



# **ALLERDALE OPEN SPACE STUDY**

## **OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

### **JULY 2014**

**Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration**

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## **Glossary**

AGS	Amenity Greenspace
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group (including users groups and advisory groups)
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LDNP	Lake District National Park
LDNPA	Lake District National Park Authority
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area using a synthetic grass or hard surface for playing sports)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
NSN	Natural and Semi-natural
ONS	Office of National Statistics
OSF	Outdoor Sports Facilities
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PROW	Public Rights of Way
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Allerdale Borough Council (ABC). It focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpins the study.

It forms part of a suite of reports that together make up the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study.

- ◀ Open spaces
- ◀ Playing pitches and outdoor sports
- ◀ Indoor built sports facilities

The Assessment Report provides detail with regard to what provision exists in Allerdale, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It also considers the demand for provision based on population distribution, planned growth and consultation findings. The Strategy (to follow the assessment reports) will give direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable provision for open spaces, sport and recreation in Allerdale.

This study replaces a previous set of reports, referred to as the Allerdale Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2008, which predominately focused on identifying local needs in relation to quantity and accessibility.

Although Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) has now been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), this assessment of open space facilities is carried out in accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guide entitled 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' published in September 2002 as it remains the only national guidance on carrying out an open space assessment.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the PPG17 Companion Guidance.

'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17' still reflects the Government policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out previously in PPG17. The long-term outcomes aim to deliver:

- ◀ Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors that are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ◀ An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision.
- ◀ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision.

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## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

This assessment covers the following open space typologies:

*Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions*

	Typology	Primary purpose
<b>Greenspaces</b>	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.
	Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of 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 sustainability, health and social inclusion.
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
<b>Civic spaces</b>	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians including the promenade	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

### 1.1 Report structure

#### ***Open spaces***

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space facilities in Allerdale. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all open spaces originally defined in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'; it is structured as follows:

- Part 3: General open space summary
- Part 4: Parks and gardens
- Part 5: Natural and semi-natural greenspace
- Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- Part 7: Provision for children and young people
- Part 8: Allotments
- Part 9: Cemeteries/churchyards
- Part 10: Civic space

The typology of green corridors is not included as part of the study. Given the wide expanses of accessible countryside in Allerdale there is thought to be little value in auditing and assessing such provision. However, the role of these spaces should be acknowledged particularly when looking at the relationship between urban and rural links.

For further information on the provision of green corridors, guidance should be sought from organisations such as Cumbria County Council and relevant documents such as the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan (PROWIP).

### ***Associated strategies***

The study sits alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Built Facilities Strategy being undertaken by KKP. The former is in accordance with the methodology provided in Sport England's Draft Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities. Both Strategies are provided in separate reports.

### **1.2 National context**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the reformed planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

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

Under paragraph 73 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 74 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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



### 1.3 Local context

This study and its audit findings are important in the contribution to the production of the Council's Local Plan development and is an integral part of identifying and regulating the open space infrastructure. Through recognising the provision of open spaces in plan form, provision can be assessed in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, whilst strengthening its presence in planning policy for the future and looking to maximise opportunities for investment. Below is a brief summary of the local context in which the study has been undertaken.

#### ***Allerdale Local Plan***

The document sets out the long-term planning and development in the area as part of the National Planning Policy Framework. It is a collection of the Council's planning policy documents that outline the spatial strategy for the local area.

The Core Strategy is the principal document of the Local Plan. It set the strategic vision and objectives of how the area is expected to grow up to 2029. It will importantly help to determine development proposals through planning applications.

Identified within the Strategy are six Strategic Objectives which relate to the priorities for the Allerdale area. These include:

- ◆ Climate change and sustainability
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Economy
- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Built environment
- ◆ Natural environment

Policy S25 – Open space and recreation seeks to safeguard existing open space, sport and recreation facilities in the area. It identifies that any development which results in the loss of such provision will not be permitted. Except in circumstances where; replacement provision can be provided at an accessible location close by, or, improvements to recreational facilities can be provided to a level sufficient to outweigh the loss of any provision.

# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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## PART 2: METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Analysis areas

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, Allerdale is divided into six analysis areas (reflecting the geographical and demographical nature of the area).

These allow more localised assessment of provision in addition to examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies at a more local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. Allerdale is therefore, broken down as follows:

*Table 2.1: Population by analysis area*

Analysis area	Population (2011)*
Aspatria	6,557
Cockermouth	15,771
Maryport	15,309
Silloth	4,996
Wigton	14,697
Workington	32,234
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>89,564</b>

Wards, and the open space provision within in them, covered by the Lake District National Park (LDNP) are not included within the analysis areas. This is because Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) is not the planning authority for these areas.

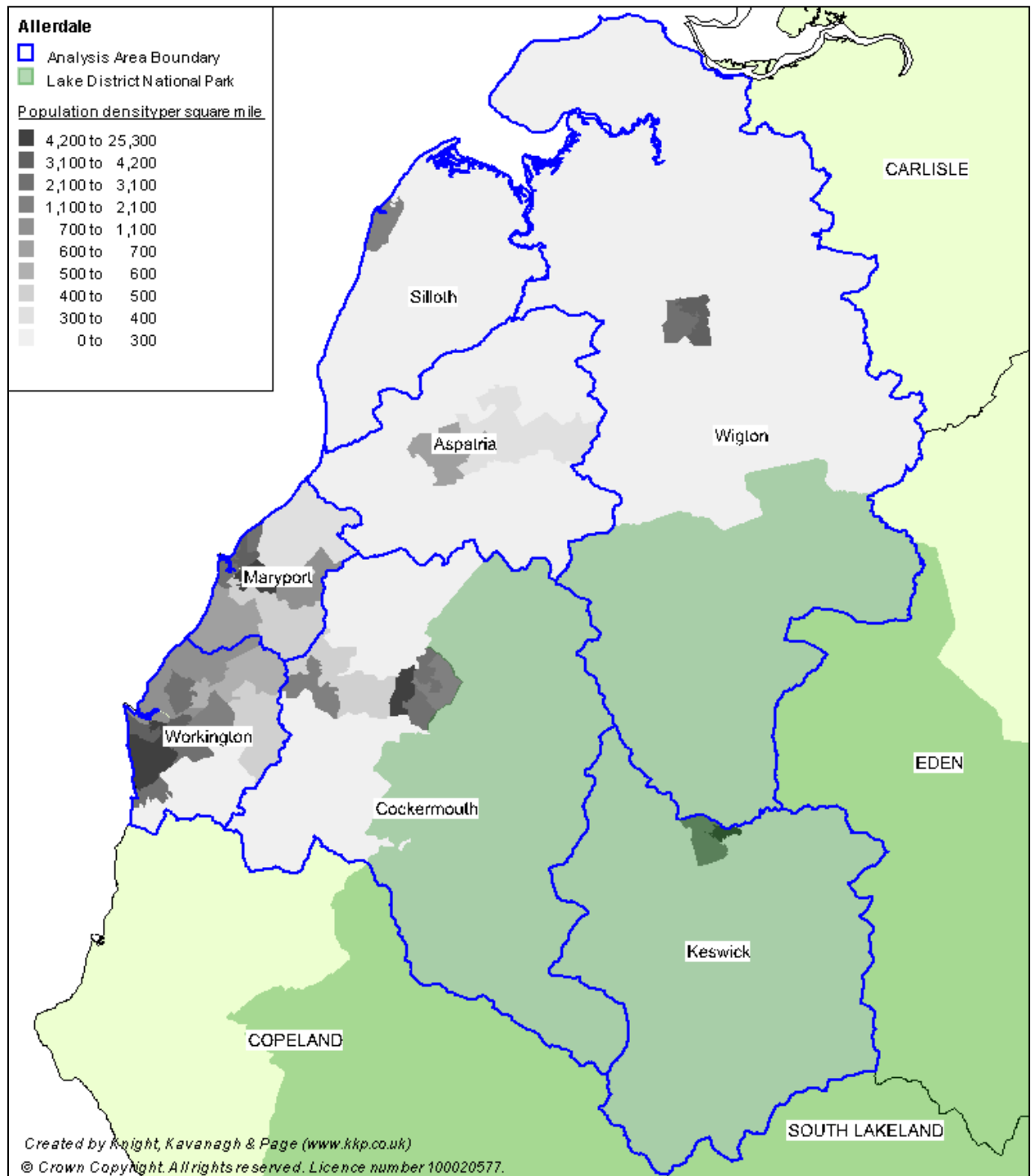
Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the map of analysis areas with population density.

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\* Source: ONS Interim 2011 based population projections

# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.1: Analysis areas in Allerdale



### 2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The site audit for this study was undertaken by the KKP Field Research Team. In total, 281 open spaces (including provision for children and young people) are identified, plotted on GIS and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and therefore the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with guidance:

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards
7. Civic space

In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. However, some sites below the threshold (i.e. those that are identified through consultation as being of significance) are included. The list below details the threshold for each typology:

- ✦ Parks and gardens – no threshold
- ✦ Natural and semi-natural greenspace – 0.2 ha
- ✦ Amenity greenspace – 0.2 ha
- ✦ Provision for children and young people – no threshold
- ✦ Allotments – no threshold
- ✦ Cemeteries/churchyards – no threshold
- ✦ Civic space – no threshold

### ***Database development***

All information relating to open spaces across Allerdale is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites included within the audit, as identified and assessed, are included within it. The database details for each site are as follows:

#### **Data held on open spaces database (summary)**

- ✦ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ✦ Site name
- ✦ Ownership
- ✦ Management
- ✦ Typology
- ✦ Size (hectares)
- ✦ Site visit data

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

### 2.3 Quality and value

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be in an inaccessible location and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (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. Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. This will also allow application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus to a particular open space typology.

#### *Analysis of quality*

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

#### **Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)**

- ◆ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts,
- ◆ Personal security, e.g., site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- ◆ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths
- ◆ Parking, e.g., availability, specific, disabled parking
- ◆ Information signage, e.g., presence of up to date site information, notice boards
- ◆ Equipment and facilities, e.g., assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
- ◆ Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace
- ◆ Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti
- ◆ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., fencing, gates, staff on site
- ◆ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of general landscape & features
- ◆ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people
- ◆ Site potential

For the provision for children and young people, the criteria is also built around Green Flag and is a non technical visual assessment of the whole site, including general equipment and surface quality/appearance but also including an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision. This differs, for example, from an independent RosPA review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

Children's and young people play provision is scored for value as part of the audit assessment. In particular value is recognised in terms of size of sites and the range of equipment they host. For instance, a small site with only a single piece of equipment is likely to be of a lower value than a site with several different forms of equipment designed to cater for wider age ranges.

### **Analysis of value**

Using data calculated from the site visits and desk based research a value score for each site is identified. Value is defined in a Companion Guide to PPG17 in relation to the following three issues:

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

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

#### **Value criteria for open space site visits (score)**

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

#### **Value - non site visit criteria (score)**

- ✦ Designated site such as LNR or SSSI
- ✦ Educational programme in place
- ✦ Historic site
- ✦ Listed building or historical monument on site
- ✦ Registered 'friends of' group to the site

### **2.4 Quality and value thresholds**

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the results of the site assessments have been 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 base line threshold for assessing quality can often be set around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is not always appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Quality thresholds have therefore been based to reflect average scores more for each typology.

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Consequently baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

*Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology*

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Allotments	40%	20%
Amenity greenspace	40%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	45%	20%
Civic space	50%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	30%	20%
Parks and gardens	50%	20%
Provision for children and young people	45%	20%

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

### 2.5 Identifying local need (demand)

Consultation to identify local need for open space provision has been carried out through face-to-face meetings and telephone interviews.

Face to face meetings were held with the town councils. In addition a postal questionnaire was sent to all the parish councils. This helped to pick up on issues, problems and concerns relating to open space provision at a more local level, as well as identifying the attitudes and needs of the broader local community. It also allowed any local issues and aspirations to be identified.

This has also been supplemented by face-to-face and/or telephone interviews with key local authority officers and groups responsible for the management and development of sites relating to each typology.

### 2.6 Accessibility standards

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

Guidance is offered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) (2002): 'Guide to preparing open space strategies' with regard to appropriate catchment areas for authorities to adopt. However, in order to make accessibility standards more locally specific to Allerdale, we propose using data from the previous Open Space Study to set appropriate catchments. The following standards are recorded in relation to how far residents are willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

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*Table 2.3: Accessibility standards to travel to open space provision*

Typology	KKP applied standard
Allotments	15 minute walk time (1200m)
	15 minute drive time
Amenity greenspace	10 minute walk time (800m)
Cemeteries	No standard set
Civic spaces	No standard set
Natural and semi-natural	15 minute walk time (1200m)
	30 minute drive time
Parks and gardens	15 minute walk time (1200m)
	15 minute drive time
Provision for children and young people	15 minute walk time (1200m)
	20 minute drive time

Most typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 15 minute walk time. For many of the open space typologies dual walk and drive time accessibility standards have been set. This is designed to reflect the rural characteristics of the Borough as well as the nature of use for these types of provision; with users often being willing to travel by transport as well as by foot.

No standard is set for the typologies of cemeteries or civic spaces. It is difficult to assess such typologies against catchment areas due to their nature and usage. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.



### PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section describes generic trends and findings from the quality and value ratings for each typology in Allerdale. It describes the generic issues that cut across more than one typology. The typology and site specific issues are covered in the relevant sections later in this report.

Management and maintenance responsibilities of open spaces are undertaken by a number of organisations across Allerdale. The Council predominantly has responsibility for more strategic forms of provision such as parks, key play sites and burial provision. In addition, a significant number of sites are managed by parish and town councils. For example, the parish and town councils provide all allotment provision in the Borough.

#### 3.1 Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. The table below summarises the results of all the quality assessment for open spaces across Allerdale.

*Table 3.1: Quality scores for all open space typologies*

Typology	Threshold	Maximum score	Scores			No' of sites	
			Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	40%	124	31%	43%	54%	1	25
Amenity greenspace	40%	121	25%	49%	73%	17	71
Cemeteries/churchyards	45%	161	35%	51%	67%	2	38
Provision for children & young people	45%	97	21%	55%	89%	10	48
Civic space	50%	146	52%	63%	74%	-	3
Park and gardens	50%	159	42%	60%	77%	1	10
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	30%	117	6%	35%	71%	16	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>229</b>

Over four fifths (83%) of assessed open spaces in Allerdale score high for quality. More natural and semi-natural greenspace sites and amenity greenspace sites score low for quality compared to other typologies. This is a reflection of the number of sites for these typologies without any specific ancillary features or facilities. Sites for the typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace (i.e. woodlands, open grassland) can also tend to score low for personal security given they are often in isolated locations and not overlooked by other land uses. Often sites deliberately have very little ongoing management or maintenance in order to provide, for example, unmanaged habitats.

The typologies of allotments, cemeteries, provision for children and young people, civic space and parks are generally all of a good quality. In particular the proportion of allotments, civic space and parks rated as being of a high quality is noticeable.

Similarly, provision for children and young people has a proportionally high percentage of sites to score high. Although there are a number of sites that rate below the threshold.

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### 3.2 Value

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

Table 3.2: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Maximum score	Scores			No' of sites	
			Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	20%	105	15%	32%	48%	1	25
Amenity greenspace	20%	100	14%	38%	61%	7	81
Cemeteries/churchyards	20%	100	23%	44%	65%	-	40
Provision for children & young people	20%	55	15%	44%	73%	2	56
Civic space	20%	100	39%	49%	60%	-	3
Park and gardens	20%	110	38%	55%	72%	-	11
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	20%	110	6%	31%	68%	6	44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>260</b>

The majority of sites are assessed as being of high value. Similar to the quality scores; natural and semi-natural as well as amenity greenspaces have a higher proportion of low value sites. This reflects the number of sites that lack any particular ancillary features. More so for the amenity greenspace typology that has a number of smaller sized sites. However, the value these sites play in providing a visual and recreational amenity as well as a break in the built form remains important in a wider context.

All cemeteries, civic space and park sites rate high for value reflecting their high quality.

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

### 3.3 Summary

#### General summary

- ◆ In total there are 281 sites identified in Allerdale as open space provision. This is an equivalent of over 1,608 hectares across the Borough.
- ◆ Most typologies are set as having an accessibility standard of a 15 minute walk time. For many typologies a drive time catchment has also been applied. This is in order to reflect the rural characteristic of the area.
- ◆ Over four fifths of all open spaces score high for quality. More amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural sites score low for quality compared to other typologies. This is due to sites of this type tending to lack ancillary features.
- ◆ The majority of all open spaces are assessed as being of high value. Reflecting the importance of provision; nearly all sites with the exception of 16 (particularly for the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural) score high for value.

## PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

### 4.1 Introduction

The typology of parks and gardens covers urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide ‘accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events’. No country parks are identified as being in existence within Allerdale. However, there a few sites with significant historical designations.

### 4.2 Current provision

There are 11 sites classified as parks and gardens across Allerdale, an equivalent of over 75 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology.

*Table 4.1: Distribution of parks by analysis area*

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Aspatria	1	1.28	0.20
Cockermouth	2	10.57	0.67
Maryport	2	1.98	0.13
Silloth	1	13.81	2.76
Wigton	2	5.64	0.38
Workington	3	42.03	1.30
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>75.31</b>	<b>0.84</b>

All analysis areas are identified as having provision of parks and gardens. The largest single site contributing to provision in Allerdale is Workington Hall Parklands, in Workington, equating to 33 hectares of parks provision.

Other significant sized sites include Vulcan Park (5.0 hectares) and Banklands Park (3.9 hectares) both in Workington. Outside of Workington, Silloth Green (13 hectares) in Silloth, Harris Park (9.3 hectares) in Cockermouth and Phoenix Park (3.0 hectares) in Wigton are also of a larger size

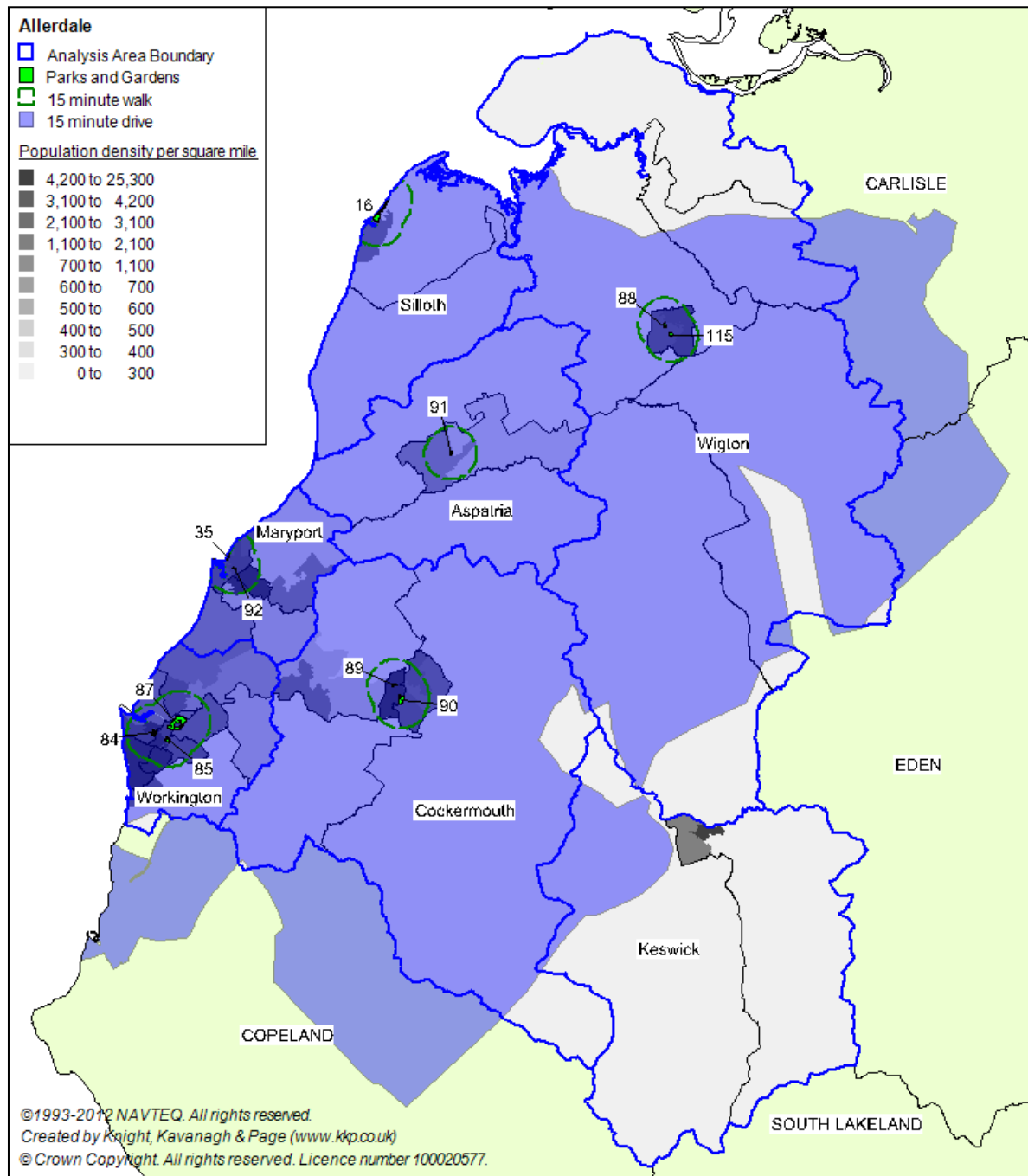
As seen in Table 4.1 proportionally both Silloth (2.76) and the Workington (1.30) analysis areas have significantly more provision per 1,000 head of population compared to the other analysis areas.

### 4.3 Accessibility

For the purposes of catchment mapping a walk time of 15 minutes and a drive time of 15 minutes have both been applied. These are based on the locally derived standards from the previous open space study for Allerdale. Figure 4.1 shows parks and gardens mapped against the analysis areas with these accessibility catchments.

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Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped against analysis area



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Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

KKP ref	Site	Ownership	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
11	Silloth Green	ABC*	Silloth	62%	72%
35	Maryport Millennium Green (Promenade)	ABC	Maryport	51%	46%
84	Vulcan Park	ABC	Workington	77%	66%
85	Banklands/ Newlands Lane	ABC	Workington	43%	50%
87	Workington Hall (Curwen Hall) Parklands	ABC	Workington	66%	64%
88	Wigton Park (Greenacres)	Town Council	Wigton	70%	64%
89	Cockermouth Memorial Gardens	Town Council	Cockermouth	53%	38%
90	Harris Park	ABC/Town Council	Cockermouth	62%	48%
91	St Mungo's Park	ABC	Aspatria	52%	53%
92	Maryport Memorial Gardens	ABC	Maryport	67%	45%
115	Phoenix Park, Wigton	Town Council	Wigton	56%	51%

The majority of Allerdale is covered by the 15 minute drive time accessibility catchment. Although there are small areas not covered to the very north and south of the Borough. The need for any new provision to serve these gaps is not required as they are in areas of little population density.

Furthermore, all large settlements within the Borough are identified as containing provision of parks and gardens. Subsequently the walk time catchment covers the majority of the larger settlements. For smaller populated settlements there is not an expectation for such provision to be within a walking distance.

## 4.4 Quality

Parks and gardens are managed as part of the open spaces portfolio by ABC in partnership with the maintenance contractors (currently ISS Facility Services). Sites receive regular maintenance visits which include regimes such as grass cutting, weeding and general site preservation (e.g. bin emptying, path checks).

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

\* Leased to Silloth Town Council

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Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Aspatria	159	52%	52%	52%	-	-	1
Cockermouth	159	53%	58%	62%	9%	-	2
Maryport	159	51%	59%	67%	16%	-	2
Silloth	159	62%	62%	62%	-	-	1
Wigton	159	56%	63%	70%	14%	-	2
Workington	159	43%	62%	77%	34%	1	2
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>

Nearly all park sites in Allerdale, with the exception of one, score high for quality against the criteria.

The only site to not score high for quality is the Banklands/Newlands Lane site in Workington; scoring 43%. Site observations identify a noticeable lack of seating and signage. Reclassification of the site as an amenity greenspace, rather than a park, is likely to increase its quality score given its less formal characteristics. However, ABC identifies that the site is to have play provision introduced on the site. This may help to improve the overall quality of the site.

Sites are generally assessed highly; this is shown by the average scores for sites in most analysis areas being in and around 60%. The highest individual scoring sites are:

- ✦ Vulcan Park, Workington (77%)
- ✦ Wigton Park (Greenacres), Wigton (70%)
- ✦ Maryport Memorial Gardens, Maryport (67%)
- ✦ Workington Hall (Curwen Hall) Parklands, Workington (66%)

Vulcan Park is the highest scoring site in Allerdale for quality with 77%. It is noted as having a range of facilities such as equipped play provision for children including outdoor gym stations as well as football pitches and a bowling green. Maintenance of the site is also viewed as very good. This reflects in the sites Green Flag status. Despite the sites high score it is highlighted by the Town Council as suffering from instances of vandalism including graffiti on the cenotaph.

The second highest scoring site for quality in Workington is Workington Hall Parklands (66%). Its quality is demonstrated by the site attaining Green Flag status. The site is a key facility for the town and is particularly well used by families. A unique feature on site is the skateboard facility which helps to cater for older aged children and young people. Its high quality is, in part, credited to the work of the Friends of Workington Hall Parklands group. The group formed three years ago in order to help improve the overall historic qualities of the site. Currently the group is looking at producing a long-term strategic conservation management plan. This will hopefully open opportunities to resources in order for the historic house and gardens found on site to be restored to its full potential.

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Both Wigton Park and Maryport Memorial Gardens also score high for quality with 70% and 67% respectively. The sites are noted as being attractive and well maintained. In particular Wigton Park is a popular and well used site due to the play area and sports facilities on offer.

In 2011, the Silloth Green site (62% quality score) was successful in funding applications from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Rural Development Programme for England (EDPE). The project is for the restoration of the site in order to enhance its appeal and range of facilities. It is seen as a key regeneration area for the town which will help in broadening community and visitor appeal. Focus of the works included:

- ✦ Restoration of the iconic Victorian pagoda, Edwardian ladies toilets, ornamental shrubberies and rose garden
- ✦ Reinstatement of a putting course
- ✦ Development of a new play area
- ✦ Improvements to access and street furniture
- ✦ Introducing interpretation of sites rich history and natural history

As part of the project a new play area has been constructed. The facility is set within a sunken landscape and focuses on offering play to older aged children. The recent development of the BMX track on Silloth Green has also been a long-term goal for the Town Council. In addition, a part time Community Engagement Officer and Park Warden have been provided as part of the HLF funding project and are recognised as adding to the overall quality of the site.

The consultation identifies other sites such as Cockermouth Memorial Gardens and Phoenix Park (Wigton) as being of good quality. This is further supported by the site visit assessments which recognise the attractive and high standard of provision. Both sites score over the 50% threshold. It is highlighted that both sites offer a range onsite facilities including opportunities for sport (e.g. bowls) and play equipment to an overall good quality. Furthermore, the Phoenix Park site is regarded as being well used and maintained. The site is leased from the Town Council to a registered local charity (Free for All); which works to promote community use.

### ***Green Flag***

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

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

There are currently three sites in Allerdale identified as achieving Green Flag status. These are Workington Hall Parklands (Curwen Hall), Vulcan Park and Silloth Green. As highlighted earlier, Workington Hall Parklands is maintained to a high standard with the work of both the Council maintenance team/contractors (currently ISS Facility Services)



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and Friends of Workington Hall being important in its continued achievement. Silloth Green has also recently achieved a Green Flag; a condition as part of the HLF project for the site.

Site assessments show that a number of other park sites in Allerdale would be appropriate and are likely to score well if they were to be submitted for a Green Flag Award scheme. The Council is conscious that a number of sites could pass; having had aspirations previously for additional sites to achieve Green Flag. However, resources have not allowed; both access to funding and the formation of 'friends of' groups are identified as an issue.

Potential sites that may be best placed to achieve accreditation are high scoring quality sites such as Wigton Park (Greenacres) and Maryport Memorial Gardens. A stipulation of Green Flag is for sites to have a Friends of Group and currently friends of groups are only identified at Workington Hall Parklands.

### 4.5 Value

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

*Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Aspatia	110	53%	53%	53%	-	-	1
Cockermouth	110	38%	43%	48%	10%	-	2
Maryport	110	45%	46%	46%	1%	-	2
Silloth	110	72%	72%	72%	-	-	1
Wigton	110	51%	58%	64%	13%	-	2
Workington	110	50%	60%	66%	16%	-	3
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>

All parks are assessed as being of high value from the site visit assessments. This is supported throughout the consultation. It demonstrates the high social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place park sites offer.

The value of parks is further demonstrated by some sites being registered as Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields. The programme, run by the charity Field In Trust (FIT), aimed to protect (by a Deed of Dedication) outdoor recreational space across the UK as part of the Queens Diamond Jubilee as well as the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Sites nominated for protection are often considered important assets providing focal points and amenity benefits for local communities.



## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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In total there are eight sites with Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields (QEII) status in Allerdale. Three of these are identified as park:

- ✦ Harris Park (Extension site only – owned by Cockermouth Town Council)
- ✦ Workington Hall Parklands
- ✦ Vulcan Park

The other QEII sites in Allerdale are:

- ✦ Lowther Street Amenity Greenspace (aka Flimby Playing Field)
- ✦ Harrington Reservoir Amenity Greenspace
- ✦ Greenlands Road Amenity Greenspace (aka Pottery Field)
- ✦ Ghyll Ban (aka Welfare Field)
- ✦ Ennerdale Recreation Ground

One of the key aspects towards the value placed on parks provision is that they are able to provide opportunities for local communities and people to socialise. The ability for people to undertake a range of different activities such as walking, dog walking or taking children to the play area are recognised. Also the use of such sites to accommodate events is important.

There are a number of sites across Allerdale that are used to host a range of local and seasonal events. For instance, Workington Hall Parklands often has activities (e.g. bird watching) arranged throughout the year. Other sites such as Vulcan Park are used to host Play Days and annual Memorial Day services for example.

### 4.6 Summary

#### **Parks and gardens**

- ✦ There are 11 sites classified as parks and gardens totalling over 75 hectares.
- ✦ No significant catchment gaps are noted. All major settlements are identified as having access to parks provision. Furthermore, the drive time catchment covers the whole of the Allerdale Borough.
- ✦ Nearly all parks score high for quality with the exception of one. Only Banklands/Newlands Lane in Workington scores below the quality threshold. It is observed, for example, as having a lack of seating. The sites less formal character may better suit classification as an Amenity Greenspace. However, ABC identify the site is to have play provision introduced.
- ✦ Issues with anti-social behaviour are identified on the Vulcan Park site in Workington. This is despite the site receiving a high quality score. Problems on site include vandalism and inappropriate behaviour being reported.
- ✦ A HLF project has been undertaken in 2011 at Silloth Green. The works included restoration of historic features and elements as well as construction of a new play area. Quality and value of the park has subsequently increased.
- ✦ There are currently three park sites in Allerdale with Green Flag status; Workington Hall Parklands, Vulcan Park and Silloth Green. A number of other sites are also identified as having the potential to be submitted for Green Flag accreditation in the future if desired.
- ✦ All parks are assessed as being of high value, with the important social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being acknowledged.

### PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

#### 5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology includes woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), open running water, wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits). These provide 'wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.'

The typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace has a relatively low quality threshold compared to other open space typologies. This is in order to reflect the characteristic of this kind of provision. For instance, many natural and semi-natural sites are intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater flora and fauna activity.

#### 5.2 Current provision

In total 55 sites are identified as publicly accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling just over 1,403 hectares of provision. These totals may not include all provision in Allerdale as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Guidance recommends that sites smaller than this may be of less recreational value to residents. However, there are two sites under 0.2 hectares that are included in the audit.

*Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area*

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Aspatria	-	-	-
Cockermouth	5	9.33	0.59
Maryport	8	110.91	7.24
Silloth	2	32.66	6.54
Wigton	8	1130.04	76.89
Workington	32	120.90	3.75
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1403.83</b>	<b>15.67</b>

The majority of the provision across the whole study area is located in the Wigton Analysis Area (1,130 hectares). Proportionally the standard across the analysis areas is wide ranging; from 0.59 hectares per 1,000 population in Cockermouth to 76.89 hectares per 1,000 population in Wigton.

Allerdale has a variety of natural and semi-natural sites including woodlands, grasslands and coastal areas. To better reflect local provision within the audit, the typology includes local nature reserves (LNRs) and beaches/coastal fronts. The proximity of the Lake District National Park and the Solway AONB are recognised for their contribution to the opportunities and activities associated with natural and semi-natural types of open space in Allerdale. However, they are not included as sites within the audit.

### **Designations**

The Lake District National Park (LDNP) is England's largest National Park having become operational in 1951. Responsibility of the area is carried out by the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA). In 2006 the Lake District National Park Partnership was set up to give partners (e.g. communities, organisations, local authorities and landowners) involvement in the management and sustainability of the LDNP.

The Vision for the Partnership is for the LDNP to be '*an inspirational example of sustainable development in action*'. To work towards this vision the Partnership has a five year statutory management plan (2010-2015). This set out in detail the issues needing to be addressed and the actions required to do this. The priorities include:

- ◀ Support and develop profitable farming and forestry businesses while delivering sustainable land management.
- ◀ Secure superfast broadband and improved mobile phone coverage across the National Park
- ◀ Develop Cumbria and the Lake District as the Adventure Capital of the UK, whilst safeguarding the special qualities of the National Park
- ◀ Facilitate the delivery of affordable and local needs housing opportunities throughout the National Park
- ◀ Develop an integrated transport network in the National Park
- ◀ Develop valley plans, looking at social, economic and environmental needs and opportunities across the National Park.
- ◀ Reduce carbon emissions in the National Park

Furthermore, the Solway Coast is not included as a single open space site but is acknowledged as an important ecological provision to the region. This is demonstrated by much of the area being designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as well as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). If the area was to be included as a site it would be circa 115 km<sup>2</sup> (11,500 hectares) in size. However, a large proportion of this would be estuary.

In terms of other national designations, there are two publically accessible local nature reserves (LNRs) identified in Allerdale. Both sites are located in Workington. These are:

- ◀ Harrington Reservoir LNR (KKP Ref 131)
- ◀ Siddick Ponds SSSI and LNR (KKP Ref 322)

LNRs provide a clear signal to local communities of the commitment towards nature conservation and access to it by a local authority. In addition, LNRs can help local authorities meet Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) and Sustainable Development targets.

LNRs contribute a total of 30.1 hectares to natural provision in Allerdale. In 1996, Natural England (formerly English Nature) recommended that there should be one hectare of designated LNR per 1,000 populations. To put this into local context, with a population of 89,564 (ONS 2011 mid-term estimates), across Allerdale there should be provision of least 89.6 hectares of LNR provision.

If other forms of provision such as the Solway Coast (11,500 ha) and SSSI are included then access to designated natural space is above the Natural England recommendation.

### ***Management***

A total of 1,403 hectares of natural and semi-natural greenspace is identified across Allerdale; including LNRs. Management of these sites is the responsibility of a variety of organisations. Aside from the local authority, site management is also the responsibility of Cumbria County Council, Parish Council and private landowners.

Some additional maintenance is undertaken by associated voluntary conservation and 'friends of groups'. For instance, friends of groups or conservation groups are identified at both the LNR sites in Allerdale (i.e. Harrington Reservoir and Siddick Ponds). The Solway Coast Community Volunteer Group also undertakes a number of projects in and around the AONB. These groups provide a valuable input to the upkeep of sites. They assist with maintaining and improving sites; help to manage invasive species, sustain footpaths, coppice trees and shrubs to encourage healthy growth and install beneficial features (e.g. bird boxes, interpretation boards, benches).

### **5.3 Accessibility**

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. These standards recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

- ✦ An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home
- ✦ At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home
- ✦ One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home
- ✦ One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home
- ✦ One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population

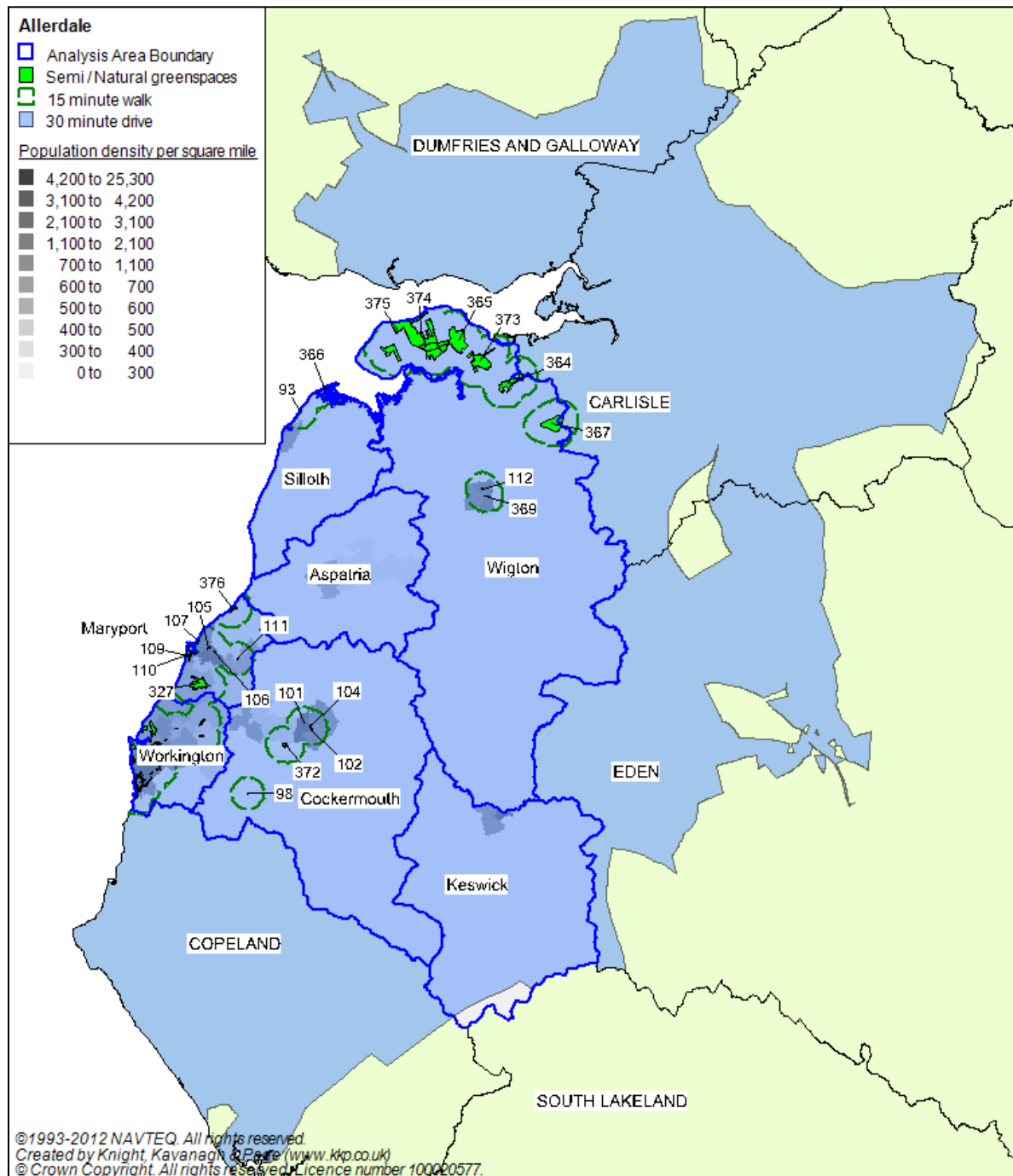
In some areas, this may be difficult to achieve in the short term, but it could be a long-term aim for authorities to work towards this standard.

This study, in order to comply with guidance uses locally informed standards. It does not focus on the ANGSt Standard; as this uses a different methodology for identifying accessible natural greenspace to that advocated in guidance.

For the purposes of catchment mapping a walk time of 15 minutes and a drive time of 30 minutes have both been applied. These are based on the locally derived standards from the previous open space study for Allerdale. Figure 5.1 shows natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against the analysis areas with these accessibility catchments.

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Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against analysis areas



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Figure 5.2: Natural and semi-natural greenspace – Workington map

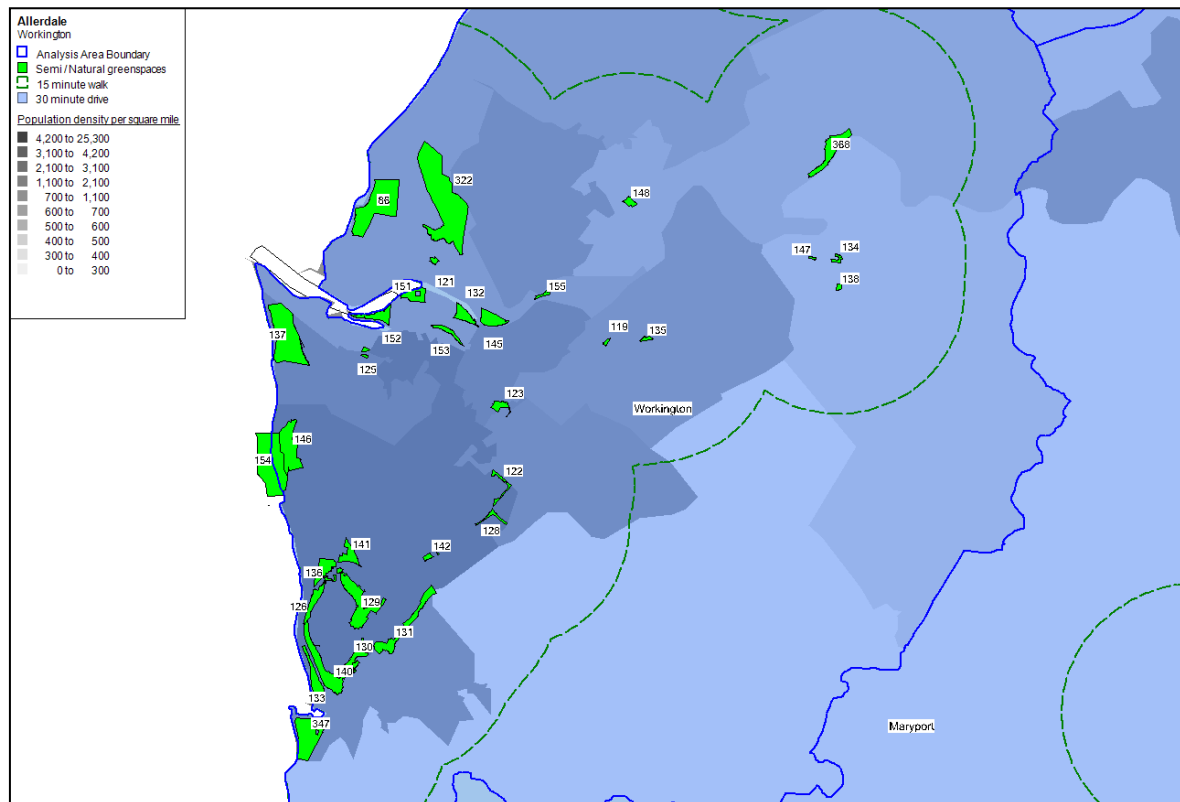


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

KKP ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
86	Oldside	Workington	28%	29%
93	Skinburness Road	Silloth	69%	68%
98	Woodhall Brow	Cockermouth	21%	18%
101	Dale View	Cockermouth	39%	14%
102	Etterby Close	Cockermouth	33%	30%
104	Kirkbank	Cockermouth	33%	25%
105	Sycamore Drive	Maryport	31%	27%
106	Lime Grove	Maryport	27%	21%
107	The Promenade	Maryport	44%	40%
109	Maryport Coastal Park	Maryport	55%	62%
110	Mote Hill	Maryport	54%	60%
111	Greenlands Road	Maryport	47%	22%
112	Station Road Industrial Park	Wigton	6%	6%
119	Brieryland Lane	Workington	21%	16%
121	Trinity Drive	Workington	23%	20%
122	Charles Close	Workington	34%	40%
123	Banklands Park (Buckamire)	Workington	23%	21%
125	Havelock Road	Workington	31%	24%
126	Walkerbrown	Workington	25%	28%
128	Ashfield Road South	Workington	29%	30%

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KKP ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
129	Salterbeck Back Field	Workington	33%	45%
130	Eller Bank	Workington	11%	23%
131	Harrington Reservoir	Workington	59%	55%
132	Derwent	Workington	16%	25%
133	Harrington North Shore	Workington	34%	43%
134	Carter Garth	Workington	33%	27%
135	Briery Acres	Workington	31%	31%
136	Salterbeck Reservoir	Workington	48%	51%
137	Isabella Road	Workington	33%	49%
138	Abbott Wood	Workington	21%	23%
140	Walker Brow	Workington	32%	38%
141	Mossbay Road	Workington	18%	9%
142	Moorcroft	Workington	32%	11%
145	Northside	Workington	32%	36%
146	Princess Way	Workington	39%	36%
147	Green Garth	Workington	32%	21%
148	Beech Grove	Workington	31%	20%
151	New Bridge Road	Workington	22%	22%
152	Merchants Quay	Workington	31%	29%
153	Griffin Street	Workington	26%	28%
155	Calva Park	Workington	21%	21%
322	Siddick Ponds LNR	Workington	57%	50%
327	Flimby Great Wood	Maryport	31%	26%
347	Harrington Marina	Workington	58%	49%
364	Finglandrigg Woods	Wigton	61%	36%
365	Glasson Moss	Wigton	51%	35%
366	Grune Point	Silloth	45%	26%
367	Watchtree Nature Reserve	Wigton	71%	36%
368	Camerton Brickworks	Workington	38%	30%
369	Memorial Walk	Wigton	33%	31%
372	Dubbs Moss	Cockermouth		
373	Drumburgh Moss	Wigton		
374	Bowness Common	Wigton		
375	Campfield Marsh	Wigton		
376	Crosscanonby Carr	Maryport		

*NB: five sites do not receive a quality and value due to their late inclusion*

All analysis areas are covered by the 30 minute drive time catchment. In addition, most major settlements are sufficiently covered by the accessibility catchment standard of a 15 minute walk time. However, gaps in provision are highlighted for the settlements of both Silloth (to the south) and Aspatria.

Both areas are deficient against the walk time but are sufficiently covered by the drive time. Furthermore, settlements across Allerdale but particularly to the north are thought to have sufficient access to the surrounding countryside. Continued access to the wider countryside should be ensured.



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Furthermore, the Lake District National Park to the south of all the analysis areas significantly contributes to access towards natural greenspace provision.

### 5.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace in Allerdale. A threshold of 30% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 5.3: Quality rating for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <30%	High >30%
Aspatria	117	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cockermouth	117	21%	32%	39%	18%	1	3
Maryport	117	27%	41%	55%	18%	1	6
Silloth	117	45%	57%	69%	24%	-	2
Wigton	117	6%	45%	71%	65%	1	4
Workington	117	11%	31%	59%	48%	13	19
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>

The majority of sites (68%) in Allerdale score high for quality rather than low. However, there are a number of sites which score low for quality. A single site in Cockermouth and Maryport as well as one of only two sites in Wigton are rated below the threshold. Furthermore, the Workington analysis area also has a significant proportion of sites (41%) to score low for quality.

The lowest scoring site is Station Road Industrial Park NSN site in Wigton. It receives a score below the quality threshold of only 6%. The site scores particularly low for its overall maintenance, personal security and level of use. This is mostly due to the site appearing to be a neglected space between units on an industrial estate.

Woodhall Brow NSN is the only site in Cockermouth to score below the threshold. The site's low quality score is due to lack of features. Furthermore, the accessibility of the site is questionable with it potentially being private access only. Excluding the site from the audit should be considered.

Similar on-site quality issues are identified at Lime Grove NSN; the only low scoring site in Maryport. The site is observed as having no official paths. In addition, part of the site is viewed as being inaccessible due to overgrown vegetation and the presence of barbed wire.

There are 13 low scoring sites in Workington Analysis Area. Sites predominantly score low due to a lack of appropriate maintenance or access as well as not offering use for recreational purposes. Often sites of this typology deliberately have very little ongoing management or regular maintenance in order to provide, for example, unmanaged



## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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habitats. To reflect this, the quality threshold has intentionally been set low. However, it is important that a balance between these sites is set between recognising their purpose and function against their overall quality.

There are also a few sites where specific issues are identified. These include:

- ✦ Oldside NSN (28%) – burnt out car present
- ✦ Eller Bank NSN (11%) – damaged fences and severe fly-tipping
- ✦ Derwent NSN (16%) – litter and evidence of fires
- ✦ Mossbay Road NSN (18%) – recently locked, preventing access

Oldside NSN is the only site close to the 30% threshold; despite being observed as having a burnt out car at the time of the visit. The sites overall quality is viewed generally positive and is demonstrated by it being home to a rare breed of butterfly.

A total of 28 sites score high for quality in Allerdale. The highest scoring site is Watchtree Nature Reserve in the Wigton Analysis Area; receiving a score of 71% for quality. A list of the other sites scoring highest for quality is set out below:

- ✦ Skinburness Road NSN, Silloth (69%)
- ✦ Finglandrigg Woods, Wigton (61%)
- ✦ Harrington Reservoir LNR NSN, Workington (59%)
- ✦ Harrington Marina, Workington (58%)
- ✦ Siddick Ponds SSSI/LNR, Workington (57%)
- ✦ Maryport Coastal Park NSN, Maryport (55%)
- ✦ Mote Hill NSN, Maryport (54%)

All the above sites are observed as being attractive and well maintained; offering a number of ancillary features such as bins, benches and pathways all to a high standard. In addition, they are noted as being particularly popular and well used facilities.

In particular, at Maryport Coastal Park NSN, Mote Hill NSN and Siddick Ponds LNR sites (as examples) the presence of interpretation boards is thought to add to the overall quality of the sites.

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### 5.5 Value

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

*Table 5.4: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Aspatria	110	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cockermouth	110	14%	22%	30%	16%	2	2
Maryport	110	21%	42%	62%	41%	-	7
Silloth	110	26%	47%	68%	42%	-	2
Wigton	110	6%	29%	36%	30%	1	4
Workington	110	9%	31%	55%	46%	3	29
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>44</b>

The majority of natural and semi-natural greenspace (88%) scores high for value. However, there is quite a considerable spread, 62%, between the lowest and highest scoring sites across the Borough.

In total there are six sites to score low for value, with Station Road Industrial Park NSN (6%) and Mossbay Road NSN (9%) scoring particularly low. The other sites scoring low for value are:

- ✦ Woodhall Brow NSN, Cockermouth (18%)
- ✦ Dale View NSN, Cockermouth (14%)
- ✦ Brieryland Lane NSN, Workington (16%)
- ✦ Moorcroft NSN, Workington (11%)

These tend to be sites without any specific features or facilities. In addition, most of the sites identified above are observed as having some form of access issue (i.e. locked or partly inaccessible). They are therefore of less recreational value to people. Subsequently four of the six sites to score low for value also score low for quality. These are Woodhall Brow, Station Road Industrial Park, Brieryland Lane and Mossbay Road.

As well as providing important nature conservation and biodiversity value, many natural and semi-natural sites in Allerdale are well used for recreational purposes and are a valuable open space resource for local people.

In addition, the work of local Friends of Groups at sites such as Harrington Reservoir NSN and Siddick Ponds in Workington are highlighted. Groups such as these provide additional benefits to the maintenance and management of important ecological provisions. Furthermore, they offer wider recreational value to local residents. Both FOGs at these sites identify aspirations/plans to provide further habitat improvements; the

## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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Friends of Harrington Nature Reserve have aspirations to de-silt the water courses whilst the Friends of Siddick Ponds are looking to create additional habitats for wild butterflies.

The highest scoring sites for value are Skinburness Road NSN (68%) and Maryport Coastal Park NSN (62%). Both sites are observed as being well used by a variety of groups. In addition, they offer opportunities associated with a coastal site which makes them popular for walking.

### 5.6 Summary

#### Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ▶ Allerdale is identified as having 55 individual natural and semi-natural greenspace sites. This totals over 1,403 hectares of provision.
- ▶ Accessibility standards of a 15 minute walk time and 30 minute drive time have been set. Minor walk time deficiencies are identified at the settlements of Silloth and Aspatria. However, it is unlikely new provision is needed due to the relative ease of access to the wider countryside. In addition, the Lake District National Park and Solway Coast are significant forms of provision within close proximity.
- ▶ There is a shortfall of 66 hectares of LNR provision across Allerdale based on Natural England recommendations. However, large areas of provision such as the Solway Coast (11,500 ha) are not included within this figure.
- ▶ Natural greenspace sites are generally viewed as being of a good quality. This is reflected in the audit assessment with the majority (68%) scoring above the threshold. Watchtree Nature Reserve scores the highest for quality with 71%; a reflection of its general high level of standard.
- ▶ A handful of sites are observed as having site specific issues. These often relate to problems with litter, fire damage and access.
- ▶ The majority of sites (88%) are rated as being of a high value. Although a handful of sites are identified as scoring below the thresholds for both quality and value. This tends to relate to a lack of features and access/usage on a site.
- ▶ As well as providing nature conservation and biodiversity value, natural and semi-natural sites are also recognised for their recreational value. Some of the highest scoring sites, such as Skinburness Road NSN and Harrington Marina, provide a key focal point for residents as well as visitors.

### PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

#### 6.1 Introduction

The typology of amenity greenspaces is defined as sites offering ‘opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. These include informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.’

#### 6.2 Current provision

There are a total of 88 amenity greenspace sites identified in Allerdale. This results in there being over 58 hectares of provision. Amenity spaces in Allerdale are most often found in housing estates or settlement centres and function as informal recreation spaces or as open spaces along highways that provide a visual amenity. There are also a number of recreation grounds which have been classified as amenity greenspace.

*Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Aspatria	8	3.90	0.59
Cockermouth	12	4.39	0.28
Maryport	23	19.21	1.26
Silloth	9	6.88	1.38
Wigton	5	2.62	0.18
Workington	31	21.59	0.67
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>58.59</b>	<b>0.65</b>

Site sizes vary from the smallest incidental open space on housing estates, such as Brierydale Lane Amenity Greenspace (AGS) at 0.04 hectares, to the largest, Hunday Court AGS, at just less than five hectares. Given the rural characteristic of the Borough no site size threshold has been applied.

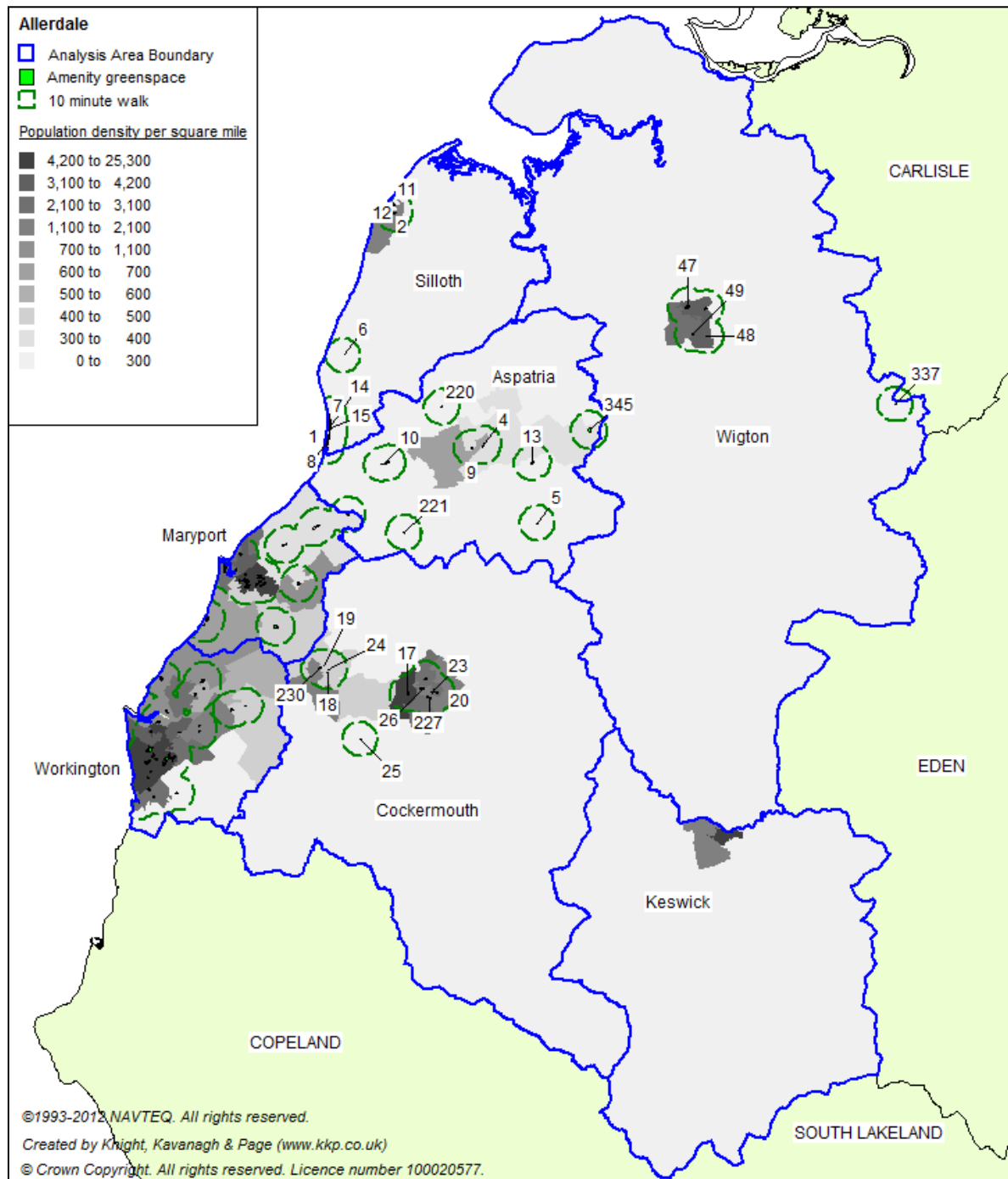
It is important to note that whilst the majority of provision is considered as being small grassed areas in and around housing or visual landscaped space, there is some variation of sites within this typology. For example recreation grounds can be included under amenity greenspace, such as Ennerdale Recreation Ground and Fletchertown Recreation Field. These serve a different purpose to grassed areas in housing estates and often provide an extended range of opportunities for recreational activities compared to grass areas. In addition, these sites are often much larger in size.

#### 6.3 Accessibility

For the purposes of catchment mapping a walk time of 10 minutes has been applied. These are based on the locally derived standards from the previous open space study for Allerdale. Figure 6.1 shows amenity greenspace sites mapped against the analysis areas and with the accessibility catchment. Figures 6.2 and 6.3 show provision mapped in Maryport and Workington.

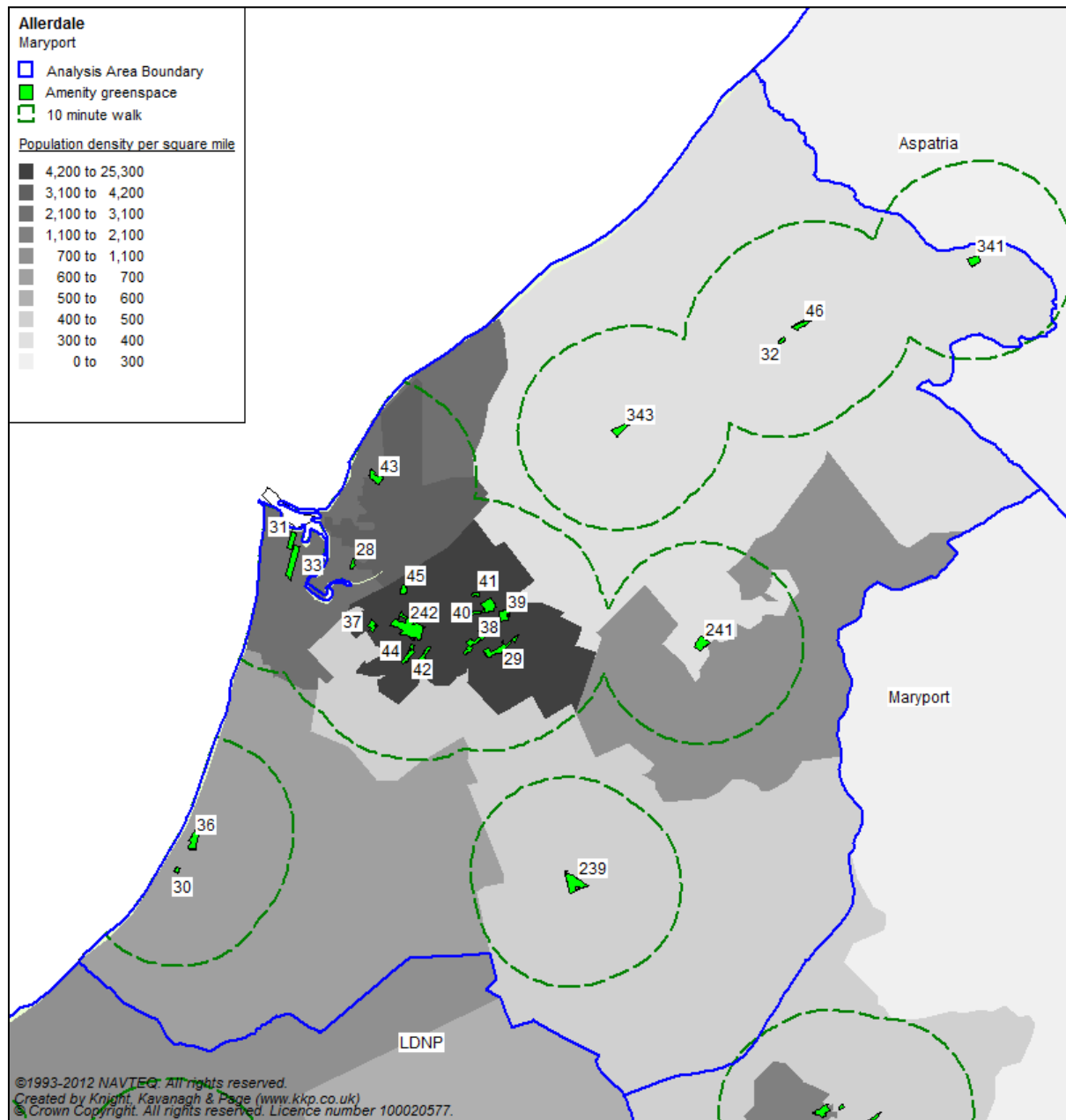
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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace mapped against analysis area



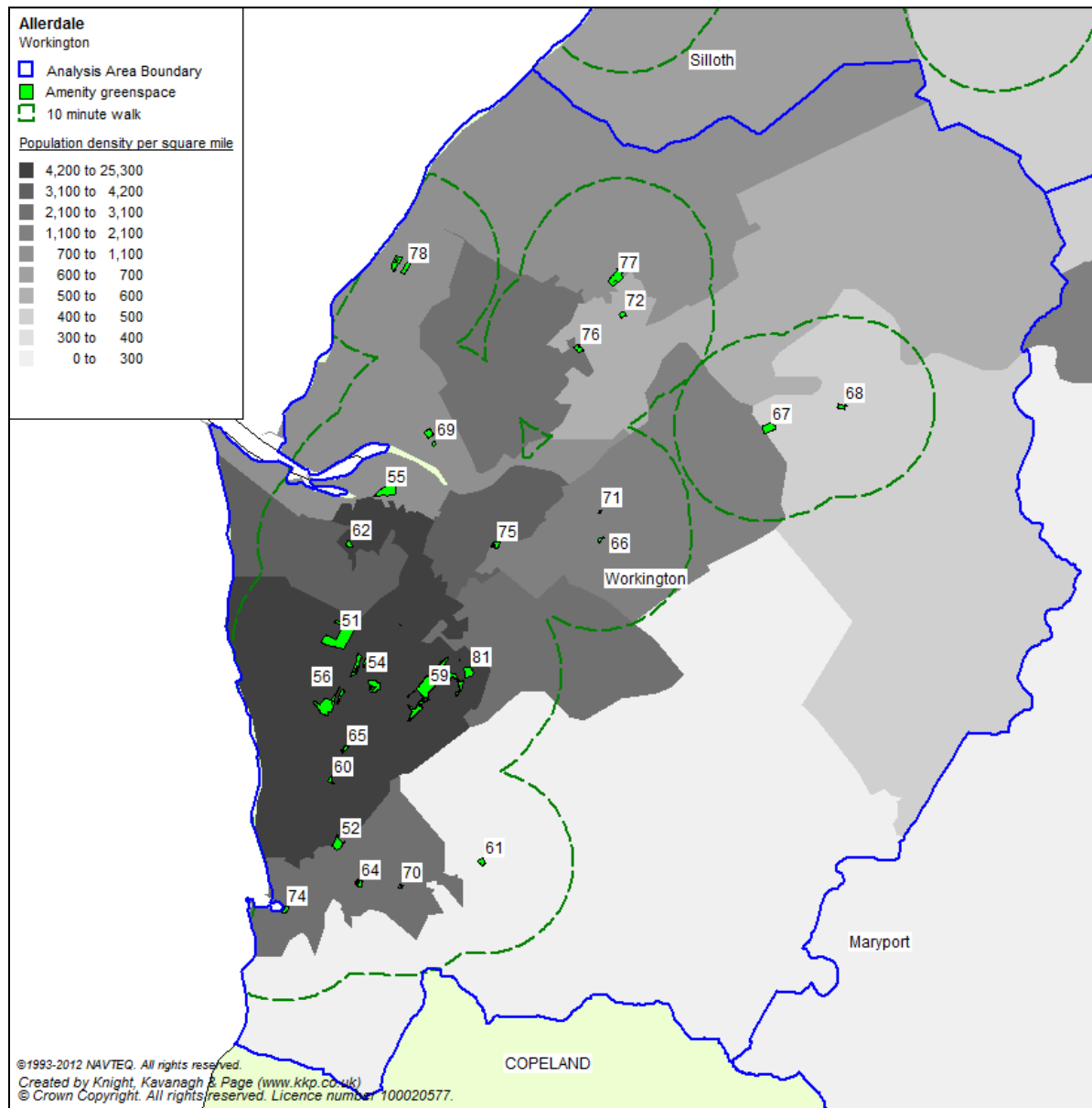
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Figure 6.2: Amenity greenspace – Maryport map



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Figure 6.3: Amenity greenspace – Workington map



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Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

KKP Ref	Site	Easting/Northing	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
1	Main Street AGS	308100/542715	Silloth	55%	26%
2	Wampool Street AGS	311190/553480	Silloth	32%	21%
4	Victoria Park AGS	315490/542332	Aspatria	50%	42%
5	Bothel AGS	318072/538610	Aspatria	55%	25%
6	Mawbury AGS	308754/546651	Silloth	53%	31%
7	Allonby Shore AGS	308060/543750	Silloth	65%	61%
8	Allonby Shore	307945/542430	Silloth	73%	47%
9	East Crescent AGS	314912/542224	Aspatria	40%	26%
10	The Green AGS	310847/541500	Aspatria	58%	33%
11	Petteril Street AGS	311137/553894	Silloth	52%	33%
12	Skidaw Street AGS	311242/553457	Silloth	36%	24%
13	Blennerhasset Green	317837/541495	Aspatria	45%	41%
14	B5300 AGS	308100/543250	Silloth	36%	25%
15	The Square AGS	308160/543135	Silloth	42%	24%
17	Fairfield View and Fitzview AGS	311854/530458	Cockermouth	41%	22%
18	Cragg Road AGS	308027/531446	Cockermouth	34%	22%
19	Broughton AGS	307816/531690	Cockermouth	45%	17%
20	Slatefell Drive AGS	313004/530455	Cockermouth	37%	17%
21	Greyrigg Avenue AGS	313272/530445	Cockermouth	42%	27%
22	Limetree Crescent AGS	312694/531125	Cockermouth	41%	32%
23	Gable Avenue AGS	313104/530529	Cockermouth	25%	20%
24	Broughton Park AGS	308134/531630	Cockermouth	41%	20%
25	Barkers Meadow	309507/528247	Cockermouth	46%	26%
26	St Helens Street AGS	312534/530665	Cockermouth	26%	22%
27	Gillbeck Park AGS	304787/536003	Maryport	49%	32%
28	Furnace Road AGS	303613/536385	Maryport	65%	48%
29	Moorside Drive OSF	304885/535663	Maryport	29%	31%
30	The Princess Royal AGS	302092/533732	Maryport	48%	24%
31	Marine Road AGS North	303065/536557	Maryport	40%	25%
32	Parkside AGS	307362/538325	Maryport	44%	26%
33	Marine Road AGS South	303104/536444	Maryport	50%	27%
36	Lowther Street AGS	302227/533977	Maryport	46%	35%
37	Sandy Lonning AGS	303758/535839	Maryport	43%	34%
38	Hillside AGS	304650/535742	Maryport	43%	23%
39	The Green AGS	304914/535932	Maryport	43%	39%
40	Cedar Crescent AGS	304651/535963	Maryport	40%	23%
41	Beechwood Close AGS	304661/536115	Maryport	52%	28%
42	Crummock Road AGS	304203/535580	Maryport	51%	38%
43	Camp Road AGS	303784/537095	Maryport	41%	32%
44	The Arches AGS	304097/535596	Maryport	43%	28%
45	Short Acre AGS	304036/536144	Maryport	64%	24%
46	The Green Off Old Road AGS	307420/538402	Maryport	44%	31%
47	Limetree Grove	325272/548957	Wigton	54%	43%



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KKP Ref	Site	Easting/Northing	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
48	West Avenue AGS	326189/547573	Wigton	42%	36%
49	Brackenlands AGS	325519/547661	Wigton	32%	31%
50	Wastwater Avenue AGS	299612/527429	Workington	53%	33%
51	Annie Pitts AGS	299465/527702	Workington	47%	51%
52	Harrington Reservoir AGS	299417/525777	Workington	41%	20%
53	Westfield Drive AGS	299331/527061	Workington	44%	25%
54	Wastwater Avenue AGS	299699/527439	Workington	50%	31%
55	Church Street Green	299911/529060	Workington	40%	21%
56	Rowe Terrace AGS	299464/527211	Workington	40%	20%
58	Moorclose Community Green	299789/527276	Workington	62%	42%
59	Hunday Court AGS	300291/527291	Workington	50%	37%
60	Garnett Crescent AGS	299400/526400	Workington	25%	14%
61	Ruskin Close AGS	300769/525668	Workington	31%	30%
62	Senhouse Walk AGS	299521/528567	Workington	38%	15%
63	Udale Court AGS	300506/527359	Workington	43%	23%
64	Brewery House AGS	299659/525447	Workington	47%	36%
65	Richmond Road AGS	299503/526693	Workington	33%	20%
66	Moorlands Drive AGS	301847/528607	Workington	36%	18%
67	Bow Flats AGS	303395/529642	Workington	46%	23%
68	William Street AGS	304067/529841	Workington	53%	39%
69	Ling Close AGS	300325/529492	Workington	41%	27%
70	Kilngreen Avenue AGS	30014/525432	Workington	41%	27%
71	Brierydale Lane AGS	301850/528879	Workington	43%	17%
72	Seaton Rugby Club AGS	302097/530662	Workington	33%	24%
74	Quay Street AGS	298961/525211	Workington	40%	28%
75	Helena Thompson Museum	300885/528577	Workington	57%	33%
76	Main Road Play Field	301664/530392	Workington	41%	22%
77	Hunters Drive AGS	301998/531009	Workington	59%	38%
78	Senhouse Street, Siddick	300067/531109	Workington	41%	23%
79	Thwaite Bank AGS	300271/529578	Workington	47%	24%
80	Siddick Amenity Area	299983/531157	Workington	49%	45%
81	Alexander Close AGS	300636/527410	Workington	35%	18%
82	Ashford South AGS	300565/527280	Workington	53%	31%
113	How Rigg Bank	326157/548899	Wigton	45%	27%
220	Westnewton OSF	313542/544180	Aspatria	48%	33%
221	Gilcrux OSF	311675/538152	Aspatria	54%	46%
227	Bellbrigg OSF	312885/530211	Cockermouth	41%	44%
230	Ghyll Ban OSF	307655/531659	Cockermouth	62%	38%
239	Broughton Moor Welfare Field	305535/533612	Maryport	44%	36%
241	Greenlands Road AGS	306600/535687	Maryport	42%	29%
242	Ellenborough Recreation Ground	304063/535824	Maryport	42%	34%
337	Welton Village Green	335240/544292	Wigton	36%	23%
341	Crosby Villa Recreation Field	308947/538992	Maryport	41%	29%
343	Birkby Village Green	305905/537530	Maryport	50%	23%
345	Fletcherstown Recreation Field	320587/542985	Aspatria	45%	23%

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Catchment mapping with a 10 minute walk time applied shows a good level of coverage. In most instances areas with a greater population density have good access to provision. However, there are some minor gaps noted to the south of Silloth and to the north of Cockermouth. It is unlikely that new provision is required as the two areas are served by other forms of open space provision such as parks and outdoor sports (e.g. Cockermouth Memorial Gardens and Eden Street Sports Field). Furthermore, no issues regarding a deficiency in amenity greenspace is highlighted from the consultation. Options to address identified deficiencies, if required, will be discussed further in the Strategy.

### **Management**

Similar to other open spaces (e.g. parks, natural and semi-natural greenspace) amenity greenspaces are managed as part of the open spaces portfolio in partnership with the maintenance contractors (ISS Facility Services). Sites receive a regular maintenance visit which includes regimes such as grass cutting and weeding as well as general site preservation (e.g. bin emptying, path checks).

There are a number of sites identified within the audit as being managed by other land owners including town and parish councils, social housing association and private landowners.

### **6.4 Quality**

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces in Allerdale. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Aspatia	121	40%	49%	58%	18%	-	8
Cockermouth	121	25%	44%	62%	37%	4	8
Maryport	121	29%	47%	65%	36%	1	22
Silloth	121	32%	53%	73%	41%	3	5
Wigton	121	32%	43%	54%	22%	2	3
Workington	121	25%	44%	62%	37%	7	24
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>71</b>

The majority of amenity greenspaces in Allerdale (81%) receive a high quality rating. In particular provision in Maryport and the Aspatia analysis areas score well, with 96% and 100% of sites respectively being rated as high quality.

Proportionally there are slightly more sites in the analysis areas of Cockermouth (33%) and Wigton (40%) that score low compared to the other areas. Both analysis areas contain a number of sites that are lacking in ancillary facilities and features. Subsequently

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sites can be small and unattractive with a lack of reason for people to visit. However, it is important to recognise that despite scoring low for quality, sites may still have the potential to be of a high value to the community. For instance, if a site is the only form of open space in that local area it may potentially be of high value given it is the only provision of its type.

The four lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites in Allerdale are:

- ✦ Gable Avenue AGS, Cockermouth (25%)
- ✦ Garnett Crescent AGS, Workington (25%)
- ✦ St Helens Street AGS, Cockermouth (26%)
- ✦ Moorside Drive, Maryport (29%)

All four sites are observed as being fairly basic pockets of green space with a lack of ancillary facilities to encourage extensive recreational use. Only Moorside Drive is noted as offering additional benefits. The site is observed as having added uses associated with natural and semi-natural provision. It is believed to have previously contained play area equipment. However, this has since been removed.

Further to those identified above, some issues relating to misuse are observed during the site assessments at a number of sites. At the time of the visits the following sites were noted as showing evidence of issues/problems:

- ✦ Skiddaw Street AGS, Aspatria and Silloth – cars parked
- ✦ Lowther Street AGS, Maryport – dog foul and litter
- ✦ Brackenlands AGS, Wigton – cars parked on edges
- ✦ Moorclose Community Green, Workington – broken glass, graffiti, dog foul
- ✦ Richmond Road AGS, Workington - graffiti
- ✦ Siddick Amenity Area, Workington – cars parked on edges

Despite this, only two of the sites are assessed as being below the threshold. Skiddaw Street and Brackenlands both rate below the threshold with a quality score of 36% and 32% respectively. They are observed as being used by local residents for parking cars. This predominantly has a visual impact with tyre marks being noted in the grass.

Half of the sites are located in Workington. Suggesting the area may have a greater issue with misuse compared to the other settlements. In particular, misuse/anti-social behaviour is highlighted as a wider issue by the Town Council at other open space sites (i.e. parks). Moorclose Community Green is observed as suffering from a variety of misuse including broken glass, graffiti and dog foul. The site still scores high for quality (62%) due to the range and quality of facilities provided (i.e. BMX facility, MUGA/Games wall). This appears to be part of a concerted effort to provide a wide choice of provision but which seems to suffer from misuse.

Further to these, two sites are observed as having apparent maintenance issues. Both are in the Aspatria and Silloth Analysis Area. Victoria Park AGS and Blennerhasset Green are reported as having damaged flower tubs and benches in need of repair (due to rot).

The highest scoring site is Allonby Shore in the Aspatria and Silloth Analysis Area. It scores 73% for quality. This is due to the range of ancillary facilities available as well as the high standard of appearance and maintenance of the site. It is identified as having ancillary facilities such as bins, benches, picnic tables and specific parking in addition to

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excellent information/signage. Features such as these contribute to the sites overall quality and help to create more opportunities and reasons for people to access the site.

### 6.5 Value

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

*Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Aspatria	100	23%	35%	46%	23%	-	8
Cockermouth	100	17%	31%	44%	27%	2	10
Maryport	100	23%	36%	48%	25%	-	23
Silloth	100	21%	41%	61%	40%	-	9
Wigton	100	23%	33%	43%	20%	-	5
Workington	100	14%	33%	51%	37%	5	26
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>81</b>

Similar to quality, the majority of amenity greenspaces are rated as being high value (92%). Slightly more sites are rated as high value than high quality. There are seven sites that receive a low value rating of below 20%. These sites are located in either Cockermouth or Workington:

- ✦ Broughton AGS, Cockermouth (17%)
- ✦ Slatefell Drive AGS, Cockermouth (17%)
- ✦ Garnett Crescent AGS, Workington (14%)
- ✦ Senhouse Walk AGS, Workington (15%)
- ✦ Moorlands Drive AGS, Workington (18%)
- ✦ Brierydale Lane AGS, Workington (17%)
- ✦ Alexander Close AGS, Workington (18%)

All these sites are essentially viewed as grassed areas with no other noticeable features. Hence their low value scores. However, they are acknowledged as providing some form of visual amenity to their locality. Interestingly the quality of only two of the sites is rated as above the threshold (Broughton AGS and Brierydale Lane AGS).

There are a total of five sites which score low for both quality and value. Most of these (three) are identified as being small in size i.e. below 0.2 hectares. In general a sites small size and lack of facilities to be found on site are contributors to a low value score. The five sites to score low for quality and value are:

- ✦ Slatefell Drive AGS, Cockermouth (17%)
- ✦ Garnett Crescent AGS, Workington (14%)

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- ◀ Senhouse Walk AGS, Workington (15%)
- ◀ Moorlands Drive AGS, Workington (18%)
- ◀ Alexander Close AGS, Workington (18%)

All the sites are identified as having no provision of seating and in most cases lack bin provision. Furthermore, there is a general lack of other features such as fencing or controls to prevent misuse. It is important to keep in mind that the main role for some sites is to simply act as a grassed area, providing breaks in the urban form. Subsequently such sites are likely to score lower compared to others.

As highlighted earlier, the majority of amenity greenspace sites (92%) score high for value. The highest scoring sites for value in Allerdale are:

- ◀ Allonby Shore AGS, Silloth (61%)
- ◀ Annie Pitts AGS, Workington (51%)

These are recognised for the accessible recreational opportunities they offer. For sites such as Annie Pitts AGS added value is also provided through its promotion and preservation of its historic industrial use; evidenced through the chimneys on site with associated interpretation boards.

In general the role amenity greenspaces play as a form of open space provision is supported by the fact the majority of sites score high for value. Compared to quality where 81% of sites score above the threshold. This suggests even though a number of sites may score low for quality, they still receive a high value. Often the visual and environmental benefits these sites provide is recognised.

The value of amenity greenspace is further demonstrated by some sites being registered as Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields. The programme, run by the charity Field In Trust (FIT), aimed to protect (by a Deed of Dedication) outdoor recreational space across the UK as part of the Queens Diamond Jubilee as well as the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Sites nominated for protection are often considered important assets providing focal points and amenity benefits for local communities.

In total there are eight sites with Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields (QEII) status in Allerdale. Five of these are identified as amenity greenspace:

- ◀ Lowther Street AGS (aka Flimby Playing Field)
- ◀ Harrington Reservoir AGS
- ◀ Greenlands Road AGS (aka Pottery Field)
- ◀ Ghyll Ban (aka Welfare Field)
- ◀ Ennerdale Recreation Ground

All five are rated as being high value in the audit assessment. Both the Lowther Street AGS, in Flimby, and Greenlands Road AGS, in Dearham, act as primary open spaces to the communities they are situated within. Furthermore, the QEII status of Harrington Reservoir AGS compliments the designation of the adjacent Harrington Reservoir site as a Local Nature Reservoir.

The other QEII sites in Allerdale are:

- ◀ Harris Park (Extension site only – owned by Cockermouth Town Council)
- ◀ Workington Hall Parklands

### ◀ Vulcan Park

Amenity greenspaces should also be recognised for their multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. They can often be used for informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many amenity greenspaces in Allerdale have a dual function and are used as amenity resources for residents but also provide visually pleasing areas.

These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of amenity greenspace. The greater these features, combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping, trees), the greater sites are respected and valued by the local community.

## 6.6 Summary

### **Amenity greenspace summary**

- ◀ A total of 88 amenity greenspace sites are identified in Allerdale, totalling just over 58 hectares of amenity space.
- ◀ More amenity greenspace sites are located in Workington (31). However, the Maryport analysis area has the greatest amount of provision proportionally per 1,000 populations with 1.26 (compared to 0.65 for Allerdale as a whole).
- ◀ The multifunctional role of amenity greenspace to local communities is recognised and as such the expectation exists for provision to be locally accessible. Therefore an accessibility of a 10 minute walk has been set. Minor gaps in provision are observed in Silloth and Cockermouth. However, both areas are served by other open space typologies such as parks and outdoor sports provision.
- ◀ Overall the quality of amenity greenspaces is positive. The majority of sites (81%) are rated as high for quality in the site visit audit. Only a handful of sites are identified as having any specific issues. Often this is due to their size and nature and therefore lack any form of ancillary feature.
- ◀ In addition to the multifunctional role of sites, amenity greenspace provision is, in general, particularly valuable towards the visual aesthetics for communities. This is demonstrated by the 92% of sites which score high for value. The contribution these sites provide as a visual amenity and for wildlife habitats should not be overlooked.



### PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

#### 7.1 Introduction

The typology of provision for children and young people, includes 'areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters'.

Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can also include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges. It can include facilities such as skate parks, BMX, basketball courts, youth shelters, MUGAs and informal kick-about areas.

#### 7.2 Current provision

A total of 58 sites for provision for children and young people are identified in Allerdale. This combines to create a total of just more than five hectares. The table below shows the distribution of provision in Allerdale by area. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

*Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people by analysis area*

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Aspatria	8	1.15	0.17
Cockermouth	9	0.66	0.04
Maryport	11	0.89	0.06
Silloth	5	0.66	0.13
Wigton	5	0.51	0.03
Workington	20	1.16	0.04
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>4.83</b>	<b>0.05</b>

Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience utilising Fields In Trust (FIT) guidance. FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

- ✦ LAP - a Local Area of Play. Usually small landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment on such sites is specific to age group in order to reduce unintended users.
- ✦ LEAP - a Local Equipped Area of Play. Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users; often containing a wider range of equipment types.
- ✦ NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater for all age groups. Such sites may contain MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large park sites.
- ✦ Youth provision - These include areas providing only forms of provision for young people such as skate parks/basketball courts/games walls

Play provision in Allerdale is summarised using the (FIT) classifications below.

## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 7.2: Categorised distribution of provision for children and young people by area

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people					
	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Youth	Unclassified /other	TOTAL
Aspatria	4	1	3	-	-	8
Cockermouth	5	2	2	-	-	9
Maryport	5	2	3	1	-	11
Silloth	1	1	2	-	1	5
Wigton	2	1	2	-	-	5
Workington	10	4	3	3	-	20
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>58</b>

More provision in Allerdale (42%) is identified as being of LAP classification, which is often viewed as sites with a smaller amount and range of equipment; designed to predominantly cater for supervised play.

For youth provision, sites only identified as standalone forms of provision are included. Where equipment catering for older age groups is found on a play area as part of a wider range of provision it has been included within that NEAP or LEAP site.

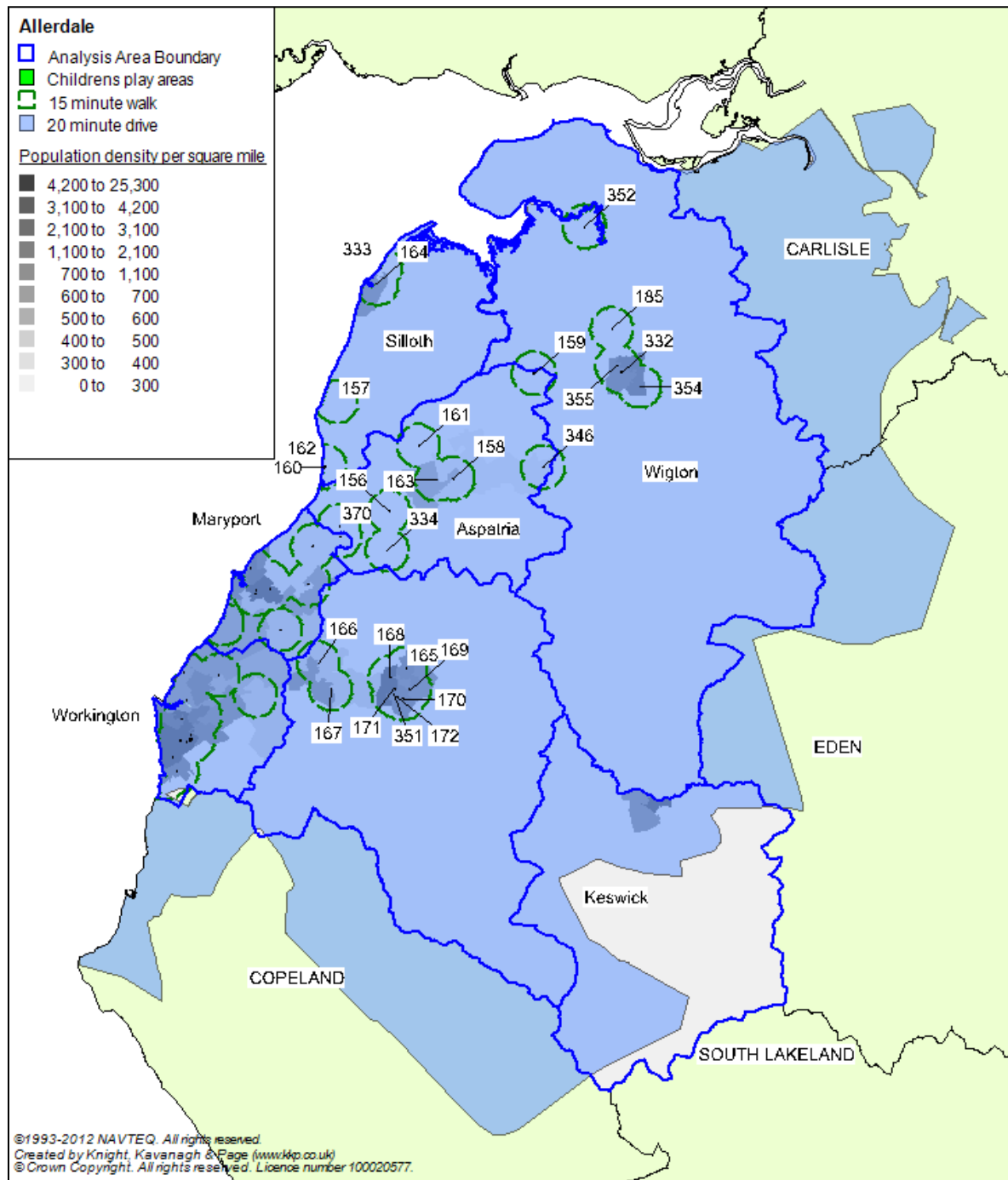
### 7.3 Accessibility

For the purposes of catchment mapping a walk time of 15 minutes and a drive time of 20 minutes have both been applied. These are based on the locally derived standards from the previous open space study for Allerdale. Figure 7.1 shows provision for children and young people mapped against the analysis areas with these accessibility catchments. Figure 7.2 and 7.3 shows provision mapped for Maryport and Workington specifically.



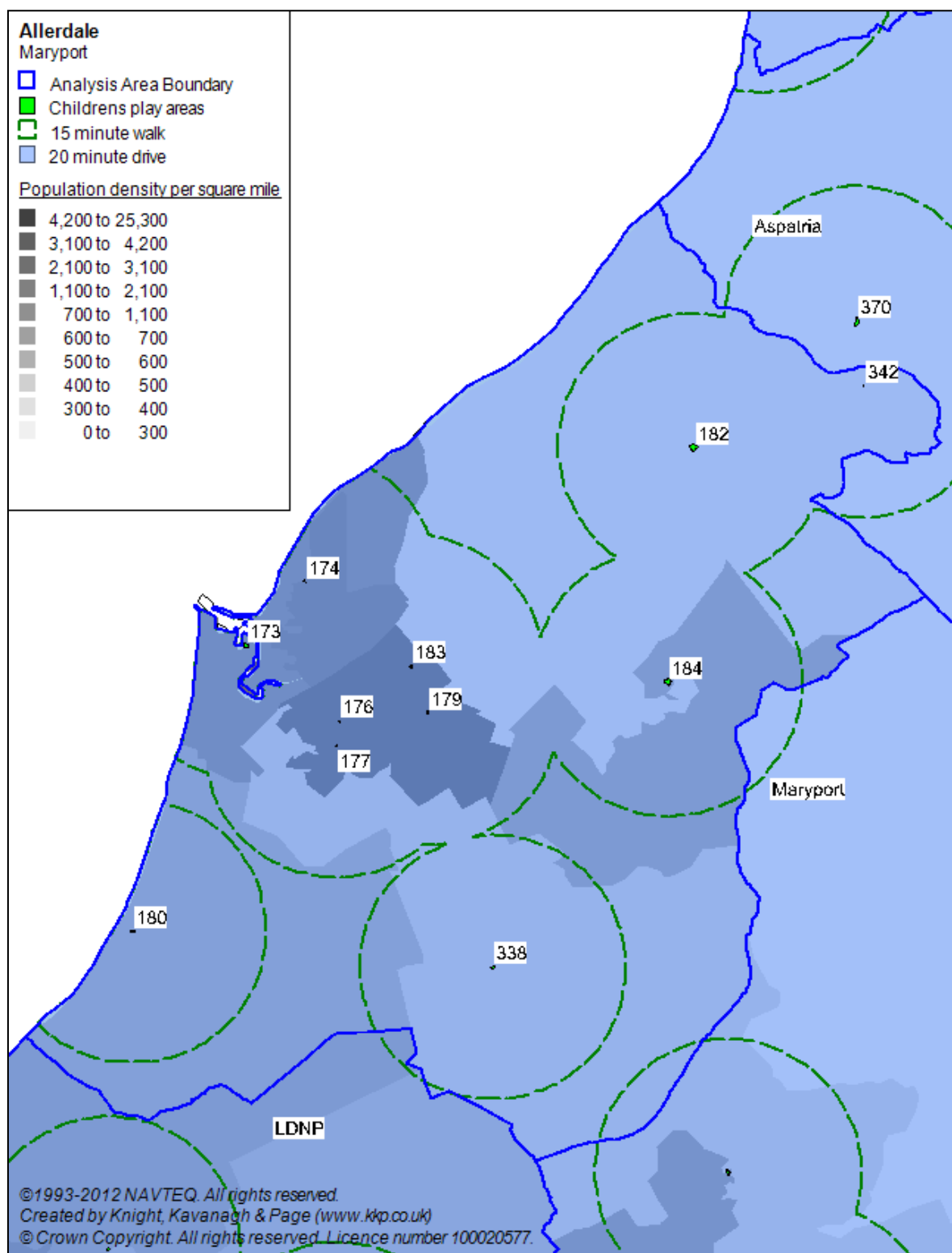
# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people mapped against analysis areas



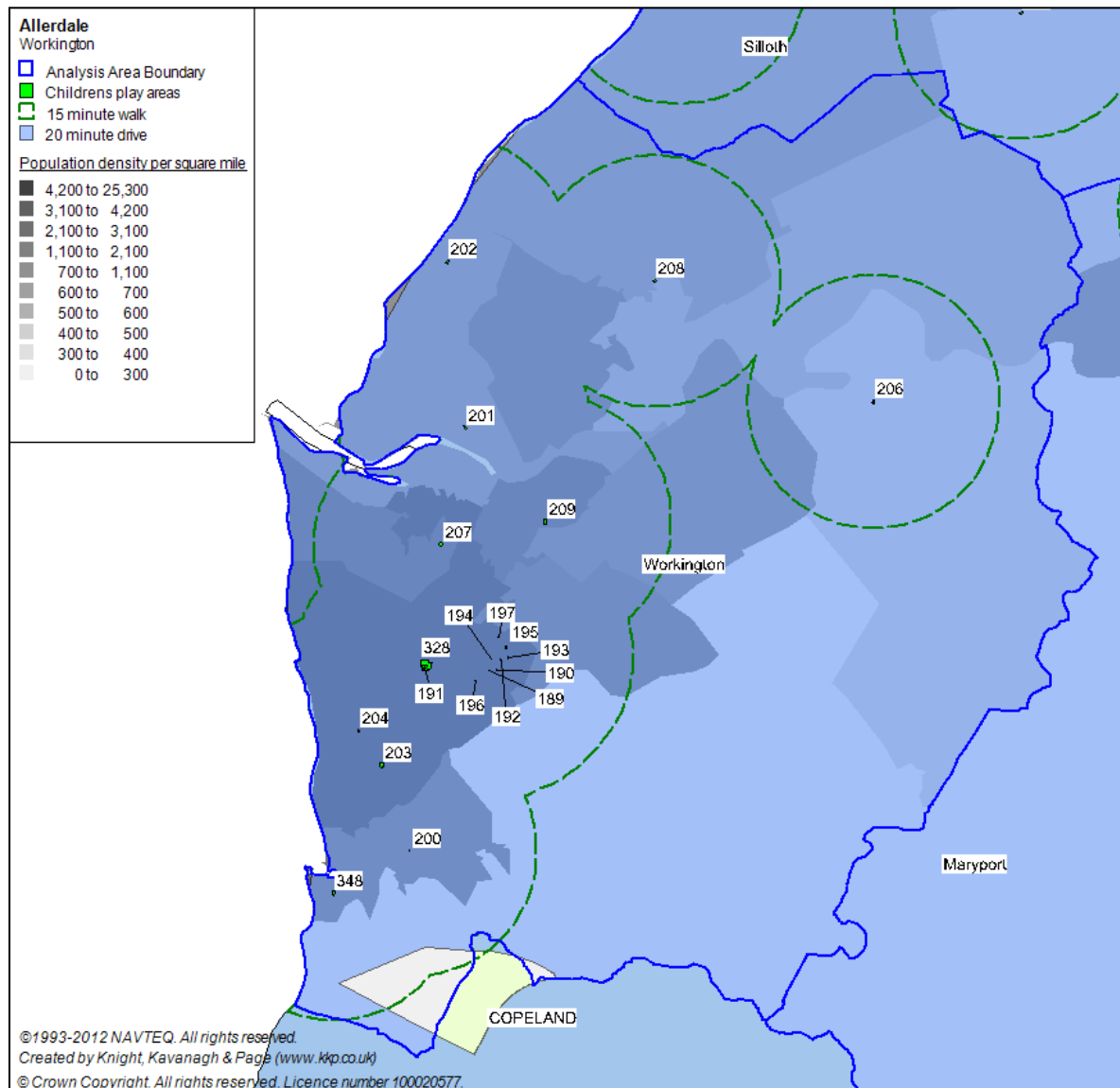
## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.2: Provision for children and young people – Maryport map



# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.3: Provision for children and young people – Workington map



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Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

KKP Ref	Site	Ownership	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
156	Oughterside Play Area	Parish Council	Aspatria	75%	58%
157	Mawbray Children's Play Area	Parish Council	Silloth	84%	53%
158	Victoria Park Children's Play Area	Town Council	Aspatria	80%	60%
159	Blencogo Play Area	Parish Council	Aspatria	77%	64%
160	Allonby Play Area 1	Town Council	Silloth	66%	62%
161	Westnewton Play Area	Parish Council	Aspatria	69%	73%
162	Allonby Play Area 2	Town Council	Silloth	55%	53%
163	St Mungos Park PA	Town Council	Aspatria	61%	64%
164	Eden Street Play Area	Town Council	Silloth	64%	60%
165	Isel Road Play Area	Town Council	Cockermouth	21%	31%
166	Ghyll Bank	Parish Council	Cockermouth	51%	58%
167	Lawson Garth	Parish Council	Cockermouth	58%	38%
168	Cockermouth Memorial Gardens Play Area	Town Council	Cockermouth	73%	38%
169	Bellbrigg Lonning Play Area	ABC	Cockermouth	71%	55%
170	Towers Lane Play Area	Town Council	Cockermouth	34%	33%
171	Harris Park Play Area	ABC	Cockermouth	69%	62%
172	Greyrigg Avenue Play Area	Town Council	Cockermouth	33%	26%
173	Shiver Me Timbers Play Area	Maryport Development LTd	Maryport	70%	73%
174	Camp Road Children's Play Area	ABC	Maryport	57%	56%
176	Ennerdale Road/ Sandy Lonning Play Area	ABC	Maryport	57%	55%
177	The Arches MUGA	Town Council	Maryport	54%	47%
179	The Green Play Area	Town Council	Maryport	53%	46%
180	Flimby Recreation Play Area	ABC	Maryport	82%	49%
182	The Green off Old Road Children's Play Area	Parish Council	Maryport	72%	64%
183	The Beeches Play Area	Housing Association	Maryport	73%	47%
184	Main Street Play Area	Parish Council	Maryport	54%	47%
185	West End Close	Trustees	Wigton	56%	64%
189	Bowness Court Play Area	Housing Association	Workington	44%	16%
190	Laybourne Court Play Area	Housing Association	Workington	44%	24%
191	Moorclose Community Green Play Area	Housing Association	Workington	89%	58%

## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

KKP Ref	Site	Ownership	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
192	Udale Court Play Area	Housing Association	Workington	44%	24%
193	Udale Court Play Area	Housing Association	Workington	50%	33%
194	Hunday Court AGS Play Area South	Housing Association	Workington	41%	36%
195	Ashfield Road South Play Area	Housing Association	Workington	51%	27%
196	Lady Court Play Area	Housing Association	Workington	33%	36%
197	Hunday Court Play Area North	Housing Association	Workington	44%	15%
200	Brewery House Play Area	ABC*	Workington	32%	55%
201	Northside Play Area	Housing Association	Workington	78%	56%
202	Siddick Play Area	ABC*	Workington	58%	38%
203	Salterbeck Backfield Large Play Area	Town Council	Workington	45%	53%
204	Walker Road Play Area	Town Council	Workington	46%	44%
206	William Street Children's Play Area	Parish Council	Workington	79%	60%
207	Vulcan Park Play Area	ABC	Workington	72%	58%
208	Hunters Drive Play Area	ABC	Workington	78%	58%
209	Workington Hall Park (Ramsay Brow) Skate Park	ABC	Workington	71%	62%
328	Moor Close BMX	Housing Association	Workington	49%	46%
332	Wigton Park Play Area	Town Council	Wigton	74%	55%
333	Silloth Green Wild PA	Town Council	Silloth	53%	55%
334	Gilcrux Play Area	Parish Council	Aspatria	48%	42%
338	Broughton Moor Play Area	Parish Council	Maryport	50%	46%
342	Crosby Villa Play Area	Trustees	Maryport	45%	42%
346	Fletchertown Play Area	Parish Council	Aspatria	73%	51%
348	Harrington Marina Play Area	ABC	Workington	80%	42%
351	Harris Park Extension Play Area	Town Council	Cockermouth	45%	42%
352	Kirkbride Play Area	Parish Council	Wigton	79%	46%
354	Highmoor Play Area	Parish Council	Wigton	73%	42%
355	Fell View Play Area	Parish Council	Wigton	78%	33%
370	Allerby Play Area	Parish Council	Aspatria	49%	38%

\* In process of transferring to Workington Town Council

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There is generally a good spread of provision across Allerdale. The drive time catchment covers the whole of the Borough. In addition, the greatest areas of population density (i.e. main settlements) are within walking distance of some type of play provision.

Overall, widespread new provision is not likely to be required. However, there is in general, a perceived lack of provision catering for older age groups across Allerdale. Consultation with town councils highlights that specific settlements such as Cockermouth, Silloth and Wigton are perceived as lacking in equipment/facilities for older children (i.e. teenagers).

However, provision for older age groups is in existence. For instance, Bellbrigg Lonning Play Area in Cockermouth has a basketball facility and youth shelter. Similarly the settlement of Maryport has provision of a basketball hoop at the Camp Road site.

The settlement with the most facilities catering for older aged children is Workington. In the town, for example, there are skate parks at Workington Hall Park and at Salterbeck Play Area, outdoor gym equipment at Vulcan Park as well as BMX and Games Wall facilities at the Moorclose Community Green site.

Reflecting the perceived lack of facilities for older age ranges, a number of town councils identify ambitions or plans to provide suitable play provision and facilities.

Town Council	Comment
Wigton	There is a long-term ambition to develop a small BMX and/or skate park facility at the Phoenix Park site.
Cockermouth	Monies are set aside for a bike project. This would be a 'free ride' initiative designed to give children of all ages somewhere to cycle within a safe environment. Potential sites are still being considered.
Silloth	As part of the Silloth Green HLF development a BMX track has recently opened on the site.

New play provision is also currently being provided at the East End site in Wigton. The development will provide equipment for younger age ranges. It has been funded by contributions from a local housing contractor.

### **Management**

In total Allerdale Borough Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of 11 sites. Of these there are eight strategic sites:

- ◆ Bellbrigg Lonning (Cockermouth)
- ◆ Harris Park (Cockermouth)
- ◆ Camp Road ((Maryport)
- ◆ Sandy Lonning (Maryport)
- ◆ Flimby (Maryport)
- ◆ Vulcan Park (Workington)
- ◆ Hunters Drive (Workington)
- ◆ Harrington Marina (Workington)

The strategic sites were adopted due to resource issues resulting in a need to concentrate levels of provision. The eight sites were therefore selected based on their strategic location and proximity to greater levels of population.

## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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The other three non-strategic sites managed by ABC are:

- ✦ Workington Hall Park – Skate Park (Workington)
- ✦ Brewery House Play Area (Workington)
- ✦ Siddick Play Area (Workington)

Management of the Siddick Play Area and Brewery House site are currently in the process of being transferred to Workington Town Council. This is part of a wider ABC review of smaller play sites; which is considering the possible transfer of responsibility for such sites. In addition, there is new play provision to be provided on the Newlands Lane site.

All other play area sites in Allerdale are provided and managed by other organisations; predominantly parish and town councils. In addition, there are a number of sites managed by local housing associations such as Derwent and Solway Housing Association.

In addition, there is also a new play area being provided at Ennerdale Road, Ewanrigg in Maryport.

‘Playing for Real’ is the play strategy for Allerdale produced by ABC. It sets the importance of play within a national context whilst detailing the key priorities for provision in the Borough. It details that the fundamental play policy objective is:

*To increase the quality of children’s play opportunities in a variety of settings and to ensure that all children and young people in Allerdale have easy access to such opportunities*

In order to deliver this vision and the key priorities the strategy sets out eight strategic objectives. These are designed to:

1. Increase the range, distribution and quality of supervised play that meets the play strategy objectives, and the guidelines for creating inspiring play environments.
2. Enable opportunities for the voice of all children and young people to be routinely heard in decision making which affects their play needs and wants.
3. Ensure the play strategy is referred to whenever decisions are made that impact on play opportunities.
4. Improve opportunities for all children and young people to meet and play within shared public space, having due regard to the legitimate usage of that space.
5. Promote the increase of quality play opportunities within formal settings.
6. Ensure the risk assessment of play opportunities, environments, facilities and provision takes appropriate account of the benefits to all children and young people.
7. Secure a skilled and motivated workforce that is diverse and reflects the community.
8. Facilitate and develop partnerships with stakeholders, voluntary groups and organisations in the delivery of the play strategy.

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### 7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people in Allerdale. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Quality assessments of play sites do not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment. For an informed report on the condition of play equipment the Council's own inspection reports should be sought.

*Table 7.4: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Aspatria	97	48%	54%	80%	12%	-	8
Cockermouth	97	21%	47%	73%	52%	3	6
Maryport	97	45%	64%	82%	37%	-	11
Silloth	97	53%	69%	84%	31%	-	5
Wigton	97	56%	68%	79%	23%	-	5
Workington	97	32%	60%	89%	59%	7	13
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>48</b>

The majority of sites are assessed as high quality (82%) against the site visit criteria. However, there is a significant spread between the highest and lowest scoring sites, particularly in Workington and Cockermouth.

The Isel Road Play Area site in Cockermouth scores 21% compared, for instance, to the Cockermouth Memorial Gardens Play Area which scores 73%. The low score for the Isel Road site is a reflection of its isolated position and lack ancillary feature (e.g. bins/benches) as well as its limited range of play equipment; site only contains two sets of swings. In contrast, Cockermouth Memorial Gardens Play Area receives the highest score in the analysis area due to its range and condition of play equipment. The site also benefits from additional features such as car parking and seating. Furthermore, the sites central location and position in the town means it is a popular and well used facility.

Other sites to receive particularly high scores for quality include:

- ✦ Moorclose Community Green Play Area (89%)
- ✦ Mawbray Play Area (84%)
- ✦ Flimby Recreation Play Area (82%)
- ✦ Victoria Park Play Area (80%)
- ✦ Harrington Marina Play Area (80%)

These sites are all noted as having an excellent range of equipment catering for different ages. In addition, the equipment is in great condition as are the other features on site



## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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such as benches and bins. Furthermore, both the Mawbray and Victoria Park sites have new equipment installed to a high level of quality.

The Flimby Recreation and Harrington Marina play areas are two of the facilities that form part of the eight ABC strategic sites. All eight of the strategic sites score above the quality threshold. It is important that these sites are maintained to a high standard given their roles as key facilities for the settlements they serve.

Consultation highlights a couple of additional sites that are considered to be of a good standard as well as being popular/well used by children. This is supported from the site visit assessments which scores both the highlighted sites as good quality:

- ◀ Wigton Park Play Area (74%)
- ◀ Silloth Green Play Area (53%)

Both sites are identified as having a good general level of appearance. In particular provision at Silloth Green is relatively new; with additions such as a wet play area and BMX being developed at the site. These were part of the wider open space HLF bid.

Conversely a couple of sites, St Mungos Park Play Area and Eden Street Play Area, are observed as having specific site issues. Respectively this is due to issues relating to litter or misuse such as dogs being on site. Despite this, both sites are rated as being above the quality threshold.

In total there are 10 sites to score below the threshold. All these sites are split between the analysis areas of Cockermouth and Workington; with the majority (70%) being located in the latter. The three sites in Cockermouth (Isel Road, Towers Lane and Greyrigg Avenue) are all observed as having a very limited range of play provision.

Similarly, a lack in range of equipment is also noted for most of the seven sites in Workington:

- ◀ Bowness Court
- ◀ Laybourne Court Play Area
- ◀ Udale Court Play Area
- ◀ Hunday Court South
- ◀ Lady Court
- ◀ Hunday Court North
- ◀ Brewery House

Six of these seven sites are managed and maintained by a housing association (e.g. Derwent and Solway Housing). The exception is Brewery House Play Area; which is currently ABC managed. As part of the Council's review of play provision responsibility for the site is being transferred to Workington Town Council. At the time of the site visits the facility was noted as having two seats from the swing apparatus missing.

The six housing association sites are all identified as only containing one form of play equipment i.e. slide provision. Hunday Court North, Bowness Court and Lady Court are observed as having two or less slides. Other sites such as Ladybourne Court and Hunday Court South contain five and seven slides respectively. The range and lack of alternative forms of play equipment and space limits the quality of the sites.

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## 7.5 Value

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

*Table 7.5: Value ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low	High
						<20%	>20%
Aspatria	55	42%	58%	73%	31%	-	8
Cockermouth	55	26%	44%	62%	36%	-	9
Maryport	55	42%	58%	73%	31%	-	11
Silloth	55	53%	58%	62%	9%	-	5
Wigton	55	33%	49%	64%	31%	-	5
Workington	55	15%	39%	62%	47%	2	54
ALLERDALE	55	15%	44%	73%	58%	2	56

Nearly all play provision (96%) is rated as being of high value in Allerdale. This demonstrates the role such provision provides in allowing children to play but also the contribution sites can offer in terms of creating aesthetically pleasing local environments, giving children and young people safe places to learn and to socialise with others.

The only sites to score low for value are Bowness Court and Hunday Court North. Both of these sites are in Workington and are managed by Derwent and Solway Housing Association. They are observed as having very limited play equipment with the sites only having slides; Bowness Court has two slides and Hunday Court North has a single slide. In addition, the sites are located within a housing estate where other play provision sites are within close proximity. The two sites also score below the threshold for quality due to their general appearance.

Two sites score the highest for value; Westnewton Play Area in Aspatria and Silloth Analysis Area and the Shiver Me Timber Play Area in Maryport. The latter is also highlighted through consultation as being highly valued. Both sites are noted as having an imaginative and excellent range of equipment. Additional positives also include picnic tables which promote wider family uses.

Sites recognised through consultation as being of high value tend to reflect the size and amount/range of equipment present on site. For example, provision at prominent sites such as Vulcan Park, Workington Hall Park, Harris Park and Flimby Recreation Field are all highlighted. Not surprisingly three of these sites (with the exception of Workington Hall Park) are designated as strategic sites by ABC. In addition, other sites such as Wigton Park, Silloth Green and Memorial Garden in Cockermouth are also identified as popular and well used facilities.

It is also important to recognise the benefits that play provides in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus its developmental and educational value. It is essential that parents, carers and members of the public are made aware of the importance of play and of children's rights to play in their local communities.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages is also essential. Unique provision such as outdoor gyms and skate parks/BMX facilities at sites like Vulcan Park, Workington Hall Park and Silloth Green are often cited as highly valued forms of play. Opportunities to further expand these types of provision that cater towards older age ranges should be explored and encouraged where possible.

### 7.6 Summary

#### **Provision for children and young people summary**

- ◆ There are a total of 58 sites across the Borough that are identified as play provision.
- ◆ Allerdale contains a high proportion of LAP (small) sized play areas, many of which score high for quality and value. This is a reflection on the rural nature of the Borough with smaller sized provision being located in less densely populated settlements and villages.
- ◆ Proportionally Aspatia and Silloth Analysis Areas have the highest amount of provision per 1,000 population. Although the actual greatest number of play sites is in Workington.
- ◆ No major gaps in provision are identified against the 15 minute walk time accessibility standard. Furthermore, all of Allerdale is covered by the drive time catchment. However, there is, in general, a perceived lack of play provision for older age groups particularly in Cockermouth and Wigton.
- ◆ The majority of play sites (82%) are assessed as being overall high quality. Although there are a number of sites which score low for quality. Often these sites are assessed as low due to general appearance and lack in range and quality of equipment.
- ◆ Sites to score below the threshold do so due to a limited range and quality of provision. Six out of the total 10 sites to score low for quality are managed by a housing association.
- ◆ Nearly all play provision (96%) is rated as being of high value from the site visit audit. All eight of the ABC strategic play sites score high for quality and value. Reflecting their role in providing coordinated access across the Borough.

## PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

### 8.1 Introduction

Allotments is a typology which covers open spaces that provide ‘opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.’ This may include provision such as allotments, community gardens and city farms.

### 8.2 Current provision

There are 26 sites classified as allotments in Allerdale, equating to over 26 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

*Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Aspatria	3	4.12	0.44
Cockermouth	2	1.83	0.12
Maryport	7	8.31	0.54
Silloth	1	1.27	0.25
Wigton	1	2.21	0.15
Workington	12	9.83	0.30
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26.30</b>	<b>0.29</b>

Most sites are located in Workington (12). Not surprisingly, the most hectareage (9.8 hectares) is also found in the same analysis area.

Overall, there are a combined total of circa 688 plots, including half plots, at all sites across Allerdale. The number of plots offered at each site varies with the largest at the Sandy Lanning site in Maryport (80 plots). Other significant contributors are; Douglas Road (Annie Pit) site in Workington (68 plots), Longwaite Road Allotments (50 plots) in Wigton and Risehow Allotments (45 plots) in Maryport.

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (i.e. 20 allotments per 2,000 people based on 2 people per house) or 1 allotment per 200 people. This equates to 0.125 hectares per 1,000 population based on an average plot-size of 250 metres squared.

Based on the current population of 89,564 (ONS 2011 mid-term estimates) Allerdale, as a whole, does meet the NSALG standard. However, Cockermouth as an individual analysis area falls just below the threshold. Using the suggested national standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Allerdale is 11.20 hectares. The existing provision of 26.30 hectares therefore meets the standard.

Table 8.2 details the number of sites and plots located within each analysis area. Where it was not possible to gather the number of plots during consultation, an estimated number of plots was used.

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In total there are well over 600 plots identified in the Borough. The greatest number of sites and plots are in the Workington analysis area; with a total of circa 274 plots. This is followed by Maryport analysis area with 170 plots.

*Table 8.2: Allotment sites and plots*

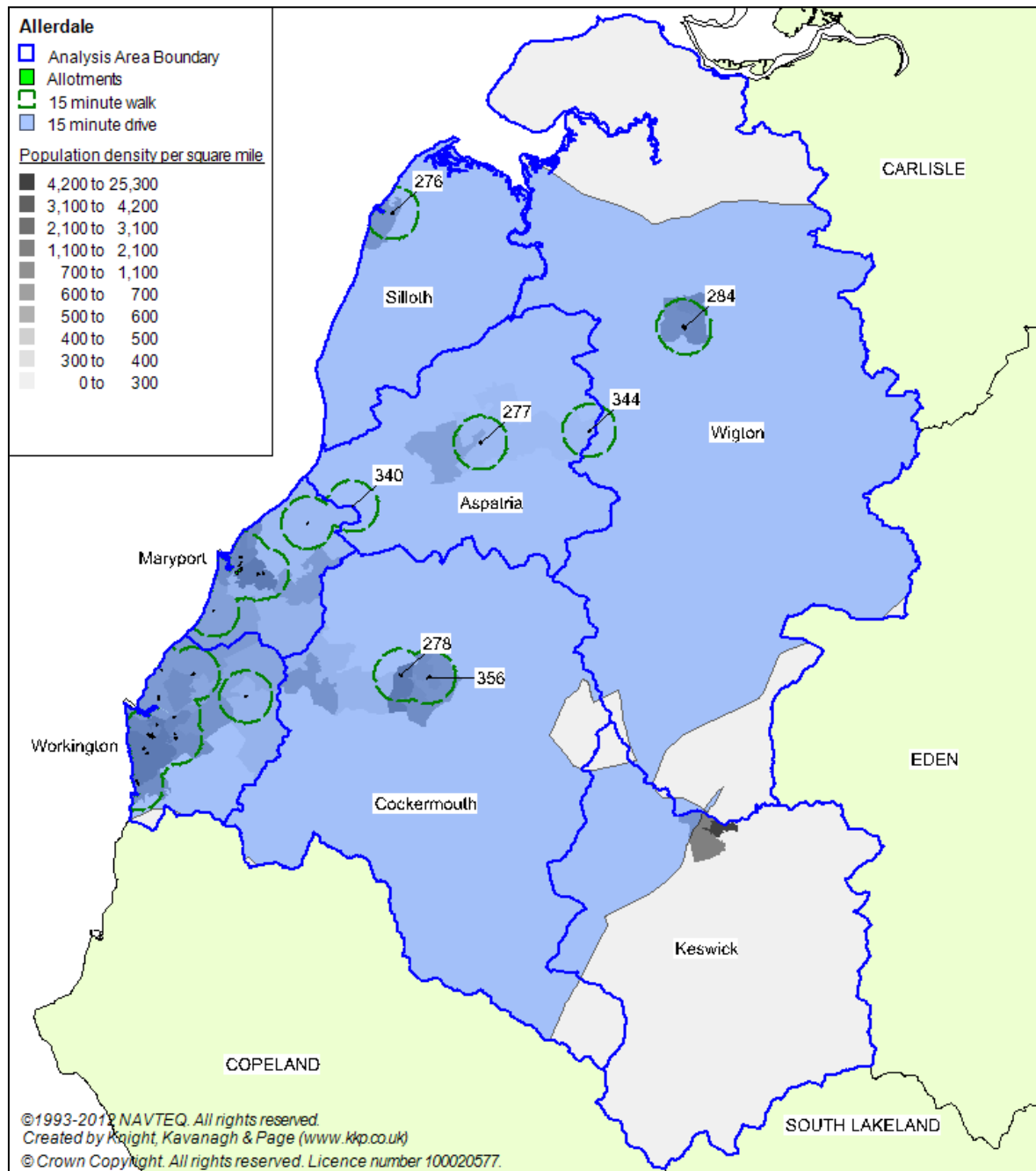
Analysis area	Number of sites	Number of plots
Aspatria	3	40
Cockermouth	2	75
Maryport	7	170
Silloth	1	79
Wigton	1	50
Workington	12	274
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>688</b>

### 8.3 Accessibility

For the purposes of catchment mapping a walk time of 15 minutes and a drive time of 15 minutes have both been applied. These are based on the locally derived standards from the previous open space study for Allerdale. Figure 8.1 shows allotments mapped against the analysis areas against the accessibility standards. Figure 8.2 and 8.3 shows provision mapped for Maryport and Workington specifically.

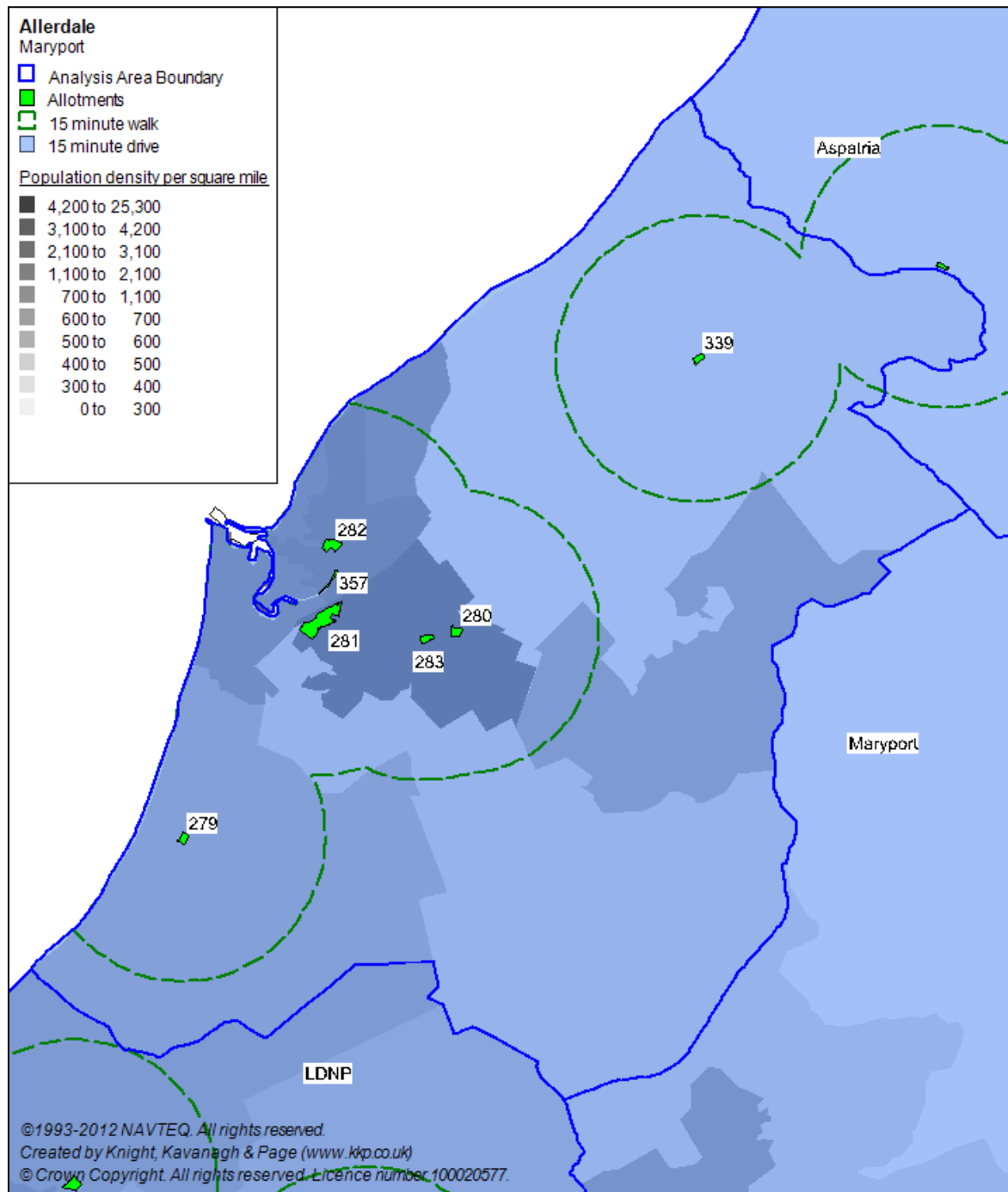
# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped against analysis areas



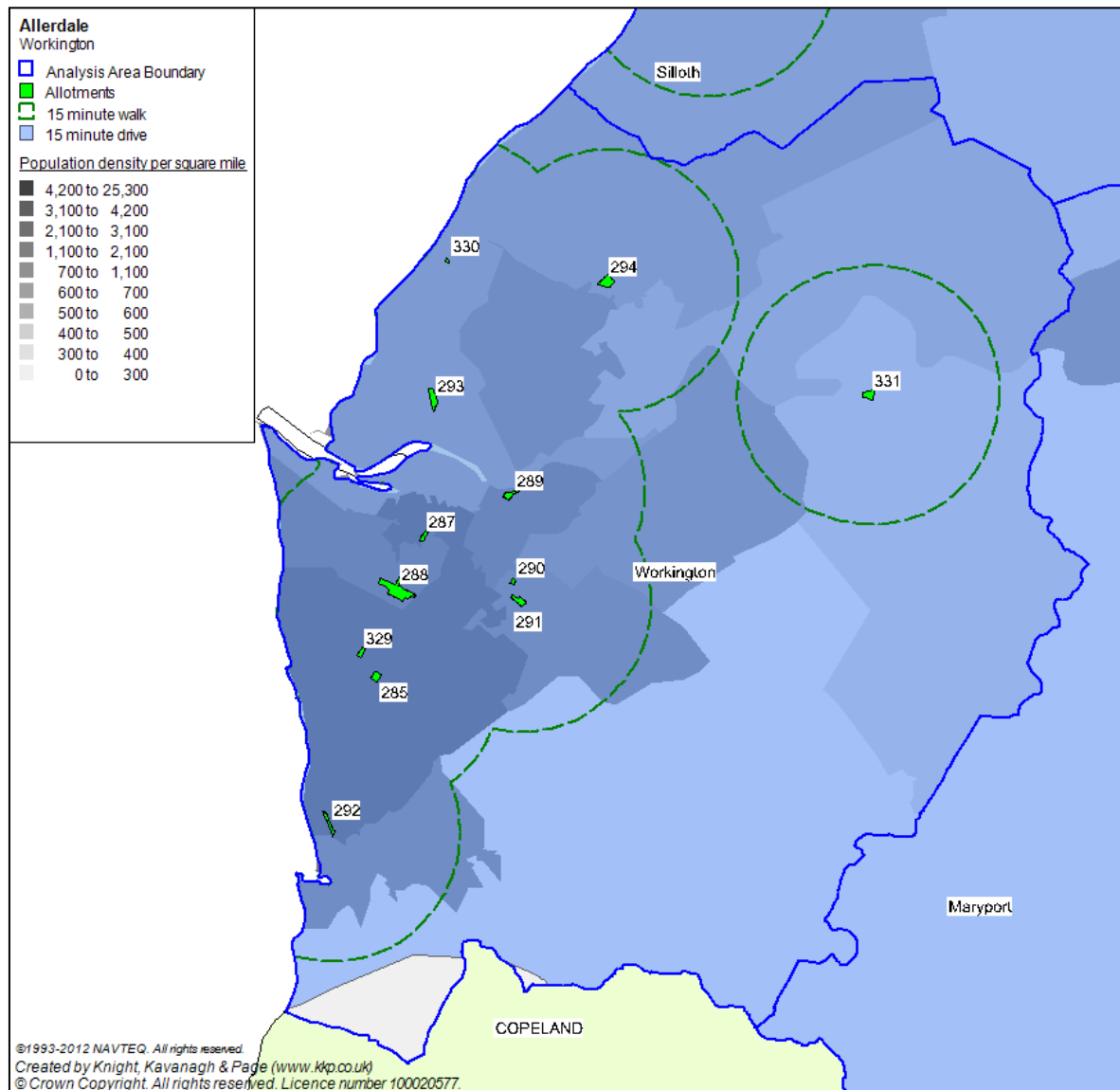
## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.2: Allotments – Maryport map



# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.3: Allotments – Workington map





## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
276	Eden St Allotments	Aspatria	40%	35%
277	Lawson Street Allotments	Silloth	50%	40%
278	Gote Road Allotments	Cockermouth	40%	29%
279	Risehow Allotments	Maryport	48%	36%
280	Ellenborough Allotments	Maryport	52%	31%
281	Sandy Lonning Allotments	Maryport	42%	35%
282	Church Street Allotments	Maryport	45%	36%
283	Main Street Allotments	Maryport	42%	36%
284	Longwaite Road Allotments	Wigton	42%	48%
285	Cranbourne Street Allotments	Workington	45%	29%
287	Park Lane Allotments	Workington	47%	40%
288	Douglas Road Allotments	Workington	45%	42%
289	Hall Brow Allotments	Workington	47%	23%
290	Newlands Lane Allotments	Workington	52%	47%
291	Newlands Park Allotments	Workington	54%	38%
292	Salterbeck Road Allotments	Workington	31%	15%
293	Northside Allotments	Workington	49%	34%
294	Seaton Allotments	Workington	41%	31%
329	Elton Sports Field Allotments	Workington	49%	23%
330	Siddick Allotments	Workington	40%	22%
331	Great Clifton Allotments	Workington	43%	33%
339	Crosby Allotments	Maryport	48%	29%
340	Crosby Villa Allotments	Silloth	41%	33%
344	Fletchertown Allotments	Silloth	44%	29%
356	St Helens Allotments	Cockermouth	48%	33%
357	Selby Terrace Allotments	Maryport	44%	24%

Nearly all analysis areas, with the exception of the very north and south extremities, are covered by the 15 minute drive time catchment standard. Furthermore, settlements with a greater population density are also covered by the 15 minute walk time catchment.

On this basis, it is not thought likely that any new sites are required to be provided; as the drive time catchment sufficiently covers Allerdale as a whole. In addition, the NSALG standard is also currently being met. However, this should not prevent providers of allotment sites (i.e. town and parish councils) from creating any new plots if local demand requires.

### **Ownership/management**

The Council is not responsible for the management of any allotment provision. Instead the majority of sites are owned and managed by town and parish councils.

There are eight sites in Workington that ABC own but these are managed by Workington Town Council. However, these sites are currently in the process of being transferred to the Town Council.

## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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Three sites are managed by other providers; Elton Sports Field Allotments, Selby Terrace Allotments and Newlands Lane Allotments. Both Elton Sports Field Allotments, in Workington, and Selby Terrace Allotments, in Maryport, are privately managed sites. Newlands Lane Allotments is leased and managed by West House Charitable Trust. The site is currently being developed as a community garden and sensory space. This will be designed to engage and help people with mental health problems in a productive and creative way.

In addition, part of the Longwaite Road Allotments in Wigton is also leased to a charity. The wider allotments are owned by Wigton Town Council with the local charity 'Free for All' having a 25 year lease agreed for a small portion of the site.

### ***Demand***

Consultation highlights a steady demand for the continuing provision of allotment sites and plots across the Borough. Currently demand appears to outweigh supply; demonstrated by waiting lists being present at all sites within the audit.

All parish and town council sites have a waiting list. There is some variation in how waiting numbers are recorded by each provider. For example both Maryport and Wigton town councils identify an average waiting time of five and seven years each. Others such as Workington Town Council and Cockermouth Town Council identify numbers of 83 and 60 respectively on its waiting lists.

Smaller parish council sites also highlight waiting lists. Crossscanonby Parish Council, which has a total of 38 plots across two sites, has six people on its waiting list. Allhallows Parish Council which manages the 25 plots on the Fletchertown Allotments has a waiting list of four.

A number of town councils report plans and aspirations to meet some of this demand. Maryport Town Council has in recent years extended plot provision at the Risehow Allotments. The Town Council also identifies that there is potential to expand provision at Sandy Lanning Allotments. However, no plans are currently in place.

Cockermouth Town Council is looking at the possibility of accommodating allotment plots on four play area sites. These have recently been transferred to the Town Council from ABC. The four sites are each identified as having peripheral land (away from the current play equipment) that may be able to host plots. The secondary use of the wider sites may help to increase quality and value; as in most instances, the play equipment on these sites is viewed as being limited in terms of range.

Currently both Workington and Cockermouth town councils have a policy to split in half any newly vacated plots. Nationally this is a common practice as through splitting plot sizes waiting list numbers can be met much quicker.

In addition, most allotments in Allerdale are identified as operating at full capacity with no vacant plots identified. However, four sites have overgrown areas and appear to have some plots unused:

- ❖ Douglas Road Allotments – circa 25% observed as being unused
- ❖ Salterbeck Road Allotments – half of site overgrown with no evidence of use
- ❖ Northside Allotments – a few plots appear overgrown
- ❖ Siddick Allotments – half of site unused

## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

All four sites are located in Workington. Further investigation into the availability of these plots should be encouraged. Unused sites such as these could help in order to meet the 83 individuals on the waiting list held by Workington Town Council.

### 8.4 Quality

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

*Table 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Aspatria	124	41%	46%	50%	9%	-	3
Cockermouth	124	40%	44%	48%	8%	-	2
Maryport	124	42%	47%	52%	10%	-	7
Silloth	124	40%	40%	40%	-	-	1
Wigton	124	48%	48%	48%	-	-	1
Workington	124	31%	43%	54%	23%	1	11
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>

In terms of quality, the majority of the allotment sites in Allerdale (96%) score highly. The highest scoring site is Newlands Park Allotments in Workington with a score of 54%. It scores well due to its general appearance and maintenance (e.g. tidy, good paths and signage). In addition, all sites in Workington and Cockermouth have access to piped water provision. At other sites any provision of water is through on site storage.

Only one allotment site in Allerdale scores low for quality. This is Salterbeck Road Allotments in Workington. Observations from the site assessment note that over half of the site is overgrown with no evidence of it being in use. Overall maintenance of the site is also viewed as poor.

In general, consultation highlights no significant problems with regard to the general quality of provision across the Borough; demonstrated by most sites currently being in use. However, consultation with Workington Town Council suggests there is an issue with thefts occurring on sites. The Town Council is looking to undertake a programme to increase security at allotments by improving aspects such as fencing. However, no plans or improvements will be carried out until the long term management (i.e. asset transfer) of the sites is sorted.

## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### 8.5 Value

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

*Table 8.5: Value ratings for allotments by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Aspatria	105	29%	45%	40%	11%	-	3
Cockermouth	105	29%	31%	33%	4%	-	2
Maryport	105	24%	30%	36%	12%	-	7
Silloth	105	35%	35%	35%	-	-	1
Wigton	105	48%	48%	48%	-	-	1
Workington	105	15%	31%	47%	32%	1	11
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>

Nearly all allotments in Allerdale are assessed as high value. This is a reflection of the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such types of provision. The value of allotments is further demonstrated by the waiting lists identified at each site.

The exception is the Salterbeck Road Allotment in Workington, which is the only site to score below the threshold. This is predominantly due to over half the site being observed as overgrown and not in use.

Allotments in Allerdale are generally well used. Most are identified as being managed by parish and town councils meaning the ability and frequency to re-designate vacant plots are better placed.

## 8.3 Summary

### Allotments summary

- ▶ A total of 26 sites are classified as allotments in Allerdale, equating to more than 26 hectares. The majority of provision is owned and managed by the Parish and Town Councils. No allotments are managed by ABC.
- ▶ The current provision of 26 hectares is above the nationally recommended amount. However, there are waiting lists at every site across Allerdale suggesting demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply.
- ▶ Town Councils such as Cockermouth, Workington and Maryport all cite plans to potentially improve the quantity of provision. Both Cockermouth and Workington currently implement a plot splitting policy for any newly vacated plots in order to try and meet demand.
- ▶ There are a number of overgrown and therefore unused plots identified in the Workington area. For instance, at Salterbeck Road over half of the plots are observed as not in use.
- ▶ The majority of allotments (96%) score high for quality. The exception is the Salterbeck Road site in Workington, which is identified as being in poor general appearance as well as having plots overgrown.
- ▶ Nearly all allotments in Allerdale, with the exception of Salterbeck Road, are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.

## PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

### 9.1 Introduction

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

### 9.2 Current provision

There are 40 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to just less than 38 hectares of provision in Allerdale. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision identified is included within the audit.

*Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries by analysis area*

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Aspatria	7	2.96	0.45
Cockermouth	6	9.57	0.61
Maryport	8	7.77	0.51
Silloth	4	2.71	0.54
Wigton	7	5.29	0.36
Workington	8	9.92	0.31
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38.22</b>	<b>0.43</b>

The largest contributors to burial provision in Allerdale are Cockermouth, Maryport and Salterbeck Cemeteries equating to 6.99, 5.35 and 3.19 hectares respectively. Within the identified provision there are a number of closed churchyard sites. These are sites that are no longer able to accommodate any new burials.

Burial provision in Allerdale is therefore provided at eight strategic sites. For Workington, provision is provided across two sites; Salterbeck Cemetery and Harrington Road Cemetery. The eight cemetery sites are

- ✦ Brigham Cemetery
- ✦ Cockermouth Cemetery
- ✦ Dearham Cemetery
- ✦ Flimby Cemetery
- ✦ Harrington Road Cemetery
- ✦ Maryport Cemetery
- ✦ Salterbeck Cemetery
- ✦ Silloth (Causewayhead) Cemetery

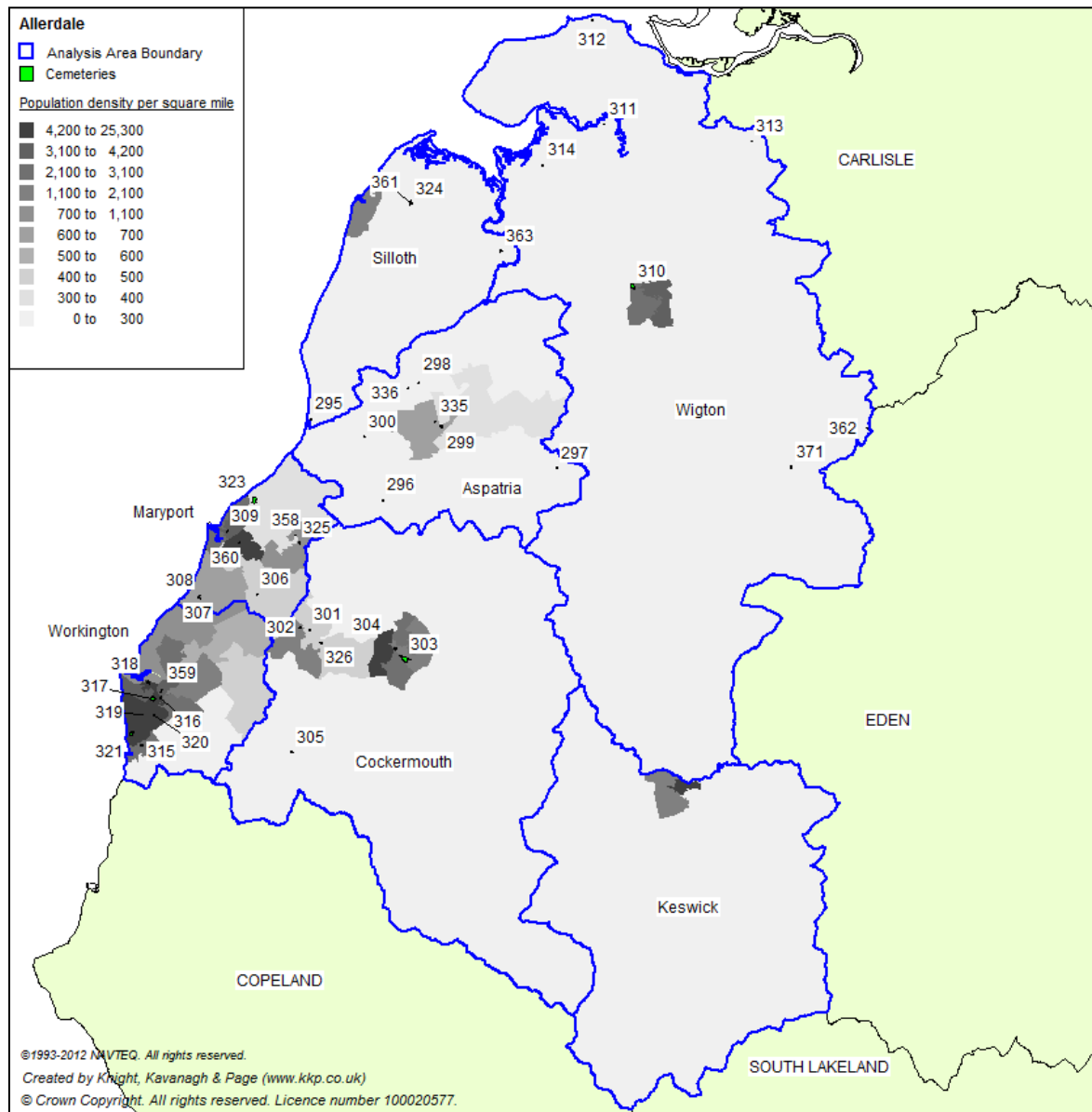
### 9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for the typology of cemeteries and churchyards. Furthermore, there is no realistic requirement to set accessibility standards for such provision. Instead provision should be based on burial demand.

Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis area



# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
295	Christ Church	Silloth	54%	27%
296	St Marys Church	Aspatria	49%	37%
297	St Michaels and All Angels School	Aspatria	62%	48%
298	The Parish Church of St Matthew	Aspatria	48%	42%
299	St Kentgern's Parish Church	Aspatria	61%	57%
300	Parish Church of St James	Aspatria	62%	42%
301	Broughton Baptist Church	Cockermouth	47%	38%
302	Christ Church Broughton	Cockermouth	48%	29%
303	Cockermouth Cemetery	Cockermouth	57%	55%
304	All Saints Church	Cockermouth	46%	23%
305	St Oswald's Parish Church	Cockermouth	47%	35%
306	St Columbus Church	Maryport	56%	40%
307	Flimby Cemetery	Maryport	51%	65%
308	St Nicholas	Maryport	58%	53%
309	St Marys Church	Maryport	62%	40%
310	Wigton Cemetery	Wigton	68%	65%
311	St Brides Church	Wigton	47%	29%
312	St Michaels Church, Bowness-On-Solway	Wigton	59%	58%
313	St Peters Church	Wigton	53%	51%
314	St John's Church	Wigton	64%	59%
315	Parish Church of St Marys	Workington	57%	35%
316	Banklands Cemetery	Workington	35%	33%
317	Harrington Road Cemetery	Workington	60%	55%
318	St Michaels Church	Workington	53%	42%
319	St Marys Westfield Church	Workington	45%	35%
320	St Gregory's Catholic Church	Workington	40%	31%
321	Salterbeck Cemetery	Workington	68%	42%
323	Maryport Cemetery	Maryport	59%	45%
324	Causewayhead Cemetery	Silloth	50%	30%
325	Dearham Cemetery	Maryport	50%	40%
326	Brigham Cemetery	Cockermouth	55%	39%
335	Outgang Road Cemetery	Aspatria	45%	38%
336	Westnewton Cemetery	Aspatria	50%	38%
358	St Mungo's Church, Dearham	Maryport	47%	34%
359	St John's Church, Workington	Workington	63%	35%
360	All Soul's Church	Maryport	48%	23%
361	St Paul's, Causewayhead	Silloth	49%	34%
362	Sebergham Churchyard	Wigton	54%	34%
363	Holme Cultram Abbey, Abbeytown	Silloth	55%	45%
371	St Kentigerns, Caldbeck	Wigton	59%	34%



## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates it is fairly evenly distributed across the area. Workington is identified as having a greater number of active sites compared to other settlements. However, this is to be expected given population densities. The need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

### ***Management***

Sites managed by Allerdale Borough Council can be categorised into two types; those providing active burial space and those designated as closed.

Responsibility for the management and maintenance of the eight strategic cemetery sites in the area is with Allerdale Borough Council. Within Allerdale the eight sites provide the majority of the active burial space provision:

- ✦ Brigham Cemetery
- ✦ Cockermouth Cemetery
- ✦ Dearham Cemetery
- ✦ Flimby Cemetery
- ✦ Harrington Road Cemetery
- ✦ Maryport Cemetery
- ✦ Salterbeck Cemetery
- ✦ Silloth (Causewayhead) Cemetery

In addition, the Council also has responsibility for 12 closed sites across the area.

- ✦ All Saints Church (KKP Ref 304)
- ✦ Holme Cultram Abbey (KKP Ref 363)
- ✦ Sebergham Churchyard (KKP Ref 362)
- ✦ St Pauls, Causewayhead (KKP Ref 361)
- ✦ St Marys Church, Maryport (KKP Ref 309)
- ✦ All Souls Church, Maryport (KKP Ref 360)
- ✦ St Nicholas, Flimby (KKP Ref 308)
- ✦ St Michaels Church, Workington (KKP Ref 318)
- ✦ St John's Church, Workington (KKP Ref 359)
- ✦ Banklands Cemetery (KKP Ref 316)
- ✦ Parish Church of St Marys (KKP Ref 315)
- ✦ St Mungo's Church, Dearham (KKP Ref 358)

All other forms of burial and churchyards are maintained by parish councils or the Carlisle Diocese.

In terms of burial capacity, most sites currently operational are understood to have sufficient interment space remaining for the next 20-30 years. The exceptions are Cockermouth and Silloth cemeteries.

Consultation with Bereavement Services Officers highlights that Cockermouth and Silloth (Causeway Head) cemeteries have an estimated 10 years of burial provision remaining. ABC owns land adjacent to Silloth Cemetery which may be developed to accommodate further burial provision subject to relevant planning and environmental assessment guidelines. Potential future housing allocations may impact on the availability of land adjacent to Cockermouth Cemetery for burials.

## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### 9.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries in Allerdale. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 9.3: Quality ratings for cemeteries by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Aspatria	161	45%	54%	62%	17%	-	7
Cockermouth	161	46%	52%	57%	11%	-	6
Maryport	161	47%	55%	62%	15%	-	8
Silloth	161	49%	52%	55%	6%	-	4
Wigton	161	47%	58%	68%	21%	-	7
Workington	161	35%	52%	68%	33%	2	6
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>38</b>

The majority of cemeteries/churchyards in Allerdale (95%) are rated as being of a high quality. Only two sites, both in Workington, score below the quality threshold:

- ✦ Banklands Cemetery (35%)
- ✦ St Gregory's Catholic Church (40%)

Both sites score lower due to an apparent lack of ancillary facilities such as bins and seating. In addition, both do not seem to be in current use as areas of burial. Banklands Cemetery is a large open access site observed as containing 36 marked historic gravestones; dating back to the 1890's. The rest of the site appears more suited as an amenity greenspace. Similarly, the St Gregory's Catholic Church site is open space surrounding the church. No evidence of the site being used as burial space was noted.

St Marys Church in Gilcrux is observed as being unkempt and overgrown. Furthermore, many of the headstones on site are identified as leaning. Despite this, the site still rates good for quality due to its quality of entrances and prominent position within the village.

The two highest scoring sites for quality are Wigton Cemetery and Salterbeck Cemetery. Both sites receive a quality score above the threshold with 68%. This is due to them being maintained to an excellent level. The general information provided on site is also noted as being good. The two sites form part of the eight active burial sites managed by ABC.

All eight of the strategic cemetery sites with operating burial space score above the threshold. Aside from the two sites discussed above, other high scoring sites are Maryport Cemetery and Harrington Road Cemetery; which score 59% and 60% respectively. Again this is as a result of maintenance on site being to a noticeably good standard.

## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### 9.5 Value

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

*Table 9.4: Value ratings for cemeteries by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Aspatria	100	37%	47%	57%	20%	-	11
Cockermouth	100	23%	34%	55%	22%	-	6
Maryport	100	23%	44%	65%	42%	-	8
Silloth	100	27%	36%	45%	18%	-	4
Wigton	100	29%	47%	65%	36%	-	7
Workington	100	31%	43%	55%	24%	-	8
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>42%</b>	-	<b>40</b>

All cemeteries and churchyards are assessed as being of high value, reflecting the role they provide in communities lives. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide to the local community are acknowledged in the site assessment data. The majority of sites also receive a score for value from their contribution to wildlife/habitats or sense of place to the local environment.

Three cemetery sites provide further added value by offering green burials. Green burials are the interment of a body that does not inhibit decomposition but allows it to recycle naturally. Cockermouth Cemetery, Harrington Road Cemetery and Maryport Cemetery all offer this alternative, but growing, burial service.

Consultation identifies that Harrington Road Cemetery has in the past suffered from issues regarding misuse. However, this has not been an issue for a few years.

Cemeteries and churchyards are important natural resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards offer important recreational benefits.

### 9.3 Summary

#### **Cemeteries summary**

- ◀ Allerdale is identified as having 40 sites classified as cemeteries, equating to just over 38 hectares of provision.
- ◀ Management of the eight active cemetery sites is undertaken by the Council. In addition, the Council is responsible for maintaining 12 closed burial sites across the Borough. Maintenance of some individual churchyards is carried out by parish councils.
- ◀ The majority of those sites identified as having active burial provision are recognised as having sufficient spare capacity in terms of future remaining burial space. There is noted as being circa 20-25 years capacity remaining.
- ◀ The majority of cemeteries and churchyards are rated as high quality. However, two sites score below the quality threshold. This is a reflection of the lack of ancillary facilities (e.g. benches, signage), sense of security and general maintenance observed.
- ◀ All cemeteries are assessed as high value in Allerdale, reflecting that generally provision has cultural/heritage value and provide a sense of place to the local community.

### PART 10: CIVIC SPACE

#### 10.1 Introduction

The civic space typology includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

#### 10.2 Current provision

There are three formal civic space sites, equating to less than one hectare of provision, identified in Allerdale. In addition, there are likely to be other informal pedestrian areas, streets or squares which residents may view as providing the same role as a civic space.

*Table 10.1: Distribution of civic spaces by analysis area*

Analysis area	Civic space		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Aspatria	-	-	-
Cockermouth	-	-	-
Maryport	2	0.65	0.042
Silloth	-	-	-
Wigton	-	-	-
Workington	1	0.12	0.003
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.009</b>

The majority of formal civic space is located in Maryport with a total of 0.65 hectares of provision being found in the settlement. The remaining civic space is located in Workington (0.12 hectares). Given the nature of the typology it is understandable for civic space provision to be found in areas with a higher population density.

There are sites and areas that will function in a secondary role as civic space provision. For example, park sites such as Vulcan Park and Silloth Green provide uses associated with civic spaces. For the purposes of this report sites such as these have not been classified as civic space provision due to their primary function and use.

#### 10.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard has been set for civic spaces. Figure 10.1 shows civic spaces mapped against analysis areas.

# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Figure 10.1: Civic spaces mapped against analysis areas

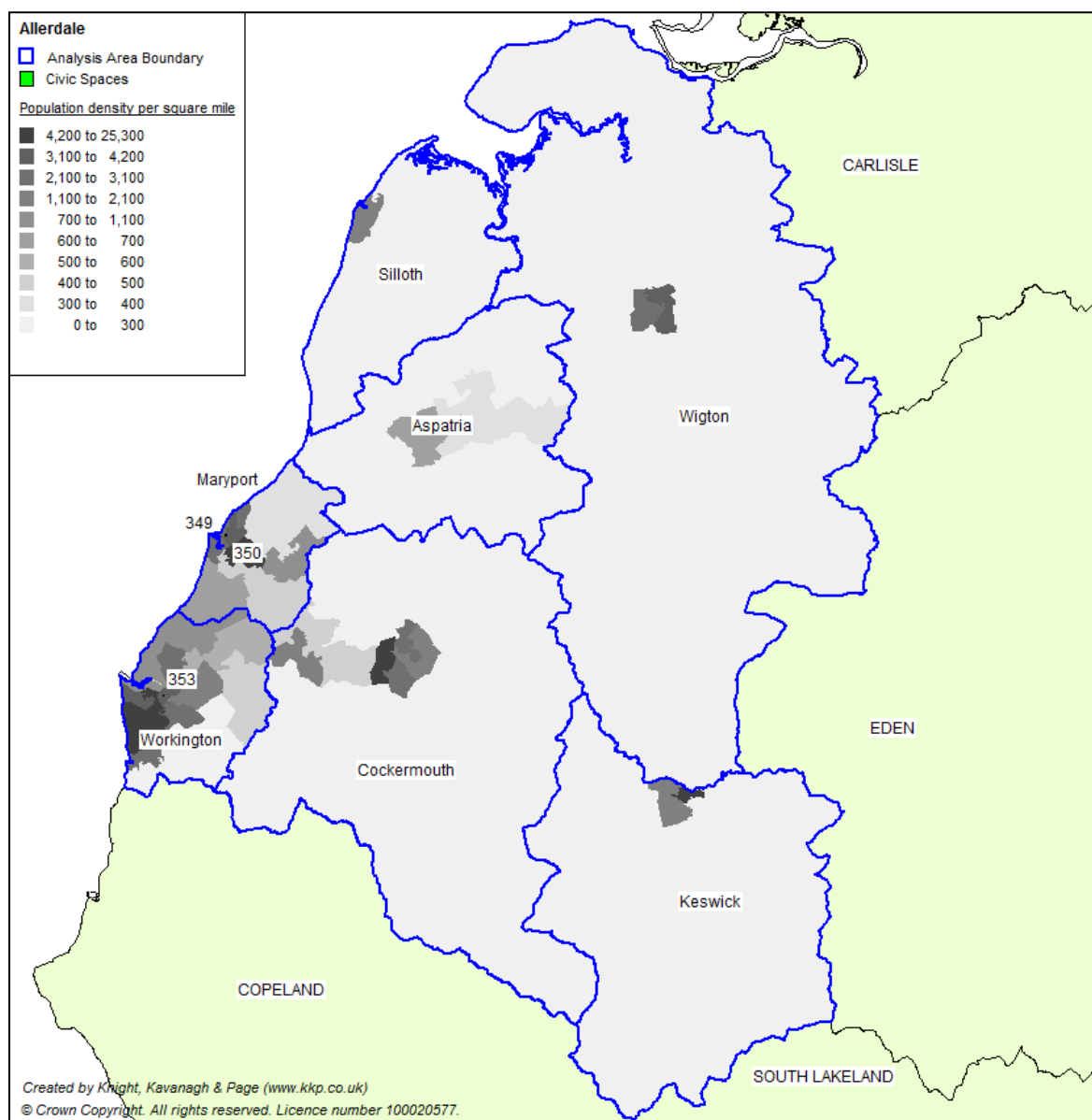


Table 10.2: Key to sites mapped

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
349	Maryport Harbour	Maryport	74%	60%
350	Fleming Square	Maryport	52%	39%
353	Washington Square	Workington	69%	55%

As can be expected provision is centred on the settlements with greater populations. However, there are other forms of open spaces and sites that will contribute to the provision of civic space. In smaller settlements main high streets are likely to also offer a function similar to civic space. For example, Main Street in Cockermouth is used to host the annual Food Festival. For this the road is closed to vehicles during the events operating hours.

## ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### 10.4 Quality

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

*Table 10.3: Quality ratings for civic spaces by analysis area*

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Aspatria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cockermouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryport	146	52%	63%	74%	22%	-	2
Silloth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wigton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Workington	146	69%	69%	69%	-	-	1
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

All civic spaces are, in general, regarded as being of high quality. They are noted as being well served by seating and bin provision as well as tending to meet the needs of a variety of user groups. Sites are also overall identified as having a good level of general maintenance observed by the well kept level of provision. Although at the time of the site visits the fountains on the Fleming Square site were not working properly.

The highest scoring site, with 74%, is the Maryport Harbour site. It scores above the threshold due to its high level of use and location, acting as a main destination, in the heart of the Town. The site is also noted as containing an Aquarium which further adds to its attraction; particularly for tourists.

Washington Square in Workington also rates highly with a score of 69% for quality. It is the main shopping centre for the settlement. Overall appearance of the site is good with the town centre undergoing a full redevelopment in 2005. The presence of art installations and seating areas add to the sites general high quality.

# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

### Value

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

Table 10.4: Value ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No' of sites	
		Lowest score	Ave score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Aspatria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cockermouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryport	100	39%	50%	60%	21%	-	2
Silloth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wigton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Workington	100	55%	55%	55%	-	-	1
<b>ALLERDALE</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

All identified civic spaces are assessed as being of high value, reflecting that provision has cultural/heritage value whilst also providing a sense of place to the local community. This is further supported by site visit observations, which confirms the social and cultural value of civic spaces through their use as attractive shopping and event spaces.

Both the Maryport Harbour and Washington Square sites also hold added value in their appeal to tourists. The Washington Square site will have an appeal through its function as the main shopping centre in Workington. Due to the proximity of the Aquarium as well as the ample car parking Maryport Harbour also has a real draw for tourism.

### 10.3 Summary

#### Civic space summary

- There are three sites classified as civic spaces in Allerdale, equating to less than one hectare of provision.
- Two sites are located in Maryport and one in Workington. There are also likely to be other forms of provision in the Borough (e.g. main streets, parks) that will provide localised opportunities associated with the function of civic space.
- All civic spaces are regarded as being of high quality. Sites are identified as having overall a good level of general maintenance.
- All civic spaces are assessed as high value, reflecting provision has a cultural/heritage value whilst providing a sense of place to the local community. Attractiveness to tourists is also a feature for the Maryport Harbour and Washing Square sites.



# ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

## APPENDICES

### Appendix One: Consultee list

Name	Designation	Organisation
Julie Ward	Principal Planning Officer	Allerdale Borough Council
Julie Diamond	Planning Officer	Allerdale Borough Council
Kirsten Mawbry	Parks and Open Space Officer	Allerdale Borough Council
Julian Smith	Parks and Open Space Officer	Allerdale Borough Council
Robert Deacon	Bereavement Services Officer	Allerdale Borough Council
Mark Brierley	Cycling Officer	Cumbria County Council
Michael Heaslip	Chair	Friends of Workington Hall Parklands
Maureen Dolan	Chair	Friends of Harrington Nature Reserve
Bill Bacon	Chair	Friends of Siddick Ponds
Chris Bagshaw	Town Clerk	Workington Town Council
Carol Tindall	Mayor	Maryport Town Council
Paul Bramley	Town Clerk	Maryport Town Council
Shelia Brown	Town Clerk	Cockermouth Town Council
Alison Dodd	Town Clerk	Wigton Town Council
Julia Webster	Assistant Town Clerk	Wigton Town Council
Wendy Jameson	Town Clerk	Silloth Town Council
Helen Ostle	Town Clerk	Aspatia Town Council
Lynda Walker	Town Clerk	Keswick Town Council
Jackie Knights	Clerk	Above Derwent Parish Council
Trevor Gear	Clerk	Allhallows Parish Council
Mr G Armer	Clerk	Blennerhasset & Torpenhow Parish Council
Mr G Forrester	Clerk	Blindcrake Parish Council
Tony North	Clerk	Brigham Parish Council
Paul Martin	Clerk	Broughton Parish Council
Jean Sorensen	Clerk	Broughton Moor Parish Council
Christine Freeland	Clerk	Crosscanonby Parish Council
Mr K Rogers	Clerk	Dearham Parish Council
Mrs L Housby	Clerk	Holme St Cuthbert Parish Council
Ms P Gaunlett	Clerk	Sebergham Parish Council
Alison Paterson	Clerk	Waverton Parish Council