

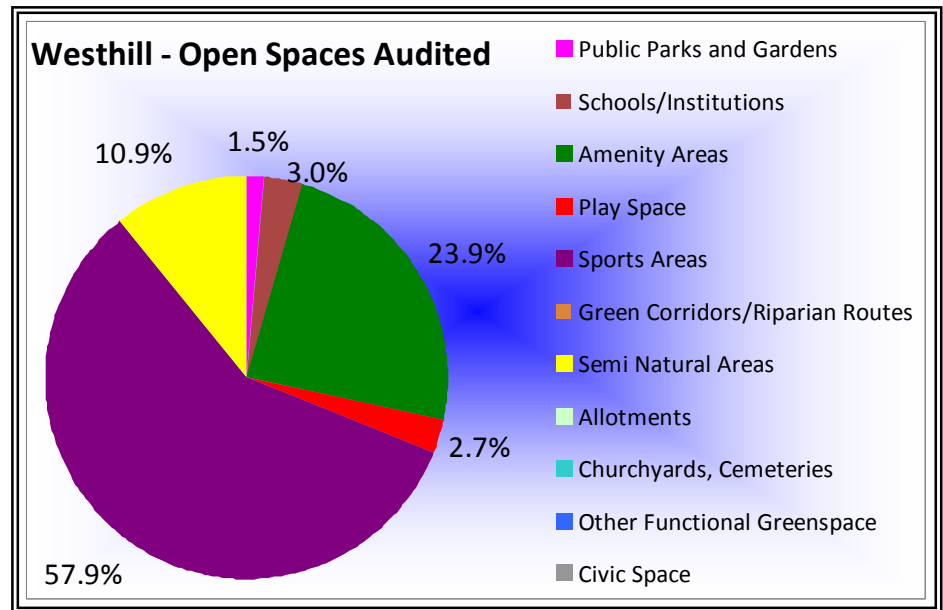
Settlement Summary: Westhill

Population: 10392

Observations (of Community Council)

The following comments were submitted from a Play Equipment Survey, carried out in Spring 2009 as part of a Westhill & District 'Planning for Real' exercise.

- Harvest Hill: swing in poor condition (rusty)
- Westdyke Walk/Place open area: play equipment in poor condition.
- Keir Circle/Leddach Road: Climbing frame and slide would benefit from painting.
- Morven Crescent: boring site – would benefit from new equipment. Existing slide and climbing frame need painting.
- Morven Gardens: provide play equipment.
- Westhill Academy playing fields: new goalposts required.
- Dinosaur Park off Rowan Drive: clean graffiti and broken glass, and replace picnic benches.
- Brodiach play park: replace play equipment*
- Kinmundy Play Park: new equipment requested.*



The overview was that although there were a number of parks in good or reasonable condition, with good equipment, the parks are mainly geared towards younger children and have similar key pieces.

Brodiach and Kinmundy play parks both have a poor selection of equipment, which was considered by the authors to be particularly significant, as these parks are the closest to Westhill primary school.

Green Network Links

At first glance, green infrastructure links in Westhill appear to be quite good; however, many of these links comprise verges alongside arterial roads and residential streets. Whilst there is a value in this kind of greenspace, biodiversity values will depend on specific factors such as location, width, vegetation type and management. Equal attention should therefore be given to creating and maintaining green corridors in quieter areas, away from motorised uses.

The Westhill 'Planning for Real' exercise recognised the need for green networks, in particular off road links between Carnie Woods and Denman Park/Arnhall Moss. In addition, Carnie Woods would benefit from more path links to the adjacent new business parks.

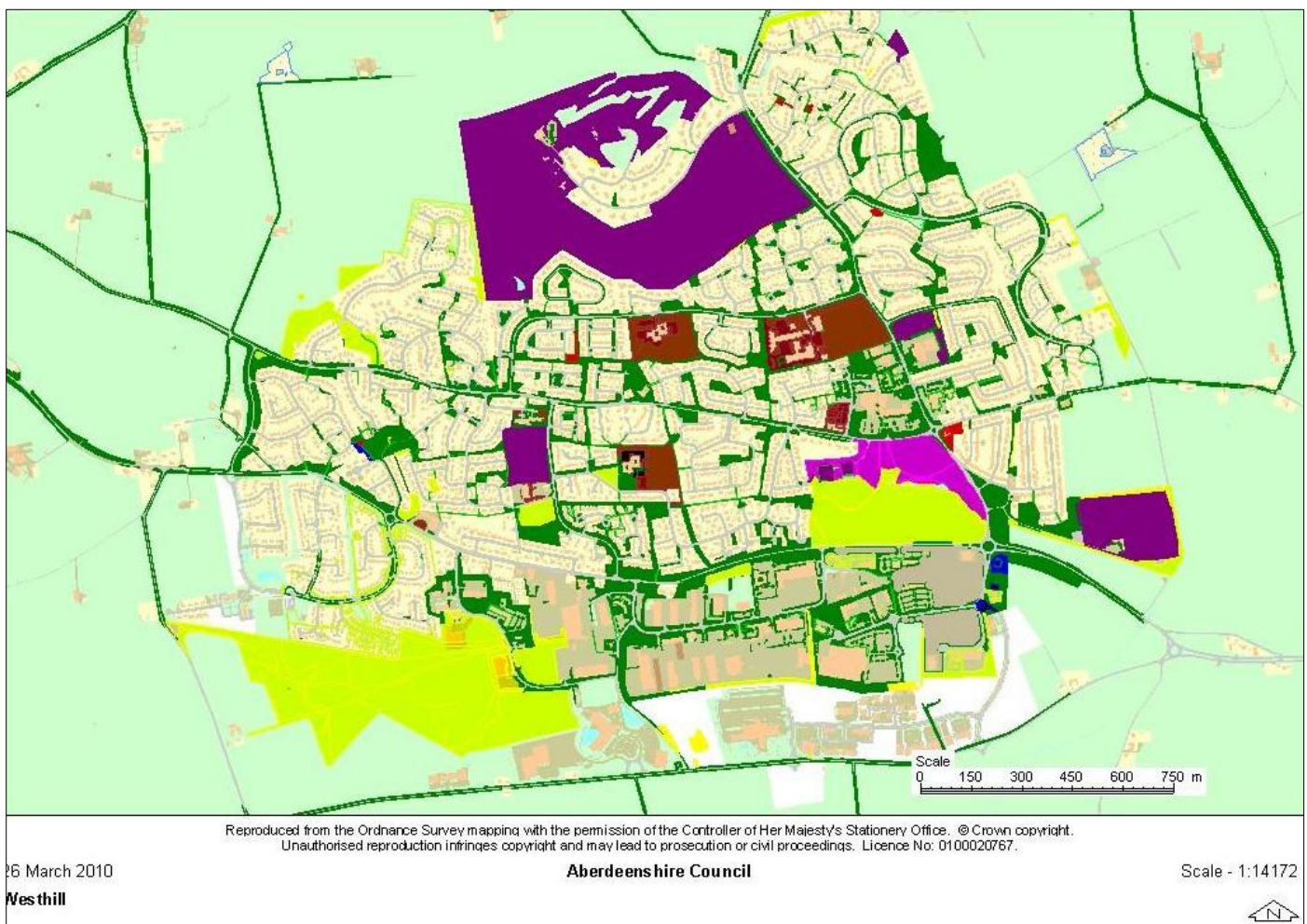
Open Space Requirements

Detailed feedback from the Planning for Real exercise is valuable in providing an overview of play spaces in Westhill, and largely concurs with the auditors' findings. In the event of minor applications for development in the town, it should be a priority to consider upgrading and (re) equipping those play spaces which already exist, or considering improvement to the path network.

Whether in existing or new play areas, particular attention should be paid to the needs of older children and teenagers, given that younger age groups seem well provided for, as against the poorer provision noted for older children. It may be worth considering the installation of bicycle racks not only at the tennis courts (as suggested by auditors) but on sports or play areas elsewhere in the town. Additional bins and lighting are suggested for Westdyke sports pitches, but any provision of lighting, in particular, would need to be subject to the further views of residents.

Should a demand for allotments arise in the future, consideration could be given to use of the amenity area off Westhill Road, although ownership of the site is currently unknown. However, any allotment site search may merit consideration as a separate community project.

Both the Academy field and Denman Park are used for community events, such as the Westhill Gala, and may offer further potential as venues for community gatherings or public arts projects.



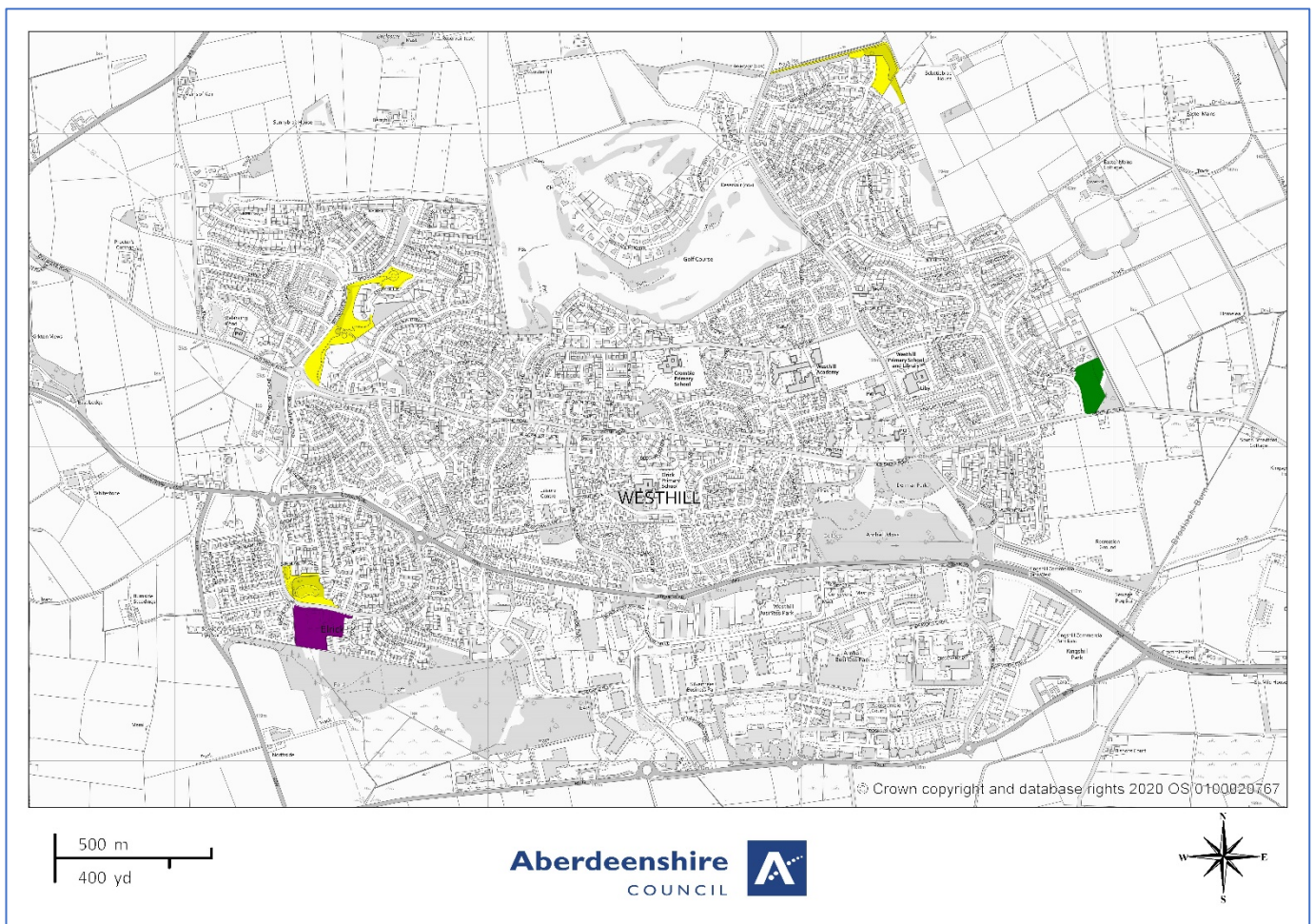
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|---|---|---|
| ■ Public Parks and Gardens | ■ Schools/Institutions | ■ Amenity Areas |
| ■ Play Space | ■ Sports Areas | ■ Green Corridors/Riparian Routes |
| ■ Semi Natural Areas | ■ Allotments | ■ Churchyards, Cemeteries |
| ■ Other Functional Greenspace | | |

Open Space Audit Update 2019: Westhill

An update exercise was carried out in 2019 to account for new open spaces arising from major developments completed since the Open Space Audit 2010, and to address any known disparities/gaps in information. The scope of the update exercise did not include a review of the Open Space Audit 2010. The Audit update 2019 has been used to assist in the preparation of the Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020.

This is an interim Audit. Whilst this information will feed into a future comprehensive Open Space Audit, at this stage there may be some auditing inconsistencies across settlements due to factors such as community interest, and landscape/topography influencing how open spaces are identified, particularly at and around the edges of settlement.

Allotments are excluded as these are audited separately as part of the Food Growing Strategy 2019-2030.



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