

# **Lancaster District PPG17 Study**

## **Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities**

### 2010 Area Analysis Report

Original Report commissioned by Lancaster City Council  
& prepared by PMP, December 2007

Refreshed by Lancaster City Council 2010



*Lancaster District Local Development Framework*

## Preface

During February 2007, Lancaster City Council appointed PMP consultants to undertake an assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities across the district. In 2010 the audit and subsequently the report findings were revisited by the council to take into account changes that had occurred and additional information which had been gathered since the original audit.

Key to PPG17 is identifying local needs, which underpins the process of establishing local standards for the district. This is achieved by extensive consultation and has not been altered during the 2010 refresh.

Where findings have not been affected by the 2010 changes, the recommended Actions of the original 2007 report have remained the same.

These recommendations have been provided from independent consultants (PMP) and are actions to be worked towards achieving. However, some actions for example; PG5 recommends the development of a new park within Heysham, detailed consultation may determine it would be more effective to make improvements to some of the amenity sites within the area, also funding and resources may not enable this or other actions to be implemented.

Changes made during 2010 refresh;

- Change of analysis areas to better reflect the natural divisions within the district
- Review of open space audit to include;
  - all school sites within the district
  - new developments which have gained planning permission
  - any sites which we have since been made aware of
- Assessment of all new sites
- Up dated scoring system, inline with PMP recommendations with additional guidance to reduce individual interpretations. *As a result of the change to the assessment some quality related assessments have been removed from the report until all sites can be reassessed.*
- Update of report statistics and findings as a result of the audit review.
- Update of recommended standards of provision as a result of the audit review. Most of these have not changed from the original 2007 report
- Enhanced mapping to make them easy to use. This includes;
  - Larger, easier to use maps within the report
  - A separate indexed Map Book of all the sites
- Development of an Analysis Area Report for a quick overview of areas.
- Easier comparison of information by typology or area through spreadsheet analysis.

## Introduction

- 1.1 During February 2007, Lancaster City Council (the Council) appointed PMP to undertake an assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities across the district. This report sets out the findings of this study and includes an assessment of local needs and the existing open space, sport and recreation provision.
- 1.2 During 2010 the audit and subsequently the report findings were revisited by the council to take into account changes that had occurred and additional information which had been gathered since the original audit. The additional information includes all school sites within the district; new developments which have gained planning permission and any sites which we have since been made aware of.
- 1.3 The study informs the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF) , the Councils' approach to Sustainability Appraisal and negotiating S106 agreements. Specifically, the study will provide a key evidence base to the Lancaster Core Strategy and will inform the preparation of the Site allocations DPD, Development Management DPD and the planning obligations SPD.
- 1.4 The other key objectives of the study include:
  - providing a complete and accurate audit of all open space, sport and recreation facilities across Lancaster
  - identifying local needs and aspirations through consultation, a strategic review and a review of existing provision standards to ensure that the study is focused on the key issues in the Lancaster District
  - recommending standards of provision (quantity, quality and accessibility) in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note17 (PPG17) Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002) which will feed directly into the LDF process
  - developing a clear framework to inform practical action to protect and improve open spaces, sport and recreation spaces and facilities.
- 1.5 The findings of this work will enable the Council to adopt a clear vision, priorities for the future (based on local need) and establish a direction for the allocation of resources.
- 1.6 This study has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the updated PPG17, and its Companion Guide published in September 2002.
- 1.7 **This Lancaster District Area Analysis Report provides a breakdown of the Lancaster District PPG17 Report analysis into a practical area based format. However, it is importance to refer back to the full PPG17 Report to understand the context and rationale of the findings.**

## **Local features and demographics**

- 1.8 Lancaster City Council is the most northerly district of Lancashire, in the north west of England and covers an area of 565km<sup>2</sup>. It borders with Wyre, River Valley, Craven and South Lakeland Councils and includes varying landscape characteristics ranging from coastline, urban areas and rural landscapes. Very large parts of the Arnside-Silverdale AONB and the Forest of Bowland AONB also fall within Lancaster District
- 1.9 Of the total population of 144,000, over 100,000 residents live within main urban area comprising Lancaster, Morecambe and Heysham. The remainder of people reside either within the small town of Carnforth or within expanded village settlements, specifically Bolton le Sands, Hest Bank, Caton and Brookhouse and Halton. Although these settlements are located close to the main urban area, both the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities and the expectations of residents in these smaller villages can vary from those in the urban areas. These different types of settlements also present different challenges to the Council and other open space providers.
- 1.10 The main urban area is densely populated and pressures for land are significantly higher in this area than in the rural areas. Furthermore, land is scarce and there are high demands for open space, sport and recreation facilities resulting from the large population.
- 1.11 There has been steady population growth in Lancaster District since the 1970s although much of this growth has been confined to previously developed land. S106 agreements associated with new residential dwellings have addressed issues of provision in new developments, however there is perceived to be only limited open space within the urban centres. Much open space, sport and recreation provision within the outlying rural areas is owned and managed by Parish Councils.
- 1.12 The demographic profile of the district has a particular influence on the demand for open space, sport and recreation facilities. While the proportion of residents of ethnic minority origin is below the national average, the age profile is skewed towards people between 18 – 25, reflecting the high student population in the City studying at Lancaster University and University of Cumbria. This may result in demand for different types of open space, sport and recreation facilities accessible to students in these areas.
- 1.13 Although the level of car ownership in the district falls marginally below the national average, much of this is associated with the nature of the district and the excellent transport links and close proximity to services within the urban area rather than financial difficulties. This however still serves to highlight the importance of the provision of local open spaces. Despite this, Lancaster District falls within the top 35% of authorities in terms of deprivation (measured using the Multiple Indices of Deprivation). This suggests that there are pockets of deprivation within the district, which further reinforces the importance of local provision.
- 1.14 While this study considers primarily the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities within the settlement boundaries, it is essential to consider these facilities in the wider context of the area. The coastal area (particularly the beach) and the wider countryside and areas of beauty provide additional recreational opportunities for residents

## Types of Open Space

- 2.1 The overall definition of open space within the government planning guidance is:
- “all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity”.
- 2.2 PPG17 identifies ten typologies including nine types of open space and one category of urban open space – indoor sports facilities. It states that these typologies, or variations of it should be used when preparing assessments of local need.
- 2.3 Table 2.1 sets out the types of open space included within this study in Lancaster. It is important to note that only those sites within settlement boundaries have been included in the audit, in line with guidelines set out in PPG17. The significance of sites outside of these boundaries, alongside areas of nearby natural countryside will be considered throughout this report.
- 2.4 Although there is no specific reference to coastal areas within PPG 17, in light of the significant role in the provision of open space and a recreational resource for residents and visitors, coastal areas have been considered as part of this assessment. Sites located on the coastline (for example play facilities on the promenade) have been classified into the appropriate typologies.

**Table 2.1 – Typologies of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities**

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one of more of the other types of open space within them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• informal recreation</li><li>• community events.</li></ul>
<b>Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces</b>	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (eg downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wildlife</li><li>• conservation,</li><li>• biodiversity</li><li>• environmental education and awareness.</li></ul>
<b>Amenity Greenspace</b>	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• informal activities close to home or work</li><li>• children’s play</li><li>• enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas</li></ul>

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose
<b>Provision for Children</b>	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children below aged 12. While it is recognised that a wide variety of opportunities for children exist (including play schemes and open spaces not specifically designed for this purpose), as per PPG17, this typology considers only those spaces specifically designed as equipped play facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• childrens play</li> </ul>
<b>Provision for young people</b>	<p>Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people aged 12 and above. While it is recognised that a wide variety of opportunities for young people exist (including youth clubs and open spaces not specifically designed for this purpose, as per PPG17, this typology considers only those spaces specifically designed for use by young people eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• teenage shelters</li> <li>• skateboard Parks</li> <li>• BMX tracks</li> <li>• Multi Use Games Areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• activities or meeting places for young people</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor Sports Facilities</b>	<p>Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outdoor sports pitches</li> <li>• tennis and bowls</li> <li>• golf courses</li> <li>• athletics</li> <li>• playing fields (including school playing fields)</li> <li>• water sports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilities for formal sports participation</li> </ul>
<b>Allotments</b>	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. May also include urban farms. This typology does not include private gardens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• growing vegetable, fruit and flowers (drop root crops)</li> </ul>
<b>Cemeteries &amp; Churchyards</b>	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• burial of the dead</li> <li>• quiet contemplation</li> </ul>
<b>Green Corridors</b>	Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walking, cycling or horse riding</li> <li>• leisure purposes or travel</li> <li>• opportunities for wildlife migration.</li> </ul>
<b>Civic Spaces</b>	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians	<p>informal recreation community events quiet contemplation</p>

## Analysis Areas

- 3.1. Analysis of the open space, sport and recreation facilities across the authority has been undertaken by looking at the supply and demand in five different areas across the local authority.
- 3.2. These analysis areas have been updated during the 2010 refresh to better reflect the geographical makeup of the district.

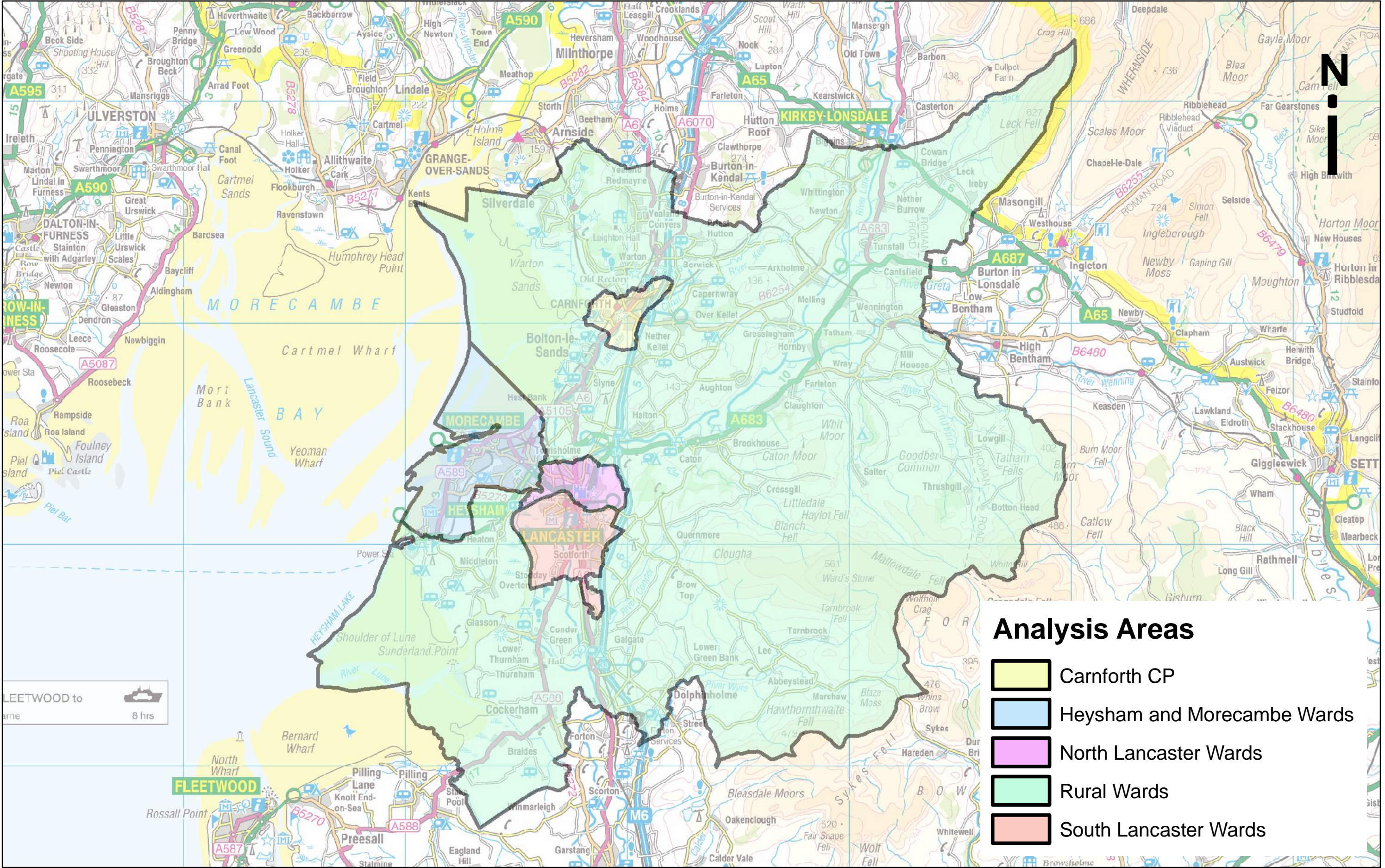
**Table 3.1 – The geographical areas of Lancaster (2010)**

Ward Name	Analysis Area
Silverdale	<b>Rural</b>
Slyne-with-Hest	
Warton	
Bolton-le-Sands	
Ellel	
Halton-with-Aughton	
Kellet	
Lower Lune Valley	
Overton	
Upper Lune Valley	
Bare	<b>Heysham and Morecambe</b>
Harbour	
Heysham Central	
Heysham North	
Heysham South	
Poulton	
Torrisholme	
Westgate	
Castle	<b>South Lancaster</b>
Duke's	
John O'Gaunt	
Scotforth East	
Scotforth West	
University	
Bulk	<b>North Lancaster</b>
Skerton East	
Skerton West	
Carnforth (parish boundary)	<b>Carnforth</b>





# AA1: PPG17 Lancaster District Analysis Areas





## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

### Lancaster South

	Current Provision (Hectares)	Number of sites	Existing Level of provision ha per 1000 (based on 2007 population estimates)	Smallest Site	Largest Site	2031 Population Forecast	Provision per 1000 population (2031)	surplus/ deficit
Cemeteries	5.54	6	0.16	0.05	4.33	45941	0.12	
Children (Play Areas)	1.42	24	0.04	0.01	0.17	45941	0.03	-2.25
Young People	0.30	2	0.01	0.03	0.27	45941	0.01	-0.62
Allotments	10.29	9	0.30	0.18	2.66	45941	0.22	2.02
Parks & Gardens	33.38	4	0.96	0.36	26.98	45941	0.73	16.38
Amenity Greenspace	25.87	25	0.75	0.02	5.91	45941	0.56	-6.10
Natural & semi natural greenspace	26.97	13	0.78	0.11	9.11	45941	0.59	-37.80
Outdoor Sports Facilities	59.13	32	1.70	0.09	1.46	45941	1.29	-24.94
	<b>162.90</b>	<b>115</b>	4.70				<b>3.55</b>	<b>-53.32</b>

Red = below recommended standard of provision

Yellow = meets recommended standard of provision

Green = exceeds recommended standard of provision

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

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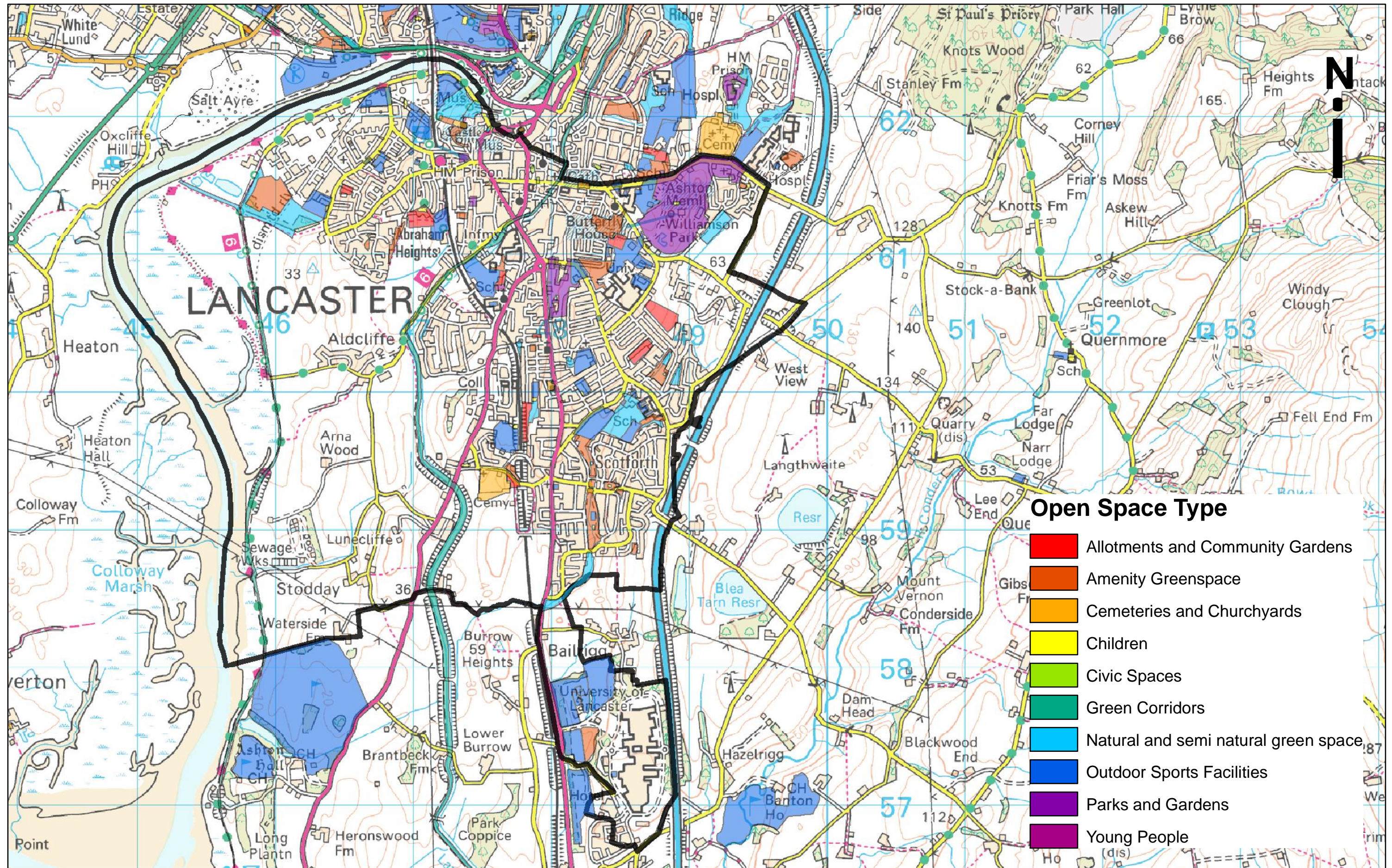
	ID	highest quality rating	Score	ID	lowest quality rating	Score	Average
Cemeteries	512	St Pauls church churchyard	92	630	Lancaster priory (St.Mary's)	60	66
Children (Play Areas)	579	Masonfield Crescent Play Area	90	612	Gregson Road	42	64
Young People	364	Ripley School MUGA	94	444	Cedar Road - Marsh	52	73
Allotments	373	Scotforth Cemetery Allotments	88	261	Bridge Road- Allotments	56	64
Parks & Gardens	242	Storey Gardens including The Tasting Gardens	90	224	Greaves Park	64	77
Amenity Greenspace	154	Storey Avenue AGS	88	356	Dallas Road AGS	38	58
Natural & semi natural greenspace	476	Ascot Close NSN	80	676	Freeman's Wood, Lancaster	46	54
Outdoor Sports Facilities	362	Bowerham Bowling Green	96	234	Palatine OSF	54	78

\* The assessment process was update during the 2010 refresh. New sites added during this refresh were assessed using the updated method. All other sites will be reassessed on an annual rolling programme.

Please refer to full assessment database as more than one site may have the same score and some sites have not been assessed for a particular reason.



# Map AA2: Lancaster South Area



0 0.5 1 2 Km



## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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### **Introduction**

Lancaster is situated on the River Lune, which splits the PPG17 analysis areas Lancaster North and South. It has a long existing as a commercial, cultural and educational centre with its history based on its former port and canal. It is also home to Lancaster University to the south of the city.

### **Parks & Gardens**

Despite having sufficient quantitative provision when measured against the local standard, the accessibility catchment highlights deficiencies in the south of Lancaster. Greaves Park, along with some smaller gardens located in the central area are currently the only facilities meeting the needs of residents in this area and all are located in the northern extremes.

Given that much of this area encompasses the University Campus and student housing, it is considered that the provision of an additional park in this area is not required. This is further supported by the evenly distributed spread of amenity space, which ensures that residents have access to informal recreation opportunities.

Instead, investment should be targeted towards existing sites. While Williamson Park was considered to be of good quality, greater opportunities for improvement were identified at Greaves Park.

Williamson Park is also a significant heritage and tourist attraction for the district supporting wider district agendas.

### **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (NSN)**

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency in the South Lancaster.

In contrast to the lower levels of provision in South Lancaster, the amount of natural and semi natural open space in Lancaster exceeds the recommended minimum standards.

### **Amenity Greenspace**

The current supply of amenity green space exceeds the recommended local standard. This is reinforced by the even distribution of spaces across the District, with few deficiencies identified. The breakdown of provision by analysis areas has revealed a requirement for further provision up to 2031 in all areas.

In light of the even distribution of amenity spaces in this area, the focus should therefore be on investing in improvements to the quality of sites.

In areas of overlapping catchments, despite quantitative shortfalls, in some instances poor quality sites may be of limited value to the community. Only sites with limited value to residents (ie poor quality, low accessibility and overlapping catchments) should be considered for disposal in Lancaster City and sites should be assessed in terms of their value as other open space types prior to their loss as amenity sites.

## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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### **Children and Young People Facilities**

Equipped provision for children and young people was one of the overriding themes of consultations throughout the study with residents expressing concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting that the quality of many facilities is insufficient and that facilities are perceived to be boring and not challenging.

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency in the South Lancaster for both children and young people's facilities.

Despite the findings of the application of the quantity standards, the distribution of facilities for children is comprehensive and there are relatively few residents outside of the recommended distance threshold.

Consideration should be given to the disposal of poor quality sites in areas of overlapping catchments. Remaining sites should then be improved to provide a wider range of facilities and meet the overall quantitative standard.

Appropriate locations and types of facilities should be considered to increase the provision of facilities for young people.

### **Allotments**

Lancaster (South & North) are the only analysis areas within the district which shows a surplus of provision. There are significant deficiencies across the District and all areas will have shortfalls by 2031 when measured against the minimum quantity standard.

Analysis of waiting lists suggests that there are waiting lists across the District and indeed, many of the larger waiting lists are located within the South Lancaster area where there are oversupplies when measured against the minimum standards.

In light of the shortfalls of allotments across the District and the high levels of use at all allotments sites all provision should be protected from development.

### **Outdoor Sports facilities**

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency in the South Lancaster.

Consultation indicated that while the quantity of facilities is problematic, there is a real need to improve the quality of many existing sites. This was reflected through the significant variation in the quality of facilities. As there are few accessibility deficiencies, the initial focus should be on the enhancement of existing facilities.

School facilities have restricted accessibility and in some instances are not accessible at all. It is important of enhancing access to school facilities.

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

### Lancaster North

	Current Provision (Hectares)	Number of sites	Existing Level of provision, ha per 1000 (based on 2007 population estimates)	Smallest Site	Largest Site	2031 Population Forecast	Provision per 1000 population (2031)	surplus/ deficit
Cemeteries	10.05	5	0.46	0.12	7.32	28898	0.35	0.00
Children (Play Areas)	0.70	10.00	0.03	0.03	0.20	28897.51	0.02	-1.61
Young People	0.84	8.00	0.04	0.01	0.42	28897.51	0.03	0.26
Allotments	4.11	4	0.19	0.32	1.36	28898	0.14	-1.09
Parks & Gardens	6.40	2	0.29	2.23	4.16	28898	0.22	-4.29
Amenity Greenspace	18.56	22	0.85	0.04	2.32	28898	0.64	-1.67
Natural & semi natural greenspace	41.10	20	1.88	0.17	9.01	28898	1.42	0.35
Outdoor Sports Facilities	96.22	25	4.41	0.09	28.39	28898	3.33	14.95
	<b>177.98</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>8.16</b>				<b>6.16</b>	<b>6.90</b>

Red = below recommended standard of provision  
 Yellow = meets recommended standard of provision  
 Green = exceeds recommended standard of provision

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

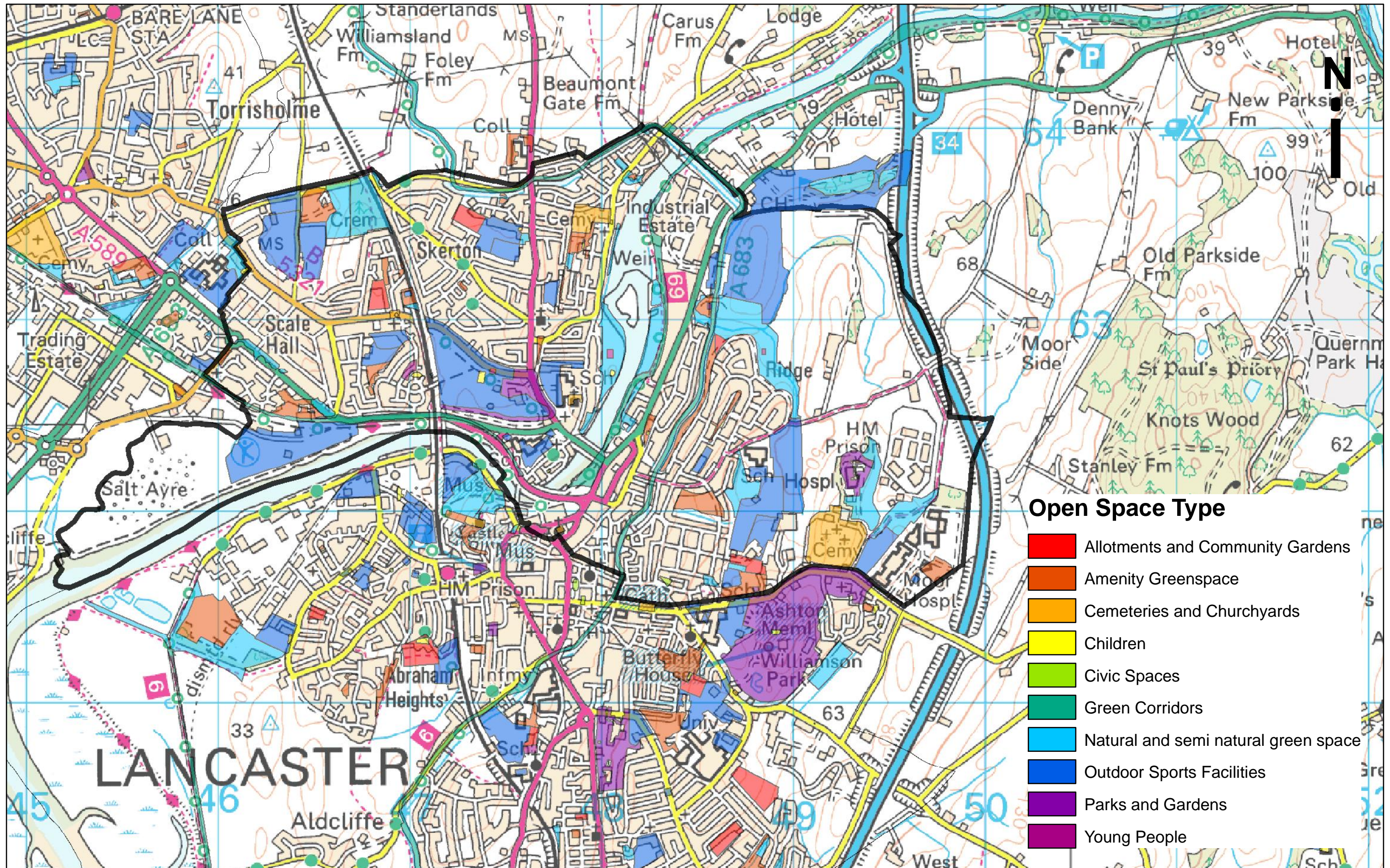
	ID	highest quality rating	Score	ID	lowest quality rating	Score	Average
Cemeteries	258	Lancaster Cemetery	86	161	St. Lukes Parish Church	40	62
Children (Play Areas)	190	Ryelands Park - Play Area	74	859	Mainways, Cow Shard Play Ground	40	61
Young People	871	Hill road Mini MUGA	71	860	Cow Shard 5 aside	40	55
Allotments	154	Barley Cop Lane Allotments	60	615	Highfield, Lancaster	32	52
Parks & Gardens	353	Ridge Lea Hospital Gardens	86	160	Ryelands House P+G	66	76
Amenity Greenspace	150	Crematorium Gardens	96	696	Skerton Triangle	28	51
Natural & semi natural greenspace	151	Crematorium Woodland	86	158	Ashbourne Road- NSN	20	52
Outdoor Sports Facilities	205	Skerton Community High School OSF	92	181	Far Moor, Grass pitches	50	68

\* The assessment process was update during the 2010 refresh. New sites added during this refresh were assessed using the updated method. All other sites will be reassessed on an annual rolling programme.

Please refer to full assessment database as more than one site may have the same score and some sites have not been assessed for a particular reason.



# Map AA3: Lancaster North Area



0 0.5 1 2 Km



## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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### **Introduction**

Lancaster is situated on the River Lune, which splits the PPG17 analysis areas North and South. It has a long existing as a commercial, cultural and educational centre with its history based on its former port and canal. It is also home to Lancaster University to the south of the city.

### **Parks & Gardens**

Residents in North Lancaster are served predominantly by Ryelands Park. While there is some access to the hospital gardens in this area, this site has a limited role as a recreational resource and also serves a similar location to Williamson Park. Ryelands Park is therefore central to the local community. Quality assessments of this site highlight opportunities for improvement.

In light of quantitative deficiencies in the area and small pockets of accessibility deficiency, any opportunities for new park provision in north Lancaster should be considered.

### **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (NSN)**

In contrast to the lower levels of provision in South Lancaster, the amount of natural and semi natural open space in Lancaster exceeds the recommended minimum standards. These sites are evenly distributed across the north of the city and in light of the importance placed on natural and semi natural open space by residents should be protected.

### **Amenity Greenspace**

The current supply of amenity green space matches the recommended local standard. This is reinforced by the even distribution of spaces across the District, with few deficiencies identified. The breakdown of provision by analysis areas has revealed a requirement for further provision up to 2031 in all areas.

In light of the even distribution of amenity spaces in this area, the focus should therefore be on investing in improvements to the quality of sites.

In areas of overlapping catchments, despite quantitative shortfalls, in some instances poor quality sites may be of limited value to the community. Only sites with limited value to residents (ie poor quality, low accessibility and overlapping catchments) should be considered for disposal in Lancaster City and sites should be assessed in terms of their value as other open space types prior to their loss as amenity sites.

### **Children and Young People Facilities**

Equipped provision for children and young people was one of the overriding themes of consultations throughout the study with residents expressing concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting that the quality of many facilities is insufficient and that facilities are perceived to be boring and not challenging.

The application of the local standards for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency in the North Lancaster for children facilities, but a small surplus in provision of young people's facilities. This is the only analysis area to meet the provision

## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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requirement for young people, but consideration should be made to the quality and appropriateness of the facilities.

Despite the findings of the application of the quantity standards, the distribution of facilities for children is comprehensive and there are relatively few residents outside of the recommended distance threshold.

Consideration should be given to the disposal of poor quality sites in areas of overlapping catchments. Remaining sites should then be improved to provide a wider range of facilities and meet the overall quantitative standard

### **Allotments**

Lancaster (South & North) are the only analysis areas within the district which shows a surplus of provision. There are significant deficiencies across the District and all areas will have shortfalls by 2031 when measured against the minimum quantity standard.

Analysis of waiting lists suggests that there are waiting lists across the District and indeed, many of the larger waiting lists are located within the South Lancaster area where there are oversupplies when measured against the minimum standards.

In light of the shortfalls of allotments across the District and the high levels of use at all allotments sites all provision should be protected from development.

### **Outdoor Sports facilities**

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative surplus in the North Lancaster.

Consultation indicated that while the quantity of facilities is problematic, there is a real need to improve the quality of many existing sites. This was reflected through the significant variation in the quality of facilities. As there are few accessibility deficiencies, the initial focus should be on the enhancement of existing facilities.

School facilities have restricted accessibility and in some instances are not accessible at all. It is important of enhancing access to school facilities.

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

### Heysham and Morecambe

	Current Provision (Hectares)	Number of sites	Existing Level of provision, ha per 1000 (based on 2007 population estimates)	Smallest Site	Largest Site	2031 Population Forecast	Provision per 1000 population (2031)	surplus/ deficit
Cemeteries	10.04	10	0.20	0.04	6.04	67462	0.15	0.00
Allotments	2.78	3	0.05	0.30	1.64	67462	0.04	-9.36
Children (Play Areas)	3.74	31.00	0.07	0.01	1.07	67462.40	0.06	-1.66
Young People	0.72	8.00	0.01	0.02	0.32	67462.40	0.01	-0.62
Parks & Gardens	4.99	6	0.10	0.06	1.48	67462	0.07	-19.97
Amenity Greenspace	28.11	59	0.55	0.03	3.37	67462	0.42	-19.11
Natural & semi natural greenspace	38.85	22	0.76	0.08	10.56	67462	0.58	-56.27
Outdoor Sports Facilities	95.77	38	1.88	0.03	39.05	67462	1.42	-66.73
	<b>185.01</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>3.63</b>				<b>2.74</b>	<b>-173.74</b>

Red = below recommended standard of provision  
 Yellow = meets recommended standard of provision  
 Green = exceeds recommended standard of provision

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

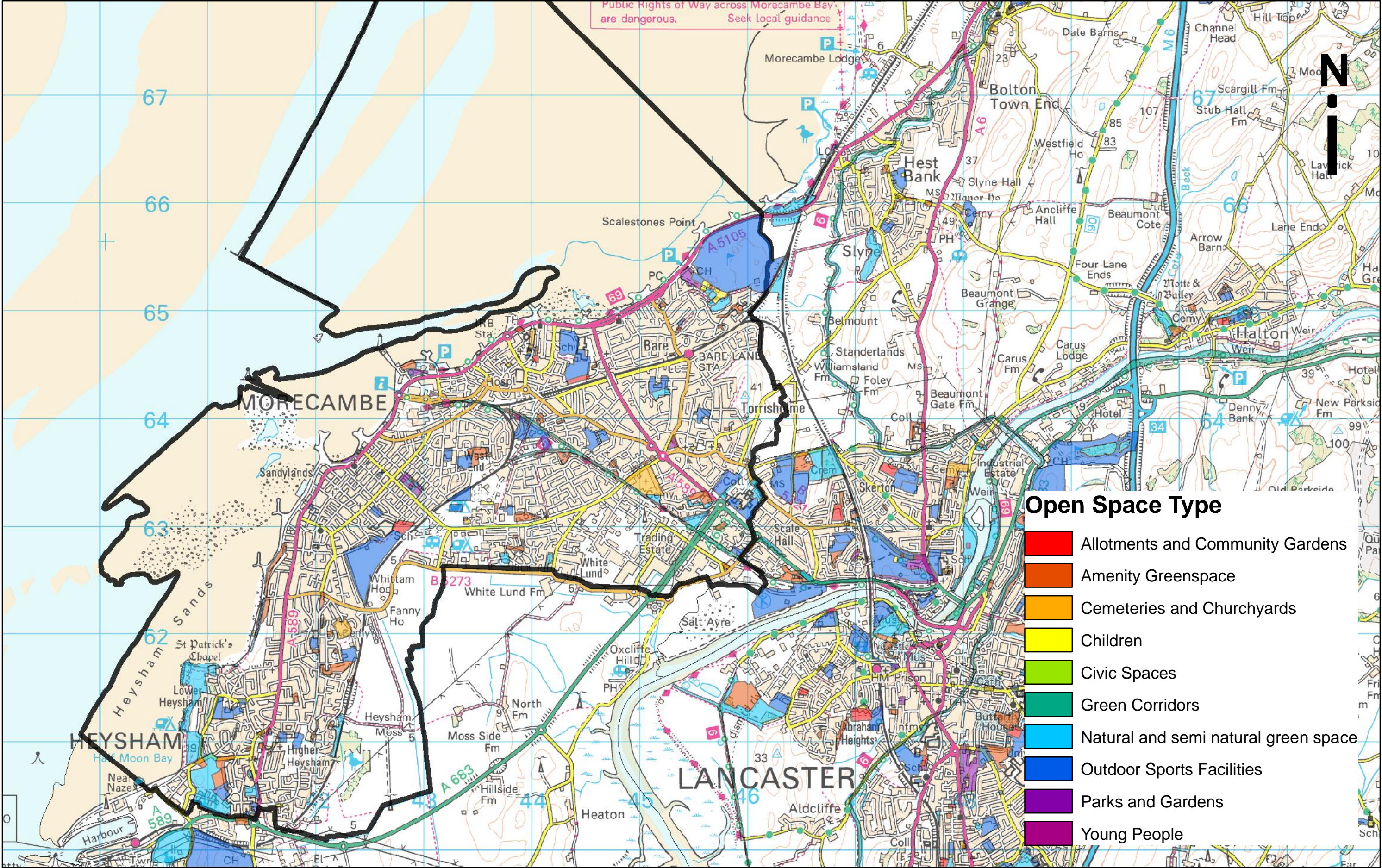
	ID	highest quality rating	Score	ID	lowest quality rating	Score	Average
Cemeteries	237	Torrisholme Cemetery	86	266	Church Lane Cemetery	50	78
Allotments	278	Osbourne Road Allotments	80	617	Poluton Community Garden	50	67
Children (Play Areas)	331	Happy Mount Park Children's Play Area	100	316	Essington ave (Schola Green Lane) Play Area	36	71
Young People	619	Happy Mount Park MUGA	76	186	Altham Meadows 5 aside	26	48
Parks & Gardens	332	Happy Mount Park and Gardens	100	315	Schola Green Lane Garden	54	75
Amenity Greenspace	551	eric morecambes ags	95	317	Clay Pits Playing Field	24	61
Natural & semi natural greenspace	325	The Glade NSN	88	313	Oxcliffe Road NSN	32	53
Outdoor Sports Facilities	868	Trimpbell Sesc. Bowling Green	100	863	Clay Pits Playing 5 aside	24	73

\* The assessment process was update during the 2010 refresh. New sites added during this refresh were assessed using the updated method. All other sites will be reassessed on an annual rolling programme.

Please refer to full assessment database as more than one site may have the same score and some sites have not been assessed for a particular reason



# Map AA4: Heysham and Morecambe



0 0.5 1 2 Km



## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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**Heysham and Morecambe form the largest analysis area. It is also the area with the greatest estimated population growth by 2031.**

**However, Heysham and Morecambe have different distinct characteristics and needs which affect the analysis and therefore for the purpose of this report Heysham and Morecambe have been analysed separately.**

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

### Morecambe

	Current Provision (Hectares)	Number of sites	Existing Level of provision, ha per 1000 (based on 2007 population estimates)	Smallest Site	Largest Site	2031 Population Forecast	Provision per 1000 population (2031)	surplus/deficit
Cemeteries	7.33	5	0.16	0.09	6.04	44491	0.16	0.00
Children (Play Areas)	3.13	24	0.07	0.01	1.07	44491	0.07	-0.43
Young People	0.64	6	0.01	0.03	0.32	44491	0.01	-0.25
Allotments	1.14	2	0.03	0.30	0.84	44491	0.03	-6.87
Parks & Gardens	4.99	6	0.11	0.06	1.48	44491	0.11	-11.47
Amenity Greenspace	14.27	37	0.32	0.03	1.60	44491	0.32	-16.87
Natural & semi natural greenspace	10.24	13	0.23	0.08	1.79	44491	0.23	-52.49
Outdoor Sports Facilities	70.99	24	1.60	0.03	39.05	44491	1.60	-40.48
	<b>112.72</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>2.53</b>			<b>44491</b>	<b>2.53</b>	

Red = below recommended standard of provision

Yellow = meets recommended standard of provision

Green = exceeds recommended standard of provision



## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

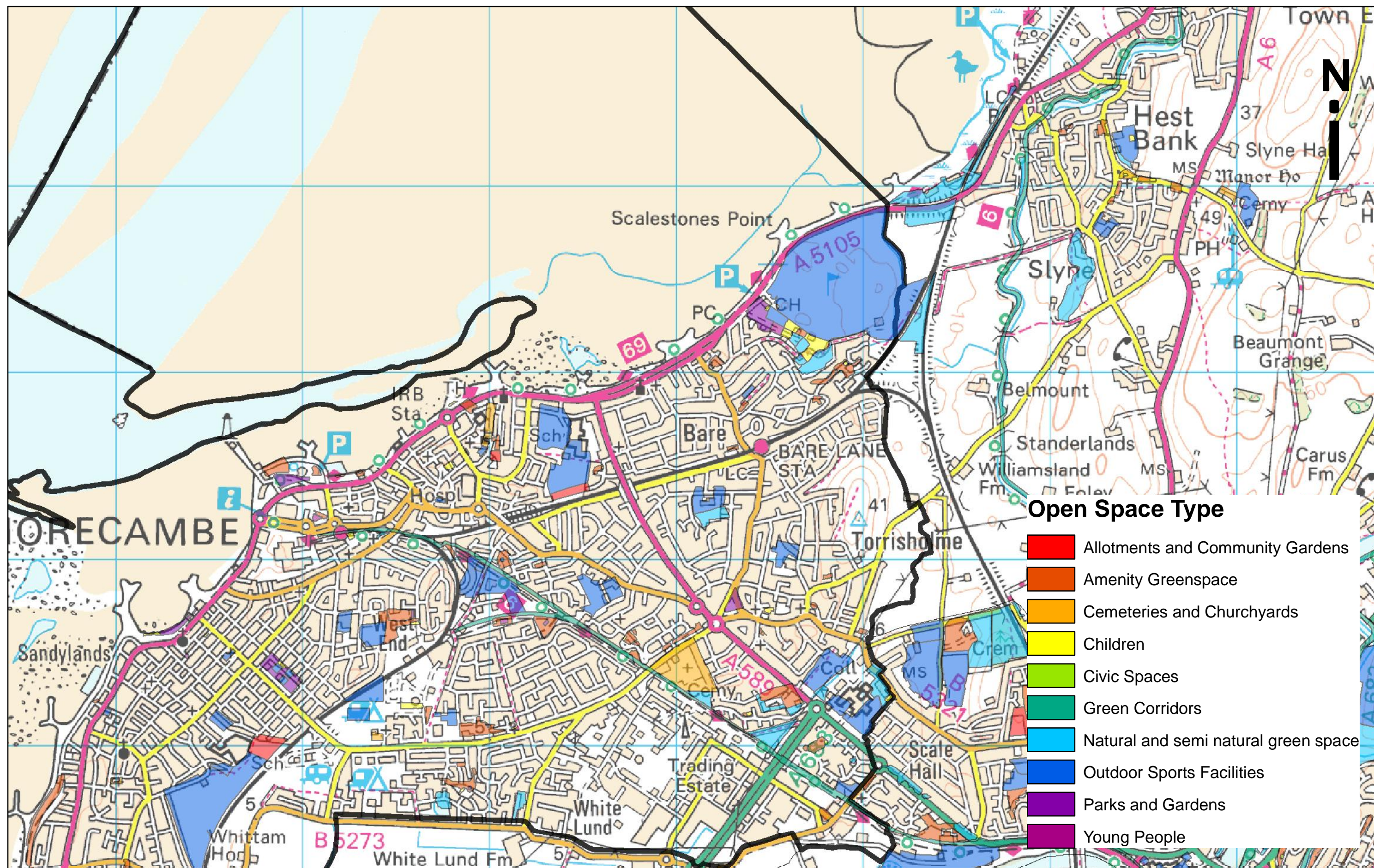
	ID	highest quality rating	Score	ID	lowest quality rating	Score	Average
Cemeteries	237	Torrisholme Cemetery	86	266	Church Lane Cemetery	50	73
Children (Play Areas)	178	Happy Mount Park Natural Adventure Play Area	90	309	Langridge Way Play Area	50	71
Young People	619	Happy Mount Park MUGA	76	186	Altham Meadows 5 aside	26	46
Allotments	318	Broadway Allotments	70	617	Poluton Community Garden	50	60
Parks & Gardens	332	Happy Mount Park and Gardens	100	315	Schola Green Lane Garden	54	75
Amenity Greenspace	551	Eric Morecambe's ags	95	317	Clay Pits Playing Field	24	62
Natural & semi natural greenspace	325	The Glade NSN	88	659	Lune Drive Pond	0	50
Outdoor Sports Facilities	167	Lancaster and Morecambe College Rugby Pitches	100	189	Morecambe FC (new ground) OSF	0	77

\* The assessment process was update during the 2010 refresh. New sites added during this refresh were assessed using the updated method. All other sites will be reassessed on an annual rolling programme.

Please refer to full assessment database as more than one site may have the same score and some sites have not been assessed for a particular reason.



# Map AA6: Morecambe Area



0 0.5 1 2 Km



## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

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### Introduction

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficit in all typologies within Morecambe. Population estimates show the area as one of the largest growth areas within the district.

Morecambe is a coastal town, the role that this plays in offsetting the demand for natural and semi natural open space and amenity green space should not be underestimated.

Near the coast Morecambe has mainly terrace housing, with small fishman cottages in Poulton and large guest house terraces in the Westend. With such housing, outside space is limited and therefore good quality, accessibly open space plays an increasingly important role. Further away from the coast there are a variety of family houses.

With limited green space available consideration should be given to increasing the quality of existing provision; providing good accessibly provision in other areas and seizing any opportunities for improvement.

### Parks & Gardens

Morecambe has six parks and gardens (Happy Mount Park (HMP), Regent Park, West End Gardens, Torrisholme Park, Marine Road Central, Schola Green Lane Garden). Happy Mount Park is highlighted as a particular example of good practice gaining a 100% quality score. While most parks are small and cater for local need, HMP, as with Williamson Park is a significant park for the district both as a local and tourist provision.

\*important to note that where parks contain more than one type of provision each provision will be included only within that typology to prevent duplication which reduces the area shown for a park; e.g. HMP contains area of outdoor sports facilities, children play, young people etc. and therefore the hectares allocated as 'park' for these purposes is far smaller than the park boundaries. This particularly affects HMP and Regent Park.

### Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (NSN)

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a significant quantitative deficiency in Morecambe.

The distribution of natural and semi natural open spaces is sporadic and there are large proportions of residents outside of the recommended catchment across the Morecambe. However the role that the coastal areas play in offsetting the demand for natural and semi natural open space should not be underestimated. While this does not negate the need for natural and semi natural open space within settlement boundaries, it does impact on the overall demand for this type of open space.

<b>NSN1</b>	Identify opportunities for the creation of new natural open space within the Heysham and Morecambe area, focusing particularly in the central area and the Poulton area of Morecambe.
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## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

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In light of the shortfall of natural open space in this area, all existing sites should be protected. Site assessments highlight that areas of natural and semi natural open space are of poor quality.

<b>NSN3</b>	Seize opportunities to provide new natural space in the deficient areas of the district. In light of the character of the urban areas, it may be appropriate to consider the provision of a natural pocket park.
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### **Amenity Greenspace**

The current supply of amenity green space is under the recommended local standard. However, there is relatively even distribution of spaces across the District, with few deficiencies identified. There is gap in provision identified between Morecambe and Heysham. The breakdown of provision by analysis areas has revealed a requirement for further provision up to 2031 in all areas.

Morecambe is characterised by a cluster of smaller sites. Residents within the Morecambe area also have access to the coastal and beach area, which acts as a significant natural amenity resource.

In light of the even distribution of amenity spaces in this area, the focus should therefore be on investing in improvements to the quality of sites.

In areas of overlapping catchments, despite quantitative shortfalls, in some instances poor quality sites may be of limited value to the community. Only sites with limited value to residents (ie poor quality, low accessibility and overlapping catchments) should be considered for disposal in Lancaster City and sites should be assessed in terms of their value as other open space types prior to their loss as amenity sites.

### **Children and Young People Facilities**

Equipped provision for children and young people was one of the overriding themes of consultations throughout the study with residents expressing concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting that the quality of many facilities is insufficient and that facilities are perceived to be boring and not challenging.

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency in Morecambe for both children and young people's facilities.

Application of the quantity standards show some residents outside the recommended distance threshold for the provision of play areas. These are within in Bare and between Morecambe and Heysham and should be addressed where possible.

Consideration should be given to the disposal of poor quality sites in areas of overlapping catchments. Remaining sites should then be improved to provide a wider range of facilities and meet the overall quantitative standard.

Appropriate locations and types of facilities should be considered to increase the provision of facilities for young people.

## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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### **Allotments**

The distribution of allotments is mainly focused around the urban areas. There is limited provision in the rural areas and the largest deficiencies are found to the Morecambe, Heysham and to the north of Lancaster City.

There are significant deficiencies across the District and all areas will have shortfalls by 2031 when measured against the minimum quantity standard.

Analysis of waiting lists suggests that there are waiting lists across the District and indeed, many of the larger waiting lists are located within the South Lancaster area where there are oversupplies when measured against the minimum standards.

In light of the shortfalls of allotments across the District and the high levels of use at all allotments sites all provision should be protected from development.

### **Outdoor Sports facilities**

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency in Morecambe.

Consultation indicated that while the quantity of facilities is problematic, there is a real need to improve the quality of many existing sites. This was reflected through the significant variation in the quality of facilities. As there are few accessibility deficiencies, the initial focus should be on the enhancement of existing facilities.

School facilities have restricted accessibility and in some instances are not accessible at all. It is important of enhancing access to school facilities.

With limited space available within Morecambe opportunities should be seized, consideration should be given to improvements to quality and accessibility of facilities either within or near to the area.

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

### Heysham

	Current Provision (Hectares)	Number of sites	Existing Level of provision, ha per 1000 (based on 2007 population estimates)	Smallest Site	Largest Site	2031 Population Forecast	Provision per 1000 population (2031)	surplus/ deficit
Cemeteries	2.72	5	0.12	0.04	2.30	22972	0.12	0.00
Children (Play Areas)	0.61	7	0.03	0.01	0.17	22972	0.03	-1.23
Young People	0.09	3	0.00	0.02	0.04	22972	0.00	-0.37
Allotments	1.64	1	0.07	1.64		22972	0.07	-2.49
Parks & Gardens	0	0	0.00			22972	0.00	-8.50
Amenity Greenspace	13.84	22	0.60	0.05	3.37	22972	0.60	-2.24
Natural & semi natural greenspace	28.61	9	1.25	0.19	10.56	22972	1.25	-3.78
Outdoor Sports Facilities	24.79	14	1.08	0.07	13.71	22972	1.08	-17.25
	<b>72.29</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>3.15</b>				<b>3.15</b>	

Red = below recommended standard of provision

Yellow = meets recommended standard of provision

Green = exceeds recommended standard of provision

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

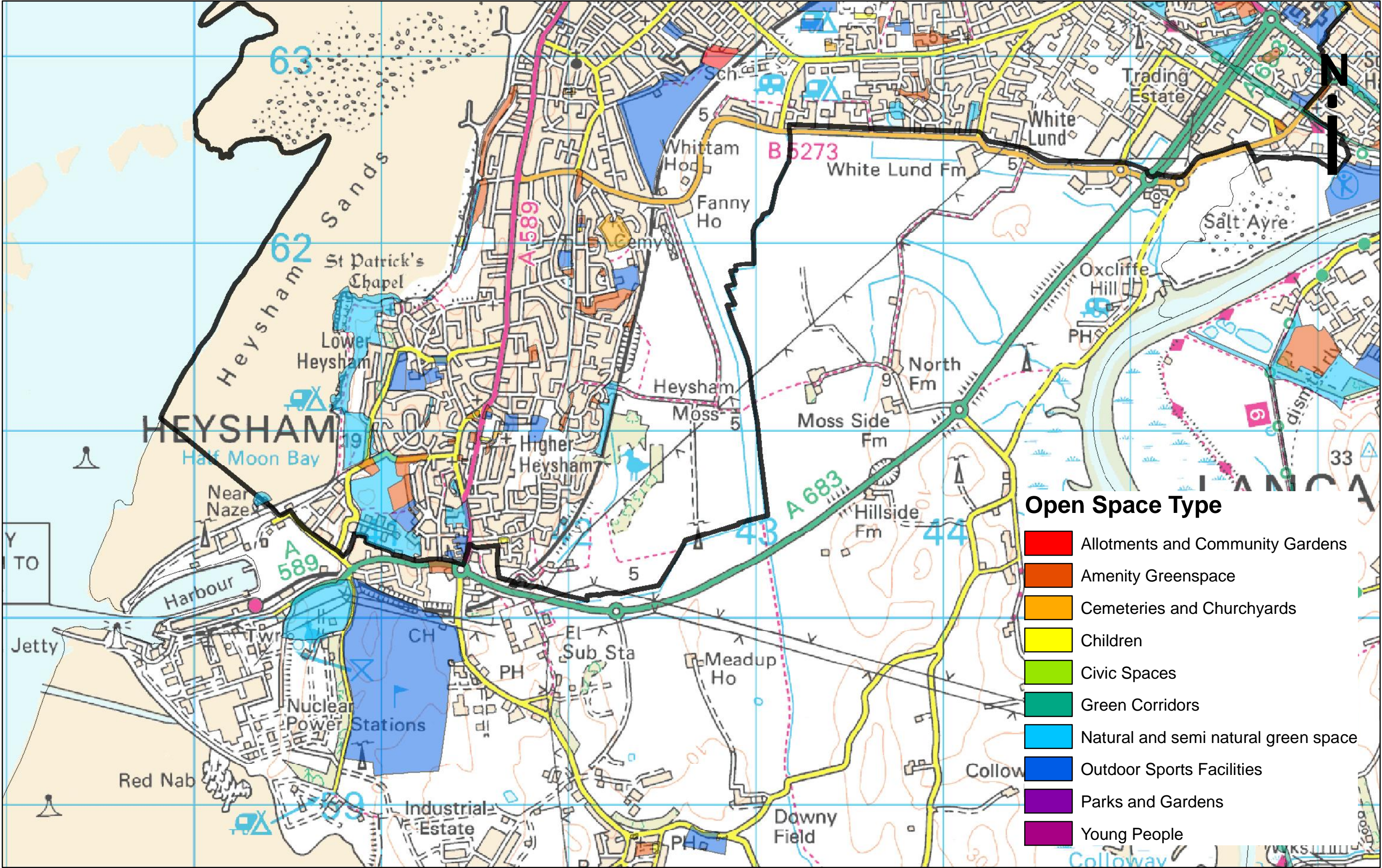
	ID	highest quality rating	Score	ID	lowest quality rating	Score	Average
Cemeteries	524	St Peters parish church - churchyard	86	525	St. Patricks chapel	80	84
Children (Play Areas)	532	west end gardens play area	94	299	Kingsway Play Area	46	68
Young People	304	West Street Young People	66	509	Promenade, Climbing Wall	30	51
Allotments							
Parks & Gardens							
Amenity Greenspace	521	Middleton Way AGS	88	712	Snowden Avenue AGS	28	60
Natural & semi natural greenspace	166	Peel Ave	76	232	Combermere Grove- NSN	28	57
Outdoor Sports Facilities	303	Cumberland View Bowling Club	100	302	King George's, Lordsome Ave	36	66

\* The assessment process was update during the 2010 refresh. New sites added during this refresh were assessed using the updated method. All other sites will be reassessed on an annual rolling programme.

Please refer to full assessment database as more than one site may have the same score and some sites have not been assessed for a particular reason.



# Map AA5: Heysham Area





## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

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### Introduction

Heysham is a large coastal village. It has a port with services to the Isle of Man and Ireland and is the site of two nuclear power stations which are landmarks visible from hills in the surrounding area. There is a good variety of housing from 17<sup>th</sup> century cottages to large modern housing estates.

### Parks & Gardens

While there is a good distribution of amenity space in Heysham, there are significant accessibility issues for parks. In light of the application of the quantity standards, new provision of a new park to meet the needs of residents in Heysham should therefore be considered a priority.

There are amenity spaces in this area that could be formalised to provide a park or garden. Furthermore, there is surplus amenity space in quantitative terms. Meldon Road Amenity area (Site ID 598), Levens Drive Amenity Area (Site ID 608) and Smithy Lane Amenity Area (Site ID 406) all exceed 2ha in size and would therefore potentially be suitable for conversion into a park. All of these sites were considered to be relatively poor quality in their current state (in particular Levens Drive, which achieved a site score of 36%) and would therefore benefit from improvement.

<b>PG5</b>	Prioritise the development of a new park within Heysham, focusing on the central and southern Heysham Wards. This could be delivered through the enhancement of an amenity green space. The new site should encompass the recommendations set out within the quality vision.
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Note; Heysham has good access to other green space and coastal areas. Before implementing, demand for a park should be determined in relation to upgrading the amenity spaces.

### Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (NSN)

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency in Heysham.

However the role that the coastal areas play in offsetting the demand for natural and semi natural open space should not be underestimated. While this does not negate the need for natural and semi natural open space within settlement boundaries, it does impact on the overall demand for this type of open space. In addition, Heysham Nature Reserve falls just outside the Heysham analysis area within the rural area but is within the recommended accessibility standards for some Heysham residents.

In light of the shortfall of natural open space in this area, all existing sites should be protected. Site assessments highlight that areas of natural and semi natural open space are of poor quality.

## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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### **Amenity Greenspace**

The current supply of amenity green space falls below the recommended local standard. However, there is a relatively even distribution of spaces across the District, with few deficiencies identified. The breakdown of provision by analysis areas has revealed a requirement for further provision up to 2031 in all areas.

Heysham has several larger sites. Residents within the Heysham area also have access to the coastal and beach area, which acts as a significant natural amenity resource.

In light of the even distribution of amenity spaces in this area, the focus should therefore be on investing in improvements to the quality of sites.

In areas of overlapping catchments, despite quantitative shortfalls, in some instances poor quality sites may be of limited value to the community. Only sites with limited value to residents (ie poor quality, low accessibility and overlapping catchments) should be considered for disposal in Lancaster City and sites should be assessed in terms of their value as other open space types prior to their loss as amenity sites.

### **Children and Young People Facilities**

Equipped provision for children and young people was one of the overriding themes of consultations throughout the study with residents expressing concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting that the quality of many facilities is insufficient and that facilities are perceived to be boring and not challenging.

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency in Heysham for both children and young people's facilities.

Application of the quantity standards show some residents outside the recommended distance threshold for the provision of play areas. These are within the central village area and between Morecambe and Heysham, and should be addressed where possible.

Consideration should be given to the disposal of poor quality sites in areas of overlapping catchments. Remaining sites should then be improved to provide a wider range of facilities and meet the overall quantitative standard.

Appropriate locations and types of facilities should be considered to increase the provision of facilities for young people.

### **Allotments**

The distribution of allotments is mainly focused around the urban areas. There is limited provision in the rural areas and the largest deficiencies are found to the Morecambe, Heysham and to the north of Lancaster City.

There are significant deficiencies across the District and all areas will have shortfalls by 2031 when measured against the minimum quantity standard.

Analysis of waiting lists suggests that there are waiting lists across the District and indeed, many of the larger waiting lists are located within the South Lancaster area where there are oversupplies when measured against the minimum standards.

In light of the shortfalls of allotments across the District and the high levels of use at all allotments sites all provision should be protected from development.

## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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### **Outdoor Sports facilities**

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency in Heysham.

Consultation indicated that while the quantity of facilities is problematic, there is a real need to improve the quality of many existing sites. This was reflected through the significant variation in the quality of facilities. As there are few accessibility deficiencies, the initial focus should be on the enhancement of existing facilities.

School facilities have restricted accessibility and in some instances are not accessible at all. It is important of enhancing access to school facilities.

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

### Carnforth

	Current Provision (Hectares)	Number of sites	Existing Level of provision, ha per 1000 (based on 2007 population estimates)	Smallest Site	Largest Site	2031 Population Forecast	Provision per 1000 population (2031)	surplus/ deficit
Cemeteries	1.35	1	0.30	1.35	0.00	6010	0.22	0.00
Children (Play Areas)	0.76	5	0.17	0.02	0.34	6010.49	0.13	0.28
Young People	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	6010.49	0.00	-0.12
Allotments	0.40	1	0.09	0.40	0.00	6010	0.07	-0.68
Parks & Gardens	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	6010	0.00	-2.22
Amenity Greenspace	3.46	6	0.76	0.09	1.66	6010	0.58	-0.74
Natural & semi natural greenspace	22.39	9	4.93	0.49	9.06	6010	3.72	13.91
Outdoor Sports Facilities	9.48	9	2.09	0.14	3.54	6010	1.58	-1.52
	<b>37.84</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8.34</b>				<b>6.30</b>	<b>8.91</b>

Red = below recommended standard of provision  
 Yellow = meets recommended standard of provision  
 Green = exceeds recommended standard of provision

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

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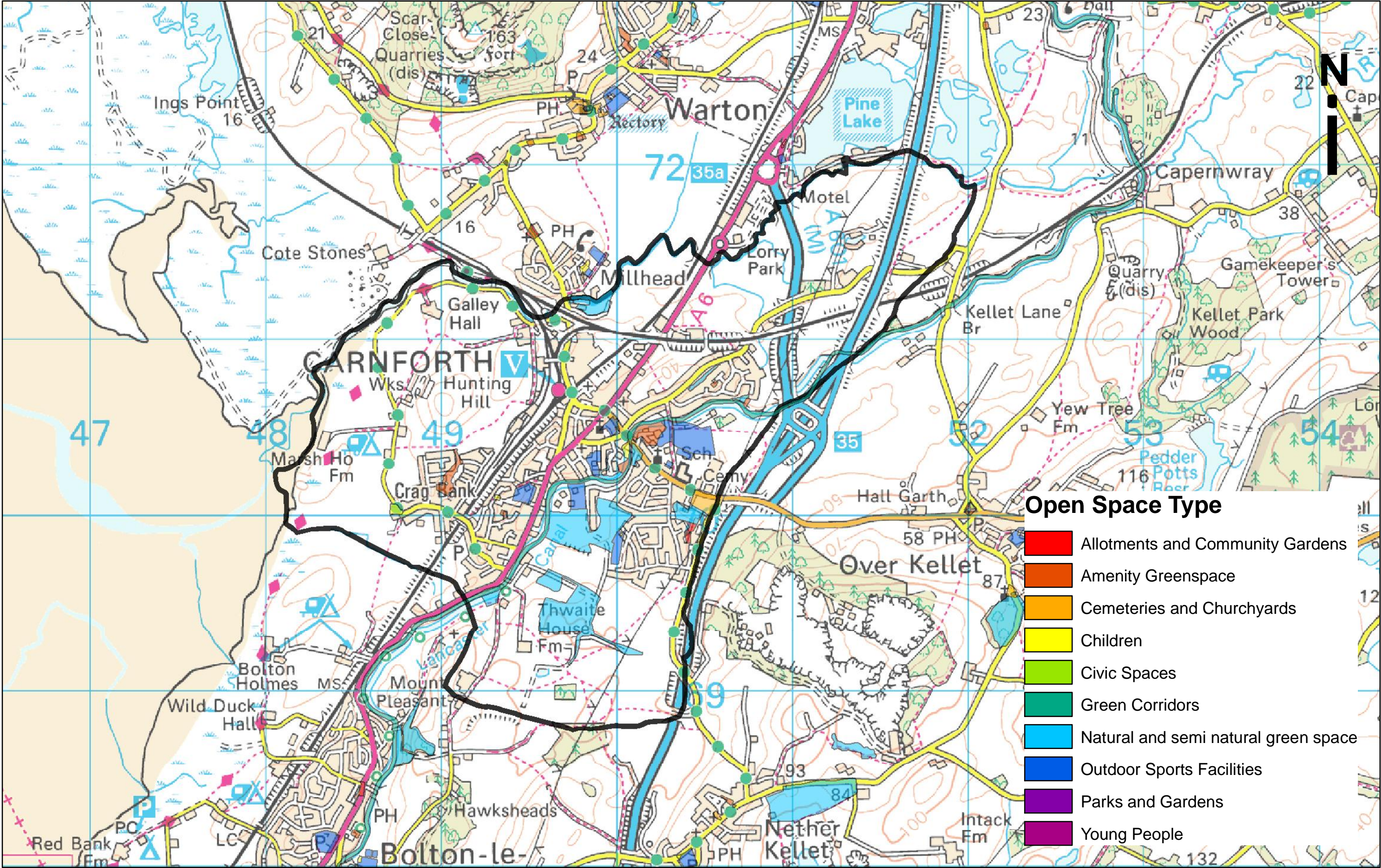
	ID	highest quality rating	Score	ID	lowest quality rating	Score	Average
Cemeteries	419	Carnforth Cemetery	80	0	0.00	0	80
Children (Play Areas)	456	Dunkirk Avenue Play Area	89	457	Kellet Road Play Area	64	71
Young People							
Allotments	616	Highfield Allotments, Carnforth	26	0	0.00	0	26
Parks & Gardens	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Amenity Greenspace	458	Broomfield Park AGS	58	245	Scouts Field (National Waterboard)	44	49
Natural & semi natural greenspace	589	Kellet Road NSN	60	618	Highfield, carnforth	40	37
Outdoor Sports Facilities	622	Carnforth High School	98	194	Dunkirk Avenue Rec ground	48	75

\* The assessment process was update during the 2010 refresh. New sites added during this refresh were assessed using the updated method. All other sites will be reassessed on an annual rolling programme.

Please refer to full assessment database as more than one site may have the same score and some sites have not been assessed for a particular reason.



# Map AA7: Carnforth Area



0 0.5 1 2 Km

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## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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### **Introduction**

Carnforth is a small town to the north of Lancaster. It grew around the railway when it became the junction of three major railways in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The character of the town reflects this development with largely terrace housing with yards and very short supply green open space in the central town area, to family housing estates further out.

### **Parks & Gardens**

Analysis of the accessibility catchments in the area highlight that there is no access to parks for residents in Carnforth. This is further exacerbated by shortfalls in the provision of amenity space.

Many residents of this area have good access to nearby countryside and/or coastal areas, however some element of formal provision is required. Carnforth has sufficient residents for the appropriateness of the provision of a new park to be considered. Provision in this area will be essential if a strategic network of parks is to be developed across the District area.

In light of deficiencies, provision of a new park to meet the needs of residents in the Carnforth area should be considered. While there may be few opportunities to provide a new park within settlement boundaries, the conversion of other spaces should be considered. Provision of a new park could be combined with the identified need for provision for young people in the area.

There are no opportunities for the conversion of existing sites within the Carnforth area. While there are no amenity spaces large enough within Carnforth, Reer Villas Natural Area (Site ID 477) may provide an opportunity to provide a natural park. The Carnforth area action plan identifies the need for the provision of high quality open space in the area to become a focal point for the local community.

### **Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace (NSN)**

Application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards highlights that the key priority for natural and semi natural open space is improvements to the quality of sites. Maximising access to natural and semi natural sites both within settlements and to those in the surrounding countryside should also be a key future priority.

While Carnforth demonstrates a surplus of natural and semi natural greenspace it should be noted that some of these are bio heritage sites with limited public access.

### **Amenity Greenspace**

The current supply of amenity green space matches the recommended local standard. However, this is located largely on the outlying areas of Carnforth with a noticeable shortfall within the central town area. The breakdown of provision by analysis areas has revealed a requirement for further provision up to 2031 in all areas.

In areas of overlapping catchments, despite quantitative shortfalls, in some instances poor quality sites may be of limited value to the community. Only sites with limited value to residents (ie poor quality, low accessibility and overlapping catchments) should be considered for disposal in Lancaster City and sites should be assessed in terms of their value as other open space types prior to their loss as amenity sites.

## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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### **Children and Young People Facilities**

Equipped provision for children and young people was one of the overriding themes of consultations throughout the study with residents expressing concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting that the quality of many facilities is insufficient and that facilities are perceived to be boring and not challenging.

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency of young people's facilities with no current provision and a surplus of Children's play areas.

Consideration should be given to the disposal of poor quality sites in areas of overlapping catchments. Remaining sites should then be improved to provide a wider range of facilities and meet the overall quantitative standard.

Appropriate locations and types of facilities should be considered to increase the provision of facilities for young people.

### **Allotments**

The distribution of allotments is mainly focused around the urban areas. There are significant deficiencies across the District, including Carnforth and all areas will have shortfalls by 2031 when measured against the minimum quantity standard.

Analysis of waiting lists suggests that there are waiting lists across the District and indeed, many of the larger waiting lists are located within the South Lancaster area where there are oversupplies when measured against the minimum standards.

In light of the shortfalls of allotments across the District and the high levels of use at all allotments sites all provision should be protected from development.

### **Outdoor Sports facilities**

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a currently slight quantitative surplus in provision with a deficit by 2031. However, analysis shows that five of these facilities are school sites with varying degrees of access; three are club sites and only one is a fully accessible site.

Consultation indicated that while the quantity of facilities is problematic, there is a real need to improve the quality of many existing sites. This was reflected through the significant variation in the quality of facilities.

School facilities have restricted accessibility and in some instances are not accessible at all. It is important of enhancing access to school facilities.



## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

### Rural

	Current Provision (Hectares)	Number of sites	Existing Level of provision, ha per 1000 (based on 2007 population estimates)	Smallest Site	Largest Site	2031 Population Forecast	Provision per 1000 population (2031)	surplus/ deficit
Cemeteries	11.53	41	0.37	0.03	0.85	41789	0.28	0.00
Children (Play Areas)	2.76	23	0.09	0.01	0.53	41788.68	0.07	-0.58
Young People	0.05	2	0.00	0.05	0.12	41788.68	0.00	-0.78
Allotments	1.77	4	0.06	0.18	0.63	41789	0.04	-5.75
Parks & Gardens	1.59	4	0.05	0.04	0.76	41789	0.04	-13.87
Amenity Greenspace	23.80	59	0.75	0.02	2.36	41789	0.57	-5.45
Natural & semi natural greenspace	73.66	36	2.33	0.20	8.90	41789	1.76	14.74
Outdoor Sports Facilities	230.80	71	7.32	0.05	54.50	41789	5.52	-8.70
	<b>345.97</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>10.97</b>				<b>8.28</b>	<b>-20.40</b>

Red = below recommended standard of provision

Yellow = meets recommended standard of provision

Green = exceeds recommended standard of provision

## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

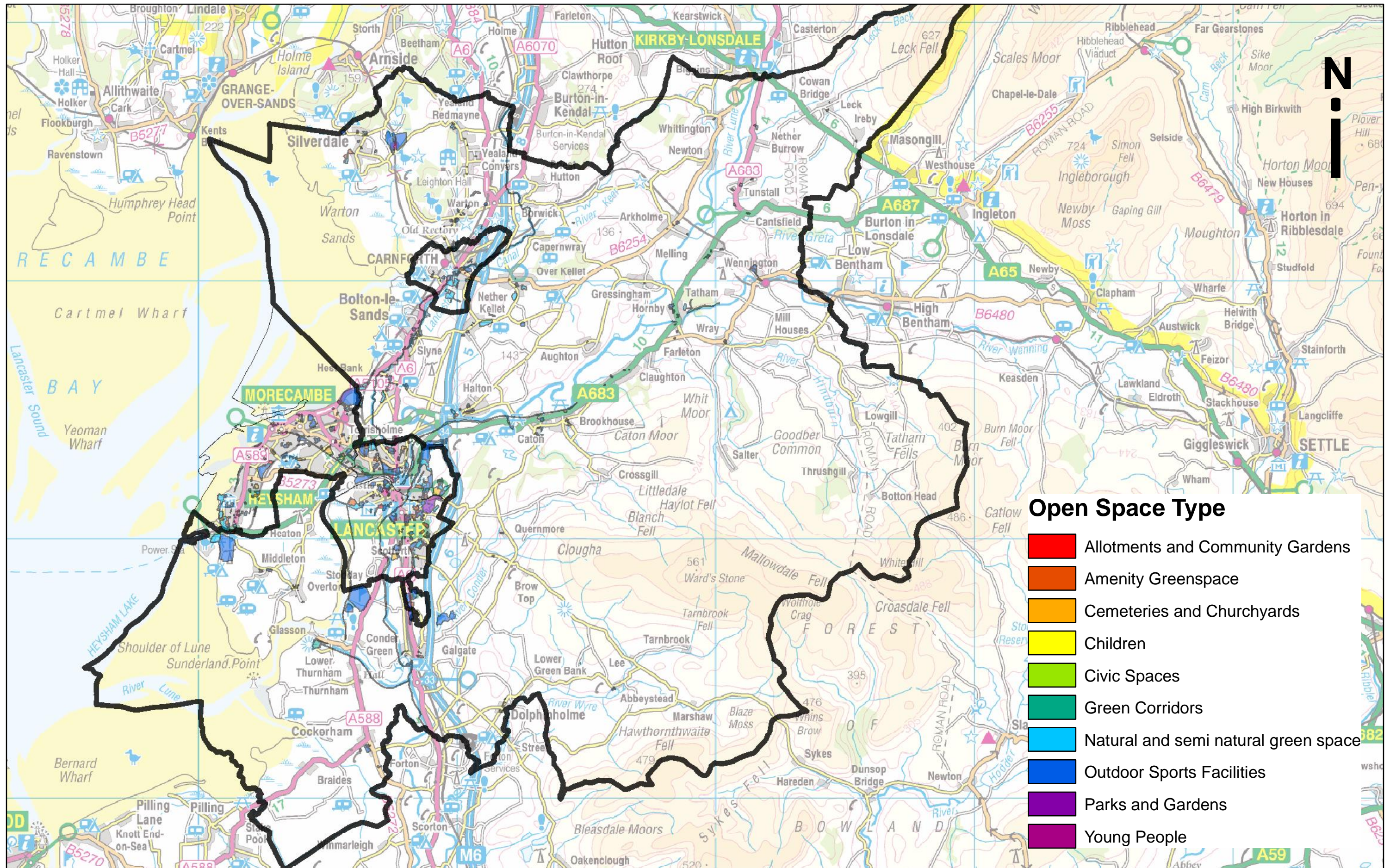
	ID	highest quality rating	Score	ID	lowest quality rating	Score	Average
Cemeteries	21	St Lukes Church	88	111	Wesleyan Methodist Church Churchyard	30	68
Children (Play Areas)	11	Galgate Wharfedale Play Area	90	614	The Roods, Warton	30	72
Young People	100	Halton Low Road Skate Park	76	872	Church Brow	52	64
Allotments	9	Galgate Main Road Allotments	76	95	Bolton-le-Sands, Allotments	20	57
Parks & Gardens	410	Coney Garth Lane- P&G	82	439	Monastery of Our Lady of Hyning- P+G	56	73
Amenity Greenspace	662	Beaumont College AGS	92	800	Church Bank AGS, Nether kellet	24	61
Natural & semi natural greenspace	687	Over Kellet Pond	88	97	Bolton Le Sands Main Road NSN	45	49
Outdoor Sports Facilities	399	Lunesdale Tennis Club	100	488	Star Bank Lane- Tennis Court	60	78

\* The assessment process was update during the 2010 refresh. New sites added during this refresh were assessed using the updated method. All other sites will be reassessed on an annual rolling programme.

Please refer to full assessment database as more than one site may have the same score and some sites have not been assessed for a particular reason.



# Map AA8: Rural Area



0 2.5 5 10 Km



## SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS

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### Rural

#### Introduction

A significant part of Lancaster District is made up of rural areas. The report identifies specific needs within these areas as well as highlighting the need for good access from these areas to parks and other facilities within the urban area.

Some of the rural areas also have good access to coastal areas and areas of outstanding natural beauty. These are not directly taken into account within the PPG17 audit but should not be underestimate in offsetting the demand for some types of green space.

#### Parks & Gardens

While existing provision is focused within the urban areas of Lancaster and Morecambe, almost all residents within the rural area are within a 20-minute drive time of parks. The rural area also lends itself to accessible countryside where there are opportunities for recreation.

While there is little or no provision of formal parks within the rural area, provision is not considered to be a priority in light of access to facilities within the more urban areas. However, in light of the reliance on rural residents to travel to access formal parks, improvements to public transport links and cycle routes should be prioritised where possible in order to facilitate this. Residents in the rural areas also highlighted the role that riverside/canal side walks play in enabling them to reach the more urban areas of the District and highlighted opportunities to extend existing walks, enhancing links between smaller settlements and urban areas.

#### Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace (NSN)

Application of the recommended quality, quantity and accessibility standards highlights that the key priority for natural and semi natural open space is improvements to the quality of sites. Maximising access to natural and semi natural sites both within settlements and to those in the surrounding countryside should also be a key future priority.

Frequently, less emphasis is placed on the provision of natural and semi natural open spaces within the more rural settlements due to the close proximity of the local countryside. In many instances, improving access to the local countryside is more important to residents than the creation of local natural spaces. Analysis of the quantity of provision highlights that when measured against the local standard, the provision of natural and semi natural open spaces in the more rural settlements exceeds minimum standards. While natural sites may be expected within settlement boundaries of larger villages (eg Caton, Hornby) in the majority of smaller settlements access to areas of nearby countryside should be prioritised.

<b>NSN5</b>	Improve links to areas of nearby countryside for residents in the rural areas through the enhancement of the public rights of way network and the maximisation of opportunities to further develop green corridors (for example the canal network).
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## **SECTION A2 – AREA ANALYSIS**

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### **Amenity Greenspace**

The current supply of amenity green space exceeds the recommended local standard. This is reinforced by the even distribution of spaces across the District, with few deficiencies identified. The breakdown of provision by analysis areas has revealed a requirement for further provision up to 2031 in all areas.

In light of the even distribution of amenity spaces in this area, the focus should therefore be on investing in improvements to the quality of sites.

In areas of overlapping catchments, despite quantitative shortfalls, in some instances poor quality sites may be of limited value to the community. Only sites with limited value to residents (ie poor quality, low accessibility and overlapping catchments) should be considered for disposal in Lancaster City and sites should be assessed in terms of their value as other open space types prior to their loss as amenity sites.

Analysis of amenity green spaces in the rural settlements shows that there are several villages where amenity green space is provided, particularly to the north east of the District. There are few settlements in the south east with access to amenity space. Amenity green space can be particularly important in more rural settlements, and in many instances may act as a substitute for the provision of play areas. In some villages, village greens can become central to community life. Provision of amenity spaces in Hornby is good, with all residents within the recommended distance threshold.

Based on the local quantity standard and the average size of an amenity green space within the rural area (used to define the minimum size) it could be suggested that amenity green space should be provided in settlements where the population exceeds 550. Those settlements without sufficient provision should therefore be prioritised for improvement. This links with the provision for children, where a slightly larger population is required before an equipped facility should be provided.

Given the importance of providing amenity space in every area, while priority should be given to larger settlements, it should be ensured that all settlements have access to informal space. High quality amenity green space can play an important role in village life.

Support should be given to providers of facilities in the rural areas to enhance the functionality of their existing open spaces.

### **Children and Young People Facilities**

Equipped provision for children and young people was one of the overriding themes of consultations throughout the study with residents expressing concerns over the quantity of provision, as well as highlighting that the quality of many facilities is insufficient and that facilities are perceived to be boring and not challenging.

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a quantitative deficiency of young people's facilities and a surplus of Children's play areas.

Provision for both children and young people is particularly challenging within a rural area, as even residents living in small villages expect access to a facility. In order to effectively serve residents, it is therefore likely that the level of provision would exceed the recommended minimum standard. This is reflected by the application of

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the standard in the rural areas of the District where it can be seen that provision exceeds the recommended minimum standard, despite the presence of significant accessibility deficiencies.

There are frequently few opportunities to provide formal play facilities within villages, and any new development of facilities should take into account the demand from the local community.

Application of the quantity standard would suggest that based on the median size of existing facilities within Lancaster District, a play area should be provided as a minimum if the population of a village exceeds 3000. Decisions regarding the provision of facilities in other smaller settlements should be based on demand from the local residents. Consideration should be given to the deliverability of play facilities on school sites to maximise the use of resources.

It should be ensured that all villages have at least one type of informal open space where play can be promoted.

In a similar vein, effective provision for young people is challenging within the rural area and it would not be realistic to expect dedicated facilities for young people in every village. Alternative solutions should be explored to ensure that local needs are met, for example the provision of mobile facilities for teenagers. Additionally, it will be essential to ensure good public transport links between villages and facilities to maximise opportunities for young people. Many residents also raised the opportunities arising through improvements to existing green corridor networks, which could allow young people to cycle to different settlements safely in order to reach facilities.

### **Allotments**

The distribution of allotments is mainly focused around the urban areas. There are significant deficiencies across the District, including the rural area and all areas will have shortfalls by 2031 when measured against the minimum quantity standard.

Analysis of waiting lists suggests that there are waiting lists across the District and indeed, many of the larger waiting lists are located within the South Lancaster area where there are oversupplies when measured against the minimum standards.

In light of the shortfalls of allotments across the District and the high levels of use at all allotments sites all provision should be protected from development.



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### **Outdoor Sports facilities**

The application of the local standard for quantity shows there is a current quantitative surplus in provision with a deficit by 2031.

There is a wide variety of provision within the rural area and most of the larger settlements have access to facilities, including Hornby, Cowan Bridge, Whittington, Nether Burrow, Arkholme, Wennington and Wyresdale. New facilities will only be required where there is an expressed demand, and like other areas, the focus should be on enhancing the quality of existing facilities.

Priority for any new facilities should be given to those areas where access to outdoor facilities is more limited. Outdoor sports facilities can also play a role of informal open space in villages. In many villages, the outdoor sports provision is at school sites. Consideration should be given to maximising access to these facilities for the local community.

New facilities within the rural area should be demand led. There are clear accessibility deficiencies and support should be given to Parish Councils and/or sports clubs to provide opportunities for outdoor sports.