



# **Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan**

## **Leeds Local Development Framework**

**Development Plan Document**  
**Green Space Background Paper**  
July 2015

# **GREEN SPACE ASSESSMENT AS IT RELATES TO AIRE VALLEY LEEDS AAP**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This assessment will be part of the background evidence base supporting recommendations made in the Aire Valley Leeds Green Infrastructure Study and the preparation of policies and proposals in the Aire Valley Leeds AAP.

The assessment provides an assessment of quantity, quality and accessibility of existing green space provision in Aire Valley Leeds against the Leeds Core Strategy provision standards to provide a baseline position.

## **2. EXISTING GREEN SPACE PROVISION**

This section assesses the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing green space provision in Aire Valley Leeds. Data used in this assessment was obtained from the [Leeds Open Space, Sports and Recreation Assessment](#) (2011) as amended and updated by subsequent surveys and monitoring.

The Leeds Core Strategy green space provision standards appear in Policy G3, which identifies the following standards for quantity, quality and accessibility for different types of green space in Leeds. Table 1 below replicates Core Strategy Policy G3: Standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.

**Table 1: Core Strategy Policy G3: Standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation**

<b>Green space type</b>	<b>Quantity per 1000 population</b>	<b>Quality<sup>1</sup> (minimum score)</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>
Parks and gardens	1 hectare	7	720m
Outdoor sports provision	1.2 hectares (excluding education provision)	7	Tennis court 720m, bowling greens and grass playing pitches 3.2 km, athletics tracks, synthetic pitches 6.4 km
Amenity green space	0.45 hectares	7	480m
Children and young people's equipped play facilities	2 facilities per 1,000 children (excluding education provision)	7	720m
Allotments	0.24 hectares	7	960m
Natural green space	0.7 hectares (main urban area and major settlements, 2 hectares other areas)	7	720m and 2 km from site of 20 ha
Civic Space (applicable for South Bank, Brewery Wharf and East Bank areas)	0.41 hectares	7	720m

Other types of green space, such as cemeteries, green corridors and golf courses also contribute to the overall provision of green space, but are not included in this assessment because there are no specific standards in the Core Strategy.

Natural Green Space has only been included in the assessment where there is an element of public access that allows people to experience nature. To view all Natural Green Space (accessible and private) see the Leeds Habitat Network for the Aire Valley Leeds AAP area.

## **QUANTITY & QUALITY**

The quantity of green space provision has been assessed for each type of green space for Aire Valley Leeds and for each of the five local areas. To undertake the assessment

<sup>1</sup> The quality score (out of a maximum of 10) is determined by assessing each area of greenspace against a number of criteria, such as: (i) how welcoming; (ii) level of health and safety; (iii) cleanliness and maintenance; (iv) conservation, habitats and heritage.

the total population and child population (aged 0-16) is required. The base line population is based on the ONS 2012 Mid-Year Estimate, presented in table 2 below:

**Table 2 – Local Area Population Base Line (ONS 2012 Mid-Year Estimate)**

Local Area	Population	Children aged 0-16
South Bank	3,712	99
South Bank within CC2	3,711	99
East Bank/Richmond Hill	6,803	969
East Bank/Richmond Hill within CC2	2,279	97
Hunslet	2,541	530
Central Aire Valley	0	0
Skelton Gate	0	0
<b>Aire Valley Leeds</b>	<b>13,057</b>	<b>1,599</b>

Source: ONS 2012 Mid-Year Estimate

Total green space in Aire Valley Leeds AAP area is 161 hectares on 24 green space sites, including green corridors, cemeteries, golf courses and children's play or outdoor facilities in educational use. Plan 1a and 1b shows the location of the various space types in relation to the individual AAP sub areas.

Looking solely at the types of green space for which Core Strategy standards apply, the total amount of green space is 138 hectares, over 24 sites. There are an additional 3.2 hectares of civic space across seven sites in the parts of the Aire Valley Leeds which lie within the boundary of Leeds City Centre. Civic spaces are designed for pedestrians, mainly comprise of hard landscaping and function as a setting for civic buildings or provide outdoor venues for community events.

**Table 3: Overall quantity and quality of green space in Aire Valley Leeds by type**

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Meets the Quantity standard	Average quality score
Parks and gardens	2	2.99	0.23	✗	5.35
Outdoor sports provision	8	16.64 <sup>2</sup>	1.27	✓	5.58
Amenity green space	8	6.1	0.47	✗	4.18
Children's and young people's equipped play	4	7 facilities	4.38 facilities	✓	-
Allotments	2	1.91	0.15	✗	1.59
Natural green space	4	109.3	8.37	✓	5.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>136.44</b>	<b>1.13</b>		<b>4.04</b>
City Centre Civic space	7	3.2	0.53	✓	7.65

Table 3 presents the quantity of green space provision across Aire Valley Leeds by type and calculates the quantity of provision per 1,000 population/child population and compares this to the Core Strategy quantity standard. The analysis sets out the

<sup>2</sup> There is a data overlap at Grove Road (0.5 hectares), where there is a junior playing pitch counted in both outdoor sports and Parks & Gardens. No education facilities have been included within the data.

average quality score for each green space type to provide a broad indication of the quality of green space in the area.

Existing green space provision in Aire Valley Leeds satisfies most of the Core Strategy quantitative provision standards. Parks and gardens and allotments are the only two types of green space which do not meet the quantity standard. Parks and Gardens is the most notable shortfall at only 23% of the Core Strategy standard, or a 77% shortfall.

The majority of the green space sites (23 out of 24) fall below the required quality standard of 7, with the result that the average quality score falls well below the standard for all types of green space. Those sites with the lowest scores are not currently in use or maintained. Six out of seven of the civic spaces located in the Aire Valley Leeds meet the required quality standards. A schedule of the individual sites, including site size and quality score is set out in the Local Area Assessments. The individual site id is shown on Plan 1a and 1b.

## LOCAL AREA ASSESSMENTS

### SOUTH BANK

**Table 4: Overall quantity and quality of green space in the South Bank local area by type**

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Average quality score
Parks and gardens	0	0	N/A	-
Outdoor sports provision	0	0	N/A	-
Amenity green space	0	0	N/A	-
Children's and young people's equipped play	0	0	N/A	-
Allotments	0	0	N/A	-
Natural green space	1	2.3	0.62	4.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>-</b>
City Centre Civic Space	6	3.2	0.86	7.03

The South Bank area has limited access to existing green space in the form of the canal and river corridor, and access to civic space/public realm. This would be expected in a city centre location where the density of development is considerably higher and opportunities to provide open green space within new development are limited. The proposed city park will be located in this area and is discussed in more detail later in this document.

There is civic space within the Brewery Wharf and New Dock developments and along the waterfront, adding up to over 3.2 hectares on seven separate sites.

## EAST BANK/RICHMOND HILL

**Table 5: Schedule of green space sites in the East Bank / Richmond Hill / Cross Green area**

Site ID	Site Name	Site Area	Typology	Quality Score
236	Cavalier Hill Recreation Ground	2.54	OUT	4.41
292	Easy Road	1.019	AMY	6.91
297	East Leeds Rugby League Pitch	1.718	OUT	6.45
298	Richmond Hill amenity space	0.510	AMY	5.33
304	Bow Street Recreation Ground	1.962	LPK	5.50
306	Saxton Gardens (Dolphins green space)	0.679	AMY	6.38
320	Cross Green Lane Former Rugby Pitches	1.996	OUT	0.66
321	Pontefract Lane disused allotments	0.702	ALLOT	1.07
521	East Leeds Cricket and Sports Club	1.003	OUT	5.70
522	Red Road Allotments	1.210	ALLOT	2.11
816	River Canal Corridor	1.97	NAT	4.69

**Table 6: Overall quantity and quality of green space in the East Bank / Richmond Hill / Cross Green local area by type**

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Meets the quantity standard	Average quality score
Parks and gardens	1	1.96	0.29	<input type="checkbox"/>	5.50
Outdoor sports provision	4	7.26	1.07	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.00
Amenity green space	3	2.21	0.32	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.21
Children's and young people's equipped play	2	4 facilities	4.13 facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Allotments	2	1.91	0.28	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.59
Natural green space	1	1.97	0.29	<input type="checkbox"/>	4.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15.31</b>	<b>1.96</b>		<b>4.33</b>
City Centre Civic Space	0	0		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Children's play facilities and allotments satisfy the provision standards, with the remainder of space types in deficiency (parks and gardens, outdoor sports, amenity green space, natural green space). Although parks & garden provision is deficient, it should be noted that East End Park (a 20 hectare community park) is immediately adjacent to the plan boundary, within easy walking distance of most of the Richmond Hill area. The area has a range of outdoor sport facilities, mainly comprising grass playing pitches. The area also has a range of children and young people's play facilities consisting of a multi-use games area, a skate park, a teen zone and a play area. Although allotment provision is currently assessed as being in surplus, this includes the disused allotment site next to Pontefract Lane which does not currently contribute any usable plots. If this site was excluded, provision would decrease to 0.21 hectares per 1,000 population; below the quantity standard.

All green space sites in the East Bank area scored below a quality score of 7, although the three amenity green spaces only fell marginally below the standard. Two of the three lowest scoring sites in Aire Valley Leeds were in the East Bank / Richmond Hill /Cross Green area, both of these sites are disused, overgrown and litter strewn.

There are no city centre public realm or open sites within that area of East Bank which falls within the city centre. However, as plan 1 illustrates, there are two green space sites (Saxton Gardens and Bow Street Recreation Ground) adjacent to the city centre boundary which serve some of the recreational needs of residents from within the city centre.

## HUNSLET

**Table 7: Schedule of green space sites in the Hunslet area**

Site ID	Site Name	Site Area	Typology	Quality Score
124	Grove Road Recreational Ground	1.032	LCPK	5.20
816	River Canal Corridor	13.7	NAT	4.69
915	Pepper Road Recreation Ground	4.122	OUT	4.07
961	Middle Croft Close POS (3)	0.53	AMY	5.76
1001	Jack Lane	1.541	NAT	5.00
1053	Hunslet Green (Community Sports Club)	3.762	OUT	7.61
1270	Midland Garth POS	0.216	AMY	3.08
1285	RocheFord Walk POS	1.200	AMY	3.09
1886	Whitefield Way, Hunslet	0.455	AMY	1.91

**Table 8: Overall quantity and quality of green space in the Hunslet local area by type**

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Meets the quantity standard	Average quality score
Parks and gardens	1	1.03	0.41	<input type="checkbox"/>	5.5
Outdoor sports provision	2	7.88	3.10	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.06
Amenity green space	4	2.4	0.94	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.46
Children's and young people's equipped play	2	3 facilities	5.66	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Allotments	0	0	-	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Natural green space	1	15.24	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>26.48</b>	<b>10.42</b>		<b>4.56</b>

The Hunslet area has excellent provision of outdoor sports, which includes five adult pitches and two junior pitches and satisfies the standard for amenity green space and children's play facilities. It fails to meet the standard for parks and gardens and natural green space and has no allotments. Hunslet Green (Community Sports club) is the only site in Aire Valley Leeds that satisfies the quality standard by scoring more than 7, but the average quality of green space falls below the required standard.

Parts of the Hunslet area are within the accessibility standard for the different types of green space. The existing residential area of Hunslet fails to satisfy the accessibility standard for natural green space.

## CENTRAL AIRE VALLEY

**Table 9: Schedule of green space sites in the Central Aire Valley**

Site ID	Site Name	Site Area	Typology	Quality Score
523	Neville POS	1.49	AMY	1
816	River Canal Corridor	38.52	NAT	4.69
912	Skelton Grange Road Pitch	1.01	OUT	2

**Table 10: Overall quantity and quality of green space in Central Aire Valley by type**

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Meets the quantity standard	Average quality score
Parks and gardens	0	0	N/A	N/A	-
Outdoor sports provision	1	1	~	~	2
Amenity green space	1	1.44	~	~	1
Children's and young people's equipped play	0	0	N/A	N/A	
Allotments	0	0	N/A	N/A	-
Natural green space	2	39.32	~	~	6.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	

Nb. ~ Population too small to calculate quantitative provision ratios

The developed parts of Central Aire Valley are predominantly commercial/industrial with a residential population that is too small to conduct a meaningful assessment. It has four green space sites, a poor quality amenity site adjacent to 'the Nevilles' in Osmondthorpe, an existing residential area which is located outside the Aire Valley boundary. A lone, historic grass playing pitch is located next to Thwaite bridge, but has not been used as such for many years. None of the sites satisfy the Core Strategy quality standard and the abandoned outdoor pitch off Skelton Grange Road has previously benefitted from planning permission to develop the site for industrial purposes.

## Skelton Gate

**Table 11: Schedule of green space sites in Skelton Gate**

Site ID	Site Name	Site Area	Typology	Quality Score
1830	Skelton Lake	50.472	NAT	4



**Table 12: Overall quantity and quality of green space in Skelton Gate by type**

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Meets the quantity standard	Average quality score
Natural green space	1	50.47	~	<input type="checkbox"/>	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50.47</b>			<b>4.0</b>

Nb. ~ Population too small to calculate quantitative provision ratio

## ACCESSIBILITY

Plans 2a to 2f illustrates application of the different Core Strategy accessibility standards. Accessibility to green space in the residential areas of Aire Valley Leeds is relatively good. The majority of the residential population have access to sites within and outside the Aire Valley boundary for parks and gardens, amenity, children and young people's facilities and allotments. Whilst the majority of Aire Valley Leeds is with 2 km of a large (greater than 20 hectares) natural site, parts of Richmond Hill and South Bank do not have access to a smaller local natural site. In the absence of the ability to deliver new natural green space, these areas will require enhanced green infrastructure links accessing existing natural sites, such as the canal / river corridor to compensate for the lack of local access.

### New Provision

Policy G4 of the Core Strategy sets out the requirements for new green space provision on new residential development in Leeds, outside the city centre boundary. Whilst policy G5 sets out the policy for new open space provision for new development within Leeds City Centre.

Policy G5 of the Core Strategy applies to all new residential and commercial development within the city centre. The city centre is defined by policy CC2 of the Leeds UDP Review. Unfortunately, the boundaries of the city centre and the local-areas are not consistently shared as shown on Plan 1. Whilst most of the South Bank area is contained within the city centre boundary and all of the Hunslet, Skelton Gate and Central Aire Valley areas are excluded, the East Bank local area is dissected. This means two different policies regarding green space / open space provision will apply to new development within these local areas depending on whether the site is located within the city centre.

The data highlights some overall acute deficiencies which will need to be addressed through the plan. New Parks and Garden, amenity space and allotments will all be required. The implementation of the Skelton Gate site will need to deliver considerable green space provision of multiple types but will also benefit from its proximity to Temple Newsam, which is a large city park offering a wide range of facilities.

The AAP will need to deal with allotment shortages at a local level, as the larger sites come forward. As table 1 shows, there is already a deficiency across the plan area which will be further compounded by the doubling of the population. Local food growing should be integrated into sustainable delivery of new homes. Whilst the recently delivered new allotments at Saxton Gardens are too small to consider in the site audit, they are important to residents of the complex and providing a valuable resource which

relieves the pressure on the waiting list for plots on the only other in-use site in the AAP area at Red Road Allotments.

Plan 3 illustrates that the proposed three hectare city park will fill an obvious gap in the provision of green space and Parks and Gardens in the city centre. The area to the south of the city centre was identified as having a quantitative and accessibility shortfall in the Leeds Open Space, Sports and Recreational Assessment.