

Matter 10 Action 116/117

The Council has reviewed the Open Space Assessment and the associated mapping in terms of site 72 (Laurel Bank AGP) identified in the Open Space Assessment.

The map below shows the area known as White Park and Crow Wood Park which is currently protected as Urban Greenspace in the current Core Strategy. This protection is identified as a landscape protection linked to Core Strategy Policy DM26. The area shown covers part of the Harras Moor Housing Allocation in the emerging Local Plan. The area extends further north along Loop Road than the site proposed as a protected open space in the emerging Local Plan (reference site 72) to the south east of Laurel Bank.

Figure 1: Protected Urban Greenspaces in Core Strategy

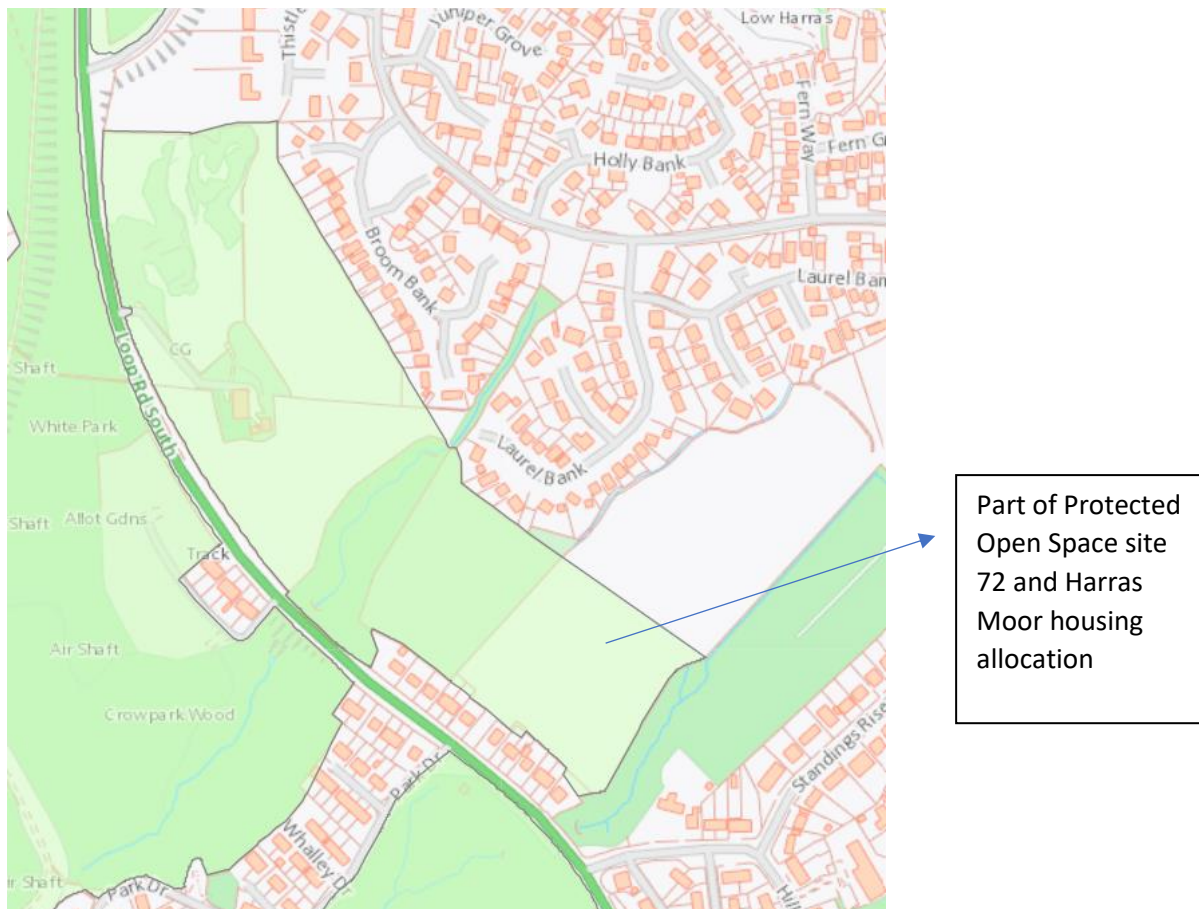
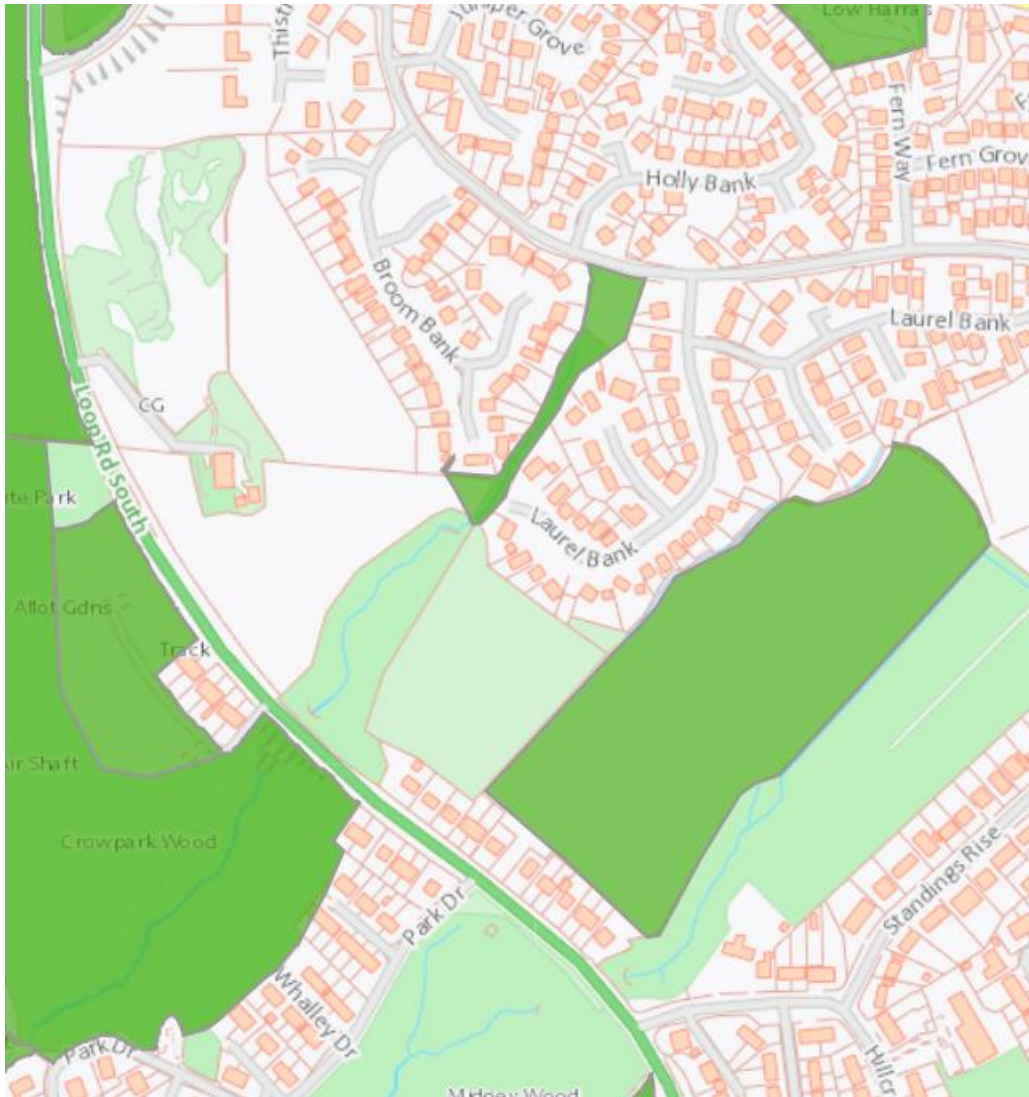


Figure 2 below shows the extent of the Protected Open Space site 72 proposed in the emerging Local Plan.

Figure 2: Protected Open Spaces in emerging Local Plan



The Open Space Assessment is clear that it only assesses sites that fall within the typologies listed on page 6 of the document. These are: 1. Parks and gardens 2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace 3. Amenity greenspace 4. Provision for children and young people 5. Allotments 6. Cemeteries/churchyards 7. Civic spaces

Other open spaces currently protected in the Core Strategy but not falling into one of the above categories are listed in the OSA but are not assessed.

Site 72 has been identified as an area of Amenity Greenspace in the OSA as it meets the following definition (table 1.1, page 1):

“Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.”

The remaining part of the protected open space from the core strategy has not been assessed or identified for protection as it is not deemed to fall under any of the listed typologies.

The OSA notes the following in relation to that site 72:

Figure 3: Extract from OSA page 116

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score	Protected site
89	Harras Park	Semi / Natural greenspace	2.15			Yes
93	Hensingham Road	Semi / Natural greenspaces	0.35			Yes
94	Herdus Road	Amenity greenspace	0.75			Yes
97	Highfields	Semi / Natural greenspace	0.66			Yes
97.1	Highfields play areas	Children's play areas	0.23			Yes
103	Horsfield Close Cemetery	Cemeteries	1.27			Yes
168	Howgill Quarry	Semi / Natural greenspaces	9.03			No
105	Inkerman Terrace	Semi / Natural greenspaces	0.52			No
106	Irt Avenue	Amenity greenspace	0.42			No
110	Jericho Plantation	Semi / Natural greenspaces	0.54			No
116	Kirkstone Road	Amenity greenspace	1.69			No
72	Laurel Bank AGS	Amenity greenspace	4.37			No

The extract from the table above states that site 72 is not currently protected in the Core Strategy. In hindsight this should say that the site is partially protected as shown above in Figure 1. Footnote on page 115 of the OSA states that sites without a quality or value rating were highlighted as being inaccessible. The consultant has confirmed that only a desktop assessment has been made of this site for this reason.

Figure 4: Extract from OSA page 156

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Protected site	Settlement above/below in provision	Quality/ value	Protect?	Justification	LGS potential
51	Coronation Drive, Bransty	Semi / Natural greenspaces	No	Above		No	Inaccessible. Settlement above provision levels in Copeland. No shortfall if site lost.	-
55	Croasdale Avenue	Amenity greenspace	No	Below		Yes	Rates higher for value. Settlement below provision levels in Copeland.	-
60	Crowparkwood	Semi / Natural greenspaces	Yes	Above		Yes	Rates higher for quality and value. Offers amenity and social benefits.	Yes
61	Crummock Avenue	Amenity greenspace	Yes	Below		Yes	Rates higher for quality and value. Settlement below provision levels in Copeland.	-
62	Derwentwater Road	Amenity greenspace	No	Below		Yes	Rates lower for quality and value. Settlement below provision levels in Copeland.	-
68	Earl's Road	Semi / Natural greenspaces	Yes	Above		Yes	Rates higher for value. Offers landscape and ecological benefits.	Yes
72	Laurel Bank AGS	Amenity greenspace	No	Below		Yes	Rates higher for value. Settlement below provision levels in Copeland.	-

The extract above shows that, on the basis of the desktop assessment, and taking into consideration the provision of amenity greenspace in Whitehaven as a whole, the site is of high value. There is an under-provision of AGS in Whitehaven when compared to the borough as a whole and this site could provide an opportunity in the future to increase provision. It is well located in terms of residential

development and Site 72 is proposed for retention as open space in the Harras Moor planning application which is currently being considered by appeal. On this basis the Council feels that site 72 should remain a protected open space in the Local Plan.

The southern part of site 72 and the remainder of the area protected in the Core Strategy along Loop Road South has been identified as Prominent Hillside in the Settlement Landscape Character Assessment (page 41) to which polices N6 (Landscape Protection) and N9 (Green Infrastructure) would apply.

Figure 5: Green Infrastructure

