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# Revised 2018-2033 Local Development Plan

# Public Open Space Assessment Technical Report

January 2024

Cyngor Sir Gâr  
Carmarthenshire  
County Council



**Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg**

**This document is also available in Welsh**

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**Cyflwynir elfennau wedi'u mapio a gynhyrchwyd o'r asesiad hwn ar Fap [Cynigion a Mapiau Mewnosod yr Ail Gynllun Datblygu Lleol Diwygiedig](#)**

**Mapped elements produced from this assessment are presented on the [Second Revised LDP Proposal Map and Insets Maps](#)**

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## Abbreviations

<b>(r)LDP</b>	(revised) Local Development Plan (also referred to as the 'Plan')
<b>ANGS</b>	Accessible Natural Green Space
<b>BBNP</b>	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
<b>CCC</b>	Carmarthenshire County Council (unitary area referred to as 'County')
<b>CRoW</b>	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
<b>ED</b>	Electoral Wards (also referred to as 'Ward')
<b>FA</b>	Formal Amenity
<b>FIT</b>	Fields in Trust
<b>GBI</b>	Green and Blue Infrastructure
<b>ISA</b>	Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
<b>LA(s)</b>	Local Authorit(y/ies)
<b>LNR(s)</b>	Local Nature Reserve(s)
<b>LPA(s)</b>	Local Planning Authorit(y/ies)
<b>NNR(s)</b>	National Nature Reserve(s)
<b>NRW</b>	Natural Resources Wales
<b>ONS</b>	Office for National Statistics
<b>OS</b>	Ordinance Survey
<b>(P)OSA</b>	(Public) Open Space Assessment
<b>PPW</b>	Planning Policy Wales
<b>PROW</b>	Public Rights of Way
<b>PS</b>	Play Space (syn. Provision for Children & Young People)
<b>TAN</b>	Technical Advice Note
<b>OS</b>	Outdoor Sports
<b>ROWIP</b>	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
<b>SAM</b>	Site Assessment Methodology
<b>SPG</b>	Supplementary Planning Guidance
<b>SuDS</b>	Sustainable Drainage Systems
<b>WIMD</b>	Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

## 1. Introduction

Open spaces are vital for health, well-being, and amenity, contributing to a vital part of the landscape of Carmarthenshire and the relationship both residents and visitors have with it. They can provide a valued place for play and physical activity, often in the presence of nature<sup>1</sup>. Integrated networks of open space can also promote nature conservation and, as inherent parts of Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI), can play an important role in promoting climate resilience and reversing biodiversity decline<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, by providing a place for social and human-nature interaction, these areas can further develop a person's sense of *cynefin*<sup>3</sup> whilst embedding the principles of placemaking.

As outlined in the *Planning (Wales) Act 2015*<sup>4</sup>, Local Development Plans (LDPs) and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) must promote sustainable development in accordance with the *Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015*<sup>5</sup> (WBFGA), for the purpose of ensuring that the development and use of land contributes to improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. Through their appropriate integration into the urban fabric and our rural communities, open spaces can help ensure the attainment of WBFGA goals whilst delivering interrelated objectives of the Local Public Services Board<sup>6</sup>, Public Health Wales<sup>7</sup>, Nature Resources Wales' (NRW) Area Statements<sup>8</sup>, and Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC)<sup>9</sup>.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)<sup>10</sup> requires LPAs to provide a framework for well-located recreational and leisure facilities, and to develop clear policies for the provision, protection and enhancement of sport, recreation, and leisure facilities. These policies should set standards of provision, so that local deficiencies can be identified and met through the planning process, and to avoid/resolve conflict between interests. Both formal and informal open and green spaces should be protected from development, especially when there are multifunctional and provide benefits to the surrounding community.

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<sup>1</sup> The effects of green space on health, well-being, and social safety have been well studied (e.g., [Groenewegen et al., 2006](#); [Pretty et al., 2007](#); [Irvine et al., 2013](#); [Jimenez, et al., 2021](#)).

<sup>2</sup> Carmarthenshire County Council has declared both a Climate and Nature Emergency and is committed to resolving the fundamental issues driving these.

<sup>3</sup> "Cynefin" is a Welsh word meaning *'the place where we feel we belong, where the people and landscape around us are familiar, and the sights and sounds are reassuringly recognisable.'*

<sup>4</sup> [Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

<sup>6</sup> Carmarthenshire [Well-being Plan \(2018\)](#) sets four themes of Healthy Habits, Early Intervention, Strong Connections, and Prosperous People and Places – of which open space is related to.

<sup>7</sup> [Creating Healthier Places & Spaces for our Present & Future Generations](#) identifies walking, cycling, open spaces, and GBI as areas which can positively impact on health and well-being.

<sup>8</sup> [NRW - South West Wales Area Statement](#)

<sup>9</sup> Well-being objectives set out in the [Corporate Strategy 2018-2023 \(Updated April 2021\)](#), priority projects in [Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire](#), and ambitions set out in the [Cabinet Vision Statement \(2022-2027\)](#).

<sup>10</sup> [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 11](#)

## 1.1. Purpose of this Public Open Space Assessment

It is proposed that the requirements set out in PPW can be achieved through undertaking an audit of current provisions alongside an assessment of existing and the likely future open space need. Together, these tasks form the Public Open Space Assessment (POSA) which shall be used to inform the preparation and implementation of CCC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit revised Local Development Plan (rLDP) (2018-2033), and will be a key component of its evidence base. The results will be used to inform appropriate rLDP policies which will help protect and secure open space resources for local communities, subject to adoption. The information obtained from this present assessment may also be useful for the preparation and development of other land-use strategies in which broader environmental, economic, social, and health and wellbeing issues are addressed within the County.

PPW does not prescribe standards for open space provision. Therefore, as later determined within Chapter 5, the present assessment has utilised widely acknowledged standards to holistically consider open space need with respect to the local context and existing landscape features. These have been decided in reference to the local context of the County and the social challenges currently experienced<sup>11</sup>, alongside those recommended by invested stakeholders (e.g., Sports Council for Wales, NRW, Fields in Trust) and the approach taken by other Local Authorities (LAs).

Within Wales, open space planning policy is set out in *TAN16: Sport, Recreation, and Open Space*<sup>12</sup>. This document has been referred upon throughout the development of the present report, including the formulation of standards in which TAN16 recommends. This report supersedes a previous OSA which was originally published in January 2020. Those contextual changes which have occurred since this initial publication, and are addressed within this present assessment, include:

- rLDP Delays – Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 1<sup>st</sup> Deposit rLDP was reacted from continuing on to examination, chiefly in response to the findings of NRW's Compliance Assessment of Welsh River Special Areas of Conservation Against Phosphorus Targets<sup>13</sup>. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, Council agreed to the Revised Delivery Agreement to allow the preparation of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit rLDP. This provided time to address the phosphate issue, and further allowed for the reflection and response to Covid-19 recovery, decarbonisation agenda, nature emergency, TAN15, and Future Wales 2040.
- Wards – Historically, the county has been made up of 58 electoral wards. However, following a significant review of electoral boundaries conducted by the Boundary

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<sup>11</sup> Reference is made to the Carmarthenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment, Carmarthenshire Family Support Strategy 2018-23, Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report of the rLDP, and previous OSAs.

<sup>12</sup> [TAN16: Sport, Recreation, and Open Space \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/tan16)

<sup>13</sup> [Natural Resources Wales / Compliance Assessment of Welsh River SACs Against Phosphorus Targets](#)

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit rLDP**

Commission for Wales, from May 2022 the county now consists of 51 wards. In addition to some naming alterations, no changes occurred to 34 wards.

- Census 2021 – data on the population and households in Wales from Census 2021 has since been published. In Carmarthenshire, the population size has increased by 2.2%, from around 183,800 in 2011 to 187,900 in 2021. For note, the previous OSA utilised the ‘mid-year 2017’ estimated population dataset from the Annual Monitoring Survey.
- Housing figures – as stated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Deposit rLDP, *“to ensure the overall housing requirement of 8,835 homes for the plan period is met, provision is made for 10,160 new homes in accordance with the settlement framework”* (SP3). Within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit rLDP, this figure has been updated to an *“overall housing requirement of 8,822 homes...”* with a *“provision... made for 9,704 new homes”* (SP4). Whilst the overall strategic spatial option (i.e., a hybrid approach) remains the same, further alterations to allocation situation have also occurred due to a variety of factors including viability.



## 1.2. Defining ‘Open Space’

There is no universal definition of open space in respect of classification, size, or description. As stated within TAN16 <sup>14</sup>, “*Open space is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground. For the purposes of this guidance, open space should be regarded as all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes, and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport, recreation, and tourism, and can also act as a visual amenity, and may have conservation and biodiversity importance.*”. The Open Spaces Act 1906 refers to open space more broadly as “*any land, whether enclosed or not, on which there are no buildings or of which not more than one-twentieth part is covered with buildings, and the whole or the remainder of which is laid out as a garden or is used for purposes of recreation, or lies waste and unoccupied*”.

For the purposes of the present assessment, open space is considered closely in line with TAN16. Nevertheless, it must also be accessible without financial restrictions for members of the public to access (on-foot) and enjoy the primary purpose of the site from which the recreation/amenity benefit is provided. This is to ensure that those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage<sup>15</sup> have the same opportunity as those who are not.

With consideration of the above, the following delineation is made:

- 1. Public Open Spaces (syn. Open Spaces)** – In line with the definition provided above, these are the primary focus of the present assessment and are what the Open Space standards are tested against. They include public parks, accessible greenspaces, and amenity provisions, and can either have statutory (e.g., common land) or non-statutory access (e.g., public body owned and/or access granted through formal agreement<sup>16</sup>). Those sites for which access is not formally secured (or is unknown) will not be considered Public Open Space.
- 2. Other Recreational Spaces (Limited Access)** – While in keeping with the definition in TAN16, a distinction is made within the present POSA. They include sites which charge a membership-fee (e.g., golf clubs), admission-fee (e.g., gardens), and those

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<sup>14</sup> Quote from Annex A, Page 30 – [TAN 16: Sport, Recreation, Open Space \(gov.wales\)](#) – as cited within paragraph 2.5 which states that ‘*Open space*’ is defined ... as all open space of public value, including land, and water areas like rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs and disused dock basins which offer opportunities for sport, recreation and tourism. The definition of “open spaces” for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972 incorporates the definition in TAN16, based upon section 336(1) of the Town & Country Act 1990.

<sup>15</sup> This is in keeping with the responsibilities embedded in Wales by the [Socio-economic Duty](#). Additionally, within [CCC’s Corporate Strategy](#), this approach is considered consistent with the outcome of “*Families from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to access health and well-being provision within their local areas*”. This issue is demonstrated the National Survey for Wales (2018-19) finding that 5% of responders who did not make any visits to the outdoors in the last 12 months, could not because they were unable to afford it (Table 6).

<sup>16</sup> For instance, Woodland Trusts Access to Woodland Position Statement. Access should ideally be provided in perpetuity.

to which public access is (or could be) restricted (e.g., school facilities). In recognition of the continued role these spaces play within our communities, they will be included within the assessment's collated database for the purposes of auditing and additional interpretation however, these will not go towards calculating overall sufficiency against the devised standards.

### **1.3. Open Space Topology**

As outlined in TAN16 <sup>17</sup>, there are numerous open space topologies for which the POSA could consider. Table 1 presents those categories for which open space will be amalgamated and analysed, and how these relate to the typologies originally put forward in TAN16. Notes on their classification within the present POSA is also given. The consolidation of these topologies has been made in recognition of the multifunctionality which many of these open spaces provide.

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<sup>17</sup> See Annex B, Page 31 – TAN 16

**Table 1.** Categories and examples of open spaces, how they related to TAN16, and notes on their classification within the present POSA.

Category	Open Space Typology (TAN16)	Examples	Notes
Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGS)	Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Woodland, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, open access land, wetlands, derelict open land, and coastal land.	ANGS must be freely and openly accessible, whether through CRoW, formal agreement (site restriction through at night gate closures, for instance, are disregarded). Protected/designated areas such as SSSIs and SACs with no public access are excluded. Green and blue infrastructure assets such as wetlands/ivers are also not included unless they complement a public rights of way or another accessible open space and are integral to perceived recreation/amenity benefit. There is no clearly established general right of public access to the foreshore for recreational purposes. In most instance beaches are, therefore, excluded (except for millennium coastal park).
	Green Corridors	Accessible linear features (e.g., riverbanks, footpaths, cycleways, bridleways, disused railway land and rights of way) with a proportionate amount of continuous natural features such as hedgerows, meadow, scrub, and/or woodlands.	
	Areas of Countryside in the Urban Fringe	Areas which directly adjoin development limits.	
	Water	Accessible blue infrastructure features which provide amenity value (e.g., ponds, lakes, harbours).	
Outdoor Sports	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas.	Outdoor sports facilities should only consist of the area and associated buildings that support the primarily function (e.g., sports bars are excluded). Only those sites and associated facilities routinely available to the public will be considered.
Play Space	Provision for Children & Young People	Playing areas such as playgrounds, areas for wheeled play (i.e., skateboarding), and other less formal areas with provision (e.g., hangout shelters).	Typically, an equipped or informal area designated for playing.
Formal Amenity Space	Public Parks & Gardens	Urban/country/pocket parks, and open gardens.	The area considered must be outdoors (i.e., excluding associated buildings such as churches). Amenity Green Space does not consider road verges, although may include multifunctional spaces (e.g., SuDS) which are embedded within quality placemaking and design. Exclude privately owned allotments.
	Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms	Statutory allotments, temporary allotments, and community growing spaces including orchards.	
	Amenity Green Space	Managed green features such as informal recreation spaces, village greens, and large accessible greenspaces around developments.	
	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Including disused burial grounds.	
	Civic Space	Market squares, promenades, and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians.	

## 2. Methodology

This POSA adheres to several key stages which are broadly in alignment with the advice given within TAN16 (Table 2).

**Table 2.** POSA steps adapted from those outlined in paragraph 2.23 in TAN16 (page 11).

POSA Stage	Actions
<b>Develop Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of existing guidance notes.</li> <li>• Identify shortcomings of previous assessments.</li> </ul>
<b>Identify Local Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review existing policies, strategies, related assessments, and any relevant consultations with communities and stakeholders in both a local and Welsh context.</li> </ul>
<b>Audit Existing Provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define audit scope.</li> <li>• Undertake data collation and discuss results.</li> </ul>
<b>Review of Open Space Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review current recommended and existing standards of quantity, accessibility, and quality.</li> <li>• Set testable standards according to local context and review.</li> </ul>
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify surpluses/deficiencies in quantity and accessibility.</li> <li>• Produce settlement maps to support the interpretation of results.</li> </ul>
<b>rLDP Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results to inform the assessment of allocations.</li> <li>• Review of adopted LDP and 1<sup>st</sup> rLDP open space policies.</li> <li>• Identify and evaluate strategic options.</li> </ul>
<b>Onward Monitoring &amp; Implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adhere to the reporting framework included within the rLDP.</li> <li>• If adopted, ensure standards are adhered to within the planning process.</li> <li>• Review when appropriate.</li> </ul>

## 2.1. Spatial Scope of Analysis

The present POSA covers the unitary authority area of CCC (hereinafter referred to as ‘the County’), and does not consider the population/households within other neighbouring LPAs including those located within the area of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) within Carmarthenshire. Quantity of open space provision will be look at over a ward level (Figure 1), whereas accessibility will be reviewed on a ward, existing household, and allocation basis.



**Figure 1.** Map of the County depicting Electoral Wards. While within Carmarthenshire, the area shaded in grey is neighbouring BBNP and is excluded from the scope of this assessment.

It is recognised that residents may frequent open spaces outside of this area, particularly if living within settlements close to administrative borders. However, only open spaces which are within the County are included within this assessment, reflecting the LPAs own responsibilities and administrative duties.

## 2.2. Database Collation

All sites were examined, validated, and subsequently mapped with input from a range of CCC sections including Forward Planning, Leisure, Family Information Service, Childcare and Play Team, Estates, Rural Conservation, and Economic Development. Extensive ground truthing was not undertaken, although recent observations made during other

assessments (i.e., play sufficiency audit) did help to inform commentary supplied on a site-by-site and settlement basis, alongside comparison to recent aerial imagery.

Alongside ad-lib collaboration, staff input was substantially made during a series of interdepartmental workshops which resulted in the finalised Open Space dataset and the standards benchmarked. To be fully inclusive of all available information, a comprehensive range of datasets was used to determine each open space category (Table 3). Collectively, these were cross compared to those datasets compiled for previously open space and GBI assessments to identify any outliers which required closer examination.

**Table 3.** Datasets used to inform each open space category. NB: Corresponding attribution statements were presented alongside all produced maps and are collectively presented in Appendix B, alongside references to all other data used.

Open Space Category	Dataset
Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGS)	Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) National Nature Reserves (NNRs) Regionally Important Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) NRW Open Access - Dedicated Forest NRW Open Access - Open Country NRW Open Access – Registered Common Land NRW Open Access - Other Statutory Access Land
Play Space (PS)	2017/18 Aerial Mapping Playground Register (from CCC Play Sufficiency Officer) OS Greenspace mapping
Formal Amenity Space	Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace (April 2023) 2017/18 Aerial Mapping CADW Historic Parks and Gardens

All data was analysed and presented in QGIS 3.16.6. Datasets were merged according to the determined open space typologies (as set out in Table 1) and processed to indicate access and remove anomalies such as overlapping features, ensuring there were no duplicates nor double counting. Site boundaries were compared against recent aerial imagery and, where deemed appropriate, edited to ensure the overall area of provision represented a more accurate picture of what is on the ground (i.e., boundaries were changed to remove buildings or other hard infrastructure not associated with the main recreation/amenity benefit obtained). This was also done in comparison with CCC land ownership data.

### 2.3. Demographic Data

Population statistics for each Electoral Ward within the County were obtained from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Census 2021 data, as assisted by the Data Insight Team. The usual residential population figures were used to calculate the provision of open space hectareage per 1000 population for each ward, as per the benchmark standards outlined in Section 5.6, except for allotments which alternatively used number of households (in

alignment with the National Allotment Society's recommendations). Countywide provision was also calculated.

## 2.4. Determining Accessibility

An evidenced-based approach was used to determine the public accessibility of open space resources (in line with the definition of open space employed). Widely available datasets related to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act<sup>18</sup> (e.g., Open Access Common Land) were used alongside those internally held. Information provided by Estates was also used to inform the leaseholder(s) of a site if recently underwent asset transfer. Additionally, a number of stakeholders were approached to determine whether assets were formally publicly accessible (if not held on CRoW/CCC databases).

Accessibility was assessed on a County-wide level by comparing buffer zone overlap with residential addresses indicated by the Local Land and Property Gazetteer. On an individual rLDP residential allocation basis, accessibility was assessed utilising those minimum distance standards outlined in Section 5.6<sup>19</sup>. Network analysis was conducted on the centroid point of the proposed development site, and iso-distance polygons based on the service network were then created to conduct spatial queries (i.e., determining any intersections with open space). This ensures access is more accurately represented for all dwellings within a given allocation, and not just those near the perimeter. Additionally, NRW states that an approach incorporating network techniques “offers (the) *best analysis of greenspace provision*”<sup>20</sup> (Figure 2). For wholeness, this information is presented alongside any quantity deficiencies and will, ultimately, be used as supporting information contained within the Site Assessment Methodology (SAM)<sup>21</sup>.

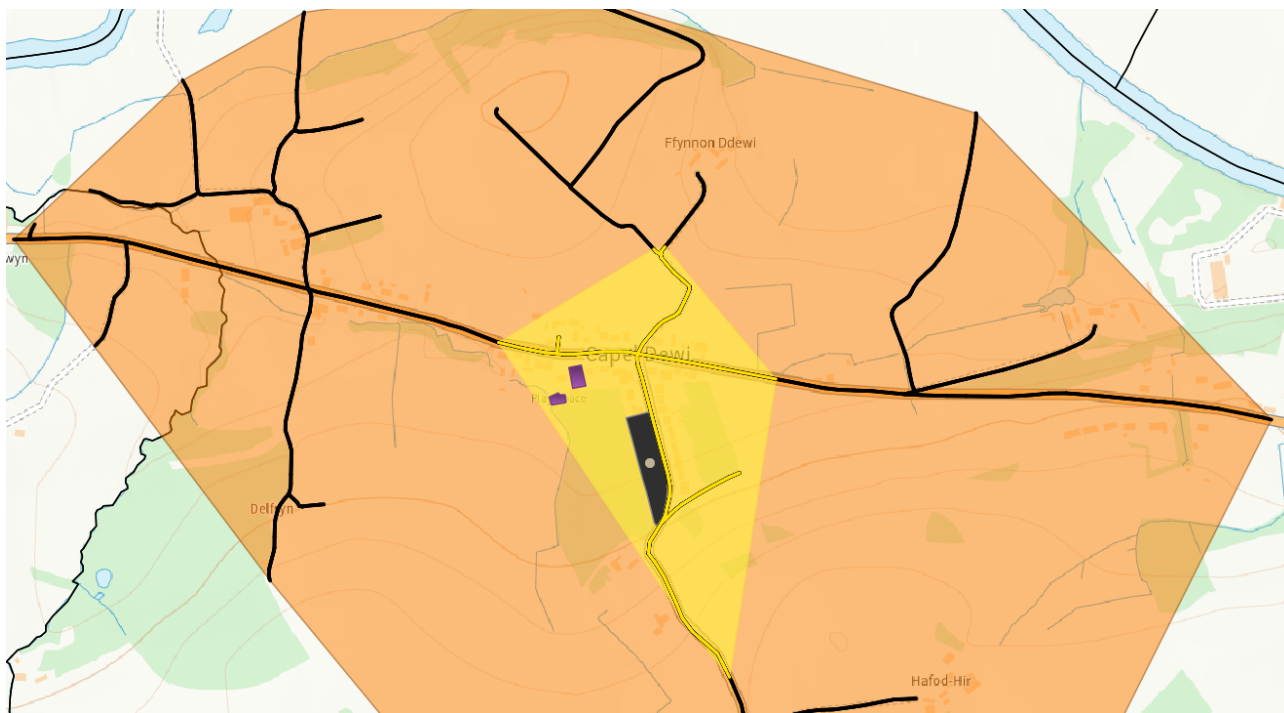
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<sup>18</sup> [Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

<sup>19</sup> The NRW Greenspace Toolkit states 400m if network analysis is being used. Page 28 states that “*this takes into account the need for the walker to follow the road and footpath network to access greenspace, crossing streets and going round corners etc.*”

<sup>20</sup> NRW Greenspace Toolkit (Page 28).

<sup>21</sup> Open Space is an allocation constrain and is considered within the rLDP [SAM](#). Relating to Q7 (paragraph 4.20 – public open space must be considered) and Q14 (paragraph 4.28 – promoting Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) Objectives (i.e., ISA12: Health & Well-being, ISA15: Social Fabric)).



**Figure 2.** Service networks of 400m (yellow) and 1200m (orange) meters were created from the centroid point each allocation (black) to determine accessibility in accordance with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> standard outlined in section 5.6. In practice, those areas outside of the relevant zone identify deficiency in terms of access to existing open space provisions (as signified in purple). Example using SuV16/h1, Heol Llwynddewi.

Furthermore, interactive map assets were produced to indicate the service areas of each open space site (i.e., areas which meet accessibility standards) and, while not present within the report, are proposed to be implemented during the adoption of the rLDP to aid officer assessments.

## 2.5. Quality

No standards for the evaluation of provision quality have been incorporated as, in many instances, the determination of certain quality related aspects goes beyond the traditional scope of POSA (i.e., dedicated audits including those relating to health and safety may be required to be undertaken by open space providers). Nevertheless, information will be compiled during the audit on a given sites protective legal status<sup>22</sup> (implying provision safeguarded for future generations) and the obtainment of awards through schemes such as Green/Blue Flag<sup>23</sup> to signify open space quality. This was in addition to the supporting commentary contained within the recent Play Sufficiency assessment.

*NB: The conclusion recommends that the assessment of quality and ground-truthing should be the next step in implementing this body of work.*

<sup>22</sup> Whether identified in previous LDP and/or other legally protection in perpetuity as identified by documents relating to asset transfer or held on FITS protected space record.

<sup>23</sup> Green Flag Award Scheme is an international standard for parks and green spaces operated by [Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus \(Keep Wales Tidy\)](#).



## 2.6. Thresholds

No minimum area threshold has been employed within this assessment given the distinguishing nature between the County's rurality and its dispersed urban areas. Despite there being some thresholds accompanying those standards reviewed in Chapter 5, this approach ensures that all open spaces of local value (whatever their size) are captured to ensure that these spaces can be duly considered. This is particularly applicable to those within smaller settlements<sup>24</sup> which may not necessarily be identified if a threshold were included. Nevertheless, those sites deemed not functional due to size and/or situation were excluded at the discretion of the assessor.

## 2.7. Additional Considerations

A pragmatic approach has been taken with regards to determining whether a site is considered an open space and whether access for residents is provided in line with the definition applied. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure quality assurance, some inaccuracies may remain given the scale, complexity, and constantly changing nature of open space provisions.

No direct comparisons with previous POSA findings can be made as assets such as golf courses and school playing fields (which are not freely and routinely accessible) are no longer considered. This is supplementary to those ward boundary changes.

It should also be noted that this assessment categorises open spaces based on their main function or derived benefit, without regard to the multi-functionality which many of these spaces have (or that fact that function/use is not always static and can change overtime). For example, amenity spaces can offer provision for children's play and, in turn, parks, play spaces and outdoor sports facilities could all be considered amenity spaces. For clarification, spaces have been categorised according to the relevant standards, available datasets, and local knowledge, however, the results should be viewed holistically, and further interrogation is required at a project level (particularly when determining the need for planning obligations of the assessed allocations). Nevertheless, the devised methodology ensures that sites are not counted in multiple open space categories and, therefore, the final provision quantity calculated is a valid reflection of what is on the ground (subject to the datasets used).

Those for-pay spaces (e.g., golf courses) are retained within the produced Open Space databased, although are excluded from the assessment against the standards and the overall calculation of total open space provision. It is recommended that the sufficiency and the local need for such sites should instead be contained within a comprehensive sport, leisure, and recreational study.

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<sup>24</sup> Especially Tiers 3 and 4 using the rLDP Settlement Framework.

Uncertainties and limitations of the present assessment include:

- The recommended open space standards (as later seen in Table 22) are developed as a proxy to ensure a variety of users with a range of needs, abilities, and interests can be duly met. However, as a high-level strategic assessment, it does not explicitly identify specific needs within a given settlement which vary on several factors including the transport network and resident demographics;
- In many existing urban areas, while it is possible to ascertain shortfalls in open space provision and identify specific accessibility needs (in line with the selected standards), it does not consider whether deficiencies can be appropriately met within that area (i.e., availability of land);
- The assessment of rLDP allocations considers the actual distance from door-to-gate accessibility and the provision of current access routes by utilising network analysis. Determining the centroid for each allocation is believed to represent access more proportionally for all dwellings, not just those on the perimeter. Other analysis such as buffer zones are likely to provide different results (and would be less reliable). Nevertheless, it does not consider whether these routes are actually suitable for pedestrians (and, therefore, further integration should be undertaken at a project-level);
- Provision of access points, adequate bike racks and parking and other transport infrastructure is not considered in line with current/future number of users;
- Demographic changes since the last census which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021;
- Changes to open spaces and/or their quality since the creation of the datasets/assessments utilised;
- The effect of visitors and tourists on open space provision. For instance, the quantity of open space provision may be regularly impacted by visitors, particularly within popular tourist areas;
- It does not consider the effects of employment nor employment allocations;
- It classifies children's play facilities collectively (i.e., it does not individual identify those LAPs, LEAPs, and NEAPS as identified within FIT standards);
- Only open spaces which are within the County are included within this assessment. This particularly impacts those wards<sup>25</sup> which intersect CCC and BBNP LPA areas;
- Any further uncertainties outlined by any respective dataset authors.

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<sup>25</sup> Electoral Wards of Llanboidy, Glanamman, Garnant, Llandeilo, Cwarter Bach, Llandoverly, Llangadog, and Llandybie.

### 3. Identifying Local Needs

A comprehensive compilation of national, regional, and local background policy and strategic framework related to open space can be found in Appendix A. A non-exhaustive overview of the local strategic context, current policies, and future ambitions in relation to open space are summarised below.

#### 3.1. Strategic Framework

##### **Cabinet Vision Statement 2022–2027 (July 2022)**

As well as tackling poverty and climate change, the Cabinet’s vision statement includes strengthening the economy and increasing prosperity, and investing in housing, education, culture, infrastructure, and the environment to make a real difference to people’s lives. The encompassing nature of open spaces means it can affect these aspects, however one priority of specific relevance includes:

*“Recognise the needs of our diverse communities, ensuring that the right homes are built in the right places...”*

This vision statement was presented at Cabinet by the Leader and informed the Corporate Strategy following public consultation.

##### **CCC: Corporate Strategy 2022-2027**

The Corporate Strategy sets out CCC’s strategic priorities and aspirations, and outlines what it plans to do in order to achieve its vision for Carmarthenshire over the next five years. At the heart of this approach is integration and collaboration across the Council and with our stakeholders, and our focus going forward will be on *Developing Carmarthenshire, Together: One Council; One Vision; One Voice*.

It also sets out the Council’s well-being objectives. Those which are deemed to have some significance to open space are individually discussed below, firstly covering why this objective is important locally, and those outcomes hoped for which open space provision has the capacity to impact upon:

1. *Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)*

Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing health inequalities across the life course. The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual, and emotional – are laid in early childhood. What happens during these early years, starting in the womb, has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being –

from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status (1)<sup>26</sup>.

Carmarthenshire is the 5th worst county in Wales for levels of childhood obesity. In 2018/19, almost a third of children aged 4 to 5 were overweight or obese (6).

Children learn through play and develop essential skills - play sufficiency is essential (8).

Concern over mental health is a key issue raised by young people (14).

Outcome: Families from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to access health and well-being provision within their local areas.

## *2. Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)*

Poverty and deprivation have serious detrimental effects, impacting all aspects of well-being. Over a third of our households continue to live in poverty (35.6%), a level which has increased by 0.9% over the last ten years. This translates to around 29,500 households, suggesting that almost 600 additional households have slipped below the income threshold over the last ten years. A large proportion of respondents to a recent consultation agreed that poverty is a problem in their respective area (1).

The challenge is to prevent ill health, living healthy lives allows people to fulfil their potential, meet educational aspirations and play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire, many of the preventive services and interventions lie outside health and social care (4).

Mental ill health is something that one in four adults will experience in the course of their lifetime. There was overall strong agreement from residents that it is important that consideration is given to supporting people's mental health and wellbeing (6).

Access to good quality, affordable homes promote improved health and well-being, meeting the individual needs of residents, building strong sustainable communities and places where people want to live. It is also good for the economy - in order to thrive, new businesses need easy access to its workforce and quality housing will help to attract this cohort. There was overall strong agreement from residents that it is important that local people are supported to buy homes locally (8)<sup>27</sup>.

Outcome: Accessible, inclusive, sustainable services, which promote and facilitate learning, culture, heritage, information, well-being and leisure. Availability of good quality and energy efficient affordable homes in the County. Recognise and seek to limit the disproportionate barriers faced by marginalised groups in accessing services and support which allow them to live and age well.

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<sup>26</sup> [Studies have demonstrated](#) that open spaces are associated with better mental health, and benefits to the immune system and to metabolism, improved pregnancy outcomes, a reduction in cardiovascular disease, and reduced premature mortality.

<sup>27</sup> CCC is a signatory of the [Placemaking Charter for Wales](#) which promote principles centred around People and Community, Movement, Public Realm, Location, Mix, of uses, and Identity as aspects which support the development of sustainable high-quality homes. Open space has an inherent roles within these factors.

3. *Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Communities)*

Access to services is a challenge in some instances owing to a lower population density and rurality. Large travel distances increase the time and cost for accessing services, which can hinder an individual's ability to feel connected to their communities, worsen isolation and reduce feelings of local pride and belonging. This is especially pertinent for marginalised groups. Findings from a recent Carmarthenshire residents survey highlights that whilst there was overall agreement from respondents that they can easily access services, a large proportion disagreed (6).

Areas of the county are susceptible to the negative effects of the climate emergency, especially flooding. Just over 15,000 properties (mostly residential) in the county are currently at some level of flood risk. 3,151 of these properties are at high risk. Climate change will increase the number of properties, infrastructure and key services at risk of flooding. Places which do not currently flood will become at risk of flooding and those already known to be at risk will see the level of that risk become greater. The threats of the climate and nature emergencies were highlighted by residents as being a concern. Particular reference was made by some to the threats posed by flooding (8)<sup>28</sup>.

A biodiverse natural environment is good for well-being, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supporting social, economic and ecological resilience. Planning plays an integral role in order to deliver the Council's vision (9)<sup>29</sup>.

The latest Census data for 2021 indicates that Carmarthenshire is home to 72,838 Welsh speakers which translates to 39.9% of the county's total population. This figure has decreased by 5,210 since the last Census in 2011, which translates to a percentage point decrease of 4.0. This is the largest percentage point decrease of all local authorities in Wales. In 2001 and 2011, Carmarthenshire had the highest number of Welsh speakers of all local authorities in Wales, with 84,196 and 78,048 Welsh speakers respectively. These new figures mean that the county now has the second highest number of Welsh speakers of all local authorities in Wales and the fourth highest in terms of the percentage of the population that are able to speak Welsh. The county remains a key strategic stronghold for the future of the Welsh language and the social and economic benefits of bilingualism are widely recognised. Evidence gathered via the residents' survey indicates that overall respondents agreed that it is important that the Welsh language is promoted and protected. Evidence gathered via the residents' survey indicates that overall respondents agreed that it is important that the Welsh language is promoted and protected (11)<sup>30</sup>.

Carmarthenshire exhibits increasing crime rates in some areas, however the county remains among the safest areas in the UK, with Carmarthenshire ranking 13th safest out of the 22

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<sup>28</sup> Quality open spaces are multifunctional, and incorporate flood alleviate measures such as SuDS.

<sup>29</sup> Green open spaces will have a significant role in this. Additionally, the requirement for developers to provide net benefits for biodiversity ([in line with PPW](#)) and be integrated into the requirement for open space provision.

<sup>30</sup> Heritage, identity, and culture are intrinsically linked to open space. Provisions leading to the encouragement of socialising, recreation and leisure will support the creation of a vibrant culture and opportunities for language transmission.

counties in Wales with a rate of 83.6 crimes per 1,000 population. Overall, there was agreement that residents feel safe in their communities (12)<sup>31</sup>.

Outcomes: People feel empowered to lead active and healthy lives through access to fit for purpose services and provision. Improve current and explore new developments to limit the effects of flooding and other environmental threats which affect our residents and service users. Sustain low crime rates whilst continuing effective partnership working to address increasing rates evident in some areas of the county. Increased confidence and use of Welsh as a thriving language.

Additionally, while not included above, open space acutely relates to all thematic priorities set under each of the discussed well-being objectives.

### [NRW Area Statement \(2020\)](#)

Produced as a collaborative response to the Natural Resources Policy which was published by Welsh Government in 2017. Each Area Statement outlines the key challenges facing that locality, opportunities to meet those challenges, and how we can better manage our natural resources for the benefit of future generations. The themes for the marine area statement are building resilience of marine ecosystems; nature-based solutions and adaptation at the coast; and making the most of marine planning. The themes for South West Wales are reviewed individually below:

- [Reducing Health Inequalities.](#)

NRW have identified three key topics related to this theme:

#### 1. Open green spaces and urban green infrastructure

*“There is a direct link between people’s good health and being surrounded by the natural environment. Our green and blue spaces, including parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, road verges, rivers, canals, allotments and private gardens are often referred to as green infrastructure. This living network not only defines and shapes the character of a place but also delivers multiple benefits for biodiversity, health and well-being.”*

*“By having an excellent living network in an urban area, it can help connect fragmented wildlife populations and habitats, linking urban areas with their surrounding environment. In other words, green infrastructure is good for people and for nature.”*

*“Low-income areas are associated with lower quality housing and education, poor diet, and less access to good quality green space. Living near areas of greenspace (such as parks or woodland) can improve health, regardless of social class.”*

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<sup>31</sup> Open spaces have been shown to lead to [lower crime rates.](#)

*“Urban trees are an important component of green infrastructure. Some towns in South West Wales have notably low levels of tree cover (including Port Talbot at 7.5% and Gorseinon, Haverfordwest, Carmarthen and Llanelli at around 11%). Additionally, tree cover is not evenly distributed in these areas with deprived areas tending to have lower cover.”*

## 2. Recreation activities and use of green and blue active travel

*“The Active Travel (Wales) Act encourages more people to undertake regular journeys on foot and bicycle. Investment in an active travel infrastructure can result in significant economic benefits. The building of green active travel routes can result in multiple benefits for people and biodiversity.”*

*“The Area Statement work so far has identified that giving people access to recreational trails, as well as green/blue travel routes is an important priority. This is something also identified through our Public Services Board engagement and local plans (e.g., Pembrokeshire Well-being Plan and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Draft Management Plan) for South West Wales in both rural and urban locations.”*

*“Outdoor recreation activities provide multiple benefits for people, the environment and the economy by encouraging environmentally friendly behaviours, contributing to health outcomes and through tourism. South West Wales has a lot to offer both in terms of locally accessible countryside and internationally renowned fisheries, mountain biking trails and bathing beaches.”*

*“Given this provision, we would like to work collaboratively to support nature-based activities and make the outdoors more accessible to all.”*

## 3. Protecting the environment for our well-being

*“Ensuring our natural resources are of high quality is key to our well-being. From the air we breathe and the waters we swim in, to managing the risk from the rivers and coast we live by, nature-based solutions can deliver multiple benefits for people and the environment. There is a strong connection between this topic and our land management theme. The coastal zone around South West Wales is hugely important to support tourism and industry as well as providing human health benefits. Within this area we have 40 designated bathing waters (33 ‘Excellent’, 6 ‘Good’ & 1 ‘Sufficient’) which the tourism industry relies on for visitors.”*

- Ensuring Sustainable Land Management.

The “challenges and opportunities from the Natural Resources Policy are addressed by this theme cover:

- How we maintain productive capacity of our land with a priority being improving soil quality and biosecurity;
- Improving the quality and quantity of our water;

- *Increasing carbon stores in soils and biomass (plant or animal material) and ensuring areas are protected to do so;*
- *Reversing the decline in biodiversity;*
- *Reducing the risk of flooding;*
- *Supporting secure and stable employment.*

Open space, particularly ANGS, has the capacity to address these challenges.

- Reversing The Decline Of & Enhancing, Biodiversity.

The “challenges and opportunities from the Natural Resources Policy addressed by this theme include:

- *Reversing the decline in biodiversity and restoring resilient ecosystems;*
- *Responding to the climate change threat and adopting ecosystem approaches to help;*
- *Reducing noise pollution and pollution levels in our air, and enhance air quality;*
- *Improving the quality and ensuring the quantity of our water.*

Again, open space (particularly ANGS) has the capacity to address these challenges.

- Mitigating & Adapting to a Changing Climate (Cross-Cutting Theme).

*“In responding to this theme, we need to recognise these links and aim to deliver multiple benefits that help address climate change. For instance, increasing woodland cover next to a community not only enhances biodiversity, social health and well-being, but also enables trees to act as ‘carbon sinks’, soaking up excess water and reducing what’s known as the ‘urban heat island effect’, something that occurs when an urban area becomes significantly warmer than surrounding areas due to human activity.”*

### **3.2. Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)**

Following the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 all local highway authorities were required to publish a ROWIP covering all their area. The Act also imposed a duty on authorities to review their ROWIP every ten years.

Improvement plans are intended to be the prime means by which local highway authorities will identify the changes to be made in respect of the management and improvement of their local rights of way network to make better provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and for those who face barriers in accessing the countryside.

Public rights of way can provide valuable links within the local transport infrastructure, providing sustainable transport opportunities between communities, to places of work and to local amenities. They also play an essential part of rural tourism and have an important role to play in improving and sustaining health and well-being and in meeting the objectives outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015).

All Public Rights of Way in Carmarthenshire (i.e., footpaths, bridleways, and byways) are recorded on the Definitive Map and Definitive Statement which is held in the Countryside Access office. The Public Rights of Way (PROW) network provides a valuable recreational resource for use by residents and visitors to Carmarthenshire alike. They provide unrivalled



access to the countryside and offer sustainable methods of travel by enabling safe use of alternative modes of transport to motor vehicles.

Table 3 provides details of the respective numbers and length of recorded routes in Carmarthenshire, being the third largest local authority network in Wales.

**Table 3: Network Routes & Length (March 2018).**

Route Type	Number of Routes	Length (km)
Footpath	2951	2198.0
Bridleway	136	164.8
Byway Open to All Traffic	88	77.9
Restricted Byway	1	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>2442.4</b>

CCC's statutory responsibilities in respect of the PROW network include:

- Signposting and waymarking of footpaths, bridleways, and byways;
- Keeping up to date the Definitive Map and Statement which is the legal record of PROW;
- Maintaining the surface of a PROW to a standard appropriate for the purpose for which it is used;
- Maintaining bridges over natural river courses;
- Keeping the PROW open and available by ensuring that other partners fulfil their responsibilities.

Countryside access opportunities offered by the PROW network contribute towards health and well-being initiatives and improving quality of life for residents. As they are free to access and enjoy, they can also promote social inclusion. The network also plays a part in the economic development of Carmarthenshire through either direct or indirect spend in the County. Spending on tourism services, equipment, hospitality, travel, parking, and any number of other support services all contribute to the local economy.

In addition to the PROW network there are other valuable opportunities to access the countryside such as:

- Open Access Land designated under the CRoW Act, consisting of open country such as mountains and moorland and 'registered common land'. There are approximately 7600 hectares (ha.) of Open Access Land where the public have the right to roam on foot. This includes areas of 'dedicated open access land' where landowners allow free open access. An example is the WG who allow free open access to their woodland estate and in addition, also offers permissive access opportunities for mountain biking, horse riding and carriage driving;
- Unclassified Road Network amounting to approximately 170 Unclassified Roads (often referred to as "Green Lanes") with vehicular rights, totalling some 150

kilometres of largely unsurfaced routes, which play a significant role in the provision of recreational routes, for all users;

- Cycleways developed in response to the rapidly growing cycling market in Wales. Carmarthenshire has made significant developments in improving the opportunities for cyclists with the ambition to become the ‘cycling hub of Wales’. The creation of numerous cycleways in the County which include the National Cycle Network and Safe Routes in the Community have also created opportunities for other users such as walkers, less able and disabled users and occasionally horse riders. Under the Active Travel Act (Wales) 2013 Carmarthenshire continues to identify and improve routes for cyclists and walkers to make active travel the most attractive option for shorter journeys and to connect key sites and communities;
- CCC Sites largely owned and managed by the Authority providing valuable recreational access, often to user groups with poorer provision in the wider countryside for example people with physical disabilities and horse riders;
- Coastal Access to the foreshore where public access rights exist. Beaches like Pembrey, Marros and Pendine are accessible for walking and very popular with horse riders. The nationally recognised Wales Coast Path, a linear route around the coast of Wales established between 2007 and 2012 which provides unrivalled access to the coastline of Carmarthenshire on foot, through a range of habitats and coastal landscapes;
- Permissive Access delivered in several ways, such as through Glastir Agri Environmental Funded Schemes, privately by individual landowners or over National Trust properties, primarily for walkers;
- Lost Ways are routes which carry public rights over them which were in existence before 1949 but are not currently recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement for Carmarthenshire.

### 3.3. National Survey for Wales (Outdoor Recreation)

Replacing the Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey, the Outdoor Recreation section of the National Survey for Wales provides information on participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, from climbing to picnics, which take place in all areas from local parks to mountains and the sea. Several results have been extracted below from the [Results Viewer](#) which was last updated in December 2022. These are not exclusive of all those results with relation to sports and outdoor recreation.

With regards to outdoor recreation, Table 4 indicates that most children were found to spent time outside several times a week. However, 11% were found to have not spend times outdoors in the last month.

**Table 4:** National Survey for Wales, 2018-19. Sample size 2500.

How often child has spent time in green space or garden in last 4 weeks	%
More than once a day	19
Every day	23
Several times a week	31

Once a week	10
Once or twice in the last 4 weeks	6
Not at all	11

For general outdoor recreation (of all ages), Table 5 demonstrates that a wide range of areas are visited by those who undertake outdoor activities in the last year.

**Table 5:** 'Which of the following, if any, best describes the main type of place you visited on your most recent visit to the outdoors?' Asked of those who had undertaken outdoor activities at least once in last 12 months. National Survey for Wales, 2018-19. Sample size 4150.

Where visited	%
Local park or other local space	25
Beach, sea or coastline	19
Woodland or forest	17
Roadside pavement / track	14
Hills, mountains or moorland	7
River, lake or canal	6
Farmland	5
Other (please specify)	4
None of these	1

Nationally, physical disability appears to be the main why someone has not visited the outdoors in the last year. Five percent of people could not do so due to financial reasons (Table 6).

**Table 6:** Question: 'For what reasons, if any, have you not made any visits to the outdoors in the last 12 months?'. Options with no responses excluded. National Survey for Wales, 2018-19. Sample size 1150.

Why haven't made visits to outdoors in last year	%
Physical disability	31
Other health reason	25
Always too busy / lack of time	24
Old age	20
Bad / poor weather	6
Not enough money / can't afford it	5

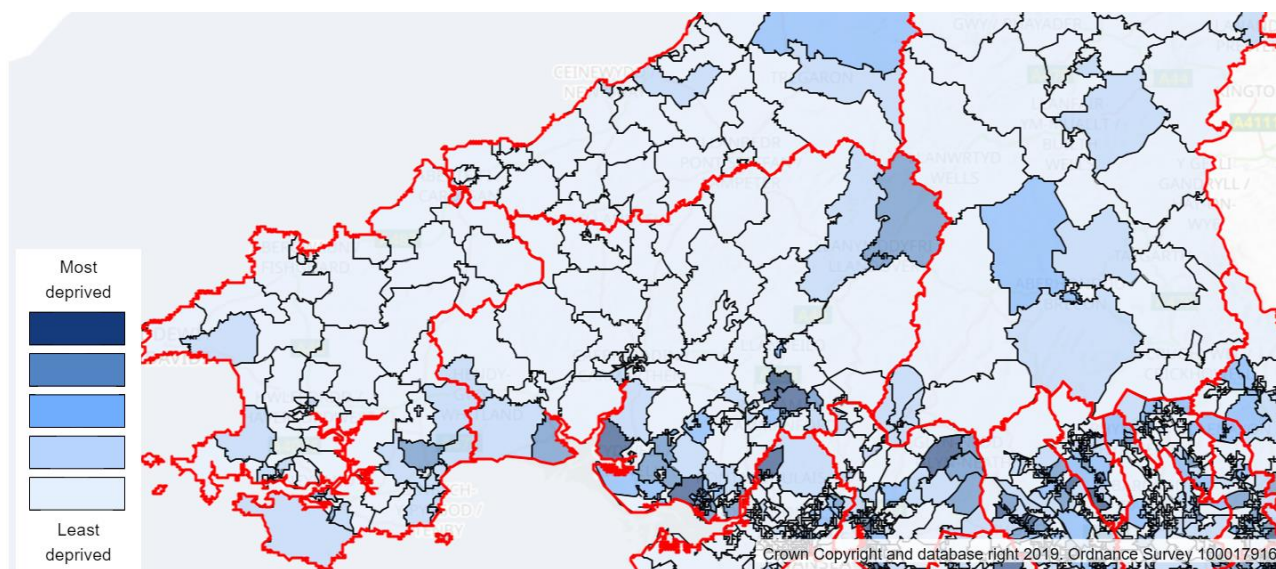
### 3.4. Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. It identifies areas with the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. It is a National Statistic produced by statisticians at the Welsh Government.

WIMD ranks areas from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived). It does not provide a measure of the level of deprivation in an area, but rather whether an area is deprived relative to all other areas in Wales. The [WIMD 2019 Guidance](#) provides more information on use and interpretation of the results.

WIMD is currently made up of eight separate domains of deprivation. Those below consider the Physical Environment which measures factors that may impact on the wellbeing or quality of life of those living in a given area including proximity to ANGS<sup>32</sup>.

In 2019, the Carmarthenshire LA (including the BBNP area) contains 112 Low Super Output Areas (5.9% of the 1909 total in Wales). Of the 20% most deprived Low Super Output Areas in Wales within the Physical Environment domain, 24 are within the Carmarthenshire which accounts for 21.4% of those in the LA and 1.3% of those in Wales (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Deprived Low Super Output Areas in Carmarthenshire as assessed against indicators within the physical environment. Hengoed 2 (01001925), St. Ishmael 2 (W01000723), Llandybie 1 (W01000680), and Llandybie 2 (W01000681) are sequentially ranked the most deprived within the LA.

<sup>32</sup> Assessment it does not include cemeteries and gold courses. Not indication was given to suggest limited access (financial barriers) were also considered [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\) 2019: technical report \(gov.wales\)](#).

### 3.5. Play Sufficiency

The Play Sufficiency Duty is placed upon the LA by section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010<sup>33</sup>. Introduced in two parts...

- the 1<sup>st</sup> part states that local authorities must assess whether their local area offers children enough opportunities to play; and
- the 2<sup>nd</sup> part says that LAs must secure enough opportunities for children to play in their area, as far is reasonable and practical.

The following is obtained from Play Sufficiency Assessment<sup>34</sup> published in March 2022.

CCC is committed to ensuring that all children and young people living in the County have access to exciting, stimulating, and creative play experiences that they need and want. We are committed to working with our partners to provide a range of supervised and unsupervised play provision that challenges children and young people. We recognise that high quality play opportunities, that are accessible to all, aids equality and helps mitigate the negative effects of poverty and other adverse childhood experiences.

Play is an essential part of children and young people's lives; the Local Authority acknowledges that choice is a fundamental part of play. Children and young people should be able to choose how they play and why they want to play. We understand that play is integral to children's physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing, and that it benefits all our children, families, and communities.

Play provides children with the opportunity to explore their world, who they are and their relationships. Play allows children to develop skills including socialising, problem solving, language development, creativity, communication, negotiation and listening. The Local Authority appreciates that a rich play environment is one where children and young people have the choice about how they play, and the choice to invent and extend play. The opportunity to play can be provided almost anywhere at almost any time. Children can play indoors or outdoors, in parks, play areas, greenspaces, family centres, soft play areas or youth clubs. Carmarthenshire's children can play in their homes, childcare settings or schools. There is a wealth of safe places for them to play.

Quality play provision provides children and young people with a rich and stimulating environment that is safe but full of challenge, where they can have fun, explore and learn. Children and young people of different ages, abilities and stages of development want and need different types of play. Providing appropriate play opportunities means taking into account a wide range of needs and developing a wide range of inclusive play provision.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment process is an opportunity for CCC to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of play. The established Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group

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<sup>33</sup> [Children and Families \(Wales\) Measure 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

<sup>34</sup> [Play Sufficiency Assessment - Carmarthenshire Family Information Service \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

will continue to meet on a termly basis to deliver the actions and continue to ensure that children and young people's play is prioritised.

As part of the assessment a public consultation was conducted amongst several stakeholders including Parent/Carers, and Town and Community Councils. The survey for Primary School Children was completed by 294 children from across Carmarthenshire. 60% of children who completed the survey said they go out to play or hang out with friends most days. With 59% saying they have just enough time to play, 20% say they have loads of time. The most popular place to play is 'in my house or a friend's house' (72%) followed by 'in a play area with swings, slides and other equipment to play on' (46%) and 'in my garden or a friend's garden' (28%). Other key findings include:

- 29% of children say they can't play in all the places they want to play, with the biggest barriers being 'it isn't safe' (51%) and 'my parent / carer won't let me' (43%). However, 45% of children say they always feel safe when playing or hanging out with friends.
- When asked 'what are grown-ups like when you are playing or hanging out' 58% said 'most adults are great and are happy with children playing out' only 3% said 'most adults are grumpy and hate children playing out.'
- It was almost a half and half split with 49% of children saying they were allowed to play out on their own. 81% are allowed to play out with their friends. 60% of children rely on an adult with a car to take them to play, 81% rely on an adult with a car to get them to school.
- 46% said that overall play opportunities in their community are 'great and couldn't be made much better' with just 4% saying 'it's rubbish.'
- 97% of those who go to school play in the school yard, with 84% saying that bad weather is the thing that stops them most from playing at school followed by too much schoolwork (31%).
- We also spoke to 23 children at School, People Speak Up Play Events and a session for home-schooled children. Most of these children said there was not enough for them to do in their local area and stated a preference for play at home or at a friend's. The exception to this being children who regularly participate in sports activities. Barriers to play included parental concerns about safety and needing a parent / carer to be with them to access play. They also expressed concern about feeling safe in places as a result of the behaviour of adults (drinking in parks and plays areas) and / or older children, for example teenagers making them feel uncomfortable in play spaces.

As part of the same public consultation, a separate survey was conducted amongst Secondary School Children. The survey was completed by 270 young people (aged between 12 and 18). Their responses shows that amount of time children spend playing or hanging out with friends decreases over time, as 44% of young people hang out with friends most days compared to 60% of children. For this age group the most popular activity is 'chatting and being with friends' (64%), followed by 'going to the cinema' (38%) and 'exploring' (34%). Other key findings include:

- 86% of this group said that they feel 'happy' when hanging out with friends, followed by 'excited' (43%), 'free' (42%) and 'active' (40%). The most popular place for this age group to hang out is a 'local grassy area or field' (37%) followed by somewhere else/ other' (33%) most people within this group selected their own home and 'the beach / seaside' (29%). 21% reported that in their community 'I cannot or hardly do what I like.'
- 84% of young people told us they hang out with friends in the school yard. Bad weather (59%) is the biggest barrier to spending time with friends at school followed by 'too much schoolwork' (32%) and 'there isn't a place where we can play / hang out' (22%).
- 57% of young people say there aren't places they need and want to hang out with friends in their community. Three barriers tied as the most significant barriers to hanging out; 'there's nothing to do there' (38%), 'I don't go out to play or hang out as it's too dark' (38%) and 'the COVID-19 pandemic' (38%). 54% of young people said COVID-19 had affected how they play and hang out.
- 62% do want to hang out more, and to do this young people want 'transport to help them get there' (59%), 'ask dog owners to pick up their dog mess' (22%) and 'help my parents understand that it's okay to hang out.'

Following the assessment process, the Play Sufficiency 2022 Report identified several gaps in provision. A full summary can be found on page 88 within the Report, however those shortfalls determined with regard to geographical scope are below:

- Rural areas are underserved, in part because provision aligns with need as defined by population and deprivation.
- 9 wards have no designated outdoor play spaces: Carmarthen Town North, Carmarthen Town South, Cynwyl Gaeo, Hengoed, Llanboidy, Llanfihangel Aberdythych, Llangeler, Mandoreilo & Salem and Trelech.
- 25 wards have no supervised play provision: Abergwili, Bigyn, Bynea, Cilycwm, Cynwyl Efed, Cynwyl Gaeo, Dafen, Elli, Gorslas, Hengoed, Laugharne Township, Llanboidy, Llanddarog, Llandelio, Llandoverly, Llanfihangel Aberdythych, Llangadog, Llangyndeyrn, Llannon, Llansteffan, Pontamman, Saron, St. Ishmael, Trimsaran and Whitland. Note this information is based on play provision listed on Dewis.
- 16 wards have no play provision for older children and young people (indoor or outdoor provision for age 12+) Bigyn, Carmarthen Town North, Cynwyl Gaeo, Dafen, Glyn, Hengoed, Laugharne Township, Llanboidy, Llandeilio, Llanfihangel Aberdythych, Llangadog, Mandordelio & Salem, Pontyberem, St. Ishmael, Trelech and Trimsaran. Based on mid-year population estimates for 2021, 4,496 children and young people aged between 12 and 19 years of age live in these wards, 30% of that age group.

NB: It is important to note that the methodological differences between the Play Sufficiency Assessment and the present POSA may lead to slight variations in results.

### 3.6. Growing Food

The National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners evidences the many benefits which community growing can provide<sup>35</sup>, in summary:

- *“Social Capital – ... The social contact offered by gardening in an allotment environment helps to combat the lack of social capital embodied by loneliness, which has the equivalent risk to health as consuming 15 cigarettes daily and is twice as harmful as obesity”.*
- *“Mental well-being – There is a growing awareness of the role that gardening plays in both preventing and alleviating mental ill-health. Many allotment gardeners will tell you that a spell on the plot nurturing plants and contemplating nature makes them feel calmer and more hopeful and there have been recent studies that have measured this benefit.”*
- *“Healthy activity – The physical benefits of regular spells of gardening help plot-holders to keep fit even if they have sedentary jobs, the physical exercise also contributes to their mental well-being. Gardening can also help to maintain good gait and balance in older gardeners and help with cognitive decline”.*
- *“Contact with nature – Working a plot year-round means that allotment holders experience the seasons, witness the behaviour of birds, insects and other animals and gain an understanding of the eco-system. This appreciation of the natural world also has the potential to inspire more environmentally aware behaviour by themselves and their children”.*

Consultation with the general population and other interested parties has been conducted, via a CCC hosted survey and feedback from members of Carmarthenshire Food Network<sup>36</sup>.

The County is home to Bwyd Sir Gâr Food which is a partnership that brings together key strategic stakeholders from across the public, private and third sector, and is a part of the [Sustainable Food Places](#) network. Member organisations include CCC, Hywel Dda University Health Board, NRW, University of Wales Trinity Saint Davids, Carmarthenshire Food Network, Social Farms & Gardens, and Food Sense Wales, amongst others. The aim of the partnership is to develop a local, sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food system for the county that reflects a synthesis of the shared strategic aims of member organisations.

### 3.7. Greenspace Assessment

Locally distinctive evidence informs the Plan’s policies in respect of open space. The Carmarthenshire Greenspace Assessment provides an audit of provision informed by national standards and guidance as well as local information on locally significant provision sourced from the local community and/or LA officers. The Study provides a spatial appreciation of where there are potential deficiencies and surpluses in provision across the County. It should be noted that a review of the Greenspace Assessment will be undertaken as part of the overall requirement to monitor and review the rLDP. Such a review will build

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<sup>35</sup> [Benefits of allotment gardening – The National Allotment Society \(nسالg.org.uk\)](http://nسالg.org.uk)

<sup>36</sup> [Food Survey for Carmarthenshire - CCGSC~CAVS](#)



upon the work already undertaken and will seek to reflect changes in provision and accessibility to facilities.

### 3.8. SPG: Leisure & Open Space

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for the provision of leisure and open space for new development was adopted in September 2016. Production of the SPG took place following the adoption of the current LDP and has regard to National Planning Policy. The primary objective of this SPG was to develop an understanding of the various definitions of open space within the Carmarthenshire context as well as clarifying the Council's expectations in relation to planning obligations.

NB: This SPG will be subsequently reviewed in line with the emerging rLDP.

### 3.9. Demographics

Data from the Census 2021 revealed that Carmarthenshire has a growing population of 187,897 people which make up ~91182 households (using latest LLGP data). Demographics of each electoral wards is provided in Table 7. These figures are later used to calculate the 'Standard Requirement' for each electoral ward.

**Table 7.** Population and household estimates by Electoral Wards within the County obtained from Census 2021 data. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 30 January 2023]. \* = These wards are shared with BBNP. \*\* = Calculated using the number of households and populations per ward (this does not consider the effect of communal residencies). Average household occupancy across all wards is 2.31.

Electoral Wards (2022)	Population	Households	Household Occupancy**
Abergwili	2,331	963	2.42
Ammanford	5,439	2,464	2.21
Betws	2,398	987	2.43
Bigyn	6,587	2,779	2.37
Burry Port	4,037	1,934	2.09
Bynea	4,519	1,886	2.40
Carmarthen Town North and South	9,111	4,317	2.11
Carmarthen Town West	5,521	2,283	2.42
Cenarth and Llangeler	5,550	2,468	2.25
Cilycwm	2,547	1,126	2.26
Cwarter Bach*	2,853	1,249	2.28
Cynwyl Elfed	2,273	931	2.44
Dafen and Felinfoel	5,195	2,207	2.35
Elli	1,988	867	2.29
Garnant*	2,049	886	2.31
Glanamman*	2,506	1,105	2.27

Glanymor	6,409	2,903	2.21
Glyn (Carmarthenshire)	2,163	939	2.30
Gorslas	5,082	2,153	2.36
Hendy	3,205	1,378	2.33
Hengoed (Carmarthenshire)	4,308	1,914	2.25
Kidwelly and St Ishmael	5,053	2,248	2.25
Laugharne Township*	2,588	1,150	2.25
Llanboidy*	2,097	855	2.45
Llanddarog	2,070	857	2.42
Llandeilo*	2,959	1,372	2.16
Llandovery*	2,591	1,119	2.32
Llandybie*	4,390	1,842	2.38
Llanegwad	2,444	1,061	2.30
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	1,749	766	2.28
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	2,780	1,218	2.28
Llangadog*	1,941	820	2.37
Llangennech	5,437	2,275	2.39
Llangunnor	2,628	1,174	2.24
Llangyndeyrn	5,239	2,230	2.35
Llannon	5,368	2,231	2.41
Llanybydder	2,787	1,196	2.33
Lliedi	5,336	2,338	2.28
Llwynhendy	4,390	1,874	2.34
Manordeilo and Salem	2,625	1,123	2.34
Pembrey	4,175	1,780	2.35
Penygroes	3,052	1,317	2.32
Pontyberem	2,864	1,214	2.36
Saron	4,263	1,832	2.33
St Clears and Llansteffan	5,189	2,259	2.30
Swiss Valley	2,471	1,101	2.24
Trelech	2,731	1,133	2.41
Trimsaran	2,500	1,063	2.35
Tycroes	2,683	1,171	2.29
Tyisha	5,041	2,336	2.16
Whitland	2,381	1,067	2.23

By comparing the number of bedrooms a household requires against the number of available bedrooms, 81% of dwellings are determined to be under-occupied, with the mode having +2 or more spare bedrooms (Table 8).

**Table 8.** Occupancy rating for bedrooms within the Carmarthenshire (including BBNP) obtained from Census 2021 data. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 26 June 2023]. \* = Zero suggests that a household's accommodation has an ideal number of bedrooms.

Occupancy Rating for Bedrooms	Observation
+2 or more	38471
+1	27511
0 *	14415
-1	1217
-2 or less	145

## 4. Audit Existing Provision

Summaries alluding to the overall provision within the county and each category of open space are provided under the following sections.

A map depicting all provisions audited can be found under the *Recreation/Open Space* layer on the rLDP proposal mapping platform<sup>37</sup>.

### 4.1. Overall Provision in Carmarthenshire

The majority of Open Space provisions within Carmarthenshire are publicly accessible (Table 9). Public Open Spaces represents approximately 14% of the area of the County, however, when excluding ANGS (e.g. predominantly large areas of common farming land) the remaining categories combined make up just 0.51%.

**Table 9.** Open Space Provision within the County. Access of four Outdoor Sport Provisions (totalling 4.13 ha) remains unknown at time of writing.

Category	Public Open Spaces		Other Recreational Spaces (Limited Access)	
	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)	Number of Sites	Area (Ha)
Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGS)	324	29831.28	na	
Outdoor Sports Facilities	151	316.18	108	147.19
Play Space	214	25.97	na	
Formal Amenity Space (Allotments)	390 (15)	773.31 (9.28)	18	750.01
<b>Total</b>	1079	30946.74	126	897.2

### 4.2. Accessible Natural Green Space

There are no dedicated ANGS provisions in 11 wards (Table 10).

**Table 10.** Combined ANGS within the County by Electoral Wards. \* = Ward shared with BBNP. NB: The combined figure of the number of sites is more than the overall provision due to those sites which intersected electoral ward boundaries.

Electoral Wards (2022)	Total Area (Ha)	Number of Sites
Abergwili	1171.76	13
Ammanford	0	0

<sup>37</sup> [Carmarthenshire County Council – Local Plan: 2nd Deposit Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033 – Proposals Map \(opus4.co.uk\)](#)

Betws	162.06	14
Bigyn	0	0
Burry Port	3.77	1
Bynea	12.80	1
Carmarthen Town North and South	21.02	1
Carmarthen Town West	33.30	2
Cenarth and Llangeler	130.06	21
Cilycwm	6192.52	30
Cwarter Bach*	2642.10	6
Cynwyl Elfed	185.40	7
Dafen and Felinfoel	0	0
Elli	0	0
Garnant*	783.67	3
Glanamman*	621.25	4
Glanymor	6.24	1
Glyn (Carmarthenshire)	0	0
Gorslas	60.58	4
Hendy	0	0
Hengoed (Carmarthenshire)	8.20	2
Kidwelly and St Ishmael	15.17	3
Laugharne Township*	77.09	5
Llanboidy*	32.47	5
Llanddarog	176.30	10
Llandeilo*	632.84	15
Llandovery*	2876.46	32
Llandybie*	56.66	4
Llanegwad	3113.90	26
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	324.90	10
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	1532.12	8
Llangadog*	6305.12	38
Llangennech	0.13	2
Llangunnor	4.24	3
Llangyndeyrn	161.53	9
Llannon	12.69	2
Llanybydder	1023.81	16
Lliedi	0	0
Llwynhendy	0	0
Manordeilo and Salem	1206.31	20

Pembrey	81.96	4
Penygroes	19.38	9
Pontyberem	0	0
Saron	32.83	12
St Clears and Llansteffan	36.14	11
Swiss Valley	0	0
Trelech	52.54	14
Trimsaran	3.62	1
Tycroes	17.95	5
Tyisha	0	0
Whitland	0.38	1

### 4.3. Play Space

There are 214 Play Spaces covering an area of 25.97 ha (Table 11). There are no dedicated play provisions in Elli.

**Table 11.** Combined Play Spaces within the County by Electoral Wards. \* = Ward shared with BBNP. NB: The combined figure of the number of sites is more than the overall provision due to those sites which intersected electoral ward boundaries.

Electoral Wards (2022)	Total Area (Ha)	Number of Sites
Abergwili	0.23	2
Ammanford	1.20	9
Betws	0.48	3
Bigyn	1.63	6
Burry Port	0.66	7
Bynea	0.48	4
Carmarthen Town North and South	0.50	5
Carmarthen Town West	0.37	4
Cenarth and Llangeler	0.61	7
Cilycwm	0.16	6
Cwarter Bach*	2.02	11
Cynwyl Elfed	0.52	3
Dafen and Felinfoel	0.36	5
Elli	0.00	0
Garnant*	0.35	6
Glanamman*	0.73	5
Glanymor	0.85	4
Glyn (Carmarthenshire)	0.35	5

Gorslas	0.61	6
Hendy	0.78	3
Hengoed (Carmarthenshire)	0.23	2
Kidwelly and St Ishmael	0.56	7
Laugharne Township*	0.68	5
Llanboidy*	0.34	3
Llanddarog	0.19	4
Llandeilo*	0.44	3
Llandovery*	0.74	5
Llandybie*	0.45	3
Llanegwad	0.23	2
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	0.09	2
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	0.36	4
Llangadog*	0.11	1
Llangennech	0.68	6
Llangunnor	0.03	2
Llangyndeyrn	1.00	7
Llannon	0.72	6
Llanybydder	0.22	3
Lliedi	0.43	3
Llwynhendy	0.94	2
Manordeilo and Salem	0.23	1
Pembrey	0.73	5
Penygroes	0.55	5
Pontyberem	0.32	2
Saron	0.34	5
St Clears and Llansteffan	0.48	8
Swiss Valley	0.08	1
Trelech	0.45	3
Trimsaran	0.49	3
Tycroes	0.28	5
Tyisha	0.22	2
Whitland	0.50	3

#### 4.4. Outdoor Sports

There are 254 Outdoor Sports provisions, totalling an area of 449.45 ha (Table 12). There are no provisions in Elli. Nine sites on the database were located outside of the County and have been excluded below.

**Table 12.** Combined Formal Amenity Space within the County by Electoral Wards. \* = Ward shared with BBNP. NB: The combined figure of the number of sites is more than the overall provision due to those which intersected electoral ward boundaries.

Electoral Wards (2022)	Total Area (Ha)	Number of Sites
Abergwili	7.216136	4
Ammanford	24.486586	12
Betws	3.009872	4
Bigyn	11.691309	5
Burry Port	7.705906	3
Bynea	5.578551	4
Carmarthen Town North and South	24.702128	16
Carmarthen Town West	1.846624	2
Cenarth and Llangeler	11.314705	9
Cilycwm	1.385779	3
Cwarter Bach	8.003276	6
Cynwyl Elfed	4.721812	5
Dafen and Felinfoel	22.441666	11
Elli	0	0
Garnant	4.235446	2
Glanamman	2.25713	2
Glanymor	9.837239	4
Glyn (Carmarthenshire)	4.155884	4
Gorslas	15.801546	8
Hendy	5.133139	4
Hengoed (Carmarthenshire)	19.397767	5
Kidwelly and St Ishmael	15.381605	6
Laugharne Township	6.23096	2
Llanboidy	3.400904	4
Llanddarog	2.785774	4
Llandeilo	20.639929	6
Llandovery	19.221857	8
Llandybie	9.628895	7
Llanegwad	3.258294	3
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	0.181158	1
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	2.181568	4
Llangadog	3.644351	2
Llangennech	9.673208	7
Llangunnor	3.566167	2



Llangyndeyrn	14.898821	7
Llannon	16.051938	9
Llanybydder	6.374089	7
Lliedi	12.416039	7
Llwynhendy	8.421425	5
Manordeilo and Salem	3.025765	3
Pembrey	20.817892	7
Penygroes	10.232518	6
Pontyberem	9.636363	4
Saron	6.747001	6
St Clears and Llansteffan	10.695712	7
Swiss Valley	0.751243	1
Trelech	3.539128	4
Trimsaran	8.203503	1
Tycoes	5.545776	5
Tyisha	3.145923	1
Whitland	14.234424	5

#### 4.5. Formal Amenity

There is a total of 1523.32 ha of formal amenity split over 408 sites (Table 13). There are no provisions in Swiss Valley. Approximately 315 of these sites are religious grounds (e.g., churchyards, cemeteries).

**Table 13.** Combined Formal Amenity Space within the County by Electoral Wards. \* = Ward shared with BBNP. NB: The combined figure of the number of sites is more than the overall provision due to those which intersected electoral ward boundaries.

Electoral Wards (2022)	Total Area (Ha)	Number of Sites
Abergwili	12.418412	9
Ammanford	3.347887	9
Betws	3.195206	7
Bigyn	5.322033	5
Burry Port	85.938966	11
Bynea	7.923995	3
Carmarthen Town North and South	13.474192	17
Carmarthen Town West	2.44769	4
Cenarth and Llangeler	9.5773	24
Cilycwm	23.546602	11
Cwarter Bach	17.645264	6
Cynwyl Elfed	1.85065	12

Dafen and Felinfoel	2.642018	5
Elli	0.702327	6
Garnant	5.554029	3
Glanamman	1.721575	4
Glanymor	24.368675	8
Glyn (Carmarthenshire)	2.029053	7
Gorslas	75.113358	6
Hendy	4.371416	5
Hengoed (Carmarthenshire)	151.438771	9
Kidwelly and St Ishmael	2.59621	11
Laugharne Township	8.621186	10
Llanboidy	1.679184	5
Llanddarog	211.994874	8
Llandeilo	208.818255	9
Llandovery	13.110062	7
Llandybie	35.27748	6
Llanegwad	13.264667	14
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	99.417679	11
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	8.336408	9
Llangadog	70.359336	3
Llangennech	2.465761	8
Llangunnor	0.32244	3
Llangyndeyrn	6.25196	15
Llannon	67.117817	12
Llanybydder	2.324718	7
Lliedi	25.849878	7
Llwynhendy	0.839801	3
Manordeilo and Salem	40.179379	15
Pembrey	220.509312	6
Penygroes	1.460511	8
Pontyberem	2.88604	8
Saron	3.092066	7
St Clears and Llansteffan	3.550037	12
Swiss Valley	0	0
Trelech	4.010166	8
Trimsaran	0.877315	4
Tycroes	2.359607	8
Tyisha	9.990779	7

**2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit rLDP**

Whitland	1.132598	6
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## 4.6. Quality

Between 2022-23, Full Awards were held by Bishops Park (owned by the Tywi Gateway Trust), Llyn Llech Owain Country Park, and Pembrey Country Park (both owned by CCC). Community Awards were held by Cydweli Sensory Community Project, National Wool Museum Dye Garden, and Pontyberem Park. All are considered public open spaces. Overall, the County ranks 20<sup>th</sup> for award obtainment compared to other Welsh LAs, as foretold by award density (Table 14). Additionally, the County has only one beach designated as Blue Flag (Cefn Sidan – which was the first of its kind in Wales).

**Table 14.** Green Flag and Community Awards within Welsh LAs in 2022/23, ranked by award density. LA Area is approximate, and the County includes BBNP.

Rank	Local Authority	Award Count	LA Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Award Density (km <sup>2</sup> )
1st	Cardiff	35	140	4.0
2nd	Merthyr	16	111	6.9
3rd	Caerphilly	25	278	11.1
4th	Vale of Glamorgan	28	335	12.0
5th	Swansea	22	378	17.2
6th	Torfaen	7	126	18.0
7th	Blaenau Gwent	5	109	21.8
8th	Newport	6	190	31.7
9th	Bridgend	7	246	35.1
10th	Rhondda Cynon Taff	11	424	38.5
11th	Neath Port Talbot	11	442	40.2
12th	Monmouthshire	16	850	53.1
13th	Conwy	20	1126	56.3
14th	Wrexham	8	498	62.3
15th	Denbighshire	10	844	84.4
16th	Flintshire	3	438	146.0
17th	Anglesey	5	771	154.2
18th	Pembrokeshire	7	1590	227.1
19th	Ceredigion	5	1795	359.0
<b>20th</b>	<b>Carmarthenshire</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2370</b>	<b>395.0</b>
21st	Gwynedd	6	2535	422.5
22nd	Powys	6	5180	863.3

## 5. Benchmark Standards

Standards for the provision of open space have been previously developed by several invested parties. As outlined in TAN16, the development and subsequent testing of standards enable the identification of surpluses and deficiencies in quantities of open space, sport, and recreation, alongside any deficiencies in accessibility and quality. Where deficiencies are demonstrated, such information may be used to aid future decision making. For clarity, the predominate focus of this POSA was to quantitatively consider both the current quantity and accessibility of open space provision. Nonetheless, aspects of quality were also considered although no standards for quality have been explicitly provided (see previous Section 4.6).

The County's Adopted LDP 2006–2021<sup>38</sup> had explicitly prescribed a quantity standard for overall open space provision (as later outlined in Section 7.1, REC2).

An overview of the standards tested within this POSA can be found in Section 5.6. Intermediary sections review Benchmark Standards in addition to those outlined within Annex C of TAN16.

*NB: The recommended standards for onward implementation are proposed in Section 7.3 (Table 22).*

### 5.1. Charter for Open Spaces in Wales

In July 2020, the Open Spaces Society<sup>39</sup> had developed a charter targeted at the WG, LAs, and local communities to help secure the protection of open spaces and access to nature. It recommends there to be a duty placed on local authorities to ensure that everyone can enjoy good-quality, well-maintained and safe open space within 300m of their homes.

### 5.2. Accessible Natural Green Space

Accessible Natural Green Spaces (ANGS) are open spaces that are '*predominately natural*' in character. The benefits of such places have been widely discussed. Recognising that ANGS make an important contribution to the quality of the environment and life in urban and rural areas, a toolkit produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) defines provision standards and proposes ways in which these standards can be measured. To avoid replication, it is recommended that for fuller understanding of greenspace concepts and the methodology used in defining ANGS, reference is to be made to the NRW Toolkit. The NRW standards for ANGS are:

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<sup>38</sup> [Carmarthenshire Council - Local Development Plan 2006 - 2021](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Charter for Open Spaces in Wales - Open Spaces Society \(oss.org.uk\)](#)

- No person should live more than 300m<sup>40</sup> from their nearest area of ANGS<sup>41</sup>;
- There should be at least one ANGS of 20ha or more, within 2km of every home;
- There should be at least one ANGS of 100ha or more, within 5km of every home;
- There should be at least one ANGS of 500ha or more, within 10km of every home.

NRW recommends a minimum standard of 0.25ha ANGS provision per 1000 population.

Additionally, the Woodland Trust collects data on accessible woodland across the UK and led the development of the Woodland Access Standards which are now widely adopted in forestry policy. It recommends that that everyone should have access to a wood of at least:

- 2 ha within 500m of every home;
- 20 ha within 4km of every home.

### 5.3. Play Space

It has long been recognised that outdoor opportunities for play, sports, and general physical activity are essential for the healthy development of children, young adults, and the wellbeing of all users regardless of age. Fields in Trust (FIT) has prepared benchmark standards for both Outdoor Sport Facilities and Provision for Children and Young People (which, within this assessment, is referred to collectively as 'Play Space'). Utilising the FIT standards helps to ensure that the provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space is of a sufficient size to enable effective use; is in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and to encourage its continued use. Their usage is highlighted within TAN16 (paragraph 2.26).

The FIT benchmark standards<sup>42</sup> for Play Space (PS) include:

- There should be at least 1.2ha of Playing Fields<sup>43</sup> for every 1000 population;
- There should be at least 1.6ha<sup>44</sup> of Outdoor Sports Facilities for every 1000 population;
- Everybody should live within 1,200m of a Playing Pitch/Outdoor Sports Facility.

The Council previously recognises the three categories of play areas defined in the FIT 'Benchmark Standard' – Local Area for Play (LAP), Local Equipment Area for Play (LEAP),

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<sup>40</sup> The Toolkit states 400m if 'buffer' analysis is being used. Page 28 states that "*this takes into account the need for the walker to follow the road and footpath network to access greenspace, crossing streets and going round corners etc.*"

<sup>41</sup> 300m is also an indicator used within Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

<sup>42</sup> The FIT standards states 300m if 'buffer' analysis is being used, as is the case in this study.

<sup>43</sup> As defined within [The Playing Fields \(Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2015](#). Nevertheless, this also include 'playing pitches' as mentioned in paragraph 4.5.5 PPW11.

<sup>44</sup> This standard is in keeping with that identified within the [SPG \(2016\)](#), and as previously adopted by Council.

and Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)<sup>45</sup>. FIT has produced minimum sizes, dimensions, and buffer zones for such areas. Conventionally, there have been categorised, in part, by the number of play experiences they provide (e.g., a LEAP is recommended to have a minimum of six play experience). These are also commonly used in determining the recommended provision of play spaces against the scale of proposed development<sup>46</sup>. Whilst it goes beyond the scope of the present POSA to exclusively review play sufficiency<sup>47</sup>, the following standards were previously adopted by Council and have been adapted from those promoted by FIT<sup>48</sup> to include:

- There should be at least 0.8ha<sup>49</sup> of Provision for Children & Young People per 1000 population;
- Everybody should live within 400m of Provision for Children & Young People<sup>50</sup>.
- There should be a total of 2.15 ha<sup>51</sup> of Accessible Play Space for every 1000 population;

## 5.4. Formal Amenity Space

Formal amenity has multiple benefits for the health and well-being of the local population. There are categories of formal amenity that do not sit under ANGS or PS but are still important for people's quality of life. For the purpose of this assessment, formal amenity includes 'Amenity Green Space' which are defined as informal recreation spaces in an around housing such as village greens and cemeteries, in addition to 'Parks & Gardens' which include urban parks, country parks and formal gardens freely open to the public. These are in alignment with FIT standards.

FIT also have benchmark standards for POS, recognising the value that these spaces can play in complementing more formal outdoor space provision. These standards have been recommended with consideration of the NRW Outdoor Recreation and Access Enabling Plan 2015 – 2020, which supports the delivery of the overarching goals set out in the

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<sup>45</sup> Definitions previously made by the Council can be found within [Adopted Leisure & Open Space Requirements for New Developments \(September 2016\)](#). Minimum dimensions can be found in Table 4 (page 9) within [FIT Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard \(Wales\)](#)

<sup>46</sup> As demonstrated in Table 2 (page 7) of above document.

<sup>47</sup> A dedicated [Play Sufficiency Assessment](#) (March 2022) undertaken by the LA developed a separate distinct methodology.

<sup>48</sup> FIT recommends a minimum of "0.25ha of Equipped/Designated Play Areas" and "0.3ha of Other Outdoor Provision (e.g., Multi Use Games Areas and Skateboard Parks) for every 1000 of population".

<sup>49</sup> As noted in the SPG (2016), this standard is split into 0.6 ha of informal play areas and 0.2 ha of equipped play areas.

<sup>50</sup> This is to reflect a 5-minute walk, and the FIT standards for LEAPs. Regardless, No child should be living further than 100 metres from a small play area such as LAPs which themselves remain endorse within the [SPG \(2016\)](#). Provisions of LAP could come under other amenity space.

<sup>51</sup> As obtained from FIT [website](#): "To calculate a total quantity provision for our formal standards, the figures for 'All outdoor sports' (which includes or 'Playing pitches' figure), 'Equipped/designate play areas' and 'Other outdoor provision' should be added together. This gives a figure of 2.15 hectares per 1,000 people".

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. Again, their usage is highlighted within TAN16 (paragraph 2.26).

The FIT benchmark standards for formal amenity suggests:

- There should be at least 0.8ha of Parks & Gardens for every 1000 of population;
- There should be at least 0.6ha of Amenity Green Space for every 1000 of population;
- Every dwelling should be within 710m of a Park or Garden;
- Every dwelling should be within 480m of an Amenity Green Space.

## 5.5. Allotments

There is a statutory duty placed on certain councils to provide allotments if there is demand. As noted with the *Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908*<sup>52</sup>, if six residents want an allotment, and there are none available, then they can request that the relevant council to provide them with land suitable for an allotment. Additionally, recent guidance from WG<sup>53</sup> states that “*the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out a clear obligation for public bodies to enable positive change that leads to a more resilient, secure and healthy Wales. By protecting and managing the current provision of allotments and growing spaces and supporting the demand-led development of new allotments and community growing projects, all public bodies in Wales can enable us to create a healthier and happier population and a more sustainable and secure food supply.*”

The benefits of gardening on individuals include increased physical and mental wellbeing, access to fresh fruit and vegetables, and well-used and cared for public spaces are natural by-products of allotment growing. These shared spaces have the added bonuses of creating closer community relationships and reducing social isolation which are recognised as key determining factor to a high quality of life.

The National Allotment Society recommends that authorities should supply 0.5 hectare (roughly equating to 20 plots) per 1,000 households<sup>54</sup>.

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<sup>52</sup> See Part 2 concerning the provision of Allotments. [Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

<sup>53</sup> [Guidance for Local Authorities, Town & Community Councils \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

<sup>54</sup> [National Society of Allotment \(nsalg.org.uk\)](https://nsalg.org.uk)



## 5.6. Open Space Standards Tested

In reflection of the definition of Open Space utilised within this POSA, in conjunction with the review of recommended and existing adopted standards, the following standards have been devised in collaboration with a multidisciplinary workshop to suit the current context of the County, represent the needs of its communities, and the ambitions in line with LA priorities.

Explanatory text eluding to how this decision has been made is provided directly under each of the produced standards. For clarity, limited access spaces will not be considered in the determination of standard adherence.

A summary of those standards employed are provided below (Table 15).

**Table 15.** Summary of standards tested. Figure \* = per 1000 households (not population). \*\* = 400m used accounting for mode of analysis.

Category	Quantity (hectares per 1000 population)	Accessibility (everybody within)
Accessible Natural Green Space	0.25	5-minute walk**
Play Space	0.8	5-minute walk**
Outdoor Sports	1.6	Playing Fields: 15-minute walk (1,200m)
Allotments	0.2*	-
<b>Total Public Open Space Provision</b>		<b>2.45</b>

## Provision Quantity

### 1. There must be 2.45ha of accessible Public Open Space per 1000 people. Of this:

This equates to 24.5 sq. m per person<sup>55</sup>, and is broadly in line with the 6-acre standard recommended by Fields in Trust. It is compiled of Play Space, Outdoor Sports, Accessible Greenspace, and Community Growing Spaces which are deemed publicly accessible (as further stipulated below). Whilst this figure is below the [5.35 hectares of minimum total open space recommended by FIT](#), it may potentially represent a higher amount of freely accessible open space as FIT standards do not delineate between limited access spaces.

This overall figure must be considered holistically with the tested accessibility standards.

#### a. 0.8ha must be Play Space;

This figure has previously been adopted by Council and is significantly more than the minimum guideline recommended by FIT. However, given the increased focus on open space multifunctionality and identified concerns regarding the overall sustainability of traditional equipped play areas, the split between equipped and non-equipped areas is no longer considered.

#### b. 1.6ha must be Outdoor Sports;

This is in line with those recommendations made by FIT, and has also been previously adopted by Council. This is to exclude limited access spaces (i.e., those Outdoor Sport Facilities and private Playing Pitches which are not freely accessible) to reflect the potential financial barriers to access. Facilities will be reviewed on an individual basis and, if deemed freely accessible (in part or fully), then they shall be included. Limited access spaces are still recognised to provide recreation benefit, particularly for team/club sports.

#### c. 0.25ha must be Accessible Natural Green Space; and

This is in keeping with NRW minimum recommendations. No delineation is made regarding woodlands and is, therefore, unsupportive of the Woodland Trust standards. This decision was made considering the mosaic of ecosystem types throughout the County. Nevertheless, recent work undertaken within CCC's emerging Tree & Woodland Strategy<sup>56</sup> suggests the County is significantly deficient in tree canopy cover – the GBI Assessment is to cover this aspect more closely.

#### d. 0.2ha must be Allotments.

This has been formulated on the recommendations made by the National Allotment Society.

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<sup>55</sup> To put this into perspective, this represents just 0.21% of the County. Based on the Census 2021 – 187,897 people would require a combined total of 460.3ha of Open Space. County calculated at 214,725ha.

<sup>56</sup> Not yet externally published at time of writing.

## Provision Accessibility

2. **Everyone should live within a 5-minute<sup>57</sup> walk of ...**
  - a. **an Accessible Greenspace; and**

This is in keeping with the Open Space Society Charter. While 300m is an indicator used within Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, NRW states that if using a network analysis approach the 300m recommend buffer extended to 400m. This considers the need for the walker to follow the road and footpath network to access greenspace, crossing streets and going round corners etc.

- b. **Play Space.**

Whilst reflecting the FIT accessibility standards for LEAPs, further delineation between Play Space type is not currently possible due to lack of evidence within the audit. As indicated within the [SPG \(2016\)](#), no child should live further than 100 metres from a small play area (i.e., doorstep play space and LAP).

3. **Everybody living in a major residential area should be within a fifteen-minute walk<sup>58</sup> of a Playing Field.**

This is comparable to the 1.2km recommended in TAN16. Here a 'major residential area' refers to those settlements with development limits as defined in the rLDP (i.e., Tier 1, 2, and 3 settlements).

4. **Everyone should live within...**
  - a. **2km of a ANGS >20ha**
  - b. **5km of a ANGS >100ha**
  - c. **10km of a ANGS >500ha**

These standards will be assessed as recommended by NRW.

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<sup>57</sup> In this context, a 5-minute walk is considered 400m.

<sup>58</sup> 1,200m

## 6. Results

Whilst the dataset employed was the best available at the time conducting this assessment, the interpretation of the following results is caveated on those outlined limitations of the employed methodology (Section 2.7) in addition to the changing nature of open space provisions.

### 6.1. Standard 1

#### a. Play Space

Table 16 outlines the results of the assessment of Play Space provision per Electoral Ward in Carmarthenshire, according to the benchmark standards as outlined in Section 5.6. No ward met the current adopted standards for play space provision. Carmarthen Town North and South has the greatest spatial deficiency in Play Space.

**Table 16.** Assessment of standard 1 (a). Those in red indicate a deficiency against the standard of 0.8ha per 1000 people. \* = Ward shared with BBNP.

Electoral Wards (2022)	Standard Requirement (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha)	Adequacy (+/-) (Ha)
Abergwili	1.86	0.23	-1.63
Ammanford	4.35	1.20	-3.15
Betws	1.92	0.48	-1.44
Bigyn	5.27	1.63	-3.64
Burry Port	3.23	0.66	-2.57
Bynea	3.62	0.48	-3.13
Carmarthen Town North and South	7.29	0.50	-6.78
Carmarthen Town West	4.42	0.37	-4.05
Cenarth and Llangeler	4.44	0.61	-3.83
Cilycwm	2.04	0.16	-1.88
Cwarter Bach*	2.28	2.02	-0.26
Cynwyl Elfed	1.82	0.52	-1.30
Dafen and Felinfoel	4.16	0.36	-3.79
Elli	1.59	0.00	-1.59
Garnant*	1.64	0.35	-1.29
Glanamman*	2.00	0.73	-1.27
Glanymor	5.13	0.85	-4.28
Glyn (Carmarthenshire)	1.73	0.35	-1.38
Gorslas	4.07	0.61	-3.46
Hendy	2.56	0.78	-1.78
Hengoed (Carmarthenshire)	3.45	0.23	-3.22

**2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit rLDP**

Kidwelly and St Ishmael	4.04	0.56	-3.49
Laugharne Township*	2.07	0.68	-1.39
Llanboidy*	1.68	0.34	-1.33
Llanddarog	1.66	0.19	-1.47
Llandeilo*	2.37	0.44	-1.93
Llandovery*	2.07	0.74	-1.33
Llandybie*	3.51	0.45	-3.06
Llanegwad	1.96	0.23	-1.73
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	1.40	0.09	-1.31
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	2.22	0.36	-1.87
Llangadog*	1.55	0.11	-1.44
Llangennech	4.35	0.68	-3.67
Llangunnor	2.10	0.03	-2.07
Llangyndeyrn	4.19	1.00	-3.20
Llannon	4.29	0.72	-3.58
Llanybydder	2.23	0.22	-2.01
Lliedi	4.27	0.43	-3.84
Llwynhendy	3.51	0.94	-2.58
Manordeilo and Salem	2.10	0.23	-1.87
Pembrey	3.34	0.73	-2.61
Penygroes	2.44	0.55	-1.90
Pontyberem	2.29	0.32	-1.97
Saron	3.41	0.34	-3.07
St Clears and Llansteffan	4.15	0.48	-3.68
Swiss Valley	1.98	0.08	-1.90
Trelech	2.18	0.45	-1.73
Trimsaran	2.00	0.49	-1.51
Tycroes	2.15	0.28	-1.87
Tyisha	4.03	0.22	-3.81
Whitland	1.90	0.50	-1.40

## b. Outdoor Sports

Table 17 outlines the results of the assessment of Outdoor Sports provision per Electoral Ward in Carmarthenshire, according to the benchmark standards as outlined in Section 5.6. Only twenty wards met this current adopted standards. Carmarthen Town West and Tyshia has the greatest spatial deficiency in Outdoor Sports.

**Table 17.** Assessment of standard 1 (b). Those in red indicate a deficiency against the standard of 1.6ha per 1000 people. \* = Ward shared with BBNP.

Electoral Wards (2022)	Standard Requirement (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha)	Adequacy (+/-) (Ha)
Abergwili	3.73	0	-3.73
Ammanford	8.70	17.93	9.23
Betws	3.84	1.87	-1.96
Bigyn	10.54	9.57	-0.97
Burry Port	6.46	6.13	-0.33
Bynea	7.23	2.94	-4.29
Carmarthen Town North and South	14.58	19.53	4.95
Carmarthen Town West	8.83	1.22	-7.62
Cenarth and Llangeler	8.88	4.33	-4.55
Cilycwm	4.08	1.39	-2.69
Cwarter Bach*	4.56	6.35	1.79
Cynwyl Elfed	3.64	2.45	-1.19
Dafen and Felinfoel	8.31	20.75	12.44
Elli	3.18	0.00	-3.18
Garnant*	3.28	4.24	0.96
Glanamman*	4.01	2.26	-1.75
Glanymor	10.25	9.04	-1.22
Glyn (Carmarthenshire)	3.46	4.03	0.57
Gorslas	8.13	3.84	-4.29
Hendy	5.13	1.64	-3.49
Hengoed (Carmarthenshire)	6.89	17.87	10.98
Kidwelly and St Ishmael	8.08	13.13	5.05
Laugharne Township*	4.14	6.23	2.09
Llanboidy*	3.36	0.00	-3.36
Llanddarog	3.31	2.10	-1.21
Llandeilo*	4.73	14.39	9.66
Llandovery*	4.15	16.82	12.68
Llandybie*	7.02	7.29	0.26
Llanegwad	3.91	0.34	-3.57

**2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit rLDP**

Llanfihangel Aberbythych	2.80	0.18	-2.62
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	4.45	1.13	-3.32
Llangadog*	3.11	3.64	0.54
Llangennech	8.70	4.89	-3.81
Llangunnor	4.20	1.81	-2.39
Llangyndeyrn	8.38	5.11	-3.27
Llannon	8.59	10.80	2.21
Llanybydder	4.46	1.81	-2.65
Lliedi	8.54	11.40	2.86
Llwynhendy	7.02	2.27	-4.75
Manordeilo and Salem	4.20	0.13	-4.07
Pembrey	6.68	18.37	11.69
Penygroes	4.88	8.47	3.59
Pontyberem	4.58	6.22	1.64
Saron	6.82	3.24	-3.58
St Clears and Llansteffan	8.30	8.02	-0.28
Swiss Valley	3.95	0.00	-3.95
Trelech	4.37	2.80	-1.57
Trimsaran	4.00	8.20	4.20
Tycroes	4.29	3.52	-0.77
Tyisha	8.07	3.15	-4.92
Whitland	3.81	5.75	1.94

## c. ANGS

Table 18 outlines the results of the assessment of ANGS provision per Electoral Ward in Carmarthenshire, according to the benchmark standards as outlined in Section 5.6. Only 13 wards have a deficiency in AGNS.

**Table 18.** Assessment of standard 1 (c). Those in red indicate a deficiency against the standard of 0.25ha per 1000 people. \* = Ward shared with BBNP.

Electoral Wards (2022)	Standard Requirement (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha)	Adequacy (+/-) (Ha)
Abergwili	0.58	1171.76	1171.18
Ammanford	1.36	0	-1.36
Betws	0.60	162.06	161.46
Bigyn	1.65	0	-1.65
Burry Port	1.01	3.77	2.76
Bynea	1.13	12.8	11.67
Carmarthen Town North and South	2.28	21.02	18.74
Carmarthen Town West	1.38	33.3	31.92
Cenarth and Llangeler	1.39	130.06	128.67
Cilycwm	0.64	6192.52	6191.88
Cwarter Bach*	0.71	2642.1	2641.39
Cynwyl Elfed	0.57	185.4	184.83
Dafen and Felinfoel	1.30	0	-1.30
Elli	0.50	0	-0.50
Garnant*	0.51	783.67	783.16
Glanamman*	0.63	621.25	620.62
Glanymor	1.60	6.24	4.64
Glyn (Carmarthenshire)	0.54	0	-0.54
Gorslas	1.27	60.58	59.31
Hendy	0.80	0	-0.80
Hengoed (Carmarthenshire)	1.08	8.2	7.12
Kidwelly and St Ishmael	1.26	15.17	13.91
Laugharne Township*	0.65	77.09	76.44
Llanboidy*	0.52	32.47	31.95
Llanddarog	0.52	176.3	175.78
Llandeilo*	0.74	632.84	632.10
Llandovery*	0.65	2876.46	2875.81
Llandybie*	1.10	56.66	55.56
Llanegwad	0.61	3113.9	3113.29
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	0.44	324.9	324.46



**2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit rLDP**

Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	0.70	1532.12	1531.43
Llangadog*	0.49	6305.12	6304.63
Llangennech	1.36	0.13	-1.23
Llangunnor	0.66	4.24	3.58
Llangyndeyrn	1.31	161.53	160.22
Llannon	1.34	12.69	11.35
Llanybydder	0.70	1023.81	1023.11
Lliedi	1.33	0	-1.33
Llwynhendy	1.10	0	-1.10
Manordeilo and Salem	0.66	1206.31	1205.65
Pembrey	1.04	81.96	80.92
Penygroes	0.76	19.38	18.62
Pontyberem	0.72	0	-0.72
Saron	1.07	32.83	31.76
St Clears and Llansteffan	1.30	36.14	34.84
Swiss Valley	0.62	0	-0.62
Trelech	0.68	52.54	51.86
Trimsaran	0.63	3.62	3.00
Tycroes	0.67	17.95	17.28
Tyisha	1.26	0	-1.26
Whitland	0.60	0.38	-0.22

#### d. Allotments

Table 19 outlines the results of the assessment of Allotments provision per Electoral Ward in Carmarthenshire, according to the benchmark standards as outlined in Section 5.6. Only two wards have a sufficiency in Allotment provisions.

**Table 19.** Assessment of standard 1 (d). Those in red indicate a deficiency against the standard of 0.20ha per 1000 people. \* = Ward shared with BBNP.

Electoral Wards (2022)	Standard Requirement (Ha)	Existing Provision (Ha)	Adequacy (+/-) (Ha)
Abergwili	0.47	0.00	-0.47
Ammanford	1.09	0.53	-0.56
Betws	0.48	0.00	-0.48
Bigyn	1.32	0.41	-0.91
Burry Port	0.81	0.00	-0.81
Bynea	0.90	0.00	-0.90
Carmarthen Town North and South	1.82	3.64	1.82
Carmarthen Town West	1.10	0.00	-1.10
Cenarth and Llangeler	1.11	0.00	-1.11
Cilycwm	0.51	0.00	-0.51
Cwarter Bach*	0.57	0.00	-0.57
Cynwyl Elfed	0.45	0.00	-0.45
Dafen and Felinfoel	1.04	0.00	-1.04
Elli	0.40	0.00	-0.40
Garnant*	0.41	0.05	-0.36
Glanamman*	0.50	0.00	-0.50
Glanymor	1.28	0.16	-1.12
Glyn (Carmarthenshire)	0.43	0.00	-0.43
Gorslas	1.02	0.00	-1.02
Hendy	0.64	0.00	-0.64
Hengoed (Carmarthenshire)	0.86	0.00	-0.86
Kidwelly and St Ishmael	1.01	0.38	-0.64
Laugharne Township*	0.52	0.00	-0.52
Llanboidy*	0.42	0.00	-0.42
Llanddarog	0.41	0.00	-0.41
Llandeilo*	0.59	1.27	0.68
Llandovery*	0.52	0.00	-0.52
Llandybie*	0.88	0.00	-0.88
Llanegwad	0.49	0.00	-0.49
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	0.35	0.00	-0.35

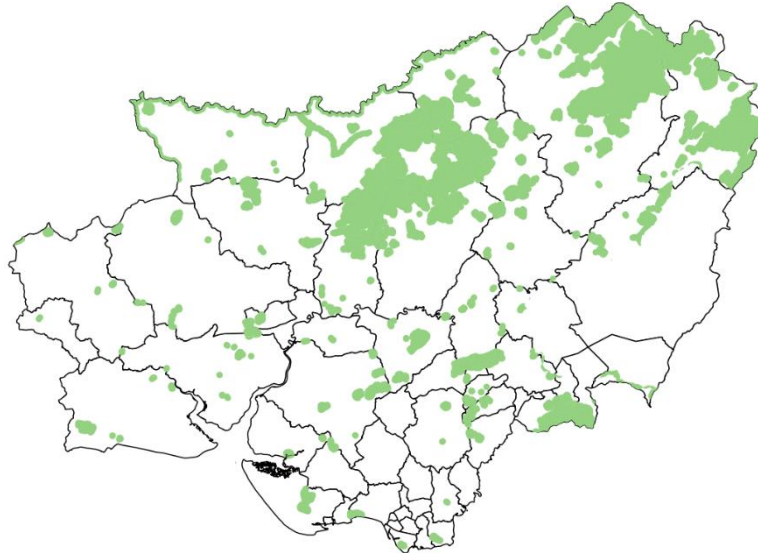
**2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit rLDP**

Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	0.56	0.00	-0.56
Llangadog*	0.39	0.00	-0.39
Llangennech	1.09	0.00	-1.09
Llangunnor	0.53	0.00	-0.53
Llangydeyrn	1.05	0.00	-1.05
Llannon	1.07	0.59	-0.48
Llanybydder	0.56	0.00	-0.56
Lliedi	1.07	0.56	-0.50
Llwynhendy	0.88	0.24	-0.63
Manordeilo and Salem	0.53	0.00	-0.53
Pembrey	0.84	0.53	-0.31
Penygroes	0.61	0.00	-0.61
Pontyberem	0.57	0.00	-0.57
Saron	0.85	0.00	-0.85
St Clears and Llansteffan	1.04	0.00	-1.04
Swiss Valley	0.49	0.00	-0.49
Trelech	0.55	0.00	-0.55
Trimsaran	0.50	0.00	-0.50
Tycoes	0.54	0.00	-0.54
Tyisha	1.01	0.71	-0.30
Whitland	0.48	0.21	-0.26

## 6.2. Standard 2

### a. ANGS

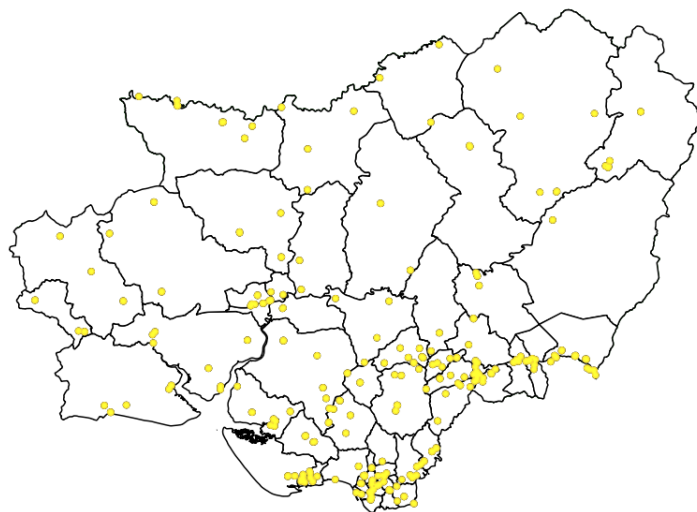
Figure 4 depicts the area of the County which are within a five-minute walk of an ANGS. 10.56% of all residential homes fall within this area (equating to 9632 dwellings).



**Figure 4.** Assessment of standard 2 (a). Green represents the five-minute walking distance from a ANGS.

### b. Play Space

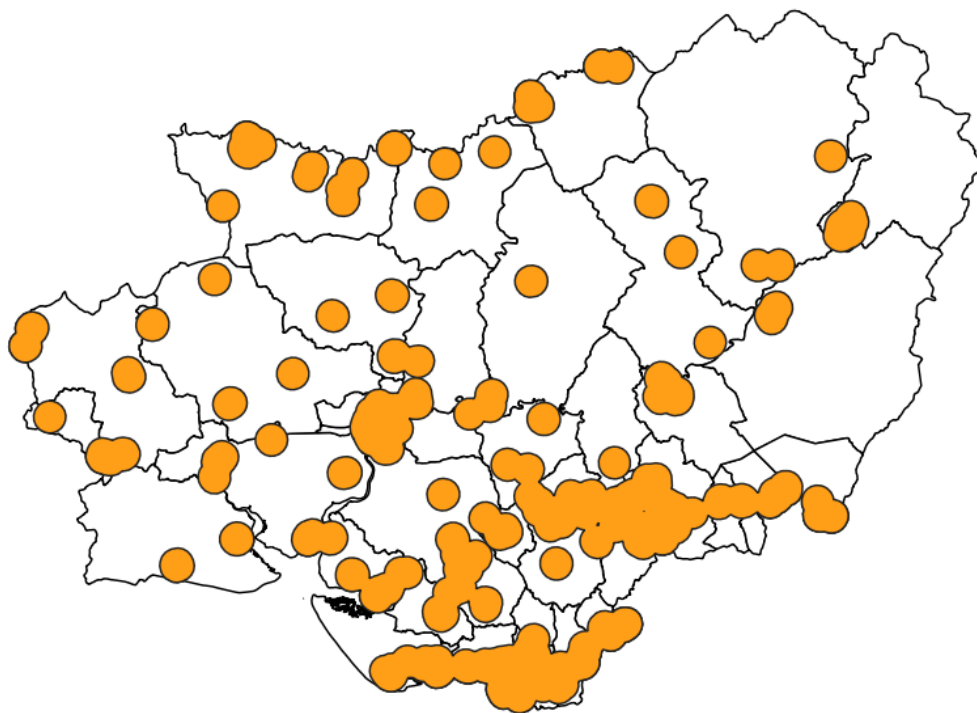
Figure 5 depicts the area of the County which are within a five-minute walk of a Play Space. It was found that 38051 dwellings are within this area, equating to 41.73% of all residential homes.



**Figure 5.** Assessment of standard 2 (b). Yellow represents the five-minute walking distance from a Play Space.

### 6.3. Standard 3

Figure 6 depicts the area of the County which are within a fifteen-minute walk of a Playing Field. This equates to 85.78% of all residential homes (78216 dwellings).



**Figure 6.** Assessment of standard 3. Orange represents the fifteen-minute walking distance from a Playing Field.

### 6.4. Standard 4

Table 20 shows the assessment of the standards recommended by NRW for the accessibility of ANGS, varied by size of overall provision. In summary, 19 wards were not within 2km of a site >20ha, 20 not within 5km of >100ha, and 21 not within 10km of 500ha – with several wards experiencing a deficiency in all three tested standards. There were several instances where a site just fell short of the assessment threshold (i.e., Dinefwr Parc Llandeilo at 19.83 ha) and more accurate boundary assessment could have led to the inclusion of such sites. Whilst beyond the scope of the assessment, it is important to note that these figures are likely to be different if ANGS sites outside of the LPA area were included (particularly for those boarding/shared electoral wards within 10km of County boundary).

**Table 20.** Assessment of standard 4 (a,b,c). Those in red indicate an absolute deficiency. \* = Ward shared with BBNP.

Electoral Ward	Within 2km of Green Space >20ha		Within 5km of Green Space > 100ha		Within 10km of Green Space > 500ha	
	Proportion of Ward (%)	Area (Ha)	Proportion of Ward (%)	Area (Ha)	Proportion of Ward (%)	Area (Ha)

2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit rLDP

Abergwili	61	3807	88	5504	100	6285
Ammanford	13	41	100	312	100	312
Betws	92	1028	100	1116	100	1116
Bigyn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burry Port	3	13	0	0	0	0
Bynea	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carmarthen Town North & South	17	215	0	0	55	681
Carmarthen Town West	80	691	0	0	14	119
Cenarth and Llangeler	51	5471	38	4020	27	2841
Cilycwm	74	18458	90	22530	100	24969
Cwarter Bach	100	3204	100	3204	100	3204
Cynwyl Elfed	44	4180	87	8182	75	7132
Dafen and Felinfoel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garnant	100	1520	100	1520	100	1520
Glanamman	100	1229	100	1229	100	1229
Glanymor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glyn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gorslas	77	1266	100	1655	46	767
Hendy	0	0	0	0	82	778
Hengoed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidwelly and St. Ishmael	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laugharne Township	17	1731	0	0	0	0
Llanboidy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llanddarog	72	3191	96	4292	27	1195
Llandeilo	79	3742	89	4235	100	4756
Llandovery	88	10280	100	11620	100	11620
Llandybie	82	2018	100	2469	100	2469
Llanegwad	68	10187	97	14457	100	14834
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	30	1482	71	3534	95	4710
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	99	8812	87	7795	100	8931
Llangadog	91	17609	100	19323	100	19323
Llangennech	0	0	0	0	1	8
Llangunnor	0	0	14	318	24	571
Llangydeyrn	25	2007	9	705	0	0
Llannon	1	23	20	772	46	1763
Llanybydder	91	6504	88	6257	100	7132
Lliedi	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llwynhendy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manordeilo and Salem	66	8041	71	8589	100	12103
Pembrey	53	1987	0	0	0	0
Penygroes	47	337	100	711	100	711
Pontyberem	37	499	19	250	0	0
Saron	0	0	96	945	100	988
St. Clears and Llansteffan	10	893	0	0	0	0
Swiss Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trelech	16	2387	1	113	8	1213
Trimsaran	13	262	0	0	0	0
Tycroes	0	0	42	709	100	1692
Tyisha	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitland	0	0	0	0	0	0

## 7. Recommendations

### 7.1. Open Space Policy

The following LDP (2006-2021) policies have been provided below for context as the adoption of the rLDP will be effectively replacing these.

#### **Policy REC1 Protection of Open Space**

Provision will be made to protect and wherever possible enhance accessibility to open space.

Proposals which result in the loss of existing open space will only be permitted where:

- a. It is demonstrated that there is provision of at least equivalent value available within the settlement, or where applicable the sustainable community, in an accessible location; and,
- b. It is demonstrated that the need for the facility has ceased; and,
- c. A deficiency of open space is not created through its loss; or,
- d. The re-development of a small part of the site would allow for the retention and improvement of the facility.

#### **Policy REC2 Open Space Provision and New Developments**

All new residential developments of five or more units will be required to provide on site open space in accordance with the Council's adopted standards of 2.4ha per 1000 population.

In the event that the above standards cannot be met on site, or where there is sufficient existing provision already available to service the development, then off site financial contributions will be sought as and where appropriate.

#### **Policy REC3 Proposed New Open Space**

Provision is made for new open space proposals at the following locations as depicted on the proposals map:

- POS1 South of Picton Terrace, Carmarthen
- POS2 Land to the rear of Ammanford Comprehensive School
- POS3 Land to the rear of Station Road, St Clears
- POS4 Land at Dylan, Trallwm, Llanelli

The following wording was proposed in the rLDP (2018-33) Policies (1<sup>st</sup> Deposit).

**PSD7: Protection of Open Space**

Provision will be made to protect and wherever possible enhance accessibility to open space.

Proposals which result in the loss of existing open space will only be permitted where:

- a. It is demonstrated that there is provision of at least equivalent value available within the settlement, or appropriately accessible location; and,
- b. It would not cause or exacerbate a deficiency of open space; or,
- c. The re-development of a small part of the site would allow for the retention and improvement of the majority of the facility; or,
- d. A satisfactory financial contribution towards compensatory provision is provided as an acceptable alternative facility.

**PSD8: Provision of New Open Space**

All new residential developments of ten or more homes will be required to contribute towards open space in accordance with the Council's open space standards.

In the event that the standards cannot be met on site, or where there is sufficient existing provision already available to service the development, then a commuted sum will be sought where appropriate.

For clarity, this POSA was undertaken during (but was finalised following) the consultation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> rLDP. Please refer to the previous OSA undertaken in 2019 for commentary specifically informing the 1<sup>st</sup> Deposit rLDP.

Policies should seek to protect open space spaces to ensure that they can continue to provide value and utility to the community, even within areas identified as having a surplus. In areas of deficiency, it is important that the creation of new spaces is encouraged in addition to the protection of existing spaces. Any losses must be adequately mitigated.

As PSD8 does not adhere to the standards of 5 homes recommended within the FIT standards for the provisions of play spaces, it is recommendation that five (instead of ten) or more homes should require associated planning contributions for open space <sup>59</sup>.

Both these policies would benefit further clarification through Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). Within the support text, reference may also be made to other relevant SPGs including Planning Obligations, Placemaking and Sustainable Design, in addition to those surrounding nature conservation and biodiversity.

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<sup>59</sup> Policy recommendation has already been incorporated into the 2<sup>nd</sup> deposit version of PSD8.



## 7.2. Site Assessment (LDP Allocations)

Information set out in this section has collectively informed the assessment of rLDP site allocations (see question 14 within the SAM<sup>60</sup>).

Of the 187 allocations contained within the deposit rLDP, 40 are within a 5-minute walk of a play space and 147 are within a 15-minute walk a playing field. However, when existing ward provisions are taken in account just allocations 73 are within a 15-minute walk of playing field with sufficient capacity. None are within a ward with sufficient play space capacity (Table 21).

Only seven allocations were within a 5-minute walk to an ANGS (PrC1/h12, SuV27/h1, SeC13/h1, SeC14/h1, SuV61/h1, PrC3/h26, PrC3/h24).

34 proposed allocations will not have access to open space regardless of ward capacity (either within a 5-minute walk of a play space or a 15-minute walk of a playing field). These are as follows: PrC1/h20, PrC1/h15, PrC1/h19, PrC2/h13, PrC2/h10, PrC2/h27, PrC2/h14, PrC2/h12, PrC2/h19, PrC2/h6, PrC1/h18, PrC2/h1, PrC1/h2, PrC1/h4, PrC2/h15, PrC1/h9, PrC1/h17, PrC2/h4, PrC2/h21, PrC2/h23, PrC2/h20, PrC2/h18, PrC1/h16, PrC2/h2, PrC2/h24, PrC1/h11, PrC2/h28, PrC2/h3, PrC2/h22, PrC2/h25, PrC2/h26, PrC1/h8, PrC1/h3, PrC1/h14.

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<sup>60</sup> Page 15 of the Site Assessment Methodology September 2022, “Q14. Does the site have access to green space, leisure, and recreational facilities that are within a reasonable distance?”

Table 21. Overview of allocations, access, and their impact upon existing open space provisions.

Site Ref	Name	Settlement	Outdoor Sports (Playing Field)			Play Space		
			Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/ exacerbated?	Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/ exacerbated?
<b>Cluster 1</b>								
SeC20/h2	113 Heol Y Prior	Carmarthen	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
PrC1/h10	Aberdeuddwr / Pantyfedwen	Peniel	N	-	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC1/h21	Gerllaw Tyle Teg, Heol Llysonnen	Carmarthen	N	-	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC1/h5	Heol Bronwydd (De)	Carmarthen	N	-	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC3/h11	Brynhyfryd	Carmarthen	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC1/h7	Heol Castell Pigyn, Abergwili	Carmarthen	N	-	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC2/h16	Tir gerllaw Lleine	Cynwyl Elfed	N	-	Y	Y	N	Y
SuV36/h2	Tir gerllaw Ty Gwynfa	Carmarthen	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SuV26/h1	Tir cyfagos Capel Tabernacle	Pontyates	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SeC18/h7	Tir y tu cefn i Maesgriffith	Llansteffan	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC3/h34	Lime Grove	Pontyates	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SuV16/h1	Heol Llwynddewi	Capel Dewi	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SeC7/h4	Fferm Penybont, Heol Llysonnen	Carmarthen	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SeC1/h3	Rhiw Babell	Carmarthen	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SuV23/h2	Stryd y Cei	Carmarthen	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC3/h3	5-8 Heol Spilman	Carmarthen	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC1/h20	Gerllaw Fron Heulog	Cynwyl Elfed	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h26	Gerllaw Gwyn Villa	Llanpumsaint	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SeC4/h2	Cae Canfas, Heol Llanelli	Pontyates	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV18/h1	Llys Caradog	Ferryside	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC1/h15	Castell Howell	Carmarthen	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC1/h19	Fferm Cefn	Rhydargaeau	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC6/h1	Clos Tawelan	Carmarthen	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC7/h3	Dwyrain o Rhodfa Deveraux	Carmarthen	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC2/h13	Tir gerllaw a ti cefn i Haulfan	Llanddarog	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SuV30/h1	Tir gerllaw Fferm Llwynhenry	Porthyrhyd	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y

Site Ref	Name	Settlement	Outdoor Sports (Playing Field)			Play Space		
			Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?	Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?
SuV55/h2	Tir yn 8 Heol Llanelli	Pontyates	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC2/h10	Tir ar Ysgol Alltwalis	Alltwalis	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h27	Tir ym Maesglasnant	Cwmmffrwd	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC19/h1	Tir yn Fferm Troed Rhiw	Bronwydd	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h14	Tir gerllaw A40, Pontargothi	Pontargothi	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h12	Tir cyfagos Heol Glyndwr	Pontyates	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SuV58/h1	Tir yn Heol Llanelli	Pontyates	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV36/h1	Tir gerllaw Parc y Delyn	Carmarthen	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC2/h19	Tir gyferbyn a Neuadd y Pentref	Llanddarog	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SuV55/h1	Tir y tu cefn i Parc y Ffynnon	Ferryside	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV8/h1	Ysgol Llanarthne	Llanarthne	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC3/h35	Llandre	Llanpumsaint	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV15/h1	Heol Llansteffan	Carmarthen	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC3/h8	Mounthill	Carmarthen	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h6	Y Tu ol i hen saerniaeth, Ffordd yr Orsaf	Nantgaredig	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h21	Estyniad Rhiw Babell	Carmarthen	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h19	De o Dol Y Dderwen	Llangain	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC1/h18	De o Pentre	Peniel	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SuV17/h1	Heol Springfield	Carmarthen	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
<b>Cluster 2</b>								
SeC4/h3	Cae Linda	Trimsaran	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SeC6/h3	Cyn Iard Dinas	Kidwelly	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SeC7/h1	Cyn-labordy Lon Pen-y-fai	Llanelli (Furnace)	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
PrC3/h24	Genwen, Bryn	Llanelli (Bryn)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC3/h36	Llwyngwern	Hendy	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC3/h2	Doc y Gogledd	Llanelli	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SeC20/h1	Ynys Las, Cefncaeau	Llanelli (Llwynhendy)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC2/h7	107 Heol yr Orsaf	Llanelli	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h9	13-15 Heol yr Orsaf	Llanelli	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y

Site Ref	Name	Settlement	Outdoor Sports (Playing Field)			Play Space		
			Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?	Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?
SeC20/h3	3-5 Heol Goring	Llanelli	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC3/h2	42 Heol Stepney	Llanelli	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC3/h4	Awel y Mynydd	Pembrey	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC4/h1	Beech Grove, Pwll	Llanelli (Pwll)	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC3/h22	Fferm Bocs	Llangennech	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SeC1/h1	Ochr yr Harbwr, Porth Tywyn	Burry Port	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h13	Clos Ffordd Fach	Llanelli (Llwynhendy)	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SeC6/h2	Clos y Parc	Five Roads	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC3/h14	Coed y Bronallt	Hendy	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h15	Cwm y Nant, Dafen	Llanelli (Dafen)	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h1	Porth Dwyrain Dafen	Llanelli (Dafen)	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h20	Dylan, Trallwm	Llanelli (Trallwm)	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC1/h2	Ffos Las	Carway	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC8/h3	Garreglwyd	Pembrey	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC1/h4	Teras Glanmor	Burry Port	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC1/h4	Golwg Gwendraeth	Carway	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h29	Golwg Yr Afon	Llangennech	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h16	Cwrt Gwdig	Burry port	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV1/h1	Gerddi Gwenllian	Mynyddygarreg	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC3/h31	Harddfán, Bryn	Llanelli (Bryn)	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h33	Heol Y Graig, Llwynhendy	Llanelli (Llwynhendy)	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV33/h1	Tir gerllaw Little Croft	Five Roads	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV37/h2	Tir gerllaw Y Dell, Ffwrnes	Llanelli (Furnace)	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC10/h1	Tir gerllaw 19 Heol Llwynhendy	Llanelli	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SeC12/h2	Tir gerllaw i Clos Benallt Fawr, Fforest	Fforest	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV32/h1	Tir gerllaw i Ty Newydd, Heol Meinciau	Mynyddygarreg	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC18/h5	Tir rhwng Heol Clayton a Dwyrain Heol Broanllt	Hendy	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h15	Tir gerllaw Clos-y-Berllan	Llanelli (Bryn)	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC18/h4	Tir oddi ar Teras Frondeg	Llanelli	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y

Site Ref	Name	Settlement	Outdoor Sports (Playing Field)			Play Space		
			Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?	Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?
SuV49/h1	Tir oddi ar Stryd	Kidwelly	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV19/h2	Llys Felin	Kidwelly	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC3/h37	Llys yr Hen Felin, Canol Tref	Llanelli	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h5	Maes Y Bryn, Bryn	Llanelli (Bryn)	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h6	Maesarddafen Road / Erw Las, Llwynhendy	Llanelli (Llwynhendy)	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC1/h9	Maesydderwen	Llangennech	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h3	Gyferbyn Parc Morlais	Llangennech	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV22/h2	Parc y Strade	Llanelli	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC3/h12	Cefn i 22c,22d a 22e Heol Llwynhendy	Llanelli (Llwynhendy)	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
<b>Cluster 3</b>								
SuV10/h2	Gerllaw Rhif 13 Heol Y Coroni	Garnant	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SuV10/h1	Gerllaw Pant y Brwyn	Ystradowen	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SeC14/h1	Tir gerllaw i Ty Newydd	Carmel	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SeC14/h2	Tir gerllaw Maes Ifan, Heol Maesquarre	Ammanford (Betws)	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SeC19/h2	Tir yn Fforest Fach	Tycroes	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SeC1/h5	Tir ar Heol Waterloo	Penygroes	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SeC1/h7	Tir De o Heol Ty-croes	Tycroes	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SuV61/h1	Yr Hen Felin, Heol Pontamman	Ammanford	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SuV43/h1	Tir oddi ar Pant Y Blodau	Penygroes	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC3/h25	Gerllaw Coed y Cadno	Cwmgwili	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV12/h1	Glofa Betws	Ammanford (Betws)	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC8/h2	Garej Central	Tumble	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC5/h1	Clos Felingood	Llandybie	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC5/h2	Clos Penpont	Penygroes	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC1/h17	Clos y Gat	Castell yr Rhingyll	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC8/h1	Ffordd y Neuadd a Clos yr Eithin	Cross Hands	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC6/h4	Cyn Orsaf Betrol, Stry-y-Gwynt	Ammanford	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV63/h1	Ysgol Garnant, Heol Ysgol Newydd	Garnant	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV14/h1	Heol Gelynen	Brynamman	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y

Site Ref	Name	Settlement	Outdoor Sports (Playing Field)			Play Space		
			Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?	Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?
SuV3/h1	Tir gerllaw Brynlluan	Gorslas	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV35/h1	Tir gerllaw Maesyrfhaf	Cross Hands	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC1/h6	Tir cyfagos i A48 a Heol y Parc	Cross Hands	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV25/h1	Tir ar safle'r ffatri rhwng Rhif 22 & 28 Heol Bethesda	Tumble	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC2/h4	Tir yn Ffynnon Fach	Bancffosfelen	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SuV56/h1	Tir yn Gwynfryn Fawr	Ammanford	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC19/h3	Tir yn Heol Cae Pownd	Cross Hands	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV38/h1	Tir i'r cefn o 16-20 & 24-30 Heol Betws	Ammanford (Betws)	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV51/h1	Tir rhwng 123 a 137 Heol Waterloo	Penygroes	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC2/h21	Tir i'r Gogledd o Clos Rebecca	Llannon	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SuV4/h1	Tir i'r Gogledd o Maespiode	Llandybie	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC2/h23	Tir oddi ar Heol Y Gat	Penygroes	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC17/h2	Tir oddi ar Heol Caegwyn	Drefach	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV58/h2	Tir yn Heol Llannon	Pontyberem	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC18/h1	Tir oddi ar Heol y Parc	Cefneithin	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV41/h2	Tir oddi ar Llys y Nant	Llandybie	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC18/h2	Tir oddi ar Nant-y-Ci	Saron	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SeC18/h3	Tir oddi ar Parc-y-Mynydd	Saron	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV19/h1	Llys Dolgader	Ammanford	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV20/h1	Maespiode	Llandybie	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
PrC3/h9	Nantydderwen	Drefach	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h20	Tir i'r cefn o Garreg Lwyd	Llanedi	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC7/h5	Fferm Tirychen	Ammanford	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
Sec2/h2	Uwch Gwendraeth	Drefach	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
<b>Cluster 4</b>								
PrC1/h12	Blossom Inn	New Inn	N	-	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC3/h1	Bro Einon	Llanybydder	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC3/h32	Heol Dewi	Newcastle Emlyn	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y

Site Ref	Name	Settlement	Outdoor Sports (Playing Field)			Play Space		
			Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?	Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?
SeC13/h1	Tir gerllaw i Lleinau	Cwmann	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SeC16/h1	Tir i'r De o Cae Coedmor	Cwmann	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC3/h28	Gerllaw Y Neuadd	Llanybydder	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h18	Tir gerllaw Yr Hendre	Llanfihangel ar Arth	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h23	Garej Blossom	Pencader	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC1/h16	Cilgwyn Bach	Pontyweli	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC11/h1	Tir gerllaw Arwynfa	Saron	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SeC15/h1	Tir gerllaw Maescader	Pencader	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SeC18/h8	Tir yn Bryndulais	Llanllwni	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h2	Tir gyferbyn Brogeler	Llangeler	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h24	Tir y tu cefn i Dolcoed	Newcastle Emlyn	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h4	Maes y Bryn	Capel Iwan	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC3/h27	Gerllaw Springfield	Waungilwen	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
Sec2/h1	Trem Y Ddol	Newcastle Emlyn	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC1/h14	Cae Pensarn Helen	Llanllwni	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
<b>Cluster 5</b>								
SeC9/h2	Ger yr Ysgol	Llangadog	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SuV27/h1	Tir ger Heol Pendref	Llangadog	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
PrC1/h11	Awel Y Mynydd	Llanfynydd	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SuV28/h1	Tir gerllaw Bryndeilog, Tywi Avenue	Llandovery	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV37/h3	Tir gyferbyn a Ysgol Gynradd Llangadog	Llangadog	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV39/h1	Tir i'r Gogledd o Dan Y Crug	Llandovery	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV12/h2	Gogledd Chwarter Llandeilo	Llandeilo	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC15/h2	Tir gyferbyn Neuadd y Pentref	Cwmifor	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
<b>Cluster 6</b>								
SuV11/h1	Gerllaw Ysgol Gynradd Lacharn	Laugharne	Y	Y	Not Likely	Y	N	Y
SeC11/h2	Tir gerllaw i Cae Gardde	St. Clears	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
PrC3/h18	Cyn Fatri Menyn	St. Clears	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SeC10/h2	Tir gerllaw a y tu cefn i Lon Dewi	Meidrim	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y

Site Ref	Name	Settlement	Outdoor Sports (Playing Field)			Play Space		
			Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?	Access?	Ward Capacity	Shortfall created/exacerbated?
SeC13/h4	Tir gerllaw i Teras Brittonia	St. Clears	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SuV1/h2	Gerddi Lingfield	Whitland	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC12/h1	Tir gerllaw i Cefn Maes	St. Clears	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SeC12/h3	Tir gerllaw i Gwynfa, Heol yr Orsaf	St. Clears	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
SeC18/h9	Tir yn Cae Glas	St. Clears	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h28	Tir yn College-bach	Llangynog	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC19/h4	Tir yn Heol Llaindelyn	St. Clears	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h3	Tir yn Fferm Nieuport	Pendine	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SuV59/h2	Tir yn Park View, Trevaughan	Whitland	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV59/h1	Tir yn Hufenfa Hendy-gwyn	Whitland	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV60/h1	Tir yn Woodend	Llanmiloe	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV5/h1	Tir oddi ar Stryd Clifton	Laugharne	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SeC17/h3	Tir oddi ar Heol Drefach	Meidrim	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h22	Tir i'r Gogledd o Tafarn Cross Inn	Glandy Cross	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h25	Tir y tu cefn i Maesglas	Glandy Cross	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC18/h6	Tir y tu cefn i Heol yr Orsaf	St. Clears	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC2/h26	Tir y tu cefn i Talar-wen	Efailwen	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SeC17/h1	Tir i'r Gorllewin o Stryd Fawr	St. Clears	Y	N	Y	N	-	Y
PrC1/h8	Maes y Llewod	Bancyfelin	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
PrC1/h3	Gogledd i Maes y Llewod	Bancyfelin	N	-	Y	N	-	Y
SuV22/h1	Parc y Dressig	Whitland	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y
SuV23/h1	Pludds Meadow	Laugharne	Y	Y	Not Likely	N	-	Y



### 7.3. Devising Local Open Space Standards

The spatial disparity of common land between the north and south of the County is seen to heavily skew the assessment of ANGS. While the utility of such site should not be forgotten, onward standards (if set to be applied at a project level) may wish to consider a more flexible category which incorporates other accessible green features, particularly those on a smaller scale and within the urban environment. While representing a small portion of the overall open space standard mix, the accessibility for these has been purposefully suggested as “*wherever possible*” to encourage integration alongside other provisions to better promote multifunctional spaces which serve a wider range of amenity needs.

In reference to the above, the standards for ANGS recommended by NRW should continue to be considered in order to tackle the deficiencies seen in larger (+20ha) greenspaces. Nevertheless, the role in which the planning system (i.e., developer contributions towards large-scale ANGS) could have in assisting the delivery of these is not yet well exercised.

The current adopted standards for outdoor sports and play spaces remain ambitious. No further changes are recommended to the quantity of these open space categories, and these should continue to be objective for provision delivery. Nevertheless, it is proposed that onward accessibility standards should be in alignment with FIT standards to sure a variety of play provision suited for different ages. Additional auditing work is first needed to differentiate the types of play spaces in order to assess provision quantity and accessibility in line with these specific recommendations. Further requirements for accessing Playing Fields should also be incorporated, as suggested in TAN16.

The assessment of allotments appears too narrow in scope and such specificity does not align with the principle of multifunctionality (a common theme promoted within the rLDP and placemaking principles) nor the actual function/use of spaces on the ground. The inclusion of other open space assets (particularly those found in formal amenity such as community gardens and orchards) may broaden the types of open spaces eligible for meeting any onward standard (if adopted). Therefore, a more inclusive category of ‘*Community Growing Spaces*’ could be further considered. Similar to allotments, there is no standard accessibility benchmark for such spaces – whilst this decision would need to be made strategically, at least one provision per major residential area would seem a logical starting place<sup>61</sup>.

In promoting a holistic approach in determining provision sufficiency and benchmarking the requirement for future open space ambitions, the following Open Space standards are recommended for Carmarthenshire (Table 22). It should be noted that these standards are non-exhaustive given the various typologies and definitions of open spaces. However, while inclusive of those in which Council had previously adopted, they have been expanded to including an addition two categories given their evidential comprehensiveness (in providing health and wellbeing benefits and promoting sustainable development) and encompassing nature which ensures locally that users with a range of needs, abilities, and interests can be

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<sup>61</sup> With a particular focus on those areas with long waiting lists.

duly met. Ultimately, the alterations proposed to the current standards will further aid the implementation of the Play Sufficiency Duty within the planning context.

**Table 22.** Recommended Standards for the provision and accessibility of Public Open Spaces within Carmarthenshire. When considered collectively these standards help assess the capacity for existing open space provisions to facilitate play, exercise, learn, socialise, grow, and connect outdoors (in no hierarchical order) amongst individuals and communities.

Open Space Category	Quantity Standard		Accessibility Standard
	Per 1000 People (ha)	Per Person (m <sup>2</sup> )	
Accessible Greenspace	0.25	2.5	Wherever possible
Play Space	0.8	8	LAP: 1½-minute walk (100m) LEAP: 5-minute walk (400m) NEAP: 12½-minute walk (1,000m)
Outdoor Sports	1.6	16	Playing Fields: 15-minute walk (1,200m)
Community Growing Space	0.2	2	-

While differently stated within paragraph 11.327 of the supporting policy text of PSD8 (2<sup>nd</sup> deposit version), it is advised that these standards should instead be adopted as part of the LDP through relevant supplementary planning guidance (i.e., following Council review and public consultation). However, it should continue to be recognised that any applied requirement for the delivery of additional open spaces could potentially create undesirable consequences, whether through standard integrated into planning requirements and/or delivered through alternative means such as strategic, stakeholder, or community driven response. These may include urban sprawl/encroachment, reduced property/private garden size, and financial viability (including impacts upon affordable housing) (particularly, when combined with a number of other factors). Frequent monitoring and subsequent standard review should, therefore, be undertaken. Nevertheless, the human need for sufficient recreational opportunities – an important factor for attaining sustainable development - must not be underestimated.

## 8. Conclusion

Auditing revealed that Carmarthenshire has a high proportion of public open space. The determination of adequacy between the specific categories of open space provision found that twenty electoral wards met the current adopted standards for outdoor sports, and no ward met the adopted standards for play space provision. Nevertheless, approximately 86% of all existing residential homes were found to be within a fifteen-minute walk of a playing field, and approximately 42% were within a five-minute walk of a play space. The proposed rLDP allocations are likely to exacerbate the existing play space deficiency, and 114 (out of 187) would also result in a shortfall of outdoor sporting provisions. These results should be viewed holistically with further interrogation required at a project level.

### Next Steps

Suggestions for any future iterations of this body of work include:

- Ground-truthing to better ensure the accuracy and validity of the audit. This should be done in unison with regular updates to the open space database;
- Detailed assessment of provision quality. This will ensure that the assessment of standards only consider functional provisions, and during onward implementation such information could help inform the delivery of restorative works. In the interim, issues of provision quality should continue to be addressed at the planning application level;
- Once auditing of site quality has been undertaken, there should be an additional assessment of quality in line with well-regarded standards, and further interrogation at a settlement level; and
- Stakeholder consultation should be conducted to ensure standards meet the demands created by communities (potentially through onward SPG). Further engagement could be held to disseminate assessment findings, devised any onward action plans, and facilitate conversation that highlights the well-being benefits associated with open space enjoyment.

## Appendices

### Appendix A: Background Policy & Strategic Framework

#### National: Background Policy & Strategic Framework

##### Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/7/contents>

The Act requires local authorities in Wales to produce active travel maps and deliver year on year improvements in active travel routes and facilities. It requires highways authorities in Wales to make enhancements to routes and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists in all new road schemes and to have regard to the needs of walkers and cyclists in a range of other highway authority functions. As part of its commitment to make it easier to walk and cycle, the Council has prepared maps that identify current walking and cycling routes. These maps were created following public consultation as well as its own research in 2015. The routes identified on the maps meet current WG standards for walking and cycling routes in Wales.

##### Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/contents>

Measure to make provision about contributing to the eradication of child poverty; to provide a duty for local authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities for children (known as the Play Sufficiency Duty); to make provision about arrangements for participation of children in local authority decisions that might affect them; to make provision about child minding and day care for children; to make provision establishing integrated family support teams and boards; to make provision about improving standards in social work for children and persons who care for them; to make provision about assessing the needs of children where their parents need community care services or have health conditions that affect the needs of the children; and for connected purposes.

##### Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37>

This Act provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There are 81 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the county (excluding the area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) ranging in size from small fields to large areas of mountain sides and long rivers, covering a combined total of 17,088 hectares. They cover approximately 7.2 % of the county. SSSI are the best wildlife and geological sites in the country. They include habitats such as ancient woodland, flower-rich meadows, wetlands as well as disused quarries and support plant and animal species which are not often seen in the wider countryside. SSSIs are statutorily protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000). Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has responsibility for identifying, notifying, and protecting SSSIs. The Act also places a duty on all highway authorities to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for their area. Carmarthenshire has six Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). LNRs are designated by local authorities and are places which support a rich variety of wildlife or geological features, and which are important to local people, by enabling contact with the natural environment. The LNRs in the county are managed with the conservation of wildlife as the top priority. They are Pembrey Burrows and Saltings, Ashpits Pond and Pwll Lagoon, North Dock Dunes, Morfa Berwick (all in the Llanelli coastal area), Carreg Cennen and Glan-yr-Afon, Kidwelly.

### **Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (2021)**

<https://gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040>

Future Wales is the development plan for Wales. It influences all levels of the planning system in Wales and shapes both Strategic and Local Development Plans prepared by councils and national park authorities. It addresses key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems, and improving the health and well-being of communities.

### **Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (Wales) (2015)**

<https://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/Guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-Wales.pdf>

This provides guidance on the planning and design of outdoor sport, play and informal space, formulated on 'a broad recommendation that 6 acres (2.4 hectares) of accessible green space per 1,000 head of population enables residents of all ages to participate'. The document was revised to reflect policy changes including the National Planning Policy Framework and now includes recommendations on the provision of amenity and natural green space.

### **Local Development Plan Manual (Edition 3) 2020**

<https://gov.wales/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020>

The Manual proposes a more integrated approach to incorporating the sustainability appraisal, explains changes relating to candidate and alternative site procedures, as well as the tests of soundness, and expands the advice on plan review and revision.

### **People, Places, Futures: The Wales Spatial Plan 2008 (update)**

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/people-places-future-the-wales-spatial-plan-update-2008.pdf>

The Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) provides an overarching policy context for spatial planning and development in Wales by establishing cross-cutting national priorities over the next 20 years. Carmarthenshire is situated within three of the six sub areas identified in the WSP.

### **Planning (Wales) Act 2015**

<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/legislation/planning-wales-act-2015/?lang=en>

This Act aims to modernise and improve the planning system to facilitate the delivery of homes, jobs, and infrastructure. It also seeks to:

- reinforce the role of the Welsh Government as the active stewards of the planning system in Wales;
- promote a cultural change in planning to help make it more positive and support appropriate development more effectively; and
- promote partnership working between Local Planning Authorities.

The below is also noted in terms of potential implications:

- Introduction of a National Development Framework (NDF) – land-use planning issues at the national level, identifying key locations for infrastructure development and setting the national framework for planning.
- Introduction of Sub-Regional Plans Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) – with specific reference made to the Cardiff, Swansea and the A55 corridor.
- Retention of Local Development Plans - however these will need to be reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the National Development Framework (and SDPs where appropriate).
- Increased powers for the Welsh Ministers, whilst in some circumstances applicants will be able to apply directly to the Welsh Government.

The LDP will need to be reviewed and prepared in line with this Act as well other primary and secondary legislative documents.

### **Planning Policy Wales: Edition 11 (2021)**

<https://gov.wales/planning-policy-wales>

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is the national land-use planning policy document for Wales. It is used by Local Planning Authorities to inform policies and land-use allocations LDPs and it is a material consideration for decision makers in determining individual planning applications. PPW sets out the land use policies of the Welsh Government and provides the context for land use planning in Wales. The policy is supplemented by Technical Advice Notes (TAN), circulars, and policy clarification letters, and together they provide our national planning policy framework.

### **PPW Technical Advice Note 12: Design (2016)**

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-12-design>

The purpose of TAN12 is to equip those involved in the design of development with advice on '*Promoting sustainability through good design*' and '*Planning for sustainable buildings*' and how this may be facilitated through the planning system. Good design requires a collaborative, creative, inclusive, process of problem solving and innovation - embracing sustainability, architecture, place making, public realm, landscape, and infrastructure. TAN12 emphasises that a holistic approach to design requires everyone involved in the design process to focus from the outset on meeting a series of objectives of good design. These including ensuring ease of access for all; promoting sustainable means of travel; ensuring attractive, safe public spaces; achieving environmental sustainability; sustaining or enhancing local character

### **PPW Technical Advice Note 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space (2009)**

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-16-sport-recreation-and-open-space>

TAN16 sets out guidance regarding planning for sports, recreation, and open space provision as part of new development proposals. It provides advice relating to this area including on the preparation of Open Space Assessments, the keeping of existing facilities, the provision of new facilities and the planning for allotments and spaces for children's and young people's play. Additionally, TAN16 discusses development management issues regarding the design of facilities and spaces, and noise and accessibility, and also considers how planning agreements can help to ensure the provision and maintenance of facilities

### **PPW Technical Advice Note 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010):**

<https://gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-6-planning-sustainable-rural-communities>

TAN6 provides guidance on how the planning system can support sustainable rural communities. It provides advice on areas including sustainable rural communities and economies, rural affordable housing, rural enterprise dwellings, one planet developments, sustainable rural services, and sustainable agriculture.

### **Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and our Well-being (2019)**

<https://gov.wales/sustainable-management-natural-resources-guide>

This Guidance relates to improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales through taking an ecosystem approach to managing natural resources.

### **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

<https://business.senedd.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=10103>

The key purposes of the Act are to:

- Set a framework within which specified Welsh public authorities will seek to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (the sustainable development principle);
- Outline well-being goals which those authorities are to seek to improve for the wellbeing of both present and future generations;
- Set out how those authorities are to show they are working towards the well-being goals;
- Put Public Services Boards (PSB) and local well-being plans on a statutory basis and, in doing so, simplify current requirements as regards integrated community planning, and
- Establish a Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to be an advocate for future generations who will advise and support Welsh public authorities in carrying out their duties under the Bill.

The LDP must have regard to the 7 well-being goals set out within the Act:

- A prosperous Wales;
- A resilient Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A more equal Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities;
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language; and
- A globally responsible Wales.

## **Regional: Background Policy & Strategic Framework**

### **Natural Resources Wales Area Statements (2020)**

<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/?lang=en>

Produced as a collaborative response to the Natural Resources Policy, published by the Welsh Government in 2017. Each Area Statement outlines the key challenges facing that locality, opportunities to meet those challenges, and how we can better manage our natural resources for the benefit of future generations. The themes for South West Wales are reducing health inequalities; ensuring sustainable land management reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity; and (Cross-cutting theme) Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. Whereas the themes for the marine area statement are building resilience of marine ecosystems; nature-based solutions and adaptation at the coast; and making the most of marine planning.

## Local: Background Policy & Strategic Framework

### Cabinet Vision Statement 2022–2027 (CCC)

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/cabinet-vision-statement-2022-2027/>

As well as tackling climate change and poverty, the Cabinet’s vision statement includes strengthening the economy and increasing prosperity, and investing in housing, education, culture, infrastructure, and the environment to make a real difference to people’s lives.

### CCC: Corporate Strategy 2022-2027

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1231822/corporate-strategy-2022-27.pdf>

The Corporate Strategy sets out the Council’s strategic priorities and aspirations and outlines what it plans to do to achieve its vision for Carmarthenshire over the next five years. At the heart of this approach is integration and collaboration across the Council and with our stakeholders, and our focus going forward will be on *Developing Carmarthenshire, Together: One Council; One Vision; One Voice*.

### Carmarthenshire Economic Recovery & Delivery Plan (2021)

<https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s51856/Report.pdf>

This Economic Recovery Plan which identifies some 30 actions to support the recovery of the Carmarthenshire economy from the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit. It sets out the authority’s priorities for supporting Business, People and Place. With this support Carmarthenshire’s economy can recover as quickly as possible to become one which is more productive than before, more equal, greener, healthier, and with more sustainable communities.

### Carmarthenshire Family Support Strategy 2018–2023

This strategy sets out how the Authority will develop and deliver early intervention services to support Carmarthenshire’s children, families, and young people at any point in a child’s life, from the early years through to the teenage years.

### Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2006-2021 (Adopted December 2014):

[http://www.cartogold.co.uk/CarmarthenshireLDP/english/text/00\\_Content.htm](http://www.cartogold.co.uk/CarmarthenshireLDP/english/text/00_Content.htm)



The Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) provides the framework for all future development within the County until 2021 (excluding Brecon Beacons National Park). The LDP shapes future investment opportunities and infrastructural improvement programmes and guides the determination of any proposals or planning applications, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The LDP is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) together with Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). A series of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) was also developed to elaborate and consolidate upon the policies and provisions within the Plan; these are:

1. Affordable Housing;
2. Planning Obligations;
3. Caeau Mynydd Mawr;
4. South Llanelli Planning and Development Brief;
5. Pibwrlwyd Planning and Development Brief;
6. Adaptation and re use of rural buildings for residential use;
7. Welsh language;
8. Leisure and Open Space – requirements for new developments;
9. Nature conservation and biodiversity;
10. Archaeology and development;
11. West Carmarthenshire Planning and Development Brief; and
12. Llandeilo Northern Quarter Planning and Development Brief.

On the 10th of January 2018, the Council resolved to prepare a revised LDP for Carmarthenshire. Once adopted the proposed LDP will supersede the Adopted LDP.

#### **Carmarthenshire Local Well Being Plan 2018-2023 – Public Service Board**

<https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s32300/PSB%20Annual%20Report%202019.pdf>

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 puts a well-being duty on specified public bodies across Carmarthenshire to act jointly and establish a statutory Public Services Board (PSB). Carmarthenshire PSB was established in May 2016 and is tasked with improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Carmarthenshire. It must do so by undertaking an assessment of well-being in the County and then preparing a county Well-being Plan to outline its local objectives, the steps it proposes to take to meet them and how they contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals.

#### **Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Plan 2020-2030**

The Nature Recovery Plan produced by the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership lists the Section 7 species and habitats found in the county and, as such, informs local planning policy. It reflects the national objectives at a local level and considers how these objectives are addressed in Carmarthenshire, the challenges, and opportunities of meeting these objectives, and informs the future work of the partners who have a common interest in protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

#### **Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives (as contained within Carmarthenshire County Council - Corporate Strategy 2018–2023)**

Following consultation, the Council prepared a set of Well-being/Improvement Objectives. These Objectives contribute significantly to the achievement of the National Well-being Goals and recognises that more can be done on a local government level. There are associated action plans for each of the 13 objectives (under five key themes), these are:

##### Start well

1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

2. Help children live healthy lifestyles

#### Live well

3. Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners
4. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty
5. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county
6. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes
7. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)
8. Support community cohesion, resilience & safety

#### Age well

9. Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years

#### In A Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment

10. Look after the environment now and for the future
11. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity
12. Promote Welsh Language and Culture

#### Corporate governance

13. Better Governance and use of Resources

**Please note that these have been updated within the most recent Corporate Strategy.**

#### **Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5-years (2018)**

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1212982/moving-forward.pdf>

The Council has identified 98 priority projects, schemes, or services that it wants to deliver over the next five years to make Carmarthenshire *“the best place to live, work and visit”*. The Council will be investing in key areas as it strives to improve economic, environmental, social, and cultural well-being in the county.

#### **Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward (2019) (Carmarthenshire County Council)**

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1219667/moving-rural-carms-forward-report-final.pdf>

This wide-ranging strategy was developed to help identify and focus regeneration within rural communities in Carmarthenshire.

#### **Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2019-2029 (Carmarthenshire County Council)**

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1222043/rowip-english.pdf>

Developed in accordance with Section 60(3) of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000), the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is a decennial document which details the Authority's plan for the strategic management, development, and improvement of the County's Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. It is critical in depicting the direction and scale of future work on access to the countryside, providing a long-term view of policies and actions. This updated the previous ROWIP originally published in 2008.

## Appendix B: Sources and Attribution Statements

Dataset (creation date)	Date Obtained	Source	Attribution Statement	Notes
OS Open Greenspace	05/06/2023	<a href="https://beta.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/products/os-open-greenspace">https://beta.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/products/os-open-greenspace</a>	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright [and database right] (2023)	This dataset has used to determine any differences between our existing datasets. Those different features (total of 57) were reviewed individually and, if deemed appropriate, incorporated into the relevant category.
NRW Open Access - Dedicated Forests (26 July 2016)		<a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inpire-nrw:NRW_PUBLIC_FOREST_2014">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inpire-nrw:NRW_PUBLIC_FOREST_2014</a>	Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.	
NRW Open Access – Open Country (21 July 2016)	01/06/2023	<a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inpire-nrw:NRW_OPEN_COUNTRY_2014">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inpire-nrw:NRW_OPEN_COUNTRY_2014</a>	Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.	Used to inform
NRW Open Access – Other Statutory Access Land (26 July 2016)		<a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inpire-nrw:NRW_OTHER_STATUTORY_LAND_2014">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inpire-nrw:NRW_OTHER_STATUTORY_LAND_2014</a>	Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.	
NRW Open Access – Registered Common Land (21 April 2017)		<a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inpire-nrw:NRW_COMMON_LAND_2014">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inpire-nrw:NRW_COMMON_LAND_2014</a>	Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved.	

			Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.	
CCC Property Holdings		Internal	na	Used to determine the accessibility of open spaces.
Local Authorities - High Water mark	05/06/2023	<a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layergroups/inspire-wg:LocalAuthorities/metadata_detail">https://datamap.gov.wales/layergroups/inspire-wg:LocalAuthorities/metadata_detail</a>	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright [and database right] (2023)	
National Parks		<a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW_NATIONAL_PARK/metadata_detail">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW_NATIONAL_PARK/metadata_detail</a>	Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.	
Electoral Wards Wales May 2022		<a href="https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:electoral_wards_wales_may_2022">https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:electoral_wards_wales_may_2022</a>	Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2022.	
National Trust Open Data: Land - Always Open (4 <sup>th</sup> July 2022)	0	<a href="https://open-data-national-trust.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/3511d41489ae442c877db40698b3b0c9_0/explore?location=52.065021%2C-4.571398%2C13.80">https://open-data-national-trust.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/3511d41489ae442c877db40698b3b0c9_0/explore?location=52.065021%2C-4.571398%2C13.80</a>		This layer shows the approximately 114,000 hectares of National Trust land that the public has access to on foot only (last updated: May 2017) – either by right (in the case of designated ‘Access Land’ under the Countryside (Rights of Way) Act 2000 (CRoW)) or by permission from the National Trust. Rights over Access Land are limited by CRoW and may be further restricted or excluded due to particular land management reasons.

<p>National Trust Open Data: Land - Limited Access (4<sup>th</sup> July 2022)</p>		<p><a href="https://open-data-national-trust.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/bb6f7e22e2e74c70b350eb0b2135ed08_0/explore?location=51.886220%2C-4.009765%2C14.57">https://open-data-national-trust.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/bb6f7e22e2e74c70b350eb0b2135ed08_0/explore?location=51.886220%2C-4.009765%2C14.57</a></p>		<p>This layer shows the approximately 19,300 hectares of National Trust land where the public has limited access (last updated: May 2017). This data shows areas where access is restricted for at least one of the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The land is enclosed as part of a National Trust Estate.</li> <li>2. Access is restricted to a dense path network.</li> <li>3. There are specific reasons the land is not Always Open e.g. Safety concerns</li> </ol>
<p>Euro Global Map (February 2023)</p>		<p><a href="https://www.mapsforeurope.org/access-data">https://www.mapsforeurope.org/access-data</a></p>	<p>Ordnance Survey data: © Crown copyright and database right [2023] OS OpenData is free to use under the Open Government Licence (OGL)</p>	<p>This dataset includes Intellectual Property from European National Mapping and Cadastral Authorities and is licensed on behalf of these by EuroGeographics. Original dataset is available for free at <a href="https://www.mapsforeurope.org">https://www.mapsforeurope.org</a>. Terms of the licence available at <a href="https://www.mapsforeurope.org/licence">https://www.mapsforeurope.org/licence</a>. All attribution statements can be found at <a href="https://www.mapsforeurope.org/attributions">https://www.mapsforeurope.org/attributions</a>.</p>