

### Village Amenity Green Space

#### Introduction

- 6.1 PPG17 defines three types of informal open space, specifically parks and gardens, natural and semi natural open spaces and amenity green spaces. As highlighted previously, while each has different characteristics and functions, all have similar roles within the community. Section three considered the provision of parks and gardens, natural and semi natural and amenity green space within the market towns. This section provides an overview of amenity open space specifically within the villages.
- 6.2 The rural nature of Ryedale and the varying landscapes of the district influence the provision of formal open spaces and the demand for such facilities from residents. The close proximity of nearby accessible countryside including the Wolds and the Yorkshire Moors also impacts on aspirations for local provision, with many residents frequently visiting the countryside for recreational purposes. The Howardian Hills Area of Natural Beauty is also a key attraction to residents and visitors alike. Many of the villages are well linked to both the countryside and to other settlements through a vast network of Public Rights of Way.
- 6.3 Despite the rural location of villages within Ryedale and the array of accessible countryside in close proximity, open space, particularly village greens can be central to the life of the village community. Spaces can often provide for a range of sport and recreational needs without being harmful to the historic character of settlements and many spaces fulfil a variety of roles within the village. In all circumstances, the community's pride in the village is crucial to ensuring that these areas are kept in good order.
- 6.4 This section sets out the background and definition, strategic context, consultation and current provision of village amenity space in Ryedale. Consideration is also given to facilities for children and young people and outdoor sports facilities within the village settlements due to the multifunctionality of many village spaces.

#### Definition

- 6.5 Village amenity space incorporates all local amenity space provided within the service villages and all other villages across Ryedale. This encompasses village greens, informal green areas and all other space that provides an amenity value to residents living in the village but provide no formal basic facilities.
- 6.6 These spaces are often a focus for the village community, are frequently located in the centre of the village or adjacent to the village hall and are usually used for community events. Outdoor sports facilities and provision for children and young people are categorised separately.

#### Strategic context and consultation

##### *Strategic context*

- 6.7 In the context of the Council's emerging settlement hierarchy, there are two different types of villages within Ryedale. There are ten services villages that have been identified as places where some new development may be appropriate. The

selection of these villages is based on availability of a good bus service, a local food shop and a primary school. The services villages are:

- Amotherby and Swinton
- Ampleforth
- Beadlam and Nawton
- Hovingham
- Rillington
- Sherburn
- Sheriff Hutton
- Slingsby
- Staxon and Willerby
- Thornton le Dale

6.8 The submitted Core Strategy states that in all other villages and hamlets development will be restricted to that which is necessary to support a sustainable, vibrant and health rural community and economy.

6.9 The Open Space / Recreational Facilities Audit undertaken by Gillespies recommends a vision for the provision of village greens across the district. This includes ensuring that each significant village has a village green (to form a central focus of community) and a space for informal games and gathering. This reflects the need to cater for the dispersed population (total dependency on cars) through small-scale local provision.

6.10 In terms of a quantity standard, the report proposed that one good village green per village (over 50 properties) should be provided. This would allow space for informal cricket and football and community events and should be at least 1.5 ha.

### **Consultation**

6.11 Consultation on village open space in Ryedale was undertaken through a variety of methods. The emerging findings, which have contributed to the formation of the local standards include:

- there are mixed opinions in terms of the quantity of village green space across Ryedale with 42% indicating that provision is about right whilst 26% think that there is not enough. The majority of village settlements in Ryedale are located within the Rural North and Rural South analysis areas although the other areas also contain a small amount of villages. When looking specifically at the views of residents in these areas, the lowest level of satisfaction was found in The Rural North analysis area, where 33% felt that there was insufficient village green space, suggesting that some locational deficiencies might exist.
- many respondents at drop in sessions felt that all villages should have a village green regardless of the size of the settlement, to allow space for informal play and community events locally rather than having to travel outside of the village

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This perception echoes that expressed at previous consultations where it was suggested that residents expect a minimum of a village green – many residents at drop in sessions indicated that there is no existing provision within the settlement in which they live.

- some residents expressed a concern that village greens are often too small to fulfil their intended role and therefore are of limited value to local residents. Despite this, other consultations suggest that the provision of village amenity space is of significant importance to them and is integral to the feel and development of the local community.
- responses to the household survey indicate that the quality of village greens is perceived to be average / above, with 39% thinking that the quality was good, 46% average, and only 15% suggesting that it is poor.

### **Current position**

- 6.12 There are currently 69 village amenity spaces located across Ryedale District. Maintenance of the majority of the existing village greens in Ryedale is the responsibility of local Parish Councils.
- 6.13 The spread of provision in terms of quantity and quality is set out in table 5.1 overleaf and discussed in the text that follows. The spatial distribution of village amenity green spaces is shown in figure 6.1.
- 6.14 The quality of each site was assessed taking into account the landscape and facility condition (level of maintenance and cleanliness), facilities available, the wider benefits of the site (in terms of ecological, heritage, visual setting, horticultural, landscape benefits) and the perceived relationship to the local community.
- 6.15 74% of the village green sites across Ryedale contain ancillary accommodation, with the majority of these sites providing some seating for local residents. Almost all sites providing no ancillary facilities were considered to have significant landscape benefits.

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**Table 6.1: Provision of Village Green Space across Ryedale District**

Analysis Area	Number of Sites	Facilities per 1000 population	Key Issues (from site assessments)
<b>Malton</b>	0	(NOT APPLICABLE -MARKET TOWN BASED ANALYSIS AREA)	NA
<b>Pickering</b>	2	(NOT APPLICABLE -MARKET TOWN BASED ANALYSIS AREA)	The two sites are located within Eberston and Allerston. Both sites scored “good” in terms of the landscape and facilities conditions and the wider benefits.
<b>Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside</b>	5	(NOT APPLICABLE -MARKET TOWN BASED ANALYSIS AREA)	In terms of the landscape and facilities conditions, 3 sites scored “moderate” and 2 sites scored “good”
<b>Rural North</b>	24	2.25	83% of the village greens in the rural north were considered to be good in terms of the condition of the landscape and facilities. 33% were however considered to be poor in terms of the facilities available. No sites were considered to be poor in terms of either the benefits they offered or in relation to the access for the local community. Despite these positive ratings, 4 sites were considered to be poor overall and only one was perceived to be poor.
<b>Rural South</b>	38	3.08	All sites were rated as good or moderate with regards the landscape and facilities condition with the exception of the site in Broughton, which was considered to be poor. Despite this, 32% were perceived to be poor in terms of the range of facilities provided. Only the site at Broughton was considered to be poor in terms of the wider benefits to residents. 29% of sites were poor overall.
<b>DISTRICT WIDE</b>	69	NA	

6.16 The key issues arising out of table 6.1 include:

- as is to be expected, the majority of sites are located within the more rural areas of the district. Despite this, a small number of villages in each of the Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside and Pickering analysis areas also provide amenity space. Many residents living in close proximity to the market towns may use amenity spaces in these areas. There are no villages in close proximity to Malton providing village amenity space.
- across the two rural analysis areas the distribution of village amenity green space is relatively even although the level of provision per 1000 population is higher in the rural South. In light of the role characteristics of village green space, and the provision of this type of open space in villages regardless of their size, this may be reflective of the fact that there are a greater number of villages located within the Rural South. The audit of provision considered only those spaces within the plan area and excludes those located within the North Yorkshire Moors National Park.
- the quality of sites in terms of the level of maintenance and cleanliness at most sites was considered good (41 out of all 69 sites). Of the remaining sites only two were considered to be maintained poorly. Almost all sites were perceived to be of significant wider value to the local community.

### **Setting provision standards**

- 6.17 In setting local standards for village green space there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other Local Authority standards for appropriate comparison and consultation on local needs.
- 6.18 A full assessment of local needs both district wide and within each area has been undertaken across Ryedale, and the key messages emerging from this assessment, coupled with an evaluation of the existing audit have been used to determine provision standards required to meet local needs.
- 6.19 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in section two. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendix E, F and G. The recommended local standards and the associated justifications have been summarised overleaf.

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**Quantity Standard (see appendix E – standards and justification, worksheet and calculator)**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1 village amenity space per 484 people (rural analysis areas)	1 village amenity space for all villages with a population of 150 above
Justification	
<p>A quantity standard has been recommended based on the population of each village rather than a figure per 1000 population. This is because a quantity standard based on the number of people per facility could lead to an unsustainable pattern of new provision with green space provided in even the smallest settlements calculated on a cumulative population level in that locality. For example, ten small villages with a population of 100 would require approximately 2 new facilities by virtue of their combined size (based on a standard equivalent to the current level of provision). However, irrespective of where these sites are located it is unrealistic to expect them to cater for the needs of residents surrounding settlements. As a consequence, setting a standard on this basis could create issues in terms of long term maintenance and sustaining high quality sites (capable of achieving the quality vision) in very small settlements.</p> <p>As an alternative, having a standard based on a minimum settlement size will ensure that new provision is delivered in a sustainable manner and where it is most needed. Moreover, there is a need to ensure that each village of significant size has a village amenity green space to cater for the dispersed population and to allow for informal play and community events in these areas. This is reflective of the local consultation, where it was felt that village greens should be provided in all settlements.</p> <p>It is important to note that increasing the supply of village green space will be severely limited by the availability of appropriate sites within villages should they not already have a village green. To this extent, the creation of village greenspace will be largely opportunity led.</p>	

**Accessibility Standard (see appendix G)**

Recommended standard
<b>NO ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD PROPOSED</b>
Justification
<p>It is proposed that no accessibility standard is proposed for village amenity green spaces. The localised nature of these sites mean it would be unrealistic to plan provision in such a way that provision in one small settlement can serve residents in other nearby villages. More emphasis should be placed on a quantity standard that ensures the larger settlements are provided for in the first instance.</p> <p>Whilst no formal accessibility standard is proposed, the importance of village public rights of way should be noted. In the absence of formal amenity green space within villages, the public rights of way network should be enhanced to ensure that residents are able to undertake circular walks, access local countryside and to reach other amenities in nearby settlements.</p>

**Quality Standard (see appendix F)**

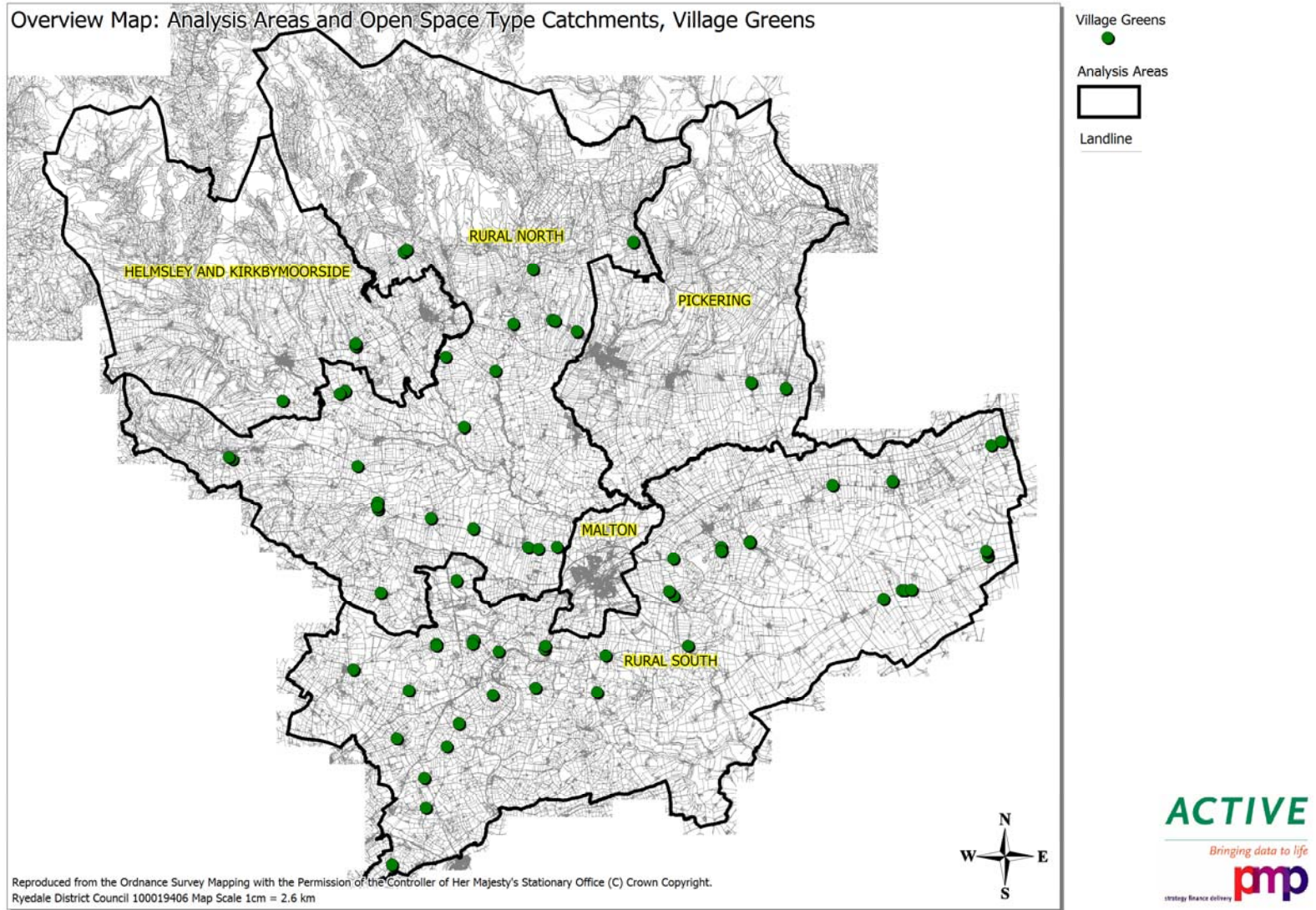
<b>Recommended standard</b>
<b><i>“A clean and well-maintained site with appropriate ancillary accommodation (such as seating) providing a spacious outlook and overall enhancing the character and setting of the village. Sites should be suitable for informal play opportunities and should be enhanced to encourage the site to become a community focus”</i></b>
<b>Justification</b>
The recommended quality standard is reflective of the main aspirations revealed through the local consultation, such as the need for regular maintenance, the need for them to provide informal locations for sport and more generally to enhance the local landscape.

**Applying provision standards – identifying geographical areas and Value Assessment**

- 6.20 The spatial distribution of village amenity green spaces can be seen in figure 6.2 overleaf where village greens are illustrated by green points.
- 6.21 It can be seen that village greens are sporadically distributed across the district, although it appears that there are fewer sites falling into the southernmost part of the district.
- 6.22 In light of the nature of village green space, as highlighted previously it was considered that analysis of the accessibility of spaces was inappropriate and that village green spaces should be considered to serve the residents of the village in which they are located.
- 6.23 Further analysis of the distribution of village greens indicates that the majority of larger villages encompass at least one piece of amenity space. Examination of the distribution of provision across the settlements highlights areas where village amenity green spaces are the only type of open space provision.
- 6.24 Of all the service villages, three do not currently contain any village green space sites, specifically;
  - Rillington
  - Staxton and Willerby
  - Thornton le Dale.
- 6.25 When taking into account the provision of outdoor sports facilities and children’s play provision, both Rillington and Staxton and Willerby have local facilities that serve the needs of residents of the village. There are no facilities in Thornton le Dale (although part of this settlement is outside of the plan area).

<b>VGS 1</b>	Consider the provision of village amenity green space in the main service settlements of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rillington</li> <li>• Staxton and Willerby</li> <li>• Thornton Le Dale</li> </ul>
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Figure 6.2: Distribution of Village Amenity Space across Ryedale District





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- 6.26 In some instances, village amenity space is the only type of open space provision available to residents. In these villages, this type of open space will be of particular importance and value to the local community.

<b>VGS 2</b>	<p>In settlements where village amenity green space is the only type of open space provision, these sites are likely to be of particular value to residents. Support should be given to the respective Parish Councils to continue to maintain and improve these sites. Consideration should be given to the provision of green space adjacent to village halls to provide a community focus.</p> <p>Settlements where village amenity green space is the only type of provision include:</p>	
	<p>Claxton Harton Barton Le Willows Thornton Le Clay Thorpe Basset Helperthorpe Foxholes Wintringham Langton North Grimston Crambe Low Hutton Allerston</p>	<p>Bulmer Sproxton Barton le Street Salton Harome Cropton Sinnington Scagglethorpe Amotherby Broughton Middleton Wrelton</p>

- 6.27 These sites may be of particular importance to local residents. Consideration should be given to providing new open spaces in villages where there is no form of open space. The largest villages should be prioritised for investigation.

<b>VGS 3</b>	<p>Consider the provision of informal open space in villages where there is no other type of open space available. The larger villages where there is no provision include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thornton Le Dale</li> <li>• Huttons Ambo</li> <li>• Rosedale</li> <li>• Scampston</li> </ul>
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- 6.28 In areas of limited open space provision (or where amenity green spaces are the only open space type), these spaces are of particular importance. In these areas, enhancement and protection is particularly important to ensure local residents value them. It is important to consider the quality of the provision of village amenity green spaces and the value of the current provision and to strive to achieve the quality vision set for all village amenity green sites.

<b>VGS 4</b>	<p>Support the providers of village amenity green spaces to improve the quality of sites to ensure they meet the quality vision and meet local resident needs and aspirations.</p> <p>Sites currently perceived to be poor quality overall and which should be prioritised for enhancement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Station Road, Ampleforth</li><li>• St. Benedict's Close, Ampleforth</li><li>• High Street, Cropton</li><li>• Main Street, Barton-le-Willows</li><li>• opp. The Meadows, Foxholes</li><li>• A64, East Heslerton</li><li>• adj. to Village hall, Wintringham</li><li>• Church View, Burythorpe</li><li>• Main road, North Grimston</li><li>• Main Road, Crambe</li><li>• Adj. The Hollies, Low Hutton</li><li>• Adj. Church, Welburn</li><li>• Eastfield, Amotherby</li><li>• Crossroads, Swinton</li><li>• Beech Crescent, Broughton</li><li>• Main Rd, Sproxton</li><li>• High St, Beadlam and Norton</li></ul>
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- 6.29 Of those sites listed on the previous page, some can be considered to be of particularly high value to residents as they are the only available public open space within the village. The importance of these sites in terms of value to the local community was highlighted under recommendation VG2. Improvements to these sites are therefore of particular importance. Locations where the existing site is considered to be poor and this is the only site located within the settlement include:

- Barton le Willows
- Foxholes
- Wintringham

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- North Grimston
- Crambe
- Low Hutton
- Sproxton
- Cropton
- Amotherby
- Broughton.

6.30 Consultation highlighted successes in improving the overall quality of sites through the involvement of local volunteers in the management and maintenance of amenity green spaces. This has proved successful in developing ownership and enhancing the value of sites locally as well as in creating a successful village community atmosphere.

<b>VGS 5</b>	Encourage and promote community management and maintenance of local sites to create a sense of ownership and pride.  Local residents should be encouraged to apply for funding and grant aid to improve their local environment.
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### Summary

- 6.31 Consultation highlights that there are mixed opinions regarding the overall quantity of public open space in villages. Many residents indicated that there is no public open space available within their settlement.
- 6.32 It is important to consider village amenity space in the context of other types of open space provided in villages, such as outdoor sports facilities and provision for children. The roles of all of these spaces overlap in these rural areas and it may be in some instances that one space performs a variety of roles and meets all local needs.
- 6.33 The recommended quantity standard aims to ensure that all villages containing over 150 residents provide at least one type of open space for local residents ensuring that residents within the larger villages are able to access facilities in close proximity to their home. The importance of the provision of a good network of public rights of way is also reinforced, ensuring that residents are able to access nearby countryside and other settlements as well as the more local spaces in their specific village.
- 6.34 In light of the nature of village amenity space, no accessibility standard is recommended, as these local spaces are perceived to serve all residents of the village in which they are located.
- 6.35 Analysis of the distribution of village green spaces suggests that provision is well dispersed across the more rural areas of the district. More detailed analysis highlights some settlements where village amenity space is of particular importance and value to local residents as it is the only type of space in that area.