



# Open Space & Recreation Study

November 2015

Sefton Council





[This page has been left blank intentionally]

## **Contents**

<b>Chapter 1: Purpose, scope and structure</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 2: Policy context</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Chapter 3: How open space is assessed</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Chapter 4: Parks and Countryside Recreation Areas</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Chapter 5 Cemeteries and crematoria</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Chapter 6: Allotments</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Chapter 7: Accessible nature space</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Chapter 8: New provision of open space</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Chapter 9: Summary and conclusions</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Appendix: List of parks by settlement area</b>	<b>45</b>

## **List of figures**

<b>3.1: Open space targets in Sefton</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3.2: Parks hierarchy in Sefton</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3.3: Parks accessibility in Sefton</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4.1: Sefton population figures</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>4.2: Quantity by type of park</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>4.3: Quantity of all parks</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>4.4: Public water areas</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4.5: Distribution of Countryside Recreation Areas</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>4.6: Sefton Borough showing Green Flag Awards 2015/16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>4.7: 'Friends of' Groups</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>4.8: Percentage of population meeting accessibility targets</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>4.9: Map of main parks and Countryside Recreation Areas with 2km buffer</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>4.10: Map of parks accessibility in Bootle and Netherton</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>4.11: Map of parks accessibility in Crosby</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>4.12: Map of parks accessibility in Formby</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>4.13: Map of parks accessibility in Sefton East</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>4.14: Map of parks accessibility in Southport</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>5.1: Public cemeteries by settlement area</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>6.1: Allotment provision by settlement area</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>6.2: Distribution and size of allotment provision</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>6.3: Map of Allotments in Sefton</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>7.1: Summary of accessible nature space</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>7.2: Accessibility to accessible nature space</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>8.1: Target rates of open space provision in Sefton</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>9.1: Overview of open space provision</b>	<b>41</b>

[This page has been left blank intentionally]

# Chapter 1: Purpose and scope

## Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Study is to undertake a review of provision in Sefton in order to provide a robust and up to date assessment of the needs for open space and opportunities for new or enhanced provision, set out in in paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework. It also identifies where open space should continue to receive protection. It replaces the 2009 Green Space and Recreation Study.
- 1.2. The aim is to provide updated evidence to inform the preparation and implementation of the Sefton Local Plan, and other Council plans, strategies and priorities, notably:
  - The Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management strategic review, and
  - Any future update of the Green Space Strategy for Sefton.
- 1.3. The 2006 Unitary Development Plan included a policy requiring public greenspace to be provided for five or more new homes and major commercial, industrial or leisure development. This has been implemented successfully to secure new and enhanced green space in Sefton. With the advent of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations and the preparation of a new Local Plan, the approach to open space provision must be updated.
- 1.4. Access to open space, trees and nature is important as participating in sports, play or more informal recreation activities is widely recognised to have positive benefits for physical and mental health and well-being. Open space is often multi-functional, with more than recreation, health and well-being benefits. For example, it can provide habitats for nature, areas for flood management and mitigation against the effects climate change (air pollution and air temperature). Some open spaces have heritage benefits including contribution towards the character of Conservation Areas, providing the settings for Listed Buildings or other historic assets, or being Registered Historic Parks or Gardens in their own right. Open space can also provide an attractive environment to encouraging economic investment in an area. It is therefore essential that valuable open spaces are protected, enhanced and created throughout the Borough.
- 1.5. Parks and other open space are particularly important to those living in urban areas, especially the more densely built up, older urban areas of Bootle, Waterloo and Southport where private gardens tend to be small and tree cover tends to be lower. Some of these areas are also further from Coast and countryside areas.
- 1.6. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal provides a link from Bootle to more rural areas. Sefton's residents and visitors benefit from 22 miles of accessible coast northwards from the Port of Liverpool, whilst accessible countryside, predominantly around Maghull and Crosby, is designated as Countryside Recreation Areas. Sefton has a network of defined Strategic Paths (including the canal towpath and Coast Path) and a rights of way network which help connect open spaces to residential areas.

## Scope

- 1.7. The main focus of the Study is to provide evidence to support the Local Plan preparation to make sure that provision and accessibility of quality public open space is protected and enhanced; and to secure new or enhanced provision linked to new development. The Study assesses the following types of open space:

- Parks in the urban area (and water features such as the canal and marine lakes)
  - Countryside Recreation Areas
  - Allotments
  - Cemeteries and churchyards
- 1.8. Parks and water features form the key components of open space provision in Sefton. In this Study 'parks' is a generic term used for all types of urban amenity and recreation open space, including play areas, areas of natural and semi-natural greenspace and more formal public parks and gardens. Public playing fields are also included as parks as they are accessible by members of the public outside match times. Playing fields managed by Parish and Town Councils are also more likely to include equipped play areas. However, this Study does not provide an assessment of need and demand for sports pitches or non-pitch sports sites; these are covered by the Playing Pitch Study and Non-Pitch Sports Study due to be completed by consultants Knight Kavannagh Page (KKP) in November 2015.
- 1.9. This Study recognises the importance of Countryside Recreation Areas which include the Sefton coast, Rimrose Valley, Sefton Meadows and woodlands which all provide areas for informal recreation for local people and visitors. Parks and Countryside Recreation Areas may be managed by Sefton Council, Town or Parish Councils, or other organisations such as One Vision Housing, the Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, the Canals and Rivers Trust or the National Trust. Open space and Countryside Recreation Areas are main components of Sefton's Green Infrastructure network, one of the Borough's key natural assets.
- 1.10. Allotments are included in the Study because of the unique role they play in contributing towards the recreation needs and the health and well-being of communities. Public cemeteries and crematoria are assessed where relevant as they have a role for informal recreation. However, their provision is governed by factors other than recreational need so the Study does not assess the future need.
- 1.11. This Study also assesses the provision of accessible nature space, which includes all public open space and Countryside Recreation Areas. It draws heavily on Natural England's 'Nature Nearby' (2010) which recognises that accessible nature space is 'everyday nature', on a variety of sites close to where people live and provides all of the benefits and functions of open space and trees.
- 1.12. The Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management Plan (2008) sets out Sefton Council's commitment to the continuing role of urban parks as the main focus for general open space and recreation provision in the borough. It is currently under review. The Council is committed to the provision, retention and enhancement of public open space in the urban area and within or close to new housing, as a mechanism for managing recreation pressure on the internationally important nature sites on the Sefton Coast.
- 1.13. The Green Space Strategy for Sefton (2009) sets out the vision, aims and objectives for green space in Sefton. The vision is: 'to create a mosaic of quality green spaces which will be cherished by this and future generations'. This leads to the following aims for green space:
- Improving the quality, variety and accessibility
  - Increasing community use and improving community health
  - Helping to reduce the impacts of climate change
  - Increasing wildlife value
  - Working in partnership, especially to secure funding

Each aim has a number of objectives to secure delivery.

- 1.14. Other relevant Council plans, strategies and priorities include the Health and Well-being Strategy (2014) and the Council's management of its other assets because of the role of open space in helping to improve health and well-being and the need to use assets efficiently.

### **Structure of the Study**

- 1.15. Chapter 2 of the Study sets out the policy context. Chapter 3 sets how recreation and open space provision is assessed in the Study, including the targets for quantity, quality and accessibility of provision. Chapter 4 shows the results of the main assessment of parks, and Countryside Recreation Areas. Chapters 5, 6 and 7 look at allotments, cemeteries and churchyards and accessible nature space respectively. Chapter 8 looks at opportunities for new provision. Chapter 9 provides a summary of recreation provision across Sefton and conclusions.

## Chapter 2: Policy context

- 2.1. The key national, regional and Liverpool City Region and local policy context for planning, green infrastructure and open space is set out below.

### **National context**

#### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012**

- 2.2. The overall aim of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to achieve sustainable development. Notably, paragraph 73 states:

*“Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. 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. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required”.*

- 2.3. Paragraph 74 provides protection for existing open space and recreational land unless:

- *“an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space... or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- *The loss ... would be replaced by equivalent or better provision ... in a suitable location; or*
- *The development is for alternative sports and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.”*

- 2.4. Paragraph 171 says: *‘Local Authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population (such as for ... recreation...) including expected future changes...’*

#### **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)(online)**

- 2.5. The online National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) is continually updated and supports the NPPF. It confirms that open space must be of public value.

#### **Sport England Guidance 2013 and 2014**

- 2.6. Sport England has produced guidance on ‘Assessing needs and opportunities: a guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities’ (2014), which “focuses on the needs for formal sport and recreation activities and the sports facilities required to meet these needs”. However, it provides methodology and contextual advice relevant to this study.

#### **Natural England’s ‘Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance’ 2010**

- 2.7. This recognises that “everyone should have access to good quality natural greenspace near to where they live”, as ‘Nature Nearby’ provides a broad range of benefits to communities and quality of life. The guidance also sets out how publicly accessible natural greenspace could be delivered.

#### **Play England**

- 2.8. Play England’s vision is for England to be a country where everybody can fully enjoy their right to play throughout their childhood and teenage years. Their website contains a range of documents and advice on achieving and delivering play facilities in local areas.



## **Regional and Liverpool City Region context**

### **Green infrastructure**

- 2.9. In the past decade The Mersey Forest and other organisations, including the 'Green Infrastructure North West' group of organisations, have collaborated on a range of work and publications about green infrastructure in the North West and Liverpool City Region, including an online Valuation Toolkit. These stress the importance, benefits and functions of green infrastructure and reflect the NPPF and NPPG.

### **Sefton context**

#### **Sefton Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2006**

- 2.10. The adopted development plan for Sefton includes policies that protect existing urban greenspace and trees and sites used for outdoor recreation, and seeks the provision of public greenspace and trees in new developments. However, the UDP's approach to private greenspace has been superseded by the NPPF.

#### **Green space, trees and development Supplementary Planning Document 2008**

- 2.11. This sets out detailed guidance for developers to provide or enhance green spaces and trees in association with their development proposals to support UDP policies. It informs the approach of this study.

#### **Green Space Strategy for Sefton 2009**

- 2.12. This was prepared by a partnership which included Sefton Council, NHS Sefton and the Mersey Forest. It has guided priorities, spending and funding for Sefton Council and its partners in managing green space, preparing more detailed strategies and in preparing funding bids. It sets out aims and objectives for green space and also sets out green space targets for accessibility (focussing on parks and accessible nature space), quantity and quality, and provides an overview assessment of how different parts of Sefton perform against these targets.

#### **Green Space and Recreation Study 2009**

- 2.13. This study assessed green space, accessible nature space, recreation and outdoor sports provision and need to inform the Green Space Strategy for Sefton and to inform planning policy and documents in the Local Development Framework. The information in this study looks at quantity, quality and accessibility information and mapping of the different categories of open space (local, neighbourhood, district and Borough parks and accessible nature spaces) and identifies the varying levels of accessibility to green space throughout Sefton.

#### **Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management Plan 2008**

- 2.14. The document sets out strategic priorities for management and development of Council parks and green spaces, to inform the allocation of external monies including those generated through 'section106 commuted sums'. It sets out and justifies out a hierarchy of Borough, district, neighbourhood and local parks, and sets an improvement priority for each park. This document is currently being updated.

#### **'Living Well in Sefton: Sefton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-2020 (2014)**

- 2.15. The health of Sefton's residents is a corporate priority, set out in this strategy and in the 2012 Joint Strategic [Health] Needs Assessment (JSNA) on which it is based, and also in '2014 Sefton Strategic Needs Assessment – Environmental'. These documents recognise the need to improve health and well-being, especially for those in the poorest parts of Sefton, by promoting access to local, affordable and healthy food, smoke-free environments such as playgrounds, safe and accessible routes for walking and cycling, and regular physical activity.

### **Emerging Sefton Local Plan**

- 2.16. The Local Plan for Sefton was submitted to the Secretary of State on 3 August 2015. It is anticipated that it will be adopted and replace the UDP in 2016. Local Plan policies NH1 'Environmental Assets', EQ9 'Provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees in development' and NH5 'Protection of open space and Countryside Recreation Areas', together with their explanations, will provide the local planning policy context for the provision and enhancement of open space and other green infrastructure.

### **Sefton Consequences Study 2013**

- 2.17. This was prepared by Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners (NLP) and forms part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan to assess the anticipated social, economic and environmental consequences of the three Local Plan housing and employment land development options. It provides context and an analysis of the impact on open space at the Local Plan Preferred Option stage. The study is currently being updated to assess the risks (including to open space provision) associated with increased objectively assessed housing needs.

### **Emerging Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management Strategy Review**

- 2.18. A strategic review of the management of the Council's parks and green spaces is underway. As a result of budget reductions affecting sites managed by Sefton Council, this is likely to involve a move towards quality, naturalistic and bio-diverse open spaces which are less resource intensive to maintain. In addition, management priorities are likely to be based on a revised hierarchy of main, neighbourhood and community parks (explained later). Once complete, this will replace the 2008 Parks and Greenspaces Asset Management Plan.

## Chapter 3: How open space provision is assessed

3.1. The Study looks at existing provision for Sefton as a whole, and across the five main settlement areas of:

- Bootle (including Netherton)
- Crosby (including Hightown)
- Formby (including Ince Blundell)
- Sefton East (including Aintree, Maghull, Lydiate, Melling and Sefton village)
- Southport.

3.2. The starting point for assessing current open space provision was the information in the 2009 Green Space and Recreation Study, as amended by work carried out for the Preferred Options and later versions of the Local Plan, as a result of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Annex 2 of which gives the following definition for open space:

*‘All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.’*

3.3. Sefton has adopted the NPPF approach. It now defines open space as public open space (including public parks, public playing fields, larger, public amenity greenspaces and public cemeteries) plus other outdoor sports and recreation facilities available to the public (such as allotments, and sports club sites). All of these are over 0.2 hectares in size, except for some equipped play areas (which are community parks) and some bowling greens. In the urban area these are shown on the Local Plan Policy Map. Highway verges, incidental open space and other spaces smaller than 0.2 hectares (except equipped play areas) do not fall within the Council’s definition of public open space.

3.4. Open space sites and Countryside Recreation Area boundaries are based on updated Geographic Information Systems (GIS), aerial photographs and mapping, and other computer based mapping. Site visits have been undertaken when required.

3.5. In line with paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Study assesses needs, deficits and surpluses, and opportunities for new provision, in terms of:

- Quantity,
- Quality, and
- Accessibility.

3.6. This chapter sets out the targets and basis for assessment and Figure 3.1 below provides an overview of these. The quantity and quality targets are largely the same as those of the 2009 Green Space Strategy for Sefton and the 2009 Green Space and Recreation Study. These were the subject of extensive consultation. These targets have been used successfully since 2009 to implement the relevant policies of the Unitary Development Plan 2006 and the 2008 Supplementary Planning Document ‘Green space, trees and development’ and as such can be considered robust. The quantity and quality targets will continue to be used if they remain compliant with the NPPF. The accessibility target in this Study is new, reflecting a change in Council priorities necessitated by budgetary constraints.

**Figure 3.1: Open space targets in Sefton**

Target (essential)	Target (desirable)
<b>Quantity</b>	
Parks provision at rate of 1.2 hectares per thousand population	Provision of other open space based on the existing rates
<b>Quality</b>	
Main parks should be managed to Green Flag standards	Other types of open space, including accessible nature space, should be guided by Green Flag principles.
<b>Accessibility</b>	
Everyone should live within 2 kilometres of (20-30 minutes' walk or 5 minutes' drive from) a main park or Countryside Recreation Area; and an accessible nature space.	The percentage of people living within 1 kilometre (10-15 minutes' walk) of neighbourhood parks or 400 metres (5-10 minutes' walk) of local parks should be maximised.

- 3.7. The emerging Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management Strategy Review focuses on three types of park provision based on the range of facilities to produce a hierarchy of parks as set out in Figure 3.2. A full list of parks is provided in the Appendix.

**Figure 3.2: Parks hierarchy in Sefton**

Park hierarchy	Park Characteristics
Main	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally the largest parks</li> <li>• Greatest diversity of facilities and attractions</li> <li>• Uniqueness of the provision</li> <li>• Worth travelling some distance to</li> <li>• Highly accessible to all</li> <li>• Able to accommodate a large number of visitors.</li> </ul>
Neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally medium to smaller parks</li> <li>• Less diverse or more specialist range of provision</li> <li>• Worth travelling to from the neighbourhood area</li> <li>• Accessible to all.</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally smaller parks</li> <li>• Serve mainly the local catchment and community</li> <li>• Individually unlikely to have a diverse range of facilities but in combination in a neighbourhood able to meet a range of recreational requirements</li> </ul>

**Quantity**

- 3.8. Quantity is assessed both in area (hectares) and as a rate (hectares per thousand population) to provide a means of comparison between the five settlement areas and against the Borough-wide provision figure. The resulting figures form the target or benchmark figure for the amount of open space, and provides the main indicator of need. This is the same target as that of the 2009 Green Space and Recreation Study. The approach recognises that the main opportunities for new or enhanced provision are as a result of new development.

## **Quality**

- 3.9. The Green Flag Award<sup>1</sup> is the benchmark quality standard for parks and open spaces in the United Kingdom, overseen by the Keep Britain Tidy group. Green Flag Awards are assessed annually, against the following eight criteria:
- A welcoming place (good and safe access for all, good signage)
  - Healthy, safe and secure
  - Clean and well maintained
  - Sustainability (environmentally sound management, maintenance and resource use)
  - Conservation and heritage
  - Community involvement
  - Marketing (marketing and promotion, information)
  - Management
- 3.10. Green Flag is an appropriate benchmark target to be used for measuring quality of Sefton's parks and can inform the management of other open spaces. It was the quality target in the 2009 Green Space and Recreation Study.
- 3.11. This Study uses the achievement of the Green Flag award as proof that the open space is managed to Green Flag standards. However, it should be noted that while Sefton Council actively seeks Green Flag awards, this may not be true of the Town and Parish Councils who manage open space in Sefton East, which may help to explain why the quality of parks in this area is assessed to be lower.
- 3.12. Where an open space does not have a Green Flag award, the presence of 'Friends of Parks' groups can be seen as an indicator of quality, linked to the 'community involvement' criterion above. In terms of the 'heritage' criterion, four publically accessible Sefton parks are on the national register of Historic Parks and Gardens. These are Botanic Gardens (Churchtown), Hesketh Park (Southport), King's Gardens and South Marine Gardens (Southport) and Derby Park (Bootle). Other parks may be important to the character of the Conservation Area they lie within, or may be part of the settings of Listed Buildings and other historic assets, or make other contributions to local heritage.

## **Accessibility**

- 3.13. The accessibility of parks, other open spaces, Countryside Recreation Area and accessible nature space is as, if not more, important as the quantity and quality of provision. Accessibility is assessed by mapping the accessibility distances, or catchment area of parks, Countryside Recreation Area and accessible nature space. The accessibility target is that everyone should live within 2 kilometres of (20-30 minutes' walk or 5 minutes' drive) from a main park or Countryside Recreation Area, and accessible nature space, as shown in Figure 3.3. GIS analysis allows the calculation of the number of people living in each catchment (and their percentage, in terms of the population of that settlement area).

---

<sup>1</sup> See <http://greenflagaward.org/>



**Figure 3.3: Parks accessibility in Sefton**

Park hierarchy	Indicative catchment (metres)	Indicative journey time
Main	2,000 m	20 – 30 minutes' walk 5 minutes' drive
Neighbourhood	1,000 m	10 – 15 minutes' walk
Community	400 m	5 – 10 minutes' walk

- 3.14. To allow for the difference between distances 'as the crow flies' and actual walking distance through streets, pavements and footpaths, the distance is multiplied by 0.6. This adjustment factor is nationally accepted, by both Play England and the Children's Play Council. Where barriers to movement such as rivers, the canal, rail lines or dual carriageways cut across the direct route, buffers are adjusted so they only cross these barriers at defined crossing points such as a bridge.
- 3.15. This target differs from that of the 2009 Green Space Strategy for Sefton and the 2009 Green Space and Recreation Study, which was that everyone should live within 1 kilometre of a larger (neighbourhood) park and of accessible nature space. The revised target reflects the current financial realities the Council and other public bodies are operating under. The new emphasis on main parks reflects need for spending to be prioritised. The former standard is largely retained in the desirable targets in Figure 3.1, that 'the percentage of people living within 1 kilometre (10-15 minutes' walk) of neighbourhood parks or 400 metres (5-10 minutes' walk) of local parks should be maximised.

### **Assessment of surpluses and deficits**

- 3.16. Paragraph 74 of the National Planning Framework says that existing open space should not be built on unless:
- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
  - 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; or
  - the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
- 3.17. In assessing whether open space in Sefton is surplus to requirements, the key consideration is accessibility, followed by quantity considerations, followed by other considerations. In this Study, a surplus of open space may exist only where all of the factors below are met:

#### **Accessibility**

- The site or open space is within 2 kilometres of a main park and within 1 kilometre of one or more neighbourhood parks and within 400 metres of one or more community parks; and where there is duplication the type and range of functions of the community and neighbourhood parks.

#### **Quantity**

- The settlement area has around, at or meets the quantity of open space, and any loss would not have a significantly detrimental impact on the quantity of open space

#### **Quality**

- It is not possible to have a quality surplus. However, loss of open spaces which have a Green Flag award would generally be resisted.

## Consultation

- 3.18. Consultation helps to validate work, including in this case the quantity, quality and accessibility targets (where these remain the same) as measures of need, surpluses deficits and opportunities. Empirical evidence of successful use of these targets reinforces the validation process. The quantity and quality targets, and earlier accessibility targets, have been used successfully since 2009 to implement the relevant policies of the Unitary Development Plan 2006 and the 2008 Supplementary Planning Document 'Green space, trees and development' and as such can be considered robust.
- 3.19. Extensive consultation with the public was carried out in relation to the 2009 Green Space Strategy for Sefton and 2009 Green Space and Recreation Study and this remains a useful indicator of public views.
- 3.20. During the preparation of this study consultation has focused on managers and other stakeholders including the Council's landscape, coast, countryside, sports and public health officers. This has informed the preparation of this study and has helped to make sure that the Council is taking a 'joined up' approach to all relevant strategies, notably the Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management strategic review.
- 3.21. For many years Sefton's Area Committees – which include Parish and Town Council representatives - have been consulted on local priorities for spending Section 106 'commuted sums' for public open space enhancement in their areas. Posters in parks have been used to inform local communities of the changing management regimes and emphasis on more naturalistic provision in the future. The Council's landscape officers work in partnership with 'Friends of Parks' and 'Friends of other open spaces' groups across the Borough. Landscape officers consult extensively about improvements to parks.

### Chapter 3: Recommendations

- 3.1. The targets and approach to assessing open space and recreation should broadly reflect the targets and approach as those of the 2009 Green Space Strategy for Sefton and the 2009 Green Space and Recreation Study. However, it is essential that the policy approach to open space provision takes into account the financial context of the Council. This is the basis for amending the accessibility target.**
- 3.2. When assessing whether open space is surplus to requirements, the Council should consider that a surplus may exist only where all of the factors below are met:**
- Accessibility**
    - **The site or open space is within 2 kilometres of a main park and within 1 kilometre of one or more neighbourhood parks and within 400 metres of one or more community parks; and where there is duplication the type and range of functions of the community and neighbourhood parks.**
  - Quantity**
    - **The settlement area has around, at, or meets the quantity of open space, and any loss would not have a significantly detrimental impact on the quantity of open space**
  - Quality**
    - **It is not possible to have a quality surplus. However, loss of open spaces which have a Green Flag award would generally be resisted.**

## Chapter 4: Parks and Countryside Recreation Areas

### Quantity

#### Parks

- 4.1. The number and area (in hectares) of parks is set out in Figures 4.2 – 4.3 below. Rates of provision (hectares per thousand population) are based on the 2011 Census population figures shown in Figure 4.1.

**Figure 4.1: Sefton population figures**

Settlement area	Population (2011 census)
Bootle & Netherton	72,963
Crosby & Hightown	48,298
Formby	23,631
Sefton East	37,601
Southport	90,715
<b>Sefton total</b>	<b>273,208</b>

- 4.2. Figure 4.2 summarises the number of each 'level' of park within the parks hierarchy (see Figure 3.2), the overall amount of parks provision in hectares, and rates of provision and Figure 4.3 provides an overview of all parks.

**Figure 4.2: Quantity by type of park**

Settlement area	Main Parks			Neighbourhood parks			Community parks		
	No.	Area (ha)	Rate	No.	Area (ha)	Rate	No.	Area (ha)	Rate
Bootle & Netherton	10	37.65	0.52	12	21.09	0.29	26	27.37	0.38
Crosby	9	24.49	0.51	2	14.1	0.29	8	12.44	0.26
Formby	2	15.26	0.65	2	3.94	0.17	10	9.22	0.39
Sefton East	5	14.18	0.38	3	6.95	0.18	15	12.06	0.32
Southport	11	48.85	0.54	11	65.93	0.73	20	26.34	0.29
<b>Sefton-wide figure</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>140.43</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>112.01</b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>87.43</b>	<b>0.3</b>

**Figure 4.3: Quantity of all parks**

Settlement area	All Parks		
	No.	Area (ha)	Rate*
Bootle & Netherton	46	86.11	1.18
Crosby	19	51.03	1.06
Formby	14	28.42	1.20
Sefton East	23	33.19	0.88
Southport	42	141.12	1.56
<b>Sefton-wide figure</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>339.87</b>	<b>1.24</b>

- 4.3. Figure 4.2 shows how the target of 1.2 hectares (rounded) per thousand population has been calculated for the Borough as a whole and how the provision for each settlement area varies from the Sefton-wide figure.

- 4.4. Figures 4.1 and 4.2 show that **Southport** has the highest rate of provision, considerably above the Sefton-wide figure. This is true for all levels of park within the hierarchy, and especially for neighbourhood parks. This may reflect the Victorian and Edwardian origins of many of Southport's parks, and the concentration of parks and gardens in the Seafront area.
- 4.5. **Formby** achieves the target provision, and has higher provision rates of main parks than the Sefton-wide figure.
- 4.6. In **Bootle and Netherton** rates of provision are close to the target provision. Like Formby, Bootle also has higher provision rates of main parks than the Sefton-wide figure; this may reflect the Victorian and Edwardian origins of many of parks, although those in Netherton are more recent.
- 4.7. **Crosby** has a lower rate of provision than Sefton as a whole, but is relatively close to the Sefton-wide averages. Provision rates for main parks in Crosby are the same as the Sefton-wide rates; again this may reflect the Victorian and Edwardian origins of many of its parks.
- 4.8. The **Sefton East** area has the lowest rate of parks provision, although in part this reflects the relatively dispersed settlement pattern in the Sefton East area. There are main parks in Aintree, Lydiate, Maghull and Melling (Waddicar); and fewer neighbourhood but more community parks than the Sefton-wide rates.

#### Water areas

- 4.9. Water areas also play an important role in publicly accessible open space in certain parts of Sefton, as set out in Figure 4.4. Southport and Crosby Marine Lakes are closely linked to the parks they are within or next to. As well as being used for watersports, both have lakeside footpaths along substantial parts of their shores. These paths link to the path networks in surrounding parks and gardens and informal recreation areas. The canal is used for angling and boating. The towpath is an important route, for walkers and cyclists, from Bootle to the Rimrose Valley, Sefton East and beyond.

**Figure 4.4: Public water areas**

Settlement area	Public water areas	Area (ha)	Rate *
Bootle & Netherton	Leeds and Liverpool Canal	23.30	0.32
Crosby & Hightown	Crosby Marine Lake (water area & watersports)	24.31	0.50
Sefton East	Leeds and Liverpool Canal	21.54	0.57
Southport	Marine Lake	35.19	0.41
<b>Sefton-wide figure</b>		<b>104.34</b>	<b>0.38</b>

- 4.10. The existing water areas in Sefton are substantial, man-made structures. There are no specific proposals for additional water areas in Sefton. However, it is possible that additional water areas could be provided as part of new public open space provision in new development, where appropriate.

#### Countryside Recreation Areas

- 4.11. Sefton Council has long recognised the importance of coast and countryside recreation. This includes enjoyment of nature, escape from the urban environment and tranquillity. Walking and, to a lesser extent, cycling are the most common forms of recreation. Areas with significant public access are designated as Countryside Recreation Areas. Some are owned and managed by the Council, such as Rimrose Valley Country Park

and Sniggery Woods. Other sites managed by the Forestry Commission include the Sefton Meadows area between Netherton, Thornton and Maghull. Figure 4.5 summarises the quantity of Countryside Recreation Areas across the borough.

**Figure 4.5: Distribution of Countryside Recreation Areas**

Settlement area	Countryside Recreation Areas	Area (ha)	Rate
Bootle & Netherton	Pinfold Cottage Woodland Park Rimrose Valley Country Park	115.07	1.58
Crosby & Hightown	Crosby Marine Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crosby Promenade</li> <li>• Hightown Dunes</li> </ul> Land at Buckley Hill Pinfold Woodland Sniggery Woods	147.51	3.05
Formby	Formby Coastal Park Freshfield Dune Heath	593.59	25.12
Sefton East	Rose Farm Community Woodland Land at Wango Lane Sefton Meadows Community Woodland St Katherine's Abbey	86.86	2.31
Southport	Ainsdale and Birkdale Sandhills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southport foreshore</li> <li>• Ainsdale Dunes</li> </ul> Jubilee Nature Trail Town Lane	850.29	9.37
<b>Sefton-wide figure</b>		<b>1,793.32</b>	<b>6.56</b>

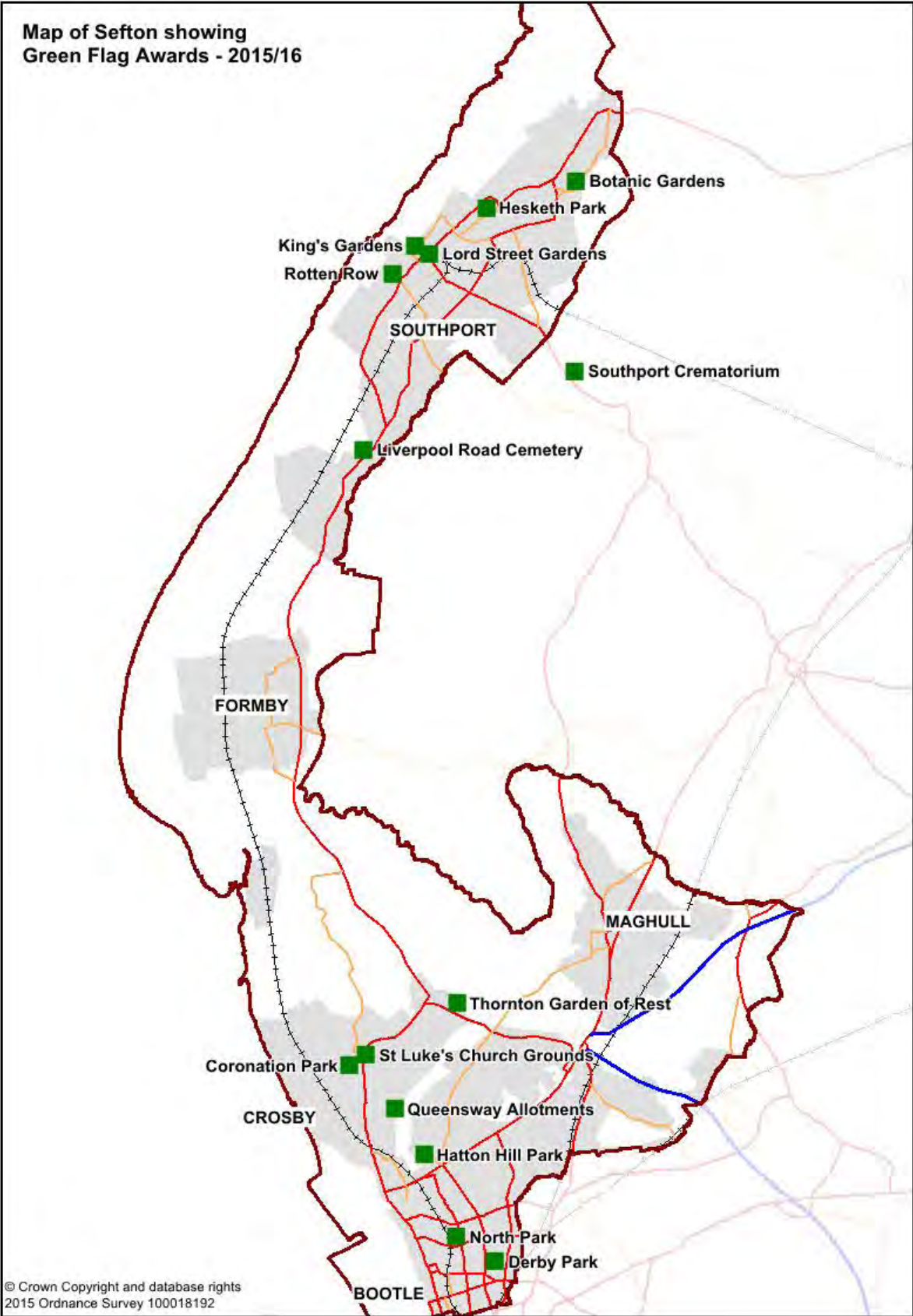
- 4.12. Although much of the Coast is designated as a Countryside Recreation Area, the Council is committed to managing visitor pressure so that there are no adverse effects on the internationally important nature sites on the Sefton Coast.
- 4.13. The number of sites, amount (in hectares) and rates of provision (hectares per thousand population) varies across Sefton. The presence of the Coast increases significantly the amount of provision in certain settlements. Therefore, **Formby** has the greatest informal countryside recreation provision, having a relatively small population and a large land area, compared to **Southport** which has above the Sefton-wider provision rate. Areas with no access to the coast, such as **Bootle** and **Sefton East** have lower rates of informal countryside recreation provision. As well as the Countryside Recreation Areas within Crosby, its residents also benefit from its proximity to the Rimrose Valley.

### Quality

- 4.14. The number of open spaces which have gained the Green Flag award has increased significantly since the 2009 Green Space and Recreation Study. While these are mostly sites managed by Sefton Council, some are 'community' sites. It is anticipated that in future community involvement will play a much more important role in maintaining open space quality. In 2015-16 there were 14 Green Flag sites in Sefton, including Southport Crematorium (sited in West Lancashire), shown in Figure 4.6.



Figure 4.6: Sefton Borough showing Green Flag Awards 2015/16



## Main parks

4.15. Nine parks achieved the Green Flag award in 2015-16, meeting the essential quality target. They are:

### Southport

- Botanic Gardens
- Hesketh Park
- King's Gardens
- Lord Street Gardens
- Rotten Row (not a main park, managed by Friends of Rotten Row)

### Crosby

- Coronation Park

### Bootle and Netherton

- Derby Park
- Hatton Hill Park
- North Park.

4.16. The four parks on the national Register of Historic Parks and Gardens are Botanic Gardens, Hesketh Park and Kings Gardens & South Marine Gardens in Southport, and Derby Park in Bootle.

4.17. Figure 4.7 shows the open spaces which have 'friends of' groups.

**Figure 4.7: 'Friends of' Groups**

Settlement area	'Friends of' Group
Bootle & Netherton	Bowersdale Park, Seaforth Copy Farm Park, Netherton Derby Park, Bootle Hatton Hill Park, Litherland Marian Park, Netherton Mellaneer Park, Bootle North Park, Bootle Rimrose Valley Country Park South Park, Bootle
Crosby & Hightown	Coronation Park Moorside Park Seafront Gardens, Waterloo Victoria Park
Formby	Deansgate Lane Park Deansgate Lane Sculpture Trail Duke Street Park
Sefton East	-
Southport	Ainsdale Village Park Bedford Park Botanic Gardens Crossens Recreation Ground Hesketh Park Hesketh Park Garden Volunteers Kings Gardens Lord Street Gardens Rotten Row Garden Volunteers

- 4.18. This shows that **Southport** performs best against the quality target. As well as five Green Flag awards (four for main parks), 9 sites have 'Friends of Groups' and there are three parks on the national Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.
- 4.19. **Bootle** also performs well, with three Green Flag awards for main parks. Derby Park is on the national Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. There are eight 'Friends of Parks' groups and a Friends of Rimrose Valley Country Park group.
- 4.20. One main park in **Crosby** has a Green Flag award, and four parks and gardens have 'Friends of' groups.
- 4.21. No main parks in **Formby** achieved the Green Flag award in 2015-16, although there are three 'Friends of' groups.
- 4.22. No main parks in **Sefton East** have Green Flag awards, and there are no 'Friends of' groups. However, it is likely that this reflects the management priorities of Maghull Town Council and Aintree, Lydiate and Melling Parish Council rather than a lack of quality of open spaces. These Town and Parish Councils may not have chosen to enter the Green Flag award scheme to date. These bodies manage all but two of the parks or playing fields in this area; Old Hall Park, Maghull, and Rainbow Park in Melling (Waddicar).

## **Accessibility**

### **Parks and Countryside Recreation Areas**

- 4.23. Accessibility is a key part of provision of recreation and open space. The key target is that everyone should live within 2 kilometres of (20-30 minutes' walk or 5 minutes' drive from) a main park or Countryside Recreation Area. Sefton Council recognises that some people travel more than 2km to visit Sefton's Countryside Recreation Areas, especially those on the Sefton Coast. Areas more than 2 kilometres from a park or Countryside Recreation Area are considered to be located in an accessibility deficiency area.
- 4.24. Figure 4.8 shows the percentage of the population in each settlement area living within 2 kilometres of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area, and the number of residents in accessibility deficiency areas.

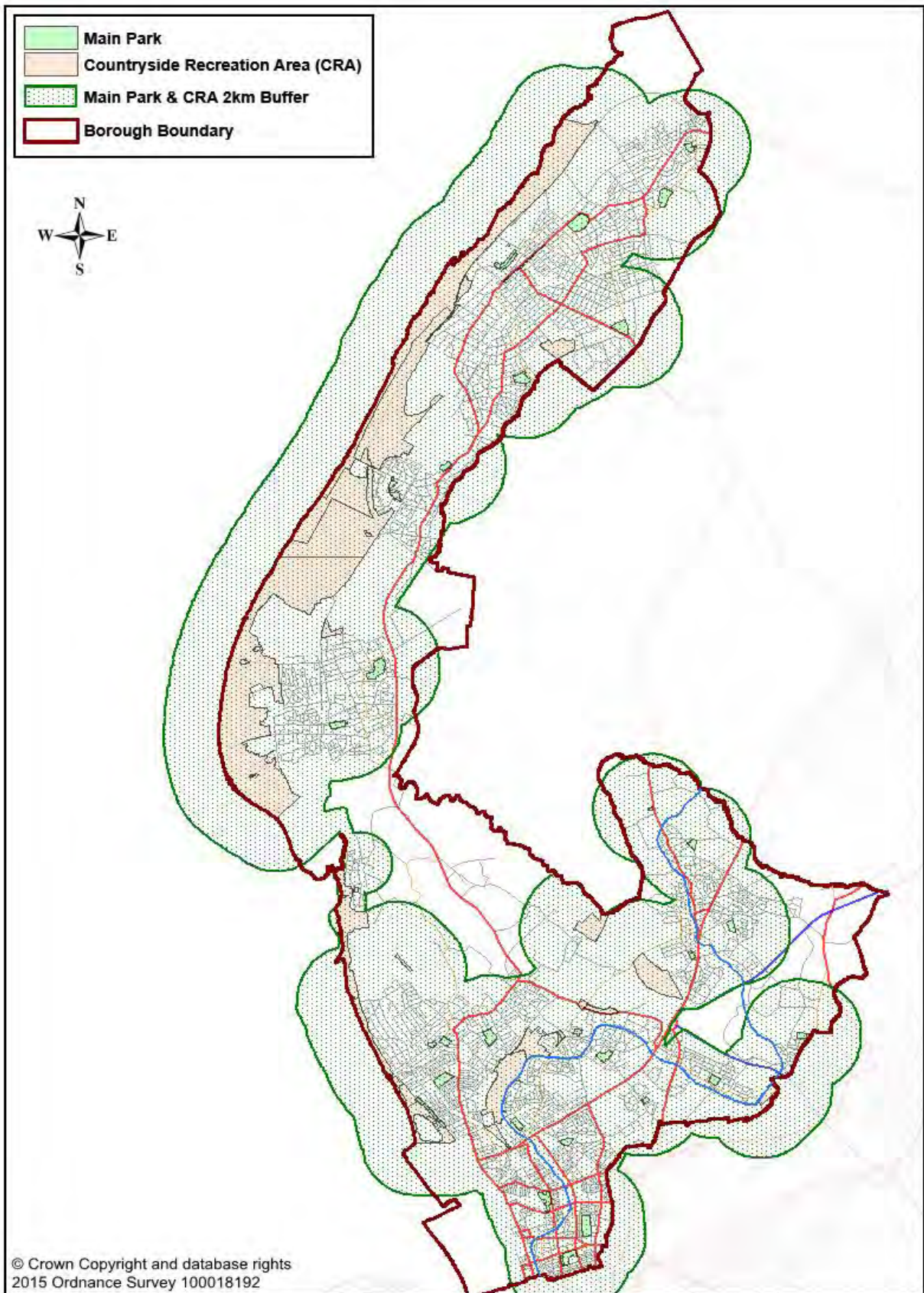
**Figure 4.8: Percentage of people living in areas which meet the accessibility target**

<b>Settlement</b>	<b>% within 2km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area</b>	<b>Number of residents not within 2km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area</b>
Bootle & Netherton	99%	856
Crosby & Hightown	97%	1,461
Formby	93%	1,720
Sefton East	91%	3,424
Southport	97%	2,830
<b>Sefton-wide figures</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>10,291</b>

- 4.25. Figure 4.8 shows that, overall, 96% of Sefton's population lives within 2 km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area. This is indicated in the map in Figure 4.9. However, it is clear that across Sefton, most of those who live in an accessibility deficiency area (who live more than 2km (20 – 30 minutes' walk) of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area) live in smaller villages or in more 'isolated' farms or homes in the rural area.



Figure 4.9: Map of main parks and Countryside Recreation Areas with 2km buffer



- 4.26. Figures 4.10 to 4.14 show accessibility in relation to both the essential accessibility target and the desirable target. They show the 2 kilometre distance around main parks, the 1 kilometre distance of neighbourhood parks and 400 metres distance around community parks.
- 4.27. In **Bootle**, 99% of people live within 2 km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area. The small 'park accessibility deficiency area' in Old Roan lies within 1km (10-20 minutes' walk) of Deerbarn Park and Ollery Green Play area, which together form a neighbourhood park.
- 4.28. In **Crosby**, 97% of the population live in areas that meet the accessibility target. This may be because of the Countryside Recreation Areas (coast and countryside, notably the Rimrose Valley) which are largely outside the urban area. There is no 'parks accessibility deficiency area' within the main urban (built-up) area of **Crosby** or **Hightown**, or most of **Little Crosby**.
- 4.29. In **Southport**, 97 % of the population live in areas that meet the accessibility target. There are 2 small 'park accessibility deficiency areas'. The first is on the eastern edge of central Southport; however, the whole of this area is within 1km (15-20 minutes' walk) of three neighbourhood parks: Canning Road Recreation Ground, Devonshire Road Recreation Ground and Russell Road Recreation Ground. The other parks deficiency area is the south-eastern corner of Ainsdale. Here, again, many residents live within 1 kilometre of a neighbourhood park and/or within 400m of a community park, and the Trans Pennine Trail strategic path runs along Moor Lane.
- 4.30. In **Formby**, which includes the village of Ince Blundell, 93% of the population lives within 2 km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area. There is no 'park accessibility deficiency area' within **Formby's** urban (built-up) area, excepting a small part of Formby Industrial Estate. However, Ince Blundell is in a deficiency area.
- 4.31. Within the **Sefton East** area, 91% of the population lives within 2 km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area. All of the main built up (urban) areas of **Aintree**, **Waddicar (Melling)** and **Lydiate** are within 2km of a main park, or less commonly, a Countryside Recreation Area. The same is true for **Maghull**, except for a small number of homes around the 'Meades' estate, which is both within 400m (5-10 minutes' walk) of a community park, and some homes in the Parkbourn area. Most of **Melling Rocks** lies within 2km of Rainbow Park, Melling. **Sefton Village** lies within 2km of a Countryside Recreation Area.

#### Chapter 4 – Recommendation

**4.1 That the Local Plan should set out a 'new provision' requirement to include a component for parks and water areas, and that new parks and water areas should be provided as part of development proposals where appropriate.**



Figure 4.10: Map of parks accessibility in Bootle and Netherton

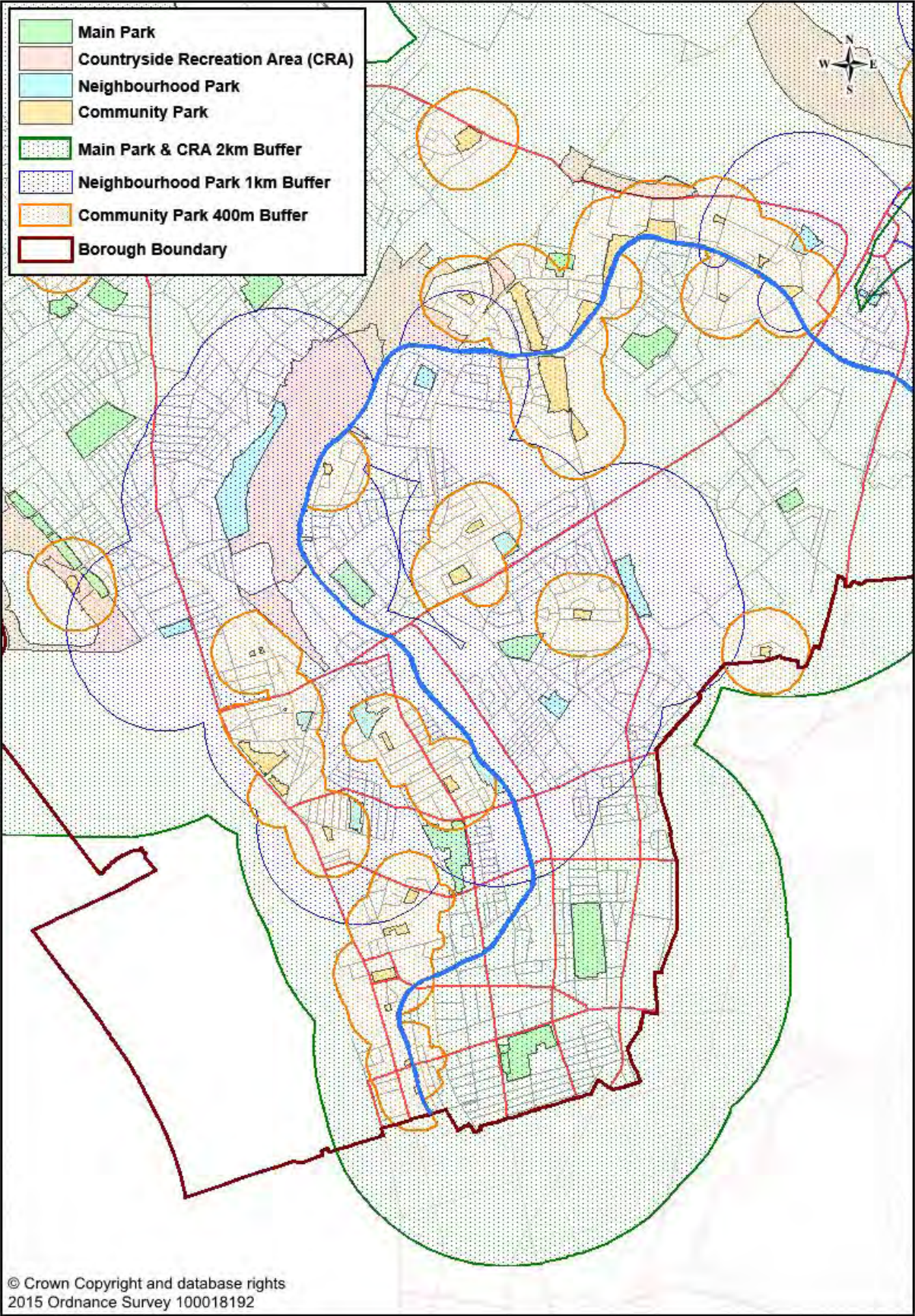




Figure 4.11: Map of parks accessibility in Crosby

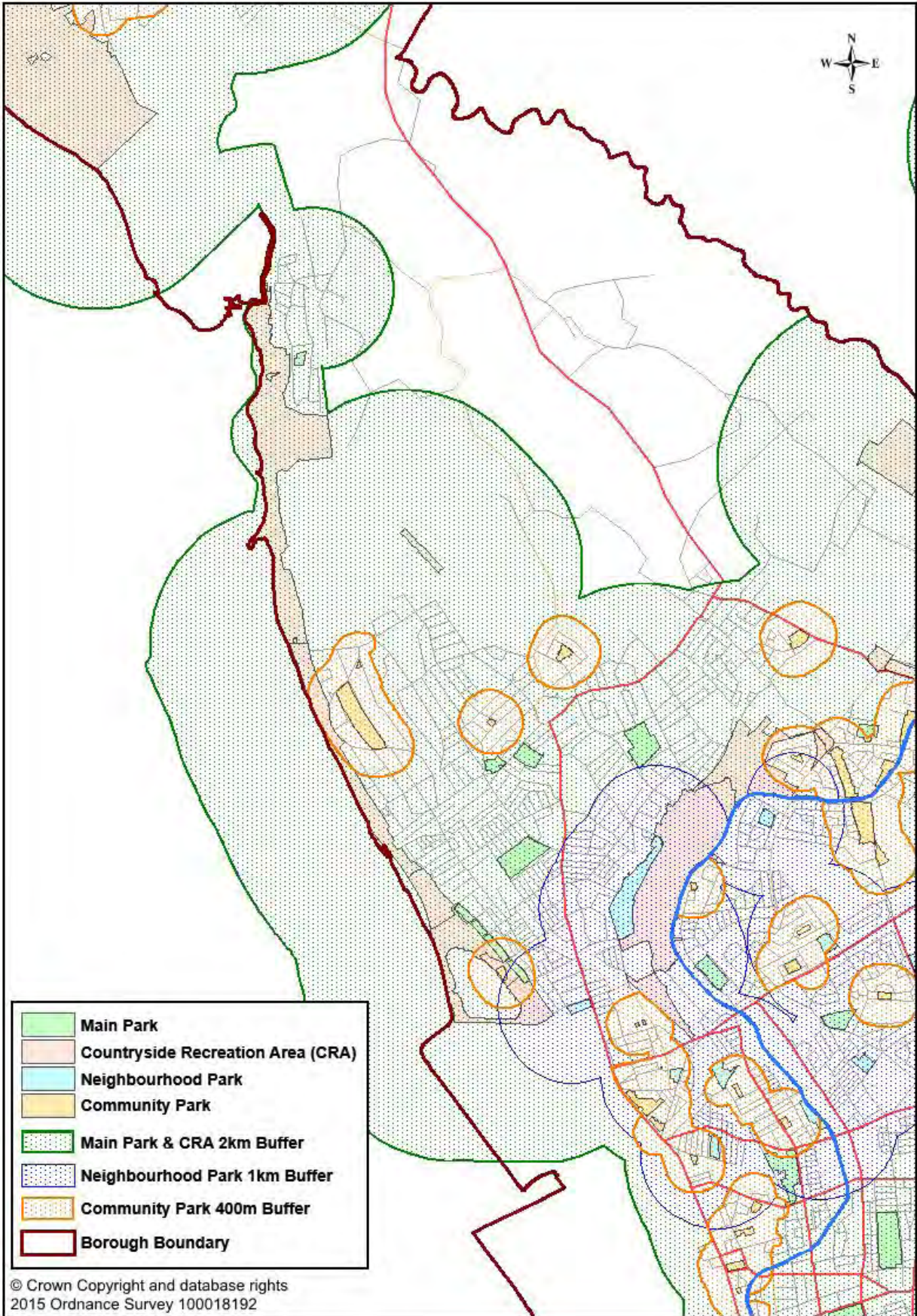




Figure 4.12: Map of parks accessibility in Formby

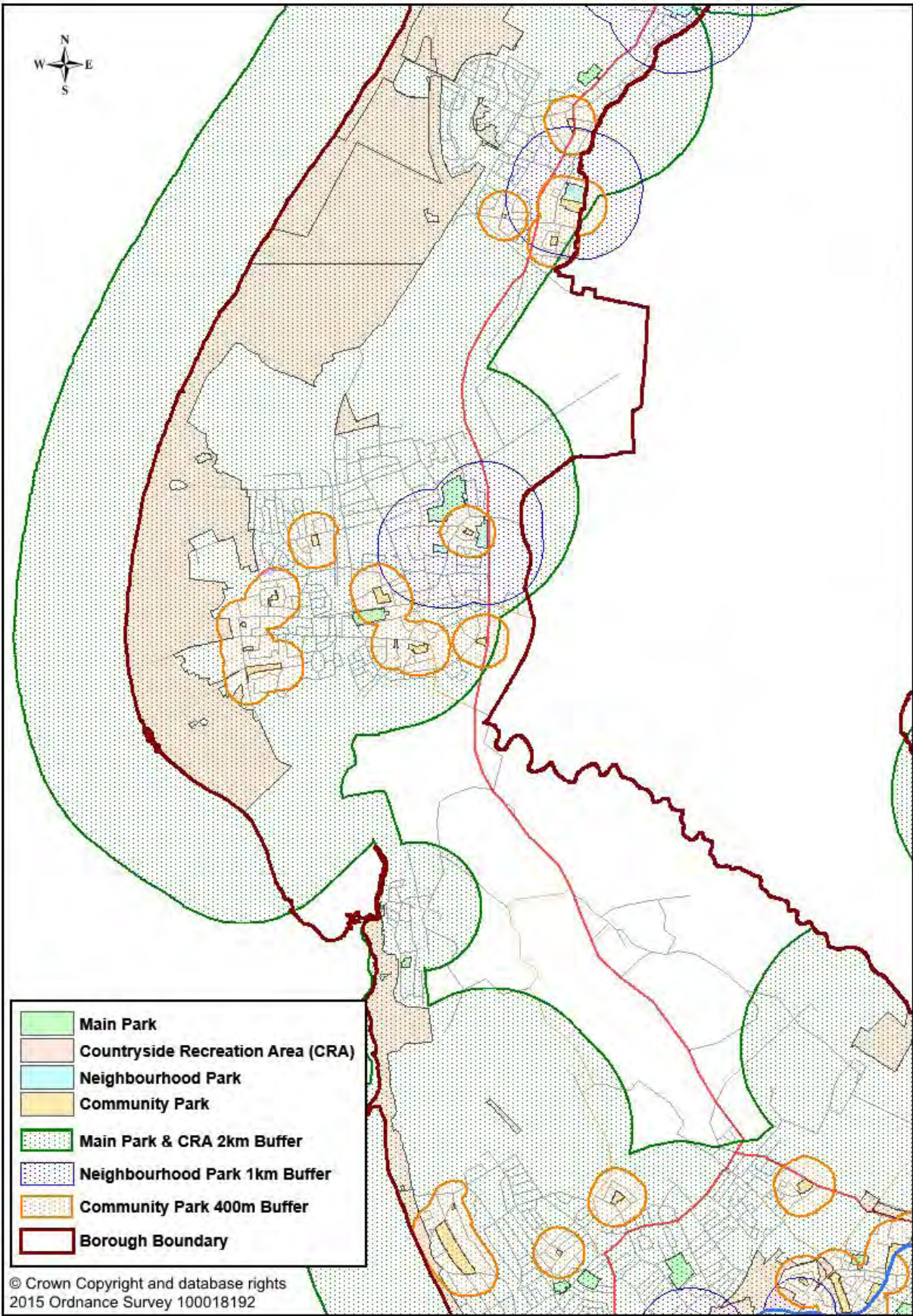




Figure 4.13: Map of parks accessibility in Sefton East

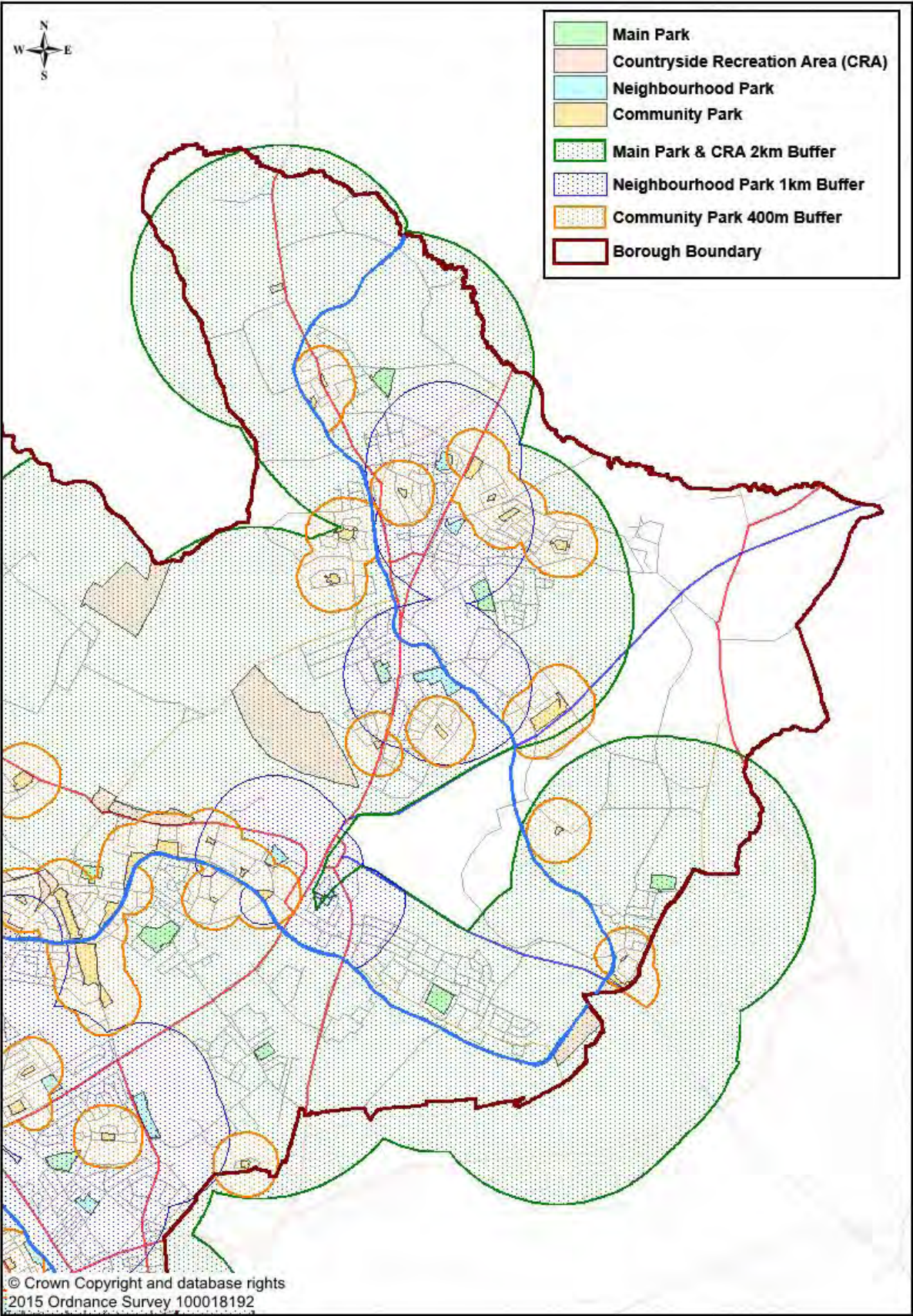
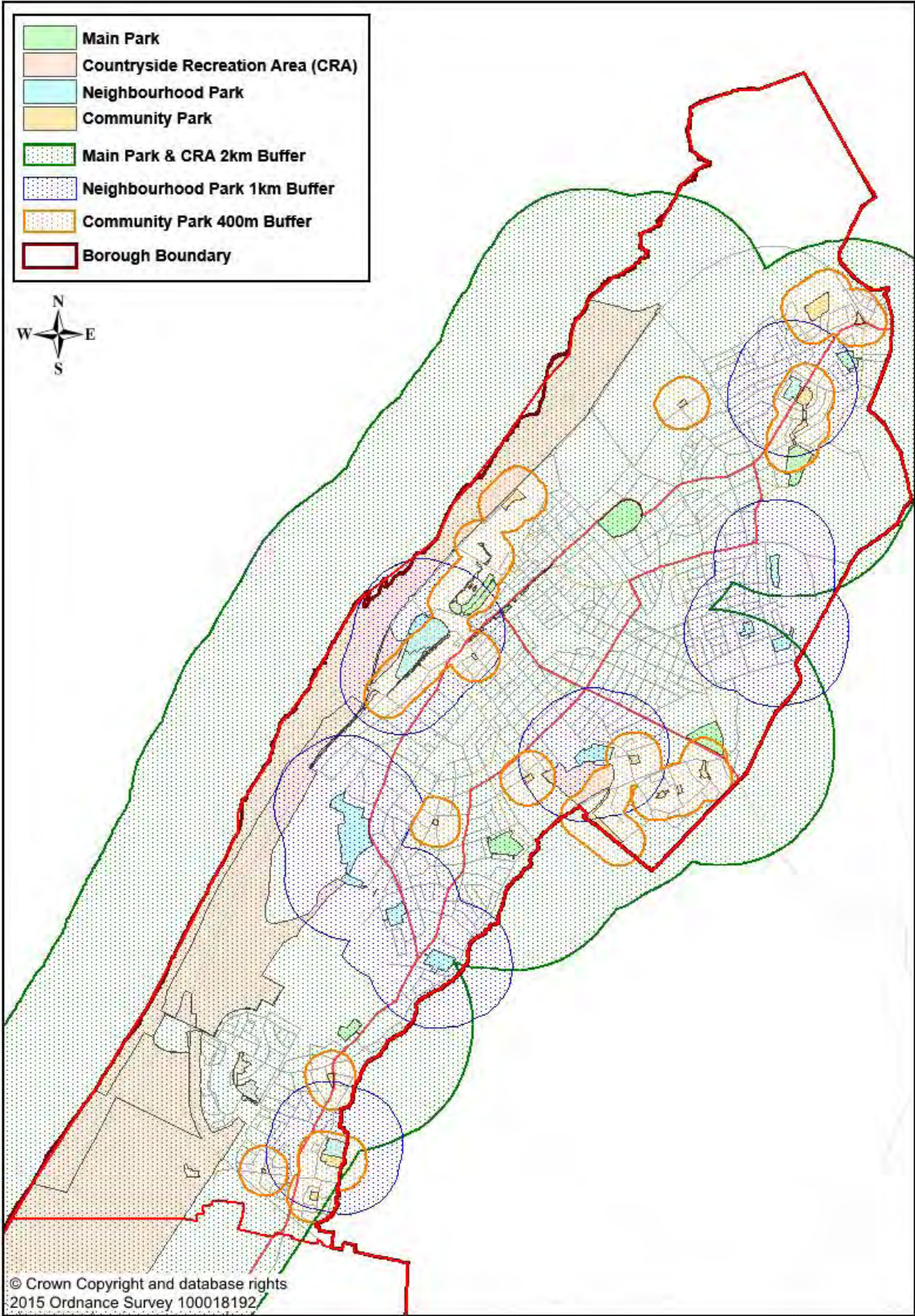




Figure 4.14: Map of parks accessibility in Southport



# Chapter 5: Cemeteries and crematoria

- 5.1. Cemeteries (and associated crematoria) provide areas for quiet contemplation as well as for the burial of the dead. Some public cemeteries also provide habitat for wildlife and opportunities for informal recreation. Public cemeteries are therefore included as open space, and those in the urban area are shown on the Local Plan Policy Map. Those in the Green Belt (such as Birkdale) do not need to be included in the Local Plan as protection is afforded by Green Belt status. This also applies to public, non-traditional cemetery provision such as woodland cemeteries. Private non-traditional cemeteries and churchyards are beyond the scope of this Study.
- 5.2. It is not considered appropriate to formally assess cemetery or churchyard provision against the targets set out in Chapter 3. Figure 5.1 below summarises the quantity and distribution of public cemeteries in each settlement area.

**Figure 5.1: Public cemeteries by settlement area**

Settlement area	Area (ha)	Public Cemeteries
Bootle & Netherton	9.49	Bootle Cemetery
	16.19	Liverpool RC Cemetery
Crosby	18.86	Thornton Crematorium and Garden of Rest
Southport	11.42	Duke Street Cemetery
	2.19	Birkdale RC Cemetery
	8.17	Birkdale Cemetery
<b>Sefton</b>	<b>66.32</b>	

- 5.3. The following cemeteries and churchyards were awarded Green Flags in 2015/16:
  - St Luke's Church Grounds, Crosby (Private)
  - Thornton Garden of Rest, Crosby
  - Liverpool Road Cemetery, Southport
  - Southport Crematorium (outside borough)

Green Flag awards reflect community involvement amongst other organisations as shown by St Luke’s Church. This shows that some cemeteries and churchyards provide a high quality environment which is cherished locally.

- 5.4. It is not considered appropriate to assess accessibility of public cemeteries.

**Chapter 5 – Recommendation**

5.1 It is not considered appropriate to formally assess cemetery or churchyard provision against the targets set out in Chapter 3.



## Chapter 6: Allotments

### Quantity

- 6.1. Figure 6.1 summarises the quantity and rate (hectares per thousand population) of allotment provision in Sefton and Figure 6.2 provides more information. There are 15 allotment sites (including one in West Lancashire which serves Sefton residents). 14 of these sites are owned by Sefton Council, although some are leased or managed by allotment associations rather than directly by the Council. The site in Maghull is understood to be managed by Parkhaven Trust. This site has been operation for only a year or so. The other sites have been operating for many years.

**Figure 6.1: Allotment provision by settlement area**

Settlement area	Allotments			
	Sites	Plots	Area (hectares)	Rate*
Bootle & Netherton	5	467	16.18	0.22
Crosby & Hightown	3	187	5.16	0.11
Formby	2	58	1.77	0.07
Sefton East	1	unknown	0.31	0.01
Southport	4	284	9.86	0.11
<b>Sefton-wide figure</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>33.28</b>	<b>0.12</b>

**Figure 6.2: Distribution and size of allotment provision**

Settlement area	Allotment Name	Area (ha)	Plots (full size)	Managing body
Bootle & Netherton	Browns Lane	4.27	50*	Sefton Council
	Hatton Hill	3.16	131	Litherland AA**
	Dunnings Bridge Road	4.23	127	Bootle Garden AA
	Gardner Avenue	2.07	72	Sefton Council
	Beach Road	2.45	87	Seaforth & Litherland AA
Crosby	Scape Lane/ Moorland Avenue	1.39	50	Sefton Council
	Sherwood Road	0.92	35	Sefton Council
	Queensway /Sefton	2.85	102	Queensway AA
	Green Gym <sup>GF</sup>			
Formby	Altcar Road	0.87	37	Formby AA
	Hoggs Hill	0.90	21	Formby AA
Sefton East	Green Lane	0.31	unknown	
Southport	Churchtown	0.54	17	Sefton Council
	Moss Lane	3.74	105	Moss Lane AA
	Town Lane	1.19	25	Southport & District AA
	Birkdale Irrigation	4.39	137	Sefton Council
<b>Sefton</b>		<b>33.28</b>	<b>996</b>	

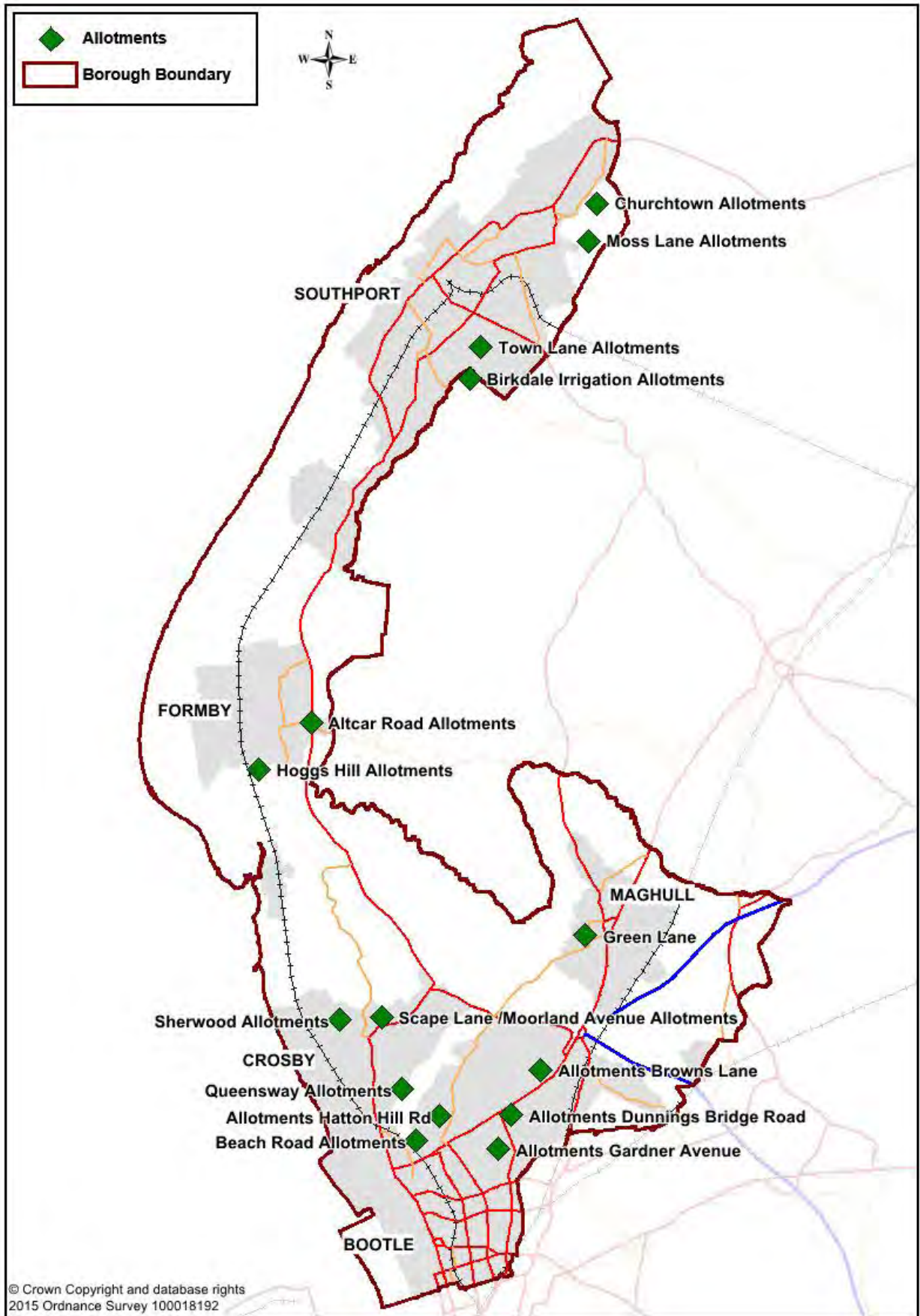
\*Made up of 99 half plots

\*\*AA = Allotment Association

<sup>GF</sup> = Green Flag awarded 2015/16

- 6.2. Currently all sites except Beach Road, Litherland are experiencing very high levels of demand and have waiting lists. Nearly 200 people want allotments in Southport and Crosby. As a response to this the Council only offers half plots to new tenants. The Council currently has no proposals to increase the number of sites. Any new provision is therefore likely to be provided by Parish or Town Councils or developers. The Local Plan should set out a 'new provision' requirement to include a component for allotments.

Figure 6.3: Map of Allotments in Sefton



- 6.4. However, to be fit for purpose any new allotments provision linked to new development needs to be of a suitable size and appropriately located; taking into account soil quality, drainage and flood risk, access and amenity. The average (median) size of existing allotments is 2.07 hectares; 72 plots (Gardener Avenue, Bootle). Figure 6.2 shows that the smallest existing site at Green Lane, Maghull is 0.31 hectares and the largest, Birkdale Irrigation Allotments, covers 4.39 hectares.

### **Quality**

- 6.5. Queensway Allotment Association (Waterloo, Crosby) achieved a Green Flag award in 2015-16 linked to its Green Gym initiative. This health-inspired initiative allows enables people to take exercise in a group setting, without taking on full responsibility for an allotment plot.

### **Accessibility**

- 6.6. It is not considered appropriate to formally assess accessibility to allotments. However, Figure 6.3 is a map showing the location of allotment provision across Sefton. Birkdale Irrigation allotments are outside the borough boundary in West Lancashire, but the land is owned and managed by Sefton Council.

## **Chapter 6 – Recommendation**

6.1 That the Local Plan should set out a 'new provision' requirement to include a component for allotments, and that new allotments sites should be provided as part of development proposals where appropriate.

## Chapter 7: Accessible nature space

- 7.1. Sefton Council defines accessible nature space as all public open space and Countryside Recreation Areas. The Council recognises that accessible nature space is 'everyday nature' and that it is important in providing all the benefits and functions of open space and trees.

### Quantity

- 7.2. Figure 7.1 summarises the quantity of accessible nature space across Sefton, in hectares and as a rate (hectares per thousand population). The amount and rate of provision is heavily influenced by the amount and location of the Countryside Recreation Area provision, notably on the Coast. This is why **Formby** has a high amount and rate of provision, and why **Bootle and Netherton** has a relatively low amount and rate of provision. It also affects significantly the amount and rate of provision in **Crosby** which has water features and woodland, **Southport** which has the Coast and **Sefton East** which has areas of woodland.

**Figure 7.1: Summary of accessible nature space**

Settlement area	Area (ha)	Rate	% of pop'n within 2km
Bootle & Netherton	2,000	27.4	100%
Crosby	2,349	48.64	99%
Formby	3,385	143.24	96%
Sefton East	3,181	84.60	98%
Southport	4,613	50.85	99%
<b>Sefton total</b>	<b>15,528</b>	<b>56.84</b>	<b>98%</b>

### Quality

- 7.4. Because accessible nature space is comprised of public open space and Countryside Recreation Areas, quality targets which apply to these open spaces are also relevant to accessible nature space. It is therefore not considered appropriate to assess the quality of accessible nature space in Sefton as this would result in double counting.

### Accessibility

- 7.5. The accessibility target for accessible nature space, set out in Chapter 3, is that everyone should live within 2km (20-30 minutes' walk) of an accessible nature space. Figure 7.2 shows accessibility in each settlement area. It is clear that most of Sefton's population live within 2 kilometres of an accessible nature space, and it is likely that the exceptions are those who live in the relatively more isolated, rural parts of Sefton.

**Figure 7.2: Accessibility to accessible nature space**

Settlement area	% of population within 2km of accessible nature space
Bootle & Netherton	100%
Crosby	99%
Formby	96%
Sefton East	98%
Southport	99%
<b>Sefton-wide figure</b>	<b>98%</b>

## **Chapter 7 – Recommendation**

**7.1 The Council should continue to recognise the importance of accessible nature space but should not set targets for its provision as this would result in double counting as all public open space and Countryside Recreation Areas comprise accessible nature space.**



## Chapter 8: New provision of open space

- 8.1. New development provides the main opportunity for providing new or enhanced open space. Open space is an important part of the infrastructure provision for new homes, but it can also be used by existing residents. Sefton has not yet determined whether it will adopt a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 8.2. Other mechanisms for providing new or enhanced open space are set out in aim 5 of the 2009 Green Space Strategy for Sefton and include:
  - Making the most of external funding opportunities (such as Heritage Lottery, Sports Lottery) including in partnership with other organisations such as the Forestry Commission, the Mersey Forest or the heath authorities
  - Encouraging greater community involvement and partnership working, such as 'friends of parks' groups or volunteering initiatives.
  - Securing sponsorship, higher fee income and other 'new sources' of funding.

### **Provision of open space in new development**

- 8.3. It is considered that 40 square metres per new build home is an appropriate requirement for assessing the need for new provision of open space. The 40 square metres per home includes components for parks, allotments and water facilities, based on information in Chapters 4, 5 and 6 of this Study. It is not expected that all of these would be provided in relation to any one housing development site – open space provision must be appropriate and fit for purpose.
- 8.4. The initial calculation of the target rates of provision of different types of open space (in hectares per thousand population) in Sefton is set out in figure 8.1 below. This is based on information in Chapters 4, 5 and 6 of this Study. The rate of 1.7 hectares per 1000 population equates to a rate of 0.0017 hectares per person. The average household size in Sefton is 2.32 people (based on the 2011 Census). Using these figures to calculate the amount of new open space provision per home leads to a figure of 0.004 hectares per new home; that is, 40 square metres for each new home. (Any requirement for new sports pitches or facilities for non-pitch sports would be additional to this).

**Figure 8.1 Target rates of open space provision in Sefton**

Type of open space	Rate (hectares per thousand population)
All parks	1.2
Allotments	0.12
Water facilities	0.38
<b>Total (rounded)</b>	<b>1.7</b>

- 8.5. Parks are included in the calculation as they are the most important type of open space in Sefton, usable by people of all ages and abilities. Countryside Recreation Areas are not included for a number of reasons, including their rural focus, relatively narrow recreational role and because by their nature, provision rates vary widely across Sefton. Allotments are included in the calculations in Figure 3.3 because they are an important part of open space provision in Sefton. Public water space is also included because of its close functional and geographical links to parks, notably the Marine Lakes within Southport Seafront and Crosby Marine Park. The canal, another water space, is also important locally.

- 8.6. The average (median) size of existing community parks in Sefton is 0.60 hectares. This is considered an appropriate size on which to base new provision, given the need for new public open space to be 'fit for purpose' and include specific facilities or features. Based on the 40 square metres per new build home figure, a site of 150 new homes would be required to provide a park of at least 0.6 hectares in size. Thus 150 new homes is considered to be an appropriate threshold for provision. Based on the 40 square metres per new build home figure, a site capable of accommodating around 685 homes would be required to provide a park of 2.74 hectares in size.
- 8.7. While 150 or more homes is an appropriate general threshold for new provision, accessibility to parks is also relevant. For sites of between 10 and 149 homes which are wholly or partly in accessibility deficiency areas, provision at 40 square metres per new build home should also be required.
- 8.8. While the existing water areas in Sefton are substantial, man-made structures, it is possible that additional water areas could be provided as part of new public open space provision in new development, where appropriate.
- 8.9. However, to be fit for purpose any new allotments provision linked to new development needs to be of a suitable size and appropriately located; for example large enough to provide the necessary infrastructure and ease of management, and taking into account soil quality, drainage and flood risk, access and amenity. The average (median) size of existing allotments is 2.07 hectares (with 72 plots), the smallest and largest 0.31 and 4.39 hectares, respectively. This existing site size can provide guidance for new provision. Provision of a small number of plots as a new allotments site linked to development is not considered to be fit for purpose.

### **Chapter 8: Recommendations**

- 8.1. That the Local Plan policy approach to provision of new public open space is 40 square metres for each new-build home; and that the 40 square metres includes parks, water area and allotments components. In order to make sure that open space is of an appropriate size to be fit for purpose, a minimum provision of 0.06 hectares should be considered.**
- 8.2. The threshold for new provision is 150 new homes.**
- 8.3. If a site is in an accessibility deficiency area, new provision is also required for between 10 and 149 new homes.**
- 8.4. There may be some situations where off-site enhancement may be more appropriate than on-site provision. This is relevant where:**
- **There are viability issues, where on-site provision of new open space may prejudice the delivery of an otherwise acceptable scheme .**
  - **The Council and developer agree that the site is too small to accommodate appropriate public open space, even for smaller sites in accessibility deficiency areas.**
  - **The development sites are close to existing public parks and other open space, for example next to a main park, within 1 kilometre of a neighbourhood park or within 400 metres of a community park.**
  - **Site-specific factors are particularly relevant.**

## Chapter 9: Summary and conclusions

### Summary

9.1. The focus of this Study is to provide evidence to support Local Plan preparation to make sure that provision and accessibility of quality public open space is protected and enhanced; and to secure new or enhanced provision linked to new development. The Study assesses the following types of open space:

- Parks in the urban area (and water features such as the canal and marine lakes)
- Countryside Recreation Areas
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and churchyards

9.2. Chapter 3 sets out recommendations in relation to open space targets, and that the Council should take a 'joined up' approach to all relevant strategies. It recommends that the targets and approach to assessing open space and recreation in Sefton should broadly reflect the targets and approach as those of the 2009 Green Space Strategy for Sefton and the 2009 Green Space and Recreation Study, taking into account the financial context of the Council.

9.3. The **quantity target** for provision of all types of parks is 1.2 hectares per thousand population. The **quality target** is that main parks should be managed to Green Flag standards. The **accessibility target** is that everyone should live within 2 kilometres of (20-30 minutes' walk or 5 minutes' drive from) a main park or Countryside Recreation Area, and of a accessible nature space. The percentage of people living within 1 kilometre (10-15 minutes' walk) of neighbourhood parks or 400 metres (5-10 minutes' walk) of local parks should also be maximised.

9.4. Chapter 3 also recommends a basis for the Council to assess whether open space in Sefton is surplus to requirements. The Council should consider that a surplus may exist only where all of the factors below are met:

#### ***Quantity***

- The settlement area is around, at or above target for quantity of open space, and the loss of open space would not have a significantly detrimental impact on quantity of open space.

#### ***Quality***

- It is not possible to have a quality surplus. However, the loss of open spaces which have a Green Flag award would generally be resisted.

#### ***Accessibility***

- The site or open space is within 400 metres of one or more community park and within 1 kilometre of one or more neighbourhood park and within 2 kilometres of a main park; and where these community and neighbourhood parks have the same or similar functions (for example, all have equipped play areas, or are all natural areas).

9.5. Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7 provide an assessment and analysis of provision of parks and Countryside Recreation Areas, cemeteries and crematoria, allotments and accessible nature space respectively. Chapter 4 recommends that the Local Plan should set out a 'new provision' requirement to include a component for parks and water areas, and that new parks and water areas should be provided as part of development proposals where appropriate.

- 9.6. Chapter 6 recommends that it should also include a component for allotments, and that new allotments sites should be provided as part of development proposals where appropriate. Chapter 5 recommends that it is not appropriate to formally assess cemetery or churchyard provision against the Sefton targets. Chapter 7 recommends that the Council should continue to recognise the importance of accessible nature space.
- 9.7. Chapter 8 reflects the fact that new development provides the main opportunity for new open space. The evidence for new provision of open space linked to development is examined. Chapter 8 recommends a Local Plan policy approach to new provision of public open space of 40 square metres of new public open space for each new home. The threshold for new provision is 150 new homes, reflecting the need for open space to be of an appropriate size so it is fit for purpose. Chapter 8 also recommends that if a site is in an accessibility deficiency area, new provision is also required for between 10 and 149 new homes. There may be some situations where off-site enhancement may be more appropriate than off-site provision. This is relevant where:
- There are viability issues, where on-site provision of new open space may prejudice the delivery of an otherwise acceptable scheme.
  - The Council and developer agree that the site is too small to accommodate appropriate public open space, even for smaller sites in accessibility deficiency areas.
  - The development sites are close to existing public parks and other open space, for example next to a main park, within 1 kilometre of a neighbourhood park or within 400 metres of a community park.
- 9.8. The sections below provide a summary of provision in each settlement area, based on the assessment and analysis in Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7. Figure 9.1 which follows provides an overview of this.

### ***Bootle and Netherton***

- 9.9. Much of Bootle, Litherland and Seaforth dates from Victorian and Edwardian times; mainly small to medium terraced houses with very small yards, in grid-iron street patterns. Housing density is high, tree cover is very low (mostly less than 2.5%) Other parts of Litherland, Ford and Netherton comprise interwar housing and post-1945 homes, with variable housing density, garden size and generally low tree cover (typically less than 5 %). Much of the Netherton is post-1945 overspill housing areas, with substantial areas of private housing dating from the 1990s. Housing density is medium to high, while tree cover is relatively low at 2.5 to 5%. The area is relatively deprived and includes some of the most deprived parts of Sefton and in national terms. However, the area also includes Bootle Town Centre and office area, and industrial areas adjacent to the Port, canal and Dunningbridge Road corridor.
- 9.10. The **quantity** of parks in Bootle and Netherton is around (just below) the target. The area also benefits from the canal, and Litherland and Netherton include parts of the Rimrose Valley and all of Pinfold Woodland Countryside Recreation Areas. Bootle cemetery also provides some informal recreational opportunities. Allotments provision is concentrated in Litherland and Netherton, there are none in Bootle. There are public playing pitches at Buckley Hill, Litherland Sports Park and Netherton Activity Centre. Accessible nature space rates are below the Sefton-wide figure, and the lowest in Sefton. Thus, overall, quantity of all open space is considered to be below the desirable target.
- 9.11. The **quality** of open space is around the target; 3 main parks gained the Green Flag award in 2015-16. There are 8 'Friends of Parks' groups in the area, indicating the value of local parks to the community. One park, Derby Park, is on the national register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

- 9.12. **Accessibility** to parks is around the target, the highest in Sefton. 99% of the population lives within 2km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area. Around 860 people (1%) live in an accessibility deficiency area, in Old Roan. However, all of this area lies within 1km (10-20 minutes' walk) of Deerbarn Park and Ollery Green Play area, which form a neighbourhood park. More generally there are many areas which are within 400 metres of one or more community park and/or within 1 kilometre of a neighbourhood park, as well as within 2 kilometres of a main park or less commonly a Countryside Recreation Area. In terms of accessibility to parks Bootle and Netherton is the best performing area of Sefton. Also, all (100%) of Bootle and Netherton residents live within 2 km of accessible nature space.
- 9.13. **Overall** the Bootle and Netherton area is considered to be around the targets for open space provision. Three of the four essential targets are 'around the target', as set out in figure 8.1 below.

### **Crosby**

- 9.14. The Crosby area includes the coast from the Port of Liverpool boundary to the River Alt area. It includes the villages of Hightown, Little Crosby and rural areas as well as the urban areas of including Great Crosby, Blundellsands, Brighton-le-sands, Waterloo, Thornton and parts of Seaforth. Parts of Waterloo, Thornton and Seaforth are among the most deprived areas in Sefton and nationally – these areas also tend to be higher density housing areas, with low tree cover. Areas where housing density is lower, for example Blundellsands, generally have higher rates of tree cover, amongst the highest in Sefton.
- 9.15. In terms of **quantity**, Crosby has the second lowest rate of parks provision in Sefton, below the Sefton-wide figure. Hightown has one main park, Little Crosby has none. However the area benefits a variety of other provision. There is access to the Coast and inland Countryside Recreation Areas including Rimrose Valley, and a number of strategic paths run along the coast and elsewhere through the area. Thornton Garden of Rest also provides some informal recreational opportunities. Crosby Marine Park includes the water area of the Marine Lake and watersports centre. There are 3 allotments sites. There are some public playing fields in Waterloo. Accessible nature space rates are below the Sefton-wide figure. Overall, quantity of all open space and accessible nature space is considered to be below the desirable target.
- 9.16. The **quality** of open space is around the target. One main park in the area, Coronation Park, achieved the Green Flag award in 2015-16, and there are five 'Friends of' groups. However, three other open spaces achieved the Green Flag award in 2015-16, Queensway Allotment Association/Sefton Green Gym, St Luke's Church Grounds, and Thornton Garden of Rest. The first two are managed by the community, and together with the 'friends of' groups indicate the value of local parks, other open spaces and Countryside Recreation Areas to the community.
- 9.17. **Accessibility** to parks is around the target and the equal second highest in Sefton: 97% of the population lives within 2km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area, including all those in the main urban (built-up) area of Crosby, Hightown and most of Little Crosby. Around 1460 people (3%) live in an accessibility deficiency area, in the more rural areas. 99% of Crosby residents live within 2 km of accessible nature space.
- 9.18. More generally, there are fewer areas which are within 400 metres of one or more community park or within 1 kilometre of a neighbourhood park as well as within 2 kilometres of a main park or a Countryside Recreation Area. Only parts of eastern



Waterloo are within the accessibility distances for all three categories of park. Crosby is considered to be one of the areas of Sefton with poor access to all types of park.

- 9.19. **Overall** the Crosby area is considered to be around the targets for open space provision, as three of the four essential targets are 'around the target'. This is shown in figure 8.1 below.

### ***Formby***

- 9.20. As well as substantial areas of coast and countryside and the main settlement of Formby, the area also includes Little Altcar and Ince Blundell villages. While central Formby dates from the Victorian and Edwardian era, most of its extensive suburban housing areas date from the 1960s and 1970s. Formby as a whole has more than 10% tree cover (the highest in Sefton), and low housing density.
- 9.21. In terms of **quantity**, the Formby area meets the target rate for parks provision. Little Altcar has a community park but there are no parks in Ince Blundell. However the area also benefits from access to the coastal Countryside Recreation Area (and Coastal strategic path); the provision rate is the highest in Sefton. There are two allotments sites and public playing fields in Formby. Partly because of proximity to the Coast, accessible nature space rates are well above the Sefton-wide rate; the highest in Sefton. Overall, quantity of all open space and accessible nature space is considered to be above the desirable target.
- 9.22. **Quality** of main parks is below the target. No main parks or other open spaces in Formby achieved the Green Flag award in 2015-16, although there are three 'Friends of' groups.
- 9.23. **Accessibility** in the Formby area is relatively poor, the second lowest in Sefton; and considered to be below the target. This is likely to be due mainly to the large rural area and the village of Ince Blundell. 93% of the population lives within 2 km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area, including all of the urban area except parts of Formby Industrial Estate. Around 1720 people, (7%) live in an accessibility deficiency area. 96% of Formby residents live within 2 km of accessible nature space.
- 9.24. More generally, there are fewer areas which are within 400 metres of one or more community park or within 1kilometre of a neighbourhood park as well as within 2 kilometres of a main park or a Countryside Recreation Area. Only small parts of eastern Formby are within the accessibility distances for all three levels of park in the parks hierarchy.
- 9.25. **Overall** the Formby area is considered to be below the targets for open space provision. While two of the four essential targets are 'around the target' and two are 'below the target, as shown in figure 8.1 below, the percentage of people living within 2km of accessible nature space is at the lower end of the around the target range.

### ***Sefton East Parishes***

- 9.26. Sefton East Parishes area includes the settlements of Maghull and Lydiate, Aintree (including the Grand National racecourse) and the villages of Melling, Lunt and Sefton. In general this is an area of interwar and post-war housing, medium and low density housing with medium to large private gardens. Urban tree cover is average, between 5 and 10%. The rural, Green Belt, area is mostly agricultural land crossed by public paths, the canal and the River Alt, and there are some community woodland and countryside recreation areas. All but two of the open spaces in the area are managed by the Parish

and Town Councils rather than Sefton Council, the two being Old Hall Park, Maghull, and Rainbow Park, Melling.

- 9.27. The **quantity** of parks is considerably below the Sefton target. This is likely to be due to the relatively dispersed settlement pattern. There is one allotments site, in Maghull, and no public cemetery. There are public playing fields, except in Melling. There is reasonable provision of Countryside Recreation Areas, notably Sefton Meadows community woodland. The canal and Trans Pennine Trail are important strategic path links between the urban and rural areas, and there is a good public paths network. Accessible nature space rates are considerably above the Sefton-wide rate, the second highest in Sefton. Overall, quantity of all open space and accessible nature space is considered to be around the desirable target.
- 9.28. **Quality** of open space is considered to be relatively low, as the target which focuses on Green Flag awards. No main parks or other open spaces in Sefton East have Green Flag awards, and there are no 'Friends of' groups. However, it is likely that this reflects the management priorities of Maghull Town Council and Aintree, Lydiate and Melling Parish Councils, and that they have not chosen to enter the Green Flag award scheme.
- 9.29. Parks **accessibility** in the Sefton East area is the lowest in Sefton, below the target. 91% of the population live within 2km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area. However, around 3,420 people, (9%) do not. This is likely to be due to the relatively dispersed settlement pattern. Within the Sefton East area, all of the main built up areas of Aintree, Waddicar (Melling) and Lydiate are within 2km of a main park, or less commonly, a Countryside Recreation Area. The same is true for Maghull, except for two small areas, one in the 'Meades' area which are within 400m of a community park, the other in the Parkbourn area. Most of Melling Rocks lies within 2km of Rainbow Park, Melling. Sefton Village lies within 2km of a Countryside Recreation Area. 98% of Sefton East residents live within 2 km of an accessible nature space.
- 9.30. Much of Maghull and southern Lydiate is within 400 metres of one or more community park and/or within 1 kilometre of a neighbourhood park as well as within 2 kilometres of a main park or a less commonly Countryside Recreation Area. These areas but not the rest of Sefton East perform relatively well in terms of the desirable accessibility target.
- 9.31. **Overall** the Sefton East area is considered to be below the targets for open space provision, as shown in figure 8.1 below.

### **Southport**

- 9.32. The Southport area is the most populous and varied area within Sefton. The Seafront and Lord Street are key aspects of Southport's appeal as England's Classic resort. Southport has varying levels of deprivation and relative wealth, with parts of central and eastern Southport and Marshside being amongst the most deprived in Sefton and nationally. Parts of Birkdale and Ainsdale are some of the least deprived areas in Sefton and nationally. Generally the most and least deprived areas coincide with the highest housing and lowest densities respectively. Tree cover inversely reflects housing density, and varies from around 5% to around 10%.
- 9.33. The **quantity** of provision is the best in Sefton, with provision rates for parks being considerably above the target. Southport Marine Lake is the second largest water area in Sefton (after the canal) and offers watersports as well as informal recreation opportunities. Three public cemeteries also provide some informal recreational opportunities. Rates of Countryside Recreation Area provision are above the Sefton-wide figures, mostly due to the coastal areas. Southport is a 'cycling town' and strategic

path routes include the Sefton coast path and Trans Pennine Trail. There are four allotment sites serving Southport, and a number of public playing fields. Accessible nature space provision is just below the Sefton-wide rate. Overall, the quantity of all open space is considered to be around the desirable target.

- 9.34. The **quality** of main parks is considered to be at or above the target. As well as five Green Flag awards (four for main parks), nine sites have 'Friends of Groups' and there are three parks on the national Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Two public cemeteries and crematoria have also achieved the Green Flag award in 2015-16.
- 9.35. **Accessibility** to parks is around the target and the equal second highest in Sefton: 97% of the population lives within 2km of a main park or Countryside Recreation Area. Around 2830 people (3%) live in one of two accessibility deficiency areas. The first is on the eastern edge of central Southport. However, this whole deficiency area is within 1km (15-20 minutes' walk) of three neighbourhood parks: Canning Road Recreation Ground, Devonshire Road Recreation Ground and Russell Road Recreation Ground. The other Southport parks deficiency area is the south-eastern corner of Ainsdale. However, many of these residents live within 1 kilometre (15-20 minutes' walk) of Sandbrook Road recreation ground neighbourhood park, and within 400 metres (5-10 minutes' walk) of Cherry Lane community park. The Trans Pennine Trail strategic path runs along this part of Moor Lane, offering walking and cycling links to Southport, Maghull, south Sefton and beyond. 99% of Southport residents live within 2 km of accessible nature space.
- 9.36. More generally, a number of areas, especially around all the fringes of the main part of Southport and the eastern fringe of Ainsdale are within 400 metres of one or more community park and/or a neighbourhood park, as well as within 2 kilometres of a main park or less commonly a Countryside Recreation Area. In terms of the access to all types of park Southport is considered to be, relatively, one of the better areas of Sefton.
- 9.37. **Overall**, the Southport area is considered to be above the targets for open space provision, on balance. Two of the four essential targets are 'above the target' and two are 'around the target, as set out in figure 8.1 below, however the percentage of people living within 2km of accessible nature space is at the higher end of this range.

### **Overview of provision**

- 9.38. Figure 9.1 provides an overview of how each settlement area performs against the open space targets in chapter 3. However, this overall assessment is less important than its individual components.
- 9.39. This updates and replaces the table on page 15 of the Green Space Strategy 2009, and figure 19.1 of the Green Space and Recreation Study 2006. It is a starting point for assessing whether there is a surplus or shortfall of open space in any settlement area in relation to development proposals.

**Figure 9.1: Overview of open space provision**

	Essential: Quantity (parks)	Desirable: Quantity (all open space)	Essential: Accessibility to parks and CRAs	Essential: Accessibility to accessible nature space	Essential: Quality	Overview
<b>Bootle &amp; Netherton</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Crosby</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Formby</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Sefton East</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Southport</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>

**Symbols:**      **T**                      **A**                      **B**  
 Above the          Around the          Below the  
 target                      target                      target

**Conclusions**

9.40. Overall, it is concluded that there is variation in recreation and open space provision across Sefton when assessed against the targets set out in chapter 3. Generally, Southport has the best provision, followed by Bootle and Netherton and Crosby, and any surpluses are more likely to occur in these settlement areas. Formby and Sefton East have a lower provision. Sefton East is unlikely to have a surplus of provision. Its provision is likely to relate mainly to the relatively dispersed settlement pattern and to the management priorities of the Town and Parish Councils, who manage most of the open spaces in this area and have not chosen to actively seek Green Flag awards.

[This page has been left blank intentionally]



## **References**

### **National**

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2012, DCLG.

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> .

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), on-line, DCLG.

See <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy, 2013, Sport England.

See <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities: How to undertake and apply needs assessments for sports facilities, 2014, Sport England.

See <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/assessing-needs-and-opportunities-guidance/>

Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, 2010, Natural England. See

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20151110000001/http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/40004>

Play England. See <http://playengland.org.uk/our-work.aspx>

### **Regional and Liverpool City Region context**

Green infrastructure. See <http://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk/html/index.php>

### **Sefton context**

Sefton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), 2006, Sefton MBC. See [www.sefton.gov.uk/udp](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/udp)

Emerging Sefton Local Plan: Submission Draft Local Plan; and Proposed Modifications to the Sefton Local Plan, 2015, Sefton MBC. See [www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan)

Green space, trees and development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), 2008, Sefton MBC. See <http://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy/supplementary-guidance.aspx>

Green Space Strategy for Sefton, 2009, Sefton MBC. See [http://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy/evidence-and-studies/environmental-\(local-plan\).aspx](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy/evidence-and-studies/environmental-(local-plan).aspx)

Green Space and Recreation Study, 2009, Sefton MBC. See [http://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy/evidence-and-studies/environmental-\(local-plan\).aspx](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy/evidence-and-studies/environmental-(local-plan).aspx)

Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management Plan, 2008, Sefton MBC.

See <http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=158&MId=285&Ver=4>

Living Well in Sefton: Sefton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-2020, 2014, Sefton MBC.

See <http://www.sefton.gov.uk/public-health/health-and-wellbeing-board.aspx>

Sefton Consequences Study, 2013, Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners [NLP] for Sefton MBC. See <http://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy/evidence-and-studies/consequences-study.aspx>

[This page has been left blank intentionally]

## Appendix : List of parks by settlement area

<b>Bootle and Netherton area</b>	
<b>Bootle &amp; Netherton - Main Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Abbeyfield Park	1.51
Bootle North Recreation Ground	6.42
Bootle South Recreation Ground	5.86
Centenary Gardens	0.35
Derby Park	8.95
Hatton Hill Park	3.72
Killen Green Park	1.98
Marian Gardens	5.06
Orrell Mount Park	3.15
Stanley Gardens	0.65
	<b>37.65</b>
<b>Bootle &amp; Netherton - Neighbourhood Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Bowersdale Park	0.85
Copy Farm Wildlife And Play Area	2.02
Deerbarn Park	0.72
Hapsford Road	2.37
Kirkstone Park	1.67
Lonsdale Park	1.41
Mellaneer Park	1.81
Menai Park	1.69
Ollery Green Playground	0.17
Orrell Public Pleasure Ground	3.69
Poets Park	1.37
Rimrose Valley	3.32
	<b>21.09</b>
<b>Bootle &amp; Netherton - Community Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Amos Square	1.02
Bowland Drive Playground	0.39
Captain's Green	0.60
Charles Best Green	0.18
Copy Lane Open Space	0.66
Douglas Place Playground	0.11
Elm Gardens, Seaforth	0.01
Fernbank Play Area	0.27
Harrops Croft/ Waterside Open Space	3.99
Land at Field Lane	0.29
Longfield Road Playground	0.47
Marsh Lane Estate Field	0.72
Marsh Lane Play Area	0.58
Netherton Green	0.27
Parkdale Play Area	0.39
Peel Road Park	0.34
Pleasant View Play Area	0.13
Seaforth Triangle 1	2.56
Seaforth Triangle 2	0.70
St Andrews	0.59
St Mary's Garden of Rest	0.91
St Monicas Drive	1.47
Stanley Park	0.45

<b>Bootle and Netherton area</b>	
Thornton Diversion - Phase 1	3.79
Thornton Diversion - Phase 2	6.37
William Henry Street Play Area	0.11
	<b>27.37</b>
<b>Bootle &amp; Netherton - All Parks</b>	<b>86.11</b>

<b>Crosby area</b>	
<b>Crosby - Main Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Adelaide Gardens	0.86
Alexandra Park	1.55
Beech Lawn Gardens	1.23
Coronation Park	2.89
Crescent Gardens	1.72
Hightown Childrens Park	0.85
Marine Gardens	1.37
Moorside Park	6.61
Victoria Park, Crosby	7.41
	<b>24.49</b>
<b>Crosby - Neighbourhood Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Chaffers Playing Field	12.73
Potters Barn Park	1.37
	<b>14.10</b>
<b>Crosby – Community Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Blundellsands Key Park	8.35
Crosby Marine Park	0.67
Hall Road/ Merrilocks Road Park	0.14
Kings Park Playground	0.10
Kings Park Playground	0.11
Mere Park	0.27
Open Space Oakland Avenue	1.10
Runnells Lane Park	1.70
	<b>12.44</b>
<b>Crosby – All Parks</b>	<b>51.03</b>

<b>Formby area</b>	
<b>Formby - Main Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Deansgate Lane Playing Fields	10.73
Duke Street Park	4.53
	<b>15.26</b>
<b>Formby - Neighbourhood Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
King George V Playing Field	1.08
Smithy Green Playing Field	2.86
	<b>3.94</b>
<b>Formby - Community Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Alt Road Playground	0.62
Barkfield Lane Park	0.76
Beechwood Drive Woods	0.37
Cambridge Road Recreation Ground	2.61
Church Green Site	0.21
Formby Pool	1.90
Greenloons Walk Open Space	0.55
Harebell Close Site	0.22
Ravenmeols Lane Recreation Ground	1.53
Smithy Green Open Space	0.45
	<b>9.22</b>
<b>Formby - All Parks</b>	<b>28.42</b>



<b>Sefton East area</b>	
<b>Sefton East - Main Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Aintree Parish Playing Field	3.50
Glenn Park	3.56
King George V Playing Field	1.79
Rainbow Park	2.46
Sandy Lane Recreation Ground	2.87
	<b>14.18</b>
<b>Sefton East - Neighbourhood Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Dodd's Park	1.20
Maghull Old Hall Site	4.10
Ridgeway Park	1.65
New Neighbourhood Park, Land East of Maghull	
	<b>6.95</b>
<b>Sefton East - Community Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Balls Wood (Leatherbarrow Lane Field)	3.93
Clent Gardens	0.33
Gilpin Park/Moss Park Playing Field	0.80
Hickory Grove	0.75
Kenyons Lane Park	1.43
Lathom Gardens	0.25
Liverpool Road South Junction	0.31
Mallory Park	0.37
Mersey Avenue Park	0.84
Moorhey Park	0.57
Round Meade Park	1.11
Satinwood Crescent	0.10
South Meade Park	0.69
The Delph	0.28
Weld Blundell Open Space	0.30
	<b>12.06</b>
<b>Sefton East - All Parks</b>	<b>33.19</b>

<b>Southport area</b>	
<b>Southport - Main Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Bedford Park	6.65
Botanic Gardens	7.68
Crossens Community Park	2.99
Hesketh Park	12.26
Kings Gardens	3.04
Liverpool Road Recreation Ground	2.92
Lord Street Gardens	1.34
Meols Park Recreation Ground	7.70
South Marine Gardens 1	2.88
South Marine Gardens 2	1.28
Southport Skate Park	0.11
	<b>42.20</b>
<b>Southport Neighbourhood Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Birkdale Common	20.80
Canning Road Recreation Ground	1.44
Carr Lane Recreation Ground	5.00
Devonshire Road Recreation Ground	2.66
Portland Street Playing Fields	5.80
Preston New Road Recreation Ground	2.83
Russell Road Recreation Ground	2.81
Sandbrook Road Recreation Ground	3.85
Victoria Park	12.42
Victoria Park	4.88
Waterloo Road Recreation Ground	3.44
	<b>65.93</b>
<b>Southport - Community Parks</b>	<b>Area</b>
Ainsdale Village Green	0.65
Cherry Road Playground	0.63
Compton Road Park	0.60
Ferryside Lane Recreation Ground	4.66
Fleetwood Road Playground	0.45
Hartley Road, Blundell Drive Gardens	0.29
Land Adj Town Lane	3.94
Land at Folkstone Road	0.91
Malham Close	0.57
Marine Dr/Preston New Rd Triangle	0.74
NW shore Marine Lake	1.93
Ocean Plaza/Marine Lake	0.45
Ovington Drive Open Space	0.38
Pinfold Lane Playground	0.15
Princes Park	0.88
Rotten Row	1.28
Sandbrook Road Woodland	2.52
St Paul's Square	0.25
The Stray	4.32
Town Lane Playground	0.74
	<b>26.34</b>
<b>Southport - All Parks</b>	<b>134.47</b>

[This page has been left blank intentionally]