



**Powys Local Development Plan
Open Space Assessment**

Version 1

March 2015



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1. Introduction

Purpose of the Open Space Assessment

1.1 There is no obligation for an open space assessment to be carried out; however Planning Policy Wales requires the Powys Local Development Plan (LDP) to establish a strategic framework for the provision and enhancement of sport, recreation and leisure for the county. It stipulates that this should consider the scale and broad distribution of existing facilities and activities, whilst also providing for future needs. The development plan should set out standards of provision, to enable local deficiencies to be identified and met through the planning process. Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16 identifies that the best way of fulfilling the requirements of Planning Policy Wales is by undertaking an assessment of local needs and an audit of existing provision. This is known as an open space assessment and should be used to inform the preparation, monitoring and review of the LDP policies. Additionally TAN 16 advises that the findings of the Open Space Assessment should help to facilitate and provide evidence for planning decisions.

1.2 Powys County Council has undertaken an Open Space Assessment to inform the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP). The assessment provides an overview of the current provision of open space in the key settlements across the County, it sets out those areas which are to receive protection through the [Draft Deposit LDP Policy DM1 \(part 4\)](#) and provides a framework for the provision of new open spaces to support the implementation of [Policy H14 in the Draft Deposit LDP](#). It is intended that this is not a static document but that it is updated, as and when new information is received. This will help to make sure that any planning decisions regarding open space provision are made based on a settlement's need at that time.

1.3 The benefits of accessible open spaces for health and wellbeing are well recognised and are as important now as ever - obesity levels in Wales are rising resulting in serious complications to people's health such as heart disease and type two diabetes. The Welsh Health Survey (2009 - 2012) found that one in three children in Wales (35% in Wales, 30% in Powys) were estimated to be overweight or obese (19% in Wales, 17% in Powys were obese). In addition to this it was found in the 2011 – 2012 survey that over half (55%) of the adults in Powys were overweight or obese (19% were obese). The provision of play areas, sports facilities

and open spaces, that are close to home and in many cases free to use, encourages and makes it possible for children and adults to get regular exercise. However at a time when we are facing austerity measures, resulting in budget cuts on an unprecedented scale, it is of major importance that all open spaces are looked at strategically. This assessment aims to ensure that all new open spaces are of the typology most needed for each individual community whether it is a play area, football pitch, allotment or an area of amenity space; this can be done by looking at the deficiencies that have been identified for each settlement. The study also helps to determine the best location for new spaces so that they can be of maximum benefit to the community.

1.4 This report provides an overview of open space provision across the county and the methodology used in the assessment. Appendix 1 provides a detailed breakdown on a settlement by settlement basis that includes a series of maps showing the location of sites, together with accessibility buffers; these will be of importance when it comes to the implementation of LDP policies DM1 (part 4) and HP14.

1.5 The Open Space assessment should be read in conjunction with the Leisure and Recreation Topic Paper; it is not intended to repeat the sections that are covered in the topic paper, such as the policy and local context, but for the two documents to be considered together.

1.6 In 2010 Section 11 of the “Children and Families (Wales) Measure” set a duty on local authorities (such as Powys County Council) with regard to Play Opportunities. Welsh Ministers decided to commence this duty in two parts. The first part covered the duty on local authorities to assess for sufficient play opportunities in accordance with regulations. To implement this Welsh Government issued “The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations” in November 2012. These regulations placed a requirement on Powys County Council to submit a Play Sufficiency Assessment, together with an Action Plan, to the Welsh Government by March 2013. An opportunity was taken at the data collation stage of this Open Space Assessment for the data to also be collected as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment. The open spaces in this Open Space Assessment which need to be recognised in the Play Sufficiency Assessment are grassland/scrubland, woodlands and amenity greenspace, public parks and gardens, village greens, playgrounds and play areas, recreation (sports) fields, multi-use games area, BMX bike and skate parks. These have all been recorded in this assessment but many are categorised under slightly different typologies.

1.7 On July 1st 2014 Welsh Ministers commenced the second part of this legislation, which placed a duty on Powys County Council to secure sufficient play opportunities for children in the county, so far as reasonably practical, having regard to the Play

Sufficiency Assessment. The duty also requires the Authority to publish and keep up to date information about play opportunities for children in their areas. It is intended that the publication of this document will form part of this.

2. Methodology

2.1 The assessment has been undertaken for the area covered by the Powys LDP, which is Powys excluding the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP). It has focussed upon the County's key larger settlements the towns and large villages as identified in the Draft Deposit LDP (July 2014). The total population for Powys is estimated to be 109,406 (excluding BBNP), 60% of this population reside in the towns and large villages. These two top tiers will be expected to accommodate a larger proportion of growth than settlements lower down the hierarchy. All of these settlements will have allocations of which many will be for more than 10 dwellings; this means that a developer contribution towards open space in conjunction with policy HP14 will be expected.

2.2 The assessment of open spaces was undertaken as a desk based exercise, which used a Geographical Information System (GIS) to collate information on the various open spaces within the settlements. Information was collected from a number of sources primarily from using mapping information that had already been collated by other areas of the Council. The assessment has also drawn upon local knowledge of open space consulting with town and community councils and council officers with local knowledge.

2.3 There are several settlements that are split between Powys and another authority, where known the open spaces from the neighbouring authority have been included if they fall within the benchmark accessibility standard. Settlements include Llanymynech where over half of the open spaces fall within Shropshire and Knighton where parts of Kinsley Wood in Shropshire are within 300m of the settlement.

2.4 All Population estimates were derived from 2013 Lower Super Output Area population from the Office for National Statistics and apportioned using data from the Local Land and Property Gazetteer.

3. Definition of Open Space

3.1 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space provides a list of open spaces that should ideally be included within the Open Space Assessment, these are:

Table 1: Summary of typology

Typology from TAN 16	Included	Description
i. Public Parks and Gardens	Yes	All Parks and Gardens that are over 0.2ha with public access are accounted for.
ii. Natural and Semi-Natural green spaces	Yes	Includes all areas with public access that are over 0.2ha including: common land, woodland open country (as classified on Open Access maps) and nature reserves.
iii. Green corridors	No	These have not been recorded at this stage unless they are within the other categories.
iv. Outdoor sports facilities	Yes	Includes pitches (football, cricket, rugby etc...) and other outdoor sports (bowls, tennis etc...).
V. Amenity greenspace	Yes	This is taken to include all maintained green spaces within settlements. These are normally areas of improved grassland that are subject to regular mowing and include picnic areas, village greens and areas surrounding play and sports facilities.
vi. Provision for children and young people	Yes	This includes areas with fixed play equipment. Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs), Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) which includes skate parks and unequipped Local Areas for Play (LAPs).
vii. Allotments, community gardens and city (urban) farms	Yes	Allotments have been recorded but provision will be assessed on a settlement basis.
viii. Cemeteries and churchyards	Yes	Includes all sites over 0.2ha.
ix. Accessible areas of countryside in the Urban fringe	No	This typology has not been used as there are only two settlements that classify as urban and the sites falling within this category were covered by other typologies in the assessment.
x. Civic spaces	No	No civic spaces were recorded that were above the 0.2ha threshold. However what some may regard as a civic space may have been recorded in one of the other typologies.
xi. Water	No	This typology may be considered as a later date.

3.2 Many open spaces can be defined under more than one of the categories, for example in some cases amenity open space may be used as a Local Area for Play (LAP) or as an informal football pitch. Sites have been categorised based on what the primary or main recreational use of the site is, this has included the identification of which users get the most value.

4. Setting the Standard

4.1 TAN16 refers to the Fields in Trust benchmark standards as a means of assessment. These standards are documented and explained further in the Fields in Trust publication “Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play” (2008). Although Local Authorities can determine their own standards this can only be the case where those standards can be justified and where full public participation and support can be fully evidenced. In the absence of any robust evidence to suggest otherwise the Fields in Trust standards have been used (as laid out in TAN 16) to assess all formal areas of Open Space identified in this assessment (see table below).

4.2 However the Field in Trust standards do not cover all the typologies set out in TAN16 that need to be considered in an Open Space Assessment. The typologies not covered are generally the informal open spaces many of these spaces are covered in the former Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)’s “Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities” Toolkit.

4.3 The toolkit requires each site to undergo an assessment of naturalness; this would mean discounting some of the open spaces identified in this study. To overcome this it was decided that the priority should be to account for provision of open space as a whole and not to place an over reliance towards restricting the category to include only those sites with natural characteristics. This deviation is required to reflect the purpose of the assessment which is to assist in establishing a strategic framework for the provision and enhancement of sport, recreation and leisure opportunities in the county. The typologies that have been included are “public parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green spaces, amenity greenspace and cemeteries and churchyards”.

4.4 It is planned that the methodology from the CCW toolkit will be adhered to for the - 20ha sites within 2km, 100ha sites within 5km and 500ha sites within 10km, this work has been delayed until a copy of the updated open access maps is available.

4.5 For all informal open spaces being assessed using the CCW toolkit standards a minimum site area of 0.2ha has been used. According to the “*Research on Public Open Space Audits (2007)*” a study commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government,

most authorities that used a site threshold used 0.2ha. This helps to make sure large areas of lawn surrounding buildings and grass verges with little recreational value are excluded. Only sites with public access have been recorded in this study.

- **Accessibility**

4.6 The accessibility aspect of the assessment identifies the proximity of open spaces to residential dwellings. A set distance from the individual open space is mapped out (creating a buffer) and then the population within the buffer calculated. These have been illustrated on the settlement maps in Appendix 1. This assessment primarily uses benchmark standards to create straight line buffers on GIS. However in the case of tennis courts, bowling greens and athletic tracks a tool has been used to create a buffer based on time travelled.

4.7 A tool was used to try and create walking distances for the play areas but due to the small area of the sites and the short distances being recorded the data was distorted so has not been used. Causes of the distortion included the distance having to be created from a centroid at the centre of the site rather than the edge; and informal access points being missed which meant populations not being counted. In addition to this the tool being used in many instances started a few hundred metres from the site (the nearest available node) this again resulted in housing estates being missed and the buffer extending a few extra hundred metres further than it should.

4.8 Therefore for all typologies where the accessibility target is in metres or kilometres, a straightline buffer that uses the target distance has been created using GIS. This method does mean the location of access points and barriers have not been taken into consideration but it was felt that on the whole this method produced the most meaningful results. For all typologies where the accessibility target is a drive time (tennis courts, bowling green, athletics track) then routeing software was used. This software was programmed to assume an average speed of 35 miles per hour which equates to 11.667 miles for a 20 minute drive (as per the accessibility standard for tennis courts see below).

Table 2: Accessibility Standards

Type of Open Space	Toolkit	Standard (distance)
Playing Pitches	FiT	1.2km straight line buffer
Other Outdoor Sport - Athletics	FiT	45 mins drive time
Other Outdoor Sport – Tennis	FiT	20 mins drive time
Other Outdoor Sport - Bowls	FiT	20 mins drive time
LAPS	FiT	60m straight line buffer
LEAPS	FiT	240m straight line buffer
NEAPS	FiT	600m straight line buffer
Informal Areas of Open Space	CCW	300m straight line buffer

- **Quantity**

4.9 The quantity aspect of the assessment outlines provision of open space in comparison to population within a settlement; standards for different forms of open space differ but all are based around a specific area in proportion to 1000 population.

4.10 The only quantity standards set out in TAN16 are Fields in Trusts' Benchmark standards for pitch sports, outdoor sports and children's playing space; which have all been included within the assessment. Benchmark standards advised by the CCW toolkit for proximity to natural greenspace have been used to identify the sufficiency of informal open space within settlements.

Table 3: Quantity Standards

Type of Open Space	Toolkit	Benchmark Standard (ha per 1000 pop)
Playing Pitches	FiT	1.72 (Rural)
All Outdoor Sports	FiT	1.76 (Rural)
Childrens Playing space: Designated equipped Playing space	FiT	0.25
Childrens Playing space: Informal Playing space	FiT	0.55
Children's Playing space	FiT	0.80
Informal Areas of Open Space	CCW	2.0

4.11 Fields in Trust recommend that artificial sports pitches should be considered as covering twice the area because they have a greater capacity for more intensive use. The assessment has taken this advice into consideration.

4.12 To determine the quantity of open space for each settlement the total amount of space within the recommended accessibility standards has been calculated. For example all informal open space within 300m of the settlement has been included within the total.

- **Quality**

4.13 Due to the size of Powys and the resources available for this study it has not been possible to undertake an assessment of quality for the areas identified. However it may be possible to do this with the aid of Town and Community Councils at a later date on an individual settlement basis.

5. Considerations when Interpreting the Data

- 5.1 Play Areas** – There may be play areas that are in such poor condition they get very little use, or maybe at risk from being taken away for safety reasons. These will still have been mapped and be shown to be contributing to the overall provision due to the absence of quality data.
- 5.2 Accuracy of data** – The information contained within this analysis is based primarily upon findings from 2012, work has been done to keep it up to date and any new findings have been incorporated where known.
- 5.3 Local Knowledge** – Local knowledge was sought where possible, from County Councillors, Town and Community Councils and local officers. However, some Town and Community Councils did not participate in the consultation; as a result the data for some areas may be less reliable than others.
- 5.4 Accessibility: distance to travel** – Because the assessment was undertaken as a desk based exercise no site visits were made to assess the physical accessibility of sites. Therefore, unless conditional access has been stipulated (i.e. where access is only provisional on account of opening hours or entrance fees/ membership) full access has been assumed.
- 5.5 Educational land** – There are some settlements where sites have been excluded because the sites are on school land and do not ordinarily have public access, this is the case for several football pitches.
- 5.6 Green Corridors** – Green corridors were not measured as it was found difficult to identify and measure accessible green corridors within the scope of this study. However, the importance of accessible green corridors for the community and the natural environment and wildlife is recognised.

6. Assessment Results

- **Provision for children and young people**

6.1 TAN 16 (para 3.21) states that it is vital for children and young people to be able to access areas that provide safe, secure opportunities to socialise and play.

6.2 The areas recorded in this part of the assessment include Local Areas for Play (LAP), Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP) and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP). LAPs are small areas of open space that have no requirement for play equipment, designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live. Whilst LEAPs are areas of open space specifically designated and laid out with features including equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently close to where they live, usually within five minutes walking time. NEAPs are areas of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children but with play opportunities for younger children as well. Generally these are located up to a 15 minute walk away.

6.3 It is the case that not all LAPs have been included within the assessment, the focus has been primarily on play areas with fixed play equipment. A lot of LAPs may have been missed due to there being no obvious characteristics or they may have been classified as amenity open space. The concern with this is that although there should be 0.25 ha per 1000 population of equipped playing there should be 0.55 ha of informal playing space (LAPs). These give a combined area of 0.8 ha per 1000 population which in most settlements is unachievable. Therefore a decision has been taken to focus on the 0.25 ha per 1000 population target for equipped play areas which is of the most benefit to children and young people and is a target that can be considered as achievable. Furthermore the fact that this assessment is looking at the informal areas of open space that children and young people can use for play and will set out a framework to address any deficiencies, means that informal playing space will be available but classified under other typologies.

6.4 Without each site being visited there may be some LEAPs that should be classified as NEAPs and vice versa, this is something that can be changed as more information becomes available.

Table 4: Provision for Children and Young People - Accessibility Provision

	Towns and Large Villages Settlement Population	Settlement Population Within Recommended Accessibility Buffers of Equipped Play Areas	Percentage of Settlement Population within Recommendations
Total	65559	41336	63%
Average	1150	725	63%

Table 5: Provision for children and young people - Quantity Provision

	Total Area of Designated Equipped Playing Space	Average Area of Designated Equipped Playing Space
Recommended based on 0.25ha per 1000 population	16.39 ha	0.288 ha
Actual	12.07 ha	0.212 ha
Percentage	74%	74%

6.5 The results in the tables above show that 63% of people in Powys' settlements live within the recommended distance of an equipped play area. The results also show that on average each settlement has approximately 74% of the recommended area of equipped play spaces.

Table 6: Provision for children and young people Settlement breakdown

Settlement	Settlement Population	Designated Equipped Playing Space		Percentage Difference Between Actual and Target (0.25ha per 1000) Designated Equipped Play Space.	Informal Playing Space		Total Childrens playing space		Population within recommended Distance of an Equipped Play area	Percentage of Population within recommended Distance of an Equipped Play area
		Target (0.25 ha per 1000)	Actual		Target (0.55 ha per 1000)	Actual	Target 0.80 ha per 1000	Actual		
Builth Wells and Llanellwedd	2788	0.70	0.34	48.79%	1.53	0.00	2.23	0.34	2206	79%
Knighton	2832	0.71	0.27	38.13%	1.56	0.01	2.27	0.28	1921	68%
Llandrindod Wells	5228	1.31	0.55	42.08%	2.88	0.12	4.18	0.67	3152	60%
Llanfair Caereinion	972	0.24	0.26	106.96%	0.53	0.00	0.78	0.26	662	68%
Llanfyllin	1083	0.27	0.15	55.42%	0.60	0.00	0.87	0.15	209	19%
Llanidloes	2759	0.69	0.54	78.30%	1.52	0.23	2.21	0.77	2496	90%
Llanwrtyd Wells	597	0.15	0.17	113.90%	0.33	0.00	0.48	0.17	564	94%
Machynlleth	2145	0.54	0.25	46.61%	1.18	0.00	1.72	0.25	1139	53%
Montgomery	993	0.25	0.07	28.20%	0.55	0.00	0.79	0.07	650	65%
Newtown	10868	2.72	1.19	43.80%	5.98	0.06	8.69	1.25	8618	79%
Presteigne	1820	0.45	0.24	52.76%	1.00	0.03	1.46	0.27	410	23%
Rhayader	1819	0.45	0.87	191.33%	1.00	0.01	1.46	0.88	1540	85%
Welshpool	5930	1.48	0.87	58.69%	3.26	0.00	4.74	0.87	5681	96%
Ystradgynlais	7045	1.76	1.01	57.34%	3.87	0.37	5.64	1.38	2222	32%
Abercrave	657	0.16	0.36	219.33%	0.36	0.00	0.53	0.36	590	90%
Abermule	623	0.16	0.07	44.96%	0.34	0.00	0.50	0.07	440	71%

Settlement	Settlement Population	Designated Equipped Playing Space		Percentage Difference Between Actual and Target (0.25ha per 1000) Designated Equipped Play Space.	Informal Playing Space		Total Childrens playing space		Population within recommended Distance of an Equipped Play area	Percentage of Population within recommended Distance of an Equipped Play area
		Target (0.25 ha per 1000)	Actual		Target (0.55 ha per 1000)	Actual	Target 0.80 ha per 1000	Actual		
Arddleen	361	0.09	0.02	22.17%	0.20	0.00	0.29	0.02	244	68%
Berriew	280	0.07	0.12	171.27%	0.15	0.00	0.22	0.12	2	1%
Bettws Cedewain	231	0.06	0.14	241.99%	0.13	0.00	0.19	0.14	227	98%
Boughrood & Llyswen	423	0.11	0.00	0.00%	0.23	0.00	0.34	0.00	0	0%
Bronllys	385	0.10	0.13	135.16%	0.21	0.00	0.31	0.13	301	78%
Caersws	803	0.20	0.35	174.24%	0.44	0.04	0.64	0.39	402	50%
Carno	450	0.11	0.11	97.80%	0.25	0.00	0.36	0.11	226	50%
Castle Caereinion	305	0.08	0.07	91.77%	0.17	0.00	0.24	0.07	254	83%
Churchstoke	629	0.16	0.02	12.71%	0.35	0.00	0.50	0.02	233	37%
Clyro	343	0.09	0.04	46.65%	0.19	0.00	0.27	0.04	223	65%
Coelbren	542	0.14	0.00	0.00%	0.30	0.10	0.43	0.10	0	0%
Crewgreen	426	0.11	0.30	281.84%	0.23	0.00	0.34	0.30	291	68%
Crossgates	343	0.09	0.05	58.34%	0.19	0.04	0.27	0.09	8	2%
Forden	533	0.13	0.07	52.51%	0.29	0.00	0.43	0.07	281	53%
Four Crosses	780	0.20	0.03	15.37%	0.43	0.00	0.62	0.03	333	43%
Glasbury	411	0.10	0.06	58.44%	0.23	0.00	0.33	0.06	182	44%
Guilsfield	1188	0.30	0.14	47.12%	0.65	0.07	0.95	0.21	585	49%
Howey	580	0.14	0.21	144.84%	0.32	0.00	0.46	0.21	288	50%
Kerry	766	0.19	0.03	15.66%	0.42	0.00	0.61	0.03	521	68%
Knucklas	235	0.06	0.02	33.98%	0.13	0.00	0.19	0.02	173	74%
Llanbrynmair	193	0.05	0.39	808.12%	0.11	0.00	0.15	0.39	159	82%
Llandinam	250	0.06	0.30	480.09%	0.14	0.00	0.20	0.30	160	64%

Settlement	Settlement Population	Designated Equipped Playing Space		Percentage Difference Between Actual and Target (0.25ha per 1000) Designated Equipped Play Space.	Informal Playing Space		Total Childrens playing space		Population within recommended Distance of an Equipped Play area	Percentage of Population within recommended Distance of an Equipped Play area
		Target (0.25 ha per 1000)	Actual		Target (0.55 ha per 1000)	Actual	Target 0.80 ha per 1000	Actual		
Llandrinio	361	0.09	0.07	77.61%	0.20	0.00	0.29	0.07	105	29%
Llanfechain	321	0.08	0.09	112.09%	0.18	0.00	0.26	0.09	205	64%
Llangurig	170	0.04	0.00	0.00%	0.09	0.00	0.14	0.00	0	0%
Llangynog	199	0.05	0.16	321.12%	0.11	0.00	0.16	0.16	139	70%
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant	503	0.13	0.08	63.64%	0.28	0.00	0.40	0.08	236	47%
Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain	800	0.20	0.09	45.00%	0.44	0.00	0.64	0.09	353	44%
Llansilin	210	0.05	0.07	133.58%	0.12	0.00	0.17	0.07	191	91%
Llanymynech	564	0.14	0.64	453.97%	0.31	0.00	0.45	0.64	386	68%
Llanyre	296	0.07	0.13	175.88%	0.16	0.00	0.24	0.13	71	24%
Meifod	388	0.10	0.02	20.62%	0.21	0.00	0.31	0.02	182	47%
Middletown	332	0.08	0.03	36.10%	0.18	0.00	0.27	0.03	328	99%
New Radnor	256	0.06	0.23	359.86%	0.14	0.00	0.20	0.23	83	32%
Newbridge on Wye	593	0.15	0.02	13.48%	0.33	0.00	0.47	0.02	311	52%
Penybontfawr	254	0.06	0.10	157.38%	0.14	0.00	0.20	0.10	216	85%
Pontrobert	172	0.04	0.00	0.00%	0.09	1.21	0.14	1.21	0	0%
Three Cocks	324	0.08	0.21	259.42%	0.18	0.00	0.26	0.21	229	71%
Trefeglwys	252	0.06	0.10	153.97%	0.14	0.00	0.20	0.10	101	40%
Tregynon	520	0.13	0.10	76.95%	0.29	0.00	0.42	0.10	430	83%
Trewern	428	0.11	0.12	112.05%	0.24	0.00	0.34	0.12	178	42%

Population Source: 2013 Office for National Statistics Lower Super Output Area Population © Crown Copyright

Analysis

6.6 The audit of provision for Children and Young Peoples equipped Play Spaces identified a total of 112 sites covering an area of 11.73 hectares. Table 6 above illustrates the provision of equipped play spaces by settlement against the FIT 0.25 hectares per 1000 population standard. Out of the 57 settlements assessed 35 (61%) didn't have the full recommended area in hectares of equipped play space, 22 (39%) had less than half of the recommended area and 4 settlements (7%) had no provision whatsoever.

6.7 In terms of accessibility there are no settlements where every single household is within the recommended distance of an equipped play area, however there are six (11%) settlements where 90% of the population are within the recommendations. There are 23 (40%) settlements where up to 50% of the population are not within the recommended distance of a play area and there is one settlement where the play area is beyond the recommended distance for 99% of the population.

Conclusions

6.8 It is evident that there is a general under provision of facilities for Children and Young People across Powys. While facilities are spread over 93% of the settlements the level of provision within each of those settlements varies considerably. However the overall figures for Powys are encouraging, on average each settlement has approximately 74% of the recommended area of equipped play spaces and 63% of Powys' residents living in the towns and large villages live within the recommended distance of an equipped play area.

6.9 When opportunities for securing new facilities emerge this data should be looked at and an attempt made to address the deficiencies highlighted. In some cases this may mean increasing the size of a play area, changing a play area from a LEAP to a NEAP or creating a new play area in an area outside of the current accessibility buffers. This will need to be determined on a settlement by settlement basis; however it is appreciated that what can be done, may in some instances be constrained by the limitations on the use of Section 106 agreements, finance and land ownership.

6.10 Some spaces have gone from being a LEAP to a LAP following the removal of play equipment that has fallen into disrepair (this may have been primarily due to the age of equipment and the lack of funding). However these sites may be best placed for new LEAPS or NEAPs within the settlement in the future, particularly if a site for a new play area within a housing development is

not possible / appropriate or suitable. The use of Section 106 agreements to fund such developments is restricted however there may be opportunities through other mechanisms including if the Council adopts a Community Infrastructure Levy.

- **Outdoor Sports Facilities**

6.11 Outdoor sports facilities cover a wide variety of formal open spaces that provide opportunities for sport and recreation. The typology can be split into two, those that are pitch sports which include pitches used for football, rugby, cricket and hockey; and other outdoor sports which include tennis courts, athletics tracks and bowling greens. Any golf courses close to a settlement have also been recorded.

6.12 Due to the accessibility buffer being 1.2km there are instances within the county where one facility may contribute towards the provision for more than one settlement an example of this is Llandrinio Football Pitch which acts as a facility for both Llandrinio and Four Crosses. For tennis courts, bowling greens and athletic tracks a drive time is used as the recommended accessibility buffer however due to the nature of Powys this has meant identifying facilities within other local planning authority areas (this has been done where possible).

Table 7: Outdoor Pitch Sport - Accessibility Provision

	Towns and Large Villages Settlement Population	Settlement Population Within Recommended Accessibility Buffers (1.2km)	Percentage of Settlement Population within recommendations
Total	65559	59105	90%
Average	1150	1037	90%

Table 8: Other Outdoor Sport - Accessibility Provision

	Total Population within recommended drive time for outdoor sport	Percentage of Population within Drive Time Recommendations
Athletic Tracks (45 mins)	100065	92%
Tennis Courts (20 mins)	98105	90%
Lawn Balls (20 mins)	107866	99%
Population of Powys (ex BBNP)	109036	

Table 9: Outdoor Pitch Sport – Quantity Provision

	Total Area of Designated Pitch Sports	Average Area of Designated Pitch Sports
Recommended based on 1.72 ha per population	112.76	1.98
Actual	80.12	1.41
Percentage	71%	71%

6.13 The results in the tables above show that 90% people in Powys' settlements live within the recommended distance of a pitch sport. The results show that on average each settlement has approximately 71% of the recommended area of pitch sport. Table 8 also shows that over 90% of the population of Powys (excluding BBNP) live within the recommended drive time of an athletics track, tennis court or lawn bowls.

Chart 1: Showing an Approximate Breakdown on the Different Pitch Types.

Some pitches may be used by more than one sport; in these cases the main user has been identified.

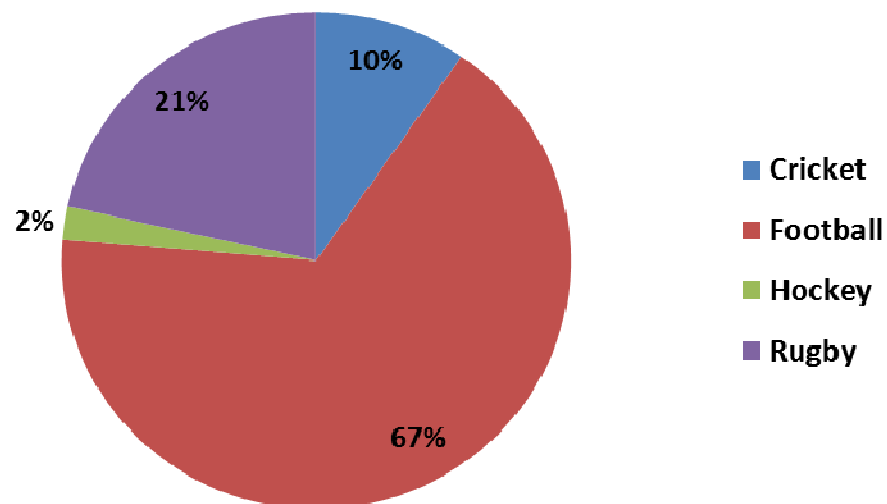


Table 10: Settlement breakdown

Settlement	Settlement Population	Outdoor Pitch Sport		Percentage	Total Population within 1.2km buffer for pitch sports	Percentage of population within 1.2km buffer for pitch sports	All Outdoor Sports		Percentage
		Target (1.72 ha per 1000)	Actual				Target (1.76 ha ha per 1000)	Actual	
Builth Wells & Llanelwedd	2788	4.79	3.44	71.75%	2786	99.93%	4.91	3.80	77.45%
Knighton	2832	4.87	3.75	76.98%	2832	100.00%	4.98	4.06	81.45%
Llandrindod Wells	5228	8.99	8.40	93.41%	4988	95.40%	9.20	9.26	100.63%
Llanfair Caereinion	972	1.67	1.48	88.50%	972	100.00%	1.71	1.74	101.68%
Llanfyllin	1083	1.86	1.70	91.30%	1083	100.00%	1.91	1.84	96.57%
Llanidloes	2759	4.74	3.76	79.24%	2759	100.00%	4.86	4.18	86.09%

Settlement	Settlement Population	Outdoor Pitch Sport		Percentage	Total Population within 1.2km buffer for pitch sports	Percentage of population within 1.2km buffer for pitch sports	All Outdoor Sports		Percentage
		Target (1.72 ha per 1000)	Actual				Target (1.76 ha per 1000)	Actual	
Llanwrtyd Wells	597	1.03	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	1.05	0.00	0.00%
Machynlleth	2145	3.69	1.74	47.15%	2142	99.82%	3.78	1.89	50.05%
Montgomery	993	1.71	1.41	82.55%	993	100.00%	1.75	1.62	92.69%
Newtown	10868	18.69	8.97	47.99%	10817	99.53%	19.13	22.64	118.37%
Presteigne	1820	3.13	1.10	35.15%	1820	100.00%	3.20	1.38	43.09%
Rhayader	1819	3.13	3.87	123.71%	1819	100.00%	3.20	4.18	130.58%
Welshpool	5930	10.20	7.32	71.78%	5930	100.00%	10.44	7.83	75.03%
Ystradgynlais	7045	12.12	8.84	72.95%	7014	99.56%	12.40	9.43	76.05%
Abercrave	657	1.13	0.81	71.73%	653	99.40%	1.16	0.81	70.10%
Abermule	623	1.07	0.90	84.03%	623	100.00%	1.10	1.05	95.81%
Arddleen	361	0.62	0.19	30.62%	361	100.00%	0.63	0.19	29.92%
Berriew	280	0.48	0.84	174.26%	280	100.00%	0.49	1.10	223.01%
Bettws Cedewain	231	0.40	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.41	0.15	36.83%
Boughrood & Llyswen	423	0.73	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.74	0.00	0.00%
Bronllys	385	0.66	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.68	0.00	0.00%
Caersws	803	1.38	0.78	56.44%	803	100.00%	1.41	0.91	64.35%
Carno	450	0.77	0.90	116.31%	450	100.00%	0.79	1.04	131.35%
Castle Caereinion	305	0.52	0.13	24.77%	305	100.00%	0.54	0.13	24.21%
Churchstoke	629	1.08	0.87	80.39%	629	100.00%	1.11	1.11	100.23%
Clyro	343	0.59	0.06	10.17%	343	100.00%	0.60	0.06	9.94%
Coelbren	542	0.93	0.72	77.26%	492	90.74%	0.95	0.72	75.50%
Crewgreen	426	0.73	0.36	49.16%	426	100.00%	0.75	0.36	48.04%
Crossgates	343	0.59	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.60	0.00	0.00%

Settlement	Settlement Population	Outdoor Pitch Sport		Percentage	Total Population within 1.2km buffer for pitch sports	Percentage of population within 1.2km buffer for pitch sports	All Outdoor Sports		Percentage
		Target (1.72 ha per 1000)	Actual				Target (1.76 ha per 1000)	Actual	
Forden	533	0.92	1.65	179.89%	119	22.27%	0.94	1.80	191.78%
Four Crosses	780	1.34	2.93	218.26%	780	100.00%	1.37	2.93	213.30%
Glasbury	411	0.71	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.72	0.00	0.00%
Guilfield	1188	2.04	2.71	132.58%	1188	100.00%	2.09	3.01	143.91%
Howey	580	1.00	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	1.02	0.00	0.00%
Kerry	766	1.32	0.72	54.63%	766	100.00%	1.35	0.86	63.77%
Knucklas	235	0.40	0.13	32.10%	235	100.00%	0.41	0.19	45.85%
Llanbrynmair	193	0.33	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.34	0.00	0.00%
Llandinam	250	0.43	0.68	158.17%	250	100.00%	0.44	0.68	154.58%
Llandrinio	361	0.62	2.93	472.17%	347	96.27%	0.63	2.93	461.44%
Llanfechain	321	0.55	0.51	92.32%	321	100.00%	0.57	0.51	90.22%
Llangurig	170	0.29	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.30	0.00	0.00%
Llangynog	199	0.34	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.35	0.12	34.21%
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	503	0.86	0.74	85.56%	503	100.00%	0.88	0.85	96.05%
Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain	800	1.38	0.73	53.06%	800	100.00%	1.41	0.88	62.50%
Llansilin	210	0.36	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.37	0.00	0.00%
Llanymynech	564	0.97	1.03	106.19%	564	100.00%	0.99	1.23	123.93%
Llanyre	296	0.51	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.52	0.00	0.00%
Meifod	388	0.67	1.87	280.26%	388	100.00%	0.68	2.14	313.43%
Middletown	332	0.57	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.59	0.00	0.00%
New Radnor	256	0.44	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.45	0.06	13.33%
Newbridge on Wye	593	1.02	0.39	38.22%	593	100.00%	1.04	0.39	37.35%
Penybontfawr	254	0.44	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.45	0.00	0.00%

Settlement	Settlement Population	Outdoor Pitch Sport		Percentage	Total Population within 1.2km buffer for pitch sports	Percentage of population within 1.2km buffer for pitch sports	All Outdoor Sports		Percentage
		Target (1.72 ha per 1000)	Actual				Target (1.76 ha ha per 1000)	Actual	
Pontrobert	172	0.30	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.30	0.00	0.00%
Three Cocks	324	0.56	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.57	0.28	49.13%
Trefeglwys	252	0.43	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.44	0.00	0.00%
Tregynon	520	0.89	0.21	23.49%	520	100.00%	0.91	0.21	22.95%
Trewern	428	0.74	0.55	74.64%	412	96.17%	0.75	0.55	72.95%

Population Source: 2013 Office for National Statistics Lower Super Output Area Population © Crown Copyright

Analysis

6.14 The audit of provision for outdoor pitch sport identified a total of 109 sites covering an area of 75 hectares. Table 10 above illustrates the provision of outdoor pitch sport by settlement against the FIT 1.72 hectares per 1000 population standard. Out of the 57 settlements assessed 47 (82%) didn't have the total recommended area in hectares of pitch sport, 28 (49%) had less than half of the recommended area and 18 settlements (32%) had no provision whatsoever.

6.15 In terms of accessibility there are 29 (51%) settlements where every single household is within the recommended distance of an outdoor sports pitch, and 38 (67%) settlements where 75% of the population are within the recommendations. There is only one settlement where up to 50% of the population are not within the recommended distance of a pitch sport (in addition to the 18 settlements with no provision whatsoever).

Conclusions

6.16 The overall provision of athletics tracks, outdoor bowling greens and tennis courts across the county appears to be good, however it needs to be remembered that in some areas this provision is dependent on facilities outside of Powys and therefore outside the control of the LDP.

6.17 The overall level of outdoor pitch provision appears to be that settlements are either fairly well served by this level of provision or have none at all. Those settlements that do have outdoor pitches tend to have less than the recommended area per 1000 population but do tend to be accessible to the vast majority of the settlements population. Provision within the towns tends to be a lot better than in the large villages. When looking at outdoor pitch provision it also needs to be remembered that there are a lot of indoor sports facilities within leisure centres and privately owned clubs that have not been included within this assessment.

6.18 The provision of this type of open space is very much demand led and the land required to deliver new outdoor sport facility can be sizeable making new provision difficult. Protecting and making the best use of not only existing facilities but also facilities at school sites may represent an opportunity to improve the provision.

- **Informal Open Spaces**

These include the following:

6.19 *Public Parks and Gardens* - these provide accessible high quality opportunities for a range of informal recreation, sporting opportunities and community events. They are mainly located within Powys's larger towns such as Coronation Park in the Ystradgynlais Area and Dolerw Park in Newtown. They play an important amenity role within communities and contribute to a sense of wellbeing by adding to the general quality of life in an area in contrast in many cases to the surrounding built environment.

6.20 *Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace* - these areas are of major importance to biodiversity, most spaces are areas of undeveloped land where little or no maintenance has been undertaken allowing natural habitats to flourish. The main areas identified in this category are woodlands with public access, nature reserves, common land and open country as designated under

the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW). Further areas with public access may have been mapped following information from Town and Community Councils or local knowledge.

6.21 Amenity Greenspace - this typology is a general description for green spaces and landscaping that occurs within the built up environment. In many cases it is the areas surrounding more formal types of open space such as football pitches or play areas. Other designated areas within the centre of settlements include village greens, sites of the Gorsedd Circle or amenity areas that have been designed into housing estates. These areas tend to be popular for informal recreation such as dog walking and picnics they also provide opportunities for children and young people to run and have a kick about.

6.22 Cemeteries and Churchyards - this type of open space is generally inappropriate for active recreational activities however it can be a haven of green space and tranquillity that affords a high level of amenity. In some cases in Powys a cemetery or churchyard may be the only area of open space within a settlement and while any use for recreational purposes must be subsidiary to and compatible with the main function as a place of burial, it can provide a place for walking or quiet reflection.

Table 11: Informal Open Space - Accessibility Provision

	Settlement Population	Settlement Population within 300m of Informal Open space	Percentage within recommended 300m
Total	65559	54624	83%
Average	1150	958	83%

Table 12: Informal Open Space – Quantity Provision

	Total Area of Informal Open Space (within settlements and within 300m of settlements)	Average Area of Informal Open Space per settlement
Recommended based on 2ha per 1000 popln	131.12 ha	2.30 ha
Actual	559.09 ha	9.81 ha
Percentage Difference	426%	426%

6.23 The results in the tables above show that 83% of people in Powys’ settlements live within the recommended distance of an informal open space. The results also show that on average each settlement has well over the recommended 0.2ha per 1000 population.

Chart 2: Showing the Total Areas (hectares) of the Different Typologies within the Informal Open Space Category

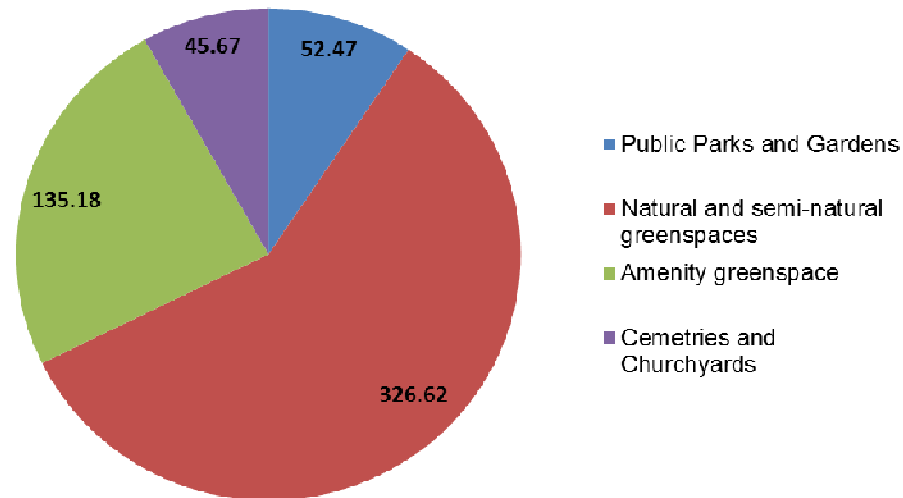


Table 13: Settlement breakdown

Settlement	Settlement Population	All open space (2ha) within 300m of settlement			Population within 300m of informal open space		Public Parks and Gardens	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Amenity greenspace	Cemeteries and Churchyards
		Target (2 ha per 1000)	Actual	Percentage	Total	Percentage	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Builth Wells & Llanelwedd	2788	5.58	12.07	216%	2566	92%	0	8.75	2.28	1.04
Knighton	2832	5.66	33.86	598%	1766	62%	2.07	28.21	1.75	1.83
Llandrindod Wells	5228	10.46	61.61	589%	4705	90%	6.97	44.81	8.59	1.24
Llanfair Caereinion	972	1.94	6.01	309%	970	100%		4.21	0.43	1.37
Llanfyllin	1083	2.17	2.16	100%	776	72%		1.24		0.92
Llanidloes	2759	5.52	17.55	318%	2211	80%	1.68	13.40		2.47
Llanwrtyd Wells	597	1.19	1.84	154%	208	35%			1.84	
Machynlleth	2145	4.29	38.65	901%	2132	99%	0	33.64	3.17	1.84
Montgomery	993	1.99	8.76	441%	838	84%		4.97	2.73	1.06
Newtown	10868	21.74	74.98	345%	10420	96%	11.67	26.60	32.78	3.93
Presteigne	1820	3.64	11.75	323%	1446	79%		5.15	6.14	0.46
Rhayader	1819	3.64	10.61	292%	1727	95%	2.73		6.31	1.57
Welshpool	5930	11.86	31.48	265%	5285	89%	0.6	7.60	20.34	2.94
Ystradgynlais	7045	14.09	95.28	676%	6406	91%	26.75	48.49	17.08	2.96
Abercrave	657	1.31	0.97	74%	276	42%			0.97	0

Settlement	Settlement Population	All open space (2ha) within 300m of settlement			Population within 300m of informal open space		Public Parks and Gardens	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Amenity greenspace	Cemeteries and Churchyards
		Target (2 ha per 1000)	Actual	Percentage	Total	Percentage				
Abermule	623	1.25	2.64	212%	463	74%			2.64	0
Arddleen	361	0.72	0.51	71%	291	81%			0.51	
Berriew	280	0.56	1.20	214%	265	94%				1.2
Bettws Cedewain	231	0.46	0.64	138%	223	96%			0	0.64
Boughrood & Llyswen	423	0.85	0.65	77%	35	8%				0.65
Bronllys	385	0.77	0.33	43%	336	87%				0.33
Caersws	803	1.61	5.08	316%	661	82%			5.08	
Carno	450	0.90	1.60	178%	311	69%			0.57	1.03
Castle Caereinion	305	0.61	0.70	115%	301	99%				0.7
Churchstoke	629	1.26	0.76	60%	322	51%				0.76
Clyro	343	0.69	2.13	310%	343	100%		0.90	0.59	0.64
Coelbren	542	1.08	41.16	3798%	542	100%		39.37	1.53	0.26
Crewgreen	426	0.85	0.00	0%	0	0%				
Crossgates	343	0.69	0.23	34%	2	1%				0.23
Forden	533	1.07	0.50	47%	100	19%				0.5
Four Crosses	780	1.56	2.28	146%	625	80%			1.72	0.56
Glasbury	411	0.82	15.89	1935%	389	95%		14.83		1.06
Guilfield	1188	2.38	5.60	236%	1188	100%		3.36	1.19	1.05
Howey	580	1.16	0.00	0%	0	0%				

Settlement	Settlement Population	All open space (2ha) within 300m of settlement			Population within 300m of informal open space		Public Parks and Gardens	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Amenity greenspace	Cemeteries and Churchyards
		Target (2 ha per 1000)	Actual	Percentage	Total	Percentage				
Kerry	766	1.53	3.08	201%	728	95%			1.87	1.21
Knucklas	235	0.47	7.02	1491%	235	100%			7.02	
Llanbrynmair	193	0.39	0.00	0%	0	0%				
Llandinam	250	0.50	1.16	232%	219	88%			0.47	0.69
Llandrinio	361	0.72	2.08	288%	173	48%			1.35	0.73
Llanfechain	321	0.64	1.05	163%	319	99%			0.34	0.71
Llangurig	170	0.34	1.02	300%	160	94%				1.02
Llangynog	199	0.40	24.37	6114%	154	77%		24.37		
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	503	1.01	0.66	66%	375	75%				0.66
Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain	800	1.60	1.03	64%	539	67%				1.03
Llansilin	210	0.42	0.83	198%	210	100%				0.83
Llanymynech	564	1.13	0.57	51%	353	63%				0.57
Llanyre	296	0.59	1.36	230%	205	69%		1.10		0.26
Meifod	388	0.78	3.38	436%	382	98%			2.25	1.13
Middletown	332	0.66	16.15	2429%	332	100%		15.88		0.27
New Radnor	256	0.51	0.83	162%	249	97%		0.37		0.46
Newbridge on Wye	593	1.19	0.81	68%	593	100%				0.81

Settlement	Settlement Population	All open space (2ha) within 300m of settlement			Population within 300m of informal open space		Public Parks and Gardens	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Amenity greenspace	Cemeteries and Churchyards
		Target (2 ha per 1000)	Actual	Percentage	Total	Percentage				
Penybontfawr	254	0.51	0.34	67%	190	75%				0.34
Pontrobert	172	0.34	0.22	64%	144	84%				0.22
Three Cocks	324	0.65	1.57	242%	229	71%			1.57	
Trefeglwys	252	0.50	0.90	179%	189	75%				0.9
Tregynon	520	1.04	1.18	114%	516	99%			0.59	0.59
Trewern	428	0.86	0.00	0%	0	0%				

Population Source: 2013 Office for National Statistics Lower Super Output Area Population © Crown Copyright

Analysis

6.24 The audit of provision for informal open space identified a total of 220 sites covering an area of 559.09 ha. Table 13 above illustrates the provision of informal open space broken down into categories for each settlement against the benchmark standard of two hectares per 1000 population. Out of the 57 settlements assessed 18 (32%) didn't have the total recommended area in hectares of informal open space, seven (12%) had less than half of the recommended area and 4 settlements (7%) had no provision what so ever.

6.25 In terms of accessibility there are eight (14%) settlements where every single household is within the recommended distance of 300 metres of an informal open space, whilst, 23 (40%) of the settlements have 90% of the population within the

recommendations. There are ten (18%) settlements where up to 50% of the population are not within the recommended distance of an informal open space.

Conclusions

6.26 The overall figures shows that 83% of people in Powys' settlements live within 300 metres of informal open space and each settlement having well over the recommended 0.2ha per 1000 population, it looks as though the majority of Powys is adequately served by this type of open space provision.

6.27 However when looking at the data in more detail it can be seen that 17 (30%) of the settlements only have open space within the cemetery and churchyard typology. Combine this with the four settlements that have no informal open space provision and it appears that 37% of settlements don't have anywhere for active informal recreation.

6.28 For a number of settlements the figures are distorted by the large chunks of common land that fall within 300 metres of the settlement, yet this should not be dismissed as common land and open country access land provide an important resource to those communities. In many cases these areas of common and access land provide access to much larger areas of open space allowing for long distance recreation. Where there is an abundance of this type of open space it may be worth focussing resources into improving the access points on to this land, whether through improvements to the rights of way network, or creating new footpaths where needed.

6.29 When looking at amenity green space only 51% of settlements had this typology despite it being the easiest to integrate within new developments. However this study has only looked at amenity open space that is over 0.2 ha so there may be many sites that have been discounted.

6.30 The creation of new informal open spaces is generally restricted; it is unlikely that the establishment of new parks and gardens on the scale and grandeur of those identified within the assessment can happen in modern times. Therefore any resources towards them will realistically need to focus on upgrading existing facilities. Furthermore the creation of cemeteries and churchyards is not done so for amenity purposes (which act as a secondary function) but for burial and remembrance facilities which are established through other mechanisms.

6.31 It is anticipated that from the informal open space typology that amenity green space would be the most likely form of open space to be created through new developments. In doing so the exact level and type of provision should be considered not only against the standards used in this assessment but given the overlapping nature of this type of open space, also against the wider provision of open space within the area of development. In proposing new amenity green space a prime consideration should be the size of the provision; where possible it may be possible to combine this provision with the requirements for areas for biodiversity and sustainable drainage systems (SUDS). It is noted that the scale of housing developments in Powys are fairly low key with a large proportion of sites being for less than 50 dwellings this restricts the resources available; and is particularly the case in the smaller settlements where some of the greatest deficiencies can be found.

- **Allotments**

6.32 Allotments are important green spaces whose cultivation can contribute to sustainability, providing opportunities for leisure, exercise and healthy food; whilst also encouraging interaction between different sections of the community.

6.33 Local Authorities, together with town and community councils have an obligation to provide allotments where there are six or more residents in that area requesting them. In accordance with the ‘Smallholdings and Allotment Acts 1908 (plus amendments)’ *“it is the express duty of every allotment authority, where they are of the opinion that there is a demand for allotments in their area, to provide a sufficient number of them, and then to let them to persons resident in the area”*.

Table 14: Settlement Breakdown

	Population	Area (ha) of Allotments	No of Plots	No on Waiting List
Builth Wells & Llanelwedd	2788	0	0	
Knighton	2832	0.91		
Llandrindod Wells	5228	0.67		
Llanfair Caereinion	972			

	Population	Area (ha) of Allotments	No of Plots	No on Waiting List
Llanfyllin	1083	0.37	3	
Llanidloes	2759	0.32	15	13
Llanwrtyd Wells	597	1.28		
Machynlleth	2145	0.35	28	12
Montgomery	993	0.27	16	
Newtown	10868	0.99	36	25
Presteigne	1820	0.28	36	2
Rhayader	1819	0.39	26	
Welshpool	5930	0.06		
Ystradgynlais	7045	0.23		
Abercrave	657			
Abermule	623			
Arddleen	361	0		
Berriew	280	0		
Bettws Cedewain	231			
Boughrood & Llyswen	423			
Bronllys	385			
Caersws	803	0.76	5	
Carno	450	0		
Castle Caereinion	305			
Churchstoke	629	0.29	14	
Clyro	343			
Coelbren	542	0		
Crewgreen	426	0		
Crossgates	343			
Forden	533	0.76		
Four Crosses	780			
Glasbury	411			

	Population	Area (ha) of Allotments	No of Plots	No on Waiting List
Guilsfield	1188			
Howey	580			
Kerry	766	0		
Knucklas	235			
Llanbrynmair	193	0		
Llandinam	250	0		
Llandrinio	361	0		
Llanfechain	321	0		
Llangurig	170			
Llangynog	199	0		
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	503	0.12		
Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain	800	0.36		
Llansilin	210			
Llanymynech	564	0		
Llanyre	296			
Meifod	388			
Middletown	332	0		
New Radnor	256	0		
Newbridge on Wye	593	0.05	10	0
Penybontfawr	254	0		
Pontrobert	172			
Three Cocks	324			
Trefeglwys	252	0		
Tregynon	520	0		
Trewern	428	0		

Population Source: 2013 Office for National Statistics Lower Super Output Area Population © Crown Copyright

Analysis / Conclusion

6.34 The audit of provision for allotments has found that 18 (32%) settlements have got allotments these equate to a total area of eight hectares, 189 plots. There are currently no existing standards set either nationally or locally for the provision of allotments therefore it is proposed that each settlements provision is assessed on demand. It is hoped that with the aid of Town and Community councils that the waiting list column in Table 14 above can be populated to help identify areas of need.

7. Draft Deposit LDP Policy

Policy DM1 - Strategic Planning Matters

All proposals for development must not compromise, or unacceptably adversely affect, either on their own or in combination with existing or approved development, the following:

Part 4 - “An existing area of Open Space, complete or in part, as identified in the Open Space Assessment, unless it can be demonstrated that:

- i. There is an excess of such provision in the area; and**
- ii. There is no longer a requirement for that type of open space in the area, and**
- iii. The site would not be suitable to provide an alternative type of Open Space for which there is a shortfall; and**
- iv. The site is not of value for other benefits including biodiversity, landscape, amenity value and drainage; or**
It can be demonstrated that alternative provision can be made available that is of enhanced or equivalent community benefit in terms of its size, characteristics, location and accessibility.”

If a proposal would result in a complete or partial loss of open space, applications must be justified. The justification must determine whether there is excess provision, whether there is no longer a requirement for that type of open space or whether it is suitable for an alternative type of open space in short supply, and whether the site should be retained because it is important for other reasons.

4.2.5 The definition of what is included by the term ‘Open Space’ can be found in the Open Space Assessment, however the typologies used are broadly the same as those listed in TAN 16 and include: Public Parks and Gardens, Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces, Outdoor Sports Facilities, Amenity Green Space, Play Areas, and Allotments.

4.2.6 The former Countryside Council for Wales produced a toolkit to help ensure that everyone had access to natural green space. The toolkit recommends that no one should live more than 300m from their natural green space. This standard has been used in the Open Space Assessment (sites over 0.2ha) for typologies not covered by Field in Trust Standards.

4.2.7 Further standards apply for tennis courts, athletics tracks and bowling greens to which either TAN 16 or the Open Space Assessment should be consulted.

4.2.8 It is important that school playing fields or facilities for public enjoyment are not eroded away by development pressures and that they are respected as being important in their own right. Over-provision is possible in some areas, particularly where for example trends have moved away from organised formal recreation, but it is important that the land remains protected for some form of recreation, even if the type of sport it accommodates changes. Compelling evidence that the facility is no longer required by the community for recreation or amenity purposes will be required.

Policy H14 - Open Space Provision in Housing Development

Housing development proposals for ten dwellings or more shall include provision for open space:

- 1. The type of open space required should be determined by the deficiencies identified in the Open Space Assessment for that area and may be provided on or off site depending on what is considered most appropriate.**
- 2. Arrangements must be in place for the long term aftercare and maintenance of the open space.**
- 3. In some instances it may be more appropriate for developer contributions of the equivalent value to be paid for the improvement of existing provision.**

This policy aims to achieve LDP Objective 14 (Healthy Lifestyles) by enabling access to open spaces, areas for recreation and amenity and allotments and ensuring developments provide play space where required. All open space requirements will be determined in accordance with Policy DM2.

The Council's Open Space Assessment identifies existing provision for the different categories of open space for towns and large villages. Where there is an existing shortfall in provision, there will be a need to make the required provision for that particular category. Where there are multiple deficiencies, an assessment will be made as to which categories will be prioritised.

For developments of more than 10 dwellings that are not in towns or large villages the responsibility will fall with the applicant to carry out the assessment in line with the standards used in the Open Space Assessment.

Allotments and community growing spaces are important green spaces whose cultivation can contribute to sustainability, providing opportunities for leisure, exercise and healthy food whilst also encouraging interaction between different sections of the community. Allotments have been included within the Open Space Assessment and may be of particular value in areas of high density housing; attention will also be paid to the allotment waiting lists in those areas.

The long term aftercare and maintenance of open spaces requires full consideration. Due to the current economic climate the County Council is unable to take on this role and it should not be assumed that the local Community Council will take on the responsibility. Options such as a residents association with the Community Council's backing should be explored.

All open space proposals should take into consideration cycling and pedestrian (including the disabled) access routes on to the site, how the area relates to existing housing development and the rights of way network. Where contributions are being made towards existing provision there may be opportunities for improvement.

In some instances there may be opportunities to combine areas required for open space with other planning requirements such as for biodiversity or drainage. Discussions early on in the pre-application stage would enable this to take place so that the most appropriate area for open space can be identified within the site boundary.

Further details on the approach to be taken in relation to Open Space will be given in Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).

8. Table of Involvement:

Person/ Org contacted	Method	Reason	Outcome	Date
John Morgan PCC	Meeting	To discuss possibility of young people's partnership undertaking the OSA for Policy team.	Agreed to undertake assessment with possibility of being completed by December	Oct 2012
John Morgan PCC	Meeting	To discuss methodology and key issues.	Agreed to conduct pilot study on Llandrindod Wells to ensure methodology works effectively.	Sept 2012
Town and Community Councils	Letters	To gain local knowledge of provision of allotments and play spaces.	32 responses received	Nov-Dec 2012
John Morgan PCC	Meeting	To discuss results from pilot study	Finalised typologies of open space and criteria for open spaces to be included (e.g characteristics)	Oct 2012

Stephen Butcher and Steve Gealy (Leisure services)	Meeting	To gain local and council officer knowledge on quality and provision of open spaces across the county.	Ownership, quality and provision of different types of open spaces information gained.	Dec 2012
Circulation of Draft Open Space Assessment to all Town and Community Councils and Members with Towns and Large Villages, and other identified consultees.	Informal Consultation	To check the accuracy of the data and to gain feedback	Amendments to the maps and document	Jan 2015