

Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Study 2016 – 2030



**Cheshire West
and Chester**

Open Space Area Profile: Rural Wards

Part 2 of 2

(Final Version March 2017)

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

ethos
Environmental Planning

CONTENTS

	Page(s)
1.0 Introduction	3 - 7
2.0 Existing provision of open space	8 - 19
3.0 Analysis of existing quantity of open space	20 - 23
4.0 Analysis of existing access to open space	24 - 29
5.0 Quality assessment	30 - 32
6.0 Future need for open space	33 - 34
7.0 Summary of priorities for the area	35 - 37

Open Space Area Profile: Rural Wards

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 five 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 (further details are provided in part 1 of the study).

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

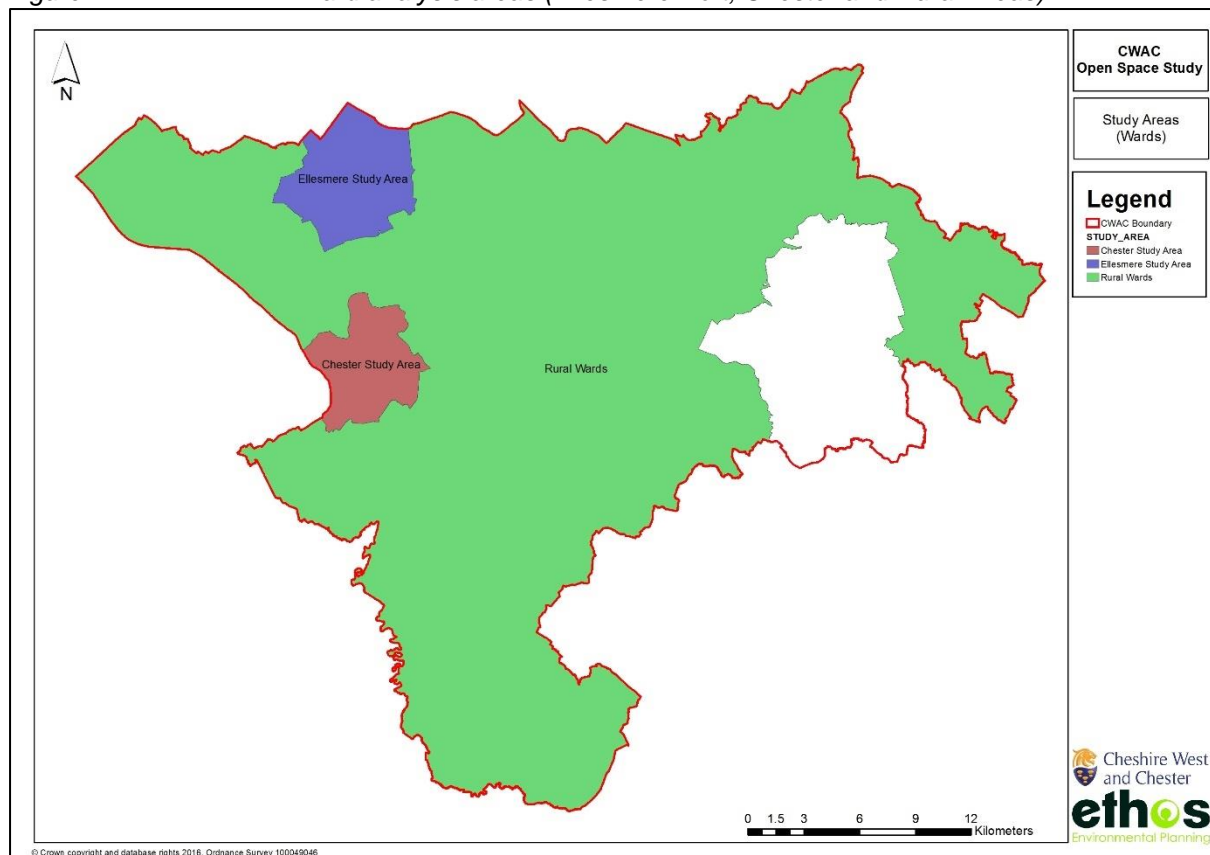
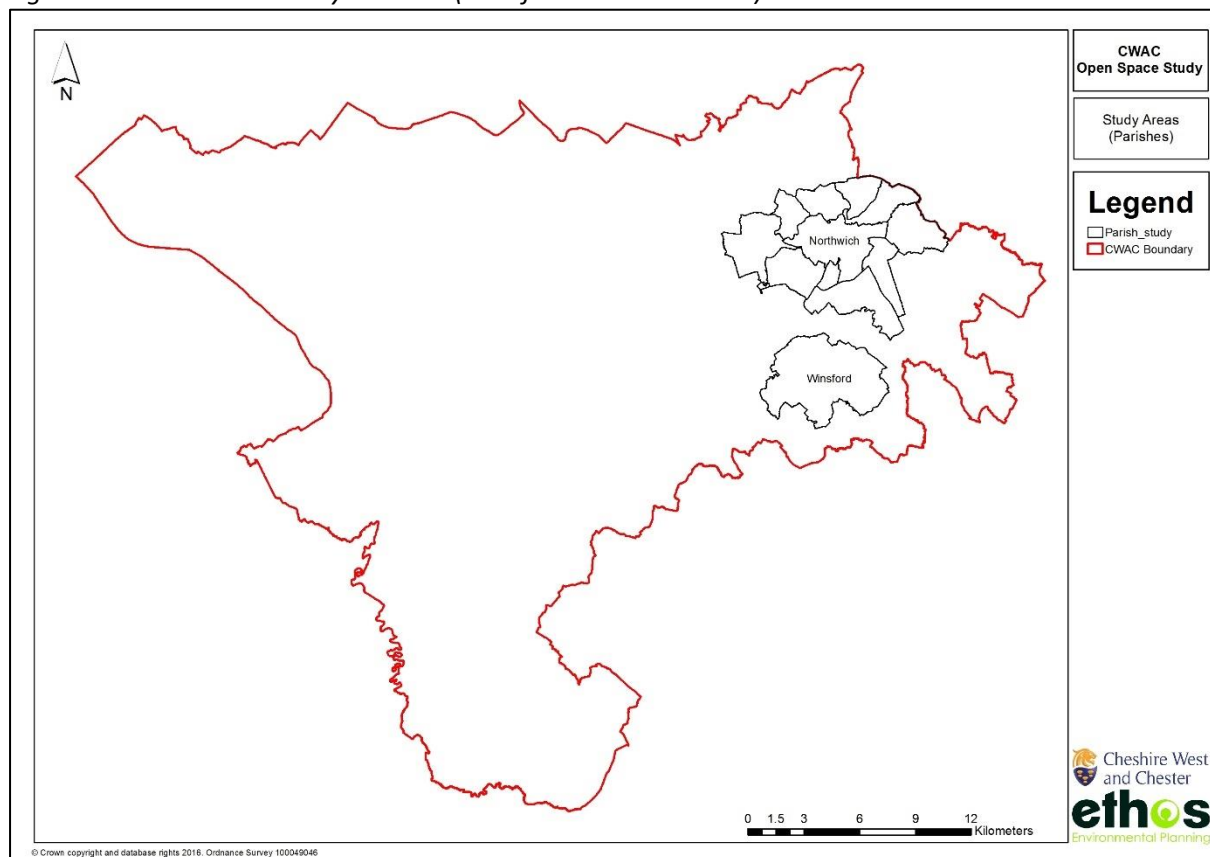


Figure 2 *Parish analysis Areas (Winsford and Northwich)*



The area profiles should be read in conjunction with the main report (part 1). Each profile includes the following information:

- A description of the area;
- Maps showing the provision of open space;
- Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space’
- Analysis of access to open space;
- Summary of quality issues and opportunities;
- Analysis of future need for open space;
- Priorities for the area.

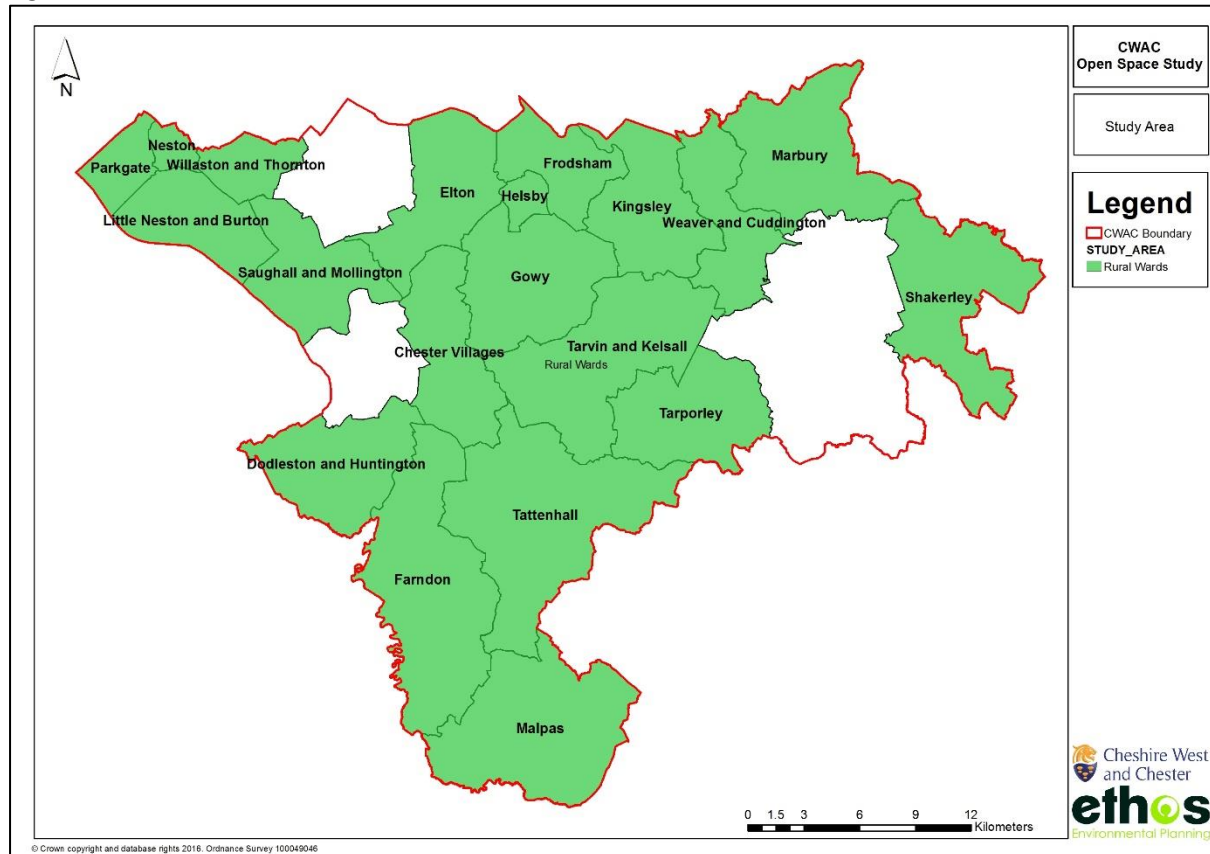
The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

All of the maps provided within this section of the report are intended to be used for indicative purposes only. Larger scale maps have been provided as a separate database to the council.

1.1 Geographical Area

The Rural Area Profile comprises the wards shown in Figure 3 and Table 1 below.

Figure 3 Rural Area



1.2 Population

Table 1 Wards population statistics (Census, 2011)

Name	Population
Weaver and Cuddington	12,779
Farndon	4,011
Frodsham	9,077
Helsby	4,972
Tarvin and Kelsall	8,217
Malpas	3,975
Neston	4,329
Parkgate	3,591
Tattenhall	4,374
Saughall and Mollington	4,463
Chester Villages	8,548
Elton	4,557
Gowy	3,924
Dodleston and Huntington	3,958
Kingsley	4,222
Marbury	12,069

Name	Population
Little Neston and Burton	8,485
Shakerley	4,214
Taporley	4,398
Total	114,163

1.3 Rural Area – Local Plan extract

The CWAC Local Plan provides a summary of the Rural Area as follows:

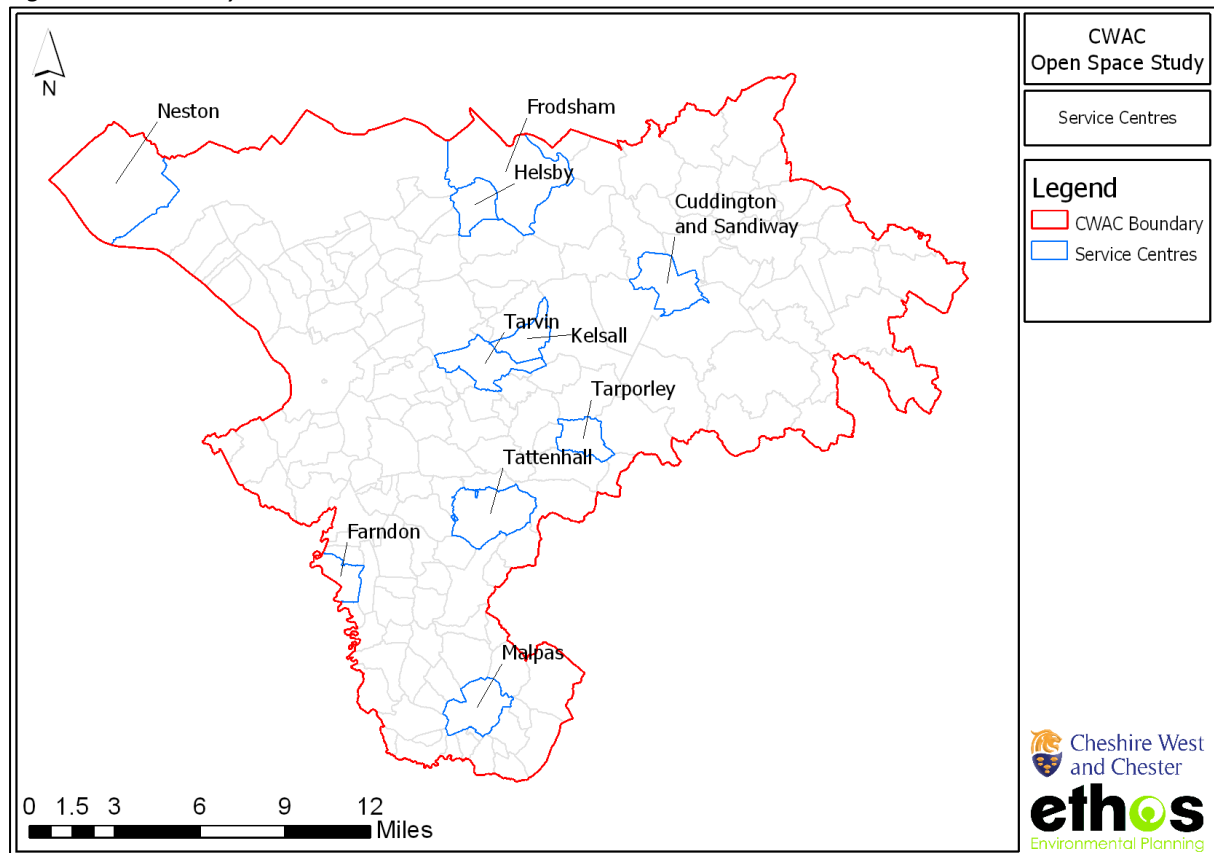
A third of the borough's residents live in the rural area that runs from Neston in the north, which borders Wirral, to the boundary with Shropshire in the south. The rural area in the south is more sparsely populated and many of the settlements, especially in the north, are effectively dormitory settlements that are dependent on larger towns for employment opportunities. Car use is generally very high and isolation and access to services is an issue for some rural residents. The rural area is generally affluent.

Although agriculture employs few people, it makes a very significant contribution to the character of the borough, habitats and the environment. The character of the rural area is also defined by the network of settlements that provide rural residents with services and facilities.

Within the rural area there are ten Key Service Centres which provide a good range of facilities and services for surrounding areas (see figure 4):

- Cuddington and Sandiway;
- Farndon;
- Frodsham;
- Helsby;
- Kelsall;
- Malpas;
- Neston and Parkgate;
- Tarvin;
- Tattenhall;
- Tarporley.

Figure 4 Key Service Centres



The rural area profile has been presented by ward, and additional 'Key Service Centre supplements' have also been provided. Within these supplements, the following information is provided:

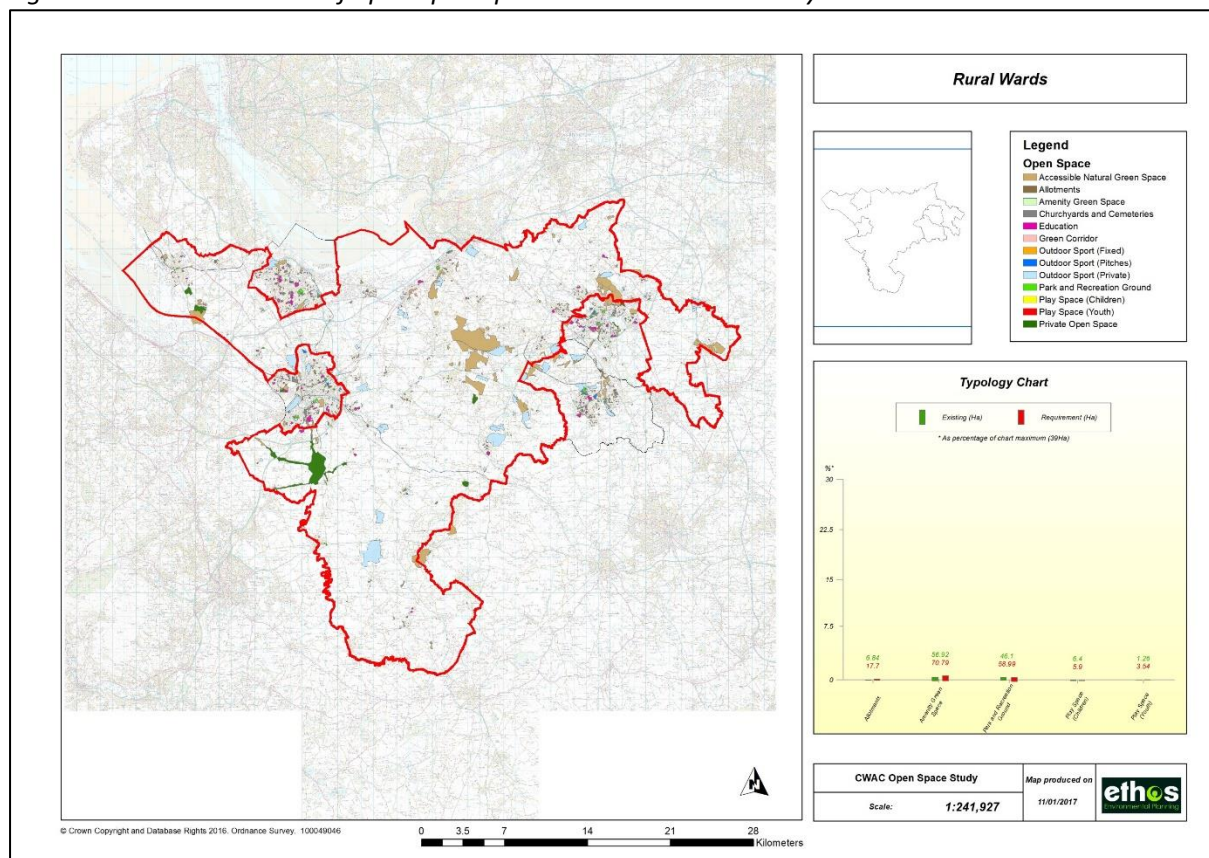
- Map of open space provision;
- Quantity analysis table;
- Access maps by typology;
- Maps showing quality ranks of open space.

2.0 Existing provision of Open Space

This section provides maps showing existing open spaces that have been mapped and included within the study. A map is shown for the overall area, and then individual maps for each of the wards as appropriate. Further maps by parish for each of the Key Service Centres are also provided as supplements. 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 study area

Figure 5 Overview of open space provision in the Rural Study Area



2.2 Provision by Ward in the study area

The following maps show the provision of open space within each of the wards within the Rural study area.

Figure 6 Provision of green space in Parkgate

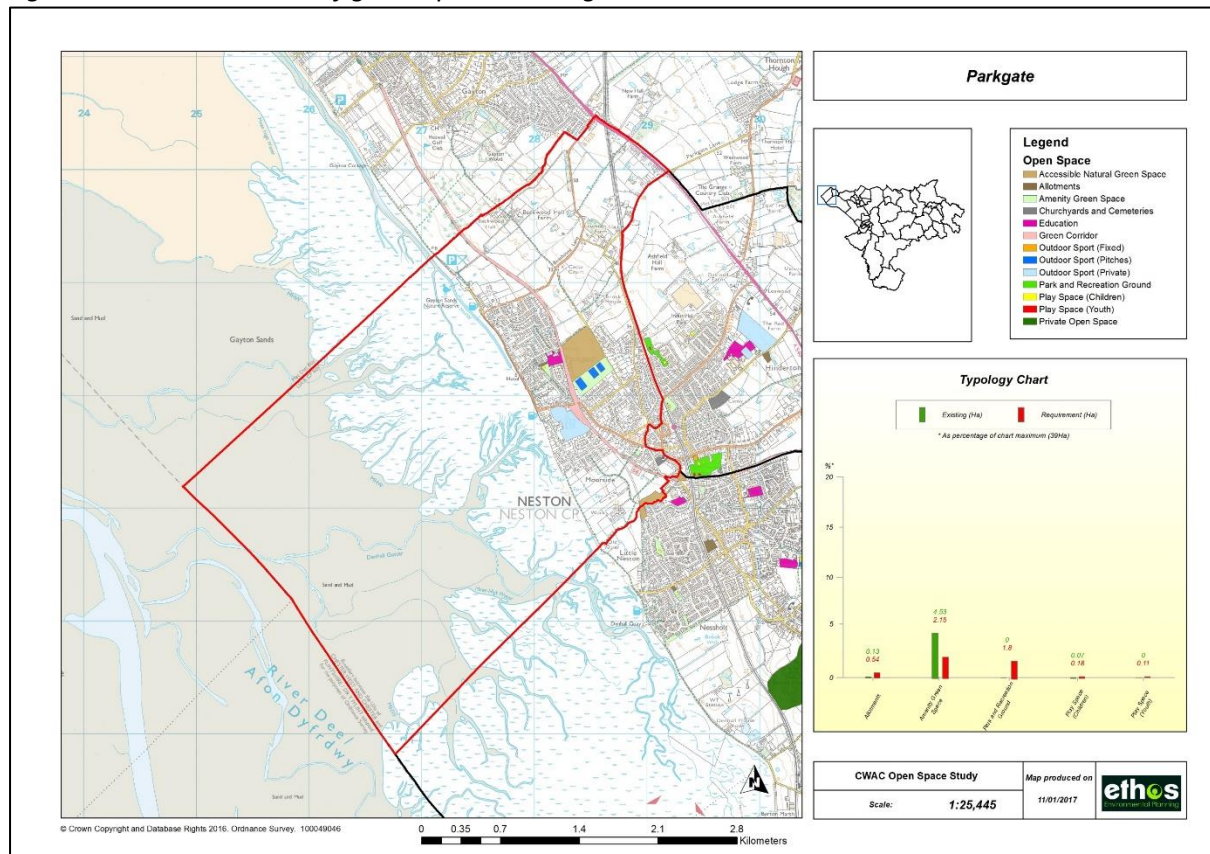


Figure 7 Provision of green space in Neston

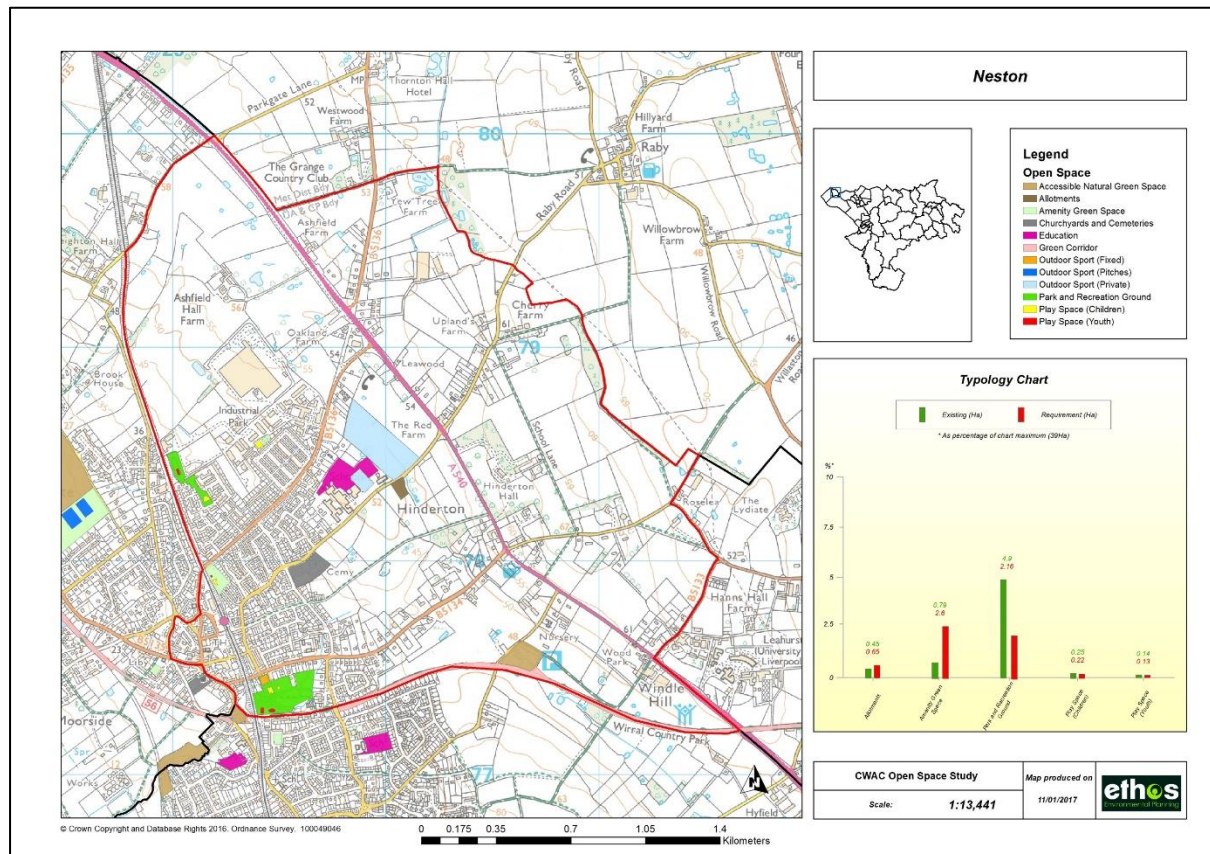


Figure 8 Provision of green space in Saughall and Mollington

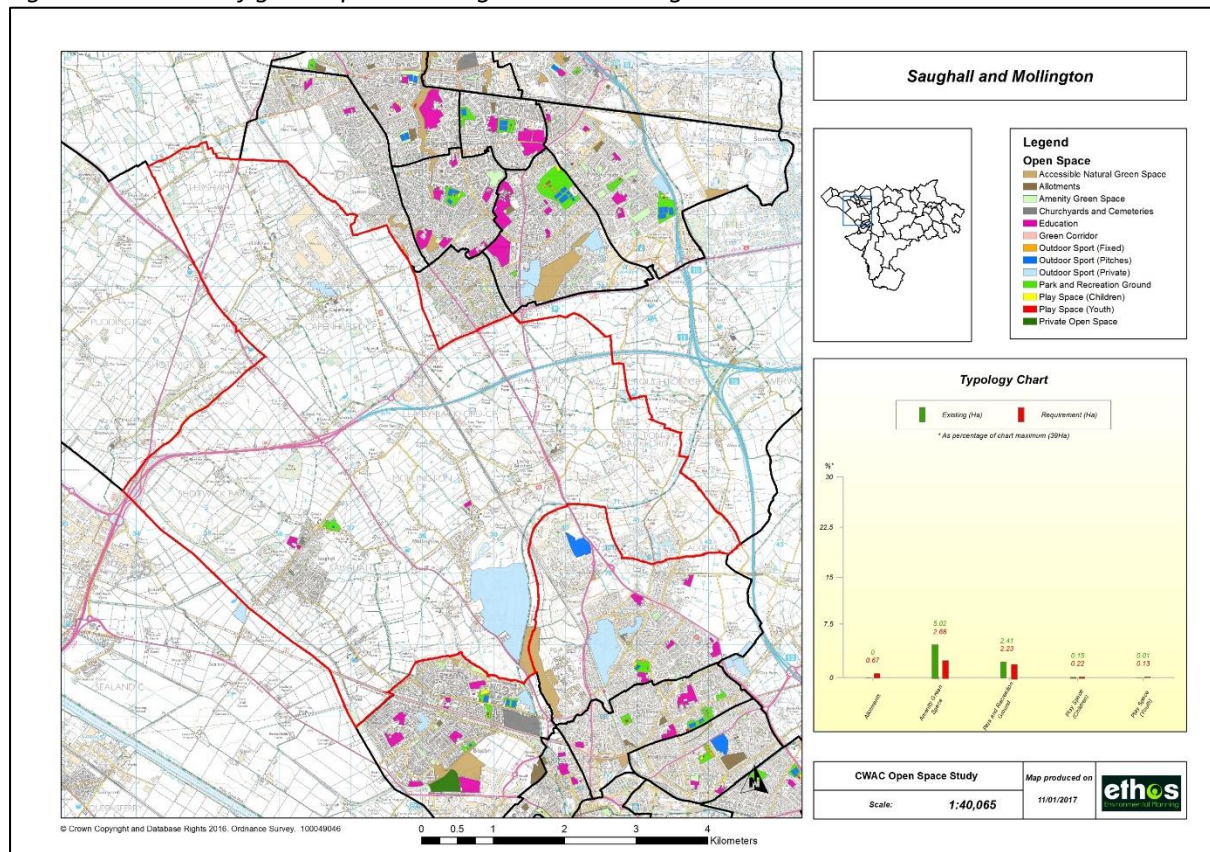


Figure 9 Provision of green space in Elton

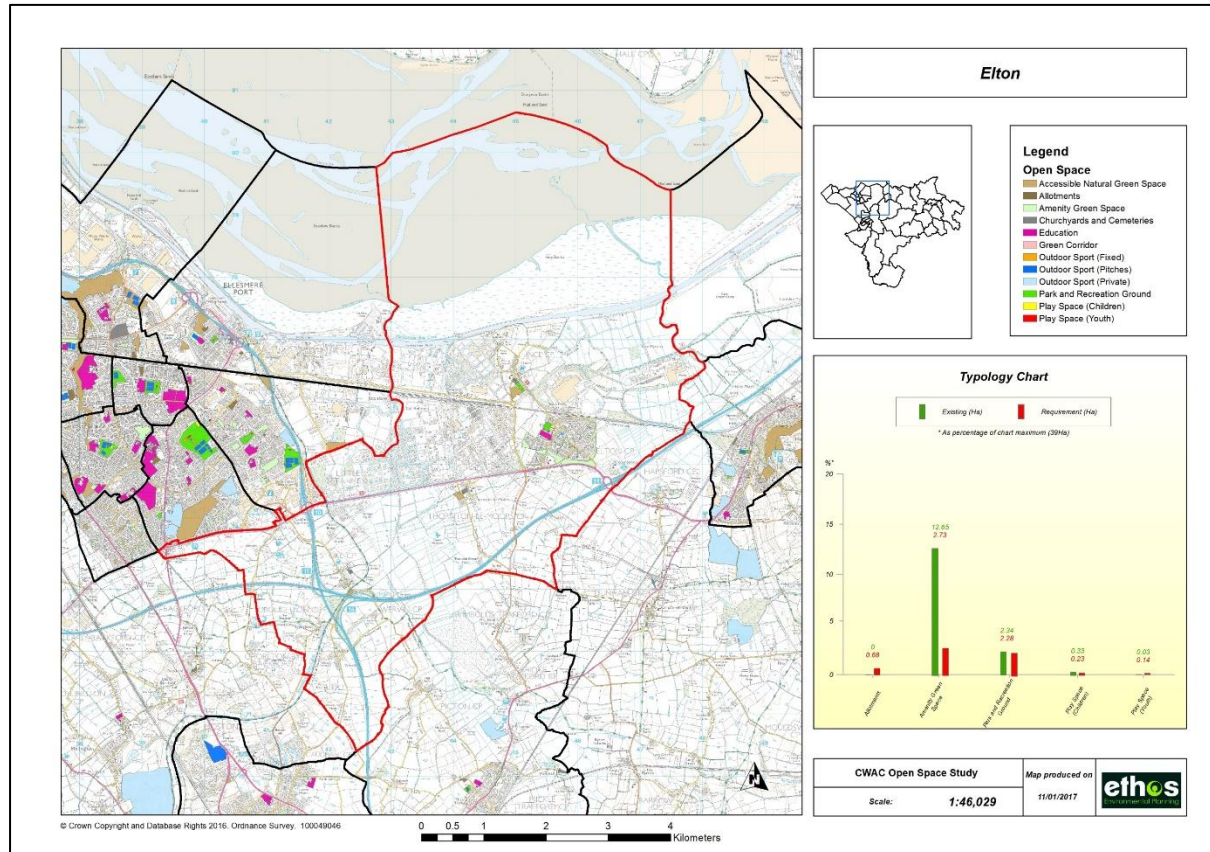


Figure 10 Provision of green space in Chester Villages

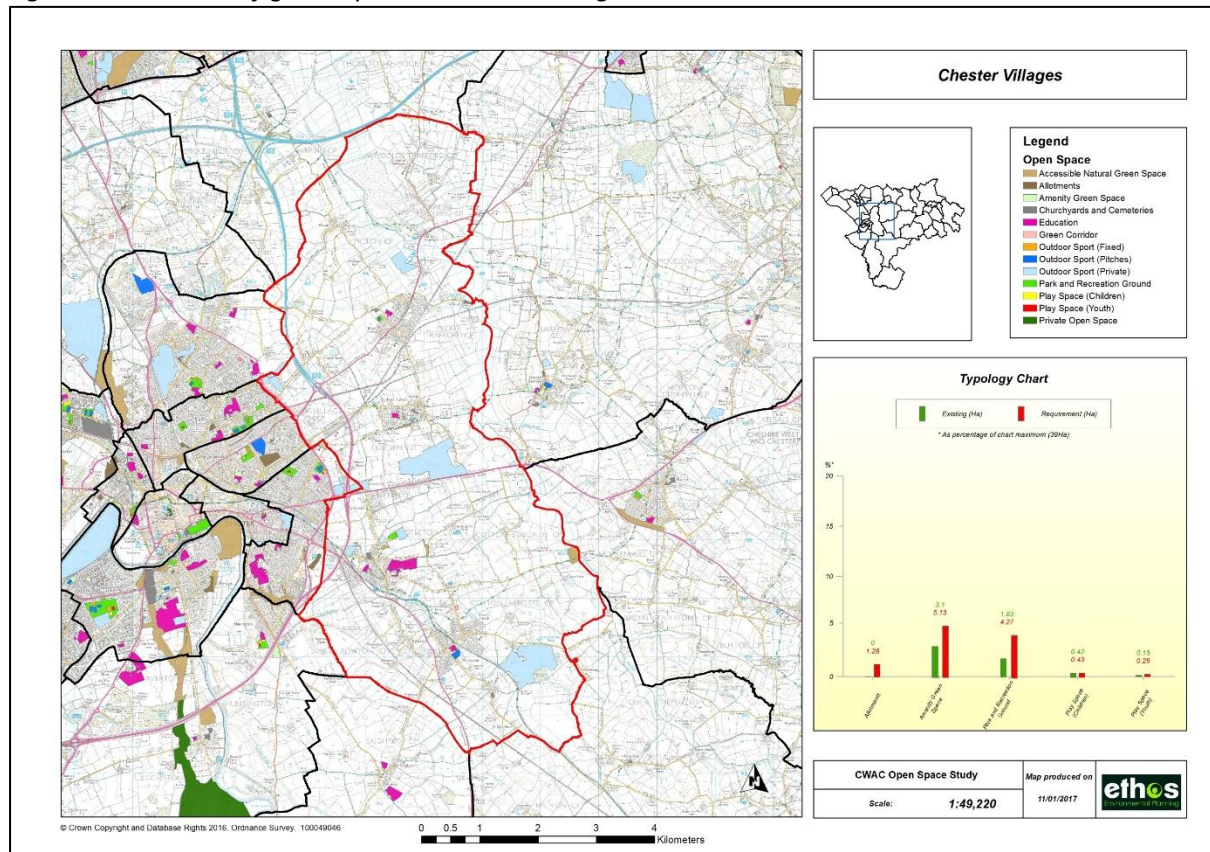


Figure 11 Provision of green space in Gowy

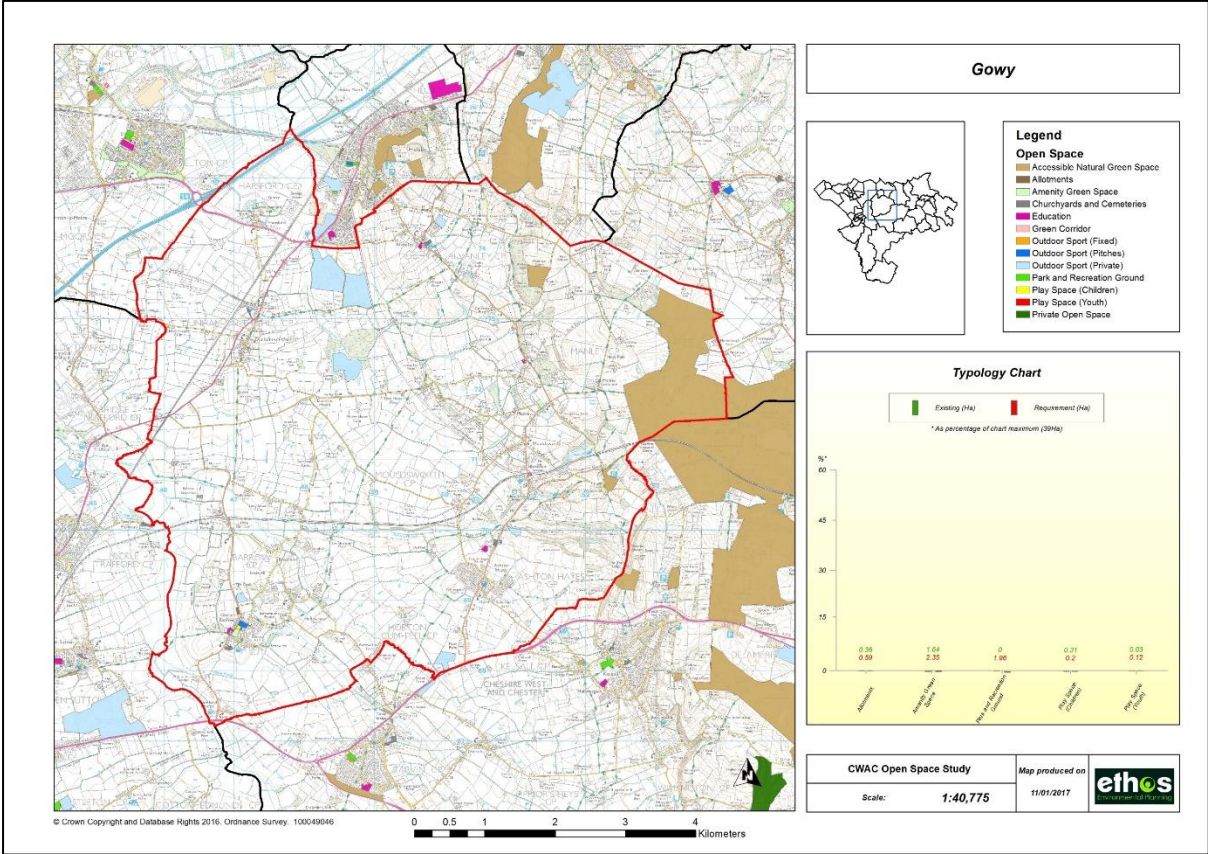


Figure 12 Provision of green space in Helsby

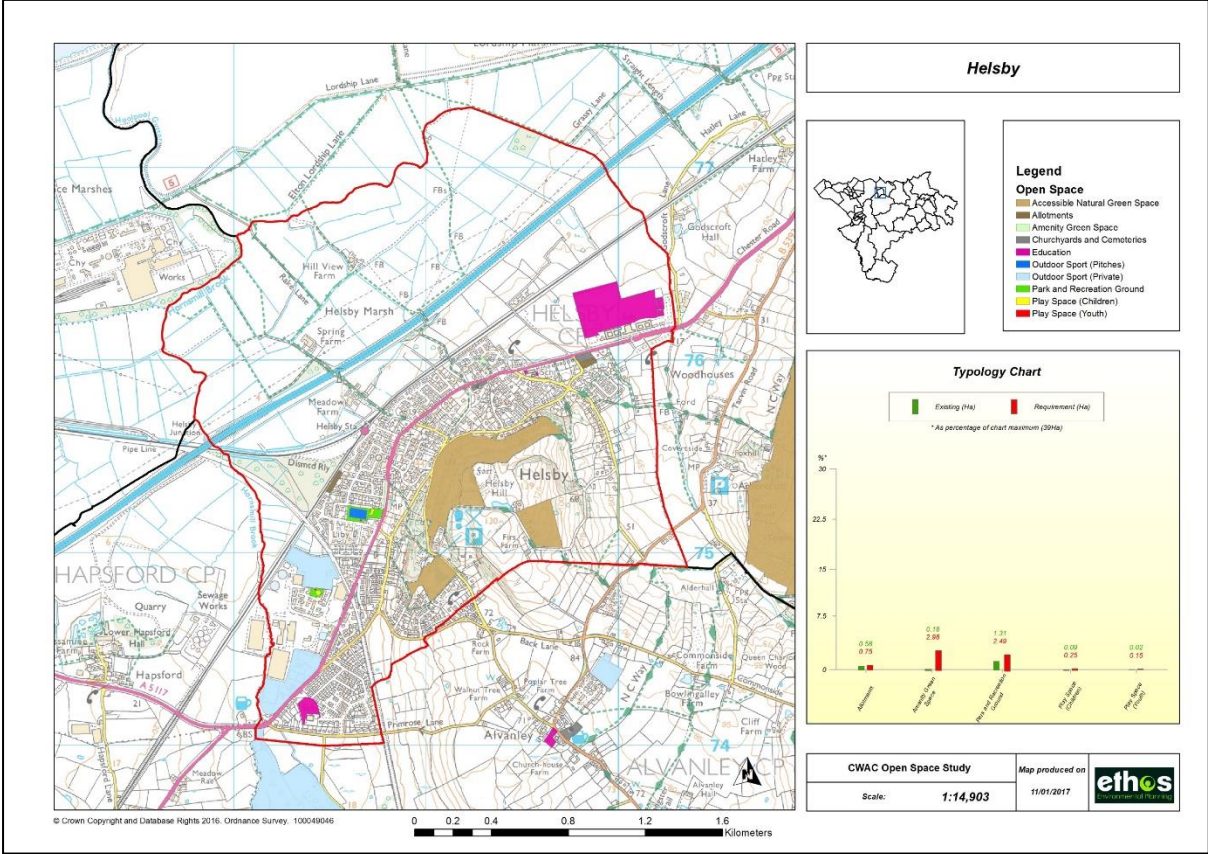


Figure 13 Provision of green space in Frodsham

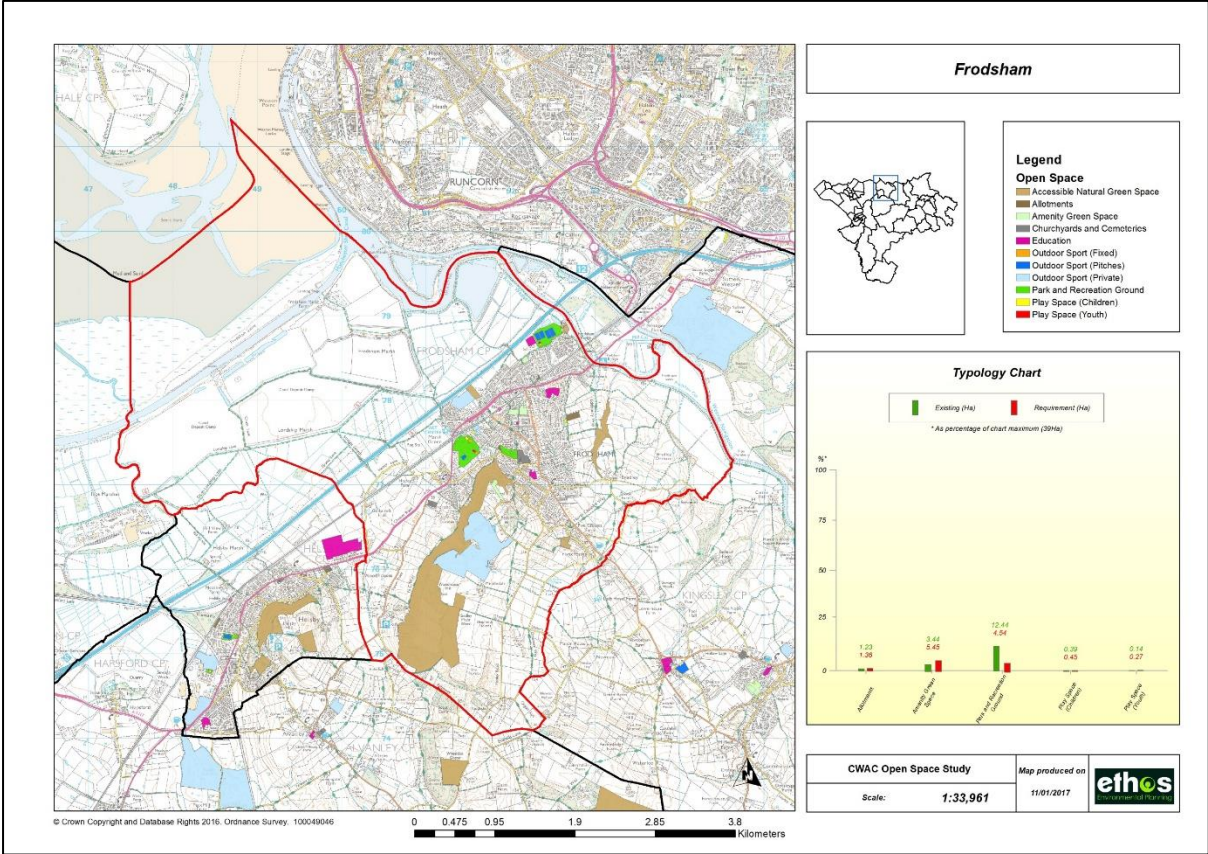


Figure 14 Provision of green space in Dodington and Huntingdon

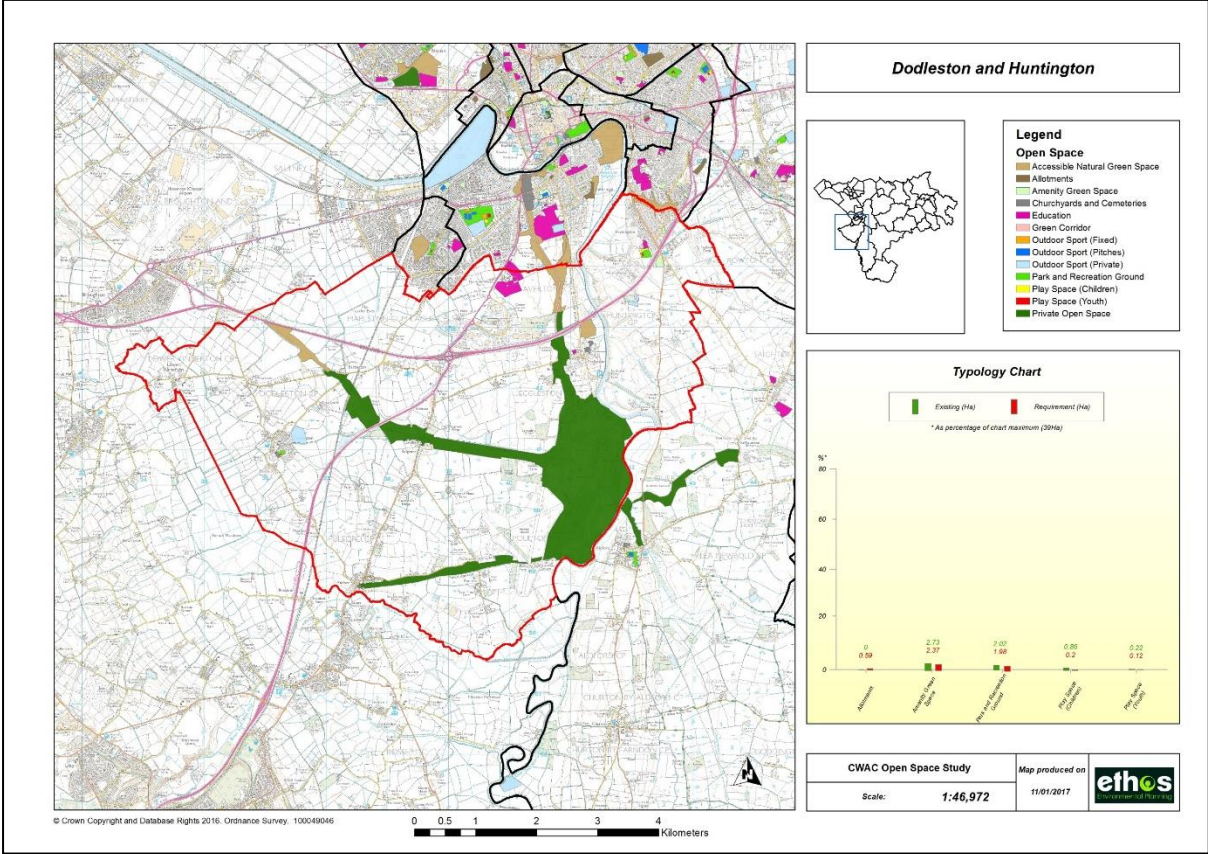


Figure 15 Provision of green space in Farndon

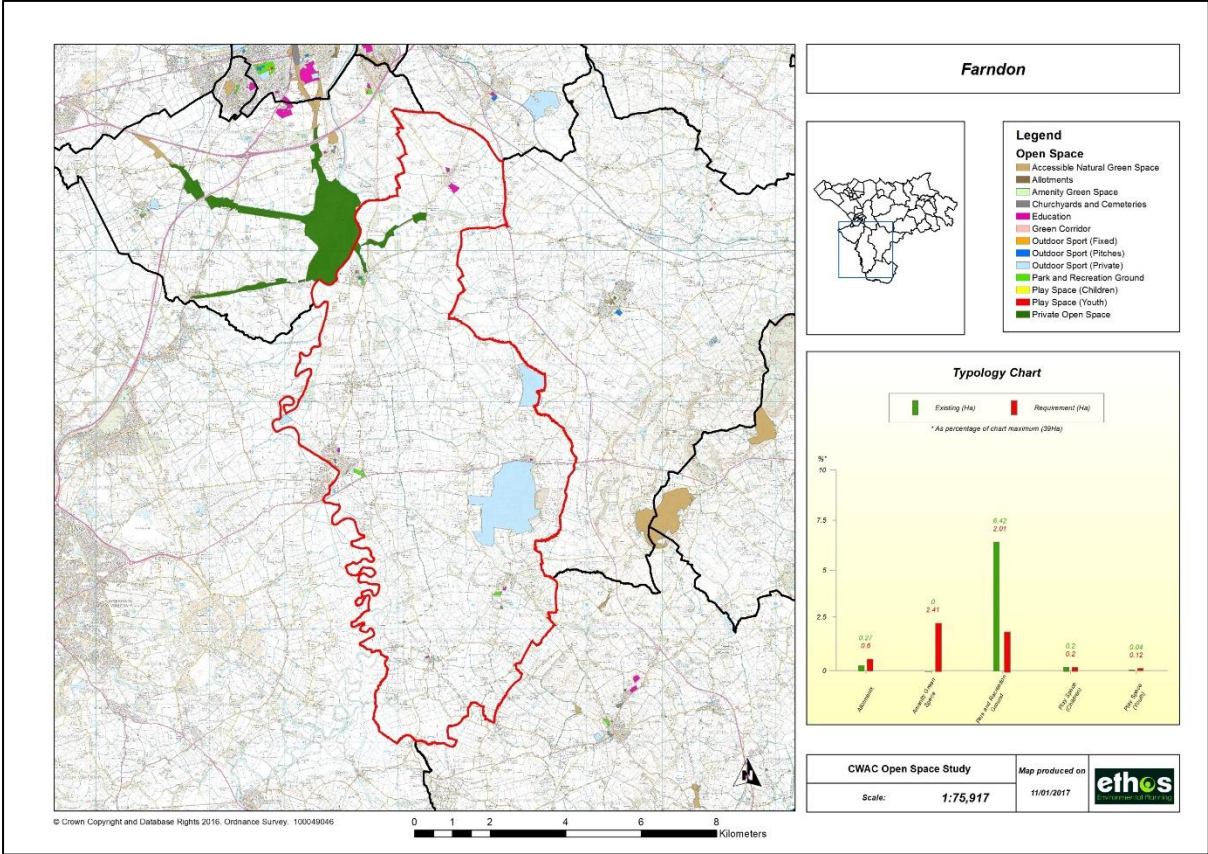


Figure 16 Provision of green space in Malpas

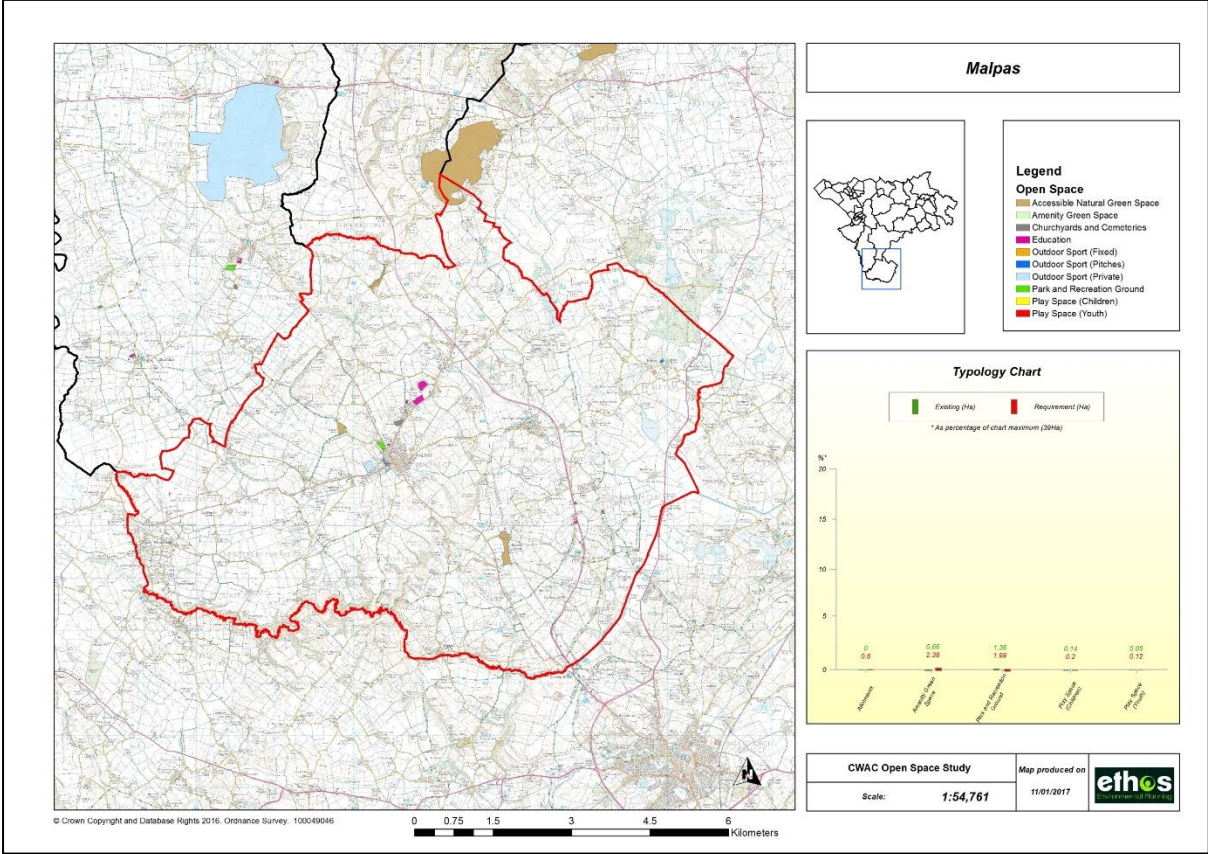


Figure 17 Provision of green space in Tattenhall

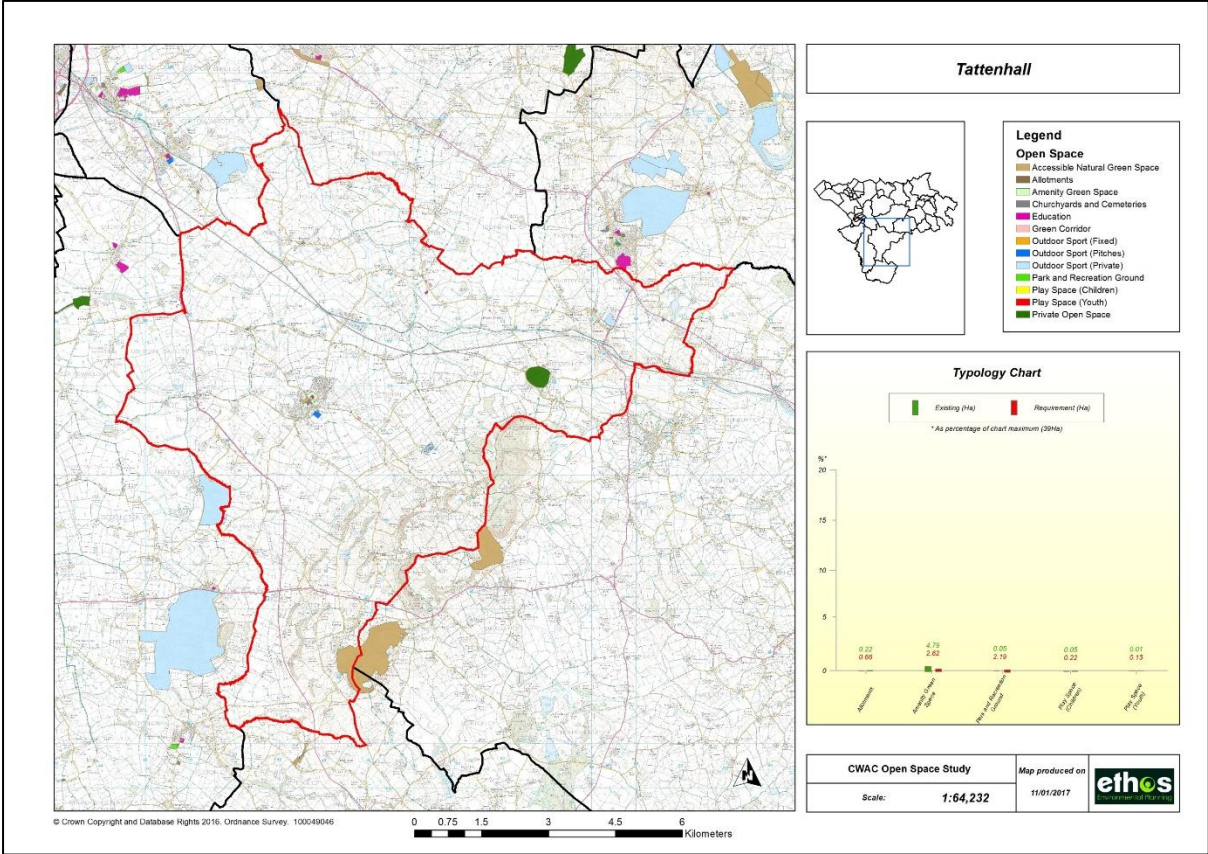


Figure 18 Provision of green space in Tarvin and Kelsall

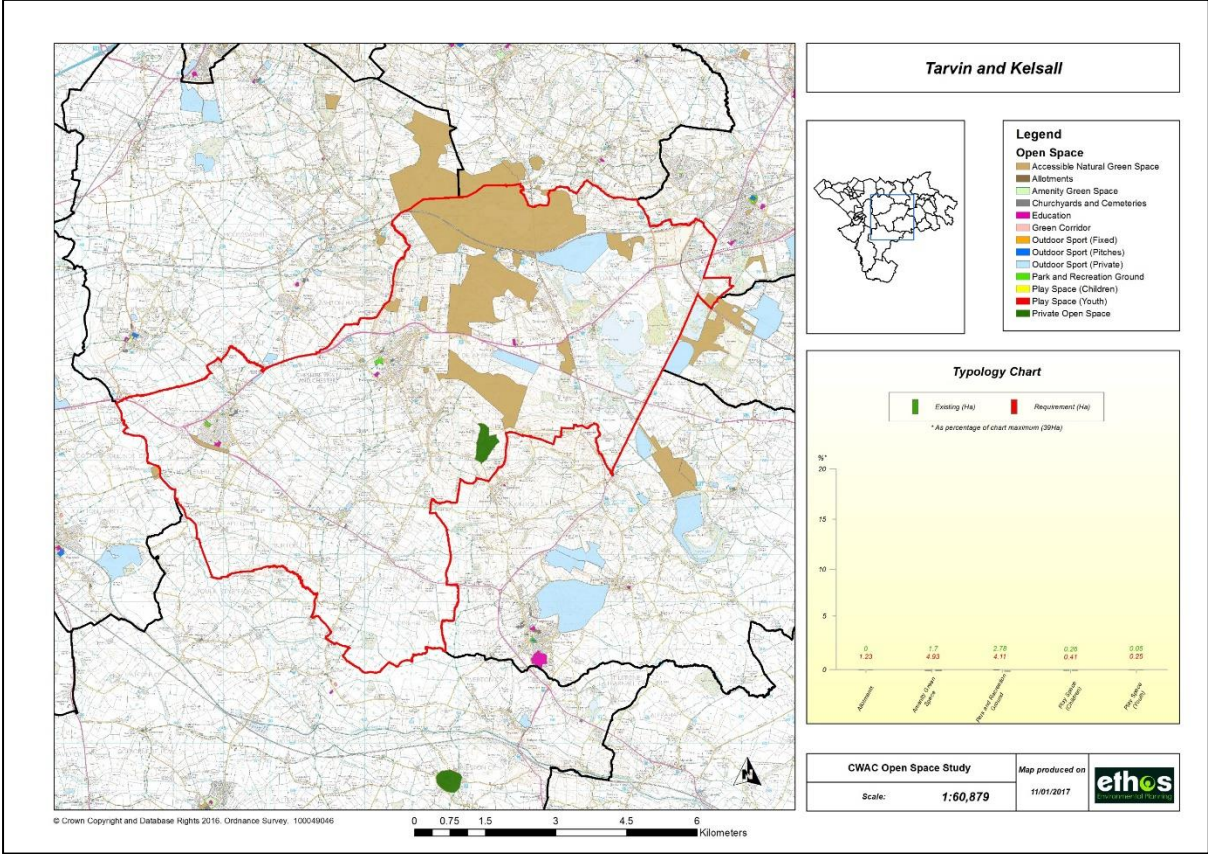


Figure 19 Provision of green space in Tarporley

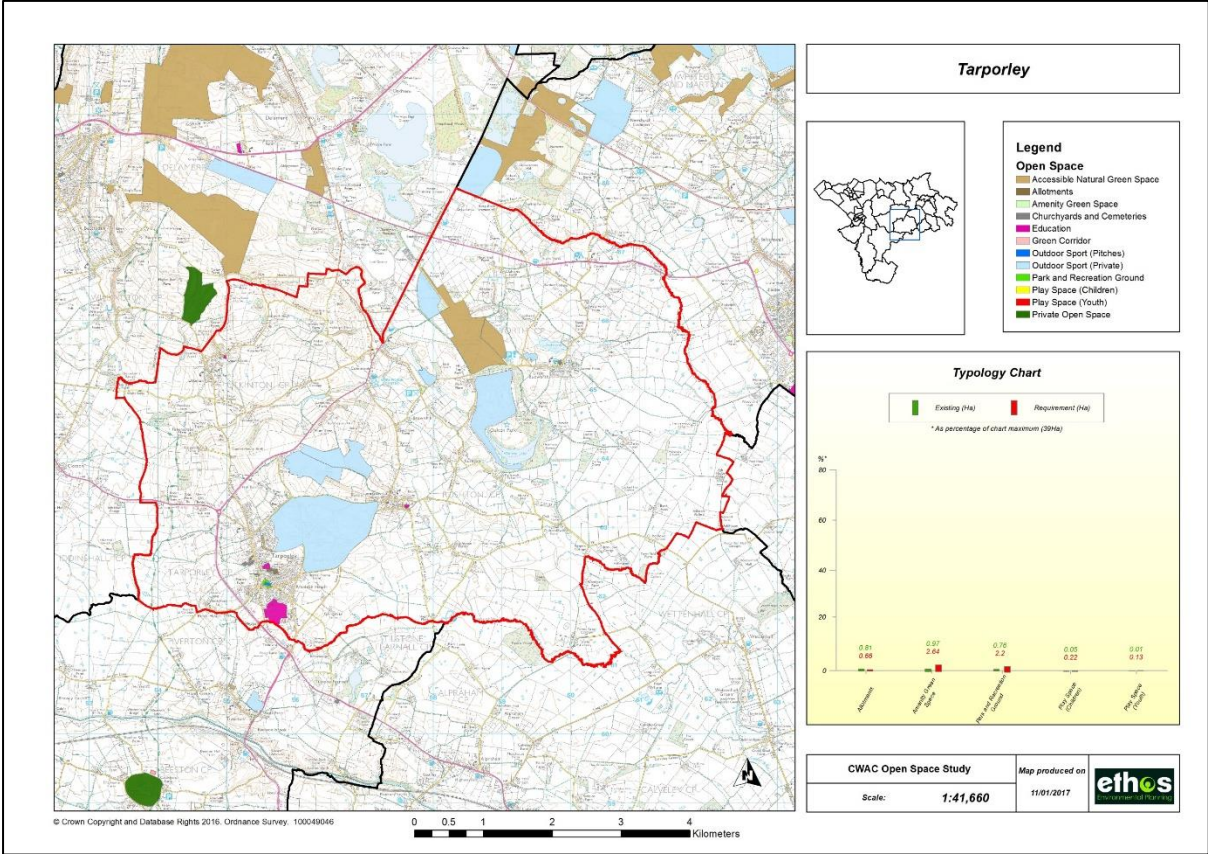


Figure 20 Provision of green space in Kingsley

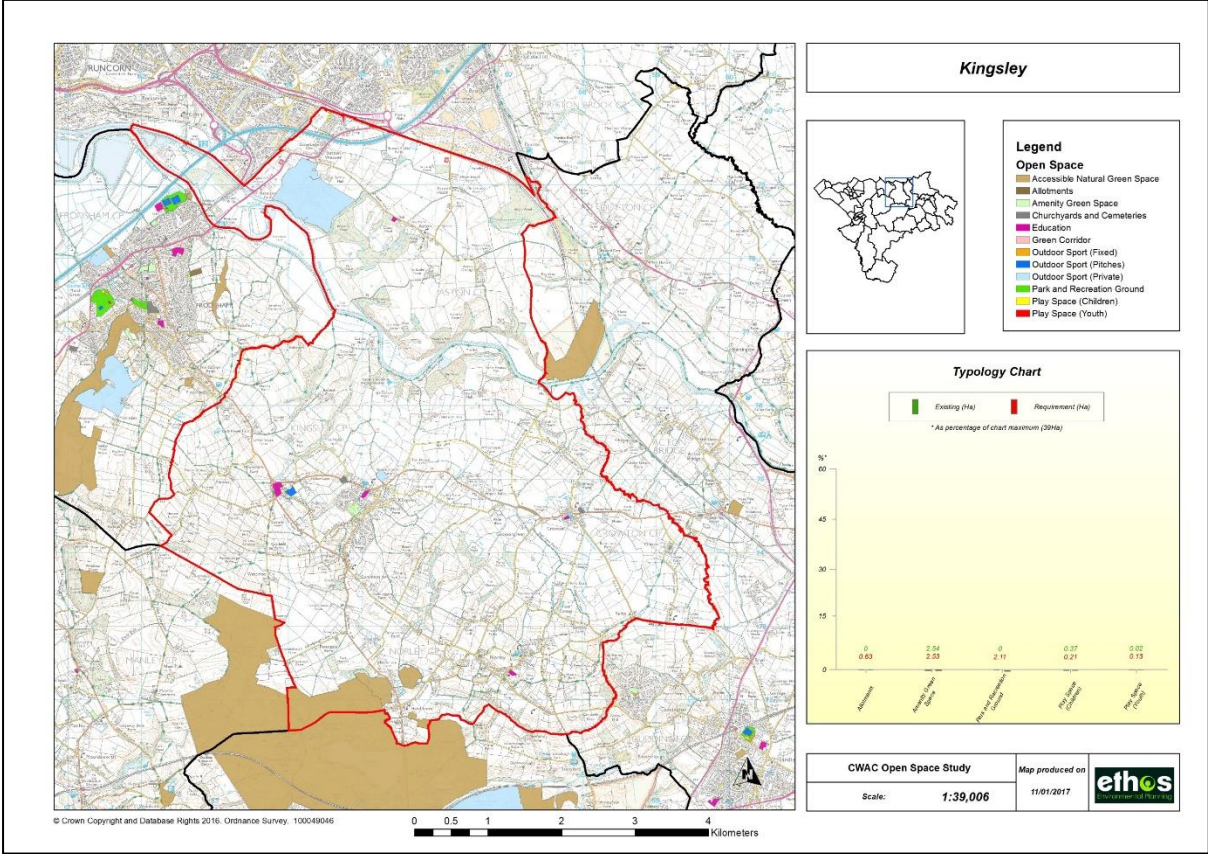


Figure 21 Provision of green space in Weaver and Cuddington

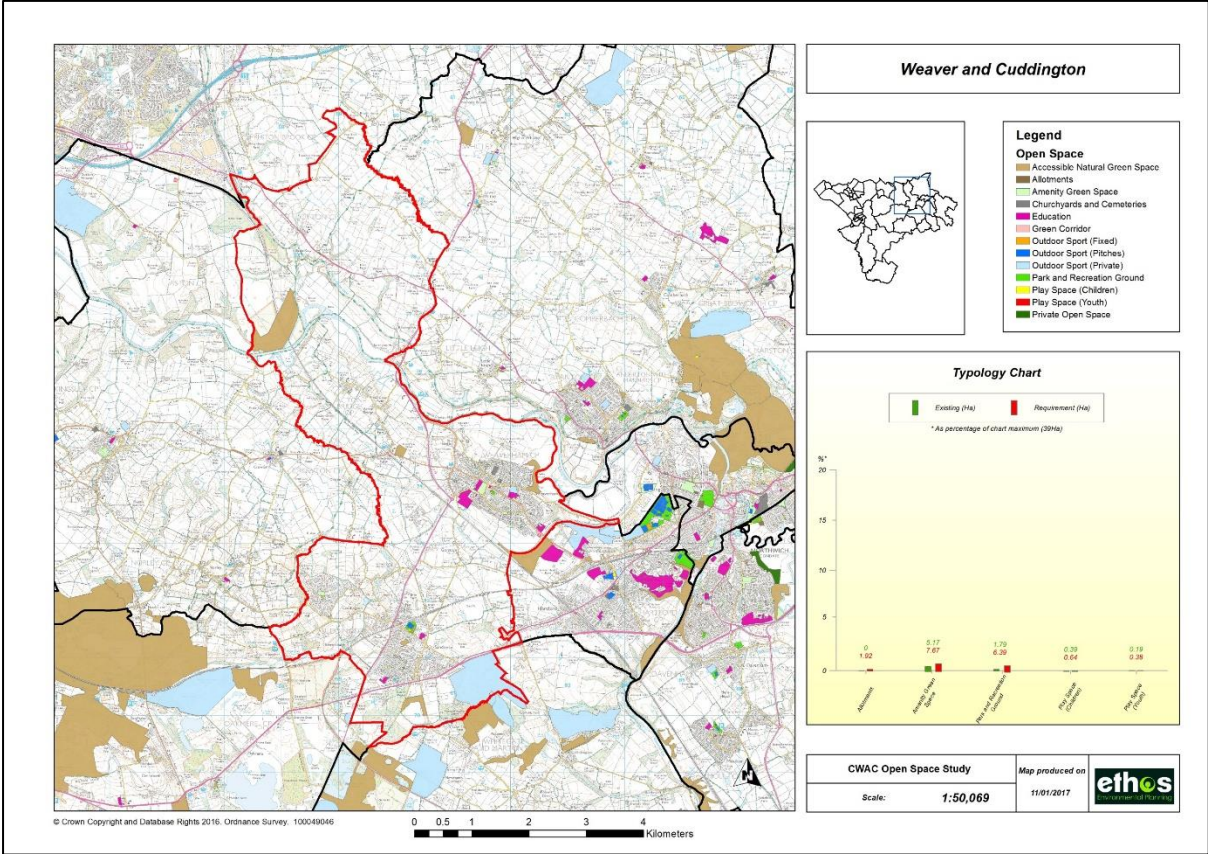


Figure 22 Provision of green space in Marbury

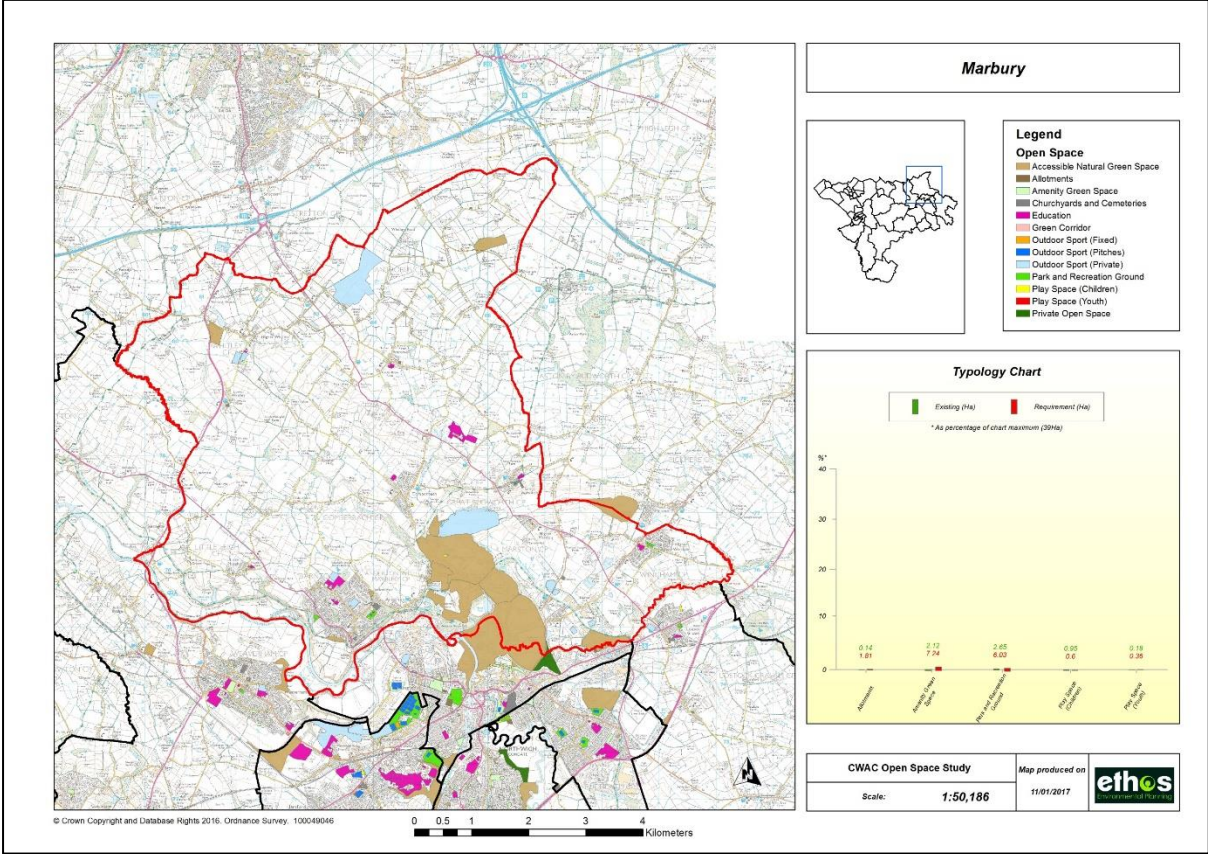


Figure 23 Provision of green space in Shakerley

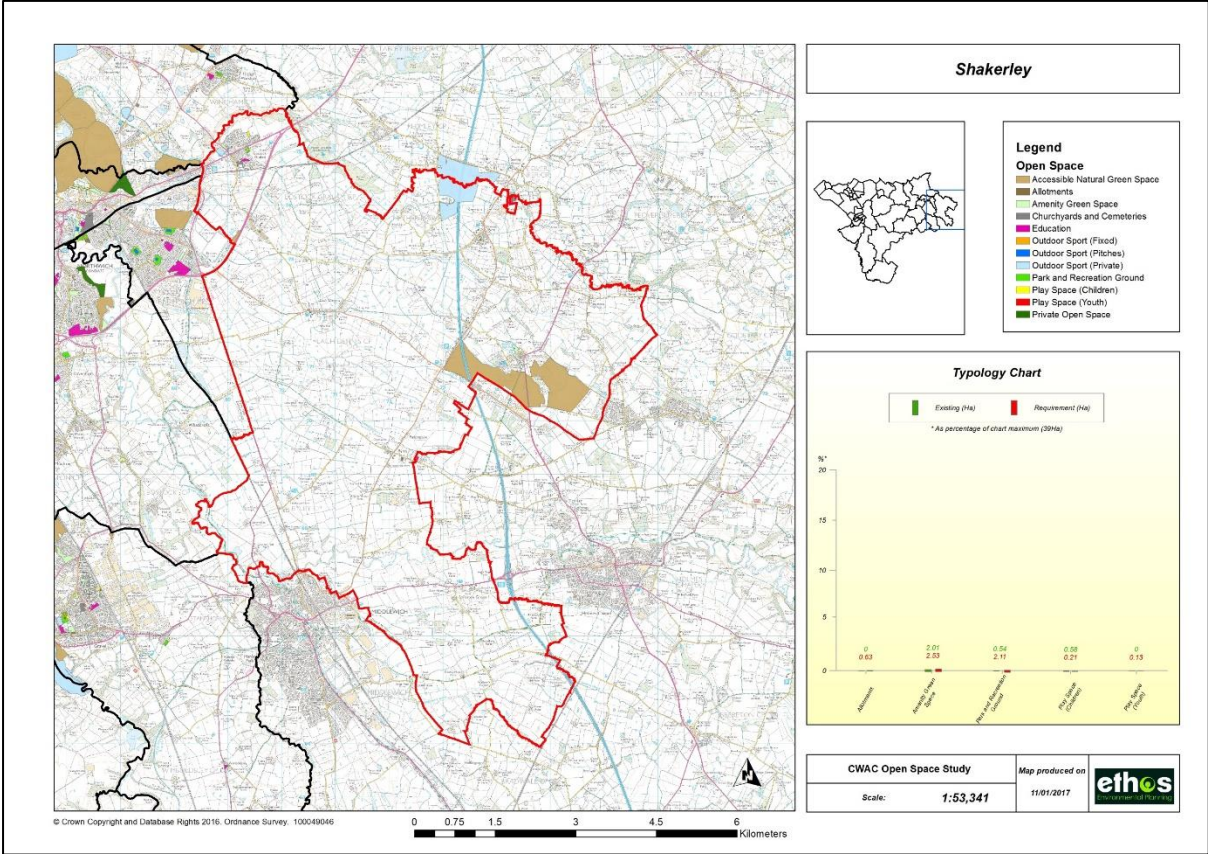


Figure 24 Provision of green space in Little Neston and Burton

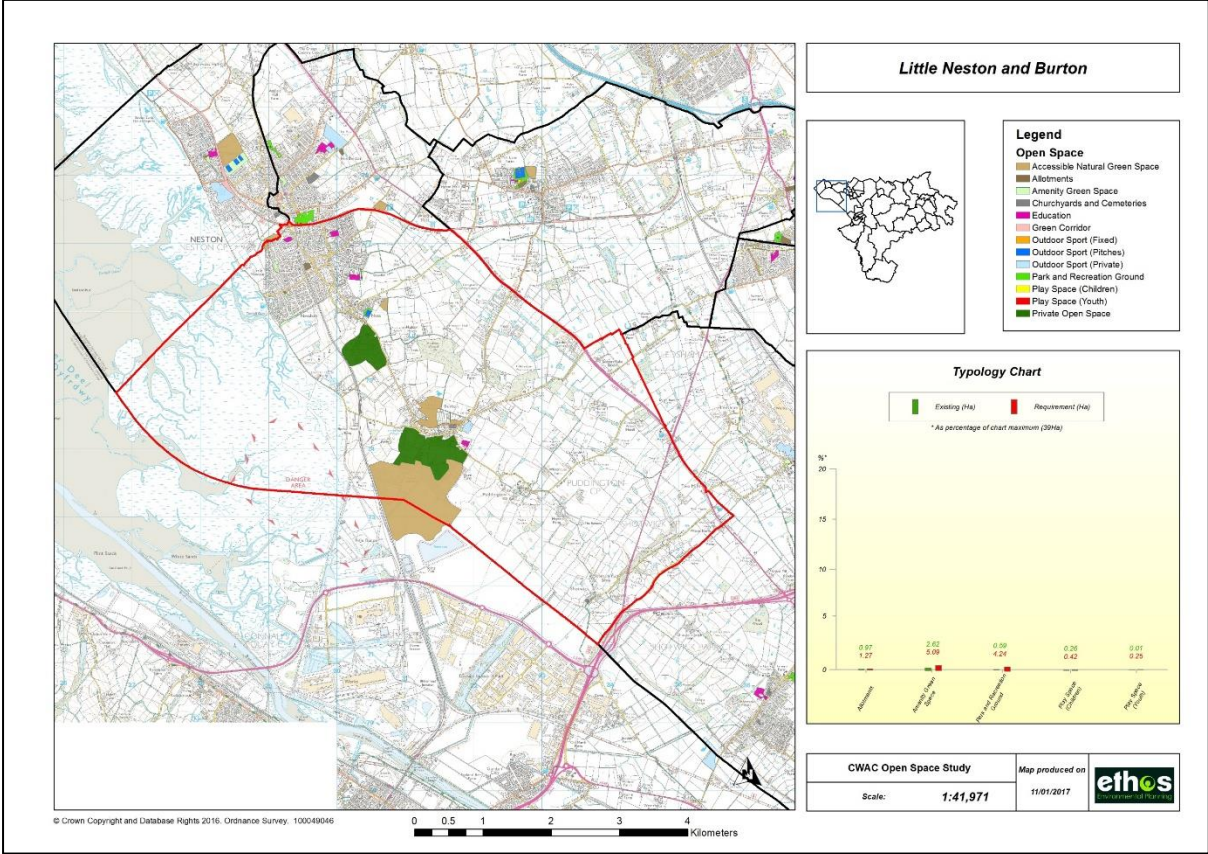
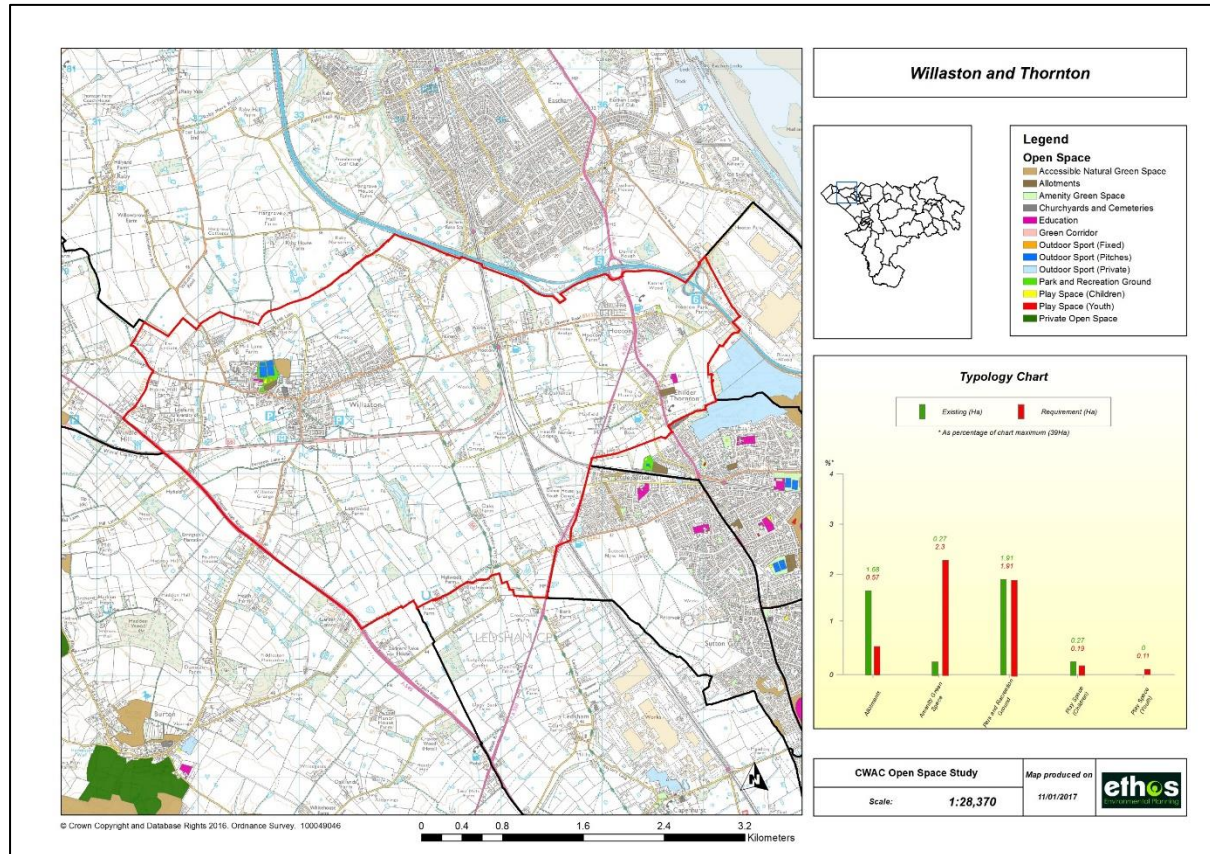


Figure 25 Provision of green space in Willaston and Thornton



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 study area. It uses the quantity standards for open space detailed in part 1 of the report, and summarised in table 2.

Table 2 Summary of open space standards (Quality standards not included here)

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.15	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	0.60 for analysing existing provision of sites > 0.15 ha 1.0 for new provision (combined with natural green space)	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	0.5	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	0.05	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	0.03	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	1.0 to include natural and amenity green space for new provision	ANGSt and Woodland Trust for analysing existing provision
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed	None
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed	None
Green Corridors	None, but sites mapped	None
Private open spaces (e.g. paid access sites)	None, but sites mapped	None
Playing Pitches	None, but sites mapped. Further details provided in playing pitch strategy	
Fixed Outdoor Sport Facilities	None, but sites mapped. Further details provided in	

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
	facilities strategy	
'Other' (Includes golf courses and fishing lakes)	None, but sites mapped	None

Existing quantity figures are also provided for a number of typologies where there are no standards, as such these also do not show figures for required provision (a figure of 0.00 is provided) and supply is 'NA', these typologies are:

- Natural Green Space (as existing provision is assessed using the Natural England ANGSt Standards);
- Education;
- Churchyard and Cemetery.

The following section provides tables showing the current quantitative provision of open space within the study area.

3.2 Current quantity provision of open space

The following tables show the existing provision of open space within the study area. Figures are given for the overall study area, and for individual wards. Additional information on each of the Key Service Centres is provided within individual supplements to this area profile. In some areas, green spaces may cross ward boundaries and as such the quantity provision is included within both of those ward totals. Therefore, if individual wards are added together, this may not add up to the overall total figure for the study area. This factor needs to be taken into account when making decisions about local quantity provision.

Table 3 Existing supply of green space across the Rural study area

Typology	Existing Provision (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha/1000)	Required Provision (Ha)	Required Provision (Ha/1000)	Supply (Ha)	Supply (Ha/1000)	Overall Supply
Allotments	6.84	0.06	17.7	0.15	-10.86	-0.09	UNDER SUPPLY
Amenity Green Space	56.92	0.48	70.79	0.6	-13.87	-0.12	UNDER SUPPLY
Park and Recreation Ground	46.1	0.39	58.99	0.5	-12.89	-0.11	UNDER SUPPLY
Play Space (Children)	6.4	0.05	5.9	0.05	0.5	0	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY
Play Space (Youth)	1.26	0.01	3.54	0.03	-2.28	-0.02	UNDER SUPPLY
Natural Green Space	2165.83	18.36	0	0	2165.83	18.36	N/A
Education	108.87	0.92	0	0	108.87	0.92	N/A
Churchyards and Cemeteries	31.34	0.27	0	0	31.34	0.27	N/A

Table 4 Supply of green space (hectares) for each Ward within the study area

Wards	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)
Chester Villages	-1.28	-2.03	-2.44	-0.01	-0.13
Dodleston and Huntington	-0.59	0.36	0.04	0.66	0.1
Elton	-0.68	9.92	0.06	0.1	-0.11
Farndon	-0.33	-2.41	4.41	0	-0.08
Frodsham	-0.13	-2.01	7.9	-0.06	-0.13
Gowy	-0.23	-0.71	-1.96	0.11	-0.09
Helsby	-0.17	-2.8	-1.18	-0.16	-0.13
Kingsley	-0.63	0.01	-2.11	0.16	-0.11
Little Neston and Burton	-0.3	-2.47	-3.65	-0.16	-0.24
Malpas	-0.6	-1.72	-0.63	-0.06	-0.07
Marbury	-1.67	-5.12	-3.38	0.35	-0.18
Neston	-0.2	-1.81	2.74	0.03	0.01
Parkgate	-0.41	2.38	-1.8	-0.11	-0.11
Saughall and Mollington	-0.67	2.34	0.18	-0.07	-0.12
Shakerley	-0.63	-0.52	-1.57	0.37	-0.13
Tarporley	0.15	-1.67	-1.44	-0.17	-0.12
Tarvin and Kelsall	-1.23	-3.23	-1.33	-0.15	-0.2
Tattenhall	-0.44	2.17	-2.14	-0.17	-0.12
Weaver and Cuddington	-1.92	-2.5	-4.6	-0.25	-0.19
Willaston and Thornton	1.11	-2.02	0	0.08	-0.11

As can be seen from the table 3 above, within the Rural study area, there is an overall under supply of all typologies of open space, with the exception of children's play space. The total shortfall for each typology is:

- Allotments 10.86 Ha
- Amenity Green Space 13.87 Ha
- Parks and Recreation grounds 12.89 Ha
- Play Space (Youth) 2.28 Ha

Total shortfall 39.90 Ha

Table 4 shows how this provision varies within individual wards in the study area, which indicates that provision does vary across wards and typologies, with some meeting the standards and others falling below.

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 study area using the CWaC access standards (as summarised in table 5). Individual Key Service Centre supplements have also been provided which include detailed maps showing access in each Key Service Centre.

Table 5 CWaC access standards

Typology	Access standard
Allotments	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	ANGSt and Woodland Trust for analysing existing provision

Figure 26 Access to Allotments across the Rural Study Area (720 metre buffer)

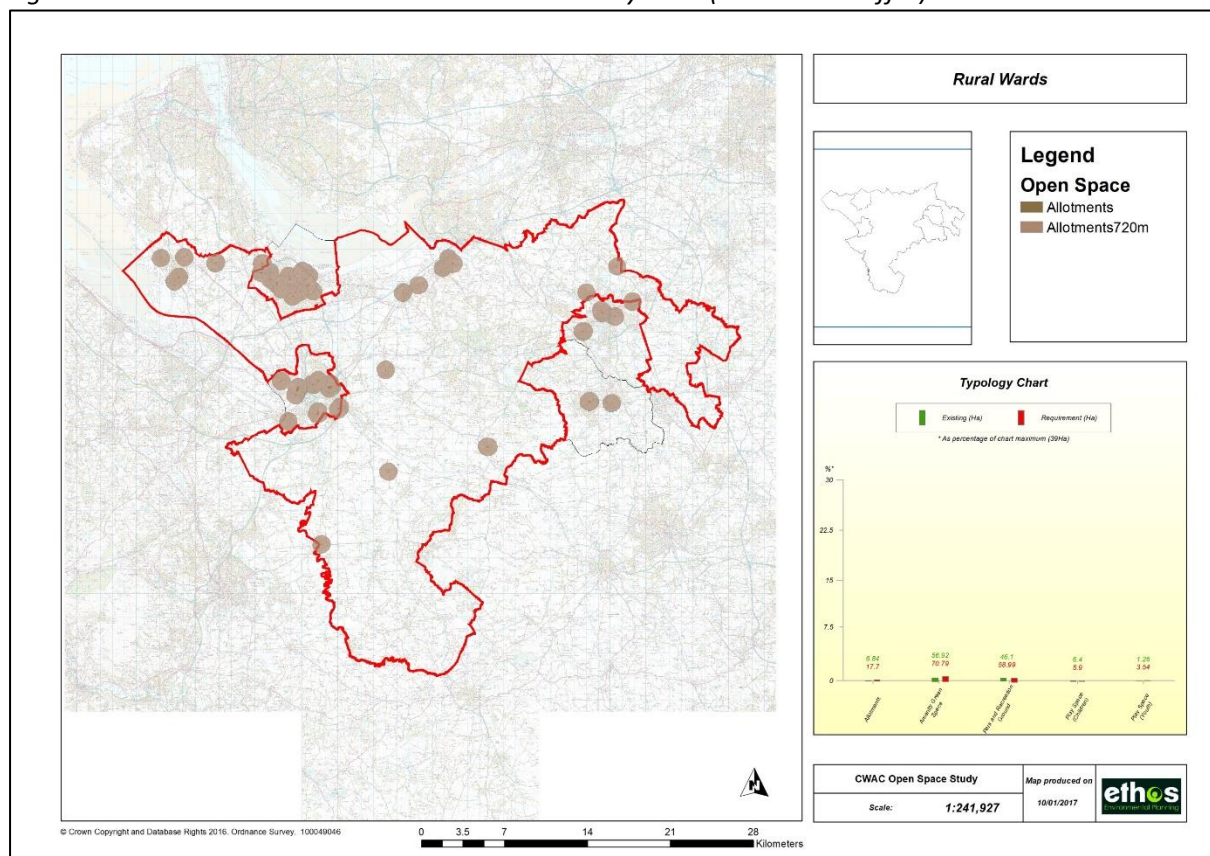


Figure 27 Access to Amenity Green Space across the Rural Study Area (480 metre buffer)

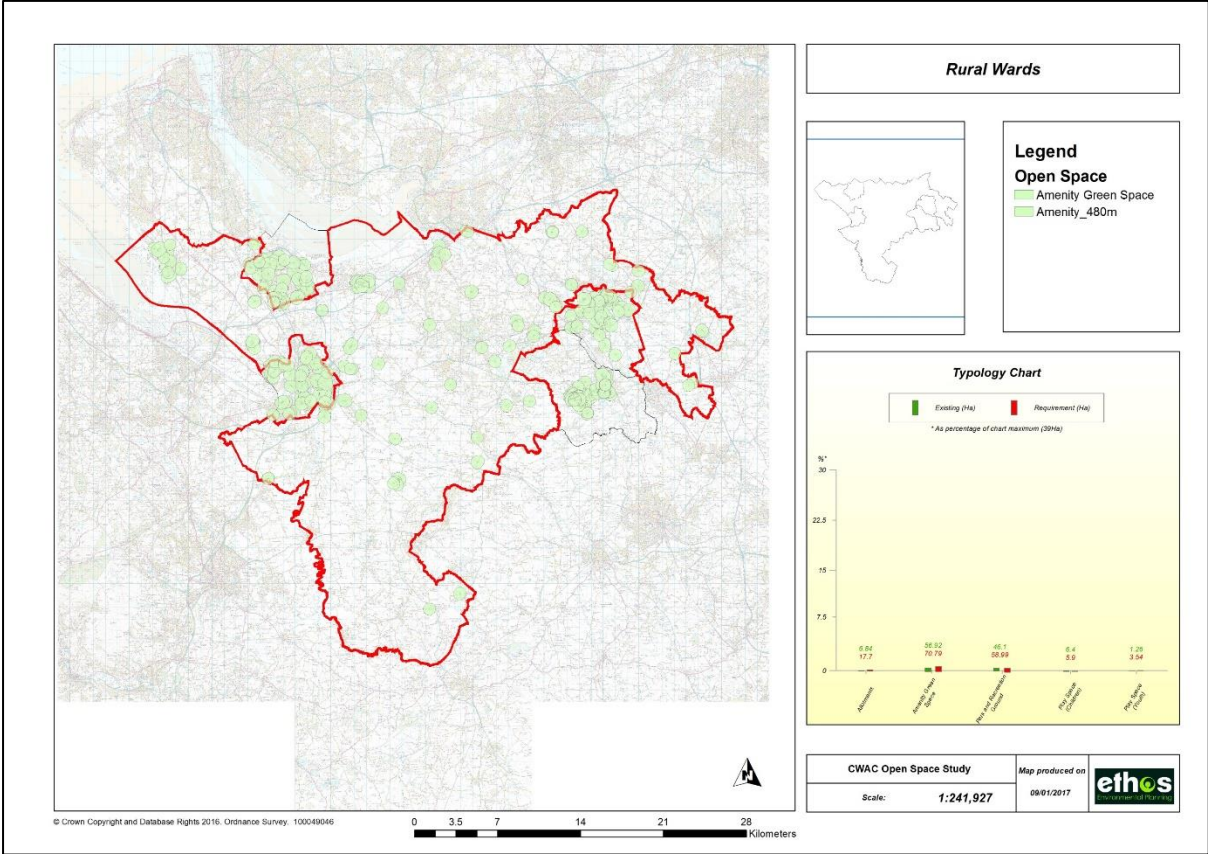


Figure 28 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds across the Rural Study Area (720m buffer)

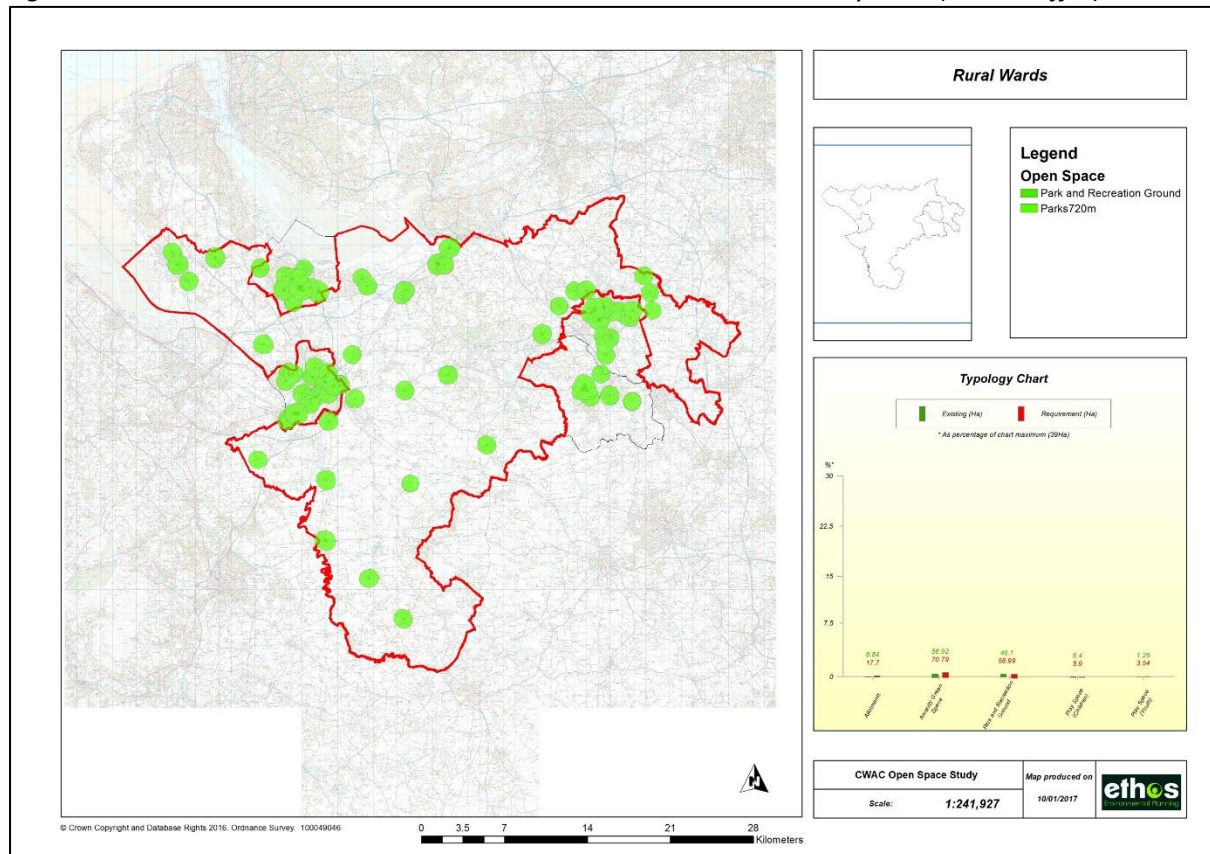


Figure 29 Access to Children's Play Space across the Rural Study Area (480 metre buffer)

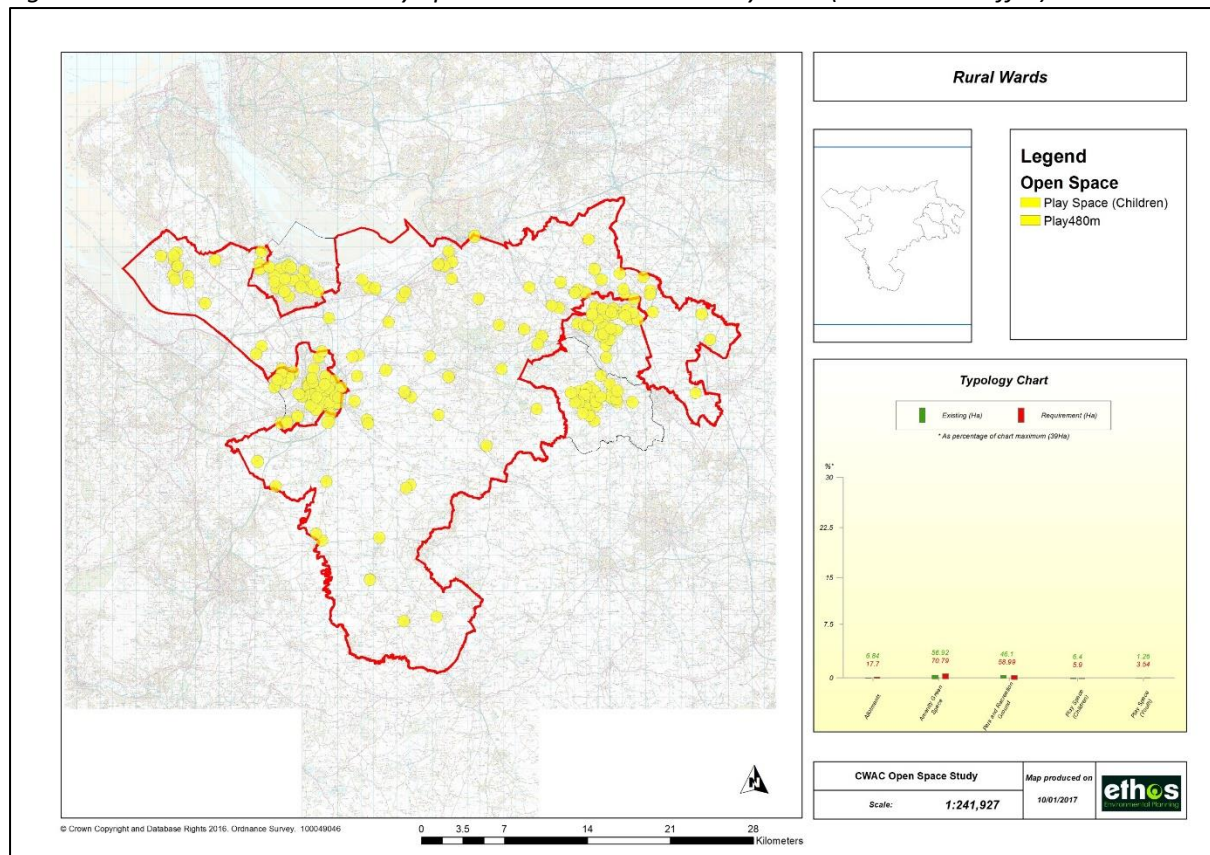


Figure 30 Access to Youth Play Space across the Rural Study Area (600 metre buffer)

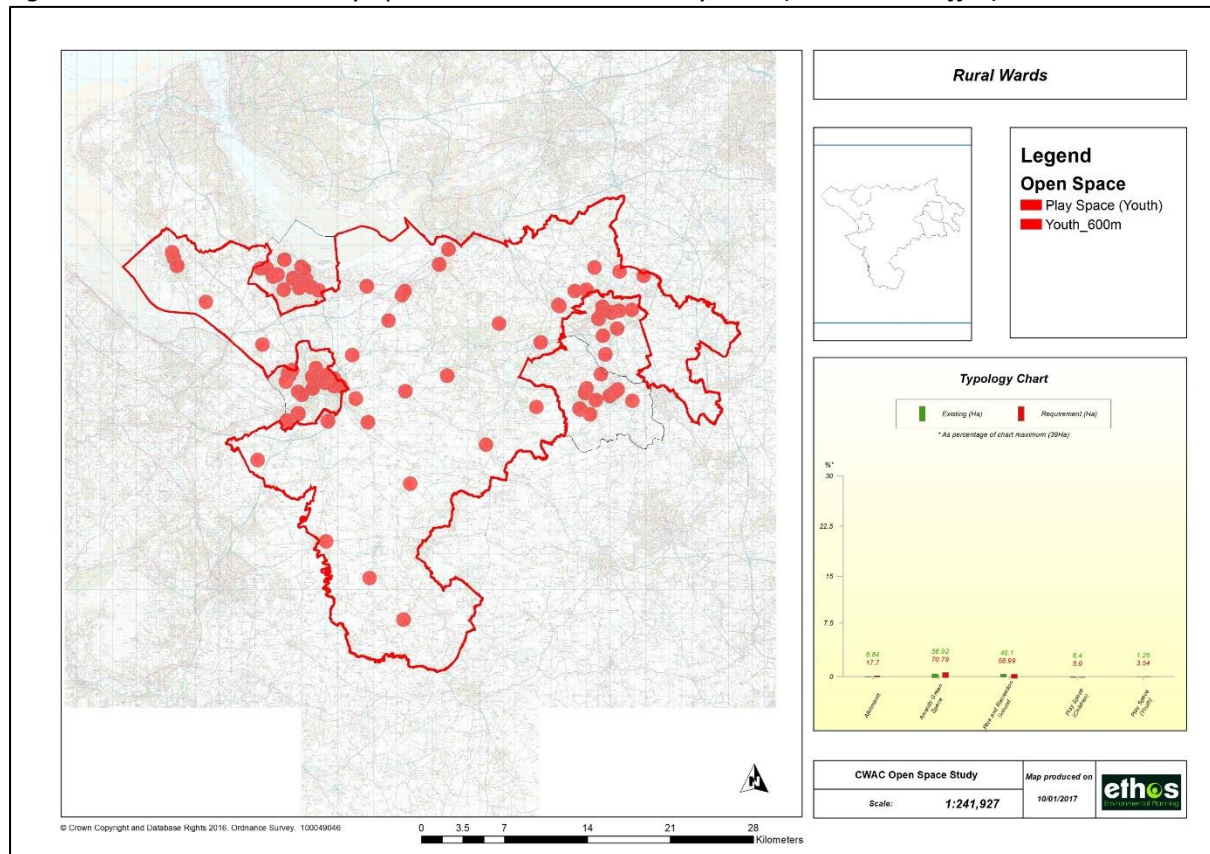


Figure 31 Access to Natural Green Space across the Rural Study Area

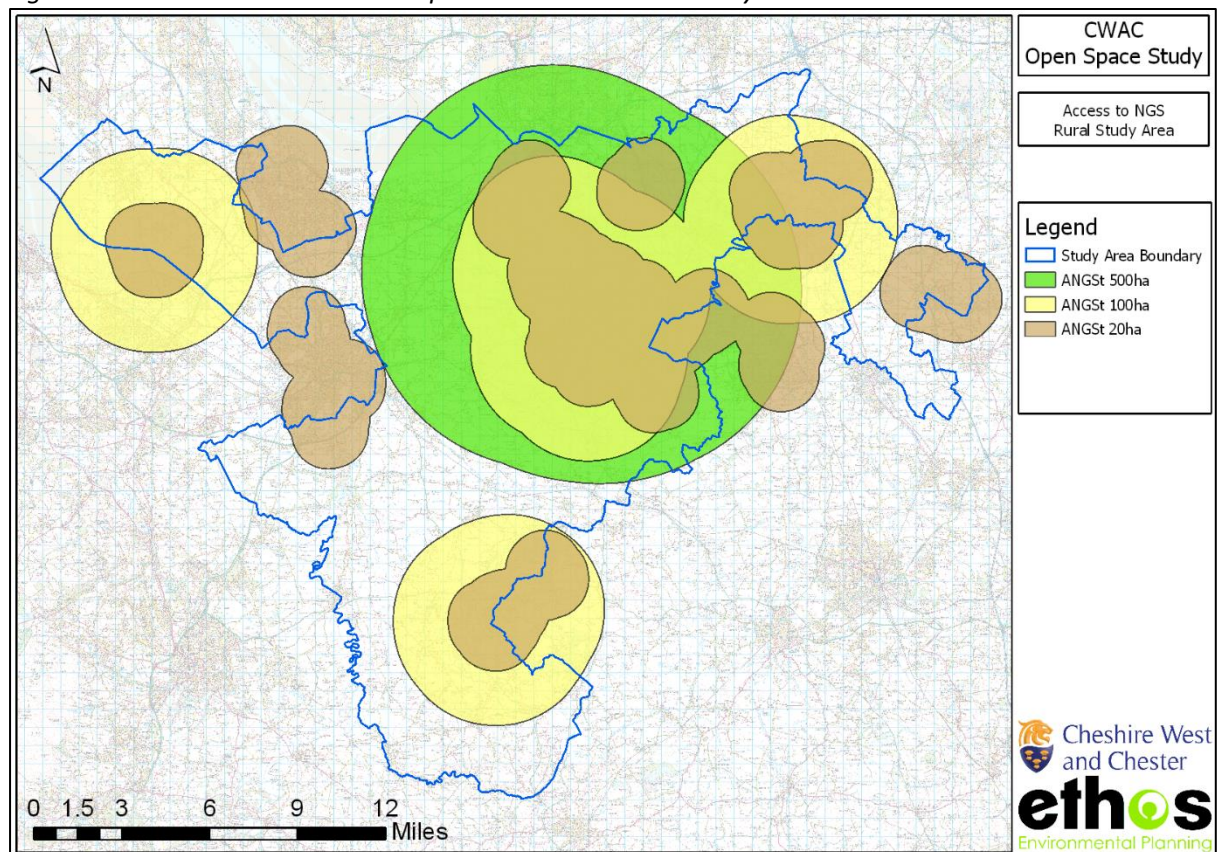
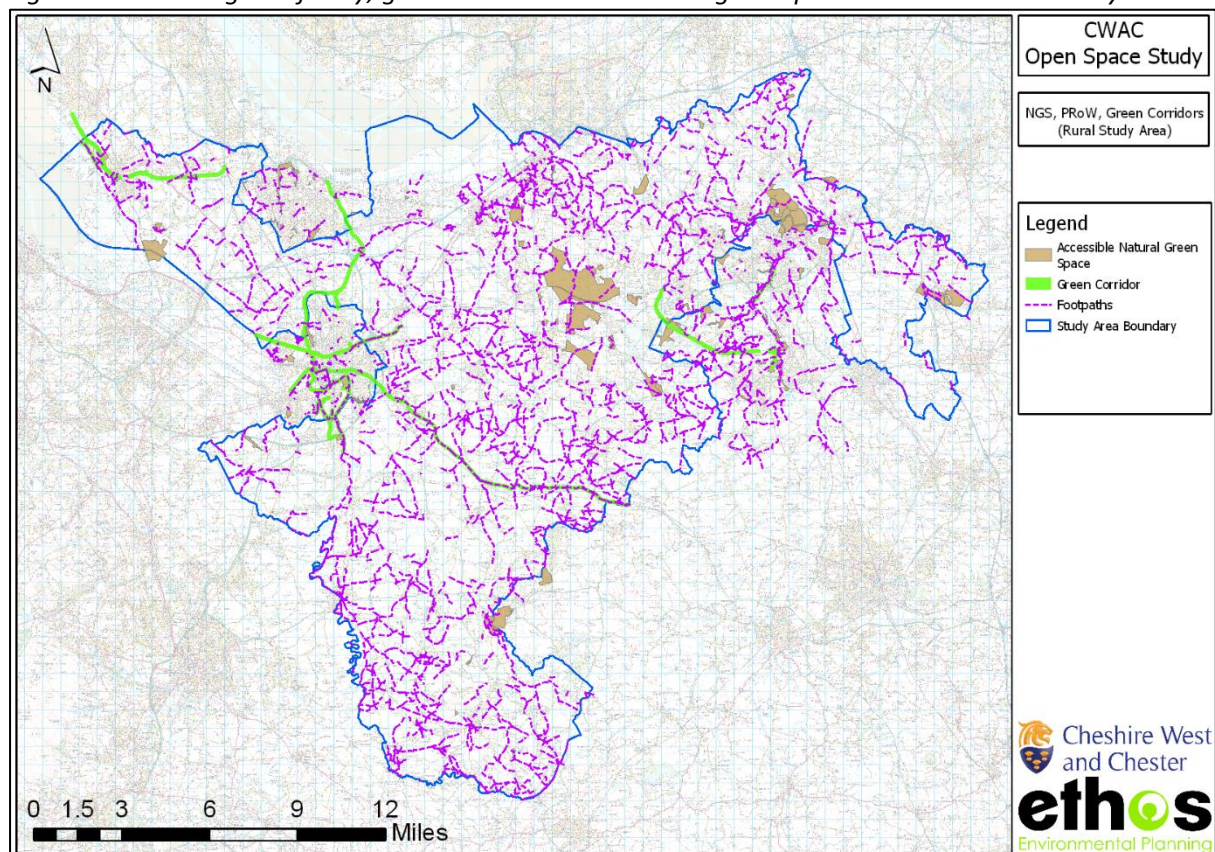


Figure 32 Public Rights of Way, green corridors and natural greenspace across the Rural Study Area



4.3 Analysis of existing access

The 10 Key Service Centre supplements provide more detailed maps for each of these areas. Table 6 gives a brief summary of any gaps made apparent whilst reviewing the data by wards. These conclusions have been determined by the using the access maps provided in figures 26-32.

Table 6 Summary of access issues

Typology	Current Access
Allotments	There are gaps in access in the wards of Little Neston and Burton, Dodleston and Huntington, Farndon, Malpas and Tarvin and Kelsall.
Amenity Green Space	Generally good access to amenity green space with the exception of Willaston and Thornton, Farndon, Dodleston and Huntington and Malpas who all have no access to amenity green space.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Access good across all areas with only a minor gap in access between communities.
Play Space (Children)	Generally good access across the study area with all Key Service Centres providing at least one children's play space. Details are provided within the CWAC Play Strategy.
Play Space (Youth)	Youth provision is more sporadic, although the majority of Key Service Centres have some form of youth provision (with the exception of Tarporley which only has a teen shelter). Details are provided within the CWAC Play Strategy.

Natural Green Space	The central area has good access to natural green space due to the location of Delamere Forest. However, a number of wards/parts of wards to not meet any of the ANGSt standards.
Natural greenspace, green corridors and Rights of Way	Most Key Service Centres and communities appear to have a good network of ROWs.

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 snap-shot in time).

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database (appendix 2). Within these area profiles, 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 'gap' between the existing and potential quality scores has been used to identify and prioritise sites for improvement.

Each of the 10 Key Service Centre supplements provide maps showing the existing quality rank, and sites with potential for improvement. 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.

6.0 Future need for Open Space

This section of the report considers the overall implications for green space provision from the predicted population growth for the whole of the study area.

6.1 Projected housing growth

Within the rural area the Council will support development that serves local needs in the most accessible and sustainable locations to sustain vibrant rural communities. Within the rural area provision will be made for at least 4,200 new dwellings and 10ha of additional land for employment development.

Development should be appropriate in scale and design to conserve each settlement's character and setting.

The settlements listed below are identified as key service centres for surrounding areas which provide a good range of facilities and services and will be the focus for new development in the rural area. The key service centres will accommodate at least the amount of residential development set out below:

- Cuddington and Sandiway: 200 dwellings
- Farndon: 200 dwellings
- Frodsham: 250 dwellings
- Helsby: 300 dwellings
- Kelsall: 200 dwellings
- Malpas: 200 dwellings
- Neston (including Parkgate): 200 dwellings
- Tarvin: 200 dwellings
- Tattenhall: 250 dwellings
- Tarporley: 300 dwellings

For the purpose of this assessment, an increase in population of 9,660 people has been used (using the average household occupancy of 2.3 from the 2011 census).

6.2 Impact of housing growth on existing open space provision

Assuming a population increase of 9,660 people, the total population for the Rural area within the local plan period would increase to 123,823 people.

Using the CWAC standards for open space, the total amount of open space that would be required for a population increase of 9,660 people is shown in table 7:

Table 7 Total amount of open space required for increased population growth of 9,660 people

Typology	Standard for new provision	Requirement for 9,660 people (Hectares)
Allotments	0.15	1.44
Amenity/Natural Green Space	1.0	9.66
Park and Recreation Ground	0.5	4.83
Play Space (Children)	0.05	0.48
Play Space (Youth)	0.03	0.28
Total		16.69

Noting that the area has an under supply across all typologies (with the exception of children's play space which meets the required supply), the existing shortfalls in provision would be exacerbated by a population increase if no new open space was to be provided. Therefore, the need for on-site provision of open space across all typologies through new development in the rural area is a key priority.

7.0 Summary of priorities for the area

This section brings together the analysis of the existing quality, access and quantity of open space and considers future requirements for open space from population growth, and considers the following priorities:

- Existing provision to be enhanced;
- Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
- Identification of areas for new provision;
- Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

7.1 Existing provision to be enhanced

Appendix 1 provides a summary of the existing quality ranks drawn from the quality audit (Appendix 2 of part 1). Maps are also provided for those sites which have 'potential for improvement' i.e. are ranked A, B or C. Those sites ranked D, generally have very little potential for improvement. The audit has identified a total of 118 sites which are ranked A-C, with sites ranked A the highest potential/priority for improvement.

7.2 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

Opportunities to relocate or re-designate open spaces draws on both the quantity and access analysis. Across the rural wards, analysed in this report and the 10 Key Service Centre supplements, the existing quantity of open space does vary between typologies, however, there is an under supply of at least one type of open space in every area. Considering the provision by ward, the following wards have an under provision of all typologies:

- Chester Villages;
- Helsby;
- Little Neston and Burton;
- Malpas;
- Tarvin and Kelsall;
- Weaver and Cuddington.

It is therefore considered that these wards offer little in the way of opportunity for relocation or re-designation of existing open space.

Other wards are assessed in Table 8 as follows:

Table 8 *Opportunities for re-location or re-designation by ward within the rural area*

Ward	Current Provision	Opportunities for re-location/designation
Doddestone and Huntingdon	Shortfall of allotments.	Although play is sufficient, removal of play areas would result in access gaps. Park and Recreation grounds and/or amenity green space could accommodate allotments.
Elton	Sufficient amenity green space, park and recreation grounds and children's play space.	Amenity green space around Elton and Elton Green Area which could provide opportunities to meet other shortfalls, e.g. allotments. Park and recreation grounds may be able to accommodate allotments and/or youth provision for which there are shortfalls.
Farndon	Under supply of allotments, amenity green space and youth provision.	Park and recreation grounds may have potential to accommodate allotments and/or youth provision.
Frodsham	Under supply of all typologies except parks and recreation grounds	Existing parks and recreation grounds could provide additional facilities to meet shortfalls in other typologies e.g. Castle Park, Churchfield Park or Saltwork Farm
Gowy	Shortfall of all typologies except children's play space.	Although children's play space is sufficient, removal of play areas would result in access gaps, therefore no opportunity.
Kinglsey	Sufficient amenity green space and children's play space, shortfall in all other typologies	Although two typologies have sufficient provision, removal of facilities would result in access gaps, therefore no opportunity
Marbury	Shortfall of all typologies except children's play space	Overlap in access provision in play space in Barnton could provide opportunities for alternative uses
Neston	Sufficient parks and recreation ground, children and youth play space	There are overlaps in access provision for children and youth play space and parks and recreation grounds in the Neston area providing opportunities for alternative uses, e.g. allotments at Stanley Field Park
Parkgate	Under supply of all typologies except amenity green space	Amenity green space could accommodate other provision where there is a shortfall e.g. allotments, children's play space
Saughall and Mollington	Sufficient amenity green space and park and recreation ground. Under supply of all other typologies	Some overlap in access to amenity green space in Saughall which could provide allotments which are below the access and quantity standard. Parks could provide space for new

Ward	Current Provision	Opportunities for re-location/designation
		play space (or expanding existing).
Shakerley	Sufficient children's play space, under supply of all other typologies	Although play is sufficient, removal of play areas would result in access gaps, therefore no opportunity.
Tarporley	Sufficient supply in allotments, undersupply in all other typologies.	Little opportunity.
Tattenhall	Sufficient amenity green space, under supply of all other typologies	Overlap in access to amenity green space in Tattenhall Village, there is a gap in access to allotments in this area which could be accommodated in one of the existing spaces e.g. Spinney End or Tattenhall Road AGS

7.3 Identification of areas for new provision

The assessment has shown that all wards have an under supply of at least one type of open space. The planned increase in population growth, also results in the need for additional open space. If no additional open space were to be provided, the increase in population would result in a shortfall of all typologies. Therefore, it is recommended that on site provision is sought across all typologies, in line with the requirements in part 1 of the study.

7.4 Facilities that may be surplus to requirement

The assessment has shown that there is an under supply of all typologies (with the exception of children's play space) and the proposed housing growth would result in a shortfall in all typologies. Whilst there may be opportunity for re-designating some spaces (section 7.2), unless all developments provide their full quota of open space, there would be no opportunity for disposing of existing open spaces. It is therefore recommended that this is reviewed towards the end of the plan period to establish, how much open space has been provided within new development and how the resultant overall supply stands.