



**WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OPEN SPACE STANDARDS PAPER**

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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## DRAFT OPEN SPACE STANDARDS PAPER

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Open space provision standards should be used to inform local plan and supplementary planning documents by identifying any deficiencies and surpluses in existing and future provision. In addition, they can also help set an approach for securing open space facilities through new housing development as well as helping to form the basis for negotiation with developers for contributions towards the provision of appropriate open space facilities and their long-term maintenance.

This document follows on from the preceding Open Space Assessment Report. Together, the two documents provide an evidence base to help inform the future provision of open space in Wirral.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); which sets out the Government's planning policies for England. 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\*. Paragraph 96 of the NPPF refers to the need to identify qualitative or quantitative deficiencies or surpluses of open space.

#### Scope

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

*Table 1.1: Open space typologies*

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.

This open space document should be read in conjunction with the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) which is being prepared. The associated PPS covers the provision and need of facilities for formal outdoor sports.

\* Playing pitches have been the subject of a separate assessment prepared by the Council

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Any site recognised as formal 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 formal 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 multifunctional 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.

## Settlement areas

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, Wirral is divided into eight sub-analysis areas. These are based on the Councils Local Plan Settlement Areas. This allows more localised examination of open space surpluses and deficiencies and local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The areas and their populations are shown in the table below.

Table 1.2: Population by analysis area

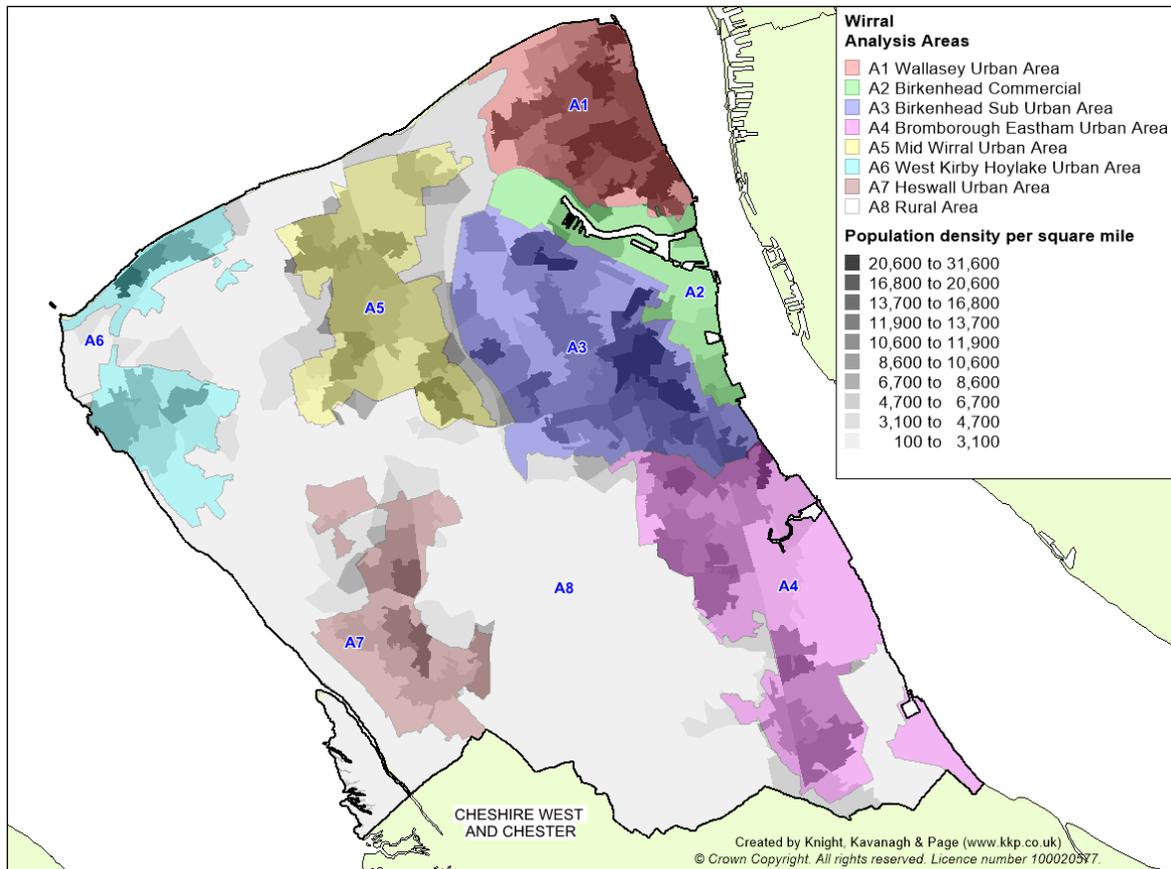
Settlement area	Population*
Birkenhead Commercial Area	2,231
Birkenhead Suburban Area	89,334
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	55,765
Heswall Urban Area	28,467
Mid Wirral Urban Area	53,581
Rural Area	7,084
Wallasey Urban Area	61,083
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	25,250
<b>Wirral</b>	<b>322,796</b>

Figure 1.1 overleaf shows the map of Settlement Areas with population density.

\* ONS Mid-Year 2019

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Figure 1.1: Settlement Areas



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### PART 2: ASSESSMENT REPORT SUMMARY

A summary of the findings from the Assessment Report on a typology by typology basis is set out below.

#### 2.1 Parks and gardens

- ◀ 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 sites (64%) rate above the threshold for both quality and value. This reflects the high standard of Wirral's parks. Sites scoring lower for quality tend to lack ancillary features.
- ◀ The general high quality of provision is also 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.

#### 2.2 Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ 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.

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### 2.3 Amenity greenspace

- ◀ 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.

### 2.4 Provision for children and young people

- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Considering play sites adjacent to neighbouring settlement areas, the areas of Birkenhead Suburban, Bromborough Eastham and Heswall 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 scores tend 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.

### 2.5 Allotments

- ◀ 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).
- ◀ Considering sites adjacent to neighbouring settlement areas, the areas of Heswall, Mid Wirral, Wallasey and West Kirby Hoylake 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.

### 2.6 Cemeteries

- ◀ 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 3: SETTING PROVISION STANDARDS**

#### **3.1 Developing and setting standards**

The following section derives and details the proposed local standards recommended for Wirral. It details how current provision levels identified as part of the assessment compared to existing standards as well as national benchmarks and whether any adjustments to the proposed standards are required.

It is important to recognise that there are no prescribed national standards for open space provision. In general, very little guidance is offered at a national level for quality with benchmarking of standards focusing on quantity and accessibility levels. Subsequently the following approach has been used to provide an informed reasoning to the setting and application of standards for Wirral.

Consultation to update local need for open space provision has been conducted with key local authority officers. A community survey was also hosted and promoted online. The results of the survey are set out within the Assessment Report. The draft Assessment and Standards Paper were published alongside the Local Plan Issues and Options Report in February 2020 and a report of consultation will be published alongside the revised Local Plan.

An overview of the final proposed standards for quality, accessibility and quantity is set out below. Further information on the evidence used to inform these standards is provided in the associated Assessment Report. The proposed standards are then used to determine deficiencies and surpluses for open space in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility (as recommended by best practice).

#### **3.2 Quality**

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 are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point 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 assessment criteria are derived from the criteria used as part of the Green Flag Award scheme. The threshold for assessing high or low quality in the Green Flag Awards is 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag assessments. This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. No other good practice examples are adopted for the setting of quality and value thresholds in the UK.

Site visit criteria used for Green Flag are not always appropriate for every open space typology and are designed to represent an exceptionally high standard of open space. Therefore, the quality thresholds (and subsequent applied standards) for each type of open space in this study is based on the average scores for that given type of open space.

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Sites are also allocated a value score. 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; while a poor quality space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

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.

*Table 3.2.1: Quality benchmark standards*

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%

### 3.3 Accessibility

Accessibility catchments for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not well-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 distance that would be travelled by most users.

Wirral has existing standards set for most types of open space provision. The 2012 Open Space Assessment Update predominantly used a 400m catchment. This was based on the walking distance applied in the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral (2000). A 400m access standard is also cited within the Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2014-2024.

*Table 3.3.1: Wirral Open Space Assessment 2012 accessibility catchments*

Open space type	Accessibility catchments
Parks and gardens	400m
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	400m
Amenity greenspace	400m
Provision for children and young people	400m
Allotments	1,000m

Guidance on walking distance and times is suggested by Fields In Trust (FIT) in its document *Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015). These guidelines have also 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).

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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. However, like cemeteries, it is more appropriate to determine need for allotment provision based on demand such as waiting lists.

*Table 3.3.2: FIT accessibility guidelines*

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
Provision for children & young people	LAP	100m	1-minute walk time
	LEAP	400m	5-minute walk time
	NEAP	1,000m	12.5-minute walk time
	Youth	700m	9-minute walk time
Allotments		n/a	n/a
Cemeteries/churchyards		n/a	n/a

The community survey undertaken as part of the Open Space Assessment Report received 1,670 returns. As part of the survey, respondents were asked how far they were willing to travel to each type of open space.

*Table 3.3.3: Community survey travel times*

Open space type	Minute's willing to travel				
	Up to 5	10	15	30	Over 30
Local park or public garden	19.2%	29.5%	26.8%	15.2%	9.4%
Country park	4.5%	17.6%	31.5%	30.7%	15.7%
Nature reserve, common or woodland	7.0%	15.4%	29.4%	30.3%	17.9%
Play area for young children	23.3%	33.9%	27.2%	9.8%	5.9%
Teenage provision (eg skatepark)	14.1%	23.9%	30.4%	18.5%	13.0%
General amenity greenspace	22.9%	23.9%	27.6%	16.1%	9.6%
Allotments & community schemes	17.7%	39.0%	29.9%	6.7%	6.7%
Wirral coast or beach	7.0%	17.5%	30.0%	32.1%	13.3%

Respondents signalled a willingness to travel between 10 to 15 minutes to access most types of open space. For provision such as country parks, nature reserves and coastal areas (which make up the majority of the provision for natural and semi-natural greenspace), respondents are more willing to travel up to 30 minutes. For this more strategic type of provision, the mode of travel is cited by respondents as being via car or private vehicle.

### ***Recommendation for accessibility standards***

As more up to date guidance on appropriate accessibility catchments is now provided by FIT, it is recommended that these are used to help identify potential access deficiencies.

The FIT accessibility catchments are a recognised set of accessibility catchments. The FIT catchments are also more in line with the distances willing to be travelled by respondents to the community survey.

The exception is for natural and semi-natural greenspace provision, where respondents signalled a willingness to travel further than the FIT catchment and by car (as opposed to walking). Application of a 30-minute drive time catchment to natural and semi-natural provision would potentially imply a substantial surplus of sites (as a catchment of this distance and type reaches well beyond the local authority boundaries). For the purposes of providing a meaningful locally based analysis, it is therefore recommended that the FIT accessibility catchment for natural and semi-natural greenspace is used for the larger forms of provision.

The time-equivalent for access to parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural greenspace are both the same (Table 3.3.2). It is therefore recommended that the distance threshold (720m) should also be consistent.

Furthermore, larger open spaces are particularly significant because of the range of functions and opportunities they can support. The existing Unitary Development Plan attached a priority to publicly accessible sites of 1.5 hectares or above, irrespective of typology. A similar approach could be taken within the Local Plan, with all sites of 1.5 hectares or above having an accessibility catchment of 720m. A catchment map demonstrating this is provided in Appendix Four. Sites below 1.5 hectares should use the typology catchment set out in Table 3.3.4. For smaller parks and gardens, natural and semi natural sites and amenity greenspace, any site below 1.5 hectares would utilise a 480m catchment.

Several open spaces are also recognised as Borough-wide strategic forms of provision. These sites surpass the role indicated by their primary typology classification. Often, they provide extensive features and facilities and/or provide a crucial multi-functional role which people are more willing to travel further to access. This is supported by the survey results in Table 3.3.3. For the purposes of mapping, a 15-minute walk time catchment is recommended to reflect the strategic role of such provision and to keep more in line with the results from the survey. This is in addition to the individual typology catchments, which should remain the main level of analysis applied.

While these larger 'strategic' sites will continue to function as important sites within each of their local areas in accordance with their primary typology, they are also considered to serve the Borough as a whole. A list of these strategic sites and the catchment map are provided in Appendix Two. A 10-hectare size threshold has been applied to reflect the national size criteria for country parks\* and/or sites have been identified by WBC. Ensuring the continued quality and accessibility of these sites should remain a priority for the Council, in addition to securing an adequate local provision of open space.

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\* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-accreditation-for-your-country-park>

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On this basis, we recommend the following accessibility standards for each typology.

*Table 3.3.4: Recommended accessibility standards*

Open space category		Recommended accessibility standards
Strategic sites		1,200m
Sites above 1.5 ha		720m
<b>Any site below 1.5 ha the following typology catchments should be used:</b>		
Parks & Gardens		480m
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		
Amenity Greenspace		
<b>Play provision:</b>		
Provision for children & young people	LEAP	400m
	NEAP	1,000m
	Youth	700m

## 3.4 Quantity

Quantity standards can be used to identify areas of shortfall and can help with setting requirements for future developments. To set a quantity standard it is useful to compare existing levels of provision identified as part of the assessment against national benchmarks. Current levels of provision are detailed in the Assessment Report.

Guidance on quantity levels is published by Fields In Trust (FIT) in its document *Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015). The guidance provides benchmark standards for three types of open space provision; parks and gardens, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. FIT also suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population of equipped/ designated playing space as a guideline quantity standard for play provision. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) offers guidance on allotments.

Table 3.4.1 sets out the quantity figures for current provision levels identified and the national benchmarks.

*Table 3.4.1: Comparison of current provision & national benchmarks*

Typology	Hectares per 1,000 population	
	Current provision levels	National benchmarks
Parks & gardens	1.80	0.80
Amenity greenspace	0.71	0.60
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.78	1.80
Provision for children & young people	0.03	0.25
Allotment	0.18	0.25
<b>Combined</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>3.70</b>

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The Wirral UDP (adopted in 2000) used a quantity standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population to assess provision of accessible open space. This was based on the 6-acre standard recommendation by the National Playing Field Association (now Fields in Trust). The updated guidance from Fields in Trust in *Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015) is set out in Table 3.4.1.

In Wirral, parks and amenity greenspace provision levels are above the benchmark figures provided by FIT.

### ***Recommendation for quantity standards***

The recommendation for open space is for the national benchmarks to be used to inform and determine the quantity requirements for Wirral.

On this basis, the recommendation is for the following quantity figures to be used

*Table 3.4.2: Recommended quantity levels*

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quantity level (hectares per 1,000 population)</b>
Parks & gardens	0.80
Amenity greenspace	0.60
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.80
Provision for children & young people	0.25
Allotment	0.25
<b>Recommended combined quantity standard</b>	<b>3.70</b>

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## PART 4: APPLICATION OF PROVISION STANDARDS

The standards recommended to be used to determine deficiencies and surpluses for open space are set in terms of quality, accessibility and quantity.

### 4.1: Quality and value

Each type of open space has received a separate quality and value score, to help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus as a particular open space type.

#### *Quality and value matrix*

Assessing the quality and value of open spaces is also used to help identify those sites which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose.

The quality/value of a site should be taken into account in conjunction with any wider deficiencies within the surrounding area.

The high/low classification gives the following possible combinations of quality and value:

*Table 4.1.1: Quality and value matrix classifications*

		Quality	
		High	Low
Value	High	All sites should have an aspiration to come into this category. Many sites of this category are likely to be viewed as key forms of open space provision.	The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality to the applied standard. The priority will be those sites providing a key role in terms of access to provision.
	Low	The preferred approach to a site in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary function. If this is not possible, consideration to a change of primary function should be given (i.e. a change to another open space typology).	The approach to these sites in areas of identified shortfall should be to enhance their quality provided it is possible also to enhance their value.  In areas of sufficiency a change of primary typology should be considered first. If no shortfall of other open space typologies is noted than the site may be redundant/ 'surplus to requirements'.

#### *Implications and recommendations*

The identification of high and low quality sites has been used alongside the accessibility catchments in Section 4.2 to inform the strategic recommendations in Section 5.1 of this report. Appendix 1 sets out the quality and value matrix summary for each site within each typology.

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There is a need for flexibility to the enhancing of low scoring sites within proximity to sites of higher quality. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on the most suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance a site that it would not be appropriate or cost effective to improve.

### 4.2: Accessibility

Accessibility catchments for different types of provision can be used to identify communities not currently served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas can vary from person to person and from location to location. For the purposes of this process this problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance that would typically be expected to 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 also been converted into equivalent time periods in Table 3.3.2.

FIT also offer appropriate accessibility distances for children's play provision, which vary depending on the type of play provision and the age-group they are intended to provide for.

Table 4.2.1: Accessibility catchments

Open space category		Recommended accessibility standards
Strategic sites		1,200m
Sites above 1.5 ha		720m
<b>Any site below 1.5 hectares, the following typology catchments should be used:</b>		
Parks & Gardens		480m
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		
Amenity Greenspace		
<b>Play provision:</b>		
Provision for children & young people	LEAP	400m
	NEAP	1,000m
	Youth	700m

No catchments are suggested for 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, it is more appropriate to determine need for allotment provision based on demand such as waiting lists.

### Identifying deficiencies

If an area does not have access to the required level of provision (consistent with the catchments) it is deemed deficient. KKP has identified instances where new sites may be needed or potential opportunities could be explored in order to provide comprehensive access to different types of provision, for example, where a gap in one form of provision may exist but the area in question is served by another form of open space, which could also be used to serve that deficiency.

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### ***Implications and recommendations***

The following sections summarise the deficiencies identified from the application of the accessibility catchments alongside the actions recommended to address them. Please refer to the associated mapping data (in the Assessment Report) to view site locations.

In determining the subsequent actions for any identified catchment gaps, the following key principles have been applied:

- ◀ Increase capacity/usage in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ◀ Enhance quality in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ◀ Secure new or additional provision

These principles are intended to mitigate the impact of increases in demand on existing provision. In most cases, an increase in use, arising from a higher resident population, will reduce the lifespan of certain sites and/or features (e.g. play equipment, maintenance regimes etc). This will lead to the increased requirement to improve, refurbish and/or replace such forms of provision. Consequently, the recommended approach is often to increase the capacity of and/or enhance the existing provision available.

The strategic site and area-specific recommendations are set out in the Tables below:

*Table 4.2.2: Strategic sites*

<b>Area</b>	<b>Catchment gap</b>	<b>Observations</b>
Mid Wirral	Gap to north	Area partially served by sites such as Lingham Park (KKP 447), Upton Park (KKP 423) and Overchurch Park (KKP 569).
Birkenhead Commercial	Minor gap to east	Area served by Hamilton Square Gardens (KKP 27).
Birkenhead Suburban	Gap to southwest	Area partially served by sites such as Holm Lane Recreation Ground (KKP 476), Walker Park (KKP 488), Noctorum Way (KKP 1,124) and Noctorum Way Woodland (KKP 1,061).
Bromborough Eastham Urban	Gap to northwest	Area partially served by sites such as Higher Bebington Recreation Ground (KKP 243), Mayer Park (KKP 305) and Poulton Recreation Ground (KKP 321)
Heswall Urban	Gaps to centre and southeast	Area partially served by sites such as Ridgewood Park Pensby (KKP 531) and Gayton Park (KKP 372)
Wallasey	Gap to north	Area partially served by sites such as Marine Park (KKP 28), Vale Park (KKP 451), Tower Grounds (KKP 459) and Kings Parade (KKP 461).
West Kirby Hoylake Urban	Gap to north	Area partially served by sites such as Meols Parade Gardens Recreation Ground (KKP 394), Queens Park (KKP 395) and Red Rocks Coastal Frontage (KKP 963) and other parts of the open coastline.

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Table 4.2.3: Site above 1.5 hectares

Area	Catchment gap	Observations
Mid Wirral	No gaps identified	No action required.
Birkenhead Commercial	Gap to east	Area served by Hamilton Square Gardens (KKP 27).
Birkenhead Suburban	No gaps identified	No action required.
Bromborough Eastham Urban	No gaps identified	No action required
Heswall Urban	No gaps identified	No action required.
Wallasey	No gaps identified	No action required.
West Kirby Hoylake Urban	Minor gap to north	Meols Parade Gardens Recreation Ground (KKP 394).

Table 4.2.4: Birkenhead Commercial Area

Typology	Identified need (catchment gap)	Action
Amenity greenspace	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to east	Area partially served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Birkenhead Park (KKP 1) and Hamilton Square (KKP 27).
Parks and gardens	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to west	Area partially served by other forms of open space such as amenity greenspace like Gautby Road Recreation Ground (KKP 20), Bluewood Drive (KKP 117), Lennox Lane (KKP 262) and Valley Road (KKP 1,058) as well as natural greenspace like Bidston Moss LNR (KKP 23), Bidston Moss Community Woodland (KKP 895) and Bidston Moss Linear Nature Reserve (KKP 1,198).
Natural and semi/natural	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to centre and east	Area partially served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Birkenhead Park (KKP 1), Hamilton Square (KKP 27) and Mersey Park (KKP 551).
Provision for children and young people	No gaps in catchment mapping identified	No action required.

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Table 4.2.5: Birkenhead Sub Urban Area

Typology	Identified need (catchment gap)	Action
Amenity greenspace	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to centre and south east	Areas served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Birkenhead Park (KKP 1), Bidston Court Gardens (KKP 330), Holm Lane Recreation Ground (KKP 476), The Arno (KKP 8,943), Victoria Park (KKP 356), Mersey Park (KKP 551), Walker Park (KKP 488) as well as natural greenspace like Bidston Hill South (KKP 65) and Vyner Road South Walkway (KKP 1,075)
Natural and semi/natural	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to centre and east	Area served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Birkenhead Park (KKP 1), Holm Lane Recreation Ground (KKP 476), The Arno (KKP 8,943), Victoria Park (KKP 356), Mersey Park (KKP 551), Walker Park (KKP 488) as well as amenity greenspace like Noctorum Way (KKP 1,061/1,124) and The Woodlands Community Park (KKP 267)
Parks and gardens	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to north west and west	Area served by other forms of open space such as natural greenspace like Bidston Hill (KKP 19/65) as well as amenity greenspace like Noctorum Way (KKP 1,061/1,124), Townfield Close (KKP 135) and Farndon Way (KKP 137)
Provision for children and young people	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to centre and west	Consider meeting gaps by enhancing range/quality of equipment at existing sites (i.e. more extensive/ diverse equipment) such as Holm Lane Recreation Ground (KKP 476). Opportunities to provide play provision at open space sites such as Sorrell Close (KKP 327) could also be explored.

Table 4.2.6: Bromborough Eastham Urban Area

Typology	Identified need (catchment gap)	Action
Amenity greenspace	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to east	Areas served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Eastham Country Park (KKP 71) and Bromborough Recreation Ground (KKP 285) as well as natural greenspace like Dibbinsdale LNR (KKP 1,122/56)
Natural and semi/natural	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to north and east	Area served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Higher Bebington Recreation Ground (KKP 243) as well as potentially sites like Bebington Cemetery (KKP 11).
Parks and gardens	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to centre	Area served by other forms of open space such as natural greenspace like Dibbinsdale LNR (KKP 1,122/56) as well as amenity greenspace like Old Court House Road (KKP 118) and Port Causeway (KKP 284)
Provision for children and young people	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to centre and south	Consider meeting gaps by enhancing range/quality of equipment at existing sites (i.e. more extensive/ diverse equipment) such as at Brookhurst Park Play Area (KKP 315.1) and/or Marfords Park Play Area (KKP 319.1). Opportunities to provide play provision at open space sites such as Poulton Recreation Ground (KKP 321) and Eastham Country Park (KKP 71) could also be explored.

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Table 4.2.7: Heswall Urban Area

Typology	Identified need (catchment gap)	Action
Amenity greenspace	Gaps in catchment mapping identified to centre and south east	Areas served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Gayton Park (KKP 372), Wirral Country Park (KKP 5,001) and Ridgewood Park Pensby (KKP 531) as well as natural greenspace like Heswall Dales LNR (KKP 91), Heswall Beacons (KKP 87) and Harrock Wood (KKP 187)
Natural and semi/natural	Minor gap in catchment to centre	Area served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Ridgewood Park Pensby (KKP 531)
Parks and gardens	Minor gap in catchment to centre	Area served by other forms of open space such as natural greenspace like Heswall Dales LNR (KKP 91) and Poll Hill (KKP 89) as well as amenity greenspace like Puddy Dale (KKP 369).
Provision for children and young people	Gaps in catchment identified in centre	Consider meeting gaps by enhancing range/quality of equipment at existing sites (i.e. more extensive/diverse equipment) such as at Ridgewood Park Play Area (KKP 531.1).

Table 4.2.8: Mid Wirral Urban Area

Typology	Identified need (catchment gap)	Action
Amenity greenspace	Gap in catchment identified to east	Area served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Upton Park (KKP 423) and Warwick Hey Park (KKP 565) as well as natural greenspace like Weybourne Close Woodland (KKP 213) and Woodchurch Community Woodland (KKP 5)
Natural and semi/natural	Gap in catchment identified to north west	Area served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Lingham Park (KKP 447) and Leasowe Brickfields (KKP 413) as well as amenity greenspace like Arrowe Brook Linear Park (KKP 2).
Parks and gardens	Gap in catchment identified to north east	Area served by other forms of open space such as amenity greenspace like Yew Tree Green (KKP 411) and Epsom Road (KKP 1,056).
Provision for children and young people	No gaps in catchment identified	No action required.

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Table 4.2.9: Rural Area

Typology	Identified need (catchment gap)	Action
Amenity greenspace	No significant gaps in catchments identified	No action required
Natural and semi/natural	No significant gaps in catchments identified	No action required
Parks and gardens	No significant gaps in catchments identified	No action required
Provision for children and young people	No significant gaps in catchments identified	No action required

Table 4.2.10: Wallasey Urban Area

Typology	Identified need (catchment gap)	Action
Amenity greenspace	Gaps in catchment identified in centre	Area served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Central Park (KKP 8,492)
Natural and semi/natural	Gaps in catchment identified in east	Area served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Tower Grounds (KKP 459), Vale Park (KKP 451) and Central Park (KKP 8,492) as well as amenity greenspace like Citrine Park (KKP 516) and Scott's Field Linear (KKP 1,231).
Parks and gardens	Gaps in catchment identified in centre	Area served by other forms of open space such as natural greenspace like Cross Lane Community Woodland (KKP 222) and School Land Playing Fields (KKP 581), The Breck Recreation Ground (KKP 868) and Kings Parade (KKP 461) as well as amenity greenspace like Kings Parade (KKP 250), Elleray Park (KKP 579), Belvidere Recreation Ground (KKP 597) and Wallacre Playing Fields (KKP 431).
Provision for children and young people	Gap in catchment identified in centre	Consider meeting gap by enhancing range/quality of equipment at existing sites (i.e. more extensive/diverse equipment) such as at Wallacre Play Area (KKP 430) and/or Urmson Road Play Area (KKP 429). Opportunities to provide play provision at open space sites such as Belvidere Recreation Ground (KKP 597) could also be explored.

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Table 4.2.11: West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area

Typology	Identified need (catchment gap)	Action
Amenity greenspace	Gaps in catchment identified	Area served by other forms of open space such as parks and gardens like Sandlea Park (KKP 384), Newton Park (KKP 498) and Wirral Country Park (KKP 5,001) as well as natural greenspace like Red Rocks Coastal Frontage (KKP 963), Grange Hill (KKP 105) and Stapeldon Wood (KKP 185)
Natural and semi/natural	No significant gaps in catchment identified	No action required.
Parks and gardens	Gap in catchment identified to north west	Area served by other forms of open space such as natural greenspace like Red Rocks Coastal Frontage (KKP 963) as well as amenity greenspace like Anglesey Road Playing Field (KKP 386).
Provision for children and young people	Gap in catchment identified to south	Explore opportunities to provide play provision at other open space sites.

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## 4.3: Quantity

Quantity standards can be used to identify areas of shortfall and help with determining requirements for future developments.

### ***Setting quantity standards***

The setting and application of quantity standards is necessary to ensure new developments contribute to the provision of open space across the area.

Shortfalls in quality and accessibility are already set out in Parts 4.1 and 4.2 of this report. The Council should seek to ensure these shortfalls are not made worse by the scale of future development within the area.

It is recommended that the latest national benchmarks are used to determine the quantity requirements for Wirral, in keeping with the approach already used in the UDP.

*Table 4.3.1: Recommended quantity standards*

Typology	Quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	0.80
Amenity greenspace	0.60
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.80
Provision for children & young people	0.25
Allotment	0.25

### ***Implication and recommendations***

Current provision levels can be used to help identify where areas may have a shortfall against the recommended quantity standards for Wirral. Table 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 and 4.3.4 show the existing position within each sub-area.

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Table 4.3.2: Current provision against recommended quantity standards

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-natural		Amenity greenspace		Allotments		Combined Total	
	(Hectares per 1000 population)									
	0.80		1.80		0.60		0.25		3.45	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Birkenhead Commercial Area	0.63	- 0.17	18.31	+ 16.51	0.34	- 0.26	-	- 0.25	19.28	+ 15.83
Birkenhead Suburban Area	1.12	+ 0.32	0.73	- 1.07	0.44	- 0.16	0.28	+ 0.03	2.57	- 0.88
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	0.49	- 0.31	1.26	- 0.54	1.34	+ 0.74	0.20	- 0.05	3.29	- 0.16
Heswall Urban Area	0.40	- 0.40	1.76	- 0.04	0.15	- 0.45	-	- 0.25	2.31	- 1.14
Mid Wirral Urban Area	0.44	- 0.36	0.49	- 1.31	0.61	+ 0.01	0.06	- 0.19	1.60	- 1.85
Rural Area	51.19	+ 49.39	34.41	+ 32.61	2.24	+ 1.64	1.18	+ 0.93	89.02	+ 85.57
Wallasey Urban Area	0.63	- 0.17	0.38	- 0.42	0.92	+ 0.32	0.14	- 0.11	2.07	- 1.38
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	0.64	- 0.16	2.15	+ 0.35	0.23	- 0.37	0.03	- 0.22	3.05	- 0.40

The table highlights quantity shortfalls against the recommended quantity standards particularly for parks as well as in some instances for natural and semi-natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and allotments.

The table also demonstrates the importance of the sites/provision located within the Rural Area (Green Belt), particularly as some of these sites also serve the population of an adjacent urban settlement area, which can have a significant effect on overall levels of provision.

It is therefore important to recognise the effect adjacent sites may have on the quantity levels to a neighbouring area. Table 4.3.3 shows current provision levels with adjacent sites included against the recommended quantity standards.

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Table 4.3.3: Current provision including adjacent sites against recommended quantity standards

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-natural		Amenity greenspace		Allotments		Combined Total	
	(Hectares per 1000 population)									
	0.80		1.80		0.60		0.25		3.45	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Birkenhead Commercial Area	4.29	+ 3.49	33.10	+ 31.30	12.44	+ 11.84	1.80	+ 1.55	51.63	+ 48.18
Birkenhead Suburban Area	1.17	+ 0.37	1.01	- 0.79	0.50	- 0.10	0.28	+ 0.03	2.96	- 0.49
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	1.31	+ 0.51	2.64	+ 0.84	1.53	+ 0.93	0.36	+ 0.11	5.84	+ 2.39
Heswall Urban Area	1.83	+ 1.03	1.99	+ 0.19	0.17	- 0.43	0.03	- 0.22	4.02	+ 0.57
Mid Wirral Urban Area	2.54	+ 1.74	0.90	- 0.90	0.67	+ 0.07	0.08	- 0.17	4.19	+ 0.74
Rural Area	51.19	+ 50.39	32.72	+ 30.92	2.24	+ 1.64	1.18	+ 0.93	87.33	+ 83.88
Wallasey Urban Area	0.85	+ 0.05	1.19	- 0.61	0.93	+ 0.33	0.14	- 0.11	3.11	- 0.34
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	0.76	- 0.04	3.33	+ 1.53	0.43	- 0.17	0.22	- 0.03	4.74	+ 1.29

On this basis, fewer and smaller shortfalls are observed. This is particularly noticeable for parks and natural and semi-natural greenspace provision. Shortfalls do, however, still exist, in the Birkenhead Suburban and Wallasey Urban areas.

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### *Provision for children and young people*

Table 4.3.4 shows the level of provision for children and young people in each area. The current level of provision of 0.03 hectares per 1,000 population across Wirral as a whole is noticeably lower than the 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population suggested by FIT. It is therefore recommended that the FIT suggested standard is used in helping to determine future provision requirements; with the current provision level for Wirral only being used in the interim to highlight existing shortfalls.

The Birkenhead Suburban and Heswall Urban areas are identified as having the main quantity shortfalls against the current Wirral provision level.

*Table 4.3.4: Current play provision against current Wirral provision level*

Analysis area	Hectares per 1000 population	
	Current provision	Sufficiency/deficiency against 0.03 Wirral provision level
Birkenhead Commercial Area	0.04	+ 0.01
Birkenhead Suburban Area	0.02	- 0.01
Bromborough Eastham Urban Area	0.03	Level
Heswall Urban Area	0.01	- 0.02
Mid Wirral Urban Area	0.03	Level
Rural Area	0.17	+ 0.14
Wallasey Urban Area	0.04	+ 0.01
West Kirby Hoylake Urban Area	0.03	Level

In Birkenhead Suburban and Heswall Urban areas where a shortfall in quantity is noted against the current level of provision, the deficiency has been converted to the additional amount (in hectares) needed for that area to meet the 0.03 hectares per 1,000 population.

*Table 4.3.5: Additional play provision needed to meet current Wirral provision level*

Analysis area	Deficiency (Ha per 1,000 population)	Current amount of provision (Ha)	Additional provision needed (Ha)
Birkenhead Suburban Area	- 0.01	2.06	0.62
Heswall Urban Area	- 0.02	0.26	0.59

### **Identifying priorities**

In most areas, the highest priority should be placed on securing the appropriate accessibility and quality standards. Section 5 of this report sets out how the recommended quantity standard should also be used to determine the open space requirements as part of new housing developments.

In the first instance, all types of provision should look to be provided as part of new housing developments but where these are already provided by an existing open space within an appropriate catchment distance, the focus should be on ensuring contributions to enhancing the quality and accessibility of existing open space provision.

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## PART 5: POLICY ADVICE AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Strategic recommendations

The following section provides a summary on the key findings through the application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards. It incorporates and recommends what the Council should be seeking to achieve in order to address the issues highlighted.

#### **Recommendation 1**

- ◀ *Sites with the potential to help serve areas identified as having gaps in catchment mapping should be protected and prioritised for opportunities for enhancement*

Tables 4.2.2 to 4.2.9 highlight sites that have the potential to serve existing identified gaps in provision. A summary of the sites that could help to serve these catchment gaps is also set out in Table 5.1.1 below.

This is not the full list of sites to be protected. It is only those sites highlighted as having an important role in ensuring areas have a sufficient level of access to an appropriate range of open space provision.

*Table 5.1.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps*

<b>KKP Ref</b>	<b>Site name</b>	<b>Type of open space</b>	<b>Could help to serve gap in provision of:</b>
1	Birkenhead Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Natural greenspace
2	Arrowe Brook Linear Park	Amenity greenspace	Natural greenspace
5	Woodchurch Community Woodland	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace
11	Bebington Cemetery	Cemetery	Natural greenspace
19	Bidston Hill North	Natural greenspace	Parks and gardens
20	Gautby Road Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
23	Bidston Moss LNR	Natural greenspace	Parks and gardens
27	Hamilton Square	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Natural greenspace
56	Dibbinsdale LNR	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace, Parks and gardens
65	Bidston Hill South	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace, Parks and gardens
71	Eastham Country Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
87	Heswall Beacons	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace
89	Poll Hill	Natural greenspace	Parks and gardens
91	Heswall Dales LNR	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace, Parks and gardens
105	Grange Hill	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace
117	Bluewood Drive	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Could help to serve gap in provision of:
118	Old Court House Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
135	Townfield Close	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
137	Farndon Way	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
185	Stapeldon Wood	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace
187	Harrock Wood	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace
213	Weybourne Close Woodland	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace
222	Cross Lane Community Woodland	Natural greenspace	Parks and gardens
243	Higher Bebington Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Natural greenspace
250	Kings Parade	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
262	Lennox Lane	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
267	Woodland Community Park	Amenity greenspace	Natural greenspace
284	Port Causeway	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
285	Bromborough Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
315.1	Brookhurst Park Play Area	Play provision	Play provision
319.1	Marfords Park Play Area	Play provision	Play provision
321	Poultton Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Play provision
327	Sorrell Close	Amenity greenspace	Play provision
330	Bidston Court Gardens	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
356	Victoria Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Natural greenspace
369	Puddy Dale	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
372	Gayton Park (Playing Fields)	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
384	Sandlea Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
386	Anglesey Road Playing Field	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
411	Yew Tree Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
413	Leasowe Brickfields	Parks and gardens	Natural greenspace
423	Upton Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
429	Urmson Road Play Area	Play provision	Play provision
430	Wallacre Play Area	Play provision	Play provision
431	Wallacre Playing Fields	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
447	Lingham Park	Parks and gardens	Natural greenspace
451	Vale Park	Parks and gardens	Natural greenspace
459	Tower Grounds	Parks and gardens	Natural greenspace
461	Kings Parade	Natural greenspace	Parks and gardens
476	Holm Lane Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Natural greenspace
476.1	Holm Lane Recreation Ground	Play provision	Play provision

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Could help to serve gap in provision of:
488	Walker Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Natural greenspace
498	Newton Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
516	Citrine Park	Amenity greenspace	Natural greenspace
531	Ridgewood Park Pensby	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Natural greenspace
531.1	Ridgewood Park Play Area	Play provision	Play provision
551	Mersey Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Natural greenspace
565	Warwick Hey Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
579	Elleray Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
597	Belvidere Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens, Play provision
868	The Breck Recreation Ground	Natural greenspace	Parks and gardens
895	Bidston Moss Community Woodland	Natural greenspace	Parks and gardens
963	Red Rocks Coastal Frontage	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace, Parks and gardens
1,056	Epsom Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
1,058	Valley Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
1,061	Noctorum Way	Amenity greenspace	Natural greenspace, Parks and gardens
1,075	Vyner Road South Walkway	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace
1,122	Dibbinsdale LNR	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace, Parks and gardens
1,124	Noctorum Way	Amenity greenspace	Natural greenspace
1,198	Bidston Moss Linear Nature Reserve	Natural greenspace	Parks and gardens
1,231	Scott's Field Linear	Amenity greenspace	Natural greenspace
5,001	Wirral Country Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Play provision
8,942	Central Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Natural greenspace
8,943	The Arno	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Natural greenspace

These sites could also help to meet the identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies. Where possible, the Council should seek to adapt these sites to provide a stronger secondary role, to meet these gaps. This will also help to minimise the need to create new sites to address any gaps in the catchment mapping for any particular typology.

These sites should therefore be viewed as being key forms of open space provision that are likely to provide multiple social and value benefits. It is important that the quality and value of these sites is secured and maintained to help secure these multi-functional benefits.

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### **Recommendation 2**

- ◀ *Ensure low quality/value sites helping to serve potential gaps in accessibility catchments are prioritised for enhancement*

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to meet the applied standards. The quality and value matrix identifies the sites that should be given priority. A list of low quality and/or value sites that could help to serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 5.1.2 below.

*Table 5.1.2: Summary of low quality/value sites helping to serve catchment gaps*

<b>KKP Ref</b>	<b>Site name</b>	<b>Type of open space</b>	<b>Could help to serve gap in provision of:</b>
137	Farndon Way	Amenity greenspace	Parks and gardens
213	Weybourne Close Woodland	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace
222	Cross Lane Community Woodland	Natural greenspace	Parks and gardens
321	Poultton Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	Play provision
330	Bidston Court Gardens	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
372	Gayton Park (Playing Fields)	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
384	Sandlea Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
413	Leasowe Brickfields	Parks and gardens	Natural greenspace
447	Lingham Park	Parks and gardens	Natural greenspace
459	Tower Grounds	Parks and gardens	Natural greenspace
498	Newton Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace
516	Citrine Park	Amenity greenspace	Natural greenspace
551	Mersey Park	Parks and gardens	Amenity greenspace, Natural greenspace
1,075	Vyner Road South Walkway	Natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace

It is also important to consider the need to address other sites of low quality and value, if possible, in line with recommendation 3 below.

### **Recommendation 3**

- ◀ *Recognise low quality and value sites and how they may be able to meet other needs*

Where sites of low quality or value appear to fall within an area of surplus, a change of primary typology should be first considered. If no shortfall of other open space type is noted or the practicality of enhancing the site is not cost effective, then the site may be redundant or 'surplus to requirements'.

This study has identified 141 sites as currently having either lower quality and/or value. Of these 141 sites, 14 are identified in Table 5.1.2 as helping to serve catchment gaps in other types of open space. These sites should first be enhanced in terms of quality. Consideration should also be given to changing the primary typology or strengthening the secondary function of these 14 sites, to one which would help to serve an identified gap in provision. The 14 sites are not included in Table 5.1.3.

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Consequently, there are 127 sites of low quality and/or value, which do not currently appear to serve any highlighted gaps in catchment mapping. The 127 sites are set out in Table 5.1.3.

Of the 127 sites, 101 were considered to have catchment areas that are covered by or substantially overlapped by the catchment area of another site of the same type of open space. Further exploration has therefore been undertaken, since the draft report was published, to establish whether they are potentially surplus to requirements.

Other factors, such as a quantity shortfall in that provision type, the potential to create a different catchment gap and the potential to help serve deficiencies in other types of provision such as playing pitches and the reason that they have been provided have also been considered.

Other issues, such as the importance of a site for heritage, biodiversity or visual amenity and their role within the locality, may also indicate that a site should continue to be protected in addition to the wider requirement to provide an appropriate network of open space.

The final recommendations are set out in Table 5.1.3 below.

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Table 5.1.3: Sites of low quality and/or value covered by catchment area of similar sites

KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
4	Heswall Pinewoods (Gayton)	Natural greenspace	87, 368	Important for local character and amenity. Both areas should be designated for protection.
7	Brookhurst Avenue (Plymyard Dale)	Natural greenspace	49, 70, 73	Green Belt
12	Upton Pines Entrance	Amenity greenspace	1257	Amenity greenspace provided as a condition of planning permission. Should be designated for protection.
15	Boundary Road Open Space (Rhododendron Gardens)	Natural greenspace	18, 19, 65	Major open space at Bidston Hill. Shortfall in quantity for NSN to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
18	Compton Road Open Space	Natural greenspace	15, 19, 23, 895, 1198	Prominent landscaped former landfill. Shortfall in quantity for NSN to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
21	Fender Way Linear	Amenity greenspace	261, 1237	Linear amenity between housing estate and motorway / railway corridor including some provision for recreation. Shortfall in quantity for AGS to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
28	Marine Park	Parks and gardens	459	Part of Conservation Area. Parks catchment gap if removed. Subject to New Brighton Regeneration Area. Should be designated for protection.
31	Bromborough Road Woodland (S)	Natural greenspace	34, 36, 48, 1122, 1250,	Part of mature woodland roadside corridor. Important for local character and amenity. Should be designated for protection.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
32	Park View Linear Open Space	Amenity greenspace	290	An enlarged public verge opposite Bromborough Recreation Ground. Important to the planned layout and character of the local area. Should be designated for protection.
36	The Glen Open Space	Natural greenspace	31, 34, 48, 56, 1122, 1250	Small residual linear woodland in housing estate. Not recommended for designation.
47	Marfords Wood	Natural greenspace	49, 54, 56	Green Belt
49	Plymyard Dale Woodland	Natural greenspace	7, 47	Green Belt
54	Dibbins Green Woodland	Natural greenspace	47, 49, 56	Linked to adjoining mature woodland. Important for local character and amenity. Should be designated for protection.
55	Gilbrook Square (West)	Amenity greenspace	257, 271, 788, 1087, 1126	Frontage amenity space to residential properties in high density area. Shortfall in quantity for AGS to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
57	Poulton Road Woodland	Natural greenspace	53, 56, 312,	Small linear roadside woodland protected as part of previous planning application. Important to character of the local area. Should be designated for protection.
64	Vyner Road South Open Space	Natural greenspace	65, 1075	Part of wider open space associated with Bidston Court Gardens. Shortfall in quantity for NSN to Birkenhead Suburban Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
76	Allport Common	Natural greenspace	No overlap	Former quarry now prominent woodland open space. NSN catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
112	Demesne Street	Amenity greenspace	174, 513, 519,	Recreation ground on Seacombe waterfront. Subject to Seacombe Riverside Regeneration Area.
114	Maddock Road	Natural greenspace	864	This site has permission for new housing development.
115	Burford Avenue Woodland	Natural greenspace	868, 895	Prominent remnant woodland on sloping ground. Shortfall in quantity for NSN to Wallasey Urban. Should be designated for protection.
120	Paulsfield Drive Woodland	Natural greenspace	212	Part of prominent mature woodland roadside corridor. Important for local character and amenity and designated Local Wildlife Site. Shortfall in quantity for NSN to Mid Wirral Urban. Should be designated for protection.
122	Chester High Road playing field	Amenity greenspace	372	Green Belt
123	Former RAF Camp	Natural greenspace	No overlap	Green Belt
125	Mount Road Open Space	Amenity greenspace	247	Part of adjoining open space associated with former Storeton Quarry landfill. AGS catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
126	Church Lane Playing Field	Amenity greenspace	141, 491, 945	School playing field. Should be designated for protection.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
127	Stanley Park	Parks and gardens	282, 547, 8949	Provides local sports facilities in association with New Ferry Park. Should be designated for protection.
143	Prenton Dell Open Space	Natural greenspace	487, 488	Green Belt
156	Hambledon Drive Open Space	Natural greenspace	210, 1278	Remnant linear woodland. Shortfall in quantity for NSN to Mid Wirral Urban. Should be designated for protection.
188	Heswall Fields (National Trust)	Natural greenspace	91	Green Belt
194	Former Royal Rock Hotel	Natural greenspace	200	The site of the former Royal Rock Hotel identified for car parking in a previous regeneration strategy.
196.1	Howson Street MUGA	Play provision	198.1, 555	Part of Howson Street Open Space. Shortfall in quantity for Play to Birkenhead Suburban Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
198	Bedford Road AGS	Amenity greenspace	196	Part of Bedford Road Play Area. Shortfall in quantity for AGS to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
200	Rock Park Linear Woodland	Natural greenspace	194	Linear woodland in Conservation Area. Shortfall in quantity for NSN to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
210	Headington Road Woodland	Natural greenspace	156, 212, 1278	Remnant pond and woodland. Shortfall in quantity for NSN to Mid Wirral Urban. Should be designated for protection.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
249	Atherton Street / Portland Street Greenspace	Amenity greenspace	28, 250, 459, 461	Open space along New Brighton waterfront. AGS catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
258	Vulcan Close Play Area	Play provision	257.1, 257.2, 1087.1, 1087.2, 1126.1	Small backland play area. Shortfall in quantity for Play to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
261	Beechwood Park	Amenity greenspace	21	Functions as local park. Shortfall in quantity for AGS to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
273	Gallaghers Hill Play Area (Price Street)	Play provision	1.1, 1126.1	Linear woodland open space and play area. Should be designated for protection.
315	Brookhurst Park	Parks and gardens	49	Park and play area. Parks catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
317	Brimstage Green	Amenity greenspace	No overlap	Green Belt
319	Marfords Park	Parks and gardens	285	Park and play area. Parks catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
347.1	Plymyard Playing Fields basketball area	Play provision	1253	Part of Plymyard Playing Fields. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
356.2	Victoria Park MUGA	Play provision	551.2	Part of Victoria Park. Shortfall in quantity for Play to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
370	Hill House Grounds	Parks and gardens	371	Public garden associated with Heswall town centre. Parks catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
391.2	Ashton Park MUGA	Play provision	No overlap	Part of Ashton Park. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
392	Meols Lower Green Recreation Ground (N)	Parks and gardens	1038, 7000	Northern part of Lower Green Recreation Ground. Shortfall in quantity for Parks to West Kirby Hoylake Urban and catchment gap if removed. Both should be designated for protection.
394.1	Meols Parade Gardens basketball area	Play provision	382.1, 395.1	Part of Meols Parade Gardens. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
394.2	Meols Parade Gardens five-a-side area	Play provision	382.1, 395.1	Part of Meols Parade Gardens. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
406	Pasture Road Open Space	Amenity greenspace	424	Proposed housing allocation.
406.1	Pasture Road basketball area	Play provision	411.1, 447.1	Proposed housing allocation. Subject to alternative youth provision.
409.1	Twickenham Drive Play Area	Play provision	412.2, 414.1	Backland play area adjacent to primary school. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
451.2	Vale Park football area	Play provision	459.2, 462.2	Part of Vale Park. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
455	Delph AGS	Amenity greenspace	432, 457, 835	Backland open space opposite Delph Recreation Ground. Not recommended for designation.
456	St Georges Park	Amenity greenspace	462, 888	Gated park and woodland at frontage to residential properties. Should be designated for protection.
462.2	Quarry Recreation Ground MUGA	Play provision	451.2	Part of Quarry Recreation Ground. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
497	Broadway Open Space	Amenity greenspace	575, 1262	Large backland open space. Should be designated for protection.
502	Greenbank Community Park	Parks and gardens	105, 151, 388	Part of Greenbank Cemetery. Shortfall in quantity for Parks to West Kirby Hoylake Urban. Parks catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
502.1	Greenbank Community Park play area	Play provision	No overlap	Part of Greenbank Community Park. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
502.2	Greenbank Community Park basketball area	Play provision	No overlap	Part of Greenbank Community Park. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
505	Circular Drive Open Space	Amenity greenspace	152	Small backland open space close to Coronation Park, Greasby. Should be designated for protection.
506	Mere Park Road Open Space	Amenity greenspace	152, 504, 837	Part of linked open space at Bromsgrove Road, Greasby. Should be designated for protection.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
512	Limekiln Lane Community Park	Amenity greenspace	8942	Local Community Park adjacent to Victoria Park Football Ground. AGS catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
513	North Seacombe Recreation Ground (Desmense St)	Amenity greenspace	112, 173, 174, 519	Recreation Ground and play area on Seacombe waterfront. Subject to Regeneration Area Action Plan.
513.1	North Seacombe Recreation Ground play area	Play provision	519.1, 523	Part of North Seacombe Recreation Ground. Subject to Regeneration Area Action Plan.
515	Bridle Road AGS	Amenity greenspace	516, 519, 1231, 8944	Site hosts children's play provision but no gap in provision if removed.
517	Vernon Avenue	Amenity greenspace	516, 518, 519, 522, 8944	Backland play area subject to antisocial behaviour. Adjacent to Citrine Park. Not recommended for designation.
517.1	Vernon Avenue MUGA	Play provision	211, 518.1, 519.1	Backland play area subject to antisocial behaviour. Adjacent to Citrine Park. Not recommended for designation.
519.1	Luke Street MUGA	Play provision	517.1	Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
522	Rycroft Road Playing Fields	Amenity greenspace	517, 518	Required to help meet pitch shortfalls in PPS Should be designated for protection.
523	Rappart Road MUGA	Play provision	513.1, 519.1, 8942.2	Play catchment gap if removed. Subject to Regeneration Area Action Plan.
536	Oaklea Road Open Space	Amenity greenspace	184, 491, 531	Shortfall in quantity for AGS to Heswall. AGS catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
538	Madeley Drive Open Space	Amenity greenspace	539	Maintained as part of Wirral Country Park. Shortfall in quantity for AGS to West Kirby Hoylake Urban.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
				Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
550	Holt Hill Quarry Open Space	Amenity greenspace	554	Shortfall in quantity for AGS to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
553	Delta Road Open Space	Amenity greenspace	197, 288, 547, 896	Conservation Area open space. Shortfall in quantity for AGS to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
554.1	Pembroke Court MUGA	Play provision	356.1, 356.2, 551.1, 551.2, 1139	Shortfall in quantity for Play to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
569	Overchurch Park	Parks and gardens	565	Large public park with woodland (also part of wider prominent woodland corridor), local wildlife site and scheduled ancient monument. Parks catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
574	Kingfisher Way Play Area	Amenity greenspace	568, 1282	Open space provided as part of housing estate. Should be designated for protection.
575	N of Upton Cricket Club	Amenity greenspace	148, 497	Triangle of land leftover from Upton bypass currently let for short-term grazing. Not recommended for protection.
586	Folly Lane Open Space	Amenity greenspace	431, 596, 597	Open space provided as part of social housing estate. Should be designated for protection.
751	Devisdale Grove Woodland	Natural greenspace	754, 19, 65, 1075	Open space provided as a condition of planning permission. Shortfall in quantity for NSN to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
754	Eleanor Road Woodland	Natural greenspace	751, 19, 65, 1075	Open space provided as a condition of planning permission. Shortfall in quantity for Play to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
759	Bedford Avenue Open Space	Amenity greenspace	356	Former backland allotments now fenced off from public use. Not recommended for protection.
788	Former St James Allotments	Amenity greenspace	55, 257, 271, 1087, 1126	Site now reused as allotments. Should be designated for protection.
834	Cornflower Way	Amenity greenspace	411, 1128, 1281	Open space provided as a condition of planning permission. Should be designated for protection.
834.1	Cornflower Way Play Area	Play provision	411.1, 411.2, 1128.1	Play area provided as a condition of planning permission. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
837	Kinloss Road Open Space	Amenity greenspace	504, 506	Site has been developed for housing.
857	Sandon Promenade Open Space	Amenity greenspace	173, 174, 864	Open space associated with Seacombe promenade. Should be designated for protection.
873	Knox Close Open Space	Amenity greenspace	33, 37, 41, 281, 283, 286, 287, 296, 912, 914, 917, 1221	Backland open space in Port Sunlight Conservation Area. Should be designated for protection.
874	Cressida Avenue AGS	Amenity greenspace	244, 875	Backland open space which hosts play provision. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
874.1	Cressida Avenue Play Area (Juliet Avenue)	Play provision	243.1	Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
874.2	Cressida Avenue MUGA	Play provision	243.1	Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
879	Roman Road Open Space (East)	Natural greenspace	96, 102	Part of two adjoining natural areas. NSN catchment gap if removed Both should be designated for protection.
886	Thorburn Close Open Space	Amenity greenspace	288, 547	Adjacent to New Ferry Park but part of woodland belt along New Ferry bypass. Should be designated for protection.
890	Flaybrick Linear (Lower Flaybrick)	Natural greenspace	15, 19, 65	Landscaped linear walkway and woodland adjoining former quarry face. Shortfall in quantity for NSN to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
896	Rock Park Pocket Park	Amenity greenspace	197, 547, 553,	Conservation Area open space. Shortfall in quantity for AGS to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
912	Queen Marys Drive Open Space	Amenity greenspace	33, 41, 42, 281, 283, 286, 289, 291, 873, 914, 917, 1221	Backland open space in Port Sunlight Conservation Area. Should be designated for protection.
918	Saughall Massie Road Backland	Amenity greenspace	167	Site now developed for social housing.
939	Hoole Road Road Open Space	Amenity greenspace	854, 945, 8940	Backland open space in Woodchurch with limited public access. Not recommended for designation.
1038	Meols Lower Green Recreation Ground (S)	Parks and gardens	392, 7000	Southern part of Lower Green Recreation Ground. Shortfall in quantity for Parks to West Kirby Hoylake Urban and catchment gap if removed. Both should be designated for protection.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
1039	Wastedale Court Open Space	Amenity greenspace	2, 860, 1041, 1042	Backland open space in Moreton. In vicinity of Lingham Park. Not recommended for designation.
1041	Curlew Court Backland	Amenity greenspace	860, 1039, 1042	Backland open space in Moreton. In vicinity of Lingham Park. Not recommended for designation.
1048	Martin Close	Amenity greenspace	181, 537, 1115	Backland open space in vicinity of Thurstaston Common. Not recommended for designation.
1057	Cheltenham Road Open Space	Amenity greenspace	124, 1041, 1056, 1263	Open space provided as a condition of planning permission. Supported for designation by local community at Reg 18. Should be designated for protection.
1087.2	Tollemache Road Kickabout Area	Play provision	No overlap	Part of Tollemache Road Recreation Ground. Shortfall in quantity for Play to Birkenhead Suburban. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
1093	Livingstone Street Community Centre Kickabout	Play provision	1.1	Games court at Livingstone Street Play and Community Centre in vicinity of Birkenhead Park. Shortfall in quantity for Play to Birkenhead Suburban. Subject to Regeneration Area Action Plan.
1107	Telegraph Lane Open Space	Natural greenspace	413, 7000	Green Belt
1128	Grovedale Drive AGS	Amenity greenspace	411, 834	Open space provided as a condition of planning permission. Hosts play provision.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
				Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
1132	Bidston Village Road	Amenity greenspace	21, 262	Small grassed area for children's play adjacent to primary school at edge of Conservation Area. Shortfall in quantity for AGS to Birkenhead Suburban. Should be designated for protection.
1141	Charing Cross Kickabout Cage & Play Area	Play provision	1.1, 267.1, 267.2	Outdoor play provision adjacent to Charing Cross Methodist Church. Now adjacent to The Hive. Shortfall in quantity for Play to Birkenhead Suburban but not recommended for protection.
1168	Eaton Place AGS	Amenity greenspace	469	Open space provided as a condition of planning permission. Hosts play provision. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
1169	Rose Brae Play Area	Play provision	No overlap	Small children's play area adjacent to the Swinging House PH. Play catchment gap if removed. Subject to Regeneration Area Action Plan.
1178	Carlett Park Playing Field	Amenity greenspace	1249	Green Belt
1249	Carlett Park Chapel Open Space	Amenity greenspace	1178	Green Belt
1252	Bromborough Pool Open Space	Amenity greenspace	118, 1246	Open space recently provided as a condition of planning permission. Hosts play provision in Conservation Area. Should be designated for protection.

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
1252.1	Bromborough Pool play area	Play provision	No overlap	Open space recently provided as a condition of planning permission. Play catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection as part of wider open space.
1257	Arkhill Gardens Open Space	Amenity greenspace	12	Open space provided as a condition of planning permission. Should be designated for protection.
1259	Rake Hey Open Space	Amenity greenspace	2, 444, 1277	Open space provided as a condition of planning permission. Should be designated for protection.
1261	Oak Close Open Space	Amenity greenspace	120, 569	Open space provided as a condition of planning permission. AGS catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
1263	Farmside Amenity Green Space	Amenity greenspace	124, 409, 414, 1056, 1057, 1230, 1256?	Small backland open space in Leasowe with limited access in vicinity of Whiteheath Park Recreation Ground and Play Area. Not recommended for protection.
1272	New Bold Crescent Green Space	Amenity greenspace	501, 1269, 1271	Shortfall in quantity for AGS to West Kirby Hoylake Urban. AGS catchment gap if removed. Should be designated for protection.
1276	Riverbank Road Green Space	Amenity greenspace	5001	Green Belt
1277	Hoylake Road Amenity Space	Amenity greenspace	444, 1259	Green Belt
1278	Jenny's Wood	Natural greenspace	210	Green Belt

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KKP Ref	Site name	Type of open space	Overlaps with catchment of other sites	Recommendation following further review
6008	Benty Hey Woodland	Natural greenspace	6812	Area of community woodland including local scout facility. Should be designated for protection.
6868	Oakland Vale Plantations	Amenity greenspace	175	Open space associated with Seacombe promenade. Should be designated for protection.
8944	Hawthorne Grove	Amenity greenspace	515, 516, 517, 519, 1231	Site now has permission for housing development.

### **Recommendation 4**

- ◀ *For the Council to draft a s106 Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to clarify the approach to developer contributions*

The Council may seek to draft a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide further detail on the policies and proposals within the Local Plan. An SPD focusing on open space provision standards and how they will be applied could assist in the consideration and determining of planning applications.

The following sections also begin to set out the possible processes and methods for determining developer contributions. An SPD could look to set out clearly and concisely the Councils approach. It could also detail the design standards and expectations for an appropriate development.

### **5.2 Implications**

The following sections set out the policy implications in terms of the planning process in Wirral. This is intended to help guide the Council in seeking contributions to the improvement and/or provision of any new forms of open space.

#### ***How is provision to be made?***

The requirements for on-site or off-site provision will vary according to the size and location of development and the type of open space to be provided.

Planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) are the two main mechanisms available to the Council to ensure future development addresses any adverse impacts it creates. If required, Planning Conditions can be used to ensure that key requirements are met.

#### ***Planning obligations***

Planning Obligations (often known as Section 106 Agreements) require individual developments to provide or pay for the provision of development-specific infrastructure requirements. They are flexible and can be used to deliver a wide range of site and community infrastructure benefits.

A development should make appropriate provision of services, facilities and infrastructure to meet its own needs. Where sufficient existing capacity does not exist, the development should contribute what is necessary either on-site or by making a financial contribution towards provision elsewhere.

#### ***Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)***

The CIL is a method of requiring developers to fund infrastructure facilities including open spaces that are required to serve more than one development across a wider area. Charges can be applied based on the size and type of new development, to generate funding to deliver a range of borough or area-wide infrastructure projects.

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CILs are to be levied on the gross internal floor space of the net additional liable development. The rate at which to charge such developments is set out within a council's Charging Schedule. This will be expressed in £ per m<sup>2</sup>.

### *Seeking developer contributions*

This Standards Paper can inform policies and emerging planning documents by assisting in the Council's approach to securing open spaces through new housing development. The evidence should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions for the provision of appropriate facilities as well as their long term maintenance.

The wider benefits of open space should be recognised as a key design principle for any new development as providing wider social, environmental and health benefits.

Sport England's Active Design\* initiative also looks at the opportunities to encourage sport and physical activity through the built environment in order to support healthier and more active lifestyles.

### *Off-site contributions*

Where it is not appropriate to make any new provision on-site, it may be appropriate to seek to enhance the quality of existing provision and/or improve access and linkages to existing sites. In some instances, an off-site contribution may also be beneficial to avoid the creation of small incremental spaces that would be difficult to maintain.

Costs required for the enhancement of existing open space and provision of new open spaces should be clearly identified and revised on a regular basis.

### *Maintenance contributions*

Developers should also be required to demonstrate that any new or enhanced provision will be managed and maintained appropriately throughout the lifetime of the development proposed.

In some instances, the site may be adopted by the Council, which would require the developer to submit a sum of money in order to pay the costs of the site's future maintenance. Often the procedure for councils adopting new sites includes:

- ◀ The developer being responsible for the installation and maintenance of the site for an initial agreed establishment period.
- ◀ Sums to cover the maintenance costs of a site (once transferred to the Council) should be intended to cover an agreed set period.

Calculations to determine the amount of maintenance contributions required should be based on current maintenance costs that reflect the nature of the provision being made.

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\* [Active Design | Sport England](#)

## 5.3 Approach to developer contributions

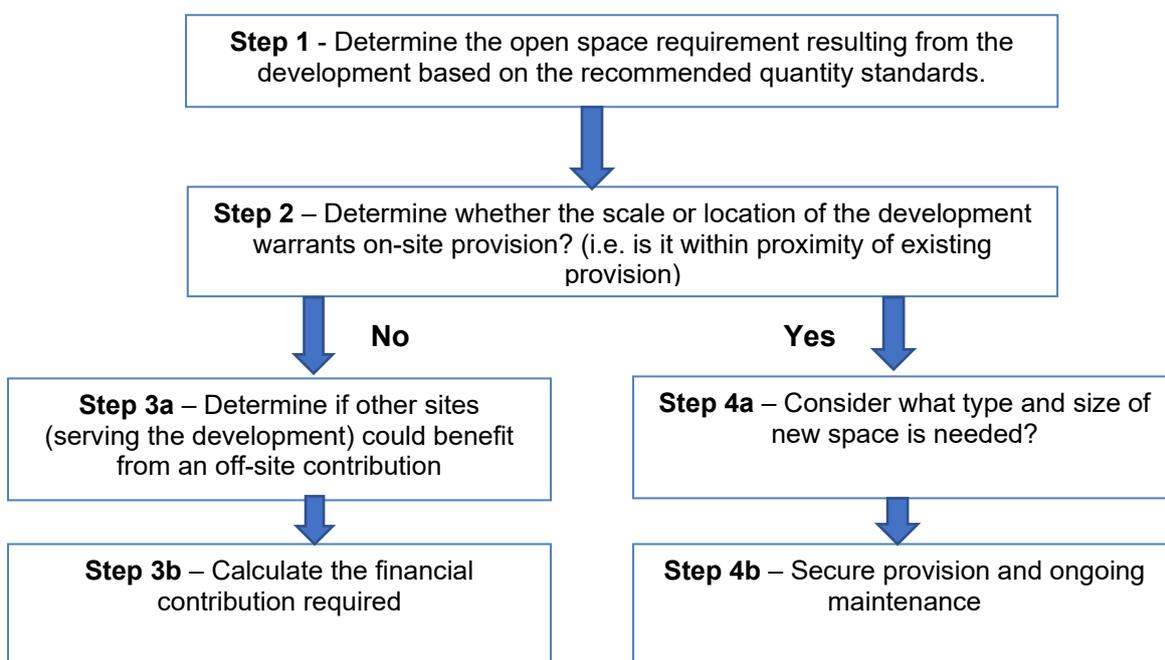
KKP advocates the requirement for open space should be based upon the number of persons generated from the net increase in dwellings in the proposed scheme. We also promote the use of quantity provision standards (in hectares per 1,000 population) in calculating the open space requirements of new housing development.

### *Flexible approach*

A focus of this study has been to recognise the role that quantity, quality and accessibility has in terms of open space provision. Future requirements should not just centre on the quantity requirements of new residential developments.

The flowchart (Figure 5.3.1) sets out the process that should be considered when determining contributions in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility. For larger scale developments, the provision standards should be used to help determine the requirements for new open space to be provided as part of a development.

*Figure 5.3.1: Determining developer contributions*



### ***Determining on-site or off-site contributions***

The requirement for on or off-site provision should be undertaken in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of existing open space provision. For instance, if an existing form of open space is located within an appropriate catchment distance from the development there may not be a requirement to for any additional on-site provision.

It is recognised that open spaces of a small size hold less recreational use and value. The presence of additional smaller sites will also add to the existing pressures of maintenance regimes and safety inspections. It is therefore suggested that a minimum size threshold is used to determine if provision should be provided on or off-site.

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On-site provision would be appropriate where the development proposed would not be within the catchment of an existing open space or play facility and the development site would be large enough to make appropriate provision.

Off-site contributions would be appropriate where the development proposed would be within the catchment of existing open space, which could be improved to accommodate the increase in demand or where the development site would be too small to make appropriate provision on-site.

Both the Greater London Authority (GLA) and FIT offer guidance on the minimum practical area of open space sites (Table 5.3.1). New open space provision should be provided as off-site contributions if the calculated open space requirement for the proposed development falls below the minimum practical area threshold. If the calculated open space requirement is higher than the minimum practical threshold, it should look to be provided on-site.

*Table 5.3.1: Minimum area threshold for contributions:*

Classification		Minimum area of site provided
Allotments		0.40 ha (0.025 per plot)
Amenity greenspace		0.40 ha
Natural and semi natural		0.40 ha
Parks and gardens		2.00 ha
Play areas*	LAP	0.01 ha
	LEAP	0.04 ha
	NEAP/Other (e.g. MUGA, skate park)	0.10 ha

Source: GLA Open space strategies: Best practice guidance (2009)

Existing Unitary Development Plan Policy GR6 sets out that new family housing developments of 36 dwellings or more that would be further than 400 metres from an existing publicly accessible open space with an area of 1.5 hectares or above will be required to provide additional publicly accessible open space at 60 square metres for every new house with 2 or more bedrooms constructed and make provision for safe children's play, normally equivalent to a LEAP.

It is recommended that this policy is reviewed in line with the change in FIT standards and the proposed quantity and accessibility standards within this document. It should also reflect the impact that other forms of residential development can have on the need for open space.

The latest household projections for Wirral (ONS 2018) assume an average household size of 2.22 in 2020 and 2.12 in 2037.

\* Minimum recommended size for play areas by Fields In Trust

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Consequently, taking a mid-point (2.17), the following calculations are recommended to inform the approach to calculating the requirements for contributions to future provision:

- ◀ Basic minimum combined standard of 3.7 hectares per 1,000 population
- ◀ Equivalent to 37,000 square metres per 1,000 population
- ◀ Equivalent to 37,000 square metres per 460 dwellings (based on average of 2.17 persons per dwelling)
- ◀ Equivalent to 80 square metres per dwelling (or 0.008 hectares per dwelling) of which 6 square metres per dwelling (or 0.0006 hectares per dwelling) should be play provision

Therefore, the quantitative open space standard to apply is recommended to be **80 sqm per dwelling**.

In situations where a new housing development falls outside the relevant catchment of existing open space, provision should be expected to be provided on-site. Table 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 set out suggested minimum site areas to assist in this process.

*Table 5.3.2: Recommended minimum area thresholds for different types of open space\**

Open Space Classification	Minimum area of open space site to be provided (hectares)	On-site provision required at 'X' No' of dwellings*
Amenity greenspace	0.4	50
Natural and semi natural	0.4	50
Allotments	0.4 (0.025 per plot)	50
Parks and gardens	2.0	250

\* minimum number of dwellings required to achieve the appropriate minimum open space site area at the recommended quantity standard (0.008 per dwelling)

*Table 5.3.3: Recommended minimum area thresholds for different types of play provision*

Classification	Minimum area of site to be provided (hectares)	On-site provision required at 'X' No' of dwellings
LAP	0.01 (100sqm for play)	17
LEAP	0.04 (400sqm for play)	67
NEAP	0.10 (1,000sqm for play)	167
Other outdoor provision (i.e. MUGA, skate park)	0.10 (1,000sqm for play)	167

### *Play area recommendation*

The approach in Wirral has been to focus on seeking larger, more useable open spaces and on providing more substantial forms of play in larger neighbourhood and district parks. The Council often comes under pressure to remove smaller forms of open space and/or play, particularly in poorly supervised locations, due to their constrained layout and the propensity for anti-social behaviour. Smaller forms of provision also generally offer less recreational value whilst adding to the pressures of maintenance regimes and safety inspections.

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Contributions to open space and any associated play provision should therefore continue to focus on providing for play within larger open spaces and avoid the unnecessary creation of smaller sized open spaces and play areas that will be too small to fulfil their intended function without causing unnecessary disturbance to residents.

Any play facility requirements should be counted as additional to any other on-site open space requirement and provision of amenity greenspace should not be counted as informal play provision.

Specific provision for children's play may still be required where a development is within the catchment of a larger park or open space where the dwellings proposed would not fall within an appropriate distance of an existing play facility.

The play facilities set out in Table 5.3.3 should be provided within the wider open space to be provided.

In line with FIT guidance, a play area must be sited within an open space sufficient to accommodate the provision and its required buffer zone to ensure residential amenity is maintained. Buffer distances ensure that facilities do not enable users to overlook neighbouring properties, reducing possibility of conflict or nuisance.

### **Off-site contribution costs**

The following illustrative rates could be charged per square metre in instances where off-site contributions are required.

*Table 5.3.4: Rate of charge by provision type*

Provision type		Off-site contribution (£ per Square Metre of provision)	Equivalent off-site contribution per dwelling
Open Space*		£28	£2,072
Play space	LAP	£350	£2,100
	LEAP	£225	£1,350
	NEAP	£160	£960
	MUGA	£160	£960

The rate of charge for play provision is based on the average cost of a typical form of play facility for each play sub-classification. For example, a 400 square metre area of play (equivalent to 0.04 hectares) is estimated to cost £90,000. This works out as an equivalent to £225 per square metre (e.g. 90,000 / 400 = 225). Off-site contributions for play provision equivalent to LEAP are therefore anticipated to be charged at £225 per square metre. The Table 5.3.4 also shows the converted cost per dwelling.

Any final requirements will need to be subject to plan-wide viability assessment.

\* Using figure from different KKP study which established an approximate off-site cost

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### ***Planning Applications***

Planning applications should set out how the new development will impact on and provide for open space and play provision.

The application of the provision standards can help to identify where and what types of deficiencies may exist in an area. Consequently, developments should look to help tackle such shortfalls. For example, in an area with a deficiency in parks provision, the priority for a new development should be to provide new open space/public realm within the area which fit with the place making experiences and activities associated with a park.

The recommended accessibility standards (Part 4.2) and quality and value scores (Part 4.1) can also be used to help identify existing sites which could benefit from enhancement. In instances where a development is not within the accessibility catchment of an existing open space or is within the vicinity of a site which is considered by the Council to not be appropriate for further enhancement, the contribution may be directed towards a more strategic form of provision. Accessibility improvements to existing or planned open spaces may also be appropriate.

### ***Regeneration areas***

New high-density developments and/or developments in areas of high population density should create opportunities for new and improved public realm/open space to provide for local needs and to help integrate major developments into the surrounding urban fabric. This should include new publicly accessible open spaces and/or enhancements to existing open spaces.

In regeneration areas, strategic provision may need to be identified to ensure that all new residents will be within an appropriate distance of an appropriate size and quality of open space and securing access to larger forms of provision should be a priority. Further guidance will be set out in the forthcoming Birkenhead Design Guide, which may include alternative or innovative solutions to making appropriate local provision within regeneration areas.

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## APPENDIX ONE: QUALITY AND VALUE MATRIX SUMMARY BY TYPOLOGY

### Parks and gardens

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
1	Birkenhead Park	Birkenhead Suburban		
27	Hamilton Square Gardens	Birkenhead Commercial		
28	Marine Park	Wallasey Urban Area		
35	The Diamond (S)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
38	The Dell	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
40	The Diamond (N)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
71	Eastham Country Park	Rural		
127	Stanley Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
153	Royden Park	Rural		
243	Higher Bebington Recreation Ground	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
282	New Ferry Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
285	Bromborough Recreation Ground	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
305	Mayer Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
315	Brookhurst Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
318	Thornton Hough Recreation Ground	Rural		
319	Marfords Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
321	Poulton Recreation Ground	Rural		
330	Bidston Court Gardens	Birkenhead Suburban		
344	Torr Park	Rural		
356	Victoria Park	Birkenhead Suburban		
370	Hill House Grounds	Heswall Urban		
371	Dawstone Park	Heswall Urban		
372	Gayton Park (Playing Fields)	Rural		
384	Sandlea Park	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
391	Ashton Park	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
392	Meols Lower Green Recreation Ground (N)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
394	Meols Parade Gardens Recreation Ground	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
395	Queens Park	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
397	Victoria Gardens	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
413	Leasowe Brickfields	Rural		
423	Upton Park	Rural		
447	Lingham Park	Mid Wirral Urban		
451	Vale Park	Wallasey Urban		
459	Tower Grounds	Wallasey Urban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
476	Holm Lane Recreation Ground	Birkenhead Suburban		
488	Walker Park	Birkenhead Suburban		
491	Arrove Country Park	Rural		
498	Newton Park	Rural		
502	Greenbank Community Park	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
503	Coronation Park	Mid Wirral Urban		
531	Ridgewood Park Pensby	Heswall Urban		
535	Coronation Gardens	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
537	Irby Recreation Ground	Heswall Urban		
551	Mersey Park	Birkenhead Suburban		
565	Warwick Hey Park	Mid Wirral Urban		
569	Overchurch Park	Mid Wirral Urban		
582	Harrison Park	Wallasey Urban		
1038	Meols Lower Green Recreation Ground (S)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
5001	Wirral Country Park (Rural)	Rural		
5002	Wirral Country Park (Urban)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
7000	North Wirral Coastal Park	Rural		
8942	Central Park	Wallasey Urban		
8943	The Arno, Prenton	Birkenhead Suburban		

### Amenity greenspace

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
2	Arrove Brook Linear Park (Moreton)	Mid Wirral Urban		
12	Upton Pines Entrance	Mid Wirral Urban		
20	Gautby Road Recreation Ground	Birkenhead Suburban		
21	Fender Way Linear	Birkenhead Suburban		
30	Saughall Grange Recreation Ground	Mid Wirral Urban Area		
32	Park View Linear Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
33	The Diamond (E)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
37	Samaria Avenue Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
41	Lodge Lane Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
42	The Diamond (W)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
51	Wirral Gardens	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
52	Bebington Civic Frontage (North)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
55	Gilbrook Square (West)	Birkenhead Suburban		
75	Delamere Avenue Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
88	Telegraph Road Open Space	Heswall Urban		
97	Green Lane Playing Field	Rural		
98	Meols Parade Open Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
103	Barn Hey Crescent	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
104	Goose Green Frontage	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
111	Poets Corner	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
112	Demesne Street	Wallasey Urban		
113	Burdett Avenue/Inley Road	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
114	Maddock Road	Wallasey Urban		
117	Bluewood Drive	Birkenhead Suburban		
118	Old Court House Road	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
119	School Lane open space	Birkenhead Sub Urban Area		
121	Lyndale Ave. Backland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
122	Chester High Road playing field	Rural		
124	Reeds Lane Nature Area	Mid Wirral Urban Area		
125	Mount Road Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
126	Church Lane Playing Field	Mid Wirral Urban Area		
135	Townfield Close Open Space (Hargrave)	Birkenhead Suburban		
137	Farndon Way Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
141	Meadow Crescent Open Space (N)	Mid Wirral Urban		
144	Osmaston Road War Memorial	Birkenhead Suburban		
148	Royden Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
152	Greasby Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
167	Paton Close Open Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
173	Sandon Road	Wallasey Urban		
174	Wallasey Town Hall Gardens	Wallasey Urban		
175	Magazine Promenade Plantations	Wallasey Urban		
196	Howson Street	Birkenhead Suburban		
197	Rock Park Esplanade	Birkenhead Suburban		
198	Bedford Road AGS	Birkenhead Suburban		
223	Bayswater Gardens	Wallasey Urban		
244	Kings Lane Playing Fields	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
247	Derwent Road	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
249	Atherton Street / Portland Street Greenspace	Wallasey Urban		
250	Kings Parade	Wallasey Urban		
257	Ilchester Square AGS	Birkenhead Suburban		
261	Beechwood Park	Birkenhead Suburban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
262	Lennox Lane Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
267	Woodlands Community Park	Birkenhead Suburban		
271	Connaught Way	Birkenhead Suburban		
272	Bentinck Street	Birkenhead Suburban		
281	Windy Bank Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
283	Owen Street Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
284	Port Causeway AGS	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
286	Walker Street Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
287	Mayfields Playing Field	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
288	Onslow Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
289	The Ginnel	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
290	Bradmoor Recreation Ground	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
291	Church Drive Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
296	Boundary Road Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
300	Shorefields Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
308	Stanton Road Play Area (The Hollows)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
310	Poulton Road Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
311	Radford Avenue Linear	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
317	Brimstage Green	Rural		
320	Brome Green	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
327	Sorrell Close Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
329	Olivia Close	Birkenhead Suburban		
333	Kings Parade	Wallasey Urban		
334	Bentham Close Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
342	Plymyard Playing Fields (W)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
343	Heygarth Road Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
346	Kelsall Avenue	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
347	Plymyard Playing Fields (E)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
350	Eastham Rake	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
369	Puddy Dale	Heswall Urban		
381	Hoylake Promenade Open Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
382	Grove AGS	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
386	Anglesey Road Playing Field	Rural		
393	Carr Lane	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
396	Sandringham Avenue Playing Field	Rural		
406	Pasture Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
409	Twickenham Drive AGS	Mid Wirral Urban		
411	Yew Tree Green AGS	Mid Wirral Urban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
412	Leasowe Adventure Play	Mid Wirral Urban		
414	Whiteheath AGS	Mid Wirral Urban		
416	Kings Parade	Wallasey Urban		
424	Knutsford Green	Mid Wirral Urban		
431	Wallacre Playing Fields	Wallasey Urban		
432	Delph Sports Ground	Wallasey Urban		
444	Berwick Close Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
455	Delph AGS	Wallasey Urban		
456	St Georges Park	Wallasey Urban		
457	Earlston Gardens	Wallasey Urban		
462	Quarry Recreation Ground	Wallasey Urban		
469	The Grove Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
477	Davenham Avenue	Birkenhead Suburban		
478	Shavington Avenue	Birkenhead Suburban		
487	Prenton Hall Road AGS	Birkenhead Suburban		
490	Woodchurch Leisure Centre	Rural		
497	Broadway Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
501	Grange Farm Crescent	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
504	Bromsgrove Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
505	Circular Drive Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
506	Mere Park Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
512	Limekiln Lane Community Park	Wallasey Urban		
513	North Seacombe Recreation Ground (Desmense St)	Wallasey Urban		
515	Bridle Road AGS	Wallasey Urban		
516	Citrine Park	Wallasey Urban		
517	Vernon Avenue	Wallasey Urban		
518	Oakdale Recreation Ground	Wallasey Urban		
519	Luke Street AGS	Wallasey Urban		
522	Rycroft Road Playing Fields	Wallasey Urban		
536	Oaklea Road	Heswall Urban		
538	Madeley Drive Open Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
539	Devonshire Road Playing Field	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
547	Conway Playing Field	Birkenhead Suburban		
550	Holt Hill Quarry Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
553	Delta Road Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
554	Pembroke Court	Birkenhead Suburban		
568	Woodpecker Close Ponds	Mid Wirral Urban		
574	Kingfisher Way Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban		
575	N of Upton Cricket Club	Mid Wirral Urban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
579	Elleray Park	Wallasey Urban		
583	Kings Parade	Wallasey Urban		
586	Folly Lane Open Space	Wallasey Urban		
595	Flynns Piece	Wallasey Urban		
596	St Hilarys Gardens	Wallasey Urban		
597	Belvidere Recreation Ground	Wallasey Urban		
685	Kings Parade	Wallasey Urban		
752	Wilfred Owen Drive Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
759	Bedford Avenue Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
788	Former St James Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
834	Cornflower Way	Mid Wirral Urban		
835	Brookthorpe Close	Wallasey Urban		
837	Kinloss Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
854	New Hey Road	Mid Wirral Urban		
857	Sandon Promenade Open Space	Wallasey Urban		
860	Curlew Way Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
864	Egremont Promenade Plantations	Wallasey Urban		
865	Torrington Drive Woodlands	Heswall Urban		
873	Knox Close Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
874	Cressida Avenue AGS	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
875	Bebington Oval Playing Fields	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
886	Thorburn Close Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
888	Gorse Hill Park	Wallasey Urban		
896	Rock Park Pocket Park	Birkenhead Suburban		
912	Queen Marys Drive Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
914	Lower Road Backland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
917	Pool Bank Backland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
918	Saughall Massie Road Backland	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
920	Kings Close Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
935	Greenwood Road Backland	Mid Wirral Urban		
939	Hoole Road Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
940	The Crescent Plantations	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
943	Carr Bridge Road Backland	Mid Wirral Urban		
945	Common Field Road Linear (fender footpath)	Mid Wirral Urban		
1039	Wastedale Court Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1041	Curlew Court Backland	Mid Wirral Urban		
1042	Mallard Way Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1048	Martin Close	Heswall Urban		
1056	Epsom Road P	Mid Wirral Urban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
1057	Cheltenham Road Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1058	Valley Road Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
1061	Noctorum Way Woodland	Birkenhead Suburban		
1087	Tollemache Road AGS	Birkenhead Suburban		
1088	Fulford Park AGS	Mid Wirral Urban		
1124	Noctorum Way	Birkenhead Suburban		
1126	Lincoln Gardens AGS	Birkenhead Suburban		
1128	Grovedale Drive AGS	Mid Wirral Urban		
1132	Bidston Village Road	Birkenhead Suburban		
1134	Wharf Street Linear	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1168	Eaton Place AGS	Birkenhead Suburban		
1178	Carlett Park Playing Field	Rural		
1183	Tam O Shanter Urban Farm	Birkenhead Suburban		
1189	Hanover Close Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
1221	Osbourne Court Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1229	Delamere Avenue Linear Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1230	Leasowe Recreation Centre Playing Field (Leas	Mid Wirral Urban		
1231	Scott's Field Linear	Birkenhead Commercial		
1237	Manor Way Linear	Birkenhead Suburban		
1244	Abbot's Drive Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1246	Ashton Way Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1249	Carlett Park Chapel Open Space	Rural		
1252	Bromborough Pool Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1257	Arkhill Gardens Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1259	Rake Hey Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1261	Oak Close Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1262	Hazelwood	Mid Wirral Urban		
1263	Farmside Amenity Green Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1269	Grange Farm Crescent Linear	Rural		
1270	Mereworth Open Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
1271	Lartonwood Amenity Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
1272	New Bold Crescent Green Space	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
1273	Denning Drive Open Space	Heswall Urban		
1276	Riverbank Road Green Space	Rural		
1277	Hoylake Road Amenity Space	Rural		
1281	Bullrush Drive Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1282	Arrowe Brook Linear Saughall Massie	Mid Wirral Urban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
6000	The Grange	Wallasey Urban		
6868	Oakland Vale Plantations	Wallasey Urban		
8940	Home Farm Close Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
8944	Hawthorne Grove	Wallasey Urban		

### Natural and semi-natural greenspace

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
4	Heswall Pinewoods (Gayton)	Heswall Urban		
5	Woodchurch Community Woodland	Rural		
7	Brookhurst Avenue (Plymyard Dale)	Rural		
9	Port Sunlight River Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
15	Boundary Road Open Space (Rhododendon Gardens)	Birkenhead Suburban		
18	Compton Road Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
19	Bidston Hill (North)	Birkenhead Suburban		
23	Bidston Moss LNR	Rural		
31	Bromborough Road Woodland (S)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
34	Bromborough Road Woodland (N)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
36	The Glen Open Space	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
47	Marfords Wood	Rural		
48	Dibbinsview Grove Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
49	Plymyard Dale Woodland	Rural		
50	Brimstage Road Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
53	Paradise Wood	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
54	Dibbins Green Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
56	Dibbinsdale LNR (West)	Rural		
57	Poulton Road Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
59	Thornton Common	Rural		
64	Vyner Road South Open Space	Birkenhead Suburban		
65	Bidston Hill (South)	Birkenhead Suburban		
70	Lowfields	Rural		
73	Estham Rake Woods	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
76	Allport Common	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
80	Cheviot Road Wood	Birkenhead Suburban		
86	Feather Lane Woodland	Heswall Urban		
87	Heswall Beacons	Heswall Urban		
89	Poll Hill	Heswall Urban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
91	Heswall Dales LNR	Heswall Urban		
96	Monkey Wood	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
102	Roman Road Open Space (West)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
105	Grange Hill	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
115	Burford Avenue Woodland	Wallasey Urban		
120	Paulsfield Drive Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban		
123	Former RAF Camp	Rural		
143	Prenton Dell Open Space	Rural		
149	Newton Common	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
151	Gilroy Nature Park	Rural		
155	Thorns Drive Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban		
156	Hambledon Drive Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
180	Irby Quarry	Rural		
181	Thurstaston Common (National Trust)	Rural		
185	Stapeldon Wood	Rural		
186	Caldy Hill	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
187	Harrock Wood (National Trust)	Rural		
188	Heswall Fields (National Trust)	Rural		
189	Irby Common (National Trust)	Rural		
194	Former Royal Rock Hotel	Birkenhead Suburban		
200	Rock Park Linear Woodland	Birkenhead Suburban		
204	Norwich Drive Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban		
205	Salacre Crescent Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban		
208	Nuffield Close Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban		
209	Upton Meadow (Woodland Trust)	Mid Wirral Urban		
210	Headington Road Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban		
212	Saughall Massie Road Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban		
213	Weybourne Close Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban		
220	Captains Pit	Wallasey Urban		
222	Cross Lane Community Woodland	Wallasey Urban		
312	Colmore Avenue Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
368	Whitfield Common	Heswall Urban		
388	Greenbank Road Playing Field	Rural		
422	Mereheath Wood	Mid Wirral Urban		
461	Kings Parade (Red and Yellow Noses)	Wallasey Urban		
751	Devisdale Grove Woodland	Birkenhead Suburban		
754	Eleanor Road Woodland	Birkenhead Suburban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
868	The Breck Recreation Ground	Wallasey Urban		
879	Roman Road Open Space (East)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
890	Flaybrick Linear (Lower Flaybrick)	Birkenhead Suburban		
895	Bidston Moss Community Woodland	Birkenhead Commercial		
963	Red Rocks Coastal Frontage	Rural		
1033	Elm Grove Woodland	Rural		
1075	Vyner Road South Walkway	Birkenhead Suburban		
1107	NWCP - Telegraph Lane Open Space	Rural		
1108	Eastham Coastal Frontage	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1111	Caldy Hill (National Trust)	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
1115	Thurstaston Common	Rural		
1122	Dibbinsdale LNR (East)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1129	Fendale Avenue Open Space	Mid Wirral Urban		
1145	Hilbre Islands LNR	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
1146	Arrowe Brook Road Woodland	Mid Wirral Urban		
1148	Cleaver Heath (Wirral Wildlife)	Heswall Urban		
1172	Dee Coast Nature Reserve	Rural		
1198	Bidston Moss Linear Nature Reserve	Birkenhead Commercial		
1248	Carlett Park Woodland	Rural		
1250	Hesketh Road Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1278	Jenny's Wood	Rural		
6008	Benty Hey Woodland	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
6009	Storeton Wood (Woodland Trust)	Rural		
6812	Brackenwood Park	Rural		
8949	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
123	Former RAF Camp	Rural		

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## Provision for children and young people

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
1.1	Birkenhead Park play area	Birkenhead Suburban		
2.1	Arrowe Brook Linear Park play area	Mid Wirral Urban		
21.1	Beechwood Skate Park	Birkenhead Suburban		
116	Hesketh Way play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
196.1	Howson Street MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban		
198.1	Bedford Road Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban		
211	Woodview Avene Play Area (Wheatland Lane Play	Wallasey Urban		
243.1	Higher Bebington play area 1	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
243.2	Higher Bebington play area 2	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
257.1	Ilchester Square play area	Birkenhead Suburban		
257.2	Ilchester Square MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban		
258	Vulcan Close Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban		
267.1	Woodlands Community Park play area	Birkenhead Suburban		
267.2	Woodlands Community Park MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban		
273	Gallaghers Hill Play Area (Price Street)	Birkenhead Commercial		
282.1	New Ferry Park play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
282.2	New Ferry Park MUGA	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
284.1	Port Causeway Play Area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
285.1	Bromborough Recreation Ground play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
285.2	Bromborough Recreation Ground basketball area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
305.1	Mayer Park play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
315.1	Brookhurst Park play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
318.1	Thornton Hough Recreation Ground play area	Rural		
319.1	Marfords Park play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
344.1	Torr Park play area	Rural Area		
346.1	Kelsall Avenue Play Area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
346.2	Kelsall Avenue basketball area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
347.1	Plymyard Playing Fields basketball area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
350.1	Eastham Rake Play Area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
350.2	Eastham Rake skate park	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
350.3	Eastham Rake basketball area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
356.1	Victoria Park play area	Birkenhead Suburban		
356.2	Victoria Park MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban		
369.1	Puddy Dale play area	Heswall Urban		
371.1	Dawson Park play area	Heswall Urban		
372.1	Gayton Park play area	Rural		
382.1	Grove Play Area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
391.1	Ashton Park play area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
391.2	Ashton Park MUGA	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
393.1	Carr Lane Play Area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
394.1	Meols Parade Gardens basketball	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
394.2	Meols Parade Gardens five-a-side	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
395.1	Queens Park play area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
406.1	Pasture Road basketball area	Mid Wirral Urban		
408	Cameron Road Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban		
409.1	Twickenham Drive Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban		
411.1	Yew Tree Green Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban		
411.2	Yew Tree Green MUGA	Mid Wirral Urban		
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		
419	Farnworth Avenue Play Area (Ditton Lane)	Mid Wirral Urban		
423.1	Upton Park play area	Rural		
423.2	Upton Park basketball area	Rural		
429	Urmson Road Play Area	Wallasey Urban		
430	Wallacre Play Area	Wallasey Urban		
447.1	Lingham Park play area	Mid Wirral Urban		
451.1	Vale Park play area	Wallasey Urban		
451.2	Vale Park football area	Wallasey Urban		
457.1	Earlston Gardens play area	Wallasey Urban		
459.1	Tower Grounds play areas	Wallasey Urban		
459.2	Tower Grounds MUGA	Wallasey Urban		
459.3	Tower Grounds skate park	Wallasey Urban		
462.1	Quarry Recreation Ground play area	Wallasey Urban		
462.2	Quarry Recreation Ground MUGA	Wallasey Urban		
476.1	Holm Lane Recreation Ground play area	Birkenhead Suburban		
487.1	Prenton Hall Road Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
491.1	Arrowe Country Park play area	Rural		
498.1	Newton Park play areas	Rural		
498.2	Newton Park MUGA	Rural		
502.1	Greenbank Community Park play area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
502.2	Greenbank Community Park basketball area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
503.1	Coronation Park play area	Mid Wirral Urban		
513.1	North Seacombe Recreation Ground play area	Wallasey Urban		
515.1	Bridle Road Play Area	Wallasey Urban		
517.1	Vernon Avenue MUGA	Wallasey Urban		
518.1	Oakdale Recreation Ground play area	Wallasey Urban		
519.1	Luke Street MUGA	Wallasey Urban		
523	Rappart Road MUGA	Wallasey Urban		
531.1	Ridgewood Park play area	Heswall Urban		
537.1	Irby Recreation Ground play area	Heswall Urban		
551.1	Mersey Park play area	Birkenhead Suburban		
551.2	Mersey Park MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban		
554.1	Pembroke Court MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban		
555	Thorsway Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban		
562	Woodchurch Community Centre Play Area and MUGA	Rural		
565.1	Warwick Hey Park play area	Mid Wirral Urban		
582.1	Harrison Park play area	Wallasey Urban		
582.3	Harrison Park MUGA	Wallasey Urban		
834.1	Cornflower Way Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban		
874.1	Cressida Avenue Play Area (Juliet Avenue)	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
874.2	Cressida Avenue MUGA	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1010	Gautby Road Community Centre Kickabout Cage	Birkenhead Suburban		
1011	Gautby Road Community Centre play area	Birkenhead Suburban		
1038.1	Meols Lower Green Recreation Ground play area	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
1087.1	Tollemache Road Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban		
1087.2	Tollemache Road Kickabout Area	Birkenhead Suburban		
1088.1	Fulford Park Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban		
1093	Livingstone Street Community Centre Kickabout	Birkenhead Suburban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
1126.1	Lincoln Gardens MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban		
1128.1	Grovedale Drive Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban		
1139	Union Street MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban		
1140	Beechwood Recreation Centre MUGA	Birkenhead Suburban		
1141	Charing Cross Kickabout Cage & Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban		
1168.1	Eaton Place Play Area	Birkenhead Suburban		
1169	Rose Brae Play Area	Birkenhead Commercial		
1252.1	Bromborough Pool play area	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1253	Eastham Youth Centre Games Court	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1266	Upton Pines Play Area	Mid Wirral Urban		
8942.1	Central Park play area	Wallasey Urban		
8942.2	Central Park MUGA	Wallasey Urban		

### Allotments

Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
756	Beaconsfield Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
757	Bebington Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
758	Bedford Avenue Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
760	Boundary Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
761	Buckingham Avenue Allotments	Wallasey Urban		
762	Carlett Park Allotments	Rural		
764	Carrodus Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
765	Church Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
766	Cross Lane Allotments	Wallasey Urban		
767	Dawson Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
768	Earlston Allotments	Wallasey Urban		
769	Fairview Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
770	Forwood Road Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
772	Harris Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
773	Hill Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
774	Ilford Avenue Allotments	Wallasey Urban		
775	King Georges Way Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
776	Landican Allotments	Rural		
777	Landsdown Place Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
778	Manor Lane Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
779	Manor Drive Allotments	Mid Wirral Urban		

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Site ID	Site name	Settlement area	Quality	Value
781	Molyneux Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
782	Mosslands Drive Allotments	Wallasey Urban		
783	Mountwood Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
784	Newton Park Allotments	Rural		
785	Ormonde Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
786	Plymyard Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
787	Wingate Road Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
789	Salacre Allotments	Mid Wirral Urban		
790	Sandringham Avenue Allotments	Rural		
791	Shakeshaft Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
792	Sumner Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
793	Teehey Road Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
794	Thornton Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
795	Tollemache Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
796	Upton Road Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
797	Belvidere Allotments	Wallasey Urban		
902	Shore Drive Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
903	Woodhead Road Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
915	Corniche Road Allotments	Bromborough Eastham Urban		
1174	Raby Road Allotments	Rural		
1175	Smithy Hill Allotments	Rural		
1188	Coronation Park Allotments	Mid Wirral Urban		
1193	Grange Hill Allotments	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
1233	Edward Kemp Community Garden	Birkenhead Suburban		
1255	Leasowe Allotments	Mid Wirral Urban		
1274	The Warrens Allotments	Rural		
5201	Love Lane Allotments	Wallasey Urban		
7003	Ashton Park Allotments	West Kirby Hoylake Urban		
7004	Shaftsbury Allotments	Birkenhead Suburban		
8947	Gilroy Road Allotments	Rural		

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## APPENDIX TWO: STRATEGIC SITES

Figure A2.1: Map of strategic sites

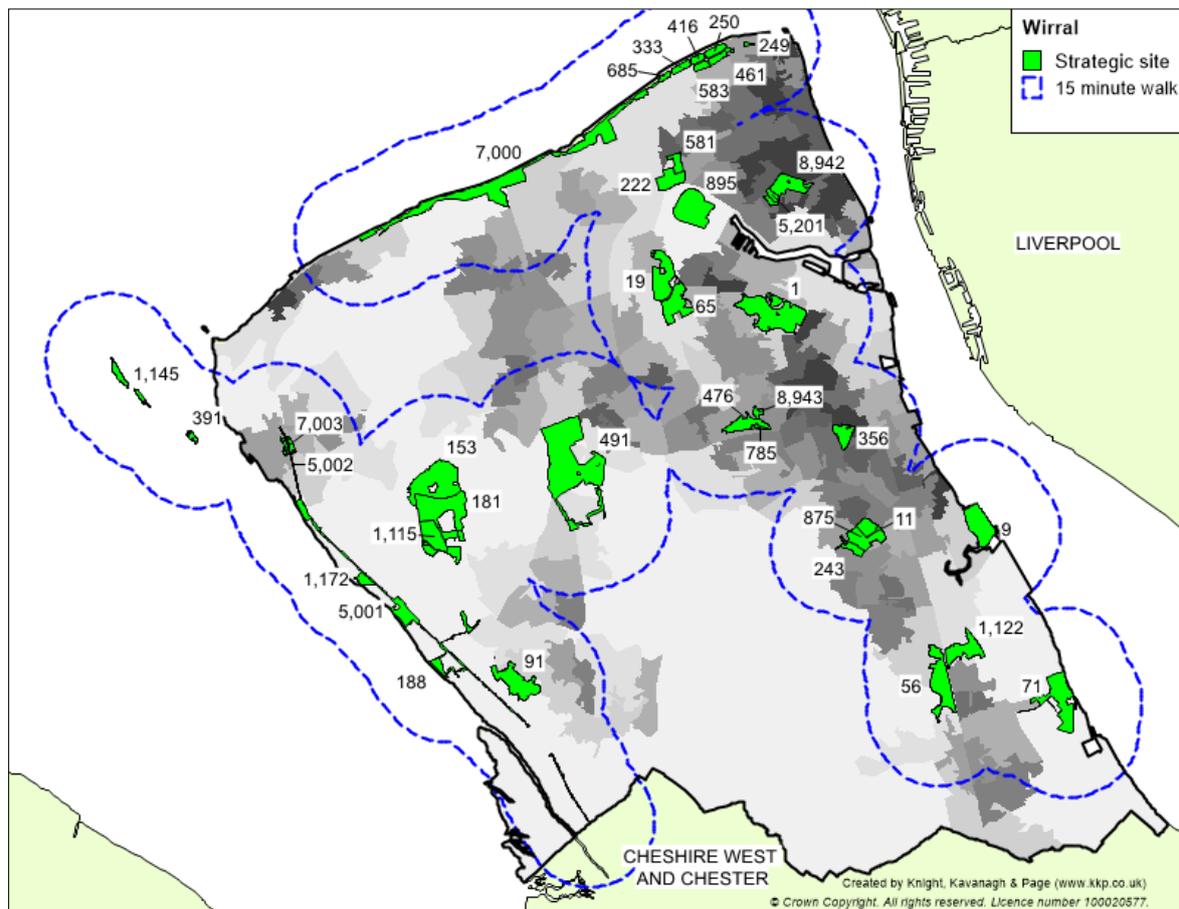


Table A2.1: List of strategic sites

Site ID	Site name	Open space type
1	Birkenhead Park	Parks and Gardens
9	Port Sunlight River Park	Semi / Natural greenspaces
11	Bebington Cemetery	Cemetery
243	Higher Bebington Recreation Ground	Parks and Gardens
875	Oval Playing Fields	Amenity greenspace
19	Bidston Hill (North)	Semi / Natural greenspaces
56	Dibbinsdale LNR (West)	Semi / Natural greenspaces
65	Bidston Hill (South)	Semi / Natural greenspaces
71	Eastham Country Park	Parks and Gardens
91	Heswall Dales LNR and Cleaver Heath	Semi / Natural greenspaces
153	Royden Park	Parks and Gardens
181	Thurstaston Common (National Trust)	Semi / Natural greenspaces

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Site ID	Site name	Open space type
222	Cross Lane Community Woodland (plus 581 School Lane Playing Fields)	Semi / Natural greenspaces Amenity greenspace
250	Kings Parade (plus 249, 333, 416, 461, 583, 685)	Amenity greenspace
356	Victoria Park	Parks and Gardens
476	Holm Lane Recreation Ground (plus 8943 The Arno and 785 Ormonde Allotments)	Parks and Gardens Parks and Gardens Allotments
491	Arrowe Country Park	Parks and Gardens
895	Bidston Moss	Semi / Natural greenspaces
1115	Thurstaston Common	Semi / Natural greenspaces
1122	Dibbinsdale LNR (East)	Semi / Natural greenspaces
1145	Hilbre Islands LNR	Semi / Natural greenspaces
5001	Wirral Country Park (Rural) (Plus 188 Heswall Fields and 1172 Dawpool Nature Reserve)	Parks and Gardens Semi / Natural greenspaces Semi / Natural greenspaces
5002	Wirral Country Park (Urban) (Plus 391 Ashton Park and 7003 Ashton Park Allotments)	Parks and Gardens Parks and Gardens Allotments
7000	North Wirral Coastal Park	Parks and Gardens
8942	Central Park (plus 5201 Love Lane Allotments)	Parks and Gardens Allotments

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## APPENDIX THREE: SITES ABOVE 1.5 HA WITH 720M CATCHMENT

Figure A4.1: Map of sites above 1.5 ha with 720m catchment

