



Cabinet Agenda

Wyre Borough Council
Date of Publication: 10 October 2017
Please ask for : Duncan Jowitt
Democratic Services and Councillor
Development Officer
Tel: 01253 887608

**Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, 18 October 2017 at 5.30 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 1 - 2)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet.

4. Public questions

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

Public questions can be delivered in writing to Democratic Services or sent by email to: publicquestions@wyre.gov.uk. Public questions for this meeting must be received by noon on Thursday 12 October 2017. 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.

5. Waste and Recycling Collection Services task group - final report

(Pages 3 - 26)

Report of the Chairman of the Waste and Recycling Collection Services task group and Service Director Performance and Innovation

6. Cost Profiles - benchmarking results 2017/18

(Pages 27 - 60)

Report of the Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder and Head of Finance (s.151 Officer)

- 7. Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2020/21** (Pages 61 - 88)
- Report of the Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder and Head of Finance (s.151 Officer)
- 8. Review of Consultation and Implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Dog Control** (Pages 89 - 100)
- Report of the Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder and Service Director People and Places
- (a) Appendix 1 (part 1) (Pages 101 - 188)
- (b) Appendix 1 (part 2) (Pages 189 - 224)
- (c) Appendices 2 - 4 (Pages 225 - 280)
- 9. Exclusion of public and press**
- In accordance with Paragraph 11 of the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive has determined that the report submitted under item 10 of this agenda is "Not for Publication" because it contains "exempt information", as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- If Cabinet agrees that the public and press should be excluded for this item, it will need to pass the following resolution:
- "That the public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst agenda item 10 is considered, on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 and, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".
- 10. Variation of Ground Lease User Clause and Receipt of Premium Payment to Allow A3, A4, D2 and A1 Retailing at Jubilee Business Park, Cleveleys Promenade** (Pages 281 - 284)
- Report of the Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder and Service Director Performance and Innovation



Cabinet Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Wednesday, 6 September 2017 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-Le-Fylde.

Cabinet members present:

Councillor Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council
Councillor Alan Vincent, Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder
Councillor David Henderson, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder
Councillor Pete Murphy, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

Apologies:

Councillor Vivien Taylor, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder

Other councillors present:

Councillor(s) Emma Anderton and Marge Anderton

Officers present:

Garry Payne, Chief Executive
Mark Billington, Service Director People and Places
Mark Broadhurst, Service Director Health and Wellbeing
Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation
Duncan Jowitt, Democratic Services and Councillor Development Officer
Paul Hallett, Housing Technician
Paul Parkinson, Housing Technician

No members of the public or press attended the meeting.

CAB.8 Declarations of interest

None.

CAB.9 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 July 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

CAB.10 Public questions

None

CAB.11 Capital Programme Review and Monitoring Report

The Resources Portfolio Holder and the Head of Finance submitted a report asking Cabinet to consider the summary of the Spending Officers' (April to end June 2017) review of the 2017/18 Capital Budget and its impact on the Capital Programme thereafter.

Decision taken

Cabinet agreed that the Capital Programme and its funding be updated to reflect the changes indicated in the report and that the impact on the Revenue Budget is reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan and future revisions of the Revenue Estimates.

CAB.12 Disabled Facilities Grants Policy

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder and the Service Director Health and Wellbeing submitted a report asking Cabinet to approve the Wyre Council Disabled Facilities Grants Policy.

Decision taken

Cabinet approved the Disabled Facilities Grants Policy.

CAB.13 Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review

The Leader of the Council and the Service Director Performance and Innovation submitted a report asking Cabinet to consider the Annual Review letter from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for 2016/17.

Decision taken

Cabinet noted the comments made by the Ombudsman in the Annual Review Letter.

The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 5.43 pm.

Date of Publication: 7 September 2017

Options considered but rejected

Any alternative options that were considered but rejected, in addition to the reasons for the recommendations that were made, are included in the full reports.

When will these decisions be implemented?

All decisions will be put into effect five working days from the date of publication, unless a decision is "called-in" by any four members of the council within that period.



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item no.
Cllr Paul Moon, Chairman of the Waste and Recycling Collection Services task group and Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation	Cabinet	18 October 2017	5

Waste and Recycling Collection Services task group – final report

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To report the work of the Waste and Recycling Collection Services task group to the Cabinet.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 An effective and efficient waste and recycling collection service that meets the needs of residents and the council.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the council re-tests the market before making a decision about the provision of the waste and recycling collection service beyond April 2020.
- 3.2 That any future arrangement for the delivery of the waste and recycling collection service takes into account the requirements of the Local Plan including, in particular, the impact of additional properties planned for the borough.
- 3.3 That the box currently used for dry recyclates be replaced by a bin.
- 3.4 That a four-bin system for a two-stream collection on a four-weekly cycle be introduced.
- 3.5 That all options for driving up recycling rates be considered, and implemented as appropriate.

4. Background

- 4.1** In 2009 and 2011 scrutiny task group reviews were carried out to investigate the arrangements for the delivery of waste and recycling collection services.
- 4.2** In line with the main recommendation of the 2011 scrutiny review a tender exercise, incorporating a detailed evaluation process, was carried out. The council's waste management contract was awarded to Veolia ES (UK), now renamed Veolia, delivering efficiency savings of £1.4m which was in excess of the £850,000 originally anticipated. -
- 4.3** The contract commenced on the 1 April 2012 for 8 years, with an option to extend this period for a further 8 years.
- 4.4** The council currently provides an alternate weekly collection of waste to over 90% of households, with residual waste collected one week and recycling materials collected the following week, in receptacles as follows:
- Cardboard and paper – co-mingled in a 140 or 240 litre blue lidded wheeled bin
 - Glass, cans and plastic bottles, with textiles in a carrier bag – kerbside box
 - Green and food waste – 240 litre green lidded wheeled bin
 - General waste – 240 litre grey lidded bin

The collections are made on the same day each week and the quantity of residual waste is restricted to 240 litres per fortnight, unless the householder qualifies for additional capacity according to the council's collection policy.

- 4.5** In November 2005 Cabinet agreed that the council should enter into the Property Based Payment Agreement (cost sharing) with Lancashire County Council. The contract was subsequently approved in February 2006. The Cost Sharing Agreement was introduced as an enhanced system to the former recycling credits to enable districts that signed up to it to invest in kerbside recycling collections to help reach the Lancashire Waste Strategy Target of 90% of households receiving a three-stream waste collection service. The Agreement contained a number of conditions to which the council had to adhere. The Agreement will terminate in March 2018.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Veolia have met their contractual requirements and since 2012 have provided a service that has been excellent in terms of performance against agreed KPIs and cost. The council's relationship with Veolia has been very positive.
- 5.2** The impact of the additional properties planned for the borough needs to be taken into account in any future arrangement, with links made to the Local

Plan. Such an arrangement would need to be future-proofed for a further sixteen years.

- 5.3 Testing the market again would ensure that the council has the opportunity to secure the best possible service provision, which may or may not involve the current contractor. A new contract could be awarded from April 2020 for which the procurement process would need to commence in April 2018.
- 5.4 It is not anticipated that Lancashire County Council, as the disposal authority, would impose any changes to collection methods, but future Government regulation are a possibility, particularly once the need to abide by European legislation is no longer relevant.
- 5.5 The use of a kerbside box for glass, cans and plastics has been unpopular with residents from the outset. The box was often too small for a household's fortnightly recycling and in windy weather the boxes were frequently blown away and damaged. The introduction of a fourth bin for these recyclates would be preferable, but there is likely to be a cost in excess of £1.2m to replace the boxes with bins.
- 5.6 The introduction of a fourth bin would necessitate new vehicles to be leased to accommodate the collection rounds and a move to a two-stream collection on a four-weekly cycle, which is feasible although may result in resistance from residents.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	<p>To replace the kerbside box with a bin would be an additional cost to the council in excess of £1.2m. There is currently no provision in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) or the Capital Programme for the replacement of the boxes for a new wheeled bin. Nor is there any allowance in the MTFP for an increase in the revenue cost of the contract, above current inflation, caused by changes to service provision. The funding gap in the MTFP by 2020/21 currently stands at £2.4m and any additional ongoing cost would worsen the forecast.</p> <p>Excluding externally funded schemes, the capital programme is principally funded from the disposal of assets which represents a limited source of funding. The capital investment reserve is currently earmarked for investment in our buildings based on a prioritised review of condition surveys and current needs exceed the value of the reserve. If a decision was taken to prioritise the replacement of the boxes for bins then the likely impact would be that other schemes would need to be delayed until funding could be sourced or no-longer taken forward and further disposals would be required unless savings were identified elsewhere.</p> <p>A full business case would need to be developed to consider all the options both for the one-off replacement of containers</p>

	and the ongoing impact of any service changes on revenue budgets.
Legal	Soft market testing is not part of regulated procurement and is not subject to any detailed procedures or rules. However it is important that the process remains transparent and that suppliers are treated with fairness and equality and also that the process is formally documented.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ 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	x
sustainability	✓
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	✓
data protection	x

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Peter Foulsham	01253 887606	Peter.foulsham@wyre.gov.uk	22/09/2017

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

List of appendices

Appendix A Waste and Recycling Collection Services Task Group – Final Report

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Waste and Recycling Collection Services Task Group

- Final Report -

Chairman:

Councillor Paul Moon

Task Group Members:

Councillor Ian Amos
Councillor Rita Amos
Councillor Howard Ballard
Councillor John Hodgkinson
Councillor John Ibison
Councillor Tom Ingham
Councillor Patsy Ormrod
Councillor Ann Turner

Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Chairman: Councillor Michael Vincent

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Introduction

Wyre Council has a contract with Veolia for waste and recycling collection services which was initially for eight years from 2012, with an option to extend for a further eight years from April 2020.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a task group to consider options for the delivery of the waste and recycling collection services beyond April 2020. If any changes are to be made to the contract, or if it is to be re-tendered, a lengthy lead-in period will be required, hence the need to commence those discussions now.

Aims of review

The aims of the review, as specified in the scoping document (see Appendix 1), were as follows:

- To review the current arrangements for the collection of waste and recycling materials in Wyre
- To review the performance of the current contractor, Veolia
- To consider other options for the collection of waste and recycling materials
- To identify potential improvements in the current service
- To identify opportunities for further efficiencies

The review process

The task group has interviewed Councillor David Henderson (Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder), Mark Billington (Service Director People and Places), Ruth Hunter (Waste and Recycling Manager), Clare James (Head of Finance) and Alan Fitzpatrick (Waste and Recycling Officer).

Other witnesses who attended a meeting were Steve Scott (Head of Waste Management, Lancashire County Council) and two representatives from Veolia, namely Shaun Donohue (Regional Operations Manager) and Damian Bigley (Contract Manager).

Councillors were also made aware of the following documents by way of background and contextual information:

- Annual Performance Review April 2015 – March 2016
- Waste and Recycling Survey 2016 (Customer satisfaction survey)
- Waste and Recycling Service Policy
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (amended 2012) Review of Waste Collection Arrangements – Portfolio Holder report, 15 January 2015

Summary of evidence provided by Councillor David Henderson, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder, Mark Billington, Service Director People and Places and Ruth Hunter, Waste and Recycling Manager

The task group was reminded of the work undertaken by two previous scrutiny task groups that took place between 2009 and 2011 which resulted in the current arrangements for the delivery of waste and recycling collection services.

There are a number of key dates and milestones that officers need to meet in order to be in a position to continue to deliver a service after April 2020 when the eight-year contract term with Veolia expires. There is, however, an option for the contract to be extended for a further eight years and this is one of several options to be considered.

The key dates are as follows:

April 2020 – ensure a delivery provider is secured

July 2019 – date by which custom-made new vehicles would need to be ordered ready for April 2020

April 2018 – if the decision is made to test the market again a procurement process will need to begin, with a view to awarding a contract from April 2019

A number of questions might helpfully be considered by the task group, including:

- Are changes to containers required?
- Would bins be preferable to boxes for plastics, glass and tins?
- Does the frequency of collections require changing?
- What are the implications for vehicles?
- What efficiencies might be identified (although it was likely that there were no large potential savings to be achieved this time)?

The current cost-sharing agreement with Lancashire County Council will end in March 2018.

Changes that have been initiated by Lancashire County Council have had implications for the current contractor, including the moth-balling of the green waste facility at the Hillhouse site which has necessitated green waste being taken to Scronkey (near Pilling). Residual waste still goes to Hillhouse, but on a reduced service. These changes have had an impact the council's agreement with Veolia and their costs.

Veolia has provided a service that is excellent in terms of performance against agreed KPIs and cost. The communication and two-way flow of information at a number of different levels has also been very good which has facilitated a positive working relationship.

The key question is whether Wyre wishes to opt for a contract extension of a further eight years, which would give both parties the chance to make some changes to the

way in which the service is delivered.

Other points to note include:

- Veolia have had some problems with the bodies of their vehicles, primarily caused by the abrasive effect of glass, which has meant that they are not lasting as long as expected.
- Split-body vehicles would not necessarily be the preferred option in the future.
- Future Government regulation is a possibility, which could require the separate collection of materials, as well as the collection of food waste, leading to an increase in the number of receptacles.
- The contract states that Veolia will continue to absorb the costs of a reasonable number of additional properties being built.
- There does not currently appear to be any benefit in seeking to deliver a service jointly with any other local authority although such an option should not be completely ruled out; it would be helpful if the task group would look at this option even if it was only to discount it.
- Lancashire County Council has the power of direction which could influence decisions taken by Wyre.

Summary of evidence provided by Steve Scott, Head of Waste Management, Lancashire County Council

Lancashire County Council's Head of Waste Management, Steve Scott, attended the meeting to answer six specific questions from councillors.

Question 1

What is LCC's vision for the future in terms of (i) processing and disposal methodologies and (ii) locations?

Both the Farington and Thornton facilities are still open and processing waste and there are plans to increase the amount of waste dealt with.

The mechanical biological treatment (MBT) system previously employed is very expensive, particularly the biological element which is also subject to a high level of regulation. The process was originally implemented to meet legislative requirements, but that legislation has recently been withdrawn. A simpler process for the production of refuse derived fuel (RDF) is now planned, without compost as a product. In order to be able to process more waste additional RDF markets need to be secured, however, and outlets are currently being procured. The current market has been muddled by Brexit and the drop in the value of the pound sterling against the euro.

Within twelve months it is hoped that the Thornton facility will be receiving approximately the same amount of waste as it was previously, with about the same amount as previously being sent to landfill. The same can be said for the Farington facility.

It is unclear whether Lancashire will have any landfill capacity beyond 2025, with several options under consideration for what might replace it.

Question 2

Do you foresee changes to the way in which Districts will have to collect waste and, if so, what might they be?

Supplementary: Do you foresee LCC being able to accept additional recyclable materials e.g. mixed plastics and tetra paks – about which our constituents ask frequently?

It is not anticipated that Lancashire County Council will impose any changes to what is collected, although it is possible that the Government might. As soon as the requirement to abide by European legislation is no longer relevant, change will become a possibility. Mr Scott does not foresee the delivery points closing, nor does he expect additional recyclable materials to be accepted.

Question 3

In the light of the cost-sharing agreement ending, how do you see the two-tier system working to maximise diversion from landfill and to provide the most cost-effective service for tax-payers?

In Mr Scott's view, the cost-sharing agreement was a means to an end at the time but it is not necessary now.

In Lancashire there has been a 5% overall increase in residual waste. The national figures show that recycling has decreased for the first time in many years, a trend replicated in Lancashire. One possible explanation is that younger families might not have been educated about recycling in the same way that people were five or more years ago.

The key is to drive up recycling again. It is essential to reduce residual waste and increase recycling and the only means to do this is likely to be by changing collection methods, either by reducing the number of collections or reducing the size of bins.

Question 4

Wyre currently achieves a 51% diversion from landfill rate. With the changes that LCC have made to the facilities, how do you see the county meeting the stretch targets set out in the Lancashire Municipal Waste Strategy?

It is unlikely that the stretch targets set out in the Lancashire Municipal Waste Strategy will be met, for two reasons. First, a third facility has not been built, as had originally been planned, and second that changes in waste composition have been such that the facilities did not recover what it was thought that they would. The Strategy is now out of date, as was widely recognised.

A new strategy needs to be agreed.

Question 5

We are aware of the previous rationalisation programme for Household Waste Recycling Centres (Garstang, for example, now only accepting recyclables or items for re-use, and not general household waste). Do you have plans for further rationalisation and, if so, what might they be?

It is not possible to answer this question as it will depend upon the views of the new Lancashire County Council administration, elected in May 2017.

The decision was taken by the County's Cabinet in March to bring the fifteen household waste recycling centres back in-house, with effect from 1 April 2018. LCC is determined to make best use of re-use, not for profit or to

make savings, but simply to get usable items back to people who could use them for minimum cost. LCC want to create a Social Store by working closely with other organisations for the benefit of people in need (victims of flooding, domestic abuse, etc.) The intention is to move from recycling to re-use.

Question 6

How do you assess the impact of the introduction of a permit scheme at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)? We have concern about bins of inert waste being abandoned as a result.

The County Council has always recognised the potential for this to happen, but there has been no evidence of an increase in inert waste in bins. As far as LCC is concerned this has not been a major problem.

Summary of evidence provided by Shaun Donohue, Regional Operations Manager, and Damian Bigley, Contract Manager, Veolia

Veolia's Regional Operations Manager, Shaun Donohue, and Contracts Manager, Damian Bigley, attended the meeting to respond to five specific questions from councillors.

Question 1

In response to a number of comments that have been made by residents and councillors over quite a long period, would it be possible to consider replacing the plastic collection boxes for tins, plastics and glass with a bin? Assuming it is possible, what would the implications be?

The replacement of the green box with a bin is a possibility. A date would need to be agreed to implement the new process which would take into account the fact that Veolia has leased its vehicles for a period of five years and nine months, until December 2017. The new service could commence in January 2018. If that deadline is missed the vehicles could be leased for a further twelve months, to allow for a service commencement any time after December 2018; it is preferable to make any changes to the contract to tie in with these lease deadlines.

If new vehicles are leased, to accommodate the extra bin it would be necessary to move to a four-weekly paper and dry recyclates collection in order to absorb the cost. Trafford Council has already made such a change, and the collection arrangements with Chorley Council have also recently been altered. Veolia's investment in new vehicles would have to be linked to an 8-year extension of the contract from the new service commencement date. If the council purchased the vehicles there would be significant savings on the contract price due to preferential finance rates available.

If the decision was made to move to an additional bin significant capital investment, well in excess of £1m, would be required by the council.

Question 2

Do you have any ideas or suggestions about how to improve or enhance the service and/or get better value for money e.g. different collection systems or frequency of collections?

In Mr Donohue's opinion, a new bin and a move to a four-weekly cycle of collections would be the best option.

Other possible options could include a 3-weekly residual waste collection which had been introduced successfully at Bury Council, but this would not generate significant savings on service cost.

Question 3

How do you see that we can increase diversion rates of dry recyclates?

Providing a bin rather than a box for co-mingled recyclates would be beneficial, as people generally prefer an increased level of privacy in what they recycle. Increased privacy encourages people to recycle more.

The introduction of a smaller bin for general waste could also be considered, so that more had to be recycled. This could be done in conjunction with the issue of a fourth bin for co-mingled waste.

Question 4

Do you think there would be any efficiencies if Veolia were to manage the recyclates?

The only circumstances in which a local authority might benefit in this way would be if a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) was located nearby. The nearest MRF to Wyre is in Liverpool so the contract would need to be renegotiated in order to take into account the income received by Veolia which would be offset by the significant cost of transporting materials to the MRF.

An additional difficulty is that the market price for recyclates varies greatly and Veolia would not be prepared to shoulder any of the risk involved.

Question 5

If we were starting again with a blank canvas what arrangements, in your view, would offer the best for Wyre Council, the customer and diversion rates?

Mr Donohue's preference would be for a four-bin system with a two-stream collection on a four-weekly cycle. An alternative would be to move to a fully co-mingled service which would be more expensive due to transport and processing costs.

Summary of evidence provided by Alan Fitzpatrick, Waste and Recycling Officer

The council's relationship with Veolia has been very good indeed. Veolia have been open and honest and there have not been any significant issues that have required addressing. Veolia have met the contractual standards, as required. On some performance measures they had actually over-performed.

Testing the market would be a good idea in order to help deliver better value for money or to consider innovative practices.

A four-weekly cycle of collections, with a bin replacing the box, would be beneficial, although there would be a significant capital cost in doing so. The option to bring the service in-house was not necessarily advantageous, there being no reason to significantly change something that has been working well.

Summary of evidence provided by Clare James, Head of Finance

Clare James confirmed her support for soft market testing, and indicated some reluctance about bringing the service back in-house.

A contract extension would be looked upon favourably although there are issues that will require changes to the current contract. For example, consideration will need to be given to the additional properties planned in the borough, and links will need to be made to the Local Plan to take into account what is known about potential growth and the consequent impact on the service provider. Any changes agreed will need to be future-proofed for a further eight years.

A proposal to re-tender appears to make good sense. It is unlikely that additional major savings will be made, although a move to a three-weekly collection of residual waste could save around £100,000 per annum, based on work undertaken by WRAP (consultants) on behalf of Lancashire County Council and the districts. Such an arrangement would have implications for a separate food waste collection, however, which would be an additional cost.

Conclusions

1. The council's relationship with Veolia has been very good indeed. The relationship has been open and honest and without any significant issues that have needed to be resolved.
2. Veolia have met their contractual requirements and have provided a service that has been excellent in terms of performance against agreed KPIs and cost.
3. Any future arrangement would need to take into account the impact of the additional properties planned for the borough, with links made to the Local Plan. Such an arrangement would need to be future-proofed for a further eight years.
4. Testing the market again would ensure that the council has the opportunity to secure the best possible service provision, which might or might not involve Veolia. A new contract could be awarded from April 2020.
5. There are no significant savings to be made, although there remains some limited scope for efficiencies.
6. To reinvigorate the drive to recycle, and hence meet the urgent need to reduce residual waste, collection methods need to be changed, either by reducing the number of collections or reducing the size of bins.
7. It was unlikely that Lancashire County Council would impose any changes to collection methods, but future Government regulation was a possibility, particularly once the need to abide by European legislation was no longer relevant.
8. The Lancashire Municipal Waste Strategy is out of date and needs to be renegotiated.
9. It is be preferable to replace the green box with a bin for plastics, glass and tins.
10. The cost of providing a fourth bin would be well in excess of £1m.
11. If new vehicles are to be leased to accommodate the extra bin, it will be necessary to move to a four-weekly paper and dry recyclates collection in order to absorb the cost.
12. With a four-bin system a two-stream collection on a four-weekly cycle would be the best option. For example:

Week 1	General waste	
Week 2	Paper and card	Green
Week 3	General waste	
Week 4	Plastics, tins, glass	Green

13. A contract extension is the preferred option, subject to the outcomes of any further market testing, which would give both parties the chance to make some changes to the way in which the service is delivered.

Recommendations

1. That the Council re-tests the market before making a decision about the provision of the waste and recycling collection service beyond April 2020.
2. That any future arrangement for the delivery of the waste and recycling collection service takes into account the requirements of the Local Plan including, in particular, the impact of additional properties planned for the borough.
3. That the box currently used for dry recyclates be replaced by a bin.
4. That a four-bin system for a two-stream collection on a four-weekly cycle be introduced.
5. That all options for driving up recycling rates be considered, and implemented as appropriate.

Councillors' attendances

There were four meetings of the task group.

Name	Meetings attended (maximum 4)
Councillor I Amos	4
Councillor R Amos	4
Councillor Ballard	2
Councillor Hodgkinson	4
Councillor Ibison	4
Councillor Ingham	4
Councillor Moon	3
Councillor Ormrod	4
Councillor A Turner	2

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 Waste and recycling collection services task group – Scoping Document - FINAL

18 September 2017

**Waste and recycling collection services task group –
Scoping Document - FINAL**

Review Topic	Waste and recycling collection services	
Chairman	Councillor Paul Moon	
Group Membership	Councillors Ian Amos, Rita Amos, Howard Ballard (Vice Chairman), Tom Balmain, Mike Barrowclough, John Hodgkinson, John Ibison, Tom Ingham, Patsy Ormrod and Ann Turner.	
Officer Support	Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer	
Purpose of the Review	To consider options for the delivery of the waste and recycling collection services beyond April 2020	
Role of Overview and Scrutiny in this Review (mark all that apply)	Holding Executive to account – decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Existing budget and policy framework	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Contribution to policy development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Holding Executive to account – performance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Community champion	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Statutory duties / compliance with codes of practice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aims of Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the current arrangements for the collection of waste and recycling materials in Wyre • To review the performance of the current contractor, Veolia • To consider other options for the collection of waste and recycling materials • To identify potential improvements in the current service • To identify opportunities for further efficiencies 	
Methodology	Interviewing witnesses at task group meetings Comparisons with other local authorities	
Scope of Review	The review will be limited to consideration of the options for the delivery of a waste and recycling collection service beyond April 2020	
Potential Witnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder • Service Director People and Places • Waste and Recycling Manager • Lancashire County Council • Veolia 	

Documents to be considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual Performance Review April 2015 – March 2016 ○ Waste and Recycling Survey 2016 (Customer satisfaction survey) ○ Waste and Recycling Service Policy ○ The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (amended 2012) Review of Waste Collection Arrangements – Portfolio Holder report, 15 January 2015
Risks	
Level of Publicity	Low
Indicators of a Successful Review	Clear recommendations to the Cabinet about improvements to the waste and recycling service with effect from April 2020.
Intended Outcomes	An efficient and effective waste and recycling collection service in place from April 2020.
Approximate Timeframe	6 months
Projected Start Date	8 March 2017

arm/ex/cab/cr/17/1810pf1 Appendix A

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Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr Alan Vincent, Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder and Clare James, Head of Finance (s.151 Officer)	Cabinet	18 October 2017	6

Cost Profiles – Benchmarking Results 2017/18

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider the findings of the 2017/18 benchmarking study, a key element used to demonstrate that the council has proper arrangements in place for securing value for money.

2. Outcomes

2.1 The demonstration of value for money and an understanding of how well the council's overall service costs compare with others ultimately leading to better value for money services for local people.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Cabinet considers the benchmarking information attached and uses the findings to influence future service reviews.

4. Background

4.1 The council's External Auditors (KPMG) have a statutory responsibility, as set out in the National Audit Office's (NAO) Code of Audit Practice 2015, to give a value for money conclusion each year as part of their audit of the financial statements. Essentially, the VFM conclusion considers how the Authority "has proper arrangements to ensure it takes properly informed decisions and deploys resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people". For 2016/17 the auditors were required to give their statutory VFM conclusion based on the single criteria above, supported by three sub-criteria. These consider whether the Authority has proper arrangements in place for:

- Informed decision making;
- Sustainable resource deployment; and
- Working with partners and third parties.

4.2 The External Auditors follow a risk based approach to target audit effort on the areas of greatest audit risk. They consider the arrangements put in place by the Authority to mitigate these risks and plan their work

accordingly. No significant risks were identified in relation to the VFM conclusion, no additional work has therefore been completed and subsequently they have concluded that the Authority has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2017.

- 4.3** In the past, Overview and Scrutiny Committee have used the results of the benchmarking study to inform value for money reviews as part of their annual work programme.

5. Key Issues and Proposals

- 5.1** LG Futures were commissioned to analyse statistics published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) which allow us to analyse the money that councils plan to spend on their services each year. To put the spending into context, the information is expressed relative to a number of different denominators with the main one being the council's population.

- 5.2** Comparisons are based on the 'Nearest Neighbour Group' as recommended by CIPFA and last updated in 2014, with our costs being compared to those local authorities (15 excluding Wyre) that are considered to have similar characteristics, demographics, etc. Further comparison with English shire district authorities is then provided allowing us to review our position in relation to the national average.

- 5.3** The report identifies notional savings of £3.4m if Wyre set its unit costs in each service area to the bottom 20% of comparable authorities in England, with the greatest potential for savings in Cultural and Related Services (£1.7m). However it is important to state that distinctive features of planned spending are not by themselves either right or wrong and circumstances can vary significantly even between nearest neighbour authorities, with the following questions being raised:

- Is the difference in the council's spending associated with differences in the level of service it provides?
- Is the council's spending consistent with that of other council's providing services in a similar way or quality?
- Has the council's spending changed compared to others in the last three years?
- Is the scale of the service large enough to justify making distinctions between councils?

- 5.4** The Council's total expenditure per head of population for 2017/18 is £111.14 and this places us as the 3rd lowest spender in the group as can be seen in the chart on page 8 of the LG Futures report (Appendix 1) and slightly better than the national average of £120.

- 5.5** The population information used in the reports is taken from the mid year estimates of population published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Our spending plan for 2017/18 uses the Registrar General's population estimate in June 2016 of 109,550 which places us as the 8th smallest authority out of the 16 in the group.

5.6 The total expenditure cost of £111.14 per head of population is made up as follows:

	£	%
Highways and Transport Services	2.45	2
Housing Services	11.02	10
Cultural and Related Services	27.21	25
Environmental and Regulatory Services	34.88	31
Planning and Development Services	4.61	4
Central Services	30.97	28
Total	111.14	100

5.7 There are a number of detailed charts which relate to individual service areas for the 2017/18 financial year (Original Estimate) and these will be made available for use by service managers. Particular areas of interest are concentrated in the 'Highways and Transport', 'Housing' and 'Cultural and Related Services' areas where Wyre's unit costs are significantly higher in some areas than our Nearest Neighbour average. Overall, using a traffic light system, the report has identified eight 'red' categories and seven 'amber', most of which merit further investigation.

Service Category	Red	Amber	Green	Grey = Average	Overall
Highways and Transport Services	4	1	3	0	Red (1 st)
Housing Services	2	2	2	0	Green (15 th)
Cultural and Related Services	2	1	1	1	Red (3 rd)
Environmental and Regulatory Services	0	2	1	4	Green (13 th)
Planning and Development Services	0	1	3	3	Green (16 th)
Central Services	0	0	5	1	Green (16 th)
TOTAL	8	7	15	9	Green (14th)

Based on the above Red/Amber indicators and after removing those below a minimum budget threshold of £30,000 or offset by grant received, the remaining list of specific priority areas is as follows:

1. Highways Maintenance
2. Parking Services
3. Public Transport
4. Homelessness
5. Housing Welfare: Supporting People
6. Culture and Heritage
7. Open Spaces
8. Other Cultural and Related Services
9. Other Environmental and Regulatory Services
10. Business Support

5.8 Highways and Transport Services

At Wyre, net expenditure on highways and transport services is £2.45 per head of population, equivalent to just 2% of the total spend per head but is the most expensive in the group. The national average is a surplus of £6 per resident with the minimum unit cost an improvement of £43 on Wyre's. Looking at the areas classed as red or amber reveals the following:

- Highways maintenance, including support for the LCC agency agreement and non-agency roads, are £2.42 per head of population, the highest spend, with 8 authorities declaring a nil spend. This includes maintenance of roundabouts, shrub beds and other features installed on highway land owned by Wyre as well as the maintenance of unadopted highways following the housing stock transfer;
- The net income that we earn from car parking is £1.87 per head of daytime population with one authority earning less than us. Scarborough is the highest earning authority in the group reporting net income of £33.89 per head with North Devon being the next highest and earning £20.87 and Fylde report earnings of £3.98. If we add back in the rental income for the two car parks now operated by Booths our income rises to £3.33 per head but our ranking only improves by one place to third lowest in the group;
- Transport Planning, Policy and Strategy encompasses support service recharges totalling £11,340 only and although identified in the survey is below the threshold for further investigation.
- The cost for Public Transport, essentially the Fleetwood to Knott End Ferry, Bus Shelters and the Bus Station at Cleveleys is £1.55 per head. If the ferry is stripped out, our unit cost becomes £0.19 per head and our ranking moves to 6th overall with four group members declaring a nil spend.

5.9 Housing Services

Wyre is the 2nd lowest spender with expenditure on Housing Services of £11.02, 10% of the spending, slightly lower than the national average of £14 but £21 higher than the national minimum. Looking at the areas classed as red or amber reveals the following:

- The costs of the homelessness service at £31,875 per household accepted as homeless (8) place us as the second highest spender in the group. After stripping out any one-off grants our unit cost is still £26,746.25 and our ranking remains unchanged. Fylde have 9 cases of households accepted as homeless, so one more than Wyre, and their unit cost is around half Wyre's at £15,555.56;
- Administration of housing benefit at £124.56 per Housing Benefit claimant (6,872) places us 6th in the group prior to the receipt of government grant, with the true cost to the council after grant being only £69.76 per claimant.
- Discretionary rent rebates and rent allowances, where we voluntarily disregard war disablement and war widows' pensions, at £7.28 per Housing Benefit claimant place us as the 7th lowest spender, with Fylde reporting a surplus of £184.15, although this suggests it is an error. It should be remembered, however, that much of this cost is met

by the government in the form of housing subsidy. The real cost to the council for local housing benefit schemes in 2017/18 is £1.82 per Housing Benefit claimant.

- Only Fylde in addition to Wyre has categorised expenditure as 'supporting people' costs, with Wyre, reflecting its Care and Repair and Handy Persons Scheme, being the highest spender at £0.28. Again, some of this cost is met by government grant and contributions from Fylde to run their service, without which, the cost would rise to £2.05 per head. There is reason to explore this area further to investigate its potential as a fully self-sustaining service area.

5.10 Cultural and Related Services

This includes culture and heritage, recreation and sport, open spaces and tourism. Wyre is ranked as the 3rd most expensive, with a cost of £27.21 per head of population – 25% of spending and £7 higher than the national average. Only Scarborough and Shepway are spending more than Wyre, although the gap between the top spender and the 3rd place authority is around one third. Looking at the areas classed as red or amber reveals the following:

- Culture and heritage costs, incorporating the Marine Hall, Thornton Little Theatre, Marsh Mill, the Wyre Volunteer Project and Arts Development/Promotion, are the 6th highest spend in the family group at £5.16 with the highest spend being Scarborough at £13.77 and the second highest being Shepway at £7.60;
- Parks and open spaces costs which include Wyre Estuary Country Park, Rossall Point and the Allotments show us to be the 4th highest spender based on local authority area at £48.38. Dover and Tendring have comparable local authority areas in size and their unit costs are £23.83 and £17.95 respectively (both mid-table);
- Tourism costs of £2.31 place us as the 4th highest spender with Allerdale reporting a £3.17 surplus.

5.11 Environmental and Regulatory Services

The cost profiles show Wyre as the 4th lowest spender in the group with expenditure of £34.88 per head of population – 31% of spending and slightly better than the national average of £40 per head of population. Looking at the areas classed as amber reveals the following:

- Owing to the difficulty in accurately identifying contractor and client costs for the different waste streams, these two service areas (one amber and one green) have been combined. When Waste Collection, Waste Disposal and Recycling are combined our total spend of £19.59 is the 3rd lowest in the family group.
- Wyre is the 7th highest spender for Other Environmental and Regulatory Services which includes Trade Waste, Coast Protection, Flooding and Land Drainage at £4.19 per head of population, with Sedgemoor spending the most at £12.37 per head of population and both Allerdale and Adur generating surpluses of £2.14 and £2.24 respectively. In this category, Wyre's highest area of spend is in relation to sea defences (80%).

5.12 Planning and Development Services

Wyre is the lowest spender on planning and development services at £4.61 per head – 4% of spending – primarily due to the income from the council’s property portfolio. Interestingly, although in the bottom 20%, Wyre’s spend is still £142 higher than the national minimum being a surplus of £137 per resident.

- Business Support is the only amber category and includes Business Support and Wyred-Up at £12.03 per number of businesses in Wyre (4,655). This reveals Wyre to be the 5th highest spender of 10 authorities who report a spend, with 4 authorities reporting net income including Teignbridge, the highest at £100 per business.

5.13 Central Services

With expenditure of £30.97 for Central Services, approximately 28% of the budget, Wyre is the lowest spender in the family group and no red or amber category areas were identified. The national average for this category is £37 with the minimum being £13 per resident.

5.14 Further Work

The scrutiny programme for the current year includes a review of income from charging. The findings outlined in this report will hopefully assist the council in selecting any future service areas for review in 2018/19.

As part of the process of identifying our statutory and non-statutory service areas, ten priority areas classed as red or amber have been identified for further investigation and Service Directors have been presented with the benchmarking report and further analysis to assist them in working with Finance to identify opportunities for improving our unit costs and securing savings towards the ongoing efficiency programme.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	The Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan identifies the need to secure efficiency savings in future years. The delivery of value for money services will not only assist with our financial planning but will also aid the prioritisation of resources.
Legal	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 ✓ 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.

implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Clare James	01253 887308	clare.james@wyre.gov.uk	22.09.17

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

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – LG Futures Report

arm/ex/cab/cr/17/1810cj1



Financial Intelligence Toolkit

2017/18 Subscription

Financial Benchmarking - Unit Costs

Wyre

Overview

This report compares unit costs between local authorities in England, using budgeted expenditure from authorities' Revenue Account (RA) returns for 2017/18. The report is intended to act as an initial guide for further investigation into areas where unit costs differ to those of similar authorities and where there may potentially be scope for savings.

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Summary of Key Points

Potential Savings

- Overall, Wyre would generate notional savings of £3.4m if it set its unit costs in each service area to the bottom 20% of comparable authorities in England. Setting unit costs to the median would impose additional expenditure of £0.9m, while setting unit costs to the top 20% would impose additional expenditure of £5.4m.

Overall Unit Costs

- Overall, Wyre's unit costs (excluding schools) are 11.9% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and are ranked 14th highest out of the 16 authorities.
- Compared nationally, Wyre's unit costs are 7.2% below average, and are ranked 128th highest out of 201 comparable authorities.
- Wyre's overall unit costs decreased by 3.5% between 2016/17 and 2017/18. Compared to its nearest neighbours, its unit cost ranking remained unchanged at 14th highest in the group.

Unit Costs by Service

- Highways & Transport - Wyre's unit costs are 127.0% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked the highest out of 16 authorities. Compared nationally, its unit costs were 138.4% higher than average, and ranked 19th highest out of 201 comparable authorities. Please note that unit costs exclude levies for Integrated Transport Authorities (paid by metropolitan districts), and transport costs borne by the Greater London Authority, which may affect national comparisons.
- Housing Services (General Fund only) - Wyre's unit costs are 30.9% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 15th highest out of 16 authorities. Nationally, its unit costs are 23.6% lower than average, and ranked 147th highest out of 201 authorities.
- Cultural & Related Services - Wyre's unit costs are 32.1% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 3rd highest out of 16 authorities. Compared nationally, its unit costs are 33.2% higher than average, and ranked 48th highest out of 201 comparable authorities.
- Environmental & Regulatory Services - Wyre's unit costs are 18.6% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 13th highest out of 16 authorities. Nationally, its unit costs are 13.8% lower than average, and ranked 143rd highest out of 201 authorities.
- Planning & Development Services - Wyre's unit costs are 71.2% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 16th highest out of 16 authorities. Nationally, its unit costs were 63.9% lower than average, and ranked 180th highest out of 201 comparable authorities.
- Central Services - Wyre's unit costs are 22.5% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 16th highest out of 16 authorities. Nationally, Wyre's unit costs are 16.4% below average, and ranked 140th highest out of 201 comparable authorities.

1. Methodology

Unit Cost Calculations

Unit costs are based on local authorities' planned expenditure for 2017/18, as reported in Revenue Account (RA) forms. **Expenditure on Fire and Rescue services is excluded from this report**, so as to enable a like-for-like comparison between authorities with otherwise identical functions and responsibilities.

When estimating unit costs, **expenditure is first deflated by the Area Cost Adjustment (ACA)**. This controls for geographical variations in the cost of providing services due to differences in wage and salary costs. These adjustments are based on the ACA figures for 2013/14 as published by DCLG.

To calculate unit costs, deflated expenditure is divided by relevant cost drivers; for example, the number of local residents, social care clients or weighted road length. The latest available data is used for these denominators, which varies from year to year. Details on each denominator are provided in Annex A.

Unit costs are based on Net Current Expenditure (NCE), which is comprised of expenditure on employees and running expenses, net of sales, fees and charges, internal recharges and other income. NCE excludes levies paid to Waste Disposal Authorities and Integrated Transport Authorities, and this should be borne in mind when making any comparisons between authorities where their costs may be recorded differently, due to differing structural arrangements for such services.

Relative Expenditure Bands

In parts of this report, your authority's unit cost is assigned to one of five colour-coded bands. Unless stated otherwise, each band is based on the percentage of authorities who have lower unit costs than your authority. For example, an authority is assigned to the highest band (red) if its unit costs are higher than 80% or more of other authorities. The colour codes used, and a description of its corresponding ranking, is described in the table below.

Table 1 - Bands used in this report

Band	Description of your authority's unit cost ranking	Simplified description
●	Higher than 80% or more of other authorities	Top 20% of authorities
●	Higher than 60% - 79% of other authorities	...
●	Higher than 40% - 59% of other authorities	Middle 20% of authorities
●	Higher than 20% - 39% of other authorities	...
●	Higher than 0% - 19% of other authorities	Bottom 20% of authorities

Note that each band described above can be loosely described as ranging from the top 20% of authorities (the red band) to the bottom 20% of authorities (the green band). This is a simplified description, as in some cases the number of authorities in the group cannot be exactly divided by five.

Comparator Authorities

For benchmarking purposes, two sets of comparator groups are used in this analysis: (a) Wyre's Nearest Neighbour group, and (b) all comparable authorities across England. These comparator groups are explained below.

(a) Nearest Neighbour Group

To enable a like-for-like comparison, this analysis makes use of CIPFA's statistical Nearest Neighbour groups. These identify councils with similar economic and social characteristics and groups them on a statistical basis. These groupings were last updated in late 2014.

For Wyre, the Nearest Neighbour group is shown in the table below:

Table 2 - Nearest Neighbour Group

■ Wyre	■ Tendring
■ North Devon	■ Allerdale
■ Fylde	■ Sedgemoor
■ Torridge	■ Shepway
■ Teignbridge	■ North Norfolk
■ Lancaster	■ Dover
■ Scarborough	■ Adur
■ Waveney	■ Arun

(b) National Comparator Group

When making national comparisons, it is necessary to consider the services provided by each authority. Unit costs should only be compared among authorities with similar functions and responsibilities.

It is not possible to simply compare all authorities with expenditure in a given service area. For example, both shire counties and shire districts provide Environmental and Regulatory services, but the precise nature of the services provided will differ between the two tiers.

To enable national comparisons, authorities are therefore categorised into three groups, according to whether they provide (1) both upper-tier and lower-tier services, (2) exclusively upper-tier services, or (3) exclusively lower-tier services.

As a Shire District, Wyre falls into Group 3, as shown in the table below. All national comparisons in this report are made with reference to this grouping of 201 authorities.

Table 3 - National Comparator Groups

Group	Authority Type	Lower tier	Upper tier	Fire*	No.
Group 1	Metropolitan districts, London boroughs and unitaries without fire responsibilities	✓	✓		120
	Unitaries with fire responsibilities	✓	✓	✓	3
Group 2	Shire counties with fire responsibilities		✓	✓	11
	Shire counties without fire responsibilities		✓		16
Group 3	Shire districts	✓			201

* Expenditure on fire and protective services is excluded from this report, so does not affect comparisons.

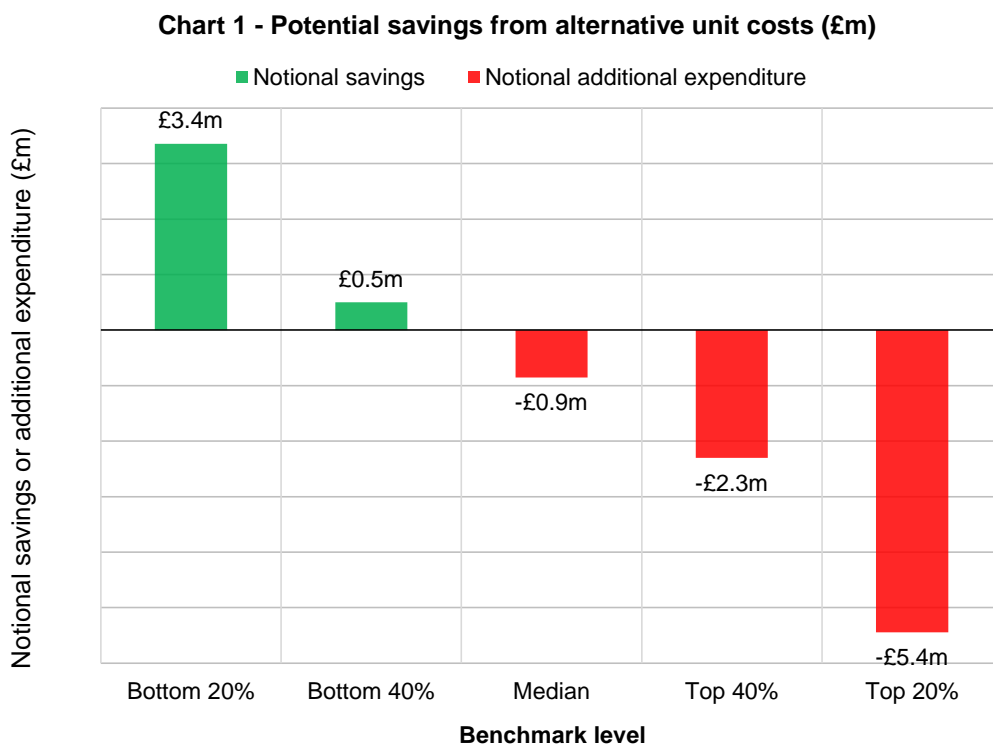
2. Potential Savings

Overview of Potential Savings

This section considers the notional savings that could be achieved by setting your authority's unit costs to certain levels relative to other councils in England.

Benchmark unit costs were defined based on the cut-off point for the top 20% of authorities, the top 40% of authorities, the median, the bottom 40% of authorities, and the bottom 20%.

The chart below illustrates the theoretical savings that would result if Wyre set its unit costs to these benchmarks for every service. For example, setting its unit costs to the bottom 20% of all comparable authorities* in England, within every major service, would generate notional savings of £3.4m. Setting its unit costs to the top 20% of all comparable authorities would impose additional expenditure of £5.4m.



* The 201 authorities with similar functions as Wyre, as described in Table 3 above.

The table below provides a breakdown of these potential savings (or additional expenditure) by service. Wyre's greatest potential savings are in Cultural & Related Services (£1.7m). This reflects both the relatively high unit costs in this service area, and its significant share of the overall budget.

Table 4 - Potential savings by major service

Notional savings  Additional expenditure

Service	Bottom 20%	Bottom 40%	Median	Top 40%	Top 20%
Highways & Transport	£1.5m	£0.9m	£0.7m	£0.6m	£0.2m
Housing Services (GFRA only)	£0.1m	-£0.2m	-£0.3m	-£0.5m	-£0.8m
Cultural & Related Services	£1.7m	£1.2m	£1.0m	£0.6m	-£0.3m
Environmental & Regulatory Services	£0.2m	-£0.2m	-£0.5m	-£0.9m	-£1.4m
Planning & Development Services	-£0.5m	-£0.9m	-£1.2m	-£1.3m	-£1.7m
Central Services	£0.4m	-£0.2m	-£0.5m	-£0.8m	-£1.5m
Total (excluding schools)	£3.4m	£0.5m	-£0.9m	-£2.3m	-£5.4m

Negative figures indicate increased expenditure. Your authority would incur additional expenditure if its unit costs are currently below the relevant benchmark level.

Please note that for shire districts, notional savings are not calculated for Education, Children's Social Care, Adults' Social Care or Public Health. This is due to a lack of expenditure data for these services.

3. Change in Unit Costs 2016/17 to 2017/18

This section highlights the change in Wyre's unit costs, compared to its nearest neighbours, between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

In 2017/18, Wyre's overall unit costs (excluding schools) decreased by 3.5%. Its ranking, relative to the nearest neighbour group, remained unchanged at 14th highest in the group. The change for each major service is presented in the table below.

Table 5 - Change in Unit Costs Relative to the Nearest Neighbour Group

Service Area	Unit Costs (£ per unit)			Nearest Neighbour Ranking (1 = high)			Units
	2016/17	2017/18	Change	2016/17	2017/18	Change	
Highways & Transport	2.36	2.45	●	1st	1st	●	Residents (all)
Housing (General Fund)	11.08	11.02	●	15th	15th	●	Residents (all)
Cultural & Related Services	27.07	27.21	●	4th	3rd	●	Residents (all)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	39.19	34.88	●	13th	13th	●	Residents (all)
Planning & Development Services	3.52	4.61	●	16th	16th	●	Residents (all)
Central Services	31.96	30.97	●	14th	16th	●	Residents (all)
Total Expenditure (exc. Schools)	115.17	111.14	●	14th	14th	●	Residents (all)

Key:

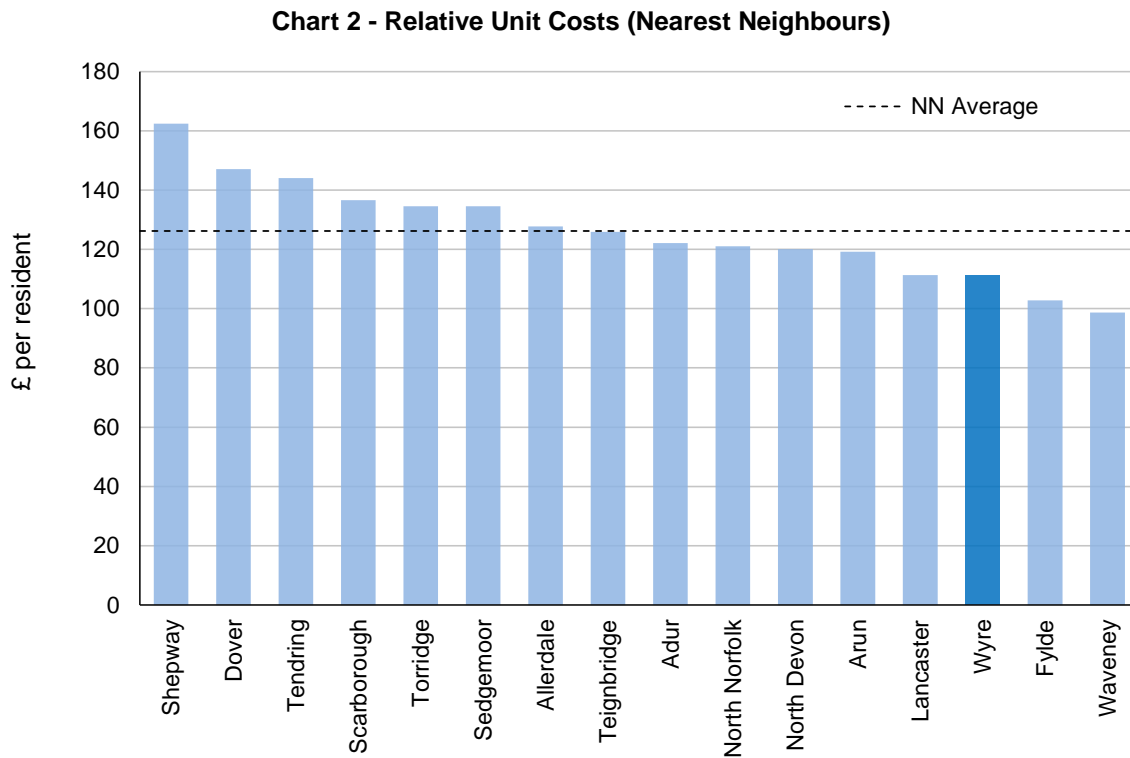
- Decreased unit costs / improved rank
- Unchanged unit costs / unchanged rank
- Increased unit costs / worsened rank

Annex A provides more details on the units used to calculate unit costs, as listed in the table above.

4. Overview of Unit Costs

Nearest Neighbour Comparison

In 2017/18, Wyre's expenditure per resident was 11.9% lower than the nearest neighbour average (excluding schools). It was ranked 14th highest out of the 16 authorities in the group, as shown below.



The table below shows Wyre's unit costs, in each major service area, relative to its nearest neighbours. As can be seen, the biggest difference, measured in percentage terms, was in Highways & Transport.

Table 6 - Unit Costs compared to Nearest Neighbours

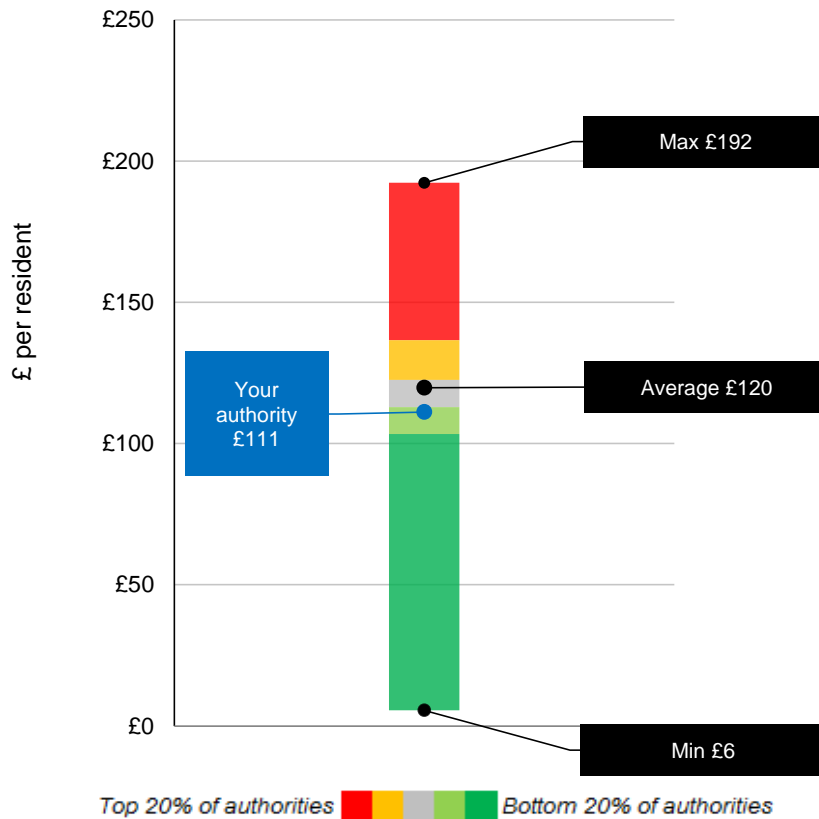
Service Area	Budget 2017/18 (£m)	Unit cost*		Difference from average		Rank out of 16 (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	NN average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Education (excluding schools)	0.000						
Adult Social Care	0.000						
Children's Social Care	0.000						
Public Health	0.000						
Highways & Transport	0.268	2.45	-9.07	127.0%	●	1st	Residents (all)
Housing Services (General Fund)	1.207	11.02	15.95	-30.9%	●	15th	Residents (all)
Cultural & Related Services	2.981	27.21	20.60	32.1%	●	3rd	Residents (all)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	3.821	34.88	42.83	-18.6%	●	13th	Residents (all)
Planning & Development Services	0.505	4.61	15.98	-71.2%	●	16th	Residents (all)
Central Services	3.393	30.97	39.97	-22.5%	●	16th	Residents (all)
Other Service Expenditure	0.000						
Total (excluding schools)	12.175	111.14	126.20	-11.9%	●	14th	Residents (all)
Total (including schools)	12.175	111.14	126.20	-11.9%	●	14th	Residents (all)

* In this report, unit costs are based on budgeted expenditure **deflated by the Area Cost Adjustment**, which reflects geographical differences in the costs of providing local services, primarily due to wage and salary costs. Values are left blank for 'Other Service Expenditure' (which varies widely between authorities) and for services where your authority does not have primary responsibility.

England Comparison

Relative to all comparable authorities across England, Wyre's unit costs were 7.2% lower than average, and ranked 128th highest out of 201 comparable authorities. Its relative position is illustrated in the chart below.

Chart 3 - Relative Unit Costs (All Comparable Authorities)



The table below provides details of Wyre's unit costs relative to all comparable authorities across England.

Table 7 - Unit Costs compared to England Average*

Service Area	Budget 2017/18 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from average		Rank out of 201 (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	England average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Education (excluding schools)	0.000						
Adult Social Care	0.000						
Children's Social Care	0.000						
Public Health	0.000						
Highways & Transport	0.268	2.45	-6.36	138.4%	●	19th	Residents (all)
Housing Services (General Fund)	1.207	11.02	14.42	-23.6%	●	147th	Residents (all)
Cultural & Related Services	2.981	27.21	20.43	33.2%	●	48th	Residents (all)
Environmental & Regulatory Services	3.821	34.88	40.45	-13.8%	●	143rd	Residents (all)
Planning & Development Services	0.505	4.61	12.77	-63.9%	●	180th	Residents (all)
Central Services	3.393	30.97	37.04	-16.4%	●	140th	Residents (all)
Other Service Expenditure	0.000						
Total (excluding schools)	12.175	111.14	119.71	-7.2%	●	128th	Residents (all)
Total (including schools)	12.175	111.14	119.71	-7.2%	●	128th	Residents (all)

* In this report, unit costs are based on budgeted expenditure **deflated by the Area Cost Adjustment**, which reflects geographical differences in the costs of providing local services, primarily due to wage and salary costs. Values are left blank for 'Other Service Expenditure' (which varies widely between authorities) and for services where your authority does not have primary responsibility.

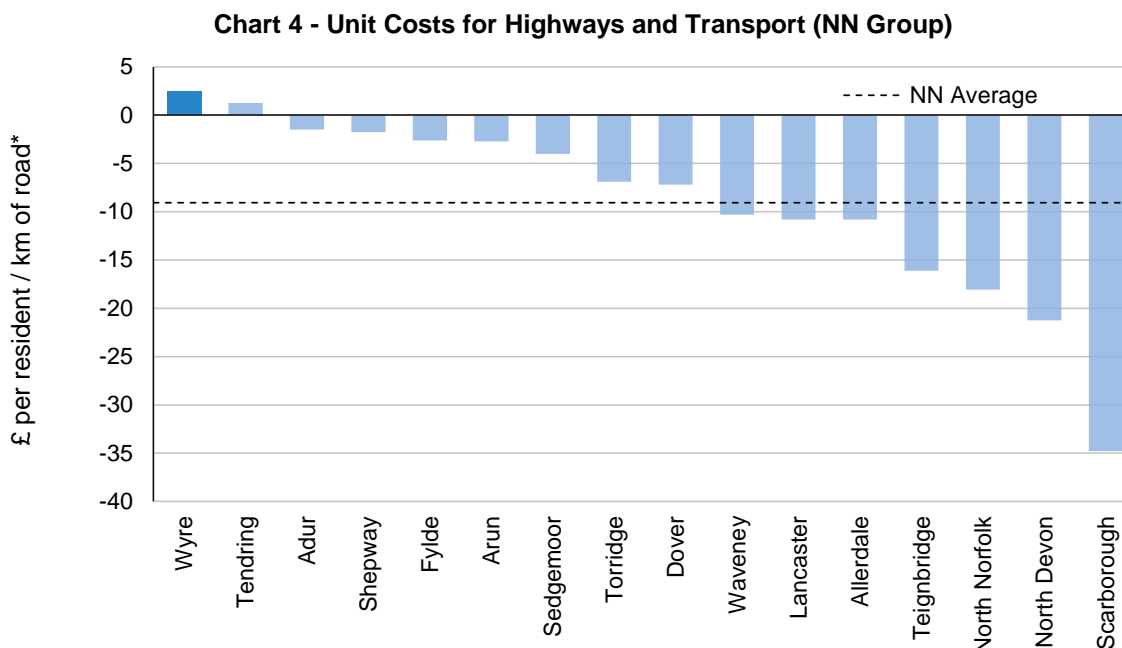
Section 5 provides additional details on each of these services.

5. Detailed Unit Costs by Service

Highways and Transport

Nearest Neighbour Comparison

For Highways and Transport, Wyre's unit costs were 127.0% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked highest in the group. This is illustrated below.



The following table provides more details on Wyre's relative unit costs for this service.

Table 8 - Unit Costs for Highways and Transport (NN Group)

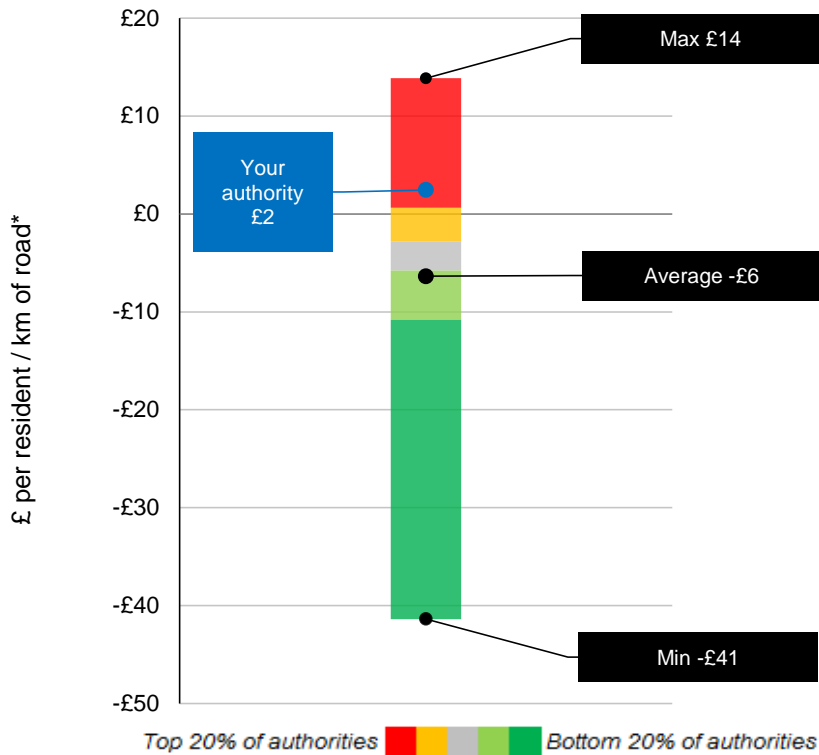
Service Area	Budget 2017/18 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Group average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Highways Maintenance	0.265	2.42	0.46	428.9%	●	1st / 16	Residents (all)
Parking Services	-0.205	-1.87	-10.16	81.6%	●	2nd / 16	Daytime population
Street Lighting	0.027	0.25	0.31	-20.7%	●	6th / 16	Residents (all)
Transport Planning, Policy and Strategy	0.011	0.10	0.14	-29.1%	●	3rd / 16	Residents (all)
Winter Service	0.000	0.00	0.00		●	1st= / 16	Residents (all)
Traffic Management and Road Safety	0.000	0.00	0.10	-100.0%	●	4th= / 16	Residents (all)
Public Transport	0.170	1.55	0.27	469.7%	●	1st / 16	Residents (all)
Other Highways and Transport Services	0.000	0.00	-0.13	100.0%	●	3rd= / 16	Residents (all)
Total	0.268	2.45	-9.07	127.0%	●	1st / 16	Residents (all)

* For shire districts, the denominator is resident population, and for all other authorities the denominator is weighted road length. This is because road length data is not available for shire districts.

England Comparison

Compared to other authorities across England, Wyre's unit costs were 138.4% higher than average. Overall, its unit costs were ranked 19th highest out of 201 comparable authorities. Its relative position is illustrated in the chart below.

Chart 5 - Unit Costs for Highways and Transport (All Comparable Authorities)

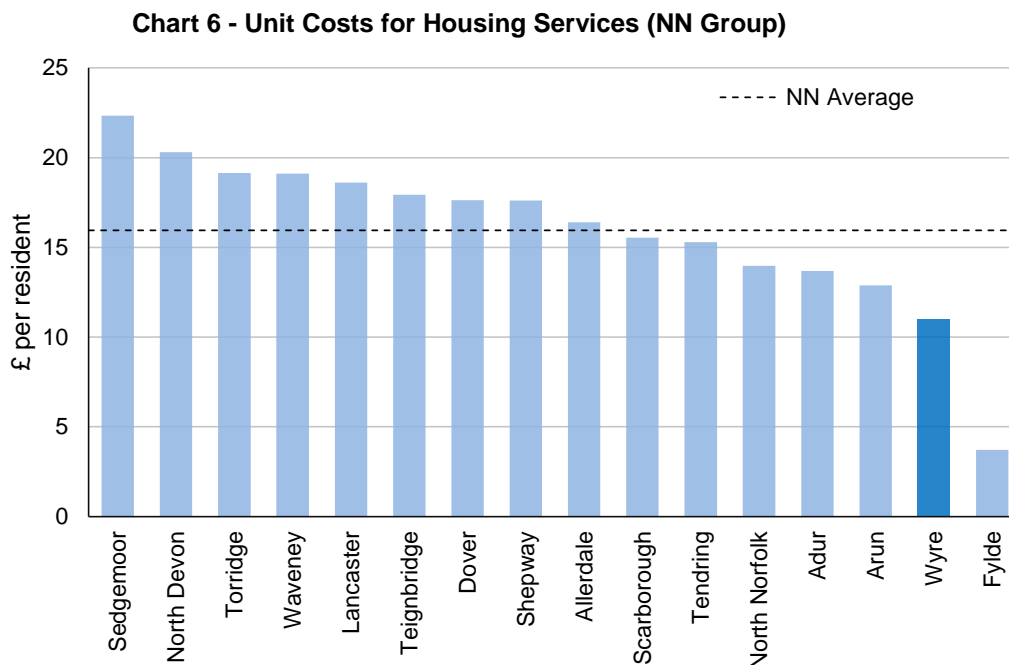


* For shire districts, the denominator is resident population, and for all other authorities the denominator is weighted road length. This is because road length data is not available for shire districts.

Housing Services (General Fund)

Nearest Neighbour Comparison

For Housing Services, Wyre's unit costs were 30.9% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 15th highest in the group. This is shown in the chart below.



A detailed breakdown of unit costs relative to the nearest neighbour average, is provided in the table below.

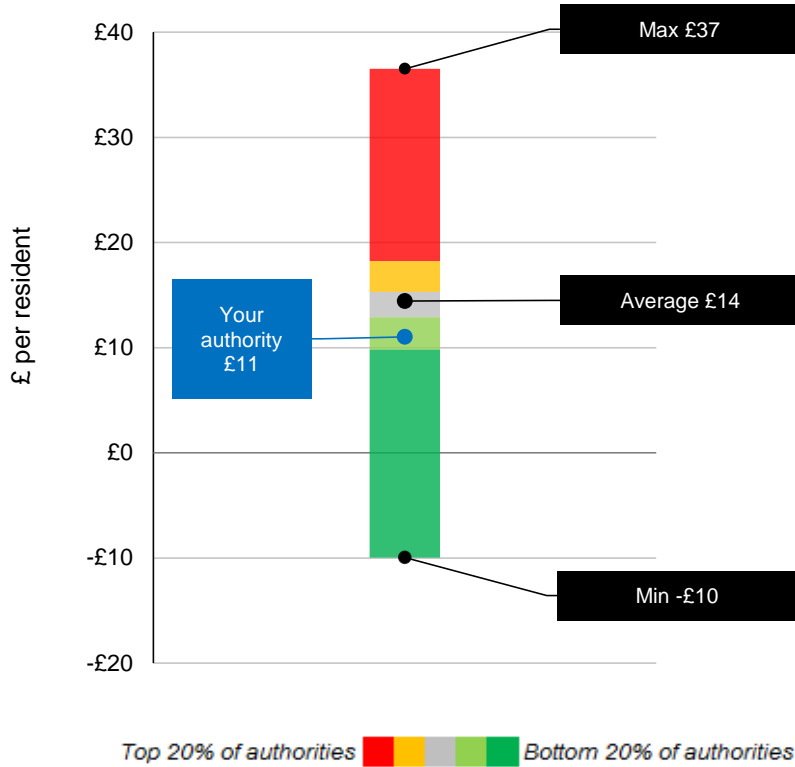
Table 9 - Unit Costs for Housing Services (NN Group)

Service Area	Budget 2017/18 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Group average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Homelessness	0.255	31,875.00	13,045.27	144.3%	●	2nd / 16	Households accepted as homeless
Housing Benefits Administration	0.856	124.56	94.44	31.9%	●	6th / 16	Housing Benefit claimants
Housing Benefits: Rent Allowances and Rebates	0.050	7.28	2.27	220.0%	●	7th / 16	Housing Benefit claimants
Housing Strategy, Advice, Advances etc.	0.015	0.14	4.85	-97.2%	●	16th / 16	Residents (all)
Housing Welfare: Supporting People	0.031	0.28	0.02	1308.5%	●	1st / 16	Residents (all)
Other Housing Services	0.000	0.00	0.14	-100.0%	●	8th= / 16	Residents (all)
Total	1.207	11.02	15.95	-30.9%	●	15th / 16	Residents (all)

England Comparison

Compared to other authorities across England, Wyre's unit costs were 23.6% lower than average. Overall, its unit costs were ranked 147th highest out of 201 comparable authorities. Its relative position is illustrated in the chart below.

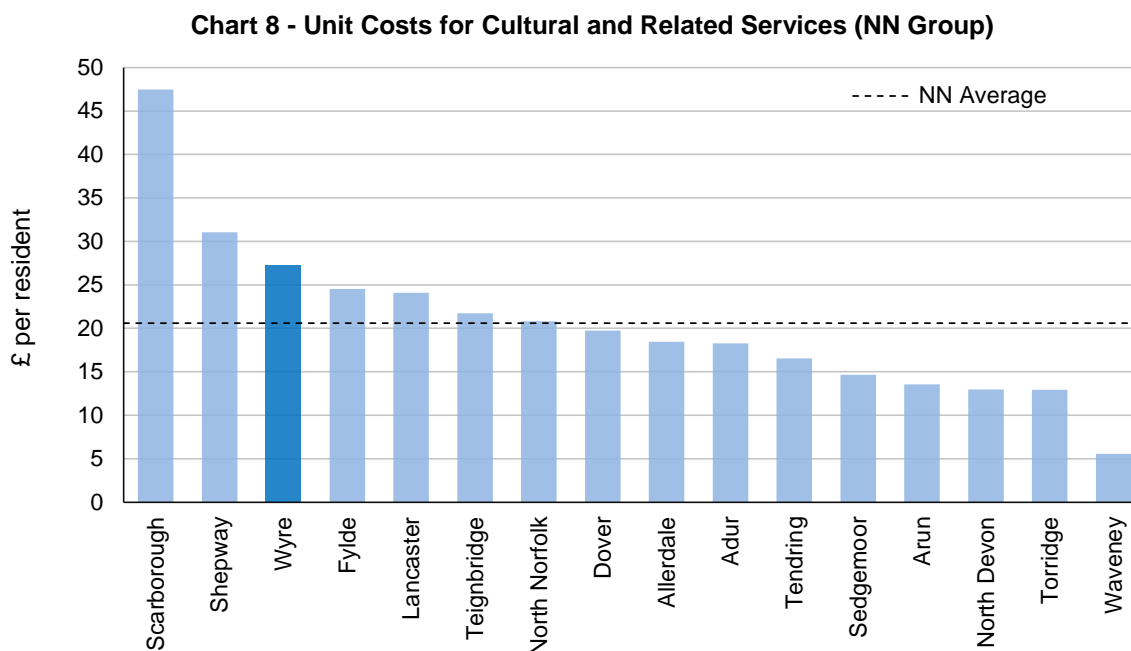
Chart 7 - Unit Costs for Housing Services (All Comparable Authorities)



Cultural and Related Services

Nearest Neighbour Comparison

For Cultural and Related Services, Wyre's unit costs were 32.1% higher than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 3rd highest in the group.



A detailed breakdown of unit costs relative to the nearest neighbour average, is provided in the table below.

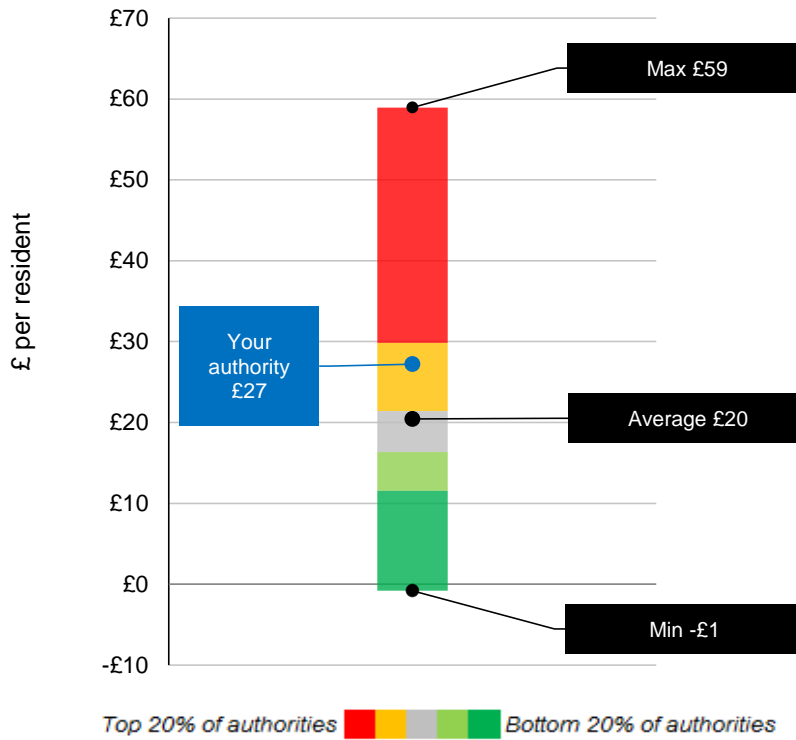
Table 10 - Unit Costs for Cultural and Related Services (NN Group)

Service Area	Budget 2017/18 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Group average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Culture and Heritage	0.565	5.16	3.81	35.3%	●	6th / 16	Residents (all)
Library Service	0.000	0.00	0.00		●	1st= / 16	Residents (all)
Open Spaces	1.367	48.38	35.61	35.9%	●	4th / 16	LA Area (Hectares)
Recreation and Sport	0.796	7.27	6.69	8.6%	●	8th / 16	Residents (all)
Other Cultural and Related Services	0.253	2.31	1.17	96.7%	●	4th / 16	Residents (all)
Total	2.981	27.21	20.60	32.1%	●	3rd / 16	Residents (all)

England Comparison

Compared to other authorities across England, Wyre's unit costs were 33.2% higher than average. Overall, its unit costs were ranked 48th highest out of 201 comparable authorities, with its relative position illustrated below.

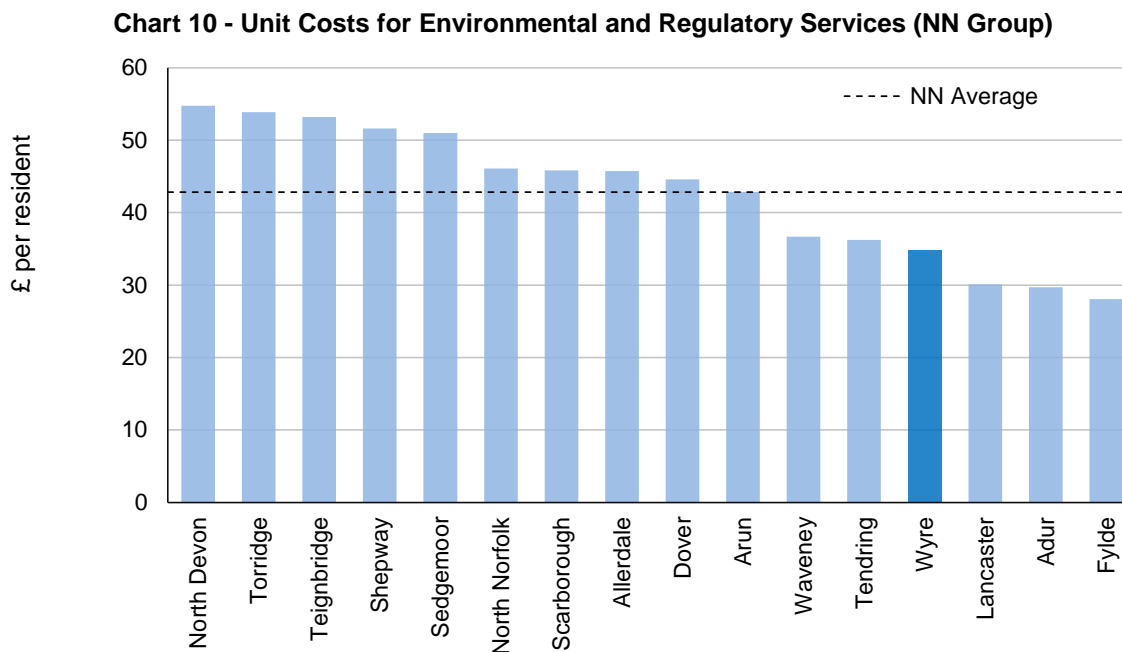
Chart 9 - Unit Costs for Cultural and Related Services (All Comparable Authorities)



Environmental and Regulatory Services

Nearest Neighbour Comparison

For Environmental & Regulatory Services, Wyre's unit costs were 18.6% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 13th highest in the group.



A detailed breakdown of unit costs relative to the nearest neighbour average, is provided in the table below.

Table 11 - Unit Costs for Environmental and Regulatory Services (NN Group)

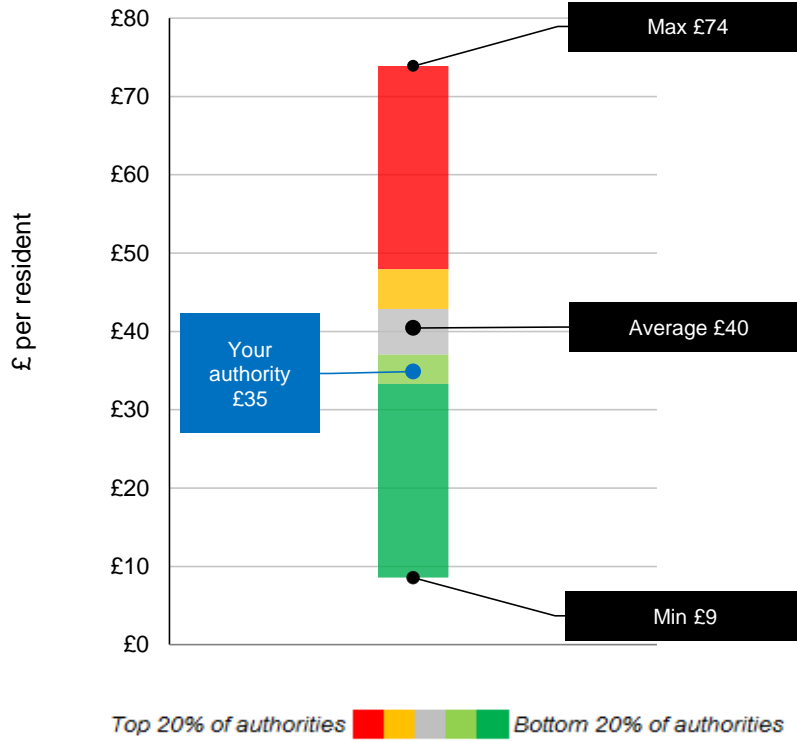
Service Area	Budget 2017/18 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Group average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Cemetery, Cremation and Mortuary Services	0.018	0.16	-0.73	122.6%	●	10th / 16	Residents (all)
Community Safety	0.214	1.95	2.36	-17.4%	●	9th / 16	Residents (all)
Regulatory Services	1.172	10.70	11.55	-7.3%	●	10th / 16	Residents (all)
Street Cleansing	1.074	9.80	10.72	-8.6%	●	10th / 16	Daytime Population
Waste Collection	0.212	4.33	25.52	-83.0%	●	16th / 16	Number of Households
Waste Disposal & Recycling*	0.672	15.26	11.48	33.0%	●	6th / 16	Waste Collected (tonnes)
Other Environmental and Regulatory Services	0.459	4.19	2.97	40.9%	●	7th / 16	Residents (all)
Total	3.821	34.88	42.83	-18.6%	●	13th / 16	Residents (all)

* Net Current Expenditure (used to calculate unit costs) excludes levies paid to waste authorities, which will affect relative unit costs for Waste Disposal and Recycling.

England Comparison

Compared to other authorities across England, Wyre's unit costs were 13.8% lower than average. Overall, its unit costs were ranked 143rd highest out of 201 comparable authorities. Its relative position is illustrated in the chart below.

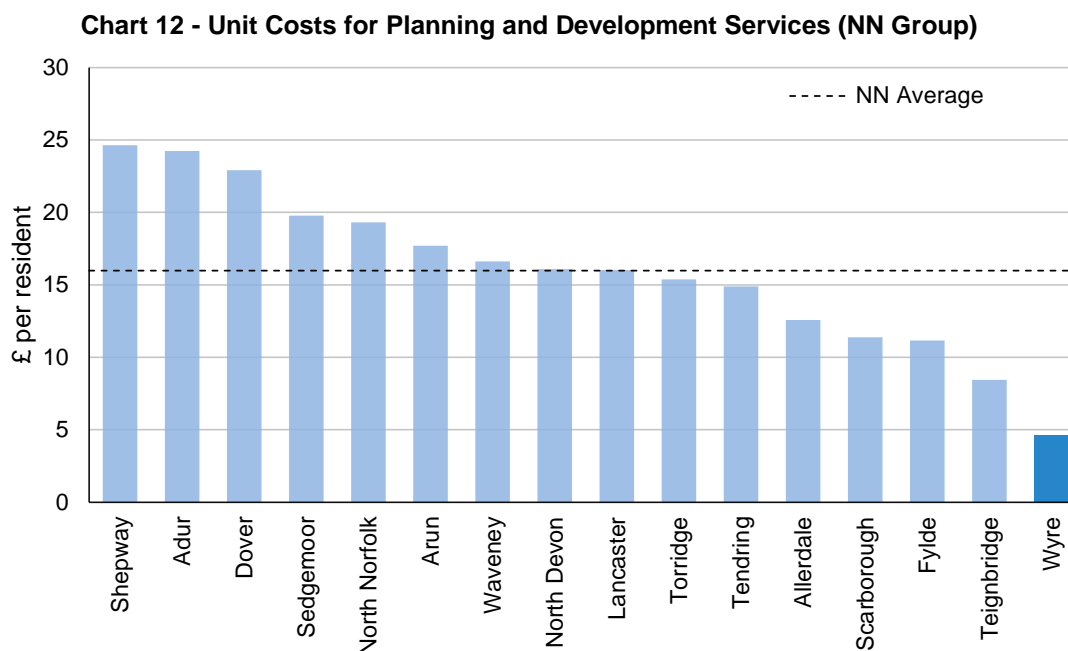
Chart 11 - Unit Costs for Environmental and Regulatory Services (All Comparable Authorities)



Planning and Development Services

Nearest Neighbour Comparison

For Planning & Development Services, Wyre's unit costs were 71.2% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 16th highest in the group.



More detailed unit costs for Wyre are presented in the table below.

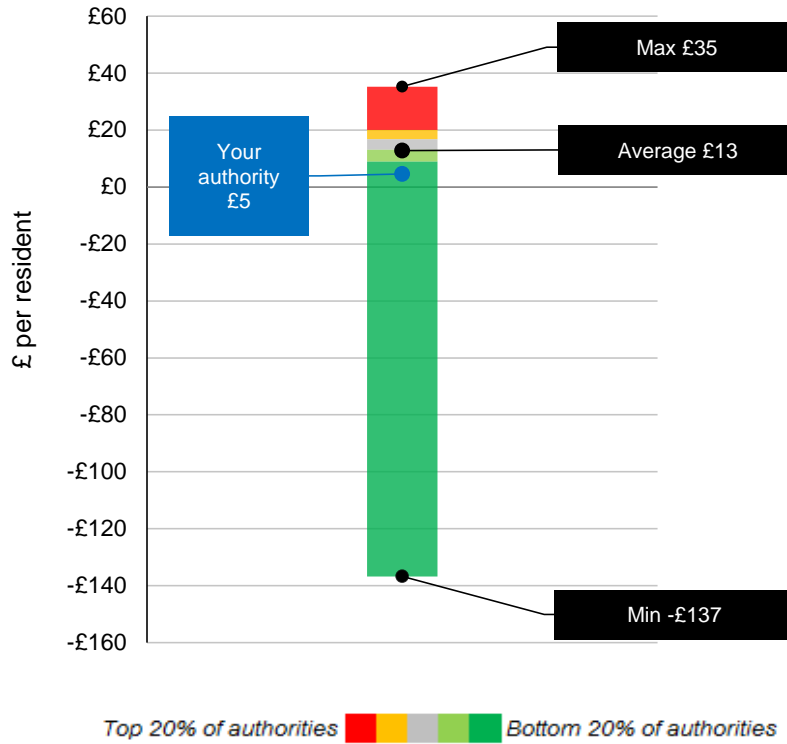
Table 12 - Unit Costs for Planning and Development Services (NN Group)

Service Area	Budget 2017/18 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Group average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Building Control	0.098	132.79	169.61	-21.7%	●	9th / 16	Planning decisions
Business Support	0.056	12.03	5.77	108.4%	●	5th / 16	Number of businesses
Community Development	0.040	0.37	1.16	-68.6%	●	11th / 16	Residents (all)
Economic Research and Development	-0.307	-2.80	2.72	-203.1%	●	16th / 16	Residents (all)
Planning Policy	0.398	3.63	5.24	-30.7%	●	10th / 16	Residents (all)
Environmental Initiatives	0.006	0.05	0.40	-86.3%	●	9th / 16	Residents (all)
Development Control	0.214	289.97	573.27	-49.4%	●	15th / 16	Planning decisions
Total	0.505	4.61	15.98	-71.2%	●	16th / 16	Residents (all)

England Comparison

Compared to other authorities across England, Wyre's unit costs were 63.9% lower than average. Overall, its unit costs were ranked 180th highest out of 201 comparable authorities. Its relative position is illustrated below.

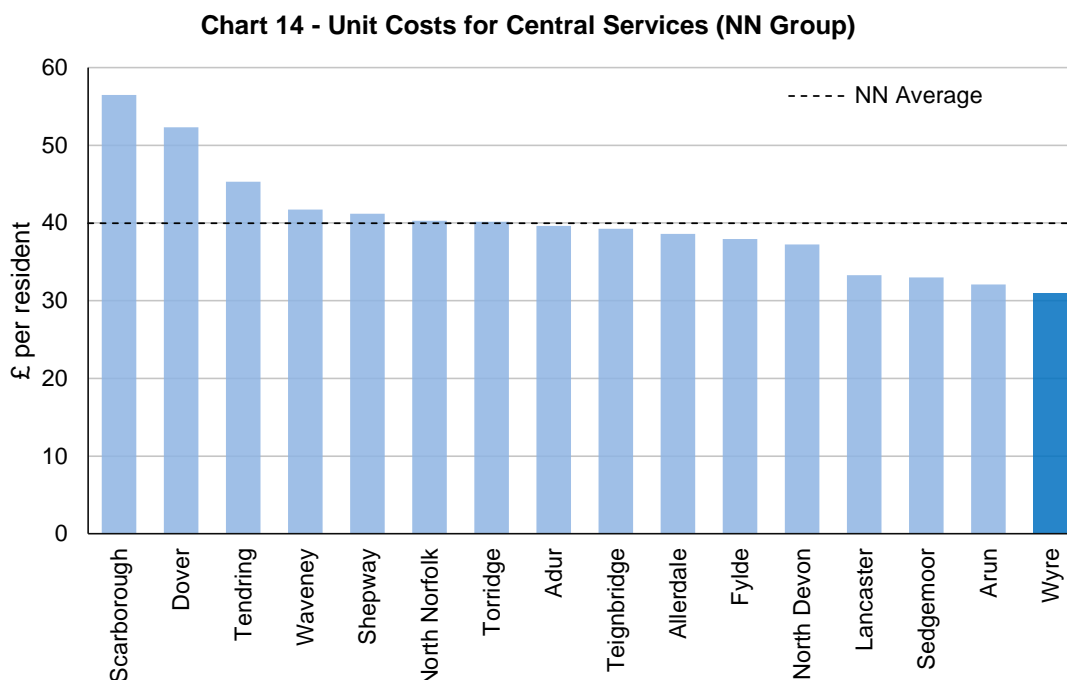
Chart 13 - Unit Costs for Planning and Development Services (All Comparable Authorities)



Central Services

Nearest Neighbour Comparison

Within Central Services, Wyre's unit costs were 22.5% lower than the nearest neighbour average, and ranked 16th highest in the group.



The following table provides more details on Wyre's unit costs for this service.

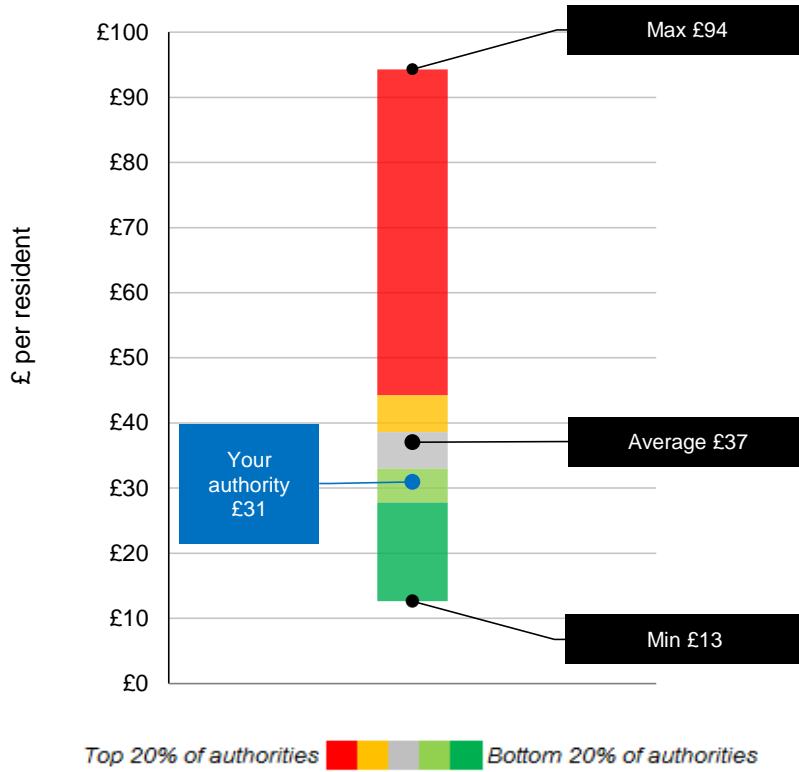
Table 13 - Unit Costs for Central Services (NN Group)

Service Area	Budget 2017/18 (£m)	Unit cost		Difference from average		Rank (1=high)	Units
		Your authority (£ per unit)	Group average (£ per unit)	(%)	(Band)		
Coroners Court Services	0.000	0.00	0.00		●	1st= / 16	Residents (all)
Corporate and Democratic Core	1.470	13.42	14.98	-10.4%	●	10th / 16	Residents (all)
Emergency Planning	0.030	0.27	0.55	-50.1%	●	13th / 16	Residents (all)
Local Tax Collection	0.640	11.71	16.86	-30.5%	●	16th / 16	Taxable properties
Non-Distributed Costs	0.965	8.81	12.02	-26.7%	●	13th / 16	Residents (all)
Other Central Services	0.288	2.63	3.87	-32.1%	●	13th / 16	Residents (all)
Total	3.393	30.97	39.97	-22.5%	●	16th / 16	Residents (all)

England Comparison

Compared to other authorities across England, Wyre's unit costs were 16.4% lower than average. Overall, its unit costs were ranked 140th highest out of 201 comparable authorities. Its relative position is illustrated below.

Chart 15 - Unit Costs for Central Services (All Comparable Authorities)



Annex A - Denominator Data Sources

Then following table provides details on the data used to calculate unit costs in this report (presented in alphabetical order).

Table A1 - Data Sources

Denominator / Unit	Source	Description
Adult Clients (all categories)	HSCIS	Projected number of clients receiving long-term services during the period 2017/18. Based on the 2015/16 Short- and Long-Term (SALT) returns, projected forward by population growth. 'Older' = Older Adults, 'Younger' = Younger Adults, 'PS' = Physical & Sensory, 'LD' = Learning Disabilities, and 'MH' = Mental Health Needs.
Children in Need	DfE	Projected Children in Need for 2017/18. The number of children referred to the local authority and assessed as being in need of services in 2015/16, projected forward by population growth. (Source: Characteristics of Children in Need, DfE).
Daytime population	DCLG	The projected resident population in 2017, based on ONS's population projections, plus (i) estimated net in-commuters from the 2011 Census and (ii) estimated overnight visitors, based on historical rates published by CLG. For shire districts, data is available for net in-commuters only.
Households accepted as homeless	DCLG	Number of households accepted as homeless and in priority need, for 2015/16 or the most recent year for which data is published. (Source: Live Tables on Homelessness).
Housing Benefit claimants	DWP	Housing benefit caseload by local authority, average for the 12 months to February 2017. (Source: DWP Stat-Xplore).
LA Area (hectares)	ONS	Size of the local authority in hectares, from the UK Standard Area Measurement (SAM).
Looked After Children	DfE	Projected number of Looked After Children in 2017/18, based on children looked after in 2015/16, projected forward by population growth. (Source: Outcomes for Children Looked After).
Number of businesses	ONS	Count of the number of business units in each local authority in 2016 (Source: NOMIS).
Number of households	ONS	Projected number of households for 2017. (Source: Live Tables on Household Projections).
Obese & overweight adults	Public Health England	Estimate based on the proportion of obese and overweight people aged 16+ for the three years to January 2015, multiplied by the projected population aged 16+ in 2017. (Sources: Public Health Outcomes Framework).
Planning decisions	DCLG	Number of planning applications decided by the district level planning authority in the year to December 2016. (Source: Live Tables on Planning Application Statistics, CLG).
Pupils (primary, secondary and special)	DfE	Number of pupils in state-funded primary, secondary and special schools as at January 2016. Primary and secondary school pupil numbers exclude those in academies. (Source: Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics).

Continued over page

Table A1 - Data Sources (continued)

Denominator / Unit	Source	Description
Residents (all age categories)	ONS	2014-based Sub-national Population Projections (SNPP) for 2017. These take the 2011 census as the baseline, 'age on' the population each year, and reflect recent trends in births, deaths and migration.
Road Length	DCLG	Index in which built-up roads carry twice as much as non-built up roads (as published by CLG in the calculation of the Relative Needs Formula for 2013/14).
Smokers	Public Health England	Estimate based on smoking prevalence for people aged 18+ in 2015, multiplied by the projected resident population aged 18+ in 2017 (source: Public Health Profiles).
Taxable Properties	CLG, VOA	The sum of (i) chargeable dwellings for Council Tax purposes in 2016 and (ii) the number of rateable properties on the rating list as at October 2016. (Sources: Council Taxbase 2016 in England; Central and Local Rating Lists 2017).
Waste collected (tonnes)	DEFRA	Total waste collected (tonnes) in the year to 31 March 2016. (Source: Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics).

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Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr Alan Vincent, Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder and Clare James, Head of Finance (s.151 Officer)	Cabinet	18 October 2017	7

Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2020/21
--

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To consider the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for the financial years 2017/18 to 2020/21.

2. Outcomes

2.1 The ability to demonstrate good financial management by ensuring that the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, budgets and capital programme are soundly based and designed to deliver its strategic priorities.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are requested to:

- a. Consider the attached Medium Term Financial Plan and the consequential action required in order to address the issues resulting from the 3 year Financial Forecast;
- b. Note the revised expenditure projections incorporating the slippage from 2016/17, and the resulting impact on the level of the Council's Reserves and Balances at 31st March 2017; and,
- c. Agree the top-up and use of all Reserves and Balances as indicated in Appendix 3 to the Medium Term Financial Plan.

4. Background

4.1 The Council's comprehensive, Medium Term Financial Plan, essentially a 3-year financial forecast, complements the Annual Revenue Budget process and should be considered in conjunction with the Council's Business Plan, its capital investment plans and the Asset Management Plan. It provides detailed proposals for corporately managing the Council's resources in the years ahead.

4.2 The Council's financial plans support the delivery of strategic plans for assets either through investment, disposals, rationalisation or more efficient asset use. Financial plans show how the financial gap between the need to invest in assets and the budget available will be filled over the long term (for example through prudential borrowing, rationalisation of assets, capital receipts, etc.).

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 The last Plan was based on the Revenue Budget for 2016/17 and it was recognised that it would be subject to continuous monitoring to ensure its effectiveness. Since the Plan was last considered there have been regular monitoring reports to Members on both the Revenue and Capital Budgets and the 2017/18 Budgets for both of these have been approved. The Outturn figures for 2016/17 (post audit), were presented to the Audit Committee on 25 July 2017. Attached, at Appendix A, is a copy of the updated Plan, which includes the latest 3-year financial forecast.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	Considered in detail in the appendices attached.
Legal	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 ✓ 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.

implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	✓
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
climate change	x
data protection	x

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Clare James	01253 887308	clare.james@wyre.gov.uk	08.09.17

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

List of appendices

Appendix A – Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2020/21

arm/ex/cab/cr/17/1810cj2



Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2020/21

Wyre Council
Civic Centre
Breck Road
Poulton-le-Fylde

October 2017

The Medium Term Financial Plan for Wyre Council

1. Strategic Objectives

- 1.1 The Council's Business Plan sets out its vision, objectives and actions for a 4-year period, highlighting the issues upon which we have decided to focus in order to ensure that our vision is realised. Our vision is 'Together we make a difference'.

Enterprising Wyre

Key Projects
Adopt a new Local Plan to manage and deliver development through to 2031
Develop a Local Economic Development Strategy which includes working with partners and local businesses to improve the local economy
Restore the Mount and its Gardens in Fleetwood
Support and promote the Enterprise Zone at Hillhouse International Business Park at Thornton
Complete the Rossall Sea Defence Scheme
Develop and deliver a commercial strategy
Develop the Wyre Flood Forum and support local flood action groups

Healthier Wyre

Key Projects
Deliver a programme of work to promote healthy choices and healthier lifestyles to keep people well through better use of our leisure centres, recreational facilities, parks and open spaces
Play an active role in the Healthier Fleetwood initiative
Develop neighbourhood health initiatives for Garstang and Over Wyre
Explore opportunities offered by the Better Care Fund to better support older people and people with disabilities to stay in their own homes
Support the delivery of the Wyre Early Action project

Engaging Wyre

Key Projects
Deliver community priority projects through the Together We Make a Difference Network
Progress our programme of efficiency savings to ensure a balanced budget
Deliver the Asset Management Plan actions and priorities to maximise the return from our assets
Facilitate a staff development programme to support our vision and goals
Implement #DigitalWyre, our digital strategy to facilitate digital transformation of services

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's comprehensive, Medium Term Financial Plan is a 4-year financial forecast which complements the Annual Revenue Budget process and should be considered in conjunction with the Council's Business Plan, its capital investment plans and the Asset Management Plan. It provides detailed proposals for corporately managing the Council's resources in the years ahead.
- 2.2 Without a resilient Business Plan, priorities can be championed that have little or no reference in relation to the needs of local communities, which can lead to a lack of value for money, direction and public satisfaction.
- 2.3 The Council faces many significant challenges ahead and will have to manage a wide and diverse range of services with decreasing resources and heightened customer expectations.
- 2.4 The Council recognises and welcomes the resources that are made available through contributions from other public and private partner organisations, as well as the voluntary sector. These form a key part of the Council's application of resources, duly reflected in its key documents, which are shared with those bodies to achieve the most effective mix of contributions to achieve shared aims and objectives.

3. Links to Corporate Priorities

- 3.1 Obviously, the Council cannot do everything it would like to do, or indeed, everything its customers and partners would like it to do. The Council, in the same way as other organisations, is restricted by the amount of money (revenue and capital) it has to spend. As such, it has to set priorities. These priorities, which are reflected in the Business Plan, are based on clear evidence of community needs and aspirations determined through prior research and local consultation.
- 3.2 In order to respond effectively to the diverse needs of the community the Council needs to be using resources effectively, delivering the best outcomes for local people and actively seeking new ways to improve the well-being of the community.
- 3.3 This process will be achieved through the following mechanisms:

Engagement with Residents using existing mechanisms and groups – The Council is keen to ensure that the aspirations and needs of local people are met and continues to use the Together We Make a Difference Network to ensure better and more effective methods of achieving two-way communication.

The Council's Business Plan - outlines our vision, objectives and actions for the period 2015 to 2019 and demonstrates our commitment to make a positive difference to the lives of people living in Wyre.

Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – reflects the budgetary requirements of the Business Plan and is communicated to staff and stakeholders.

Annual Service Plans – contain detailed action plans for the forthcoming year for each service including performance targets.

Team and Individual Objectives – ensures that each member of staff knows how their job helps to deliver a better Wyre. A staff appraisal system helps to assess everyone’s contribution.

Performance Management Framework – a tool that underpins all of the above and allows everyone to track performance.

3.4 New schemes requiring funding are referred to Portfolio Holders for detailed consideration against corporate priorities. (The Growth Bid Form which can be used for revenue or capital schemes is included at Appendix 1). If approved, they are then referred to Overview and Scrutiny as part of the determination and scrutiny of the decision making process prior to being submitted to the Cabinet for overall consideration as part of the Council’s Estimates Process. This ensures that, often difficult, decisions are taken in consideration of the Council’s duty to promote the wellbeing of the community, as well as service specific needs.

3.5 Before growth bids are submitted for consideration however, there must be:

- Clear identification of the Corporate priority to which the request relates;
- A proposed measure of the scheme’s benefits in the form of a performance indicator;
- Demonstration of the scheme’s contribution to effective asset management;
- Evidence of improved equality of access or outcome;
- Consideration of the financial impact of the expenditure i.e. one year funding or recurring financial consequences, and
- Evidence that alternative methods of funding have been considered.

3.6 The Council is keen to strengthen the link between investment and return by encouraging the development and reporting of indicators that can demonstrate how individual schemes have contributed to the achievement of its priorities, i.e. what the community can expect the investment to achieve in terms of outputs and outcomes.

4. Budget Management and Monitoring

4.1 In order to ensure that the Council is able to demonstrate an effective approach to managing its financial performance, monitoring reports, highlighting any significant deviations from the plan, are submitted to the Executive on a regular basis in respect of both revenue and capital expenditure. This information is informed by regular budgetary reviews undertaken by Spending Officers and the Financial Services Team. Any changes to the phasing of capital schemes and any significant variations to scheme costs are formally reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis and Members can refer to the Ten Performance Management System for details of each capital scheme. This process balances the need for a consistent and corporate approach to programme management generally with the responsiveness and flexibility required to manage, often complex, schemes.

4.2 The release of funds from the Capital Budget, following a scheme’s inclusion in the Capital Programme, is subject to a comprehensive report to the appropriate Portfolio Holder, by the relevant Service Director who is responsible for managing the scheme from development through to implementation and review. (This requirement may be relaxed for those schemes where the delay between the date of inclusion in the capital programme and the project start date is less than 9 months and the exact nature of the capital investment requires no further Member

approval). The Members' role in performance management and monitoring is supported by the Council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules which state the key controls surrounding the capital programme as follows:

- a) a scheme and estimate, including project plan, progress targets and associated revenue expenditure is prepared for each capital project, for approval by the executive
- b) specific approval by the full council for the programme of capital expenditure
- c) expenditure on capital schemes is subject to the approval of the relevant Portfolio Holder prior to scheme commencement
- d) proposals for improvements and alterations to buildings must be approved by the Corporate Property Officer
- e) schedules for individual schemes within the overall budget approved by the full council must be submitted to the relevant Portfolio Holder for approval (for example, Refurbishment of Playgrounds)
- f) the development and implementation of asset management plans
- g) accountability for each proposal is accepted by a named manager
- h) monitoring of progress in conjunction with expenditure and comparison with approved budget.

4.3 Capital costs must be within approved budgets, the tender process being conducted in accordance with Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules which state that all contracts where the final expenditure exceeds the approved budget and/or contract sum by either 10% or £20,000 whichever is the lesser must be reported to the Executive.

4.4 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance aims to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Code sets out indicators that must be used and requires local authorities to set relevant limits and ratios including a 3-year forward estimate of Council Tax as well as 3-year capital expenditure plans. Responsibility for setting and agreeing the prudential indicators rests with the full Council further reinforcing the Members' role in the management of the Capital Programme.

5. Basis of Budgetary Forecast

5.1 The projections incorporate the final position in respect of the 2016/17 financial year with the Statement of Accounts formally certified by the Council's External Auditors in July. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council's responsible financial officer to certify that the accounts 'present a true and fair view of the financial position' for the 2016/17 financial year by 30 June 2017. The Council is then formally required to approve and publish the Statement of Accounts no later than 30 September 2017. It is the role of the Audit Committee, independent from the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny functions, to 'review the annual Statement of Accounts considering whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council'. The Audit Committee approved the Statement of Accounts at their meeting on 25 July 2017 and at the same meeting also considered the report from the External Auditor, referred to as the ISA260 Report.

5.2 The Local Government Association (LGA) has confirmed that the Pay Award for the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has now been agreed for 2017/18. The agreement means relevant staff will receive a pay increase of 1 per

cent from 1 April 2017, with those on the lowest spinal column points receiving a higher than 1 per cent salary increase. (Higher percentages were offered to those on lower pay points owing to the introduction of the National Living Wage from 1 April 2016). A 2% provision has been included for public sector pay for the 3 years from 2018/19 in line with recent announcements from central government indicating an imminent relaxation of the pay cap.

- 5.3** Provision for inflation has been included where it is considered to be a contractual obligation and where known inflationary pressures exist. In preparing a prudent budget, the Council should also reflect the current economic climate and its potential impact; this has been considered as part of the Risk Assessment at Appendix 5.
- 5.4** Although the income projected from fees and charges should follow the principles of the Audit Commission publication “The Price is Right”, the objective being to maximise support to the Revenue Budget, it has been assumed that additional income generated during 2018/19 will be offset by similar increases in other costs. Where a specific policy decision has already been taken, however, in relation to future levels of charging this has been reflected in the plan. The Council’s Charging Policy is attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.5** The financial projections reflect all known implications arising from published strategies and plans across the Council and joint plans agreed with partners and other stakeholders which include the following:
- Business Plan 2015-2019;
 - Waste Management Strategy 2008-2020;
 - Digital Transformation Strategy - #DigitalWyre 2017 – 2020
 - Disabled Facilities Grants Policy; and
 - Local Plan
- 5.6** As part of the annual budget cycle, and in determining the MTFP, the Council continues to identify actions that will improve efficiency, quantifying the expected gains that assist the Council in effectively prioritising its finite resources. These efficiency targets, detailed within the Council’s ‘Annual Efficiency Programme’ which is published along with the Revenue Budget papers considered by Cabinet, will assist the delivery of the Council’s corporate priorities supporting the continued improvement of services for our residents. Savings and efficiency gains identified for the year are monitored throughout the period by the Executive to ensure their achievement. Target efficiency savings will only be reflected in the MTFP, however, as they are realised.
- 5.7** The Government, as part of the 2016/17 settlement, offered local authorities a four-year funding settlement to 2019/20 and 97% of local authorities accepted the deal. The offer was subject to the publication of an efficiency plan and was formally accepted by Wyre in October 2016. Allocations could still be subject to additional reductions, dependent on the fiscal climate and the need to make further savings to reduce the deficit. Following the outcome of the Referendum last June, to leave the European Union, there remains increased uncertainty around the government’s commitment to adhering to the original values in the four-year deal. However the final values for 2017/18, published in February 2017, confirmed no significant changes and as such these latest values have been used for the purposes of forecasting.

5.8 From 1 April 2014 the accounting arrangements for pensions changed and rather than a single percentage contribution rate being calculated to determine the employers' payment into the scheme, the charges are split with a future service contribution rate being set and charged to services together with a cash deficit recovery contribution being charged to Non Distributed Costs. The employers' equated superannuation rate, effective for the financial year commencing 1 April 2017, is 26.1% and reflects a future service contribution rate of 15.8% and an average deficit recovery contribution of £702,930 each year. The past service deficit contribution was originally meant to increase by 4.1% per annum. However, the outcome of the latest triennial review for 2017/18 to 2019/20 and the decision to pre-pay our pension contribution has resulted in an overall estimated reduction of £183,500. This option to pre-pay the council's pension contribution for the next three years, and thereby pay a reduced amount, was accepted following a Cabinet report on 15 February 2017 and is estimated to save over £342,000 including the £183,500 reduced deficit recovery payment. The next triennial review by the Actuary will be based on data at 31 March 2019 and will be effective for the 3 years commencing 1 April 2020. Whilst the new employer rates are not expected to be available until October 2019, the plan assumes a future service rate of 17.9% and that deficit recovery contributions will increase by 3.7%, an equated rate of 28.6%.

5.9 Last year, the Government introduced a new single tier flat rate pension from 1 April 2016. Previously, employers who contracted out employees from the State Second Pension paid a lower National Insurance rate to reflect contributions being made into the scheme. The introduction of the flat-rate state pension, however, results in both the State Second Pension and contracting out being abolished, with employers losing their 3.4% National Insurance rebate, estimated to be £153,000 for Wyre.

5.10 With effect from the 2007/08 financial year, the Council once again become reliant on borrowing to support capital expenditure. The Council has borrowed £3.552m to date and this value is used to calculate the minimum revenue provision which must be reflected in the accounts. The borrowing to date is made up as follows:

Date	Loan Ref	Value (£)	Period	Rate (%)	Maturing
05.03.08	494403	1,000,000	3	4.18	Sept' 2010
05.03.08	494404	552,000	30	4.48	Sept' 2037
05.03.08	494405	1,000,000	50	4.41	Sept' 2057
09.03.09	495360	1,000,000	4	2.05	Sept' 2012

Whilst there is no interest paid on the two loans that have matured, the charge to the revenue account reflecting the principal element of the repayment is calculated based on the number of years that the asset will be in operation. Interest paid on long term borrowing in 2017/18 is £68,830 and principal repayments are £95,559 – a total cost of £164,389. This cost will not reduce until 2024/25 when assets with a 15 year life span fall out of the MRP calculation.

5.11 In an effort to reduce the Council's reliance on borrowing and following concerns about the sustainability of continuing to borrow in the current economic climate, a Capital Investment Reserve was created as part of the 2009/10 closure of accounts. The balance remaining on this reserve at 31 March 2017 is substantially committed.

- 5.12 The anticipated capital receipts from the disposal of a small plot of land adjacent to Derby Road East Car Park, Thornton-Cleveleys and the sale of Garstang Business Centre are both dependent on an agreement being signed with the respective developers and are not therefore included in the forecast.

6. Basis of Resources Forecast

- 6.1 The extent of the growth in the tax base of the authority obviously has an impact on the projections of future Council Tax income. An increase of 0.61% has been anticipated in 2018/19 and for each subsequent year.
- 6.2 New provisions for council tax referendums were introduced by the Localism Act with effect from 2012/13 to replace capping. The Council increased its share of the council tax in 2017/18 by £5 or 2.73%. As part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, the Government announced a 2% trigger for local referenda on council tax increases but also allowed any shire district council to charge a de-minimis £5 more in council tax without triggering the referendum. An annual £5 increase in council tax has therefore been assumed in 2018/19 and beyond.
- 6.3 The new Business Rates Retention Scheme was introduced in 2013/14 and essentially allows councils to keep a share of the business rate growth. A baseline level of funding has been set which, in effect, replaces the grant support that would otherwise have been awarded. The Council is allowed to keep 40% of any additional funds that it generates (with 50% being paid to the Government, 9% to Lancashire County Council and 1% to the Fire Authority) but this is normally regulated by the payment of a levy at 50%. With effect from 1 April 2016, however, the Council was designated as belonging to the Business Rates Pool of Lancashire. This will result in the County Council being paid 10% of the retained levy (prior to the cost of administering the pool) with Wyre retaining 90% of the levy previously payable. A consequence of being part of the Business Rates Pool is that the Council will no longer be eligible to receive a safety net payment should the business rate base in the area decline and fall below 92.5% of the baseline funding level. The Council continues to receive revenue support grant in addition to an element of retained business rates and the plan reflects an expected reduction in government grant support (RSG and NDR) for 2018/19 of 8.5%. The multi-year settlement indicates a further reduction of 9.3% for 2019/20 (prior to the adjustment to the tariff reflecting negative RSG of £33,229). Beyond this, the forecast assumes that the funding level will increase by a modest 2% pending further information on the replacement scheme for RSG and developments in relation to the 100% Business Rates Retention scheme.
- 6.4 The requirement for financial reserves is acknowledged in statute. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires billing and precepting authorities to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement. The Council's minimum prudent level of balances, calculating the requirement at 5% of net expenditure before other government grants (£629,540) together with the element of the reduction in business rates that authorities must meet before the Government would consider any safety net payment (£238,785 in 2017/18), is now £868,325. Balancing the annual budget by drawing on general reserves may be viewed as a convenient short-term option but where reserves are deployed to finance recurrent expenditure this should be made explicit by the Section 151 officer. **Members must note that the continued use of balances is not sustainable and a significant re-prioritisation exercise, whereby all services are subject to a critical**

evaluation, must be undertaken to alleviate serious financial problems in future years. The financial projections indicate that further annual savings will be required in future years. It is important that the Council considers its future budgets and continues to monitor closely the MTFP. The value of reserves and balances at the end of March 2017, and projected for the future, can be seen at Appendix 3. The identification of earmarked reserves often takes account of risk assessments and contingency planning with funding being provided for known events such as the Borough Election and the rolling replacement of IT equipment and vehicles. The level of general balances also supports contingency planning and recognises anticipated future financial pressures on revenue resources and the difficulties of securing immediate savings. The Council's Policy on the Level of Reserves and Balances is included at Appendix 4.

6.5 The Council's capital spending is constrained by the availability of appropriate resources including capital receipts, capital grants, borrowing and revenue funding. The Council has previously adopted a policy of ensuring that assets with the shortest charge life are financed from capital receipts rather than borrowing to minimise the revenue impact. The Council submits a variety of external funding bids, many of which are coordinated by the Regeneration Team and all funding bids are agreed with Financial Services prior to submission. The Council has a good track record of securing external grants and continues to seek funding to facilitate investment in the Borough.

7. Risk Assessment

7.1 An assessment of the risks associated with the MTFP has been carried out. This includes the likelihood, severity and level of risk together with the risk management procedures in place to control and monitor them. The guidance framework for Corporate Governance in local authorities highlights the need to have these risk management procedures in place.

The table below explains the scoring matrix that is used to calculate the level of risk.

Likelihood	Severity	Risk = Likelihood x Severity
Low (1)	Low (1)	1 – 2 = Low
Medium (2)	Medium (2)	3 – 4 = Medium
High (3)	High (3)	6 – 9 = High

Action to be taken after scoring is as follows:

- High = Review existing practices/proposed recommendations and act.
- Medium = Review control mechanisms.
- Low = Limited immediate action; continue to monitor.

7.2 Appendix 5 lists the major risks associated with the MTFP and the controls in place to alleviate the risks.

8. Executive Summary

8.1 Aims

- To improve the quality of services through the strategic planning process and the targeting and prioritising of investment to meet local and national objectives.
- To provide a clear and consistent framework for financial decision-making and management at both the corporate and service level, subject to continuous monitoring to ensure its effectiveness.

8.2 Delivery

The Council strives to ensure that its resources:

- Continue to be guided by the key principles underpinning our corporate objectives and contribute effectively to their achievement, through Corporate Service and Financial Planning.
- Are robustly reviewed on a regular basis identifying potential efficiency savings.
- Add value to those provided by partners and other agencies in the Borough to provide joined up solutions.
- Optimise opportunities for corporate working across services and operational strategies, to achieve wider, defined objectives.
- Are not accepted as the only source of funding for services and continues to explore the possibility of attracting funding from external sources.
- Are supported by the achievement of maximum income levels in relation to fees and charges levied for services provided.
- Maximise and make best use of the Council's assets.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Revenue/Capital Growth Bid Form

Appendix 2 – Charging Policy

Appendix 3 – Summary Financial Forecast (including Reserves and Balances)

Appendix 4 – Policy on the Level of Reserves and Balances

Appendix 5 – Risk Assessment

WYRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Invest to save/Income generation - Bid for Revenue/Capital Growth 2018/19

1. Project/Scheme Title:	
2 Portfolio:	
Health and Community Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Economic Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Project/Scheme Owner: (Service Director/Head of Service)	
4. General Description of the Scheme including details of how the project supports the Business Plan:	
5. Identify the priority to which this request relates. <i>(Please tick all that apply)</i>	
A Enterprising Wyre	
A1 Adopt a new Local Plan to manage and deliver development through to 2031	<input type="checkbox"/>
A2 Develop a Local Economic Development Strategy which includes working with partners and local businesses to improve the local economy	<input type="checkbox"/>
A3 Restore the Mount and its Gardens in Fleetwood	<input type="checkbox"/>
A4 Support and promote the Enterprise Zone at Hillhouse International Business Park at Thornton	<input type="checkbox"/>
A5 Complete the Rossall Sea Defence Scheme	<input type="checkbox"/>
A6 Develop and deliver a commercial strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>
A7 Develop the Wyre Flood Forum and support local flood action groups	<input type="checkbox"/>
B Healthier Wyre	
B1 Deliver a programme of work to promote healthy choices and healthier lifestyles to keep people well through better use of our leisure centres, recreational facilities, parks and open spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>
B2 Play an active role in the Healthier Fleetwood initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>
B3 Develop neighbourhood health initiatives for Garstang and Over Wyre	<input type="checkbox"/>
B4 Explore opportunities offered by the Better Care Fund to better support older people and people with disabilities to stay in their own homes	<input type="checkbox"/>
B5 Support the delivery of the Wyre Early Action project	<input type="checkbox"/>
C Engaging Wyre	
C1 Deliver community priority projects through the Together We Make a Difference Network	<input type="checkbox"/>
C2 Progress our programme of efficiency savings to ensure a balanced budget	<input type="checkbox"/>
C3 Deliver the Asset Management Plan actions and priorities to maximise the return from our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>
C4 Facilitate a staff development programme to support our vision and goals	<input type="checkbox"/>
C5 Implement #DigitalWyre, our digital strategy to facilitate digital transformation of services	<input type="checkbox"/>

6	What are the links to Asset Management in terms of whole life costing (e.g. have you taken into account backlog maintenance, future maintenance requirements over the life of the scheme, energy consumption, etc.)?																		
7.	What other options have been considered and what are the implications of the scheme not proceeding?																		
8.	Has any consultation taken place or is any planned?																		
9.	Promotion of equality i.e. does the scheme improve equality of access or outcome <input type="checkbox"/> (please tick if applicable and provide some brief details in support of this claim)																		
10.	Please indicate the measure/target which will be used to assess achievement.																		
11.	How does the scheme deliver Value for Money?																		
12.	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 70%;">Estimated Cost</th> <th style="text-align: right; width: 30%;">£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Future Years (Please Specify)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Total</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>_____</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Please indicate below if there are any associated ongoing revenue implications, including both part and full year effects together with the year in which additional costs would commence, and whether these can be contained within existing budgetary provisions.</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">_____</p>	Estimated Cost	£	2018/19	_____	2019/20	_____	2020/21	_____	2021/22	_____	Future Years (Please Specify)	_____	<u>Total</u>	<u>_____</u>				
Estimated Cost	£																		
2018/19	_____																		
2019/20	_____																		
2020/21	_____																		
2021/22	_____																		
Future Years (Please Specify)	_____																		
<u>Total</u>	<u>_____</u>																		
13.	Ability to earn income: Please detail below how the scheme has the ability to attract external funding or additional income from fees and charges?																		
14.	Risk Factor: Circle the most appropriate indicator of risk should the bid be refused and why: <table style="margin-left: 20px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">5</td> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">=</td> <td>Very High Risk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>=</td> <td>High Risk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>=</td> <td>Med Risk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>=</td> <td>Low Risk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>=</td> <td>Very Low Risk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>=</td> <td>No Risk</td> </tr> </table>	5	=	Very High Risk	4	=	High Risk	3	=	Med Risk	2	=	Low Risk	1	=	Very Low Risk	0	=	No Risk
5	=	Very High Risk																	
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1	=	Very Low Risk																	
0	=	No Risk																	



Charging Policy 2018/19

Wyre Council
Civic Centre
Breck Road
Poulton-le-Fylde

October 2017

Charging Policy 2018/19

1. Background

- 1.1 The Cabinet last formally considered its charging policy at its meeting on the 7 September 2016.
- 1.2 In September 1999 the Audit Commission published “The Price is Right” which advised Councils to focus attention on charges and addresses the following issues:
- Establish clear principles for charging;
 - Integrate charging into service management and forge links with corporate objectives;
 - Set clear objectives and targets to qualify success in charging;
 - Build an understanding of users and markets;
 - Improve decision making by taking into account the likely impact of changes to charges; and
 - Innovate via imaginative use of charging structures.
- 1.3 In January 2008, the Audit Commission published a further report entitled “Positively Charged”, which identified how different councils' use their powers to charge for services and draws conclusions that support their earlier publication in that:
- Charging for local services makes a significant contribution to council finances and for district councils charges make the greatest contribution to service delivery;
 - Councils use charges to influence individuals' choices and to bring benefits to local communities. Charges can be set to encourage or discourage people to use services and through concessions to pursue local objectives; and
 - Councils need to understand better the likely impact of charges on users and on patterns of service use.
- 1.4 The report recommends, amongst other things, that where there is a subsidy to provide a service, this is transparent as part of the decision making process; that service managers should be aware of both users and non-users of the service being charged for; to engage service users and taxpayers more in decisions about charging levels and that there should be regular debate on charges and charging policy.
- 1.5 A new briefing entitled ‘Income from Charging’ was issued by the Audit Commission in September 2013 which uses data from the value for money profiles and presented a high level analysis of councils' income from charging and the contribution it makes to service spending and allowed comparisons to other councils of the same type and changes over time. The data was the subject of a value for money review undertaken as part of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme and was considered at the meeting 15 December 2014. Having fully explored and investigated the variances, it was felt that the value of the research was limited with the additional benefit not being sufficient to justify the exercise being repeated.
- 1.6 The level of income generated by fees and charges, and in particular projected increases which the Council can influence, forms a key part of the Council's financial planning and is therefore reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

2. The Council's Policy

- 2.1 The Council needs to maximise its income whilst ensuring that its services are not compromised, taking into account competition from other providers. Indeed, if services are subsidised purely to maintain a competitive price then a fundamental review of the service

should be carried out resulting in the justification of the approach or recommending alternative action.

- 2.2 The Council is keen to encourage a shared responsibility for improving neighbourhoods and wherever possible will consult local people and communities on charging policies. Information obtained from satisfaction surveys can also help to monitor performance.
- 2.3 The reasoning behind both service provision and the charge levied should be justified each time that charges are re-assessed. For example, there may well be a desire to use a charging policy to meet other objectives such as increasing usage of recreational assets.
- 2.4 Decisions regarding pricing should be taken in the full knowledge of the pricing policies of alternative providers and information should be provided to ensure that Members are sufficiently briefed.
- 2.5 Clear targets should be set for income levels in advance of any review of pricing and achievement of these targets should be monitored using the Council's established performance management arrangements.
- 2.6 When considering pricing policies Service Managers should be encouraged to be innovative and flexible in determining the basis for the charge.

3. Impact

- 3.1 The table attached identifies the range of services for which the Council currently levies a charge and the value of the income estimated for the current year. The table also details those areas where the fee is externally set, as is currently the case with Planning Fees, or where we must ensure a break-even position, with the charge being set at a level sufficient to recover associated costs.

Charging Policy

Service Area	Determined by WBC √ or X	Estimated Value 2017/18 £	Able to Influence £	Unable to Influence £
<u>Chief Executive</u>				
Planning	X	525,680		525,680
Development Control	√	15,180	15,180	
Wyred Up	√	-	-	
Credit Card Administration Fee	√	8,400	8,400	
Sub Total		549,260	23,580	525,680
<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>				
Leisure Centres (including pools)**	√	-	-	
Marine Hall	√	90,980	90,980	
Thornton Little Theatre	√	39,240	39,240	
Marsh Mill	√	500	500	
Renovations Grants (Fee Income)	√	160,510	160,510	
Houses in Multiple Occupation	√	4,770	4,770	
Care and Repair Service	√	4,130	4,130	
Handyperson (Fee Income)	√	14,200	14,200	
Animal Licensing	√	9,650	9,650	
Taxi Licensing	√	72,080	72,080	
Licensing Act	X	86,930		86,930
Gambling Act Licensing	X	26,870		26,870
Other Licensing ***	√	4,290	4,290	
Pest Control	√	37,020	37,020	
Private Water Supplies	√	1,450	1,450	
Food Safety	√	3,750	3,750	
Data Protection Enquiries	√	100	100	
Contaminated Land	√	400	400	
Pollution Prevention Control	X	7,370		7,370
Poulton Market*	√	33,090	33,090	
Fleetwood Market*	√	514,750	514,750	
Fleetwood Market – Public Convenience Charges (Non-Danfo)	√	8,080	8,080	
Sub Total		1,120,160	998,990	121,170
<u>Performance and Innovation</u>				
Building Control	√/X	173,950	700	173,250
Land Charges	X	81,170		81,170
Street Nameplates and Numbering	√	5,000	5,000	
Estates use of land for commercial events	√	1,000	1,000	
Other Legal Fees	√	16,750	16,750	
Sub Total		277,870	23,450	254,420
<u>People and Places</u>				
Cemetries	√	252,890	252,890	
Countryside	√	4,600	4,600	
Wyre Estuary Country Park	√	600	600	
Car Parking	√/X	559,130	559,130	
Resident Parking Permits	√	11,300	11,300	
Electoral Services	√	1,800	1,800	
National Non-Domestic Rates (Court Costs)	√	18,000	18,000	
Photocopying	√	500	500	
Council Tax (Court Costs)	√	261,750	261,750	
Hire of Committee Rooms	√	16,700	16,700	
Dog Warden	√	5,050	5,050	
Street Cleansing	X	2,500		2,500
Public Conveniences (Danfo)	√	40,000	40,000	
Outdoor Leisure	√	12,590	12,590	
Bulky Household Waste	√	48,000	48,000	
Green Waste Removal	√	698,730	698,730	
Bin Delivery Administration Costs	√	40,800	40,800	
Sub Total		1,974,940	1,972,440	2,500
Total		3,922,230	3,018,460	903,770

* Fleetwood and Poulton Market Rents are set under Officer Delegated Powers.

** Involved in agreeing charges but income retained by contractor.

*** WBC is able to influence ear piercing, performance of plays, public entertainment, second hand goods dealers, scrap metal operators' and street trading licences.

<u>Revenue Budgets</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Base Borough Requirements, increased for prior year inflation, but excluding Use/Top-up of Balances (shown below).	11,191	11,191	11,508	11,866
<u>Inflationary Assumptions on the above Base.</u>				
Pay Officers and Member Allowances- 2%		196	200	204
Prices, Specific Contracts and Other costs (Variable)/Energy.		121	158	198
<u>Expected Future Changes on the above Base.</u>				
Revenue changes and 16/17 slippage met by improved Balances.	999	0	0	0
Capital Programme revenue implications.	0	6	23	114
Employee (incl. Member Allowances) and related cost - NI changes; Pension contributions; Protection; FTCs; Grant Aided schemes ending, long service awards and restructures.	-76	-5	4	29
External Contributions/Grant and Grant Aided schemes - Council Tax Support; Other Local Authorities; S106; DCLG and DWP.	-112	-33	-31	-21
Other Services including :- Surface Water Drainage; Borough Elections; Citizens Advice Bureau; Leisure Centres; Marine Lake; Commuted Sums; Licensing; Community Development; LCC Domestic Abuse Service; Marsh Mill; Homelessness; Civic Centre and Bank Charges.	-64	179	199	-90
Regeneration/Economic situation changes - Building Control; Local Development Framework; Depots; Fleetwood Market; Parking; MOT Test Centre and Hillhouse Enterprise Zone.	-2	-18	-37	-36
Waste Management - Waste Collection Contract, Green Waste and LCC Cost Share Allowance	-53	967	992	1,017
Capital Programme, cost of Borrowing and Investment Interest.	-8	10	-47	-50
Capital Programme, Revenue contributions.	264	-15	84	166
Reserve Contribution Changes.	-112	84	37	75
Revenue Support Grant - External Government Grant (all per final Local Government Finance Settlement)	-912	-466	0	0
Baseline Funding - External Government Grant (all per final Local Government Finance Settlement)	-3,189	-3,286	-3,403	-3,471
NDR income in excess of Baseline retained by Wyre.	-178	0	0	0
New Homes Bonus - Government Grant.	-2,103	-1,329	-708	-226
New Homes Bonus Top Slice - Government Grant.	-8	0	0	0
Non-Domestic Rates - Government Grant.	-949	-40	-16	-2
Non-Domestic Rates - Levy.	480	0	0	0
Non-Domestic Rates - Retained Levy (Lancashire Pool).	-432	0	0	0
Collection Fund Adjustment - Council Tax re prior year.	-131	0	0	0
Collection Fund Adjustment - Non-domestic Rates re prior year.	1,480	0	0	0
Net Wyre Requirement met by Council Tax and Balances.	6,085	7,562	8,963	9,773
Base 17/18 and Forecast Cost met by Council Tax.	6,739	6,960	7,184	7,410
Net Spending change i.e. need to Use/ Top Up (-) Balances.	-654	602	1,779	2,363

	£	£	£	£
Balances as at 1 April.	10,531,480	11,185,025	10,582,555	8,804,037
Add Top Up of Balances in Base.	653,545	0	0	0
Less Use of Balances.	0	-602,470	-1,778,518	-2,363,368
Balances estimated Surplus / Deficit (-) at 31 March.	11,185,025	10,582,555	8,804,037	6,440,669
NB Prudent level of Balances £868,000.				

Tax Base, assumed 0.61% annual increase.	35,785	36,006	36,227	36,448
Forecast Council Tax £ p.	£188.31	£193.31	£198.31	£203.31
Annual Council Tax Increase £.	£5	£5	£5	£5
Additional Council Tax income = £		£221,630	£223,841	£226,052

RESERVES AND BALANCES STATEMENT

Appendix 3 continued

	Actual Balance at 01/04/2017 £	' Top-up ' £	Less to Fund Expenditure £	Estimated Balance at 31/03/2018 £
<u>2017/18 LATEST ESTIMATE* INCLUDING OUTTURN 2016/17 AND SLIPPAGE</u>				
Reserves				
Building Control	12,199	0	-3,440	8,759
Business Growth Incentive	9,424	0	-9,424	0
Capital Investment	816,530	99,590	0	916,120
Elections	30,059	41,217	0	71,276
Insurance	28,730	40,000	-310	68,420
Investment - I.T. Strategy	336,600	80,361	-285,560	131,401
Land Charges	29,052	1,240	0	30,292
Leisure Management	186,058	6,340	0	192,398
New Homes Bonus	3,071,302	341,192	-568,749	2,843,745
Non-Domestic Rates Equalisation	1,765,941	900,967	-1,480,210	1,186,698
Performance Reward Initiatives	36,367	0	-2,620	33,747
Value for Money	633,520	89,342	-5,662	717,200
Vehicle Replacement/Street Cleansing Maintenance	513,566	223,971	-321,651	415,886
	<u>7,469,348</u>	<u>1,824,220</u>	<u>-2,677,626</u>	<u>6,615,942</u>
Balances				
General	10,531,480	653,545	0	11,185,025
	<u>18,000,828</u>	<u>2,477,765</u>	<u>-2,677,626</u>	<u>17,800,967</u>

Note. None of the Land Charges 31/03/18 balance is for Personal Search revocation implications.

* Includes changes since Council 02/03/17

	Estimated Balance at 01/04/2018 £	' Top-up ' £	Less to Fund Expenditure £	Estimated Balance at 31/03/2019 £
<u>2018/19 LATEST ESTIMATE*</u>				
Reserves				
Building Control	8,759	0	0	8,759
Capital Investment	916,120	99,590	0	1,015,710
Elections	71,276	41,217	0	112,493
Insurance	68,420	40,000	0	108,420
Investment - I.T. Strategy	131,401	55,565	-80,000	106,966
Land Charges	30,292	0	0	30,292
Leisure Management	192,398	0	0	192,398
New Homes Bonus	2,843,745	0	-568,749	2,274,996
Non-Domestic Rates Equalisation	1,186,698	39,900	-285,731	940,867
Performance Reward Initiatives	33,747	0	-2,620	31,127
Value for Money	717,200	0	0	717,200
Vehicle Replacement/Street Cleansing Maintenance	415,886	249,940	-246,000	419,826
	<u>6,615,942</u>	<u>526,212</u>	<u>-1,183,100</u>	<u>5,959,054</u>
Balances				
General	11,185,025	0	-602,470	10,582,555
	<u>17,800,967</u>	<u>526,212</u>	<u>-1,785,570</u>	<u>16,541,609</u>

Note. None of the Land Charges 31/03/19 balance is for Personal Search revocation implications.

* Includes changes since Council 02/03/17

RESERVES AND BALANCES STATEMENT - Continued**Appendix 3 continued**

	Estimated Balance at 01/04/2019 £	' Top-up ' £	Less to Fund Expenditure £	Estimated Balance at 31/03/2020 £
<u>2019/20 LATEST ESTIMATE*</u>				
Reserves				
Building Control	8,759	0	0	8,759
Capital Investment	1,015,710	82,990	0	1,098,700
Elections	112,493	41,217	-153,710	0
Insurance	108,420	40,000	0	148,420
Investment - I.T. Strategy	106,966	45,570	-118,020	34,516
Land Charges	30,292	0	0	30,292
Leisure Management	192,398	0	0	192,398
New Homes Bonus	2,274,996	0	-568,749	1,706,247
Non-Domestic Rates Equalisation	940,867	16,430	0	957,297
Performance Reward Initiatives	31,127	0	-1,233	29,894
Value for Money	717,200	0	0	717,200
Vehicle Replacement/Street Cleansing Maintenance	419,826	256,214	-344,500	331,540
	<u>5,959,054</u>	<u>482,421</u>	<u>-1,186,212</u>	<u>5,255,263</u>
Balances				
General	10,582,555	0	-1,778,518	8,804,037
	<u>16,541,609</u>	<u>482,421</u>	<u>-2,964,730</u>	<u>14,059,300</u>

Note. None of the Land Charges 31/03/20 balance is for Personal Search revocation implications.

* Includes changes since Council 02/03/17

RESERVES AND BALANCES STATEMENT

	Estimated Balance at 01/04/2020 £	' Top-up ' £	Less to Fund Expenditure £	Estimated Balance at 31/03/2021 £
<u>2020/21 LATEST ESTIMATE*</u>				
Reserves				
Building Control	8,759	0	0	8,759
Capital Investment	1,098,700	0	0	1,098,700
Elections	0	41,217	0	41,217
Insurance	148,420	40,000	0	188,420
Investment - I.T. Strategy	34,516	63,885	-80,000	18,401
Land Charges	30,292	0	0	30,292
Leisure Management	192,398	0	0	192,398
New Homes Bonus	1,706,247	0	-568,749	1,137,498
Non-Domestic Rates Equalisation	957,297	2,350	0	959,647
Performance Reward Initiatives	29,894	0	0	29,894
Value for Money	717,200	0	0	717,200
Vehicle Replacement/Street Cleansing Maintenance	331,540	262,153	-426,700	166,993
	<u>5,255,263</u>	<u>409,605</u>	<u>-1,075,449</u>	<u>4,589,419</u>
Balances				
General	8,804,037	0	-2,363,368	6,440,669
	<u>14,059,300</u>	<u>409,605</u>	<u>-3,438,817</u>	<u>11,030,088</u>

Note. None of the Land Charges 31/03/21 balance is for Personal Search revocation implications.

* Includes changes since Council 02/03/17



Policy on the Level of Reserves and Balances

Wyre Council
Civic Centre
Breck Road
Poulton-le-Fylde

October 2017

Policy on the Level of Reserves and Balances

1. Legislative/Regulatory Framework

- 1.1 The requirement for financial reserves is acknowledged in statute. Sections 31A, 32, 42A and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require billing and precepting authorities to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement.
- 1.2 There is also a requirement reinforced by section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 which requires the chief financial officer to report to all the authority's councillors if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget. This would include situations where reserves have become seriously depleted and it is forecast that the authority will not have the resources to meet its expenditure in a particular financial year.

2. Role of the Finance Director

- 2.1 Within the existing statutory and regulatory framework, it is the responsibility of the finance director (Head of Finance) to advise the local authority about the level of reserves that should be held and to ensure that there are clear protocols for their establishment and use.
- 2.2 There are no statutory minimum levels imposed and it is not considered appropriate or practical for the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), or other external agencies, to give prescriptive guidance on the minimum, or maximum, level of reserves required either as an absolute amount or a percentage of the budget.

3. Types of Reserves

- 3.1 Reserves can be held for three main purposes:
 - A working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing – this forms part of general reserves and is commonly referred to as 'balances';
 - A contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies – this also forms part of general reserves or 'balances';
 - A means of building up funds, often referred to as earmarked reserves, to meet known or predicted requirements – earmarked reserves are accounted for separately but remain legally part of the General Fund.
- 3.2 For each reserve held by a local authority there should be a clear protocol setting out:
 - The reason for/purpose of the reserve;
 - How and when the reserve can be used;
 - Procedures for the reserve's management and control; and
 - A process and timescale for review of the reserve to ensure continuing relevance and adequacy.

4. Principles to Assess Adequacy

- 4.1 In order to assess the adequacy of unallocated general reserves when setting the budget or the MTFP chief finance officers should take account of the strategic, operational and financial risks facing the authority. The assessment of risks should include external risks, such as flooding, as well as internal risks, for example, the ability to deliver planned efficiency savings. The following factors should be considered:

Budget Assumptions	Financial Standing and Management Assessment/Impact
The treatment of inflation and interest rates	The overall financial standing of the authority (level of borrowing, debt outstanding, council tax and business rate collection rates, etc.), commodity prices e.g. fuel, the cost of borrowing and anticipated investment returns
Estimates of the level and timing of capital receipts	The authority's track record in budget and financial management including the robustness of the medium term financial plans
The treatment of demand led pressures	The authority's capacity to manage in-year budget pressures
The treatment of planned efficiency savings/gains	The strength of the financial information and reporting arrangements
The financial risks inherent in any significant new funding partnerships, major outsourcing arrangements or major capital developments	The authority's virement and end of year procedures in relation to budget under/over spends at authority and directorate level and any contract provisions, designed to safeguard the authority's position
The availability of reserves, government grants and other funds to deal with major contingencies and the adequacy of provisions	The adequacy of the authority's insurance arrangements to cover major unforeseen risks
The general financial climate to which the authority is subject.	External factors such as future funding levels, referenda principles/limits and the authority's ability to replenish reserves once used

- 4.2 The Council's minimum prudent level of balances, calculating the requirement at approximately 5% of net expenditure before other government grants (£629,540) together with the element of the reduction in business rates that authorities must meet before the Government would consider any safety net payment (£238,785 in 2017/18), is now £868,325. This is reviewed annually as part of the budget process.

4.3 A review of the level of earmarked reserves is also undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation and as part of the closure of accounts process. The Council does not regularly monitor the opportunity costs of maintaining its levels of earmarked reserves as these are generally not held as a form of investment but to meet a recognised need.

5. Reporting Framework

5.1 The level and utilisation of general and earmarked reserves is determined formally by Cabinet in September, with the approval of the MTFP, and in February, at the annual budget setting meeting, informed by the advice and judgement of the finance director.

5.2 Both reports include a statement showing the estimated opening general and reserve fund balances for the year ahead, the additions/withdrawals, and the estimated end of year balances. A statement is also included commenting on the adequacy of the general and earmarked reserves in respect of the forthcoming financial years.

6. Reserves Protocol

Reserve as at 31.03.17	Purpose	How and When Used	Procedures for management and control	Timescale for review
Building Control	Fundamental principle of the Building Regulations Scheme introduced 1 April 1999, subsequently amended by the 2010 Regulations.	3 to 5 year rolling accounting period over which costs should equate with charge income.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
Business Growth Incentive	Incentive scheme both rewarding and facilitating growth.	Used to raise the prosperity of all communities and release the economic potential of every area.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Annually and subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.
Capital Investment	To fund capital investment avoiding the need to borrow.	Used to finance the council's capital investment needs.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
Elections	To meet the cost of the Borough Election.	Used to smooth the impact of the Borough Election which occurs every four years and is next due in May 2019.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
Insurance	To meet the cost of insurance claims.	Used to fund the cost of insurance excess and any associated costs not covered by any premium.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
Investment – IT Strategy	Rolling replacement reserve established to renew IT equipment in accordance with the IT Plan.	Used to smooth the revenue impact of ensuring that the IT infrastructure and equipment remains 'fit for purpose'.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.

Reserve as at 31.03.17	Purpose	How and When Used	Procedures for management and control	Timescale for review
Land Charges	Compliance with guidance issued by the Lord Chancellor (Section 13A, LLCA 1975).	Councils are required to assess the cost of providing a service, the projected take-up of that service and thus the charge that should be made over a period of between one and three years. This reserve, following receipt of a 'new burdens' payment from DCLG, will also contribute to the cost of the personal search revocation implications.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
Leisure Management	To meet the Council's share of the cost of Leisure Management in excess of the agreed target cost/ fund reinvestment.	Partnering arrangement whereby the partners share financial risk and reward – See Legal Agreement.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
New Homes Bonus (2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 Awards only)	To encourage local authorities to facilitate housing growth.	Supports the shortfall in income, resulting from the decision to freeze the level of council tax, through to 2022/23.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
Non-Domestic Rates Equalisation	To protect against volatility associated with the new Business Rate Retention Scheme.	Section 31 grant receipts, net of NDR levy, used to cushion the Council against future reductions in business rate income, including the financial impact of successful appeals as notified by the Valuation Office.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
Performance Reward Initiatives	To assist the delivery of Shaping Your Neighbourhood projects.	Used to support the delivery of the local projects developed as part of the Shaping Your Neighbourhood Initiative.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Annually and subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.
Value For Money	Invest to save projects	Originally created to fund VFM initiatives, which may incur up-front costs and now incorporates supplementary grants awarded for the administration of council tax, NDR, housing benefit and LCTS.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process.
Vehicle Replacement/ Street Cleansing Maintenance	Replacement of the Council's vehicle fleet and smoothing the maintenance cost for the street cleaning vehicles.	Funding to meet current and anticipated vehicle/ plant requirements - ultimately charging the cost to revenue over the life of the asset. Also includes maintenance of street cleansing vehicles and set-up costs for MOT station.	Managed by the Head of Finance	Undertaken as part of the annual budget preparation, the updating of the MTFP and as part of the closure of accounts process as well as subject to individual reports on proposals for usage.

Type of Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Level of Risk	Control	Review	Responsible	Reports To
Financial Forecast is wrong.	Low (1)	High (3)	Medium (3)	Review the base budget and adjust for known and likely variations impacting on the forecast.	Ongoing	Head of Finance	Management Board; Cabinet.
Expenditure greater than budget.	Low (1)	High (3)	Medium (3)	Budget monitoring of revenue spend. Budget monitoring of capital spend. 3-Year Financial Forecast.	Monthly Quarterly 6 Monthly	Cost Centre Managers; Financial Services Spending Officers and Head of Finance Head of Finance	Management Board Cabinet Management Board
Unforeseen expenditure, new schemes/initiatives.	Low (1)	High (3)	Medium (3)	Maintenance of a general contingency and review of priorities.	Ongoing	Head of Finance	Management Board
Over dependence on use of reserves and balances.	Low (1)	Medium (2)	Low (2)	Compliance with CIPFA guidance on local authority reserves and balances. Adequacy assessed as part of budget process, MTFP and closure of accounts.	Ongoing	Head of Finance	Cabinet; Council.
Income targets not achieved due to economic climate impacting on demand.	Low (1)	Medium (2)	Low (2)	Risk assessment of major income generators during budget preparation – realistic targets built into budget. Regular monitoring of income as part of budget monitoring.	Annually Monthly	Financial Services	Management Board; Cabinet.
Efficiency savings not achieved.	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (6)	Regular review as part of budget monitoring.	Monthly	Management Team	Management Board
Income from investments is lower than expected.	Low (1)	Low (1)	Low (1)	Budget monitoring.	Monthly	Head of Finance	Management Board; Cabinet.
Changes in Government Funding e.g. reduced level of Revenue Support Grant or New Homes Bonus.	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (6)	Limit reliance on this type of funding and review other options, highlighting sensitivities in the MTFP.	Ongoing	Head of Finance	Management Board
Changes to Local Government Finance resulting from Business Rates Retention Scheme e.g. unfavourable variations in reliefs, decline in RVs, growth, collection rates, beneficial impact of pooling is not realised, etc.	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (6)	Close monitoring of new arrangements and establishment of an earmarked reserve to cushion against volatility.	Ongoing	Head of Finance	Management Board

Type of Risk (Cont'd)	Likelihood	Severity	Level of Risk	Control	Review	Responsible	Reports To
Potential volatility of the fuel market adding further increases to fuel, heating and lighting.	Low (1)	Medium (2)	Low (2)	Close monitoring of revenue spend. Re-negotiation of energy contracts when they fall due.	Monthly	Head of Finance	Management Team
Capital receipts are not realised from asset disposals.	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (6)	Prioritisation of disposals and effective marketing of sites.	Ongoing	Service Director Performance and Innovation and Head of Built Environment	Management Team
Potential volatility concerning aspects of the new Localised Council Tax Support Scheme e.g. caseload, collection rates, etc.	Low (1)	Medium (2)	Low (2)	Close monitoring of new arrangements.	Monthly	Head of Finance	Management Board
New cost pressures are devolved by Central Government as part of the 100% Business Rates Retention without the necessary funding.	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (4)	Early monitoring of situation allowing the development of plans to mitigate financial impact.	Ongoing	Head of Finance	Management Board



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item no.
Cllr David Henderson, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder and Mark Billington, Service Director People and Places	Cabinet	18 October 2017	8

Review of Consultation and Implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Dog Control
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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To summarise the consultation feedback on the draft PSPOs relating to dog controls, agree changes and to seek approval for the Senior Solicitor to make the Order in accordance with regulations published by the Secretary of State.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 The making of the Order will enable authorised officers to continue to enforce across the borough in relation to dog fouling and dog control measures.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet agree to the making of PSPO as shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 To defer the decision to introduce a limit on the maximum number of dogs that can be exercised by one person across the whole of the borough, and to explore opportunities to introduce a permit scheme with neighbouring Local Authorities and The Kennel Club.
- 3.3 To defer the decision to introduce any Order on Fleetwood Nature Reserve, allowing further discussion with Lancashire County Council.
- 3.4 To authorise the Senior Solicitor to correct any minor drafting errors that may be identified and make minor amendments including deletions and insertions that may be necessary to ensure the PSPO is accurate.

4. Background

- 4.1 On 14 June 2017, The Parks, Street Scene and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder submitted a report setting out the rationale for making the Public Space Protection Order relating to dog control. The report recommended that the council should carry out a six week consultation on the draft PSPOs. The consultation started on 10 July and ended on 18 August.
- 4.2 The PSPO statutory provisions arising from the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, mean that the council's existing powers for dealing with irresponsible dog ownership issues need to be reviewed and updated.
- 4.3 The report at Appendix 2 summarises the feedback from the consultation.
- 4.4 This report does not repeat the overview of the [Portfolio Holder Report of the 14 June 2017](#), which summarised the legal background to the Orders and the need for introducing them within the borough.

5. Key issues and proposals

The Consultation Process

- 5.1 The council notified a wide range of people and organisations of the consultation, including all of those that have to be consulted by law.
- 5.2 It also consulted local statutory and voluntary organisations working with the wider community.
- 5.3 The consultation was primarily carried out through emails, press release, and social media referring people to the council's consultation portal on the website. Paper copies were made available on request.
- 5.4 The consultation was undertaken in two parts, the first to gauge the opinion on the proposed PSPOs and the second (optional) to further understand the public concern in relation to dog fouling and other environmental crime issues. The results of the latter part will be evaluated separately and reported on in a future Portfolio Report of the Parks, Street Scene and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder.
- 5.5 The council received 285 responses, which have proved very helpful in assessing the need for the PSPO, the scope of the need for dog control measures, and forming a better understanding on public views.
- 5.6 It is satisfying to have received such a high level of response to the consultation, with a range of views expressed. This illustrates what an important issue responsible dog ownership is to both dog owners and non-dog owners. The responses received reflect users from a wide geographical spread and capture both dog owners and non-dog owners; with over 90% either currently or previously owning / caring for a dog.

5.7 Feedback relating to the proposed dog control PSPOs

5.8 The report in Appendix 2 provides a full breakdown of responses and Appendix 3 (a-g) shows the raw data comments.

In general the responses to key questions dealing with the transfer of the current Dog Controls Order provisions to the PSPO were well supported, as can be seen from points 1-5 in the Table below.

Question: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, that is if a person in charge of a dog...	Response %		
	Yes	No	Don't know
1. Fails to pick up poo and put it in a bin?	97	2	1
2. Allows a dog into a dog exclusion area?	81	16	3
3. Fails to have a dog on a lead in a designated area?	89	9	2
4. Fails to put a dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer?	95	4	1
4a-Do you think that this power should be applied across the whole borough?	93	6	1
5. Exercises more than four dogs at once within a designated area?	80	14	6
5 a -Do you think this power should be applied to all publicly owned land?	95	5	0
6. Do you think the ban on bathing beaches should be applied all year round?	20	71	9
7. Do you agree with the inclusion of a new offence, that is, the failure of a person in charge of a dog/s to produce a suitable means of removing and transporting dog poo to a bin (whether or not the dog has defecated) when asked to do so by an authorised officer?	81	17	2

Please note the above percentages have been rounded.

5.9 As can be seen from the Table above, there is also positive support to the application of the 'Dogs on lead when requested to do so by an authorised Officer' to be applied across all public land within the administrative boundary of Wyre (Point 4a above).

5.10 Over 80% of respondents agreed that the continuation of a limit of a maximum of four dogs exercised by one person should be continued in the designated areas, whilst 90% then went on to support this being applied on all public land within the administrative boundary of Wyre (point 5 and

5a). A number of comments of concern have been raised in relation to this requirement and the council are aware the Kennel Club are suggesting a permit scheme be considered. Before it is recommended that this restriction be applied across the whole borough, officers will review this further in conjunction with neighbouring Local Authorities.

5.11 The introduction of a new restriction (Point 7 above) of making it an offence for a person in charge of a dog not to be able to produce suitable means for removing and transporting dog poo to a bin was again supported by the majority of respondents (81%).

5.12 It should be noted that the wider general comments are very mixed with some suggestions the council are discriminating against responsible dog owners and clearly 'anti-dog' whilst others suggesting the actions are not restrictive enough. This illustrates that this is a very complex area and it is difficult to achieve the full consensus of everyone as opinions will vary widely depending on individual / organisational interests / experiences with dogs. In making this Order 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 Order seeks to balance the interest of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs.

5.13 In terms of the wider general comments, the commentary was analysed and applied to 13 broad areas as seen in the table below:

Aspect theme	Number of comments
<i>Dog mess</i>	55
<i>Penalty and enforcement</i>	44
<i>Restrictive measures</i>	36
<i>Dogs on leads</i>	34
<i>Beach and promenade</i>	31
<i>Dog walking areas</i>	23
<i>Nuisance</i>	11
<i>Signs</i>	8
<i>Dog walkers</i>	7
<i>Education</i>	5
<i>Disability</i>	4
<i>Terminology and wording</i>	4
<i>Nature reserves</i>	3

5.14 Officer's responses to each of these areas can be summarised as follows:

5.15 Dog Mess, Penalty and Enforcement

It is recognised that some respondents have concerns about the level of enforcement action in relation to dog fouling. Catching irresponsible dog owners / walkers allowing their dog to foul and not clearing up is notoriously difficult owing to the times that irresponsible dog owners walk their dogs and the large geographical area that needs to be covered. It is human nature that many people comply when others, especially council officers are within close proximity. The reports of incidences of dog fouling increases in the darker winter months. Enforcement is intelligence led by complaints and information from the public. Authorised officers patrol reported hot-spot areas and respond to intelligence from local residents of times / locations for known offenders. However the officers cannot be everywhere all of the time, so welcome feedback / reports from the general public to work with the council to combat this and ensure the minority become more responsible. The council needs local residents and visitors to be willing to assist in this process and provide statements for court where necessary.

5.16 In order to increase the pressure on irresponsible owners, a new requirement was included in the draft PSPO which requires dog owners to be equipped when walking their dogs to pick up dog faeces. Rather than having to catch a person in the act of not picking up, this means an offence is committed if a person does not have a means of picking up the faeces should the dog defecate.

5.17 It is recognised that some respondents have questioned the provision of litterbins. The council have heavily invested in recent years in new bins. This has seen the standardisation of bins and removal of the small singular dog bins, which were not fit for purpose. The new dual bins can accept both litter and bagged dog foul and the council will seek to promote this message further. It is apparent from separate engagement activity that some customers are unaware of this. Litterbins have been positioned where there is an identified litter issue or heavy footfall, but this also needs to be linked to operational considerations, including access. The absence of dog-waste bins is not a reasonable defence against the offence of failing to clear up after a dog. Dog owners / keepers should bag the waste and carry it to the next nearest bin or take it home with them.

5.18 Free bag dispensers.

A number of people responded suggesting that the council should provide free 'poo' bag dispensers as offered on the continent. This has been evaluated previously, but it is questionable as to whether it is making the minority more responsible as they are not accepting responsibility to provide bags themselves and become reliant on the council, whereas other responsible dog owners happily provide their own and pick up. It raises the question of what would happen if they went to areas without a dispenser or the dispenser was empty? Reports from other Local Authorities have suggested that the dispensers become a focus for vandalism and littering.

However, officers will again seek to evaluate options for dispensers' in high priority areas.

5.19 Dog Faeces in Trees / hedges.

Dog faeces bagged and left in a tree or hedge would be classed as a litter offence.

5.20 Other litter.

Authorised officers of the council do enforce on other litter related issues and the council is committed to a cleaner greener environment.

5.21 Naming and shaming those fined.

By accepting and paying the Fixed Penalty Notice, this means the offence will not be taken further and prevents further criminal action. Therefore details of individuals cannot be shared.

5.22 Restrictive Measures

A number of respondents commented that they felt the council is 'anti-dog'. This is not the case, rather it is pro-responsible dog owner / walker. The council believes that the proposed order contains sensible controls that should be welcomed by responsible dog owners and the general public alike.

5.23 Whilst there is a majority support for the new Order of having the means to pick up, it has equally raised a number of concerns, some by responsible dog owners who believe they could be 'caught' out after using up all the bags or offering them to other walkers. The council does recognise some of the potential pitfalls associated with this requirement and the comments of respondents do reflect some of the officers' own thinking when considering this requirement (and mirrored in other LA areas). However, the council are keen to impose a proactive requirement on dog owners and believe that responsible dog owners will quickly take this requirement on board and carry a sufficient supply of spare bags. Authorised Officers will receive the necessary training to be able to apply this provision in a sensible and pragmatic way, giving the owner an opportunity to explain their behaviour. It is felt this would be another method of tackling fouling.

5.24 A full publicity and educational campaign will precede this Order being enforced.

5.25 Dogs on leads

The areas with restriction for a dog to be kept on a lead are types of premises / areas rather than your typical public open spaces. Therefore, while dogs would still be welcome, the nature of the premises / area makes it appropriate that the dog should be kept on a lead while they are in these areas. This may be to ensure respect for the purpose of the area e.g. cemeteries as a place of mourning and quiet contemplation; or to avoid conflict with other users or to mitigate a general safety concern e.g. highways / car parks.

- 5.26** It is recognised that dogs in cemeteries can be very emotive and these areas should be respected. However many families wish to take dogs to visit their loved ones whilst paying their respects. Dogs will only be allowed on a lead and should be restricted to paths and stay away from headstones.
- 5.27** It is apparent that some respondents feel that this should be applied as a blanket ban. However, it is recognised that there is also a need for dogs to be able to exercised and have social playtime.
- 5.28 Beach / Promenade**
There is a majority support for exclusions areas, especially play areas and sports pitches. Concerns primarily seem to be raised around the amenity beaches. There was limited support (20%) for a year-long ban. The bans have been in place for a number of years in the amenity beach areas recognising that these are the areas safer for bathing and patrolled by the lifeguards in the bathing season.
- 5.29** The localised seasonal beach ban equates to a seasonal ban on just 1.430 km of beach, with a further 11.07 km open access / no restrictions. The council recognises that children and dogs should be able to socialise under supervision, but equally some families may choose to come to the beach to be away from dogs. By limiting the ban to the amenity areas only, this leaves wide expanses either side that dogs can roam freely.
- 5.30** There also appears to be a misconception that dogs can foul on the beach (and dunes) and there is no requirement to pick it up believing that the sea will 'wash' it away. Dog foul is reportedly affecting bathing water quality, it is not always washed away and is still a hazard until it is removed. The council will seek to address this with a campaign working alongside neighbouring coastal authorities, the Love My Beach co-ordinator and the many friends groups developed along the coast.
- 5.31** Comments have been made suggesting dogs should be allowed access during the summer months, early mornings and late evening when the beach is not in use by families. However this would be difficult to promote and does not prevent dog fouling, which is still evident.
- 5.32** The promenade is a shared space used by many parties and all users need to be considerate to each other, cyclists and dog owners alike.
- 5.33** The council will look to put in more positive signage / promotions to show were dogs can be exercised without restriction and delineation of ban areas during the season.
- 5.34 Dog Walking Areas**
As stated previously the council will seek to promote the areas were dogs can go.

5.35 A number of responses suggested that parks should be created just for dogs. This in itself can lead to other problems, with The Kennel Club raising concerns that dog parks concentrate urine and barking in a small area so they are hard and costly to manage and often unpopular with those nearby. Enclosing all dog owners in a small area is not beneficial and a more proportionate and fair approach is to see dog owners and non-dog owners sharing public spaces responsibly. The Kennel Club believes that developing dogs parks will not benefit dogs, dog owners nor the general public because:

- People walk less in dog parks, reducing the human health benefits from dog walking. They tend to stand around and chat instead, rather than go for a walk.
- With fewer people in wider green space, anti-social behaviour is more likely to occur owing to the lack of routine informal surveillance by dog walkers at all times of the day and year.
- Concentrating lots of dogs in one small area can increase the frequency of dog attacks as there is no space to get away and diffuse the situation.
- Just one poorly trained dog can render a whole dog park unusable to everyone else.

5.36 Education

It is essential that enforcement works hand in hand with education. The council will continue to promote responsible behaviour change campaigns, including 'bag it and bin it – any bin will do'. We will work with partner agencies, both national and local and local schools to help promote this message.

One suggestion was to run a social media campaign to better promote the areas that dogs can be exercised / enter. The Communication team will evaluate this and seek to produce information on public land and other establishments that welcome dogs.

5.37 Disability

A number of comments felt that exceptions should not be made for people with disabilities and mobility issues with particular reference to dog fouling. This would be seen as being discriminatory and against individuals that fall within a 'protected characteristic' group.

A request has been made to include Assistance Dogs Under Training within the exemptions and this has been included in the Order.

5.38 Nuisance

A number of respondents provided specific examples of encounters they had with dogs out of control and wished for greater restrictions in these areas, for example Towerwood. However it is felt this would not be proportionate. Issues with individual dogs and their owners will be

addressed on a case-by-case basis using the most appropriate tools available.

Customers are encouraged to report incidents. Areas identified as 'hot-spots' for nuisance dogs will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

5.39 Terminology and Wording

Authorised Officer does not mean any officer of the council. The Officer would have been delegated specific authorisation to undertake enforcement activity via the anti-social behaviour legislation or other Dog related legislation by a Service Director and will have had training and instruction to take a common sense approach.

5.40 Nature Reserves

There are currently no Orders on the Nature Reserve at Fleetwood. This land is owned and under the jurisdiction of Lancashire County Council (LCC). LCC officers wish to introduce restrictions in relation to dog fouling and the number of dogs to be exercised by one person. However for this to take place agreements are required with LCC for either their officers to be authorised to enforce or an SLA agreement to be in operation with Wyre. This will be deferred to allow further consultation with LCC.

5.41 Implementation

Signage will be reviewed and amended across the borough, commencing with the priority areas, where possible linking with other Public Space Protection Orders such as drinking in a public place. This will be supported with a communication campaign to support the new Order, requiring dog walkers to produce 'suitable means to pick up and dispose of dog waste' when requested to do by an authorised officer. As reported in the Report of 14 June 2017, costs for this will be met within existing budgets.

5.42 A zero tolerance approach will continue with respect to dog fouling and measures that have rolled over from the Dog Control Orders. Where there have been changes, a common sense approach will be applied.

5.43 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, community protection notices, to signposting for dog training.

5.44 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 most recent Life in Wyre Surveys have illustrated that irresponsible dog ownership and fouling are issues of great concern to the local community.

5.45 Equality Impact Screening has been undertaken in relation to the proposed PSPO. This did identify the fact that the enforcement of the PSPO is likely to involve work with vulnerable people and disabled people. However this should not result in any group being discriminated against. For example, the dog control PSPOs 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 and seek alternative support / engagement to address an issue on an individual basis from partner agencies.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	<p>It is anticipated that there will be costs associated with new signage for public space protection orders in the parks and other areas where they need to be displayed and this is estimated to be between £5,000 and £12,000. These costs will be met from existing budgets including underspent budgets carried forward from 2016/17.</p>
Legal	<p>The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) came into effect on 20 October 2014. Section 59 of the Act gives local authorities the power to make PSPOs which are intended to deal with anti-social behaviour and nuisance in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community’s quality of life by imposing conditions on the use of that area.</p> <p>Before making a PSPO, councils must consult with the local police (section 72(3) and 72(4) of the Act). The Act also stipulates that councils must consult with the local community on any proposed PSPO. Consultation opportunities have been widely publicised within communities, councillors, business partner agencies, the media and websites and social media.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>With regard to breaches of a PSPO, it is an offence for anyone, without reasonable excuse, to do anything s/he is 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.</p>

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ 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	✓
sustainability	✓
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Ruth Hunter	01253 887478	Ruth.Hunter@wyre.gov.uk	22/09/2017

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

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – PSPO (maps will be available on website and paper copy in Members' Library)

Appendix 2 – Consultation Summary Report

Appendix 3 (a-g) – Raw data comments

Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment

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ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

WYRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

DOG CONTROL AND DOG FOULING

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2017

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:-

1. 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 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 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 comply with a direction given to him by an Authorised Officer of the Council to put and keep the dog on a lead 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 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 device 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 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 2017.

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 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 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 lead on 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 public 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

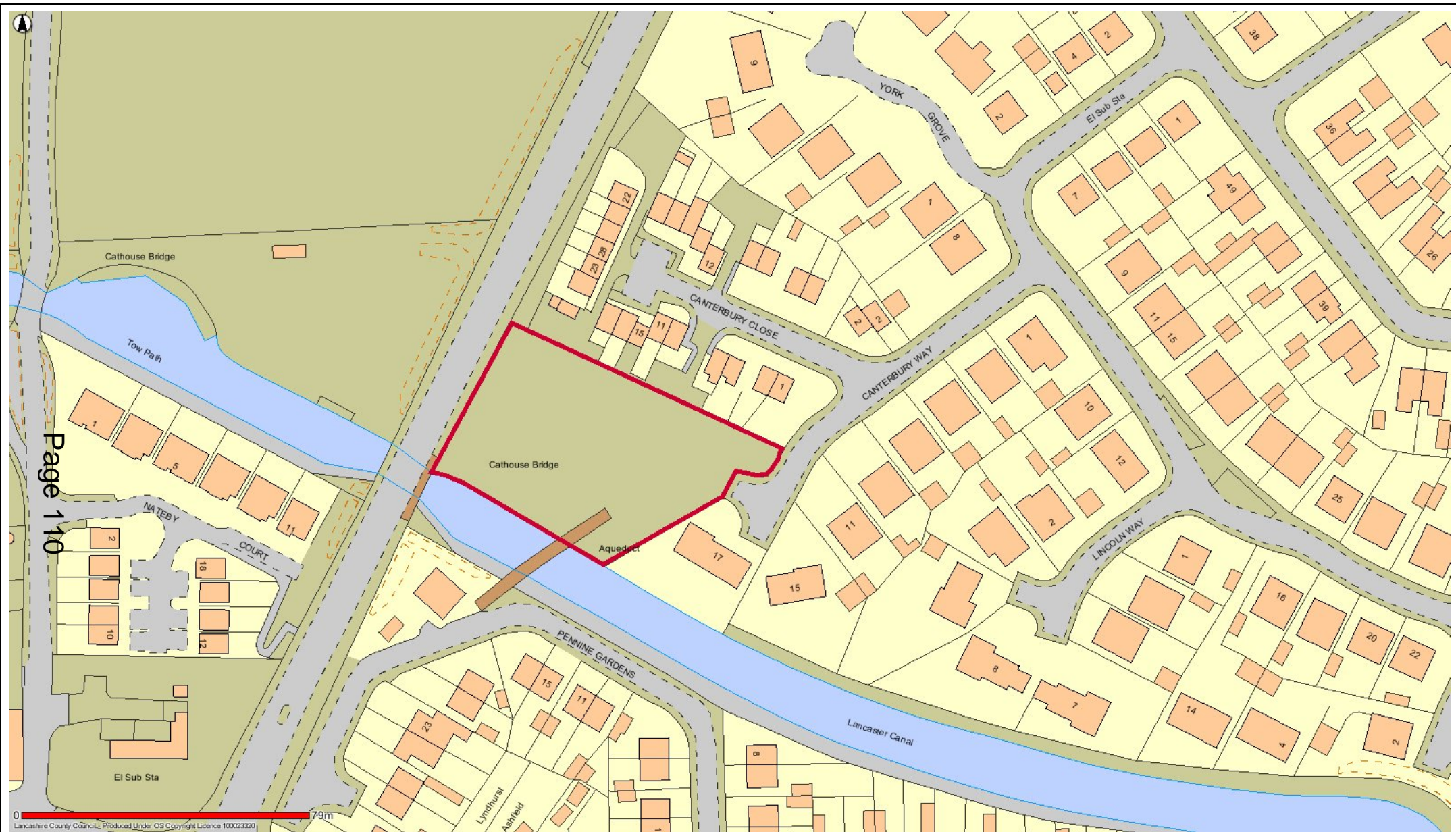
Over Wyre sites	
Bilsborrow Recreational Ground	OW1
Bob Williamson Park/Playing Field Hambleton, dog exercise area only	OW2A
Lancaster Avenue Great Eccleston	OW3
Pennine View Playing Fields Great Eccleston	OW4
Preesall Playing Fields	OW5
Shorrocks Avenue Playing Field St Michaels	OW6
Stalmine Playing 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 season only)	TC13A

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 Promenade Road eastward to the west wide of the former pier (out of ban season only)	FWD7A
Fleetwood Promenade from opposite Carr Road to the Five Bar Gate Rossall Beach	FWD8
Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park (subject to an SLA with LCC for enforcement)	FWD9

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.

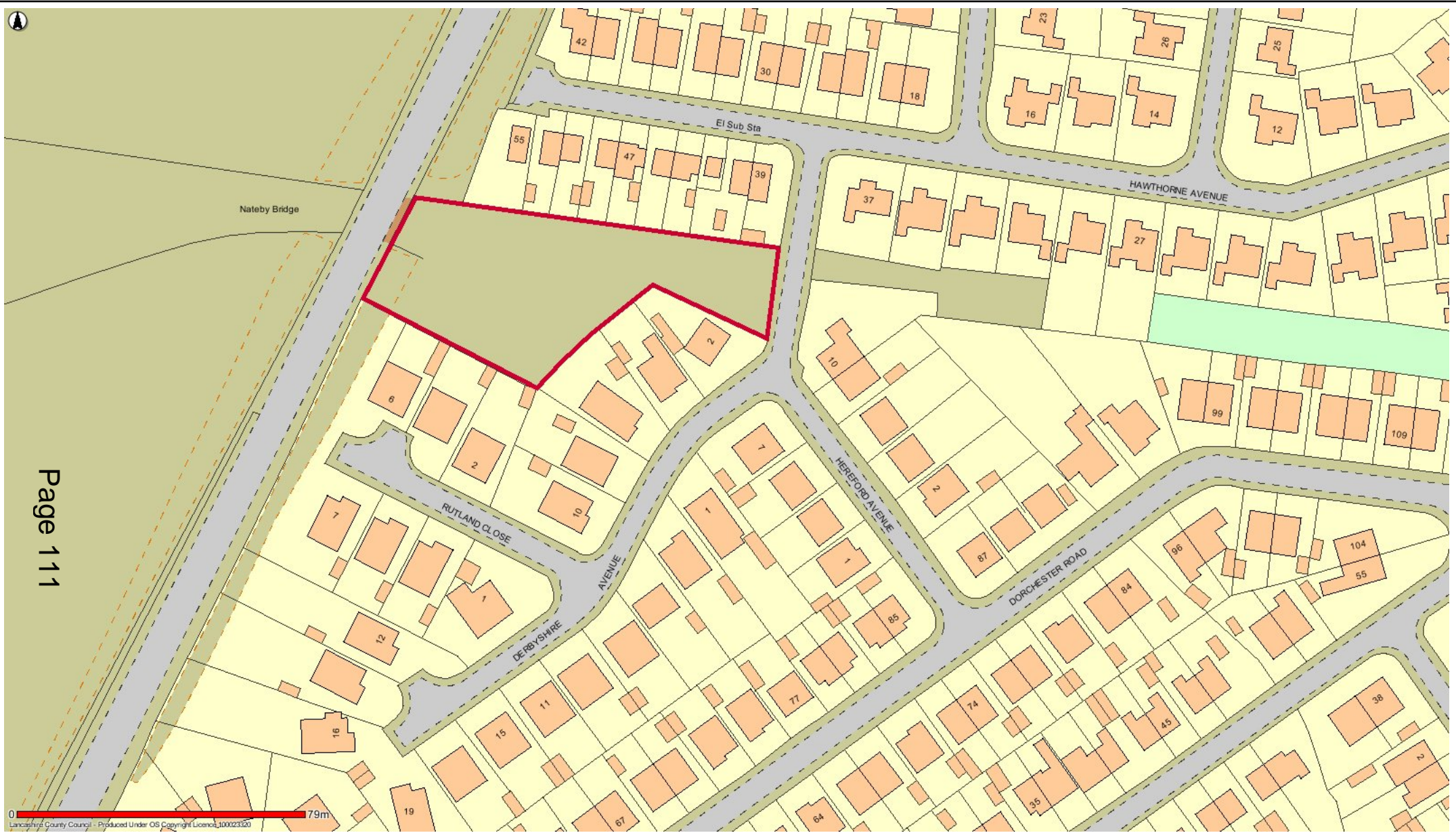


GC1 Canterbury Way Garstang



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GC2 Derbyshire Avenue Garstang



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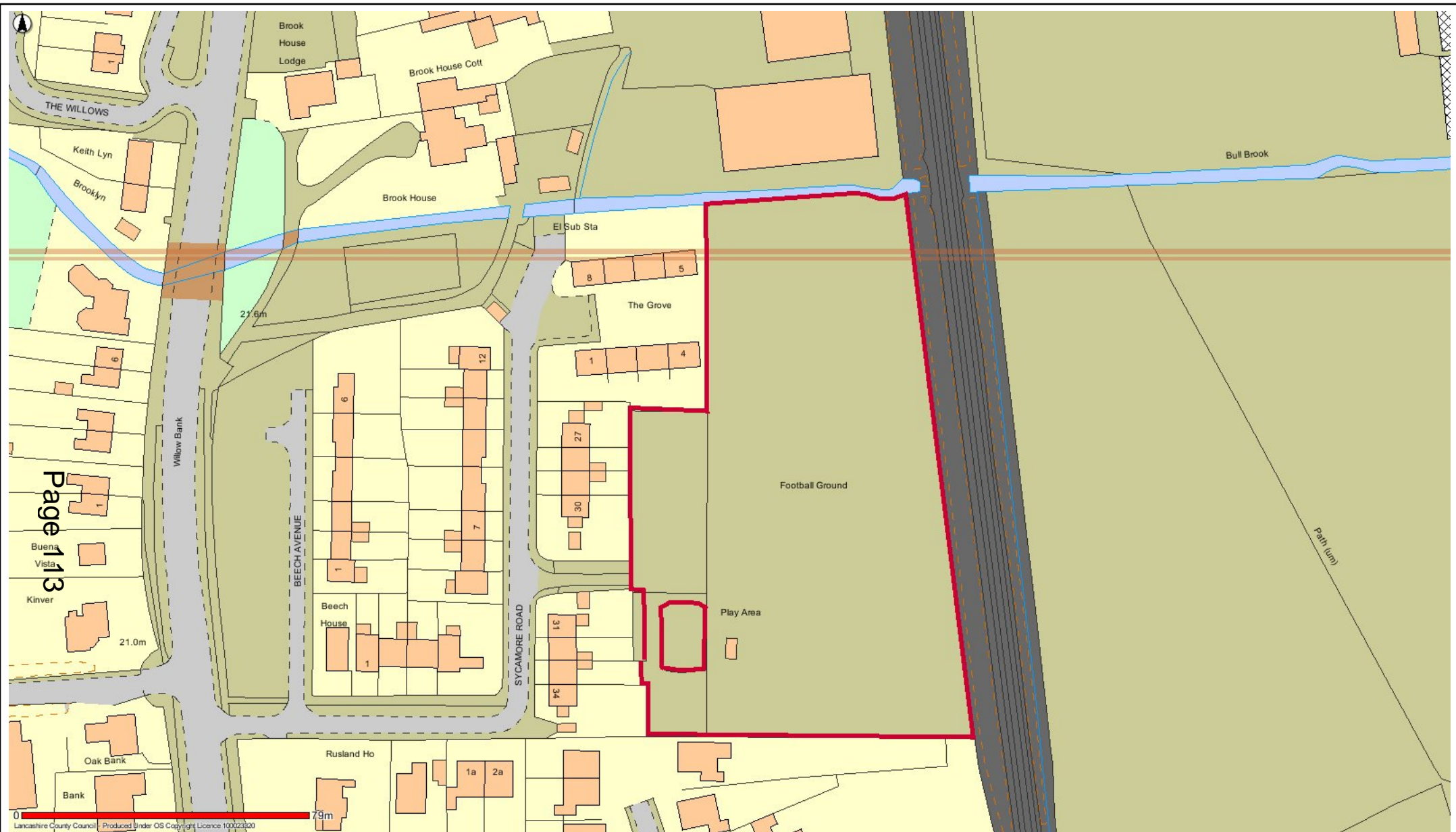


GC3 Garstang Riverside Area



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OW1 Bilborrow Recreation Ground



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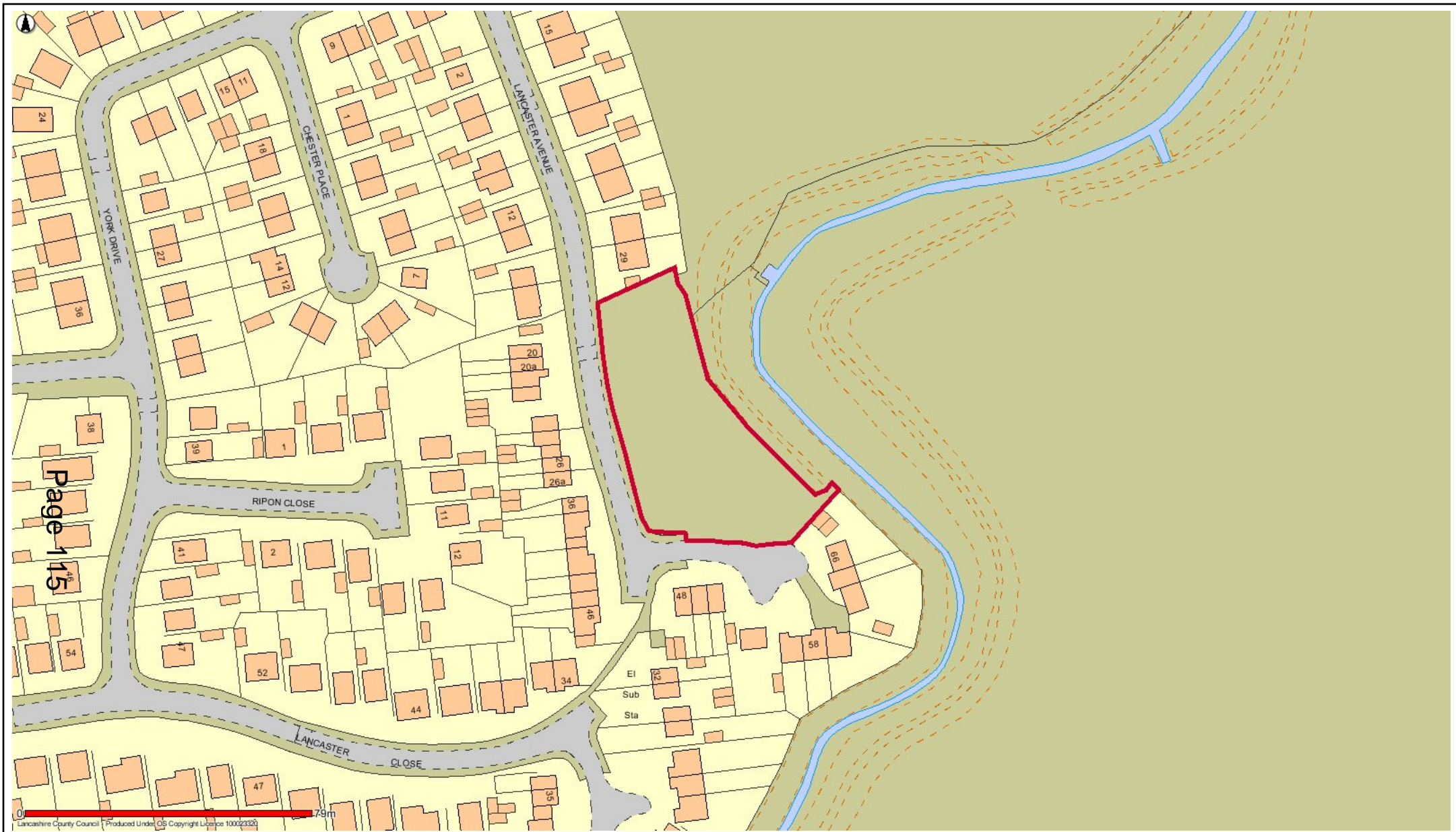


OW2A Bob Williamson Park/Playing Field Hambleton dog exercise area only



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OW3 Lancaster Avenue Great Eccleston



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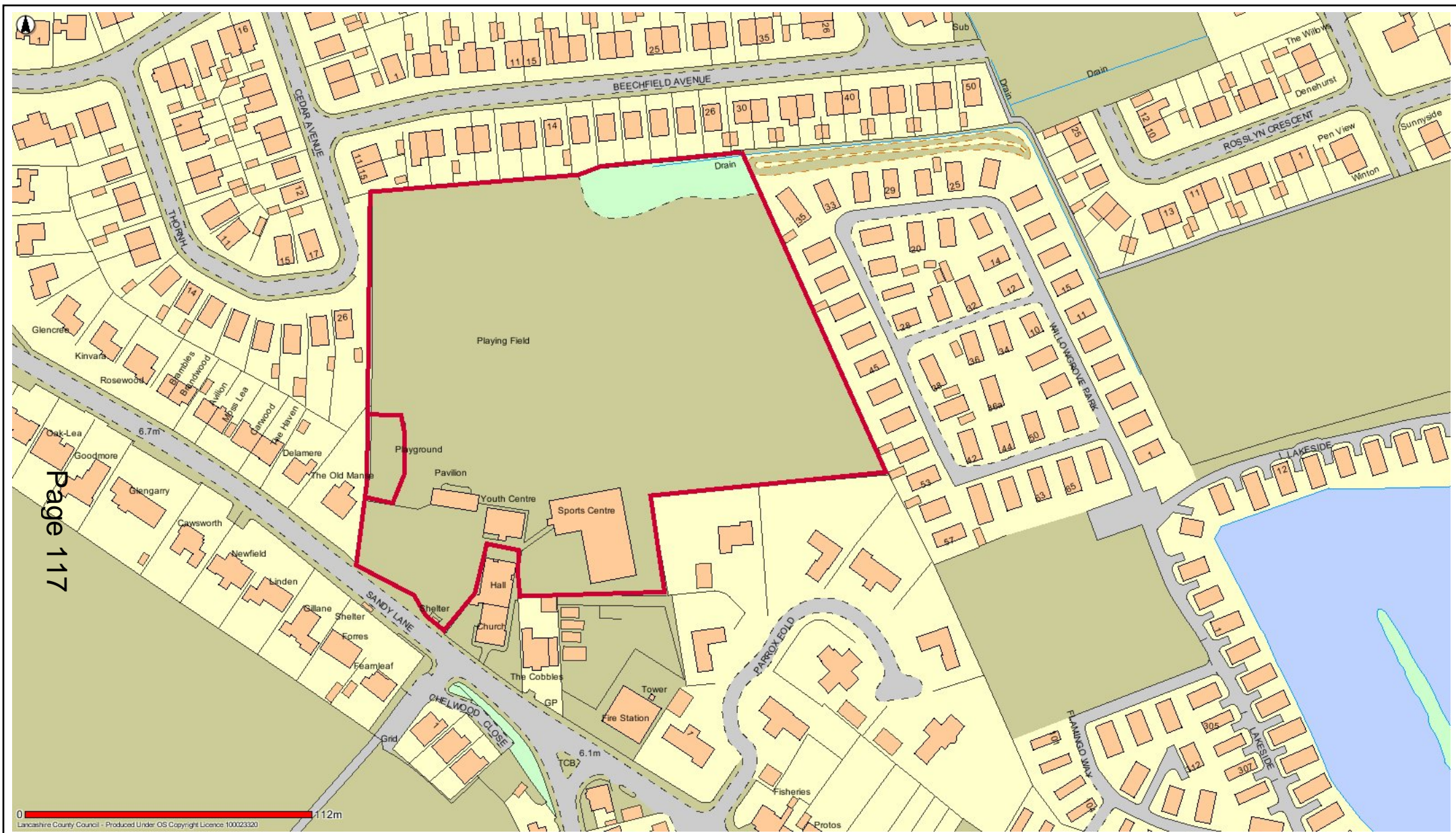
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OW4 Pennine View Playing Field Great Eccleston



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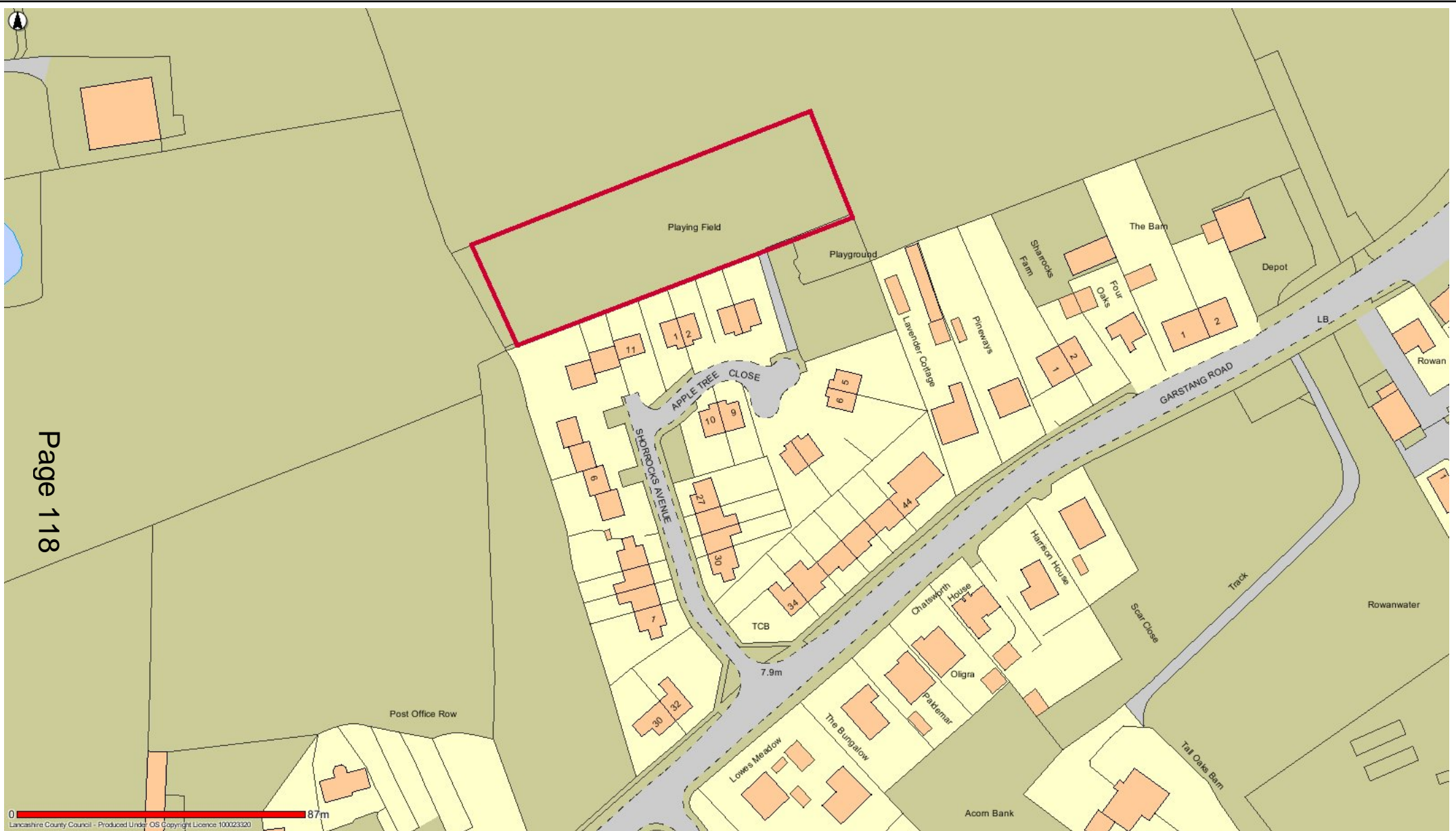
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OW5 Presall Playing Field



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OW6 Shorrock's Avenue Playing Field St Michaels



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OW7 Stalmine Playing Field



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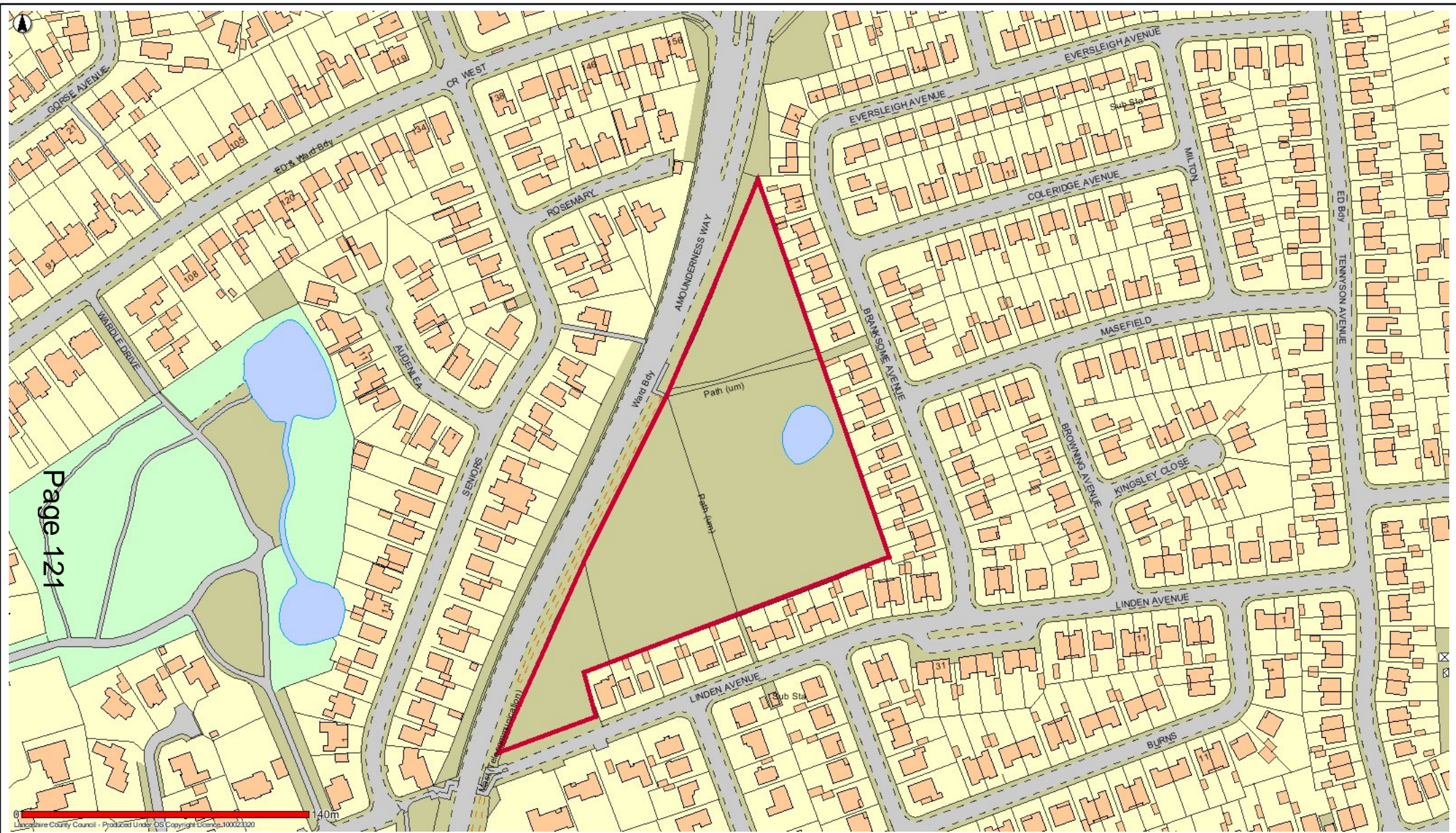


TC1 Bourne Way Playing Field Thornton-Cleveleys



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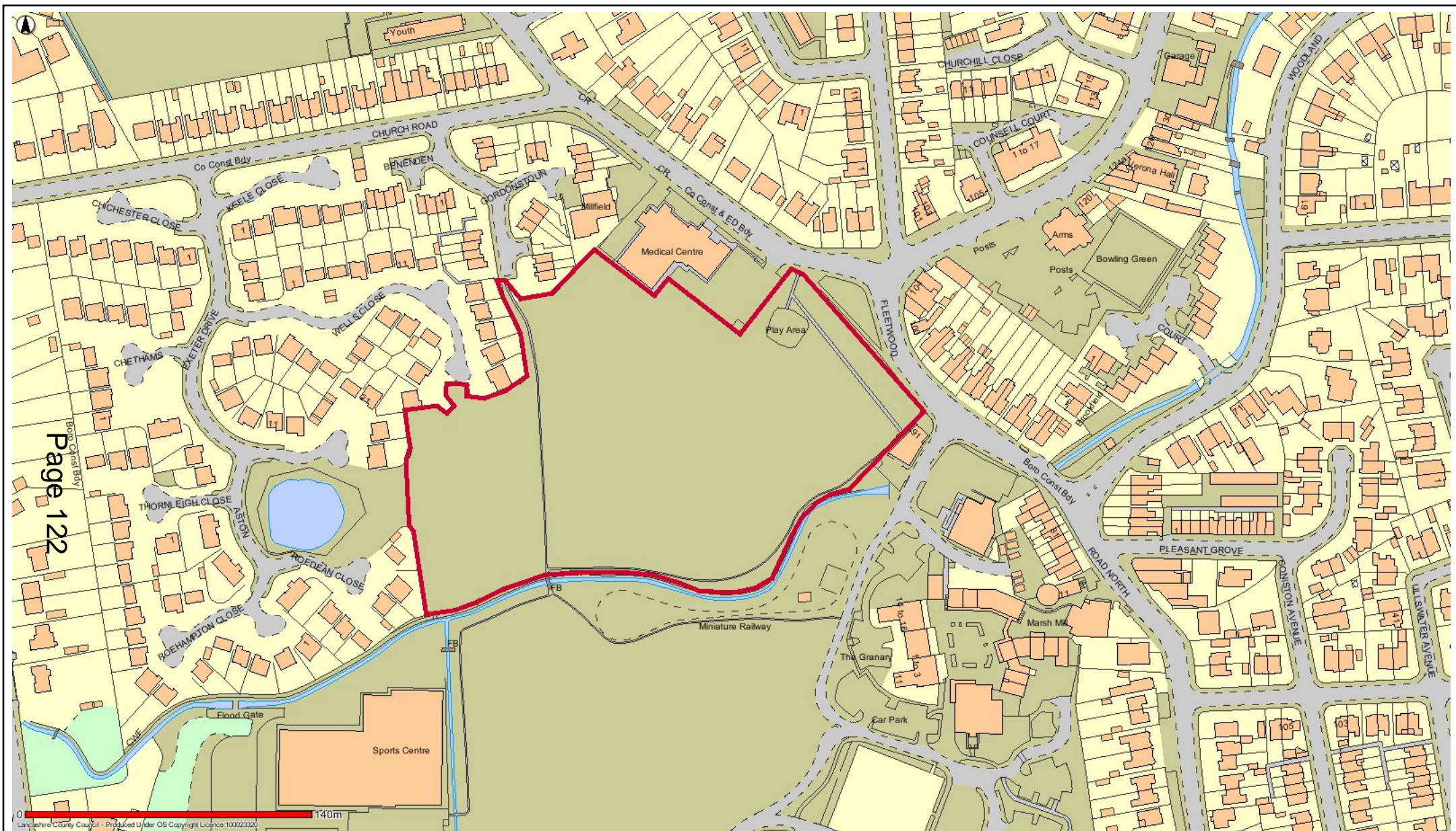
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TC2 Branksome Avenue Thornton-Cleveleys



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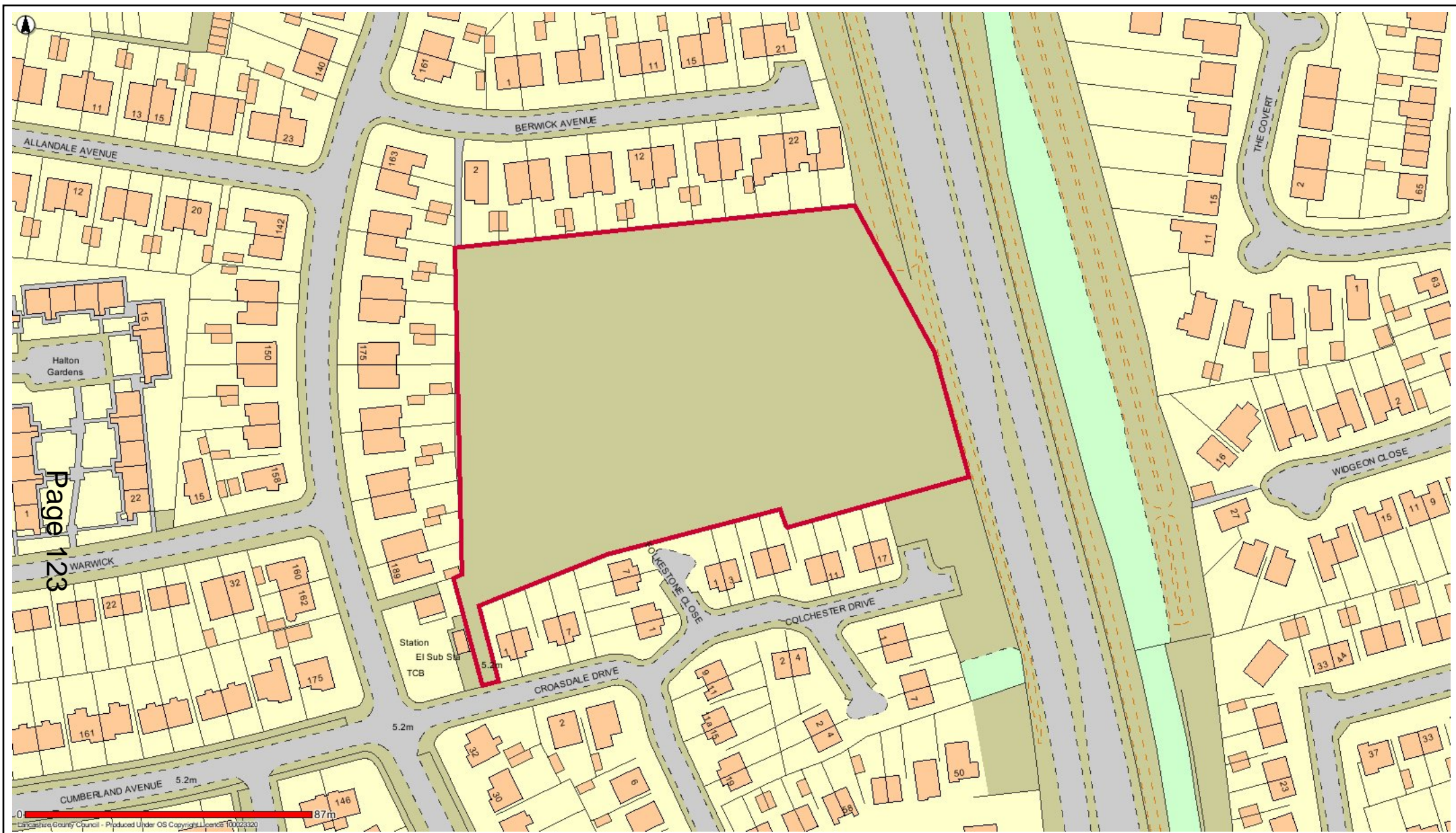


TC3 Church Road Playing Field Thornton



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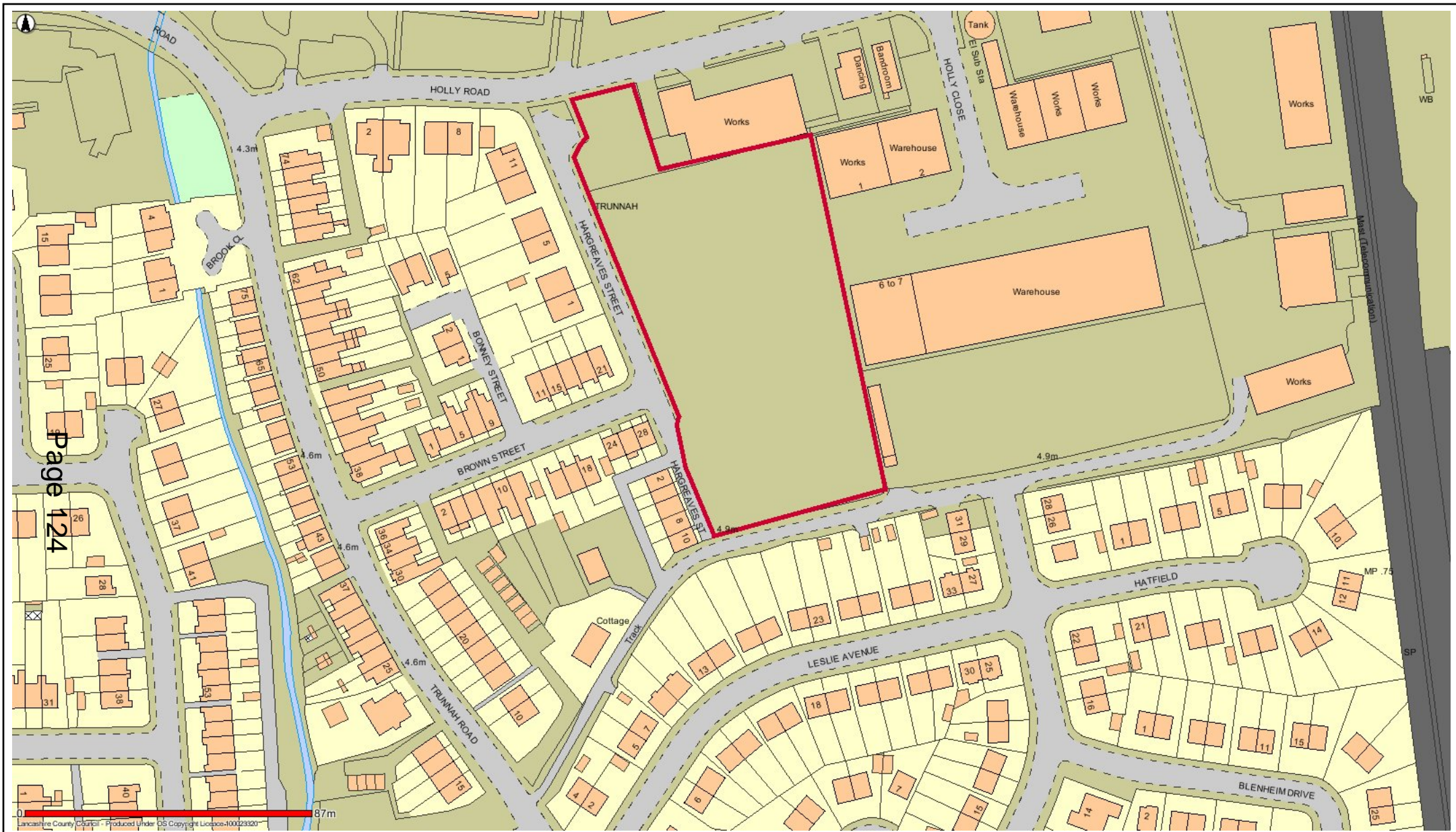
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TC4 Croasdale Avenue Playing Field Thornton-Cleveleys



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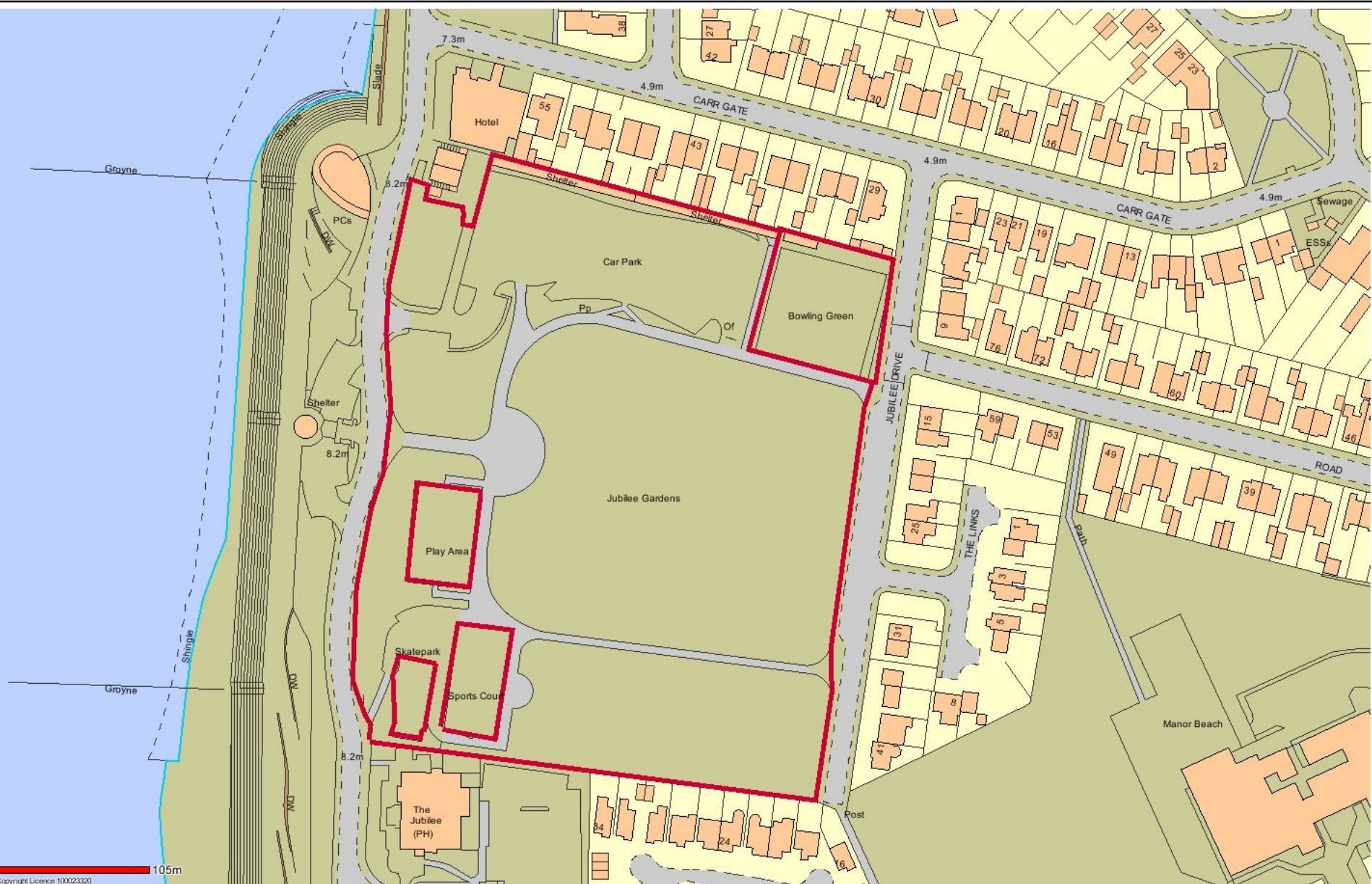


TC5 Hargreaves St/Holly Road Thornton



Date: 12/05/2017

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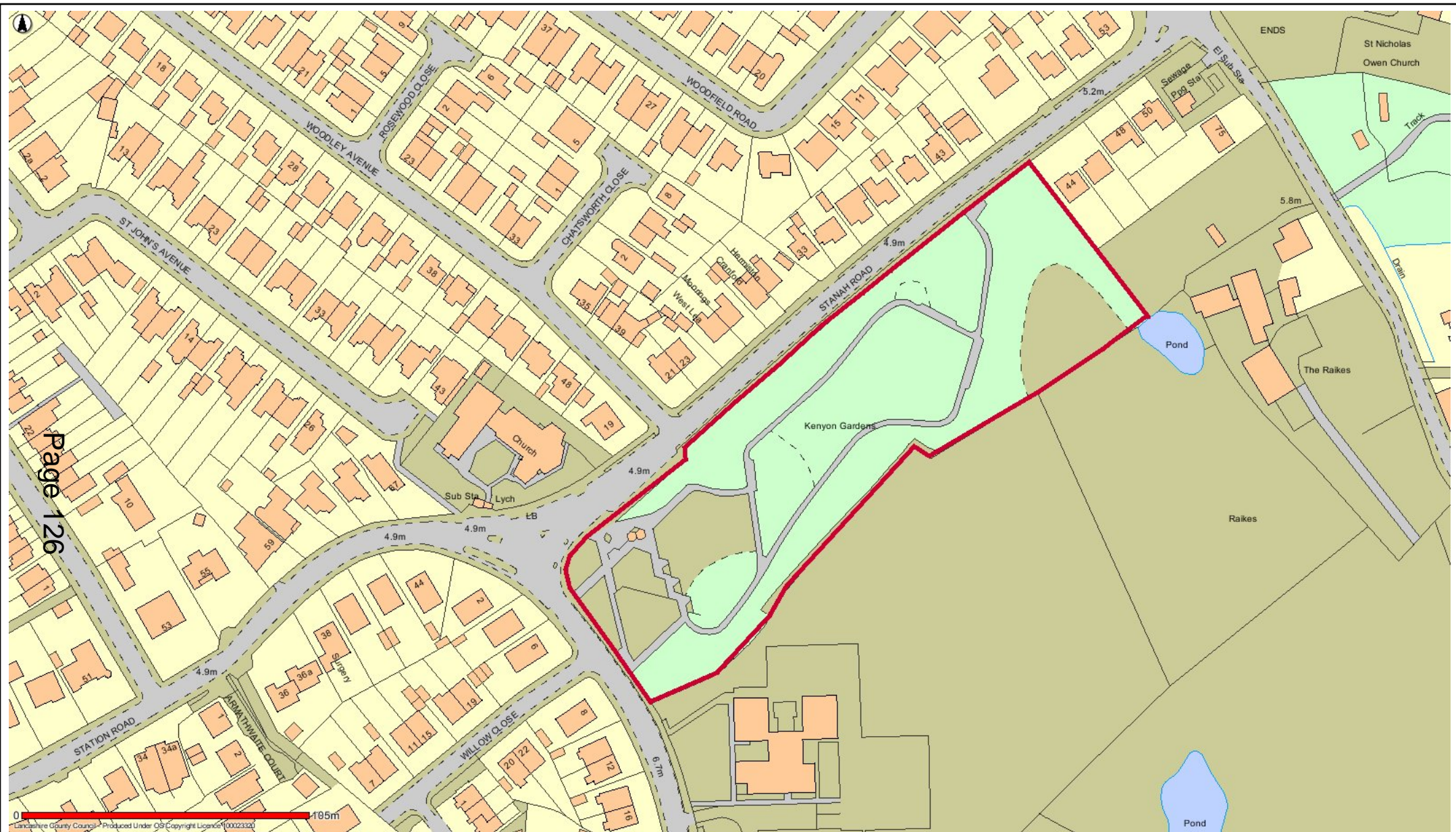
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TC6 Jubilee Gardens Cleveleys



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TC7 Kenyon Park Thornton



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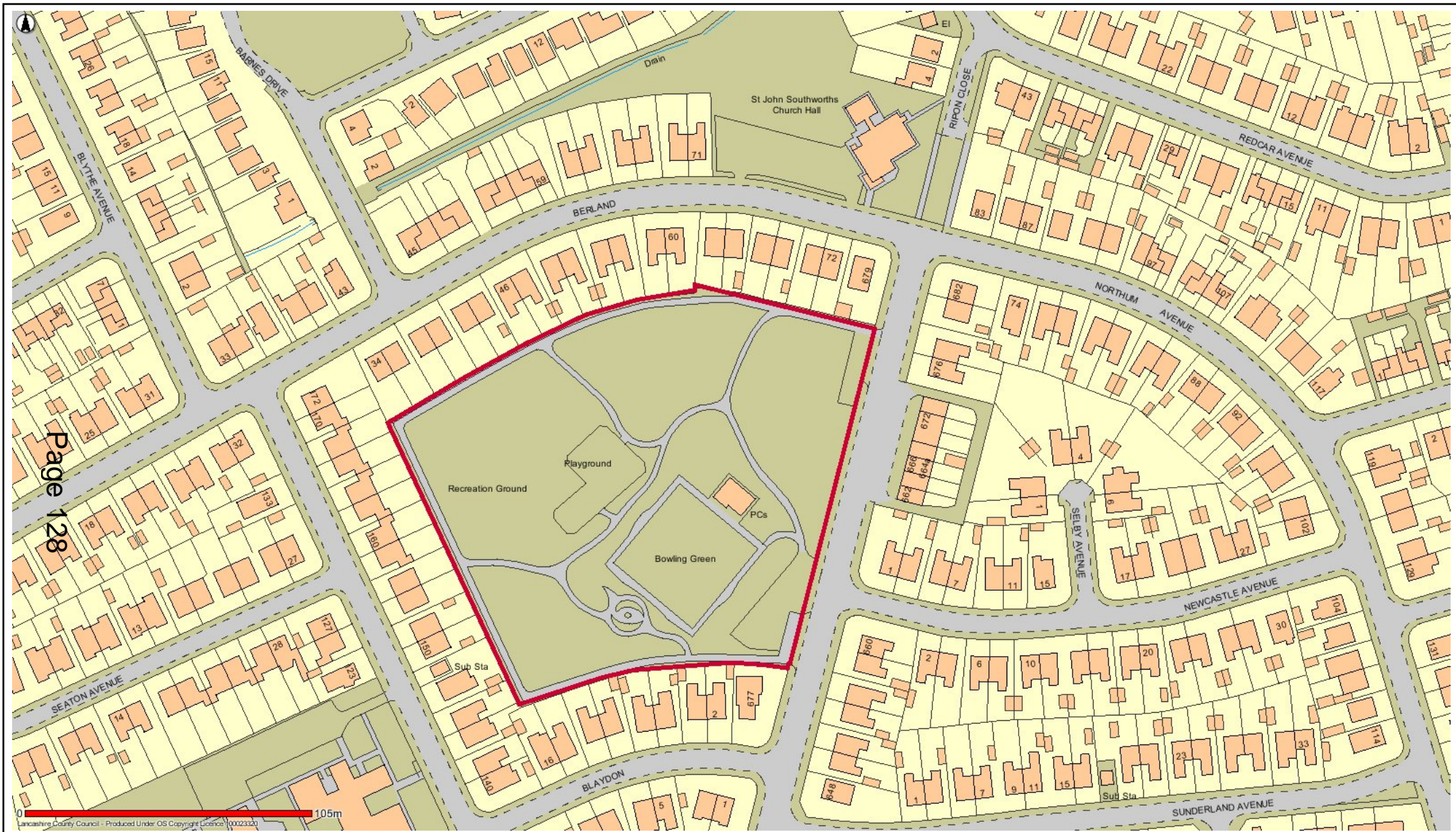
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TC8 King Georges Playing Field Thornton



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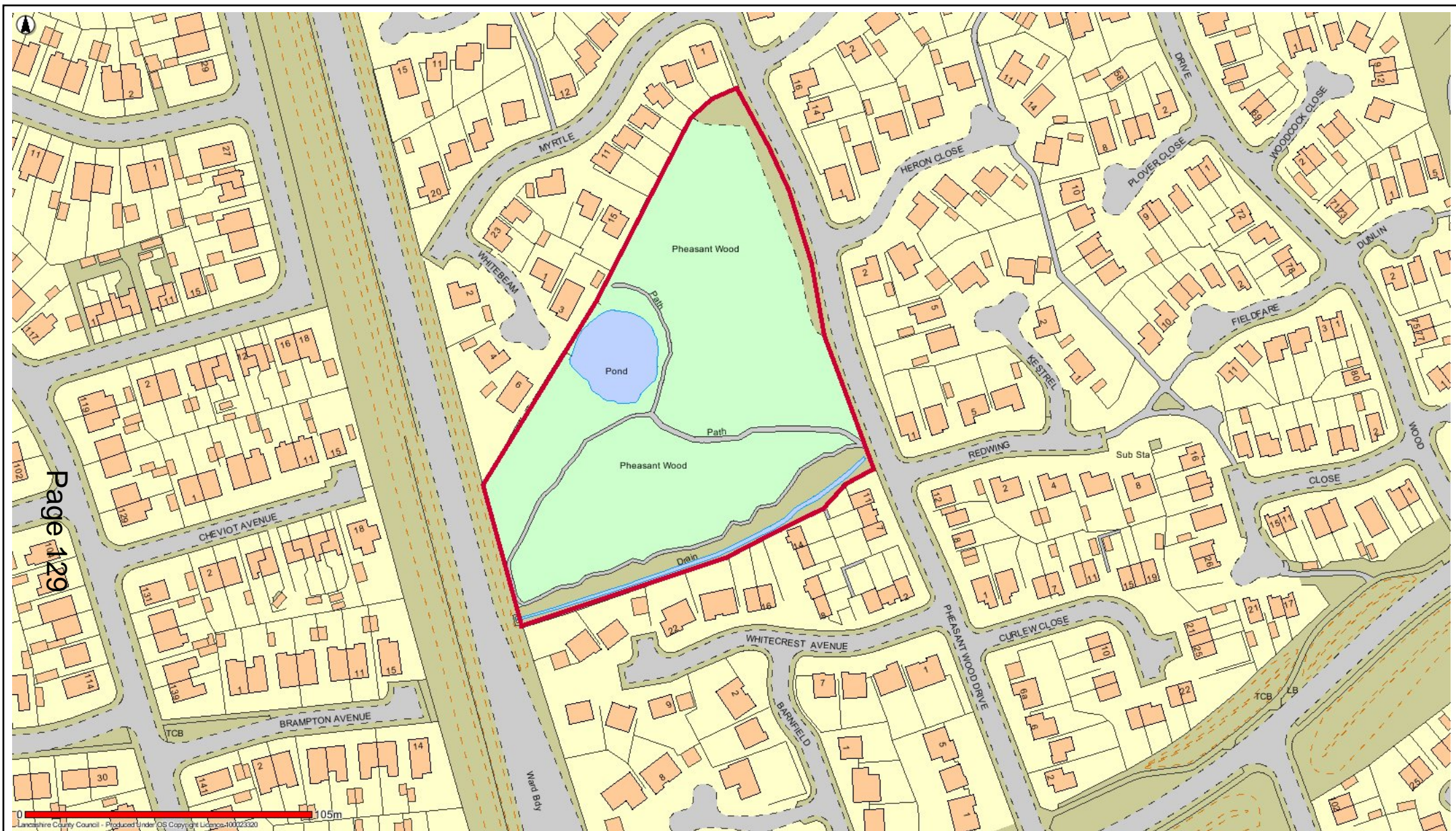


TC9 North Drive Park Cleeveys



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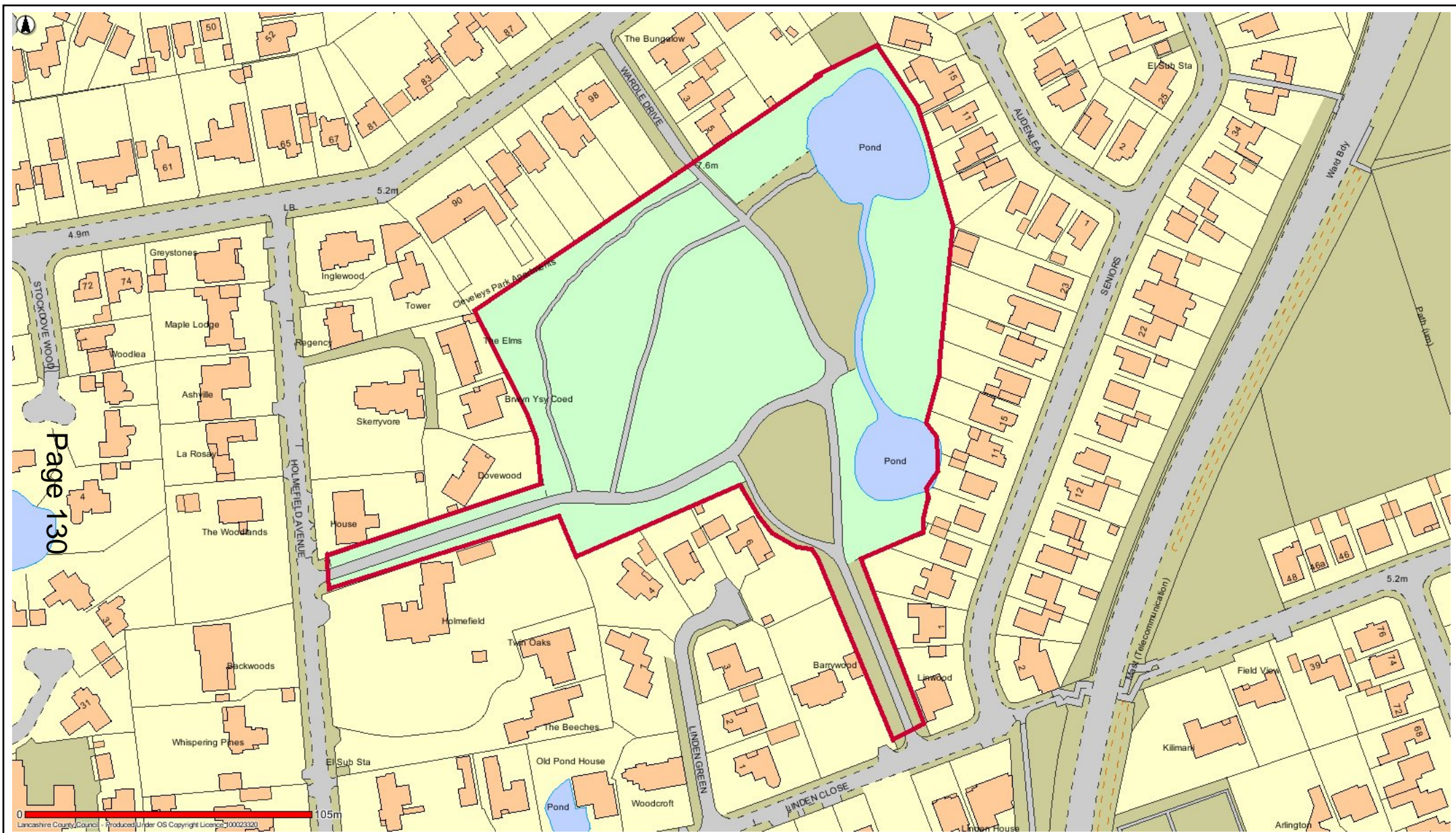


TC10 Pheasant Wood Thornton-Cleveleys



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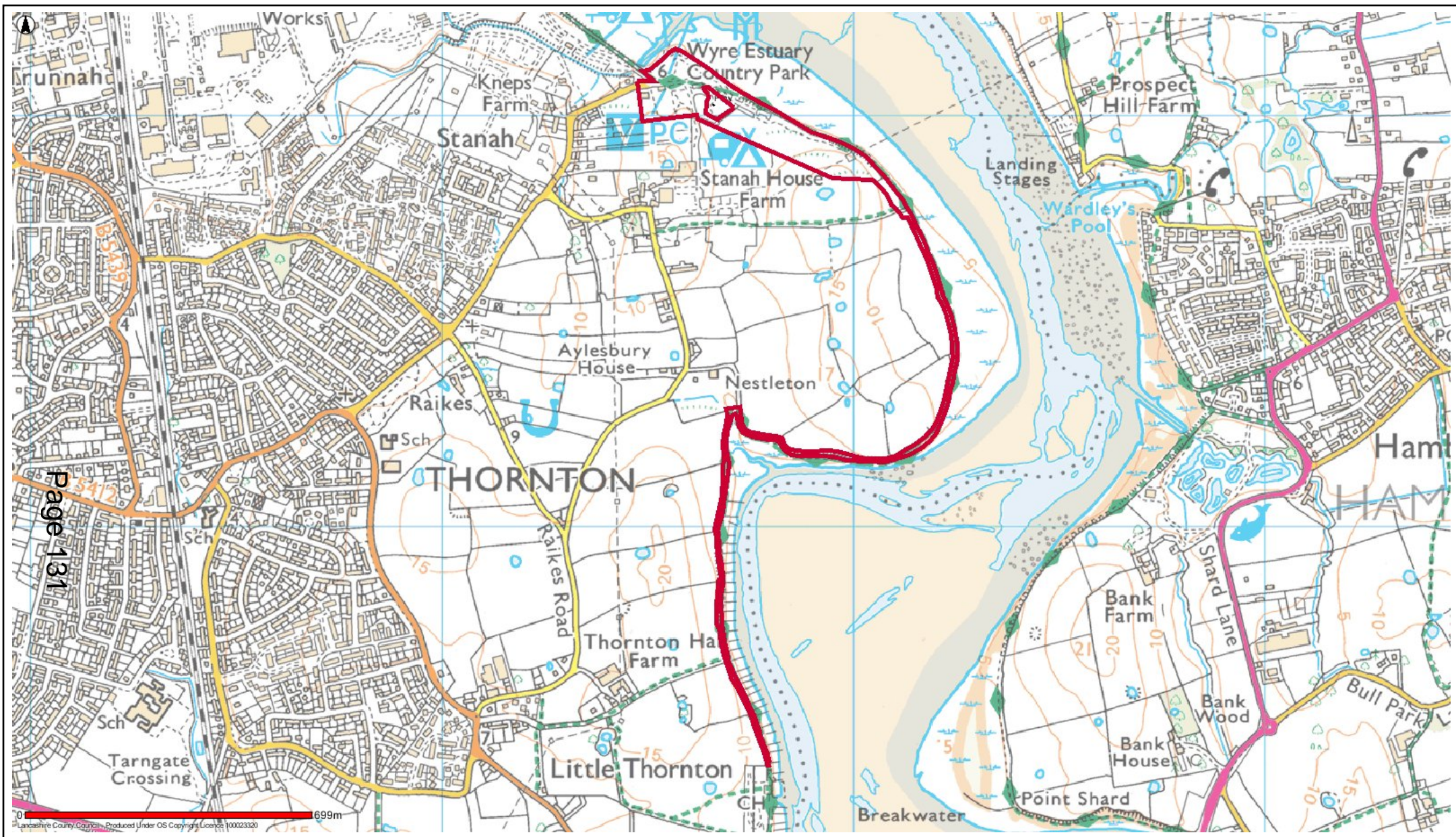


TC11 The Towers Thornton-Cleveleys



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TC12 Wyre Estuary Country Park Thornton

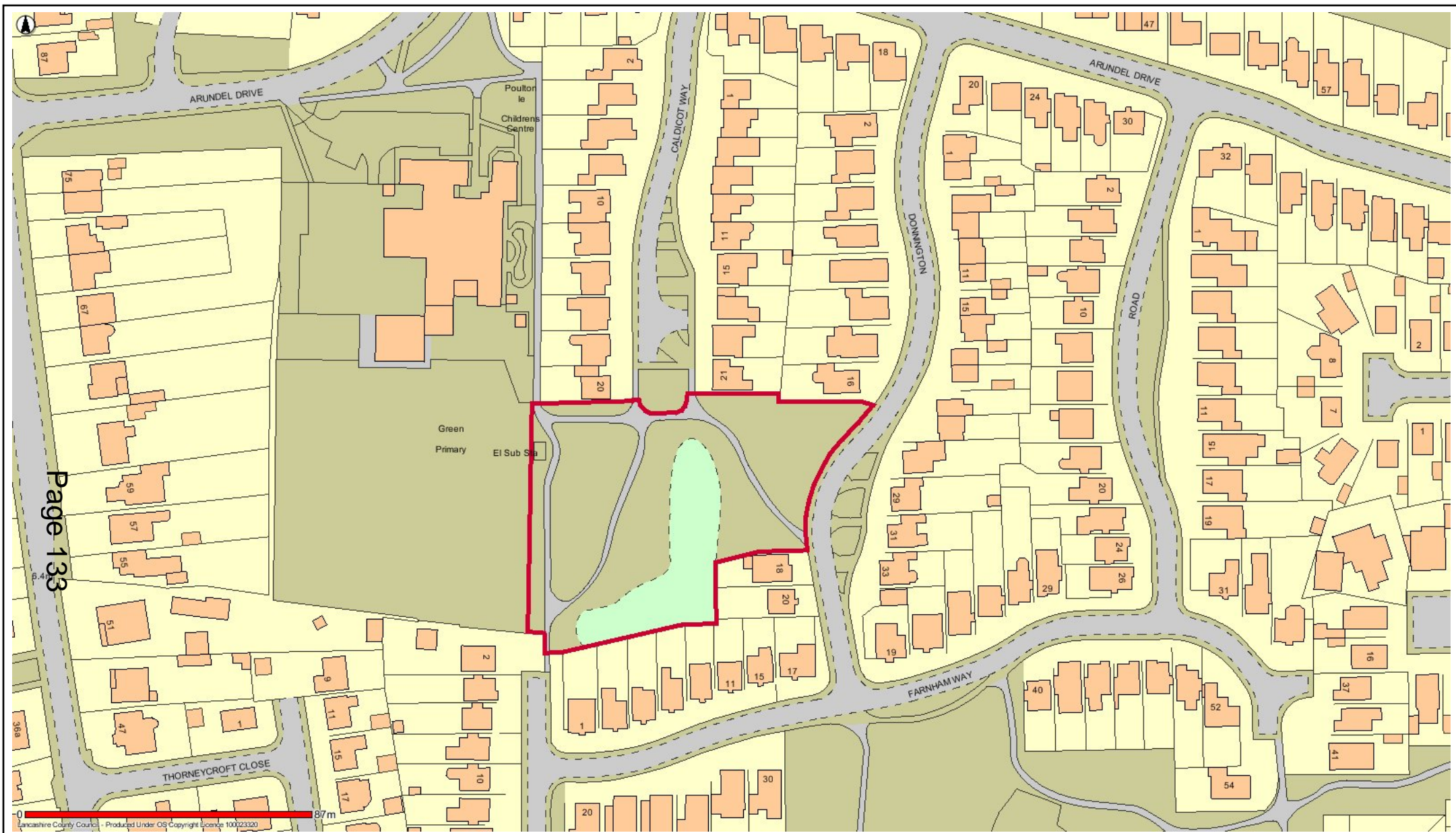


TC13A Cleveleys Beach from Cafe Cove to Wyre Borough Boundary (out of ban season only)



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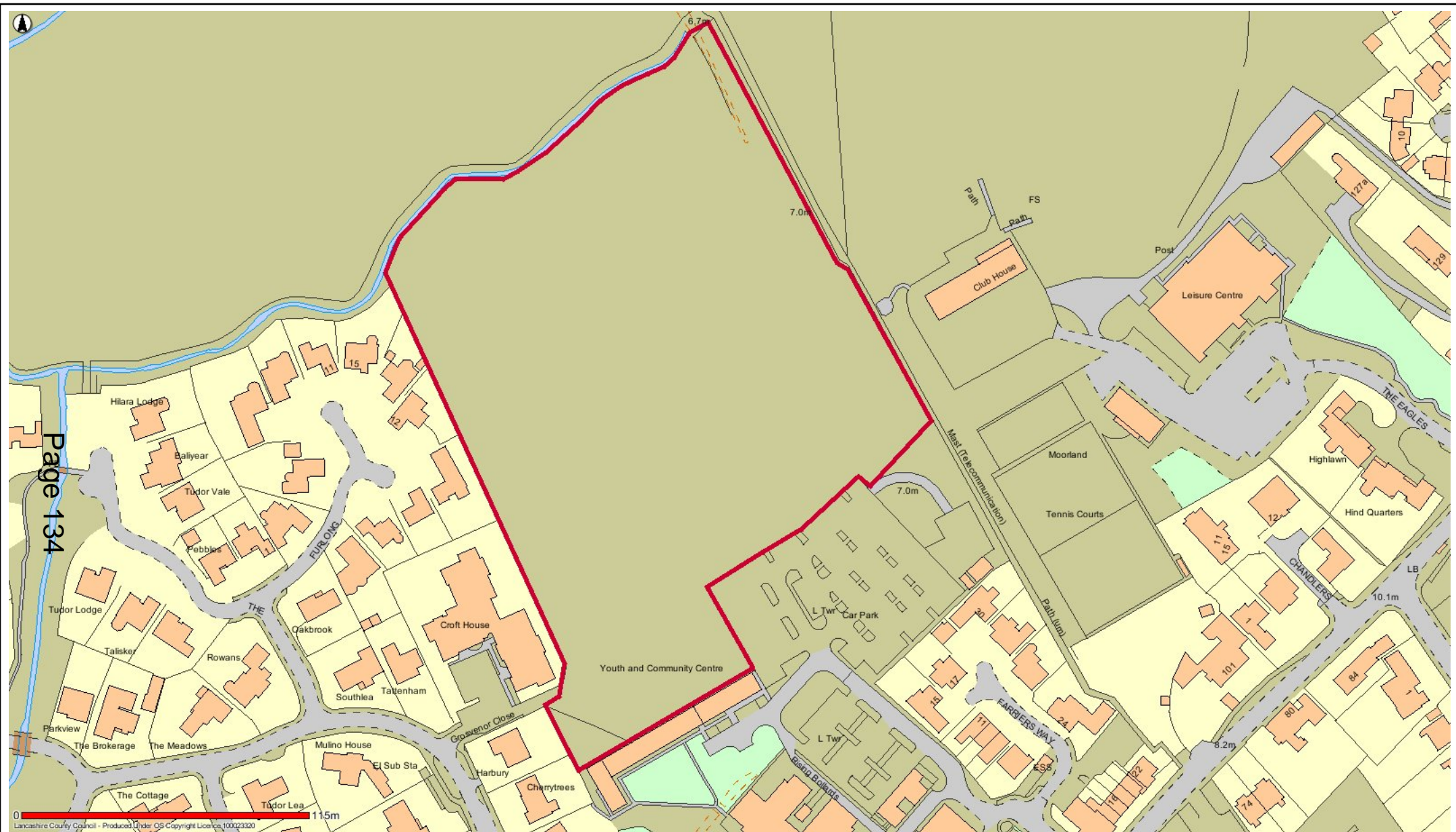
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PLF1 Caldicott Way/Donnington Road Carleton



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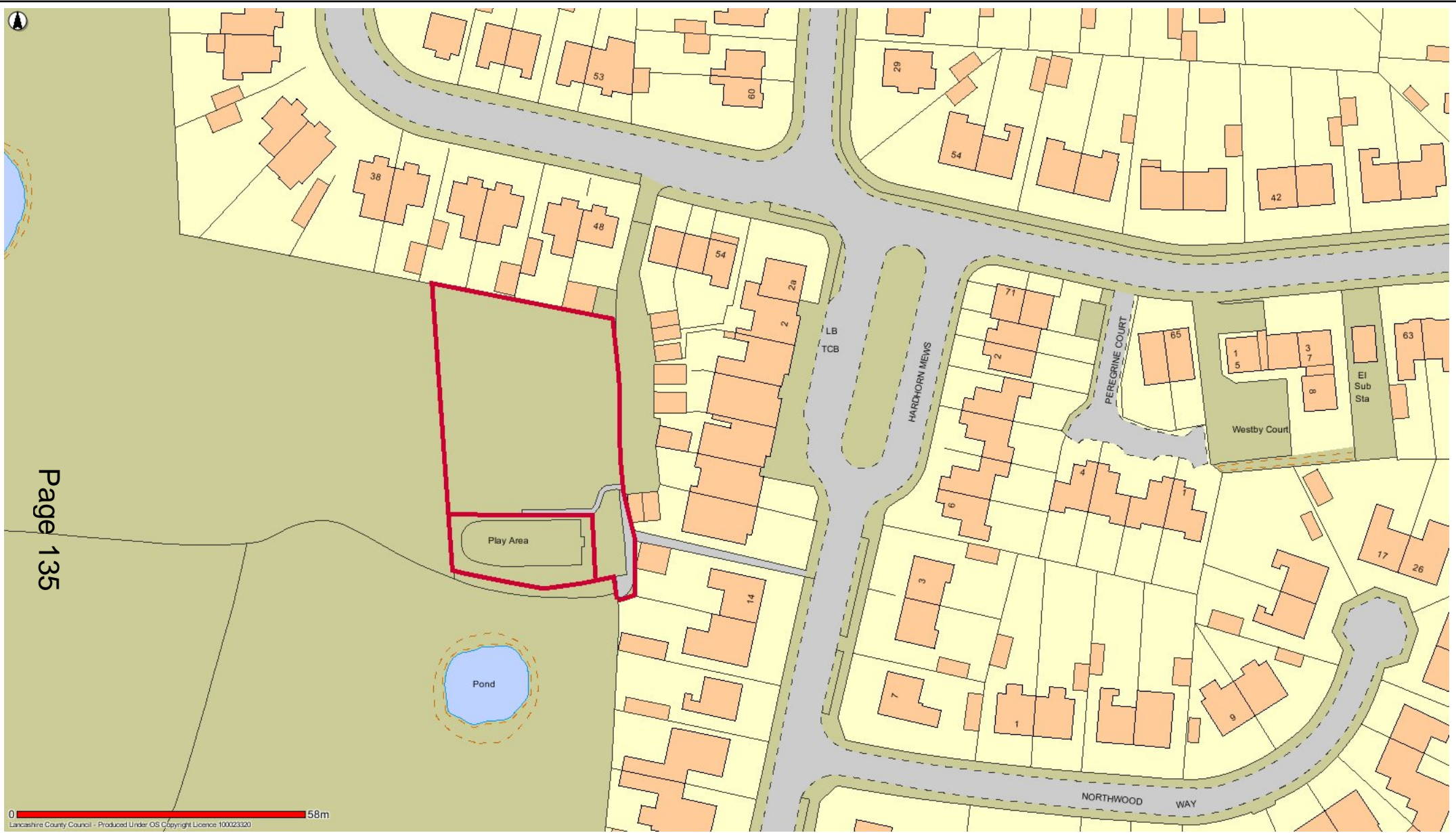
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PLF2 Civic Centre Playing Field Poulton-le-Fylde



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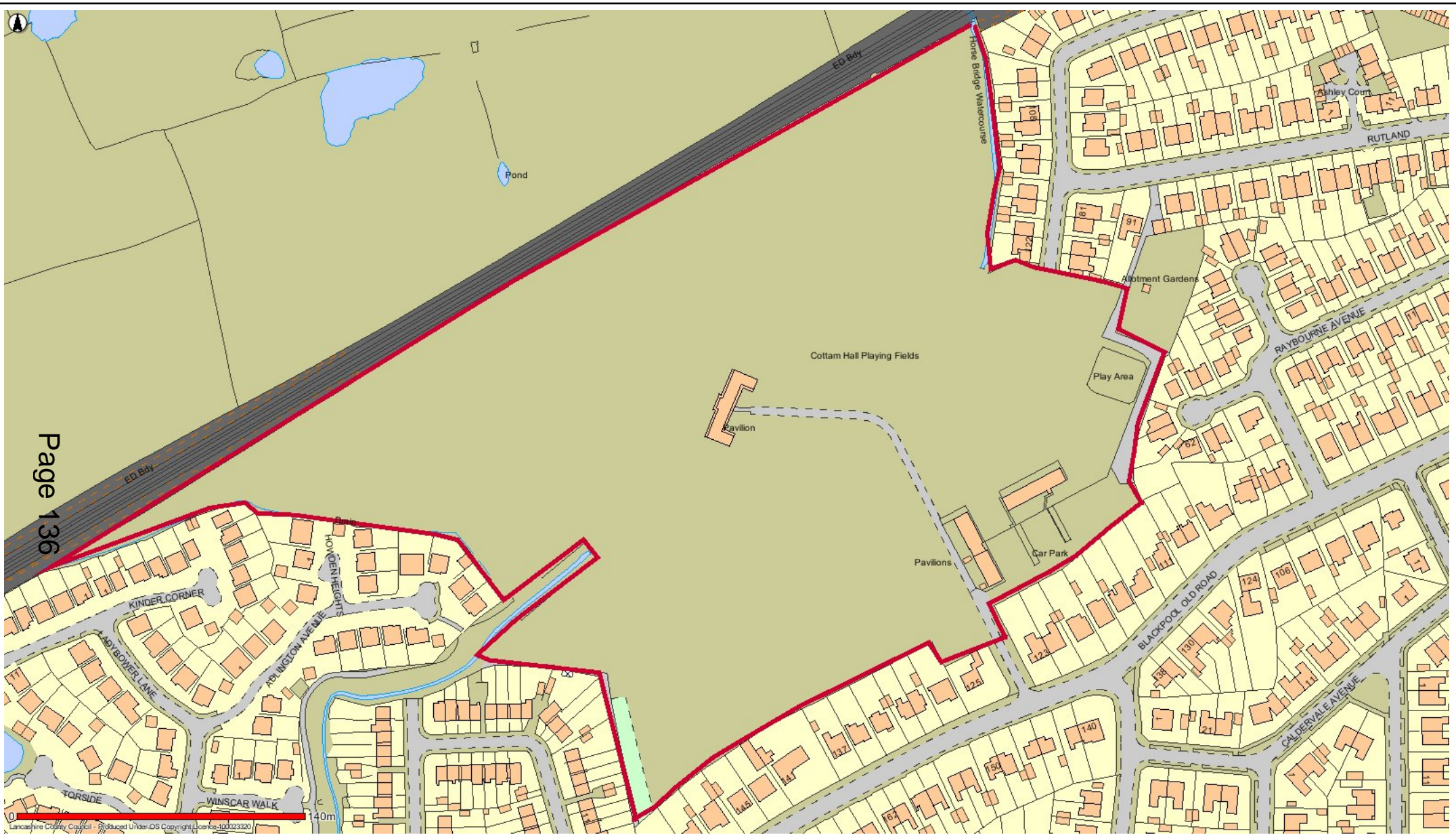


PLF 3 Compley Avenue Poulton-le-Fylde



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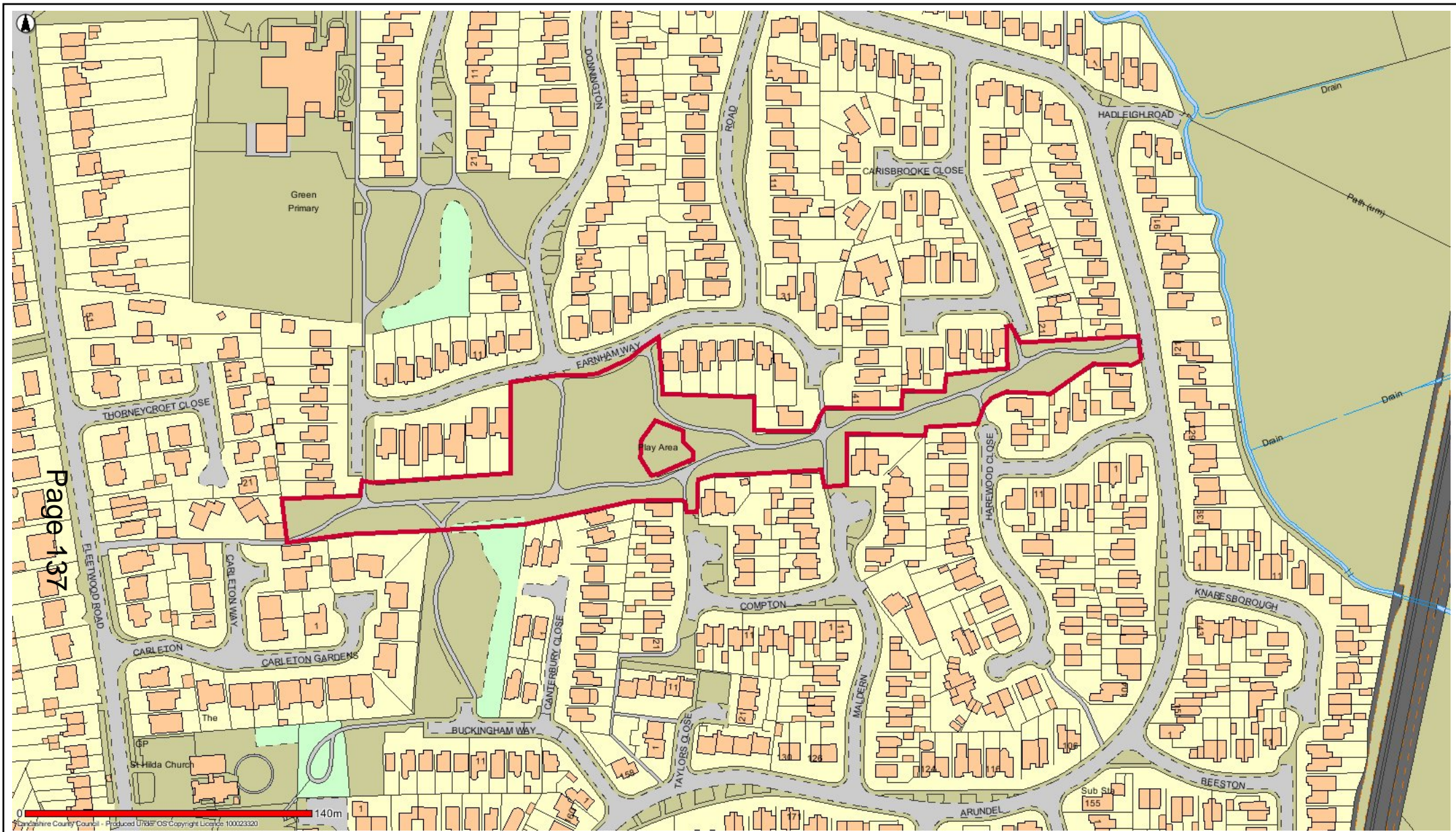


PLF4 Cottam Hall Playing Field Poulton-le-Fylde



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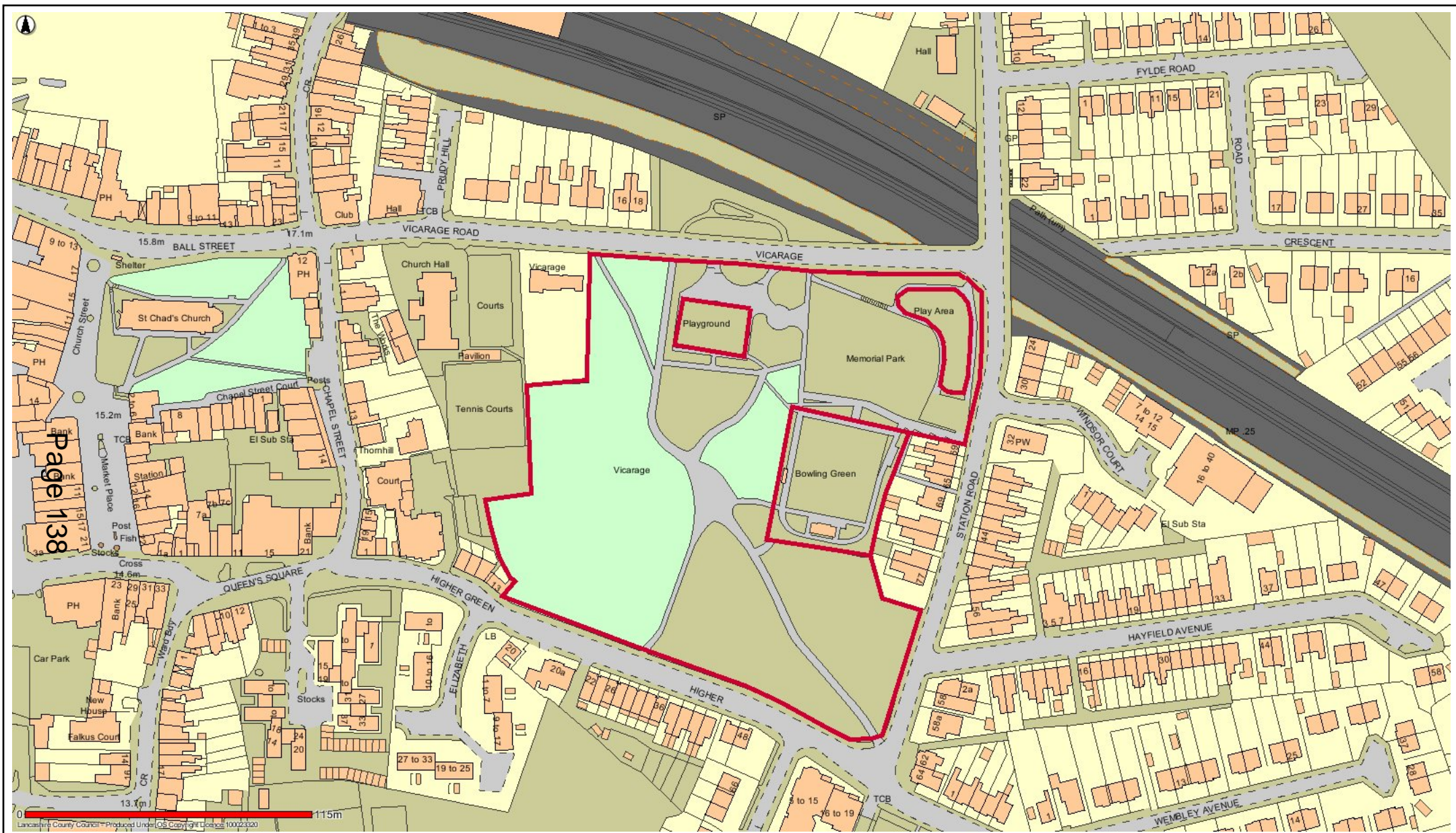
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PLF5 Farnham Way Carleton



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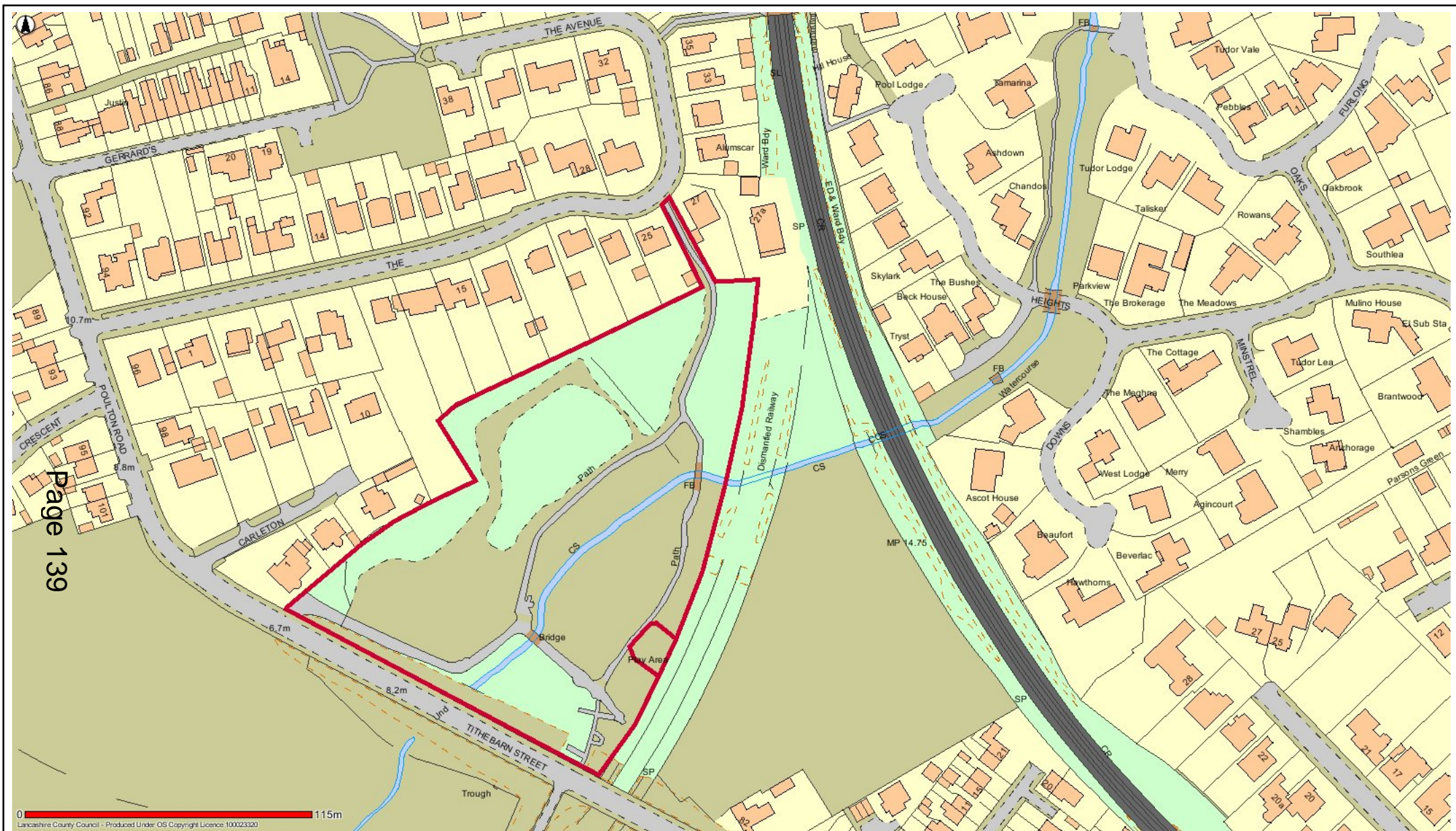


PLF6 Jean Stansfield and Vicarage Park Poulton-le-Fylde



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PLF7 Tithebarn Park Poulton-le-Fylde



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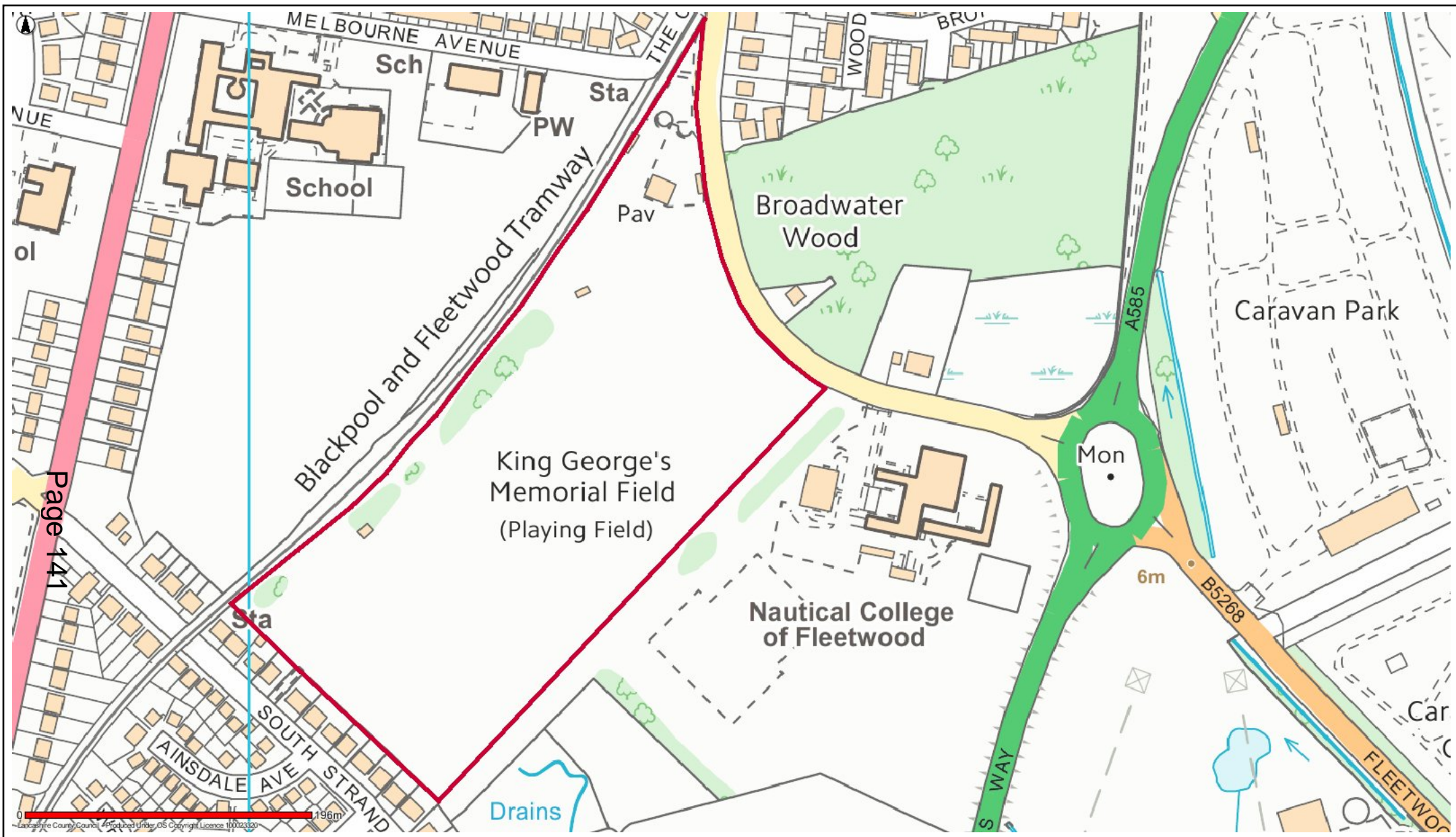


FWD1 Eskdale Avenue Park



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FWD2 King George V Playing Field

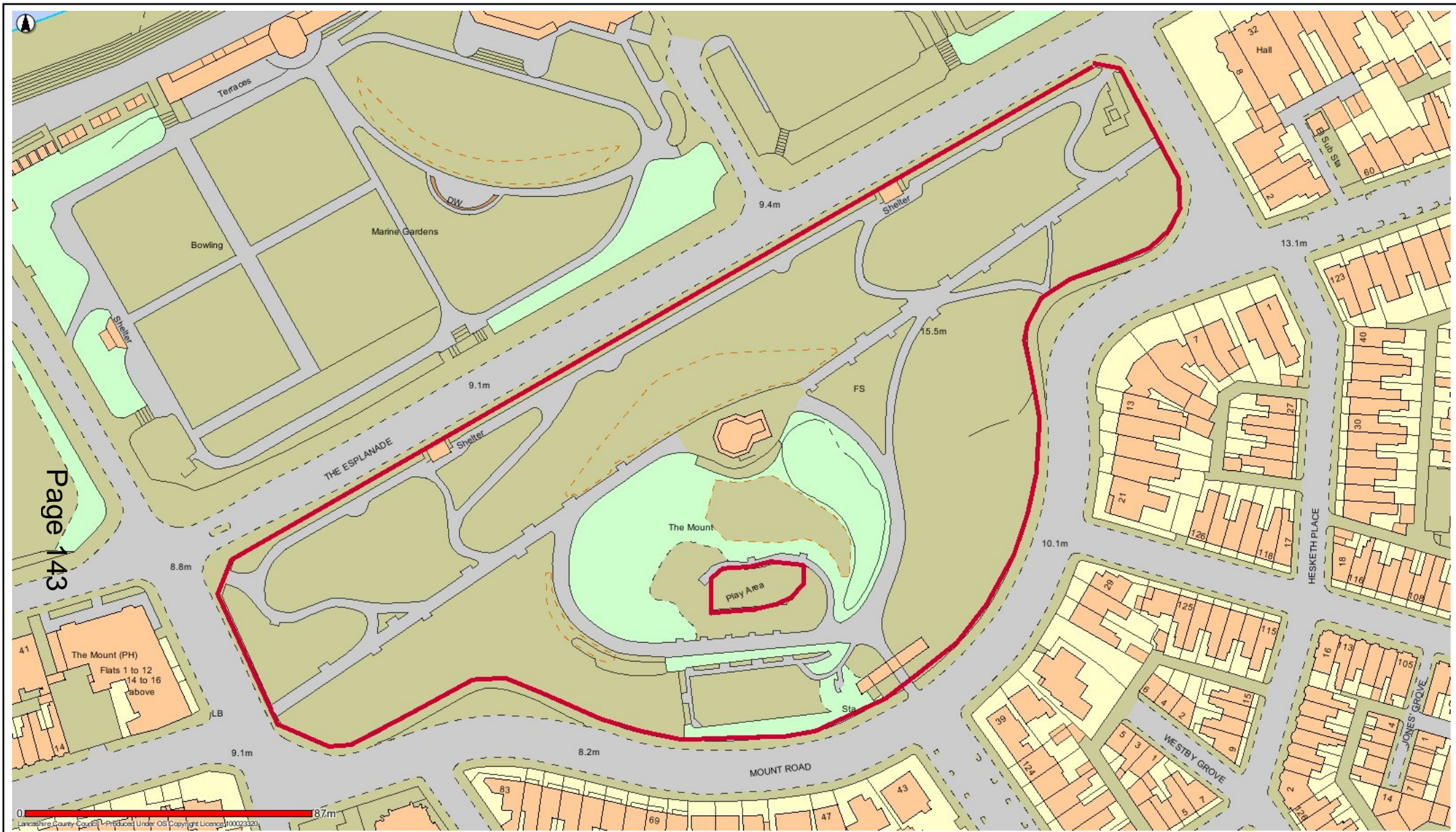


FWD3 Memorial Park



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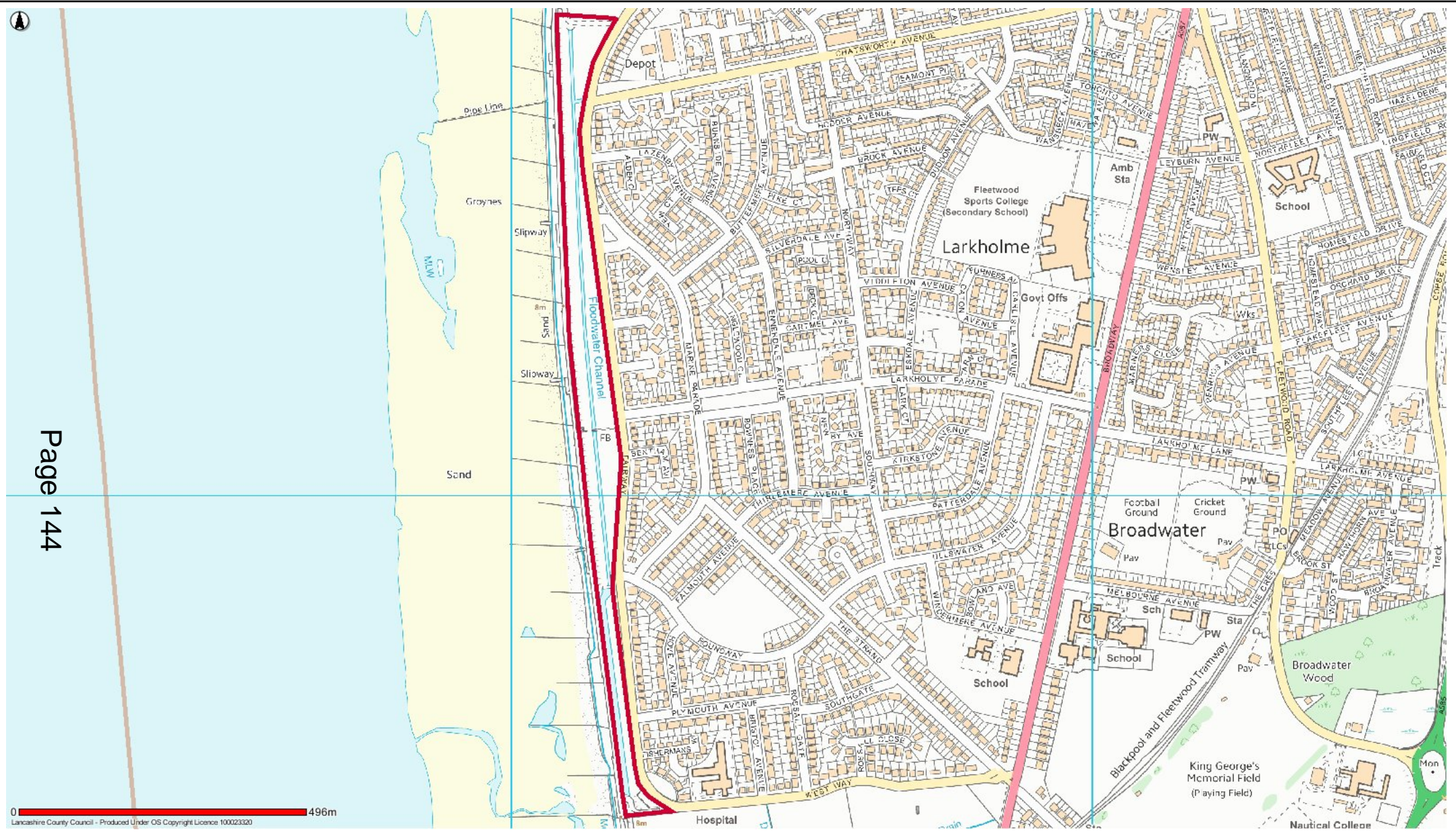


FWD4 The Mount Grounds



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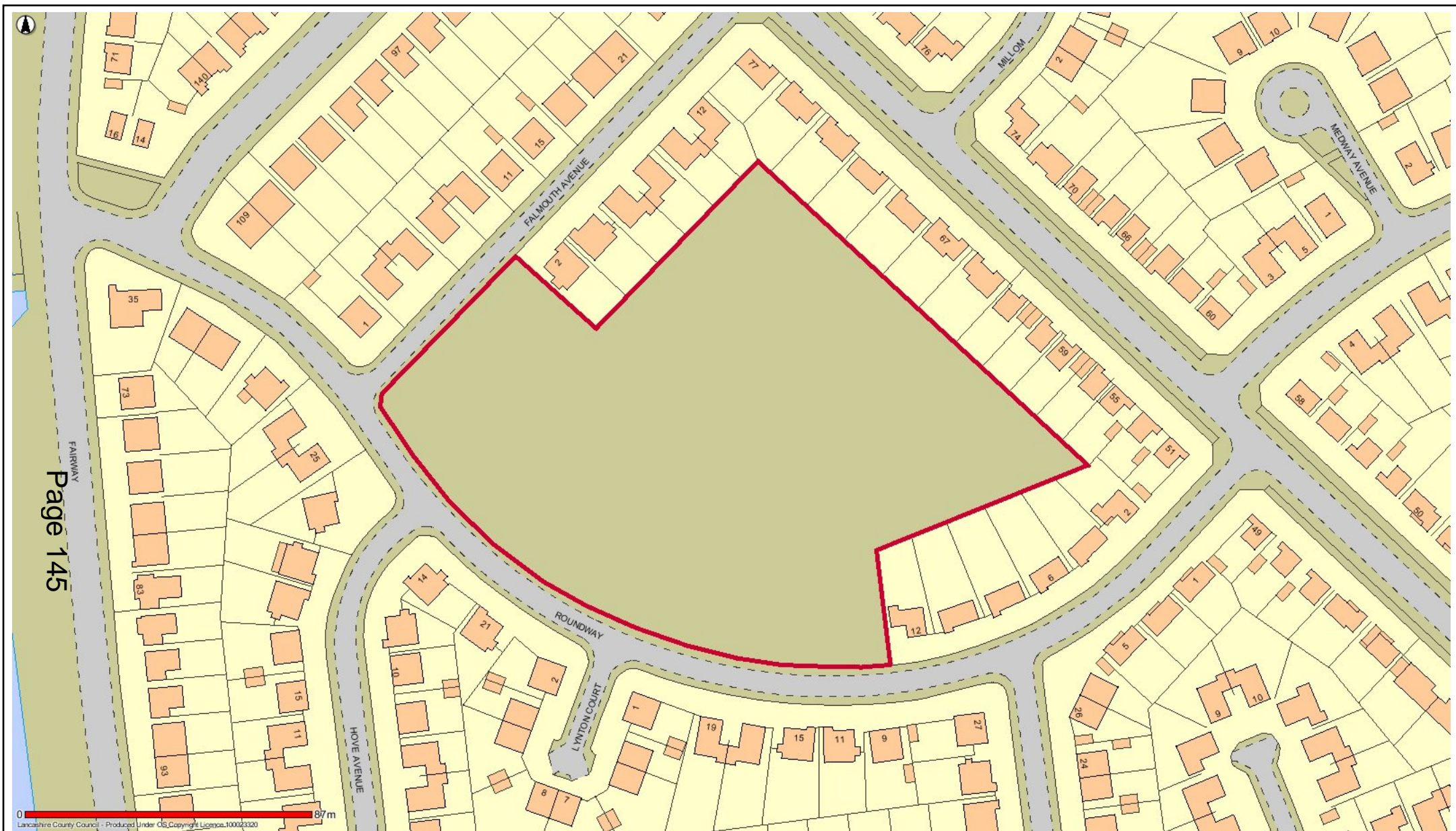


FWD5 Rossall Ecology Park



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FWD6 Roundway



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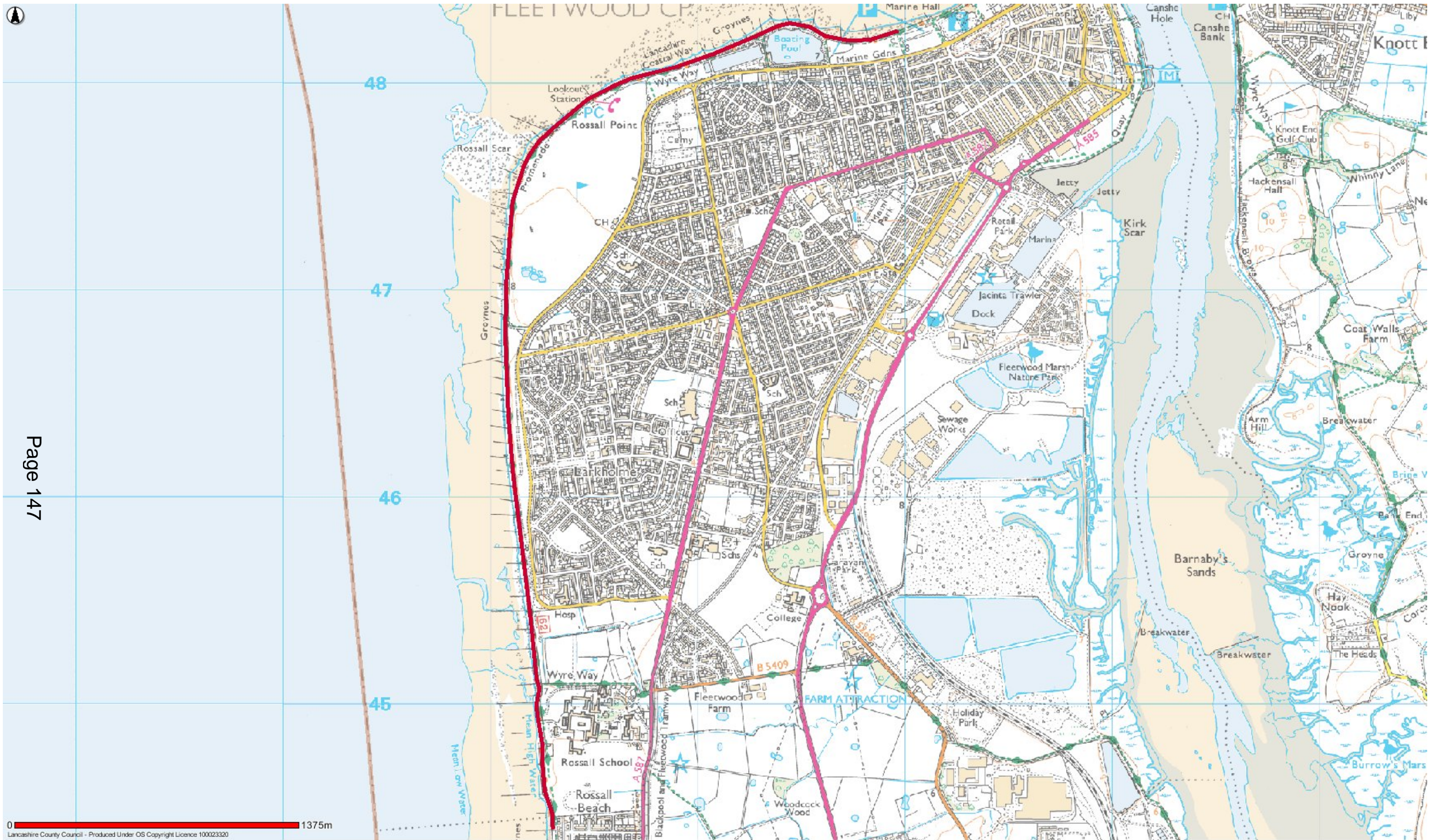


FWD7A Fleetwood Beach east side of slipway eastwards to the west side of the former pier (out of ban season only)



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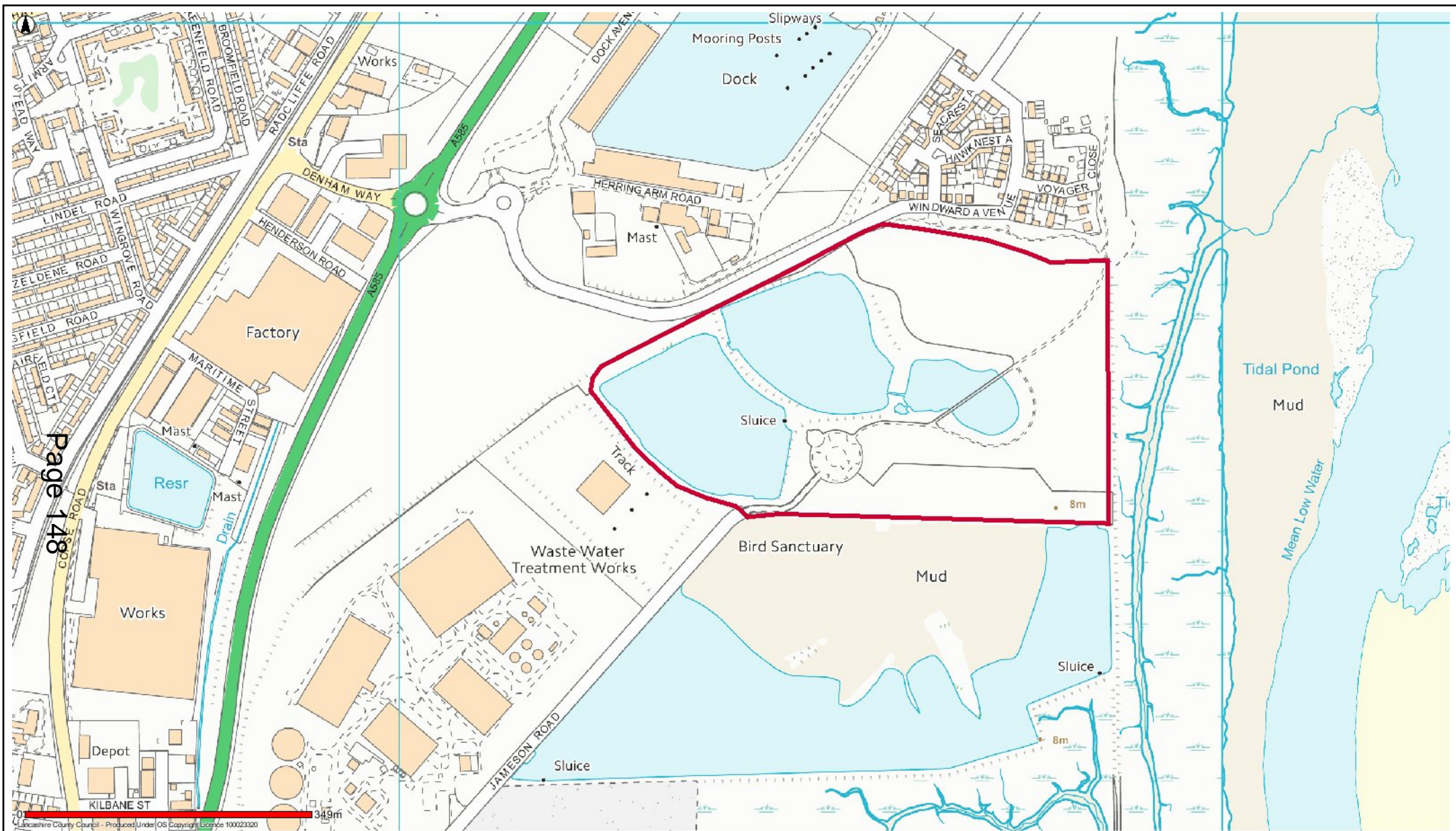


FWD8 Fleetwood Promenade from opposite Carr Road to the Five Bar Gate Rossall Beach



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FWD9 Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park



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Schedule 4

Dogs on lead

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) 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 Picnic site to Fairway including bridleway	FWD15
Marine Hall Gardens	FWD16
Rossall Point Picnic Site	FWD17
Fleetwood Promenade from former pier site to opposite Carr Road	FWD18
Westview Park	FWD19
Victoria Street (Pocket Park)	FWD20

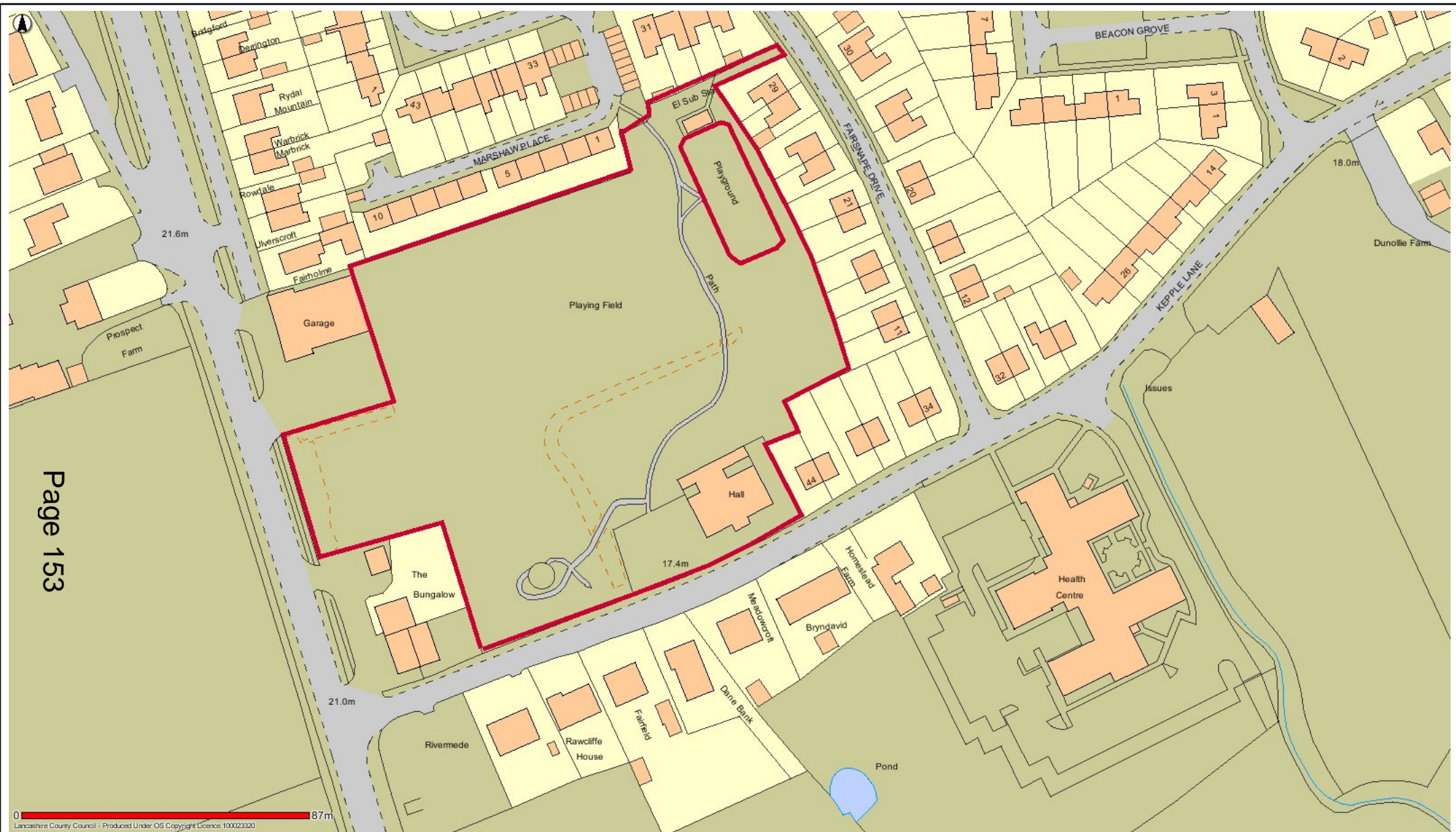


GC4 Catterall Playing Field



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GC5 Kepple Lane Playing Field Garstang



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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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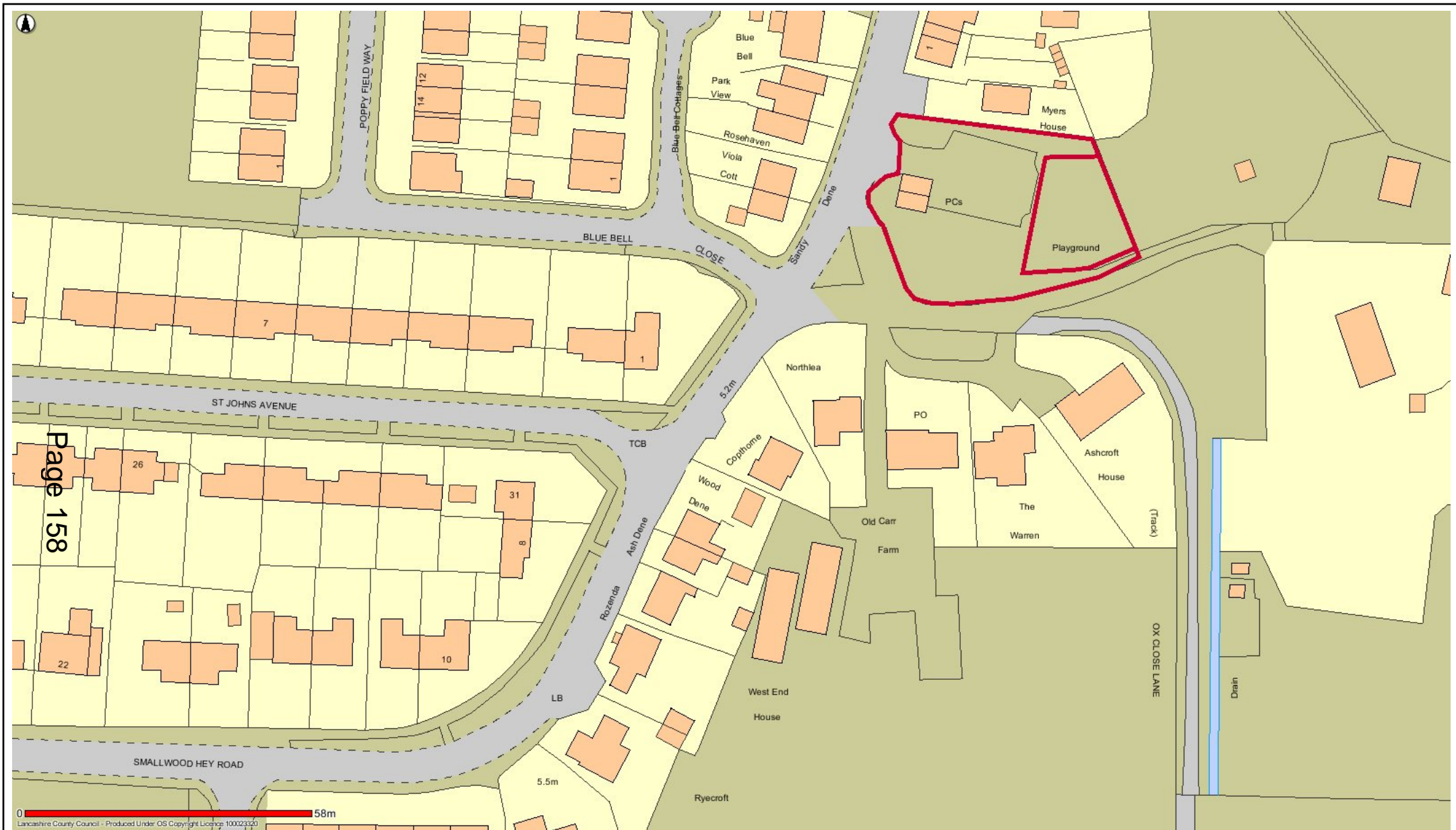
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OW11 Preesall Cemetery



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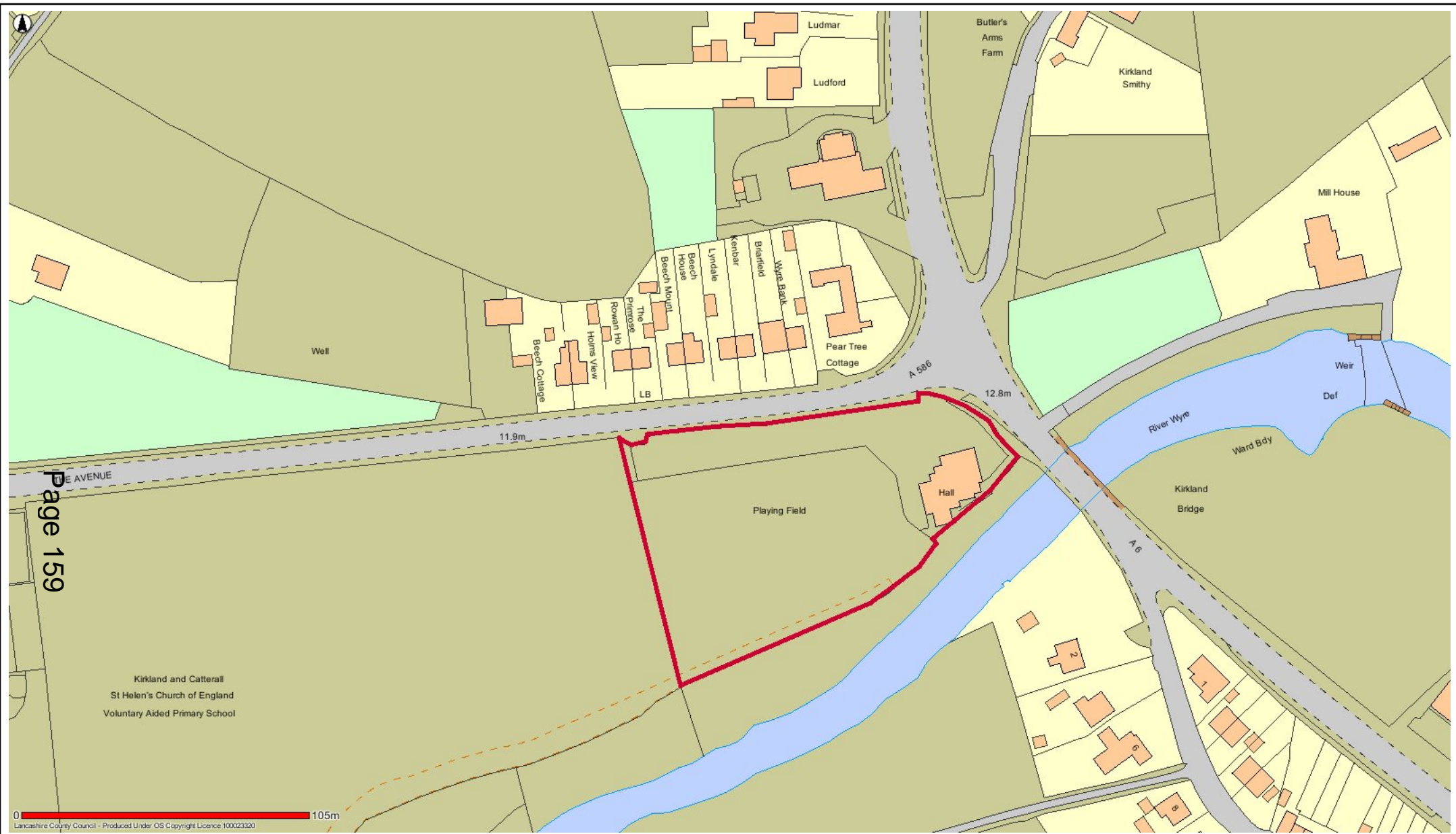
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OW12 Smallwood Hey Pilling



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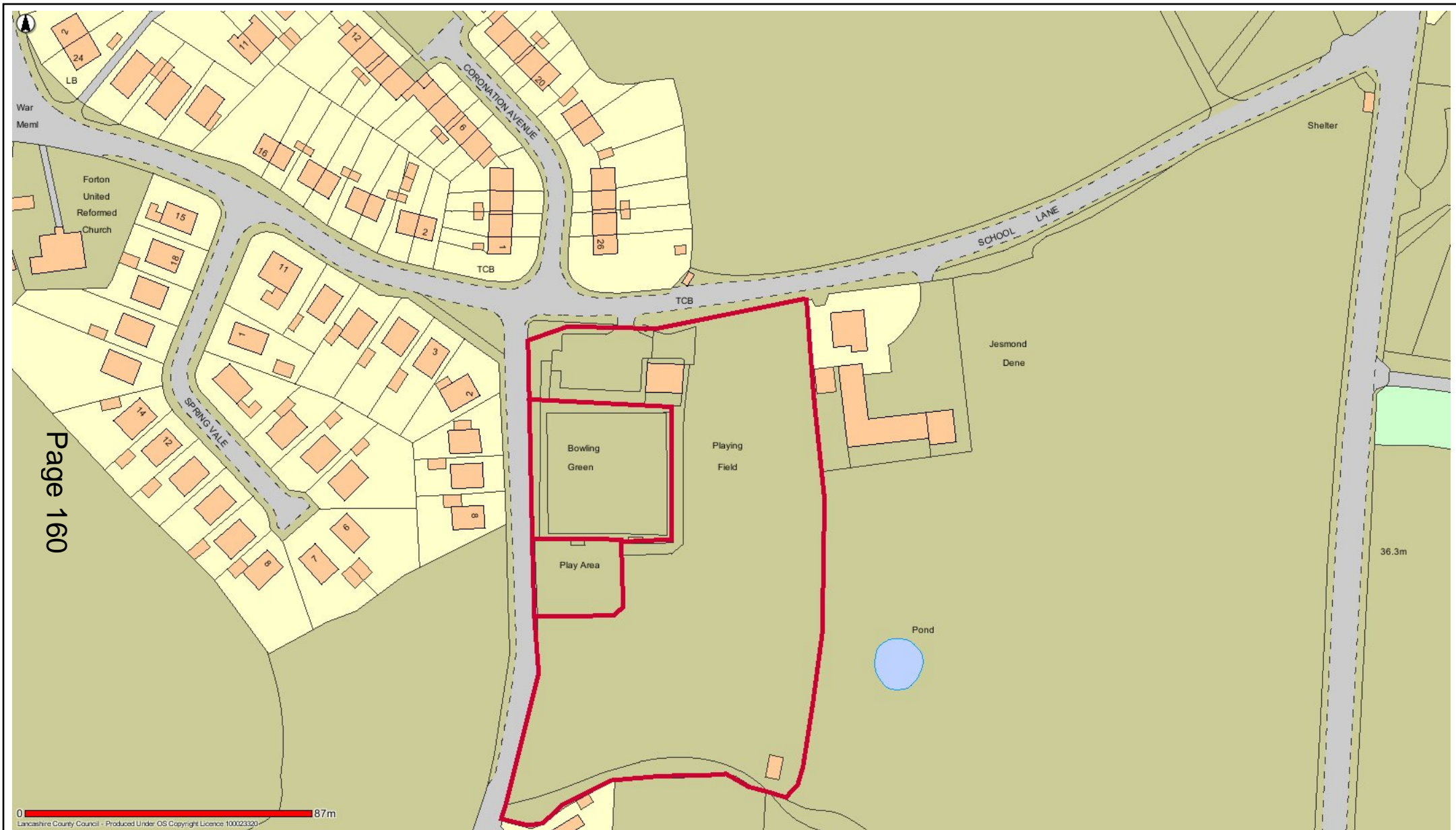


OW13 Churchtown Recreation Ground



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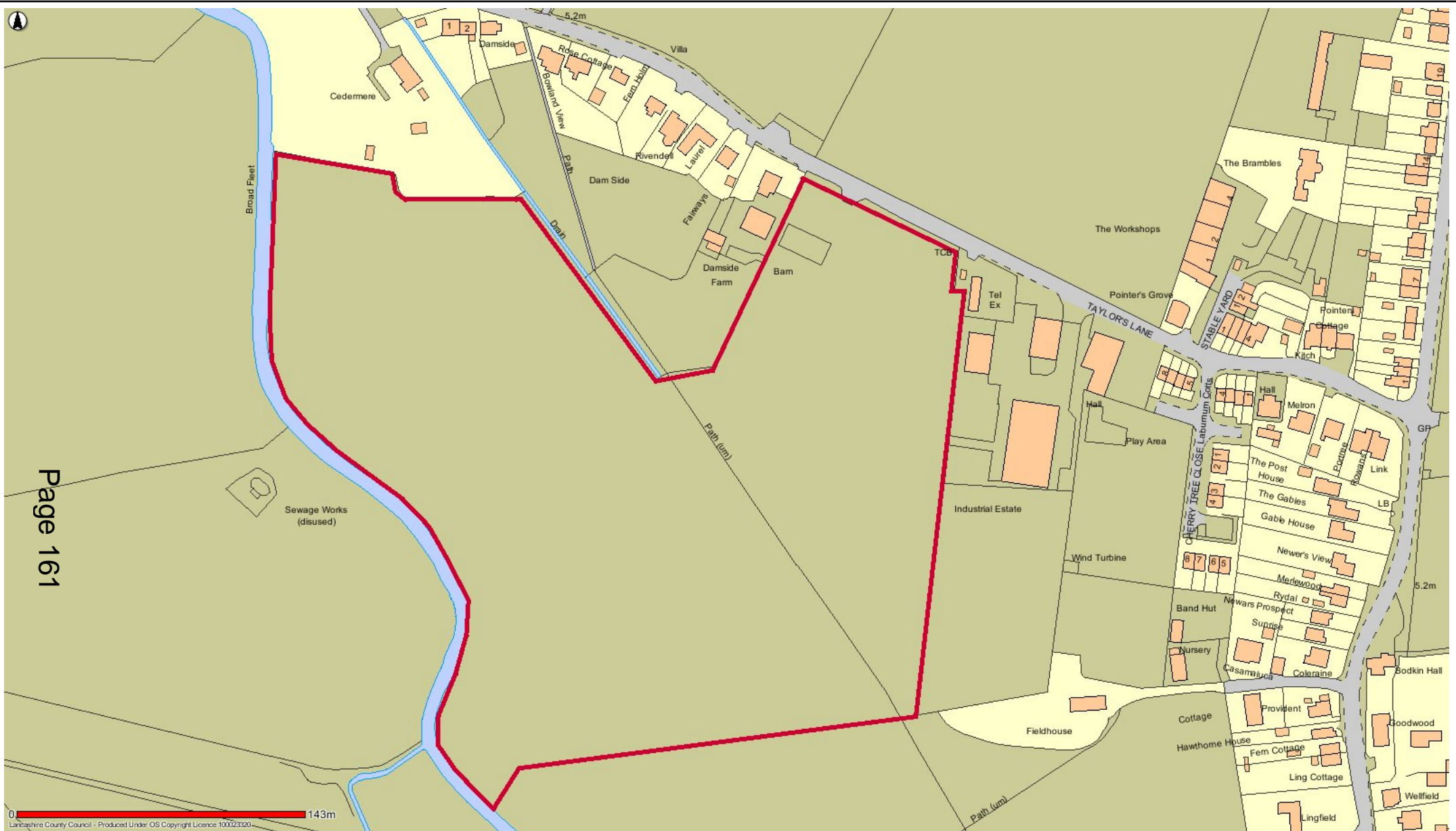


OW14 Forton Playing Field



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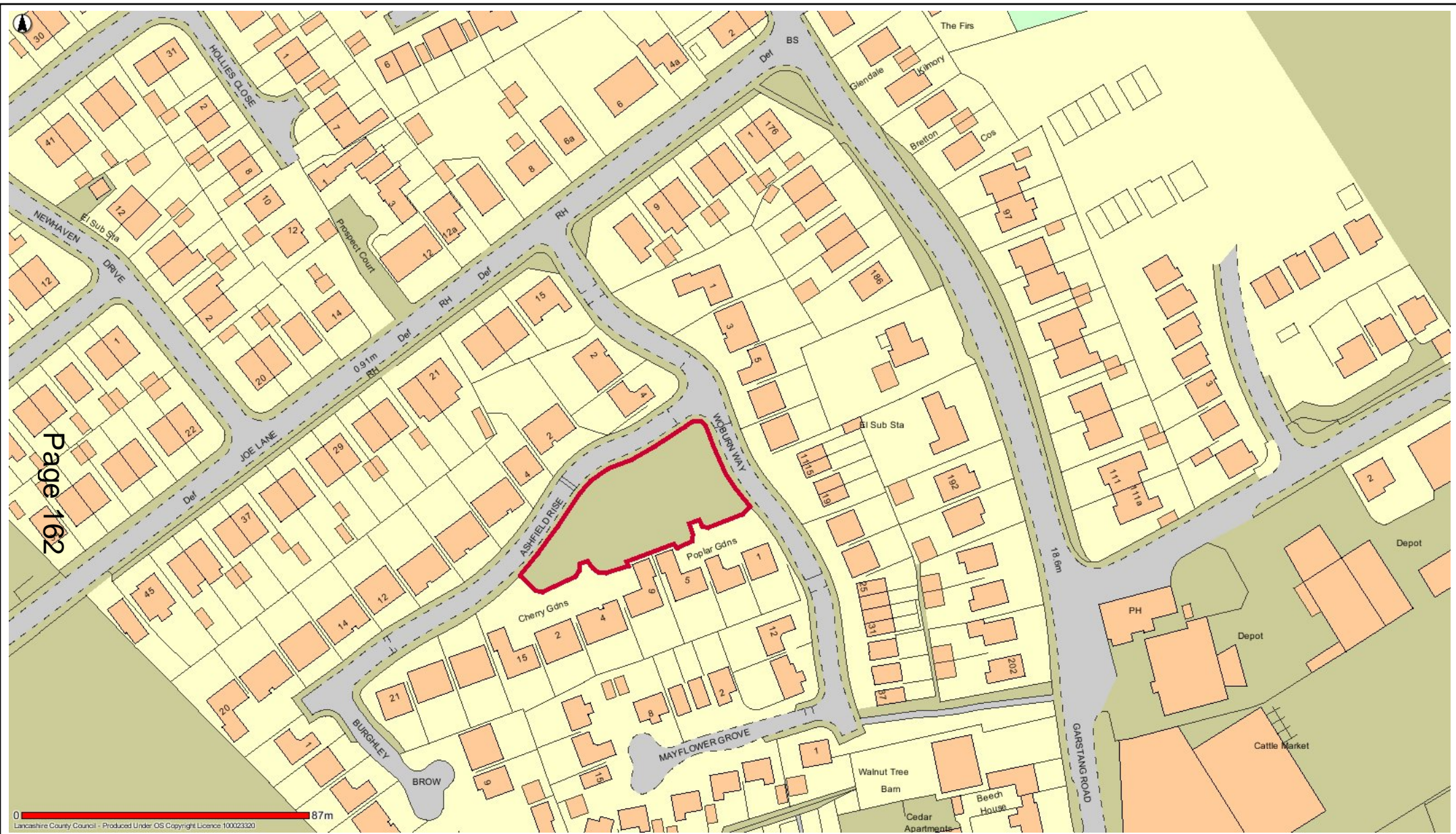


OW15 Pilling Memorial Hall recreation ground



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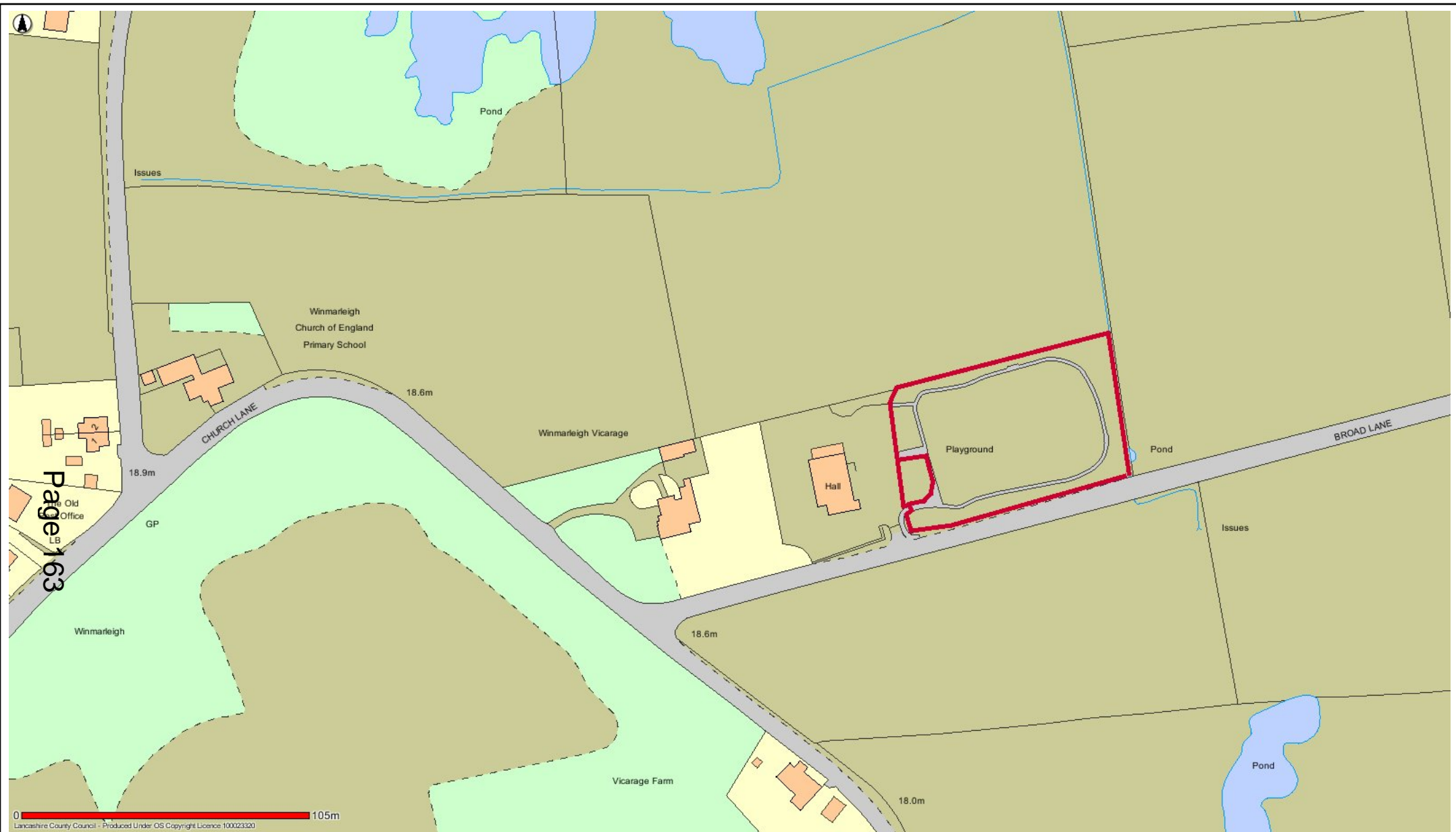
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OW16 Woburn Way Cloughton on Brock



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OW17 Scotts Green Winmarleigh



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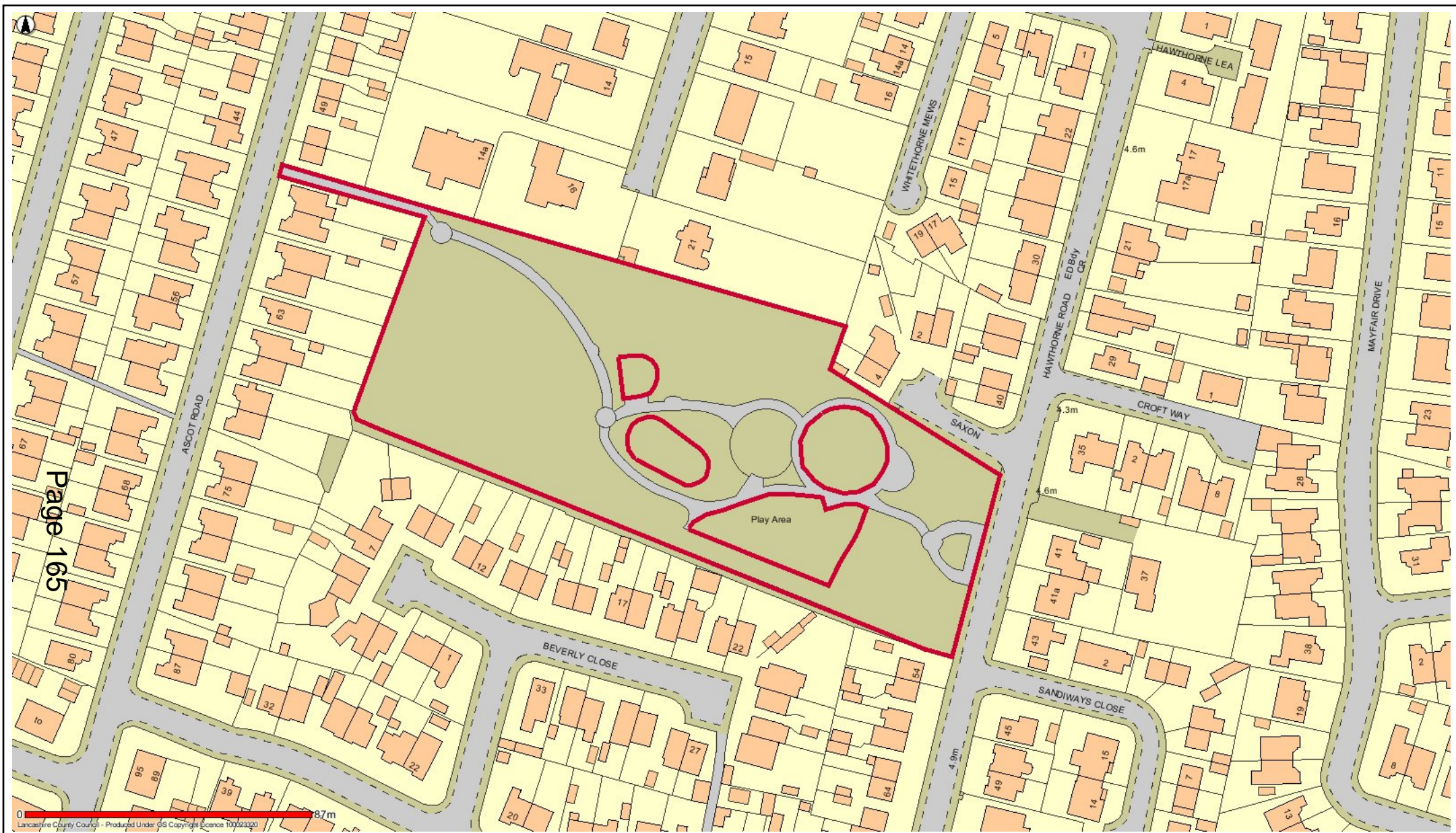


TC14 Cleveleys Promenade from Five Bar Gate Rossall Beach to Wyre Boundary



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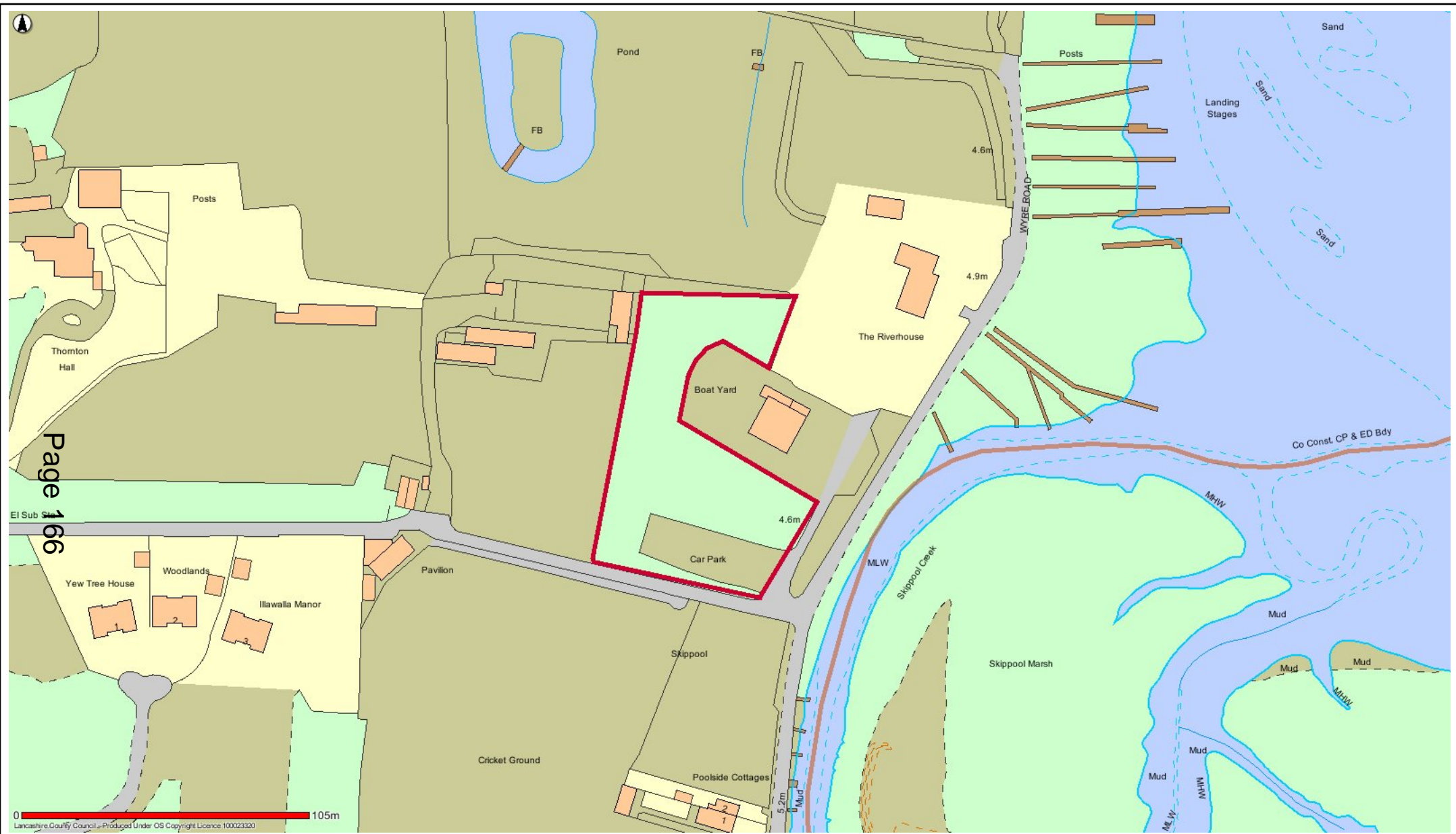


TC15 Hawthorne Park Thornton



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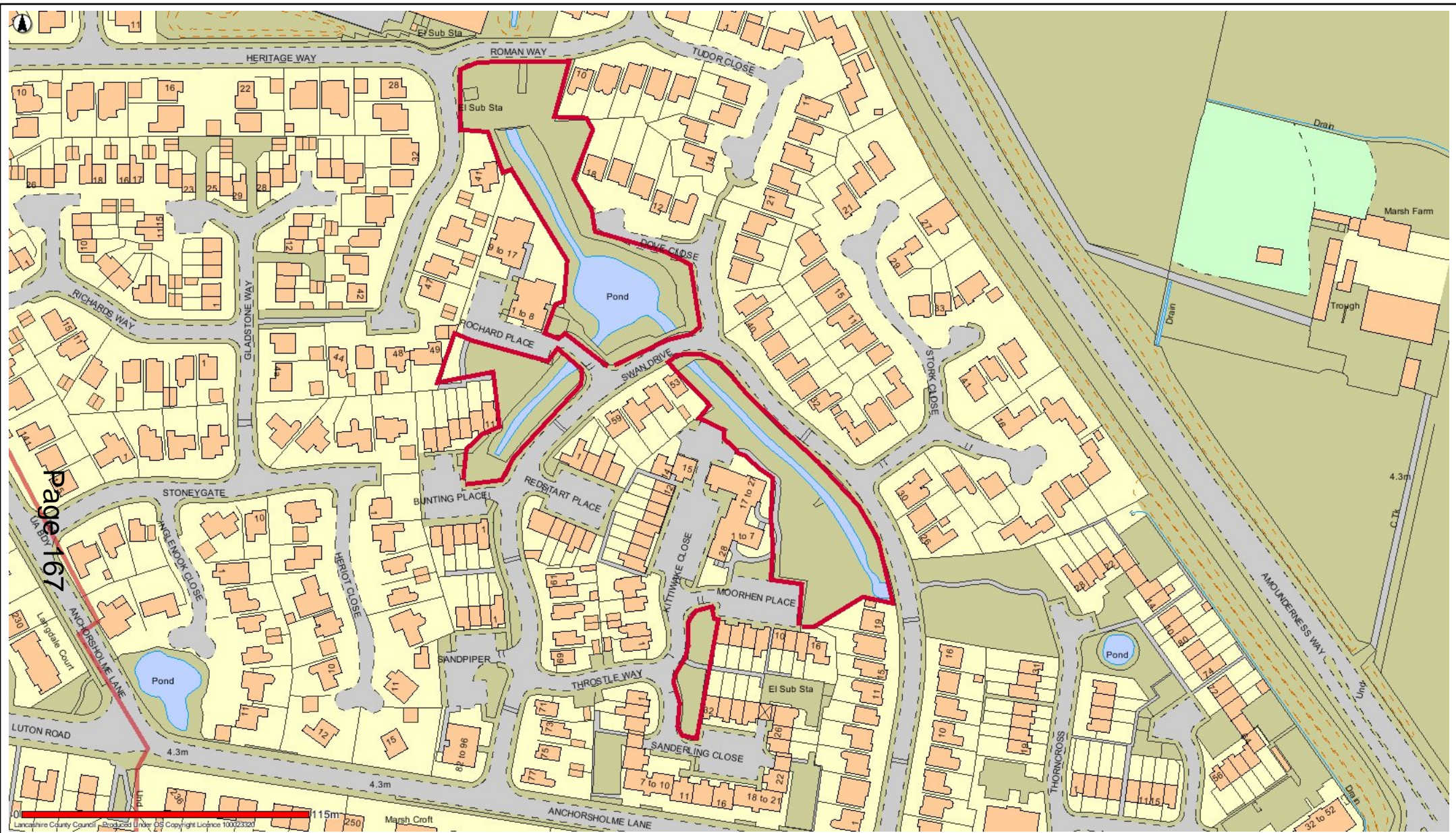


TC16 Skippool Amenity Site



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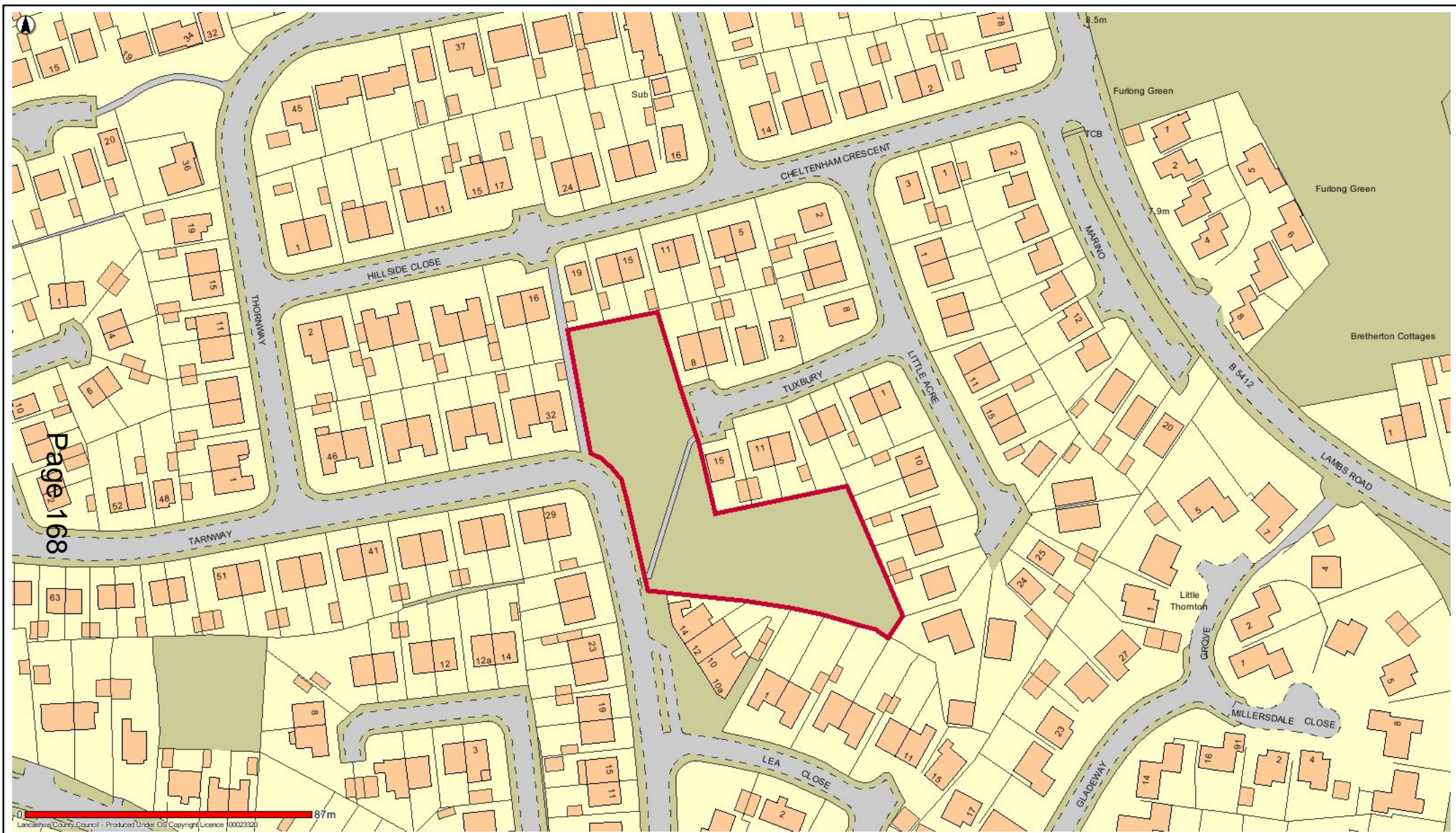


TC17 Swan Drive Open Space



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TC18 Tarnway Thornton



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TC19 Thornton Little Theatre



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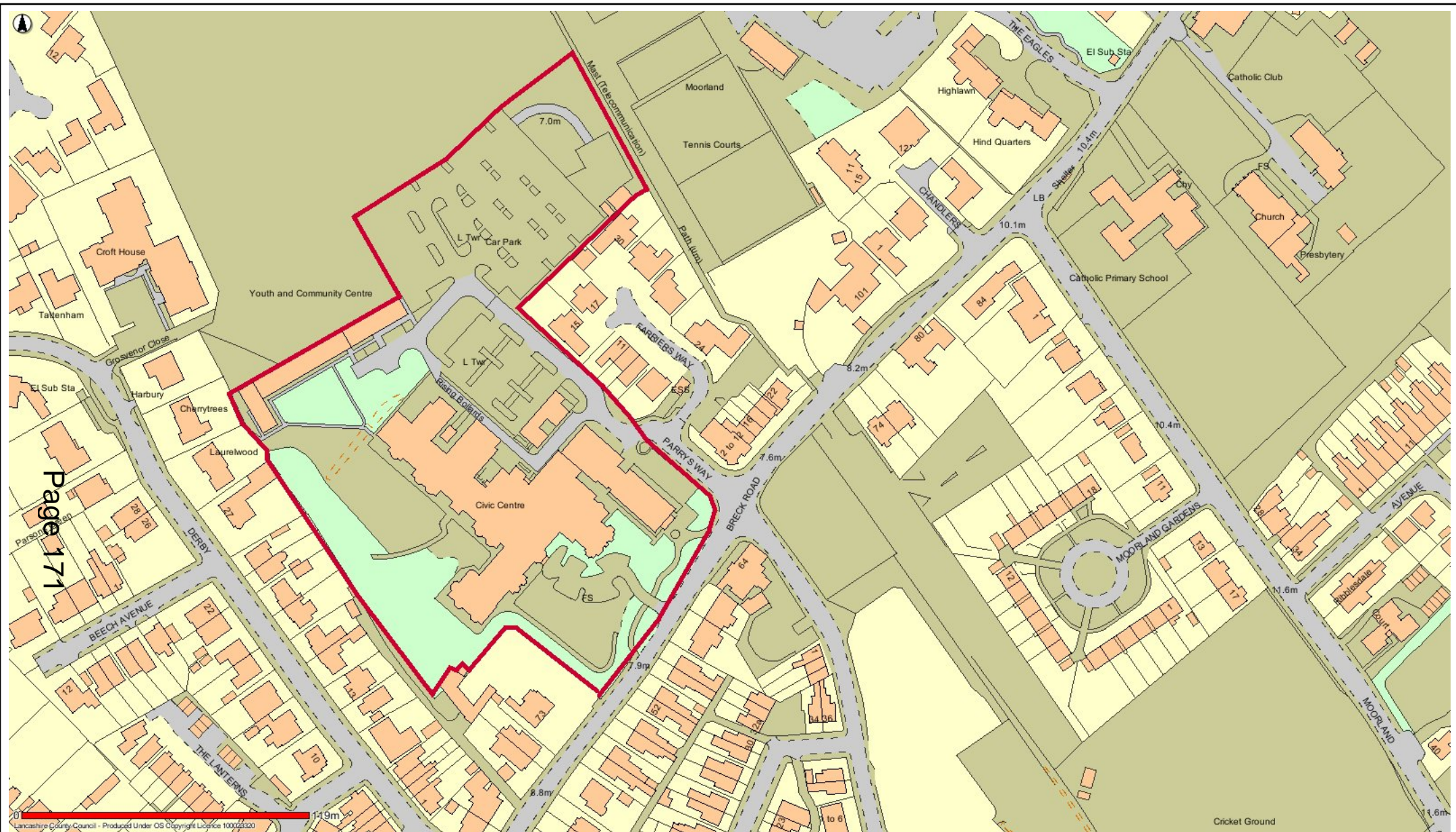


PLF8 Carrabine Park Carleton



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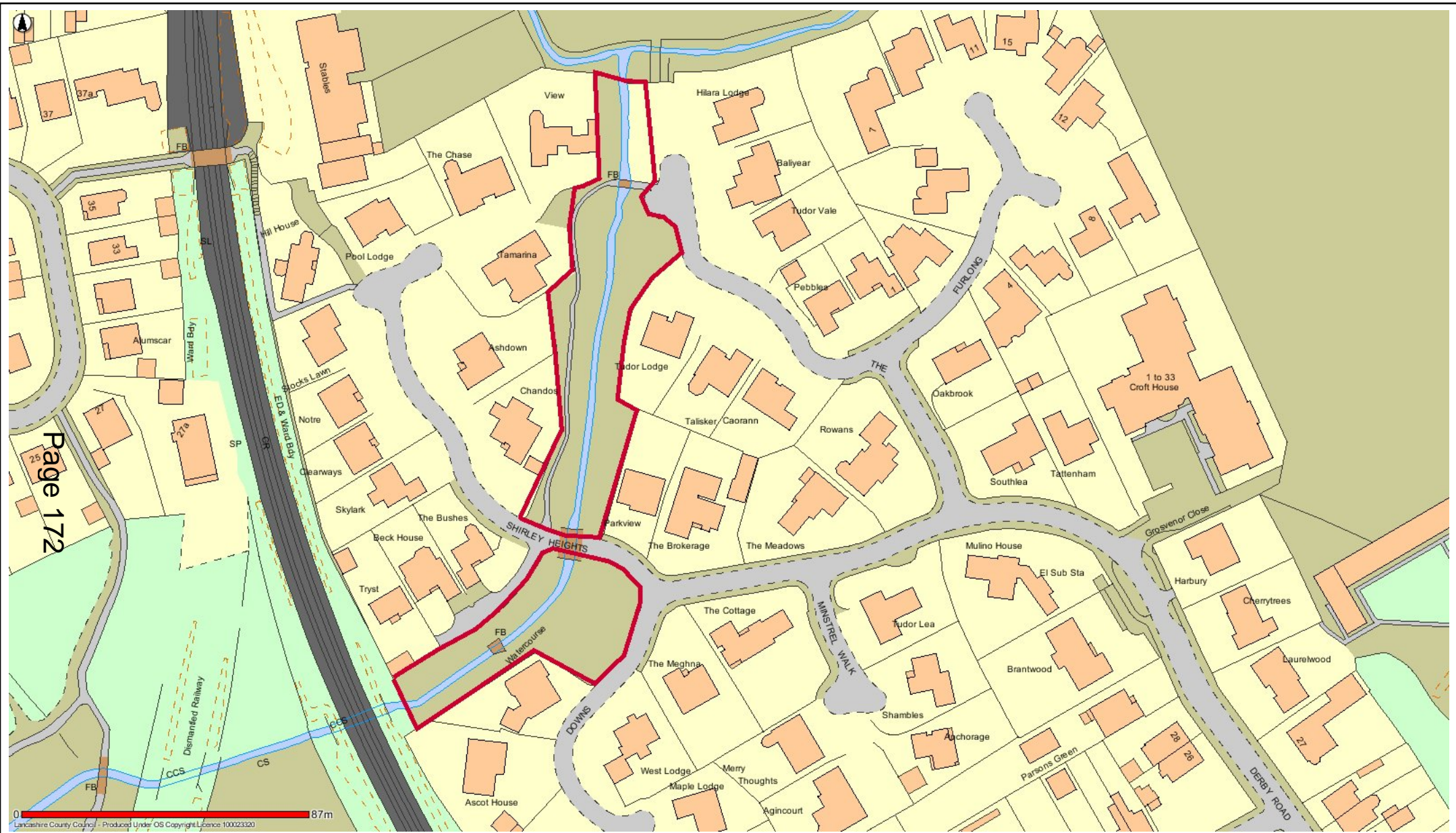


PLF9 Wyre Civic Centre Grounds



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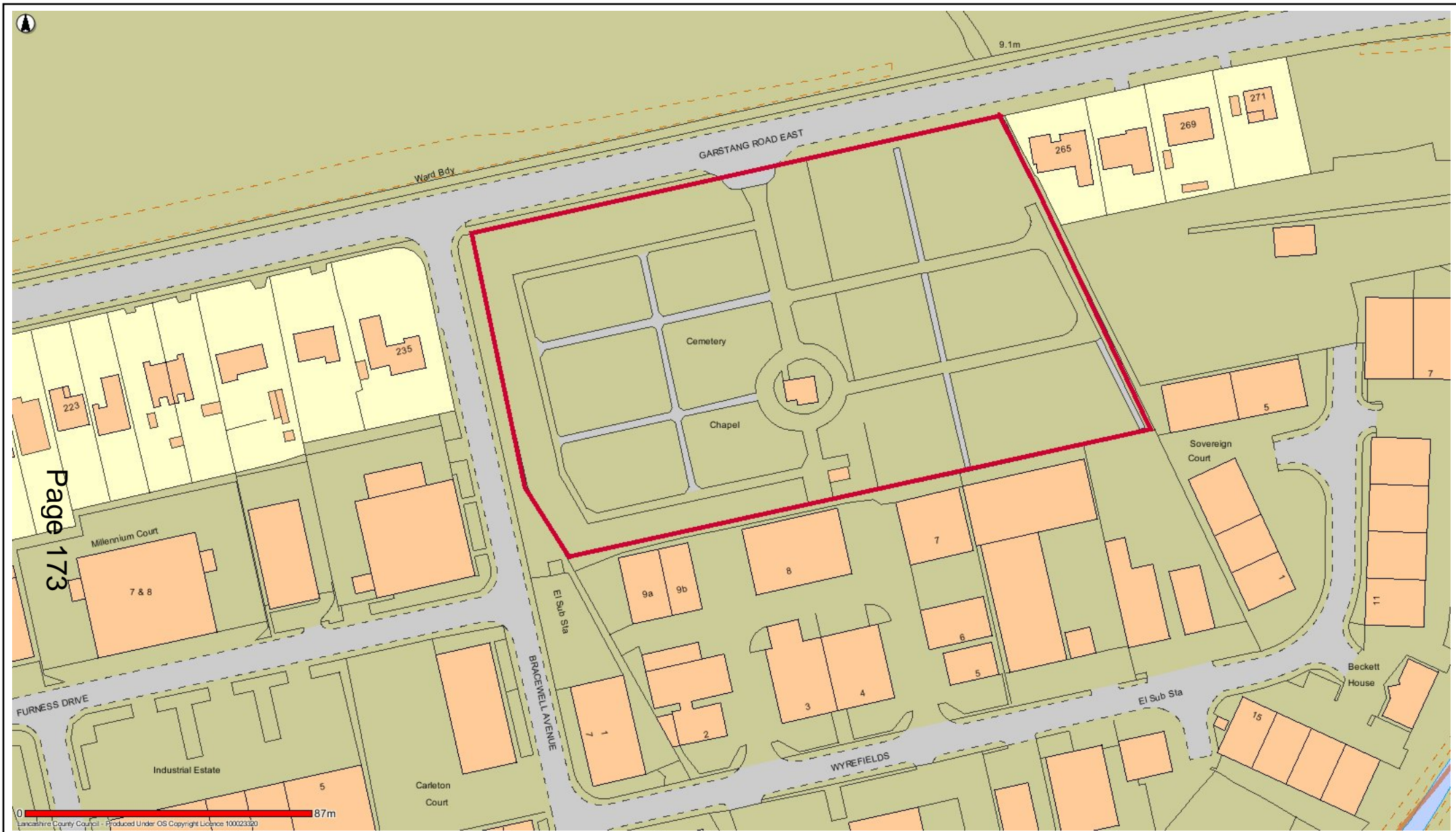


PLF10 Derby Rd/Shirley Heights



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PLF11 Garstang Road Cemetery



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PLF12 Moorland Road Cemetery



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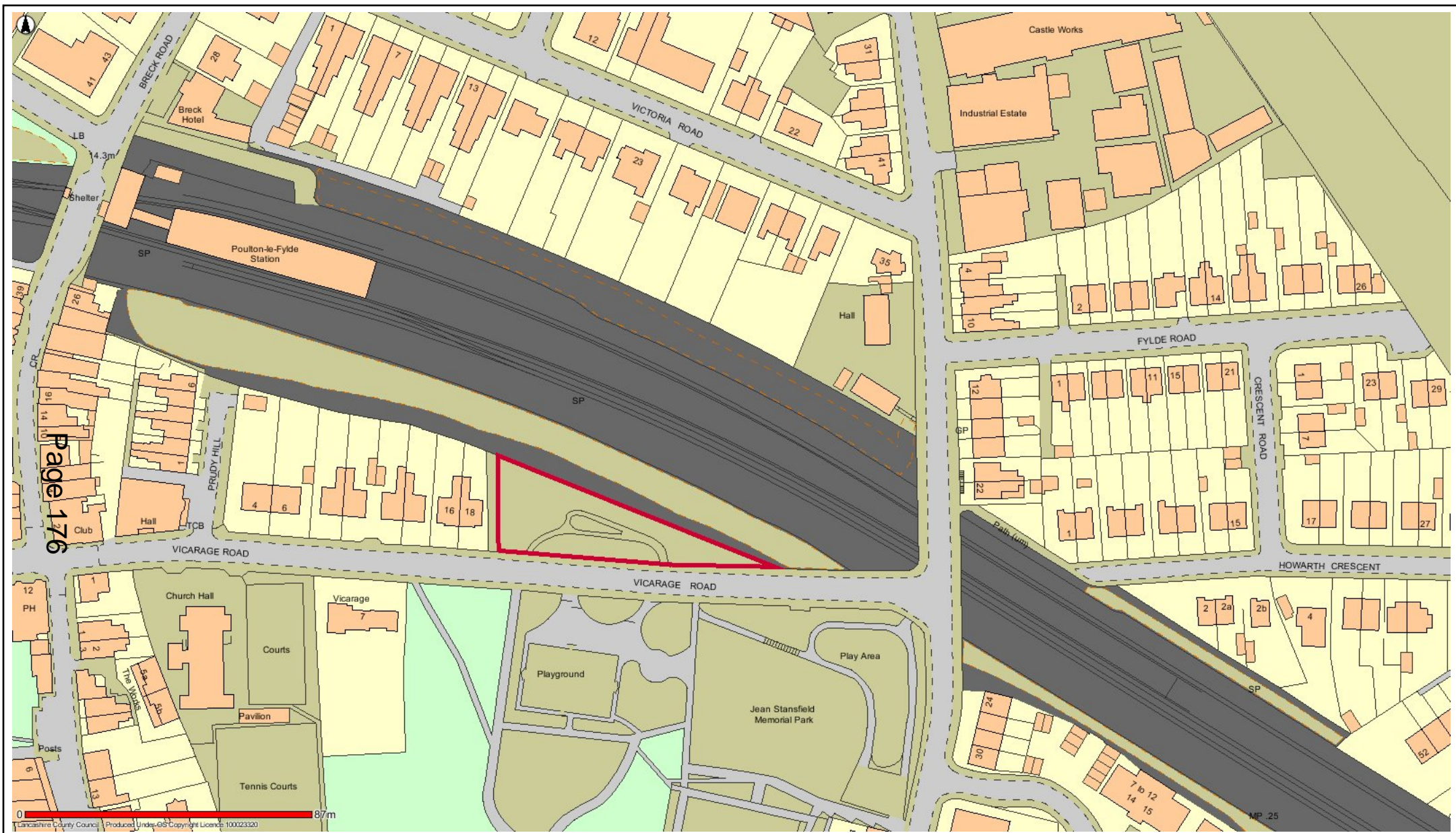


PLF13 Poulton Health and Fitness Centre



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PLF14 Tomlinson Gardens



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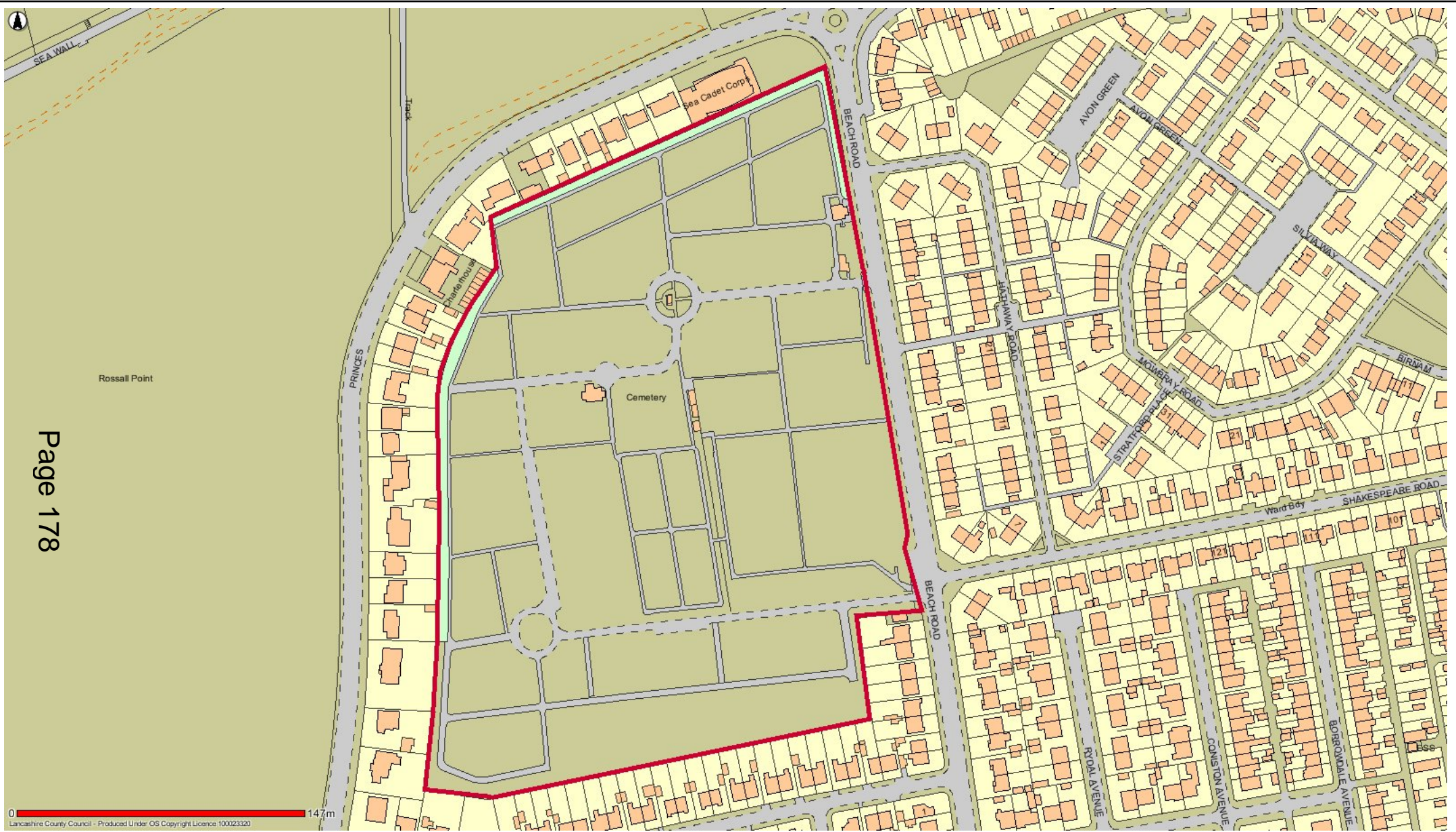


FWD10 Euston Park



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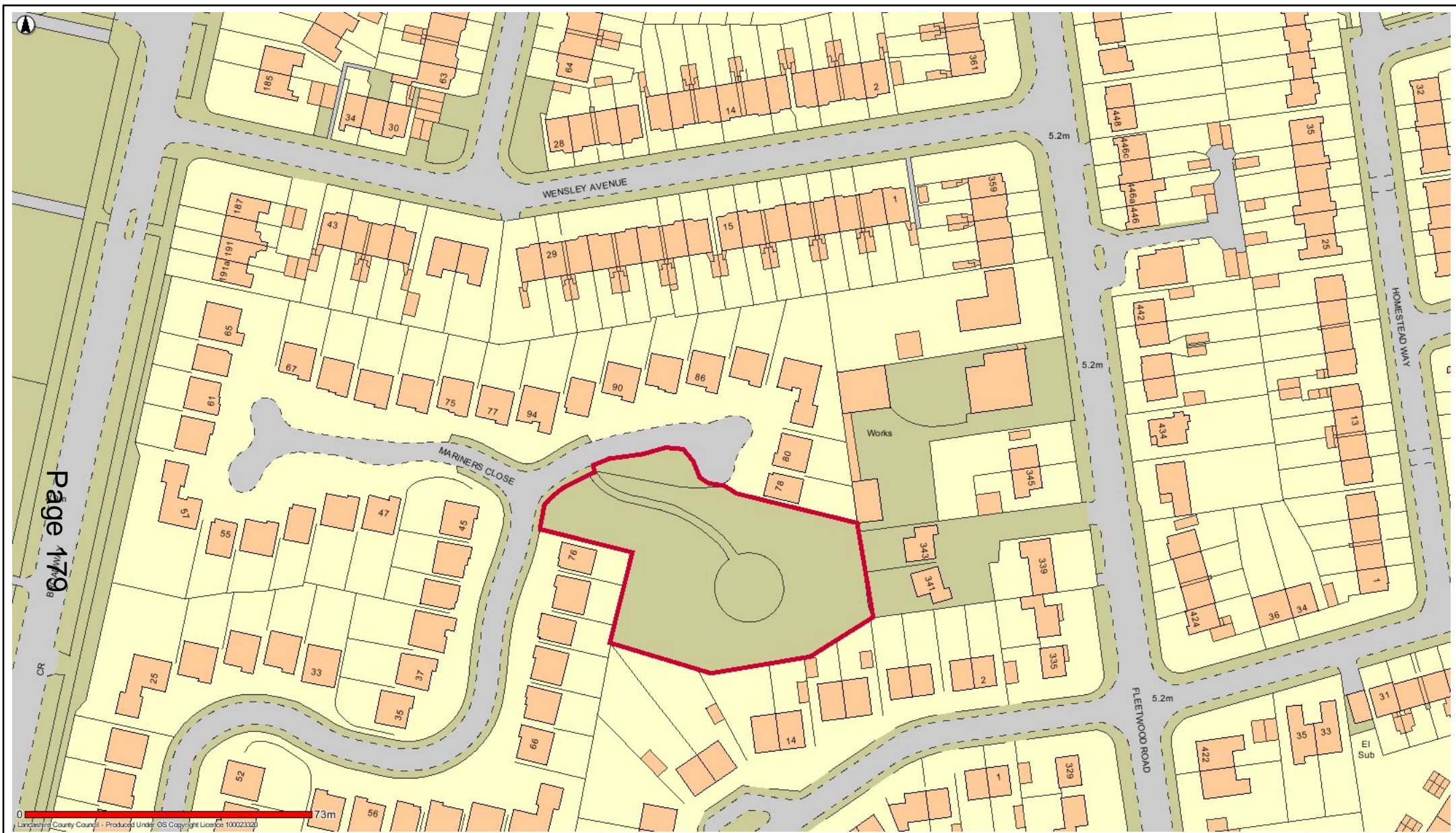


FWD11 Fleetwood Cemetery



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FWD12 Mariners Close Open Space

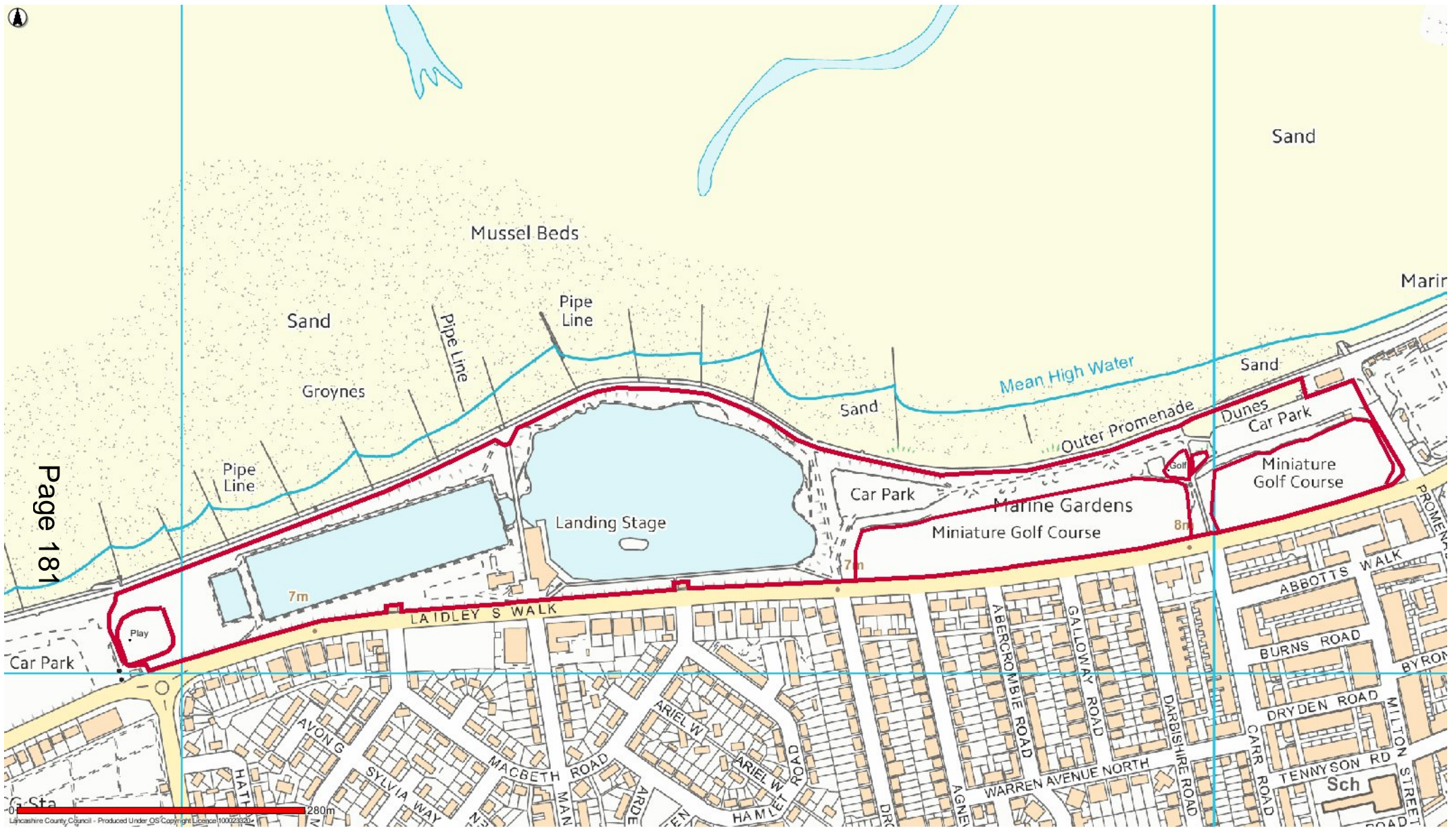


FWD13 Martindale Park



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



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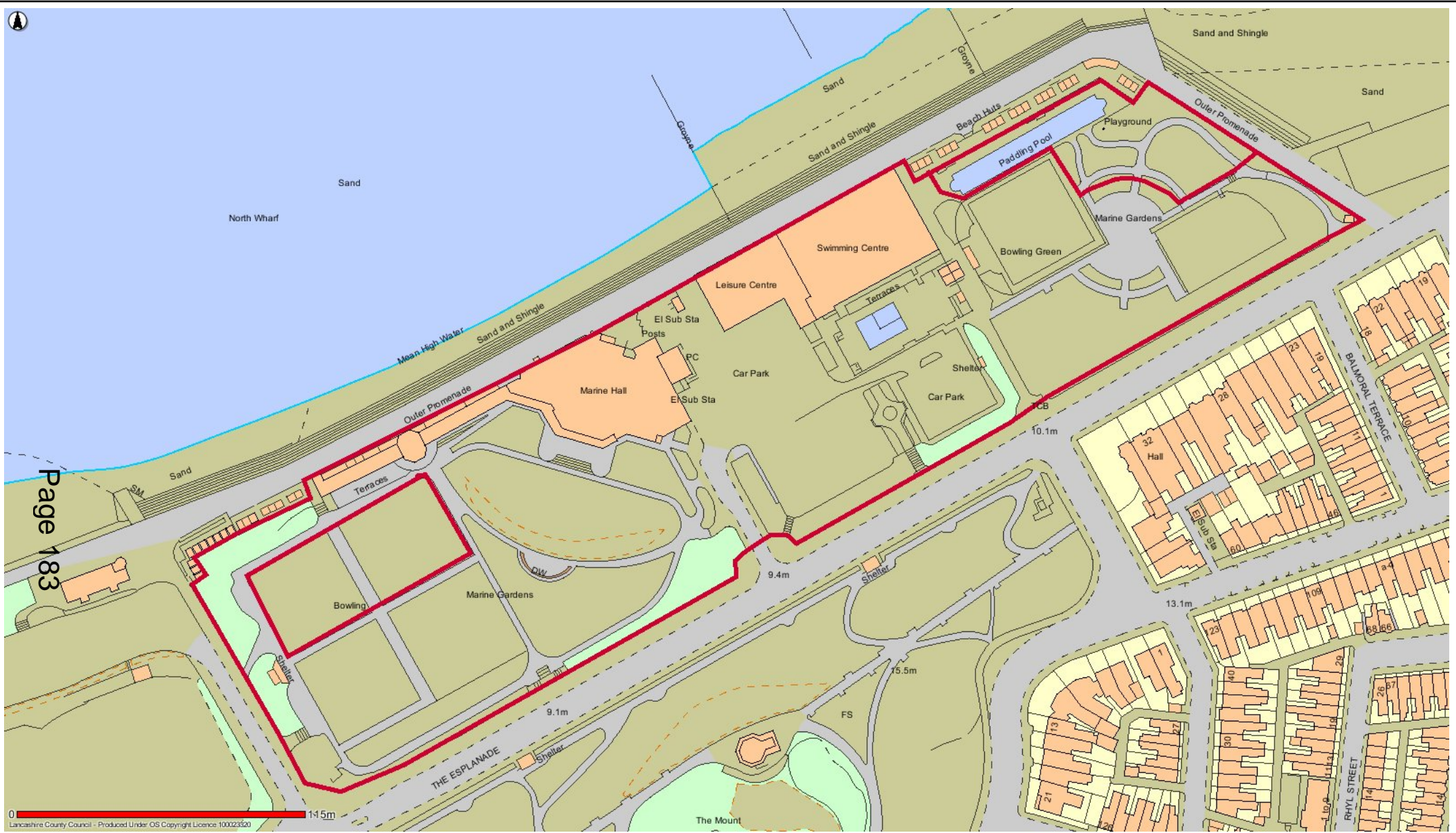


FWD15 Land between Fleetwood Prom and golf course from Rossall Picnic Site to Fairway including brideway



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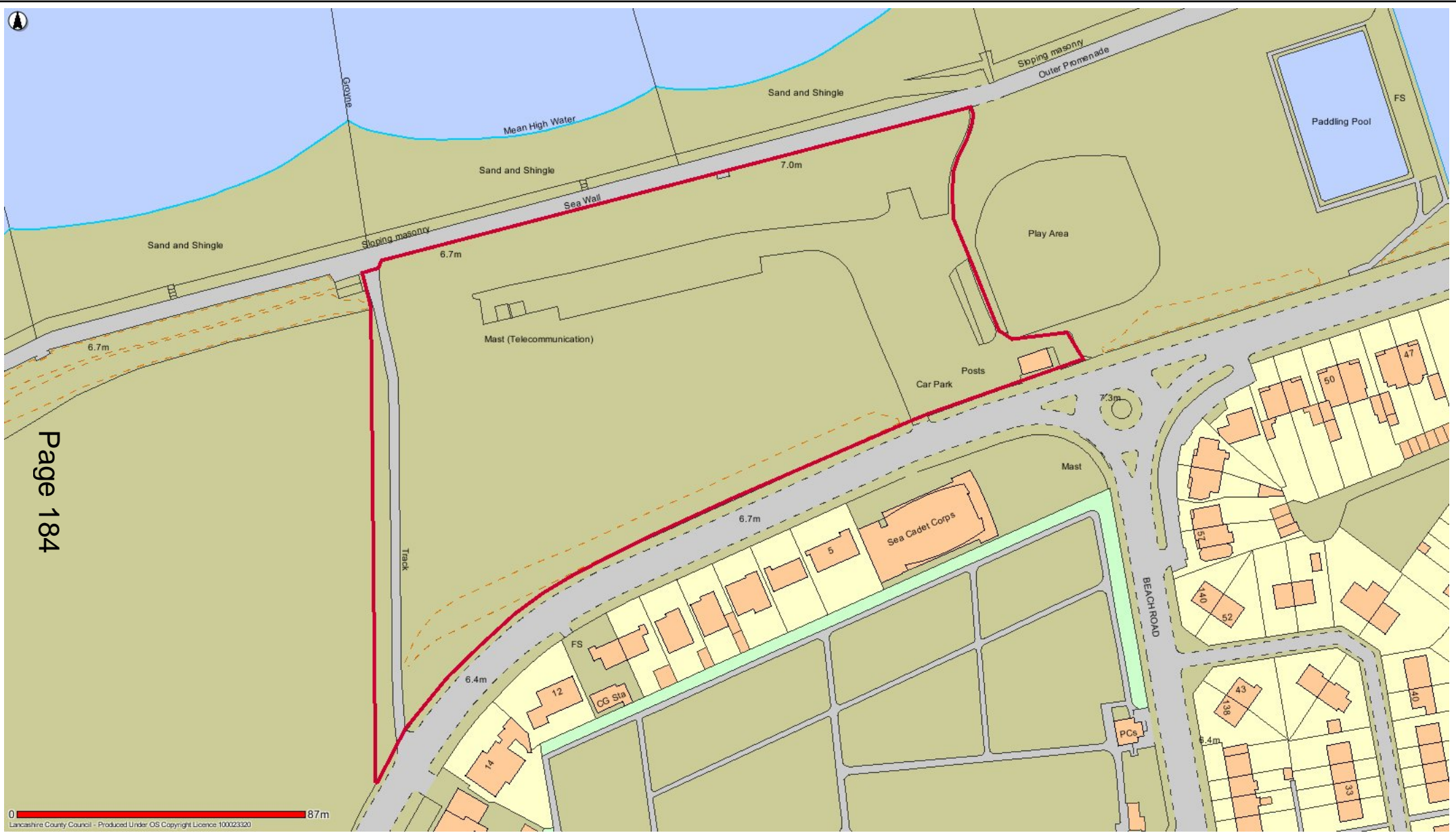


FWD16 Marine Hall Gardens



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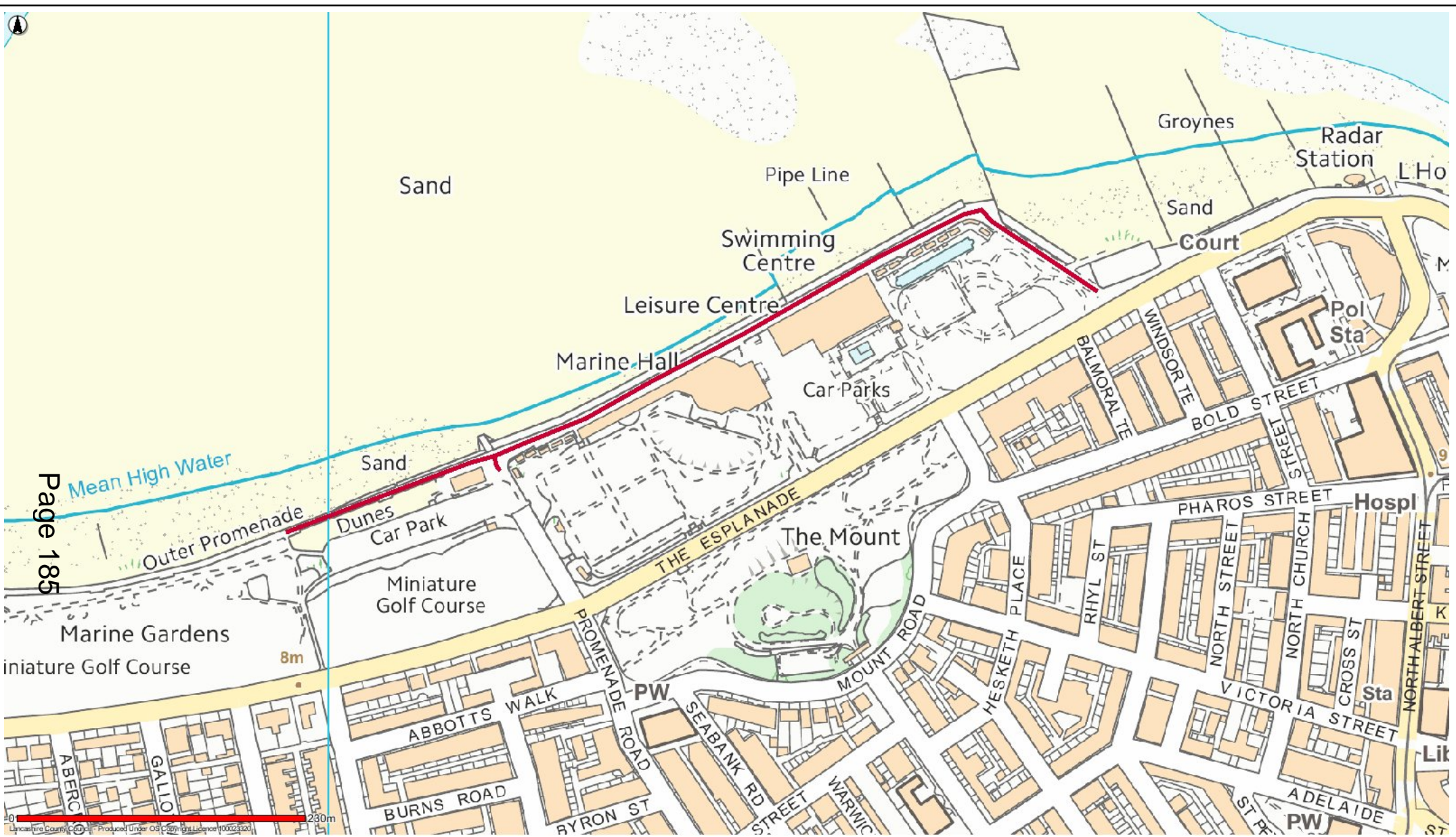


FWD17 Rossall Point Picnic Site



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FWD18 Fleetwood Promenade from former pier site to opposite Carr Road



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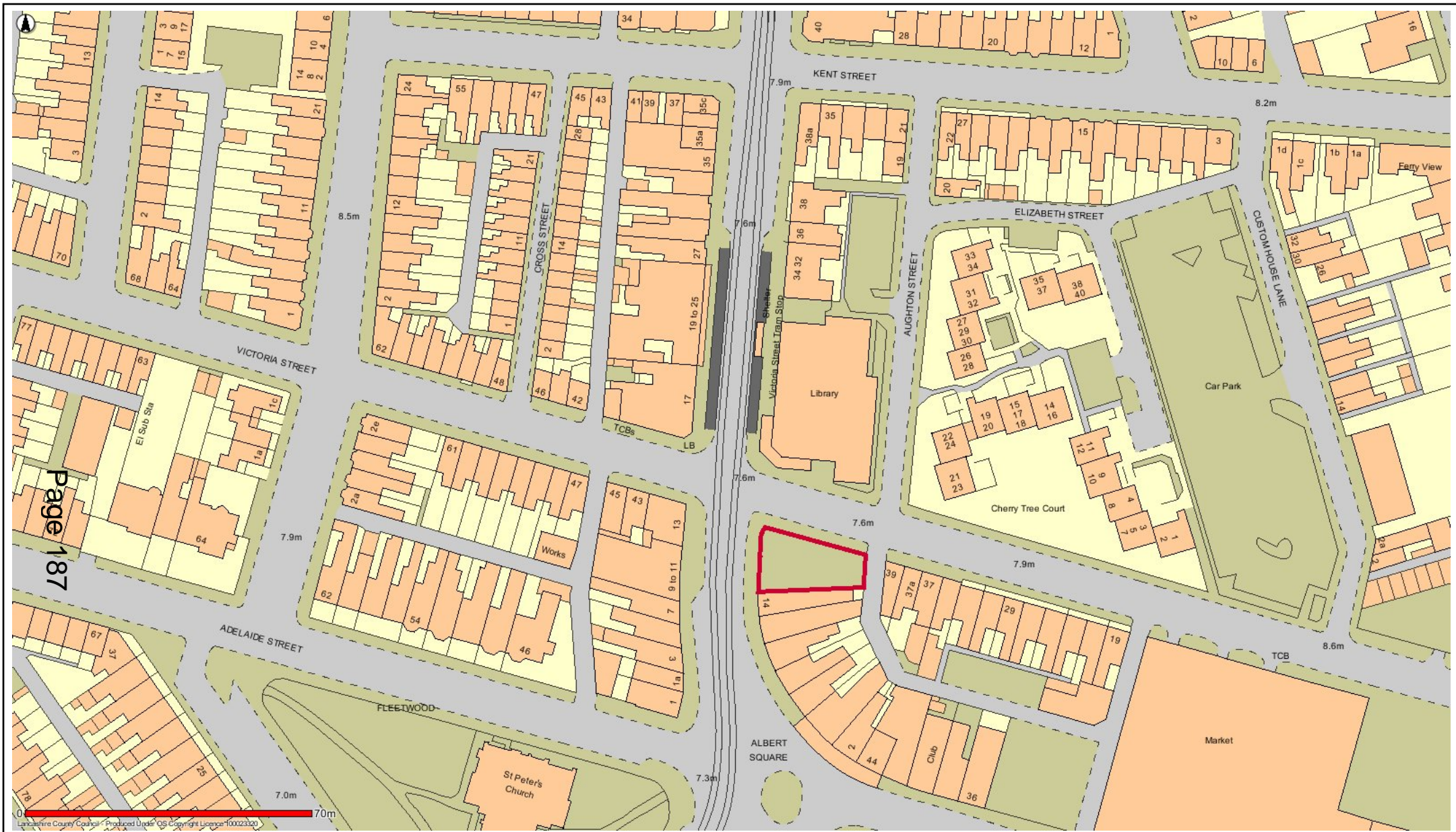
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FWD19 Westview Park



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FWD20 Pocket Park (Victoria St)



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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;
- Marked sports pitches
- Bowling greens
- MUGAS
- Tennis courts
- Pitch and Putt Courses
- Crazy Golf Courses
- 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

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 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.

(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. 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.



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



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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

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	OW2B

arm/ex/cab/cr/17/1810rh1 Appendix 1



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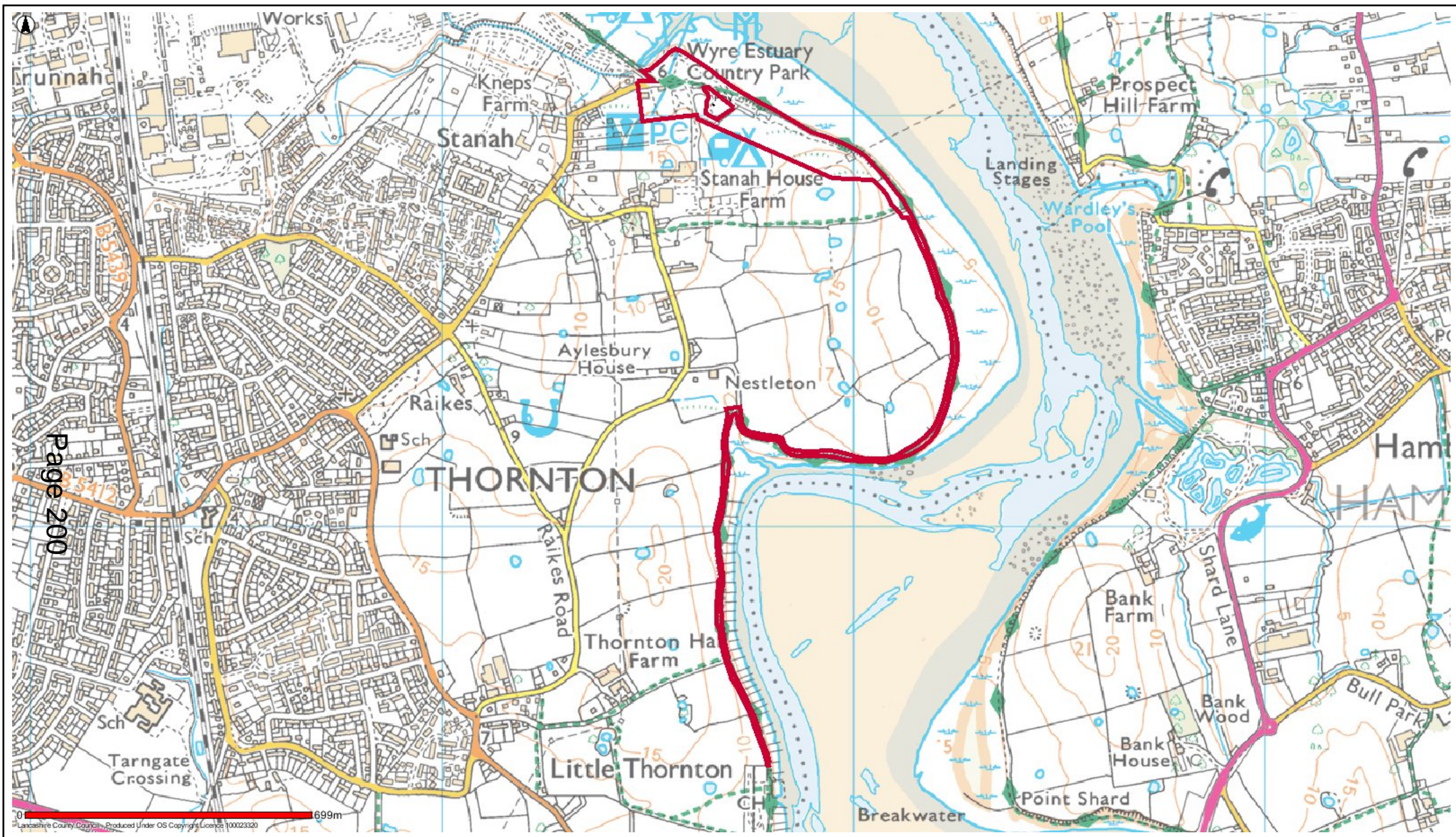
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TC8 King Georges Playing Field Thornton



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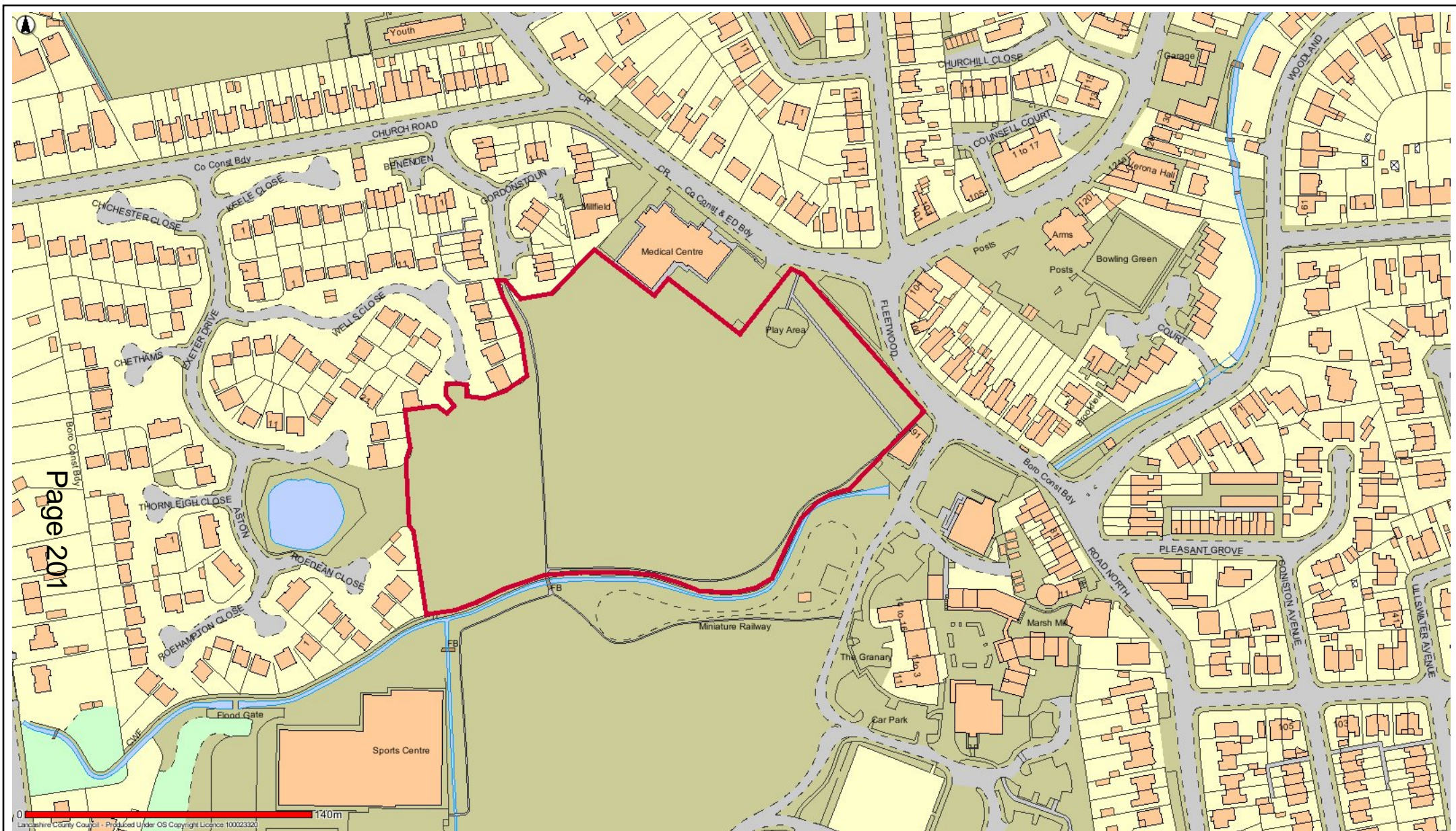


TC12 Wyre Estuary Country Park Thornton



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TC3 Church Road Playing Field Thornton



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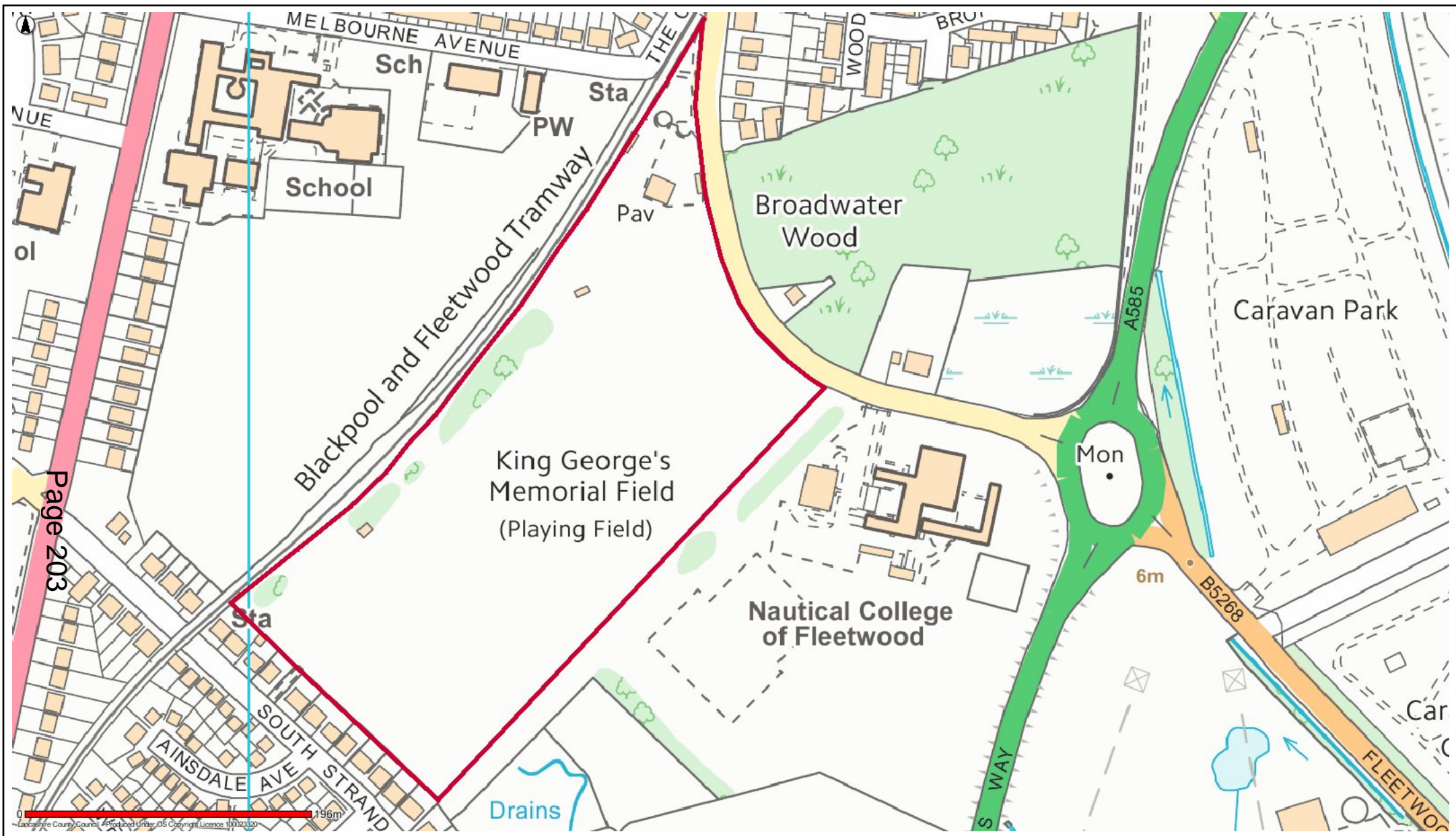


TC1 Bourne Way Playing Field Thornton-Cleveleys



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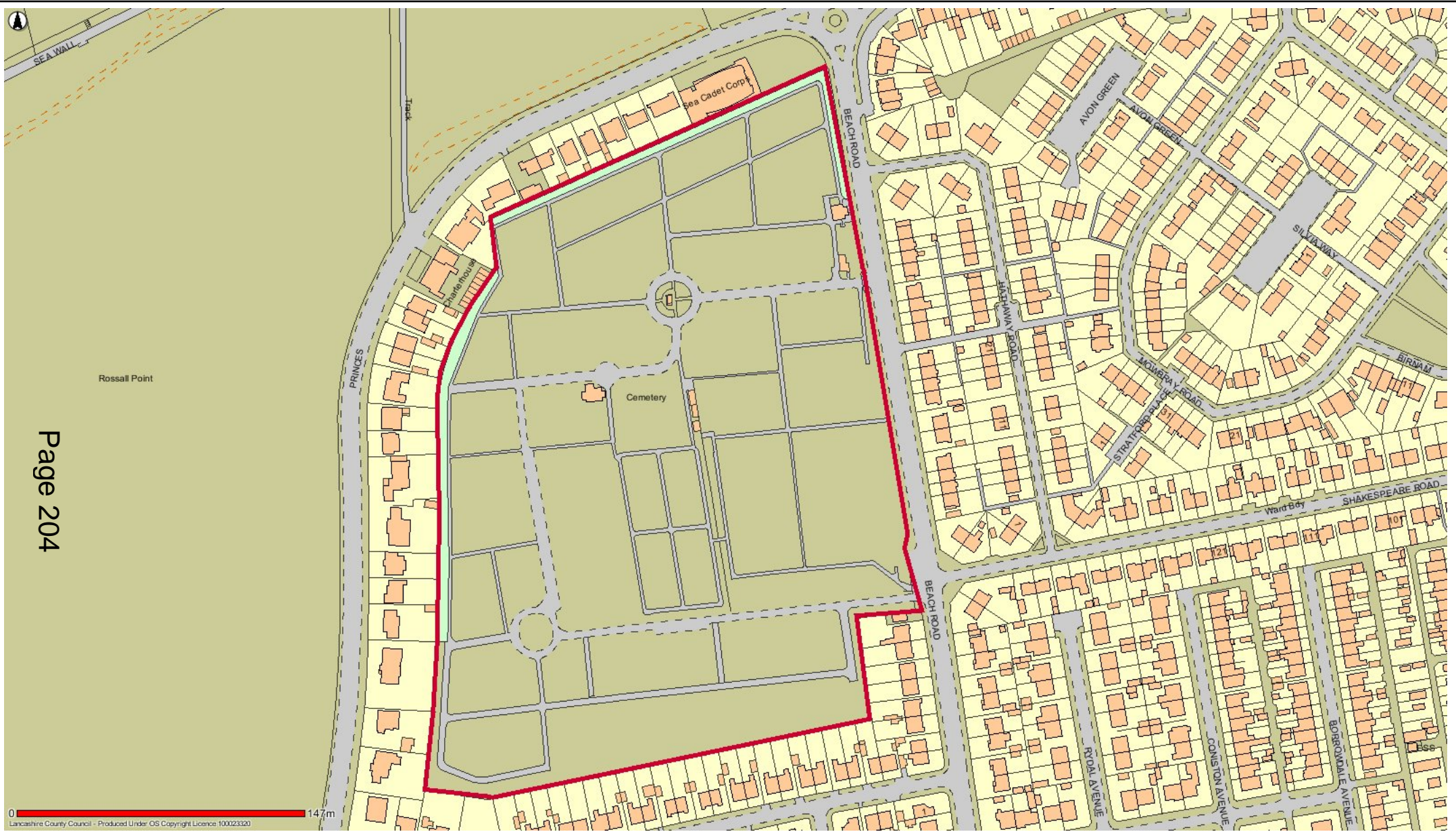
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FWD2 King George V Playing Field



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FWD11 Fleetwood Cemetery



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FWD3 Memorial Park



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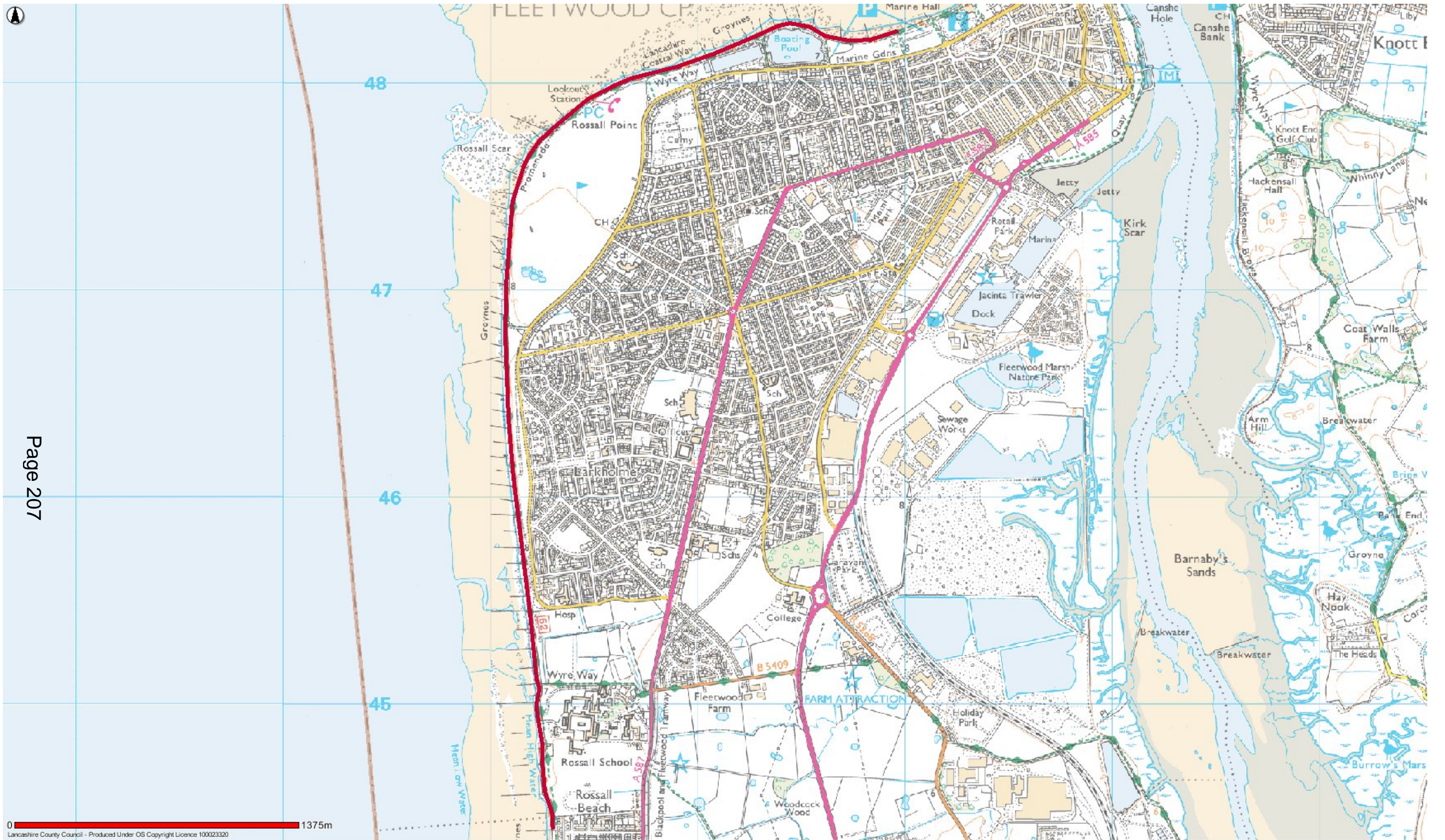


FWD15 Land between Fleetwood Prom and golf course from Rossall Picnic Site to Fairway including brideway



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



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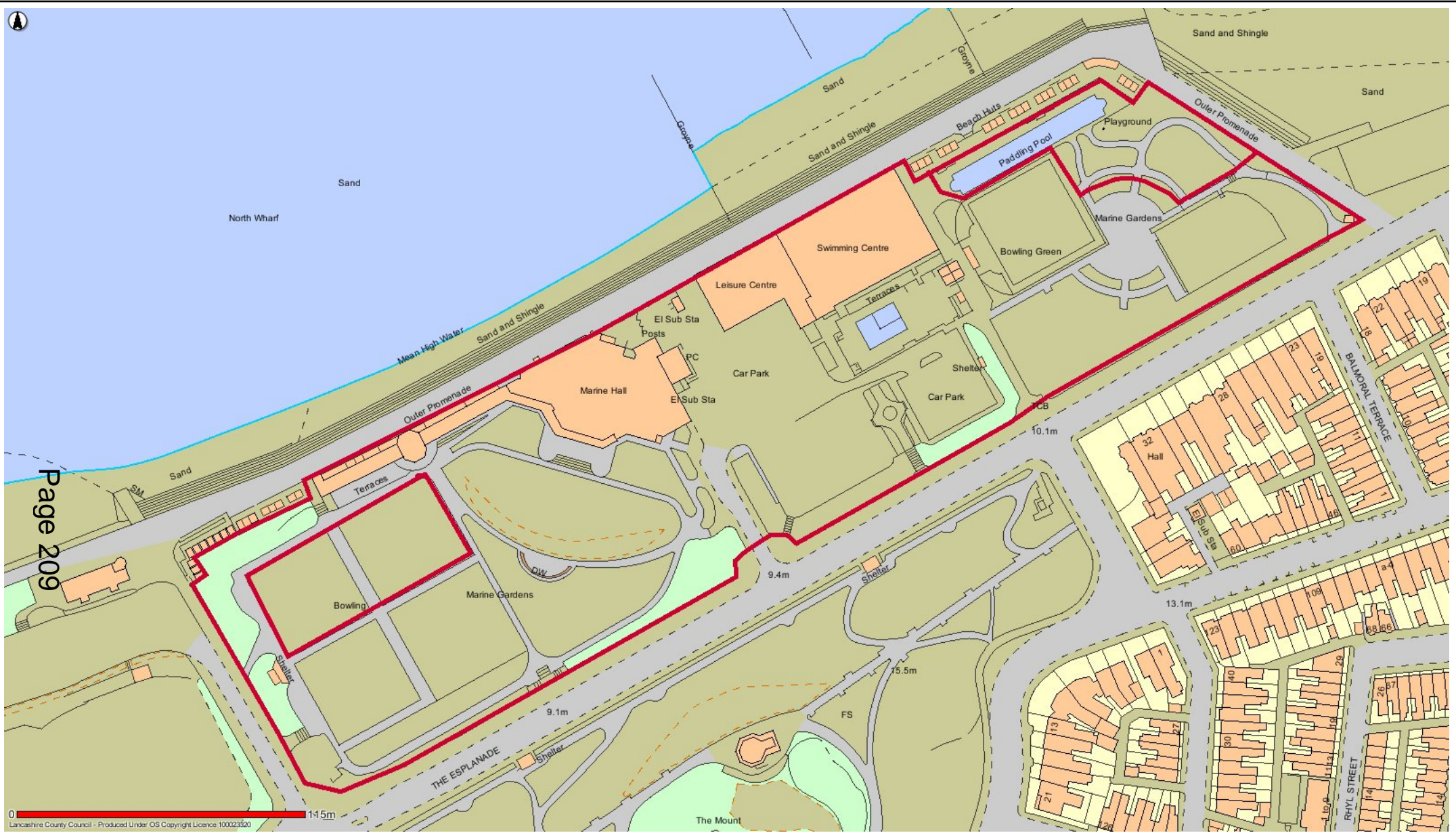
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FWD14 Marine Gardens Amenity Area (including lakes, pitch and putts)



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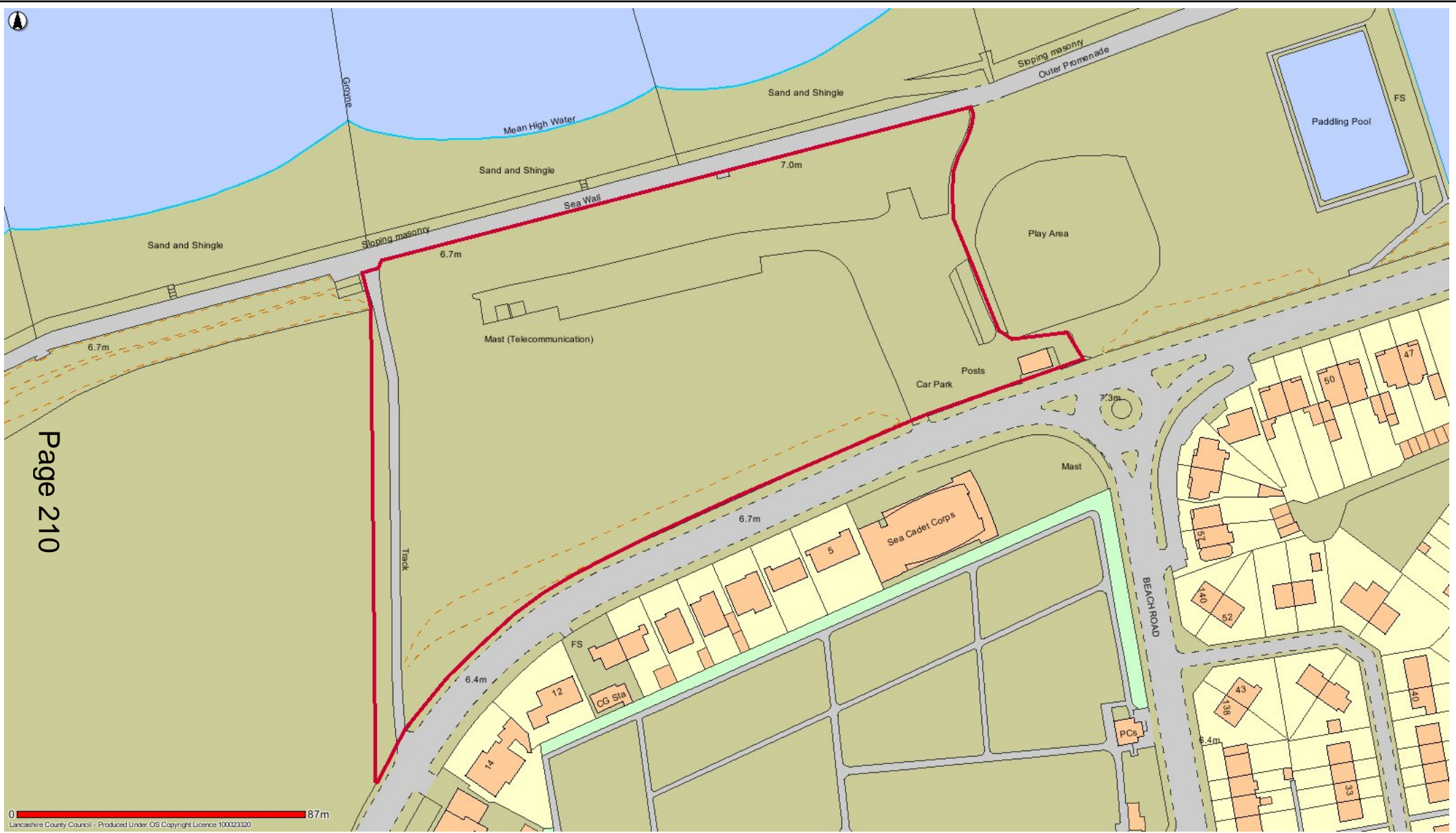
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FWD16 Marine Hall Gardens



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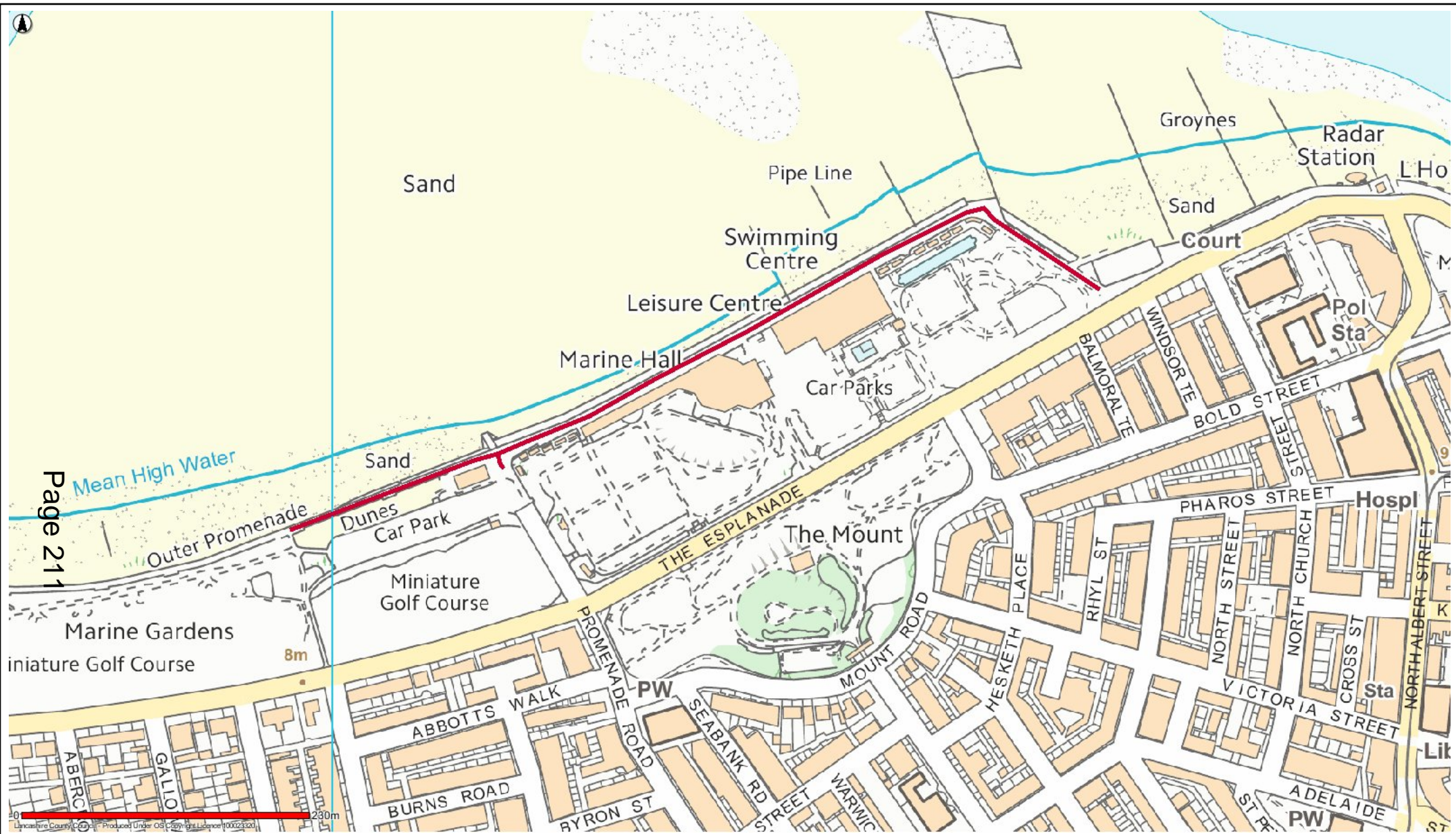


FWD17 Rossall Point Picnic Site



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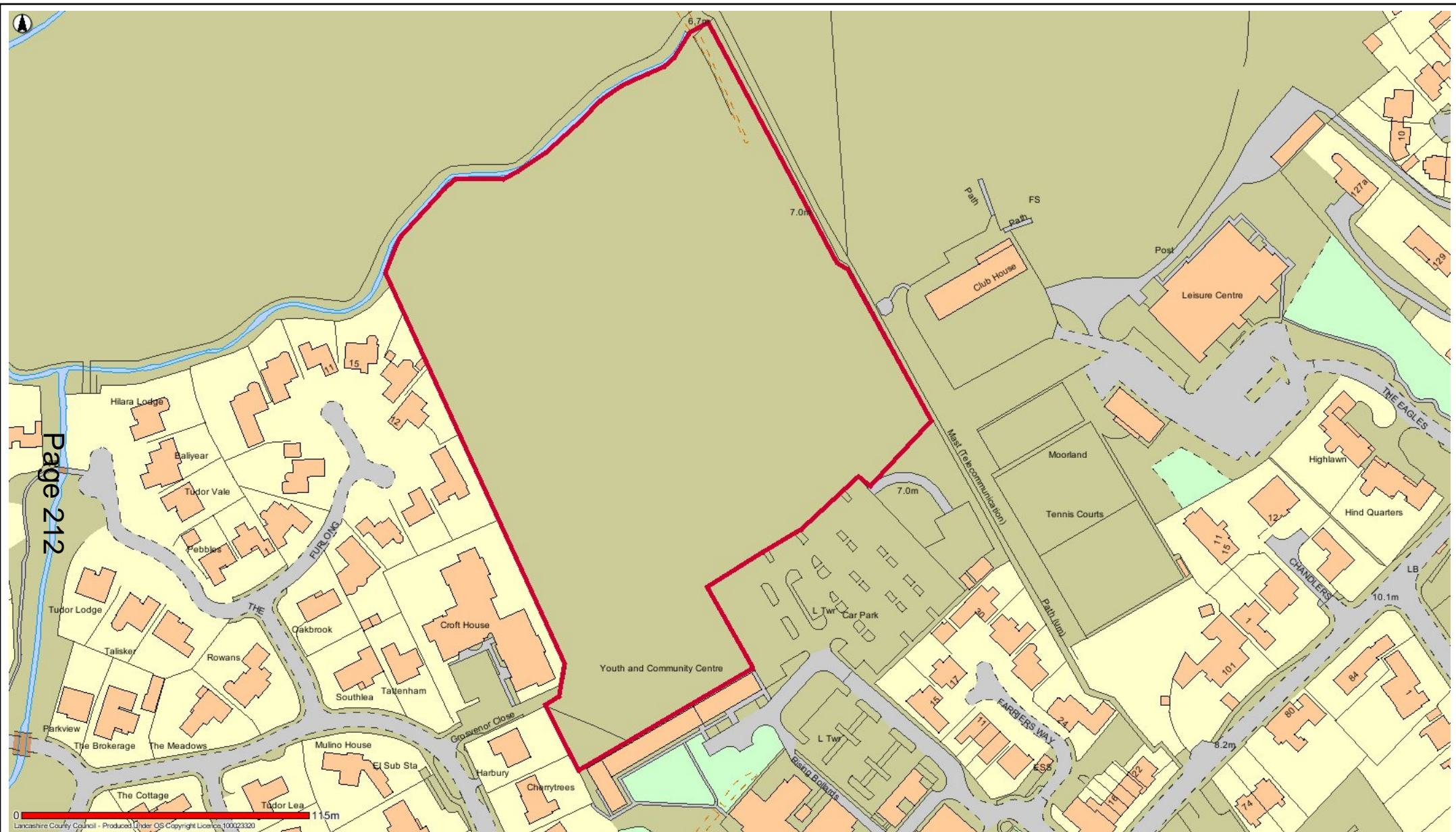


FWD18 Fleetwood Promenade from former pier site to opposite Carr Road



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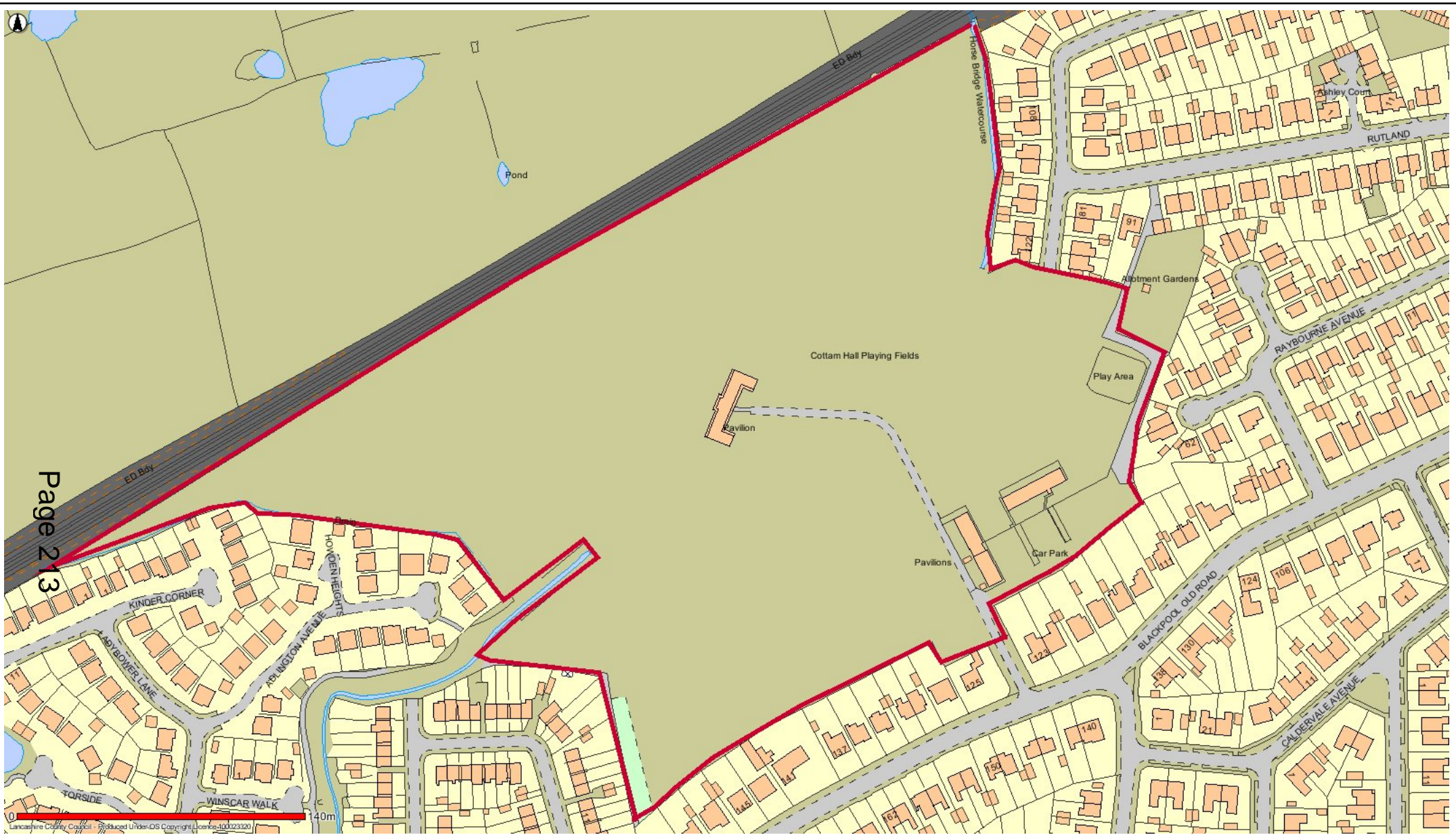


PLF2 Civic Centre Playing Field Poulton-le-Fylde



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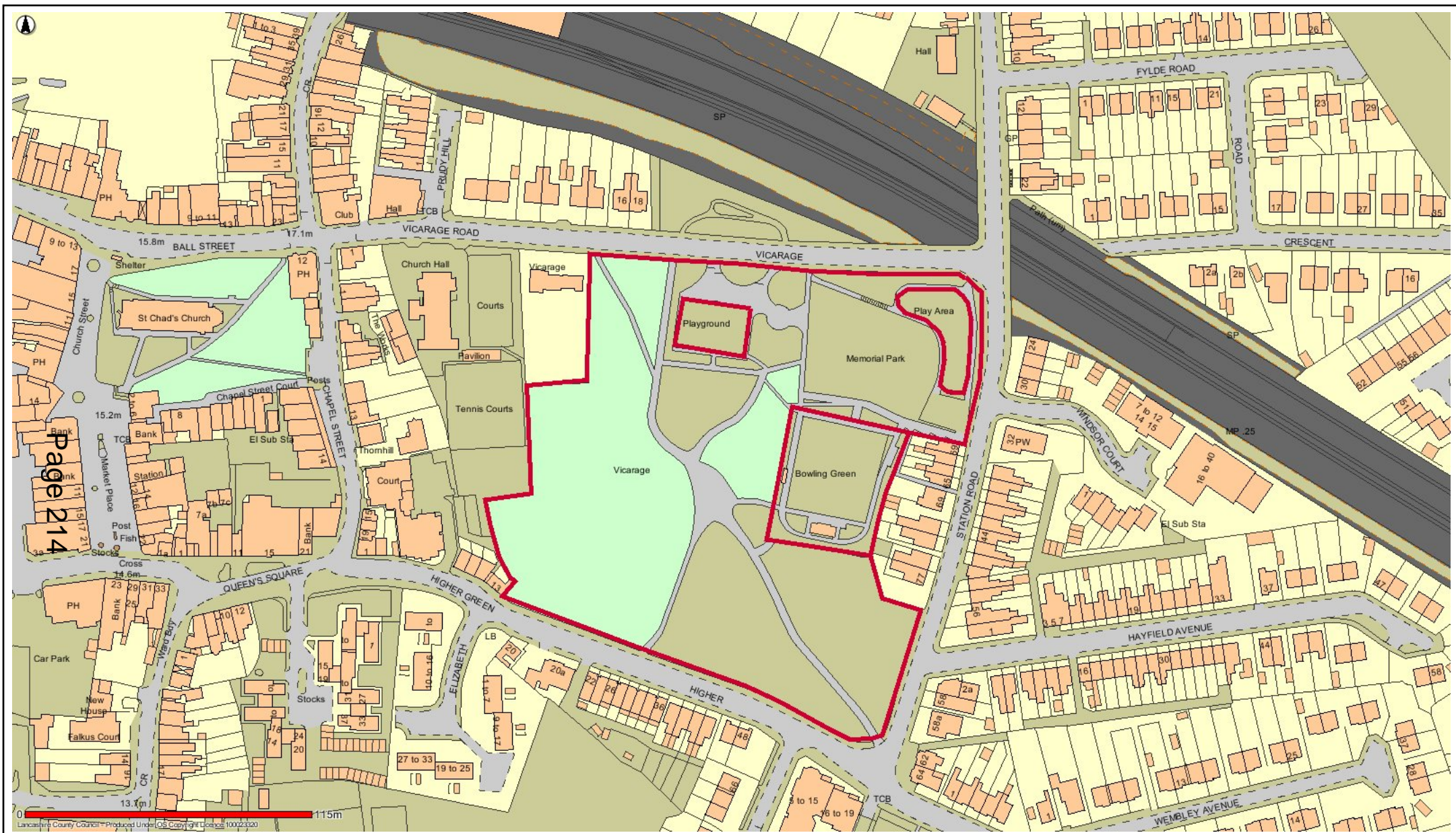


PLF4 Cottam Hall Playing Field Poulton-le-Fylde



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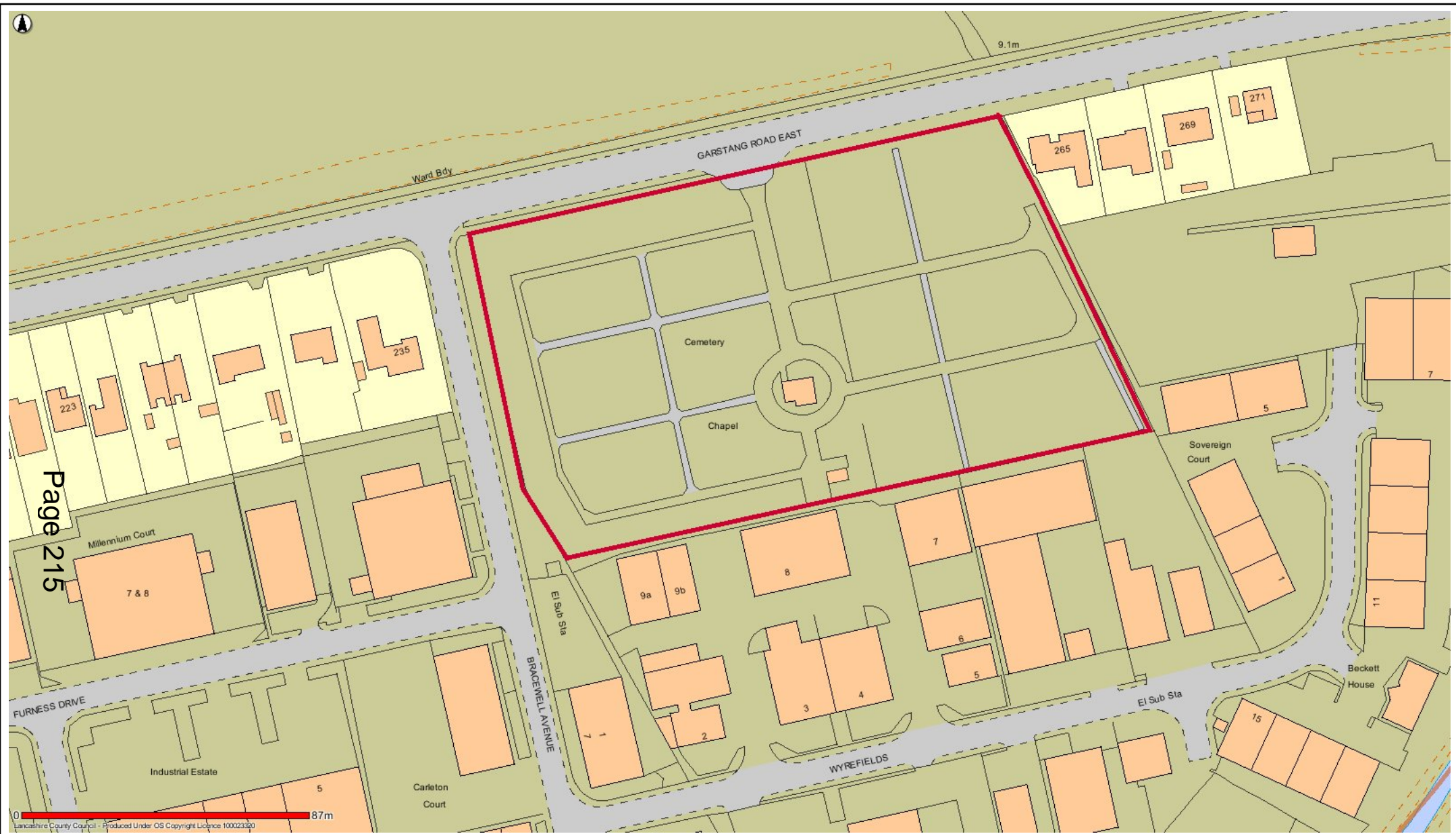


PLF6 Jean Stansfield and Vicarage Park Poulton-le-Fylde



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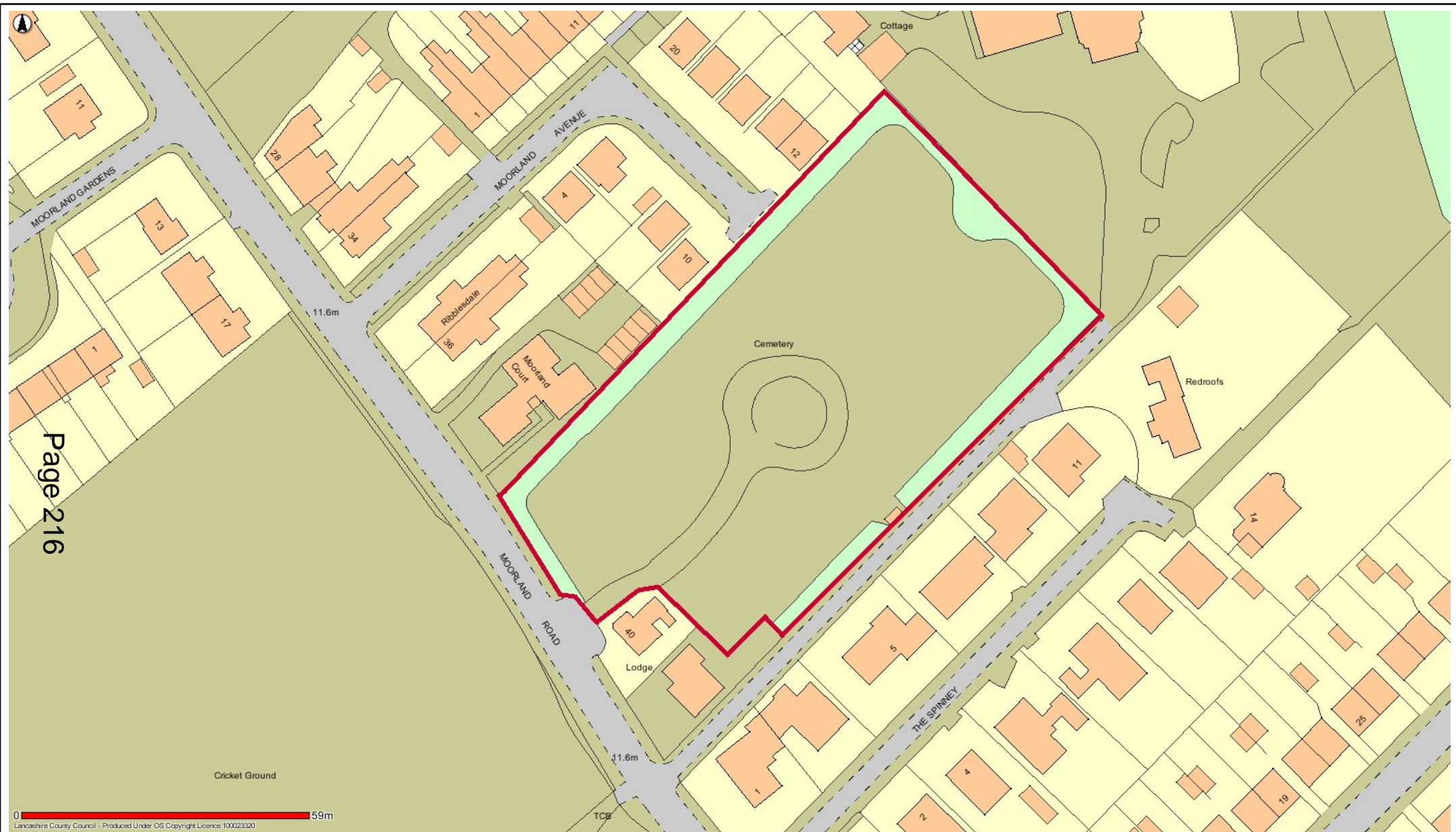


PLF11 Garstang Road Cemetery



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PLF12 Moorland Road Cemetery



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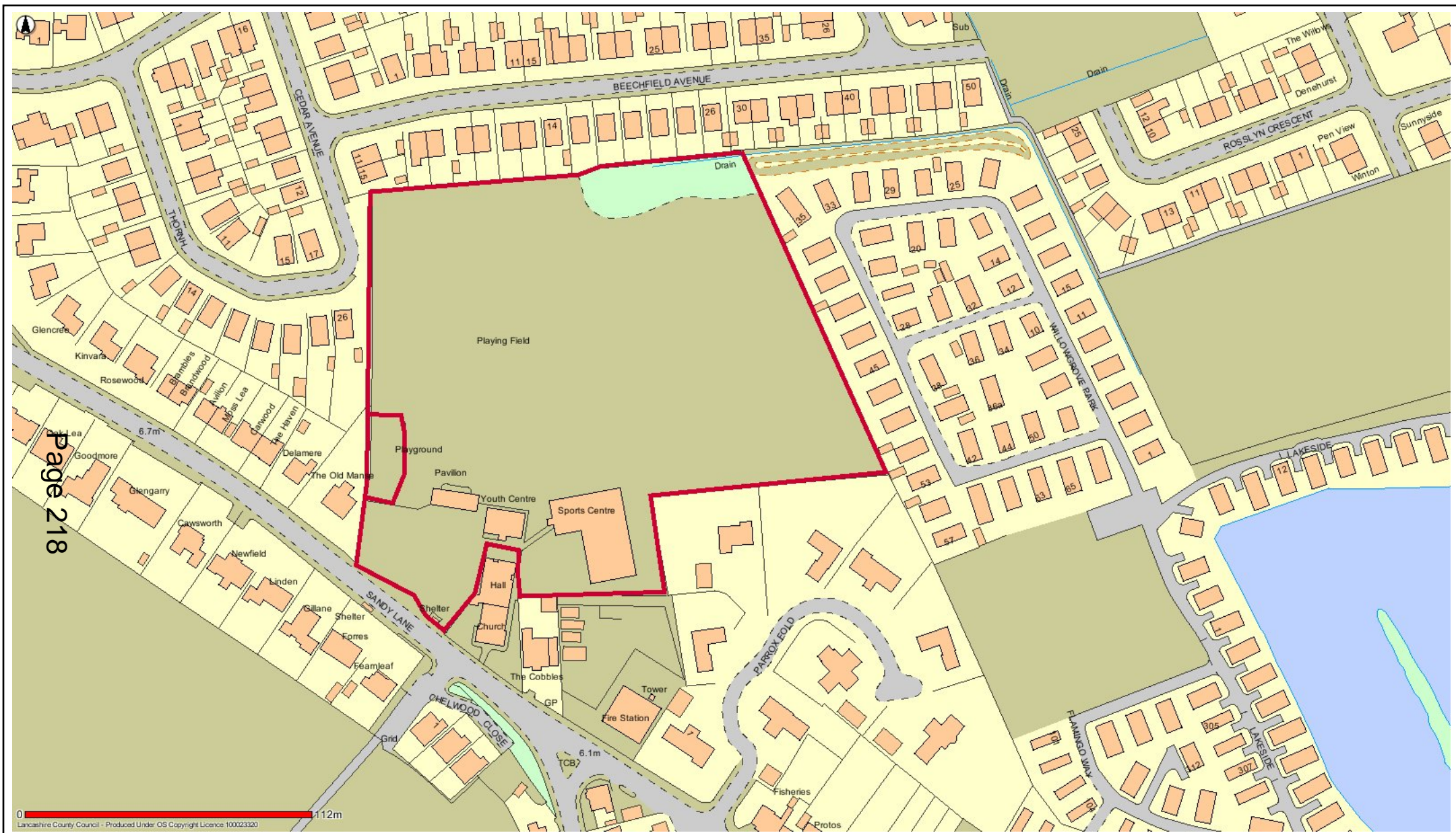


OW11 Preesall Cemetery



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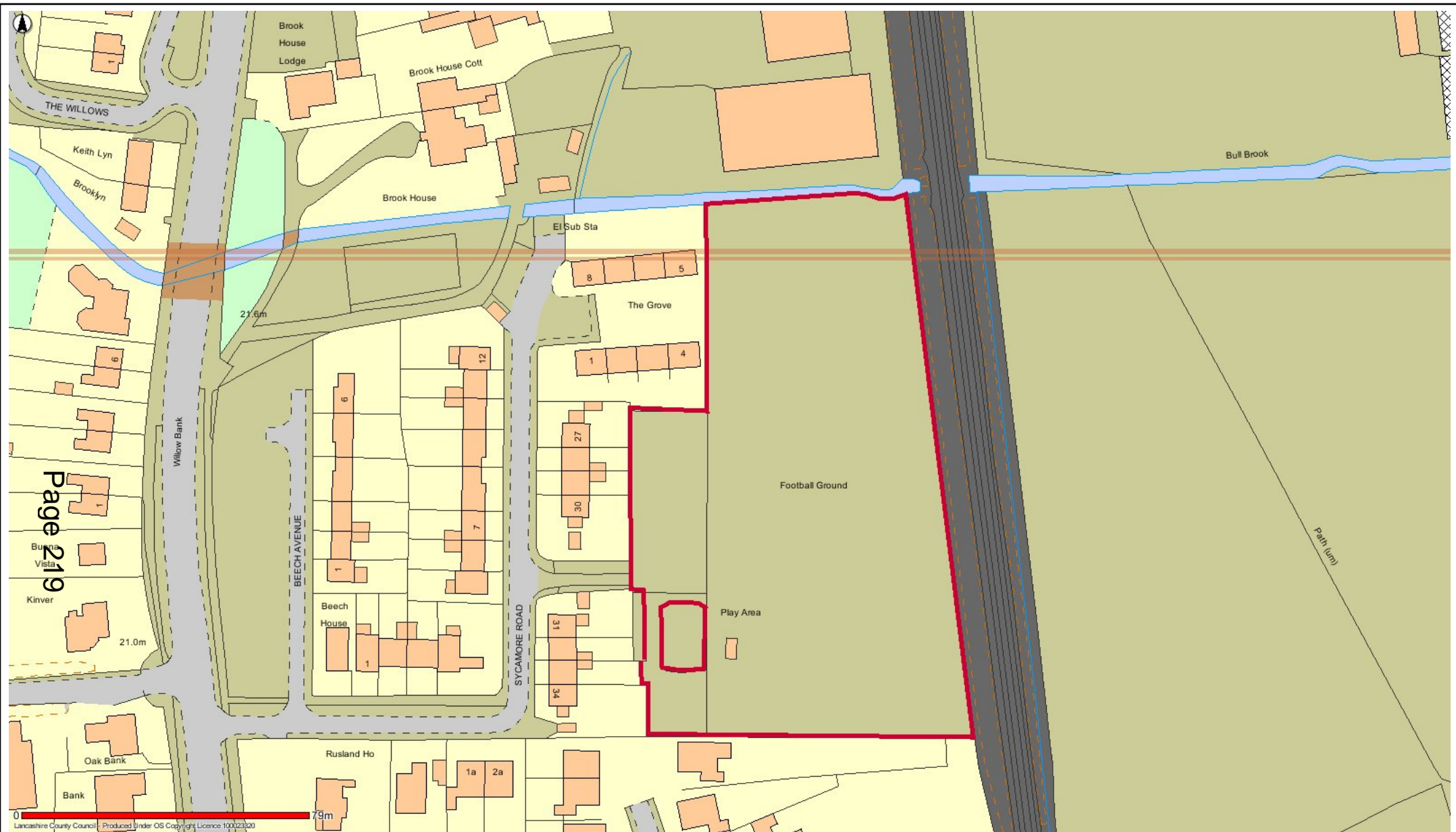


OW5 Presall Playing Field



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OW1 Bilborrow Recreation Ground



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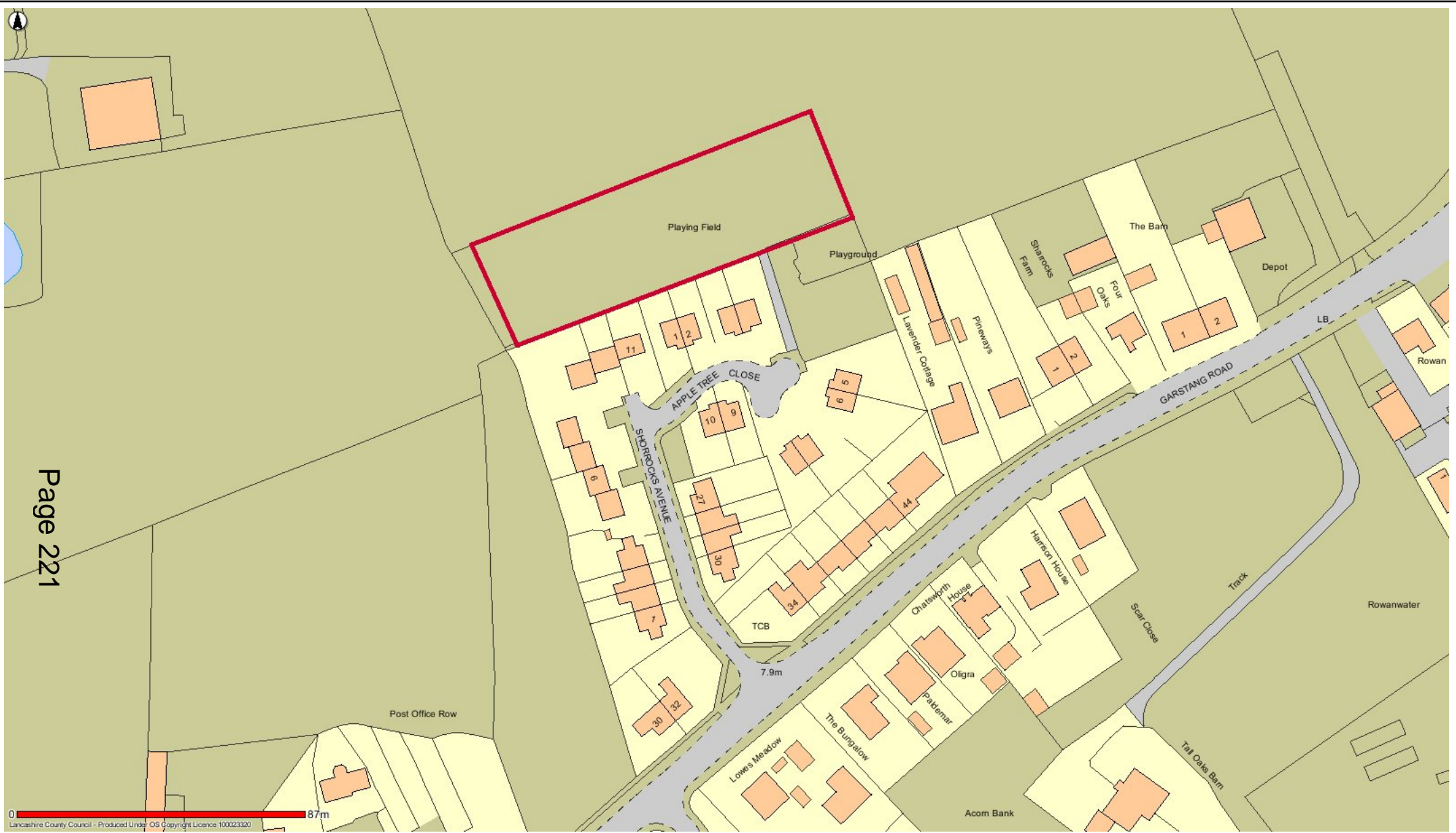
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OW4 Pennine View Playing Field Great Eccleston



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OW6 Shorrock's Avenue Playing Field St Michaels



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OW7 Stalmine Playing Field



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OW2B Bob Williamson Park/Playing Field Hambleton



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Dog control Public Space Protection Order Summary Report 2017

Introduction

From 10 July to 18 August 2017 Wyre Council undertook a consultation with residents and stakeholders regarding proposals to instate new public space protection orders (PSPO) for dog control across the borough.

The consultation was carried out to canvas local opinion on the plans to introduce Public Spaces Protection Orders based on:

- the level of support for the current dog control order measures and to gain feedback on specific aspects of these measures
- the level of support for the initiation of a new measure

The consultation also asked other questions around people's experience of dog mess, reporting it and how their opinions of other environmental issues compare. This will be reported in a follow up report in the coming months.

The portfolio holder for Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces' report from 14 June 2017 proposed that a consultation should be held with key stakeholders and the public before any decision is made.

Approach

The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire. This approach enables an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured questionnaire, helping to ensure that residents are aware of the background and context to each of the proposed areas by including maps. It is therefore the most suitable methodology for consulting on issues such as the adoption of Public Spaces Protection Orders. The consultation was also made available in print for anyone who requested one.

Promotion and communication

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

- E-alerts, sent to subscribers of the council's email marketing service. These featured hyperlinks to further information about the consultation and the questionnaire itself.
- Information was provided to the media to help them cover the consultation. This resulted in coverage via the Fleetwood Weekly News and the Blackpool Gazette.
- A link to the Public Spaces Protection Order consultation was included on the council website home page under 'have your say' page for the duration of the consultation.
- Emails were sent to a range of support organisations and stakeholders.
- The council's Facebook and Twitter accounts were used to signpost people to the consultation information and questionnaire.
- Through the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's office
- The Parish and Town Councils were invited to respond

Consultation respondents

In total **285** responded to the PSPO consultation, that is, 276 online via the council's consultation portal and 9 representations were received by email/post. The survey contained sections.

All the questionnaire submissions that had at least one question completed were included in the analysis. It was important to include all responses even if only part answered as this was still feedback on the proposal. However, this does mean that the demographic information outlined may not cover all respondents, as some may not have completed this section.

Figure 1

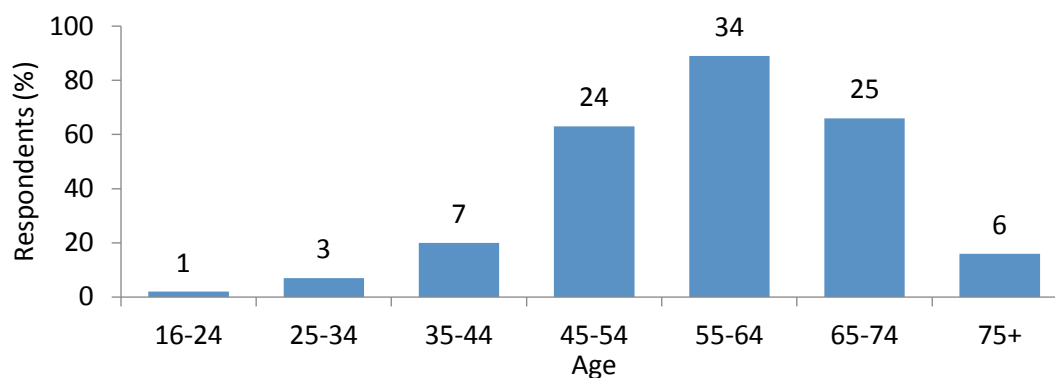


Figure 1 shows the age breakdown of the consultation respondents. The least represented groups were 16-24 and 25-34 year olds, with 1% and 3% respectively fitting into these age categories. The group represented the most was the 55-64 year olds, with 34% of the overall respondents belonging to these age categories. This is in line with normal expectations as the over 45s tend to participate in greater numbers.

There was a slightly higher representation of female respondents (58%) to male respondents (42%). With 13% of respondents said that they had a long term disability.

The majority of people responded as individuals (n=264/96%) with a 2% (n=4) response from parish/town councils and 1% response from 'other' which included Lancashire County Council and the Dogs Trust.

Table 1 shows the geographic distribution of respondents organised into the following postcode groups:

Table 1

Postcode area	Number of respondents
FY5	82
FY6	73
FY7	60
PR2/3/4	33

There were 22 responses without postcodes and the other representations were small in number or from a representative body e.g. Dog's Trust, The Kennel Club UK.

As can be seen in Table 2 the majority of respondents own or care for a dog.

Table 2

Dog ownership status	Percentage of respondents
<i>You currently own or care for a dog</i>	65.80%
<i>You operate a business, care for/walk other people's dogs. You might also own dogs.</i>	1.49%
<i>You have recently owned or cared for a dog (in the past year)</i>	2.60%
<i>You have previously owned or cared for a dog at some point</i>	21.93%
<i>You have never owned or cared for a dog</i>	8.18%

Consultation results

Respondents were asked for their views on the proposed PSPO's including whether they support the existing measures (currently known as dog control orders). Consultees were given the opportunity to

comment further on the proposals by sharing their ideas and experience of dog fouling in public places. In this aspect the results will help the council understand further what issues the public are facing and will be used as a consideration for future initiatives.

Summary of results

Question: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, that is if a person in charge of a dog...	Response %		
	Yes	No	Don't know
Fails to pick up poo and put it in a bin?	97	2	1
Allows a dog into a dog exclusion area?	81	16	3
Fails to have a dog on a lead in a designated area?	89	9	2
Fails to put a dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer?	95	4	1
-Do you think that this power should be applied across the whole borough?	93	6	1
Exercises more than four dogs at once within a designated area?	80	14	6
-Do you think this power should be applied to all publicly owned land?	95	5	0
Do you think the ban on bathing beaches should be applied all year round?	20	71	9
Do you agree with the inclusion of a new offence, that is, the failure of a person in charge of a dog/s to produce a suitable means of removing and transporting dog poo to a bin (whether or not the dog has defecated) when asked to do so by an authorised officer	81	17	2

Please note the above percentages have been rounded.

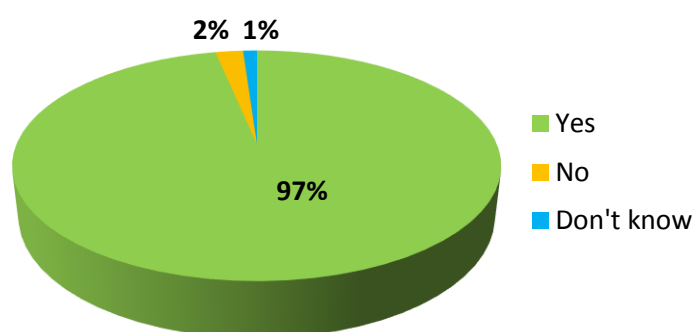
Respondents were asked...

Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog...

Fails to pick up poo and put it in a bin?

96.73% (266) supported the proposed public space protection order measure that it is an offence if a person in charge of a dog fails to pick up poo and put it in a bin. 169 of the 266 are current dog owners or carers, 4 operate a business or care for other people's dogs, 7 have recently owned or cared for a dog in the past year, 57 have previously had or cared for a dog at some point and 22 had never owned or cared for a dog. The remaining respondents did not declare their ownership status.

Of the 3% (9 respondents) who selected no or don't know, 9 people left comments which included:



- Fines are wrong. Educate! Or prosecute through the courts
- Don't think it goes far enough to stop the owners allowing their dogs to foul and not pick up!
- This needs to be qualified - makes best efforts to pick it up
- I presume the proposed offence will incur a fine. I am against fining people.
- There are areas where this is unnecessary and not required by law.
- I would like the Council to support my responsible efforts by providing plenty of litter bins

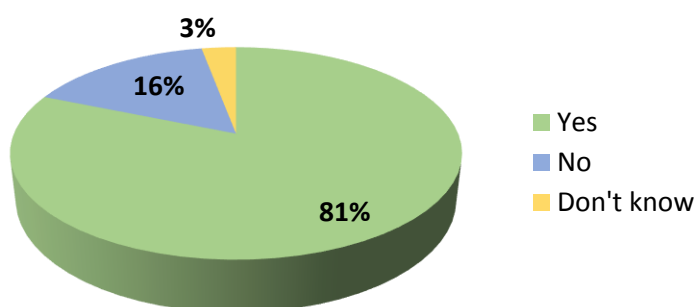
Respondents were asked...

Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog...

Allows a dog into a dog exclusion area e.g. play areas, bathing beaches, marked sports pitches?

81.25% (221) supported the council with the proposed public space protection order measure where it is an offence if a person in charge of a dog allows their dog into dog exclusion area. 132 of the 221 are current dog owners, 4 operate a business or care for other people's dogs, 5 have recently owned or cared for a dog in the past year, 54 have previously had or cared for a dog at some point and 20 had never owned or cared for a dog. The remaining respondents did not declare their ownership status.

Of the 19% (51 respondents) who selected no or don't know, 49 people commented, these comments included:

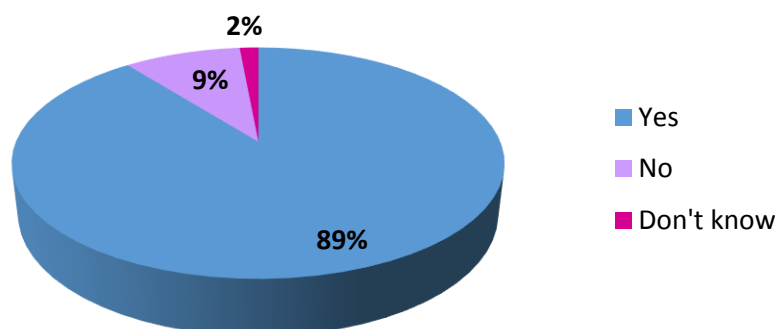


- Some zones acceptable, but too many exclusion zones. Not everyone can travel to non-exclusion areas
- There were 10 comments about dogs not being able to run on the beach for example: 'Beach exclusion is unnecessary if owners are required to pick up poo and put dog on lead on request', 'I do not think that dogs should be excluded from any beach. Fine irresponsible owners'.
- In summer by all means BUT winter they should be allowed on pitch and putts etc. as not being used.
- I agree with bowling green and play area exclusions but more effort should be made to educate owners
- Sometimes dogs stray and if the rule to pick up poo is enforced there is no problem`

Fails to have a dog on a lead in a designated area e.g. highway, cemetery?

89.38% (244) supported the council with the proposed public space protection order measure where it is an offence if a person in charge of a dog does not have the dog on a lead in a designated area. 150 of the 244 are current dog owners or carers, 4 operate a business or care for other people's dogs, 5 have recently owned or cared for a dog in the past year, 54 have previously had or cared for a dog at some point and 21 had never owned or cared for a dog. The remaining respondents did not declare their ownership status.

Of the 11% (29 respondents) who selected no or don't know, all left comments with the majority being that the council shouldn't need to enforce leads if the dog is under control:



- Dogs should be under appropriate control in all areas. Leads do not mean control
- A dog needs a run and as long as it is under control I do not see a problem.

- A lead is not always necessary. Discretion should be possible.

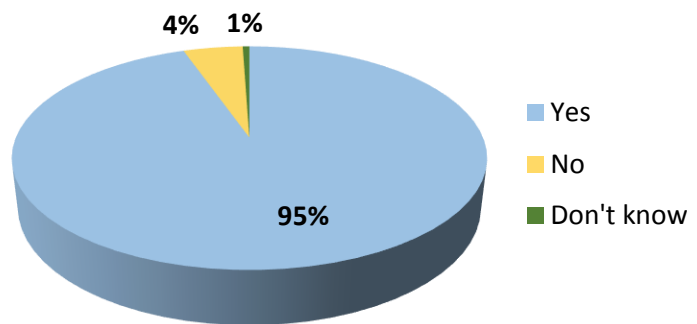
Respondents were asked...

Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog...

Fails to put a dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer e.g. if deemed a dog is causing danger or serious nuisance to others?

95% (256) supported the council with the proposed public space protection order measure where it is an offence if a person in charge of a dog does not have a dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer. 161 of the 256 are current dog owners or carers, 4 operate a business or care for other people’s dogs, 7 have recently owned or cared for a dog in the past year, 58 have previously had or cared for a dog at some point and 20 had never owned or cared for a dog. The remaining respondents did not declare their ownership status.

Of the 5% who selected no or don’t know all 13 gave comments which were mainly questioning the credentials of any officers making judgements about a nuisance incident and/or dangerous dogs.



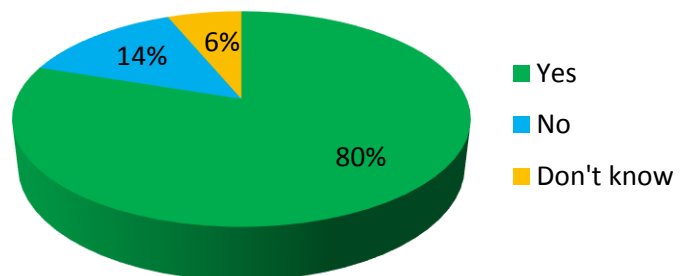
When asked if this power should be **applied across the whole borough** 93% (n=189) agreed that it should be. 104 of these respondents were dog owners/carers.

Of the 14 respondents (7%) that selected no or don’t know there were a number of comments suggesting the measure should be inclined to areas that are more densely populated or busy, for example town centres. There were a few comments to suggest that the term authorised officer was too vague and that it shouldn’t be that any council officer can exercise the measure.

Exercises more than four dogs at once within a designated area?

80% (218) supported the council with the proposed public space protection order measures where a person in charge of a dog should not exercise more than four dogs at once within a designated area. 116 of the 218 are current dog owners or carers, 4 operate a business or care for other people’s dogs, 5 have recently owned or cared for a dog in the past year, 44 have previously had or cared for a dog at some point and 16 had never owned or cared for a dog. The remaining respondents did not declare their ownership status.

Of the 20% who selected no or don’t know all 54 gave comments these were varied both from the perspective that it shouldn’t be fixed at a number, it should be whether they are in control of the dogs, and some commented that four is too many mentioning size of dogs as a consideration. For example:



- I feel that it depends on the size of the dogs, one cannot compare 5 Chihuahuas with 5 Dobermans
- DEFRA say six

- Number of dogs irrelevant - more important whether they're under control
- Most people who walk multiple dogs are a business. We should encourage business
- Dogs should be under control, not limited by number
- I would prefer to see paid permits issued for 4+ dogs to deter businesses out spilling 9 dogs +
- Exercising four dogs at once is still very demanding, perhaps this should be lowered.

When respondents were asked if they felt the measure limiting a person to **exercising no more than four dogs at once within a designated area should be applied to all publicly owned land**, 95% agreed it should. 102 of the 176 are current dog owners or carers, 1 operates a business or care for other people's dogs, 6 have recently owned or cared for a dog in the past year, 46 have previously had or cared for a dog at some point and 17 had never owned or cared for a dog. The remaining respondents did not declare their ownership status.

Of the 5% (10 respondents) that said no or don't know all ten replied with comments which were mainly around it being over restrictive for example:

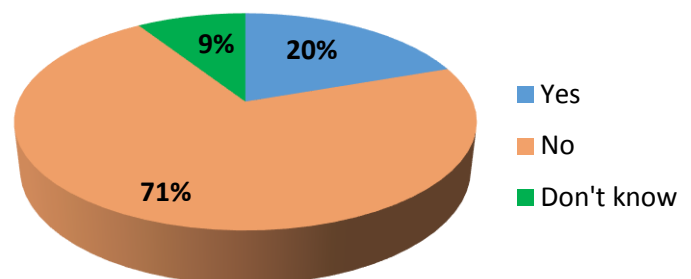
- Some people do have more than 4 dogs and need to walk them somewhere
- There are some areas suitable for dogs to walk with a lead
- If it's in the middle of nowhere what's the harm?

Respondents were asked...

Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog...

Do you think the ban on bathing beaches should be applied all year round? (At present it is between May and September)

The majority (71% / 203 respondents) said that they *did not* think the bans should be year round. 157 of the 203 are current dog owners or carers, 4 operates a business or care for other people's dogs, 5 have recently owned or cared for a dog in the past year, 23 have previously had or cared for a dog at some point and 7 had never owned or cared for a dog. The remaining respondents did not declare their ownership status.



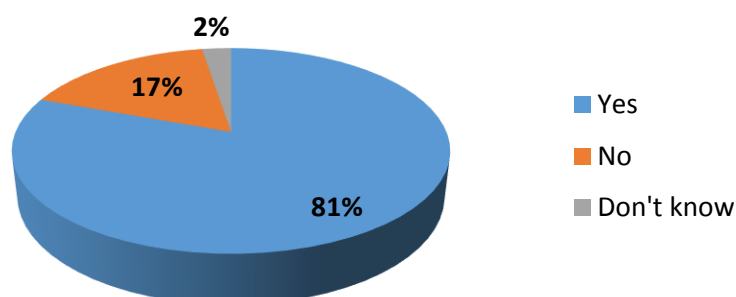
Of the 29% that answered yes or to the question 17% /49 people also gave further comments these included:

- Beaches are used throughout the year and should be free from dogs fouling and running off the lead
- There are too many people who do not poop scoop on the beach, we live here all year round and like to walk on the beach. It also dumps untreated faeces into the sea, it costs millions to treat human sewage why allow untreated animal waste to pollute the water.
- I fish from beaches in the area and frequently find or in some cases catch poo bags, obviously thrown unto the sea or from drains that feed into the sea.
- A blanket ban removes any chance of being confused by specific dates.
- We can get warm weather before May and after September and it would be healthier to keep this area free of dog foul all year round. Not everyone likes dogs, some people and children are frightened of them, so it would be good to have dog free beaches.

NEW OFFENCE PROPOSED

When asked if the respondent agrees with the inclusion of a new offence, that is: **The failure of a person in charge of a dog/s to produce a suitable means of removing and transporting dog poo to a bin (whether or not the dog has defecated) when asked to do so by an authorised officer,** it is clear from the breakdown of the results that a significant majority were in favour of the proposed order.

81% (220 respondents) replied to say that they agree with the proposed offence.



131 of the 220 are current dog owners or carers, 3 operate a business or care for other people's dogs, 5 have recently owned or cared for a dog in the past year, 55 have previously had or cared for a dog at some point and 21 had never owned or cared for a dog. The remaining respondents did not declare their ownership status.

OTHER COMMENTS

When asked if respondents had any other comments 51% of them (145) shared their views.

The commentary was analysed and applied to 13 broad themes as can be seen in Table 3. Some comments contained more than one aspect and therefore was counted in each relevant broad theme hence the total of comments in table 3 adding up to more than 145.

Table 3

Aspect theme	Number of comments
<i>Dog mess</i>	55
<i>Penalty and enforcement</i>	44
<i>Restrictive measures</i>	36
<i>Dogs on leads</i>	34
<i>Beach and promenade</i>	31
<i>Dog walking areas</i>	23
<i>Nuisance</i>	11
<i>Signs</i>	8
<i>Dog walkers</i>	7
<i>Education</i>	5
<i>Disability</i>	4
<i>Terminology and wording</i>	4
<i>Nature reserves</i>	3

With there being 145 comments a few comments from the top 6 themes above have been presented below to cover the general variety and range of opinions presented. The full set of comments are available in appendix 3.

Dog mess

- Perhaps more bins would be good & why not include "poo bags" dispensers on the bins like they do abroad.....
- I regularly use the public footpath (old railway line) between Park Lane Preesall and Knott End and find that many dog owners do not pick up their own dog's poo and feel that provision of litter/ poo bins on this route may encourage more responsibility! The only bin provided currently is at Hackensack road.
- The proposed new offence (To produce a suitable means of removing and transporting dog poo to a bin (whether or not the dog has defecated) when asked to do so by an authorised officer) is a violation of privacy and personal respect. Perhaps authorised officers should be concentrating on people throwing glass, cigarette butts, litter, cans and plastic. This is far more detrimental to health and the environment. Glass, cans and plastic can cause serious harm even death to wildlife and is extremely polluting.
- I live facing the estuary in Fleetwood and the amount of dog poo not picked up and disposed of is revolting. Any measures put in place to stop this is fully supported by me.
- Despite the amount of dog poo on the pavements I have yet to read of anybody being fined.
- Make more bins available and empty them regularly as some bins in the area are left overflowing. Put up "Poo bag stations" in popular areas so owners don't have an excuse not to clean up after them, maybe at entrances or convenient places to popular walking areas.
- Responsible owners will usually have dog waste bags or other means to clear up after their pets but we do have some concerns, for example if dog owners are approached at the end of a walk and have already used the bags that they have taken out for their own dog, or given a spare bag to someone who has run out, a behaviour that is encouraged by Green Dog Walker schemes. Furthermore it is perfectly plausible that these proposals in certain circumstances would perversely incentivise dog walkers not to pick up after their dog. Should a dog walker on witnessing their dog fouling realise they are down to their final poo bag (or other receptacle), they will be forced into a decision of whether to use the bag and risk being caught without means to pick up, or risk not picking up in order to retain a means to pick up should they be stopped later on their walk.
- Should also be an offence to leave dog mess in bags at public space e.g. Hedges walkways, grass etc.

Penalty and enforcement

- The more restrictions u bring in the less interested people will be in obeying them. You will reach a stage where it will become common knowledge that you cannot enforce these laws (no police powers) so not only will people ignore the new laws but the old laws as well.
- These measures will work if there are any enforcement officers around, but in the 10 years I have lived in this area, I have never seen even one.
- As I've indicated above, the real issue is the lack of enforcement, particularly in the sea front areas of Fleetwood and Cleveleys. Every day dogs can be seen running off the lead, fouling the beach and promenade and other public areas such as the Mount and mini golf areas. A much tougher regime is need to deter those not following the rules which are clearly set out.
- It is no use at all to impose all these measures if you do not have the authorised personnel to police them.
- Dog control orders do not prevent dog related incidents. Owners need to be dealt with in a manner that makes them take notice not simply ban dogs from areas etc. as it doesn't work. Why not police the rules regarding dogs you already have and are struggling to make work properly rather than adding in more and more which you will again fail to maintain and police properly making them pointless yet again
- The Cleveleys beach dog ban May to September is a complete farce, dogs are frequently walked on the beach by owners who ignore the ban. The patrol is infrequent and ineffective, and avoids the real issue which is stopping irresponsible dog owners from letting their dogs foul any area including

the beach, pavement and grassed areas! Regular patrols monitoring and fining of offending dog owners is required, most responsible dog owners would welcome an enforcement and not a feeble token measure as they are as disgusted as non-dog owners by such behaviour.

Restrictive Measures

- Although I agree with most of the proposals, responsible dog owners should not be disadvantaged by the actions of those who do not clean up after their dogs. Dogs still have to be exercised somewhere.
- Many people travel to Wyre to enjoy the beaches, explore the area and spend money in the towns. The Council should be doing more to encourage these visitors by making the area more accessible to those who also have dogs. Dedicated dog free areas should be available for families who do not wish to be pestered by other people's dogs, but why not make these areas where dogs must be on lead, rather than excluded.
- The more restrictions you bring in the less interested people will be in obeying them. You will reach a stage where it will become common knowledge that you cannot enforce these laws (no police powers) so not only will people ignore the new laws but the old laws as well.
- Why stop dog walkers going anywhere in winter when no one is using places.
- I understand the need for dog control in certain areas such as play areas on parks, although maybe a dogs on lead at all times policy would be more appropriate as some parents may own a dog and want to take their children into the play area. I understand there is no need to exercise dogs in these areas, but a total ban seems to penalise parents with dogs and doesn't really provide much difference in dog control in these areas.

Dogs on leads

- Garstang Town Council request that the area by the river in Garstang is changed to a dogs on leads at all times to protect young children playing and running around the picnic area by the river.
- I find Wyre Council's web site very lacking in easily obtained information about where in the borough it is that dogs can run freely and let off their leads? Fylde web site is much clearer on this issue? One of the few places I can let my dog off his lead is on the beach at Fleetwood opposite the lookout station in winter. However I always put my dog back on lead if I see other dogs on the beach in close proximity.
- Surprised at the off lead status for the nature park, Fleetwood. I disagree with this as owners let dogs swim in the ponds who chase the young birds/wildlife. As it is a 'Nature Park' perhaps lead walks would be more appropriate. Also the dog walking businesses often have too many dogs at once, especially around this area.
- The coastal cycle route is not totally covered and there is a gap between 5 bar gate and the Rossall picnic site. You seriously can't be prepared to allow dogs to run loose on a cycle path, can you? I cycle regularly along the coast and loose dogs present a serious health and safety problem for cyclists.
- I understand the need for dog control in certain areas such as play areas on parks, although maybe a dogs on lead at all times policy would be more appropriate as some parents may own a dog and want to take their children into the play area. I understand there is no need to exercise dogs in these areas, but a total ban seems to penalise parents with dogs and doesn't really provide much difference in dog control in these areas.

Beach and promenade

- Most owners of dogs are very conscious of all the above, you will find odd ones who do not conform to rules and regulations. If you ban dogs on beaches, you should ban the majority of humans who

leave litter and let children leave sweet wrapping and other items on the beaches. I as a dog owner always pick up any poo and you will find that 99% of dog owners follow suit.

- As for beach all year ban, we do not agree as local residents need somewhere to exercise pets when Gardens etc. are too wet in winter months. The beach is a great asset to responsible dog owners and they should 'pick up' even in winter on the beach.
- The real issue is the lack of enforcement, particularly in the sea front areas of Fleetwood and Cleveleys. Every day dogs can be seen running off the lead, fouling the beach and promenade and other public areas such as the Mount and mini golf areas. A much tougher regime is needed to deter those not following the rules which are clearly set out.
- As a responsible dog owner I agree with the new proposals and hope they will make a difference. However, I do request that dogs are able to be exercised on the beaches off the lead out of the summer season, as is currently the case. I refer to the Marine beach in Fleetwood where the beach Chalets etc. are not used during this time.
- Banning dogs from beaches during May-September is adequate enough. The rest of the year signage should be displayed asking dog owners to keep dogs on a leash whilst on a beach and to pick up any fouling the dog does.
- I agree that the dog exclusion zones on local beaches, May to September is sensible and acceptable. I was under the impression that there was a blanket ban on all beaches during this time. Perhaps it would be a good idea to define the area of the exclusion zone on the notices.
- In areas where there is a known and repetitive problem e.g. promenade between Rossall hospital and Cleveleys, CCTV cameras would surely be useful.

Dog Walking Areas

- You can provide as many bins as you like, but with dogs off leads fouling will occur. The only solution is to have fenced off areas specifically for dog walkers. Dogs on the Jean Stansfield memorial park in Poulton run around off the lead on the grassed areas with small children playing there too.
- If we are not to use areas where football pitches are marked, please can we have some designated dog fields for our dogs to run around freely? As long as the grass length and bins are maintained this could be easily patrolled.
- I can only exercise my five dogs properly at the nature reserve in Fleetwood. They are all well behaved and I always pick up after them. It's not fair to punish every dog walker because of a few who don't pick up excrement or control their dogs.
- Providing adequate areas for dog owners to safely exercise their dogs and providing enough poop bins, would be a good idea as a few other councils have already done. Actually the same could also apply to parks, allow for a designated area for dogs and their owners to sit and enjoy the surroundings without having to foul the park area where play equipment is. This would also help grandparents who like to take their grandchildren on an outing to the local park but cannot then, legally, take their dog as well. If there was a small fenced off area provided with a poop bin and a seat or two, then that would be more beneficial than proposing a complete ban, that doesn't appear to be a council that encourages dog lovers/owners to an area!
- Many sea side resorts like Brighton are bringing in trade by welcoming dogs. Not everyone, including holidaymakers, can get to the one or two places where it's still ok to let them run free
- Mrs J from Fleetwood is disgusted that the change came in letting dogs into the cemetery. She has had to clear up poo a few times from the grave area and has seen people walk through the cemetery letting dogs urinate on headstones. She thinks it should be a complete ban.

Responses where the respondents selected 'No' or 'Don't know' to the question: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog fails to pick up poo and put it in a bin?	
1	Fines are wrong. Educate! Or prosecute through the courts
2	Don't think it goes far enough to stop the owners allowing there dogs to foul and not pick up!
3	This needs to be qualified - makes best efforts to pick it up
4	'Stick and Flick' as proposed by Forestry Commission is better in many areas - ecologically sound
5	I presume the proposed offence will incur a fine. I am against fining people.
6	I do not agree dogs should be ban from any area at all.
7	There are areas where this is unnecessary and not required by law.
8	I would like the Council to support my responsible efforts by providing plenty of litter bins

	Responses where the respondents selected 'No' or 'Don't know' to the question: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog allows a dog into a dog exclusion area e.g. play areas, bathing beaches, marked sports pitches?
1	unsanitary
2	Some zones acceptable, but too many exclusion zones. Not everyone can travel to non-exclusion areas
3	Catterall Playing Fields / Kepple Lane in your banned areas - dogs need a chance to run off leads
4	Using fines rather than Education is another form of tax, it encourages abuse of powers by the wardens
5	I do not think that dogs should be excluded from any beach. Fine irresponsible owners
6	Banning responsible owners will have no impact on the irresponsible ones, you need to tackle the ppr
7	I think that if you are a responsible dog owner you should be allow to walk your dog on the beach
8	Agree dogs should be kept out of play areas bowling greens & sports pitches, disagree with beach
9	Need to continue to provide places to exercise dogs.
10	Dogs need exercise and to run freely - need to differentiate sites. "On lead" not ban PLEASE
11	Dogs should be allowed on beaches
12	Dogs should be allowed on beaches
13	Bathing beach exclusion should be 10:00 - 18:00hrs - Jun - Sept
14	Specifically object to beach ban, play areas could be dogs on lead at all times, parents may own dog

15	Dogs deserve a chance to run. Our rescue dog loves the feel of sand, after years of mistreatment
16	Too many exclusion areas
17	Sometimes these areas are not clearly marked
18	For health reasons dogs should not be allowed in certain areas but there must be areas for dogs
19	Agree play areas, but not beaches
20	Beach exclusion is unnecessary if owners are required to pick up poo and put dog on lead on request
21	Because I don't allow my dog to annoy people in parks or beach and always pick up after him
22	Because of over zealous officialdom
23	Wild animals can't be excluded, and they carry more risk of disease in their dung!
24	NO evidence, over-the-top restrictions, forcing locals to breach Animal Welfare Act!
25	It's unfair
26	In summer by all mean BUT winter they should be allowed on Pitch and putts etc as not being used.
27	Restricting members of the public from exercising their dogs in all council areas is misguided.
28	Dogs should not be banned from beaches nor picnic areas, they could be allowed if kept on a leash.
29	Dog owners should know he rules
30	Too wide ranging. With poop scoop in place, dogs should be allowed in all these areas.

31	Many holiday makes have dogs & Wyre council is turning them away by being too unwelcoming
32	Dog owners should not be denied the right to enjoy the beach or a picnic with their family members
33	I find many dogs frightening and many owners make little effort to control their dogs.
34	Only guide dogs with an extra seeing person to assist picking up fouling
35	Some of the beaches could be used. Sport pitches also.
36	Dogs can't read! Sometimes no matter how careful you are your dog can stray into a dog free area.
37	What about holiday makers. They will go wherever they want. I don't really agree with dogs not going
38	I like to take our dogs when I watch our kids playing on the fields or at the playground.
39	Exclusion area means just that.
40	Families come on holiday with their dog and want to enjoy these places just like I do.
41	I agree with bowling green and play area exclusions but more effort should be made to educate owners
42	Sports pitches are often close to off lead areas and demarcation not often clear
43	The exclusion area around the golf course is wrong. The golf course should build a proper fence.
44	A walk with their dog and a picnic may be all poorer families can afford to do. Discrimination.
45	Some of the areas proposed should not be included.
46	Sometimes dogs stray and if the rule to pick up poo is enforced there is no problem

Appendix 3B

47	Responsible dog owners are being punished for the minority of irresponsible owners.
48	If there's people on the ground to enforce this, why not just enforce picking up poos in 1st place?
49	Don't agree with dogs on lead behind Rossall Point Tower/golf course. Why is this necessary?

arm/ex/cab/cr/17/1810rh1 Appendix 3B

Responses where the respondents selected 'No' or 'Don't know' to the question: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog fails to have a dog on a lead in a designated area e.g. highway, cemetery?	
1	Dogs should be under appropriate control in all areas. Leads do not mean control
2	Too many designated areas. Bad dog owners will still leave poo on lead or not.
3	Too many fines in UK. They are just a money making scheme.
4	Question is loaded, high way yes, cemetery, sports grounds and beaches no.
5	Designated areas have not go far enough, Poulton Park and it's by three roads!
6	Too general. Dogs on lead near highways - yes, otherwise - no
7	A dog needs a run and as long as it is under control I do not see a problem.
8	Too many designated areas. Dogs need off lead exercise for welfare issue
9	Unspecified designated areas, e.g. what constitutes a "bathing beach"
10	I don't agree with all the designated areas described
11	Most owners train their dogs to be obedient, and have respect for the areas
12	If the dog is under close control there should be no need for a lead.
13	Dog owners know when their dog needs to be on a lead and don't need forcing!

Appendix 3C

14	It's unfair
15	Keeping them on a lead will not permit proper exercise in some areas
16	A lead is not always necessary. Discretion should be possible.
17	As long as the dog is safe and not a danger why should they be on a lead.
18	Having a dog off a lead is not in itself anti-social.
19	This does not take account of dogs age / behaviour
20	No vehicles usually in cemeteries.
21	What you really mean is any grassed area controlled by the council.
22	Dogs can be under control even if not on a lead
23	Dog totally under control is not a problem, e.g. very elderly or well trained.
25	Owners usually know if this is necessary or not.
26	Some areas so designated e.g. FWD15 only need to be on lead when requested.

4 respondents said that their comments were reflected in the previous comments field and so have not been duplicated here.

Responses where the respondents selected 'No' or 'Don't know' to the question: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog fails to put a dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer e.g. if deemed a dog is causing danger or serious nuisance to others?	
1	We will end up with an army of over zealous private wardens.
2	Will the person be adequately qualified to make this judgements
3	Doesn't work, as never seen authorised officer out and about to know until too late!!!
4	Dog attacks on Farnham Way and Donnington Ave parks. Children's play area. Dangerous
5	My dogs obey command
6	Who has trained your "experts" to recognise a nuisance or dangerous dog?
7	Potential for serious abuse of power.
8	Its unfair
9	'Authorised officers can be discriminatory, 'causing a danger' is too obscure a term.
10	Depends how its enforced
11	Who decides if the dog is causing 'danger or nuisance'? The dog hating 'authorized officer'?
12	You provide insufficient space for explanation.

Responses where the respondents were asked if the following should be applied borough wide: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog fails to put a dog on a lead when requested to do so by an authorised officer e.g. if deemed a dog is causing danger or serious nuisance to others?	
1	Dogs need off lead exercise & concerns councils will overuse powers to get rid of dog walkers.
2	There should be some discretion in areas such as the beach if not busy
3	There are areas, such as parts of the shore line that are quiet enough to accommodate dogs.
4	open to abuse by council
5	Depends on the area.
6	Dogs need excessive to run without being on leads
7	Blunt instrument
8	People who dislike dogs will have a field day. DOG wardens only
9	OK in town centres.
10	Jobs worth dog haters. I don't think so
11	Inappropriate in many areas of open country - should be restricted to more densely populated areas.
12	If you mean council employees e.g. bin men NO
13	This should be the default setting rather than banning dogs from areas its more sensible
14	Don't trust them to not use this to make all dogs be kept on lead

Responses where the respondents selected 'No' or 'Don't know' to the question: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog exercises more than four dogs at once within a designated area?	
1	If owner has control of dogs don't see a problem
2	Depends if they are responsible or not.
3	Most people who walk multiple dogs are a business. We should encourage business not demoralize them
4	Why 4 dogs? A responsible owner will be in control regardless of numbers.
5	No. of dogs has no bearing on the handlers ability to control them. It's down to a good level understanding
6	Too many dogs for one handler
7	This should be reduced to two. Dog attacks from just one dog off lead in parks
8	I think four is too many - how can you keep an eye on 4?
9	Again, I think this is subjective to owners and their level of handling/dog behaviours.
10	Dog walkers and trained handlers should be allowed to make their own judgement with number of dogs
11	Some walkers have incredible control of their dogs. This will not stop irresponsible fouling.
12	Dogs should be under control, not limited by number
13	Discriminates against families and dog walkers with more than 4 dogs

Responses where the respondents selected 'No' or 'Don't know' to the question: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog exercises more than four dogs at once within a designated area?	
14	Some people exercise well behaved and well controlled dogs
15	Why is 4 dogs a problem if all well-behaved?
16	Four small dogs is fine. Watch Trumpton!
17	Exercising four dogs at once is still very demanding, perhaps this should be lowered.
18	This would not allow dogs to socialise and would lead to a greater aggression issues if they met
19	Again, I think this is subjective to owners and their level of handling/dog behaviours.
20	Should be less than four, two possibly three at most
21	4 dogs? could be Chihuahas or Akitas
22	Needs sufficient safeguards to allow both formal and informal dog walking businesses or favours for
23	Number of dogs irrelevant - more important whether they're under control
24	Off lead / on lead rules should be different. please allow somewhere where more than 4 can be exercise
25	I walk five well behaved dogs that need proper exercise. I can only do this on FW nature reserve
26	More than four dogs creates a pack mentality in the dogs and could be dangerous

Responses where the respondents selected 'No' or 'Don't know' to the question: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog exercises more than four dogs at once within a designated area?	
27	It's unfair
28	There are some dog walking businesses, offer an alternative such as a walking field/area.
29	It depends on the experience of the person exercising the dogs, and the size of the dogs.
30	Control of dogs has nothing to do with numbers but to do with training given.
31	Some professional dog walkers can manage more than 4 dogs
32	Discriminates against dog walkers doing their job.
33	No owner should have more than 2 dogs in any area.
34	If dogs are well behaved there shouldn't be problems
35	Too many variants for a blanket ban, ridiculous.
36	Depends on size, breed, temperament of dogs & capability of walker.
37	I feel that it depends on the size of the dogs as one cannot compare 5 Chihuahuas with 5 dobermans
38	Dependent on dogs. Off lead high energy yes. On lead plodding dogs could be more.
39	It depends on the level of training and also the size of the individual dogs

Responses where the respondents selected 'No' or 'Don't know' to the question: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog exercises more than four dogs at once within a designated area?	
40	Number of dogs unlimited provided no more than say 4 off the lead at any one time
41	Depends on the size and breeds of dog
42	Provided the dogs are under control it shouldn't matter. 1 badly behaved dog can be a problem too
43	If dogs are well trained they should stay close so you can see what they are doing.
44	People wouldn't take more dogs than they can control, the animals could be injured
45	Behaviour/training/handling is the issue not numbers
46	Commercial
47	DEFRA say six. You do not know better than Defra
48	I would prefer to see paid permits issued for 4+ dogs to deter businesses out spilling 9 dogs + onto
49	What about homes who own more than 4 dogs- do u expect them to do lots of multiple walks?
50	The Kennel Club feel that an arbitrary maximum number of dogs a person can walk is an inappropriate.
51	Dogs come in many sizes and with differing temperaments
52	Good owners/dog walkers with many controlled dogs cause less trouble than bad owners with one dog.
53	Will the same apply to families with more than 4 children?

Responses where the respondents were asked if the following should be applied borough wide: Do you think the council should continue with measures as suggested in the proposed public space protection orders, where a person in charge of a dog exercises more than four dogs at once within a designated area?	
1	open to abuse by council
2	To many restrictions
3	There are some areas suitable for dogs to walk with a lead
4	Because in some areas they don't need to be on a lead
5	Come on give them somewhere for god sake.
6	If it's in the middle of nowhere what's the harm?
7	It seems we have an anti-dog brigade in my area.
8	No way council staff think they are in charge as it is. Mini hitlers.
9	Disproportionate
10	Some people do have more than 4 dogs and need to walk them somewhere

Responses where the respondents selected 'Yes' to the question: Do you think the ban on the bathing beaches should be applied all year round? (At present the ban is in operation between May and September).	
1	we have enough space for dogs to exercise without confusing owners
2	So there is no misunderstanding of the rules. I see people on Fleetwood's designated beaches every day throughout the summer, so the rules must be too complicated for them
3	There are lots of beach users that use the beach all year round so cleanliness and control of dogs should apply throughout. The proposed designated spaces fail to cover the whole of the coastal cycle route. There is a gap between 5 bar gate and the car park near the sea cadet base. Are you seriously proposing to allow dogs to run free in front of passing cyclists? A recipe for disaster is so. Another problem faced by cyclists is the use of long leads which act as a trip wire across cycle paths. I know of an old guy who was dragged off his bike by one.
4	the coast can be busy even in winter, for others, not just dog walkers
5	Dog numbers appear to be on the increase. Dogs tend to behave as their owners have trained (or not) trained them! Many dog owners are responsible...caring for their dogs...the environment...and other people. Unfortunately this is NOT true of all! And it is the exception which causes harm...to the environment and to other people. It only takes ONE off lead dog, together with an inconsiderate owner, to harm others and the environment. I, as a pedestrian, have been frightened and harassed by dogs in my local (beautiful) public open space (The Towers Cleveleys). I have been insulted and demeaned by owners who see it as THEIR RIGHT to have their dogs running freely off-lead, no matter what the consequences for others. I have SEEN dogs frightening and attacking other dogs. And I have stood by helpless, whilst parents of young children have to hang on and hide their children protectively...to shield their youngsters from unruly off lead dogs. This beautiful area is now characteristically used by people who drive their dogs in cars up Holmfield Avenue, open the gate (to the Towers) and immediately let their dogs go running off lead. (And the numbers doing this seem to me to be on the increase). It is the SIMPLEST of things for owners to be asked to put their dogs on expanding (longish) leads, so they can be hauled in when approaching others. The dog poo issue is another!...Dog poo was quite visible at the West Drive entrance gate some weeks ago....yet a container for dog poo was located just inches away from the foul. Personally I no longer feel able to walk through this lovely precious open space glade due to the proliferation of dogs. This is a REAL issue...more about the owners...than the dogs. My view is that dogs should be REQUIRED to be on a lead....both in the Towers...and also by the beach...where I frequently go...and encounter dog poo....and dogs running willy nilly. PLEASE Council...DO something to act on behalf of citizens who simply wish to walk unmolested, and without putting feet in foul in our open spaces. Without enforcement, nothing will happen and things will get worse. I pay my rates and hope my small contribution (via rates) will help preserve the peace and loveliness of our precious woodlands and beach. Dogs DONT pay rates!!!...I DO!!
6	Hygiene reasons

Responses where the respondents selected 'Yes' to the question: Do you think the ban on the bathing beaches should be applied all year round? (At present the ban is in operation between May and September).	
7	Reduced polutpollution.
8	Having a young son I worry about the safety of children when faced with dog's that are running off leads, I have witnessed incidents where aggression has been shown towards
9	Dogs or their owners can be a problem at any time. More needs to be done to protect wildlife on the bay as a whole.
10	To further keep the beaches clean
11	The possible hazard to human health, especially children and babies
12	Why should the general public have to watch where they walk on beaches. Children still go to the beaches in winter and there is nothing worse than getting in your car with dog dirt on your shoes! Owners cannot and do not watch their dogs whilst off leads. They stop to chat and the dog soils, I have even seen dogs on leads fouling while the owners stand chatting!
13	People don't adhere to it now so if it is all year round it will be easier.
14	As people use the beach in between October and April too. There are too many uncontrolled dogs on the beach at this time and can be unpredictable. On the beach dogs are able to run quite a distance from their owner/walker and it makes it difficult for the owner to control and also see if they have mucked anywhere. Therefore unable to clean up after their dog.
15	Becomes a simple exclusion requirement with no ambiguity over the times when dogs are, or are not allowed on the beach. Dog owners will become accustomed and a mind-set will take place over time as to where dogs are not allowed. However, no change is of any true improvement as no enforcement takes place currently and regulations are totally disregarded. Cleveleys beach is one of many examples.
16	Health & Safety interests
17	People use beaches all year round

Responses where the respondents selected 'Yes' to the question: Do you think the ban on the bathing beaches should be applied all year round? (At present the ban is in operation between May and September).	
18	The dogs roam freely and out of control annoying people and families. Owners shout constantly after the dogs which usually ignore them making a constant nuisance for house owners on the promenade. These people think they are not a problem because they wander off, not seeing themselves as a nuisance. However you can have several dozen in a day and the noise of the shouting and the barking is borne into our properties by the prevailing wind. Try having a balcony door open and it is a constant irritant, coupled with the loose dogs that fight and chase each other with owners unable to retrieve them.
19	Because people never have dogs on leads and Wyre Council take no action
20	It would be nice to be able to enjoy our beaches unhindered ALL year, just as dog owners currently do.
21	Some people still like to walk on the beach in winter and some dog owners have no control on their dogs or for the concern of none dog owners
22	The dogs are allowed on parts of the beach and keeping some areas dog free allows everybody to have equal access by some areas being dog free. Local people do enjoy visiting the beach out of season.
23	People use beaches all year round.
24	Because the current rules are being ignored through a lack of enforcement.
25	The tide doesn't stop coming in over winter! So there is still a risk of faeces being washed into the sea.
26	Because dogs should be on a lead at all times. You cannot walk along the lower prom because dogs are run off lead breaking all the rules. Which I should point out that Wyre Council do nothing about.
27	Beaches are used throughout the year and should be free from dogs fouling and running off the lead
28	We have lots of lovely days throughout the autumn to spring when the beach is used by families

Responses where the respondents selected 'Yes' to the question: Do you think the ban on the bathing beaches should be applied all year round? (At present the ban is in operation between May and September).	
29	Dog fouling
30	We can get warm weather before May and after September and it would be healthier to keep this area free of dog foul all year round. Not everyone likes dogs, some people and children are frightened of them, so it would be good to have dog free beaches.
31	There are too many people who do not poop scoop on the beach, we live here all year round and like to walk on the beach. It also dumps untreated faeces into the sea ,it costs millions to treat human sewage why allow untreated animal waste to pollute the water
32	I don't know why dogs are allowed on any public beaches at any time.
33	Because we local people go running on the beach even during the winter. We only run during good winter weather and the dog walkers walk at the same time....so doggie poo etc. would always be about. Dog owners also feel that the can forgo using leads on beach and they chase us when we are running.
34	Some people seem unable to accept the times stated so this will become acceptable across the board
35	People use the beaches all year round for a variety of uses. Bathing is a rare occurrence so bathing season is not really an accurate categorization for beaches on the UK.
36	I fish from beaches in the area and frequently find or in some cases catch poo bags, obviously thrown unto the sea or from drains that feed into the sea.
37	Myself and visitors walk on the beach all year round and there is nothing worse than being accosted by a wet boisterous dog.
38	I often walk these areas out of these periods. My partner is terrified of dogs generally due to being bitten. We would like to enjoy the large open areas of the beach unhindered by dogs dashing over to us. The very presence of dogs near him terrifies him. Why should he be subjected to free running dogs approaching him, even non-aggressively, when it is not his choice. Nobody should be subjected to an animal tame or otherwise approaching them without their consent. If they are to roam free from on the beach October to April, this will definitely continue to be the case as it is now.

	Responses where the respondents selected 'Yes' to the question: Do you think the ban on the bathing beaches should be applied all year round? (At present the ban is in operation between May and September).
39	People from outside the area think it's ok to walk their dogs off their lead it's very difficult for locals with bikes to cycle safely in the cycle areas. All times of the year we cycle so the restrictions should be in place all the time. Hi
40	Dogs poo all year round, not just between May and September. If this is not cleaned up by the owner it presents a real danger to children using the beach all year round.
41	They will not pick it up if no one is watching.
42	A blanket ban removes any chance of being confused by specific dates.
43	People still try to walk the beaches in the winter months only to be harassed by loose dogs out of control
44	Health
45	Locals like to walk on clean beaches as well. Also pollution of the sea.
46	Because the amount of dog poo going into the sea is disgusting. If there is a year round ban people cannot make excuses.
47	Dog faces often carries worms and disease.
48	Environmental hazard and dog fouling is still unpleasant for walkers and others wanting to enjoy the beach outside May to Sept
49	A partial ban does not make any sense.

Responses to the final question on the first page: If you have any other comments please leave them below.	
1	Consideration for cyclists - No mention whatsoever The coastal cycle route is not totally covered and there is a gap between 5 bar gate and the Rossall picnic site. You seriously can't be prepared to allow dogs to run loose of a cycle path, can you? I cycle regularly along the coast and loose dogs present a serious health and safety problem for cyclists. They behave erratically and run across the path of cyclists. I have also been bitten on the ankle when two loose dogs attacked me while the owner stood and watched. One ran into my front wheel and the other bit me on the ankle. Children cycle along the coastal path and they are more at risk as they are not as risk aware as adults. The second serious risk on the cycle path is the use of long leads which act as trip wires for passing cyclists. A dog can run out at right angles and totally block the route and is bigger problem when the dog owner has his/her back to the cyclist. Currently there are "Dogs on a Lead" signs right the way along the coastal cycle route so your new designated area proposals contradict the current state of play.
2	As a responsible dog owner should always have an excess of "poo bags"
3	I totally disagree with dogs not being allowed on beaches during the summer. Dogs need exercise too!!! Think if the ban is kept then it should be lifted from 6pm to enable. Responsible dog owners to use it.
4	Our beach and our lovely local open spaces are what makes it a good place to live....and what attracts visitors to our area and increase trade. Preservation of the cleanliness of the borough (via REALISTIC penalties and PROHIBITION) with regard to dog poo....and enforcement of the requirement for dogs to be on-lead....FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OTHERS...is (in my view) essential, as this "problem" increases.
5	Serious concerns over the exclusions for disabled, dog poo is dog poo whoever owns or exercises the dog, there should be no exceptions and that includes blind dogs, if they are allowed to get away with it the problem will never go away. I've seen so called disabled using mobility scooters to exercise their dogs who are capable of independent mobility using the scooter as an excuse not to pick up poo. There can be no excuse if you can't clear up then you should not have the dog.
6	My husband and I no longer visit Stanah Country Park or Fleetwood Marsh Nature Reserve because of the nuisance caused by dogs not under control. In fact, to maintain somewhere as a nature reserve dogs cannot be allowed at all because of the disturbance, seen and unseen, that they cause. There are other people who feel this way but our voice is never heard.
7	Criminalising a person for not carrying a poo bag is not the answer to fouling as there are many people who run out of bags and ask other people for handouts. greendogwalkers.org offers alternative solutions in communities whereby education is the main priority. All councils should aim at education first and community help - NOT more and more punitive measures. We should NOT trying to segregate sections of the community, we should be educating our citizens to have impeccably behaved dogs so we can integrate properly, taking a leaf out of Guide Dogs books. Help dog trainers and behaviourists reach out to the community.

	Responses to the final question on the first page: If you have any other comments please leave them below.
8	Punish those who have out of control or dangerous dogs or people who do not pick up after their dogs, rather than people who abide by the laws and just want to enjoy their dog's companionship
9	Many people to travel to Wyre to enjoy the beaches, explore the area and spend money in the towns. The Council should be doing more to encourage these visitors by making the area more accessible to those who also have dogs. Fylde Council are actively encouraging businesses to become more dog-friendly in a bid to boost tourism. Dedicated dog free areas should be available for families who do not wish to be pestered by other people's dogs, but why not make these areas where dogs must be on lead, rather than excluded. The only reason that I've heard to support dog exclusion is to avoid fouling, which is an offence anyway!
10	There are some public spaces we no longer go to because there are too many unruly dogs.
11	We need to control all dogs in public areas as numbers are increasing and less people are considerate, responsible citizens. More owners need to be 'safety conscious'.
12	I love dogs and love to see them running free and enjoying a healthy happy life but not all people feel the same. Our shared open spaces should have restrictions on them in relation to the number of dogs any one person can take there and owners or responsible persons should control and clean up after the dogs.
13	You can provide as many bins as you like, but with dogs off leads fouling will occur. The only solution is to have fenced off areas specifically for dog walkers. Dogs on the Jean Stansfield memorial park in Poulton run around off the lead on the grassed areas with small children playing there too. It's only a matter of time until one of these children gets knocked over by a large dog or worse still bitten. If an area of the park was fenced off, and dogs only allowed in that area it would be far safer and cleaner.
14	Need a dedicated dog park that dog owners pay for and if they don't clean up after their dog they get fined.
15	Most owners of dogs are very conscious of all the above, you will find odd ones who do not conform to rules and regulations. If you ban dogs on beaches, you should ban the majority of humans who leave litter and let children leave sweet wrapping and other items on the beaches. I as a dog owner always pick up any poo and you will find that 99% Of dog owners follow suit.

	Responses to the final question on the first page: If you have any other comments please leave them below.
16	Dogs still go on the beach, even when there is a dog ban on. This could be monitored better and fines given to owners. When you go abroad, such as Spain and Italy you do not see any dogs on the beach during the exclusion time.
17	I visit Fleetwood Cemetery weekly and am disgusted about the dog poo that is found within the cemetery, I have had to take my daughter home & clean her up after she fell and landed in dog poo. I have seen a dog without its lead cock its leg up on a headstone and then start fouling on the grass, I did approach the owner and he did pick the poo up but nothing was done about the memorial that his dog had weed on. That headstone is a memorial that has cost a family a lot of money and it's there in memory of someone, allowing a dog to wee on it is disgusting. Dogs should NOT be allowed into any cemetery, like at Poulton and Preesall
18	The promenade and streets surrounding Rossall beach are absolutely appalling. I have previously reported the failure of owners to pick up dog poo. Alas it continues. I refer to Rossall promenade & pebble are of beach, Green Drive, Bay Road & South Square. It does appear that without the necessary threat of penalty this situation will continue
19	100 characters is not enough space to provide relevant answers to the above questions. 99.9% of dog owners are responsible and would not let their dogs foul. I really think we should be going after the 0.01% that do not clean up after their dogs rather than penalising the majority. If all children were banned from parks and beaches because of the small percentage of children that commit vandalism, people would not stand for this, but with dogs this is what happens. I understand the need for dog control in certain areas such as play areas on parks, although maybe a dogs on lead at all times policy would be more appropriate as some parents may own a dog and want to take their children into the play area. I understand there is no need to exercise dogs in these areas, but a total ban seems to penalise parents with dogs and doesn't really provide much difference in dog control in these areas. I totally disagree with the ban on beaches at any time of the year. The majority of beach users off-season are dog walkers. Once May arrives the beach is empty. There are already perfectly good laws that forbid dog fouling, there is no need to ban dogs outright. Beaches are not sanitary places even without dogs, we have a sewage outlet close by, children urinate on the beach, tourists leave litter, seagulls poo, not to mention all the filth fish and sea creatures create, a dog ban does nothing to clean up the beach, it is inherently full of bacteria and not a clean place, let's not create the illusion that banning dogs makes it a clean place. I may be open to some of the other suggestions such as: dogs on leads at request in all areas, only 4 dogs to be walking in all areas and requiring dog walkers to produce a bag when asked, if the council wasn't so illogical and overreaching with the beach ban. I fear that if the council is given further powers they will not use them fairly. It is a lot easier/cheaper for the council to ban activities than police them, so this is generally what happens as we see with the beach ban, so at this stage I cannot support an increase of any council powers in this respect.
20	Perhaps more bins would be good & why not include "poo bags" dispensers on the bins like they do abroad.....

Responses to the final question on the first page: If you have any other comments please leave them below.	
21	The rule on poo bags is stupid -if you walk them round the block and they go once each morning you don't need spares and some psycho council worker could have the power to fine/prosecute.... This doesn't understand how dogs work and should be more nuanced e.g. if you are close to home and the dog's already been
22	I frequently see dog owners not picking up mess, which gives other responsible owners a bad name. I have confronted several dog owners who have walked away and offered bags for them to clean up the mess. Spot checks by wardens would perhaps make these individuals more likely to carry bags to clean up, especially if a fine was issued. Surprised at the off lead status for the Nature park, Fleetwood. I disagree with this as owners let dogs swim in the ponds who chase the young birds/wildlife. As it is a 'Nature Park' perhaps lead walks would be more appropriate. Also the dog walking businesses often have too many dogs at once, especially around this area. Pheasants Wood is actually Pheasant Wood!
23	Responsible dog owners are penalised without cause.
24	I presume that new signs will be erected in all parks and affected area.
25	I am not in favour of a ban on certain beaches at any time! Many families come for a day out with children and dogs but cannot go on some beaches because of the ban. Allow the dogs if on a lead. This works very well in Jersey where dogs are allowed to run free on all beaches up to 10.30a.m. and after 6 p.m. but must be on leads between these times.
26	Hi With regards to the public consultation on dog walking restrictions, I'd like to add a point for consideration. Review the use of extending leads in public areas. I'd like to see the use of these, whilst extended, limited to the designated exercise areas and fines applied to anyone extending them in other public areas (e.g. pavements, and general park areas) My reasons are: These leads were designed to allow contact between owner and animal to be maintained, whilst allowing the animals more freedom to run in appropriate areas, not for use as a walking lead. (unless retracted) 1. Unfortunately they are being misused on pavements. It is a common sight to see a dog several meters ahead of its owner, doing its own thing, wandering back and forth. Clearly, the owners do not have adequate control in this scenario. I actually had a lone dog cross the road as I was driving up to a junction...after it had crossed I noticed the thin, nearly invisible cord, and then eventually the owner appeared. Had I not seen the cord I might have driven on. This would have caused injuries to dog and owner. This would not have been my fault, yet I suspect a driver in such situations would be held accountable. I know of another situation where a cyclist was knocked off his bike and injured through the use of an extended lead, just as I described above. 2. Additionally, an animal not by its owners side, and under direct control, could get involved in a fight or attack another, or cause nuisance to another person by jumping up at them, barking, entering their gardens. 3. I've observed owners using the extending leads as means of ignoring their animal when it defecates, walking on as though it didn't belong to them, to avoid picking up its excrement. I hope you will consider these points and add in suitable measures to address these issues.

	Responses to the final question on the first page: If you have any other comments please leave them below.
27	As previous comment above. For those dog owners who do disregard any requirements (and in fairness a number do comply and this has improved over the years particularly with the disposal of dog excrement) no "Written" notices will make any difference. The "no dogs on beach" regulations are to a large extent totally ignored. Without enforcement then new or old regulations will make no difference. Prosecute where necessary or name and shame for those worse offenders in the local newspapers and the message will be reinforced. The latter was successfully done in Manchester over the Xmas period for Drink driving offenders.
28	The bowling greens at Stanley Park in Blackpool are frequented by dog owners who take no notice whatsoever of the posted requirement to have their dogs on a lead. The dogs foul and damage the greens and, despite complaints, no one ever attends the greens to check on dog owner/dog behaviour. Having "orders" in place is a waste of time without the capacity to enforce. Should dog owners be able to demonstrate a suitable level of control over their dog when it is off the lead//
29	The Promenade at Knott End from the corner of Wyre View currently marked by the now closed Nat West Bank right down to the old Sailing School should be included in the mandatory "dogs on leads" list It is sometimes difficult for owners with dogs on leads to pass on the narrow footway when other dog owners, with dogs running loose, are too far away to control their animals This can lead to stress for the owner, potential for aggression between the dogs and an opportunity for the 'absent' owner not to 'pick up'
30	Dog walking businesses should be reminded of the rules with possibility of license taken away if they don't adhere. Saw a dog walker on Marsh Park last week with SIX dogs she couldn't control and didn't pick up after even when told!
31	More action taken because what I have seen nobody takes notice of any rules
32	I do think that regarding dogs is not such a problem as youths dealing and taking drugs. This is a well known problem and nothing is said about this.
33	The council is taking the easy option of punishing everyone for the bad behaviour of a few. Fishermen leave more litter on beaches than dogs, but they aren't banned
34	In principle these are common sense measures. However I have a large dog who is trained and well behaved I often have trouble with small dogs who are off their leads and apparently are 'ok' approaching and snapping at my dog who is on a lead. Then when he snaps back the owners scream at me about my dangerous dog when they are at fault however my dog would always be blamed because of his size. I find Wyre Councils web site very lacking in easily obtained information about where in the borough it is that dogs can run freely and let off their leads? Fylde web site is much clearer on this issue? One of the few places I can let my dog off his lead is on the beach at Fleetwood opposite the lookout station in winter. However I always put my dog back on lead if I see other dogs on the beach in close proximity. Also there are not enough bins anymore where people walk their dogs the council needs to provide more and empty them more often. Also surely a few fields can be put aside in this borough with a water tap for dogs and sitting area for owners for dogs fenced in so dogs can be let off their leads and socialise. This is common practice in Australia where there is much more land but we

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	must have some somewhere in the borough? I have noticed that it seems that owners who walk their dogs in the evening do not pick up after their dogs giving the rest of us a bad name I say fine them , personally they disgust me.
35	If we are not to use areas where football pitches are marked, please can we have some designated dog fields for our dogs to run around freely? As long as the grass length and bins are maintained this could be easily patrolled. I wouldn't mind paying a small fee to use such a field as I'm sure applies to other responsible dog owners.
36	The Cleveleys beach dog ban May to September is a complete farce, dogs are frequently walked on the beach by owners who ignore the ban. The patrol is infrequent and ineffective, and avoids the real issue which is stopping irresponsible dog owners from letting their dogs foul any area including the beach, pavement and grassed areas! Regular patrols monitoring and fining of offending dog owners is required, most responsible dog owners would welcome an enforcement and not a feeble token measure as they are as disgusted as non dog owners by such behaviour. Maybe this could be tied in with fining people littering also (dogs don't drop litter) - the Prom, beach and jubilee garden areas are often treated as an open dustbin and heavily littered. Disgusting behaviour - appealing to people's good nature clearly doesn't work, enforcement action is needed, toughen up please!
37	Make surveys like this easier to complete. It's ridiculous having to refer to other pages Almost gave up
38	I would hope that common sense would apply for those exercising these powers.
39	Dog poo, you may have picked up 2 lots of dog poo and used the bags you carried for the purpose/ Generally I am in favour of dogs being controlled properly but some of these proposals are open to the personal interpretation of whoever is in charge, dog warden? Etc. They are too loosely worded and could be interpreted in more than one way and cause conflict and possibly expensive court cases. Tighten up the wording and I would agree in principle.
40	As responsible dog owners for many years we have been embarrassed on occasions to see Faeces left on pavements. Even though we always 'pick up', we feel awkward when passing other people near to these sites, even though not responsible. As for beach all year ban, we do not agree as local residents need somewhere to exercise pets when Gardens etc. are too wet in winter months. The beach is a great asset to responsible dog owners and they should 'pick up' even in winter on the beach. Can it be made possible to photo irresponsible dog owners in the act of breaking this law?
41	Many Local Authorities in UK provide 'doggy bags' near bins in popular dog walking areas. Why doesn't WBC do similar - cost would be minimal.
42	I daily scoop 1-1.5 kg of dog mess not scooped by other less considerate dog owners on Butts Lane (show field side) in Great Eccleston. I have requested a bin on that side of the road at the top of the lane and a no fouling sign. These people are giving the responsible dog owners a bad reputation and it is not fair. If a warden were to patrol the lane between 1pm-4pm on a couple of weekdays I can guarantee you will catch the offenders. I know as I have cleared the lane of poop then they go down and there is dog muck, still warm and no one else has been on the lane. Not enough evidence for the council to fine unfortunately. (Some information removed for intelligence).

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43	It is impossible to effectively control dogs. They are wild animals and it is only a question of time before someone is injured by someone's little pet that would not hurt a fly. I know I have seen what these animals do when they savage someone and we all have a duty of care to prevent it.
44	The comments boxes you have made for this form do not have enough characters to allow the user to present their thoughts in full. I also believe that designated dog parks would be a great addition. Where poo bins (and spare bags) are provided and a fenced area where dogs can be freely exercised away from traffic. Signs to allow parents to make an informed choice not to take their children into the dog park if they prefer.
45	Certain dog owners pick poo up in bags, but drop down drains! Also poo bagged up then left on floor! More notices regarding these offences should be put up on all estates or streets and prosecutions should take place.
46	I see dog owners on the park near Farnham Way who allow their dog to go into the play area even though there is a notice stating 'no dogs allowed'. Also it seem that the bigger the dog the less likely the owner is to pick up. I find this disgusting and would welcome DNA testing. I keep a close watch on my dog and have never missed not picking up. I see owners with phones attached to their ears and not watching where their dog/dogs are going.
47	The number of people who I see with dogs not on a lead is unbelievable it is a daily happening.
48	I support all the areas on this list with the exception of restrictions on beaches as i believe these are very unfair and close to much beach area to dogs even areas that are hardly used.
49	Knott End is particularly bad for dog fouling, particularly on the promenade sea path. Being the father of a four year old girl, it's hard not to be concerned. It's bad enough when the responsible owners leave post clean up skids, but at least they've made an effort, so many do not. I'm very pleased to see the council is at last taking this problem seriously.
50	There are too many irresponsible dog owners around today and these people are spoiling it for those of us who act responsibly.
51	WBC should employ more wardens and then we may have cleaner walkways. Dogs on the promenade should be on the lead all the time for safety as the bikes race down the prom and may hit one.
52	Rules should however be created and applied for public benefit not as an income stream by grubby money grabbing councils.
53	You are conducting a hate campaign against dog owners and have NO evidence to support your claims. FOXES and DOMESTIC CATS are far more likely to carry toxocara than domestic dogs. Foxes and rats are attracted by the vast quantities of litter left everywhere, which councils like yours apparently aren't bothered about, but which poses a huge danger to humans, wildlife, pets and the environment. In the name of EQUALITY, you need to be treating everybody the same way, OR risk prosecution for discrimination. Our campaign has a FACT SHEET on toxocara which disproves the outrageous claims you are making about dogs. By scaremongering, and encouraging public hatred of dogs, you are breaching all the regulations that govern the offices you hold and causing splits in society. If you continue to knowingly spread lies about the 'dangers' of dog mess, you risk prosecution. You are not allowed to use the law to pursue hate campaigns against one specific group in society, PARTICULARLY when no other group is behaving any better. Will you be

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	<p>banning families from the beaches because of the littering of a minority? Or from picnic areas? Unless you are going to treat EVERYBODY the same way, then you are guilty of prosecution. The person who contacted our campaign about this PSPO informs us that the Council is making it impossible for those without transport to walk their dogs locally. This is a breach of the Animal Welfare Act and you are forcing dog owners to break the law if you don't provide plenty of space locally where dogs can run free. This is also a prosecutable offence. Regarding stopping dog owners and demanding that they produce pooh bags on demand, we are advised by the Equality Advisory Support Service that such action is a breach of Sections 8 and 14 of the Human Rights Act. UK law is founded upon the principle that everyone is innocent until PROVEN guilty. Stopping dog owners and demanding that they produce pooh bags assumes that we are guilty until we prove ourselves innocent, and therefore, is 'repugnant to UK law'. In addition, any officer who threatens a dog owner with a fine if they don't comply with such a request is guilty of coercion and will be prosecuted for assault under the HRA and the general laws of England. We are advising our supporters NOT to comply with any such requests, and to prosecute for assault and intimidation. DEFRA has said that professional dog owners should be limited to SIX dogs, not four as you are suggesting. You don't know better than Defra and have no place to be destroying people's businesses. We are advising businesses affected to sue you for loss of earnings. Councils like yours are simply using the law to conduct a hate-filled vendetta against dog owners, while paying no attention whatsoever to the huge littering and fly-tipping problem that blights this country, mainly as a result of families failing to clear up after themselves. You are not allowed to misuse your positions of power to conduct your own hate campaigns and we demand that you treat EVERYONE the same. So, if you'll agree to stop and search parents for nappy sacks, and park and beach users for bin bags, then you might be able to make the case for asking dog owners to produce pooh bags on request. This is just hate-filled persecution and we are advertising it WELL on our campaign page. We will do all we can to discourage people from coming to Wyre and investing in your local economy, and be advised that we will be taking legal action in future against councils like yours who are persecuting dog owners to this extent.</p>
54	<p>Certain areas that have dogs on leash only could let dogs off leash if no one else in the park at that time. I.e. early mornings or late evenings. Also dogs should not be off leads until owners survey the land or park for other animals or dogs.</p>
55	<p>I live on Stanah road and the dog poo is a constant problem. People just put the waste bags into our hedges and other hedges along the road. There are insufficient waste bins and the bins up to and on the estuary smell very bad. They get emptied but never washed out. I have to constantly house down my drive entrance where inconsiderate people have let their dogs mess at the gates. New signs should be installed in larger type letting dog owners now the full consequences if they do not clean up after them.</p>
56	<p>I can only exercise my five dogs properly at the nature reserve in Fleetwood. They are all well behaved and I always pick up after them. It's not fair to punish every dog walker because of a few who don't pick up excrement or control their dogs</p>
57	<p>The promenade in Cleveleys, where people walk, is often disgusting between May and September and dog poo is spread about by cycle tyres and baby buggies etc. Dogs can be seen running on the beaches but nobody enforces anything!</p>
58	<p>We need dog waste bins in and around Harbour Village.</p>
59	<p>The more restrictions u bring in the less interested people will be in obeying them. You will reach a stage where it will become common knowledge that you cannot enforce these laws (no police powers) so not only will people ignore the new laws but the old laws as well.</p>

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60	I welcome the new offence re poo as am fed up in walking in other dog's poo it is disgusting.
61	These measures will work if there are any enforcement officers around, but in the 10 years I have lived in this area, I have never seen even one.
62	I regularly use the public footpath (old railway line) between Park Lane Presall and Knott End and find that many dog owners do not pick up their own dog's poo and feel that provision of litter/ poo bins on this route may encourage more responsibility! The only bin provided currently is at Hackensack road.
63	As I've indicated above, the real issue is the lack of enforcement, particularly in the sea front areas of Fleetwood and Cleveleys. Every day dogs can be seen running off the lead, fouling the beach and promenade and other public areas such as the Mount and mini golf areas. A much tougher regime is need to deter those not following the rules which are clearly set out.
64	In summer I understand (I don't agree with them) the bans etc. BUT in winter when the only folk using these places are dog walkers WHAT'S the point in the ban besides winding folk up. Dog walkers are furious about the amount of litter around and NEVER is there this sort of uproar. LITTER IS OK obviously. My dog has had cut paws from broken bottles.
65	As a responsible dog owner I agree with the new proposals and hope they will make a difference. However, I do request that dogs are able to be exercised on the beaches off the lead out of the summer season, as is currently the case. I refer to the Marine beach in Fleetwood where the beach Chalets etc. are not used during this time.
66	If the owner does not have the necessary to remove the dog poo then they had no intention of cleaning up after their dog.
67	Banning dogs from beaches during May-September is adequate enough. The rest of the year signage should be displayed asking dog owners to keep dogs on a leash whilst on a beach and to pick up any fouling the dog does. On the back of this i feel that there aren't enough bins provided for dog owners to place poop bags in anyway. As for banning dogs from picnic areas i disagree with this stance IF again adequate signage informs dog owners that dogs must be kept on leashes and any fouling to be picked up and binned. Patrols/staff should be given enough training and hold enough common sense to also use discretion when approaching members of the public on such issues, we don't want a bunch of over zealous animal haters who decide that the " on the spot penalties" become a cash cow for funds for the local council whose budget is already being cut by central government. The more stringent penalties and bans you put in place, whilst purporting to want to encourage people and animal lovers to an area, run foul of being ludicrous and the council runs the risk of being called a liar. Providing adequate areas for dog owners to safely exercise their dogs and providing enough poop bins, would be a good idea as a few other councils have already done. Perhaps money from the " fines " could be spent doing this rather than the council rubbing their hands with glee at the extra revenue in the coffers (or to top up the pensions pot of its staff) residents no doubt wouldn't mind this stance if the money was spent providing spaces for them to take their dogs in safety. Actually the same could also apply to parks, allow for a designated area for dogs and their owners to sit and enjoy the surroundings without having to foul the park area where play equipment is. This would also help Grandparents who like to take their grandchildren on an outing to the local park but cannot then, legally, take their dog as well. If there was a small

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	fenced off area provided with a poop bin and a seat or two, where parents/grandparents could sit with their dogs whilst watching the children/grandchildren then that would be more beneficial than proposing a complete ban, that doesn't appear to be a council that encourages dog lovers/owners to an area!!
68	This will probably be another waste of time as you do not enforce the current bye law
69	As a responsible dog owner it is always those dog owners who do not abide by the law that ruin it for others. I ask other dog owners to pick up their mess and even carry spare poo bags for others. It is such a shame that people are selfish and ruin things for others. Well behaved dogs having fun exercising is a delight to see and it is a shame that others will ruin this for dogs and their owners!
70	I agree that the dog exclusion zones on local beaches, May to September is sensible and acceptable. I was under the impression that there was a blanket ban on all beaches during this time. Perhaps it would be a good idea to define the area of the exclusion zone on the notices. With regard to picking up dog poo and putting it in a bin, that is all very well providing the council provided an adequate number of bins and empty them regularly. I think you will find that most dog owners will be quite happy to pick up their dog poo, but nobody wants to have to walk around for a long period with bag(s) of smelly dog poo when there are no bins in which to deposit it. As regards limiting the number of dogs a person can exercise to a maximum of 4 - As I said above it all depends on the experience of the person and the size / behaviour of the dogs. One individual may be able to handle 8 well behaved dogs comfortably while other people cannot handle even one dog properly. You cannot specify a defined number of dogs. It should be up to the enforcement officer to use their discretion.
71	Would be much easier to provide clear answers if box character entry wasn't so limited. Regards max dog limit I have 10 dogs and am perfectly capable of managing them all together. In fact I use them as stooge dogs for retraining rescue dogs at Morgan's Rescue. Many dog owners are incapable of even controlling one. Rules to pick up poo and keep dogs under control apply whether 1 or 10 dogs. That is enough to tackle irresponsible owners. Why discriminate against responsible owners also simply because they have trained their dogs well enough to be in control of multiple dogs. Please refer to Fylde councils recent PSPO discussions as we have just gone through all of these issues with them
72	This is all-well-and-good but will the rules be applied, i.e. Do you have the staff? Also what about horse poo all over the road and pavement. A particular issue around Carleton.
73	if people on your street do not have a dog on a lead and you report it Dog Warden should go to house involved not have to take statements, times etc.
74	People on mobility scooter should not take dogs out as they are unable to pick up after them
75	I have sympathy with dog owners. It seems they have undeservedly become 'Public Enemy Number One'. They are a soft target because they are so easy to identify. In a few years, attention will switch to something else, hopefully more deserving of the title.

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76	It would be helpful if the exclusions were extended to "assistance dogs" IN TRAINING & make the exclusion available for public awareness. As a puppy socializer & trainer of assistance dogs, the pups are trained to toilet on command which is predominantly at home. Pups are often discriminated against as they are not "qualified" assistance dogs, however the training program starts well before they qualify. Affording pups the same rights as the qualified dogs would make training much easier. I have been very fortunate that there are several VERY kind and understanding businesses in Poulton town centre, Aldi & Booths being two of the most considerate. I hope you will consider my opinion. Kind regards
77	People employed and paid to exercise other people's dogs should NOT be allowed to be with more than 2 dogs at any one time as they cannot control the dogs and certainly are unlikely to pick up more than 2 lots of dog poo. These dogs act in packs and frequently are a danger to children, swans, ducks, moorhens etc. in, for example, Fleetwood Marsh Nature Reserve. In fact, nobody (not even their owners) can control more than 2 dogs at once so 2 should be the maximum allowed.
78	While it is all well and good for these laws to be in place, there is little point unless they are enforced. I know of at least one dog that is regularly walked on public roads off lead, and the owner acts with impunity. Dogs walking by the side of a public highway should be on a 'short' lead. A dog is not fully under the owners control if being walked on an unlocked extender lead.
79	Many sea side resorts like Brighton are bringing in trade by welcoming dogs. Not everyone, including holidaymakers, can get to the one or two places where it's still ok to let them run free.
80	Majority of dog owners are responsible people, some people that cannot be bothered to Pick up the dog poo, Rossall school field is used by most dog walkers as a toilet and do not clean up after.
81	The whole PSPO is absolute discrimination and tarring every dog owner with the same brush. We live in a permissive society that prides itself on not being discriminatory, prejudiced or racist to ethnic minorities, yet insists on discrimination and removing the rights of dog owners. Making it harder to give a canine the off- lead exercise they require for physical and mental stimulation will lead to an increase of negative incidents with dogs due to the detrimental effects caused by the PSPO denying access to a suitable environment. PSPO denies dog owners the opportunity to enjoy: The beach and sea Picnics with family members Access to AONB Access to areas within walking distance of the home The proposed new offence (To produce a suitable means of removing and transporting dog poo to a bin (whether or not the dog has defecated) when asked to do so by an authorised officer) is a violation of privacy and personal respect. Perhaps authorised officers should be concentrating on people throwing glass, cigarette butts, litter, cans and plastic. This is far more detrimental to health and the environment. Glass, cans and plastic can cause serious harm even death to wildlife and is extremely polluting.
82	If a person fails to pick up it's an offence, not having a bag to collect poo is nonsense and is pointless. You could end up making a criminal out of someone who has just used the last bag to collect poo and is almost home, whilst I could carry a bag to comply with the law but never bother using it. Dogs off of leads are not anti-social, its dogs not under control that is the issue. People have dogs on leads that still jump up and still poo and don't pick up. I have a border collie that can round up a herd of sheep with a few simple commands, walking to the car off the lead is a breeze and hardly anti-social. You are criminalising all dog owners because of a few bad owners, you would not ban drinking because some people get out of control you deal with those out of control.

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83	Question C. The majority of responsible dog owners are aware of their dog's temperament and where it is applicable to put their dog on a lead. Where this is not the case it is covered in Question D. I use to walk my dog down a country lane which because of how narrow it is, was safer to walk him off the lead so that when a car passed our combined profile was thinner.
84	Our Grand-children want to play in these areas without the danger of infection, caused by thoughtless dog walkers/owners not cleaning up.
85	I do not think dogs should be off the lead - Some Children and even adults are terrified of them and actually have counselling
86	No other comments.
87	Generally local dog owners are good...it is just the few that seem determined NOT to act responsibly. It really is a shame that we need these rules as they punish the good dog owner....Why is it we have these few who refuse to do the proper thing?
88	I live facing the estuary in Fleetwood and the amount of dog poo not picked up and disposed of is revolting. Any measures put in place to stop this is fully supported by me.
89	The beach at Rossall Prom is heavily utilized by the public, it gets the same if not more visitors than the new prom and yet no dog control orders apply, why? Many children play on this and dog foul is widespread.
90	Also in my area I have seen dog walkers putting dog waste bags down the drains. On occasions there are used bags thrown into gardens or in the gutters. This is despite the fact that there are bins available in the area.
91	Dogs should not be let off the lead within 500 meters of other people, there is Nothing Friendly about a strange animal running at or jumping up at you when you are out for a quiet walk. Any dogs wandering the streets unaccompanied should be impounded and the owner fined Â£1000. Owners of dogs and cats should pay extra Â£250 per animal per year council tax for the impact they have on the environment, pissing and shitting in the streets and peoples gardens damaging plants. Dogs barking incessantly should be an offence, people who own dogs and don't exercise them and leave them barking frustratedly in their houses or gardens is cruel and should be classed as a form of abuse and the people should be fined and prevented from ever owning animals due to this cruelty.
92	All persons with a dog in a public place including the highway should have more than one bag available at all times as dogs do not always go just once from my experience. This would let them produce a clean bag to an authorized person for inspection. More bins should be available for disposal as not all owners like to carry full bags around resulting in the Christmas tree effect of bags being hung in bushes. Picking up and then dumping the bag is a pointless exercise as it is no longer biodegradable and is unsightly litter.
93	The existing rules are fair and observed by most responsible dog owners but seem rarely enforced when ignored by the irresponsible ones.

	Responses to the final question on the first page: If you have any other comments please leave them below.
94	The areas allowed to exercise dogs off the lead in Wyre are shrinking rapidly. I am disabled. I can't reach these far away areas you designate as 'OK'. Your proposals are in fact a dog cruelty issue. Why should a well behaved dog not be allowed to chase and retrieve a ball? You are alienating a vast number of Wyre voters who own dogs. Stropky officials who approach and start laying down the so called 'law', and shouting, are bordering on people civil rights. I agree totally with cleaning up after my dog, but I will refuse to provide any jumped up official with my personal details. I have already been verbally assaulted by (name removed for publishing) whilst playing ball with my dog. It is high time that responsible dog owners stand up against your 'dog police', displaying their intimidating 'You Are Being Watched' signs. That stinks of 1934 in Nazi Germany.
95	Would like to see more actual enforcement. We regularly see fouling but have never seen enforcement
96	Despite the amount of dog poo on the pavements I have yet to read of anybody being fined.
97	I applaud all efforts to reduce the menace of dogs fouling public spaces.
98	It seems we are becoming obsessed with dog patrols etc. I have lived in this area for 40 years and have owned a dog for most of that. I have always been careful not to let my dog foul anywhere it could cause harm. I have never had any complaints but at this present time we have a large majority of anti dog brigades. There are more important things going on in the world than dog poo!!!
99	Could we possible have dog friendly areas? Maybe a dog park/fenced off bit of grassed area where dogs are actually welcome.
100	I live in an area where there are lots of dog owners who walk their dogs. Most are responsible but some don't pick up the dog mess - usually those who take their dogs out later at night or after dark. I would be happy with any measures that help rectify this.
101	The more you restrict dogs behaving naturally and running free off lead and socialising the more dogs are going to be unsocialised with both people and other dogs, these restrictions on natural pack behaviour will lead to an increase in aggressive dogs.
102	The local authority should not regard itself as being in charge and enforcing changes in the public's behaviour and should restrict its activities to providing services paid by the ratepayer.
103	Why stop dog walkers going anywhere in winter when no one is using places.
104	There is a serious danger of over regulation of dogs in particular when, for example, there does not appear to be any requirement to clear up horse poo.
105	Although I agree with most of the proposals, responsible dog owners should not be disadvantaged by the actions of those who do not clean up after their dogs. Dogs still have to be exercised somewhere.

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106	The beach is for everybody that loves the beach! Please exclude/ fine/ whatever consequence you want to apply to dog owners who don't respect and look after it and also anyone who disrespects, litters, graffiti, abuses the area! Dog or no dog!! You are completely missing the point of protecting any space so get real and get tough. Get some nuts, way over time. PS what is the point of having any ban which is not monitored after about 4pm?? Please join us on the Prom and beach in the evening for the real deal!
107	Garstang Town Council request that the area by the river in Garstang is changed to a dogs on leads at all times to protect young children playing and running around the picnic area by the river.
108	I did have a dog but unfortunately I have no more. I do want to point out that youths dealing with drugs on catterall park should be tackled just as much.
109	In areas where there is a known and repetitive problem e.g. promenade between Rossall hospital and Cleveleys, CCTV cameras would surely be useful. Extra patrols would also help at times correlated with the times of reported complaints of dog fouling by members of the public.
110	it is no use at all to impose all these measures if you do not have the authorised personnel to police them.
111	Dogs are their owners concern and they should look after them, non dog owners also have rights not to be alarmed when a dog jumps up at them. This is prevalent on the sea walls around Knott End and adjacent streets.
112	I feel that the proposals amount to bullying the majority of dog owners are responsible and also council tax payers, they should have equal rights and access to beaches it is a heavy handed approach to consider a year long ban. However the few irresponsible owners should be fined .There are more antisocial problems that need addressing for example riding a bike on the public foot paths especially when nights the draw in Garstang road in particular being a regular danger spot. Wet leaves in the autumn on the pavements are dangerous and should be cleared away .At the beginning of this council e mail it states Wyre welcome dog owners not judging by some of the red angry signs signs on lamp posts near to my home
113	Friends Of Jubilee Gardens, whom this is submitted on behalf of, approved of the proposed seasonal beach ban at their August 2017 meeting. However, at that meeting, it was recognised that access to the beach for the less able, along the stretch south of Cafe Cove was easier than the stretch to the north of the cafe. In view of the seasonal ban, the group would appreciate if the issue of access and signage could be improved. (Name removed for publishing) will be contacted directly with regard to this issue, but to register the issue now....., access to the beach north of the cafe is made more difficult due to pebbles, so it is important that access to the beach to the north of the cafe is made possible for dog walkers from the last set of steps with handrails, level with the cafe. Those steps provide a perfect starting point for the ban, as there is a breakwater at the foot of the steps. However, at present there is a sign to the right of those steps seemingly banning dog walkers using those steps between May and September.
114	As you state the land is public land. I detest children. They are vandals/throw litter/swear/get drunk all in public places but I don't whine to the council to ban them as its PUBLIC space NOT pick and choose who uses it space.
115	I do not agree with the ban on the beach and bathing areas being extended to all year round as if this was implemented it would be detrimental to the responsible owners wanting to enjoy time (free running) of their dogs in these areas. I am interested how these measures will be policed. Especially in

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	the light of the recent cuts in services. I frequently see all the existing regulations being flouted. The responsible people will stick to the rules and proposals. However the ones that frequently flout these laws and regulations will no doubt give abuse etc when challenged. When this happens you have to have the back up powers to act when they refuse to conform and I am not convinced that there will be any follow up on these people. Sorry to have a rant but it is the same type of irresponsible people every time that get away with things and the innocent ones have to suffer for their incompetence.
116	I understand that disabled, visually impaired people cannot pick up a dog poo. Is it therefore slightly unfair to presume that all dog poo not picked up is caused by irresponsible dog owners!
117	Ultimately a national registration / licensing scheme needs to be re-introduced with each dog's DNA on a database. In all probability the issues with dog mess would then cease.
118	Yet again it is the irresponsible people of this society that affect everyone else, but something needs to be done. Idiots who do not work and have a criminal record should not be allowed to own a dog as this proves that they are not responsible members of the community. I suppose this would be deemed controversial, but in the majority of cases it is true
119	Make more bins available and empty them regularly as some bins in the area are left overflowing. Put up "Poo bag stations" in popular areas so owners don't have an excuse not to clean up after them, maybe at entrances or convenient places to popular walking areas.
120	The question about all year beach ban is a bit rich given that for four years my access to the wilder, remoter beach areas near Rossall Hospital has been prohibited because of sea defence works, leaving only mainstream areas open to dog walkers - and then with a beach ban during decent weather! 4 years is a long time in the life of a dog. My old dog who loved this area and has not had access for 4 years due to the works died without getting her paws back on sand. It forces too many dogs into a limited space - Rossall Point is always busy because of the large stretches of beach not available yet. I see more on lead restrictions in this area are proposed. The new producing a poo bag regulation will be hard and expensive to prove as some will say they have just used the last one. How many will people be forced to carry so as not to fall foul of this. Not all carry pocketsful of them like I do. On lead by direction is a sensible order which should be the default for everywhere apart from by a road and there would be less bureaucracy and you wouldn't need beach bans. The only reason the promenade (Fleetwood) is now on lead isn't because it's near a road it's because of the cyclists who fly up and down without restriction knocking pedestrians over. Sensible safety precautions/rules I agree with but let's start putting the same onus on cyclists who can cause as much injury as any dog.
121	Dog control orders do not prevent dog related incidents. Owners need to be dealt with in a manner that makes them take notice not simply ban dogs from areas etc. as it doesn't work. Why not police the rules regarding dogs you already have and are struggling to make work properly rather than adding in more and more which you will again fail to maintain and police properly making them pointless yet again
122	Typical WBC heavy handed approach to dog owners. You don't bother chasing dog poo leavers now, so how will you police this? Try putting the same kind of rules together for parents and children and other adults for littering out streets, gardens and driveways. You have let the streets become a tip, I constantly have to clear up sweet wrappers and cigy but ends and packets. Put some effort into controlling these disgusting people instead of picking on responsible dog owners. Get the golf course to build and maintain a proper fence to keep dogs from straying, don't just ban the dogs. Typical big money

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	organisations swaying WBC. I assume the golf course would love to buy the bridle way and take it from the people of Fleetwood. The bridle way has been free to dogs and their owners for over 50 years, how dare you take that right away?
123	I would like it noted that there are few if any non dog people on the beach, and therefore see no reason to extend the dog free zone any further, it has already been extended once, and this in my view was also unnecessary, I often wonder if the council members actually go down to the areas concerned and take a look at the use of relevant areas.
124	<p>Dog fouling The Kennel Club strongly promotes responsible dog ownership, and believes that dog owners should always pick up after their dogs wherever they are, including fields and woods in the wider countryside, and especially where farm animals graze to reduce the risk of passing Neospora and Sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage the local authority to employ further proactive measures to help promote responsible dog ownership throughout the local area in addition to introducing Orders in this respect. These proactive measures can include: increasing the number of bins available for dog owners to use; communicating to local dog owners that bagged dog poo can be disposed of in normal litter bins; running responsible ownership and training events; or using poster campaigns to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog. Dog fouling - requirement to be in possession of means to pick up Whilst the Kennel Club supports proactive efforts on behalf of local authorities to encourage responsible dog ownership and to ensure that those who are not picking up after their dogs are brought to book, this has to be fair and proportionate and we would not like to see responsible dog owners penalised unfairly. The Kennel Club has concerns over proposals to introduce an offence of not having the means to pick up. Responsible owners will usually have dog waste bags or other means to clear up after their pets but we do have some concerns, for example if dog owners are approached at the end of a walk and have already used the bags that they have taken out for their own dog, or given a spare bag to someone who has run out, a behaviour that is encouraged by Green Dog Walker schemes. Furthermore it is perfectly plausible that these proposals in certain circumstances would perversely incentivise dog walkers not to pick up after their dog. Should a dog walker on witnessing their dog fouling realise they are down to their final poo bag (or other receptacle), they will be forced into a decision of whether to use the bag and risk being caught without means to pick up, or risk not picking up in order to retain a means to pick up should they be stopped later on their walk. It is perfectly reasonable to assume that a proportion of dog walkers would choose the second option if they thought this was the least likely route to being caught. Especially if the penalty for not picking up was the same as not having means to pick up. Local authorities may wish to consider introducing a clause which provides an exemption for dog walkers who have run out of bags, but can prove that they were in possession of and made use of bags (or other suitable receptacle) during their walk. If such a measure is introduced it is essential that an effective communication campaign is launched in the local area to ensure that people are aware of the plans and have an excess supply of dog waste bags with them, so that it is the right people who are getting caught. Additionally, appropriate signage should be erected to inform those who are not familiar with the local rules are not unfairly caught out. We are also concerned how easily local authorities could enforce this law when trying to define whether or not dog owners have a means of picking up after the dogs, without risking the expense of legal challenge. In the absence of poo bags owners trying to flout the law could theoretically point to any number of items on their person that they intend to use, so we think that the most effective spot checks you can carry out are those that catch offenders in the act of not picking up, rather than second guessing behaviours on the basis of what they are or are not carrying with them. Alternatively, to avoid a fine an irresponsible owner could simply tie one bag to his or her dogs lead or collar but never</p>

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	<p>actually use it. Cornwall council considered introducing a means to pick up order but subsequently decided against it as they deemed it to be disproportionate and concluded that the requirement would be toothless, as it would be highly unlikely to be enforceable in a magistrate’s court. Please see the attached Cornwall Council report for more details. If the Council proceeds to introduce such a measure it is essential it provides greater clarity to dog walkers on how to comply with the Order. Dog access The Kennel Club does not normally oppose dog exclusion or dog on lead orders in playgrounds, or enclosed recreational facilities such as tennis courts or skate parks, as long as alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity. We would also point out that children and dogs should be able to socialise together quite safely under adult supervision, and that having a child in the home is the biggest predictor for a family owning a dog. The Kennel Club can support reasonable dogs on lead orders, which can - when used in a proportionate and evidence-based way include areas such as picnic areas or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic. With regards to playing fields, we ask local authorities to consider whether or not access restrictions are absolutely necessary. If they are deemed to be needed, whether in use, restrictions would be more appropriate than an outright ban. We are aware in many areas, dog walkers do allow their dogs to exercise on playing fields when they are not in use. If of course they are in use we understand the safety reasons behind restrictions. The council should be aware that dog owners are required, under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, to provide for the welfare needs of their animals and this includes providing the necessary amount of exercise each day. Their ability to meet this requirement is greatly affected by the amount of publicly accessible parks and other public places in their area where dogs can exercise without restrictions. This section of the Animal Welfare Act was included in the statutory guidance produced for local authorities by the Home Office on the use of PSPOs. The Government provided clear instructions to local authorities that they must provide restriction free sites for dog walkers to exercise their dogs. This message was contained in the guidance document for DCOs, and has been retained in both the Defra/Welsh Government and Home Office PSPO guidance documents, with the Defra guidance for PSPOs stating “local authorities should ensure there are suitable alternatives for dogs to be exercised without restrictions. We are concerned that the council’s proposals are overly restrictive and will negatively impact on the ability of dog owners to provide appropriate exercise for their dogs. A common unintended consequence of restrictions is displacement onto other pieces of land, resulting in new conflict being created. It can be difficult to predict the effects of displacement, and so the council should consider whether alternative sites for dog walkers are suitable and can support an increase in the number of dog walkers using them. To be compliant with the Public Sector Equality Duty we submit the council should consider the accessibility of restriction free alternatives for those with reduced mobility (including but not limited to those with a disability or elderly persons for instance). Alongside considering any direct impact as a result of the PSPO upon those with protected characteristics. We welcome the inclusion of dog on lead by direction provisions, which should allow a more targeted approach to tackle the individuals who allow their dogs to run out of control. We would also recommend local authorities make use of the other more flexible and targeted measures at their disposal such as Acceptable Behavioural Contracts and Community Protection Notices. Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Clubs and our accredited trainers can also help those people whose dogs run out of control due to them not having the ability to train a reliable recall. Sites of Special Scientific Interest We are not clear from information presented in the consultation on the justification for excluding dogs from areas designated as being of special scientific interest. Without this information we are unable to fully comment on the necessity to manage dog access at these sites in the manner proposed. However, we would submit that the legal test for the introduction of a PSPO can’t be met purely on the basis of protecting an SSSI. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is clear that a PSPO can only be introduced “where</p>

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	<p>activities have had or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. It is clear from the Act, its accompanying explanatory notes and Government guidance documents that this is referring to the effects on people, and not other non-human species. The Kennel Club itself owns and manages a Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Emblehope and Burngrange Estate in Northumberland, which was acquired to be a centre of excellence for working dogs (https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/our-resources/the-emblehope-and-burngrange-estate/). There are no inherent reasons for dogs to be excluded from an area purely on the basis that the site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. From the information available to us, there is no apparent evidence to show detrimental effects on people in the locality, without such evidence we submit a PSPO would be inappropriate. Maximum number of dogs a person can walk The Kennel Club feel that an arbitrary maximum number of dogs a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control that will often simply displace and intensify problems in other areas. The maximum number of dogs a person can walk in a controlled manner depends on a number of factors relating to the dog walker, the dogs being walked, whether leads are used and the location where the walking is taking place. An arbitrary maximum number can also legitimise and encourage people to walk dogs up to the specified limit, even if at a given time or circumstance, they cannot control that number of dogs. We thus suggest that defined outcomes are used instead to influence people walking more than one dog, be that domestically or commercially, such as dogs always being under control, or not running up to people uninvited, on lead in certain areas etc. For example, an experienced dog walker may be able to keep a large number of dogs under control during a walk, whereas an inexperienced private dog owner may struggle to keep a single dog under control. Equally the size and training of the dogs are key factors; this is why an arbitrary maximum number is inappropriate. The Kennel Club would recommend the local authority instead uses dogs on lead by direction orders and targeted measures such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Community Protection Orders to address people who don't have control of the dogs they are walking. A further limitation of a maximum number of dogs per person is that it does not stop people with multiple dogs walking together at a given time, while not exceeding the maximum number of dogs per person. Limits can also encourage some commercial dog walkers to leave excess dogs in their vehicles, which can give rise to welfare concerns. If a maximum number of dogs is being considered due to issues arising from commercial dog walkers, we suggest councils look instead at accreditation schemes that have worked very successfully in places like the East Lothian council area. These can be far more effective than numerical limits, as they can promote wanted good practice, rather than just curb the excesses of just one aspect of dog walking. Accreditation can also ensure dog walkers are properly insured and act as advocates for good behaviour by other dog owners. The Kennel Club is currently developing a national Code of Practice for Commercial Dog Walking for launch in 2017, alongside a national accreditation and training scheme that councils can work with us to apply and promote in their areas. Assistance dogs We welcome the proposed exemptions for assistance dogs. Appropriate signage It is important to note that in relation to PSPOs the The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 make it a legal requirement for local authorities to cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to - (i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be); and (ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be).With relation to dog access restrictions such as a Dogs on Leads Order, on-site signage should make clear where such restrictions start and finish. This can often be achieved by signs that on one side say, for example, You are entering [type of area]and You are leaving [type of area] on the reverse of the sign. While all dog walkers should be aware of the requirement to pick up after their dog,</p>

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	signage should be erected for the PSPO to be compliant with the legislation. With specific regard to the proposed means to pick up measure this type of law will be unfamiliar to dog walkers and prominent signage explaining the exact requirements expected of dog walkers, not all of whom will be local residents, should be erected in any area where the measure is to be enforced.
125	The provision of bins in known problem locations. A survey of dog owners on Social Media may help to identify suitable locations. Clear identification of Bathing Beaches would help avoid accidental transgression. Allow dogs to exercise below the high water mark.
126	Please may the following be included in the above consultation as resolved by Garstang Town Council, at their meeting, on 20 March 2017 240(2016-17) Open space at bottom of High Street car park The Clerk reported that currently the area by the river is covered by a dogs on leads when requested, failing to pick up fouling and maximum number of 4 dogs (per person). The TC were notified that later in the year Wyre Council would be introducing the new PSPOs (Public spaces protection orders) and that Wyre would be carrying out a full consultation. Resolved: The Town Council requested that the following proposal should be put forward to Wyre Council to protect young children playing and running round the picnic area by the river, dogs should be on leads at all times. As detailed below,(name removed for publication) is aware that the Town Council wish to make this area dogs on lead. Please advise if you require any further information.
127	1. Re; Fouling of Land by Dogs Order: The Dogs Trust consider scooping the poop to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance we urge the council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place. 2. Re; Dog Exclusion Order: Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries. The Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs. 3. Re; Dogs on Leads Order: The Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead. The Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act. The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead. 4. Re; Dogs on Lead by Direction Order: The Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official). We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order. 5. Re; Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto a land: â€¢ The behaviour of the dogs and the competency of the handler need to be taken into consideration if considering this order. Research from 2010 shows that 95% of dog owners have up to 3 dogs. Therefore the number of dogs taken out on to land by one individual would not normally be expected to exceed four dogs.

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	We believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, and that the vast majority of dogs are well behaved. In recognition of this, we would encourage local authorities to exercise its power to issue Community Protection Notices, targeting irresponsible owners and proactively addressing anti-social behaviours.
128	Dog owners should accept responsibility for their animals but controls should be reasonable not excessive. There is no need for controls on canal banks, river banks etc and beaches should be available during winter months. Similar controls should be placed on horse owners so that they respect the needs of others Professional dog walkers cannot possibly control more than 4 dogs at any one time wherever they are. They cannot pick up the poo for all of them. More than 3 dogs is a pack. Similarly joggers with dogs never seem to be carrying poo bags. Do they actually ever pick it up? Similarly cyclists exercising their dogs while cycling along never stop to clear up after their dogs.
129	Often people in the early stages of Alzhiemer's and Dementia are forgetful - a dog is a way to encourage exercise, fresh air and companionship. We must not punish people for needing a companion when they are poorly. There must be room for humanity in any law.
130	As a dog owner, I absolutely agree that fouling public footpaths is unacceptable but I do object to the fact that fouling is virtually the sole subject of the document. There is nothing in your email and nothing in the document that suggests that Wyre Council is "very keen to welcome dog walkers and dogs to the borough"! The impression is quite the reverse. If you wish to welcome dogs walkers and dogs to the borough then please do something about the woeful lack of public footpaths that are actually open to dog walkers. Farmers often fail to provide the required pathway to be kept open through crops (footpath through field from Winder Lane to farm track), they lock gates where stiles are dangerous for dogs to jump over (footpath from Ratcliffe Wharf Lane to Stony Lane, Forton), they make by making double stiles that are impossible for dogs to jump and even put up notices that warn that off-lead dogs "will be shot" (footpath over field near Churchtown). If dog walkers had suitable country footpaths available, they would not need to walk their dogs in residential areas. We are members of the community too.
131	There are rules already which are not enforced. I have previously reported dog fouling and nothing was done. There are currently rules regarding exercising dogs in the children's play area on the Memorial Park, but it would seem not to apply to Yorkshire Terriers as two ladies exercise theirs every day in there. But there are no wardens.
132	If you have just picked up 2 lots of poo you may not have a bag but your dog is not likely to mess again so if you are then asked to produce a bag you may not have one left.
133	Dog fouling is dangerous and unpleasant, and I completely support the Council in continuing to try to control it. Unruly and potentially dangerous dogs are also an occasional problem, if less ubiquitous. A balance of "carrot and stick" is needed, but perhaps in the past there has been too much "carrot" in the form of exhortations and appeals. Some people will only respond to the realistic threat of significant sanction.
134	Should also be an offence to leave dog mess in bags at public space e.g. Hedges walkways, grass etc.

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135	There will be nowhere left for responsible dog owners to let their dogs run off the lead soon. Has the Kennel Club been consulted about these proposals? Why is the consultation period so short? Do people even know about this consultation? Are all the Wyre rangers handing out details about the consultation while on their travels across the borough? I suspect not! Another epic fail by Wyre in engaging with the residents!!
136	If the council has the manpower to enforce all these proposed changes, why don't they use that manpower to seek out the people who don't pick up after their dogs in the first place? This is an easy option for the council to say they've done something about the problem but this will not make the slightest bit of difference to the amount of dog poos in the area. It singles out one section of the community for discrimination & I question whether that is legal? It also shows tourists that we're not a dog friendly holiday destination. Can we afford to turn away business? More families than ever before now have at least one dog, so we should be promoting dogs welcome here. Do something about the offenders, but don't persecute everyone else for their bad behaviour. Do we ban all children just because some people leave dirty nappies on the beach? Ban all takeaways in the area because some people leave their litter behind? Ban all fishermen because they leave fish hooks on the beach? Come on Wyre Council, be consistent with all groups of the population!!!
137	All dogs have their own toilet habits which good owners know and understand. Failure to pick up should be the offence, not failure to carry bags! The area FWD15 should not be designated "on lead only". This is a very popular and safe dog walking area and it makes no sense to designate FWD8 an "on request" area but for FWD15 which is very similar in nature to be seen differently. If this is a result of the works being carried out, then they will be a backward rather than a forward step in terms of amenity for the area.
138	Definitely no to a year round ban on beaches! That is ridiculous. It's not the dogs that make the mess its irresponsible owners. Who actually goes swimming and bathing in the sea in winter???? Stop persecuting responsible dog owners. We don't get that good a weather even in summer. Often it's just us dog walkers down on the beach. Don't agree to dogs on leads at Hawthorn Park. Allow them off at top end away from playground. Think Wyre is trying to persecute responsible dog owners. Our beaches aren't that nice and a lot of the water pollution comes down rivers from farmer's fields etc. Not dogs. We have just been to jersey on holiday. The beaches are clean and very beautiful. Dogs are allowed on all beaches and year round. In the summer months dogs have to be on leads from 10.30-18.00 but outside these hours they can be off leads. This really works well. Our dogs could have a good run early on or in the evening yet in the day they could still enjoy the beach with the family. This is one of the reasons we go there for our holidays. We don't get the same weather here and the council should be encouraging people to come not put them off by banning dogs!!!
139	There is a need for education relating to why responsible dog ownership is important rather than simple bans/fines.
140	1. Your consultation is flawed. The health risks of dog fouling are dramatically overstated. The most recent study (2014) into toxocarasis shows that there are between 0 and 4 cases per year in the UK with an almost 100% recovery rate. In addition, the number of reported cases is in decline. There is no evidence extant showing that human contact with dog faeces represents a significant health risk to the public. This are scare tactics, designed to reinforce your case, but are not based in fact. Given that the health information presented is incorrect (as you are now aware) and biased, this consultation is de facto null and void. 2. The council has a duty under the Litter (Animal Droppings) Order 1991 to ensure public spaces are cleansed and to remove any fouling that may have occurred. The surveys listed shows that the public consider fouling to be a priority. This is due to a systemic failure

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	to clean up fouling when it occurs, not any widespread anti-social behavior of dog owners. 3. This proposal seeks to demonize and discriminate against all dog owners. Whilst there is no doubt that not all dog owners are responsible, they are not unique in the general populace. Many individuals discard potentially hazardous litter or create dangerous situations through their actions. Parent fail to adequately supervise children in public areas. Will enforcement officers undertake to demand that families picnicking in public areas have sufficient containers to remove their refuse for example? How many children do your "experienced officers" feel can be adequately supervised in public spaces by an individual? How many teenagers?
141	I wanted to make people aware of what happened to me this afternoon. I walked to the Towers off West Drive with my little dog, arriving about 3pm. After sitting down near the first pond for about 15 minutes, I met my partner and we all walked down the main path. My dog was on the lead. A Beagle (off the lead) ran up to us, and as they are usually a friendly breed, I wasn't too worried. It lurched towards my dog aggressively, and I pulled my dog away. The Beagle then attempted to attack my dog, and I pushed the dog away to protect him. At this point, the owner, a grey-haired lady in her 70's, became very nasty and accused me of hitting her dog, which I certainly didn't. It was only afterwards that she reluctantly put her dog back on the lead. My partner and I hurried away with our dog and warned other dog owners in the woods to be careful. Another lady with a Whippet/Bedlington cross dog (similar in size to a Beagle), said the same Beagle had just attacked her dog as well. This has left us all very shaken and I wouldn't like this to happen to anyone else. (The dog's name has been removed for publishing).
142	I am an older person (aged 68). We are advised to "keep active" which I try to do, by cycling and walking regularly. I have LOVED to walk in the Towers a lovely public space UNTIL NOW Of late, I have found it necessary to avoid walking there due to the proliferation of dogs (without leads) who bark, rush as me, frighten me, and are out of control. Yesterday having avoided to "early morning doggy crown", I attempted to walk through the towers at approximately 3pm. A dog without a lead hurtled upon to me, frightened me, barking and made. Its owner walked behind (on a mobile phone) I was clearly scared, and asked him to put his dog on a lead. He responded by telling me that if I didn't like it, I should not come to the Towers! Immediately afterwards, another two dogs (off leads) came charging at me. The first guy turned rounds, and, in an attempt to make fun of me, shouted to the dog owner Put your dogs on a head Ha Ha. The second guy walked on dogs off lead. Now, I have no problem whatsoever with dogs when they are under control. My understanding, is that this lovely Towers area is a public space, and I believe I have as much right as anyone else, to walk, unmolested, in this precious local spot. It is becoming ridiculous that ordinary citizens now find themselves having to avoid the p-lace (for which they contributed through their rates) due to dogs and their owners. I WRITE THEREFORE TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUESTED, THAT THE TOWERS BECOME AN AREA WHERE IT IS MANDATORY TO PUT DOGS ON THEIR LEADS.
143	Mrs J (name removed for publishing) from Fleetwood is disgusted that the change came in letting dogs into the cemetery. She has had to clear up poo a few times from the grave area and has seen people walk through the cemetery letting dogs urinate on headstones. She thinks it should be a complete ban.
144	I went to Tower Woods on several occasions, where every dog in there was off lead! On these occasions I (fortunately) was not charged at by the dogs as their owners were being reasonably watchful. I would say however, that it only takes ONE dog to cause injury or damage to the unsuspecting passer-by, child or other animal. Please give serious consideration to making it mandatory for dogs to be on lead when in Tower Woods.

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145	<p>As a responsible dog owner with a holiday home in the Wyre Council area, I would like you to consider the following points before making a decision on proposed PSPO/DCOs and which may affect me and my dogs. 1. Re; Fouling of Land by Dogs Order: I consider myself a responsible owner and always pick up after my dogs. I support enforcement measures which target those who fail to clean up after their dog and dispose of it in the bin. I would like the Council to support my responsible efforts by providing plenty of litter bins and ensuring funds generated from fines are reinvested into keeping the community clean. 2. Re; Dog Exclusion Order: I understand that there are some areas, such as children play areas, where it is desirable for dogs to be excluded. However, I would prefer to see exclusion areas kept to a minimum and restricted to enclosed spaces. If an area does exclude dogs, I would hope to see plenty of signs to direct me to local alternative areas where my dog and I are welcome. 3. Re; Dogs on Leads Order: I would like the Council to consider my duty of care requirements under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (section 9) which requires my dogs to exhibit normal behaviour patterns “ this includes the need for my dogs to exercise and run off lead. The Council should ensure that there are a number of well sign-posted areas locally for my dogs to exercise off-lead. 4. Re; Dogs on Lead by Direction Order: I believe a Leads by Direction Order to be preferable to Dogs on Leads as it targets individuals who have dogs which are causing a nuisance without restricting responsible dog owners and their dogs. 5, Re; Dog Exclusion on Beaches: While I understand it may be necessary to exclude dogs from being exercised freely on specific areas of local beaches during the summer months, I cannot understand why it is necessary to completely ban dogs who are on leads and under the control of responsible owners provided they clean up any mess left by their dog(s). I would also request that Wyre Council provide allocated beach areas where dogs can be allowed to run freely, again provided that owners clean up any mess left by their dog(s). When considering this request I would point out to you that all beaches are washed twice a day by the tides which is considerably more frequently than the number of times the streets in the local council area are cleaned. I hope you take into consideration my points and recognise the benefits that dog owners and their dogs have on the local community.</p>

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

■ Step 1 – Introductory information

Title of the policy	Public Spaces Protection Orders (Dog Control)
Name of lead officer and others undertaking this assessment	Ruth Hunter
Date EIA started	12 June 2017
Date EIA completed	20 September 2017

■ Step 2 – Overview of policy/function being assessed:

Outline: What is the purpose of this policy? (Specify aims and objectives)
<p>These Orders are put in place to inform residents and visitors about dog control and requirements for dog owners / keepers in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>The Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) replace the current Dog Control Orders put in place in 2011. The requirement for change came in with the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.</p>
What specific group/s is the policy designed to affect/impact and what is the intended change or outcome for them?
<p>The PSPO's are relevant to all residents and visitors to Wyre and affect anyone who is in control of a dog (s)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>People who have a reliance on a trained assistance dog are exempt from the Exclusion Orders.</p> <p>Any other impairment not within the exemptions will be dealt with on a case by case basis.</p>
Which groups have been consulted as part of the creation or review of the policy?
<p>Parish/Town/Ward Clerks and Councillors</p> <p>Dog Organisations – Kennel Club and Dogs Trust</p> <p>Borough Councillors</p> <p>All residents in Wyre (newspapers / web / social media)</p>

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.

Bi – Annual Life in Wyre Surveys – Customers have identified dog fouling / irresponsible dog ownership / dogs out of control as a significant concern within the borough.

Young people – 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.

The Council has undertaken a consultation exercise and the PSPO's will be reviewed every 3 years. Amendments and revisions can be added before that time if evidence is received that there is a need for additional controls. The controls must meet the legal test and must be justified.

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)	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Any other impairment not listed above will be dealt with on a case by case basis.</p>
Gender Reassignment (Transgender)	Positive - neutral
Race	Neutral
Religion or Belief (Includes no belief)	Neutral
Sex (Gender)	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	Neutral
Other protected groups (Pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership)	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)	Neutral

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:

- If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.
- 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 will meet Wyre Council's equality and diversity requirements by adding clarity to dog control orders. 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 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.

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

In relation to responses received from the consultation process a number of amendments have been made to the Order and there is a commitment to review on going.

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

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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