

Homework item 30: Provide a note explaining the role of the 2012 Open Space Assessment in the preparation of the SADPD and when it was made available for consultation in the plan preparation process. Include in note the background as to where information on each relevant site listed in Q172 (c) and Qu 178 (Matter 11 statement) can be found, including Land Off Spring Gardens, Macclesfield. Provide a link to the 2012 Open Space Assessment on the CEC website.

1. This note responds to the Inspector's homework item 30 regarding the role of the 2012 Open Spaces Assessment in the preparation of the SADPD.

Role in the preparation of the SADPD

2. The 2012 Open Spaces Assessment is an integral component of the Green Spaces Strategy which, with its technical appendices, forms the principal evidence underpinning Policy REC 1.
3. The 2012 Assessment involved a new, comprehensive survey of open space sites.
4. Sites are categorised under the following typologies/types: Parks and Gardens, Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, Green Corridors, Outdoor Sports facilities, amenity green space, provision for children and teenagers, allotments and community gardens, churchyards and cemeteries, country parks and accessible countryside on the urban fringes and civic spaces.
5. The survey was carried out with the involvement of Town and Parish Councils (regarding sites in their areas), Cheshire East Schools (regarding information on their facilities and the use of them by outside clubs). The Cheshire East Council Green Spaces team, Sports Development team and Countryside and Public Rights of Way team also provided information for the Assessment.
6. Summary Reports were prepared for each settlement addressing each typology. These Summary Reports were included in the 2013 Green Spaces Strategy document and have been updated in subsequent iterations of the Strategy including its 2020 update [ED 18B].

Making representations about the Open Spaces Assessment

7. As set out in the Consultation Statement Part II [ED 56a] (¶¶2.8-2.21), there were separate consultations on three iterations of the draft plan prior to submission. These were:
 - First Draft SADPD (2018) (Regulation 18 consultation);

- Initial Publication Draft SADPD (2019) (Regulation 19 consultation); and
 - Revised Publication Draft SADPD (2020) (Regulation 19 consultation).
8. During each of these consultation stages, the draft plan was published for consultation, alongside the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. In addition, all the proposed submission documents were published at each consultation stage. These proposed submission documents included the Green Space Strategy Update report:
- The Green Space Strategy Update 2018 [FD 18] supported the First Draft SADPD;
 - The Green Space Strategy Update 2019 [PUB 18] supported the initial Publication Draft SADPD; and
 - The Green Space Strategy Update 2020 [ED 18] supported the Revised Publication Draft SADPD.
9. Each of the Green Space Strategy Update documents include a section on “Background Evidence”, which explains the role of the 2012 Open Space Assessment and provides a direct link to the Open Spaces Assessment on the council’s website. As an example, the Green Space Strategy Update 2020 [ED 18] includes this information at ¶¶3.54-3.57.
10. At each consultation stage, representations could be made on the draft plan itself, the Sustainability Appraisal, and the Habitats Regulations Assessment. In addition, representations could be submitted on any of the supporting documents, but the council asked that these be related to the resulting paragraph, policy or site in the draft plan.
11. This is set out in ¶3.5 of the consultation guidance notes¹ published at each of the Regulation 19 consultation stages to assist people in making their representations effectively. This states:
- “You can also submit representations on any of the supporting documents, but it would be helpful if you would relate these representations to the resulting paragraph, policy or site in the SADPD.”*
12. Therefore, representations could be made on the 2012 Open Spaces Assessment by relating these to the relevant policy (in this case Policy REC 1) and some representations did directly refer to the 2012 Open Spaces Assessment, including those submitted by Avison Young on behalf of PH Properties² (ref PBD1626) and JWPC Ltd on behalf of Gates, Taylor, Lenihan and Ikin³ (ref RPD782).

¹ The initial Publication Draft SADPD consultation guidance note is available at <https://cheshireeast-consult.objective.co.uk/file/5460542> and the Revised Publication Draft SADPD consultation guidance note is available at <https://cheshireeast-consult.objective.co.uk/file/5710724>

² https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/representations/1187009-PH-Properties-PBD.pdf

³ https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/representations/1255655-Gates-Taylor-Lenihan-Ikin-RPD.pdf

Availability of the Open Spaces Assessment in the plan preparation process

13. The Open Spaces Assessment 2012 is available on the council's website⁴. It can be found by searching for "open spaces assessment" from the search function which is available on most pages on the council's website.
14. It can also be found from the Local Plan webpage⁵ by following the links to "Local Plan Research and Evidence", then "Open spaces and sports", then "Open Spaces Assessment".
15. The Open Spaces Assessment has been available on the website and could be found using the above means at all times during the preparation of the SADPD dating back to 2016. In addition, there is a direct link to the 2012 Open Spaces Assessment from the each of Green Space Strategy Update documents as referred to above.
16. As part of the council's ongoing maintenance and improvements to its website, the URL (web address) of the Open Spaces Assessment page has been changed and the link in each of the Green Space Strategy Update documents no longer works. However, the document is still available⁶ and can be found by searching or looking on the Local Plan Research and Evidence page as detailed above.
17. The council has reviewed the audit trail of its website and can confirm that the URL (web address) of the Open Spaces Assessment page was first changed on 30th October 2020 and the direct link in the Green Space Strategy Update did not work from that date. Once the Strategic Planning Team had become aware that the link was broken, it was arranged for the web address of the page to revert back to its previous address on 9th November 2020. Consequently, the direct link in the Green Spaces Strategy Update was working again from that date.
18. Unfortunately, the web address of the page was changed again on 13th April 2021 and the link in the Green Space Strategy Update became broken once again from that date.
19. At all times during each of the Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultations listed above, the Open Spaces Assessment 2012 has been available and could be found on the council's website using the search function or by looking on the "Local Plan Research and Evidence" page.
20. In addition, the direct link in the "Background Evidence" section of the relevant Green Space Strategy Update was working at all times during each of the consultations, with the exception of the Revised Publication Draft SADPD consultation 2020, when the link was broken for a short time between 26th

⁴ www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

⁵ www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/localplan

⁶ https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/research_and_evidence/open_spaces_assessment_2012.aspx

October 2020 (the start date of the consultation) and 9th November 2021 (when the web page address reverted back to the version referenced by the link in the Green Space Strategy Update). The direct link in the Green Space Strategy Update 2020 [ED 18] was then working for the remainder of the consultation period (9th November 2021 – 23rd December 2021) which was in excess of the minimum 6 week representations period specified in the Regulations.

21. Supporting consultation materials for the Revised Publication Draft SADPD consultation also included telephone and email contact details where people could obtain further information or assistance in making representations. The council would have been able to assist people in locating the 2012 Open Spaces Assessment if asked. These contact details were provided on the consultation portal, the printed representations form, the statement of the representations procedure, and the consultation guidance note. In particular, ¶3.15 of the consultation guidance note states:

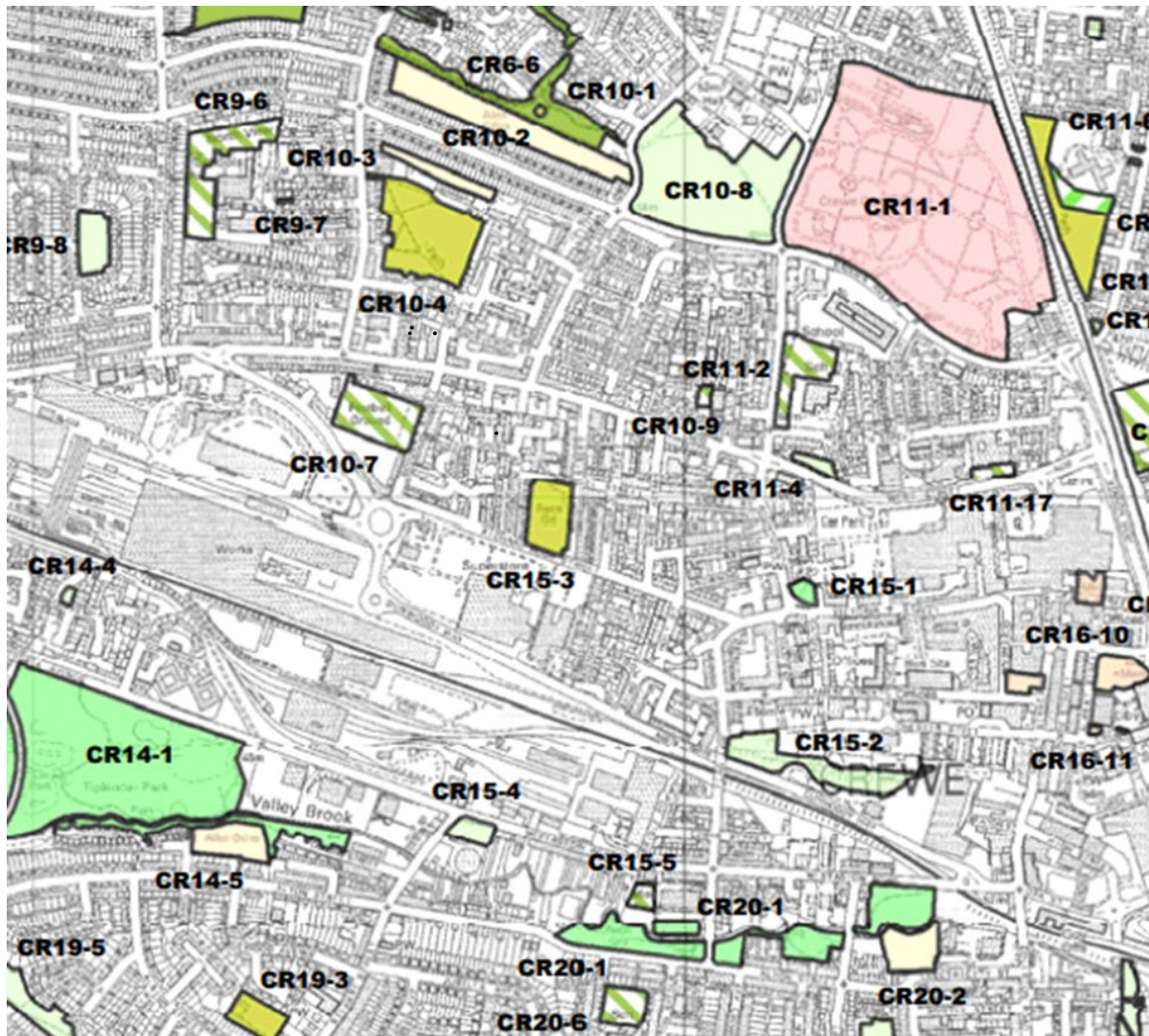
“For further information and assistance with submitting representations, please contact the Strategic Planning Team by email localplan@cheshireeast.gov.uk or telephone 01270 685893 (please leave a message).”

Information on specific sites

22. This section sets out information on each relevant site listed in the MIQs (Q172c and Q178), including Land off Spring Gardens, Macclesfield.

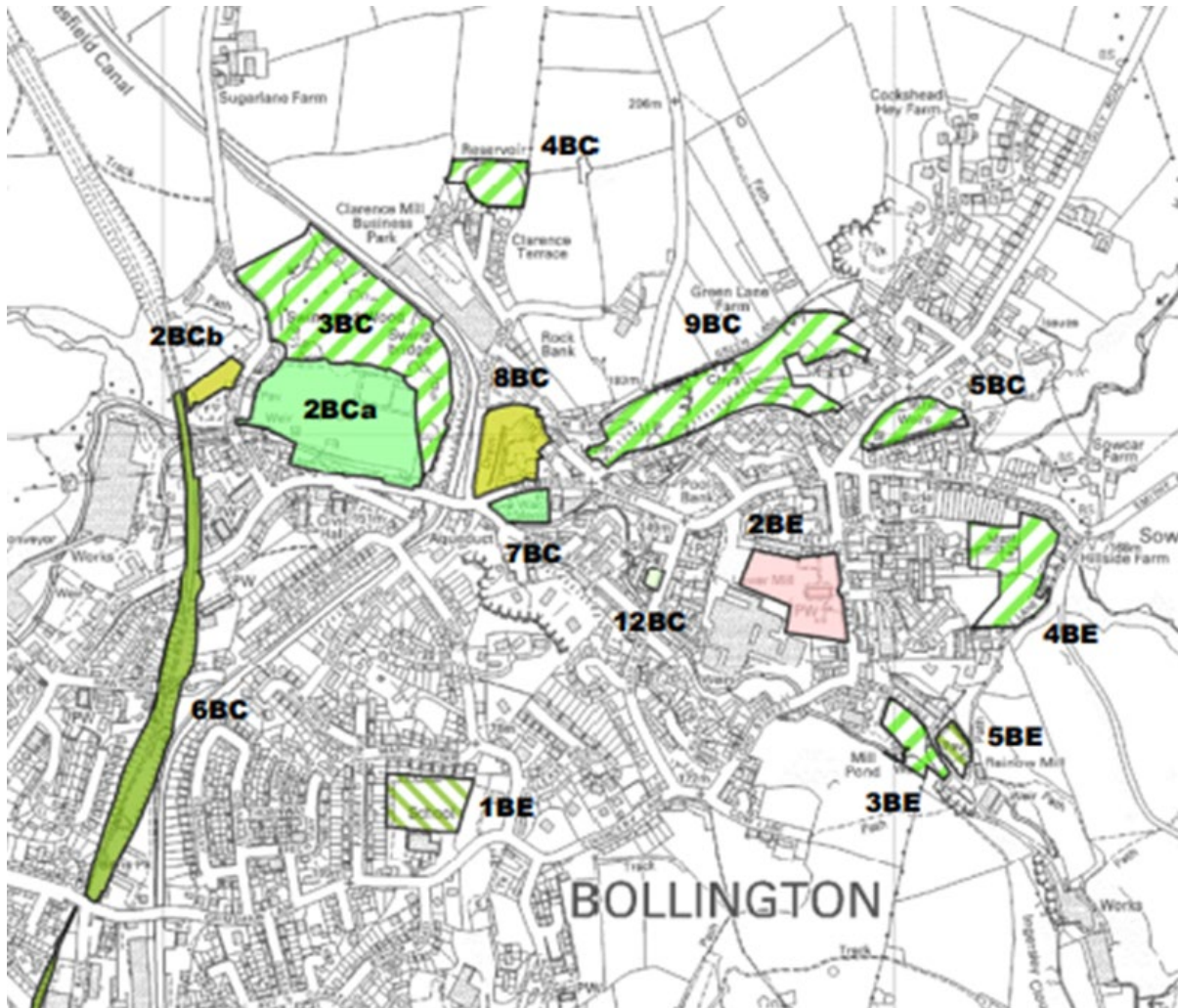
Goddard Street, Crewe

23. This is an area identified as Protected Open Space type 04 Outdoor Sport facility CR10-7 in the Open Spaces Assessment on the [Crewe North open space map](#). It is listed on page 20 of the [Crewe Summary Report](#).



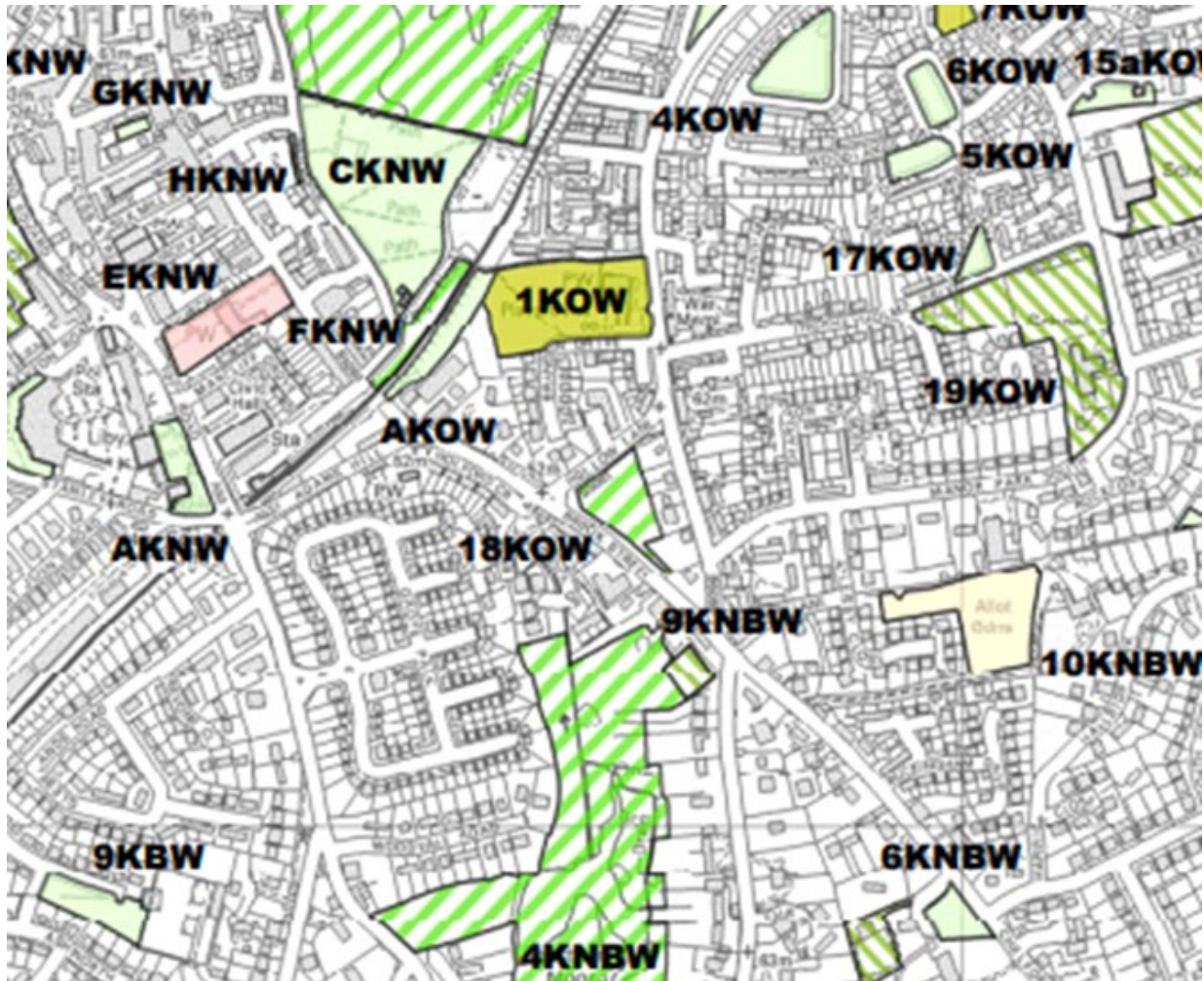
Dyers Court Mill Pond, Bollington

24. This is an area identified as Protected Open Space type 02 Natural and Semi natural urban green space 3BE on the [Bollington open space map](#). It is listed on page 6 of the [Local Service Centres Summary Report](#).



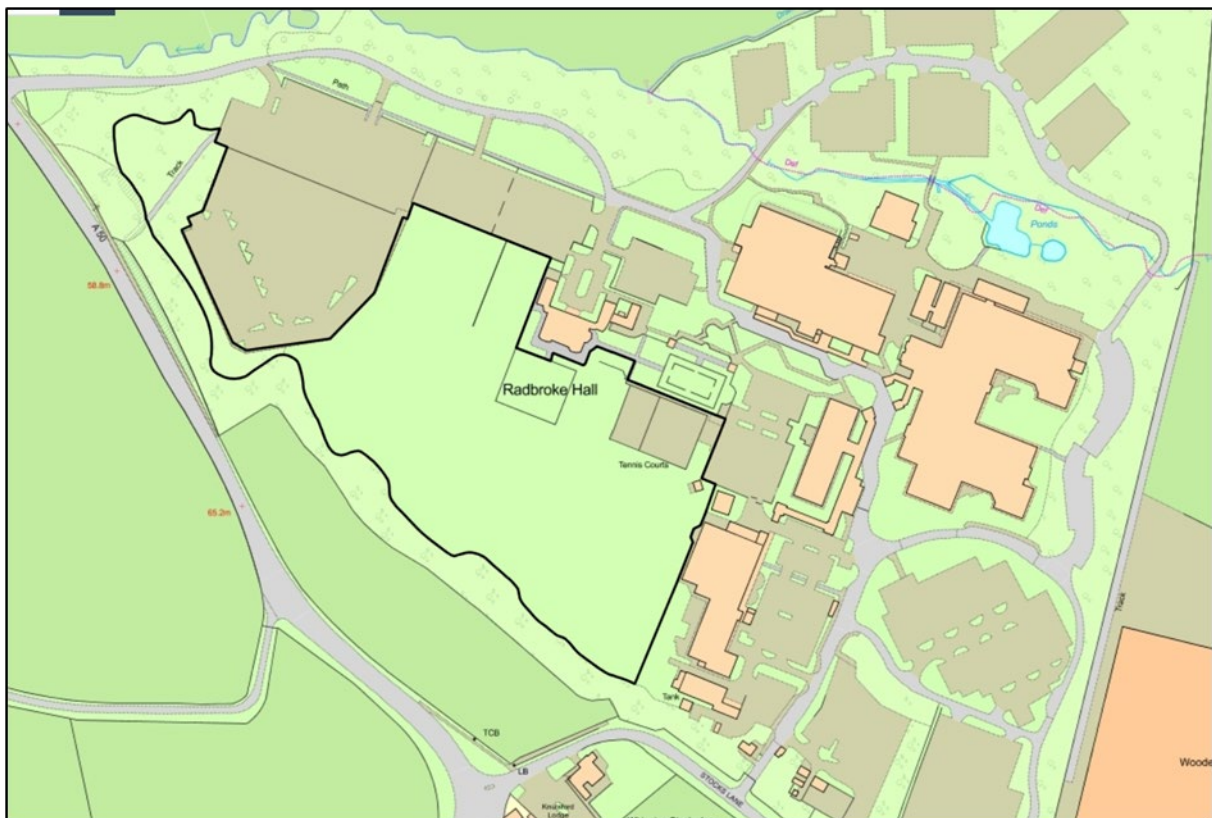
Land bounded by Brook Street, Hollow Lane and Mobberley Road, Knutsford

25. This is an area identified as Protected Open Space type 02 Natural and Semi natural urban green space 18KOW Open Spaces Assessment on the [Knutsford open space map](#). Type 02 Natural and Semi natural urban green space is addressed on pages 4-5 of the [Knutsford Summary Report](#).



Car park on land at Radbroke Hall, near Knutsford

26. In response to a representation to the First Draft of the SADPD from Barclays about this site in 2018, the Council agreed that the open space designation should be reduced, and the boundary of the site amended on the Policies Map. However, this change to the Policies Map was not followed through. The Council would therefore propose that this change is now made by way of a proposed main modification. The map below shows how this designation would appear on the policies map with the removal of the car park area in the north east part of the site.



Land to the rear of 43 London Road North, Poynton

27. This is an area identified as Protected Open Space type 02 Natural and Semi natural urban green space 16PWW on the [Poynton open space map](#). Type 02 Natural and Semi natural urban green space is addressed on pages 3-4 of the [Poynton Summary Report](#).



Land at Waterworks House, Dingle Lane, Sandbach

28. This is an area identified as Protected Open Space type 02 Natural and Semi natural urban green space S23 on the [Sandbach open space map](#). It is listed on page 4 of the [Sandbach Summary Report](#).



29. Development is currently under construction on the site and, once completed, an amendment to the Policies Map will be made through a Local Plan update to exclude these areas of new development.

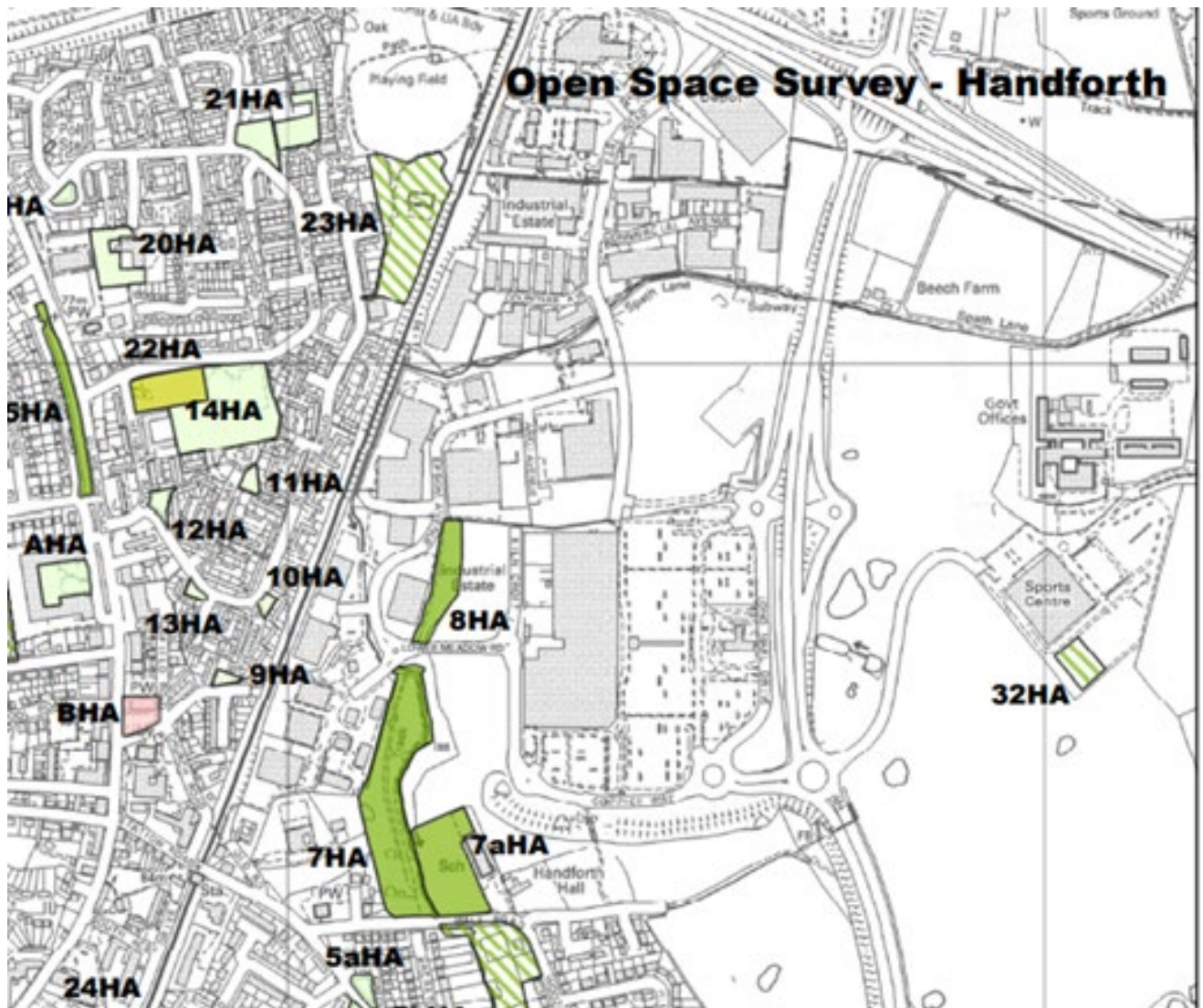
Land at Pownall Park, Wilmslow

30. This relates to two areas of Protected Open Space, type 04 outdoor sports facilities 3aWMS and type 05 amenity green space 3cWMS on the [Wilmslow open space map](#). Type 04 Outdoor sports facilities are addressed on pages 6-8 of the [Wilmslow Summary Report](#). Type 05 amenity green space is addressed on pages 8-9 of the Report.



Total Fitness, Handforth

31. This is an area identified as Protected Open Space type 04 Sports facilities site 32HA on the [Handforth open spaces map](#). Type 04 Sports facilities are addressed on pages 5-6 of the [Handforth summary report](#). The site is listed in Appendix B, page 14.



Land off Spring Gardens, Macclesfield

This is an area identified as Protected Open Space type 05 amenity open space 12MB on the [Macclesfield North open space map](#). Type 05 amenity open space is addressed on pages 9-10 of the [Macclesfield Summary Report](#).

