



**PEAK SUB-REGION**

**PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY**

**OPEN SPACES ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2009**

**Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration**

1-2 Frecheville Court ◀ off Knowsley Street ◀ Bury BL9 0UF  
**T** 0161 764 7040 ◀ **F** 0161 764 7490 ◀ **E** mail@kcp.co.uk ◀ **www.kkp.co.uk**



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Quality assurance	Name	Date
Report origination	Victoria Taylor	6.10.08
Quality control	John Eady	16.10.08
Client comments	Claire Fallon	12.12.08
Final approval	Claire Fallon	09.02.09

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. High Peak Borough Council (HPBC), Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) and the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) make up the Peak Sub-region as defined by the East Midlands Regional Plan 2006. The Sub-region also includes areas within the Peak District National Park but outside Derbyshire.
- 1.2. The three planning authorities are jointly preparing an evidence base to support the preparation of the relevant Core Strategy. This PPG17 compliant Audit and Needs Assessment provides the necessary evidence base to inform these and other policy documents. The Strategy will provide HPBC, DDDC and PDNPA with clear strategic pathways for improvement, investment and protection of open space, sport and recreation provision.
- 1.3. This factual report provides an audit based assessment of both quantitative and qualitative open spaces in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and the Companion Guide entitled “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” published in September 2002. The specific objectives are to provide:
  - ◀ A comprehensive audit of existing provision of different types of open spaces detailing quantity, quality, accessibility and wider value to the community.
  - ◀ An accurate assessment of supply and demand for open spaces.
  - ◀ A robust evidence base to enable each authority to develop planning policies as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and other local development documents.

### Report structure

#### *Open spaces*

- 1.4. This report considers the supply and demand issues for open spaces facilities in the Peak Sub-region. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology on open spaces can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all the typologies defined in ‘Assessing Needs & Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG 17’ and is structured as follows:

- Part 3: General open space issues.
- Part 4: Parks and gardens.
- Part 5: Natural and semi-natural greenspaces.
- Part 6: Green corridors.
- Part 7: Amenity greenspace.
- Part 8: Provision for children and young people.
- Part 9: Allotments, community gardens and city farms.
- Part 10: Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds.
- Part 11: Civic spaces.

#### *Sports facilities*

- 1.5. The study also incorporates an assessment of indoor and outdoor sports facilities in accordance with the methodology provided in the Sport England ‘Towards a Level Playing Field – A guide to the production of playing pitch strategies’ for assessing demand and supply. This report can be found separately in a report called ‘Sports Assessment’.



### Context

- 1.6. PPG17 describes the role of the planning system in assessing opportunities and needs for sport and recreation provision and safeguarding open space that has recreational value.
- 1.7. The guidance observes that it is part of the function of the planning system to ensure that, through the preparation of development plans, adequate land and water resources are allocated for organised sport and informal recreation.
- 1.8. It states that local planning authorities should take account of the community's need for recreational space, having regard to current levels of provision and deficiencies and resisting pressures for development of open space where such development would conflict with the wider public interest.
- 1.9. It discusses the role of all levels of plan, planning agreements, and the use of local authority land and compulsory purchase powers. It discusses provision in urban areas, the urban fringe, Green Belts and the countryside and of particular sports including football stadia, watersports and golf. (Original release date September 1991).
- 1.10. 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17' reflects the Government policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out in PPG17. The long term outcomes of PPG17 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, 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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1.11. This assessment covers the following open space typologies as set out in 'Assessing needs and opportunities: Planning Policy Guidance 17 Companion Guide.'

Table 1.1: PPG17 definitions

	PPG17 typology	Primary purpose
<b>Greenspaces</b>	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland and beaches	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
	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, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	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.
	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.

## PART 2: METHODOLOGY

### Background information

2.1 An extensive range of background information has been reviewed and incorporated into the assessment of key issues for each typology. The national, regional and local policy context is detailed in Section 1. Other background documentation reviewed for the study is listed below:

- ◀ Bakewell Town Council, Bakewell in Bloom Portfolio, 2008.
- ◀ Buxton and District Civic Association, Buxton Woodlands Forest Plan, 2004.
- ◀ Chapel-en-le-Frith Official Guide.
- ◀ Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Brookfield (C.P.A) Pond Ecological Assessment and Management Recommendations, 2006.
- ◀ DCC, Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire, 2007-2012.
- ◀ DDDC, A Play Strategy for Derbyshire Dales, 2007.
- ◀ DDDC, Hall Leys Park Management Plan, 2006-2016.
- ◀ Heart of the High Peak Visitors Guide.
- ◀ High Peak Towns Mini Guide 2008/2009.
- ◀ HPBC, Parks Services Environmental Strategy, 2003-2008.
- ◀ HPBC, Playtime in the Peak, A Strategy for Play, 2007-2012.
- ◀ HPBC, Howard Park Management Plan, 2006-2011.
- ◀ HPBC, Manor Park Management Plan, 2005-2010.
- ◀ HPBC, Pavilion Gardens Management Plan, 2005-2010.
- ◀ New Mills Town Council, Goytside Meadows Local Nature Reserve.
- ◀ New Mills Town Council, New Mills Community Orchard.
- ◀ Whaley Bridge Association, Community Action Plan (draft), 2008.
- ◀ Whaley Bridge Town Council, Whaley Bridge Official Guide and Map, 2008-10-17.
- ◀ Various Parish/Village Plans.

### Auditing local provision

#### *Database development*

2.2 All information relating to open spaces across the Peak Sub-region is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an electronic file). Sites were originally identified and provided by the clients. Additional sites identified during consultation and provided by neighbouring local authorities have also been added to the database. Only a small number of neighbouring local authorities were in a position to supply open space datasets (e.g. Kirklees Council and North East Derbyshire District Council). Staffordshire Moorlands District Council provided an open space dataset, which at the time was not up to date, but the Council is in the process of finalising a PPG17 audit and the updated information will be available once finalised. At the time of request Sheffield City Council was awaiting final completion of their PPG17 audit before releasing the dataset East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) had no information available. However ESBC is currently undertaking a PPG17 audit and the updated information will be able in the future. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council responded to requests for information positively. However, no information was received. Each site has now been classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once.

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- 2.3 Sites under 0.4 hectares were originally excluded from the audit as they are deemed to have less recreational value. However, where sites were identified during consultation as being of high value to residents, they have been included, e.g., all allotments and all play areas have been included due to their important contribution to overall provision.

The database details for each site:

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

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping).
- ◀ Site name.
- ◀ Local authority reference number.
- ◀ Nearest road/settlement.
- ◀ Ownership.
- ◀ Typology.
- ◀ Size (hectares).
- ◀ Access.
- ◀ Site visit data.

- 2.4 Sites are identified using road names and locations as opposed to official site names. For the key sites, identification is enhanced with actual site names. However, for some typologies, e.g., amenity greenspaces and natural and semi natural sites which, in the main, do not have official names anyway, this has not been possible.

#### **Site assessments**

- 2.5 In total, 325 open space assessments were carried out to evaluate the quality and value of sites. The open space assessment form used is tailored to reflect the individual characteristics of different open spaces and a scoring system (i.e. different maximum scores) is applied to each typology to provide a more meaningful evaluation. Examples of the different assessment forms used can be found in the appendices document.
- 2.6 KKP assessed both quality and value during site visits. They are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be located where it is inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; while, if a run down (poor quality) space is the only one in an area, it may be immensely valuable. Therefore, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Each type of open space assessed receives separate quality and value scores.

### ***Analysis of quality***

2.7 Data collated from site visits has been utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as total and percentage figures.

### *Open space assessment form*

2.8 The criteria used for the main open space assessments are summarised below. They are based upon those used for Green Flag (national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by the Civic Trust) and 'Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide', published by CABESpace (2004).

#### **Open space site visit criteria for quality (summary)**

- ◀ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts.
- ◀ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths.
- ◀ Parking, e.g., disabled parking.
- ◀ Information signage, e.g., presence of up to date site information.
- ◀ 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., staff on site.
- ◀ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of landscape.
- ◀ Typology specific profile, e.g., presence of environmental education facilities (natural/semi-natural provision).
- ◀ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people.
- ◀ Site potential.

### ***Analysis of value***

2.9 The value of sites has been assessed by analysis of two sets of criteria: (i) site visit assessment data; and (ii) other data and information as detailed in the table below. As stated earlier, scores in the database are presented as total and percentage figures. PPG17 describes site value 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.

#### **Value - site visit criteria (summary)**

- ◀ Level of use (observations only).
- ◀ Context of site in relation to other open spaces.
- ◀ Structural and landscape benefits.
- ◀ Ecological benefits.
- ◀ Educational benefits.
- ◀ Social inclusion and health benefits.
- ◀ Cultural and heritage benefits.
- ◀ Amenity benefits and a sense of place.
- ◀ Economic benefits.

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### Value - non site visit criteria (summary)

- ◀ Designated site such as LNR or SSSI.
- ◀ Educational programme in place.
- ◀ Historic site.
- ◀ Listed building or historical monument on site.
- ◀ Registered 'friends of group' to the site.

### Weighting and scoring system

2.10 KKP utilises one site visit assessment sheet to assess all open space typologies (allotments, amenity greenspace, parks and gardens, green corridors, natural and semi natural greenspace). Its weighting and scoring system takes account of the individual typologies and reflects their different natures and characteristics (each typology will therefore have a different maximum score). For example, the maximum score for allotments does not include one for picnic benches. Similarly, the maximum score for amenity greenspace does not include scores for toilets. Maximum scores achievable for each typology are set out below together with the equivalent data for value.

Table 2.1: Maximum scores for quality and value of open spaces in the Peak Sub-region

Typology	Quality - maximum score	Value – maximum score
Allotments	124	105
Amenity greenspace	121	100
Cemeteries	161	100
Children's play areas	97	55
Civic spaces	146	100
Green corridors	56	100
Parks and Gardens	159	110
Semi / Natural greenspaces	132	110

2.11 On the assessment form itself some elements receive a direct score (1 – 5 scale) and other elements simply have a tick option if present (receiving a score of 3 for every tick). Some tick options are simply collated and analysed as additional data, receiving no score. Examples of the applied scoring and weighting can be found in the appendices document.

### Setting thresholds for quality and value

2.12 Drawing upon the extensive consultation findings, survey results and site visit assessment scores, KKP has worked with the steering group to set standards for quality and value. This information informs the development of policy options and is presented within the Standards Paper.

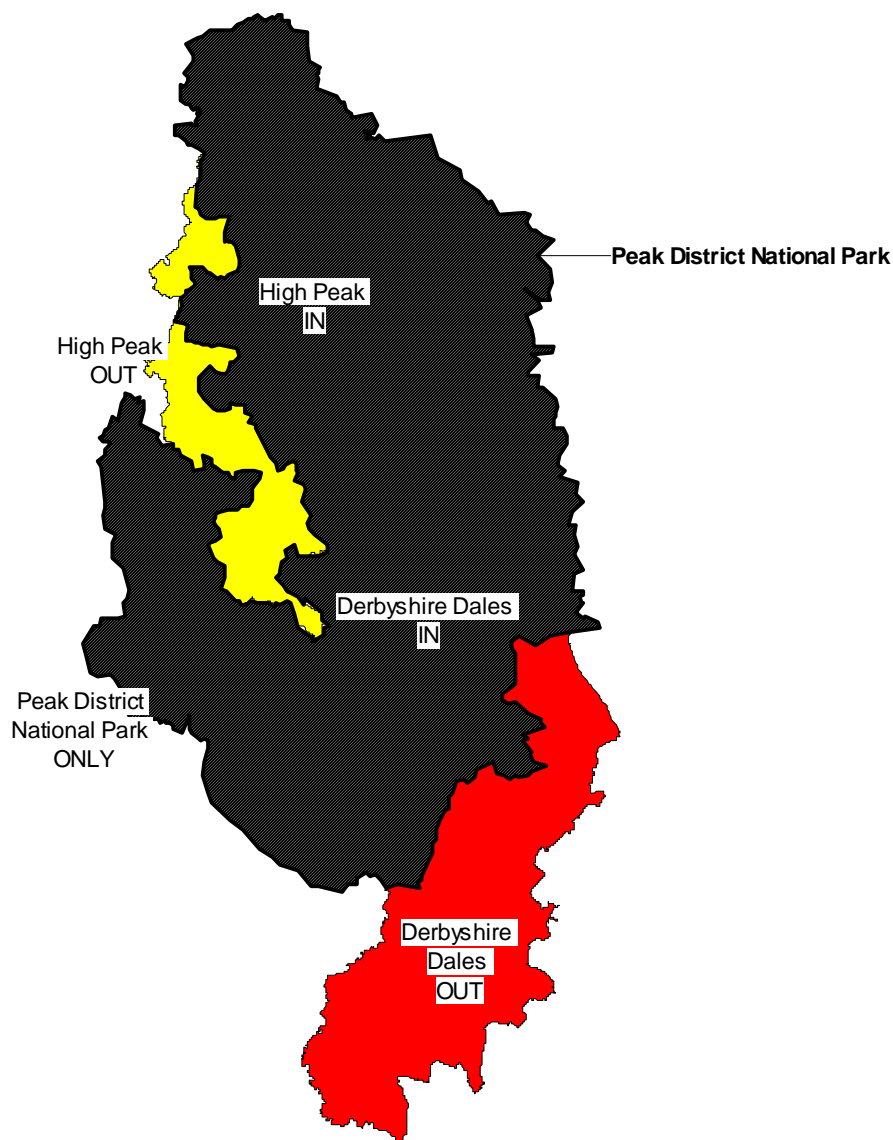
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## **Analysis areas**

- 2.13 The Peak Sub-region has been divided into five analysis areas (shown opposite). These allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.
- 2.14 In this instance, analysis areas have also been developed to reflect the fact that the management of open space, sport and recreation facilities (in terms of local authority responsibility i.e. cultural services and parks) work differently and overlap with the planning authority boundaries, for example the planning authority for Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park is the Peak District National Park while planning responsibility for Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE of the National Park is with DDDC.

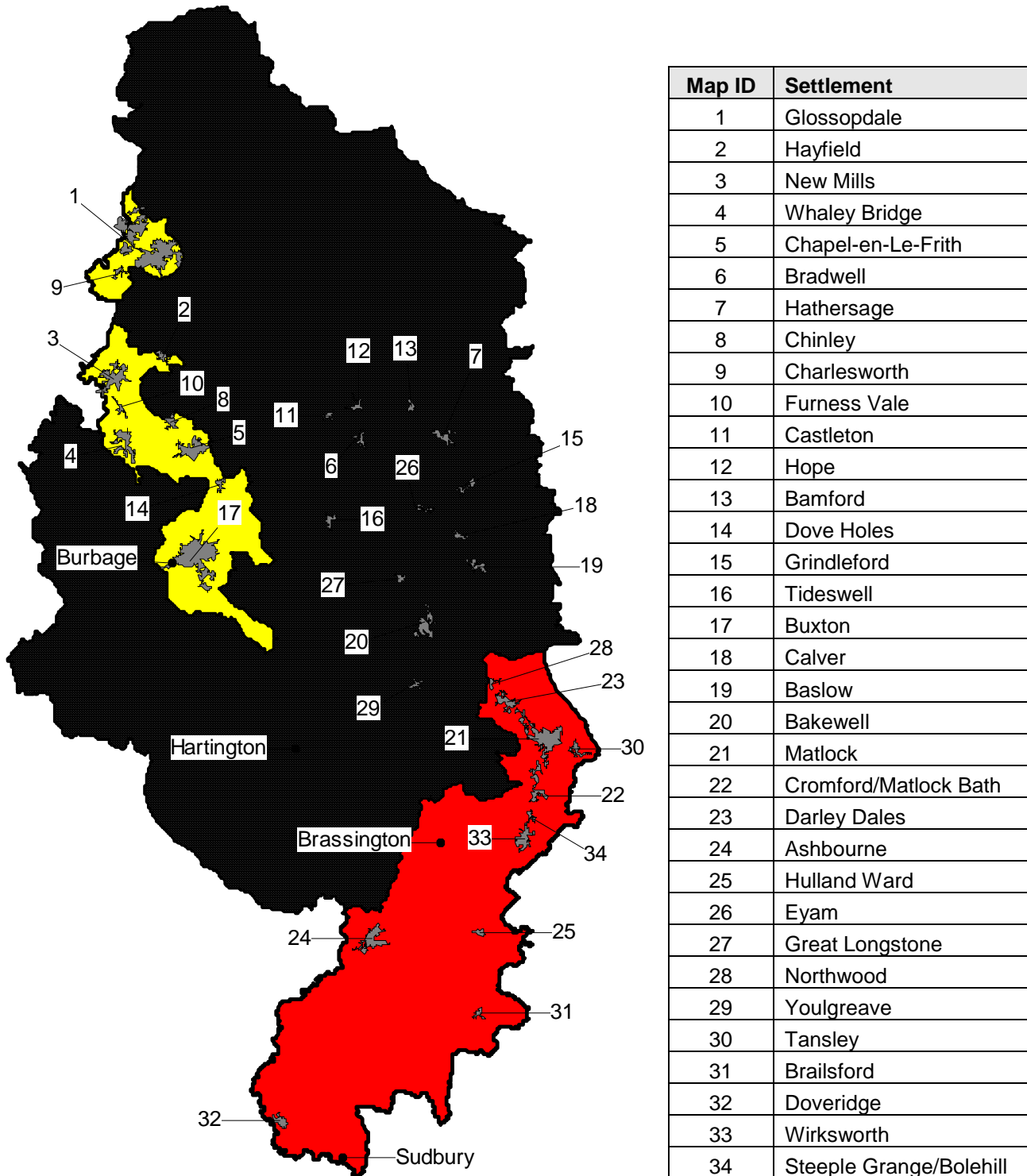
*Figure 2.1: Analysis areas in the Peak Sub-region*



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## Key settlements

Figure 2.2: Key settlements in the Peak Sub-region





## Identifying local need

### *Consultation*

2.15 Local need has been assessed via:

- ◀ Community consultation (face-to-face or telephone interviews and focus groups) with key officers, agencies and stakeholders.
- ◀ Market research.

2.16 The core of this phase revolved around extensive consultation with over 100 stakeholders, including key individuals, interest and community groups, sports clubs, HPBC/DDDC officers, Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and agencies working in and around the Peak Sub-region. Qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted either face-to-face or by telephone with a list of consultees provided by the clients along with those uncovered by KKP during consultation. A full list of consultees is included in the appendices document.

2.17 The key findings of the stakeholder consultation are presented under key issues within the individual typology sections. Issues covered include the following:

- ◀ Attitudes towards open spaces in terms of quality of provision.
- ◀ Opinions towards open spaces in terms of the amount of provision.
- ◀ Time taken/distance travelled to open spaces.
- ◀ Attitudes towards open spaces in terms of how accessible provision is.
- ◀ Future provision and what it should look like.

2.18 The presentation of key issues emerging from the consultation is driven by a broad understanding of open space. KKP brings a pragmatic approach to consultation in order to manage the expectations of stakeholders and presents a realistic picture of issues, together with the aspirations of residents and users.

## Residents and visitors survey

### *Introduction*

2.19 KKP commissioned a street survey to identify the attitudes and needs of the broader local community and visitors.

2.20 People interviewed were approached, and after a series of selection questions, to establish eligibility, were invited to take part in a short interview (please see sample survey at the end of this document). Interviews normally lasted no more than 10 minutes (to minimise the risk of respondent interview termination). 620 surveys were completed across the Sub-region:

- ◀ Derbyshire Dales residents (outside the National Park) 119
- ◀ Derbyshire Dales residents (inside the National Park) 73
- ◀ High Peak residents (outside the National Park) 201
- ◀ High Peak residents (inside the National Park) 60
- ◀ National Park only residents 54
- ◀ Visitors 113

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2.21 This provides a robust sample, capable of sub-analysis, e.g., by area, gender, age etc. Variations are highlighted in analysis for the individual typologies. Data is particularly useful when assessing walk/cycle/drive-time catchments. Key issues covered include the following:

- ◀ Current usage of open spaces.
- ◀ Reasons for usage/non-usage of open spaces.
- ◀ Time taken/distance travelled to open spaces.
- ◀ Attitudes to open spaces (e.g., adequacy, quality, accessibility).

2.22 Survey results (generic issues, which cut across more than one typology) have been analysed and are presented in graph format with relevant commentary below. Questions relevant to individual typologies are covered in the specific sections of the Report.

2.23 Results are provided for the descriptions used in the survey itself. For example, the survey refers to 'nature areas' as opposed to 'natural and semi natural greenspace' in order to simplify the definition for respondents.

2.24 To reflect the local demographics, responses were broken down by gender, age and ethnicity to enable sound sub-analysis and provide a representation of respondents. The age and gender splits for each area are as follows:

Analysis Area	Total	Age groups						Gender	
		16-29	34-44	45-59 (female)	45-64 (male)	60+ (female)	65+ (male)	Male	Female
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	119	16	31	14	29	17	12	63	56
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	73	6	21	12	11	10	13	40	33
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	201	32	55	21	36	30	27	100	101
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	60	5	16	10	10	8	11	31	29
Peak National Park ONLY	54	8	12	5	10	12	7	25	29
Visitors	113	10	28	17	10	34	14	39	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>322</b>

2.25 The minimum age for survey participants is 16. Consultation with children and young people for the study was covered through focus groups with representative groups such as youth clubs.

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2.26 Variations between sub-groups are highlighted in the analysis of the individual typologies. In particular, the data gathered from the street survey is used as a starting point to generate travel time catchments for the different types of open spaces.

## PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE ISSUES

### Introduction

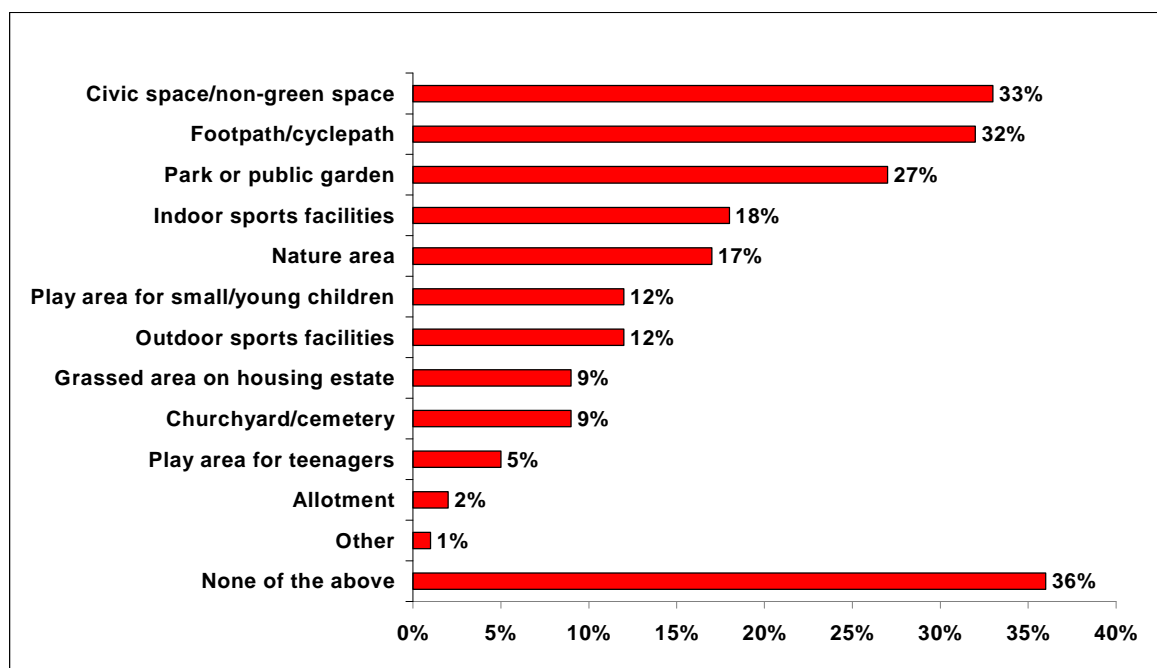
- 3.1 Consultation with users and non-users of open spaces across the Peak Sub-region covered many issues. Typology and site specific issues are covered in the relevant sections of this report. This section describes the generic issues that cut across more than one typology, including summary of the resident and visitor survey.
- 3.2 Open space is owned and managed by a wide variety of agencies across the Sub-region, including HPBC, DDDC, DCC, town and parish councils and external agencies such as Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT). Developing an accurate picture of open spaces in the area is, therefore, complex. There is evidence however, of good partnership work between different landowners and managers.

### Key issues

#### Usage

- 3.3 The most popular typologies visited in the last twelve months by residents of the Peak Sub-region are civic spaces (33%), footpaths (32%) and parks or public gardens (27%). Almost a fifth of respondents had visited indoor sports facilities (18%) and nature areas (17%). Only very small proportions have visited an allotment (2%) in the last year, or a play area for teenagers (5%). This is consistent with the findings from other local authority areas and reflects the user profile of these types of open spaces. A significant proportion (36%) of residents across the Sub-region have not visited any open space in the previous 12 months. This is evenly spread between High Peak, Derbyshire Dales and the PDNP; over a third of residents from each area (36% High Peak, 38% Derbyshire Dales and 34% PDNP area) had not accessed open space provision within the previous twelve months. The reasons for this are explored later in this section.

Figure 3.1: Types of open spaces visited in the previous 12 months (residents)

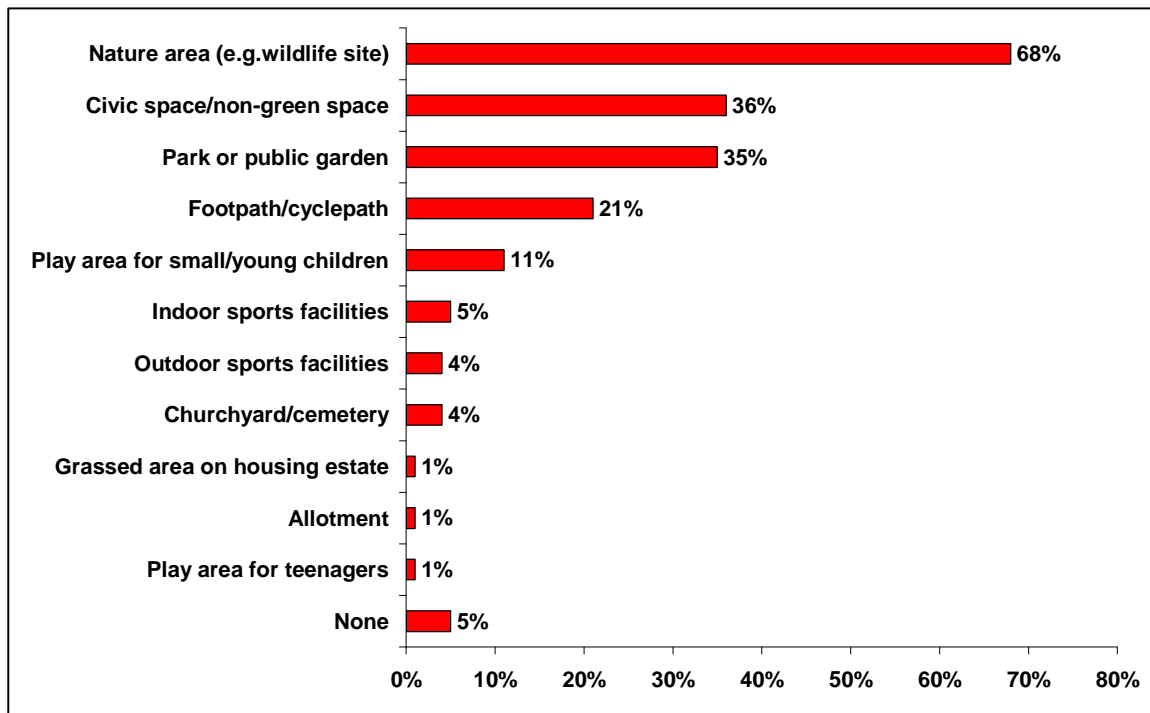


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3.4 There is some variability in the pattern of usage amongst residents and visitors. Understandably, visitors have high usage levels of what might be perceived to be the countryside (nature areas) and lower levels for those such as indoor and outdoor sports.

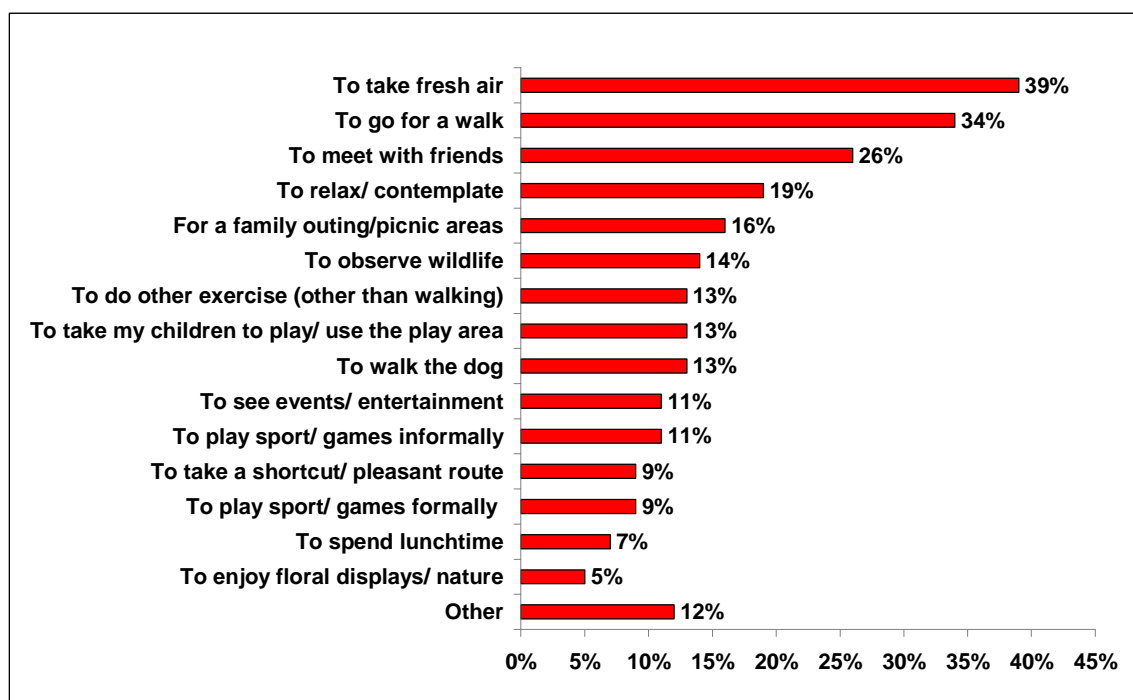
Figure 3.2: Types of open spaces visited during stay in the Sub-region (visitors)



## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

- 3.5 The most popular reason for visiting open spaces in the Peak Sub-region (all respondents) is to take fresh air; over a third (39%) of users cite this. A further third (34%) use open spaces to go for a walk and over one quarter (26%) utilise them for socialising with friends. All these indicate the value of open spaces as focal areas for local communities. The health and well-being benefits of provision are reflected in the results with almost a fifth of users (19%) accessing open space to relax/contemplate. Other popular reasons to visit include family outings (16%), observing wildlife (14%), to do exercise other than walking and using play areas (13% each).
- 3.6 The survey found that users who do not have a private garden use open spaces more to play sport/informal games, walk and meet friends than those who have their own gardens.

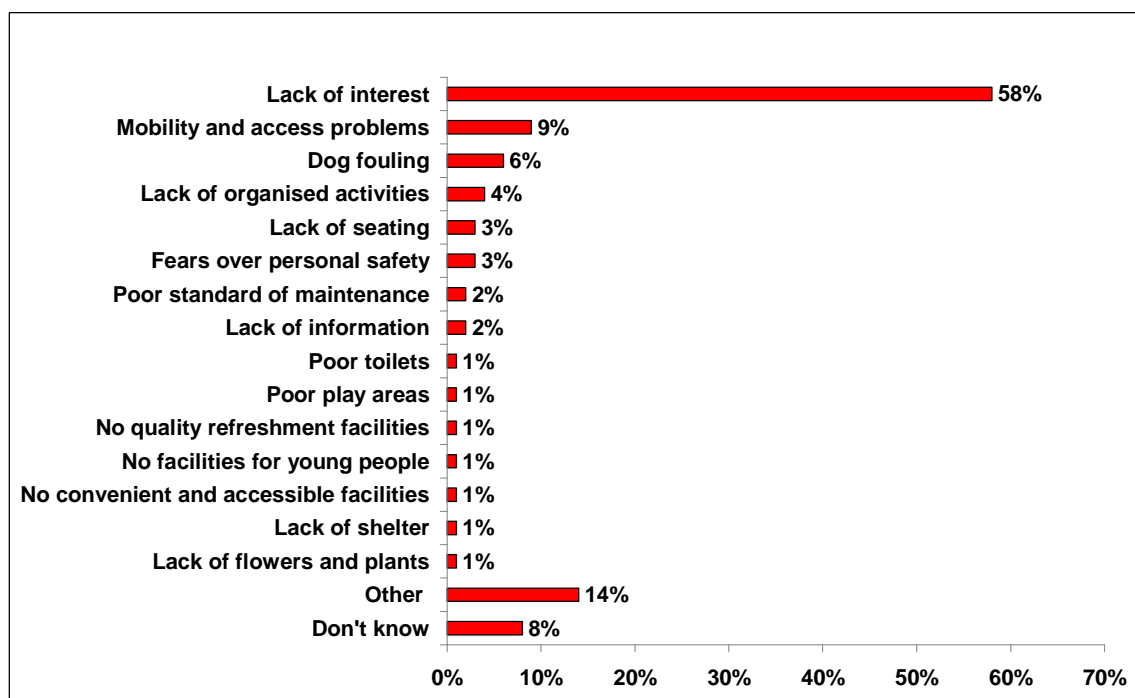
Figure 3.3 Reasons for usage of open space in the previous 12 months



## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

3.7 Residents from across the Sub-region who had not visited any type of provision in the previous twelve months were asked why. The main reason given is lack of interest (58%). This response was given by over half of residents from both High Peak and Derbyshire Dales (63% and 60% respectively) that had not accessed provision. Almost all (90%) of residents from High Peak (within the National Park) who had not accessed any provision within the last 12 months said that lack of interest was the reason. This is followed by mobility/access problems (9%) and dog fouling (6%). These aside, there are no other common barriers to usage. Responses indicate that the main action required to encourage greater usage of open spaces by current non-users is providing greater attractions and activities e.g. events, to enthuse residents to utilise the resources.

Figure 3.4 Reasons for non-usage of open spaces

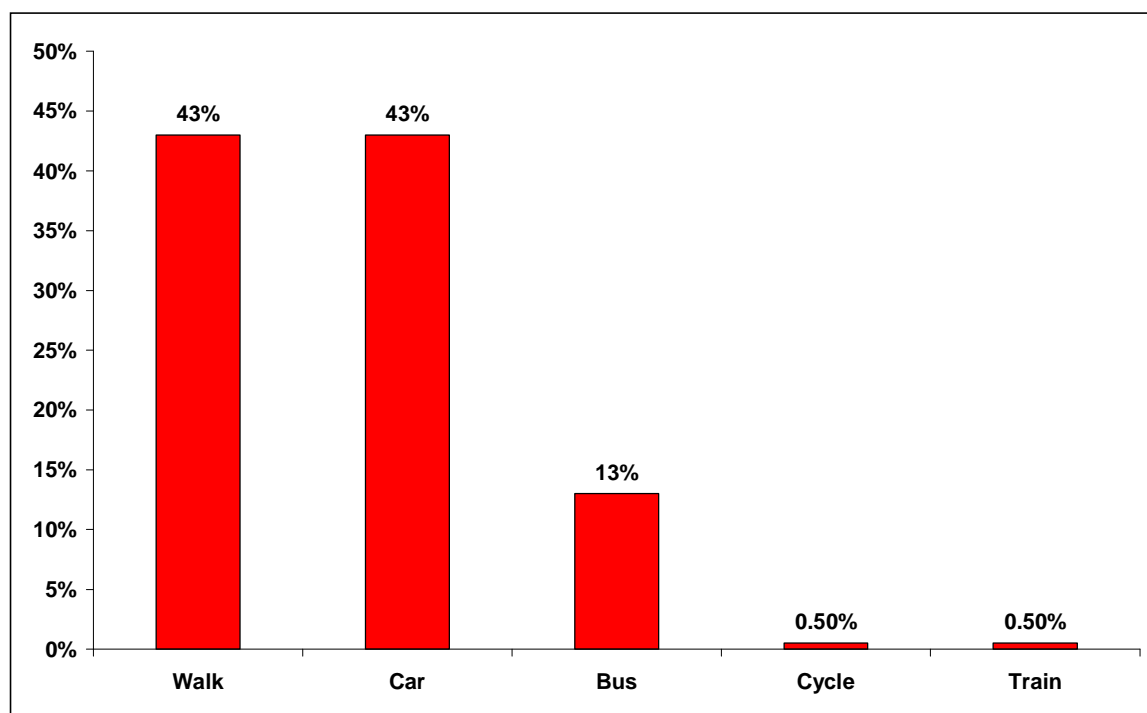


3.8 Significant open space resources exist immediately outside the Sub-region. Residents within the National Park use sites in the following settlements: Leek (including Tittesworth reservoir); Macclesfield & Bollington; Holmfirth & Huddersfield; Stocksbridge & Penistone; Sheffield & Chesterfield. It is also thought that there are similar usage patterns affecting Derbyshire Dales and High Peak.

### Accessibility

3.9 The majority of people travel to open spaces on foot or by car (43%). Of those who walk, 97% are residents of the Peak Sub-region. Access by car is relatively evenly split between residents (47%) and non residents (53%). Of those who access open space by bus, 40% have access to a car but choose to use the bus and over two thirds (67%) live in Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park.

Figure 3.5 Travelling to open spaces



3.10 Consultation identifies a need to improve public transport links between rural settlements and facilities provided within more urban settlements. There is demand for more affordable and regular transport links to allow residents to access provision easily. There is a perception amongst residents that public transport provision across the Sub-region is centred around the needs of visitors rather than those of residents e.g. links are better with and between areas that are popular visitor destinations.

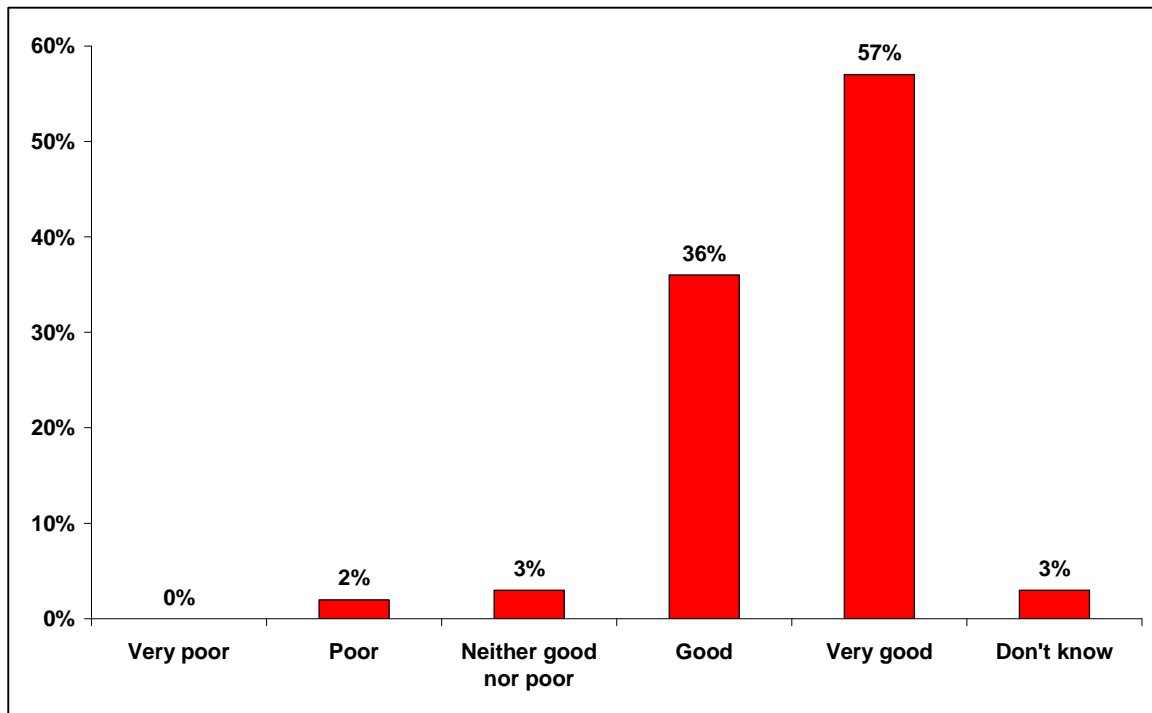
3.11 However, the street survey results highlight that almost all respondents rate the ease of travelling to open spaces in the Sub-region as good (36%) or very good (57%). Significantly, almost one third (32%) of respondents that rate ease of travel to open spaces as good or very good do not have access to a car.



## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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Figure 3.6: Ease of accessing provision

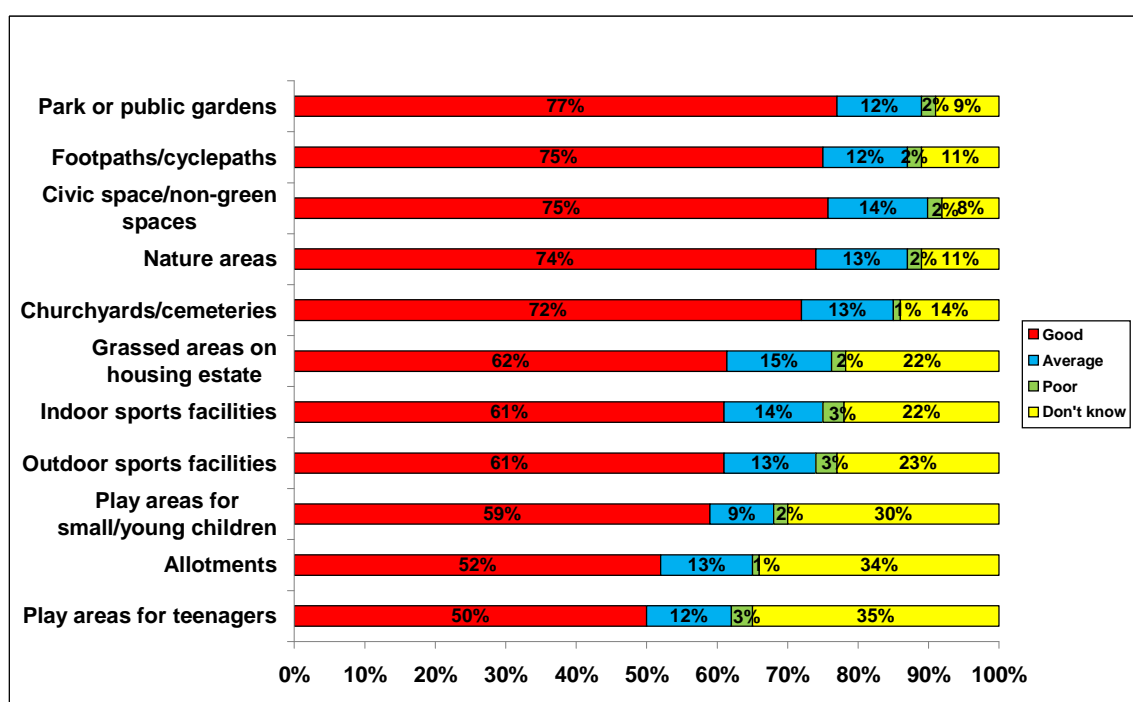


## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Availability

3.12 The availability of open spaces is very highly rated for several typologies, most notably parks or public gardens (77%), footpaths/cyclepaths (75%), civic spaces (75%) and nature areas (74%). Even where the overall proportion is lower, e.g. indoor and outdoor sports facilities, play areas for small children and play areas for teenagers, the proportion rating provision as good outweighs those rating it as poor. In these cases, a sizeable proportion of respondents are not able to comment on availability.

Figure 3.7 Availability of open spaces



3.13 The street survey reinforces the findings of consultation. This identifies a perception amongst residents that the Peak Sub-region is generally well provided for in terms of open spaces, with particular reference being made (on numerous occasions) to the proximity of the PDNP and the easy access to the countryside. For each type of open space at least half of respondents believe availability to be good. However, in terms of individual typologies, consultees consider there to be a lack of more formal provision such as allotments and children's play areas.

3.14 Out of 74 parish council responses only a small proportion (12%) stated there was not enough open space provision in their Parish. Limited open space available for public use was highlighted in Great Hucklow, Little Hucklow and Grindlow, there is demand for allotments expressed in Hayfield and Chelmorton, along with desire for children's play areas in South Darley and King Sterndale and playing fields/recreation areas in Hognaston, Eyam, Chelmorton and Quarnford.

3.15 Residents express concern with regard to the loss of open space to new developments e.g. residents in Darley Dale fear that development pressure is threatening the open spaces dividing the settlement with Matlock. Views were expressed suggesting that planning policies and controls need to be tightened,

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

particularly in Derbyshire Dales, to ensure that new open space provision is being delivered by developers (they pointed to a number of examples within Ashbourne where developments have committed to providing children’s play areas but these have not occurred).

- 3.16 One of the greatest barriers for potential users of open space is lack of awareness of provision, particularly in relation to the wildlife, health and education benefits that open spaces can provide. A significant proportion of respondents were unable to comment on questions such as availability of provision, suggesting lack of awareness. This is particularly true for allotments (34% unable to comment on availability) and play areas for teenagers (35% unable to comment on availability). However, in the latter case, this also reflects the fact that young people of the appropriate age are not able to take part in the survey.
- 3.17 There are also a number of significant recreation sites within the Peak Sub-region e.g. Chatsworth Park, Lyme Park, Ilam Hall Parkland, and reservoirs such as Carsington, which are not included within the audit because they fall outside of the PPG17 remit. However, it is important to recognise that many residents consider these to be an important recreational resource which impact upon their perceptions regarding other publicly accessible sites. For example, residents, due to the provision of such sites as Chatsworth Park, do not necessarily reflect gaps in provision that we identify through mapping.

### Quality

- 3.18 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 the Sub-region.

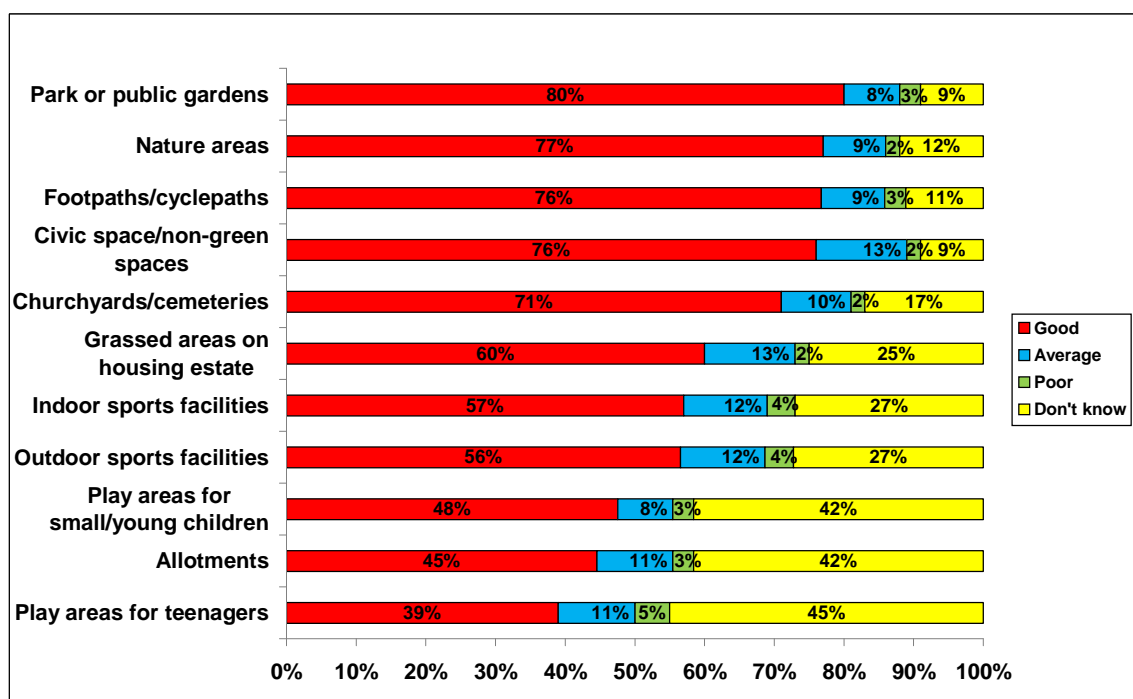
Table 3.1: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	QUALITY Scores					Number:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below the threshold	Above the threshold
Allotments	124	14%	29%	56%	43%	22	-
Amenity greenspace	121	0%	42%	73%	73%	114	5
Cemeteries	161	21%	49%	70%	48%	23	3
Children’s play areas	97	24%	53%	73%	49%	66	11
Civic spaces	146	53%	58%	62%	9%	5	-
Green corridors	56	18%	63%	98%	80%	7	7
Parks and gardens	159	26%	58%	84%	58%	19	9
Semi/natural greenspaces	132	14%	30%	66%	52%	31	1

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

- 3.19 The main quality issue raised during consultation is the perceived level of dog foul in open spaces, particularly parks, amenity greenspaces and children's play areas. This is a general concern across the Sub-region but the problem is more prevalent within High Peak. HPBC recognises the problem and is proactively working to address it. Initiatives include education in schools, engaging children in the design of deterrent signage, empowering park keepers to enforce and piloting a project to enable PCSO's to issue on the spot fines. To ensure that these are successful awareness must be raised with regard the problem and enforcement actions. Consultation and site assessments indicate that the perception of dog foul is greater than reality.
- 3.20 Over three quarters of respondents consider provision of parks and public gardens, nature areas, footpaths/cyclepaths and civic spaces to be good (80%, 77%, 76%, 76% respectively). There is no type of provision for which more than 5% of those surveyed rate quality as poor. Even where the proportion that considers quality of provision as good is lower, those rating provision as good is much higher than those rating it as poor e.g. indoor and outdoor sports facilities, play areas for small children and play areas for teenagers and allotments. In these cases, a sizeable proportion of respondents are not able to comment on availability.

Figure 3.8 Quality of provision of open space



- 3.21 A large proportion (46%) of parish councils did not respond regarding the quality of open space provision. Over a third (33%) rate provision as being of excellent or good quality, 16% stating that quality is adequate and only three (4%) stating that quality is poor.

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### *Improvements to open spaces*

3.22 Very few improvements to open spaces were identified, the main ones being more park keepers (8%), better toilets (8%), more for children and young people to do (8%), more seating (6%) and introducing dog wardens (4%). The desire for more dog wardens is strongest in High Peak outside the National Park (75%). This reinforces consultation findings which also highlighted this as a concern.

### *Value*

3.23 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 the Sub-region.

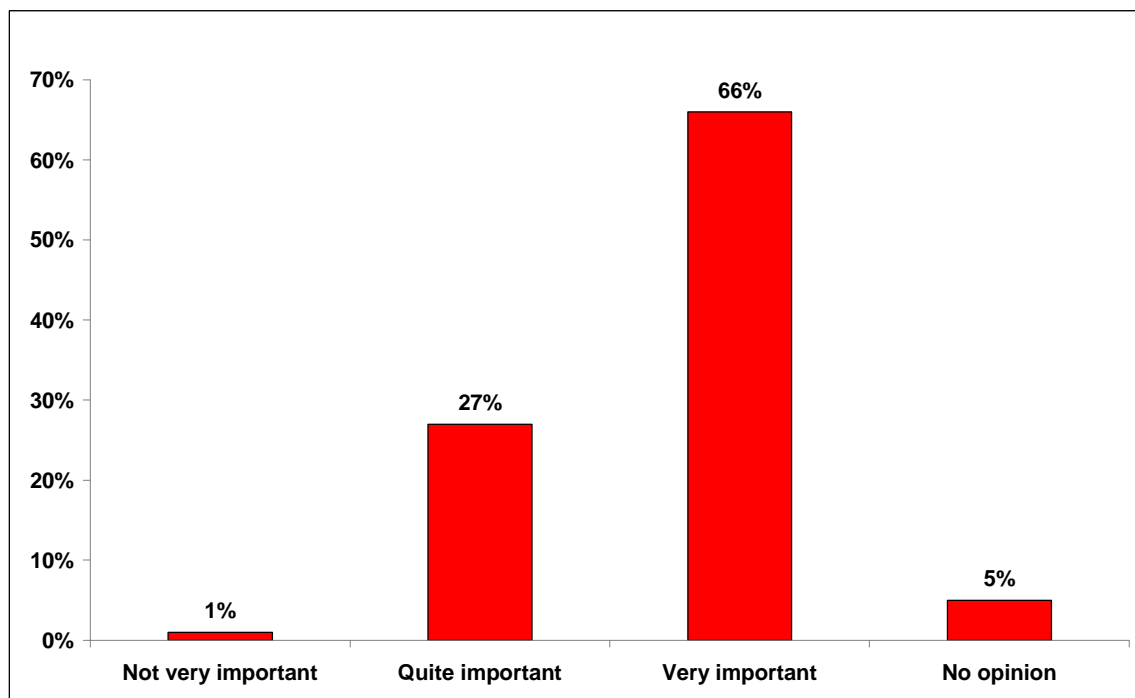
*Table 3.2: Value scores for all open space typologies*

Typology	VALUE Scores				
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread
Allotments	105	9%	28%	47%	38%
Amenity greenspace	100	4%	27%	57%	53%
Cemeteries	100	10%	30%	63%	53%
Children's play areas	55	18%	34%	67%	49%
Civic spaces	100	7%	21%	49%	42%
Green corridors	100	5%	27%	40%	35%
Parks and Gardens	110	14%	35%	61%	47%
Semi / Natural greenspaces	110	6%	20%	38%	32%

3.24 Consultation identifies that open spaces are a valuable resource to residents across the Sub-region and that high quality accessible provision plays a major role in attracting visitors to the area. Site assessments recognise the health, social and well-being benefits offered by open spaces and is was reflected in the site assessment scoring with all the mean scores lying above 20%. Consultation also highlights the significance placed on sites which, although perceived as low quality, are of high value to local communities, particularly where they are the only accessible provision in an area.

3.25 The majority of respondents, view open spaces, sports and recreation facilities to be very or quite important (93%). This reinforces the high value placed on such provision by residents of the Sub-region and the investments made in it by the local authorities and other providers. Over recent years, both HPBC and DDDC have invested significantly in their parks and open spaces services. This is reflected in residents' perceptions that provision across the Sub-region is of high quality. The importance of open spaces to residents, as demonstrated by the street survey and further evidenced through consultation, highlights the need for this level of investment to be sustained to ensure that high standards are constantly achieved and that such provision continues to be valued by residents and visitors.

Figure 3.9: Importance of open spaces



- 3.26 There is high community involvement in open spaces across the Sub-region evidenced by the number of “friends of” groups”, in bloom groups, conservation volunteers and community action groups involved site management and development. The majority of these are active working groups operating in partnership with the local authorities to identify and undertake relevant site enhancements.
- 3.27 Visitors to the Sub-region taking part in the street survey were asked how important it is that an area they visit has good quality and accessible open spaces. All surveyed believe that good quality (100%) and accessible (99%) open space is either quite important or very important.
- 3.28 When asked about the importance of good quality and accessible sport and recreation facilities, responses from visitors to the Sub-region were similar. Almost all (93%) consider it important that an area they visit has good quality and accessible sport and recreation facilities.

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 3.10: Importance of good quality accessible open space

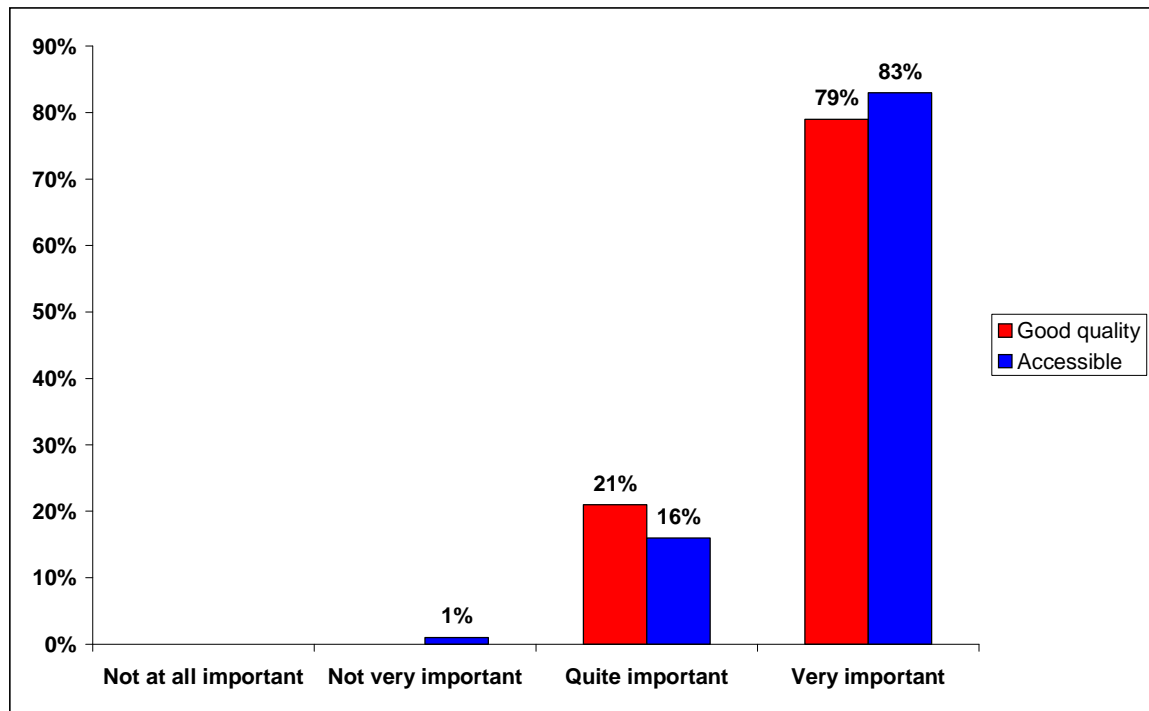
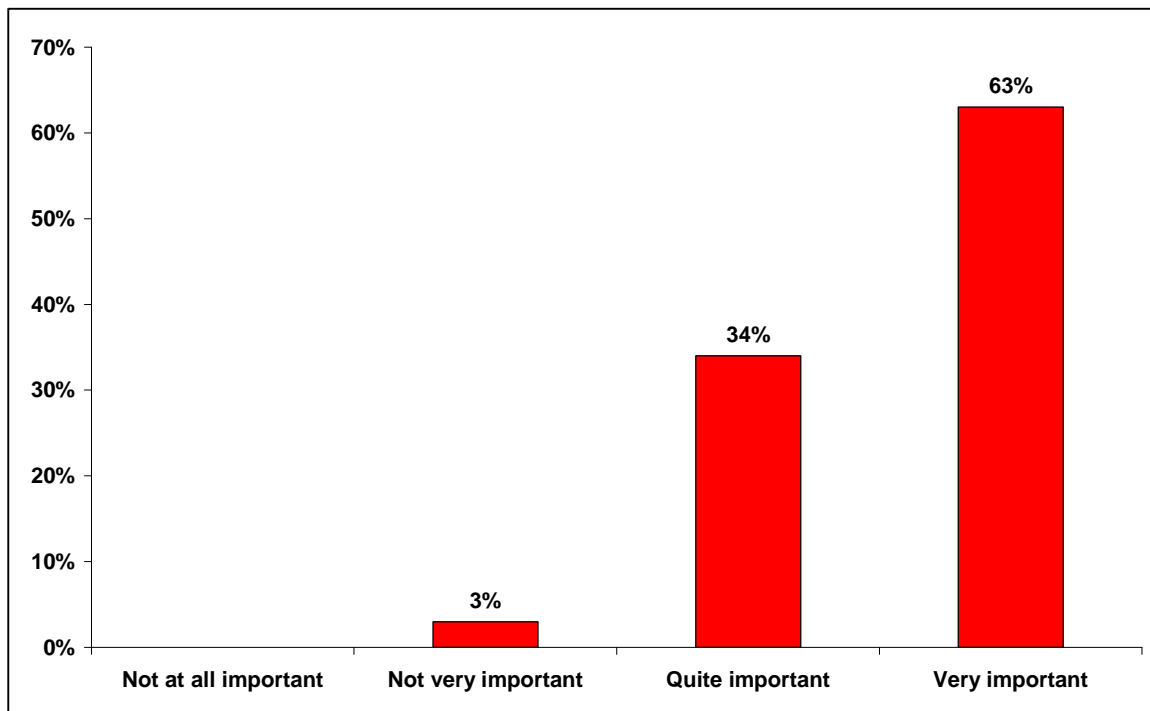


Figure 3.11: Importance of good quality accessible sport and recreation facilities



# PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

## PART 4: PUBLIC PARKS

### Introduction

4.1 The typology of parks and gardens, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide 'accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.'

### Key issues

#### *Current provision*

4.2 There are 25 sites classified as publicly accessible parks and gardens totalling just over 130 hectares. Parks and gardens are classified in the following ways to reflect their different characteristics:

#### *Classification*

- ◆ Local park - sites of 2 ha or less; smaller areas that attract almost all users from a particular area, normally located on the edge of housing estates and serving the immediate population.
- ◆ District park - sites between 2 and 20 ha; areas that attract a significant proportion of users from particular parts of the local area, designed principally for passive recreation, serving the recreational needs of the local population.
- ◆ Strategic park - sites of principal significance to the local and wider community and urban landscape, with specialised areas. Attracting a diverse and large number of visitors from a wide area.

*Table 4.1: Distribution of parks and gardens sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Local park		District park		Strategic park		TOTAL provision	
	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	1	0.02	1	2.56	-	-	2	2.58
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	8	1.94	4	31.51	2	5.19	14	38.65
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	-	-	3	12.77	6	76.30	9	89.07
Peak National Park ONLY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>46.85</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>81.49</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>130.32</b>



## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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- 4.3 Consultation indicates that residents generally consider the quantity of parks and gardens to be adequate within the Sub-region. The greatest number of sites is provided in Derbyshire Dales OUT (14 sites). However, a greater hectareage of parks is provided in High Peak OUT (89 hectares). This suggests that a greater number of smaller sites are provided in Derbyshire Dales operating at a more localised level and fewer, larger sites are provided in High Peak operating a more strategic level. Two parks are located within the National Park area; Riverside Gardens (Scots Garden) and Buxton Road Gardens (Bath Gardens).
- 4.4 Seven parks were included within the audit that fell below the initial threshold set of 0.4 hectares in size because they were identified during consultation to be valuable local sites. These include Buxton Road Gardens (Bath Gardens, Derbyshire Dales IN) and Allen Hill Park (Derbyshire Dales OUT).
- 4.5 There are also a number of parks within the Peak Sub-region e.g. Chatsworth Park, Lyme Park and Ilam Hall Parkland which are not included within the audit because they fall outside of the PPG17 remit e.g. opening and closing times restrict access or there is an entrance fee. However, it is important to recognise that many residents consider these to be an important recreational resource which impact upon their perceptions regarding other publicly accessible sites. For example, residents, due to the provision of such sites as Chatsworth Park, do not necessarily reflect gaps in provision that we identify through mapping.

### ***Usage***

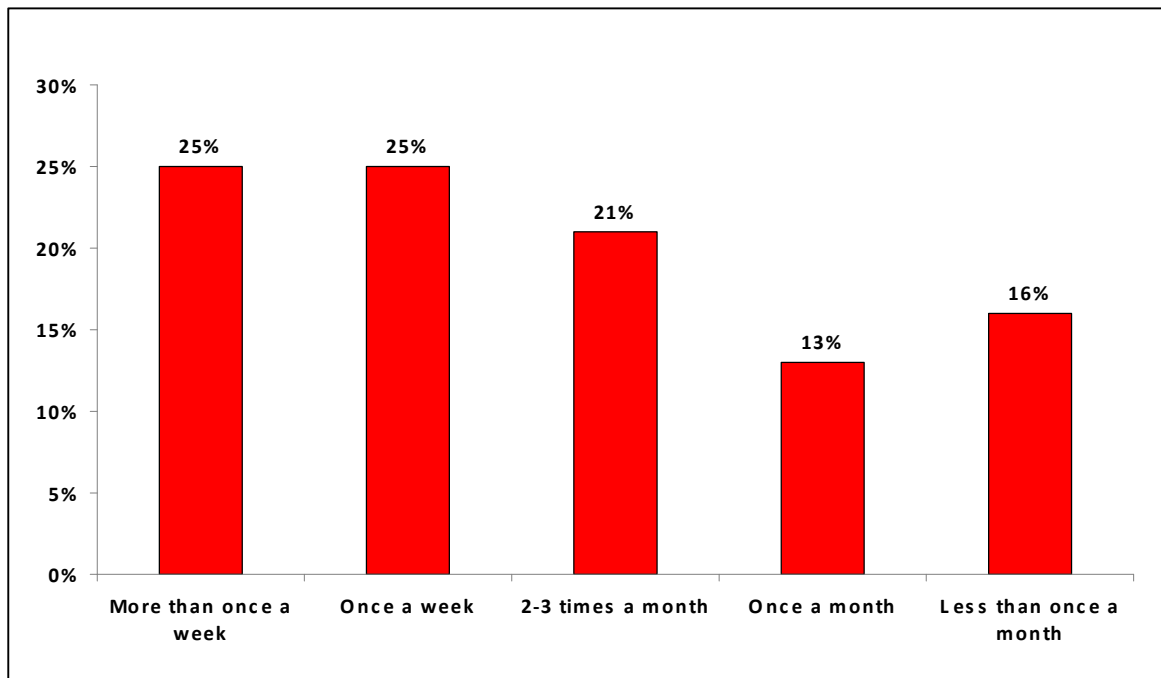
- 4.6 27% of residents of the Peak Sub-region (39% of whom live in the National Park) stated that they had visited parks and gardens in the last year, approximately half of whom do so once at least once a week. 73% of those that access parks or public gardens, do so within the Sub-region and only 1% travel outside the Sub-region to access provision.
- 4.7 Residents who have been to parks in the last year are of mixed ages, and backgrounds; for example, 45% have children at home, almost 50% are either retired or unemployed and three quarters of residents who access parks at least once a week are aged 16 – 24. Those who live in the High Peak area, outside the National Park access parks and gardens most frequently (63% do so at least once a week).
- 4.8 Over a third (35%) of visitors to the Sub-region reported that they had visited parks and gardens within the Peak area, of these 81% are retired.

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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4.9 Quality and usage can be directly linked. Higher quality parks across the Sub-region feel safer and offer users good quality facilities. Many high quality sites were also recorded as having high usage (at the time of the visit). These include Pavilion Gardens, Howard Park, Lovers Walk and Hall Leys Park.

Figure 4.1: Frequency of usage of parks in the previous 12 months



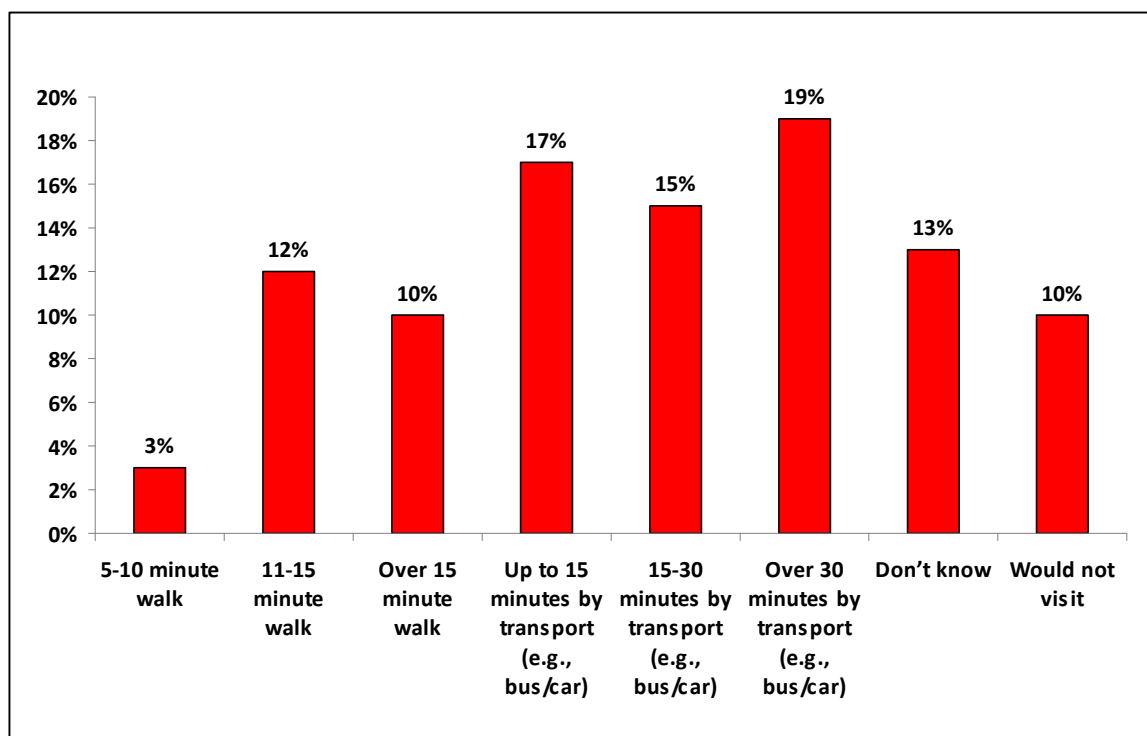
## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Accessibility

4.10 58% of residents who visit parks and gardens do so on foot and, as shown in the figure below more than 20% walk for more than 10 minutes to reach sites. Of the 31% of residents who drive/take the bus to parks, almost a fifth travel for more than 30 minutes, the largest proportion (28%) amongst those that live in the High Peak, outside the National Park.

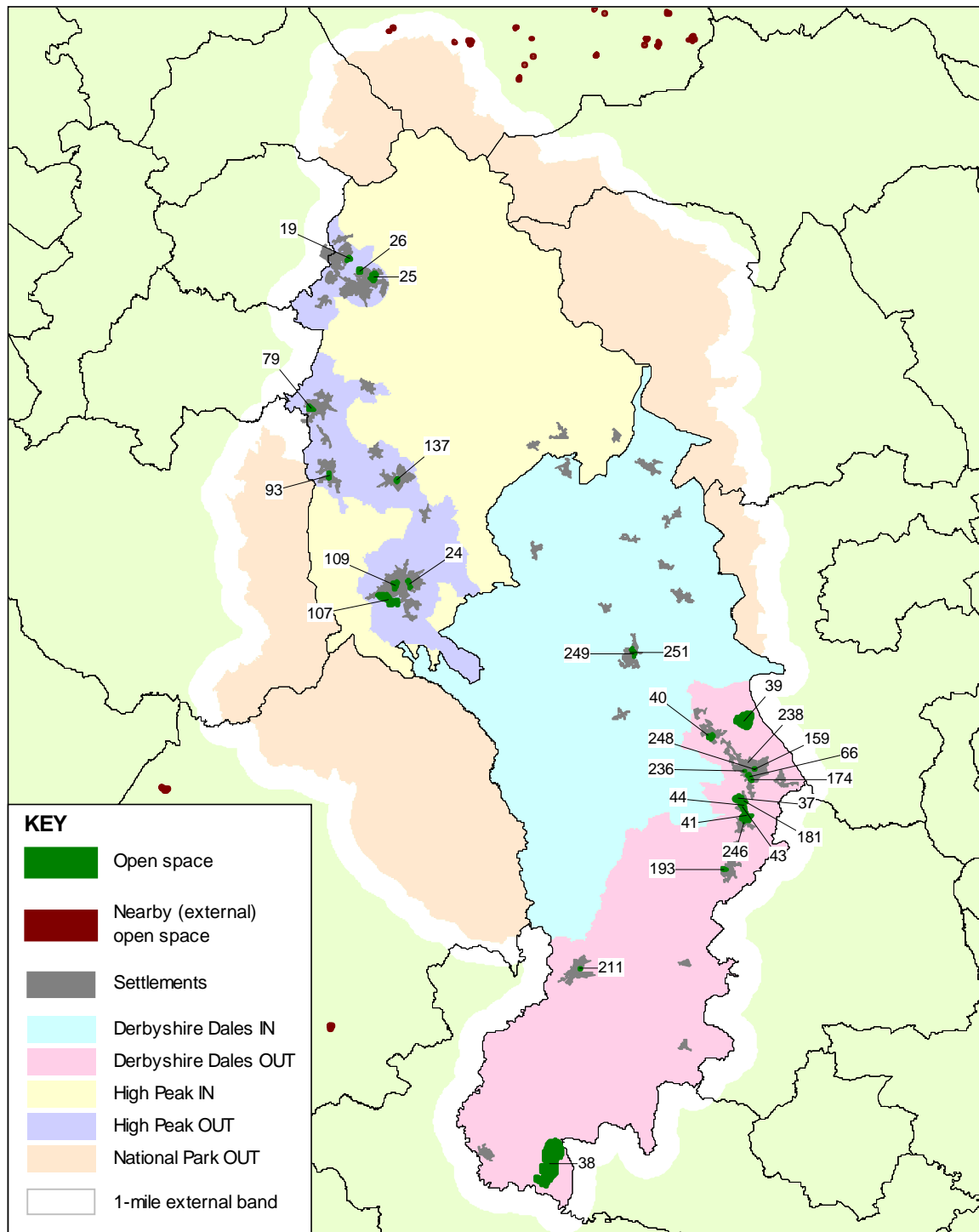
4.11 Visitors to the Sub-region are more likely to use a car to reach parks and gardens and only 2% choose to walk. This may be because they come from a long distance or visit the Peak Sub-region for other purposes, as well as to take advantage of its parks and gardens.

Figure 4.2: Time prepared to travel to access a park



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Figure 4.3: Parks and gardens mapped against settlement areas



## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

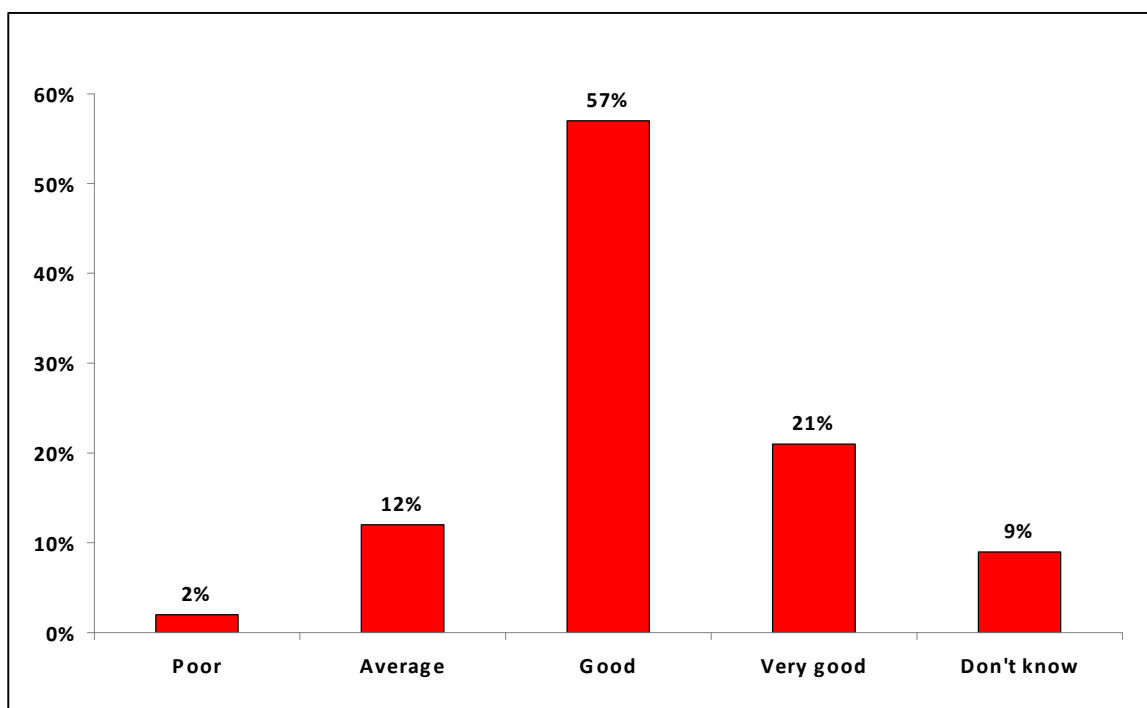
### *Key to sites mapped*

<b>KKP Reference</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Sub-typology</b>
19	Bankswood Park	District Park
24	Ashwood Park	Strategic Park
25	Manor Park	Strategic Park
26	Howard Park	Strategic Park
37	Heights of Abraham	District Park
38	Sudbury Hall	Local Park
39	Sydnope Hall	Local Park
40	Whitworth Institute	District Park
41	Willersley Castle	Local Park
43	Derwent Gardens	District Park
44	Lovers Walks	District Park
66	Hall Leys Park	Strategic Park
79	High Lea Park	District Park
93	Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge	Strategic Park
107	Buxton Country Park	Strategic Park
109	Pavilion Gardens	Strategic Park
137	Chapel Memorial Park	District Park
159	Smedley Steet Park Area	Local Park
174	Knowleston Place Park	Local Park
181	Matlock Bath Memorial Gardens	Local Park
193	Vokecliffe Park	Local Park
211	Ashbourne Memorial Park	Local Park
236	Allen Hill Park	Local Park
238	Cavendish Road Park/paths	Local Park
246	Cromford Memorial Gdns.	Local Park
248	Victoria Gardens	Local Park
249	Riverside Gardens	District Park
251	Buxton Road Gardens (Bath Gardens)	Local Park

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

4.12 There is provision of at least one park and garden in each of the major settlements across the Sub-region. Although provision is limited within the PDNP this is appropriate as, with the exception of Bakewell (which has two sites under this classification), there are no settlements with significant populations to generate need for such provision. Over three quarters (78%) of respondents rate the provision/accessibility of parks and gardens to be good (57%) or very good (21%). Only a small proportion (2%) of respondents rate availability to be poor. All of these reside in High Peak, outside of the National Park.

Figure 4.4: Availability of parks



### **Management**

4.13 The Parks and Environment Department within HPBC and the Community Services Department in DDDC are responsible for overseeing the general operational management and day-to-day maintenance of local authority owned parks and gardens throughout the Sub-region. Grounds maintenance is undertaken in-house within both authorities. The CCT specifications are followed but both authorities allow for flexibility in order to undertake tasks at the most appropriate time. The HPBC grounds maintenance team also undertakes work for High Peak Housing sites and has the contract for Derbyshire County Council owned sites in High Peak such as Grin Low County Park. DDDC grounds maintenance team carry out the maintenance of Whitworth Park, Darley Dale, on behalf of the Trustees.

4.14 HPBC has recently signed up to GreenSTAT<sup>1</sup>, a web system that gives local residents the opportunity to comment on the quality of their open spaces and how well they feel they are being managed and maintained. Managers then evaluate

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.greenstat.org.uk/>

the results against comparable local authorities across the country. It also provides HPBC with a regular statement of local opinion on parks and open spaces, thus enabling the relevant department to respond to issues as they arise.

- 4.15 A significant number of other agencies are responsible for overseeing the management and day-to-day maintenance of parks and gardens throughout the Sub-region. For example, Matlock Town Council has a parks manager, supported by full time and temporary staff, to undertake grounds maintenance and management of its sites and New Mills Town Council and Chapel-en-le-Frith Town Council both employ dedicated maintenance teams. Chapel-en-le-Frith Town Council is also looking to further expand this by appointing a full time apprentice. Town councils receive some financial support from their local authority and feel that they undertake grounds maintenance in-house in a cost effective way. All those consulted consider that having this dedicated in-house team results in achieving higher standards.

### ***Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF)***

#### *Memorial Park Project*

- 4.16 High Peak Borough Council sought a grant from HLF to restore the Memorial Park in Whaley Bridge. The original application was rejected on the need for more evidence of consultation and a new bid has recently been re-submitted (Sept. 2008).
- 4.17 The Park is the only public open space in Whaley Bridge and adjoins the Toddbrook Reservoir, providing a link with the Peak District National Park. The main barrier to use at the moment is maintenance. Park infrastructure is dated and in need of upgrading. The project proposals include improvements to this, reinstatement of the original layout around the War Memorial, creation of a peace garden and a range of landscaping works. Promotion of volunteer involvement also plays a vital role within the new application.

#### *Matlock Parks Project*

- 4.18 The Matlock Parks Project was funded by a grant from the HLF. Managed by DDDC it has taken five years to complete and saw improvement to five parks; Hall Leys Park, which was recently completed (2008), Pic Tor, Derwent Gardens, Lovers Walk and High Tor Pleasure Grounds.
- 4.19 The key project aims included establishing pedestrian access between each park, restoring the role of the river and promoting natural habitats. In the longer term, the improvements will help to enhance the viability of the Matlock area through increasing visitor numbers. The project also complements the wider regeneration of the Central Corridor, (the Central Corridor Initiative), of which Matlock is the focus.

#### *Green Flag*

- 4.20 The Green Flag Award Scheme, managed by the Civic Trust, provides a national standard for parks and greenspaces across England and Wales. Public service agreements, identified by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) highlight the national importance placed on Green Flag status as an indicator of high quality parks. This in turn has an impact on the way in which parks and gardens are being managed and maintained.
- 4.21 There are currently (2008/2009) four Green Flag status sites in the Sub-region, three located in High Peak (Pavilion Gardens, Howard Park and Manor Park) and one is located in Derbyshire Dales (Hall Leys Park).
- 4.22 Working towards written management plans ensures that relevant policies and regimes, required to be successful in achieving the Green Flag Award, are in place. DDC hopes to have such plans prepared for all four major parks linking Matlock and Matlock Bath (High Tor, Lovers Walk, Derwent Gardens in addition to Hall Leys Park) within the next two years. This will enhance potential to submit sites for the Green Flag Award.
- 4.23 Qualitative scores from site visits undertaken by KKP suggest that High Tor, Lovers Walk and Derwent Gardens, have a good chance of success in the field assessment element of the award if considered for Green Flag entry in the future. All score above 70%, which is indicative of a high quality site. Their quality is also likely to be enhanced in the near future through enhancements being made following the Heritage Lottery funding allocation that has been secured under the Matlock Parks Project to restore five historic parks and pleasure grounds in Matlock.
- 4.24 If the HLF bid for Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge is successful; it would eventually create potential for the site to be put forward for Green Flag status, in that it would already have a sound management plan plus significant investment to raise it to a high standard.
- 4.25 To better recognise high quality sites managed by town and parish councils across the Sub-region, some sites could be considered for future Green Flag status. However, this would require significant support from the local authorities; developing management plans and other policies. Chapel Memorial Park could have a good chance in the site assessment element. Although it scored under the 66% pass score in the assessment, this relates more to elements that the site does not have, such as lighting, car parking and toilets as opposed to the quality of the site itself, which is noted as well maintained and well used by the local community and for local events.



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### Quality

4.26 The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks and gardens in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 4.2: Quality scores for parks and garden sites by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 66%	Above 66%
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	159	40%	49%	58%	19%	2	-
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	159	26%	56%	83%	57%	9	5
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	159	-	-	-	-	-	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	159	40%	60%	75%	35%	6	3
Peak National Park ONLY	159	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>

4.27 Consultation indicates that residents generally consider the quality of parks and gardens to be adequate.

4.28 HPBC provides site-based staff at Pavilion Gardens, Manor Park and Howard Park (all of which are Green Flag status and assessed as high quality, scoring over 66%). The Council recognises the benefits of having site-based staff in maintaining high standards, ownership and direction. Other HPBC owned sites are covered by a mobile service.

4.29 DDDC currently provide site-based staff at Hall Leys Park (Matlock), Bath Gardens (Bakewell) and Ashbourne Memorial Park.

4.30 Consultation suggests that Ashwood Park would benefit from site-based staff as it has become run down and underused but is strategically placed to service a good catchment area. Should the HLF bid for Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge be successful, it too will have site-based staff.

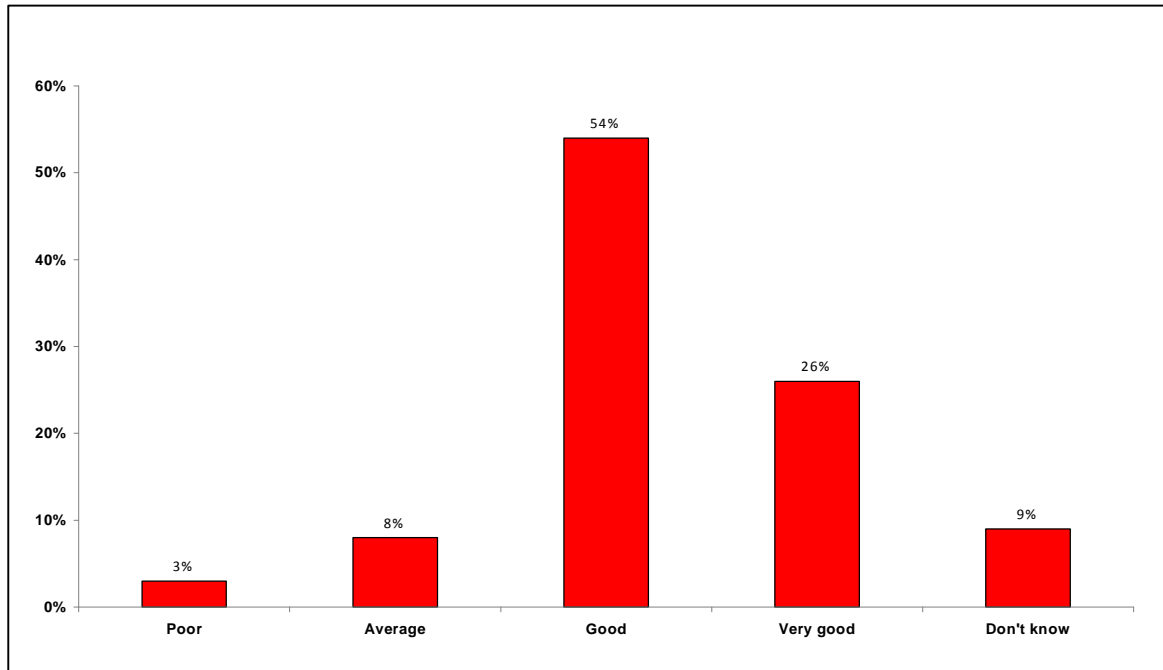
4.31 A number of improvement projects are planned to enhance the quality of park and garden provision across the Sub-region. HPBC is currently preparing a HLF bid to improve the infrastructure of Memorial Park and a number of the 'friends of' groups have aspirations to undertake site enhancements in the near future. Examples include the 'friends of' Manor Park group which is seeking funding, with the support of partner agencies and HPBC, to refurbish the tennis courts within the site and provide a MUGA and the 'friends of' Howard Park group which is keen to develop a nature/wildlife area.

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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4.32 Consultation suggests that residents perceive dog foul to be a problem in sites across the Sub-region. However, site assessments did not pick this up as a significant issue in parks. This may reflect recent campaigns where local children designed posters as enforcement signs to deter irresponsible dog owners. The only site where it was deemed to be appropriate to install more dog foul bins was Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge to help tackle the issue.

Figure 4.5: Quality of provision of parks



4.33 As shown in the figure above, 80% of respondents believe parks and gardens to be at least average and more than a quarter of residents think they are very good. Of these 80%, are from the High Peak outside the National Park and 22% are from Derbyshire Dales, also outside the National Park. It is also interesting to note that 92% of the people who think the quality is at least average have their own private garden.

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### Value

4.34 The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks and gardens in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 4.3: Value scores for parks and garden sites by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores				
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	110	15%	20%	25%	10%
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	110	14%	33%	61%	47%
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	110	-	-	-	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	110	41%	47%	61%	20%
Peak National Park ONLY	110	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>47%</b>

4.35 In terms of value, the average score across the Sub-region is 34%, ranging from 61% for Hall Leys Park and Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge to just 14% for Allen Hill Park. Social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and amenity and sense of place are recognised benefits in sites, which resident consultation identify as being of high value to the local community, such as Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge. This is reinforced by the street survey which highlights that the presence of parks and gardens is one of the most important typologies influencing respondents decisions to visit the Sub-region.

4.36 Parks and gardens have potential to offer educational benefits to users including learning about wildlife, biodiversity and site heritage features. Consultation identifies that there is currently a lack of environmental activities provided in parks and gardens across the Sub-region. Within High Peak, only Memorial Park currently offers an educational activity programme.

4.37 Within the Derbyshire Dales, an indoor teaching venue/interpretation room has been provided at Hall Leys Park, Matlock, as part of the recent Heritage Lottery improvements, which offers potential to develop educational activities within the park, whilst an outdoor classroom is located within the grounds of High Tor, Matlock. Discussions are currently underway with a local primary school for a similar feature elsewhere within the Matlock Parks.

4.38 Parks can be of high value to residents that do not have access to a garden with 35% of residents of the Peak Sub-region who do not have a garden, using parks and public gardens. This figure is 8% higher than those residents who do have a private garden.

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### *Community involvement*

- 4.39 High Peak currently has a good percentage of community groups operating in its parks (reflecting its high number of Green Flag status sites). 'Friends of' groups are set up for the following:
- ◀ Manor Park.
  - ◀ Pavilion Park.
  - ◀ Howard Park.
  - ◀ Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge.
  - ◀ Chapel Lane Park, Hadfield.
  - ◀ Hall Leys Park.
- 4.40 Community involvement in the management and operation of parks and gardens varies. In the majority of instances, friends of groups have been formed as part of a Green Flag or HLF application and are user based. They appear to be dedicated to the cause and there are no reported problems with sustaining interest after improvements have been achieved.
- 4.41 All are fairly active groups, running community events and carrying out practical tasks such as litter picks.
- 4.42 Chapel Town Council identifies demand for a 'friends of' group to be established at Chapel Memorial Park. This would also strengthen the potential to achieve Green Flag status. Ashwood Park would also benefit from a 'friends of' group to drive improvements. It is possible that the 'friends of' Pavilion Gardens could consider taking on Ashwood Park.
- 4.43 In a different vein, Gamesley (near Glossop), an area described as being "quite isolated", has suffered from spates of vandalism, alcohol-related problems and high unemployment. There was no open space for outdoor recreation and houses only had neglected grass verges. Gamesley residents decided to improve their local estate and help to create a neighbourhood garden and play area. The gardens provide much needed green space and bring the local community together.

### **Summary of site consultation**

- 4.44 This section collates issues raised during consultation with regard to provision of parks and gardens in the Peak Sub-region. It is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers those raised during consultation.

Site	Local authority	Comments
Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	The HLF bid for this site is aimed at improving the infrastructure to attract more visitors e.g. signage and car park improvements. The network of paths throughout the Park needs to be enhanced and in some places handrails are also required. There is demand for a ramp to be provided as well as the existing steps within the site to improve accessibility for users with pushchairs.

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Site	Local authority	Comments
Ashwood Park	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	This park, owned and maintained by HPBC, has become run-down. The play area has been removed for health and safety reasons and has not been replaced. The Park is unappealing and is an intimidating place to walk through. People reportedly "loiter" in the evenings and as a result it is underused. It would benefit from input and support of a 'friends of' group to lobby for improvements and investment.
Memorial Park, Chapel	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	The site provides a wide variety of facilities to attract users. It is the main park in Chapel, of good quality and well used. The Town Council and local residents would like to enhance the bandstand. It caters for a wide range of community events and the Town Council is keen to establish 'friends of' group. Youth congregation is an issue and the Town Council is currently working with youth workers, the Police and the local High School to control and manage this.
Manor Park	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	This is a well used and highly valued open space. It has recently been included within the Old Glossop Conservation Area and Glossop Vision is driving current investment in the site. Although it has achieved Green Flag status, there is room for further improvements. The skatepark has been vandalised and there is demand for lighting to create a safer environment.
Pavilion Gardens	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	The Friends of Pavilion Gardens is trying to encourage greater usage of the Park through community events and fun days. This site is also going to be mapped for orienteering.
Scots Garden (Riverside Gardens)	Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	Owned by Bakewell Town Council. This is a meadow site and a popular dog walking area. A management plan is being produced with the aspiration to make it accessible to all. It provides an important route to the Town Centre and many visitors to Bakewell reportedly use this open space. The Town Council is working to improve the footpath.
Bath Gardens (Buxton Road Gardens)	Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	This is a highly prized formal public garden in Bakewell. Facilities include a bowling green and manicured gardens. It is considered to be a good quality, well maintained sites.
Whitworth Park, Darley Dale	Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	Owned the Whitworth Trust, the site provides a wide variety of facilities to attract users. A grant from the 'breathing spaces' program has recently been received to undertake restoration work and provide a boating lake.

### Public parks summary

- ◀ There are 25 sites classified as parks and gardens totalling just over 130 hectares across the Sub-region. Three are classified as restricted access.
- ◀ There a number of parks within the Peak Sub-region e.g. Chatsworth Park, Lyme Park, Ilam Hall Parkland, which are not included within the audit. However, it is important to recognise that many residents consider these to be an important recreational resource which impact upon their perceptions regarding other publicly accessible sites. For example, residents, due to the provision of such sites as Chatsworth Park, do not necessarily reflect gaps in provision that we identify through mapping.
- ◀ There is some variation in the quality of parks across the Sub-region with the mean quality score for being 34%. Street survey analysis indicates that the quality of parks in High Peak OUT is highly rated.
- ◀ Consultation indicates that residents generally consider the provision of parks and gardens to be adequate, both in terms of quantity and quality.
- ◀ Parks and gardens are the highest scoring typology in terms of value. This reflects the importance of this typology as an open space and the range of benefits offered including for example structural, landscape, social inclusion and health.
- ◀ Residents believe that all parks and gardens in the Sub-region should be of a similar high standard citing Hall Leys Park and Pavilion Gardens as examples that offer a range of amenities for users. This also reflects the high value placed on parks provision which is the most visited open space typology by residents across the Sub-region.
- ◀ Consultation and street survey analysis suggests that residents will travel 15 minutes by car to access parks and gardens provision.

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

**Introduction**

5.1 The typology of natural and semi natural greenspaces, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. downland, 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.’

**Key issues**

**Current provision**

5.2 In total, 56 open spaces in the Sub-region, totalling almost 374 hectares, are classified as natural and semi-natural greenspaces. Three of these are closed or restricted access and, as a result, have not received a site assessment to determine a quality or value score. Remaining sites without assessment scores are Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) reserves, all of which are high in wildlife and habitat value.

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

Analysis area	Natural/semi- natural greenspaces	
	Number	Size (ha)
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	11	137.30
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	12	61.52
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	7	64.89
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	25	98.02
Peak National Park ONLY	1	12.20
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>373.93</b>

5.3 The Sub-region has a large proportion of locally and regionally important semi-natural sites. There are numerous sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), including Matlock Woods, Chee Dale, Hopton Quarry and Buxton Country Park. There are two National Nature Reserves (NNRs) – Derbyshire Dales NNR and Biggin Dale NNR and nine sites, seven in High Peak and two in Derbyshire Dales designated as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). In 1996, English Nature (now Natural England) recommended that there should be one hectare of designated LNR per 1,000 population. To put this into local context, with a population of 169,099 (2001 census data), across the Sub-region there should be provision of least 169ha of LNR. The nine designated sites cover 65.28 hectares, leaving a shortfall of some 103.72 hectares. The two LNR’s in Derbyshire Dales total 27 hectares which, with a population of 69,616, leaves a shortfall of 43 ha. The seven sites in High Peak total 39.28 hectares. This leaves a shortfall of 50.72 hectares.

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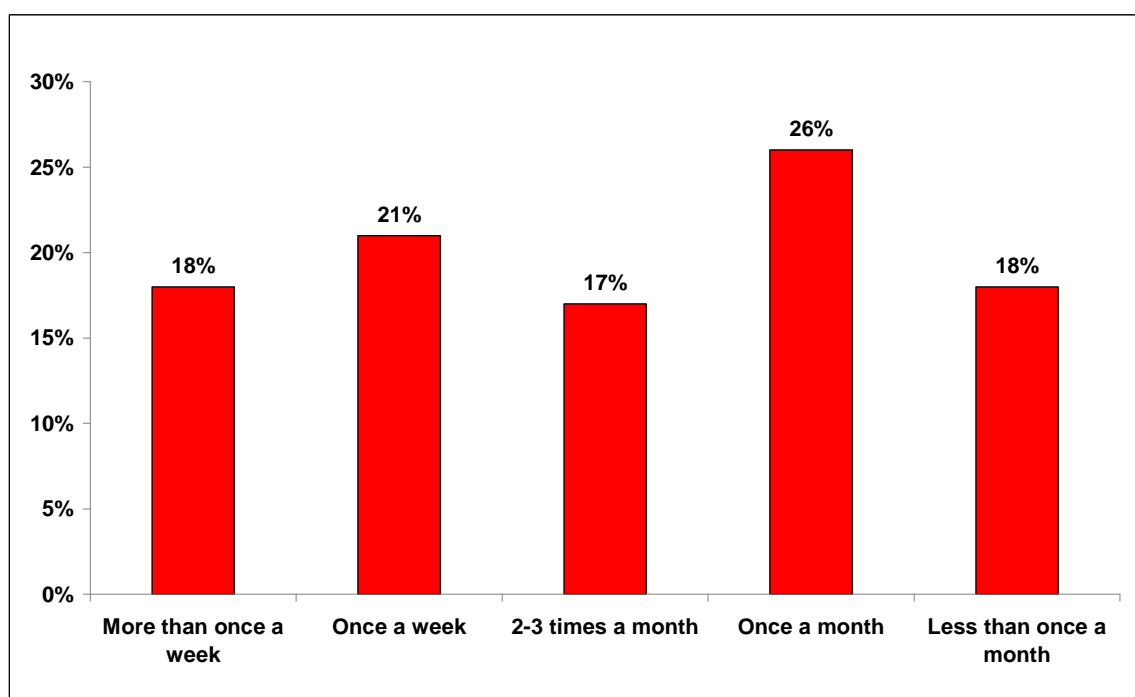
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- 5.4 In addition, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) has 20 nature reserves across the Sub-region, which total over 277 hectares. These are managed to maintain and enhance their particular habitats. These sites do not have the statutory designation of LNR but meet a similar need in terms of accessible natural and semi-natural open space as all except three of the reserves are open access.
- 5.5 The promotion of access to sensitive sites such as the LNRs and SSSIs has to be managed in accordance with protecting the wildlife habitats.

### **Usage**

- 5.6 Just over a quarter (25%) of respondents to the street survey have visited a nature area in the previous 12 months or whilst visiting the area. This figure is much higher amongst visitors (68%) than residents (17%), which probably reflects the popularity of the Peak District National Park and linked countryside as a visitor attraction.
- 5.7 Almost three quarters (70%) of residents that have visited a nature area in the previous twelve months have accessed such provision within the Sub-region only. A small proportion (5%) travelled outside of the Sub-region to do so whilst the remaining (25%) access natural areas both inside and outside of the Peak Sub-region. The proportion of residents visiting nature areas is highest in High Peak, out of the National Park, (38%) and Derbyshire Dales, in of the National Park, (25%).
- 5.8 Over a third (39%) of residents who visited nature areas in the previous twelve months do so frequently, once a week or more. The majority (82%) visit nature areas at least once a month indicating their importance as recreational resources.

Figure 5.1: Frequency of usage of natural areas in the previous 12 months



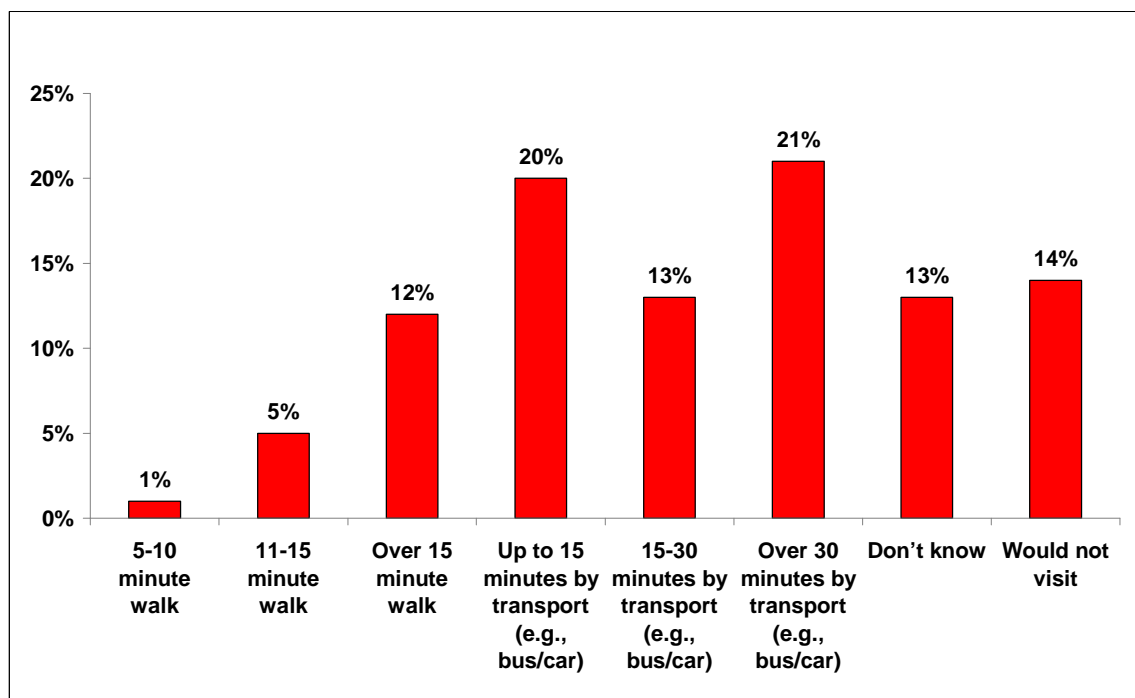


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### Accessibility

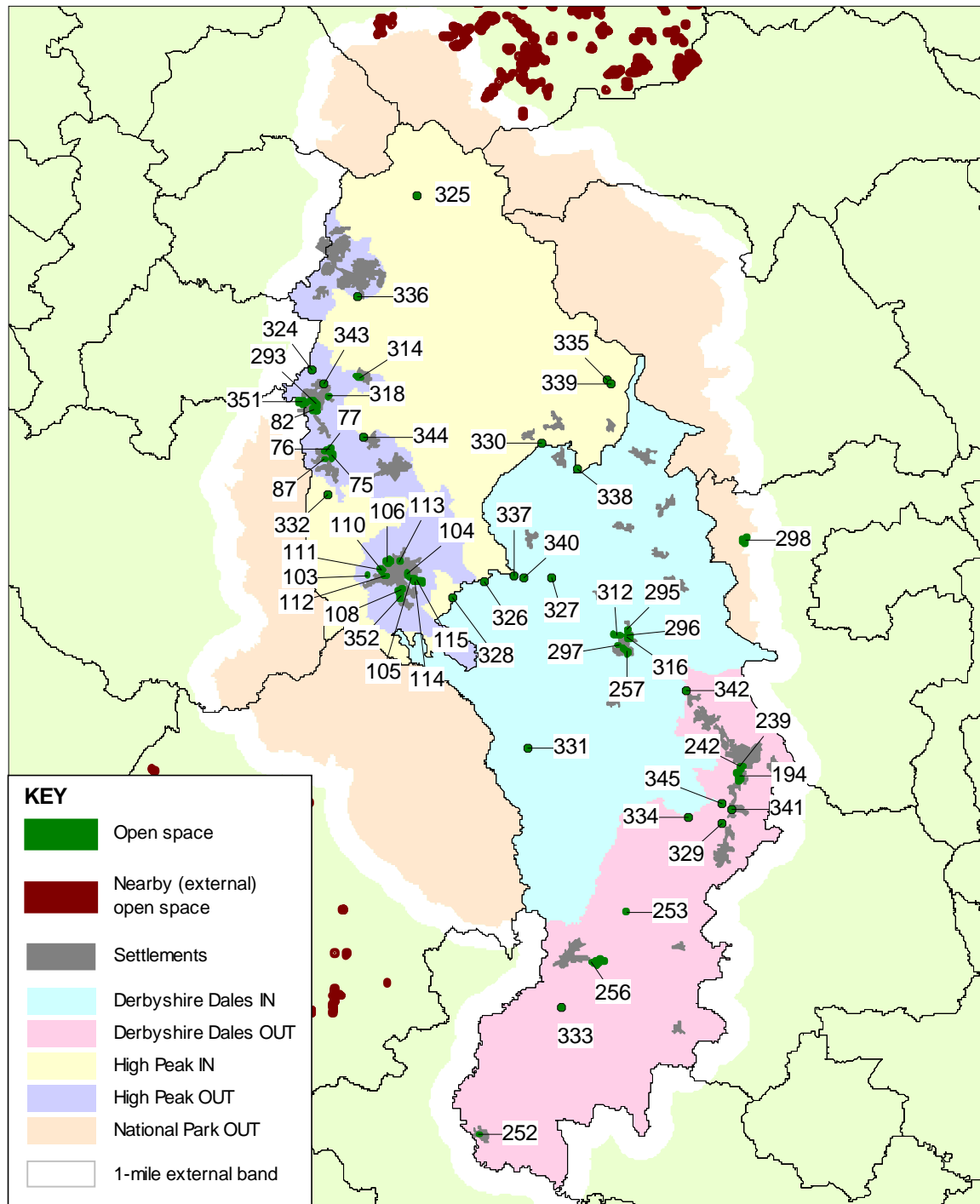
5.9 The street survey indicates that both residents of and visitors to the Sub-region are most likely to use transport to access natural areas (54%). Reflecting the rural nature of the Sub-region almost one quarter (23%) of residents state that they are willing to travel up to 15 minutes by transport. As would be expected the majority of visitors (67%) are willing to travel a significant distance (up to 30 minutes by transport) to access provision.

Figure 5.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a nature area



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Figure 5.3: Natural and semi-natural greenspaces mapped against settlement areas



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Key to sites mapped:

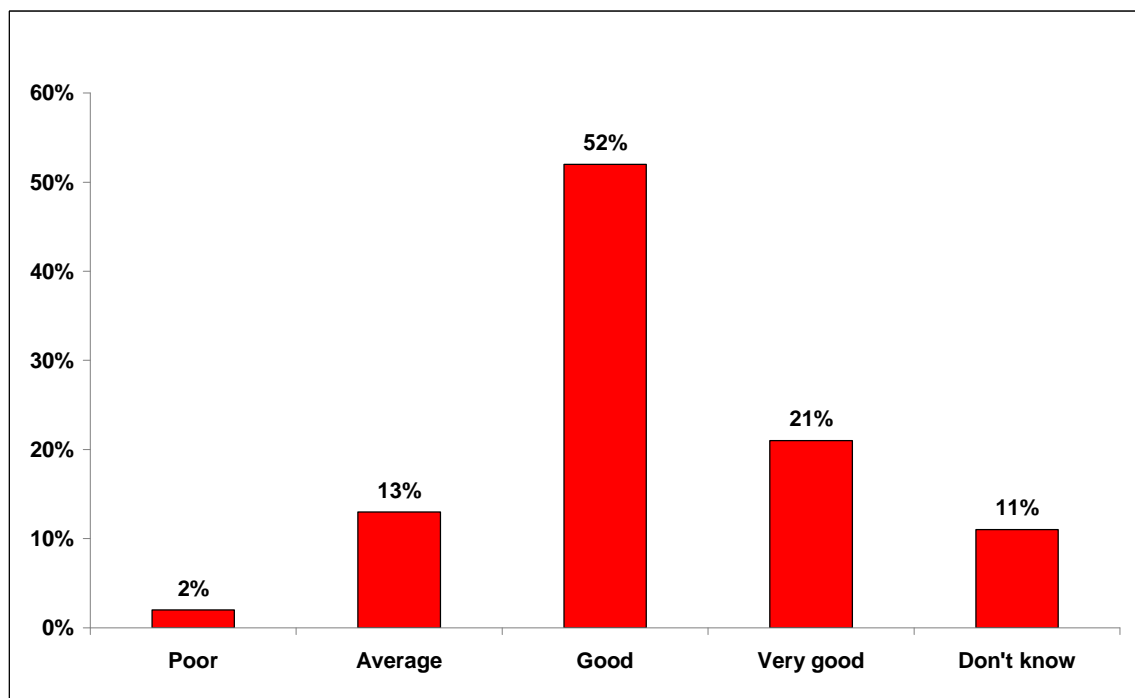
KKP Ref	Site	KKP Ref	Site
75	Bings Wood	330	Hadfields Quarry
76	Bingswood Industrial Estate Recreation Area	331	Hartington Meadows
77	Hackerley Clough	332	Hillbridge and Park Wood
82	Goytside Meadows LNR	333	Holly Wood
87	Brookfield Pond LNR	334	Hopton Quarry
103	Shay Lodge	335	Ladybower Wood
104	Millbank	336	Long Clough
105	Ashwood Dale Part 2	337	Miller's Dale
106	Corbar Woods	338	Overdale
108	Sherbrook Plantation	339	Priddock Wood
110	Brickyard Plantation	340	Priestcliffe Lees
111	Gadley Plantation	341	Rose End Meadows
112	Wye Head Close	342	Rowsley Sidings
113	Hogshaw Wood	343	Watford Lodge LNR
114	Lovers Leap	344	Stubbins Park LNR
115	Ashwood Dale	345	Dunsley Meadow LNR
194	High Tor Pleasure Grounds	351	Mousley Bottom LNR
239	Knowleston Pl. footpath	352	Ferneydale Grassland LNR
242	Swan House Grass Area		
252	Doveridge Pond/grass Area		
253	Madge Hill Woodland Area		
256	Bradley Wood		
257	Catcliffe Woodland		
293	The Torrs Riverside Park		
295	Open space on Baslow Road, opposite Aldern Way, Bakewell		
296	Open space on Castle Mount Crescent, Bakewell		
297	Grants Field		
298	Burrs Wood		
312	Endcliff Wood		
314	Bluebell Wood LNR		
316	Castle Hill		
318	Hawk Road, New Mills		
324	Broadhurst Edge Wood		
325	Brockholes Wood		
326	Chee Dale		
327	Cramside Wood		
328	Deep Dale and Topley Pike		
329	Gang Mine		

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- 5.10 The availability of nature areas is rated as good or very good by almost three quarters of respondents (73%). A significant percentage of both residents (70%) and visitors (92%) share this perception.
- 5.11 No visitors, and only a very small proportion of residents (2%) rates availability as poor. These all reside in the High Peak, outside of the National Park, area.

Figure 5.4: Availability of natural and semi-natural greenspaces



- 5.12 Supporting the findings of the street survey and reflecting the mainly rural nature of the Peak Sub-region, consultation highlights that residents are generally of the opinion that there is sufficient access to natural/semi-natural open space. The ‘countryside is on the doorstep’ and therefore perceived access to “naturalness” is considered to be excellent. Residents frequently refer to the Peak District National Park and access to the countryside which appears to enhance perceptions of the availability of natural and semi natural provision.
- 5.13 Consultation highlights that the high level of access to natural/semi-natural sites is highly regarded by residents in terms of the recreational and natural play opportunities offered. In the more rural settlements there is less demand for equipped formal play provision and evidence that children utilise the countryside as a play resource e.g. den building. Although this does not eliminate the need to provide play areas for children in populated areas it is important to recognise the benefits offered by sites with natural elements.
- 5.14 There is significant woodland provision in and around Buxton which is available for public access. Buxton Civic Association owns 200 acres of woodland, split into ten areas, which have been gifted as public open spaces. The most significant is Buxton Country Park woodlands; which is an SSSI. The Association has produced a Woodlands Forest Plan outlining the key elements of each site and how it intends to maintain and enhance the value of these sites, both in terms of nature and public access. Consultation indicates that the woodlands in Buxton are a valuable

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resource to the local community and contribute to the overall identify of the town. Although they are considered to be in a good condition the Civic Association is constantly looking at improving access and interpretation to encourage usage. They are all well used by both residents and visitors to the area.

### **Management**

- 5.15 There is a wide range of land ownership/management of natural/semi-natural open space provision throughout the Sub-region. Managing 'agencies' include, HPBC, DDDC, DCC, PDNPA, National Trust, DWT and voluntary/community organisations. A significant proportion of management of natural and semi-natural open spaces takes place through partnerships between these organisations and voluntary sector groups.
- 5.16 Numerous management plans and policies are in place across the different managing organisations guiding the strategic direction of provision. Each of the nature reserves managed by DWT has a 5 year management plan to ensure that the individual specific habitats and features are retained and protected.
- 5.17 The management and maintenance work undertaken by the PDNPA rangers, in partnership with landowners and managers of natural/semi-natural sites within the National Park area e.g. Bakewell Town Council is highly commended.

### **Quality**

- 5.18 The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspaces in the Peak Sub-region area.

*Table 5.2: Quality scores for natural and semi-natural greenspaces sites by analysis area*

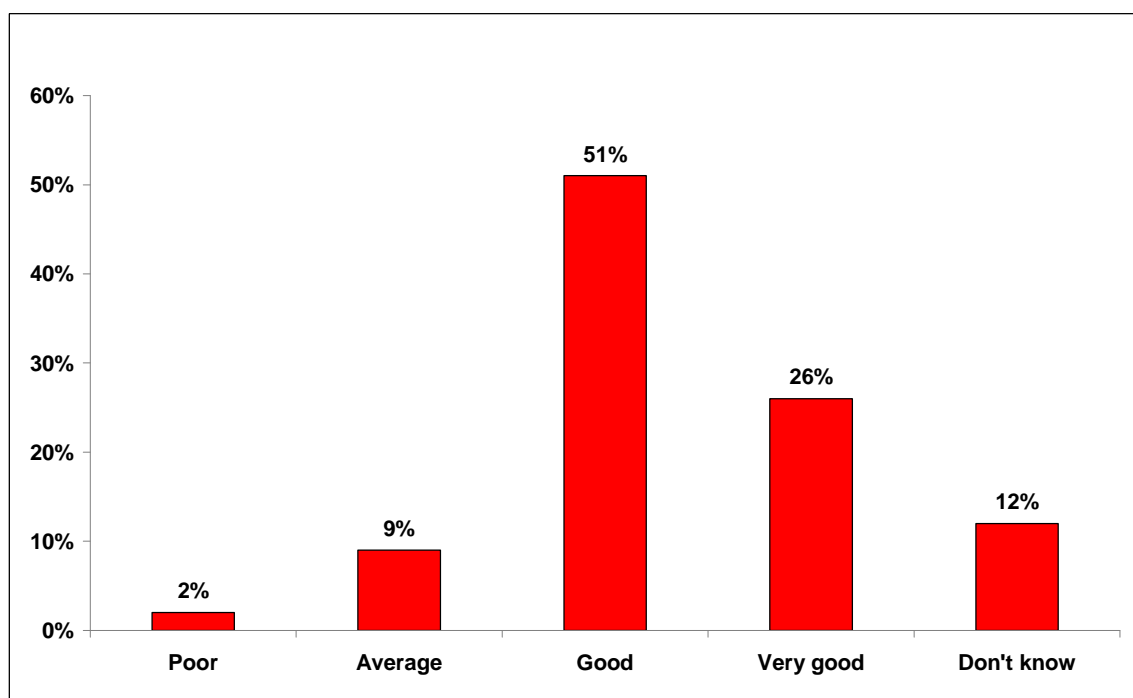
Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 66%	Above 66%
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	132	21%	32%	38%	17%	6	-
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	132	16%	28%	45%	29%	6	-
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	132	-	-	-	-	-	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	132	14%	30%	66%	52%	18	1
Peak National Park ONLY	132	30%	30%	30%	-	1	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>

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- 5.19 A blanket quality score of 66% (the green flag pass mark) has been applied to natural/semi-natural sites. All but one (Goytside Meadow LNR, New Mills) fall short of this standard. However, consultation and site assessments indicate that the majority of sites are attractive and maintained to a high standard in terms of quality. This suggests that a lower quality threshold may be appropriate for application to this type of provision. This applies particularly because of the varied nature of such sites. As an example there are sites where education and interpretation opportunities would be inappropriate whereas at other sites, such as LNR's, these facilities would be expected.
- 5.20 The only quality issue to be raised during consultation relates to abuse of sites by off-road motorised vehicles. As noted earlier, quad bikes and motorbikes are an issue across many open spaces in the Peak Sub-region and natural/semi-natural sites are particularly vulnerable. Usage is prevalent within woodland sites and access land, resulting in damage and deterring visitors. There is demand from user groups for greater access controls (where possible and not contrary to Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance) and greater enforcement in partnership with the Police to tackle the problem.
- 5.21 Over three quarters (77%) of respondents rate the quality of nature areas as good or very good. The majority of residents across the Sub-region (73%) consider the quality of provision to be good or very good and nearly all (98%) of visitors share this opinion. A very small proportion of residents (3%) rate the quality of provision to be poor; all of these reside in the High Peak outside the National Park.

Figure 5.5: Quality of nature areas



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### Value

5.22 The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspaces in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 5.3: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores				
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	110	6%	15%	26%	20%
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	110	11%	20%	27%	16%
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	110	-	-	-	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	110	10%	22%	38%	28%
Peak National Park ONLY	110	17%	17%	17%	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>32%</b>

5.23 All sites classified as natural/semi-natural scored for at least one element of value. Recognising the landscape, ecological and education benefits offered by sites the mean score for the Sub-region lies at 20% (the suggested threshold to be applied to the development of standards).

5.24 The rural nature and naturalness of the Peak Sub-region, in particular within the National Park area, is a valuable contributor to the identity and attractiveness of the Sub-region. Consultation illustrates several instances where provision of natural/semi-natural sites is considered to contribute and be an important element to the identity of an area e.g. the woodlands in Buxton. There is also a number of areas of natural green space located between Darley Dale and Matlock, which are considered to be very valuable to the visual aesthetics of the area, and which are highly regarded by the local community.

5.25 As well as providing important nature conservation and biodiversity value, many sites, classified as natural/semi-natural open spaces are well used for recreational purposes and are a valuable open space resource for communities across the Peak Sub-region. These include Buxton Country Park in Buxton, Grants Field, Bakewell and Bradley Wood in Ashbourne.

5.26 Buxton Country Park, managed by the Buxton Civic Association, is an example of a natural/semi-natural open space perceived primarily as a 'visitor destination' as it is the location of Pooles Cavern and hosts a 'Go Ape' high ropes course. However, consultation highlights that this is also well used by local residents and considered, by many residents of the Peak Sub-region, to be a high quality and valuable site for outdoor recreation activity such as walking and cycling.

- 5.27 Consultation identifies that woodlands are popular areas with young people for informal recreation as they offer creative/adventurous play opportunities, often on the fringes of the local community.
- 5.28 A large number of natural/semi-natural open spaces across the Sub-region also offer high historical/heritage value e.g. Castle Hill in Bakewell.

***Community involvement***

- 5.29 There is good community involvement in the management of natural and semi-natural open spaces across the Peak Sub-region area. A number of projects, such as the Dene Fields in Matlock, encourage local school children, community groups and residents to get involved with enhancing sites for both local biodiversity and generic benefits. The projects work towards creating high quality and well used open spaces that offer environmental education opportunities and promote healthy living. Ferneydale Grassland LNR has also received a grant to help enable school children from Harpur Hill Primary School and community groups to undertake site enhancements and environmental education work.
- 5.30 Dene Fields is an ancient wildflower meadow in Matlock. The site is leased by Matlock Town Council from DDDC. The Town Council is working in partnership with Groundwork Derbyshire and the local community it and increase local appreciation of what is offered. A group, made up of local residents, has been established to protect, maintain and promote the site. It regularly runs conservation tasks and countryside management courses which are reportedly popular. The Town Council has recently obtained permission to create a wildlife pond within Dene Fields which will increase its wildlife value even further. There are also aspirations to engage local schools in education activities at the site.
- 5.31 Volunteer groups are a valuable resource contributing greatly to the physical habitat management and conservation tasks undertaken at a number of open spaces across the Sub-region. Through the different partnership organisations operating in the Peak District, there is extensive community engagement in the management of natural/semi-natural open space. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), the National Trust and DWT proactively involve local community groups and schools in improvement work projects within the nature reserves and woodlands. These external organisations also manage an extensive environmental education programme that aims to engage schools and community members in issues around nature conservation and the wider environment. In addition, the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers undertake over 3000 conservation projects within the National Park annually. These include tasks such as tree planting, hedge laying, nature reserve management and habitat protection.



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### *Summary of site consultation*

5.32 This section collates issues raised during consultation regarding provision of natural and semi-natural greenspaces in the Peak Sub-region. This is presented alongside site visit quality and value scores for comparison. It is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers sites raised during consultation.

Site	Local Authority	Comments
Howard Park, Glossop	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	The 'friends of' group has an aspiration to develop a nature/wildlife area within the site linking with the potential offered by the lake within the Park. There is opportunity to work in partnership with DWT.
Grants Field, Bakewell	Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	This town council owned and maintained site is considered to be in good condition. Resident consultation highlights that it is well used, particularly by dog walkers. There is potential for provision of adventurous and natural play opportunities to be investigated.
Castle Hill, Bakewell	Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	This site has high heritage value, being the location of Bakewell Castle. Consultation indicates that it is a 'hidden secret' and there is lack of awareness about the site among both visitors and residents. There is demand for increased interpretation and signage to promote its history and to encourage people to visit and appreciate its heritage.
Endcliff Woods, Bakewell	Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	Consultation and site assessment identifies the need for footpath clearance to improve access. Usage is currently limited. However, encouraging greater use is not recommended due to the presence of a steep drop onto the A6 which presents a safety concern.
Ball Cross Wood, Bakewell	Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	This is part owned by the Town Council and part by Haddon Estate. The site is open access and is a well used resource for recreational pursuits such as walking and shooting. It suffers with usage by off-road motorised vehicles which does deter access by other users due to noise nuisance and safety concerns.  Consultation identifies potential for it to be utilised to offer adventurous/natural play opportunities, particularly as there is a perceived lack of such provision for children and young people in Bakewell.
Catcliffe Wood, Bakewell	Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	There is demand for upgrades to be made to path surface to improve access. This is a locally well used site via which people can access Bakewell town centre from residential areas located at the top of the town. It is also a very significant open space and a key visual amenity for the local area.

**Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary**

- ◀ There are 52 open spaces classified as natural/semi-natural greenspaces across the Sub-region, totalling just over 380 hectares. Three sites, all DWT reserves, are classified as restricted access.
- ◀ Semi-natural sites have one of the largest spreads in terms of quality scores across the Sub-region. This reflects the variety of maintenance and upkeep of such sites. However, it is important to note that natural/semi-natural sites often fail to score against criteria such as bins and benches due to their natural aspect.
- ◀ There is high value placed upon natural/semi-natural sites due to their biodiversity and ecological benefits. These sites are also valued for the variety of opportunities that they offer to users.
- ◀ The availability of natural/semi-natural open spaces is regarded to be good. Residents express a perception that the 'countryside is on the doorstep' and therefore access to "naturalness" is considered to be excellent. Residents frequently make reference to the Peak District National Park and access to the countryside.
- ◀ Consultation and street survey analysis suggests that residents and visitors are willing to travel between 15 and 30 minutes by transport (bus/car) to access nature areas.
- ◀ Usage of quad bikes and motorbikes impact on the quality and usage of natural/semi-natural open spaces, in particular woodland sites and on access and common land, resulting in damage and deterring visitors. Demand exists for greater access controls and greater enforcement.

**PART 6: GREEN CORRIDORS**

**Introduction**

6.1 The typology of green corridors, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes sites that offer opportunities for ‘walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration’. This also includes river and canal banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes within towns and cities, pedestrian paths within towns and cities, rights of way and permissive paths.

**Key issues**

***Current provision***

6.2 In total five green corridors are identified within this study across the Peak Sub-region. In addition, there is an extensive Public Rights of Way (PROW) network, the total length of which is broken down by the Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) as follows:

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Footpaths</b>	<b>Bridleways</b>	<b>Byways</b>	<b>Total (km)</b>
High Peak	802 (84%)	129 (14%)	26 (2%)	<b>957</b> <b>(100%)</b>
Derbyshire Dales	1494 (90%)	152 (9%)	18 (1%)	<b>1664</b> <b>(100%)</b>
National Park area of Derbyshire	1258 (86%)	172 (12%)	32 (2%)	<b>1462</b> <b>(100%)</b>

6.3 In addition to the above, a proportion of the Staffordshire PROW network also falls within the study area. The Staffordshire RoWIP does not identify the percentage breakdown of the network to identify the exact amount within the Peak Sub-region, but is thought to be extensive, as the majority of this area is open countryside. However, there are less strategic trails/green corridors, with the most significant route being the Manifold Valley track.

6.4 As DCC is still in the process of completing and digitising the PROW network for the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales areas of the County the above figures are used as a guide only. Although there appears to be significant PROW coverage across the Sub-region figures demonstrate the limited extent of bridleway provision. Bridleways make up only 14% of the PROW network in the High Peak area and even less (9%) of the Derbyshire Dales network. It is recommended that, once the definitive map for Derbyshire is complete, the information relevant to the Peak Sub-region should be incorporated in the study.

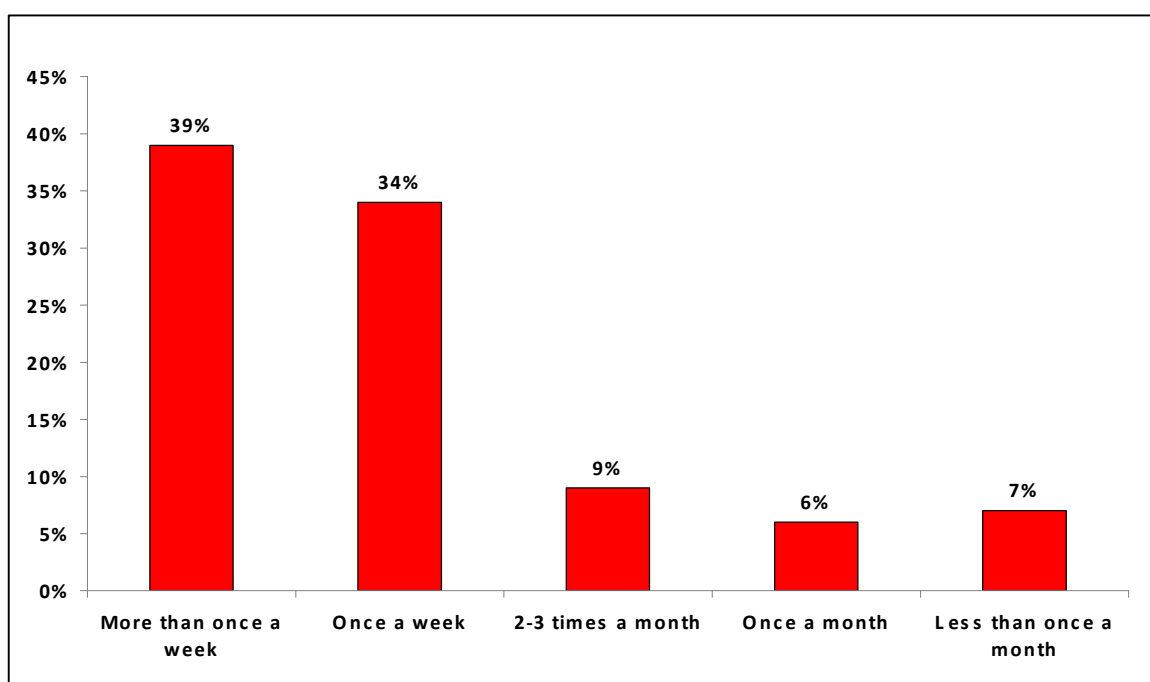
6.5 For the purposes of consultation PROW are incorporated into this aspect of the study.

6.6 To provide more meaningful site assessment data, some long sites such as Derwent Valley Heritage Way, High Peak Trail and Sett Valley Trail have been assessed in sections. KKP used road junctions and natural break points to sub-divided the routes.

### Usage

- 6.7 Usage of foot and cycle paths by residents of the Peak Sub-region is moderate with almost a third using these green corridors. Despite overall usage being moderate, 73% of those who do use foot and cycle paths in the Sub-region do so at least once a week. The remaining 5% did not know/use foot and cycle paths.
- 6.8 The greatest proportion of people who access foot and cycle paths at least once a week live in the High Peak area which falls outside the National Park. 67% of people who use foot and cycle paths less than once a month are females.

Figure 6.1: Frequency of usage of footpaths/cyclepaths in the previous 12 months



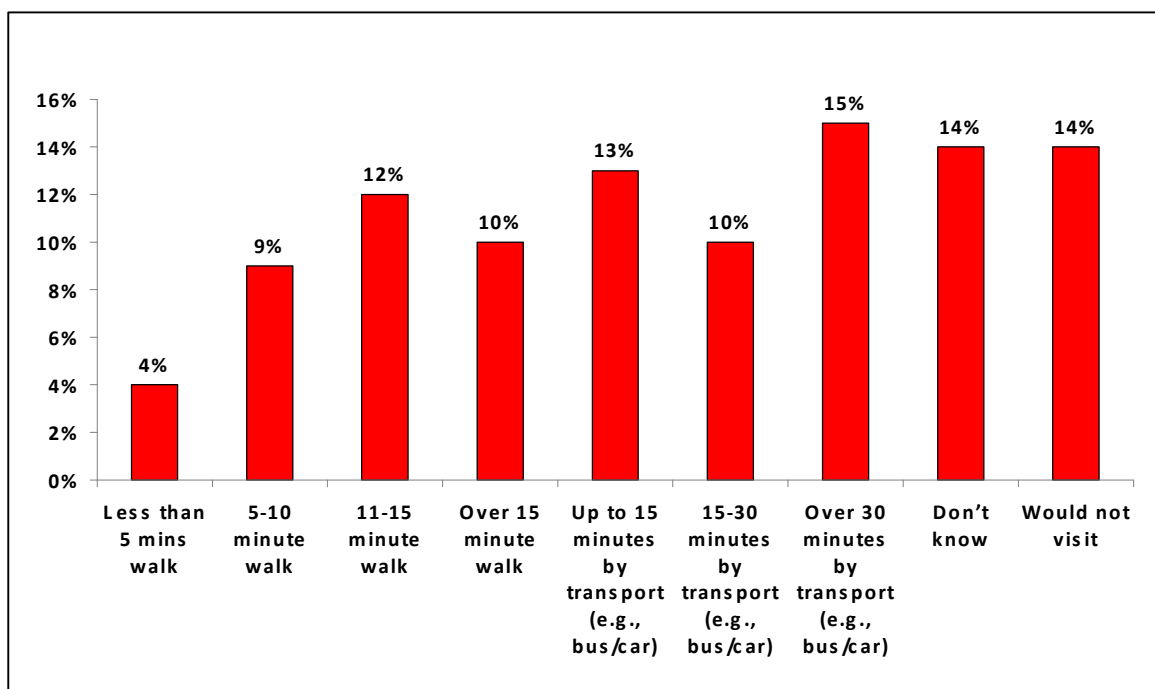
- 6.9 In 2004 a survey was sent out to the 8000 members of the Citizens Panel across the county of Derbyshire to feed into the Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP). The aim of the survey was to establish residents' views on the countryside and to find out how the PROW network across the County is used. The response rate of 63% (5049 returns) justified and highlights a number of key issues to feed into the RoWIP.
- 6.10 Results from the survey showed that walking/rambling is a popular pastime for residents. In High Peak and Derbyshire Dales 53% and 58.1% respectively, of panel members said they use paths at least once a week.
- 6.11 Consultation highlights a need for better use of the PROW network to improve non-car based linkages to local facilities and services such as schools, work places and open spaces.

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### Accessibility

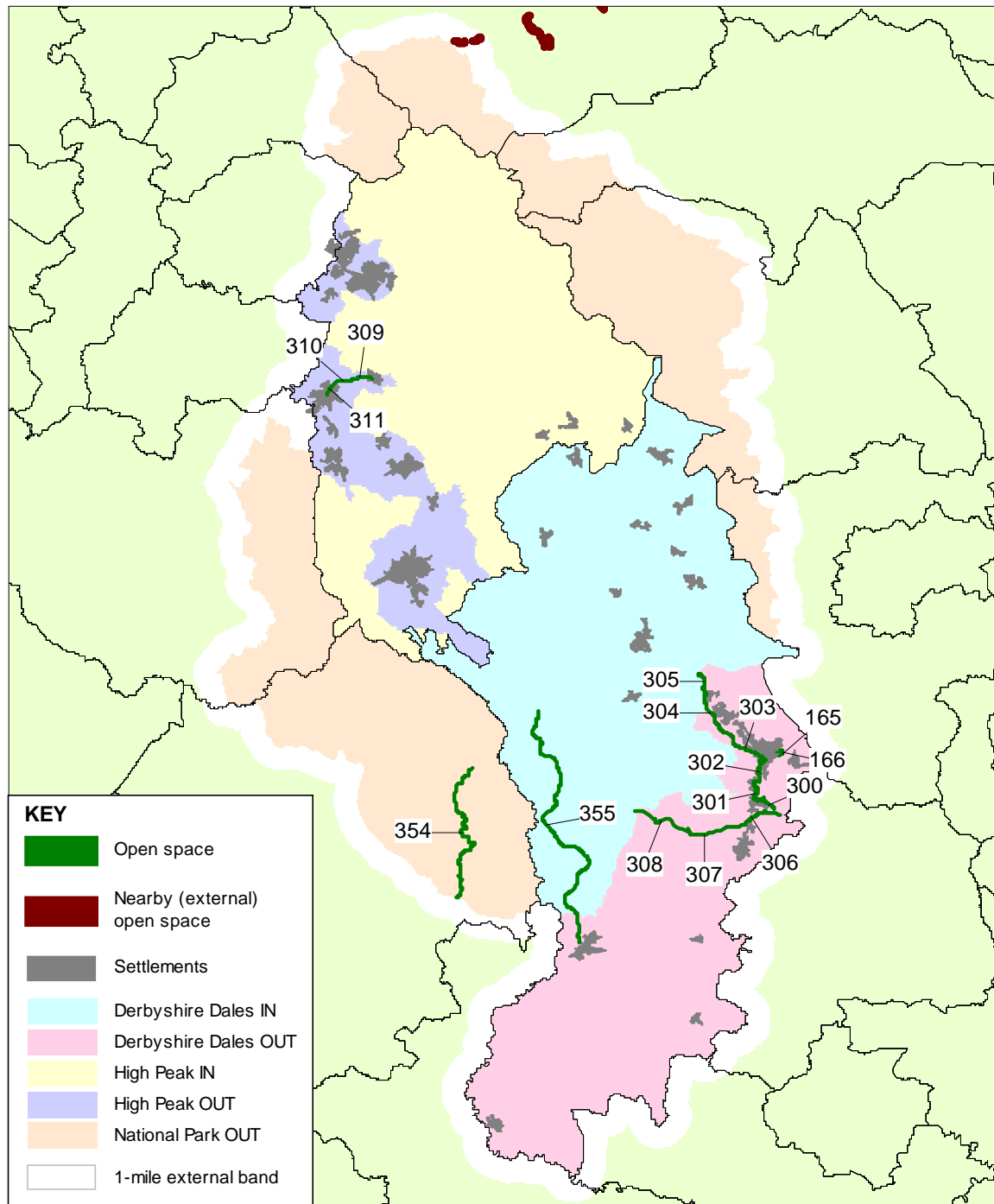
- 6.12 It is difficult to assess green corridors against catchment areas due to their nature and usage, as often they provide access to other open spaces. However, as shown below, 38% of respondents will travel by car or bus to reach a footpath or cycle path. On further investigation, it can be seen that there are marked differences between the times that visitors and residents of the Sub-region are willing to travel to access foot and cycle paths. For example, 50% of visitors would travel by motorised transport for over 30 minutes but only 7% of residents are prepared to travel the same distance.
- 6.13 14% of those surveyed would not visit a green corridor of this nature, of which the majority (96%) are residents of the Sub-region, the largest proportion reside in the High Peak area, outside the National Park.

Figure 6.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a footpath/cyclepath



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Figure 6.3: Green corridors mapped against settlement areas



6.14 As the County PROW information is currently unavailable electronically, only sites identified as 'off road' green corridors have been mapped. In addition, the Pennine Bridleway runs through the Peak Sub-region and a section of the Trans Pennine Trail runs through the north section of the National Park as well as the Monsal Trail, which follows the path of the former Midland Railway from Wye Dale to a point beyond Bakewell. These provide high quality, accessible recreational routes linking the Sub-Region but have not been mapped due to problems encountered with digitising these routes.

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*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Reference	Site
165	Hurst rise footpath
166	Wishingstone footpath
300	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 1, Cromford Canal
301	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 2)
302	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 3)
303	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 4)
304	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 5)
305	Derwent Valley Heritage Way (part 6)
306	High Peak Trail (part 1)
307	High Peak Trail (part 2)
308	High Peak Trail (part 3)
309	Sett Valley Trail (part 1)
310	Sett Valley Trail (part 2)
311	Sett Valley Trail (part 3)
354	The Manifold Track
355	Tissington Trail

- 6.15 Users report provision of PROW across the Sub-region to be good or just right in terms of quantity and there is demand for this level to be sustained. Main concerns identified during consultation revolve around the limited bridleway network. Users highlight that the bridleway network across the Sub-region is heavily used and is very important to communities. Provision in the Hayfield area is considered to be particularly good, whereas provision in the Flash area is considered to be poor.
- 6.16 A number of highly promoted and well-used routes pass through the Peak Sub-region. These include National Cycle Route 68 (Pennine Bridleway) and 54 (High Peak Trail). These links settlements and the countryside and attract users from outside of the Peak Sub-region. There is potential to develop the Pennine Bridleway route through and around the Glossop area, where there is considered to be a gap in the network. Consultation also identified an opportunity to open an area around Gamesley Railway sidings (off Glossop Road) if negotiations with the landowner prove successful.
- 6.17 Consultation identifies that PROW users consider the limited bridleway network in the Peak Sub-region to be fragmented, impeding usage. There is demand for the connectivity of the bridleway network to be improved through upgrade and re-designation of intersecting footpaths to bridleway status. Users express desire for priority to be given to those footpaths that, if upgraded to bridleway status, would create off-road circular horse riding and off road cycling provision and linkages, for which there is identified demand. Users and officers hope that improvements to the bridleway network will be initiated and guided via implementation of the Derbyshire rights of way improvement plan (RoWIP).

- 6.18 Provision of footpaths is felt to be sufficient in terms of quantity. However, as with bridleways, there is user demand for the network to be better connected with improved linkages, particularly to create off-road circular routes and routes that reach a destination and link settlements. This is one of the main concerns expressed by users and there is demand for this to be a priority.
- 6.19 Derbyshire Ramblers, on behalf of DCC, undertakes an inspection of a random 5% of the County wide PROW network for BVPI 178. This covers a number of issues that affect the ability of the public to use the routes with ease, such as signage, surface condition, obstructions and the condition of gates and stiles. Although BVPI 178 ceased to be a national measure of performance from the end of 2007 the Derbyshire Ramblers continue to undertake the survey to feed into priorities for the County. Consultation indicates that there is a noticeable difference between the standard of PROW provision within and outside of the National Park. The current score BVPI 178 score for the network falling within the PDNP is high at 80% whilst the network falling outside of the PDNP receives a lower score of 50%. The likely reason for this is that the National Park area benefits from the work undertaken by Peak Park Rangers and receives higher priority due to it being a tourist attraction. However, although residents of the Peak Sub-region and users of the PROW network recognise the reasoning behind this and the importance that high quality access to the National Park plays, in terms of attracting tourism and generating economic benefits to the area, there is demand for DCC to raise the standard and accessibility of the network that falls outside of the National Park. This is particularly important given that the majority of the population across the Peak Sub-region resides outside the National Park boundary. There is a need to encourage these residents to utilise more localised provision rather than using transport to access provision within the National Park area.
- 6.20 Consultation suggests that there is demand for greater promotion of green corridors through better signage and waymarking on the ground in order to provide a more connected, accessible network. The Derwent Valley Heritage Way is a good example of how a well-managed, well-publicised public right of way can be beneficial to the area and be well used as a tourist attraction
- 6.21 DCC is striving to improve access for all on the green corridor network throughout the County. The County RoWIP outlines the County Council's commitment to improving access for all users. This is in response to consultation findings feeding into the RoWIP, which identifies demand for greater information provision about the accessibility of routes. Consultation also indicates that gates and stiles can pose a problem, particularly 'kissing gates' that are too narrow. Peak Park rangers are, however, very aware of the requirements and most new gates are suitable. A resultant issue is that this can lead to improved access for motorised vehicles increasing the likelihood of illegal usage.
- 6.22 Users of motorised vehicles e.g. scrambler bikes, are often involved in a genuine recreational pastime and should, thus, be recognised users of the PROW network. A number of sites within the Peak Sub-region e.g. Victory Quarry in Dove Holes, provide official facilities and trails for users of motorised vehicles. These have reduced the level of illegal use of the PROW network to some extent but not been eliminated it. There is demand from users of motorised vehicles for the creation and identification of new routes available to them and for improved information about, and mapping, of the network of unsealed minor highways.

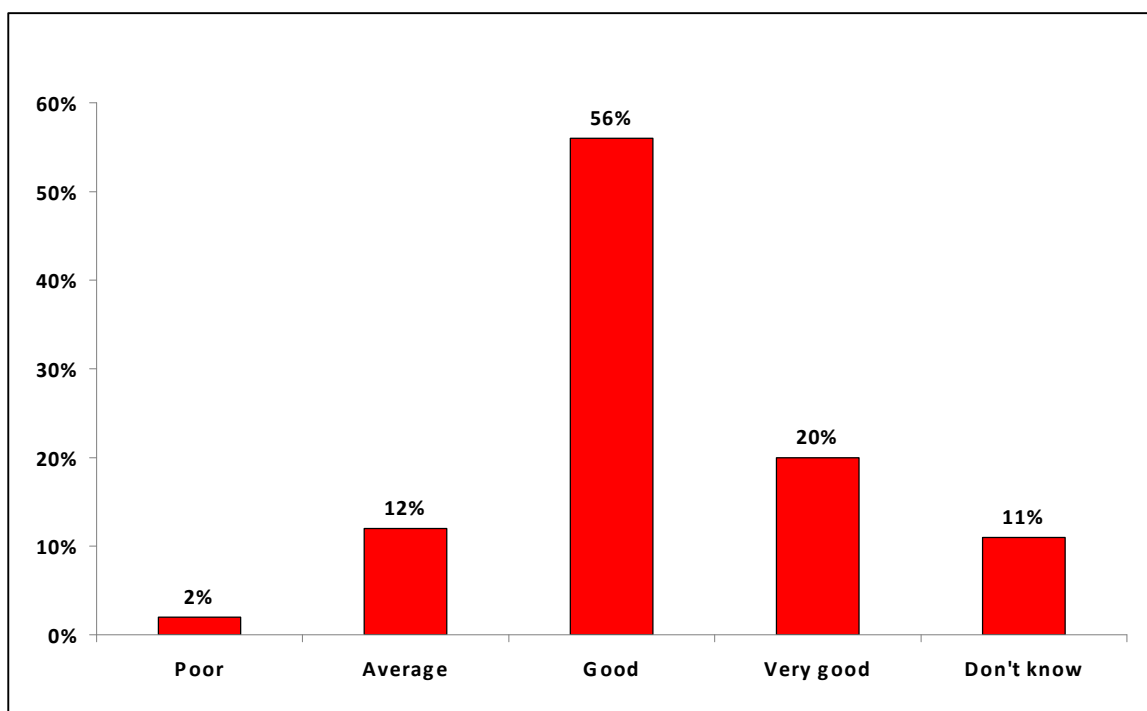


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- 6.23 The work that the Peak Park rangers undertake to facilitate access to the countryside and PROW for disabled ramblers is commended. The Disabled Ramblers group relies on the rangers to help identify suitable routes to use because of their extensive knowledge of the trails. The Group states that there are a number of trails in the Peak Sub-region which are considered to be particularly good in terms of accessibility, including High Peak Trail, Monsal Trail and Derwent Reservoir.
- 6.24 More than three quarters of the respondents think that the availability of footpaths and cycle paths in the Peak Sub-region is good, 71% of which are residents. Visitors have a slightly higher opinion of availability and 94% feel it is good/very good. Of those who don't know about the availability of the green corridors, just over 25% are females over the age of 60, indicating a need to raise awareness within this group.

Figure 6.4: Availability of footpaths/cyclepaths



### **Management**

- 6.25 Both the practical and legal management of the PROW network within the Peak Sub-region falls to the PROW team within the Countryside Service of DCC. As a highway, surveying and access authority, DCC is responsible for protecting and maintaining the network and keeping the definitive map up to date. To effectively deliver this DCC works in partnership with other organisations e.g. PDNPA, communities and voluntary groups. PDNP rangers contribute to routine PROW maintenance and are particularly valuable in dealing with conflicts arising between different users, land managers and conservation interests.

6.26 The Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) covers High Peak, Derbyshire Dales and the area of the PDNP that falls within the county of Derbyshire. It identifies a number of actions to be undertaken over a five year period to improve the quantity, quality and accessibility of the PROW network across Derbyshire and meet the needs of users, as identified through the extensive consultation that underpins it. A vision has been set out “to have an integrated, well managed and inclusive rights of way and access network which encourages responsible enjoyment by residents and visitors, is sustainable, safe and in keeping with the country’s heritage, landscape and wildlife interest, promotes healthier lifestyles and helps support tourism and the local economy”. To achieve this vision the RoWIP sets out the following five aims:

- ◀ Ensure that the existing and future PROW network is open and available for use.
- ◀ Provide an up-to-date and widely available definitive map and statement.
- ◀ Provide a more connected, safe and accessible network suitable for all users.
- ◀ Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network.
- ◀ Encourage greater community involvement in managing local rights of way.

#### *Greenways Strategy*

6.27 Greenways are ‘pathways’ that enable people to get around the District without having to resort to motorised transport. They also protect and enhance habitats providing corridors for wildlife movement. Greenway networks are built around ‘trip generators’ linking people to work places, schools and leisure activities. They provide safe, attractive opportunities for people to become more active and healthy.

6.28 DCC is focused upon raising the profile of greenways within Derbyshire and has recently produced a greenway strategy. For this to be successful partnership work is essential to bring together countryside, PROW, transport and health initiatives. Strategic management of the different initiatives is essential so that they can work together to achieve common goals. For example, an extensive and well planned greenway network can contribute to many agendas; improving health, encouraging green transport, enhancing the environment and conserving and creating wildlife habitats. It can also contribute towards the liveability agenda, which is working to create ‘cleaner, safer, greener’ street and places.

6.29 There are now over 270km of greenways in Derbyshire; the majority built since 2000. It is proposed that efforts will continue to develop a cohesive, interconnected network of routes across the county and beyond, providing opportunities for partnership and cross boundary working. To date 115.31 km of greenways have been completed within High Peak and Derbyshire Dales.

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### Quality

6.30 The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for green corridors in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 6.2: Quality scores for green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	spread	Below 66%	Above 66%
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	56	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	56	18%	57%	95%	77%	7	4
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	56	-	-	-	-	-	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	56	66%	88%	98%	32%	-	3
Peak National Park ONLY	56	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

6.31 User consultation identifies that the provision of PROW, in terms of quality, is considered to be variable throughout the Sub-region. Maintenance priorities is felt to targeted at PROW with greater public access/usage e.g. within the National Park. Although users consider this to be appropriate, given the importance of the National Park for tourism, there are concerns that some less used PROW are deteriorating in quality. This impacts negatively on the levels of usage and leads to them becoming at risk of being lost.

6.32 User consultation indicates that the high quality of provision within the Peak District National Park (PDNP) raises expectations about the quality and extent of provision that should be available outside the PDNP area. A number of user groups believe that, in comparison, this falls short, in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, when compared to provision within the PDNP. As the definitive map is currently being digitised to cover the whole Peak Sub-region, both within and outside of the National Park boundary, there is opportunity for greater partnership work to ensure that quality routes do not cease at the National Park boundary. This is important in encouraging visitors to the National Park to explore other areas within the wider Peak Sub-region.

6.33 The condition of stiles is also raised as a key concern and there is demand for improved maintenance and upkeep by landowners and greater enforcement by DCC.

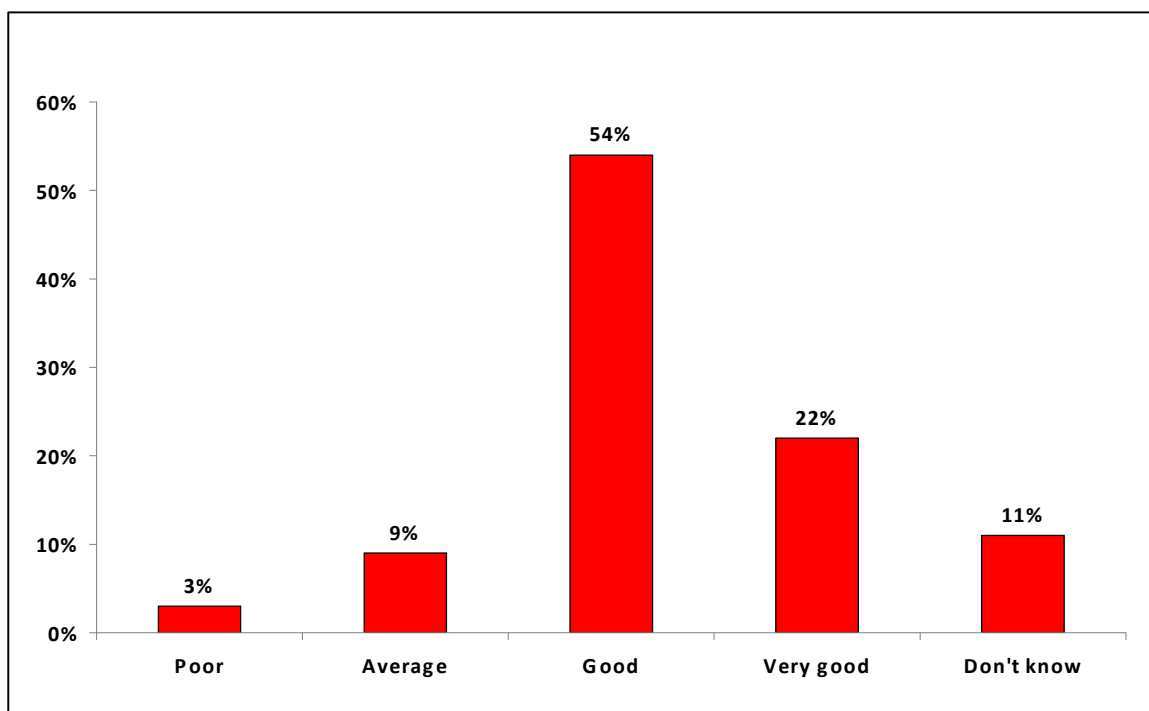
6.34 Consultation points to the main surface quality issues being the result of poor drainage, with natural surfacing being prone to flooding and erosion, and/or misuse of PROW by vehicles and horses. The use of footpaths by other users such as horse riders and motorbikes results in surfaces being churned up.

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- 6.35 The majority of users commend the improvements being made to the quality of the PROW network in the Peak Sub-region. In particular walkers have noted improved signage and way marking of routes. Although significant advances are being made in the network's upkeep and maintenance, there remains a need for continual improvement and investment. Overgrowth is an issue that walkers report encountering on less popular and well-used routes. There is demand for greater enforcement and deterrent measures to reduce the impact of usage by scrambler bikes, quad bikes and 4x4 vehicles. This results in the surfaces of PROW being churned up impacting upon the route quality and impeding usage for others, especially horse riders who do not want to use these tracks for fear of horses falling or tearing a muscle on the disturbed surface. As commented earlier, users of motorised vehicles are often pursuing a genuine recreational pastime. However, consultation indicates that illegal activity appears to be becoming more organised and is a particular problem in the Flash area. There is, therefore, demand for greater education, appropriate access controls and enforcement of the illegal usage.
- 6.36 In general the quality of the green corridors within the Peak Sub-region is considered to be good, as shown in the figure below. Once again visitors appear to think more highly of provision and 95% of those surveyed consider quality to be good/very good compared to 72% of residents. Both results are very positive for the Sub-region, indicating an overall high level of satisfaction.

Figure 5.5: Quality of green corridors



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### Value

6.37 The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for green corridors in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 6.2: Value scores for green corridors by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores				
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	100	-	-	-	-
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	100	5%	26%	40%	35%
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	100	-	-	-	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	100	29%	31%	35%	6%
Peak National Park ONLY	100	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>35%</b>

6.38 The PROW and Greenway network is a very valuable asset to the Peak Sub-region. The extent of the network provides easy access into the countryside and encourages healthy lifestyles.

### Community involvement

6.39 DCC promotes active community involvement in the management of the PROW network. To ensure that users have the opportunity to input into the management of the PROW in the Peak Sub-region there are two local access forums, Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum and the Peak District Local Access Forum.

6.40 Their primary purpose is to provide advice to the highway authorities and the PDNPA on how to make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open-air recreation. Their intention is to encourage and influence a strategic approach to recreational provision across the Peak Sub-region and both are involved with overseeing the delivery of the RoWIP.

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### **Summary of site consultation**

6.41 This section collates issues raised during consultation regarding provision of green corridors in the Peak Sub-region. It is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers sites raised during consultation which may not, in their entirety, have been assessed for quality and value.

Site	Comments
Waterside Railway and Longdendale Trail	To create a more cohesive route there are plans to connect up the Waterside Railway, partly owned by HPBC, and the Longdendale Trail, which is owned by United Utilities.
Millenium Walkway, Torrs Riverside Park	Consultation highlights a perception that this is an underused site due to limited promotion and awareness.
Cromford and High Peak Railway, Whaley Bridge	Whaley Bridge Town Council has an aspiration to open the disused section of the Cromford and High Peak Railway line that runs through the area. This would provide a high quality and valuable multi-user route as part of the Whaley Bridge Greenway Strategy and would provide a 'safer route' to school. There is a range of different owners across the section of disused line. This currently poses a barrier to working towards a re-instating the line as a multi-user route.
Peak Forest Canal	This is considered to be a very well used route as an alternative to using the road. It is perceived to be safe and of high quality.

#### **Green corridors summary**

- ◀ In total there are five green corridors, split into numerous sections, identified across the Peak Sub-region. In addition there is an extensive PROW network providing opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding.
- ◀ The DCC RoWIP should be followed to guide strategic development of the network.
- ◀ The PROW network is well used with 73% of street survey respondents using footpaths/cyclepaths once a week or more often.
- ◀ Consultation indicates that PROW across the Sub-region is of variable quality, with a noticeable difference in standard between the network within and outside of the National Park. There is also a perception that bridleways require greater attention.
- ◀ Residents suggest that improvements need to be made to the PROW network in terms of connectivity.
- ◀ Consultation and street survey findings suggest that users will travel between 15 and 30 minutes by transport to access green corridors.

**PART 7: AMENITY GREENSPACE**

**Introduction**

7.1 The typology of amenity greenspace, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes sites that offer ‘opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas’ are classed as amenity greenspace. These include informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.’

**Key issues**

***Current provision***

7.2 There are 118 amenity greenspace sites totalling almost 145 hectares of amenity greenspace across the Peak Sub-region. Amenity greenspaces in the Peak Sub-region are most often found in housing estates and function as informal recreation spaces or as open spaces along highways which provide a visual amenity.

*Table 7.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace	
	Number	Size (ha)
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	25	41.58
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	48	56.83
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	10	8.64
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	32	34.34
Peak National Park ONLY	3	3.51
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>144.93</b>

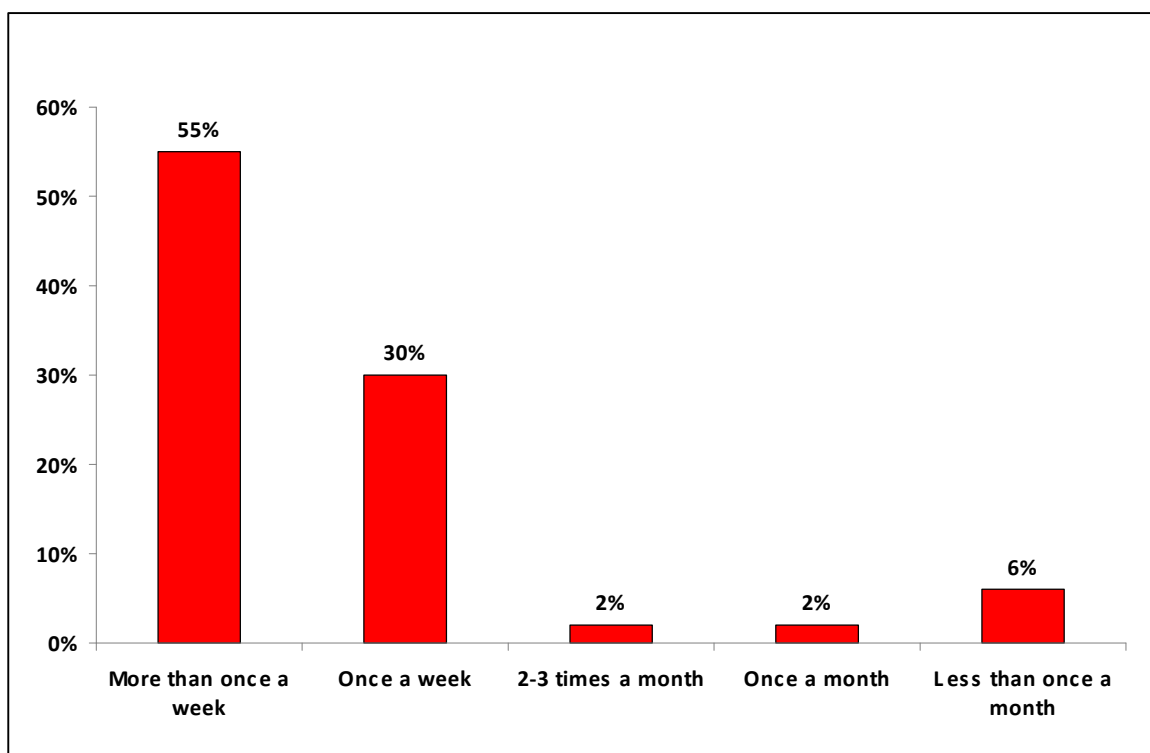
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### Usage

- 7.3 Site visits indicate that 87% of sites classified as amenity greenspaces across the Sub-region appear to be reasonably well used.
- 7.4 Over three quarters (85%) of respondents that have visited a grassed area on a housing estate in the last 12 months do so frequently, at least once a week or more often. Of those who did so more than once a week, almost 40% are aged 25 – 44. Of note is that 8% of those who do not have a garden use grassed areas more than once a week.

Figure 7.1: Frequency of usage of grassed areas on housing estates



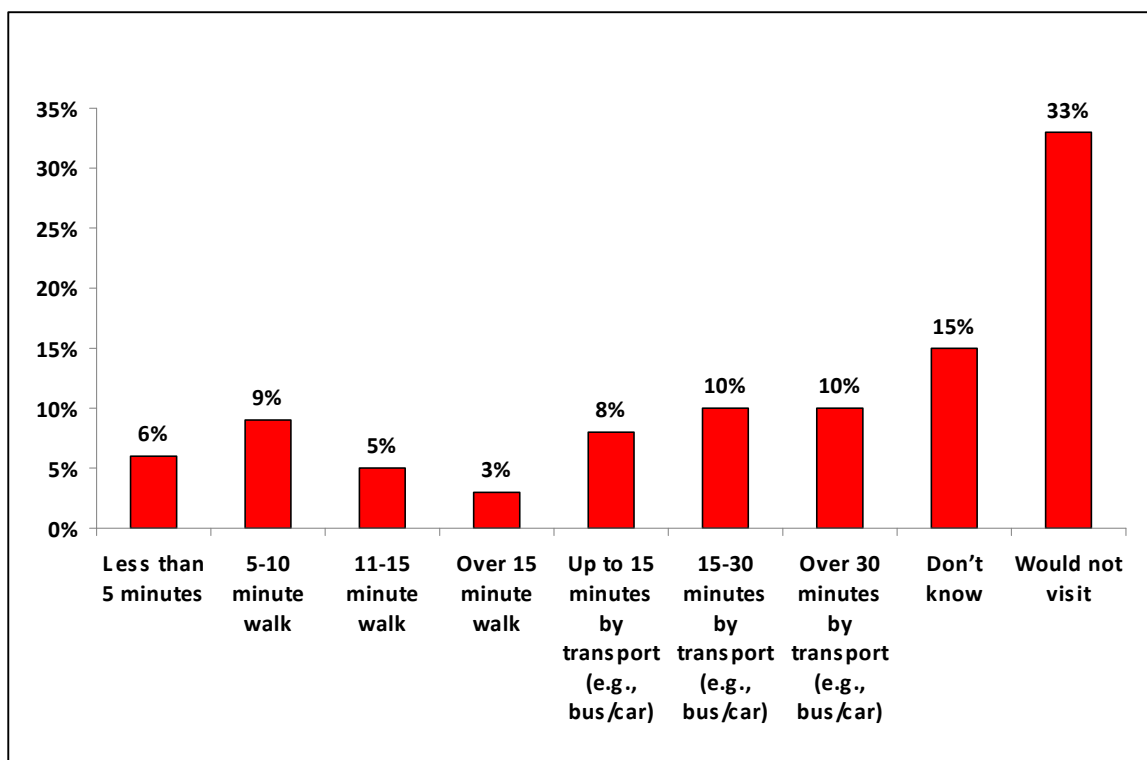


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### Accessibility

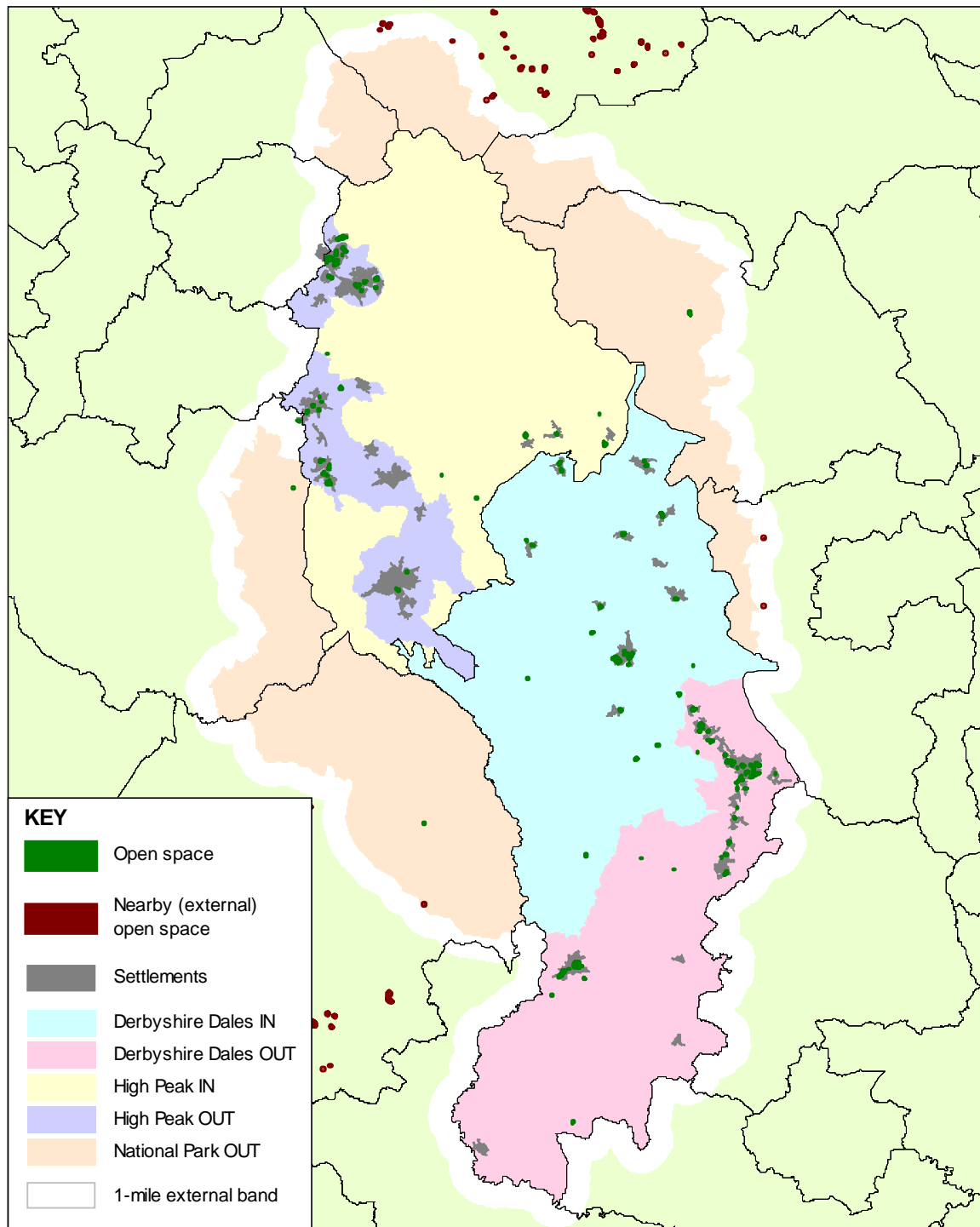
7.5 Almost half (48%) of respondents are unable to state how far they would be prepared to travel to reach a grassed area. A quarter of respondents stating that they would not visit such provision are visitors and almost half (46%) are residents of High Peak, outside of the National Park. Nearly half (43%) of all respondents willing to travel by transport to access provision are visitors. Considering resident responses only, there are two extremes of responses given for acceptable travel times with 11% stating they are willing to walk 5-10 minutes and 11% willing to travel 15-30 minutes by transport. This reflects the variation in settlement sizes across the Sub-region and the different expectations of residents living in urban and more rural settlements.

Figure 7.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a grassed area on housing estate



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Figure 7.3: Amenity greenspace sites mapped against settlement areas



## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Key to sites mapped:

KKP Ref	Site	KKP Ref	Site
1	Conduit Street	68	Edale Close
2	Sexton Street Rec	69	Greenbank
3	Chapel Lane Rec	70	King Edward Avenue
6	Lockes Open Space	71	Parsons Gate/Bemrose Gate
7	Newshaw Lane Open Space	73	Cottage Lane
8	Newshaw Lane Rec Ground	81	New Town Recreation Ground
9	Pyegrove Rec	86	Bakehurst Recreation Ground
10	Whitfield Recreation Ground	88	Carrs Field
15	Meadowfield Open Space	90	Horwich End Open Space
16	Linear Park	92	Memorial Park Recreation Ground
20	Shirebrook Park	95	The Green, Buxton
21	War Memorial	117	Cote Heath Recreation Ground
27	Philip Howard Park	132	The Orchard
28	Woolley Bridge O.S.	138	Needhams Recreation Ground
29	Roughfields OS	158	Stanton View
30	Leisure Centre	160	Hurst Rise Play Area
34	Jodrell Road Open Space	161	Hunts Bridge Grass Area
45	Land Opposite The Garden House, Carsington	164	Wishingstone Grass Area
46	Land Opposite The Glebe House, Carsington	168	War Memorial Pic Tor
47	Land adjacent to Brassington Hall	170	Artist Corner Picnic Area
48	Bailey's Tump	172	Starkholmes Playing Field
49	Dene Fields, Court, Land off Lime Tree Road, Matlo	173	Tansley Village Green
50	Land Adjacent to County Offices, Bank Road, Matloc	176	Gas Cottages Park Area
52	Victoria Court, off Chesterfield Road, Matlock	177	The Promenade Grass Area
53	Land adjacent to Oswalds Church, Ashbourne	178	Butts Road Small Park
54	Land to the Rear of 40 - 120 Mayfield Road, Ashbourne	179	Lime Grove Subway
55	Northwood, Northwood Lane	180	Park Avenue Grass Area
57	Land adjacent to Hollies Close, Clifton	188	Fanny Shaw Playing Field
58	Darley Bridge	190	Gorsey Bank Playing Field
61	Land to Rear of Greyhound Hotel, off Water Lane, C	191	Bolehill Recreation Ground
62	Land in between Hillcroft and Montamana House, Boy	196	Dimple Recreation Ground
63	Land between St John's Church and School House, Bo	197	Broadwalk Rec. Ground

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

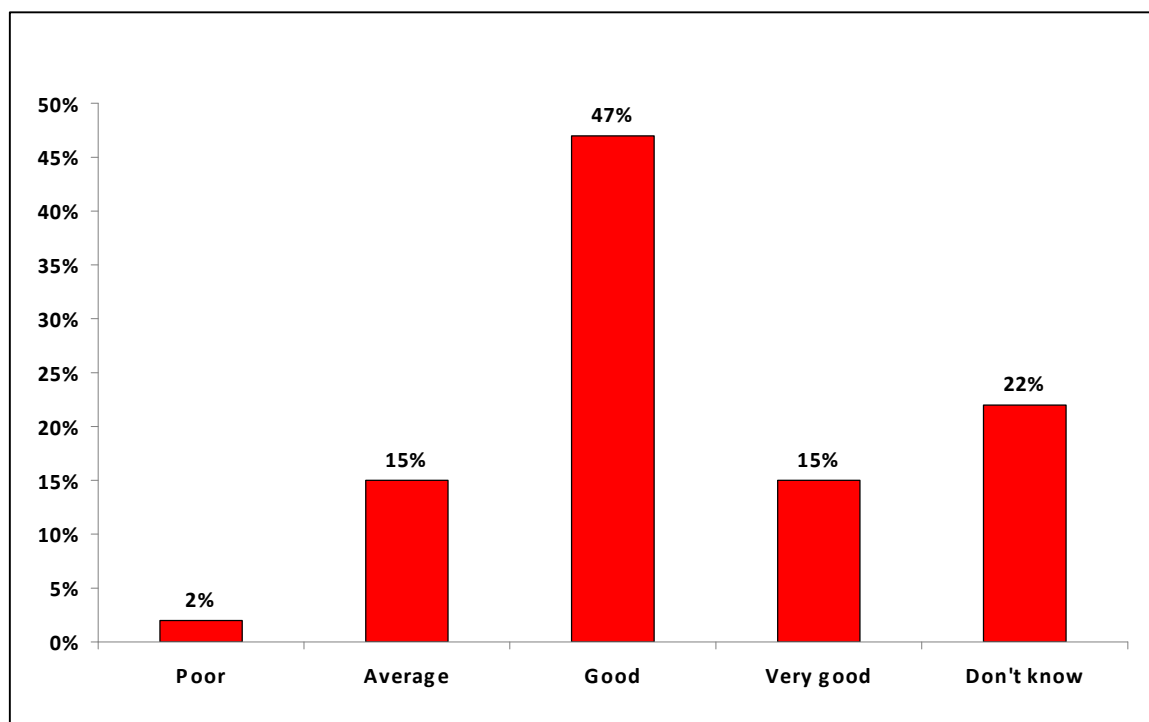
KKP Ref	Site	KKP Ref	Site
67	Eccles Close	198	Northwood Recreation Ground
206	Rutland Recreation Ground	281	Kettleshulme Recreation Ground
212	Fishpond Meadow	282	Low Bradfield Recreation Ground
213	Bankcroft Picnic Area	283	Monyash
218	Ashbourne Rec. Ground	284	Parwich
219	Hillside	285	Peak Forest Recreation Ground
220	Megdale	286	Rowsley Recreation Ground
223	Birch Vale Recreation Ground	287	Sparrowpit
228	Ollersett Playing Fields	288	Condliff Terrace, Tideswell
229	Bowden Crescent	289	Tideswell bowling green
231	Goddard Lane amenity greenspace	290	Tintwistle
237	Wellington Street Shrubbery	291	Youlgreave Playing Field
240	Shrubs Rear Old English	294	Burton Closes Hall
241	Starkholmes Memorial	317	Dagnall Gardens
243	Grass Area opp. New Bath	320	St Andrew's Church
244	Tor Dale Grass Area		
245	Riverside Picnic Area		
247	The Dale Shrub Area		
250	Bath Gardens		
254	Stanton Road		
262	Ashford in the Water playing field		
263	Bakewell South playing fields		
264	Bakewell South Show Ground		
265	Bamford Recreation Ground		
266	Baslow & Bubnell Recreation Ground		
267	Beeley		
268	Birchover Recreation Ground		
269	Town End Recreation Ground, Bradwell		
270	Bradwell Recreation Ground		
271	Butterton Community Centre		
272	Castleton Recreation Ground		
273	The Old School, Chelmorton		
274	Combs amenity greenspace		
275	Elton		
276	Eyam Recreation Ground		
277	Great Longstone Recreation Ground		
278	Grindleford Playing Fields		
279	Hathersage Recreation Ground		
280	Oddfellows Recreation Ground, Hathersage		

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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- 7.6 The mapping shows that generally, main settlement areas, where there is greatest population density, contain amenity greenspace. In the more urban areas of the Sub-region, e.g. Glossop, Buxton, Ashbourne, Matlock, consultation identifies that amenity greenspaces play a valuable role in community life, providing social focal points for community events and opportunities for informal play and recreation. However, consultation revealed that there is less demand for provision of additional amenity greenspace in the more rural settlements of the Sub-region. Residents in these areas consider access to the surrounding countryside to provide adequate informal recreation opportunity.
- 7.7 On the whole it appears that respondents are happy with the provision of grassed areas and almost two thirds (62%) consider availability to be good or very good. Of those who don't know, 75% were residents, the majority of whom are based in the High Peak area, outside the National Park. This, perhaps, indicates that respondents from this area do not use grassed areas in housing estates.

Figure 7.4: Availability of grassed area on housing estate



## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Quality

7.8 The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces in the Peak Sub-region. Individual site summaries can be found at the end of this section.

Table 7.2: Quality scores for amenity greenspace sites by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 66%	Above 66%
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	121	26%	46%	71%	45%	22	3
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	121	-	40%	73%	73%	47	1
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	121	22%	40%	61%	39%	10	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	121	10%	41%	66%	55%	31	1
Peak National Park ONLY	121	40%	47%	61%	21%	3	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>5</b>

7.9 A significant number of sites fall below the 66% quality threshold that has been applied. However, site assessments indicate few quality concerns suggesting that the threshold should be adjusted for this typology to better reflect the actual quality standards.

7.10 A significant proportion of the amenity greenspace in the Peak Sub-region is composed of grassed areas and verges adjacent to housing or lining roads leading into settlements. Consultation identifies that residents consider this type of open space provision to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of the areas. Community groups highlight that good quality amenity greenspaces are well-used, valuable assets, providing social focal points for the community.

7.11 Amenity greenspaces are popular sites for recreational dog walking. The associated issue of dog foul is a common concern, particularly within the High Peak area. Other users of such space, e.g. users and local residents highlight that the problem at Whitfield playing fields impacts negatively on the usage of the site, particularly by children for informal play. This has led to demand for a fenced multi-use games area for local children and young people to safely use for ball games and play. There is demand for greater provision of dog foul bins and enforcement. However, the resource implications of providing dog foul bins are significant, as they need to be emptied on a regular basis, particularly in summer. As dog waste is no longer considered hazardous it can now be disposed off in ordinary litterbins. Awareness of this could be raised to encourage responsible behaviour by dog owners. HPBC recognises that the issue of dog foul is significantly impacting on the quality and usage of sites in the area and is being proactive to address the problem. This action includes education campaigns to raise awareness; school children have been involved in the design of enforcement signage for erection around Manor

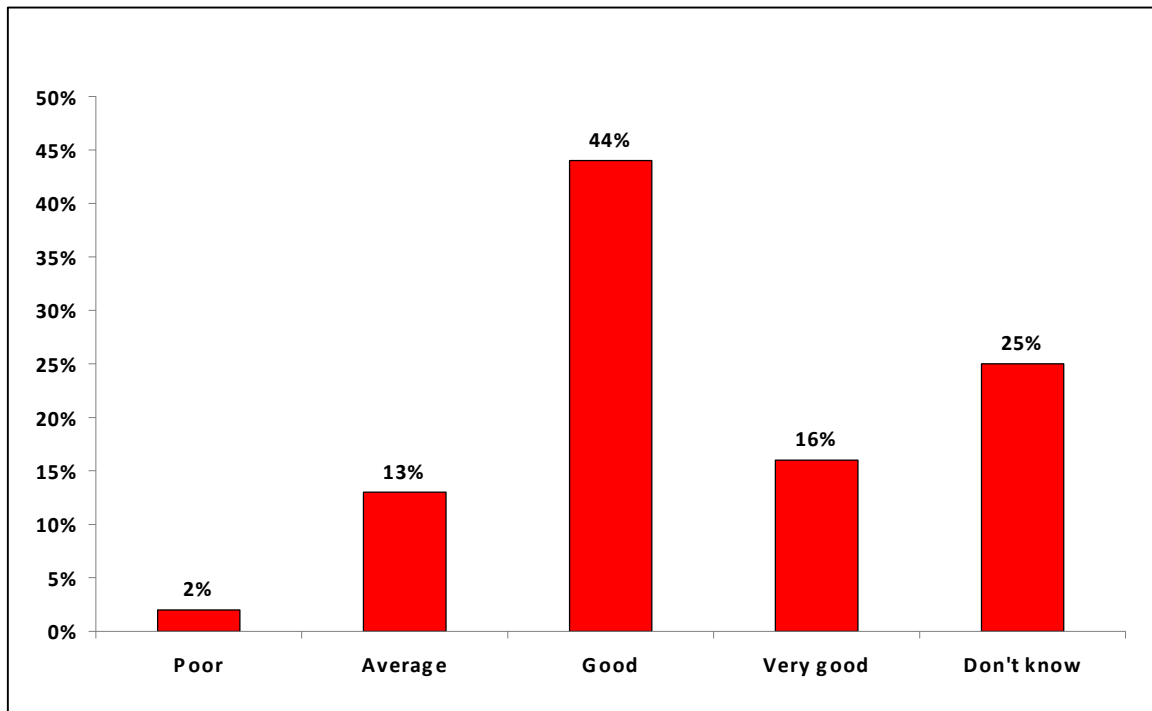
## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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Park. This appears to have had a positive impact. HPBC is also hoping to pilot a scheme empowering Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) to issue on the spot fines for offences.

7.12 The quality of grassed areas is also regarded to be high by respondents as 60% believe it to be good or very good and only 2% think it is poor. Of the quarter of respondents who did not know about the quality of grassed areas, 78% do not have a child at home.

*Figure 7.5: Quality of grassed area on housing estate*



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### Value

7.13 The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for amenity greenspaces in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 7.3: Value scores for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores				
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	100	8%	28%	42%	34%
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	100	4%	23%	51%	47%
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	100	8%	29%	46%	38%
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	100	5%	32%	57%	52%
Peak National Park ONLY	100	26%	35%	42%	16%
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>53%</b>

7.14 A significant proportion of the amenity greenspace in the Peak Sub-region area is composed of grass verges adjacent to housing. Playing fields and recreation grounds also form an intrinsic aspect of the supply of amenity greenspace. Consultation identifies that residents consider this type of open space provision to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of housing estates and residential areas. Site assessments also recognise this with a third (33%) scoring for amenity and sense of place value. Residents perceive a need for preservation and ownership. However, there is identified demand to provide more functional types of amenity greenspace, which could offer residents opportunities to socialise e.g. Gamesley Estate. Resident consultation highlights that Gamesley is well served in terms of provision of amenity greenspace. However, there is demand for better utilisation. At present they are felt to be underutilised due to a lack of functionality and there is considered to be a need to encourage greater usage by local residents for recreational purposes. Supporting the views of residents that amenity greenspaces are a valuable community resource, over half (52%) of sites assessed score for social inclusion and health benefits, particularly due to the play opportunities offered by such sites.



## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Summary of site consultation

7.15 This section collates issues raised during consultation regarding provision of amenity greenspaces in the Peak Sub-region. This is presented alongside site visit quality and value scores for comparison. It is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers sites raised during consultation.

Site	Local authority	Comments
The May Queen (Old School) Field, Hayfield	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	This is an example of a high value site which is well used for community events e.g. May Queen Day. It is a multi-functional space, hosting events such as car boot sales.
Temple Fields, Buxton	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	Community consultation indicates that this is a well used and valuable open space in the centre of Buxton. It is perceived to be the only one in the area that is not formalised. There are plans currently underway for provision of a new swimming pool facility in Buxton and this site has been identified as a potential option for its location. Some conflict is evident amongst residents opposed to the loss of this open space. However, in a 2006 survey conducted by HPBC, the proposal for a new site with brand-new facilities at Temple Fields was the favoured option for locating the new pool.
Whitfield Playing Fields	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	This is informal amenity greenspace is used by local residents casual recreation. However, consultation indicates that it is plagued by dog foul which deters usage of the grassed area, particularly by children for informal play. As a result a local action group has been established, supported by HPBC, to campaign and raise funds for provision of a fenced, dog free MUGA. The group is currently pursuing funding opportunities.
The Tipping, Darley Dale	Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	Consultation highlights that the location and high quality of this site results in it being well used and highly valued by local residents. There is demand for greater provision of play equipment.
Hare Hills, Glossop	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	This site is significant to the green infrastructure of Glossop. Consultation identifies it is an important green space within the town but there is need for site enhancements. The Glossop Vision Masterplan included potential development of Harehills and HPBC, in partnership with the 'friends of' group and Groundwork Derbyshire. They are now in the process of seeking funding for an improvement project to include upgrading footpaths to be DDA compliant, creation of a cycle route to provide an alternative transport route through the town centre, creation of a new seating area, provision of lighting and a children's play area. The aspiration is to create a "well-designed green infrastructure which retains and enhances the natural features of the site".

### **Amenity greenspace summary**

- ◀ There are 119 amenity greenspace sites totaling just over 146 hectares of amenity greenspace across The Sub-region.
- ◀ Amenity greenspaces have one of the widest spread of quality scores. This reflects the variety of quality standards for amenity greenspace and the variety of functions, which they offer.
- ◀ A significant number of sites fall below the 66% quality threshold that has been applied. However, site assessments indicate few quality concerns suggesting that the threshold should be adjusted for this typology to better reflect the actual quality standards.
- ◀ Site assessments recognise the benefits offered by amenity greenspaces such as a sense of place, social inclusion and health benefits. Over three quarters (76%) of sites have been scored for high value.
- ◀ Community groups highlight that good quality amenity greenspaces are well-used, valuable assets, providing social focal points for the community.
- ◀ Almost half (48%) of respondents are unable to state how far they would be prepared to travel to reach a grassed area. A quarter of respondents stating that they would not visit such provision are visitors and almost half (46%) are residents of High Peak, outside of the National Park. Nearly half (43%) of all respondents willing to travel by transport to access provision are visitors. Considering resident responses only there are two extremes of responses given for acceptable travel times with 11% stating they are willing to walk 5-10 minutes and 11% willing to travel 15-30 minutes by transport. This reflects the variation in settlement sizes across the Sub-region and the different expectations of residents living in urban and more rural settlements.

### PART 8: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

#### Introduction

- 8.1 The typology of provision for children and young people, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide 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.'

#### Key issues

##### *Current provision*

- 8.2 In total, 80 sites are classified as provision for children and young people throughout the Sub-region, totalling just over 12 hectares.
- 8.3 DDDC owns and manages 28 individual play facilities across the District; including four strategically located sites as identified in the local play strategy. 34 play areas are owned and managed by HPBC, including 15 strategically located sites. A mixture of parish councils and housing associations owns the remaining facilities, situated mostly in urban housing estates.
- 8.4 Play areas are classified in the following ways utilising National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) guidance to identify their effective catchment (how far residents are willing, on average, to travel to access the different types).
- ◀ Unclassified. This area is classified as such when there is less than 0.01 hectares of play area.
  - ◀ No equipment.
  - ◀ A local area for play (LAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.01 hectares and contain more than or equal to one piece of play equipment.
  - ◀ A local equipped for play (LEAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.04 hectares and contain more than or equal to five pieces of play equipment.
  - ◀ A neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.1 hectares and contain more than or equal to eight pieces of play equipment. This area may contain MUGA, skateparks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and is often included within large park sites.
  - ◀ A settlement equipped play area (SEAP) caters for all ages and contains more than or equal to ten pieces of play equipment. This is likely to include multi-use games areas (MUGAs), skateparks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and is often included within large park sites.
  - ◀ Casual area for play. This includes provision that facilitates causal play such as MUGA, basketball areas, kick-a-bout areas, youth shelters and games walls.
  - ◀ Youth provision. This includes play provision specifically targeted to children aged 12 yrs and above such as skate parks and BMX tracks.
- 8.5 The above classifications have been determined on a sub regional basis. It should be noted that these are interpreted differently by the individual authorities within the Sub-region.

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Table 8.1: Distribution of play areas by analysis area

Analysis Area	LAP		LEAP		NEAP		SEAP		Skateboard / Basketball / Teenage shelter		TOTAL	
	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	1	0.02	3	-	2	0.12	-	-	-	-	6	0.15
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	6	0.58	16	1.29	2	-	-	-	-	-	24	1.87
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	-	-	8	2.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2.44
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	17	1.57	27	5.80	6	0.90	4	1.05	2	0.02	56	9.37
Peak National Park ONLY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2.1788</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>9.5475</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1.0384</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>13.85</b>

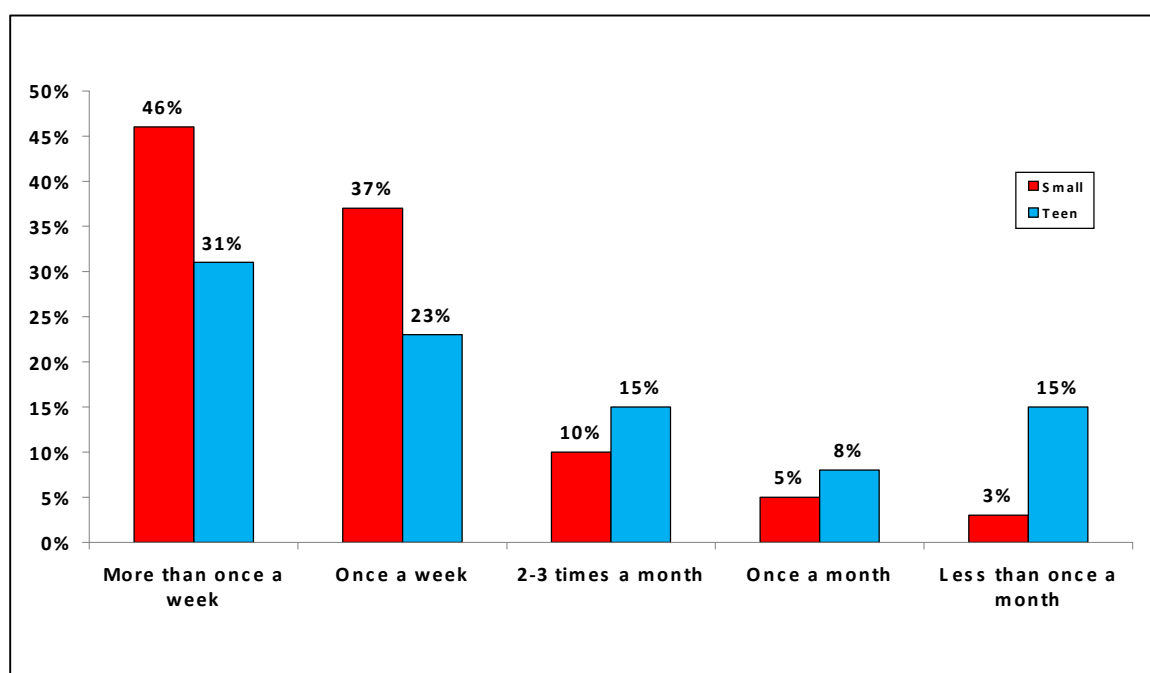
N.B. There are 15 children's play areas, all located within the Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park analysis area, recorded within the audit database but with no size information. Therefore the total hectareage of provision for this analysis area is not accurate.

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Usage

- 8.6 Overall, 12% of respondents have visited play areas for small children and teenagers in the last 12 months. The figure below shows that the majority access this type of open space at least once a week. As would be expected, a large proportion of respondents that have visited a play area have children at home (76% that have visited a children's play area and 67% of those that have visited a teenage play area).
- 8.7 Usage reflects the fact that parents regularly visit play areas with their children; with the proportion of visitors to children's play areas more than once a week being highest among the 25-44 age groups (72%). Almost all (90%) of residents access play areas for children in the Sub-region only.
- 8.8 Play areas for teenagers have slightly different patterns of use. As shown in the figure below usage is lower. Logically the age group that uses play areas the most frequently are those aged 16 – 24 (86% at least once a week).

Figure 8.1: Frequency of usage of children's play areas and teenage play areas in the previous 12 months



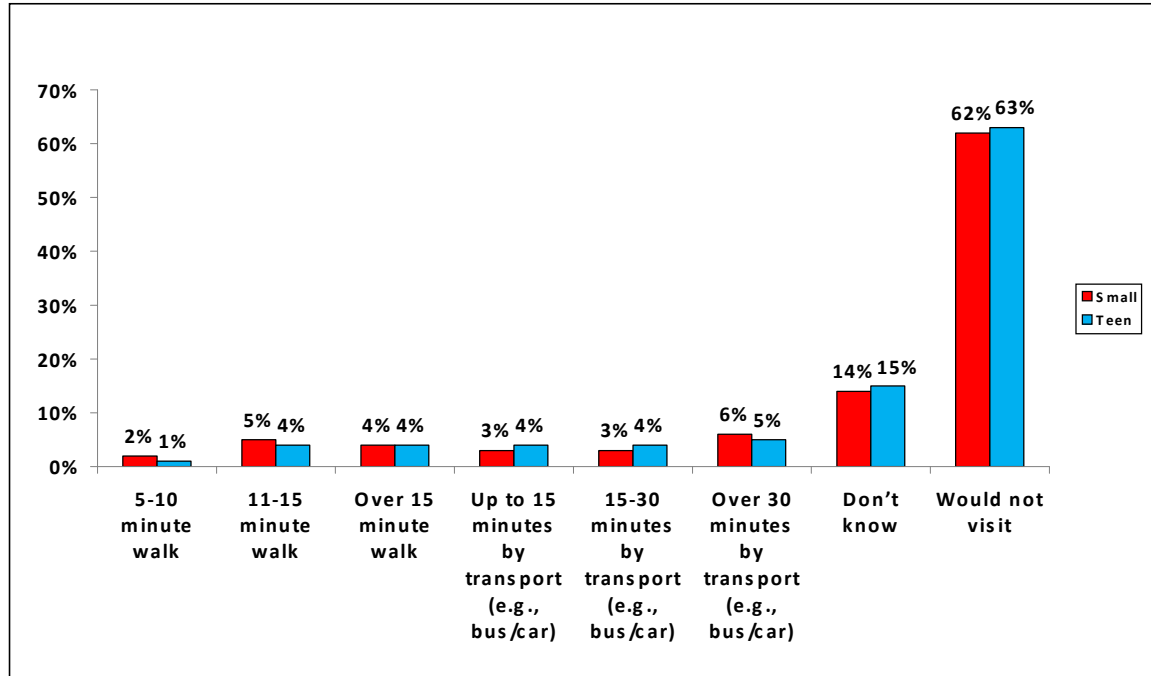
- 8.9 Access to MUGAs across the Sub-region differs, some facilities are bookable and some left open for free play use. This, together with a mixture of quality issues, relating to surface type, often results in sites being underused. For example, the MUGA at Memorial Park is underused and it is the Town Councils view that it is unsustainable due to the high maintenance costs. It has a tarmac surface, which is considered by users to be of poor quality. In comparison, a comparable facility at Chapel is well used due to its good quality and is managed and manned unlike Memorial Park.

### ***Accessibility***

- 8.10 Whilst access to open land for recreation purposes has improved in recent years, public transport infrastructure still presents challenges in gaining easy access for families and young people for play opportunities within the National Park. The development of nature trails and activities run by the Park Ranger Service has helped to improve the service. Local children in Gamesley, High Peak for example, are encouraged to create their own areas for BMXing and make good use of the surrounding open spaces for informal/imaginative play.
- 8.11 Informal open spaces within rural settlements provide the most accessible opportunities for children and young people to play. The rural environment makes the need for more informal play opportunity and access to play provision even greater. We found that play ranger programmes are less successful in rural settlements with small child populations. In such instances, the use of mobile programmes such as play buses is advocated to help overcome this access issue.
- 8.12 The majority of respondents would either not visit a play area in the Peak Sub-region or do not know how long they would travel to reach the open space. It appears that those that would visit are prepared to travel a variety of distances. For example, 6% would travel for more than 30 minutes by motorised transport to reach an area for small children and 5% would only walk for 11 – 15 minutes. The figure below shows that the majority of respondents who would visit play areas are prepared to travel for more than 10 minutes on foot.
- 8.13 More specifically 54% of respondents aged 16 - 24 would not visit play areas for teenagers but of those that would, 12% would walk for 5 – 10 minutes. More respondents from the High Peak area outside the National Park reported they were willing to walk for more than 15 minutes to reach play areas for both teenagers (63%) and small children (45%) than any other area within in the Sub-region.

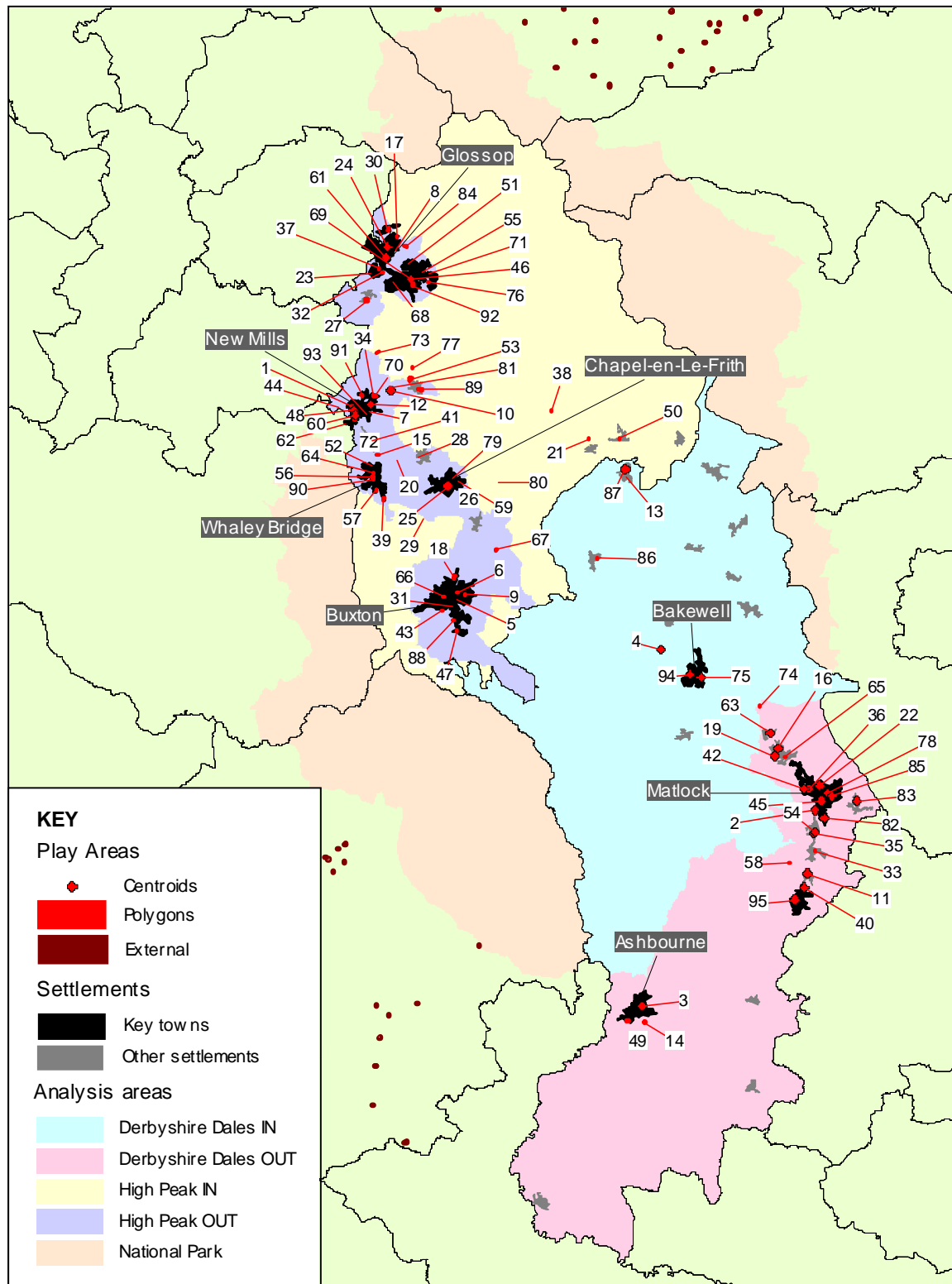
## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 8.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a children's play areas and teenage play areas



# PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 8.3: Provision for children and young people mapped against settlement areas





## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Key to map:

Site ID (used on map)	KKP Ref	Site	Classification
30	1.1	Conduit Street Play Area	SEAP
24	3.1	Chapel Lane Play Area	LAP
17	4	Brosscroft Play Area	LAP
84	5	Temple Street Play Area	NEAP
61	8.1	Newshaw Lane Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP
71	9.1	Pygrove Play Area	LEAP
92	10.1	Whitfield Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP
15	14	Bridgemont Play Area	LEAP
8	19.1	Bankswood Park Play Area	SEAP
76	20.1	Shirebrook Play Area	LEAP
6	24.1	Ashwood Park Play Area	LAP
55	25.1	Manor Park Play Area	NEAP
51	26.1	Howard Park Play Area	NEAP
69	27.1	Philip Howard Park Play Area	LAP
52	34.1	Jodrell Road Play Area	LEAP
35	43.1	Derwent Gardens Play Area	LEAP
54	44.1	Lovers Walk Play Area	LEAP
45	66.1	Hall Leys Park Play Area	NEAP
37	68.1	Edale Close Play Area	LEAP
41	72	Furness Vale Play Area	LEAP
32	73.1	Cottage Lane Play Area	LAP
91	78	White Road Play Area	SEAP
48	79.1	High Lee Park Play Area	NEAP
60	81.1	New Town Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP
72	83	Redmoor Lane Play Area	LAP
1	84	Alsfield Way Play Area	LEAP
93	85	Yates Road Play Area	LAP
7	86.1	Bakenhurst Recreation Ground play area	LAP
90	92.1	Whaley Bridge Skatepark and BMX	Skateboard Park
56	93.1	Memorial Park Play Area	NEAP
66	109.1	Pavilion Gardens Play Area	NEAP
31	117.1	Cote Heath Play Area	SEAP
9	122	Bench Road Play Area	LEAP
88	123	Trent Avenue Play Area	LEAP
47	124	Harpur Hill Play Area	LAP
43	125	Green Lane Play Area	LEAP
18	126	Brown Edge Road Play Area	LAP

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Site ID (used on map)	KKP Ref	Site	Classification
5	127	Ashwood Close Play Area	LEAP
70	128	Portland Road Recreation Ground	LEAP
79	129	South Head Drive Play Area	LAP
57	130	Mevril Road Play Area	LEAP
39	131	Elnor Lane Play Area	LAP
85	132.1	The Orchard Play Area	LAP
46	134	Harehills Play Area	LAP
23	135	Centurion Play Area	LAP
68	136	Pennine Road Play Area	LAP
26	137.1	Chapel Memorial Park Play Area	LEAP
25	137.2	Chapel Memorial Park BMX Skatepark	Skateboard Park
59	138.1	Needhams Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP
29	139	Combs Play Area	LEAP
27	140	Charlesworth Recreation Ground	LEAP
28	141	Chinley Recreation Ground	LEAP
20	142	Buxworth Play Area	LEAP
50	143	Hope Play Area	LEAP
89	144	Valley Road Play Area	LEAP
67	145	Peak Dale Play Area	LEAP
21	146	Castleton Play Area	LEAP
38	147	Edale Play Area	LEAP
77	148	Slacks Lane Play Area	LEAP
78	159.1	Smedley Street Park Play Area	LEAP
2	170.1	Artist Corner Play Area	LEAP
82	172.1	Starkholmes Playing Field Play Area	LEAP
83	173.1	Tansley Play Area	LEAP
42	176.1	Gas Cottages Park Play Area	LAP
19	178.1	Butts Road Small Park Play Area	LEAP
65	180.1	Park Avenue Grass Area Play Area	LAP
33	187	Cromford Play Area	LEAP
40	188.1	Fanny Shaw Playing Field Play Area	LEAP
11	191.1	Bolehill Recreation Ground	LEAP
58	192	Middleton Play Area	LEAP
95	193.1	Yokecliffe Park	LAP
36	196.1	Dimple Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP
16	197.1	Broadwalk Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP
63	198.1	Northwood Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP
74	201	Rowsley Play Area	LAP
75	206.1	Rutland Recreation Ground Play Area	NEAP

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Site ID (used on map)	KKP Ref	Site	Classification
49	210	Highfield Road Play Area	LAP
3	211.1	Ashbourne Memorial Park Play Area	NEAP
14	214	Brickyard Play Area	LEAP
10	223.1	Birch Vale Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP
81	224	Spinnerbottom Play Area	LEAP
34	226	Derby Road Play Area	LAP
12	229.1	Bowden Crescent Play Area	LEAP
73	231.1	Rowarth Play Area	LEAP
44	232	Hague Bar - The Torrs Play Area	LEAP
22	238.1	Cavendish Road Park Play Area	LEAP
4	262.1	Ashford in the Water Playing Field Play Area	LEAP
87	269.1	Town End Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP
13	270.1	Bradwell Recreation Ground Play Area	LAP
86	289.1	Tideswell Play Area	NEAP
62	319.1	Newton Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP
53	321	Lea Road Play Area	LEAP
80	322	Sparrowpit Play Area	LEAP
94	323	Yeld Road Play Area	LEAP
64	353	Orchard Road Play Area	LAP

- 8.14 The mapping above highlights the number of settlements across the Sub-region which, through analysis of responses to consultation, appear to be without access to play provision. High Peak OUT area provides the majority of provision from the information collected to date, reflecting the more populated areas. However, a large number of parishes within Derbyshire Dales provide village play facilities which are currently unrecorded. Further study in this area of provision is recommended.
- 8.15 The proposed sports complex development at The Dimple, between Matlock and Darley Dale, will see a DDDC owned play area moved during the re-development of the site. This small site contains a swing and a slide and if removed will leave a gap in provision of local play areas. As this site is identified as LAP provision, there is also some demand (from the mapping) to increase the size and type of equipment at the site.
- 8.16 In general, consultation identifies a perception that children under 12 years of age are well catered. However, there is a reported gap in provision for over 12's. It is felt that teenagers in the Sub-region need more designated places to meet friends and more things to do. The congregation of young people does sometimes result in isolated instances of vandalism but it is contained. For example, Manor Park play area in Glossop suffers from sporadic problems.

## PEAK SUB-REGION

### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

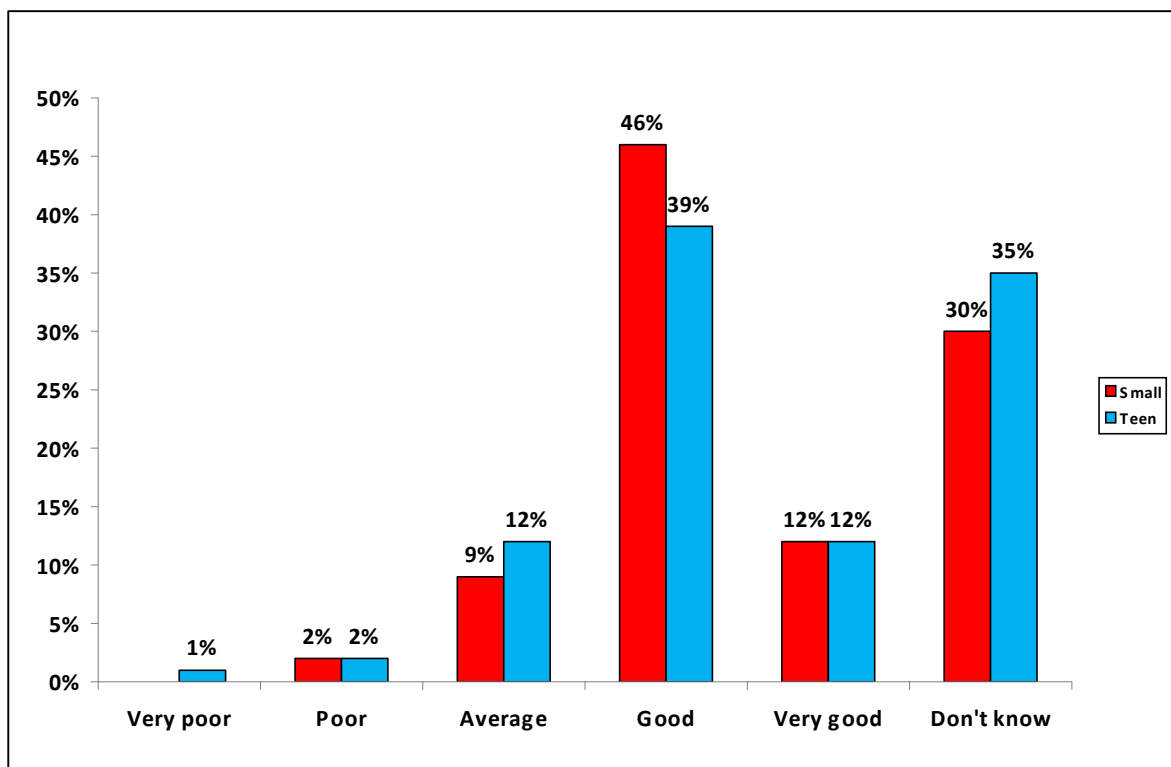
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- 8.17 Youth congregation in Whitworth Park is increasingly leading to vandalism, to the extent that a security company has been employed to patrol it in the evening. It is thought that this has a direct link to the fact that there is no permanent youth club in Darley Dale and a lack of activities for young people to take part in. As a result, an activity programme for children in the park was trialled through the summer and the mobile bus now attends once a week. However, this is not thought to be sufficient to remove the need for a permanent youth club.
- 8.18 Young people identified a need for youth shelters in Finley Gardens and Ashdown Park. Often they people just want somewhere safe and dry to 'hang out'. Also, consultation indicates a consensus that Bakewell has a lack of facilities for young people. In particular, there is a lack of facilities for children aged 12-18 years and as a result there is some reported anti-social behaviour, although this low level. There is a youth shelter on Highfields Road, Bakewell. Although older teenagers use the site, this discourages usage by younger teenagers, suggesting that there is demand for an additional youth shelter in Bakewell.
- 8.19 As demonstrated by the mapping and also highlighted during consultation, there is a deficiency in the provision for children and young people in the more rural areas of the Sub-region. In particular, settlements such as Darley Dale, Dove Holes and Hayfield were constantly identified during consultation as having demand for new provision. There is also a noted lack of provision and activities for young people in more urban areas of the Sub-region such as Matlock.
- 8.20 Demand for more adventurous play provision and youth provision such as a skate park or BMX track was noted. Young people in Hathersage report demand for an area to skate such as ramps or jumps. Recently, in partnership with a local Trust, DDDC provided new play facilities and a skate park in Darley Dale. Responding to further local need, the Council has also provided further skate parks in Ashbourne and Matlock, working closely with local youth groups. Additionally, working in partnership with others, new skate parks and MUGAs have been provided in Tideswell and Wirksworth and the Council is currently working with local partners to provide a new skate park in Bakewell, and a new play facility in Wirksworth.
- 8.21 A common issue raised throughout consultation with young people was the need for more areas for them to meet and socialise with friends. Youth cafes, youth shelters or somewhere sheltered and lit would be well used.
- 8.22 Young people report graffiti boards are provided and very popular, but there is demand for these to be replaced more often. Football is also a popular activity with young people but there is a perception there is a lack of casual floodlit pitches to play informally.
- 8.23 The majority of respondents visited play areas for both children and young people within the Peak Sub-region. Almost half (46%) of respondents felt that the availability of play areas for children was good, 28% of which are from the High Peak area, outside the National Park. Over a third (39%) of respondents thought that provision for teenagers is good, of which 21% were from Derbyshire Dales, outside the National Park and a further 23% from the High Peak area, outside the National Park. This would indicate that the availability of provision is considered to be better outside the National Park than inside, also demonstrated through the mapping.

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8.24 Approximately one third of respondents (30%) did not know about the availability of play areas for children. Of these over three quarters (88%) do not have a child at home and therefore are unlikely to visit such provision. One third (36%) did not know about the availability of play areas for teenagers. Again, a large proportion (86%) do not have a child at home.

Figure 8.5: Availability of children's play areas and teenage play areas



### Activities

8.25 Young people across the Peak Sub-region report demand for more organised activities. For example, young people in Hathersage would like to take part in netball activities and boys in Buxton report demand for informal football sessions, as oppose to playing competitive football.

8.26 Consultation indicates a perception that New Mills and Bakewell have a lack of activities aimed at young people (even though there is a youth club in Bakewell twice weekly with over 30 young people attending). In particular, for children aged 12-18 years and as a result there is some reported anti-social behaviour, although this is low level. Public transport is also said to limit travel to access organised activities (the last bus from Bakewell to Matlock is at 10pm, however, they are less frequent in the evenings).

8.27 Derbyshire County Council funds a mobile youth bus (with computer and social area), operating from Bakewell Recreation Ground, every Wednesday evening for 38 weeks of the year. Consultation with young people reports demand for this to become permanent. Attendance at Bakewell is greater than the mobile bus in Darley Dale. Sessions are mainly attended by young people aged 14 – 17.

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- 8.28 In the school holidays DDDC runs popular sports activities in the District, which young people would like to see more of. In particular, taster sessions for a wider variety of sports such as basketball and hockey.
- 8.29 In addition to the mobile youth bus, there is voluntary youth provision at The Oz Bar, Bakewell on a Tuesday and Thursday evening. It is organised by a local resident who identified the need for formal youth provision. This is organised through short term funding and there is demand for this to continue.

### **Management**

- 8.30 Management of provision for children and young people involves local authorities, town/parish councils and housing associations. Play areas falling under the maintenance responsibility of DDDC are inspected daily at strategic park locations and three times per week at other sites. Play area falling under the responsibility of HPBC are inspected weekly with grounds maintenance operatives undertaking visual inspections when on-site. The number of weekly inspections is based upon the level of usage per site. For smaller, less used sites a visual inspection is only undertaken on a weekly basis.
- 8.31 Although each authority has developed its own aims and objectives for the development of play, each recognises the countywide vision developed in a Play Policy for Derbyshire:
- 8.32 *To develop high quality Play, which improves the quality of the built and natural environment, enhances the quality of life for children and the whole community and promotes pride in public spaces and green areas.* From which the following objectives have been adopted:
- ◀ Develop a co-coordinated approach to play.
  - ◀ Develop a play service that is accessible to all children.
  - ◀ Develop existing and new opportunities.
  - ◀ Involve children and young people in meeting their needs.
  - ◀ Share resources and ensure the highest quality provision is sustainable and appropriate to local needs.
- 8.33 Both HPBC and DDDC have written play strategies which have successfully attracted recent funding (both were allocated £200,000) from the Big Lottery's Children's Play Programme covering play opportunities for children up to 19 years. Through this, a number of sites across the Sub-region have been identified for investment. The consultation process for this study identified major aspirations for improvements in play provision. Although the Big Lottery Fund can meet a modest proportion of these aspirations, other agencies must also contribute to improvements in play provision if the vision of better play is to be achieved.
- 8.34 To assist with the development of local play provision, DDDC provides grants for parish councils to develop play facilities in rural parts of the District. The Council's contribution to the Play Development Fund has also enabled funding to be attracted to local schemes from sources beyond the District.
- 8.35 There is some localised concern amongst residents in the DDDC area with regard to planning policy for the provision of children's play areas within new residential developments. Consultation highlights that sites promised do not necessarily materialise e.g. Dawson site, Ashbourne. However, this was not identified as an issue in High Peak.

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### Quality

8.36 The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for children's play areas in the Peak Sub-region. The threshold for assessing quality has been set at 66% (Green Flag criteria pass mark) for the purpose of assessing the appropriateness of the standard for this particular typology.

Table 8.2: Quality scores for play areas sites by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 66%	Above 66%
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	97	44%	55%	70%	26%	5	1
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	97	35%	48%	60%	25%	8	-
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	97	40%	59%	67%	27%	6	2
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	97	24%	53%	73%	49%	46	8
Peak National Park ONLY	97	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION*</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>11</b>

8.37 \* Two sites were un-scored by HPBC during the site assessments (Cottage Lane Play Area and Harehills Play Area) and one site has currently been removed and is in the process of being refurbished (Ashwood Park).

8.38 Consultation and site assessments identify that the quality of play areas is relatively consistent across the Sub-region area with a variation of only 12% in the mean scores. Philip Howard Park Play Area scores the lowest in terms of quality (24%); Manor Park and Chinley Recreation Ground Play Area have the highest quality scores at 73%.

8.39 There is demand for a number of key strategically located play sites to be upgraded e.g. Memorial Park (scoring 56%) and Needham Recreation Ground (scoring 60%). Some of this will be undertaken through the Big Lottery investment.

8.40 Clearing up broken glass in play areas has been identified as an increasing problem across the northern Sub-region. New Shaw Lane Recreation Ground (scoring 35%) play area suffers repeatedly from broken glass. Youth consultation also suggested that Bench Road Play Area in Buxton (scoring 61%) often has broken glass, which deters users. It would appear that poor quality play areas (in terms of equipment) often attract youth congregation and such vandalism. Only one site was recorded as showing evidence of broken glass during the site assessments, Yates Road Play Area (scoring 36%). The incidence of broken glass within Derbyshire Dales play areas is far less, by comparison, but remains an area of concern in respect of public safety.

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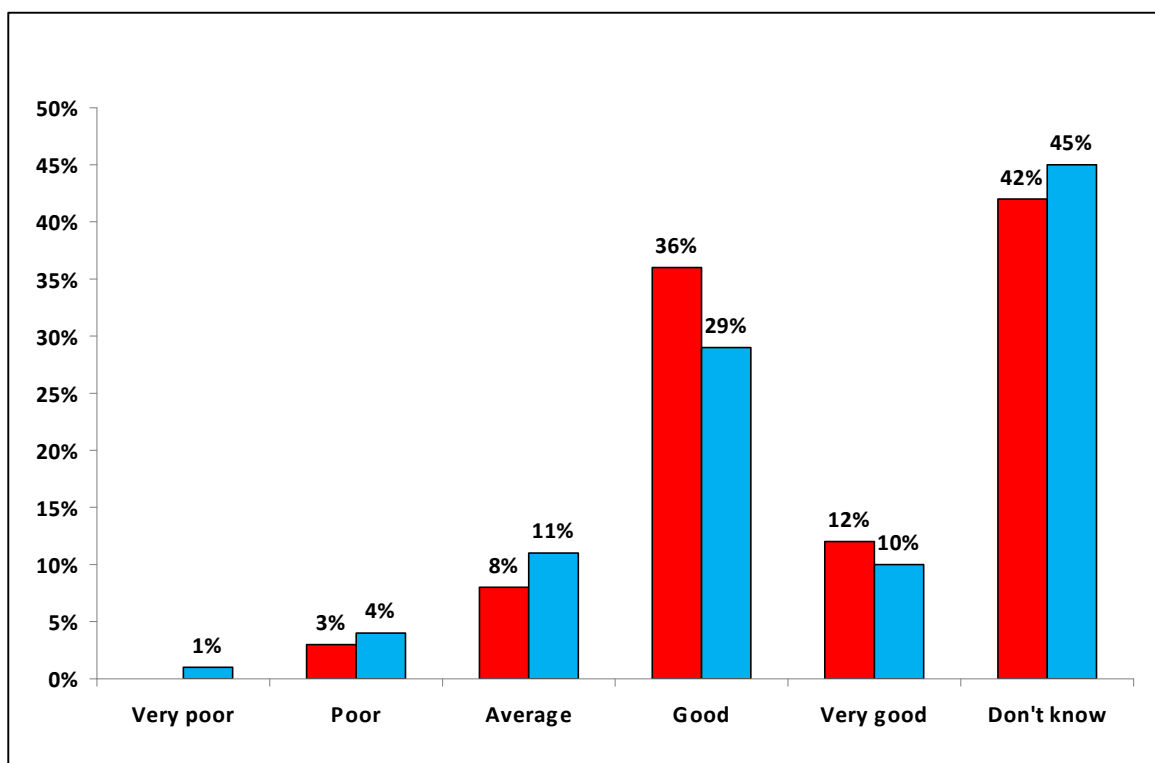
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- 8.41 Linked to the above, a key issue to address is that many play sites across the Sub-region have bark surfaces, most predominantly within High Peak. These include Bankswood Park Play Area (scoring 50%) and Temple Street Play Area (scoring 59%). Parents have less confidence in the safety of bark partly because it is less easy to regularly maintain and often conceals litter and broken glass. There is recognised demand for these surfaces to be upgraded to wetpour. Although wetpour is more expensive initially to install, it is recognised that the cost of sustaining bark surfacing is greater. Users of Conduit Street Play Area also express a desire for a wetpour surface to replace the grass (and often mud) surface.
- 8.42 DDDC expresses a preference for rubber safety tiles above wetpour on more formal sites and have embarked on a programme of relaxing bark pits with rubber 'honeycomb' tiles, which promote the growth of grass across more informal play sites. The District Council has also introduced a sand filled play area at a popular tourist destination and, after an initial 12 months period, reports no evidence of contamination through broken glass or faeces.
- 8.43 Only a relatively small proportion of play areas across the Sub-region are recorded as having signage displaying ownership and contact details. This may reflect the mixed of ownership and management of sites. However, both authorities have aspirations to provide signage at all play areas over the next 12 months.
- 8.44 Around 30% of all play areas are not fenced/dog free and users report some issues with dog fouling. HPBC feels that it is not always appropriate to fence play areas. For example, e.g. it would look out of place and would 'fence children in' taking away the play value of the site. In these instances, it may be more appropriate to install signage warning of the dangers and/or investigate the need to introduce more enforcement of penalties. DDDC consider the need for fencing as a priority in area where there is a recognised risk to children's safety, such as the proximity of water courses, public highway and steep falls, but support the principle, wherever possible, of providing free and unhindered play space.
- 8.45 As shown in the figure below, over 40% of respondents did not know about the quality of play areas for children and teenagers. Of those that did offer an opinion, approximately 40% felt the provision was good or very good.
- 8.46 Once again, those from the High Peak area appear to have a higher opinion of play areas than those from other parts of the Sub-region (44% teenage facilities and 37% children's play areas) compared to those from the Derbyshire Dales (26% teenage facilities and 20% children's play areas).



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Figure 8.6: Quality of provision of children's play areas and teenage play areas



### Value

8.47 The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for children's play areas in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 8.3: Value scores for play areas by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores				
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	55	18%	34%	38%	20%
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	55	24%	31%	44%	20%
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	55	34%	35%	40%	6%
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	55	22%	35%	67%	45%
Peak National Park ONLY	55	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION*</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>49%</b>

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- 8.48 \*78 sites have been assessed for value. One site has currently been removed and is in the process of being refurbished (Ashwood Park) and has therefore not been scored.
- 8.49 Value scores for play areas across the Sub-region are generally high, with the mean score for all analysis areas being above the suggested threshold of 20%. This is supported by consultation, which suggests that residents place a high value upon play facilities. It is also important to recognise the benefits that play opportunities can provide in terms of health, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus developmental and educational benefits. South Head Drive Play Area, Chapel (scoring 34% value), lacks play equipment limiting its play value; it could be a potential site for removal.
- 8.50 The type and variety of play equipment is one of the main factors that impacts on the value of play areas. Consultation with parents highlights a limited variety of play equipment at play areas in the Sub-region. Consultation suggests that equipment does not often cater for a range of ages and there is considered to be a lack of play equipment suitable for children under the age of five.

### **Summary of site consultation**

- 8.51 This section collates issues raised during consultation with community groups regarding provision for children and young people in the Peak Sub-region. This is presented alongside site visit quality and value scores for comparison. It is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers sites raised during consultation.

Site	Local authority	Comments
Pavilion Gardens	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	As identified by the friends of group, there is a lack of youth provision for 11 – 14 year olds. There is some potential to use the area occupied by the old bowling green to address this.
Manor Park	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	Investment from the Liveability Fund has provided a skate park and play area.
Memorial Park Play Area, Whaley Bridge	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	The play equipment in Memorial Park is considered to be coming to the end of its life and needs to be upgraded. It caters for juniors and there is considered to be a lack of equipment suitable for young children under the age of five years.  Many residents regard the MUGA as dedicated to football and not available for multi sports. There is a need to raise awareness of the facility's availability to all members of the community. However, it is currently out of use due to the presence of moss making the surface slippery and therefore unsafe.
Needham Recreation Ground	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	This is considered to be a valuable open space to the local housing estate and residents believe that the play area needs to be upgraded. It scored 60% in our site assessments, below the Green Flag pass rate. It is surrounded by council housing (High Peak Community Housing) and is one of the sites to benefit from HPBC Big Lottery funding. There are also goal posts at the site and it is used for casual recreation.

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Site	Local authority	Comments
Sparrow Pit Play Area	High Peak INSIDE the National Park	Chapel Town Council rents the land from Sparrow Pit Village Hall. Limited equipment is provided at the site and the Town Council may pursue a joint venture to enhance the site working in tandem with a local public house/brewery.
Coat Heath Park, London Road	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	This small skate park attracts young people from an adjacent estate who, reportedly, intimidate users and deters usage.
Willow Way Play Area	Derbyshire Dales	This is considered to be of poor quality by residents. DDDC has developer funding allocated to improve the site.
Bakewell Recreation Ground	Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	Bakewell Recreation Ground is the main site in Bakewell used by young people to play informal sports such as football and rounders. An issue raised in consultation was the lack of lighting on the site, restricting usage during the winter months.

### Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ In total, there are 80 play area sites in the Sub-region, totalling just over 12 hectares. Of these, 11 scored above the Green Flag pass mark and 66 scored below the Green Flag pass mark.
- ◀ Play areas across the Sub-region generally scored low value during site assessments. However, consultation suggests that residents value them highly.
- ◀ Consultation and street survey analysis suggests that the majority of respondents who would visit play areas would be prepared to travel for more than 10 minutes on foot.
- ◀ There is a lack of provision for young people in rural areas of the National Park. Consultation identifies that this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Encouraging parish councils to communicate/share when hiring mobile activities would be beneficial.
- ◀ Consultation has identified a shortfall in provision for over 12's.

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## PART 9: ALLOTMENTS, COMMUNITY GARDENS AND CITY FARMS

### Introduction

9.1 The typology of allotments, community gardens and city farms, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes sites, which 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.'

### Key issues

#### *Current provision*

9.2 27 sites are classified as allotments in the Peak Sub-region equating to just over 24 hectares.

*Table 9.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Allotments	
	Number	Size (ha)
Derbyshire Dales IN	1	0.21
Derbyshire Dales OUT	6	3.67
High Peak IN	1	0.37
High Peak OUT	19	20.40
Peak National Park OUT	-	-
<b>PEAK Region</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24.67</b>

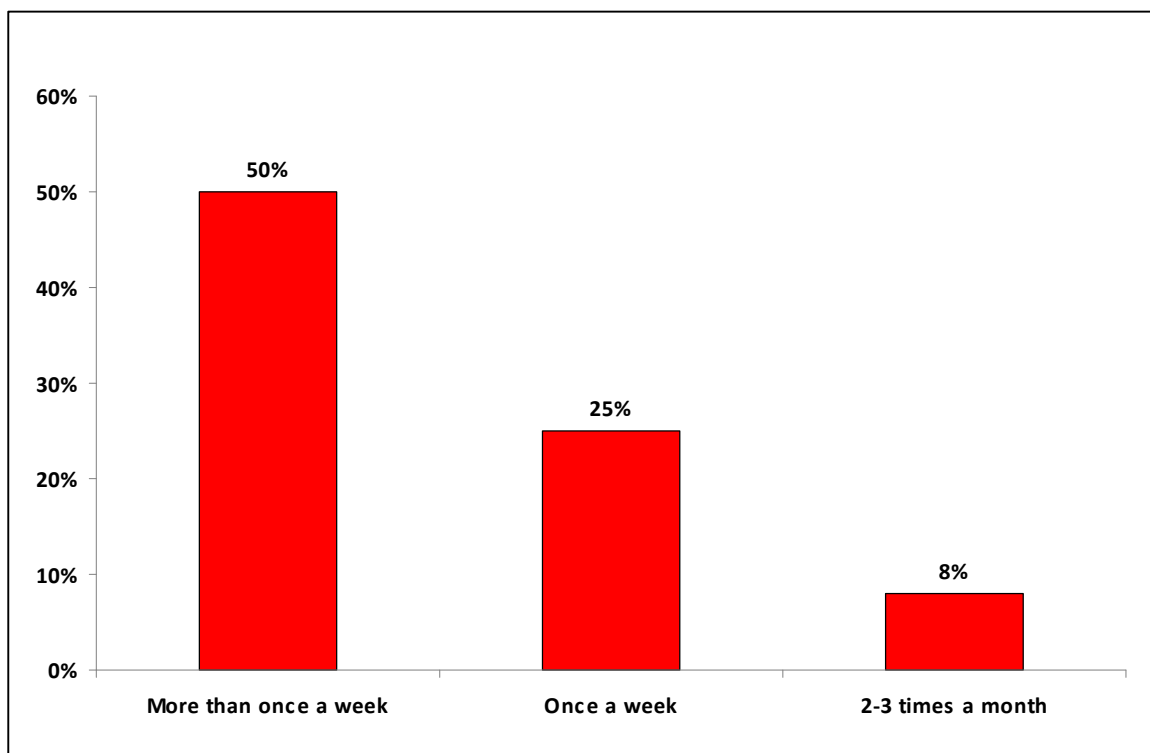
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### *Usage*

9.3 Only 2% of residents report visiting an allotment in the previous 12 months. This level is consistent with that seen in other local authorities. Although overall levels of usage are low, those that use allotments tend to visit them regularly (75% visiting once a week or more). 67% of these visits to allotments were within the Peak Sub-region.

*Figure 9.1: Frequency of usage allotments in the previous 12 months*

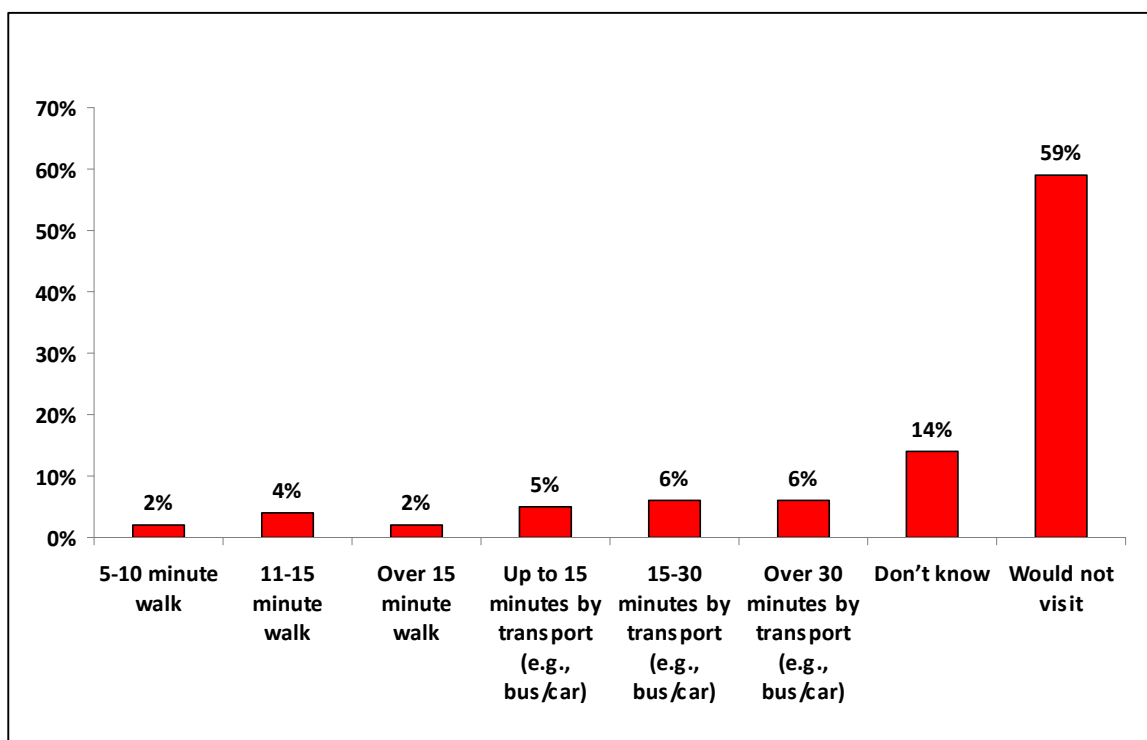


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### Accessibility

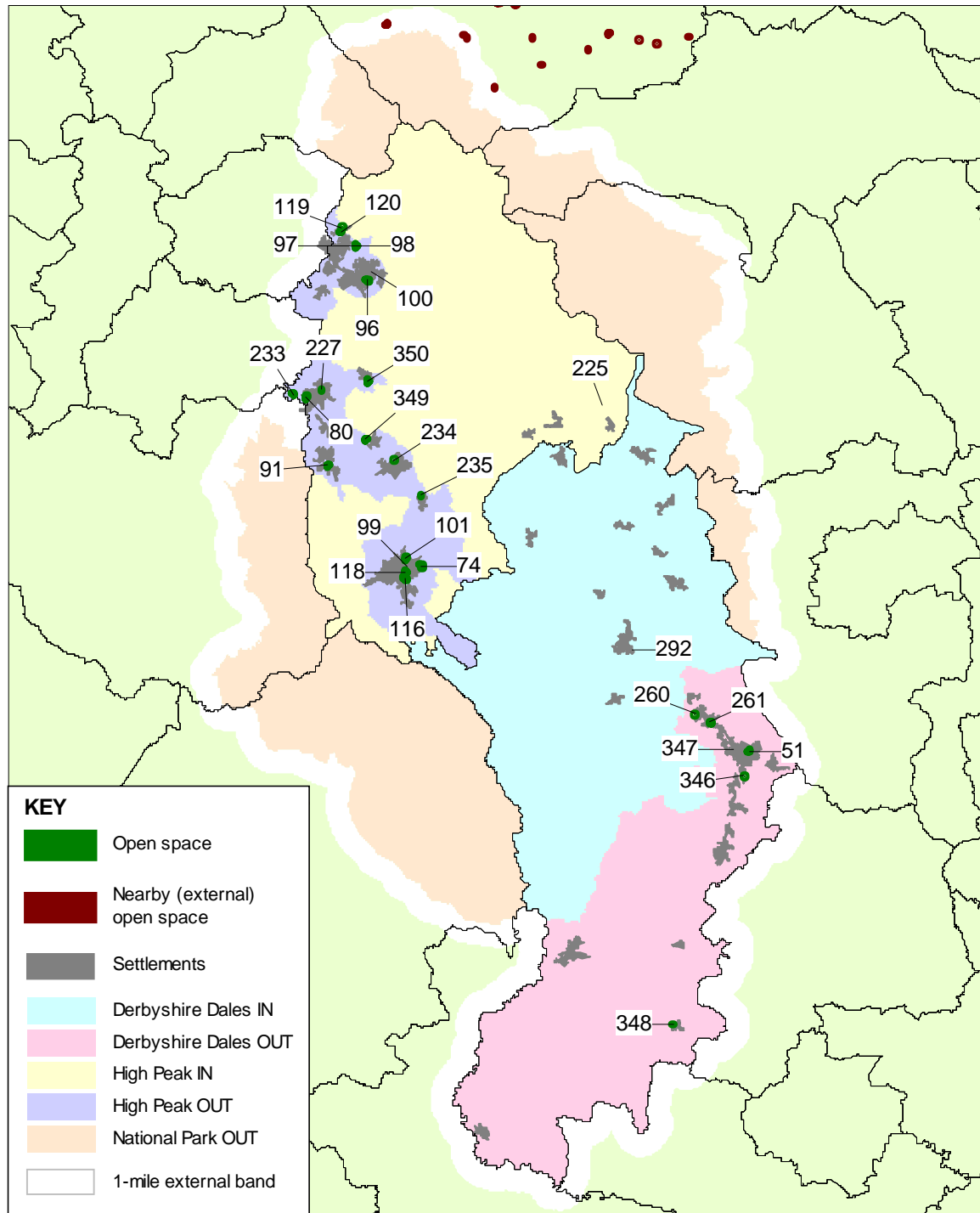
- 9.4 Due to high demand for allotment provision and limited availability, which is discussed further during this section, a number of sites attract tenants from significant distances. For example Brailsford Allotments in Derbyshire Dales attracts tenants from a ten-mile radius. Most significantly as Brailsford Allotments is currently the closest provision to the settlement of Ashbourne a number of tenants travel the six miles to access the site. This may alter once additional provision, as planned and discussed later, is established in Ashbourne.
- 9.5 Reflecting the relatively small proportion of the population that use allotments, the majority of residents (73%) are unable to state how far they would travel to access one.

Figure 9.2: Time prepared to travel to access an allotment



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Figure 9.3: Allotment sites mapped against settlement areas



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*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Ref	Site	KKP Ref	Site
51	Allotment Gardens off Wellfield Road, Matlock	225	Allotment gardens
74	Cunningdale Allotments	227	Ollersett Allotments
80	New Mills Community Orchard	233	Hague Bar allotments
91	Sunnybank Allotments	234	The Courses allotments
96	Highfield Road Allotments, Glossop	235	Dove Holes allotments
97	Padfield Allotments 1	260	Church Road allotments
98	Padfield Allotments 2	261	Oddford Lane allotments
99	Victoria Park Road Allotments	292	Haddon Road allotments
100	Jordan Street Allotments, Glossop	346	Starkholmes Allotments
101	Nunsfield Allotments	347	Hurds Hollow Allotments
116	Cote Heath Allotments	348	Brailsford Allotments
118	Silverlands Allotments	349	Chinley Allotments
119	Arnfield Lane Allotments, Tintwistle	350	Chapel Road Allotments, Hayfield
120	New Road Allotments, Tintwistle		

- 9.6 The majority of allotment sites currently operate at 100% capacity. The combined allotment waiting list, across the Peak Sub-region, of 417 demonstrates that demand for allotments is not being met by provision. Consultation with allotment providers highlights the increasing interest being tending allotment plots; a national trend attributed rising food prices and changing lifestyles in relation to healthy eating. All the allotment associations' state that the number of enquiries they receive with regard to availability of plots has dramatically increased over recent years and that this cannot be catered for. In particular, consultation identifies demand for additional provision in Gamesley, Hathersage (currently no provision), Glossop/Glossopdale, Whaley Bridge, Bakewell, Darely Dale, Matlock and Ashbourne.
- 9.7 Resident consultation highlights a perception that limited provision in the Gamesley area is due to a lack of suitable land. There is recognised need for such provision; the local residents association has received numerous enquiries with regard the possibility of obtaining an allotment. One possible site that the association feels may be suitable for such provision is the Roman Gardens.



- 9.8 There is currently no allotment provision in the Hathersage area. The only community open space available to residents is the playing field which contains a children's play area. Consultation identifies significant demand for provision in the village with the closest allotment site located three miles away in Grindleford. The need for provision is recognised by the parish council; however, limited land availability has blocked progression to date. Demand for provision is such that residents have not been deterred and an action group, Hathersage Allotment Group, has formed to campaign for and investigate the possibility of providing allotments. To date 36 local residents have lodged an interest with the group to rent a plot should a site become available. There is also an aspiration to include a community space, e.g. community orchard, to engage schools, disability groups, learning groups and local care homes to encourage use by the wider community. Hathersage Allotment Group originally identified 12 potential sites in and around the village but following further feasibility work only one site is regarded as a serious possibility. This belongs to a private landowner and the Group is currently in negotiations to lease the site. However, there may be planning implications and the Group would like support from the PDNPA and HPBC to work through and overcome potential barriers.
- 9.9 Although consultation indicates that the general perception is that Buxton is well provided for in terms of allotment provision, there is evidence that current provision is not meeting demand. A total of 167 plots available across the four sites in the area. However, all four operate at capacity and there is a combined waiting list of 65. The largest site in Buxton, Cote Heath (also known as Heath Grove), off Byron Street, which has 120 plots in total, is particularly popular with a waiting list of 50. The allotment association which manages Nunsfield Allotments states that although the official waiting list for the site stands at six, latent demand is such that had ten plots had been available at the start of the 2008 season all would have been leased.
- 9.10 The availability and accessibility of allotment provision in Glossop and the Glossopdale area of High Peak is of particular concern to local residents. HPBC recognises that provision in the area falls short. There is currently only one HPBC allotment site in the area; Jordan Street. This has limited capacity (it has only seven plots) and a waiting list which currently lies at 84. There is also a private allotment site serving Glossop, Highfield Road Allotments, which, according to the site audit appears to be well used. However, there is also a waiting list for this site.
- 9.11 There is also limited availability in close proximity to Glossop, with two fully tenanted sites in Padfield and no provision in Hadfield, a concern for local residents. HPBC has received numerous requests for additional provision in the area. Local residents have identified potential land on the dis-used railway line and/or the land beyond Hadfield Station.

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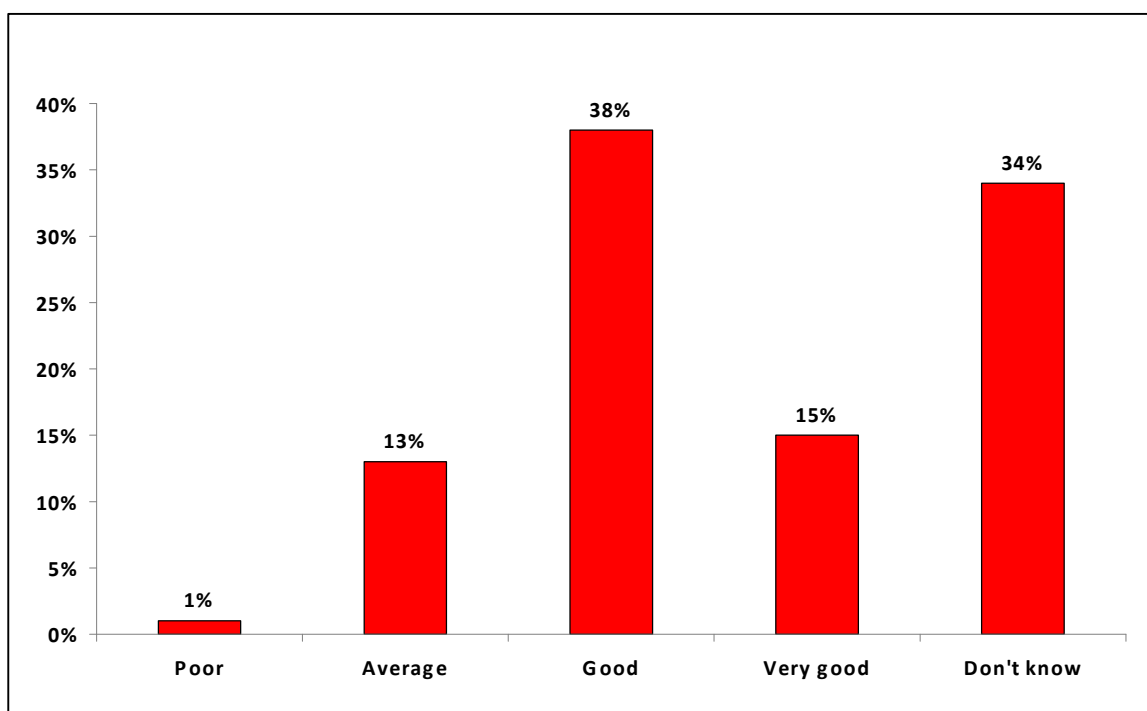
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- 9.12 There is identified need for additional allotment provision in Whaley Bridge. In 2007 the Whaley Bridge Association carried out community consultation to determine the ambitions of the residents of the town in terms of social, leisure and educational activities. Findings were fed into a community action plan and one of the aims outlined is to obtain additional allotments to meet demand. Currently, one site services the area; Sunny Bank allotments, which is owned by HPBC but managed by Whaley Bridge Town Council. This provides 16 plots and has a waiting list of over 40 local residents. The Town Council acknowledges the demand for greater availability of provision and has investigated the potential to develop additional site. Carrs Field at Horwich End has been put forward as a suggestion. It is currently rough grassland used for grazing but could potentially accommodate 10 plots. However, it falls within a Conservation area and within the flood zone of Randal Carr Brook. As a result its suitability for allotment provision is questionable.
- 9.13 Provision of allotments in Chapel-en-le-Frith was also raised through consultation. The Town Council owns two sites, Green Lane/Meadow Lane in Doves holes; a well used site and the Leys allotments which is now redundant following development of an industrial estate in an adjacent area. As there is no longer use of the site, the Town Council would like to sell the land for industrial purposes. However, it is a statutory allotment and permission is currently being sought from the Secretary of State. There has already been a refusal, most likely due to the lack of alternative provision to meet the needs of local residents. However, this is being followed up as the site location has led to it becoming un-used and reintroducing tenants does not appear to be feasible.
- 9.14 Chapel-en-le-Frith also leases part of an allotment site, the Courses, from Ferodo Ltd to help meet demand for provision. The remainder of the site is set aside for employees of Ferodo Ltd.
- 9.15 HPBC receives enquiries regarding provision available in New Mills. The town council provides one site, Ollerset Avenue allotments, which is fully tenanted and has a waiting list of 15. There is also a community garden in New Mills. However, the waiting list figure indicates that current provision is not meeting demand in this locality.
- 9.16 Consultation identifies significant demand for allotments to be provided in Ashbourne where there is currently no provision. At present the nearest site is located over six miles away in Brailsford. A number of residents travel the ten minutes to access provision in Brailsford but this site is operating at capacity.
- 9.17 In response to the level of demand for an allotment site in Ashbourne a local farmer has offered a piece of land, off Mayfield Road, for use as allotments potentially offering up to 20 plots. A campaign to raise awareness of this opportunity has recently been run in the Ashbourne News Telegraph. This has generated interest and assembled details of potential tenants to validate the need for provision. Following an article a list of 65 interested residents was compiled demonstrating the high demand.
- 9.18 Consultation suggests that there is also potential to work in partnership with the Old Trust in Ashbourne to offer the gardens at the rear of the Alms Houses, School Lane as allotments. The Old Trust currently pays for this area to be maintained but there is an opportunity to explore leasing areas of the gardens as allotment plots so that they are kept as vegetable gardens and an income is generated to re-invest into the site. This would go some way towards meeting the need for allotment provision in the local area.

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- 9.19 There is also an area of land located between Old Hill and the Docksey Fields in Ashbourne that has, in the past, been used as allotments. Its current use is unknown and there is a need to investigate this and to explore the potential for the area to be brought back into use.
- 9.20 The only allotment site currently available in Bakewell; Haddon Road Allotments, has ten plots and is currently over-subscribed with a large waiting list of 40. In response to the high demand expressed by local residents an action group, Bakewell's Allotment Gardeners Action Group (BAG-AG), has been established. This is in the early stages of converting a small plot of land, at Highfields Close, into an additional allotment site. To date negotiations have been undertaken with the landowner; a housing association. A feasibility study has been conducted to assess the amount and types of demand and a planning application has been put together. If successful, the site will remain in the ownership of the housing association but will be self-managed by BAG-AG. It will have capacity for approximately ten plots and if it does go ahead, will go some way towards meeting local need for provision.

Figure 9.4: Availability of allotments



- 9.21 Approximately one third of respondents (74%) are unable to comment on the availability of allotments. Again, this may reflect a lack of awareness. One in three respondents (38%) rate the availability of allotments as good and 15% feel it is very good, compared to the much smaller proportion (1%) that consider provision to be poor. Of those who think availability is very good, 37% are from the Derbyshire Dales area, outside the National Park. Of the 1% who think availability is poor, the majority (87%) are from the High Peak area outside the National Park.

9.22 Throughout the Peak Sub-region there is limited promotion of allotments and the associated health and well being benefits. There is a need for raised awareness to improve access to provision. This can be achieved via increased information on HPBC, DDDC and the relevant Town and Parish Council websites. This could be supplemented by production and distribution of promotional leaflets and establishment of allotment starter packs to provide relevant information for new tenants with tips on how to cultivate plots and achieve maximum benefit. However, as current provision cannot meet existing high demand it may not be in the best collective interest, for the time being, to be over-zealous promoting the benefits of taking up an allotment as further demand may be generated.

### ***Management***

9.23 Ownership of allotment provision across the Peak Sub-region is varied and is split between HPBC, DDDC, respective town/parish councils and private landowners. Management of existing provision is just as complex with a large proportion being self-managed by well-established allotment associations.

9.24 Consultation indicates that self-management of allotments works well in both High Peak and Derbyshire Dales. Associations tend to be well placed to effectively manage plot allocations and waiting lists and drive positive usage. Where associations exist there is a strong sense of community, which leads to a number of sites experiencing low attrition. For example half of the tenants at Brailsford allotments have tended their plots for over ten years and there are similar situations at Victoria Park Allotments in Buxton and Oddford Allotments in Darley Dale.

9.25 There is currently no allotment strategy for HPBC or DDDC. Although there is no evidence that this impacts negatively on quality or use (consultation finds that users are, in the main, content with the quality and management of provision), it could be argued that it results in a lack of strategic management in terms of development of provision across the Sub-region (waiting list figures indicate that current provision is not meeting demand).

9.26 Consultation identifies that, due to the high number of self-managed allotment associations, establishment of an allotment association forum would be welcomed. This would provide them with an opportunity to get together to share best practice, updates on developments and to work in partnership (e.g. to best utilise resources to meet need and potentially to seek funding and investment opportunities). Consultation with some associations raised concerns with regard to public liability insurance while consultation with others identified how they had overcome this. A forum would present the opportunity for common issues such as this to be discussed and solutions sought.

### *Vacant plot management*

9.27 In general, due to the large number of self managed association, vacant plot management is efficient and they are allocated to meet waiting list demand as and when they become available. In some instances, tenants report that plots fall out of use while still under lease; this can lead to them becoming neglected and overgrown. It is a daunting task for a new tenant to take over a plot in such a condition. It is mainly HPBC and DDDC managed sites where this occurs. Although the authorities would ideally like to be able clear overgrown plots before they are re-let the capacity to do this is limited. Sites that are self-managed by associations tend not to experience this problem as much as they are proactive at ensuring that tenants do not, without fair reason, allow plots to fall out of use.

### *Waiting lists*

9.28 In total, there is a combined waiting list of 417 for allotment sites across the Peak Sub-region. This should be treated with caution as some figures have been generated over a number of years e.g. the waiting list for Hurds Hollow allotments in Matlock dates back over ten years. However, even considering this and the issue of double counting (where residents may sign up to more than one waiting list), this still demonstrates significant demand for provision. This is supported by consultation findings. Currently approximately 513 individual plots are provided across the sites in the Peak Sub-region, the majority of which are tenanted. Consultation highlights efficient waiting list management by both town and parish councils, with few sites having vacant plots that are not being utilised to meet waiting list demand.

9.29 User consultation highlights that the large size of plots is an issue that associations are attempting to addressing via encouragement of plot splitting and sharing. Numerous sites, e.g. Cuningdale, Silverlands and Nunsifeld Allotments in Buxton, Chapel Road Allotments in Hayfield and Brailsford Allotments, offer half size plots to create more manageable areas and cater for more users.

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Quality

9.30 The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 9.2: Quality scores for allotment sites by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 66%	Above 66%
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	124	39%	39%	39%	-	1	-
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	124	31%	36%	40%	8%	3	-
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	124	14%	14%	14%	-	1	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	124	18%	28%	56%	39%	17	-
Peak National Park ONLY	124	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-</b>

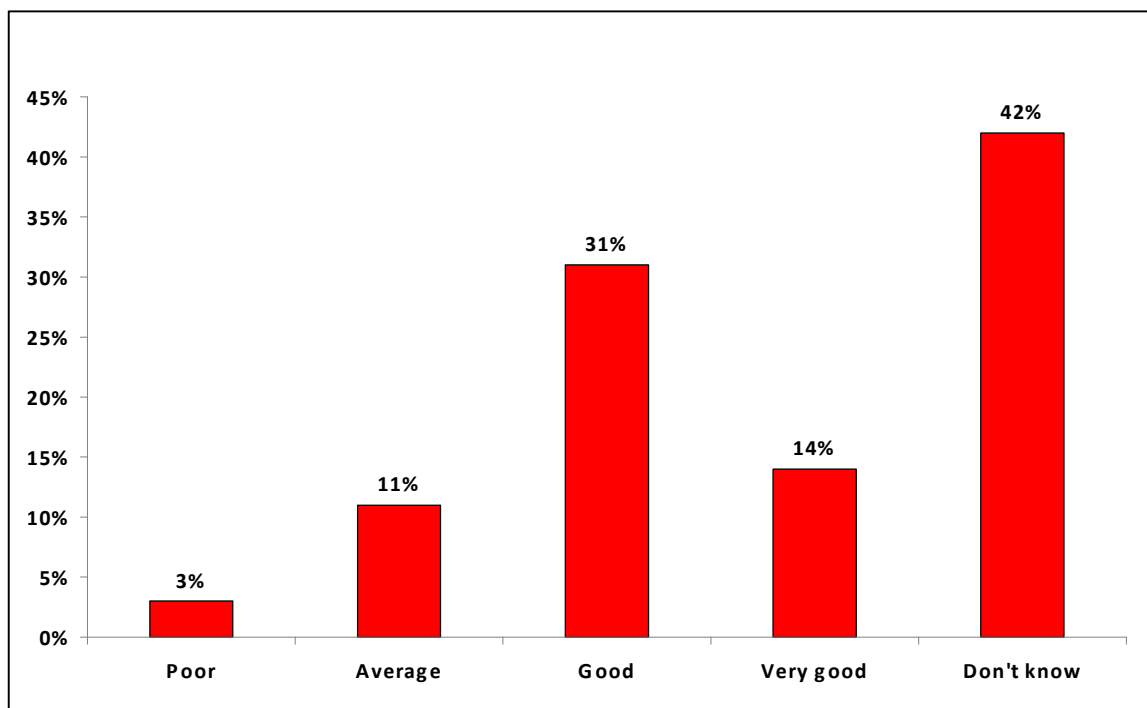
9.31 Although all sites fall below the 66% quality threshold consultation identifies that, in the main, allotment users are satisfied with the quality of provision. They recognise the limitations that exist in terms of providing mains water and electricity supply and are of the opinion that they receive value for money in terms of facilities at sites in relation to the cost of renting a plot.

9.32 Few sites experience problems with theft of produce and/or tools or vandalism. Where this has occurred e.g. Cuningdale Allotments, Buxton, problems are reportedly sporadic and stem mainly from its location.

9.33 Again, a large proportion of residents (42%) are unable to rate quality, reflecting usage and, probably, awareness. Amongst those that do rate provision, a significantly higher percentage considers it to be good/very good (45%) than poor (3%). Of those who think quality is very good, a third is from the Derbyshire Dales area, outside the National Park.

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Figure 9.5: Quality of provision of allotments



### Value

9.34 The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for allotments in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 9.3: Value scores for allotment sites by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores				
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	105	29%	29%	29%	-
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	105	24%	28%	30%	7%
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	105	12%	12%	12%	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	105	9%	29%	47%	38%
Peak National Park ONLY	105	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>38%</b>

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- 9.35 Consultation indicates that the awareness of the value of allotment provision is increasing across the Sub-region. As mentioned earlier this reflects national trends. The majority of allotment providers across the Peak Sub-region have witnessed an increase in the interest in taking on an allotment being expressed. There is also evidence of a changing user profile; with increasing take up of plots by families and young adults. The health, social and well being benefits of tending an allotment are increasingly being recognised and this is resulting in increased demand, as demonstrated in the raising waiting list figures.
- 9.36 Allotments tend to be very valuable locally. The sense of community that tenants get from being part of an allotment site and/or association is very positive and consultation indicates that once allocated a plot tenants tend to remain at a site for a number of years. Victoria Park Allotment in Buxton is such an example. Consultation identifies that this is a locally a very valuable site. The majority of tenants are residents of the housing surrounding the site and are, therefore, also neighbours. The majority of tenants have leased their plots for over five years and there is an informed support network as they provide one another with assistance tending to plots and exchange seeds and produce. Consultation identifies a similar picture on a large number of sites across the Sub-region; particularly those with establish self-managing associations.

### **Summary of site consultation**

- 9.37 This section collates issues raised during consultation regarding allotments in the Peak Sub-region. This is presented alongside site visit quality and value scores for comparison. It is not a comprehensive list of sites and only covers sites raised during consultation.

Site	Local authority	Comments
New Mills Community Orchard, New Mills	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	<p>This two-acre community orchard which is owned by New Mills Town Council, was planted in 2006. It is a well used valuable site for local residents. Local school children have been involved in tree planting.</p> <p>Picnic tables, seating areas, sculptures by local artists and a viewing area with interpretation add to the functionality and interest of the site.</p> <p>There is an active 'friends of' group which proactively encourages site use through the hosting of community events, open days and informal walkabouts.</p> <p>The group would like to see the following improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sowing parasitic plants to keep the green grass down and allow the wild grasses to flourish</li> <li>• Put a disc round the base of the trees to discourage grass growth (which would let the trees grow better)</li> <li>• Prune more/remove undesirable plants/weeds</li> </ul>
Silverlands Allotments	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	<p>Consultation with users indicates that this site is considered to be of high quality. Tenants would welcome provision of a mains water and electricity supply but it is recognised that this may not be feasible.</p>



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Site	Local authority	Comments
Victoria Park Allotment Association	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	Although the land at this allotment is not high quality for cultivation it is fully tenanted and there is evidence that it is highly valued by users and local residents.
Nunsfield Allotments	High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	The location of the site offers it protection from vandalism and theft. However, consultation identifies concern amongst users with regard to the potential impacts of a proposed nearby housing development, which could lead to the site being more vulnerable.
Church Road Allotments, Darley Dale	Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	Although an allotment society exists, Darley Dale Town Council has recently taken over the management of this site. There is an aspiration to enhance the quality of Church Road Allotments, as it is currently perceived to be in a poor condition.  The plots are currently of a large size. To make them more manageable and to work towards meeting the waiting list (of 20) demand the Town Council is in the process of splitting the plots into half and quarter sizes.
Oddford Lane Allotments, Darely Dale	Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	Owned and managed by Darley Dale Town Council this is considered to be a high quality site. This is reflected by the fact that once a tenants are allocated a plot at the site they tend to remain for a number of years.  There is an informal/unofficial allotment association but it does not undertake any management responsibilities.
Chesterfield Allotments, Matlock	Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	The site is owned by DDDC and leased to Matlock Town Council. Originally there was provision of 40 plots but this has been increased to 52 via the splitting of plots. It is fully let with a waiting list of 30.  An association has recently been established and, in partnership with the Town Council, it is hoping to transform an area in the corner of the site, which currently suffers from water logging, into a wildlife area. There is an aspiration to create a pond and to engage the local schools to use the site e.g. for pond dipping.
Brailsford Allotment Association	Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	This is a well established site that has been in use as allotments for over 25 years. It is owned by a local farmer family and leased out to the association.  A number of the tenants have been at Brailsford allotment for over ten years. The site is seeing increasing interest from young families.

**Allotments summary**

- ◀ There are 22 sites classified as allotments in the Sub-region, totaling just over 21 hectares. An additional three sites are to be added to the database taking the total to 25.
- ◀ Users are, in the main, content with the quality and management of provision. However, consultation and waiting list figures indicate that current provision is not meeting the high demand.
- ◀ Value of allotment provision is considered to be very high recognising the health, social and well-being benefits offered of tending to plots.
- ◀ Management of allotment sites is split between respective town/parish councils, HPBC, DDDC, private landowners and allotment associations. There is a lack of strategic management of provision across the Sub-region. However, this does not appear to impact on the quality or usage of provision.

# PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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## PART 10: CEMETERIES, CHURCHYARDS AND BURIAL GROUNDS

### Introduction

10.1 The typology of cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes areas for 'quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.'

### Key issues

#### ***Current provision***

10.2 There are 26 sites classified under this typology equating to just over 31 hectares of provision in the Peak Sub-region.

*Table 10.1: Distribution of cemeteries sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Civic spaces	
	Number	Size (ha)
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	2	2.77
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	11	10.64
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	5	3.20
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	8	14.52
Peak National Park ONLY	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31.15</b>

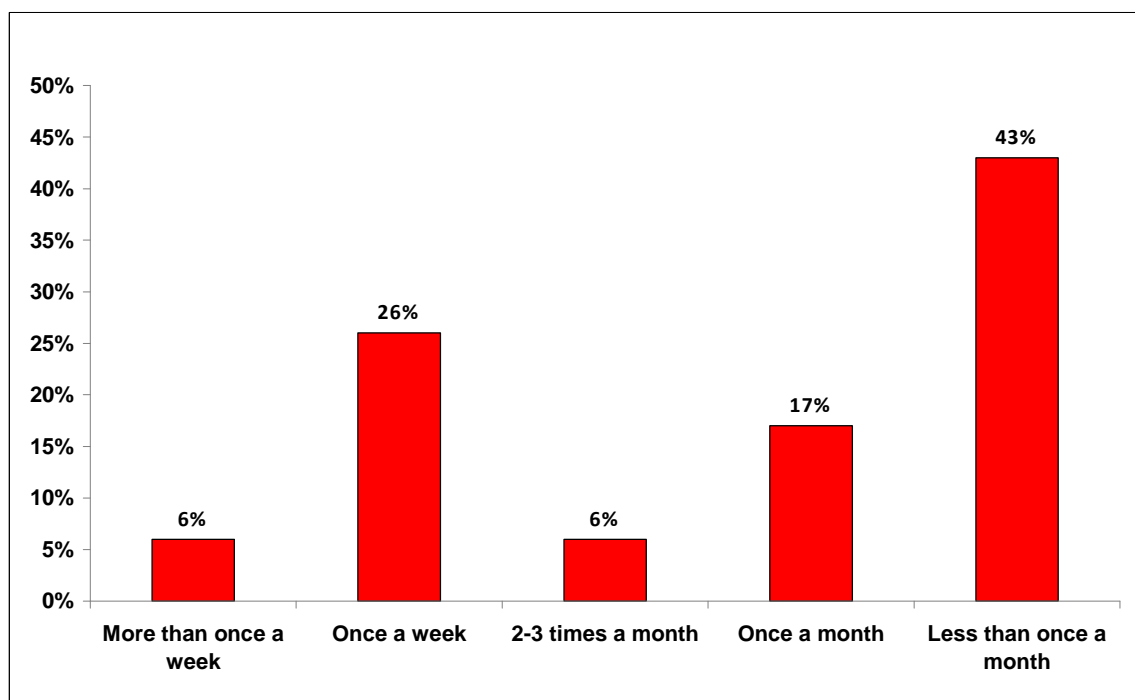
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### Usage

- 10.3 Usage levels of cemeteries/churchyards appears to be low with less than one tenth (9%) of residents stating that they had visited a cemetery/churchyard in the previous twelve months. A small proportion (4%) of visitors to the Sub-region have visited a cemetery/churchyard during their stay.
- 10.4 Reflecting the nature of most visits to churchyards/cemeteries over two fifths (43%) of respondents only visit cemeteries and churchyards less than once a month. However, almost one third (32%) of users access provision on a frequent basis, once or week or more often.
- 10.5 Of all users, the vast majority visit churchyards/cemeteries within the Sub-region (83%).

Figure 10.1: Frequency of usage of cemeteries/churchyards in the previous 12 months



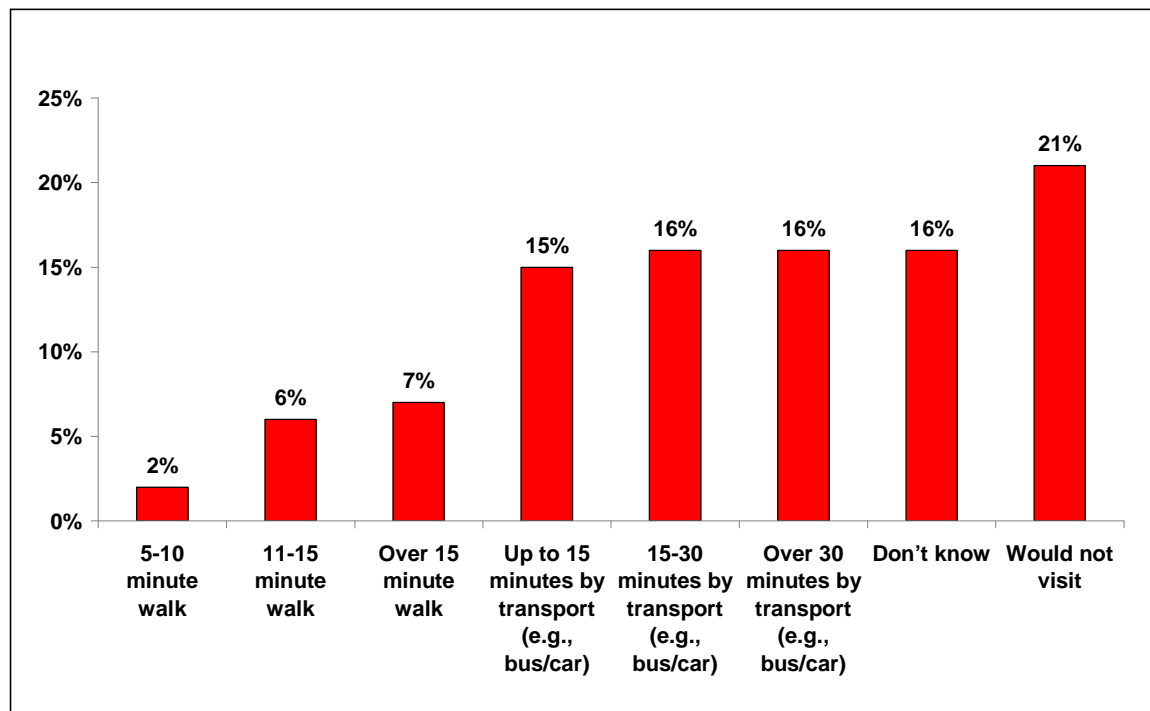
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### Accessibility

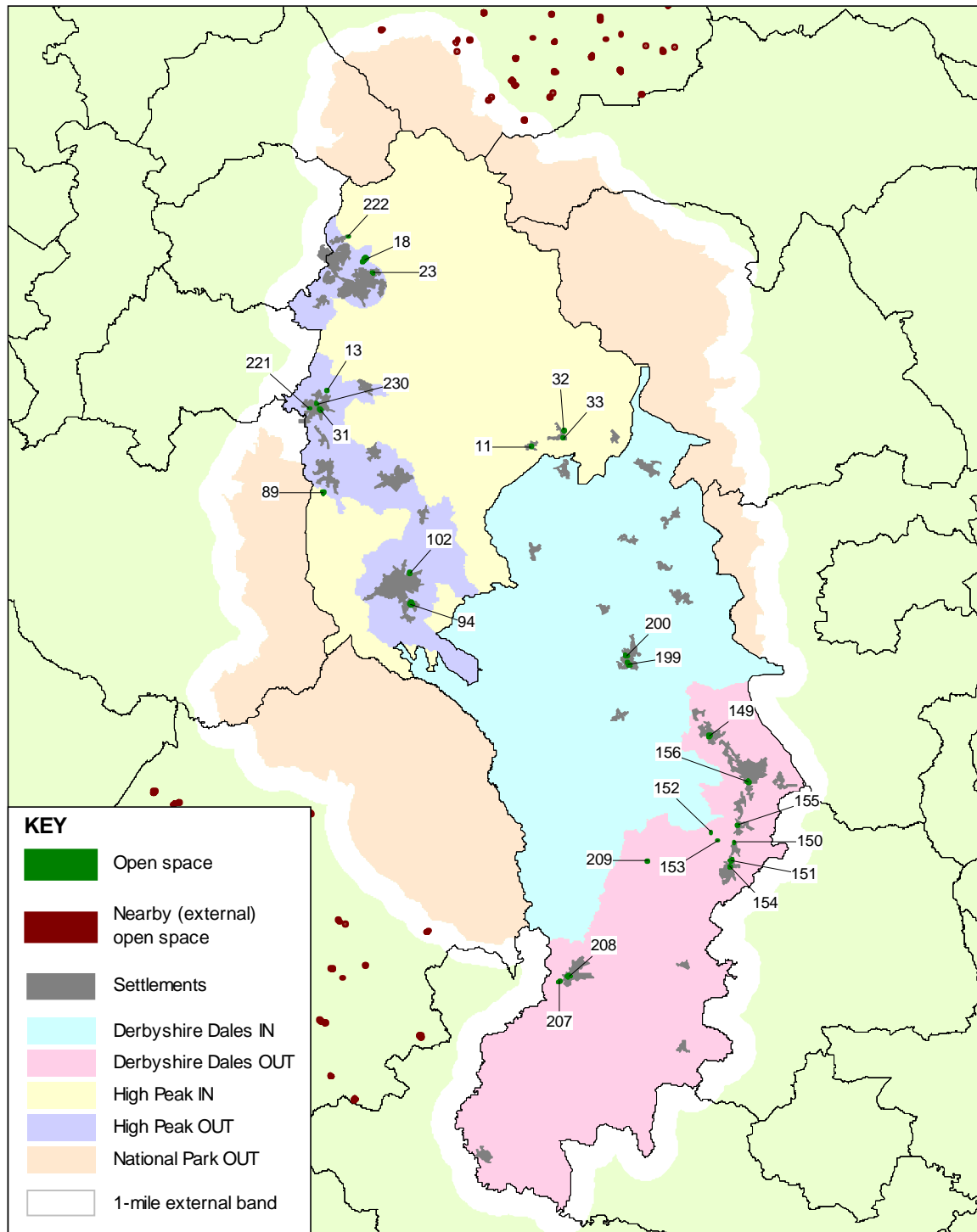
10.6 Over one third of respondents (37%) to the survey are unable to state for how long they would travel to reach a cemetery or churchyard. Almost half (47%) of respondents are willing to travel by transport with a smaller proportion (15%) stating they would expect to access provision on foot.

Figure 10.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a cemetery/churchyard



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Figure 10.3: Cemeteries sites mapped against settlement areas



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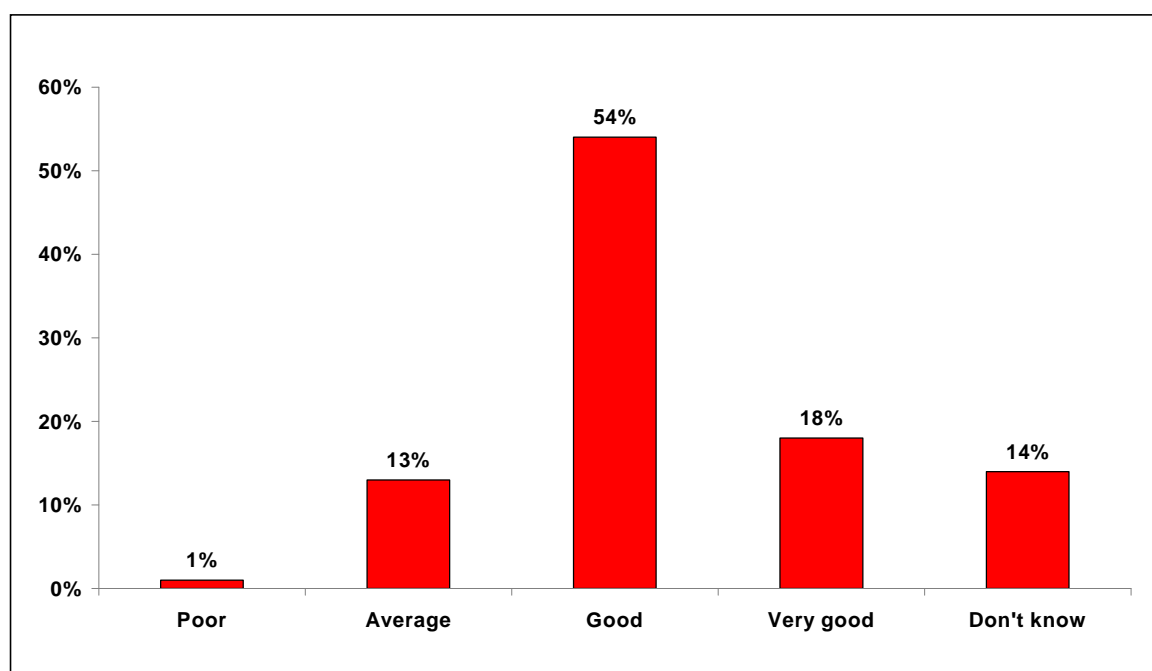
Key to sites mapped:

KKP Ref	Site	KKP Ref	Site
11	St. Edmund's C. Yard	152	Middleton Cemetery
13	Thornsett Cemetery	153	Holy Trinity Church
18	Glossop Cemetery	154	St Marys Church
23	All Saints	155	St Marks Churchyard
31	St. Georges Church Yard	156	St Giles Churchyard
32	Cemetery (Green Drive)	199	Bakewell Cemetery
33	St. Peter's Closed C.Y.	200	All Saints Church
89	St James Church	207	Ashbourne Cemetery
94	Buxton Cemetery	208	St. Oswalds Churchyard
102	St Peter's Church	209	Brassington Cemetery
149	Darley Dale Cemetery	221	St Marys RC Church
150	Steeple Arch Cemetery	222	Independent Chapel graveyard
151	Fanny Shaw Cemetery	230	Hidebank Burial Ground

10.7 In terms of cemeteries, churchyards and disused burial grounds mapping shows there is provision in the main settlement areas. The main deficiency in a populated area appears to be in Chinley and Chapel-en-le-Frith, the remaining gaps are associated with rural areas. However, for cemetery provision, need is driven by burial capacity requirement.

10.8 The availability of churchyards and cemeteries is rated as good or very good by three quarters (75%) of respondents. Only a very small proportion (1%) rates it as poor. Residents outside of the National Park rate availability of provision higher.

Figure 10.4: Availability of cemeteries/churchyards



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10.9 Many of the existing cemeteries maintained by HPBC and DDDC have a number of years capacity remaining. However, future provision will need to be monitored and assessed in order to ensure future land availability in the coming years. Thornsett Cemetery has now reached burial capacity. However, HPBC has ownership of adjacent land and plans to extend it to provide burial spaces for up to a further 60 years.

### Management

10.10 There are 11 operational cemeteries across the Sub-region, four in High Peak and seven in Derbyshire Dales. In addition HPBC maintains eight closed churchyards and DDDC undertakes maintenance duties for 16 closed churchyards. Both authorities undertake minimal maintenance duties at closed churchyards, with the objective being to maintain the sites at the standard they were at when maintenance was taken on. Therefore no enhancement of quality standard is achieved. HPBC hope to review this in the near future and aspires to write a policy to guide the level of maintenance to be undertaken at closed churchyards. At present, for both HPBC and DDDC, lack of financial and human resource limits the duties that can be undertaken.

### Quality

10.11 The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries in the Peak Sub-region. Individual site summaries can be found at the end of this section.

Table 10.2: Quality scores for cemeteries sites by analysis area

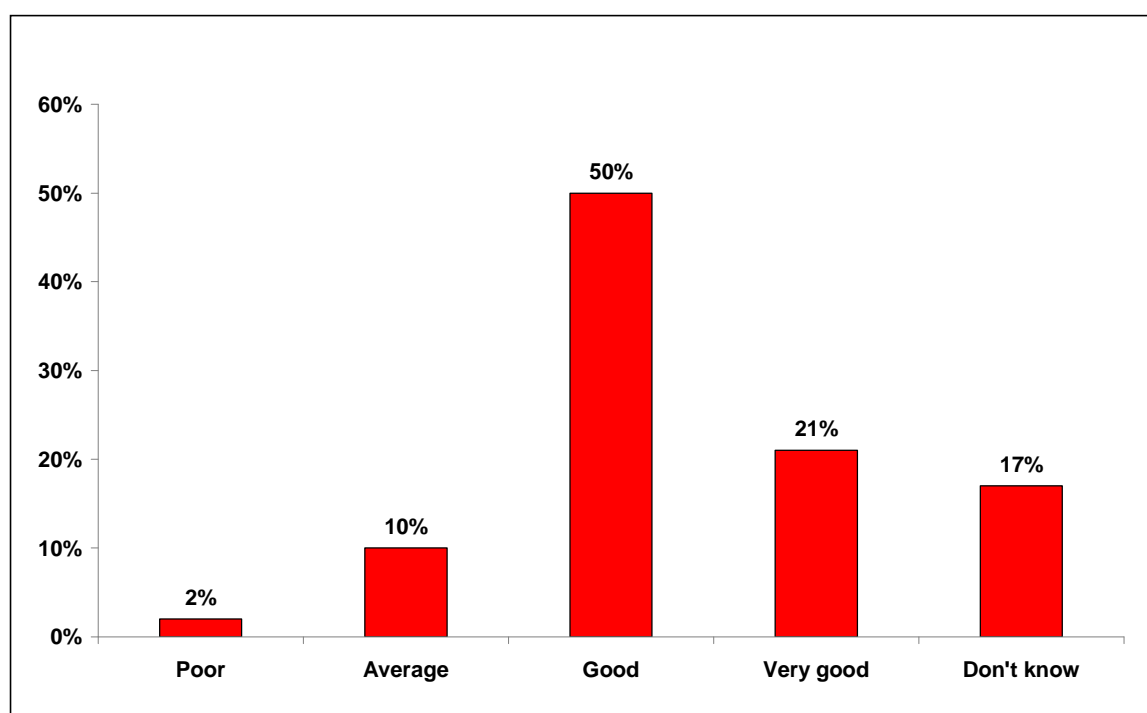
Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 66%	Above 66%
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	161	43%	47%	52%	9%	2	-
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	161	37%	52%	63%	26%	11	-
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	161	21%	46%	66%	44%	4	1
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	161	26%	48%	70%	43%	6	2
Peak National Park ONLY	161	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>



## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

- 10.12 All the sites, except Hidebank Burial Ground in High Peak out, score highly for landscape design and maintenance and overall maintenance and cleanliness. Grounds maintenance standards are deemed to be good. Consultation identifies few occurrences of vandalism and although some sites e.g. Glossop Cemetery, do experience occasional problems with children and young people creating a nuisance, it is not considered to have a significant impact upon quality and usage.
- 10.13 The majority of sites score low on quality of internal footpaths and consultation identifies a need for investment in the basic infrastructure of cemeteries in both High Peak and Derbyshire Dales.
- 10.14 Due to its large size and significance Glossop Cemetery has a permanent on-site grounds maintenance operative. Consultation indicates a noticeable difference between the maintenance standard at this site compared to other sites in High Peak. This is supported by the site audit; Glossop Cemetery received the second highest quality score. The site with the highest quality score, Thornsett Cemetery, is also within High Peak. The site audit for Thornsett notes that it is a beautifully kept cemetery with excellent paths and adequate provision of well located seating areas. The graves appear to be well tended and there is a woodland burial area.
- 10.15 Almost three quarters of the respondents of the street survey rate the quality of churchyards/cemeteries to be good or very good (71%). Only a small proportion (12%) regard the quality of provision across the Sub-region to be average or below. It is particularly highly rated in Derbyshire Dales outside the National Park (87% rating it as good or very good) and the High Peak area inside the National Park (87% rating it as good or very good).

Figure 10.5: Quality of churchyards/cemeteries



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### Value

10.16 The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 10.3: Value scores for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores				
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	100	17%	22%	26%	9%
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	100	18%	27%	43%	25%
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	100	25%	38%	63%	38%
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	100	10%	31%	47%	37%
Peak National Park ONLY	100	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>53%</b>

10.17 Site assessments identify that the majority of cemeteries and churchyards have cultural/heritage value, provide a sense of place to the local community, offer structural and landscape benefits and provide important wildlife habitat areas. As a result the mean value score, across all the areas, lies above the proposed threshold of 20%.

10.18 Although already embedded in some places there is potential for work to demonstrate the value of cemeteries in the context of, for example, what they offer for education and wildlife habitats. Cemeteries can also offer a valuable amenity resource and can be used by local residents for walking and uncovering historical interest. This is to be realised at St Mary's, Wirksworth. The church grounds, which are enclosed by residential housing, are considered to be in a poor state and underused by both residents and visitors to the area. The local civic association, in partnership with DDDC, has a desire to undertake site enhancements and create a community area to encourage usage of the open space around the Church. Located within a conservation area it has very high historical significance and there is opportunity for greater interpretation around this. There are aspirations to engage with local schools and community members to create a circular history trail around Church Walk and there is potential to make links with the local arts festival. DDDC and the civic association are in the process of bidding for grant funding to undertake some of the improvement work e.g. repair listing railings, upgrade footpath surfacing and make the site more accessible, install lighting and provide interpretation opportunities. If successful the project will increase the value of this site for the local community and will be utilised as a high quality open space resource.

10.19 Both HPBC and DDDC recognise the habitat and wildlife value that some sites offer. This has been embraced at Buxton Cemetery and St Oswald's Churchyard in Ashbourne through the creation of wildlife areas. Areas within these sites are managed for the purpose of conservation with mowing regimes being changed to allow the development of wildflower meadows. There are also woodland burial areas at all four operational cemeteries managed by HPBC, offering wildlife benefits.

#### ***Community Involvement***

10.20 Input from voluntary groups makes a positive difference to site appearance and helps to deter vandalism. There is currently very little community involvement in the management and improvement of sites. Officer consultation identifies that there is little community interest in being involved in cemeteries (e.g. via the establishment of 'friends of' groups). However, there has been a request to establish a community group for Glossop Cemetery and there could possibly be sufficient interest to create a 'friends of' group for Buxton Cemetery. This should be pursued by HPBC as and when resources allow.

10.21 Opportunities also exist to engage local communities and schools to explore the educational benefits offered by sites in terms of the historical/heritage value. Buxton cemetery is considered to have a high heritage value. It is felt that it could be better promoted, with enhanced interpretation opportunities, to encourage local residents to utilise it more as an open space resource.

10.22 There is also potential to encourage greater school use of sites. St Giles in Derbyshire Dales is used by a local school for educational activity although this is not specifically encouraged by DDDC because of health and safety concerns.

#### **Cemeteries summary**

- ◀ There are 26 sites classified under this typology equating to just over 31 hectares of provision in the Peak Sub-region.
- ◀ Consultation identifies few quality issues impacting upon the usage of sites.
- ◀ Cemeteries score well against value for the heritage/cultural value and landscape and structural benefits which they can offer.
- ◀ Opportunities exist to utilise sites for greater amenity value and to encourage greater use of sites as an open space resource. There is also an opportunity to engage local communities and schools.

# PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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## PART 11: CIVIC SPACES

### Introduction

11.1 The typology of civic space, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

### *Current provision*

11.2 Five sites are identified as civic spaces within the Peak Sub-region, equating to 0.37 hectares of civic space provision.

*Table 11.1: Distribution of civic space by analysis area*

Analysis area	Civic spaces	
	Number	Size (ha)
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	3	0.22
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	-	-
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	-	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	2	0.14
Peak National Park ONLY	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.37</b>

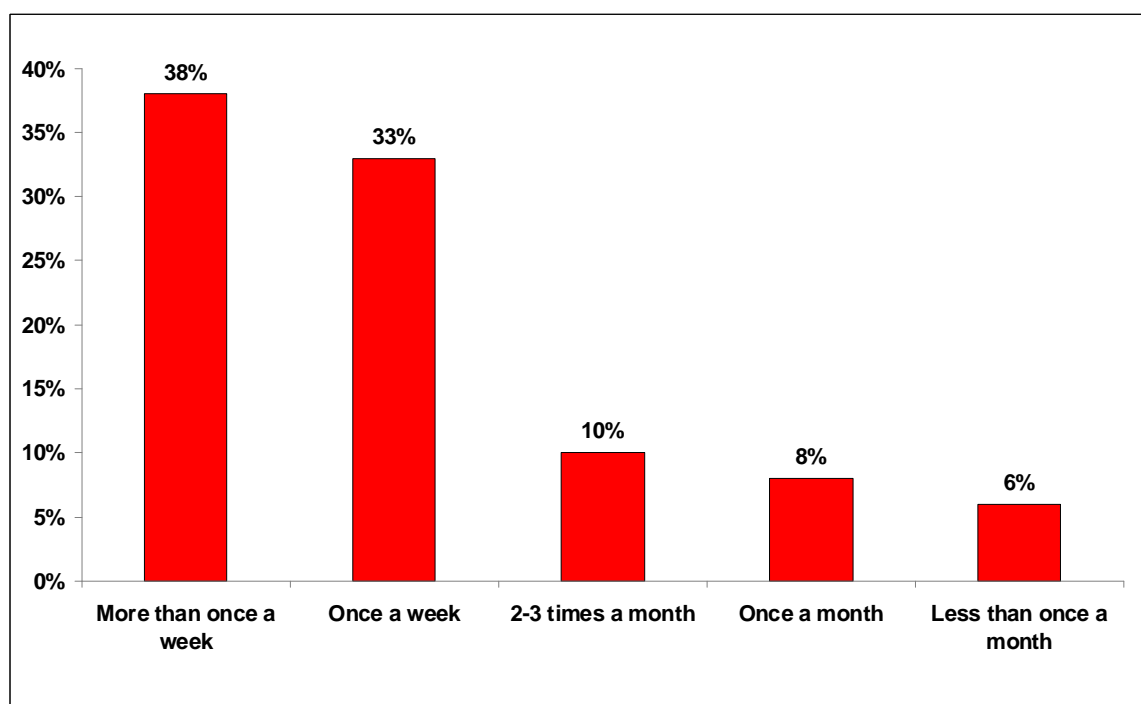
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### Usage

- 11.3 Civic space is a well used typology with a third (33%) of residents having visited such a space in the previous 12 months. The majority of users (73%) visit civic/non-green spaces within the Peak Sub-region. The proportion is particularly high in the areas outside of the National Park, Derbyshire Dales (35%) and High Peak (39%).
- 11.4 Amongst users, civic space is a frequently visited open space typology, with 71% visiting once a week or more often. Frequency of usage is much lower in the National Park, with over two thirds (69%) visiting such provision just once a month and the proportion doing so at least once a week only reaching 22%.
- 11.5 Of all users, the vast majority visit civic spaces within the Peak Sub-region (73%), although a sizeable proportion have visited such sites in both the Peak Sub-region and other areas (20%).

Figure 11.1: Frequency of usage of civic space/non-green spaces in the previous 12 months

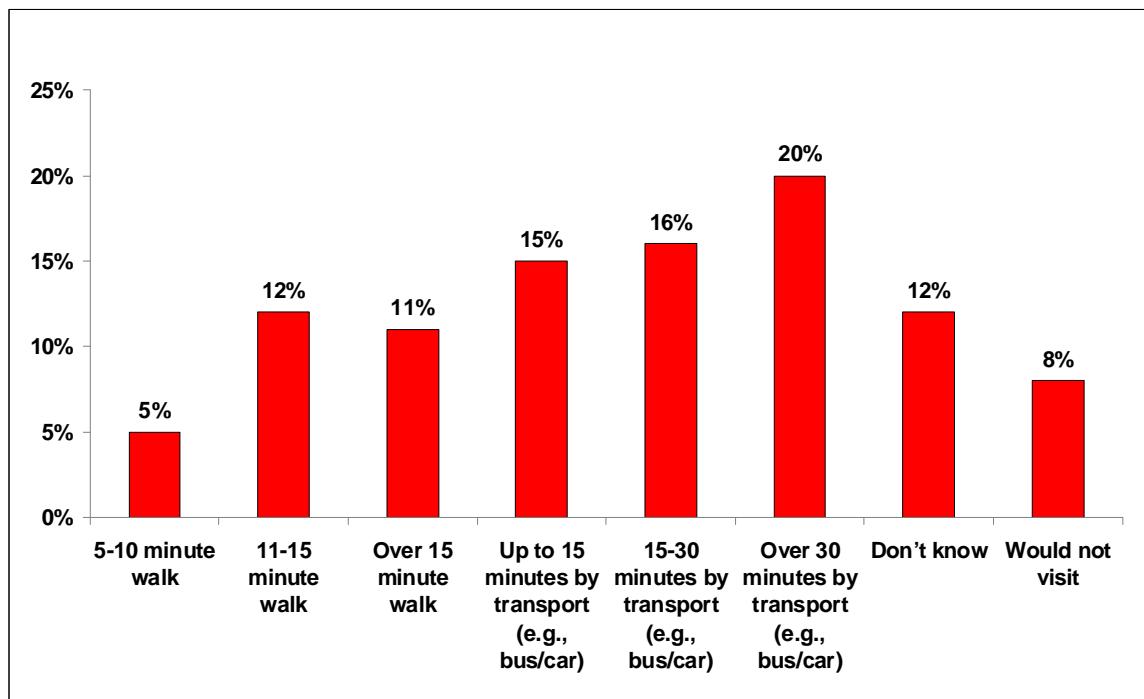


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### Accessibility

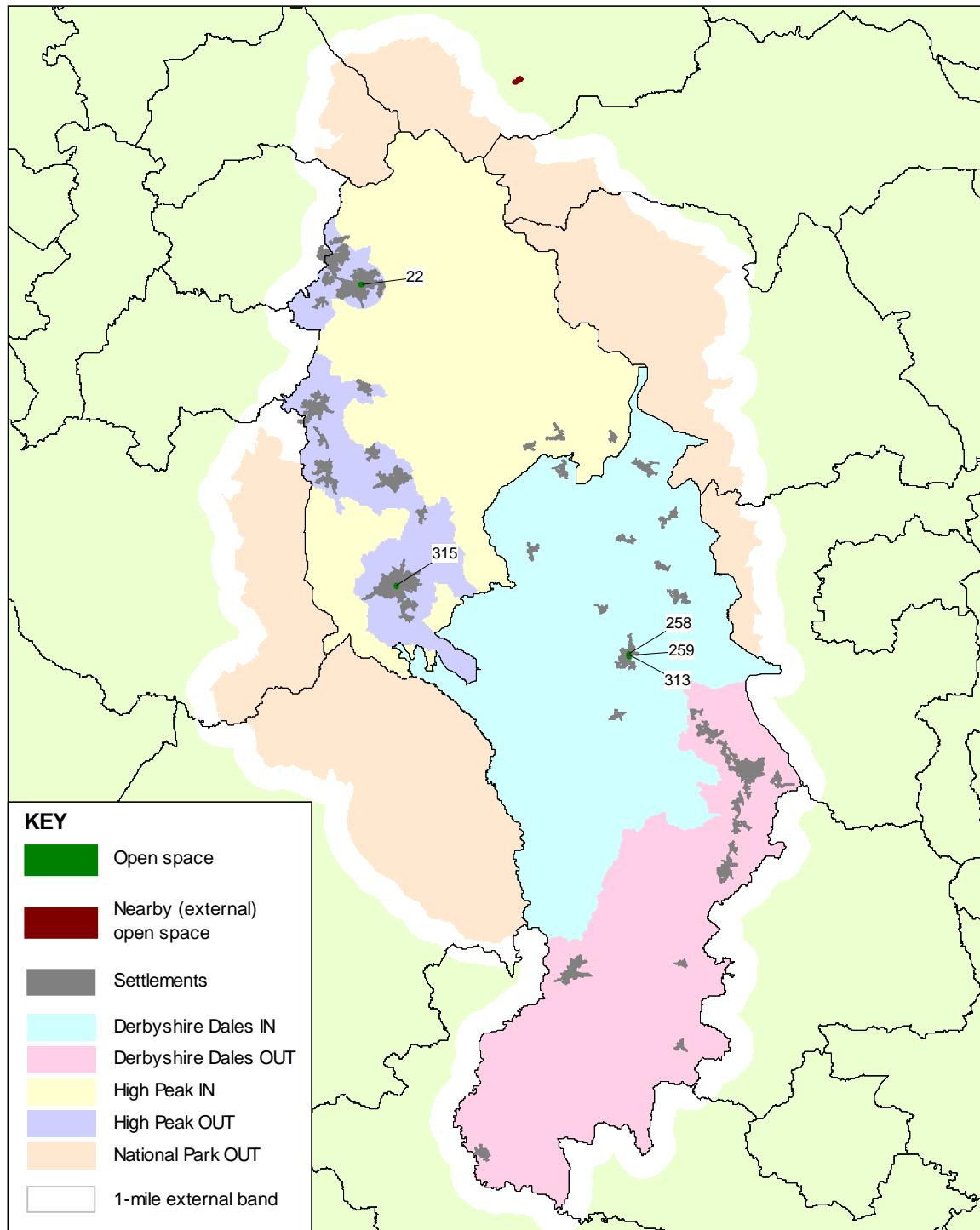
11.6 Almost one third of people (28%) are willing to walk to this typology, but a greater proportion (51%) are willing to do so using motorised transport. One fifth (20%) of respondents state that they are willing to travel for more than 30 minutes by transport to reach a civic space. A further fifth (20%) of respondents are unable to provide a response.

Figure 11.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a civic space/non-green space



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Figure 11.3: Civic space sites mapped against settlement areas



## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

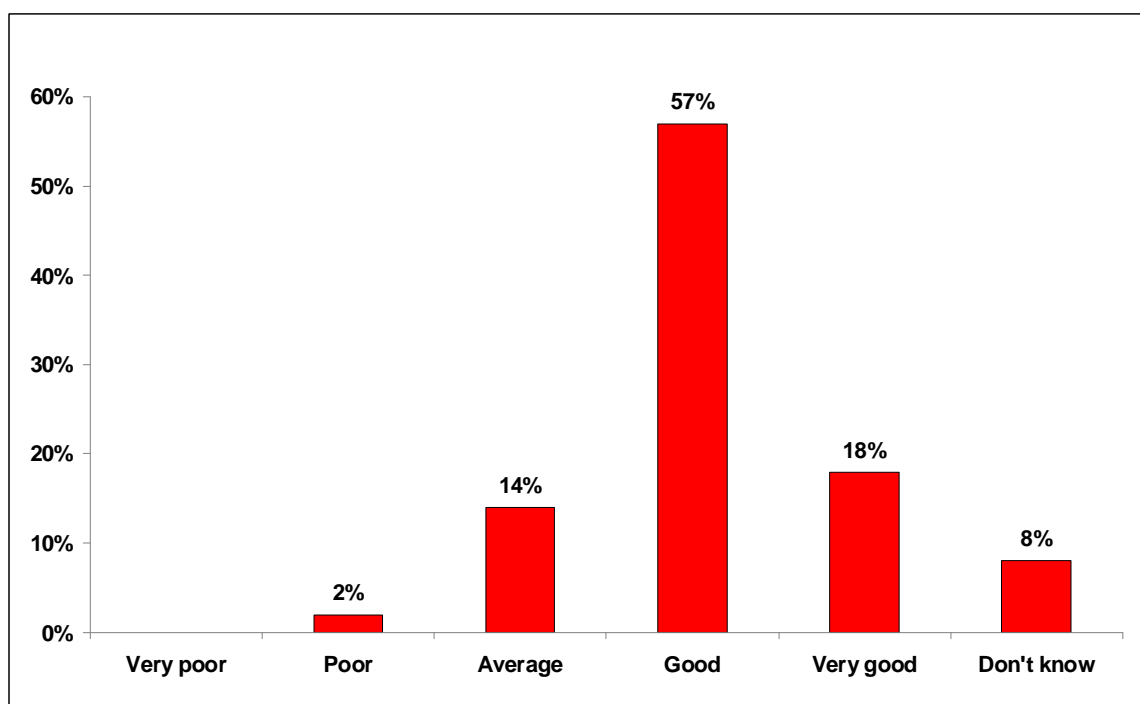
*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Ref	Site
22	Norfolk Square
258	Market Street car park
259	Granby Road car park
313	Riverside Crescent
315	Eagle Parade market place

11.7 The availability of civic spaces is rated as good or very good by three quarters of respondents (75%). Only a very small proportion (2%) rates it as poor. Almost all (92%) of respondents reside in High Peak, outside of the National Park with the remaining 8% living in the National Park only. However, the key towns such as Matlock, New Mills and Whaley Bridge have no provision.

11.8 Visitors are more likely to rate the availability as good to some degree (92%) than residents (71%), perhaps reflecting the types of activities normally undertaken by visitors.

*Figure 11.4: Availability of civic space/non-green space*





## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Quality

11.9 The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for civic spaces in the Peak Sub-region. Individual site summaries can be found at the end of this section.

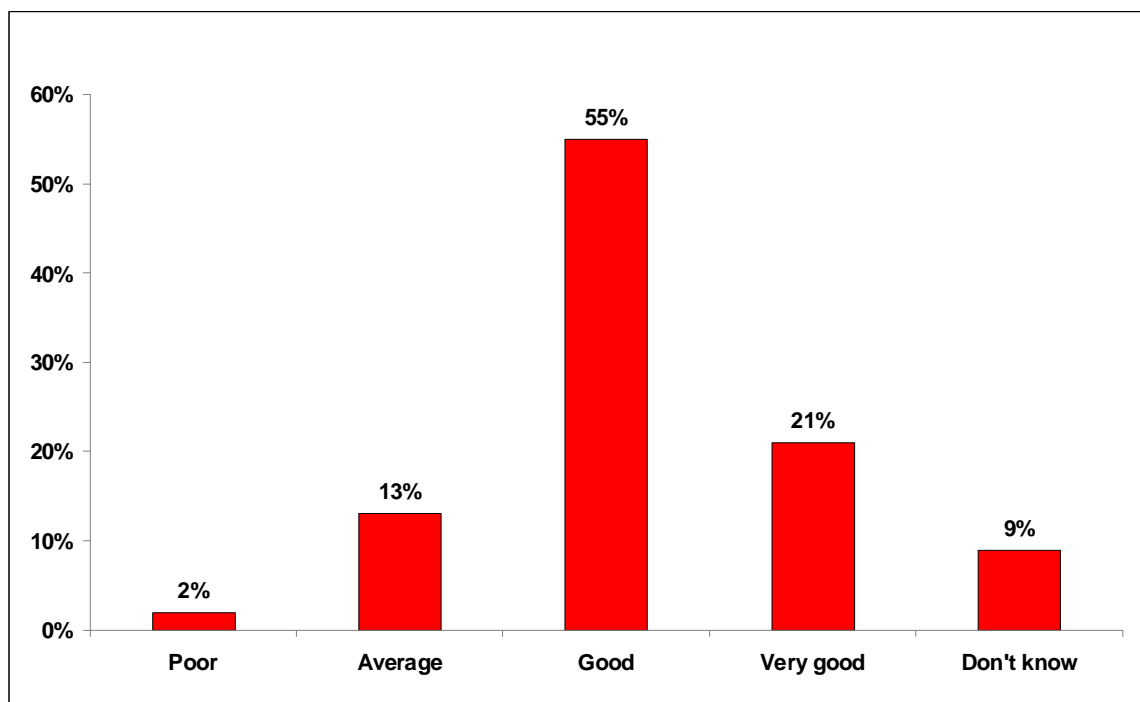
Table 11.2: Quality scores for civic spaces sites by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below 66%	Above 66%
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	146	54%	58%	62%	8%	3	-
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	146	-	-	-	-	-	-
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	146	-	-	-	-	-	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	146	53%	58%	62%	9%	2	-
Peak National Park ONLY	146	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>

11.10 Although all the site assessment scores fall below the applied quality standard of 66%, comments recorded during the assessments indicate that the sites are of high quality. Norfolk Square in Glossop is described as a “very attractive, beautifully maintained civic square, with neatly mown grass, well kept flowerbeds and trees, a war memorial and good wide paths and plenty of good seats and bins. The site is at the heart of the town”. It is, thus, recommended that the quality standard for civic spaces be adjusted to be lower than 66%.

11.11 Over three quarters (76%) of respondents rate the quality of civic spaces as good (55%) or very good (21%). Over half of respondents from each area consider provision to be of good quality. Only a very small proportion (2%) of total respondents consider provision to be of poor quality. All of these respondents are residents of the Sub-region residing outside of the National Park with the majority (79%) living in High Peak outside the National Park.

Figure 11.5: Quality of civic spaces



- 11.12 The work undertaken by local 'in bloom' groups across the Sub-region, in partnership with HPBC and DDDC is to be commended. These groups play an important role in ensuring that town centres, in particular, are maintained to a high standard and have an attractive appearance.
- 11.13 Buxton in Bloom has been especially successful, having recently been nominated to represent Britain in the 2009 European In Bloom competition. This follows the impressive remarks made by Britain in Bloom judges for 2008, which praised the town's entry as a "successful working partnership between the council and the community" and described the Pavilion Gardens as "outstanding". The success of Buxton in Bloom adds to the sense of pride that the local community has in the areas open spaces and encourages residents to value provision and appreciate the town centre and surrounds.

## PEAK SUB-REGION PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### Value

11.14 The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for civic spaces in the Peak Sub-region.

Table 11.3: Value scores for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores				
	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread
Derbyshire Dales INSIDE the National Park	100	7%	14%	27%	20%
Derbyshire Dales OUTSIDE the National Park	100	-	-	-	-
High Peak INSIDE the National Park	100	-	-	-	-
High Peak OUTSIDE the National Park	100	14%	32%	49%	35%
Peak National Park ONLY	100	-	-	-	-
<b>PEAK SUB-REGION</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>42%</b>

- 11.15 Consultation indicates that civic spaces are valued by local communities as multi-function open spaces. Civic spaces within town centre are popular spaces for people to meet and are attractive for workers in the area to sit outside on their lunch breaks. Civic spaces are also key areas for town centre events and entertainment e.g. Christmas tree, music events, and they add to the ambience and identity of an area giving built up areas a sense of place.
- 11.16 Riverside Crescent in Bakewell is considered to be an underutilised space but is a gateway to the town. It is used for public entertainment/activities and is ideal for usage such as street theatre. The site assessment notes that it appears to be very popular with tourists and is high value in terms of amenity and sense of place.
- 11.17 There are also two car parks in Bakewell, Granby Road and Market Street, which are utilised once a week for outdoor markets. These are considered to be very valuable spaces for the local area and the markets attract both residents and visitors from further afield. It is also considered to be beneficial to the economy of local town and villages if residents and visitors are encouraged into the town centre to increase footfall for business.
- 11.18 Resident consultation identifies the potential to enhance the value of the car park located on Well Gate in Old Glossop. At present the site is considered to be poor quality, impacting on the overall visual aesthetic of the area. There is demand for it to be made more attractive through landscaping and there is possibility to create a multi-functional area with seating and amenity value. Local residents would like to see it utilised more to host community events, as it has been in the past for music festivals.
- 11.19 Consultation indicates that there is opportunity to change the use of the car park next to the Imperial rooms in Matlock to become a public square.

### **Civic spaces summary**

- ◀ Five sites are classified under this typology equating to 0.37 over two hectares of provision in the Peak Sub-region.
- ◀ There is little variation in the quality and value of civic spaces across the Peak Sub-region. They score highly against quality due to the high availability of street furniture and their overall cleanliness and maintenance. Civic spaces also score for their amenity and sense of place value.
- ◀ No shortfall in provision has been identified through consultation. However, there are key towns such as Matlock, New Mills and Whaley Bridge without provision.
- ◀ Opportunities are identified to increase the functionality of existing sites.
- ◀ 20% of respondents to the street survey are willing to travel over 30 minutes by transport to access provision.

**PART 12: SUMMARY**

- 12.1 This Assessment Report considers the supply and demand issues for open spaces in the Peak Sub-region. It identifies local need from consultation highlighting the predominant issues for open spaces typologies as defined in 'PPG17: A Companion Guide'.
- 12.2 This will form the basis of discussions to inform the development of standards and strategies and actions to address key issues. Strategic recommendations and policy objectives follows on from this report.