Leicestershire County Council
Green Spaces Consultation Report

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Contents Page

Executive Summary

Headline

- Two parallel consultation exercises underpinned the engagement on green spaces: an interactive exercise at each Community Forum across the County, and an online map-based tool. The answers from each consultation were collected in different ways.
- In total 3,114 'green spaces' have been identified through the consultation exercises as being valued by local communities.
- There is a wide variation in the number of times green spaces have been identified within different parts of the County. Particularly frequent selections highlight areas where green space issues were already a matter of local concern and debate, including Coalville, Loughborough South West, Bradgate and Loughborough East.
- Those prevalent areas tend to relate to potential housing development sites, these include: Whitwick Green Wedge; Outwoods, including Pignut Spinney; Lubbesthorpe and Brookfield Farm. Notably, these green spaces may have been attributed a higher value at the time of the engagement exercise than they might have been at other times because they were considered under threat.
- Despite a small number of extensive green space selections, in general, selected green spaces tend to be quite small in size. The average size of green spaces identified online was 372,000 square metres, with those identified through Community Forums averaging 108,000 square metres.
- The vast majority of green spaces are within half a kilometre of a population centre.

Online - overall summary

Types of Green Space
In general, the more popular types of green space being selected, using the online map-based tool were areas of open, natural countryside, including farmland, public right of way and meadow grassland; along with woodland and nature reserve areas, totalling 65% of all selections.

Analysis shows that many of the sites chosen can be grouped according to a common purpose or use. The most common groups can be summarised as:

1. **Country park and woodland areas**
2. **Community green spaces,** such as cemeteries and village greens;
3. **Playing fields and play areas**;
4. **Open countryside**;
5. **Derelict land / underused green space**, which may have potential to be better used by the community, and finally;
6. **Privately owned green spaces** such as a golf course.

Green Space Value
Landscape value was the dominant reason behind most peoples' decision to have their site recorded as important to them or the community. In particular, the 'openness and feeling of space', and the 'view' afforded by the green space were deemed important values. The more practical desire to have the space within close proximity was also seen as an important consideration.

Although some green spaces were valued for a specific reason, most were valued for more than one reason, the most common combination of values can be summarised as:

1. **Opportunities for recreation and socialising**;
2. **Amenity and nature**;
3. **Proximity and access**;
4. **Features including gardens, heritage and water**.

Valuing a green space because it's 'close to where I live' is not associated to any particular type of green space, but rather should be considered an equally important aspect of value for all green space types.

Green Space Improvements
The overriding concern expressed by people was the desire to protect green space from potential development, particularly for housing. There was also the more practical call made by some respondents for the maintenance, improvement or new provision of a number of facilities. These included the provision of new parks and footpaths, planting or building amenities on relevant sites.

Overall summary of the types of respondents that have responded:
The views of the majority of online respondents are summarised by the following two groups: these account for 84% of all respondents:

1. **Country walkers:** The largest group representing 71% of respondents. These have selected green spaces that were grouped under the headings 'Country park and woodland areas' and 'Open countryside'. They are seen to value their green space for its views, wildlife, as somewhere to exercise, as well as for its feeling of space, accessibility and the near proximity of the space. They have a desire to first protect the area from potential development and then to improve it by extending and maintaining footpaths and walls, improving signage, and providing additional facilities such as dog bins and benches. These spaces are seen as important because of their landscape value. They are relatively large areas compared to areas selected by other segment groups (average size is 670 square metres).

2. **Family matters :** A sizeable group (13%), whose interest lies mainly in green spaces that were grouped under the heading 'Playing fields and play areas' and therefore represent areas where both formal and informal sporting activities, as well as children's general play activity, may occur. Respondents in this group would like to see an improvement in the facilities afforded by many of these sites and there is some concern around issues of anti-social behaviour, namely, dog litter and graffiti. These spaces are seen as areas that enhance and develop community cohesion between generations.

Forum - overall summary

At the Community Forums, participants were not offered a standard set of answers to pick from, but rather were allowed to provide open-ended responses to encourage a full and meaningful answer using their own knowledge and/or feelings of the area. This provided a rich and detailed, but difficult to analyse, data set. To make the data easier to understand, each text response has been grouped into six distinct typologies for the three questions asked at the Community Forums. Each of the six groups represents a set of commonly shared views about green spaces that are different from the other five groups identified.

Green Spaces Values:
From the responses to this question at the Community Forums, the following different groups of answers can be identified:

1. **Recreation for all** - for the playful opportunities they present to children and their families.
2. **Sporty adults and community** - the sports facilities it offers and the chances of community engagement.
3. **Natural landscape features** - the natural landscape and what it provides for them and their community.
4. **Picture postcard and walkers** - provides for walking and rambling, and outstanding views and sense of tranquillity.
5. **Animal lovers and parks** - to walk their dogs and take in natural surroundings
6. **Wildlife and walkers** - for the natural corridors they offer birds, insects, bats and squirrels.

The Importance of Green Space:
From the responses to this question at the Community Forums, these different groups of answers can be identified:

1. **Scenery and sports** - its landscape value, its location and the opportunities for play it offers and essential sports facilities for children.
2. **Food and wedges** - Importance to grow food: both commercially and at allotments.
3. **Natural space for communities** - mainly natural environment, and vital for community cohesion.
4. **Splendour in safety** - offers community opportunity to learn a new activity safely.
5. **Free: free for, free from** - the multitude of uses it offers, and free from traffic and houses.
6. **Ground: as in play, as in open** - attributed to the word 'ground' as in open-ground and play-ground.

When respondents were asked to consider the importance of their green space, many of the comments were attributed to the 'Natural space for communities' segment. The key themes within this segment were how *important* green space is for its ability to promote community cohesion (through hosting functions and events) and for providing a natural area for people to walk and explore; a sense of 'returning to nature' very much being a predominant theme.

The Improvement of Green Space:
From the responses to this question at the Community Forums, these different groups of answers can be identified:

1. **Plants not heavy plant** - Left alone, no more housing developments and preserving the green wedge and planting of trees and shrubs.
2. **Leave alone to improve** - leave it alone
3. **Amenities maintained and augmented** - green spaces require improvement to facilities.
4. **Leg, pedal and horse power** - increased number and better equipped footpaths
5. **Park users** - no 'hard' developments.
6. **Canine and convenience** - improvements to toilets and dog walkers including more litter bins and better lighting.
7.

For those valuing their green space for recreational and sports use, they place a strong emphasis that improvements should consist of 'amenities maintained and augmented'. The key themes within this segment is that the facilities on their green space require upgrading and improving.

Those that value walking, scenery and parks also want improvements which maintain or add to the enjoyment value for walkers and park users. These include the prohibition of 4x4 vehicles on green spaces, the planting of shrubbery and the denial of any planning permission for physical developments.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Government stated, in the Coalition Agreement, its intention to create a new designation to protect green areas of particular importance to local communities. This intention has been restated in the Natural Environment White Paper and the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The County Council decided to prepare for the new designation by assembling evidence which would assist its implementation. This has been done by proactively engaging with local communities to understand which green spaces they value, including through the 27 Community Forums in Leicestershire and the use of an innovative online tool. This report sets out the findings of this engagement exercise across the County. It is accompanied by 27 reports which set out the findings for each individual Community Forum area, and by a website **www.lsr-online.org/greenspacesresults** which gives local communities access to the data collected.

Understanding which green spaces local people particularly value, and why, will help local communities and councils decide where new homes and other developments needed are best located, and what steps might be taken to protect and enhance green spaces.

1.2 What is a Green Space?

A green space is generally defined as a managed or more natural space, which is either publicly accessible and / or provides visual amenity. The visual amenity might be to retain an important view within or beyond a settlement, or on a larger scale, such as green wedges, to provide an area of separation between settlements or parts of settlements.

The draft NPPF states that the local green space designation would only be appropriate where green space:

- is demonstrably special to a local community,
- is in reasonable close proximity to a centre of population,
- is local in character and not an extensive tract of land; and,
- does not overlap with Green Belt[1].

This engagement exercise particularly collects information in relation to the first of the above bullet points. In designating Local Green Spaces local councils and communities will also need to take account of the other requirements listed and other land uses.

In running the county-wide engagement exercise, however, the County Council did not start by defining what a green space is. The key purpose of the exercise was to allow local communities and residents to tell the County Council about which areas of open land are particularly valuable to them. Therefore the findings set out in this report represent the views of local communities with no restrictions placed on what local communities could describe as a green space. In developing and implementing a Local Green Spaces designation local councils and communities will need to do so in the context of national planning guidance and this may mean that some green spaces, such as for examples those which constitute 'an extensive tract of land', will not be eligible for designation.

1.3 Consultation Overview

The green spaces consultation exercise was carried out between January and April 2011 and was open to all residents. It involved two main components; an interactive exercise at each of the 27

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1. It is possible that these requirements set out in the draft NPPF will be adjusted when the final NPPF is published in early 2012.

Community Forums across the County, and an online map-based tool **www.lsr-online.org/greenspaces**. In addition, comments were sent in by post and e-mail, and comments were also received from parish and town councils. All comments received have been taken into account.

The engagement exercise was well-received and increased attendance at many of the Community Forum meetings, by a substantial amount at some. The online tool piloted a new technique for community engagement and its success in this instance has demonstrated its potential application for other engagement exercises.[2]

1.4 Data issues to be aware of when using the report

Considerable effort has been made throughout the processing of the data captured through the consultation exercise and utilised within this report, to ensure that it is accurate, consistent and provides a fair representation of views across Leicestershire. This has, however, been an exercise which has utilised new and innovative engagement tools, and it is therefore important to be mindful of the following caveats when reading the report:

- The views described here are not representative of the population as a whole. While the consultation was open to everybody, the respondents were self selecting, and certain types of people may have been more likely to contribute than others.
- Many responses were made during public meetings and therefore may have been influenced, to some degree, by others attending those meetings.

- The location of Community Forum meetings may have influenced which local people were able to attend and which green spaces were identified.
- Across the different elements of the consultation, participants received differing levels of information about the subject. Some responses, therefore, are based on more information than others.
- The likelihood of a green space being 'lost' may have influenced the number and nature of responses received about green spaces. For example, there might be highly valued green spaces which did not generate high numbers of responses because they are already considered to be protected by other designations (for instance as a country park or a site of special scientific interest) and therefore not at risk. Conversely, some green spaces may have been attributed a higher value at the time of the engagement exercise than they might have been at other times because they were considered under immediate threat. In this context local campaigns around particular proposed local plan allocations, planning applications and other perceived threats of development, may have generated a higher response rate.
- Due to the very large attendance at the Loughborough South West Forum, individual responses were not collected, and people were asked to use the online tool instead.

1.5 Report Aim and Structure

The main aim of this report is to summarise, at a county level, which types of green space local people find important and determine how and why people value and use them. In order to do this, the analysis within this report focuses on answering the following set of key questions:

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[2] The tool was developed by the County Council's research & Insight team in collaboration with the giCentre, City university

1. What local name is used?

2. What types of green spaces are being selected?

3. Can these types of green spaces be grouped together?

4. What is it about green spaces that people particularly value and think are important?

5. Can aspects of green spaces that people value be grouped together?

6. Are different types of green spaces valued for different reasons?

7. How could these green spaces be improved?

8. How big are the green spaces being selected?

9. How far are the green spaces from population centres?

10. What is the relationship between the size of a green space and the distance from a population centre?

11. What are the main messages from the online responses?

12. What are the main messages from the Community Forum responses?

13. What did Parish Councils say?

In the subsequent report, for each question the following information is provided:

- an explanation of the aim of the question,
- an account of the analysis performed,
- a summary of the findings,
- recommended further analysis, where applicable, and
- a conclusion.

For a full explanation of the different data sets generated by the Community Forum and online consultations, and of the types of analysis performed, see appendix one on page 43.

1.6 Consultation dissemination

The exercise has generated a rich dataset. The information collected is being reported back to communities and parish and town councils in the following ways:

- By producing this county-wide summary report setting out the overall findings;
- By producing for each Community Forum area a summary report setting out findings;
- By presenting back to each Community Forum the results for their area;
- By making the collected data available to local communities, parish and town councils and partner agencies so they can themselves use it in future neighbourhood and local planning activities.

For a detailed summary of either individual or small area responses please refer to the following resource:
www.lsr-online.org/greenspacesresults/

2   The Results

2.1   Headline Summary

In total 3,114 'green spaces' have been identified through the consultation exercise as being valued by local communities. There is quite a high degree of overlap and many of these relate to a smaller number of particularly valued green spaces. Of the total number of green spaces identified 2,002 were identified at Community Forum meetings (attended in total by 1,200 people). A further 1,112 were identified online, by 730 individual respondents.

Table One: Count of Online and Forum responses

			Forum
	Total	On-line	meeting
Responses to green space consultation	3,114	1,112	2,002
of which, outside of County	27	11	16

Reporting results at a Community Forum level poses a particular problem because a sizeable proportion of recorded green spaces cut across a number of different Community Forum areas. Therefore the difficulty is whether to record each green space just the once, and assign it to just one Forum area, or to record it multiple times and assign it to each of the Forums areas it covers. It was decided that, since an aim of the report was to report back any area of value to the local community, option two should be selected, therefore ensuring that all cross-cutting green spaces were identified to each and every relevant Community Forum.

Table two, opposite, summarises the results. It shows that the 2,002 green spaces collected at Community Forums have been counted 2,457 times (25% increase) whereas the 1,112 green

Table Two: Source of comment by location of green space (Community Forum Area)

	Source		
Community Forum	Online	Forum	Total
Coalville	82	444	526
Loughborough South West	319	51	370
Bradgate, Rothley, Mountsorrel & Birstall	264	101	365
Loughborough East	241	93	334
Valley	119	151	270
Shepshed & Hathern	97	123	220
Quorn, Barrow, Sileby & The Wolds	99	80	179
Loughborough North West	59	93	152
Markfield, Ratby & Groby	75	77	152
Bosworth	35	115	150
Blaby South	23	116	139
Hinckley Area	24	111	135
Melton West & Parishes	47	82	129
Blaby Central	69	55	124
Rural East	36	75	111
Blaby North	58	52	110
Rural West	31	75	106
Market Harborough	3	99	102
South Charnwood; Syston, Thurmaston & Wreake Villages	24	78	102
Melton Mowbray	23	73	96
Belvoir	19	76	95
Wigston	9	72	81
Oadby	17	57	74
Ashby, Measham & Moira	13	45	58
South Wigston	1	25	26
Lutterworth	3	19	22
Broughton Astley	1	19	20
	1,791	2,457	4,248

spaces recorded online have been counted 1,791 times (61% increase). The difference in the proportion of double counting reflects the different methodologies used to collect and record the data. Community Forum data was collected using a paper based map of the Community Forum catchment, and its immediate surrounding area, so there was little opportunity to record areas too far outside of the locality. Whereas the online data was collected Countywide and therefore green spaces could span across any number of different Community Forum boundaries.

The results of Table Two show a wide variation in the number of times green spaces have been identified within different Community Forum areas. Particularly frequent selections highlight areas where green space issues were already a matter of local concern and debate, including Coalville, Loughborough South West, Bradgate and Loughborough East.

For a further breakdown of the green spaces recorded at Community Forum meetings see appendix two, page 45.

The following five maps show the intensity in the distribution of the green spaces across the County.

Map One shows each of the 27 Community Forum areas within Leicestershire.

Map Two shows all the green spaces collected online and at the forums in context of the 27 Community Forum areas within the County. Whilst the map is able to provide a sense of the number, size and distribution of mapped green spaces within the County, the majority of spaces overlap and so have become too hard to distinguish.

Map One: Leicestershire Community Forum Areas

Map Two: All green spaces
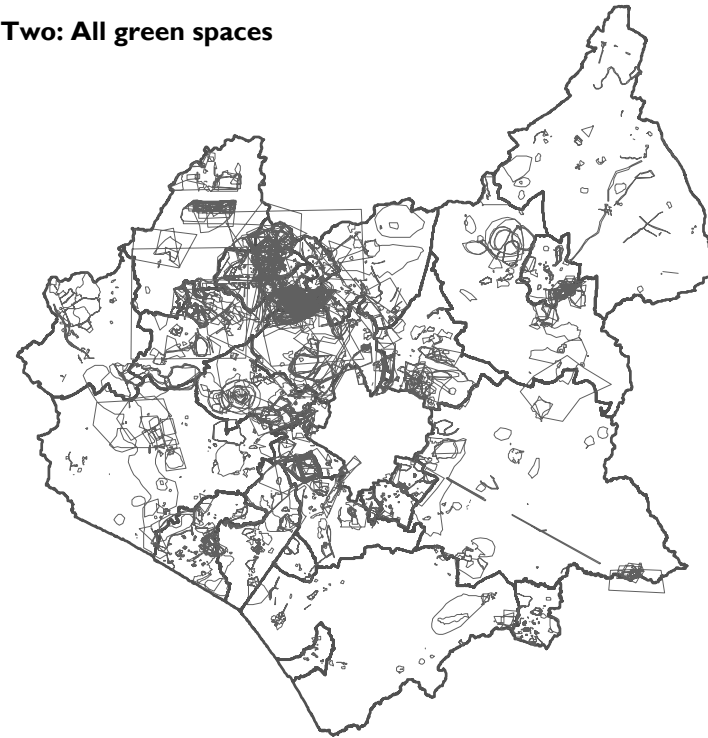
Map Three is an intensity map of all the green spaces recorded. It essentially counts the number of times each small square of land is included within the green spaces mapped as part of the consultation exercise. Thus, a given increase of intensity of colour corresponds to a percentage increase in the number of times a given square was chosen. For further information about Intensity Maps see appendix one, page 43.

The intensity map highlights areas in Coalville, Loughborough South West and Bradgate, and Blaby Central as areas receiving a high

Map Three: All responses - intensity maps

Loughborough South West

Bradgate

Coalville

Blaby Central
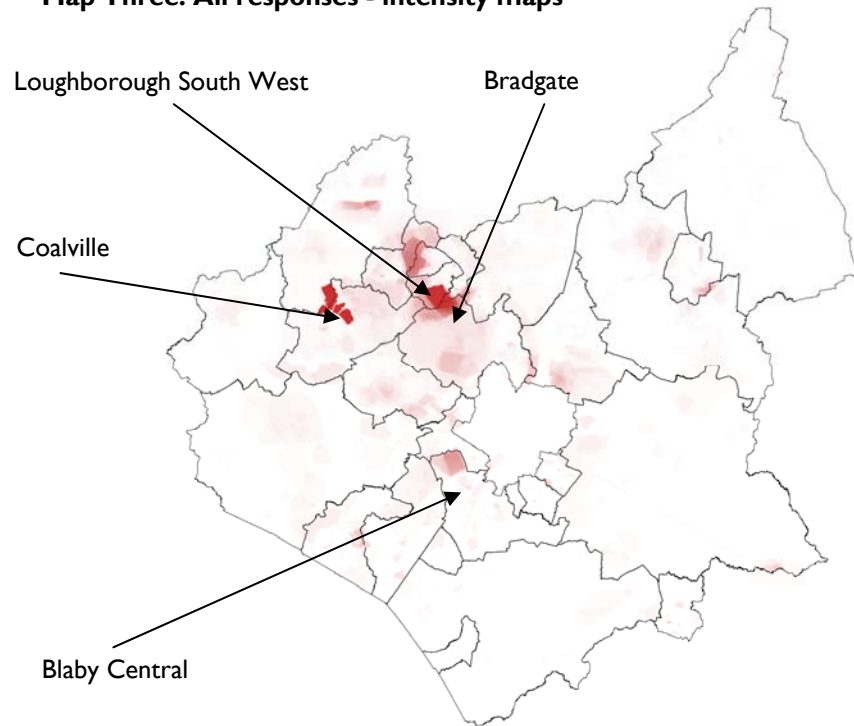
Map Four: Forum responses - intensity map
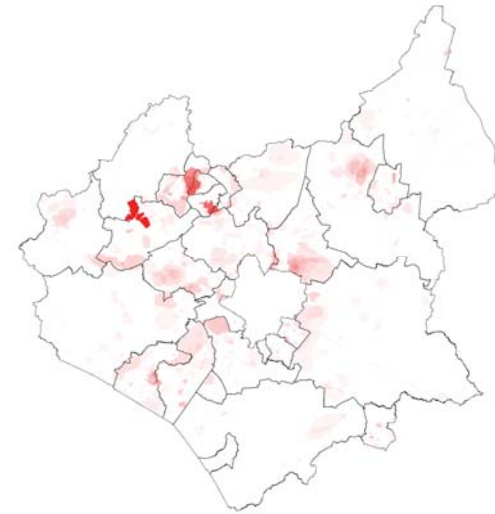
Map Five: Online responses - intensity map
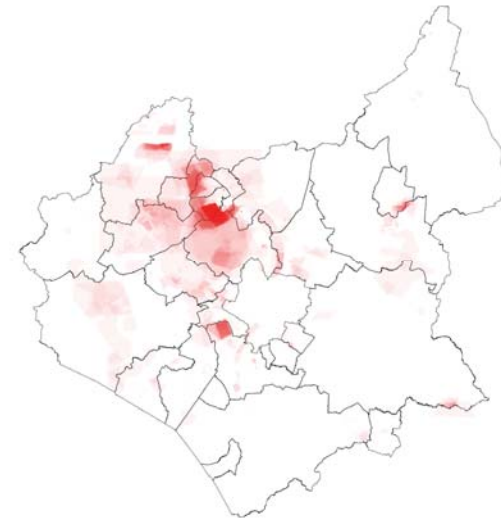
number of responses. Maps Four and Five provides the data for each consultation separately.

The intensity maps are useful as a means of identifying areas of particular importance to respondents. However, as already stated, the views described here are not necessarily representative of the population as a whole and therefore these areas should not be interpreted as the only green spaces of importance within the County.

2.2 What local name is used?

All Responses (Online & Forum)

Aim: Identify whether a range of different sites throughout the County have been selected, or whether just a few sites dominate selection for both online and forum responses.

Analysis: All respondents were asked to provide a local name for their green space. Tag clouds, used to show the importance of words (more frequent words being larger in size and darker in colour), were generated for both online and forum responses. For a full explanation of tag clouds see appendix one, page 43.

Summary of findings: In total three-in-five green spaces recorded online (61%) were assigned a name compared to three-in-four (75%) green spaces at Forums. The online tag cloud clearly shows Loughborough South West Community Forum's Outwards and its surrounding area as the most popular choice, whereas the forum tag cloud shows a high intensity of responses around the Whitwick area.

Conclusion: In the case of both the online and forum consultations there are a small number of dominant selections, which appear to relate to potential housing development sites. These include: Outwoods, Lubbesthorpe, Brookfield Farm, Pignut Spinney (an area adjacent to Outwoods) and Whitwick Green Wedge. This would, therefore, indicate that local campaigns around particular planning applications have encouraged a greater number of responses for these areas.

However, overall these selections are a minority: 17% of online responses and 10% of forum responses, and therefore they do not account for the majority view.

Figure One: Tag cloud showing the local names of the green spaces (online)

aylestone-meadows (5) beacon-hill (5) bradgate-park (9) brocks-hill (5) brookfield-farm (15) garendon-green-wedge (5) garendon-park (8) land-south-of-the-a453 (8) lubbesthorpe (21) outwoods-area (142) pignut-spinney (8) queens-park (8) springfield (9) swithland-wood (5) tofts-hill (6) tom-long's-meadow-and-allotments (5) watermead-country-park (7)

Figure Two: Tag cloud showing the local names of green spaces (Forum)

allotments (16) burbage-common (8) canal (8) cricket-ground (11) fludes-lane (8) garendon-park (19) glebe-farm (8) green-wedge (38) queens-park (8) recreation-ground (9) thringstone (26) watermead-country-park (8) welland-park (10) western-eastern-central-green-wedge (10) whitwick-green-wedge (50) whitwick-green (12) whitwick (9)
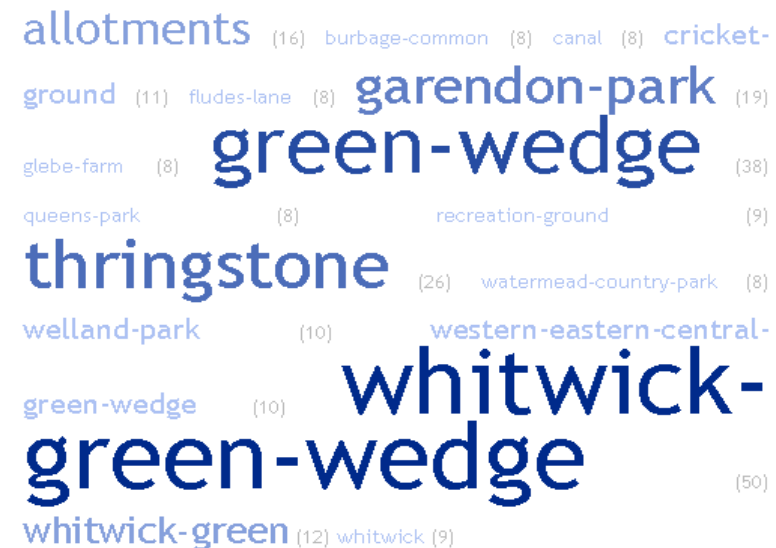
2.3 What types of green spaces are being selected?

Online Responses

Aim: To rank the preference of each green space type.

Analysis: Online respondents were asked to categorise each green space they selected by land use type. Respondents were asked to select as many categories as were appropriate for the green space being recorded from a predefined list.

Summary of findings: Chart One provides a summary of the 20 possible green space types, ranked by order of preference. In total, nearly three-in-five (58%) of respondents use 'Farm land' to classify their green space. Overall, categories that represent areas of relatively open, natural countryside compared to function driven sites, such as children's playground or golf course, tend to dominate selection.

On average, respondents select three categories to describe their green space; less than a third (32%) use just the one category. This would suggest that at least some of these categories are interlinked in their use as a green space descriptor, and that many of the sites recorded were considered to be multi-functional green spaces.

Conclusion: In general, the more popular types of green space being selected are areas of open, natural countryside, woodland and nature reserve areas, totalling 65% of all selections. This is not always the case as 'green spaces between houses' ranks number five and accounts for 8% of all selections.

Chart One: Bar chart showing count and percentage of green space

Green space type	Count
Farm land	638
Public right of way, e.g. footpath or bridleway	499
Meadow Grassland	413
Woodland	377
Green space between houses/buildings	263
Nature reserve/ wildlife area	253
Waterside area, e.g. reservoir, lake, river or canal margin	176
Country Park	107
Playing field, e.g. school or sports field	107
Overgrown/scrub	104
Town or Village Park	73
Children's playground/ play area	72
Allotments/ community managed garden	59
Village Green	44
Cemetry Church yard	32
Private garden	26
Derelict land/ brownfield site/ disused quarry or mine	25
Roundabout/road verge	24
Golf course	20
Formal garden open to the public	18

2.4 Can these types of green spaces be grouped together?

Online Responses

Aim: The previous analysis suggests that many of the sites chosen can be grouped according to similar types of use. The following analysis will attempt to summarise the most common groupings.

Analysis: A statistical method called Factor Analysis has been used to simplify the extensive list of green space 'types' into a smaller number of groups. Each group contains those green space types that have most commonly been used by respondents in combination to categorise a site. For example, the analysis shows that respondents who select farm land to classify their site are also most likely to select public right of way and, to a lesser extent, meadow grassland to describe the same site. For information regarding how Factor Analysis has been used to create these groups see appendix one, page 43.

Summary of findings: The analysis groups all the possible green space 'types' into six new groups. Figure Three shows the results. The dark grey indicates those original categories that contribute highly to the creation of the new groups and the light grey indicates those that are simply more likely than expected to be used in combination within a particular group.

The Factor Analysis has provided six clearly defined and quite intuitively formed groups. For example, the first group has combined green space types: 'Nature reserve/wildlife area', 'Country Park', 'Woodland', and to a lesser extent, 'Waterside area' in to one distinct group.

Each of the six groups has been given a name in order to help describe their shared function or use.

The six groups are:

1. **Country park and woodland areas** including water parks and nature reserves;
2. **Community green spaces,** urban green spaces that are highly functional and tend to be maintained by the parish/local council, such as cemeteries and village greens;
3. **Playing fields and play areas**;
4. **Open countryside**;
5. **Derelict land / underused green space** including derelict sites, brown field sites, overgrown scrubs, all of which may have potential to be better used by the community, and finally;
6. **Privately owned green spaces** with a clearly defined function such as a golf course.

Conclusion: Analysis has shown there are six groupings of green space type apparent in the data. A number of these groups tend to be quite function driven. For example 'Playing fields & play areas' which quite obviously represent areas of recreational sports or play use. Whilst others have a less clear function, such as 'Derelict land and underused green space', but may simply represent areas with a potential to be put to better use by the local community.

Figure Three: Categorisation of green space types into groups

Green Space Type	Group
Nature reserve/ wildlife area	**Country park and woodland areas**
Country Park	
Woodland	
Waterside area, e.g. reservoir, lake, river or canal margin	
Village Green	**Community green spaces**
Roundabout/road verge	
Cemetry Church yard	
Private garden	
Children's playground/ play area	**Playing fields and play areas**
Playing field, e.g. school or sports field	
Town or Village Park	
Farm land	**Open countryside**
Public right of way, e.g. footpath or bridleway	
Meadow Grassland	
Allotments/ community managed garden	**Derelict land / underused green space**
Overgrown/scrub	
Derelict land/ brownfield site/ disused quarry or mine	
Green space between houses/buildings	
Golf course	**Privately owned green spaces**
Formal garden open to the public	
Private garden	

Contribution
High
Medium

2.5 What is it about green spaces that people particularly value and think are important?

All responses (Online and Forum)
Aim: To understand the importance and value attributed to the green spaces, and to indicate the reasons behind why these sites may have been chosen.
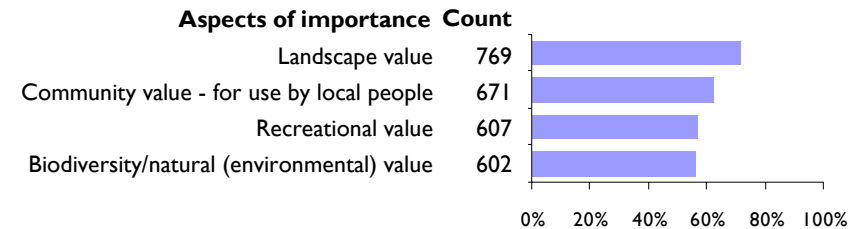
Online Responses - Importance
Analysis: Online respondents were asked, from a choice of four possible options, the reasons behind why they felt their site was of importance. More than one category could be selected.

Summary of findings: Chart two provides a summary of the four possible choices ranked according to frequency. Landscape is ranked first and therefore provides some evidence of the importance of visual amenity in the selection of green spaces.

On average, respondents selected two categories to describe why the green space was of importance; just under a quarter used just the one category. A further quarter used all four categories to describe why their green space was important. Therefore, the vast majority of green spaces are thought important for more than one reason, although landscape is more likely than the other categories to be chosen in isolation.

Conclusion: Landscape value was the dominant reason for green spaces being important to respondents, although many recorded more than one, if not all, reasons.

Chart Two: Bar chart showing count and percentage of what makes the site important

Aspects of importance	Count
Landscape value	769
Community value - for use by local people	671
Recreational value	607
Biodiversity/natural (environmental) value	602

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Online Responses – Value

Analysis: Online respondents were asked what particular aspects they value about the green space selected. Again respondents could select as many of the categories listed as they liked.
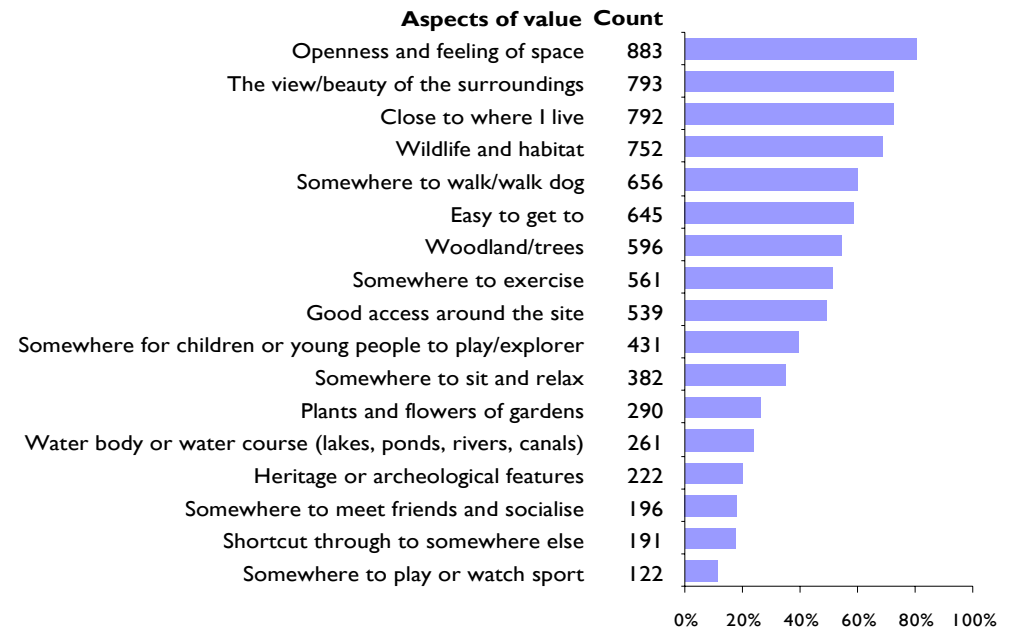
Summary of findings: Chart Three details the seventeen possible categories. It shows that nearly four-in-five (79%) respondents value a sense of 'Openness and the feeling of space' in their chosen green space. The second category 'The View/Beauty of the Surroundings' reinforces the notion that green spaces are highly valued for their visual amenity, whilst the third category 'Close to Where I Live' supports the notion that the 'localness' or close proximity of a green space is an important consideration.

On average, respondents select seven categories to describe what they value about their green space; only 4% use just the one category. Just over half use up to seven categories and a quarter use over ten of the provided categories to describe what they valued.

Again, this could suggest there are a number of interrelated categories needed to describe a similar use, and again suggests that green spaces are multi-functional in their use.

Conclusion: The top two categories are both sensory driven values, and the third a more practical desire that the green space should be in reasonably close proximity to where they live.

Chart Three: **Bar chart showing count and percentage of particular aspects of value**

Aspects of value	Count
Openness and feeling of space	883
The view/beauty of the surroundings	793
Close to where I live	792
Wildlife and habitat	752
Somewhere to walk/walk dog	656
Easy to get to	645
Woodland/trees	596
Somewhere to exercise	561
Good access around the site	539
Somewhere for children or young people to play/explorer	431
Somewhere to sit and relax	382
Plants and flowers of gardens	290
Water body or water course (lakes, ponds, rivers, canals)	261
Heritage or archeological features	222
Somewhere to meet friends and socialise	196
Shortcut through to somewhere else	191
Somewhere to play or watch sport	122

2.6 Can the aspects of green spaces that people value be grouped together?

Online Responses

Aim: The previous analysis reveals that most green spaces are valued for multiple reasons. The following analysis will attempt to unravel which combination of values are most commonly used together by respondents.

Analysis: A statistical method called Factor Analysis has been used to simplify the extensive list of green space 'values' into a smaller number of groups. Each group contains those values that are most likely to be used in combination. For example, the analysis shows that respondents who value their green space because it is close to where they live are also likely to value it because it is easy to get to and because it can be used as a short cut through to somewhere else. For information regarding how Factor Analysis has been used to create these groups see appendix one, page 43.

Summary of findings: The analysis groups the list of 17 possible aspects of value into four new groups (see Figure Four). The dark grey, used in the figure opposite, indicates those original categories that contribute highly to the creation of the new groups, and the light grey indicates those that are simply more likely than expected to be used in combination within a particular group.

The Factor Analysis has provided four clearly defined groups. For example, it has combined aspects of value: 'Somewhere for children or young people to play/explore', 'Somewhere to meet friends and socialise', 'Somewhere to sit and relax', 'Somewhere to play or

watch sport', and to a lesser extent, 'Somewhere to exercise' into one distinct group. Thereby grouping the value afforded by green space to socialise, play, exercise and relax into one group.
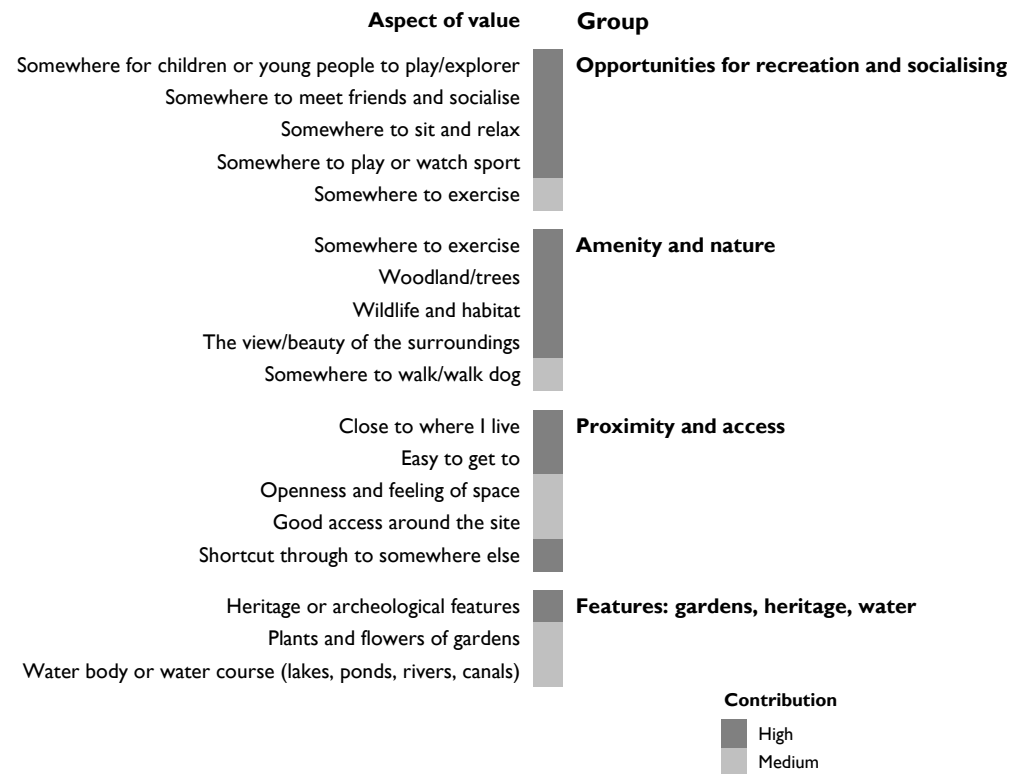
Each of the four groups has been given a name in order to help describe their shared value.

The four groups are:

1. **Opportunities for recreation and socialising;**
2. **Amenity and nature;**
3. **Proximity and access;**
4. **Features including gardens, heritage and water.**

Conclusion: In all there are four combinations summarising the value afforded by the green spaces; recreational value; amenity; proximity and accessibility; and the more physiological aspects of natural green space including plants, flowers, archaeological features and water bodies.

Figure Four: Categorisation of aspects of value in to groups

Aspect of value		Group
Somewhere for children or young people to play/explorer		**Opportunities for recreation and socialising**
Somewhere to meet friends and socialise		
Somewhere to sit and relax		
Somewhere to play or watch sport		
Somewhere to exercise		
Somewhere to exercise		**Amenity and nature**
Woodland/trees		
Wildlife and habitat		
The view/beauty of the surroundings		
Somewhere to walk/walk dog		
Close to where I live		**Proximity and access**
Easy to get to		
Openness and feeling of space		
Good access around the site		
Shortcut through to somewhere else		
Heritage or archeological features		**Features: gardens, heritage, water**
Plants and flowers of gardens		
Water body or water course (lakes, ponds, rivers, canals)		

Contribution

High

Medium

19

Forum Responses - Value

Analysis: At the Community Forums people were not offered a choice of values to pick from, but rather could record what they wished in the form of open-ended text. The subsequent responses have been grouped into six segments, each representing a set of commonly shared views about the value of green spaces. For information regarding how the segments are devised please see appendix one, page 43.

Summary of findings: Table Three (right) provides the descriptive name of each segment along with a list of the five most frequently

Table Three: Value of Green Spaces: Segmentation of Forum text responses

Segment name	Five most frequently used words
1. Recreation for all	children, green, residents, amenity, recreational
2. Sporty adults and community	community, sports, recreational, green, space
3. Natural landscape features	arable, categories, land, green, natural
4. Picture postcard and walkers	village, views, footpaths, walks
5. Animal lovers and parks	walking, landscape, natural, park, dog
6. Wildlife and walkers	local, wildlife, walk, birds

used words. Figure Four (left) shows the presence of each segment within each Community Forum area.

The segments are more fully described below.

1. Recreation for all
Respondents in this segment value their green space for the playful opportunities they present to children and their families. This also extends to social clubs, Girl Guides, Scouts and other associations. Respondents noted that such areas were not just enjoyed by children but were important for them too (concerning their well-being, development and safety).

- Geography (in descending order): Lutterworth, Oadby and West Harborough.
- Example comment: "Provides recreational facilities for young and old alike"

2. Sporty adults and community
Respondents in this segment value their identified green space for

Figure Four: **Value of Green Spaces: Segmentation of value by Community Forum**

Due to the very large attendance at the Loughborough South West Forum, individual responses were not collected, and people were asked to use the online tool instead.

20

the sports facilities it offers and chances for community engagement. Concerning sports (canoeing, cricket, fishing, football, rugby, skateboarding) they cite the health benefits of playing sports (including school use) and in some cases state that it is the only playing field in the immediate vicinity. These green spaces also offer important community engagement opportunities, such as fetes and funfairs which helps to create/maintain social cohesion.

- Geography: Wigston, Melton Town and Broughton.
- Example comment: "Enables people to walk/play/sports, be healthy"

3. Natural landscape features

Respondents in this segment stated they valued the natural landscape for what it provides for them and their community. This includes farming and food, wildlife habitats, rural recreation and the forming of natural barriers between communities (some cited as ancient boundaries). This was strongly linked, in some cases, to a sense of natural heritage and the need for continuing preservation.

- Geography: Coalville.
- Example comment: "Offers amenity value for walkers from local and immediate area and preserves countryside and farmland with large amount of will"

4. Picture postcard and walkers

Respondents in this segment value their green space for the opportunities it provides for walking and rambling. This is very strongly linked to other natural aspects such as the views gained from walking and a like of the footpaths (inc. bridal ways and cycle paths). It was noted that the outstanding views are not only pleasant but significant for the sense of tranquillity, a removal from everyday life.

- Geography: Valley and Bradgate.
- Example comment: "For walking and a sense of freedom and with the open space comes sanity"

5. Animal lovers and parks

Respondents in this segment value green space for the opportunity it gives them to walk their dogs and to take in the natural surroundings (within a traffic free environment). In this segment the green space was more often than not identified as a park. The prospect of peace and quiet is also valued as is the physical beauty.

- Geography: South Wigston, Melton West and Belvoir.
- Example comment: "Recreational, walking in open space, dog exercise, ponds"

6. Wildlife and walkers

Respondents in this segment value green space for the habitats and natural corridors they offer birds, insects, bats and squirrels. The selected green space is cited as providing migratory roost for birds as well as being home to several species of 'red' listed birds (the highest conservation priority). Respondents stated that the green space is often next to water and offers considerable landscape value, especially for walking/rambling.

- Geography: Shepshed, Blaby South.
- Example comment: "Wildlife/flowers, good for walking, landscape"

Forum Responses - Importance

Analysis: At Community Forums people were not offered a choice of categories to pick from, but rather could record what they wished in the form of open-ended. The subsequent responses have been grouped into six segments, each representing a set of commonly shared views of what makes green spaces important.

Summary of findings: Table Four (right) provides the descriptive name of each segment along with a list, for each, of the five most frequently used words. Figure Five (below) shows the presence of each segment within each community forum area.

Figure Five: Importance of Green Space: Segmentation of importance by Community Forum

Due to the very large attendance at the Loughborough South West Forum, individual responses were not collected, and people were asked to use the online tool instead.

Table Four: Importance of Green Spaces: Segmentation of Forum text responses

Segment name	Five most frequently used words
1. Scenery and sports	views, village, landscape, natural, children
2. Food and wedges	green, view, food, people, wedge
3. 'Natural' space for communities	space, green, community, natural, walking
4. Splendour in safety	beauty, safe, views, young, species
5. Free: free for, free from	use, traffic, recreational, free, town
6. Ground: as in play, as in open	people, woodland, ground, scenery, variety

The segments are more fully described below.

1. Scenery and sports

Respondents in this segment state that the importance of their identified green space derives from its landscape value, its location and the opportunities for play it offers children. Respondents state it offers peace and quiet, panoramic views with little noise or light pollution. Others highlight the essential sports and play facilities for children (in some cases the only one in the area) which is secure and safe (i.e. not having to cross a main road to access it).

- Geography: West Harborough, Blaby South and Belvoir.
- Example comment: "Sports fields, play equipment and country walks"

2. Food and wedges

Respondents in this segment state that the importance of their selected green space derives from the opportunities it offers to grow food (commercially and at allotments). They also offer a valuable meeting place for people to meet and mix with wildlife in urban areas. These people-friendly green spaces are often green

wedges, which respondents argue, influence the shape and form of future housing development. All respondents that raised this point stated they should not be developed on.

- Geography: Coalville.
- Example comment: "No development on this area! This is Green Wedge now and should remain so!"

3. 'Natural' space for communities
Respondents in this segment state that the importance of their selected green space derives from the benefits it offers to people within a 'natural' sphere. Respondents state that the green space is a mainly natural environment (car-free with a mixture of water, openness, trees, shrubs, etc). They argue that this promotes a space which is vital for community cohesion and spirit as it can be a venue for hosting functions/events. Additionally, others view the green space as an area to walk and explore.

- Geography: Broughton, Blaby North, Lutterworth and Wigston.
- Example comment: "Green space - relaxation, wildlife, walking, access to parts of Charnwood Forest without using a car"

4. Splendour in safety
Respondents in this segment state that the importance of their identified green space derives from the opportunity it offers various members of the community to play and/or learn a new activity safely. This includes children playing safely (within a fenced area, with limited supervision), opportunities to cycle, learn motocross and/or to ride horses. Respondents also cite the green space as offering magnificent views within areas of natural beauty.

- Geography: Valley and Bradgate.
- Example comment: "Secluded area - children can play safely together with limited supervision"

5. Free: free for, free from
Respondents in this segment state that the importance of their selected green space derives from the multitude of uses it offers its community for free. These include: children's play area, agricultural uses, community events and dog-walking. Others add that the green space is important as it is also used by many wild plants, insects, birds and animals. Many cite its importance is due to its close proximity to town centres offering free and easy access. Other respondents use free in the context as in 'free-from' – free from traffic and houses, being most cited.

- Geography: Oadby, Shepshed.
- Example comment: "A good way to relax and unwind after a busy week at work - free, family, friendly"

6. Ground: as in play, as in open
Respondents in this segment state that the importance of their identified green space derives from the uses which people gain from it. These are attributed to the word 'ground', as in open-ground and area for play. Woodland is also an important landscape and historical feature as is the variety within it. This includes the variety of flowers (bluebells, snowdrops), trees, wildlife and natural footpaths (and even an underground spring).

- Geography: Hinckley, Valley and South Wigston.
- Example comment: "Beautifully well kept, planting/grounds, play grounds and Carillion Tower, ducks/ponds, and museum"

2.7 Are different types of green spaces valued for different reasons?

Online Responses

Aim: Summarise the relationship between the different types of green space and how they are valued to assess whether different types are *valued* for different reasons.

Analysis: Online responses to question two (about the type of green space) and question three (on the aspects of value) are cross-tabulated, and a test of significance applied to assess whether certain aspects of value are more likely than others to be attributed to certain green space types.

Chart Four shows the cross-tabulated results. The green space type is ranked (top to bottom) by order of popularity and the aspects of value ranked (left to right), by order of popularity.

The categories that share a significant (and therefore influential) relationship have been assigned a coloured circle; the larger the circle the more significant the relationship. Dark blue circles show a relationship that is <u>more</u> likely than expected to occur; the light blue circles show a relationship that is <u>less</u> likely than expected to occur.

Summary of findings:
The chart can be used to select a particular green space type, to understand which of the listed attributes it is particularly valued for. For example, it shows that 'Farm land', the most highly selected green space type, is especially valued for 'The view and

beauty of its surroundings', as well as for its 'Openness and feeling of space' and its 'Wildlife and habitat' attributes, but not as 'Somewhere to meet friends and socialise'.

Similarly, the chart can be used to judge which values are shared across a range of green space types. It shows that whilst 'The view and beauty of the surroundings' is an aspect that is valued overall (ranked second) and is particularly associated with 'Farmland' and 'Woodland', and to a lesser extent 'Public right of way', 'Meadow Grassland' and 'Country Parks', it is not a 'value' that is attributed to 'Town or Village Parks', the 'Children's playground' or 'Allotments / community managed garden'.

Notably, the chart shows that although 'Close to where I live' is considered an important value (ranked third), it is not associated to any particular type of green space more than others. In this respect it should be considered an equally important aspect of value for all green space types.

It is also interesting to consider which types of green space share particular values. For example, 'Public rights of way', 'Woodland' and 'Country Parks' (all ranked in the top half of the table) are all very strongly associated with 'Woodland and trees,' 'Somewhere to exercise', 'Good access around the site' and 'Somewhere to sit and relax'. This type of interrelation could mean that similar activities take place in these locations, a finding that will be further considered in Section 3, Summary of Online and Forum consultations, on page 36.

Chart Four: Cross-tabulation showing test of association between type of green space and why they are valued

2.8   How could these sites be improved?

All Responses—Online and Forum

Aim: Identify at a county level the most frequent improvement suggestions, and segment Forum text responses to better understand the main types of improvement being requested.

Analysis: All respondents were asked how their green space might be improved. Tag clouds, used to show the importance of words (more frequent words being larger in size and darker in colour), were created for both online and forum responses. For a full explanation of tag clouds see appendix one, page 44.

Summary of findings: The following Figures Six and Seven show the more frequent use of words: 'no development', 'housing', 'building', 'leave', 'protect', 'keep'; this suggests that the primary driver for improvement is the need to prevent any potential housing development on the green space identified.

There is also a sense that people want enhanced access to certain sites ('access') and that there is a desire to maintain and/or improve existing community facilities ('better', 'maintain', 'footpaths', 'community', 'park', 'planting', 'trees', 'wildlife').

Conclusion: In relation to possible improvements to a green space, the overriding concern expressed by people was the desire to protect green space from potential development, particularly for housing. There was also the more practical call made by some respondents for the maintenance, improvement or new provision of a number of facilities. These included the provision of parks and footpaths, planting or building new facilitates on relevant sites.

Figure Six: Tag-cloud showing County-wide proposed improvements (online)

access (60) better (44) building (50) footpaths (41) green (53) housing (49) land (63) leave (62) maintain (50) no-development (66) space (61) wildlife (40)

Figure Seven: Tag-cloud showing County-wide proposed improvements (forum)

access (53) alone (36) community (37) footpaths (38) green (36) keep (47) land (43) leave (65) maintain (47) natural (36) no-development (37) park (36) planting (37) protect (49) trees (41)

2.9 Can the types of improvement be grouped together by Community Forum area?

Forum Responses

Analysis: The responses collected at Community Forum meetings have been further analysed to see if the types of improvements being suggested can be grouped into distinct segments. The text responses have been grouped into six segments, each representing a set of commonly suggested improvements. For information regarding how the segments are devised please see appendix one, page 443

Figure Eight: Green Space Improvements: Segmentation of suggested improvement by Community Forum Area
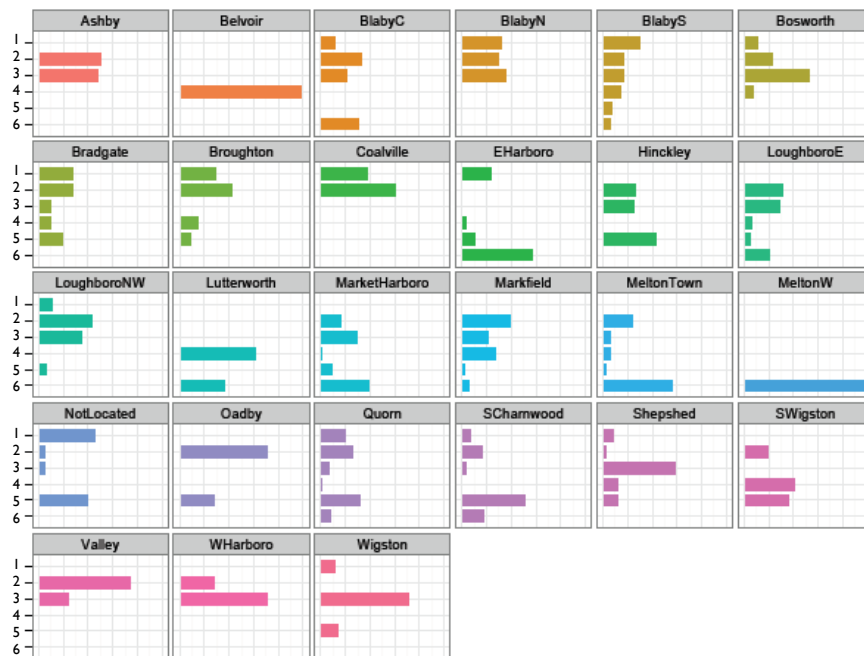
Due to the very large attendance at the Loughborough South West Forum, individual responses were not collected, and people were asked to use the online tool instead.

Table Five: Green Space Improvements: Segmentation of Forum responses

Segment name	Five most frequently used words
1. Plants not heavy plant	housing, wedge, planting, tree, arable
2. Leave alone to improve	trees, alone, land, development, build
3. Amenities maintained and augmented	facilities, building, equipment, children, public
4. Leg, pedal and horse power	track, footpaths, leisure, vehicles, horse
5. Park users	fields, road, park, developments, landscape
6. Canine and convenience	toilets, land, planning, use, dog

Summary of findings: Table Five (above) provides the descriptive name of each segment, along with a list of the five most frequently used words. Figure Eight (left) shows the likely presence of each segment within each Community Forum Area. The segments are more fully described below.

1. Plants not heavy plant

Respondents in this segment primarily want their green space left alone. They advocate no more housing developments alongside preserving the green wedge (cited as green lungs separating villages, towns, etc). Respondents also want the arable land maintained so that food can be locally produced and sourced. The one improvement they would like to see is the planting of more trees and shrubs.

- Geography: Coalville and Blaby North.
- Example comment: "Greater protection to trees and planting of established trees to replace those lost to the development of A46. Many ancient trees were lost to the road and we lost the sound barrier against the noise"

2. Leave alone to improve

Respondents in this segment offer that the best way to improve their selected green space is to leave it alone. They state that it must be protected from all traffic and housing developments. They argue that no improvements need to be made aside from the planting of additional trees.

- Geography: Valley, Coalville and Ashby.
- Example comment: "Just leave it alone please"

3. Amenities maintained and augmented

Respondents in this segment agree that their identified green space requires improvements to facilities, whether they are maintained, upgraded or simply required in the first place. These include improving/providing allotment plots, toilets, more play facilities (specifically basketball, BMX and skateboard) and changing rooms for home and visiting sports teams. In one or two instances a community centre was cited as a worthwhile addition. Respondents stated that they do not wish to see commercial buildings developed (particularly egg or wind farms).

- Geography: Wigston, West Harborough and Ashby.
- Example comment: "A community centre for refreshments, toilets and other facilities"

4. Leg, pedal and horse power

Respondents in this segment wish to see an increased number and better equipped footpaths (including bridleways and cycle paths) and a concerted effort to reduce the amount of litter. They would also like to see more accessible footpaths and better provisions for horse riders and dog walkers. They also state that they would like

to see the good work being done to continue regarding deterring the use of 4x4 motor vehicles.

- Geography: Belvoir and Lutterworth.
- Example comment: "Continue the good work to deter 4-wheel drive vehicles wrecking the tracks and bridal ways"

5. Park users

Many respondents in this category want to see no 'hard' developments in their selected green space but are happy for soft landscape improvements, planting of trees, shrubs, etc. Outside of their green space they would like to see improvements to roads (surfaces, width of, lighting) and car parks (maintenance of, opening times, staffed) so that they can enjoy access to and from their green space to a fuller extent.

- Geography: South Charnwood and Hinckley.
- Example comment: "Needs to be restored as an area where people can gather - possibility of seating provision, needs car park maintenance"

6. Canine and Convenience

Respondents in this category would like to see more toilets (with better opening hours) and cleaner, better equipped toilets. Respondents would also like to see improvements for dog-walkers including more litter bins and better lighting at night whilst making strides to reduce the amount of fouling. Furthermore, respondents state they would like to see their green space receive full protection by making full use of planning conservation law.

- Geography: Melton West, East Harborough and Melton Town.
- Example comment: "It would be better if the toilets are available when the park is open"

2.10 What is the size of the green spaces being selected?

All Responses (Online and Forum)

Aim: Measure at a county level the average size of green space and analyse whether different green space types differ by size from the average.

Analysis: The size of green spaces have been calculated in square kilometres. These measurements are graphically described and compared using a box-plot.

Summary of findings: Figure Nine shows that the general distribution of the sizes of green spaces chosen online and at Community Forum meetings are similar, although green spaces recorded online tend to be larger, with an average (median) size of 372,000 square metres compared to the average size from Community Forum meetings being just 108,000 square metres.

In total, three quarters (72%) of green spaces are under one square kilometre in size (65% online and 76% forum). There are also a small number of very large green spaces recorded via the online option.

Further analysis: The draft National Planning Policy Framework states a designated Local Green Space should be "local in character and not an extensive tract of land", in other words it should be smaller rather than larger. However, the framework does not provide guidance as to what size of green space should be considered small rather than large, and therefore fails to provide

Figure Nine: **Box plot showing size of green space**
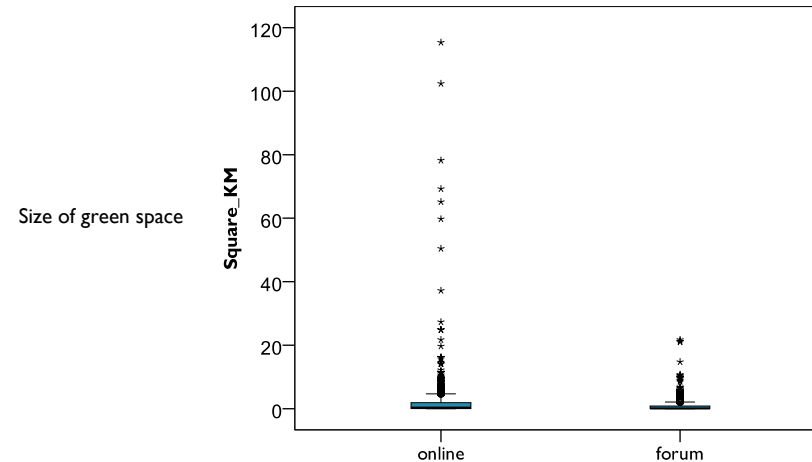
criteria with which to assess the findings. However, if clearer guidance was to follow then this could be an area of further analysis.

Conclusion: In general, despite a small number of extensive green space selections, the green spaces tend to be quite small in size. However, until clear guidance is given, this claim cannot be made in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework criteria.

The different methods of collecting the consultation information (online and Community Forum meeting) has had a clear impact upon the average size of selected green space, with the use of an online tool making it easier to identify bigger areas. This point should be a consideration when collecting future green space information.
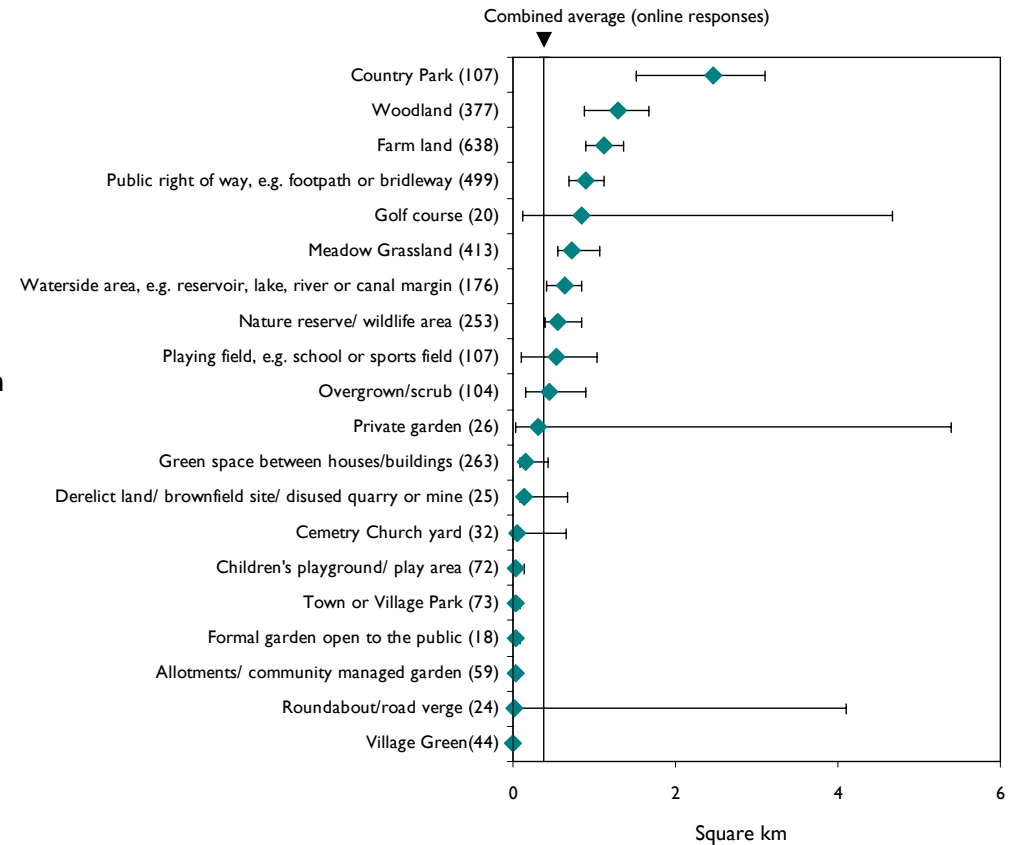
Online Responses

Analysis: The online tool allowed respondents to indicate the type of green space they were selecting. This has allowed the online responses to be grouped according to green space type and the average size for each group to be calculated.

Summary of Findings: Figure ten (right) shows the average size of green space online responses by type, in relation to the overall average. It shows that more natural and open green spaces, such as 'Country Park' and 'Farmland' have a tendency to be larger; that brown field sites, such as 'Derelict Land' and 'Overgrown Scrub' tend to sit mid-table; and the more formal, functional green spaces, such as 'Village park', 'Allotments', etc. tend to be relatively small, discrete areas. This may be interesting in relation to the type of green space eligible for Local Green Space designation.

The lines on each type of green space indicate how much confidence we have with the results. So a longer bar means we have less confidence than a smaller bar.

Conclusion: The type of green space has a clear impact upon the size of green space, and this should be taken into account when considering the potential criteria of Local Green Space designation.

Figure Ten: Dot plot showing average size of green space type (online responses)

Combined average (online responses)

Country Park (107)
Woodland (377)
Farm land (638)
Public right of way, e.g. footpath or bridleway (499)
Golf course (20)
Meadow Grassland (413)
Waterside area, e.g. reservoir, lake, river or canal margin (176)
Nature reserve/ wildlife area (253)
Playing field, e.g. school or sports field (107)
Overgrown/scrub (104)
Private garden (26)
Green space between houses/buildings (263)
Derelict land/ brownfield site/ disused quarry or mine (25)
Cemetry Church yard (32)
Children's playground/ play area (72)
Town or Village Park (73)
Formal garden open to the public (18)
Allotments/ community managed garden (59)
Roundabout/road verge (24)
Village Green(44)

Square km

2.11 How far are selected green spaces from population centres?

All Responses (Online and Forum)

Aim: Measure at a county level the average distance between the green spaces and population centres.

Analysis: The distance between each green space and the nearest population centre has been calculated in metes for both online and forum responses. These measurements are shown using a box-plot (see Figure Eleven).

Summary of findings: Figure eleven provides a summary of both the Community Forum and online data. In general, distances are very similar, with an average (median) measurement of 89 metres for green spaces recorded at Community Forum meetings and 71 metres for green spaces recorded online.

In total, 88% of green spaces are within half a kilometre of a population centre (86% online, 81% forum).

Further analysis: The draft National Planning Policy Framework fails to qualify the criteria it uses to determine a designated green space and so these findings can not be assessed in relation to being in 'reasonably close proximity to a centre of population'. However, if clearer guidance was to follow than this could be an area of further analysis.

In order to provide the measure of distance of green space from population centre used in this report, a relatively crude measurement was taken between each green space centre and its

Figure Eleven: Box plot showing distance from population centre of the green spaces
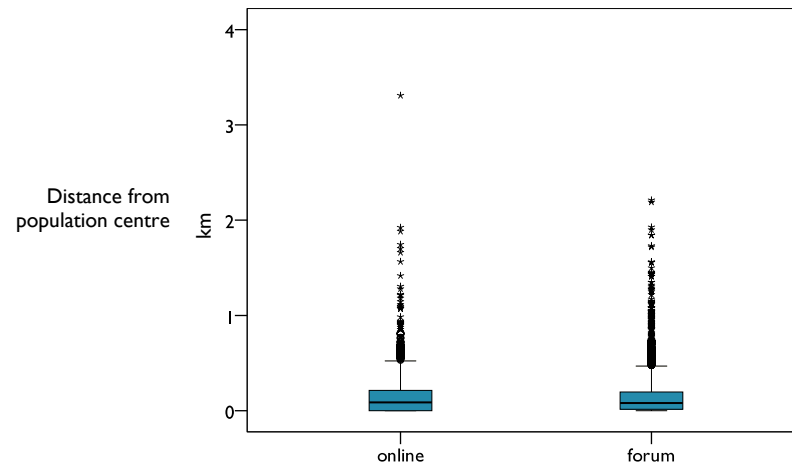
nearest population centre (using the 1,993 Census Output Areas in Leicestershire as the basis). However, there are more sophisticated methodologies available that would provide a more accurate representation of population distribution over space. Therefore, if distance criteria within the National Planning Policy Framework is deemed important then further more sophisticated analysis could be undertaken.

Conclusion: The vast majority (88%) of all identified green spaces are within half a kilometre of a population centre. However, there would be merit in developing this analysis further to provide a more sophisticated measure of distance between green space and population centres.

2.12 What is the relationship between the size of a green space and the distance from a population centre?

All Responses (Online and Forum)

Aim: Measure the relationship between green space size and distance from a population centre to test whether larger spaces are necessarily further away from concentrations of population.

Analysis: Correlate size of green space by distance from a population centre and present in a scatterplot.

Note: When calculating a measure for distance from population centre, some large green spaces contained a population centre and so were assigned a measurement of zero. Therefore, these have been removed from this analysis.

Summary of findings: Figure Twelve shows the relationship between the size of green space and the distance to a population centre. The line of best fit has also been added. The results show there is a very weak correlation and so the size of the green space has very little effect upon the likely distance of the green space from a population centre.

Conclusion: Intuitively, large green spaces were thought likely to be further away from a population centre than smaller ones. This may have had consequences for large spaces in relation to the draft National Planning Policy Framework Local Green Space designation criteria that stated spaces needed to be "in reasonable close

Figure Twelve: Scatterplot of distance from population centre and size of green space
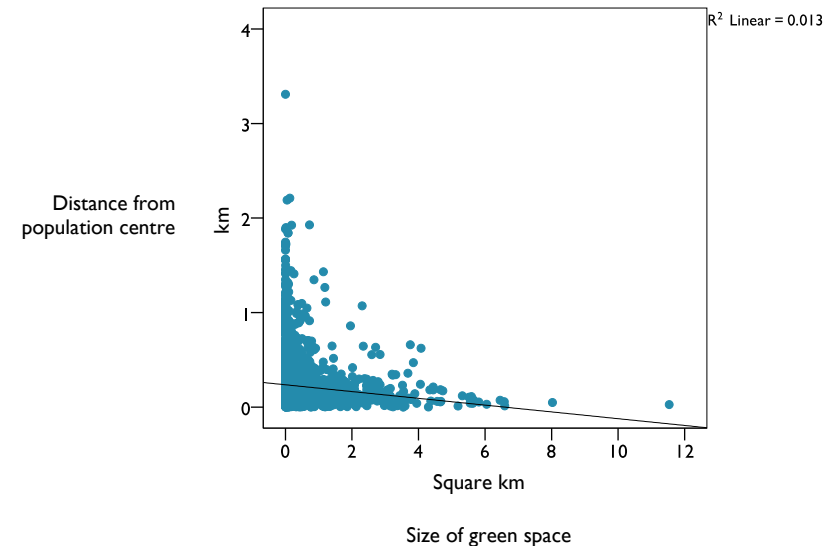
proximity to a centre of population". However, using our current measures of distance and size there seems to be little evidence to support this concern.

2.13 What did Parish Councils say?

Introduction
The views of parish and town councils on the important green spaces (including green wedges) in a parish area are very valuable, and a letter was sent to all parishes for their thoughts and comments. All the responses received are listed below. However, for reasons of space, the responses have been edited to highlight the key open spaces mentioned in the response. The full responses are available at **www.leics.gov.uk/greenspaces**

South Charnwood Area
Cossington Parish Council highlighted three green spaces: from Polly Pegg's and the Railway over to Syston Road; between the Barn on Cossington Road through to Chalfont Drive; the fields opposite Derry's on Main Street

East Goscote Parish Council particularly highlighted the green space which separates East Goscote and Rearsby. Queniborough Parish Council highlighted the green space between Barkby, Syston and East Goscote.

Thrussington Parish Council highlighted the area around the village. Being situated in the Wreake Valley, which is an area of outstanding natural beauty, it is an area of particular importance to the local community.

Quorn, Barrow, Sileby and the Wolds Area
Sileby Parish Council highlighted the importance of the green spaces around the village. Hoton Parish Council highlighted the importance of the green space between Loughborough and the Wolds. Quorn Parish Council outlined green spaces between the village and the surrounding areas, such as Loughborough, Mountsorrel, Barrow Upon Soar and neighbouring villages Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves and Swithland. Quorn Parish Council highlighted open spaces within the village: Stafford Orchard, The Banks, Mills Park, Caves Field, Rawlins Community College, Tom Longs Meadows, War memorial Gardens and Private Gardens.

Coalville Area
Whitwick Action Group and Whitwick Parish Council highlighted the green space separating the villages of Whitwick, Thringstone and Swannington from Coalville, outlining that it is a key area of importance to the local community.

Blaby Central Area
Enderby Parish Council highlighted green spaces in all land adjacent to the Park & Ride site in Enderby; the Green Wedges on both sides of Leicester Lane, Enderby, from the Foxhunter roundabout; all land up towards Blaby Road on the right hand side including the land behind Heron Way, Enderby; land from the back of Quarry Farm up to the M69 bridge towards Lubbesthorpe; and all remaining undeveloped land on the Santander site, Narborough.

Cosby Parish Council highlighted all green spaces surround the village. Countesthorpe and Glen Parva Parish Council highlighted green spaces within and surrounding the village.

Bradgate, Rothley, Mountsorrel and Birstall Area
Swithland Parish Council outlined they believe that protecting

green spaces, green wedges and indeed all areas designated as open countryside should have the highest priority for planning policy. Rothley Parish Council outlined support for the objectives of protecting structurally important areas of open land and ensuring that such land extends outwards between existing development areas which also maintains separation between settlements. They identified the following green spaces: Land including, and to the East of, Rothley Park Golf Club, south of Hallfields Lane and across to Loughborough Road and the A6 down to the River Soar; Land to the North of The Ridgeway, East of Swithland Lane and across The Ridings to behind existing developments in Templar Way, Garland etc; Land to the East of properties on Mountsorrel Lane, north of Rothley Brook, south of Mountsorrel across to Loughborough Road and the A6; Soar Valley Corridor and existing parkland and playing fields; and Land to the West of Properties on Swithland Lane, East of The Great Central Railway and North across The Ridings and Rothley Plain and up to Kinchley and Rushey Lanes.

Woodhouse Parish Council commented that the open space within and around this parish is very important. It provides a wildlife habitat, a resource for recreation for local people and visitors, a carbon sink, an important visual distinction between villages and the town of Loughborough, and a location for employment linked to the county's tourism aspirations.

Rural West Harborough Area
Wistow Parish Council were keen to highlight both the importance of open spaces in the parish and the value of the green spaces between settlements. Cotesbach Parish Council highlighted the area between the village and Lutterworth as a valuable green space.

Laughton parish Council highlighted areas within the village e.g. the village green. green space surrounding the village were outlined also e.g. the agricultural land, Gumley Road. Swinford Parish Council outlined the greenspaces surrounding the village of value to the community.

Rural East Harborough Area
Smeeton Westerby Parish Council outlined that the fields surrounding the village were important green spaces. South Croxton Parish Council highlighted the green space in the centre of the village of most value to the local community. Great Glen Parish Council highlighted the greenspace between Oadby and the village. Kibworth Parish Council looked to the green space between Smeeton Westerby and the village. Thurnby & Bushby Parish Council highlighted the areas of separation as the green spaces of most value.

Lutterworth Area
Lutterworth Town Council highlighted a number of areas that are classified as important open spaces and Green Wedges in Lutterworth. These are, the separation area between Lutterworth and Bitteswell and the area between Lutterworth and Magna Park. Recreation grounds on Coventry Road, Crescent Road, Dunley Way and Lutterworth Cricket ground. All school sports fields e.g. Lutterworth College, Lutterworth High School, Sherrier Primary Scholl and John Wycliffe Primary School. Play areas at Orange Hill, Mulberry Close and Moorbarns Lane. The River Swift floodplain on both sides of the A426 and the railway line. Allotments at De Verdon Road and Crescent Road, St Mary's Churchyard and Rye Hills. Area of mature trees along Woodway Road and area of willow trees on the junction of Coventry Road and Brookfield Way.

Blaby North Area

Leicester Forest East Parish Council identified the green spaces between Braunstone Town, Enderby and LFE of most value. Plus the green space between Beggars Lane and Desford Cross Roads. Braunstone Town highlighted several green spaces in the area e.g. allotments, parks, playing fields.

Kirby Muxloe Parish Council outlined green spaces bordered by the Kirby Muxloe Golf club, Station Road, Barry Drive, Hinckley Road up to the farm track leading to Oaks Farm and then on to the golf course; green spaces bordered by the M1, Ratby Lane (Blood's Hill), along the back of the Castle and weir, then along by the side of the stream until it meets then railway track, then back up to the side of the M1; Green Spaces along Hinckley Road until it meets the footpath leading to Gullet Lane, taking the line along Gullet Lane and then following the boundary line until it meets Desford Lane.

Bosworth Area

Market Bosworth Parish Council outlined the following green spaces of value to the community; the County Park; the Memorial Garden; the Parish Field and Nutswood Pastures.

Carlton Parish Council outlined the green spaces of importance to the community: a village green; small areas of land owned by the Parish Council and maintained to the benefit of the community; a churchyard; cemetery; SSSI of Ashby canal; wildlife areas; conservation areas; a restored steam railway; roadside verges and hedges; a number of public rights of way; and the countryside surrounding the village.

Ashby/Measham/Moira Area

Ashby Town Council highlighted the green space between Ashby and the A42 and A511. Then the greenspaces between Ashby and the villages Blackfordby, Norris Hill, Packington and Smisby.

Belvoir Area

Stathern Parish Council highlighted the green spaces within the village envelope and to the north – Tofts Hill.

Valley Area

Lockington and Hemington Parish Council outlined all green spaces within the parish council boundaries were of value to the local community. Kegworth Parish Council highlighted the green space around Junction 24 of the M1 around the villages of Kegworth, Lockington, Hemington and Castle Donington.

Castle Donington Parish Council outlined all green spaces in and around the village. Swannington Parish Council highlighted all green spaces in and around the village.

Osgathorpe Parish Council referred to their Village Design Statement which shows the key green spaces of value to the village. Worthington Parish Council identified the New Lount Nature Reserve on the edge of Newbold as a green space of value to the community. Belton Parish Council highlighted the greenspaces surround the village as of key value to the community offering direct access to the countryside.

3. Summary of Online and Community Forum Consultations

3.1 What are the main messages from the online responses?

Aim: In order to determine the main messages from the online consultation, it is possible to combine the analysis carrys out on pages 14 and 18 to produce distinct respondent segments that combine both common views on green space type and also value.

Analysis: Each segment is quantifiable in terms of popularity, and describes its members common use of green space, why they think green space is valued and important, and what improvement they think should be made to enhance the green spaces. For a full explanation of both factor and segment analysis refer to appendix one page 43.

Summary of findings: The segment solution provides six distinct segments. Each segment has been assigned a descriptive name which aims to represent the dominant views held by respondents contained within each segment. The resulting names, number of respondents and the percentage of total respondents for each segment are provided below.

Respondent Segments	Number of respondents	Percent of all respondents
Making a Point	15	1%
Improvers	76	7%
Recreationalists	24	2%
Country Walkers	794	71%
Family Matters	143	13%
Maintain our local Landmarks	60	5%

A more detailed summary of each segment follows:

Making a point
A small number of people, just 15 (1%), have chosen to select most of the provided categories for both green space type and aspects of value. They mention the potential loss to the local community, if the green space was to be built upon, of valued wildlife, heritage, productive arable land and aspects of beauty. The spaces are typically very large expanses of land (average size of 5.5 square kilometres).

Example comments:

- "leave it alone"

- "establish a regional park management body to help co-ordinate works across the whole area"

- "Thringstone and Whitwick are already built up enough. We are losing our heritage , sites of interest...we have some of the oldest rocks in the country around here it is of geological as well as environmental interest. People use the land i.e allotments, play spaces etc"

Improvers
Making up 7% of respondents, these are strongly interested in the green space types that were grouped together under the heading 'Derelict land / underused green space', which include 'Scrub areas', 'Brownfield sites' and 'green spaces between houses', as well as 'allotments'. Respondents express a view to improve and

develop these sites in order to preserve existing features such as heritage, archaeology and gardens, and to make them more accessible and of better use to the general public. The sites are deemed most important in relation to their potential for use by local people; they are usually quite small areas.

Example comments:

- "more work required to reclaim land on the old coal spill area (Nailstone Pit)"

- Sileby unused waste site - "renovate this unused area by clearing it of old buildings and making a bmx park/woodland area/gardens/play area/nature area"

- "This allotment area has only just been established after a lengthy struggle to find an area and get funding and permission. The uptake has been excellent and numerous residents of both Diseworth and Long Whatton have taken allotments and countless others have become involved in the scheme"

Recreationalists
Representing just 2% of respondents, these have selected a range of green spaces that were grouped together under the following headings: 'Playing fields and play areas', 'Open countryside', 'Derelict land / underused green space' and 'Privately owned green spaces'. These respondents wish to use green space to socialise, relax and exercise with family and friends. There is a call to improve the accessibility of some sites, requesting the addition of

further footpaths and ensuring the current footpaths remain accessible.

Example comments:

- Blaby golf course: "by letting people walk around the golf course without them moaning. To have benches so you sit and watch the golf"

- "This is a cultural area where students, the elderly, families, and teenagers all share space, especially at the weekends. It's a cultural gem and a welcome piece of greenary right next to the centre of Loughborough which is otherwise a rather bland town centre"

- Botanic Garden - "close to where I live - great place to bring children - a great variety of garden features and plants - a quiet place in the city"

Country walkers
The largest group representing 71%, these have selected green spaces that were grouped under the headings 'Country park and woodland areas' and 'Open countryside'. They are seen to value their green space for its views, wildlife and as somewhere to exercise as well as for its feeling of space, accessibility and the near proximity of the space. They have a desire to first protect the area from potential development and then to improve it by extending and maintaining footpaths and walls, improving signage and providing additional facilities such as dog bins and benches. These spaces are seen as important because of their landscape value.

They are relatively large areas compared to areas in the other segment groups (average size is 0.67 square kilometres).

Example comments:

- Outwoods Loughborough - "This is a local heritage beauty spot it cannot be replaced and should be preserved and NOT BUILT ON!!"

- Outwoods Loughborough - "this space is used everyday by hundreds of walkers, cyclists, dog walkers and runners to move from the town up to the Outwoods and beyond to Beacon hill. Building on this land would close in the feeling of the area and start to encroach on the Outwoods itself - a designated historic woodland - closer buildings could lead to potential damage and disease spreading to the woods and would damage the beautiful views that you get looking back towards the town from the Outwoods"

- Woodside farm/Shellbrook - "There are many footpaths through these and neighbouring fields which are truly beautiful and yet in easy reach for people in a large proportion of Ashby. They make it possible to walk from Ashby to neighbouring villages without going on the road - a real treat. The wildlife that can be seen is incredible, bats and woodpeckers can be frequently spotted, as well as many other varieties of birds"

- Woodthorpe - "preserve ancient right of way to woodhouse"

- Jubilee Woods and Outwoods - "This is the Crown Jewels of Charnwood. It is what makes Charnwood what it is. It must be protected now and in the future for its beauty and character, and for its views and open countryside. Encroachment of housing towards this area will mean that it will become just a playground for local children rather than a natural area for wildlife and plants which people visit".

Family matters
A sizeable segment (13%), their interest lies mainly in green spaces that were grouped under the heading 'Playing fields and play areas' and therefore represent areas where both formal and informal sporting activities, as well as children's general play activity may occur. These are valued for the ability to socialise, play, exercise and relax, but also for their close proximity, accessibility and the feeling of space they afford. Respondents in this segment would like to see an improvement in the facilities afforded by many of these sites and there is some concern around issues of anti social behaviour, namely, dog fouling and graffiti. These spaces are seen as areas that enhance and develop community cohesion over generations, they are ultimately seen as important for their community value.

Example comments:

- Haddon Way Green - "There is no other green space on the development large enough for children to kick a ball about"

- Rosemead park (Oadby) - "Retain its recreational value. Ideal for local children to play. CCTV to stop unsociable

behaviour by small minority"

- "This area is a playing field attached to Diseworth Village Hall. It is used for a variety of events including games and specifically football. There is a small play area for kids, a shelter which is primarily used as a meeting area for the children in the village. However, it would be good to provide some additional facilities for sport and improve the existing facilities"

- Derby Road Playing Fields - "This a fantastic sports area close to Loughborough, and within easy walking distance from a large housing estate. At a time when people are being encouraged to take more exercise, losing this facility would be a backward step. Building on this area would lose the sense of openness between Loughborough and Hathern, and destroy the natural walks near the river and water. Astra have just pulled out of their building so there is more than enough vacant property adjacent. Loughborough people have been campaigning for years to keep the space so please listen"

- Whitwick Park - "Recently the park has been open to hold events, this has been a great way to get the local community together"

Maintain our local landmarks
A smaller group (5%), they are mainly concerned about green spaces grouped under the heading 'Community green spaces', which include cemeteries, village greens, roundabouts and grass verges. These particular 'Community green spaces' are valued as they may hold local landmarks that help retain the identity of the local area. There is a fear that a reduced council budget may result in certain features falling in to a state of disrepair. These areas tend to be very small (0.006 square kilometres).

Example comments:

- Stoney Stanton - "The village green in front of the church should be protected and preserved for its aesthetic, practical and historic value at the heart of the village"

- Great Dalby - "It houses a Village Pump, a war memorial and has springs beneath the surface"

- The wheel in Whitwick - "Local landmark, provide unique feature for the village, part of its heritage and identity"

- St Wilfrid's churchyard - "Concerns that financial constraints on the local council, who are responsible for the upkeep, will mean the churchyard will lose its character and not be maintained to a good standard"

3.2 What are the main messages made from the Forum responses?

Aim: The analysis below tries to understand what respondents think based on an analysis of comments received on all three of the questions asked at the Community Forum meetings: on green space 'value', 'importance' and 'improvement'. This builds on earlier analysis in this report.

Analysis: . The 'Value' segment, initially identified in the analysis on page 20, was chosen as the first point of investigation as it was felt that it represents the crux of the consultation, with the 'Importance' and 'Improvement' segments (pages 22 and 27) being secondary factors. The text within each segment was then analysed separately to allow a pattern, or 'segment profile', to emerge, which goes some way in explaining overall individual motivations and choices.

Summary of findings: Reading across from the green central 'Value' column of Figure Thirteen, to the left and to the right, shows what *importance* and *improvements* those people within each of the 'Value' segments want and/or expect of their green space. The diagram below allows us to understand the thought processes

Figure Thirteen: Table combining value, importance and improvement segments

Green Space Segments

"comment" ⟵	Importance Segments ⟵	**Value segments** ⟹	Improvement segments ⟹	"comment"
"A central green space for natural breathing"	Natural space for communities + Splendour in safety	**Recreation for all**	Amenities maintained and augmented	"Build a community centre"
"Sports, pastimes, fishing, play area"	Scenary and sports + Natural space for communities	**Sporty adults & community**	Amenities maintained and augmented	"Additional youth equipment, shelter, exercise, equipment"
"Available land for local people to grow food"	Food and wedges + Forest plus ground	**Natural landscape features**	Plant not heavy plant + Leave to improve	"Seating, picnic area, new plants, increase bio-diversity"
"The grounds and the paths and trees"	Ground: as in play, as in open + Splendour in safety	**Picture postcard & walkers**	Leg, pedal and horse power + Leave to improve	"Declassifying the track to stop 4x4 joyriders"
"Landscape value"	Natural space for communities +	**Animal lovers & parks**	Park users + Leg, pedal and horse power	"Potential walking track, park, etc"
"Local walk, beauty of trees and wildlife"	Natural space for communities +	**Wildlife & walkers**	Plant not heavy plant	"No housing development, leave area for locals to enjoy"

40

which people are *most likely* to share when they have the same starting point. This relationship has been produced by a careful cross-examination of the respective sets of data – often revealing patterns in respondent comments.

'Value' and 'Importance' of green spaces
Comments regarding 'Importance' were attributed to the 'Natural space for communities' segment. The key themes within this segment were how *important* green space is for its ability to promote community cohesion (through hosting functions and events) and for providing a natural area for people to walk and explore; a sense of 'returning to nature' being a predominant theme.

'Value' and 'Improvement' of green spaces
For those valuing their green space for recreational and sports use ('Recreation for all' and 'Sporty Adults & Communities' segments) they place a strong emphasis that improvements should consist of 'Amenities maintained and augmented'. The key themes within this segment is that the facilities on their green space require upgrading and improving.

Those that value walking, scenery and parks ('Wildlife & walkers', 'Picture postcard & walkers' and 'Natural landscape features') also want improvements which maintain or add to the enjoyment value for walkers and park users. These include the prohibition of 4x4 vehicles on green spaces, the planting of shrubbery and the denial of any planning permission for physical developments.

4. Dissemination

4.1 Exploring the results

A key aim of the green spaces consultation was to give the data back to local people to enable them to use the findings for neighbourhood planning and local campaigning.

Following the same approach that was taken with the original online application that collected the consultation responses (www.lsr-online.org/greenspaces/), the Research & Insight Team at the County Council have worked with the giCentre at City University, London, to produce an interactive online analysis tool (www.lsr-online.org/greenspacesresults/).

The tool allows communities to view all the green spaces identified from the original online consultation and the responses from the 27 Community Form meetings, including the comments and questionnaire information.

The tool allows the user to:

- Search by key word - this searches all the area names and comments text and highlights the related green spaces

- Pan and zoom and mouseover an area to see all the green spaces recorded - clicking on an area allows respondents to scroll through all the comments

- Show the number of green spaces by type, value and importance and Community Forum area using the charts - clicking on the question headings shows the results for each

- Change the map selection to show green spaces based on Community Forum area or green spaces type, value or importance by clicking on the bar chart labels

Online Analysis Tool: www.lsr-online.org/greenspacesresults/
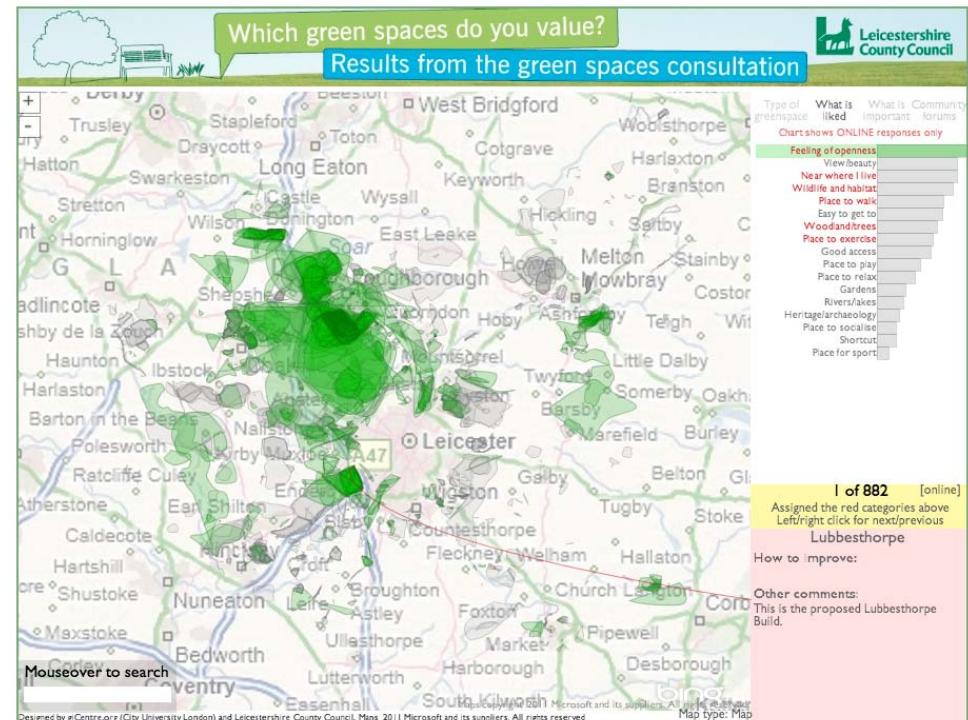
- Change the map view to show a satellite view or remove the map/satellite view by clicking on 'Map type'

- Download any data highlighted on the map in green by pressing '@'

- Display a help screen by pressing 'i'

For more information on the green spaces consultation and the online applications please visit: **www.leics.gov.uk/greenspaces**. Tweet about the apps using the #greenspaces hashtag.

Appendices

Appendix One: Data analysis

Because of the differing methodologies the Community Forum and the online consultations had separate questionnaires (see appendix three and four) and therefore generated a slightly different data set. Overall, the online exercise resulted in a more structured quantitative dataset based on specific questions that could be coded, whereas the forum exercise resulted in a mainly qualitative, open-ended text data set.

Table six below summarises the data gathered for both the online and forum exercise:

Table Six: Consultation data-type summary

Question	Online	Forum	Analysis Type
Provide local name	text	text	Qualitative
Green space type	coded	-	Quantitative
Value attributed	coded	text	Both
Importance attached	coded	text & coded	Both
How improve	text	text	Qualitative

Because of the range of data collected during this exercise, the analysis within this report is based upon a wide range of analytical tools and techniques. A full explanation of the statistical techniques and methods used within this report follows.

Prior to utilising the green space data there was an element of data processing required, including data cleansing, recoding data variables and geocoding data so that it could be used for both analytical and reporting purposes.

The following statistical techniques have been employed within this report to determine whether differing attitudes and trends are statistically significant.

Quantitative Analysis

Cross-tabulations have been produced using the Pearson's chi-squared test in order to determine if the variables within each table are independent of each other or whether there is some type of correlation or influential relationship between them. If the significance value is smaller than 0.05% then we conclude that the variables are in some way related.

Box plots have been used to graphically describe the statistical distribution of certain sets of data thus allowing a visual summary of the minimum and maximum value and the median. This can show any outliers apparent in the data.

Factor analysis is a method used to examine how underlying themes can be used to describe a set of responses. It determines whether different variables are, at least in part, correlated on the basis of a common factor. Those variables that are highly correlated are thought to be influenced by the same factors and therefore representative of that factor. It is helpful as not only can it reduce a large number of variables to a smaller number of key factors, but also it can help to clarify the meaning of those factors.

Cluster analysis is an exploratory tool designed to identify

concentrations in data that can be used to group respondents into useful segments. Those within a segment are similar to one another, but distinct from those in other segments. It is useful as it allows a fuller exploration of those most prominently held views and opinions.

Qualitative Analysis

Tag Clouds are used to provide a visual representation of the text-based data. The importance of each word is shown with font size and colour, with more frequently occurring words being larger in size and darker in colour.

Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) analysis calculates the interrelations between different words to determine where they are most often used in conjunction with each other. The output is a number of word lists, each list containing words that have most commonly been used together. The underlying meaning of each word list can be determined through the combination of words it contains. For example, in context of the analysis within this report, the word list: 'village', 'views', 'footpath' and 'walks' is representative of green spaces that can be used walking and rambling.

Constant Comparison method is a means of objectively examining, comparing, conceptualising and categorising text data to the point where various understandings of the data emerge which can then be grouped into segments. It seeks only to reflect the most commonly shared viewpoints, i.e. what the majority are saying. It does not aim to capture all points from every different conceivable angle.

In this instance the 'segments' were created using LDA and these were used to underpin a *qualitative* review of the text insofar as they have provided a starting point for a qualitative examination of the text.

Intensity Maps are essentially counts of the number of times each small square of land appeared in an area of green space selected by somebody either in a Community Forum meeting or on the online survey. Thus, a given increase of intensity of colour corresponds to a percentage increase in the number of times a given square was chosen.

So that the maps are not merely dominated by the extremely popular and well known green spaces, but rather clearly show all selections, the intensities on the diagrams have been modified so that they are in proportion to the logarithm of the number of counts. In effect this modification reduces the range of the scale used and so also allows visibility of the least selected areas.

Appendix Two: Breakdown of responses by Community Forum Areas

Table Seven provides a further breakdown of the 1,986 responses collected at the Community Forum meetings.

The first column shows the number of responses collected at each Community Forum and the second column shows, of those, the number that were attributed to be within the same Community Forum (1,924 or 97%).

The final column provides the total number of green spaces that have been identified within an individual Community Forum area. A number of the green spaces collected spanned two or more Forums and so were counted multiple times within the table.

For instance, well over a hundred green spaces collected at the Coalville Community Forum, also crossed over into the Valley Forum, and so were also included in both the Coalville Forum and in the 'Total identified' figure for the Valley Forum.

Table Seven: Community Forum Areas- Count of the number of green spaces collected and of the times a Community Forum has been identified

Community Forum	Collected at Forum	Of which, no. within	Total identified
Coalville	434	432	444
Valley	11	11	151
Shepshed & Hathern	88	85	123
Blaby South	97	96	116
Bosworth	89	88	115
Hinckley Area	102	99	111
Bradgate, Rothley, Mountsorrel & Birstall	60	57	101
Market Harborough	100	99	99
Loughborough East	90	73	93
Loughborough North West	86	77	93
Melton West & Parishes	74	73	82
Quorn, Barrow, Sileby & The Wolds	68	67	80
South Charnwood	72	71	78
Markfield, Ratby & Groby	61	59	77
Belvoir	72	72	76
Rural East	67	67	75
Rural West	46	46	75
Melton Mowbray	64	64	73
Wigston	59	58	72
Oadby	43	43	57
Blaby Central	30	30	55
Blaby North	48	46	52
Loughborough South West	14	14	51
Ashby, Measham & Moira	42	40	45
South Wigston	21	20	25
Broughton Astley	29	18	19
Lutterworth	19	19	19
	1,986	**1,924**	**2,457**

Appendix Three: Community Forum Questionnaire/Exercise

Tell us about this green space...

1. Name of Community Forum

    Ashby, Measham & Moira
    Bradgate, Rothley, Mountsorrel and Birstall
    Markfield, Ratby & Groby
    Quorn, Barrow, Sileby and the Wolds
    Belvoir
    Blaby Central
    Blaby North
    Blaby South
    Bosworth
    Broughton Astley
    Coalville Area
    Hinckley Area
    Loughborough East
    Loughborough North West
    Lutterworth
    Market Harborough
    Melton Town
    Melton West
    Oadby
    Rural East Harborough
    Rural West Harborough
    Shepshed and Hathern
    South Charnwood
    South Wigston
    Valley

    Wigston

2. What's the flag colour?

    Red: landscape value
    Green: natural value
    Blue: recreational value
    Yellow: community value

3. Name of area (if known)

4. Why do you value this area?

5. What are the most important characteristics of the area for you?

6. How could the value of this area be further improved or enhanced?

Appendix Four: Online Questionnaire

Tell us about this green space...

Please tick as many boxes as applicable

1.   Is there a local name or names for this green space? (open text)

2.   What type of green space is it? (coded)

Farm land
Country Park
Town or Village Park
Village Green
Cemetery Church yard
Woodland
Meadow Grassland
Overgrown/scrub
Nature reserve/ wildlife area
Private garden
Formal garden open to the public
Allotments/ community managed garden
Waterside area, e.g. reservoir, lake, river or canal margin
Public right of way, e.g. footpath or bridleway
Derelict land/ Brownfield site/ disused quarry or mine
Green space between houses/buildings
Roundabout/road verge
Playing field, e.g. school or sports field
Children's playground/ play area
Golf course
Other

3.   What particular aspects do you value? (coded)

The view/beauty of the surroundings
Openness and feeling of space
Close to where I live
Easy to get to
Good access around the site
Woodland/trees
Wildlife and habitat
Water body or water course (lakes, ponds, rivers, canals)
Heritage or archaeological features
Plants and flowers of gardens
Somewhere to walk/walk dog
Somewhere to sit and relax
Somewhere to meet friends and socialise
Somewhere for children or young people to play/explorer
Somewhere to exercise
Somewhere to play or watch sport
Shortcut through to somewhere else
Other

4.   Overall what is it that makes this site important to you? (coded)

Landscape value
Recreational value
Biodiversity/natural (environmental) value
Community value - for use by local people

5.   How could the site be improved? (open text)

6.   Are there any more comments you would like to make about this green space? (open text)

7.   What is your full postcode? (open text)