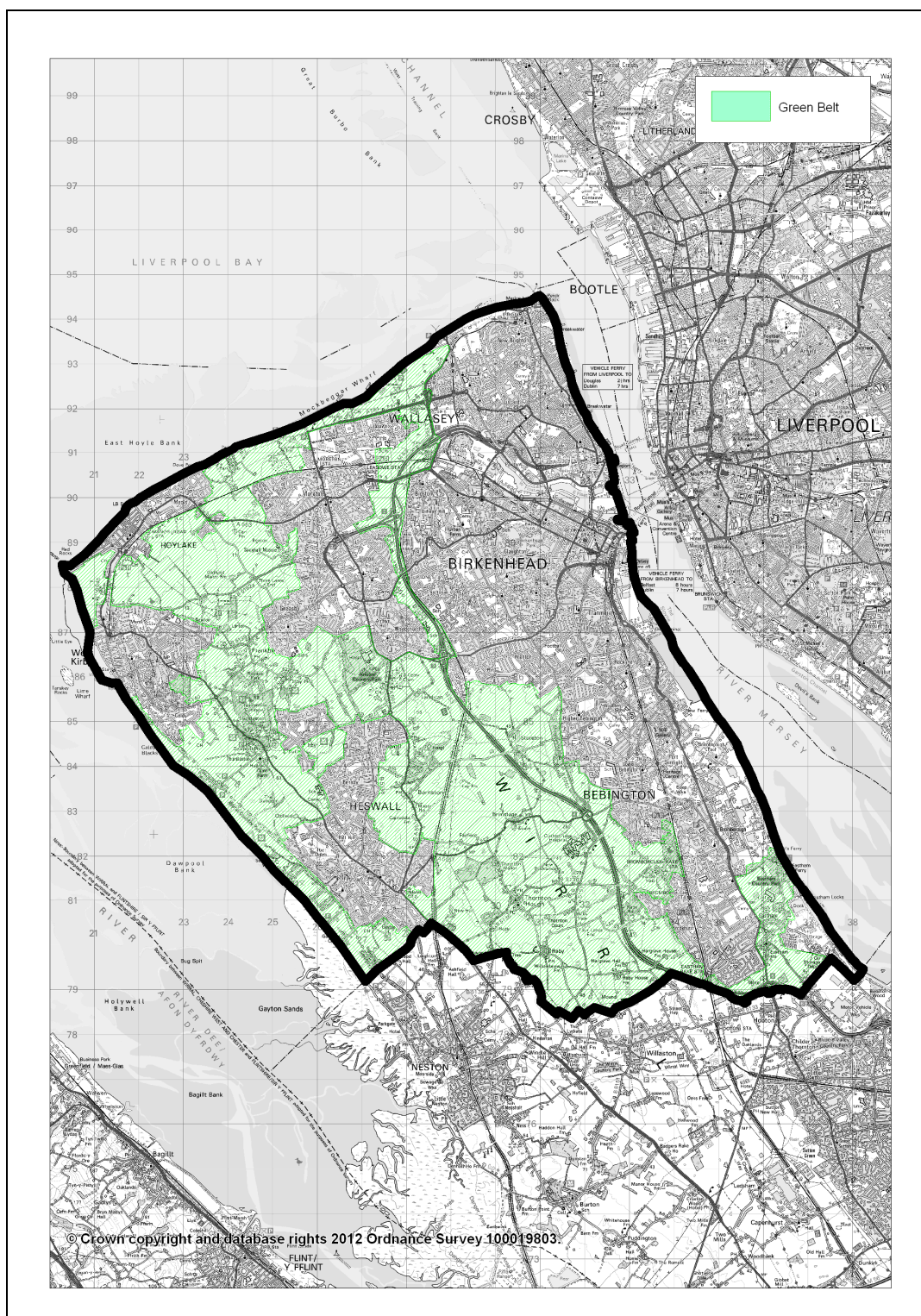


Quality Of Life

SA Objective 21: To Conserve and Enhance the Character and Quality of The Borough's Landscapes and Townscapes, Maintaining and Strengthening Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place.

Indicator: Area of Green Belt as a Percentage of the Total Borough Area

The total area of land designated as Green Belt within Wirral is 7,053 hectares. This represents 45 percent of the Borough's land area.



Indicator: Area of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace Lost to Development

(Original SA Scoping Report July 2007 Indicator: Area of semi-natural habitat lost to development)

The original version of this indicator, identified in the July 2007 SA Scoping Report, was included in the original baseline review, but did not include any data as a suitable source was not available. The indicator in this review has been revised to utilise an available data source.

In 2012 Wirral has 506.27 hectares of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace over 83 sites. The table below shows the changes to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace since July 1994. Only 1.39 hectares has been lost to development, while 73.42 hectares have been added to the Schedule.

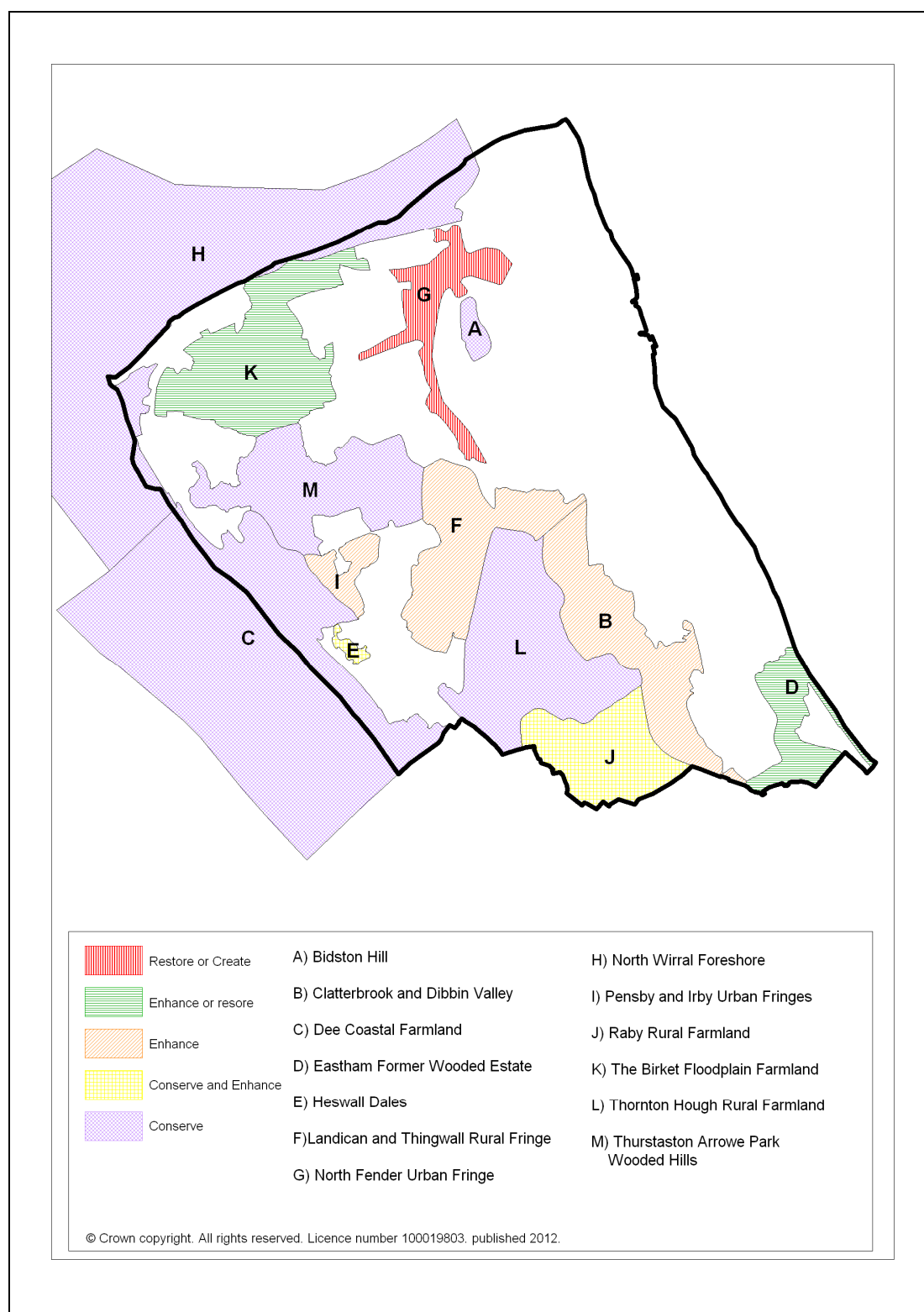
Changes to the Publicly Accessible Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space Since July 1994		
Site Name	Area (Ha.)	Reason for Change
Bidston Moss Community Woodland	36.33	Landfill reclamation project
Beechwood Community Woodland	-1.20	Housing regeneration
Compton Road Open Space	-0.19	Industrial access road
Devisedale Road Woodland	0.25	Provided as part of new housing development
Eleanor Road Woodland	0.26	Provided as part of new housing development
Eastham Coastal Frontage	1.43	Provided as part of a regeneration initiative
Hesketh Way Woodland	2.61	Provided as part of new housing development
Bromborough Road Woodland (North)	7.94	Former railway line track-bed opened as public cycle way
Fendale Avenue Open Space	0.40	Provided as part of new housing development
Upton Meadow (Woodland Trust)	16.32	Former employment and housing site (re-allocated)
North Wirral Coastal Park - Telegraph Lane Open Space	1.56	New Council acquisition
Heswall Fields (National Trust)	6.32	NT acquisition
Total	72.03	

Source: Wirral Open Space Assessment, September 2012

Indicator: Landscape Character Assessment

(Original SA Scoping Report July 2007 Indicator: Extent of areas designated as being of special landscape value)

The original version of this indicator, identified in the July 2007 SA Scoping Report, was included in the original baseline review and used the 'Areas of Special Landscape Value' identified in the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral. The evidence base for the emerging Core Strategy makes a broader assessment of landscape value, evaluating the character of all areas of the Borough rather than just the best and worst. The indicator in this review has been revised in line with this approach.



Source: Wirral Landscape Character Assessment, TEP, 2009

The Council's 2009 Landscape Character Assessment evaluated all of the Borough's rural areas and identified a series of landscape character types. It also assessed the quality of the landscape to determine areas where it should be conserved, restored or enhanced, as shown in the map below. Forty percent of the administrative area of the Borough is identified in the highest quality category and requires conserving, while only 1.7% is in the poorest category and requires restoration or creation.

Wirral Landscape Character Assessment 2009		
Landscape Quality	Total Area (Hectares)	Proportion of Borough (Administrative Area)
Restore or Create	424.30	1.7%
Enhance or Restore	1377.10	6.0%
Enhance	1764.40	7.0%
Conserve and Enhance	608.00	2.4%
Conserve	9996.28	40.0%

Source: Wirral Landscape Character Assessment, TEP, 2009

Further information on the Wirral Landscape Character Assessment is available at:

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD396&ID=396&RPID=193731&sch=doc&cat=13005&path=12848,13003,13005>

Indicator: Number and Areas of Open Spaces with Green Flag Awards
(Original SA Scoping Report July 2007 Indicator: Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to Green Flag standard)

The original version of this indicator, identified in the July 2007 SA Scoping Report, was included in the original baseline review, but no data was presented. The indicator in this review has been revised slightly to utilise the data available.

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards the best green spaces in the country. Between 2005 and 2012 the number of open spaces in Wirral achieving Green Flag Awards increased year on year. In 2012 fifteen of the Borough's open spaces gained Green Flag Awards. This included Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm which secured a Green Flag Community Award for sites managed by voluntary and community groups. Birkenhead Park was also identified as a Green Heritage Site in recognition of achieving the required standard in the management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance.

Number and Area of Open Spaces in Wirral Gaining Green Flag Awards 2005 to 2012		
Year	No of Sites	Area (Ha.)
2005	3	13.80
2006	3	13.80
2007	4	71.10
2008	8	177.76
2009	11	362.74
2010	12	365.52
2011	13	364.21
2012	15	453.54

Source: Green Flag Awards

Wirral Green Flag Awards 2012	
Site Name	Area (Ha.)
Brotherton Park and Dibbinsdale LNR	47.00
Hilbre Island	53.58
North Wirral Coastal Park	87.80
Wirral Country Park	40.36
Ashton Park	5.37
Birkenhead Park	57.49
Vale Park	3.97
Thornton Hough Village Green	3.40
Eastham Country Park	43.00
Coronation Gardens	7.52
Royden Park	48.20
Meols Park	1.53
Bidston Hill	50.00
The Arno	2.78
Tam O'Shanter	1.54
Total Area	453.54

Source: Green Flag Awards, 2012

SA Objective 22: To Achieve High Quality and Sustainable Design for Buildings, Spaces and the Public Realm Sensitive to the Locality

Deleted Indicator: Residents satisfaction surveys

The original version of this indicator, identified in the July 2007 SA Scoping Report, was included in the original baseline review, but no data was presented due to a lack of an available source. The indicator has been removed from this review as a data source is still not available.

Indicator: Number of Groups/Individuals Involved in Decision-Making

Wirral has a large number of active local heritage and amenity. The groups listed in the table below have a more formal role with regard to the Borough's designated Conservation Areas. A network of Friends Groups also plays a significant supporting role for a number of the Borough's parks and open spaces.

Heritage and Amenity Groups in Wirral 2012
Barnston Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Bidston Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Bromborough Pool Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Bromborough Society Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Caldy Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Clifton Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Eastham Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Frankby Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Friends of Birkenhead Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Gayton and Heswall Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Hoylake Conservation Areas Advisory Committee
Mount Wood Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Oxton Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Port Sunlight Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Rock Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Saughall Massie Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Thornton Hough Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Thurstaston Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Wellington Road, New Brighton Conservation Area Advisory Committee
West Kirby Society Conservation Area Advisory Committee

The Localism Act 2011 has introduced new powers for communities to have a greater involvement in the future development of their areas through the preparation of statutory Neighborhood Plans. The Government intends that communities can choose where new homes, shops and offices should be built; have a say on what those new buildings should look like; and grant planning permission for the new buildings communities want to see go ahead.

The preparation of the new Neighbourhood Plans and Orders (a Neighbourhood Development Order can grant planning permission for selected types of development) requires a community to work together to decide on what development should be allowed in their neighbourhood.

In Wirral, neighbourhood planning has commenced in four areas, which were designated by the Government as 'Neighbourhood Planning – Front Runners':

- Devonshire Park - The Devonshire Park Residents' Association,
- Hoylake - Hoylake Village Life,
- Liscard – Central Liscard Area Residents' Association
- Greasby – Greasby Community Association

Only Hoylake Village Life have so far formally applied to the Council to obtain formal status as a neighbourhood forum under section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Indicator: Number of Code for Sustainable Homes Certificates Issued

(Original SA Scoping Report July 2007 Indicator: Percentage of new homes achieving “good” or better score on the ECO homes rating scheme)

The original version of this indicator, identified in the July 2007 SA Scoping Report, has been amended in this review to reflect the replacement of the ECO Homes rating system with the Code for Sustainable Homes standard and the data available. This Indicator has been relocated from SA Objective 17: To Minimise Reliance on Non-Renewable Energy Sources as it is considered to be a more suitable indicator of sustainable design.

The Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) is the national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. The Code aims to reduce carbon emissions and create homes that are more sustainable. It is entirely voluntary, and is intended to help promote higher standards of sustainable design above current Building Regulations. The Code measures the sustainability of new homes against nine categories of sustainable design, rating the 'whole home' as a complete package. It covers energy/CO₂, water, materials, surface water runoff (flooding and flood prevention), waste, pollution, health and well-being, management and ecology.

The Code uses a one to six star rating system to communicate the overall sustainability performance of a new home against these nine categories. The Code sets minimum standards for energy and water use at each level and, within England, replaces the EcoHomes scheme, developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE).

The table below shows the cumulative total number of dwellings that have been certified to the standards set out in the Code to date. Code certificates are issued at two stages, at the design stage (early in the design and build process) and at the post construction stage (when the home is completed or nearing completion).

The total number of Code design stage certificates issued in Wirral has more than doubled between June 2010 and June 2012, but falls below the rate of increase in the numbers issued for Merseyside, the North West and England which are now four or five times the numbers issued in 2010.

Cumulative Total Number of Code for Sustainable Homes Certificates Issued June 2010 to June 2012								
	Wirral		Merseyside		North West		England	
	Design	Post Construction	Design	Post Construction	Design	Post Construction	Design	Post Construction
June 2010	202	53	491	75	1,444	373	26,365	7,873
Sept 2010	202	53	609	108	1,987	675	34,999	12,668
Dec 2010	243	74	839	173	2,730	888	44,790	17,995
March 2011	278	92	941	260	3,268	1,505	56,225	24,285
June 2011	333	92	1,225	370	1,225	370	69,841	31,716
Sept 2011	377	184	1,487	689	5,273	3,139	82,914	41,595
Dec 2011	445	198	1,700	826	6,368	4,028	94,042	50,865
March 2012	445	206	1,814	990	7,449	4,621	107,433	62,668
June 2012	551	291	2,043	1,123	8,233	5,266	118,106	73,373

Source: Code for Sustainable Homes Statistics, 2012

Indicator: Number of New Non-Residential Buildings Achieving “Very Good” or Better Score on the BREEAM Rating Scheme

(Original SA Scoping Report July 2007 Indicator: Percentage of new non-residential buildings achieving “good” or better score on the BREEAM rating scheme)

The original version of this indicator, identified in the July 2007 SA Scoping Report, has been amended slightly in this review to reflect the data available. This Indicator has been relocated from SA Objective 17: To Minimise Reliance on Non-Renewable Energy Sources as it is considered to be a more suitable indicator of sustainable design.

BREEAM is an environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings, first launched in 1990. A BREEAM assessment uses recognised measures of performance, which are set against established benchmarks, to evaluate a building’s specification, design, construction and use. The measures used represent a broad range of categories and criteria from energy to ecology. They include aspects related to energy and water use, the internal environment (related to health and well-being), pollution, transport, materials, waste, ecology and management processes.

In Wirral, at least ten industrial and office developments are known to have achieved a BREEAM rating of ‘very good’ or higher by 2012. All European Union grant aided projects have had to be constructed to BREEAM ‘excellent’ standard since 2008.

Non-Residential Developments in Wirral Known to Have Achieved BREEAM 'Very Good' or Better	
Scheme	Location
Europa Boulevard Offices	Birkenhead
Queensgate Offices	Birkenhead
Tower Road Business Units	Birkenhead
Shorelines Offices	Birkenhead
Maritime Park Business Units	Seacombe
Ferryview Business Units	Wirral International Business Park
Greenfields 3 Business Units	Wirral International Business Park
Riverside Office Park Phases 1,2&3	Wirral International Business Park
Teebay Road Industrial Unit	Wirral International Business Park
Gateway House Offices	
Riverview Business Phase 1	Wirral International Business Park

SA Objective 23: To Maximise Opportunities for Culture, Sport and Leisure

Indicator: Type, Number and Location of Facilities for Sport, Recreation and Leisure

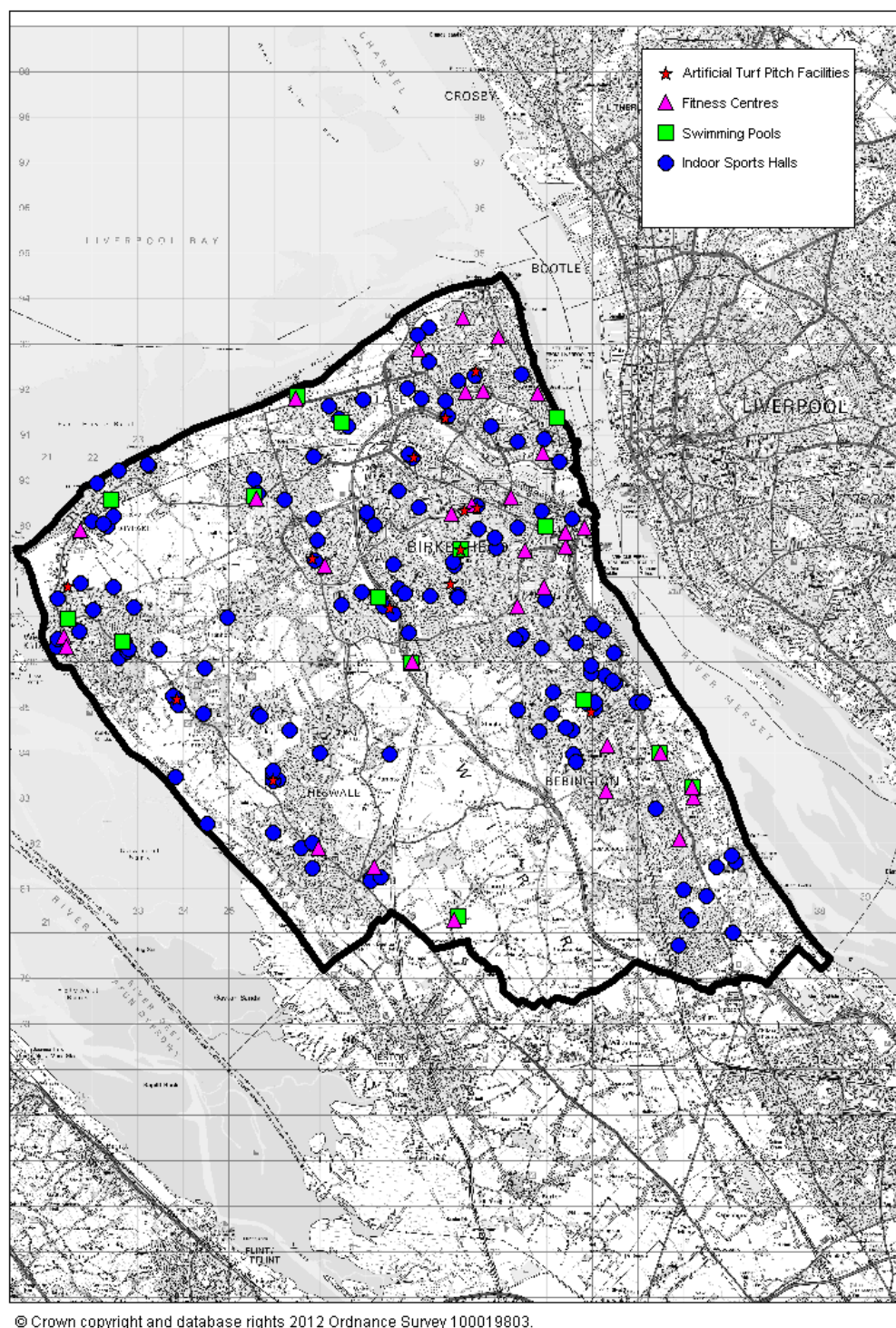
The original baseline review included a list of major sport, recreation and leisure facilities which were defined as:

- Indoor sports centre
- Astro turf pitches
- Swimming pools
- Health and fitness studios
- Public libraries

In 2012 indoor sports provision in Wirral included 48 sports halls available for public use. This included 8 public, 7 voluntary and 1 private sports centres and recreation centres and 32 school sports halls that were known to be open to public use. There were also 15 gymnasiums (education); 1 indoor tennis hall (public); and 16 dance studios and activity rooms known to be available for public hire.

In 2012 there were 11 public swimming pools across the Borough (including 6 training, 2 leisure and 3 learner pools), 5 private pools (including 2 in private fitness centres and 3 in hotel health clubs) and 4 pools belonging to schools. There were also 14 artificial turf pitch facilities of which 11 were floodlight.

Wirral has 24 public libraries.

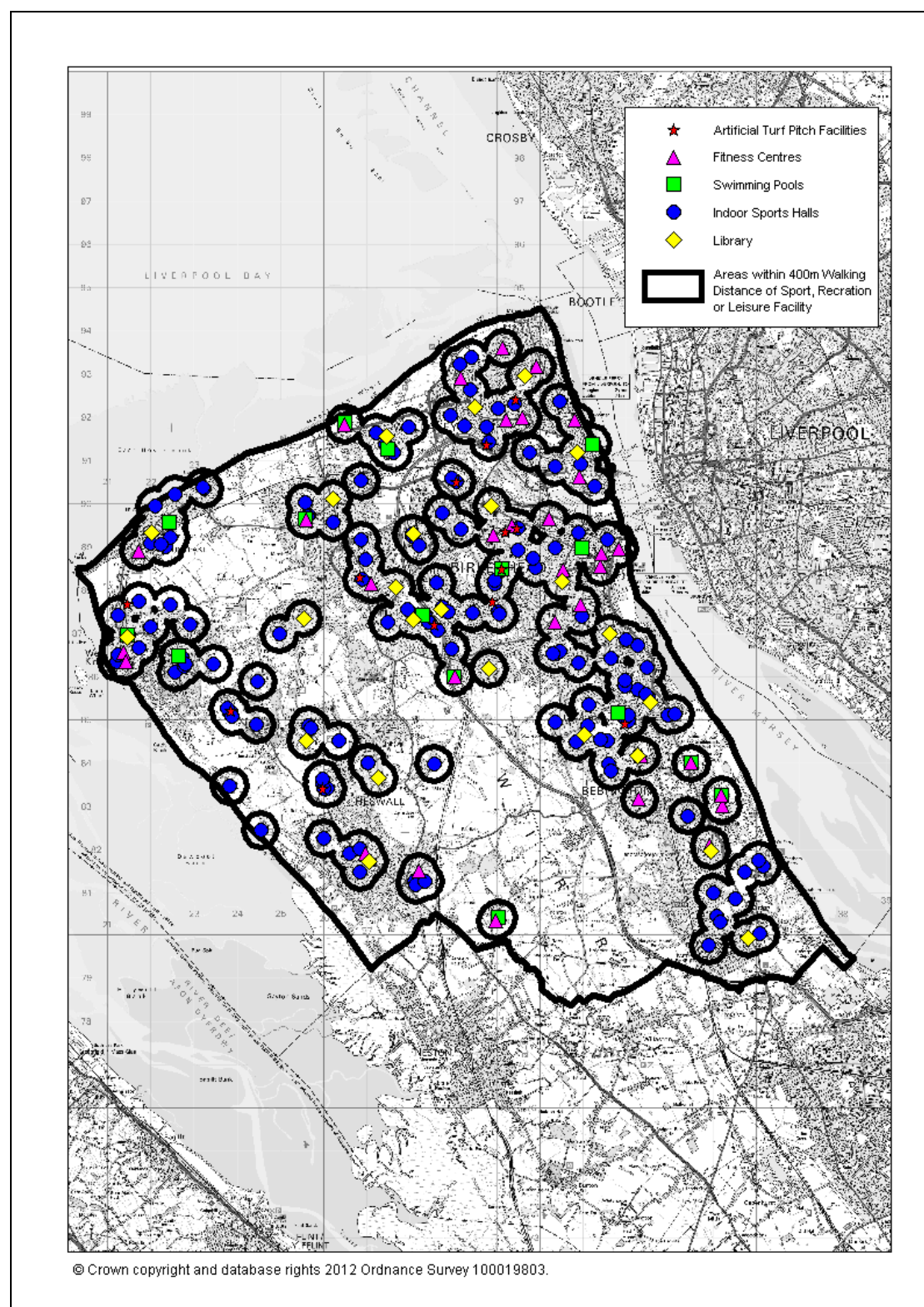


Source: Wirral Open Space Assessment, 2012

Indicator: Number of Households Within 400m Walking Distance of Sport, Recreation and Leisure Facilities (Swimming Pools, Libraries, Health and Fitness Facilities, Sports Hall/Centre, Astro turf Pitches)

An initial buffer of 400 metres, broadly equivalent to a 5 minute walking distance, has been placed around each of the sport, recreation and leisure facilities to assess the proportion of Wirral households that have easy access to the types of facility identified. Further work will need to be undertaken to identify if adopted policies are promoting an appropriate level of provision to meet identified needs.

Approximately 93,800 (64%) of the total 147,300 residential properties in the Borough are located within 400 metres of at least one identified recreation facility. Of these approximately 35,000 residential properties were within 400 metres walking distance of an indoor sports centre; 26,500 were within 400 metres walking distance of a library; 9,300 were within 400 metres walking distance of a swimming pool; 8,000 were within 400 metres walking distance of an artificial turf pitch facility and 29,400 were within 400 metres walking distance of a health and fitness centre.



Indicator: Residential Satisfaction Surveys

Wirral's Parks and Countryside Service conduct a regular survey asking residents' views on how parks, beaches, countryside and open spaces should be managed. The 2012 consultation has recently been completed but the findings have not yet been reported.

SA Objective 24: To Promote Sustainable Travel Choices and Reduce the Need to Travel

Indicator: Number and Percentage of New Housing, Commercial, Retail/Office/Leisure Developments Located Within the Most Accessible Areas.

(Original SA Scoping Report July 2007 Indicator: Number and percentage of new housing, commercial, retail/office/leisure developments located within 400m of a bus or railway station)

The original indicator, identified in the July 2007 SA Scoping Report and included in the original baseline review, has been revised to use the same methodology adopted in the Core Strategy for identifying the most accessible areas of the Borough.

The main bus routes, railway stations and town centres have been mapped and a 400m buffer applied to identify the most accessible areas of the Borough. Completed office, leisure, industrial, commercial and housing developments have also been mapped to identify whether they fell within the 'most accessible areas' of the Borough.

Accessibility of New Developments in Wirral 2011-2012			
Type of New Development	Number of New Developments	Number of New Developments located in 'most accessible area'	% of New Developments located in 'most accessible area'
Housing Development	268	246	92%
Industrial/Commercial Development	4	2	75%
Retail, Leisure and Office Development	14	13	93%
Totals	286	261	91%

The findings show that 91% of all completed developments in 2011-2011 had good accessibility to the main public transport corridors and town centres.

Deleted Indicator: Percentage of completed non-residential development complying with car parking standards set out in the Local Development Framework

The original version of this indicator, identified in the July 2007 SA Scoping Report, was included in the original baseline review, but no data was presented due to a lack of available data. The indicator has been removed from this review as this data is still not routinely collected or reported and data from the previous indicator is considered to be a better indicator of the ability of development to promote sustainable travel choices and reduce the need to travel.

Indicator: Journey to Work by Location, Mode and Distance

In 2008, 78.8% of Wirral's workforce lived in Wirral, a fall of 7% from 2001 (85.8%). Ellesmere Port & Neston, Liverpool and Chester were the most significant external providers of Wirral's workforce in 2008.

Where Workers in Wirral Live 2001 and 2008 (Proportion of Workforce)			
	2001	2008	Difference
Wirral	85.8%	78.8%	-7.0
Ellesmere Port & Neston	4.8%	6.7%	+1.9
Liverpool	2.5%	4.8%	+2.3
Chester	0%	3.6%	+3.6
Flintshire	1.1%	1.1%	0
Sefton	0%	1.0%	+1.0
Knowsley	1.2%	0.6%	-0.6
Halton	0%	0.3%	+0.3
Wrexham	0.5%	0.3%	-0.2

Source: ONS, Commute-APS, 2008

In 2008, 63.1% of Wirral's working residents were employed within the Borough. Liverpool was by far the most significant destination for Wirral residents commuting out of the Borough, with 16.4% of the working population travelling to Liverpool for work.

Where Residents of Wirral Work 2001 and 2008 (Proportion of Working Population)			
	2001	2008	Difference
Wirral	63.7%	63.1%	-0.6
Liverpool	16.8%	16.4%	-0.4
Chester	4.2%	4.1%	-0.1
Ellesmere Port & Neston	4.7%	3.6%	-1.1
Flintshire	1.7%	2.4%	+0.7
Manchester	0.7%	1.1%	+0.4
Knowsley	0.9%	0.9%	0
Warrington	0.7%	0.8%	+0.1

Source: ONS, Commute-APS, 2008

The chart and table below shows the mode of travel to work for Wirral residents in 2001. The most significant mode of transport was by car, van and motorbike, used by 73% of the Wirral workforce.

Model of Travel to Work in Wirral 2001						
Transport Mode	Car/Van/Motorbike	Train	Bus	Bicycle	Walk	Other
Number of People	85,138	7,279	10,270	2,291	10,484	991
% of People	73%	6%	9%	2%	9%	1%

Source: ONS, 2001 Census

The table below shows the average distance travelled to work in 2001. In Wirral this closely mirrors the overall average distances for Merseyside with almost of the working population travelling between 2 and 10 kilometres.

Distance Travelled to Work								
	Working at or from home	Less than 2 km	2km to less than 5km	5km to less than 10km	10km to less than 20km	20km to less than 30km	30km to less than 40km	40km and over
Wirral	7%	17%	23%	25%	15%	4%	1%	2%
Merseyside	7%	19%	24%	24%	14%	4%	1%	2%

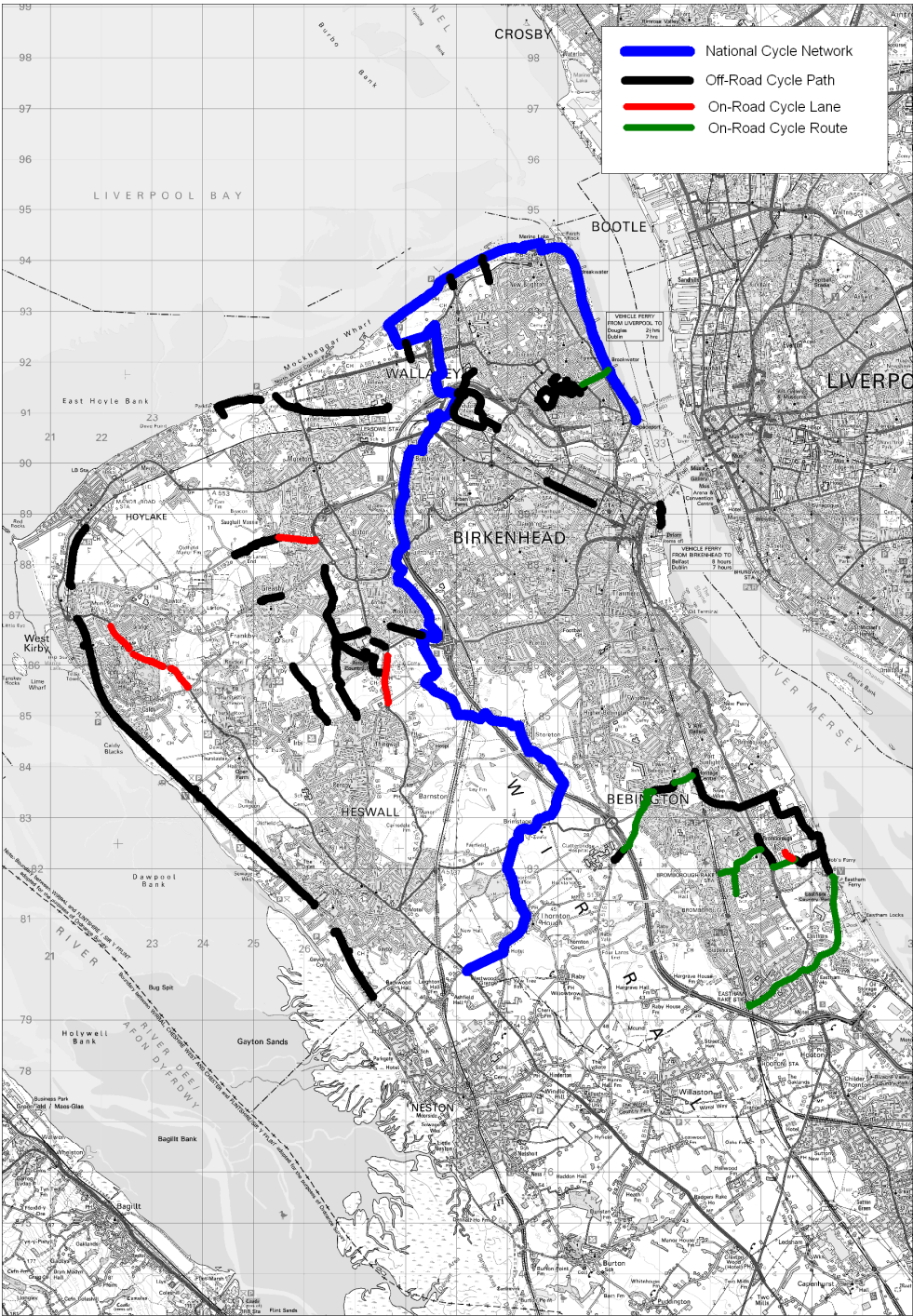
Source: ONS, 2001 Census

The results from the most recent census (2011) have yet to be published.

Indicator: Location and Length of Designated Cycle Tracks

The map below shows the location of main cycle routes in Wirral. The Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 56 runs 18km through Wirral from Seacombe Ferry to the Borough boundary with Cheshire West and Chester near Neston. This includes both off-road and on-road signed routes. The map also shows a further 13km of off-road cycle paths, and over 3km of on-road cycle lanes and 8km of on-road signed cycle routes.

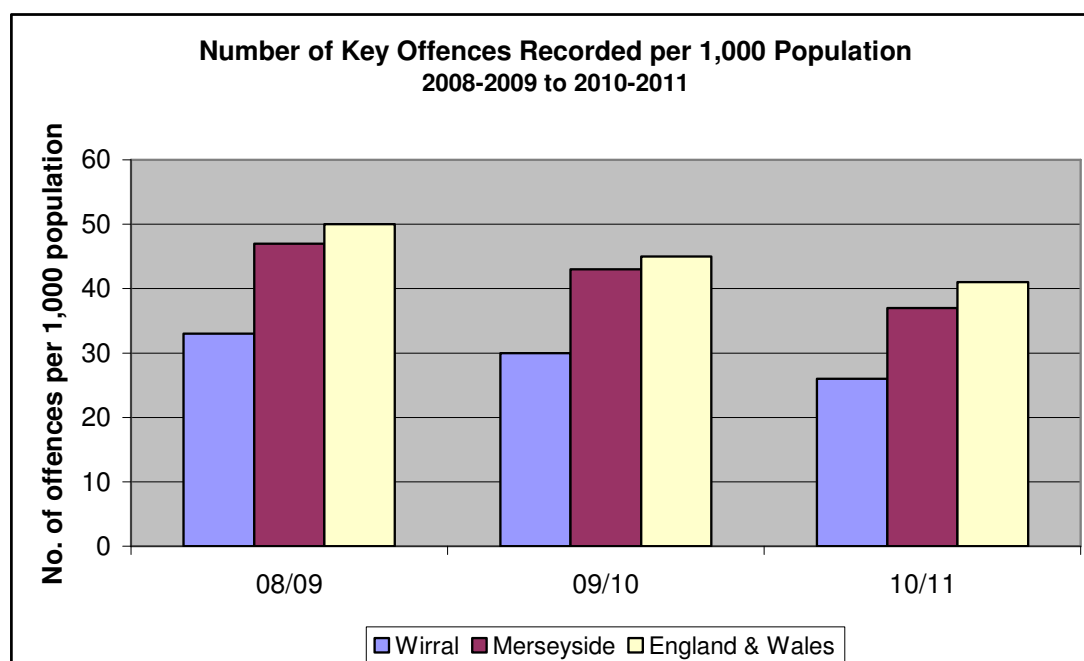
A new 56km Wirral Circular Trail was launched in 2012, which provides a continuous signposted walking and cycling route around Wirral connecting up to the Public Rights of Way network and other routes. A copy of the trail can be viewed at: <http://www.visitwirral.com/year-of-coast-and-countryside/walk-cycle-nature>



SA Objective 25: To Minimise Opportunities for Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Indicator: Crime Rates per 1000 Population

In 2010-2011 the number of key offences recorded per 1,000 population was significantly lower in Wirral than the equivalent figures for Merseyside and England & Wales. Crime rates in Wirral have reduced by 12 percent since 2008, a pattern of crime reduction consistent across Merseyside and England & Wales.



Source: Local Authority Areas: Recorded Crime for Seven Key Offences and Recorded Crime BCS 2008/09 – 2010/11

Indicator: Number of Notifiable Offences

(Original SA Scoping Report July 2007 Indicators: Crime – violence against the person (rate per 1000 population), Crime – burglary from a dwelling (rate per 1000 population) and Crime – theft from a motor vehicle (rate per 1000 population))

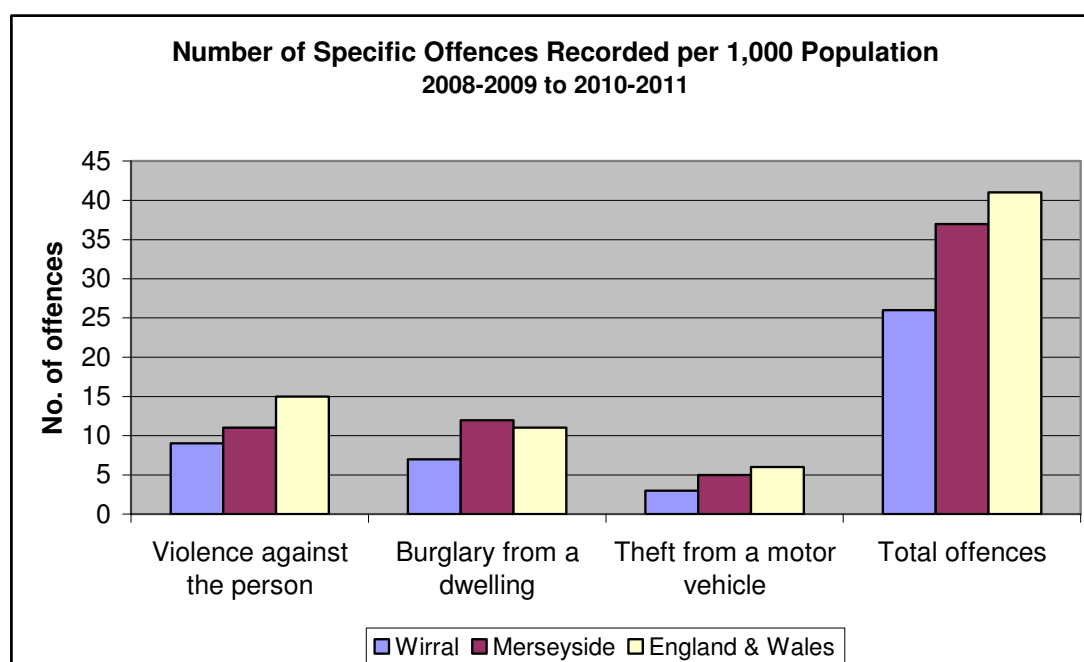
The original versions of these indicators, identified in the July 2007 SA Scoping Report, were included in the original baseline review, but no data was presented. These indicators have been combined in this review to reflect the available data which now presents a combined breakdown of these offences.

The total number of notifiable offences in Wirral has more than halved (57%) between 2003-2004 and 2010-2011. This pattern is consistent across the majority of offences, with the largest decreases in wounding or other 'act endangering life' offences; theft from the person; and theft of a motor vehicle. The only offence in which Wirral has experienced an increase is harassment. A similar pattern can be seen across Merseyside and England as a whole. Wirral has, however, experienced a greater level of crime reduction than Merseyside and England.

Notifiable Offences Recorded by the Police 2003-2004 to 2010-2011						
	2003/04	2010/11	2003/04	2010/11	2003/04	2010/11
	Wirral		North West		England	
Violence Against the Person	5,509	2,822	128,041	96,433	902,392	765,618
Wounding or Other Act Endangering Life	321	86	5,169	3,342	17,745	18,423
Other Wounding	3,546	1,251	67,569	40,999	406,553	326,672
Harassment Including Penalty Notices for Disorder	477	707	19,140	21,064	160,646	170,518
Common Assault	693	548	24,365	23,779	234,040	197,948
Robbery	251	125	13,649	7,397	99,907	74,561
Theft from the Person	407	128	14,228	9,079	121,186	81,347
Criminal Damage Including Arson	7,798	3,106	194,721	99,002	1,139,188	652,587
Burglary in a Dwelling	2,539	913	66,922	33,951	388,430	248,711
Burglary Other than a Dwelling	2,014	1,113	61,797	35,035	395,495	249,297
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	2,266	455	43,558	12,783	274,486	100,700
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	2,251	888	75,747	35,758	568,460	297,323
TOTAL	28,072	12,142	714,906	418,622	4,708,528	3,183,705

Source: Home Office Crime Statistics (November, 2011)

The number of offences involving violence against the person recorded per 1,000 population in 2010-2011 was almost half the figure for England & Wales in 2010-2011 and the number of recorded burglaries from a dwelling was over 40 percent lower than the figure for Merseyside in the same year. There were also fewer reports of theft from a motor vehicle per 1,000 population in Wirral than in Merseyside and England & Wales.



Source: Local Authority Areas: Recorded Crime for Seven Key Offences and Recorded Crime BCS comparator 2009-10 to 2010-11 (Home Office, 2011)

Deleted Indicator: Proportion of people reporting fear of crime

This indicator was identified in the July 2007 SA Scoping Report and data was included in the original baseline review. The indicator has been deleted from this review as data is no longer available.