

Shropshire- Open Space Assessment Framework

		Very Good (5)	Good (4)	Average (3)	Poor(2)	Very Poor (1)
Cleanliness and maintenance	Vandalism and graffiti	No evidence of vandalism or graffiti.	Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti.	Some evidence of graffiti or vandalism, but does not detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area.	Increasing evidence of graffiti or vandalism would probably deter some users.	Clear evidence of vandalism or graffiti which would probably deter from the usage of the open space site.
	Litter Problems	No evidence of litter.	Limited evidence of litter.	Some evidence of litter but does not detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area.	Increasing evidence of litter which would probably deter some users.	Clear evidence of litter which would probably deter from usage of the open space site.
	Dog Fouling	No evidence of dog fouling, specific bins being used correctly.	Limited evidence of dog fouling.	Some evidence of dog fouling but does not detract from the cleanliness or attraction of the area.	Increasing evidence of dog fouling which would probably deter users, no specific bins in the area.	Clear evidence of dog fouling which would probably deter from usage of the open space site.
	Noise	Very quiet and peaceful; no intrusion by noise.	Limited intrusion by noise. Not located near roads, railways or work.	Little intrusion of noise but wouldn't deter usage.	Noise intrusion apparent; may have an effect on the potential usage	Noise intrusion clear and apparent which would probably deter from usage of the open space site.
	Equipment (condition and maintenance)	Equipment in excellent condition.	Equipment in good condition.	Equipment in reasonable condition; some potential improvements could be made, but not necessary.	Some equipment in poor condition and obvious that improvements could be made.	Majority of the equipment in poor condition and in a state of damage; no signs of this being addressed.
	Smell (unattractive)	No unattractive smells.	Limited unattractive smells	Little unattractive smell, but wouldn't deter from usage.	Some unattractive more permanent smells; may deter some users.	Clearly apparent unattractive permanent smells which would probably deter from usage of the open space site.
	Maintenance and management	Clean and tidy, well maintained.	Clean and tidy, maintained.	Reasonably clean and tide, could do with some improvements.	Cleanliness questionable, some obvious improvements could be made.	Poor cleanliness; clear evidence of a lack of maintenance.
Safety and security	Lighting	Appropriate lighting that promotes the safety of the open space, very well maintained.	Appropriate lighting; well maintained.	Some lighting, some general improvements could be made.	Limited lighting; or appropriate lighting in poor condition.	Limited lighting in poor condition; or no lighting in places required.
	Equipment	Equipment is in excellent condition; excellent surfaces; appropriate fencing to protect the equipment and ensure the safety of the user(s).	Equipment in good condition; appropriate and suitable surfaces provided throughout the majority of the area; sufficient measures to protect equipment and to ensure the safety of user(s).	Equipment is in a reasonable condition; appropriate surfaces provided; some measures provided to protect equipment and the safety of users.	Equipment is in poor condition questionable to safety standards; appropriate surfaces provided but in poor condition; limited measures to protect equipment and the safety of users.	Equipment in poor condition; clearly questions regarding safety of user; inappropriate surfaces; no measures to protect equipment or users.
	Boundaries	Clearly defined and well maintained.	Clearly defined and maintained to a reasonable standard.	Mostly clearly defined but possibly improvements could be made to the standard and condition.	Poorly defined and some questions regarding the standard and condition.	Poorly defined and in a state of disrepair.
Vegetation	Planted Areas	Numerous planting; with appropriate mix of plants installed and maintained to a very high standard; no weeds.	Numerous planting; with appropriate mix of plants; installed and maintained to a reasonable standard; very few weeds.	Appropriate range of vegetation and plants but with some patchy maintenance.	Limited range of vegetation and plants but reasonable maintenance.	Limited range of vegetation and plants; poor maintenance with some areas clearly suffering.
	Grass Areas	Full grass cover throughout; clearly cut and in excellent condition.	Full grass cover throughout and clearly cut; few weeds but generally in good condition.	Grass cover throughout but with some thin patches or excessive growth in some patches, a few weeds; but generally in good condition.	General grass cover but some significant areas thin/saturates and/or poorly maintained; cut infrequently with obvious clippings still in existence.	General grass cover but with some serious wear and tear and/or limited grass cover in many areas; little or no serious attempt to correct the problem.
Accessibility and accommodation	Toilets	Provided where appropriate; easy to access; signed and well-maintained.	Provided where appropriate; easy access; some improvements could be made (cleanliness).	Provided where appropriate; reasonable access; generally not very well maintained.	Insufficient toilets provided; or those provided are in poor condition and likely to be generally avoided by open space user; uninviting.	No toilets in a place that should be provided; or some provided but in a state of disrepair.
	Parking	On-site parking provided; adequate number; clean and in good condition; well signposted.	On-site or appropriate off-site parking provided; adequate number; generally clean but improvements could be made.	Appropriate off-site parking provided; some limit in terms of spaces; generally clean.	No on-site and limited off-site parking provided; or adequate number of spaces but in poor condition.	Parking provision limited and in poor condition.
	Seats/Benches	Numerous for the size of site and in good condition.	Numerous for the size of site and in average condition.	Adequate number for the size of site and in good condition.	Insufficient number but in good condition; or adequate number but in poor condition.	Insufficient number and in poor condition.
	Pathways	Suitable material, level for safe use, edges well defined, surface clean, debris and weed free and in excellent condition.	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined; little debris and/or weeds but overall in good condition; good disabled access in most areas.	Suitable materials, level for safe user, edges reasonable well defined; some debris and/or weeds but doesn't detract too much from overall appearance; disabled access in some areas.	Suitable materials but some faults; some difficulty with defined edges; debris and/or weeds detracts slightly from appearance; some difficulties with disabled access.	Inappropriate materials and/or significant faults; edges not clearly defined; significant debris and/or weeds; limited disabled access or very restricted.

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General	Entrance to the sites.	Easy to find, with welcoming sign; appropriate size, clean and inviting easily accessible for all users including less able bodied people.	Clear entrance and well maintained, appropriate size and clean.	Fairly obvious entrance that is maintained to a reasonable level and which is clean and accessible to most potential users.	Apparent as an entrance but no clear signage; not as well-maintained as it could be; some users may have difficulty with access.	Poor or limited entrance; no signage; difficulty with access and not maintained appropriately
	Roads, pathways, cycleways and/or accesses.	Suitable materials, level for safe use and in excellent condition; cycle stands provided and separately marked routes for cycles, pedestrians and other traffic etc.	Suitable materials and overall in good condition; some cycle stands provided where appropriate and easy and safe access within the site for cycles, pedestrians and other traffic.	Suitable materials; reasonable access for pedestrians and cycles etc, but no real separate defined areas where appropriate.	Some potential improvements to some surfaces; some difficulty with general access within the site.	Inappropriate surfaces and/or significant faults; limited restrictions of access for pedestrians and cycles; usage would clearly be affected.
	Disabled Access	Good disabled access throughout; specific facilities and pathways provided.	Good disabled access in most areas.	Disabled access in some areas; some improvements could be made.	Some difficulties with disabled access.	Limited disabled access or very restricted.
Transport	Accessible by public transport	Excellent public transport links provided where appropriate; bus stop located at the site and/or train station in very close proximity.	Good public transport links; bus stop located nearby, and/or train station within a reasonable walking distance	Reasonable public transport links but would not be first choice of accessible transport; but stop located within reasonable walking distance.	Limited public transport links; bus stop located a significant walking distance away (more than 10-15 minutes)	No public transport links within a reasonable walking distance of the site.
	Accessible by cycleways	Clear separated cycle routes to and within the site; cycle stands provided in appropriate places.	Some cycle routes to and/or within the site; local roads quiet and safe for cyclists; cycle stands provided in some places.	Easy access for cyclists although no specific routes provided; local roads fairly quiet and safe; cycle stands provided or suitable areas to lock cycles are evident.	Limited access for cyclists; not really encouraged by design and/or location of site; no cycle stands provided but some areas to lock cycles.	No real access for cyclists; not really encouraged by design and/or location of the site; access via busy dangerous roads; no cycle stands provided and/or no clearly evident areas to lock cycles.
	Accessible by walking	Clearly defined pathways/walkways to and within the open space site; pedestrian crossings provided where appropriate.	Pathways/walkways provided to and within the open space site; some crossing of the roads required without assistance but no real safety issues regarding access for pedestrians.	Some pathways/walkways provided to and/or within the open space site; some crossing of roads required without assistance; some potential for improvements.	Limited pathways/walkways provided to and/or within the open space site or pathways provided not clearly defined; some safety issues regarding access for pedestrians.	No clear pathways/ walkways provided to and/or within the open space site; significant safety issues regarding access for pedestrians
Information and signage.	Information and signage	Site clearly signposted outside the site; signage in good condition; signage within site easy to follow and understand; information clearly displayed in various formats. (noticeboards, leaflets etc.)	Site is signposted with signage in good condition; some signage within the site; information mostly clear and displayed in appropriate format, signage in relatively good condition.	Signage provided within or outside the site; some improvements could be made ; condition of signage reasonable.	Site not signposted and/or signage that is provided in poor condition and uninviting, limited information displayed.	No information displayed in appropriate areas; no signage / no information displayed in appropriate areas, no signage.

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Wider Benefits	Structural and Landscape benefits		The landscape framework of open spaces can contribute to the study of environmental quality. Well-located, high quality greenspaces help to define the identity and character of an area, and separate from other areas nearby.	Buffer between roads and houses, Greenbelt land, Edge of settlement forming local landscape.
	Ecological benefits		Greenspaces support local biodiversity and some provide habits for local wildlife and may exhibit some geological features. Some may help to alleviate the extremes of urban climates such as noise and water pollution.	Designation SSSI's LNR's Diverse and rich habitats Sites includes rivers, ponds, lakes that encourage local biodiversity.
	Education Benefits		Seen as outdoor classrooms; some greenspaces offer educational opportunities in science, history, ecological and environmental activities.	Nature walks, Interpretational material provided, Opportunities for volunteers in practical conservation Outdoor educational facilities.
	Social inclusion and health benefits.		Greenspaces, including sport and recreation facilities can promote some civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; they are also one of the very few publicly accessible facilities equally available to everyone irrespective of personal circumstance.	Range of age groups Use by community groups Organised community activities Social, cultural or community facilities, Specific walking/jogging trails and/or sports facilities Central location to be accessed by majority
	Cultural and heritage benefits.		Some greenspaces have a historical value and some provided a setting listed buildings; also can be high profile symbols of towns and cities.	Historic buildinh Historic gardens Symbol of the area Conservation area Monuments and/or memorials
	Amenity benefits and a 'sense of place'		The network of greenspaces can contribute to the visual amenity of an urban landscape and make them a more attractive place to live, work and play. They can be appreciated both visually and passively- not just through the active use of facilities provided.	Helps to create specific neighbourhood Provides important landmarks Clearly visible from most areas Softens urban texture
	Economic benefits.		Greenspaces can promote economic development and regeneration; can also help to enhance property values.	Local tourist site Income from sports facilities Enhancing or devaluing housing with estates Potential hosting of major events Offers employment opportunities Regeneration.

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