



**MELTON OPEN SPACE STUDY**  
**OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**SEPTEMBER 2014**

**Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration**

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## **Glossary**

DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group (including users groups and advisory groups)
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LRWT	Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
MBC	Melton Borough Council
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area using a synthetic grass or hard surface for playing sports)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

# MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Melton Borough Council (MBC). It focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpins the study.

It forms part of a suite of reports that together make up the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study.

- ◀ Open spaces
- ◀ Playing pitches and outdoor sports
- ◀ Indoor built sports facilities

The Assessment Report provides detail with regard to what provision exists in Melton, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It also considers the demand for provision based on population distribution, planned growth and consultation findings. The Strategy (to follow the assessment reports) will give direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable provision for open spaces, sport and recreation in Melton.

This study replaces a previous set of reports, referred to as the Melton Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2011, which predominately focused on updating levels of provision in relation to quantity, quality and accessibility.

Although Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) has now been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), this assessment of open space facilities is carried out in accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guide entitled 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' published in September 2002 as it remains the only national guidance on carrying out an open space assessment.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the PPG17 Companion Guidance.

'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17' still reflects the Government policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out previously in PPG17. The long-term outcomes aim to deliver:

- ◀ Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors that are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ◀ An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision.
- ◀ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision.

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This assessment covers the following open space typologies:

*Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions*

	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Primary purpose</b>
<b>Greenspaces</b>	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.
	Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
	Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
<b>Civic spaces</b>	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians including the promenade	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

## 1.1 Report structure

### *Open spaces*

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space facilities in Melton. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all open spaces originally defined in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'; it is structured as follows:

- Part 3: General open space summary
- Part 4: Parks and gardens
- Part 5: Natural and semi-natural greenspace
- Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- Part 7: Provision for children and young people
- Part 8: Allotments
- Part 9: Cemeteries/churchyards
- Part 10: Civic space

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## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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The typology of green corridors is not included as part of the study. Given the wide expanses of accessible countryside in Melton there is thought to be little value in auditing and assessing such provision. However, the role of these spaces should be acknowledged particularly when looking at the relationship between urban and rural links.

For further information on the provision of green corridors, guidance should be sought from organisations such as Leicester County Council and relevant documents such as the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan (PROWIP). MBC have also produced a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Melton Borough.

### ***Associated strategies***

The study sits alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Built Facilities Strategy being undertaken by KKP. The former is in accordance with the methodology provided in Sport England's Draft Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities. Both Strategies are provided in separate reports.

### **1.2 National context**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the reformed planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Under paragraph 73 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 74 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

## 1.3 Local context

This study and its audit findings are important in their contribution to the production of the Council's Local Plan development and are an integral part of identifying and regulating the open space infrastructure. Through recognising the provision of open spaces in plan form, provision can be assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, whilst strengthening its presence in planning policy for the future and looking to maximise opportunities for investment. Below is a brief summary of the local context in which the study has been undertaken.

### ***Melton Local Plan***

The new Melton Local Plan document will set out the long-term spatial strategy for the local area in terms of planning and development as part of and reflecting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. It will contain the planning policies which guide development in the local area.

The Local Plan will look to set the strategic vision and objectives of how the area is expected to grow in the future. It will importantly help to determine development proposals through planning applications.

The new Melton Local Plan is currently in the process of being drafted by the Council. Until it is adopted, saved policies of the existing Local Plan (adopted in 1999) are still applicable.

Policy R2 of the 1999 Local Plan seeks to safeguard existing open space, sport and recreation facilities in the area. It identifies that any development which results in the loss of such provision will not be permitted. Except in circumstances where; replacement provision can be provided at an accessible location close by, or, improvements to recreational facilities can be provided to a level sufficient to outweigh the loss of any provision.

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## PART 2: METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Analysis areas

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, Melton is divided into four analysis areas (reflecting the geographical and demographical nature of the area).

These allow more localised assessment of provision in addition to examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies at a more local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. Melton is therefore, broken down as follows:

*Table 2.1: Population by analysis area*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Population (2012)*</b>
Central Melton	30,809
East Melton	4,872
North Melton	9,685
West Melton	5,404
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>50,770</b>

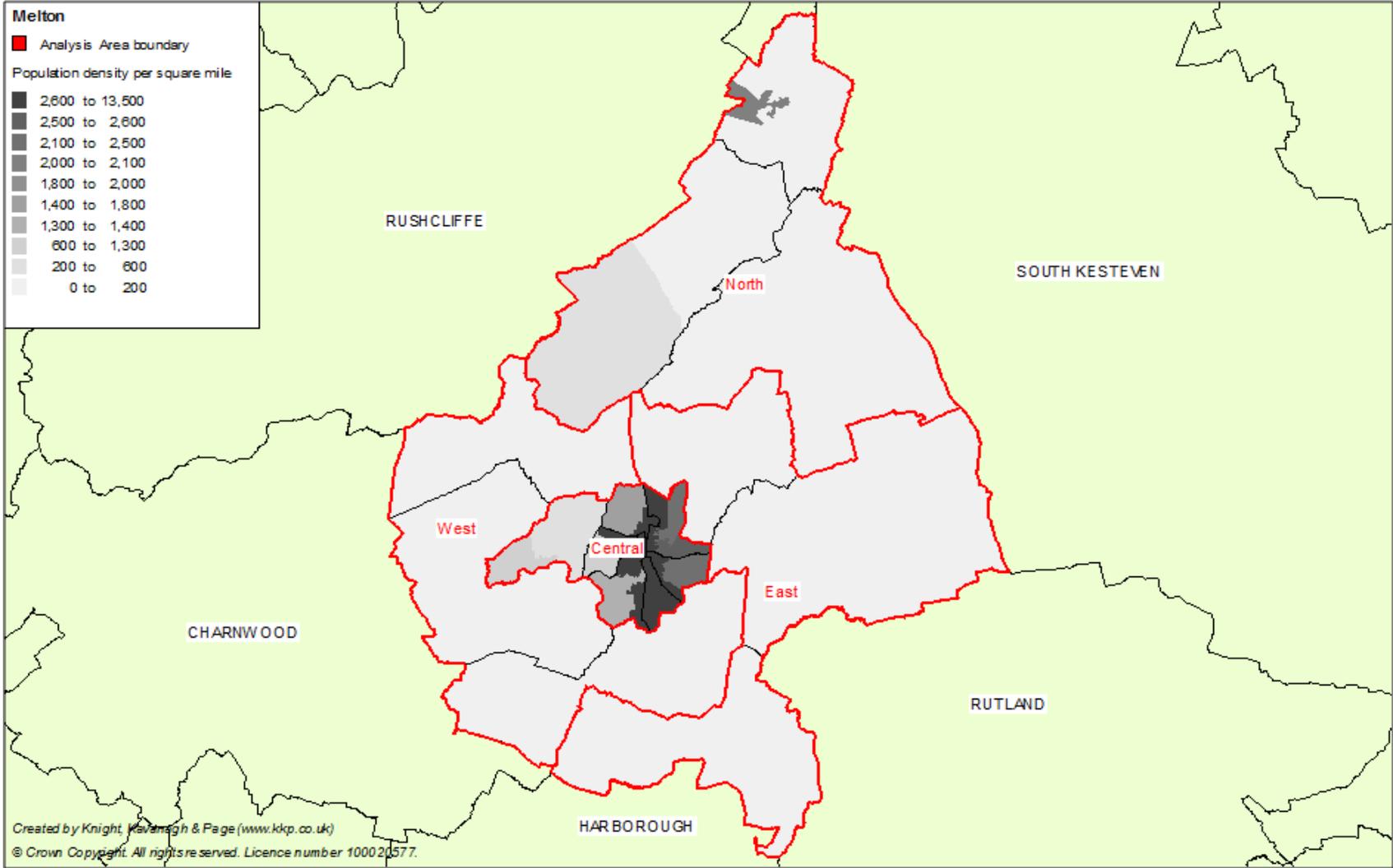
Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the map of analysis areas with population density.

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\* Source: ONS 2012 based population projections

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Figure 2.1: Analysis areas in Melton



## 2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The site audit for this study was undertaken by the KKP Field Research Team. In total, 255 open spaces (including provision for children and young people) are identified, plotted on GIS and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and therefore the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with guidance:

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards
7. Civic space

In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. However, some sites below the threshold (i.e. those that are identified through consultation as being of significance) are included. The list below details the threshold for each typology:

- ◀ Parks and gardens – no threshold
- ◀ Natural and semi-natural greenspace – 0.2 ha
- ◀ Amenity greenspace – 0.2 ha
- ◀ Provision for children and young people – no threshold
- ◀ Allotments – no threshold
- ◀ Cemeteries/churchyards – no threshold
- ◀ Civic space – no threshold

### ***Database development***

All information relating to open spaces across the Borough of Melton is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites included within the audit, as identified and assessed, are included within it. The database details for each site are as follows:

#### **Data held on open spaces database (summary)**

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ◀ Site name
- ◀ Ownership
- ◀ Management
- ◀ Typology
- ◀ Size (hectares)
- ◀ Site visit data

Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

### 2.3 Quality and value

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be in an inaccessible location and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. This will also allow application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus to a particular open space typology.

#### *Analysis of quality*

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon those derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out are summarised in the following table.

#### **Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)**

- ▶ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts,
- ▶ Personal security, e.g., site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- ▶ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths
- ▶ Parking, e.g., availability, specific, disabled parking
- ▶ Information signage, e.g., presence of up to date site information, notice boards
- ▶ Equipment and facilities, e.g., assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
- ▶ Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace
- ▶ Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti
- ▶ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., fencing, gates, staff on site
- ▶ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of general landscape & features
- ▶ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people
- ▶ Site potential

For the provision for children and young people, the criteria is also built around Green Flag and is a non technical visual assessment of the whole site, including general equipment and surface quality/appearance but also including an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision. This differs, for example, from an independent RosPA review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

Children's and young people play provision is scored for value as part of the audit assessment. In particular value is recognised in terms of size of sites and the range of equipment they host. For instance, a small site with only a single piece of equipment is likely to be of a lower value than a site with several different forms of equipment designed to cater for wider age ranges.

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## **Analysis of value**

Using data calculated from the site visits and desk based research a value score for each site is identified. Value is defined in a Companion Guide to PPG17 in relation to the following three issues:

- ◀ Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◀ Level and type of use.
- ◀ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

<p><b>Value criteria for open space site visits (score)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◀ Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility</li><li>◀ Context of site in relation to other open spaces</li><li>◀ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity and character of the area</li><li>◀ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats</li><li>◀ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes, people and features</li><li>◀ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being</li><li>◀ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high profile symbols of local area</li><li>◀ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks</li><li>◀ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far</li></ul>
<p><b>Value - non site visit criteria (score)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◀ Designated site such as LNR or SSSI</li><li>◀ Educational programme in place</li><li>◀ Historic site</li><li>◀ Listed building or historical monument on site</li><li>◀ Registered 'friends of' group to the site</li></ul>

## **2.4 Quality and value thresholds**

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the results of the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red).

The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

The base line threshold for assessing quality can often be set around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is not always appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Quality thresholds have therefore been based to reflect average scores more for each typology.

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Consequently baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

*Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology*

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	35%	20%
Amenity greenspace	40%	20%
Provision for children and young people	45%	20%
Allotments	40%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	35%	20%
Civic space	60%	20%

For value there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from our experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites. Whilst 20% may initially seem low it is relative score - designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier).

## **2.5 Identifying local need (demand)**

Consultation to identify local need for open space provision has been carried out through face-to-face meetings and telephone interviews.

Face to face meetings were held with the larger parish councils. In addition a postal questionnaire was sent to all other parish councils. This helped to pick up on issues, problems and concerns relating to open space provision at a more local level, as well as identifying the attitudes and needs of the broader local community. It also allowed any local issues and aspirations to be identified.

This has also been supplemented by face-to-face and/or telephone interviews with key local authority officers and community groups with local knowledge of sites or provision relating to each typology.

## **2.6 Accessibility standards**

Accessibility standards for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. This problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance that would be travelled by the majority of users.

Guidance is offered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) (2002): 'Guide to preparing open space strategies' with regard to appropriate catchment areas for authorities to adopt. However, in order to make accessibility standards more locally specific to Melton, we propose using data from the previous Open Space Study to set appropriate catchments. The following standards are recorded in relation to how far residents are likely to be willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

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Table 2.3: Accessibility standards to travel to open space provision

Typology	Applied standard
Parks and gardens	15 minute walk time (1200m)
	10 minute drive time
Natural and semi-natural	10 minute walk time (800m)
	20 minute drive time
Amenity greenspace	10 minute walk time (800m)
Provision for children and young people	10 minute walk time (800m)
	10 minute drive time
Allotments	15 minute walk time (1200m)
	15 minute drive time
Cemeteries	No standard set
Civic spaces	No standard set

Most typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 10/15 minute walk time. For many of the open space typologies dual walk and drive time accessibility standards have been set. This is designed to reflect the rural characteristics of the Borough as well as the nature of use for these types of provision; with users often likely to travel by transport as well as by foot.

No standard is set for the typologies of cemeteries or civic spaces. It is difficult to assess such typologies against catchment areas due to their nature and usage. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

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## PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section describes generic trends and findings from the quality and value ratings for each typology in Melton. It describes the generic issues that cut across more than one typology. The typology and site specific issues are covered in the relevant sections later in this report.

### 3.1 Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of all the quality assessment for open spaces across Melton.

Table 3.1: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Maximum score	Scores			No. of sites	
			Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	40%	124	22%	43%	66%	13	22
Amenity greenspace	40%	121	13%	42%	74%	31	54
Cemeteries/churchyards	35%	161	22%	38%	73%	19	46
Provision for children & young people	45%	97	26%	57%	85%	12	35
Civic space	60%	146	61%	61%	61%	-	1
Park and gardens	60%	159	36%	63%	90%	3	5
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	35%	117	15%	34%	53%	6	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>161</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>171</b>

Over two thirds (67%) of assessed open spaces in Melton rate above the quality thresholds set. More natural and semi-natural greenspace sites and amenity greenspace sites score low for quality compared to other typologies. This is a reflection of the number of sites for these typologies without any specific ancillary features or facilities. Sites for the typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace can also tend to score low for personal security given they are often in isolated locations and not overlooked by other land uses. Often sites deliberately have very little ongoing management or maintenance in order to provide, for example, wildlife habitats.

Proportionally there are also a high percentage of parks and gardens that rate below the threshold for quality. This is not necessarily a reflection on any specific issues at the sites. Instead it is more likely a result of the threshold for parks being set particularly high. This is in order to distinguish the very best and often strategic park sites from more localised forms of provision. It is important that large and prominent sites such as Melton Country Park are assessed against criteria intended to do this, so that provision can be to the highest standard. Subsequently it may not be appropriate for all forms of provision.

The typologies of allotments, cemeteries, provision for children and young people and civic space are generally all of a good quality. In particular the proportion of cemeteries and provision for children and young people rated as being of a high quality is noticeable. Although both typologies do still have a number of sites that rate below the thresholds.

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Management and maintenance responsibilities of open space are undertaken by a number of organisations across Melton. The Council predominantly has responsibility for more strategic forms of provision such as key parks, play sites and burial provision. In addition, a significant number of sites are managed by parish councils. For example, the parish councils provide a significant proportion of allotment and play provision in the Borough.

## 3.2 Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces across Melton.

*Table 3.2: Value scores for all open space typologies*

Typology	Threshold	Maximum score	Scores			No. of sites	
			Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	20%	105	6%	28%	57%	1	34
Amenity greenspace	20%	100	5%	25%	60%	26	59
Cemeteries/churchyards	20%	100	18%	25%	45%	12	53
Provision for children & young people	20%	55	20%	34%	51%	-	47
Civic space	20%	100	45%	45%	45%	-	1
Park and gardens	20%	110	24%	48%	77%	-	8
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	20%	110	16%	26%	39%	2	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>214</b>

The majority of sites are assessed as being of high value. Similar to the quality scores; amenity greenspaces have a higher proportion of low value sites. This reflects the number of sites that lack any particular ancillary features. The typology also contains a number of smaller sized sites. However, the value these sites play in providing a visual and recreational amenity as well as a break in the built form remains important in a wider context.

All provision for children and young people, civic space and park sites rate high for value reflecting their role to local communities.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those that offer limited functions and that are thought of as bland and unattractive.

## 3.3 Summary

### General summary

- ◀ In total there are 255 sites identified in Melton as open space provision. This is an equivalent of over 259 hectares across the Borough.
- ◀ Most typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 10 or 15 minute walk time. For many typologies a drive time catchment has also been applied. This is in order to reflect the rural characteristic of the area.
- ◀ Over two thirds fifths of all open spaces score high for quality. Most noticeably, more amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural sites score low for quality compared to other typologies. This is due to sites of this type tending to lack ancillary features.
- ◀ The majority of all open spaces are assessed as being of high value. Reflecting the importance of provision; nearly all sites with the exception of 41 (particularly for the typologies of amenity greenspace and cemeteries) score high for value.

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## PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

### 4.1 Introduction

The typology of parks and gardens covers urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide 'accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events'. No country parks are identified as being in existence within Melton.

The amount of parks provision recorded has increased from 85 hectares to 97 hectares since the 2010 study. This is due to more accurate site boundaries for parks.

### 4.2 Current provision

There are eight sites classified as parks and gardens across Melton, an equivalent of over 97 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Central Melton	6	64.18	2.08
East Melton	-	-	-
North Melton	-	-	-
West Melton	2	33.54	6.21
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>97.72</b>	<b>1.92</b>

Only two analysis areas are identified as having provision of parks and gardens; Central Melton and West Melton.

The largest single site contributing to provision in Melton is Melton Country Park, in Central Melton, equating to over 54 hectares of parks provision. The site has an important dual role as a form of open space contributing to natural and semi-natural greenspace.

Other significant sized sites include Burrough on the Hill Country Park (19 hectares) in West Melton and the Play Close, Priors Close, New Park, Wilton Park, Memorial Gardens and Egerton Park sites (8.25 hectares) in Central Melton.

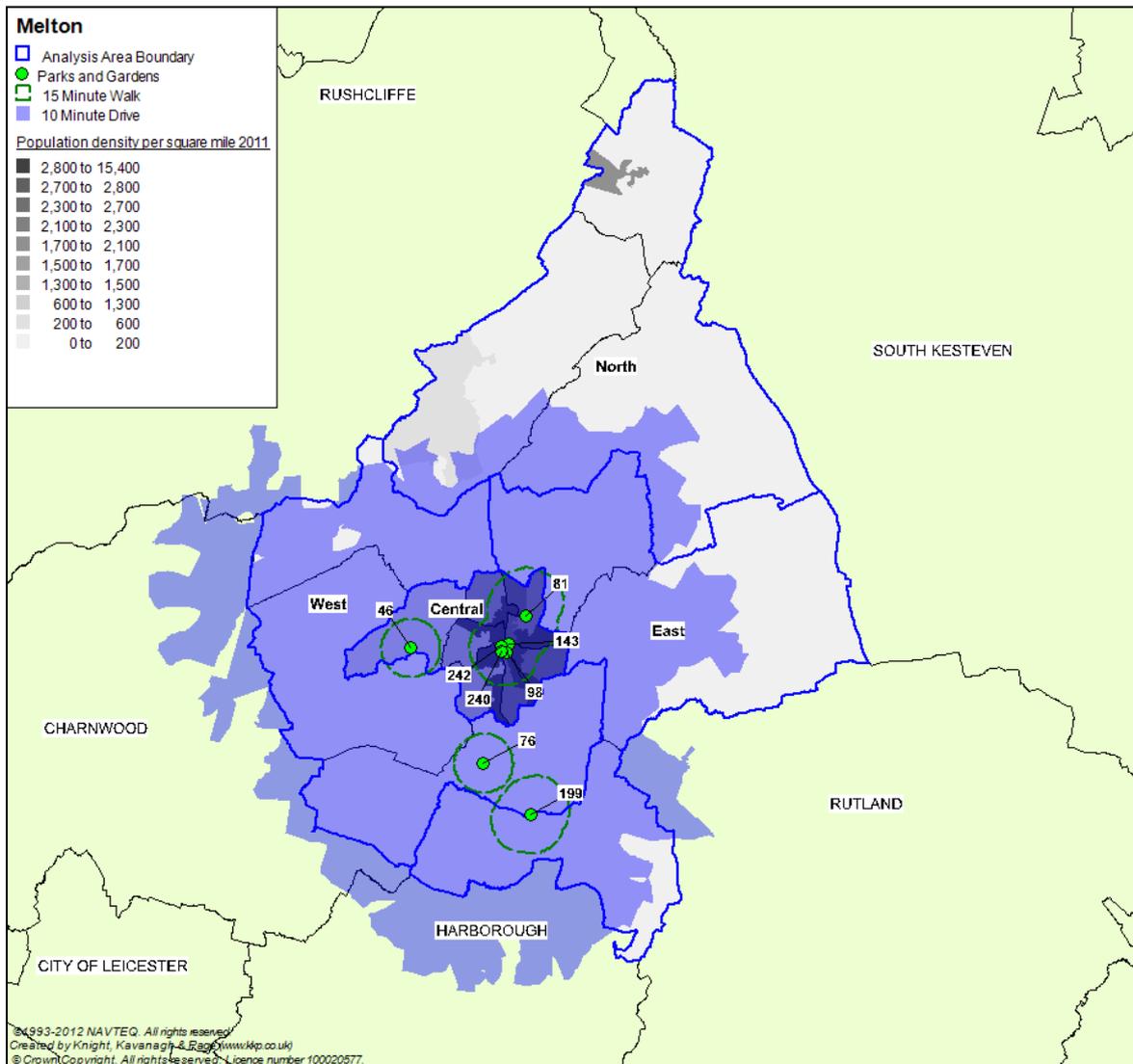
As seen in Table 4.1 proportionally the West Melton Analysis Area (6.21 ha per 1,000 population) has a significant greater amount of provision per 1,000 head of population compared to the other analysis areas. This is predominantly due to the Burrough on the Hill Country Park being classified in that area.

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## 4.3 Accessibility

Two accessibility standards have been set across Melton; a walk time of 15 minutes and a drive time of 10 minutes have both been applied. These are based on the locally derived standards derived from the previous open space study for Melton. Figure 4.1 shows parks and gardens mapped against the analysis areas with these accessibility catchments.

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped against analysis area



In general there is good coverage of parks based on a 10 minute drive time with the exception of the North of the Borough. However, based on a 15 minute walk, there are significant deficiencies in the more built up areas on Central Melton.

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Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
46	Golden Jubilee Park	Central Melton	Red	Green
76	Main Street Garden (Great Dalby)	West Melton	Red	Green
81	Melton Country Park	Central Melton	Green	Green
98	Play Close, Priors Close, New Park	Central Melton	Green	Green
143	St Mary's Way Park	Central Melton	Red	Green
199	Burrough on the Hill Country Park	West Melton	Green	Green
240	Wilton Park	Central Melton	Green	Green
242	Egerton Memorial Gardens	Central Melton	Green	Green

There are no parks and gardens in the North Melton Analysis Area (specifically in the settlement of Bottesford). In addition, the area is not served by provision from elsewhere in the Borough. However, there are other types of open space provision, such as amenity greenspace servicing the area. These may not meet the criteria of parks provision but are likely to offer similar opportunities and access to recreational activities associated with parks.

Melton East is also not served by parks provision. However, the Burrough on the Hill site (identified in the West Analysis Area) is on the border. Furthermore, the East Melton has a low population density and is unlikely to warrant the creation of any new parks provision. The Area is also served by other forms of open space provision such as amenity greenspace which may offer opportunities to activities similar to parks.

Council managed open spaces, including parks and gardens, are managed as part of the open spaces portfolio by MBC. Sites receive regular maintenance visits which include regimes such as grass cutting, weeding and general site preservation (e.g. bin emptying, bench refurbishment and path checks). Melton Country Park is the only park site maintained by MBC.

Maintenance of sites in the more rural areas of the Borough is undertaken by the parish and town councils or in agreement with Leicestershire County Council.

Melton Mowbray Town Estates is responsible for a number of park sites within Melton such as Play Close, Priors Close, New Park, Wilton Park and Egerton Memorial Gardens. The maintenance of these sites is undertaken by the Town Estates in-house maintenance team.

## 4.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks in Melton. A threshold of 60% (to reflect Green Flag pass mark) is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Central Melton	159	47%	67%	90%	43%	2	4
East Melton	159	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Melton	159	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Melton	159	36%	52%	69%	33%	1	1
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

Most park sites in Melton, with the exception of three sites, score high for quality against the criteria.

The three sites to not score high for quality against the threshold are Golden Jubilee Park (55%), St Marys Way Park (47%) and Main Street Garden (36%) in Central Melton. Site observations identify a lack of seating and signage at all three sites. Furthermore, St Marys Way Park is noted as having gravestones around the perimeter. No specific quality issues are highlighted at the sites. It is likely that scoring below the threshold is a result of their comparison to the other high quality parks provision in the Borough. Reclassification of the sites as amenity greenspace, for example, rather than parks provision, may increase quality scores given the less formal characteristics associated with such sites.

Five sites are generally assessed highly and are rated above the 60% threshold. The highest individual scoring sites are:

- ✦ Melton Country Park (90%)
- ✦ Play Close, Priors Close, New Park (83%)
- ✦ Burrough on the Hill (69%)
- ✦ Memorial Gardens (63%)
- ✦ Wilton Park (62%)

Melton Country Park is the highest scoring site in Melton for quality with 90%. It is noted as having a range of facilities such as equipped play provision for children including a trim trail as well as football pitches and allotments. Consultation highlights these features as key attractions and reasons for visiting the site. Maintenance of the park and the presence of interpretation boards are also very good. This reflects the sites status as a Green Flag accredited park.

There is one friends group in the Borough, the Friends of Melton Country Park. It has worked, in partnership with the Council, to provide added benefit to the quality of the park. This has over the years included the creation of a woodland play area and a sensory garden. The group meets on a regular basis approximately once a month to undertake a working day. Ongoing works for the group in the future includes planting a community orchard.

The second highest scoring site for quality in Melton is Play Close, Priors Close, New Park sites (83%). This conurbation of sites (managed and maintained by Melton Mowbray Town Estates) is a key facility for the town and is particularly well used by families and visitors. A unique feature on site is the skateboard facility which helps to cater for older aged children and young people.

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Both Memorial Garden and Burrough on the Hill Country Park also score just over the high quality threshold with 63% and 69% respectively. The sites are noted as being attractive and well maintained. In particular Egerton Memorial Garden is a popular and well used site due to the war memorial plaques and its inclusion in the town trail.

### ***Green Flag***

The Green Flag Award scheme is licensed and managed by Keep Britain Tidy. It provides national standards for parks and greenspaces across England and Wales. Public service agreements, identified by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) highlight the importance placed on Green Flag status as an indicator of high quality. This in turn impacts upon the way parks and gardens are managed and maintained.

A recent survey by improvement charity GreenSpace highlights that parks with a Green Flag Award provide more satisfaction to members of the public compared to those sites without it. The survey of 16,000 park users found that more than 90% of Green Flag Award park visitors were very satisfied or satisfied with their chosen site, compared to 65% of visitors to non-Green Flag parks.

There is currently one site in Melton identified as achieving Green Flag status. This is Melton Country Park. As highlighted earlier, the site is maintained to a high standard with the work of both the Council maintenance team/contractors and the Friends of Melton Country Park being important in its continued achievement.

Site assessments show that other park sites in Melton would be appropriate and are likely to score well if they were to be submitted for a Green Flag Award scheme. Play Close/New Park/Priors Close score particularly well for quality, each receiving a score of 83% from the site assessments.

The Council is conscious that any future applications for Green Flag status are dependent upon resources and the appropriate formation of 'friends of' groups.

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## 4.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks in Melton. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central Melton	110	35%	54%	77%	42%	-	6
East Melton	110	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Melton	110	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Melton	110	24%	29%	35%	11%	-	2
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>

All parks are assessed as being of high value from the site visit assessments. This is supported throughout the consultation. That all sites score above the threshold demonstrates the high social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place that park sites offer.

The value of parks is further demonstrated by some sites being registered as The Queen Elizabeth II Fields. The programme, run by the charity Field In Trust (FIT), aimed to protect (by a Deed of Dedication) outdoor recreational space across the UK as part of the Queens Diamond Jubilee as well as the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Sites nominated for protection are often considered important assets providing focal points and amenity benefits for local communities.

In total there are 13 sites with Queen Elizabeth II Fields (QEII) status in Melton. Seven of these are identified as park:

- ◀ Melton Country Park
- ◀ Play Close, Priors Close, New Park
- ◀ Egerton Park and Memorial Gardens
- ◀ Wilton Park

The other QEII sites in Melton are:

- ◀ Back Lane Amenity
- ◀ Salford Road Amenity
- ◀ Bottesford Village Hall Field
- ◀ Grantham Road Recreation Area
- ◀ Lowesby Lane Play Area (aka Twyford Recreation Ground)
- ◀ Waltham on the Wolds Village Hall

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One of the key aspects towards the value placed on parks provision is that they are able to provide opportunities for local communities and people to socialise. The ability for people to undertake a range of different activities such as walking, dog walking or taking children to the play area are recognised. Also the use of such sites to accommodate events is important.

There are a number of sites across Melton that are used to host a range of local and seasonal events. For instance, the Egerton site hosts the Melton Show. Other sites such as Play Close, Priors Close, New Park often have events arranged throughout the year such as Melton Country Fair and annual bonfire.

### 4.6 Summary

#### **Parks and gardens**

- ◀ There are eight sites classified as parks and gardens totalling over 97 hectares.
- ◀ Catchment gaps are noted to the north and east analysis areas. However, major settlements such as Bottesford are thought to be sufficiently serviced by other forms of open space that provide similar functions to parks. Furthermore, the drive time catchment covers the whole of the Borough.
- ◀ Nearly all parks score above the threshold for quality with the exception of three sites; Golden Jubilee Park, Main Street Garden and St Marys Way Park. All three are noted as lacking appropriate seating and signage in comparison to other park sites. The sites less formal character may better suit classification as an Amenity Greenspace.
- ◀ Melton Country Park is the highest scoring sites for quality. its quality is predominantly attributed to the range and standard of provision within the site. In addition, the park sites managed and maintained by the Town Estates also score highly for quality.
- ◀ There is currently one park site in Melton with Green Flag status; Melton Country Park. A number of other sites are also identified as having the potential to be submitted for Green Flag accreditation in the future if desired.
- ◀ All parks are assessed as being of high value, with the important social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being acknowledged.
- ◀ Overall, there is thought to be a sufficient amount of parks provision within the Borough.

**PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE**

**5.1 Introduction**

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology includes woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), open running water, wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits). These provide ‘wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.’

The typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace has a relatively low quality threshold compared to other open space typologies. This is in order to reflect the characteristic of this kind of provision. For instance, many natural and semi-natural sites are intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater flora and fauna activity.

Since the 2010 study the amount of natural and semi-natural provision recorded has increased from 48 hectares to 69 hectares since the 2010 study. This is due to more accurate site boundaries.

**5.2 Current provision**

In total 14 sites are identified as publicly accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 69 hectares of provision. These totals may not include all provision in Melton as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Guidance recommends that sites smaller than this may be of less recreational value to residents. However, there are two sites under 0.2 hectares that are included in the audit.

*Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area*

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Central Melton	4	9.06	0.29
East Melton	3	7.80	1.60
North Melton	3	1.04	0.12
West Melton	4	51.91	9.61
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>69.82</b>	<b>1.38</b>

Of these, one site has restricted access (Priory Water Nature Reserve) but is included as it does still have some public access.

Most of the provision across the study area is located in the West Melton Analysis Area (52 hectares). Subsequently the analysis area has the greater proportion of provision per 1,000 population with 9.6 hectares. This is a significantly greater standard than other analysis areas such as North Melton (0.12 hectares per 1,000 population).

Melton has a variety of natural and semi-natural sites including woodlands, grasslands and quarries.

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Furthermore, Melton Country Park (54 hectares) and Burrough on the Hill Country Park (33 hectares) are recognised for their contribution to the opportunities and activities associated with natural and semi-natural types of open space in Melton. However, within the audit both sites are included as park and garden sites.

### ***Designations***

In terms of national designations, there is no publically accessible local nature reserves (LNRs) identified in the Borough of Melton. However, a number of sites do have nature reserve titles or similar classifications. These are:

- ◀ Stathern Road Nature Reserve (Site ID: 161)
- ◀ Priors Water Nature Reserve (Site ID: 194)
- ◀ Browns Hill Quarry Nature Reserve (Site ID: 206)
- ◀ Holwell Mineral Line (Site ID: 210)
- ◀ Wymondham Rough (Site ID: 209)
- ◀ Stonesby Quarry (Site ID: 251)
- ◀ Cribbs Meadow (Site ID: 258)

### ***Management***

A total of 69 hectares of natural and semi-natural greenspace is identified across Melton. Management of these sites is the responsibility of a variety of organisations. Aside from the local authority, site management is also the responsibility of Leicestershire County Council, Parish Council and private landowners. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust also manage four sites in Melton:

- ◀ Holwell Reserves (including Brown's Hill Quarry and Holwell Mineral Line) - Regionally Important Geological Sites and cover 16.4 ha in total.
- ◀ Wymondham Rough - The reserve, which covers 12.5 ha, is owned by the Trust. Part of the reserve (the grassland) is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.
- ◀ Stonesby Quarry - The reserve covers 4 ha. It is part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest.
- ◀ Cribbs Meadow – owned by the Trust. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve covering 5 ha.

### **5.3 Accessibility**

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. These standards recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

- ◀ An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home
- ◀ At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home
- ◀ One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home
- ◀ One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home
- ◀ One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population

There are no designated LNRs in Melton. However, there are sites which may have the opportunity to have areas designated, for example, the countryside areas of Melton Country Park.

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This study, in order to comply with guidance uses locally informed standards. It does not focus on the ANGSt Standard as this uses a different methodology for identifying accessible natural greenspace to that advocated in guidance.

Two accessibility standards have been set across Melton; a walk time of 10 minutes and a drive time of 20 minutes have both been applied. These are based on the locally derived standards from the previous open space study for Melton. Figure 5.1 shows the standards applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against analysis areas

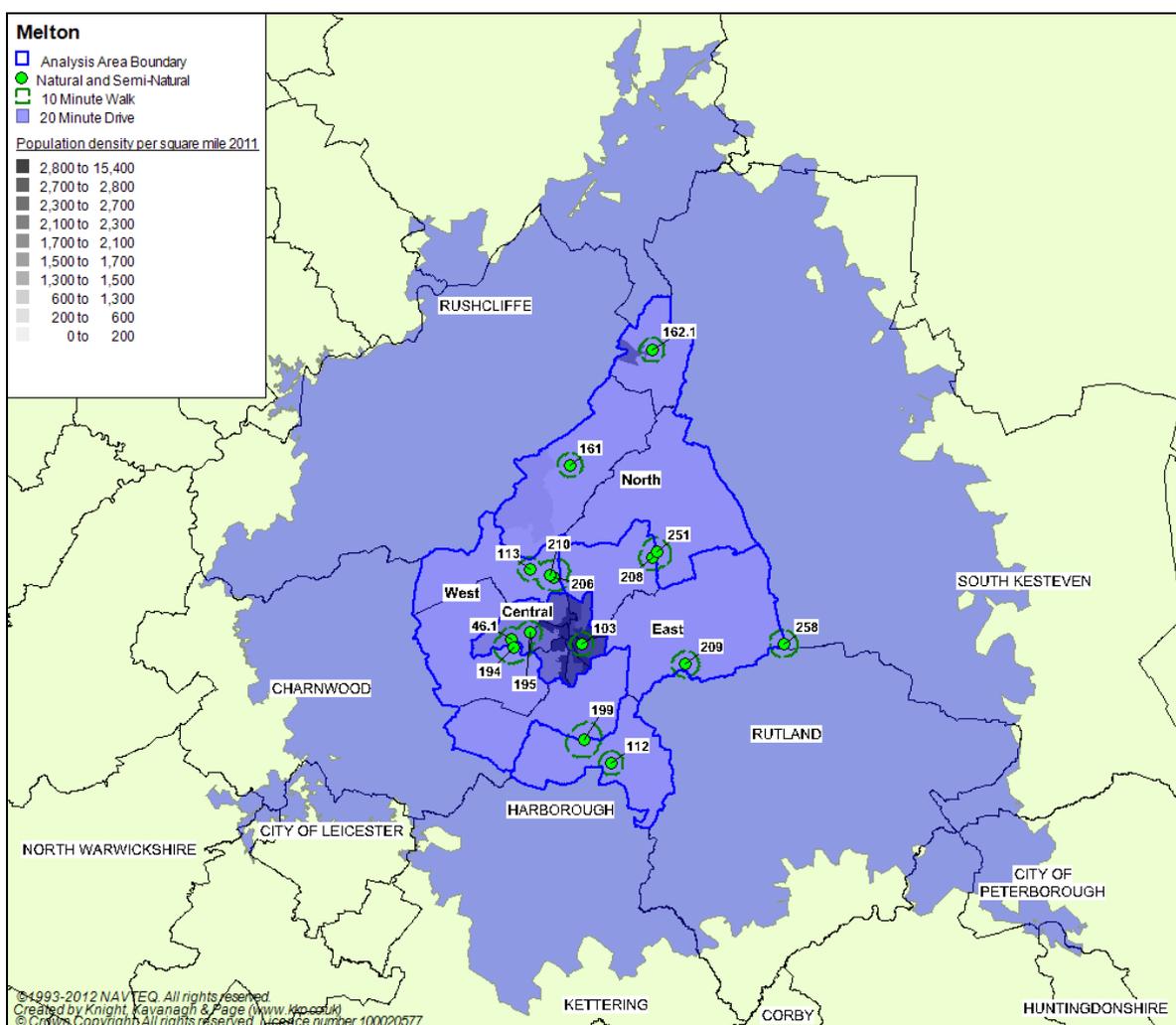


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
42	Embankment path	Central Melton		
102	River Meadow (Lake Terrace)	Central Melton		
103	River Meadow (Brook Lane)	Central Melton		
112	High Street, Somerby	East Melton		
113	Church Lane/Well Lane, Ab Ketteby	West Melton		
161	Stathern Road Nature Reserve	North Melton		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
162.1	Station Road Meadow	North Melton		
194	Priory Water Nature Reserve	West Melton		
206	Browns Hill Quarry Nature Reserve	West Melton		
209	Wymondham Rough	East Melton		
210	Holwell Mineral Line	West Melton		
251	Stonesby Quarry	North Melton		
92	Dieppe Way/Nottingham Road	Central Melton		
258	Cribbs Meadow	East Melton		

All analysis areas are covered by the 20 minute drive time catchment. However, there are residents in Melton and Asfordby without access to provision based on a 10 minute walk time. There are also no designated local nature reserves in the Borough, although a number of sites do have nature reserve status.

Furthermore, smaller and less populated settlements across the Borough are thought to have sufficient access to the surrounding countryside. Continued access to the wider countryside should be ensured.

There are also no designated local nature reserves in the Borough, although a number of sites do have nature reserve status.

## 5.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Melton. A threshold of 35% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.3: Quality rating for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <35%	High >35%
Central Melton	117	15%	27%	39%	24%	3	1
East Melton	117	21%	32%	40%	19%	2	1
North Melton	117	29%	38%	44%	15%	1	2
West Melton	117	35%	41%	53%	18%	-	4
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

Over half of natural and semi-natural sites (57%) in Melton score above the threshold for quality. However, six sites score below the quality threshold applied. Central Analysis Area has three sites that score low for quality; East Melton has two and North Melton has one site.

The three sites in Central Melton scoring below the threshold are Dieppe Way/Nottingham Road, Embankment path and River Meadow (Lake Terrace). They receive a score of 30%, 15% and 22% for quality respectively. Site observations for the

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Embankment and River Meadow note the sites appear to be grazing land with several informal footpaths throughout. The sites score below the threshold as no other features are identified on the site.

Similarly the sites in North Melton (Stathern Road Nature Reserve, 29%) and East Melton (Wymondham Rough, 21%, and Cribbs Meadow, 34%) to rate below the threshold have a lack of ancillary features such as bins or information/interpretation boards. The Wymondham Rough and Cribbs Meadow sites are also quite isolated in terms of their position so score low for personal security and safety. However, the sites are highly valued for nature/wildlife given they have SSSI designations.

A total of eight sites score above the threshold for quality in Melton. The highest scoring site is Brown Hill Quarry Nature Reserve in West Melton; receiving a score of 53% for quality. A list of the other sites scoring highest for quality is set out below:

- ◀ Station Road Meadow (44%)
- ◀ Stonesby Quarry (40%)
- ◀ High Street, Somerby (40%)
- ◀ River Meadow, Brook Lane (39%)
- ◀ Priory Water Nature Reserve (38%)
- ◀ Church Lane/Well Lane, Ab Kettleby (36%)
- ◀ Holwell Mineral Line, Holwell (35%)

All the above sites are observed as being attractive and well maintained; offering some ancillary features such as bins, benches and pathways all to a high standard. In addition, they are noted as being reasonably well used.

In particular, at the Brown Hill Quarry Nature Reserve and Holwell Mineral Line sites the presence of interpretation boards is thought to add to the overall quality of the sites.

### 5.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Melton. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 5.4: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central Melton	110	16%	26%	39%	23%	1	3
East Melton	110	16%	21%	26%	9%	1	2
North Melton	110	20%	22%	26%	6%	-	3
West Melton	110	21%	32%	36%	15%	-	4
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>

The majority of natural and semi-natural greenspace (86%) scores high for value with only two scoring below the threshold.

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Embankment path (in Central Melton) and High Street, Somerby (in East Melton) both receive a score of 16% for value. Neither site is believed to be particularly well used although the habitat opportunities they provide are recognised. As mentioned earlier the Embankment path site appears to show evidence of being used for cattle grazing.

The highest scoring sites for value are River Meadow, Brook Lane (39%) and Brown Hill Quarry Nature Reserve (36%). Both sites are observed as being attractive to a variety of groups (e.g. nature enthusiasts and families). In addition, they offer opportunities for walking. The Brown Hills site is managed by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust which provide emergency contact details and site marketing through leaflets and maps. In contrast the signage at the River Meadow site is worn and vandalised. Despite this, the site still scores above the thresholds for quality and value.

### 5.6 Summary

#### Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ Melton is identified as having 14 individual natural and semi-natural greenspace sites. This totals over 69 hectares of provision.
- ◀ Accessibility standards of a 10 minute walk time and 20 minute drive time have been set. Walk time deficiencies are identified particularly for the Melton Mowbray settlement. However, it is unlikely new provision is needed due to the relative ease of access to the wider countryside. In addition, Melton Country Park and Burrough on the Hill Country Park are significant forms of open space provision that are likely to contribute to activities and the role of natural and semi-natural greenspace.
- ◀ No provision is designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) across Melton based on Natural England recommendations. However, there are sites with other designations such as SSSI.
- ◀ Natural greenspace sites are generally viewed as being of a good quality. This is reflected in the audit assessment with the majority (57%) scoring above the threshold. Browns Hill Nature Reserve scores the highest for quality with 53%; a reflection of its general high level of standard.
- ◀ The majority of sites (86%) are rated as being above the threshold for value. Although two sites are identified as scoring below the threshold. Only one rates below for both quality and value. This tends to relate to a lack of features/information and usage on site.
- ◀ The highest scoring sites, such as Browns Hill Quarry Nature Reserve, River Meadow and Priory Water Nature Reserve, provide a range of opportunities and uses for visitors. Such sites also, in general, give additional information that will help provide greater learning opportunities.
- ◀ Overall, there is thought to be a sufficient amount of natural and semi-natural provision within the Borough. Particularly with sites not classified as natural provision such as Melton Country Park adding to the function and opportunities associated with natural greenspace.

## PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

### 6.1 Introduction

The typology of amenity greenspaces is defined as sites offering ‘opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. These include informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.’

Since the 2010 study there has been an increase of two sites recorded as amenity greenspace. The amount of provision recorded has also increased from 34 hectares to 39 hectares since the 2010 study. This is due to more accurate site boundaries and the additional two sites.

### 6.2 Current provision

There are a total of 85 amenity greenspace sites identified in Melton. This results in there being over 39 hectares of provision. Amenity spaces in Melton are most often found in housing estates or settlement centres and function as informal recreation spaces or as open spaces along highways that provide a visual amenity. There are also a number of recreation grounds which have been classified as amenity greenspace.

*Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Central Melton	40	19.28	0.63
East Melton	16	4.57	0.94
North Melton	17	10.91	1.13
West Melton	12	4.45	0.82
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>39.21</b>	<b>0.77</b>

Site sizes vary from the smallest incidental open space on housing estates, such as Blenheim Walk at 0.02 hectares, to the largest, War Memorial Hospital Amenity, at just over four hectares. Given the rural characteristic of the Borough no site size threshold has been applied.

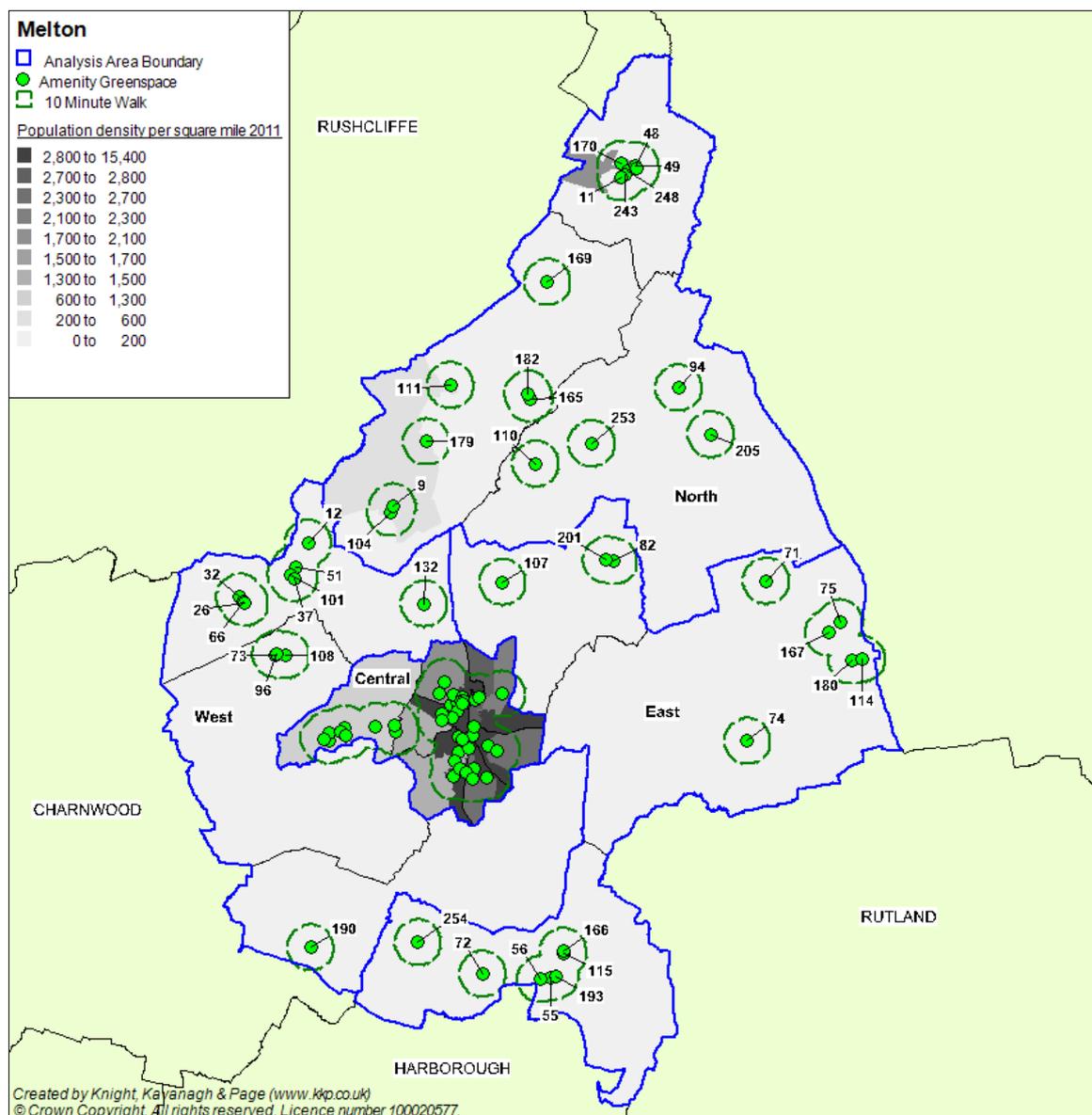
It is important to note that whilst the majority of provision is considered as being small grassed areas in and around housing or visual landscaped space, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example recreation grounds can be included under amenity greenspace, such as Grantham Road Recreation Ground and Thorpe Satchville Recreation Field. These serve a different purpose to grassed areas in housing estates and often provide an extended range of opportunities for recreational activities compared to grass areas. In addition, these sites are often larger in size.

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## 6.3 Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 10 minute walk time has been applied. These are based on the locally derived standards from the previous open space study for Melton. Figure 6.1 shows the standard applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace mapped against analysis area



# MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.2: Amenity greenspaces in Central Area

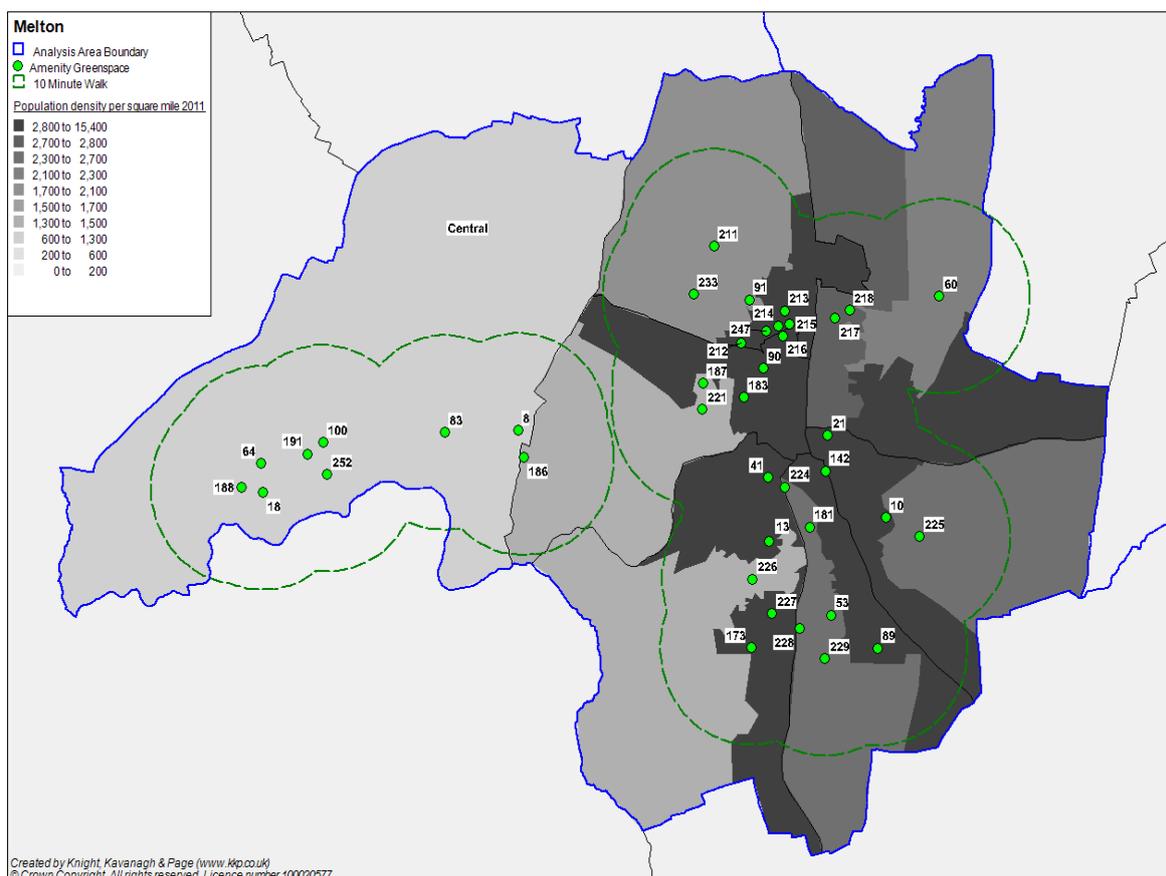


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
8	Asfordby Hill Amenity	Central Melton	Red	Green
9	Back Lane Amenity	North Melton	Green	Green
10	Baldocks Lane Amenity	Central Melton	Green	Green
11	Belvoir Road Amenity	North Melton	Green	Green
12	Blacksmiths Close Amenity	West Melton	Red	Green
13	Blyth Avenue Amenity	Central Melton	Green	Green
18	Chadwell Close Amenity	Central Melton	Red	Red
21	Chapel Street Amenity	Central Melton	Green	Green
26	Church Lane/Main Road Amenity	West Melton	Green	Green
32	Derdale Hill Amenity	West Melton	Red	Red
37	Dukes Road Amenity	West Melton	Green	Green
41	Egerton View, Leicester Road Amenity	Central Melton	Red	Green
48	Grantham Road Recreation Area	North Melton	Green	Green
49	Grantham Road Village Green	North Melton	Green	Green
51	Greaves Avenue Amenity	West Melton	Green	Red
55	High Street Amenity	East Melton	Green	Green
56	High Street Amenity Area (West)	East Melton	Red	Red
60	Hunts Drive Amenity	Central Melton	Red	Green

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
64	Loughborough Road Amenity	Central Melton		
66	Main Road Amenity	West Melton		
71	Main Street Amenity (Sproxton)	East Melton		
72	Main Street Amenity (Burrough on the Hill)	East Melton		
73	Main Street Amenity (Grimston)	West Melton		
74	Main Street Amenity (Wymondham)	East Melton		
75	Main Street Amenity (Buckminster)	East Melton		
82	Melton Road Amenity	East Melton		
83	Melton Road AGS	Central Melton		
89	Norfolk Drive Amenity	Central Melton		
90	Nottingham Road Amenity	Central Melton		
91	Nottingham Road Amenity	Central Melton		
94	Pasture Lane Amenity	North Melton		
96	Perkins Lane	West Melton		
100	Princess Anne Square	Central Melton		
101	Princess Road Amenity	West Melton		
104	Sand Pit Lane Amenity	North Melton		
107	Sandy Lane Recreational Ground	East Melton		
108	Saxelbye Lane amenity	West Melton		
110	Scalford Road Amenity	North Melton		
111	School Lane Amenity	North Melton		
114	Sewstern Amenity	East Melton		
115	Somerby Road Amenity	East Melton		
132	Holwell Village Green	West Melton		
142	St Mary's Parish Church Amenity	Central Melton		
165	The Crescent Amenity (Stathern)	North Melton		
166	The Crescent Amenity (Pickwell)	East Melton		
167	The Crescent Amenity (Buckminster)	East Melton		
169	The Green Amenity	North Melton		
170	The Square	North Melton		
179	Hose Village Green Amenity	North Melton		
180	Sewstern War Memorial	East Melton		
181	War Memorial Hospital Amenity	Central Melton		
182	Water Lane Amenity	North Melton		
183	Weavers Green Amenity	Central Melton		
186	Welby Road Amenity	Central Melton		
188	Glendon Close	Central Melton		
190	Barsby Village Hall Green	West Melton		
191	Charnwood Avenue Amenity	Central Melton		
193	Town End Amenity	East Melton		
201	Waltham on Wolds Village Hall	East Melton		
205	Croxton Kerrial Amenity	North Melton		
211	Nottingham Road Amenity	Central Melton		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
212	Brooksfield Court/Street amenity	Central Melton	High	High
213	Dieppe Way Amenity	Central Melton	Low	Low
214	Drummond Walk Amenity	Central Melton	High	Low
215	Drummond Walk Amenity	Central Melton	High	Low
216	Ash Grove Amenity	Central Melton	Low	Low
217	Cranmere Road Amenity	Central Melton	High	Low
218	Cranmere Road Amenity	Central Melton	High	High
221	Sherwood Drive amenity	Central Melton	High	Low
224	Waterfield Leisure Pool Amenity	Central Melton	High	High
225	Buckminster Close Amenity	Central Melton	High	High
226	Winster Crescent/Valley Road Amenity	Central Melton	High	High
227	Robin Crescent Amenity	Central Melton	High	High
228	Dalby Road Amenity	Central Melton	High	High
229	Princess Drive Amenity	Central Melton	High	High
233	Horseguards Way	Central Melton	Low	High
243	Bottesford Village Hall Field	North Melton	High	High
247	Blenheim Walk	Central Melton	High	Low
248	Open Space to Rear of Bottesford Village Hall	North Melton	Low	High
252	Riverside Garden	Central Melton	High	High
53	Hartopp Road Amenity	Central Melton	High	High
173	Thrush Close Amenity	Central Melton	High	High
187	West Avenue Green Amenity	Central Melton	High	High
253	Eaton Amentiy	North Melton	High	High
254	Thorpe Satchville Recreation	East Melton	Low	High

Catchment mapping with a 10 minute walk time applied shows a reasonable level of coverage across Melton.

In most instances areas with a greater population density have reasonable access to provision. However, some gaps are identified due to the accessibility standard set for amenity greenspace being relatively small (as provision is often deemed to be locally significant).

There are some gaps noted to the south and north extremities of Central Melton. It is unlikely that new provision is required as the areas are served by other forms of open space provision such as parks and outdoor sports (e.g. Melton Country Park). Furthermore, no issues regarding a deficiency in amenity greenspace is highlighted from the consultation. Options to address identified deficiencies, if required, will be discussed further in the Strategy.

### **Management**

Council managed open spaces, including amenity greenspaces, are managed as part of the open spaces portfolio by MBC. Sites receive regular maintenance visits which include regimes such as grass cutting, weeding and general site preservation (e.g. bin emptying, bench refurbishment and path checks).

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Maintenance of sites in the more rural areas of the Borough are undertaken by the parish councils. This is sometimes in accordance with Leicestershire County Council.

## 6.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces in Melton. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Central Melton	121	22%	45%	74%	52%	13	27
East Melton	121	13%	35%	49%	36%	9	7
North Melton	121	26%	44%	67%	41%	5	12
West Melton	121	16%	40%	63%	47%	4	8
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>54</b>

Most amenity greenspace in Melton (64%) receive a quality rating above the threshold. In particular, sites in North Melton score well, with 71% of sites being rated as high quality.

Proportionally there are slightly more sites in Central Melton (42%) and East Melton (29%) that score low compared to other areas. Both areas contain a number of sites that are lacking in ancillary facilities and features. Subsequently sites can be small and unattractive with a lack of reason for people to visit. However, it is important to recognise that despite scoring low for quality, sites may still have the potential to be of a high value to the community. For instance, if a site is the only form of open space in that local area it may potentially be of high value given it is the only provision of its type. It may also provide an aesthetically pleasing addition.

The five lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites in Melton are:

- ✦ Asfordby Hill Amenity (22%)
- ✦ Blacksmiths Close Amenity (16%)
- ✦ Main Street Amenity, Buckminster (22%)
- ✦ The Crescent Amenity, Pickwell (13%)
- ✦ Town End Amenity, Somerby (13%)

All five sites are observed as being basic pockets of green space with a lack of ancillary facilities to encourage extensive recreational use. In addition, The Crescent Amenity, Pickwell site is believed to be part of a private garden (if this is verified, it will be removed from the audit process). Only Blacksmiths Close Amenity is noted as offering additional benefits. The site is observed as having a bench, flower beds as well as an information board for a heritage trail.

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Further to those identified above, some specific issues relating to maintenance are observed during the site assessments at a number of sites. At the time of the visits the following sites were noted as showing evidence of issues/problems:

- ✦ Winstar Crescent/Valley Road Amenity – broken glass noted
- ✦ Croxton Kerrial Amenity – vandalised paths
- ✦ Egerton View – flagstones uneven and seat in disrepair

Two of the sites are assessed as being below the threshold. Egerton View and Croxton Kerrial Amenity both rate below the threshold with a quality score of 35% and 26% respectively. Despite broken glass being noted at Winstar Crscent/Valley Road Amenity, the site still scores well above the threshold with 64% for quality.

More sites in East Melton are rated below the threshold (nine sites) compared to above (seven sites). No specific issues are highlighted; therefore it is believed that sites in the area rate low for quality due to a lack of additional features. For example, only two of the nine sites, Sandy Lane Recreation Ground and Sproxton Main Street Amenity, are noted as containing any seating.

The highest scoring sites are St Mary's Church Amenity, in Melton Mowbray, and Back Lane Amenity, in Long Clawson. The sites score 74% and 67% respectively for quality. This is due to the range of ancillary facilities available as well as the high standard of appearance and maintenance of the sites. They also have ancillary facilities such as bins, benches, picnic tables and parking in addition to excellent information/signage. Features such as these contribute to their overall quality and help to create more opportunities and reasons for people to access them.

### 6.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for amenity greenspace in Melton. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central Melton	100	12%	40%	59%	42%	12	28
East Melton	100	5%	22%	39%	34%	6	10
North Melton	100	13%	28%	60%	47%	3	14
West Melton	100	5%	22%	33%	28%	5	7
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>59</b>

Similar to quality, more amenity greenspaces are rated as being above the threshold for value (69%). Slightly more sites are rated as high value than high quality. There are a total of 26 sites that receive a low value rating of below 20%. Although there are only five sites, proportionally West Melton (42%) has more sites below the threshold than any analysis area.

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In general, all sites scoring below the threshold for value are essentially viewed as grassed areas with no other noticeable features. Hence their low value scores. However, they are acknowledged as providing some form of visual amenity to their locality.

There are a total of 17 sites which score low for both quality and value. Most of these (10) are identified as being small in size i.e. below 0.2 hectares. In general a sites small size and lack of facilities to be found on site are contributors to a low value score. The seven sites to score low for quality and value but that are greater than 0.2 hectares in size are:

- ◀ High Street Amenity, Somerby (18%)
- ◀ Loughborough Road Amenity (18%)
- ◀ Princess Road Amenity (18%)
- ◀ School Lane Amenity (18%)
- ◀ The Crescent Amenity, Stathern (13%)
- ◀ The Crescent Amenity, Buckminster (18%)
- ◀ Ash Grove Amenity (12%)

All the sites are identified as having no provision of seating or bin provision. Furthermore, there is a general lack of other features such as fencing or controls to prevent misuse. It is important to keep in mind that the main role for some sites is to simply act as a grassed area, providing breaks in the urban form. Subsequently such sites are likely to score lower compared to others.

As highlighted earlier, the majority of amenity greenspace sites (69%) score high for value. The highest scoring sites for value in Melton are:

- ◀ Blacksmiths Close Amenity, Nether Broughton (33%)
- ◀ Sandy Lane Recreation Ground (33%)
- ◀ Croxton Kerrial Amenity (33%)
- ◀ Horseguards Way (33%)
- ◀ Thorpe Satchville Recreation Field (38%)

These are recognised for the accessible recreational opportunities they offer. For sites such as Blacksmiths Close Amenity and Thorpe Satchville Recreation Field added value is also provided through presence of interpretation boards and play provision.

In general the role amenity greenspaces play as a form of open space provision is supported by the fact the majority of sites score high for value. Compared to quality where 64% of sites score above the threshold. This suggests even though a number of sites may score low for quality, they still receive a high value. Often the visual and environmental benefits these sites provide are recognised.

The value of parks is further demonstrated by some sites being registered as Queen Elizabeth II Fields. The programme, run by the charity Field In Trust (FIT), aimed to protect (by a Deed of Dedication) outdoor recreational space across the UK as part of the Queens Diamond Jubilee as well as the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Sites nominated for protection are often considered important assets providing focal points and amenity benefits for local communities.

In total there are 13 sites with Queen Elizabeth II Fields (QEII) status in Melton. Five of these are identified as amenity greenspaces:

- ◀ Back Lane Amenity
- ◀ Scalford Road Amenity

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- ◀ Bottesford Village Hall Field
- ◀ Grantham Road Recreation Area
- ◀ Waltham on the Wolds Village Hall

The other QEII sites in Melton are:

- ◀ Melton Country Park
- ◀ Play Close, Priors Close, New Park
- ◀ Egerton Park and Memorial Gardens
- ◀ Wilton Park
- ◀ Lowesby Lane Play Area (aka Twyford Recreation Ground)

All five amenity greenspace sites are rated as being high value in the audit assessment. The sites all act as primary open spaces to the communities they are situated within. For example, the Waltham on the Wolds Village Hall is the only accessible form of open space to provide recreational opportunities to the settlement. Further added value and use of the site is also given through it containing a play area and sports field.

Amenity greenspaces should also be recognised for their multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. They can often be used for informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many amenity greenspaces in Melton have a dual function and are used as amenity resources for residents but also provide visually pleasing areas.

These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of amenity greenspace. The greater these features, combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping, trees), the greater sites are respected and valued by the local community.

### 6.6 Summary

#### **Amenity greenspace summary**

- ◀ A total of 85 amenity greenspace sites are identified in Melton, totalling just over 39 hectares of amenity space.
- ◀ More amenity greenspace sites are located in Central Melton (40). However, the North Melton Analysis Area has the greatest amount of provision proportionally per 1,000 populations with 1.13 (compared to 0.77 for Melton as a whole).
- ◀ The multifunctional role of amenity greenspace to local communities is recognised and as such the expectation exists for provision to be locally accessible. Therefore an accessibility of a 10 minute walk has been set. Gaps in provision are observed in Central Melton. However, it is served by other open space typologies such as parks and outdoor sports provision.
- ◀ Overall the quality of amenity greenspaces is positive. The majority of sites (64%) are rated as high for quality in the site visit audit. Only a handful of sites are identified as having any specific issues. Often a site with a below threshold quality score is due to its size and nature and therefore it lacks any form of ancillary feature.
- ◀ In addition to the multifunctional role of sites, amenity greenspace provision is, in general, particularly valuable towards the visual aesthetics for communities. This is demonstrated by the 69% of sites rating above the threshold for value. The contribution these sites provide as a visual amenity and for wildlife habitats should not be overlooked.

## PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### 7.1 Introduction

The typology of provision for children and young people, includes 'areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters'.

Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can also include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges. It can include facilities such as skate parks, BMX, basketball courts, youth shelters, MUGAs and informal kick-about areas.

Since the 2010 study there has been a reduction of three sites recorded as play provision. These have been excluded from the audit due to them either being duplicate sites or no longer being in existence. The amount of play provision recorded has decreased from 13 hectares to seven hectares since the 2010 study. This is due to more accurate site boundaries.

### 7.2 Current provision

A total of 47 sites for provision for children and young people are identified in Melton. This combines to create a total of just more than six hectares. The table below shows the distribution of provision in Melton by area. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

*Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people by analysis area*

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Central Melton	22	4.08	0.13
East Melton	7	0.93	0.19
North Melton	12	1.32	0.14
West Melton	6	0.41	0.08
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6.75</b>	<b>0.13</b>

Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience utilising Fields In Trust (FIT) guidance. FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

- ◀ LAP - a Local Area of Play. Usually small landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment on such sites is specific to age group in order to reduce unintended users.
- ◀ LEAP - a Local Equipped Area of Play. Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users; often containing a wider range of equipment types.
- ◀ NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater for all age groups. Such sites may contain MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large park sites.
- ◀ Youth provision - These include areas providing only forms of provision for young people such as skate parks/basketball courts/games walls

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Play provision in Melton is summarised using the (FIT) classifications below.

*Table 7.2: Distribution of provision for children and young people by FIT category*

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people					
	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Youth	Unclassified /other	TOTAL
Central Melton	2	5	4	6	5	22
East Melton	3	3	1	-	-	7
North Melton	2	5	3	2	-	12
West Melton	1	2	-	1	2	6
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>47</b>

More play provision across Melton (32%) is identified as being of LEAP classification, which is often viewed as sites with a wider amount and range of equipment; designed to predominantly cater for unsupervised play.

For youth provision, sites only identified as standalone forms of provision are specifically identified. Where equipment catering for older age groups is found on a play area as part of a wider range of provision it has been included within that NEAP or LEAP site.

### 7.3 Accessibility

Two accessibility standards have been set across Melton; a walk time of 10 minutes and a drive time of 10 minutes have both been applied. These are based on the locally derived standards from the previous open space study for Melton. Figure 7.1 shows the standards applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people mapped against analysis areas

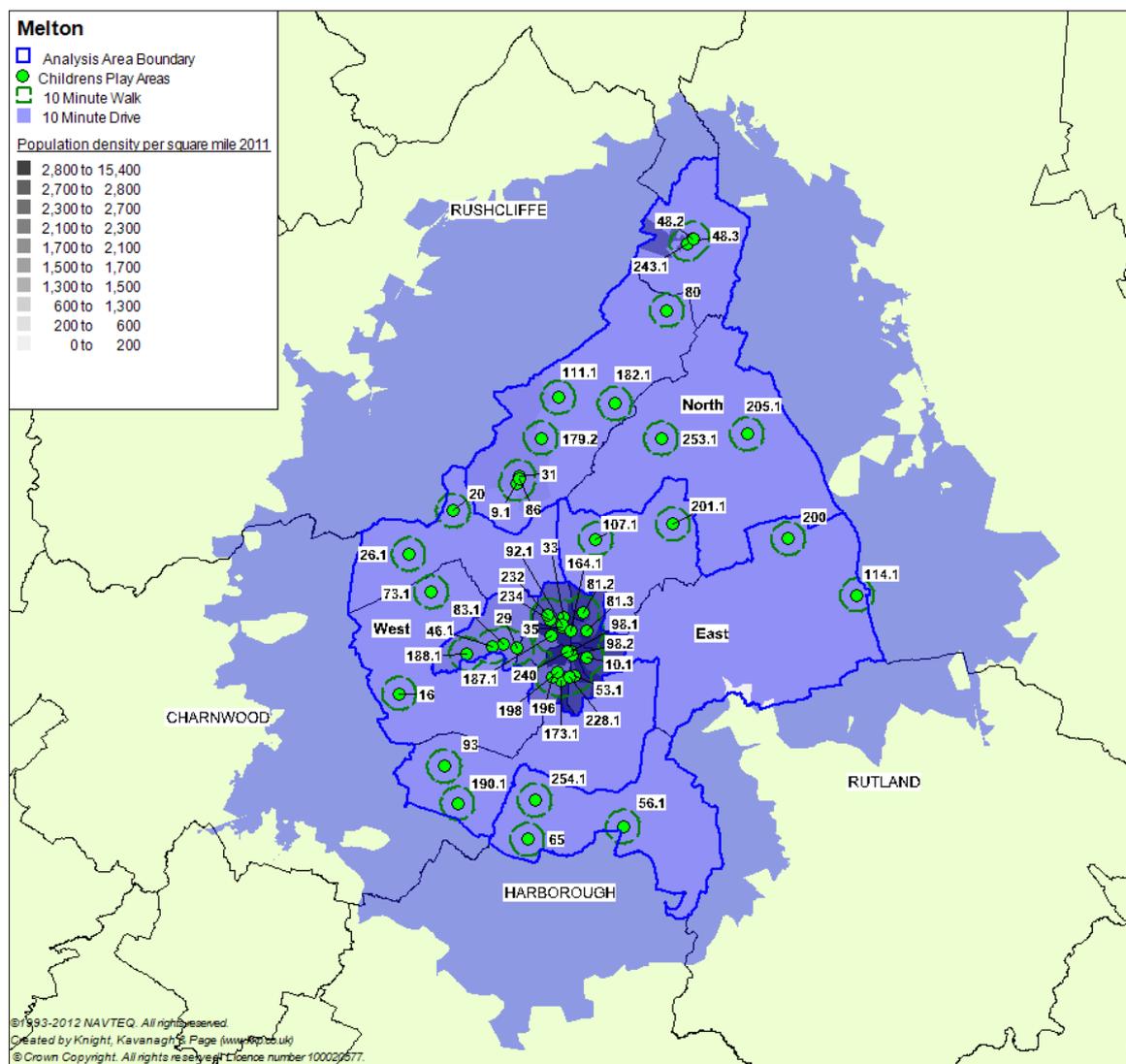


Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
9.1	Back Lane Amenity Play Area	North Melton	Green	Green
10.1	Baldocks Lane Play Area	Central Melton	Green	Green
16	Brooksby Road Play Area	West Melton	Red	Green
20	Chapel Lane Play Area	West Melton	Green	Green
26.1	Church Lane Play Area	West Melton	Green	Green
29	Crompton Road Play Area	Central Melton	Red	Green
31	The Sands, Long Clawson	North Melton	Green	Green
33	Dickens Drive Play Area	Central Melton	Red	Green
35	Dieppe Way Play Area	Central Melton	Green	Green
46.1	Golden Jubilee Park Play Area	Central Melton	Green	Green
48.2	Grantham Road Play Area	North Melton	Green	Green
48.3	Grantham Road Skate Park	North Melton	Green	Green

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
53.1	Hartopp Road Play Area	Central Melton		
65	Lowesby Lane Play Area	East Melton		
73.1	Main Street Amenity Play Area	West Melton		
80	Main Street Play Area (Redmile)	North Melton		
81.2	Melton Country Park Play Area	Central Melton		
81.3	Melton Country Park Trim Trail	Central Melton		
86	Mill Lane Play Area (Long Clawson)	North Melton		
92.1	Nottingham Road Play Area	Central Melton		
93	Paske Avenue Play Area	West Melton		
98.1	Play Close Play Area	Central Melton		
98.2	Play Close Skate Park	Central Melton		
107.1	Sandy Lane Recreational Ground Play Area	East Melton		
111.1	School Lane Play Area	North Melton		
114.1	Sewstern Play Area	East Melton		
164.1	The Crescent Play Area	Central Melton		
173.1	Thrush Close Play Area	Central Melton		
179.2	Hose Village Green Play Area	North Melton		
187.1	West Avenue Green Play Area	Central Melton		
190.1	Barsby Village Hall Green Play Area	West Melton		
196	Kirby Fields Play Area	Central Melton		
198	Honeysuckle Way Play Area	Central Melton		
200	Sproxtton Village Hall Play Area	East Melton		
182.1	Stathern Play Area	North Melton		
232	Horseguards Way Play Area 1	Central Melton		
234	Horseguards Way Play Area 2	Central Melton		
240	Wilton Park Play Area	Central Melton		
243.1	Bottesford Village Hall Field Play Area	North Melton		
201.1	Waltham on Wolds Play Area	East Melton		
205.1	Croxtton Kerrial Play Area	North Melton		
253.1	Eaton Play Area	North Melton		
56.1	High Street Play Area (West)	East Melton		
254.1	Thorpe Satchville Play Area	East Melton		
188.1	Glendon Close Play Area	Central Melton		
83.1	Melton Road Play Area	Central Melton		

There is generally a good spread of provision across the Borough. The drive time catchment covers the whole of the Borough. In addition, the greatest areas of population density (i.e. main settlements) are in general within walking distance of some type of play provision. A minor gap is noted to the east of Melton Mowbray.

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Overall, widespread new provision is not likely to be required. However, there is in places, a perceived lack of provision catering for older age groups across the Borough. Consultation with parish councils highlights that specific settlements perceive to be lacking in equipment/facilities for older children (i.e. teenagers):

Parish Council	Comment
Barkerstone and Plungar	Looking to identify land for new play provision to be created
Buckminster	Have aspirations for teenage provision
Burton and Dalby	Have aspirations for an area for young people
Nether Broughton and Old Dalby	Intends to provide additional play equipment

### **Management**

In total Melton Borough Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of 11 play area sites:

- ◀ Baldocks Lane
- ◀ The Crescent
- ◀ Dickens Drive
- ◀ Sunnybrook/Dieppe Way
- ◀ Hartopp Road
- ◀ Honeysuckle Way
- ◀ Kirby Fields Park
- ◀ Melton Country Park
- ◀ Melton Country Park Scalford Brook
- ◀ Thrush Close
- ◀ West Avenue Green

All other play area sites in the Borough are provided and managed by other organisations; predominantly parish and town councils.

MBC highlights that s106 monies is currently the only source available for any potential new forms of provision in the Borough from the Councils perspective. Subsequently there has been little investment in new play provision recently.

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## 7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people in Melton. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Quality assessments of play sites do not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment. For an informed report on the condition of play equipment the Council's own inspection reports should be sought.

Table 7.4: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Central Melton	97	34%	67%	85%	41%	2	20
East Melton	97	24%	49%	62%	36%	4	3
North Melton	97	26%	51%	76%	50%	4	8
West Melton	97	33%	45%	52%	19%	2	4
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>35</b>

The majority of sites are assessed as high quality (74%) against the site visit criteria. However, there is a significant spread between the highest and lowest scoring sites, particularly in North Melton.

For instance, the Bottesford Village Hall Play Area site scores 26% compared to the Main Street Play Area in Redmile which scores 76%. The low score for the Bottesford Village Hall site is a reflection of its isolated position and limited range of play equipment; as the site only contains a set of swings. In contrast, Main Street Play Area in Redmile receives the highest score in the analysis area due to its wide range and condition of play equipment. The site also benefits from additional features such as seating, bins and fencing. Furthermore, the sites central position and role as the only play site in the settlement means it is a popular and well used facility.

Bottesford Town Council highlights that the Village Hall Play Area has the potential to be upgraded with additional play equipment in the future. This would be as part of monies potentially available from a new housing development on Belvoir Road.

Other sites to receive particularly high scores for quality include:

- ◀ Melton Country Park Play Area (85%)
- ◀ Thrush Close Play Area (82%)
- ◀ Play Close Play Area (81%)
- ◀ Play Close Skate Park (81%)
- ◀ Baldocks Lane Play Area (81%)
- ◀ Kirby Fields Play Area (80%)

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These sites are all noted as having an excellent range and imaginative forms of equipment catering for different ages. In addition, the equipment is in great condition as are the other features on site such as benches and bins.

The Country Park, Thrush Close, Baldocks and Kirby Fields Play Area sites are four of the facilities that form part of the 11 MBC managed sites. In total, 10 out of the 11 MBC managed and maintained sites rate above the threshold for quality. It is important that these sites are maintained to a high standard given their roles as key facilities for Melton Mowbray. The only MBC site to score below the threshold is Dickens Drive with 39% for quality. It rates lower compared to the other sites due to a lack of ancillary facilities (e.g. bins, benches) and less extensive range of play equipment.

Similarly, a lack in range of equipment is also noted for some of the sites that rate below the threshold:

- ◀ Main Street Amenity Play Area (36%)
- ◀ Sewstern Play Area (24%)
- ◀ Crompton Road Play Area (34%)
- ◀ Bottesford Village Hall Play Hall (26%)

The range and lack of alternative forms of play equipment and space found at a site will limit its potential for use; this will impact on its overall quality.

In total there are 12 sites to score below the threshold. More of these sites are located in the North and East analysis areas. Reasons for the below threshold ratings is due to, in general, a lower level of personal security and natural surveillance. In reality however, these sites are likely to provide the only form of play provision in that rural setting/settlement.

A handful of sites are identified from the site visit assessments as having some minor but specific quality issues. The Play Close Play Area is observed as having some damage to the wet pore surface. Whilst the West Avenue Green Play Area is noted as missing a seat from the children's swing at the time of the assessment. In addition, the gate to the facility does not close shut fully. Despite this, both sites are rated as being above the quality threshold.

Thorpe Satchville Play Area also has an issue with surface quality. This is due to weeds growing through the ground. The site rates below the threshold with a score of 34%; as it also receives lower marks for ancillary features and security.

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## 7.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for children and young people in Melton. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.5: Value ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central Melton	55	20%	35%	51%	40%	-	22
East Melton	55	29%	36%	42%	13%	-	7
North Melton	55	20%	32%	55%	35%	-	12
West Melton	55	20%	29%	42%	22%	-	6
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47</b>

All play provision is rated as being of high value in Melton. This demonstrates the role such provision provides in allowing children to play but also the contribution sites can offer in terms of creating aesthetically pleasing local environments, giving children and young people safe places to learn and to socialise with others.

Three sites score the highest for value; West Avenue Green Play Area (51%), in Central Melton, and Eaton Play Area (51%) and Grantham Road Skate Park (55%) in North Melton. The latter is also highlighted through consultation as being highly valued, as it forms part of a suite of play provision on a wider amenity greenspace serving Bottesford.

Sites recognised through consultation as being of high value tend to reflect the size and amount/range of equipment present on site. For example, provision at prominent sites such as Melton Country Park and Melton Mowbray Town Estate Parks are all highlighted as being popular and well used.

It is also important to recognise the benefits that play provides in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value. It is essential that parents, carers and members of the public are made aware of the importance of play and of children's rights to play in their local communities.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages is also essential. Unique provision such as outdoor gyms and skate parks/BMX facilities at sites like Melton Country Park, Play Close and Bottesford are often cited as highly valued forms of play. Opportunities to further expand these types of provision that cater towards older age ranges should be explored and encouraged where possible.

## 7.6 Summary

### Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are a total of 47 sites across the Borough that are identified as play provision.
- ◀ Melton contains a high proportion of LEAP (medium) sized play areas, many of which score high for quality and value. This is a reflection on the rural nature of the Borough with smaller sized provision being located in less densely populated settlements and villages.
- ◀ Proportionally East Melton and North Melton Analysis Areas have the highest amount of provision per 1,000 population. Although the actual greatest number of play sites is in Central Melton; which is to be expected given it contains Melton Mowbray.
- ◀ No major gaps in provision are identified against the 10 minute walk time accessibility standard. Furthermore, the entire Borough is covered by the drive time catchment.
- ◀ The majority of play sites (74%) are assessed as being overall high quality. Although there are a number of sites which score low for quality. Often these sites are assessed as low due to general appearance and lack in range and quality of equipment.
- ◀ Sites to score below the threshold do so due to a limited range and quality of provision. Only one of the sites below the threshold is identified as a MBC managed site; Dickens Drive.
- ◀ All play provision is rated as being of high value from the site visit audit. All 11 of the MBC strategic play sites score high for quality and value. Reflecting their role in providing coordinated access across the Borough.

# MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

## PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

### 8.1 Introduction

Allotments is a typology which covers open spaces that provide ‘opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.’ This may include provision such as allotments, community gardens and city farms.

Since the 2010 study there has been a reduction of three sites recorded as allotments. These have been excluded from the audit due to them either being duplicate sites or no longer being in existence. The amount of allotment provision recorded has decreased from 25 hectares to 19 hectares since the 2010 study. This is due to more accurate site boundaries.

### 8.2 Current provision

There are 35 sites classified as allotments in Melton, equating to over 19 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

*Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Central Melton	7	8.13	0.26
East Melton	9	3.79	0.78
North Melton	16	5.97	0.62
West Melton	3	1.39	0.26
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19.28</b>	<b>0.38</b>

Most sites are located in North Melton Analysis Area (16). However, not surprisingly, the most hectareage (8 hectares) is found in the Central Melton Analysis Area (which contains the settlement of Melton Mowbray).

Overall, there is a combined total of circa 464 plots, including half plots, identified at sites across Melton. The number of plots offered at each site varies with the largest at the Doctors Lane site in Central Melton (67 plots). Other significant contributors are; Lake Terrace (43 plots) and The Crescent (33 plots) sites in Central Melton (43 plots), as well as Penn Lane Allotments (33 plots) in North Melton).

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (i.e. 20 allotments per 2,000 people based on 2 people per house) or 1 allotment per 200 people. This equates to 0.125 hectares per 1,000 population based on an average plot-size of 250 metres squared.

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Based on the current population of 50,770 (ONS 2011 mid-term estimates) Melton, as a whole, does meet the NSALG standard. Furthermore, all individual analysis areas are above the standard. Using the suggested national standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Melton is 6.35 hectares. The existing provision of 19.28 hectares therefore meets the standard.

Table 8.2 details the number of sites and plots located within each analysis area. Where it was not possible to gather the number of plots during consultation, an estimated number of plots was used.

In total there are well over 460 plots identified in the Borough. The greatest number of sites and plots are in North Melton and Central Melton; with a total of circa 161 and 174 plots respectively. This is followed by East Melton Analysis Area with 94 plots.

*Table 8.2: Allotment sites and plots*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Number of sites</b>	<b>Number of plots</b>
Central Melton	7	161
East Melton	9	94
North Melton	16	174
West Melton	3	35
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>464</b>

### **8.3 Accessibility**

Two accessibility standards have been set across Melton; a walk time of 15 minutes and a drive time of 15 minutes have both been applied. These are based on the locally derived standards from the previous open space study for Melton. Figure 8.1 shows the standards applied to allotments to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.



## MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
81.1	Doctors Lane Allotments, Melton Country Park	Central Melton		
81.4	Redwood Avenue Allotments, Melton Country Park	Central Melton		
84	Mill Lane Allotments (Somerby)	East Melton		
85	Mill Lane Allotments (Waltham on the Wolds)	East Melton		
88	Nether Street Allotments	North Melton		
95	Penn Lane Allotments	North Melton		
97	Pinfold Lane Allotments	North Melton		
99	Plungar Lane Allotments	North Melton		
106	Sandy Lane Allotments	East Melton		
164	The Crescent Allotments	Central Melton		
175	Twyford Allotments	East Melton		
176	Vicarage Lane Allotments	North Melton		
178	Victoria Street Allotments	Central Melton		
189	Frisby on Wreake Allotments	West Melton		
204	Canal Road Allotments	North Melton		
244	Waltham Lane Allotments	North Melton		
245	Broughton Lane Allotments	North Melton		
246	Hickling Lane Allotments	North Melton		
249	Melton Road Allotments, Long Clawson	North Melton		
250	East End Allotments, Long Clawson	North Melton		
257	Scaford Allotments	East Melton		

All analysis areas are covered by the 15 minute drive time catchment standard. Furthermore, settlements with a greater population density are also mostly covered by the 15 minute walk time catchment. Although there are minor gaps to the outer boundaries of Melton Mowbray

On this basis, is it not thought likely that any new sites are required to be provided; as the drive time catchment sufficiently covers Melton as a whole. In addition, the NSALG standard is also currently being met. However, this should not prevent providers of allotment sites (i.e. town and parish councils) from creating any new plots if local demand requires.

### ***Ownership/management***

The majority of sites are owned and managed by parish councils. Melton Borough Council is responsible for the management of four allotment sites:

- ◀ Lake Terrace
- ◀ The Crescent
- ◀ Redwood Avenue
- ◀ Doctors Lane

The Victoria Street Allotment site is owned by MBC but managed separately by the Victoria Allotment Association.

## MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Consultation highlights a steady demand for the continuing provision of allotment sites and plots across the Borough. Currently demand appears to outweigh supply; demonstrated by waiting lists being present at sites within the audit.

Most allotments in Melton are operating at 100% capacity with few vacant plots identified. Currently there is a combined waiting list of circa 50-100 people across the Borough. This reflects the trend in having an allotment, not only from a healthy living aspect but also as a way to save money.

Waiting lists for MBC sites tend to be significantly higher than other sites. However, residents can be on more than one list at a time to increase their probability of renting a plot. Notwithstanding this, the Council estimate that the waiting time for a plot in Melton is 2-3 years.

Some parish councils identify having a waiting list; although the numbers recorded are much lower. The largest waiting list is at Bottesford Parish Council with 12 individuals noted as waiting for plot provision. The next highest number identified is from Waltham on the Wolds Parish Council with six.

MBC operates a policy for its allotments whereby any new plots that become available are split into half plots in order to help meet demand and reduce the waiting time for plots.

There is no centralised management of waiting lists in Melton. This would help to allocate any available plots to local residents identified on waiting lists and limits the ability for cross boundary use to occur. For instance, individuals outside a particular parish may not be aware that provision is available in a neighbouring parish.

### 8.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in Melton. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Central Melton	124	40%	54%	66%	26%	-	7
East Melton	124	35%	39%	48%	13%	6	3
North Melton	124	22%	40%	52%	30%	6	10
West Melton	124	39%	41%	44%	5%	1	2
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>

In terms of quality, the majority of the allotment sites in Melton (63%) score highly. The highest scoring site is Redwood Avenue Allotments at Melton Country Park in Central

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Melton. The MBC managed site receives a score of 66% for quality. It scores well due to its general appearance and maintenance (e.g. tidy, good paths and signage).

All four MBC managed allotments score above the threshold.

- ◀ Lake Terrace (59%)
- ◀ The Crescent (42%)
- ◀ Redwood Avenue (66%)
- ◀ Doctors Lane (61%)

There are 14 allotment sites across Melton that rate below the threshold for quality (Table 8.3). Observations from the site assessments note that these sites tend to be much smaller in size or have evidence of not being fully in use. For example, Melton Road Allotments and Waltham Lane Allotments both in Long Clawson have some overgrown plots.

Many of the plots scoring low are only just under the threshold. For instance, there are eight sites that rate above 35% but below 40%. With some minor improvements it is thought that these sites can score above the threshold.

In general, consultation highlights no significant problems with regard to the general quality of provision across the Borough; demonstrated by most sites currently being in use.

Anecdotal evidence through consultation suggests that in the past the security of the allotment sites at Melton Country Park (i.e. Doctors Lane and Redwood Allotments) was an issue. Break-ins and theft were previously considered a problem but improvements to the surrounding fencing seem to have resolved this.

## 8.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for allotments in Melton. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 8.5: Value ratings for allotments by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central Melton	105	23%	36%	57%	34%	-	7
East Melton	105	23%	25%	28%	5%	-	9
North Melton	105	6%	26%	32%	26%	1	15
West Melton	105	23%	25%	28%	5%	-	3
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>

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Nearly all allotments in Melton are assessed as high value. This is a reflection of the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such types of provision. The value of allotments is further demonstrated by the existence of waiting lists identified sites.

The exception is the Finns Lane Allotment at Knipton in North Melton, which is the only site to score below the threshold. This is predominantly due to the small site appearing to not be in use as it is observed as being overgrown. It is the only site to score below the threshold for both quality and value.

Allotments in Melton are generally well used. Most are identified as being managed by parish and town council meaning the ability and frequency to re-designate any vacant plots is better placed.

### 8.6 Summary

#### Allotments summary

- ◀ A total of 35 sites are classified as allotments in Melton, equating to more than 19 hectares. The majority of sites are owned and managed by the Parish and Town Councils. However, MBC is responsible for four large allotment sites.
- ◀ The current provision of 19 hectares is above the nationally recommended amount. However, there are waiting lists at sites across Melton (particular at MBC sites) suggesting demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply.
- ◀ There are a few instances of overgrown and therefore unused plots identified. However, these tend to be small and rural locations. For instance, at Finns Lane Allotments in Knipton where the two plots on site are observed as overgrown and not in use.
- ◀ The majority of allotments (60%) score high for quality. The exception are 14 sites which are predominantly split between the North (6 sites) and East (7 sites) Analysis Areas. Such sites are identified as being in poorer general appearance.
- ◀ Nearly all allotments in Melton, with the exception of Finns Lane, are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
- ◀ Waiting list numbers suggest that continuing measures should be made to provide additional plots in the future.

## PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

### 9.1 Introduction

Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for 'quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.'

Since the 2010 study there has been an increase of two sites recorded as cemeteries or churchyards. The amount of provision recorded has also increased from 23 hectares to 27 hectares since the 2010 study. This is due to more accurate site boundaries and the additional two sites.

### 9.2 Current provision

There are 65 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to just less than 27 hectares of provision in Melton. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision identified is included within the audit.

*Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries by analysis area*

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Central Melton	4	5.94	0.19
East Melton	21	6.20	1.27
North Melton	22	9.11	0.94
West Melton	18	5.52	1.02
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>26.77</b>	<b>0.53</b>

The largest contributor to burial provision in the Borough is Thorpe Road Cemetery equating to 4.44 hectares. Located in the Central Analysis Area; it is the only cemetery site provided and maintained by MBC.

Another significant burial provision site is St Mary's Churchyard at Bottesford in the North Analysis Area. However, this is a closed churchyard managed by the Diocese of Nottingham.

There are a large number of sites for this type of open space due to most settlements, regardless of size, containing a village church.

Within the identified provision there are a number of closed churchyard sites. These are sites that are no longer able to accommodate any new burials.

### 9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for the typology of cemeteries and churchyards. Furthermore, there is no realistic requirement to set accessibility standards for such provision. Instead provision should be based on burial demand.

Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis area

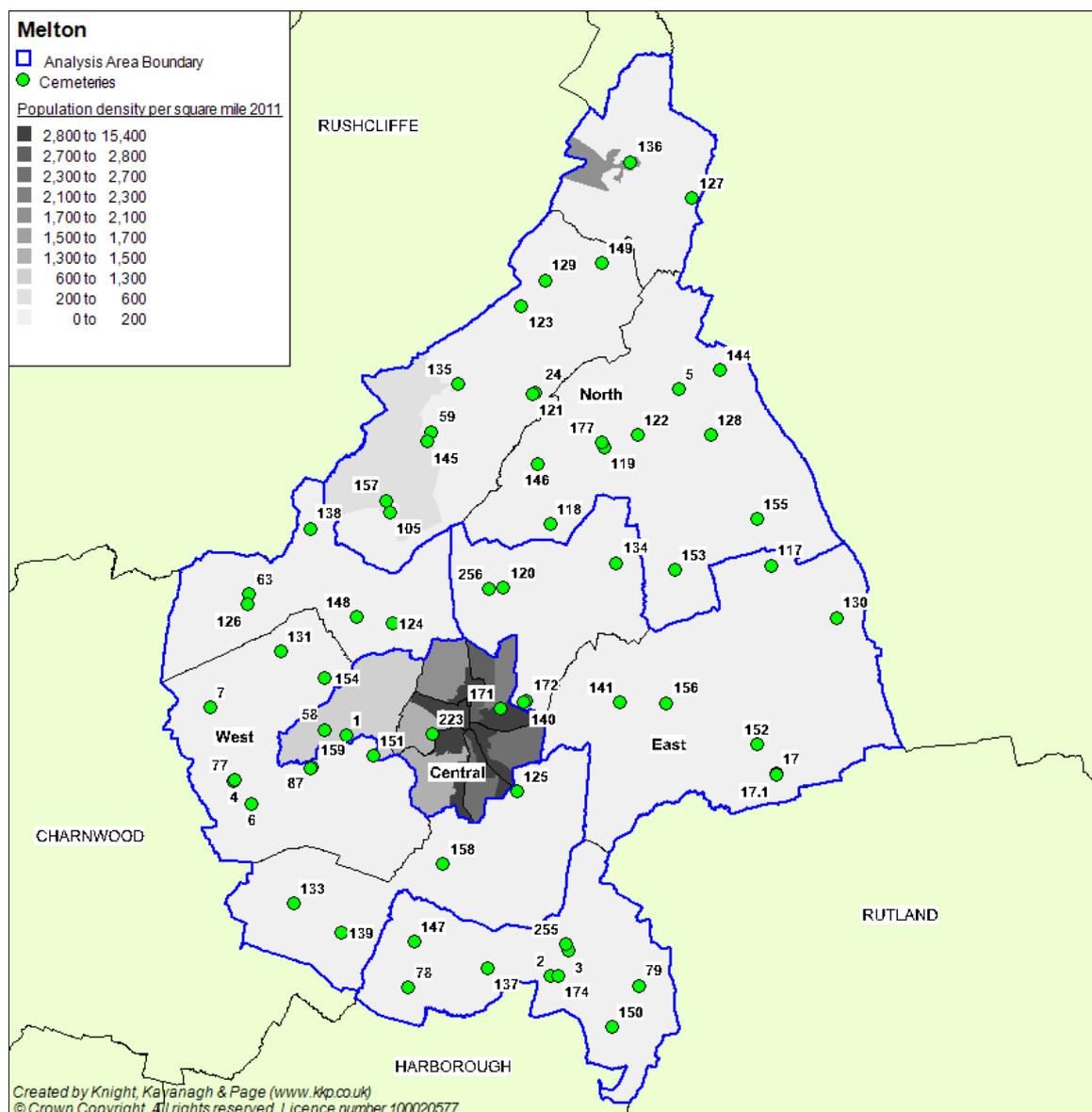


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
1	All Saint churchyard, Asfordby	Central Melton	Green	Green
2	All Saint churchyard, Somerby	East Melton	Red	Green
3	All Saints Churchyard, Pickwell	East Melton	Red	Green
4	All Saints' Churchyard, Hoby	West Melton	Red	Green
5	All Saints' Churchyard, Knipton	North Melton	Green	Green
6	All Saints' Churchyard, Rotherby	West Melton	Green	Green
7	All Saints' Churchyard, Ragdale	West Melton	Green	Green
17	St Michael and All Angels' Churchyard	East Melton	Green	Green
17.1	St Michael and All Angels' Churchyard	East Melton	Red	Green

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
24	Church Lane Cemetery	North Melton		
58	Hoby Road Cemetery	Central Melton		
59	Hose Baptist Churchyard	North Melton		
63	Longcliff Hill Cemetery	West Melton		
77	Main Street Cemetery (Hoby)	West Melton		
78	Main Street Churchyard (Twynford)	East Melton		
79	Main Street Churchyard (Cold Overton)	East Melton		
87	Mill Lane Cemetery (Frisby on the Wreake)	West Melton		
105	Sand Pit Lane Cemetery	North Melton		
117	St Bartholomew's Churchyard	East Melton		
118	St Denys' Churchyard (Goadby Marwood)	North Melton		
119	St Denys' Churchyard (Eaton)	North Melton		
120	St Egelwin's Churchyard	East Melton		
121	St Guthlac's Churchyard (Stathern)	North Melton		
122	St Guthlac's Churchyard (Branston)	North Melton		
123	St Helen's Churchyard	North Melton		
124	St James Churchyard (Ab Kettleby)	West Melton		
125	St James Churchyard (Burton Lazars)	West Melton		
126	St John the Baptist's Churchyard (Old Dalby)	West Melton		
127	St John the Baptist's Churchyard (Muston)	North Melton		
128	St John the Baptist's Churchyard (Croxtton Kerrial)	North Melton		
129	St John the Baptist's Churchyard (Barkeston-le-Vale)	North Melton		
130	St John the Baptist's Churchyard (Buckminster)	East Melton		
131	St John's Churchyard	West Melton		
133	St Luke's Churchyard	West Melton		
134	St Mary Magdalene's Churchyard and Cemetery	East Melton		
135	St Mary's Churchyard (Harby)	North Melton		
136	St Mary's Churchyard (Bottesford & Easthorpe)	North Melton		
137	St Mary's Churchyard (Burrough on the Hill)	East Melton		
138	St Mary's Churchyard (Nether Broughton)	West Melton		
139	St Mary's Churchyard (Ashby Folville)	West Melton		
140	St Mary's Churchyard (Thorpe Arnold)	East Melton		
141	St Mary's Churchyard (Freeby)	East Melton		
144	St Michael and All Angels' Churchyard	North Melton		
145	St Michael's Churchyard (Hose)	North Melton		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
146	St Michael's Churchyard (Eastwell)	North Melton		
147	St Michael's Churchyard (Thorpe Satchville)	East Melton		
148	St Michael's Churchyard (Wartnaby)	West Melton		
149	St Peter's Churchyard (Redmile)	North Melton		
150	St Peter's Churchyard (Knossington)	East Melton		
151	St Peter's Churchyard (Kirby Bellars)	West Melton		
152	St Peter's Churchyard (Wymondham)	East Melton		
153	St Peter's Churchyard (Stonesby)	North Melton		
154	St Peter's Churchyard (Saxelbye)	West Melton		
155	St Peter's Churchyard (Saltby)	North Melton		
156	St Peter's Churchyard (Saxby)	East Melton		
157	St Remigius's Churchyard	North Melton		
158	St Swithin's Churchyard	West Melton		
159	St Thomas Becket's Churchyard	West Melton		
171	Thorpe Road Cemetery (Melton)	Central Melton		
172	Thorpe Road Churchyard (Thorpe Arnold)	East Melton		
174	Town End Cemetery	East Melton		
177	Vicarage Lane Cemetery	North Melton		
223	Sysonby Churchyard	Central Melton		
255	Pickwell Cemetery	East Melton		
256	Scaford Cemetery	East Melton		

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates it is fairly evenly distributed across the Borough. The rural areas surrounding central Melton are identified as having a greater number of sites. However, this is to be expected given dispersion of population to outlying parishes. On this basis the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

### **Management**

Melton Borough Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of one cemetery site in the area; the Thorpe Road Cemetery. It receives a programmed visit on average every 10 days as part of the council's maintenance regime. In addition, the chapel building on site has recently undergone some necessary maintenance work.

In terms of burial capacity, the site has interment space remaining for the next 5-10 years. The Council is currently starting to look at plans to extend the provision for burial space in Melton Mowbray. It is believed that there is sufficient room for expansion of the current site or to provide new provision within close proximity.

All other forms of burial and churchyards are maintained by parish councils or the Diocese of Nottingham.

Bottesford Parish Council identifies that the St John the Baptist's Church at Muston (KKP 127) is looking at options for creating additional burial provision.

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## 9.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries in Melton. A threshold of 35% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.3: Quality ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <35%	High >35%
Central Melton	161	40%	49%	73%	33%	-	4
East Melton	161	22%	35%	69%	47%	11	10
North Melton	161	23%	39%	46%	23%	5	17
West Melton	161	30%	37%	47%	17%	3	15
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>46</b>

The majority of cemeteries and churchyards in Melton (71%) are rated as being of above the threshold for quality.

The highest scoring sites for quality are Thorpe Road Cemetery, in Central Melton, and St Mary's Churchyard (Thorpe Arnold), in East Melton. Both sites receive a quality score above the threshold of 73% and 69% respectively. This is due to them being maintained to an excellent level. The general access to and on site is also noted as being good.

Observations from the site visits and comments from the consultation highlights the general high level of provision overall. A large proportion of the sites are noted as being well cared for and therefore have a good quality of appearance.

However, there are 19 sites (see Table 9.2) that score below the quality threshold, the majority of which are located in East Melton (11 sites).

The 19 sites score lower due to an apparent lack of ancillary facilities such as bins and seating. This is likely to reflect their smaller size and often more rural location; as no site below the threshold is identified as being over 0.6 hectares in size.

The two lowest scoring sites for quality are the St Peter's Churchyard (Saxby) and St Mary's Churchyard (Freeby). The sites each receive a quality score of 22%. Both are located in the East Melton. Site observations note neither site has any ancillary facilities. In addition, the level of use is unclear as both churches on site appear unused although some maintenance of the grounds is noted.

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## 9.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries in Melton. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.4: Value ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central Melton	100	23%	30%	45%	22%	-	4
East Melton	100	18%	25%	34%	16%	3	18
North Melton	100	18%	22%	28%	10%	7	15
West Melton	100	18%	25%	28%	10%	2	16
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>53</b>

Most cemeteries and churchyards (82%) are assessed as being of high value, reflecting the role they provide in communities lives. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide to the local community are acknowledged in the site assessment data. Sites also receive a score for value from their contribution to wildlife/habitats or sense of place to the local environment.

There are 12 sites that score below the threshold for value. Of these only four rate below the threshold for quality and value.

- ◀ Longcliff Hill Cemetery, Site ID: 63
- ◀ St Remigius's Churchyard, Site ID: 157
- ◀ St Mary's Churchyard (Freeby), Site ID: 141
- ◀ St Peter's Churchyard (Saltby), Site ID: 155

These sites appeared less visited and used compared to others. However, despite scoring below the thresholds they may still provide a role to the communities they serve. Cemeteries and churchyards are important natural resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g. wildlife watching).

## 9.3 Summary

### **Cemeteries summary**

- ◀ Melton is identified as having 65 sites classified as cemeteries, equating to just over 26 hectares of provision.
- ◀ Management of the main active cemetery site is undertaken by the Council. Maintenance of other churchyards is carried out by parish and town councils or the Nottingham Diocese.
- ◀ As the main provision for future burial capacity, the Thorpe Road Cemetery site is noted as having circa 5-10 years capacity remaining. Plans are being put in place to provide additional interment space for the future.
- ◀ The majority of cemeteries and churchyards are rated as high quality. However, a number sites score below the quality threshold. This is a reflection of the lack of ancillary facilities (e.g. benches, signage), sense of security and general maintenance observed.
- ◀ Nearly all cemeteries are assessed as high value in the Borough, reflecting that generally provision has cultural/heritage value and provide a sense of place to the local community.
- ◀ There is a fairly evenly distribution of provision across the Borough. On this basis the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

# MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

## PART 10: CIVIC SPACE

### 10.1 Introduction

The civic space typology includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

The amount of civic space provision has remained the same since the 2010 study.

### 10.2 Current provision

There is one formal civic space site, equating to 0.2 hectares of provision, identified in Melton.

In addition, there are likely to be other informal pedestrian areas, streets or squares which residents may view as providing the same role as a civic space.

*Table 10.1: Distribution of civic spaces by analysis area*

Analysis area	Civic space		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Central Melton	1	0.20	0.006
East Melton	-	-	-
North Melton	-	-	-
West Melton	-	-	-
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.003</b>

A sizeable proportion of the Market Place in Melton is owned by Melton Mowbray Town Estate and is regularly used to hold events. It also forms part of the Melton Heritage Trail.

There are sites and areas that will function in a secondary role as civic space provision. For example, park sites such as Egerton, New Park, Priors Close and Play Close provide uses associated with civic spaces such as local community events. For the purposes of this report sites such as these have not been classified as civic space provision due to their primary function and use.

### 10.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for civic spaces. Figure 10.1 shows civic spaces mapped against analysis areas.

# MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 10.1: Civic spaces mapped against analysis areas

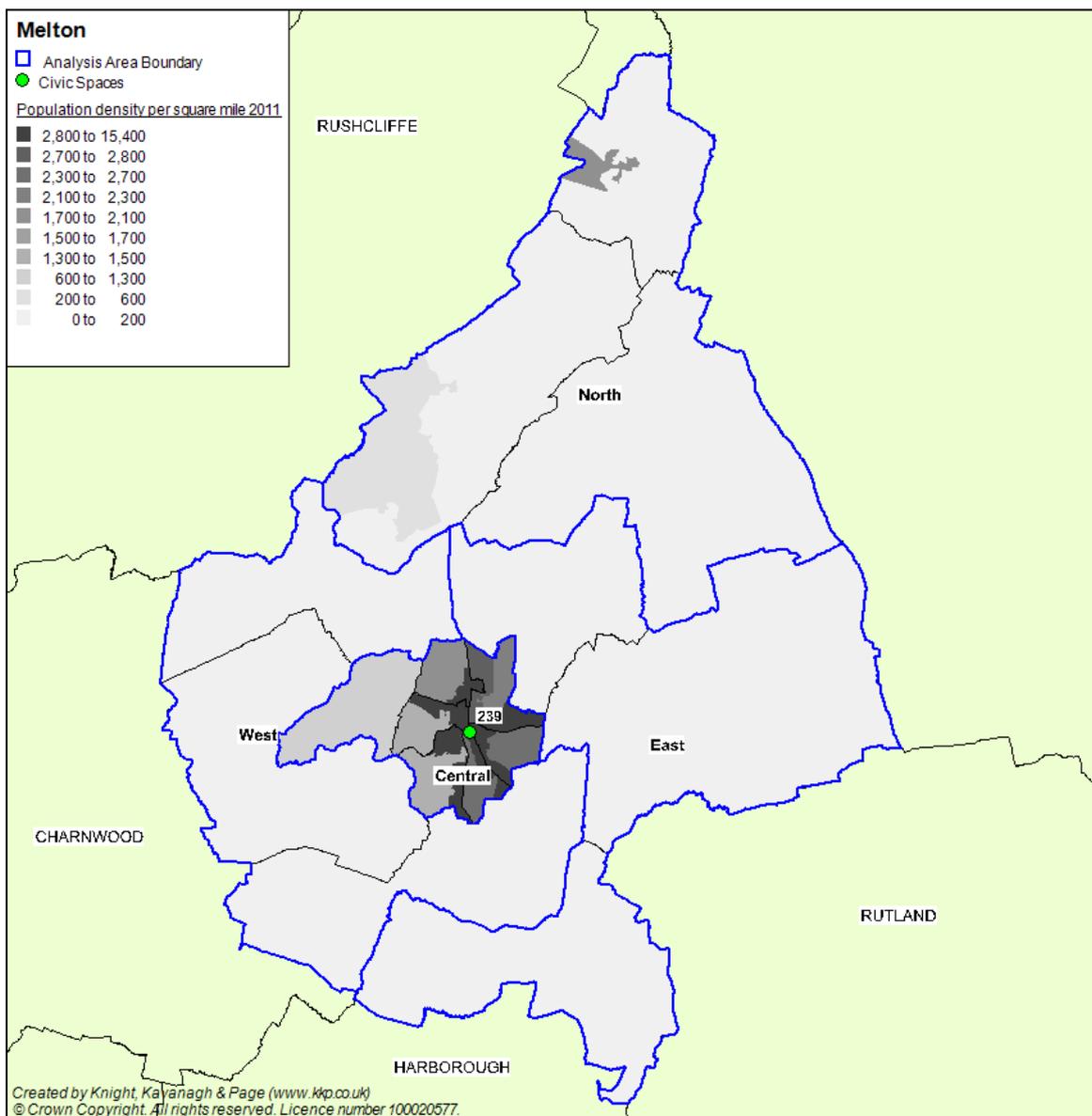


Table 10.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
239	Market Place	Central Melton		

A number of analysis areas and therefore settlements are without access to civic space provision. However, it is reasonable to accept that formal civic space should only be provided in Melton Town Centre and therefore there are no deficiencies in the provision of civic space. In addition, some civic facilities may be unrecorded due to difficulty classifying such spaces where, for example, they are multipurpose spaces that double up as car parks.

# MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

## 10.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for civic spaces in Melton. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.3: Quality ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Central Melton	146	61%	61%	61%	-	-	1
East Melton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Melton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Melton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>61%</b>	-	-	<b>1</b>

The only civic space in Melton is, in general, regarded as being of high quality. It is noted as being well served by seating and bin provision as well as tending to meet the needs of a variety of user groups. The Market Place in Melton Mowbray is identified as having a good overall level of general maintenance observed by the well kept level of provision.

It scores above the threshold due to its high level of use and location, acting as a main destination, in the heart of the Town. The site is also noted as forming part of the Melton Heritage Trail.

## Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for civic spaces in Melton. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 10.4: Value ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Central Melton	100	45%	45%	45%	-	-	1
East Melton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Melton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Melton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MELTON</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>45%</b>	-	-	<b>1</b>

# MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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The Market Place is assessed as being of high value, reflecting that provision has cultural/heritage value whilst also providing a sense of place to the local community. This is further supported by site visit observations, which confirms the social and cultural value of the site through its use as attractive shopping and event space.

## 10.3 Summary

### **Civic space summary**

- ◀ There is one site classified as civic spaces in Melton, equating to 0.2 hectares of provision.
- ◀ There are also likely to be other forms of provision in the Borough (e.g. main streets, parks) that will provide localised opportunities associated with the function of civic space.
- ◀ The Market Place is regarded as being of high quality and value. It is identified as having a good overall level of general maintenance as well as a high value, as the site has a cultural/heritage value whilst providing a sense of place to the local community.

# MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

## APPENDICES

### Appendix One: Consultee list

Name	Designation	Organisation
Raman Selvon	Waste and Environmental Maintenance Manager	Melton Borough Council
Steven Taylor	Leisure and Culture Officer	Melton Borough Council
Sam Spencer	Resident Involvement Officer	Melton Borough Council
Andrew Cooper	Chair	Melton Mowbray Town Estates
John Skerrit	Chair	Melton Tenants Forum
Barbara Hunt	Chair	Springfield Street Community Group
Mr Alan Noble	Clerk	Ab Kettleby Parish Council
Mr Stephen C Johnson	Clerk	Nether Broughton & Old Dalby Parish Council
Mrs Liz Crowther	Clerk	Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile Parish Council
Mrs Frances E Waberski	Clerk	Belvoir Parish Council
Dermot Daly	Clerk	Bottesford Parish Council
Mrs Sue Booth	Clerk	Buckminster Parish Council
Mrs TrudyToon	Clerk	Burton & Dalby Parish Council
Sue McGrath	Clerk	Clawson, Hose & Harby Parish Council
Mr Vic Allsop	Clerk	Freeby Parish Council
Mrs Alice Cox	Clerk	Frisby-on-the-Wreake Parish Council
Mrs Sue Watford	Clerk	Kirby Bellars Parish Council
Penny Ringrose	Clerk	Gaddesby Parish Council
Mrs Sheryl Smart	Clerk	Garthorpe Parish Council
Mr Philip Challoner	Clerk	Hoby with Rotherby Parish Council
Mr Alan Noble	Clerk	Knossington & Cold Overton Parish Council
Megan Simons	Clerk	Scaford Parish Council
Mr Alan Noble	Clerk	Sproxtton Parish Council
Mr Stephen C Johnson	Clerk	Stathern Parish Council
Mrs Liz Crowther	Clerk	Twyford & Thorpe Satchville Parish Council
Mrs Frances E Waberski	Clerk	Waltham on the Wolds & Thorpe Arnold Parish Council
Mrs Sue Booth	Clerk	Wymondham & Edmondthorpe Parish Council