



INSPLACE PLANNING LTD

**East Dorset District Council
PPG17 Open Space Study**

Section 6

**Area Profile:
Sturminster Marshall**

May 2007

STRUCTURE

1.0 DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL NEED AREA

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROVISION AND QUALITY OF OPEN SPACE

2.1 Open space within Sturminster Marshall

2.2 Quality of sites:

2.2.1 Active Sports Space

2.2.2 Space for Children and Young People

2.2.3 Amenity Green Space

2.2.4 Natural and Semi Natural Green Space and Green Corridors

2.2.5 Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens

2.2.6 Education Outdoor Sports Facilities

3.0 SUMMARY OF ACCESSIBILITY

3.1 Overall access to open space

3.2 Access to different types of open space

4.0 FINDINGS FROM SURVEY AND CONSULTATION

5.0 QUANTITY OF OPEN SPACE

5.1 Quantity standards of open space

5.2 Quantities of different types of open space

5.3 Key Points: Quantitative Provision of Open Space

6.0 ISSUES ARISING

LOCAL NEED AREA – STURMINSTER MARSHALL

1.0 DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL NEED AREA

Sturminster Marshall is the most westerly of the main settlements of East Dorset District. It is a large village, lying between the River Stour to the north and the A350 to the south west. The more northerly parts of the settlement fall within the flood plain of the river. The River Winterborne flows from the southwest to join the Stour just to the north of the village adding, in the past, to the local flooding problems. In 1993 a flood protection scheme was completed by the National Rivers Authority.

The southern parts of the village are on gently rising ground above the flood plain. The A350 which passes through this part of the village is a main route from Poole to Bristol and the north-west and creates substantial problems of noise, danger and pollution in this part of the village. The former Somerset and Dorset railway runs parallel to the A350 through the centre of the village. The northern part of the village, north of King Street and including the Market Place and the church, has been declared a Conservation Area.

The existing village hall has been rebuilt and extended on its present site to provide adequate facilities for the growing village. It includes changing rooms which can serve users of the Churchill Close playing field. The Local Plan states that additional sports pitches will also be needed to meet demand in the longer term. A proposal for the development of a new sports pitch area is therefore included, of a sufficient size to accommodate a cricket oval and other pitches, located in the Green Belt adjoining Station Road on a site which will be easily accessible on foot from all parts of the village, and by car from the main road network. The land, while relatively level, is outside the area prone to flood.

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROVISION AND QUALITY OF OPEN SPACE

2.1 Open Space within Sturminster Marshall

The Map shows the location and typology of open space within Sturminster Marshall. The following sites have been mapped; many were included in the quality audits; detailed scores of the assessments are held on the GIS database and should be referred to as required.

Amenity greenspace adj to 26 and 28 Tattershall Gardens and 63 High Street
Amenity greenspace adj to 26, 26a, 26b Churchill Close and 65 High Street (verge)
Amenity greenspace adj to 3 Balls Lane (verge)
Amenity greenspace adj to 45 King's Street (in Churchill Close)
Amenity greenspace adj to 54 Churchill Close
Amenity greenspace adj to 58 Churchill Close (verge)
Amenity greenspace adj to 6 Balls Lane (verge)
Amenity greenspace adj to 7 and 9 Tattershall Gardens in Railway Drive (verge)
Amenity greenspace adj to 70 Churchill Close (verge)
Amenity greenspace adj to Stourfield and 2 King's Street
Amenity greenspace adjacent to Proposed Sports Field

Amenity greenspace on NE of Railway Drive near junction with roundabout (verge)
 Amenity greenspace on SW of Railway Drive (verge)
 Bartons Ground amenity greenspace
 Church Green, Church Street
 Church Hall (Youth Club meets)
 Churchill Close Play Area (LEAP)
 Dorset's Little Gem Golf Course
 Maypole Green, Front Lane
 Proposed Sports Field at Station Road
 Re-use of former Railway line for a Trailway
 St Mary's Churchyard, Sturminster Marshall
 Sturminster Marshall First School Hall
 Sturminster Marshall First School playing fields
 Sturminster Marshall First School Swimming Pool
 Teenage Shelter, Church Lane
 The Green, Churchill Close - Playing Field
 The Memorial Hall
 Village Green, King's Street
 Walnut Tree Field, Back Lane

2.2 Quality of sites in Sturminster Marshall

In the following lists 'n/s' means 'Not scored'.

2.2.1 Active Sports Space

No standalone sports spaces were identified within Sturminster Marshall

2.2.2 Space for Children and Young People

Site	Quality
Churchill Close Play Area (LEAP)	95.8 %
Teenage Shelter	33.3 %

The play provision at Churchill Close is very good, the facility is well used and in excellent condition. The teenage shelter is in very poor condition and requires urgent attention.

2.2.3 Amenity Green Space

Site	Quality
Amenity greenspace adj to 26 and 28 Tattershall Gardens and 63 High Street	n/s
Amenity greenspace adj to 26, 26a, 26b Churchill Close and 65 High Street	n/s
Amenity greenspace adj to 3 Balls Lane (verge)	n/s
Amenity greenspace adj to 45 King's Street (in Churchill Close)	n/s
Amenity greenspace adj to 54 Churchill Close	n/s
Amenity greenspace adj to 58 Churchill Close (verge)	n/s
Amenity greenspace adj to 6 Balls Lane (verge)	n/s
Amenity greenspace adj to 7 and 9 Tattershall Gardens in Railway Drive	n/s
Amenity greenspace adj to 70 Churchill Close (verge)	n/s

Amenity greenspace adj to Stourfield and 2 King's Street	n/s
Amenity greenspace adjacent to Proposed Sports Field	n/s
Amenity greenspace on NE of Railway Drive near junction with roundabout	n/s
Amenity greenspace on SW of Railway Drive (verge)	n/s
Bartons Ground amenity greenspace	59.2 %
Church Green, Church Street	66.7 %
Maypole Green, Front Lane	85.0 %
Village Green, King's Street	78.3 %
Walnut Tree Field, Back Lane	81.2 %

In general, the management and maintenance of amenity green spaces that were assessed across Sturminster Marshall is adequate. Bartons Ground amenity greenspace requires improvement (59.2 %).

2.2.4 Natural & Semi Natural Space and Green Corridors.

No Natural & Semi Natural Green Space and Green Corridors were identified in the area.

2.2.5 Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens

Site	Quality
The Green, Churchill Close - Playing Field	68.0 %

The Recreation Ground at Church Close is in reasonable condition. Maintenance may be improved; the site is well used and should be of higher quality.

2.2.6 Education Outdoor Sports Facilities

Site	Quality
Sturminster Marshall First School playing fields	n/s

The playing fields at Sturminster Marshall First School have not been assessed.

3.0 SUMMARY OF ACCESSIBILITY TO OPEN SPACE

3.1 Overall access to open space

Section 5 of the report outlines access standards to different types of open space within the Local Need Area, a summary of the main standards is shown in Table 2:

Table 2 Access standards for open space

Typology	Access Standard
Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens	450 metres
Amenity Green Space	450 metres
Natural & Semi Natural Green space	600 metres
Space for Children	450 metres
Space for Young People	450 metres
Active Sports Space	600 Metres
Routeway/Green Corridor	n/a
Cemetery and churchyards	n/a
Allotments	n/a

The accompanying Maps show local access standards for the various typologies (i.e. Space for Children and Young People, Amenity Open Space, Natural and Semi Natural Green Space, Active Sports Space and Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens).

3.2 Access to different types of open space

Table 3 makes observations on access to different types of open space within the catchment area, using the adopted access standards, as shown in the accompanying maps.

Table 3 Access to open space in the area

Typology	Provision against access standard
Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens	Access standard almost met apart from north of LNA.
Amenity Green Space	Access standard met in built up area
Natural & Semi Natural Green Space	No natural and semi natural greenspace recorded; access standard not met
Space for Children	Only one site on Recreation Ground. North of LNA poorly served.
Space for Young People	As above
Active Sports Space	Access standards met
Routeway/Green Corridor	No standards set
Cemetery and churchyards	No standards set
Allotments	No standards set

4.0 FINDINGS FROM SURVEY AND CONSULTATION

Citizen's Panel

3 people living in Sturminster Marshall responded – placed in Rural Sub Area (51 in total). People living in the Rural Sub Area are more frequent (compared to the district as a whole) visitors to local playing fields, recreation footpaths, spaces to enjoy nature and wildlife and sports centres and community halls, and less frequent visitors to local recreation ground or park, cycle paths, coast and beaches and swimming pools and health and fitness centres

The types of open space respondents would like to see more of in the Rural Sub Area are children's play areas, space for teenagers.

The most important attributes of open space are that they should be easy to get to, safe and free from noise and unsocial behaviour and the most important facilities to have in nearby open space areas are: teenage facilities, trees and toilets. Around half of respondents would like to use open spaces near them more often: more information would be important in encouraging this. Comments received: one person mentioned that tennis courts would be good.

Summary of Provision

There are three main open space sites:

- The Green, Churchill Close: play area, teenage shelter and pitches – one senior and one junior football and cricket pitch Home to Sturminster Marshall FC 1st and 2nd XI, Sturminster Marshall Youth FC: U16,15x2,14,11,4xminis and Sturminster Marshall CC – 1st XI, midweek. Looks thriving little ground.
- Walnut Tree field, Back lane – informal riverside open space in north of village, and
- Sturminster Marshall First School playing fields.

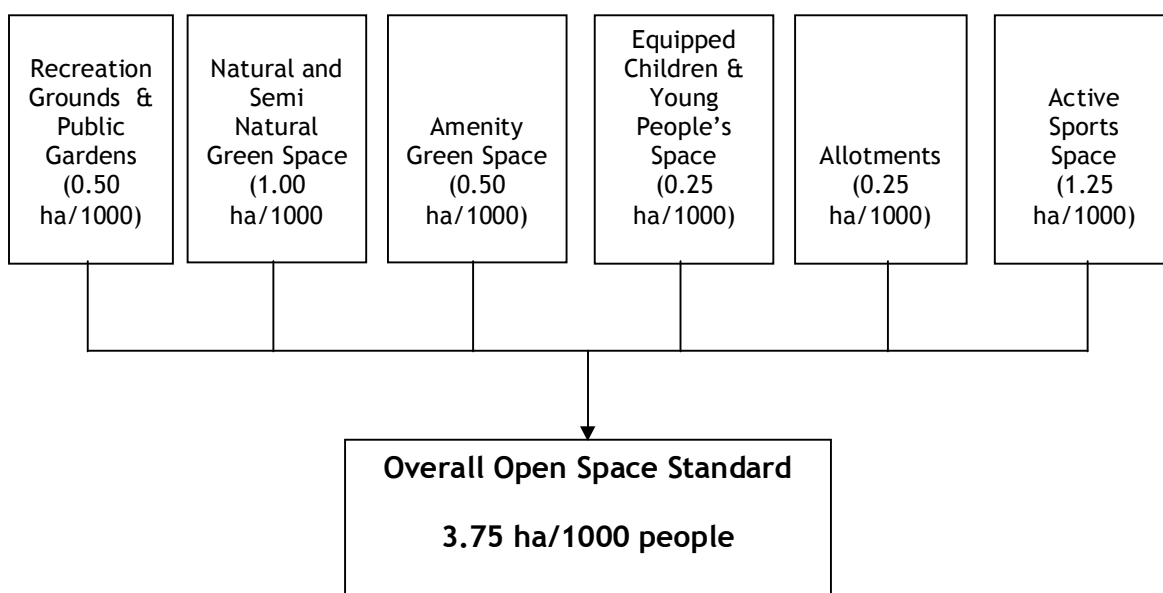
Parish Council

Most used open space in the parish is Churchill Green, which the PC maintains, together with the play area and all other greens in village envelope; employs contractors

5.0 QUANTITY OF OPEN SPACE

5.1 Quantity standards for open space

Section 5 of the report outlines the quantity standards for open space within the District; a summary of these draft minimum standards is shown below:



5.2 Quantities of different types of open space

These standards have been applied at a local level to determine the provision of different types of open space across the adopted minimum standard, this is summarised in Table 4 which shows:

- the existing quantity of open space (existing provision);
- the required quantity of open space for the population of the area (required provision);
- the surplus or deficiency of open space (in m² and acres);
- Supply against the standard.

Table 4 Quantities of open space within the area – STURMINSTER MARSHALL (Pop. 1895)

Typology	Existing provision (m²)	Required provision (m²)	Area of open space above/below the recommended minimum level of provision (m²) / (ha)
Recreation Grounds & Public Gardens	23725	9475	14250m / 1.4ha
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	0	18950	-18950m / -1.8ha
Active Sports Space	0	23688	-23688m / -2.37ha
Space for Children & Young People	371.18	4737	-4365m / -0.44ha
Amenity Green Space	34026	9475	24551m / 2.4ha
Allotments	0	4737	-4737 / -0.47ha

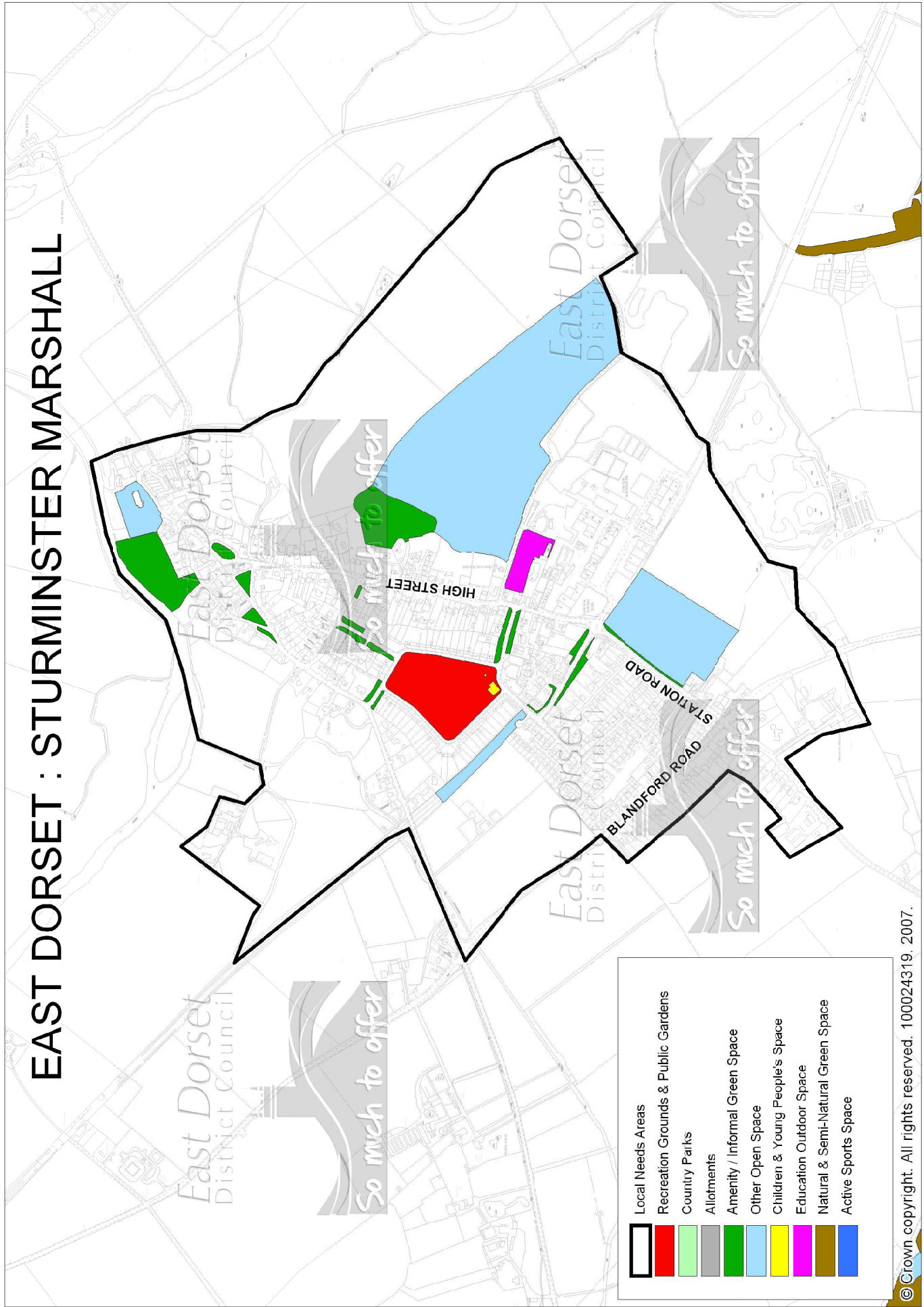
5.3 Key Points: Quantitative Provision of Open Space in Woodlands Whitmore

Sturminster Marshall is relatively well provided for by Recreation Grounds and Amenity Open Space, but there is no Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace actually within the LNA. The LNA is also underprovided for with Space for Children and Young People and has no Active Sports Space.

6.0 ISSUES ARISING IN STURMINSTER MARSHALL

- Sturminster Marshall is a sizeable village and although it has a good recreation ground, there is a need for other provision.
- There is only one play area and the north of the village is a long way from this. It may be that the natural areas at Walnut Tree Field could also provide something more structured.
- The possibilities of using the school's facilities should be investigated, such as their netball courts.
- An area is proposed for playing fields to the south of the village.
- A multi use games area to be considered, to support the footballing activity and as a resource for young people.
- Further provision for teenagers required.

EAST DORSET : STURMINSTER MARSHALL



	Local Needs Areas
	Recreation Grounds & Public Gardens
	Country Parks
	Allotments
	Amenity / Informal Green Space
	Other Open Space
	Children & Young People's Space
	Education Outdoor Space
	Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space
	Active Sports Space