poor quality and / or unsympathetic design Inappropriate use of materials Loss of heritage Failure to meet regulatory / legislative requirements	Heritage Strategy Management Plans Proposals / design and specification work developed utilising appropriate expertise
Climate Change Weather	Heavy rainfall, heat waves and other climatic issues	Medium	High	Environmental change including; loss of species, escalating costs, timescale delays, erosion	Fundamental role of green infrastructure in avoidance and mitigation Landscape and planting proposals to factor change and minimise potential negative impact (such as water consumption)

					Project timescales calculated to allow for potential weather related impacts Works phased to minimise impact on public and / or site.
Type and Extent of Skills and Activity required	Incomplete knowledge of the range of works required to establish, manage and enhance green infrastructure	Low	Medium	Poor quality and / or unsympathetic design Inappropriate use of materials Escalating costs Delays to timescales Failure to meet regulatory / legislative requirements	Use of appropriate expertise / multi-discipline teams; including partnership working – in-house, partner bodies and contractors / consultants
Ground Conditions	Incomplete site knowledge	Low	Medium	Inappropriate works Escalating costs Timescale delays	Surveys and research prior to formulating design proposals Use of appropriate expertise
Market					
Public Demand / Aspiration	Need for infrastructure / facilities Public dissatisfaction	Low	Medium	Poor public profile Low / inappropriate use of park	Research - including PPG17 Audit to assess provision Regular public consultation Community engagement
Visitor Numbers	Static or declining visitor numbers	Low	Low	Low public use of green space .	Regular public consultation including use of GreenStat Marketing and Promotion - on- and off-site
Visitor Profile	Actions do not result in attracting new and / or under-represented audiences.	Low	Low	Existing audiences only continue to use green spaces.	Regular public consultation Development of new marketing material, both on- and off-site to attract new audiences Targeting of groups Delivery of key actions to address barriers
Financial					
Funding	Insufficient financial resources to deliver	Medium	High	Actions not delivered - impacting on quality of life Deteriorating condition of facilities Declining visitor numbers Future budgetary implications (capital and revenue) through	Delivering national, regional and local priorities Action Plan developed through consultation with activities prioritised Multi-agency delivery External funding opportunities maximised including use of grants and developer contributions

				neglect	
Revenue Budgets	Revenue budgets insufficient to allow for effective maintenance	Medium	High	Quality and quantity compromised by lack of future maintenance	Ensure high public satisfaction and delivery of corporate priorities Potential for capital works to minimise revenue implications Efficiency – including Partnership working Collation and use of Commuted Sums from developer contributions
Rising Costs and Inflation	Costs higher than anticipated Inflation rises above estimated levels	Low	Medium	Reduced quality and / or quantity Delays to implementation Reduced funding available	Design, specification and cost estimating works developed utilising appropriate expertise (multi-discipline teams) Monthly monitoring of expenditure
Income Generation	Reduced or no income	Low	Low	Reduced funding available	Maximise appropriate opportunities for income generation Quality and quantity improvements to provide opportunities for future income generation Ensure revenue budgets are not income dependent (income dependence will greatly reduce social inclusion)
Management					
Expertise	Lack of appropriate skills and experience	Low	Medium	Ineffective Management Failure to meet regulatory / legislative requirements	Use of appropriate expertise / multi-discipline teams including partnership working – in-house, partner bodies and contractors / consultants Recruitment and Training to secure and enhance expertise Management Plans to guide actions Consultation and benchmarking (including Local Access Forum, Biodiversity Forum, Friends of groups and Site User Group Forums)
Timescales	Timescales not identified and / or adhered to	Low	Medium	Delays Poor quality works	Management Plans and work programming
Support	Lack of management	Low	High	Ineffective management	Inclusion within Corporate Priorities

	support (including infrastructure)			Public dissatisfaction Failure to meet regulatory / legislative requirements	Efficiency – including Partnership working
Quality Standards	Quality Standards such as Green Flag status not achieved	Low	Medium	Objectives not met Static or declining visitor numbers	Actions and future management and maintenance developed in line with Quality standards Benchmarking and training - staff with significant Green Flag Award experience Monitoring
Legal					
Land Ownership	Control over land.	Low	High	Lack of control over access to and management of green space Unable to undertake works Limits to public benefit Inappropriate use of land (e.g. fly-tipping)	Securing public ownership and / or legal rights of access Defining responsibilities
Statutory Consents	Relevant consents not obtained	Low	High	Works cannot proceed Conservation objectives compromised	Actions developed utilising specialist advice e.g. English Heritage, Natural England, Development Control re planning consent

Appendix 5: Quality Audit Proforma

Site Name:	
Site ID:	
Date of survey:	
Weather Conditions:	
Surveyed by:	

Site Feature	Key Element	Rating (5? (1 or 0))	
MAIN ENTRANCE	Easy to Find		0
	Obvious		
	Safe		
	Clean		
	Well Maintained		
	litter bin / dog bin		
	Other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
SIDE ENTRANCE	Safe		0
	Clean		
	Well Maintained		
	Other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
SIGNAGE	Welcoming		0
	Contact Detail		
	Name of Site		
	Site map		
	Information		
	Well Maintained		
	Open Closing times		
	Other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
BOUNDARY/ HEDGES / GATES/ FENCES	Well Maintained		0
	Clearly Defined		
	Other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
ROADS / PATHWAYS/ CYCLEWAYS/ ACCESSES	Suitable Materials		1 30
	level for safe use		
	Disabled access		
	Well Defined Edges		
	Surface Clean		
	Weed Free		
	Other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
FLOWER BEDS	Suitable Use of Plants		0
	Weed Free		
	Edged		
	Peat Free		
	Well Maintained		
	Other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	

SHRUB BEDS	Suitable Use of Plants		0
	Weed Free		
	Edged		
	Peat Free		
	Well Maintained		
	Other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
YOUNG TREES	Appropriate Mix		0
	Well Maintained		
	Tree Ties Maintained		
	Trees Tagged		
	Other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
MATURE TREES	Well Maintained		0
	Adequate Crown Lifting		
	Trees Tagged		
	other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
GRASS AREAS	Full Grass Cover		0
	Good Cover		
	Cleanly Cut		
	No Weeds		
	No Clippings		
	other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
BINS	Numerous		0
	Well Maintained		
	Emptied Regularly		
	surfaced		
	other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
SEATS	Numerous		0
	Well Maintained		
	Ease of Access		
	Provision for Disabled		
	Litter Bin Nearby		
	other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
TOILETS	Provided on site		0
	Easy Access		
	Well Maintained		
	Good Condition		
	Safe to use		
	Visible		
	Well Signposted		
	Well used		
	Other		
TOTAL		0.00	
AVERAGE		0.00	
PARKING	Provided in or nearby		0

	Adequate Spaces			
	Clean			
	Tidy			
	Good Condition			
	Well Signed			
	Safe to use			
	Other			
TOTAL		0.00		
AVERAGE		0.00		
LIGHTING	Good Lighting			0
	Well Maintained			
	Other			
TOTAL		0.00		
AVERAGE		0.00		
INFORMATION BOARDS	Site Name			0
	Adequate and Up to Date			
	Other			
TOTAL		0.00		
AVERAGE		0.00		
PLAY PROVISION	Signed			0
	Rules and Regs			
	Safe			
	Adequate			
	Well Maintained			
	Other			
TOTAL		0.00		
AVERAGE		0.00		
CLEANLINESS	Litter			0
	Dog Fouling			
	Graffiti			
	Chewing Gum			
	Other			
TOTAL		0.00		
AVERAGE		0.00		
EVENTS / PUBLICITY/EDUCATION	Programme			0
	Leaflets			
	Posters			
	interpretation			
	environmental Education			
	Other			
TOTAL		0.00		
AVERAGE		0.00		
TENNIS COURTS	Surface			0
	Fencing			
	Posts			
	Nets			
	Line Markings			
	Secured Entrance			
	Correct Size			
	Adequate run off margins			
	Floodlighting			
	Information Board/Charges/Contact			
	Club Hut			
	Other			
TOTAL		0.00		

AVERAGE		0.00		
BOWLING GREENS	Benches			0
	Clean Gullies / Sand			
	Backboards in Gullies			
	Turf / Surface			
	Ring Pins/ No.s			
	Fenced			
	Club House			
	Notice board/ Rules and Regs			
	Floodlighting			
	Staffed			
	Other			
	TOTAL			
AVERAGE		0.00		
MUGA	Surface			0
	Fencing			
	Posts			
	Nets			
	Goals			
	Line Markings			
	Secured Entrance			
	Correct Size			
	Adequate run off margins			
	Floodlighting			
	Information Board/Contact/Charges			
	Vandalism			
Other				
TOTAL		0.00		
AVERAGE		0.00		
TOTAL CATEGORIES				
Total Score		0.00		
Sum of Average Scores		0.00		
Average Score		#DIV/0!		

Maximum Possible Score	30.00
Total Score	0.00
Percentage Score of Site	0.00%

Site Status (enter into green cell below from list below - copy and paste)

Appendix 6 Quantity Standards

Current Quantities			
Type of Green Space	Area (Hectares)	% of Total	Provision Per 1000 Population
Parks & Gardens	47.27	1.91	0.43
Amenity Greenspace	174.76	7.07	1.59
Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspaces	1,429.77	57.81	13.04
Urban Woodlands	73.69	2.98	0.67
Green Corridors	32.34	1.31	0.30
Provision for Children & Young People	40.45	1.64	0.37
Outdoor Sports Facilities	496.22	20.06	4.53
School Playing Fields	147.45	5.96	1.35
Civic Spaces	0.47	0.02	0.00
Allotments	5.8	0.23	0.05
Cemeteries, Churchyards	20.59	0.83	0.19
Total	2,473.31	100.00	22.56

N.B. Not including Incidental Open Space and Highways Verge

Formal Facilities

The provision of new facilities such as equipped play areas is not necessarily best delivered according to a quantitative approach. A particular concern is that this will not reflect population characteristics and could result in low levels of use and poor resource allocation. In addition, it could lead to imbalance with provision over supplied in some locations whilst some neighbourhoods may be poorly served.

The recommendation is that new provision should be properly planned on a site by site basis, with a particular focus on accessibility. The Six Acre Standard provides a valuable reference point for this.

To maintain existing provision, it will be necessary to ensure that there is a pro-rata increase commensurate with population increases.

Projections set out within the Local Development Framework are that Bracknell Forest will need to facilitate in excess of 11,000 dwellings between 2006 and 2026. Based on household projections previously identified by the (former) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the population of Bracknell Forest is likely to rise by between approximately 12,000 and 18,000 residents.

Equipped Play Areas			
Type of Facility	Total Number	Current Provision Per Population	Quantity
Local Area of Play (LAPs)	18 (74 inc. LEAPs and NEAPs)	1 per 1481	To be based on accessibility
Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAPs)	50 (56 inc. NEAPs)	1 per 1957	
Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAPs)	6	1 per 18270	

Sports Pitches, Courts, Greens and Allotments				
Type of Facility	Current Total Number	Current Provision Per Population	Proposed Standard	Reason
Outdoor Tennis Court	59	1 per 1858	1 per 1850	Based on existing provision
Winter Sports Pitches	5 Rugby	1 per 21923	1 per 21900	Based on existing provision
	44 Soccer	1 per 2491	1 per 2500	Based on existing provision
Summer Sports Pitches	10 Cricket	1 per 10962	1 per 11000	Based on existing provision
Bowling Greens	18 rinks	1 per 6090	1 per 6100	Based on existing provision
Golf Courses	7	1 per 15660	No standard	Commercially driven facility
Golf Driving Ranges	3	1 per 36539	No standard	Commercially driven facility
Allotments	305 plots (some of which are half plots)	1 per 359	1 per 400	Based on existing provision

In terms of pitch provision, it is recommended that (in accordance with national standards) local playing fields are available within 1.2 kilometres (three-quarters of a mile) of all dwellings in major housing areas to provide opportunities for participation in outdoor sports.

Play Areas:

Summary of criteria used by Bracknell Forest Council in designing new play areas.

Play Value

To assess how much fun can be had from the equipment. This is done by looking at the range of experiences provided including balancing, crawling, rocking, gliding, agility, rotating, sliding, and swinging. Extra value is gained from group play. The use of sensory items, variation in materials, variation in ground contours, bright colours, themed play, added graphics, ball games areas, and wheeled play areas all add to the Play Value. It is also necessary to assess the amount of extra space on site for other types of play such as locomotive play or role play.

Durability

To assess the life span of equipment and furniture, taking into account deterioration factors (weathering etc), and vandalism resistance.

Maintenance

To assess the maintenance of fencing, gates and surfacing, surfacing edging, vegetation and equipment (including) bolt tightening, staining oiling etc)

Inspections

To assess how regular the equipment needs to be inspected, the time taken for each inspection, and practicalities such as ladder work.

Visual impact

To assess the relationship to the setting, landscaping, first impressions.

Inclusiveness

To assess how inclusive the site is with particular reference to the mobility impaired, and taking into account how many senses are stimulated within the play area, also assessing the age range of the equipment provided.

Behavioural aspects

In order to prevent bullying and antisocial behaviour confined spaces and hidden zones need to be avoided and extra entrances and exits installed. Flat panels can encourage graffiti, so these need to be avoided in certain areas.

Safety

Does the equipment comply with EN1176? Does the equipment type and position suit the location? Is shade/ shelter provided? Are toddler and junior areas segregated? How open and safe is the site.

Provision for parents and guardians

Is there social, supervisory and play Provision provided for parents and guardians?

Cost

Is value for money provided within the scheme?

Experience of company

To assess the track record of the company, research references, and our previous involvement with the company. Availability and timescale of providing spares.

Additional Considerations:

Fencing

Is it needed? Fencing can reduce instances of dog fouling within a play area. Fencing is also a safety consideration for parents/ guardians with younger children using the site. Fencing can also define the formal play space.

However; fencing (and surfacing) account for more than a third of total expenditure in the play area sector. Significant additional play value opportunities can potentially be achieved if fencing is not required. Added to this, maintenance requirements can be greatly reduced.

If required;

Experience demonstrates that steel bow top fencing is the most effective. The specification for this should factor in likelihood of vandalism and other damage.

Colour preference: Black

Gates

2 pedestrian entrances / exits are required along with service access. Pedestrian access gates should have no latch and be self closing (e.g. Monohinge self closing gate). Colour preference is for red and yellow. The service gate could be combined with an access gate.

Site Furniture

Seating should be provided to encourage social interaction and provide comfort for parents/guardians.

A litter bin should be provided, being carefully located to not obstruct play space. Design should consider issues such as ease of use and deterring wildlife (e.g. birds, wasps).

Surfacing

Where safety surfacing is required, experience indicates that 'wet pour' is the most effective.

Colour Scheme:

Minimal graphics (i.e. just around wear pads) using primary colours. This will enable small repairs to be carried out using standard 'ready mix' bags.

Specific Equipment Requirements

All swings to be anti-wrap.