

Matter 10, Action 124

Note: Please see response to Actions 116 and 117 for justification for protection of open space 72. This note relates to the justification for protection of open space 179.

The Open Space Assessment identifies site 179 as Red Lonning Playing field which falls within the amenity greenspace typology. The site was formerly used as a playing pitch but is no longer maintained as such and is overgrown. The site is however used for informal recreation and dog walking.

The OSA, Table 1.1, defines amenity greenspaces as those who have a primary purpose of providing *“Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.”*

The site is not currently protected as an Urban Greenspace in the Core Strategy and is rated lower for quality and value in the OSA. The OSA does however recommend the site is protected in the emerging Local Plan as Whitehaven has a shortfall of AGS when compared to the borough as a whole. The purpose of protecting site 179 is to ensure that the current provision of AGS is not reduced further; Policy N11 allows for the development of protected open spaces where they are to be replaced elsewhere within the settlement.

The site is located on the edge of an existing residential area within an area allocated for housing in the emerging Local Plan (Harras Moor). The protection will help ensure that open space is maintained and/or alternative provision created in any new development.

An appeal has been lodged relating to housing development on the site; this includes the provision of open space elsewhere within the settlement and is therefore considered to accord with emerging policy N11. At this time though, no alternative provision has been approved or have any formal status.