

**Cheshire West and Chester
Open Space Study
2016 – 2030**



**Cheshire West
and Chester**

**Key Service Centre Supplement:
Neston and Parkgate**

Part 2 of 2
(Final Version March 2017)



Report produced on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council by Ethos Environmental Planning

CONTENTS

	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	3 - 5
2.0 Existing provision of open space	6
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	7
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	8 - 12
5.0 Quality Assessment	13 - 16

Key Service Centre Supplement: Neston and Parkgate

1.0 Introduction

The Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Open Space Study is presented in two parts. The first part comprises an overview of the whole study and includes details on local needs, methodology, open space typologies and analysis of provision which combine to make recommendations for future provision and policies for open space in the district. The second part of the study comprises open space area profiles which provide more localised information.

The area profiles have been developed for five areas as shown in figures 1 and 2. These are based on the areas identified in the Local Plan (Chester, Ellesmere Port, Northwich, Winsford and rural area) which broadly reflect how regeneration is delivered in the borough.

Within the Rural study area, ten key service centres have been highlighted, as shown in figure 3. This key service centre supplement is to be read in conjunction with the rural area profile and would be looking at Neston and Parkgate in more detail to help identify gaps in provision and access.

Figure 1 *Ward analysis areas (Ellesmere Port, Chester and Rural Areas)*

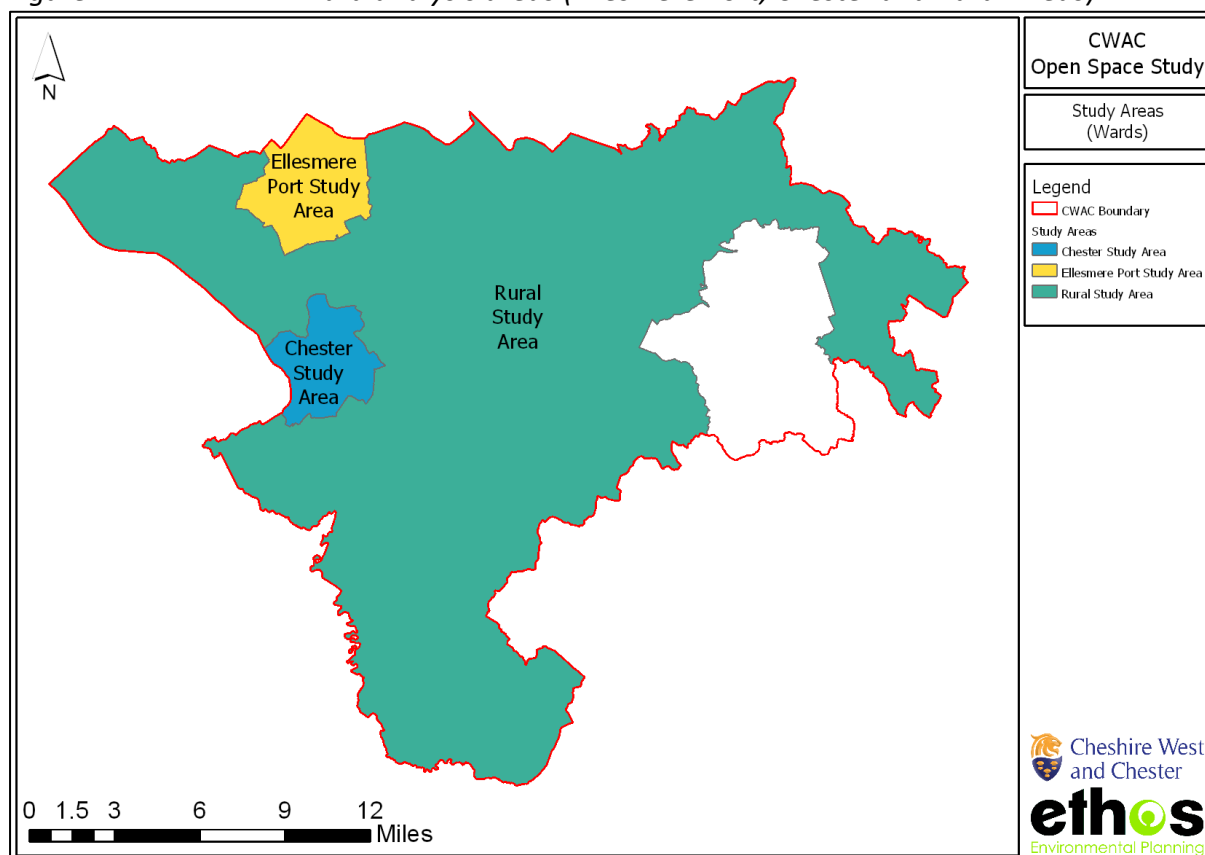


Figure 2 *Parish analysis Areas (Winsford and Northwich)*

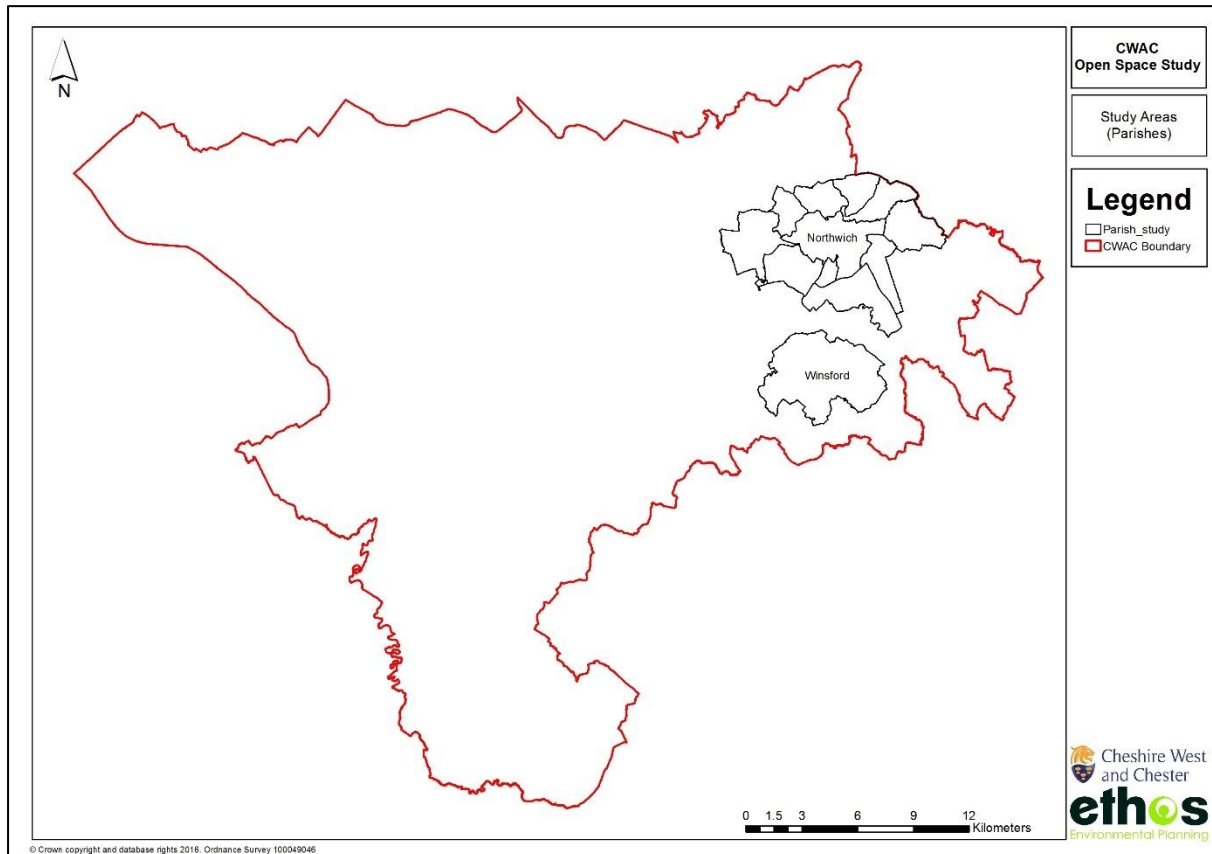
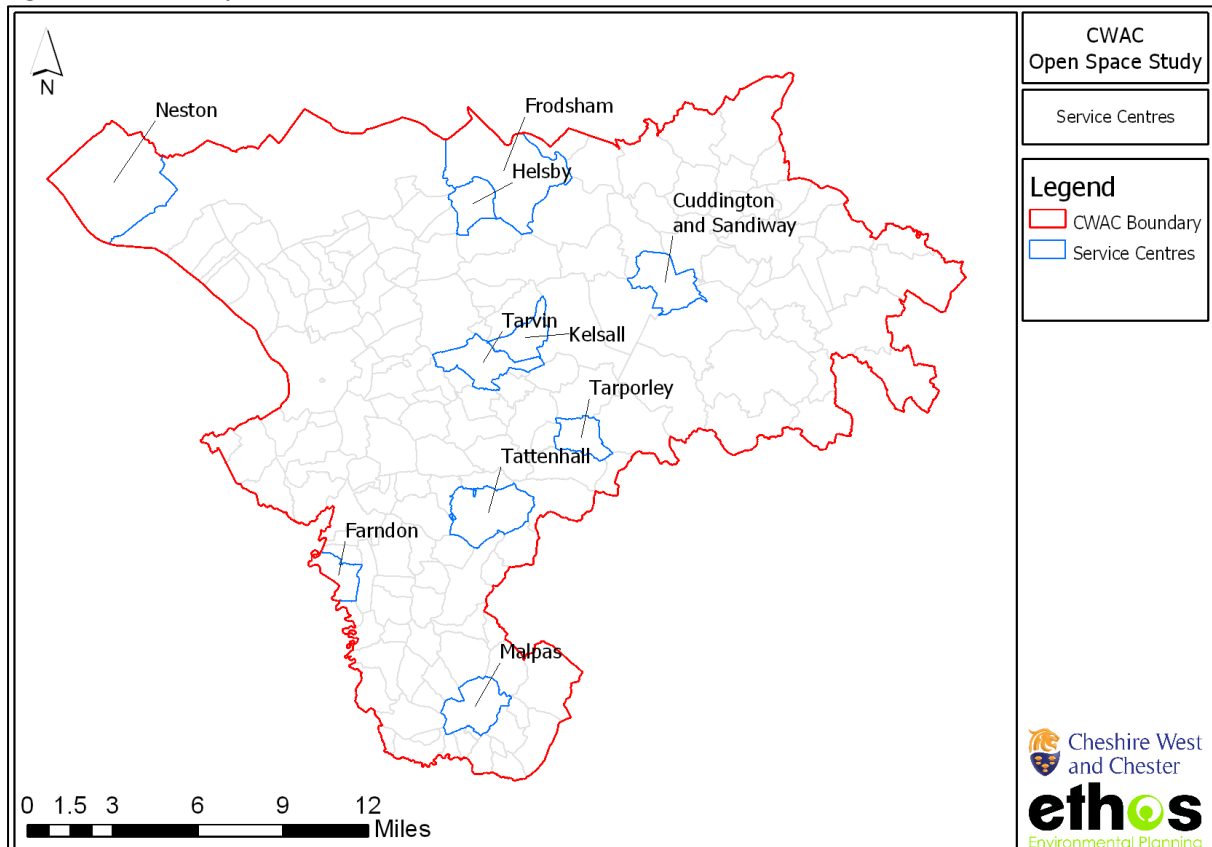


Figure 3 *Key Service Centres*



1.2 Population

Table 1 Key Service Centre Parish population statistics (Census, 2011)

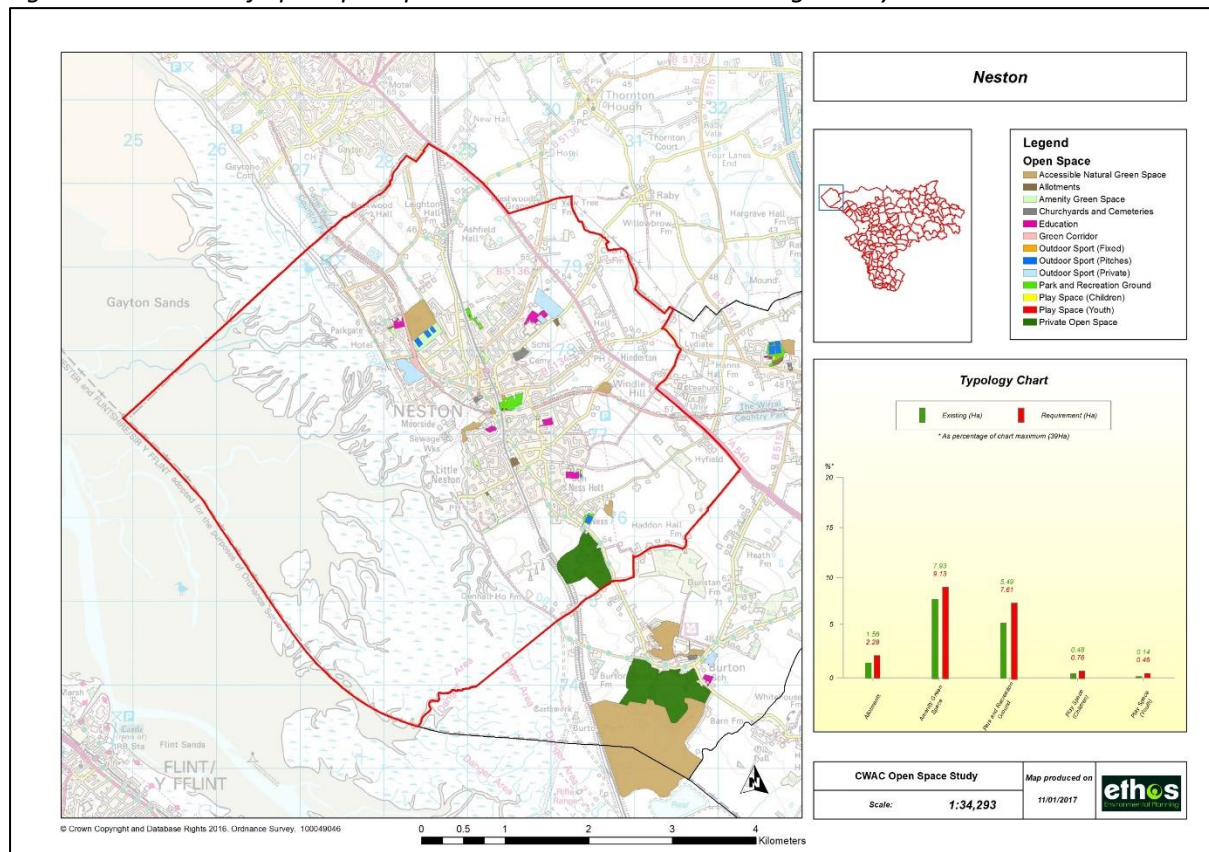
Parish	Population
Neston	15,221
Farndon	1,653
Malpas	1,673
Tattenhall	2,079
Tarvin	2,728
Kelsall	2,609
Taporley	2,614
Helsby	4,972
Frodsham	9,077
Weaver and Cuddington	5,333
Total	47,959

2.0 Existing provision of Open Space

This section provides maps showing existing open spaces that have been mapped and included within the Neston and Parkgate Key Service Centre (within Neston Parish). The maps are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the Council.

2.1 Overview of open space provision in the Key Service Centre

Figure 4 Overview of open space provision in the Neston and Parkgate Key Service Centre



3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of Open Space

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the existing quantity of open space within the Neston and Parkgate Key Service Centre (Neston Parish). It uses the quantity standards for open space detailed in part 1 of the report.

Table 2 Existing supply of open space within the parish of Neston

Typology	Existing Provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)	Required Provision (Ha)	Required provision (Ha/1000)	Supply (Ha)	Supply (Ha/1000)	Overall supply
Allotments	1.56	0.1	2.28	0.15	-0.72	-0.05	UNDER SUPPLY
Amenity Green Space	7.93	0.52	9.13	0.6	-1.2	-0.08	UNDER SUPPLY
Park and Recreation Ground	5.49	0.36	7.61	0.5	-2.12	-0.14	UNDER SUPPLY
Play Space (Children)	0.48	0.03	0.76	0.05	-0.28	-0.02	UNDER SUPPLY
Play Space (Youth)	0.14	0.01	0.46	0.03	-0.32	-0.02	UNDER SUPPLY
Natural Green Space	16.21	1.06	0	0	16.21	1.06	N/A
Education	6.15	0.4	0	0	6.15	0.4	N/A
Churchyards and Cemeteries	2.15	0.14	0	0	2.15	0.14	N/A

As can be seen from the table 2 above, within the Neston Parish/Neston and Parkgate Key Service Centre, there is an overall under supply of all typologies of open space. The total shortfall for each typology is:

- Allotments 0.72 Ha
 - Amenity Green Space 1.20 Ha
 - Parks and Recreation Grounds 2.12 Ha
 - Play Space (Children) 0.28 Ha
 - Play Space (Youth) 0.32 Ha
- Total shortfall 4.64 Ha**

4.0 Analysis of existing access to Open Space

4.1 Existing access to open space

This section provides maps showing access to different types of open space across the Key Service Centre (parish) using the CWaC access standards.

Figure 5 Access to Allotments (720 metre buffer)

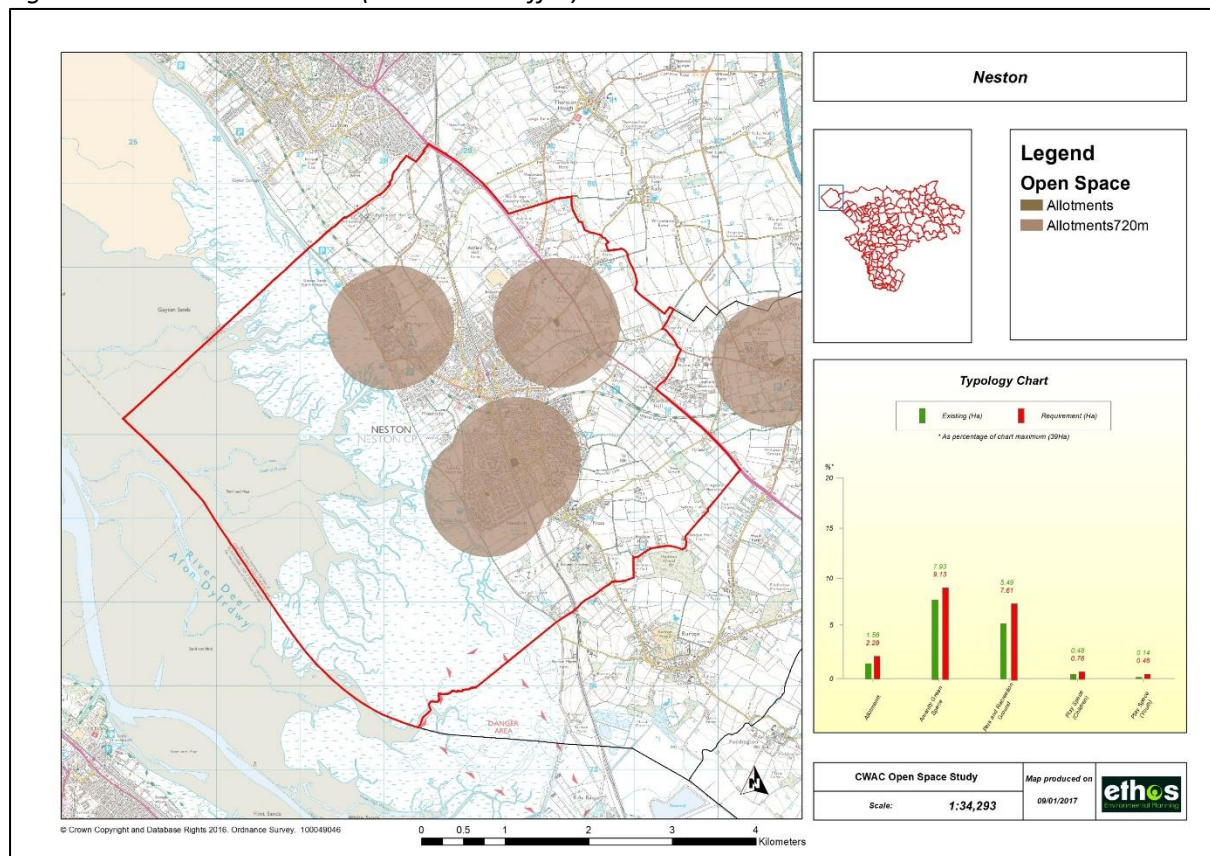


Figure 6 Access to Amenity Green Space (480 metre buffer)

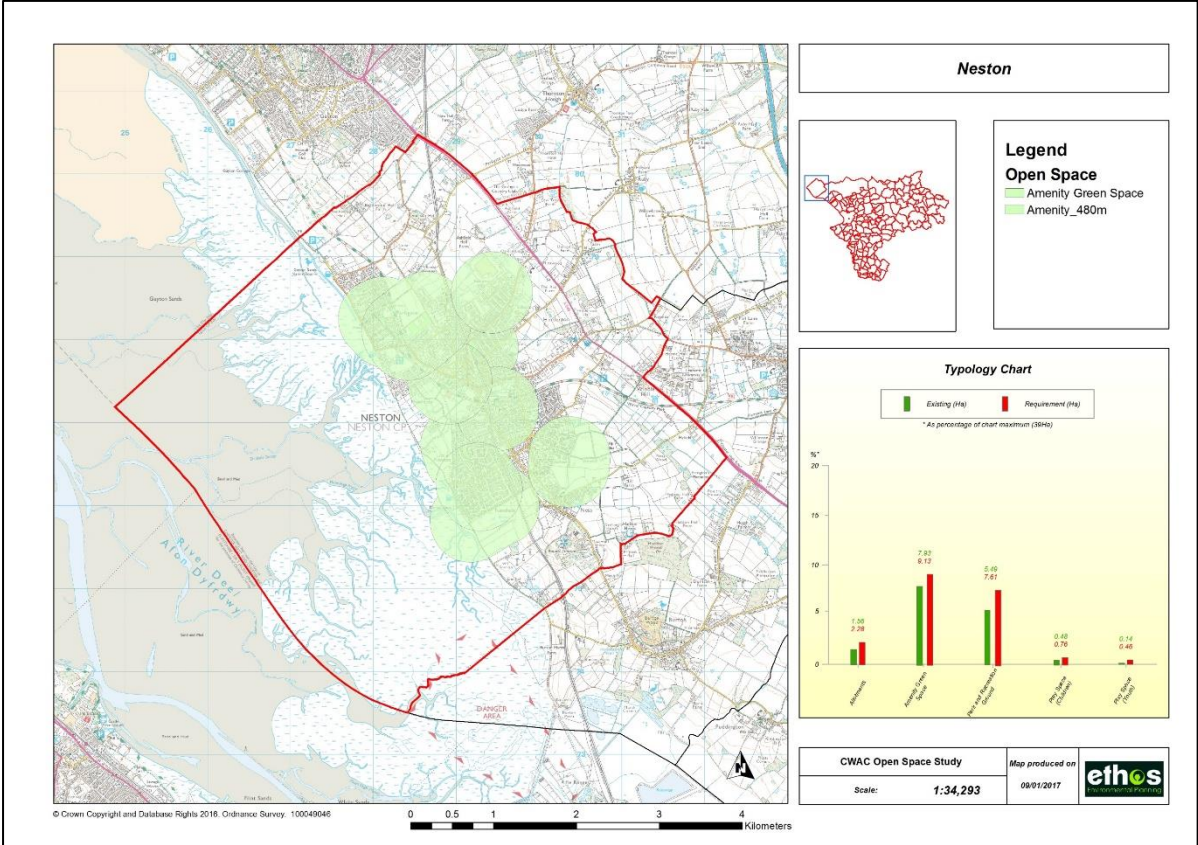


Figure 7 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds (720m buffer)

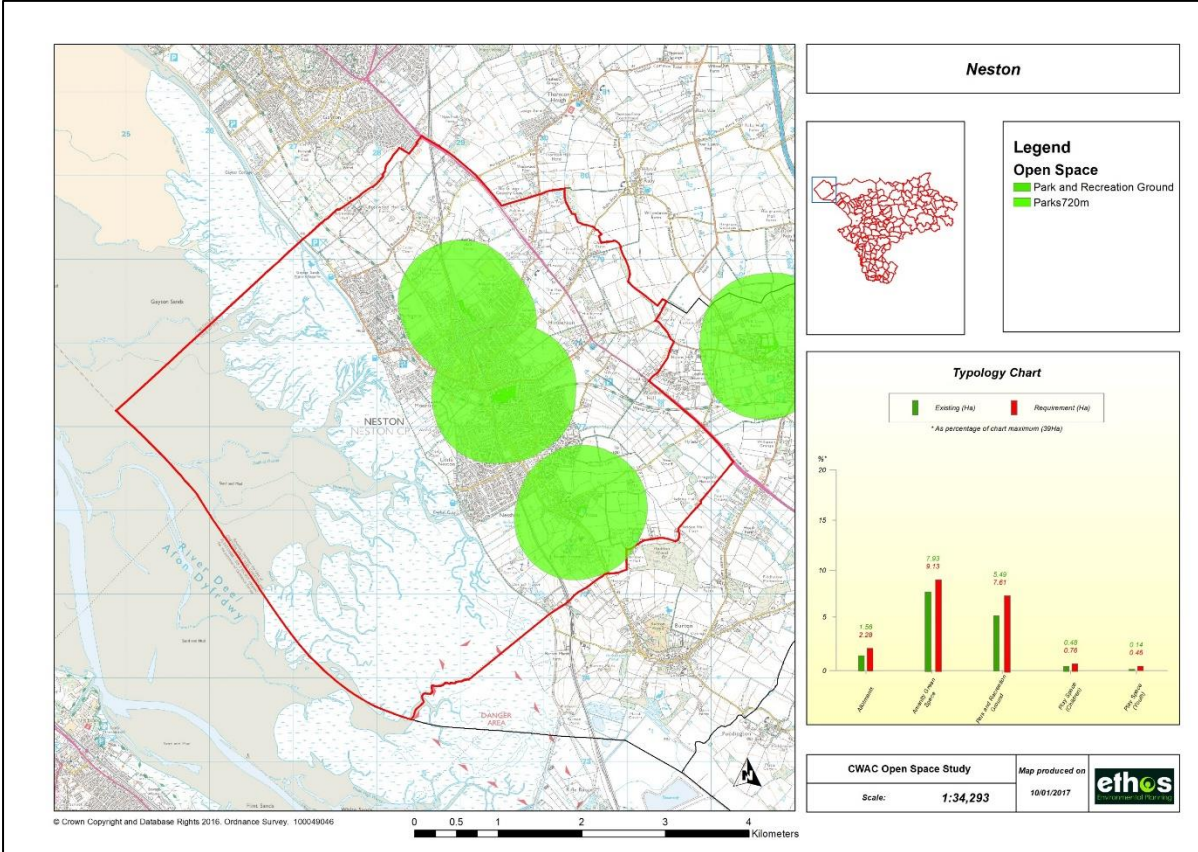


Figure 8 Access to Children’s Play Space (480 metre buffer)

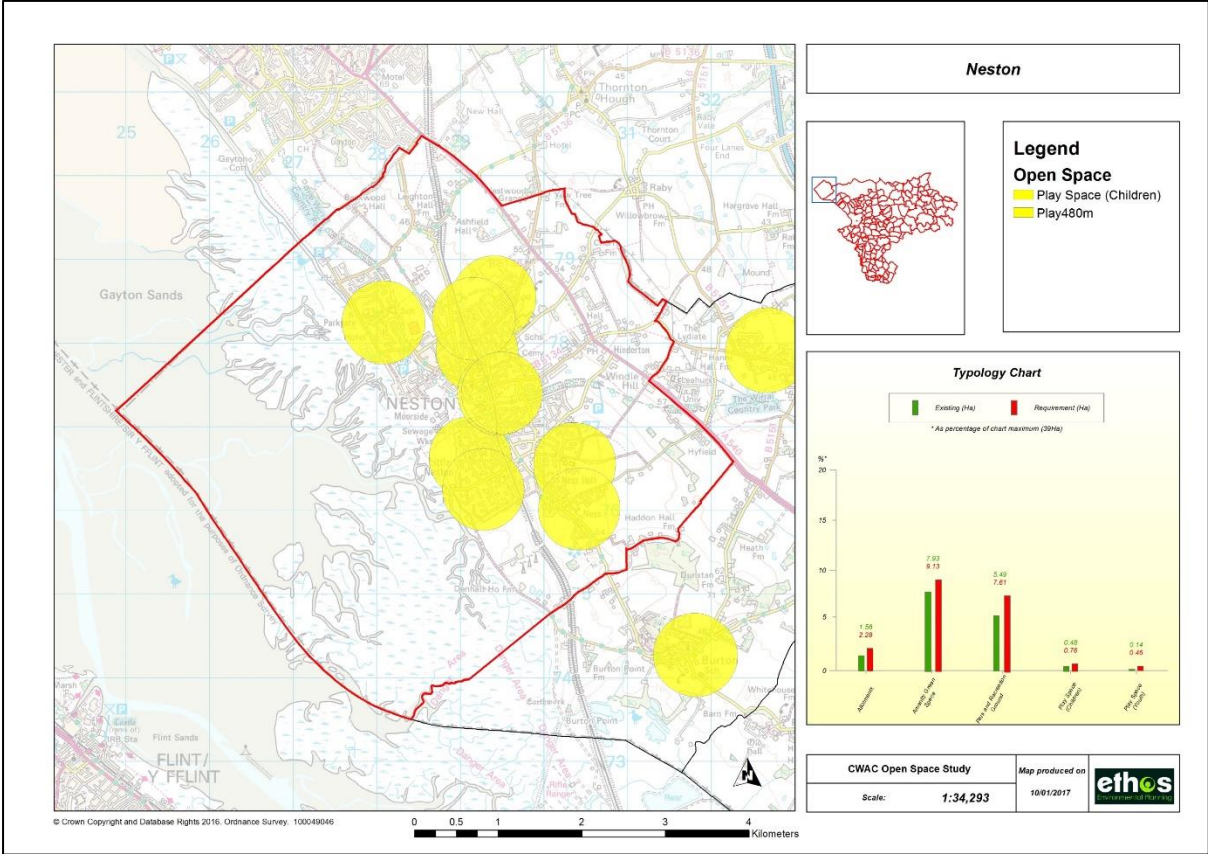


Figure 9 Access to Youth Play Space (600 metre buffer)

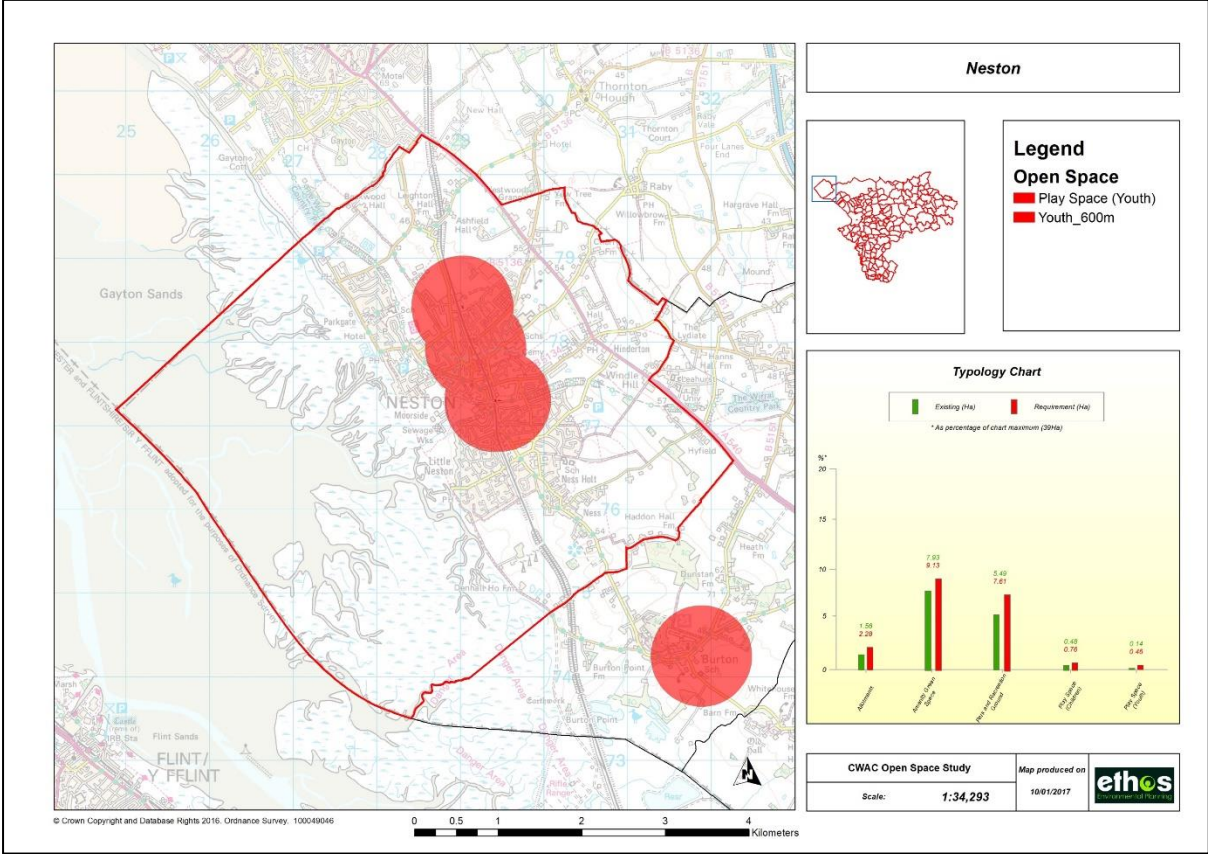


Figure 10 Access to Natural Green Space across the Neston and Parkgate Key Service Centre

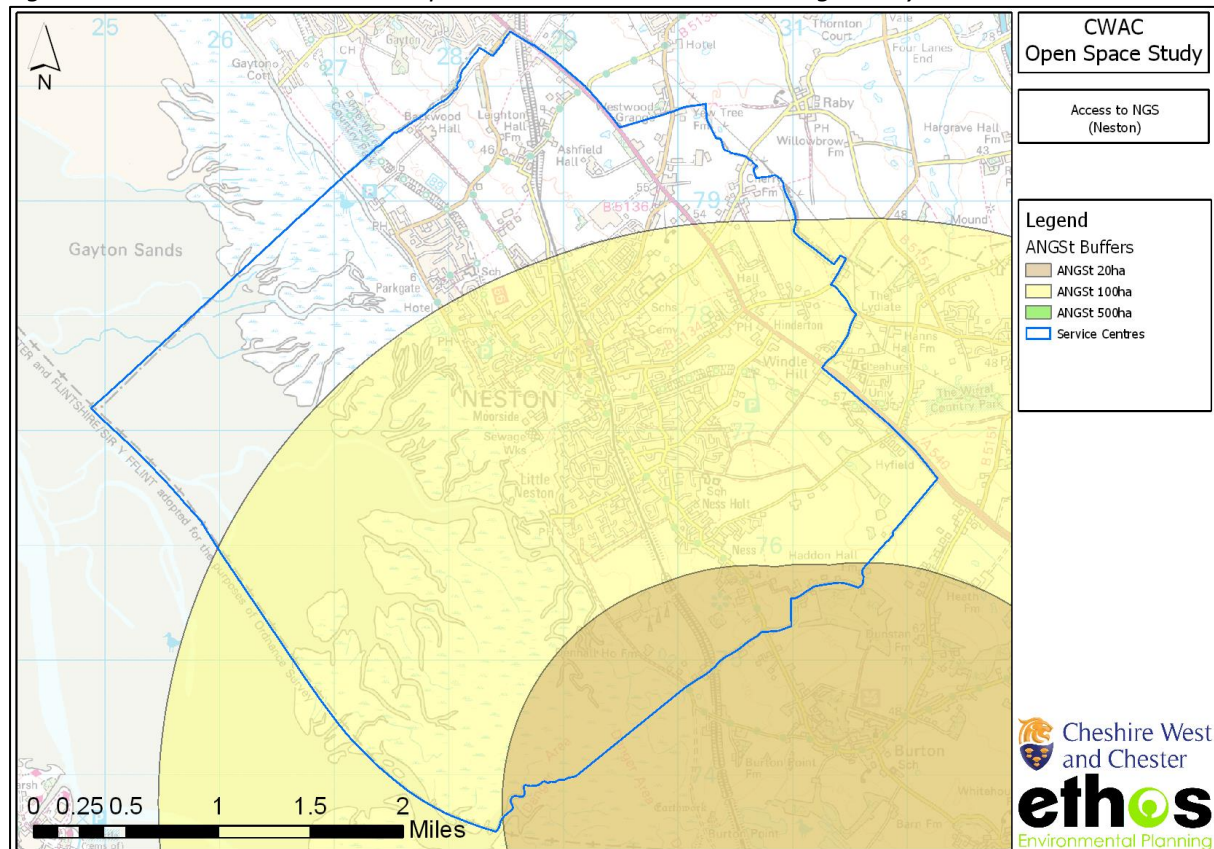
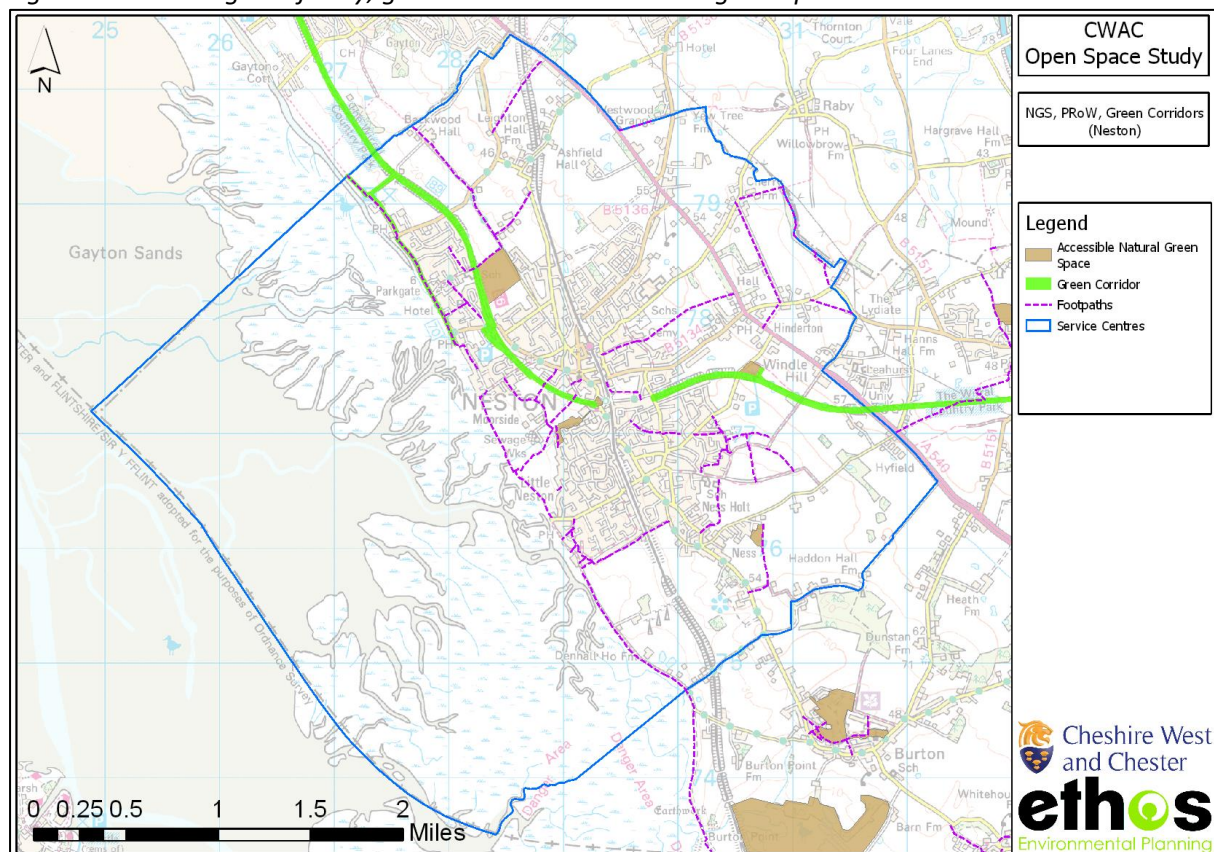


Figure 11 Public Rights of Way, green corridors and natural greenspace



4.2 Analysis of existing access

Table 3 below summarises the access maps provided at figures 5-11, highlighting any gaps or access issues.

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	Small gaps in provision within the centre of Neston and to the East and North.
Amenity Green Space	Access generally good with a small gap North.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Small gap in access south west.
Play Space (Children)	No access to Play space (Children) in the west and east of Neston.
Play Space (Youth)	No access to Play spaces (Youth) along the West side and southern part of Neston. Access generally poor.
Natural Green Space	Access to larger Natural Green Spaces is poor. There are gaps in provision within the Northern and southern part of Neston.
Natural Greenspace, green corridors and Rights of Way	Neston has a good network of ROW connecting with natural green space, the coast and surrounding areas, although there are some gaps in connectivity.

5.0 Quality Assessment

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the quality audit that was undertaken as part of the overall study. Following the initial mapping exercise, site visits were undertaken to assess the quality of sites. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely certain private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.15 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries.

The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a sites existing and potential quality rather than a full asset audit.

5.2 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with an assessment of the quality of the site. Quality was assessed using the following criteria which is based on the Green Flag Assessment¹:

- Access;
- Welcoming;
- Management and maintenance (hard and soft landscaping);
- Litter and dog fouling;
- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Community involvement;
- Biodiversity.

Existing quality score/rank

For each open space, an existing quality score rank from A – D has been given, where **sites that rank A are very good quality, and sites that rank D are very poor quality**. These rank scores have been calculated as follows:

- For each open space, a score for each of the above criteria is given between 1 and 5, where 1 is very poor and 5 is very good.
- The scores are totalled for each site and the following thresholds are used for assigning a rank:
 - A is 38 to 45
 - B is 28 to 37
 - C is 18 to 27
 - D is 9 to 17

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

- These thresholds are based on the lowest and highest possible score that a site can obtain.

Potential quality score/rank

For each open space, a 'potential for improvement' quality score rank from A-D has also been given, where **sites that rank A have the most potential to be improved, and sites that rank D have the least potential to be improved**. These potential rank scores have been calculated as follows:

- For each open space or play space, a 'gap' score for each of the above criteria is given between 0 and 4, where a gap of 0 means there is no/very low potential for improvement and a gap of 4 means there is very high potential for improvement. For example, for the 'Welcoming' criteria, if a park and recreation ground has attractive, well maintained entrances with good signage it might score 4 (i.e. good) for existing quality and also 4 for potential quality (i.e. no gap score, and therefore no improvements needed). On the other hand, if there was no signage or old/worn signage and the entrance had a broken gate and litter, it might score 1 for existing quality and 4 for potential (i.e. with a gap score of 3), so those sites with the highest 'gap score' between the existing quality and potential quality have the highest potential for improvement.
- The 'gap' scores are totalled for each site and the following thresholds are used for assigning a rank:
 - A is 15-36
 - B is 10-14
 - C is 5-9
 - D is 0-4

This system highlights where sites could be improved. **Sites that have been given a rank of D for potential may still have potential to be improved, and local aspirations and information should be taken into account** in addition to the quality audit (which can only provide a snapshot in time).

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (appendix 2). Within these Key Service Centre supplements, a summary of the existing quality score ranks and those sites with the most potential for improvement (i.e. those sites with a potential quality rank of A, B, or C) is included within section 5.3.

5.3 Summary of priority open space sites

The following maps provide a summary of the existing quality rank (fig.12) and a list of sites with potential for improvement (fig.13). These draw on the detailed quality audit database provided at appendix 2. Details on the quality of play space (child and youth provision) can be found in the emerging CWAC Play Strategy; the quality of playing pitches is covered within the CWAC Playing Pitch Strategy; and the quality of fixed sports facilities within the CWAC Built Facilities Strategy.

Figure 12 Existing quality rank of open space

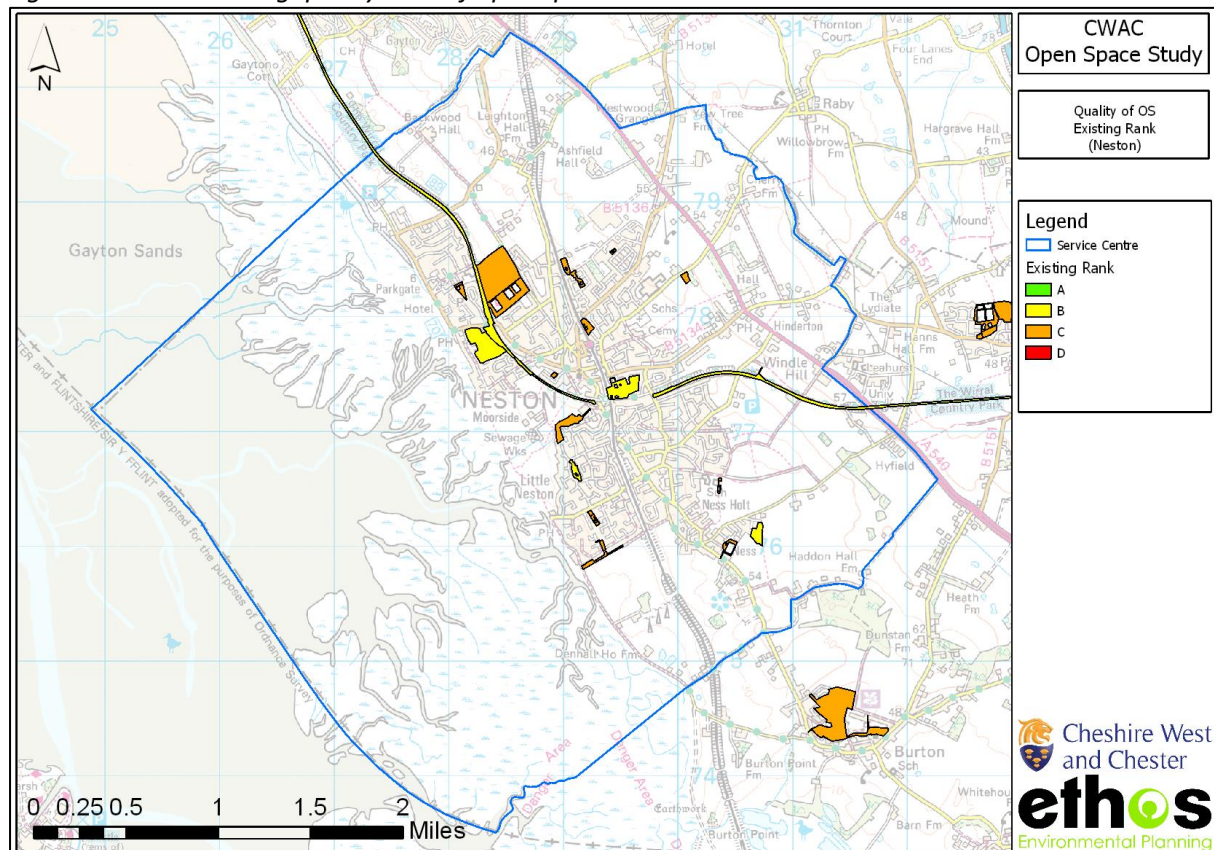
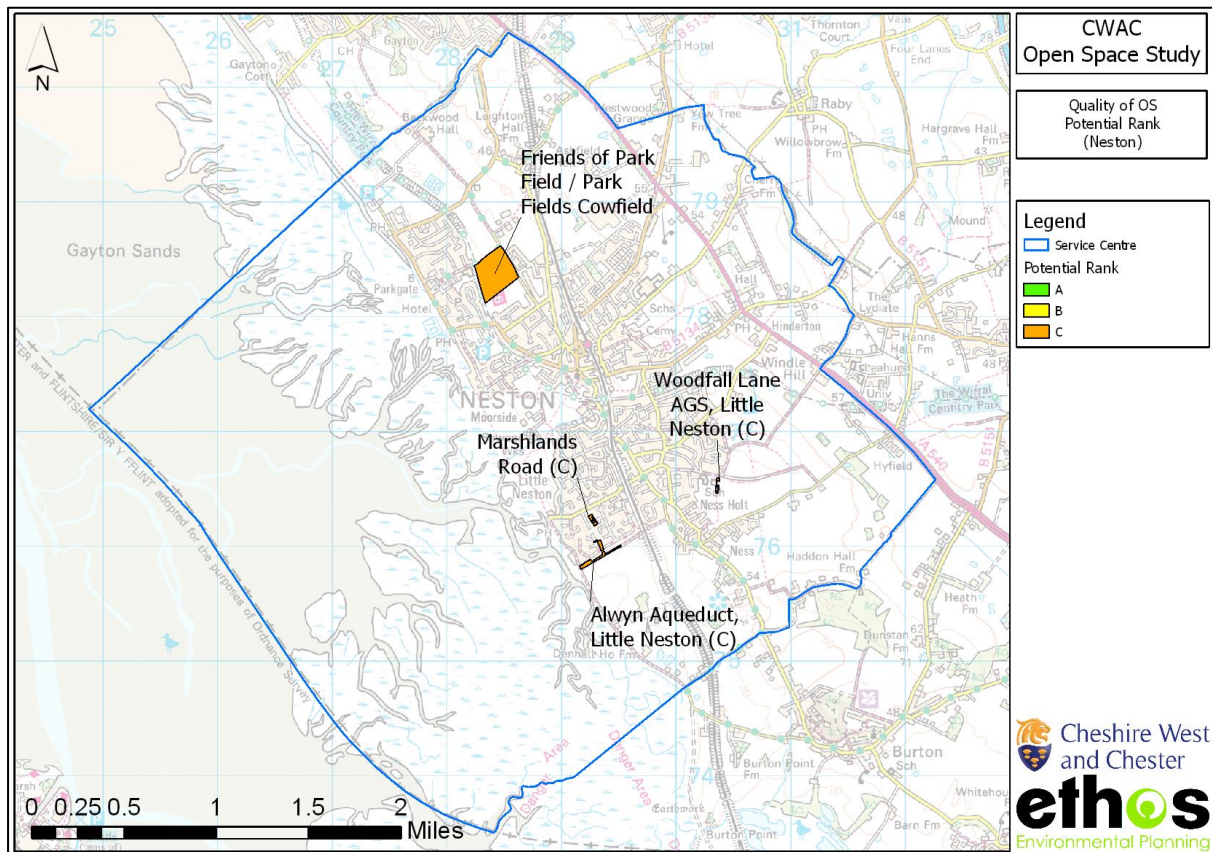


Figure 13 Sites with potential for improvement²



² The potential rank scores have been included in brackets for those sites that are too small to easily identify their rank colour at this scale. It should be noted that a GIS database of sites has also been provided to the Council.