Cambridgeshire Green infrastructure Strategy Appendix 10 Publicly Accessible Open Space

Note: To be revised upon completion and publication of Natural England's Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ANGSt analysis.

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1 Introduction

This section identifies the baseline datasets and relevant analysis for Publicly Accessible Open Space, which is an important component of Green Infrastructure in Cambridgeshire.

Publicly Accessible Open Space takes a variety of forms from very natural areas through to largely managed open spaces for recreation uses, such as outdoor sports. Whilst the whole spectrum of open space has a value to the public in providing for outdoor recreation and the health and wellbeing benefits it brings, in terms of identifying where new publicly accessible open space is required to be provided to meet the needs of existing or proposed communities, it is necessary to identify an appropriate method for making that assessment.

For the purposes of the Strategy, provision of Publicly Accessible Open Space is assessed using the definitions contained with Natural England's 'Nature nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance';

"Accessible greenspace – places that are available for the general public to use free of charge and without time restrictions (although some sites may be closed to the public overnight and there may be fees for parking a vehicle). The places are available to all, meaning that every reasonable effort is made to comply with the requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995). An accessible place will also be known to the target users, including potential users who live within the site catchment area.

Natural greenspace – Places where human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate. Natural and semi-natural greenspace exists as a distinct typology but also as discrete areas within the majority of other greenspace typologies."¹

The general and spatial issues that relate to this Theme have been considered and conclusions have been made about how the issues can be mapped and overlaid to highlight the opportunities that exist for the Publicly Accessible Open Space Green Infrastructure Theme. Drawing this information together provided a map of Publicly Accessible Open Space opportunities that was then combined with the other six Themes, as well as other important issues and assets in Cambridgeshire, to inform and develop the Strategic Network of Green Infrastructure.

Whilst the Strategy therefore focuses on Publicly Accessible Natural Greenspace, this should not be taken to undermine the value of more formal open space as Green Infrastructure in addressing a number of the issues and benefits identified in the Strategy.

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¹ Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, March 2010. Natural England p8.

2 Baseline information and datasets, including policy

Publicly Accessible Open Space is important for providing areas for recreation and enjoyment by communities at different scales and distances from people's homes. One way of measuring Open Space provision is through the application of standards. Tables 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3 summarise national, neighbouring authority and Cambridgeshire Local Authority standards that are relevant to Green Infrastructure.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation_ this highlights the requirement to undertake open space audits and strategies which can inform Green Infrastructure Strategies at both the strategic and local scale.

Table 10.1 National standards relevant to Green Infrastructure

| National Standard | Accessible natural Greenspa | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Promoting | Natural England | |
| Organisation | | |
| What are the | - An accessible natural gree | n space of at least 2 hectares |
| standards? | in size, no more than 300 m | |
| | home. | , , |
| | - At least one accessible 20 | hectare site within two km of |
| | home. | |
| | - One accessible 100 hectar | e site within five km of home. |
| | - One accessible 500 hectar | e site within ten km of home. |
| | - One hectare of statutory Lo | ocal Nature Reserves per |
| | thousand population. | · |
| Implications | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| | Nationally promoted Identifies general areas of deficiency and need Provides incentive and benchmarking Useful for advocacy and as an aspiration. Has been applied across the East of England to provide more local comparisons. | - Only looks at accessible natural/semi-natural green spaces rather than wider - Green Infrastructure assets May be issues around what is classified as 'accessible' – linear vs. open access? Assumes full mobility on part of population Feasibility given existing land resources and uses Catchment area ignore |
| | | barriers or access routes |
| Conclusion | ANGSt has its limitations du existing land resources and a useful measure to identify | e to classification used, catchment areas. However, is |
| | Allows comparison with other methodology is used and on Green Infrastructure sites we | e acknowledges that not all |

With data supplied by districts, Natural England undertook a full ANGSt analysis of the county in autumn/winter 2010. As of 10th January 2011 the Natural England report was in draft form and once finalised text from the document can be quoted in this Technical Appendix.

| Notice al Oterrale ad | Diam'r and Daving (a. O. | tale and Organia and Discovity and His |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| National Standard | 6-acre Standard) | tdoor Sport and Play (formally |
| Promoting | Fields in Trust | |
| Organisation | l leide III l'adi | |
| What are the standards? | Provision of helpful advice a host of areas including: - LAPS, LEAPS and NEAPS - Ensuring open spaces med - The design principles of su - Benchmark standards of p sport and play - Importance of local assess 6 acres/2.4 ha of "pla m/person) 12 sq m of (grass) pi 4 sq m "other" outdo 8 sq m "children's pla 2.5 sq m equipped p NEAPs) 5.5 sq m amenity spa | et the sustainability agenda accessful play areas rovision of open spaces for sment aying space"/1000 (24 sq tches or sports facilities aying space" lay areas (LEAPs and |
| | + some guidance on quality and accessibility | |
| Implications | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| | Contains design principles. Useful for benchmarking. Provides certainty for developers and LPAs. Definite identification of needs. | Focuses largely on formal open space at a local level. There is a charge to buy the standard –restricted accessibility to the standard and its design principles. Proposed in 1928 – still relevant? Does it take artificial pitches, floodlighting and the full range of sports into account? Single issue standard – not multifunctional? Distance and catchments for standards? |
| Conclusion | More limited than ANGSt, restricted types of space as it focuses largely on formal open space at a local level, no | |
| | catchments. | |

| At a District or local level can be used to identify gaps in provision, potentially to identify requirements for open |
|---|
| space in new developments, and areas where multi- |
| functionality could be built in on a site by site basis. |

| National Standard | Local Nature Reserve (LNR |) standard |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Promoting | Natural England | |
| Organisation | _ | |
| What are the | One hectare of statutory Loc | cal Nature Reserves per |
| standards? | thousand population (consid | lered part of ANGSt). |
| | An LNR must meet at least | 1 of 3 criteria and it is |
| | recommended that they have size of 2ha. | e a recommended minimum |
| | 0.20 0. 2 | site must be of importance for |
| | | • |
| | wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment. It must offer opportunities for education. | |
| Implications | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| | Publicly accessible | Only land owned by a Local |
| | Provides some level of | Authority (including a Parish |
| | protection – shown on | Council) or where the Local |
| | planning documents | Authority has a vested |
| | Useful for benchmarking | interest (such as leasing) |
| | Explicitly involves the local | the land can be declared a |
| | community | LNR. |
| | | Look at sites individually, not |
| | | as part of network? |
| | | Only create LNRs on certain land and for certain reasons. |
| Conclusion | Limited due to availability of | land that is appropriate, but |
| | | ment and local provision. Can |
| | support networks but they can be created in isolation. | |
| | Requires Local Authority commitment. | |
| | For the second second section of the section of the second section of the section of the second section of the section o | |
| | Easy to measure and compare to other areas. Distribution of LNRs where there is appropriate land and few existing nature conservation opportunities. | |
| | | |
| | nature conservation opportu | IIIIIES. |

| National Standard | Ecotowns 40% green space | target |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Promoting | Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment | |
| Organisation | CABE | |
| What are the | 40% of an Ecotown should I | oe composed of green and |
| standards? | open spaces. | |
| | Approaches to embedding s | sustainable behaviours among |
| | the community. | |
| | | ports low carbon living and, in |
| | particular, minimises Carbon | • |
| | Incorporate environmentally | |
| | managing waste, wastewate | |
| | line with PPS25: Developme | |
| | Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems). | |
| | Integrate green space and for | eatures to enhance |
| Implications | biodiversity. Advantages | Disadvantages |
| implications | | <u> </u> |
| | Multifunctional. Promotes networks. | Uncertainty of what will happen to Ecotowns under |
| | Provides benchmark and | the Coalition government. |
| | certainty in Ecotowns. | Only applies to Ecotowns. |
| | Certainty in Ecotowns. | This figure of 40% includes |
| | | private gardens – not all |
| | | publicly accessible. |
| | | Distribution of open space |
| | | and public/private split. |
| Conclusion | Limited to Ecotowns, not loc | |
| | public/private split. As envis | aged, trying to raise bar for |
| | | multifunctional, and exemplar |
| | for local area. | |
| | | |
| | May be relevant to Northsto | we. |

| National Standard | Groop Flag Award Critoria fo | or quality |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | Green Flag Award Criteria fo | |
| Promoting | Keep Britain Tidy, BTCV and | d GreenSpace |
| Organisation | All faces at Davids, and Canada | and a lab by a Change B and Physics |
| What are the | | ns should be of 'good' quality |
| standards? | or higher (scoring at least 50 | |
| | | at are visually attractive and |
| | | sure and relaxation. The sites |
| | should have well-defined bo | |
| | • • | propriate lighting and provision |
| | of ancillary facilities, includir | • |
| | where appropriate. Sites she | |
| | designed and accessible into | |
| | necessary e.g. parks with hi Management plans should a | |
| | implemented where appropr | <u> </u> |
| | This standard reflects the G | |
| | quality and will ensure that t | |
| | | |
| | maintained, with the additional aim of achieving Green Heritage Status where possible. It will also help to ensure | |
| | that the sites continue to attract visitors and provide | |
| | benefits in terms of leisure, relaxation and well-being. | |
| | Appropriate signage will help | |
| | significance of their cultural | |
| | adding to the visitor experien | • |
| Implications | Advantages Disadvantages | |
| Implications | Nationally recognised. | Need to pay to enter |
| | Good benchmark and | scheme – disincentive. |
| | impetus to maintain | Only looks at parks – what |
| | quality. Looks at quality, is | sort of multi-functionality is |
| | detailed and looks at | examined? |
| | cultural aspects. | Do you have to keep |
| | Must have community buy- | entering to keep the award – |
| | in and uses. | on-going cost? |
| Conclusion | No 'standard' as such, but d | |
| | Good for benchmarking and an incentive, but is there an | |
| | ongoing cost? | |
| | | |
| | Are there any awards in Car | mbridgeshire, should we try |
| | and get more? | , |

Table 10.2 Neighbouring Local Authority standards relevant to Green Infrastructure

| Neighbouring Local Authority | Bedfordshire | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| The standard | In South Bedfordshire and Luton, this standard is that there should be 51m2 per person of publicly accessible green space. There's no equivalent standard for Bedford or Mid Bedfordshire. Policy NE17 – open spaces | |
| What are the standards? | have an impact on the function as part of the and/or as a wildlife contribution as a wildlife resource to provide a replacer terms of the above q 2. Seeking in association provision and/or the seeking in association and/or the seeking in association. | posals which would be likely to be open space in terms of its e wider open space network orridor, its setting, its existing or to the townscape or its value e unless the proposals are ablement of at least equal value, in ualities; ation with the development, the enhancement of open space reas having high ecological |
| Implications | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| | | |

| Neighbouring Local Authority | North Hertfordshire | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| The standard | Plan (GIP) was com The GIP does not co Action Plan which se benefits, cost band a North Hertfordshire, quantity standards for | nire District Green Infrastructure pleted in August 2009. Intain standards but has an ets out GI projects with their and priority. In the document of the docu |
| What are the standards? | | |
| Implications | Advantages | Disadvantages |
| | | |

| Neighbouring Local Authority | Essex |
|---------------------------------|---|
| The standard | As of yet there isn't a county wide GI plan but there is a Essex County Council GI audit that was completed last year. Essex County Council have consulted their members and internal staff as well as external GI organisations (FC, EWT, NT, BTCV, RSBP, NE). There are full, but old and unimplemented GI plans for growth areas in Essex - GreenArc and Harlow, Thames Gateway and the Harwich area which were all produced and paid for as part of the CLG funding. |

| Neighbouring Local Authority | South Holland |
|------------------------------|--|
| The standard | Have no Green Infrastructure standards |

| Neighbouring Local Authority | South Norfolk | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------|
| The standard | The submitted Joint Core Strategy (prepared by South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich City Council in association with Norfolk County Council) includes a mention of the requirement to provide green infrastructure in policies 1, 9 and 12. The Joint Core Strategy policies do not set standards for delivery; rather they seek to focus on Green Infrastructure priority areas as identified in the figures on pages 35 and 69 of the Joint Core Strategy. The Joint Core Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy & Delivery Plan can be viewed via the | |
| What are the standards? | following link: http://www.gndp.org.uk/ | |
| Implications | Advantages | Disadvantages |

Table 10.3 Cambridgeshire's Local Authority standards relevant to Green Infrastructure

| Cambridgeshire Local Authority | Cambridge City Council |
|--------------------------------|---|
| The standard | Open space and recreation standards |
| What are the standards? | Outdoor Sports Facilities – (Playing pitches, courts and Greens) - 1.2 hectares per 1,000 people. Indoor Sports Provision – (Formal provision such as sports halls and swimming pools) - 1 sports hall for 13,000 people. 1 swimming pool for 50,000 people Provision for children and teenagers - (Equipped children's play areas and outdoor youth provision) - 0.3 hectares per 1,000 people Informal Open Space – (Informal provision including recreation grounds, parks and natural greenspaces) - 1.8 hectares per 1,000 people Allotments - 0.4 hectares per 1,000 people |
| | Within the Cambridge Local Plan, Cambridge East and North West Cambridge Area Action Plans. |

| Cambridgeshire Local Authority | South Cambridgeshire District Council | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| The standard | Public open space standards SF/11 | | | |
| What are the standards? | The minimum standard for outdoor play space and informal open space is 2.8 hectares per 1,000 people, comprising: | | | |
| | Outdoor Sport1 - 1.6 hectares per 1,000 people Children's Playspace2 - 0.8 hectares per 1,000 people Informal Open Space3 - 0.4 hectares per 1,000 people | | | |
| | Cambridge East and North West Cambridge Area Action Plans contain their own standards, using those for Cambridge City Council. | | | |

3 What this information tells us

There are few national standards relevant to Green Infrastructure that can be applied spatially to Cambridgeshire other than Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt). PPG17 supports the development of local standards of open space that can contribute to the delivery of Green Infrastructure at a local scale.

Most Local Authorities do not have a countywide standard for Green Infrastructure, but neighbouring Green Infrastructure strategies do need to be taken into account, particularly when developing cross-boundary links.

In Cambridgeshire itself there are no consistent standards across the county, local standards based on PPG17 vary depending on the District Council.

Given the variety of local standards across Cambridgeshire, the lack of county-wide standards in neighbouring authorities and the desirability of consistency nationally, Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) have been used to examine the level of publicly accessible open space provision in Cambridgeshire, recognising that it only considers natural open space.

With data supplied by districts, Natural England undertook a full ANGST analysis of the county in autumn/winter 2010, providing indicative results to inform the development of a Strategic Green Infrastructure Network for Cambridgeshire. Detailed ANGST analysis for each district, describing in more detail where there are areas of deficiency in provision, will be included in the full Natural England report, due for completion by March 2011.

4 Spatial analysis

The figures in this section will be replaced with figures from LDA Design, which will contain the same data.

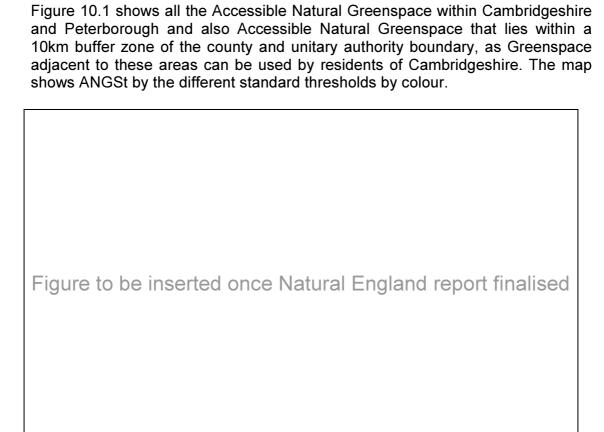


Figure 10.1 Accessible Natural Greenspace within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

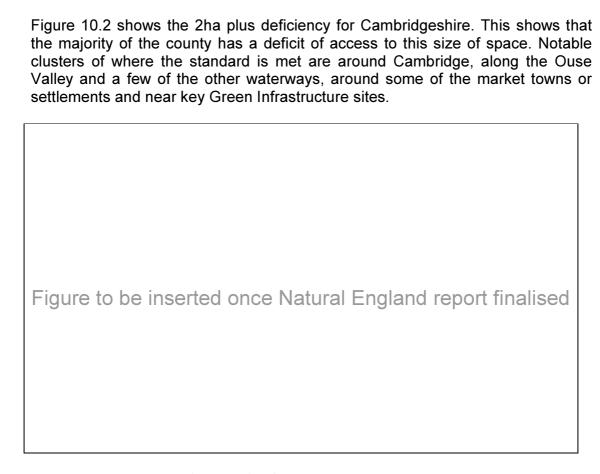


Figure 10.2 2ha plus deficiency for Cambridgeshire

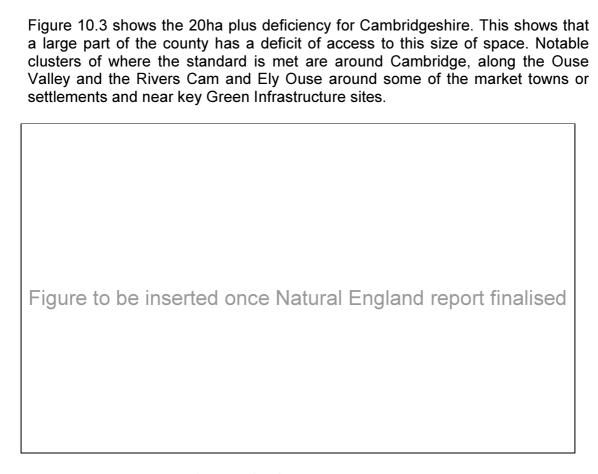


Figure 10.3 20ha plus deficiency for Cambridgeshire

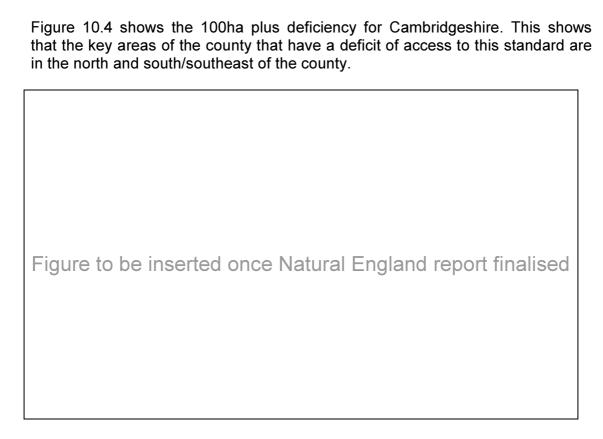


Figure 10.4 100ha plus deficiency for Cambridgeshire

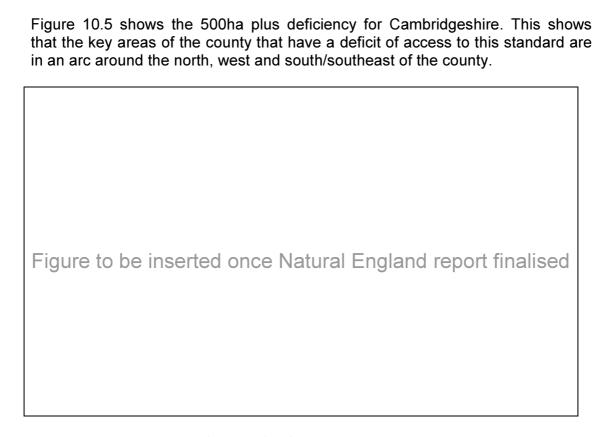


Figure 10.5 500ha plus deficiency for Cambridgeshire

Figure 10.6 shows the combined ANGSt deficiency for Cambridgeshire. This shows areas of the county where none of the standards are met and has been produced by overlapping the areas of deficiency from the individual standards together and extracting where deficiencies against all for standards coincide. There are two main areas in the north and south of the county and a slightly smaller area in west.

- In the north the majority of Fenland District and an area of northeast Huntingdonshire down to Ramsey are deficient in ANGSt.
- In the south the area of ANGSt deficiency covers an area east and south
 of Cambridge, running to the county border with Suffolk, Essex and
 Hertfordshire, lying in the southern portion of East Cambridgeshire District
 below Newmarket and part of South Cambridgeshire District.
- The third substantial area lies within Huntingdonshire District and runs from the Spaldwick/Catworth area north to Glatton.

There are also several smaller areas identified that are deficient in against all ANGSt:

- Between Cambourne and Caldecote
- In the Tadlow to Guilden Morden area
- To the southwest of Abbotsley
- The southern part of St Neots
- An area between Hail Weston and Great Staughton

| Figure to | o be inserted | once Natura | l England | report fina | lised |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| | | | | | |

Figure 10.6 combined ANGSt deficiency for Cambridgeshire

The Theme for Publicly Accessible Open Space is based on this 'all deficiency' Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) analysis. The Theme map therefore shows areas where none of the ANGSt are met in Cambridgeshire. At a strategic scale the Green Infrastructure Strategy should seek to address these areas where they coincide with the Strategic Network. Strategic Areas and Target Areas may have deficiencies against individual Standards.

Analysis at the Strategic Area level highlights the following:

Strategic Area 1: at present the Area has a total deficiency in ANGSt at the 100ha plus and 500ha plus standards and a significant deficiency in ANGSt at the 2ha plus and 20ha plus standards.

Strategic Area 2: at present the Area has an almost total deficiency in ANGSt at the 500ha plus standard and a significant deficiency in ANGSt at the 2ha plus standard. The 20ha plus standard is deficient to the east and south of the Area. The 100ha standard is well met in the Area.

Strategic Area 3: at present the Area has a deficiency in ANGSt at the 100ha plus and 500ha plus standard at the southern (St Neots) and northern (Chatteris and Ouse Washes) parts of the Area. The 20ha plus standard is deficient in the north of the Area and there is a significant deficit in the 2ha plus standard away from the corridor of market towns along the Ouse Valley. Opportunities to address deficiencies include through co-ordinating public access links, signage and promotion throughout the Great Ouse Wetland (see 4.3.3 case study)

Strategic Area 4: at present the Area has a significant total deficiency in ANGSt at the 2ha plus standard away from the market towns and Ely Ouse corridor. The 100ha plus and 500ha plus standards are well met and at the 20ha plus standard there are only pockets of deviancy within the Area.

Strategic Area 5: At present the Area has a significant deficiency in ANGSt at the very local 2ha plus standard and a small deficiency to the south of the Area at the 20ha plus standard.

Strategic Area 6: At present the Area is deficient in ANGSt at the 500ha plus standard around Cambridge and to the south, west and east of the Area and at the 100ha plus standard to the south, east and then in an arc around the Longstanton/Oakington area. There are significant deficiencies in ANGSt at the 20ha plus standard away from Cambridge and the far west of the Area, and at the 2ha plus standard there are significant deficiencies across the whole Area.

5 Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- The ANGSt analysis provides a baseline for the county. Planned future development, with resultant population growth, may be located in areas that already have a deficit against some or all of the standards, or they may adversely alter the standards.
- Conversely well-planned and delivered development can create new Accessible Natural Greenspace that addresses deficits in Cambridgeshire.
- It should be remembered that the definition of Accessible Natural Greenspace does not encompass all Green Infrastructure assets that may exist in Cambridgeshire, for example, more formal open spaces and Public Rights of Way.

Opportunities

- Planned development offers opportunities to create new Accessible Natural Greenspace to address deficits or to mitigate against new areas of deficit.
- Where appropriate, making areas of Natural Greenspace that are currently inaccessible to the public or that do not meet the criteria for accessibility can help address deficits at different ANGSt scales.
- Green Infrastructure investment across the county through the creation or improvement of new sites that meet the definition of Accessible Natural Greenspace can help address deficits in ANGSt.

Constraints

 The ANGSt assessment does not take account of the impact that planned growth will have on provision of Publicly Accessible Open Space and it is possible that if this was taken into account other areas of deficiency would be identified.