Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy

wyre council

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Cover pictures: Main, River Wyre at Garstang. Inset, Left - Preesall and Pilling Sands, Centre - Bowls Fleetwood Memorial Park, Right - Forest of Bowland.

Inset picture: Wardley's Creek

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Wyre Council is producing a new Local Plan for the period up to 2030.

1.2 The Local Plan will be in two parts; (i) the Local Plan Strategy & Core Policies document and (ii) a Local Plan Sites & Development Management document.

1.3 The content and general approach to preparing a Local Plan is set out in The National Planning Policy Framework (2012). Included within this is a requirement on local planning authorities to set out a strategic approach to plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.

1.4 To provide the evidence base, justification and policy context for the Wyre Local Plan, the authority has commissioned a team of consultants led by MD2 Consulting Ltd to undertake a Green Infrastructure Study which comprises of:-

- A Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment Evidence Base Report
- Playing Pitch Strategy

1.5 The Green Infrastructure Strategy will help the Council develop a set of overarching planning policies for the Local Plan to ensure that new built development within Wyre protects and enhances the Green Infrastructure.

1.6 It will also assist the delivery of the Wyre Infrastructure Delivery Plan which has identified a 'funding gap' for infrastructure provision (including Green Infrastructure) which is required to support proposed growth in the Local Plan. The Council is therefore considering the merits of introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in the Borough as a mechanism for securing developer contributions to help meet the infrastructure 'funding gap'.

1.7 Natural England define Green Infrastructure (GI)[1] as a network of high quality green and blue spaces and other environmental features; which needs to be planned and delivered at all spatial scales from national to neighbourhood levels. The greatest benefits are gained when it is designed and managed as multifunctional resources capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits (ecosystem services) for local communities. Green Infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, river and canal corridors allotments and private gardens.

1.8 The European Commission (2013) says that Green Infrastructure[2] addresses the spatial structure of natural and semi-natural areas but also other environmental features which enable citizens to benefit from its multiple services. The underlying principle of Green Infrastructure is that the same area of land can frequently offer multiple benefits if its ecosystems are in a healthy state. Green Infrastructure investments are generally characterized by a high level of return over time, provide job opportunities, and can be a cost-effective alternative or be complementary to 'grey' infrastructure and intensive land use change. It serves the interests of both people and nature.

1.9 There is no doubt that Green Infrastructure makes a particularly strong contribution to Wyre's quality of place and, by implication, the quality of life of its citizens. The distribution and functions of Green Infrastructure are the major contributing factor to Wyre's 'sense of place' as it defines the landscape, urban and rural characteristics of the Borough. Green Infrastructure also separates settlements and helps them to retain their individuality.

[1] http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningdevelopment/greeninfrastructure/default.aspx accessed 6th November 2013.
[2] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/ accessed 6th November 2013.

1.10 It is proposed that Green Infrastructure should be seen as a "golden thread" running through all relevant policies in the Wyre Local Plan (see Diagram 1 for Local Plan process). This means that, policy should be developed and shaped to ensure that new built development within Wyre, where appropriate, protects the existing Green Infrastructure resource and incorporates measures to enhance new Green Infrastructure required as part of the Council's plans for sustainable growth.

Inset picture: Grazed marshland at Preesall and Pilling Sands.

SECTION TWO: CHALLENGES

2.1 Wyre must accommodate substantial new physical growth and the new Local Plan will provide the template for that growth. Indeed, a substantial number of new homes and employment land will be developed during the plan period up to 2030. Multi-functional Green Infrastructure is a critical component that will help to make the new growth sustainable. To achieve this there are challenges to be addressed:

i. New developments should contribute towards, maintain and enhance local landscape character
ii. New developments should be of the highest design quality, with Green Infrastructure, biodiversity and sustainability as core design values
iii. There should be a focus on improvement of landscape and green corridors along main access routes and town gateways
iv. There is a need for more trees to be planted in the right places to improve environmental quality
v. Realising the potential of creating new and managing existing Green Infrastructure to help the Borough of Wyre manage climate change impacts

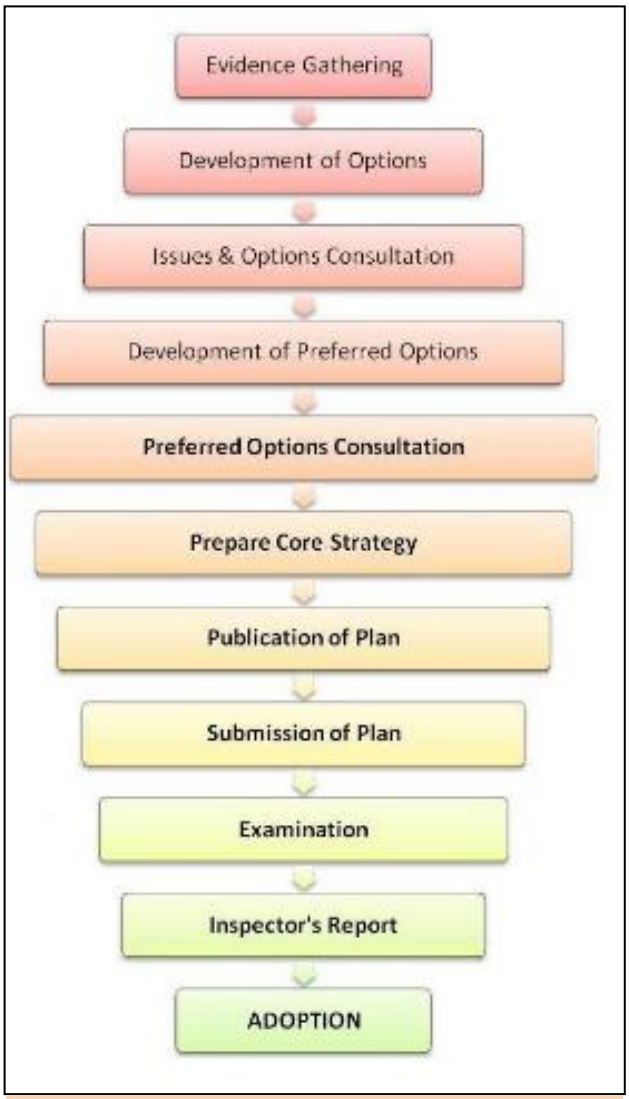


Diagram 1: The process for preparing the Wyre Local Plan - the Green Infrastructure Strategy will inform proposals for inclusion in this document.

2.2 Green Infrastructure is also important to the local economy and is expected to become even more so during the life of the Wyre Local Plan. Indeed, investment in Green Infrastructure should in future be viewed as an investment in the economic life, vitality & development of the Borough. Natural England believes that investment in Green Infrastructure (GI) acts as a catalyst to economic growth[3] by:

i. Making a local area more attractive to business investors so attracting inward investment
ii. Increasing visitor spend which makes a local area more attractive to service industries
iii. Saving environmental costs, which improves air quality, reduces the urban heat island effect, filters diffuse pollution and helps to manage flood risk
iv. Providing health benefits which impacts on health through improved air quality and surroundings which encourages activity and improves mental health and well-being
v. Generating employment by attracting new businesses and residents to the area, increasing office occupancy rates and increasing the number of jobs in the area
vi. Promoting food production by enabling increased productivity in urban areas

2.3 As well as contributing towards sustainable land management, including food production, Wyre's tourism economy is very important as an economic generator and Green Infrastructure contributes strongly towards the vitality of this sector. In Wyre, Green Infrastructure presents a

[3] http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningdevelopment/greeninfrastructure/gigrowthfeature.aspx accessed 6th November 2013

significant opportunity to this industry to differentiate the Borough's offer from that of Blackpool; notably by presenting itself as a 'green destination'.

Inset picture: The River Wyre Estuary is a Site of Special Scientific Interest which also provides for water based sport such as Yachting.

SECTION THREE: PREPARING THE STRATEGY

3.1 To ensure that the many functions Green Infrastructure performs and that the associated needs in the Borough of Wyre can be mapped and understood, a broad typology of 'green spaces' encompassing all vegetated or surface water areas, both public and private, was prepared (Appendix 4). To facilitate analysis, these types were grouped under four main headings: cultivated land, recreational and other amenity grounds, natural and semi-natural green space and other Green Infrastructure assets.

3.2 A key objective for the Green Infrastructure Strategy is that it should be credible and robust. To achieve this, a high priority was given to the development of an evidence base. A robust evidence base would lend authority to the strategic level interventions proposed in the strategy. The evidence base includes:

i. Wyre Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment Evidence Base Report (2013) which includes a field assessment
ii. Wyre Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (2010)
iii. A Playing Pitch Strategy compliant with new Sport England guidelines
iv. Wyre Great Outdoors Survey (Adult)
v. Wyre Great Outdoors Survey (Young People)
vi. Stakeholder Workshop (June 2013)
vii. Local Authority Workshop (June 2013)
viii. GIS[4] and desktop[5] analysis
ix. Benchmarking exercise with other local authority areas with similar characteristics derived from ONS datasets

3.3 Strategy preparation was informed by three complementary approaches to evidence gathering, analysis and priorities setting (see Diagram 2):

- Engagement
- Field Work
- GIS & Other Desktop analysis

3.4 Work on each of these three approaches was conducted concurrently between April and September 2013. The range of activities undertaken is shown in Figure 1.

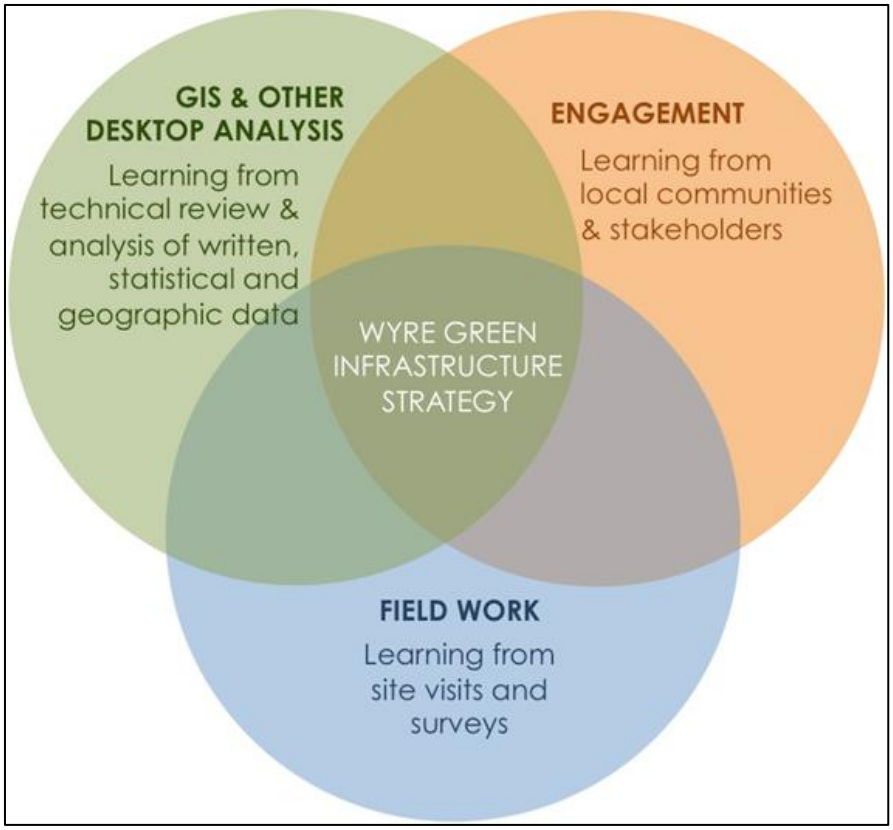


Diagram 2: The three complementary approaches used to prepare the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy.

[4] Geographical Information System (GIS)
[5] A study of peer-reviewed publications, case studies, internet articles, strategies and actions plans.

Figure 1: approaches to evidence gathering, analysis and priorities setting used in the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy	
Engagement – Learning from local communities and stakeholders.	Ensures that existing on-going projects and resources are well integrated and capitalised on. It allows for the identification of local attitudes to existing Green Infrastructure provision and local expectations for additional or improved provision. In turn this provides a basis for the setting of local standards. Leads to an understanding of local priorities for conservation and investments. This ensures the maximum alignment between the choices, driving investment in managing and enhancing the natural environment and wider aspirations for Wyre. Results in a stronger partnership for delivery, turning a collection of individual stakeholders into proactive and collaborative shareholders. The techniques used for consultation and engagement were[6]: – The Wyre Great Outdoors Survey, which was made available in paper format as well as through Wyre Council's online portal and advertised to local residents and community groups, parish and local councillors as well as visitors to Wyre open spaces. Both the adult and the young people version of the survey covered a range of topics including; quantity, quality, and access to different types of provision. Questions also investigated use patterns, perceptions of key benefits, and priorities for future investments. – Stakeholder workshops were held on the 18th and 19th June 2013. Each half day workshop explored the Green Infrastructure opportunities, constraints and priorities with stakeholders and local authority representatives. A local authority workshop was followed-up by project questionnaires, designed to get a Council perspective on the topics covered at the stakeholder workshop, ensure coordination with neighbouring local authorities and learn extensive details about on-going projects and investment. Telephone consultation was undertaken with recognised bodies and stakeholders on projects for the implementation framework.
Field Work – learning from site visits and surveys.	This is essential to enable a thorough appreciation of the local context to be built into the recommendations, facilitating an informed dialogue with local communities and prioritised approach to the evidence review. Field work enables the ground-truthing of quality, through an objective assessment of site conditions and maintenance. Drive through and walks were held throughout Wyre Borough. Detailed site audits were conducted in 52 locations to produce the Wyre Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment Evidence Base Report (2013) and a review of the Open Space Assessment (2010). The criteria used to assess the quality of these sites as well as the audit findings are presented in the Wyre Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment Evidence Base report 2013.
GI & Other Desktop Analysis – learning from technical review and analysis of written, statistical and geographic data.	Previous studies and available geographic and statistical data offer a wealth of evidence to rigorously and objectively identify: – the nature and extent of existing Green Infrastructure provision – associated functions and benefits – associated needs The development of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy relied on extensive use of GIS to conduct this work following an innovative methodology developed by The Mersey Forest, an overview of which has been published in collaboration with Ordnance Survey and Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. More than 100 different data sources were mobilized to assess the performance of Wyre's Green Infrastructure across 35 functions upon which people and other species rely, such as evaporative cooling, food production and recreation.

[6] A report of consultation is appended to this report as Appendix 3.

SECTION FOUR: WYRE'S EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

4.1 The Borough of Wyre has a distinct and varied geography, with a mix of coast, countryside, towns and villages. The main urban area is located on a peninsula to the west of the River Wyre and an extensive rural area lies to the east. The main urban area is low lying, as is much of the countryside and farmland within the rural area. The topography, however, rises sharply towards the east where the Bowland Fells are situated. The Borough forms part of the Fylde coast sub-region, which includes Blackpool and Fylde, extending along the coast from Fleetwood to Lytham and the adjoining rural hinterlands. The River Wyre and its tributaries provide an 'ecological thread' which unifies the Borough from the east to the west. The river also defines and delineates much of the landscape character of the Borough and includes both freshwater and high-value estuarine habitats which in turn provide the focus for good recreational assets such as the Wyre Estuary Country Park.

4.2 Nine (9) local Green Infrastructure areas have been defined through an investigation of landscape, ward boundaries, habitats and land management to provide the building blocks for the Green Infrastructure Strategy. These have been numbered, named and are shown on Figure 3. Appendix 1 to this report provides a profile for each Green Infrastructure area.

No.	Name
GI1	Fleetwood
GI2	Thornton
GI3	Cleveleys
GI4	Poulton-le-Fylde
GI5	Rural Plain
GI6	Mosslands
GI7	Central Corridor
GI8	Rural East and Uplands
GI9	Sands and Coast

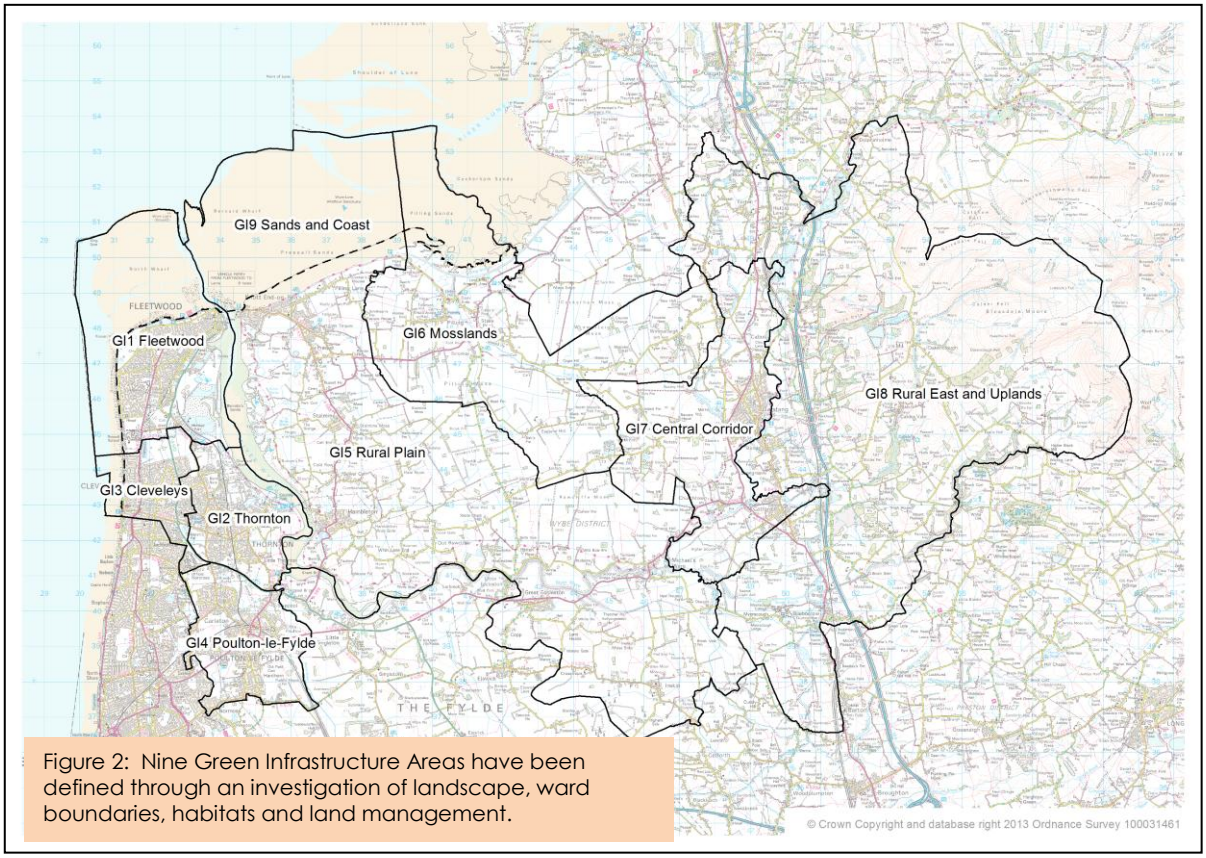


Figure 2: Nine Green Infrastructure Areas have been defined through an investigation of landscape, ward boundaries, habitats and land management.

4.4 Green infrastructure represents just over 94 percent of Wyre's total surface area (see Figure 4). Over half (51 percent) of Wyre's existing green provision is agricultural farmland. Dairy and arable farming is the main profile of farms in the lowland areas and valleys while sheep and beef farming dominate the uplands of the Bowland Fells. Market gardening can be found in the proximity of the main urban settlements to the west of the Borough. Allotment provision is limited to six sites of relatively small size.

	Area (Ha)	% of total land area	% of total GI
Cultivated land	**18531.8**	**51.22%**	**54.23%**
Agricultural land	18514.5	51.17%	54.18%
Allotment, community garden or urban farm	2.0	0.01%	0.01%
Orchard	15.3	0.04%	0.04%
Recreational and other amenity grounds	**2309.1**	**6.38%**	**6.76%**
Cemetery, churchyard or burial ground	21.1	0.06%	0.06%
General amenity space	355.0	0.98%	1.04%
Institutional grounds	183.7	0.51%	0.54%
Outdoor sports facility	329.9	0.91%	0.97%
Park or public garden	41.4	0.11%	0.12%
Private domestic garden	1378.0	3.81%	4.03%
Natural and semi-natural space	**13201.9**	**36.49%**	**38.63%**
Coastal habitat	7607.7	21.03%	22.26%
Grassland, heathland, moorland or scrubland	3020.3	8.35%	8.84%
Water body	228.8	0.63%	0.67%
Water course	833.2	2.30%	2.44%
Wetland	375.3	1.04%	1.10%
Woodland	1136.6	3.14%	3.33%
Other green infrastructure	**128.6**	**0.36%**	**0.38%**
Derelict land	128.6	0.36%	0.38%
Green roof	0.0	0.00%	0.00%
Street trees	No data available	No data available	No data available
Total	**34171.4**	**94.45%**	**100.00%**

Figure 3: Breakdown of Green Infrastructure by type in the Borough of Wyre. Green Infrastructure covers all non-sealed surfaces. See Figure 4 for a typology map.

4.5 Natural and semi-natural spaces, which, as a whole represent just over 36 percent of the Borough's total area and 38 percent of existing Green Infrastructure provision. Over half of Wyre's natural and semi-natural spaces are coastal habitats – mostly associated with Morecambe Bay and the River Wyre Estuary. Beyond coastal environments other habitats, such as moorlands or grassland (3,020 hectares) and wetlands, are also well represented. Woodlands are limited in extent (1,137 hectares) and located on the east side of the Borough, away from where most people live.

4.6 Morecambe Bay is of particular importance to Wyre. It is classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and in addition is a Ramsar site. As a result of the European Habitats Directive, Morecambe Bay is currently one of 45 European marine sites in England of European Importance. Other internationally or nationally protected sites wholly or partially located within Wyre include:

- Five SSSIs: Rough Hey Wood, Winmarleigh Moss, Bowland Fells, Wyre Estuary, Lune Estuary
- 67 Biological Heritage Sites (BHSs) covering 3,259 hectares.
- Four Geological Heritage Sites covering 616 hectares
- the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), representing 17.95 per cent of Wyre's land cover, including the Bleasdale Moors

4.7 Recreational and other amenity grounds represent about 6 percent of both Wyre's total area and existing Green Infrastructure provision. Private gardens represent over half of this. Whilst overall private gardens cover only about 4 percent of both Wyre's total area, they represent one of the primary types of Green Infrastructure found in the urban settlements on the west side of the Borough. In Cleveleys, Thornton and Poulton-le-Fylde private gardens represent between 24 to 41 percent of local Green Infrastructure provision (for map and further details, see the Area Profiles in Appendix 1).

4.8 Green infrastructure also includes an attractive range of parks and gardens (11 sites offering 37.4 hectares to enjoy - including the prestigious Fleetwood Memorial Park), amenity green space (102 sites, providing 42.9 hectares), churchyards and cemeteries (39 sites providing 22 hectares). A typology map (see Figure 5) shows the distribution of different land and water types.

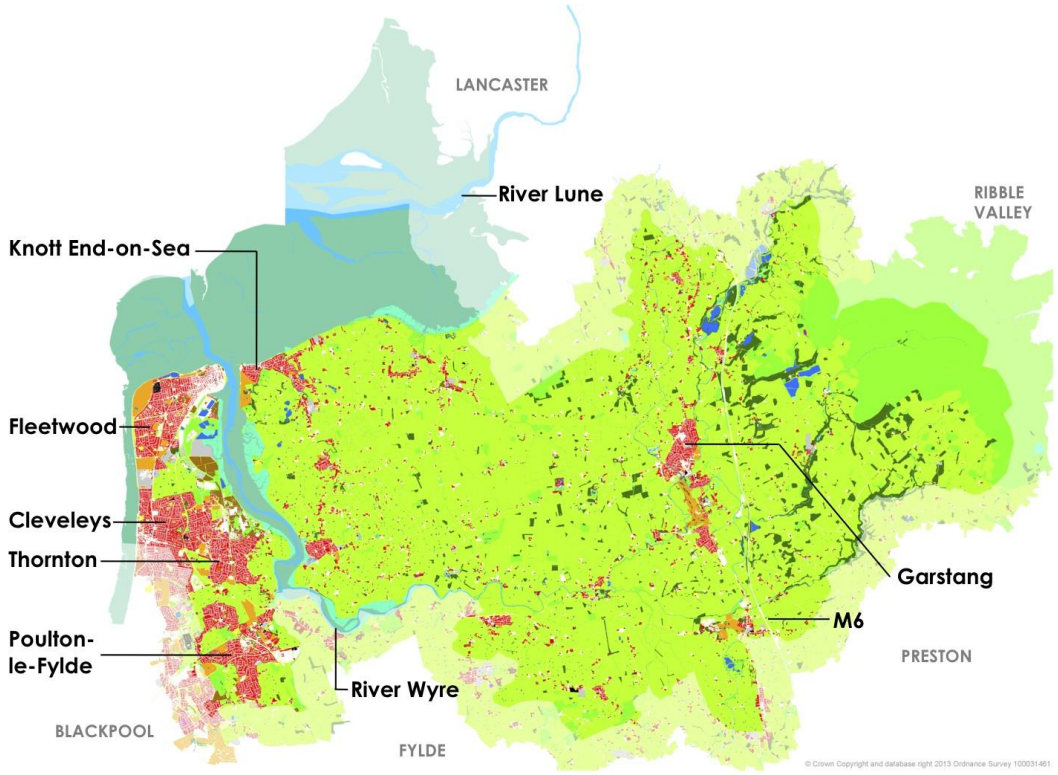


Figure 4: A Typology Map shows the distribution of Green Infrastructure across the Borough. A detailed breakdown of typology is available in Appendix 3 of this report. The red areas correspond with sealed urban services and are concentrated to the west of the River Wyre and along the A6 corridor notably at Garstang.

Inset picture: The Lancaster Canal is a major recreational resource.

SECTION 5: ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONS, BENEFITS AND NEEDS

5.1 Green Infrastructure exists in both the public and the private domains. No single organisation or individual controls Green Infrastructure. It is a common good which benefits all. All who benefit from Green Infrastructure have responsibilities towards it. The key word for maximising the benefit of Green Infrastructure is partnership and the basis for achieving this is a delivery framework.

5.2 However to maximise the benefits through strategic level interventions it is vital to identify key groups and individuals who are major consumers of Green Infrastructure. Recreational users are one such group of consumers as are those who use open spaces for sport, health and fitness. Those who enjoy being close to nature and those that use the land for a livelihood notably farmers and growers are also major consumers. The regulatory aspects of Green Infrastructure such as the provision of potable drinking water, clean air, productive soils for food and wood, and climate change mitigation makes consumers of us all, even those who don't regularly use Wyre's Great Outdoors. Green Infrastructure matters to everyone.

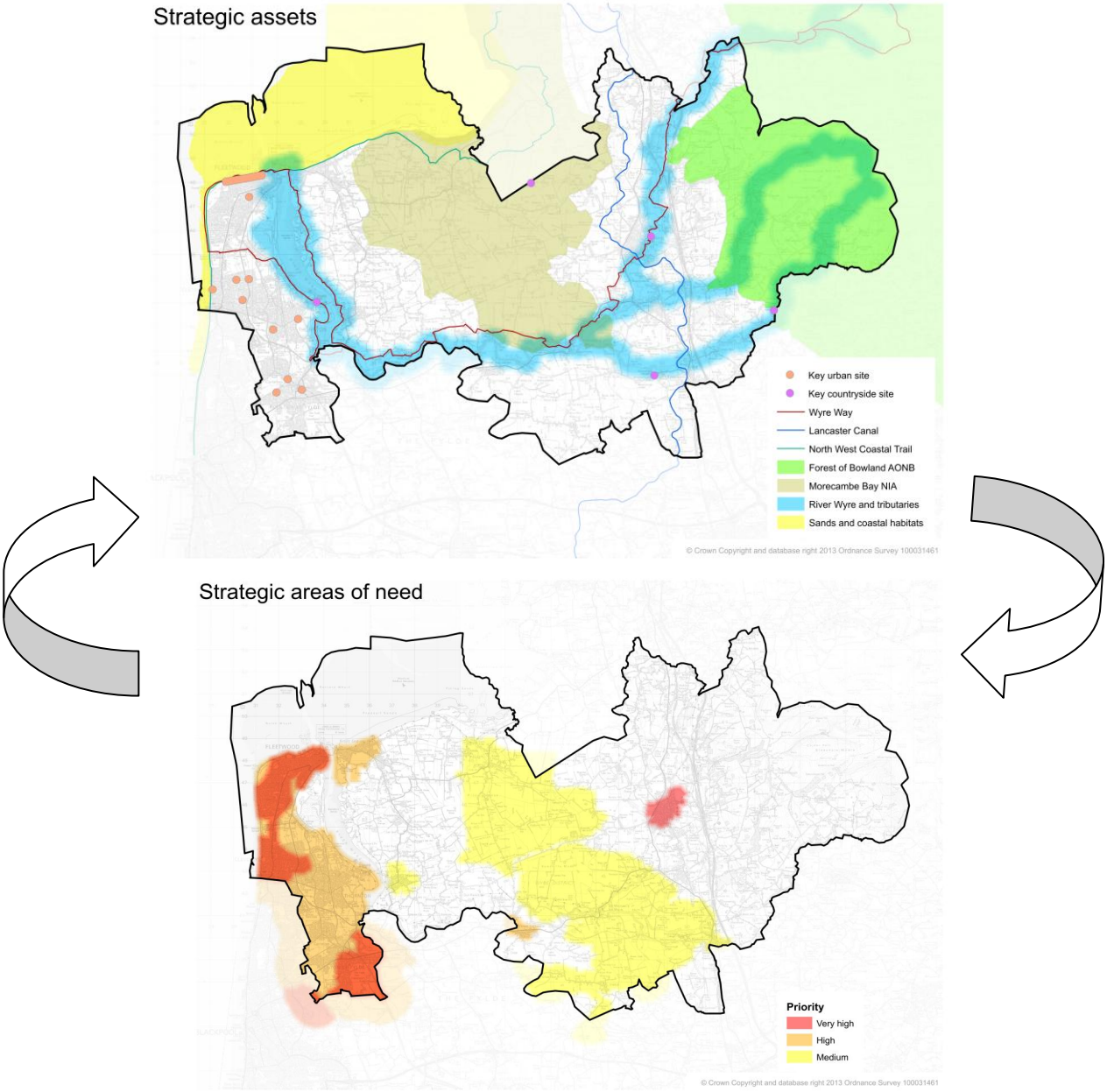


Figure 5: The correlation of strategic areas of need and strategic assets underpins the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

5.3 The Geographical Information analysis (GIS), conducted in preparation for this strategy, considered 35 different functions which peer reviewed academic research has shown Green Infrastructure can perform. Needs for each function were mapped to help identify where demand exists that is not met. These were merged to devise two key maps that shape the Strategy – Strategic Areas of Need and Strategic Assets (See Figure 5).

5.4 The 35 functions considered do not cover the whole range of services Green Infrastructure provide since the data is not always available to map and quantify the different services Green Infrastructure provides. Hence a review of other existing studies as well as engagement with local stakeholders and users were key to fill this gap.

5.5 The desktop GIS analysis showed that, amongst the list of 35 considered, the top ten functions most commonly performed by Green Infrastructure in Wyre (based on the total land area concerned) are the following:

1. **Evaporative cooling**
2. **Providing jobs**
3. **Food production**
4. **Visual contribution to landscape character**
5. **Carbon storage**
6. **Corridor for wildlife**
7. **Habitat for wildlife**
8. **Connection with local environment**
9. **Physical movement barrier**
10. **Inaccessible water storage**

5.6 It should be noted (see Figure 6) that the area-derived 'Top 10' list is not an indicator of the degree of impact each function has, but rather of the geographic extent where each function is performed.

5.7 To quality assure and triangulate

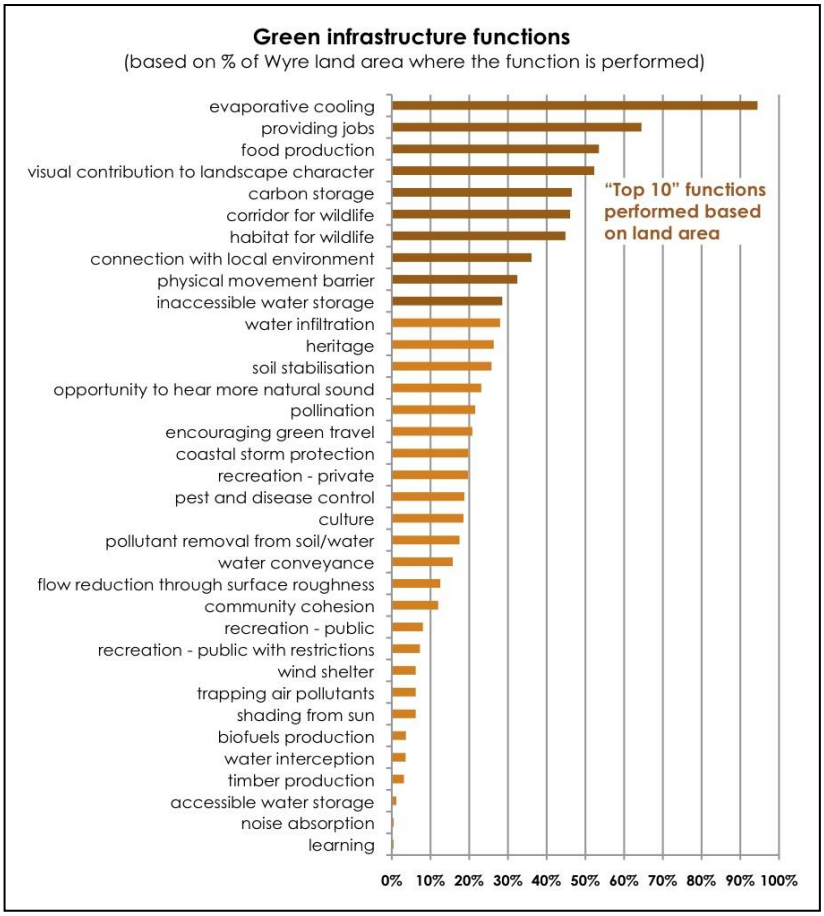
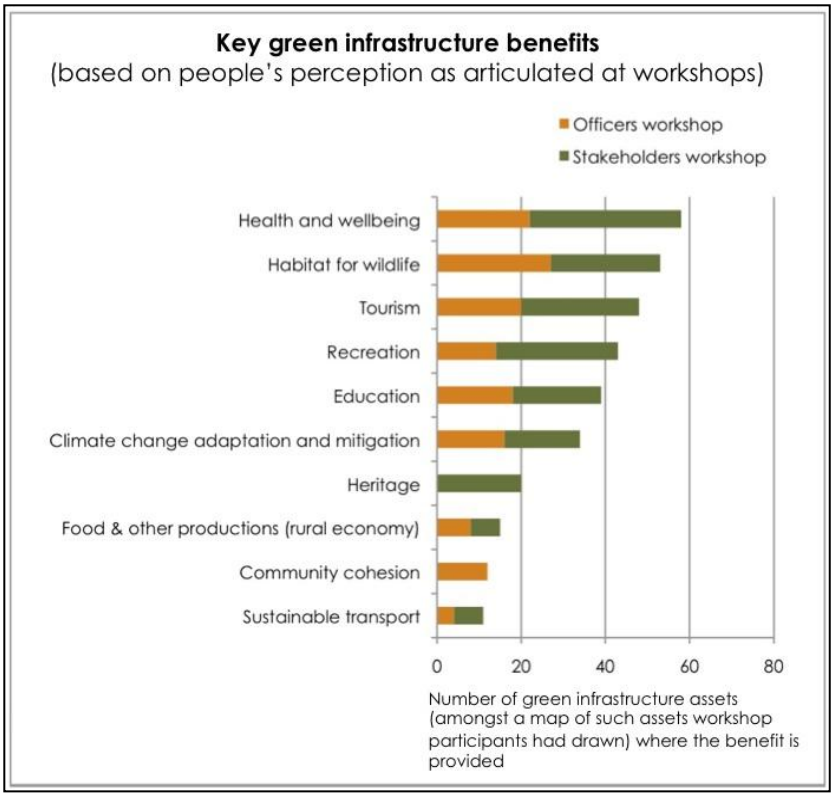


Figure 6 above: Green Infrastructure functions performed in the Borough of Wyre derived from a peer-reviewed spatial analysis. Figure 7 below: Green Infrastructure benefits based on people's perceptions.



the results a complementary approach to assess the respective importance of the range of functions, performed by Wyre Green Infrastructure, is to consider local perceptions. This provides valuable insight into what people value and get from their local environment. When asked what benefits Wyre Green Infrastructure provides, participants to a Stakeholders and Officers workshops held in June 2013 offered the following responses (see Figure 7):

1. **Health and wellbeing**
2. **Habitat for wildlife**
3. **Tourism**
4. **Recreation**
5. **Education**
6. **Climate change adaptation and mitigation (particularly water management and carbon storage)**
7. **Heritage**
8. **Food & other productions supporting the rural economy**
9. **Community cohesion**
10. **Sustainable transport**

5.8 The mapping exercise which compared the 35 different functions, revealed locations where needs exist for each of these functions, but where they are not being met. The map at Figure 8 shows these areas which broadly correspond to:

- **The urban west – particularly Fleetwood, Cleveleys, and Poulton-le-Fylde, as well as also extending to Knott End on the east side of the River Wyre Estuary.**
- **Garstang**
- **The low-lying farmland and villages from Pilling to St Michael's on Wyre**

5.9 The same mapping also identifies those areas where needs are met (see Figure 9) and by comparison of these two maps a Percentage of Needs Met is determined (see Figure 10). This is a powerful analytical tool to identify where interventions are necessary and how to prioritise these. This enabled the production of a strategic areas of need map (see Figure 5)

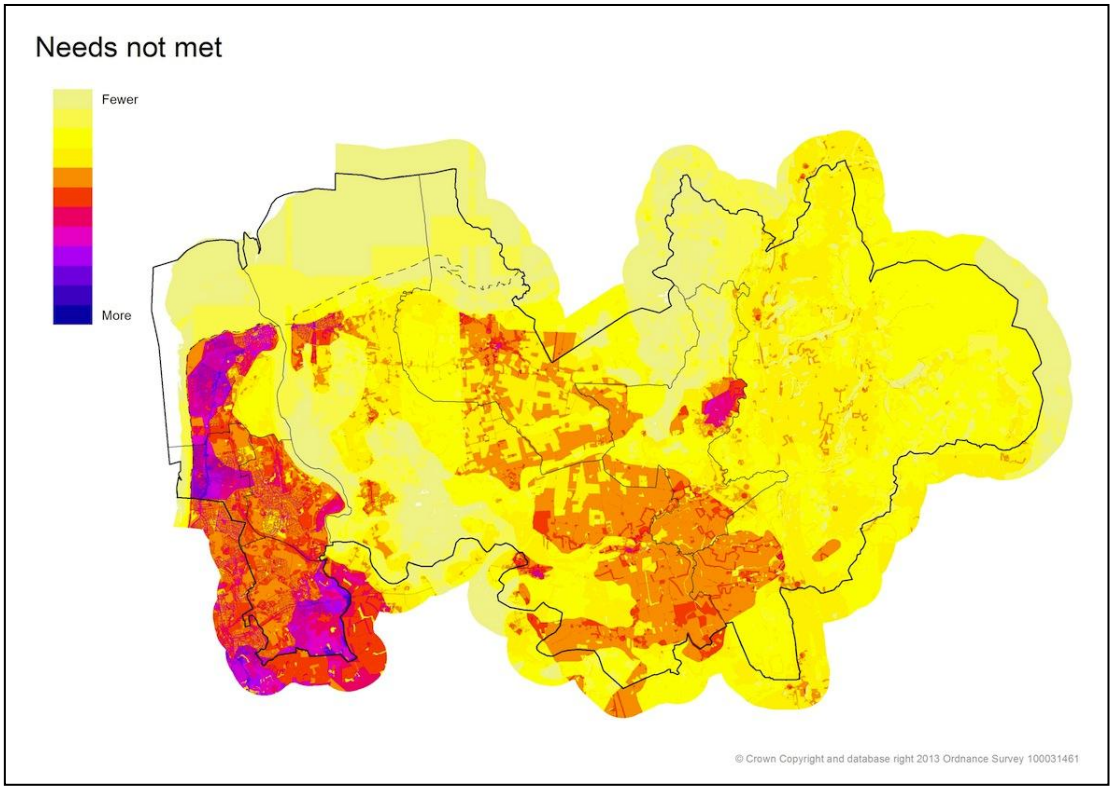


Figure 8: The map shows the geographical distribution for where Green Infrastructure is not meeting the needs of society. This is notably the case in the urban west – particularly Fleetwood, Cleveleys and Poulton-le-Fylde also extending to Knott End and also at Garstang and the low-lying farmland and villages from Pilling to St Michael's on Wyre.

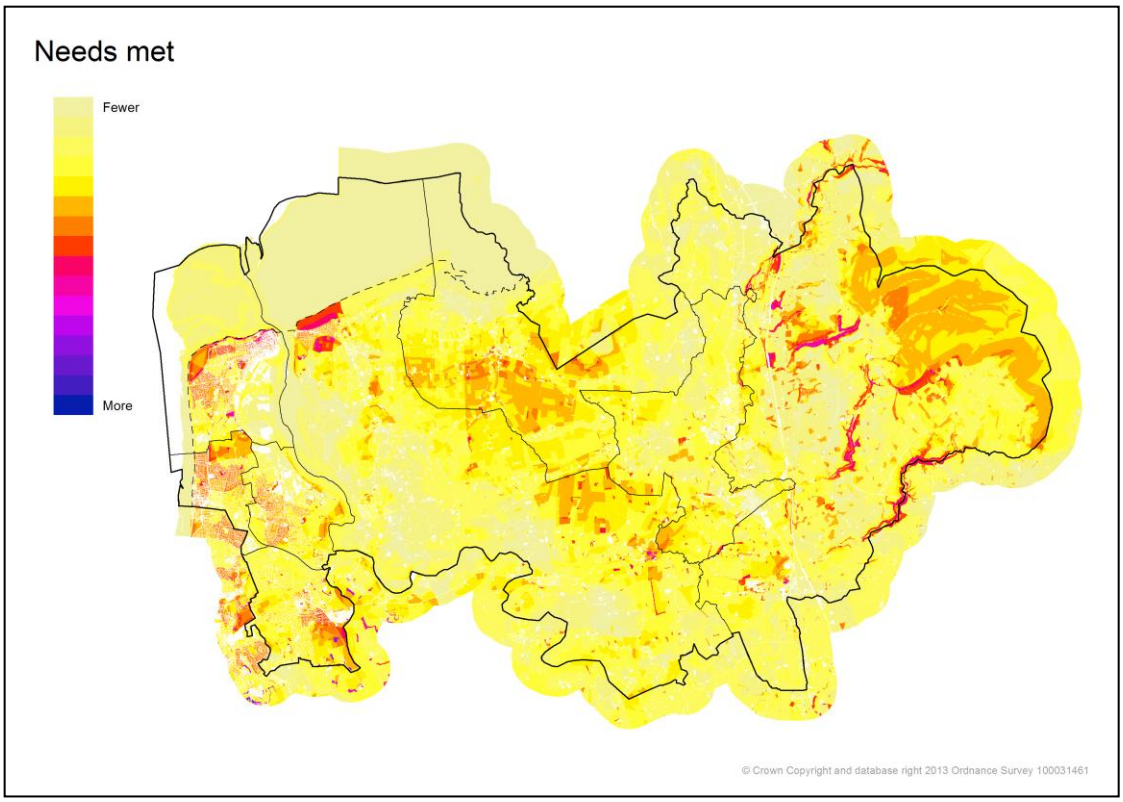


Figure 9: The map shows the geographical distribution for where Green Infrastructure is meeting the needs of society.

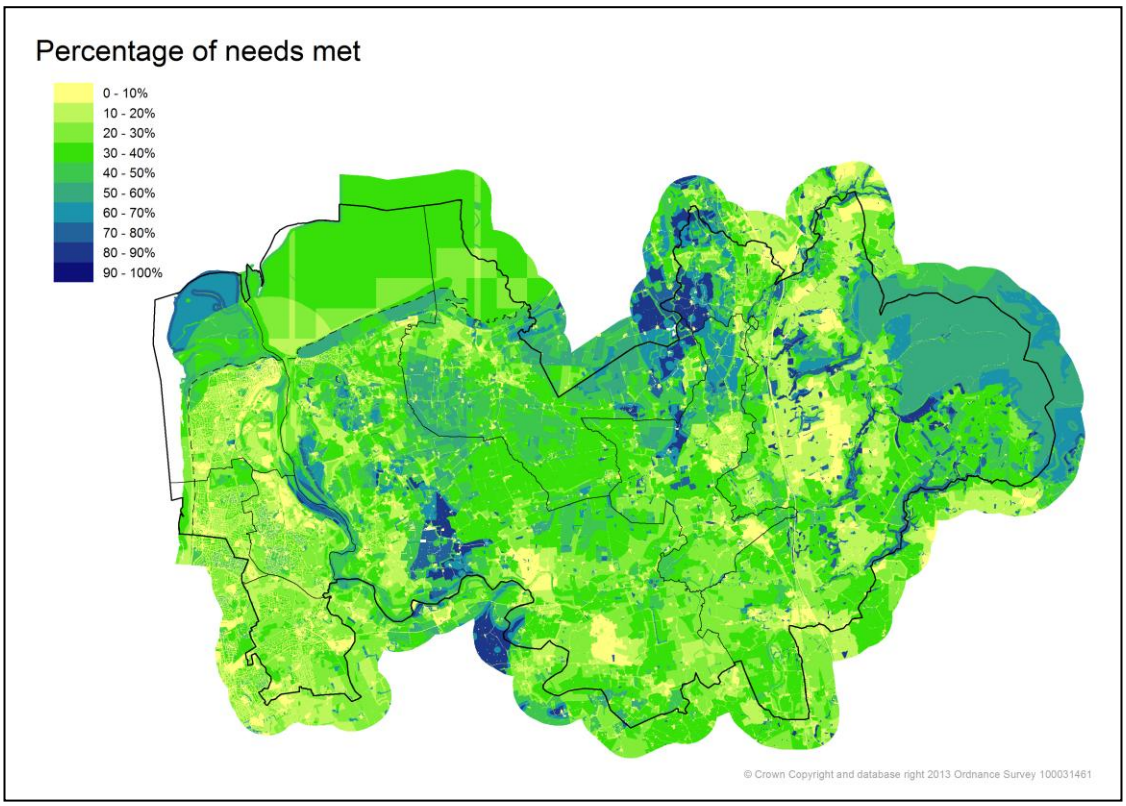


Figure 10: By merging the results of the Needs not met and the Needs met exercises it is possible to show the percentage of needs met across the Borough of Wyre.

5.10 At the end of the analysis, four key priorities around which the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy could be developed were defined:

- **Securing quality of place and positive development**
- **Capitalising on the great outdoors for local economic growth**
- **Enabling healthier lives and stronger communities through outdoor lifestyles**
- **Making Wyre more resilient and biodiverse**

5.11 Each of these priorities is explored in the following sections in terms of existing strengths and then the challenges to be addressed.

Inset picture: Newly installed play facilities at Fleetwood Memorial Park.

SECTION 6: THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SECURING QUALITY OF PLACE AND POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

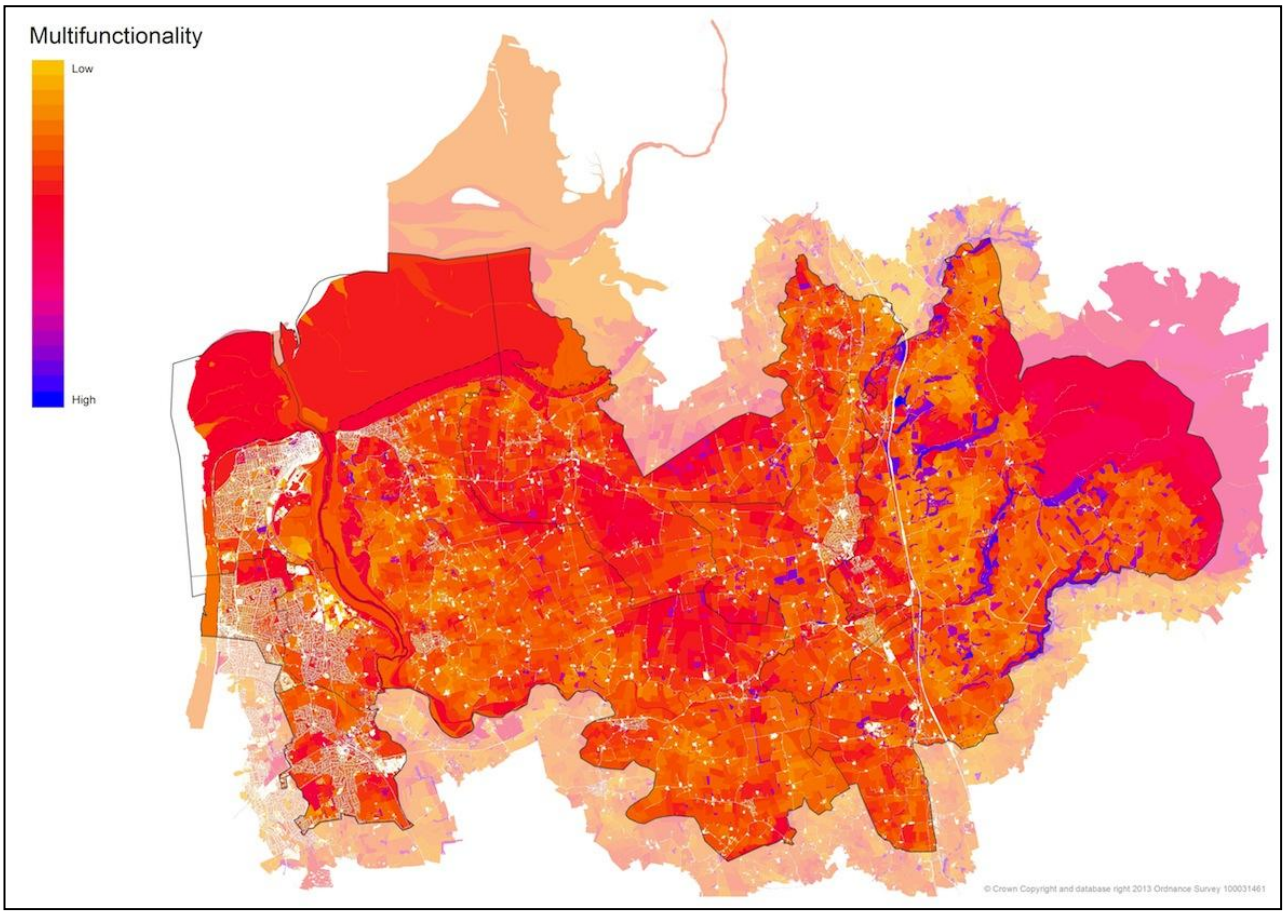


Figure 11: High performing Green Infrastructure is also multi-functional. The highest performing multi-functional resources are the tributaries of the River Wyre in Green Infrastructure Area 8 (GI8) Rural East.

Securing quality of place and positive development: Strengths

6.1 Green infrastructure makes a very strong contribution to Wyre's quality of place. There are many dimensions to this: it can be argued that all functions provided by Green Infrastructure – from flood protection to opportunities for recreation – contribute to quality of place (see Figure 12). The focus taken in this strategy is on local distinctiveness, image and perceptions of the built environment, as well as spatial structure and growth.

6.2 Private gardens and public gardens, as well as natural and semi-natural spaces found within and around the settlement, make a strong positive contribution to the Borough's visual character by softening views and boundary treatments, adding life, changing colours and texture. Some areas have pursued very high standards in this regard: in 2013, Garstang won Gold in the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom competition in the Small Town category.

6.3 Green infrastructure – particularly farmland found in the Wyre peninsula – also provides separations and buffers between the main built-up areas, avoiding settlement coalescence. This impact is particularly noticeable between Poulton-le-Fylde and Blackpool, Poulton-le-Fylde and Cleveleys-Thornton, and Cleveleys and Fleetwood.

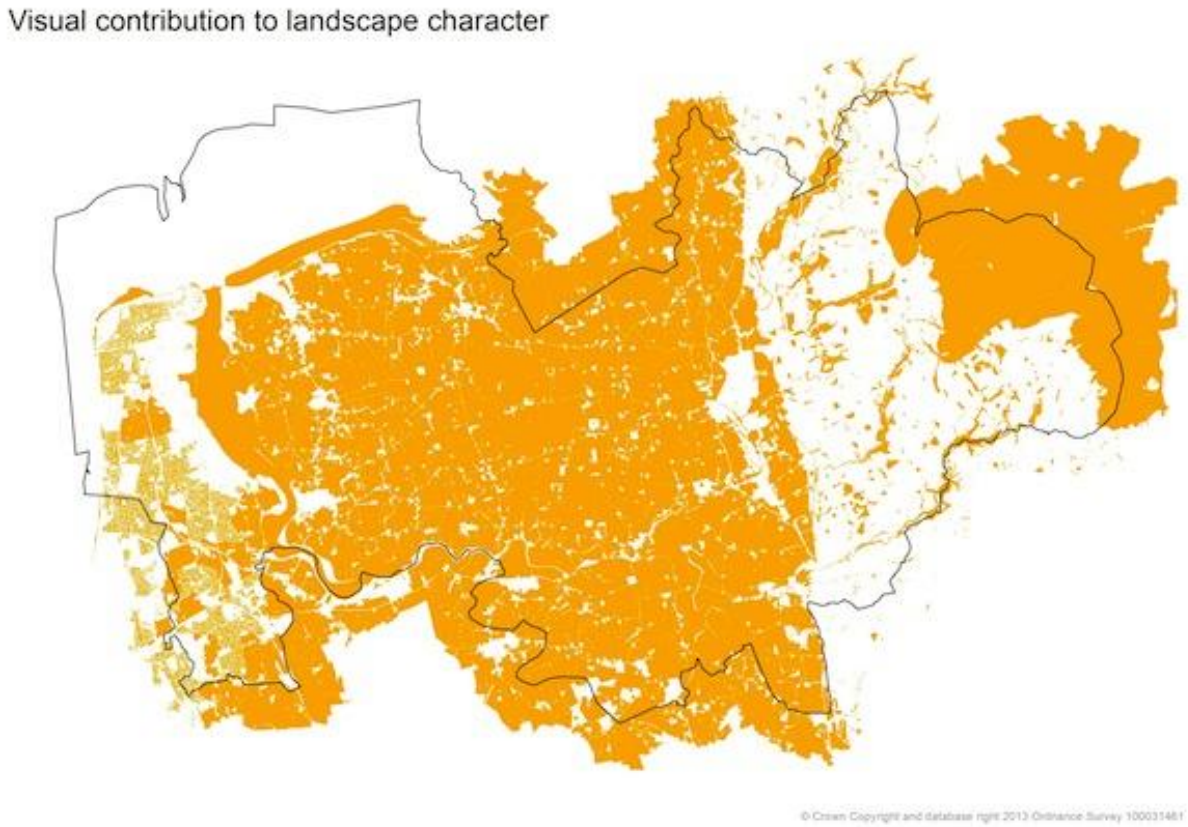


Figure 12: Landscape character is a major factor in quality of place; development can enhance or damage it. Visual impact assessments are one of several tools professionals use to assess whether development will have a beneficial, neutral or damaging effect. Heavier shading shows a greater contribution and the lighter shading a lesser contribution.

Securing quality of place and positive development: Challenges

6.4 Government planning policy presumes in favour of sustainable development whilst keeping vital environmental protections in place. This is embedded in a tightly focused National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012). Green Infrastructure is a key aspect of the NPPF so development should support Green Infrastructure as an environmental protection; this is positive development. Positive development is manifested through development protecting the ecosystem services provided by Green Infrastructure, maintaining or adding to it and adopting the culture, techniques and technologies that can manage Green Infrastructure in urban design; such as Green Roofs and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. A good deal is achieved when developers provide landscape proposals that have a high biodiversity and access to nature content.

6.5 Wyre is growing, and will continue to grow. This is both a threat and a great opportunity for Green Infrastructure. The challenge ahead is to mitigate the threats (loss of Green Infrastructure assets delivering critical functions, 'clone town' growth with no distinctive sense of place), and make the most of the opportunity. Ensuring that new developments contribute to maintain and enhance local landscape character is amongst local people and visitors' top three[7] benefits of Green Infrastructure (see Figure 12).

6.6 Consultation activities highlighted strong expectations regarding:

[7] 11.08% respondents to the Wyre Great Outdoors Survey Adult questionnaire chose this priority out of a list of 11 other options, making it the 3rd most popular choice in the list – See Appendix 3 on consultation process and results.

– The inclusions and improvement to Green Infrastructure corridors through development[8], so that new developments are well connected and integrated into the existing settlements, and wider landscape: Wyre needs safe, attractive and green cycle and walking routes connecting its communities to each other, employment and retails sites, to parks and open green spaces and to wider landscapes
– Increased use and reliance on Sustainable Drainage Solutions.

6.8 New developments are expected to be of the highest design quality with Green Infrastructure, biodiversity and sustainability as core design values.

6.9 For external visitors, a place's image will often be strongly impacted by the quality of the landscape along main access roads and town entrances. This is of particular importance in Wyre if the full potential of capitalising on the existing assets such as the Forest of Bowland, Morecambe Bay and to reinforce the tourism economy in the Borough's market towns and urban centres is to be realised. The GIS mapping and site visits conducted to help prepare this strategy identified opportunities for improvement – particularly along the M6 corridor, the A585 (access to Poulton-Le-Fylde and wider Wyre peninsula) and the access roads to Knott End.

6.10 A lack of trees and woodlands was identified through the strategy consultation, for example, in connection with street trees. Better tree provision in the Borough would contribute to enhancing image and quality of place (including in town entrances situations), but also enhance the attractiveness of new or existing retail areas[9]. It would also provide an effective tool to enhance neighbourhood walkability, supporting in this the delivery of the Neighbourhood First and 20mph residential zone objectives put forward in the Local Transport Plan[10].

Inset picture: Sand Dunes at Fleetwood.

[8] See workshop notes in Appendix 3.

[9] Peer reviewed research led by Kathleen Wolf at the University of Washington in the US has demonstrated that the presence of trees in retail areas positively influence both the perception and the behaviour (dwell time) of shoppers. Video providing summary of findings: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8ujLR5LtMA referenced Sept 2013. Research papers: Wolf, K. L. 2005. Business District Streetscapes, Trees and Consumer Response. Journal of Forestry 103, 8, 396-400. Joye, Y., K. Willems, M. Brengman, & K. Wolf. 2010. The Effects of Urban Retail Greenery on Consumer Experience: Reviewing the Evidence from a Restorative Perspective. Urban Forestry and Urban Greening 9, 1: 57-64.

[10] Local Transport Plan 2011-2021, Delivering our Priorities, Implementation Plan for 2012/13 – 14/15. July 2012, Lancashire County Council

SECTION 7: THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: CAPITALISING ON THE GREAT OUTDOORS FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Capitalising on the great outdoors for local economic growth: Strengths

7.1 Throughout the Borough, Wyre's Green Infrastructure directly generates jobs for land management (particularly food production) and landscape-based services (outdoor leisure and tourism industries) (see Figure 13). People visit Wyre for its quality landscapes, both cultural (the villages, the promenade, the urban quarters) and natural (the beaches, the Wyre Estuary Country Park, nature reserves, paths). Green infrastructure is the foundation of Wyre's tourism industry. The latest available figures on the value of the tourism economy in Wyre show a flourishing industry: in 2011 alone, Wyre attracted 7.8 million tourist days, and the overall value of tourism was estimated at £304.28 million[11]. Wyre benefits from a good infrastructure to promote its tourism offer, including Tourism Information Centres and the Visit Wyre website.

7.2 In addition to providing a basis for tourism services, Wyre Green Infrastructure also delivers unique high quality local food products – including cheese, meat and fish. Marketing of these products contributes to Wyre's attractiveness as a tourism destination. It also enables better prospects for the rural economy. Garstang's farmers market, the Garstang and District Partnership's Local Food initiative (promoting producers, retailers and restaurants involved[12]) and 'Made in Lancashire' all provide support mechanism to encourage short supply chains that benefits producers, consumers and the environment alike. The small scale local food hub based in Garstang is in a good position to draw on a widened consumer base.

7.3 Wyre is home to one of the country's leading facilities for education and training in the land-based and sports industries: Myerscough College.

Inset picture: Habitat sensitive management of recreational grassland at Fleetwood.

[11] Source: analysis based on STEAM model conducted by Global Tourism Solution.
[12] http://www.garstang.net/includes/pdf/garstang_localproduceguide.pdf, referenced Sept. 2013

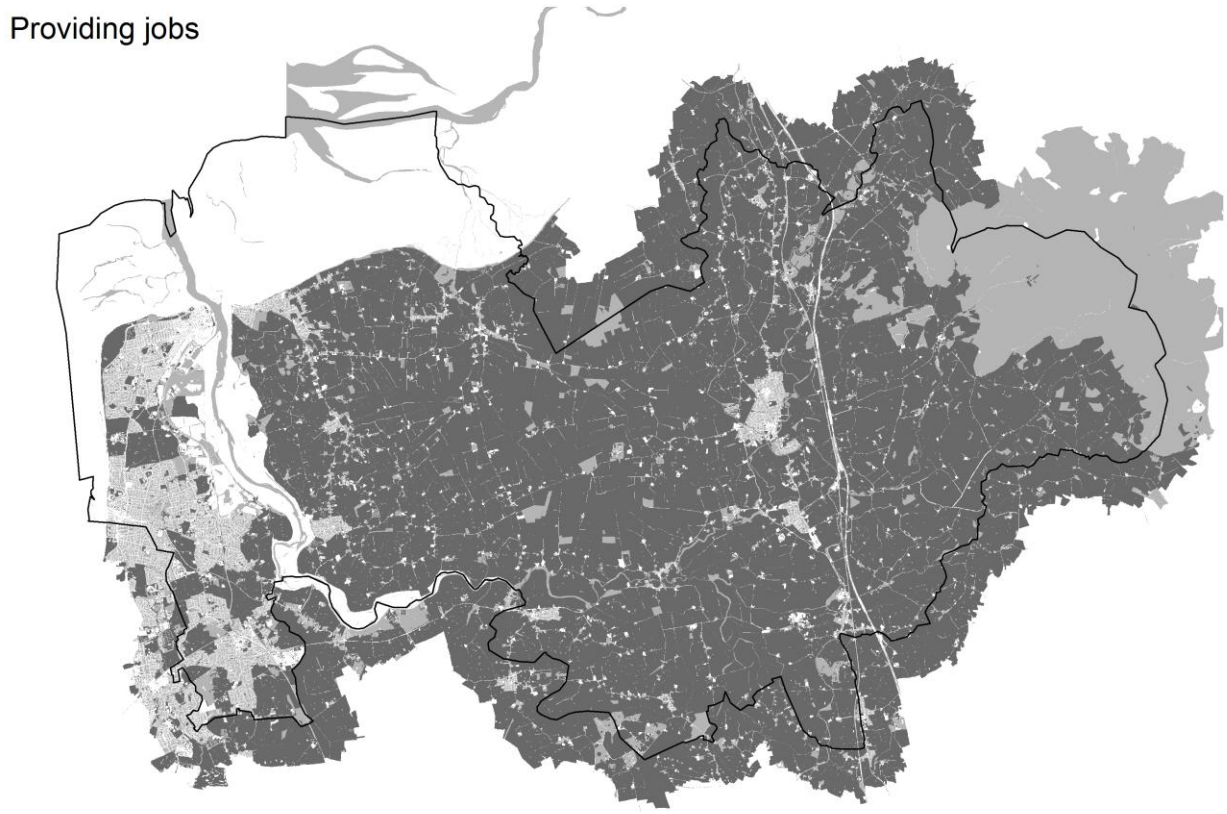


Figure 13: Jobs are created directly in land based industries ranging from agriculture and forestry, through to gardening angling, recreation and sport. Heavier shading shows a greater contribution and the lighter shading a lesser contribution.

Capitalising on the great outdoors for local economic growth: Challenges

7.4 While farming has a central role in ensuring rural landscapes management, intensification of agricultural practices can also lead to serious landscape and environmental degradations. Whilst delivering profits in the short-term (although the rising costs of the required inputs such as fertilizer, feed, pesticides etc. is increasingly making this equation more challenging – particularly in dairy farming), everyone is affected in the long-term by associated costs and externalities. Diffuse pollution due to high phosphorus concentrations generated by dairy farming in the River Wyre Catchment is a serious concern for both fresh water and bathing water quality. This is damaging to both the local environment (and compliance with statutory regulation such as the European Water Directive) and the local economy – given induced impacts on tourism driven by poor bathing water quality.

7.5 Tourism and leisure destinations are not lacking in the Fylde coast area. The challenge for Wyre is to differentiate itself – as a consultation workshop participant put it: "offer an alternative to the Blackpool model". This requires a concerted effort to strongly emphasise landscapes – and associated assets – in communication with the target audience. It also requires ensuring that Wyre's main settlements can provide effective gateways to the wider landscapes.

SECTION 8: THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: ENABLING HEALTHY LIVES AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES THROUGH OUTDOOR LIFESTYLES

Enabling healthy lives and stronger communities through outdoor lifestyles: Strengths

8.1 Wyre's Green Infrastructure provides a wealth of opportunities for outdoor recreation, both in the private and in the public realm (see Figure 14). The review of responses to the Wyre Great Outdoors Survey on quantity of provision across different types of publicly accessible open space has shown that a clear majority of people (i.e. > 60 percent) are satisfied with the current amount of parks and gardens, amenity green space, and most types of natural and semi-natural green space (except woodlands). Views on the adequacy of the quantity of children and young people play provision and green corridors are evenly split. A majority of people also tends to be satisfied with the overall quality of these assets – even though levels of satisfaction are not as high for amenity green space and several types of natural and semi-natural green space such as woodlands and wetlands. The independent quality assessment conducted as part of the Wyre Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment Evidence Base report corroborates these perceptions.

8.2 Using and engaging with Green Infrastructure is an essential part of life in Wyre. 83 percent of respondents to the Wyre Great Outdoors Survey say they use green space in Wyre. The activities most often quoted by adult respondents when asked what they do when they get to the two sites they visit most often were:

i. Go for a walk or a hike
ii. Enjoy/observe wildlife
iii. Sit and relax[13]

Asked the same question, young people responded:

i. Have a kick-about
ii. Hang-out
iii. Meet with friends[14]

8.3 Over 1 in 2 respondents go to visit their top two green space sites no less than once a week – while 1 in 5 go everyday. Walking is the most cited method of travel to get there. There is a wealth of evidence[15] on the impacts of access to green space, contact with nature and practice of gentle exercise on a regular basis have on public health – including mental health and dementia prevention, which are areas of focus for the Fylde & Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group. There are no doubts that Green Infrastructure has a positive and significant impact on the health of Wyre residents. To better tap into the health benefits Green Infrastructure can provide, a number of programmes have been set up such as:

i. The Green Exercise Programme – 10-week referral for people with various mental health conditions to sample work in conservation and the outdoors, with volunteer opportunities made available towards the end of the 10 week
ii. The Walking Wyre programme – a series of one hour health walks across Wyre to help keep people fit and active, as well as provide opportunities to socialise

[13] Respectively quoted by 56, 45 and 41 percent of adult respondents.
[14] Respectively quoted by 69, 69 and 67 percent of young people respondents.
[15] Health and Natural Environment – An evidence base information pack, Natural England, March 2012 – Available at: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/health-information-pack_tcm6-31487.pdf - Referenced Sept. 2013.

8.4 Continued investment to help enhance local people's health and promote healthier lifestyles is amongst the top three priorities local people and visitors have identified for Wyre Green Infrastructure[16] in the future.

8.5 Wyre Green Infrastructure also provides a strong magnet to facilitate and support community cohesion. Meeting with friends and socialising is one of the top three activities Young people report having when visiting the two sites they frequent more often. It is also mentioned as a key activity for 17 percent of adult respondents. Levels of participation in outdoor-based volunteering activities (including the creation of a community garden by volunteers in Poulton-le-Fylde) also demonstrate the powerful appeal and role of Green Infrastructure in strengthening local communities.

Enabling healthy lives and stronger communities through outdoor lifestyles: Challenges

8.6 While high levels of satisfaction have been identified in regards to some aspects of Wyre's publicly accessible green space, some dissatisfaction also exists: this is particularly the case regarding current quantity provision of woodlands and allotments. Benchmarking against national standards and comparable local authorities has corroborated that deficiencies exist when it comes to these two types of assets.

8.7 Another area highlighted is the poor quality and lack of continuity (apart from the Wyre Way) of some of the green corridors and public right-of-way provision. GIS mapping was conducted to assess Wyre's Green Infrastructure performance when it comes to supporting and facilitating green travel. The results about green routes linking the most dense population centres, towards employment, retail areas or education facilities showed very poor result. Indeed most of urban Wyre as well as other areas such as around Knott-End and Garstang performed poorly in this regard.

8.8 Whilst overall provision of parks and other publicly accessible open space providing opportunities for active and passive recreation might be deemed satisfactory, disparities between areas exist. About 2,500 people (representing 2.3% of the population) do not live within any of the recommended catchment identified in the Wyre Greenspace Standards proposal (see Appendix 1 – which also identifies the scope of local deficiencies in greater details).

8.9 The consultation also highlighted two factors affecting the realisation of the full potential of the health and recreation benefits of Wyre's Green Infrastructure:

i. The lack of data recording the extent and impact of the "natural health service" type approaches (e.g. Green exercise referral) underway. At a time when there is growing demand for decreasing public resources, failure to keep good track of (and publicise) impacts of approaches can be damaging.
ii. Improved publicity on the range of recreation and access provision: in the Wyre Great Outdoors Survey, the top one choice of non-users regarding what, if anything would make them use green space more was "more information on the offer".

[16] 14.43% respondents to the Wyre Great Outdoors Survey Adult questionnaire chose this priority out of a list of 11 other options, making it the 3rd most popular choice in the list – See Appendix 3 on consultation process and results.

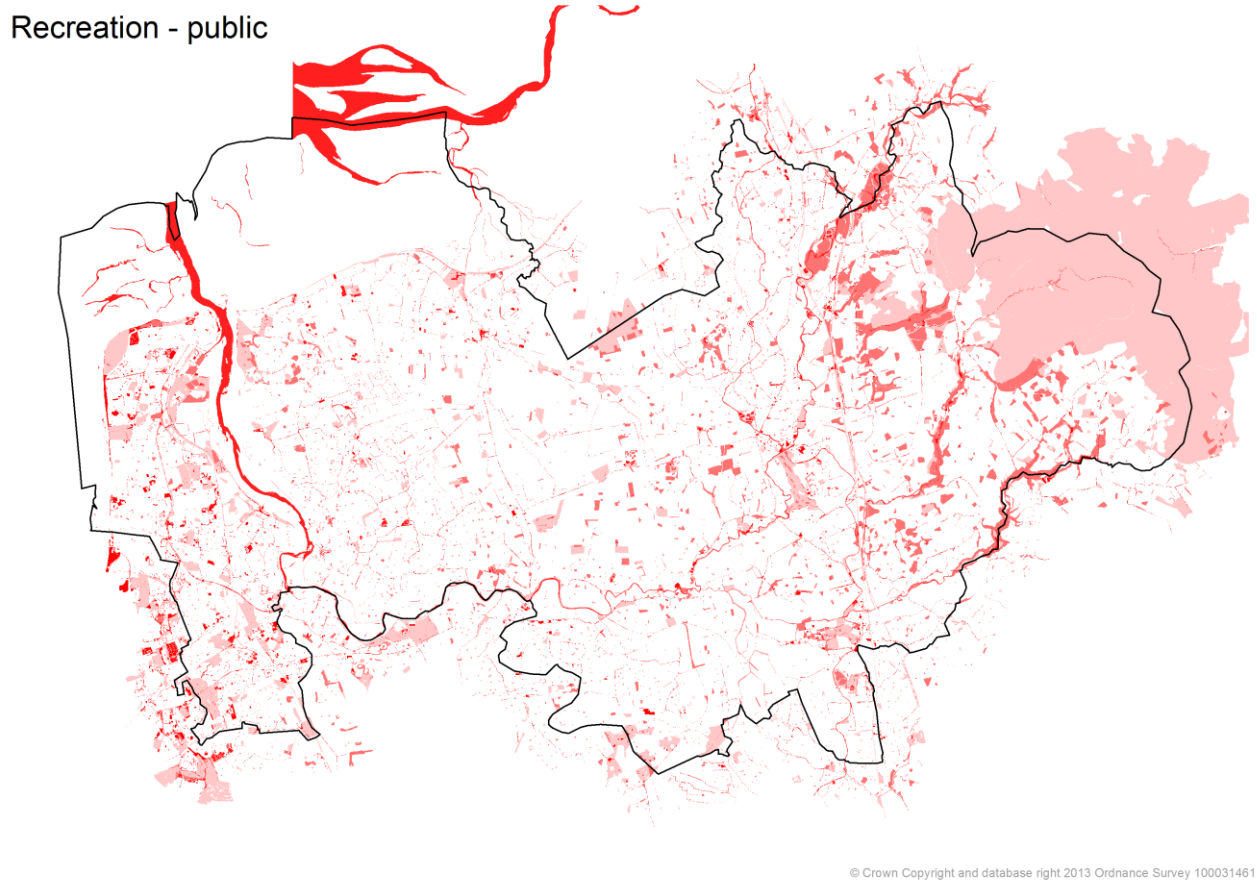


Figure 14: Distribution map of recreational opportunities across the Borough of Wyre. In the urban areas the sites are small but have a large carrying capacity and are hence very important. Wyre has very good provision for water based recreation notably on the River Wyre estuary however access to water locations was raised in consultation as a concern and has since been surveyed as part of the Wyre Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (2013). Heavier shading shows a greater contribution and the lighter shading a lesser contribution.

Inset picture: The Wyre Estuary from the Country Park. The country park is a highly regarded local asset for public recreation.

SECTION 9: THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: MAKING WYRE MORE RESILIENT AND BIODIVERSE

Making Wyre more resilient and biodiverse: Strengths

9.1 Wyre features some extensive high quality habitats for wildlife. Connectivity between key sites also tends to be high (see Figure 15). The Morecambe Bay Nature Improvement Area (NIA) provides the basis to take a landscape scale approach to conservation and have better chances to attract funding. Greater investment to help support wildlife benefit from strong community support: this was the most often quoted priority for the future of Green Infrastructure during the great Wyre Outdoors Survey[17]. Large extents of Green Infrastructure in Wyre perform carbon storage. Wyre Green Infrastructure is also effective at soil stabilisation and protection against the risk of erosion. Green Infrastructure also contributes to Biodiversity 2020 - A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services.

9.2 The Forest of Bowland and Morecambe Bay are vitally important biodiversity resources each with a management plan that directs the sustainable management of the resource. The River Wyre and tributaries provide a linkage between the two as is the most important green corridor in Wyre as a consequence.

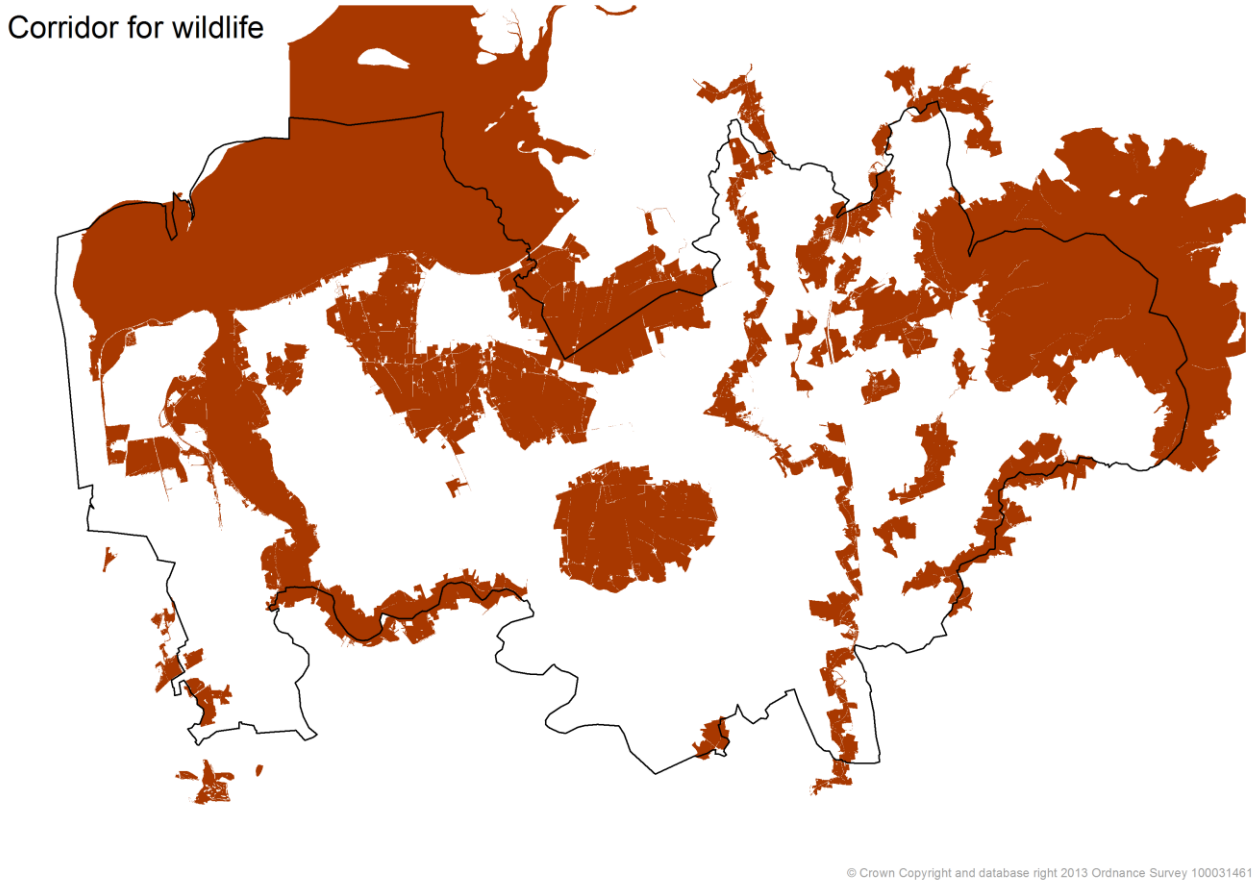


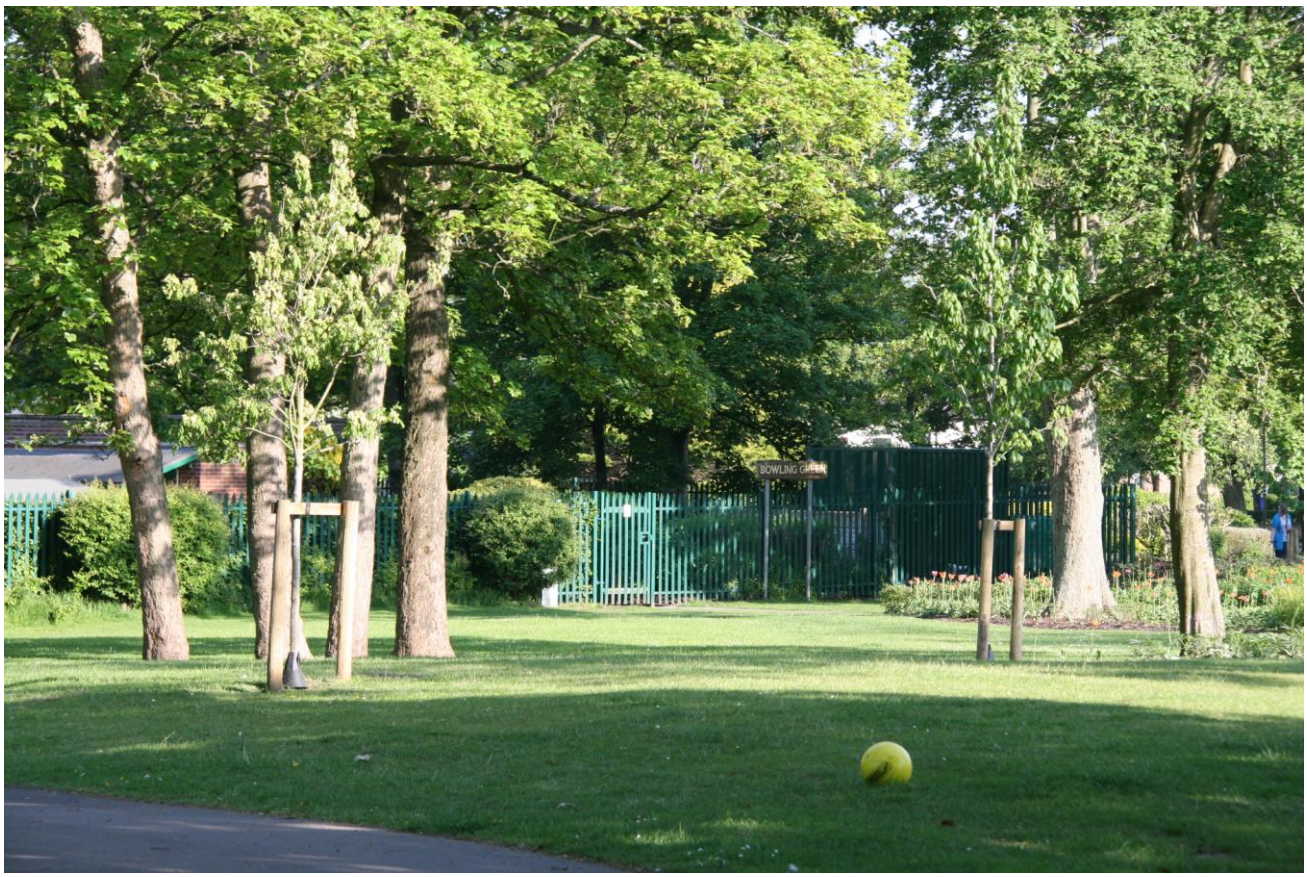
Figure 15: Ecological corridors are important elements of a 'connected countryside' and allow for the free movement of species. With some exceptions increasing connectivity is a desirable strategic goal. Ecological corridors often provide a framework for recreational corridors allowing people to get close to nature.

[17] "To support wildlife" as a priority for future Green Infrastructure investment attracted 17.3% of responses by adults to the Wyre Great Outdoors Survey.

Making Wyre more resilient and biodiverse: Challenges

9.3 Whereas ninety eight percent of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the Borough of Wyre are in favourable or recovering condition, these key sites require continued management and investment to ensure that recovering sites continue to do so.

9.4 GIS mapping of green infrastructure within the built environment on the Wyre peninsula performs minimal water interception, infiltration or flow reduction functions. Yet flood prevention and management is an important issue in Wyre urban areas. An estimated 6,700 properties are at risk in the one percent annual probability fluvial event. Approximately 125 incidents of sewer flooding have been recorded in the Wyre urban area. In addition to private property, there is up to 5km of transport infrastructure at risk, 21 community facilities and 32 public recreational and leisure assets. Removal of culverts, restoration of riparian wetland, increase in tree canopy, integration of SuDS into new development[18] all have the potential to alleviate these risks.



Inset picture: New tree planting in Vicarage Park and Jean Stansfield Memorial Park; urban trees are invaluable urban wildlife resources especially where there is a continuous canopy.

[18] A Lancashire SuDS supplementary planning document (SPD) is being produced.

SECTION 10: WYRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE VISION

10.1 From the Bowland Fells to Morecambe Bay, our vision is to secure the Borough of Wyre as a place of high quality and positive development, whilst capitalising on the great outdoors for local economic growth, which enables residents and visitors to lead healthy lives, in stronger communities, through outdoor lifestyles and makes Wyre more resilient and biodiverse.

Inset picture: Rossall Point, award winning coastal observatory.

SECTION 11: WYRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

11.1 The Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy is a high level plan to achieve the four strategic priorities (see 5.9) developed through the methodological approach used in this report (see Diagram 2). Melded to the priorities are Greenspace standards (see Table 1) set for Wyre through a benchmarking and consultation process (see Appendix 3). The core of the strategy is a Strategic Areas of Need Strategy (see 11.7 and Figure 16), a Strategic Assets Strategy (see 11.11 and Figure 17) and the Strategic Interventions needed to deliver the priorities (see Figure 18).

11.2 The standards enable the Council and its delivery partners to identify areas of quantitative deficiency or surplus, deficiencies in accessibility, and quality deficiencies. Results from the standard setting analysis show surpluses and deficiencies and this is a valuable planning tool. These have been identified at a local level (see Appendix 1). It is recommended that consideration is also given to the introduction of a Tree Standard in the future.

11.3 The application of standards to open spaces does not address all the interventions necessary. The reason for this is that to deliver the strategic objectives of the strategy the sum of all local actions does not equate to a strategic approach. Not least because the requirements are not all spatial i.e. place based, many are functional e.g., the role of Green Infrastructure as an interceptor for diffuse pollution.

11.4 The setting of standards has facilitated the setting of a quality measure for Wyre's public open space. This is a quality score of 80%, which is the target to be achieved during the life of the Strategy (2013 – 2030). Occasional Open Space Audits and Evidence Base reviews will be needed to monitor progress. The Wyre Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (2013) includes a methodology for undertaking future scoring in a consistent way.

OPEN SPACE TYPES	**QUANTITY STANDARD** (Hectares per 1,000 population unless indicated otherwise)	**ACCESS STANDARD** (measured in straight line)	
		URBAN	**RURAL**
*Parks and gardens	0.40	720m	1200m
*Amenity green space	0.40	720m	
*Natural and semi-natural green space	1.50	2000m	
*Designed play spaces for children and young people	0.18	480m	720m
*Allotments	0.25	960m	
Green corridors	NA	960m	
TOTAL open space* (sum from above)	**2.73**	N/A	N/A

Table 1 (above): Wyre Open Space Standards.

11.5 Two key maps underpin the development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. These are the two maps derived from the combination of GIS analysis, consultation and benchmarking (see Figure 6). The first map is of the Strategic Areas of Need (see Figure 16). The Strategic Areas of Need are shown in three categories:

- Very High
- High
- Medium

11.6 The mapping shows that there is a strong correlation with population centres with the areas of very high need in Fleetwood (GI1), Cleveleys (GI3), Poulton-le-Fylde (GI4) and Central Corridor (GI7 urban area of). Other urban areas (GI2, GI5 built area of) have a high need. The central core of Wyre made up of low lying agricultural land and villages (GI5, 6) have medium levels of strategic need for Green Infrastructure.

11.7 As a consequence of this a 'need's strategy emerges; to target the areas of greatest need for projects and programmes for the four strategic priorities namely; (i) securing quality of place and positive development, (ii) capitalising on the great outdoors for local economic growth, (iii) enabling healthy lives and stronger communities through outdoor lifestyles and (iv) making Wyre more resilient and biodiverse.

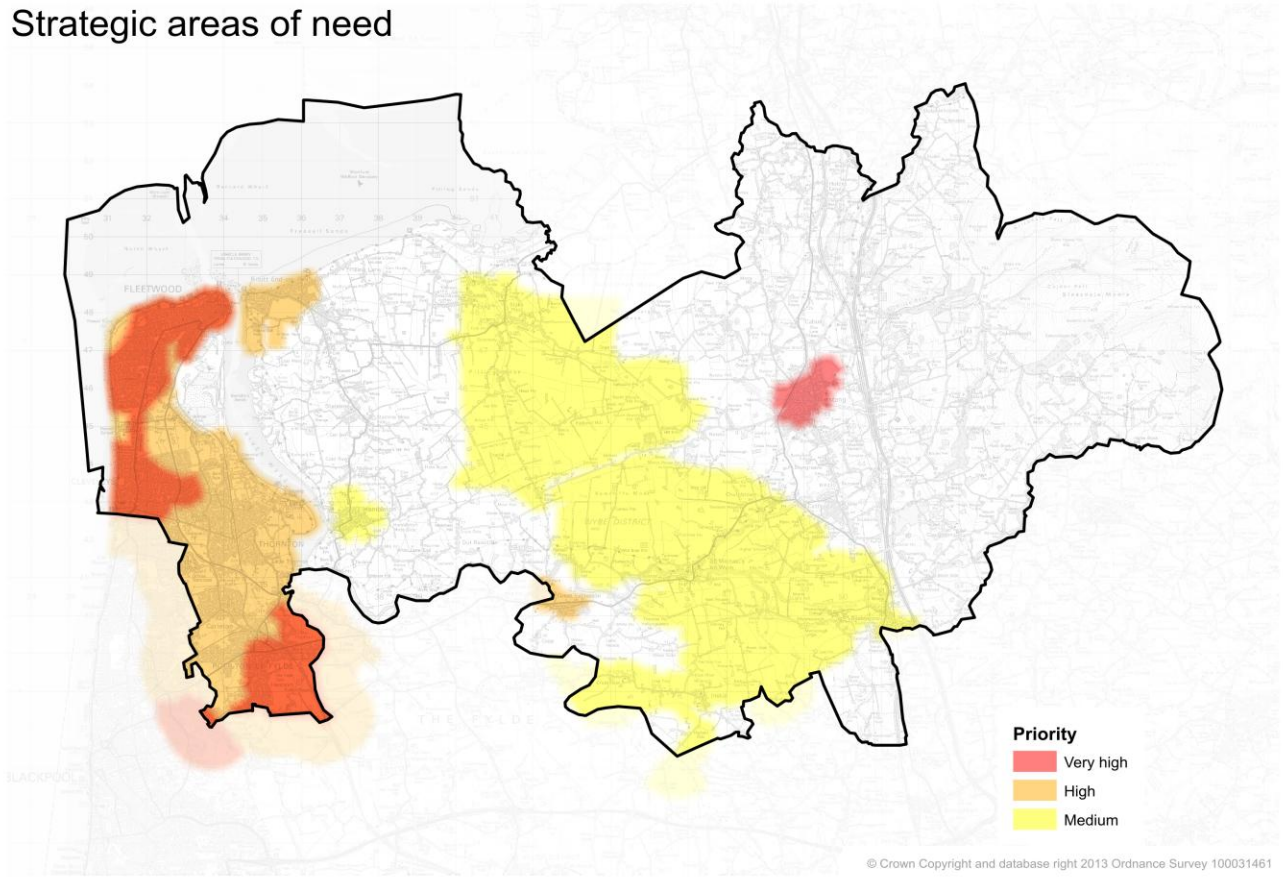


Figure 16 (above): Strategic Areas of Need map.

11.8 The second map is of the Strategic Assets (Figure 17). These are shown in seven categories:

- Forest of Bowland AONB;
- Morecambe Bay Limestone and Wetlands NIA;
- River Wyre and tributaries;
- Sands and coastal habitats;
- Green corridor trails including the Lancaster Canal, Wyre Way and North West Coastal Trail (the latter linking into the Fylde Coast sub-region);
- Key urban sites which coincide with key parks and open spaces under the control of Wyre Council (Open Space Sites: FL38 Marine Gardens, FL39 Mount Gardens, FL28 Memorial Park, CLE4 The Towers, CLE37 North Drive, CLE11 Jubilee Gardens, TH27 Pheasant Wood, TH43/44 Hawthorne Park, TH4 Kenyon Gardens, PLF1 Tithebarn Park, PLF10 Cottam Hall and PLF24 Vicarage Park & Jean Stansfield Memorial Park);

– Key countryside sites namely: TH5 Wyre Estuary Country Park, MY3 Myerscough College, WM1 Winmarleigh Moss, BB1 Brock Bottom and GAR5 Garstang Millennium Green.

11.9 There are strong green corridors shown on the map (see Figure 19) principally delivered by:

– The River Wyre and Tributaries
– North West Coastal Trail/Sands and Beaches
– Lancaster Canal

11.10 The key countryside sites fit well with the River Wyre Green Corridor, hence the river and its long distance path – The Wyre Way, are of significant importance in habitat and human connectivity. Conversely, the key urban sites are 'islands' of green in urban settings, hence there is a need to achieve connectivity between these, the focus for creation being on:

– Sustainable travel corridors (green 'off-road' walking routes and cycleways)
– Inter-connected urban green canopy (urban forest) delivered by street trees and trees in public grounds with an emphasis on trees in the right place (large trees are to be favoured whenever possible)

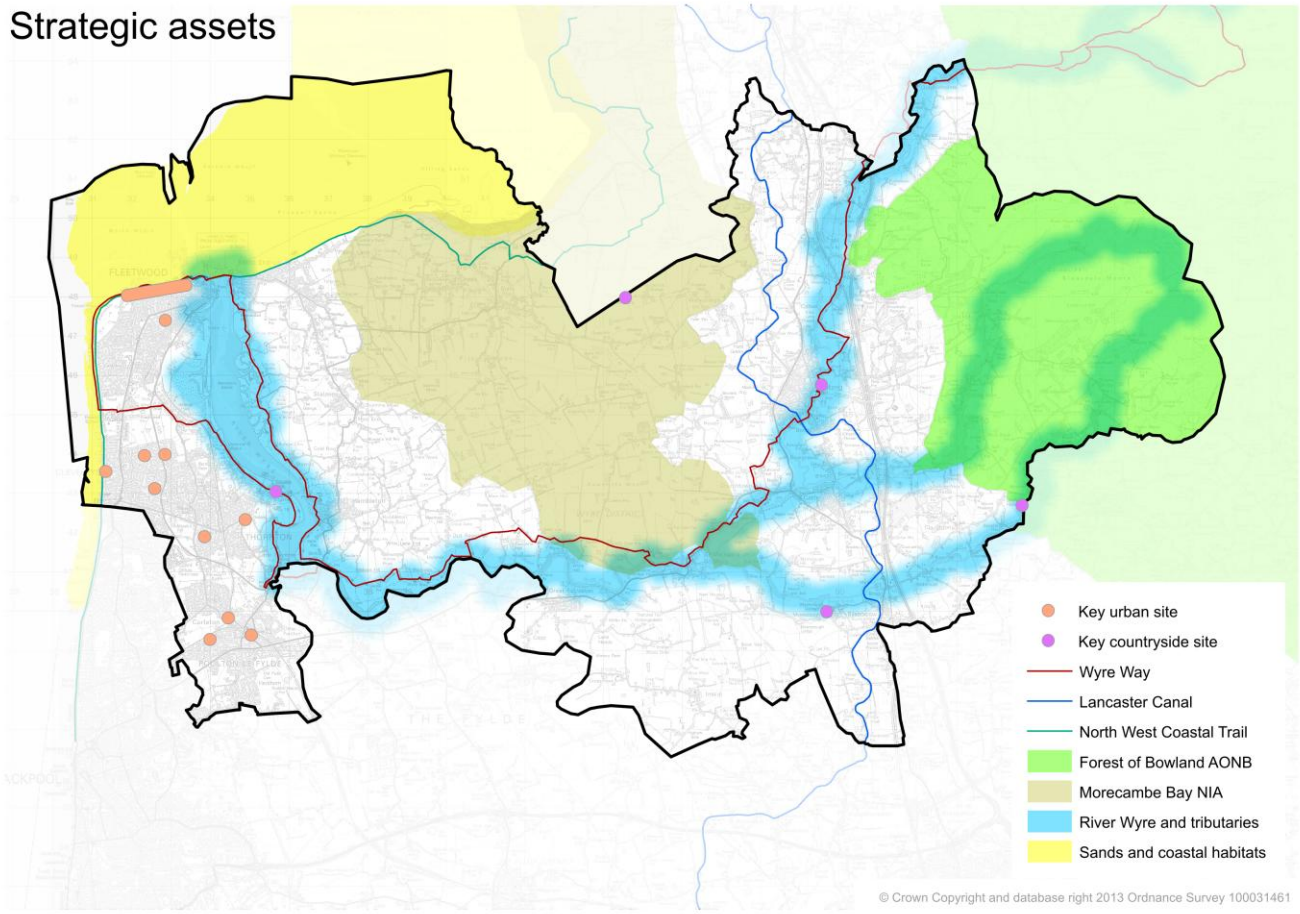


Figure 17 (above): Strategic Assets map.

11.11 Hence a strategic assets strategy can be defined which is to:

- conserve and improve existing assets especially the major green corridors defined by the River Wyre and its tributaries

- improve connectivity between key urban sites, the result of which will be a fully formed and connected urban green network, with the first priority being in the areas of greatest need (as shown on the strategic areas of need map) and
- to have a robust implementation framework in place to turn strategy into delivery.

11.12 The four strategic priorities also need to be turned into a series of practical strategic interventions that will enable the priorities to be delivered. Once identified these provide the core of the implementation framework and can be applied at the Borough wide and local level. The interventions or methods to achieve this can be found at Figure 18. The list of interventions is not exhaustive but is substantial and reflects on approaches taken elsewhere. In reality some of the interventions will be used more than others. This is inevitable however, it is hoped that during the life of the Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013 – 2030) each intervention or method will be used at least once. There is no restriction on adding interventions or methods during the life of the Strategy, if for reasons presently unknown, they can help deliver Green Infrastructure outputs. For each intervention a reference number has been added which is carried forward into the implementation framework.

11.13 One critical intervention that spreads across all objectives is the requirement to include a Green Infrastructure Policy in the Wyre Local Plan. This is the clear intention of Wyre Council. The inclusion of a Green Infrastructure policy is necessary to maintain the momentum of delivery and directly impact on the application of policy through development management.

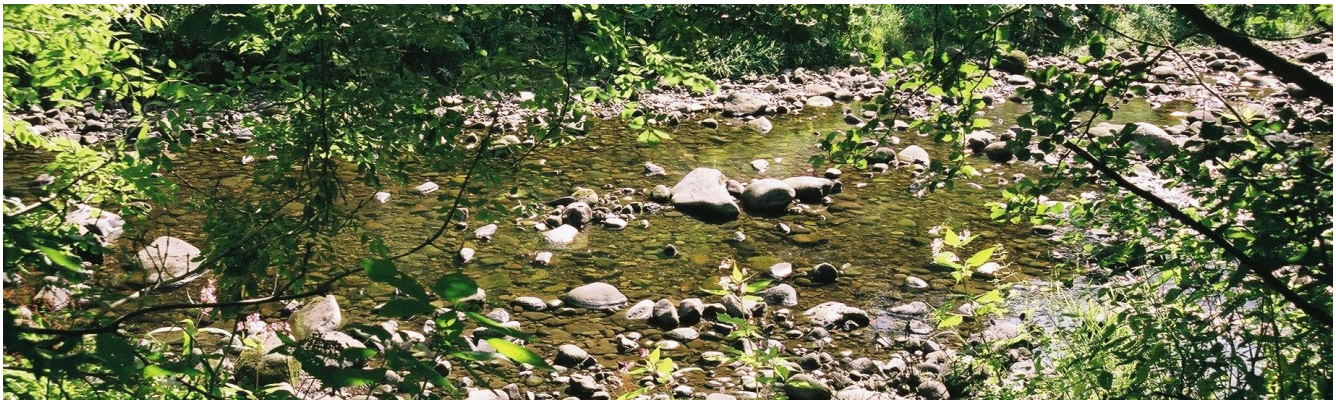
Figure 18 (below): Strategic interventions, the core Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Strategic Objective	Target Ref Number	Method(s) to meet strategic objective	Further information
1. Securing quality of place and positive development	1a	Create new urban and peri-urban woodland.	There is evidence that Wyre's urban areas have significant areas where Green Infrastructure needs are not fulfilled. Within and adjacent to urban areas woodland establishment would tackle existing deficiencies. It is suggested that a minimum area of 0.25ha be considered as the smallest size for 'woodland'. Woodland establishment should follow Forestry Commission guidelines and planting should, wherever possible, use indigenous and locally appropriate species. Source from local tree nurseries whenever possible.
	1b	Create and manage urban trees and gardens in Wyre as an 'urban green canopy' (urban forest)	The management of a green canopy (sometimes referred to as managing the urban forest) implies a holistic approach. It specifically includes planting of new trees in streets and within new residential developments which are currently devoid of trees. It also requires good management of existing street trees including formative pruning and replacements of failures. The presence of trees in private gardens contributes to the urban green canopy and there is a role in the use of TPOs where privately owned trees are considered as important in the local landscape. Existing proposals to introduce 20mph zones is a major opportunity for (i) tree planting which has been used successfully elsewhere as a traffic calming measure (ii) creation of local footways and cycleways where it will contribute to the wider objective of creating quality neighbourhoods. This should be investigated with Lancashire County Council.
	1c	Maintain and invest in the quality of existing council owned greenspaces	A quality target has been set for all open space sites to have an overall percentage quality score of 80% and greater by 2030. This will be delivered through site management and investment (capital budgets and grants e.g. HLF) and monitored through Open Space Audits and Needs Assessment reviews. It is recommended that these reviews occur every 3 – 5 years.
	1d	Incorporate 'green technology/design' in new development.	This includes: – SUDS: in new design of residential and commercial sites. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems are designed to drain surface water in a manner that will provide a more sustainable approach than has been the conventional practice of routing

			run-off through a pipe to a watercourse. – Green roofs: serve several purposes for a building, such as absorbing rainwater, providing insulation, creating a habitat for wildlife, and helping to lower urban air temperatures and mitigate the heat island effects. Green roofs that have a good diversity of species are to be favoured over sedum-only designs. Whenever possible Incorporate green roofs into new commercial flat roofed office, industrial and retail developments. – Local Procurement: Incorporating local procurement requirements will contributes to the Government's aim to ensure all new homes are of Zero Carbon Construction by 2016; most notably in the timber supply chain. This also stimulates woodland planting and forestry and reduces the carbon footprint of timber transport. – Land based renewables: Incorporate the use of local renewable energy e.g. Biomass; in commercial properties, public infrastructure (e.g. schools, hospitals) and retail development.
	1e	Create combined landscape corridors and green travel routes along main access roads and town entrances.	Promote this work with adjacent local authorities and highway authorities to ensure highway improvements bring landscape benefits and incorporate facilities for cycling and walkers. In some settings these types of corridors are referred to as 'greenways'. Green transport routes should be separated from the highway although they may run parallel to it.
	1f	Create (or re-develop) commercial/business locations with robust landscaping that is connected into neighbouring 'green areas'.	Preference to be shown to the use of indigenous and low cost landscaping over ornamental high maintenance cost design. It is important to ensure that on-site landscaping is well connected into neighbouring green areas. Landscaping can also be part of SuDS.
Capitalising on the great outdoors for local economic growth	2a	In parks and greenspace management invest in high quality – create prestigious award winning destinations that are strategically well located.	Investment in high quality parks increases the attractiveness of whole neighbourhoods and demonstrably increases inward investment, property values and reduces the length of time tenanted properties are in vacancy. It also increases the number of 'destination visitors' (i.e. those from outside the locality) who spend money on support services such as food and drink and which in turn allows greenspace managers to generate income from franchises.
	2b	When undertaking engineering operations pursue environmental cost-savings through the use of the regulatory services of Green Infrastructure rather than 'mechanical solutions.	The regulatory roles of Green Infrastructure includes a wide-range of processes such as pollution filtration (reed beds), flood risk reduction (re-meandering river channels) and the mitigation of temperature extremes (creating dense green areas in retail locations which can reduce air conditioning costs). There is good evidence that Green Infrastructure can often be a more cost-effective way to meet environmental targets than mechanical solutions. Reduced damage and costs should allow greater investment in alternative activities.
	2c	Establish a Tourism/Visitor infrastructure and marketing campaign around 'Green' Wyre.	Wyre has many good quality landscapes and Green Infrastructure assets. These can be marketed to differentiate Wyre from neighbouring tourism offers.
	2d	Promote local food production, composting and waste recycling with the potential for energy from waste.	Wyre can promote its Green credentials and promote local food, gastro pubs, local larder and farmer markets. The spin off benefit to Green Infrastructure is in organic farming, habitat recreations (e.g. meadows) and improved recreational opportunities. Green waste is a compost resource and surplus can be used for heat production through for example anaerobic digestion.
	2e	Jobs and training in land based industries.	Investment in GI has a direct correlation with employment generation: Developing and maintaining GI provides jobs, and it is estimated that 5% of all the jobs in England are in the Green Space

			sector. It can also lead to improved management of green spaces such as hedgerows and habitats. Myerscough College is one of the country's leading providers in land based training hence this is a major partnership opportunity.
	2f	Designate heritage & landscape parks.	Designate important and culturally significant heritage features that are in a landscape setting. Target at niche visitors (photographers, artists etc).
Enabling healthier lives and stronger communities through outdoor lifestyles	3a	Create new and accessible greenspaces and ecological resources that are 'safe by design'	An investment of this type enhances local people's health and promotes healthier lifestyles. It also delivers against priorities local people and visitors have identified for Green Infrastructure within the urban fabric and adjacent urban fringe areas. Creating new green spaces should focus on areas that fall below open space targets.
	3b	Create a 'high level' strategic network of trails that meet multiple needs and tie in with local resources and PROWs	Establishing a network of long distance routes which link Wyre's urban and rural areas and also to PROWs provides a skeleton for many access and recreational activities. They facilitate exploring the wider countryside, tie in with visitor and tourism requirements and form part of wider routes that extend beyond the Borough. Design and upgrade routes to be 'accessible for all'.
	3c	Actively encourage volunteer involvement in Green Infrastructure project delivery.	Volunteering is an essential aspect of Green Infrastructure management and also facilitates social inclusion, reduces isolation (for example amongst older people) and encourages physical fitness. Volunteers can have considerable skills especially amongst the newly retired which may hold advanced qualification and years of experience (e.g. teachers, health professionals).
	3d	Support existing and enable new Green Exercise and Walking Wyre Programme.	Work with the Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commission group to enhance the use of green spaces for health and well-being activities. Allied to this is the need to record and advertise the health benefits of GI to a wider community audience to encourage more involvement.
	3e	Use Green Infrastructure as a vehicle to promote lifelong environmental learning	There is a notable opportunity to tap into 'current environmental issues'. For example the steep decline of pollinating insects and the link to food and farming practice was highlighted by consultees in 2013 following a great deal of media coverage on this topic. New topics will continually emerge during the life of the Green Infrastructure Strategy providing many opportunities for alignment.
	3f	Encourage more urban agriculture and local community based food production.	Establish and maintain a Wyre Allotment and Community Gardens Trust to coordinate and manage the green activities between all stakeholders. Promote within new residential development adequately sized gardens to allow for small scale domestic food production or shared 'communal' garden space and 'edible landscapes'.
	3g	Promote, manage and expand access to water locations without damaging ecological resources.	There are excellent water resources to be enjoyed for recreation. The ability to use this resource is however directly related to the ease of access.
	3h	Ensure that sport pitch quality and quantity targets are met.	Sport pitches are a key aspect of Green Infrastructure and should be maintained in a good condition.
	3i	Increase and maintain the provision of family based activity locations.	Family activities play a key role in community life such as mixing of people from different cultural and social backgrounds. Family activities also reinforce family bonds and enable learning through play. Provision includes; play areas, play grounds, picnic sites, BBQ areas, performance spaces, story areas and splash sites.
Making Wyre more resilient and	4a	Wyre Council to fully participate in area based management of ecology,	Wyre Council already enjoys a good reputation as a partner on wider sub regional and area based partnership projects. The Council may be required to contribute 'seed corn' funding and staff time but

biodiverse		land and water.	in return secures a substantial dividend through access to greater funds and staff time than could not otherwise be afforded. Each area based initiative normally has its own action planning process and it is essential that Wyre Council fully engages in the preparation of these. Through participation the Council is more likely to secure projects and finance for Green Infrastructure projects.
	4b	Conserve areas of high ecological value including designated sites and improve and maintain existing nature, geological assets.	There is a need to work towards having all designated SSSI in favourable condition, although this presents significant challenges. In Wyre there is a particular need to re-wet lowland landscapes to replace lost habitats (e.g. farm ponds, ditches and marshes) and preserve habitats under threat notably Winmarleigh Moss.
	4c	Enhance existing ecological corridors (notably the River Wyre and tributaries) for nature and access to allow for the movement and distribution of wildlife and public enjoyment of the natural environment.	This is a diverse measure and linked in many cases to trail networks (3b). Works include: Maintaining good water quality, tackling diffuse pollution, leaving some areas undisturbed for wildlife, and maintaining a diverse and continuous cover of bank side vegetation. A further aspect is to link designated sites that are 'outliers' to the main ecological framework and connect them to the network through new green corridors (ref 3b).
	4d	Ecologically diversify and improve habitat of amenity Open Space – e.g. reseeding and management of meadows rather than amenity grassland.	Changing existing management regimes can increase the range of species present in grasslands. This can be enhanced by re-seeding with meadow mixes. Shrubs and or trees can be planted depending on the areas involved.
	4e	Whole farm planning for nature improvements.	Work with the farming community, Natural England, Environment Agency and other local actors to promote green farming initiatives. Promote examples of good practice as a standard that could be attained by others.
	4f	Protect veteran trees, semi natural woodland and ancient hedgerows and maintain in good condition.	Veteran trees, ancient hedgerows and semi-natural woodland are highly important landscape features. They should be identified by survey to allow for early intervention if required. Could be linked to Tree Council Tree Warden scheme.
	4g	Look to hedgerow management and biomass planting and harvesting for small scale local energy production.	Hedgerows are vital components of connectivity in agricultural landscapes (dry stone walls provide a similar function in uplands areas). There is an opportunity to use hedgerow thinning as local fuel logs.



Inset picture: The tributaries of the River Wyre provide tranquillity and access to water for play.

SECTION 12: IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

12.1 **Schemes:** A set of key priorities for the protection, enhancement and creation of Green Infrastructure have been set out at 5.10. Figure 18 details the strategic interventions for green infrastructure protection, creation and enhancement. The next stage is the Implementation Framework for the protection, creation and enhancement of Green Infrastructure. The Implementation Framework considers how the proposed green infrastructure schemes fulfil the Green Infrastructure functions and illustrate the benefits provided and is based on potential schemes and projects. Key delivery partners and stakeholders have been identified, consulted and appropriate funding streams identified when this is possible. Where appropriate, schemes are linked to climate change adaptation. The project based interventions are required to deliver the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy; these are summarised on a Green Infrastructure Borough and area basis (see Figure 19, 20, 21, 22, 23).

12.2 **Wyre Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan:** The Implementation Framework for the Green Infrastructure Strategy has a close relationship with the Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). Notable projects such as the M55 to Norcross link (GI4_1), Wyre Estuary Coastal Path Link (part of the Wyre Way) (GI1_5) and creation of a nature conservation area with public access following a landfill restoration scheme at Hillhouse (GI1_3) are key infrastructure projects already included in the IDP. The Implementation Framework advances major new proposals for inclusion in the IDP, namely:

- Green Corridors; Wyre Trail Network GIB_3
- 20 mph zones; Tree Planting GIB_6

12.3 **80% Quality Achievement:** In addition to the project recommendations listed below (see Figure 20) a quality score has been set for existing Open Space assets. The quality score is 80% and greater to be achieved on all sites by the end of the Local Plan (2030). These sites are identified on the project recommendation maps (see Figure 20, 21, 22, 23) and in Appendix 1. They are excluded from the project list.

GI Project Reference No.	Proposed Project or Project recommendation – see spreadsheet for detail of individually named projects)	Strategic Objective Target No.	Climate Change adaptation Y (Yes) N (No)
Area GI1 – Fleetwood			
GI1_1	Rossall Ecology Park	2c, 3a	Y - Flood defence
GI1_2	Marine Gardens Lakes	1b, 2a, 2c	N
GI1_3	Fleetwood Hillhouse Country Park Project	1e, 1f, 2c, 3d, 3e, 3i, 4c	N
GI1_4	Fleetwood Memorial Park Restoration Project	1c, 2a, 2c, 2f, 3i	N
GI1_5	Wyre Estuary Coastal Path Link	2c, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4c	Y – Green transport
GI1_6	Euston Park	1c, 2a, 2c, 2f, 3i	N
GI1_7	Fleetwood Splash	1c, 2a, 2c, 3g, 3i	N
GI1_8	Marine Hall Pitch and Putt	1c, 2a, 2c, 2f, 3i	N
GI1_9	Fleetwood Skate Park	1c, 2a, 2c, 2f	N
GI1_10	Mount Grounds	1c, 2a, 2c, 2f, 3i	N
GI1_11	New Cemetery	1c, 2a	N
Area GI2 - Thornton			
GI2_1	Wyre Estuary Country Park	1a, 1c, 1e, 2c, 3d, 3e, 3i, 4c, 4f	N
Area GI3 - Cleveleys			

GI3_1	Towers Wood (The Towers) and Pheasant Wood	1a, 1c, 4f	N
Area GI4 - Poulton-le-Fylde			
GI4_1 (& GI1,GI2,GI5)	A585 Landscape Corridor	1a, 1b, 1c, 1e, 4c	Y - Green Transport, Urban Greening
Area GI5 – Rural Plain			
GI5_1 (& GI7)	Preesall to Garstang Disused Railway	1c, 1e, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3d, 4c	Y – Green Transport
Area GI6 – Mosslands			
GI6_1	Morecambe Bay NIA Management Plan	4a	Y – Depends on project
GI6_2	Mosslands Ecological Restoration including Winmarleigh Moss	4a, 4b, 4e, 2c	Y – Water management
GI6_3	NCN62 Fleetwood, Knott End, Pilling, Cockerham	1c, 1e, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4c	Y – Green Transport
Area GI7 – Central Corridor			
GI7_1	Garstang Millennium Green Access Link	1c, 2a, 2c, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4c, 4d	N
GI7_2	New Commercial Park, Garstang	1a, 1b, 4f, 4g	Y – if green design applied
GI7_3	Lancaster Canal, Garstang	3g	N
Area GI8 – Rural East and Uplands			
GI8_1	Forest of Bowland Management Plan	4a	Y – Moorland management
GI8_2	Lancaster Canal, Bilsborrow	3b, 3c, 3d, 3g, 4c	N
GI8_3	South Planks Natural Retreat	3b, 3c, 3d, 3g, 4c	Y – Water storage
GI8_4	Brock Bottom Path Improvements	2c, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4c, 4d	N
GI8_5	Lancashire Upland Peats Project	4a, 4b, 4d	Y – Water storage
GI8_6	Moorland Peat Restoration	4a, 4b, 4d	Y – Water storage
Area GI9 – Sands and Coast			
GI9_1 (& GI1, GI3, GI5, GI6)	North West Coastal Trail (Wyre Section)	3b, 4c	Y – Tied to flood defence
Area Borough Wide			
GIB_1	Source to Sea Project	4a, 4d,	Y – through management proposals
GIB_2	Wyre River Catchment Partnership	4a	Y - through management proposals
GIB_3	Wyre Trail Network	1c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3i, 4c	Y – Green Transport
GIB_4	Access for All	1c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d,	Y – Green Transport
GIB_5	Lancashire Invasive Species Project	4a	N
GIB_6	Tree planting programme in 20mph zones – discussions recommended between Wyre Council and	1b, 1c, 1e	Y – Evaporative cooling, shade

	Lancashire County Council		
GIB_7	Bridleway Networks	1c, 1e, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3i, 4c	Y – Green Transport
GIB_8	Bridleway Linkages	1c, 2c, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3i, 4c	Y – Green Transport
GIB_9	New Large Play Facility (regional attraction)	2c, 3i	N
GIB_10	Provision of Access to Water	1c, 2c, 3d, 3g, 3i, 4a, 4c	N
GIB_11	Rural Play e.g. Kepple Lane Park	1c, 2a, 2c, 3c, 3d, 3i	Y – reduce transport to urban facilities
GIB_12	Green Roofs and SuDS including Hillhouse Business Park	1d, 1f, 2b	Y - Evaporative cooling, Water Management
GIB_13	Six-year woodland management plan (Fleetwood, Poulton, Thornton)	1a, 1b, 1c, 1e, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4f	Y – Evaporative cooling, shade, water management

Figure 19 (above): Project interventions, part of the Implementation Framework.

Inset picture: View from Rossall Observatory

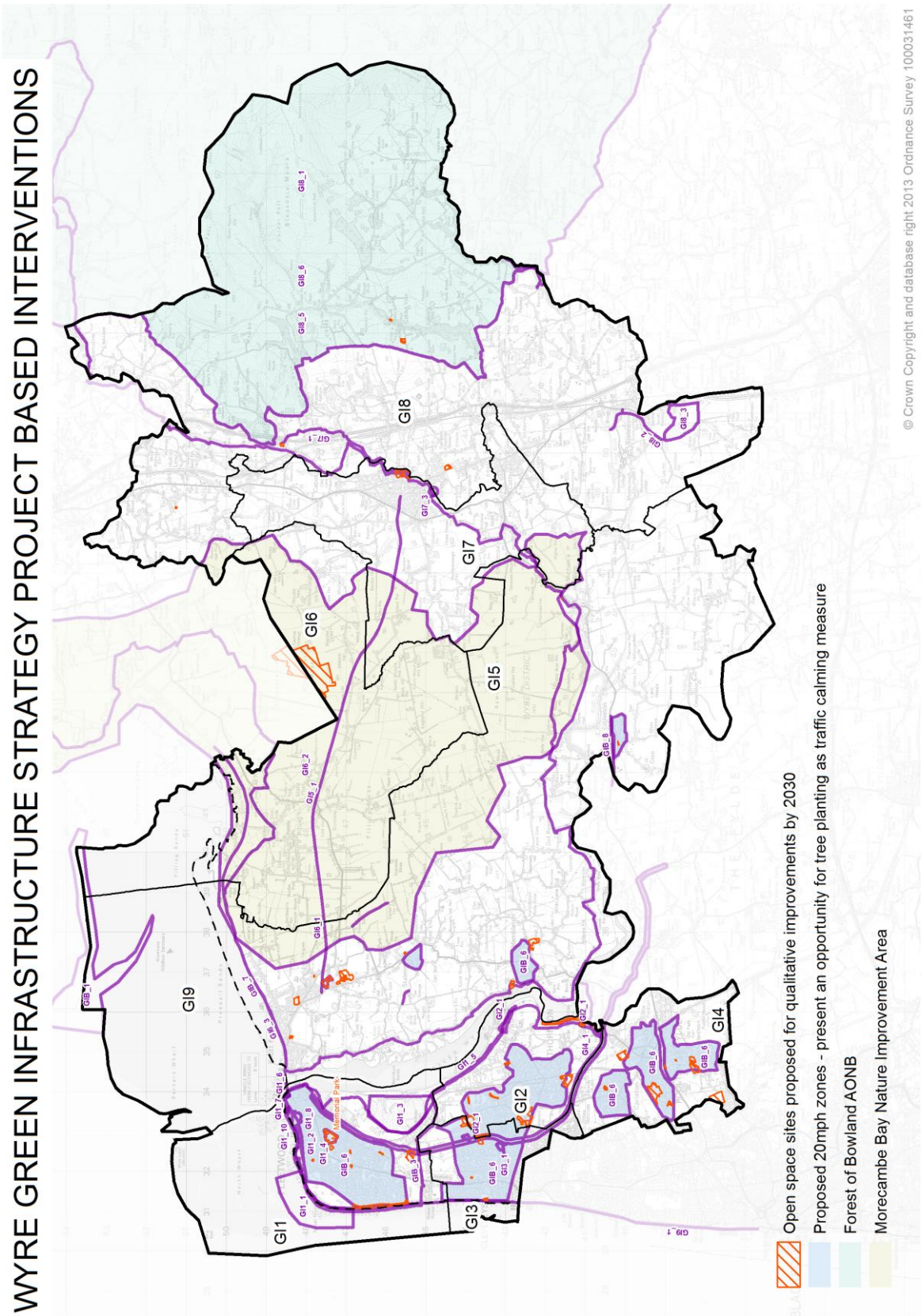
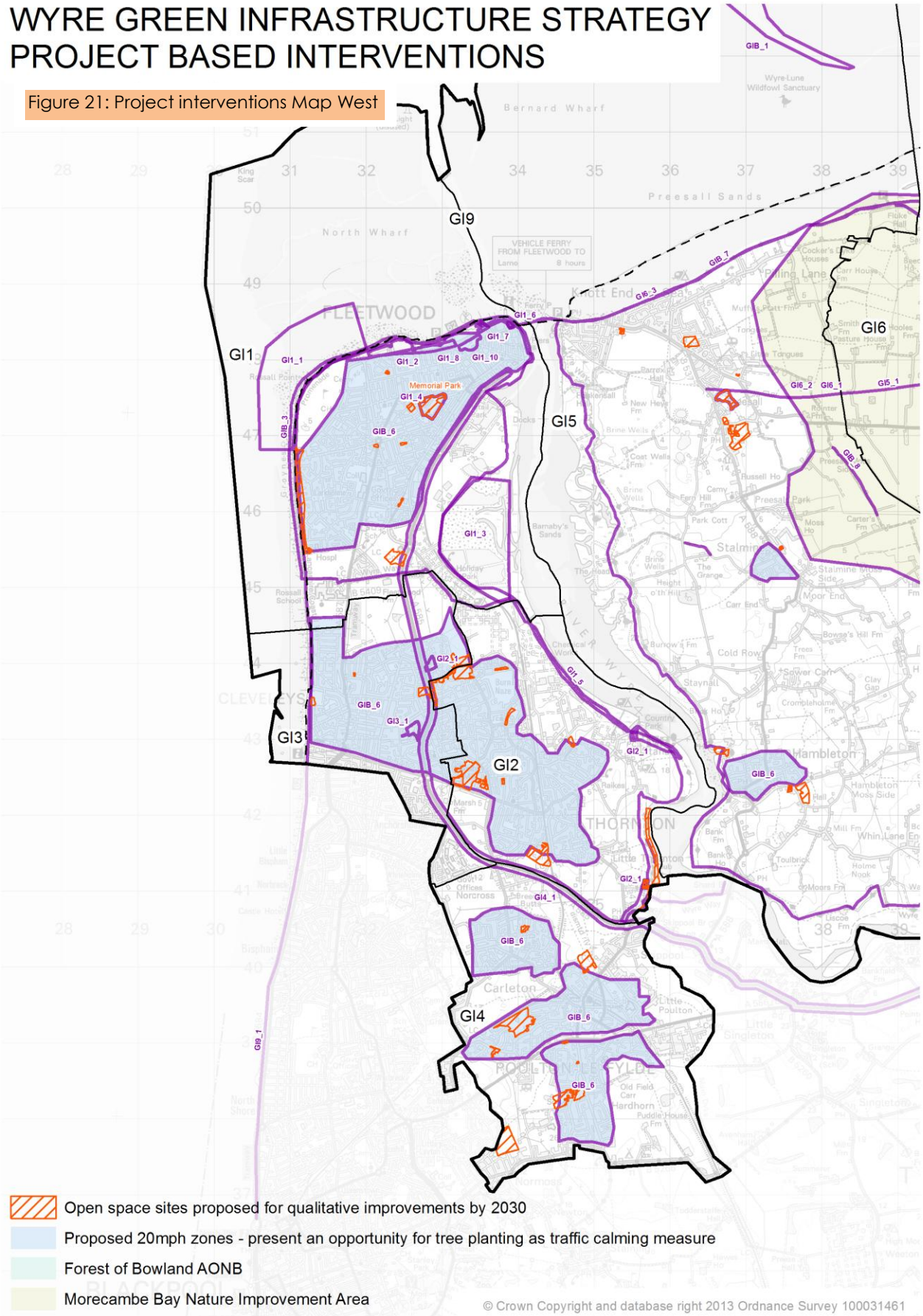


Figure 20: Project interventions Map Borough Wide. Sites GI1_9, GI1_11, GI7_4, GIB_2, GIB_4, GIB_5, GIB_9, GIB_10, GIB_11, GIB_12 and GIB_13 could not be mapped due to their spatial and functional characteristics.

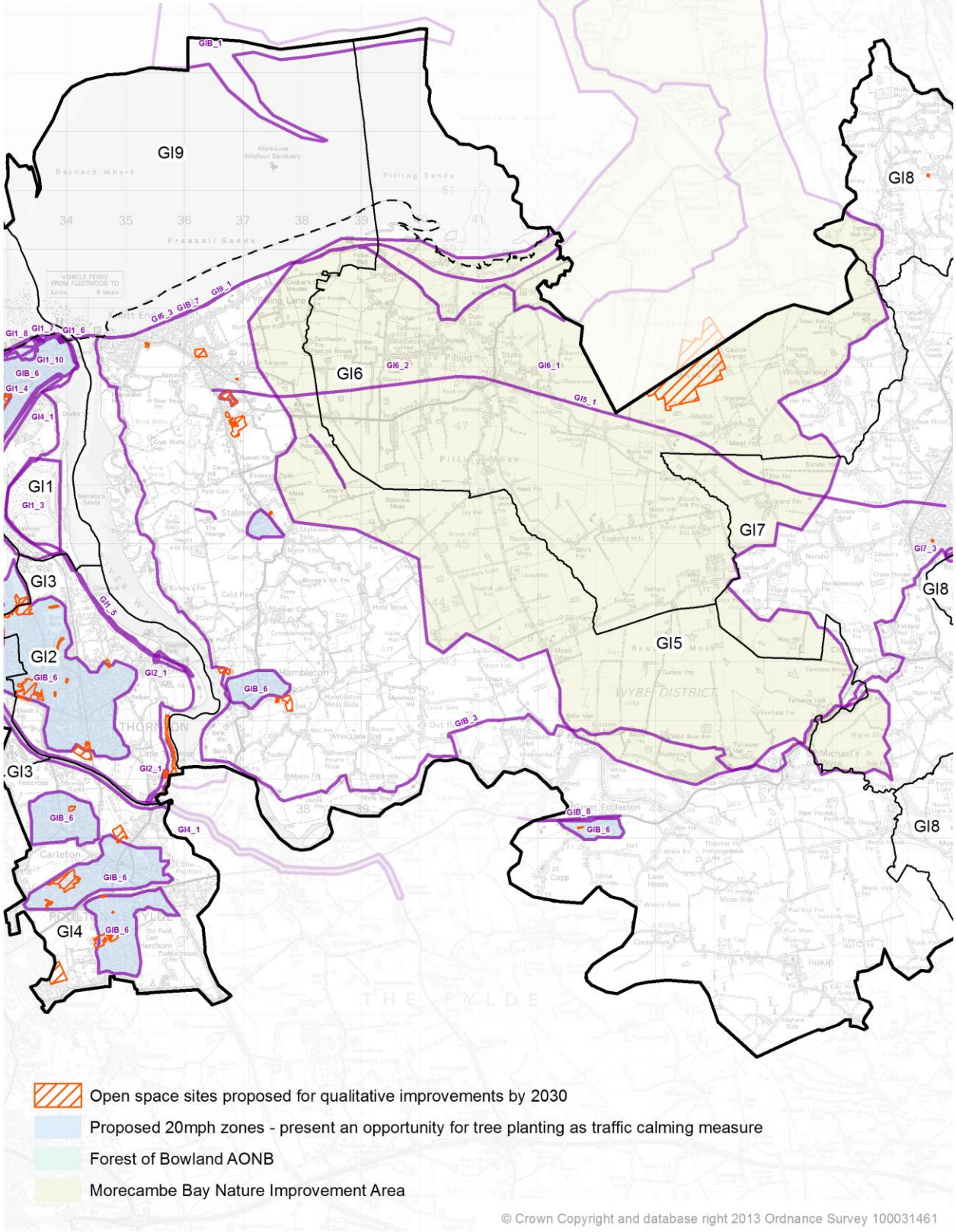
WYRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY
PROJECT BASED INTERVENTIONS

Figure 21: Project interventions Map West



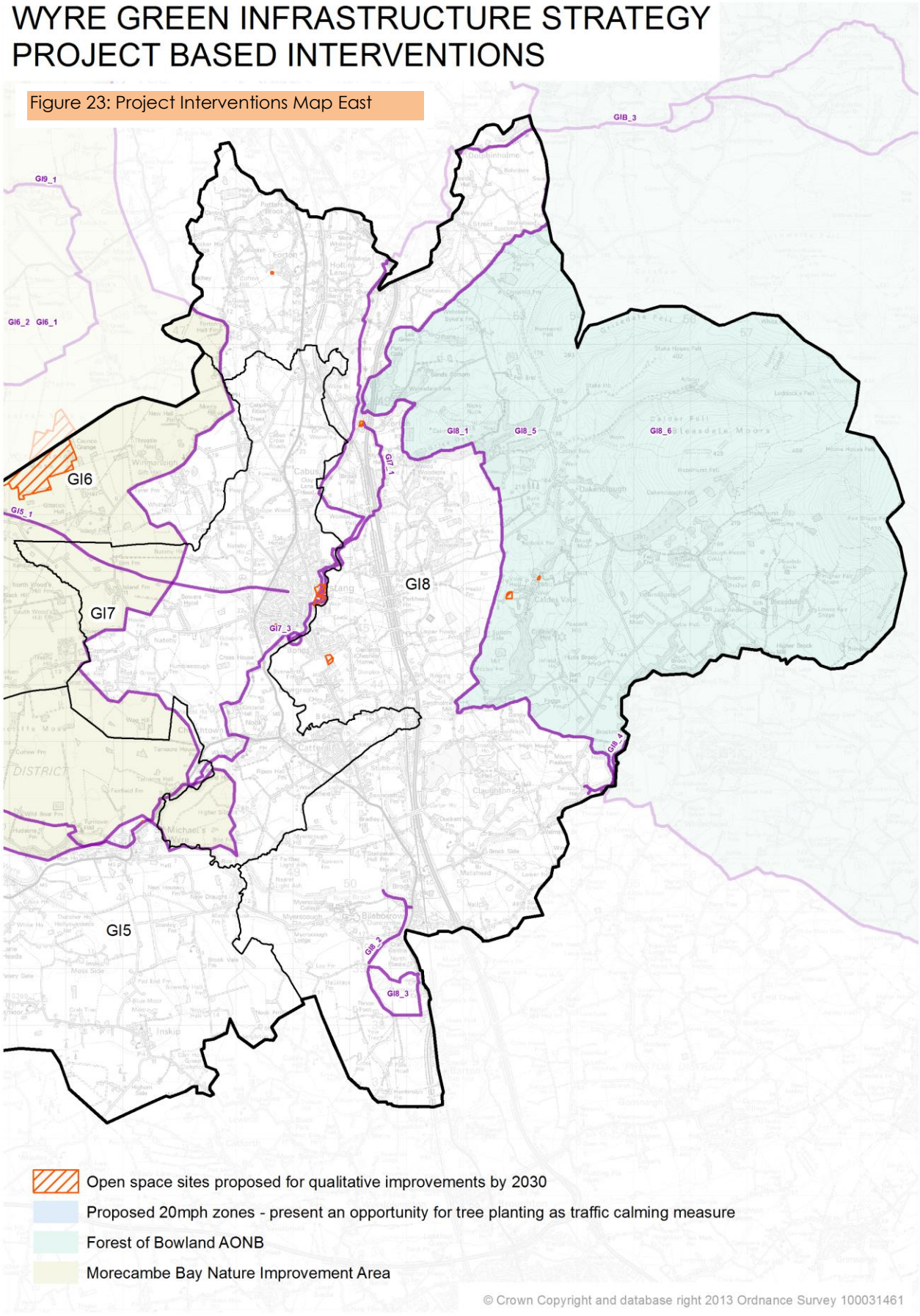
WYRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY
PROJECT BASED INTERVENTIONS

Figure 22: Project Interventions Map Central



WYRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY
PROJECT BASED INTERVENTIONS

Figure 23: Project Interventions Map East



12.4 **Delivery Partners:** Delivery requires the participation of many organisations as it is beyond the capability of any one organisation to deliver all the strategic interventions. This indicates the need for a Wyre Green Infrastructure Delivery Partnership whose role it will be to turn policies and action plans into deliverable actions. The participation of the organisations listed is considered as satisfactory for the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy to be delivered. The list is not exhaustive and there are many other organisations that could contribute towards delivery. The listing identifies how the named organisations can influence the delivery of the strategy and outlines their respective roles. However the principle mechanisms that determine how delivery partners can contribute to the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy are very similar.

i. Prioritising the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy in their operational plans,
ii. Dedicating staff time (paid and volunteer) to the delivery of the Strategy,
iii. Offering grant support where this is available,
iv. Acting as advocates for the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through their networks,
v. Promoting the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy in their media,
vi. Flexing their existing programmes to meet the Strategic objectives of the strategy

12.5 **Wyre Council:** is the instigator of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy and is the principal coordinator of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy. Its key roles are:

i. Agree and service the governance needs of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy,
ii. Encourage participation by the Wyre Engagement Network and the Green Infrastructure Stakeholder Forum, if one is constituted,
iii. Appoint a named Senior Officer to oversee the delivery process,
iv. Include a Green Infrastructure Policy in the Wyre Local Plan,
v. Ensure that the key findings of the Green Infrastructure Strategy are incorporated into Wyre Council planning policy,
vi. Prioritize and include key projects and programmes within the Wyre Council Service and Business Plans as appropriate,
vii. Ensure the Green Infrastructure Strategy is coordinated with the Council's Flood Defence Strategy,
viii. Maintain the Green Infrastructure Strategy goals within the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Group,
ix. Encourage and promote The Green Partnership Awards,
x. Encourage and promote the Green Flag/Pennant Awards,
xi. Encourage and promote the Seaside Awards,
xii. Enhance and deliver Green Infrastructure within CIL and Section 106 agreements.

12.6 **Natural England**: is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Its purpose is to protect and improve England's natural environment and encourage people to enjoy and get involved in their surroundings. Natural England is a key partner and in particular it can influence the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through:

i. Deploying its green farming schemes to meet the needs of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy
ii. Through its work on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's)
iii. Through its key role in the Forest of Bowland AONB
iv. Through its key role in the Morecambe Bay Limestones and Wetlands NIA
v. By financially supporting partners
vi. By contributing to the evidence base that supports Green Infrastructure

12.7 **The Environment Agency**: is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Its principal aims are to protect and improve the environment, and to promote sustainable development. It has a leading role in the water environment, regulation and in managing pollution. The rivers and coast of Wyre provide the 'skeleton framework' for the Green Infrastructure Strategy and are key features of its landscape. The

Environment Agency is a key partner and in particular it can influence the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through:

i. Managing the water and riverside environment including the wildlife (fish, amphibians and mammals) that rely on this environment.
ii. Managing and designing flood defence works to be complementary to the strategic objectives of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy
iii. Ensuring that 'space is made available for water' not only in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation but also to benefit wildlife and the landscape (the lowland areas of Wyre are traditionally wet)
iv. The control of diffuse pollution especially by supporting land management initiatives in the farmed environment for this purpose
v. Using its regulatory authorities if elements of Wyre's green infrastructure are under direct threat
vi. The management of air, water abstraction and groundwater
vii. Helping people access the wider environment especially the River Wyre, its tributaries and its estuary

12.8 **Forestry Commission**: is the Government Department responsible for protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of woodlands and increasing their value to society and the environment. Wyre is within their North West and West Midlands area. Trees and Woodlands are critical Green Infrastructure assets. Forestry Commission is very involved with Green Infrastructure and places a high value on partnership working. It hosts the Urban Regeneration and Greenspace Partnership (URGP) which provides information on maximising the benefits of green infrastructure (GI) to community groups, local authorities, planners, developers, researchers and non-government organisations. The Forestry Commission is a key partner and in particular it can influence the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through:

i. Its England Woodland Grant Scheme which includes
    a. Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant (Woodfuel WIG)
    b. Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG)
    c. Woodland Management Grant (WMG)
    d. Woodland Creation Grant (WCG)
    e. Woodland Regeneration Grant
    f. Woodland Planning Grant (WPG)
    g. Woodland Assessment Grant (WAG)
ii. Its technical expertise available through Forest Research
iii. Its Tree Health and Bio-security role
iv. Its regulatory role especially with regards to felling licenses

12.9 **Lancashire County Council:** is the strategic authority covering the Borough of Wyre. It can influence the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through:

i. Its role as host of the Forest of Bowland AONB
ii. Its role as a Highways Authority notably by creating opportunities for sustainable transport and through landscaping of road corridors
iii. Maintaining the Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment and Lancashire Green Infrastructure Strategy
iv. Managing public Rights of Way as a key asset to access the Boroughs Green Infrastructure
v. Its role as the Mineral authority notably in regulating post extractive land management
vi. Its role as owner and manager of public land assets
vii. Its role in public health

12.10 **Canal and River Trust**: look after 2,000 miles of canals and rivers that provide an opportunity for people to interact with history, wildlife and nature first-hand. They are responsible for bridges,

embankments, towpaths, aqueducts, docks and reservoirs and everything else that makes up waterways. They can influence the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through:

i. Their management of the Lancaster Canal.

12.11 **Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group:** are responsible for commissioning or "buying" healthcare and wellbeing services for the people of Fylde and Wyre. They can influence the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through:

i. Their role as purchaser of services
ii. Supporting new projects and programmes that aim to create new green assets or improve existing ones in areas of health inequality
iii. Supporting revenue based schemes that increase new participation in green exercise

12.12 **United Utilities:** is the water company for the Wyre Borough. it can influence the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through:

i. Its role as a land and water manager
ii. How it conducts its operations
iii. Investing in sustainable urban drainage
iv. Corporate citizenship and support for the environmental voluntary sector

12.13 **Lancashire Wildlife Trust:** is part of the Wildlife Trusts movement, the UK's leading conservation charity dedicated to all wildlife. It is a membership based organization which makes extensive use of volunteers and manages land for wildlife. It can influence the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through:

i. Its role as a land manager notably by ensuring that all sites are in good condition
ii. As an advocate and campaigner for wildlife
iii. Through the use of its network of volunteers
iv. It's role in education

12.14 **The RSPB:** is the country's largest nature conservation charity. It can influence the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through its role as a Programme Manager notably through its 'Source to Sea' programme and 'Bowland Wader Project'.

12.15 **The Woodland Trust:** is a national charity that wants to see a country rich in native woods and trees enjoyed and valued by everyone. It can influence the delivery of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy through its main programmes which are (i) working with others to plant more native trees, (ii) protecting native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future and (iii) inspiring everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

12.16 A range of other organisations will be part of the delivery of individual projects these include: **National Governing Bodies of Sport, Sports Clubs, SUSTRANS, British Horse Society (BHS), Fylde Coasts Bridleways Association, Highways Agency, Parish and Town Councils**. This list is not exhaustive.

SECTION 13: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

13.1 Target setting is an essential part of managing stakeholder expectations whilst delivering Strategic objectives. If a target is set then it is necessary to have a performance measure which is in turn reported on. Targets have to be operationally feasible which requires the delivery partnership to be properly equipped and competent in the target area. A number of indicators and targets are needed to monitor the creation of the Green Infrastructure network (see Figure 24).

Indicator/Target	Timescale	Means of monitoring
Increase the number of green spaces sites that meet or exceed an 80% scoring threshold by end of plan period (2030). / **Increase the number of sites meeting this threshold over the previous year's total.**	2014 - 2030	Updates of Wyre Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment Base Report; through application of scoring criteria (Section 5 methodology 2013 edition).
Increase green space in relation to access and quantity by end of plan period (2030). / **Increase the number of sites relating to access and quantity over the previous year's total.**	2014 - 2030	Authority Monitoring Report – Green Infrastructure section. Updates of Wyre Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment Base Report. Evaluation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy at end of plan period (2030) or when the Local Plan is being reviewed if that is sooner.
Number of trees planted through planning condition and developer agreements per annum. / **Ensure that more trees are planted than those removed.**	2014 - 2030	Trees planted through developer agreements. Trees planted through Council's own budget per annum.
S106 and CIL funds contributing to Green Infrastructure projects and programmes. / **Ensure that S106 and CIL funds are being used each financial year to support Green Infrastructure projects.**	2014 - 2030	Wyre Council monitoring

Figure 24: Indicators and targets

13.2 The Wyre Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment Evidence Base is an important part of the evidence base for the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy. It was first produced in 2007, updated in 2010 and again in 2013 as part of the Wyre Green Infrastructure Study. It is recommended that the Evidence Base is refreshed every three to five years (See Figure 23).

13.3 Evaluation is essential if the long-term impact of the Green Infrastructure Strategy is to be understood. The areas to be evaluated are:

- the policies in the Wyre Local Plan helping to deliver Green Infrastructure needs and meeting deficiencies. If not why not and what changes can be introduced (if any) to improve performance,
- the projects and programmes having the desired impact across the entire Borough or is it geographically uneven,
- the gaps in projects and programmes which have not been filled and if so what changes can be made to address these.

The questions that underpin all evaluations are (i) what was done? (ii) how much did it cost? and (iii) what difference did it make? It is recommended that an evaluation is conducted at the end of the plan period (2030) or when the Local Plan is being reviewed, if that is sooner.

13.4 The Borough of Wyre is fortunate that a great deal of its existing Green Infrastructure is already in good condition (see Wyre Green Infrastructure Audit and Needs Assessment Evidence Base Report, 2013). The key issues for the Borough of Wyre is to maintain the existing level and quality of public provision and tackle through policy and interventions the strategic objectives set out in this report namely:

- securing quality of place and positive development,
- capitalising on the great outdoors for local economic growth,
- enabling healthy lives and stronger communities through outdoor lifestyles and
- making Wyre more resilient and biodiverse.

13.5 By pursuing the strategic interventions, projects and programmes highlighted in the implementation framework; by 2030 the already considerable benefits that Wyre's Green Infrastructure is bringing people and nature can be even greater.

Inset picture: St John the Evangelist Churchyard, Calder Vale.

SECTION 14: ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS.

Abbreviations used in this report

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BBQ	Barbecue
BHS	Biological Heritage Site
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographical Information System
NIA	Nature Improvement Area
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PRoW or PROW	Public Right(s) of Way
S106	read as Planning Obligations
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage System
WAG	Woodland Assessment Grant
WCG	Woodland Creation Grant
WIG	Woodland Improvement Grant
WMG	Woodland Management Grant
Wood fuel WIG	Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant
WPG	Woodland Planning Grant
WRG	Woodland Regeneration Grant

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Photographic credits

Caption (abbreviated)	Page	Credit
River Wyre at Garstang. Inset, Left - Preesall and Pilling Sands, Centre - Bowls Fleetwood Memorial Park, Right - Forest of Bowland.	Cover	Clive Davies, Wyre Council
Wardley's Creek	4	Clive Davies
Grazed marshland at Preesall and Pilling Sands	6	Clive Davies
The River Wyre Estuary	8	Clive Davies
The Lancaster Canal	13	Clive Davies
Newly installed play facilities at Fleetwood Memorial Park	18	Clive Davies
Sand Dunes at Fleetwood	21	Clive Davies
Habitat sensitive management of recreational grassland at Fleetwood	22	Clive Davies
Wyre Estuary from Country Park	26	Wyre Council
New tree planting in Vicarage Park and Jean Stansfield Memorial Park	28	Clive Davies
Rossall Point	29	Clive Davies
The tributaries of the River Wyre	36	Wyre Council
View from Rossall Observatory	39	Clive Davies
St John the Evangelist Churchyard, Calder Vale	48	Wyre Council

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