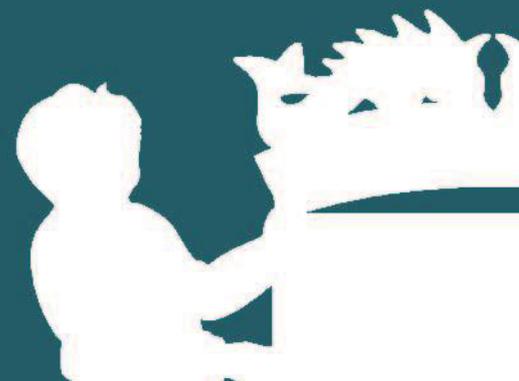


ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Annex I: Orkney Open Space Audit



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Orkney Open Space Audit

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The *Orkney Open Space Audit* focuses on existing open space provision within Orkney's settlements. Spaces are included on the basis that they are publicly accessible and free of charge to do so, with allotments the only exception to this due to their growing popularity and the environmental benefits they promote. Also school grounds are included even if they are not within their associated settlement boundary due to their importance as focal points within their respective communities. This audit forms the basis to *Orkney Open Space Strategy: Planning for Open Space Supplementary Guidance (OOSS: Planning for Open Space SG)* which offers guidance with regards to development proposals in connection with Policy D6, and compliments the overarching *Orkney Open Space Strategy: Vision and Action Plan (OOSS: Vision and Action Plan)* which details wider strategic initiatives and projects that contribute towards the quality and access of open space. The *Orkney Open Space Audit* and the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* meets Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) requirements for an open space audit and strategy to be conducted. The findings of this audit will therefore help inform the *OOSS: Planning for Open Space Supplementary Guidance*, and the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* which aim to ensure that as many residents as possible have access to high quality open spaces that are fit for purpose.

1.2 Open space defined for this audit

The definition of open space as set out in *Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space (PAN 65)* forms the basis for the definition of open space in this strategy:

Definition of open space:

The term 'open space' covers greenspace consisting of any vegetated land or structure, water or geological feature within a settlement and civic space consisting of squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped area with a civic function.

As open spaces perform a wide range of purposes and functions, this audit utilises a comprehensive typology of spaces to assist in better understanding our existing open space resource. This typology is based on the research set out in *Rethinking Open Space* prepared by the Scottish Government Central Research Unit and promoted in *PAN 65*. The typology adopted by Orkney Islands Council has been adapted to fit the Orkney context.

Table 1: Types of Open Space:

Type	Description (Function)
Public parks and gardens	Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden. These may be owned or managed by a community group but more typically by the local authority.

Private gardens or grounds	Areas of land normally enclosed and associated with a house or institution and reserved for private use. This includes school grounds.
Amenity greenspace	Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons and used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts. These areas are often associated with either residential, business or transport related land uses.
Playspace for children and teenagers	Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for children's play usually linked to housing areas.
Sports areas	Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports (including playing fields, golf courses, tennis courts and bowling greens) and which are generally bookable.
Green corridors	Routes including riparian corridors, interconnected green spaces and access routes, linking different areas within a town or village as part of network used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking towns and villages to their surrounding countryside. These corridors may incorporate Core Paths.
Natural/semi-natural greenspace	Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas.
Other functional greenspace	Allotments and community growing spaces for growing fruit, vegetables and other plants, either in individual allotments or as a community activity. Also includes churchyards, cemeteries, campsites and caravan parks.
Civic space	Squares, streets and waterfront promenades with a civic function, predominantly of hard landscaping that provide a focus for pedestrian activity and can make connections for people.

1.3 Open space strategies

Scottish Planning Policy states that '*authorities should prepare an open space strategy which sets out the vision for new and improved open space and addresses any deficiencies identified*'. The audit, in conjunction with the *OOSS: Planning for Open Space* Supplementary Guidance and *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* will help:

- inform planning decisions on the protection of existing open space;
- inform planning decisions on the provision of open space in new developments; and

- inform the Council's decisions on site management and resource allocation for open spaces.

1.4 Geographical extent of this audit

This audit focuses on the towns and villages in Orkney as defined within the Orkney Local Development Plan Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy, as conveyed below. The towns and villages across Orkney enjoy close proximity to the open countryside, further enhanced by the core paths network and the right to roam under the *Land Reform Act (Scotland) 2003*. However, open space needs to be provided within settlements to meet the needs of those who live there, particularly those who may be unable to access the surrounding countryside. It is particularly important that young people, families without easy access to a car or public transport and the mobility impaired have safe access to open space in settlements within close proximity to their homes. Even though the findings of the audit are more comprehensive for the five largest settlements within Orkney of Kirkwall, Stromness, Dounby, St Margaret's Hope and Finstown, the rest of Orkney's settlements are included within the *Audit Survey Data* in **Annex 2** if open space has been identified. Incidentally many of the outcomes and objectives gathered from the five largest settlements are also relevant to help address open space provision within the rest of Orkney.

Orkney Local Development Plan Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy	
Towns	Kirkwall Stromness
Villages	Dounby, St Margaret's Hope, Finstown, Stenness, Balfour, Burray Village, St Mary's, Orphir Village, Evie Village, Pierowall, The Palace, Toab, Quoyloo, Whitehall
Rural and Island Settlements	Tingwall, Longhope, Lyness, Moaness, Madras, Lyron, Evie School, Brinyan, Kettletoft, Scapa Brae, Hillhead, Burnside Harray, Houton, Hamar, Lady, Burnside Flotta, Norseman

2 Policy context

2.1 Scottish Planning Policy

Scottish Planning Policy recognises that the planning system has an important role to play in ensuring that open spaces are accessible, safe, welcoming, appealing, distinctive and well connected. SPP sets out key ways in which the planning system should support the protection and provision of open space:

- supporting access to good quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation for a healthier Scotland;
- create an environment where physical well-being is improved and activity made easier;
- providing play space and other opportunities for children and young people to play freely, explore, discover and initiate their own activities can support their development; and
- develop networks of linked, good quality open space that contribute to amenity, nature conservation, biodiversity, recreation and physical activity.

This includes the requirement to undertake an audit of open space to help inform the development of an open space strategy, as stated in articles 151 and 152. SPP states that Local Authorities should ensure that there is consistency between the development plan, open space strategy, core paths plan, local transport strategy and outdoor access strategy. Local development plans or supplementary guidance should set out specific requirements for the provision of open space as part of new development and make clear how much, of what type, expected quality and what the accessibility requirements are.

2.2 The Orkney Community Plan 2011-14

The *Orkney Community Plan 2011-14*, sets out the Orkney Community Planning Partnership's strategic framework and guides the activity and development by the partnership. The Plan also functions as Orkney's Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government. To this end, it contains performance targets covering the immediate period 2011-14, which the Partnership will monitor and report against to indicate its progress in meeting both the Scottish Government's 15 National Outcomes and Orkney's own local priorities. The *Orkney Open Space Strategy* supports the following outcomes in the *Orkney Community Plan 2011-14*:

- we value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations;
- we live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need;
- our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs;
- our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed;
- we live longer, healthier lives;
- we have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk; and
- our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

2.3 Orkney Local Development Plan

The *Orkney Local Development Plan* recognises that access to good quality open spaces and opportunities for sport, recreation and reflection make an important

contribution to the health and well-being of everybody in the County. There is a general presumption against the development of designated open space either partly or fully for a purpose unrelated to use as open space. Open spaces are identified in the open space audit and strategy on the basis that they are valued and functional, or which are capable of being brought into functional use to meet a need identified in the open space strategy. Open spaces identified but not currently designated in the Plan, will be subjected to the review cycle of the development plan as a result. Policy D6 sets out the decision making framework for the protection of existing open spaces and the provision of new open space on new development sites. The policy also sets the context for *OOSS: Planning for Open Space* to be adopted as supplementary guidance.

Policy D6 Open space

Development which will improve or add to current levels of open space will be supported. The development of all housing/employment/community sites identified within the Proposals Map will be required to make a contribution to meaningful and functional open space, and/or, by a commuted sum towards the provision and maintenance of open space within the site or the affected community.

Development that would result in a loss of existing open space will not generally be permitted. The loss of such open space will only be supported where it fulfils one of the following criteria:

1. An open space audit demonstrates that the development will not result in a deficit of open space provision to serve the affected community, and that no alternative site is available.
2. Compensatory provision is made elsewhere within the community area of at least equal size and quality and which contributes positively to settlement character and sense of community.
3. A commuted sum is secured through a financial bond or Section 75 agreement towards the future provision of an appropriate alternative.

Further guidance is provided in the Supplementary Guidance Orkney Open Space Strategy.

3 Assessing the quantity and quality of our open spaces

3.1 Open space audits

As part of meeting the requirements of Scottish Planning Policy to undertake an audit of the open space resource in their Local Authority area and how well it meets the needs of the community, this audit should cover all types of open space both public and privately owned. It is also important that informal open spaces are assessed as well as parks and formal facilities. The audit should take account of the type, quantity, quality, community value, accessibility and levels of use of all existing open spaces. The audit provides the basis for assessing the existing provision of open space, whether the spaces are fit for purpose and meet community aspirations. The audit also enables the Council to monitor changing trends in open space provision and test provision against open space standards.

3.2 Overview of the Orkney Open Space Audit

The *Orkney Open Space Audit* has been undertaken in five parts:

- 1 The type and quantity of open space;
- 2 The quality of publicly accessibly open space;
- 3 Pedestrian access to open space;
- 4 Open space networks and linkages; and
- 5 Community consultation.

The *Orkney Open Space Audit* focuses on the larger settlements in Orkney. This is primarily due to the time and resource constraints associated with carrying out the detailed level of audit and assessment required. The larger settlements that have been audited are:

- Kirkwall;
- Stromness;
- Dounby;
- St Margaret's Hope; and
- Finstown.

This is supplemented with spaces from Stenness, Balfour, Burray Village, St Mary's, Orphir Village, Evie Village, Pierowall, The Palace, Toab, Whitehall, Longhope, Lyness, Lyron, Evie School, Brinyan, Burnside Harray, Lady and Burnside Flotta providing a comprehensive basis to inform potential proposals which affect these settlements.

With reference to the auditing of settlements, in instances where a school falls out with the settlement area, the school and its associated spaces have also been audited due to their nature as important focal points within the community and their tendency to be used outwith school times. Spaces are included in the audit on the basis that they are free to use and publicly accessible. Allotments are the only exception to this due to the nature of them being primarily council owned whilst providing community and the environmental benefits. Furthermore the inclusion of open space as part of sports and leisure facilities, whilst providing an important resource, were deemed inappropriate within the scope of the audit as may be seen as a means for comparison along with contradicting the accessibility criteria of the audit by charging for usage. It is also envisaged that new spaces whether resulting from new development or those currently in progress such as those associated with Kirkwall Grammar School, will be incorporated as part of the review of the OOSS: *Vision and Action Plan* every 5 years.

3.3 The type and quantity of open space: Audit methodology (part 1)

This audit methodology has enabled all the open spaces within the settlements to be identified and classified according to its type and function. The selection of spaces was achieved through GIS mapping, in which sites over 0.2 hectares in size within the settlement boundaries were automatically identified as functional greenspace. This is complimented with the inclusion of valued sites smaller than this; such as play parks or other areas where the open space is proven to have a function. The open space typology utilised as part of the audit is set out in Table 1. Before the open spaces were identified, the land use within the settlement was attributed to the classification provided in Table 2 enabling the land use associated with each open space to be identified.

.p1	Residential
.p2	Commercial/Industrial
.p3	Education
.p4	Health/Social Care & Services
.p5	Recreation & Leisure
.p6	Transport & Communication
.p7	Semi-natural/Natural
.p8	Agriculture

In order to comprehensively identify open space; all buildings, roads, parking areas, hard standings, tracks and water bodies were initially identified. The remaining areas have been classified in accordance with the open space typology in Table 1. Table 3 sets out the coding used to identify what is open space and what is not.

1. Roads	1.1 Roads and Tracks	
	1.2 Roadside (Manmade Vegetated Verge)	
	1.3 Roadside (Natural)	
	1.4 Parking/Hard Standing	
	1.5 Roadside (Unclassified)	
	1.6 Roadside (Paved)	
2. Water	2.1 Inland Water	
	2.2 Tidal Water	
	2.3 Foreshore/Rocks	
3. Rail Track		
4. Paths		
5. Buildings	5.1 Residential	
	5.2 Commercial/Institutional	
	5.3 Glasshouses	
	5.4 Other Structures	5.41 Historic
	5.5 Airports	
	5.6 Harbours/Piers	
6. PAN 65 Typology	6.1 Public Parks and Gardens	
	6.2 Private Gardens or Grounds	6.21 Private Gardens
		6.22 Schools
		6.23 Institutions
		6.24 Commercial

	6.3 Amenity Greenspace	6.31 Residential
		6.32 Business
		6.33 Transport
	6.4 Playspace for Children and Teenagers	
	6.5 Sports Areas	6.51 Playing Field
		6.52 Golf Course
		6.53 Tennis Court
		6.54 Bowling Green
		6.55 Other Sports
	6.6 Green Corridors	6.61 Green Access Routes
		6.62 Riparian Routes
		6.63 Core Path
	6.7 Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspace	6.71 Woodland
		6.72 Open Semi-natural
		6.73 Open Space
		6.74 Cliffs
	6.8 Other Functional Greenspace	6.81 Allotments
		6.82 Churchyard
		6.83 Cemetery
		6.84 Other functional greenspace
		6.85 Camp Site/Caravan Park
	6.9 Civic Space	
	6.10 Other Open Space	6.101 Other Open Space Private
7. Other Open Land	7.1 Farmland	
	7.2 Moorland	7.21 Scrub
	7.3 Extraction (Mining/Quarrying)	
	7.4 Utility (Landfill/Water Treatment)	

An example of how the quantitative audit worked in practice:

For a school, the whole land area of the school was recorded as p3 (Education). Within the school boundary the relevant constituent parts could include:

- 1.4 Parking/Hard Standing
- 5.2 Building (Commercial/Institutional)
- 6.22 Private Gardens or Grounds (Schools)
- 6.55 Other Sports

3.4 The quality of publicly accessibly open space: Audit methodology (Part 2)

Based upon the assessment criteria prescribed by Greenspace Scotland¹, five main open space quality indicators were used to guide assessment of each space, which are:

- accessible and well connected;

¹ greenspace scotland, 2008. Greenspace Quality- a guide to assessment, planning and strategic development.

- attractive and appealing;
- bio diverse supporting ecological networks;
- promote activity, health and wellbeing; and
- community benefits.

Each of the criteria is expanded upon in the survey templates used for each space to provide a framework to assess relevant elements that contribute to the quality of the space. An example of which is available in **Annex 2- Audit Survey Data**. This was achieved through use of a scoring system to indicate how the space performed in each aspect ranging from 0 - not fit for purpose to 4 - excellent in respect to the assessment criteria. A detailed breakdown of how the scoring is determined is also given in **Annex 2**. The outcome of this system allowed aspects in which a space poorly performed or did well in to be highlighted which is conveyed more concisely in the score breakdown sheets which convey how the space performed in each of the five scoring categories with aspects achieving 75% or more highlighted in green, and those scoring 24% or less in red.

3.5 Pedestrian access to open space: Audit Methodology (Part 3)

A key aspect of the audit and consequently the strategy is to convey the extent of settlement areas which have suitable access to open space resulting in analysis being undertaken to identify areas that are not within 300m of a publicly accessible open space. This is based on the distance covered in a five minute walk but reduced to 300m to take into account potential deviations and obstacles that may affect this distance in reality in comparison to being applied as the crow flies². Catchment areas of 300m shown (with the aid of GIS mapping) around publicly useable open space will indicate how accessible sites are based upon this criteria. In some cases further investigation may be required to determine whether the actual walking distance is significantly further than 300m. In such cases, the development of new or improved greenspace may be justified and identified in the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan*.

3.6 Open space networks and linkages: Audit Methodology (Part 4)

Through the combination of the findings from parts 1, 2 and 3, the audit data was used to identify the following:

- 1 the variety and number of open spaces within each settlement;
- 2 the quality of open spaces on offer; and
- 3 settlement areas which lack open space provision within the walking distance parameters previously described.

This data will be taken into consideration alongside existing policy to help inform strategic moves as part of the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* in the development and enhancement of how open spaces are connected in Orkney's settlements. As prescribed in *PAN 65* open space networks should improve and safeguard the quality of the environment, links to wildlife habitats, walking, cycling, recreation and leisure opportunities.

3.7 Community consultation

The *Orkney Open Space Audit* has been consulted through its various stages with the audit data presented at the County Show to enable public comments to be made regarding the validity and scope of the audit findings. This was complimented with the audit data being provided to the appropriate Community Councils. The audit was

² greenspace scotland 2013. Developing Open Space Standards: Guidance and framework

also made available online in conjunction with an online survey to enable wider participation in helping inform the development of the strategy. This will be followed by statutory consultation on the draft document which is envisaged to take place from December 2013.

4 Current provisions - open space in Orkney's towns and villages

4.1 Five settlements overall

Taking Orkney's five largest settlements into consideration, the audit is composed of 94.12 hectares of open space. Based upon 2001 Census results at a civil parish level for Kirkwall 7,615 (Kirkwall and St Ola), Stromness 2,124, Dounby 1,855 (Birsay and Harray Sandwick), St Margaret's Hope 1,211 (South Ronaldsay) and Finstown 1,423 (Firth, Evie and Rendall) gives a generous population total for the settlements of 14,228 due to the nature of the civil parish areas being larger than the Council defined settlement boundary in order to accommodate the full extent of the settlement area. This gives an indicative 6.61 hectares per 1000 population equating to 66.15m² per person across the five settlements. When broken down to settlement level, Stromness has the most open space provision of 131.73m² per person followed by Kirkwall 62.23m² per person, Dounby 48.09m² per person, Finstown 47.72m² per person and St Margaret's Hope with 24.93m² per person. These provide benchmarks for future revisions of the audit and how proposals are assessed in relation to open space requirements which are expanded upon in the *OOSS: Planning for Open Space Supplementary Guidance*.

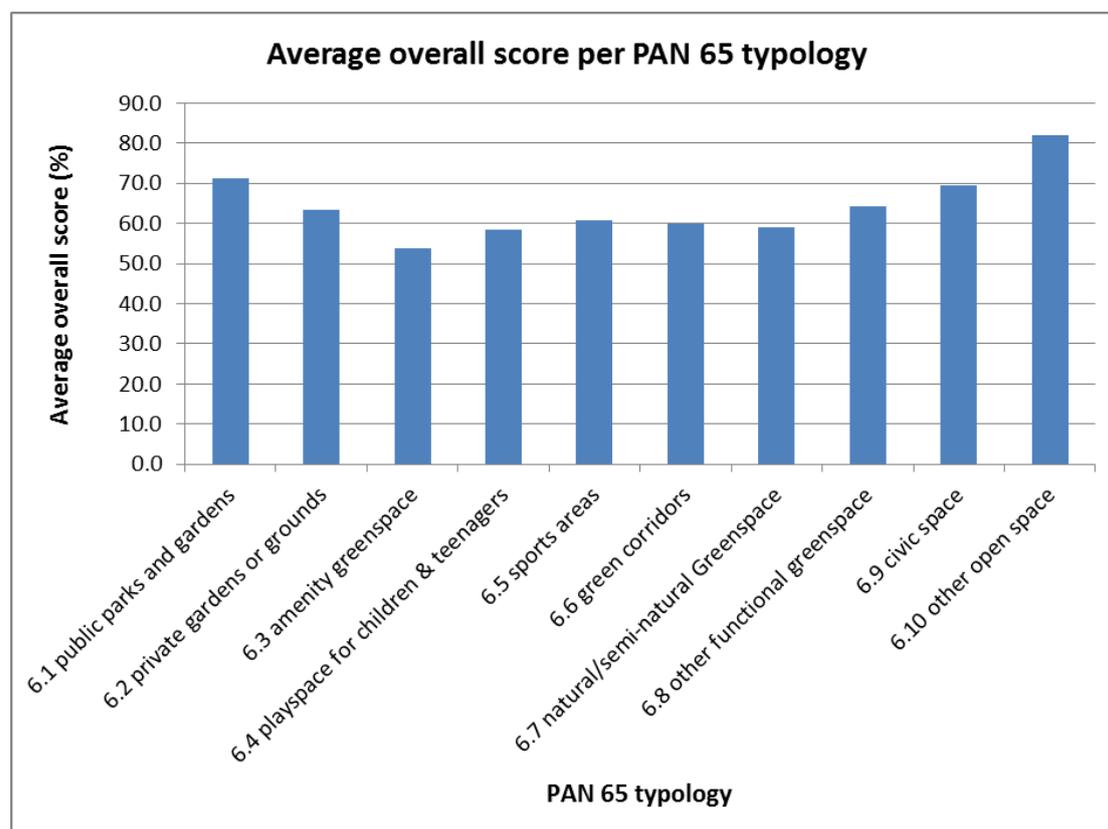


Figure 1- Graph of average overall score according to *PAN 65* typology.

Based upon *PAN 65* typology **6.10 other open space** has the highest average score albeit with only two spaces contributing to this, followed by **6.1 public parks and gardens** and **6.9 civic space** within the five settlements. The lowest average score is **6.3 amenity greenspace**, which along with **6.4 playspace for children and teenagers**, and **6.7 natural/semi-natural greenspace** are the only typologies with an average of less than 60%. Comparing this to the average overall score per secondary code **6.81 allotments**, **6.101 other open space private**, **6.10 other open space** and **6.82 churchyard** are all above 75% on average aided by having fewer

examples to potentially bring this down. Poorest are **6.21 private gardens**- which is based on one example- followed by **6.31 residential**, **6.73 open space** and **6.84 other functional greenspace** scoring on average 55% or less. It should be noted in cases such as schools, the most applicable *PAN 65* typology and secondary codes of **6.2 private gardens or grounds** and **6.22 schools** are used for average score data due to being the primary function of the space and to avoid duplication of results. The typology breakdown is more accurately represented in the area breakdown charts in which aspects of the school grounds such as playing fields can be represented. This provides a more detailed representation of existing open space provision, albeit losing some transferable information from the average scores to the area breakdown as a result.

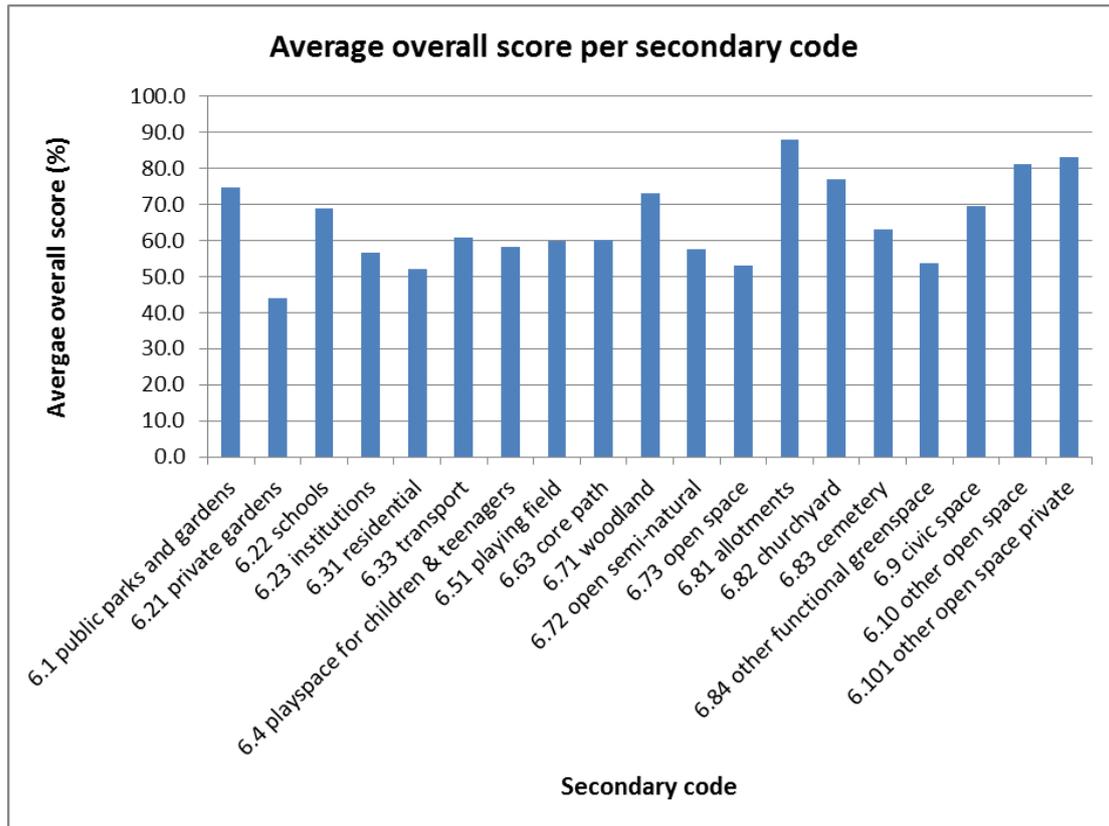


Figure 2- Graph of average overall score according to secondary code.

Focusing on the total area of open space according to *PAN 65* typology **6.7 natural/semi-natural greenspace** is highest with over double as much as the next highest of **6.5 sports areas**. The lowest is **6.10 other open space**, which along with **6.9 civic space** are the only typologies to have less than one hectare in total. When taken according to secondary codes, **6.51 playing field** is the highest closely followed by **6.72 open semi-natural** and **6.73 open space** which are the only codes to exceed ten hectares. The lowest areas in descending order are **6.9 civic space**, **6.10 other open space**, **6.53 tennis court** and **6.101 other open space private**, all of which are less than half a hectare in total area.

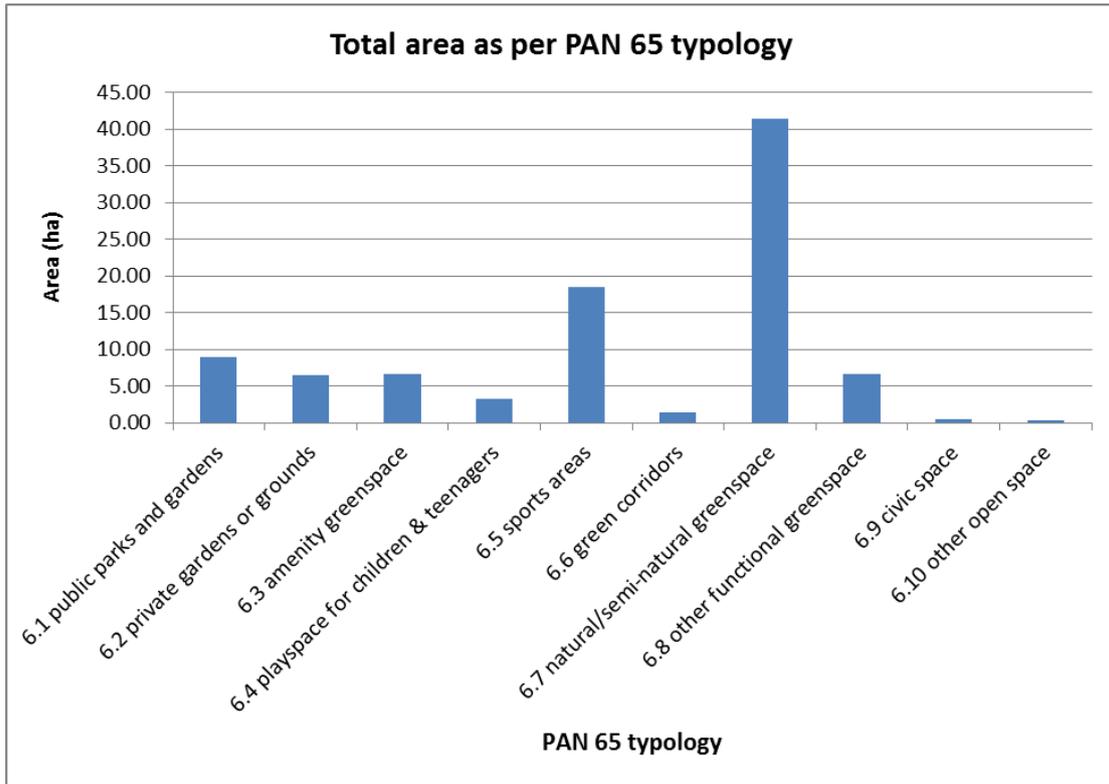


Figure 3- Graph showing total areas according to PAN 65 typology.

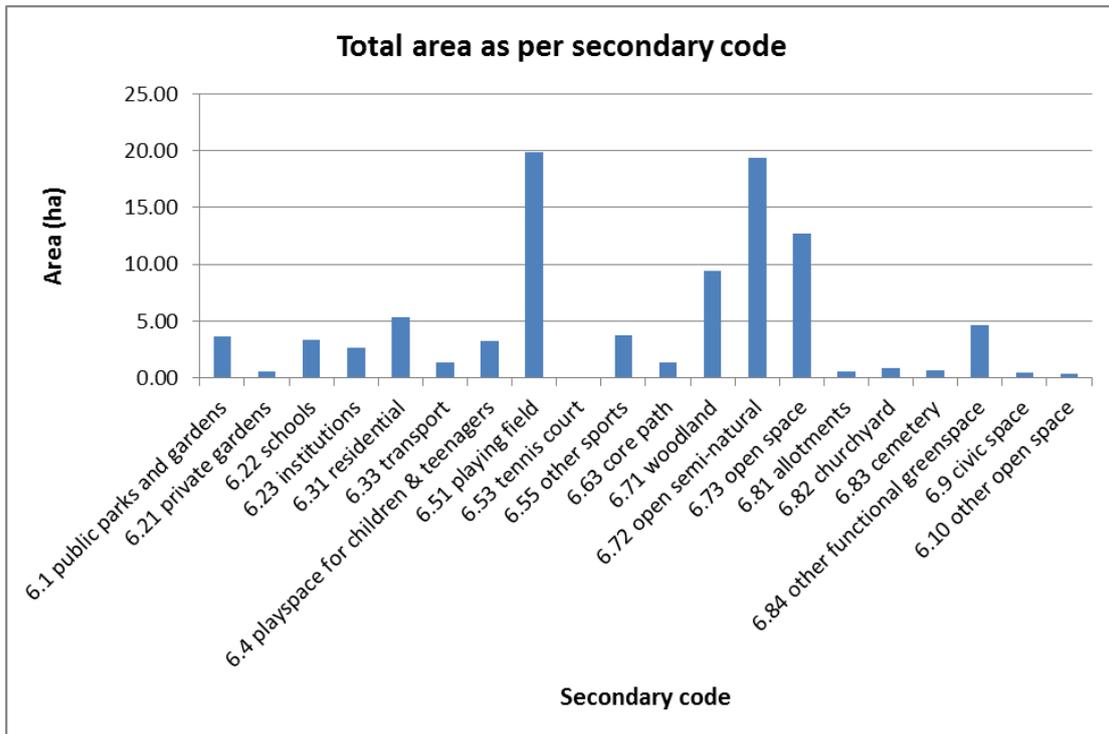


Figure 4- Graph showing total areas according to secondary code.

4.2 Five settlements by comparison

Referring to how the settlements perform on average overall, St Margaret's Hope performs the best with an average of 76% followed by Finstown 63%, Stromness 60%, Kirkwall 58% and Dounby the lowest with 52%. Taking each criteria category in turn, Dounby achieves the lowest average score in each aspect in contrast to St Margaret's Hope which is the highest in each category aided by having fewer spaces

audited. Against the average scores obtained for the five settlements together as per the score criteria, accessible and well connected is the highest with 70.6% whereas biodiversity is the poorest with 50.9%.

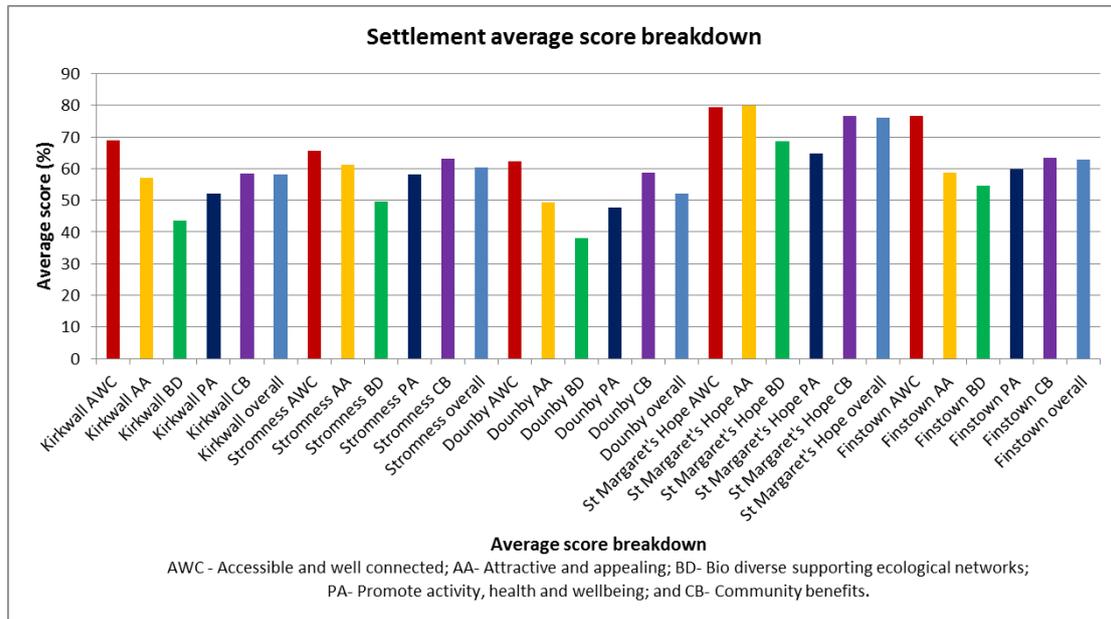


Figure 5- Graph showing how settlements perform according to scoring criteria categories.

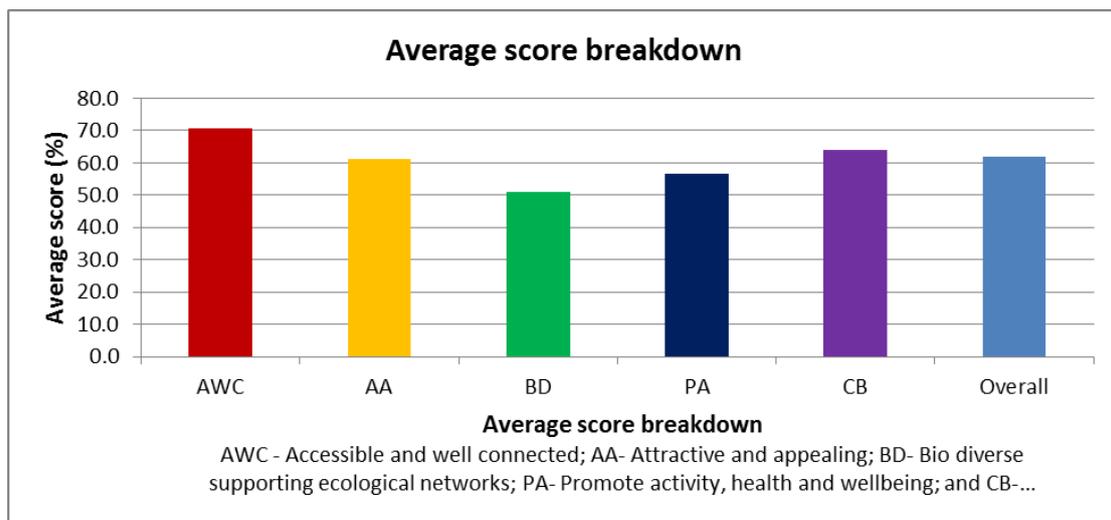


Figure 6- Graph showing how five settlements performed on average against score criteria.

4.21 Kirkwall

At a settlement level, **6.8 other functional greenspace** and **6.10 other open space** achieve averages of above 80% for PAN 65 typologies which exceeds the 'good' standard set out in the scoring criteria. **6.81 allotments** and **6.10 other open space** contribute to this as seen in the secondary codes but only at a small scale in terms of area coverage alone. This contrasts with **6.3 amenity greenspace** scoring the lowest average of 53.3% with **6.31 residential** the second lowest of the secondary codes. However **6.73 open space** is the only secondary code to achieve an average of under 50% which is a concern due to amassing the largest area coverage in Kirkwall which suggests this could be better utilised. The breakdown of open space in terms of area within Kirkwall consists largely of **6.7 natural/semi-natural**

greenspace which is aided by Peedie Sea being the largest space within the settlement.

Referring to the accessibility maps as part of the *Audit Survey Data* in **Annex 2**, the majority of Kirkwall is within reach of an open space with the northeast and northwest, mainly Hatston industrial estate, the only significant areas lacking access. Playspace provision is widely distributed throughout the settlement with large areas outwith range to the west and the northeast. Also parts of the town centre towards the harbour, Berstane Road and near the settlement boundary are shown to lack access to playspace. In terms of natural space coverage along Bignold Park Road southwards is the largest area lacking access which could be implemented in conjunction with housing sites KW-O or KW-S and connecting the existing core paths running north to south near this area. For access to open spaces of 2ha or more, this is spread throughout Kirkwall with some properties not within range including those situated around Victoria Road Allotments, Willowburn, Orkney College, Lynn Crescent and Sutherland Park as well as the aforementioned northeast and northwest areas.

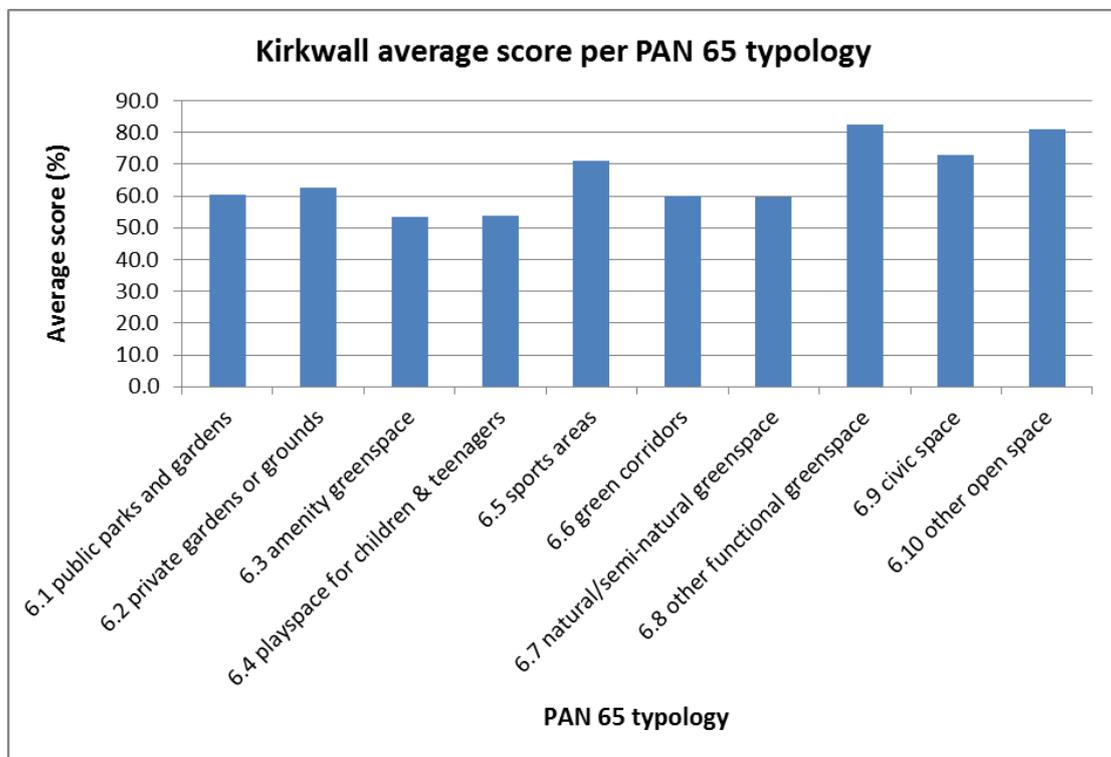


Figure 7- Graph showing Kirkwall average scores according to *PAN 65* typology.

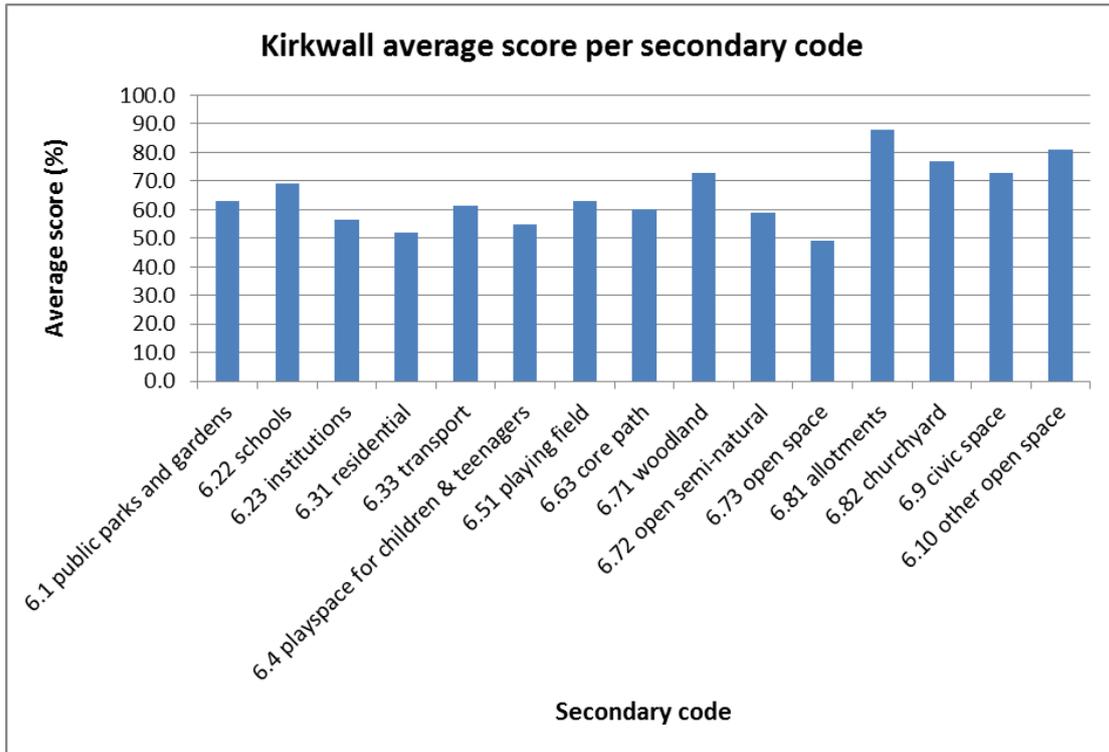


Figure 8- Graph showing Kirkwall average scores according to secondary code.

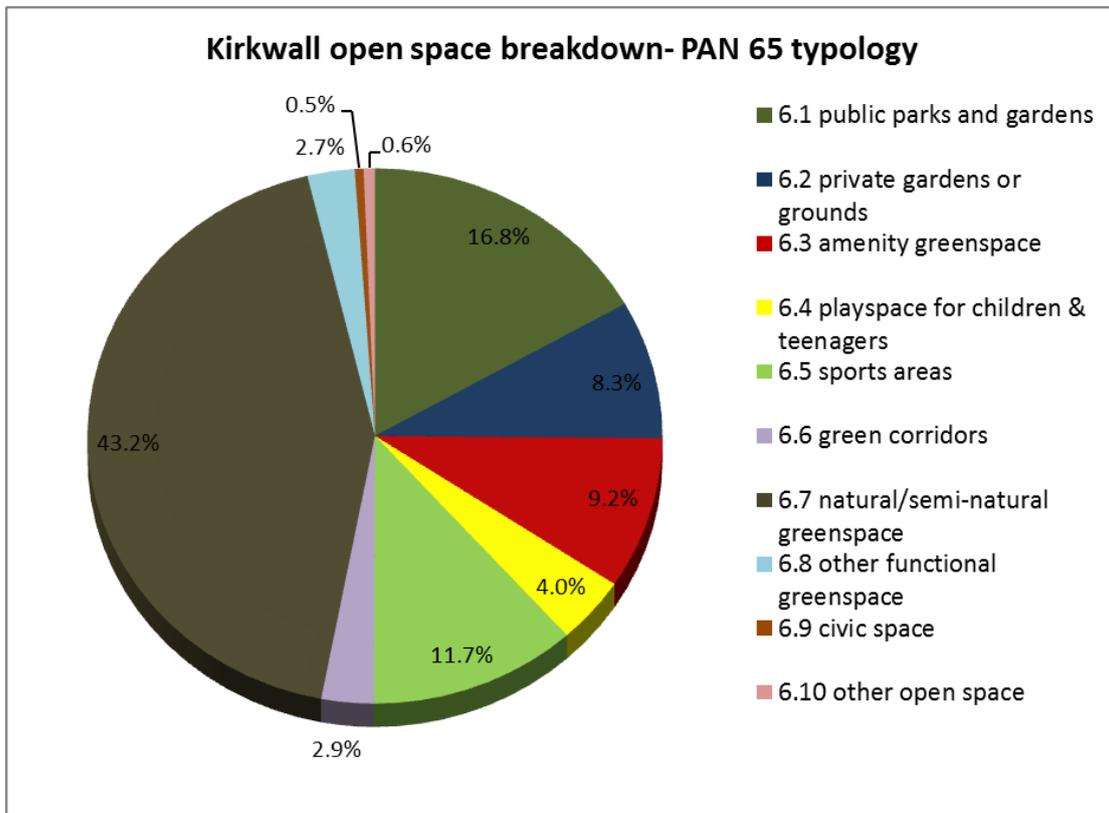


Figure 9- Chart showing proportion of space in Kirkwall according to area as per PAN 65 typology.

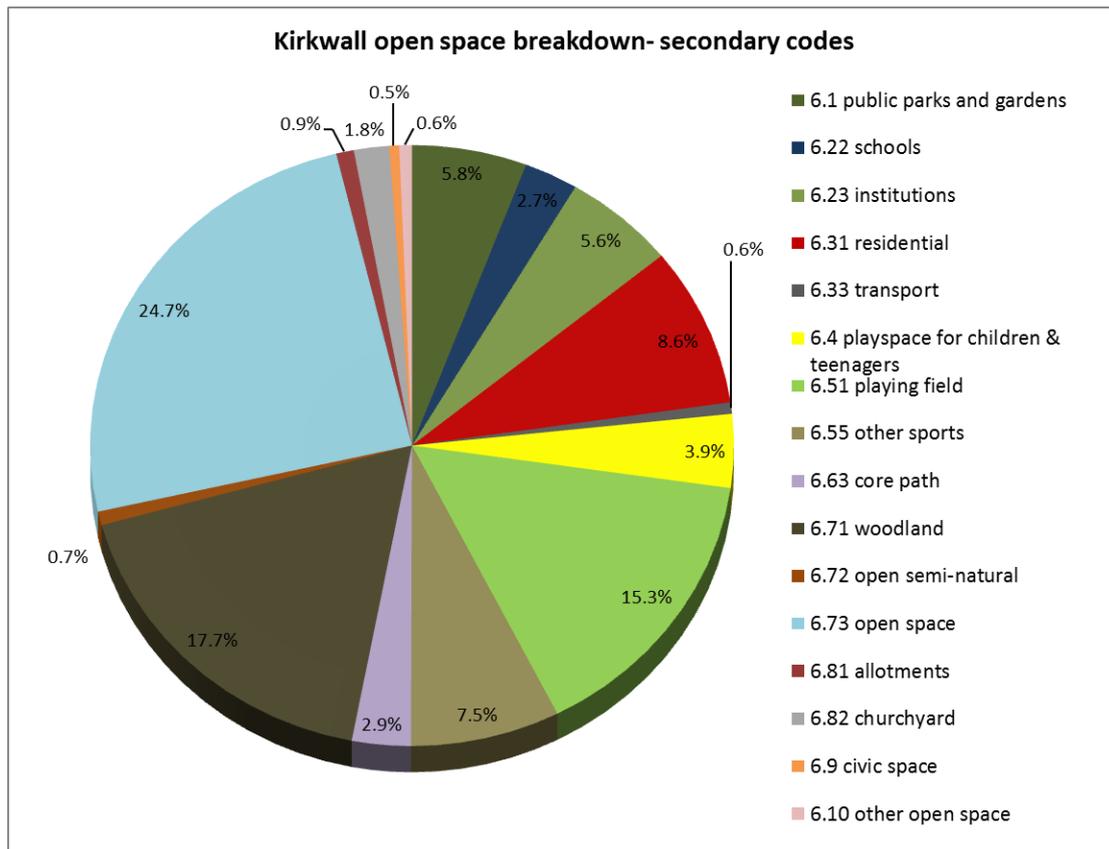


Figure 10- Chart showing proportion of space in Kirkwall according to area as per secondary code.

4.22 Stromness

Based on the average scores achieved in Stromness **6.1 public parks and gardens** performed the best with 80% but with only one space in the form of the George Mackay Brown Memorial Garden contributing to this. Otherwise **6.9 civic space** and **6.7 natural/semi-natural greenspace** are the only typologies to average above 60% with **6.8 other functional greenspace** having the lowest average. Other than **6.1 public parks and gardens**, **6.73 open space** is the next highest performing as per the secondary codes, and are the only codes to be over 70%. **6.21 private gardens** and **6.84 other functional greenspace** are the lowest scoring and are the only codes to average less than 50%. In terms of area coverage **6.7 natural/semi-natural greenspace** consists of over half the area of total open space in Stromness, which is a considerably greater proportion than in the other settlements, with a quarter being **6.5 sports areas**. This is similarly reflected in the secondary codes.

Accessibility wise, the vast majority of Stromness is within reach of open space with only minor areas around the settlement boundary not in range. Playspace provision is well distributed south of the harbour in contrast to north of this, with Hamnavoe Play Area the only playspace. This should be considered in conjunction with the relocation of Stromness Primary and the facilities this will provide to the area, but still leaves northern areas outwith range. The settlement on the whole is within range of a natural space with some voids in places within the town centre and towards the north boundary. Access to spaces of 2ha or more is focused towards the northern area in the form of Lower Brinkies Brae, Garson Open Space, Market Green Playing Fields and Mill Burn. This should be considered in conjunction with the golf course to the south and the open nature of the coastal waterfront along it.

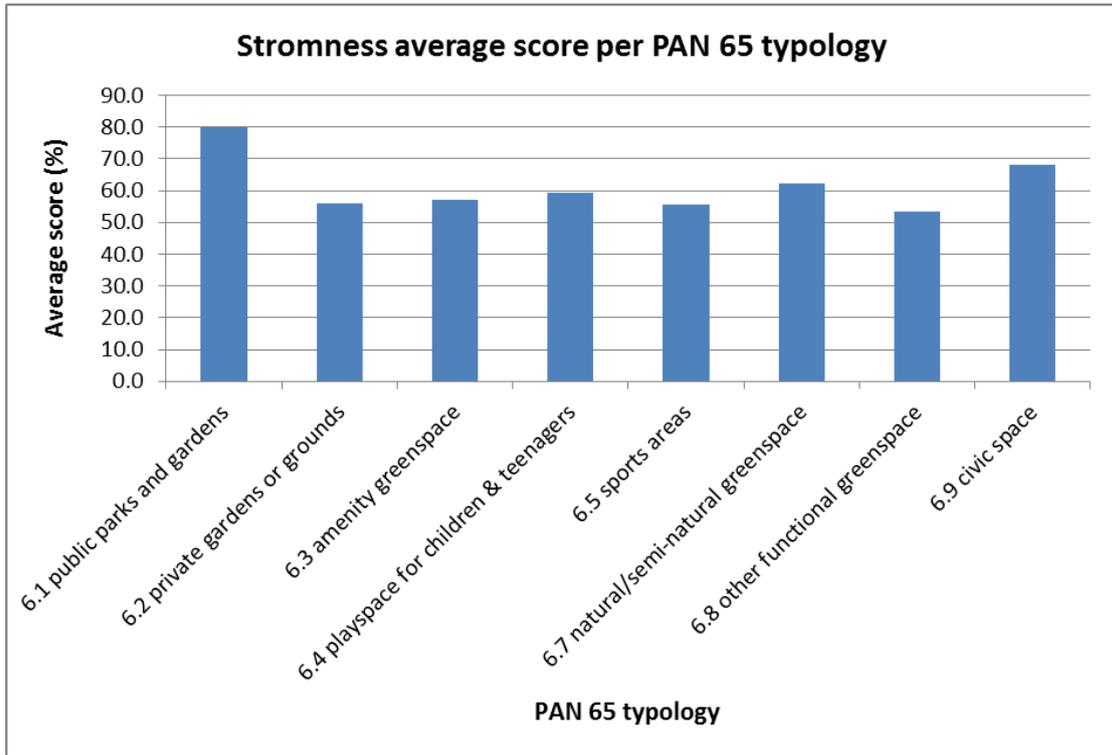


Figure 11- Graph showing average score of open spaces in Stromness according to PAN 65 typology.

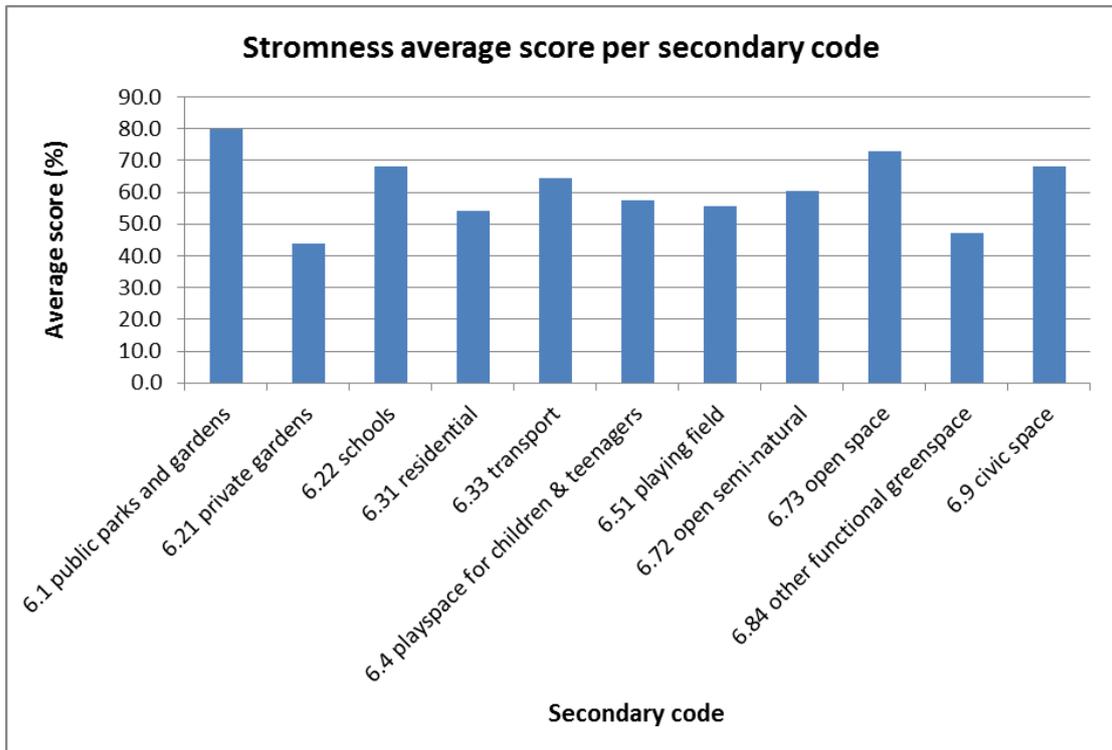


Figure 12- Graph showing average score of open spaces in Stromness according to secondary code.

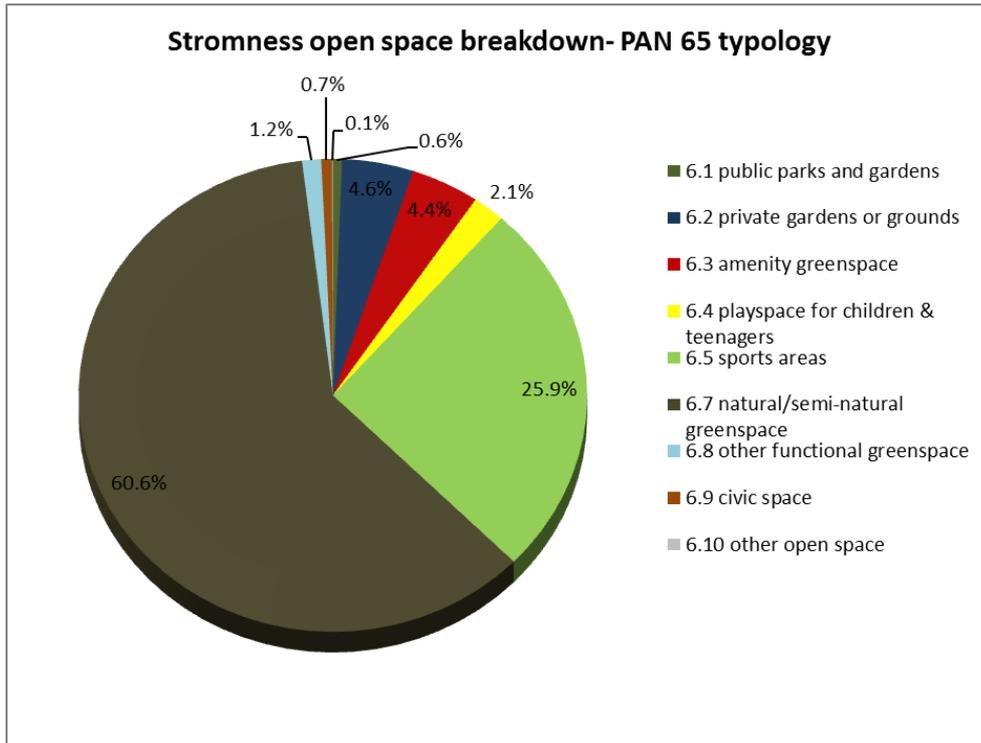


Figure 13- Chart showing proportion of open space in Stromness according to area as per PAN 65 typology.

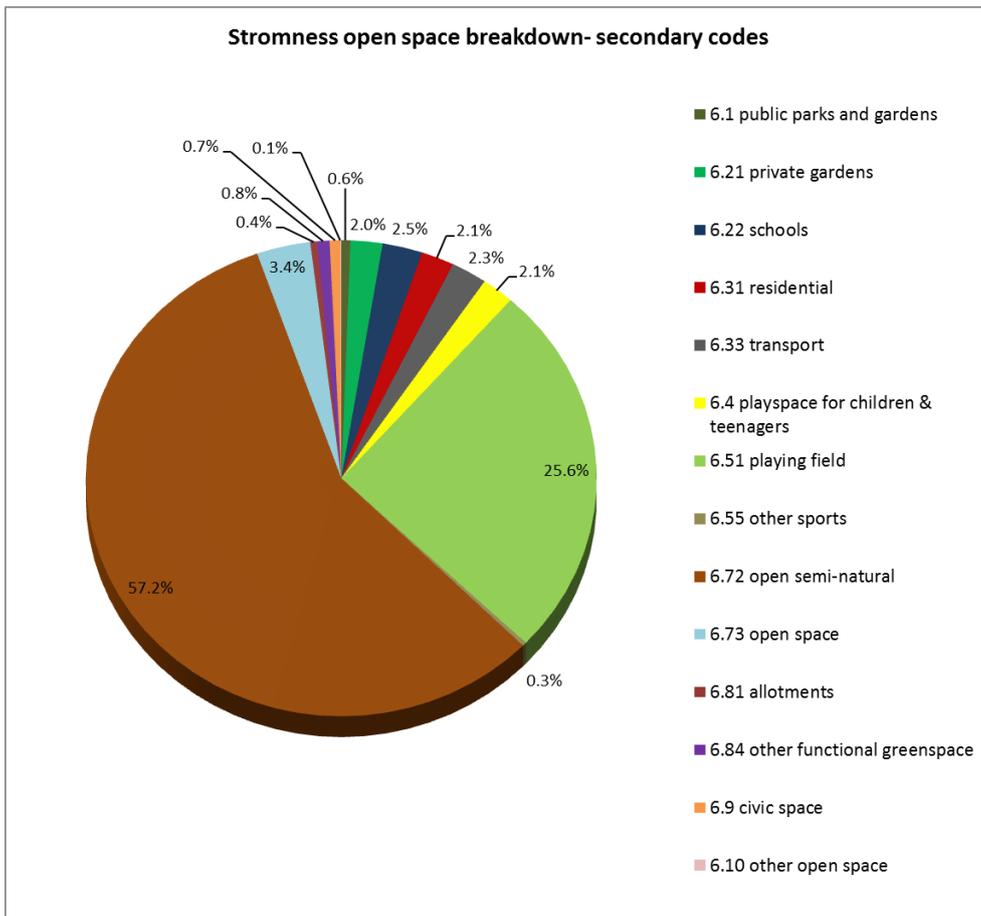


Figure 14- Chart showing proportion of open space in Stromness according to area as per secondary code.

4.23 Dounby

Referring to the average score charts, **6.2 private gardens or grounds** achieved the highest with **6.3 amenity greenspace** the lowest. This is reflected in the related secondary codes of **6.22 schools** and **6.31 residential** respectively. Out of the *PAN 65* typologies, only **6.3 amenity greenspace** consisted of more than one space, which on average performed less than 50%. At a secondary code level, the majority average around the 50% mark with only **6.31 residential** and **6.84 other functional greenspace** scoring less than 50%. Taking the open space according to total area coverage into consideration, the largest is **6.8 other functional greenspace** in which the Show Park contributes solely towards this and makes up a large proportion of total space within the settlement. Amenity space makes up 11% which is the highest of the five settlements in terms of proportion and therefore the greater a role it plays in terms of visual impact and promoting activity within Dounby.

With regards to open space access, all of Dounby is within 300m of an audited space except for one property to the northwest. For playspace provision the northwest and the and south are the largest areas not within range, along with a smaller area to the extreme northeast. Development of housing sites D-A and D-D could provide an ideal opportunity to address this. Grip of Grunkahowe provides the only natural space in the north of the settlement. Access to spaces of 2ha or more of Dounby Show Park and the Primary School are within range of the vast majority of properties within the settlement.

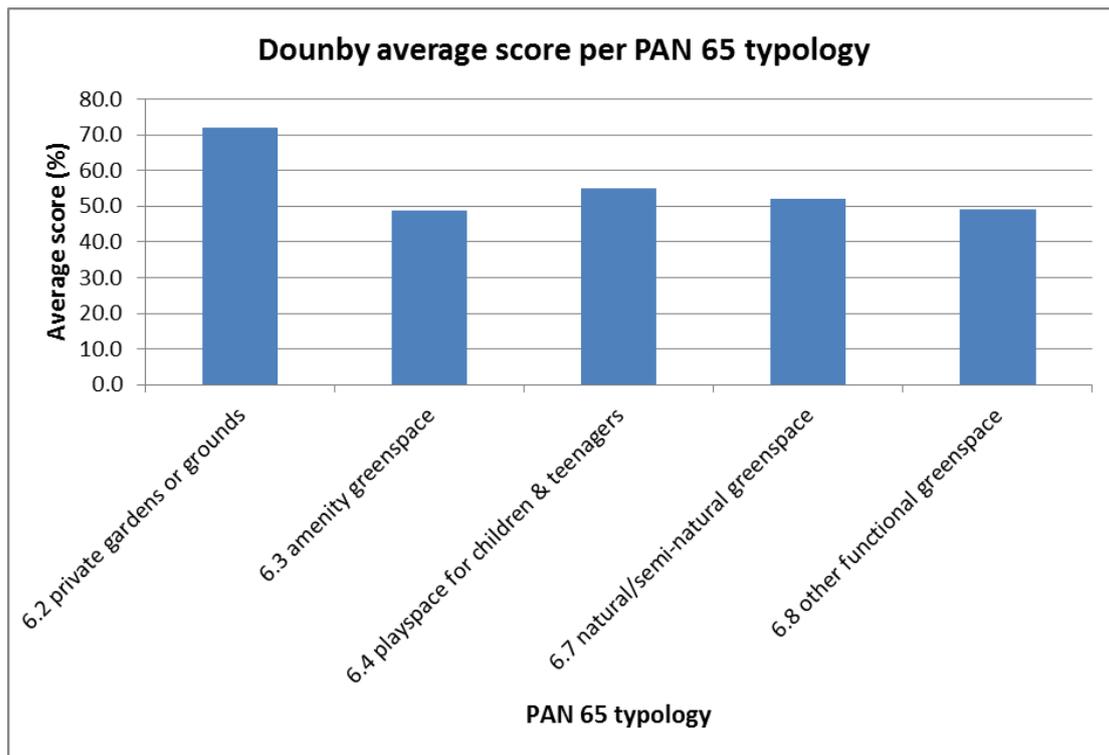


Figure 15- Graph showing average score of spaces in Dounby according to *PAN 65* typology.

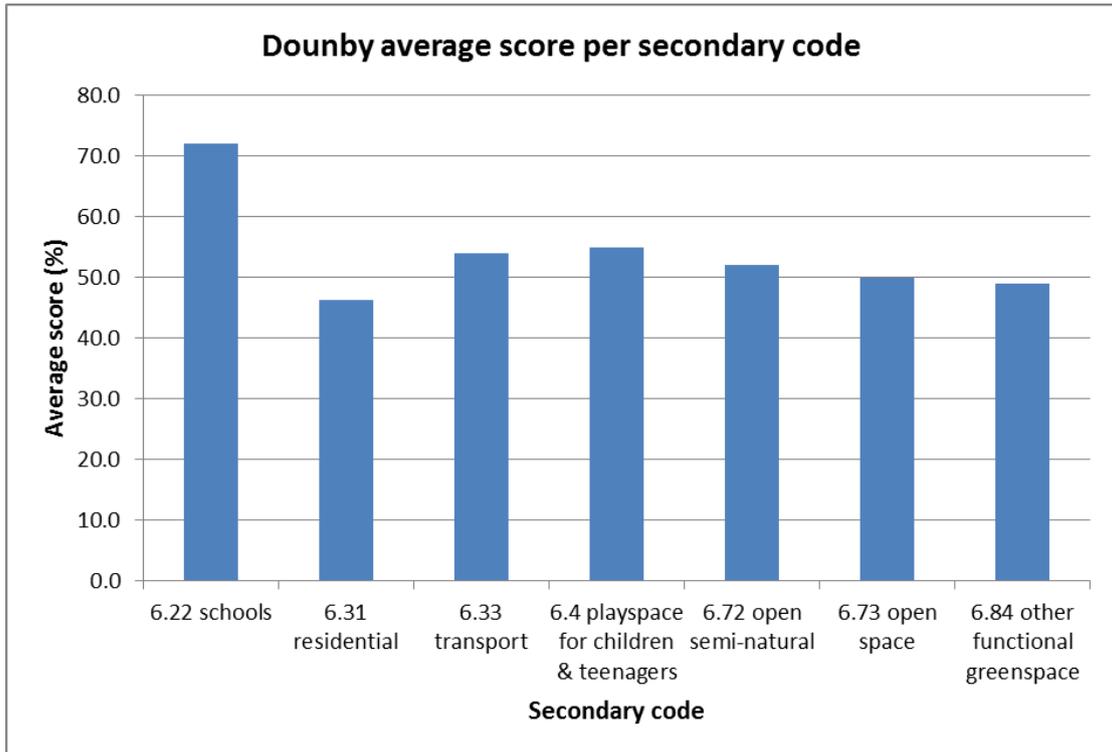


Figure 16- Graph showing average score of spaces in Dounby according to secondary code.

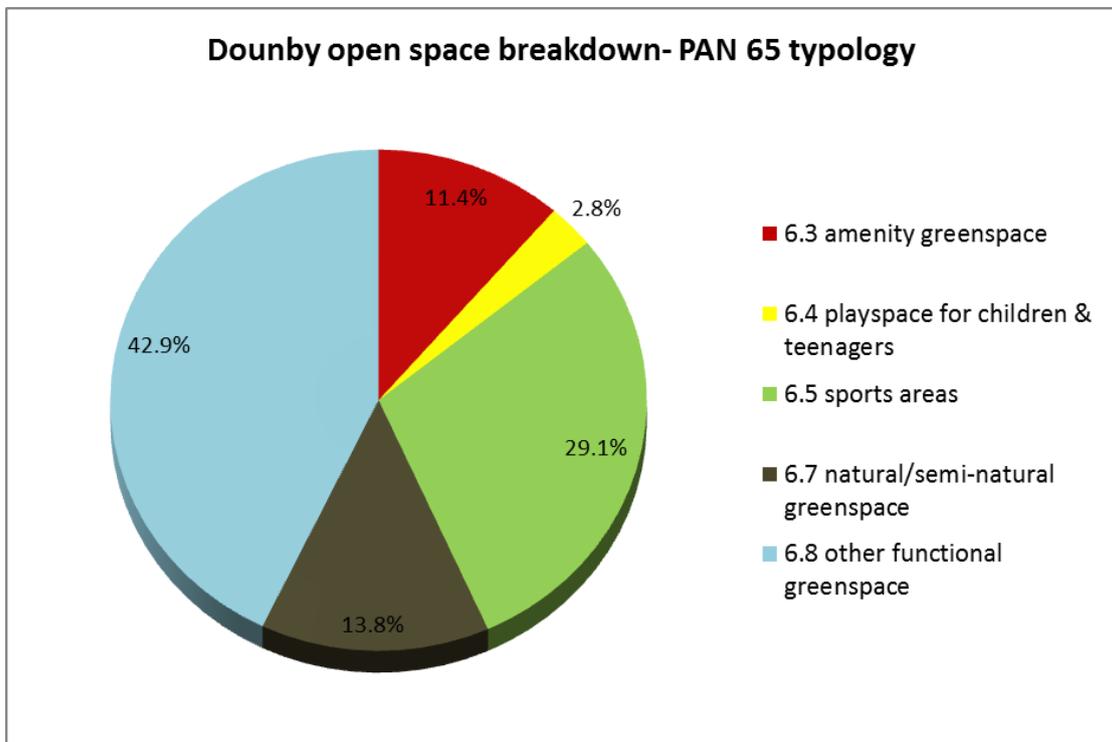


Figure 17- Chart showing open space breakdown in Dounby according to area as per PAN 65 typology.

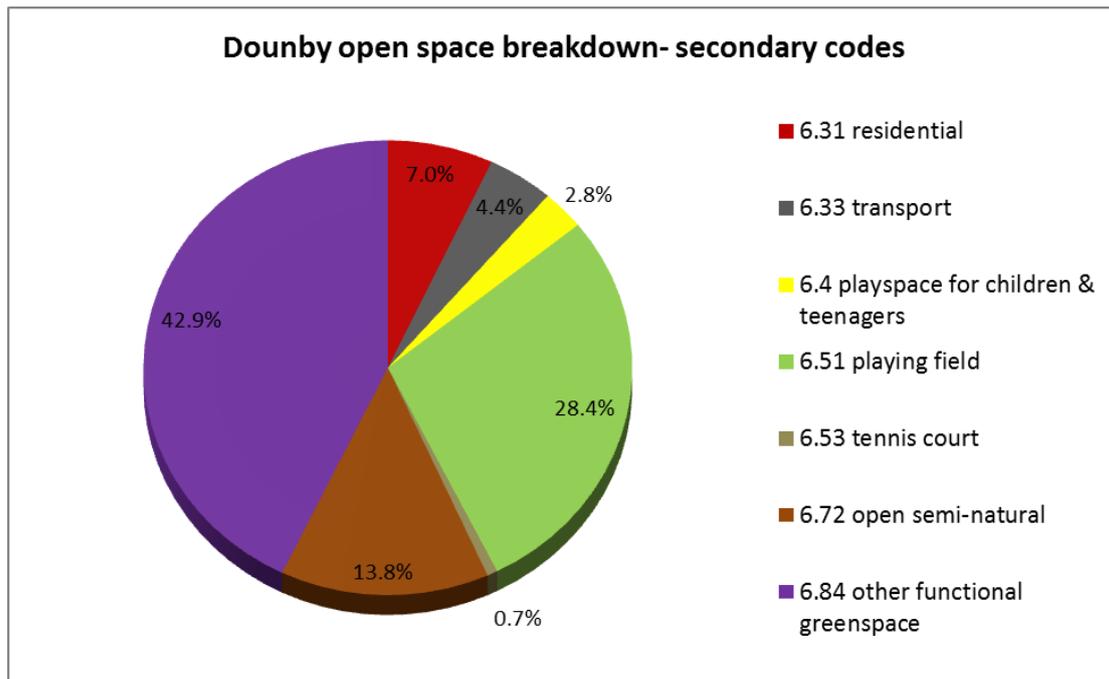


Figure 18- Chart showing open space breakdown in Dounby according to area as per secondary code.

4.24 St Margaret's Hope

Of the *PAN 65* typologies, **6.4 playspace for children & teenagers** has the highest score followed by **6.1 public parks and gardens** both scoring over 80% but aided by only having one example each, in contrast to **6.3 amenity greenspace** with the lowest score of 61%. This is reflected in the relevant secondary codes due to the limited number of open spaces contributing to the average scores. In terms of area coverage, of the five settlements it should be noted St Margaret's Hope has the largest dedicated play park in the form of the Community Play Park, which is enhanced by its high score exceeding a 'good' status in the score criteria. Over 50% of the area audited is represented by **6.5 sports areas** of the *PAN 65* typologies and **6.51 playing field** in the secondary codes respectively. This in conjunction with the spaces which make up the school grounds contributes the vast majority of space types available with over 80% in contrast to amenity space making up less than 2%.

With reference to the accessibility maps in **Annex 2**, Pier Road and a large area towards the south edge of the settlement boundary are not within range of open space, however these are outwith the more densely developed area of St Margaret's Hope. In the case of access to playspace, whilst the Community Play Park is centrally located and the school serves the western area, properties to the south are not within 300m of playspace. As none of the spaces are classed as natural greenspace, no access is available to this particular space type. This however should be considered in relation to the proximity of this area to the wider countryside and waterfront which arguably counteract this. Access to spaces of 2ha or more in the form of the Hope Community School means the east section of the settlement is lacking in respect to this.

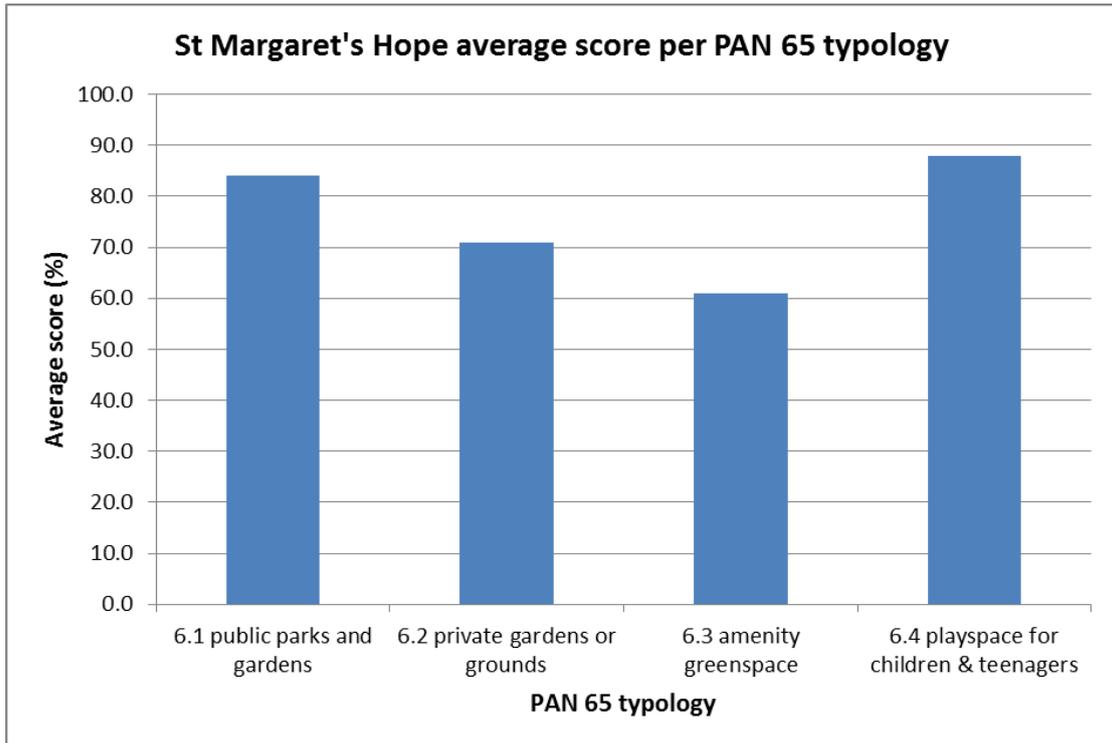


Figure 19- Graph showing average score of spaces in St Margaret's Hope according to PAN 65 typology.

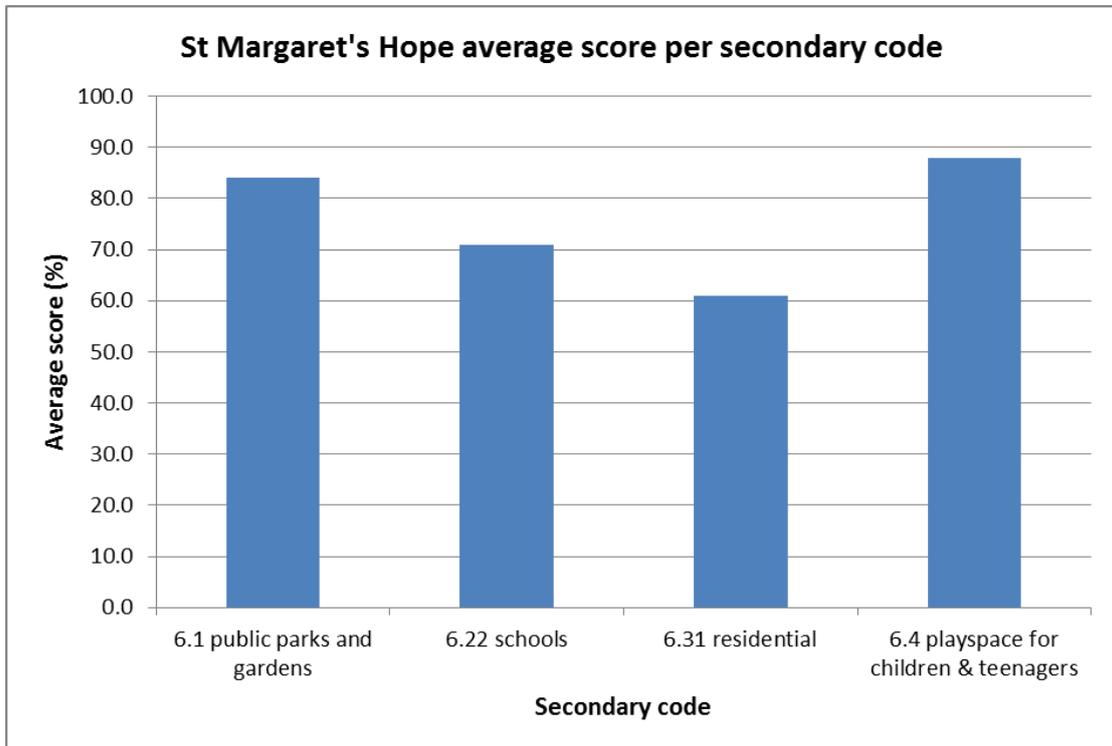


Figure 20- Graph showing average score of spaces in St Margaret's Hope according to secondary code.

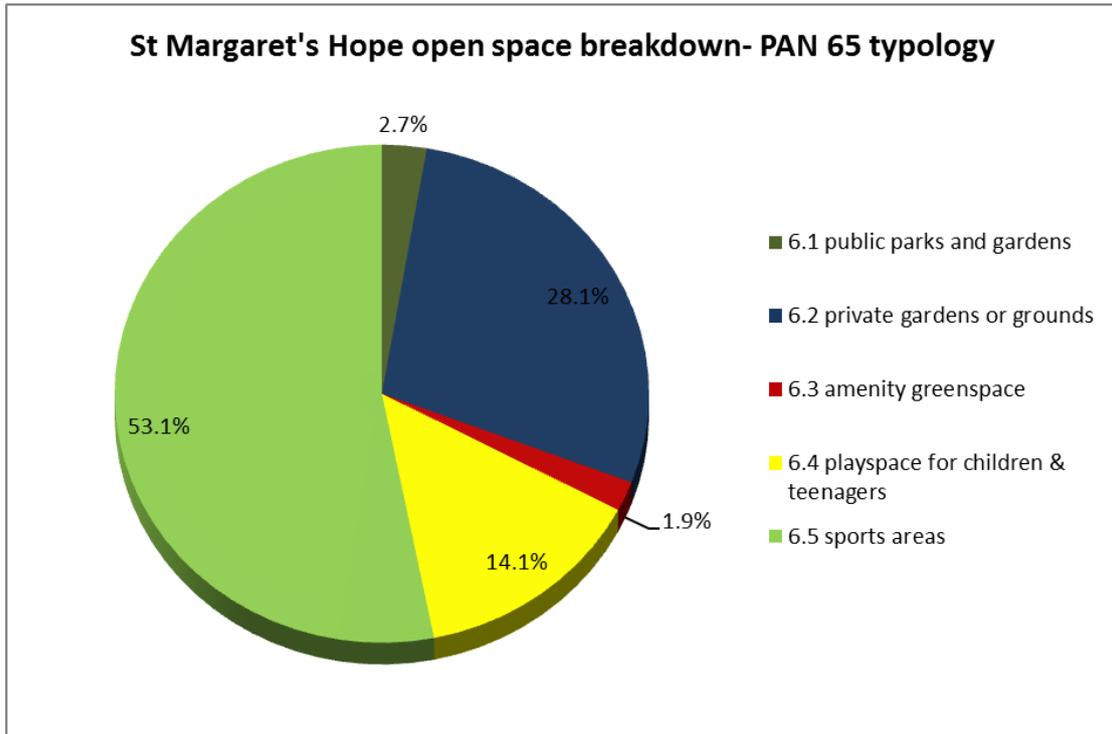


Figure 21- Chart showing proportion of space in St Margaret's Hope according to area as per PAN 65 typology.

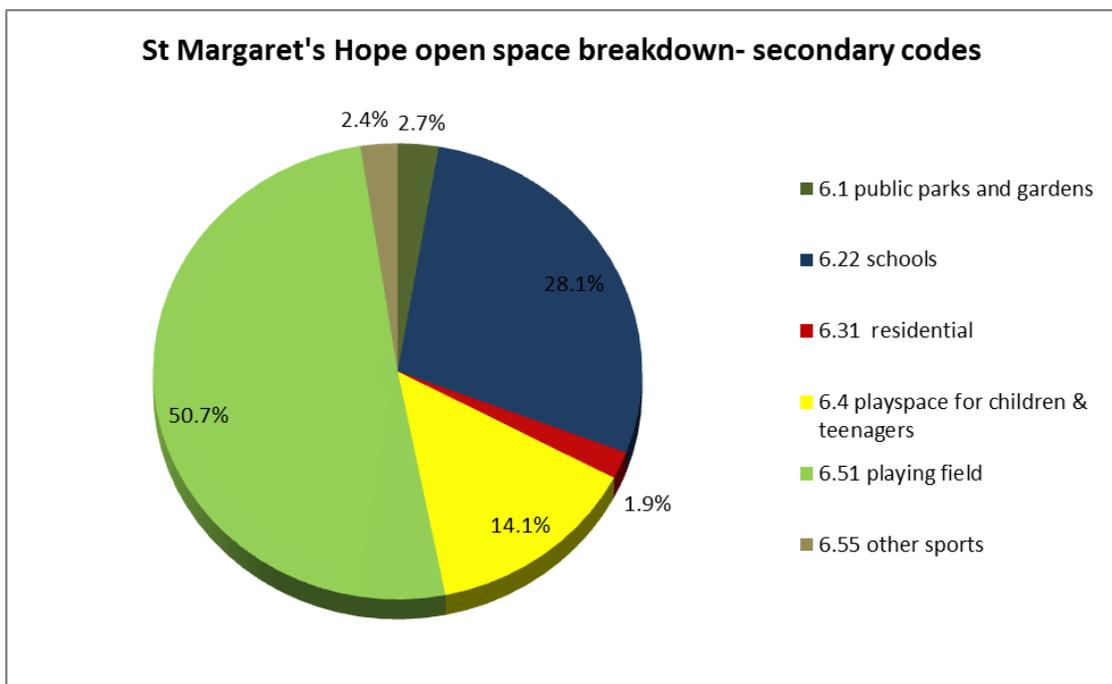


Figure 22- Chart showing proportion of space in St Margaret's Hope according to area as per secondary code.

4.25 Finstown

According to *PAN 65* typologies, **6.1 public parks and gardens** and **6.10 other open space** are joint highest scorers with 83%. As both consist of one space respectively this is reflected in the secondary code graph. In comparison **6.3 amenity greenspace**, and the equivalent **6.31 residential** of the secondary codes, is the lowest with 50%. Taking the area coverage into account a very limited area of the settlement is dedicated playspace which lies solely within the school. However over half of the total space is a combination of **6.51 playing field** and **6.72 open semi-natural space** to accommodate physical activity.

In terms of access to open spaces, bar a small section to the south east, properties to the west are not within the access criteria but should be noted are within close proximity to Binscarth Wood which is outside the settlement boundary. This is similarly the case for access to natural spaces. For access to playspaces, this is restricted to the northern area at the school ideally situated for pupils to use during school times, but not ideally located in relation to the majority of properties in Finstown unless people make specific plans to visit the area to use the range of school facilities on offer. Similarly for access to open spaces of 2ha or more, this is focused around Finstown Football Pitches leaving the majority of Finstown outwith range of this.

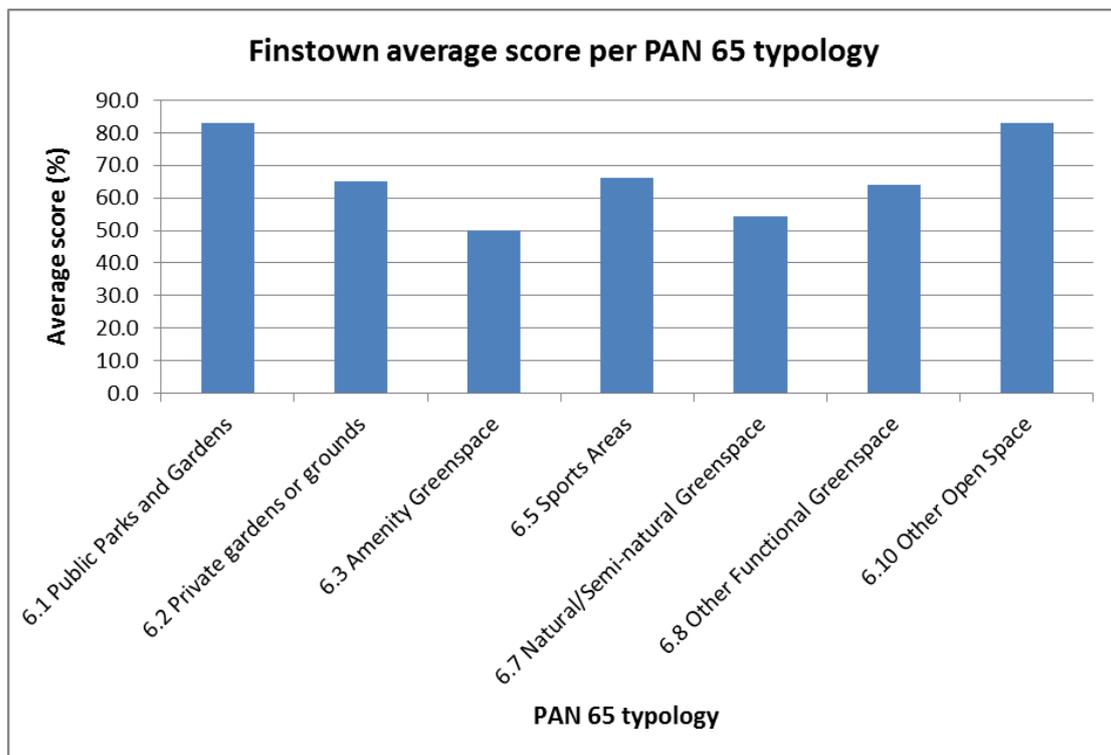


Figure 23- Graph showing average score of spaces in Finstown according to *PAN 65* typology.

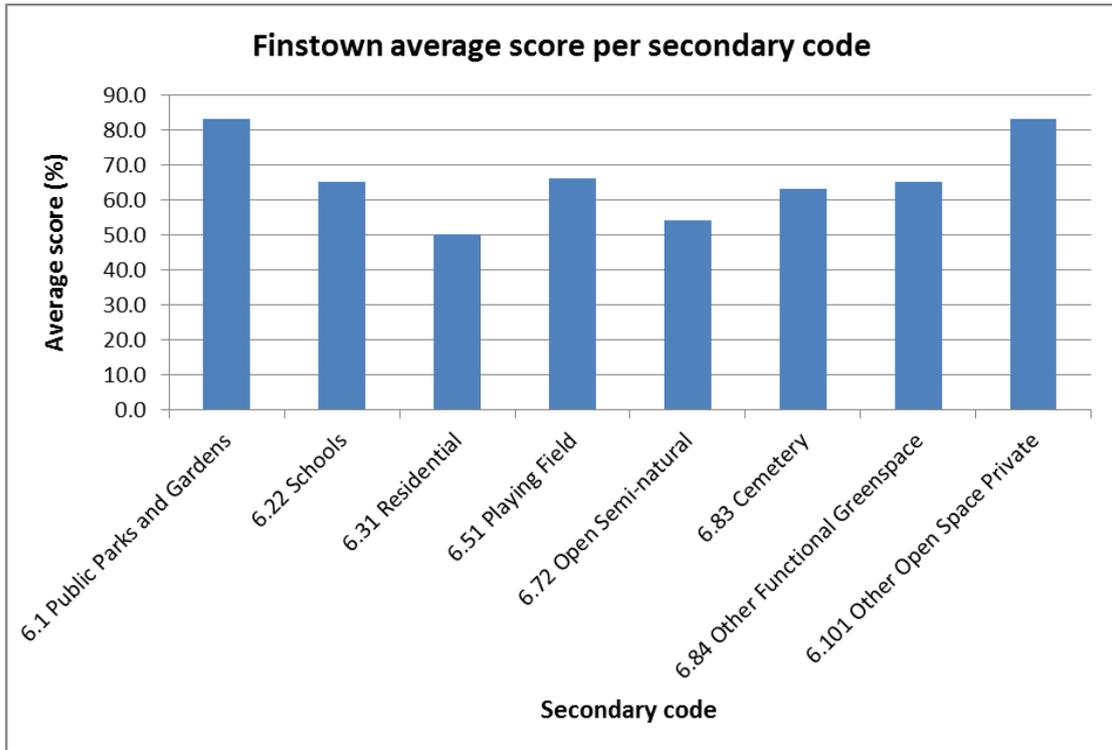


Figure 24- Graph showing average score of spaces in Finstown according to secondary code.

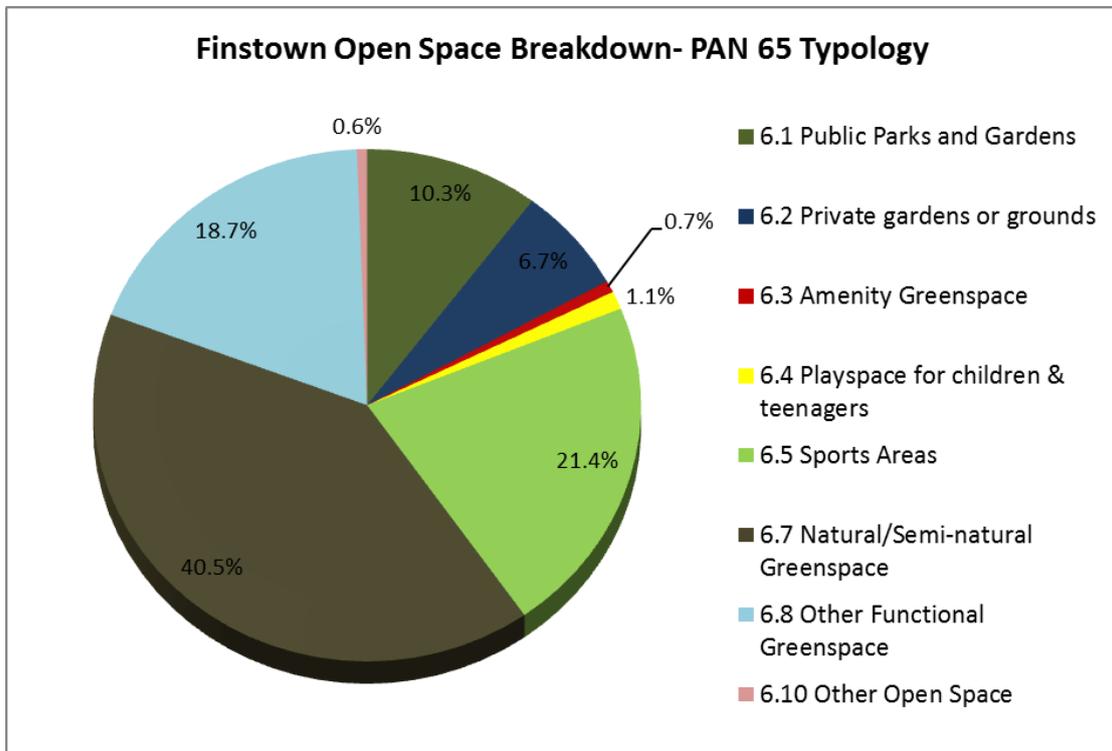


Figure 25- Chart showing proportion of space in Finstown according to area as per PAN 65 typology.

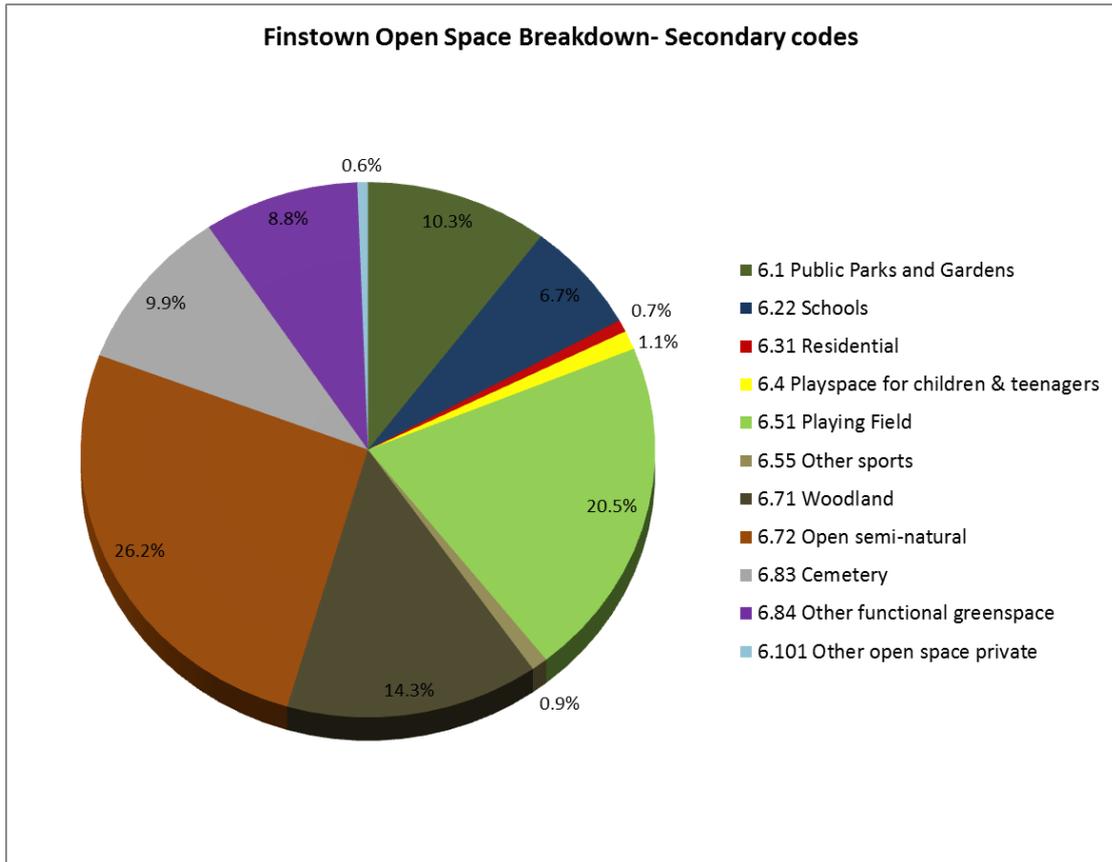


Figure 26- Chart showing proportion of space in Finstown according to area as per secondary code.

5 Key findings

From the audit information, a number of points can be taken, firstly the extent of **6.7 natural/semi-natural greenspace** within the settlements along with being one of the poorest scoring space types on average. Due to the large extent of natural/semi-natural land within the five settlements, this could provide an ideal means to address the poor performance of open spaces in relation to the bio diverse criteria. **6.10 other open space** has the highest average score followed by **6.1 public parks and gardens** and **6.9 civic space**. Of the *PAN 65* typologies **6.3 amenity greenspace** was the lowest. At a secondary code level **6.51 playing field** has the greatest area scoring an average of 59.8% so falls short of the 75% good standard in the scoring criteria. Only **6.81 allotments**, **6.101 other open space private**, **6.10 other open space** and **6.82 churchyard** exceeded 75% on average albeit aided by having no more than two examples each to contribute to this. In contrast **6.21 private gardens**, **6.31 residential**, **6.73 open space** and **6.84 other functional greenspace** are the only types to score on average less than 55% reinforcing room for improvement for amenity and natural/semi-natural greenspace.

On a settlement by settlement basis:

- Kirkwall is second in terms of open space provision per person highlighting the demands placed by having the highest population. Hatston industrial estate and core path linkages near Bignold Park Road provide potential improvement opportunities.
- Stromness in contrast has the highest per person provision even without the inclusion of Lower Brinkies Brae which is the largest audited space. Playspace provision to the north is limited but may be counteracted by quality of Stromness Primary facilities.
- Dounby has the worst average score and out of the five settlements, has the largest proportion of total open space consisting of amenity greenspace which contributes to its poor performance overall.
- St Margaret's Hope achieved the best average score and in each of the score criteria categories. Has a noteworthy playspace in the form of Hope Community Play Park both in terms of size and overall score. However has the lowest open space provision per a person albeit based on census data for a larger area.
- Finstown whilst achieving the second highest average score has the second lowest per person provision with potential to have a new playspace facility within closer proximity to the resident population.

These initial findings and the resulting aspirations will be clarified and expanded upon in more detail as part of developing the OOSS: Planning for Open Space SG and OOSS: *Vision and Action Plan*.

6 Consultation responses

To help validate the data gathered as part of the audit as well as provide information as to how the public wish to see open space considered, comments were received from the County Show and online survey. This was complimented with comments from community councils in connection with spaces included as part of the audit within their respective settlement areas. Key points included:

- Consideration of consolidating good quality open spaces rather than address those of poor quality.
- The value playspaces for children and teenagers, and public parks and gardens have in terms of prominent open space types people use.
- To exercise, to enjoy natural landscapes, wildlife and to have a seat as aspects why people use open space.
- Proximity to home and local facilities, to relax, natural features, dog walking, a place to meet other people and to use particular play equipment as reasons behind why people like an open space.
- The standard of play equipment was a common issue put forward for improvement with maintenance, better planting, equipment and facilities for adults and teenagers also raised.
- Consideration of enabling community groups to deliver better open spaces.

The responses gathered as part of this process will help inform the aims and objectives of *OOSS: Planning for Open Space* and the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* by:

- Placing an emphasis on accessibility and quality over quantity of open space.
- Highlighting the value of open space and its importance to communities and various age groups.
- Establishing how spaces can maximise their attributes to be desirable spaces through addressing issues such as grounds maintenance, equipment and natural features.
- Promoting how communities can be involved in developing open space which meets their own needs and aspirations.

7 Next steps

7.1 Informing policy

The findings from the *Orkney Open Space Audit* will be used to help inform *OOSS: Planning for Open Space* Supplementary Guidance. This will be followed by development of the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* in which a working group will be established to enable the strategy to be realistic in terms of the aspirations and goals it sets out to achieve. The working group will likely be composed of:

- OIC Development and Infrastructure;
- OIC Education, Leisure and Housing;
- Sport Scotland;
- SNH; and
- Community Councils etc.

From this clear objectives and an action plan can be created to help ensure Orkney has open space that is accessible, of sufficient quality and type to meet the demands and expectations of communities.

7.2 Review of data

It is envisaged that any newly identified open spaces will be included in the next version of the audit to be reviewed every five years.

8 Participation statement & consultation report



Orkney Islands Council Orkney Open Space Audit

Participation Statement & Consultation Report

18 October 2013

1) Introduction

Orkney Islands Council published the surveys and initial findings for consultation at the County Show and online survey. Interested parties were invited to comment at the County Show on the 10 August 2013. An advertisement was placed in the newspaper to publicise this. This was complimented with an online survey on Survey Monkey which ran from the 10 August 2013 until the 6 September 2013 which was publicised in the newspaper and on the radio. Responses from community council were also sought from 24 June 2013 until the 13 September 2013 to take account of the summer recess.

Full details of all the consultation responses are included at the end of the consultation report to give an indication of views about open space and help clarify data as part of the audit as well as inform the development of the *OOSS: Planning for Open Space* SG, and *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* documents. Statutory consultation as part of the *OOSS: Planning for Open Space* Supplementary Guidance was carried out from the 12 December 2013 until the 6 February 2014.

2) Consultation Methods

1) Public advertisement

- A Press Release was issued on 2 August 2013 to the press and all OIC staff members.
- An official advertisement was placed in the Orcadian on the 8 August 2013 for the County Show display.
- For further publicity of the online survey, a press release was issued on 20 August 2013 to the press and all OIC staff members. An interview for BBC Radio Orkney was aired on the 21 August and an advertisement was also placed in the Orcadian on the 22 August.
- Posters were also put up in various establishments throughout Kirkwall, Stromness, Dounby, St Margaret's Hope and Finstown.
- Community Centres were emailed with details of the survey to put up the poster or publicise the survey link if possible.

2) Public display of documents

- Documents were made available at Customer Services One Stop Shop and on the Orkney Islands Council website.

3) Consultation events

- The surveys that make up the audit findings were displayed at the County Show on Saturday 10 August 2013 to seek views on their content and potential improvements by filling out a questionnaire. The online survey allowed for further responses to be made after this.

3) Consultation Results

Full details of the formal consultation responses received and the proposed Council responses are included in the Consultation responses in section 8.1.

In summary, the key issues raised from the consultation, apart from updating audit data, includes:

- Addressing spaces which are of poor quality possibly through consolidation of good quality open spaces; and
- concerns regarding the scope and need for an open space strategy.

The findings of the consultation responses as part of the County Show and online survey found:

- When asked about which open spaces the public use, playspace for children and teenagers, and public parks and gardens were the most prominent with play equipment highlighted as a key feature behind usage of these spaces. Other reasons for using open space included for fitness through sport and exercise, to enjoy natural landscapes, wildlife and to have a seat.
- In terms of what people enjoy about open space, playparks were highly sought after along with spaces in close proximity to home and local facilities. Enjoyment of natural elements, an opportunity to relax, dog walking, a place to meet other people and to use particular play equipment were other aspects people liked about open space.
- Improvement wise, the standard of play equipment whether removed and not replaced, or the general condition of it was the most frequent response. The standard of maintenance, better planting, equipment and facilities for adults and teenagers were also raised. This was in conjunction with consideration of enabling community groups to deliver better open spaces as well as the effect of car parking on existing open space provision.

4) Conclusion

The consultation received fifty three responses in total, nineteen of which were made formally and the rest originated from the County Show and online survey responses, which have been individually considered by the Development and Marine Planning section. This participation statement summarises the key issues raised and sets out the key changes that have been made to the audit and the *OOSS: Planning for Open Space* SG through this consultation process. The comments made by each of the consultees that formally responded to the consultation are presented below in section 8.1 Consultation responses.

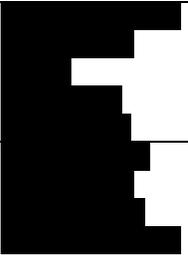
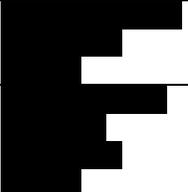
8.1 Consultation responses

Consultee Type Key: KA - Key agencies; IP - Individual Person; DEV – Developer; OICC- Orkney Islands Council Councillor; OCC- Orkney Community Council; and IG- Independent Group

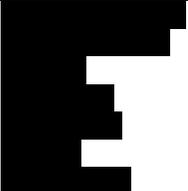
<u>Orkney Islands Council</u>					
Orkney Open Space Audit					
Participation Statement and Consultation Report					
<i>Consultation Period: 10 August 2013 until 13 September 2013</i>					
<u>Representation</u>	<u>Consultee Type</u>	<u>Consultee Number</u>	<u>Comment Number</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Response from Planning Authority</u>
[REDACTED]	OICC		1	<p>Speaking as a councillor for an area where there are a range of open spaces, mostly quite poorly kept, i believe that open space is very important but OIC places too much emphasis on retaining or increasing the amount (i.e. quantity) rather than focusing on fewer or smaller, better kept spaces (quality).</p> <p>One example of a good open space approach is the concentration of investment OIC made in the area around the Peedie Sea. How much more use is made of this area since it has been improved and how delighted the public have been by the improvements. In contrast there are a wide array of poorly kept former play areas and open spaces throughout Kirkwall that people rarely use except folk with dogs that are content to let them [...] all over it. The grass is long and few other folk use them. The play parks in Kirkwall are a disgrace to OIC.</p> <p>I would rather see a rationalising of open spaces and play parks, reducing the total area, and fewer better kept spaces made more prominent and more widely used. The remainder should be used for sensitive development of housing land throughout the built up area (either sold off or used for council housing). OIC needs to invest more in the upkeep of the public open spaces.</p>	<p>As part of the supplementary guidance, access to open space and quality are given greater priority than quantity as outlined in the open space audit and the Supplementary Guidance. The audit also provides the basis to assess the requirements of a proposal and whether additional open space is deemed necessary, with improvements made to existing provision instead if required.</p> <p>Furthermore a key aspiration of the Supplementary Guidance is to promote high quality open space in connection with Policy D6 of the Local Development Plan. This will be followed up with the development of the Open Space Strategy to prioritise key actions to address and how these may be realistically achieved. This includes assessing existing provision, including playspaces, and how these may be consolidated to best serve the community.</p>
[REDACTED]	OCC		2	The Crafty lies between Lidl's car park on the north and the OHAL housing site to the south.	The importance of the site in terms of flood mitigation and reducing the strain placed upon Peedie Sea for water

				<p>I would like to see this site as green open space linking the OHAL site across to the footpath running parallel to back of the Lidl's site. if you are standing looking north from the Crafty this footpath links to the right to Junction Road and to the left to Tescos, the Glaitness School and Picky Centre.</p> <p>When I say open space I mean a few trees and shrubs, a pathway, some grass, perhaps a few play items, and a bench.</p> <p>We have in the past discussed the green space next to the Crafty; this is undeveloped common land (formerly I think bleaching fields) and members seemed to want this to remain undeveloped. It is rather wet there at times, with a couple of ditches running through it. I suggest a biological survey so that if it is to remain an isolated undisturbed green space, which is our preferred option, it can serve a function as site for amphibians, and rarer insect species. This might involve some careful planting of appropriate wet land plants such as flag iris, ladies smock etc.</p>	<p>retention has been noted in the survey, along with its potential to be enhanced further in terms of contributing to biodiversity. Consideration of how open space performs in respect to biodiversity is also highlighted as part of the planning and design considerations in the Supplementary Guidance.</p>
	OCC		3A	<p>The CC's should have been given longer to report back on this matter so that it could have been discussed at a meeting where local knowledge would have been an advantage. Not sure what the document is all about and question the need for it in the times of severe financial cutbacks.</p>	<p>Response date extended. The audit and Supplementary Guidance are part of the Council's obligation to develop an Open Space Strategy as required by Scottish Planning Policy to safeguard existing open space as well as look to improve upon existing open space resources.</p>
	OCC		3B	<p>The Community Council question the need for such a detailed document in the times of severe financial cutbacks.</p>	<p>Point noted. As stated above the document helps to fulfil Scottish Planning Policy obligations. The detail of the document should benefit future revisions with spaces potentially updated only when necessary due to new developments or public input suggesting a need to do so.</p>
	OCC		4	<p>Members had no comment to make on the above consultation, other than to say it must have cost an extortionate amount of money to produce.</p> <p>However, they were pleased to see that efforts were being made to maintain some open, green spaces within the built up areas of Kirkwall.</p>	<p>Point noted.</p>
	OCC		5	<p>On the disc sent the road marked Johnstons Road is the Pier Road, Johnstons Road passes around the back and branches off the Pier Road. With regard to the Brinian Access/entrances the proper gate was being refurbished and this is now back in place.</p>	<p>The error regarding Johnstons Road has been corrected to Pier Road.</p> <p>The inclusion of a refurbished gate has been accommodated into the survey conducted for the cemetery and therefore no</p>

				The members from Egilsay did wonder where the pictures were for Wyre and Egilsay as there were none on the disc.	longer highlighted as a potential action. As spaces were included as per the settlement hierarchy as stated in the Local Development Plan, no spaces were audited within Wyre and Egilsay for inclusion.
	OCC		6	No comment.	Point noted.
	OCC		7	As the areas identified were within Orkney settlements, there were no comments to make.	Point noted.
	OCC		8	Following consideration of correspondence received from the Liaison Office informing members of a CD providing information on the Open Space Strategy, it was:- RESOLVED that this be noted.	Point noted.
	IG		9	Reference TP 02 I wish to make the following comments regarding the open space survey. Name of site should be St Magnus Churchyard as in site description. Site Description: Cultural /Historical: Better than “meant to have been ...” would be “Recognised as the site where St Magnus was laid to rest before being moved to St Olaf’s in Kirkwall. (The Cathedral was not yet built and his remains were moved there at a later date.) When Space is Used: It would be more accurate to say “During the hours of daylight.”(In summer there can be visitors as early as 8.00am and as late as 9.00pm.) Additional Comments: The gate leading down to the shore is not “a nice idea”, it is a necessity. There will have been a gate there for hundreds of years, almost certainly since the reconstruction of the Church in 1664, and probably long before that. How else would people have disposed of mown grass and debris from the Churchyard? You could perhaps say that the bench outside the gate	Site name corrected to St Magnus Churchyard on score breakdown sheet. Cultural, usage and additional comments have been amended as a result.

				leading down to the shore is "a nice idea".	
	IG		10	Received comments in writing regarding survey for Burray Playground. Comments detailed survey inaccuracies which included information about ownership, equipment, facilities and community involvement.	Points have been noted and the site has been re-visited with the survey updated as a result of this.
	OICC		11	<p>The play areas within our ward are in need of upgrading and some discussions are taking place with relevant officers. As these areas were developed along with housing provision many can no longer be described as play areas following removal of equipment. As a group we advocate a re-look at such provision in order that some improvements can be made. We are currently looking at Summerdale drive play area. Research is needed to assess the demand and the numbers of children in the vicinities of the play space. It may be that change of use might be appropriate for some.</p> <p>The area used as a playing field up the Muddisdale Road should be kept and developed further as part of the "Green corridor" up the Muddisdale valley. This ties in nicely with the walkways up through that area. Proposals by the Pickaquoy Centre for two pitches along this area will further enhance this provision that could also include suitable tree planting.</p>	<p>As part of the Supplementary Guidance, and later the Open Space Strategy, issues regarding neglected spaces as well as promoting multi-functional spaces to avoid reliance on equipment provision are key aspects to address. This includes looking at playspace provision in terms of areas which have not got sufficient access to these facilities and how these may be resolved.</p> <p>The playing field along Muddisdale Road is included as part of the audit with the size and nature of the space to accommodate recreation/exercise usage highlighted as a key asset.</p>
	OCC		12	No additional areas to add – happy with content of the Open Space Strategy for Evie & Rendall.	Point noted.
	OCC		13	Members would like to point out that the Open Space Strategy Document contains an error. The management of the YM, Longhope is the South Walls & Brims Community Association and not the Community Council as noted in the documentation.	Management details of the community hall have been corrected as a result.
	OCC		14	Document noted and no comments to make.	Point noted.
	OCC		15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information only available on CD which limits the amount of people who can see and access data Could not find any information regarding the assessment criteria or consultation on the OIC website and not included on CD either. Because of above do not know what areas do or do not meet an 'open space' criteria Open spaces are easier to identify within a 	<p>An email was sent in relation to this to send paper copies if required to resolve any issues encountered. Paper copies were issued as a result.</p> <p>Scoresheet corrected to Orphir Parish Church, with management details also changed.</p>

				<p>'town' settlement rather than a rural setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obvious exclusions based on limited knowledge of requirements are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RSPB bird reserve at Hobbister ○ Kirbister loch ○ Waulkmill Bay and beach ○ Swanbister beach ○ Round Kirk, Earl's Bu, Orkneyinga Saga Centre ○ Coastline walk around the Bu to Breck ○ Ward Hill ○ Houton • Orphir Parish Church as defined in the pdf aerial photograph of area assessed is named Orphir churchyard in scoresheet and assessment – inconsistency within documentation • Survey information is very sparse and inconsistent • Quality assessment is hard to quantify as fuller information not accessible • Potential action – how is this assessed, what is the consultation requirements <p>Also, the Orphir Parish Church is not managed by the Orphir Community Council.</p>	
	OCC		16A	<p>Members would like to know who authorised the taking of photos of private property in the area and would like to feedback that the name of ownership of at least one property in Burray appears to be incorrect. Members also raised concerns that the document made it appear as if all the open spaces are owned by the Council whereas some such as the Burray Play Park are privately owned, in this instance by the Burray Community Association.</p> <p>Members also raised concerns over the allocation of open spaces to the north and south of the New St Margaret's Road and would like to ask the question that if the spaces in question have been allocated as open spaces, does this mean that under SH19 of the Orkney Local Development Plan that these areas cannot be developed in future? This raises concerns over a possible access road to Thorfinn Place in the future and</p>	<p>An email has been sent to clarify some of the points made to try and resolve.</p> <p>In regards to designation of open spaces along St Margaret's Road, these have been removed from the audit due to existing policy designations for housing development.</p>

				about the future development of the village. Members therefore request that the document be looked at and the questions addressed.	
	OCC		16B	Please note the following suggestions. - The area marked 'Ayre of Westermill' is known as 'Westlinks' - The area marked 'Langatang' is half a mile further west. - The Burray Play Park belongs to the Burray Community Association.	These have been amended on the relevant map and survey sheets.
	OCC		17	What plans have been made to implement maintenance considered essential?	An action plan will be established as part of the open space strategy to prioritise issues of concern such as this and how these can be resolved. With regards to the existing condition of the play area, this has been raised with the relevant Sport, Leisure and Maintenance contacts within the Council to resolve.
	OCC		18	1. The Pierowall Shoreline was not under public ownership but owned privately by the adjacent householders and also managed by them. In the "Community Benefits" section it was stated there was "no community involvement" and "community involvement could reduce maintenance costs" It was asked that this be changed, as this area was solely maintained by the householders with no maintenance costs charged to OIC. 2. It was asked that the document entitled "Howenbrek and adjacent housing" be changed to "Howenbrek and Lastigar" as the picture accompanying the document was of the grass area at Lastigar. These areas are managed jointly by OIC and Orkney Housing Association Limited (OHAL) and not just OIC, as stated on the survey. 3. The survey regarding Lady Kirk Graveyard had a spelling error and was written as "Lay" instead of "Lady"	Pierowall shoreline ownership, management and community benefit score updated. Corrections to Howanbrek and Lastigar made regarding name and management. Spelling corrected for Lady Kirk Graveyard.
	IG		19	Re: Marengo Community Garden Thank you for sending a copy of the survey. Hoping it's not too late to add some information which our committee think is relevant. Ownership: Burray and South Ronaldsay Community Garden Association.	Ownership, management, landscaping, open space function and usage details amended accordingly. Core path query forwarded to relevant council contact.

			<p>Managed by: Volunteer Committee of B&SRGA</p> <p>6.1.....X 6.2.....not private</p> <p>Landscaping/natural features Habitat: Please add Bees, butterflies & other insects</p> <p>Open Space Function Please add Gardening, photography and art classes & picnicking</p> <p>Usage Please add Maintained by volunteer gardeners</p> <p>Accessible & well connected Perhaps it's not your department but we are aware that the CORE PATH which runs below the garden along the shore, which used to be maintained by the council is in a shocking state being totally overgrown & barely usable. We feel that as it is a Right of Way this should be addressed.</p>	
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Responses from consultation event and online survey

(Responses 1-25 are from the County Show, 26-34 are from the online survey)

Response	Which open spaces do you use?				2- What like and possible improvements	3- Any other comments
	1a- Space type	1b- Name/ location	1c- Key features	1d- Frequency		
1	[no response given for open space questions]					blanket and general rules are not appropriate and applications should be assessed based on local conditions
2	public parks and gardens	Kirk Green		monthly	provides a setting to key public buildings; tree required	re-open the Berwick terminal
3	<i>(we don't have many)</i>				GMB garden not used; Skail Bay	council need to support community groups to deliver open space; public car parking taking over open space/public realm; whether any consultation on parking issue; community council minutes need to be up to date on OIC website
4	public parks and gardens	Community Centre Stromness and Faravel; Happy Valley	play parks	weekly	play parks very good	no
	sports areas	Picky and Stromness pool				
5	public parks and gardens	St Magnus Kirkyard		weekly/ monthly		

	other	beaches/ coastal walks		daily/weekly		
6	[no response given for open space questions]					better design; encourage redevelopment of ruins
7	[no response given for open space questions]					
8	public parks and gardens	Muddisdale plantation		quarterly	wildlife in the town; not over developed; relaxing; informal space for dog walkers; non formalised space; not too much [...]	recognition LNCSs; weaker in SG; small pockets of habitat are valuable; landscape capacity for wind energy; robust analysis of [...] marine mammals to inform plans; develop in settlements; design rural housing to be sensitive to landscape/ be more progressive
9	public parks and gardens	Happy Valley	unique character	quarterly		sustainable, wildlife friendly [...]
	amenity greenspace	Muddisdale plantation	wildlife	annual		
	other	coastal walks		monthly		
10	public parks and gardens	Tankerness House Gardens	benches	weekly	more swings and slides	should introduce adult outdoor gym equipment into public parks and spaces; more walkways in towns- coastal promenade in Kirkwall would be welcome
	playspace for children	Evie and Dounby Play parks	get to go on stuff	weekly		
11	amenity	Muddisdale	planting	monthly	like that they are natural and not	inappropriate ground, maintenance

	greenspace				too manicured; improved by subtle intervention	techniques (over-mowing) especially near trees; SG on trees and woodland important as are OIC management plans for woodlands; open space strategy is a good move
	other	mainly wooded areas				
12	playspace for children	Dounby play park	equipment	weekly	maintenance	
13	other	Ness near sailing club		weekly		modern technologies should be allowed in historic buildings where reversible; community groups should be able to take on some responsibility for open space
14	playspace for children	St Marys	play equipment for lads	monthly		
15	[no response given for open space questions]					historic buildings -people should be able to put double glazing in and plastic but all intervention should be reversible as we are custodians; barriers need to be addressed so they are not closed; against Police closing them- at own risk
16	[no response for open space questions]					
17	public parks and gardens	Tankerness House Gardens			good as is	SACs/SLNCS and LNCS far too much classified; very few preferred and OIC should have higher benchmarks for designation because it is restrictive beyond planning; grants should only be paid for special areas and too much has been allocated; small

						pockets are ineffective as species don't move between and environment lost to agricultural improvements
18	public parks and gardens		planting	less than monthly but more than annually	better planting to provide benefit for biodiversity	some of the settlements are rather artificial- not traditional centres of development; the blocks of houses don't look appropriate in some landscapes; a scattered pattern would probably look better
19	sports areas	picky pitches		monthly		
20	playspace for children	St Marys	play equipment	weekly		don't agree with local list; encourage retention of old properties through housing in countryside
21	playspace for children	Deerness				not appropriate that wind turbines can be built in open countryside but houses can't; important to create employment outside settlements to retain population
22					places you can walk your dog are important- need a dog friendly park in Kirkwall	need more spaces for young people 16-21 years old open space facilities- places that young people develop themselves i.e. public art, sports; support renewable energy and wind farms; support renewable energy development offshore
23	public parks and gardens	Tankerness House	planting, benches	weekly in summer	excellent	
		Peedie Sea	paths, benches	weekly in summer		
	other	beaches; core paths	dog walks	daily		

24	[no response given for open space questions]					should let landowners build where you want
25	sports areas	athletics track	the track	weekly	put a cover on it	
26	playspace for children sports areas	Dounby School	pitch, playpark, playground/ carpark for cycling	weekly		
27	public parks and gardens	Broadsands Road		daily (weather permitting)	Broadsands is close to home, but could do with more play equipment - previous items which have been removed have never been replaced.	
	playspace for children	Tankerness House Gardens		(weather dependent)		
	amenity greenspace	Soulisquoy Play Area		(varies)		
		Papdale Primary Play area		(varies)		
		Kirkwall Library		monthly	There is good space, and it is well used. The library is a fantastic facility, well utilised, with lots of events to suit all.	
28	playspace for children	Papa Westray Community School	play equipment, cyclogym & sports fields	weekly	Important to have such facilities on a small island for community recreation	
	sports areas					

29	public parks and gardens	All play parks	Play equipment for children aged 3-teen	daily	Play parks are valuable meeting places for parents with toddlers and older children when they are more independent. It's a shame there seems to be very little maintenance in these areas, with broken equipment being removed, rather than repaired. Our nearest play area is beside Rope Walk and it is so poor that the bairns don't want to go there. The rubber matting has all moved at the bottom of the slide. The swings are missing and the only other thing there is some tyres!
	playspace for children	Peedie Sea area			
30	public parks and gardens	Orphir School play park	childrens play equipment and adult seating area, school tarmaced area	monthly	Most of the childrens play areas in Orkney are quite good, although they do vary quite considerably in the available equipment and its condition. One of the best play parks that we visit is at the Shapinsay school and my daughter loves the merry-go-round which is not found at many parks at all. Orphir school play park is the one we visit most regularly and although small it is quite good. The only real disadvantage is the ground surface: the black surface leaves marks on clothes and shoes which cannot be removed and the grass is often long and not gathered properly after having been cut, so again shoes and clothes are often grass stained.
	playspace for children				

		Firth Community Garden	planting and spaces for bairns to play and run around	two or three times a year	The Firth Community Garden is beautiful, well maintained and always interesting - a hidden gem!	
		Stromness Play Park (community centre one)	childrens play equipment	monthly	The issue of maintaining the grass is also found at the Stromness playpark and others. Often on our visits the grass is quite long and usually wet (which I know cannot be helped, but would be better if the grass was short).	
31	public parks and gardens	Brandyquoy Park	swing, slide, seesaw, little houses, toilet available	weekly	Very close to home and very central. The equipment however is often in a poor state and isn't repaired for months now end. Vandalism and graffiti etc is also often present. It's a shame that this park isn't better looked after as it is a perfect location with toilets available.	
	playspace for children					
32	public parks and gardens	Papdale East playpark	kids playpark facilities need updating	3 times per week	Fab spaces in handy areas for children but all require updating with new paint and equipment to encourage more children to play outside! The papdale one is great for older children but again needs new equipment and repairs! I feel that if kids see things in a dilapidated state then they won't respect it the same and are more inclined to keep things in good repair if they are found in that way.	
	playspace for children	Meadowbank playpark	playpark for under 5's	monthly		
	sports areas	Brandyquoy playpark	under 5's play area	monthly		

33	playspace for children	Burray	playpark, tennis court	weekly	the tennis court in Burray is not safe, the surface is lifting and holds the water, the Playpark and surrounding area are a disgrace, the play equipment is old, rusty and very sparse, the surrounding area has lots of space, plants bushes etc, but not enough use made of it, we really need a new surface on the tennis court and then it could be used for netball, football etc, the childrens playpark needs to be refurbished urgently, more use needs to me made of the grassy areas, bbq, seating, etc	
	sports areas					
34	playspace for children	Burray Village Playpark	Play area for under 5's. Tennis court, Toilets.	2 to 3 times per week	The playpark is well positioned but under equipped. It has play equipment for under 5's but nothing for anybody above this age except the tennis court. It needs play equipment for children from 6 to 12 and facilities such as 5 a side football, netball etc for teenagers. The tennis court is well used but surface of the tennis court is being severely damaged by Mares tails growing through it and it needs properly re-surfacing. Some of the grounds would benefit from being cultivated and made into an ornamental garden, making it more pleasant for older members of the community to spend a while there on pleasant days or while caring for children/ grand children. There is a large area of unkempt,	The site description carried out by [REDACTED] for the council is inaccurate and out of date. I have sent details of the errors to Alan Muir as was requested in a telephone conversation with him.

	sports areas				unused land that could be fetched into use to provide additional facilities for the people of the island and surrounding areas.	
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