

Stroud District Council Play Framework



**STROUD
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**
www.stroud.gov.uk

**FINAL – August
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Ethos Environmental Planning were commissioned by Stroud District Council to undertake a Play Framework as part of a wider piece of work for their Play Area and Development Action Plan. Stroud District Council (SDC) have been awarded funding from Gloucestershire County Council for capital investment into SDC owned play areas to help reduce inequalities by providing accessible play spaces for all. This strategy will assist in making decisions about where the funding will be spent.

1.1 Play Area and Development Action Plan

The action plan aims to plan and manage high quality accessible play spaces that positively contribute to the wellbeing of the community it serves. It will ensure that play areas are:

- **Well Designed** to encourage play and community cohesion.
- **Well Located** where possible, near to other community facilities and good pedestrian and cycle networks.
- **Well Regarded** to ensure the communities value the sites, have ownership of them and are engaged in the redesign and maintenance of the spaces.

The plan is broken down into 4 stages:

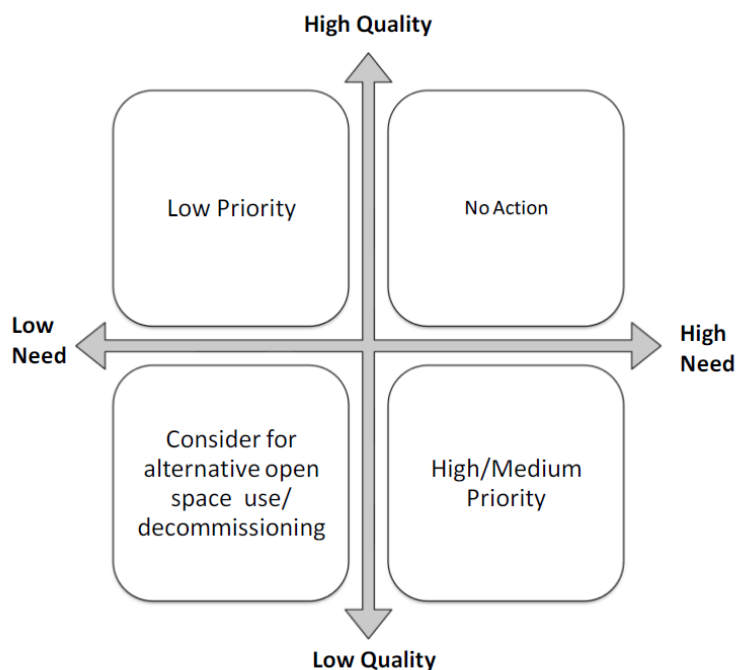
1. Physical condition survey – a review of SDC owned play areas.
2. Insight – understanding the community around the play areas including current user profile, demographics, activity levels and current budget provision.
3. Identify – how the insight can be delivered including management options appraisal, play area investment and links to community delivery and community hubs.
4. Commitment – secure commitment to the identified play areas that will receive capital investment and redevelopment.

1.2 Prioritisation Framework

‘Planning for Play’ suggests that prioritisations for play space improvements should be based on an objective assessment to determine where improvements are most needed. This follows this guidance by applying needs criteria to the 32 SDC owned play areas. The criteria area based on:

- Quality of site
- Proximity/access to other play areas
- Demographics e.g. numbers of children in the area
- Child health and wellbeing
- Levels of child deprivation
- Geographical barriers to play – rurality
- Proximity to a community hub

The principle behind the prioritisation approach is illustrated as follows:



As a result of this process the framework categorises all sites under three headings:

- High priority for improvement
- Medium priority for improvement
- Low priority for improvement

This document is referred to as a framework rather than a plan because it does not aim to produce a prescriptive play area delivery plan that the Council must follow rather it provides evidence that the Council can use in reviewing, developing, and implementing their own individual delivery plans. The framework provides an overview of the Council owned sites across the district and applies objective needs-based criteria to all those sites – to arrive at strategically determined site categorisation classifications.

1.3 Overview of the area

Stroud District is in the county of Gloucestershire and covers an area of approximately 45,325 hectares (about 175 square miles). The district's natural environment is widely protected national policy and statutory legislation with a large proportion of the eastern part of the district falling within in Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The western part is characterised by the landscape of the Severn Vale bounded by the Severn Estuary.

Stroud is the main focal point of the functional urban area within the Stroud Valleys, which are home to around 49,000 people equating to around 40% of the district's population. Outside of the Stroud Valleys lies Stonehouse and further south are the towns of Cam and Dursley. To the north of the district, Hardwick forms part of the Gloucester Urban Fringe. The remaining countryside parts of the district are mainly used for agricultural and comprise of several smaller towns, villages, and hamlets.

1.4 Population and geographical boundaries

The total population for the Stroud District is 120,903 (mid-year 2020 estimates). The breakdown by ward (including the child population by ward is shown in the table below).

It was agreed with the project team that analysis would be undertaken by ward, due to the prioritisation data being in this format.

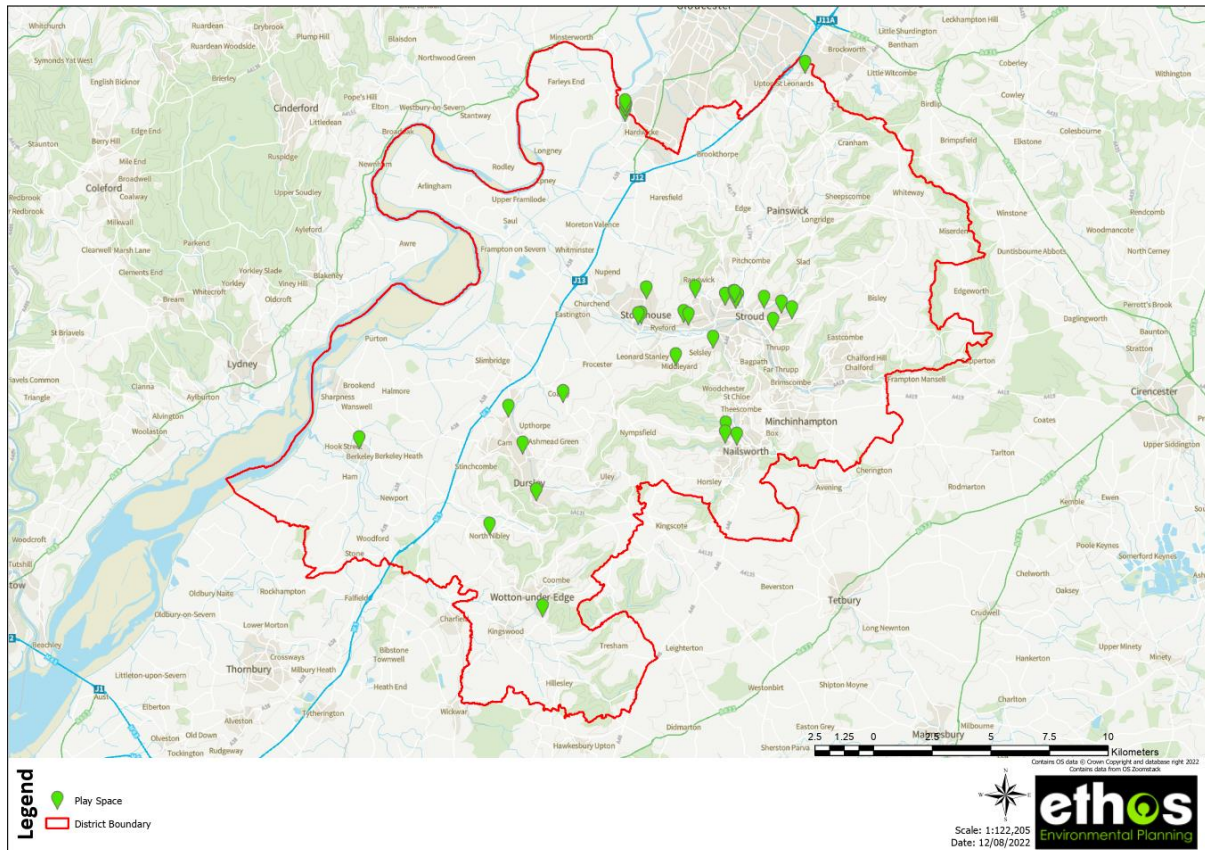
Table 1 Ward population statistics (ONS 2020 mid-year estimates)

| Ward | Child population (Age 0-15) | Total population |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Amberley and Woodchester | 326 | 2,149 |
| Berkeley Vale | 1,208 | 7,320 |
| Bisley | 342 | 2,348 |
| Cainscross | 1,711 | 8,389 |
| Cam East | 719 | 4,596 |
| Cam West | 673 | 4,077 |
| Chalford | 1,062 | 6,248 |
| Coaley and Uley | 419 | 2,427 |
| Dursley | 1,557 | 7,647 |
| Hardwicke | 1,772 | 7,822 |
| Kingswood | 474 | 2,152 |
| Minchinhampton | 743 | 4,541 |
| Nailsworth | 1,103 | 6,601 |
| Painswick and Upton | 1,383 | 7,353 |
| Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe | 280 | 1,979 |
| Rodborough | 752 | 4,458 |
| Severn | 998 | 5,411 |
| Stonehouse | 1,269 | 7,350 |
| Stroud Central | 331 | 2,181 |
| Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill | 385 | 2,477 |
| Stroud Slade | 483 | 2,501 |
| Stroud Trinity | 326 | 2,162 |
| Stroud Uplands | 319 | 2,106 |
| Stroud Valley | 399 | 2,333 |
| The Stanleys | 834 | 4,634 |
| Thrupp | 408 | 2,359 |
| Wotton-under-Edge | 1,147 | 7,282 |

2.0 EXISTING PROVISION OF PLAY SPACE

This framework focuses on the 32 play spaces owned by Stroud District Council but considers other play spaces within the analysis later within the report. Stroud District Council manage 21 play areas and 2 MUGAs with the General Fund managing 14 sites. Within this framework, 32 sites will be analysed. This excludes the 2 MUGAs and 3 sites play areas; one of which isn't under the control of the council and two sites the play equipment has been removed and the site has already been redesignated.

Figure 1 32 SDC owned play areas within this framework



A large proportion of play spaces across the district are managed by town/parish councils, with some play spaces also being managed by independent management companies.

3.0 ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PLAY SPACE

3.1 Quantity

This section provides an analysis of existing quantity of play space within Stroud District. The Open Space Study (2019) provides quantity standards for both children's and youth play space.

Table 2 Quantity standards for play spaces (Open Space Study, 2019)

| Typology | Quantity Standard (ha/1,000) |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Play Space (Children) | 0.06 |
| Play Space (Youth) | 0.06 |

The following tables show the existing supply of play space across the district¹, followed by the individual wards where SDC owned sites are located. Where there is insufficient supply of play space, the minus number is highlighted red to make this stand out.

Table 3 Existing supply of children's and youth play space across the Stroud District

| Typology | Existing Provision (ha) | Existing provision (ha/1,000) | Required Provision (ha) | Required Provision (ha/1,000) | Supply (Ha) | Supply (Ha/1,000) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Play Space (Children) | 6.55 | 0.05 | 7.25 | 0.06 | -0.7 | -0.01 |
| Play Space (Youth) | 4.23 | 0.03 | 7.25 | 0.06 | -3.02 | -0.03 |

Table 4 Supply of children's and youth play space (hectares) by ward

| Ward | Play Space (children) | Play Space (youth) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Berkeley Vale | 0.01 | -0.34 |
| Cainscross | -0.11 | -0.34 |
| Cam West | -0.1 | -0.02 |
| Coaley and Uley | 0.06 | -0.13 |
| Dursley | -0.24 | -0.27 |
| Hardwicke | -0.25 | -0.46 |
| Nailsworth | 0.03 | -0.31 |
| Painswick and Upton | 0.01 | -0.38 |
| Stonehouse | -0.15 | -0.24 |
| Stroud Central | 0.3 | -0.01 |
| Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill | -0.14 | -0.19 |
| Stroud Slade | -0.12 | -0.1 |
| Stroud Trinity | -0.06 | -0.11 |
| Stroud Valley | 0.2 | -0.14 |
| The Stanleys | 0.21 | 0.01 |
| Wotton Under Edge | -0.19 | -0.43 |

¹ This includes all sites across the district, not just SDC owned sites. The analysis is using the 2019 open space mapping and ONS mid-year 2020 population figures.

As can be seen from the tables above, based on the mid-year 2020 population figures there is a shortfall in both children's and youth play across the district. Of those wards where there are SDC owned play spaces, there is variation across the wards with Berkeley Vale, Coaley, and Uley, Nailsworth, Painswick & Upton, Stroud Central, Stroud Valley and The Stanleys having sufficient provision of children's play space. All wards except for The Stanleys have shortfalls in youth play spaces.

3.2 Access

The recommendations for the play spaces in Section 6.0 also take into consideration access to play spaces. The Open Space Assessment (2019) developed access standards which are summarised in the table below:

Table 5 Stroud Open Space Assessment – Access Standards for children and youth play space

| Typology | Access Standard |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Play Space (Children) | 480m (10 minutes' walk time) |
| Play Space (Youth) | 720m (15 minutes' walk time) |

The Open Space Assessment (2019) found that there are significant gaps in access to children's play in the middle of Stroud Valleys in particular Amberley, Woodchester and Brinscombe, in the settlements of Frampton and Whitminster within the Severn Vale and in Stonehouse.

In terms of youth facilities, there is gaps in access to in Berkeley town, the east of Cam, south of Wotton and Costwold area (Painswick, Miserden, Cranham, Bisley and Pitchcombe).

These access standards have been used within the recommendations section to determine if there is any overlap in access between play spaces². This determines that if a play space were removed, it would not result in a gap in access.

The access buffers have been rerun using walk time (in contrast to the Open Space Study (2019) which uses straight line distances), The walking buffers are generated using ESRI's service area tool with a standard 5kph walking speed and detailed isochrone output. The tool follows paths and roads that allow pedestrian traffic (as specified by Esri which uses Here mapping data), and therefore takes account of physical barriers to access such as rivers and railway lines - the buffer will follow bridges/tunnels/crossing points.

² This includes all play spaces in the district, not just SDC owned sites.

4.0 QUALITY ASSESSMENT

This section provides a summary of the quality audit for the play area undertaken in June/July 2022. The GIS database containing the full audit results and geolocated photos has been provided to the Council.

The audits were undertaken using an agreed methodology following the 2019 Open Space Study quality audit methodology. Audits of this nature can only ever be a snapshot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a sites' existing quality and potential for improvement.

ROSPA inspections have also been carried out in March 2022 by SDC which will also help to inform quality and opportunities.

4.1 Audit Methodology

Sites have been visited, and a photographic record made of key features, along with a description of the site and recommendations for improvements. An assessment of the quality of the site was undertaken using the following criteria:

- Welcoming
- Good and Safe Access
- Safe Equipment & Facilities
- Appropriate Provision of Facilities
- Quality/Management of Facilities and Infrastructure
- Personal Security on Site
- Litter and Waste Management
- Grounds/Habitat Management

For each of the criteria a score of 1 -10 is given, where 1 is very poor and 10 is very good. The scores for each site are added together and the mean calculated based on how many criteria were scored. This mean is then multiplied by 10 to produce the final score from which sites are grouped into 3 categories:

- Good quality (those sites with a score of between 71 and 100)
- Average quality (those sites with a score of between 41 and 70)
- Poor quality (those sites with a score of between 10 and 40).

4.2 Summary of quality audit results

A summary of the quality audits undertaken is provided in the table below:

| Site Name | Ward | Description | Suggestions for Improvement | Overall Quality Score |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| Acacia Drive | Dursley | A small play area with a slide, rocker and swing set aimed at young children. Equipment is dated, worn, and has low play value except for the new rocker. The whole site has soft safety surfacing. Two benches and a bin. The fencing is very worn and there are areas of vegetation growing through. | Repaint fence. Replace older equipment. Better management of surrounding vegetation. | 62.5 - Average |
| Archway Gardens | Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill | A small, fenced play area consisting of a swing (one missing), slide/climbing frame and another piece of redundant equipment. Equipment is in a poor condition and is worn. Site has two entrance points, one of which is accessed by a hard surfaced path. A notice board with some leaflets of local activities. Grounds consists of short mown grass with safety surfacing under the swing. Two litter bins but still signs of littering. | Add bench. Update equipment and increase the amount of provision. | 60 – Average |
| Bearlands Play Area | Wotton Under Edge | A medium sized play area with two swing sets, climbing frame/swing, carousel, hammock swing and balance trail. Equipment is all wooden and is in a good condition with fairly good play value. Good welcome signage and two entrances connecting to different areas of housing. The grounds are mainly grass with an area of concrete under the seating area and some worn safety surfacing. Wooden planters | Improve safety surfacing under equipment. Improve maintenance of access paths to site and the planters around the edge of the site. | 75 – Good |

| Site Name | Ward | Description | Suggestions for Improvement | Overall Quality Score |
|------------------------|-----------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| | | around the edge which area quite overgrown. | | |
| Betworthy Estate | Coaley and Uley | A small, unfenced play area with a swing set (one suitable to babies and one for children), two swing/climbing frame sets (again one for toddlers and one children) and a bowl carousel. Equipment is in a good condition but could have better play value. The grounds were well managed, and had welcome signage, bench, and litter bin. | Space to add additional play equipment. | 80 – Good |
| Blackwell Close | Stonehouse | A small, fenced children's play area aimed at young children. Site has a swing, rocker, two mushroom seats, play panels and a slide/climbing frame. Equipment is dated and looks worn. There are two entrance points but one of which is locked. Grounds include safety surfacing under equipment and then grass and one tree. There is one bench and litter bin. | Add welcome signage. | 71.25 – Good |
| Boakes Drive | Stonehouse | A small, fenced children's play area aimed at small children. Site consists of a slide, climbing frame, rocker and counting boards. Grounds are concrete with safety surfacing under equipment. Equipment looks worn, dated and has a fairly low play value. Good entrance points. One bench and one litter bin. | Add some trees/plants. Replace dated equipment with more imaginative equipment. | 67.5 – Average |
| Bunting Hill Play Area | Nailsworth | A large, fenced play area with a range of equipment including two swing sets, roundabout, slide, climbing frame, seesaw, rocker, and some small interactive counting | Add missing pieces of equipment from swing sets. Add welcome signage. | 62.5 - Average |

| Site Name | Ward | Description | Suggestions for Improvement | Overall Quality Score |
|---------------------|--------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| | | games. There is also one redundant swing set, and one existing swing set is missing a swing. Equipment is worn and well used and has low play value. Ground consists mainly of short mown grass with the roundabout and climbing frame having safety surfacing. Site has three entrances via gates. There are two benches and one litter bin and some signs of littering/fly tipping. | | |
| Cambridge Avenue | Dursley | A small, fenced play area with a swing set, seesaw, and slide. Equipment is worn but still in a good condition but has low play value. Whole site has soft safety surfacing with some areas torn. One bench with some littering underneath. | Add welcome signage. Add litter bin. Add hard surfaced path from footpath. Replace equipment to include items of imaginative play. | 56.25 - Average |
| Daffodils Play Area | The Stanleys | A small play area set within an amenity green space with four pieces of equipment including two swing sets, a seesaw and two rockers. Equipment is outdated, worn and has low play value. Grounds of the site are overgrown, and the site has one bench. | Replace older play equipment. Add welcome signage. Better maintenance of grounds. Add litter bin. Potentially fence off from wider site. | 46.25 – Poor |
| Devereaux Crescent | Cainscross | A small play area with a climbing frame/slide and second climbing frame. There is a redundant swing set. Equipment is worn and parts have graffiti on it. Lots of littering despite litter bin present on site. One bench. Ground consists of grass which was quite long at time of site visit. | Improve access to site through construction of a path from wider amenity. Replace redundant swing equipment. Remove graffiti off play equipment and replace old slide/climbing frame. | 61.25 - Average |
| Draycott Play Area | Cam West | A small play area aimed at young children. Site consists of a swing set (one swing suitable for babies and one for children), a | Improve play value. Remove and cut encroaching weeds. | 67.5 – Average |

| Site Name | Ward | Description | Suggestions for Improvement | Overall Quality Score |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---|--|-----------------------|
| | | slide/climbing frame and an upright spinner. Equipment is in a good condition but has low play value. Site had some littering and toys that belonged to residents nearby in it. Entrance was easily accessible from housing estate by a tarmac path. Grounds consisted of grass which looked like it had been cut recently. | | |
| Highfield Road Play Area | Stroud Trinity | A small, fenced play area with two swing sets, slide, rocker and rocking horse. Equipment is worn and outdated with poor play value. There is a missing swing on the swing set. Access to the site is quite hidden in between housing. Welcome signage at the entrance and the grounds of the site are based on safety surfacing which is quite patchy. Litter bin and bench located on the wider site. | Add directional signage to access points. Upgrade play equipment. Replace missing swing. | 60 – Average |
| Innocks Estate Play Area | Wotton Under Edge | A small play area aimed at young children. Equipment is dated, worn and has low play value. Site has a seesaw, slide and swing set. Site has two entrances one from the wider amenity and one from the pre-school. Whole site has artificial grass surfacing. No other facilities. | Add welcome signage. Improve access from wider amenity. | 66.25 – Average |
| Little Mill Court | Stroud Valley | A very small, fenced play area with two pieces of equipment; a seesaw and balance beam. Equipment was in a good condition and looked new. There was also a bench and litter bin. Access to the site is via a gate from | Better play equipment to make best the use of the small space. | 65 – Average |

| Site Name | Ward | Description | Suggestions for Improvement | Overall Quality Score |
|------------------------|---------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| | | the main footpath. Grounds consist of short mown grass. | | |
| Manor View | The Stanleys | A single swing set located between housing and main road. Equipment was in a fairly good condition and based on safety surfacing which was encroached with moss. Site was hard to find and there was no signage. Access to the site was via overgrown grass. No other facilities or infrastructure. | Add more equipment to make into a play area. Cut back surrounding vegetation to make site more accessible. Add directional signage to the site. | 50 – Poor |
| Mason Road Play Area | Stroud Slade | A medium sized fenced play area with a seesaw, climbing frame, toddler swing/climbing frame, two swing sets (children on swings at time of audit so no photos). Equipment was outdated and worn, with low play value. Two benches and two bins. Grounds consisted of short mown grass with equipment based on safety surfacing. | Replace outdated equipment. Add welcome signage. Improve access to area with a hard surfaced path linking to wider amenity. | 62.5 – Average |
| Merlin Close Play Area | Painswick and Upton | A large children's play area with a good range of new high quality equipment for a range of age groups. Equipment includes rockers, slide, climbing frames, swings, mini flying fox. There are several access points with wide paths and easily accessible gates and signage. Several bins and litter bins. One bench has got graffiti on it and a small amount of litter present. | Remove graffiti off bench. | 81.25 – Good |
| Norton Wood Play Area | Nailsworth | A large play area with a range of equipment including a swing/climbing frame, two swing sets, climbing wall, activity boards and a balance trail. Equipment looks well used and has good play value. Some equipment has | Remove graffiti off equipment. Better cordoning of equipment. Potential space to add more planting round edge of site. | 70 – Average |

| Site Name | Ward | Description | Suggestions for Improvement | Overall Quality Score |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| | | graffiti on it. There is a broken rocker which has a bag over it. Several entrances connecting different housing areas. Main entrance has good signage. Several benches and two litter bins. Grounds mainly consist of short mown grass, but some equipment has safety surfacing. | | |
| Orchard Road Greens | Cainscross | A medium sized fenced play area consisting of a swing set, rocker, toddler slide/climbing frame and climbing frame. Toddler climbing frame is worn and has some graffiti on it. All equipment is based on safety surfacing. There are also two benches and a bin. Site is quite hidden from the roads and no signage indicating a park. Access to the site is also across a large grassy area. | Add signage. Improve access to site through a path. Remove graffiti off equipment. | 58.75 – Average |
| Stratford Park Skatepark | Stroud Central | A large skatepark set within the grounds of a leisure centre. Skatepark was in a good condition despite graffiti which is normal for a skatepark. Site is easily accessible through hard surfaced paths. There are several litter bins and benches. | Add welcome signage. | 78.75 – Good |
| Stratford Park Toddler Play Area | Stroud Central | A medium sized fenced toddler play area with a swing, climbing frame, rockers, little house and hop scotch. The whole site has safety surfacing and is fenced off from wide leisure centre site. Equipment looked well used but was in a fairly good condition. Several entrance points, benches outside of the site and a litter bin. | None. | 77.5 – Good |

| Site Name | Ward | Description | Suggestions for Improvement | Overall Quality Score |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| Stratford Play Field Play Area | Stroud Central | A field play area consists of a flying fox, wooden trail, small slide, slide/climbing frame, large swing and one redundant piece of equipment. A mixture of old and new equipment, the climbing frame/slide is looking dated and worn. but overall play value is fairly good. A picnic area with several benches and litter bin. Site is more informal than the site next to it and doesn't have a formal entrance point or paths but does connect well and enhance the wider park. | Replace some of the dated equipment. Improve some of the worn areas of ground. | 71.25 – Good |
| Stratford Play Junior Play Area | Stroud Central | A junior fenced play area with three swing sets (one baby, one child and one old child) slide/climbing frame, rockers, roundabout, and floor marking games. Equipment was a mixture of old/new but was generally in a good condition and provided equipment for a range of ages. Some parts of safety surfacing were loose. Good welcome signage at entrance and access to site through a wide tarmacked path. Litter bins and benches within the site, with some occasional littering. | Replace areas of safety surfacing that are ripped. | 71.25 – Good |
| Summer Street Play Area | Stroud Valley | A large play area based on a hill with a range of equipment for different ages including a balance trail, three swing sets, two climbing frames, two slides, play house and a tree house. Most of the equipment is made of wood and is in a good condition. The entrances are quite tricky to find, and access is via steep uneven paths. There are several | Clear vegetation under play equipment. Improve access points to make more accessible. Replace worn welcome signage. | 62.5 - Average |

| Site Name | Ward | Description | Suggestions for Improvement | Overall Quality Score |
|-------------------------|---------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| | | benches and bins. The grass is well maintained but under the climbing frame and tree house it is very overgrown. Lots of benches and litter bins. | | |
| The Brambles | Berkeley Vale | A small children's play area with minimal play equipment. Site has just one slide and two small children's benches. Slide is in a good condition. There is also a redundant frame where swings used to be. Ground has soft surfacing but is becoming overgrown with weeds. Site is fenced and has a good wide path leading to a gate to access the site. There is also a litter bin and bench at entrance. | Replace and update play equipment. Better maintenance of grounds of site, remove weeds etc. | 58.75 – Average |
| The Tynnings | Nailsworth | A large, fenced play area with a good range of equipment with good play value. Site has a large swing/climbing frame, two swing sets, seesaw, and rocker. Equipment is a mixture of old and new and looks like it is being slowly replaced. Slide has graffiti on it. Play area has welcome signage at entrance and accessed via is gate. Grounds consist mainly of grass with the swings having safety surfacing. One bench and litter bin. | Remove graffiti off slide. Add bench at other end of play area. Create hard surfaced path from road to play area to improve access. Better management of the plants around edge of site. | 75 – Good |
| Westrip Place Play Area | Cainscross | A small play area with a swing, climbing frame and seesaw. Equipment was in good condition and looks fairly new and based on safety surfacing. Site is well connected to the adjacent housing. One litter bin and some signs of littering. | Signage to encourage putting litter in bins. Add welcome sign. | 75 – Good |

| Site Name | Ward | Description | Suggestions for Improvement | Overall Quality Score |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Wharfdale Estate Play Area 1 | Hardwicke | A small toddler play area with three pieces of equipment; a slide and two rockers. The equipment was in a good condition and looked well used. Site was surfaced in safety surfacing and had a bench and litter bin. The surrounding edge of site had quite a few weeds encroaching the site. | Add welcome signage. Remove weeds and improve grounds maintenance. When equipment becomes redundant replace with higher play value equipment. | 68.75 – Average |
| Wharfdale Estate Play Area 2 | Hardwicke | A medium sized play area aimed at young children. Site has two rockers, a set of swings and a climbing frame/swing. Equipment is in a good condition but looks well used. Grounds consist mainly of short mown grass with safety surfacing under equipment. Site had a bench and litter bin as well. | Access to site could be improved by adding a hard surfaced path from play area to main path. Add welcome signage. | 68.75 – Average |
| Wharfdale Estate Play Area 3 | Hardwicke | A small children's play area with a slide and climbing frame. Equipment has low play value and equipment is in a good condition except for the slide has graffiti on it. There are two benches and one litter bin, and some littering present at time of site audit. | Add welcome signage. Remove graffiti off equipment. Improve access from amenity green space surrounding site by creating a pathway. | 68.75 – Average |
| Wharfdale Estate Play Area 4 | Hardwicke | A small children's play area aimed at young children. Site has a swing, two rockers, small climbing frame, and slide. Equipment is in a good condition although a little dated and well used. Grounds have mixture of safety surfacing and grass. There is one bench and a litter bin and signage at the entrance to the site. | Improve access to site from main road by adding hard surfaced paths suitable for pushchairs. Regular maintenance off grass as site is rather long. | 68.75 – Average |
| Wharfdale Way Play Stonehouse | Stonehouse | A small play area behind housing comprising of a slide, see saw and climbing frame. Equipment was fairly new and in a good | Add bench. Potential to add a couple of other small pieces of equipment for example some imaginative play. | 67.5 - Average |

| Site Name | Ward | Description | Suggestions for Improvement | Overall Quality Score |
|-----------|------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | condition, and slide made use of the mound in the middle of the site. Several entrance points, one of which had signage. One litter bin and no signs of littering. | | |

5.0 PRIORITISATION OF PLAY SPACE METHODOLOGY

5.1 Priority Factors/criteria

The table below sets out the prioritisation factors that have been used for this framework.

Table 6 Priority Factors

| Priority Factor | Statistics used |
|---|---|
| 1. Demographics (% 0 – 15-year-olds within each ward) | Office for National Statistics – population of 0 – 15-year-olds at ward levels (mid – year 2020) |
| 2. Child excess weight reception children (overweight and obese combined) | National Child Measurement Programme at MSOA for reception children aggregated across three years 2016 – 19 |
| 3. Child excess weight year 6 children (overweight and obese combined) | National Child Measurement Programme at MSOA for year 6 children aggregated across three years 2016 – 19 |
| 4. Proximity to schools | Mapping using OS Mastermap |
| 5. Proximity to other play areas | Mapping using Stroud OS 2019 dataset |
| 6. Child Deprivation | IMD – income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) by LSOA (2019) |
| 7. Rural Deprivation to services | IMD – geographical barriers (subset of the barriers to services by domain) by LSOA (2019) |
| 8. Quality | Ethos quality audit rank score based on the June 2022 site visits. |
| 9. Proximity to community hub | SDC Hub Map |

5.2 Scoring play areas

For each of these criteria/priority factors listed in Table 6, a scoring has been applied and set out in Table 7 below, to prioritise each play area.

Table 7 Desktop assessment scoring criteria for prioritising sites

| Priority Factor | Scoring |
|---|--|
| 1. Demographics | Up to 16% of ward population is between 0-15 years old: score 1 16 – 18% of ward population is between 0-15 years old: score 2 Above 18% of ward population is between 0-15 years old: Score 3 |
| 2. Child excess weight reception children | Significantly higher than district average – score 2 No significant difference to district average – score 1 Significantly lower than district average – score 0 |

| Priority Factor | Scoring |
|--|--|
| (overweight and obese combined) | |
| 3. Child excess weight year 6 children (overweight and obese combined) | Significantly higher than district average – score 2 No significant difference to district average – score 1 Significantly lower than district average – score 0 |
| 4. Proximity to schools | <300 metres: Score 3 300 – 400 metres: Score 2 400 - 500 metres: Score 1 >500 metres: Score 0 |
| 5. Proximity to other play areas | <200 metres: Score 0 200 – 350 metres: Score 1 350 – 500 metres: Score 2 >500 metres: Score 3 |
| 6. Child Deprivation | Ranked between 1 – 3: score 3 Ranked between 4 – 6: score 2 Ranked between 7 – 9: score 1 Ranked 10: score 0 |
| 7. Rural Deprivation to services | Ranked between 1 – 3: score 3 Ranked between 4 – 6: score 2 Ranked between 7 – 9: score 1 Ranked 10: score 0 |
| 8. Quality | Good sites – score 1 Average sites – score 2 Poor sites – score 3 |
| 9. Proximity to community hub | <1000 metres – Score 3 1000 – 3000 metres – Score 2 3000 – 5000 metres – Score 1 >5000 metres – Score 0 |

5.2.1 Priority scores

The total score for each play area is calculated by adding up each of the scores. The range of total scores (from 9 to 20) for each site has been used to group the play areas into 3 priority categories as follows:

- Total score 9 - 12: Low priority for improvement
- Total score 13 - 15: Medium priority for improvement
- Total score 16 - 20: High priority for improvement

6.1 High priority sites

There are 11 play spaces that have been identified as high priority for improvement (i.e. those sites which score between 16 and 20).

The 'Ethos recommendation' column considers the quality audit, the priority for improvement and the quantity and access analysis and recommends if sites should be retained, retained, and improve or if they have potential for alternative open space use.

Table 8 Play areas that are a high priority for improvement

| Site Name | Ownership | Ward | Quality Score | Ward Supply (ha) | Area of Site (ha) | Percentage Access Buffer Overlap | Ethos Recommendations |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Acacia Drive | Housing Revenue Account | Dursley | 62.5 - Average | -0.24 | 0.04 | 76.58% | An average quality play space with potential to improve. The site falls into the high priority for improvement and has high levels of child deprivation and a high percentage of 0 – 15 year olds within the ward. There is a shortfall of children's play space within this ward, and therefore it is recommended that this play space is retained and improved. |
| Blackwell Close | General Fund | Stonehouse | 71.25 - Good | -0.15 | 0.05 | 99.94% | A small, good quality play space located near to primary schools and a community hub. Despite this falling into the high priority for improvement category, this play space already of good quality, therefore it is recommended that it is retained. |
| Boakes Drive | General Fund | Stonehouse | 67.5 - Average | -0.15 | 0.02 | 23.28% | A small, average quality play space located near to primary schools and a community hub. The ward also has high levels of rural deprivation. There are shortfalls in the provision of play space within the ward, therefore it is recommended that this site is retained and improved with the outdated play equipment being replaced. |

| Site Name | Ownership | Ward | Quality Score | Ward Supply (ha) | Area of Site (ha) | Percentage Access Buffer Overlap | Ethos Recommendations |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Cambridge Avenue | Housing Revenue Account | Dursley | 56.25 – Average | -0.24 | 0.03 | 16.49% | An average quality play space within a ward which has a high percentage of 0 – 15 year olds, and located over 500m from other play spaces. There are shortfalls in the provision of play space within the Dursley ward, therefore it is recommended that this play space is retained and improved. |
| Little Mill Court | General Fund | Stroud Valley | 65 - Average | 0.2 | 0.01 | 91.57% | A very small average quality play space located near to a community hub. The site provided low play value due to the small nature of the site, and there is little potential for improvement. The loss of the play area would not result in a gap in access (Stroud Park and Parliament Street open space nearby have good quality play spaces) and there is also sufficient supply of provision within the ward, therefore it is considered that this site may have potential for alternative use. |
| Manor View | General Fund | The Stanleys | 50 - Poor | 0.21 | 0.02 | 2.81% | A small poor quality play space consisting of a single swing set. The loss of this play space would not result in shortfall in the provision of play space within the ward but would result in their being no play space in the settlement of Selsey. It is recommended that this site is retained and improved, however, the small size of this site may limit the opportunities available. |
| Mason Road Play Area | Housing Revenue Account | Stroud Slade | 62.5 – Average | -0.12 | 0.07 | 5.66% | A medium sized average quality play space in a ward with a high percentage of 0 – 15 year olds and high levels of rural deprivation. The loss of this site would cause further a shortfall in provision in the ward and create a large gap in |

| Site Name | Ownership | Ward | Quality Score | Ward Supply (ha) | Area of Site (ha) | Percentage Access Buffer Overlap | Ethos Recommendations |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | access. It is therefore recommended that this play space is retained and improved. |
| Merlin Close Play Area | General Fund | Painswick and Upton | 81.25 – Good | 0.01 | 0.24 | 99.97% | A good quality large play space in an area with high rural deprivation and a high percentage of 0 -15 year olds within the ward. This space is in a key location near a community hub, therefore it is recommended that this play space is retained. |
| Stratford Park Skatepark | General Fund | Stroud Central | 78.75 – Good | -0.01 | 0.31 | 40.51% | A good quality skatepark located within a leisure complex. The site is in close proximity to a college and a community hub. The loss of this site would cause a further shortfall in provision and access to youth play spaces. It is recommended that this site is retained. |
| Summer Street Play Area | Housing Revenue Account | Stroud Valley | 62.5 - Average | 0.2 | 0.38 | 31.72% | A large play area located near to a primary school and a community hub. Despite there being a sufficient supply of play space within the Stroud Valley ward, the loss of this site would result in a shortfall in provision and create a larger gap in access. It is recommended that this site is retained and improved. |
| Westrip Place Play Area | Housing Revenue Account | Cainscross | 75 – Good | -0.11 | 0.05 | 92.56% | A good quality play area in a ward with a high percentage of 0 -15 year olds and located in close proximity to a community hub. There is also a shortfall in the supply of play spaces within this ward therefore it is recommended that this play is retained. |

6.2 Medium priority sites

There are 11 play spaces that have been identified as medium priority for improvement (i.e. those sites which score between 13 and 15).

The ‘Ethos recommendation’ column considers the quality audit, the priority for improvement and the quantity and access analysis and recommends if sites should be retained, retained, and improved or if they have potential for alternative open space use.

Table 9 Play areas that are a medium priority for improvement

| Site Name | Ownership | Ward | Quality Score | Ward Supply (ha) | Area of Site (ha) | Percentage Overlap | Ethos Recommendations |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Archway Gardens | Housing Revenue Account | Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill | 60 – Average | -0.14 | 0.02 | 9.52% | A small average quality play space which is located near to a community hub. There is a shortfall in children’s play space across the ward and a loss of this play space would create a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that this play space is retained and improved. |
| Daffodils Play Area | Housing Revenue Account | The Stanleys | 46.25 – Poor | 0.21 | 0.33 | 62.91% | A large poor quality play area located in a ward with high rural deprivation and over 500m from other play spaces. The loss of this play space would lead to a shortfall in play provision in The Stanleys ward and create a gap in access. It is therefore recommended that this play space is retained and improved. |
| Devereaux Crescent | Housing Revenue Account | Cainscross | 61.25 – Average | -0.11 | 0.06 | 26.98% | An average play area in an area with a high percentage of 0 -15 year olds and high levels of rural deprivation. There is a shortfall of play space across the ward, therefore it is recommended that this site is retained and improved. |
| Draycott Play Area | Housing Revenue Account | Cam West | 67.5 – Average | -0.1 | 0.04 | 81.19% | A small average quality play space within a ward which has a high levels of year 6 excess weight and rural deprivation. There is a shortfall in the provision of play spaces within the ward and a loss |

| Site Name | Ownership | Ward | Quality Score | Ward Supply (ha) | Area of Site (ha) | Percentage Overlap | Ethos Recommendations |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | of this site would increase the shortfalls further. It is therefore recommended that this site is retained. |
| Highfield Road Play Area | Housing Revenue Account | Stroud Trinity | 60 Average | -0.06 | 0.03 | 97.51% | A small average quality play space located near to a community hub. There is a shortfall of play spaces within the ward, therefore it is recommended that this site is retained and improved especially improving the play value of the space. |
| Innocks Estates Play Area | Housing Revenue Account | Wotton Under Edge | 66.25 Average | -0.19 | 0.03 | 0 | A small average quality play space located in North Nibley. This is the only play space within the parish; therefore, the loss of this space would result in further shortfalls in supply and access. It is recommended that this space is retained. |
| Norton Wood Play Area | Housing Revenue Account | Nailsworth | 70 Average | 0.03 | 0.23 | 99.91 | A large average quality play space in close proximity to a primary school. The ward has a sufficient provision of play space, and this is a large site in a key location in the town, therefore it is recommended that this site is retained. |
| Orchard Road Green | Housing Revenue Account | Cainscross | 58.75 Average | -0.11 | 0.02 | 99.92 | A small average quality play space in an area with a high percentage of 0-15 year olds and high levels of rural deprivation. The loss of this small play space would result in a further shortfall in provision in Cainscross ward, therefore it is recommended that this play space is retained and improved. |
| Stratford Play Field Play Area | General Fund | Stroud Central | 71.25 Good | 0.3 | 0.66 | 100 | A good quality large play space located within a leisure complex and next to another play space. The site is nearby to a primary school and |

| Site Name | Ownership | Ward | Quality Score | Ward Supply (ha) | Area of Site (ha) | Percentage Overlap | Ethos Recommendations |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | community hub. This is a key play space and should therefore be retained. |
| Stratford Play Junior Play Area | General Fund | Stroud Central | 71.25 – Good | 0.3 | 0.33 | 100 | A good quality large play space located within a leisure complex and next to another play space. The site is nearby to a primary school and community hub. This is a key play space and should therefore be retained. |
| Wharfdale Way Play Stonehouse | Housing Revenue Account | Stonehouse | 67.5 – Average | -0.15 | 0.13 | 10.54 | A medium sized average quality play space located near to a community hub and within a ward with high levels of rural deprivation. There is a shortfall of play space within the ward, and the loss of this site would create a further shortfall and a large gap in access. It is recommended that this play space is retained and improved. |

6.3 Low priority sites

There are 10 play spaces that have been identified as a low priority for improvement (i.e. those sites which score between 9 and 12).

The 'Ethos recommendation' column considers the quality audit, the priority for improvement and the quantity and access analysis and recommends if sites should be retained, retained, and improve or if they have potential for alternative open space use.

Table 10 Play areas that are a medium priority for improvement

| Site Name | Ownership | Ward | Quality Score | Ward Supply (ha) | Area of Site (ha) | Percentage Overlap | Ethos Recommendations |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Bearlands Play Area | Housing Revenue Account | Wotton-under-Edge | 75 – Good | -0.19 | 0.11 | 54.32 | A good quality medium sized play area which has good play value. The loss of this site would result in a further shortfall in provision and a large gap in access, therefore this play space should be retained. |
| Betworthy Estate | Housing Revenue Account | Coaley and Uley | 80 – Good | 0.06 | 0.04 | 99.87 | A very good quality play space despite its small size. The site is a low priority for improvement and therefore it is recommended that this play space is retained. |
| Bunting Hill Play Area | Housing Revenue Account | Nailsworth | 62.5 – Average | 0.03 | 0.24 | 99.87 | A large average quality play space located within an area with a fairly large percentage of 0 – 15 year olds. This space is a low priority for improvement and the loss of this space would cause a shortfall in provision. It is recommended that this play space is retained and improved. |
| Stratford Park Toddler Play Areas | General Fund | Stroud Central | 77.5 – Good | 0.3 | 0.13 | 79.39 | A well-used, large, good quality toddler play area located within a leisure complex. The site is a low priority for improvement and therefore it is recommended that this play space is retained. |
| The Brambles | General Fund | Berkeley Vale | 58.75 – Average | 0.01 | 0.04 | 93.55 | A small average quality play space which has poor play value. The loss of this play space would result in a shortfall in provision within the ward, |

| Site Name | Ownership | Ward | Quality Score | Ward Supply (ha) | Area of Site (ha) | Percentage Overlap | Ethos Recommendations |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | however, it would only create a small gap in access. There are two other good quality (assessed in the Open Space Assessment 2019) play spaces located within parks and recreation grounds within the town of Berkeley, therefore it is considered that this play space may have potential for alternative use, providing that nearby provision within the ward is extended to prevent shortfalls in provision. |
| The Tynnings | Housing Revenue Account | Nailsworth | 75 – Good | 0.03 | 0.07 | 69.06 | A medium sized good quality play space with good play value. The site is a low priority for improvement and therefore it is recommended that this play space is retained. |
| Wharfdale Estate Play Area 1 | General Fund | Hardwicke | 68.75 – Average | -0.25 | 0.02 | 99.94 | A small average quality toddler play area within a ward with a high percentage of 0 – 15 year olds and high level of rural deprivation. There is a large shortfall in the provision of play spaces within the ward, but overall good access with three other play spaces within the Wharfdale Estate. It is recommended that this site could be considered for alternative use due to the good access to other nearby larger play areas, provided that nearby spaces can be extended to avoid making a further shortfall in provision within the ward. |
| Wharfdale Estate Play Area 2 | General Fund | Hardwicke | 68.75 – Average | -0.25 | 0.04 | 90.78 | A small average quality play area within a ward with a high percentage of 0 – 15 year olds and high level of rural deprivation. There is a shortfall in the provision of play spaces within the ward, but overall good access with three other play spaces within the Wharfdale Estate and one within 50m. |

| Site Name | Ownership | Ward | Quality Score | Ward Supply (ha) | Area of Site (ha) | Percentage Overlap | Ethos Recommendations |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | It is recommended that this site is retained. There is potential to merge the two play spaces to create one large play area within the amenity of Wharfdale Day. |
| Wharfdale Estate Play Area 3 | General Fund | Hardwicke | 68.75 – Average | -0.25 | 0.05 | 99.92 | A small average quality play area within a ward with a high percentage of 0 – 15 year olds and high level of rural deprivation. There is a shortfall in the provision of play spaces within the ward, but overall good access with three other play spaces within the Wharfdale Estate and one within 50m. It is recommended that this site is retained. There is potential to merge the two play spaces to create one large play area within the amenity of Wharfdale Day. |
| Wharfdale Estate Play Area 4 | General Fund | Hardwicke | 68.75 – Average | -0.25 | 0.04 | 96.23 | A medium sized average quality toddler play area within a ward with a high percentage of 0 – 15 year olds and high level of rural deprivation. There is a shortfall in the provision of play spaces within the ward, but overall good access with three other play spaces within the Wharfdale Estate. It is recommended that this site is retained. |

7.0 SUMMARY

Quality of Play Areas

The site audits of the 32 play areas found that:

- 11 sites were assessed as being of good quality
- 20 sites were assessed as being of average quality
- 2 sites were assessed as being of poor quality

Prioritisation

There are 11 spaces identified as a high priority for improvement, 11 identified as medium priority for improvement and 10 identified as low priority for improvement.

16 of these sites have been recommended to be retained and 13 sites have been recommended to be retained and improved. If a site has been assessed as being of good quality, the recommendation is to retain (rather than retain and enhance), but there may be local aspirations for improvements that will not have been picked up from the quality audit. This means that there may be some good quality spaces that are nonetheless identified for improvement.

Some play spaces are limited in the play value that they can offer due to their size/location and/or may be of average/poor quality. Where sites are overlapping in access and do not result in a shortfall in provision, they may be suitable for alternative open space use, especially where other existing high quality play areas are in close proximity. This is irrespective of a site's priority for improvement.

Of the 32 sites, we have identified that there are 3 play spaces which may have potential for alternative use which are:

- The Brambles (low priority for improvement)
- Little Mill Court (high priority for improvement)
- Wharfdale Estate Play Area 1 (low priority for improvement)

The decision if a site is suitable for alternative open space use will of course depend on the needs of the local community (who should be consulted before such a decision is made), and it is important to note that sites below are those with potential for alternative open space use – it is not the final recommendation of this framework that they are secured for alternative open space use, but rather that further investigation is needed.

