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# OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

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Exmoor National Park Authority  
June 2015

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Contents

<b>1.0.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
	Exmoor National Park Open Space Strategy	3
	National Policy Context	3
<b>2.0.</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>5</b>
	Attributes	6
	Quantity	6
	Quality	6
	Accessibility	7
	Site Assessment	8
	Questionnaires	8
	Your Future Exmoor	9
	Analysis and Results	10
<b>3.0.</b>	<b>Open Space Analysis by Settlement</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1.	Allerford	12
3.2.	Barbrook	15
3.3.	Brendon	18
3.4.	Bridgetown and Exton	22
3.5.	Brompton Regis	26
3.6.	Challacombe	30
3.7.	Cutcombe and Wheddon Cross	33
3.8.	Dulverton	37
3.9.	Dunster	44
3.10.	Exford	49
3.11.	Luccombe	53
3.12.	Luxborough	56
3.13.	Lynton and Lynmouth	59
3.14.	Monksilver	64
3.15.	Parracombe	67
3.16.	Porlock	71
3.17.	Roadwater	76
3.18.	Simonsbath	79
3.19.	Timberscombe	82
3.20.	Winsford	86
3.21.	Withypool	90
3.22.	Wootton Courtenay	94
<b>4.0.</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>97</b>
	Quantity of Exmoor's Open Spaces	97
	Quality of Exmoor's Open Spaces	98
	Accessibility & Recommendations	98
	Quantity Recommendations	100
	Quality Recommendations	100

## 1.0. Introduction

### Exmoor National Park Open Space Strategy

- 1.0.1. Open spaces within settlements make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities by providing for both informal and active sport and recreation. They also have an important role in providing social focal points. Such spaces often enhance the built environment by contributing to the setting, appearance and character of buildings.
- 1.0.2. Planning has a role in determining what open space, sport and recreational provision are required. Planning obligations can be used to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity, quality and in some circumstances the accessibility of open spaces where new development increases local needs or threatens current areas of open space. Across Exmoor, consultation demonstrated that the large majority of people thought developers should be required to make a contribution towards public green space where there is a large development<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.0.3. This open space strategy provides an analysis of the open space, sport and recreation facilities within or adjoining the 22 named settlements on Exmoor<sup>2</sup> and identifies whether or not there are specific needs, deficits or surpluses of open space, sport and recreation with regard to quantity, quality and accessibility. In rural areas, such as the case of Exmoor, it is unlikely that the full range and type of open space, sport and recreation facilities will be provided. It would be expected that most settlements should, however, have some basic facilities, such as a village green or hall. It may be the case that some open space facilities are provided within one settlement but service a number of neighbouring communities.
- 1.0.4. The National Park covers a total area of 692.8 sq km with 39.82ha identified as existing areas of important visual amenity open space<sup>3</sup> and a total of 122 identified and analysed open spaces within the 22 settlements.

### National Policy Context

- 1.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that:
  - 1.1.1. *“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area.*

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<sup>1</sup> ENPA (2010) Your Future Exmoor- Overall Feedback Report [Online] [http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/102323/Overall-Feedback-Report-FINAL--comments2-low-resolution-web.pdf](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/102323/Overall-Feedback-Report-FINAL--comments2-low-resolution-web.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Exmoor National Park (2005) Exmoor National Park Local Plan 2001-2011 (including minerals and waste policies) – settlements identified in policy S1 Settlements.

<sup>3</sup> ENPA (2013) Annual Monitoring Report 2013/14 [Online] [http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/518482/AMR-FINAL-05.12.14.pdf](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/518482/AMR-FINAL-05.12.14.pdf)

*Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provisions are required.*

- 1.1.2. *Existing open space sports, recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless:*
  - *An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be in surplus of requirements; or*
  - *The loss resulting from the proposed development will be replaced with an equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
  - *The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision in which the needs clearly outweigh the loss*<sup>4</sup>.
- 1.2. In undertaking this assessment, the Authority has had regard to Sport England's guidance on assessing the need for sports and recreation facilities<sup>5</sup>. It includes qualitative and quantitative supply and demand analysis, and the approach taken is considered proportionate for the very remote, rural nature of the National Park with a dispersed population. It is important to note that Exmoor National Park Authority is the Local Planning Authority for the National Park, but it is not a Local Authority and therefore responsibility for matters arising such as management of facilities, such as gardens and allotments, lies with the relevant district council.
- 1.3. The National Park Authority has two purposes and a duty set out in statute under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as amended by the Environment Act 1995, which are:
  - *“To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National park; and*
  - *To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.”*
- 1.4. In undertaking this work, the Authority is also required to have a duty to:
  - *“Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the national park.”*

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<sup>4</sup> DCLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 73 -74) *The Stationery Office, London*

<sup>5</sup> Sport England (2014) Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities [Online] <http://www.sportengland.org/media/349967/20140722-anog-published.pdf> ; Sport England (2013) Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance [Online] <http://www.sportengland.org/media/217868/pps-guidance-october-2013-updated.pdf>

## 2.0. Methodology

- 2.0.1. Open spaces have been included in this study where they are located within or in close proximity to named settlements and have sport, recreational or amenity value to the community<sup>6</sup>. They were identified using the Exmoor National Park Local Plan Proposals Map (adopted March 2005) as a baseline and onsite observations. Indoor spaces, such as town/village halls and gyms, were also included in this study where available.
- 2.0.2. A variation of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce typology of open spaces<sup>7</sup> appropriate to a rural setting has been used to group the different open spaces in Exmoor. This is summarised in Figure 1 below. Natural and semi-natural green spaces which include primary purposes of wildlife conservation, biodiversity, environmental education and awareness have not been included in this survey as the rural setting of the National Park provides a wide range of opportunities for such recreation. Civic spaces have also been omitted as such spaces do not form a part of Exmoor's open spaces.

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Primary Purpose</b>
<b>Parks &amp; gardens</b>	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
<b>Green corridors</b>	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration. <i>Only corridors within settlements used for recreational purposes were included in this survey.</i>
<b>Outdoor sports facilities</b>	Participation in outdoor sports such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA) etc.
<b>Amenity green space</b>	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. Only spaces of reasonable size, with public access or including a bench for recreational and public use were included in this study.
<b>Provision for children &amp; young people</b>	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction for children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
<b>Allotments</b>	Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
<b>Cemeteries &amp; churchyards</b>	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, also often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Figure 1: Typology used for Exmoor National Park Open Space Strategy

<sup>6</sup> DCLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework (p18) *The Stationery Office, London*

<sup>7</sup> Urban Green Spaces Taskforce (2002) *Green Spaces, Better Places: Final Report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce*. London: DTLR.

### Attributes

- 2.1. This strategy uses the three key attributes of quantity, quality and accessibility, to analyse the open spaces in the named settlements on Exmoor.

#### Quantity

- 2.1.1. Surplus or deficits in the quantity of open space within settlements often depends on the number and types of open spaces available and the levels of use. In rural areas, it is unlikely that the full range and types of open space facilities will be provided, however residents of many small villages would expect to have at least a village green or hall either within or immediately adjacent to their village. If the quantity of facilities in rural areas is assessed against an 'urban' standard (which is often based on population numbers) there may appear to be a surplus of provision, however this does not mean it will be acceptable to allow a change to another land use<sup>8</sup>.
- 2.1.2. Standards are therefore set locally, based on the rural context of Exmoor. The number and type of open spaces in each settlement is outlined and analysed using responses from 'Your Future Exmoor'<sup>9</sup>, questionnaires and observations from site assessments.
- 2.1.3. The quality of open spaces can also have a secondary impact on the perceived quantity of open space and is therefore closely linked to this attribute i.e. a poor quality open space may be perceived as an unusable open space, reducing the quantity of open space the public believe they have available to them.
- 2.1.4. Quantity can be delivered in part through the planning system and the use of the land. Assistance can be provided by generating resources through planning conditions or agreements<sup>10</sup>.

#### Quality

- 2.1.5. The quality of open spaces can have a secondary impact on the perceived quantity of open spaces as mentioned above. Overall a good quality open space is more likely to be well used. The quality of open spaces on Exmoor has been measured using site assessments (Section 3) to provide an assessment<sup>11</sup> of quality for each open space and an overall assessment for each settlement.
- 2.1.6. The analysis of the quality of open spaces in this study includes a combination of the findings from the site assessments, questionnaires and 'Your Future Exmoor'.
- 2.1.7. Quality is delivered in the first instance through good design and then sustained by good management and maintenance. The planning system can assist by generating resources through planning conditions or

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<sup>8</sup> Fields In Trust (2008) Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play. Pg.5 *National Playing Fields Association*.

<sup>9</sup> Your Future Exmoor Consultation Events held in 2010

<sup>10</sup> Fields in Trust (2008) Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play Pg.31. *National Playing Fields Association*.

<sup>11</sup> This is expressed as a percentage as outlined in paragraph 2.1.13.

agreements to ensure good quality spaces are provided for where appropriate by the provision of new facilities for example.

**Accessibility**

- 2.1.8. The accessibility of open spaces on Exmoor has been analysed using a combination of site assessments- which considered the quality of accessibility e.g. path access, road access etc. - and questionnaires (Appendix 1).
- 2.1.9. Local standards are set out in an Exmoor context using responses from parish questionnaires. Respondents were asked what times they considered reasonable to travel for different types of open space by foot and by transport. This was then converted to distance to travel based on 3mph as an average walking speed<sup>12</sup> and 30mph as average transport speed<sup>13</sup> (Figure 2). These figures were used as a baseline for accessibility in terms of distance and it was found that residents could access all of the open spaces within their settlement, within the average time/distance allowance.

Typology	Average time suggested (Minutes)		Average Distance (Miles)	
	Walking	Transport	Walking	Transport
Parks & gardens	20	25	1	12.5
Green corridors	20	25	1	12.5
Outdoor sports facilities	25	30	1.25	15
Amenity green space	20	25	1	12.5
Provision for children & young people	15	25	0.75	12.5
Allotments	20	25	1	12.5
Cemeteries & churchyards	20	25	1	12.5

**Figure 2: Accessibility baseline standards**

- 2.1.10. Responses from questionnaires have been used to gather real-time data on how far users currently travel to access open spaces. Qualitative data has also been collected on users’ perceptions of the accessibility of their open spaces. This information combined with baseline standards and site assessments have been used to analyse the accessibility of open spaces on Exmoor.
- 2.1.11. The accessibility of an open space can relate to the location and/or design of the open space. This can be delivered in part through the planning system and can be sustained by good management and maintenance. Inaccessible space can still play an important role in the amenity of an area in terms of providing visual amenity.

<sup>12</sup> NHS (2012) ‘Walking for Health’ [Online] <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/getting-started-guides/Pages/getting-started-walking.aspx>

<sup>13</sup> Google (2013) Google Maps [Online] <http://maps.google.co.uk/>

Based on: local knowledge of time taken to travel around Exmoor and Google map time estimates

**Site Assessment**

2.1.12. An onsite assessment was undertaken for each open space identified. The site assessments were undertaken in 2009 and updated in 2014. This assessed the quality of the open space based on the following eight categories scoring between 0 and 5 for each criterion (a score of 5 indicates excellent quality: for full details please see Appendix 1):

1. Main entrance
2. Boundary Condition
3. Accessibility
4. Vegetation
5. Facilities
6. Cleanliness
7. Surrounding Noise
8. Safety/Security

2.1.13. Based on these criteria, an overall percentage for each site has been provided giving an indication of the quality of each open space. Rounded to the nearest whole percentage the difference between the highest percentage (89%) and the lowest percentage (47%) in Exmoor equated to 42%. This difference was divided into thirds and based on this figure (14%) using the lowest score as a baseline, this was used to calculate groupings of 'low', 'medium' and 'high' quality grades. The calculations are as follows:

Calculation	Score	Grade
47% + 14% = 61%	61% and below	Low
61% + 14% = 75%	>61% to 75%	Medium
Anything above 75% to 100%	>75% to 100%	High

**Figure 3: Quality scoring grades**

2.1.14. The overall percentages for each site have been combined to calculate the total average of quality in each settlement. The percentage scores combined with criterion scoring, site descriptions, 'Your Future Exmoor' and evidence from questionnaire responses can help identify where improvements, if any, can be made to the quality of open spaces in Exmoor.

**Questionnaires**

2.2. Three different types of questionnaire were used to gather information about Exmoor's open spaces and indoor sports facilities:

**Parish Questionnaire**

2.2.1. Town and Parish Councils as representatives of their local community were sent a questionnaire based on the open space, sport and recreation facilities within their settlements. This questionnaire gathered information on what the Councils thought of the quality, quantity and accessibility of open spaces within their area (Appendix 2). Town and



Parish Councils were also asked to rate the perceived usage of the open spaces within their settlements giving each type of space a low/medium/high use level score. This data can help to determine what types of open space are used the most which can be cross-referenced with the quantity of open spaces and the quality to determine the relationship between whether the use level is a reflection on the quality of the space.

**Sports Club/Class Questionnaire**

- 2.2.2. Sports clubs/classes were asked questions on the levels of use, quality and accessibility of the open spaces they use. Sports clubs and classes were able to provide tangible information on how they use open spaces within Exmoor e.g. how far people travelled to use the open space for their sport club/class, in some cases this was further than the predicted standards used by this report (Accessibility section 2.1.8 -2.1.11) (Appendix 3).

**Town/Village Hall Questionnaire and Indoor Sports Facilities**

- 2.22.1. Town/Village halls can be important facilities especially in rural areas for indoor sports facilities. To gather information on what kind of activities can be undertaken on Exmoor, town and village halls were sent a questionnaire enquiring about the different activities undertaken in their hall. As classes are often undertaken by individuals, their presence can greatly fluctuate over time; therefore this can only be an indication of what kinds of sports activities can be catered for, rather than what indoor sports are actually being undertaken on Exmoor. The questionnaire also gathered information on the levels of use, quality and accessibility of town/village halls (Appendix 4).
- 2.22.2. Where questionnaires were not returned, the potential for the use of the hall for sport and recreation has been acknowledged. In some settlements the availability of other indoor sports facilities, such as small gyms have also been found.

**Your Future Exmoor**

- 2.3. In 2010, 21 Your Future Exmoor events were held in the settlements of Exmoor. Local issues were consulted on including ‘How to provide the right amount and types of green space within local communities?’, the following options were provided:

Option	There are enough near my home	More are needed
Children’s Play Areas		
Park or Recreation Area		
Outdoor Sports Pitches		
Allotments		
Comments		

**Figure 4: Example question and options from Your Future Exmoor Questionnaire**

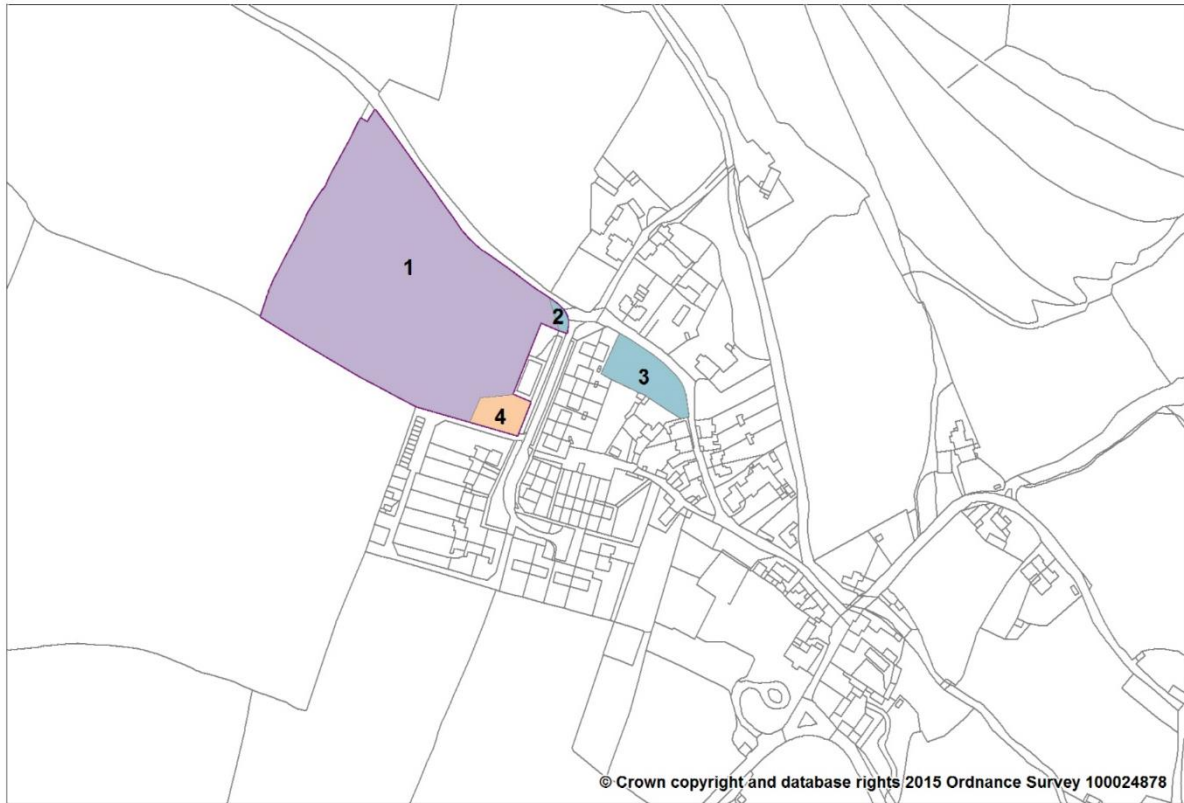
- 2.4. Your Future Exmoor highlighted a need for more allotments in many communities across Exmoor. In response to this finding, the demand for allotments has been analysed for settlements where appropriate.

## Analysis and Results

- 2.5. The results from site assessments, questionnaires and evidence from Your Future Exmoor for each settlement, are presented and analysed in this report based on the three attributes of quality, quantity and accessibility as noted in Section 3. Findings are summarised, deficits or surpluses of open space are identified and recommendations are made where appropriate. Further information may be provided about usage and indoor sports facilities. All recommendations should be considered with regard to advice from relevant bodies, such as highways authorities.

# **3. Open Space Analysis by Settlement**

### 3.1. Allerford



**Map 1: Allerford Open Space Location Map –Link with Figure 5**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Outdoor Sports Facilities		[Total Number = 1]
1	Allerford playing field	75.9
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 2]
2	Allerford bus shelter near playing field	66.7
3	Allerford Community Orchard	68.6
Provision for children and young people		[Total Number = 1]
4	Allerford playground	70.4
Overall Total = 4 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		<b>70.4</b>
<b>Quality Grading of Open Spaces</b>		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 5: Allerford Open Space Location Map 1: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

### **Settlement Location**

- 3.1.1. The settlement of Allerford is within the parish of Selworthy and Minehead Without and is located close to the town of Minehead which is situated outside of the National Park. The village is situated just off of the A39 and is about a mile east of Porlock. To the north and east of Allerford are steep wooded hillsides and the settlement has a linear pattern with buildings fronting the narrow road that passes through the village. There is the potential for residents in Allerford to use the facilities provided in the neighbouring towns and villages.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.1.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' Event held in 2010 found that overall the respondents felt that there were enough play areas and park or recreation areas within Allerford. The perception by some attendees that there are not enough outdoor sports pitches within Allerford, may be due to the level of facilities provided at this type of open space (this is further discussed in the 'quality' section (paragraph 3.1.5-3.1.7). Participants overall said that more allotments were needed. This is also noted by the Parish Council within their questionnaire response, stating that their community would be interested in this type of open space.

### **Quantity**

- 3.1.3. Allerford has four outdoor open spaces (Figure 5), which have different purposes and uses and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations including Allerford Village Hall Community. Allerford benefits from a Community Hall, which has the potential to provide for indoor sports and other recreational activities.

### **Usage**

- 3.1.4. Selworthy and Minehead Without parish note the usage of the space surrounding Allerford bus shelter as medium with a range of uses including walking and a place to picnic in the summer. Both Allerford playing field and the playground within the playing field were noted as having a high usage. The Parish Council also stated that the football pitches in Allerford are used by Minehead Youth Teams and an Annual Football tournament.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.1.5. Overall the quality of Allerford's open space (figure 5) is medium with an average of 70.4%. Allerford playing field was the only open space within Allerford to score high in quality.
- 3.1.6. Allerford bus shelter and playground could improve in quality through minor maintenance works to the current facilities, such as painting the current equipment. Seating should be provided in both the Playing field and the playground.
- 3.1.7. The community orchard space could be enhanced by providing facilities such as seating and an information board as other community orchards within Exmoor National Park already provide these facilities within their spaces such the Porlock Community Orchard.

### Parish Council Response and Recommendations

- 3.1.8. The Parish Council graded the quality of the open spaces in Allerford as good. No improvements were suggested for the bus shelter by the Parish Council. The Parish Council note that the provision of a cricket strip and a second football field are improvements that could be made to the playing field. Although the playing field scores high in quality, there is the perception by some that there are not enough outdoor sports pitches in the area. The improvements recommended by the parish council would further enhance the quality of this space, which in turn is likely to improve the usage.

### Accessibility Site Assessment Results

- 3.1.9. The score for the quality of accessibility of Allerford's open spaces was graded high with an average of 3.4 out of 5 (see Appendix 1 for breakdown of scores). The Parish Council also note that all of the spaces within Allerford are within 8 minutes of walking for people living within the village.

### Indoor Facilities

#### *Community Hall*

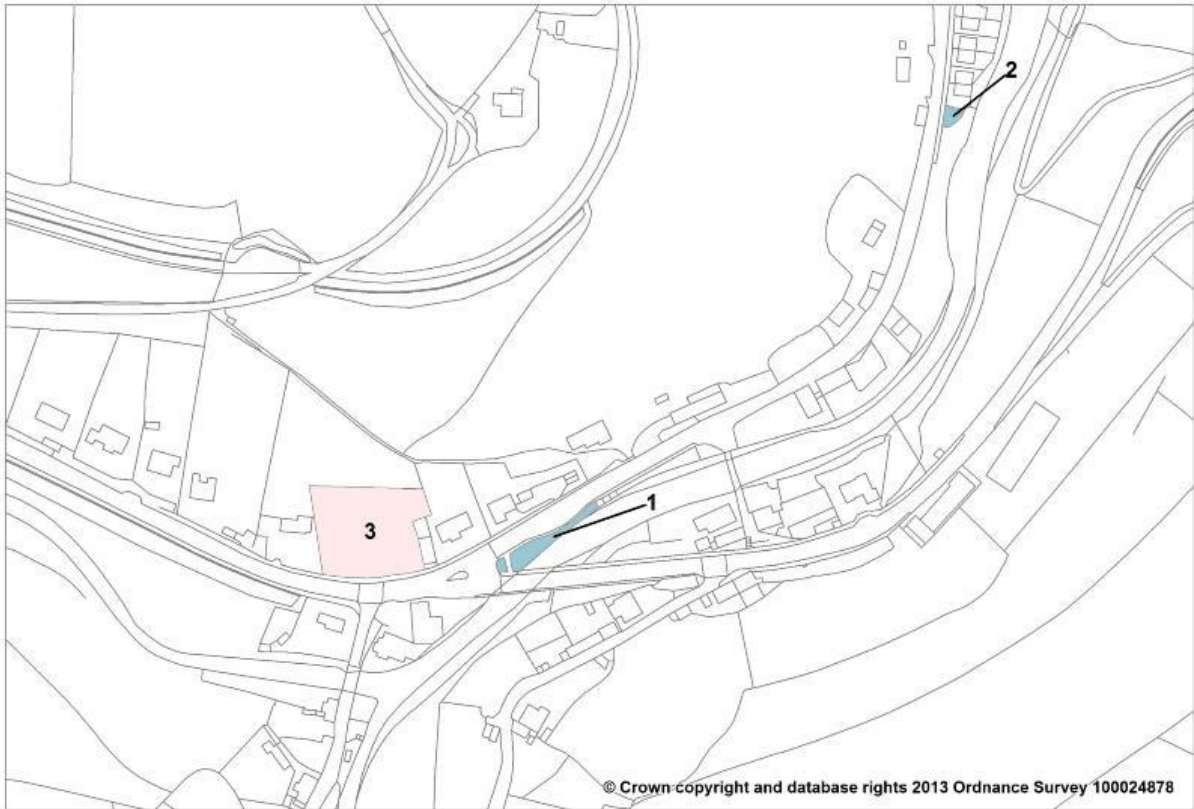
- 3.1.10. The community hall in Allerford has the potential to be used for indoor sports and recreation, such as fitness classes. No responses were received from any sports clubs which indicated such uses were currently being undertaken in the space provided, however the availability of this indoor space provides the opportunity for indoor sport and recreation activities to be undertaken in Allerford.

### Recommendations Summary

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Allerford the following should be explored:

1. The demand for allotments in Allerford should be further researched. Where findings demonstrate a continued demand for allotments, provision for this type of open space should be provided for appropriately.
2. Opportunities to enhance the recreation ground should be explored. This may include the expansion of this open space and the provision of a cricket strip.
3. Facilities should be provided within the community orchard to enhance the quality of the space
4. Maintenance works to current facilities should be continued and enhanced where possible.

### 3.2. Barbrook



**Map 2: Barbrook Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 6**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 2]
1	Barbrook B3234 Open Space opposite Theydon	70.9
2	Barbrook B3234 Memorial Opposite Rocklyn	72.3
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 1]
3	Barbrook Churchyard	66.9
Overall Total = 3 Open spaces		70.0
Overall Average %		

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 6: Barbrook Open Space Location Map 2: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

### **Settlement Location**

- 3.2.1. The settlement of Barbrook is within the parish of Lynton and Lynmouth. The village lies on the junction of the B3234 and the A39 approximately 1 mile south from the larger settlement of Lynton and Lynmouth which has 21 open spaces.
- 3.2.2. Barbrook is characterised by its valley setting and the build pattern expands along the A39 towards Dean Steep and the B3234 towards Lynton with a small grouping of traditional cottages around the West Lyn River. The village has access to public transport all year round via the daily service from Lynton and Lynmouth to Barnstaple. There is also the Ilfracombe Ring & Ride community car scheme which serves Barbrook as well.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.2.3. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 indicate that there is a need for the provision of more open spaces within the Parish including: children's play areas, parks or recreational areas, outdoor sports pitches and allotments.
- 3.2.4. It should be noted that the responses given at the event were a representation from the parish as a whole which includes Lynton and Lynmouth and does not represent responses specifically for Barbrook.

### **Quantity**

- 3.2.5. Barbrook has three outdoor open spaces. There are two amenity open spaces and one churchyard. Barbrook also benefits from a village hall which has the potential to be used as an indoor facility for sport and recreation.

### **Usage**

- 3.2.6. No response was received indicating the level of usage of Barbrook's open spaces.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.2.7. The average quality of Barbrook's open spaces scored medium at 70% based on site assessments (Figure 6) with all of Barbrook's open spaces scoring within the medium quality bracket.
- 3.2.8. Most open spaces in Barbrook scored low in facilities; improvement to this category through maintenance or provision of more facilities would enhance the quality score of the open spaces within Barbrook.
- 3.2.9. Barbrook's 'Amenity Green Space 1' and 'Churchyard' both scored lower in the site assessment category of 'Cleanliness' relating to the pollution, surrounding noise and safety/security of the open space. This is due to the spaces' close proximity to the road and petrol station. However, the restricted location of the spaces limits the potential for improvements to the quality scores.



### Accessibility Site Assessment Results

- 3.2.10. The overall score for the quality of accessibility of Barbrook's open spaces was medium with an average of 3.25 out of 5 (see Appendix 1 for breakdown of scores).
- 3.2.11. The Memorial Garden- 'Amenity Space Number 2'- scored the lowest in terms of accessibility. This was mainly due to a lack of parking and difficult disabled access. If deemed appropriate, amendments to the main entrance for disabled access provisions would improve the accessibility quality score. Due to the location of this open space improvements to the availability of parking may not be suitable.

### Indoor Facilities

#### *Village Hall*

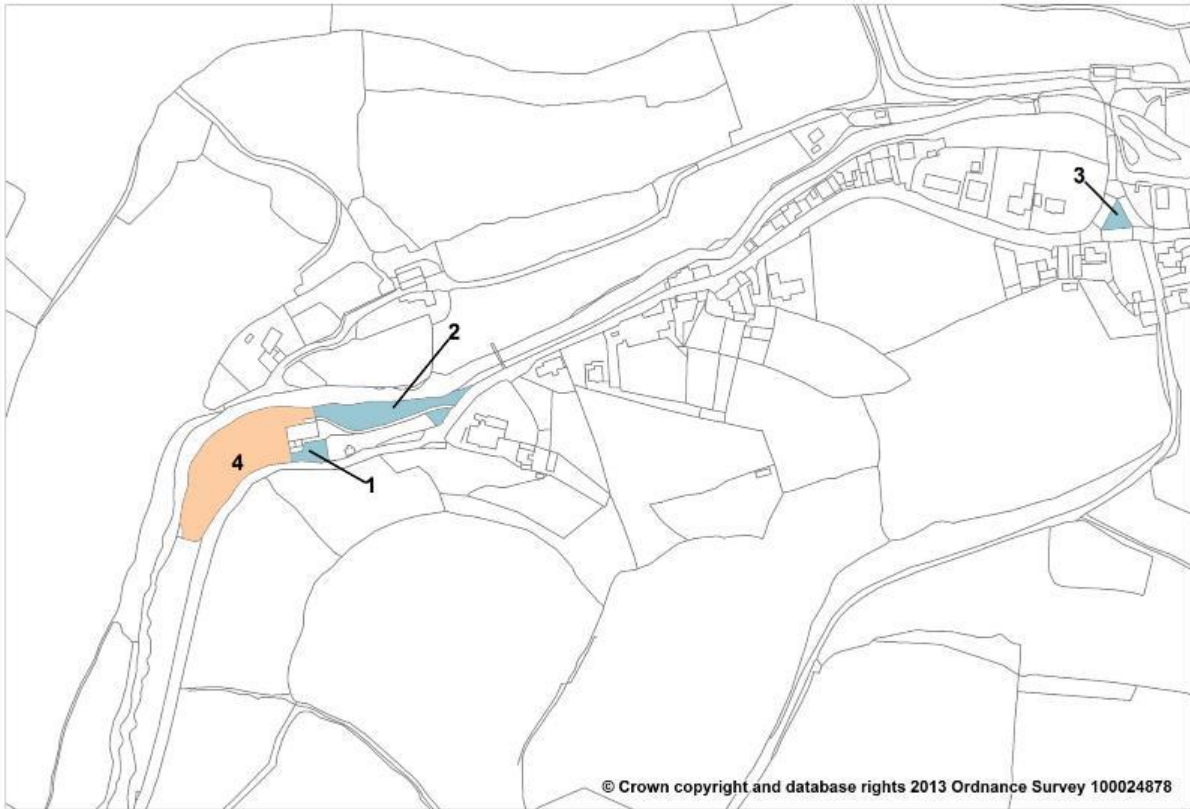
- 3.2.12. The village hall in Barbrook has the potential to be used for some indoor sports and recreation activities, such as low impact fitness classes. No responses were received which indicated such uses were currently being undertaken in the space provided, however the availability of this indoor space provides the opportunity for indoor sport and recreation activities to be undertaken in Barbrook.

### Recommendations Summary

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Barbrook the following should be explored:

1. Opportunities to enhance current facilities within open spaces, improving the quality of accessibility, such as the widening of entrances and continued or increased level of maintenance.
2. The provision of new facilities, where appropriate, in the current open spaces of Barbrook.

### 3.3. Brendon



Map 3: Brendon Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 7

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 3]
1	Brendon Picnic Area 1	75.4
2	Brendon Picnic Area 2	78.2
3	Brendon Leeford Green Open Space	68.3
Provision for children and young people		[Total Number = 1]
4	Brendon Playground by Village Hall	80.9
Overall Total = 4 Open spaces		75.7
Overall Average %		

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

Figure 7: Brendon Open Space Location Map 3: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.

### **Settlement Location**

- 3.3.1. The settlement of Brendon is situated within the East Lyn valley and is approximately four miles east of Lynton and Lynmouth which can be reasonably accessed by private transport. The larger settlement of Lynton and Lynmouth has 21 open spaces, providing further opportunities for sport and recreation for the residents of the parish. A response from the Lynton and Lynmouth Bowling Club note that users travel from Brendon to use their facility.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.3.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010, indicate that there are enough children's play areas, parks and recreational areas and outdoor sports pitches.

### **Community Strategic Plan**

- 3.3.3. In the Community Strategic Plan, 'Lyn-X ...looking to the future...2006-2021' (which covers the parishes of Brendon, Challacombe, Countisbury, Kentisbury, Lynton and Lynmouth, Martinhoe, Parracombe and Trentishoe), it was considered that there was a high demand for community facilities for learning, sport and leisure across the area, but facilities were limited.
- 3.3.4. The strategic plan particularly highlights their interest in providing a public swimming pool in the area. They note the nearest public swimming pool is in Barnstaple which is 20 miles away. However it is recognised by the community strategic plan that acquiring and maintaining such a facility is an expensive enterprise for a small community. It should also be observed that the 'Lyn X' plan includes views from seven other parishes and therefore it is not a pure representation of views from Brendon, and results from this study should be used with care.

### **Quantity**

- 3.3.5. Brendon has four outdoor open spaces consisting of three amenity green spaces and one children's playground. Brendon also benefits from a village hall providing an indoor space, which has the potential to be used for sports and other recreational activities.

### **Usage**

- 3.3.6. No response was received indicating the level of usage of Brendon's open spaces.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.3.7. Overall the average quality of Brendon's open spaces (figure 7) is high with a quality score of 75.7%. Only Brendon Leeford Green Open Space scored in the medium quality bracket.
- 3.3.8. Improvements to the 'Playground' could include the provision of a wider variety of play equipment and the provision of minor maintenance/repairs to the current equipment. The lack of variety of play equipment for a

wide age range was also highlighted by a respondent of the 'Your Future Exmoor' event.

- 3.3.9. 'Brendon Leeford Green' open space scored a medium quality score with 68.3%. The space scored lower in the facilities category and the provision of more facilities and more vegetation would improve the scoring of this open space. Accessibility to this open space also scored low on the site assessment, however improvements to this category are restricted by the spaces location being surrounded by roads.
- 3.3.10. 'Brendon Picnic Area 2' scored a high quality grade with a percentage of 78.2%. The main category which this open space scored lower in was the 'facilities' category of the site assessment. The provision of new facilities, such as picnic benches and dustbins, would be beneficial to the use of the site.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.3.11. The average score for the quality of accessibility of Brendon's open spaces was high, scoring 3.5 out of 5 (see Appendix 1 for breakdown of scores). 'Leeford Green' open space scored lower than other open spaces within Brendon on the quality of accessibility due to the restrictive location of the space.

### **Indoor Facilities**

#### ***Village Hall***

- 3.3.12. Brendon benefits from a village hall, which can be used for indoor sports and recreation. It is owned and maintained by charitable trustees. The response received regarding Brendon village hall rated the accessibility of the hall as good. The respondent noted that there were toilets available including an inside and an outside disabled toilet and a kitchen was available if required.
- 3.3.13. Overall the quality of the village hall was rated as good. No improvements to the village hall were suggested, but continued general maintenance of the building was recommended. At the time the questionnaire was received, it was noted that the village hall was being used by skittles and table tennis clubs on a weekly basis.
- 3.3.14. The space also provides the opportunity for other indoor activities to be undertaken in Brendon, such as fitness classes. Users of the village hall access the space by private transport and by walking with people travelling from Lynton and Lynmouth, Countisbury, Oare and Brendon.

**Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Brendon the following should be explored:

1. Ensure the demand for larger sport and recreational activities in Brendon, such as a swimming pool, is taken into account by larger neighbouring towns.
2. Provision of a wider range of play equipment in the playground, particularly for younger children e.g. enclosed swings for younger children.
3. Provision of more facilities, such as seating, for Brendon picnic area 2 and Leeford green open space.

### 3.4. Bridgetown and Exton



**Map 4: Bridgetown and Exton Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 8**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Outdoor Sports Facilities		[Total Number = 1]
1	Bridgetown Cricket Ground	64.0
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 1]
2	Exton Churchyard	70.3
Overall Total = 2 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		67.15

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 8: Bridgetown and Exton Open Space Location Map 4: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

### **Settlement Location**

- 3.4.1. The adjoining settlements of Bridgetown and Exton are the two main settlements in the Exton parish and the main tourist route of the A396 passes through Bridgetown. The settlements lie within the wooded Exe Valley and the settlement pattern is linear in form. The settlements are served by a regular bus service between Minehead and Tiverton, 6 days a week and demand responsive transport is also available to residents of the parish.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.4.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010, suggest that there is a need for allotments and children's play areas within the parish.

### **Quantity**

- 3.4.3. Bridgetown and Exton have two open spaces. There is a cricket ground in Bridgetown which is owned by a local landowner and maintained/managed by the cricket club, and a churchyard in Exton. Bridgetown also benefits from a village hall which has the potential to be used as an indoor facility for activities in sport and recreation, such as low impact fitness classes.
- 3.4.4. Exton Parish Council believes that there are not enough recreational facilities and open spaces within their Parish. They believe there is a need in the Parish for a children's play area, which could be incorporated as part of the cricket field.

### **Usage**

- 3.4.5. Exton Parish Council believes that the usage of the open spaces in Bridgetown and Exton is at a medium level.

### **Parish Council Response**

- 3.4.6. Exton Parish Council believes that there are not enough recreational facilities and open spaces within their parish. The Parish Council note there is a demand for a children's play area in the parish, and their suggestion is to provide this as part of the cricket field site.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.4.7. Overall the quality of Bridgetown and Exton's open spaces (figure 8) has been rated at a medium quality level scoring 67.15% with Bridgetown cricket ground scoring 64.0% and Exton churchyard scoring 70.3%.
- 3.4.8. Bridgetown Cricket Ground scored lower in the facilities category of the site assessment. For the type and size of the space, particularly in comparison to other similar types of open space on Exmoor, more facilities would improve the quality of this open space. It was mentioned in the Bridgetown Your Future Exmoor event and by the Parish Council that there was a need for a playground in the area and it was suggested by the Parish Council to site this in the cricket ground. This would provide a new type of open space in the area and would further improve the quality score of the cricket ground.
- 3.4.9. Other improvements could include the enhancement of the quality of accessibility to the cricket ground. Currently the main entrance is over a

narrow bridge that crosses over the River Exe. Although this feature adds to the character of this open space, the narrow nature of it and the steps leading to and from the structure may restrict access for some users. There is also no solid fencing on either side of the bridge which may lead to some safety issues, particularly regarding small children. An alternative entrance or enhancement of this current entrance to be more accessible to all users and to include improved safety measures would increase the quality of accessibility to this open space.

- 3.4.10. Exton Churchyard scores well in the quality assessment, however in comparison to other churchyards around Exmoor, it scores lower in the facilities category of the site assessment. A larger range of facilities would further improve the quality score of this open space.

#### **Parish Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.4.11. Exton Parish Council rates the quality of both the cricket ground and the churchyard as good. Some maintenance issues regarding the churchyard are noted by the Parish Council which includes the difficulty in keeping the grass cut and hedges trimmed. The Parish Council state that the church owns the space and parishioners maintain it.
- 3.4.12. During a site inspection, the vegetation of the churchyard scored well. However due to the comment from the Parish Council, improved frequency of maintenance could be beneficial to the site where possible. Another option may include diversifying the vegetation of the church, so that it requires a lower level maintenance.
- 3.4.13. The Parish Council are unaware of any plans for improvements for Bridgetown and Exton's open spaces.

#### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.4.14. Results from the site assessments show that the accessibility quality score for the open spaces averaged 2.13 out of 5 (see Appendix 1 for breakdown of scores). The cricket ground scored lower in accessibility due to the limited access for some users. The provision of an alternative main entrance or improvement to the current entrance to enable users, such as those in wheelchairs to easily access the space would improve this score and the overall average for Bridgetown and Exton.

#### **Indoor Facilities**

##### ***Village Hall***

- 3.4.15. Bridgetown also benefits from a village hall which is a registered charity, owned by the Village Hall Trustees and maintained by the Village Hall Committee. The land is owned by a private landowner.
- 3.4.16. Respondents of the Village Hall Questionnaire state that accessibility to the hall is satisfactory and could be improved further by the provision of a car park. However, this option is unfeasible due to the location of the hall and the lack of surrounding land to locate a car park. There are however, large lay-bys' nearby (within 100 metres) which allow reasonable access to the hall by walking once cars are parked.



- 3.4.17. The Hall was fitted with a ramp from the main road in April 2012 to aid with accessibility and facilities within the hall, such as the toilets, are suitable for some disabled users.
- 3.4.18. The quality of the village hall was rated as good and there are no current or future maintenance issues. Facilities provided by the hall include: a spacious floor, toilets, heating and a kitchen.
- 3.4.19. The questionnaire response notes that no sports activities were currently being undertaken in the space provided but there is an opportunity for this. The hall is currently used for meetings, social functions and events such as local live bands. The village hall believes that activities such as bowls, table tennis, dancing or yoga would all be possible if any groups wanted to use the space for such activities.

### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Bridgetown and Exton, the following should be explored:

1. The demand for allotments in the Bridgetown and Exton area should be explored. Where results demonstrate a demand in the area, the provision of this type of open space should be provided appropriately.
2. The provision of a playground in the Bridgetown Cricket Ground should be investigated. Where this cannot be achieved, the provision of this type of open space in the area should be further examined.
3. Enhancement to the quality of accessibility to the Cricket Ground should be explored. This may include the provision of an alternative entrance or improvement of the current entrance to ensure easy access for all users, including those in wheelchairs.
4. Improved frequency of maintenance in the Exton Churchyard or modifying the vegetation to that, which requires less maintenance.

### 3.5. Brompton Regis



**Map 5: Brompton Regis Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 9**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 1]
1	Brompton Regis George Meadow Millennium Green	65.8
Provision for children and young people		[Total Number = 1]
2	Brompton Regis Playground	56.9
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 1]
3	Brompton Regis St Mary's Churchyard	66.1
Overall Total = 3 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		62.9

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 9: Brompton Regis Open Space Location Map 5: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

### Settlement Location

- 3.5.1. Brompton Regis lies five miles east of Dulverton on the Brendon Hill and is surrounded by rolling farmland and wooded valleys. The local freight route road from Machine Cross to Heathpoult Cross is less than a mile west of the village. The settlement has a single bus service running from Minehead to Dulverton via Brompton Regis, once a week and demand responsive transport is available to the residents. Residents of Brompton Regis also have access to facilities outside of their parish with a number of settlements within reach by private transport. This includes West Anstey, whereby 'Anstey Short Mat Bowls Club' note that some of their players come from Brompton Regis to use their facilities.

### Your Future Exmoor

- 3.5.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010, indicate that there is a perceived lack of play space within the settlement, which may be due to the quality of the current children's playground in Brompton Regis.
- 3.5.3. Consultation respondents also noted the George Meadow in Brompton Regis, as an important green space. This space is part of the Millennium Greens Breathing Spaces initiative led by the Countryside Agency and is also a part of a Millennium project supported by funds from the National Lottery. Overall this is a good quality open space and the support of it as an important green space by the community suggests that it is well used.

### Quantity

- 3.5.4. Brompton Regis has three outdoor open spaces which have different purposes and uses. There is an amenity green space, a playground and churchyard. The churchyard also includes a listed building and war memorial. Brompton Regis also benefits from a village hall which is used for indoor sports and other recreational activities.

### Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations

- 3.5.5. Overall the average quality of open space (Figure 9) in Brompton Regis was graded as medium with a percentage score of 62.9%. Brompton Regis playground scored low in quality with a percentage of 56.9%.
- 3.5.6. Low quality can affect the usage of a site. In this case, the lack of maintenance in the play area inhibited the use of the facilities provided. The entrance was also unwelcoming and the lack of variety in play equipment reduces the usage level. An improvement in the quality of this playground is likely to improve the usage of the play space and reduce the perception of a lack of facilities for outdoor recreation for children.
- 3.5.7. It is recommended by this study to first improve the current play area before providing a new open space as this demand may not be required once the area is improved. It may be appropriate once this action has been undertaken to consult on the demand for children's play areas again to clarify whether demand has been met by improving the quality of the current children's play area. If findings show that demand is still prevalent the provision of a new children's play area in addition to the existing play space should be provided.

- 3.5.8. The main category that the George Meadow Millennium Green scored lower in was the provision of more facilities. Although not all facilities are expected to be provided, for the size and primary usage of the open space and to improve the score in quality, more facilities should be provided such as dustbins. There are a number of picnic benches provided, however some now require repair and maintenance work.
- 3.5.9. Instead of providing all facilities, information on where the nearest facilities are could also improve the quality rating for this category e.g. information indicating where the nearest toilets are. Other areas of improvement are minor maintenance works, such as increased frequency of maintenance to the boundary and repair of the broken latch to the main entrance. These small improvements would enhance the quality score of this open space.
- 3.5.10. The main category St Mary's churchyard scored lower in was the facilities section, as other churchyards in Exmoor provide a wider range and number of facilities on site. The provision of more facilities, such as an information board and improvements, such as panting, to the current facilities, would improve the quality score of this open space.

#### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.5.11. Based on the site assessments (Appendix 1), the average score for the quality of accessibility of Brompton Regis' open spaces was 3.25 out 5. The main sub-category the open spaces scored lower in was disabled access. Improvement to this sub-category could include the repair and widening of current paths and entrances, and ensuring slopes are gentle enough for those in wheelchairs to easily use. Due to the location and terrain of the open spaces, some improvements may not be feasible or appropriate to the area.

#### **Indoor Facilities**

##### ***Village Hall***

- 3.5.12. Brompton Regis has the benefit of having a village hall which provides an area for indoor sport and recreation. It is owned by the Diocese of Bath and Wells and is maintained by the Brompton Regis Village Hall Committee. Brompton Regis village hall responded to this study's questionnaire and noted that clubs and classes, such as snooker and table tennis, were undertaken in the village hall at least weekly. Other activities, such as toddlers centre, art classes and sewing classes, were also undertaken.
- 3.5.13. It is noted from the questionnaire response that users of the hall travel by private transport or by foot from Brompton Regis, Upton, Brushford, Minehead and Bampton. Accessibility to the hall is rated at good and the provision of hearing loops and guard rails to the ramp would improve the accessibility standards further.
- 3.5.14. Disabled facilities are provided within the village hall including: a spacious level of access throughout including wide doors, disabled toilet and the use of a colour scheme for the visually impaired. Other services

offered include: the provision of toilets, storage, kitchen facilities and a dedicated room for the snooker club.

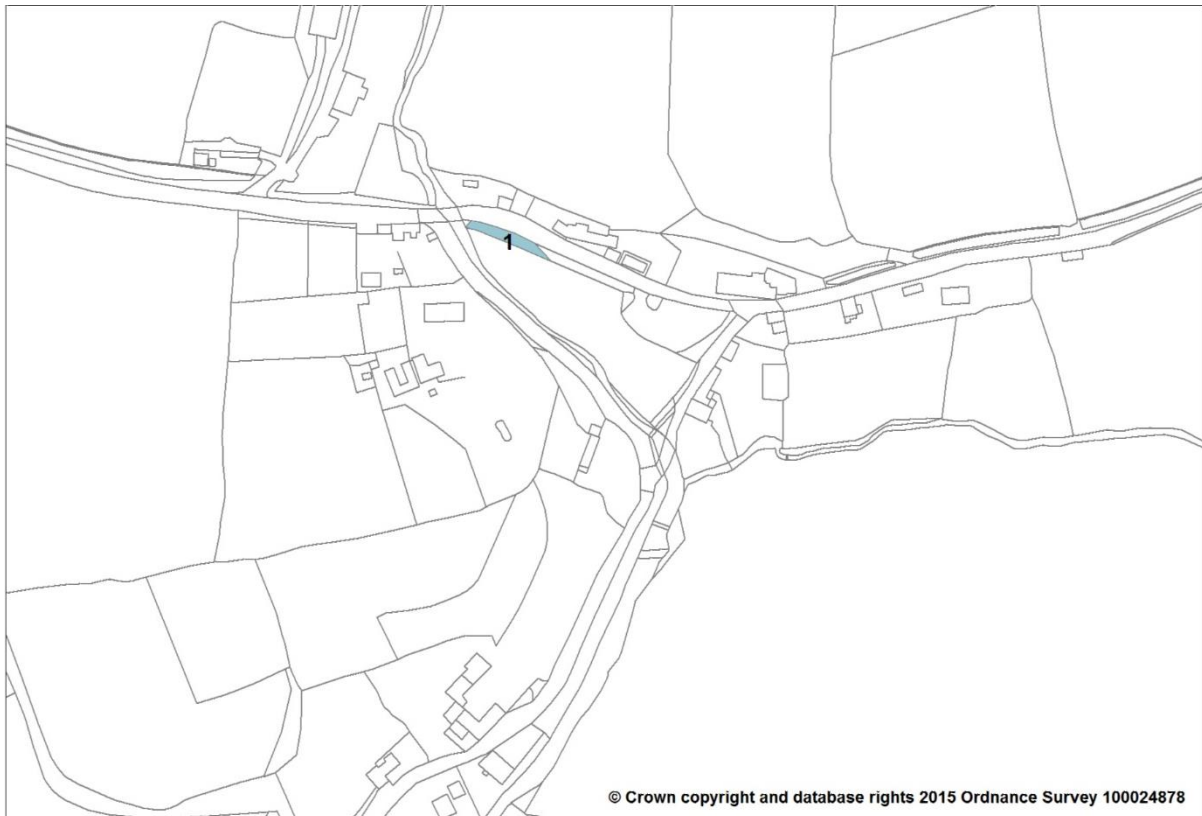
- 3.5.15. Brompton Regis village hall rate the quality of the hall as good. They note that the building needs constant maintenance and suggest that better insulation of the outer rear wall would reduce running costs, as well as new windows and the resurfacing of wooden floors.

### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Brompton Regis, the following should be explored:

1. Improvement to the boundaries, enhanced maintenance and the provision of more play equipment and facilities in the playground.
2. The demand for allotments in Brompton Regis should be further researched. Where findings demonstrate a demand, the provision of this type of open space should be provided for appropriately.
3. The provision of more facilities in all of Brompton Regis's open spaces.
4. The maintenance or repair of current facilities in Brompton Regis's open spaces.
5. Enhancement of the quality of access, for example, the widening and repair of paths to ensure easy access for all users including disabled users.
6. Enhancement of the Village Hall by providing hearing loops, guard rails to the ramp, insulation of walls, new windows and resurfacing of wooden floors where appropriate. Continued and where possible enhanced maintenance.

### 3.6. Challacombe



**Map 6: Challacombe Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 10**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 1]
1	Challacombe Open Space opposite Post Office	64.9
Overall Total = 1 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		64.9

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 10: Challacombe Open Space Location Map 6: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

#### Settlement Location

- 3.6.1. The settlement of Challacombe lies in the shallow valley of the Bray River surrounded by permanent pasture. It is accessed via the B3358 and there is no public bus service within the settlement, however there is a ring and ride community transport scheme. Due to the size of Challacombe and the limited availability of land for open spaces, residents of the parish can access other open spaces and facilities within the surrounding villages of Parracombe and Lynton or Lynmouth, which have more variety and quantity of open spaces due to the larger settlement sizes.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.6.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010, identified the need for a park or recreation area in the centre of Challacombe as well as the need for a larger community building.

### **Community Strategic Plan**

- 3.6.3. Challacombe is one of the parishes covered by the Community Strategic Plan, 'Lyn-X ...looking to the future...2006-2021' which highlights the interest for a public swimming pool within the area covered by the eight parishes.

### **Quantity**

- 3.6.4. Challacombe has one outdoor open space, situated opposite the post office which provides the Parish with amenity green space. Challacombe benefits from indoor spaces, such as the Methodist Chapel Hall, which may be used for minor sports and other recreational activities.

### **Usage**

- 3.6.5. No response was received indicating the level of usage of Challacombe's open space.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.6.6. Overall the quality of Challacombe's open space (Figure 10) is 'medium' with an average quality score of 64.9%. The quality score for this open space has the potential to be improved by adding more facilities to the site, such as seating and a litter bin. The site could also be enhanced further by the provision of more vegetation, such as planted areas or shrubs as this was another category that the space scored low in. It should be noted, however, that the enhancement of the site is limited due to its size and location by the roadside.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.6.7. Based on the site assessment, the quality of accessibility for Challacombe's open space was medium scoring 3.5 out of 5. The space scored lower than other open spaces in the National Park due to the quality of the path, the informal parking provisions and disabled access. The location and terrain of the open spaces are the main factors limiting improvements to the accessibility criteria.

### **Indoor Facilities**

#### ***Methodist Hall***

- 3.6.8. Challacombe Methodist Hall has the potential to be used for some indoor sport and recreational activities. The hall is owned and maintained by Challacombe Methodist Church. The Methodist Church noted that this space is small and not often used. The quality of the hall was rated as poor and it was noted that the space needed redecoration/refurbishment.
- 3.6.9. The questionnaire respondents rated the accessibility of the village hall as poor/satisfactory. They suggested that a ramp was needed to provide for disabled access. They currently provide a chemical toilet but would

recommend the provision of a water supply and drainage. However, the cost of such improvement has hindered their capabilities to improve this indoor space. Currently no sports clubs or classes use this village hall.

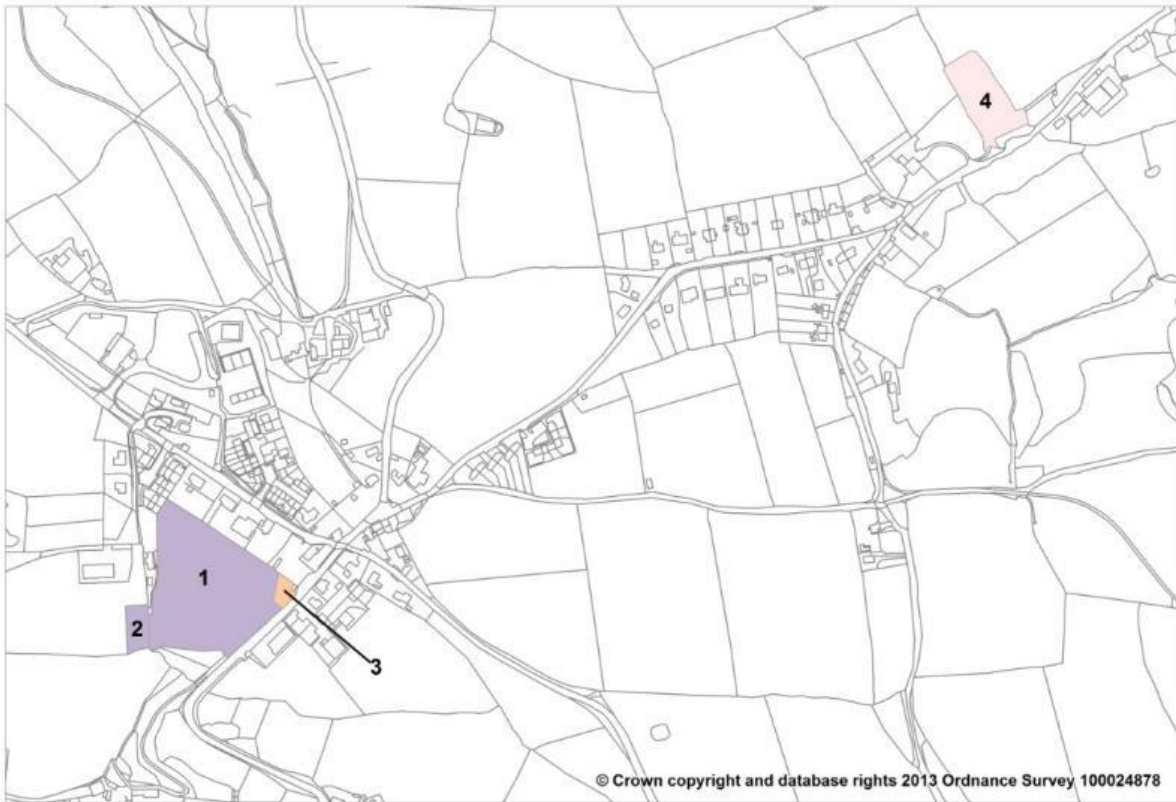
### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Challacombe, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessments of the demand for open spaces should be explored, particularly open spaces for a recreation ground and community building, following the response from the Your Future Exmoor Event. Where demand still remains provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces.
2. The provision of more facilities and vegetation to enhance the existing open space including seating.



### 3.7. Cutcombe and Wheddon Cross



**Map 7: Cutcombe and Wheddon Cross Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 11**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Outdoor Sports Facilities		[Total Number = 2]
1	Wheddon Cross Recreation Ground	82.1
2	Wheddon Cross Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)	62.3
Provision for children and young people		[Total Number = 1]
3	Wheddon Cross Playground	73.1
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 1]
4	Wheddon Cross Churchyard	82.7
Overall Total = 4 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		75.1

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 11: Cutcombe and Wheddon Cross Open Space Location Map 7: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

### **Settlement Location**

- 3.7.1. Cutcombe/Wheddon Cross is located relatively central in the Exmoor context and lies within a farmed landscape. The settlement benefits from a regular bus service running 6 days a week between Minehead and Tiverton and Minehead. Timberscombe short mat bowls club note that some of their players come from Wheddon Cross, which is approximately four miles away from the village.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.7.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010, indicate that there are a sufficient number of children's play areas, recreational areas and outdoor sports pitches within the settlement. Many people signified that the recreation ground was an important green space with important trees. Only one respondent noted that more allotments were needed.

### **Your Future Exmoor – Youth Consultation**

- 3.7.3. The findings from the Cutcombe 'Your Future Exmoor' youth consultation event in 2009 indicate that they liked the playing field and that there were enough play spaces for them within the settlement. However, they would like to see more variety of equipment within the playground and more dustbins for litter and dog foul.

### **Quantity**

- 3.7.4. Cutcombe and Wheddon Cross have four outdoor open spaces which have different purposes including: two outdoor sports facilities, one provision for children and young persons and one churchyard. Cutcombe and Wheddon Cross's Moorland hall also provides an indoor space which can be used for sports and other recreational activities.

### **Usage**

- 3.7.5. No response was received indicating the level of usage of Cutcombe and Wheddon Cross's open spaces.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.7.6. Overall the quality of Cutcombe/Wheddon Cross's open space (Figure 11) is high with an average of 75.1%. Both Wheddon Cross recreation ground and churchyard scored high in quality, whilst the multi-use games area (MUGA) and playground within the medium quality category.
- 3.7.7. The Wheddon Cross Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) scored 62.3% overall. The main categories, from the site assessment that it scored lower in, were vegetation and facilities. In terms of vegetation, although it could be argued by some that such a site doesn't require vegetation, on inspection, other sites around Exmoor which have a similar uses, provide either planted areas within the site/ around the edges or provide planting directly outside the site. Where this vegetation is well kept, provision of such planted areas improved the aesthetics of these sites. The provision of some vegetation, for example planted areas, would improve the quality score of this open space.

- 3.7.8. Enhancement of current facilities would improve the quality score of this space, such as providing more bins or a larger bin, as it was found that the bin was overflowing during the site inspection. Seating facilities would also be beneficial to the use of this site as similar courts often provide seating at the edge of their grounds.
- 3.7.9. The children's playground scored medium in quality scoring lower in the vegetation and facilities categories of the site assessment. The provision of a wider range of vegetation close to or within the site, such as planted areas, would improve the aesthetics of the play area and improve the quality score. Minor improvements to maintenance, such as re-painting the current facilities and providing a larger range of play equipment would also improve the site. Findings from the Cutcombe first school event indicated that this recommendation would be encouraged. They noted they wanted 'a better playground' which may include the provision of a roundabout.
- 3.7.10. Although the recreation ground scored high in quality, consultation with Cutcombe first school highlighted a demand from the children for a football ground. Where opportunities arise to provide for further facilities in the recreation ground, provision of sporting equipment, such as football posts, would improve the site further and enhance usage.

#### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.7.11. Based on the site assessments, the average score for the quality of accessibility of Cutcombe/Wheddon Cross's open spaces was very high with an average of 4.44 out of 5. The flat terrain of the open spaces and easy access to parking were key features, which led to a high accessibility score in quality.

#### **Indoor Facilities**

##### ***Moorland Hall***

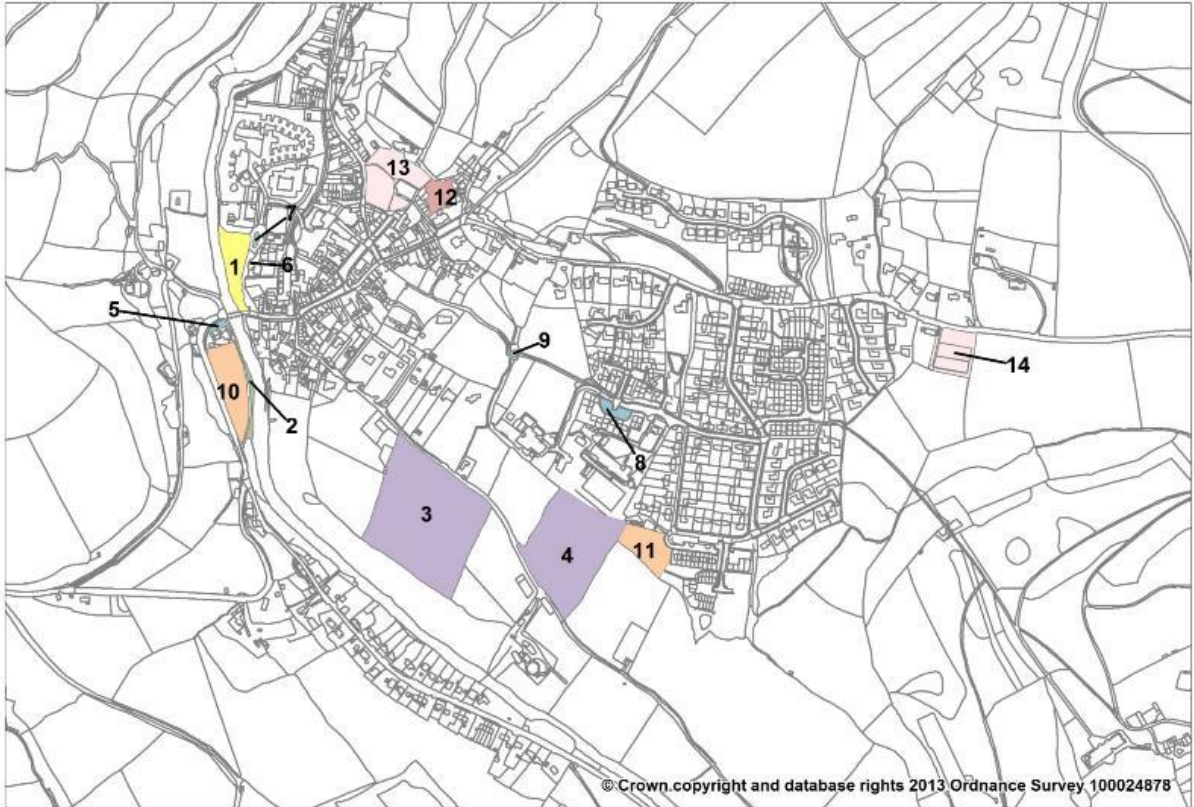
- 3.7.12. The moorland hall in Cutcombe/Wheddon Cross was modernised and extended in 2005. It is managed by a committee and has charitable status. It provides a large room which can seat 150 people or 200 people standing. Smaller rooms are also available including a conference room seating up to 20. It provides a number of facilities including a full audio system and hearing loop, modern commercial kitchen, full toilet facilities including for the disabled, baby changing, broadband and internet café facility. It also provides an area for car parking. Some sports clubs appear to use the moorland hall, which includes short mat bowls and the moorland hall sports club. There is likely to be potential to provide for other indoor sports activities such as fitness classes.

### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Cutcombe/Wheddon Cross, the following should be explored:

1. Improvements to the MUGA could include the provision of vegetation, such as planted areas, and new facilities to include more dustbins and seating.
2. Minor maintenance to the children's playground, such as painting of current facilities and the provision of more play equipment. If the opportunity is available the provision of a roundabout would be appreciated by the children of Cutcombe First School.
3. Where opportunities arise, further consultation on the demand for allotments in the village.

### 3.8. Dulverton



**Map 8: Dulverton Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 12 (p38)**

## Open Space Strategy for Exmoor National Park Authority

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>		[Total Number = 1]
1	Dulverton Exmoor Lawns	73.6
<b>Green Corridors</b>		[Total Number = 1]
2	Dulverton Poundwalk River Corridor	75.9
<b>Outdoor Sports Facilities</b>		[Total Number = 2]
3	Dulverton Sports Ground Millham Lane	85.6
4	Dulverton Middle School playing field	79.0
<b>Amenity Green space</b>		[Total Number = 5]
5	Dulverton Kings Corner (By the Barle Bridge)	69.1
6	Dulverton Fire Station War memorial	70.3
7	Dulverton Lorna Doone Grass Statue Verge	66.0
8	Dulverton Fishersmead Open Space	74.6
9	Dulverton Abbotsway Pond	75.6
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>		[Total Number = 2]
10	Dulverton Poundwalk Recreation Ground	80.0
11	Dulverton Barns Close Play Area	77.4
<b>Allotments</b>		[Total Number = 1]
12	Dulverton Town Marsh Allotments	83.7
<b>Cemeteries and churchyards</b>		[Total Number = 2]
13	Dulverton All Saints' churchyard	79.1
14	Dulverton Jury Road Cemetery	71.8
Overall Total = 14 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		75.8

<b>Quality Grading of Open Spaces</b>		
Low	Medium	High

*Figure 12: Dulverton Open Space Location Map 8: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.*

### Settlement Location

- 3.8.1. The settlement of Dulverton lies on the southern boundary of the National Park within the wooded valley of the River Barle. The main A396 route lies one mile east with the B3222 passing directly through the town via the High Street and the B3223 leading off from the Fore Street towards Winsford Hill. Dulverton's services and facilities serve the wider local community within the surrounding areas and villages. The town is well served by public transport providing regular bus services to Tiverton, Minehead and Taunton. A community bus provides a once a week service to Minehead and there is also demand responsive transport available to residents.

### Your Future Exmoor

- 3.8.2. Respondents from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 suggested that people thought there were enough open spaces in Dulverton.

### Your Future Exmoor – Youth Consultation

- 3.8.3. Results from the Dulverton 'Your Future Exmoor' youth consultation event held in 2009 indicated that there were not enough play areas in the settlement. The children identified nature and wildlife as things they like and litter, traffic, dog fouling, over grown grass and small playgrounds as things they disliked. They would like to see more equipment within the playgrounds, a rugby pitch and more wildlife. However, it should be noted that the Barnsclose play area was refurbished post-consultation.

### Quantity

- 3.8.4. Dulverton has 14 outdoor open spaces which have a number of different purposes and uses (Figure 12) and are owned and maintained/managed by several organisations including Somerset County Council, West Somerset Council and Dulverton Town Council. Dulverton also benefits from indoor spaces which may be used for sports and other recreational activities; these spaces include the Town Hall, Exmoor Fitness Centre, Squash Courts, Sports Ground Indoor Space and the undercover swimming pool located at the Middle School, which is available for use by the general public<sup>14</sup>. Overall the Town Council considers Dulverton to have sufficient recreational facilities and open spaces.

### Usage

- 3.8.5. In the 2010 Dulverton Parish Plan, it was noted that most open spaces in Dulverton were well used and should be protected. Open spaces may have seasonal changes in use, for example, the Middle School Playing Field is particularly well used during the school term time.
- 3.8.6. The Fire Station War Memorial and Jury Road Cemetery were noted as having 'low usage' by the Town Council. Although they are used less

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<sup>14</sup> Dulverton Town Council (2013) Parish Plan Update March 2013 [Online]  
<http://www.dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk/index.php/town-council/council-responsibilities/parish-plan>

frequently than other spaces in Dulverton, they are considered to be important spaces in the settlement.

- 3.8.7. The Fire Station War Memorial is primarily used as amenity green space for informal activities. Its presence as a war memorial suggests it is likely to be associated with quiet contemplation. It makes an important contribution to Dulverton, adding to the history and culture of the settlement. Jury Road Cemetery also provides an open space for quiet contemplation however its primary use is for the burial of the dead.

### **Allotments**

- 3.8.8. 12% of those that attended the Dulverton 'Your Future Exmoor' event thought there were not enough allotments. 28 out of 191 responses to the 2010 Dulverton Parish Plan responded to the consultation saying that they would be interested in an allotment. This suggests that there is some demand for more allotments in Dulverton, which could be met by providing additional allotment plots.
- 3.8.9. Since this consultation was undertaken, 14 new allotment plots were provided as part of an affordable homes scheme at 'Allers View' in Dulverton. These allotments are managed by the Town Council, with priority given to occupiers of Allers View but otherwise available to anyone in Dulverton.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.8.10. Overall the quality of Dulverton's open spaces is 'high' with an average score of 75.8% based on site assessments (Figure 12). The amenity green spaces score lower than other types of open spaces in Dulverton as they provide limited facilities and diversity of vegetation. Dulverton's amenity green spaces still, however scored reasonably well with a percentage of 71.1%. The following open spaces scored high in quality: Poundwalk river corridor, Sports ground Millham lane, Middle school playing field, Abbotsway pond, Poundwalk recreation ground, Town marsh allotments and All Saint's churchyard.
- 3.8.11. The following open spaces scored medium in quality: Exmoor lawns, Kings Corner, Fire station war memorial, Lorna Doone grass statue verge, Fishersmead open space, Jury road cemetery.
- 3.8.12. These spaces could improve their quality score by upgrading their facilities either through the enhancement of current facilities or through the provision of new. The quality score could also be improved by enhancing the vegetation and improving accessibility including the provision of 'easy access for all' and access by car.
- 3.8.13. It is however recognised that for some of the open spaces identified the enhancement of some items of the quality criteria may not be possible or appropriate. In the case of the Exmoor Lawns, it scored lower in its accessibility as this space did not have a clear main entrance, which provided easy access for all. However as this open space is also used as a flood alleviation measure, the provision of such an entrance may hinder the flood defence effectiveness of the space.



- 3.8.14. Similarly for some open spaces the size and location can hinder the potential for improvement. In the case of the Lorna Doone grass verge, the space particularly scored lower in facilities. It may be possible to include an information board to enhance the facility criteria of this open space, however due to its size and location at the centre of a road, opportunities to further enhance facilities within this open space are limited. The Town Council note that there may be potential to improve the quality of this open space through the enhanced maintenance of vegetation.
- 3.8.15. Other areas of improvement include enhancement of vegetation at Fishersmead open space. Accessibility at Jury Road cemetery could be improved by providing a pedestrian right of way to access the site and car parking. However it is acknowledged that it may not be practical to improve the accessibility rating of this open space due to its location. For further detail of recommendations for each individual open space please see Appendix 1.

### **Barnsclose Play Area**

- 3.8.16. In 2009 before the refurbishment, the Barnsclose play area quality score was 60%, the lowest out of all the open spaces in the settlement. Responses from both Dulverton's 'Your Future Exmoor' community consultation event and Dulverton's 2010 Parish Plan identified the Barnsclose Play area as a space of poor standard with refurbishment suggested by the community.
- 3.8.17. The space particularly scored a lower percentage because of poor maintenance which led to the poor condition of the entrance, boundary and facilities. Some play equipment was also fenced off and unusable due to its inadequate condition. The lack of other facilities such as seating was also observed.
- 3.8.18. In 2010/11, Barnsclose play area was refurbished by 'Playbuilder' and 'Dulverton Town Council' to a standard which has transformed this space into a popular recreational area. It demonstrates how an underused space can be dramatically altered through improvement of quality. It also highlights that if an open space is underused, it is important to investigate whether this space has a relatively low quality score, to ensure that it will not be interpreted as an oversupply of space without further assessment. As demonstrated by the Barnsclose play area, the improved usage of the space suggests there was a demand for this space but its previous condition precluded people from using it.

### **Town Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.8.19. The Town Council graded most open spaces within Dulverton as 'good' quality. Exmoor Lawns, Fire Station War Memorial, Lorna Doone Grass Statue Verge and Fishers Mead Open Space were graded as 'average' quality by the Town Council. However the only improvement suggested was an 'improved maintenance of vegetation' around the Lorna Doone Grass Statue Verge. The community stated that they would like to see the vegetation in open spaces retained and the continued maintenance

of public spaces, such as lawns<sup>15</sup>. The Town Council note that ongoing maintenance issues are being pursued with both Somerset County Council and West Somerset Council for open spaces in Dulverton.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.8.20. Based on the site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Dulverton's open spaces was relatively high with an average score of 3.5 out of 5 (Appendix 1). Furthermore Dulverton Town Council does not consider there to be any barriers to the use of any open spaces in Dulverton.

### **Indoor Facilities**

#### ***Town Hall***

- 3.8.21. Dulverton town hall can be used all year round for indoor classes and recreational activities. It provides an indoor facility for people within Dulverton and surrounding areas, such as Exford and some places outside of the National Park, such as Brushford. It is owned and maintained by Dulverton Town Council. Responses from fitness instructors indicated that classes were provided weekly and estimated approximately 25 users each week.
- 3.8.22. Most people that used this facility travelled to it either by walking or by private transport. Users rated the accessibility of this indoor facility as good. A lift is available for disabled users; however an improvement was suggested to provide disabled parking nearby.
- 3.8.23. Users of the town hall rated the quality of the facility as average with some useful services for sports classes, such as the availability of drinking water from the kitchen area and the provision of toilets. Some improvements were suggested, including providing storage for chairs and the consistency of cleaning. Since the beginning of this study the Town Council have noted that improvements to the Town Hall have been made and are on-going<sup>16</sup>.
- 3.8.24. In the 2010 Dulverton Parish Plan the activities the community wanted introduced included tai chi, yoga and other exercise classes for older people.

#### ***Exmoor Fitness Centre***

- 3.8.25. Exmoor Fitness Centre in Dulverton is an indoor space for fitness provided by '1610', a non-profit making leisure trust. It provides fitness equipment, exercise classes, personal training and weight management programmes<sup>17</sup>. The Exmoor Fitness Centre is used regularly by some users that also use the sports field. These users rated the quality and accessibility of the gym as 'good'.

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<sup>15</sup> Dulverton Town Council (2010) Dulverton Parish Plan 2010 [Online]

<http://www.dulvertontowncouncil.co.uk/index.php/town-council/council-responsibilities/parish-plan>

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> 1610 (2015) Exmoor Fitness Centre [Online] <http://www.1610.org.uk/centres/15/exmoor-fitness-centre/>

**Squash Courts**

- 3.8.26. The squash courts in Dulverton are located within the sports ground. They were refurbished in 2006 and have a relatively long standing squash club that regulates membership and provides an introductory reduced fee for new members. It is available 7 days a week for over 12 hours a day<sup>18</sup>.

**Sports Ground Indoor Space**

- 3.8.27. The sports field indoor facilities are also used for fitness classes, such as 'dance'. A number of facilities are provided upon request, which include: changing facilities, toilets, heating and use of the kitchen.

**Undercover swimming pool; Dulverton Middle School**

- 3.8.28. The swimming pool at Dulverton Middle School was made undercover in 2013 and is open to the public to use during scheduled sessions.

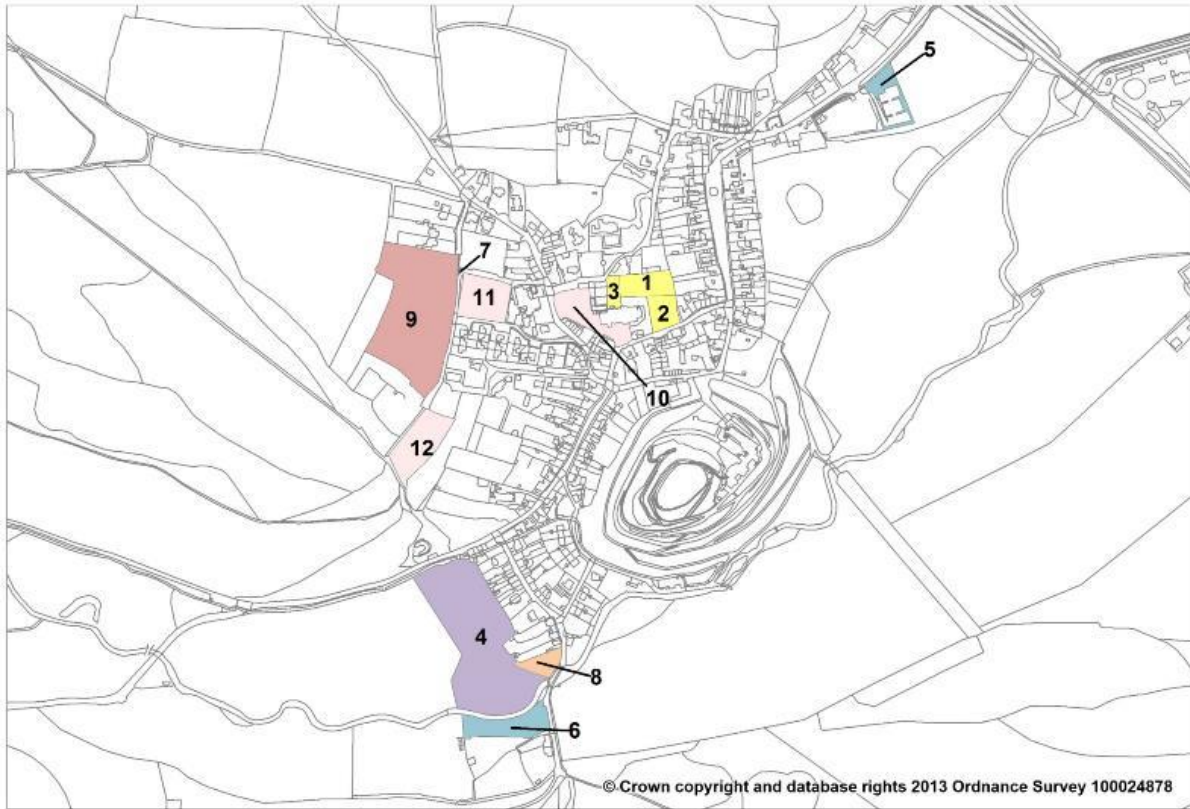
**Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Dulverton, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessment of the demand for open spaces, particularly open spaces for 'children and young people' and 'allotments' following the refurbishment of 'Barnsclose play area' and new allotment plots at 'Allers View'. Where demand still remains, provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces or the improvement of current open spaces where appropriate.
2. Minor improvements to Dulverton's open spaces as indicated by the quality improvement recommendations and Appendix 1, including enhanced vegetation and provision of more facilities.
3. Continued or enhanced maintenance of all open spaces within Dulverton.

<sup>18</sup> Dulverton Squash Club (2015) Squash Club information [Online] <http://www.dulvertonsquash.co.uk/>

### 3.9. Dunster



**Map 9: Dunster Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 13 (p45)**

## Open Space Strategy for Exmoor National Park Authority

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>		[Total Number = 3]
1	Dunster Village Garden 1 (Next Tithe Barn)	80.2
2	Dunster Village Garden 2 (Opens onto Church Street)	78.5
3	Dunster Memorial Garden	80.5
<b>Outdoor Sports Facilities</b>		[Total Number = 1]
4	Dunster Playing Field/Cricket Ground	71.0
<b>Amenity Green space</b>		[Total Number = 3]
5	Dunster Steep Car Park Open Space	70.2
6	Dunster Gallox Bridge	76.5
7	Dunster Open Space next to Allotment Garden	58.6
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>		[Total Number = 1]
8	Dunster The Packhorse Children's Playground	87.3
<b>Allotments</b>		[Total Number = 1]
9	Dunster Allotment Garden	89.3
<b>Cemeteries and churchyards</b>		[Total Number = 3]
10	Dunster St Georges Churchyard	70.8
11	Dunster North Cemetery	69.0
12	Dunster South Cemetery	76.8
Overall Total = 12 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		75.7

<b>Quality Grading of Open Spaces</b>		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 13: Dunster Open Space Location Map 9: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

### Settlement Location

- 3.9.1. The settlement of Dunster is situated on the A396 close to the junction with the A39 and is less than 1.3 miles from the town of Minehead which is situated outside of the National Park. Dunster is well served by public transport with daily bus services travelling through the village and at Dunster Steep, on the A39. Demand Responsive transport is also available to the residents of the parish. Residents may use the facilities provided in this nearby town to meet their sport and recreational needs. It is also noted by sports clubs that residents of Dunster travel to the nearby villages of Timberscombe and Wootton Courtenay.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.9.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010, indicate that overall people thought there were open spaces within Dunster with the exception of the need for more allotments. However it is noted by the Parish Council in their questionnaire response that there are a substantial number of allotment plots available which equate to around 60. The Parish Council note that the allotments are well used and they do not have a waiting list at present as there is a frequent turnover.

### **Your Future Exmoor – Youth Consultation**

- 3.9.3. Results from the Dunster 'Your Future Exmoor' youth consultation event demonstrated that the children liked the playing fields, allotments, the village garden, the park and the playground but they did not like traffic and the dog fouling. They would like to see a swimming pool, less traffic, a pond, more vegetation and more play equipment including a football pitch.

### **Quantity**

- 3.9.4. Dunster has 12 outdoor open spaces (figure 13), which have different purposes and uses and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations including Dunster Parish Council, West Somerset Council and Dunster Village Garden Trust<sup>19</sup>. Dunster benefits from the Tithe Barn which provides an indoor space for sports and other recreational activities. The Parish Council believe there to be enough recreational facilities and open spaces within their Parish.

### **Usage**

- 3.9.5. Dunster parish council note that the usage of the following open spaces was high: Dunster Steep car park open space, the Allotment Gardens, the South cemetery, the Packhorse children's playground, Playing Field/Cricket Ground, Village Garden 2 (opens onto Church Street) and St Georges Churchyard.
- 3.9.6. Village garden 1 (next to Tithe Barn) and the Memorial garden were noted as 'medium usage' by the Parish Council. The Parish Council stated that Dunster's North cemetery has low usage; this could be reflected by the fact that there is a newer cemetery. This space is used primarily for the burial of the dead therefore is often used as a place for quiet reflection.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.9.7. Overall the quality of Dunster's open space (Figure 13) is high with an average of 75.7%. The following open spaces scored a high site assessment score: Village garden 1, Village garden 2, Memorial garden, Gallox Bridge, the Packhorse children's playground and the Allotment garden.

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<sup>19</sup> Dunster Parish Council questionnaire response [2011]

- 3.9.8. A number of sites scored a medium quality percentage which included: the playing field/cricket ground, the Dunster Steep car park open space, St Georges Churchyard, the North and South Cemeteries.
- 3.9.9. Dunster playing field/cricket ground scored a percentage of 71%. Minor improvements to the current facilities and the provision of more facilities in this open space would improve its quality score.
- 3.9.10. Dunster Steep car park open space scored a percentage of 70.2%. This open space scored lower in the facilities category. As there was a small amount of litter present during the site inspection, the provision of more litter bins would improve the quality of this open space.
- 3.9.11. The open space next to the allotment garden was the only site that scored a low quality score in Dunster. The main reason it scored lower in quality than the other spaces in Dunster is because it's a small piece of land left over next to the allotment plots. It features a single bench, however the quality of this facility is low as it's worn and weathered. Improvement to this open space could be through the enhancement or replacement of the current bench and the enhancement of the vegetation. This could be through the provision of planted areas, which would enhance the visual amenity and the biodiversity of this open space.
- 3.9.12. St George's churchyard scored 70.8%. The main category it scored lower in was facilities as none were provided onsite. For similar sites around Exmoor the provision of some facilities were often found, which enhanced the usage and quality of the site. This open space would benefit from the provision of some facilities onsite.
- 3.9.13. Dunster North Cemetery scored 69.0%; again the main area it scored lower in was facilities. The provision of more facilities would enhance the quality of this open space. The site also scored lower in the accessibility category due to the slope which would cause difficulty for disabled users. There is also no nearby parking and no path within the site. Due to the location and constraints of this site it may not be possible to improve the features within the accessibility category.
- 3.9.14. Dunster South Cemetery scored very close to a high rating at 74.3%. It scored lower in facilities than other categories; the provision of more facilities would improve the quality rating of this site. The quality rating could also be improved with very minor improvements in the variety of vegetation.

### **Parish Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.9.15. The Parish Council rate the quality of all of Dunster's open spaces as good, apart from Dunster Steep car park open space in which the quality was not rated by the Parish Council and the Gallox bridge that was rated as poor quality. This however somewhat conflicts with the findings of the site assessment in which Gallox bridge open space scored a high percentage. The main reason the Parish Council rates this site as low is because they believe the grass is not cut in this open space. One recommendation to resolve this issue is to enhance the frequency of

maintenance of vegetation. It should be noted that this open space could be in private ownership and may be used as informal open space by local people and visitors.

- 3.9.16. The Parish Council note that the playing field and playground are constantly being improved, including through the enhancement of facilities.

#### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.9.17. Based on site assessments, the average score for the quality of accessibility of Dunster's open spaces was high with an average of 3.5 out of 5 (see Appendix 1 for a breakdown of scores). The Parish Council also note that all of the open spaces in Dunster are within walking distance to the residents of the settlement. Furthermore the Parish Council do not believe there to be any barriers to the use of any of the spaces within their Parish.

#### **Indoor Facilities**

##### ***Community Hall***

- 3.9.18. Dunster village benefits from the Dunster Tithe Barn Community Hall, which provides an opportunity for indoor sport and recreation. Currently clubs, such as table tennis and short mat bowls use this hall weekly. There are also opportunities for other activities to be undertaken, such as fitness classes. The short mat bowls club currently quotes 24 players in their club and would welcome more. Users rate the quality of their sports facility as good. A number of services are provided within the hall including: changing facilities, toilets and a kitchen. Users rate the accessibility of the Tithe Barn as good with people accessing the hall by private vehicle and walking. They also note the space is accessible to disabled users. Users of the tithe barn believe there may be some maintenance issues regarding the cost of maintaining such a space. They believe it may become too costly to remain open. Dunster Tithe Barn management committee maintain this space.

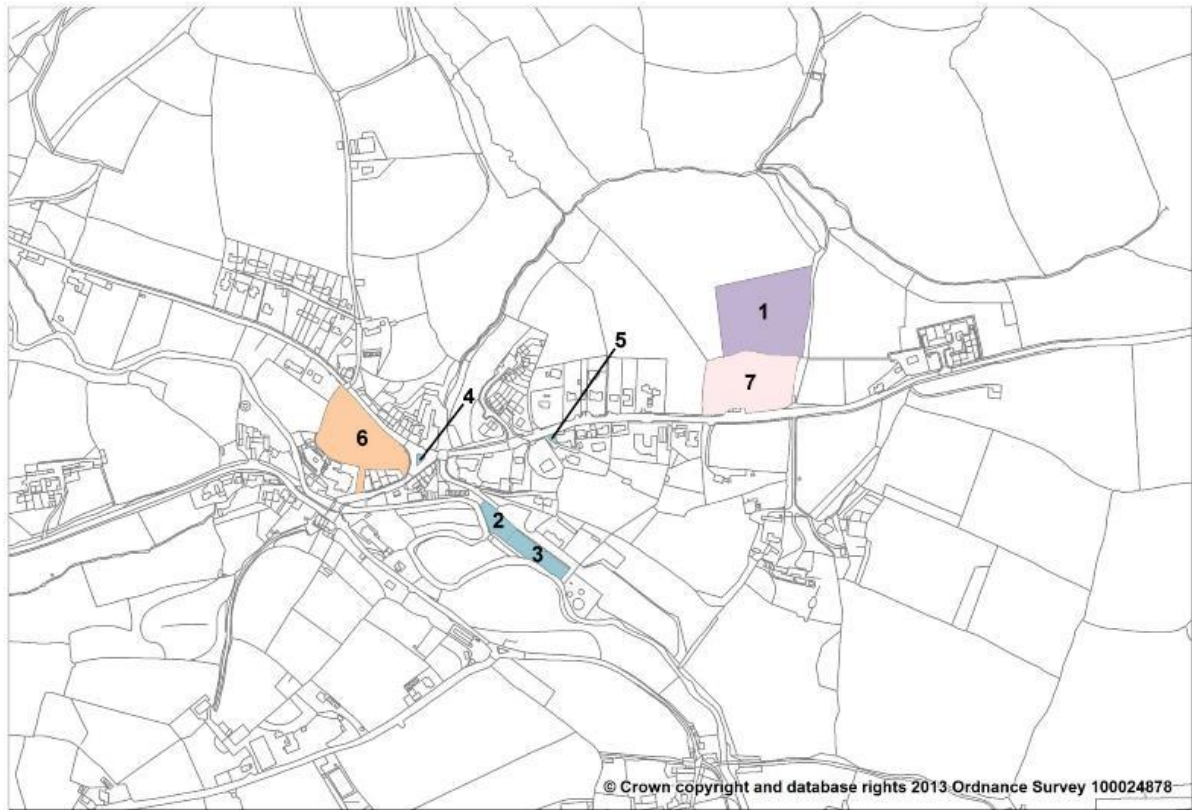
#### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Dunster, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessment of the demand for open spaces regarding 'allotments' and 'young people (aged 14-18). Where demand still remains, provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces or the improvement of current open spaces where appropriate.
2. Opportunities to enhance the quality of Dunster's Open Spaces through maintenance or provision of more facilities. This may include the enhancement of the accessibility criteria at the cricket ground as suggested by users of this open space. Enhanced maintenance of the Dunster Tithe Barn Community Hall should also be considered to ensure this facility is safeguarded.
3. Maintenance works to current facilities should be continued and enhanced, where possible.



### 3.10. Exford



**Map 10: Exford Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 14 (p50)**

## Open Space Strategy for Exmoor National Park Authority

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Outdoor Sports Facilities		[Total Number = 1]
1	Exford Cricket Ground	68.3
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 4]
2	Exford Picnic area (Next to car park near the first school)	69
3	Exford Visual Amenity Open Space (Next to car park near the first school)	71.5
4	Exford Cross Roads Open Space	52.9
5	Exford Memorial Hall Open Space	60.6
Provision for children and young people		[Total Number = 1]
6	Exford The Green	66.3
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 1]
7	Exford St Mary Magdalene's Churchyard	78.6
Overall Total = 7 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		66.7

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 14: Exford Open Space Location Map 10: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

### Settlement Location

- 3.10.1. Exford is located in the centre of Exmoor and lies on the B3224. The Village has a limited daily bus service to Minehead, however a demand responsive transport service is available for the residents of the community.

### Your Future Exmoor

- 3.10.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 found that respondents thought there were enough of the different types of open spaces within Exford, however allotments were needed.

### Your Future Exmoor – Youth Consultation

- 3.10.3. Results from the Exford 'Your Future Exmoor' youth consultation event held in 2009 found that the respondents liked the Village Green, the play equipment, the Village Hall and the Cricket Ground. They disliked the rusting boundary fencing of the village green, and they would like to see better quality benches and new play equipment.

### **Quantity**

- 3.10.4. Exford has seven outdoor open spaces (Figure 14) which have different purposes and uses and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations including Exford Parish Council. Exford benefits from the Exford Memorial Hall, which has the potential to be used for indoor sports and other recreational activities. Exford Parish Council believe there to be enough open spaces within their Parish.

### **Usage**

- 3.10.5. Exford Parish Council rated the use of the Cricket Ground and The Green as high. It was also noted that the Cricket Ground was used by Cricket teams and youth club activities. The Exford Picnic area and the space at the centre of the cross roads were rated as medium. The only open space that has a lower level of usage was the 'Exford Visual Amenity Open Space', although the space is often used by Exford School. The reason for its low usage will be explored in the 'quality' section from paragraph 3.10.7.

### **Allotments**

- 3.10.6. Exford Parish Council noted the need for approximately 8-10 plots within their parish, but could not find a suitable location. This finding is supported by the 'Your Future Exmoor' events.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.10.7. Overall the quality of Exford's open space is medium (Figure 14) with an average of 66.7% with Exford' St Mary Magdalene's Churchyard scored high in quality.
- 3.10.8. Exford Cross Roads Open Space and the Memorial Hall Open Space both scored low in quality which in part is due to their overall size and location. Particularly, for the Exford Cross Roads Open Space opportunities for improvement are limited due to the restrictions around this site. However, this is a good use of left over space and adds to the visual amenity of the settlement. With regard to the Memorial Hall open space, minor improvements could be made through enhancing the facilities within the open space and improving the vegetation score, for example, by providing some planted areas.

### **Parish Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.10.9. The Parish Council graded the quality of the open spaces in Exford as good. Minor improvements are recommended by the Parish Council. For the Exford Picnic Area, a 'keep dogs out' sign and 'pick up litter' sign have been recommended. New play equipment is recommended for The Village Green.
- 3.10.10. The Parish Council also believe that there will be problems with maintaining The Village Green in the future due to the cost of maintenance.

### Accessibility Site Assessment Results

- 3.10.11. Based on site assessments, the average score for the quality of accessibility of Exford's open spaces was high with 3.25 out of 5 (see Appendix 1 for breakdown of scores). Furthermore the Parish Council do not believe there to be any barriers to the use of any of the spaces within their Parish.

### Indoor Facilities

#### *Memorial Hall*

- 3.10.12. Exford's Memorial Hall has the potential to be used for indoor sports and recreation, such as fitness classes. No responses were received, which indicated such uses were currently being undertaken in the space provided, however the availability of this indoor space provides the opportunity for indoor sport and recreation activities to be undertaken in Exford.

### Recommendations Summary

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Exford, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessment of the demand for open spaces regarding 'outdoor sports pitches' and 'allotments'. Where demand still remains provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces or the improvement of current open spaces where appropriate.
2. Minor improvements to some of Exford's open spaces as indicated by quality improvement recommendations. In particular, the provision to help maintain 'The Green' in Exford, enhancement of this open space through new play equipment and maintenance or replacement of the railings should also be considered.
3. Improvement to the drainage of the 'Exford Visual Amenity Open Space' is also recommended to enhance the quality and usage of this site.

### 3.11. Luccombe



Map 11: Luccombe Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 15

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 1]
1	Luccombe Open Space	69.1
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 2]
2	Luccombe St Mary's Churchyard	62.0
3	Luccombe Cemetery	66.6
Overall Total = 3 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		65.4

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

Figure 15: Luccombe Open Space Location Map 11: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.

### **Settlement Location**

- 3.11.1. The village of Luccombe forms part of the National Trust's Holnicote Estate and is reached by a series of narrow lanes. It is approximately three miles from Porlock. There are no public bus services for Luccombe however a Demand Responsive service is available for residents. Due to the size of Luccombe and the limited availability of land for open spaces, residents of the parish can access other open spaces and facilities within the surrounding villages of Timberscombe and Porlock, which both have a larger variety and quantity of open spaces due to the larger settlement sizes. Luccombe is also located close to the town of Minehead, which provides further opportunities for sport and recreation, situated outside of the National Park.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.11.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 show that there were thought to be a sufficient amount of areas for outdoor recreation in the community. However, there was an indication that allotments were desired.

### **Quantity**

- 3.11.3. Luccombe has three outdoor open spaces (Figure 15), which have different purposes and uses and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations. Luccombe Village Hall has the potential to provide for some indoor sports and other recreational activities, however this is limited due to its size.

### **Usage**

- 3.11.4. No response was received indicating the level of usage of Luccombe's open spaces.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.11.5. Overall the quality of Luccombe's open space is 'medium' (Figure 15) with an average quality score of 65.4%.
- 3.11.6. Luccombe's open spaces would benefit from the provision of further facilities, particularly St Mary's Churchyard and the Cemetery, as both of these open spaces do not have any facilities provided. Minor maintenance works to the vegetation of Luccombe's open spaces and provision of more planted areas would also improve the quality score of this settlement's open spaces. St Mary's Churchyard and the Cemetery both scored low in the quality of accessibility due to a lack of parking and disabled access, however for both of these sites, due to the location and terrain, opportunities to improve this criteria are limited.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.11.7. Based on site assessments (Appendix 1), the average score of the quality of accessibility for Luccombe's open spaces was relatively low with 1.9 out of 5. Luccombe's open spaces scored lower than other open space in the National Park mainly due to the lack of parking and disabled access within the open spaces. The location and terrain of the open

spaces were the main factors limiting improvements to the accessibility criteria.

### **Indoor Facilities**

#### ***Village Hall***

- 3.11.8. Luccombe Village Hall has the potential to provide for indoor sports and other recreational activities however there is limited space within the hall to facilitate activities that may need a lot of room such as Short Mat Bowls. Alternatively the residents of Luccombe can easily access neighbouring parishes' indoor facilities such as Timberscombe and Porlock, where a lot more frequent activities and events are held in their village halls.

### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Luccombe, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessments of the demand for open spaces particularly open spaces for allotments, following the response from the Your Future Exmoor Event. Where demand still remains provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces.
2. Improved maintenance of vegetation and the provision of more planted areas for all three open spaces within Luccombe.
3. The provision of facilities should be explored for both St Mary's Churchyard and the Cemetery to enhance the quality score for both spaces.

### 3.12. Luxborough



Map 12: Luxborough Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 16

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 1]
1	Luxborough Kingsbridge Open Space	64.5
Provision for children and young people		[Total Number = 1]
2	Luxborough Kingsbridge Playground	68.5
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 1]
3	Luxborough Churchtown St Mary's Churchyard	67.6
Overall Total = 3 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		66.9

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

Figure 16: Luxborough Open Space Location Map 12: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.



### **Settlement Location**

- 3.12.1. Luxborough is situated within a valley of the Brendon Hills accessed by narrow lanes off of the A39, A396 and B3224. The settlement is made up of three separate hamlets: Churchtown, Kingsbridge and Pooltown. There are no public transport services available however the residents of the community do have access to demand responsive transport.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.12.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 found a need for allotments within the settlement and it was established by respondents that there is an adequate amount of other types of open space.

### **Quantity**

- 3.12.3. Luxborough has three outdoor open spaces (Figure 16), which have different purposes/ uses and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations including Luxborough Village Hall and Field Charity, and Luxborough Parish Council. Luxborough benefits from a village hall which may be used for sports and other recreational activities. Luxborough Parish Council believe there to be enough open spaces in their Parish.

### **Usage**

- 3.12.4. Luxborough Parish Council rates the use of Luxborough's open spaces as low. No suggestions were received from Luxborough Parish Council to improve the use of these open spaces.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.12.5. Overall, the average quality of Luxborough's open spaces is medium at 66.9%.
- 3.12.6. The two criteria that Luxborough's open spaces scored lower in were facilities and vegetation. Maintenance of the vegetation within these open spaces would improve the quality score of this criterion, for example, Kingsbridge Amenity Open Space had very long grass under the picnic tables upon inspection. This may discourage the use of these facilities. The enhanced maintenance to ensure the grass is well kept would improve the quality score of this open space.
- 3.12.7. All of Luxborough's open spaces would benefit from the provision of more facilities, this would potentially enhance the use of the open spaces and the quality of the spaces overall.
- 3.12.8. Repair work and further maintenance is recommended for St Mary's Churchyard with particular focus on repairing the path, entrance gate and maintaining the grass height.

### **Parish Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.12.9. The Parish Council graded the quality of the open space at St Mary's Church in Churchtown as good and Kingsbridge playground and amenity open space surrounding the playground, as average. They note the open space around St Mary's Church will be extended as required. They

believe that the Kingsbridge playground will need replacing in the near future and that levelling and drainage is needed for the amenity land surrounding the playground.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.12.10. Based on the site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Luxborough's open spaces was relatively good with an average of 3.4 out of 5 (Appendix 1). However, it was noted by the Parish Council that their open spaces can get very wet at times which does make it more difficult to walk through.

### **Indoor Facilities**

#### ***Village Hall***

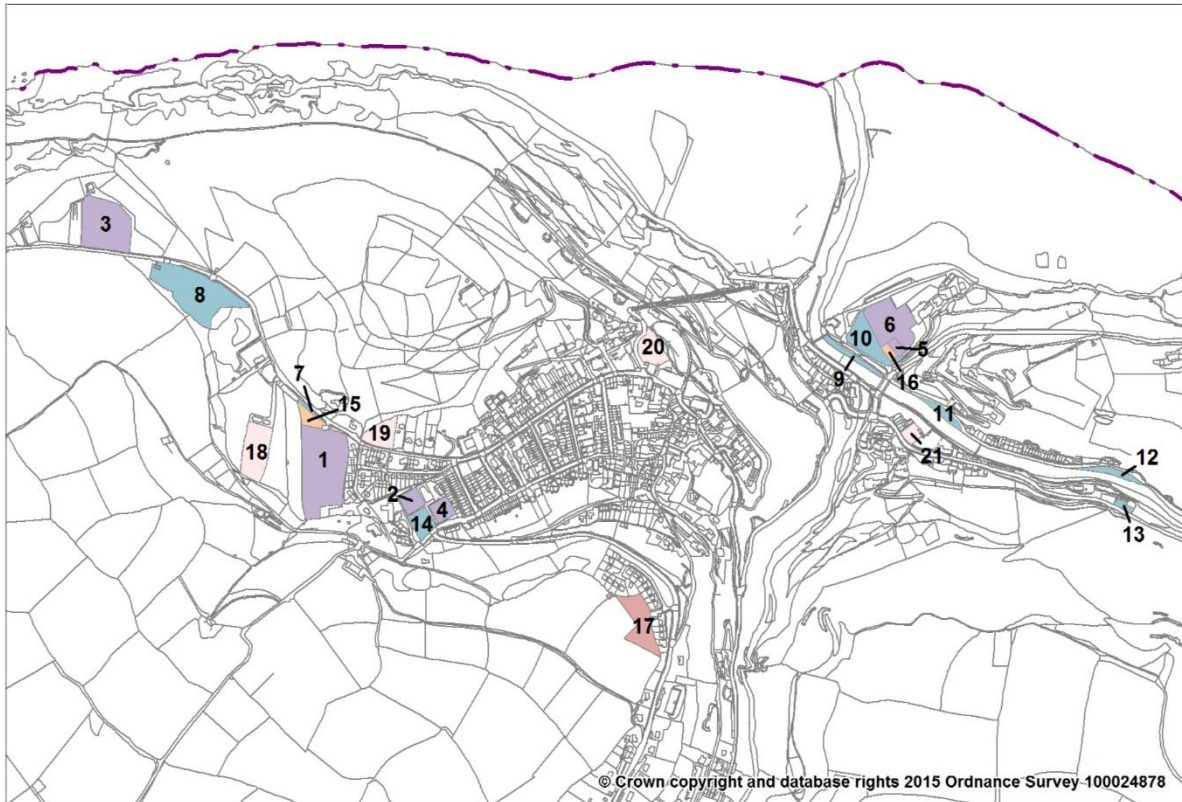
- 3.12.11. Luxborough Village Hall can be used for indoor classes and recreational activities. It is owned and maintained by the village committee. Users of the hall access it by private vehicle or by walking and rate the accessibility and quality of the facility as good.
- 3.12.12. The hall provides services, such as toilets and storage areas. There are some current and future maintenance issues highlighted including regular internal and external pointing and the need to replace equipment, such as the boiler.
- 3.12.13. Questionnaires responses from sports clubs indicated that the village hall was used for a number of events and classes including weekly badminton and short mat bowls. The Village Committee also recommend classes including: table tennis, yoga and tai chi.

### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Luxborough, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessments of the demand for open spaces; particularly open spaces for allotments, following the response from the Your Future Exmoor Event. Where demand still remains provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces or the improvement of current open spaces, where appropriate.
2. Improved maintenance of vegetation and repair work to the path and entrance gate at St Mary's Churchyard, as well as improved maintenance of the two Kingsbridge open spaces to control vegetation.
3. Potential funding should be explored for the levelling and drainage of Kingsbridge amenity space and for the replacement of the play equipment to ensure continued usage of the spaces.

### 3.13. Lynton and Lynmouth



**Map 13: Lynton and Lynmouth Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 17 (p60)**

## Open Space Strategy for Exmoor National Park Authority

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
<b>Outdoor Sports Facilities</b>		[Total Number = 6]
1	Lynton Holman Park	75.2
2	Lynton Rock Avenue Tennis Courts	85.4
3	Lynton The Warren Cricket Ground	71.8
4	Lynton Bowling Green	84.0
5	Lynmouth Tennis Courts	68.8
6	Lynmouth Putting Green	75.8
<b>Amenity Green space</b>		[Total Number = 8]
7	Lynton Outside Holman Park	63.1
8	Lynton Valley of Rocks Picnic Area	78.5
9	Lynmouth Open Space next to Rock House and East Lyn River	61
10	Lynmouth Coastal Open Space (Next to putting green and tennis court)	74.3
11	Lynmouth Open Space opposite Woodside Court	72.4
12	Lynmouth Open Space next to Wester Wood and East Lyn River	65.6
13	Lynmouth Middleham Gardens	70.8
14	Lynton Rock Avenue Amenity Space	71.2
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>		[Total Number = 2]
15	Lynton Holman Park Playground	78.8
16	Lynmouth Playground (Near the Rock House)	67.4
<b>Allotments</b>		[Total Number = 1]
17	Lynton Gratton's Drive Allotments	82.7
<b>Cemeteries and churchyards</b>		[Total Number = 4]
18	Lynton Cemetery Opposite Valley of the Rocks	77.7
19	Lynton Longmead Road Cemetery	62.3
20	Lynton St Mary the Virgin's Churchyard	74.8
21	Lynmouth St John the Baptist Church Churchyard	70.3
Overall Total = 21 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		72.9
<b>Quality Grading of Open Spaces</b>		
<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>

**Figure 17: Lynton and Lynmouth Open Space Location Map 13: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

### **Settlement Location**

- 3.13.1. Lynton and Lynmouth are situated on the north coast and are accessed by either the A39 or the B3234. Lynton is situated in a cliff top position approximately 150 metres above Lynmouth. The town is served by a regular Monday to Saturday bus service which enables members of the community to access a wider range of services and facilities at Barnstaple. Residents can also use the Ilfracombe Ring & Ride community transport scheme.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.13.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 found that respondents Holman Park and the recreational area in Lynmouth were thought of as important green space. It was also suggested that more children's play areas and allotment are needed within the community.
- 3.13.3. It should be noted that since the consultation, the children's playground which was situated next to the Tennis Courts in Lynton has been relocated and enhanced at Holman Park, providing a wider range of facilities and equipment.

### **Your Future Exmoor – Youth Consultation**

- 3.13.4. Results from the Lynton 'Your Future Exmoor' youth consultation held in 2009 found that the respondents likes the clean parks, football pitch, town hall and the tennis courts. They disliked the litter, dog fouling and pollution. It was considered by the respondents that there are not enough play spaces for them within the community and they would like to see a swimming pool, more play equipment, cycle tracks and more cricket and football pitches.

### **Quantity**

- 3.13.5. Lynton and Lynmouth has 21 outdoor open spaces which have different purposes and uses (Figure 17) and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations including the Lyn Community Development Trust. Lynton and Lynmouth benefits from indoor spaces, which may be used for sports and other recreational activities, these spaces include the Town Hall and the Market Hall.

### **Usage**

- 3.13.6. No response was received indicating the level of usage of Lynton and Lynmouth's open spaces.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.13.7. Overall the quality of Lynton and Lynmouth's open spaces is 'medium' with an average score of 72.9% based on the site assessments (Figure 17). The amenity green spaces score lower than other types of open space in Lynton and Lynmouth as they provide limited facilities and diversity of vegetation. However these types of spaces still scored reasonably well with a percentage of 69.6%.

- 3.13.8. The following open spaces scored high in quality: Lynton Holman Park, Lynton Rock Avenue Tennis Courts, Lynmouth Putting Green, Lynton Bowling Green, Lynton Valley of Rocks Picnic Area, Lynton Holman Park Playground, Lynton Gratton Drive Allotments and Lynton Cemetery opposite the Valley of Rocks.
- 3.17.8. The following open spaces scored medium in quality: Lynton Warren Cricket Ground, Lynmouth Tennis Courts, Lynton Outside Holman Park, Lynmouth Coastal Open Space, Lynmouth Open Space opposite Woodside Court, Lynmouth Open Space next to Wester Wood and East Lyn River, Lynmouth Middleham Gardens, Rock Avenue Amenity Space, Lynmouth Playground, Lynton Longmead Road Cemetery, Lynton St Mary the Virgin Churchyard and Lynmouth St John Baptist Church Churchyard.
- 3.17.9. These spaces could improve their quality score by upgrading their facilities either through the enhancement of current facilities or the provision of new. The quality scores could also be improved by enhancing the vegetation provided within their space, by providing more variety. However it should be noted that this may not be appropriate to all spaces, such as Lynmouth St John Baptist Church Churchyard which is restricted by its size, therefore the above recommendation for the provision of further facilities feasible.
- 3.17.10. It is however, recognised that for some of the open spaces identified the enhancement of some items of the quality criteria may not be possible or appropriate. In the case of the Lynmouth open space next to Rock House and East Lyn River; this site had a low quality assessment score. It scored lower in its accessibility due to its location which restricts access for some users. No facilities are provided, however this could be because the site is within a flood risk area and such facilities could obstruct the flow of a flood. For further detail of recommendations for each individual open space please see Appendix 1.

#### **Holman Park Playground**

- 3.17.11. Since the 2009 site visits the Rock Avenue Playground has been moved and upgraded to a new site within Holman Park. The original Rock Avenue site is now being used as an amenity green space. This change has led to the increase in the quality score between the two site visits in 2009 and 2014. The new siting and upgraded play equipment has increased the quality score by 6.8%.

#### **Holman Park**

- 3.17.12. In 2012 a planning application was submitted and approved for the “Proposed demolition of clubhouse and toilets together with construction of a new community clubhouse and gym” at Holman Park. However this has not been implemented yet. The improvement of the existing facilities would greatly enhance the quality score of this space.

### Accessibility Site Assessment Results

- 3.17.13. Based on site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Lynton and Lynmouth's open spaces was a medium score with an average of 3.01 out of 5 (Appendix 1). Furthermore users of the spaces such as Lynton and Lynmouth Bowling Club rate the accessibility as excellent.

### Indoor Facilities

#### *Town Hall*

- 3.17.14. Lynton town hall can be used all year round for indoor classes and recreational activities. It provides an indoor facility for people within Lynton and Lynmouth and is managed by Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council.
- 3.17.15. The hall can be accessed by walking, motorised vehicle, cycling and by public transport, such as buses. A lift is available for disabled users and parking available outside the building.
- 3.17.16. The hall has three rooms which can be hired: the Jubilee Room, the Council Chamber and the Main hall. The town hall has facilities, such as disabled access, toilets, kitchens, and a stage. The rooms can be hired for various events and activities and currently has weekly and monthly: local meetings, weddings, yoga, zumba, Lyn Line Dancers and Fitness Training<sup>20</sup>

### Recommendations Summary

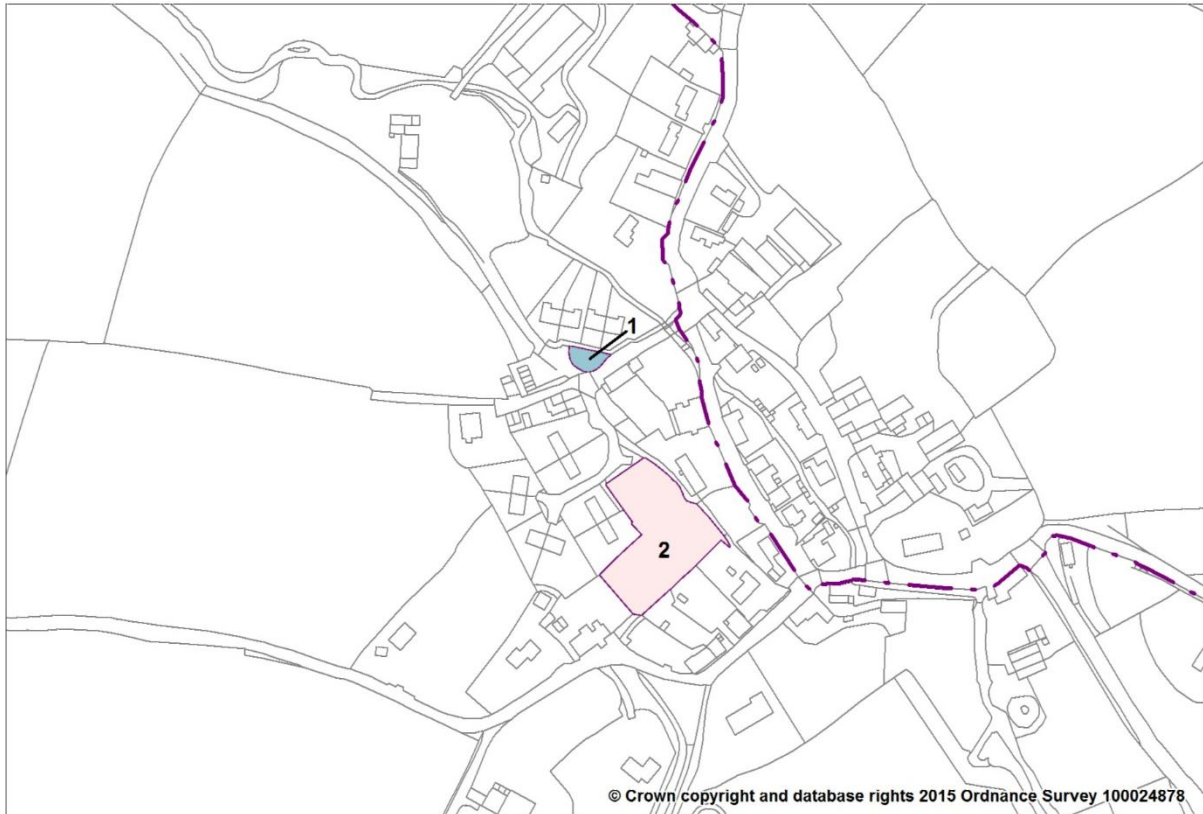
Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Lynton and Lynmouth, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessments of the demand for open spaces; particularly open spaces for 'children and young people' and 'allotments,' following the response from the Your Future Exmoor Event. Where demand still remains provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces or the improvement of current open spaces where appropriate.
2. Minor improvements to Lynton and Lynmouth's open spaces as indicated by quality improvement recommendations and Appendix 1, including enhanced vegetation and provision of more facilities.
3. Continued or enhanced maintenance of all open spaces within Lynton and Lynmouth.

<sup>20</sup> Lynton Town Hall (2014) Community events. [Online] <http://www.lyntonandlynmouth.org.uk/community-2/regular-community-events>



### 3.14. Monksilver



**Map 14: Monksilver Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 18**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 1]
1	Monksilver Pond Orchard Open Space	73.4
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 1]
2	Monksilver All Saints Churchyard	76.8
Overall Total = 2 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		75.1

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 18: Monksilver Open Space Location Map 14: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**



### **Settlement Location**

- 3.14.1. The settlement of Monksilver is located on the eastern boundary of Exmoor and the boundary is defined by the B3188 that passes through the settlement. It is located at the foot of the Brendon Hills and is not served by public transport. Residents, do however, have access to community transport and demand responsive transport facilities.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.14.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 found that most responses thought the provision of more open space, such as allotments and parks, were needed within the settlement or the surrounding area. However, the Parish Council note that there is no need for allotments within their Parish.

### **Quantity**

- 3.14.3. Monksilver has two outdoor open spaces (Figure 18), which have different purposes and uses and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations including EMN Community Hall Trustees, Magna West Somerset Housing Association and Monksilver Parochial Church Committee. Monksilver benefits from their EMN Village Hall providing an indoor space with the potential to be used for sports and other recreational activities. Monksilver Parish Council believe there to be enough open spaces in their Parish.

### **Usage**

- 3.14.4. Monksilver Parish Council note that the usage of the Pond Orchard Open Space is low and that the space is too small to be used by children. They note that the All Saints Churchyard has a medium level of use and believe it to be well maintained. They reference that it is on the Coleridge Way footpath.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.14.5. Overall, the average quality of Monksilver's open spaces is high with a score of 75.1%. Monksilver Pond Orchard Open Space scored medium in quality with a score of 73.4% and Monksilver All Saints Churchyard scored high in quality.
- 3.14.6. The categories that Monksilver Pond Orchard Open Space scored lower in were vegetation and facilities. Improvement to the facilities category, in particular, would enhance the quality score of this site. During the site inspection it was found that the seat provided was very weathered and covered in moss, therefore this did not aid the usage levels of the site. An improvement to this category could, therefore, include more regular maintenance of the site and include more seating. Enhancement of the vegetation through planted areas could also improve the quality score of this site.
- 3.14.7. All Saints Churchyard also scored lower in the facilities category, therefore this could be enhanced by providing additional facilities appropriate for this type of open space.

### Parish Council Response and Recommendations

- 3.14.8. The Parish Council graded the quality of the Pond Orchard as average and All Saints Churchyard as good. They note that there is a commitment by Magna West Somerset Housing Association to provide regular maintenance of the grass and trees at the Pond Orchard. They comment that the Pond Orchard has poor provision for the elderly and suggested more seating should be provided in this space. Furthermore, the Parish Council note that there are plans to improve the EMN Community Hall to enhance the provision for young people facilities.

### Accessibility Site Assessment Results

- 3.14.9. Based on the site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Monksilver's open spaces was high with an average of 3.9 out of 5 (Appendix 1). Furthermore, the Parish Council stated that they believe there to be no barriers to the use of any of the spaces within the Parish.

### Indoor Facilities

#### *Village Hall*

- 3.14.10. Monksilver shares the EMN Community Hall with Elworthy and Nettlecombe<sup>21</sup>. People can access the village hall by walking, cycling, public transport and by private vehicle and there is a large car park next to the hall.
- 3.14.11. The hall can provide facilities, such as: a spacious floor, kitchen, toilets, stage, and heating. The hall is also used for meetings, social functions and events, as well as, regular activities including: art class, horticultural society, badminton, Pilates, table tennis and short mat bowls.

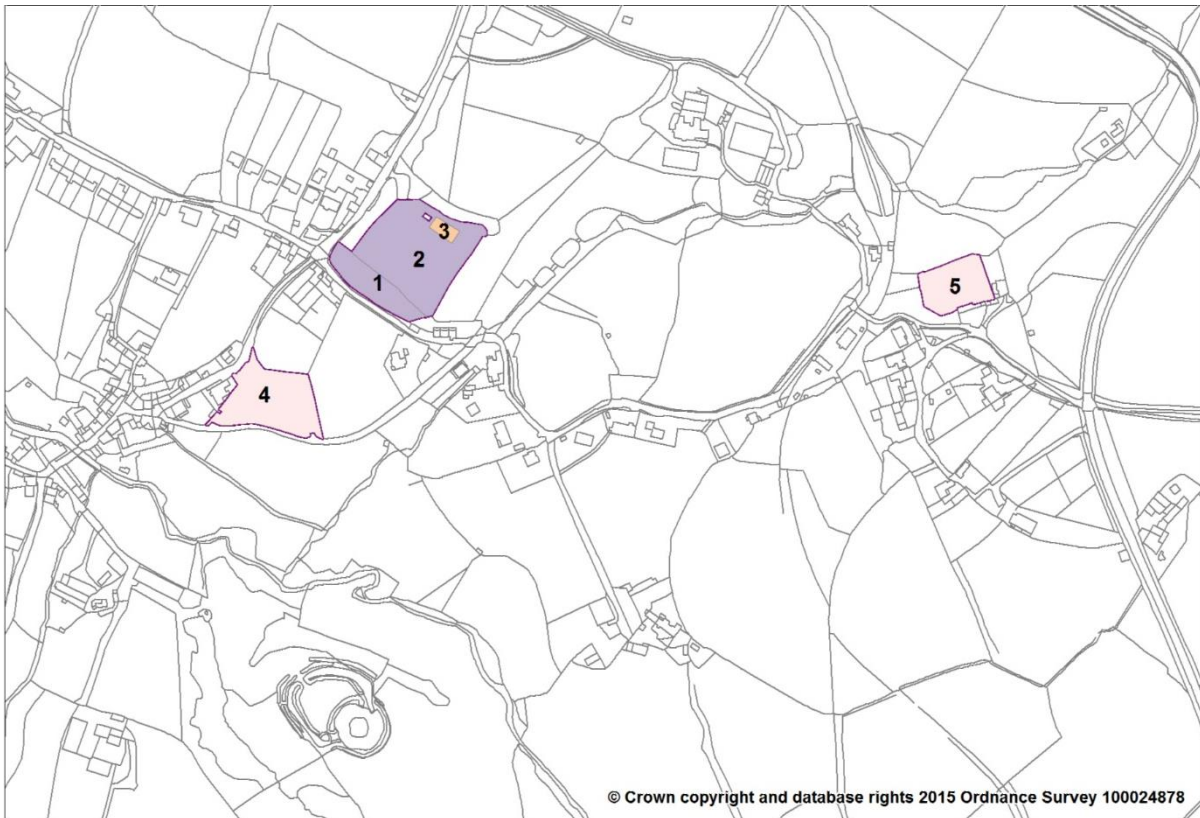
### Recommendations Summary

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Monksilver, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessment of the demand for open spaces; particularly open spaces for allotments and a recreation area, following the responses from the Your Future Exmoor event. Where demand still remains provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces.
2. Maintenance improvements to the Pond Orchard Open Space facilities and the provision of more seating as suggested by the Parish Council.
3. The provision of more facilities at All Saints Churchyard such as dustbins, lighting to aid access or an information board.

<sup>21</sup> EMN Hall (2014) Monksilver Village Hall [Online] <http://visitwestsomerset.com/emnhall/index.html>

### 3.15. Parracombe



**Map 15: Parracombe Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 19**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
<b>Outdoor Sports Facilities</b>		[Total Number = 2]
1	Parracombe Tennis Courts	75.1
2	Parracombe Coronation Playing Field	78.4
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>		[Total Number = 1]
3	Parracombe Coronation Playground	69.6
<b>Cemeteries and churchyards</b>		[Total Number = 2]
4	Parracombe Christ Church Churchyard	81.6
5	Parracombe St Petrock Churchyard	72.6
Overall Total = 5 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		75.5

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 19: Parracombe Open Space Location Map 15: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

### **Settlement Location**

- 3.15.1. The settlement of Parracombe is within the North Devon area of the National Park and is bypassed by the A39. It lies in the upper Heddon Valley with a high density of buildings around the Parracombe Bridge. The village is well served by public transport with the main service from Barnstaple to Lynton and Lynmouth, stopping at Heddon Bridge and running on a regular basis from Monday to Saturday.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.15.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 found that there were enough children's play area and recreation grounds within the settlement but allotments were required.

### **Your Future Exmoor – Youth Consultation**

- 3.15.3. Results from the Parracombe 'Your Future Exmoor' youth consultation held in 2009 found that respondents liked a clean park, football pitch and the wildlife, but disliked litter and broken glass in the park. They would like to see bigger tennis courts, more litter bins, a swimming pool, more wildlife, a skateboard park and traffic calming signs.

### **Quantity**

- 3.15.4. Parracombe has five outdoor open spaces (Figure 19), which have a number of different purposes and uses and are owned and maintained/managed by different organisations including Parracombe Parish Council. Parracombe benefits from a village hall, which may be used for sports and other recreational activities. Parracombe Parish Council believe there to be enough open spaces in their Parish.

### **Usage**

- 3.15.5. Parracombe Parish Council noted the usage of the Coronation Playing Field and the Play Area as medium to high. The level of use of these open spaces is weather dependent. They noted that the Tennis Courts were resurfaced in 2011 so they expect to see an increase in the level of use. They described the use levels of the Christ Church Churchyard and the St Petrock Churchyard as low as these sites are used more for reflection only and quiet contemplation.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.15.6. Overall the average quality score of Parracombe's open spaces (Figure 19) is high with a score of 75.5%. Parracombe's Coronation Playground and St Petrock Churchyard all scored within this medium bracket. Parracombe's Coronation Playing Field, Tennis Courts and Christ Church Churchyard had high quality scores.
- 3.15.7. All of the open spaces that scored medium within Parracombe could improve their quality score by providing for more facilities. The Playground could mainly be improved by maintaining and repairing the current play equipment to keep it all in use. Christ Church Churchyard could also be improved by the enhanced maintenance and repair work to the entrance gate. In terms of St Petrock churchyard it will be important

to balance the provision of more facility with the character of the churchyard.

- 3.15.8. The provision of further play equipment for older children with the Coronation Playing Field should be investigated to identify if there is a strong need for this. Although the tennis courts were resurfaced in 2011, more maintenance is needed for the site as the court was covered in leaves during the site inspection, which could potentially hinder the use of it.

### **Parish Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.15.9. The Parish Council graded the quality of most of the open spaces in Parracombe as good. However, they graded the Coronation playing field and play area as average. They noted that the tennis courts had been resurfaced to provide a multi-use games area, recent repairs had been made to the play area and work is still needed to improve the pitch. The Parish Council do not believe that there will be problems with maintaining the open spaces in Parracombe both now and in the future.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.15.10. Based on site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Parracombe open spaces was low with an average of 2.25 out of 5 (Appendix 1). This is mainly due to the restricted disabled access to some of the open spaces. However it is noted that the Parish Council do not believe there to be any barriers to the use of any of the spaces within their Parish.

### **Indoor Facilities**

#### ***Village Hall***

- 3.15.11. Parracombe benefits from a village hall which is owned by the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes and leased by the Village Hall Committee<sup>22</sup>. People can access the Village Hall by walking, cycling or by private vehicle and there is a small car park next to the hall.
- 3.15.12. The hall has facilities, such as: a kitchen, toilets, renewable energy heating and equipment storage for local clubs that use the facilities. The hall is used for meetings, social functions and events, as well as, regular activities including: book club, bridge club, tai chi, zumba and village game nights.

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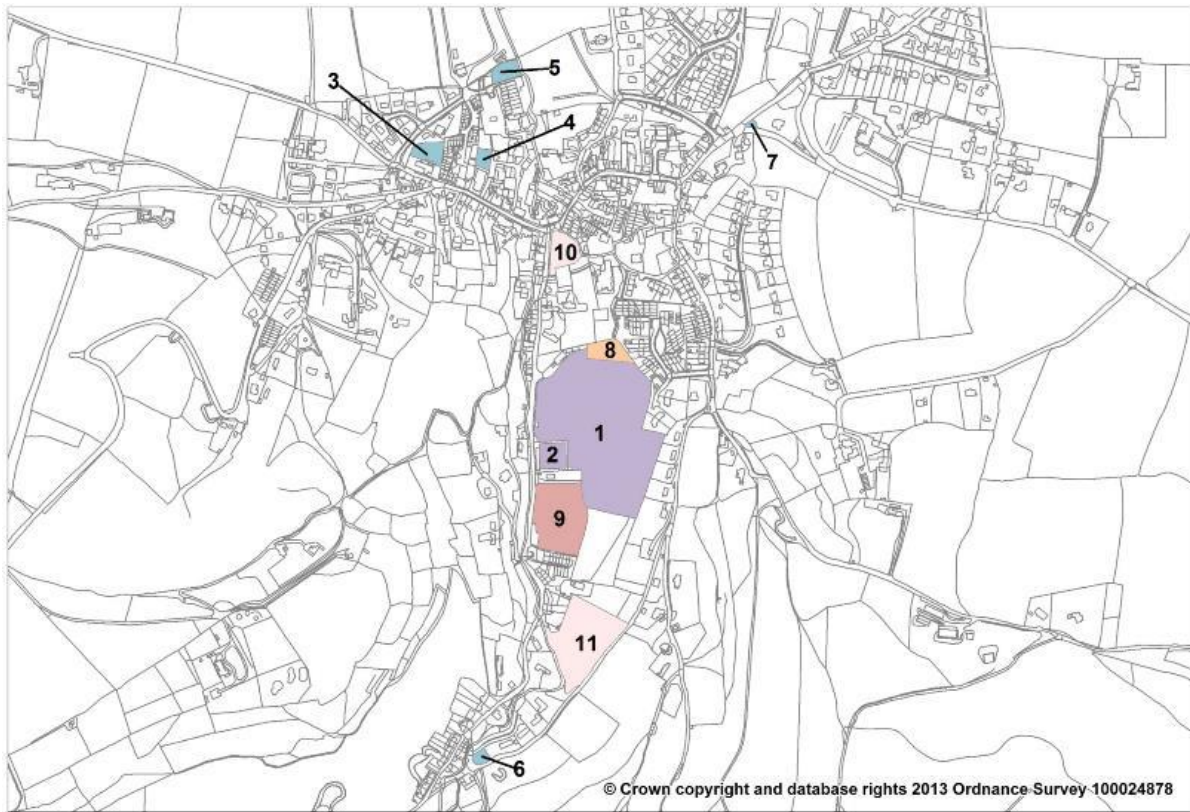
<sup>22</sup> Parracombe Village Hall (2014) Village Hall website [Online] [http://www.parracombe.org.uk/?page\\_id=414](http://www.parracombe.org.uk/?page_id=414)

### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Parracombe, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessment of the demand for open spaces; particularly open spaces for allotments following the comments made by the Parish Council and the responses from the Your Future Exmoor event. Where demand still remains provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces.
2. Minor improvements to Parracombe's open spaces as indicated by quality improvement recommendations and Appendix 1, including the provision of more facilities.
3. Continued or enhanced maintenance and repair work to all open spaces within Parracombe.

### 3.16. Porlock



**Map 16: Porlock Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 20 (p72)**



## Open Space Strategy for Exmoor National Park Authority

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
<b>Outdoor Sports Facilities</b>		[Total Number = 2]
1	Porlock Parson's Street Recreation Ground	83.3
2	Porlock Parson's Street Bowling Green	82.5
<b>Amenity Green space</b>		[Total Number = 6]
3	Porlock Community Orchard	80.5
4	Porlock Methodist Church Open Space	74.5
5	Porlock Riverside Row Open Space	77.0
6	Porlock Hawkcombe Open Space	83.3
7	Porlock War Memorial Dunster Steep	53.6
8	Meadowhayes Open Space	74.6
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>		[Total Number = 1]
9	Porlock Parson's Street Play Area	78.7
<b>Allotments</b>		[Total Number = 1]
10	Porlock Parson's Street Allotments	82.7
<b>Cemeteries and churchyards</b>		[Total Number = 2]
11	Porlock St. Dubricius Churchyard	74.3
12	Porlock Hawkcombe Cemetery	75.8
Overall Total = 12 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		76.7

<b>Quality Grading of Open Spaces</b>		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 20: Porlock Open Space Location Map 16: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

### Settlement Location

3.16.1. The settlement of Porlock is located near the north coast and is located between Minehead, six miles to the east, and Lynton and Lynmouth, fifteen miles to the west. The A39 passes through the village and up Porlock Hill and the privately owned Toll Road provides an alternative route avoiding Porlock Hill. The village benefits from a daily bus service running between Minehead and Porlock.



### Your Future Exmoor

- 3.16.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 found that, overall, respondents felt there were enough open spaces within the settlement however more allotments were needed.
- 3.16.3. Some people indicated the recreation ground and area to the east of Villes Lane to be important green space. Allotment sites were proposed to the east of Villes Lane and the area between the Meadows and England's Road, this location was also suggested for a park and children's play area. These suggestions may have been in response to the proposed housing scheme and new road in this area, which have subsequently been developed.
- 3.16.4. People indicated that they used the Porlock recreation ground and facilities in Minehead for leisure and recreation.

### Your Future Exmoor – Youth Consultation

- 3.16.5. Results from the Porlock 'Your Future Exmoor' youth consultation event held in 2009 found that the children liked the village hall and the park and disliked traffic, litter and busy streets. They would like to see wildlife and nature, and a swimming pool and most of the children thought that there were enough places for them to play.

### Quantity

- 3.16.6. Porlock has 12 outdoor open spaces (Figure 20), which have different purposes and uses and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations including: Porlock Parish Council, the Recreation Ground Management Committee and Volunteers. Porlock benefits from having a village hall which is an indoor space used for sports and other recreational activities. Porlock Parish Council believe there to be enough open spaces in their Parish.

### Usage

- 3.16.7. Porlock Parish Council note the usage of the Orchard behind the library, Parson's Street Recreation Ground, Parson's Street Bowling Green and Parson's Street Allotment Gardens as high. They commented that the Orchard behind the library was used for a number of fund raising events. The fruit is managed as part of the community orchard committee's programme and it is also popular as a seating or picnic area for visitors. They also commented that there is "*always a waiting list for allotments.*"
- 3.16.8. They stated that the usage, of the open space behind the Methodist Church, St. Dubricius Churchyard, Parson's Street Play Area and Hawkcombe cemetery, as medium. They commented that the Churchyard is now closed but it is well cared for and visited by many tourists.
- 3.16.9. Hawkcombe Seating Area, the Dunster Steep War Memorial and the open space next to Riverside Row were all rated as low usage by the Parish Council. They note that the Hawkcombe Seating Area was mainly used by walkers and the open space next to Riverside Row was mainly used by dog owners. They note that the War Memorial is maintained to a

good standard, with the use mainly on Remembrance Day. It is not used much as a seating area, due to the steepness and close proximity to the road.

### **Allotments**

- 3.16.10. The Parish Council stated that there are 32 allotment plots and there were 11 people on the waiting list at the time they were consulted. The Church of England is the owner of the allotments and they are managed by committee members. The Parish Council believe there is a need for a further 6 plots. They recommended the dog walking field site at the Recreation Ground, however, the committee are not in favour of this option. An alternative recommendation was the picnic area in the central car park, which is currently owned by West Somerset Council.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.16.11. Overall the quality of Porlock's open spaces is 'high' with an average score of 76.7% based on site assessments (Figure 20). The amenity green spaces score lower than other types of open spaces in Porlock as they provide limited facilities and diversity of vegetation. Porlock's amenity green spaces still however score reasonably well with an average percentage of 73.9%.
- 3.16.12. The following open spaces scored high in quality: Parson's Street Recreation Ground. Parson's Street Bowling Green. Porlock Community Orchard, Riverside Row Open Space, Hawkcombe Open Space, Parson's Street Play Area, Parson's Street Allotments and Hawkcombe Cemetery. Improvements recommended for these spaces include: enhanced maintenance of equipment and facilities, as well as, minor repair work to seating in the Parson's Street Recreation Ground.
- 3.16.13. The following open spaces scored medium in quality: Methodist Church Open Space, Meadowhayes Open Space and St Dubricius Churchyard. These spaces could improve their quality score by upgrading their facilities either through the enhancement of current facilities or by the provision of new. The quality scores could also be improved by enhancing the vegetation and improving accessibility to the spaces.
- 3.16.14. For some open spaces, the size and location can hinder the potential for improvement. In the case of the War Memorial Dunster Steep, the space scored lower in facilities. It may be possible to include a dustbin to enhance the facility criteria of this open space, however due to its size and location at the centre of a one way road system, opportunities to further enhance facilities within this open space are limited.

### **Parish Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.16.15. The Parish Council graded the quality of most of the open spaces in Porlock as good. The War Memorial at Dunster Steep and the Open Space next to riverside row were rated as average by the Parish Council. They recommend that the Play Area in Parson's Street next to the Recreation Ground needs newer play equipment which will occur when funds permit. The Parish Council do not believe that there will be

problems with maintaining any spaces in their parish both now and in the future.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.16.16. Based on the site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Porlock's open spaces was high with an average of 3.88 out of 5 (Appendix 1). Furthermore, the Parish Council believe that there are some barriers to the use of the spaces within their Parish, which include the availability of allotments, the Bowls Club being restricted to members only and disabled access to all of Porlock's open spaces.

### **Indoor Facilities**

#### ***Village Hall***

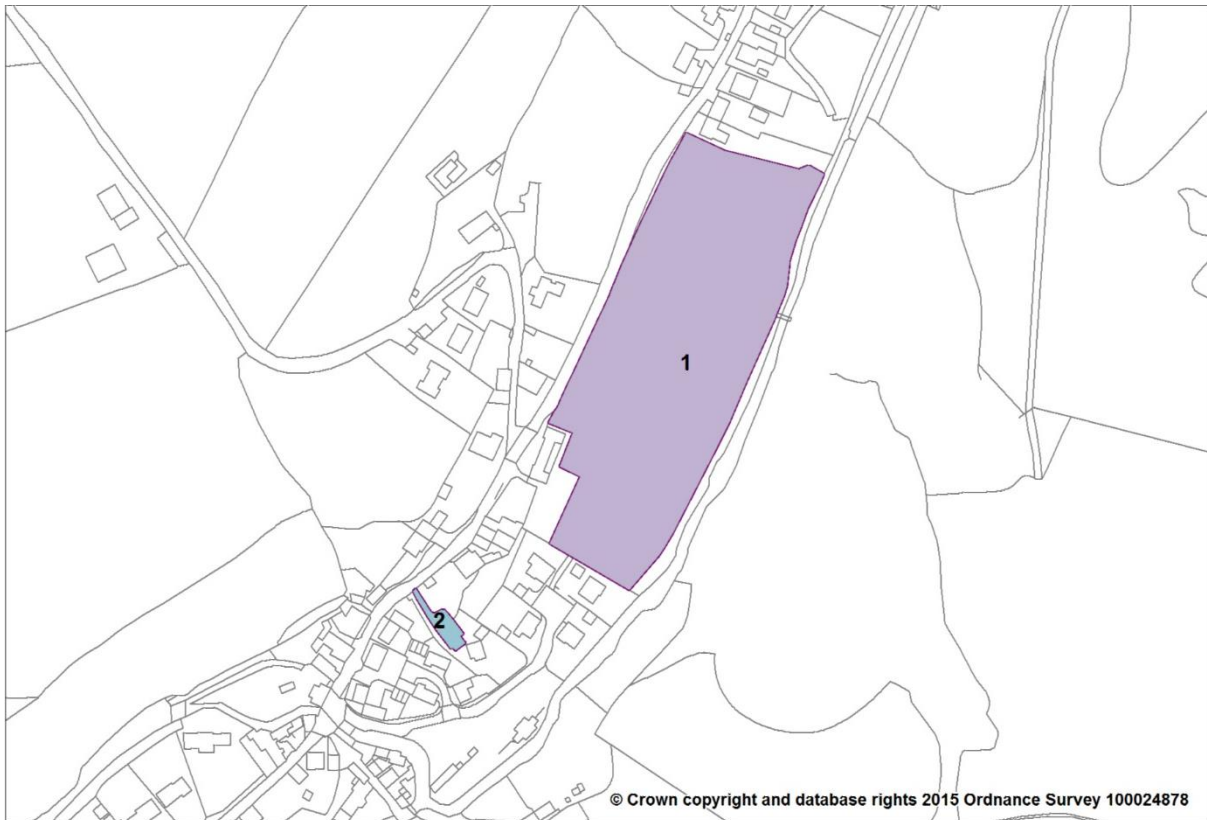
- 3.16.17. Porlock Village Hall can be used for indoor classes and recreational activities. It provides an indoor facility for people within Porlock and has the potential to provide for surrounding areas. It is owned by Porlock Parish Council and is maintained by a management committee.
- 3.16.18. Users of the village hall rate the quality as good. There is disabled access to both parts of the hall, a disabled toilet and a hearing loop. People accessed the village hall by private vehicle, public transport and by walking. Users view the accessibility of the village hall as excellent.
- 3.16.19. The hall provides toilets, a kitchen and a marked badminton court for users. Questionnaires received indicated that the village hall was used for a number of events and classes including badminton and dance classes. Porlock table tennis club use the Village Hall facilities weekly with the players coming from the local area and surrounding parishes including Lynton, Parracombe, Ilfracombe and Barnstaple.

### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Porlock, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessment of the demand for open spaces; particularly open spaces for allotments following the comments made by the Parish Council and the responses from the Your Future Exmoor event. Where demand still remains, provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces.
2. Minor improvements to Porlock's open spaces as indicated by quality improvement recommendations and Appendix 1, including enhanced vegetation and provision of more facilities.
3. Continued or enhanced maintenance of all open spaces within Porlock.

### 3.17. Roadwater



**Map 17: Roadwater Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 21**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Outdoor Sports Facilities		[Total Number = 1]
1	Roadwater Recreation Ground	70.8
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 1]
2	Roadwater Methodist Church Amenity Space	66.3
Overall Total = 2 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		68.6

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 21: Roadwater Open Space Location Map 17: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

#### Settlement Location

- 3.17.1. The settlement of Roadwater lies in the narrow valley of the Washford River, along the road linking the neighbouring village of Luxborough to the A39 at Washford. There are no public transport services available within Roadwater, however a demand responsive transport initiative is available to residents.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.17.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 found that there were enough recreation areas but more allotments and play equipment for small children were needed.

### **Quantity**

- 3.17.3. Roadwater has two outdoor open spaces (Figure 21), which have different purposes and uses and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations including the Roadwater Village Trust. Roadwater benefits from a village hall, which provides an indoor space and has the potential to be used for sports and other recreational activities. Old Cleeve Parish Council believe there to be enough open spaces in their Parish.

### **Usage**

- 3.17.4. Old Cleeve Parish Council rated the usage of Roadwater Recreation Ground as high and believe it to be an 'excellent' use of the space.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.17.5. Overall the average quality of Roadwater's open spaces is medium with a score of 68.6%. The quality of the open space around Roadwater's Methodist Church was at the lower end of the medium bracket. Roadwater Recreation Ground however scored medium at 70.8% which was in the middle of its bracket
- 3.17.6. It is expected that Roadwater's open space around the Methodist Church scored lower partly due to its size. This open space forms amenity green space rather than a churchyard. The Methodist Church had a sense of character despite its size and low quality score. Minor maintenance to main entrance and boundary would enhance the quality of this open space as well as providing a larger variety of vegetation or more facilities, such as an information board.
- 3.17.7. The Recreation Ground's quality score could be improved by the maintenance of the current play equipment and repair work to the boundary fencing. More dustbins should also be provided to reflect the size of the site and accommodate for the potential number of users the space can accommodate.

### **Parish Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.17.8. The Parish Council graded the quality of the Roadwater Recreation Ground as good and do not recommend any improvements. The Parish Council do not believe that there will be problems with maintaining any of the spaces identified in their parish both now and in the future.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.17.9. Based on the site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Roadwater's open spaces was medium with an average of 3.75 out of 5 (Appendix 1). Furthermore the Parish Council state that the open spaces within the parish are easily accessed by walking and by using private transport.

## Indoor Facilities

### *Village Hall*

- 3.17.10. Roadwater benefits from a village hall which is owned and maintained by the Roadwater Village Trust. People can access the village hall by walking, cycling and by private vehicle and there is a car park next to the hall.
- 3.17.11. The hall can provide facilities, such as: a meeting room, kitchen, toilets, stage, heating, main hall and lower hall and a snooker room. The hall is mainly used for meetings, social functions and events, as well as regular activities including: art class, sewing club, Roadwater Singers, Roadwater Players, and yoga club. The Village Hall also has the Roadwater Community Cinema which was installed in 2012 by a Lottery grant and shows films on a regular basis. The Roadwater Cricket Club who use the recreation ground, use the facilities of the village hall, such as the toilets. They also stated that they would like the village hall to have the provision of electric showers.

### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Roadwater, the following should be explored:

1. The demand for allotments in Roadwater should be explored. Where results demonstrate a demand in the area, the provision of this type of open space should be provided appropriately.
2. The enhanced maintenance of the children's play equipment within the recreation ground and the provision for further play equipment for younger children should be explored, to determine whether there is a need for a wider variety of play equipment or not. If this is the case, then the provision for providing a wider variety should be further examined.
3. Repair work and maintenance should be undertaken for the boundary fencing of the recreation ground.
4. The provision of a wider variety of vegetation and an information board would enhance the quality rating of the Methodist Church which is limited due to its size and location.

### 3.18. Simonsbath



**Map 18: Simonsbath Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 22**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 1]
1	Simonsbath Exmoor National Park Authority Open Space	80.0
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 1]
2	Simonsbath St Lukes Churchyard	80.1
Overall Total = 2 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		80.0

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 22: Simonsbath Open Space Location Map 18: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

#### Settlement Location

- 3.18.1. Simonsbath is the most isolated settlement within the National Park, located on the junction of the B3223 and the B3358. There are no regular bus services passing through the village, but demand responsive transport is available from Monday to Saturday.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.18.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 highlights Ashcombe Plantation, Birchcleave Wood and the space east of Simonsbath Bridge as important green spaces.

### **Quantity**

- 3.18.3. Simonsbath has two outdoor open spaces (Figure 22), which have different purposes and uses and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations including the Exmoor National Park Authority. These spaces are the amenity green space at Ashcombe and Simonsbath Churchyard. Simonsbath does not benefit from any indoor spaces, which may be used for sports and other recreational activities.

### **Usage**

- 3.18.4. No response was received indicating the level of usage of Simonsbath's open spaces.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.18.5. Overall the average quality of Simonsbath's open spaces is high with a quality score of 80.0%.
- 3.18.6. Although Simonsbath's open spaces score high in quality, both have the potential to be further improved by providing more facilities. The Exmoor National Park Authority Open Space at Ashcombe would benefit from the provision of a dustbin as the picnic areas in this open space could lead to litter in the area, however, it should be noted that the National Park encourages people to take their litter home with them. St Lukes Churchyard scores relatively well in terms of facilities compared to some of Exmoor's Open Spaces, however the provision of facilities, such as more seating or an information board, would improve this open space.

### **Parish Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.18.7. No responses were received from the Parish Council in respect of the open spaces within Simonsbath.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.18.8. Based on site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Simonsbath's open spaces was relatively high with an average of 3.87 out of 5 (Appendix 1).

### **Indoor Facilities**

#### ***Village Hall***

- 3.18.9. Simonsbath does not benefit from a village hall, however the residents of the parish can access nearby village halls, such as Exford Village hall and can use the facilities there. It is also noted that the Church can be used by the community for meetings.



### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Simonsbath, the following should be explored:

1. The maintenance of the access path to the churchyard to allow easy access for all users should be increased to maintain the pot holes within the path.
2. The provision of more facilities at the Exmoor National Park Authority open space to increase the quality of the site. This can include more seating and dustbins.
3. Minor improvements to Simonsbath's Churchyard as indicated by the quality improvement recommendations and Appendix 1, including the provision of more facilities such as seating, dustbins and an information board.

### 3.19. Timberscombe



Map 19: Timberscombe Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 23

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
<b>Outdoor Sports Facilities</b>		[Total Number = 2]
1	Timberscombe Recreational Field	69.3
2	Timberscombe Cricket Ground	70.0
<b>Amenity Green space</b>		[Total Number = 2]
3	Timberscombe Brewers Green Open Space	58.0
4	Timberscombe Orchard Way Open Space	62.1
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>		[Total Number = 1]
5	Timberscombe Playground	69.5
<b>Allotments</b>		[Total Number = 1]
6	Timberscombe Allotment	76.0
<b>Cemeteries and churchyards</b>		[Total Number = 1]
7	Timberscombe St Petrock Churchyard	77.0
Overall Total = 7 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		68.8
<b>Quality Grading of Open Spaces</b>		
Low	Medium	High

Figure 23: Timberscombe Open Space Location Map 19: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.

### **Settlement Location**

- 3.19.1. The settlement of Timberscombe is situated on the A396 and includes the hamlet of Cowbridge. It is served by a number of public buses with the main service operating daily between Minehead and Tiverton.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.19.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 found that there were enough children's play areas and recreation areas within the village. A need for allotments was established, however it was noted that a location for this provision was found and declined by the villagers in the past. However one recommendation was to create an "allotmenting" scheme whereby the community can work on other people's gardens who are unable to maintain them.

### **Your Future Exmoor – Youth Consultation**

- 3.19.3. Results from the Timberscombe 'Your Future Exmoor' youth consultation demonstrated that the children liked the playground and football pitch and disliked dog fouling and litter. They would like to see more play equipment, marked football pitch lines, a youth club and a rugby pitch.

### **Quantity**

- 3.19.4. Timberscombe has seven outdoor open spaces which have different purposes and uses (Figure 23) and are owned and maintained/managed by a number of different organisations including The John Arlott Playing Field Trustees and the Parish Council<sup>23</sup>. Timberscombe benefits from indoor spaces, which may be used for sports and other recreational activities. These spaces include: the Village Hall and the Orchard Community Room, which are both used for sport or other recreational activities on a regular basis.

### **Usage**

- 3.19.5. No response was received indicating the level of usage of Timberscombe's open spaces.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.19.6. Overall the quality of Timberscombe's open spaces is 'medium' with an average score of 68.8% based on site assessments (Figure 23). The amenity green spaces score lower than other types of open spaces in Timberscombe as they provide limited facilities and a poor variety of vegetation. Timberscombe's amenity green spaces still however score reasonably well with an average percentage from the two spaces of 60.05%.
- 3.19.7. The following open spaces scored high in quality: Timberscombe Allotments and Timberscombe St Petrock Churchyard.

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<sup>23</sup> Timberscombe Parish Council (2012) Timberscombe Parish Plan December 2012 [Online] [http://www.timberscombe.org/local\\_information/docs/parish\\_plan.pdf](http://www.timberscombe.org/local_information/docs/parish_plan.pdf)

- 3.19.8. The following open spaces scored medium in quality: Timberscombe playground, Orchard Way open space, Timberscombe Cricket Ground, and Timberscombe Recreational Field. These spaces could improve their quality score by upgrading their facilities either through the enhancement of current facilities or the provision of new. Quality scores could also be improved by the enhancement of vegetation.
- 3.19.9. The Timberscombe Parish Plan 2012 also recommends that more facilities should be provided for the recreational field as currently there is only 1 set of football goal posts and they state that the playing field lacks equipment.
- 3.19.10. The Timberscombe Brewers Green Open Space, scores within the low quality bracket and improvements could include providing better accessibility for disabled users by providing a small ramp or lowering part of the pavement to the same level of the road. This space significantly lacks vegetation variety and the tree that was there in 2009 has been removed. The Timberscombe Parish Plan does state that they are looking into replacing the tree at some stage as requested by the Timberscombe residents. For further detail of recommendations for each individual open space please see Appendix 1.

#### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.19.11. Based on site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Timberscombe's open spaces was relatively high with an average of 3.21 out of 5 (Appendix 1).

#### **Indoor Facilities**

##### ***Village Hall***

- 3.19.12. Timberscombe Village Hall can be used all year round for indoor classes and recreational activities. The hall is a registered charity and is maintained by the Timberscombe Village Hall Committee.
- 3.19.13. Many sporting and recreational activities are held at the Village Hall on a regular basis including: a gardening club, private functions, community functions, such as race nights and musical events, as well as the short mat bowls club which competes in the local league. Responses from the short mat bowls club indicated that the club uses the facilities once or twice a week and have an estimated 10 users per month.
- 3.19.14. Most people that used this facility travelled to it either by walking or by private vehicle. Users rated the accessibility of this indoor facility as excellent. A ramp is available for disabled users and disabled toilets were installed within the 2006 hall refurbishment. Users of the village hall rated the quality of the facility as good with useful facilities such as: heating, toilets and a kitchen. No improvements were suggested by the users.
- 3.19.15. In the 2012 Timberscombe Parish Plan, the activities the community wanted introduced included book club, arts and crafts club, film club, computer classes, whist drives and presentations of mobility aids. Timberscombe Village Hall is an indoor facility that could accommodate such activities.

**Orchard Community Centre**

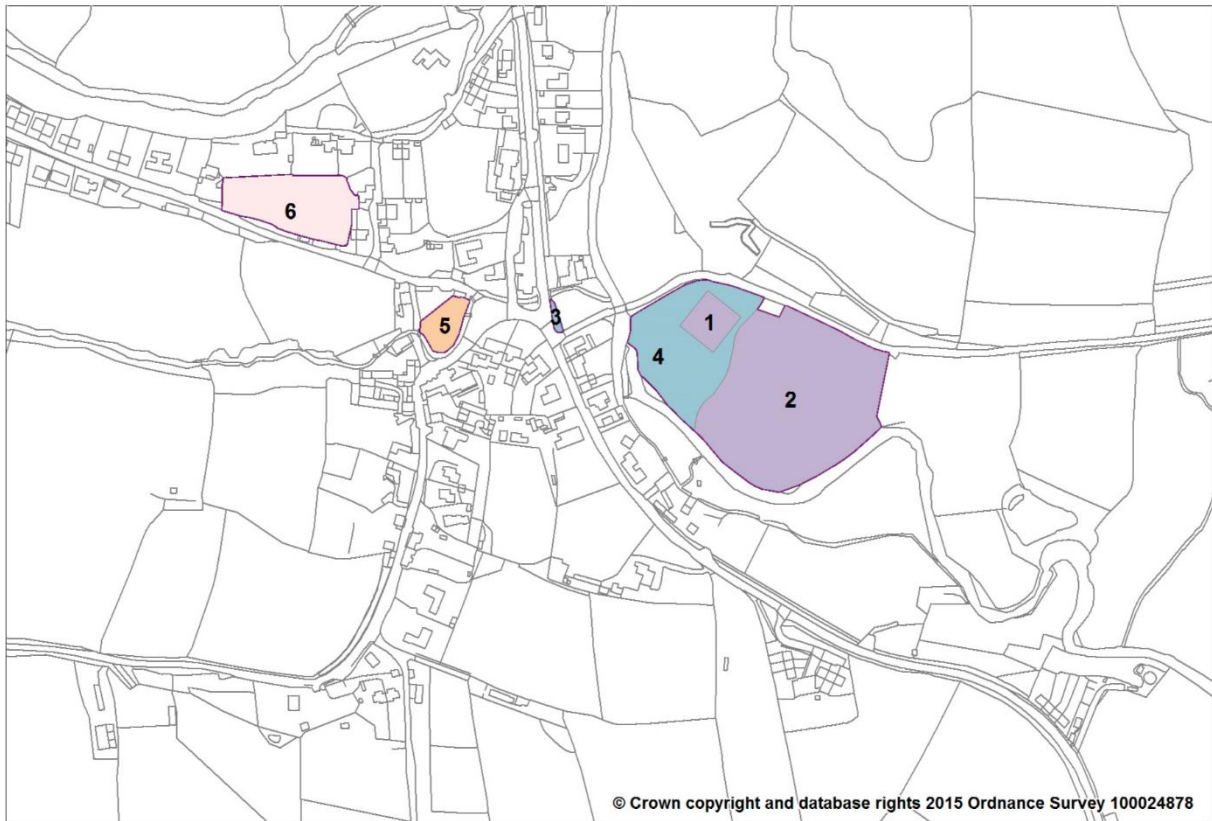
- 3.19.16. Orchard Community Centre was converted after gaining planning permission in 2008 to provide a community meeting room. The facilities include: disabled access and a disabled toilet as well as a small kitchen. Community social events are mainly held at this indoor facility including the presentation about mobility aids, which was requested by local residents and identified in the Timberscombe Parish Plan 2012. This space could accommodate more of the suggested activities from the Parish Plan.

**Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Timberscombe, the following should be explored:

1. Further assessment of the demand for open spaces; particularly open spaces for more allotments. Where demand still remains, provision should be supplied through the creation of new open spaces or the improvement of current open spaces, where appropriate.
2. Minor improvements to Timberscombe's open spaces as indicated by quality improvement recommendations and Appendix 1, including enhanced vegetation and provision of more facilities.
3. Continued or enhanced maintenance of all open spaces within Timberscombe.

### 3.20. Winsford



Map 20: Winsford Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 24

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
<b>Outdoor Sports Facilities</b>		[Total Number = 2]
1	Winsford Tennis Courts	67.6
2	Winsford Sports Field	76.3
<b>Amenity Green space</b>		[Total Number = 2]
3	Winsford Amenity Green Space	67.3
4	Winsford Open Space next to Tennis Courts	67.0
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>		[Total Number = 1]
5	Winsford Play Space next to Ford	81.8
<b>Cemeteries and churchyards</b>		[Total Number = 1]
6	Winsford St Mary Magdalene Churchyard	77.2
Overall Total = 6 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		72.9
<b>Quality Grading of Open Spaces</b>		
<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>

Figure 24: Winsford Open Space Location Map 20: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.

### **Settlement Location**

- 3.20.1. The settlement of Winsford lies within the wooded valley of the River Exe and is situated off of the main road network just a mile and a half west of the A396. The village is served twice daily, Monday to Saturday by the Minehead to Tiverton bus service and a demand responsive service is also available to residents Monday to Saturday.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.20.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 found that there were sufficient areas for outdoor recreation in Winsford, although there was a demand for allotments.

### **Quantity**

- 3.20.3. Winsford has six outdoor open spaces (Figure 24), which have different purposes and uses. They are owned and maintained/managed by a number of organisations including Winsford Parish Council, Winsford Charitable Trust and private individuals. Winsford benefits from a village hall which may be used as an indoor space for sports and other recreational activities. Winsford Parish Council believe there to be enough open spaces in their Parish.
- 3.20.4. Winsford Parish Council stated that allotments for their parish would prove desirable. They suggested a site down Howetown Lane which was opposite the recreation field. They thought that this was a good south facing sloping land but acknowledged that it was under private ownership.

### **Usage**

- 3.20.5. Winsford Parish Council note the usage of most of the open spaces within their parish as medium. They rate the use of the play space next to the ford and St Mary Magdalene Churchyard as low. No suggestions were received from the Parish Council to improve the low use levels of these sites.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.20.6. Overall, Winsford's open spaces have been rated at a medium quality level with an average score of 72.9%. The Sports Field, Play Space next to the Ford and St Mary Magdalene Churchyard all have high quality scores.
- 3.20.7. The following open spaces scored medium in quality: open space next to Tennis Courts, Amenity Green Space next to Bus Shelter and the Tennis Courts. These spaces could improve their quality score by upgrading their facilities either through the enhancement of current facilities or the provision of new. These spaces could also improve their quality score by enhancing the vegetation provided within their space.
- 3.20.8. For some open spaces the size and location can hinder the potential for improvement. In the case of the Amenity Green Space next to the Bus Shelter, the space particularly scored lower in facilities. It may be possible to include an information board to enhance the facility criteria of this open space, however due to its size and location beside the road,



opportunities to further enhance facilities within this open space are limited.

- 3.20.9. Other areas of improvement for the Sports Field and open space next to the Tennis Courts could include providing more facilities such as seating and more dustbins as well as providing more recreational facilities on the sports field as the site could accommodate more due to its size. Furthermore, the Parish Council noted that the level of usage for the Play Space next to the Ford was low even though the quality score for the space is high. This space could be enhanced by providing more variety of play facilities. For further detail of recommendations for each individual open space please see Appendix 1.

### **Parish Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.20.10. The Parish Council graded the quality of the open spaces in Winsford as good. No improvements are recommended by the Parish Council. The Parish Council do not believe there to be any problems with maintaining any spaces in their parish both now and in the future.
- 3.20.11. The Parish Council also noted that there had recently been improvement to the open spaces in their Parish, including surface improvement around the war memorial, the provision of a bench and tree planting in the car park. They also noted slight restrictions had been made on parking in the area.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.20.12. Based on site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Winsford's open spaces was relatively low with an average of 2.83 out of 5 (Appendix 1). Winsford's open spaces scored low in the quality of their accessibility as the majority of the open spaces did not have paths leading to the open spaces. However due to the location of these open spaces there are limitations to what improvements can be made.
- 3.20.13. The spaces often scored lower in disabled access due to the steep terrain or surface materials used, such as gravel, which limits access for those in wheelchairs. Improvements could be made by using surface materials appropriate for wheelchair users and the provision of walkways or pedestrian right of ways along roads to access the open spaces. However it is noted that the Parish Council do not believe there to be any barriers to the use of any of the spaces within their Parish.

### **Indoor Facilities**

#### ***Village Hall***

- 3.20.14. Winsford benefits from a village hall, which secured funding in 2008 from The Big Lottery Fund's Community Buildings programme<sup>24</sup> to finish the renovation project of the hall. People can access the village hall by walking, cycling, public transport and by motor vehicle and there is a car park next to the hall.

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<sup>24</sup> Big Lottery Fund (2008) Lottery sets Winsford Village Hall vision on the home stretch [Online] <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/press-releases/england/south-west/lottery-sets-winsford-village-hall-vision-on-the-home-stretch>



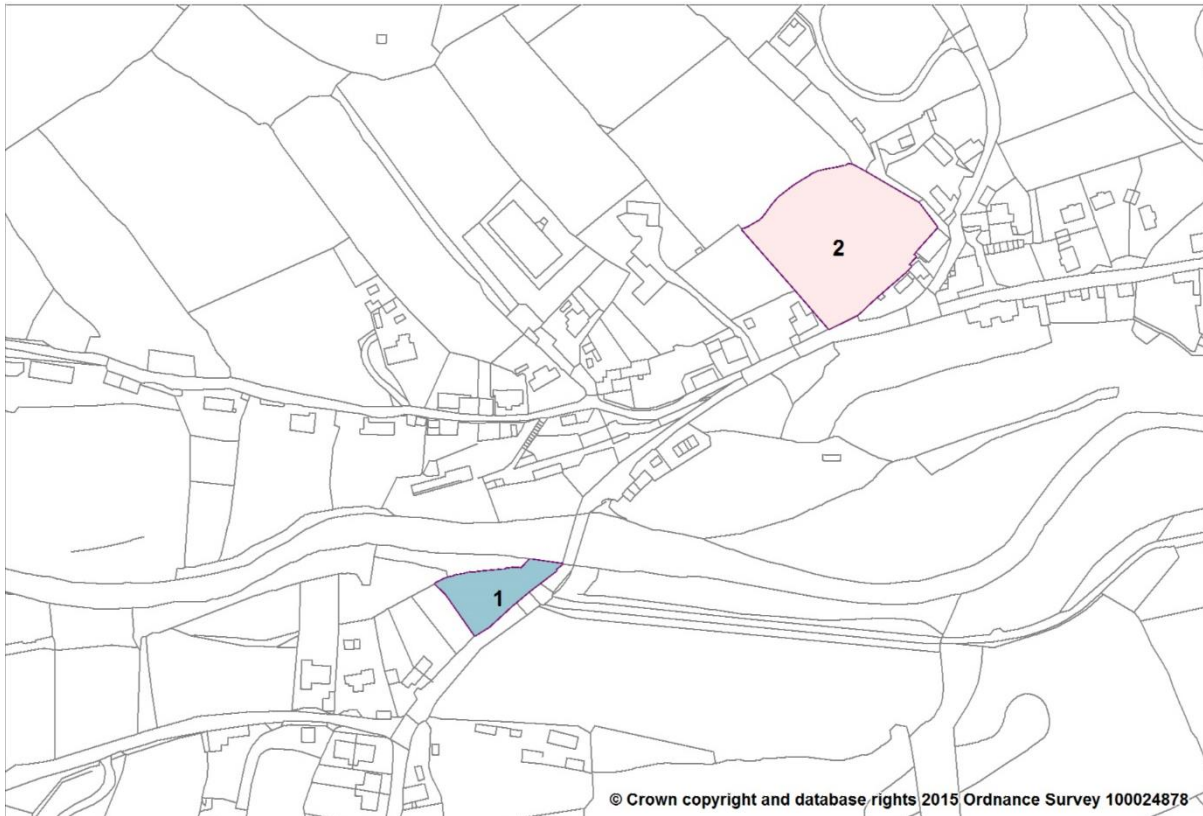
3.20.15. The hall can provide facilities, such as: a meeting room, kitchen, toilets, stage, heating and equipment storage for local clubs that use the facilities including Winsford Bowls Club. This club uses the facilities twice weekly with approximately 80 members of the club per month mainly living within the locality of Winsford. The hall is also used for meetings, social functions and events as well as regular activities including: art class, garden club, keep fit club, movie club, craft club, bridge club, and Pilates. Throughout the winter period, the village hall is used by the Winsford children's' tennis coaching club. As a frequent user of the village hall, Winsford Bowls Club rates the accessibility to the village hall and the quality of the facilities provided, as good.

### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Winsford, the following should be explored:

1. The demand for allotments in Winsford should be explored. Where results demonstrate a demand in the area, the provision of this type of open space should be provided appropriately.
2. The low level of usage of the children's' play provisions should be explored to establish whether there is a need for a wider variety of play equipment or not. If this is the case, then the provision for providing a wider variety should be further examined.
3. Minor improvements to Winsford's open spaces as indicated by the quality improvement recommendations and Appendix 1, including the provision of more facilities such as seating and a wider variety of vegetation.

### 3.21. Withypool



**Map 21: Withypool Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 25**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Amenity Green space		[Total Number = 1]
1	Withypool Coronation Plantation	67.9
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 1]
2	Withypool Churchyard	74.9
Overall Total = 2 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		71.4

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 25: Withypool Open Space Location Map 21: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

#### Settlement Location

3.21.1. The settlement of Withypool is located a mile west of the B3223 and is situated around the crossing of the River Barle. There is no regular public transport serving the village, but a demand responsive bus service is available to residents Monday to Saturday.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.21.2. No responses were received from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 with regards to open space in Withypool.

### **Quantity**

- 3.21.3. Withypool has two outdoor open spaces (Figure 25). Coronation Plantation is an amenity green space near the river which is owned and maintained by the Parish Council and there is also a Churchyard. Withypool benefits from a village hall which has the potential to be used as an indoor facility for activities in sport and recreation.

### **Usage**

- 3.21.4. Withypool Parish Council notes the usage of most of the open spaces within their parish as medium. A suggestion was received from the Parish Council to improve the use of the Coronation Plantation site by adding more facilities, such as a children's play area, however this has been discussed for many years and a lack of a continued demand and funding has meant that this provision has not been implemented. The Parish Council also stated that there is no further provision or need for any additional open spaces within Withypool.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.21.5. Overall the quality of Withypool's open spaces (Figure 25) has been rated as medium with a score of 71.4%. The amenity open space scored a medium quality score of 67.9% and Withypool Churchyard scored a medium quality score at the upper end of the medium quality bracket with 74.9%.
- 3.21.6. The main category Withypool's Coronation Plantation scores lower in its facilities. For the type and size of the space, more facilities would improve the quality of this open space, such as more benches as this is a popular site for picnics. Other improvements could include the enhancement of the variety of vegetation.
- 3.21.7. Withypool churchyard scores well in quality, however in comparison to other churchyards around Exmoor, it scores lower in the facilities category. A larger range of facilities would further improve the quality score of this open space. Also the accessibility scores lower in comparison to other categories due to the steepness of the path and the steps at the entrance, which restrict access for disabled users. This could be improved by providing a removable ramp for the steps. For further detail of recommendations for each individual open space please see Appendix 1.

### **Parish Council Response and Recommendations**

- 3.21.8. The Parish Council graded the quality of the open spaces in Withypool as very good. No improvements are recommended by the Parish Council. The Parish Council do not believe there to be any problems with maintaining any spaces in their parish both now and in the future.

### Accessibility Site Assessment Results

- 3.21.9. Based on site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Withypool's open spaces was relatively low with an average of 2.87 out of 5 (Appendix 1). Withypool's open spaces scored low in the quality of their accessibility as there was no path at the Coronation Plantation and no formal parking arrangements for the Churchyard. The Churchyard scored lower in the path sub-category as the path within the site had a steep terrain, which may restrict access for some disabled users. However due to the location and size of these open spaces, in particular the Churchyard, there are limited improvements to be made to this quality category. Furthermore, the Parish Council believe that both of their open spaces are very accessible, as the Churchyard can be accessed from the side instead of the main entrance which provides a flat grassed access.

### Indoor Facilities

#### *Village Hall*

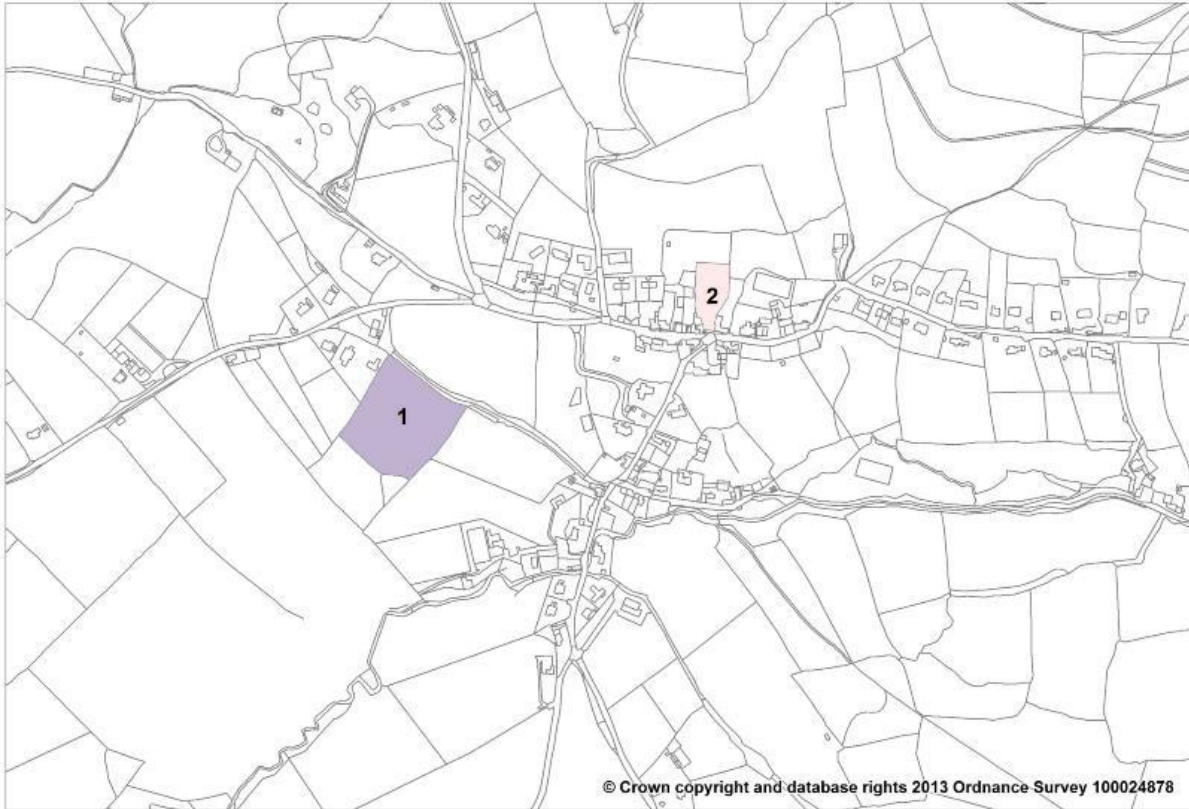
- 3.21.10. Withypool also benefits from a village hall which is owned by the trustees of the village hall and maintained by the village hall committee.
- 3.21.11. The Parish Council rate the accessibility of the village hall as good. People access the village hall by private vehicle, bicycle and by walking. A large car park is situated across the road to facilitate off road parking provisions for the hall. However, the Parish Council did state that the car park is not big enough to facilitate all the vehicles and parking, on occasions, has to extend down the side of the road. Disabled users can access the hall via the ramp leading to the side entrance.
- 3.21.12. The Parish Council rates the quality of its village hall as very good and does not believe there to be any current or future maintenance issues. The village hall can provide facilities such as: a kitchen, heating, toilets and a good size floor area. No sports activities were currently being undertaken in the hall at the time of consultation. The hall is currently used for meetings, social functions/ events and Whist Drives. Indoor sporting and recreational facilities would all be possible if any clubs wanted to use the space for such activities.

### Recommendations Summary

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Withypool, the following should be explored:

1. The potential demand for a children's play area should be explored. Where results demonstrate a demand in the area, the provision of this type of open space should be provided appropriately.
2. The low level of usage of the village hall should be explored to establish whether there is a need for indoor sports/recreational activities to be provided. If this is the case, then the provision for providing attracting more local clubs and activities to use the space should be further examined.
3. Minor improvements to Withypool's open spaces as indicated by the quality improvement recommendations and Appendix 1, including the provision of more facilities such as seating, dustbins and a wider variety of vegetation.

### 3.22. Wootton Courtenay



**Map 22: Wootton Courtenay Open Space Location Map – Link with Figure 26**

No.	Location	Site Assessment Score %
Outdoor Sports Facilities		[Total Number = 1]
1	Wootton Courtenay Recreation Ground	77.5
Cemeteries and churchyards		[Total Number = 1]
2	Wootton Courtenay Churchyard	76.6
Overall Total = 2 Open spaces		
Overall Average %		77.1

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

**Figure 26: Wootton Courtenay Open Space Location Map 22: Table of type and number of open spaces and site assessment quality scores.**

#### Settlement Location

3.22.1. The settlement of Wootton Courtenay is on the lower slopes of Wootton Common and is accessed by a number of narrow winding lanes connecting the village to the main A39 and A396 routes lying to the north and south of the settlement. There is no regular public transport serving the village, however a demand responsive bus service is available to residents from Monday to Saturday throughout the week.

### **Your Future Exmoor**

- 3.22.2. Results from the 'Your Future Exmoor' consultation event held in 2010 found that overall, there were enough open spaces within Wootton Courtenay, however there is a need for allotments. A potential site was identified at the Recreation Ground.

### **Quantity**

- 3.22.3. Wootton Courtenay has two outdoor open spaces (Figure 26), which have different purposes and uses; the Recreation Ground, which is owned and maintained by the Wootton Courtenay Playing Field Association and the Churchyard. Wootton Courtenay benefits from a village hall, which can be used for sports and other recreational activities and is well used by local clubs on a regular basis.

### **Usage**

- 3.22.4. The Wootton Courtenay Croquet Club believe that the recreational ground is well used particularly in the spring/summer/autumn months as their club alone uses the facilities up to three times a week during this period. Other clubs that use the space include the Archery Club.

### **Quality Site Assessment Scores and Recommendations**

- 3.22.5. Overall the average quality of Wootton Courtenay's open spaces (Figure 26) has been rated at a high quality level with a score of 77.1%.
- 3.22.6. The main category Wootton Courtenay Recreation Ground scores lower in its facilities. For the type and size of the space, particularly in comparison to other similar types of open space in Exmoor, more facilities would improve the quality of this open space. Such provisions could include dustbins and an information board. The Wootton Courtenay Croquet Club who use the recreational field facilities on a regular basis indicate that they feel the quality of the sporting facility is good and they would like more spectators seating available.
- 3.22.7. Wootton Courtenay Churchyard lacks in facilities and the quality of the space could be enhanced further by the provision of seating, which can be found at most other churchyards on Exmoor.

### **Accessibility Site Assessment Results**

- 3.22.8. Based on site assessments, the score for the quality of accessibility of Wootton Courtenay's open spaces was medium with an average of 3 out of 5 (Appendix 1). Furthermore Wootton Courtenay Croquet Club feels that the recreational ground is excellent in terms of its accessibility with most of its club members being able to access the facilities by walking or by private vehicle.

## Indoor Facilities

### *Village Hall*

- 3.22.9. Wootton Courtenay also benefits from a village hall, which is a registered charity, and was rebuilt in 2001<sup>25</sup>. Wootton Courtenay Village Hall has excellent accessibility with a large parking area and disabled access ramps to the entrance of the hall. The quality of the hall is to a high standard as the building was architecturally designed and the kitchen facility has a '5 star rating.' The village hall indicates that it has a spacious hall, together with a meeting room, toilets, kitchen, and heating facilities.
- 3.22.10. The hall is currently well used with weekly and monthly local clubs using the facilities including art club, book club, sewing club, aero modelling club and gardening club. The facilities are also used by local sports clubs such as: the short mat bowls club, dance for fitness and fun club and the ballroom dancing club. The hall can also be hired for conferences, weddings, private functions and drama groups.

### **Recommendations Summary**

Where opportunities arise to enhance the open spaces within Wootton Courtenay, the following should be explored:

1. The demand for allotments in the Wootton Courtenay area should be explored. Where results demonstrate a demand in the area, the provision of this type of open space should be provided appropriately.
2. The provision of and demand for a playground in the parish should further be examined.
3. Enhancement to the amount of facilities at both open spaces should be explored. This may include more seating and dustbins.

<sup>25</sup> Wootton Courtenay Village Hall (2015) Hall Information [Online] <http://www.woottoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk/>



## 4.0. Overall Conclusion

### Quantity of Exmoor's open spaces

- 4.0.1. Exmoor National Park has a total quantity of 122 open spaces within its settlements. Figure 27, shows the breakdown of the number of each different type of open space within the Exmoor settlements.
- 4.0.2. Amenity green space and cemeteries and churchyards are the highest type of open spaces found with 82% of Exmoor's settlements having this type of open space. Over half (55%) of the settlements have outdoor sports facilities and 59% have provision for children and young people.
- 4.0.3. Only 23% of settlements have allotments and a need has been identified for more of this type of space within the settlements as seen in section 3.0. (Open Space Analysis by Settlement).
- 4.0.4. Parks & Gardens and Green Corridors were only found in two of the larger settlements of Exmoor due to the space availability of the settlements and the larger number of residents for those parishes. Although only 9% of the total of settlements had both types of open space, no demand was identified within section 3.0. (Settlement Analysis) for the provision of increasing the number of these spaces.

	Parks & Gardens	Green Corridors	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Amenity Green Space	Provision for Children & young People	Allotments	Cemeteries and Churchyards	All types of open space
No. & % Of settlements with this type of space	2 (9%)	1 (5%)	12 (55%)	18 (82%)	13 (59%)	5 (23%)	18 (82%)	
Exmoor Settlements Total	4	2	24	45	15	5	27	122

Figure 27: Total number of each type of open space within the Exmoor Settlements.

### Quality of Exmoor’s Open Spaces

- 4.0.5. Figure 28, shows the average quality score for each type of open space within the National Park. Overall, three types of open space scored within the high quality bracket – these were Parks & Gardens, Green Corridors and Allotments. Interestingly in comparison to other types of open spaces, these three types are found in the least amount of settlements.
- 4.0.6. The remainder of the open spaces within the Park, on average, scored in the medium quality bracket with Amenity Green Space having the lowest score of 68.8%. Recommendations for improving the quality score for each type of open space are summarised in section 4.5.

	Parks & Gardens	Green Corridors	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Amenity Green Space	Provision for Children & young People	Allotments	Cemeteries and Churchyard	All Open Spaces Average
Exmoor Settlements Total	76.7%	75.9%	73.8%	68.8%	73.4%	82.9%	73.9%	75.1%

Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low	Medium	High

Figure 28: Average quality grading percentage for each type of open space on Exmoor

### Accessibility & Recommendations

- 4.0.7. Accessibility to all the open spaces within the National Park is good with all open spaces being accessible by walking or by transport to all residents within each parish. Figure 29 shows the average quality score of accessibility for the open spaces within each settlement as a total out of 5 (a breakdown of individual sites can be found in Appendix 1). Sites were scored against the following accessibility categories: road; path; disabled access and parking.
- 4.0.8. Half of the settlements scored within the high bracket in respect of the accessibility of their open spaces within their parishes. The remaining half scored within the medium bracket with just one settlement (Luccombe) being close to a low accessibility score with 1.90.
- 4.0.9. Improvements to the accessibility of open spaces within the settlements are highlighted in section 3.0. However it should be noted that due to the location and size of some of the open spaces within the parishes, accessibility improvements may be restricted. Luccombe’s open spaces scored lower than other open space in the National Park due to the lack of parking and disabled access. This represents the challenges of providing high quality accessible open space in very small settlements

within the Park. The location and terrain of the open spaces were the main factors limiting improvements to the accessibility criteria of Luccombe’s open spaces.

- 4.0.10. Where appropriate open space accessibility could be improved for a number of settlements by the creation or maintenance of a path and using a surface material which is suitable for disabled users in replacement of gravel which may cause difficulty for some disabled users of the open space. The widening of existing paths and entrances will also aid the accessibility of disabled users.

Settlement	Average quality of accessibility (out of 5)
Allerford	3.50
Barbrook	3.25
Brendon	3.50
Bridgetown and Exton	2.13
Brompton Regis	3.25
Challacombe	3.50
Cutcombe and Wheddon Cross	4.44
Dulverton	3.50
Dunster	3.50
Exford	3.25
Luccombe	1.90
Luxborough	3.40
Lynton and Lynmouth	3.01
Monksilver	3.90
Parracombe	2.25
Porlock	3.88
Roadwater	3.75
Simonsbath	3.87
Timberscombe	3.21
Winsford	2.83
Withypool	2.87
Wootton Courtenay	3.00

Accessibility Quality Grading of Open Spaces		
Low (0-1.66)	Medium (1.67-3.33)	High (3.34-5)

Figure 29: Average quality grading for accessibility for each settlement’s open spaces.

**Quantity Recommendations**

- 4.0.11. From Section 3.0 it can be seen that there are a number of settlements, which show a demand for further types of open spaces to be provided within their parish. In total 17 out of the 22 settlements analysed, showed demand for the provision of allotments. Within this, a few of the settlements already have this type of open space but there is a demand for more.
- 4.0.12. A total of 5 settlements demonstrated a demand for the provision of play areas for children and young people with a further 3 settlements wanting recreation grounds and 1 settlement wanting an outdoor sports pitch.
- 4.0.13. Further research should be undertaken to establish whether there is a strong need for these types of open spaces within the specified settlements. Where results demonstrate a demand in the area, the provision of this type of open space should be provided appropriately.
- 4.0.14. For smaller settlements which may have a restricted amount of land available for the provision of new open spaces, the demand for open spaces such as larger sporting facilities should be met by the larger neighbouring towns.

**Quality Recommendations**

- 4.0.15. Overall Exmoor National Park has good quality open spaces however it is recommended that these spaces can be enhanced further after undertaking the individual site analysis (Appendix 1).
- 4.0.16. The main category where a lot of Exmoor's open spaces scored lower in was the facilities category. Quality scores can be improved by enhancing existing open spaces with new or more facilities such as the provision of seating, dustbins and information boards.
- 4.0.17. It was noted from the respondents of the sports club questionnaires that some existing open spaces such as recreation grounds could be enhanced further by providing more/or improved sporting facilities.
- 4.0.18. The provision of a greater variety of play equipment for a wider age range was also established from the Your Future Exmoor events.
- 4.0.19. Overall, it was found that most of the open spaces could benefit from more regular maintenance of facilities, boundaries, vegetation, entrances and paths. Improving the variety of vegetation would also increase the biodiversity scores. Lower maintenance vegetation could be used in place of higher maintenance vegetation to help with the upkeep of these spaces, providing that biodiversity is at least conserved or enhanced.