



WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2021

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Glossary

DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Wirral Borough Council. It provides detail with regard to what open space provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. This document sets out the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping undertaken as part of the study.

The table below details the open space typologies included within the study:

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement to the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of self sufficiency, sustainability, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, can often provide wildlife conservation and biodiversity benefits.
Green corridors	Areas or routes which provide walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. May also offer opportunities for wildlife mitigation.

The Assessment also considers the future requirements for provision based upon population distribution, planned growth and consultation findings. The Standards Paper (to follow the assessment report) will give direction on the future provision of accessible and high quality provision for open spaces.

In order for planning policies to be ‘sound’, local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; *Assessing Needs and Opportunities*’ published in September 2002.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced PPG17. However, assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17 as it still remains the only national best practice guidance on the conduct of an open space assessment.

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In accordance with best practice recommendations, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited unless identified as being of significant recreational use.

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space provision across Wirral. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2 of this report. The report identifies the predominant issues for the following types of open spaces:

- Part 3: Summary of community survey and site visits
- Part 4: Parks and Gardens
- Part 5: Natural/semi-natural Greenspace
- Part 6: Amenity Greenspace
- Part 7: Provision for children/young people
- Part 8: Allotments
- Part 9: Cemeteries

1.2 National context

National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF sets out planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied and provides a framework to produce geographically distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Under paragraph 98 of the NPPF, planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

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Paragraph 99 of the NPPF states that existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits for which clearly outweigh the loss.

1.3 Local context

This study is intended to assist in the Council's review of its Local Plan policies for the area. This will in turn support strategic policies and site allocations relating to open spaces, leisure, health and well-being. It will also provide an evidence base to help inform developer contributions through section 106 agreements, community infrastructure levy (CIL) and to support day to day decision making. Consequently, it is important for the Council to have clarity over existing levels of open space and what types of provision should be delivered in the future.

The open space document should be read in conjunction with the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) which is provided in a separate report. The associated PPOSS covers the provision and need of formal outdoor sports. The PPOSS was undertaken in accordance with the methodology provided in Sport England's Guidance 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities (October 2013).

Any site recognised as sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e. where it is also available for wider community use) is included in this study as a type of open space. Provision purely for sporting use is included within the PPOSS. For sites with a dual use (e.g. a public recreation ground with playing pitches), no double counting between the two studies occurs as the PPOSS looks at the number of pitch facilities at a site (as prescribed in Sport England Guidance) and not hectares of land available for public use (as utilised for open space studies). In such cases, the playing surface forming the pitches taken into account in the PPOSS would contribute to the total hectares for the wider site taken into account in this open space study; reflecting the multi-functional role of such land. The pitches would also be identified within the PPOSS capacity analysis. This means that some sites that are not recommended for protection as open space as part of this study may nevertheless still be recommended for protection for sport under the PPOSS.

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

This section details the methodology undertaken as part of the study. The key stages are:

- ◀ 2.1: Settlement areas and population
- ◀ 2.2: Auditing local provision
- ◀ 2.3: Quality and value
- ◀ 2.4: Quality and value thresholds
- ◀ 2.5: Understanding local provision
- ◀ 2.6: Accessibility catchments

2.1 Settlement areas and population

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, Wirral is divided into eight sub-analysis areas (based on the Councils Local Plan Settlement Areas). In the subsequent Standards Paper, a more detailed analysis will take place, identifying recommendations and standards for the local authority. Wirral is identified as having a population of 322,796.

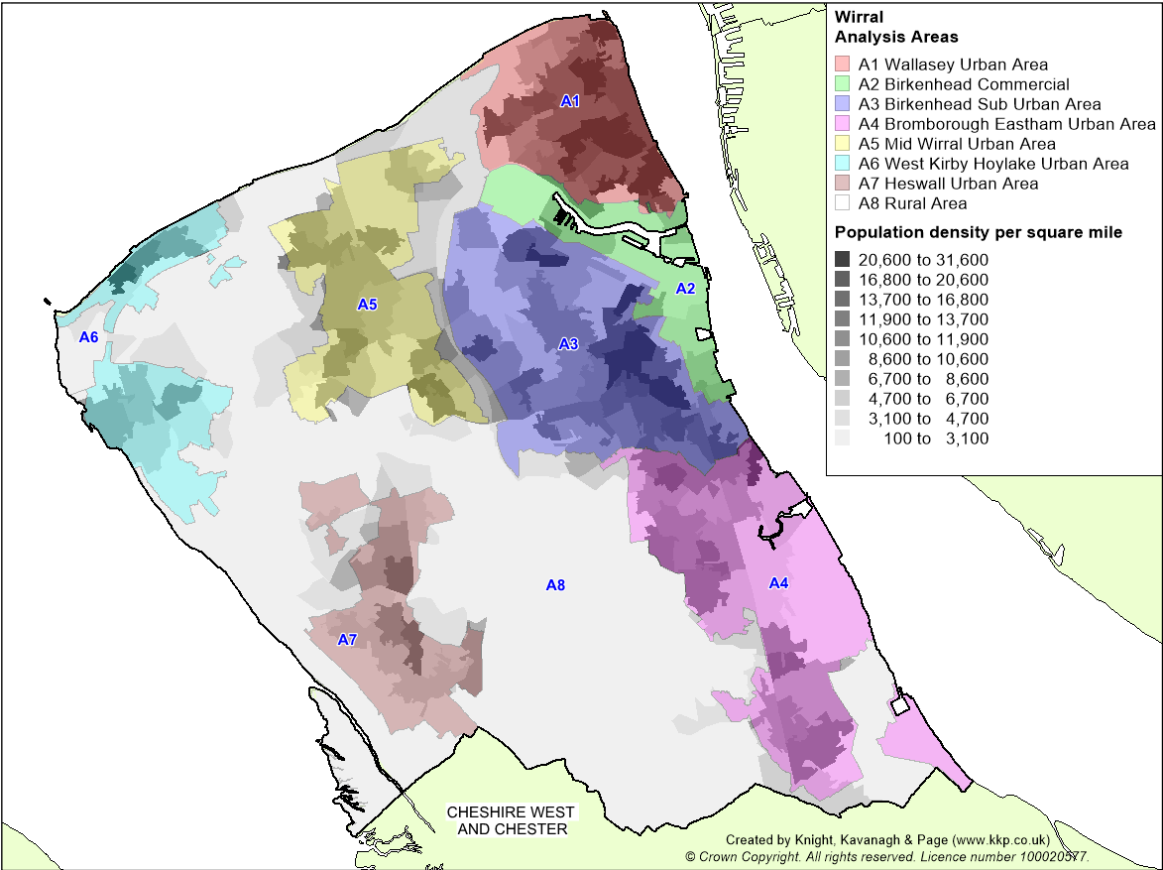
Table 2.1: Population by Settlement Area

Settlement area	Population (2019)
Birkenhead Commercial Area	2,231
Birkenhead Suburban Area	89,334
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	55,765
Heswall Urban Area	28,467
Mid Wirral Urban Area	53,581
Rural Area	7,084
Wallasey Urban Area	61,083
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	25,250
Wirral	322,796

Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the map of Settlement Areas with population density.

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Figure 2.1: Settlement Areas



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2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

All known open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified and mapped. The focus for inclusion is on sites that are publicly accessible (i.e. private sites or land, which people generally cannot access, are not included). Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose. The audit, and this report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with best practice:

- ◀ Parks & gardens
- ◀ Natural & semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Provision for children & young people
- ◀ Allotments
- ◀ Cemeteries/churchyards

As part of the assessment all publicly accessible open space sites across Wirral were assessed. Over 520 open space sites were visited and assessed by the KKP Research Team between April and June 2019.

In accordance with best practice recommendations, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. Sites of a smaller size, particularly for the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace tend to have a different role. Often this is for only visual purposes (e.g. small incremental grassed areas such as highway verges) and is therefore considered as offering little recreational value in comparison to other forms of intentionally provided recreational open space. Subsequently sites below 0.2 hectares for these typologies are not generally audited.

Database development

All information relating to open spaces is collated in the project database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded within the database. The database details for each site are as follows:

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ◀ Site name
- ◀ Ownership (if known)
- ◀ Management (if known)
- ◀ Typology
- ◀ Size (hectares)
- ◀ Access (whether a site has restricted access)
- ◀ Site visit data

Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

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2.3 Quality and value

Each type of open space included within the audit receives separate quality and value scores. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be very valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

Analysis of quality

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon those derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised in the following table.

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)
◀ Physical access, e.g. public transport links, directional signposts,
◀ Personal security, e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance
◀ Access-social, e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths
◀ Parking, e.g. availability, specific, disabled parking
◀ Information signage, e.g. presence of up to date site information, notice boards
◀ Equipment and facilities, e.g. adequacy and condition of provision such as seats, bins, toilets
◀ Site problems, e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
◀ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
◀ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g. condition of general landscape & features
◀ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g. elderly, young people

Analysis of value

Site visit data plus desk based research is also used to calculate value scores for each site identified. Value is defined in best practice guidance in relation to the following three issues:

- ◀ Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◀ Level and type of use.
- ◀ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

In addition, the NPPF refers to value attributes such as beauty and attractiveness of a site, its recreational value, historic and cultural value and its tranquillity and richness of wildlife. These elements are all considered as part of the KKP site assessment criteria.

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The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

- Value criteria for open space site visits (score)**
- ◀ Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility
 - ◀ Context of site in relation to other open spaces and proximity to housing
 - ◀ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area
 - ◀ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats
 - ◀ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
 - ◀ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote physical and mental well-being
 - ◀ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. historic building, memorial) and high profile symbols of local area
 - ◀ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
 - ◀ Economic benefits, e.g., promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far

2.4 Quality and value thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance), the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements may be required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

The baseline threshold for assessing quality can often be set around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for the quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is not appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Quality thresholds are, thus, adjusted to better reflect average scores for each typology. In our experience this works effectively as a locally reflective method to distinguish between high and low quality sites. Consequently, the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	40%	20%
Amenity greenspace	50%	20%
Provision for children and young people	60%	20%
Allotments	50%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	50%	20%

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from our experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites. Whilst 20% may initially seem low it is a relative score - designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier).

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2.5 Understanding local provision

Consultation to better understand open space provision has also been carried out via a combination of meetings, surveys and telephone interviews. In addition, an online community survey was hosted. This was promoted by the Council and received 1,670 responses. The findings of the consultation have been used to further support the results of the quality and value assessment. The wider responses and trends identified are set out later in the report.

2.6 Accessibility catchments

Accessibility catchments for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process, this problem is overcome by accepting the concept of ‘effective catchments’, defined as the average distance that would be travelled by most users.

Guidance on walking distance and times is published by Fields In Trust (FIT) in its document *Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015). These guidelines have been converted into an equivalent time period.

FIT also offer appropriate accessibility distances for children’s play provision. These vary depending on the type of play provision (children’s play or older age ranges).

These are presented in Table 2.3 and are applied to help inform potential deficiencies in each type of open space provision.

Table 2.3: Accessibility catchments

Open space type		FIT guideline	Time equivalent
Parks & Gardens		710m	9-minute walk time
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		720m	9-minute walk time
Amenity Greenspace		480m	6-minute walk time
Play areas & provision for young people	LAP	100m	1-minute walk time
	LEAP	400m	5-minute walk time
	NEAP	1,000m	12.5-minute walk time
	Other	700m	9-minute walk time

No catchments are suggested by FIT for the typologies of allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, it is difficult to assess such provision against catchment mapping as it is better to determine need for provision based on demand for burial space. For allotments, the Wirral Open Space Assessment Update (2012) applied a 1,000m catchment. This has been used in this report. However, like cemeteries, it is more appropriate to determine need for allotment provision based on demand such as waiting lists.

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PART 3: SUMMARY OF SURVEY AND VISITS

This section provides a summary of the responses to the online community survey. It also describes generic trends and findings from the site visit quality and value ratings. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in this report.

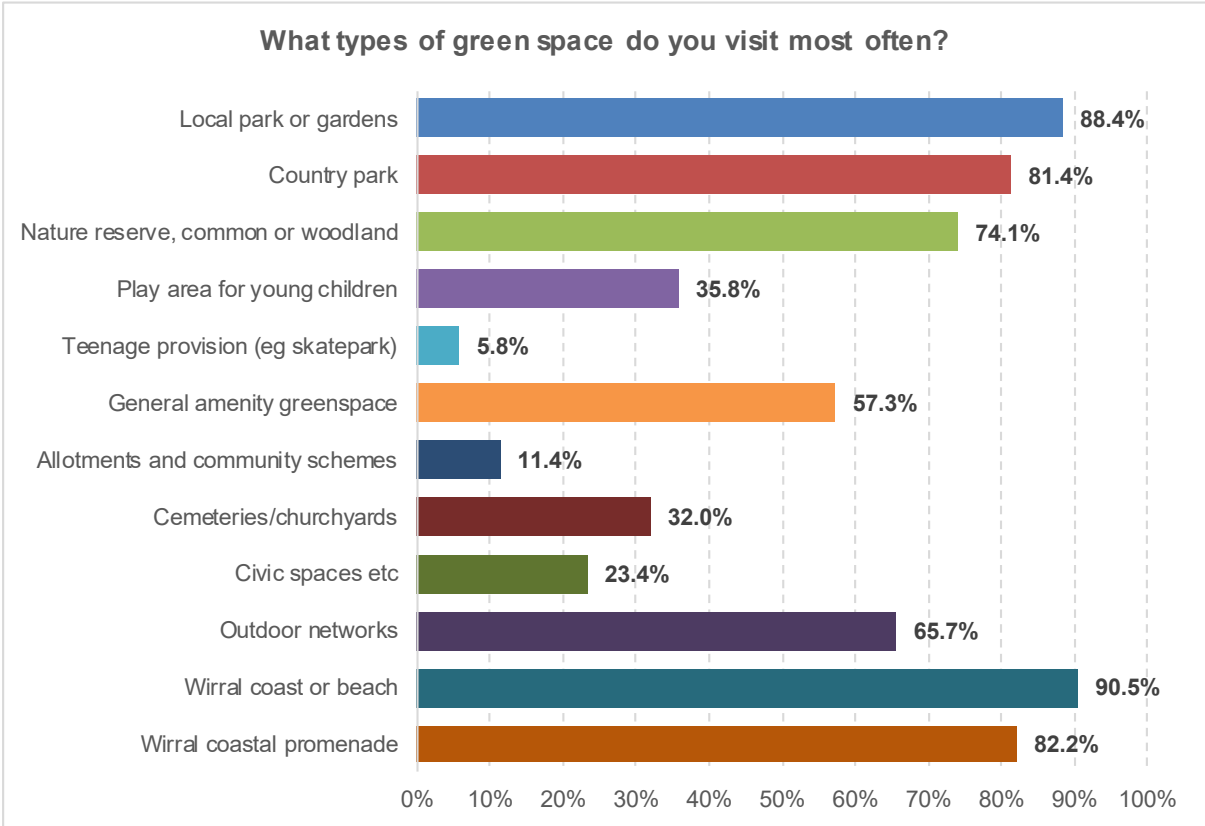
3.1 Community Survey

An online community survey was hosted on the Council website and promoted via social media and the Councils communication team. A total of 1,670 responses were received. A summary of the responses is set out on the following pages.

3.1.1 Usage

The most popular forms of provision to visit are coast and beaches (90%) and parks and gardens (88%). This is followed by coastal promenades (82%), country parks (81%) and nature reserves (74%).

Figure 3.1.1: Visits to open space typologies in Wirral

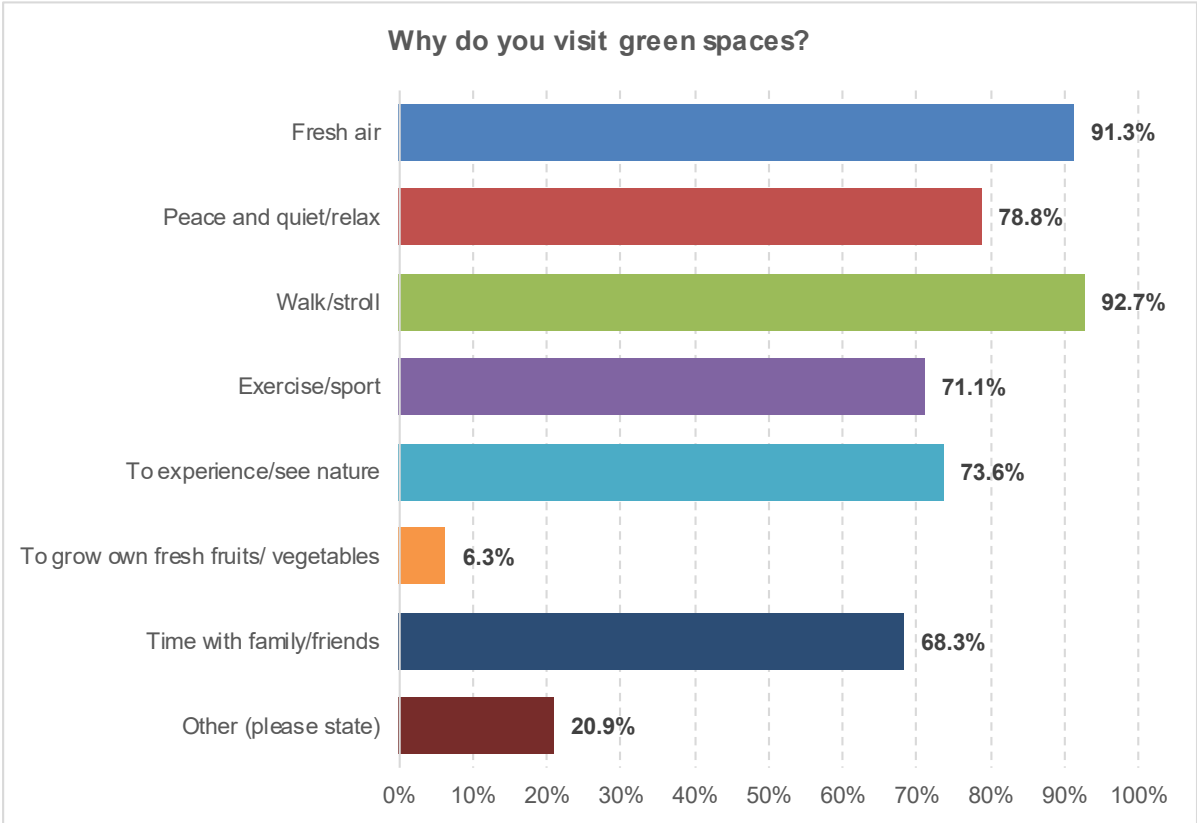


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Most respondents identify visiting green space to walk/stroll (93%), for fresh air (91%), for peace and quiet/relax (79%). This is followed by to experience/see nature (74%), for exercise/sport (71%) and to spend time with family/friends (68%).

Of the 21% of respondents that cited 'Other' reasons for visiting green spaces, most (79%) specify this is to walk/exercise their dog.

Figure 3.1.2: Reasons for visiting green spaces in Wirral



Respondents were also asked to name the sites they visit most often. Some of the most frequently visited sites respondents visit include:

- ◀ Beach/coast
- ◀ Royden Park
- ◀ Wirral Way
- ◀ Arrowe Park
- ◀ Birkenhead Park
- ◀ Ashton Park
- ◀ Wirral Country Park

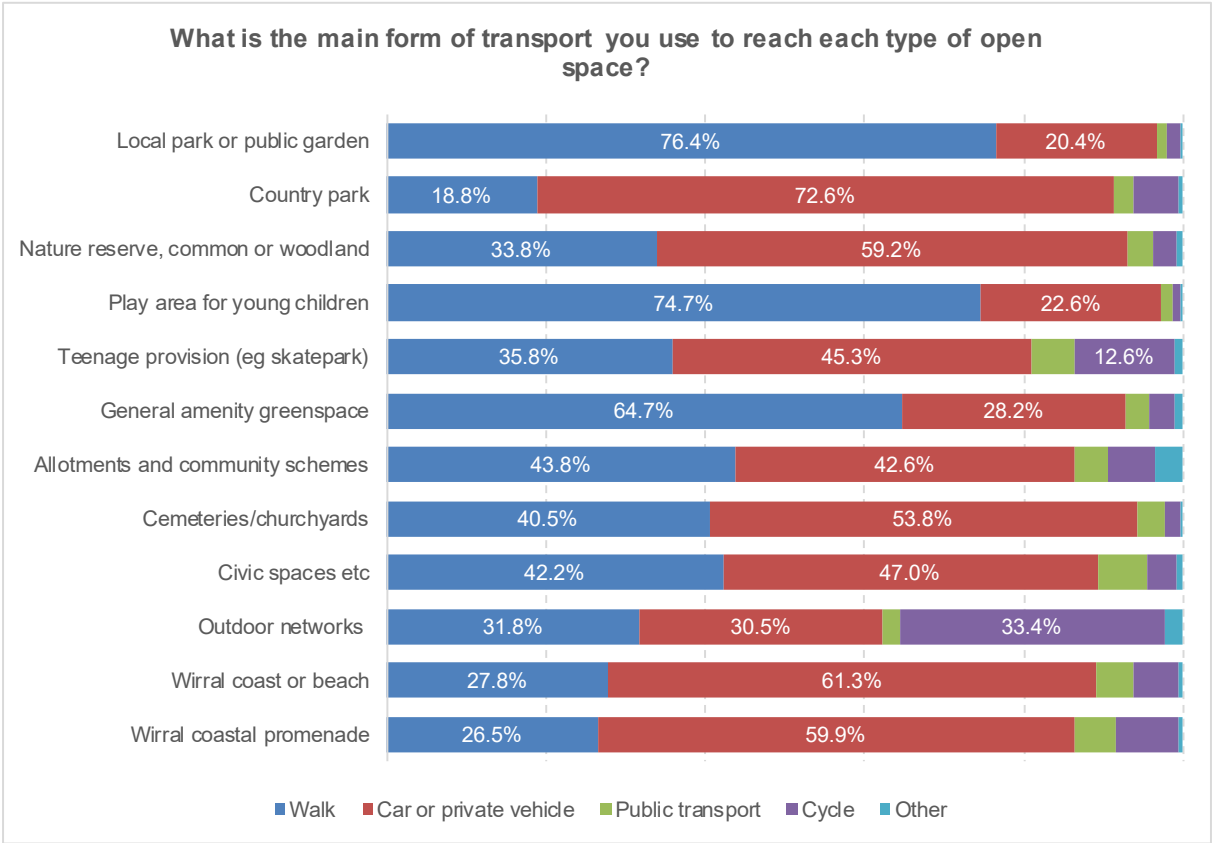
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3.1.2 Accessibility

Results from the survey shows the majority of individuals use a private car to access most types of provision. This is most evident for country parks (73%), coast and beaches (61%), coastal promenades (60%) and nature reserves (59%). Private vehicles are also the most common mode of transport to reach cemeteries (54%), teenage provision (45%), allotments (43%), and civic space (47%).

The exception to this is for parks (76%), play provision for younger children (75%) and amenity greenspace (65%). Walking is the most common method used to access these types of provision. There is a split between the forms of transport used to reach outdoor networks with a noticeable proportion of respondents accessing via cycling.

Figure 3.1.3: Mode of travel to open space sites in Wirral

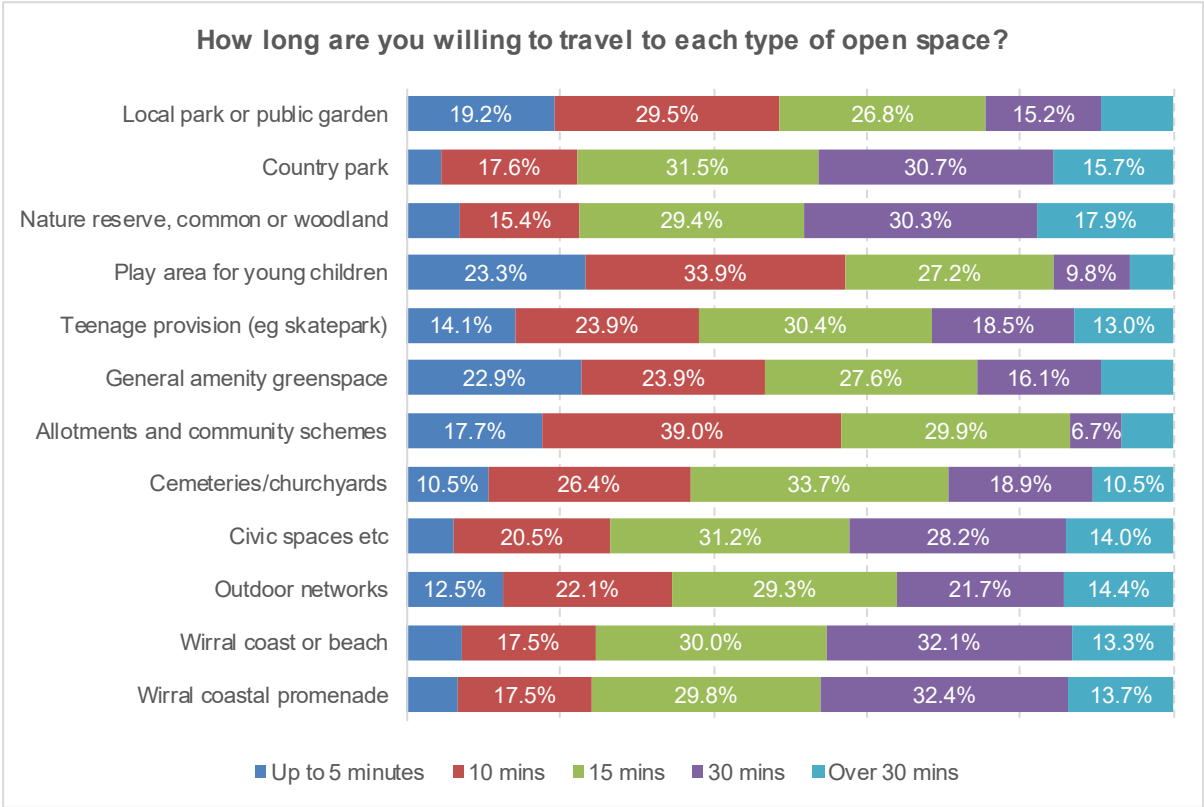


For some provision such as coastal promenades (32%), coast and beaches (32%), country parks (31%) and nature reserves (30%), there is a slightly greater willingness to travel further distances; with more respondents stating they would travel up to 30 minutes to access such forms of provision.

For other forms of provision, respondents show a willingness to travel a shorter amount of time (i.e. 10 to 15 minutes). This is particularly noticeably for parks, play provision, amenity greenspace and allotments.

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Figure 3.1.4: Time willing to travel to open space sites in Wirral



3.1.3 Availability and Quality

In general, respondents consider the amount of open space provision to be quite satisfactory. A noticeable proportion of respondents also rate availability of open space as very satisfactory.

Table 3.1.1: Satisfaction with availability of open space in Wirral

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
38.4%	46.7%	9.0%	4.6%	1.3%

Over half of survey respondents consider the quality of open space provision to be generally quite satisfactory. A further 30% rate quality as very satisfactory. Only small proportions of respondents view quality as quite unsatisfactory (6%) or very unsatisfactory (1%).

Table 3.1.2: Satisfaction with quality of open space in Wirral

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
30.4%	51.1%	11.4%	6.1%	1.0%

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Respondents to the survey were asked what they thought would improve green space provision. The most common answers include better maintenance and care (64%) and more provision for wildlife/habitats (58%).

Table 3.1.3: Which of these options would improve green spaces for you?

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
Greater attractiveness (e.g. flowers, trees etc)	39%
Better maintenance and care of features	64%
Improved access to and within sites	24%
More public events	18%
Greater information on sites	18%
Better and wider range of facilities (i.e. play equipment, seating)	37%
Greater community involvement or projects	24%
More provision for wildlife/ habitats	58%
Other	16%

Of the 16% of respondents that cited 'Other' options which would improve green spaces, the most common answers given related to:

- ✦ Free car parking/removal of parking charges (30%)
- ✦ More litter bins/less litter (23%)
- ✦ Greater dog controls/dog friendly use (15%)
- ✦ More public toilets (6%)

3.2 Site Visit Overview

This section summarises the quality and value ratings for each typology. Within Wirral, 544 sites were identified equivalent to 1,545 hectares of open space. The largest contributors to provision are parks and gardens (581 hectares) and natural and semi natural greenspace (574 hectares). A total of 521 sites received a quality and value score. This is due to 23 sites being unable to be accessed at the time of the visit, which are identified under each typology section.

Table 3.2.1: Overview of open space provision in Wirral

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Park and gardens	53	581
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	91	574
Amenity greenspace	209	229
Provision for children & young people	111	10
Allotments	51	57
Cemeteries/churchyards	29	94
TOTAL	544	1,545

* Rounded to the nearest whole number

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3.2.1 Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for open spaces.

Table 3.2.2: Quality scores for assessed open space typologies in Wirral

Typology	Threshold	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Park and gardens	60%	36%	64%	90%	19	34
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	40%	20%	47%	84%	24	59
Amenity greenspace	50%	32%	54%	78%	56	144
Provision for children & young people	60%	26%	69%	91%	27	82
Allotments	50%	36%	57%	72%	1	46
Cemeteries/churchyards	50%	47%	61%	87%	1	28
TOTAL					128	393

There is generally a good level of quality across all open space sites. This is reflected in over three quarter (75%) of sites scoring above the set thresholds for quality.

Sites rating below the thresholds often reflect a lack of ancillary facilities (e.g. seating, signage etc). A few assessed sites are also observed as being poorly maintained and/or visually unattractive. Such sites are highlighted throughout the report.

3.2.2 Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces.

Table 3.2.3: Value scores for assessed open space typologies in Wirral

Typology	Threshold	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Park and gardens	20%	28%	57%	82%	0	53
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		17%	37%	68%	4	79
Amenity greenspace		17%	30%	65%	14	186
Provision for children & young people		13%	44%	64%	1	108
Allotments		23%	30%	60%	0	47
Cemeteries/churchyards		26%	43%	71%	0	29
TOTAL						19

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Most sites are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments. Sites that rate below the value thresholds often reflect a general lack of maintenance or restricted use at the site (i.e. overgrown, difficult to access).

A high value site is one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example, good quality play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered of higher value than those offering limited functions or which are viewed as unattractive.

3.3 Summary

- ◀ 544 sites are identified as open space provision; equivalent to 1,545 hectares.
- ◀ Of assessed sites, over three quarters (75%) rate above the quality threshold. The quality of provision is reflected in the high number of sites with a Green Flag Award.
- ◀ All but 19 sites are assessed as above the value threshold; reflecting the importance of provision and its role in offering social, environmental and health benefits.

PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. Country park sites may also provide opportunities and functions often associated with parks and may also therefore be included.

4.2 Current provision

There are 53 sites classified as parks and gardens in Wirral. This is an equivalent of over 581 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all known sites are included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Parks and gardens by Settlement Area

Settlement area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Birkenhead Commercial Area	1	1.40	0.63
Birkenhead Suburban Area	7	99.90	1.12
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	10	27.47	0.49
Heswall Urban Area	4	11.48	0.40
Mid Wirral Urban Area	4	23.66	0.44
Rural Area	12	362.63	51.19
Wallasey Urban Area	5	38.69	0.63
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	10	16.16	0.64
Wirral	53	581.39	1.80

The largest site and biggest contributor to provision is Arrowe Country Park at 110 hectares. This is followed by North Wirral Coastal Park (88 hectares), Birkenhead Park (56 hectares) and Royden Park (48 hectares). Larger sites are predominantly located within the Rural Area.

The Rural Area has the greatest amount of provision with 363 hectares; accounting for 63% of parks provision across the whole of Wirral. Consequently, it also has the greatest amount of provision per 1,000 population with 51.19 hectares per 1,000 population.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Overall, Wirral (based on Table 4.1) has a current provision level of 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population which is well above the recommended standard.

It is important to recognise that some sites may also serve the population of adjacent settlement areas (i.e. sites located within one settlement area but adjacent to a neighbouring settlement area). This is particularly relevant for sites located within the Rural Area which are often situated adjacent to urban populations. Consequently, this can have a significant effect on the overall levels of provision serving a settlement area.

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Table 4.2: Parks and gardens by Settlement Area including adjacent sites

Settlement area	Parks and gardens	
	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Birkenhead Commercial	9.57	4.29
Birkenhead Suburban Area	104.37	1.17
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	73.03	1.31
Heswall Urban Area	52.07	1.83
Mid Wirral Urban Area	135.97	2.54
Rural Area	362.63	51.19
Wallasey Urban Area	52.04	0.85
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	19.11	0.76

On this basis, only the West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area is below the FIT suggested 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population guideline quantity standard for parks and gardens.

It is important to recognise that other forms of provision exist, such as some natural and semi-natural sites, which also contribute to the role and uses often associated with parks. For example, Bidston Hill North & South (50.68 hectares), Thurstaston Common (20.92 hectares) and Dibbinsdale (54.78 hectares) predominantly provide opportunities linked with natural and semi-natural greenspace but also offer many features associated with parks provision. However, to ensure no double counting of sites, they are primarily classified within the natural and semi-natural greenspace typology.

Similarly, the West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area is well served in natural and semi-natural greenspace (see Table 5.1). The area also has access to the coastal promenade and the beach.

If these sites were to be included within the quantity of parks provision, due to their dual role, the current levels of provision would be greatly increased, particularly in the Birkenhead Suburban Area, Bromborough Eastham Urban Area and Heswall Urban Area.

4.3 Accessibility

Figure 4.1 overleaf shows the location of parks provision across Wirral with a 710m catchment applied (equivalent to a 9-minute walk time), based on FIT recommended accessibility standards.

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with 710m catchment

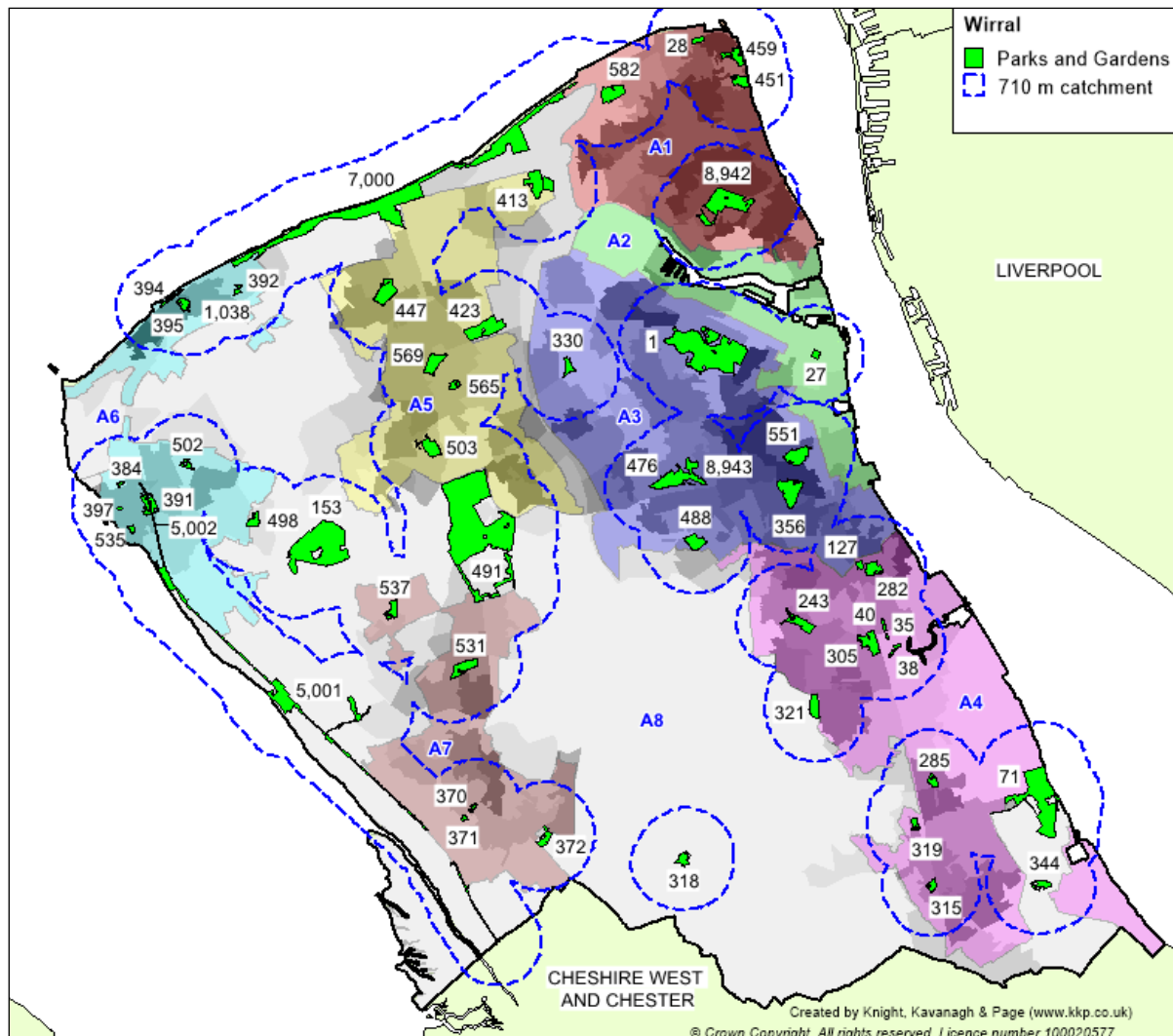


Table 4.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
1	Birkenhead Park	Birkenhead Suburban	80.1%	81.8%
27	Hamilton Square Gardens	Birkenhead Commercial	71.2%	54.5%
28	Marine Park	Wallasey Urban Area	53.9%	40.9%
35	The Diamond (S)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	72.4%	77.3%
38	The Dell	Bromborough Eastham Urban	54.8%	48.2%
40	The Diamond (N)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	72.3%	77.3%
71	Eastham Country Park	Rural	83.5%	72.7%
127	Stanley Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban	47.3%	31.9%
153	Royden Park	Rural	90.0%	72.7%
243	Higher Bebington Recreation Ground	Bromborough Eastham Urban	62.6%	59.1%
282	New Ferry Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban	63.6%	68.2%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
285	Bromborough Recreation Ground	Bromborough Eastham Urban	62.6%	59.1%
305	Mayer Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban	72.1%	68.2%
315	Brookhurst Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban	43.5%	39.1%
318	Thornton Hough Recreation Ground	Rural	69.9%	68.2%
319	Marfords Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban	44.8%	39.1%
321	Poulton Recreation Ground	Rural	51.5%	43.6%
330	Bidston Court Gardens	Birkenhead Suburban	48.9%	37.3%
344	Torr Park	Rural	60.0%	52.7%
356	Victoria Park	Birkenhead Suburban	74.7%	77.3%
370	Hill House Grounds	Heswall Urban	53.5%	39.1%
371	Dawstone Park	Heswall Urban	72.4%	59.1%
372	Gayton Park (Playing Fields)	Rural	54.1%	45.5%
384	Sandlea Park	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	58.4%	39.1%
391	Ashton Park	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	78.4%	81.8%
392	Meols Lower Green Recreation Ground (N)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	47.6%	52.7%
394	Meols Parade Gardens Recreation Ground	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	69.5%	68.2%
395	Queens Park	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	68.2%	63.6%
397	Victoria Gardens	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	70.3%	50.0%
413	Leasowe Brickfields	Rural	36.4%	28.2%
423	Upton Park	Rural	62.3%	54.5%
447	Lingham Park	Mid Wirral Urban	53.9%	54.5%
451	Vale Park	Wallasey Urban	79.9%	81.8%
459	Tower Grounds	Wallasey Urban	54.8%	54.5%
476	Holm Lane Recreation Ground	Birkenhead Suburban	60.9%	68.2%
488	Walker Park	Birkenhead Suburban	67.3%	50.0%
491	Arrowe Country Park	Rural	67.1%	40.9%
498	Newton Park	Rural	47.4%	43.6%
502	Greenbank Community Park	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	37.7%	46.4%
503	Coronation Park	Mid Wirral Urban	80.1%	54.5%
531	Ridgewood Park Pensby	Heswall Urban	62.3%	50.9%
535	Coronation Gardens	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	65.3%	68.2%
537	Irby Recreation Ground	Heswall Urban	61.7%	48.2%
551	Mersey Park	Birkenhead Suburban	58.0%	54.5%
565	Warwick Hey Park	Mid Wirral Urban	64.3%	54.5%
569	Overchurch Park	Mid Wirral Urban	42.2%	32.7%
582	Harrison Park	Wallasey Urban	65.6%	72.7%
1038	Meols Lower Green Recreation Ground (S)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	55.6%	52.7%
5001	Wirral Country Park (Rural)	Rural	81.7%	72.7%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
5002	Wirral Country Park (Urban)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	76.0%	63.6%
7000	North Wirral Coastal Park	Rural	77.8%	45.5%
8942	Central Park	Wallasey Urban	77.2%	72.7%
8943	The Arno, Prenton	Birkenhead Suburban	72.1%	63.6%

Catchment mapping shows that areas of higher population density are generally covered by the catchment area of a park site.

However, some gaps are observed in the Wallasey and Birkenhead areas with minor gaps noted to the Bromborough and Eastham, Mid Wirral and Heswall areas. However, these are likely to be served by other forms of provision such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. The Standards Paper will further explore the other typology sites helping to serve catchment gaps.

4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by best practice); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high quality being green and low quality being red). Table 4.4 summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.4: Quality scores for parks and gardens in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High ≥60%
Birkenhead Commercial	71%	71%	71%	0%	0	1
Birkenhead Suburban Area	49%	66%	80%	31%	2	5
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	44%	61%	84%	40%	4	7
Heswall Urban Area	53%	62%	72%	19%	1	3
Mid Wirral Urban Area	42%	60%	80%	38%	2	2
Rural Area	36%	63%	90%	54%	4	7
Wallasey Urban Area	54%	66%	80%	25%	2	3
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	38%	63%	78%	41%	4	6
Wirral	36%	63%	90%	54%	19	34

A total of 19 out of the 53 parks and gardens rate below the quality threshold. The lowest scoring sites are:

- ↳ Leasowe Brickfields
- ↳ Greenbank Community Park
- ↳ Overchurch Park
- ↳ Brookhurst Park
- ↳ Marfords Park

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It must be stated that no site-specific quality issues are observed at these sites. Instead, the sites scores are in comparison to the generally high standard of sites categorised as parks and gardens. In comparison to all park and garden sites, these sites score relatively lower against the criteria. For example, parks scoring lower are often observed as containing no seating, signage or pathways or other ancillary facilities.

There are also a few sites which score just below the quality threshold:

- ◀ Mersey Park
- ◀ Sandlea Park
- ◀ Meols Lower Green Recreation Ground

These sites are observed as being generally well kept and popular sites with the offer of various recreational opportunities, but again score lower in comparison to other sites of the same typology.

Over two thirds of sites (67%) rate above the quality threshold. Most sites scoring above the threshold are observed as being more attractive due to perceived higher levels of maintenance and cleanliness as well as the variety of recreational uses on offer. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Royden Park
- ◀ Eastham Country Park
- ◀ Wirral Country Park
- ◀ Birkenhead Park
- ◀ Coronation Park
- ◀ Vale Park
- ◀ Ashton Park

These high scoring sites often have a range of ancillary features and facilities including play and sporting opportunities, toilets and car parking, all maintained to a high standard. The sites also have excellent signage, entrances and security which add to the overall visitor experience. Sites such as Eastham Country Park, Birkenhead Park and Wirral Country Park also benefit from the added provision of a visitor centre.

The quality of these sites is reflected by most of them also being Green Flag Award winning sites.

Green Flag

The Green Flag Award scheme is licensed and managed by Keep Britain Tidy. It provides national standards for parks and greenspaces across England and Wales. Public service agreements, identified by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) highlight the importance placed on Green Flag status as an indicator of high quality. This in turn impacts upon the way parks and gardens are managed and maintained.

A survey by improvement charity GreenSpace highlights that parks with a Green Flag Award provide more satisfaction to members of the public compared to those without it. Its survey of 16,000 park users found that more than 90% of Green Flag Award park visitors were very satisfied or satisfied with their chosen site, compared to 65% of visitors to non-Green Flag parks.

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To gain the award, sites must be maintained and managed to a high standard. There are currently* 21 sites categorised as parks and gardens with a Green Flag Award in Wirral.

- ◀ Ashton Park
- ◀ Birkenhead Park
- ◀ Central Park
- ◀ Coronation Gardens
- ◀ Dawstone Park
- ◀ Eastham Country Park
- ◀ Hamilton Square Gardens
- ◀ Harrison Park
- ◀ Mayer Park
- ◀ Meols Parade Garden
- ◀ North Wirral Coastal Park
- ◀ Queen's Park
- ◀ Royden Park
- ◀ The Arno
- ◀ The Diamond (part of the Port Sunlight Village)
- ◀ Thornton Hough Recreation Ground
- ◀ Vale Park
- ◀ Victoria Gardens
- ◀ Victoria Park
- ◀ Walker Park
- ◀ Wirral Country Park

In addition, there are several other sites categorised under another open space typology (e.g. natural/semi-natural greenspace or cemetery) which hold a Green Flag Award. These are detailed in the relevant sections later in the report.

* August 2019

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4.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high value being green and low value being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.5: Value scores for parks and gardens in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
Birkenhead Commercial	55%	55%	55%	0%	0	1
Birkenhead Suburban Area	37%	62%	82%	45%	0	7
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	39%	59%	77%	38%	0	11
Heswall Urban Area	39%	49%	59%	20%	0	4
Mid Wirral Urban Area	33%	49%	55%	22%	0	4
Rural Area	28%	52%	73%	45%	0	11
Wallasey Urban Area	41%	65%	82%	41%	0	5
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	39%	59%	82%	43%	0	10
Wirral	28%	57%	82%	54%	0	53

All sites scored above the threshold for value. Vale Park, Ashton Park and Birkenhead Park are some of the highest scoring sites for value. Each are observed as attractive, well used parks and contain wildlife opportunity features. They have high amenity and social value with a variety of ancillary features and recreational opportunities. For example, Vale Park has a memory garden, bandstand and fitness equipment. Birkenhead Park has rugby and cricket pitches, excellent play area, fitness equipment and a network of paths throughout the site. It also offers guided walks and talks, parent and pre-schoolers activity mornings as well as a cafe enhancing social and cultural value. The site also has high historic value.

Numerous sites provide high cultural and heritage value. For example, the Diamond (N) and (S) include memorials whilst also being part of the unique Port Sunlight village.

Moreover, there is an extensive network of Friends Groups associated to parks and open space across Wirral. These groups are recognised as helping to improve and promote such sites and related activities. The Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy recognises the work and role of Friends Groups with several policies identifying their importance.

All parks provide opportunities for a wide range of users and demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks can offer. One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their ability to function as a multipurpose form of open space provision.

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Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area. Furthermore, parks sites have ecological value, providing habitats for a variety of wildlife. Taking all this into account, parks and gardens are recognised as being heavily integrated into people’s everyday lives.

4.6 Summary

<p>Parks and gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ There are 53 sites classified as parks and gardens totalling over 580 hectares. This is equivalent to 1.80 ha per 1,000 population.◀ FIT suggests a standard of 0.80 ha per 1,000 population.◀ Other forms of open space also contribute to the perception and role of parks; such as sites like Bidston Hill, Thurstaston Common and Dibbinsdale.◀ The geographic layout of settlements means there are several park sites within the Rural Area which are located adjacent to neighbouring settlement areas. These sites are recognised as having a role to help serve the urban populations within proximity.◀ Catchment mapping shows that most areas of higher population density are covered by the applied catchment. Some gaps are identified but these are often served by other forms of open space provision.◀ Most park and garden sites (64%) rate above the threshold for both quality and value. This is a reflection of the high standard of parks. Sites scoring lower for quality tend to lack ancillary features.◀ The general high quality of provision is reflected in the number of Green Flag award sites. There are currently 21 parks with a Green Flag Award.◀ All assessed sites score highly for value, with the important social interaction, health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being recognised.
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PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland and scrub, grassland, heath or moor, wetlands, wastelands, and bare rock habitats and commons. Such sites are often associated with providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

5.2 Current provision

In total, 91 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace in Wirral, totalling over 574 hectares of provision. These totals include all identified forms of accessible as well as inaccessible/restricted sites. A handful of sites are considered inaccessible and have not been assessed for quality or value (such sites remain blank in Table 5.4). However, they are acknowledged and included as they may still provide a habitat role.

Table 5.1: Natural and semi-natural by Settlement Area

Settlement area	Natural and semi-natural		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Birkenhead Commercial	2	40.84	18.31
Birkenhead Suburban Area	12	65.19	0.73
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	17	70.54	1.26
Heswall Urban Area	7	49.96	1.76
Mid Wirral Urban Area	13	26.37	0.49
Rural Area	27	243.75	34.41
Wallasey Urban	5	23.30	0.38
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	8	54.23	2.15
Wirral	91	574.19	1.78

The biggest contributors to natural and semi-natural provision are Thurstaston Common (National Trust) at 54 hectares and Dibbinsdale at 54 hectares. Other noticeably large sites include Bidston Hill (50 hectares), Bidston Moss Community Woodland (36 hectares) and Heswall Dales LNR (29 hectares).

The Rural Area has the greatest amount of provision with 244 hectares and also the greatest amount of provision per 1,000 population with 34.41 hectares per 1,000 population. Despite the Birkenhead Commercial Area containing the lowest number of natural sites (two), it is the second highest for current provision per 1,000 population with 18.31.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard for natural and semi-natural provision. Overall, Wirral has a current provision of 1.78 hectares per 1,000 population which is slightly below the FIT standard.

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It is important to recognise that some sites may also serve the population of adjacent settlement areas (i.e. sites located within one settlement area but adjacent to a neighbouring settlement area), which can have a significant effect on the overall levels of provision serving a settlement area.

Table 5.2: Natural sites by Settlement Area including adjacent sites

Settlement area	Natural and semi-natural	
	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Birkenhead Commercial	73.85	33.10
Birkenhead Suburban Area	90.42	1.01
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	147.01	2.64
Heswall Urban Area	56.69	1.99
Mid Wirral Urban Area	48.00	0.90
Rural Area	231.82	32.72
Wallasey Urban Area	72.74	1.19
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	84.04	3.33

On this basis, the Birkenhead Suburban Area, Mid Wirral Urban Area and Wallasey Urban Area remain below the FIT suggested 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population guideline quantity standard.

It is important to recognise that other forms of provision, such as some parks and garden sites, also contribute to the role and use associated with natural and semi-natural greenspace. For example, Eastham Country Park (37 hectares), Arrowe Country Park (110 hectares) and Wirral Country Park (40 hectares) predominantly provide opportunities linked with parks provision but also offer many features associated with natural greenspace. However, to ensure no double counting of sites, they are primarily classified within the parks and gardens typology.

If these sites were to be included within the quantity of natural provision, due to their dual role, the current levels of provision would be greatly increased, particularly in the Mid Wirral Urban Area.

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Designations

Several natural sites are recognised as having a protective designation. A summary of these is set out below:

Table 5.3: Sites with known designation

Site ID	Site	Designation(s)
19/65	Bidston Hill	Site of Local Biological Importance
23	Bidston Moss	LNR
56/ 1122	Dibbinsdale LNR (West and East)	SSSI, LNR
70	Lowfields	Site of Local Biological Importance
87	Heswall Beacons	Site of Local Biological Importance
91	Heswall Dales LNR	SSSI, LNR, Part Site of Local Biological Importance
105	Grange Hill	Site of Local Biological Importance
180	Irby Quarry	Site of Local Biological Importance
181/ 1115	Thurstaston Common	SSSI, LNR
185	Stapledon Wood	Site of Local Biological Importance
186	Caldy Hill	Site of Local Biological Importance
963	Red Rocks Coastal Frontage	SSSI
1145	Hilbre Islands LNR	LNR

5.3 Accessibility

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of natural and semi-natural greenspace provision across Wirral with a 720m catchment applied (equivalent to a 9-minute walk time). This is based on FIT recommended accessibility standards.

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Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped with 720m catchment

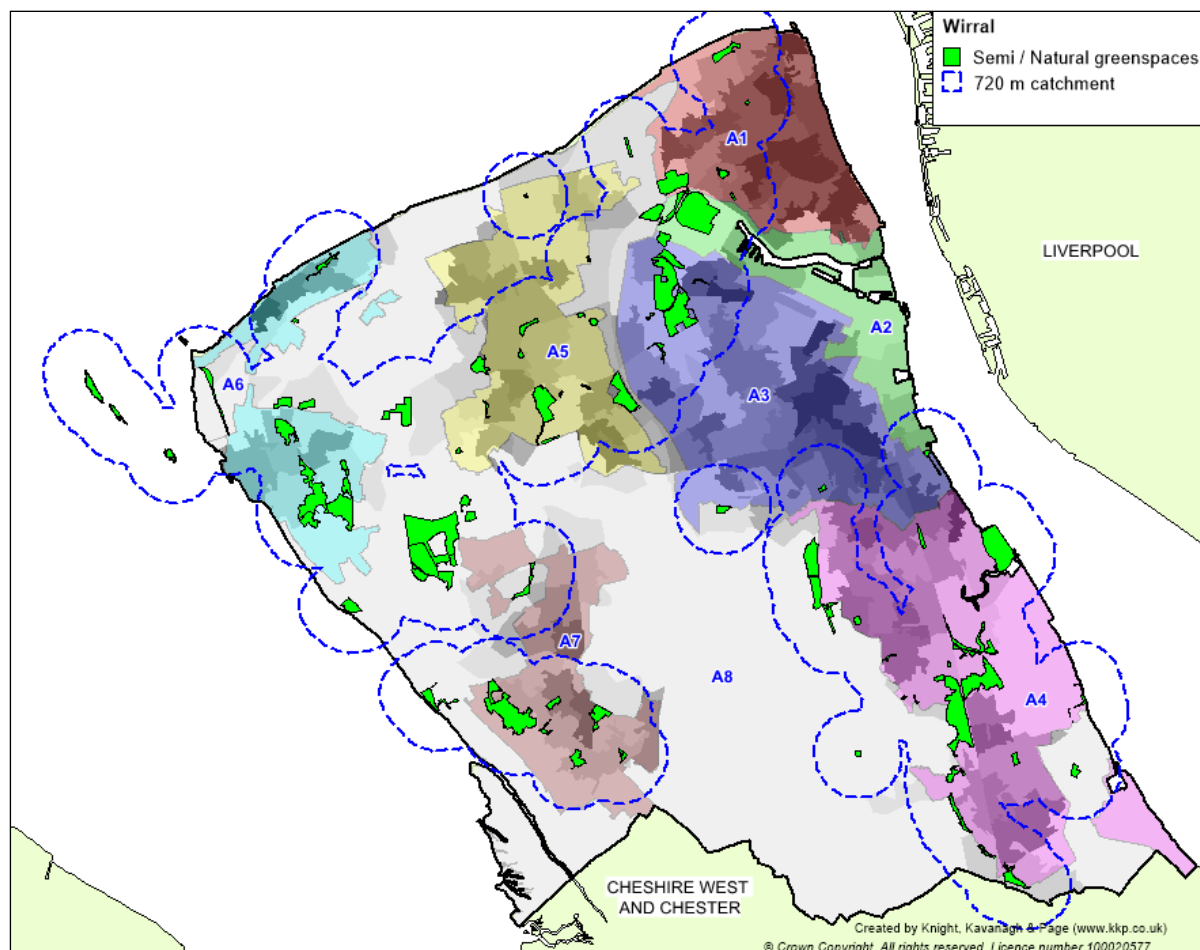


Table 5.4: Key to sites mapped*

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
4	Heswall Pinewoods (Gayton)	Heswall Urban	38.3%	35.8%
5	Woodchurch Community Woodland	Rural	43.0%	29.5%
7	Brookhurst Avenue (Plymyard Dale)	Rural		
9	Port Sunlight River Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban	68.2%	36.8%
15	Boundary Road Open Space (Rhododendron Gardens)	Birkenhead Suburban	34.6%	34.7%
18	Compton Road Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	39.3%	30.5%
19	Bidston Hill (North)	Birkenhead Suburban	63.2%	56.8%
23	Bidston Moss LNR	Rural	61.7%	46.3%
31	Bromborough Road Woodland (S)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	30.8%	23.2%
34	Bromborough Road Woodland (N)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	52.3%	47.4%

* Sites without a quality and value score were identified as being inaccessible at time of visit

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
36	The Glen Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	32.7%	33.7%
47	Marfords Wood	Rural		
48	Dibbinsview Grove Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban	40.2%	34.7%
49	Plymyard Dale Woodland	Rural		
50	Brimstage Road Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban	50.5%	33.7%
53	Paradise Wood	Bromborough Eastham Urban	40.2%	34.7%
54	Dibbins Green Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban	23.4%	16.8%
56	Dibbinsdale LNR (West)	Rural	53.9%	42.1%
57	Poulton Road Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban	35.5%	29.5%
59	Thornton Common	Rural	43.9%	33.7%
64	Vyner Road South Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	37.4%	34.7%
65	Bidston Hill (South)	Birkenhead Suburban	69.2%	56.8%
70	Lowfields	Rural	63.6%	34.7%
73	Eastham Rake Woods	Bromborough Eastham Urban	49.8%	40.0%
76	Allport Common	Bromborough Eastham Urban	33.6%	34.7%
80	Cheviot Road Wood	Birkenhead Suburban	55.5%	34.7%
86	Feather Lane Woodland	Heswall Urban	42.1%	35.8%
87	Heswall Beacons	Heswall Urban	42.1%	34.7%
89	Poll Hill	Heswall Urban	41.4%	24.2%
91	Heswall Dales LNR	Heswall Urban	76.6%	68.4%
96	Monkey Wood	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	40.2%	34.7%
102	Roman Road Open Space (West)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	40.2%	35.8%
105	Grange Hill	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	70.4%	62.1%
115	Burford Avenue Woodland	Wallasey Urban		
120	Paulsfield Drive Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban	39.3%	24.2%
123	Former RAF Camp	Rural	38.3%	26.3%
143	Prenton Dell Open Space	Rural	24.3%	16.8%
149	Newton Common	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	43.0%	34.7%
151	Gilroy Nature Park	Rural	50.5%	52.6%
155	Thorns Drive Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban	49.5%	34.7%
156	Hambledon Drive Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	37.4%	34.7%
180	Irby Quarry	Rural	43.0%	34.7%
181	Thurstaston Common (National Trust)	Rural	59.2%	51.6%
185	Stapeldon Wood	Rural	43.0%	34.7%
186	Caldy Hill	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	40.2%	34.7%
187	Harrock Wood (National Trust)	Rural	68.2%	46.3%
188	Heswall Fields (National Trust)	Rural	39.3%	30.5%
189	Irby Common (National Trust)	Rural	68.2%	40.0%
194	Former Royal Rock Hotel	Birkenhead Suburban	19.6%	16.8%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
200	Rock Park Linear Woodland	Birkenhead Suburban	31.8%	29.5%
204	Norwich Drive Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban	49.5%	25.3%
205	Salacre Crescent Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban	43.0%	25.3%
208	Nuffield Close Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban	44.9%	34.7%
209	Upton Meadow (Woodland Trust)	Mid Wirral Urban	50.5%	35.8%
210	Headington Road Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban	37.4%	33.7%
212	Saughall Massie Road Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban	40.2%	24.2%
213	Weybourne Close Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban	36.4%	24.2%
220	Captains Pit	Wallasey Urban	49.2%	29.5%
222	Cross Lane Community Woodland	Wallasey Urban	37.4%	40.0%
312	Colmore Avenue Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban	43.0%	40.0%
368	Whitfield Common	Heswall Urban	49.2%	31.6%
388	Greenbank Road Playing Field	Rural	42.1%	34.7%
422	Mereheath Wood	Mid Wirral Urban	40.2%	40.0%
461	Kings Parade (Red and Yellow Noses)	Wallasey Urban	62.6%	35.8%
751	Devisdale Grove Woodland	Birkenhead Suburban	29.9%	17.9%
754	Eleanor Road Woodland	Birkenhead Suburban		
868	The Breck Recreation Ground	Wallasey Urban	72.9%	46.3%
879	Roman Road Open Space (East)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	34.6%	35.8%
890	Flaybrick Linear (Lower Flaybrick)	Birkenhead Suburban	22.4%	22.1%
895	Bidston Moss Community Woodland	Birkenhead Commercial	48.6%	41.1%
963	Red Rocks Coastal Frontage	Rural	60.7%	51.6%
1033	Elm Grove Woodland	Rural	43.0%	34.7%
1075	Vyner Road South Walkway	Birkenhead Suburban	36.4%	34.7%
1107	NWCP - Telegraph Lane Open Space	Rural		
1108	Eastham Coastal Frontage	Bromborough Eastham Urban	47.0%	36.8%
1111	Caldy Hill (National Trust)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	42.1%	40.0%
1115	Thurstaston Common	Rural	68.2%	51.6%
1122	Dibbinsdale LNR (East)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	83.8%	57.9%
1129	Fendale Avenue Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	46.7%	34.7%
1145	Hilbre Islands LNR	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
1146	Arrowe Brook Road Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban	43.0%	25.3%
1148	Cleaver Heath (Wirral Wildlife)	Heswall Urban	49.5%	45.3%
1172	Dee Coast Nature Reserve	Rural	44.2%	24.2%
1198	Bidston Moss Linear Nature Reserve	Birkenhead Commercial	40.2%	34.7%
1248	Carlett Park Woodland	Rural	43.9%	40.0%
1250	Hesketh Road Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban	61.4%	40.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
1278	Jenny's Wood	Rural	38.3%	35.8%
6008	Benty Hey Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
6009	Storeton Wood (Woodland Trust)	Rural	70.1%	57.9%
6812	Brackenwood Park	Rural	54.2%	40.0%
8949	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban	69.8%	57.9%

Catchment mapping shows that most areas of a higher population density are generally covered by the catchment area of a natural and semi-natural greenspace site.

However, significant gaps are observed in the Wallasey, Birkenhead Commercial and Birkenhead Urban areas and parts of Mid Wirral with only minor gaps in the Bromborough, Eastham and Heswall areas. However, these are likely to be served by other forms of provision such as amenity greenspace and parks and gardens. The Standards Paper will further explore the other typology sites helping to serve catchment gaps.

5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high quality being green and low quality being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.5: Quality scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High ≥40%
Birkenhead Commercial	40%	44%	49%	9%	0	2
Birkenhead Suburban Area	20%	40%	69%	49%	8	3
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	23%	46%	84%	60%	5	10
Heswall Urban Area	38%	48%	77%	38%	1	6
Mid Wirral Urban Area	36%	43%	50%	14%	4	9
Rural Area	24%	51%	70%	46%	4	20
Wallasey Urban	37%	56%	73%	36%	1	3
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	35%	44%	70%	35%	1	6
Wirral	20%	47%	84%	64%	24	59

Eight natural sites do not receive a quality and value rating as they were inaccessible or had restricted access. One of these is Hilbre Island, which can only be accessed during low tide. It is however of high quality and value reflected by it being designated an LNR and having a Green Flag Award.

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It is important to recognise that some natural and semi-natural sites may be intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging and promoting habitat and biodiversity opportunities.

Of the natural and semi-natural provision assessed, a total of 58 sites (71%) rate above the threshold set for quality. There are 24 sites which rate below the quality threshold applied.

The lowest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Former Royal Rock Hotel
- ◀ Flaybrick Linear (Lower Flaybrick)
- ◀ Dibbins Green Woodland
- ◀ Prenton Dell Open Space

Sites scoring below the threshold for quality tend to lack ancillary features such as signage, seating and bins. This could also be due to their primary role as forms of habitat provision. Each site is also noted as being overgrown and consequently scores lower for overall maintenance and appearance. This can limit use of pathways and access within a site.

Most sites scoring above the threshold are observed as being more attractive due to the perceived higher levels of maintenance and appearance as well as the variety of recreational uses on offer. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Dibbinsdale LNR
- ◀ Heswall Dales LNR
- ◀ The Breck Recreation Ground
- ◀ Grange Hill
- ◀ Storeton Wood (Woodland Trust)
- ◀ New Ferry Butterfly Park (Wildlife Trust)

These sites are observed as having excellent access, with well-maintained pathways, good signage and interpretation as well as levels of personal security. They provide a successful balance between recreational uses and habitat/biodiversity provision.

The general high quality of natural and semi-natural provision is demonstrated by there being six natural and semi-natural greenspaces with a Green Flag Award.

Green Flag

The Green Flag Award scheme is an indicator of high quality. This in turn impacts upon the way sites are managed and maintained.

To gain the award, sites must be maintained and managed to a high standard. There are currently* six natural and semi-natural greenspaces with a Green Flag Award:

- ◀ Bidston Hill
- ◀ Dibbinsdale LNR
- ◀ Grange Hill
- ◀ The Breck Recreation Ground
- ◀ Hilbre Island
- ◀ New Ferry Butterfly Park

* August 2019

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In addition, 21 parks and three cemeteries hold a Green Flag Award. These are detailed in the relevant sections within the report.

5.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high value being green and low value being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.6: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
Birkenhead Commercial	35%	38%	41%	6%	0	2
Birkenhead Suburban Area	17%	34%	57%	40%	2	9
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	17%	36%	58%	41%	1	14
Heswall Urban Area	24%	39%	68%	44%	0	7
Mid Wirral Urban Area	24%	31%	40%	16%	0	13
Rural Area	17%	39%	58%	41%	1	22
Wallasey Urban	29%	38%	46%	17%	0	4
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	35%	40%	62%	27%	0	7
Wirral	17%	37%	68%	52%	4	79

Only four sites rate below the value threshold; Devisdale Grove Woodland, Dibbins Green Woodland, Former Royal Rock Hotel and Prenton Dell Open Space. All four sites also rate below the threshold for quality. The sites are generally observed as overgrown which are consequently difficult to access and use for recreation purposes.

Sites rating above the value threshold often demonstrate the added benefit natural and semi-natural greenspaces can provide especially in terms of contributing to flora and fauna promotion and habitat opportunities.

Most sites rate above the value threshold. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Heswall Dales LNR
- ◀ Grange Hill
- ◀ Dibbinsdale LNR
- ◀ Storeton Wood (Woodland Trust)
- ◀ New Ferry Butterfly Park
- ◀ Bidston Hill

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These sites offer a wide range of activity opportunities balanced with a strong biodiversity and habitat promotion. Sites such as Heswall Dales and Dibbinsdale are designated as LNRs. Others such as Grange Hill and Bidston Hill are identified as Local Sites of Biological Importance.

The high value of these sites is also likely a result of them having a Green Flag Award. Such sites are often highly valued due to their social, cultural and amenity benefits.

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 91 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering over 574 hectares. Eight sites are noted as having restricted or no access.
- ◀ FIT suggests a standard of 1.80 ha per 1,000 population. Wirral as a whole currently has 1.78 ha per 1,000 population.
- ◀ Other forms of open space may also contribute to the perception and role of natural and semi-natural provision; such as park sites like Eastham Country Park, Arrowe Country Park and Wirral Country Park.
- ◀ The geographic layout of settlements means that several natural and semi-natural sites are located adjacent to neighbouring settlement areas. These sites are recognised as having a role to help serve the urban populations within proximity.
- ◀ On this basis, the more higher density urban areas of Birkenhead, Mid Wirral and Wallasey could have potential quantity shortfalls.
- ◀ However, other forms of provision such as amenity greenspace and parks can often help serve these gaps.
- ◀ Of the natural and semi-natural sites assessed, 71% rate above the threshold set for quality. There are 24 sites that rate below the quality threshold.
- ◀ All but four sites rate above the threshold for value. The habitat role of many natural and semi-natural sites is widely recognised with some sites also offering excellent recreational opportunities.

PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

This is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.

6.2 Current provision

There are 209 amenity greenspace sites in Wirral equivalent to over 229 hectares of provision. Nine of these sites were identified as potentially inaccessible. Amenity greenspaces are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace. These sites are included within amenity greenspace as they often have a less formal setting and fewer facilities compared to a park or garden.

Table 6.1: Amenity greenspace by Settlement Area

Settlement area	Amenity Greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Birkenhead Commercial	1	0.75	0.34
Birkenhead Suburban Area	42	39.24	0.44
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	50	74.80	1.34
Heswall Urban Area	6	4.15	0.15
Mid Wirral Urban Area	46	32.54	0.61
Rural Area	11	15.90	2.24
Wallasey Urban	39	55.96	0.92
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	14	5.69	0.23
Wirral	209	229.05	0.71

Bromborough Eastham Urban Area has the greatest number of sites and provision with 50 sites (equating to over 74 hectares). However, the Rural Area has the greatest amount of provision per 1,000 population with 2.24. Heswall Urban Area has the lowest current provision with 0.15 hectares per 1000 population.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Wirral with 0.71 hectares per 1,000 population meets this suggested standard.

There is some variation of sites within this typology. For example, larger recreation grounds and playing fields serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational and sporting activities in addition to their public amenity due to their size and layout.

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Some playing fields and recreation grounds will be included both within this study and the Council's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). For example, a site may contain pitches available for community use (i.e. a football pitch within a recreation ground may be used for match fixtures at certain times of the week whilst being available for wider community/recreational use at other times). These sites are covered by both studies to reflect the multi-functional role of such forms of provision.

It is important to recognise that some sites may also serve the population of adjacent settlement areas (i.e. sites located within one settlement area but adjacent to a neighbouring settlement area), which can have a significant effect on the overall levels of provision serving a settlement area.

Table 6.2: Amenity greenspaces by Settlement Area including adjacent sites

Settlement area	Amenity Greenspace	
	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Birkenhead Commercial	27.76	12.44
Birkenhead Suburban Area	44.55	0.50
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	85.10	1.53
Heswall Urban Area	4.85	0.17
Mid Wirral Urban Area	35.92	0.67
Rural Area	15.90	2.24
Wallasey Urban Area	56.71	0.93
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	10.75	0.43

On this basis, the Birkenhead Suburban Area, Heswall Urban Area and West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area are below the FIT suggested 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population guideline quantity standard.

It is important to recognise that other forms of provision, such as some parks and natural and semi-natural sites, may also contribute to the role and uses associated with amenity greenspace.

6.3 Accessibility

Figure 6.1 overleaf shows the location of amenity greenspace provision across Wirral with a 480m catchment applied (equivalent to a 6-minute walk time), based on FIT recommended accessibility standards.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace with 480m catchment

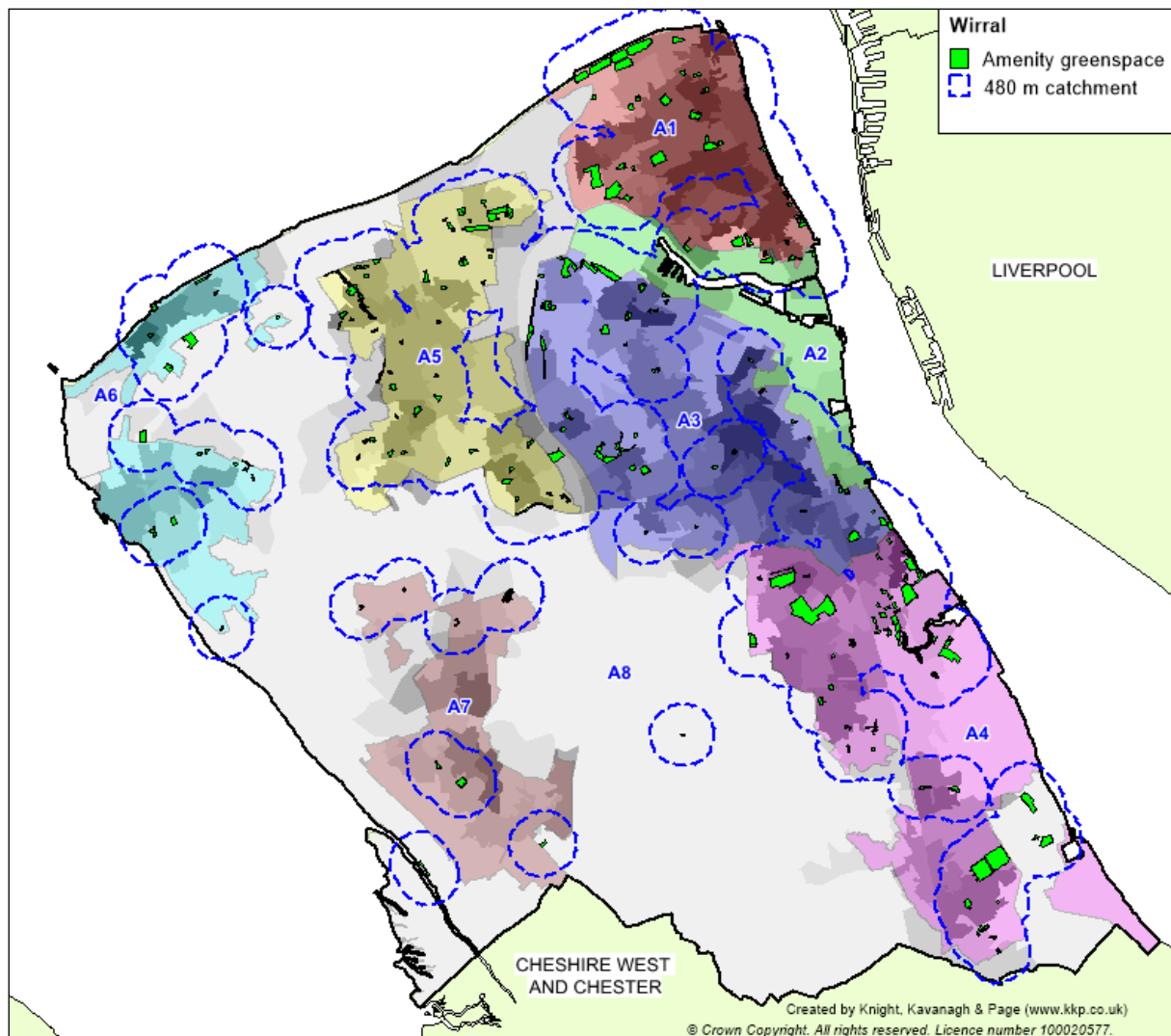


Table 6.3: Key to sites mapped*

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
2	Arrowe Brook Linear Park (Moreton)	Mid Wirral Urban	68.3%	39.0%
12	Upton Pines Entrance	Mid Wirral Urban	43.6%	17.0%
20	Gautby Road Recreation Ground	Birkenhead Suburban	53.8%	28.0%
21	Fender Way Linear	Birkenhead Suburban	43.1%	22.0%
30	Saughall Grange Recreation Ground	Mid Wirral Urban Area	65.0%	34.0%
32	Park View Linear Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	43.6%	26.0%
33	The Diamond (E)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	65.8%	32.0%
37	Samaria Avenue Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban	54.5%	28.0%

* Sites without a score are considered inaccessible

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
41	Lodge Lane Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	53.0%	33.0%
42	The Diamond (W)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	68.3%	32.0%
51	Wirral Gardens	Bromborough Eastham Urban	68.8%	53.0%
52	Bebington Civic Frontage (North)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	65.7%	43.0%
55	Gilbrook Square (West)	Birkenhead Suburban	47.5%	18.0%
75	Delamere Avenue Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	56.9%	28.0%
88	Telegraph Road Open Space	Heswall Urban	52.5%	24.0%
97	Green Lane Playing Field	Rural	50.5%	35.0%
98	Meols Parade Open Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	50.0%	28.0%
103	Barn Hey Crescent	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	52.5%	23.0%
104	Goose Green Frontage	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	51.5%	28.0%
111	Poets Corner	Bromborough Eastham Urban	65.3%	48.0%
112	Demesne Street	Wallasey Urban	39.3%	21.0%
113	Burdett Avenue/Inley Road	Bromborough Eastham Urban	60.4%	28.0%
114	Maddock Road	Wallasey Urban	42.6%	27.0%
117	Bluewood Drive	Birkenhead Suburban	66.7%	23.0%
118	Old Court House Road	Bromborough Eastham Urban	51.5%	34.0%
119	School Lane open space	Birkenhead Sub Urban Area	55.9%	28.0%
121	Lyndale Ave. Backland	Bromborough Eastham Urban	59.2%	27.0%
122	Chester High Road playing field	Rural	44.6%	28.0%
124	Reeds Lane Nature Area	Mid Wirral Urban Area	51.8%	25.0%
125	Mount Road Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	37.6%	28.0%
126	Church Lane Playing Field	Mid Wirral Urban Area	40.6%	23.0%
135	Townfield Close Open Space (Hargrave)	Birkenhead Suburban	60.4%	28.0%
137	Farndon Way Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	44.1%	26.0%
141	Meadow Crescent Open Space (N)	Mid Wirral Urban	52.5%	18.0%
144	Osmaston Road War Memorial	Birkenhead Suburban	53.1%	32.0%
148	Royden Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	53.5%	23.0%
152	Greasby Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	52.5%	22.0%
167	Paton Close Open Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	41.6%	23.0%
173	Sandon Road	Wallasey Urban	54.1%	27.0%
174	Wallasey Town Hall Gardens	Wallasey Urban	53.5%	22.0%
175	Magazine Promenade Plantations	Wallasey Urban	63.9%	33.0%
196	Howson Street	Birkenhead Suburban	51.5%	38.0%
197	Rock Park Esplanade	Birkenhead Suburban	57.6%	35.0%
198	Bedford Road AGS	Birkenhead Suburban	42.1%	28.0%
223	Bayswater Gardens	Wallasey Urban	61.7%	23.0%
244	Kings Lane Playing Fields	Bromborough Eastham Urban	54.1%	44.0%
247	Derwent Road	Bromborough Eastham Urban	51.0%	27.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
249	Atherton Street / Portland Street Greenspace	Wallasey Urban	36.6%	23.0%
250	Kings Parade	Wallasey Urban	73.3%	28.0%
257	Ilchester Square AGS	Birkenhead Suburban	57.9%	33.0%
261	Beechwood Park	Birkenhead Suburban	45.5%	18.0%
262	Lennox Lane Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	63.4%	27.0%
267	Woodlands Community Park	Birkenhead Suburban	54.8%	30.0%
271	Connaught Way	Birkenhead Suburban	52.8%	28.0%
272	Bentinck Street	Birkenhead Suburban	53.1%	22.0%
281	Windy Bank Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	57.4%	38.0%
283	Owen Street Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	68.0%	48.0%
284	Port Causeway AGS	Bromborough Eastham Urban	72.9%	45.0%
286	Walker Street Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	68.0%	48.0%
287	Mayfields Playing Field	Bromborough Eastham Urban	69.5%	44.0%
288	Onslow Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban	56.1%	18.0%
289	The Ginne!l	Bromborough Eastham Urban	58.4%	33.0%
290	Bradmoor Recreation Ground	Bromborough Eastham Urban	55.9%	33.0%
291	Church Drive Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	56.9%	32.0%
296	Boundary Road Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	69.3%	43.0%
300	Shorefields Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	72.9%	59.0%
308	Stanton Road Play Area (The Hollows)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	60.7%	37.0%
310	Poulton Road Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	53.5%	32.0%
311	Radford Avenue Linear	Bromborough Eastham Urban	64.4%	43.0%
317	Brimstage Green	Rural	47.5%	24.0%
320	Brome Green	Bromborough Eastham Urban	60.7%	38.0%
327	Sorrell Close Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	50.5%	23.0%
329	Olivia Close	Birkenhead Suburban	52.0%	18.0%
333	Kings Parade	Wallasey Urban	56.8%	23.0%
334	Bentham Close Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	53.5%	28.0%
342	Plymyard Playing Fields (W)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	62.4%	39.0%
343	Heygarth Road Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	55.9%	28.0%
346	Kelsall Avenue	Bromborough Eastham Urban	55.5%	43.0%
347	Plymyard Playing Fields (E)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	62.9%	44.0%
350	Eastham Rake	Bromborough Eastham Urban	77.7%	50.0%
369	Puddy Dale	Heswall Urban	78.4%	45.0%
381	Hoylake Promenade Open Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	62.7%	28.0%
382	Grove AGS	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	68.3%	53.0%
386	Anglesey Road Playing Field	Rural	50.5%	38.0%
393	Carr Lane	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	58.4%	23.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
396	Sandringham Avenue Playing Field	Rural	57.4%	23.0%
406	Pasture Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	43.2%	23.0%
409	Twickenham Drive AGS	Mid Wirral Urban	52.5%	24.0%
411	Yew Tree Green AGS	Mid Wirral Urban	51.5%	38.0%
412	Leasowe Adventure Play	Mid Wirral Urban		
414	Whiteheath AGS	Mid Wirral Urban	62.4%	43.0%
416	Kings Parade	Wallasey Urban	59.9%	33.0%
424	Knutsford Green	Mid Wirral Urban	53.5%	22.0%
431	Wallacre Playing Fields	Wallasey Urban	52.5%	39.0%
432	Delph Sports Ground	Wallasey Urban	51.0%	23.0%
444	Berwick Close Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	52.0%	23.0%
455	Delph AGS	Wallasey Urban	47.5%	22.0%
456	St Georges Park	Wallasey Urban	41.6%	26.0%
457	Earlston Gardens	Wallasey Urban	78.2%	50.0%
462	Quarry Recreation Ground	Wallasey Urban	58.9%	33.0%
469	The Grove Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	52.1%	27.0%
477	Davenham Avenue	Birkenhead Suburban	64.4%	28.0%
478	Shavington Avenue	Birkenhead Suburban	59.7%	28.0%
487	Prenton Hall Road AGS	Birkenhead Suburban	66.8%	33.0%
490	Woodchurch Leisure Centre	Rural	55.5%	45.0%
497	Broadway Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	39.6%	22.0%
501	Grange Farm Crescent	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	58.1%	22.0%
504	Bromsgrove Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	55.5%	28.0%
505	Circular Drive Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	49.5%	23.0%
506	Mere Park Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	41.6%	23.0%
512	Limekiln Lane Community Park	Wallasey Urban	46.5%	22.0%
513	North Seacombe Recreation Ground (Desmense St)	Wallasey Urban	49.5%	21.0%
515	Bridle Road AGS	Wallasey Urban	36.1%	22.0%
516	Citrine Park	Wallasey Urban	51.2%	17.0%
517	Vernon Avenue	Wallasey Urban		
518	Oakdale Recreation Ground	Wallasey Urban	66.0%	33.0%
519	Luke Street AGS	Wallasey Urban	54.0%	27.0%
522	Rycroft Road Playing Fields	Wallasey Urban	48.2%	28.0%
536	Oaklea Road	Heswall Urban	44.6%	23.0%
538	Madeley Drive Open Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	46.5%	23.0%
539	Devonshire Road Playing Field	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	50.5%	22.0%
547	Conway Playing Field	Birkenhead Suburban	54.0%	29.0%
550	Holt Hill Quarry Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	45.2%	17.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
553	Delta Road Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	45.5%	22.0%
554	Pembroke Court	Birkenhead Suburban	50.5%	27.0%
568	Woodpecker Close Ponds	Mid Wirral Urban	55.5%	28.0%
574	Kingfisher Way Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban	47.5%	23.0%
575	N of Upton Cricket Club	Mid Wirral Urban	35.6%	22.0%
579	Elleray Park	Wallasey Urban	77.4%	39.0%
581	School Lane Playing Field	Wallasey Urban		
583	Kings Parade	Wallasey Urban	63.4%	28.0%
586	Folly Lane Open Space	Wallasey Urban	40.6%	17.0%
595	Flynns Piece	Wallasey Urban	54.5%	27.0%
596	St Hilarys Gardens	Wallasey Urban	60.9%	23.0%
597	Belvidere Recreation Ground	Wallasey Urban	61.4%	29.0%
685	Kings Parade	Wallasey Urban	51.0%	60.0%
752	Wilfred Owen Drive Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	53.5%	28.0%
759	Bedford Avenue Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	32.7%	22.0%
788	Former St James Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
834	Cornflower Way	Mid Wirral Urban	45.5%	28.0%
835	Brookthorpe Close	Wallasey Urban	59.9%	27.0%
837	Kinloss Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	44.6%	23.0%
854	New Hey Road	Mid Wirral Urban	50.0%	23.0%
857	Sandon Promenade Open Space	Wallasey Urban	48.5%	23.0%
860	Curlew Way Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	51.5%	23.0%
864	Egremont Promenade Plantations	Wallasey Urban	62.4%	40.0%
865	Torrington Drive Woodlands	Heswall Urban	53.5%	23.0%
873	Knox Close Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	44.6%	27.0%
874	Cressida Avenue AGS	Bromborough Eastham Urban	46.5%	22.0%
875	Bebington Oval Playing Fields	Bromborough Eastham Urban	69.0%	65.0%
886	Thorburn Close Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	47.5%	17.0%
888	Gorse Hill Park	Wallasey Urban	70.8%	43.0%
896	Rock Park Pocket Park	Birkenhead Suburban	32.2%	22.0%
912	Queen Marys Drive Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	45.5%	26.0%
914	Lower Road Backland	Bromborough Eastham Urban	51.5%	32.0%
917	Pool Bank Backland	Bromborough Eastham Urban	60.7%	33.0%
918	Saughall Massie Road Backland	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	47.5%	23.0%
920	Kings Close Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	65.4%	28.0%
935	Greenwood Road Backland	Mid Wirral Urban	53.5%	24.0%
939	Hoole Road Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	38.1%	23.0%
940	The Crescent Plantations	Bromborough Eastham Urban	51.5%	27.0%
943	Carr Bridge Road Backland	Mid Wirral Urban	50.5%	23.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
945	Common Field Road Linear (fender footpath)	Mid Wirral Urban	54.5%	24.0%
1039	Wastedale Court Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	45.5%	23.0%
1041	Curlew Court Backland	Mid Wirral Urban	40.6%	18.0%
1042	Mallard Way Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	52.5%	23.0%
1048	Martin Close	Heswall Urban	31.7%	17.0%
1056	Epsom Road P	Mid Wirral Urban	51.8%	27.0%
1057	Cheltenham Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	47.5%	17.0%
1058	Valley Road Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	51.5%	28.0%
1061	Noctorum Way Woodland	Birkenhead Suburban	55.5%	28.0%
1087	Tollemache Road AGS	Birkenhead Suburban	57.9%	33.0%
1088	Fulford Park AGS	Mid Wirral Urban	65.3%	23.0%
1124	Noctorum Way	Birkenhead Suburban	54.5%	23.0%
1126	Lincoln Gardens AGS	Birkenhead Suburban	55.5%	28.0%
1128	Grovedale Drive AGS	Mid Wirral Urban	46.5%	28.0%
1132	Bidston Village Road	Birkenhead Suburban	41.1%	28.0%
1134	Wharf Street Linear	Bromborough Eastham Urban	56.4%	32.0%
1168	Eaton Place AGS	Birkenhead Suburban	42.1%	23.0%
1178	Carlett Park Playing Field	Rural	46.5%	38.0%
1183	Tam O Shanter Urban Farm	Birkenhead Suburban	71.8%	55.0%
1189	Hanover Close Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban	69.3%	43.0%
1221	Osbourne Court Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	56.9%	38.0%
1229	Delamere Avenue Linear Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	62.9%	28.0%
1230	Leasowe Recreation Centre Playing Field (Leas	Mid Wirral Urban	59.9%	38.0%
1231	Scott's Field Linear	Birkenhead Commercial	76.9%	44.0%
1237	Manor Way Linear	Birkenhead Suburban	53.1%	29.0%
1244	Abbot's Drive Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	59.4%	23.0%
1246	Ashton Way Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	55.5%	21.0%
1249	Carlett Park Chapel Open Space	Rural	47.5%	27.0%
1252	Bromborough Pool Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban	46.2%	28.0%
1257	Arkhill Gardens Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1259	Rake Hey Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	47.5%	27.0%
1261	Oak Close Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	50.0%	17.0%
1262	Hazelwood	Mid Wirral Urban	54.5%	21.0%
1263	Farmside Amenity Green Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1269	Grange Farm Crescent Linear	Rural	51.0%	27.0%
1270	Mereworth Open Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	58.4%	32.0%
1271	Lartonwood Amenity Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	50.5%	32.0%
1272	New Bold Crescent Green Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	39.6%	21.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
1273	Denning Drive Open Space	Heswall Urban	65.0%	22.0%
1276	Riverbank Road Green Space	Rural	32.5%	38.0%
1277	Hoylake Road Amenity Space	Rural		
1281	Bullrush Drive Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	53.5%	21.0%
1282	Arrowe Brook Linear Saughall Massie	Mid Wirral Urban	59.4%	38.0%
6000	The Grange	Wallasey Urban	65.8%	33.0%
6868	Oakland Vale Plantations	Wallasey Urban		
8940	Home Farm Close Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban	53.0%	23.0%
8944	Hawthorne Grove	Wallasey Urban		

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision across the area; most areas with a higher population density are served by a form of amenity provision. Gaps are observed within each of the Urban Areas which may be served by other forms of provision such as parks and natural and semi-natural greenspaces. The Standards Paper will explore the sites helping to serve catchment gaps in more detail.

6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high quality being green and low quality being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.4: Quality scores for amenity greenspace in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High ≥50%
Birkenhead Commercial	77%	77%	77%	0%	0	1
Birkenhead Suburban Area	32%	53%	72%	40%	11	30
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	38%	59%	78%	40%	7	43
Heswall Urban Area	32%	54%	78%	47%	2	4
Mid Wirral Urban Area	36%	51%	68%	33%	16	27
Rural Area	33%	48%	57%	25%	5	5
Wallasey Urban	36%	56%	78%	42%	11	24
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	40%	53%	68%	29%	4	10
Wirral	32%	54%	78%	47%	56	144

A total of 72% of assessed amenity greenspace sites rate above the threshold for quality.

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The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Puddy Dale
- ◀ Earlston Gardens
- ◀ Eastham Rake
- ◀ Ellera Park
- ◀ Scott's Field Linear

The sites are observed as having high standards of maintenance and cleanliness, resulting in a good overall appearance. In addition, they provide good levels of user security as well as ancillary features including seating and litter bins. Some sites also benefit from additional facilities such as play provision and signage.

Larger amenity greenspace sites such as recreation grounds and playing fields often lend themselves to greater sporting and recreational opportunities such as football. These opportunities as well as other added features on site, such as good quality play areas, provide increased reasons for people to visit such provision. The quality of such sites is often to a higher standard.

Of the sites highlighted as a recreation ground or playing field, 18 out of the 21 (86%) are rated as being above the quality threshold. The three to rate below the quality threshold are Rycroft Road Playing Fields, Carlett Park Playing Field and North Seacombe Recreation Ground. Rycroft Road Playing Fields and North Seacombe Recreation Ground are both noted as having the potential to be enhanced.

The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites are:

- ◀ Martin Close
- ◀ Rock Park Pocket Park
- ◀ Riverbank Road Green Space
- ◀ North of Upton Cricket Club
- ◀ Bridle Road AGS

These sites generally lack ancillary features such as bins and seating (although Rock Park Pocket Park does have benches that are poorly maintained). Each site scores lower for overall maintenance, perceived levels of usage and pathways. Martin Close is noted as being very overgrown at the time of assessment.

There are a handful of other sites observed as having potential issues with misuse. Holt Hill Quarry Open Space, Folly Lane Open Space and Cressida Avenue AGS are all noted as requiring attention in terms of maintenance with vandalism and fly tipping observed.

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6.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high value being green and low value being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.5: Value scores for amenity greenspace in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
Birkenhead Commercial	44%	44%	44%	0%	0	1
Birkenhead Suburban Area	17%	28%	55%	38%	4	37
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	17%	35%	65%	48%	2	48
Heswall Urban Area	17%	26%	45%	28%	1	5
Mid Wirral Urban Area	17%	25%	43%	26%	5	38
Rural Area	23%	32%	45%	22%	0	10
Wallasey Urban	17%	29%	60%	43%	2	33
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	21%	27%	53%	32%	0	14
Wirral	17%	30%	65%	48%	14	186

Most (93%) amenity greenspaces rate above the threshold for value. The highest scoring sites for value are:

- ↳ Bebington Oval Playing Fields
- ↳ Kings Parade
- ↳ Shorefields Open Space
- ↳ Tam O Shanter Urban Farm
- ↳ Grove AGS
- ↳ Wirral Gardens

These sites scoring high for value also score high for quality. They all appear well used and are recognised as providing social and health benefits with suitable ancillary facilities to enable a range of people to use them.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites are likely to offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing. These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. seating, landscaping and trees) this means that the better-quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 209 amenity greenspace sites equating to over 229 hectares of provision. 200 of these sites are fully accessible totalling over 219 hectares.
- ◀ FIT suggests a standard of 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population. Overall, Wirral (0.71 ha per 1,000 population) meets the FIT standard.
- ◀ The geographic layout of settlements means several amenity sites are located adjacent to neighbouring settlement areas. These sites are recognised as having a role to help serve the urban populations within proximity.
- ◀ On this basis, the more urban areas of Birkenhead Suburban, Heswall and West Kirby Hoylake areas could have potential quantity shortfalls.
- ◀ Mapping nevertheless demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace across the area. Gaps from catchment mapping are noted to the Heswall, Wallasey and Birkenhead areas. However, these are also often served by other types of provision.
- ◀ Nearly three quarters (72%) of amenity sites assessed rate above the threshold for quality. Sites scoring lower for quality is due to a lack of ancillary features or overall general condition.
- ◀ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence nearly all sites rate above the value threshold.

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PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

This includes areas provided primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges incorporating facilities such as skateparks, BMX, youth shelters and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs).

7.2 Current provision

A total of 111 play facility sites are identified. This equates to a total of nearly 10 hectares. The table below shows the distribution of provision in Wirral by settlement area. No threshold has been applied as, all provision (regardless of ownership) is identified and included within the audit. The calculations include facilities for children and young people provided within other typologies.

Table 7.1: Provision for children and young people by Settlement Area

Settlement area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Birkenhead Commercial	2	0.09	0.04
Birkenhead Suburban Area	27	2.06	0.02
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	21	1.62	0.03
Heswall Urban Area	4	0.26	0.01
Mid Wirral Urban Area	17	1.52	0.03
Rural Area	9	1.22	0.17
Wallasey Urban	21	2.24	0.04
West Kirby and Hoylake Urban Area	10	0.85	0.03
Wirral	111	9.86	0.03

Birkenhead Suburban Area contains the greatest number of play facility sites with 27. This is followed by Bromborough Eastham (21) and Wallasey (21). However, the Rural Area has the largest amount of provision proportionally with 0.17 hectares per 1,000 population.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Wirral with 0.03 hectares per 1,000 population is short of this suggested standard.

However, there are instances where the surrounding open space at each site in which the play provision is located also contributes to the play offer. If these areas* are also included in the calculation, then a total of 39.11 hectares is identified, equivalent to 0.12 hectares per 1,000 population.

* All amenity sites containing a form of play provision

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It is important to recognise that some sites may also serve the population of adjacent settlement areas (i.e. sites located within one settlement area but adjacent to a neighbouring settlement area), which can have a significant effect on the overall levels of provision serving a settlement area.

Table 7.2: Provision for children and young people by settlement area including adjacent sites

Settlement area	Provision for children and young people	
	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Birkenhead Commercial	2.05	0.92
Birkenhead Suburban Area	2.43	0.03
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	1.87	0.03
Heswall Urban Area	0.47	0.02
Mid Wirral Urban Area	1.88	0.04
Rural Area	1.22	0.17
Wallasey Urban Area	2.24	0.04
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	2.11	0.08

On this basis, the Birkenhead Commercial Area is the only settlement area to meet the FIT suggested 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population guideline quantity standard.

7.3 Accessibility

Figure 7.1 shows the location of provision for children and young people across Wirral based on FIT accessibility standards. These vary depending on the sub-classification of each play site.

Table 7.3: FIT accessibility guidelines

Play type	FIT guideline	Time equivalent
Local Area for Play (LAP)	100m	1-minute walk time
Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	400m	5-minute walk time
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	1,000m	12.5-minute walk time
Other (Multi-Use Games Areas & Skateboards)	700m	9-minute walk time

In some instances, the surrounding open space of a play site may also contribute to potentially meeting wider play needs. For the purposes of mapping, catchments are based only on the sites primarily categorised as provision for children and young people.

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Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people mapped with catchments

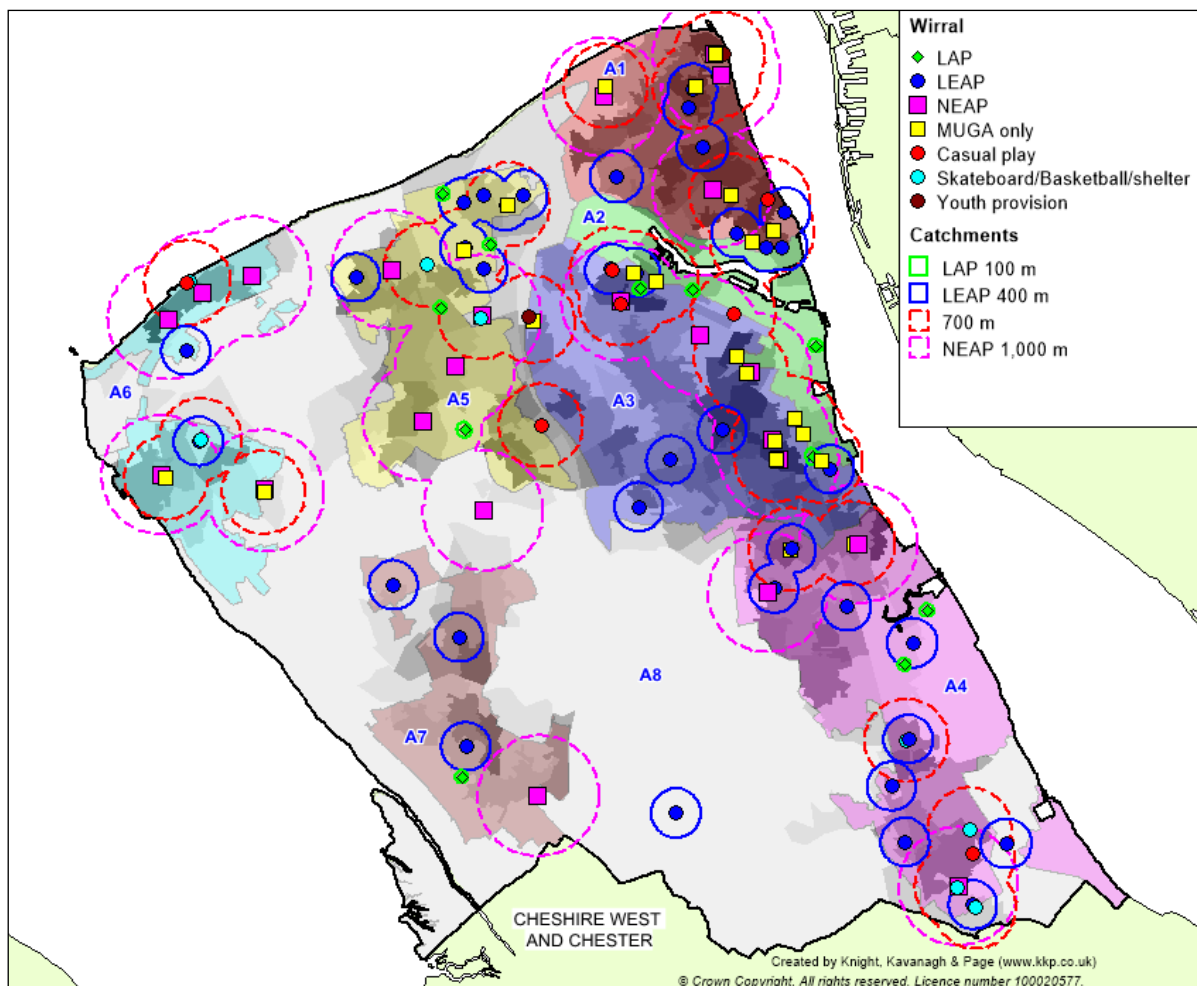


Table 7.4: Key to sites mapped*

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
1.1	Birkenhead Park play area	Birkenhead Suburban	90.8%	63.6%
2.1	Arrowe Brook Linear Park play area	Mid Wirral Urban	78.1%	27.3%
21.1	Beechwood Skate Park	Birkenhead Suburban	81.6%	41.8%
116	Hesketh Way play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban	72.4%	43.6%
196.1	Howson Street MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban	54.8%	45.5%
198.1	Bedford Road Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban	78.6%	38.2%
211	Woodview Avenue Play Area (Wheatland Lane Play)	Wallasey Urban	77.0%	38.2%
243.1	Higher Bebington play area 1	Bromborough Eastham Urban	87.1%	54.5%

* Multiple play provision at sites are completed under one form

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
243.2	Higher Bebington play area 2	Bromborough Eastham Urban	71.7%	54.5%
257.1	Ilchester Square play area	Birkenhead Suburban	82.7%	41.8%
257.2	Ilchester Square MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban	68.6%	41.8%
258	Vulcan Close Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban	58.2%	20.0%
267.1	Woodlands Community Park play area	Birkenhead Suburban	82.8%	41.8%
267.2	Woodlands Community Park MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban		
273	Gallaghers Hill Play Area (Price Street)	Birkenhead Commercial	50.4%	34.5%
282.1	New Ferry Park play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban	84.8%	54.5%
282.2	New Ferry Park MUGA	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
284.1	Port Causeway Play Area	Bromborough Eastham Urban	87.1%	54.5%
285.1	Bromborough Recreation Ground play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban	89.6%	50.9%
285.2	Bromborough Recreation Ground basketball area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
305.1	Mayer Park play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban	79.8%	54.5%
315.1	Brookhurst Park play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban	85.3%	50.9%
318.1	Thornton Hough Recreation Ground play area	Rural	87.0%	54.5%
319.1	Marfords Park play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban	85.3%	54.5%
344.1	Torr Park play area	Rural Area	87.1%	54.5%
346.1	Kelsall Avenue Play Area	Bromborough Eastham Urban	75.2%	47.3%
346.2	Kelsall Avenue basketball area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
347.1	Plymyard Playing Fields basketball area	Bromborough Eastham Urban	44.4%	38.2%
350.1	Eastham Rake Play Area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
350.2	Eastham Rake skate park	Bromborough Eastham Urban	77.6%	54.5%
350.3	Eastham Rake basketball area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
356.1	Victoria Park play area	Birkenhead Suburban	81.6%	54.5%
356.2	Victoria Park MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban	57.1%	41.8%
369.1	Puddy Dale play area	Heswall Urban	86.1%	41.8%
371.1	Dawson Park play area	Heswall Urban	60.9%	41.8%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
372.1	Gayton Park play area	Rural	81.9%	50.9%
382.1	Grove Play Area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	79.5%	50.9%
391.1	Ashton Park play area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	79.5%	54.5%
391.2	Ashton Park MUGA	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	56.0%	32.7%
393.1	Carr Lane Play Area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	71.4%	50.9%
394.1	Meols Parade Gardens basketball	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	36.0%	38.2%
394.2	Meols Parade Gardens five-a-side	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	34.6%	38.2%
395.1	Queens Park play area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	89.9%	54.5%
406.1	Pasture Road basketball area	Mid Wirral Urban	31.2%	25.5%
408	Cameron Road Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban	77.5%	41.8%
409.1	Twickenham Drive Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban	52.1%	38.2%
411.1	Yew Tree Green Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban	74.4%	50.9%
411.2	Yew Tree Green MUGA	Mid Wirral Urban	68.9%	50.9%
412.1	Leasowe Adventure Playground	Mid Wirral Urban		
412.2	Leasowe Adventure Playground MUGA	Mid Wirral Urban		
414.1	Whiteheath Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban	69.1%	47.3%
419	Farnworth Avenue Play Area (Ditton Lane)	Mid Wirral Urban	63.4%	38.2%
423.1	Upton Park play area	Rural	73.2%	41.8%
423.2	Upton Park basketball area	Rural	67.8%	41.8%
429	Urmson Road Play Area	Wallasey Urban	69.7%	50.9%
430	Wallacre Play Area	Wallasey Urban	77.2%	41.8%
447.1	Lingham Park play area	Mid Wirral Urban	80.6%	50.9%
451.1	Vale Park play area	Wallasey Urban	84.1%	54.5%
451.2	Vale Park football area	Wallasey Urban	59.0%	45.5%
457.1	Earlston Gardens play area	Wallasey Urban	78.9%	50.9%
459.1	Tower Grounds play areas	Wallasey Urban	72.1%	50.9%
459.2	Tower Grounds MUGA	Wallasey Urban	65.1%	54.5%
459.3	Tower Grounds skate park	Wallasey Urban	72.4%	54.5%
462.1	Quarry Recreation Ground play area	Wallasey Urban	77.9%	50.9%
462.2	Quarry Recreation Ground MUGA	Wallasey Urban	48.5%	47.3%
476.1	Holm Lane Recreation Ground play area	Birkenhead Suburban	79.8%	54.5%
487.1	Prenton Hall Road Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban	80.2%	50.9%
491.1	Arrowe Country Park play area	Rural	67.4%	20.0%
498.1	Newton Park play areas	Rural	60.6%	34.5%
498.2	Newton Park MUGA	Rural		
502.1	Greenbank Community Park play area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	59.6%	41.8%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
502.2	Greenbank Community Park basketball area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	55.0%	38.2%
503.1	Coronation Park play area	Mid Wirral Urban	81.8%	50.9%
513.1	North Seacombe Recreation Ground play area	Wallasey Urban	59.1%	34.5%
515.1	Bridle Road Play Area	Wallasey Urban	61.7%	38.2%
517.1	Vernon Avenue MUGA	Wallasey Urban	25.7%	12.7%
518.1	Oakdale Recreation Ground play area	Wallasey Urban	63.4%	47.3%
519.1	Luke Street MUGA	Wallasey Urban	46.9%	47.3%
523	Rappart Road MUGA	Wallasey Urban	50.5%	29.1%
531.1	Ridgewood Park play area	Heswall Urban	77.8%	50.9%
537.1	Irby Recreation Ground play area	Heswall Urban	80.9%	50.9%
551.1	Mersey Park play area	Birkenhead Suburban	76.1%	54.5%
551.2	Mersey Park MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban	66.6%	50.9%
554.1	Pembroke Court MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban	50.5%	47.3%
555	Thorsway Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban	76.3%	32.7%
562	Woodchurch Community Centre Play Area and MUGA	Rural	67.1%	45.5%
565.1	Warwick Hey Park play area	Mid Wirral Urban	87.3%	54.5%
582.1	Harrison Park play area	Wallasey Urban	84.5%	54.5%
582.3	Harrison Park MUGA	Wallasey Urban		
834.1	Cornflower Way Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban	38.6%	25.5%
874.1	Cressida Avenue Play Area (Juliet Avenue)	Bromborough Eastham Urban	55.9%	34.5%
874.2	Cressida Avenue MUGA	Bromborough Eastham Urban	42.3%	34.5%
1010	Gautby Road Community Centre Kickabout Cage	Birkenhead Suburban	62.5%	41.8%
1011	Gautby Road Community Centre play area	Birkenhead Suburban	73.2%	41.8%
1038.1	Meols Lower Green Recreation Ground play area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	79.0%	47.3%
1087.1	Tollemache Road Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban	89.0%	45.5%
1087.2	Tollemache Road Kickabout Area	Birkenhead Suburban	58.7%	38.2%
1088.1	Fulford Park Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban	78.4%	38.2%
1093	Livingstone Street Community Centre Kickabout	Birkenhead Suburban	34.9%	21.8%
1126.1	Lincoln Gardens MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban	61.9%	41.8%
1128.1	Grovedale Drive Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban	69.8%	41.8%
1139	Union Street MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban	60.3%	41.8%
1140	Beechwood Recreation Centre MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban	65.2%	41.8%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality score	Value score
1141	Charing Cross Kickabout Cage & Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban	41.3%	38.2%
1168.1	Eaton Place Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban	82.2%	41.8%
1169	Rose Brae Play Area	Birkenhead Commercial	56.7%	29.1%
1252.1	Bromborough Pool play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban	49.6%	38.2%
1253	Eastham Youth Centre Games Court	Bromborough Eastham Urban	60.6%	38.2%
1266	Upton Pines Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban	67.8%	21.8%
8942.1	Central Park play area	Wallasey Urban	90.8%	54.5%
8942.2	Central Park MUGA	Wallasey Urban	69.7%	45.5%

Most of the higher population density areas are shown to be served by some form of play provision, but there are potentially gaps in provision within the Birkenhead, Heswall and Bromborough Eastham areas. The Standards Paper will explore these potential gaps in more detail.

7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high quality being green and low quality being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for provision for children and young people. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.5: Quality scores for provision for children and young people in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High ≥60%
Birkenhead Commercial	50%	53%	57%	7%	2	0
Birkenhead Suburban Area	35%	69%	91%	56%	7	20
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	42%	72%	90%	48%	4	17
Heswall Urban Area	61%	76%	86%	25%	0	4
Mid Wirral Urban Area	31%	68%	87%	56%	3	12
Rural Area	61%	74%	87%	26%	0	9
Wallasey Urban	26%	67%	91%	65%	6	15
West Kirby and Hoylake Urban Area	35%	64%	90%	55%	5	5
Wirral	26%	69%	91%	65%	27	82

Two play sites (Leasowe Adventure Playground and MUGA) do not receive a quality and value rating, as both sites are only open at certain times of the day.

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Overall, quality of provision is generally good with 75% of sites rating above the quality threshold. There are 27 sites rating below the threshold. There is a significant spread (65%) between the highest and lowest scoring sites in Wirral.

All sites in Heswall Urban Area and Rural Area are rated above the quality threshold. The majority of sites rate above the threshold in Bromborough Eastham Urban Area (81%), Mid Wirral Urban Area (80%), Birkenhead Suburban Area (74%) and Wallasey (71%) suggesting a good quality of provision. Sites in West Kirby and Hoylake Urban Area are of mixed quality. Provision in the Birkenhead Commercial Urban Area is all rated below the quality threshold.

Most sites rate above the threshold. Some of the highest scoring sites for quality include:

- ◀ Birkenhead Park play area
- ◀ Central Park play area
- ◀ Queens Park play area
- ◀ Bromborough Recreation Ground play area
- ◀ Tollemache Road play area

Sites scoring higher for quality tend to have a wider variety of equipment, in a good condition, catering towards a greater range of age groups. Such sites often contain appropriate ancillary facilities including signage, seating, bins and controls to prevent misuse.

The lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Vernon Avenue MUGA
- ◀ Pasture Road basketball area
- ◀ Meols Parade Gardens five-a-side-area
- ◀ Livingstone Street Community Centre

These sites all score low for general site appearance, surface and equipment quality. The sites also lack signage and seating. Most sites to rate below the quality threshold are observed as having poor quality and/or missing equipment.

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7.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high value being green and low value being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the value assessment for children and young people. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.6: Value scores for provision for children and young people in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
Birkenhead Commercial	29%	32%	34%	5%	0	2
Birkenhead Suburban Area	20%	43%	64%	44%	0	27
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	34%	47%	54%	20%	0	21
Heswall Urban Area	42%	46%	51%	9%	0	4
Mid Wirral Urban Area	22%	40%	54%	32%	0	15
Rural Area	20%	43%	54%	34%	0	9
Wallasey Urban	13%	45%	54%	41%	1	20
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	33%	45%	54%	21%	0	10
Wirral	13%	44%	64%	51%	1	108

Only one site rates below the value threshold; Vernon Avenue MUGA. The site is identified as a now locked MUGA which was partially observed (through fencing) as being of poor quality.

Nearly all play sites rate above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the important role play provision provides in allowing children to play but also the contribution sites make in terms of giving children and young people safe places to learn, for physical and mental activity, to socialise with others and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments.

High value sites tend to reflect the size and amount as well as range of provision present. This often means sites are more popular and well used. Such sites also provide added value in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between individuals whilst also adding to developmental and educational benefits.

Some of the highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ Birkenhead Park play area
- ◀ Central Park play area
- ◀ Port Causeway play area
- ◀ Queens Park play area
- ◀ Torr Park play area
- ◀ Vale Park play area
- ◀ Higher Bebington play area 1

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Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages also enhances value and provision such as skatepark facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play. Sites containing such forms of provision often tend to rate higher for value.

It is also important to recognise the benefits of play in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value. The importance of play and of children’s rights to play in their local communities is essential.

7.6 Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are 111 play sites identified; a total of 9.86 hectares.
- ◀ Wirral with between 0.03 ha to 0.12ha per 1,000 population is short of the FIT suggested standard of 0.25 ha per 1,000 population.
- ◀ The geographic layout of settlements means some play sites are located adjacent to neighbouring settlement areas. These sites are recognised as having a role to help serve the urban populations within proximity.
- ◀ On this basis, the more urban areas of Birkenhead Suburban, Bromborough Eastham and Heswall areas could have potential quantity shortfalls.
- ◀ Potential gaps in catchment mapping are noted to the Birkenhead, Heswall and Bromborough Eastham areas.
- ◀ A greater proportion of play sites (75%) rate above the threshold for quality. Lower quality scoring sites tends to reflect a lack in and/or range of equipment and overall general condition.
- ◀ Nearly all play provision rates above the threshold for value; reflecting the social, healthy and developmental benefits provision can provide.

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

The Allotments typology covers open spaces that provide opportunities for people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction. This includes provision such as allotments and community gardens.

8.2 Current provision

There are 51 sites classified as allotments in Wirral, equating to over 57 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments as all known provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Allotment sites by Settlement Area

Settlement area	Allotments		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Birkenhead Commercial	-	-	-
Birkenhead Suburban Area*	21	25.03	0.28
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	9	11.14	0.20
Heswall Urban Area	-	-	-
Mid Wirral Urban Area	4	3.44	0.06
Rural Area	8	8.35	1.18
Wallasey Urban	7	8.46	0.14
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	2	0.71	0.03
Wirral	51	57.14	0.18

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (20 per 2,000 people based on two people per house or one per 100 people). This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

Wirral based on its current population of 322,796 does not meet the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision would be 81 hectares. Existing provision of 57 hectares is below this suggested guideline.

Only the settlement areas of Birkenhead Suburban Area and the Rural Area are above the NSALG suggested standard.

It is important to recognise that some sites may also serve the population of adjacent settlement areas (i.e. sites located within one settlement area but adjacent to a neighbouring settlement area), which can have a significant effect on the overall levels of provision serving a settlement area.

* Area also now includes a reinstated site (St James Allotments) at 0.25 ha. No changes to provision per 1,000 population occurs due to the relatively small size of the site.

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Table 8.2: Allotment sites by Settlement Area including adjacent sites

Settlement area	Natural and semi-natural	
	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Birkenhead Commercial	4.01	1.80
Birkenhead Suburban Area	25.03	0.28
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	20.28	0.36
Heswall Urban Area	0.80	0.03
Mid Wirral Urban Area	4.22	0.08
Rural Area	8.35	1.18
Wallasey Urban Area	8.46	0.14
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	5.61	0.22

On this basis, the Heswall, Mid Wirral Urban Area, Wallasey Urban Area and West Kirby Hoylake areas remain below the NSALG suggested 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population guideline quantity standard.

8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1 shows allotments mapped across the area. A catchment radius of 1,000m has been applied as the previous Wirral Open Space Assessment applied this catchment. There is however no national suggested accessibility catchment for allotments.

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped with 1,000m catchment

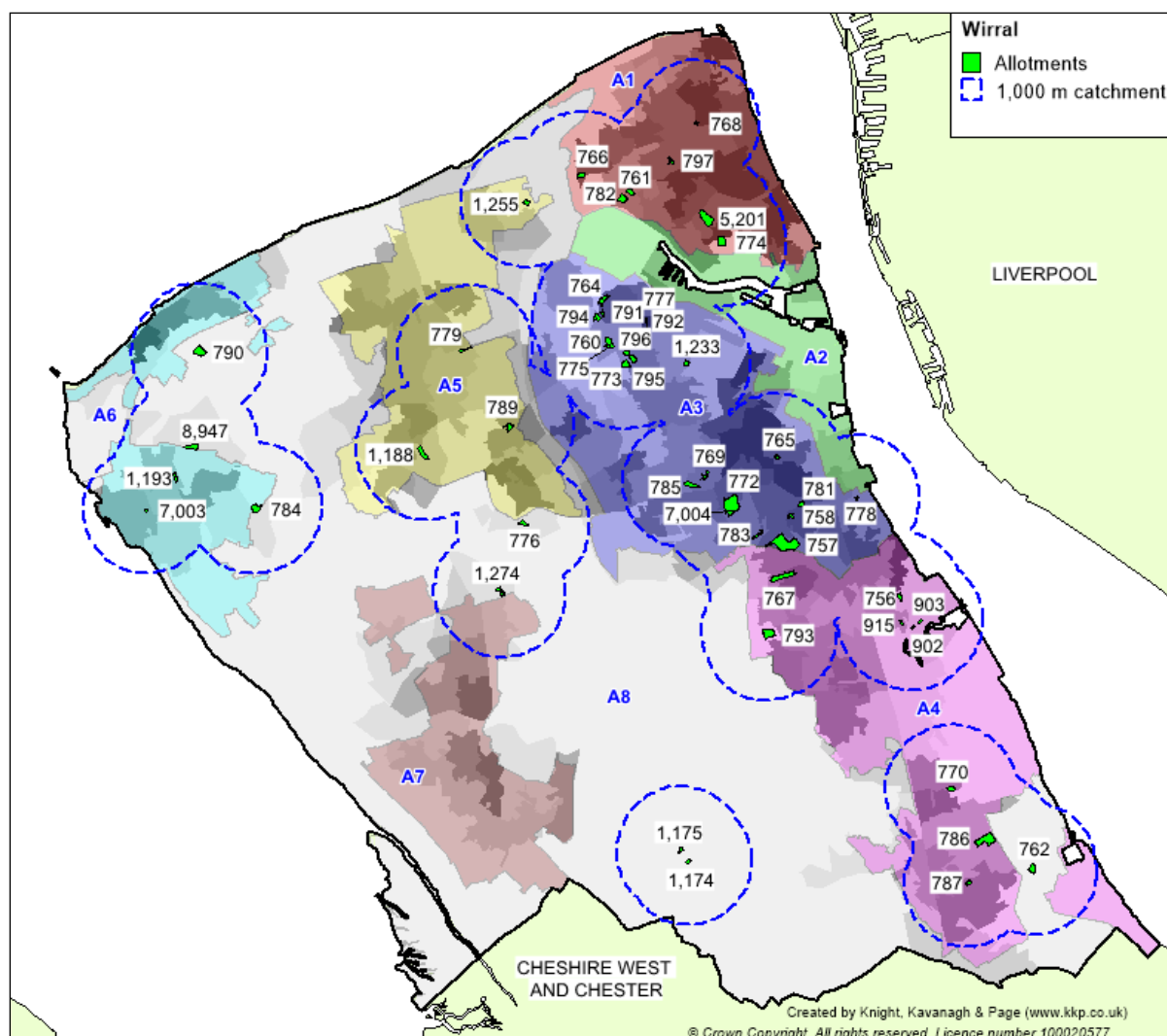


Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped*

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality Score	Value score
756	Beaconsfield Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban	57.8%	34.0%
757	Bebington Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	60.3%	34.0%
758	Bedford Avenue Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	53.4%	28.0%
760	Boundary Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	52.6%	23.0%
761	Buckingham Avenue Allotments	Wallasey Urban	63.4%	25.0%
762	Carlett Park Allotments	Rural	60.3%	33.0%
764	Carrodus Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	50.0%	23.0%
765	Church Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	50.0%	23.0%
766	Cross Lane Allotments	Wallasey Urban	54.7%	24.0%

* Sites without a quality or value score could not be accessed or viewed at the time of inspection.

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality Score	Value score
767	Dawson Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban	62.9%	39.0%
768	Earlston Allotments	Wallasey Urban	55.6%	38.0%
769	Fairview Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	50.9%	23.0%
770	Forwood Road Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban	61.2%	35.0%
772	Harris Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	50.0%	25.0%
773	Hill Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	56.9%	29.0%
774	Ilford Avenue Allotments	Wallasey Urban	53.4%	29.0%
775	King Georges Way Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	52.6%	24.0%
776	Landican Allotments	Rural	53.9%	23.0%
777	Landsdown Place Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	62.5%	34.0%
778	Manor Lane Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
779	Manor Drive Allotments	Mid Wirral Urban		
781	Molyneux Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	52.6%	28.0%
782	Mosslands Drive Allotments	Wallasey Urban	57.8%	25.0%
783	Mountwood Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	53.4%	23.0%
784	Newton Park Allotments	Rural	58.6%	25.0%
785	Ormonde Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	63.4%	44.0%
786	Plymyard Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban	67.2%	34.0%
787	Wingate Road Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban	52.6%	25.0%
789	Salacre Allotments	Mid Wirral Urban	68.5%	33.0%
790	Sandringham Avenue Allotments	Rural	64.2%	38.0%
791	Shakeshaft Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	50.9%	23.0%
792	Sumner Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
793	Teehey Road Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban	56.9%	34.0%
794	Thornton Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	64.2%	25.0%
795	Tollemache Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	59.9%	34.0%
796	Upton Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	56.9%	28.0%
797	Belvidere Allotments	Wallasey Urban	65.9%	25.0%
902	Shore Drive Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban	36.2%	28.0%
903	Woodhead Road Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
915	Corniche Road Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban	51.3%	33.0%
1174	Raby Road Allotments	Rural	62.5%	33.0%
1175	Smithy Hill Allotments	Rural	71.6%	29.0%
1188	Coronation Park Allotments	Mid Wirral Urban	50.4%	34.0%
1193	Grange Hill Allotments	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	65.1%	33.0%
1233	Edward Kemp Community Garden	Birkenhead Suburban	70.7%	60.0%
1255	Leasowe Allotments	Mid Wirral Urban	50.0%	23.0%
1274	The Warrens Allotments	Rural	54.3%	29.0%
5201	Love Lane Allotments	Wallasey Urban	56.5%	25.0%
7003	Ashton Park Allotments	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	60.8%	28.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality Score	Value score
7004	Shaftsbury Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban	55.2%	23.0%
8947	Gilroy Road Allotments	Rural	53.9%	39.0%

Figure 8.1 shows the distribution of allotment sites across the area. Mapping demonstrates that gaps in provision are observed in the Heswall area with more minor gaps noted in the Bromborough Eastham, Birkenhead and Mid Wirral areas.

A more accurate approach for determining the need for allotments is through demand. Waiting lists exist across Wirral with circa 1,500 people registered as awaiting a plot. This does not fully represent the number of individuals seeking a plot as a person can put their name down for up to two sites. Demand continues to be high.

Due to the extremely high demand for allotments the Council restricts the total number of applications to a site to 100. This is to minimise the disappointment of not obtaining a plot and to avoid someone being on a waiting list for several years.

As a result, some sites are no longer accepting any new applications for a plot (as the number on the waiting list already exceeds 100). Sites no longer accepting applications include:

- ◀ Ashton Park
- ◀ Belvidere Road
- ◀ Coronation Park
- ◀ Cross Lane
- ◀ Earlston
- ◀ Grange Hill
- ◀ Love Lane
- ◀ Mosslands Drive

Most sites are managed by the Council. There are however five allotment sites which are self-managed. These include Gilroy, Leasowe, Sandringham, Thingwall (The Warrens) Community and Wingate. Self-managed sites can often be well managed and have smaller waiting lists.

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8.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high quality being green and low quality being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.3: Quality scores for allotments in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High ≥50%
Birkenhead Commercial	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birkenhead Suburban Area	50%	56%	71%	21%	0	19
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	36%	56%	67%	31%	1	7
Heswall Urban Area	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mid Wirral Urban Area	50%	56%	68%	18%	0	3
Rural Area	54%	60%	72%	18%	0	8
Wallasey Urban	53%	58%	66%	13%	0	7
West Kirby and Hoylake Urban Area	61%	63%	65%	4%	0	2
Wirral	36%	57%	72%	36%	1	46

There are four allotments (Manor Lane, Manor Drive, Summer Road and Woodhead Road) which do not receive a quality and value rating, as they could not be clearly viewed at the time of the assessment.

Overall, quality of assessed provision is good with nearly all sites rated as being above the quality threshold. The highest scoring sites are:

- ↳ Smithy Hill Allotments
- ↳ Edward Kemp Community Garden
- ↳ Salacre Allotments
- ↳ Plymyard Allotments
- ↳ Belvidere Allotments

All five sites have good personal security, maintenance and signage. Plymyard Allotments and Edward Kemp Community Garden have very good paths whilst the latter scores well for drainage, design and maintenance. It has the additional benefit of being an inclusive space for people with a range of health and mobility issues.

Only Shore Drive Allotments rates below the quality threshold. The site is noted as having some very poorly maintained and neglected plots at the time of the assessment.

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8.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high value being green and low value being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for allotments. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.4: Value scores for allotments in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
Birkenhead Commercial	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birkenhead Suburban Area	23%	29%	60%	37%	0	21
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	25%	33%	39%	14%	0	9
Heswall Urban Area	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mid Wirral Urban Area	23%	30%	34%	11%	0	3
Rural Area	23%	31%	39%	16%	0	8
Wallasey Urban	24%	27%	38%	14%	0	7
West Kirby and Hoylake Urban Area	28%	30%	33%	5%	0	2
Wirral	23%	30%	60%	37%	0	47

All allotment sites rate above the threshold for value. This reflects the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision.

Edward Kemp Community Garden is one of the highest scoring sites for value. The site is highlighted as being a particularly inclusive space for people with a range of health and mobility issues.

The value of allotments is further demonstrated by the existence of high waiting lists, signalling greater demand for provision.

8.6 Summary

Allotments summary

- ◀ There are 51 allotments sites: equating to more than 57 hectares.
- ◀ Current provision of 0.18 ha per 1,000 population is below the NSALG recommended amount (0.25 ha per 1000 people).
- ◀ The geography of settlements means some sites are adjacent to neighbouring settlement areas. These sites have a role to in helping to serve the urban populations within proximity.
- ◀ On this basis, the more urban areas of Heswall, Mid Wirral, Wallasey and West Kirby Hoylake areas could have potential quantity shortfalls.
- ◀ Waiting lists exist for allotments across the area suggesting supply is not meeting demand.
- ◀ The value of allotments is widely recognised due to the associated social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place they offer.

PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

9.1 Introduction

Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for burial of the dead and quiet contemplation. Sites can often be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

9.2 Current provision

There are 29 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 94 hectares of provision. No site size threshold has been applied as all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Cemeteries and churchyards by settlement area

Settlement area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Birkenhead Commercial	0	-
Birkenhead Suburban Area	3	11.11
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	6	17.97
Heswall Urban Area	1	0.63
Mid Wirral Urban Area	3	1.63
Rural Area	9	47.60
Wallasey Urban Area	3	11.12
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	4	4.74
Wirral	29	94.80

The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is Landican Cemetery (24 hectares). This is followed by Flaybrick Memorial Gardens (10 hectares), Frankby Cemetery (10 hectares) and Rake Lane Cemetery (10 hectares).

9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should be based on burial demand. No issues are highlighted regarding burial capacity through consultation with Wirral Council.

Figure 9.1 overleaf shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against settlement areas.

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped

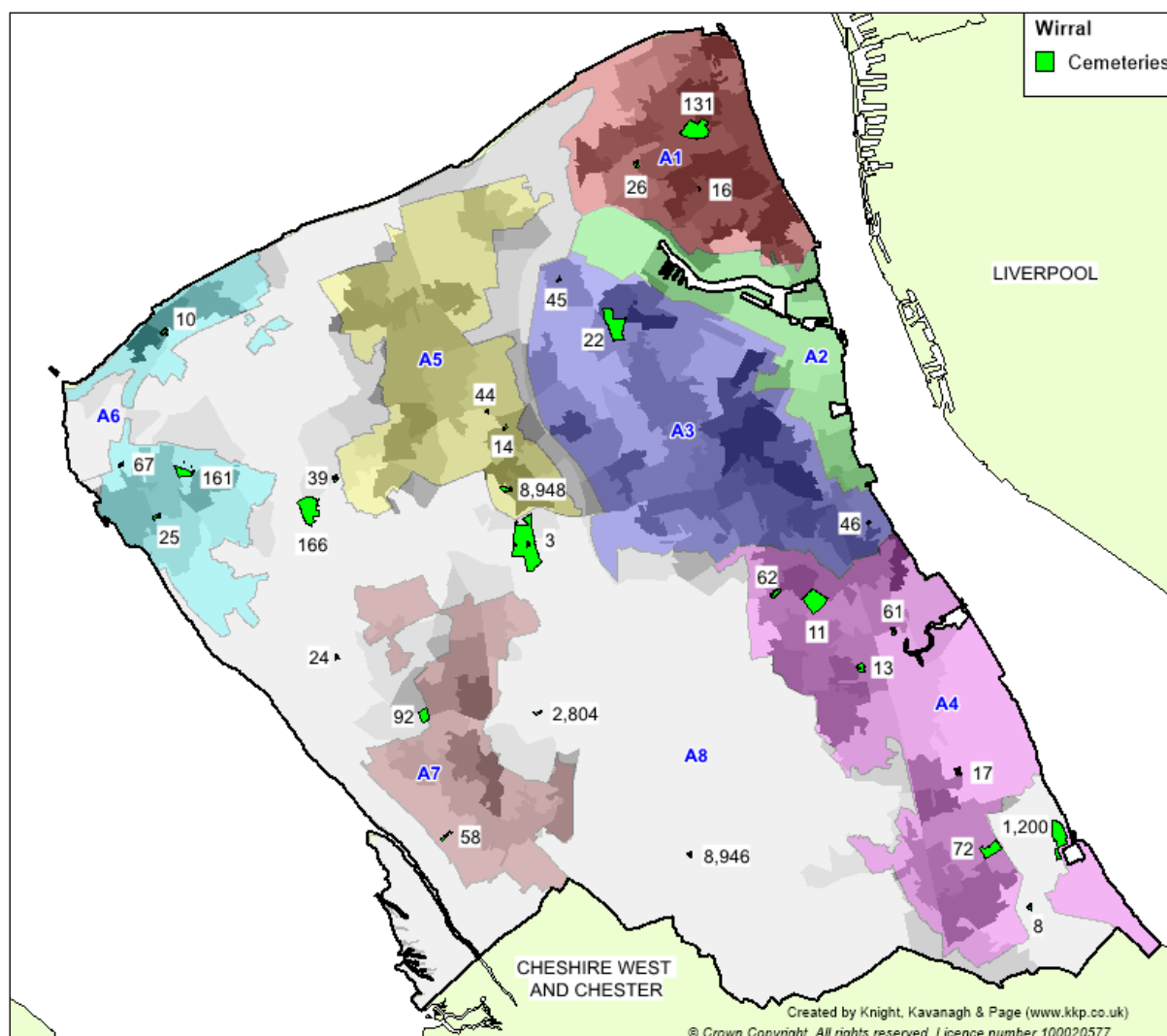


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality Score	Value Score
3	Landican Cemetery	Rural	87.0%	70.6%
8	Eastham St. Mary's Churchyard	Rural	57.5%	50.6%
10	Parish of Hoylake Graveyard, Trinity Road	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	50.7%	38.8%
11	Bebington Cemetery	Bromborough Eastham Urban	63.2%	51.8%
13	St Andrews Church, Bebington	Bromborough Eastham Urban	55.8%	50.6%
14	Salacre Lane Graveyard, Upton	Mid Wirral Urban	46.9%	27.1%
16	St Albans Church, Liscard	Wallasey Urban	58.7%	32.9%
17	St Barnabas's Church, Bromborough	Bromborough Eastham Urban	62.6%	40.0%
22	Flaybrick Memorial Gardens	Birkenhead Suburban	52.7%	44.7%

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality Score	Value Score
24	St Bartholomew's Church, Thurstaston	Rural	63.8%	38.8%
25	St Bridget's Church, West Kirby	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	76.5%	44.7%
26	St Hilary's Church, Liscard	Wallasey Urban	51.7%	32.9%
39	St John's Church, Greasby	Rural	55.7%	32.9%
44	St Mary's Church, Upton	Mid Wirral Urban	50.5%	25.9%
45	St Oswald's Church, Bidston	Birkenhead Suburban	57.7%	32.9%
46	St Peter's Church, Rock Ferry	Birkenhead Suburban	50.4%	25.9%
58	St Peter's Church, Heswall	Heswall Urban	60.1%	45.9%
61	Christ Church, Port Sunlight	Bromborough Eastham Urban	73.7%	57.6%
62	Christ Church, Higher Bebington	Bromborough Eastham Urban	55.6%	50.6%
67	St Andrew's Church, West Kirby	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	66.3%	40.0%
72	Plymyard Cemetery	Bromborough Eastham Urban	68.6%	63.5%
92	Heswall Cemetery	Rural	60.1%	32.9%
131	Rake Lane Cemetery	Wallasey Urban	72.2%	64.7%
161	Grange Cemetery	West Kirby Hoylake Urban	54.4%	40.0%
166	Frankby Cemetery	Rural	83.1%	69.4%
1200	Mayfields Woodland Remembrance Park	Rural	68.8%	34.1%
2804	Christ Church Barnston	Rural	50.4%	29.4%
8946	All Saints Church, Thornton Hough	Rural	69.1%	38.8%
8948	Holy Cross Cemetery	Mid Wirral Urban	50.7%	38.8%

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly balanced distribution across the area. As noted earlier, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

9.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high quality being green and low quality being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.3: Quality scores for cemeteries in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High ≥50%
Birkenhead Commercial	-	-	-	-	0	0
Birkenhead Suburban Area	50%	54%	58%	8%	0	3
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	56%	63%	74%	18%	0	6
Heswall Urban Area	60%	60%	60%	0%	0	1
Mid Wirral Urban Area	47%	49%	51%	4%	1	2
Rural Area	50%	66%	87%	49%	0	9
Wallasey Urban Area	52%	61%	72%	18%	0	3
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	51%	62%	77%	16%	0	4
Wirral	47%	61%	87%	40%	1	28

Only one site rates below the quality threshold; Salacre Lane Graveyard, Upton. No particular quality issues were identified but the site was observed as having slightly uneven pathways and no seating in comparison to other sites of a similar type.

Most cemeteries and churchyards in Wirral rate above the threshold set for quality; suggesting a high standard of quality. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ↳ Landican Cemetery
- ↳ Frankby Cemetery
- ↳ St Bridgets Church, West Kirby
- ↳ Christ Church, Port Sunlight
- ↳ Rake Lane Cemetery

These sites are observed as being very well maintained, with well-kept graves, ample seating, excellent signage and good pathways. They also benefit from car parking and welcoming entrances.

The general high quality of provision is demonstrated by there being three cemeteries with a Green Flag Award.

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Green Flag

The Green Flag Award scheme is an indicator of high quality. This in turn impacts upon the way cemeteries and church yards are managed and maintained.

To gain the award, sites must be maintained and managed to a high standard. There are currently* three cemeteries in Wirral with a Green Flag Award.

- ◀ Landican Cemetery
- ◀ Frankby Cemetery
- ◀ Rake Lane Cemetery

9.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high value being green and low value being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.4: Value scores for cemeteries in Wirral

Settlement area	Scores (%)			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High ≥20%
Birkenhead Commercial	-	-	-	-	0	0
Birkenhead Suburban Area	26%	34%	45%	19%	0	3
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	40%	52%	63%	23%	0	6
Heswall Urban Area	46%	46%	46%	0%	0	1
Mid Wirral Urban Area	26%	31%	39%	13%	0	3
Rural Area	29%	44%	71%	42%	0	9
Wallasey Urban Area	33%	43%	65%	32%	0	3
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	39%	41%	45%	6%	0	4
Wirral	26%	43%	71%	43%	0	29

All cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value, reflecting their role within local communities. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide for local people is acknowledged in the assessment scoring.

* August 2019

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High scoring sites for value offer visually attractive landscape benefits and opportunities to serve an important function for a local community. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can often offer important low impact recreational benefits to the local area (e.g. habitat provision, wildlife watching).

The highest scoring sites for value are Landican Cemetery, Frankby Cemetery and Rake Lane Cemetery. All three are highlighted as Green Flag Award sites. Landican Cemetery is also noted as being a Site of Local Biodiversity Importance.

9.6 Summary

Cemeteries summary

- ◀ There are 29 cemeteries and churchyards in Wirral, equating to over 94 hectares.
- ◀ The largest site is Landican Cemetery (24 hectares)
- ◀ No standards are set for cemeteries. The need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.
- ◀ Quality is to a high standard with three sites holding a Green Flag Award.
- ◀ All sites are of high value reflecting the cultural, social, ecological and historic value.

PART 10: COASTAL AREAS

10.1 Introduction

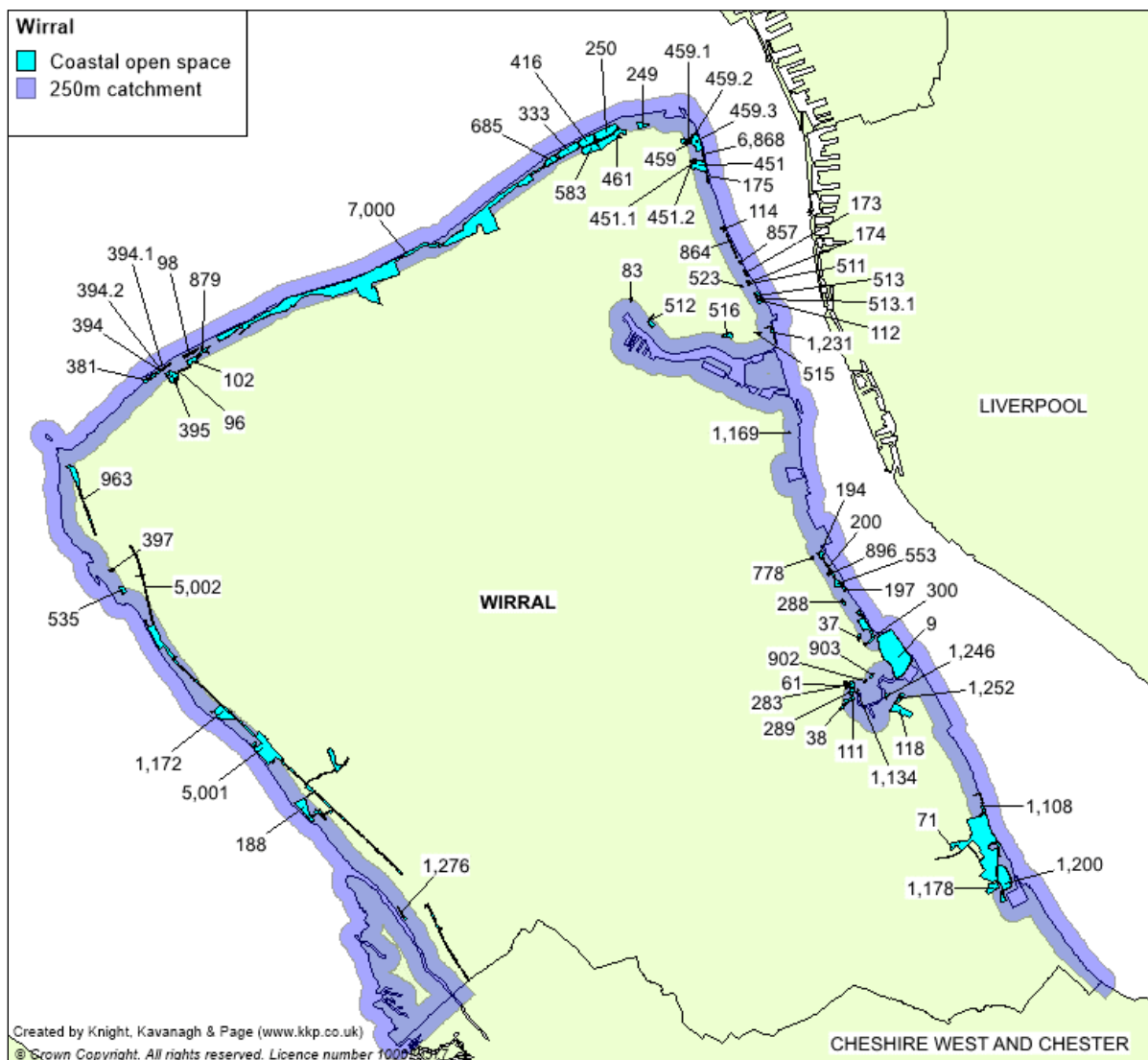
Coastal areas are considered as land and foreshores adjoining or near to the sea. Although not usually a typical open space typology; the Wirral peninsula is host to significant areas of coastline and associated sites. Consequently, it is important to recognise the role of such provision.

As it is not a unique typology, provision considered as coastal areas consists of sites already categorised by their primary open space typology. Foreshores have not been included because they are generally only intermittently accessible between tides.

10.2 Current provision

Figure 10.1 shows the coastal areas mapped across Wirral. Existing forms of open space have been identified as 'coastal areas' by using a 250m catchment from the coastline.

Figure 10.1: Coastal areas



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Key to map:

Site ID	Site name	Primary open space typology
778	Manor Lane Allotments	Allotments
902	Shore Drive Allotments	Allotments
903	Woodhead Road Allotments	Allotments
37	Samaria Avenue Woodland	Amenity greenspace
98	Meols Parade Open Space	Amenity greenspace
111	Poets Corner	Amenity greenspace
112	Demesne Street	Amenity greenspace
114	Maddock Road	Amenity greenspace
118	Old Court House Road	Amenity greenspace
173	Sandon Road	Amenity greenspace
174	Wallasey Town Hall Gardens	Amenity greenspace
175	Magazine Promenade Plantations	Amenity greenspace
197	Rock Park Esplanade	Amenity greenspace
249	Atherton Street / Portland Street Greenspace	Amenity greenspace
250	Kings Parade	Amenity greenspace
283	Owen Street Open Space	Amenity greenspace
288	Onslow Park	Amenity greenspace
289	The Ginnel	Amenity greenspace
300	Shorefields Open Space	Amenity greenspace
333	Kings Parade	Amenity greenspace
381	Hoylake Promenade Open Space	Amenity greenspace
416	Kings Parade	Amenity greenspace
512	Limekiln Lane Community Park	Amenity greenspace
513	North Seacombe Recreation Ground (Desmense St)	Amenity greenspace
515	Bridle Road AGS	Amenity greenspace
516	Citrine Park	Amenity greenspace
553	Delta Road Open Space	Amenity greenspace
583	Kings Parade	Amenity greenspace
685	Kings Parade	Amenity greenspace
857	Sandon Promenade Open Space	Amenity greenspace
864	Egremont Promenade Plantations	Amenity greenspace
896	Rock Park Pocket Park	Amenity greenspace
1134	Wharf Street Linear	Amenity greenspace
1178	Carlett Park Playing Field	Amenity greenspace
1231	Scott's Field Linear	Amenity greenspace
1246	Ashton Way Open Space	Amenity greenspace
1252	Bromborough Pool Open Space	Amenity greenspace
1276	Riverbank Road Green Space	Amenity greenspace

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Site ID	Site name	Primary open space typology
6868	Oakland Vale Plantations	Amenity greenspace
61	Christ Church, Port Sunlight	Cemeteries
83	St Luke's Church, Poulton	Cemeteries
1200	Mayfields Woodland Remembrance Park	Cemeteries
394.1	Meols Parade Gardens basketball area	Childrens play areas
394.2	Meols Parade Gardens five-a-side area	Childrens play areas
451.1	Vale Park play area	Childrens play areas
451.2	Vale Park football area	Childrens play areas
459.1	Tower Grounds play areas	Childrens play areas
459.2	Tower Grounds MUGA	Childrens play areas
459.3	Tower Grounds skate park	Childrens play areas
513.1	North Seacombe Recreation Ground play area	Childrens play areas
523	Rappart Road MUGA	Childrens play areas
1169	Rose Brae Play Area	Childrens play areas
38	The Dell	Parks and Gardens
71	Eastham Country Park	Parks and Gardens
394	Meols Parade Gardens Recreation Ground	Parks and Gardens
395	Queens Park	Parks and Gardens
397	Victoria Gardens	Parks and Gardens
451	Vale Park	Parks and Gardens
459	Tower Grounds	Parks and Gardens
535	Coronation Gardens	Parks and Gardens
5001	Wirral Country Park (Rural)	Parks and Gardens
5002	Wirral Country Park (Urban)	Parks and Gardens
7000	North Wirral Coastal Park	Parks and Gardens
9	Port Sunlight River Park	Semi / Natural greenspaces
96	Monkey Wood	Semi / Natural greenspaces
102	Roman Road Open Space (West)	Semi / Natural greenspaces
188	Heswall Fields (National Trust)	Semi / Natural greenspaces
194	Former Royal Rock Hotel	Semi / Natural greenspaces
200	Rock Park Linear Woodland	Semi / Natural greenspaces
461	Kings Parade (Red and Yellow Noses)	Semi / Natural greenspaces
879	Roman Road Open Space (East)	Semi / Natural greenspaces
963	Red Rocks Coastal Frontage	Semi / Natural greenspaces
1108	Eastham Coastal Frontage	Semi / Natural greenspaces
1172	Dee Coast Nature Reserve	Semi / Natural greenspaces

It is important that these open space sites are recognised as providing a significant role in contributing to the Wirral coastline.

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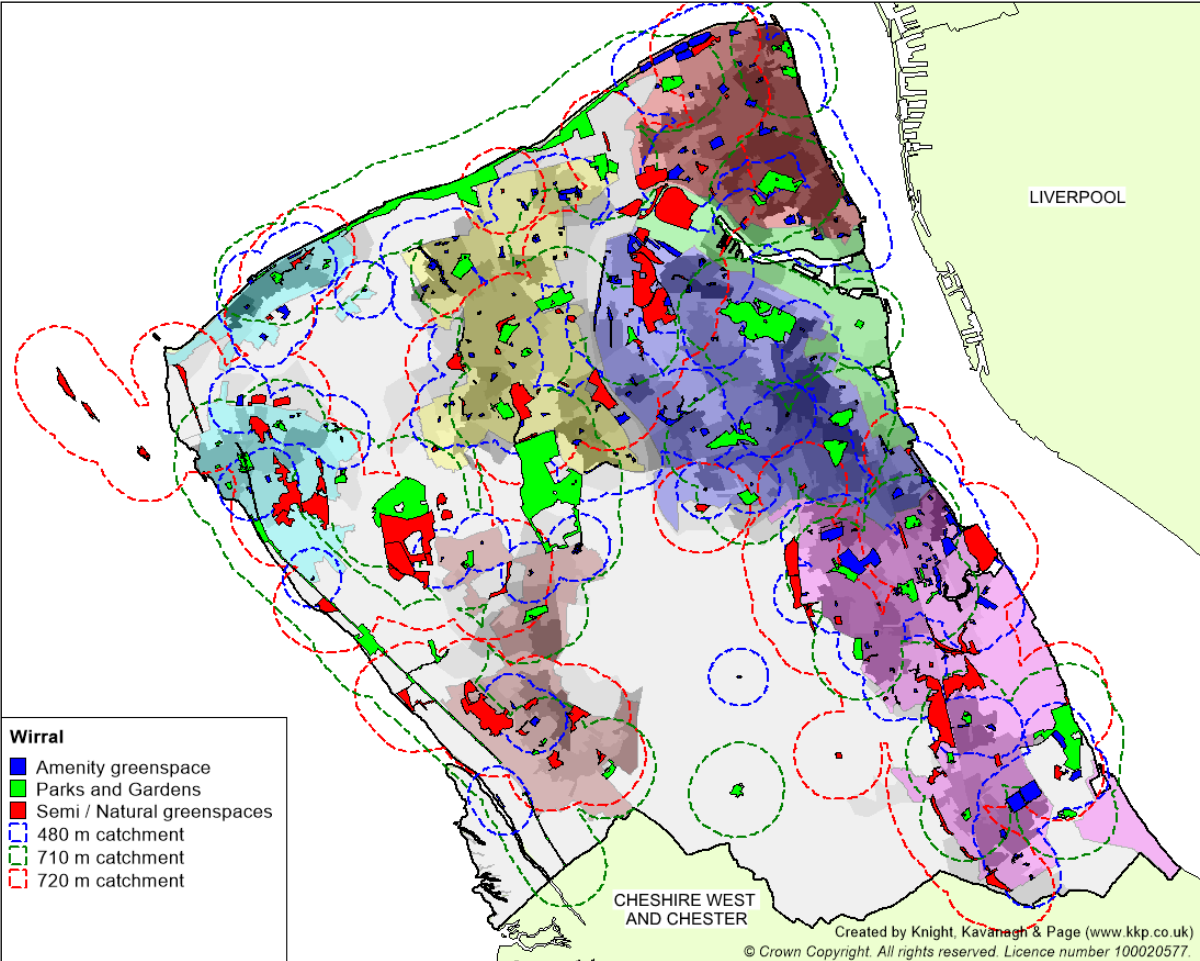
PART 11: MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROLE OF SITES

The accessibility catchment mapping within each typology section highlights the role and ability of some types of open space to help serve a potential gap in another type of open space. This is particularly relevant for open space provision with overlapping features and roles such as parks, natural and semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace.

For instance, the accessibility map for parks highlighted some gaps in the Wallasey and Birkenhead areas with minor gaps noted to the Bromborough and Eastham, Mid Wirral and Heswall areas. However, these catchment gaps for parks provision contains other types of open space provision, such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace, which are likely to help serve the gaps observed.

Figure 11.1 shows the overlay of catchment mapping for the open space typologies of amenity greenspace, parks and gardens and natural greenspace. This helps to demonstrate the coverage of access to sites as well as the importance of the multifunctional role and use of some sites across Wirral; particularly in helping to meet the gaps in other forms of provision.

Figure 11.1: Parks, natural and amenity greenspace walk time catchments in Wirral



The map illustrates that all areas of dense population are covered by the catchment of at least one form of open space. This will be explored further in the Standards Paper.

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APPENDIX ONE: SUMMARY OF SITES WITH NO SCORES

Site ID	Site name	Open space type	Reason
7	Brookhurst Avenue (Plymyard Dale)	Natural & semi-natural	Inaccessible
47	Marfords Wood	Natural & semi-natural	Inaccessible (locked gate, overgrown)
49	Plymyard Dale Woodland	Natural & semi-natural	Inaccessible
115	Burford Avenue Woodland	Natural & semi-natural	Inaccessible
581	School Lane Playing Field	Amenity greenspace	Inaccessible
754	Eleanor Road Woodland	Natural & semi-natural	Inaccessible
1107	NWCP - Telegraph Lane Open Space	Natural & semi-natural	Inaccessible
1145	Hilbre Islands LNR	Natural & semi-natural	Island. Accessible at set times
6008	Benty Hey Woodland	Natural & semi-natural	Inaccessible
412	Leasowe Adventure Play	Amenity greenspace	Locked. Accessible at set days/times
517	Vernon Avenue	Amenity greenspace	Inaccessible
788	Former St James Allotments	Amenity greenspace	Inaccessible
1257	Arkhill Gardens Open Space	Amenity greenspace	Inaccessible
1263	Farmside Amenity Green Space	Amenity greenspace	Inaccessible
1277	Hoylake Road Amenity Space	Amenity greenspace	Inaccessible
6868	Oakland Vale Plantations	Amenity greenspace	Inaccessible
8944	Hawthorne Grove	Amenity greenspace	Inaccessible
412.1	Leasowe Adventure Playground	Provision for children and young people	Locked. Accessible at set days/times
412.2	Leasowe Adventure Playground MUGA	Provision for children and young people	Locked. Accessible at set days/times
778	Manor Lane Allotments	Allotments	Not viewable from perimeter
779	Manor Drive Allotments	Allotments	Not viewable from perimeter
792	Sumner Road Allotments	Allotments	Not viewable from perimeter
903	Woodhead Road Allotments	Allotments	Not viewable from perimeter