Stroud Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Introduction to Sub Area Analysis Reports
(Part 2 of 2)

Final June 2019

1.0   INTRODUCTION

1.1   Overview

This Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study has been undertaken by Ethos Environmental Planning to inform and support the preparation of the Council's Local Plan Review and the Council's decision-making process in relation to open space and Green Infrastructure (GI) provision up to 2040 (The plan period is 2020 – 2040). It is one of six reports provided as part of the overall Study.

The six reports are the:

- Executive Summary;
- Stroud Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report;
- Stroud Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study (part 1 and 2 – this report is part 2);
- Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy Needs Assessment;
- Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy - Strategy and Action Plans (part 1 and 2); and
- Stroud Indoor Sports Facilities Needs Assessment.

The Stroud Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study is presented in two parts. The main report (part 1 of 2) comprises an overview of open space and GI across the whole District and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies, GI assets and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space and GI in the Local Plan area. **This report is part 2 of 2**, and comprises analysis by cluster/sub area, providing more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for 8 clusters/sub areas, in accordance with the current Local Plan (as shown in figure 1). The purpose is to provide a more detailed level of information to aid planning and decision making at a more local level, taking into account characteristics and provision at the sub area level.

This report (part 2) should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each area profile includes the following information:

- A description of the area;
- Maps showing the provision of open space and GI;
- Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space and GI;
- Analysis of access to open space and GI;
- Summary of quality issues for open space and GI;
- Analysis of future need for open space and GI, including existing key GI corridors and opportunities for enhancing connectivity for people and wildlife; and
- Summary of open space and GI priorities for the area.

The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

Figure 1   Clusters/Sub Area Analysis Areas and Parishes within the Study Area
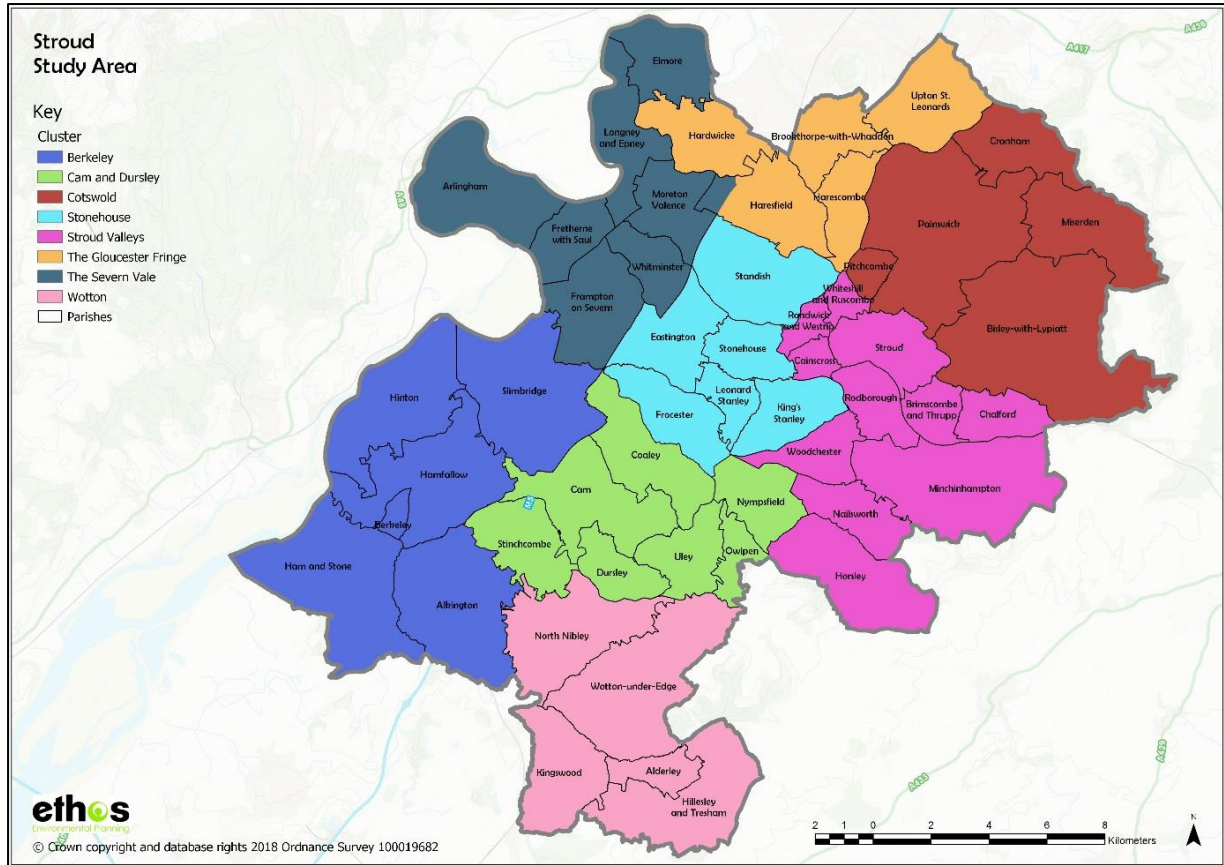
1.2   Analysis of existing quantity of open space and GI

An analysis of the existing provision (in ha and ha/1000 population) and supply (in ha and ha/1000 population) of open space for each cluster is provided. The analysis uses the quantity standards for open space detailed in part 1 of the report and summarised in table 1 below. The supply is calculated using the population figures for each cluster, and the quantity of open space compared to what the requirements for open space are against the standards set.

Table 1   Summary of quantity standards of open space[1]

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population) for analysing existing provision	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population): requirements from new development
Allotments	0.35	0.35
Community Orchards	N/A	0.15

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[1] The Playing Pitch Strategy sets out an additional requirement from new development for pitches and outdoor sports facilities, at 0.7ha/1000, which is in addition to these open space standards.

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population) for analysing existing provision	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population): requirements from new development
Amenity Green Space	0.40	0.40
Parks and Recreation Grounds	1.20	1.20
Play Space (Children)	0.06	0.06
Play Space (Youth)	0.06	0.06
Natural Green Space	N/A	1.00
Total for new provision		**3.22 ha/1000**

Maps and tables are also provided showing the provision GI for each cluster, with the key GI corridors identified and opportunities for improvements to connectivity in terms of biodiversity and access.

1.3   Analysis of access to open space and GI

For each of the 8 sub clusters, maps are provided showing access to different types of open space using the Stroud access standards from the main report (part 1), as summarised in table 2 below. A summary of key access issues is provided for each cluster.

Table 2   Summary of open space access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time for parishes with over 1000 people
Community Orchards	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time. For parishes with less than 1000 people this could be met by an amenity green space.
Play Space (Children)	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	960 metres or 20 minutes' walk time. ANGSt

A map is also provided for each cluster showing the Access Network Map developed by Natural England, which shows analysis of the extent of access provision by small geographical areas (Lower-Layer Super Output Areas). Further information regarding this dataset is provided in section 7.6 of the main report (part 1).

1.4   Summary of quality issues for open space and GI

Following the initial consultation and mapping exercise, open space site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access

restrictions, namely private sports grounds/open space and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included allotments, small amenity green spaces (<0.15 ha in size, which have little or no recreational value) and churchyards and cemeteries. This has meant that the quality audits have focused on the key open spaces and play areas.

The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. The audit methodology is set out in section 7.5 of the main report (part 1). Audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a site's existing quality rather than a full asset audit. The audits were undertaken in July/August 2018.

In addition to the quality audits, each parent site was also assessed for it's contribution to the GI network against the three themes from the Building with Nature benchmark – (wellbeing, water and wildlife). Maps summarising the results of the GI quality scores (where 1 is very poor and 10 is very good) are provided for each cluster.

The details of the quality audit are held within the GIS database provided to the Council, and a summary of the results is included within each cluster.

A desktop analysis of the condition of designated sites such as SSSI's has also been included for each cluster, along with consideration of the Natural England National Habitat Network Mapping dataset.

1.5   Future Need for open space and GI

An assessment is made for the requirements for open space against the quantity standards. This is based on the predicted population growth from new housing, however this assumes that all provision will be on-site, which will not be the case as many developments will be too small (and will therefore pay a CIL contribution for off-site provision/enhancements), however it provides a useful indication of requirements, and how the standards are applied.

The key GI corridors and opportunities for enhancing connectivity for people and wildlife have also been identified (although it is noted that there may also be opportunities that have not been identified as part of this assessment).

This section also looks at site allocations (those that do not have planning permission) from the current plan, and considers the emerging priorities and vision in the emerging Local Plan.

1.6   Summary of open space and GI priorities

This section brings together the analysis of existing quantity, access and quality of open space and GI and also considers future requirements. It makes recommendations around provision to be enhanced, opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space, identification of areas for new provision, and the protection of open space.