

# MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART II: CIVIC SPACES

### Introduction

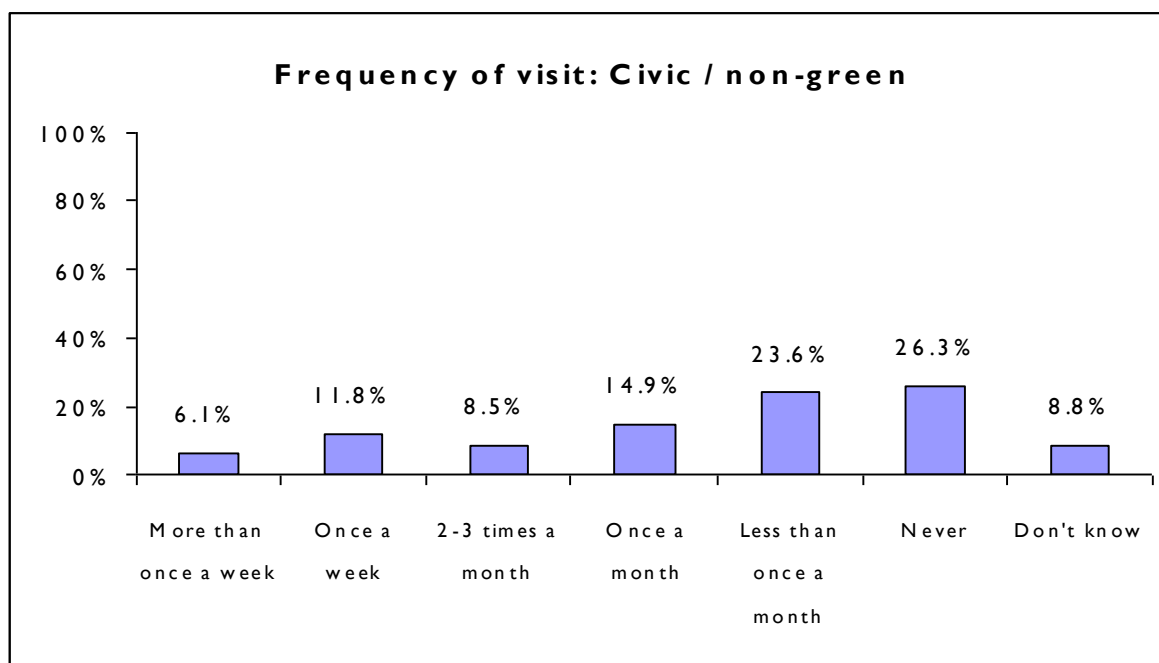
11.1 The typology of civic space, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

### Context

11.2 This section outlines findings from the survey of residents in relation to their use of and attitudes towards the provision of civic spaces in Malvern Hills District. It provides a context for the subsequent sections, which address the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision. Results are provided for the descriptions used in the survey itself.

### Usage

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



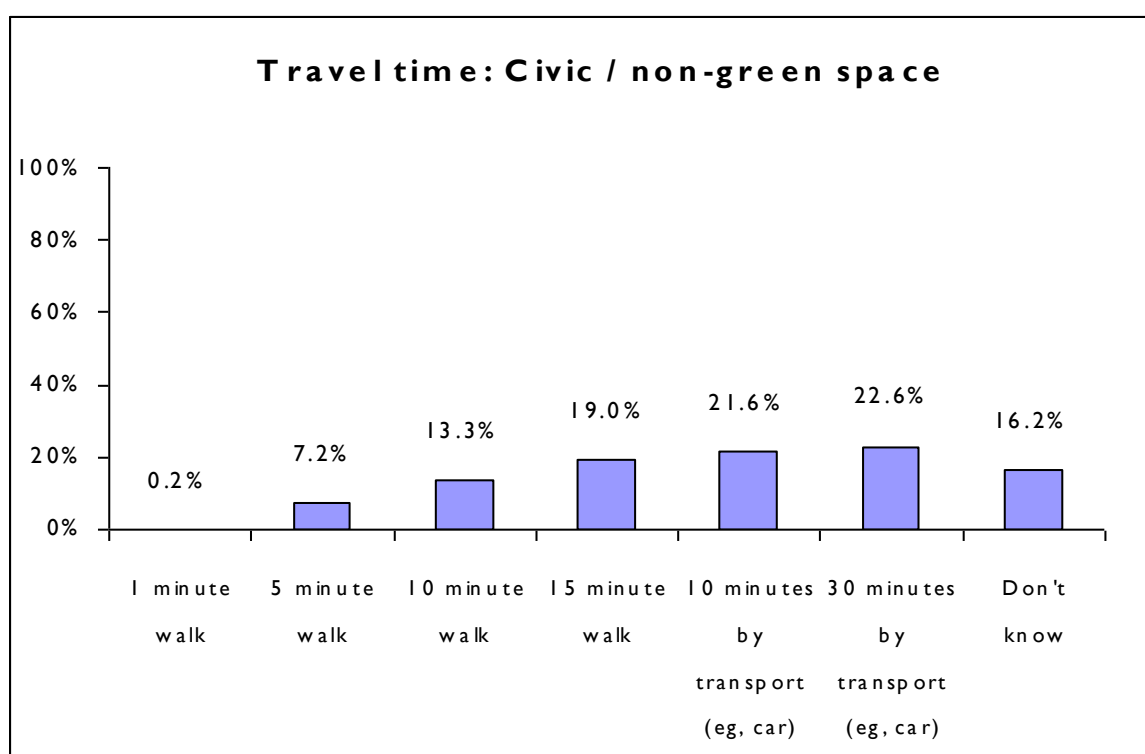
11.3 Overall usage of civic/non-green space in Malvern Hills District is significant (64.9%). Frequency of use varies significantly and reflects patterns normally seen for this typology – a sizeable proportion visits regularly (17.9% once a week or more) and nearly a quarter (23.6%) less than once a month. The latter figure probably relates to attendance at events on such space.

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11.4 Usage is particularly high in Tenbury Town area (78.3%) and consistent in the rest of the District (around 62 – 63%). Frequency is also high in Tenbury with over a third (35.8%) visiting a civic/non green space at least once a week. These figures reflect the fact that the only civic space in Tenbury is a market. Although usage of civic/non green space varies little by age, frequency does increase by age, from 13.5% visiting at least once a week amongst 35 – 44 year olds at 20.5% in the 65+ group.

## Travel time

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



11.5 A significant proportion (44.2%) would be willing to travel up to 30 minutes via the use of transport compared to 39.7% would be willing to walk up to 15 minutes to visit this typology. Figures are reversed in Tenbury, with over two-thirds (68.6%) stating that they would walk up to 15 minutes to access such a space.

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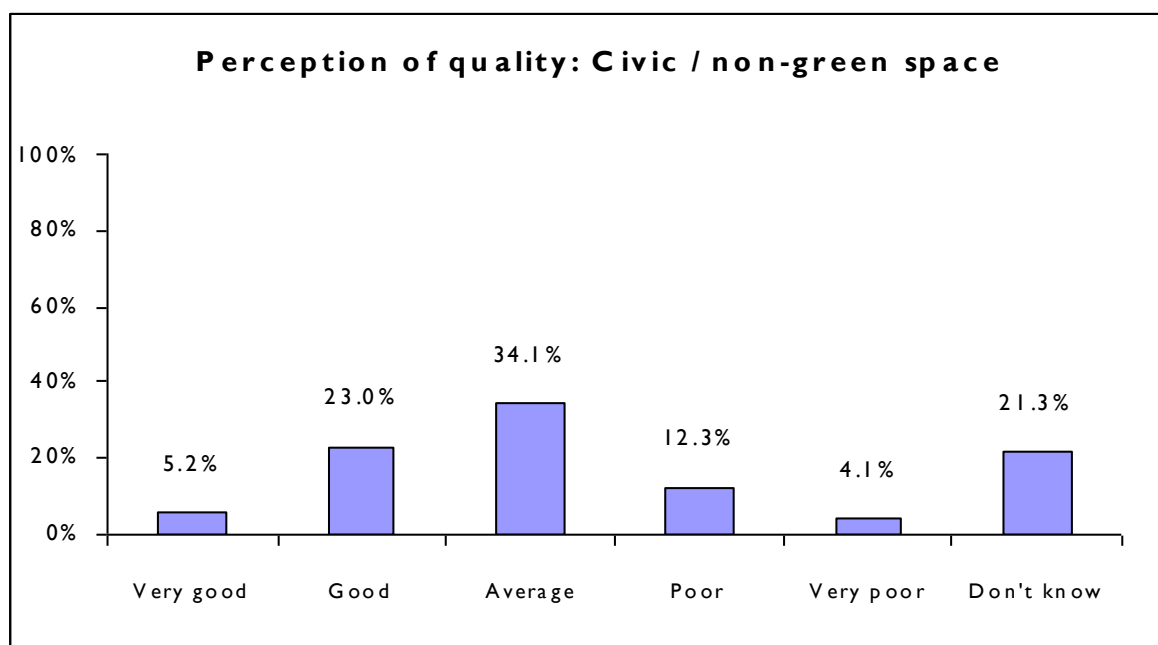
## Quality of provision

11.6 Just over a quarter (28.2%) of residents perceive the quality of civic spaces to be good or very good. This is nearly double the proportion that rates it as poor or very poor (16.4%). A further third rates the quality as average. Over two thirds (44.9%) of Tenbury Town area rate provision as good or very good and only 10.3% rate it as poor or very poor. This suggests that, not only is the civic space in Tenbury well and frequently used, local residents regard it to be of high quality as well. There is little variation by age.

## Availability

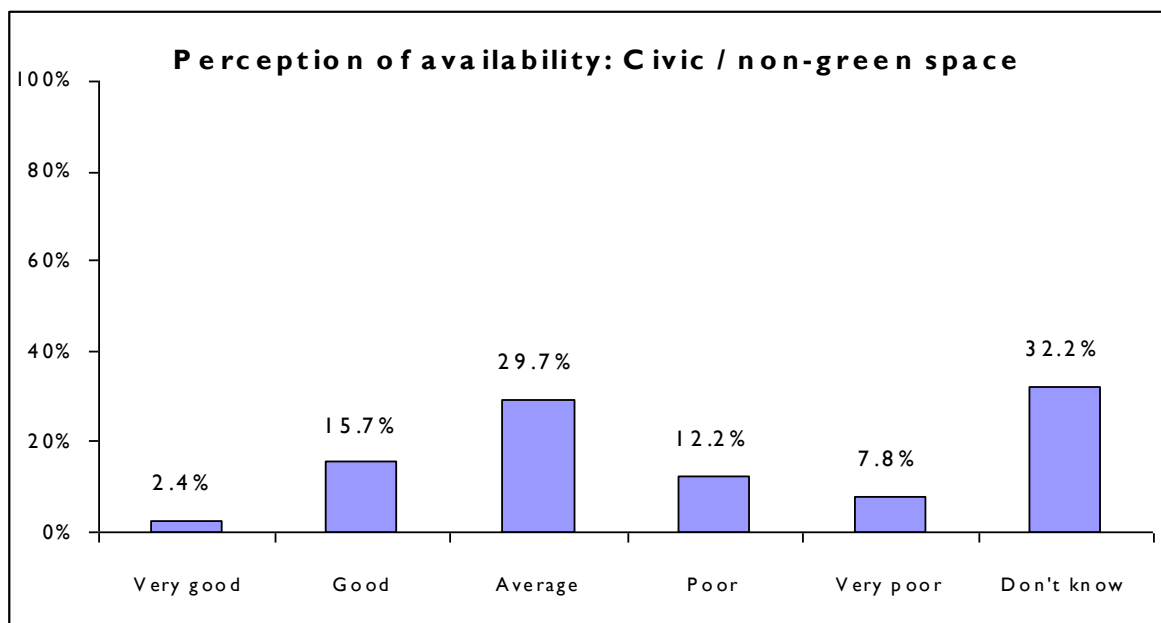
11.7 Slightly more residents rate the quality of civic/non-green space as poor or very poor (20.0%) compared to those rating it as good or very good (18.1%). Sizeable proportions rate it as average (29.7%) or are unable to rate availability (32.2%). The proportion rating availability as good or very good is particularly high Tenbury (30%).

Figure 11.3: Quality of provision of civic space/non-green space



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



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## Key issues

### *Current provision*

11.8 Two sites, Belle Vue Terrace and Tenbury Market Square, have been identified as civic spaces within Malvern Hills District equating to 0.2 hectares<sup>1</sup> of civic space.

*Table 11.1: Distribution of civic spaces sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Civic spaces	
	Number	Size(ha)
Malvern Town area	1	0.10
Rural areas	-	-
Tenbury Town area	1	0.08
Upton and Hanley areas	-	-
<b>MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.19</b>

### *Accessibility*

11.9 The effective catchments of civic spaces has been identified using data from the household survey (see Figure 11.3) and guidance issued by the Greater London Authority (GLA)<sup>1</sup>. The following catchments are used to identify the coverage of current provision:

- District-wide significance (Area more than 10ha) – 3,200 metres.
- Settlement significance (Area between 1ha and 10ha) – 1,800 metres.
- Neighbourhood significance (Area between 0.66ha and 1ha) – 1,200 metres.
- Local significance (Area up to 0.66ha) – 240 metres.

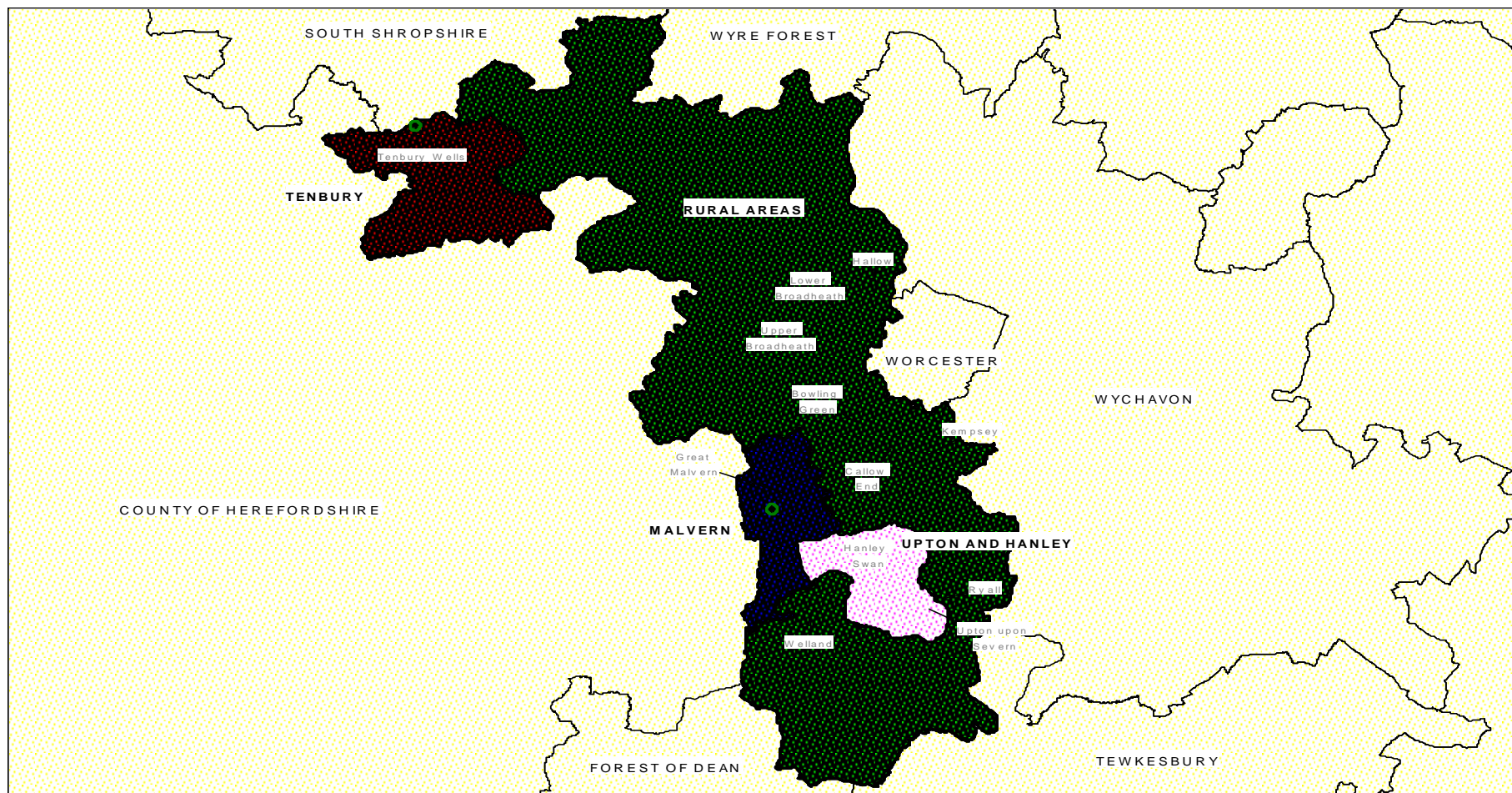
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<sup>1</sup> Figures rounded up

<sup>1</sup> Greater London Authority (2002): Guide to preparing open space strategies

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Figure 11.5: Civic space sites mapped against settlement areas with catchment areas applied



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## Settlement hierarchy

11.10 The settlement hierarchy for provision for civic spaces is set out below. The categorisation of settlements in Malvern Hills District is set out in the appendices document.

*Table 11.2: Settlement hierarchy – provision for civic spaces*

Category	Minimum provision
Category 0	2 civic spaces
Category 1	Settlements of Upton and Tenbury only – one civic space All other settlements – no minimum provision
Category 2	No minimum provision
Category 3/4	No minimum provision

*Table 11.3: Gaps in provision of civic spaces (as assessed against settlement hierarchy)*

Analysis area	Catchment gaps
Malvern Town area	<input type="checkbox"/> One site – Malvern
Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/> None
Tenbury Town area	<input type="checkbox"/> None
Upton and Hanley areas	<input type="checkbox"/> One site - Upton upon Severn

11.11 Assessment against the hierarchy shows that there is a shortfall of one civic space in Malvern Town and a further site in Upton upon Severn.

11.12 Consultation identifies that residents feel Malvern Town Centre lacks a focal point. Recognising this, MHDC is also exploring these issues through a community led approach to provision of civic spaces. There is an identified need for a hard surfaced multi-functional open space that can facilitate public entertainment, use by musicians and other performers as well as hosting weekly markets. Currently the Town Centre Christmas lights and public entertainment events are hosted on Belle Vue Terrace. However, this is not felt to be the ideal location as the site is small in size, has a steep gradient and is an island on a main road. The need for a town centre focal point is also recognised by the MHDC document 'Great Malvern Town Centre (2004)'. The one opportunity that the document highlights for future consideration is the area known as 'Festival Square' on Edith Walk. Currently the area is used for town centre pay and display parking and constraints, such as the need for back access to shops on Church Street, currently exist. Potential has also been identified, through office and resident consultation, for the library memorial garden to host more community events and perhaps provide space for a small number of market stalls.

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- 11.13 Currently, due to the lack of a suitable civic space in Malvern Town Centre, the weekly Friday market is held on the Grange car park. This is not a prime throughput area of the Town Centre and therefore is not an ideal location for the market. A monthly farmers' market is also held in the Town Centre using the area of pavement outside of Malvern Museum. The market is popular but the size is limited due to the small area available to host it. Consultation identifies potential to increase the available area and create a small civic space by closing Wells Road to vehicle access.
- 11.14 Although there is no space classified as civic in Upton-upon-Seven, consultation identifies that Hanley Road car park fills the gap when needed and can host community events such as fairs.

### Quality

- 11.15 The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for civic spaces in Malvern Hills District. The threshold for assessing quality has been set at 60%; this is based on Green Flag criteria. Individual site summaries can be found at the end of this section.

Table 11.4: Quality scores for civic spaces sites by analysis area

Analysis area	QUALITY Scores					Number at:	
	maximum score	lowest score	MEAN score	highest score	spread	below 60%	above 60%
Malvern Town area	138	64%	64%	64%	-	-	1
Rural areas	138	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tenbury Town area	138	40%	40%	40%	-	1	-
Upton and Hanley areas	138	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

- 11.16 Belle Vue Terrace is currently the only civic space in Malvern Town where public entertainment can take place. It is also the location for the Town Centre Christmas Tree and, as such, is the most focal point of the Town Centre. It is therefore apt that it receives a high quality score (64%). There is potential for Tenbury Market Square to be enhanced through the provision of a water supply and seating to further facilitate its use as a market square.



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11.17 One key issue regarding the Town Centre of Malvern is the poor condition and resultant closure of public toilet facilities. Toilet facilities at Edith Walk have been closed due to being poor quality and costly to maintain. There are currently no public toilet facilities serving the main retail/shopping area (Belle Vue) with the only open facilities being the one in close proximity to Priory Park. This is a concern for local residents and there is demand for the reinstatement and enhancement of the facilities.

### Value

11.18 The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for civic spaces in Malvern Hills District. A score of 20% or less is considered to indicate that a site has low value. A full list of low value sites and an indication of their position relative to the threshold can be found in Part 33.

Table 11.5: Value scores for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	VALUE Scores					Number at:	
	maximum score	lowest score	MEAN score	highest score	spread	below 20%	above 20%
Malvern own area	100	17%	17%	17%	-	1	-
Rural areas	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tenbury Town area	100	13%	13%	13%	-	1	-
Upton and Hanley areas	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

11.19 Both of the civic spaces in Malvern Hills District fall below the 20% threshold with the average score for the District being 15%. However, both sites do meet a community need in terms of accessibility to provision.

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## **Civic spaces summary**

### ***Current provision***

- There are two sites classified under this typology equating to 0.2 hectares of provision in Malvern Hills District. Of these, one site is identified as low quality and one as high quality. In terms of value, both sites are identified as low value.

### ***Future provision***

- Additional sites are required in Malvern Town and Upton upon Severn to meet catchment gaps (against the hierarchy).

### ***Other issues***

- None identified.