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Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Prepared by LUC on behalf of Harlow District Council
July 2013

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Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

for Harlow District Council
July 2013

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"an organism which would go on changing and being rebuilt as the needs of people altered."

Sir Frederick Gibberd's description of Harlow, 1950.

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Appendix 1: Open Spaces within each Neighbourhood Area

Appendix 2: Site Audit Form

Appendix 3: Consultation method and feedback

Appendix 4: Sites by Quality and Value score

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Harlow District Council (HDC) commissioned LUC to assess the quantity, quality and value of the open space and green infrastructure in the District. This study is an integral part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and other local policies, and includes locally-derived standards for the provision of open space and recreational facilities in the area. These standards will form the basis for redressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process. This information will also contribute towards developing an approach to the wider green infrastructure (GI) network. The location of Harlow and existing open space provision is outlined in **Figure 1.2**.

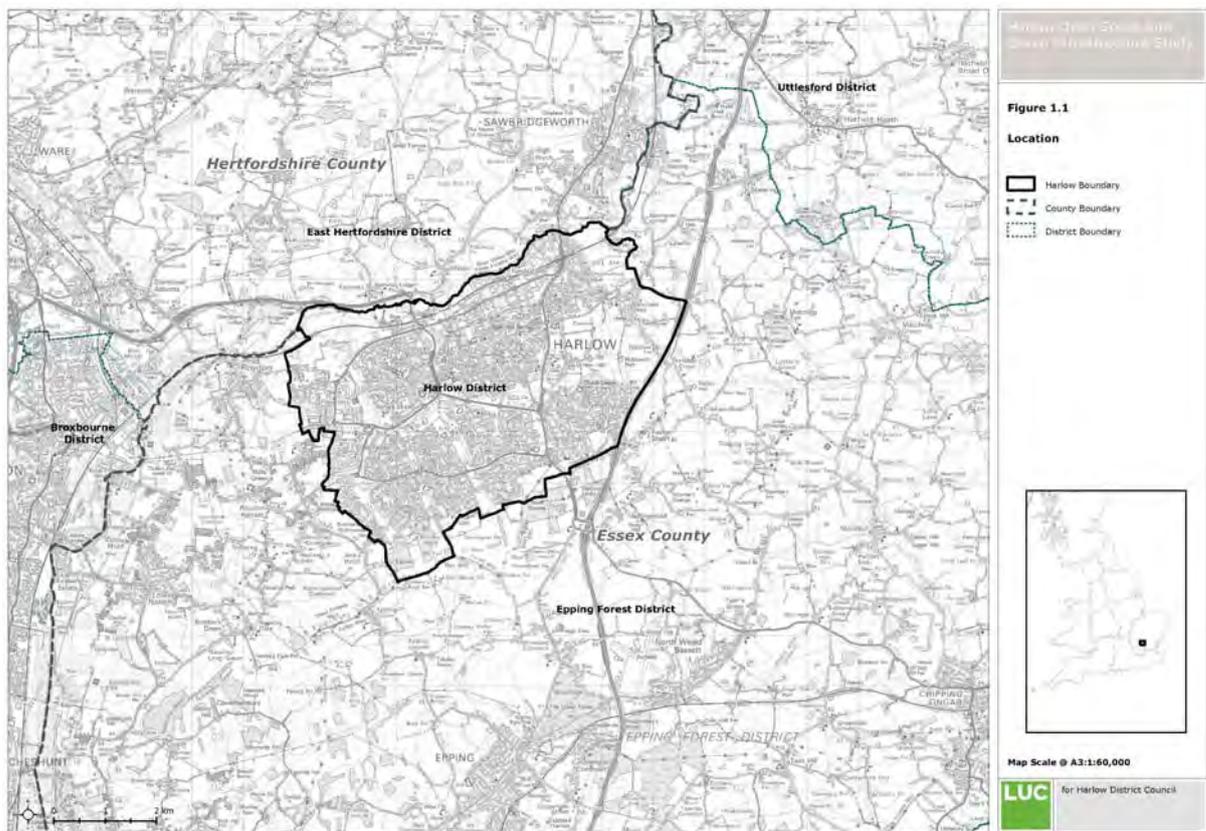


Aims of the study

- 1.2 The aims of the study were to:
- Update and consolidate Harlow's data on the location and type of open space in the District;
 - Undertake extensive consultation with residents and user groups in the District, to determine perceptions of Harlow's open spaces and priorities for the future;
 - Undertake a comprehensive audit to determine the quality, quantity and value of Harlow's open spaces, excluding outdoor sports provision, which is covered by the 2009 Harlow Playing Pitch Strategy;
 - Determine and apply locally-derived open space provision standards for Harlow;
 - Consider the policy context for Harlow's open spaces, and make policy recommendations to inform the Council's Local Plan;
 - Review Harlow's green infrastructure network and update data and GI priorities for the District.

1.3 The study will provide evidence for HDC to:

- Support planning policies and proposals for open space, sport and recreation for inclusion in the new Local Plan and to assist in the revision of the Green Space Strategy;
- Deliver networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities which meet the needs of residents and visitors, are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable;
- Strike a balance between new provision and/or the enhancement of existing provision;
- Provide clarity for developers and land owners in relation to the requirements for the provision of open space to be included in the Community Infrastructure Levy;
- Reassess the wider GI network and priorities for Harlow.



Structure of report

1.4 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

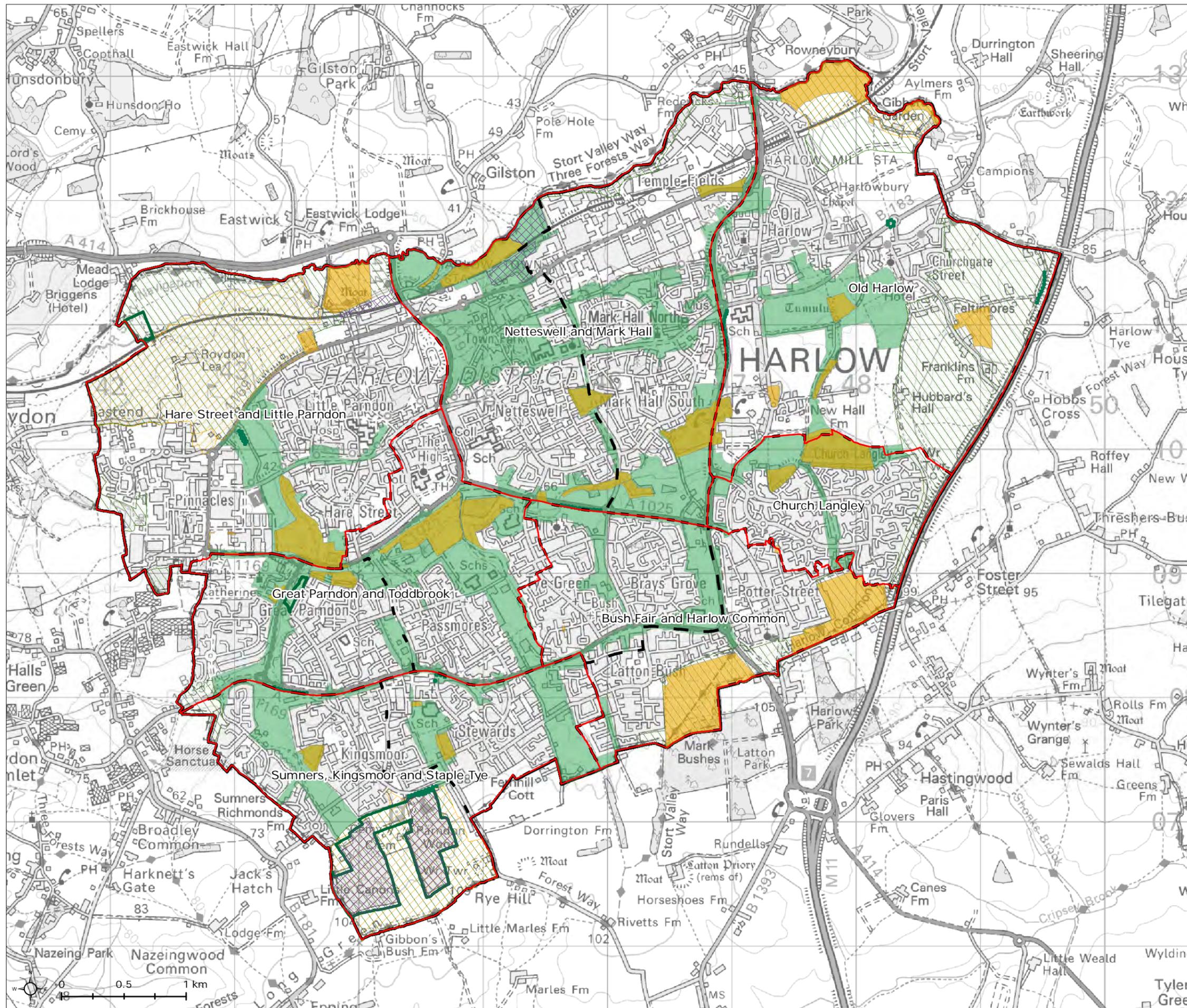
- Section 2: Context for the study
- Section 3: Approach to the study
- Section 4: Local needs assessment – Views from Harlow’s residents
- Section 5: Harlow’s current open space provision
- Section 6: Proposed open space standards
- Section 7: Harlow’s green infrastructure
- Section 8: Proposed Green Infrastructure Plan
- Section 9: Recommendations for Harlow’s Local Plan

Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

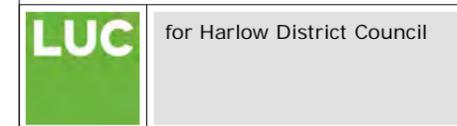
Figure 1.2

Open Space Designations

- Protected Wildlife Verge
- Local Nature Reserve
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Wildlife Sites
- Special Landscape Area
- Metropolitan Green Belt
- Green Wedges
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Harlow Boundary



Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000



2 Context for the study

Integrated approach to open space and GI planning

- 2.1 The purpose of undertaking the open space and green infrastructure study together was to provide an integrated evidence base for the new Local Plan. This approach reflects the requirement to plan for open spaces but also incorporates the role and function of the town's Green Wedges which not only provide an open space and recreational resource but are also part of the town's fabric.
- 2.2 The study focuses on the urban area and the peri-urban environment extending 3km beyond the district boundary. The GI assessment draws on the strategic GI Plan developed in 2005¹, and other benchmark GI projects in the area such as the Natural England GI Delivery Plan of 2008 and the Stort Valley Feasibility study² but uses GIS led functional analysis mirroring that developed for the Green Arc SHIP GI Plan, to generate new need and place responsive GI proposals. This plan also takes account of the recent Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan for the Green Arc area (SHIP, 2011³) in which Harlow District sits.



The River Stort Corridor: A high quality green space and corridor

The Harlow Context

- 2.3 Harlow was laid out as a New Town to plans by the architect and landscape architect Sir Frederick Gibberd from 1946, with work from other noted designers including landscape architect Dame Sylvia Crowe. It was planned to integrate landscape and townscape, and to respond to the sense of place created by its countryside setting. The town is defined by a distinctive landscape setting created by the ridges and valleys associated with the principal valleys and tributaries of the Stort to the north and the Lee, to the west. The land rises to a rural plateau with a strong historic landscape character in East Herts to the north, with hills such as Rye Hill and a network of woodlands including ancient woodlands forming an arc south and east of the town, linking ancient Royal hunting forests such as Epping and Hatfield. The town's footprint also incorporates a number of minor parklands and estates, retaining relics of these within the urban green space network; for example Mark Hall Park and parts of the landscape associated with Parndon Hall, in addition to several historic villages.

¹ Chris Blandford Associates, 2005, The Harlow Green Spaces Project: A Green Infrastructure Plan for the Harlow Area

² The Landscape Partnership, 2007, Stort Valley Feasibility Study: Final Report

³ LUC, 2011, GreenArc Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (with Hertfordshire)



1

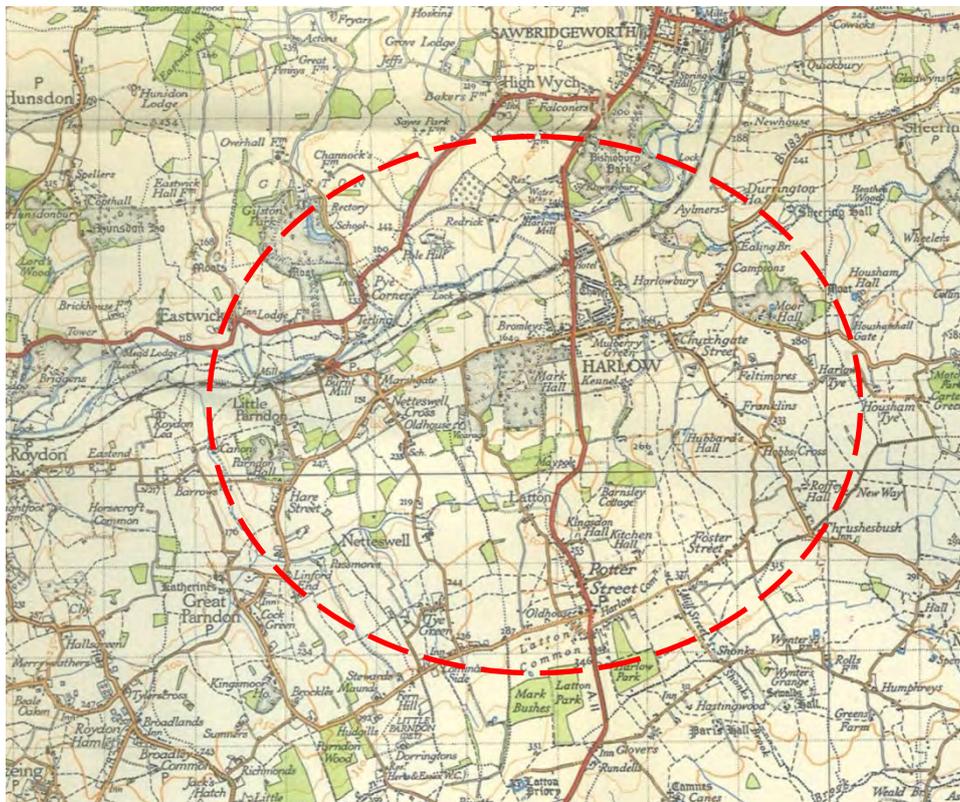


2



3

1 & 2: Relics of the parkland at Parndon Hall, now subsumed within the urban area of Harlow; 3: Remnants of the earlier settlement and cultural pattern were incorporated in the New Town footprint



Above: Extract from the 1940 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey showing the future site of Harlow New Town located between the River Stort and Parndon Woods, defined by a network of minor parklands and associated farmland. The parklands of Mark Hall survive in part within the urban GI network, as does its farm (Latton Farm), together with parts of the landscape park of Parndon Hall.

- 2.4 The town as built deviated in a number of respects from Gibberd's original vision, with development 'turning its back' on green space in some neighbourhoods.
- 2.5 However, consideration of the landscape setting was integral to Gibberd's master plan. This early 'green infrastructure' approach, is reflected in the following:
- Reference to underlying landscape character, and the use of the landscape mosaic of hills, valleys and woodland as a framework for urban planning.
 - The importance of the rural urban fringe, with Gibberd's intention being to create a strong contrast between town and surrounding landscape to reduce perception of urban influences within the countryside. The result was retention of a substantial part of the settlement as green wedges, accommodating community and recreation space, and areas of agriculture.

- A network of interconnected paths and cycle ways to create permeability with the surrounding countryside. The master plan sought to use elements of the former landscape such as lanes, green lanes and hedgerows as part of these circulation routes, conserving landscape fabric and aiming to provide a cohesive network.
- Tree planting on a 'massive scale' to enhance green space variety and to create a series of contrasting spatial experiences (the northern edge of Temple Fields Industrial Estate is significant in this regard).
- Land shaping as a foil to development e.g. Crowe's landforms and to enhance the experience along the Stort Valley.
- Retention of the historic settlements of Old Harlow, Churchgate Street and clusters of individual older buildings, to create a sense of place.



Above: Aspects of Gibberd's landscape led vision for the New Town at Harlow. From left to right: Crowe's landshaping and mimicry of valley landscapes within the Town Park; former sunken lanes retained as cycle routes; hinterland provided by ancient woodland at Parndon Woods; historic commons on the southern edge of the town providing landscape setting

Harlow Today

- 2.6 Harlow District is located in the East of England in the county of Essex, bordering on to Hertfordshire. As shown in **Figure 1.1**, Epping Forest District lies to the South and East, and East Hertfordshire District to the North and West. The M11 motorway runs along the eastern boundary of the District, and the Cambridge to London railway line runs along the north of the District. Much of the northern boundary of the District is formed by the River Stort.
- 2.7 Harlow is a relatively compact district, at just over 30km². It is divided into seven 'Neighbourhood Areas' and these are subdivided into 11 wards. These are shown on **Figure 2.1** (Population Density).

Current Population

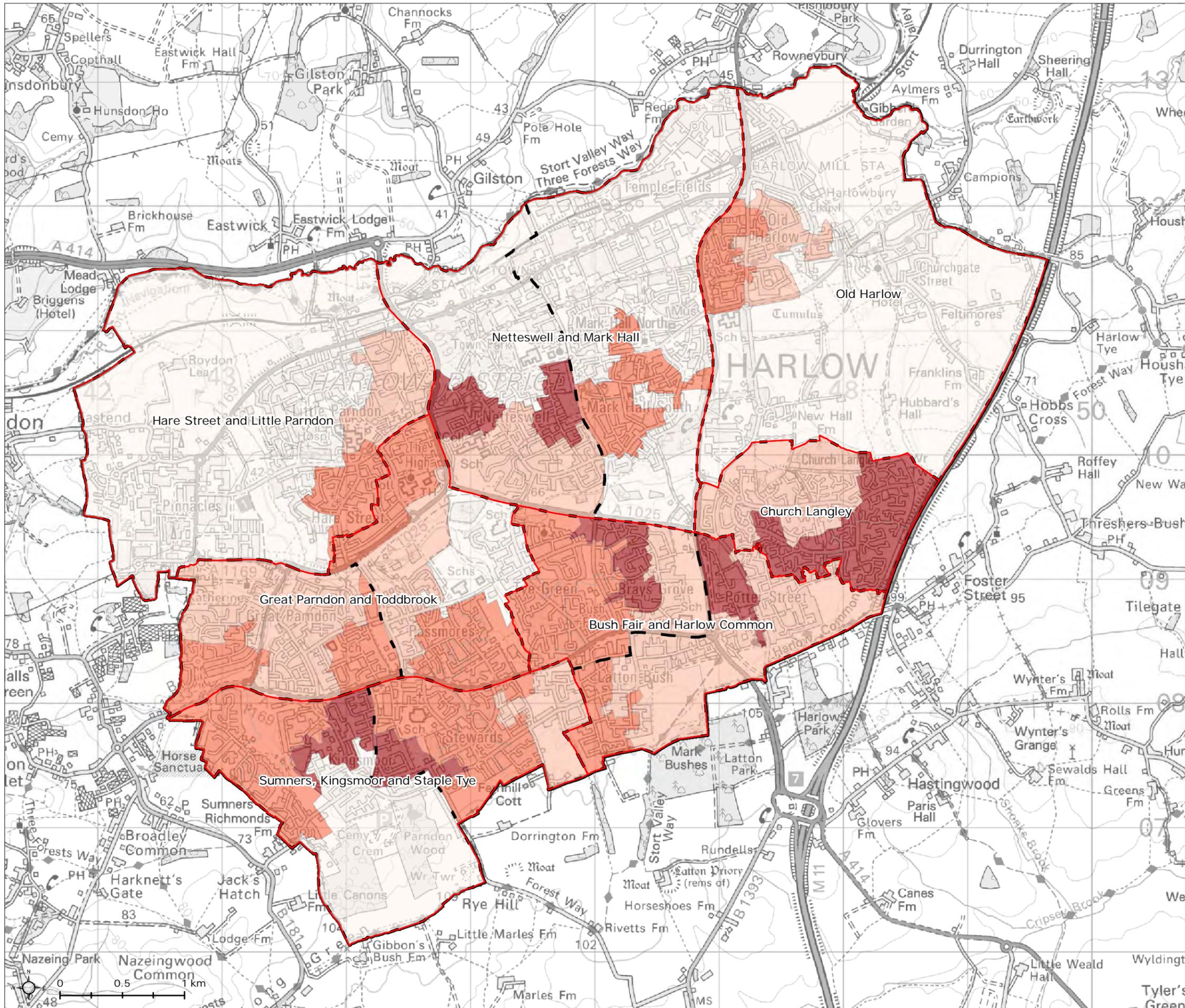
- 2.8 The 2011 census puts the town's population at 81,944, having increased by 3.9% since the 2001 census. This growth is significantly less than that experienced in the rest of the East of England, which grew by 8.5% from 2001 to 2011.
- 2.9 The population density of Harlow is significantly higher than surrounding areas. Based on the 2009 mid-year population estimates from the Office of National Statistics, across the district, the average population density is 2,731 people per km². This is by far the highest density in Essex. The county average is 379 people per km², and the regional average is 295 people per km². However, within the district, population density varies greatly, as shown in **Figure 2.1**. This pattern of density relates back to the development pattern of Harlow as a New Town, designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd. It is clear that the areas of highest density are concentrated in six clusters. These are located in the following neighbourhood areas: Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye, Netteswell and Mark Hall, Church Langley and Bush Fair and Harlow Common.
- 2.10 In terms of population structure, Harlow continues to show a greater proportion of younger people when compared to the rest of Essex. Significantly, it has a much greater proportion of under 5s,

Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 2.1

Population Density

-  Neighbourhood Areas
-  Ward Boundaries
- Population Density 2009
- People per hectare
-  4.9 - 23.0
-  23.1 - 41.7
-  41.8 - 56.5
-  56.6 - 94.7
-  Harlow Boundary



Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

 for Harlow District Council

and a much greater proportion of 25 to 44 year olds than the rest of Essex and has the lowest average age (38.2 years) than all other Essex districts. The next lowest districts are Colchester (38.9 years) and Basildon (39.1 years).

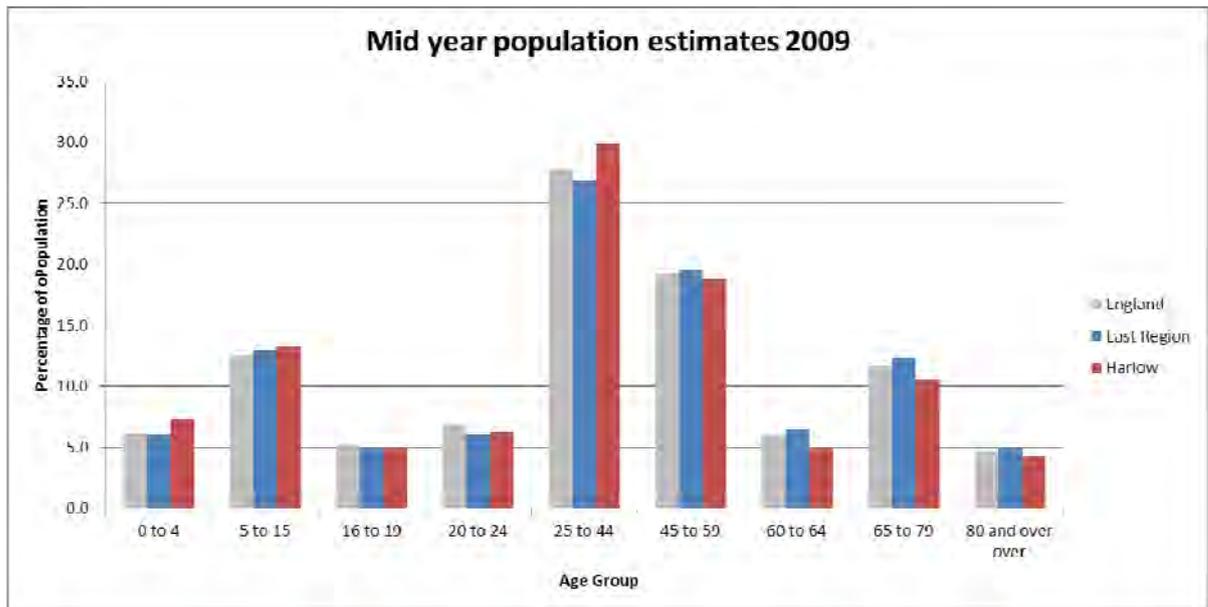


Figure 2.2: Harlow Population Estimates, 2009

2.11 At the time of writing the deprivation figures for the 2011 census were not available. However, **figure 2.3** shows that there is considerable variation in deprivation across the district. Much of the District falls within the 0-40 percentile category, (i.e. within the 40% most deprived areas of the country) and two clusters fall within the lowest 20%. These most deprived clusters are located around Harlow town centre, and in the north of Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye. There are however, four areas which fall within the 60-100 percentile, including one area, in the East of Church Langley which is in the 80-100 percentile category (i.e. in the least deprived 20% of the country).

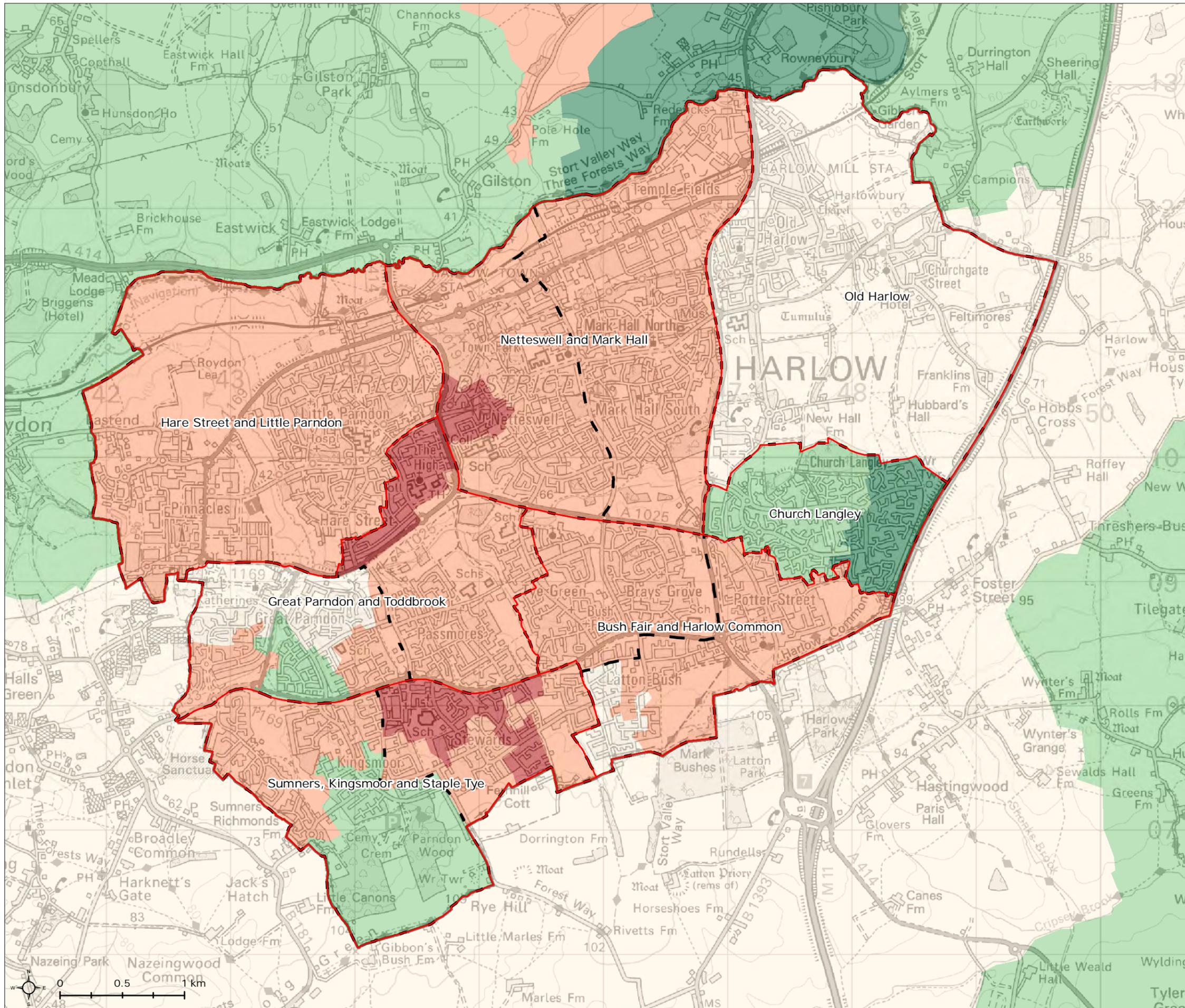
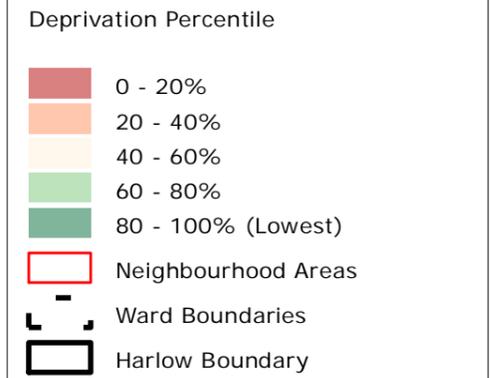
Future population

2.12 The precise future population of the town cannot currently be estimated given that decisions on the future provision of housing in the district have yet to be made. As part of the Council's developing spatial strategy the Council will be confirming its housing need, in cooperation with adjoining districts. However, this study has included existing housing commitments into the assessment of each neighbourhood area. The housing developments that have been included within the study are shown in **Figure 2.4**.



Figure 2.3
Index of Multiple Deprivation

Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010



Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

LUC for Harlow District Council

Planning Policy Context

- 2.13 This section provides an overview of relevant national and local plans, strategies and policies which provide the context for this study.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.14 The NPPF, published in March 2012, provides strong national support for Harlow's commitment to deliver multi-functional open space, by requiring that local authorities '*encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production).*' The NPPF also highlights the Government's commitment to promoting healthy communities.
- 2.15 The NPPF reaffirms the UK's commitment to sustainable transport through requiring that plans '*give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport facilities.*'
- 2.16 The NPPF provides little guidance on funding and delivery for environmental improvements, but indicates that '*the Community Infrastructure Levy should support and incentivise new development, particularly by placing control over a meaningful proportion of the funds raised with the neighbourhoods where development takes place.*' The proposed approach for Harlow's open spaces with regard to securing revenue from development is discussed in more detail in **Section 9**, with specific reference to the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Local Green Spaces

- 2.17 One new NPPF initiative is for local and neighbourhood plans to highlight 'Local Green Spaces' which are of particular value or particular importance to them. These Local Green Spaces will be adopted as a new form of designation, similar to Sites of Special Scientific Interest, but designated based on their value to the community. By designating land as Local Green Space, local communities will be able to rule out new development at these sites. The NPPF highlights the following criteria, which should be applied to identify open spaces suitable for designation, and these are discussed in greater detail in **Section 9**:
- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
 - where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The Replacement Harlow Local Plan (2006)

- 2.18 The Replacement Harlow Local Plan (adopted 2006) is currently the Development Plan for the district. The Plan includes a number of open space designations which are shown on Figure 1.2. As well as the Green Wedges, which are prominent throughout the District, the town is surrounded by the Metropolitan Green Belt. There are three areas designated as Special Landscape Areas, which are areas that have a 'special visual quality that distinguishes them from other tracts of countryside'. There are three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the District, five local nature reserves and 42 Local Wildlife Sites. In addition to this there are 81 protected wildlife verges. It is clear from Figure 1.2 that open space is an integral part of the town's fabric, not just the provision of Green Wedges and other sites in Harlow but also a number of large open space sites on the fringes of Harlow, such as Epping Ridges to the South West. In addition to this are a number of smaller sites within neighbourhood areas which are important as part of the overall provision and valuable as the larger spaces further away.
- 2.19 Previous work has been undertaken on Harlow's open spaces, including the 2007 Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD, and the draft 2010 Green Spaces Strategy. In addition, detailed assessment of the existing provision of outdoor sports provision and playing pitches was undertaken on behalf of Harlow Council in 2009. As a result, this type of open space provision has been excluded from this study.

Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD (2007)

- 2.20 The Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD provides further guidance on how policies in the Replacement Harlow Local Plan (2006) are to be implemented. It also provides guidance on the contribution towards open spaces that the Council requires as part of development proposals. It highlights that whilst Harlow has a significant quantity of open space, some of it does not achieve its full potential. There is an opportunity to increase quality of provision by relocating some functions to more suitable locations, for example many of the allotments are in the valley, and flood frequently, affecting their value to the community. In addition, there are some flood risk issues in the town, and restoring the functional flood plain along the River Stort could help to address this. The SPD adopted the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) open space provision standards. It also highlighted the need to improve the quality and coverage of sustainable transport routes for walking, cycling and horse-riding through the town.
- 2.21 It is apparent that a number of aspects of the adopted policy approach and the guidance set out in the SPD are not entirely consistent with the approach set out in national planning policy. Whilst it is important to understand local circumstances, in particular the design concepts underpinning the layout of the town, and generate a local approach to provision, it is important that the Council's approach is consistent with national planning policy.



Jean McAlpine Park and Netteswell Plantation support a range of habitats but offer limited value for recreation.



Cemeteries and allotments specific typologies of open space

Emerging Harlow Local Development Plan

Core Strategy Issues and Options (2010/11)

- 2.22 The Council consulted on the first stage of the preparation of the new Local Development Plan in 2010/11. The document was prepared during a transition in the planning system. However, the document emphasised the need for regeneration and to secure investment in infrastructure, as well as the need to provide affordable housing and tackle social inequalities.
- 2.23 The document emphasised the need for regeneration and to secure investment in infrastructure, as well as the need to provide affordable housing and tackle social inequalities. The Council believes that growth will help to sustain regeneration and support infrastructure provision to help meet the needs and aspirations of the local community.
- 2.24 The Issues and Options specifically highlight that “additional provision for children and young people is required, and more allotment sites to meet growing demand.” These issues were explored through the public consultation undertaken to inform this study, and the findings will help to recommend the appropriate location and design of new facilities.

The emerging Local Development Plan for Harlow

- 2.25 The Council is currently reviewing the approach set out in the previous consultation document, which responds to the changes to the planning system whilst developing an approach that addresses the long term challenges facing Harlow. The Council is of the view that the regeneration of the town remains the number one priority for the future – encompassing economic, social and environmental priorities. Furthermore, the Council believes that the development and change within and around the town is part of a holistic strategy of renewal that will deliver positive, long term change for the town.
- 2.26 Accommodating development and change in the district will be a challenge given the nature of the town, particularly the tightly drawn administrative boundary around the urban area. Whilst redeveloping previously developed land will be the priority some green field development may also be required to deliver regeneration. Furthermore, this could affect the town’s open space and green infrastructure resources in terms of losses and also increased recreational pressures. This in turn has implications for amenity, flood risk, biodiversity and the town’s landscape setting. The challenge for the Local Plan is to maximise the benefits of growth and change, while minimising adverse impacts on key environmental assets and the town’s character and identity, including separation from neighbouring settlements.

Other Plans and Strategies

Sustainable Community Strategy (2011)

- 2.27 The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the long term priorities for Harlow, and acts as a guide for other plans and strategies affecting the town. The strategy reiterates the views of the Harlow 2020 Partnership, which believes that in order to support a sustainable future, the built and natural environment needs to be protected and valued. The strategy sets out visions for the town over the next decade, including ensuring the town is a place where people lead healthy and active lifestyles and have access to excellent leisure facilities, and ensuring the town is a place which remains well known for its green spaces and local wildlife attractions. The strategy also highlights various priorities, including raising awareness of, and improving access to, leisure opportunities.

Regeneration and Social Inclusion Strategy (2010 - 2015)

- 2.28 The Regeneration and Social Inclusion Strategy sets out the framework for delivering the physical, social and environmental regeneration of Harlow. The Strategy identifies a number of priorities for the regeneration of Harlow, including:
- Ensuring the town is a prosperous community with a sound infrastructure.

- Ensure the town has diverse and high quality housing.
- A healthy town – Local people living healthier longer lives.

Green infrastructure studies

Harlow Green Infrastructure Plan (2005):

- 2.29 This plan set out a suite of strategic green infrastructure proposals, drawing from the earlier landscape assessment and settlement fringe landscape study, historic environment studies and the biodiversity and hydrological evidence base, among others. The plan considered Harlow and its wider landscape 'hinterland' formed by adjacent districts and devised a series of 'landscape scale' green infrastructure proposals for enhanced habitat connectivity, landscape experience and access, as response to the Gibberd legacy and its conservation in the face of future growth. The plan was supported by a set of concise design and management principles for implementation of green infrastructure projects.

Green Arc Strategic Highlights Green Infrastructure Plan (SHIP, 2011):

- 2.30 A strategic/'county scale' green infrastructure plan covering the GreenArc area with a companion volume for the adjoining Hertfordshire area. Essentially GIS driven and led, proposals were identified through GIS map analysis of series of green infrastructure functions, and through stakeholder engagement. The plan identified a number of proposals of direct relevance to Harlow, not least the recognition, conservation and 'future proofing' of 20th century planned and design urban GI heritage such as the New Towns.

Harlow Study Area Masterplanning Principles and Sustainability Criteria

- 2.31 Harlow Study Area Masterplanning Principles study was prepared in 2005. The study responded to the identification of Harlow by the UK Government as a priority area for growth within the designated London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough Growth area, and to inform the sustainable regeneration of Harlow in this context. The report highlights that in designing and locating new development, the Gibberd pattern of built form interlaced with linear open space should not be eroded. The report supports the aims of this study, by promoting an increase in the 'multiple use' of Green corridors/wedges in order to increase their attractiveness for recreational users, safety and maintenance. It also promotes the enhancement of green corridors/wedges through increased accessibility.

Section 2: Implications for Harlow's green infrastructure and open spaces

- The NPPF provides strong national support for Harlow's aspiration to create a **multi-functional network of green infrastructure**.
- The NPPF indicates that '***the Community Infrastructure Levy should support and incentivise new development, particularly by placing control over a meaningful proportion of the funds raised with the neighbourhoods where development takes place***'.
- There is a need for **robust evidence on the nature, typology and extent of green space with Harlow**.
- **Additional information on the needs and aspirations of Harlow's residents is also required to inform policy**.
- **The extant Harlow Local Plan contains a number of policies with relevance to green infrastructure and open space**. These will need to be reviewed in light of the study findings.
- The **2007 Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD provides guidance on developer contributions towards GI and open space**. This should be reviewed in light of this study's findings.
- Harlow Council is of the view that **the regeneration of the town remains the number one priority for the future** – encompassing economic, social and environmental priorities.
- The Sustainable Community Strategy highlights that **Harlow should be a town where people lead healthy, active lifestyles**, with access to excellent recreation facilities.
- The Regeneration and Social Inclusion Strategy aspires to ensure that **Harlow is a prosperous community with a sound infrastructure**.
- In **2011 the District had a population of 81,944, indicating population growth of just 2% since 2001**. Recent observations suggest that there has been a baby boom in Harlow recently, with an associated increase in population (Harlow Green Space Strategy, 2010)
- **Harlow has a higher density of residents than anywhere else in Essex**.
- **Approved housing developments have been taken into account** when anticipating the population of each neighbourhood area.
- There is **significant social deprivation in some northern parts of Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye**.

3 Approach to the study

Policy guidance

- 3.1 The overarching approach to the study accorded with the National Planning Policy Framework, as set out in the box below.

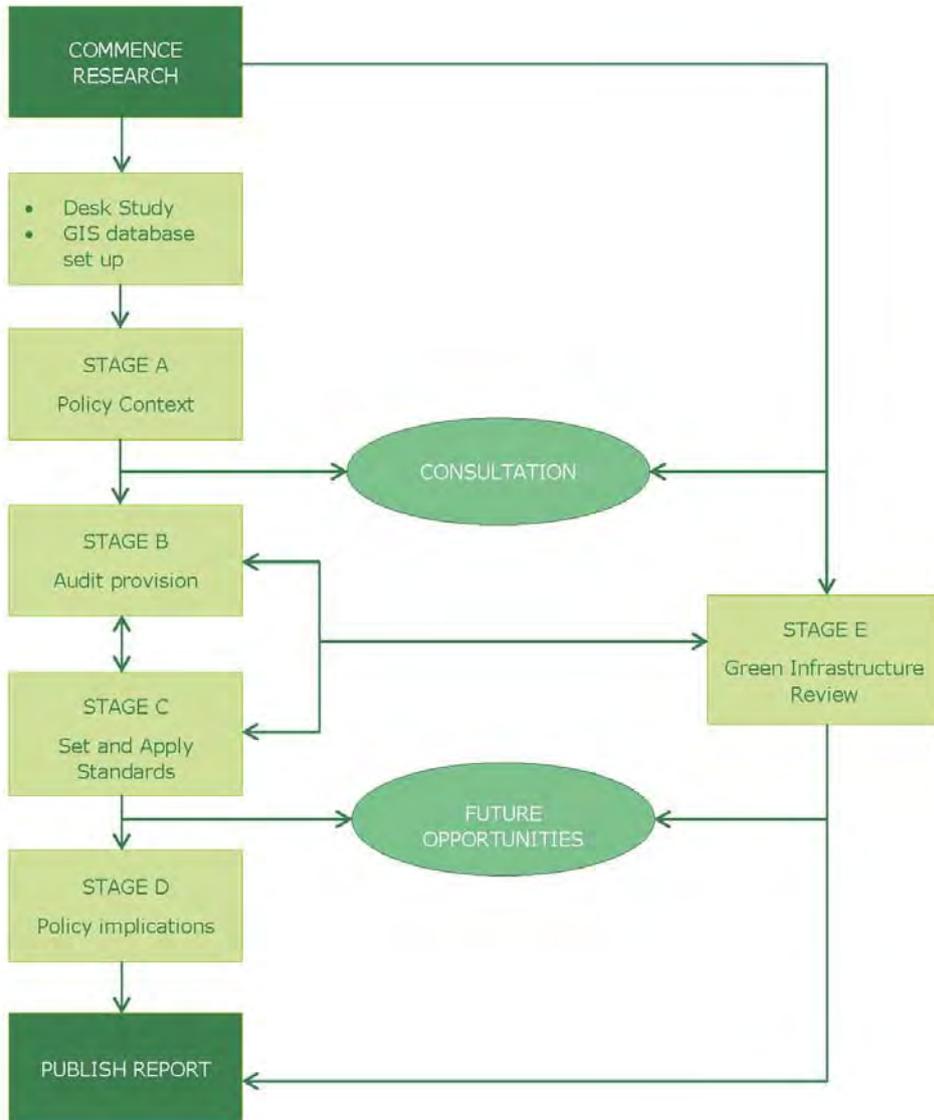
NPPF principles and policy	How this is reflected in this study
"Allocations of land for development should seek land of lesser environmental value" (pg 6).	Highlights areas of high environmental value, to ensure appropriate management of these areas is proposed through the Local Plan.
"The multiple benefits that some land can perform should be encouraged, e.g. wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, food production" (pg 6).	Identifies which of these benefits can be delivered by specific parts of the District.
"LPAs should actively manage patterns of growth to make full use of public transport, walking and cycling" (pg 6).	Reviews the existing sustainable transport links in the District, and highlights areas for investment.
"LPAs should take account of climate change... where new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks are managed through suitable adaptation, including through planning of green infrastructure" (pg 23).	Identifies potential for suitable climate change adaptation measures, and proposes a network of GI features, which should be integrated into new development – a 'green print'.
"Existing open space should not be built on unless an assessment clearly shows the open space building and land to be surplus to requirements" (pg 18).	Provides a robust, evidence-based assessment of open space needs and provision in Harlow.
"Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision." (NPPF, para. 73)	This study assesses the provision of high quality open space, and makes recommendations on how these should be reflected in planning policy.
The Local Green Space designation should only be used where a) the green space is reasonably close to the community it serves; b) the green space is demonstrably special to the community; c) the green area is local in character and not an extensive tract of land."	This audit approach applied in this study has identified open spaces which meet these criteria.

- 3.2 The methodology also followed the guidance in the Practice Guidance to Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. This provides useful guidance on the process for determining appropriate open space standards for local authorities. LUC refined this method, based on experience elsewhere, and enhanced it to reflect GI functions and needs/opportunities.

Overview of the approach

3.3 Figure 3.1 outlines the approach to the study and further detail is provided in Table 4.2. This approach incorporates the requirements of the NPPF, as outlined above.

Figure 3.1: Approach to the study



Good example of semi-natural green space at Parndon Moat Marsh Nature Reserve

Table 3.1: Approach to the study

Task	Scope
<p>Stage A: Policy review, contextual information and consultation</p>	<p>A review of the relevant national and local planning policy context was undertaken to identify the land use implications of policies and strategies for open space, sport and recreation.</p> <p>To provide an understanding of the specific needs of the District, information was collated on the geographic, demographic and socio-economic context of Harlow which could influence the level of need. This contextual information is detailed in this section.</p> <p>In order to understand the needs, attitudes and expectations of local people towards existing provision of open spaces and facilities, a programme of community consultation was undertaken. This entailed postal, telephone and online surveys, a series of focus sessions with user groups and hard to reach groups, a public workshop and a workshop with stakeholders and organisations associated with the planning, maintenance and management of open spaces. Consultation findings are detailed further in Section 4. Appendix 3 provides details of the consultation method and feedback.</p>
<p>Stage B: Auditing provision</p>	<p>223 sites were included in the audit. The open space audit assessed all open spaces within the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and gardens greater than 0.2ha in size; • Provision for children and teenagers; • Allotments, community gardens, and city farms; • Cemeteries and churchyards; • Civic spaces. • <i>Outdoor sports facilities were not audited as a part of this study, as they were assessed previously through the 2009 Harlow Playing Pitch Strategy.</i> <p>Due to the extent of open space provision in Harlow, and time available for the audit work, a minimum size threshold of 0.8ha was applied to open spaces within the following typologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces; • Green corridors; • Amenity green space; <p>However, for these typologies, sites smaller than this threshold were audited in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A smaller amenity site falls within a larger, more complex site, it will still be included as part of the whole site; • A smaller, 'stand-alone' amenity site is found that shows particular promise (based on quality; value or location). • Only those spaces that fall within the open space typologies in PPG17 were audited. Agricultural land was not audited. Other land uses were not audited in detail; these included school playing fields (reason) <p>The site audit form was developed (see example in Appendix 2) based around the themes of the Green Flag Award criteria, which is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The use of the Green Flag themes (See Section 3, below) ensured sufficient information was gathered in order to understand the quality of existing spaces. The Green Flag themes and a brief description of each are set out below.</p>

Task	Scope
	<p>In order to capture open spaces not included in the previous studies, a desk-based mapping exercise was undertaken to identify any additional open spaces within the District.</p> <p>The open space audit comprised a comprehensive audit of all categories of open space, building on the Council's existing work, in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality • Quantity • Accessibility <p>Details of the audit findings are provided in Section 5.</p>
<p>Stage C: Setting provision standards and application</p>	<p>All audit findings were compiled in an integrated geodatabase, categorised into sub-town neighbourhood areas, and supported by a map of the site location and images of site. Combined analysis was then completed for quality and value findings, and implications for future provision in Harlow. Conclusions were drawn on current accessibility of Council's open spaces, building on Council's existing work, in order to inform priorities for future management. Locally-derived standards were defined for quality, quantity and accessibility. General conclusions were also drawn on the adequacy of provision in Harlow, for open space categories where it is difficult to define a quantified standard (e.g. Green Corridors/Green Wedges).</p> <p>As well as applying the standards at the district level the findings were applied to seven neighbourhood areas in the town. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hare Street and Little Parndon 2. Netteswell and Mark Hall 3. Old Harlow 4. Great Parndon and Toddbrook 5. Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye 6. Bush Fair and Harlow Common <p>A map showing the neighbourhood areas is provided below.</p> <p>The locally-derived standards, and areas/sites of deficiency are outlined in Section 6.</p>
<p>Stage D: Defining policy implications</p>	<p>The findings of Stages A-C informed policy recommendations regarding sites for protection/enhancement in the emerging Local Development Plan. The findings of the GI research (Stage E below) have also been reviewed to inform these policy recommendations. The existing Harlow Local Plan (2006) and the Open Space SPD (2007) were also reviewed, in order to identify policies to retain and ones which should be replaced or updated. The policy recommendations also respond to the application of the open space standards, and provide suggestions on areas of Harlow where there is adequate open space, deficient open space, or a surplus of poor quality open space. These findings were then reviewed against the priorities identified through the GI assessment, and have informed priorities for future provision and/or investment in open space.</p>
<p>Stage E: Green infrastructure network</p>	<p>The existing strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (2005) was reviewed as was other more recent green infrastructure work relevant to the study area, such as the Green Arc Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (2011). Focussing on the urban environment and a 3km buffer around the district, green infrastructure provision was evaluated in terms of need, supply and potential, by a series of</p>

Task	Scope
	<p>green infrastructure functions. This formed the basis for development of finer grain GI proposals for the town and environs, set within the strategic framework, to help inform place led consideration of regeneration in the District. Proposals have been proofed against strategic and adjacent GI plans. The proposed GI network sets out GI proposals in response to this functional analysis, identifying opportunities for future GI creation or where green space management could be enhanced to increase functionality. It also identifies areas where the urban and green space interface could be enhanced.</p> <p>Existing GI is summarised in Section 7, and the proposed GI Plan is described in Section 8.</p>

Audit of open space provision

- 3.4 Site audits were carried out in early 2012 for sites managed by Harlow District Council and over a prescribed threshold depending on the type of open space (see table 3.1 for details of the size thresholds. Sites were selected using the data provided by the Council. Overall, 223 spaces were audited and the characteristics of the sites are discussed further below. **Figure 3.2** indicates the location and typology of all open spaces included in the audit. **Appendix 1** shows open space provision by Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.5 A site audit form was developed (see **Appendix 2**) based around the criteria of the Green Flag Award, which is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The use of the Green Flag themes ensured sufficient information was gathered in order to understand the quality of existing spaces. The Green Flag themes and a brief description of each are set out below:

Green Flag Award criteria
<p>1. A Welcoming Place</p>
<p>Welcoming, good & safe access, signage, equal access for all</p>
<p>2. Healthy, Safe and Secure</p>
<p>Safe equipment & facilities, personal security, dog fouling, appropriate provision of facilities, quality of facilities</p>
<p>3. Clean and Well Maintained</p>
<p>Litter & waste management, grounds maintenance & horticulture, building & infrastructure maintenance, equipment maintenance</p>
<p>4. Sustainability</p>
<p>Environmental sustainability, pesticides, peat use, waste minimisation, arboriculture & woodland management</p>
<p>5. Conservation and Heritage</p>
<p>Conservation of nature features, wild flora & fauna, conservation of landscape features, conservation of buildings & structures</p>
<p>6. Community Involvement</p>
<p>Community involvement in management & development including outreach work, appropriate provision for the community</p>
<p>7. Marketing</p>
<p>Marketing & promotion, provision of appropriate information, provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information</p>
<p>8. Management</p>
<p>Implementation of management plan</p>

Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 3.2

Audited sites by type

-  Harlow Boundary
-  Neighbourhood Areas
-  Ward Boundaries

Harlow open space data

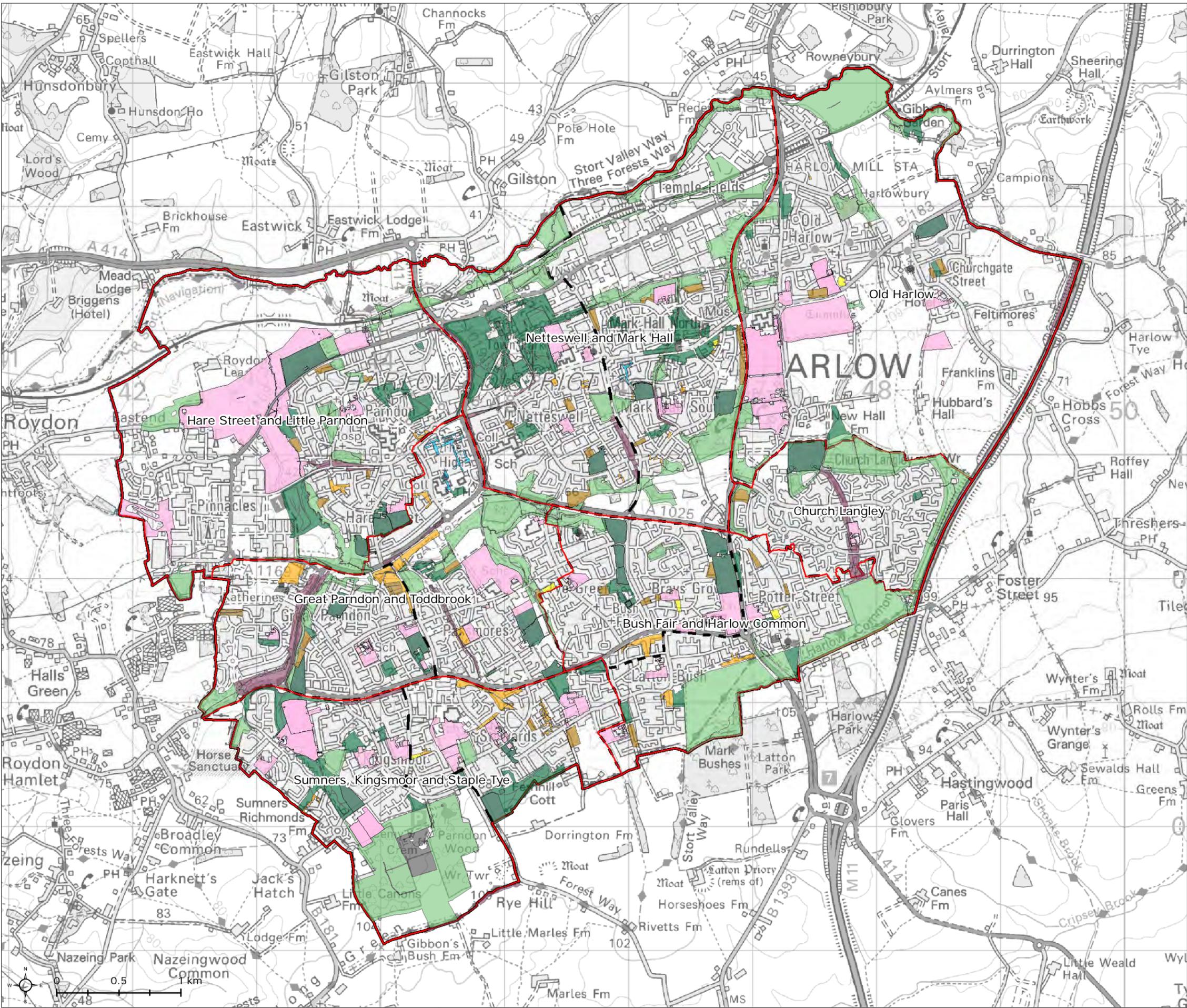
- Audited sites by type
-  A. Parks and gardens
 -  B. Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
 -  C. Green corridors
 -  D. Amenity Green Space
 -  E. Allotments
 -  F. Cemeteries and Churchyards
 -  G. Civic space
 -  H. Provision for Children/Young People
- Additional sites
-  I. Outdoor sports facilities*

* Outdoor sports facilities were identified, but not audited as part of this study

To fit with best practice guidance on open spaces only those spaces that sat within an open space PPG17 typology were mapped. Other open spaces not audited include those that were beneath a certain threshold or were open spaces not assessed in this study.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

 for Harlow District Council



- 3.6 A Microsoft Access database was developed to hold all of the information drawn from the site audits, including addresses and further site specific information drawn from the consultation. The database is linked to a GIS dataset of the sites to enable spatial analysis.

Developing standards

- 3.7 Provision standards should reflect local circumstances such as differing demographic profiles and the extent of existing built up development in an area. Therefore, a key stage of the process was to set locally specific standards which enabled analysis of the adequacy of existing provision and the likely inadequacy of provision in future. These local standards will also form the basis for the open space requirements within new developments.
- 3.8 To set locally specific standards for each type of open space the national standards were taken into consideration and compared with the existing levels of provision, consultation findings and benchmarking against other local authority standards.

Quantity standards

- 3.9 The quantitative standards define the amount of open space that should be available to the communities of Harlow. The standards provide a measure against which existing provision can be assessed and guidance for additional provision in new development. Published guidance provides a useful reference for setting the quantity standard, but, in order to ensure the standards are relevant to Harlow, they reflect the findings of the audits in terms of existing levels of provision and take into account consultation findings to gauge whether the community considers the level of existing provision to be sufficient or not.
- 3.10 The PPG17 Companion Guide states that quantity standards can be expressed as *"a combination of a unit of 'useful area' of provision and a population"* e.g. x hectares of parks per 1,000 people. For some types of facilities, such as sports and community facilities, the area is less relevant and is better expressed as a number of a certain type of facility per 1,000 people. The quantity standards for each typology are described in detail below.
- 3.11 The quantity standards were developed by assessing the existing quantity of each open space typology. As consultation feedback has indicated that current quantity of open space is adequate, the basis for the quantity standards was the average quantity of open space provision for each typology. This was then reviewed against both national guidelines on open space provision, for example Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards and the Greater London Authority's Open Space provision standards, as well as the adopted open space standards of other Essex authorities.

Quality and Value standards

- 3.12 The quality standard provides a benchmark against which the existing condition and need for enhancement of existing spaces or facilities can be measured. It can also provide a guide to the qualitative attributes that should be expected of a newly created space or facility.

Quality assessment

- 3.13 As part of the site audit, each site was assessed for quality against the Green Flag criteria, and the condition of the various components of a site rated as good, fair or poor. This assessment was then transposed through a scoring system into a quality score. In order to develop a quality standard which is appropriate for the type and function of open spaces in Harlow, the existing quality of provision was reviewed by typology and the associated hierarchy level (where hierarchy refers to the scale and size of the open space, e.g. is it of local or district significance). Through reviewing the range of quality scores it was possible to form a quality threshold score, i.e. a minimum level of quality which should be achieved at any open space. A threshold score has been defined for each level of the hierarchy reflecting the ideal score scenario for a good quality site.

Value assessment

- 3.14 Value is fundamentally different from quality; a space can be valued for a range of reasons even if it is of low quality. As set out in PPG17 Companion Guide, 'value' mainly relates to the following:
- **Context:** e.g. an easily accessible space is higher value than one that is inaccessible to potential users, equally the value of a space may diminish if it is immediately adjacent to several others which provides the same function.
 - **Level and type of use:** the primary purpose and associated use of a space can increase its value - well used spaces are of high value to people, similarly spaces with diverse habitats can be well used by wildlife and can be interpreted as having a higher value.
 - **Wider benefits:** i.e. the benefits a space generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment including the following –landscape, ecological, education, social inclusion and health benefit, cultural and heritage, amenity benefits, 'sense of place' and economic benefits.
- 3.15 The site audit included information to be evaluated as part of the value assessments such as the value of play spaces, the presence of community facilities and the biodiversity value of habitats. The relevant audit information was reviewed to develop a value threshold score specific to the different types of open space in Harlow. A list of key characteristics was developed which could be expected of sites of a particular typology and at a particular level of the hierarchy.
- 3.16 In order to assess the sites consistently the audit forms were scored. The scores for each site were separated into factors that relate to quality and value. As set out in the PPG17 Companion Guide "quality and value are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated". For example, a facility or open space may be of high quality but if it is not accessible it is of little value, while if an open space is poor quality but has a wide range of facilities it is potentially of high value.
- 3.17 When assessing scored sites, it should be noted that the scoring varies according to the complexity of the site as well as the condition of the site which limits the extent to which one should directly compare scores across different types of space. In essence this means that the quality score for a good quality park or garden to differ from that of a good quality amenity green space, reflecting the different provision that can be expected within each.
- 3.18 The value and quality scoring can be reviewed by total score or by the audit themes (linked to the Green Flag criteria). Each site was audited using a standard form with scores allocated to relevant criteria. The breakdown of the scoring can be seen in Appendix 2.

Development of quality and value standards

- 3.19 The quality and value standards have been derived from the results of the audit data, consideration of the community views and a judgement on the quality which can be delivered. Both standards are aspirational and provide benchmarks against which to measure the quality and value of any existing open space in order to determine the need for enhancement and to ensure there is a consistent level of provision across the District and to set priorities in a transparent manner. They can also be used to monitor improvements over time as part of the Best Value process. The standards also provide a useful starting point in negotiations with developers over on-site provision.
- 3.20 The quality and value standards for Harlow have derived from the following:
- Identification of appropriate features and qualities of each typology.
 - Consideration of the overall range of scores from the site audit.
 - Identification of open spaces which are performing well and those which are not.
 - Comparison of open spaces within Harlow to those within other parts of the country which are considered to be of high standards (e.g. The National Trust and The Royal Parks).
 - The community's perception of open spaces within Harlow (through reviewing the results from the consultation events and activities).

Value and Quality Combined

3.21 Using a combination of the Value and Quality factors it is possible to identify sites which are performing above the required standards and should be protected, sites which require enhancement, and sites which may no longer be needed for their present purpose. Each site has therefore been rated with a combined Value and Quality band and grouped into bandings using the format of +/- symbols to annotate each band (i.e. high value/high quality is shown as ++, high value/low quality is shown as +-). The **Table 3.44** suggests the future management approach to open spaces within each band.

Table 3.2: Value and quality matrix (adapted from PPG17 Companion Guide)

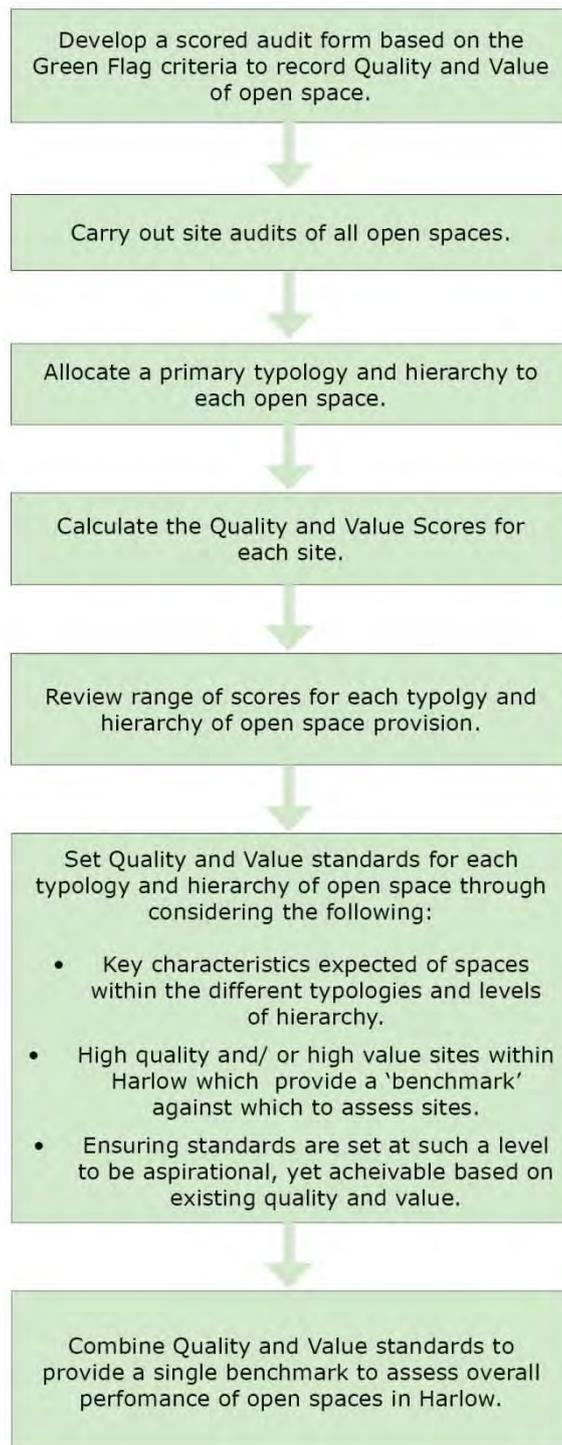
High value/high quality	Low value/High quality
+ +	- +
<p>These sites are considered to be the best open spaces within the district offering the greatest value and quality for the surrounding communities.</p> <p>Future management should seek to maintain the standards for these spaces and ensure they continue to meet the requirements of the communities they serve.</p> <p>Ideally all spaces should fall into this category.</p>	<p>These sites have been scored as being of a high quality but of a low value.</p> <p>Wherever possible, the preferred management approach to a space in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary typology or purpose.</p> <p>If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose.</p>
High value/Low quality	Low value / Low quality
+ -	- -
<p>These spaces meet or exceed the required value standard but fall below the required quality standard.</p> <p>Future management should therefore seek to enhance their quality to ensure that the open spaces are welcoming and safe for use by the local community.</p>	<p>These spaces are falling below the applicable value and quality standards and therefore their future enhancement should be considered to be a priority.</p> <p>If this is not possible, for whatever reason, the space or facility may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present primary purpose.</p>

3.22 **Figures 6.1 to 6.11** show the distribution of the sites classified using both value and quality ratings.

3.23 Further analysis of the scoring was undertaken to identify a benchmark standard for each typology and level of the hierarchy, in order to assess the performance of open spaces in quality terms. The following factors have informed the standards:

- Key characteristics expected of spaces within the different typologies and levels of the hierarchy.
- High quality sites within Harlow which provide a 'benchmark' against which to assess sites.
- Ensuring standards are set at such a level to be aspirational, yet achievable based on existing quality and value.

3.24 These standards should also be applied to guide the quality of future provision of open space. The process followed to establish the benchmark standards is shown in the flowchart below.



Process taken to establish the benchmark standards

Accessibility standards

3.25 The accessibility standard defines the maximum distance that users can be reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision. This can be presented spatially by use of an 'accessibility catchment' which is effectively a mapped buffer around facilities and spaces. The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) Six Acre Standard and gives guidance on distance thresholds for different size categories of open space.

- 3.26 Accessibility standards are based on relevant national and local information as well as the strategic context of the District and consultation findings.
- 3.27 Accessibility catchments were mapped by applying a radius around the site as per the accessibility standard e.g. 400m for a local park. Where barriers such as busy roads and railway lines are apparent, the catchment areas were adjusted to reflect this. We have developed these accessibility standards through review of:
- Existing national guidance, e.g. from Natural England, the NPFA and the Greater London Authority;
 - Benchmarking against other Essex districts;
 - Review of feedback received through public consultation.

Application of standards

- 3.28 The standards were applied to the open space data for each typology to identify:
- Areas which do and do not have access to different types of spaces by virtue of their geographic location.
 - Parts of the district (by neighbourhood area) which have above or below the recommended standard in terms of quantity of provision per 1,000 people.
 - Sites and facilities which are performing well and less well in terms of quality and value.
- 3.29 Part of the process of developing open space standards, has been to benchmark the proposed Harlow standards against those of other Essex authorities. This is a useful reality-check on standards considered acceptable and feasible in other parts of the County. At the same time, it is important to recognise that as a new town, Harlow is unique within Essex, and that in some cases provision standards applied to other districts might not be applicable to Harlow.



Some common challenges of open space management – litter and vandalism

Section 3: Implications for Harlow's green infrastructure and open spaces

- The NPPF requires that **existing open space 'should not be built on unless an assessment clearly shows the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements'**. This study will help to define whether there is any surplus open space in Harlow.
- The NPPF requires that **development should be delivered on 'land of less environmental value'**. This study will identify which land delivers environmental, social and economic benefits to Harlow.
- The method adopted for this study is based on the PPG17 Guidance, and is designed to be **robust, transparent and evidence-based**.
- **The Green Flag criteria provide a good basis for the open space quality assessment.**
- **Bench-marking against the standards adopted by other local authorities in Essex has acted as a reality-check** and helps to ensure that the proposed standards are appropriate.
- **There is an extensive network of open space in Harlow**, and this study has enabled these open spaces to be accurately mapped and categorised.
- **223 sites were audited as part of this study**, and many more, smaller sites have also been mapped. These smaller sites, although too small to be audited in detail, contribute to the wider open space provision across Harlow and are important for the wider Green Infrastructure of Harlow.
- **Evidence of Harlow residents' needs and aspirations in relation to open space has been gathered** through both the open space audit and the community consultation.

4 Local needs assessment: Views from Harlow's residents

4.1 A central component of the study was to understand the needs of the community. This helps to develop truly locally based provision standards for open space across the district. The study included a comprehensive approach to community and stakeholder engagement. This section outlines the approach to engagement and summarises the findings that have informed the development of local open space standards.

Public consultation summary

4.2 Public consultation was undertaken in a number of ways, in order to try and reach a broad range of Harlow residents:

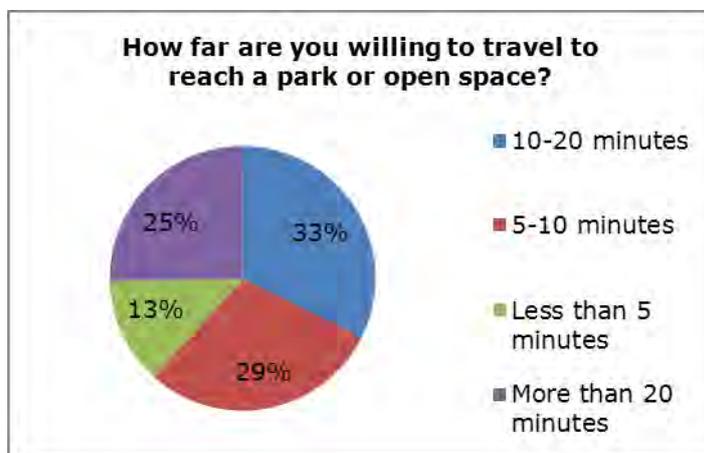
- 850 individuals were contacted to take part in a **telephone interview**
- A letter was sent to 4000 residents, local groups and stakeholders to asking them to participate in the study by filling out a **questionnaire**.
- Two **workshops** were undertaken for local residents and local groups
- Two **focus groups** were undertaken focusing on underrepresented groups.

4.3 A total of 356 responses were received from the questionnaire and telephone interviews (118 phone and 238 questionnaires). In addition to this were detailed views of those individuals that attended the two workshop events and the two focus groups (which targeted children and young people).

Key consultation findings of consultation activities

4.4 The following is an overview of the key issues that emerged during consultation activities. The approximate postcode locations of residents who responded during the postal and telephone consultations are provided in **Figure 4.1**. The paragraphs which follow provide a summary of the finds of each consultation in turn. More detailed findings are contained within **Appendix 3**.

Figure 4.2: How far are you willing to travel to reach a park or open space?



4.5 25% of respondents are willing to travel for more than 20 minutes to reach a park or open space; 33% of people are willing to travel 10-20 minutes; 29% people are willing to travel 5-10 minutes; and only 13% of people are willing to travel less than 5 minutes.

Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 4.1

Consultation

-  Harlow Boundary
-  Motorway
-  A Road
-  B Road
-  Railway
-  River Stort

How regularly do you visit parks or open spaces in Harlow?

Postal

-  Never
-  Less frequently
-  About once a month
-  About once a fortnight
-  Once a week
-  2-3 times a week
-  4-6 times a week
-  Every day

Telephone

-  Never
-  Less frequently
-  About once a month
-  About once a fortnight
-  Once a week
-  2-3 times a week
-  4-6 times a week
-  Every day

Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

 for Harlow District Council

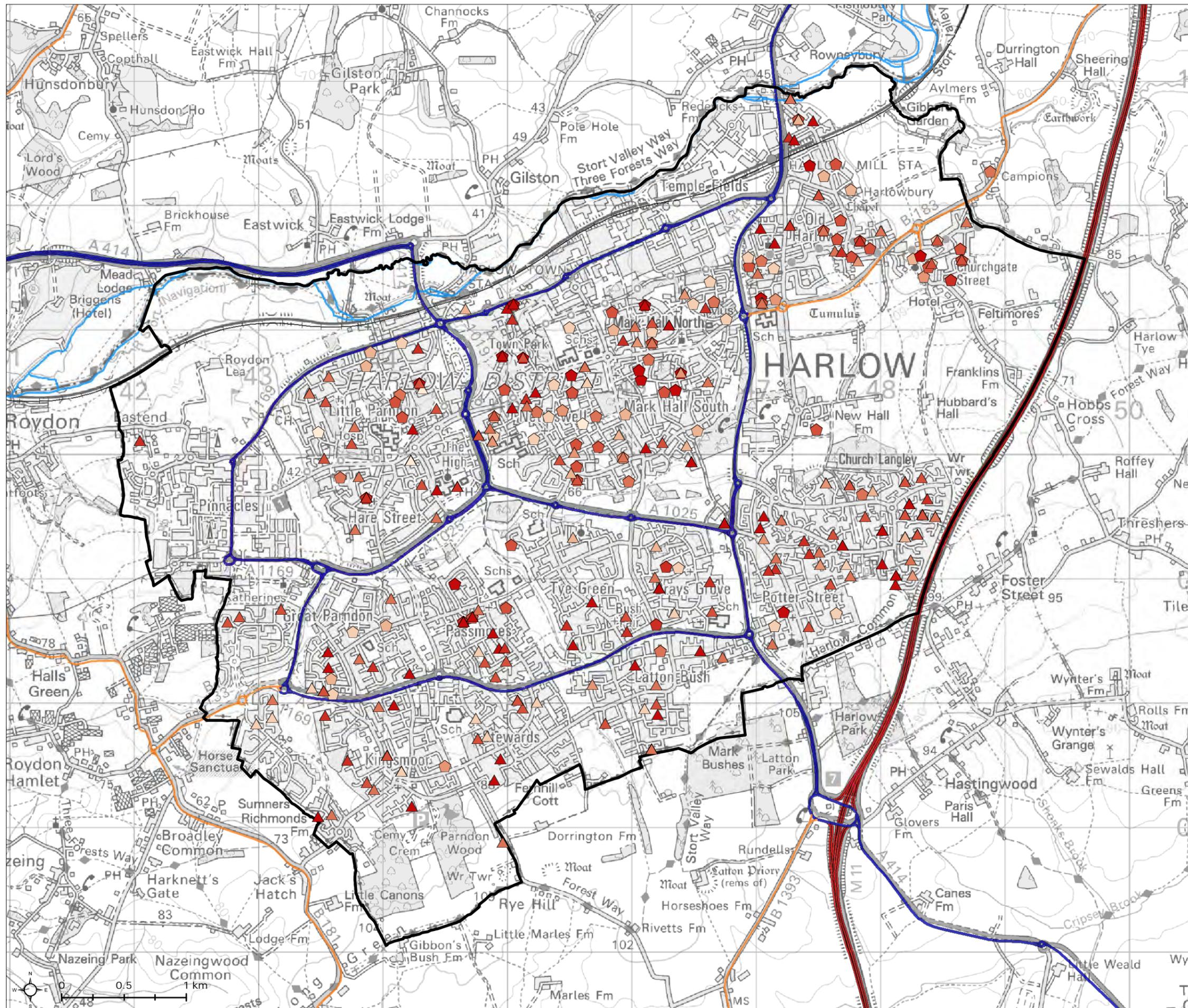
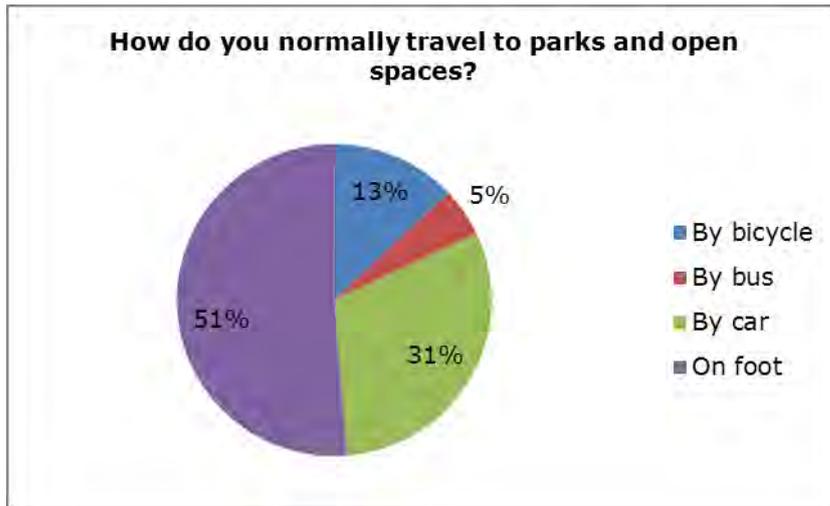
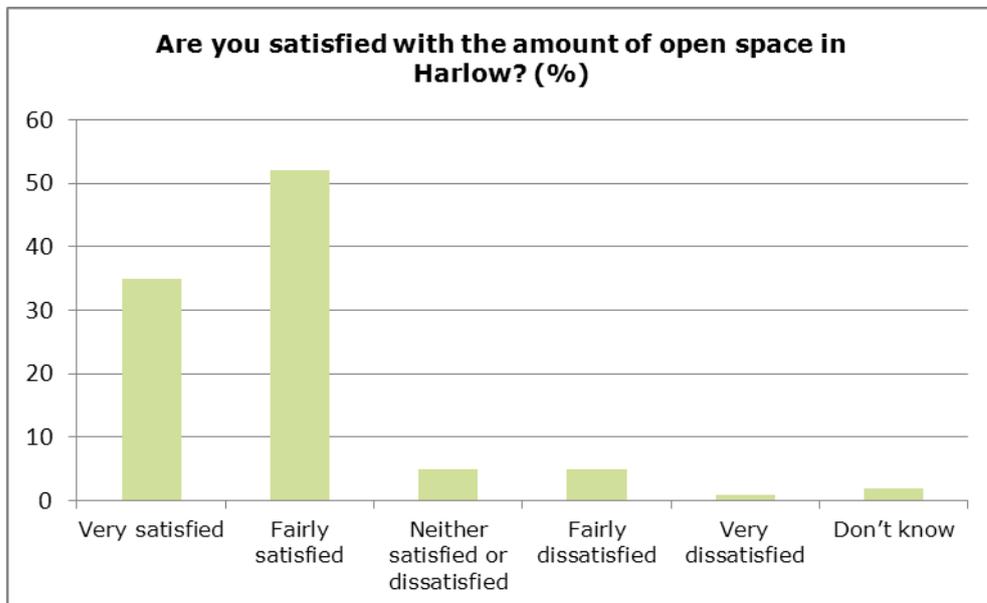


Figure 4.3: How do you normally travel to parks and open spaces?



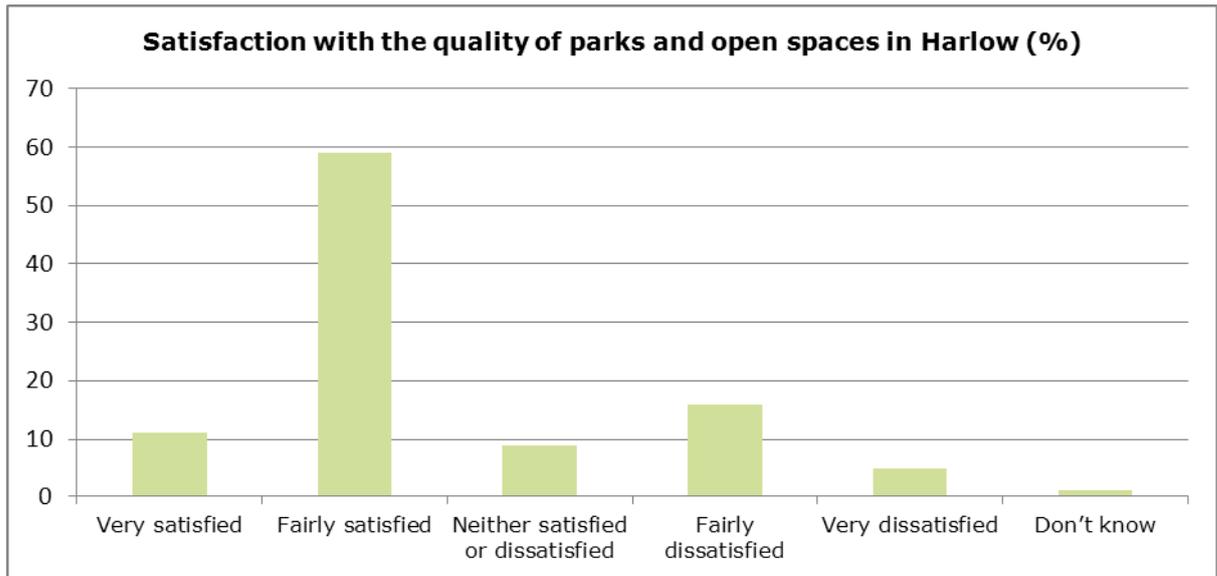
4.6 Over half of those surveyed (51%) normally travel to parks and open spaces on foot; 31% by car, 13% by bicycle and 5% by bus.

Figure 4.4: Are you satisfied with the amount of open space in Harlow?



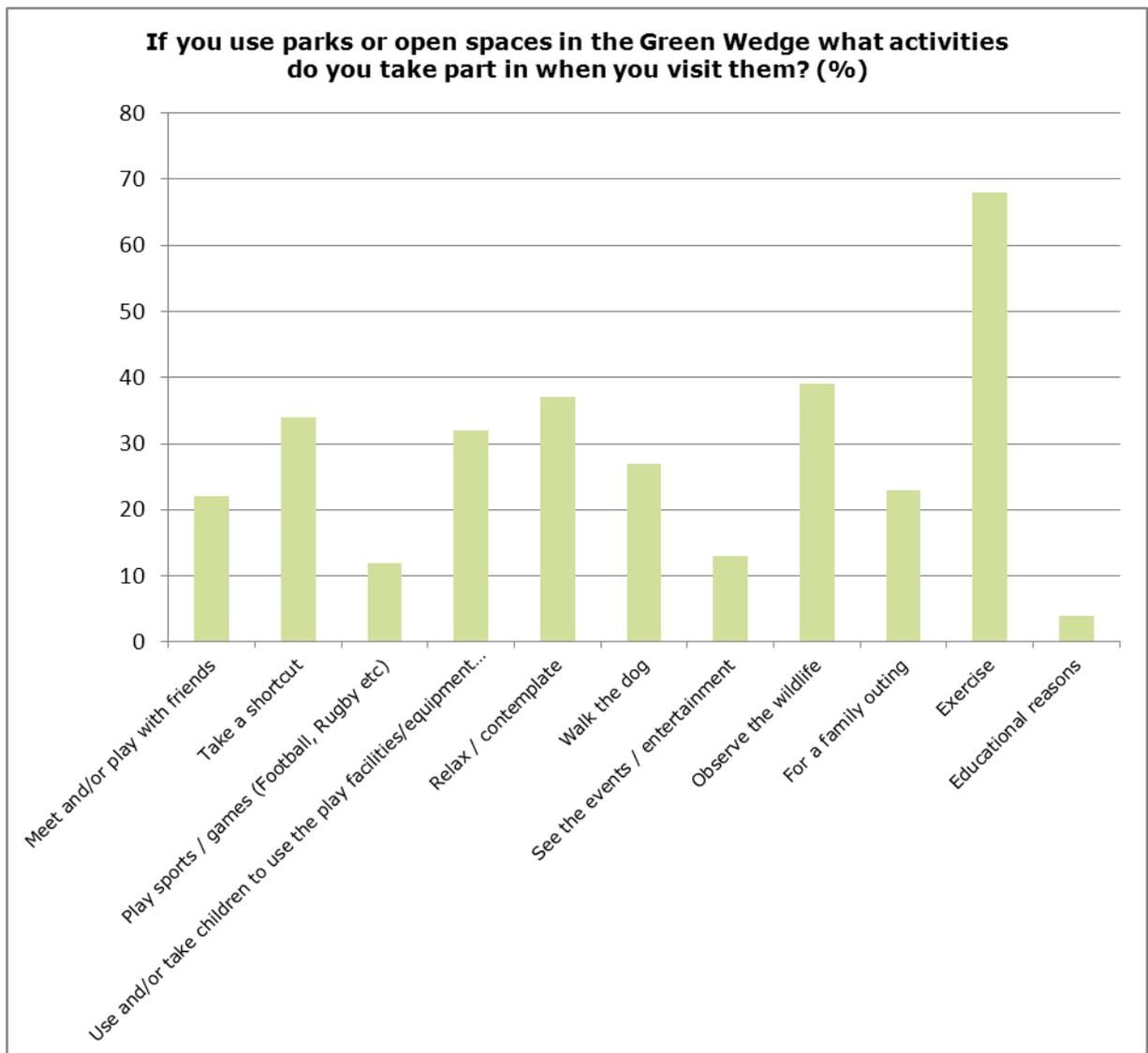
4.7 The questionnaire found that 35% of people are 'very satisfied' with the amount of open space in Harlow, with 52% of those contacted stating they are 'fairly satisfied'. Only 5% are 'fairly dissatisfied' and 1% 'very dissatisfied'.

Figure 4.5: Satisfaction with the quality of parks and open spaces in Harlow



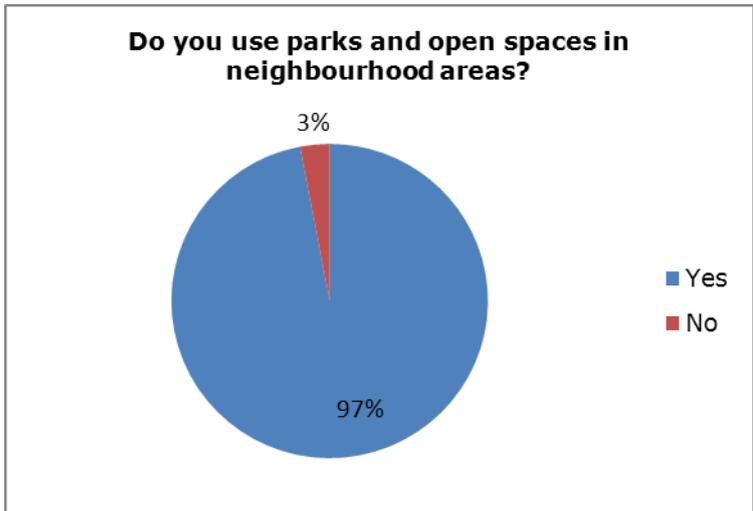
4.8 11% of respondents stated that they are 'very satisfied' with the quality of parks and open spaces in Harlow, with 59% 'fairly satisfied'. 16% are 'fairly dissatisfied', and 5% are 'very dissatisfied'.

Figure 4.6: Green Wedges - Activities



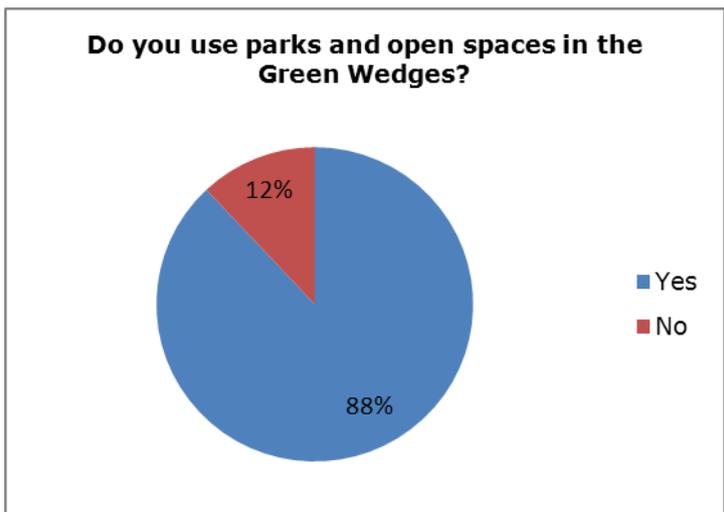
4.9 The questionnaire results show that respondents use green wedges for a range of activities, including exercise (the most popular response at 68%), observing wildlife (39%), for relaxation (37%), taking shortcuts (34%), using play facilities (32%) and walking the dog (27%).

Figure 4.7: Do you use parks and open spaces in neighbourhood areas?



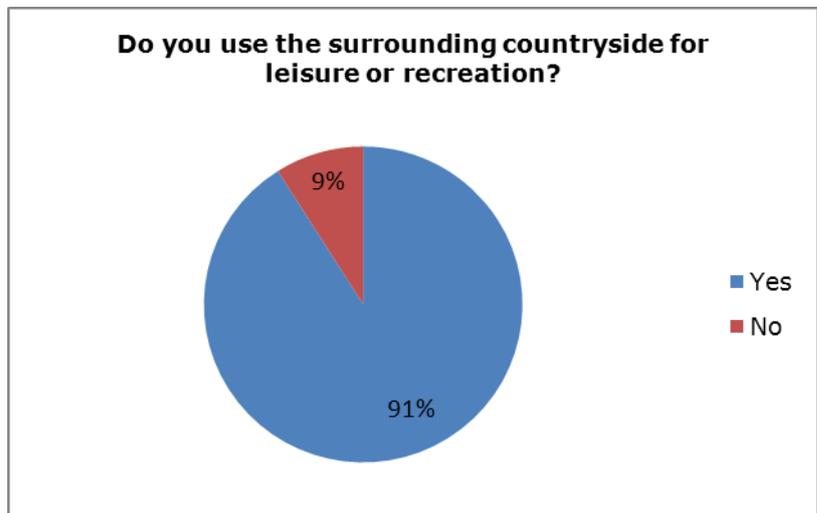
4.10 97% of respondents stated that they use the parks and open spaces in neighbourhood areas.

Figure 4.8: Do you use parks and open spaces in the Green Wedges?



4.11 88% of respondents stated that they use parks and open spaces in the Green Wedges.

Figure 4.9: Do you use the surrounding countryside for leisure or recreation?



4.12 91% of respondents stated that they use the surrounding countryside for leisure or recreation.

Telephone consultation

4.13 Telephone surveys were conducted during April - May 2012. The questionnaire covered a range of questions related to the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space in Harlow.

4.14 Over 850 Harlow residents were contacted by phone, of which **118** agreed to participate in the telephone survey. A response rate of 14% is considered to be relatively good. A response rate of over X% is considered statistically significant. The respondents were an almost even split of male (51%) and female (49%). The age of respondents was less well balanced, with 60% of the respondents categorising themselves as over 60 years of age. This was attributed partly to the increased willingness of older or retired people to spend time answering telephone surveys. 14% of respondents considered themselves to have a disability. 87% categorised themselves as White British, and less than 3% of respondents categorised themselves as being from anything other than a White ethnic group.

4.15 The telephone survey revealed useful information about the frequency of open space visits, and the reasons for visiting spaces, as well as the general level of satisfaction with Harlow's open space, the types of features considered important, and areas for improvement. Some headline findings include:

- Overall, over **90% of respondents were happy with the amount of open space** in Harlow, and 89% of respondents thought investment should be into improving existing provision, rather than creating new spaces.
- Of the 10% that felt that investment should focus on creating new spaces, **the most popular focus for investment was space for children and young people**. Very few respondents felt that new allotments should be created.
- Harlow's open space is well used, with **over a quarter (27%) of respondents visiting an open space 2-3 times a week**. Only 3% of respondents never visited parks or open spaces.
- **60% of respondents travel to parks and open space by foot**. Car was the second most common form of accessing parks, with 29% of people driving to parks. Only 4% cycle to parks.
- **87% of respondents are willing to travel for more than 10 minutes** to reach a park or green space.
- **93% of respondents felt there was a park within easy walking distance of their home**.
- There is general satisfaction with the facilities provided at parks, with **74% happy with the facilities available**.
- **99% of respondents agreed that open spaces can improve the appearance of the town**, and 95% felt that they make Harlow a nice place to live.
- **98% felt that good park maintenance was critically important**.
- Other comments received included the need for better policing of parks, or the employment of park wardens.
- Only 5% of respondents used allotments, whilst 40% used play facilities.
- Of those which used play facilities, 58% were satisfied with the provision, and only 9% were dissatisfied.
- **Football was the best used type of sports facility**, with 15% of respondents using these.
- 41% were satisfied with the provision of sports facilities, with only 8% dissatisfied.

Household and Online Questionnaire findings

- 4.16 The Household and Online Surveys were conducted between January and April 2012. The questionnaire covered a similar range of issues to the telephone survey, related to the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space in Harlow.
- 4.17 A letter informing residents, local groups and other stakeholders of the questionnaire, and asking them to respond, was sent to 4000 individuals and groups. In addition, the questionnaire was hosted on the Harlow Council website, and interested parties were able to complete the questionnaire online via a web tool called 'Survey Monkey'. The total number of responses received via postal questionnaires and online questionnaires combined was 238. Of these respondents, 48% were male, and 52% female. Over 90% of respondents described themselves as White British, with less than 1% of respondents from each of the other ethnic groups. 5% of respondents considered themselves to have some sort of disability. No responses were submitted by those under 19 years of age, although all other age brackets were represented. Almost a third of respondents classified themselves as being between 60-74 years of age.
- 4.18 **Headline findings from the online/postal survey include:**
- Only 1% of respondents never use parks, with **a quarter using them 2-3 times a week**, and almost a quarter using them every day.
 - Respondents identified a wide range of purposes for which they use the Green Wedges, including:
 - Wildlife enjoyment;
 - Relaxing;
 - Transport/short-cuts;
 - Exercise;
 - Meeting friends; and
 - Walking the dog.
 - **Walking is the most popular way to access Harlow's parks**, with 83% of respondents walking to the park at least some of the time. 53% of respondents drive to access at least some open spaces, and 27% cycle.
 - **Maintenance and safety were identified as the two most important features of a local park** or open space; 80% of respondents agreed that these two features were very important.
 - **86% of respondents are satisfied/fairly satisfied with the amount of open space in Harlow**. Despite this response, 52% of respondents suggested they think more open space is required in Harlow.
 - **69% are satisfied/fairly satisfied with the quality of parks**, however 90% feel that some improvements should be made to improve the cleanliness of parks.
 - 78% of respondents agreed that parks and open spaces improved the appearance of Harlow.
 - **8% of respondents use allotments in Harlow**, and only 7% were dissatisfied with waiting times to secure an allotment tenancy. There was more widespread support for improving facilities at existing allotments as opposed to installing new allotments.
 - **44% of respondents use play facilities in Harlow**, and of those over half use them once a week or more. 71% of respondents felt that children's and young people's facilities should be cleaned and better maintained, and 55% felt they needed to be made safer with improved facilities.

Workshops

- 4.19 Two public consultation workshops were held at the Harlow Council Offices on 29 March 2012. Attendees were introduced to the Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study, and the objectives of the project, and asked to provide input on three broad issues:
- What makes a good quality open space, and examples in Harlow?
 - Current issues and problems with Harlow's open spaces?
 - What Harlow's open spaces should be like in the future?
- 4.20 Some of the key issues arising from the workshop are outlined below.

What makes a good quality open space?

- Good access to cycle paths
 - Well-used
 - Sites which are well maintained
 - No litter or dog fouling
 - Good links to the countryside
- 4.21 Examples given of good quality and valued open spaces include:
- Town Park
 - Passmore House
 - Parndon Wood Nature Reserve
 - Latton Park/Harlow Park
 - Mark Hall/Ward Hall
 - Stort Valley – connect to Lea Valley

What are the current issues and problems with Harlow's open spaces?

- **Access**
 - Access fragmented and poor links around the town centre
 - Limited interpretation and signage
 - Poor east - west connections
 - Too few crossing points across busy roads
- **Safety**
 - Concerns using cycleways/ pathways at night
 - Glass on cycle tracks and tracks are in need of maintenance
- **Nature**
 - Fragmentation of habitats
 - Disturbance to wildlife
 - Insufficient budget for managing natural habitats
- **Maintenance**
 - Dog bins are located next to benches
 - Problems with litter, graffiti
 - Some open spaces are in a poor condition
- **Appearance**

- Approaches the town are poor (particularly from M11) and gateways do not reveal the town's history
- Latten Common experiences problems with litter and intrusive buildings

What Harlow's open spaces should be like in the future?

- Create clean, car-free spaces for people and wildlife
- Increase security – reduce vandalism
- Better connected sites and signage
- Easier access to information about open space
- More affordable sport provision
- Better maintained cycle paths
- More toilet facilities
- Enable communities to manage their own spaces
- Venues and facilities for pensioners
- Ensure affordable access for those without a car
- Benches/seating
- Maintenance of children's spaces
- Improve entrance to Town Park and utilise for more events



Play facilities should be well maintained with better signage to link open spaces

Focus groups

- 4.22 Two focus groups were held with specific groups, which may have been under-represented during the wider consultation.
- 4.23 The first focus group was held on 9th May 2012 with two members of **Harlow's Youth Council** and a local youth worker. Comments included:
- **Young people enjoy open spaces** but can sometimes feel intimidated by groups of other young people hanging around.
 - **Lighting is important for safety.**
 - Woodlands are not always well maintained.
 - **There is a lack of dog bins**, and dog fouling is a problem.
 - **Town Park and Oakwood Pond are examples of good open spaces** and the astro-turf pitch at Passmore School is well used. However a lot of facilities for play have been removed (e.g. football goal posts and tennis courts).
 - **Civic spaces are well used but people often feel unsafe in these spaces** as lighting can be poor and there is a lack of CCTV.
 - Although Harlow has considerable open space, there is a **lack of well-signed routes for pedestrians and cyclists.**
 - There would be higher usage of open spaces if **more activities** were available in the open spaces.
 - Open spaces should be better advertised and interpretative information should be provided.
 - There is good provision of seating although the condition should be improved.
 - **Art projects would help to reduce crime.**
- 4.24 The second focus group was held with play group leaders at **Mulberry Playgroup** on 10th May 2012. Comments include:
- **Green spaces are important to the heritage of Harlow** and benefit residents.
 - **Old Harlow doesn't have very many open spaces.**
 - The working farm and woodlands were great features of Harlow during the 60s and 70s. Former agricultural fields should be protected.
 - **Younger people tend to play in the woodlands and ponds** and they feel safe in these types of open spaces.
 - The **new teaching curriculum is encouraging schools to play outdoors.**
 - **Town Park, the Water Gardens, the Chapels and the Stort Valley are good open spaces** but Willowfields feels unsafe. There is potential to improve Old Passmores.
 - **Some play areas have recently been refurbished** and are in a good condition.
 - Some of the **access routes across open spaces in South Harlow need investment.**
 - Volunteers manage Parndon Wood to increase opening times. This approach should be adopted elsewhere.
 - **More could be done to promote good quality open spaces.**
 - **Passmores should be a priority for enhancement** as it is in a good position near to the town centre.

Section 4: Implications for Harlow's green infrastructure and open spaces

The consultation provides a strong evidence base on which to develop open space standards and policy. Through review of the feedback from all forms of consultation, we have identified a number of priority issues that should be reflected in future management of Harlow's open space resource:

- Future investment should **focus on improving the quality of Harlow's existing open spaces**, rather than creating new ones.
- **There is a lack space for children and young people** in some parts of Harlow.
- The key issues which should be resolved to improve the quality and quantity of Harlow's open spaces are **better maintenance and security to create cleaner, safer spaces**.
- **Connectivity has been highlighted as an area for improvement**, both in terms of creating better cycling and walking routes for people, and connecting habitats to support Harlow's wildlife.
- **Improve the gateways to Harlow** and the visual appearance of some open spaces, to contribute to visitors' perceptions of the town.
- **Harlow's open spaces are well used for a number of different purposes**, and are an important part of Harlow's identity.
- **Harlow's local open spaces, Green Wedges and surrounding countryside are all popular destinations** for healthy recreation and relaxation, and access to all of these should be maintained and enhanced.



The Green Wedges are key to character of Harlow but there is a deficiency in facilities for children and young people

5 Harlow's current open space provision

- 5.1 This section of the report presents the results of the audit of Harlow's open spaces. The completed audit forms can be seen in the supporting Access database. As set out in Table 3.1, a total of 223 sites were included in the audit, covering all typologies set out in PPG17⁴. Whilst it is recognised that many spaces will serve a variety of functions the PPG17 Companion Guidance recommends that open spaces are categorised by its 'primary' typology. The results of the open space audit will be used to develop provision standards by typology for Harlow.
- 5.2 The open space categories are set out in Table 6.1 below, and shown on **Figure 3.2**. Within these typologies, there is potential for secondary typologies to exist. For example, many Parks and Gardens will contain play areas for children, or outdoor sports pitches. These secondary typologies have been identified and are taken into account when analysing each of the primary typologies.

Table 5.1: Open space typology

Type of open space	Primary purpose
A. Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education awareness.
C. Green corridor	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
D. Amenity Green Space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work.
E. Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
G. Civic Space	Providing a setting for civic buildings and community events
H. Provision for Children/ Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
I. Outdoor Sports Provision	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics, or countryside and water sports.

⁴ Outdoor sport provision has not been assessed as part of this study

Hierarchy

- 5.3 Open space can also be categorised by size. People are likely to view smaller sites as more 'local' provision, and are likely to travel further to visit larger sites. Having reviewed the size and features of the open spaces in Harlow, it was considered that two hierarchical levels were considered appropriate for the District:
- 1 Local Sites: Sites generally smaller than 15ha, which are primarily used by people in the local vicinity of the space
 - 2 District Sites: Sites generally greater than 15ha, to which people are prepared to travel further
- 5.4 Given that type and hierarchy are strongly linked, we have categorised each space by size and by type, as shown in Table 6.3. There is one exception to the categorisation by size, this is for Civic Space. It is considered that people are likely to travel further to visit Civic Space, such as Harlow Town Centre, and these sites have been categorised accordingly.

Table 5.2: Hierarchy of sites

Type of open space	District (>15ha)	Local (<15ha)
A. Parks and gardens	A1. District Parks and Gardens (>15ha)	A2. Local Parks and Gardens (<15ha)
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	B1. District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space (>15ha)	B2. Local Natural and Semi-natural Green Space (<15ha)
C. Green corridor	(n/a)	C. Green corridors
D. Amenity Green Space	(n/a)	D. Amenity Green Space
E. Allotments	(n/a)	E. Allotments
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards	(n/a)	F. Cemeteries and Churchyards
G. Civic Space	G1. District Civic Space (sites allocated individually – not by size)	G2. Local Civic Space (sites allocated individually – not by size)
H. Provision for Children/ Young People	(n/a)	H. Provision for Children/ Young People
I. Outdoor Sports Provision	I. Outdoor Sports Provision (not assessed in detail but mapped in Figure 6.12)	

Overview of Harlow's open spaces

- 5.5 Table 5.3 summarises open space types in Harlow at the district level. For each category, the extent of current provision (in terms of number of sites per Neighbourhood Area) has been set out.

Table 5.3: Overview of open spaces by typology and neighbourhood

Typology	Category	Bush Fair and Harlow Common	Church Langley	Great Parndon and Toddbrook	Hare Street and Little Parndon	Netteswell and Mark Hall	Old Harlow	Summers, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye
Parks and Gardens	A1. District Parks and Gardens					1 (37.48 ha)		
	A2. Local Parks and Gardens	8 (20.88 ha)	2 (7.4 ha)	11 (18.58 ha)	7 (29.13 ha)	10 (20.26 ha)	7 (11.04 ha)	11 (35.15 ha)
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	B1. District Natural and Semi-natural Green Space	2 (51.64 ha)	1 (27.48 ha)	1 (24.97 ha)		1 (17.19 ha)	1 (22.83 ha)	1 (55.99 ha)
	B2. Local Natural and Semi-natural Green Space	5 (9.94 ha)	2 (4.49 ha)	8 (15.41 ha)	11 (31.74 ha)	18 (65.68 ha)	9 (24.67 ha)	4 (12.33 ha)
Green Corridor	C. Green corridors	1 (0.69 ha)	1 (5 ha)	3 (13.3 ha)	4 (3.71 ha)	5 (4.33 ha)	2 (1.96 ha)	2 (2.6 ha)
Amenity Green Space	D. Amenity Green Space	3 (4.03 ha)		5 (8.68 ha)	2 (1.12 ha)	9 (1.09 ha)	1 (0.04 ha)	5 (4.84 ha)
Allotments	E. Allotments	7 (3.5 ha)	1 (1.1 ha)	5 (4.28 ha)	6 (2.51 ha)	10 (7.56 ha)	3 (2.14 ha)	2 (1.67 ha)
Cemeteries and Churchyards	F. Cemeteries and Churchyards	2 (0.81 ha)		1 (0.44 ha)	1 (0.16 ha)	1 (0.36 ha)	1 (0.76 ha)	1 (7.1 ha)
Civic Space	G1. District Civic Space			2 (2.24 ha)				
	G2. Local Civic Space					1 (0.55 ha)		
Provision for Children/ Young People	H. Provision for Children/ Young People	3 (1.02 ha)		1 (0.42 ha)		1 (0.2 ha)	1 (0.4 ha)	1 (0.2 ha)
Outdoor Sports Provision	I. Outdoor Sports Provision				2 (59.05 ha)		2 (28.75 ha)	4 (14.58 ha)

- 5.6 Netteswell and Mark Hall Neighbourhood Area provides the greatest number of open spaces (56 no.) covering a total of 117 ha. The Neighbourhood Area of Summers, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye provides the greatest coverage of open space with 31 site extending over 134 ha. Church Langley offers the least number of quantity and coverage of open spaces with just seven sites audited which cover an area of just over 45 ha. Old Harlow Neighbourhood Area has the second least number of open spaces which extend just over 92 ha.

Overview of quality and value scores

- 5.7 Table 5.4 summarises the overall quality and value scores of open space in Harlow at the district level.

Table 5.4: Harlow quality and value scores by typology

Typology	Number of sites audited	Value score range		Quality score range	
		Lowest score	Highest score	Lowest score	Highest score
A. Parks and gardens	57	3	97	0	64
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	64	1	37	-2	55
C. Green corridor	18	4	41	0	37
D. Amenity Green Space	25	5	26	0	38
E. Allotments	34	1	11	4	34
F. Cemeteries and churchyards	7	10	19	26	47
G. Civic space	3	7	45	31	43
H. Provision for Children/ Young People	70*	-1	97	0	63

* 63 of the provision for children/ young people sites fell within larger open spaces and may not be the primary typology.

- 5.8 The results of the open space audit revealed that sites within the Parks and Gardens typology have the potential to offer the greatest value. This is evident with a score of 99 being recorded for site within the Parks and Gardens typology which is more than double the scores of sites within the other typologies. However, the quality score for sites within the Parks and Gardens typology appear to be more aligned to sites within other typologies.

Summary of Audit by typology

- 5.9 A summary of the open space audits with Harlow are set out by typology below, which includes an overview of the amount of provision (in terms of number of sites, the total area and geographic distribution) and the key features of each typology.

A: Parks and Gardens

- 5.10 There are 57 Parks and Gardens in Harlow, as set out in Table 5.5 below. One of these (Site ID 046: Town Park) is classified as a District Park, and the remaining 56 are all classed as Local Parks and Gardens.

Table 5.5: Parks and Gardens

Site category	Number of sites	Total Area (ha)
A1. District Parks and Gardens	1	37.48
A2. Local Parks and Gardens	56	142.46

5.11 The primary purpose of parks and gardens is to provide accessible open space with high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. Parks and gardens are usually more multi-functional than other open space, offering space for quiet relaxation as well as a range of amenities and activities for visitors. In particular parks and gardens often include children’s play, youth and/or outdoor sports facilities. The key characteristics of Harlow’s Parks and Gardens are summarised in the table below.

Table 5.6: Parks and Gardens – key characteristics

	A1. District parks and gardens	A2. Local parks and gardens
Size	15 ha <	< 15 ha
Key characteristics	Serves district needs and predominantly visited by district’s residents	Serves the needs and predominantly visited by surrounding community
	Contributes to character of surrounding area. May include landmark features and heritage value.	Contributes to character of surrounding area and may be recognised through inclusion in Conservation Area designation.
	Provides a welcoming place to all park users with entrances and boundaries well defined and in good condition.	Provides a welcoming place to all park users with entrances and boundaries well defined and in good condition.
	Provides good access enabling all sectors of the community to use and enjoy the open space.	Provides good access enabling all sectors of the community to use and enjoy the open space.
	Active and passive recreation – contain play equipment (usually over 12 items of equipment/eight activities providing for all three age groups) and provision for young people, and contains sporting provision.	Active and passive recreation – mostly contain play equipment (where appropriate to the character of the site) with over seven items of equipment/six activities providing for two age groups (although on a smaller scale to the metropolitan and district parks and gardens), may contain sporting provision.
	Range of habitats which contributes to the local biodiversity acknowledged by SINC designation.	Range of habitats which contributes to local biodiversity and may be acknowledged SINC designation.
	Good provision of basic amenities including seating, litter bins, recycling facilities and entrance signs, interpretation signs, public notice board, may contain toilets, a	Good provision of basic amenities including seating, litter bins and entrance signs.

	A1. District parks and gardens	A2. Local parks and gardens
	café and onsite base for staff.	
	Readily accessible by public transport	Accessible to the local community

A1. District Parks and Gardens

- 5.12 District Parks and Gardens should be at least 15 ha in size drawing visitors from across Harlow. Town Park (Site ID 046) is the only District Park in Harlow and is located in the Netteswell and Mark Hall Neighbourhood Area. This park is 37ha and freely accessible to the public. It provides a range of facilities and features offering recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural and green infrastructure benefits. It provides facilities for community events as well as formal play areas and it contains community facilities such as Pets Corner. It is also equipped with basic amenities such as bins and seating.

Table 5.7: Quality and Value scores of District Parks and Gardens

District Parks and Gardens	Freely accessible to public		Quality score	Value
	No.	Area (ha)		
Town Park	1	37.48	63	97

- 5.13 The Town Park provides near complete coverage of the entire district. The exceptions to this are small areas on the periphery of Church Langley and Sumners that are more than 3.2km from the park. The audit recorded Town Park as having a Quality score of 99 and a Value score of 62.

A2. Local Parks and Gardens

- 5.14 There are 56 Local Parks and Gardens in Harlow. Local parks generally offer provision for court games, children's play, sitting-out areas and nature conservation areas. They generally have good provision of basic amenities, including entrance signs, seating and litter bins.
- 5.15 Local parks and Gardens form a key part of the Gibberd Masterplan for Harlow and provide key facilities for the surrounding communities often containing some provision for children and young people and opportunities for informal recreation such as dog walking. There may also be some provision for formal sport activities including football, tennis and baseball.
- 5.16 As shown in table 5.8 below and in **Figure 6.1** and **Figure 6.2**, the Local Parks and Gardens are distributed fairly evenly throughout the District, although there is slightly better provision in the centre and west of the District, than in the two Neighbourhood Areas to the East (Church Langley and Old Harlow). However, central/southern Church Langley, southern parts of Old Harlow and the employment areas are outside of the 400m catchment for local parks and gardens.

Table 5.8: Local Parks and Gardens

Neighbourhood	Freely accessible to public		No public access		Restricted access	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	7	20.72	1	0.16		
Church Langley	2	7.4				
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	11	18.57				
Hare Street and Little Parndon	7	29.13				
Netteswell and Mark Hall	9	19.76	1	0.51		
Old Harlow	6	9.25			1	1.8
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	11	35.16				
Total						56

5.17 Table 5.9 below records the range in Quality and Value scores of local parks and gardens within each Neighbourhood Area.

Table 5.9: Quality and Value scores of Local Parks and Gardens

Neighbourhood	Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	Lowest score	Highest score	Lowest score	Highest score
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	0	44	4	58
Church Langley	30	36	26	35
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	0	49	5	43
Hare Street and Little Parndon	13	42	6	42
Netteswell and Mark Hall	0	42	3	38
Old Harlow	16	44	8	33
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	8	50	7	39

5.18 The local parks and gardens within Netteswell and Mark Hall Neighbourhood Area currently offer the lowest range of value scores; the highest “valued” site received a score of just 33.

5.19 Particularly good examples of good quality Parks and Gardens in Harlow include:

- Water Gardens (Great Parndon and Toddbrook)
- Maunds Open Space (Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye)
- Sycamore Field (Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye)
- Great Augur Street Open Space (Old Harlow)

- 5.20 Parks and Gardens which offer high value include:
- Bushfair Recreation Ground (Bush Fair and Harlow Common)
 - Nicholls Field Recreation Ground (Bush Fair and Harlow Common)
 - Willowfield Open Space (Great Parndon and Toddbrook)
 - Great Parndon Recreation Ground (Great Parndon and Toddbrook)
- 5.21 Parks and Gardens of a lower quality and least value include:
- Harefield Open Space (Netteswell and Mark Hall)
 - Paringdon Road Recreation Space (Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye)
 - Old Conifer Aboretum (Bush Fair and Harlow Common)
- 5.22 Due to restricted access, full audits were unable to be completed for the Museum of Harlow and Walled Garden at Harlow Study and Visitor Centre.

B: Natural green spaces

- 5.23 There are 64 natural green spaces in Harlow as shown in Table 5.10 below. Seven of these are classified as district-scale and 57 classified as local-scale. The primary purpose for natural spaces will support a range of habitats and promote access to nature.

Table 5.10: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces

Site category	Number of sites	Total Area (ha)
B1. District natural green spaces	7	200.10
B2. Local natural green spaces	57	164.25

- 5.24 The following table outlines the key characteristics of natural and semi natural green spaces in Harlow at the district and local levels.

Table 5.11: Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space – key characteristics

	B1. District natural/semi-natural green spaces	B2. Local/village natural/semi-natural green spaces
Size	> 15 ha	15 ha <
Essential characteristics	Attract visitors from both outside and inside the district	Serves local needs and predominantly visited by local residents
	Broad range of habitats	Limited range of habitats
	Marked walking routes	Provision for informal recreation
	Sufficient facilities to enable long stays e.g. toilets / car park and litter bins	Basic amenities include seating, litter bins and entrance signs

B1: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space provision

- 5.25 There are seven District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces within Harlow, as shown in Table 5.12. These include Netteswell Plantation and Pond, Wyldwood Open Space, Harlow Common,

Chllinor Open Space, Stort Valley, Latton Common and Parndon Wood. These spaces generally support a range of habitats and are freely accessible to the public.

Table 5.12: B1. District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space provision

Neighbourhood	Freely accessible to public	
	No.	Area (ha)
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	2	51.64
Church Langley	1	27.48
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	1	24.97
Hare Street and Little Parndon	0	0
Netteswell and Mark Hall	1	17.19
Old Harlow	1	22.83
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	1	55.99

- 5.26 The table below records the range in Quality and Value scores of district natural and semi-natural green spaces within each Neighbourhood Area.

Table 5.13: Quality and Value scores of District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space provision

Neighbourhood	Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	Lowest score	Highest score	Lowest score	Highest score
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	27	43	18	33
Church Langley	-	29	-	15
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	-	22	-	14
Hare Street and Little Parndon	-	-	-	-
Netteswell and Mark Hall	-	35	-	18
Old Harlow	-	23	-	14
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	-	55	-	22

- 5.27 The district is well provided for in terms of access to District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space with no part of the town being more than 3.2km from district provision. In fact, the existing provision also provides accessible sites for considerable areas beyond the district boundary into the surrounding villages.
- 5.28 However, the quality and value of these areas varies across Harlow. Bush Fair and Harlow Common Neighbourhood Area contains the site scoring the highest value with Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye containing the site with the greatest Quality (55). Great Parndon and Toddbrook, and Old Harlow have the lowest range of scores for sites in terms of Quality and Value.

B2: Local Natural green space provision

- 5.29 There are 57 local natural green spaces in Harlow including Kingsmoor, Marshgate Spring Local Nature Reserve, Parndon Moat Marsh Nature Reserve and Canons Brook Open Space. These spaces support features important for nature conservation and may provide some facilities for informal recreation. The Local spaces are shown in Table 5.14 below.

Table 5.14: B2. Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space provision

Neighbourhood	De-facto public access		Freely accessible to public		No public access		Restricted access	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	1	1.42	4	8.53				
Church Langley			2	4.48				
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	1	1.82	6	13.15	1	0.44		
Hare Street and Little Parndon	1	1.86	7	22.9	3	6.97		
Netteswell and Mark Hall	1	1.42	14	52.03	2	5.18	1	7.06
Old Harlow			7	20.33	1	2.56	1	1.78
Summers, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	1	2.72	3	9.6				
Total								57

- 5.30 The table below provides the range of Quality and Value scores of local natural and semi-natural green space by Neighbourhood Area.

Table 5.15: Quality and Value scores of Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space provision

Neighbourhood	Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	Lowest score	Highest score	Lowest score	Highest score
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	10	29	7	13
Church Langley	13	16	6	9
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	0	35	2	17
Hare Street and Little Parndon	-2	19	1	39
Netteswell and Mark Hall	0	37	1	17
Old Harlow	0	37	6	16

Neighbourhood	Quality Score range		Value Score range	
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	12	41	5	20

5.31 Due to the characteristics of local natural and semi-natural green space, the range in quality and value scores are generally lower than local parks and gardens. Hare Street and Little Parndon has the greatest range of Value scores (1-39). Church Langley has the lowest range of Quality score (13-16)

Geographic distribution of Natural green space provision

5.32 The provision of local natural and semi natural green space is mixed across Harlow. There are a number of areas which fall outside of the 400m catchment area for provision including areas of Netteswell and Mark Hall, Bush Fair and Harlow Common, Great Parndon and Toddbrook and Hare Street and Little Parndon. **Figures 6.3 and 6.4** shows the distribution of natural green space provision in Harlow.

C: Green corridors

5.33 There are 18 sites which are classified as Green Corridors as set out in table 5.16.

Table 5.16: Green Corridors

Site category	Number of sites	Total Area (ha)
C. Green corridors	18	31.60

5.34 Green corridors provide green routes along transport routes and public rights of way. They may support a range of habitats important for nature conservation or provision for informal recreation. These include green corridors along Mandela Avenue, Katherine Way, Fourth Avenue and in Church Langley. **Figure 6.5** shows the distribution of Green Corridors in Harlow.

Table 5.17: Green Corridor – key characteristics

	C. Green corridor
Essential characteristics	Contain a range of habitats for nature conservation.
	Provides for informal recreation.
	Basic facilities could include bins/ dog bins.

C: Green Corridor Provision

5.35 There are 18 Green Corridors within Harlow, as shown in table 5.18. Great Parndon and Toddbrook, Hare Street and Little Parndon, and Netteswell and Mark Hall have the greatest provision of Green Corridors. All of the Green Corridors have some level of public access with the exception of the M11 verge within Old Harlow.

Table 5.18: C. Green Corridor provision

Neighbourhood	De-facto public access		Freely accessible to public		No public access	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
Bush Fair and Harlow Common			1	0.69		
Church Langley			1	5		
Great Parndon and Toddbrook			3	13.3		
Hare Street and Little Parndon			4	3.72		
Netteswell and Mark Hall	1	0.89	4	3.44		
Old Harlow			1	0.36	1	1.6
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye			2	2.6		
Total						18

5.36 The quality and value score ranges for each Neighbourhood Area are provided in the table below.

Table 5.19: Quality and Value scores of Green Corridor provision

Neighbourhood	Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	Lowest score	Highest score	Lowest score	Highest score
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	-	24	-	8
Church Langley	-	37	-	41
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	13	31	7	41
Hare Street and Little Parndon	23	33	8	12
Netteswell and Mark Hall	3	19	4	11
Old Harlow	0	4	6	8
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	23	25	8	13

5.37 The Green Corridors audited in the assessment have a broad range of quality and value scores. With the highest value scores ranging between seven and 41 and quality score ranging between zero and 37. Given that Green Corridors are not an open space 'destination' a discussion of deficiencies across the town has not been provided here.

D: Amenity Green Space

5.38 25 Amenity Green Spaces were recorded in the audit as set out in Table 5.20 below.

Table 5.20: Amenity Green Space

Site category	Number of sites	Total Area (ha)
D. Amenity Green Space	25	19.79

5.39 Amenity Green Spaces include The Briars, Abercrombie Way Amenity Green Space and Joyners Field Amenity Green Space. Amenity Green Spaces provide a less formal green space experience than parks and gardens, and generally provides fewer habitats. However the sites provide important spaces for informal recreation close to where people work and live. The key characteristics of Amenity Green Space in Harlow is provided in the table below:

Table 5.21: Amenity Green Space - key characteristics

	D. Amenity Green Space
Essential characteristics	Basic provision for informal recreation (seating and bins).
	Entrance signs for enclosed spaces including no dog fouling notices.
	Limited range of habitats

Geographic distribution of Amenity Green Space provision

5.40 The following table shows the quantity of Amenity Green Spaces within each Neighbourhood Area. The majority of Amenity Green Spaces are freely accessible to the public with just one site within Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye where there is de-facto access.

Table 5.22: D. Amenity Green Space provision

Neighbourhood	De-facto public access		Freely accessible to public	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
Bush Fair and Harlow Common			3	4.03
Church Langley				
Great Parndon and Toddbrook			5	8.67
Hare Street and Little Parndon			2	1.12
Netteswell and Mark Hall			9	1.08
Old Harlow			1	0.04
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	1	1.03	4	3.82

5.41 The range of scores recorded for Quality and Value are shown in the table below.

Table 5.23: Quality and value scores of Amenity Green Space provision

Neighbourhood	Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	Lowest score	Highest score	Lowest score	Highest score
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	17	26	6	10
Church Langley	-	-	-	-
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	15	38	8	14
Hare Street and Little Parndon	11	20	8	10
Netteswell and Mark Hall	0	30	5	11
Old Harlow	-	17	-	7
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	17	38	6	26

5.42 The provision of audited Amenity Green Spaces varies across the district. Whilst large parts of Harlow are outside the 400m catchment for Amenity Green Space (greater than 0.8ha) the nature of Harlow means that there is considerable provision of Amenity Green Spaces throughout the town which is smaller than the audit threshold. This is linked to the general landscaped nature of the town which means that there is considerable provision of Amenity Green Spaces within residential areas as well as in the green wedges.

5.43 In terms of the audited spaces the greatest provision of Amenity Green Spaces is within Bush Fair, Great Parndon and Toddbrook, and Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye. Only one Amenity Green Space was audited in Old Harlow and none were recorded in Church Langley. **Figure 6.6** shows the distribution of Amenity Green Space provision in Harlow.

5.44 The sites in Great Parndon and Toddbrook, and Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye achieved the highest scores for both quality and high value. The quality and value scores decrease in Hare Street and Little Parndon.

E: Allotments

5.45 There are 34 Allotments in Harlow as set out in table 5.24 below. Allotments offer opportunities for the local community to come in contact with food production. These sites contribute to health and well-being through enabling outdoor exercise and community interaction and enabling the production of sustainable, healthy food. However, Allotments typically have restricted access to the public.

Table 5.24: Allotments

Site category	Number of sites	Total Area (ha)
E. Allotments	34	22.76

5.46 The characteristics of Allotments are outlined in the table below. Allotments should provide some basic facilities (e.g. litter bins etc.) as well as space for green waste composting. They should have well-presented entrances complete with signs providing contact and membership details.

Table 5.25: Allotments - key characteristics

	E. Allotments
Essential characteristics	Entrance signs and public notice board.
	Basic amenities might include litter bins and/ or seating.
	Green waste composting facilities.
	Range of habitats.

Geographic distribution of allotment provision

- 5.47 Allotments are provided within each Neighbourhood Area with Netteswell and Mark Hall containing the greatest quantity in terms of the number of sites and total area.

Table 5.26: E. Allotment provision

Neighbourhood	Restricted access	
	No.	Area (ha)
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	7	3.5
Church Langley	1	1.1
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	5	4.28
Hare Street and Little Parndon	6	2.5
Netteswell and Mark Hall	10	7.57
Old Harlow	3	2.14
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	2	1.67

- 5.48 The table below sets out the quality and value score ranges within each Neighbourhood Area.

Table 5.27: Quality and value scores of Allotment provision

Neighbourhood	Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	Lowest score	Highest score	Lowest score	Highest score
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	15	31	3	8
Church Langley	-	34	-	5
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	6	30	3	8
Hare Street and Little Parndon	4	23	4	11
Netteswell and Mark Hall	4	26	1	8

Neighbourhood	Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	Min	Max	Min	Max
Old Harlow	26	33	7	11
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	13	25	4	8

- 5.49 The district is generally well provided for in terms of Allotments with most areas being within 800m of a site. However, there are noticeable exceptions to this. The eastern part of Church Langley, Sumners, and Kingsmoor are outside 800m catchment for Allotments in Harlow. There is greatest provision of Allotments in Bush Fair and Harlow Common (seven), Netteswell and Mark Hall (10). Church Langley has just one allotment and Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye two Allotments. **Figure 6.7** shows the distribution of Allotments in Harlow.
- 5.50 The quality and value of sites also varies across Harlow as shown in table 5.26. All sites in Old Harlow are considered to be of high quality whereas elsewhere in the district there is generally a mix of good and poor sites.

F: Cemeteries and Churchyards

- 5.51 There are seven cemeteries in Harlow. These include Parndon Wood Cemetery, St. Andrew's Churchyards, St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard and St Mary Magdelene.

Table 5.28: Cemeteries and Churchyards

Site category	Number of sites	Total Area (ha)
F. Cemeteries and churchyards	7	9.63

- 5.52 As well as fulfilling their original, primary role of a burial ground, the sites in this category may also provide spaces for informal recreation, in terms of places to sit and as places of quiet and reflection.

Table 5.29: Cemeteries and Churchyard – key characteristics

	F. Cemeteries and churchyards
Essential characteristics	Provision for informal recreation including basic amenities of litter bins and seating.
	Range of habitats.
	Landmark feature(s) present sense of place.
	Heritage value acknowledged by inclusion in Conservation Area or subject to Listed Building designation.
	Entrance signs and public notice boards.

Geographic distribution of cemetery and churchyard provision

- 5.53 There is at least one churchyard or cemetery in each of the Neighbourhood Areas with the exception of Church Langley. **Figure 6.8** shows the distribution of cemeteries and churchyards in Harlow. Table 5.30 sets out the quantity of cemeteries and churchyards in Harlow.

Table 5.30: F. Cemetery and Churchyard provision

Neighbourhood	Freely accessible to public	Freely accessible to public
	No.	Area (ha)
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	2	0.81
Church Langley	-	-
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	1	0.44
Hare Street and Little Parndon	1	0.16
Netteswell and Mark Hall	1	0.36
Old Harlow	1	0.76
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	1	7.1

- 5.54 The table below records the range of quality and value scores by Neighbourhood Area.

Table 5.31: Quality and alue scores of Cemetery and Churchyard provision

Neighbourhood	Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	Lowest score	Highest score	Lowest score	Highest score
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	27	34	12	18
Church Langley	-	-	-	-
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	-	26	-	10
Hare Street and Little Parndon	-	32	-	16
Netteswell and Mark Hall	-	37	-	10
Old Harlow	-	31	-	11
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	-	47	-	19

- 5.55 The Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye Neighbourhood Area has the highest Quality and Value scores. Great Parndon and Toddbrook Neighbourhood Area has the lowest scoring site.

G: Civic spaces

- 5.56 There are three civic spaces within Harlow. Two of these sites are located in the Town Centre and therefore designated as District civic spaces. The remaining is a local civic space at The Stow. These are sites that are generally hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians. All sites are paved and are used regularly as thoroughfares.

Table 5.32: Civic Spaces

Site category	Number of sites	Total Area (ha)
G1. District civic spaces	2	2.24
G2. Local civic spaces	1	0.55

G1. District Civic Space

- 5.57 The Harlow Town centre civic space contains public art, seating and play features. It provides the setting to cultural features as well as adjoins a community buildings, shops and cafes/ restaurants. All civic spaces are freely accessible to the public.

Table 5.33: G1. District Civic Space provision

Neighbourhood	Freely accessible to public		Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	No.	Area (ha)				
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	2	2.24	37	43	7	45

G2. Local Civic Space

- 5.58 Just one local civic space was audited. The Stow local civic space provides details areas of seating and provides the setting for the local shopping centre.

Table 5.34: G2. Local Civic Space provision

Neighbourhood	Freely accessible to public		Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	No.	Area (ha)				
Netteswell and Mark Hall	1	0.55	-	31	-	9

- 5.59 The table below outlines the key characteristics of District and Local civic spaces in Harlow.

Table 5.35: Local Civic Spaces - key characteristics

	G1. District civic spaces	G2. Local civic spaces
Essential characteristics	Good provision for informal recreation including basic amenities of litterbins and seating.	Provision for informal recreation including basic amenities of litterbins and seating.
	Landmark feature(s) and/ or public art present sense of place.	Public art present.

	G1. District civic spaces	G2. Local civic spaces
	Mainly hard surfaced.	Mainly hard surfaced.
	No restrictive boundary fence or hedge.	No restrictive fence or hedge.
	Street planting and trees but otherwise limited range of habitats.	Some street planting or street trees but otherwise limited range of habitats.

Geographic distribution of Civic Space provision

- 5.60 There are just three civic spaces in Harlow and are located in Great Parndon and Toddbrook, and Netteswell and Markhall. The two Civic Spaces within Harlow Town Centre are the only District scales sites within the study area. Although each Neighbourhood Area has its own local centres often these do not include civic spaces. **Figures 6.9 and 6.10** show the distribution of Civic Spaces in Harlow.

H. Provision for Children/ Young People

- 5.61 Provision for children/ young people sites largely consist of fenced areas with a selection of traditional play equipment (e.g. swings, springers, roundabouts etc.) set within safety surfaces. However, sites may also provide skate parks, multi-use games areas or basketball nets. The play provision in Harlow consists of those spaces which are relatively large scale and self-contained spaces and also those spaces which form an incidental part of a larger open space. Tables 5.36 and 5.37 below show the overall provision for children and young people in Harlow and also the key characteristics of these spaces.

Table 5.36: Overall Provision for Children and Young People

Site category	Number of sites
Children and Young People	7
Additional provision for Children and Young People (where they form a secondary typology of open space)	63

- 5.62 The characteristics for sites offering provision for children and young people are outlined in the table below.

Table 5.37: Provision for Children and Young People - key characteristics

	H. Children and young people
Essential characteristics	<p>Includes playable landscapes allowing a range of activities and play value. This may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional play equipment (swings, slides and climbing frames etc.) • Multi-use games area • Basketball hoops • Skate parks

H. Children and young people	
	Safety surfacing provided.
	Basic amenities including seating and bins.

- 5.63 There are seven sites which have been classified as having a primary of typology of Children and Young People, these are as shown in the table below (by area):

Table 5.38: H. Provision for Children/ Young People (Sites with Primary typology)

Site ID	Site Name	Area (ha)
231	Stilecrofts Play Area	0.199
229	Tilbury Meads	0.322
92	Carters Mead Play Area	0.497
243	Rushes Mead Play Area	0.424
158	Felmongers Play Area	0.197
163	Norman Booth Play Area	0.395
224	Joyners Field Play Area	0.196

- 5.64 In addition to the seven sites which have a primary typology for the provision for Children and Young People there are 63 sites which also contain other play spaces for children and therefore are considered to provide 'secondary' provision (e.g. within Parks and Gardens or within Amenity Spaces). These include Town Park, Barn Mead Playing Fields and The Stow Recreation Ground. These areas are shown below:

Table 5.39: Additional provision for Children / Young People (sites with secondary typology)

Neighbourhood	No.	Area (ha)
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	9	3.71
Church Langley	4	6.52
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	11	1.31
Hare Street and Little Parndon	6	0.83
Netteswell and Mark Hall	13	4.3
Old Harlow	7	3.53
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	13	8.02

- 5.65 To enable planning and provision of suitable play facilities for children and young people, the following definitions are often adopted to classify provision of children's play spaces, and have been employed for this audit:
- **Local Area of Play (LAP)** A Local Area of Play is an area of open space designed and laid out for young children to play close to where they live. LAPs provide essential play opportunities for toddlers and young children.
 - **Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP)** These are larger areas than LAP, with at least five different activities e.g. rocking, swinging, social play). LEAPs must include a small games area and seating for accompanying adults. All LEAPs should be fenced entirely and have self-closing gates, have signs excluding dogs and must be overlooked by housing, pedestrian routes, or other well used public facilities.

- **Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAP)** A Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play is an area which is designated and equipped for older children, although NEAPs should have opportunities for play for younger children too. NEAPs are larger than both LAPs and LEAPs.

Table 5.40: Number of sites offering provision for Children / Young People (primary and secondary typologies)

Neighbourhood Area	Population	Local Area for Play	Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	Other*
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	14,715	2	7	2	1
Church Langley	9,430		4		
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	14,301	2	9	1	
Hare Street and Little Parndon	8,465		5	1	
Netteswell and Mark Hall	14,594	2	9	3	
Old Harlow	9,441		8		
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	14,268	2	10	2	

* One site was recorded as being closed with the play equipment removed

5.66 The table below provides the range of scoring received for sites where the primary typology is Provision for Space for Children and Young People.

Table 5.41: Quality and Value scores for sites where the primary typology is Provision of Space for Children and Young People

Neighbourhood	Quality Score range		Value Score range	
	Lowest score	Highest score	Lowest score	Highest score
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	11	45	4	31
Church Langley	-	-	-	-
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	-	22	-	6
Hare Street and Little Parndon	-	-	-	-
Netteswell and Mark Hall	-	39	-	11
Old Harlow	-	38	-	30
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	-	28	-	8

Geographic distribution of children and young people provision

All of the Neighbourhoods Areas contain Local Equipped Areas for Play although Church Langley and Old Harlow Neighbourhood Areas do not contain any Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play.

Carter's Mead Play area was closed at the time of site auditing and all of the play equipment had been removed.

I. Outdoor Sports provision

5.67 The scope of this study did not include a detailed analysis of outdoor sports facilities as this has been the subject of a recent assessment and subsequent strategy. Outdoor sports provision in Harlow is made up of various components and can include both public and private facilities. This includes:

- Golf Course
- Sports clubs/centres/grounds
- Fishing lakes
- Grassed playing fields
- Hard tennis courts

5.68 The following table summarises the amount of provision identified through carrying out the site survey work, however these sites were not audited in details. The quantity of these open spaces is provided for each Neighbourhood Area by number of sites and area (ha).

Table 5.42: Summary of Outdoor Sports provision in Harlow

Neighbourhood	Population	Bowling green	Grass playing field	Hard tennis court/MUGA	Golf course*	Sports clubs / centres / grounds*	Fishing lakes*
Bush Fair and Harlow Common	14,715	1 (0.2ha)	11 (25.4ha)	5 (1.9ha)			
Church Langley	9,430		2 (7.5ha)	2 (0.3ha)			
Great Parndon and Toddbrook	14,301	1 (0.1ha)	12 (27.3ha)	5 (1.2ha)			
Hare Street and Little Parndon	8,465		7 (18.2ha)	6 (0.9ha)	1 (53.1ha)		1 (6ha)
Netteswell and Mark Hall	14,594		9 (15.8ha)	6 (0.9ha)			
Old Harlow	9,441		8 (21.2ha)	5 (0.6ha)		2 (28.7ha)	
Sumners, Kingsmoor and Staple Tye	14,268	2 (1.4ha)	15 (22.8ha)	8 (1.5ha)		4 (20.6ha)	

*Provision was not audited as part of this open space strategy

5.69 In terms of the quantity of outdoor sports facilities the town has a good amount, particularly grass playing pitches. There are some areas of quantitative deficiency including parts of the Church Langley Neighbourhood Area and parts of Little Parndon. A few examples of outdoor sport provision in Harlow include:

- Mark Hall Sport Centre
- Sumners Community Leisure Centre
- Canons Brook Golf Club
- Harlow Cricket Club Ground
- Parsloes Family Recreation Centre
- Harlow and District football ground

5.70 It is considered that the existing outdoor sports study (2009) provides the most informed picture of provision across Harlow. The Council may wish to update the outdoor sports study at a later date as a result of the findings of this study.

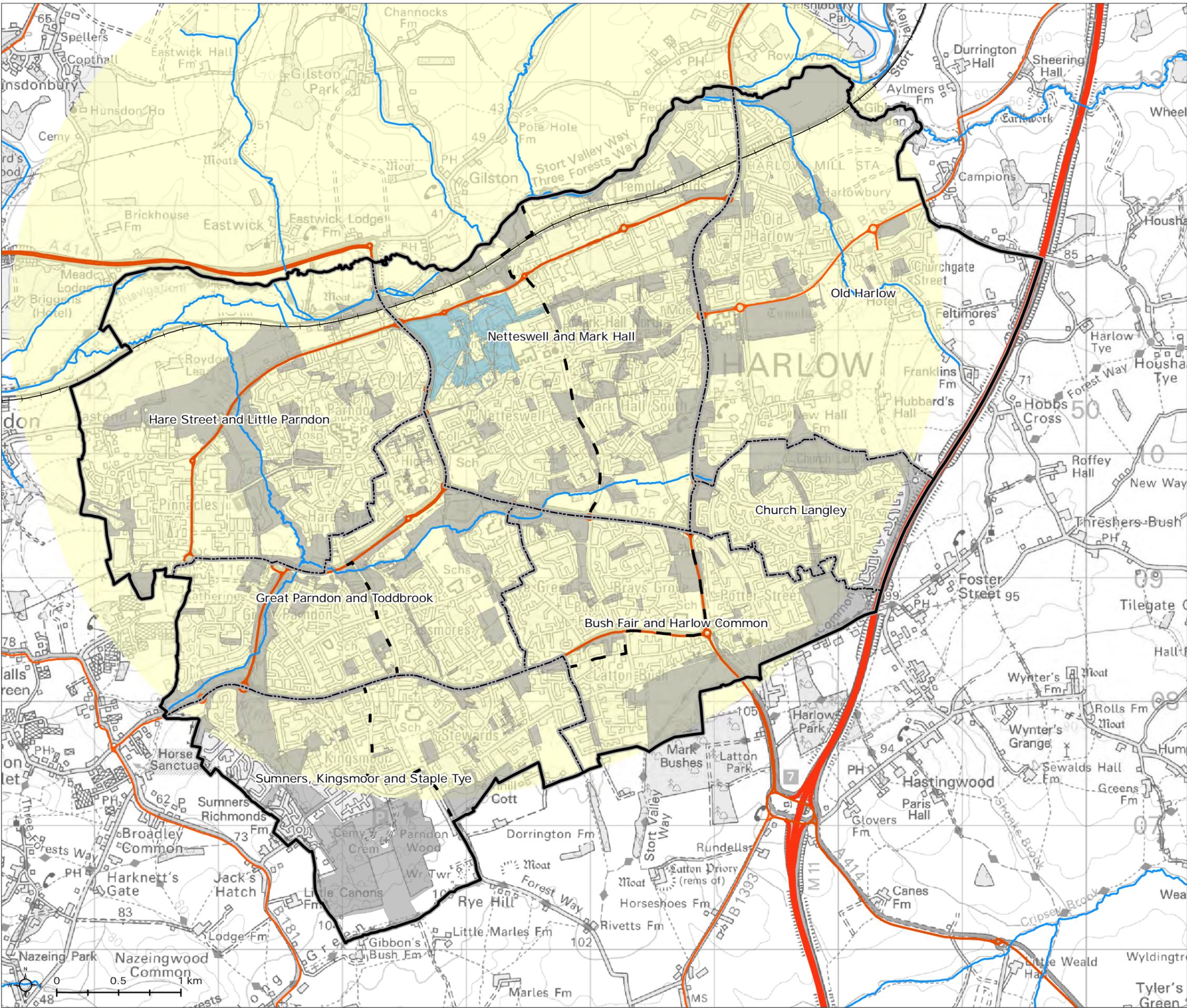
Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 6.1

Value, Quality and Accessibility Standards A1: District Parks and Gardens

- A1: Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold
- Above Value / Above Quality (+ +)
 - Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
 - Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
 - Below Value / Below Quality (- -)
 - Other Open Space
 - 3.2km from A1. District Parks and Gardens

- Harlow Boundary
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Main rivers
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- Railway line



Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

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Figure 6.2

Value, Quality and Accessibility Standards

A2: Local Parks and Gardens

 A1 or A2 site with no public access

A1 and A2: Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

-  Above Value / Above Quality (++)
-  Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
-  Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
-  Below Value / Below Quality (- -)

 Other Open Space

 400m from Parks and Gardens (A1 and A2)

 Harlow Boundary

 Neighbourhood Areas

 Ward Boundaries

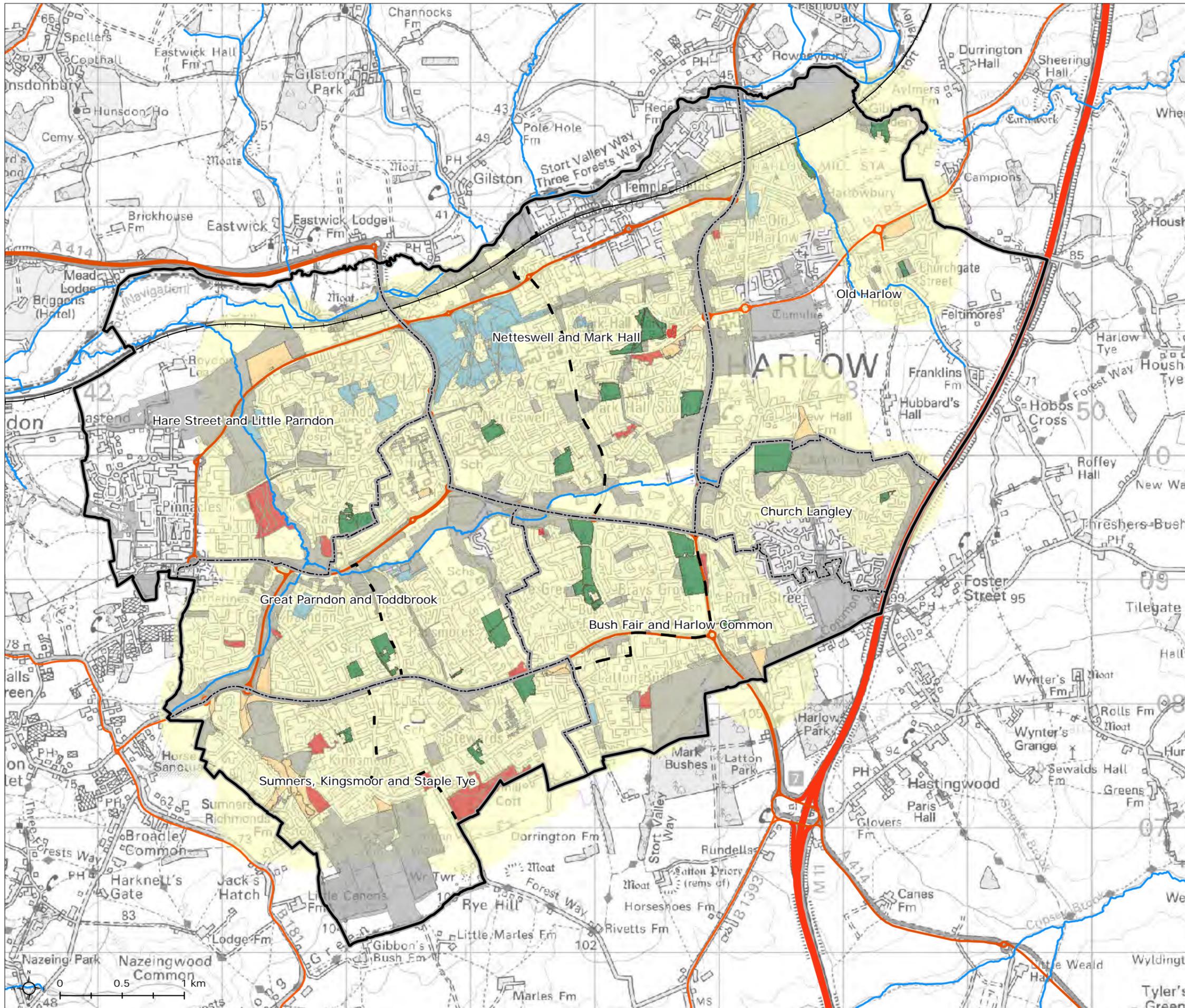
 Main rivers

 Motorway

 A Road

 B Road

 Railway line



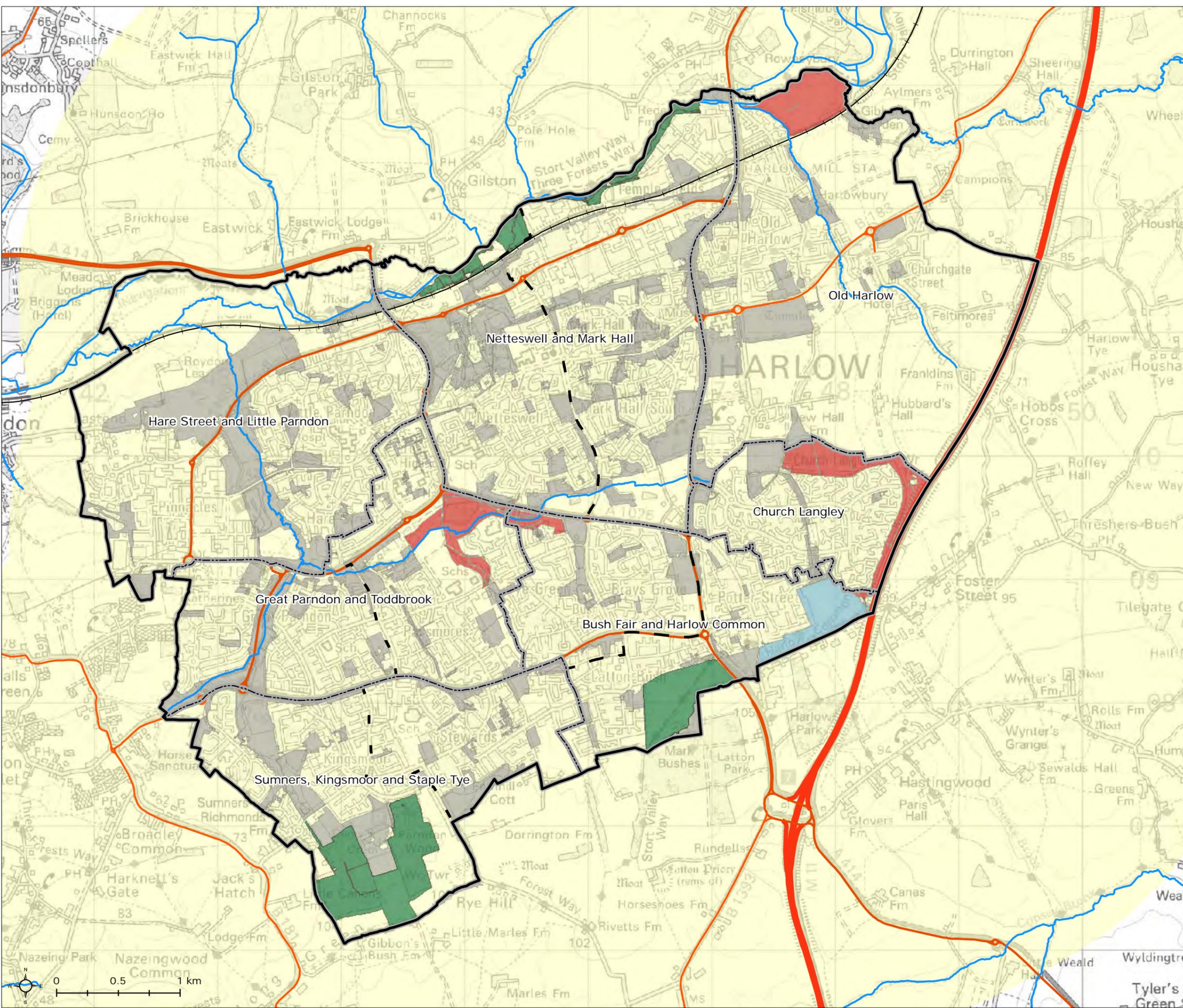
Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

 for Harlow District Council

Figure 6.3

Value, Quality and Accessibility Standards
 B1: District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

- B1: Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold
- Above Value / Above Quality (++)
 - Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
 - Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
 - Below Value / Below Quality (- -)
 - Other Open Space
 - 3.2km from B1. District Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
- Harlow Boundary
 - Neighbourhood Areas
 - Ward Boundaries
 - Main rivers
 - Motorway
 - A Road
 - B Road
 - Railway line



Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

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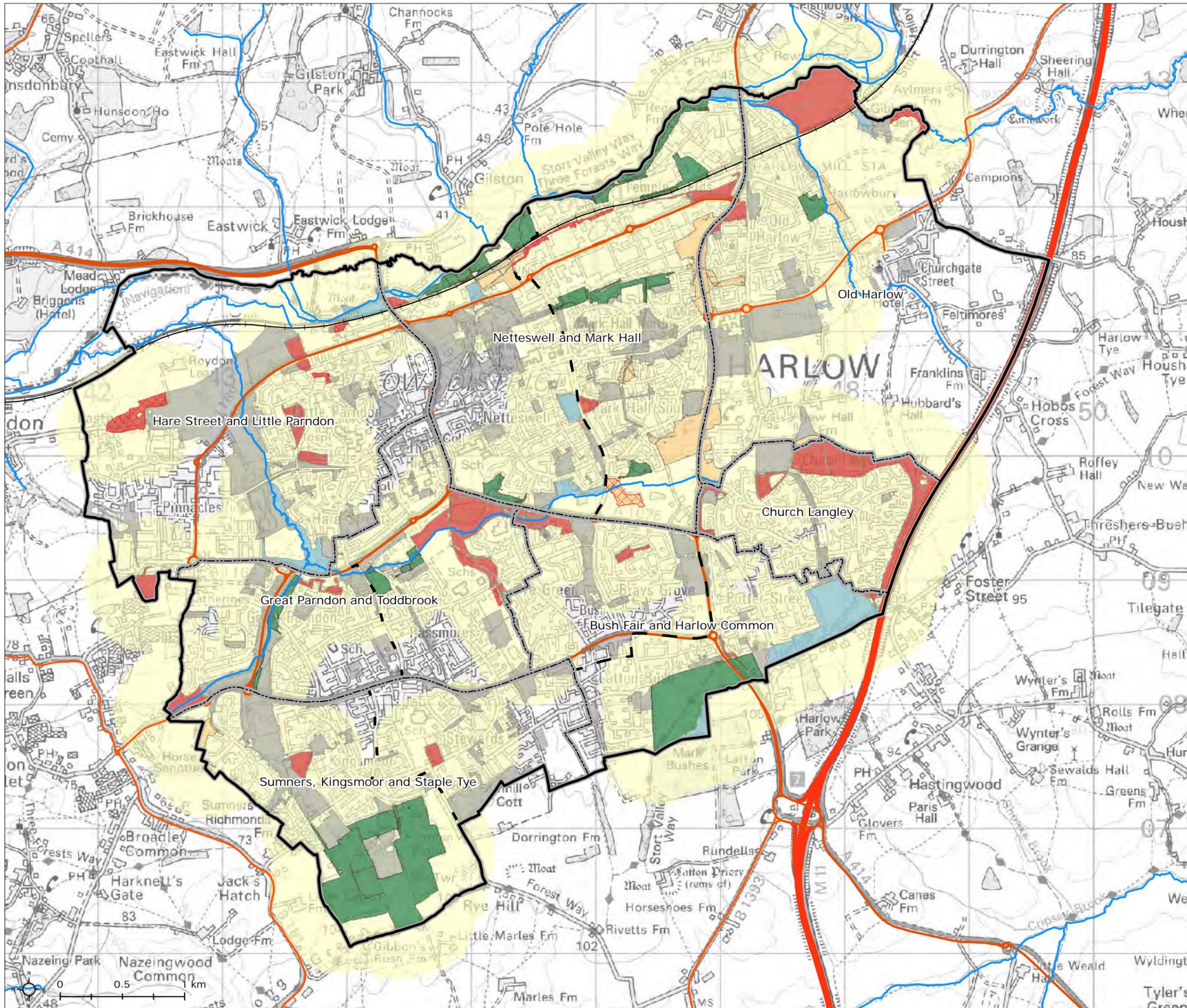
LUC LDN 5315-01_034_B1_District_NSNGS2_RevA 26/06/2013

Source:

Figure 6.4

Value, Quality and Accessibility Standards
B2: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

-  B1 or B2 site with no public access
- B1 and B2: Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold**
-  Above Value / Above Quality(++)
-  Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
-  Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
-  Below Value / Below Quality (- -)
-  Other Open Space
-  400m from B1 and B2 Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
-  Harlow Boundary
-  Neighbourhood Areas
-  Ward Boundaries
-  Main rivers
-  Motorway
-  A Road
-  B Road
-  Railway line



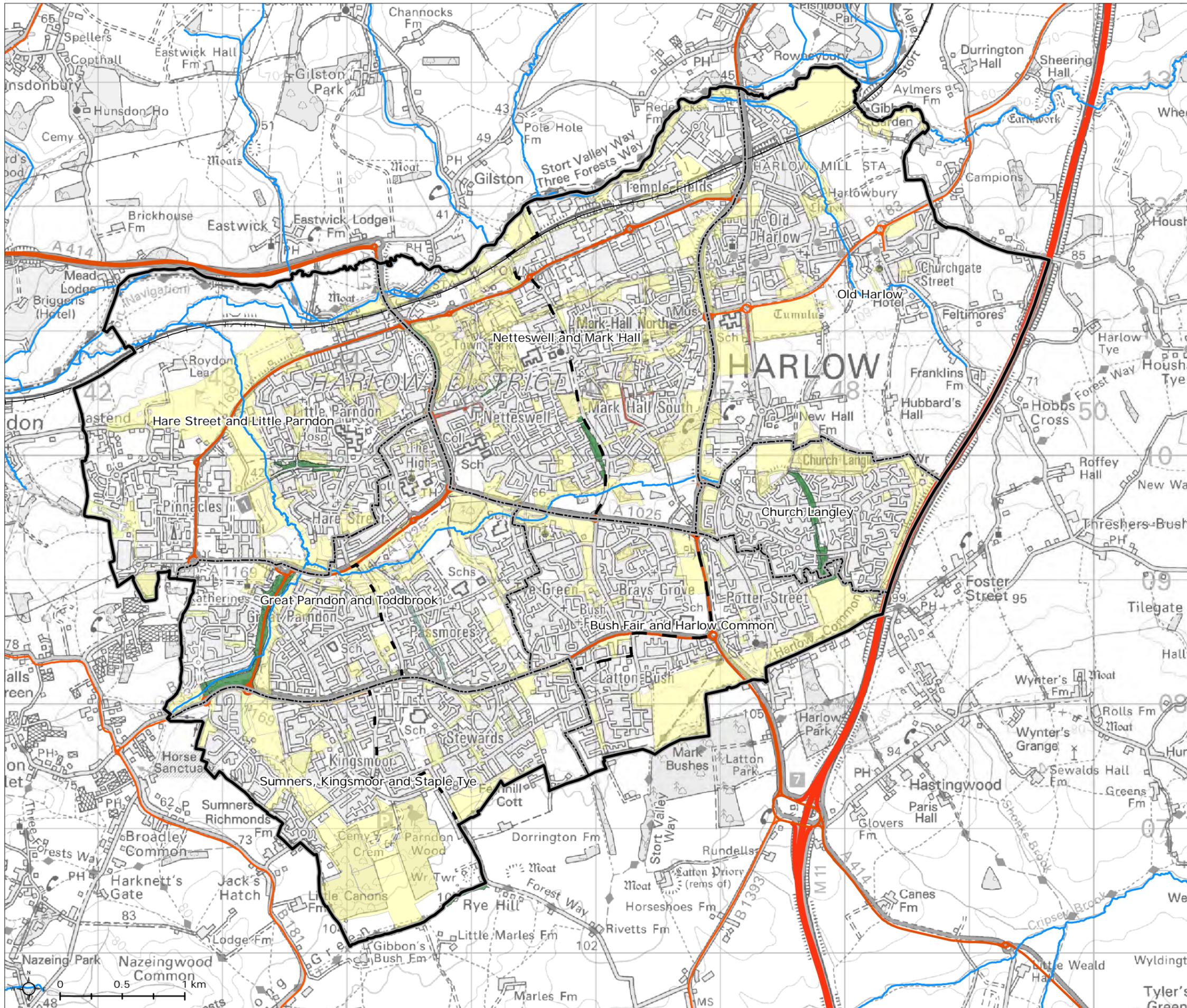
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Figure 6.5

Value and Quality Standards
C: Green Corridors

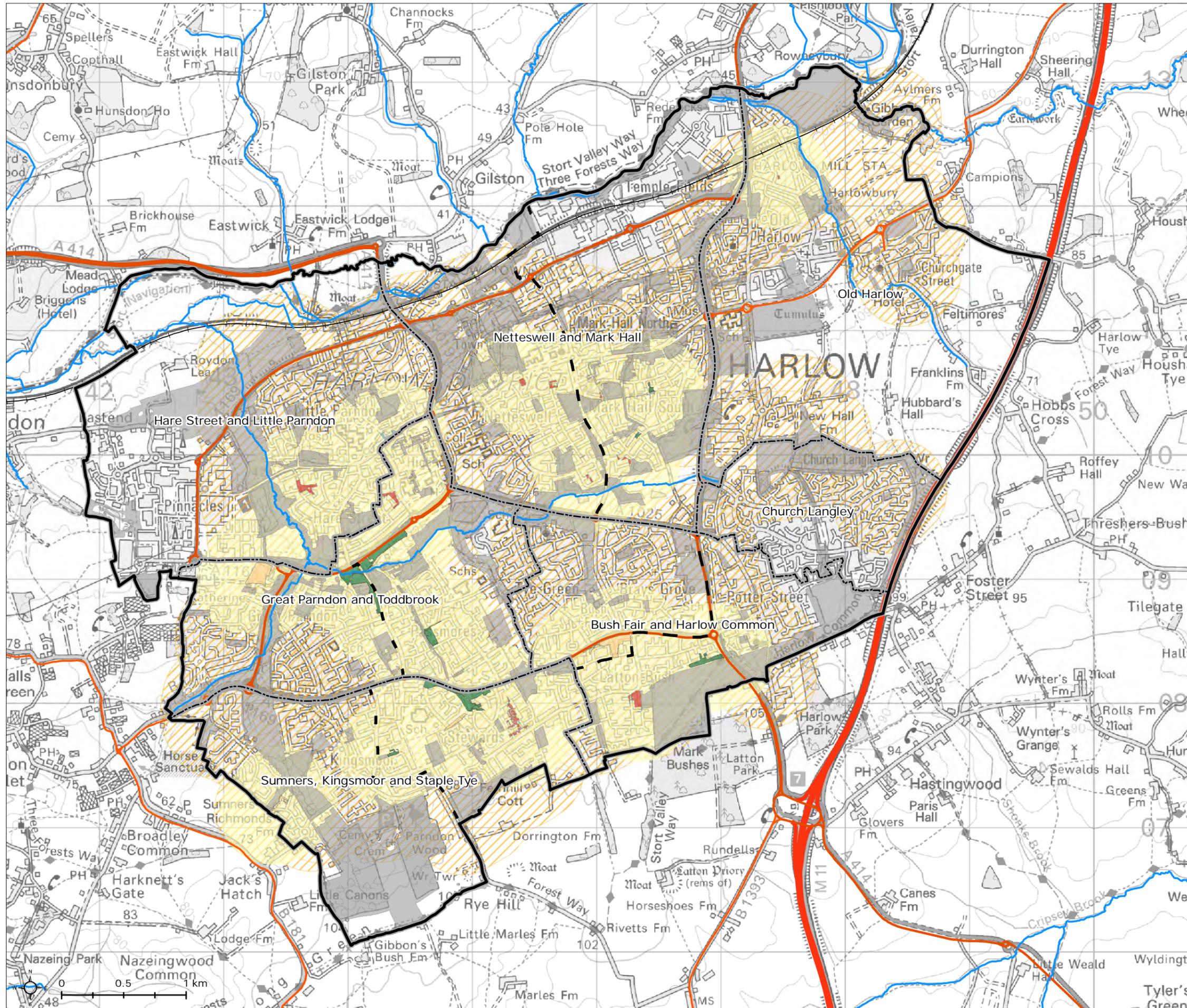
-  C site with no public access
- C: Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold**
-  Above Value / Above Quality (++)
-  Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
-  Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
-  Below Value / Below Quality (- -)
-  Harlow Boundary
-  Neighbourhood Areas
-  Ward Boundaries
-  Main rivers
-  Other open space
-  Motorway
-  A Road
-  B Road
-  Railway line

Note: Accessibility standards are not applicable for this category of open space



Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

Figure 6.6
Value, Quality and Accessibility Standards
D: Amenity Green Space



D: Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

- Above Value / Above Quality (++)
- Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
- Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
- Below Value / Below Quality (- -)
- Other Open Space
- 400m from D. Amenity Green Space
- 400m from equivalent open space (A1 or A2)
- Harlow Boundary
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Main rivers
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- Railway line

Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

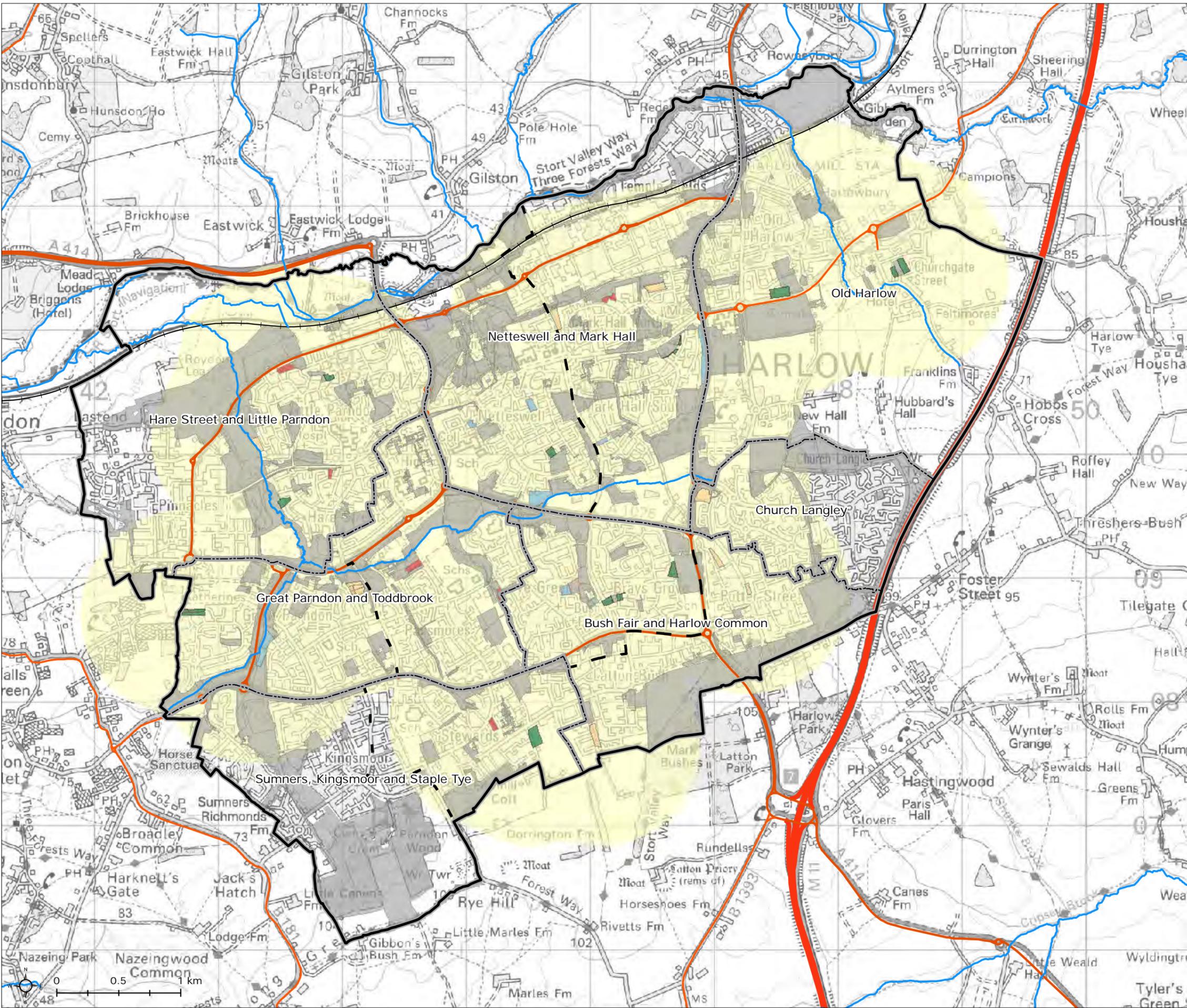
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Figure 6.7

Value, Quality and Accessibility Standards
E: Allotments

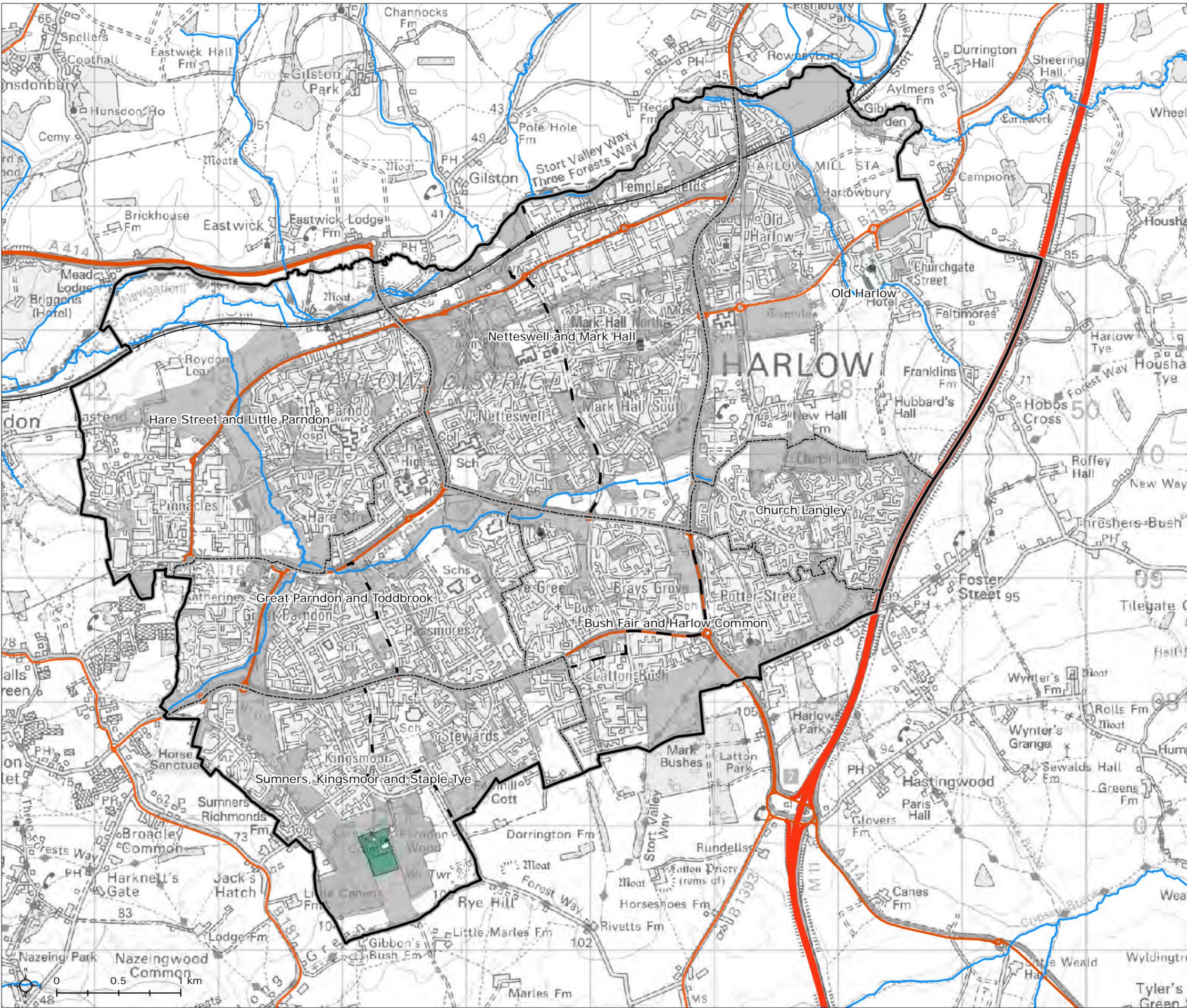
-  Harlow Boundary
 -  Neighbourhood Areas
 -  Ward Boundaries
 -  Main rivers
 -  Motorway
 -  A Road
 -  B Road
 -  Railway line
- E: Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold
-  Above Value / Above Quality(++)
 -  Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
 -  Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
 -  Below Value / Below Quality (- -)
 -  Other Open Space
 -  800m from E. Allotments



Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

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Figure 6.8
Value and Quality Standards
F: Cemeteries and Churchyards



F: Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold

- Above Value / Above Quality (++)
- Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
- Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
- Below Value / Below Quality (- -)
- Other Open Space
- Harlow Boundary
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Main rivers
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- Railway line

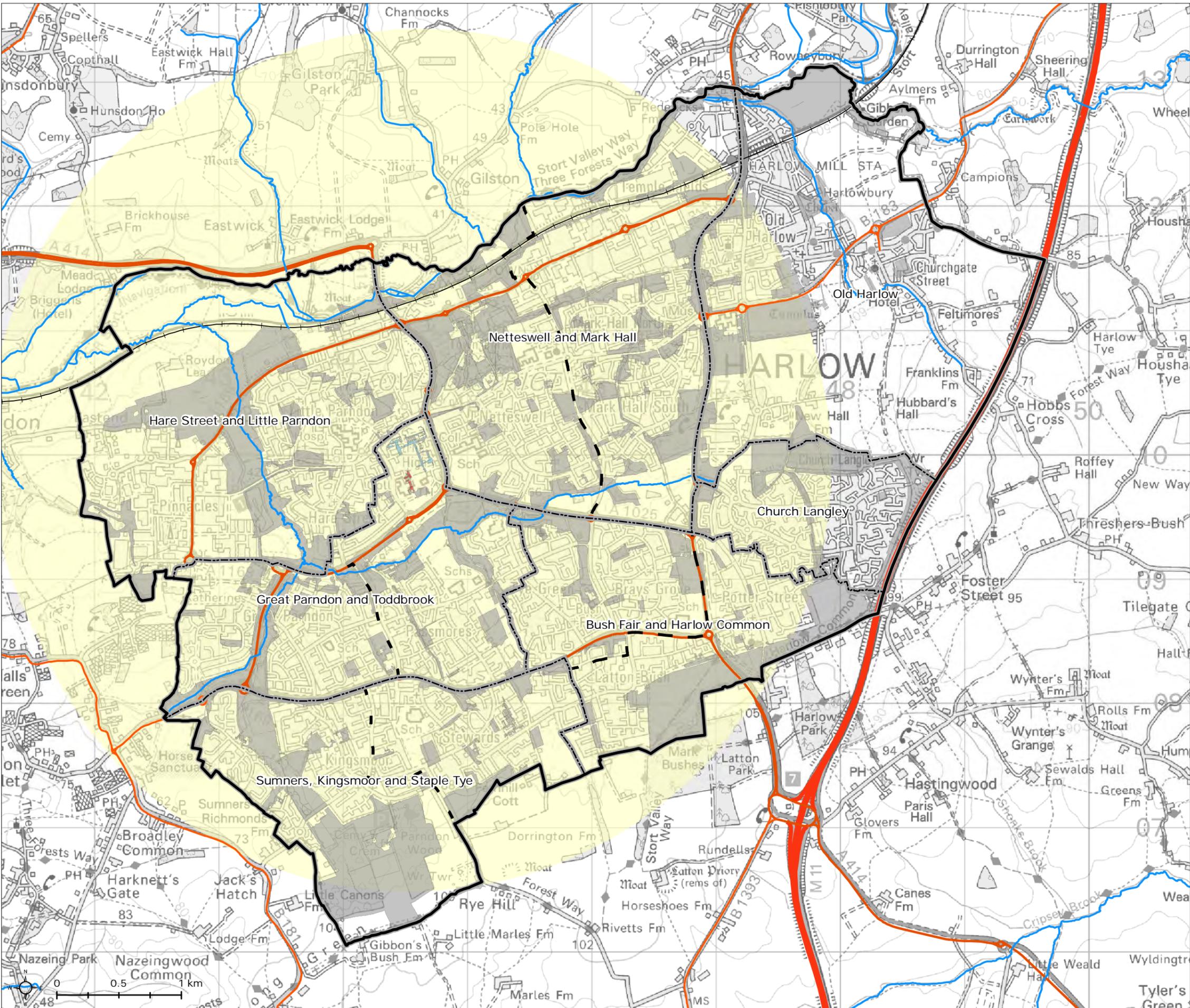
Note: Accessibility standards are not applicable for this category of open space

Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

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Figure 6.9
Value, Quality and Accessibility Standards
G1: District Civic Space



- G1: Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold
- Above Value / Above Quality(++)
 - Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
 - Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
 - Below Value / Below Quality (- -)
 - Other Open Space
 - 3.2km from G1. District Civic Space
 - Harlow Boundary
 - Neighbourhood Areas
 - Ward Boundaries
 - Main rivers
 - Motorway
 - A Road
 - B Road
 - Railway line

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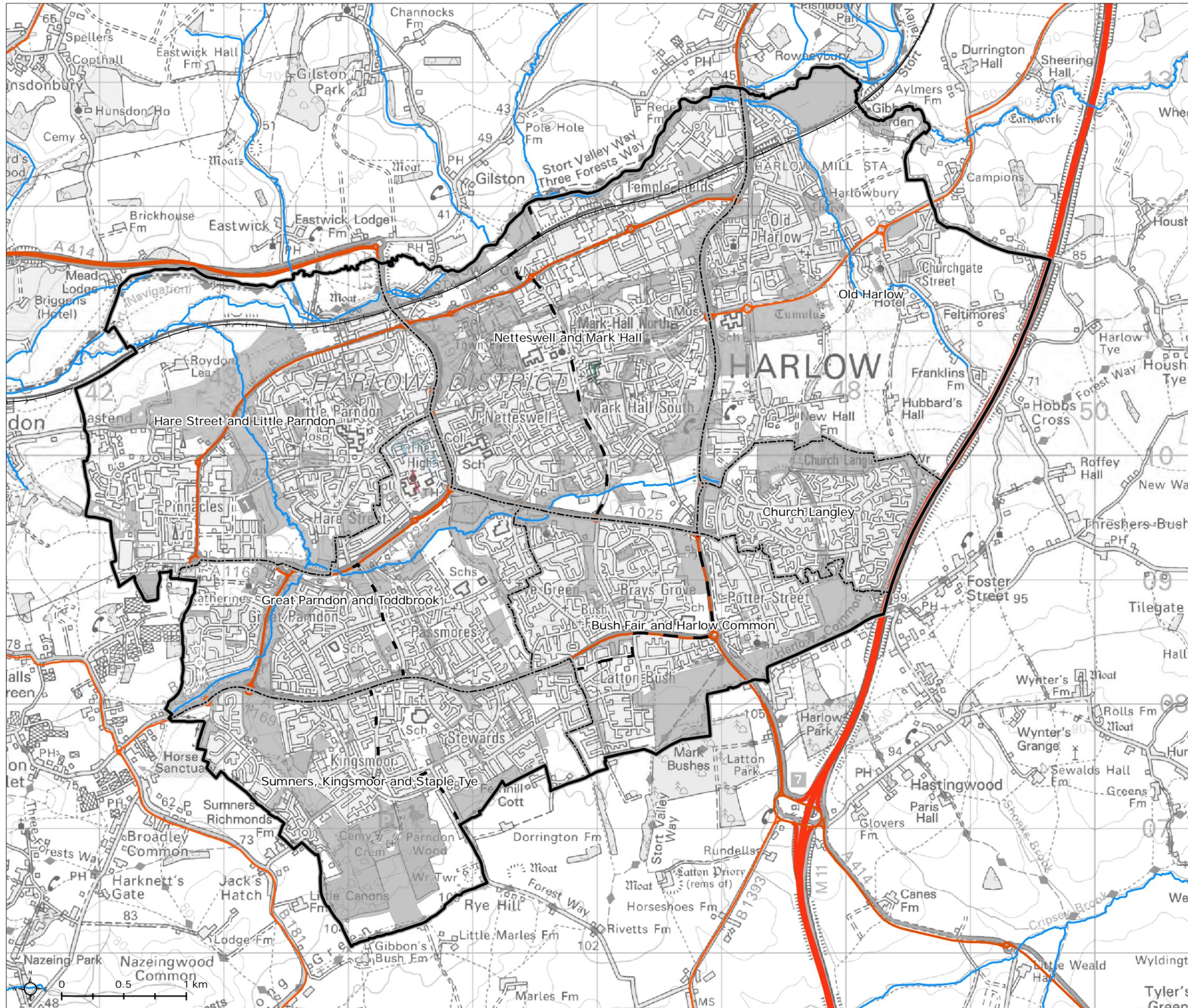
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LUC LDN 5315-01_041_G1_District_Civic_Space 19/03/2013

Source:

Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 6.10
Value and Quality Standards
G2: Local Civic Space



G1 and G2: Value and Quality Rating
Relative to Threshold

- Above Value / Above Quality (++)
- Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
- Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
- Below Value / Below Quality (- -)
- Other Open Space
- Harlow Boundary
- Neighbourhood Areas
- Ward Boundaries
- Main rivers
- Motorway
- A Road
- B Road
- Railway line

Note: Accessibility standards are not applicable for this category of open space

Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

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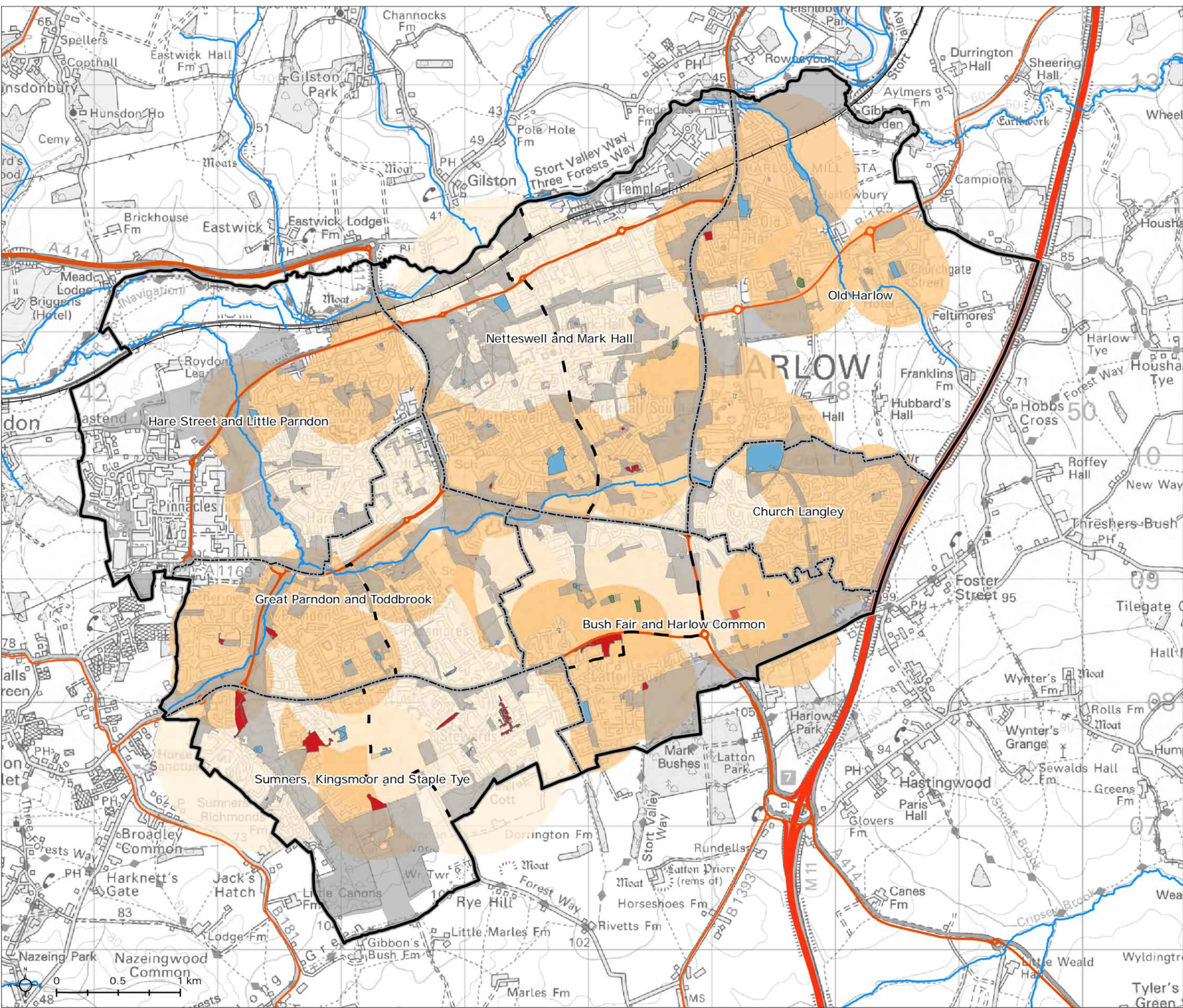
Harlow Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study

Figure 6.11

Value, Quality and Accessibility Standards
 H: Provision for Children / Young People

- Harlow Boundary
 - Neighbourhood Areas
 - Ward Boundaries
 - Main rivers
 - Motorway
 - A Road
 - B Road
 - Railway line
- H: Value and Quality Rating Relative to Threshold*
- Above Value / Above Quality(++)
 - Above Value / Below Quality (+ -)
 - Below Value / Above Quality (- +)
 - Below Value / Below Quality (- -)
 - Not assessed
 - Other Open Space
 - 400m from a LAP or LEAP
 - 800m from a NEAP

*Where provision of this type is a secondary typology, the Value and Quality ratings reflect those of the 'parent site'.



Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

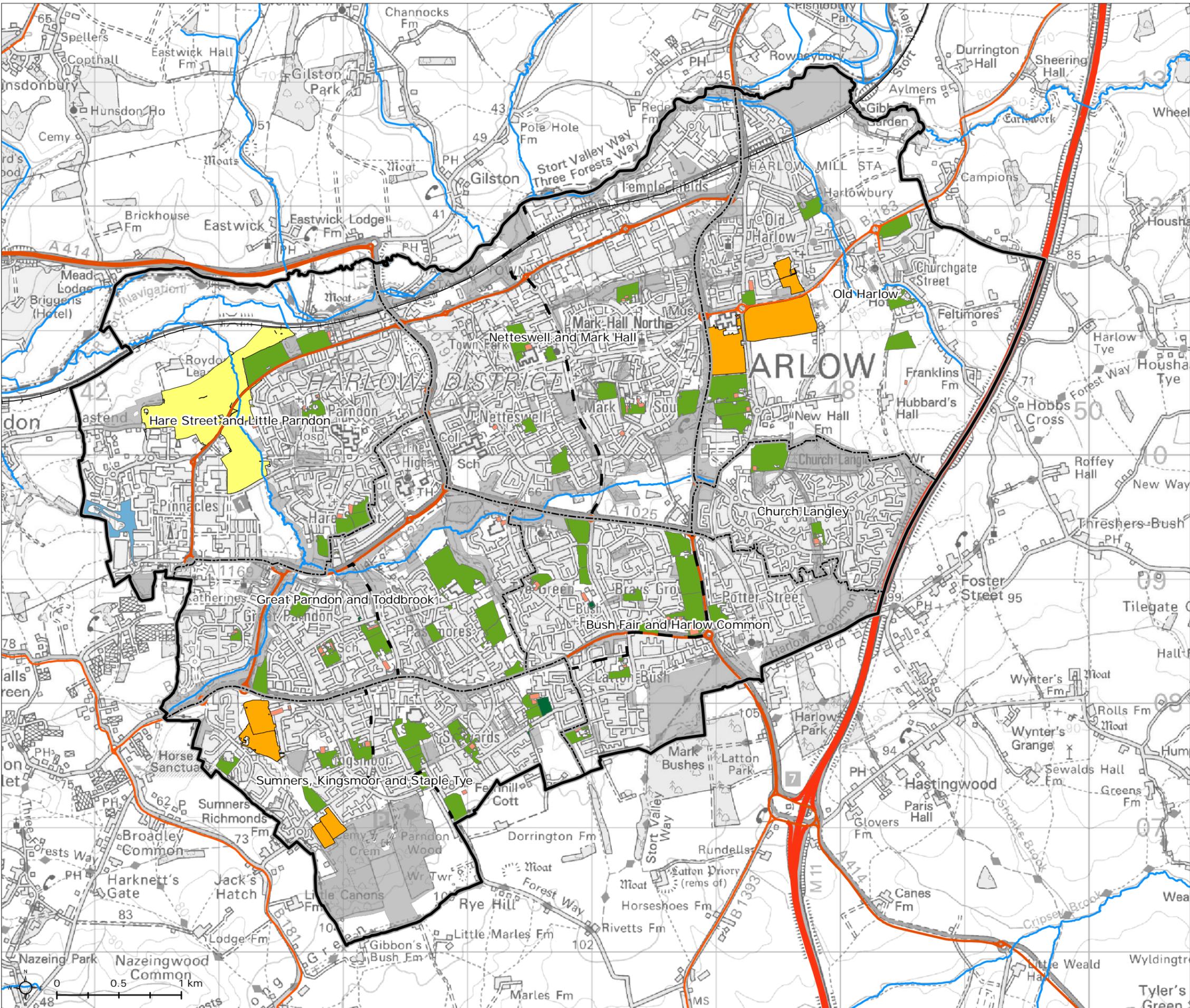
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Figure 6.12

Outdoor Sports Facilities Provision

-  Harlow Boundary
-  Neighbourhood Areas
-  Ward Boundaries
-  Main rivers
-  Motorway
-  A Road
-  B Road
-  Railway line
-  Golf Course
-  Sports Clubs / Centres / Grounds
-  Fishing Lakes
-  Bowls Green
-  Grass playing field
-  Hard Tennis Court/MUGA
-  Other Open Space



Map Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

LUC for Harlow District Council