



Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit and Provision Standard Assessment

April 2016

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Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit and Provision Standard Assessment 2015

Introduction

- 1.1 Central Lincolnshire's open spaces provide a wide range of benefits for communities, the environment and the local economy. They make an important contribution to the character and biodiversity of the region and to quality of life by providing the setting for a wide range of social interactions and pursuits that support personal and community well-being. They allow individuals to interact with the natural environment and provide habitats for wildlife. Open spaces can also be important in defining the character and identity of settlements. Connecting them in a green network can provide enhanced benefits for people, the environment and biodiversity. They also provide valuable 'ecosystem services' such as climate change regulation, filtering of pollution, flood prevention and carbon sequestration.
- 1.2 This document reports the outputs of an open space audit and provision assessment for Central Lincolnshire undertaken in support of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan which sets out the framework for development across the Districts of West Lindsey, North Kesteven and the City Of Lincoln to 2036.
- 1.3 This evidence report provides background information and justification for the open space standards set out in Appendix C of the Submission Local Plan 2016.

National Policy

- 1.4 The National planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in 2012 aims to promote healthy communities; 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 and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessment 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."
- 1.5 Preparation of Local Plan Policy and this open space provision standard evidence has taken account of NPPF Policy 73 requirements.

Strategic Context

- 1.6 The housing Growth targets set out in the Local Plan Submission Draft 2016 are based on meeting the needs of an existing and growing population as summarised in table 1. The majority of the planned growth is being focussed around the Urban Centres of Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough, larger towns, Market Rasen and Caister and larger villages close to the main labour market and where there is existing higher levels of supporting infrastructure facilities. This growth strategy aims to support the vision of "A prosperous, stronger and sustainable Central Lincolnshire".
- 1.7 Open Space provision and the standards set out in the Local Plan aim to support this vision and specifically the following objectives;

"To reduce Health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles and maximise health and wellbeing;

To conserve and enhance biodiversity across Central Lincolnshire and provide opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and the natural environment. To create and improve high quality green and blue spaces that are multifunctional, including opportunities for sport, recreation and play), accessible to all and which form part of and are connected to the green infrastructure network;

To protect and enhance the rich diversity of the character and appearance of Central Lincolnshire's landscape and Townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place."

Table 1 Central Lincolnshire District population data				
	population 2013 midyear projections (Turley report July 2015)	Sub national population projections 2012- 2036 ref draft final SHMAA report July 2015	Forecasted pop 2036	pop/1000
Lincoln	95623	11,650	107,273	107.273
NK	109,906	24,848	134,754	134.754
WL	90715	19,906	110,621	110.621
Central Lincolnshire	296244	56,404	352,648	352.648

National Provision Standards

- 1.8 National Standards for open space provide the context for considering standards across central Lincolnshire. These are described below and summarised in table 1.
- 1.9 **Formal playing Fields:** Fields in Trust (FIT) is the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association. In 2008 FIT published "Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play with benchmark standards". These benchmark standards are recommended as a tool for assisting the development of local standards.
- 1.10 The total recommended FIT standard for outdoor sport is 1.6ha per 1,000 population.
- 1.11 Fields in Trust recommend playing field provision quality standards should consider the National Playing Fields association publication 2004 "The Design and Maintenance Of outdoor Sports Facilities" along with Sport England National Governing Sports Body guidance published on the Sport England Website.
- 1.12 Sport England publish guidance on the minimum standard pitch size requirements ("Comparative sizes of Sports pitches and Courts April 2011 update"). Sport England also publish National Governing Body quality standard guidance on the design, specification and construction of different types of pitches (reference <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/>)
- 1.13 Fields in Trust recommend that access to pitches should be within 1.2 KM of all dwellings in major residential areas
- 1.14 **Children's Play Space:** In addition to quantity standards for outdoor sports provision, FIT also recommends standards for children's playing space. Table 1 shows that benchmark standards of 0.8ha of children's play space is recommended per 1,000 population. This is split into 0.25ha of designated

equipped playing space (including fenced areas with play equipment) and a further 0.55ha of informal playing space, typically consisting of amenity space.

- 1.15 FIT published guidance “Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play with benchmark standards” also outlines quality standard in respect of play area design and play value assessment.
- 1.16 **Parks and Gardens; Green Flag quality standard;** The **Green Flag Award** is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom. The scheme was set up in 1996 to recognize and reward green spaces in [England and Wales](#) that met the laid down high standards. It is also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve the same high environmental standards, creating a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas. Any free to enter public park or green space is eligible to apply for an Award. The scheme is owned by the Government through the [Department for Communities and Local Government](#), though it is managed by other agents under contract. Parks and green spaces are judged in April and May each year and the winners are announced in July. Parks must apply each year to keep their Green Flag Award, and winning sites are eligible to fly a Green Flag in the park for a year.
- 1.17 Sites for a Green Flag Award are judged against eight key criteria: [\[2\]](#)
- A welcoming place
 - Healthy, safe and secure
 - Clean and well maintained
 - Sustainability
 - Conservation and heritage
 - Community involvement
 - Marketing
 - Management

A target quality standard score of 60% is required to be eligible for a green flag award.

- 1.18 **Natural Greenspace:** Natural England believes that everyone should have access to good quality natural greenspace near to where they live and have produced ‘Nature Nearby’ Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance”¹ to help people make this a reality.
- 1.19 The guidance is aimed at parks and greenspace practitioners and their partners, particularly decision makers, planners and managers of green space. It describes the amount, quality and level of visitor services that Natural England believe everyone is entitled to.
- 1.20 The guidance proposes the adoption of three key standards by greenspace professionals that will deliver high quality and inspiring visitor experiences in green spaces close to where people live, and connect people with the natural environment. The standards include the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt).
- 1.21 ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural greenspace:
- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes’ walk) from home;
 - at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre of home;
 - one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and

¹ See link:

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_of_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardandgst.aspx

- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

1.22 **Allotments:** the benefits of allotments are well established:

- providing a sustainable food supply
- giving a healthy activity for people of all ages
- fostering community development and cohesiveness
- acting as an educational resource
- providing access to nature and wildlife, and acting as a resource for biodiversity
- giving open spaces for local communities
- Reducing carbon emissions by avoiding the long-distance transport of food.

1.23 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) has produced a national allotment standard for a minimum provision of 20 standard plots of 250 square metres per 1,000 households or 0.5ha per 1,000 household.

1.24 **A green infrastructure approach:** A multi-functional approach to public open space is a key aspect recognised within the Green Flag quality standard criteria and FIT guidance. Opportunities for open space to provide value in terms of biodiversity and ecosystem services such as flood management mitigation and temperature control is well documented nationally and is supported locally by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and the Lead Local Flood Authority as documented in the Central Lincolnshire green infrastructure 2011.

1.25 NPPF policy and the above national provision standards have been taken into account in preparing the Local Plan as a whole, and policy LP26 in particular. The national bench mark standards used in this assessment are set out in table 2

Table 2 Summary of National provision standard guidance

National Guidance	Related type of open space	Quantity /area required per 1000 pop	Accessibility (distance) standard (m)
Playing Field Provision (Fields in Trust)	Formal sports pitches	1.2 ha/1000	1200m
	All outdoor sport	1.6 ha/1000	1200m
Play area provision (Fields in Trust)	Children and young people's equipped play	.25 ha/1000	240-600 m
	Informal Play space	0.55 ha /1000	600 m
	Total children's play space	0.8 ha /1000	600 m
Accessible natural green space provision (Natural England Angst)	2Ha within 300 m 20Ha within 2K 100Ha within 5K 500Ha within 10K		300 m 2KM 5KM 10Km
	20 ha accessible natural greenspace site within 2 KM		2 KM
The national society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens (NSALG)	20 plots per 1000 households. Standard plot 250m2	0.5ha/1000	N/A
Green Flag Quality standard	-----	-----	-----

- 1.26 When considering accessibility standards national guidelines recommend that actual traveling distances to from any point to a facility is equivalent to a straight line distance of 40% less. This is to allow for the fact that routes to open spaces are not usually direct and but more convoluted. The 40% reduction is based on robust research by the NPFA in numerous areas using a representative sample of pedestrian routes. The assumed distances used in this assessment are therefore set out below.

Table 3 Travel distance assumptions used in this review			
Time minutes	Miles	Metres	Mapped straight line
		300	120
5	.25	400	240
10	.5	800	480
15	.75	1200	720
20	1	1600	960
25	1.25	2000	1200
30	1.5	2400	1440

- 1.26 The approach to different types of open space provision requirements have been considered depending on whether they are 'supply-led' or 'demand-led' or whether a 'standards based' approach is required.
- 1.27 Spaces most suited to a supply-led approach are urban parks and gardens, civic spaces, woodlands and other natural greenspaces. This requires assessment of the existing size and distribution of spaces against their current and future role and consideration in terms of protection, enhancement and extending and linking them where feasible.
- 1.28 A demand-led approach is suited to those typologies for which a quantifiable demand can be identified, for example, sports facilities and functional spaces such as cemeteries and allotments. This requires ongoing consultation with relevant user groups and undertaking any necessary survey work in order to establish the demand for facilities.
- 1.29 Where the need for a type of space is broadly the same everywhere, or where the demand for a particular use is difficult to quantify, for example when attempting to predict future community needs in a new housing area, it is appropriate to use a standards-based approach.

Central Lincolnshire Assessment approach

Audit Methodology

- 1.30 A GIS based audit of all open space site typologies across Central Lincolnshire has been completed for usable greenspace across different open space types as identified in appendix A and gives an indicative picture of the current baseline level of provision. The audited sites have been mapped and can be viewed by settlement on the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan interactive map <http://www.central-lincs.org.uk/>. This mapped data set has been used to benchmark against the quantity, accessibility and quality set out in national standards and identify the patterns of open Space supply within Central Lincolnshire.

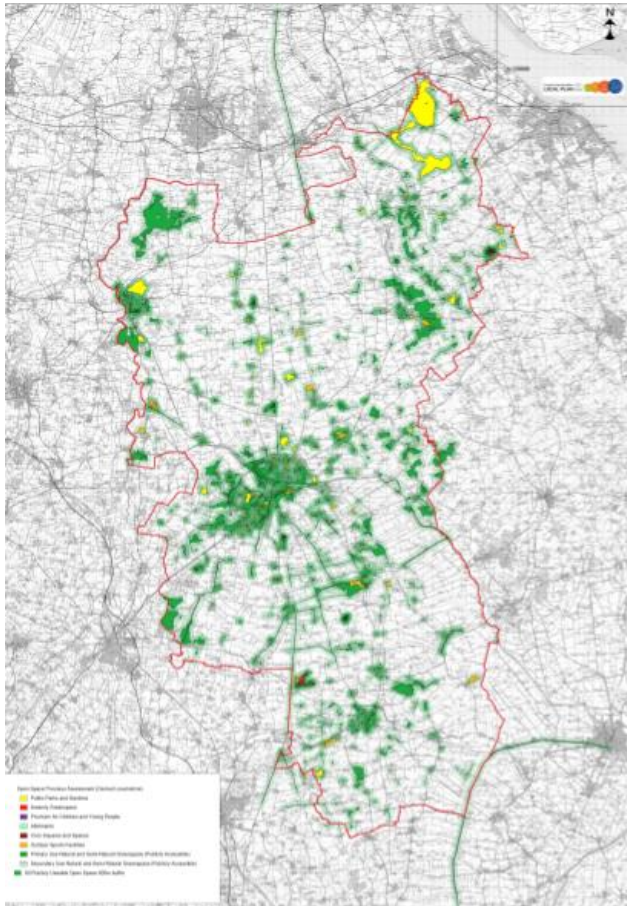


Figure 1 CL audited open space with 400 m buffer

- 1.31 Due to the size of the central Lincolnshire area and time priorities, assessment has been focussed on the settlements identified within the top three settlement hierarchies prioritised for growth in the Draft Local Plan as described below. In allowing for consideration and comparison across the main urban settlements of Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough and a sample of 21 rural villages, this approach is presumed to be robust enough for use in provision standard assessment for the main growth areas proposed for Central Lincolnshire.

Settlement surveys

- 1.32 Site sampling has been undertaken across representative settlements within Central Lincolnshire including the Lincoln Urban Area, Main Towns and Small Towns and Growth Villages as identified in the Draft Local Plan 2014 Settlement Hierarchy, initially the priority settlements proposed for allocating land for housing.
- 1.33 Sample site assessment has therefore been undertaken for the following settlements within Central Lincolnshire;

Lincoln Urban area

- City of Lincoln,
- North Hykeham
- South Hykeham Fosseway
- Waddington Lower Field
- South Hykeham Fosseway
- Bracebridge Heath
- Canwick;

Main Towns

- Sleaford
- Gainsborough

Small towns and growth villages –

- Bardney, Heckington, Metherringham, Ruskington, Billingham, Keelby, Middle Rasen, Caister, Market Rasen, Navenby. Branston, Cherry Willingham, Dunholm, Heighington, Nettleham, Saxilby, Skellingthorpe, Waddington, Washingborough, Welton, Witham St Hughes Waddington village

- 1.34 Site quality audits have been undertaken between May and June 2015 across the sample settlements using criteria based on Field in Trust (FIT) recommendations for Play areas and Green Flag standard recommendations for all other spaces. This data provides an indicative picture of the quality of the current open space provision within these settlements and is the basis of this review. Quality assessment by criteria that was undertaken using numerical scoring to allow the assessors to indicate a site's fitness for purpose on a scale 1 = Failing, 2 = Poor, 3 = Acceptable, 4 = Good to 5 = Excellent.

Local Evidence References

- 1.35 In addition to the audit, other evidence has been used from locally published documents as outlined above and through local authority Officer and environmental Partner organisation discussions.
- The Central Lincolnshire GI study 2011
 - Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity opportunity study 2013
 - Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch study 2013 (draft)
 - City of Lincoln Play Strategy 2011-2016
 - City of Lincoln Allotment Strategy 2012
 - Lincolnshire Public Rights Of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2012
- 1.36 The outputs from these studies provide the context for the assessment of more local levels of useable open space.

Current Provision Standards

- 1.37 Different provision standards are currently being used across Central Lincolnshire as summarised below;

City of Lincoln

Applicable development threshold 10 or above dwellings;

Requirement; Playing Fields 1.8 ha on site priority; off-site contribution cost based @£161k/ha;
Play Areas 0.8 Ha over 10 dwellings; on site priority; offsite contributions cost based @£218K/ha

Amenity Space 0.5 ha /1000

NK

Applicable development threshold over 10 dwellings;

Requirement; Playing Fields 1.6/1000

Play areas .8 ha /1000 on site priority; offsite provision charged using equivalent land values £360k/ha

0.5 Ha /1000 (5m2 per person) of amenity space

In addition Open space successfully secured through large developments E.g. Witham St Hughes; O/S 20.43ha on a 68 Ha scheme i.e. 30% land area

Operate a system of parish application for OS improvement schemes for expenditure of OS secured contributions.

West Lindsey

Developments of less than 20 dwellings or up to 11 ha; 3% of site to be OS

Over 20 dwellings or 1 -3 ha; -5% of site to be OS

3-5 ha; 7.5% of site to be OS

Sites over 5 ha; 10 % of site to be OS

Open Space Hierarchy

- 1.38 The review recognises that open space serves a range of uses and functions. The hierarchy of provision helps understand the different functions the sites perform and distinguish between provisions of strategic and neighbourhood/local importance.
- 1.39 Section 1 of this report assesses the provision of ***Open Spaces of Strategic or Regional Importance***, i.e. spaces that serve the Central Lincolnshire wide area, provide sub regional facilities and visitor attractions such as sports areas, historic sites or features of nature conservation interest. These sites include open spaces such as the County Show Ground, Whisby Nature Park, Hartsholme Park, Lincoln Castle, Willingham Woods as well as the main sporting venues including club based pitch venues, golf courses and Market Rasen Race Course. Their strategic importance is generally reflected in the level of investment (financial and time) directed towards the sites and the distance people are prepared to travel to use them. Where situated close to residential areas these sites may also serve neighbourhood and local open space needs. As visitor destinations, strategic site's also support the visitor economy and wider strategic objectives such as landscape and biodiversity protection.

Definition of sites by hierarchy within Central Lincolnshire

Open Space Hierarchy

Examples of typologies included

Open spaces of REGIONAL IMPORTANCE CL wide provision

- Large Parks/parkland (public and private) e.g. Country parks, Farm Parks, Open space with a historic/ natural attraction, showground
- Large accessible Natural / Semi-natural Greenspace e.g. Nature Reserve Sites or Woodlands
- Large formal club based sport or outdoor recreation facility e.g. Racecourse, golf course., large club based pitch facilities (refer to Sports Pitch Strategy)
- Strategic recreational/leisure walkway/ cycle route e.g. Sustrans, PROW routes

Open spaces of NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPORTANCE District or settlement wide provision

- Neighbourhood/local Park
- Natural / Semi-natural Greenspace
- Neighbourhood Areas for Play E.g. Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP), Skate Park
- Sports Area (refer to Sports Pitch Strategy)
- Green corridors PROW routes local cycle routes
- Allotments
- Cemeteries
- Civic space
- Amenity greenspace over 2 ha

Open spaces of LOCAL IMPORTANCE Community provision

- Accessible natural greenspace 2 ha or less
- Play space ; either Local Equipped Areas for Play Or Local Areas for Play including informal playing fields
- Amenity Greenspace up less than 2 ha / public realm

- 1.40 Section 2 considers open space provision at the neighbourhood and local level. At this level the key focus in setting local standards is to ensure that ***Neighbourhood, or Local*** community open spaces are provided within easy reach of people's homes. This objective is reflected in the national accessibility

standards outlined in table 2. The two tiers of provision are defined primarily on the basis of targeted user, size and accessibility;

Neighbourhood level provision generally being larger typology or a multi- use sites catering for all ages and serving a larger settlement or District catchment.

More **localised provision** aims to meet the needs for younger age play, individual informal exercise/recreation as well as supporting local amenity and ecosystems (e.g. access to natural areas, biodiversity, Suds, temperature control).

SECTION 1

Strategic Open Space Provision

General

- 2.1 Strategic open Spaces are those that meet provision need at a level above sub regional i.e. Central Lincolnshire wide area and above, including significant historic sites, large scale multifunctional sites such as parks or natural sites with a range of facilities and important event venues. Some facilities are commercially run and access charges are applicable. As visitor destinations, strategic sites have local economic benefit as well as supporting wider strategic objectives such as landscape and biodiversity protection as well as the ability of an area to adapt or mitigate the impacts of climate change such as flood risk and temperature increases.
- 2.2 There are no specific national standards for strategic open space, although Natural England recommends that access to natural environments over 500 ha within 10 Km and 100 ha within 5 KM is a standard to be targeted. In addition to sites, the importance of strategic pedestrian, cycle and navigable waterway routes for recreation, nature conservation, landscape and environmental service benefits within Central Lincolnshire is recognised. Sport England has recently published evidence showing a national trend in the demand for such spaces for outdoor recreation.
- 2.3 The Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and Biodiversity opportunity mapping study summarise the priorities for Strategic open space within Central Lincolnshire. Specific opportunities have also been identified through Site and Area management plans such as Park Management Plans, Wolds AONB Management Plan; Lincolnshire Waterways Initiative; Lincolnshire Countryside Access and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans.
- 2.4 Strategic sites across Central Lincolnshire can be grouped into the following typologies;
Parks and gardens and landscape protected areas;
Natural and Semi Natural Areas
Green Corridors
Sports facilities
- 2.5 Strategic open spaces are further described below by these typologies.

Strategic Parks and gardens and landscape protected areas

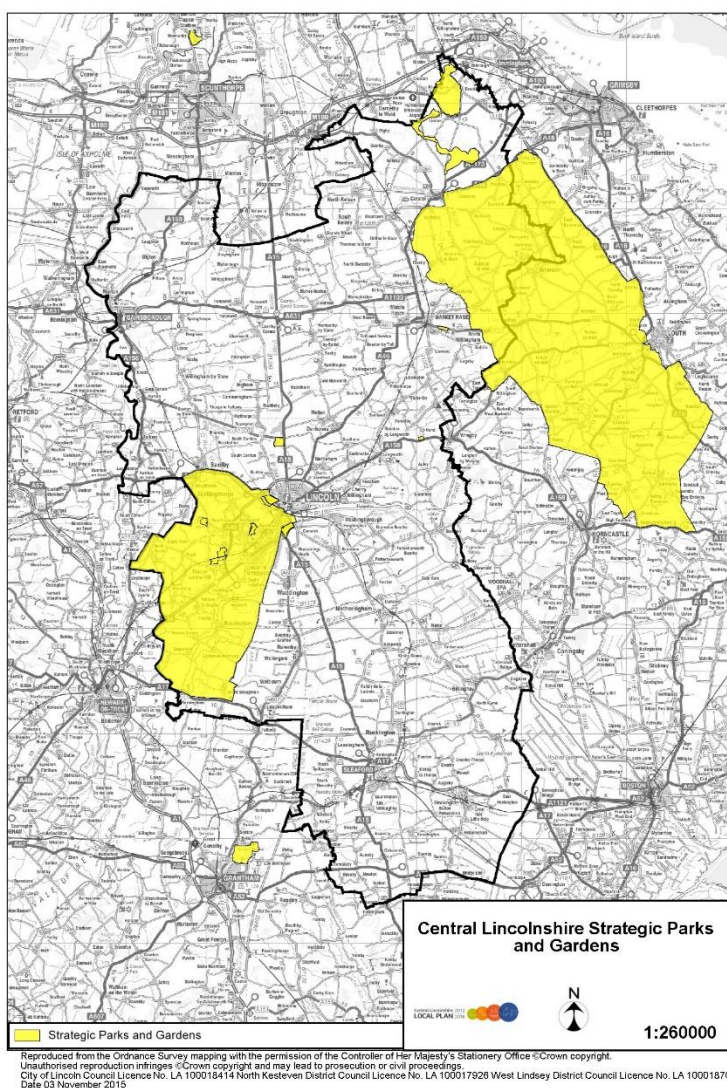
- 2.6 There are no national standards specifically for the provision of Parks and Gardens. Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGST) proposes a hierarchy of provision of 500 ha within 10 KM and 100ha within 5 KM.

Table 4 Strategic Parks and Gardens Sites identified to date		
	Assets	Potential Opportunities
West Lindsey District	Gainsborough Old Hall Gardens Brocklesby estate Rand Farm (Charged access) Lincolnshire Showground (charged access) Woodside Falconry Centre (charged access) Wharton Hall Farm Park (charged access) Lincolnshire Wolds AONB area Market Rasen Race Course (charged access)	Risholme Hall and Parkland Gainsborough SUE sites

	Richmond Park	
North Kesteven District	Whisby Nature Park Doddington Park (charged access) Aubourne Hall and Gardens (charged access)	Bomber Command Memorial Park Witham Valley cp area
City of Lincoln District	Hartsholme Country Park Lincoln Castle Grounds City Commons	New parkland/facilities developed as part of Western Growth Corridor SUE Masterplan Witham Valley cp area

2.7 Table 4 identifies Strategic Park and Garden provision across Central Lincolnshire to date and figure 2 shows the distribution across Central Lincolnshire.

Figure 2 Strategic parks and Gardens



2.8 At the larger scale (over 500 ha) Central Lincolnshire has several large parkland estates including the Brockelsby Hall Estate and Doddington Hall Estate which in addition to Public Right of Way access are

open to the public on a paid basis. The County Show ground is also located in West Lindsey just north of Lincoln and is an important venue for annual events such as the Lincolnshire Show, as well as one off events requiring large spaces.

- 2.9 The Race Course at market Rasen is also an important strategic open space venue hosting regular racing meets as well as other events.
- 2.10 Other large paid access sites, within a 10 Km distance of Central Lincolnshire boundary include Belton house near Grantham and Normandy Hall Country Park near Scunthorpe. The Wolds AONB is an extensive landscape protected area within 5 Km to the east of Central Lincolnshire and in addition to extensive network of public rights of Way include fully accessible Hubbard Hills Country Park. In addition to parkland there is extensive area of accessible woodland such as Willingby woods, Skellingthorpe Woods and Staverton woods for strategic leisure use.
- 2.11 The Witham Country Park initiative is a Partnership project which recognises and aims to connect and promote a variety of distinct and individual public green spaces around the Lincoln see <http://withamvalleypark.co.uk/> very much on a 'value of the whole is greater than the sum of the parts' basis. The project area includes Boultham Park, Hartsholme Country Park and Swanholme Lakes Nature Reserve, Millennium Green, Skellingthorpe Old Wood, Tunman Wood and the three Lincoln Commons as well as private venues such as Daisy Maid Ice-cream farm. A copy of the concept statement for the initiative is enclosed in appendix E. This holistic area based approach is viewed as satisfactorily complying with the recommended larger site access standards proposed in by natural England.
- 2.12 With regard to sites over 100 ha, parkland provision such as Hartsholme Country Park, Boultham Park and Whisby Nature Park are close to the Lincoln urban area. These sites in addition to the three commons (West Common, South Common and Cow Puddle) mean provision is relatively high within the City.
- 2.13 Provision in West Lindsey and North Kesteven is more reliant on private chargeable facilities such as the Showground, Farm parks and private houses e.g. Doddington Hall, Rand Farm. Accessible woodland sites however within both West Lindsey and north Kesteven also provide parkland type facility within a 5 Km distance of Sleaford Gainsborough and Market Rasen. In the rural villages the extensive public rights of way network ensures accessibility to the surrounding countryside.
- 2.14 In North Kesteven the lower levels of parkland facilities around Sleaford and to the South of District, are compensated for by access to provision at Belton House in South Kesteven.
- 2.15 No issues regarding quantity or accessibility are currently identified within Central Lincolnshire in respect of Natural England's larger site access standards. Most areas are within 10-15 Km or a 15 minute drive of a large scale site or facility offering access to strategic parkland type activity. This standard is proposed to be an adequate standard across Central Lincolnshire.
- 2.16 With regard to quality no standards are currently formally adopted on a Central Lincolnshire basis. The City of Lincoln District Council have targeted the Green Flag standard as a minimum standard for the parks it manages. Hartsholme Country Park and Boultham Park have been successful in securing Green Flag status for several years and site management plans are in place which identify priorities for maintaining future quality standards and capacity. A management plan identifying key priorities is also in place for the Wolds AONB.
- 2.17 Provision is generally supply led, but opportunities for improvement through better access or enhancement of facilities are being identified and developed on an ongoing basis including;
- Witham Valley cp area initiative has identified opportunities to target and improve recreation and nature conservation both at strategic and local levels. An area action plan is in place.

- A new Bomber Command Memorial Park is being developed to the South East of the City adjacent to the proposed South East Sustainable Urban Extension where the extent of proposed development will consider new open space provision in the Master planning process.
- The opportunity for new or extended open space provision on the proposed Western Growth Corridor Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) to provide a strategic link in the Green Wedge network is being considered within Masterplan development.
- Investment in the Show Ground is proposed as part of the Agri environment Enterprise Area designation and a Masterplan proposed.
- Improved public access to existing private estates within Central Lincolnshire, particularly those with registered listing as an historic Park and Garden or Building such as the Reisholme Hall, Rauceby Hall, Culverthorpe Hall Coleby Hall Registered Historic Park and Garden are opportunities to be realised in the future.
- After use and Restoration of Mineral extraction sites have historically yielded opportunities for new and improved provision e.g. Whisby Nature Park.

Summary: Strategic Parks and Gardens

There is currently no evidence that there are any gaps in quantity or accessibility of parkland provision at a strategic level within Central Lincolnshire. The main issue is maintaining the quality of the sites and securing ongoing investment for improvement and development. Some sites are privately owned and run on a commercial basis.

Given the size and investment requirement for this type of provision it is only on larger major development sites that new provision will come forward through new housing development. Opportunities for access and facility improvements are however likely to present themselves during the Local Plan period which will enhance the current level of provision.

Where such opportunities do present themselves accessibility standards of a 15 minute drive and quality standards as recommended by Green Flag should be considered.

Generally other than where a contribution in response to an identified local or neighbourhood need, general developer contributions for this type of provision will be limited to large size developments where value from Section 106 the pooling restrictions can be maximised or through the use of CIL where opportunity and priority presents itself.

Investment secured outside the Planning system will also be important in supporting development of this type of provision

Infrastructure requirements and opportunities should be regularly reviewed and considered within the ongoing Central Lincolnshire Infrastructure Delivery Planning. Information on the quality of individual sites has also been collected via user surveys and should be regularly reviewed.

Strategic Natural and Semi Natural Areas

- 2.18 Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace standards as outlined above recommends that communities should have access to a 500Ha Natural Greenspace site within 10 KM, a 100ha site within 5 Km, as well as 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population.
- 2.19 Table 5 summarises the strategic natural and semi natural areas by District identified to date.

Table 5 Strategic Natural and Semi Natural Areas

	Assets	Potential Opportunities
West Lindsey District	Brockelsby Estate Willingham woods Chambers Farm Nature Reserve Lime woods Fiskerton Fen Nature reserve Laughton woods/Scotton Common Lincolnshire Wolds AONB area Viking Way footpath Sustrans Regional Route 64 Sustrans national Route 1 Limewoods walking network Lincolnshire Wolds AONB	Risholme Hall and Parkland Sustrans identified Local Route Gainsborough to Scotter Gainsborough SUE sites Heathland, woodland, wetland, calcareous grassland habitat improvement opportunities identified through the CL Biodiversity opportunity Mapping (BOM) Wolds AONB Management Plan have identified opportunities for improvement and development
North Kesteven District	Whisby Nature Park Doddington Park (charged access) Staverton Woods	Bomber Command Memorial Park Witham Valley cp area Heathland, woodland, wetland, calcareous grassland habitat improvement opportunities identified through the CL Biodiversity opportunity Mapping (BOM) Lincoln Sustainable Urban Extensions
City of Lincoln District	Hartsholme Country Park and Swanholme Nature Reserve Boultham park Hospital Plantation woodland City Commons	New parkland/facilities developed as part of Western Growth Corridor SUE Masterplan Witham Valley cp area Heathland, woodland, wetland, calcareous grassland habitat improvement opportunities identified through the CL Biodiversity opportunity Mapping (BOM) Western Growth Corridor Sustainable Urban Extension Swanholme Lakes Management Plan have identified priorities for site improvement and development

- 2.20 With regard to sites over 500 ha accessible provision within or adjacent to Central Lincolnshire include large woodlands such as Willingham Woods and Limewoods in West Lindsey. The Wolds AONB extends over 500 ha and is accessible within Natural England's recommended standard from the eastern parts of Central Lincolnshire. Some of the privately owned Parkland estates such as Brocklesby in West Lindsey and Doddington Hall estate in North Kesteven also have extensive areas of woodland and natural grassland much of which is accessible via the public rights of way network.
- 2.21 Sites and areas over 500 ha size accessible from within Central Lincolnshire are as shown on figure 2.
- 2.22 Natural and semi natural sites over 100ha include Whisby Nature Park, Hartsholme Country Park and the Lincoln Commons as well as woodland sites such as Skellingthorpe, Staverton and Hospital Plantation. The extent and accessibility within 5 Km is shown on figure 3. Accessibility is generally in compliance with the Natural England's recommended standard for the main urban areas within Central Lincolnshire. Accessibility within more rural locations is not viewed as being an issue given the rural nature of these areas and the levels of accessibility enabled by the Public Rights of Way Network. Access improvements could however be improved through consideration of improving these and other strategic routes i.e. cycleway improvements.

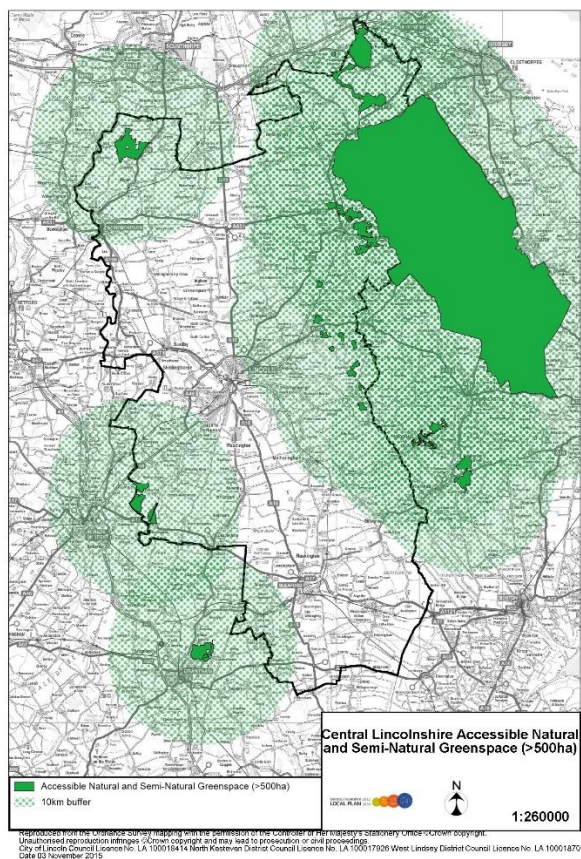


Figure 2

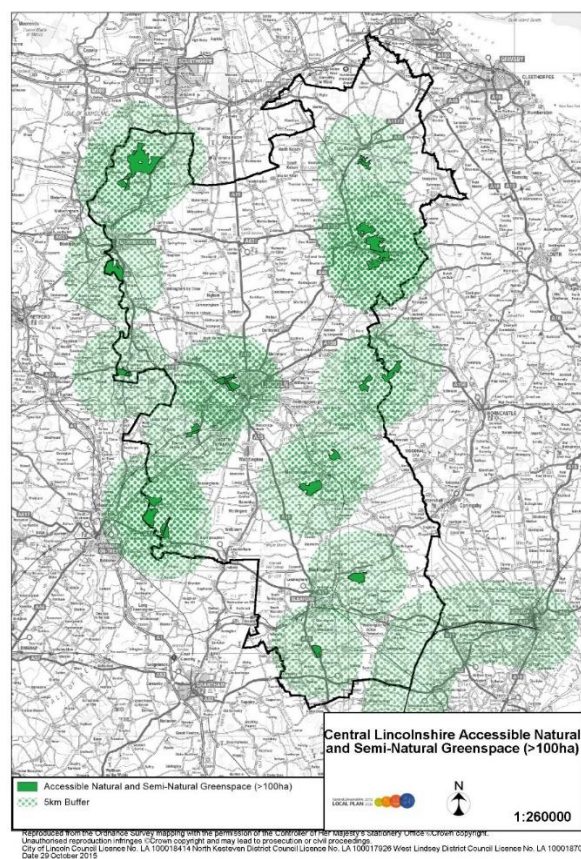


Figure 3

2.23 Designated Local Nature Reserves in central Lincolnshire are;

The Pingle, Coningsby
Cross O'Cliff Orchard, Lincoln
Mareham Pastures, Sleaford
Lollycocks, Sleaford
Swanholme Lakes, Lincoln
Whisby Nature Park, Lincoln
Theaker Avenue, Gainsborough
Owlet, Blyton

2.24 The Central Lincolnshire Green infrastructure Study has identified that while the area and percentage cover of statutory SSSI and Nature Reserve sites is significantly lower than that for the East midlands, cover from non-statutory sites i.e. Local Wildlife Sites and Sites of nature Conservation Interest are above that for east Midlands and the rest of Lincolnshire as summarized in table 6. In total there are 8299 has (3.9% coverage) of local designated sites within Central Lincolnshire.

Table 6 Designated Nature Conservation Sites in Central Lincolnshire and the East Midlands				
	Non statutory sites	% cover non statutory sites	SSSIs	% cover SSSIs
City of Lincoln	625 ha	17.5%	101 ha	2.8%
North Kesteven	2979 ha	3.2 %	147 ha	0.2%
West Lindsey	4695 ha	4.1%	771 ha	0.7%
Central Lincolnshire	8299 ha	3.9%	1019 ha	0.5%
East Midlands		3.07%		4.17%

- 2.25 While Central Lincolnshire does not comply with Natural England's proposed Local Nature Reserve Standard of 1 per 1000, the significantly higher amounts of non-statutory sites are indicative that provision is not substandard.
- 2.26 With regard to quality the Local Wildlife Sites are identified for designation through the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP) against locally agreed criteria and monitored and reported annually for compliance with NPI 160 in respect of site management status.
- 2.27 The GLNP are currently working on developing guidance on how to better integrate the natural environment into new developments. Such design criteria would support a standard approach for Central Lincolnshire.
- 2.28 Strategic opportunity areas for Biodiversity enhancement have been identified and mapped in the Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping study 2013 available to view at <http://www.glnp.org.uk/lincolnshire-landscapes/central-lincolnshire-biodiversity-opportunity-mapping.php>

Summary: Strategic Natural and semi-natural green space

There is currently no evidence that there are any gaps in quantity or accessibility of Natural and semi natural provision at a strategic level when compared to Natural England's Angst standard for the main urban areas within Central Lincolnshire. The main issue is maintaining the quality of the sites and securing ongoing investment for improvement and development.

It is unlikely that new provision over 100 Has will come forward through new housing development. Opportunities for access and facility improvements to existing provision will be opportunity led. Such opportunities have been identified in the Central Lincolnshire Gi study and Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity opportunity Study.

Gaps in accessibility are mainly restricted to rural villages and such should be considered within the context of strategic route improvements i.e. Strategic Cycle route provision, PROW and the green corridor network. .

Quality assessment is currently limited to annual reporting on management status by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership.

Quality improvement is the main opportunity for improving provision. Site Management Plans should be referenced where available and consideration given to opportunities to develop quality assessment criteria with Partners such as the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Partnership, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust.

Sites such as Whisby have good quality on site play and café facilities and have a function similar to strategic parks. There are opportunities for other sites to be developed to extend the provision and improve the destination offer to residents and visitors to the area.

Infrastructure requirements and opportunities should be regularly reviewed and considered within the ongoing Central Lincolnshire Infrastructure Delivery Planning. Information on the quality of individual sites has also been collected via user surveys and should be regularly reviewed.

Strategic Green Corridors

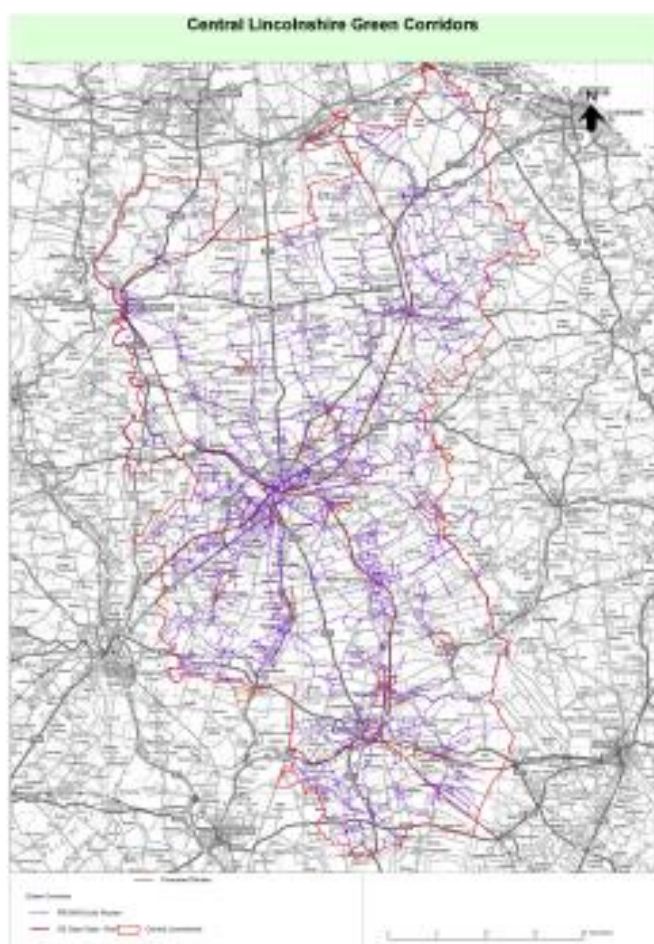
2.29 There are no current national standards in respect of green corridors.

Table 7 Central Lincolnshire Strategic Green Corridors		
	Assets	Potential Opportunities
West Lindsey District	Viking Way footpath Sustrans Regional Route 64 Sustrans national Route 1 Limewoods walking network Public Rights of Way network Waterway Corridors; River Trent; Fosdyke Canal; River Witham; River Ancholme	Waterway corridor opportunities as identified in projects such as the On Trent initiative http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/living-landscape/schemes/ontrent-initiative and Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership (LWP) Lincolnshire Countryside access and Public Rights of Way improvement plans
North Kesteven District	Viking Way Sustrans Regional Route 64 Sustrans national Route 1 Sustrans Regional Route 93 Waterway Corridors; River Witham; River Slea	Lincolnshire Countryside access and Public Rights of Way improvement plans Waterway corridor opportunities
City of Lincoln District	Viking Way footpath Sustrans Regional Route 64 Sustrans national Route 1 Public Rights of Way network Waterway Corridors; Fosdyke Canal; River Witham;	Lincolnshire Countryside access and Public Rights of Way improvement plans Waterway corridor opportunities

2.30 Central Lincolnshire's Green corridor network is summarised in table 7 and as shown in figure 4. The Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Study 2011 identified and described important green corridors which include;

- One national and a two of regional cycle routes as identified by Sustrans Routes 1 64 and 93. In addition there are several local cycle routes of strategic recreational value including the Riverside path in Lincoln and the Gainsborough to Scotter route. Many of the quiet roads also provide opportunities for extending the cycle network provision.
- As a rural area Central Lincolnshire also has an extensive network of Public Rights of Way. Objectives and opportunities in respect of this network are set out in more detail in the Lincolnshire Countryside Access and Rights of Way improvement Plan 2012. The current priorities with regard to improvement and enhancement have been identified by Lincolnshire County Council and Local Access Forums. The network is important both strategically and locally. Strategically they provide a recreational footpath and bridleway network for visitors to access and explore the rural countryside of Central. The routes have been prioritised and are quality assessed by Lincolnshire County Council on a sample basis twice a year and monitored through the Rights of Way Forums.
- Rivers and Waterways; The River Witham, and Main drainage system are important strategic environmental corridors within Central Lincolnshire, providing opportunities for recreation both on and alongside the water.

Figure 4 Strategic Green Corridor network



- 2.31 The concept of 'green wedges' as strategic green corridors is outlined in the Submission draft Local Plan. A principal function includes to protect access between urban areas to open Countryside in the interest of landscape, recreation and biodiversity protection.
- 2.32 Sport England have recognised increasing trends nationally in the demand for cycling and walking recreational activity, particularly high in the over 45 age range -the forecasted demographic trends in central Lincolnshire. The opportunities of an accessible countryside in respect of improving the tourism offer is also currently being explored by the Greater Lincolnshire Local Economic Partnership.
- 2.33 While no provision standards are proposed for Central Lincolnshire with regard to Strategic Green corridors any opportunity for the expansion or improvement of the network of strategic routes should be considered within all new development, especially around the rural villages where access to strategic parkland and natural semi natural provision is below Angst standard.

Summary: Strategic Green Corridor Provision:

Central Lincolnshire has a strategic green corridor network which provide for the needs of both residents and visitors across Central Lincolnshire. Provision is evenly distributed across the three Districts.

There are opportunities for further development and improvement of the network as outlined in the Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure study and Lincolnshire Countryside and Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The expansion or improvement of the network of strategic routes should be considered within all new development, especially around the rural villages where access to strategic parkland and natural semi natural provision is below Angst standard

Infrastructure requirements and opportunity priorities should be regular reviewed and fed into the Central Lincolnshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Strategic Sports pitch Provision

- 2.34 The Fields in Trust recommend a standard of 1.6 ha/1000 for outdoor sport within 1200 or a 15 minute walk of where people live of which 1.2 ha/1000 should be for playing pitch sports. The Strategic Playing Pitch provision needs for Central Lincolnshire has been considered in detail in the Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Needs assessment 2013 undertaken by Neil Allen Consultants, available to view on the Central Lincolnshire website. This identified that there was enough quantity of provision within Central Lincolnshire to 2022 providing improvements to access and quality of existing sites could be made. Post 2022 the need for new provision was identified.
- 2.35 A Central Lincolnshire Indoor and Built Sports facilities study was also undertaken by Neil Allen Consultants in 2013 which reviewed the suitability of the 3 strategic Leisure centres at Gainsborough, and Lincoln in meeting the growing leisure needs of Central Lincolnshire. Provision was found to be adequate for the next 5 years (to 2022) and 4 options were identified for consideration in the development of a future strategy for maintaining a quality level of provision. This work is ongoing and by fact that all sites have associated extensive sports pitch provision including Artificial Grass Pitches and athletics tracks the outcome could represent a potential step change opportunity for the quantity and quality of outside sport provision including playing field pitches within Central Lincolnshire during the Local Plan period. For the purposes of this audit however existing provision as identified through eh Playing Pitch needs assessment has been used.
- 2.35 The quantity of provision across Central Lincolnshire is summarised in table 9.

Table 8 Strategic Playing pitch sites

	Assets	Potential Opportunities
West Lindsey District	Playing field sites as identified in the CL Playing Pitch Study 2013 including; West Lindsey Leisure centre Caistor Sports hall De Aston Sports Centre	As identified in the CL Playing Pitch needs assessment 2013

	The Roses Sports Grounds Marshall's Sport Ground Richmond Park Market Rasen and Louth Rugby Club (Wellingham Rd) Lincoln Rugby Club Nettleham	
North Kesteven District	Playing Pitch Study 2013 including; North Hykeham Leisure Centre Sleaford Rugby Club NG34 8SP Activities Away Thorpe Lane (charged access) Sleaford Leisure Centre Northgate Sports Hall	As identified in the CL Playing Pitch needs assessment 2013
City of Lincoln District	Playing Pitch Study 2013 including; Yarborough Leisure Centre Lincoln FC Football Club University facilities Ruston Sports Ground Lindum Sports Ground Boultham Park Bowling Club Eastgate Tennis Club Hartsholme Cricket Club West Common golf course Ravendale Sports Ground	As identified in the CL Playing Pitch needs assessment 2013

Table 9 Quantity of Outdoor sports pitch provision in Central Lincolnshire				
	Total No. of sites	Area in Ha	Site area range Ha.	Ha/1000 pop
Central Lincolnshire	100	324	0.18 - 12.7	1.12
West Lindsey	39	109.14	0.18- 12.745	1.22
North Kesteven	42	134.63	0.30 - 12.509	1.25
CoL	19	80.26	0.67 - 10.129	0.86

2.36 The draft CL Playing Pitch assessment 2013 undertook a detailed assessment of Playing pitch need across Central Lincolnshire and should be referenced for further detail. In summary the study identified the following key priorities by District;

Lincoln

2.37 Quantity

- Retain all existing facilities particularly Yarborough sand based surface for Hockey; and Cricket and Bowling Greens at Boultham Park;
- New provision to be considered to meet shortfalls identified post 2022;
Generally new AGP to the west of Lincoln possibly at Birchwood or Secondary School sites;
- 3 adult football pitches;
- 3 junior pitches;
- 1 additional cricket pitch and possibly an indoor Cricket training facility;
- 1 additional bowling green facility.
- Due to land take requirements other than the Artificial Grass Pitches the Sustainable Urban Extension sites are the only likely opportunity for provision.

2.38 Access

- Negotiate improved access to underused school provision e.g. Cricket facility at Christ Hospital
- All existing sites are within an acceptable travel distance to meet users' needs

2.39 Quality improvements;

- Undertake quality enhancements of existing sites;
- West Common cricket/tennis changing room facilities;
- Tennis covers at Eastgate Tennis club;
- Boultham Park tennis court floodlighting;
- King George Pitch reinstatement;
- I improved changing facilities at Skellingthorpe Road football pitches.

North Kesteven

2.40 Quantity

- Retain all existing facilities particularly Hockey pitch at RAF Cranwell
- New provision to be considered to meet shortfalls identified post 2022;
- Cricket North Kesteven High School 1 pitch
- At Sleaford 2 adult Pitches, 8 Junior pitches

2.41 Access

- Negotiate improved access to underused facilities at Mod sites and schools;
- Hockey at RAF Digby school provision e.g.
- Rugby provision at North Kesteven School
- All existing sites are within an acceptable travel distance to meet users' needs

2.42 Quality improvements;

- Undertake quality enhancements of existing sites;
- Rugby North Kesteven School
- Cricket Robert Patterson Academy, Welbourn School and Sleaford Ruskington
- Improve the quality of cricket grounds at Washingborough CC Sleaford CC Bracebridge Heath CC Branston CC, Heckington CC, Sleaford, CC North Scarle cc Nocton CC Bassingham CC Aswarby CC
- Improve Bowling facilities at Cranwell bowls Heighton Chapel Hill Bowls Club, Cranwell Bowl's club
- Improve tennis provision at Sleaford TC, Branston TC, Heckinton TC, and Riskington TC
- Football ground improvements were recommended for prioritisation at; Hykeam Memorial Playing Fields; Carres Grammar School; Heckinton Sports Ground; Spring Land Playing Fields Leasingham; Metherringham Playing Fields; north Kesteven Sports Centre; Eslafor Park; Bassingham memorial Playing Fields and Billingham Village Hall Playing Fields

West Lindsey

2.42 Quantity

All existing facilities particularly

- New provision to be considered to meet shortfalls identified post 2022;
- 1 Bowling Green at Gainsborough
- 4 New Junior football pitches
- Gainsborough SUE 3 football adult pitches 3 junior pitches 3 mini pitches
- New 3G pitch at Gainsborough

2.43 Access

- Negotiate improved access to underused school provision e.g. Secure more use for football at Cherry Willingham school
- All existing sites are within an acceptable travel distance to meet users' needs

2.44 Quality improvements;

- Undertake quality enhancements of existing sites;
- Rugby clubs ; Market Rasen, Louth, Gainsborough;
- Tennis Castro, Tealby. Saxilby; Cricket Cherry Willingham Nettleham Roses, Middle Rasen, South Kelsey, Caistor, Cuxwold, Bardney, Aisthorpe Market Rasen, Brocklesby, Scothern.
- Football; Cherry Willingham, Bardney, Muldsanne Park, Saxilby, Hickman Bacon, Roses, Blyton Marton, Newton and Welton.

2.45 The new provision need identified in draft Pitch study 2013 for Central Lincolnshire is summarised in table 10. The distribution of sites is shown in figure 6.

2.46 The objectively assessed pitch need requirements show that the 324 ha of existing provision in Central Lincolnshire has the capacity to meet projected future need to 2022 subject to the relevant quality and accessibility improvements. Additional provision of approximately 36.15 ha is estimated to meet forecasted need to 2036. The total required target standard to be achieved by 2036 is therefore a total of 360.15 ha which equates to a provision standard target at projected 2036 population figures (346,904) of 1.04ha/1000. Allowing an additional 10 % for negotiated new access improvements to existing underused sites, gives a provision target of 1.14 ha/1000 for Central Lincolnshire. This figure is similar to the Fields in Trust recommended of 1.2 ha/1000 standard for pitch sport provision and is proposed for adoption as the quantity standard within Central Lincolnshire.

Table 10 Playing field provision requirements summary					
Central Lincolnshire	Existing provision ha	Need requirements to be met through access improvements to existing underused sites	New provision need requirements	Pitch size Need required	Additional quantity requirements to 2036 ha
adult football *pitches			8	1.21ha	9.68
Junior pitches **			21	0.33ha	6.93
Cricket pitch ***		12	1	1.29 ha	16.77
Rugby pitch		1	-	0.61	0.61
Hockey pitch		1	-	0.64 ha	0.64
Bowling Green			2	0.12 ha	0.24
General need AGP ***			2	0.64 ha	1.28
	324				36.15
<p>*Ref Sport England Comparative Size and sports pitch and courts doc http://www.sportengland.org/media/30561/Comparative-Sizes-Checklist-A-2011.pdf minimum standards and budget costs for the Protecting Playing Fields Programme documents</p> <p>** Junior u 13</p> <p>*** Minimum adult standard</p> <p>*** based on Sport England minimum size for outdoor Hockey pitch</p>					

2.47 The Playing Pitch needs assessment identified that most people regularly access pitches within a 20 minute drive. Figure 5 shows the mapped Playing pitch sites with a 15 Km (15-20 minute drive) buffer plotted. The Plan shows that access at this standard is good across Central Lincolnshire. A pedestrian standard is more applicable to urban areas where the study identified that car ownership in Lincoln is particularly low compared to the other two Districts and that most venue users arrived by walking. Both North Kesteven and West Lindsey have car ownership percentages well below the County and Regions averages. An access standard of a 15-20 minute drive or 15 minute walk is therefore proposed as a reasonable accessibility standard for strategic sports provision across Central Lincolnshire.

- 2.48 The quality standards used in the Central Lincolnshire Pitch study were those of the relevant sport England governing body, and these are proposed as the benchmark standards to be used across Central Lincolnshire.

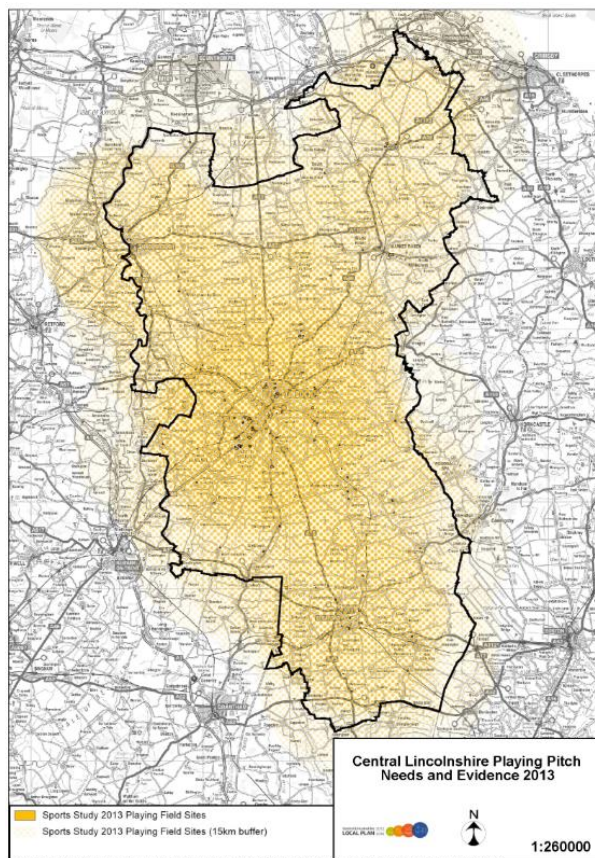


Figure 5 Strategic sports pitches with 15Km buffer

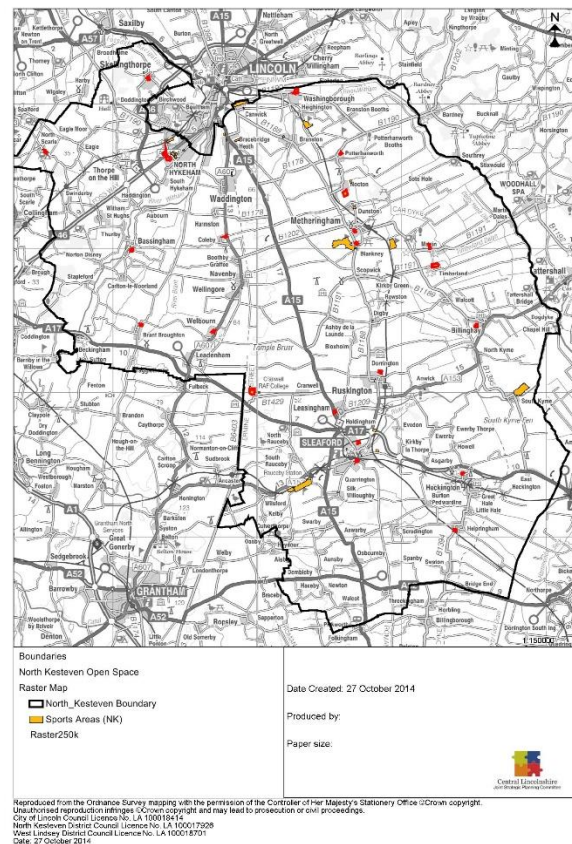


Figure 6 Strategic sports pitch provision

Review Summary: Strategic Formal Sports pitch Provision

From the detailed Playing Pitch Need Assessment 2013 undertaken by Neil Allen Consultants a provision standard of 1.1 ha /1000 has been identified for Central Lincolnshire.

Most of Central Lincolnshire Residents can access one of these sites within 20, minute drive or a 15 minute walk within urban areas and this is the proposed access standard for Central Lincolnshire.

Opportunities to improve access to provision will be opportunity led and include Strategic Cycle and footpath route improvement.

Quality improvements were identified in the 2013 study with reference to Sport England Governing body criteria. These criteria are proposed as bench mark standards for any new development within Central Lincolnshire.

Infrastructure requirements and opportunity priorities should be regularly reviewed and fed into the Central Lincolnshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan

SECTION 2

Local and neighbourhood level open space provision

- 2.1 The usable open space at the Neighbourhood and local level is very much focussed on sites within walking distance of where people live. Usable neighbourhood or local open space will also include Strategic sites where these are within short walkable distances. Whether a space is 'publicly usable' depends on two factors: the type of space and the size of space – is it big enough to be usable?
- 2.2 International research into the impacts of greenspace on health and on wider quality of life shows that having greenspace within a 5 minute walk of home is a strong indicator for health and quality of life benefits².
- 2.3 With regard to site size different typologies will have different minimum size standard requirements as identified in the individual typology reviews below. As a minimum, with respect to local/neighbourhood level local space, 0.2 hectares is viewed as big enough for a 'kick about' pitch or other informal play. This is the minimum site size that has been included in the Central Lincolnshire audit of sites
- 2.4 Open space at the local level is primarily aimed at meeting the needs for; informal play (kick about areas, cycle play); Formal play; Informal recreation (dog walking, cycling); Food growing and burial. These uses are met through the following typology provision; Parks and Gardens; Amenity Space; Play areas; Allotments and Cemeteries.
- 2.5 The multi-functionality of these spaces is a key aspect to their successful use and quality, and is recognised within the Green Flag quality standard criteria. In addition to recreational use the value of these sites in supporting wider environmental objectives such as habitat creation and climatic adaptation/mitigation is documented and supported locally by Environmental partner organisations.
- 2.6 An assessment of local level provision has been undertaken across sample settlements as outlined in paragraphs 1.32 to 1.34 of this report.
- 2.7 Generally a flexible approach to the amount and type of open space to be provided in new development is advocated based on accessibility and quality deficiencies to existing provision. The type and quantity of provision to be provided will depend on local area/settlement based assessments of existing levels of provision and accessibility.

Quantity standard for Neighbourhood/local provision within Central Lincolnshire

- 2.9 Tables 11 and 12 summarise the amount of open space provision excluding the green corridors by settlement sample. The table shows that across all typologies (column A) the amount of provision varies greatly across the settlements with a range of between 7.44-43.29ha /1000 population in urban settlements and 1.99-101.95 ha/1000 population in rural settlements.

² See <http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/SharedFiles/Download.aspx?pageid=133&mid=129&fileid=95> for further information on greenspace and quality of life research

Table 11
CL Urban Settlement Useable Open Space audit

Settlement	District	Population	Pop/1000	A Ha /1000 pop	B Ha /1000 pop	C Ha /1000 pop	D Ha /1000 pop	E Ha/1000 pop
Lincoln urban Area	Lincoln and North Kesteven	93484	93.484	23.16	4.12	2.27	1.87	0.08
Sleaford	North Kesteven	15600	15.6	7.44	2.97	2.05	1.55	0.04
Gainsborough	West Lindsey	18500	18.5	43.29	4.28	3.32	2.31	0.07
Range				7.44 – 43.29	2.97 - 4.28	2.05 – 3.32	1.55 – 2.31	0.04 - 0.08
Average				24.63	3.79	2.55	2.41	0.06
Medium				23.16	4.12	2.27	1.87	0.07
<p><i>Column A</i> All types of local/neighbour types of usable open space i.e. Parks and gardens, Amenity space, formal play, playing fields, accessible natural greenspace, allotments, and civic space; <i>Column B</i> As A above but minus the accessible natural greenspace typology; <i>Column C</i> As B above but minus the playing field typology; <i>Column D</i> As C but minus allotments and civic space. <i>Column E</i> Formal Play space only</p>								

Table 12
Sample villages Useable Open Space Audit

Settlement	District	Population	Pop/1000	A Ha /1000 pop	B Ha /1000 pop	C Ha /1000 pop	D Ha /1000 pop	E Ha/1000 pop
Branston	North Kesteven	3824	3.824	20.29	12.62	10.87	10.87	0.02
Heighington	North Kesteven	2855	2.855	11.31	8.30	0.44	0.44	0.06
Skellingthorpe	North Kesteven	3457	3.457	57.84	2.46	1.50	1.50	0.07
Waddington (Village)	North Kesteven	3000	3	5.88	4.44	3.56	3.56	0.17
Washingborough	North Kesteven	3381	3.381	35.73	8.57	6.76	6.76	0.11
Witham St Hughs	North Kesteven	2256	2.256	5.74	4.27	3.58	3.58	0.02
Cherry Willingham	West Lindsey	3399	3.399	3.15	3.13	0.40	0.34	0.05
Dunholme	West Lindsey	1908	1.908	2.73	1.36	0.57	0.55	0.15
Nettleham	West Lindsey	3433	3.433	15.25	12.83	11.40	11.40	0.08
Saxilby	West Lindsey	3905	3.905	3.43	1.40	0.45	0.45	0.02
Welton	West Lindsey	4319	4.319	13.94	13.34	0.28	0.28	0.09
Bardney	West Lindsey	1613	1.613	25.03	2.49	0.06	0.06	0.06
Billingham	North Kesteven	2176	2.176	5.57	2.03	0.11	0.11	0.11
Caistor	West Lindsey	2666	2.666	5.52	5.16	0.54	0.54	0.17
Heckington	North Kesteven	3163	3.163	2.83	1.21	0.58	0.25	0.01
Keelby	West Lindsey	2003	2.003	10.99	10.84	4.85	4.85	0.04
Market Rasen	West Lindsey	4296	4.296	70.93	5.37	2.18	1.92	0.29
Metheringham	North Kesteven	3584	3.584	101.95	21.37	1.89	1.78	0.07
Middle Rasen	West Lindsey	1480	1.48	1.99	1.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
Navenby	North Kesteven	2146	2.146	6.97	3.19	1.84	1.47	0.89
Ruskington	North Kesteven	5601	5.601	2.24	2.07	1.67	1.55	0.04
Total /1000 pop		64465	64.465					
Range				1.00 – 101.95	1.16 – 21.37	0.0 – 11.40	0.0 – 11.40	0.0 - 0.89
Average				19.5	6.05	2.56	2.49	0.12
Median				6.97	4.27	1.47	1.47	0.07
<p><i>Column A</i> All types of local/neighbour types of usable open space i.e. Parks and gardens, Amenity space, formal play, playing fields, accessible natural greenspace, allotments, and civic space; <i>Column B</i> As A above but minus the accessible natural greenspace typology; <i>Column C</i> As B above but minus the playing field typology; <i>Column D</i> As C but minus allotments and civic space. <i>Column E</i> Formal Play space only</p>								

- 2.10 Quite significant amounts of the open space are made up of accessible natural and semi natural green space as indicated by the sometimes quite significant reductions when this typology is omitted from the count (difference between column A and B)
- 2.11 National standards applicable to Column B open space typologies included the Fields in Trust standards for formal playing fields (1.6ha/1000 pop), formal and informal play provision (0.8 ha/1000 pop), plus allotment association standard of (0.5 ha/1000 pop). These standards cumulatively equates to 2.9ha/1000 pop. The tables' shows that for the settlement sample the average and median scores within the sample settlements are generally higher than the FIT standard at an average of 3.79 ha/1000 pop for urban areas and 6.05 ha/1000 pop across the rural settlements.
- 2.12 Column C shows the quantity of amenity, formal play, allotment and civic space provision. For the urban settlements particularly Lincoln the difference between the column C and D where allotments provision has been deducted indicates that allotments make up a significant proportion of local provision. Within Rural areas the difference between column C and D is negligible.
- 2.13 Column D shows the amount of current levels of cumulative provision for parks and gardens, amenity and formal play typologies. The medium is 1.87ha/1000 pop for urban areas and 1.5ha/1000 pop for rural areas.
- 2.14 This typology grouping (column D) is viewed as the best indicator of existing levels of local formal and informal play and recreational space across the settlement sample. These typologies alongside the playing field provision should also be able to accommodate the need for local natural areas to Natural England's standard of 2 ha of Accessible Natural Green space within a 5 minute walk.
- 2.15 **It is therefore proposed that a bench mark quantity standard of 1.8ha of Local Usable Greenspace per 1000 pop for urban areas and 1.5ha of Local Usable Greenspace 1000 pop for rural area be set to inform open space provision requirements from new development in Central Lincolnshire.**
- 2.16 Column E the quantities of formal play provision across the sample, which for both urban and rural settlements shows a medium score of .07ha/1000. This is much lower than the Field in Trust standard determine provision of 0.2 ha/1000 for formal play space but may well be an indication of not having 'counted' adjacent areas of parkland, amenity and playing field space as part of the formal play area space when auditing. Further review of the audit process is needed. In designing for play access to and the quality of the provision is viewed as of equal if not more importance than quantity. As such it is proposed that the FIT access and quality standards be used in association with local need assessments to determine the proportion of the required Local Useable Greenspace provision required in new development that should be considered for formal play provision.

Accessibility of neighbourhood/local provision

- 2.17 As outlined above, the variance in provision across the settlements is high within central Lincolnshire. At the local level. Accessibility to provision and the ability for it to be fit for purpose is a better measure for identifying deficiencies in need than quantity. Standards of access and quality have been reviewed in this assessment by typology with reference to national standards, local evidence where such exists and through mapping existing patterns of access by settlement type. Having GIS audited all open sites by typology, accessibility levels and patterns have been mapped using offsets which represent the equivalent walking times as table 3. Areas outside the offsets are clearly not within the proposed accessibility standards and may be an indication of need deficiencies.
- 2.18 Examples of mapped open space and accessibility buffers for Lincoln, Gainsborough, Sleaford Metherringham, Skellingthorpe, Welton, Dunholm and Heighington are provided in appendix F. Such plans provide a useful tool in identifying existing levels of access and any deficiencies.

Quality of neighbourhood/local provision.

- 2.19 As part of the audit the sample settlements were quality audited across the typologies using criteria based on FIT standard for play areas and Green Flag standards for other provision. The criteria and survey forms used in the assessment are provided in appendices B to D. The results are summarised by typology below.

Local Parks and Gardens and amenity areas

- 2.20 Local Parks and amenity space are considered together as they have very similar uses at this level of provision i.e. informal recreation and play spaces.

Table 13 Summary of quantity and quality audit for Local Parks and gardens across sample settlements in Central Lincolnshire						
Settlement	District	Population	Ha /1000	Quality Assessment		
				No of sites surveyed	Quality Score % range	Average Quality score %
Lincoln urban Area	Lincoln and North Kesteven	93484	1.5 ha	5	37-70%	68%
Sleaford	North Kesteven	15600	0	-----	-----	-----
Gainsborough	West Lindsey	18500	3.75 ha	8	20-82%	53.2%
Rural villages	North Kesteven and West Lindsey	3069.76 *	0.7*			-----
		3163**	0**			
		1480-5601***	0-11.3***	-----	-----	
*Mean **Median ***Range						

Table 14 Summary of quantity and quality audit for Local Amenity Space across sample settlements in Central Lincolnshire						
Settlement	District	Population	Ha /1000	Quality Assessment		
				No of sites surveyed	Quality Score % range	Average Quality score %
Lincoln urban Area	Lincoln and North Kesteven	93484	0.206	3	27-56%	41%
Sleaford	North Kesteven	15600	2.04	6	24-76%	60%
Gainsborough	West Lindsey	18500	0.2	6	13-42%	23%
Rural villages	North Kesteven and West Lindsey	3069.76 *	0.73*	17	9-87%	51%
		3163**	0.4**			
		1480-5601***	0-4.8***			
*Mean **Median ***Range						

- 2.21 Park and garden and amenity space provision at the neighbourhood/local level primarily meets the needs for; informal play (kick about areas, cycle play); Formal Play; and informal recreation (dog walking, cycling). While informal recreation and play may occur on formal playing fields, natural greenspaces and along green corridors where such is easily accessible to residential areas, most informal recreation and play space occurs primarily within the parks and gardens and amenity space typologies.
- 2.22 National standards applicable to this type of provision include Natural England's recommended standards of 2 ha of natural/semi natural space within a five minute walk and 20 ha within 2 Km; and the Fit standard of 1.6 ha/1000 pop for outdoor sport within 1200 m (15 minute walk) and 0.8 ha/1000 pop for informal play space provision within 400 m to 1000 m (5-15 minute walk).
- 2.23 Levels and patterns of park and garden and amenity provision available within local settlements are summarised in tables 13 and 14 above. While provision within the City seems to comply with the FIT recommended total standards for outdoor sport and informal play provision of 2.4ha /1000, very few

of the villages currently record having much if any park provision at all. This is probably in part due to the fact that the 'local park' function may be 'lost' within sites classed under recreation ground, play area, amenity area or natural/semi natural area provision. As such comparisons with the FIT standard in this regard is relatively inconclusive and a flexible consideration of quantity in the context of the overall 1.8 ha and 1.5 ha local useable greenspace standard as discussed above is proposed. No quantity provision standards for these typologies are currently proposed.

- 2.24 Comments arising out of some of the Neighbourhood planning process consultations suggest that open space provision is important to the residents within the villages and where multifunctional recreational grounds and play areas are present they are often associated with village Halls and are popular Hubs for the community.
- 2.25 The opportunity for amenity and parkland space to contribute to the play provision as well as biodiversity benefits and local climatic temperature regulation and water management function is recognised and will be encouraged in the design of new developments.
- 2.26 With regard to access given the multi-functional nature of this type of provision and the need to deliver facilities and uses close to where people live the recommended Angst and lowest FIT access standard of a 5 minute walk is proposed as the local amenity space and park accessibility standard.
- 2.27 As part of the audit settlement sample quality assessments have been undertaken across these typologies using criteria based on Green Flag standards as appendix B/C and the percentage scores are shown in tables 13 and 14. Quality scores are generally higher for parks and gardens than other typologies, which probable reflects the multi functionality scoring criteria of the standard used. The average standard is however still below the 69% requirement for a Green Flag award status. The sample would suggest that a quality bench mark standard of around 50% be used to compare provision across the area.

Summary: Neighbourhood/ Local Parks and Amenity Space

Quantity of provision varies greatly across the settlement sample.

A quantity standard for individual typologies is not proposed within Central Lincolnshire. Where there is a local need for local Parks and Amenity provision is identified then new development should consider incorporation of such within the required local usable greenspace standard of 1.8 ha/1000 pop for urban areas and 1.5 ha/1000 pop for rural areas. There may also be opportunities to meet local park/amenity space needs in the consideration and delivery of the Strategic Playing Field standard requirements (1.1 ha /1000 pop).

Given the need to be close to residential areas, a local accessibility standard for Park and Garden and amenity greenspace is proposed at 5 minute walk or 400m.

With regard to Quality of provision the proposed standard should aim to meet those set by Green Flag or similarly locally agreed.

A Multifunction approach to provision of this type of open space provision is recommended, taking into consideration local need and opportunities which should be assessed on a settlement or local area basis.

Formal Play provision

- 2.28 The FIT standard recommends a quantity standard of 0.25 ha/1000 pop the provision of formal equipped play space accessible within 400 to 1000 m (5- 15 minute walk) depending on the size of the play area.
- 2.29 Levels and patterns of park and garden and amenity provision available within local settlements are summarised in tables 15.

Table 15 Summary of quantity and quality audit for Formal Play Provision across sample settlements in Central Lincolnshire						
Settlement	District	Population	Ha /1000	Quality Assessment		
				No of sites surveyed	Quality Score % range	Average Quality score %
Lincoln urban Area	Lincoln and North Kesteven	93484	0.08 ha	40	9-51%	28%
Sleaford	North Kesteven	15600	0.04 ha	7	15-73%	33%
Gainsborough	West Lindsey	18500	0.07 ha	4	13-44%	30%
Rural villages	North Kesteven and West Lindsey	3069.76 *	0.1*	17	12-46%	30%
		3163**	0.07**			
		1480-5601***	0-0.89			
*Mean **Median ***Range						

- 2.30 The table shows that across the settlement samples formal Play areas quantities per 1000 population are all comparably low ranging from 0.04 to 0.08 ha/1000 pop in urban settlements and between 0-0.88ha /1000 pop in rural villages. The average/median level of existing provision in sample urban and rural areas is 0.07 ha/1000. This is significantly lower than the FIT standard of .25 ha/1000. This may in part be due to audited definition of play space areas – i.e. adjacent/associated amenity areas or kick about areas may well have been audited separately.
- 2.31 In designing for play access to and the quality of the provision is viewed as of equal if not more importance than quantity. As such it is proposed that the FIT access and quality standards be used in association with local need assessments to determine the proportion of the required Local Useable Greenspace provision required in new development that should be considered for formal play provision.
- 2.32 An assessment of the mapped level of formal play provision across the sample settlements shows that access to play areas is on average within a 5 to 15 minute walk. This level of access is reasonable and comparable with the FIT access standards to Local Equipped Area for Play areas. It is proposed that FIT access standards be adopted within Central Lincolnshire for this typology.
- 2.33 An audit of play area quality across the sample settlements has been undertaken during May/June 2015, based on Fit standard criteria as appendix D. The resulting percentage scores vary greatly but average around the 30% mark. This suggests that quality improvement is a priority issue for this type of provision across the sample sites.
- 2.34 There is an opportunity for new development to address the quality deficiencies through new provision, or improved quality and capacity of existing provision if existing accessibility standards are met.
- 2.35 It is recognised that informal natural areas, green corridors and formal playing fields can also provide valuable play space, in addition to formal paly areas particularly with regard to older children. Use of “Doorstep areas” and “Home zones” and suitable “Natural areas for play” in housing layouts will support

local play needs in addition to formal play area provision. Imaginative and innovative approaches to the design of such should be encouraged within new developments.

- 2.36 To improve quality standards any new formal play provision to be provided through new development should be in compliance with FIT standard size and design guidance as summarised in table 16;

Table 16 Fields in Trust Formal play provision : Accessibility and Design Criteria

Facility	Time	Walking Distance	Radial Distance	Minimum size	Nearest Dwelling	Features
Local Area of Play (LAP)	1min	100m	60m	100sq.m	5m from activity zone	Small, low-key games area
Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)	5min	400m	240m	400sq.m	10m from activity zone	5 types of equipment, small games area
Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)	15min	1,000m	600m	1,000sq.m	30m from activity zone	8 types of equipment, opportunities for ball games or wheeled activities

Summary: Neighbourhood/Local Equipped Play area provision

Provision has been audited under the play space for children and teenagers typology, average quantity provision across the sample settlements averages 0.07 ha/1000 which is significantly below the FIT recommended standard of 0.25 ha per 1000.

It is considered that Formal Play provision need can be satisfactorily accommodated within the proposed local useable greenspace standard of 1.8 ha/1000 pop for urban areas and 1.5 ha /1000 pop for rural areas proposed for all new developments within Central Lincolnshire, particularly where a broader approach to designing for safe play is taken in housing layout design, incorporating where possible “Doorstep areas” and “Home zones” and suitable “Natural areas for play”.

Due to the need to be close to residential area an accessibility standard to play provision is proposed at 5 to 15 minute walk or 400m to 1200m, depending on the targeted age range of identified need.

Local need and opportunity should be assessed on a settlement or local area basis where provision is required in new development the design and layout should be compliant with FIT standards and quality assessment criteria.

A Multifunction approach to the provision of this type of open space provision should be considered in all new developments.

Local Playing Fields

- 2.40 Playing field provision has been audited for quantity across the settlement sample. Site quality has been assessed against Green Flag criteria standards as appendix B/C. The results are shown in table 17.
- 2.41 Provision quantity varies significantly across the settlements from 0.93 ha/1000 pop to 19.5 ha/1000 pop. The median score for the sample villages is 1.6 ha/1000 pop which equates with the national Fit standard. Many formal playing field sites audited meet both local/neighbourhood and a wider strategic need for sport, as such the audit cannot specifically identify the current level of local/neighbourhood provision as distinct from strategic. It would seem reasonable to assume however that any local playing field quantitative need arising from new development could satisfactorily be accommodated in the required strategic Playing Field provision standard of 1.1 ha/1000 pop.
- 2.42 The need for any smaller scale formal provision tennis courts and bowling greens, which tend to have a more locally based demand or informal provision such as kick about areas, should be accommodatable within the proposed local useable greenspace quantity standard of 1.8/1000 pop in urban areas and 1.5 ha/1000 pop in rural areas.

Table 17
Summary of quantity and quality audit for Local Playing Fields across sample settlements in Central Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire						
Settlement	District	Population	Ha /1000	Quality Assessment		
				No of sites surveyed	Quality Score % range	Average Quality score %
Lincoln urban Area	Lincoln and North Kesteven	93484	1.85 ha	5	64-93%	82.2%
Sleaford	North Kesteven	15600	0.93	-----	-----	-----
Gainsborough	West Lindsey	18500	0.95	6	40-85%	64%
Rural villages	North Kesteven and West Lindsey	3069.76 *	3.69*	8	44-89%	66%
		3163**	1.6**			
		1480-5601***	0.52-19.5***			
*Mean **Median ***Range						

- 2.42 The standard of access to playing fields at the neighbourhood/local level is proposed as within a 15 minute walk (1200 M) on the basis that sites should be within a reasonable walking distance from where people live and that this is the recommended FIT access standard to Neighbourhood level play provision including ball games.
- 2.43 Site quality (not pitches) has been assessed against Green Flag criteria as outlined in appendix B/C. The resulting scores shows that site quality in this respect is generally good. This is likely to be as such sites are closely associated with parks and recreational grounds and higher levels of investment and maintenance. The multifunctional nature of such sites in supporting needs at the local level needs to highlight. With regard to the pitches themselves quality standards as those recommended by the relevant Sport England Governing Body are proposed for use across Central Lincolnshire.

Summary: Neighbourhood/Local Playing Fields provision

Provision has been audited across the sample settlement types and identified an average quantity provision of 1.2 ha/1000 pop in urban areas and a median provision quantity standard of 1.6 ha/1000 pop in the sample villages. This is slightly above the 1.1 ha/1000 pop standard proposed at the strategic level for playing pitches. However the surplus is presumed to equate to smaller scale or informal provision associated with parks, play areas and recreation grounds.

No specific neighbourhood or local quantity standard is proposed for Playing Field provision within Central Lincolnshire. It is presumed that any need arising from new development can be accommodated for in the compliance with the proposed 1.1 ha/1000 pop standard for strategic formal playing pitch provision and local useable greenspace standard of 1.8 ha/1000 pop for urban areas and 1.5 ha/1000 pop for rural areas.

An access standard of 1200 m (10 minute walk) in line with Fit NEAP facility access standard is recommended for adoption within Central Lincolnshire.

Provision quality standards should be based on the Sport England Governing body recommendations. Where provision is required in new development the design and layout should be compliant with Sport England Governing body standards and quality assessment criteria.

Local Green corridors

- 2.45 Where close to where people live access to Green corridor networks are important in meeting local informal and formal recreational needs. The Public Rights of Way network is particularly important to the local villages in this respect. Access to the PROW network and or quiet lanes can provide complimentary or alternative provision to other open space typologies. The access points to the PROW network have been audited across the sample settlements and included in the open space accessibility mapping settlement plans as shown in appendix F.
- 2.46 Objectives and opportunities in respect of this network are set out in more detail in the Lincolnshire Countryside Access and Rights of Way improvement Plan 2012. The current priorities with regard to improvement and enhancement have been identified by Lincolnshire County Council and Local Access Forums. This network is important both strategically and locally. Strategically they provide a recreational footpath and bridleway network for visitors to access and explore the rural countryside of Central. The routes have been prioritised and are quality assessed by Lincolnshire County Council on a sample basis twice a year and monitored through the Rights of Way Forums.
- 2.47 Access and quality standards in respect of local Green corridors are proposed to be as these for Neighbourhood/local natural and semi natural greenspace provision below.

Neighbourhood/Local Natural and semi natural Greenspace Provision

- 2.48 Natural and semi natural Greenspace at the local level has value for informal recreation, amenity and landscape, biodiversity and environmental services such as temperature regulation and water management.

- 2.49 At this level Natural England's accessible Natural Green space standard recommends provision of 20 ha within 2Km and 2 ha within 5 minute walk of where people live.
- 2.50 Natural and semi natural Greenspace provision in Central Lincolnshire has been audited and mapped and can be viewed by settlement on the Local Plan interactive map <http://www.central-lincs.org.uk/> . Figures 8 show the mapped distribution of the 2 ha sites respectively across Central Lincolnshire.
- 2.51 A summary of the quantity and quality audits of across the sample settlements are shown in table 18.
- 2.52 Figure 7 shows how local wildlife coverage by District compares across Lincolnshire Districts. Lincoln having a significant high percentage of ha percentage cover compared to other Districts.
- 2.53 All the above indicate that provision levels are generally good around the main urban settlements and larger villages. The quantity of provision varies significantly across the settlements and it is proposed that Natural England's standard be used as bench marks to assess localise deficiencies.

Table 18						
Summary of quantity and quality audit of accessible natural green space provision across sample settlements in Central Lincolnshire						
Settlement	District	Population	Ha /1000	Quality Assessment		
				No of sites surveyed	Quality Score % range	Average Quality score %
Lincoln urban Area	Lincoln and North Kesteven	93484	19.04	2	50-60%	55%
Sleaford	North Kesteven	15600	4.46	1	----	68%
Gainsborough	West Lindsey	18500	39.01	6	20-60%	35%
Rural villages	North Kesteven and West Lindsey	3069.76 *	15.22*	9	20-56%	29.5%
		3163**	2.05**			
		1480-5601***	0.15-80.58****			
*Mean **Median ***Range						

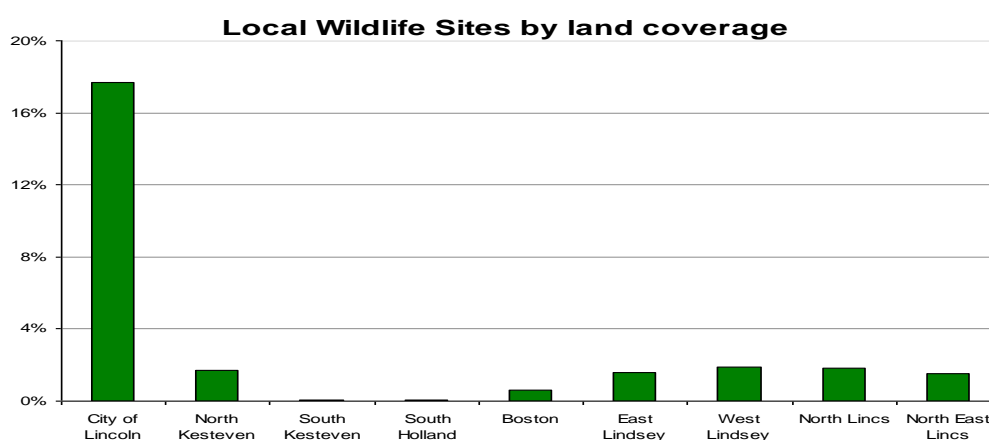


Figure 7

- 2.54 There is a significant variance in quantity of provision across the settlements of Central Lincolnshire in respect of natural and semi natural greenspace typology ranging from 0.06 ha per 1000 pop to 80 ha /1000 pop. This typology generally consists of designated SSSIs nature reserves and Local Wildlife sites and while such is indicative of the level of provision given the rural nature of Central Lincolnshire, it is not the complete picture. Quantifying the countryside is not a feasible option although clearly in respect of this typology quantity is not the priority. It is reasonable to conclude therefore that there is no value in setting a quantity provision standard for the area.
- 2.55 Given the rural character of the area and the extensive Public Right of Way network across central Lincolnshire relative high levels of natural / semi natural space access is to be expected, even within the urban areas Natural England's accessibility standard of a five minute walk or 400 m of a Natural/semi natural greenspace is a reasonable expectation.

- 2.56 An assessment of the quality of natural and semi natural areas across the settlement sample, based on Green flag criteria shows scores vary greatly and suggest that quality rather than quantity and access is the main issue for this type of provision in Central Lincolnshire.

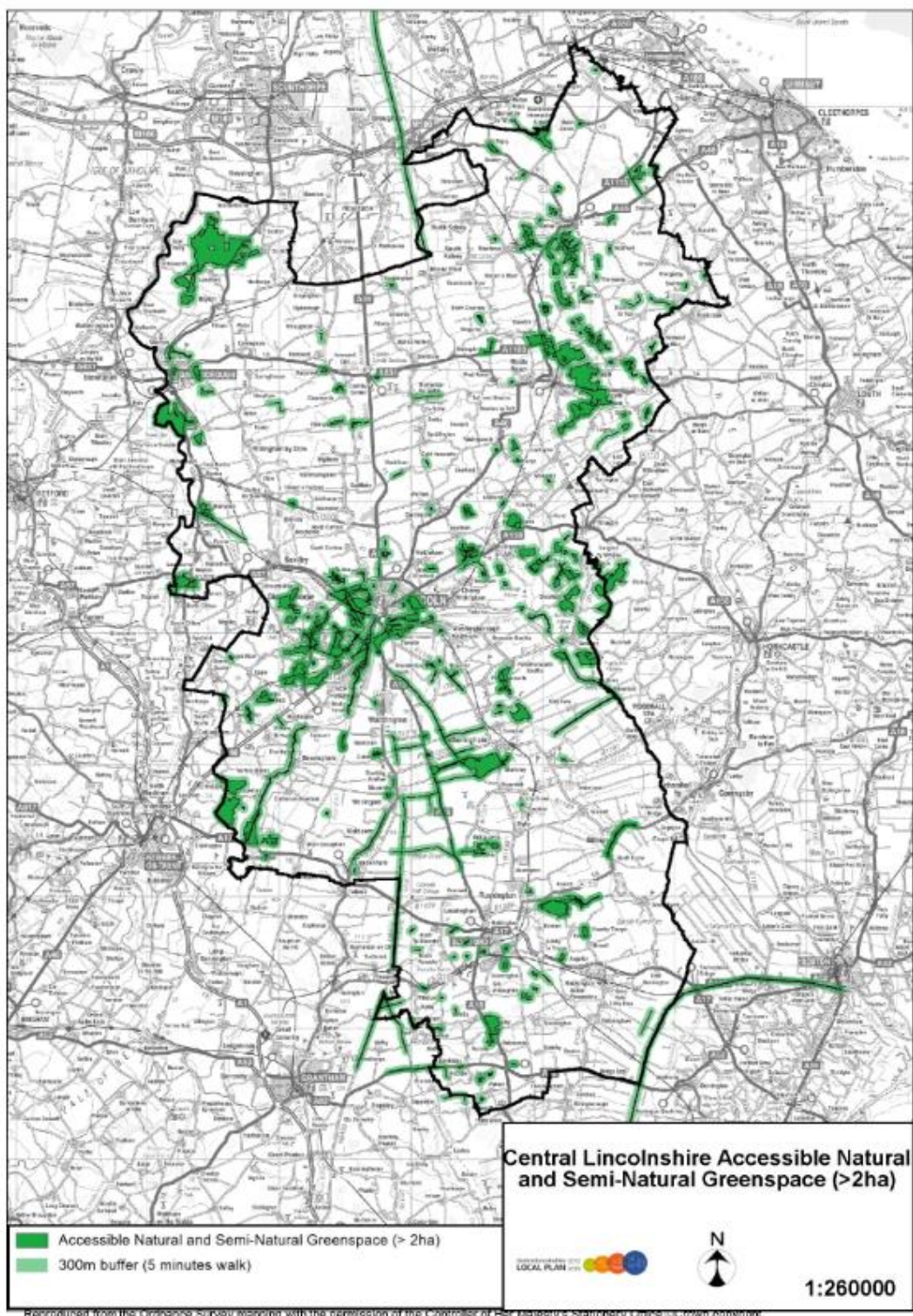


Figure 8

Summary: Neighbourhood/Local Natural and semi natural Greenspace Provision and Green corridors

Provision has been audited across the sample settlement types. Provision generally complies with Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space standard around the urban areas. While there are some gaps in the rural village areas this is not viewed as an issue due to high levels of countryside access via the PROW network and quiet lanes across Central Lincolnshire.

The importance of the Public Rights of Way in maintaining access to open Countryside around the rural villages is recognised and the protection and improvement of this network should be a key consideration in designing new housing layouts across Central Lincolnshire.

A quantity standard for natural greenspace and green corridors is not proposed within Central Lincolnshire. It is expected that all new development will need to consider natural greenspace and access corridors within the layout of new development and that compliance with the required local useable greenspace standard of 1.8 ha/1000 for urban areas and 1.5 ha /1000 for rural areas will provide opportunities for inclusion of natural areas.

With regard to accessibility it is proposed that the Angt standard of provision of 20 ha within 2 km and 2 ha within a 5 minute walk should be the standard of access to provision to be adopted and required in all new developments as a standard for Central Lincolnshire.

Where provision is required in new development the design and layout should be compliant with Green Flag quality standards and reference should be made to local information regarding biodiversity opportunities.

Allotments and Community growing Space Provision

2.57 The national Society of allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) recommend an allotment standard of 0.5ha /1000 and a minimum plot size of 250 M2.

2.58 Allotment and Community Growing space provision in Central Lincolnshire has been audited and mapped and can be viewed by settlement on the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan interactive map <http://www.central-lincs.org.uk/>

Table 19
Summary of quantity and quality audit of allotment and growing space provision across sample settlements in Central Lincolnshire

Sample settlements in Central Lincolnshire						
Settlement	District	Population	Ha /1000	Quality Assessment		
				No of sites surveyed	Quality Score % range	Average Quality score %
Lincoln urban Area	Lincoln and North Kesteven	93484	0.38	18	20-60%	40%
Sleaford	North Kesteven	15600	0.48	2	48-57%	53%
Gainsborough	West Lindsey	18500	0.98	5	27-57%	42%
Rural villages	North Kesteven and West Lindsey	3069.76 *	0.23*	3	18-65%	46%
		3163**	0.29**			
		1480-5601***	0-0.34***			
*Mean **Median ***Range						

- 2.59 An assessment of existing quantities of provision for allotments are around 0.4 ha/1000 pop for Lincoln, 0.48 ha/1000 pop for Sleaford 0.97 ha /1000 pop for Gainsborough and a range for .06ha to .25ha/1000 pop across sample rural village
- 2.60 City of Lincoln District Council undertook a comprehensive allotment assessment for the City (administrative boundary) in 2013 which concluded that the current situation is as follows:
- There are sufficient plots to satisfy the current waiting list overall. However there is a mismatch between available sites and demand for these;
 - Allotments tend to be clustered in the north of the City and towards the southeast. There are unpopular sites in the north and south, but while there is a surfeit of plots generally in the north, more plots are needed in the south, including an urgent need to address the reasons why the Simons Hill site is so unpopular;
 - There are no sites in the southwest at all and few near the northeast/eastern fringes of the City, where in both cases some of the more deprived areas are located. Ideally there should be some provision in future in these locations;
 - Suppressed demand in these areas could add a further 78 allotments to the waiting list, split evenly between the two areas. A further allowance of 20 plots should be made for suppressed demand generally, giving a total of 1145 plots. This still matches current availability, were all current lettable and unlettable plots to be brought into use - but of course these are not in the right place; and
 - This equates to 27 plots per 1,000 households.
 - Current estimated overall demand in Lincoln is far higher than the NSALG recommendations of 20 plots per 1000
 - If estimated current demand for plots was to remain constant at 27 plots per 1,000 households between 240 and 560 new plots or (9.2ha to 21.4ha) will be required by 2031, depending on levels of growth and allowing for full occupation of current sites;
 - In addition to those presently needed in the south, these will be needed in areas scheduled for growth to the west and northeast of Lincoln i.e. near areas which are currently lacking provision; and
 - Past trends suggest that the present demand might diminish once the current recession is over. However there are a number of factors - such as growing concerns about food security, climate change and demography which indicate that demand for plots might continue to grow. In light of this it is suggested that estimates could be 10% adrift in either direction and should be regularly monitored.
 - That the distance that allotment holders should be from their allotments should ideally be under 10 minutes' walk;
 - City of Lincoln's average plot size is 460M², much higher than the Allotment Association's recommendation of 250M².
 - That new allotments should be targeted to areas of deprivation;
 - That a standard of 27 plots per 1,000 households can be justified using present trends; and
- 2.61 The study also provided specification guidelines on the design quality criteria for allotments which should be referenced in developing local standards for Central Lincolnshire.
- 2.62 Using the recommended 27 plots per 1000 recommendation and presuming a NSALG standard plot size of 250M², a required provision standard of 0.68 ha is proposed as the standard required for Lincoln.
- 2.63 As recommended by the study an accessibility standard of 10 minutes is presumed to be a reasonable distance people are prepared to travel to access provision.
- 2.64 The City of Lincoln study identified quality deficiencies in some area and made recommendations for improvements. The quality assessments across the sample settlements indicate that site quality averages are within a similar range and quality standard of around 50% would seem a reasonable target to be considered.

- 2.65 Further assessment is required in settlements outside Lincoln but some initial feedback from the neighbourhood plan development process suggests there is unmet demand within some of these settlements.

Summary: Neighbourhood/Local Allotment Provision

The National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners recommend an allotment standard equating to 0.5ha/1000 and a minimum plot size of 250 M2.

The published City of Lincoln Allotment Strategy 2013 has identified a need for additional allotments within the City and recommends a standard of 27 plots /1000 or 0.68 ha/1000. The shortfalls in provision are particularly prevalent in the north east and south west of the City and as such new development in these areas should ensure that any additional need for provision arising from the development should be accommodated within the required local greenspace provision standard requirements.

Evidence of deficiencies in other settlements require further review but where a need is identified it is presumed that the general local/neighbourhood quantity standard allow sufficient flexibility to accommodate.

As recommended by the study an accessibility standard of 10 minutes is presumed to be a reasonable distance people are prepared to travel to access provision.

Civic Space/cemetery provision

- 2.66 There are no national standards for the provision of civic space or cemetery provision.
- 2.67 Civic and Cemetery space provision has been audited and mapped and can be viewed by settlement on the Local Plan interactive map <http://www.central-lincs.org.uk/>

Table 20 Summary of quantity and quality audit of civic and cemetery provision across sample settlements in Central Lincolnshire						
Settlement	District	Population	Ha /1000	Quality Assessment		
				No of sites surveyed	Quality Score % range	Average Quality score %
Lincoln urban Area	Lincoln and North Kesteven	93484	0.39	1	58%	-
Sleaford	North Kesteven	15600	0.41	0	-	-
Gainsborough	West Lindsey	18500	0.70	2	27-54%	40.5
Rural villages	North Kesteven and West Lindsey	3069.76 *	0.23* 0.29** 0-0.34***	5	60-77%	68%
		3163**				
		1480-5601***				
*Mean **Median ***Range						

- 2.68 A new cemetery has been recently completed within the City in 2014 to meet the identified shortfalls within the City. This and existing provision will meet the city's needs for burial space within the current Local Plan period
- 2.69 For other settlements, no published evidence is currently available in respect of any known provision shortfalls, although early outcomes of the neighbourhood planning processes and through general

consultations with Parishes would suggest it is known that some village cemeteries are at or very near to capacity. Any locally identified deficiencies need to be considered when undertaking individual settlement reviews.

- 2.70 No standards are proposed to be set for Civic or cemetery provision. It is proposed that need would be relatively localised in nature and should be considered within the context of other required provision standards, if a need is identified.

Summary: Neighbourhood/Local Civic Space and cemetery provision

There are no national standards for provision of civic or cemetery provision as such is demand led.

New cemetery provision has recently been completed in Lincoln which will meet local needs beyond the Plan period.

Evidence of deficiencies in other settlements require further review but where a need is identified it is presumed that the general local/neighbourhood quantity standard allow sufficient flexibility to accommodate.

Where new provision is required the quality of provision should comply with locally agreed criteria.

APPENDIX A

Open Space Typology and Data sources used in the audit

Open Space Typology	Description	Definitions	Data Sources
Parks and Gardens And Recreation Grounds	Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden. These may be owned or managed by community groups. Recreation Grounds for common events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public park and garden 	Green Infrastructure Study (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBA - OS 10k Map 2008/Google Earth EH Regular Parks and Gardens of Natural Historic Interest WL Local Plan Historic Parks and Gardens
Amenity Greenspace	Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons and used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kick about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council maintained Amenity space over .02 has with both visual amenity and functional use Village Greens 	Green Infrastructure Study (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBA- OS 10K Map 2008/Google Earth over 0.2 ha NK Local Plan Commons/Village Greens over 0.2 ha CBA – ChildrensLinks over 0.2 ha Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish or ground verification
Play space for Children and teenagers	Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for children's play, usually Linked to housing areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space identified in the City of Lincoln Play Space Strategy 	Green Infrastructure Study (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBA – WL Play Strategy CBA – NK Play Strategy CBA – ChildrensLinks CBA – 2008 County Sports Framework CBA – OS 10k Map 2008/Google Earth CBA – 2008 County Sports Framework Interim Comments Sleaford Open Spaces Website Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish or ground verification
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports (including playing fields, golf courses, tennis Courts and bowling greens) and which are generally bookable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites identified in the Central Lincolnshire Playing pitch assessment 2013 Excludes education sites etc. without community access/use Bowling Greens Golf Courses Tennis Courts 	Green Infrastructure Study (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBA – Sport England, Active Places CBA – 2008 County Sports Framework CBA – OS 10k Map 2008/Google Earth Interim Comments Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing Pitch Strategy 2013 Parish or ground verification
Green Corridors	Routes including canals, river corridors and old railway lines, linking different areas within a town or city as part of a designated and managed network and used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking towns and cities to their Surrounding countryside or country parks. These may link green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Rights Of Way <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Public Footpath Public Bridleway Restricted Byway Byway (Boat) Permissive footpaths Rivers and Drains National Regional cycle routes Local Cycle routes Promoted Routes 	Green Infrastructure Study (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Drainage Boards Promoted Routes CLJPU National Routes Viking Way CLJPU – LCC Permiss Acc Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROW- Lincolnshire County Council Cycle Routes- Lincolnshire County Council

Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Land • Lakes • LWS • AONB • Nature Reserves • Woodland • SSCI's • SSSI's 	Green Infrastructure Study (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Land- Crow Registered Common Land, NK Local Plan Commons/Village Greens Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWS • SSCI's • Ex SSCI's • Ex LWS • LWT Reserves Natural England <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNR • NNR • SSSI's • AONB Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study 2013 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Woodland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry Commission, • GLNP Bap/Habitat Dataset, • Natural England, • Woodland Trust Sites. 2) Wetland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KL Water 3) Acid Grassland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (Lincoln Area only) 4) Neutral Grassland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (Lincoln Area only) Lincoln Ecological Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only used to identify the Lincoln area. • Other habitats used from BOM in Lincoln study.
Allotments and community growing spaces	Areas of land for growing fruit, vegetables and other plants, either in individual Allotments or as a community activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments and community growing spaces as identified in the City Council Allotment Strategy 	Green Infrastructure Study (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBA - OS 10k Map 2008/Google Earth Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish or ground verification
Civic Squares	Squares, streets and waterfront promenades, predominantly of hard landscaping that provide a focus for pedestrian activity and can make Connections for people and for wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrianised areas • Civic Squares • Disused Burial Grounds • Memorial sites 	Green Infrastructure Study (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBA - OS 10k Map 2008/Google Earth • Ground verification Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish or ground verification
Cemeteries			Green Infrastructure Study (2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBA - OS 10k Map 2008/Google Earth • Interim Comments Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Lindsey website

APPENDIX B
Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit: Quality Assessment Criteria

Criteria for Quality Assessment	
Key Criteria	Sub-Criteria
Accessible and well connected	Well located close to a community
	Meets Disability Discrimination Act requirements and disabled user needs
	Provides surfaced, high quality paths
	Connects with other transport modes
	Allows movement in and between places
	Accessible entrances in the right places
	Offers connecting path network and signage
Attractive and Appealing	Attractive with a positive image
	Attractive setting for urban areas
	Quality materials, equipment and furniture
	Attractive plants and landscape elements
	Welcoming boundaries and entrance areas
	Facilities in clean, safe and usable condition
	Low levels of litter and adequate bins
	Well maintained
Biodiverse supporting ecological networks	Contribute positively to biodiversity
	Large enough to sustain wildlife populations
	Offers a diversity of habitats
	Part of the wider landscape structure and setting
	Connects with wider green networks
	Provides a balance between habitat protection and access
	Resource efficient
Support active lifestyles and health and well being	Provides places for a range of outdoor activities
	Diverse play, sport and recreational opportunities
	Provides places for social interaction
	Contains appropriate, high quality facilities to meet user needs (e.g. picnic areas, toilets, parking)
	Appropriate facilities for location and size
	Carefully sited facilities for a range of ages
	Adaptable to changing needs and uses
Community supported	Safe and welcoming
	Good levels of natural surveillance
	No evidence of anti-social behaviour
	Appropriate lighting levels
	Sense of local identity and place
	Good routes to wider community facilities
	Distinctive and memorable
	Catering for a range of functions and activities
	Community involvement in management

APPENDIX C
Central Lincolnshire audit: Quality Assessment Score sheet

[insert NAME]				
Accessible and well connected				
Assessment Criteria	5	3	1	n/a
	High		Low	
Well located close to a community	Integral with community infrastructure and local path and greenspace networks	Direct, safe and legible connections to local communities	Poorly sited with clear severance between greenspace and other community infrastructure	Connections to community not relevant
Meets Disability Discrimination Act requirements and disabled user needs	Compliant in all respects with DDA includes specific elements supporting disabled use	DDA compliant in terms of grades and main routes step and barrier free	Non DDA compliant with barriers to free access for disabled and other user groups	DDA compliant not appropriate or achievable on a site of this character/location/type
Provides surfaced, high quality paths	Appropriate path surface, well maintained with no management or drainage issues	Appropriate path surface with some minor maintenance and/or drainage issues	Poor quality or inappropriate path surface for location or levels of use; significant maintenance or drainage issues	No paths expected on a site of this type or size (e.g. waterbody, dense woodland or scrub, small scale amenity space)
Connects with other transport modes	Good connectivity with fixed transport links, quality bus routes, cycle and path networks	Connects to other path and cycleway networks provided by footways and footpaths	Poorly connected with no obvious path networks or transport modes	Connectivity not available or appropriate on a site of this character/ location/ type
Allows movement in and between places	Provides for highly permeable boundaries and multiple points of entry/access as part of a path or greenspace network	Provides routes and connections connecting places	Poorly connected with paths and natural desire lines unprovided for or restricted	Movement between places not relevant to the site
Accessible entrances in the right places	Entry points well placed and accessible to encourage safe access and use	Entrances satisfactory	Entrances poor by reason of siting; safe accessibility and connection to communities	Entrance locations determined by other factors and non-relevant to the site
Offers connecting path network and signage	High quality, legible way marking and signage indicates links to wider path and cycleway network	Some good connections but signage incomplete and/or no way marking	Limited connections and no signage or way marking to indicate wider connectivity	Signage inappropriate to the location/site
Attractive and Appealing				
Assessment Criteria	5	3	1	n/a
	High		Low	
Attractive with a positive image	Overall quality image, feel and appeal created through character and quality of the elements	Attractive with many positive elements but includes issues that need addressing	Poor image and low level of appeal/ attractiveness likely to generate a negative image	Attractiveness not an issue by reason of site/character or use
Attractive setting for urban areas	Contributes significantly to the quality, character and setting of the urban area/settlement/place	Contributes to quality but the profile and level of visibility limit the capacity to significantly impact on place quality	Does little to support place quality by reason of location or quality and image of the site	Not relevant
Quality materials, equipment and furniture	Provides quality suite of external/public realm furniture and equipment with good materials	Mixed quality with some elements in need of renewal or upgrading to remain fit for purpose	Poor quality finishes, materials and equipment that limit appeal and use	Not relevant
Attractive plants and landscape elements	Offers attractive plant assemblages (native	Offers a variable quality of plants and landscape elements that supports quality	Generally poor quality or inappropriate	Plant and landscape elements not relevant to function and/or type of space

	or exotic) that support place character and quality	but could be better	planting and landscape management	
Welcoming boundaries and entrance areas	User friendly boundaries and entries offer clear sense of welcome and signal community value and use	Functional boundaries and entrances define site with neutral impact on character or functionality	Poor quality boundaries impact negatively on perceptions of place	Entrances and boundary treatments not relevant to site and/or location
Facilities in clean, safe and usable condition	Spaces and facilities clean, tidy and clearly valued, well used and well maintained	Spaces in usable condition but issues evident with cleanliness, and condition	Facilities either in poor condition or issues with cleanliness and condition likely to restrict use	Condition of facilities not relevant to the site
Low levels of litter and adequate bins	No evidence of litter and litter bins (where provided) in good condition and maintained	Low levels of litter with bins evident and litter generally localised and/or short term	Litter clearly an issue with established litter problem and bins absent or not adequately maintained	Litter not relevant
Well maintained	Clear indications of appropriate levels of maintenance well targeted to the site that supports quality of place	Level of maintenance generally good but challenged by use/ mis-use	Levels of maintenance failing to support quality of place and address use/mis-use	Maintenance not relevant to the site by reason of scale and/ or other management activity
Biodiverse supporting ecological networks				
Assessment Criteria	5	3	1	n/a
	High		Low	
Contribute positively to biodiversity	Biodiversity issues are clearly evidenced within the site and contribute to site quality	Biodiversity contributes through semi-natural elements but no other evidence of active management	Opportunity to support biodiversity not taken and site offers little positive value	Biodiversity not relevant by nature of the space and function
Large enough to sustain wildlife populations	Site strongly supports native populations by green networks and quality of landscape elements	Site supports some native populations but fragmented and value limited to site	Site fragmented and unconnected to wider networks with little habitat value	Habitat opportunity and value not relevant
Offers a diversity of habitats	Offers a diversity of habitats that offer good connections with extended edges and linkages	Offers a range of habitat types but connections and the range of habitat types could be stronger	Poor quality and attention to habitat development	Habitat diversity not relevant
Part of the wider landscape structure and setting	A key part of a wider network and landscape character area	Contributes to wider networks and landscape character areas	Poorly connected and very limited contribution to the wider landscape setting	Landscape setting not relevant
Connects with wider green networks	Offers strong connections and plays an important role within the wider Green Network	Offers limited connections and contribution to the Green Network	Poorly connected and represents a fragmented and discrete site with very limited role within the Green Network	Not relevant
Provides a balance between habitat protection and access	Clear balance evident; where appropriate, supported by information and good path routing	Access and habitat protection clearly working and no evidence of problems	Quality habitats suffering from other uses and need for management attention	Not a relevant issue on the site
Resource efficient	Clear attention to resource and sustainability issue evidenced on site (SUDS/recycling/ encouragement to reduce litter)	Site and facilities fit for purpose demonstrating some evidence of attention to resource efficiency	Evidence of inappropriate resource activity that offers very limited benefits to user or quality of place	Resource efficiency not a relevant issue
Support active lifestyles and health and well being				
Assessment Criteria	5	3	1	n/a
	High		Low	
Provides places for a range of outdoor activities	Good diverse range of activity reflecting user needs, setting location	Range of activity reflecting user needs, setting,	Poor, very limited range of activity that does not reflect	Not relevant

	and character of the site	location and character of the site	anticipated user needs and site context	
Diverse play, sport and recreational opportunities	A range of challenging play and sport activity provided for a breadth of age and user groups	Play and sports facilities provided but limited range	Play and sports facilities not provided in locations where such facilities would be appropriate	Play and sports facilities not relevant to this type of space and/or location
Provides places for social interaction	Offers good spaces and places for social activity that are used by communities and include supporting furniture	Offers spaces for social activity	Offers none or very limited areas considered safe and usable for social activity	Not relevant
Contains appropriate, high quality facilities to meet user needs (e.g. picnic areas, toilets, parking)	Provides a well-used site that clearly reflects needs, providing high quality facilities	Provides for a range of activities that address need and offers good quality facilities	Provides a range of activities that appears unconnected to local need and is of indifferent quality	Appropriateness of facilities and need is not relevant
Appropriate facilities for location and size	Facilities are appropriate to function and include service elements such as toilets, lit paths, range of play etc.	Facilities are restricted given the scale and function of the site	Facilities are poor or non-existent for this scale and function of site	Appropriateness of facilities is not relevant
Carefully sited facilities for a range of ages	Facilities are well sited offering natural surveillance, readily accessible and suited to all ages	Facilities are well sited and accessible but locations may not address all user needs	Facilities are poorly sited, restricting access, compromising safe use or access and offer barriers to activity	Not relevant
Adaptable to changing needs and uses	Greenspace offers good flexibility and adaptability for use, capable of accommodating changing needs	Greenspace is flexible but any significant change of use would require major change	Greenspace is very inflexible unlikely to be able to address changing needs	Adaptability of use is not relevant
Community supported				
Assessment Criteria	5	3	1	n/a
	High		Low	
Safe and welcoming	Site offers safe welcoming image through a range of positive measures such as signage, lighting and sightlines	Site is welcoming but issues of safety have potential to impact on more vulnerable user groups	Site is clearly neither safe nor welcoming to a majority of users	Issue of safety and sense of welcome not relevant
Good levels of natural surveillance	Site offers good natural surveillance from surrounding areas and complies with Safe by Design principles	Site generally overlooked with main areas offering good natural surveillance	Site offers very limited natural surveillance and issues of perceived safety therefore arise	Natural surveillance not applicable to this site
No evidence of anti-social behaviour	Site offers no evidence of anti-social behaviour and no evidence of activity likely to establish perceived threats to users	Site generally has safe quality but with some limited evidence of anti-social behaviour or mis-use	Site shows evidence of persistent antisocial behaviour	Anti-social behaviour not relevant to this site
Appropriate lighting levels	Appropriate lighting throughout the site with no obvious management or user issues	Appropriate lighting at entrances and where appropriate main routes with only minor lighting issues	Lighting poor, restricting use	Lighting not relevant to this site
Sense of local identity and place	Positively contributes to local identity and clear sense of place established by the character or quality of the site	Contributes to sense of place and local identity	Negatively contributes to sense of place and local identity	Local identity and sense of place not relevant
Good routes to wider community facilities	Provides connecting routes to schools, library, community facilities and transport nodes	Provides limited connections to community infrastructure	Provides very restricted connections to community infrastructure	Issues of community connectivity not relevant to this site

Distinctive and memorable	Creates a distinctive and memorable quality of place that supports local culture identity	Contributes in some areas or parts to distinctiveness	Offers no qualities that could be regarded as distinctive or memorable	Not relevant
Catering for a range of functions and activities	Offers a multifunctional space that addresses need and is fit for purpose	Offers a range of functionality	Offers very restricted functionality	Function and capacity to address a range of activity not relevant
Community involvement in management	Evidence or knowledge of active and direct community participation in site planning and site management	Community participation through consultation on site planning and management	Community consultation not part of the planning and management arrangements	Issues of community engagement not relevant

APPENDIX D
Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit: Play Area Assessment Score Sheet

Settlement		
Site name		
LAP LEAP or NEAP		
Notes		
Site Features:	Max:	Score:
Informal Supervision	4	
Ground Contouring	2	
Planting	1	
Child Seating (or 1 per Toddler/Junior/Senior) Adult Seating (or 1 per Toddler/Junior/Senior)	1/3	
Internal Paths (or 1 per Toddler/Junior/Senior)	1/3	
Lighting (or 1 per Toddler/Junior/Senior)	1/3	
Fencing (or 1 per Toddler/Junior/Senior)	1/3	
Pedestrian Self-Closing Gates (or 1 per Toddler/Junior/Senior)	1/3	
Vehicle Maintenance Gate	1	
Signs Available On Management & Dogs	2	
Cycle Stands	2	
Litter Bins	2	
Shelter	1	
Layout	2	
Visual Appeal	2	
Site Features Total For The Playground: 25/34		
Equipment Features:	Max:	Score:
Rocking	3	
Gliding	3	
Rotating (Single or Twin User)	2	
Rotating (Multi User)	2	
Sliding (Conventional)	3	
Sliding (Handgrip)	2	
Swinging (Per Set)	2	
Swinging (SPSS)	3	
Balancing	1	
Jumping	1	
Climbing	1	
Agility Bridges (E.g. Clatter or Suspension)	1	
Crawling	1	
Viewing Platform	1	
Ball Play Area	2	
Wheeled Play Area	3	
Equipment Features Total For The Playground: 31		
Play Co-Operation:	Max:	Score:
Sandpit/Box	2	
Sand Play Table/Item to Assist Sand Play	3	
Water Play	3	
Social Play 2		
Educational or Learning Features	2	
Special Needs	2	
Ground Graphics	2	
Sounding Items	2	
Play Challenge	3	
Play Co-Operation For The Playground: 21		

Overall Playground Total: 77/89		
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APPENDIX E

Witham Valley Country Park Concept Statement

Lincoln Sub-Regional Country Park: Linking City and Country

Concept Statement, August 2008

Vision/Purpose

The creation of a sustainable, accessible network of managed outdoor places providing experiences across a diverse range of natural, historic and leisure environments that will delight and inspire local residents and visitors of all ages in equal measure.



Legend:

- Core areas (RDS)
- Other sites / initiatives
- R. Witham / Fossdyke Navigation
- Public rights of way
- Sustrans route 64
- Other strategic cycle routes
- Viking Way long distance path
- Existing mineral consent
- Potential mineral workings

Assets

- Lincoln's open spaces and surrounding countryside include areas of national importance for their wildlife. Lincoln is a biodiversity hotspot and its wetlands and waterways, commons, historic parkland and woodlands provide extensive natural greenspace, available for people to enjoy a wide range of outdoor experiences and activities. Some of these places are linked already so people and wildlife can move easily between them.
- Sites span City and Country - the Norman Cathedral positioned above the hillside City ensures a dramatic backdrop to the surrounding countryside and stunning views out from the City. This proximity of City and Countryside is unique to Lincoln and enables easy access for residents between the two.
- The Lincoln area is recognised as a Principal Urban Area in the East Midlands and is designated as an area for growth. Quality of life, health and education needs of the large and growing population provide strong market opportunities for investment in environmental and leisure provision.
- The area has a rich heritage spanning pre-Roman to modern times, including internationally significant Roman and Medieval archaeology, large areas of common land, an 18th century racecourse, a former private estate at Hartshorne, ancient woodland at Skellingthorpe and lakes that have been created through minerals restoration schemes at Whisby and Swanholme.
- Anticipated further mineral operations and proposals for the growth of the City offer potential for provision and sustainable management of additional areas and activities, and assistance with funding the implementation of the concept.
- A wide range of organisations are involved in the evolution and implementation of ideas - operators, local councils, local business, the university, various agencies and an established and highly committed voluntary sector - all keen to demonstrate good environmental practice.

Concept

A series of hubs each providing its own blend of activities and good access to other sites that are of interest for their natural environment and heritage both in the city and the countryside. They are linked by low impact routes suitable for a range of users including pedestrians and cyclists. There are also other links in the form of hi-tech interactive information sources to encourage visits to features of interest in the surrounding area and promote understanding of its history and evolution.

**If you would like this document
in larger print please call 01522 873238**

Strategic Principles to Guide the Evolution of the Park

- 1 Address the needs of existing residents and additional needs arising from the growth of Lincoln, and its development as a destination for both day and longer stay visitors.
- 2 Develop the potential of each site within the overall framework as a key component of the sub-regional Green Infrastructure Strategy to protect and enhance biodiversity and deliver a wide variety of outdoor experiences that encourage physical activity, enjoyment and well being.
- 3 Integrate the sites with new / improved access so that people of all abilities are able to participate in a range of activities.
- 4 Expand and diversify existing and potential activities within the area - education, social enterprise, recreation, and business to meet identified and anticipated needs.
- 5 Maximise opportunities for and demonstrate good practice in securing positive environmental outcomes, especially in respect of biodiversity and addressing climate change issues.
- 6 Promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of the Park and highlight links to other places of interest and the role they have played in the shaping the wider area through the development of clear, attractive signage, lively interpretation, engaging experiences and robust branding.

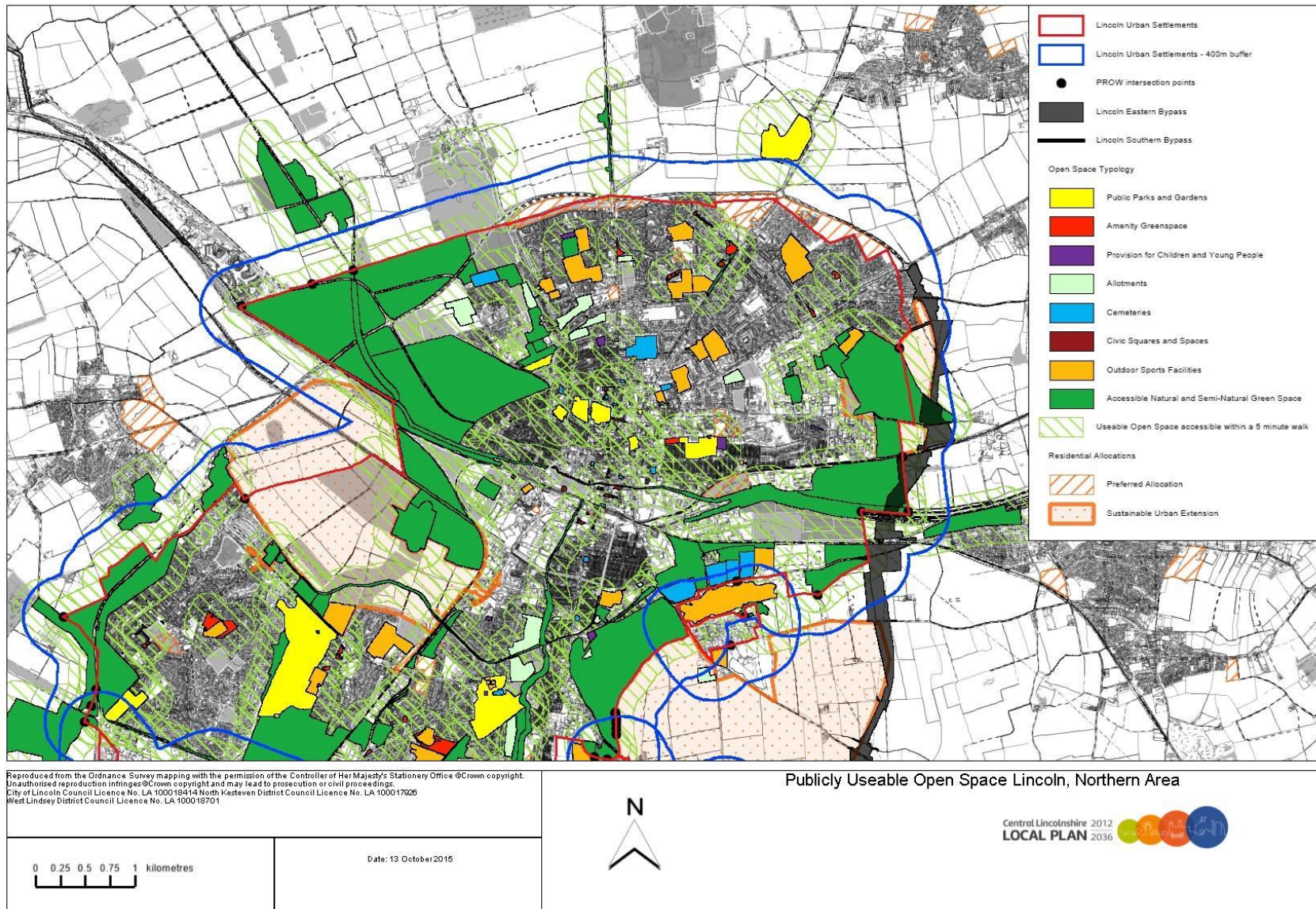


Key to Development Opportunities Diagram

-  **Whisby:** Focused on existing facilities and the nature conservation value of the lakes and their surroundings. Extensive parking, principal gateway to the Park.
-  Information on interesting sites in the wider area around Whisby with guide maps and audio commentaries. Centrehubs for a sustainable transport network - opportunities for bike hire, rechargeable buggies etc.
-  **Hartshorne and Swanholme:** Established destination with visitor centre, historic structures and nature reserve. Improved linkages to other sites both north and south integrating this important resource into the wider concept.
-  **Swanpool link:** Key site between the City and the countryside. Potential new areas for active recreation as part of development proposals, plus links to other areas through connections to a sustainable public transport network.
-  Links from Swanpool into the historic City, Cathedral and Castle and the retail core round the Brayford Pool. Sustainable links from the north west by railway and along the Fossdyke Navigation by boat, bridleway and cycleway creating a gateway into the Park area.
-  **Skellingthorpe woods:** On a national cycle route, provides opportunities for additional access to this nationally important ancient linewood. Possible parking areas to be considered.
-  Routes through and between the sites for non-motorised or innovative 'green' transport. Hi-tech navigation to specific destinations and commentary on what is to be found there. Opportunities for private sector investment in developing innovative technology.
-  Future quarry restoration could provide opportunities for more active water-based recreation and the creation of more wildlife habitat to give wetland plants and animals a better chance of survival in a changing climate.

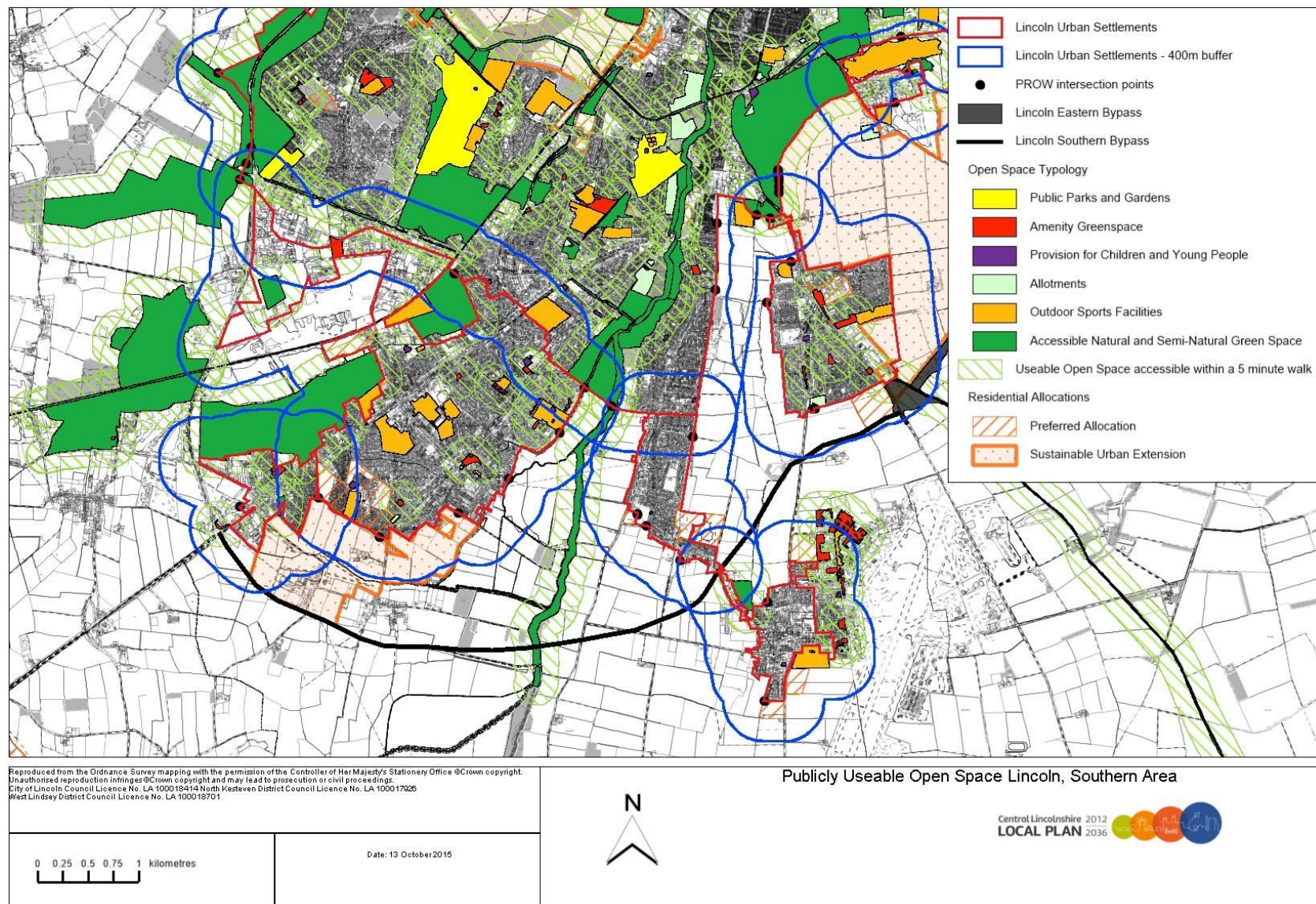


APPENDIX F Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit: Open Space accessibility mapping: Lincoln North



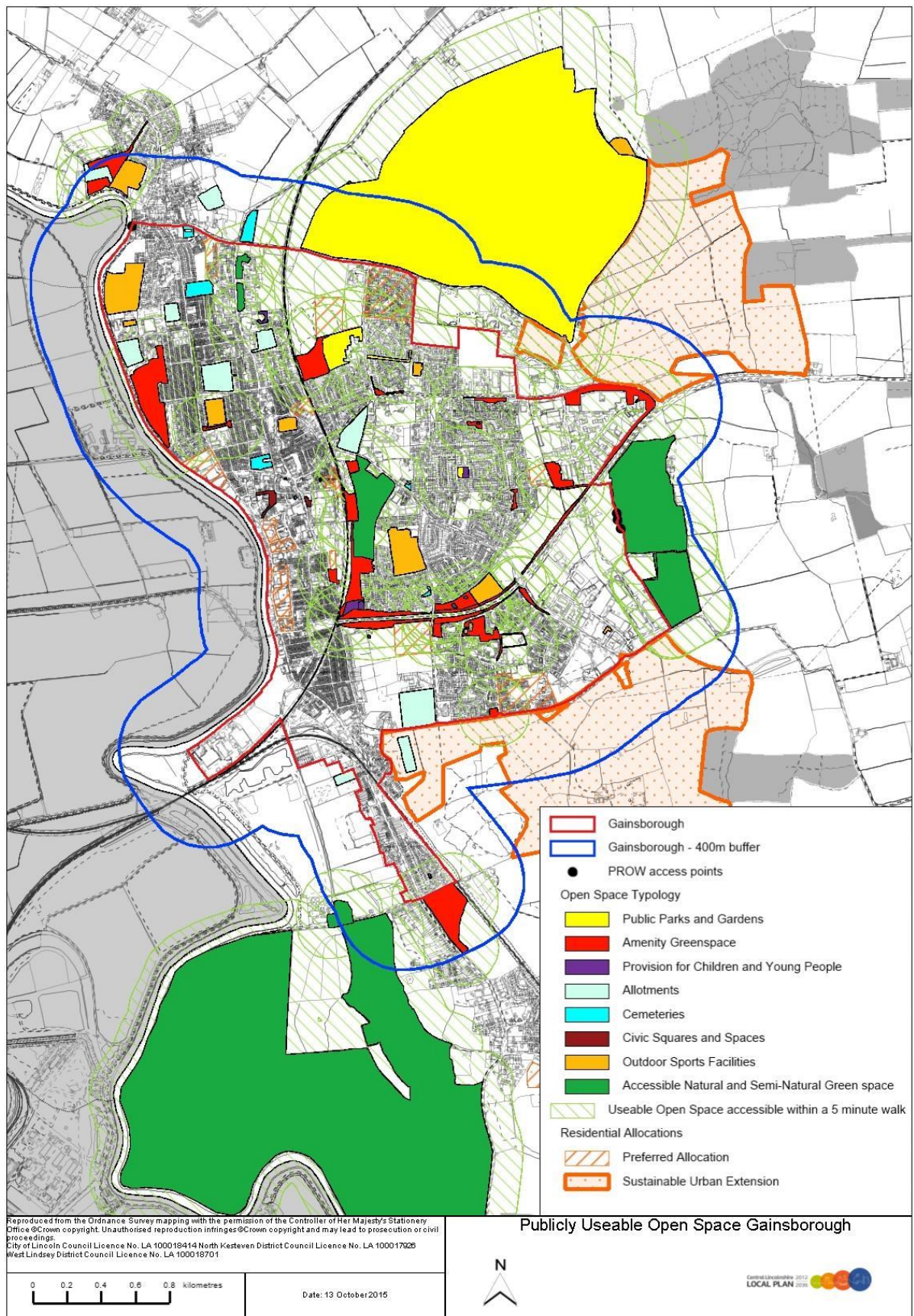
APPENDIX F

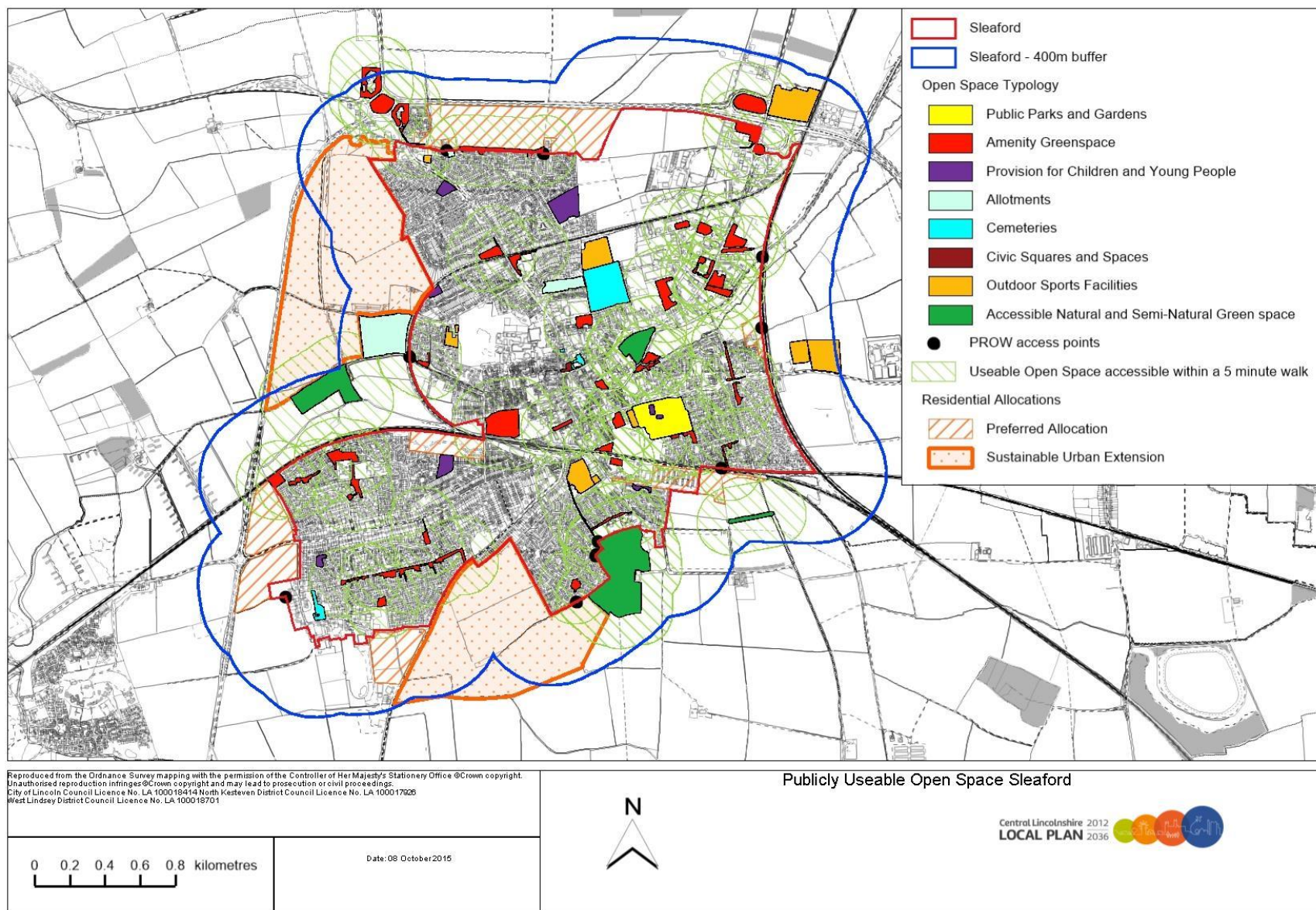
Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit: Open Space accessibility mapping: Lincoln South



APPENDIX F

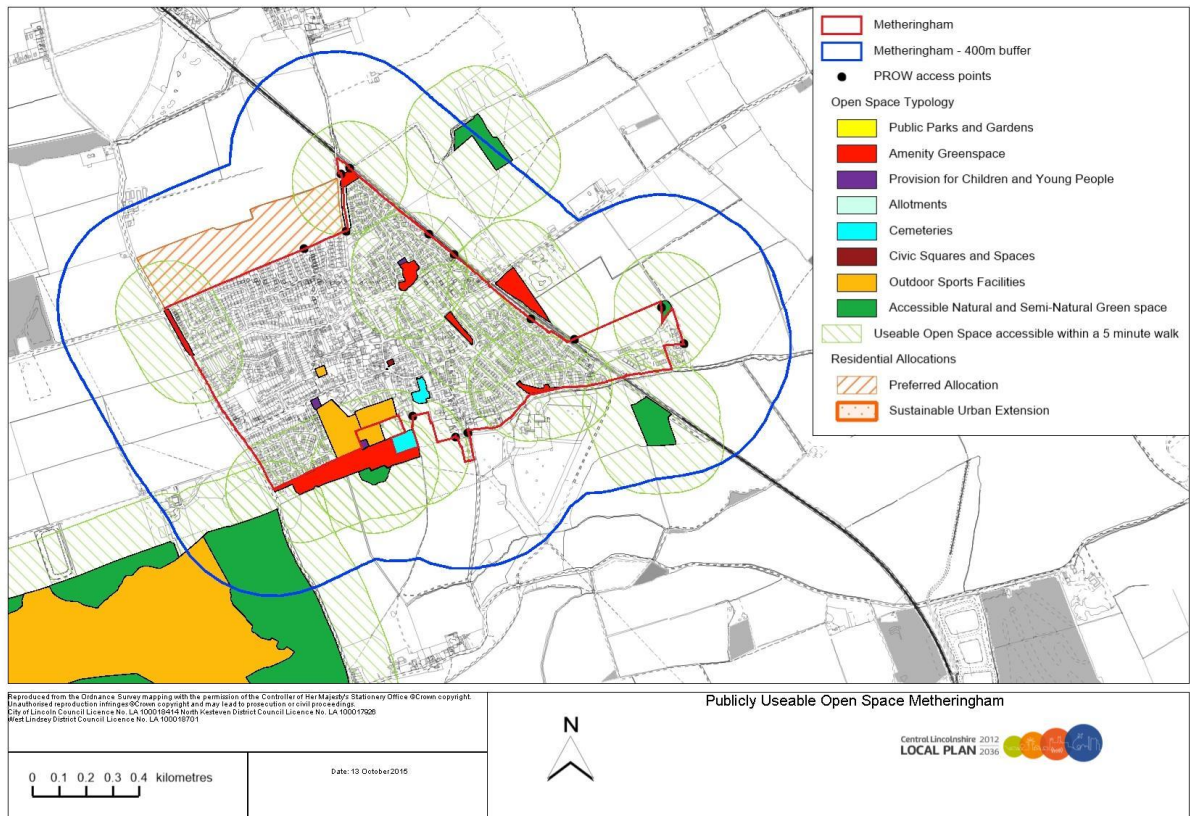
Open Space Provision and 5 minute access standard Gainsborough

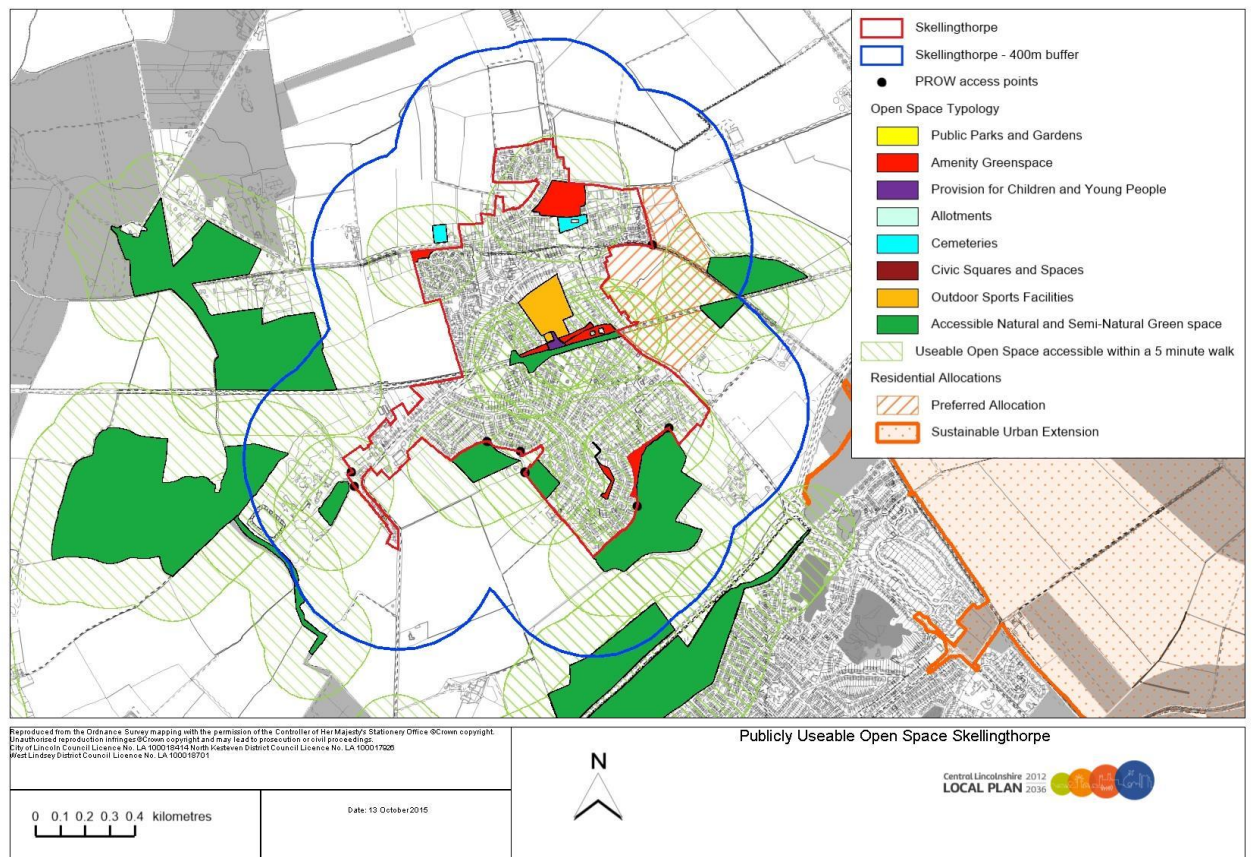




APPENDIX F

Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit: Open Space accessibility mapping: Metheringham and Skellingthorpe





APPENDIX F

Central Lincolnshire Open Space Audit: Open Space accessibility mapping: Dunholme Welton and Heckington

