



Copeland Open Space Assessment Addendum

Copeland Borough Council

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update of the 2020 Open Space Assessment produced by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) for Copeland Borough Council. This has been updated in order to reflect the updated settlement hierarchy within the emerging Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038. In particular, the addendum includes an additional two sites in the settlement of Kirksanton.
- 1.2 The report is designed as an addendum to the original OSA. Please refer to the full 2020 OSA for an explanation of the context and methodology informing this assessment. This can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.copeland.gov.uk/attachments/copeland-open-space-assessment-2020>

Copeland Local Plan

- 1.3 The OSA was produced in 2020 to inform the emerging Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038. The Open Space Assessment (OSA) provides detail with regard to what open space provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. This document sets out the findings of the research, site assessments, consultation, data analysis and GIS mapping undertaken as part of the study.
- 1.4 Copeland Borough Council produced the Preferred Options draft of the Local Plan in September 2020. This was subject to a public consultation between the 20th September 2020 and 30th November 2020.
- 1.5 The most significant comment relating to open space provision received through the consultation was from Whicham Parish Council. This noted that the Village Green in Kirksanton had not been identified through the Open Space Assessment, and that it was of high value to the local community. The comment received was as follows:

“There is no mention of the protected village green in Kirksanton village which is an asset of Whicham Parish Council. The Green offers social, health and amenity value adjacent to the Care Home and recently refurbished, extended village hall. It provides varied social, health and educational activities for the village and wider rural area. There is a children’s play area offering the only form of play provision in the settlement, adjacent to the village hall with runs a children’s play group. The Green offers landscape benefits with stunning views to Black Combe and Lacra. It offers heritage value as the semi circular track around the Green is the ancient rope winding works which villagers were employed in making during the 18th Century for the tall sailing ships of the west coast.”

- 1.6 Prior to the production of the Preferred Options Draft of the Local Plan, Kirksanton was identified in the Copeland settlement hierarchy as being in the open countryside and therefore the village green did not meet the requirement to be a protected open space. However, upon reviewing the settlement hierarchy, Kirksanton is now identified as a rural village. As a result of this, an addendum is required to the original OSA to provide additional protection to the village green. The updated Settlement Hierarchy and Development Strategy paper can be viewed here: <https://www.copeland.gov.uk/attachments/settlement-hierarchy-development-strategy-paper-update>

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 This section contains only the alterations required as an addendum. For a full methodology of the Open Space Assessment, please see the 2020 version.

Analysis area and population

Table 1: Population by analysis area

Analysis area	Population
Kirksanton	134

- 2.2 As with the 2020 study, the population figures are estimates derived by CBC based on the number of dwellings in a settlement (omitting any vacant and second homes) and multiplying by the average household size. This also accounts for approximately 40 residents at Kirksanton Care Centre.

Provision standards

- 2.3 For the purposes of this report, the amount of provision within each settlement is compared to the levels of provision across all Copeland settlements. This is a useful initial indicator to highlight whether a settlement may be sufficient or have a shortfall in certain forms of open space provision. This is presented on a hectare per 1,000 population basis.
- 2.4 The following current provision levels for all Copeland settlements are identified:

Table 2: Current provision levels for all Copeland Settlements

Open space type	Hectare per 1,000 population
Parks & Gardens	0.20
Amenity Greenspace	1.60
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	3.09
Provision for children & young people	0.10
Allotments	0.36
Combined total	5.35

- 2.5 Across the settlements within this study there is a total of 5.35 hectares per 1,000 population of open space provision. This is an increase of 0.02 from the 2020 study, accounted for by the village green at Kirksanton. The associated play area in the settlement has not resulted in an overall increase.
- 2.6 Please note that the very slight change in figures presented here may have altered some of the figures within the original report. For example, the addition of 134 people to the total population figure may have resulted in changes to the overall current provision per 1,000 people. However, it is not anticipated that these changes will be significant, and therefore these changes have not been made from the original piece of work.

3.0 Summary of survey and site visits

- 3.1 Due to this being an addendum to the original document, CBC have decided not to replicate the online community survey. Please see the 2020 version for the full results.

Site visit overview

- 3.2 This section summarises the quality and value ratings for each typology. In the first instance, CBC asked Whicham Parish Council to fill out a survey on their views of open space provision in the settlement. This acted as the starting point for the assessment. CBC officers then visited the site to assess quality and value against the methodology provided by the consultants who completed the 2020 report.
- 3.3 The 2020 OSA identified a total of 299 sites, equating to 388ha of open space within the report. This update increases the count to a total of 301 sites, equating to 389ha of open space provision.
- 3.4 The figures here have been rounded to the nearest whole number, and therefore, the addition of the play area on Kirksanton Village Green has not affected the overall figure for the Children and young people typology.

Table 3: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares) ¹
Park and gardens	7	13
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	63	201
Amenity greenspace	112	104
Provision for children & young people	53	6
Allotments	38	23
Cemeteries/churchyards	24	37
Civic space	4	5
TOTAL	301	389

Quality

- 3.5 The methodology for assessing quality of sites has been set out in the 2020 version of the OSA. Slight amendments have been made to the amenity greenspace and children and young people typologies to account for the addition of sites in Kirksanton.

Table 4: Quality scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Park and gardens	50%	49%	58%	69%	1	6
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	40%	28%	44%	64%	19	33

¹ Rounded to the nearest whole number

Amenity greenspace	40%	19%	43%	74%	33	70
Provision for children & young people	55%	27%	56%	86%	15	37
Allotments	-	-	-	-	16	22
Cemeteries/churchyards	-	-	-	-	4	20
Civic space	50%	44%	59%	80%	1	3
TOTAL					89	191

Value

3.6 The methodology for assessing value of sites has been set out in the 2020 version of the OSA. Slight amendments have been made to the amenity greenspace and children and young people typologies to account for the addition of sites in Kirksanton.

Table 5: Value scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Park and gardens	20%	33%	47%	64%	0	7
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		14%	27%	54%	6	46
Amenity greenspace		6%	26%	65%	27	76
Provision for children & young people		13%	44%	78%	3	49
Allotments		-	-	-	1	37
Cemeteries/churchyards		-	-	-	0	24
Civic space		28%	39%	50%	0	4
TOTAL					37	243

4.0 Kirksanton

Current provision

- 4.1 There are two open space sites identified in Kirksanton, equating to approximately 0.61ha of provision. The largest contribution to provision is amenity greenspace (0.54ha). There are currently no parks or allotments within the settlement.

Table 6: Current open space provision in Kirksanton

Typology	Number of sites	Total hectares	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	-	-	-
Amenity greenspace	1	0.54	5.87
Provision for children and young people	1	0.07	0.76
Natural/semi-natural greenspace	-	-	-
Allotments	-	-	-
Cemeteries	-	-	-
Civic space	-	-	-
Total	2	0.61	6.63

- 4.2 There is a total of 6.63 hectares per 1,000 population in Kirksanton. Across the Copeland settlements within this study there are 5.35 hectares per 1,000 population. This suggests that the settlement is well served in terms of quantity of open space provision. Furthermore, the settlement is small, with a population of approximately 92.
- 4.3 Compared to the current provision levels for all Copeland settlements, Kirksanton has a greater amount of provision per 1,000 population in amenity greenspace (1.60) and provision for children and young people (0.10).
- 4.4 Figure 1 shows the open space provision within the settlement of Kirksanton

Figure 1: Open space provision mapped in the settlement of Kirksanton

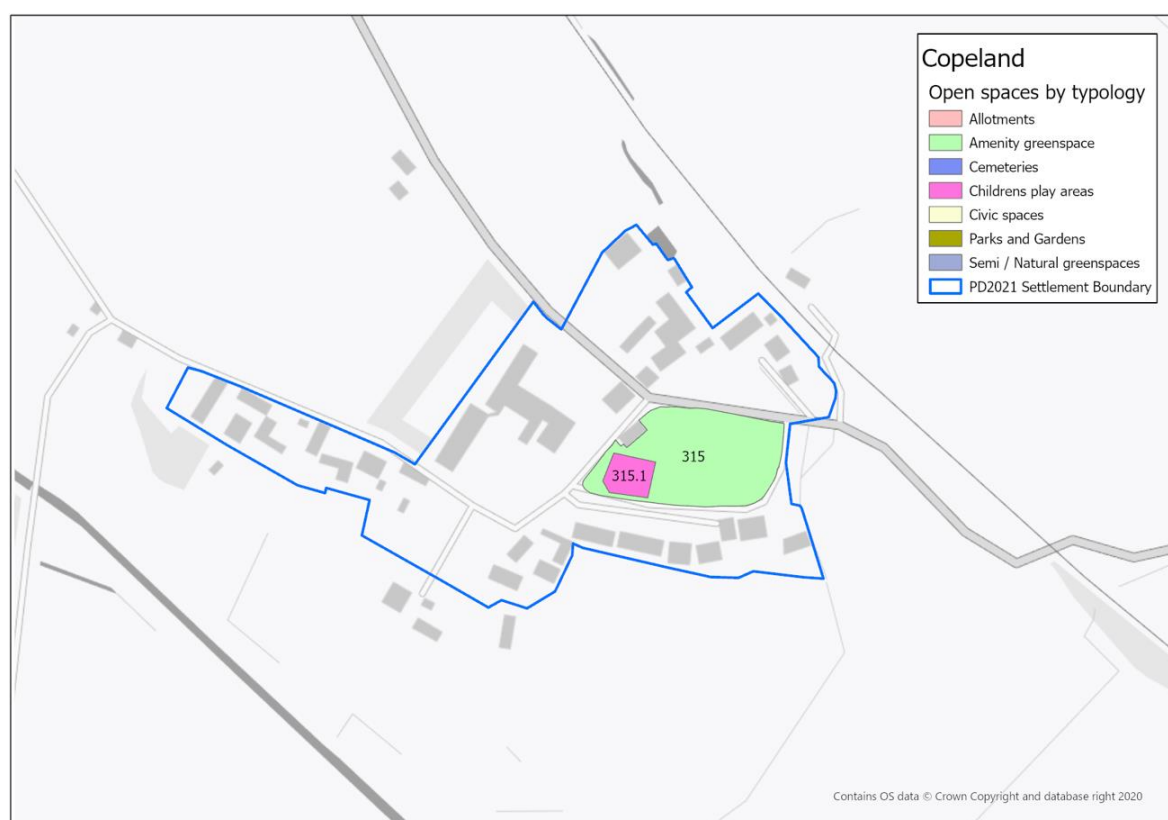


Table 7: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score	Protected site
315	Kirksanton Village Green	Amenity greenspace	0.54			Yes
315.1	Kirksanton Village Green Play Area	Children's play areas	0.07			Yes

Quality

- 4.5 To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for provision in Kirksanton.
- 4.6 A threshold was applied for each typology in order to identify high and low quality, which varies based on a typologies function. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8: Quality ratings for provision in Kirksanton

Typology	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Below	Above
Parks & gardens	-	-	-	-	-

Amenity greenspace	73%	73%	73%	0	1
Provision for children and young people	67%	67%	67%	0	1
Natural/semi-natural greenspace	-	-	-	-	-
Allotments	-	-	-	-	-
Cemeteries	-	-	-	-	-
Civic space	-	-	-	-	-
Kirksanton	67%	-	73%	0	2

- 4.7 Both assessed sites in Kirksanton score above the quality threshold. Kirksanton Village Green is identified as being clean and well maintained, making provision for seating and bins on site and providing high natural surveillance. The play area provides a range of high quality play equipment.

Value

- 4.8 To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open space provision in Kirksanton. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9: Value ratings for provision in Kirksanton

Typology	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Below	Above
Parks & gardens	-	-	-	-	-
Amenity greenspace	49%	49%	49%	0	1
Provision for children and young people	50%	50%	50%	0	1
Natural/semi-natural greenspace	-	-	-	-	-
Allotments	-	-	-	-	-
Cemeteries	-	-	-	-	-
Civic space	-	-	-	-	-
Kirksanton	49%	-	50%	0	2

- 4.9 Both sites in Kirksanton score significantly higher than the threshold in terms of value. The village green makes provision for a range of age groups and has relatively high ecological value as a result of hedges and trees along the edge of the site. The site provides opportunity for ball games and other activities, which is likely to provide health benefits.

5.0 Protected Green Space Assessment Summary

Table 10: Protected greenspace assessment summary for Kirksanton

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Protected site ²	Settlement above/below in provision	Quality/ value		Protect?	Justification	LGS potential
315	Kirksanton Village Green	Amenity greenspace	No	Above			Yes	Rates higher for quality and value. Site offers social, health and amenity value.	Yes
315.1	Kirksanton Village Green Play Area	Children's play areas	No	Above			Yes	Rates higher for quality and value. Site offers social, health and amenity value.	Yes

² This relates to protections within the Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 Core Strategy