

Annex A Open space typologies and descriptions

Typology/ subtypes		Description	Primary purpose	Secondary purpose
Country parks	Significant amount of Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces	Open space areas in a countryside environment, accessible to wider population. Predominantly natural or semi-natural landscape and defined by a clear boundary. Country Parks can be accredited by Natural England if they fulfil essential criteria. Green Flag Award status is used to review their status.	Provide formal recreation opportunities. Provide social interaction. Provides play facilities, catering, and permanent staffing. Usually contain visitor centres, bike, and horse trails. Should provide facilities that are accessible to all.	Planned for the management of biodiversity geodiversity and preservation of historical environment. Provide opportunities for community involvement. Promote health.
District Parks		Spaces that actively attract visitors from a wider catchment. Often connected with existing open spaces features such as liner parks. Attractive landscape with various facilities and associated parking. Often includes public art. Benches, litter and dog bins are provided on site.	Multifunctional open spaces offering sporting, passive leisure, and cultural facilities. Supports social interaction	To provide environmental enhancement.
Linear Parks		Network of city-wide multifunctional rural and urban green spaces that usually follow the water bodies and flood plains across the city. Ecological corridors for wildlife. Linear parks historically are key components and are more formal in urban areas and more rural on the periphery.	Mitigation of flood events, preservation of archaeology, provision of ecological corridors, provision of pedestrian and cycle corridors.	Deliver wide range of environmental and/or quality of life benefits for wildlife and local communities. Provision of visual amenities and provide space for informal outdoor recreations.

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'Other' Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces		Woodlands, scrubland, grasslands (e.g., meadows and non-amenity grassland), wetlands and watercourses, nature reserves, sites of wildlife interest that do not form part of any Country Park, District Park, or Linear Park	To support wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.	Recreational areas i.e., nature watching, walking, horse riding, cycling.
Amenity greenspace		Publicly accessible open greenspaces close to residential properties or places of work.	Enhancement of the appearance and visual amenity of residential or other areas.	To provide opportunities for informal activities close to home or work sometimes used for informal play. Support wildlife conservation and biodiversity enhancement.
Local parks		Larger parks (over 0.4ha) which are open to the public. Often include areas primarily for play and social interaction for children and young people. Can also include single sports field. Vegetation, pathways, fencing, and equipment is managed. Provision of benches, litter, and dog bins. Actively managed.	Highly accessible, high quality open spaces (with good transport links with opportunities for formal and in formal recreation and community events with play equipment. Place for meetings. Allow for social interaction and cohesion.	Support wildlife conservation and biodiversity enhancement.
Pocket parks		Small, designed parks (most under 0.4 ha) accessible to the public for formal or informal use sometimes run by community groups and volunteers.	To provide opportunities for environmental enhancements and/or conservation activities alongside informal recreational use such as	Biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

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		walking. Often provide picnic areas.	
Civic spaces and formal gardens	Formal urban open spaces including civic and market squares	To provide settings for civic buildings, public demonstrations, and community events.	Provide environmental and visual enhancement, health, and social inclusion.
Food growing areas: Allotments, orchards, and community growing areas.	Allotments, orchards, and community growing areas.	To allow public to grow their own produce.	Long-term promotion of sustainable living, health, social inclusion, and biodiversity enhancement.
Cemeteries, churchyards, and other burial grounds	Private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and churchyards.	To provide burial spaces.	To provide a place of quiet contemplation. Often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity enhancement. Often preserve archaeology.
Formal outdoor playing fields	Large multi-use natural and artificial playing fields, outdoor sports facilities	To provide surfaces for sport and recreation that are publicly available. To provide facilities supporting the use of outdoor sport facilities such as changing and toilets. Provide social interaction.	May be used for wider community use. Long-term promotion of sustainable living, health, and social inclusion may include spaces for wildlife at margins.
Green access links	Leisure routes and redways often following historical linear landscape features which are providing an active travel corridor	To provide leisure routes for e.g., walking, cycling, running.	Provide environmental enhancement and support biodiversity

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	connection with vegetation managed, provision of litter bins and dog bins and sitting areas.		
Common land and village greens	Common land areas and town and village greens. Legal/national designations. Areas of open spaces privately owned or maintained by local parish where some activities such as walking, grazing may be permitted.	Details of activities permitted are within the Register of Common Land and Village Greens. Most areas allow activities such as grazing, walking, horse riding.	May be used for local public events. Provide social interaction.
Paddocks	Privately owned grazing areas available to rent by the public (not for the purposes of livestock farming). Often linked with bridle paths.	To provide grazing areas for predominantly horses and ponies.	Provide environmental enhancement and may support biodiversity.