



Wyre Council

Green Infrastructure, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Background Paper

January 2018

Addendum August 2018

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Addendum should be read in conjunction with the local plan background paper Green Infrastructure, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Background Paper (January 2018 Update) (document library ref: ED009).
- 1.2 Emerging Local Plan Policy CDMP 4 establishes the policy for Environmental Assets (SD001). Parts 4-8 of the Policy are concerned with the designation of Green Infrastructure (GI) and establish the policy framework for managing the relationship between Green Infrastructure and development.
- 1.3 Through Policy CDMP4 GI was identified within settlement boundaries on the Policies Map (SD002). The emerging Local Plan also SD001 and SD002) also designated the whole of the countryside in Wyre - which by definition lies outside of settlement boundaries - as Green Infrastructure. In his Post Hearing Advice (ref: EL6.003a, para. 24), the Local Plan Examination Inspector concluded that the “blanket” approach to the designation of countryside as GI is too wide-ranging and should be modified. However, the Inspector indicated support for the designation of most of countryside within the urban “peninsula” (i.e. the settlements of Fleetwood, Cleveleys, Thornton and Poulton-le-Fylde) as GI.
- 1.4 In its response (ref: EL6.003b), the Council:
 - Accepts the Inspector’s recommendation and proposes the preparation of an appropriate modification to the definition of Green Infrastructure within Policy CDMP4.
 - Agrees that parts of countryside areas on the urban peninsula should also have a GI designation for the reasons indicated by the Inspector in his Advice.
 - States that in line with the Advice with regard to the countryside areas outside of the peninsula the intention is to identify specific GI sites on the same basis as those identified within settlement boundaries on the Policies Map.
 - States that in addition to the Advice, the Wyre Estuary and Morecambe Bay which was not shown as part of the countryside but which is a designated Special Protection Area, will be shown as GI up to the low tide mark.

2. Identifying GI sites in the countryside outside the urban peninsula

- 2.1 As stated above, in response to the Inspector’s Advice, the council propose to move from the blanket designation of the countryside outside of the urban peninsula as GI, towards one which is more focused on specific sites and

areas, in effect replicating the approach taken to the identification of GI within settlement boundaries as set out in ED009 at para. 3.3. This states that the definition of GI within settlement boundaries is based on:

- All sites contained within the Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (ED069c)
- All Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- All Local Nature Reserves
- All County Wildlife Sites
- All Biological Heritage Sites

2.2 The council propose to use the same approach to the definition of GI within the countryside outside of the peninsula, subject to the adjustments set out below.

2.3 Sites identified in the Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (ED069c) include the following:

- Public open space
- Outdoor sport
- Church grounds
- Cemeteries
- School playing fields

2.4 The identification of these areas of GI within the above Assessment is largely focused on settlements rather than the open countryside. As such, for the purposes of the designation of GI within the countryside, the council has used the existing evidence and local knowledge to identify countryside sites within these GI categories.

2.5 In addition, the council propose to include as GI within the countryside ecological and geological sites that lie outside settlement boundaries and hence by definition could not have been individually shown as GI in the Publication Draft Local Plan 2017 (which only identified specific GI sites within settlement boundaries). These additional GI sites/areas are based on:

- All countryside designated as a Special Protection Area
- All countryside designated as a Special Areas of Conservation
- All countryside designated as a Local Geodiversity Site.

2.6 This approach is consistent with the principle set out in the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy (ED069a) that identifies ecological designations as part of the GI network. Ecological sites are important elements of a connected

countryside and marine environment and allow for the free movement of species. Ecological sites often provide a framework for recreational corridors allowing people to get close to nature. In addition, Local Geodiversity Sites are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected designations. They are an important multi-functional GI resource for their recreational, educational and historical value.

3. Designation of GI within the countryside outside the peninsula

3.1 The 2018 Background Paper (ED009), at section 4 states that key sources for the designation of GI are the Open Space Audit 2010 (ref: ED070a-c) and Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment 2013 (ref: ED069a-d).

3.2 Section 4 of the Background Paper (tables 1 to 3) identifies GI sites not taken forward into the Local Plan (Policies Map), sites taken forward but with amended boundaries and new areas of GI (the latter typically part of new residential developments).

3.3 This Addendum takes the same approach to the identification of GI sites within the countryside:

- Table A1 lists GI sites in the countryside (based on ED070a-c and ED069a-d above) which have not been carried forward onto the Policies Map
- Table A2 lists countryside GI sites identified on the Policies Map that are additional to those in ED070a-c and ED069a-d above
- Table A3 lists existing countryside GI sites (based on ED070a-c and ED069a-d above) that have been amended on the Policies Map.

3.4 The sites listed in the tables below have been identified using local knowledge and evidence from planning applications. Other amendments may be required but won't be identified until a full review/update of the Green Infrastructure Study has been undertaken.

Table A1: GI Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment 2013 sites in the countryside which are not shown on the Policies Map

Site Reference/Name	Justification
MY5 - South Planks Natural Retreat	Site originally identified through a planning permission for a recreational resource which hasn't been implemented and has now lapsed.

Site Reference/Name	Justification
PIL10 – Elletson Arms	Site no longer used as a Bowling Green. Now used a beer garden (information from the landowner).

Table A2: Additional GI sites in the countryside which have been added to the Policies Map*

Site	Source	Justification
Churchyards and Cemeteries	Lancashire County Council	<p>Approach consistent with that taken within settlement boundaries. The following sites are in the countryside and were not originally included in the Open Space Audit 2010 and 2013 Update:</p> <p>All Saints Church (Delph Lane, Garstang) Preesall Park Chapel (Cemetery Lane, Preesall) St. Anne's Church (Copp Lane, Great Eccleston) St. Eadmer's Church (North of Bleasedale Lane, Bleasedale) St. John the Evangelist Church Vicarage and School (Off Delph Lane, Calder Vale) St. John's Church (Crookgate Lane, Out Rawcliffe) St. Luke's Church (Church Lane, Winmarleigh Moss) St. Marks Church (Off Bradshaw Lane, Eagland Hill) St. Paul's Church (Stoney Lane, Shireshead) St. Thomas's RC Church (Smithy Lane, Brock)</p>
School Playing Fields	Lancashire County Council	<p>Approach consistent with that taken within settlement boundaries. The following sites are in the countryside and were not originally included in the Open Space Audit 2010 and 2013 Update:</p> <p>Nateby Primary School (Longmoor Lane, Nateby) Copp CE Primary School (Cop Lane, Great Eccleston) St Mary's RC Primary School (Smithy Lane, Claughton-on-Brock) Carter's Charity VC Primary (Pilling Lane, Preesall)</p>

Site	Source	Justification
		Winmarleigh CE Primary School (Church Lane, Winmarleigh) St John's CE Primary School (Off Delph Lane, Calder Vale) Bleasdale CE Primary School (North of Bleasedale Lane, Bleasedale)
Bowling Green's	Planning Policy Team	Approach consistent with that taken within settlement boundaries. The following sites are in the countryside and were not originally included in the Open Space Audit 2010 and 2013 Update: Out Rawcliffe (Chapel Lane) Island Farm (Cartmell Lane) Patten Arms Public House (Park Lane)
Football Pitch, Hazelhead Lane, Garstang	Planning Policy Team	Approach consistent with that taken within settlement boundaries. Playing pitch not previously identified as outside the settlement boundary.
Football Pitch, Lancaster Road, Moss Edge	Planning Policy Team	Approach consistent with that taken within settlement boundaries. Playing pitch not previously identified as outside the settlement boundary.

***The sites listed will be reviewed as part of any future update of the GI evidence base.**

Table A3: GI sites in the countryside which have been amended on the Policies Map

Site	Source	Justification
MY1 – Myerscough College Sports Pitches and MY3 - Myerscough College Gardens	Planning Policy Team	GI at Myerscough College includes a number of small and irregularly shaped areas of amenity space typically located between existing buildings. Whilst these remain as GI, the Local Plan Policies Map designation at the college focuses on key and larger areas of GI including playing pitches and gardens.
CHU5 - St Helen's C of E Primary School	Planning Policy Team	The Local Plan GI designation at the school reflects an extended school playing field.

***The sites listed will be reviewed as part of any future update of the GI evidence base.**

4. Green Infrastructure within the urban peninsula

- 4.1 In his Advice the Inspector considered that countryside within the peninsula outside of the Green Belt has recreational, landscape and biodiversity benefits. In accordance with the Inspector's Advice, the council has considered the matter of the identification of countryside as GI within the urban peninsula.
- 4.2 The council has considered four areas of countryside within the peninsula (see areas A to D on the plan at Appendix 1).
- 4.3 Two of these are considered to be functionally part of the wider countryside but have no formal recreation or ecological designation. As such, in line with the approach to GI outside of the peninsula (see section 2 above), they remain designated as countryside but not Green Infrastructure. These areas are:
- Land east of Fouldrey Avenue, Poulton-le-Fylde (area C)
 - Land South East of Poulton-le-Fylde (area D)
- 4.4 The remaining two areas lie on the Wyre Estuary and largely consist of agricultural and vacant land. They are more isolated areas of land, both being separated from the wider countryside by the River Wyre and built development. They both provide a connection to the River Wyre which is a Special Protection Area (SPA), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area. The two areas are:
- Land between Fleetwood and Thornton (area A); and
 - Land East of Stanah, Thornton (areas B1 and B2).
- 4.5 The land between Fleetwood and Thornton contains a small Biological Heritage Site (BHS). It is defined as derelict land in the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy (ED069a) consisting of former reservoirs now filled-in. It lies adjacent to the River Wyre which is a strategic green infrastructure asset and an ecological corridor. It lies in an area of high and very high need for Green Infrastructure (Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment 2013 - ref: ED069a-d).
- 4.6 The land at Thornton is largely defined as agricultural land in the Wyre Green Infrastructure Strategy (ED069a) but also contains, north and west of River Road, an area of development including electricity infrastructure, caravan parks and other structures (area B1). Given the extent of development within this area it is proposed to exclude it from the Local Plan Green Infrastructure designation on the Policies Map. The remainder of area (B2) is a substantial area of land that lies adjacent to the River Wyre which is a strategic green

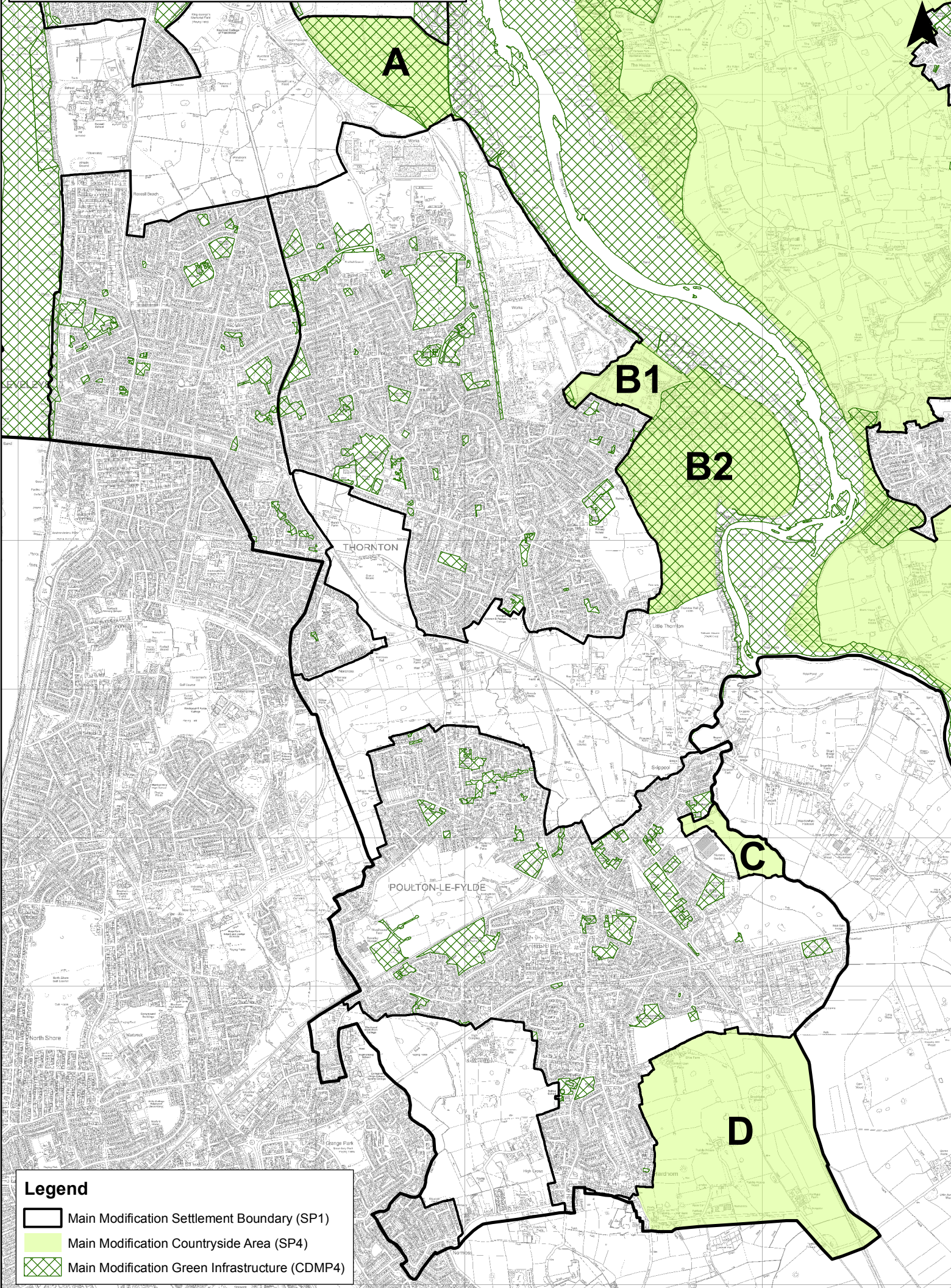
infrastructure asset and an ecological corridor. The land also includes Wyre Estuary Country Park (which is defined as natural and semi-natural green space in the Open Spaces Audit 2010 ED070a). It lies in an area of high need for Green Infrastructure.

- 4.7 Both areas of land A and B2 - are considered to fall within the definition of Green Infrastructure and achieve the characteristic of multi-functionality.




5. Coastal Green Infrastructure

- 5.1 The council's response to the Inspector's Advice stated that the Wyre Estuary and Morecambe Bay which was not shown as part of the countryside but which are a designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area and a Special Area of Conservation, will be shown as GI up to the low tide mark. In considering this further the council propose to identify as GI the Estuary and Morecambe Bay from Mean High Water up to the Wyre Council boundary (the low tide mark not being used as it includes land outside the borough boundary). In addition, in order to take a consistent approach to coastal GI, the council also propose that the Irish Sea at Fleetwood and Cleveleys will be designated as GI from Mean High Water up to Mean Low Water as identified in the Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment 2013.

Appendix 1 - Green Infrastructure (urban peninsula)



Legend

-  Main Modification Settlement Boundary (SP1)
-  Main Modification Countryside Area (SP4)
-  Main Modification Green Infrastructure (CDMP4)