

National Playing Fields Association – Six Acre Standard

Outdoor Sports Provision and Children’s Playing Space

When mapping the distance thresholds and catchment zones for outdoor sports provision and provision for children and young people the National Playing Fields Association standards were used.

This meant that certain sites identified in the green space audit could not be used, such as the Saffron Walden Golf Course as golf courses are excluded in the NPFA standards. Also where possible sites with multi uses such as outdoor sports sites with separate children’s playgrounds have been split. This was only possible where the base map showed the children’s playground as a separate block.

A list of the sites which have been split for the purpose of this exercise are listed below.

Site name/address	Audit category	Separated from rest of the site	New category for separated area
Anglo American Playing Fields, Saffron Walden	Provision for children and young people	Separated basket ball court from the rest of the site	Outdoor sports provision
The Common, Saffron Walden	Parks and Gardens	Separated children’s playground	Children’s playing space
Recreation ground Elsenham	Outdoor sports provision	Separated children’s playground	Children’s playing space
Recreation ground Great Chesterford	Outdoor sports provision	Separated children’s playground	Children’s playing space
Newport	Provision for children and young people	Separated tennis courts	Outdoor sports provision
Playing field Felsted	Outdoor sports provision	Separated children’s playground	Children’s playing space
Playing field Thaxted	Outdoor sports provision	Separated children’s playground	Children’s playing space
The Downs Dunmow	Provision for children and young people	Separated tennis courts	Outdoor sports provision
Recreation ground Dunmow	Outdoor sports provision	Separated children’s playground	Children’s playing space

Uttlesford Playing Space Provision

The National Playing Fields Association Six Acre Standard

Background to the standard:

The NPFA was founded to help ensure that every man, women and child would have the opportunity to access and participate in outdoor recreational facilities.

The NPFA 2.4 ha figure is a general target for the guidance of local authorities and others who wish to:-

- Check that existing provision is adequate and reasonable for the population it is intended to serve and
- To arrive at an appropriate scale of provision for new developments.

The NPFA definition of outdoor playing space:

“Space that is safely accessible and available to the general public, and of a suitable size and nature, for sport, active recreation or children’s play.”

The NPFA breakdown of standard:

Outdoor Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Facilities such as pitches, greens, courts, athletics tracks and miscellaneous sites such as croquet lawns and training areas owned by local authorities at all tiers.➤ Facilities described above within the education sector which are available for public use by written agreement➤ Facilities described above within the voluntary, private, industrial and commercial sectors which serve the leisure time needs for outdoor recreation of their members or the public.	1.6 ha per 1000 population
Children’s Playing Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Designated areas for children and young people containing a range of facilities and an environment that has been designed to provide focused opportunity for outdoor play➤ Casual or informal playing space within housing areas.	0.8 ha per 1000 population
Minimum Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Total playing space	2.4 ha per 1000 population

Playing Space Excluded:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Outdoor sports facilities which are not as a matter of policy and practice available for public use, such as professional sports stadia,➤ Grounds of Her Majesty’s Services unless as a matter of policy and practice and by

- formal agreement they are made available for public use,
- Verges, woodlands, commons, the seashore, nature conservation areas, allotments, ornamental gardens and parks (except for clearly defined areas within them for sports, games, practice and play.)
 - Golf facilities
 - Water used for recreation, except where it forms an interactive feature of an outdoor play area,
 - Sports hall or leisure centres
 - Commercial entertainment complexes such as theme parks
 - Car parks for non recreational use.

Notes:

Sites can not be doubled counted. It is recognised that some sites can be used in a variety of ways, their contribution to the standard is measured in terms of their primary use. Where it has been possible to separate children's playgrounds from the sport use of a site it has been done so.

Only sites identified from the Green Space Audit are included in the following tables. The most up-to-date population figures have been used.

Total Provision of Playing Space per Parish

Parish	Existing Playing Space	Playing Space per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for Parish (Ha)	Surplus/Shortfall for Parish (Ha)
Clavering	2.8	2.4	2.8	0
Dunmow	11.8	1.7	16.8	-5.0
Elsenham	3.7	1.5	5.8	-2.1
Felsted	3.1	1.1	6.8	-3.7
Great Chesterford	3.2	2.2	3.4	-0.2
Hatfield Broad Oak	2.0	1.7	2.8	-0.8
Hatfield Heath	1.6	1.0	4.0	-2.4
Henham	2.6	2.2	2.8	-0.2
Little Hallingbury	2.4	1.7	3.4	-1.0
Newport	4.4	2.2	5.3	-0.9
Saffron Walden	13.0	0.9	36.2	-23.2
Stansted	4.8	0.9	13.3	-8.5
Stebbing	4.5	3.5	3.1	+1.4
Takeley	7.2	3.1	5.5	+1.7
Thaxted	3.9	1.4	6.2	-2.3

Notes:

- Parish Population figures are taken from the 2001 Census, ONS
- NPFA standard = 2.4ha per 1000 population
- Rounding figures may have produced some small anomalies

Total Provision of Playing Space per Ward for the three main towns

Dunmow

Ward	Existing Playing Space (Ha)	Playing Space per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for Ward (Ha)	Surplus/Shortfall for Ward (Ha)
Great Dunmow North	8.2	3.2	6.1	+2.1
Great Dunmow South	3.5	0.8	10.8	-7.3

Saffron Walden

Ward	Existing Playing Space (Ha)	Playing Space per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for Ward (Ha)	Surplus/Shortfall for Ward (Ha)
Saffron Walden Audley	2.0	0.4	11.1	-9.1
Saffron Walden Castle	4.9	1.0	11.7	-6.8
Saffron Walden Shire	6.1	1.2	12.2	-6.1

Stansted

Ward	Existing Playing Space (Ha)	Playing Space per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for Ward (Ha)	Surplus/Shortfall for Ward (Ha)
Stansted North	2.5	0.8	7.6	-5.1
Stansted South	2.3	0.8	6.6	-4.3

Notes:

- Ward Population Figures are taken from the 2002 Mid Year Estimates, ONS
- NPFA standard = 2.4ha per 1000 population
- Rounding figures may have produced some small anomalies

Outdoor Sports Provision per Parish

Parish	Existing Sport Provision (Ha)	Sport Provision per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for parish Ha	Surplus/Shortfall Ha for parish
Clavering	2.8	2.4	1.8	+1.0
Dunmow	8.8	1.3	11.2	-2.4
Elsenham	3.5	1.5	3.8	-0.3
Felsted	2.5	0.9	4.5	-2.0
Great Chesterford	3.0	2.1	2.3	+0.7
Hatfield Broad Oak	1.6	1.4	1.9	-0.3
Hatfield Heath	1.2	0.7	2.7	-1.5
Henham	1.4	1.2	1.9	-0.5
Little Hallingbury	1.2	0.9	2.2	-1.0
Newport	3.6	1.6	3.5	+0.1
Saffron Walden	7.4	0.5	24.2	-16.8
Stansted	2.3	0.4	8.9	-6.6
Stebbing	3.9	3.1	2.1	+1.8
Takeley	6.6	2.9	3.7	+2.9
Thaxted	2.7	1.1	4.1	-1.4

Notes:

- Parish Population figures are taken from the 2001 Census, ONS
- NPFA standard for Outdoor Sports Provision = 1.6ha per 1000 population
- Rounding figures may have produced some small anomalies

Outdoor Sports Provision per Ward for the three major towns.

Wards	Existing Sport Provision (Ha)	Sport Provision per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for Ward (Ha)	Surplus/Shortfall Ha for ward
Great Dunmow North	7.2	2.8	4.1	+3.1
Great Dunmow South	1.6	0.4	7.2	-5.6

Wards	Existing Sport Provision (Ha)	Sport Provision per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for Ward (Ha)	Surplus/Shortfall Ha for ward
Saffron Walden Audley	0.4	0.1	7.4	-7.0
Saffron Walden Castle	3.5	0.7	7.8	-4.3
Saffron Walden Shire	3.6	0.7	8.2	-4.6

Wards	Existing Sport Provision (Ha)	Sport Provision per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for Ward (Ha)	Surplus/Shortfall Ha for ward
Stansted North	2.1	0.7	5.1	-3.0
Stansted South	1.5	0.5	4.4	-2.9

Notes:

- Ward Population Figures are taken from the 2002 Mid Year Estimates, ONS
- NPFA standard for Outdoor Sports Provision = 1.6ha per 1000 population
- Rounding figures may have produced some small anomalies

Children's Playing Space Provision per Parish

Parish	Existing children's play space provision (Ha)	Children's Play Provision per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for parish Ha	Surplus/Shortfall Ha for parish
Clavering	0	0	0.9	-0.9
Dunmow	3	0.4	5.6	-2.6
Elsenham	0.1	0.0	1.9	-1.8
Felsted	0.7	0.2	2.3	-1.6
Great Chesterford	0.2	0.1	1.1	-0.9
Hatfield Broad Oak	0.4	0.3	0.9	-0.5
Hatfield Heath	0.4	0.2	1.3	-0.9
Henham	1.2	1.0	0.9	+0.3
Little Hallingbury	1.2	0.9	1.1	+0.1
Newport	0.8	0.4	1.8	-0.4
Saffron Walden	4.6	0.3	12.1	-7.5
Stansted	1.2	0.2	4.4	-3.2
Stebbing	0.5	0.4	1.0	-0.5
Takeley	0.6	0.3	1.8	-1.2
Thaxted	1.2	0.5	2.1	-0.9

Notes:

- Parish Population figures are taken from the 2001 Census, ONS
- NPFA standard for Playing Space Provision = 0.8ha per 1000 population
- Rounding figures may have produced some small anomalies

Children's Playing Space Provision per Ward for the three main towns

Wards	Existing Children's Play Provision (Ha)	Children's Play Provision per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for Ward (Ha)	Surplus/Shortfall Ha for ward
Great Dunmow North	1.0	0.4	2	-1.0
Great Dunmow South	2.4	0.5	3.6	-1.2

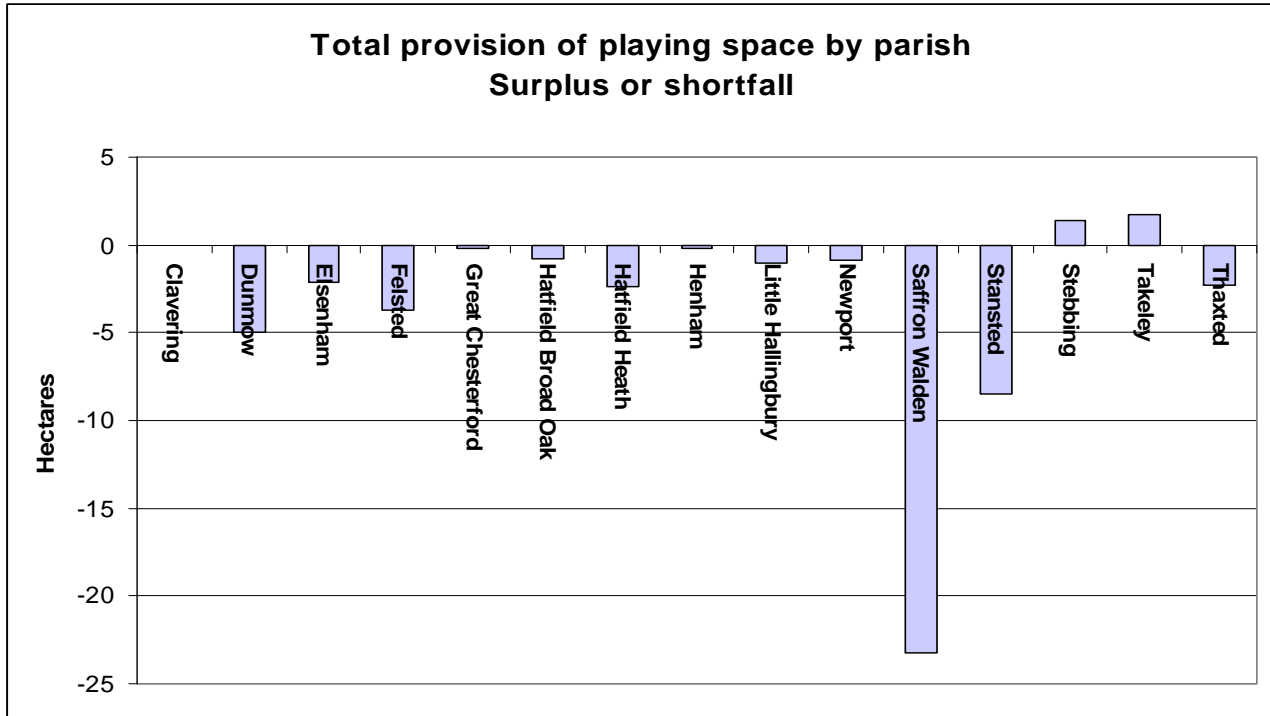
Wards	Existing Children's Play Provision (Ha)	Children's Play Provision per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for parish Ha	Surplus/Shortfall Ha for ward
Saffron Walden Audley	1.7	0.4	3.7	-2.0
Saffron Walden Castle	1.4	0.3	3.9	-2.5
Saffron Walden Shire	2.5	0.5	4.1	-1.6

Wards	Existing Children's Play Provision (Ha)	Children's Play Provision per 1000 pop	NPFA requirement for parish Ha	Surplus/Shortfall Ha for ward
Stansted North	0.4	0.1	2.5	-1.1
Stansted South	0.7	0.3	2.2	-1.5

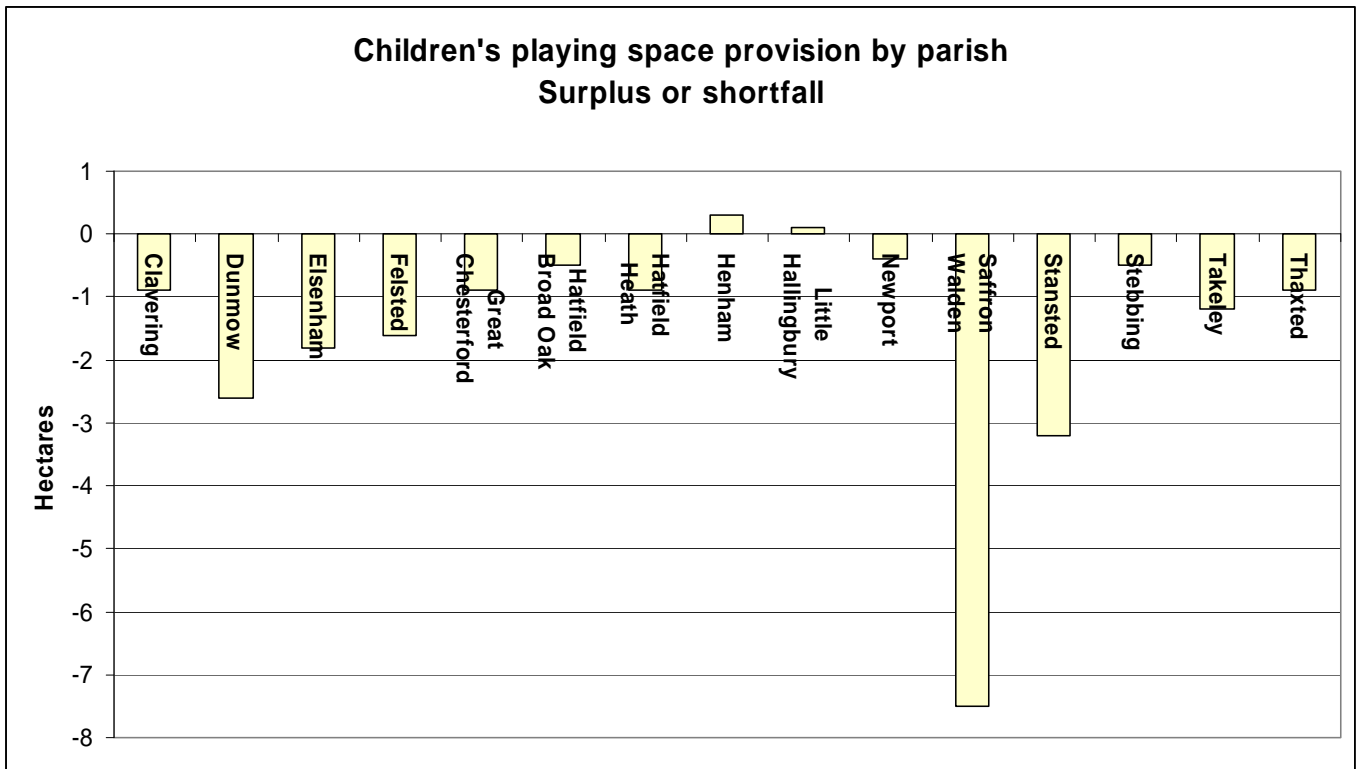
Notes:

- Ward Population Figures are taken from the 2002 Mid Year Estimates, ONS
- NPFA standard for Children's Playing Space Provision = 0.8 per 1000 population
- Rounding figures may have produced some small anomalies

The table below shows that the district has a shortfall of playing space. The only three parishes which met the NPFA standards overall were Clavering, Stebbing and Takeley.



As shown in the graph below it is clear to see that the district has a massive shortfall of children's playing space sites. The only two parishes that show a surplus are Little Hallingbury and Henham.



Again this graph displays that the majority of parishes are short of outdoor sports provision. Only five parishes have a surplus, Clavering, Great Chesterford, Newport, Stebbing and Takeley.

