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Cabinet Agenda

Wyre Borough Council
Date of Publication: 29 August 2023
Please ask for: Marianne Unwin
Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01253 887326

Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, 6 September 2023 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-Le-Fylde

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of interest

Members will disclose any pecuniary and any other significant interests they may have in relation to the matters to be considered at this meeting.

3. Confirmation of minutes

(Pages 3 - 6)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday 7 June 2023.

4. Public questions

To receive and respond to any questions from members of the public.

Public questions for Cabinet may be submitted at any time by writing to Democratic Services or via email democratic.services@wyre.gov.uk. Public questions for this meeting must be received by noon on the Thursday before the meeting is held and do not need to specifically relate to items on this agenda. Questioners should provide their name and address and indicate to which Cabinet member the question is to be directed.

The total period of time allocated for public questions will not normally exceed 30 minutes.

Replace using Diesel with Hydro treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) Fuel (Page for the Council's Fleet

(Pages 7 - 14)

Report of the Leader of the Council and the Corporate Director Environment.

6. Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2023 (Pages 15 - 22)

Report of the Leader of the Council and the Corporate Director Resources.

7. Extension of Public Space Protection Orders - Dog Control

(Pages 23 - 192)

Report of the Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Environment.

8. Options for the future operation of the Council theatres - Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

(Pages 193 - 202)

Report of the Leader, the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder, the Resources Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Communities.



Cabinet Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Wednesday, 7 June 2023 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-Le-Fylde.

Cabinet members present:

Councillors Vincent, Berry, Bowen, Bridge and Le Marinel

Absent- apologies received:

Councillor McKay

Other councillors present:

Councillor Duffy

Officers present:

Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive
Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities
Clare James, Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer
Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager (Temporary)
Patrick Cantley, Senior Licensing Officer
Corinne Mason, Manager of Environmental Protection and Community Safety

No members of the public or press attended the meeting.

CAB.1 Declarations of interest

None.

CAB.2 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 22 March 2023 were approved as a correct record.

CAB.3 Public questions

None.

CAB.4 Upgrade to CCTV network

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder

submitted a report to seek Cabinet agreement to upgrade the council's existing town centre CCTV network from analogue to digital IP technology, relocate the CCTV control room, make other related improvements to the service and add the scheme to the council's 2023/24 and 2024/25 Capital Programme.

Councillor Ruth Duffy asked a question regarding the possibility of additional CCTV cameras in the borough particularly for Bold Street in Pharos Ward, Fleetwood to assist with the prevention of fly tipping and other anti-social behaviour issues.

Councillor Berry confirmed that two additional cameras were going to be installed in Fleetwood one on Lord Street and one at the Mount Pavilion Gardens. Regarding Bold Street, Councillor Berry emphasised that the street's volume of foliage had an impact on the quality of the CCTV cameras and that the council would have to manage privacy and data protection issues because the street was a residential area. Corrine Mason, Manager of Environmental Protection & Community Safety, explained the importance of the council reviewing the data and feasibility for the positioning of CCTV cameras. She added the estimated budget set out in the report does not include any contingency for additional CCTV cameras, beyond the two which Cllr Berry had mentioned, but she encouraged local areas to explore funding opportunities such as through the Police and Crime Commission which would be supported by the council.

Councillor Vincent confirmed that additional areas for CCTV could be something for future review, but highlighted the importance of other methods to assist the reduction in fly tipping in specific areas such as Bold Street, Fleetwood.

Decisions

Cabinet agreed:

- That approval is given to procure an upgrade of the existing CCTV equipment, control room and supporting transmission networks as outlined in section 5 and to give delegated authority to the Corporate Director Environment in conjunction with the Corporate Director Resources (and S.151 officer) to agree the final contractor arrangements.
- That approval is given to add the scheme, costing an estimated £307,000, to the council's Capital Programme for 2023/24, funded by a combination of UK Shared Prosperity funding, partner contribution/s and income from capital receipts.
- That approval is given to waive financial regulations under the
 exemptions to contract procedures at 4.06/07 of the Council's
 Constitution "If a framework agreement is available that necessitates
 the Council not having to go out to tender and the goods, works and
 services will still provide the Council with best value for money".

CAB.5 Variation to the Wyre Hackney Carriage Tariff

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder submitted a report that asked the Cabinet to consider the recommendation from the Licensing Committee to revise the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

Councillor Vincent expressed slight concerns regarding the increase in fares. However, he acknowledged that this was requested by the taxi industry to enable them to maintain its viability in order to meet demand for taxis in the borough.

Decisions

Cabinet agreed:

- That the revised table of fares be approved and implemented from 7
 July 2023, subject to the proper consideration of any responses to the
 public notice.
- That the Senior Licensing Officer advertise the variation in accordance with section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976 (Appendix 1).

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 6.13 pm.

Date of Publication: 8 June 2023.





Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council and Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment	Cabinet	6 September 2023

Replace using Diesel with HVO Fuel for the Council's Fleet

Key decision: Yes

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek agreement to utilise Hydro treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel to replace diesel as the primary fuel used to power diesel engine council vehicles.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 Delivering our action plan to reduce the effect of climate change on our borough including the carbon footprint of all council activities and assets.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To significantly reduce the use of diesel to fuel the council's vehicle fleet and instead utilise HVO fuel, which is more expensive (generally between 30p and 45p per litre) but yields a significant reduction in the council's carbon footprint (c30%), contributing to our net zero target.
- 3.2 To employ a hedging strategy to ensure a consistent supply of HVO fuel at an agreed price over the first twelve-month period, with the flexibility to move away from this approach delegated to the Corporate Director Environment in future years to procure when required if this is assessed to be more economical.
- 3.3 That approval is given to proceed under the exemption to Contract Procedures contained within the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules (Appendix F) on the grounds that exceptions may apply if "a framework agreement is available that necessitates the Council not having to go out to tender and the goods, works and services will still

- provide the Council with best value for money". In line with this, the council would continue to utilise YPO framework number 981 to purchase the HVO product and appoint supplier Standard Oils to supply the HVO product.
- 3.4 To approve the increased cost to the non-Refuse Collection Vehicle (RCV) fleet to cover the additional cost of HVO fuel in 2023/24. In a full year the impact is estimated to result in an increased cost of £48,635 compared to diesel. Owing to the inflated diesel prices in 2022/23, the actual impact on the budget is lessened and expected to be in the region of £17,080 (to be applied pro-rata in 2023/24 based on the agreed implementation date).
- 3.5 To approve a budget in 2023/24 for the Refuse Collection Vehicle fuel, currently paid in full by Veolia, in order to subsidise the use of HVO fuel which is outside the current contract terms at an estimated cost of £75,770 per annum (to be applied pro-rata in 2023/24 based on an agreed implementation date).
- 3.6 To recommend that full Council approve the ongoing increased budget as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25 which goes to full Council in March.

4. Background

- **4.1** On 11 July 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to reduce the carbon emissions created by council activity by at least 78% by 2035.
- **4.2** The council's diesel powered vehicle fleet creates approximately 30% of all of the council's currently measured carbon emissions.
- **4.3** The council has a relatively young fleet of vehicles, particularly the refuse collection fleet. The fleet usually operates on an 8-year replacement cycle.
- **4.4** HVO fuel is a "drop in" replacement fuel for diesel-powered vehicles that emits 90% less carbon at the tailpipe than white diesel. Its composition of various feedstock makes it burn clean and it is readily available on the open market.
- 4.5 Using HVO fuel would allow the council to continue to consider the option of purchasing diesel-powered vehicles whilst not adding significantly to the carbon levels within the borough. Currently diesel-powered vehicles are considerably more affordable for the council and have a more reliable performance history and higher residual value to them than alternative fuelled vehicles such as electric.
- **4.6** The use of alternative fuel vehicles would continue to be considered on a case by case basis at the time of vehicle replacement.

5. Key issues and proposals

- **5.1** Unlike oil, HVO is not a traded commodity and its pricing is not dynamic.
- 5.2 HVO suppliers tend to buy shipments in bulk and this sets the pricing, making it difficult to view pricing trends as this information is not readily available, unlike the Platt's oil index for diesel. This means we are unable to reliably track long-term pricing trends for this commodity.
- 5.3 In 2022/23 the council used 282,841 litres of white diesel purchased in bulk as well as some ad hoc fuel card spend estimated at 17,170 litres at a total cost of £422,153 (all estimates are excluding VAT). Of the estimated 300,011 litres used in the year, approximately 176,210 litres were consumed by Veolia who reimburse the council under the contract for this spend. The average cost per litre for the bulk purchases of diesel over the financial year was £1.40.
- 5.4 On 24 July 2023, the spot price for HVO was £1.45 per litre, and a hedged price for the volume consumed in 2022/23 would be £1.50 per litre.
- 5.5 Based on the hedged price, the annual cost of the fuel typically consumed would be £450,017 based on £1.50 per litre. This represents a (currently worst case) price premium of £129,004 compared to the equivalent amount of diesel at £1.07 pence per litre.
- In 2022/23 the price of diesel was exceptionally high relative to current pricing and as such the budget for non-RCV fuel was set at £152,580 for 2023/24. Based on current pricing and the switch to HVO fuel, the increased cost against the budget is therefore offset by the underlying assumptions and means the additional budget required will be an estimated £17,080.
- 5.7 To compare like for like, on a volume of 300,011 litres the cost for diesel at £1.07 per litre would be £321,012 whereas the cost for HVO at £1.45 per litre would be £435,016 or at £1.50 per litre would be £450,017. The percentage increase in cost would therefore be 36% at £1.45 or 40% at £1.50 per litre. The hedged price of £1.50 per litre is carrying a 3.3% risk premium to the spot price but it guarantees the price for 12 months.
- 5.8 Our waste contractor Veolia currently consume circa 62.3% of all bulk fuel volume (or 58.7% including fuel card purchases) to operate the refuse collection vehicles owned by the council.
- 5.9 If the council were to move to HVO fuel, a variation to the contract with Veolia would be required to determine the cost recovery formula for the fuel used by the refuse vehicle fleet. This could work by obtaining a spot price for white diesel from the council's appointed supplier at the point of ordering HVO and advising Veolia of this price, to determine the cost difference between white diesel and HVO for any fuel drawn between the

- dates of the bulk fuel deliveries. The precise methodology will need to be agreed with Veolia.
- **5.10** All pricing quoted was current at the time of writing and is subject to change based on market conditions.
- 5.11 The 2023/24 Original Estimates includes a fuel budget of £455,540, with a net impact to the council of £152,850 owing to the reimbursement by Veolia for their fuel usage under the refuse collection contract. The budget was based on typical diesel usage and the prices being obtained in quarter three of 2022/23 when the forecasts were set. Based on current diesel prices, a saving against the net budget by continuing to purchase diesel could be achieved estimated at £31,560 and over a five year Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period this would be £157,800. By contrast, an additional estimated cost against the 2023/24 Budget will be incurred by the council if it switches to HVO Fuel of £91,850 which over the MTFP period equates to an additional cost of £459,250, increasing the current budget gap from £3.7m to £3.8m. It should be noted that all fuel prices vary throughout the year and these are forecasts based on current pricing.
- 5.12 It is currently not viable to run a small number of the council's fleet (mainly plant and machinery) on HVO owing to where they are used, therefore the ongoing carbon footprint measurement will still account for some white diesel use.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1 The Council declared a climate emergency with a target to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035 with operation of the fleet accounting for circa 30% of current emissions. Therefore to do nothing to reduce this was rejected as an option.
- 6.2 Alternative fuel vehicles continue to be evaluated at the point of fleet replacement on a rolling programme and remains a consideration where feasible in terms of cost and vehicle efficiency. The transition to HVO delivers significant carbon savings immediately without the need to replace existing serviceable fleet.
- 6.3 A partial move to HVO was considered but owing to the reduction in carbon emissions that would be achieved and limited storage capacity for an additional fuel tank at the depot, this was discounted.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications		
Finance	The 2023/24 Original Estimated fuel budget of £152,850 (net of Veolia's contribution) will be insufficient to cover the increased cost of HVO fuel for its non-RCV fleet. An	
	additional budget of £17,080 in a full year will need to be	

	added. Veolia will still reimburse the council for their fuel consumption, but at diesel equivalent prices. This will mean a shortfall of approximately £75,770 for the switch to HVO fuel and an increased budget requirement overall of £91,580. The impact will increase the budget gap in the MTFP by this amount each year based on current assumptions (plus inflation) meaning that the gap in 2027/28 will be £3.8m based on current forecasts.
Legal	The Veolia contract would require a variation to agree the methodology to be used to reimburse the council for the cost of fuel if the council are going to subsidise the move to HVO fuel.
Climate Change	By switching to HVO, the council can significantly reduce its carbon footprint as HVO emits 90% less carbon at the tailpipe. In the 2022-23 financial year, the authority fleet accounted for 736.99 tCO2e (27% of total emissions). A 90% reduction in emissions would reduce this figure to 73.70 tCO2e (now only 4% of total emissions). This could therefore have an overall impact of reducing total council emissions by approximately 32%, well towards our net zero target. Figures will not be exact as a small number of vehicles and machinery cannot switch to HVO due to their proximity to the depot. The transition will also take place mid-year and therefore total impact will not be accurately measured until 2025.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a \checkmark below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	√/x
community safety	х
equality and diversity	х
health and safety	Х

risks/implications	✓/x
asset management	х
ICT	х
data protection	х

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Lee Rossall,	01253 887617	lee.rossall@wyre.gov.uk	25/07/2023
Procurement Officer		<u> </u>	

List of background papers:			
name of document	date	where available for inspection	
None			

List of appendices

None





Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent,		
Leader of the Council,		
and Clare James,	Cabinet	6 September 2023
Corporate Director		-
Resources		

Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2023

Key decision: Yes

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To consider the Annual Review letter from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) for 2022/23, attached at Appendix A.

2. Corporate priorities

- **2.1** Learn from the outcome of complaints made to the LGO to improve our services and underpin effective working relationships between the council and the LGO's office.
- **2.2** Support greater transparency and democratic scrutiny of local complaint handling and ensure effective local accountability of public services.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Cabinet notes the comments made by the LGO in the Annual Review Letter.

4. Background

- 4.1 This annual review provides a summary of statistics on the complaints made to the LGO about Wyre for the year ended 31 March 2023. The data that the LGO has provided shows the complaints and enquiries they have received, along with the decisions they have made and Wyre's compliance with recommendations during the period.
- 4.2 The number of complaints, taken alone, is not necessarily a reliable indicator of an authority's performance. The volume of complaints should be considered alongside the uphold rate (how often the LGO found fault

when they investigated a complaint) and statistics that indicate Wyre's willingness to accept fault and put things right when they go wrong. The LGO also provide a figure for the number of cases where the authority provided a satisfactory remedy before the complaint reached them and statistics about the authority's compliance with recommendations they have made; both of which offer a more comprehensive and insightful view of Wyre's approach to complaint handling.

4.3 The LGO have published its annual data for all authorities on their website, alongside its annual review of local government complaints. This includes data on authorities' compliance with the LGO's recommendations. Our data was uploaded to the LGO's interactive map, Your council's performance, along with a copy of the LGO's letter and its Review of Local Government Complaints. This collated data supports the scrutiny of local services.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 During the year the LGO Advice Team received three complaints and enquiries about the council in the 12 months up to 31 March 2023. This is a decrease of ten complaints when compared to those received by the LGO in 2021/22. However the LGO have advised in Appendix A that they have reviewed their processes over the past two years and this has meant that the average uphold rate for all investigations has increased and they recommend comparing upheld figures with similar authorities rather than 2021/22 figures. You can search similar authorities at Your council's performance
- 5.2 The number of decisions made in the year will not necessarily be the same as the number of complaints received by the LGO Advice Team because some complaints decided in 2022/23 will have been received in the previous year, and some sent to the Investigative Team during 2022/23 will be ongoing. There were two decisions made in the year ending 31 March 2023.

5.3 Both decisions were upheld

Nature of Complaint	Service Area	Decision
The complainant said	Planning	Upheld. There was fault
the council failed to	Applications	by the council which
properly consider his		caused injustice.
neighbour's planning		There was fault found in the
application for an		way the council considered
extension which		the planning application but it
would cause loss of		did not cause the complainant
amenity to his		injustice.
property.		
Ms X complained	Planning	Upheld. There was fault
about the way the	Enforcement	by the council which
council dealt with a		caused injustice

breach of planning	The council were found at
control by her	fault in that it delayed in
neighbour.	serving a breach of condition
	notice and in responding to
	some of Ms X's
	communications.
	The council has agreed to
	apologise to Ms X for the
	injustice caused.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 No alternative options were considered as part of this report.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications		
Finance	On occasion the Local Government Ombudsman may recommend that a payment is made to a complainant to compensate for any injustice they have experienced. No payments were made in 2022/23.	
Legal	None arising directly from the report.	
Climate Change	None arising directly from the report.	

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a \checkmark below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with an x

risks/implications	√/x
community safety	х
equality and diversity	х
health and safety	х

risks/implications	✓/x
asset management	x
ICT	х
data protection	Х

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Marie Buckley	01253 887360	marie.buckley@wyre.gov.uk	28/07/2023

List of background papers:			
name of document date where available for inspection			
None			

List of appendices

Appendix A – LGO Annual Review Letter to Wyre BC for the period ending 31/03/2023.



19 July 2023

By email

Ms Huddleston Chief Executive Wyre Borough Council

Dear Ms Huddleston

Annual Review letter 2022-23

I write to you with your annual summary of complaint statistics from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for the year ending 31 March 2023. The information offers valuable insight about your organisation's approach to complaints. As always, I would encourage you to consider it as part of your corporate governance processes. As such, I have sought to share this letter with the Leader of your Council and Chair of the appropriate Scrutiny Committee, to encourage effective ownership and oversight of complaint outcomes, which offer such valuable opportunities to learn and improve.

The end of the reporting year, saw the retirement of Michael King, drawing his tenure as Local Government Ombudsman to a close. I was delighted to be appointed to the role of Interim Ombudsman in April and look forward to working with you and colleagues across the local government sector in the coming months. I will be building on the strong foundations already in place and will continue to focus on promoting improvement through our work.

Complaint statistics

Our statistics focus on three key areas that help to assess your organisation's commitment to putting things right when they go wrong:

Complaints upheld - We uphold complaints when we find fault in an organisation's actions, including where the organisation accepted fault before we investigated. We include the total number of investigations completed to provide important context for the statistic.

Over the past two years, we have reviewed our processes to ensure we do the most we can with the resources we have. One outcome is that we are more selective about the complaints we look at in detail, prioritising where it is in the public interest to investigate. While providing a more sustainable way for us to work, it has meant that changes in uphold rates this year are not solely down to the nature of the cases coming to us. We are less likely to carry out investigations on 'borderline' issues, so we are naturally finding a higher proportion of fault overall.

Our average uphold rate for all investigations has increased this year and you may find that your organisation's uphold rate is higher than previous years. This means that comparing uphold rates with previous years carries a note of caution. Therefore, I recommend comparing this statistic with that of similar organisations, rather than previous years, to better understand your organisation's performance.

Compliance with recommendations - We recommend ways for organisations to put things right when faults have caused injustice and monitor their compliance with our recommendations. Failure to comply is rare and a compliance rate below 100% is a cause for concern.

Satisfactory remedy provided by the authority - In these cases, the organisation upheld the complaint and we were satisfied with how it offered to put things right. We encourage the early resolution of complaints and credit organisations that accept fault and find appropriate ways to put things right.

Finally, we compare the three key annual statistics for your organisation with similar authorities to provide an average marker of performance. We do this for County Councils, District Councils, Metropolitan Boroughs, Unitary Councils, and London Boroughs.

Your annual data, and a copy of this letter, will be uploaded to our interactive map, <u>Your council's performance</u>, on 26 July 2023. This useful tool places all our data and information about councils in one place. You can find the detail of the decisions we have made about your Council, read the public reports we have issued, and view the service improvements your Council has agreed to make as a result of our investigations, as well as previous annual review letters.

Supporting complaint and service improvement

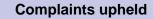
I know that complaints offer organisations a rich source of intelligence and insight that has the potential to be transformational. These insights can indicate a problem with a specific area of service delivery or, more broadly, provide a perspective on an organisation's culture and ability to learn. To realise the potential complaints have to support service improvements, organisations need to have the fundamentals of complaint handling in place. To support you to do so, we have continued our work with the Housing Ombudsman Service to develop a joint complaint handling code that will provide a standard for organisations to work to. We will consult on the code and its implications prior to launch and will be in touch with further details.

In addition, our successful training programme includes practical interactive workshops that help participants develop their complaint handling skills. We can also offer tailored support and bespoke training to target specific issues your organisation might have identified. We delivered 105 online workshops during the year, reaching more than 1350 people. To find out more visit www.lgo.org.uk/training or get in touch at training@lgo.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Najsarek

Interim Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Interim Chair, Commission for Local Administration in England





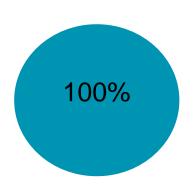
100% of complaints we investigated were upheld.

This compares to an average of **59%** in similar organisations.

2 upheld decisions

Statistics are based on a total of **2** investigations for the period between 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Compliance with Ombudsman recommendations



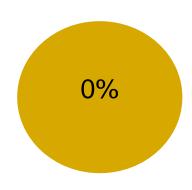
In **100%** of cases we were satisfied the organisation had successfully implemented our recommendations.

This compares to an average of **100%** in similar organisations.

Statistics are based on a total of **1** compliance outcome for the period between 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

• Failure to comply with our recommendations is rare. An organisation with a compliance rate below 100% should scrutinise those complaints where it failed to comply and identify any learning.

Satisfactory remedy provided by the organisation



In **0%** of upheld cases we found the organisation had provided a satisfactory remedy before the complaint reached the Ombudsman.

This compares to an average of **15%** in similar organisations.

0

satisfactory remedy decisions

Statistics are based on a total of **2** upheld decisions for the period between 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023





Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder and Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment	Cabinet	6 September 2023

Review of Consultation and Implementation of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for Dog Control

Key decision: Yes

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To summarise the consultation feedback following the review of the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) relating to dog controls, agree changes and to seek approval for the Legal Services Manager to make the Orders in accordance with regulations published by the Secretary of State.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 A cleaner, greener, and more sustainable environment.

3. Recommendations

- **3.1** That Cabinet agree to the making of the PSPOs (six control measures) as shown in Appendix A.
- 3.2 To authorise the Legal Services Manager to make minor amendments that may be necessary to ensure the PSPOs are accurate, enabling authorised officers to continue to enforce across the borough in relation to dog fouling and dog control measures.

4. Background

- **4.1** On 18 October 2017, Cabinet approved a Public Space Protection Order relating to a range of dog control measures across the borough following a period of statutory consultation.
- **4.2** The PSPO statutory provisions arising from the Anti-social Behaviour,

Crime and Policing Act 2014, require PSPOs to be reviewed every three years.

- 4.3 A public consultation exercise was undertaken during summer 2020, resulting in the renewal of the PSPOs for a 3-year period (Oct 2020 Oct 2023); a further consultation was undertaken in July 2023.
- 4.4 As part of the consultation process, the statutory consultees were notified (police, Parishes, County Council), along with nationally interested parties including the Dogs Trust and the Kennel Club and local community and voluntary groups such as Friends of Parks Groups and grassroots sports clubs alongside wider inclusion on the website and other media channels for residents and other stakeholders.
- 4.5 Dog fouling and dog related anti-social behaviour is a concern to local residents and elected members, clearly evident from the Life in Wyre surveys, ongoing reports to the council, observation by council officers working on site and Friends of Parks Groups. The table below shows the reported incidents over recent years.

Year	No. of Dog Fouling Incidents
2019/20	303
2020/21	268
2021/22	262
2022/23	365

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 Consultation response the council received 197 responses, which have proved very helpful in assessing the continued need for dog control, the scope of the need for dog control measures and forming a better understanding on public views.
- The level of response and wide range of views expressed illustrates what an important issue responsible dog ownership and the impact on wildlife/public open space is to both dog owners and non-dog owners. The responses received reflect users from a wide geographical spread within the borough and some from outside Wyre and capture both dog owners and non-dog owners; with over 76% either owning (67%) or caring for a dog either in a private or professional capacity (1.7%), at some point.
- 5.3 The report in the appendix provides a full summary of the findings of the consultation and raw data comments.
- In general, the responses to key questions dealing with the continuation of the current control measures were well supported, as can be seen in the following table:

Consultation Question	Response Yes	Response No %
Do you agree with the extension of the order relating to dogs fouling on land and the requirement for anyone in control of a dog to pick up the faeces?	98.9	1.1
Do you agree with the extension of the order relating to the requirement to put dogs on leads by direction from an authorised officer?	, 97.8	2.2
Do you agree with the extension of the order relating to the requirement to have dogs on leads in certain areas?	87.8	12.2
Do you agree with the extension of the order relating to dog exclusion areas?	77.9	22.1
Do you agree with the extension of the order that restricts the number of dogs one person can exercise at a time in certain areas?	93.9	6.1
Do you agree with the extension of the order, where it is an offence to fail to have the means to pick up after a dog under your control when asked by an authorised officer?	92.2	7.8
Do you agree with the level of the Fixed Penalty for non-compliance remaining at £100?	72.2	27.8

Please note the above percentages have been rounded.

- The requirement to apply a borough-wide PSPO to pick up dog foul (98.9%) and to have the means to pick it up when requested by an authorised officer (92.2%) was heavily supported; this reflects the ill feeling towards dog fouling, the impact it can have on health, quality of place/enjoyment of an environment and harm it can create.
- There remains strong support (97.8%) for the requirement for an authorised officer to request a dog to be put on a lead in certain areas to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance. This is considered more favourable by some to the requirement to have dogs on a lead in nominated areas i.e., areas where there is likely to be a safety concern, such as highways and car

- parks; whilst still a majority support (87.8%) some respondents feel that it is restrictive on the ability to exercise dogs.
- 5.7 The level of support for the extension of the order relating to dog exclusion areas was less favourable. However more than three quarters of respondents (77.9%) did agree. This Order includes areas ranging from multi-use play areas, sports grounds during organised sporting events, picnic areas, sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) and the bathing beaches (seasonal ban).
- There was strong support (93.9%) for the continuation of the order restricting the number of dogs one person can exercise at a time in certain areas (i.e., four dogs). 72.2% agreed with the level of the fixed penalty for non-compliance; a slight majority were in favour of a higher penalty; however, it is felt this remains proportionate. It is essential that enforcement works hand in hand with education. The council will continue to promote responsible behaviour to 'bag it and bin it', alongside other anti-littering messages and national campaigns.
- with some suggestions that the council are discriminating against responsible dog owners and clearly 'anti-dog', even restricting business practices, whilst others suggesting the actions are not restrictive enough. This illustrates that this continues to be a very complex area and it is difficult to achieve a full consensus of everyone as opinions will vary widely depending on individual/organisational interests/experiences with dogs. In making these Orders the approach taken is one that is necessary and proportionate in response to the problems caused by the activities of dogs and those in charge of them. The Orders seek to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs.
- 5.10 Council officers, along with partners, will continue to use other tools available to them to tackle cases of dogs/dog owners reportedly behaving irresponsibly in a public place. This may range from acceptable behaviour contracts and community protection notices, to signposting for dog training.
- 5.11 It is considered that the continuation of dog control measures would have a positive effect on the lives of residents and wider community making it a safer, cleaner and more attractive environment. The Life in Wyre surveys have repeatedly illustrated that irresponsible dog ownership and fouling are issues of great concern to the local community.
- 5.12 Signage will be reviewed and amended across the borough, if necessary, this will continue to be supported with wider digital communications and publicity campaigns. Parish and Town Councils will be approached to provide financial support to provide additional/upgraded signage at their sites and Lancashire County Council will be required to review the signage at their Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park.

5.13 Equality Impact Screening has been reviewed in relation to the PSPOs. This did identify the fact that the enforcement of the PSPOs is likely to involve work with vulnerable people and disabled people. However, this should not result in any group being discriminated against. For example, it continues to include exemptions for people with accredited guide or assistance dogs; recognising the need to access areas and possible limitations for them and anyone with a disability or physical impairment making them unable to pick up dog waste. Similarly Authorised Officers would assess the mental capacity of an individual at the time or on provision of supporting evidence and seek alternative support / engagement to address an issue on an individual basis from partner agencies.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 Alternative options were considered as part of the consultation process and are documented in detail in section 5 and the appendices.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications		
Finance	It is anticipated that there will be costs associated with new/updated signage for PSPOs in the parks and other areas where they need to be displayed and these costs will be met from existing budgets.	
Legal	Pursuant to section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 a local authority may make a Public Spaces Protection Order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that 1. 1. (a) activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or (b) it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect and 2. that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities (a) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, (b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and (c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice. Pursuant to section 60 of the Act before the time when a public spaces protection order is due to expire, the local authority that made the order may	
	extend the period for which it has effect if satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent— (a) occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order, or (b) an increase	

in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

Any extension may not be for more than 3 years and must be published.

A local authority must carry out consultation, publicity, and notification before extending the period for which a public spaces protection order has effect, or varying a public spaces protection order.

Although new orders will be created, the effect of this decision is equivalent to an extension of the existing orders

Revised statutory guidance has been issued by the Secretary of State.

A local authority, in deciding whether to make a public places protection order or extend the period for which a public spaces protection order has effect and if so for how long, must have particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in articles 10 and 11 of the Convention.

Before makinga PSPO, councils must consult with the local police community representatives and others as appropriate(section 72(3) and 72(4) of the Act). The Act also stipulates that councils must notify relevant parish councils and the county council and publicise for consultation with the local community on any proposed PSPO. PSPO's must be reviewed at least every three years. Similar provisions apply to extensions.

Anyone who lives in or regularly works or visits the area can appeal a PSPO in the High Court within six weeks of issue. The PSPO will be publicised locally. With regard to breaches of a PSPO, it is an offence for anyone, without reasonable excuse, to do anything they are prohibited from doing by virtue of the order. Furthermore, it is an offence for anyone, without reasonable excuse, to fail to comply with a requirement in the PSPO. Section 67 of the Act specifies that anyone found guilty of an offence can be fined up to £1,000 by the Magistrates' Court.

Section 68 of the Act provides that, in the alternative, a constable or authorised officer of the Local Authority may serve a fixed penalty notice on those in alleged breach offering them the opportunity to discharge liability by payment of Fixed Penalty Notice in an amount set by each local authority up to £100. Fixed penalty notices in Wyre for anti-social behaviour offences are currently set at £100.

Climate Change	There are no anticipated climate change implications arising from this report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a \checkmark below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	√/x
community safety	✓
equality and diversity	✓
health and safety	✓

risks/implications	√/x
asset management	✓
ICT	х
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e., purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Kathy Winstanley	01253 887376	Kathy.winstanley@wyre. gov.uk	04/08/2023

List of background papers:			
name of document date where available for inspection			
N/A			

List of appendices

Appendix A – PSPO (Schedule 1 - 6)

Appendix B i – Consultation Summary Report, personal data removed

Appendix B ii - Additional comments, personal data removed

Appendix C - Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix A (Including Schedule 1 & 2) ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

WYRE BOROUGH COUNCIL DOG CONTROL AND DOG FOULING PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2023

Wyre Borough Council ("the Council") in exercise of its power under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") and of all other enabling powers being satisfied that the conditions set out in section 59 of the Act have been met hereby makes the following Order:-

 The effect of this Order is to impose the following prohibitions and/or requirements in the public places described in the Schedules to this Order and where appropriate shown edged in red / colour on the plans annexed to this Order.

Offences

2. Fouling of Land by Dogs

- (a) If a dog defecates at any time on land referred to in Schedule 1 of this Order and the person who is in charge of the dog at the time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless:-
 - (i) That person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) The owner/occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to that person failing to do so; or
 - (iii) That person is subject to the exemptions listed in Article 8.

3. Means to pick up dog faeces

- (a) A person in charge of a dog on land referred to in Schedule 2 of this Order, shall be guilty of an offence, if, at any time, he does not comply with a direction given to him by an Authorised Officer of the Council to produce a device for or other suitable means of removing dog faeces and transporting it to a bin (whether or not the dog has defecated) unless:-
 - (i) That person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) The owner/occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to that person failing to do so; or

(iii) That person is subject to the exemptions listed in Article 8.

4. Dog on lead by direction

- (a) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence, if, at any time on land referred to in Schedule 3 of this Order, he does not comply with a direction given to him by an Authorised Officer of the Council to put and keep the dog on a lead under close control unless:-
 - (i) That person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to that person failing to do so.
- (b) For the purpose of this Article:
 - (i) An Authorised officer of the Council may only give a direction under this Article to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person or the worrying or disturbance of any other animal or bird on any land to which this article applies.

5. Dogs on leads

- (a) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence, if, at any time on land referred to in Schedule 4 of this Order, he does not keep the dog on a lead under close control unless:-
 - (i) That person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to that person failing to do so.

6. Dogs Excluded

- (a) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence, if, at any time he takes the dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or remain on land referred to in Schedule 5 of this Order unless:-
 - (i) That person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to that person doing so; or
 - (iii) That person is subject to the exemptions listed in Article 8.

7. Maximum number of dogs

- (a) A person in charge of more than one dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time he takes more than four dogs on land referred to in Schedule 6 of this Order unless:
 - (i) That person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to doing so.

8. Exemptions

- (a) Nothing in Articles 2, 3 and 6 shall apply to a person who –
- i. is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
- ii. is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or
- iii. who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day to day activities including affecting his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity or such other charity/approved body as is considered appropriate by the Council and upon which he relies for assistance or
- iv. is training an assistance dog for one of the prescribed charities or such other charity/approved body as is considered appropriate by the Council.
- v. is not a person falling within the criteria mentioned in paragraphs i to v above but who the Council considers should be exempt due to the impairment of that particular person.
 - (b) Nothing in the Order shall apply to the normal activities of a working dog whilst the dog is working. This includes dogs that are being used for work in connection with emergency search and rescue, law enforcement and the work of HM Armed Forces and farm dogs that are being used to herd or drive animals.

For the purpose of this Order –

- A person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog;
- Placing the faeces forthwith in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land:

- Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a devise for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces;
- An "Authorised Officer of the Authority" means an employee, partnership agency / organisation or contractor of Wyre Borough Council who is authorised in writing by Wyre Borough Council for the purpose of giving direction under the Order.
- Each of the following is a "prescribed charity".
 - > Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454),
 - ➤ Support Dogs Limited (registered charity number 1088281),
 - > Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number (803680).

9. Penalty

A person who is guilty of an offence under this Order shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

10. In Force

This Order shall come into force on for a period of three years.

Dated this day of 2023.

The Common Seal of Wyre Borough Council was hereto affixed in the presence of:

Authorised Signatory

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 – FOULING OF LAND BY DOGS

Subject to the exception in paragraph 3 below, Schedule 1 applies to all land which is within the administrative area of Wyre Borough Council and which is –

- 1. Open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side); and
- 2. To which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment
- 3. Excepted from the description in paragraph1 above is land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967.

SCHEDULE 2 – MEANS TO PICK UP DOG FAECES

Subject to the exception in paragraph 3 below, Schedule 2 applies to all land which is within the administrative area of Wyre Borough Council and which is –

- 1. Open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side); and
- 2. To which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment.
- 3. Excepted from the description in paragraph 1 above is land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967.



Schedule 3

Dogs on Leads by Direction

SCHEDULE 3 – DOGS ON LEAD BY DIRECTION

Description of Land to which Schedule 3 applies:

1. The areas of land listed below, which are open to the air and to which the pubic are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment) within the Borough of Wyre

Garstang/Catterall sites:	Map Ref
Canterbury Way Garstang	GC1
Derbyshire Avenue Garstang	GC2
Garstang Riverside Area	GC3

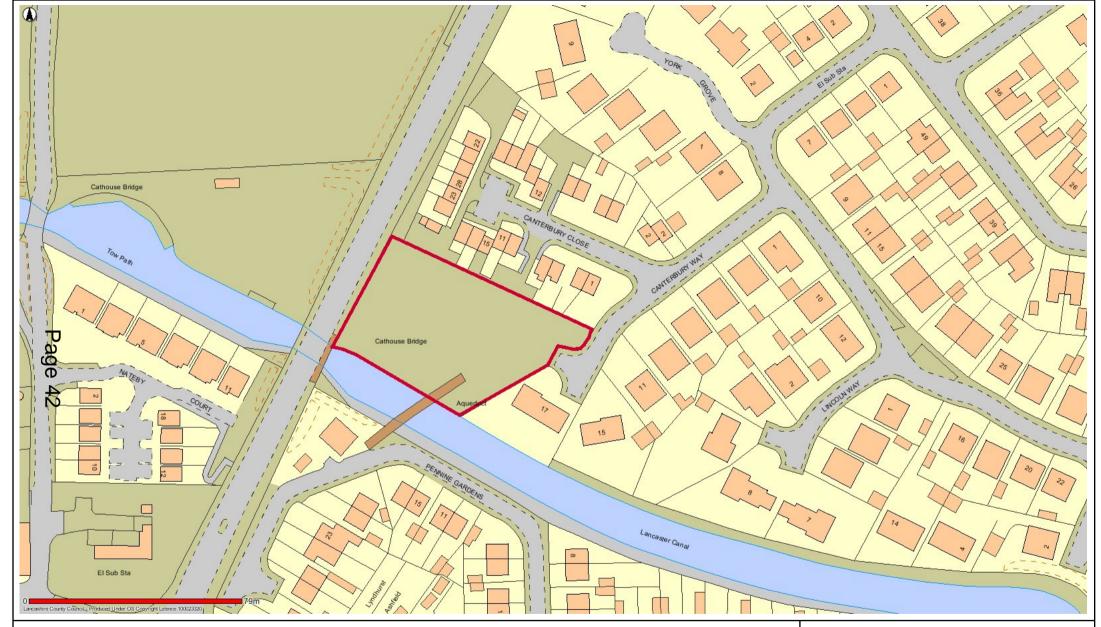
Over Wyre sites	
Bilsborrow Recreational Ground	OW1
Bob Williamson Park/Playing Field Hambleton, dog exercise	OW2A
area only	
Lancaster Avenue Great Eccleston	OW3
Pennine View Playing Fields Great Eccleston	OW4
Preesall Playing Fields	OW5
Shorrocks Avenue Playing Field St Michaels	OW6
Stalmine Playing Field	OW7

Thornton/Cleveleys Area sites	
Bourne Way Playing Fields	TC1
Branksome Avenue	TC2
Church Road Playing Field	TC3
Croasdale Drive Playing Field	TC4
Hargreaves St./Holly Road	TC5
Jubilee Gardens	TC6
Kenyon Park	TC7
King Georges Playing Field	TC8
North Drive Park	TC9
Pheasants Wood	TC10
The Towers	TC11
Wyre Estuary Country Park	TC12
Cleveleys Beach from Café Cove to Wyre boundary (out of ban	TC13A
season only)	

Poulton/Carleton sites:	
Caldicott Way/Donnington Road	PLF1
Civic Centre Playing Field	PLF2
Compley Ave POS	PLF3
Cottam Hall Playing Field	PLF4
Farnham Way	PLF5
Jean Stansfield/Vicarage Park	PLF6
Tithebarn Park	PLF7

Fleetwood sites:	Map Ref
Eskdale Avenue Park	FWD1
KGV Playing Field	FWD2
Memorial Park	FWD3
Mount Gardens	FWD4
Rossall Ecology Park	FWD5
Roundway	FWD6
Fleetwood Beach east side of slipway opposite end of	FWD7A
Promenade Road eastward to the west wide of the former pier	
(out of ban season only)	
Fleetwood Promenade from opposite Carr Road to the Five	FWD8
Bar Gate Rossall Beach	
Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park - refer to map for exact area	FWD9A
(subject to LCC for providing patrols and enforcement)	

2. This Order does not apply to any land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967.



GC1 Canterbury Way Garstang



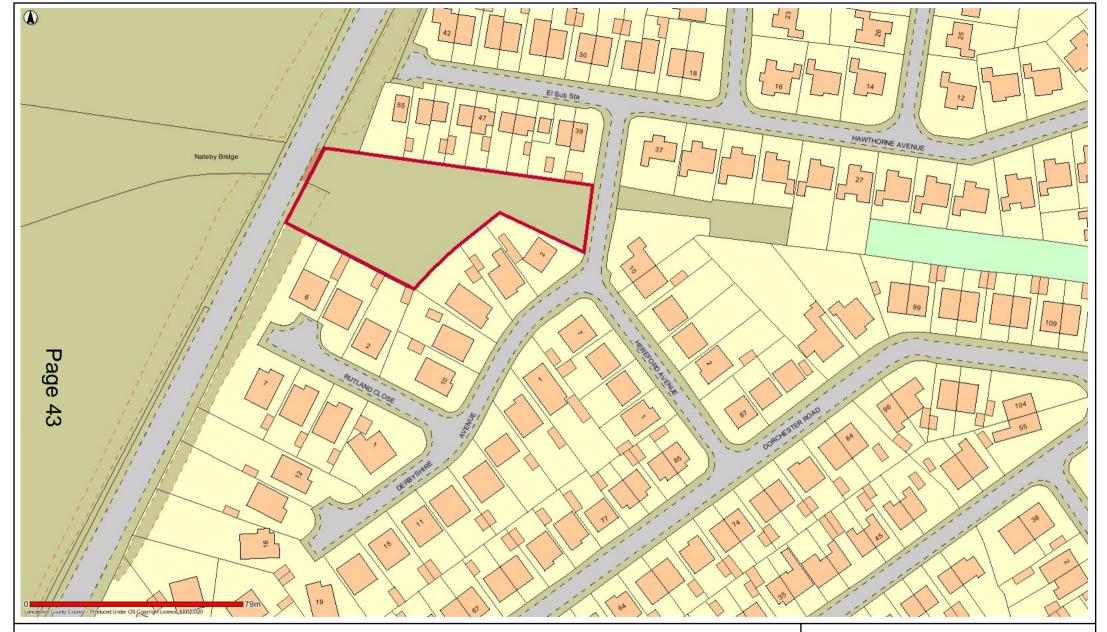
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GC2 Derbyshire Avenue Garstang



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GC3 Garstang Riverside Area



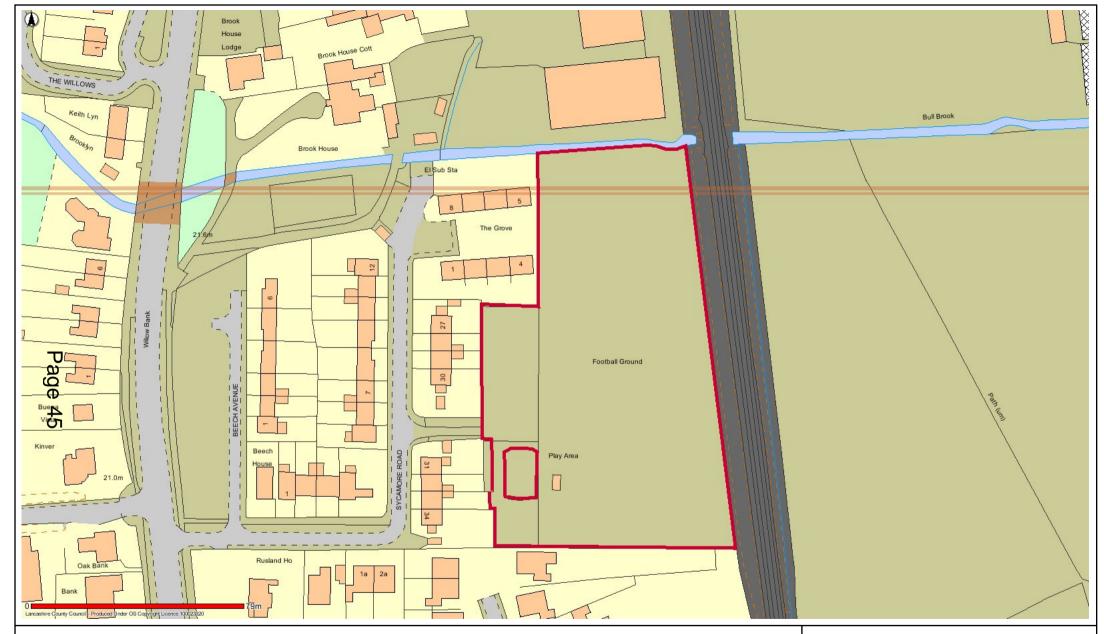
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OW1 Bilsborrow Recreation Ground



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OW2A Bob Williamson Park/Playing Field Hambleton dog excercise area only



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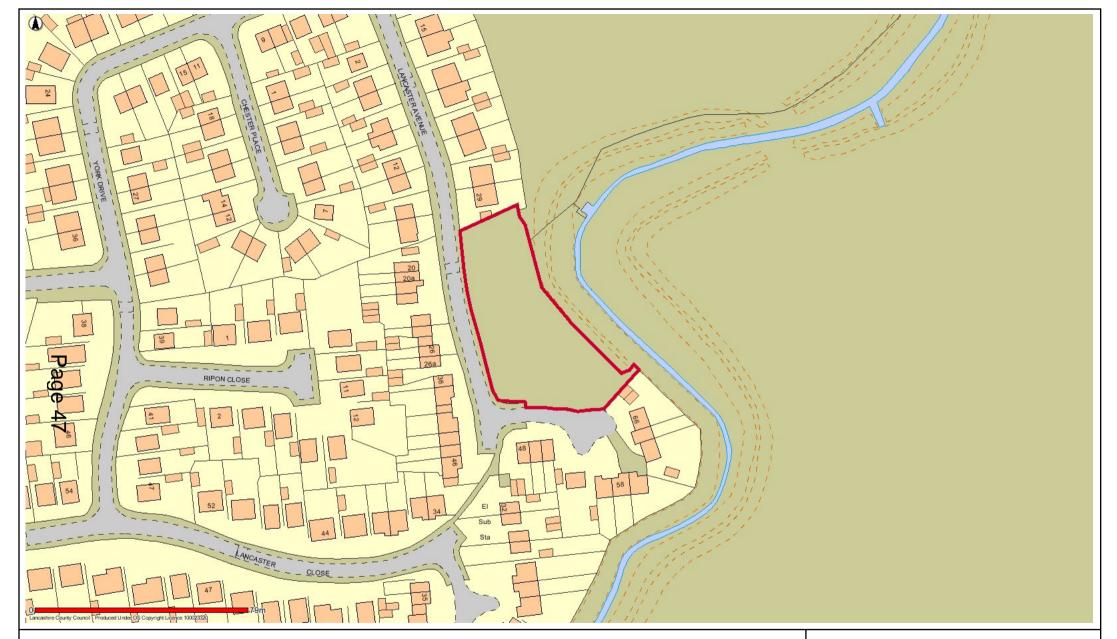
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OW3 Lancaster Avenue Great Eccleston



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OW4 Pennine View Playing Field Great Eccleston



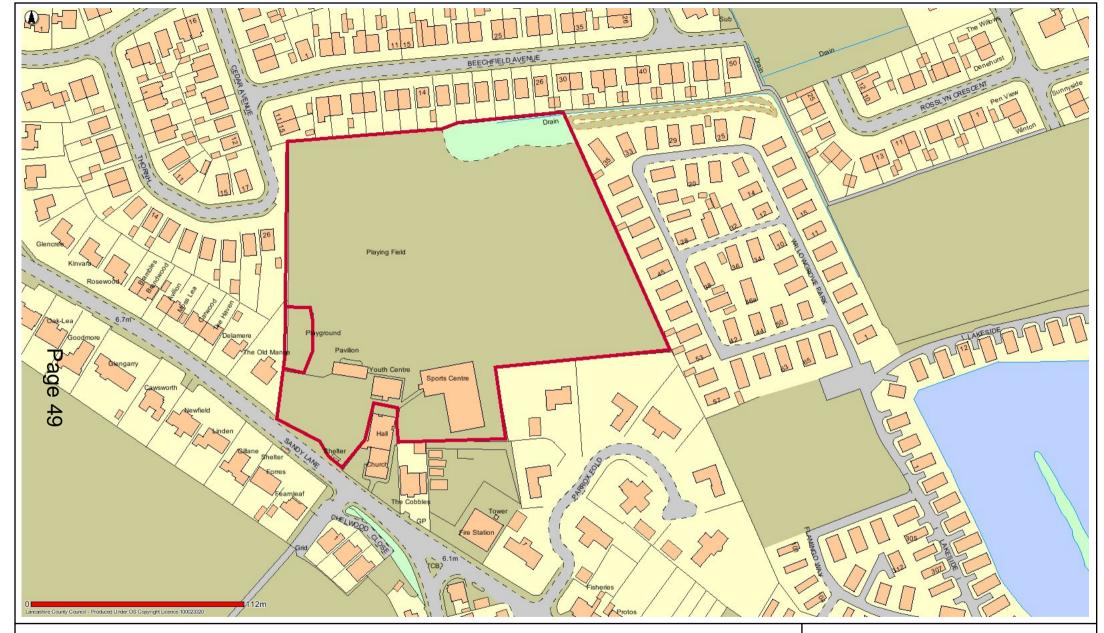
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OW5 Preesall Playing Field



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OW6 Shorrocks Avenue Playing Field St Michaels



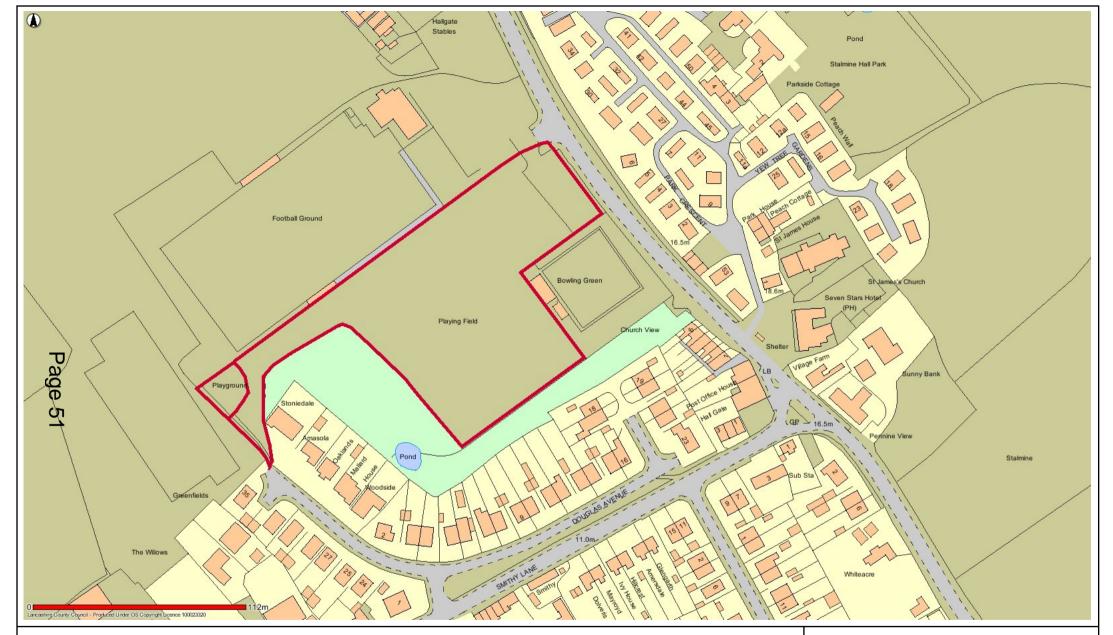
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OW7 Stalmine Playing Field



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TC1 Bourne Way Playing Field Thornton-Cleveleys



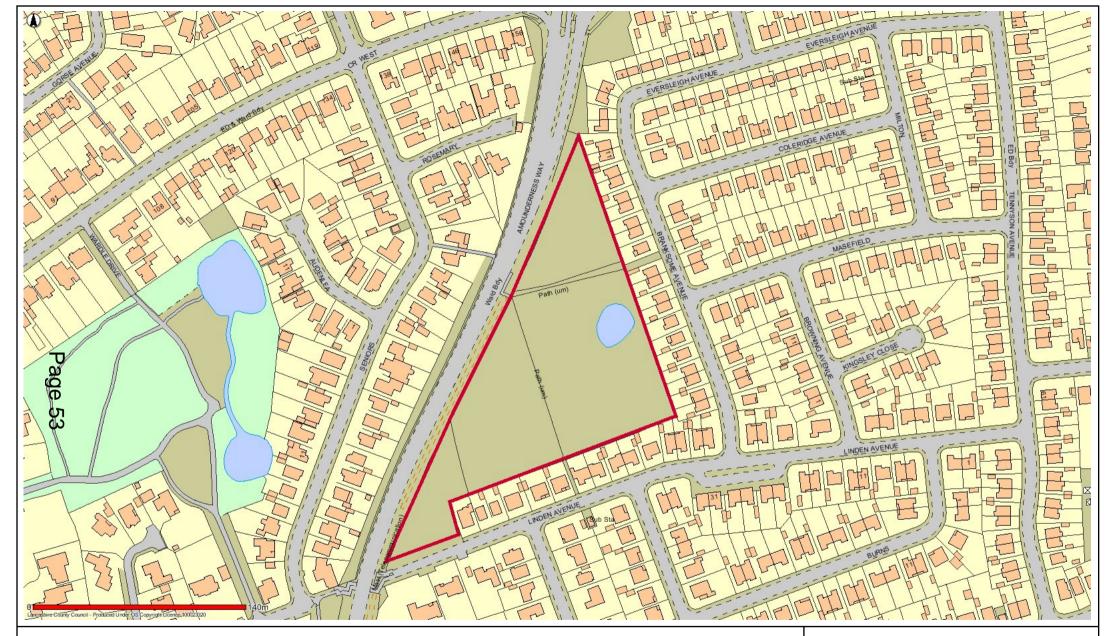
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TC2 Branksome Avenue Thornton-Cleveleys



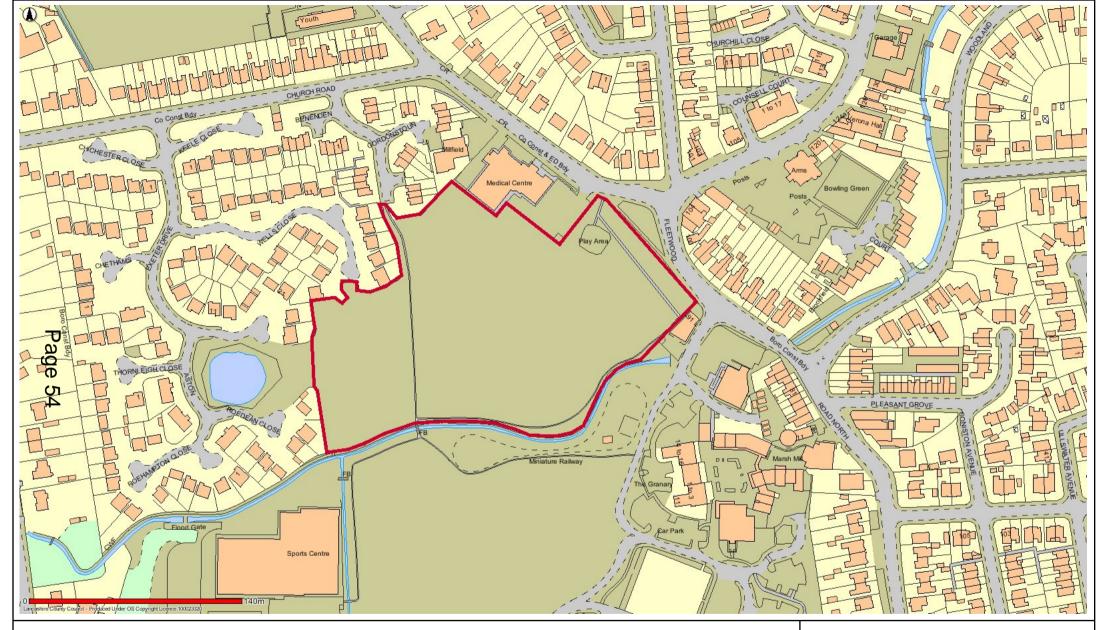
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TC3 Church Road Playing Field Thornton



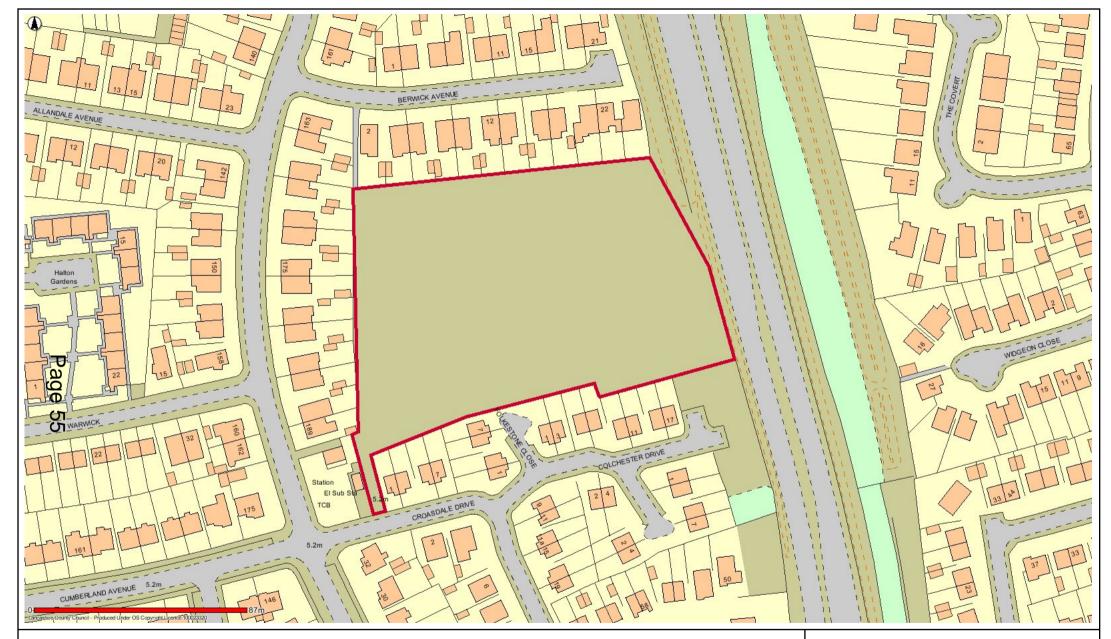
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TC4 Croasdale Avenue Playing Field Thornton-Cleveleys



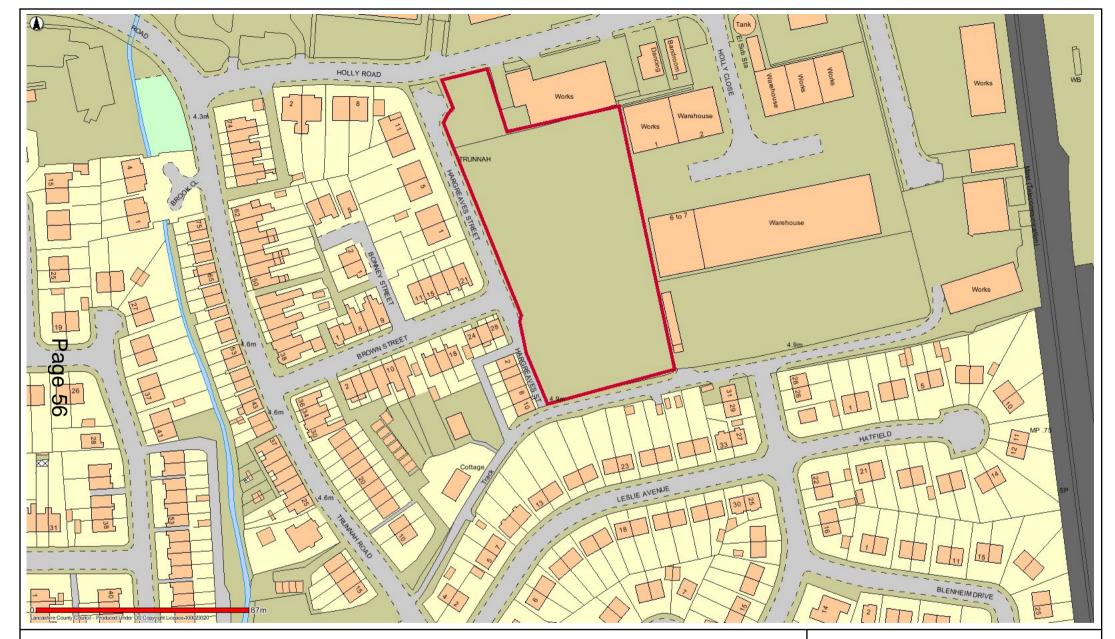
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TC5 Hargreaves St/Holly Road Thornton



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TC6 Jubilee Gardens Cleveleys



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TC7 Kenyon Park Thornton



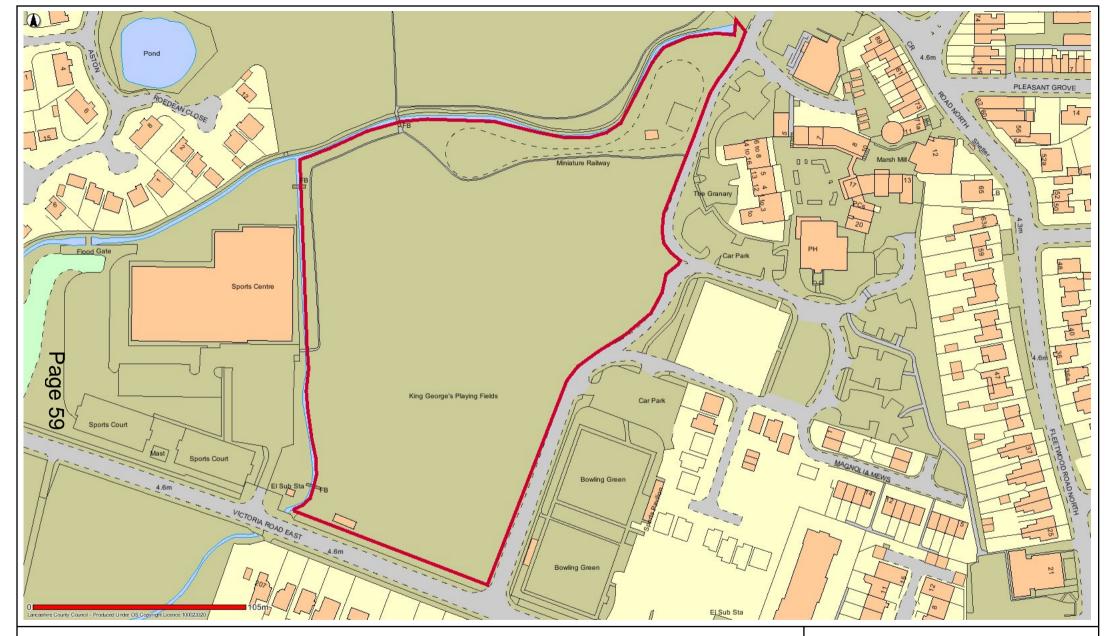
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TC8 King Georges Playing Field Thornton



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TC9 North Drive Park Cleveleys



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Centre of map: 332402:443993



TC10 Pheasant Wood Thornton-Cleveleys



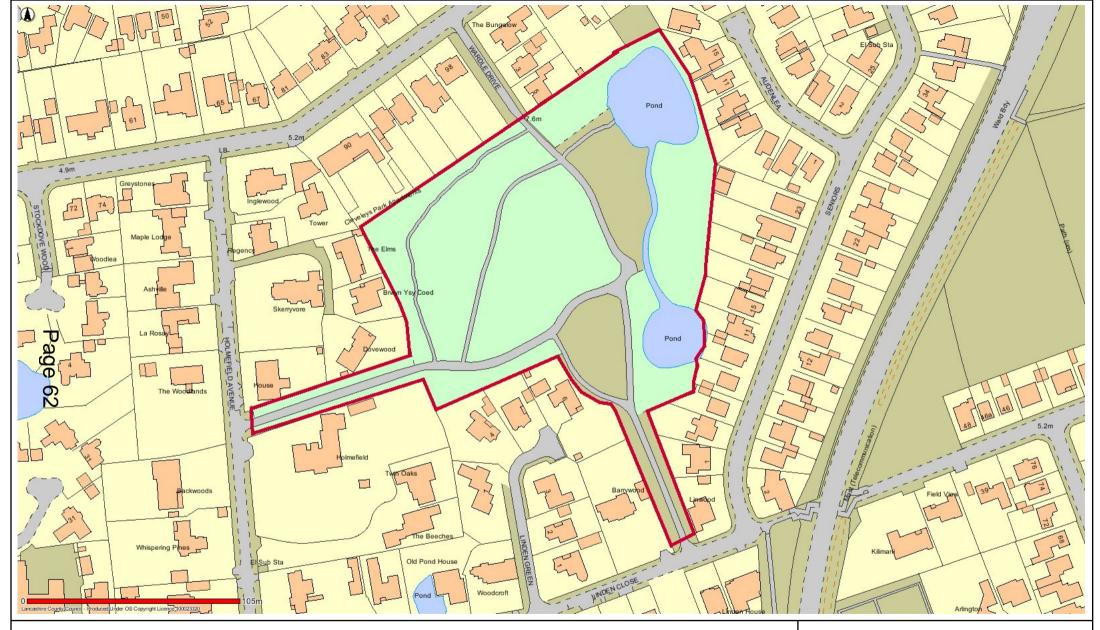
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Centre of map: 332870:443973



TC11 The Towers Thornton-Cleveleys



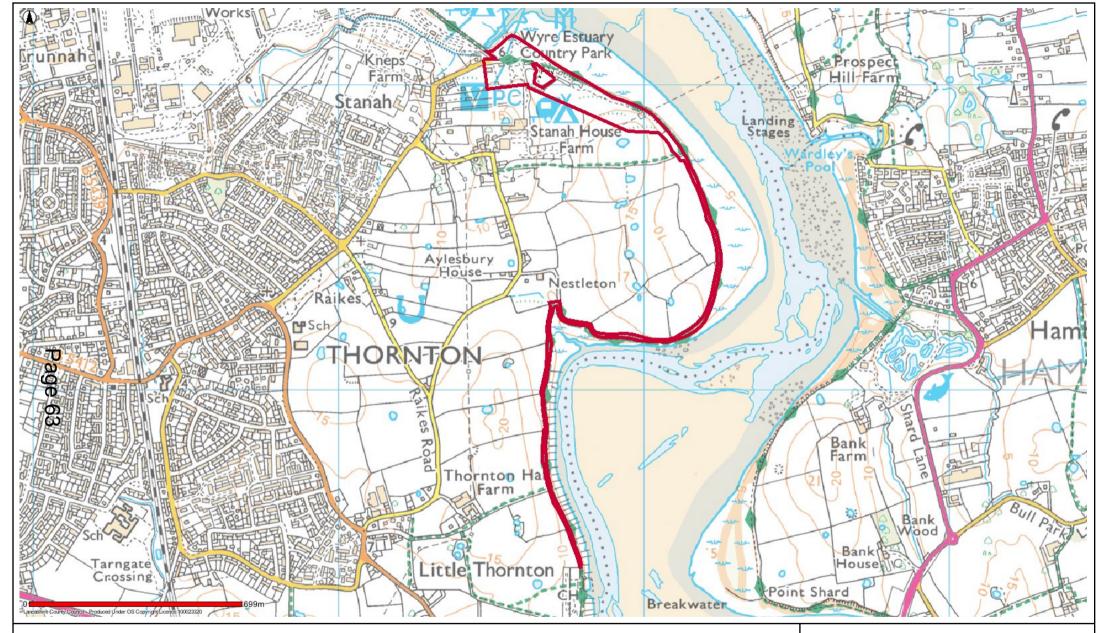
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Centre of map: 332622:443101



TC12 Wyre Estuary Country Park Thornton



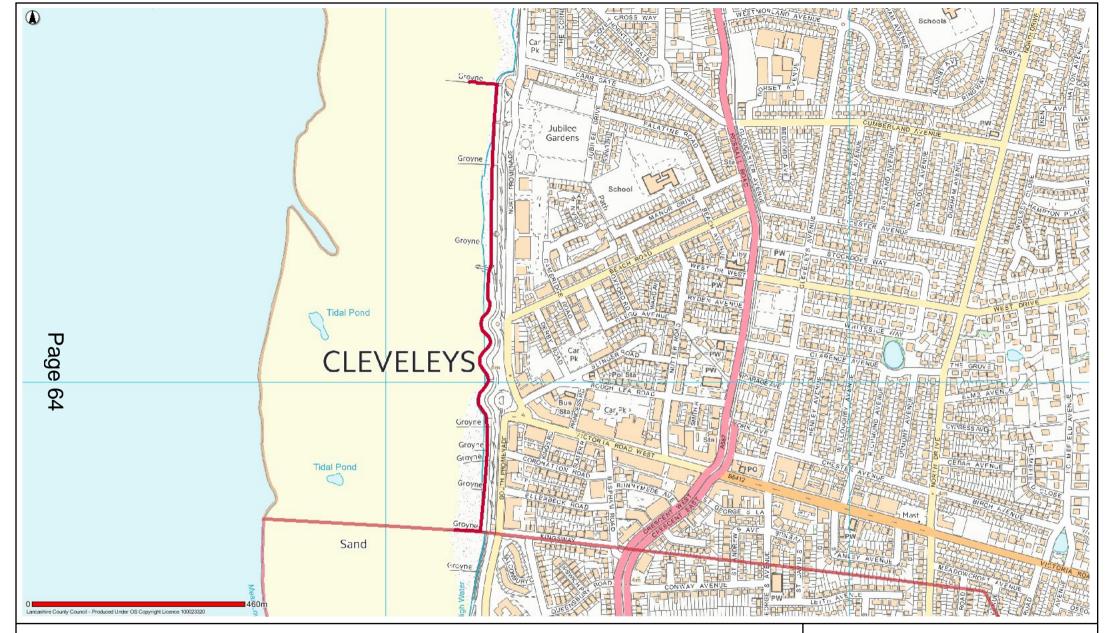
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TC13A Cleveleys Beach from Cafe Cove to Wyre Borough Boundary (out of ban season only)



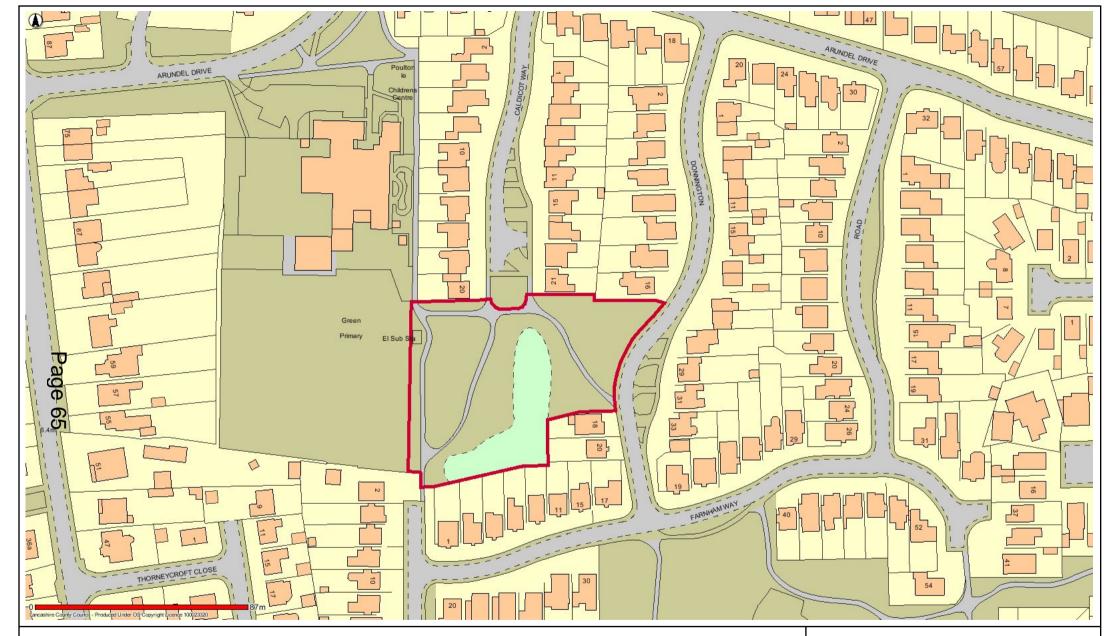
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Centre of map: 331368:443150



PLF1 Caldicott Way/Donnington Road Carleton



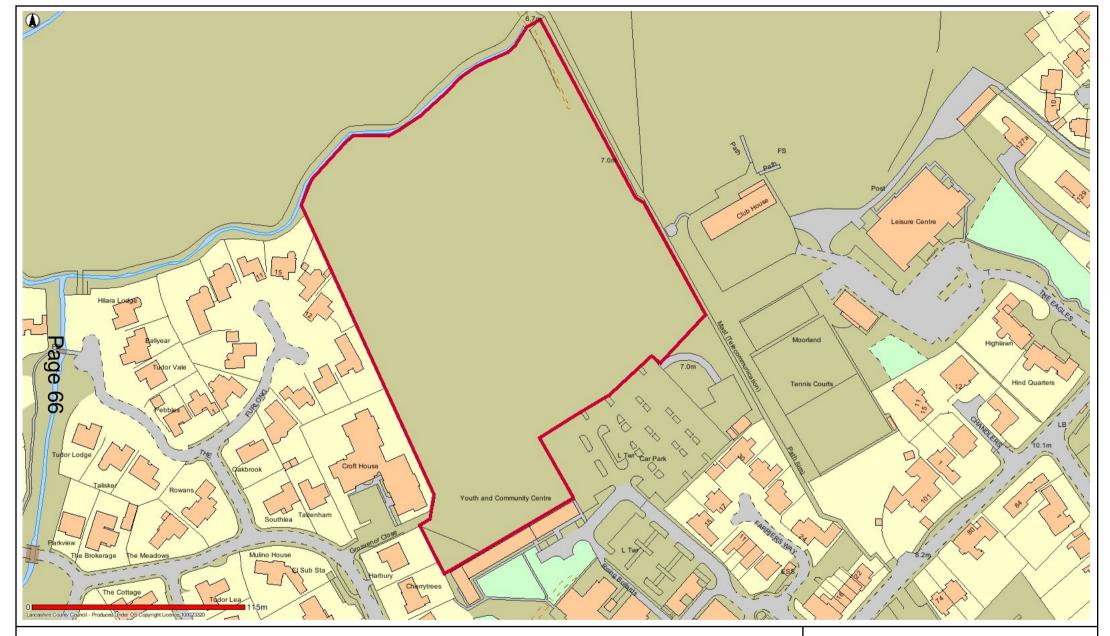
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PLF2 Civic Centre Playing Field Poulton-le-Fylde



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PLF 3 Compley Avenue Poulton-le-Fylde

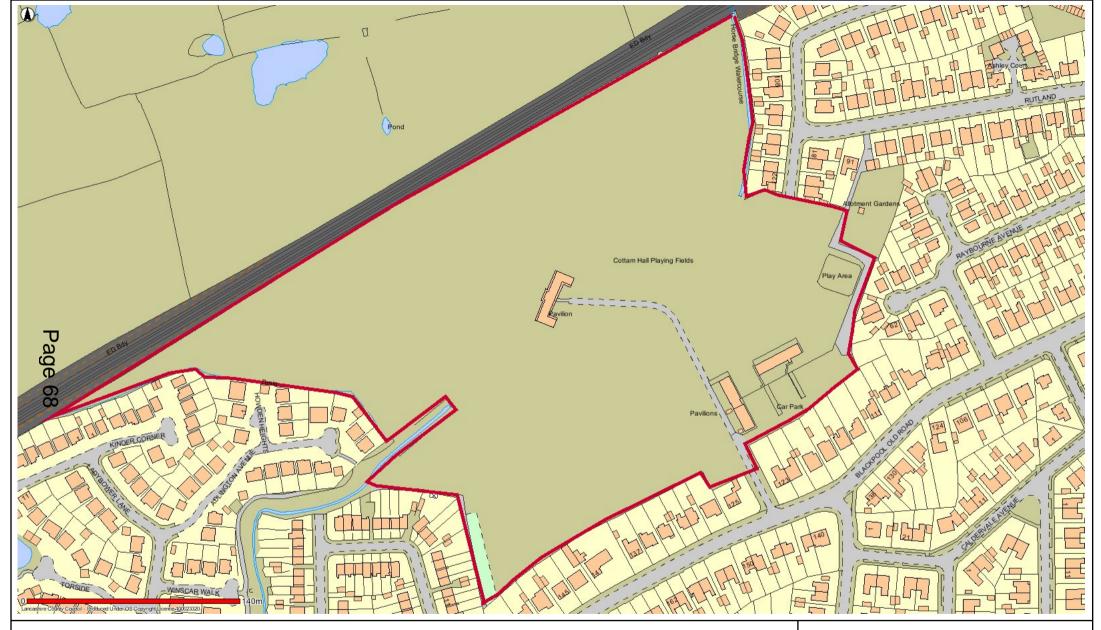


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PLF4 Cottam Hall Playing Field Poulton-le-Fylde



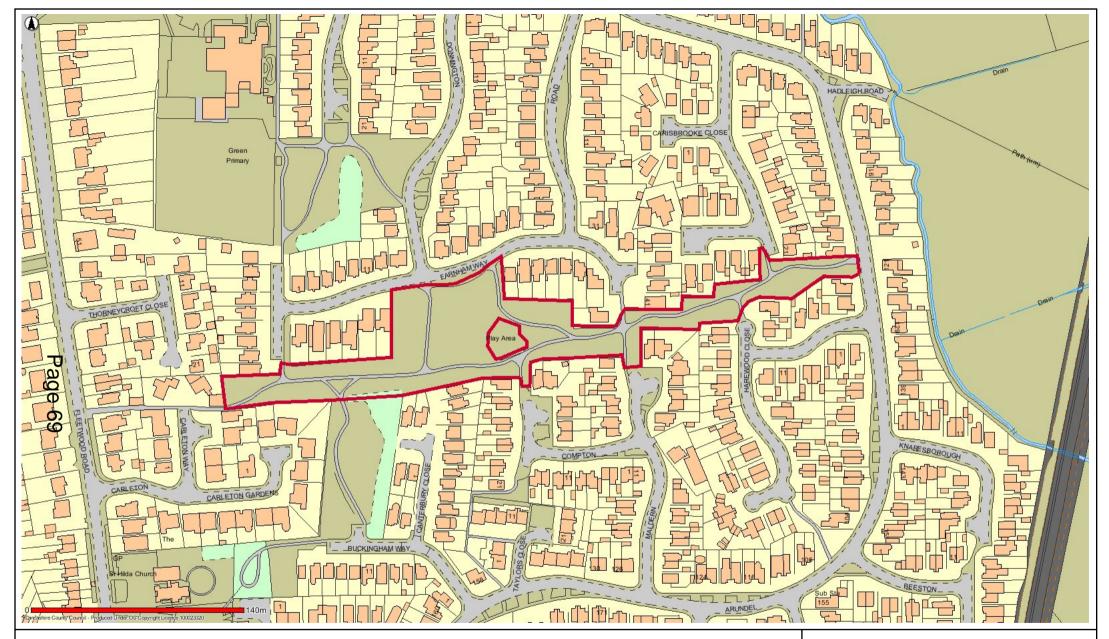
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PLF5 Farnham Way Carleton



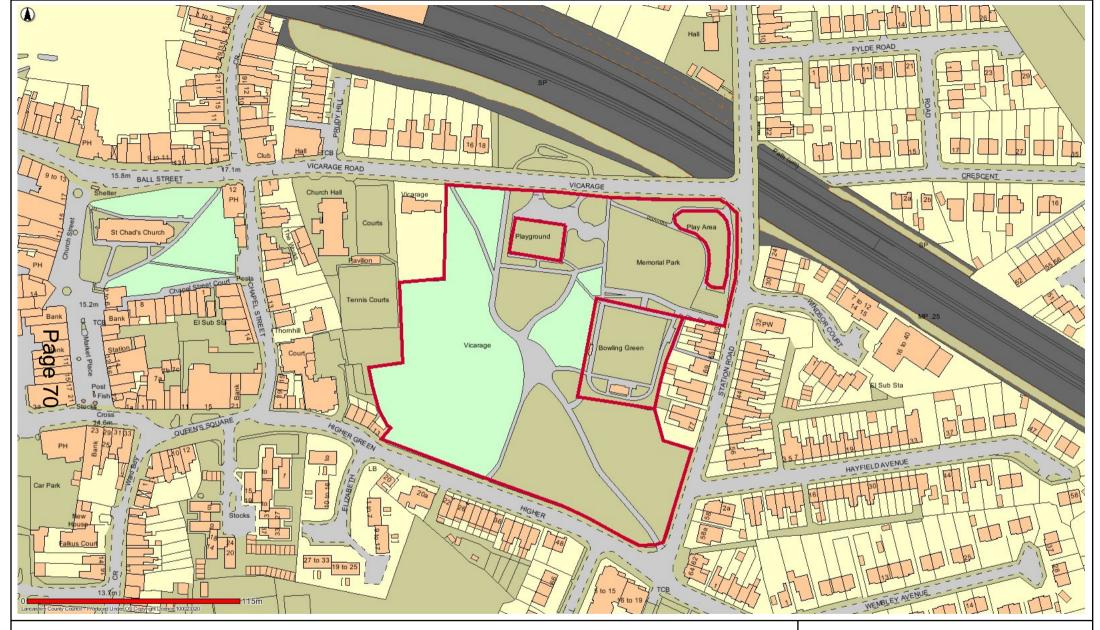
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PLF6 Jean Stansfield and Vicarage Park Poulton-le-Fylde



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PLF7 Tithebarn Park Poulton-le-Fylde



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FWD1 Eskdale Avenue Park



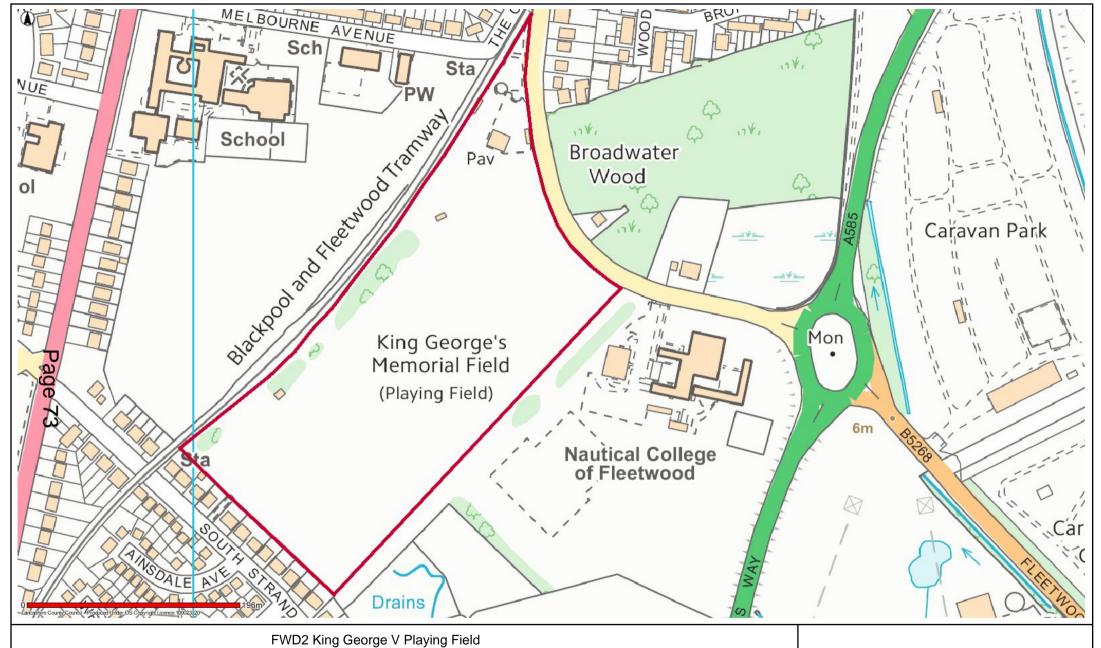
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FWD3 Memorial Park



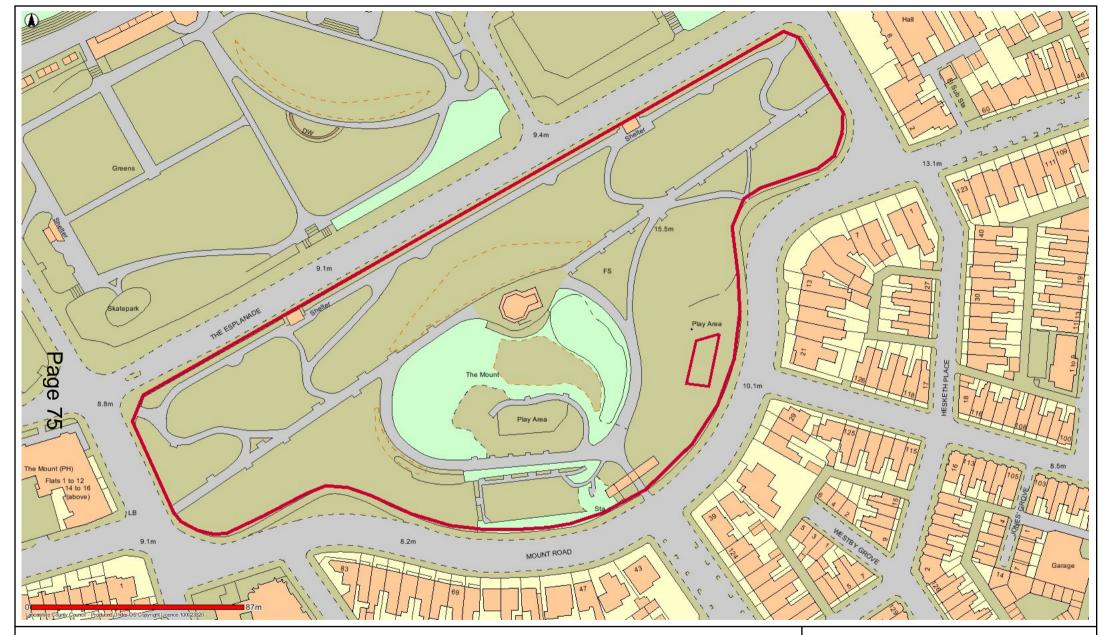
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Centre of map: 332926:447388



FWD4 Mount Gardens



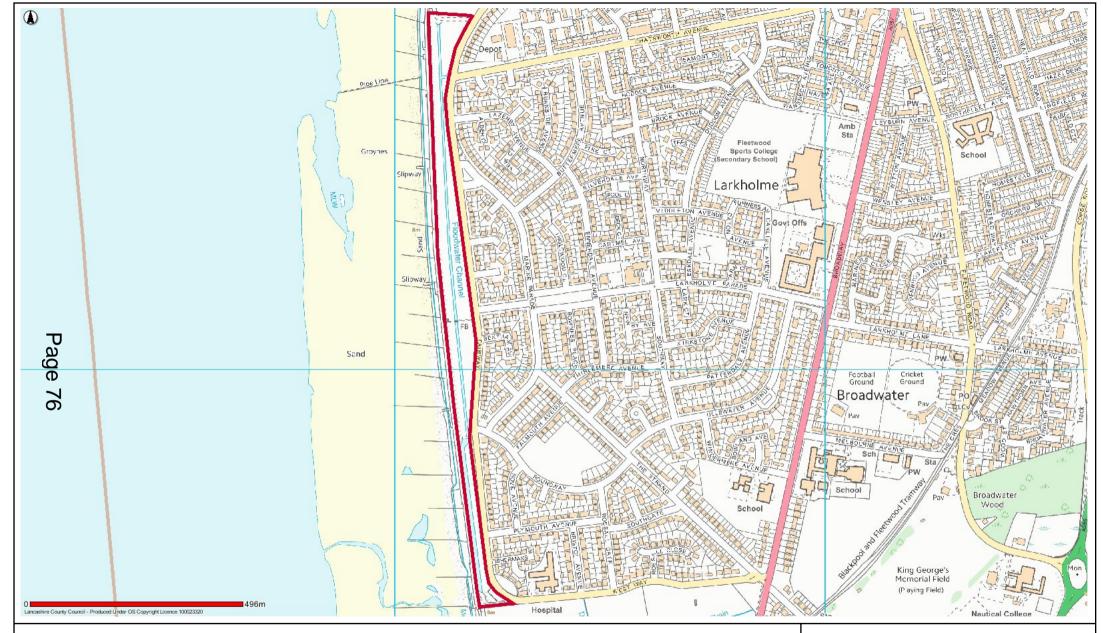
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Centre of map: 333390:448214

Date: 23/09/2020



FWD5 Rossall Ecology Park



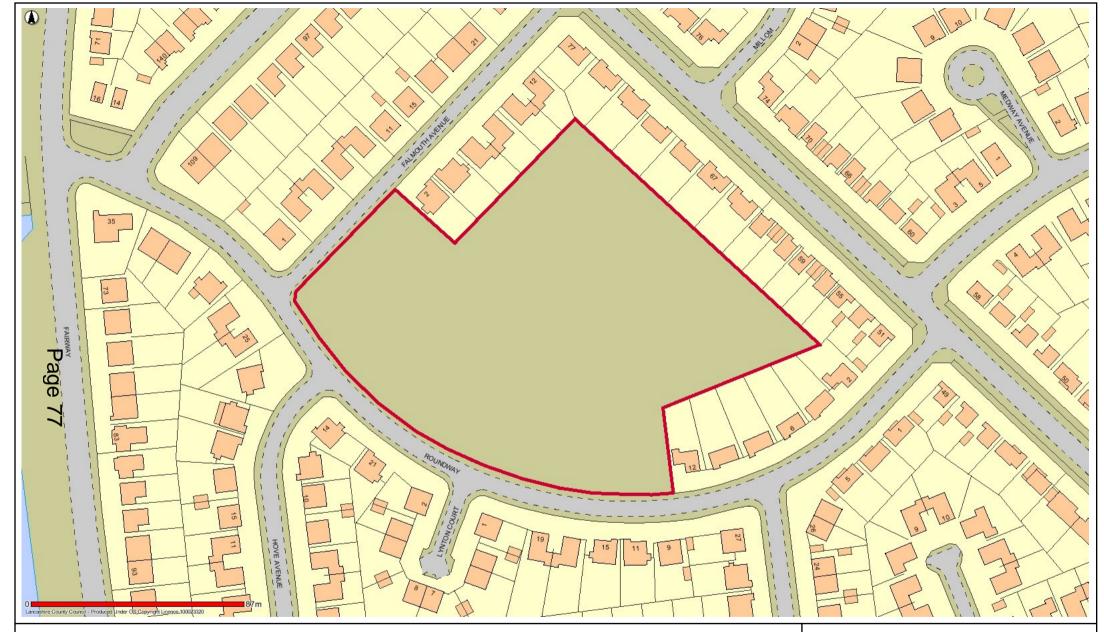
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FWD6 Roundway



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FWD7A Fleetwood Beach east side of slipway eastwards to the west side of the former pier (out of ban season only)



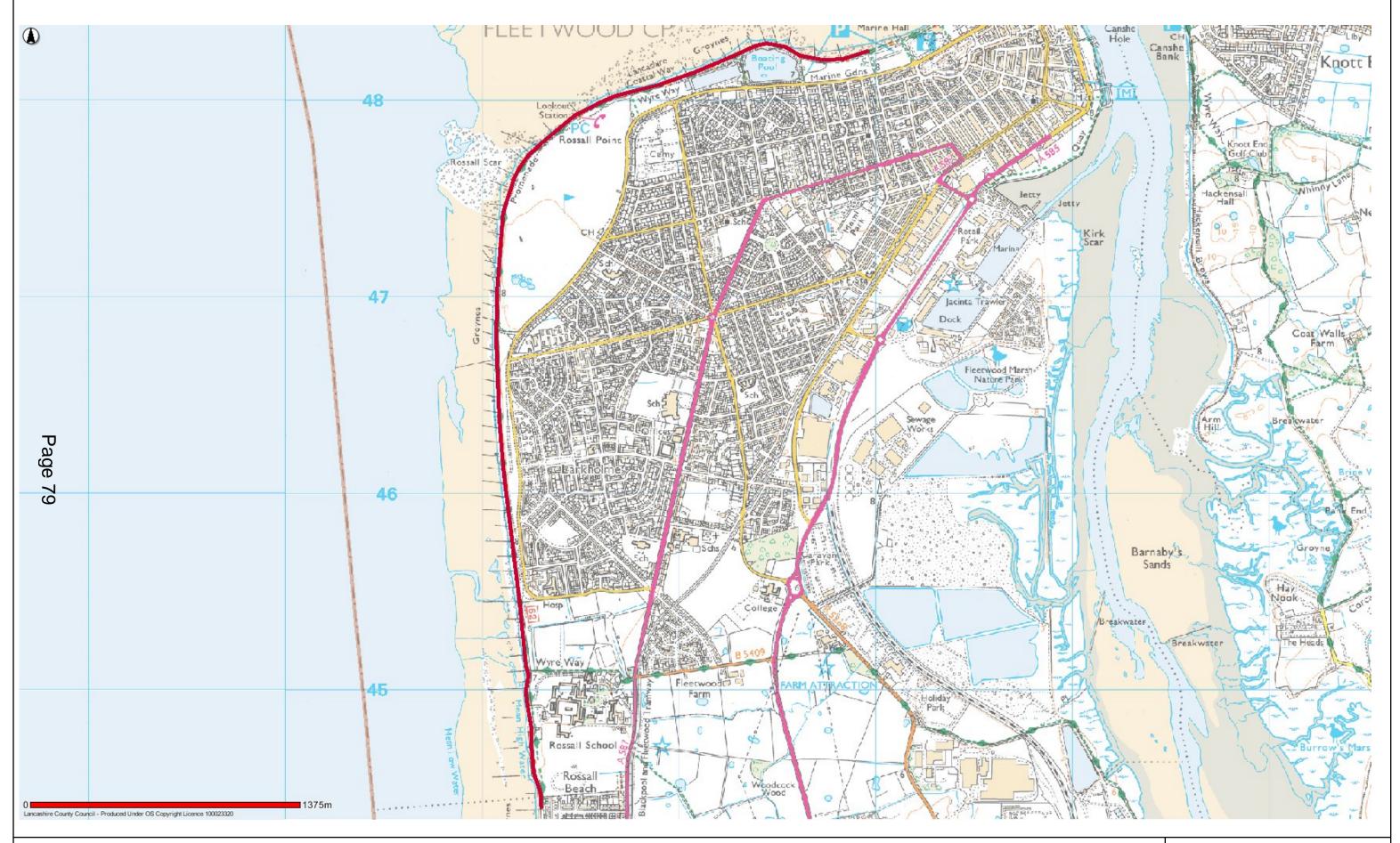
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FWD8 Fleetwood Promenade from opposite Carr Road to the Five Bar Gate Rossall Beach



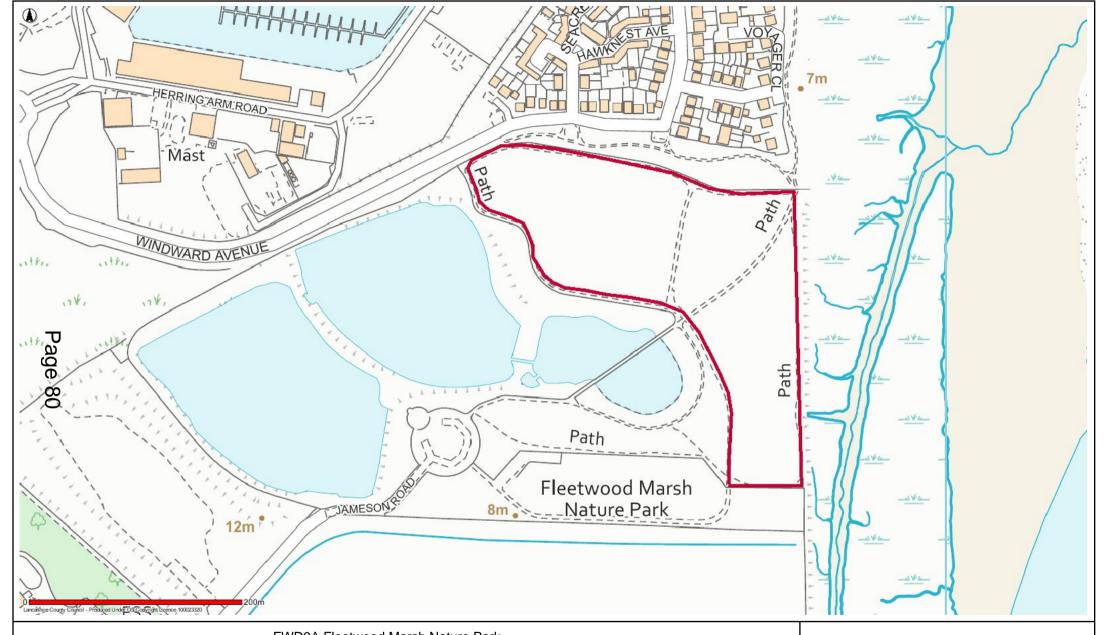
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FWD9A Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park



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Schedule 4

Dogs on Leads

SCHEDULE 4- DOGS ON LEAD

Description of Land to which Schedule 4 applies:

- 1. Subject to the exception in paragraph 3 below, each and every length of road (which term includes pavements or footways and car parks) within the administrative area of the Council except public footpaths and bridleways; and
- 2. Public Open Space Areas, Parks, Recreational/Amenity Areas, Gardens as described below.
- 3. Excepted from the description in paragraph 1 above is land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967.

Garstang/Catterall sites:	Map Ref
Catterall Playing Field	GC4
Kepple Lane Playing Field Garstang	GC5
Moss Lane Playing Field Garstang	GC6
Over Wyre sites	
Bob Williamson Park/Playing Field Hambleton	OW2B
Inskip Recreation Area	OW10
Preesall Cemetery	OW11
Smallwood Hey Pilling	OW12
Churchtown Recreation Ground	OW13
Forton Playing Field	OW14
Pilling Memorial Hall Recreation Ground	OW15
Woburn Way Claughton on Brock	OW16
Scotts Green Winmarleigh	OW17
Thornton/Cleveleys sites:	
Cleveleys Promenade from Five Bar Gate to Wyre Boundary	TC14
Hawthorne Park	TC15
Skippool Amenity Site	TC16
Swan Drive Open Space	TC17
Tarnway	TC18
Thornton Little Theatre	TC19
Poulton/Carleton sites:	
Carrabine Park	PLF8
Wyre Civic Centre Grounds	PLF9
Derby Road/Shirley Heights	PLF10
Garstang Rd Cemetery	PLF11
Moorland Road Cemetery	PLF12
Poulton Health & Fitness Centre	PLF13
Tomlinson Gardens	PLF14

Fleetwood sites:	Map Ref
Euston Park	FWD10
Fleetwood Cemetery	FWD11
Mariners Close Open Space	FWD12
Martindale Park	FWD13
Marine Gardens amenity area (including lakes, pitch & putts)	FWD14
Land between Fleetwood Prom and golf course from Rossall	FWD15
Picnic site to Fairway including bridleway	
Marine Hall Gardens	FWD16
Rossall Point Picnic Site	FWD17
Fleetwood Promenade from former pier site to opposite Carr	FWD18
Road	
Westview Park	FWD19
Victoria Street (Pocket Park)	FWD20
Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park – refer to map for exact area	FWD9B
(subject to LCC providing signage, patrols and enforcement)	



GC4 Catterall Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field



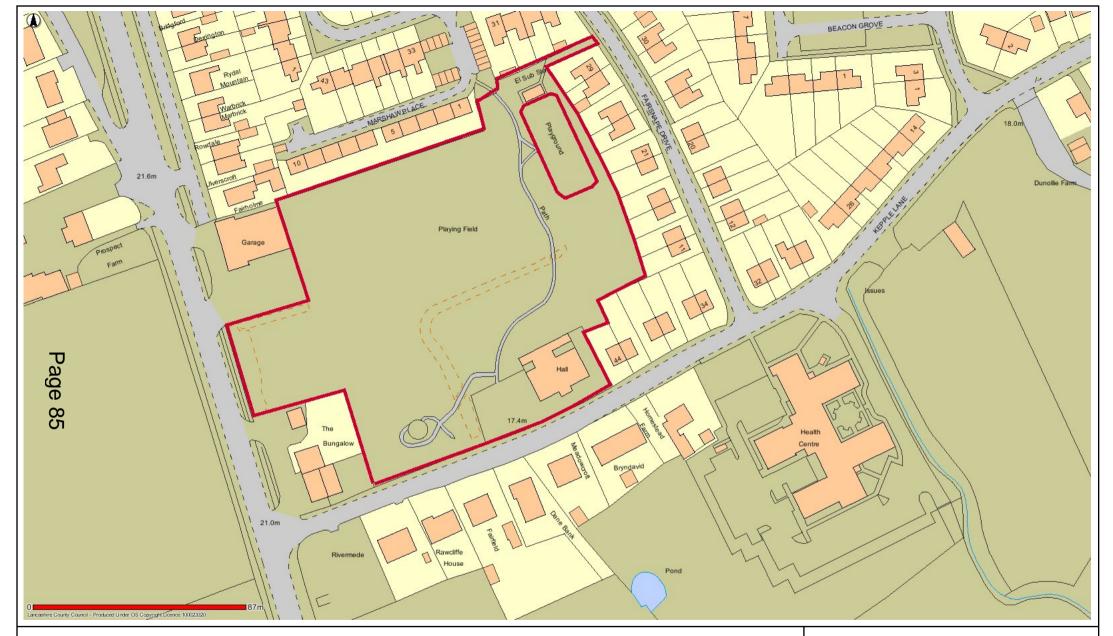
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Centre of map: 349790:443284



GC5 Kepple Lane Playing Field Garstang



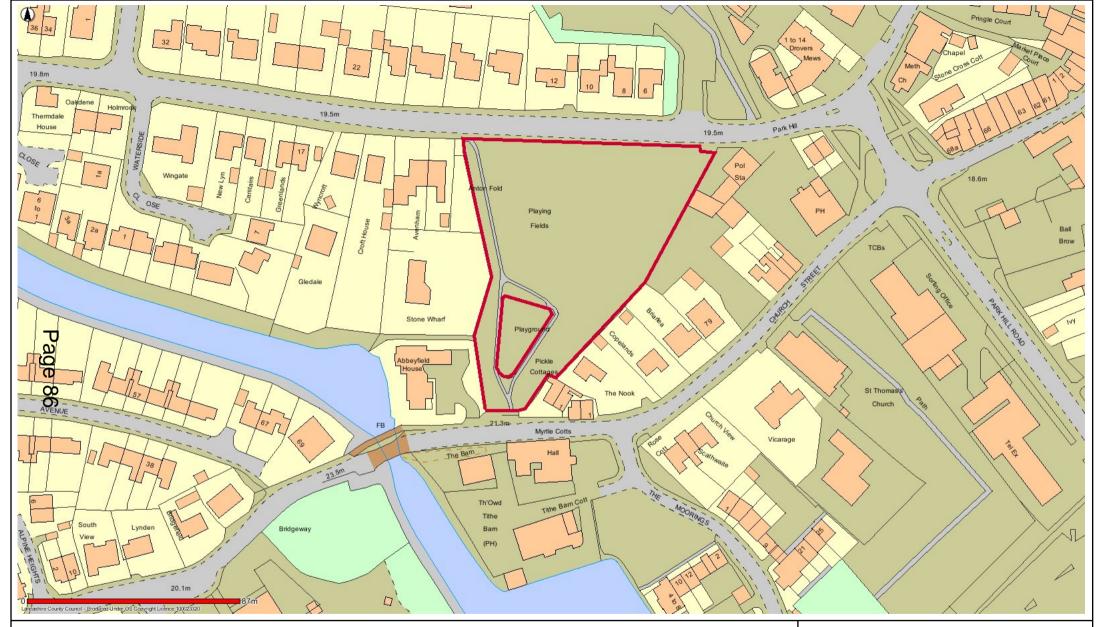
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Centre of map: 348537:444825



GC6 Moss Lane Playing Field Garstang



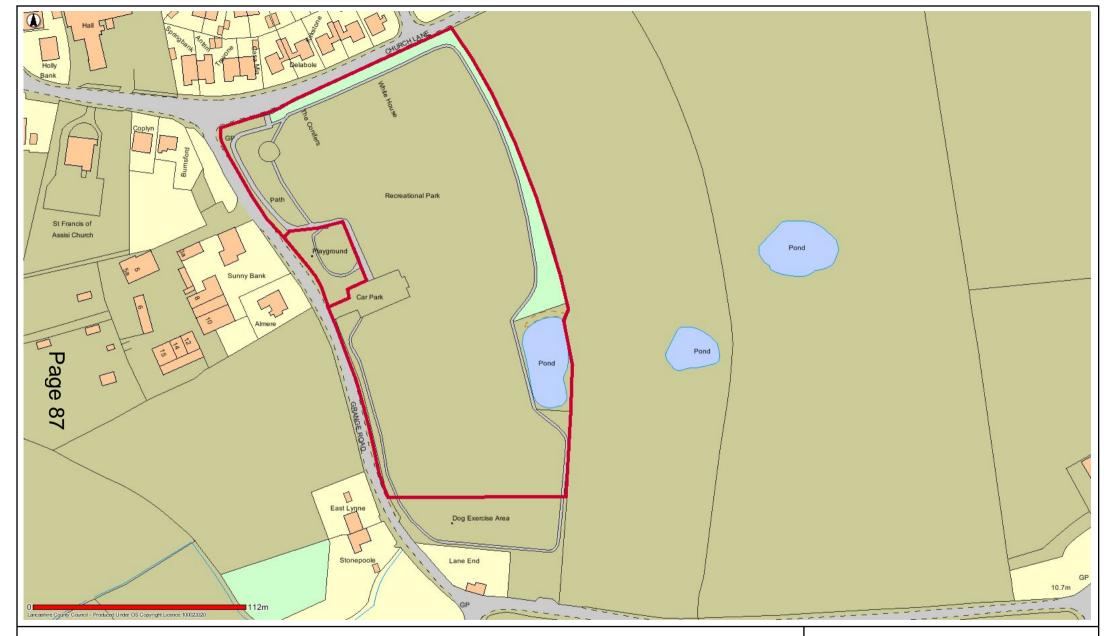
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OW2B Bob Williamson Park/Playing Field Hambleton



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OW10 Inskip Recreation Area



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Centre of map: 346404:437942



OW11 Preesall Cemetery



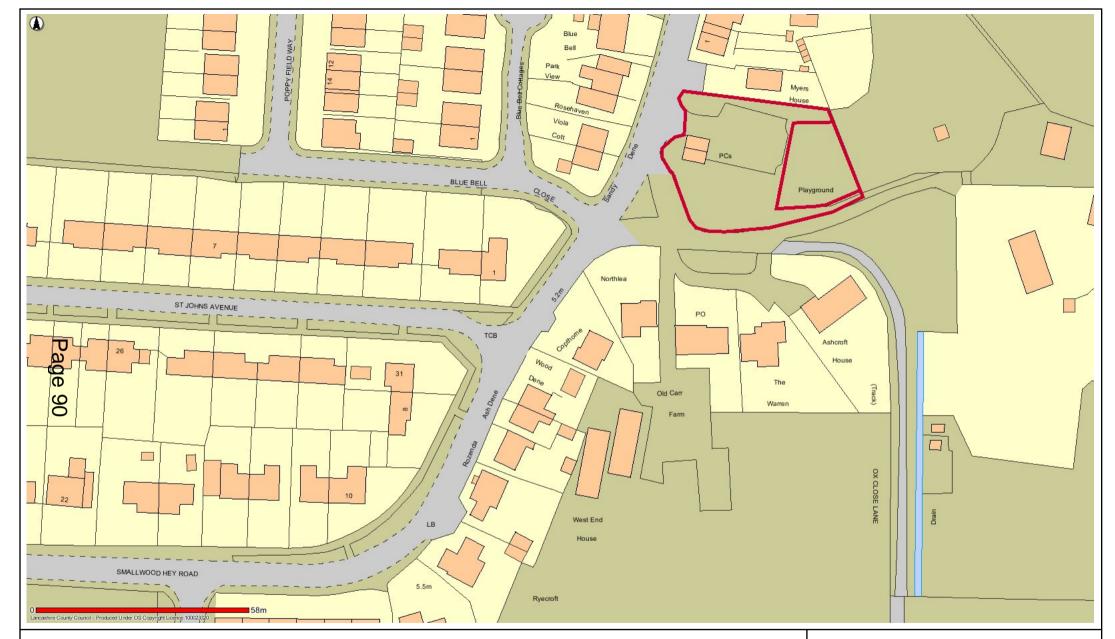
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OW12 Smallwood Hey Pilling



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Centre of map: 340344:448283



OW13 Churchtown Recreation Ground



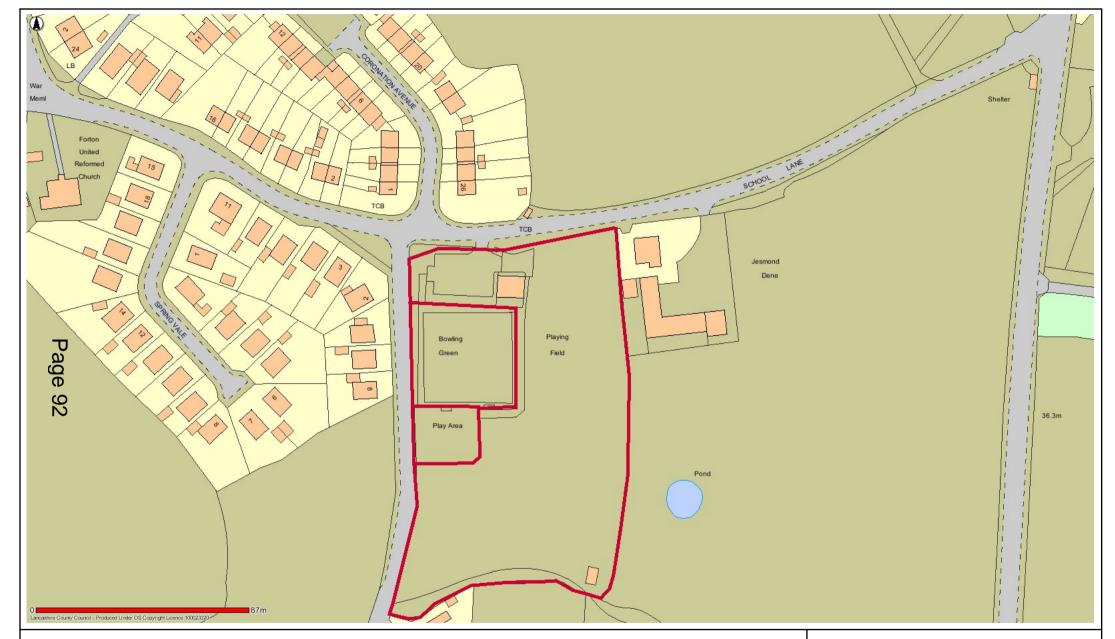
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OW14 Forton Playing Field



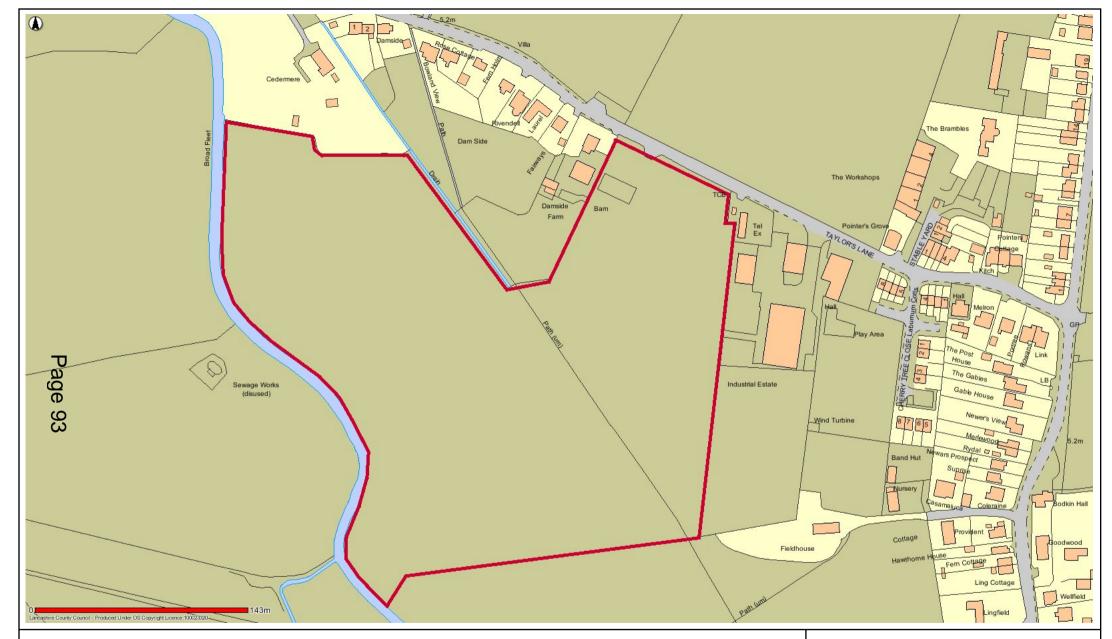
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OW15 Pilling Memorial Hall recreation ground



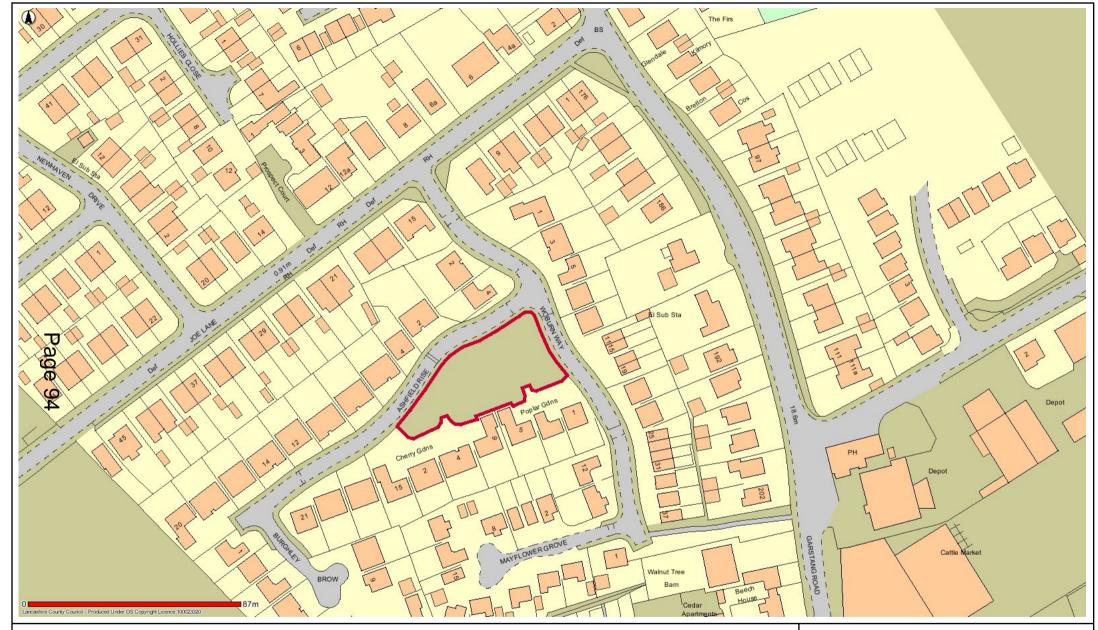
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OW16 Woburn Way Claughton on Brock



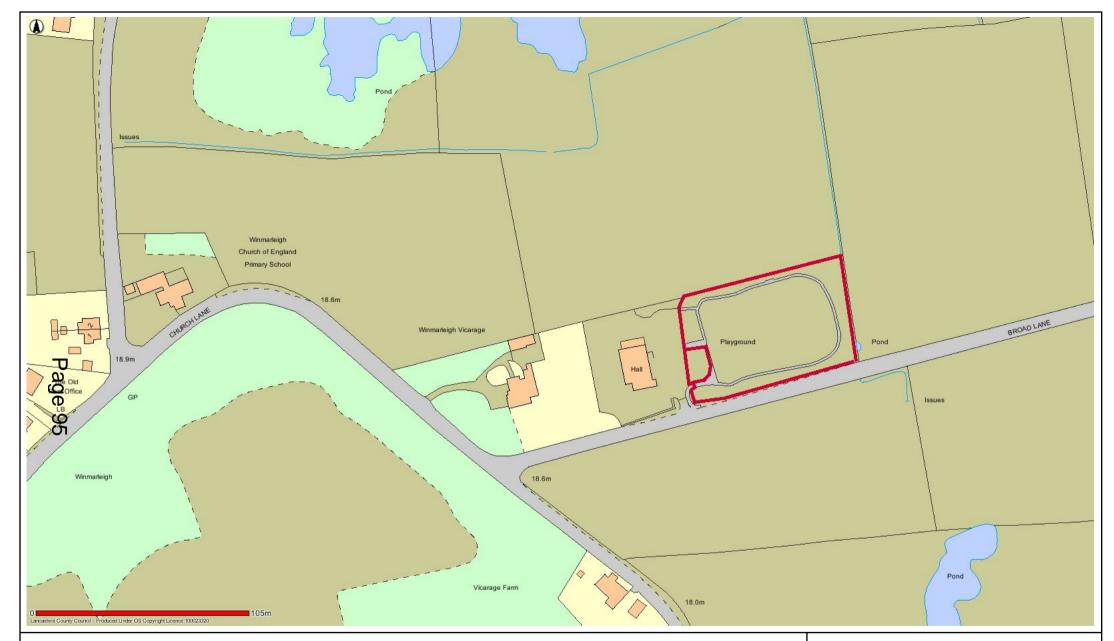
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OW17 Scotts Green Winmarleigh



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Centre of map: 347500:448164



TC14 Cleveleys Promenade from Five Bar Gate Rossall Beach to Wyre Boundary



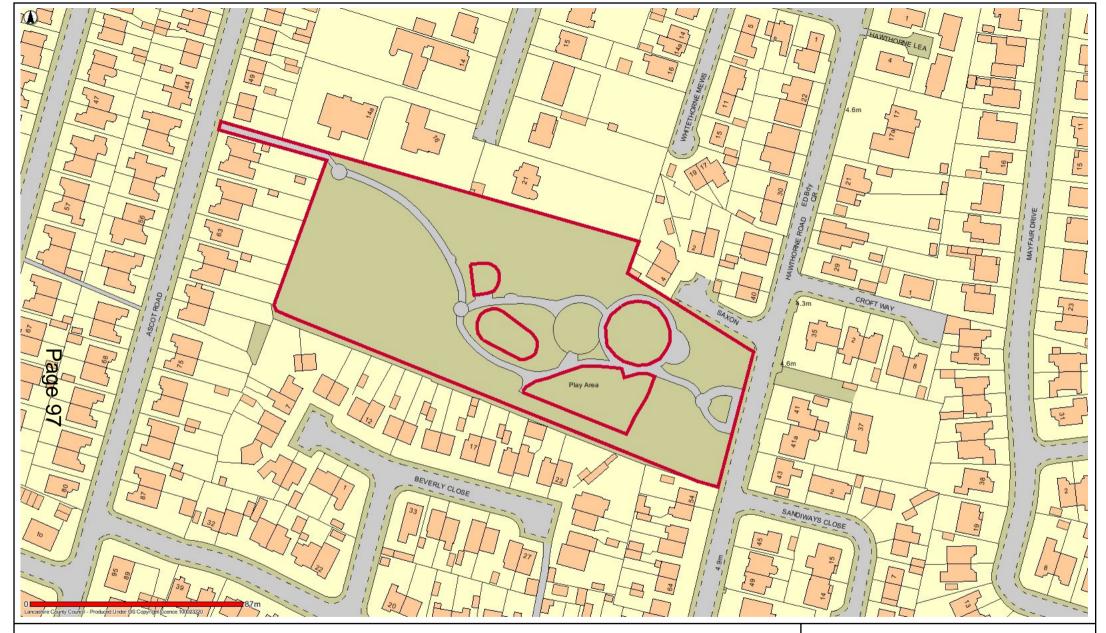
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TC15 Hawthorne Park Thornton



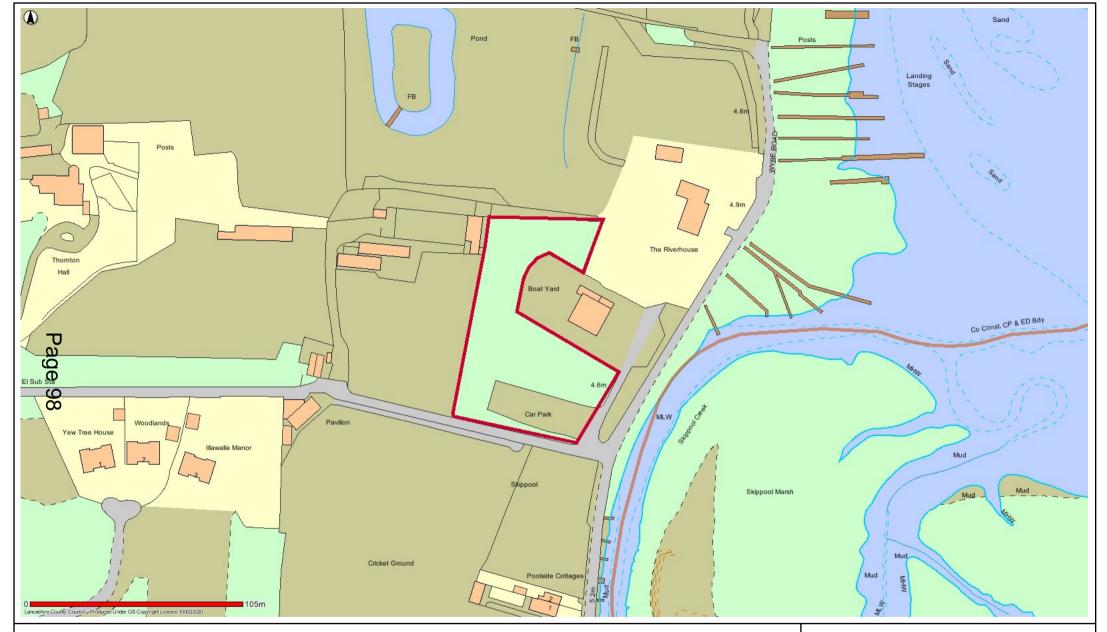
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TC16 Skippool Amenity Site



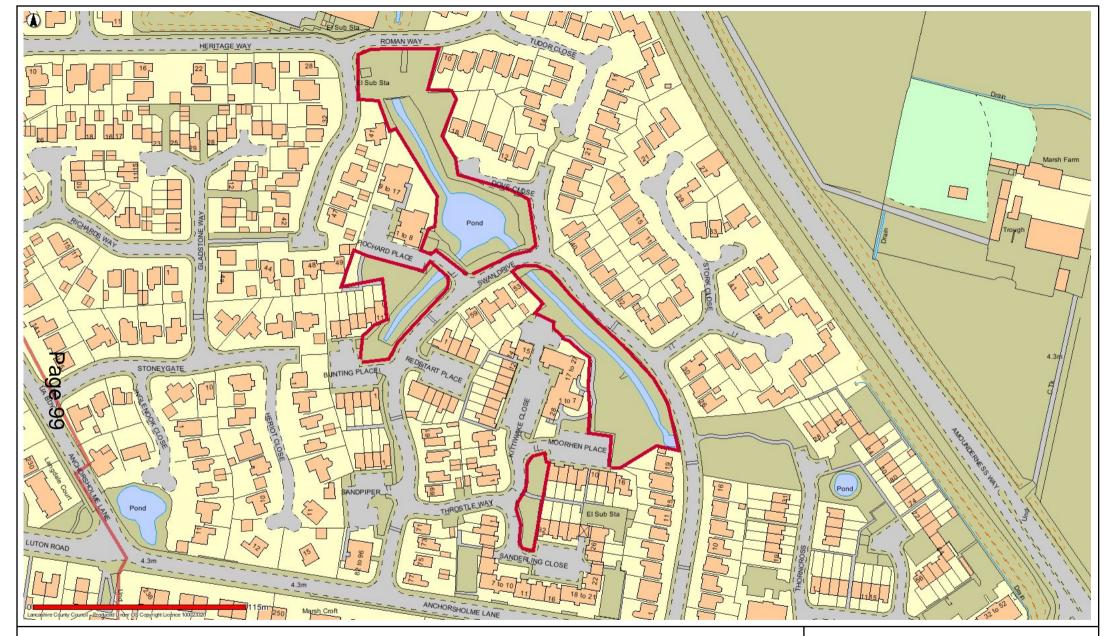
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TC17 Swan Drive Open Space



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TC18 Tarnway Thornton



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TC19 Thornton Little Theatre



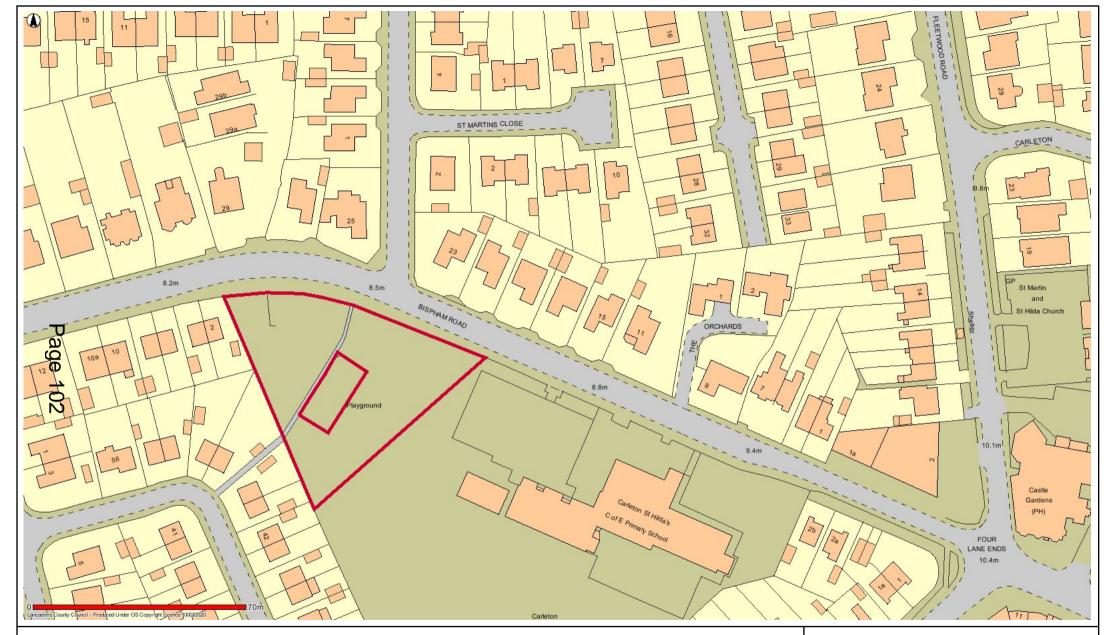
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PLF8 Carrabine Park Carleton



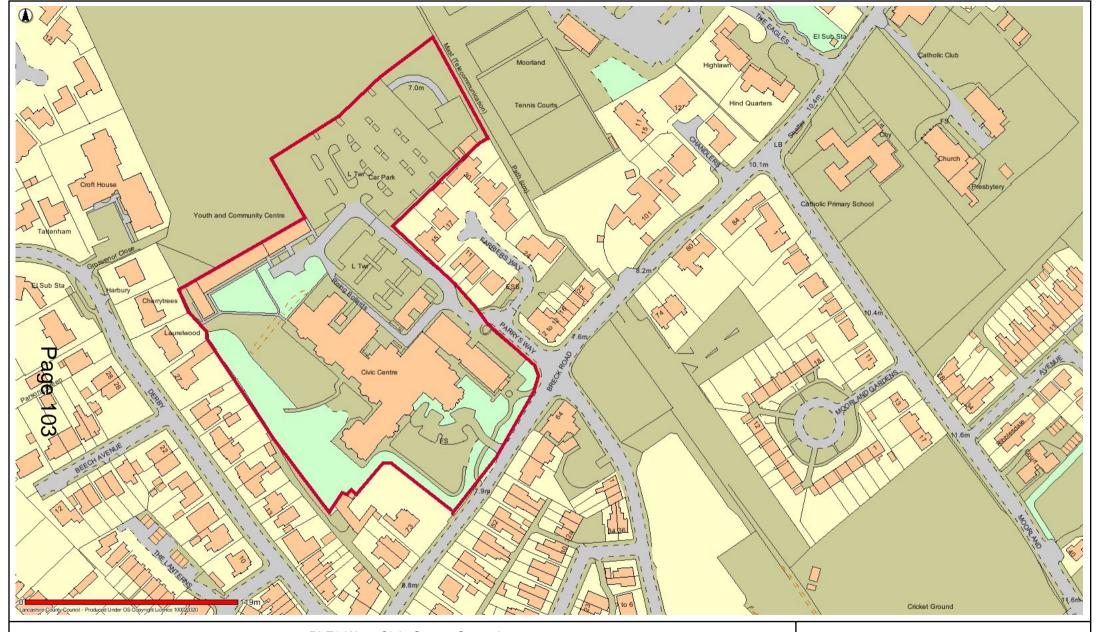
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PLF9 Wyre Civic Centre Grounds



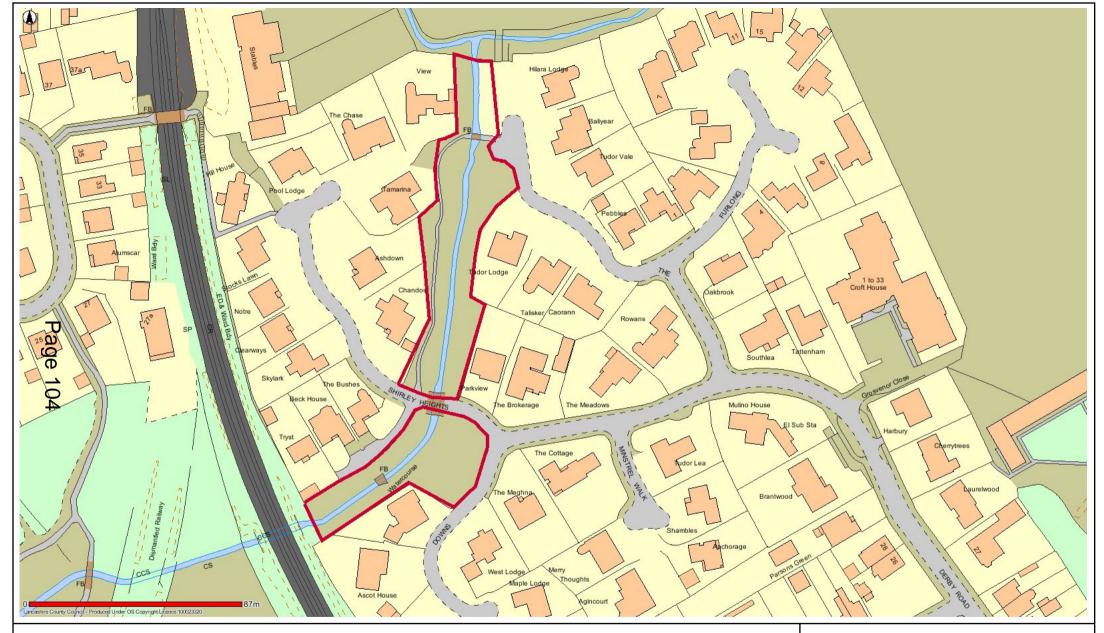
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PLF10 Derby Rd/Shirley Heights



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PLF11 Garstang Road Cemetery



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PLF12 Moorland Road Cemetery



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PLF13 Poulton Health and Fitness Centre



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PLF14 Tomlinson Gardens



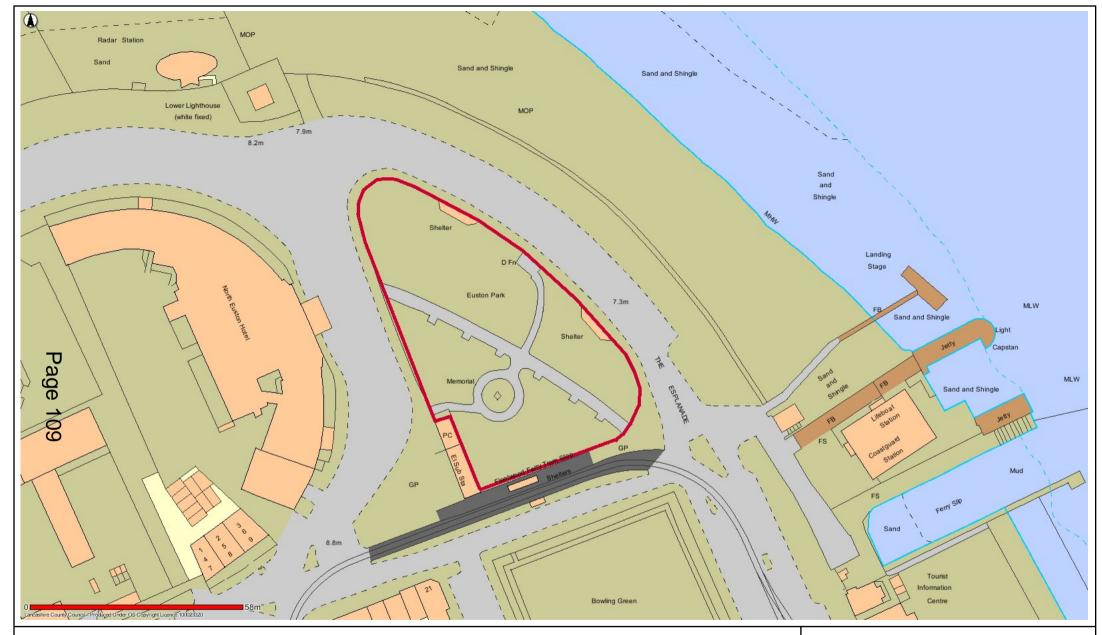
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FWD10 Euston Park



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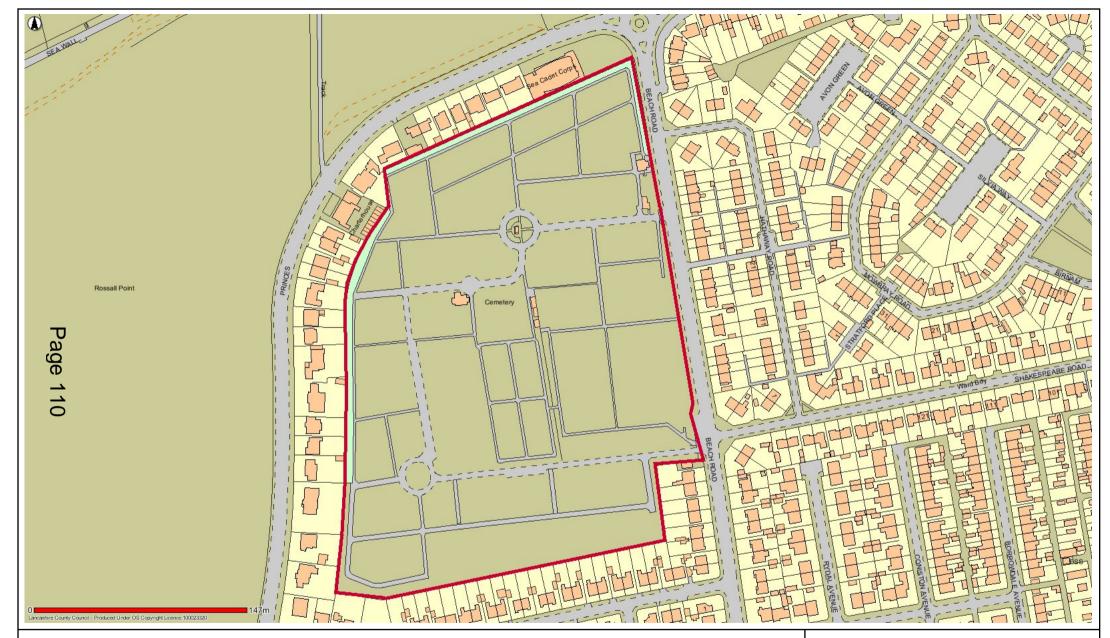
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FWD11 Fleetwood Cemetery



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FWD12 Mariners Close Open Space



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FWD13 Martindale Park



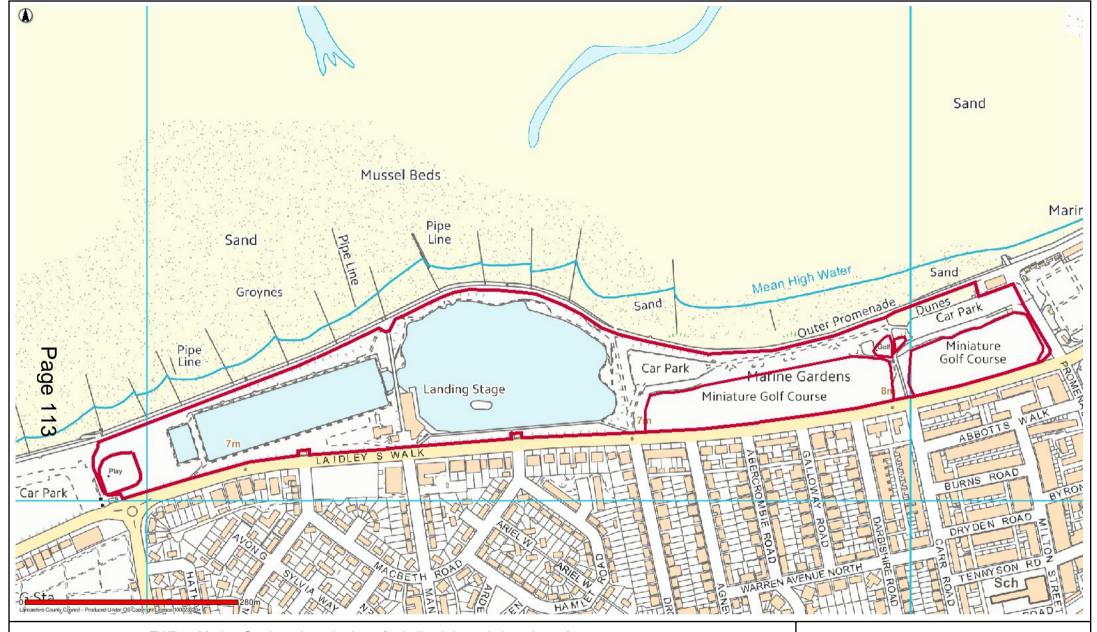
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FWD14 Marine Gardens Amenity Area (including lakes, pitch and putts)



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FWD15 Land between Fleetwood Prom and golf course from Rossall Picnic Site to Fairway including bridleway



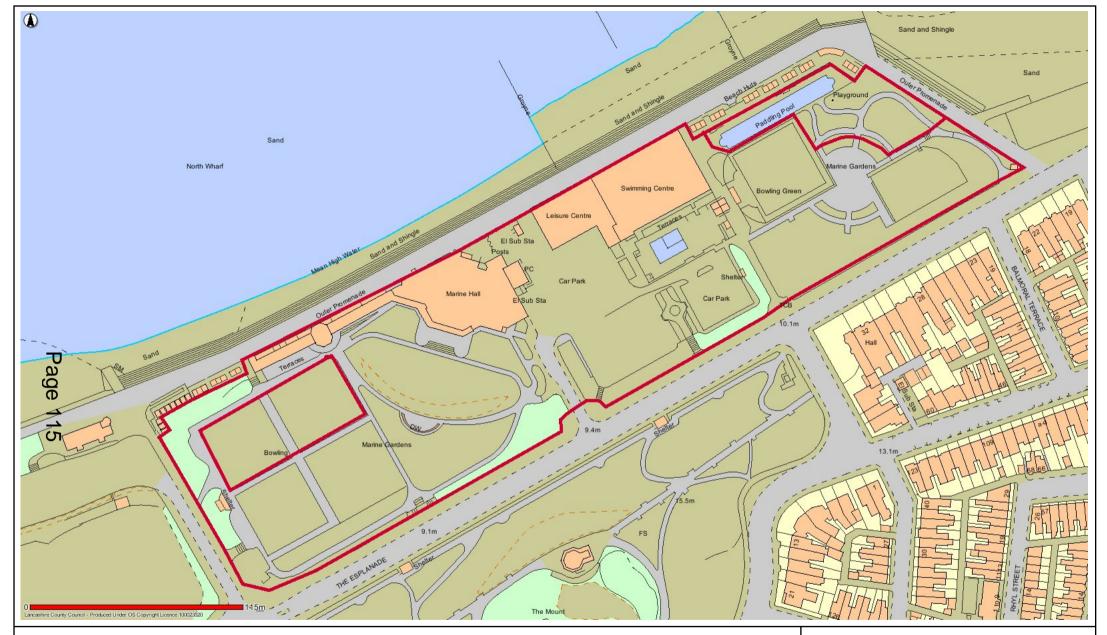
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FWD16 Marine Hall Gardens



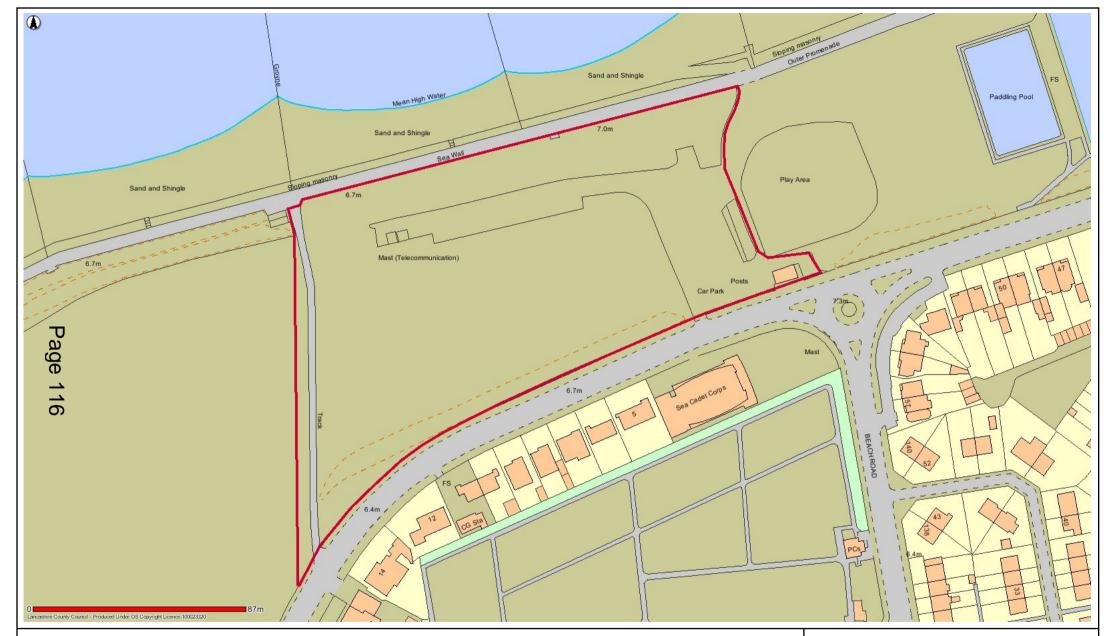
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FWD17 Rossall Point Picnic Site

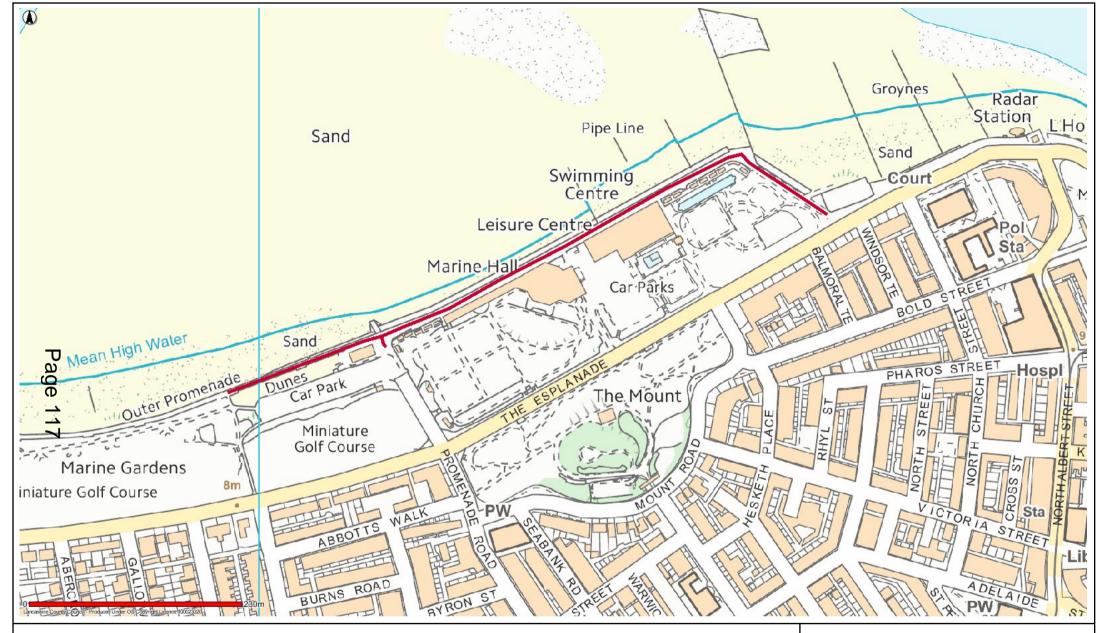


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FWD18 Fleetwood Promenade from former pier site to opposite Carr Road



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FWD19 Westview Park



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FWD20 Pocket Park (Victoria St)



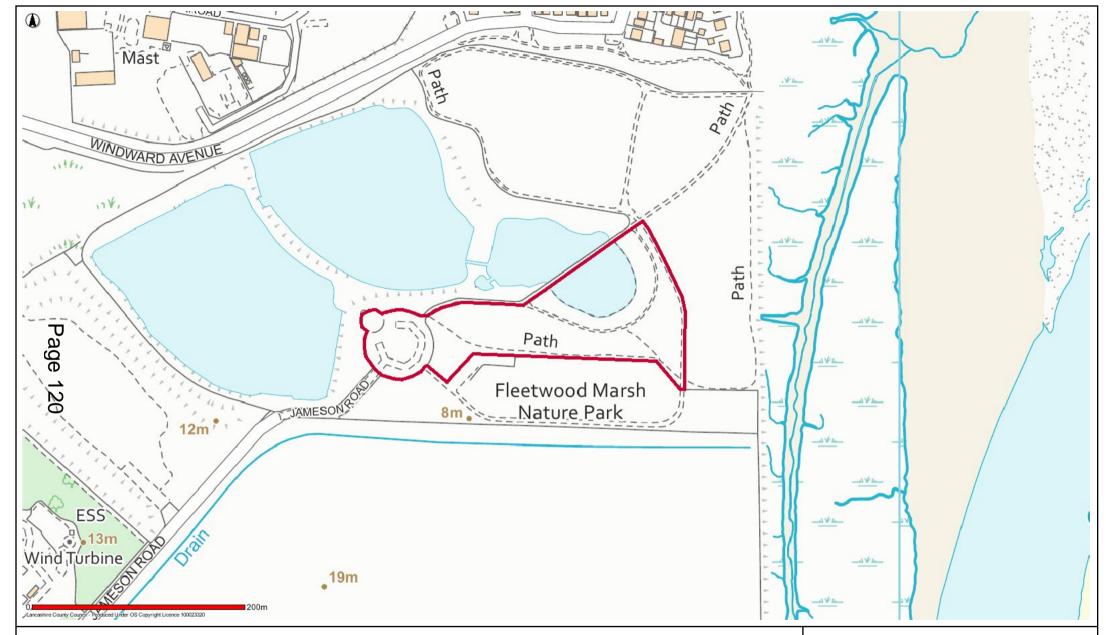
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FWD9B Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park



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Schedule 5

Dogs Exclusion

SCHEDULE 5 -

DOGS EXCLUSION

Description of Land to which Schedule 5 applies:

- Any clearly demarcated children's play areas fenced or not;
- Enclosed (fenced off) Marked sports pitches / sports areas
 – exclusion at all times
- Not enclosed (not fenced off) marked sports pitches / sports areas exclusion applies only when organised activities are taking place, including training. Other controls still applicable.
- Bowling greens
- MUGAS
- Tennis courts
- Pitch and Putt Courses
- Crazy Golf Courses
- Catterall, Queen Elizabeth II playing field picnic area & reading area Map Ref GC4
- Areas designated as being of Special Scientific Interest
- Cleveleys Beach from Café Cove to Wyre Boundary (seasonal) May September – Map Ref TC13B
- Fleetwood Beach east side of slipway (opposite end of promenade road)
 eastward to west side of former pier (seasonal) May September Map Ref FWD7B
- Scorton Playing Field Map Ref OW18
- Broadwater Wood Fleetwood Map Ref FWD21
- Fleetwood Nature Park lagoons Map Ref FWD9C

Schedule

1. Children's play areas shall include:

Any area formally laid out for the provision of play for children and young people. Such an area may be enclosed or open plan but provides fixed, permanent equipment used for playing. Such sites may also include Skate Parks, Goal Ends and Multi-use Games Areas (MUGA's). Where a play area is enclosed, the area of exclusion will include all areas of equipment, together with any hard surface or grassed areas included within the perimeter fencing or barriers. Where the play area is open plan the area of exclusion shall include all areas of equipment and their safety surfacing, together with any associated hard surfaces. On open plan sites the exclusion will extend 4 metres from any outer edge of hard standing area forming part of the play area.

2. Marked Sporting Pitches / Areas shall include:

Any area of grass or hard surfacing designated for the use of outdoor sports or formal recreational activity and includes football, rugby, hockey and cricket pitches, basketball, netball and tennis courts and bowling greens. The area of exclusion will be dependent on the designated activity as follows:-

(a) Football, Rugby and Hockey Pitches;

The areas of exclusion will extend across the entire marked-out playing surface extending outwards to provide a safety zone of 1.5 metres beyond any marked touch and/or goal line. For sports pitches not enclosed or fenced off the exclusion applies only when organised activities are taking place, including training. Other controls still applicable.

(b) Cricket Pitches;

The area of exclusion will include the entire cricket table and the associated wickets (including any artificial cricket wicket) together with the entire outfield as defined by the marked outfield boundary, extending outwards to provide a safety zone of 2 metres beyond the marked boundary.

(c) Basketball, Netball and Tennis Courts;

The area of exclusion will include the entire hard surface, defining the court. Should the area be fenced the exclusion will apply to the entire enclosed area at all times. When the area is open the exclusion will include all marked playing areas, extending outwards to provide a safety zone of 3 metres beyond the marked area.

(d) Bowling Greens

The area of exclusion will include the entire playing surface together with all associate gutters and perimeter paths. Exclusion applies at all times, whether in use or not.



GC4 Catterall Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field



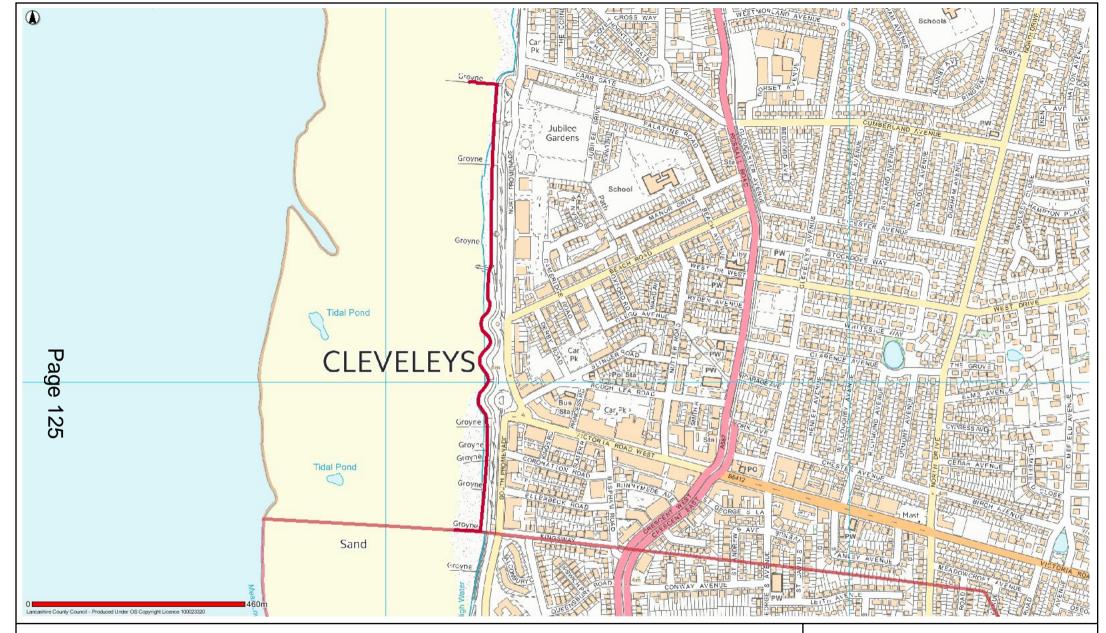
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TC13B Seasonal Dog Ban May to September Cleveleys Beach from Cafe Cove to Wyre Borough Boundary



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FWD7B Seasonal Dog Ban (May to September) Fleetwood Beach east side of slipway eastward to west side of former pier



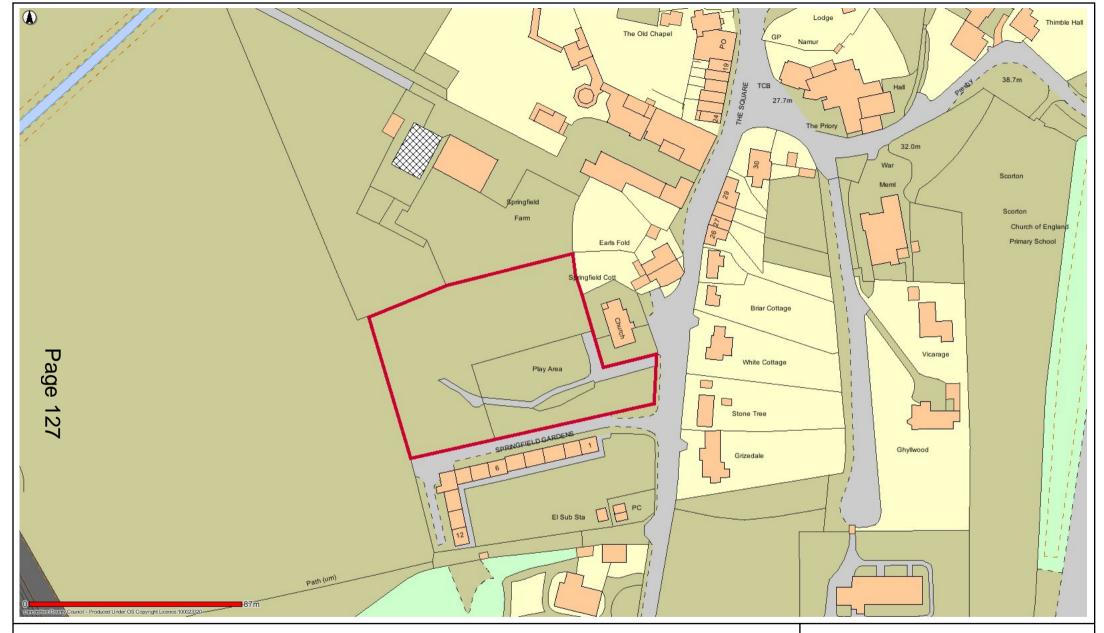
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OW18 Scorton Playing Field



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FWD21 Broadwater Wood



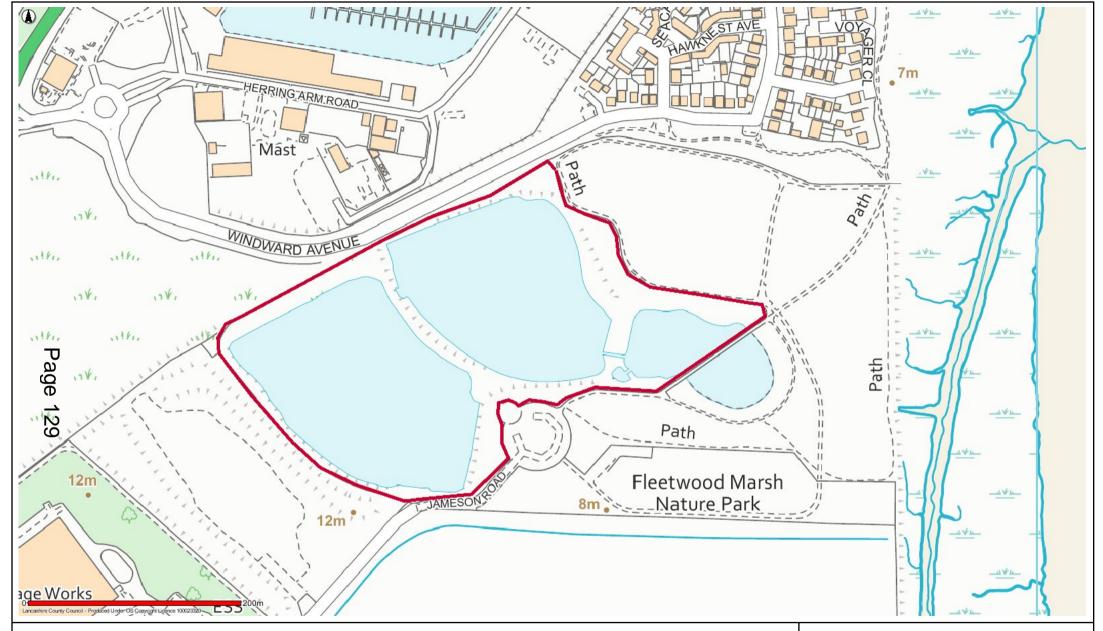
Date: 19/05/2017

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FWD9C Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park



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Centre of map: 333545:446590

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Schedule 6

Maximum Number

SCHEDULE 6 – MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DOGS

Description of Land to which Schedule 6 applies:

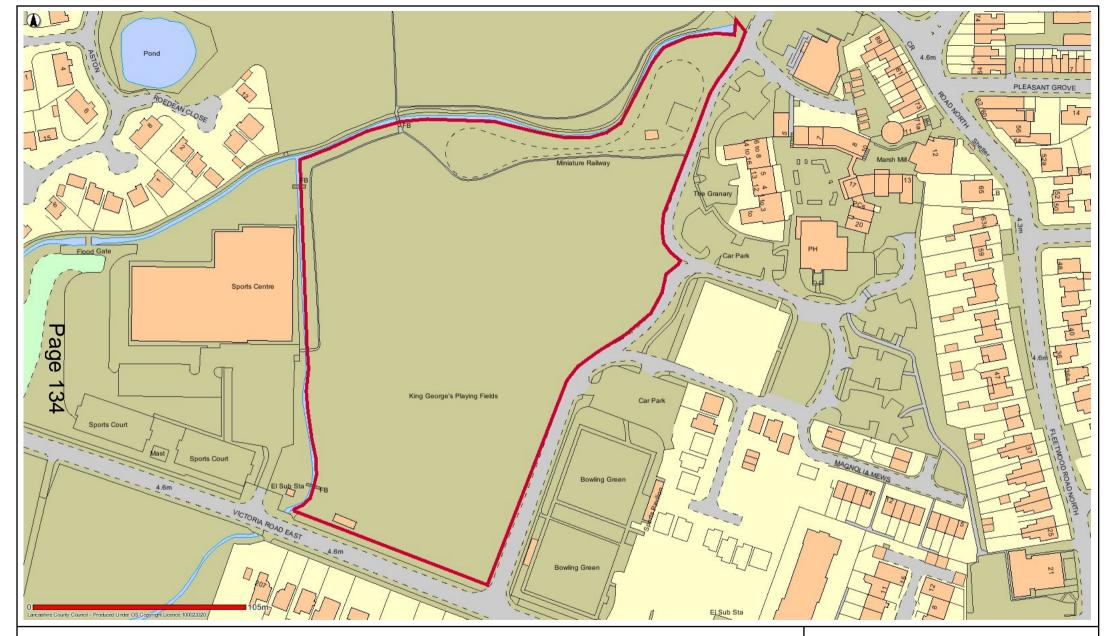
Thornton – Cleveleys sites:	Map Ref
King Georges Playing Field	TC8
Wyre Estuary Country Park	TC12
Church Road Playing Field	TC3
Bourne Way Playing Field	TC1

Fleetwood sites:	Map Ref
King George V Playing Field	FWD2
Fleetwood Cemetery	FWD11
Memorial Park	FWD3
Land between Fleetwood Promenade and the Golf Course from Rossall Point Picnic Site to Fairway including bridleway	FWD15
Fleetwood Promenade from opposite Carr Road to the Five Bar Gate Rossall Beach	FWD8
Marine Gardens Amenity Area (including lakes, pitch & putts)	FWD14
Marine Hall Gardens	FWD16
Rossall Point Picnic Site	FWD17
Fleetwood Promenade from former pier site to opposite Carr Road	FWD18
Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park – refer to map for exact area (subject to LCC providing signage, patrols and enforcement)	FWD9D

Poulton sites:	Map Ref
Civic Centre Playing Field	PLF2
Cottam Hall Playing Field	PLF4
Jean Stansfield/Vicarage Park	PLF6
Garstang Road Cemetery	PLF11

Moorland Road Cemetery	PLF12

Over Wyre sites:	Map Ref
Preesall Cemetery	OW11
Preesall Playing Field	OW5
Bilsborrow Recreational Ground	OW1
Pennine View Playing Field Gt Eccleston	OW4
Shorrocks Avenue Playing Field St Michaels	OW6
Stalmine Playing Field	OW7
Bob Williamson Park/Playing Field Hambleton	OW2A OW2B



TC8 King Georges Playing Field Thornton



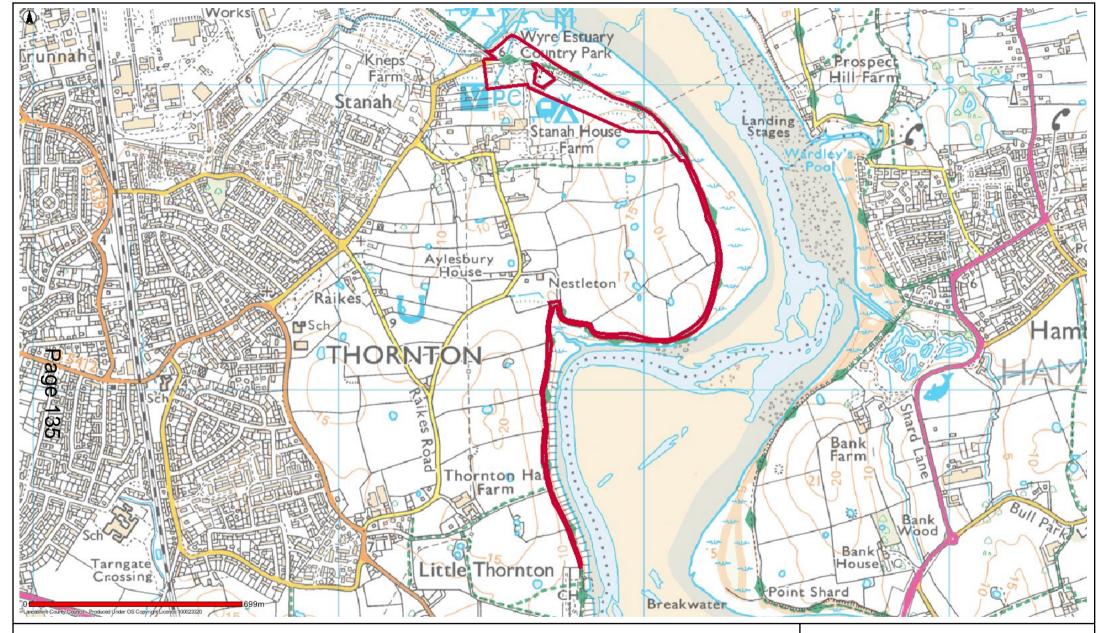
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Centre of map: 333396:442463



TC12 Wyre Estuary Country Park Thornton



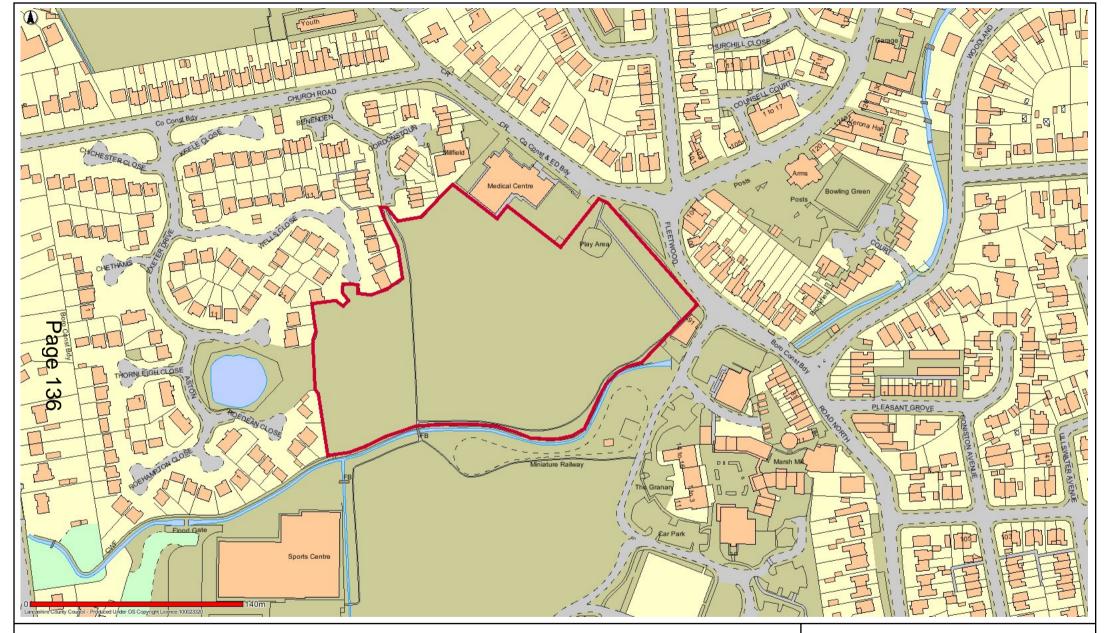
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TC3 Church Road Playing Field Thornton



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TC1 Bourne Way Playing Field Thornton-Cleveleys



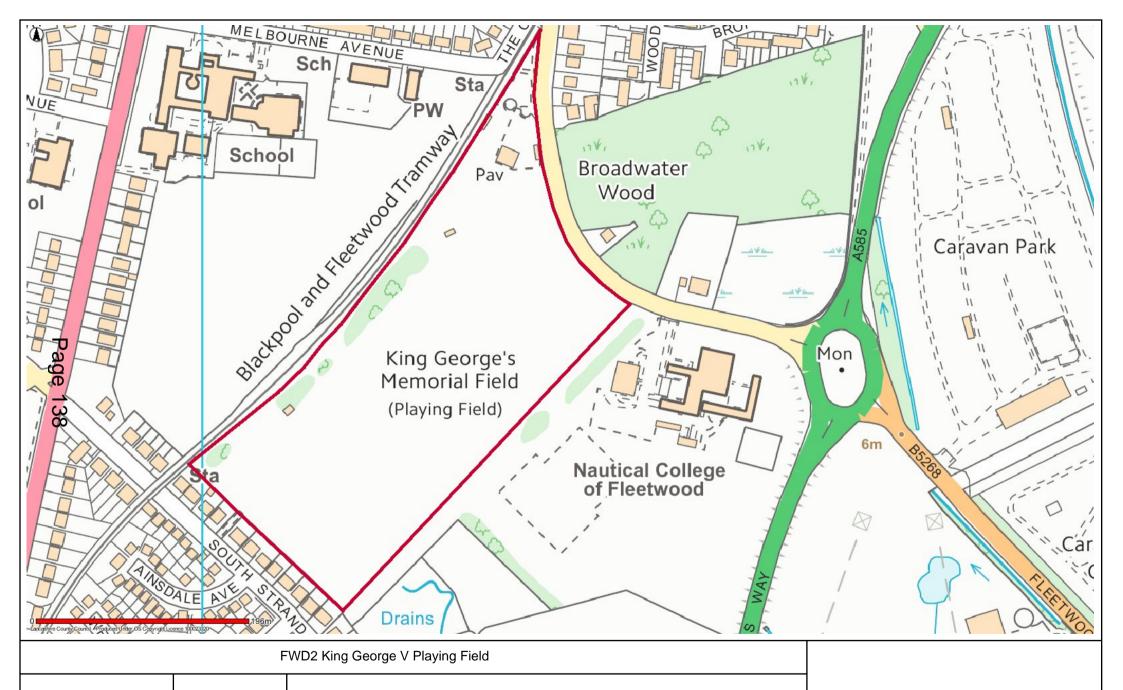
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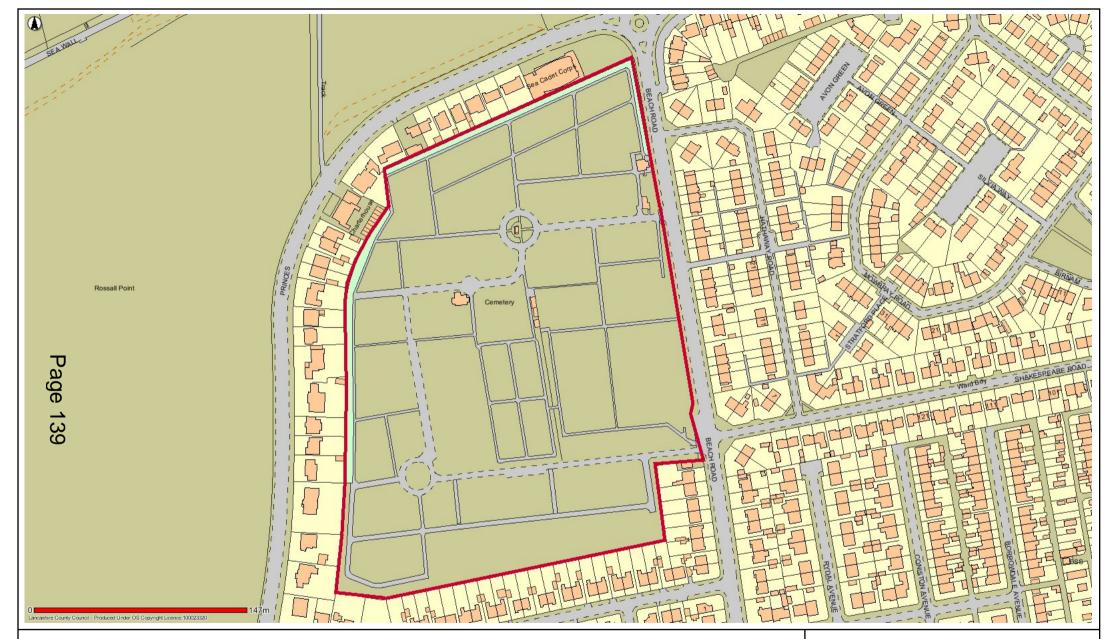
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FWD11 Fleetwood Cemetery



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FWD3 Memorial Park



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Centre of map: 332926:447388



FWD15 Land between Fleetwood Prom and golf course from Rossall Picnic Site to Fairway including bridleway



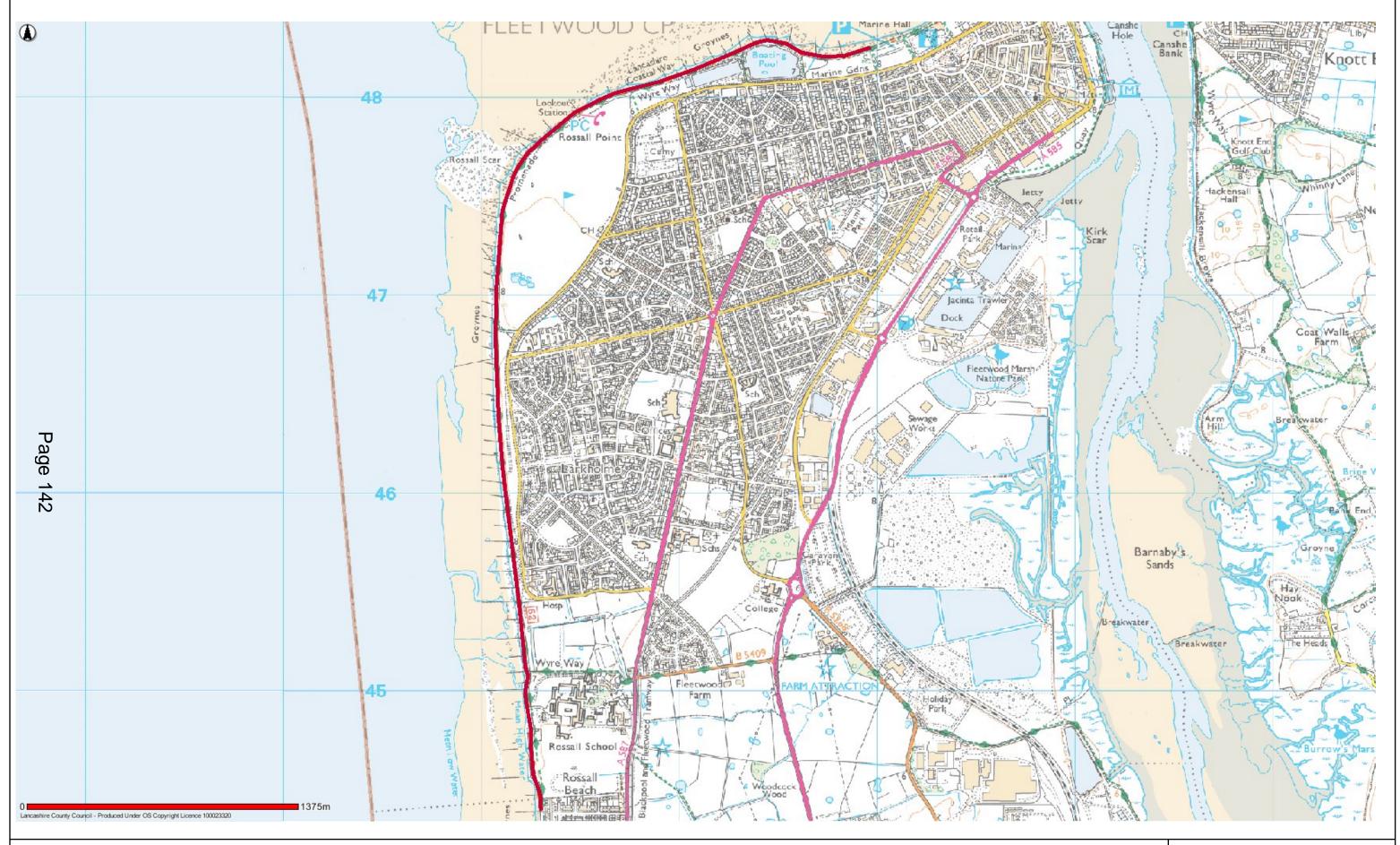
Date: 19/05/2017

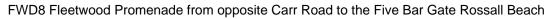
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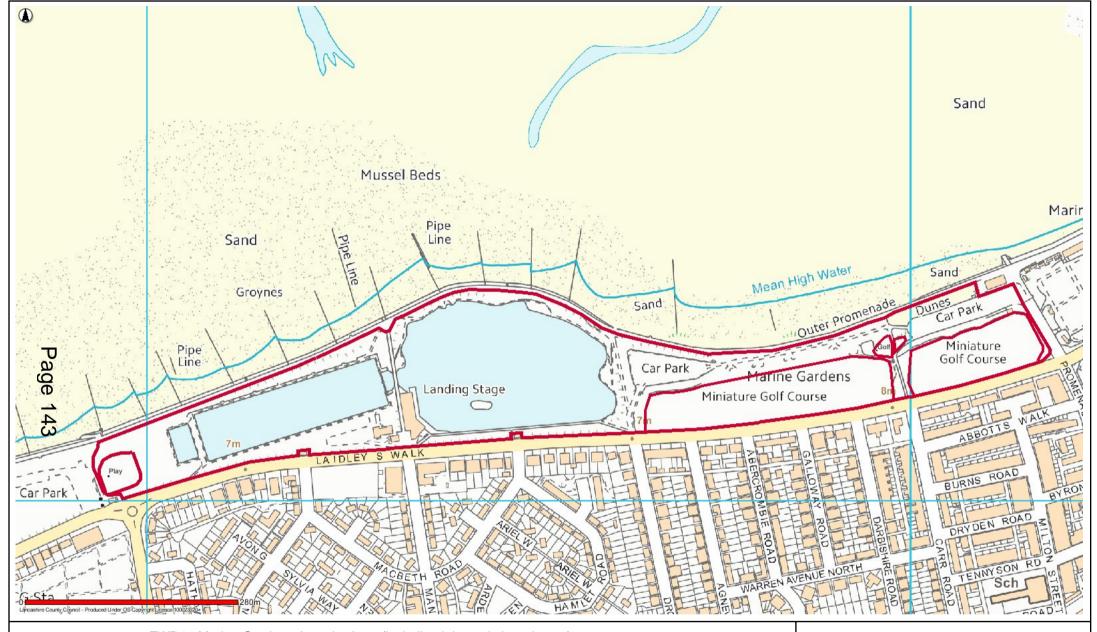
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FWD14 Marine Gardens Amenity Area (including lakes, pitch and putts)



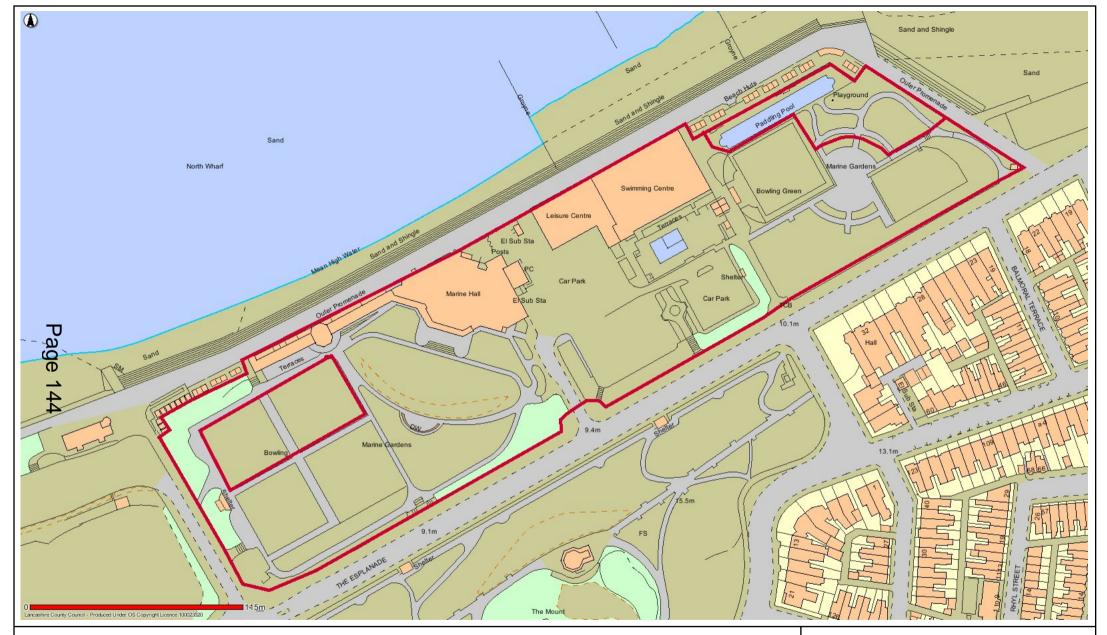
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FWD16 Marine Hall Gardens



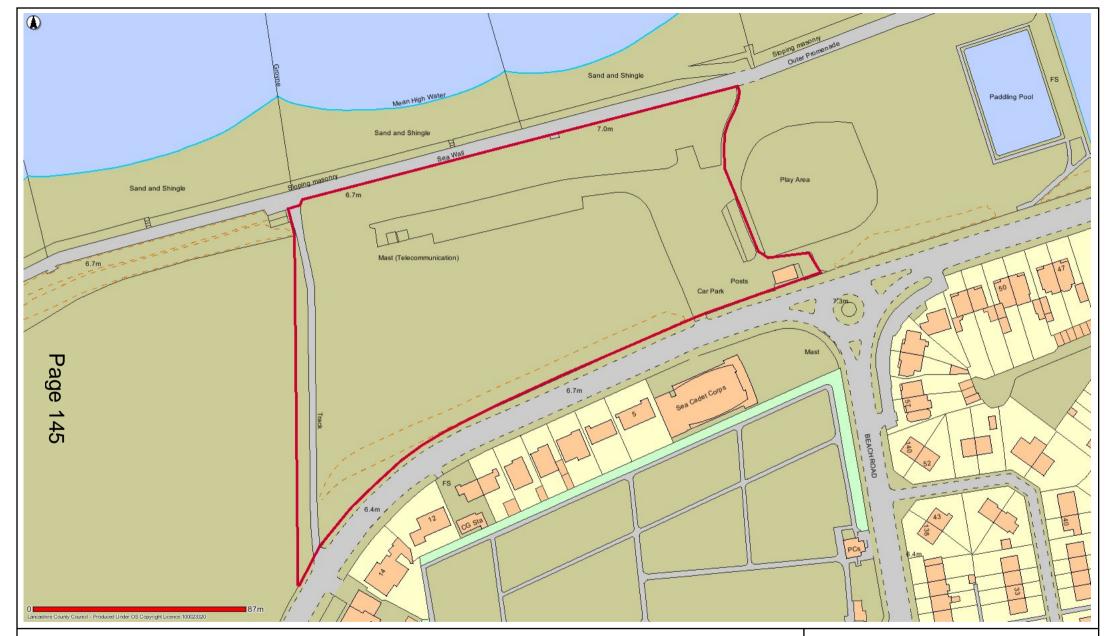
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Centre of map: 333363:448349



FWD17 Rossall Point Picnic Site



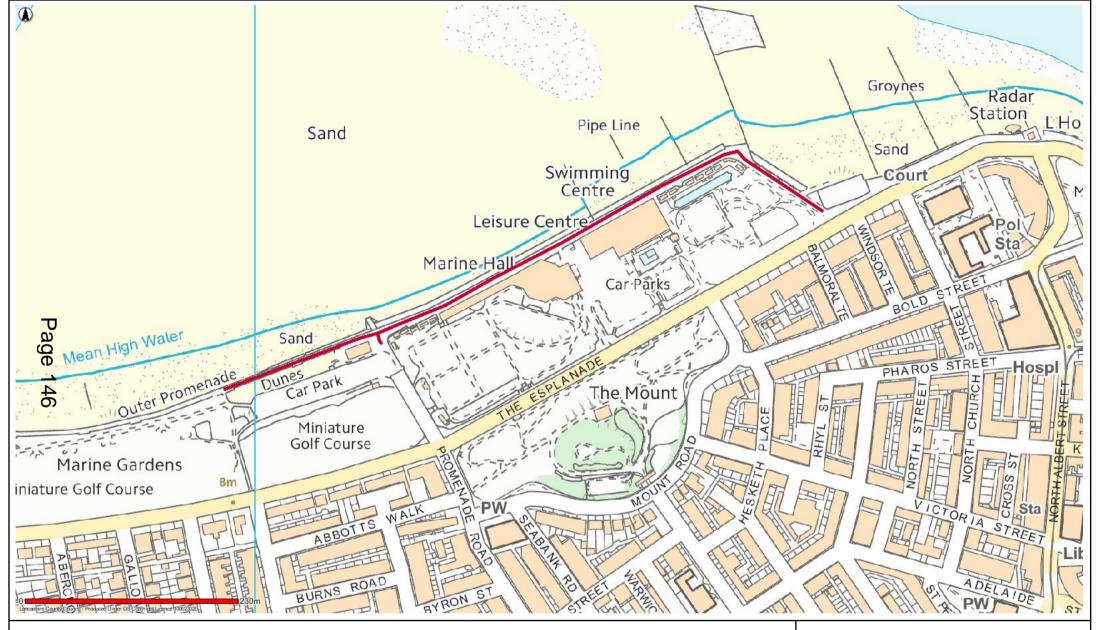
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Centre of map: 331861:447983



FWD18 Fleetwood Promenade from former pier site to opposite Carr Road



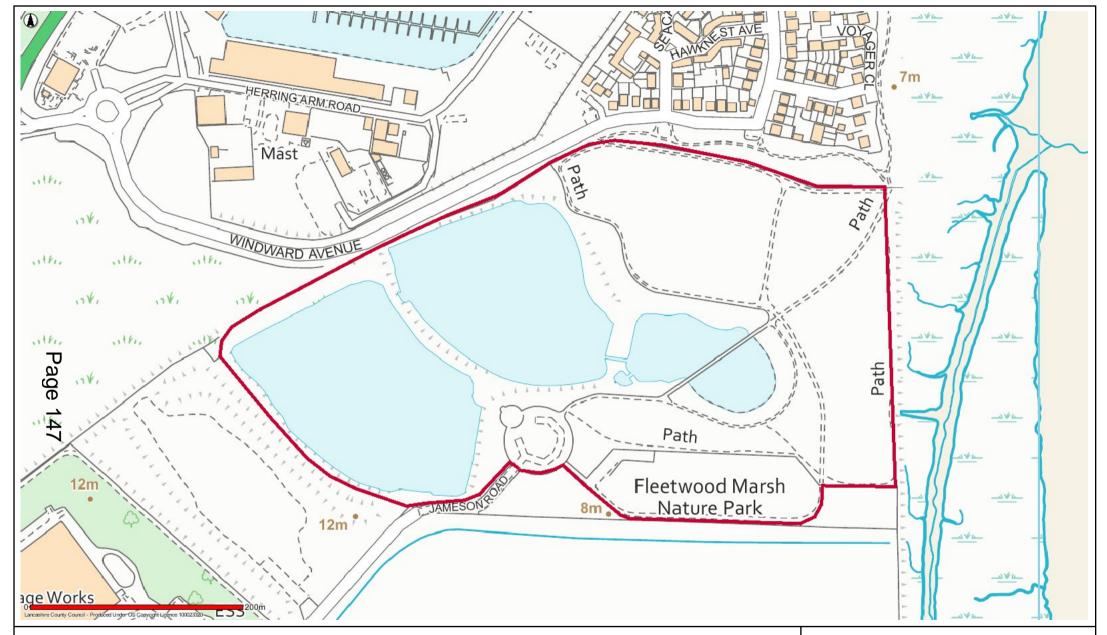
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FWD9D Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park

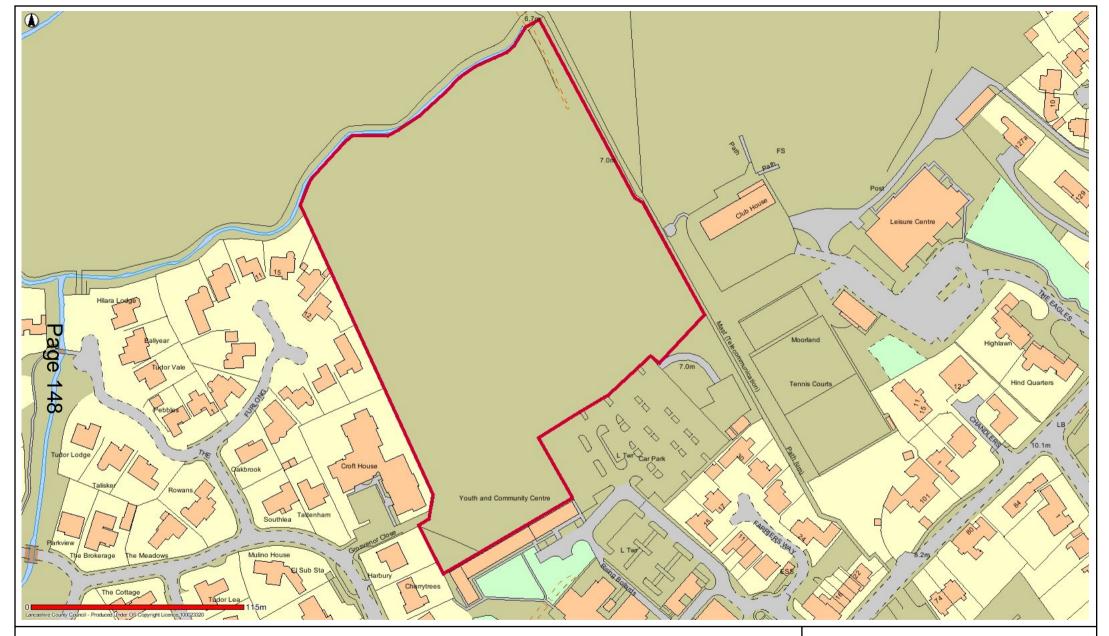


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PLF2 Civic Centre Playing Field Poulton-le-Fylde



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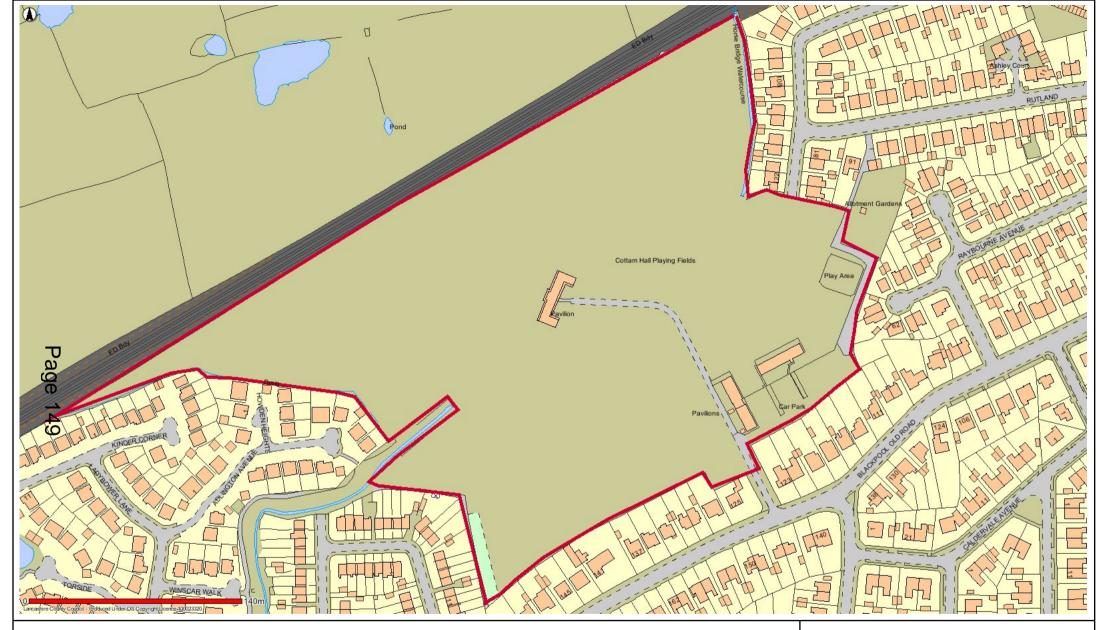
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Centre of map: 334922:440056



PLF4 Cottam Hall Playing Field Poulton-le-Fylde



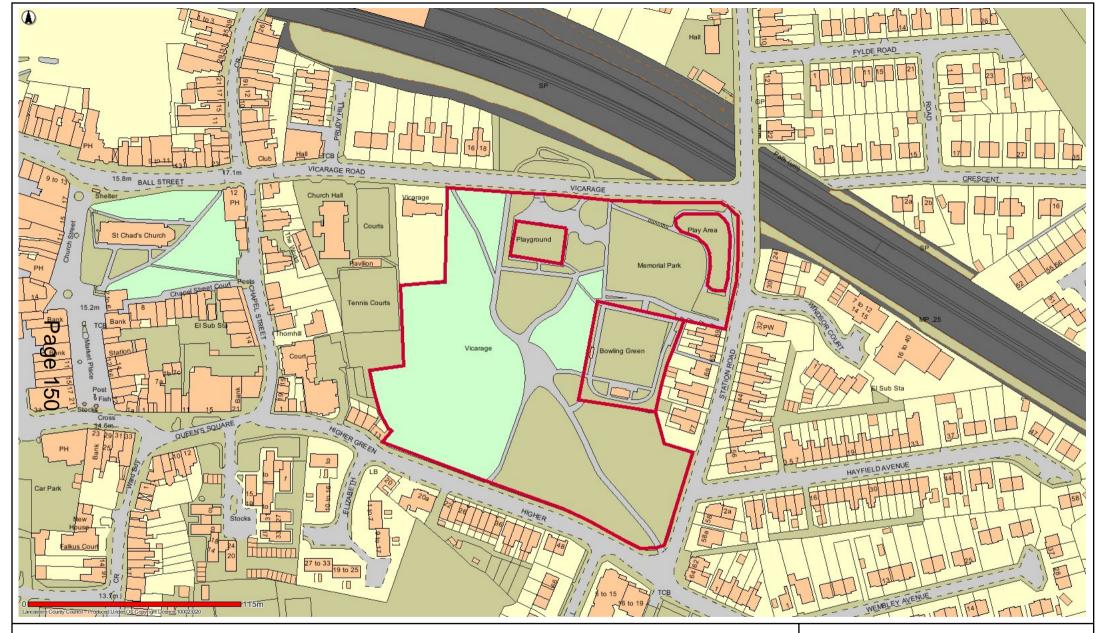
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PLF6 Jean Stansfield and Vicarage Park Poulton-le-Fylde



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PLF11 Garstang Road Cemetery



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PLF12 Moorland Road Cemetery



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OW11 Preesall Cemetery



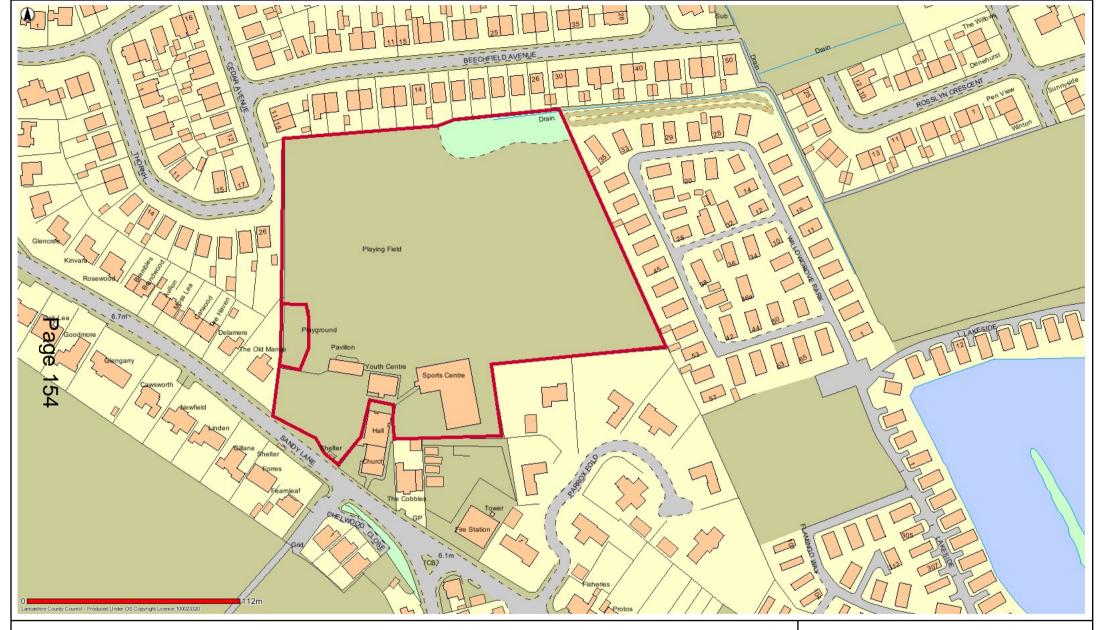
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OW5 Preesall Playing Field



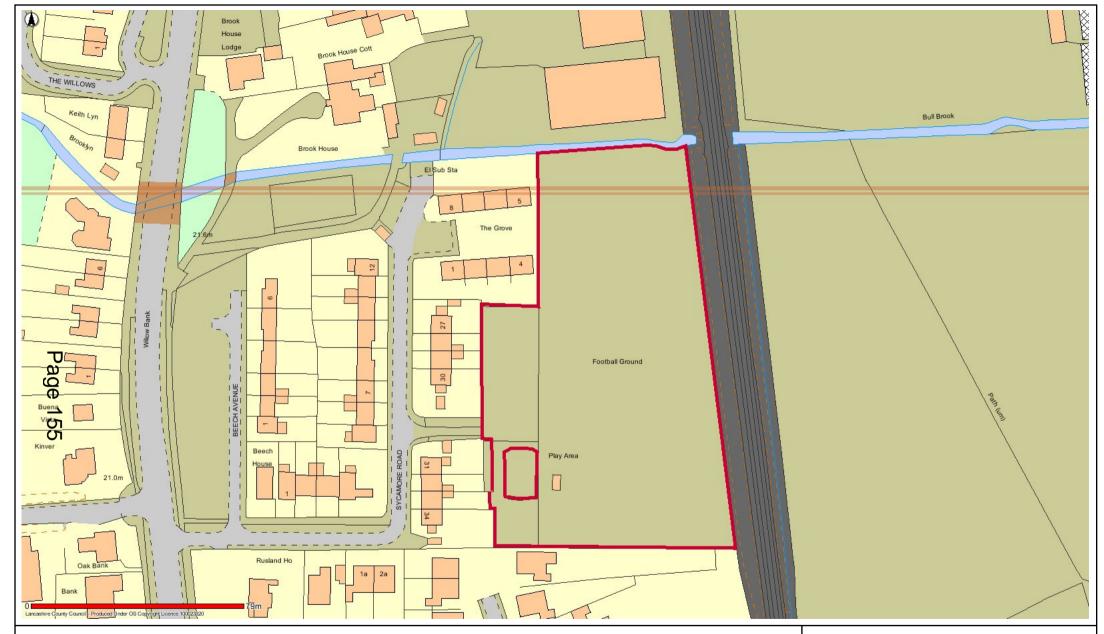
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OW1 Bilsborrow Recreation Ground



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OW4 Pennine View Playing Field Great Eccleston



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OW6 Shorrocks Avenue Playing Field St Michaels



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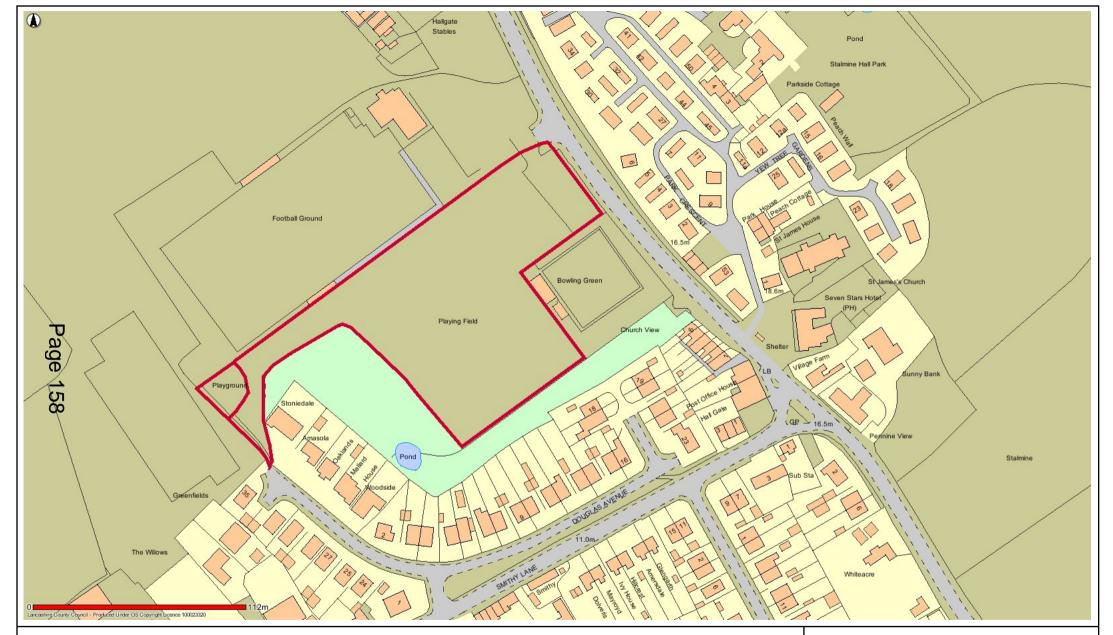
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OW7 Stalmine Playing Field



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OW2A Bob Williamson Park/Playing Field Hambleton dog excercise area only



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OW2B Bob Williamson Park/Playing Field Hambleton



Date: 18/05/2017

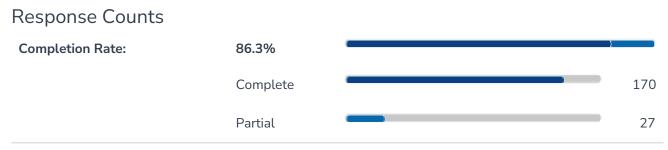
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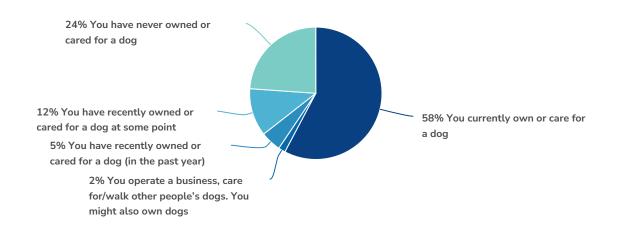
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Centre of map: 337827:442283

Report for Dog control – Wyre Public Spaces Protection Order consultation 2023

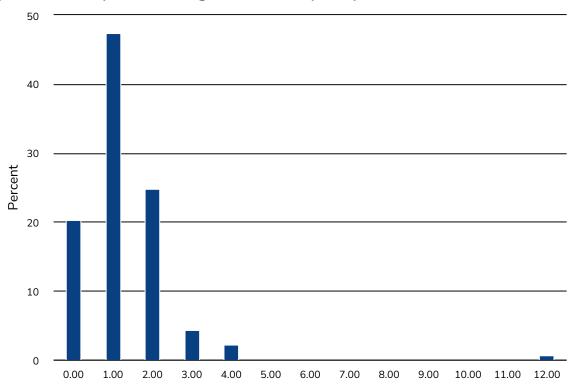


1. First please tell us if: (please select one answer only)

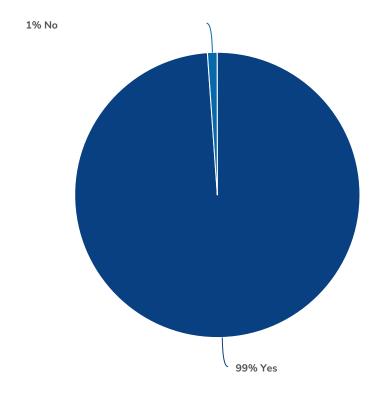


Value	Percent	Responses
You currently own or care for a dog	57.8%	104
You operate a business, care for/walk other people's dogs. You might also own dogs	1.7%	3
You have recently owned or cared for a dog (in the past year)	5.0%	9
You have recently owned or cared for a dog at some point	11.7%	21
You have never owned or cared for a dog	23.9%	43

2. If you currently own a dog/s how many do you own?

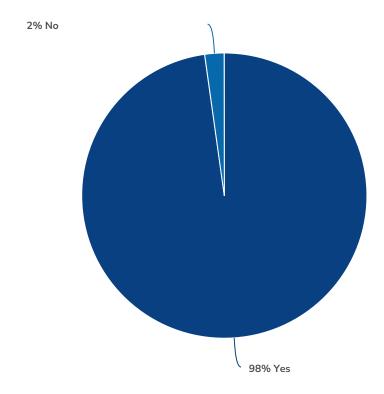


3. Do you agree with the extension of the order relating to dogs fouling on land, and, the requirements for anyone in control of a dog/s to pick up the faeces and put it in a bin?(please select one answer)



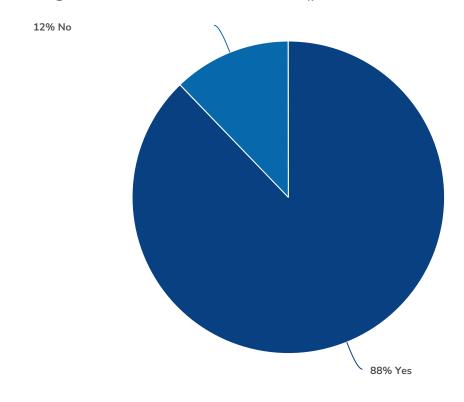
Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	98.9%	179
No	1.1%	2

4. Do you agree with the extension of the order relating to the requirement to put dogs on leads by direction from an authorised officer? * (please select one answer)* An authorised officer may only give a direction under this Order to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person on any land to which this Order applies or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird



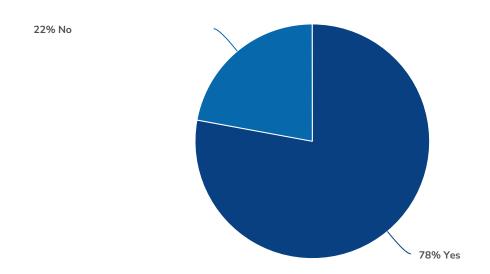
Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	97.8%	174
No	2.2%	4

5. Do you agree with the extension of the order relating to the requirement to have dogs on leads in certain areas? (please select one answer)



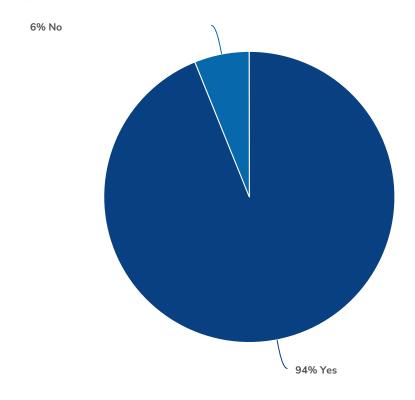
Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	87.8%	158
No	12.2%	22

6. Do you agree with the extension of the order relating to dog exclusion areas? (please select one answer)



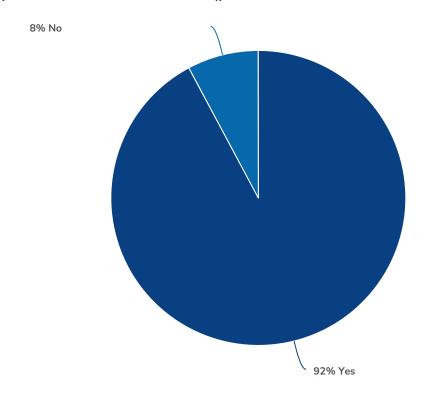


7. Do you agree with the extension of the order that restricts the number of dogs one person can exercise at a time in certain areas? (please select one answer)



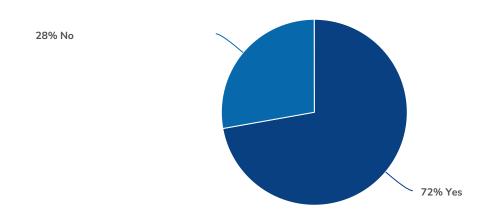
Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	93.9%	169
No	6.1%	11

8. Do you agree with the extension of the order, where it is an offence to fail to have the means to pick up after a dog under your control when asked by an authorised officer? (please select one answer)



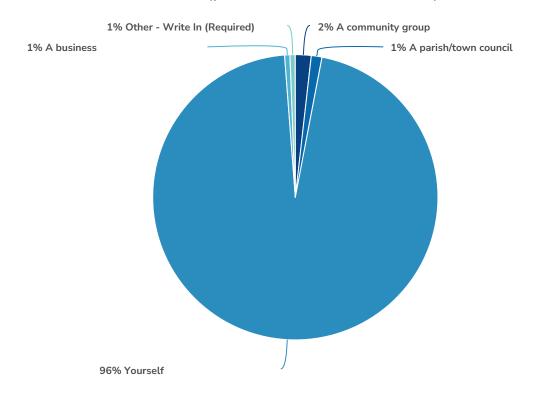
Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	92.2%	166
No	7.8%	14

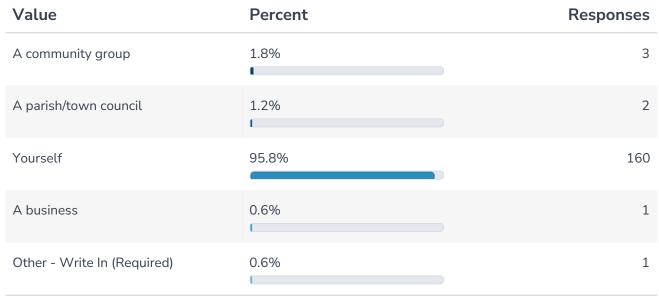
9. Do you agree with the level of the Fixed Penalty for non-compliance remaining at £100? (please select one answer)



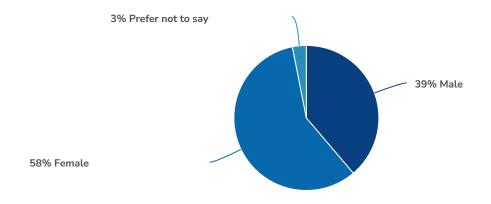
Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	72.2%	130
No	27.8%	50

10. This question must be completed. Have you completed this questionnaire on behalf of: (please select one answer)





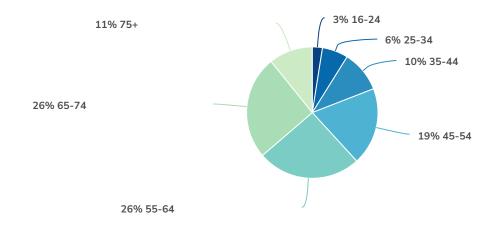
11. Gender

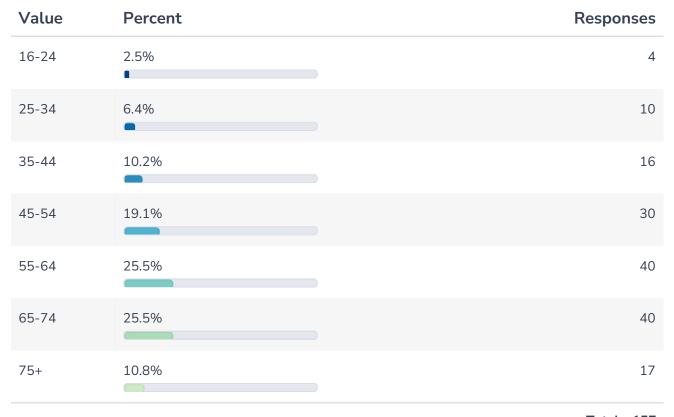


Value	Percent	Responses
Male	38.8%	62
Female	58.1%	93
Prefer not to say	3.1%	5

Totals: 160

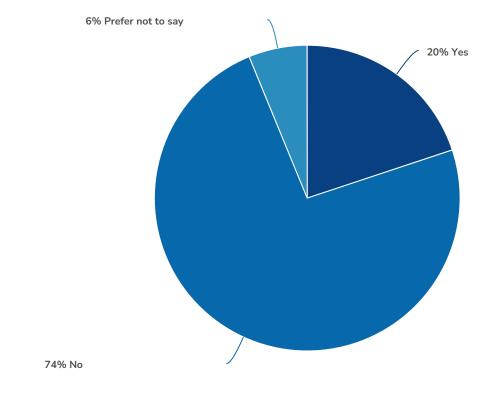
12. Age Group





Totals: 157

13. Do you consider yourself to have a long term illness or disability that limits your daily activities?(please select one answer)



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	19.9%	32
No	73.9%	119
Prefer not to say	6.2%	10

Report for Dog control – Wyre Public Spaces Protection Order consultation 2023

1. Do you have any comments you wish to make about the proposal to extend the PSPOs for dog control, in Wyre?

ResponseID Response 10 Dog exclusion zones should include areas of watercourses deemed "hotspots" for dogs entering the water to protect water quality and river life. 11 The fine is too low. £500 minimum increasing to £700 for failure to abide by the pspo instruction. Make the pspo more visibility. Brightly coloured van and uniform. Equip them with recording equipment 12 Dogs should be on leads at all time apart from in designated areas 14 It would be nice to have more beach spaces to walk dogs during the summer or for a shorter period of time. I don't see evidence that dogs significantly reducing the bathing quality of water especially against the backdrop of sewage overspills and so forth. 15 I do not agree that it is fair that I can only walk 4 of my dogs at a time. I understand if it is a paid dog walker but these are my personal pets I think there should be time restrictions for the beach such as dogs are allowed before 16 9am and after 9pm the beach is empty at those times 17 There is enough dog control orders. Dogs need spaces to run and play, for their wellbeing. Give dog owners a break, most dog owners are responsible people. 18 In my person opinion, whilst I fully appreciate the perspective that dogs have a right to bark and protect themselves and their immediate territory, it must also be taken into the account that children and adults also have a right to defend and protect themselves and that they should also be protected by the dog owners using well controlled leashes. Surely the hot summer weather potentially worsens the situation making the dogs less tolerant, more dehydrated and reduces the chances of them having their normal regular

in front of its owners and approa

and comfortable much needed exercise? For many years it is though the canal walks in and around Garstang are like the strict reserve for dog owners and their dogs. The dogs can smell fear when passers by are generally fearful of dogs, e.g. those that have been bitten before. I would like to suggest that more credance needs to be given to the term of: symbolic interactionism. This is because in cases like this if e.g. an alsation is walking

ResponseID Response I think it would greatly help with less dog faeces being left if the council provided more 21 bins in dog walking areas - particularly car parks frequently used by dog walkers where there are many with no bins available. My daughter lives in Warwickshire and there are dog bins at regular intervals all on walks and parking areas. It is noticeably better for less faeces or dog poo bags being left on sides of walkways than we have all over Wyre area. Given the increase in the number of dogs I do feel the PSPOs require extending. 22 I would personally refuse to show any one that I have the means to remove any dog 23 excrement; as a responsible dog owner; the wardens do not have any right to request that . Also £100 fine is ridiculous; no one has that amount of money to chuck around on dog fines, Maybe the Police should be more involved in Public Space Protection Orders as we are at constant risk from being mugged; stabbed; raped or attacked; Very rare we are at risk from a dog 25 The fixed penalty should be £500 26 No In Hambleton park, the dog exercise area is in very bad condition with poor drainage 28 meaning it is often muddy. The rest of the park is fine and often the whole park only has dog walkers in, so it feels wrong not to exercise dogs in the regular park when it is empty responsible dog owners should not have restrictions of where they can take their dogs 30 32 Nothing more to add Mainly very sensible. I moved to Lancashire in 2020 and am struck that there are 33 genuinely fewer dog bins than in other areas I have lived. I am unsure why as this can only discourage collection. I have some walks where I go an hour carrying a bag before I can dispose of it. We live in Forton and whilst I do not need to use the playing field to exercise my dog the restriction there seems unnecessary as the field is little used. Of course, regular users would not want dog mess on the field but it is not a regular sports venue That the PCSO's take the dog owners name/address & what offence they have been 35 charged with. So that a record can be kept of any owner who may frequently not adhered to the rules set by WBC . Meaning that in the future that same Owner & their dog carry on breaking WBC rules then they will be issued with a much larger fine, something like say £500 After being attacked myself and learning of tens of other attacks in the area it is very 36 clear that dog control needs to be addressed and dealt with properly with immediate effect. Fines should be higher and dog wardens need to be seen patrolling and be available to assist if necessary

ResponseID Response I deffinately agree with the dog poo rules, you should always pick up after your dogs, 38 putting on a leed if the dog is not well behaved is good, although am concerned about how the authorised officer will determine if its needed. I dont really think there should be exclusion zones for dogs, but if someone could explain why that would be a good idea or needed, maybe my mind woulkd change. as long as someone can control there dogs I dont think anyone should be punished for having a lot of dogs. Responsabile dog owners pick up after their dogs unfortunately you will always get 39 irresponsible people who have dogs. Humans especially children make a lot more mess on beaches and prom than dogs. I have been abused by dog owners for making polite requests for following the above. 40 Let's do better controlling this and increasing fines and sanctions etc. Why am I made to feel in the wrong when others dont follow the rules? Fixed penalty should be increased so that its more of a deterrent 41 No dog exclusion areas at all, but areas where they need to be on a lead 48 The officers enforcing these penalties need to be able and trusted to exercise discretion. 49 It shouldn't be a fine in every circumstance. The rules are not made clear to everyone especially visitors and tourists or people new to the area 50 Please keep providing and emptying bins These controls are necessary for all who use public spaces. 51 The beach should be available for everyone to use whenever they want to use it, be it 52 families, groups of friends, walkers, dog walkers or horse riders. In areas where there are exclusions for dogs/dog walkers, there is just as much mess and litter as there is anywhere else on the promenade, making it clear that dogs are not causing the the unsightly mess left behind by irresponsible humans who do choose not remove their bottles, cans and bags etc or use the litter bins. Why not address the problem of those littering and target the litter louts, than charging dog walkers for stepping into an exclusion zone. Just remember a dog itself does not know regulations it is the owner that needs to know 53 as probably some do not know therefore a plinted flyer put through doors, detailing the regulations. I think the regulations at the moment go far enough! Relating to Q8. Whilst I agree that dog poo should be moved by the dog owner some 55

which are life threatening.

,authorised, officers can be poor representatives of the council, and what are the means A dog poo bag, an handkerchiefs, a sock off your foot (if you have accidently come without a bag. what if a person has dementia or something to be bullied by these officers. It needs thinking through carefully. Q9 You can get find less for serious traffic offences

ResponseID Response I and some friends were walking along Cleveleys prom last week although it says no 57 dogs there were quite a lot. Some on n some off leads. We were all pushing prams and had to keep dodging dog poo. I have 2 tiny dogs n never take them anywhere near where children might play or walk. I think the fine should be at least £250 no matter where it is. Fed up with irresponsible owners thinking everyone wants to be sniffed at, licked and 59 walk through dog faeces. I have a child who is scared of dogs and it is a set back everytime a dog is allowed to run at her. Friends who are responsible dog owners are also tired of having to carry their dogs because other dogs are "friendly" according to their owners. Entitled people think they have the right to do as they please with their dogs without a thought for others. It is about time the laws are enforced and that dogs are required to be on a lead everywhere except designated dog exercise areas. I have been knocked of my bike by dogs not leashed, I have suffered dogs running up to 61 and jumping up on me, making me fearful it is an attack and leaving me shaken with dirt all over my clothes. These should be classed as assault, and victims should be able to get compensation from the owners. Many people have a fear of dogs not on leads and I, as a result, have stopped going to public places like the prom and Stanna which used to be my almost daily walks. All dogs should be on a lead whenever in public!! Dog owners should be clear on keep dogs on leads in shared public places. 62 The fine should be higher, the council need to in force the beach with no dogs. I see dogs 63 every time we go to the beach of the Leads poo on the beach i've never seen in Forssmann officer, in parks and around the streets dog should be kept on the lead the needs to be more dog bins on our estate. There is no bins on it at all. And you say poo lying around off and pick other peoples dogs poo up. I'm not sure if you can already, but if not, you should be able to prosecute someone 65 based on video evidence, for example someone not picking up their dog's faeces caught on a Ring doorbell or CCTV. 66 No

I don't think that people who are paid to look after several dogs should be allowed to just

they them all loose in a field containing crops Or on sports pitches The dogs go in all directions and there's no way that one person can see where they have all pood

67

ResponseID Response

There is a lack of open spaces where dogs can now exercise safely off lead. I have seen many older people and children walking dogs failing to pick up dog waste. The majority of dog owners are responsible, only a few spoil i for the rest of us. A friend was fined for not picking up dog waste immediately, at the time she had 2 children in tow getting them out the car and a pocket full of waste bags. She proceeded to pick up the waste when able but was approached and fined, utterly ridiculous. Perhaps a friendly word from officers but all to often these officers are too quick to assume we are all irresponsible. Another instance was when one officer was up at nature reserve when rules changed re dogs on leads on certain parts and instead of informing people of new rules, instantly fined them...is this really necessary? Totally agree with rules regarding only 4 dogs at a time, too many professional dogwalkers have too many dogs off lead and I have personally had my dog attacked twice now.

69 Necessary law.

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Fleetwood Marsh is a prime example of an area available for all to enjoy being taken over by huge numbers of dog walkers who appear to be a law unto themselves, Ground nesting birds have little chance and the stress to water fowl from dogs being encouraged to enter the water is sad to see.

71 I think the fines should be more and more officers around I also think that throwing dog poo bags into trees or on sides of paths should be added to the list and fined

It should be taken into account that for many people a dog is their soul companion. Over restrict where a dog xan go, you over restrict where their owner can go.

It is difficult to enforce because of sheer number of dogs and and number of dog owners who do not comply with any of orders.

probably need more wardens in the Rossall Beach area

79 No

Dog fouling seems to be an issue and the PSPO's will assist the officers who patrol the borough to deal with any offenders.

I am not a Wyre resident but visit the area with my dogs often and feel there is a very good balance between areas to exercise dogs freely off the lead and those where other controls may be necessary for the safety and enjoyment of everyone

Need more enforcement officers

Having dog free places is essential for us as a family as we have an autistic child with a dog phobia. He is restricted to our home and garden otherwise. More enforcement of the dog controlled/excluded areas is needed. We often receive abuse from dog owners when pointing out the exclusion are to them.

89 Provide more notices in high level of fouling areas

ResponseID Response Difficult to estimate number of bags needed for a walk, I can sometimes use none and 90 other times up to 6 and that's for 1 dog. I think the £100 fine level is a bit high The piece of land attached to the Poulton YMCA, should be removed from it being 92 compulsory to have a dog on a lead in this area. yes i'd like to see more of them around, there are people on the parks near me who allow 93 their dogs to foul & don't pick it up & let the dogs in the "" children's area" on the park & when challenged you get a load of abuse.... where exactly will we see these officers??? I think the fine should be more than £100. I walk my daughter to school most days and 94 the dog fouling around there is terrible. Maybe the fine should be higher? I am fully in support of extending PSPO's across Wyre. As a resident of Cleveleys, the 95 amount of dog fouling on pavements, as well as dogs not being kept under appropriate control needs addressing as it is out of control in my opinion. You can't walk down a local street without having to look where you're stepping as there is so much dog faeces on pavement. A number of my neighbours have put up no dog fouling signs on their garden fences/gates as the problem is getting worse and more needs to be done to punish owners and reduce the problem. This is long over due and will benefit everyone 96 Dog fouling is a big problem in the larkholme area. Dog owners have to take 97 responsibility for their pets.wyre councils need to follow through with their orders. Cleveleys Beach definitely needs supervision people are just not adhering to the 98 exclusion of dogs during May to September People seemed to have cottoned on to the fact that it is "not policed" and are flouting the rules more and more. Let's see the patrols utilised and stepped up Although it's great to have the dog exercise area, I feel that walking my dog off the lead 102 should not be restricted to that specific areas in Bob Willamson Park. Agreed with based upon authorised officers being reasonable in their duties!! 103 104 Increase the fine I feel it is still necessary to have the PSPOs. There are still irresponsible dog owners who 105 do not have adequate control of their dogs. There are also many who do not pick up faeces or have the means to pick it up, especially on the beach where they feel it is appropriate to cover it over with sand. The public need protection from dangerous dogs, so all dogs should be on leads except 106 when in fenced off designated exercise areas. Children are especially vulnerable. Thank you

ResponseID Response Dogs must be on leads in children's play areas, we've had issues at JSVP in the past. 107 However, there must also then be designated spaces where dogs can be safely and legally exercised off a lead. Where is that? The Millennium Green is an area where dogs can be off the lead. There is a family area 109 where dogs are not allowed. This has worked well so far. I do worry when an owner has more than one dog as they can miss when a god poos. Whilst there are many responsible dog owners these control orders are essential for the 110 remainder who do not adequately control or clean up after their charges. Similarly for dog walkers who fill up the pavements, or half the road & can't control the excess numbers of animals. More monitoring against leaving dog mess on the the floor required all along the 111 promenade and the grassed area near the sea cadet hut. as a resident of Stanah, we are seeing more nuisance from dogs (due to irresponsible 112 owners) from fouling to being off leads out of control. The country park is also an issue. Enforcement officers have been handing out fixed penalty notices to people who don't 113 have dogs on a lead, this needs to stop. The fixed penalty should be higher 116 Dogs should be on leads at all times this should apply to any public spaces like parks the 118 beach This would hopefully go some way to curtailing Dog attacks as seems to happen fairly frequently on the beach and at Stannah As a responsible dog owner I feel victimised by these rules and people moaning about 121 dogs. My dogs are well behaved and are helping me with my mental and physical health...I need to see them sniffing naturally for my mental health they run back to me when I call which makes me happy. Physically they get me up and about daily reducing my visits to the doctor/NHS. Please relax these restrictive rules. 122 As a responsible dog owner I feel victimised by these rules and people moaning about dogs. My dogs are well behaved and are helping me with my mental and physical health...I need to see them sniffing naturally for my mental health they run back to me when I call which makes me happy. Physically they get me up and about daily reducing my visits to the doctor/NHS. Please relax these restrictive rules. It must have the resources to actually enforce dog control orders 125 More obvious signage. If possible more dog wardens on a regular observations on 127 popular dog walks, being able to advice dog owners on there behaviour and conciquences of lack of dog recall.

ResponseID Response The order should be that dogs have to be kept on leads at all times! Our dog is a rescue 128 dog, and is scared of other dogs, but the amount of dogs where we live that are off leads and not under the control of the owner is horrendous! The order should be dogs to be kept on leads at all times in public areas to keep other venerable dogs like mine safe and be able to enjoy there exercise The fines should be increased and dogs should be on a led in all public spaces and only 130 released from the lead in designated areas There should be more enforcement, the amount of dog poo on our streets and the 131 number of full poo bags left as litter is ridiculous. 135 The fines should be much more to set examples I believe people should have their dogs under control and ensure they clean up after their 136 dog however I don't agree with them having to be on a lead all the time and also don't agree with them being restricted from certain areas I would like to see more enforcement 138 In the wyre there are too many people who have dogs off the lead who have no recall 140 ability which are aggressive and attack other dogs. These individuals have zero manners when it comes to you walking your dog on a lead and miss the point that their dog should be on a lead due to no recall. These individuals blame sensible dog walkers for having dogs on a lead. I am in the process of trying to work out how to report an owner after this incident which has happened more than once by this same owner and dog. It's not acceptable. I regularly walk & run on the sea wall between Knott End & Pilling. Over the years I have 141 had on many occasions out of control dogs jump up at me, scratch me and twice bite me. Please can the sea wall be made a place where dogs have to be properly controlled by their owners? 142 Millennium Green Garstang Not enough enforcement in Garstang. It could be worth exploring a community initiative 144 to discourage canine fouling. I would like to see more enforcement on dog owners who don't pick up after their dog. 146 Some owners at Preesall Park let their dogs foul on the football pitches then don't clean up after themselves, our coaches then have to clean up their mess so that kids can play football safely. If an owner picks up their poo and clips the dog back on the lead when directed then no 148 fine should be issued. 149 Absolutely necessary

ResponseID Response 150 No I think dogs should be kept on a lead at ALL times both on the promenade and beach. 153 This would make the owner fully responsible for behaviour towards other dogs / people and no excuse for not picking up faeces. I think this would reduce the number of dog attacks in the area also 154 I feel that anything that ensures responsible dog ownership should be enforced. Currently there is such extensive dog ownership people have become smug and impose their dogs on other people. This needs to curtailed. 155 Who is an authorised officer? - do they carry id? The Council have designated far too many areas as either dogs on leads, or dog exclusion zones 158 Where are the wardens now let alone in the future? Increase number of wardens with bodycams to collect evidence and right to follow 160 without contfrontation - Increase in CCTV in specific areas The current consensus of opinion of the Councillors of the Garstang Town Council 161 committee is that all dogs should be held on a suitably firm and controllable lead by their owners/keepers/walkers in all public spaces within Garstang and the surrounding areas. It was also noted and agreed that there are numerous privately owned "Dog Parks / Secure Exercise Fields located within the Garstang and surrounding areas, where dog owners can exercise their dogs safely off lead either in a group or on their own. In addition to safe and secure fencing, some of today's Secure Exercise Fields have features to enhance the dogs' natural instinct to run free and investigate their surrounding I think there should be a two strike policy, catch, get them to clean it and take details then 162 charge when offending a second time. As a dog owner I always carry at least 5 bags in order to clean up after my dog, also for 165 unexpected repeats of my dog fouling. Therefore it should be a offence not to carry additional bags. Saying this there must also be a appropriate place to dispose of used bags. A addition of motion detected wild life cameras would also assist in offenders and antisocial behaviour. These are responsible inexpensive and could be funded by actually collecting and imposing fines. Which would also act as a deterrent. As a responsible dog owner I am discussed by the state of our public areas. The use of extending leads exceeding 2.0m should be limited on promenade areas. They 167 create significant trip hazard. Dog owners /walkers expect pedestrians to make way for dogs. Not sure this is correct. Having been attacked by a dog and realising that a similar attack on a child could prove 169 fatal, I absolutely agree dogs MUST be kept under control ad their owners be accountable for them. Their faeces collection is also an inevitable consequence of being a dog owner,

ResponseID Response £100 for non compliance is too low. Exclusion on Fleetwood beach is unfortunate as 170 there are always more dog walkers than holiday makers. Enforcement needs to be increased. If United Utilities are allowed to pump thousands of litres of untreated human sewage 171 into the seas whenever they fancy then these blanket dog bans on the beaches to cater for the occasional careless owner feels pretty daft 172 No I think the fine should go higher each time for those that offend more than the once &174 their names & addresses should be registered once they have caused an offence so that each officer has the same information at all times on people who've offended the rules . Why don't WBC invest in a fenced dog park which people can pay a fee to use ,like we do for our green bins & that fee could then be used for the dog parks up keep, an ideal place for it would be the old Tennis court on the park ,it only needs the big chain link fences & gate put back up, plus a few bins & it would be centrally located & you could have even have an officer stationed in the pavilion office were the golf clubs & bowling balls used to be kept & you could have a time table for when it opened /closed & it was locked up at night like the tennis court always was The fine is too low and does not deter people from chancing their luck. I have noticed a lot 175 of elderly people in Knott End on Sea are not capable of picking dog faeces up due to their age and infermity, although a dog is their only company, .what can be done, who knows? 176 Not at moment 178 Just do what you promise, and don't penalise good dog owners. More signs dog poo everywhere on the streets in the fields awful. Do everything in your 179 powers to extend and support regulations 180 Fully In favour of the controls Only that non compliance should be made more expensive especially for repeat 181 offenders 182 Fine should be more then it has to be in force a lot more Higher fee for dogs fowling the pavements and owners not cleaning up! We visit 184 Cleveleys often and a dog warden should patrol much more frequently- dogs off leads and on beach (restricted areas) and just get away with it! 186 Make them more visable 187

ResponseID Response I feel it is very hard to control as you have to actually catch a person whilst doing wrong I 188 am disgusted with all the black bags being left on the streets but who can stop them? Most dogs & dog owners are clean, good natured, well controlled, respectful & are aware 189 of their responsibilities. To ban dogs from certain areas is disgusting & draconian . No dog owner should be fined for taking their dog on a public space or beach when humans make far bigger mess on days out at said places then a dog ever will not to mention the fact that the beeches are unfit for purpose due to continuing dumping of raw sewage by local water companies I live on wyre estuary park and it is absolutely full of dog faeces where people do not 190 pick up. There are not enough bins and the ones there are always overflowing. We have the means to pick up but not always the means to dispose due to lack of bins in the estate and area. Also my dogs are very well trained and do not bother the wildlife or other dogs. They do not need a lead and responsible owners are being discriminated against due to one's that don't pick up or allow their dogs to chase or upset wildlife. I understand the need to protect the wildlife but not all dogs need to be restrained. It be a good thing, it's not safe for our children, and it smells, wish more focus was on this 191 issue, than stalking and intimidating people because accidently or purposely dropped a cigarette end. 192 Fines should be higher Dogs need exercise. If you restrict access to certain areas or insist dogs are on leads, 193 other areas locally need to be provided where dogs may be off lead and exercised. 194 No Dogs should be kept on a short lead especially on paths and pavements. Extendable 195 leads still allow dogs to run free and obstruct pedestrians.

Appendix C Equality Impact Assessment – Public Spaces Protection Orders (Dog Control)

Step 1 – Introductory information

Otop i introductory information				
Title of the policy				
	Public Spaces Protection Orders (Dog Control)			
Name of lead officer and others				
undertaking this assessment	Kathy Winstanley			
Date EIA started				
	12 June 2017			
Date EIA completed	20 September 2017			
Date EIA Reviewed	3 July 2023			
Date EIA completed	31 July 2023			

Step 2 – Overview of policy/function being assessed:

Outline: What is the purpose of this policy? (Specify aims and objectives)

These Orders are put in place to inform residents and visitors about dog control and requirements for dog owners / keepers in respect of:

- Dog fouling and not clearing up afterwards
- Dog Fouling Having Suitable means to pick up and dispose of dog poo
- Dogs on leads
- Dogs on leads by Direction
- Dog exclusion zones
- Number of dogs exercised by 1 person

The Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) replaced the Dog Control Orders put in place in 2011. The requirement for change came in with the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. They are required to be reviewed every three years or before if a change.

What specific group/s is the policy designed to affect/impact and what is the intended change or outcome for them?

The PSPO's are relevant to all residents and visitors to Wyre and affect anyone who is in control of a dog (s)

People who have a registered disability or mobility issue or other physical disorder affecting their ability to pick up dog foul will be exempt from the fouling related Orders.

People who have a reliance on a trained assistance dog are exempt from the Exclusion Orders.

Any other impairment not within the exemptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Which groups have been consulted as part of the creation or review of the policy?

Parish/Town/Ward Clerks and Councillors

Dog Organisations - Kennel Club and Dogs Trust

Borough Councillors

All residents in Wyre (newspapers / web / social media)

Friends of Parks Groups

Grass roots football - local teams via Officers

YMCA

Step 3 – What we already know and where there are gaps

List any existing information/data do you have/monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy? Such as in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation etc.

Data/information such as:

- Consultation
- Previous Equality Impact Assessments
- Demographic information
- Anecdotal and other evidence

Age – older people are often dog owners for company

Anecdotal evidence, a number of elderly residents have struggled to pick up foul, yet their dogs are their companions and without them would not go out frequently.

Based on national statistics, there are over 8.5 million dogs in the UK and 24% of households have a dog. It is therefore estimated that there is a minimum of 14,250 dogs resident in Wyre, and in addition to this there are also people who visit the area with dogs.

Incident recording – Records to identify areas where dog fouling / irresponsible dog ownership / dogs out of control is an issue based on reports from residents.

Life in Wyre Surveys – Customers continue to raise concerns in relation to dog fouling / irresponsible dog ownership / dogs out of control as a significant concern within the borough.

Young people / families— should be allowed to play and use green spaces without fear of dogs being out of control.

Step 4 – Do we need to seek the views of others? If so, who?

In light of the answers you have given in Step 2, do you need to consult with specific groups to identify needs / issues? If not please explain why.

A wide range of stakeholders and other relevant groups/individuals have been approached to comment as part of the public consultation which has been widely shared (as recommended by legislation) and no feedback to suggest a need to extend to other specific groups

Step 5 – Assessing the impact

In light of any data/consultation/information and your own knowledge and awareness, please identify whether the policy has a positive or negative impact on the individuals or community groups (including what barriers these individuals or groups may face) who identify with any 'protected characteristics' and provide an explanation for your decision (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

	Comments
Age	Positive – clearer Orders informing residents about dog
	control will have a positive impact on all ages.
Disability (Physical, visual, hearing, learning disabilities, mental health)	There are exceptions to the Orders for people who have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day to day activities including affecting his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects in respect of a dog trained
	by a prescribed charity/ approved body as is considered appropriate by the Council.and upon which he relies for assistance.
	There are also exceptions in the Orders for blind people. There are also exceptions in the Orders for people requiring trained assistance dogs.
	The Order makes it clear to all residents who are exempt which adds clarity for all residents.
	Those with learning difficulties are not listed under the exemptions, and therefore authorised officers will use their discretion in such cases. Training to identify difficulties and strong team support should help to overcome difficult situations.
	Any other impairment not listed above will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
Gender Reassignment	Positive - neutral
(Transgender)	
Race	Neutral
Religion or Belief	Neutral
(Includes no belief)	
Sex	Neutral

(Gender)	
Sexual Orientation	Neutral
Other protected groups (Pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership)	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority	Neutral
neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)	

Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/ or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.

Please note:

- a) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.
- b) Additionally, if you have identified adverse impact that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.

No

Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Wyre Council's responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

This PSPO continues to meet Wyre Council's equality and diversity requirements. The Council will also seek to identify areas that dogs are free to walk without restriction and will seek to work with the local businesses to identify establishments that welcome dogs.

This PSPO will continue to I be publicised on social media, Council's website, circulated to Town and Parish Council's. Signage will be updated across the borough to reflect any changes.

Step 6- Monitoring, evaluation and review

Are there processes in place to review the findings of this Assessment and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?

The PSPO's will be reviewed every 3 years and the EIA will be reviewed at the same time.

Next schedule review (if proposed renewal is approved) 2026

How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes? e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems.

Consultation with interested groups, stronger understanding of how the Orders can be implemented and reviewed and promoted.

Step 7- Action Plan

Please include any identified concerns/actions/issues in this action plan:

The issues identified should inform your Service Plan and, if appropriate, your Consultation Plan

Action

There is a commitment to an ongoing review of the dog enforcement service, in relation to responses/feedback received from the consultation process, to ensure it remains appropriate and fit for purpose.

Step 8- Who needs to know about the outcomes of this assessment and how will they be informed?

	Who needs to know (Please tick)	How they will be informed
Employees	✓	Published on intranet
Service users	✓	Published with Cabinet report
Partners and stakeholders	✓	Published with Cabinet report
Others	✓	Published with Cabinet report/updates to website





Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council, Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder, Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities	Cabinet	6 September 2023

Options for the future operation of the council's theatres – Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

Key decision: Yes

1. Purpose of report

1.1 This paper provides Members with options to consider around the future operation of Wyre Council's theatres (Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre) and recommends the launch of a public consultation as part of a wider consultation for the rejuvenation of Fleetwood's waterfront.

2. Corporate priorities

2.1 This report aligns to our corporate priorities of **People and Communities** and **Growth and Prosperity** by exploring options to secure the future of the theatres as key community and tourism assets, while also looking to address the increasing levels of subsidy required from the council to run the venues.

3. Recommendations

- That Members note that the preferred option is to safeguard the future of Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre by outsourcing the operation of both theatres to suitable alterative providers.
- 3.2 That Members agree to launch a six-week public consultation around options for the future of the theatres which will be incorporated into a

- wider consultation exercise for the redevelopment and rejuvenation of Fleetwood's waterfront as a prime leisure destination.
- That the Corporate Director Communities be authorised to work with the Theatres Trust to commission an independent consultant to review Marine Hall operations and provide recommendations for the most viable future operating model and to help secure a future alternative provider. At this stage the cost of the consultants is unknown. Cabinet are therefore asked to approve an initial budget to be set aside of £20,000, funded from the Value For Money Reserve to support this work.
- That a soft market testing exercise be commissioned for Thornton Little Theatre to test market appetite and determine if there is a suitable alternative service provider to take over the running of this asset preferably by way of a lease. Cabinet are asked to set aside £10,000 for marketing and other related costs in relation to this.

4. Background

- 4.1 Wyre is extremely fortunate to have two theatres. Both are owned and operated by Wyre Council Marine Hall (MH), in Fleetwood and Thornton Little Theatre (TLT). MH opened in 1935 and has been an entertainment venue for the Wyre area ever since. It has the capacity to seat approximately 600 people and hold approximately 1,000 people standing. In 2022/23 there were just over 100 events in Marine Hall, which included weddings, community and commercial lettings, and theatre and music productions, however only 24 of these events were profitable. TLT is a smaller theatre with tiered seating for up to 197 people and a standing capacity for 300. TLT hosts a range of events from touring theatre performances to plays by local amateur dramatic companies, live acoustic gigs and community events such as the Health and Harmony singing group.
- 4.2 Both theatres are much loved community assets and provide our local communities and visitors with access to a wide range of cultural and community events. We want to make sure that these assets continue to be available to Wyre's communities and visitors for years to come and this report explores how this could be best achieved including whether the council remains best placed to operate them.
- 4.3 The main driver for the review of theatre operations is the high level of subsidy needed from the council to operate the service, which last year amounted to over £500,000. It is not financially sustainable for the council to continue with this level of subsidy. The council's latest Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2023/24-2027/28, sets out the requirement to achieve £3,675,000 in savings over the period in order to balance the council's budget.
- **4.4** It is also relevant to note that providing a theatre service is not a statutory function that needs to be provided by the council and we have a duty to

our council tax payers to review service provision where spend is high and explore opportunities to reduce costs and increase income. Research has found that very few councils have retained an in-house theatre service, and most are now outsourced to alternative service providers including charitable trusts, which are able to apply for grant funding which local authorities are unable to access.

- The high subsidy cost of the theatres is not a new issue, the council has been unable to make the theatres financially sustainable for many years. Rising costs such as those for staffing and energy are making the financial situation worse and as the theatres are council run, they are not eligible to apply for many external grant schemes such as Arts Council funding and the Heritage Lottery Fund which limits opportunities to secure capital investment. There have been previous unsuccessful attempts to secure the financial viability of both theatres which are set out below.
- 4.6 In 2001 the council's Countryside, Leisure and Tourism Committee asked officers to explore how best to maximise the commercial potential and secure much needed investment in the building and equipment, through exploring a partner for Marine Hall. At that time four organisations came forward, but only one made it to the final stages of the process and their proposal was ultimately rejected by Cabinet. Instead, the decision was taken to pursue a development programme which included works to the Colonnade and Main Hall. Officers were also asked to pursue funding options including charitable trust status and private sector funding. It is unclear why the charitable trust status was never progressed.
- 4.7 In 2009, a new management arrangement was agreed for TLT which saw the appointment of Paul Nicholas School of Acting Ltd as a preferred management partner for a period of three years. They took over the day-to-day operational management of TLT but with costs being shared between the council and the partner on an equal basis. The arrangement with this particular company was not successful. However similar business models could be revisited.
- 4.8 In the 2018 Asset Management Strategy, the increasing levels of subsidy for the theatres was once again highlighted and exploring options for theatres was taken forward as a priority action. A soft market testing exercise was carried out in November 2018 to look for a partner for the future management and development of the Marine Hall complex. The purpose of the exercise was to explore market appetite for the delivery of an integrated entertainment, leisure, culture-based offer for both residents and visitors to the area. There was only one expression of interest for this exercise, and it was later withdrawn.
- 4.9 The pandemic brought further challenges for our theatres and in March 2020, the theatres were required to close as a result of a series of national and regional restrictions. Marine Hall was re-purposed as a community hub incorporating a food bank and TLT was used by the NHS

- as a vaccination centre. The operating environment was therefore suspended during 2020/21 and the majority of 2021/22 but largely returned to normal in 2022/23.
- 4.10 Fleetwood's seafront is rather understated and under used especially when compared with our neighbouring authorities. A seafront masterplan was developed back in 2009 which set out a delivery framework and a longer-term programme of rejuvenation and Marine Hall was at the centre of this programme. Some progress has been made on the delivery of the framework e.g., successful coastal community funding has enabled the development of beach bungalows, a splash pad, skate park and YMCA leisure centre cafe and coastal revival funding has enabled the restoration of the Marine Hall dome.
- 4.11 More recently an opportunity has been identified as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to revisit the Fleetwood waterfront masterplan and to build on the 2009 masterplan work as much was felt to remain relevant. The main aim of this work is to have a regeneration project proposal ready to go if the Levelling Up Fund Round 3 is announced. We want to ensure that Fleetwood is in a good position to bid for future funding as it was unsuccessful in previous rounds and under the Future High Streets Fund.
- 4.12 The Marine Hall site is a key part of this commission as it is important that we consider the uses of this building alongside other assets on the waterfront, which also includes the leisure centre. The objective is to ensure that we can create a more commercially viable and attractive leisure destination offer to attract more visitors to the area and help wider rejuvenation of Fleetwood.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 Both theatres are currently operated in-house by the council. The core service structure includes 13 posts (10.32 FTE). Staffing costs are the largest area of expenditure, followed by premises costs which includes energy costs.
- 5.2 The theatres have always required a significant subsidy. The table below shows the income and expenditure and operating deficit / subsidy by theatre. A historic target subsidy level for MH was set at £250,000 but as can be seen below this was only achieved in 2016/17 and 2018/19.

Marine Hall

	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
Income	£162,391	£204,434	£267,810	£257,454	£77,059	£143,557	£157,235
Expenditure	£419,028	£518,343	£490,915	£540,798	£421,709	£503,509	£563,449
Operating Deficit / Subsidy	-£256,637	-£313,909	-£223,104	-£283,344	-£344,650	-£359,953	-£406,214

Thornton Little Theatre

	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
Income	£37,187	£44,661	£58,708	£54,870	£41,380	£34,876	£47,175
Expenditure	£155,144	£161,183	£153,429	£187,546	£161,019	£165,970	£170,692
Operating Deficit / Subsidy	-£117,957	-£116,522	-£94,721	-£132,676	-£119,639	-£131,094	-£123,518

- 5.3 Income from both theatres combined is only 2.42% higher in 2022/23 (£204,400) than it was in 2016/17 (£199,600). Whilst income did increase slightly between 2017/18 and 2019/20, so did expenditure by a much greater proportion and therefore subsidy rates remained high. The outturn position for 2022/23 shows a total subsidy for both theatres of £529,732 (including recharges of £99,174).
- Overall, the analysis shows that in 2022/23, the MH subsidy requirement was far worse than any other year. However, TLT is comparable and slightly better than last year and 2019/20.
- 5.5 TLT's income has increased by 27% since 2016/17 and while expenditure has also increased, overall expenditure only increased by 10% during the same period. While this is a better position than MH it remains that the council provides a significant subsidy to ensure the continued operation. TLT has scope to increase community bookings and already has its place as a key community asset and it is recognised that this could be developed further.
- Income for MH has not recovered since the Covid-19 pandemic and in 2022/23 was 3.18% lower than in 2016/17. MH generates most income from the hire of the venue and on bar and kiosk sales. There were 216 sessions (am/pm/evening) booked in 2022/23. The community bookings are being heavily subsided. As it is a mid-size venue (and also possibly because of its location) it is limited as to the performances it can attract and therefore the income that it generates.
- While the council could do more to develop new commercial opportunities within the facility e.g., waterfront bar opening times, leasing of space, maximising secondary spend, reviewing programming, developing the wedding offer; it is not thought that any of these interventions will achieve a subsidy reduction to below £250,000 using the current business model.
- 5.8 The current business model for the operation of MH is therefore financially unsustainable and the evidence suggests that the council is not best placed to continue to deliver the service in-house. The asset requires a solution which will reduce the level of financial subsidy required from the council whilst also ensuring that the physical asset is

- safeguarded for the people of Wyre and to support the wider rejuvenation plans of the waterfront.
- A number of options have been considered for the future delivery of the theatres. The preferred option to safeguard the future of both theatres is to outsource the theatre service and transfer the operation of both theatres to a suitable alternative provider, ideally retaining the freehold. This proposal would see the theatres run by a different organisation and not the council. It represents the greatest opportunity for long-term savings while keeping the theatres as an attraction for Wyre. However, both theatres are very different, and it is felt that they may benefit from different alternative providers.
- 5.10 The challenge of this preferred option is not only market appetite to take on theatre operations particularly MH but the time involved in working out the right operating model going forward and then finding/establishing an alternative provider to operate this model, staff retention during a period of uncertainty and the need to minimise the council exposure to financial risk while any new service model is developed.
- 5.11 To limit the council's financial risk until a new service model is in place, we may need to look at mitigating actions such as stopping taking any new non-profit making bookings, reducing staffing levels or even mothballing the assets. These options, together with others will be considered over the next few months and recommendations will form part of the report to Council in November.
- We have already started talking to the Theatres staff about how to best ensure the long-term future of the Theatres and whether the council is best placed to keep running them and we will continue to engage and work with staff throughout this review period.
- 5.13 To help work out the best way forward for MH, the Corporate Director Communities will work with Theatres Trust to commission an independent service review which will provide future operating models for MH and also provide the required support to help secure a future alternative provider. This piece of work will be commissioned mid-September but may take some months to complete.
- 5.14 There are a range of different alternative operating models which could be considered. The Theatres Trust have provided some useful guidance for local authorities looking to move away from operating theatres inhouse and these include:
 - Setting up an independent theatre trust this option looks to convert the theatre into a charity. This has been completed at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury and allows the theatre to operate independent of the authority. The additional systems and staffing required by the loss of shared property, legal and accounting services will need to be considered. Being independent of the

council the theatre may be able to respond to changes in consumer demand and artistic shifts more rapidly, without being required to comply with council processes designed for different styles of working.

- Bundling leisure offer With some smaller spaces, local authorities have put their theatres out to tender as part of a package including gyms, pools and other leisure services. The theatre operating model this tends to create is a "hall for hire" which can continue to be used by the community but may not have a regular programme of public events. The traditionally shorter duration of these contracts does not allow for operator investment into the building. It can be a way to protect community use but does not come with many of the placemaking benefits of a theatre programme.
- Community asset transfer Where theatres have an active group of volunteers willing to take on the theatre, local authorities can consider transferring the theatre to the volunteers for operation. The Local Authority should satisfy themselves that the group have a business plan and a governance structure to operate the venue safely and sustainably. There have been cases where a community group have struggled to deliver their business model following transfer owing to issues between other community groups who were unsuccessful in their bid to be the transferee. Volunteer run theatres are not restricted to amateur dramatic programming there are many across the country that present a busy, mixed programme including touring theatre, dance, cinema, comedy and music.
- Outsourcing to a commercial theatre specialist Larger theatres may be suitable for outsourcing to a commercial theatre operator. These companies often operate a portfolio of venues and are able to apply their management systems and economies of scale to the operation of venues. This approach is highly dependent on the scale of the theatre, its current financial performance, the condition of the building and the ancillary revenue generating spaces. It is unusual for theatres under 800 seats to be viable under this model amongst the current commercial operating models, but this may change.
- As the financial risk is lower, Thornton Little Theatre will continue to operate as normal, but a soft market testing exercise will be undertaken to try and find a suitable alternative partner. Ideally, we would be looking for a community partner who will take on a lease with a condition that future bookings would all be honoured, and community events will still be delivered. This soft market testing exercise will launch mid-September and the outcome of this exercise will be reported to Council in November.

- 5.16 Even though theatres are not a statutory service, the council has a duty to consult representatives of a wide range of local people as it is reviewing current service provision. The intention is to launch a public consultation on 11 September 2023 which will run for six weeks. The consultation will be part of a wider consultation exercise focused on the rejuvenation of the Fleetwood waterfront. The consultation will include an online survey and will include information boards at MH, Fleetwood YMCA and Fleetwood Market. It is felt that this will help to get a wide range of people involved in the consultation.
- 5.17 An equality impact assessment will need to be carried out before any final decisions are made and the results of the public consultation will be used to help inform this.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1 Status Quo / Do Nothing this option has been considered and rejected because of the rising unsustainable subsidy levels and the need to review services where spend is high and increasing and explore opportunities to reduce costs and increase income. High level research has also been undertaken of management arrangements of local theatres in Lancashire and most are now managed by charitable trusts or commercial operators. A recent report to Government by the Theatres Trust found that it is common and beneficial for a local authority to outsource the operation of the theatre to a company or charity to operate it on their behalf.
- **Explore opportunities to invest in the assets and further**commercialise the service Investment proposals could be explored to develop and improve the quality of the offer with a view to further commercialising the assets and achieve much higher levels of income. This has been rejected owing to the amount of capital investment that is likely to be required and the low probability of being able to increase the income levels to the extent that the council's subsidy could be significantly reduced.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications			
Finance	As included at para 5.3, the council's outturn position for 2022/23 shows a total subsidy for both theatres of £529,732 (including recharges of £99,174). This is a deteriorating position and financially unsustainable for the council. This does not include the subsidised events run by the Theatres team at the Mount Pavilion. At this stage the cost of any consultants to be engaged is unknown. An initial budget is to be set aside of £20,000,		
	funded from the Value For Money (VFM) Reserve to		

support this work. The Fleetwood waterfront consultation is already budgeted for using UKSPF monies.

A further budget of £10,000 is to be set aside for the soft market testing exercise for TLT, again funded from the VFM Reserve.

Over the course of exploring the alternative methods of provision, it is the aim that a suitable alternative provider is found for one or both theatres during 2024. The ultimate goal is to significantly reduce the council's ongoing financial subsidy of the theatres but at this stage no financial target or timescale for reduction has been set pending the outcome of the review and soft market testing.

The council has a duty to consult representatives of a wide range of local people as it is reviewing current service provision. Consultation on changes to service provision must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage; the council must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to enable intelligent consideration and response; adequate time must be given for consideration and response; and the product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising any proposals. The council must give genuine and conscientious consideration to the responses received from the consultees during the consultation before making its final decision on the proposals. The planned public consultation will help to address this duty.

Legal

The council must also consider the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This Act creates a public sector equality duty which requires that when the council makes decisions it must have regard to the need to: (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation marriage and civil partnership. This duty is still to be assessed

A title check of the assets will need to be carried out prior to any final decision being made.

Climate Change	Building condition surveys will be commissioned for both theatres – this will help us to understand what improvements may need to be made if the theatres are to be let out. Currently leased out premises need an EPC rating of at least "E" and this is anticipated to be a minimum of "C" by April 2027. Thornton Little Theatre is also one of the properties being reviewed by Parker Wilson as part of the heat decarbonisation project.
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Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a \checkmark below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	√/x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	✓
health and safety	х

risks/implications	√/x
asset management	✓
ICT	х
data protection	х

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

List of appendices

None