

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

Fylde Borough GI Baseline Overview



Aerial Image of Key Settlements within the South of Fylde Borough

(Source: Bing Maps. Photograph taken 2010)

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Summary

Geographic Overview

Located in the County of Lancashire in the North-West of England, the Fylde Peninsula lies in the heart of Fylde Borough and extends from the Ribble Estuary in the south to the River Wyre in the north (*Figure T1*).

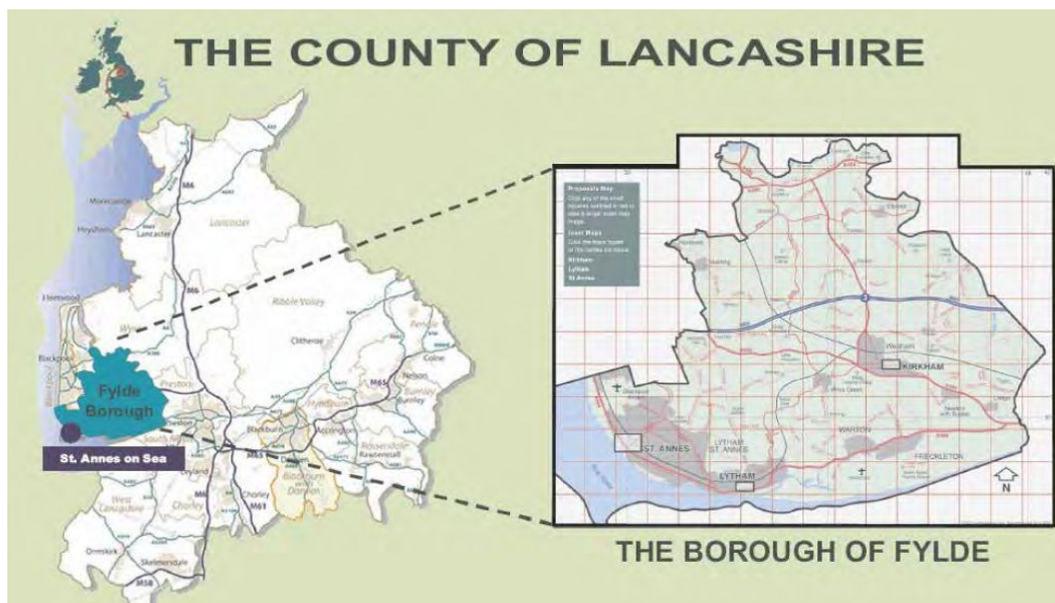


Figure T1: Location Plan of Fylde Borough within the context of Great Britain & Lancashire.

Source: Fylde Borough Council (2005), *Fylde Borough Local Plan as Altered*.

Fylde Borough covers 62 square miles, a large proportion of which is rural in character (*Figure T2*) comprising of pleasant villages and high-medium quality agricultural land. St. Annes, Lytham, Kirkham, Wesham, Freckleton & Warton are the principle urban settlements in the Borough.

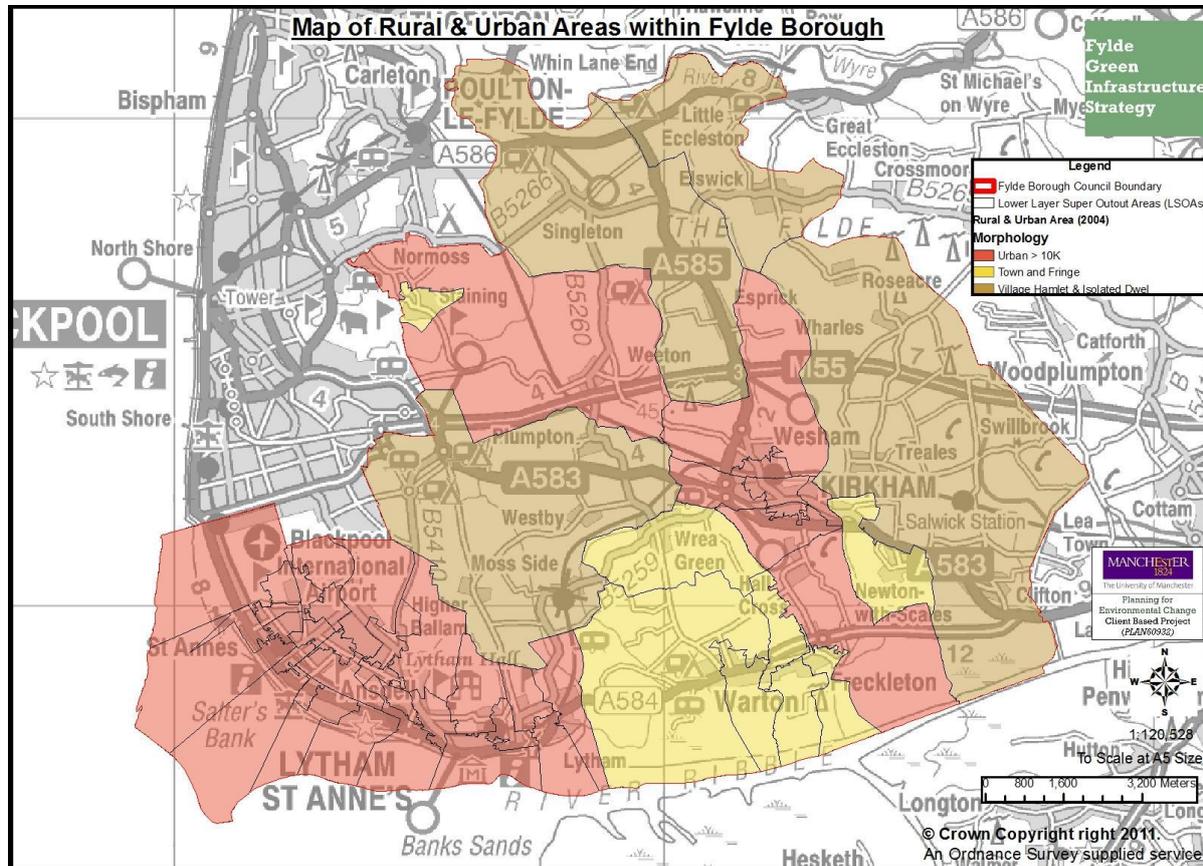


Figure T2: Map of Rural and Urban Areas within Fylde Borough

Geology & Topology

The underlying bedrock geology of Fylde Borough dates from the Triassic period and comprises predominantly of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, while the eastern corner of the borough along the river Ribble is underlain by a solid geology of sandstone and conglomerate (*Figure T3*). This is in-keeping with the majority of the west of Lancashire which is formed of Permian and Triassic sandstones and mudstones. The sedimentary lithology of this bedrock means it exhibits a wide and uncertain range of engineering behaviour as material may range from sand to a moderately weak rock which can be hard enough for building, yet easy enough to "work".

These geological strata are covered by layers of glacial and fluvio-glacial sediments which date from the end of the Pleistocene Ice Age. These form a skin of superficial deposits, or drift, which in places are so thick as to eradicate all visual clues as to the nature of the underlying solid geology (Environmental Resource Management, 2000). An expanse of sand underlies the settlement of Lytham St Annes, while narrow bands of peat are interspersed across the borough forming various areas of mossland (*Figure T3*). The majority of the borough is underlain by diamicton till – a very poorly sorted glacial sediment which is recorded to consist of grains of gravel size and larger i.e. > 2mm.

Fylde Borough is characterised by lowland topography which is predominantly flat but gradually begins to transform into soft, gently rolling landscapes in the north east of the borough. These undulations in the topography are a product of thick deposits of glacial drift, blown sand, peat, alluvium and silt.

The underlying layers of geology, combined with climate and topography, has a profound influence over the landscape and land-uses within Fylde Borough. For this GI strategy, the superficial drift geology is particularly important as it will impact on the type of soils and flora that are best suited to different areas. However these are not the only factors to have shaped the landscape; as it is the product of the intricate interplay of geology, land-use, wildlife, experience and human history (Countryside Agency, 2006).

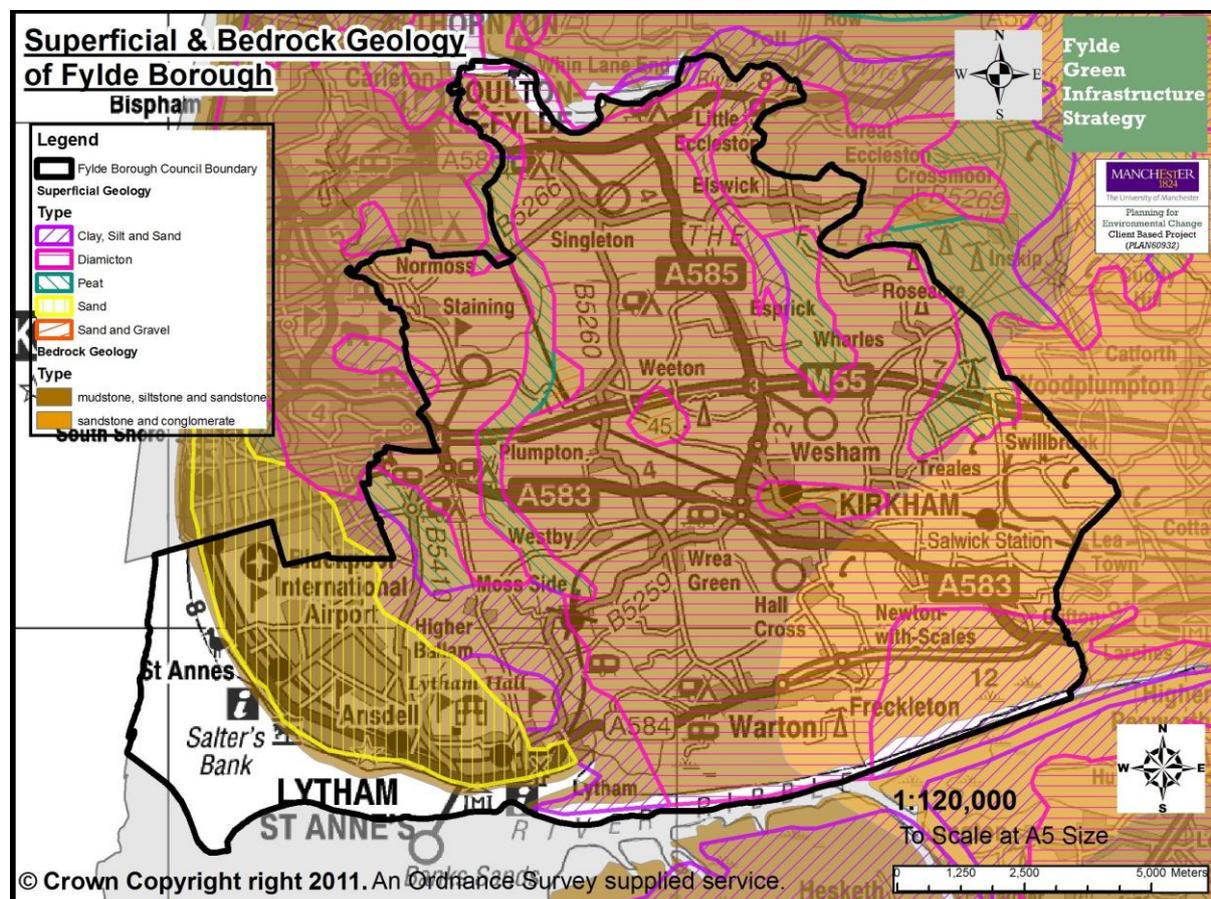


Figure T3: Map of Solid and Drift Geology within Fylde Borough

Source: BGS 1:625,000 Sheet – Obtained from Edina

Landscape Overview

The Landscape of the borough is predominantly lowland agricultural plain characterised by large arable fields whose generally poor drainage result in ponds that provide important wildlife habitats (Figure T4). Shelter belts of trees and estate woodland and modern societal infrastructure such as telecommunications masts, electricity pylons, roads and railtracks are all highly visible in the boroughs' flat landscape. Other notable aspects of the boroughs landscape are the mosslands on the fringes of Lytham and the coastal marshes of the Ribble Estuary (Environmental Resource Management, 2000).

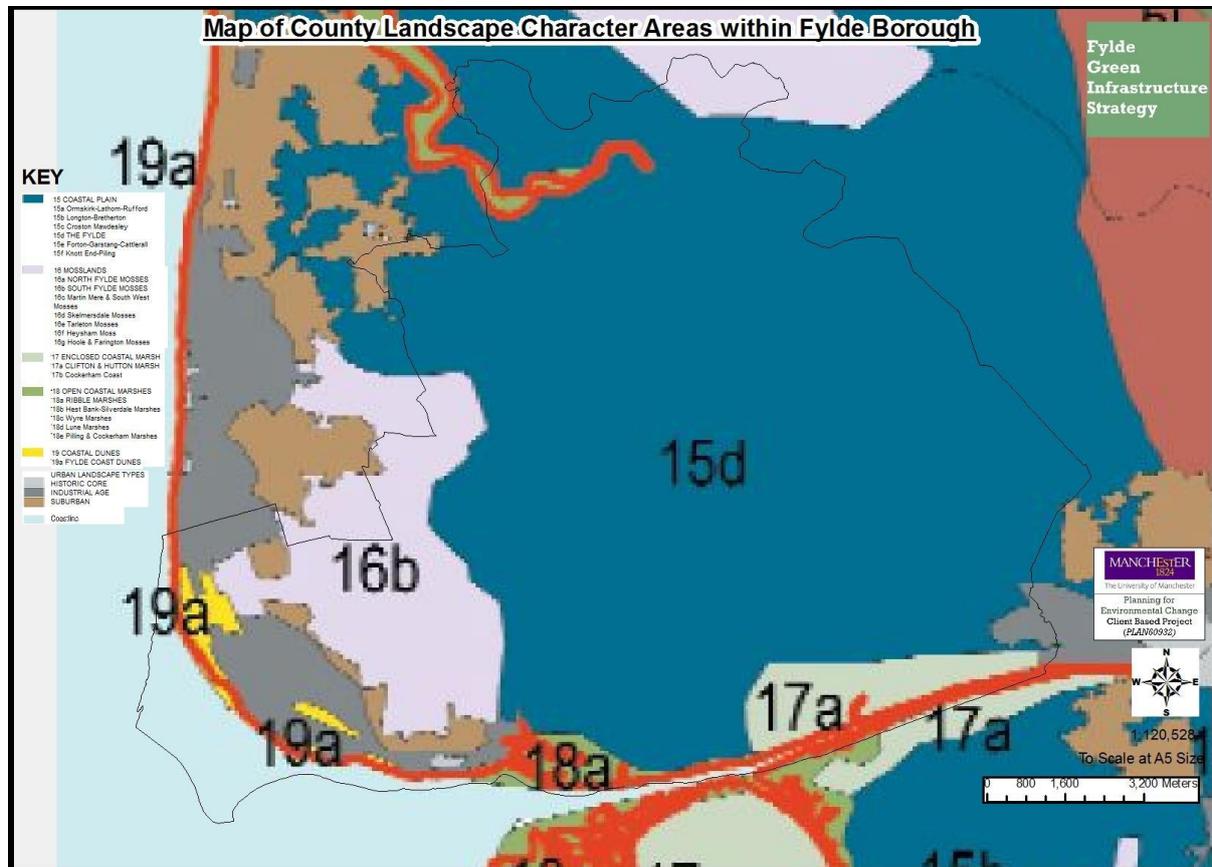


Figure T4: Landscape Character Areas (from the County Level Landscape Strategy's Character Assessment) within Fylde Borough. (Source: Environmental Resource Management, 2000)

At a national level, the borough's landscape is part of National Character Area 32 (formerly known as Joint Character Area) referred to as the 'Lancashire and Amounderness Plain' (Natural England, 2005). The key characteristics of this can be summarised as:

- Relatively flat and gently rolling plain broken by isolated hills
- Large scale agricultural landscape with a patchwork of pasture & arable fields & blocks of wind sculptured mixed woodland.
- Medium- to large-scale field pattern with a high density of field ponds to the east and extensive drainage systems of raised ditches and dykes to the west.
- Remnants of lowland mires and mosses in the west.
- Salt marshes are prominent at the head of estuaries.
- A rectilinear network of lanes and tracks, commonly without fences or hedges.
- Predominantly isolated brick farmsteads in rural areas with the main urban settlement concentrated in the planned Victorian coastal resorts and inland towns.

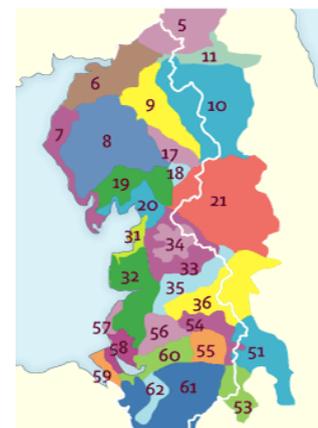


Figure T5: National Character Areas in the North-West

This picture builds on the landscape sketch set out in the Nature Conservation Profile for Lancashire Plain and Valleys Natural Area (Jerram, 1998) which notes the area as being characterised by:

- arable field margins, ditches and boundary hedgerows;
- lowland wet grasslands, including coastal and floodplain grazing marshes;
- isolated fragments of species-rich neutral grasslands, fragments of lowland raised bogs;
- small pockets of lowland heathland and acid grassland;
- large numbers of small field ponds throughout the coastal plain

Population & Society

According to the 2009 mid-year population estimates the Borough currently contains approximately 76,300 people. Approximately 59% of the population live within the main bulk of urban settlement which is located along the boroughs' South-Western coast. This is characterised by a pattern of ribbon development following and emanating from the A584. 23% of the population (16,758 people) are concentrated within the twin township of Lytham and St. Annes (*Figures T6 & T7*).

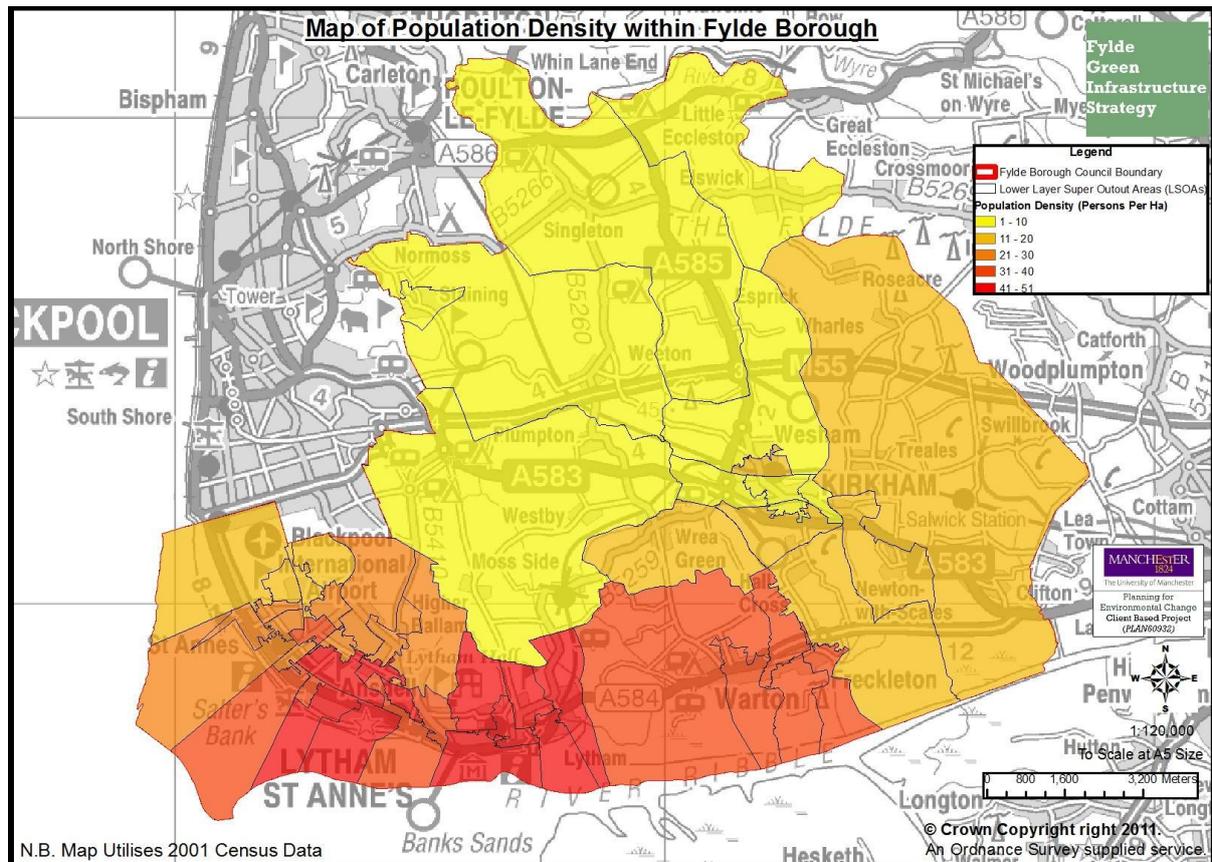


Figure T6: Map of Population Density by Lower Super Output Area

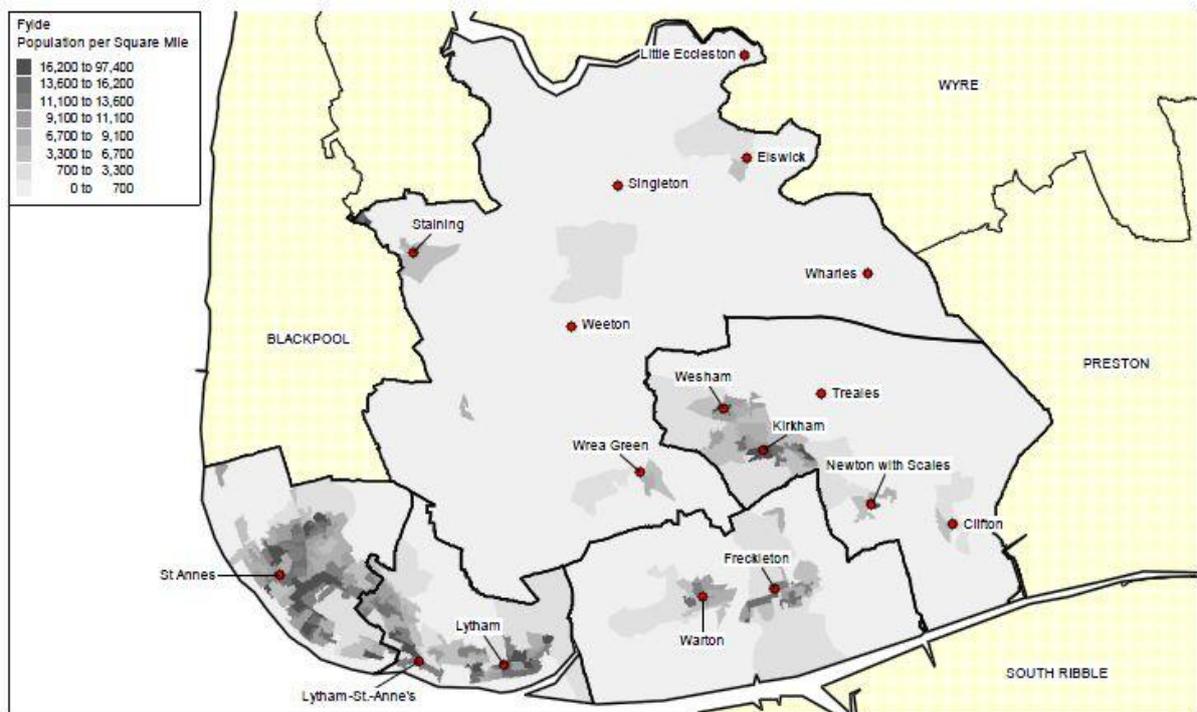


Figure T7: Map of Population per Square Mile in Fylde Borough (Source: FBC, 2008 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study: Strategy and Action Plan)

Though the natural population change in the borough is declining (i.e. the number of deaths significantly exceeds the number of births) this is counterbalanced by a steady stream of in-

migration of elderly people. This can be attributed to the attractiveness of the area, in particular Lytham St Anne's, as a place to retire. Consequently over 65s have consistently comprised 23-24% of the borough's population over the last two decades. This high proportion of elderly people is considerably above the national and regional averages and alongside increasing life expectancy presents a challenge in terms of increased demand on local health and social services. Figure T8 shows the age structure of the ward and its geographic distribution and highlights the high percentage of over 65s concentrated along the south-west coastline. Ensuring provision of and accessibility to GI is key to ensuring a high quality of life and environment for all elderly residents in the borough.

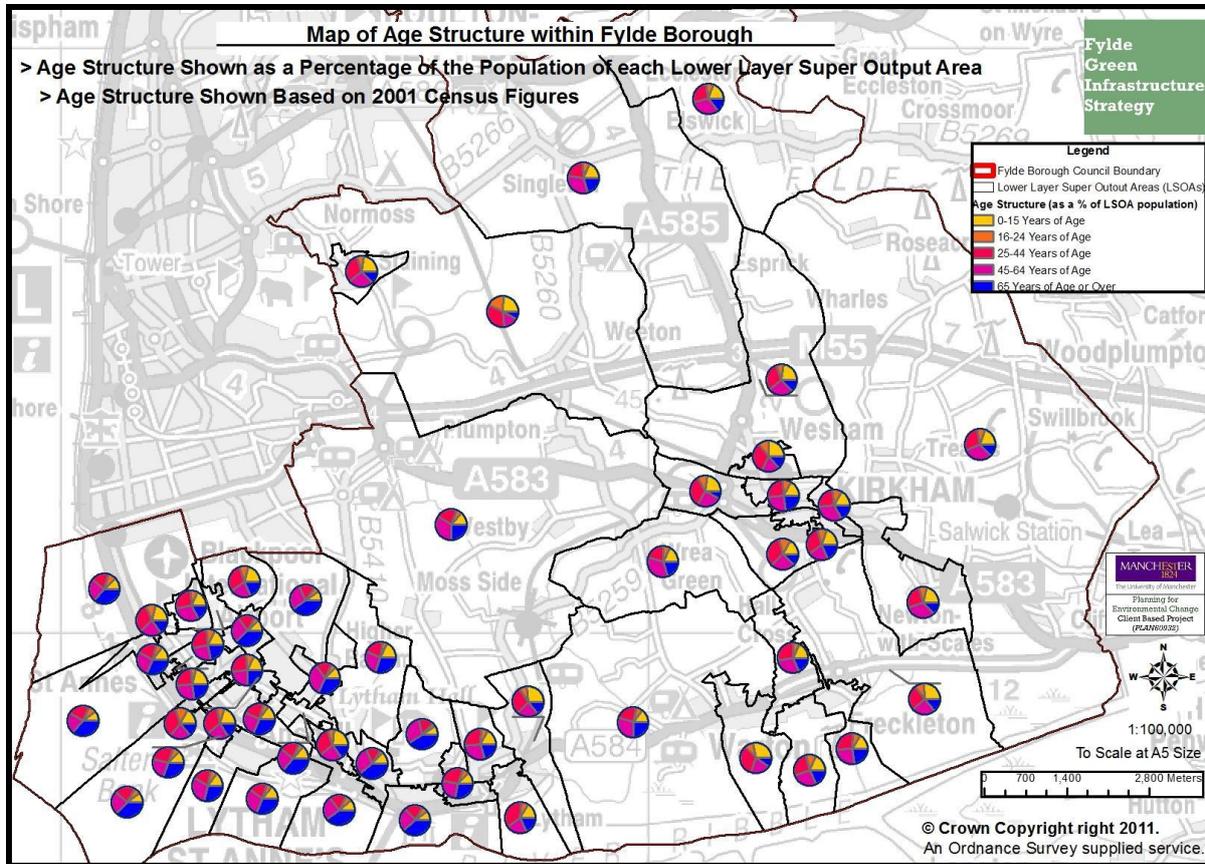


Figure T8: Map of Age Structure within Fylde Borough

The majority of citizens within the borough considered themselves in 'good health' in the 2001 census. St Annes has the highest number of people in 'not good health' (Figure T9). Though this undoubtedly correlates with the high proportion of persons above retirement age in this area, when mapped against health deprivation rankings (Figure T10) the area also exhibits relatively high level of health deprivation suggesting the responses are symptomatic of broader health issues.

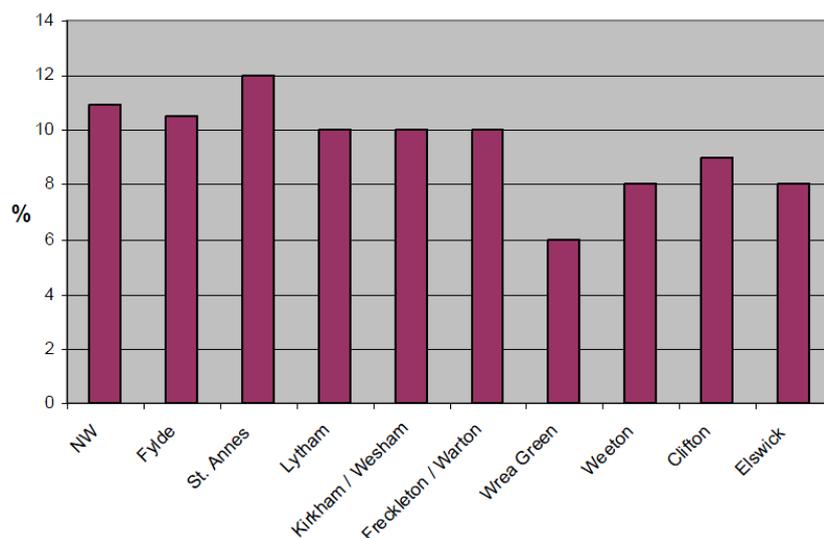


Figure T9: Bar-Chart of Percentage of Residents in North West, Fylde Borough and Fylde Towns and Villages classifying themselves in 'not good' health

(Source: Spatial Portrait of Fylde, 2010; Data derived from 2001 Census via Office for National Statistics)

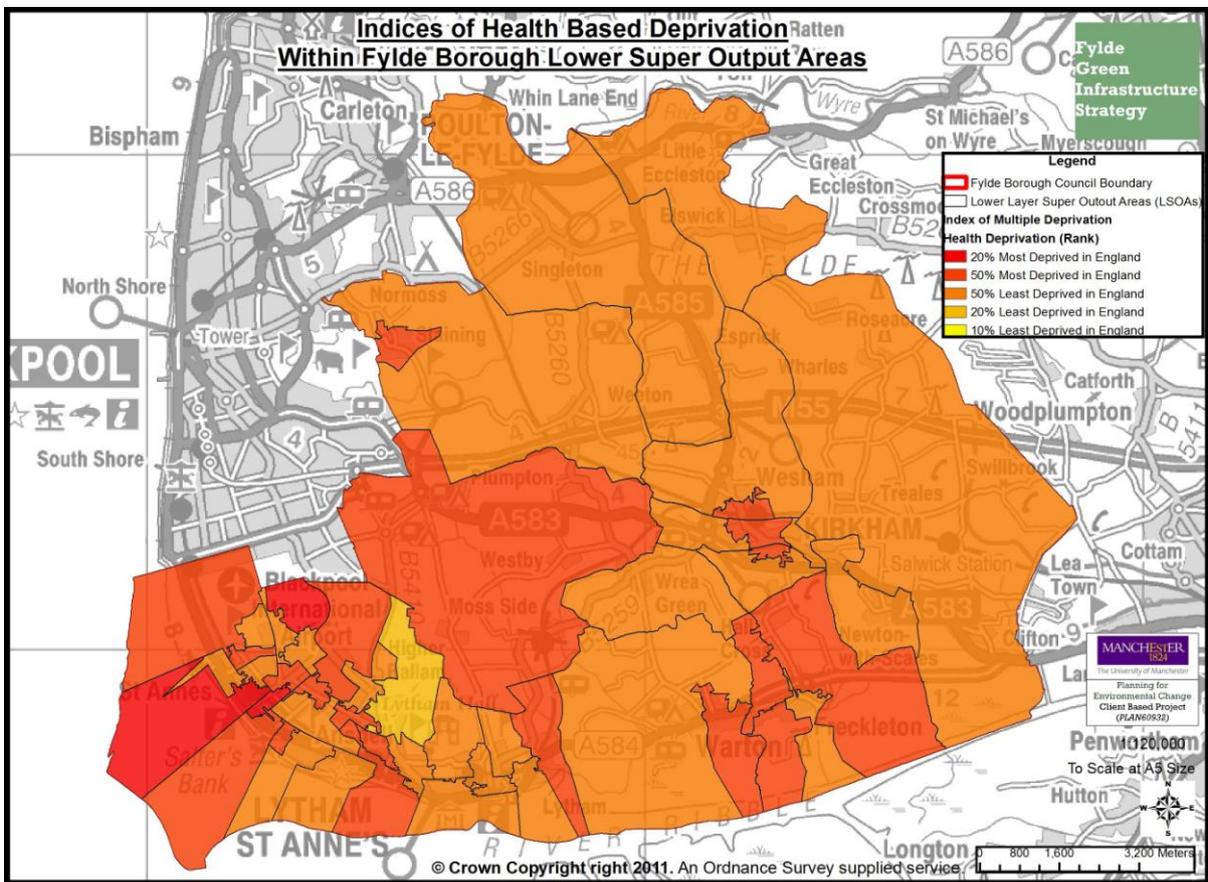


Figure T10: Map of Health Deprivation within Fylde Borough

The prevalence of obesity and the varying air quality of the borough are two further key indicators that play a key role in assessing the quality of the living environment and also indicate where GI provision can play a contributory role in reducing the effects/incidence of these.

Figure T11 suggests that Fylde has the lowest rates of adult obesity within Lancashire, however Figure T12 highlights that this picture is geographically differentiated one, as the borough’s most south-eastern middle super output areas [MSOAs] bordering Preston containing Clifton, Freckleton and Warton exhibit levels of obesity above the County average. Similarly, the MSOA area south of Blackpool containing the northern housing estates of St Annes has an above average percentage of obese adults despite the presence of a number of playing fields, cricket club and St Annes Old Links Golf Course. Thus it is possible to infer that there may be a qualitative or distributional issue relating to the standard and location of these facilities, or in the case of the golf-club, issues surrounding access to privatised leisure land whereby membership fees may exceed the reasonable means of local residents. This suggests that any GI intervention should seek to encourage and improve access to (physically and financially), and the quality and range of outdoor recreational facilities should

Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours: Model Based Estimate for Obesity (2003-2005)	
District / Borough	% of Obese Persons
Burnley	24.4
Chorley	25.8
Fylde	22.4
Hyndburn	26.2
Lancaster	23.5
Pendle	25.3
Preston	24.5
Ribble Valley	23.2
Rossendale	24.5
South Ribble	24.8
West Lancashire	24.6
Wyre	24.2
Lancashire Average	24.5



Figure T13: Active Places in Fylde Borough (Sport England Active Places Data)

target these areas. Figure T13 depicts active

places within the borough would seem to qualify this spatial deficiency of facilities in close proximity within the south-east of the borough and suggest more qualitative and access issues within the northern St Annes housing area as it depicts a number of facilities in the vicinity.

Figure T11: Obesity in Lancashire. Data extracted from ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Website. Data compiled by NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

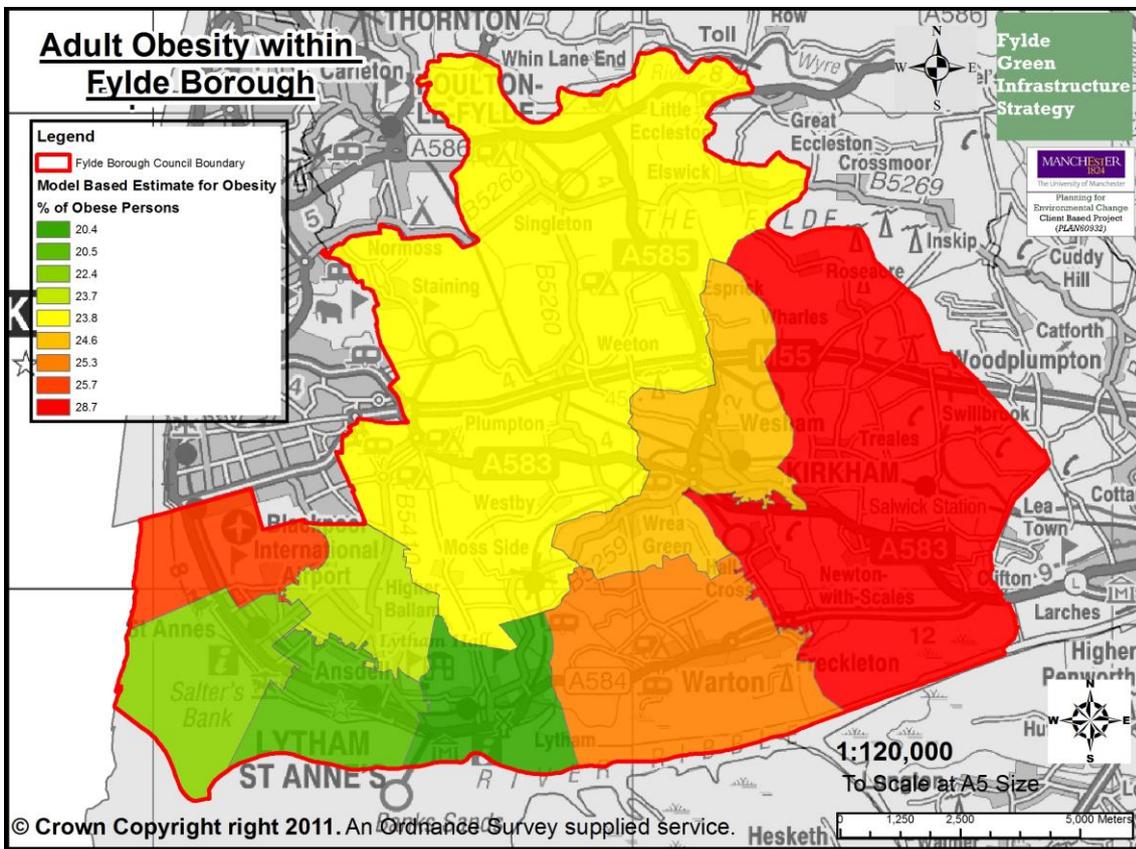


Figure T12: Map of Adult Obesity within Fylde Borough by Middle Super Output Areas [MSOAs]

Figure T14 indicates that air quality is poorest within the LSOAs around Kirkham, Warton and the northern housing estates of St Annes. For the latter this correlates with the presence of Blackpool airport while in Kirkham LSOAs it will mostly relate to the presence of key transport infrastructure intersections. In Warton, it may well relate to traffic and operations associated with the BAE Systems Aerospace Engineering site. Greening key transport routes and sites could help reduce the diffusion of emissions and improve air quality within these areas.

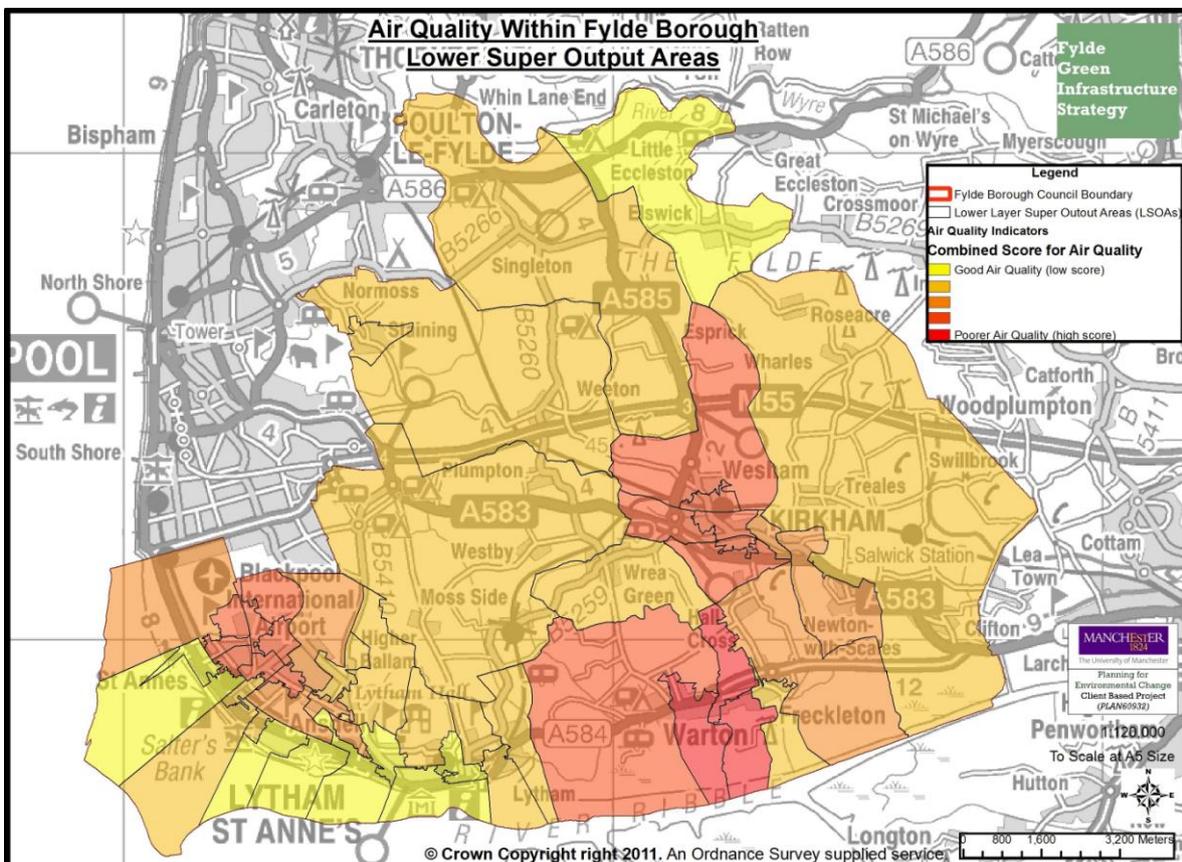


Figure T14: Map of Air Quality within Fylde Borough (Data extracted from ONS)

All these health-related issues are most likely inter-connected with the relatively high levels of employment, income and education related deprivation in and around LSOAs spanning from St Annes towards Blackpool (see Figure T15 for Combined Deprivation Indicators which confirms and reinforces this pattern). GI should therefore be promoted as part of a holistic response to improve healthy living and quality of life in these and other similar areas such as Kirkham and Warton.

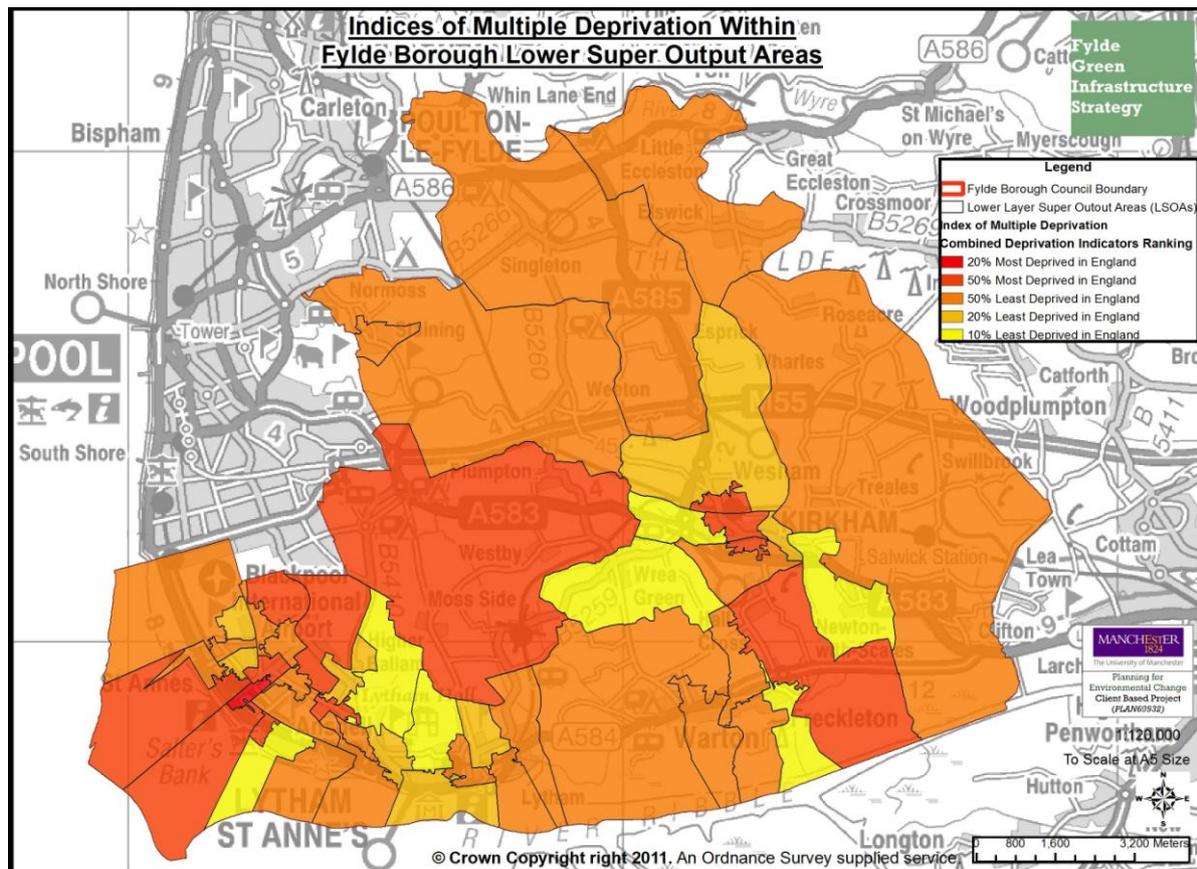


Figure T15: Map of Multiple Deprivation within Fylde Borough

(Based on the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation)

Yet in general, the Place survey¹ indicates that five residents in six were satisfied with their local area as a place to live (86%). This is reflected in the generally positive ranking of Fylde's lower super output areas in the 2007 index of multiple deprivation and would suggest a high quality living environment with concomitant health benefits (Figure T15). The AMR's analysis of household income and car ownership combined with Figure T15 indicates that whilst the borough is generally an affluent area, there are still small pockets of significant deprivation which suffer from continuing problems which need to be addressed. These pockets are evident in St Annes, Kirkham and various more remote rural communities. Amongst the most mentioned local priorities highlighted by the Place survey was the need to improve activities for teenagers followed by accessibility issues relating to road and pavement maintenance (FBC, 2010a). Expanding and improving access to existing GI assets whilst also maintaining and enhancing these can provide a tangible social, educational and environmental benefit. Indeed, research reveals that people who live within 500m of accessible green space are 24% more likely to meet recommended levels of physical activity. Reducing the number of sedentary individuals in the population by just 1 per cent could reduce morbidity and mortality rates valued at £1.44 billion for the UK (Natural England, 2010).

¹ The Place Survey was a national postal survey undertaken between October 2008 and January 2009, which asked people to give their views on their local area in terms of quality of life, community safety and satisfaction with local services. In Fylde, 1,224 people completed the place survey (1.6% of the population). So whilst this provides a strong indicative picture of attitudes, it is by no means comprehensive and cannot be considered to be representative of the opinions of all social strata within the borough. Indeed, it is likely that more deprived social groups present in the ward did not have the time, education or will to respond.

Economic Overview

Fylde Borough hosts two regionally significant employment sites in the form of the British Aerospace Complex at Warton and the BNFL Springfield nuclear processing plant near Clifton. The *Fylde Borough Economic Development Strategy and Action-Plan 2008-2021* [FEDs] (GVA Grimley, 2008) notes that the rural location and high value nature of these high-skilled manufacturing sectors has the potential to promote higher value and quality businesses and local environment.

Whitehills Park is strategically located directly on the M55 motorway on the borough's western boundary with Blackpool. Phases 1 and 2 of the Whitehills have experienced strong uptake by businesses and industry, establishing it as one of the prime employment locations in the borough. There is the opportunity for GI to enhance the appearance, standing and biodiversity of this area if further development took place.



Photograph of development plot and neighbouring offices at Whitehills Park

A large proportion of the Borough is characterised by rural farming operations ranging from market gardening and intensive animal rearing to cereal production and dairy farming. This functional agricultural sector should continue to be encouraged to steward the landscape, diversify and facilitate the multifunctional use of land. Fylde also contains a healthy element of growth orientated sectors such as computer and business services alongside its traditionally strong sectors of tourism and the visitor economy (GVA Grimley, 2008). This latter aspect is particularly pertinent to Fylde Borough's aspirations and GI and will be examined in further detail in a separate section.

FEDS also highlights that whilst there is a sufficient volume of employment land to absorb forecast future demand, the overall supply of sites across the Borough is constrained by low demand and their poor qualitative state with the stock of sites and premises lacking commercial appeal to the target growth sectors and exhibiting a range of environmental disincentives to investment. GI offers the potential to help overcome some of these external environmental disincentives and restore investor confidence.

A fundamental deficiency of the FEDs is that it overlooks GI, failing to highlight, align or promote its value to regeneration and economic development objectives as highlighted by the NWDA's 2008 report *The Economic Value of Green Infrastructure*. Indeed GI can be synchronised with and help deliver key aims of fostering strong and vibrant town centres, improving the quality of employment land available, growing a wider business portfolio and establishing high value Tourism.

Tourism & The Visitor Economy

Fylde Coast has long been a popular tourist destination. Blackpool, famous for its Pleasure Beach, piers and illuminations is the most popular resort in Britain and it remains the areas' most prominent attraction with its Tower and circus drawing-in 483,822 visitors in 2009 (Visit England, 2010). Contrastingly, Lytham St Annes provides a differentiated visitor experience, offering a more traditional and upmarket seaside resort that is renowned internationally for its golf-courses and regionally for its rich heritage, sandy beaches and array of wildlife.

FEDS states that:

'Tourism in Fylde must be built on a number of identified 'pillars' including the investment at Blackpool International Airport, the wider regeneration of Blackpool as a tourist destination, Ribble Estuary Regional Park, Classic Resorts / Town Renaissance across Fylde and the leisure offer. Attractive coastlines and estuary environments and resorts such as St Annes and Lytham are important to the borough's tourism and visitor economy'.

GI provision is particularly resonant with regard to ongoing projects to promote and enhance Lytham St. Annes as a vibrant yet traditional Victorian resort and the Ribble Estuary Park as a major wildlife site attraction.

Leafy Lytham & St Annes Classic Resort

St Annes-on-Sea was developed in the late 19th century as an upmarket seaside resort and is now the primary key service centre within Fylde Borough being the focus for business,

retailing and tourism activity (GVA Grimley,

2010a). The settlement of Lytham pre-dates St Annes, and is rich in cultural heritage. Renowned for its speciality shops and boutiques, the town is nicknamed "Leafy Lytham" because of the large number of mature trees along many of the it's streets. Together, the two towns serve as a destination in themselves.



Photo of the Promenade along St. Annes-on-Sea

Lytham St Annes is uniquely positioned to capitalise on the regeneration and rebranding of Blackpool by providing complementary accommodation and attractions that are more refined and genteel in tone. This image is embodied in the 2003 Classic Resorts Strategy which set out the positioning of St Annes as a "Classic Resort" of fine Edwardian/Victorian lineage and focuses on high value tourism. Indeed, Lytham St Annes is distinguished by the quality of its environment which is evident in its peaceful parks, beautiful gardens, fine promenade, sandy beach and archaic sand dunes.

Maintaining and building upon this quality to enhance the visitor experience is thus key. Incorporating GI into the regeneration of the built environment is a vital component that can catalyse this helping to improve the vitality of the town centre by reducing vacancies and increasing footfall. Yet it must be applied sensitively so as to not conflict with open views of the coastal landscape. GI can create important shade, draw wildlife into the town and provide visual appeal which will help create a vibrant town centre and strengthen the visitor economy.

Ribble Coast & Wetlands Regional Park



Photo of Lytham Estuary. This highlights the sensitive balance achieved between Public Access & Nature Conservation.

The Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park (RCW) is an internationally significant wetland habitat that encompasses the Ribble Estuary and an inland area which takes in the Martin Mere and Mere Sands Wood nature reserves and is one of the best sites for wildfowl in the UK with over 270,000 migratory birds every year (RSPB, 2010). The Ribble Estuary Park Business Plan identified St Annes as a key visitor Gateway for the Development with the RSPB Discovery Centre at Fairhaven Lake providing a vital focus. The park is a significant new visitor destination of regional significance that diversifies and adds value to the visitor economy. Moreover the thoughtful and intelligent application of GI in habitat management, creation and neighbouring corridors offers the potential to strengthen and enhance the biodiversity of the site. The Lytham St Annes 2020 Vision (Drinnan et al, 2009) reinforces that incorporation of GI into the RCW 'will have a role to play in creating an attractive 'green lung' along the coastline for these key urban areas'.

Both of these projects epitomise the need to protect the coast and take maximum advantage of the associated public realm and natural assets. Within this GI can contribute to improving place and unlocking the potential of the Coast to be an even more significant attraction and/thus adding value to the visitor economy.

Other key aspects that span tourism and GI are the wide range of sports and recreation facilities within the borough. These range from outdoor park facilities such as the tennis courts and bowls lawns at Lowther Gardens to sailing dinghies, rowing boats, motor boats and water skiing at Fairhaven Lake. It is also important to note the presence, significance and impact of the four golf courses within the Borough (the Royal Lytham and St. Anne's, St. Anne's Old Links, Fairhaven and Lytham Green Drive). The fact that the 2012 Open Golf Championships are to be held at Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club offers not only a short-term economic value, but in its international media exposure, offers a legacy that could be exploited especially if GI can be used to enhance key gateway sites and viewpoints and add to the idyllic green imagery of the area. However the golf courses, whilst providing valuable open-space, do also create issues in terms of their care and maintenance (which can involve chemical pesticides harmful to biodiversity) and public access to the green space resource.

Another area of potential 'weakness', in the context of tourism offer is that there are very few formal 'visitor attractions' within rural areas of the borough, with no interpretation centres, farm attractions, and very few formal rural walks. As with the wider economic growth of Fylde there is a need to integrate tourism activity which is ongoing in urban Fylde with that across rural Fylde (promoting a balanced provision).

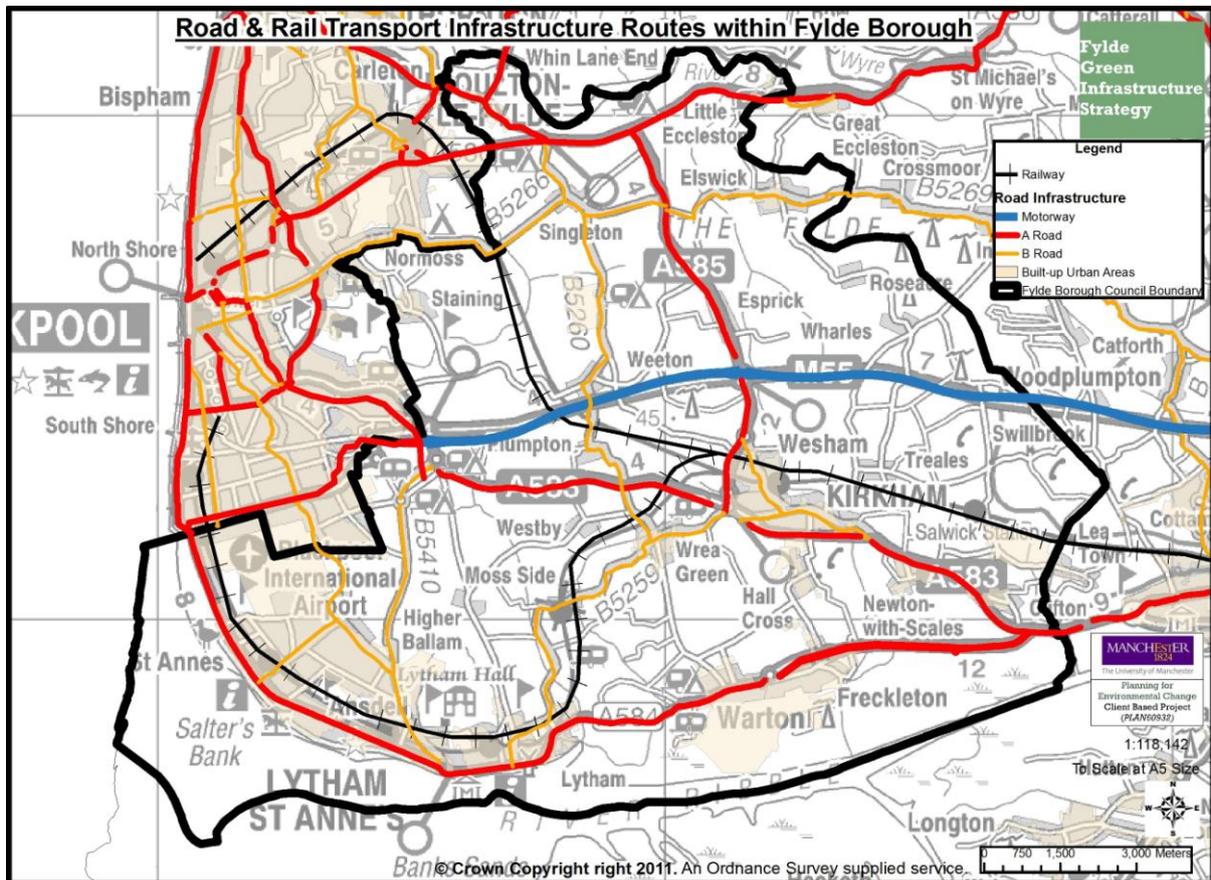


Figure T16: Map of Existing Road & Rail Transport Infrastructure Routes within Fylde Borough

The borough’s existing transport infrastructure (Figure T16) is currently sufficient to meet existing demand but there are some key deficiencies regarding road linkages and bottlenecks, public transport provision in rural areas, and optimising/maximising rail, cycling and footpath provision. The existing provision and some of the key issues are summarised by mode below:

Road Infrastructure: There are four major highways serving the borough which provide relatively strong East-West transport linkages. The M55 runs from Preston and the M6 in the east to the outskirts of Blackpool in the west. The A584 runs from the A583 near Clifton in the east along the south coast through Freckleton, Warton, Lytham and St Annes and on towards Blackpool coastline. The A585 (T) runs from Kirkham in a northerly direction to Fleetwood and is a key feeder road to the M55. However, it is often heavily congested at peak times. There are deficiencies within the north-south road linkages across Fylde which constrain connectivity with the M55 motorway and the concomitant economic benefits this would bring to settlements located in the eastern and southerly half of the borough.

Rail Infrastructure: The South Fylde train line is recognised by the Borough Council as an under-utilised strategic transport link. The South Fylde line runs to Colne and provides an important public transport link to Blackpool, Preston, Manchester and Leeds. However it is currently constrained by a lack of passing loops on the line, restricting its operational capacity. Subsequently there is only one train an hour on the south line.

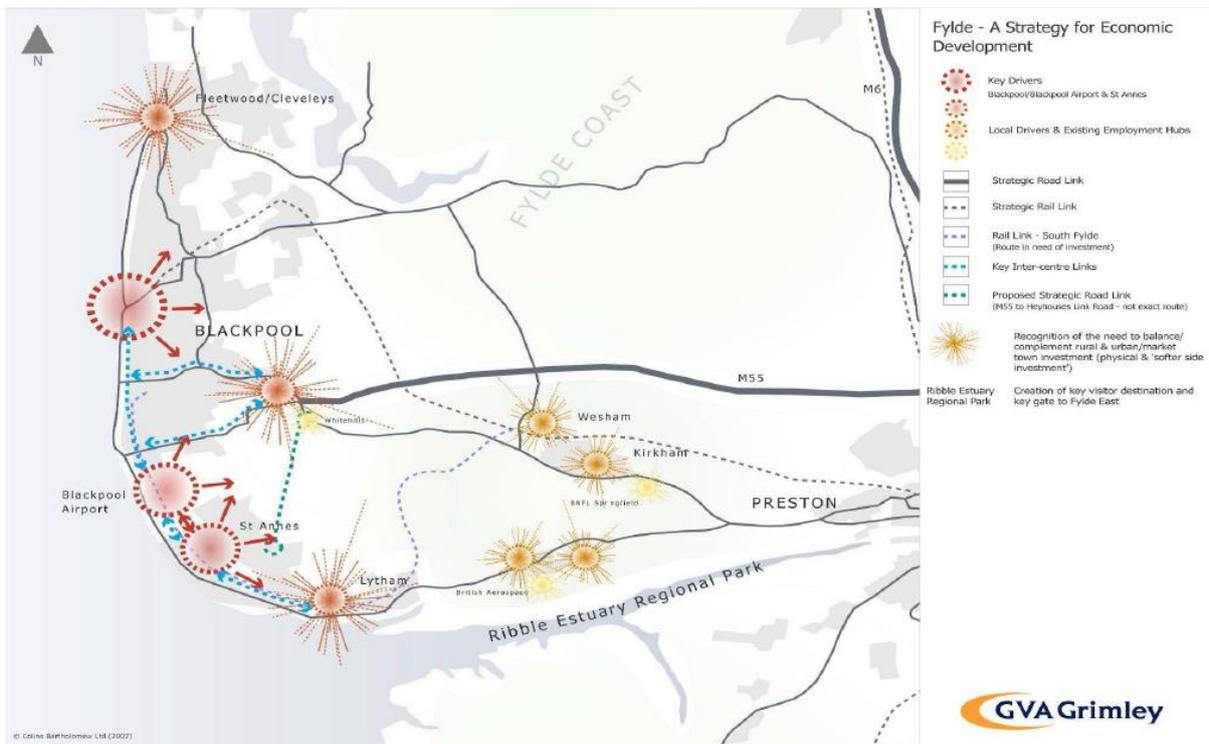


Figure T17: Map of Key Strategic Transport Infrastructure Highlighted within the FEDS
(Source: GVA Grimeley, 2008)

Cycleways: Lytham St Annes has a network of signed cycle routes on minor roads and linking cycle paths, and cycling is now permitted on the 2.5 mile stretch of the promenade. Blackpool has achieved status as a Cycling Demonstration Town, and this provides an opportunity to better promote cycling across the Fylde Coast and expand the provision of routes and links to different areas to improve and join-up the fragmented cycle network. Cycle routes from Lytham St Annes to Blackpool currently comprise of a cycle path alongside B5261 Queensway as the inland route and cycle lanes on A584 Clifton Drive North, linking with Blackpool Promenade. Between Warton and Lytham St Annes there are cycle paths alongside the A584, these link to the north of the town via Green Drive, a tree lined off road route. These currently form part of Route 62 of the National Cycle Network which runs to Selby in Yorkshire and connects with the Trans-Pennine Trail (which runs between Southport and Selby and forms the main segment of this route). Figure T18 below shows a section between Kirkham and Blackpool. This could lead to some custom/trade bypassing Fylde's south-eastern settlements, but if marketed correctly could be promoted as part of a circular route that could increase local and tourist usage. Moreover, any new routes or improvement works provide an opportunity for GI to be incorporated so as to physically and visually improve the routes, act as wildlife corridors, provide shelter against coastal weather-systems & SUDs techniques.

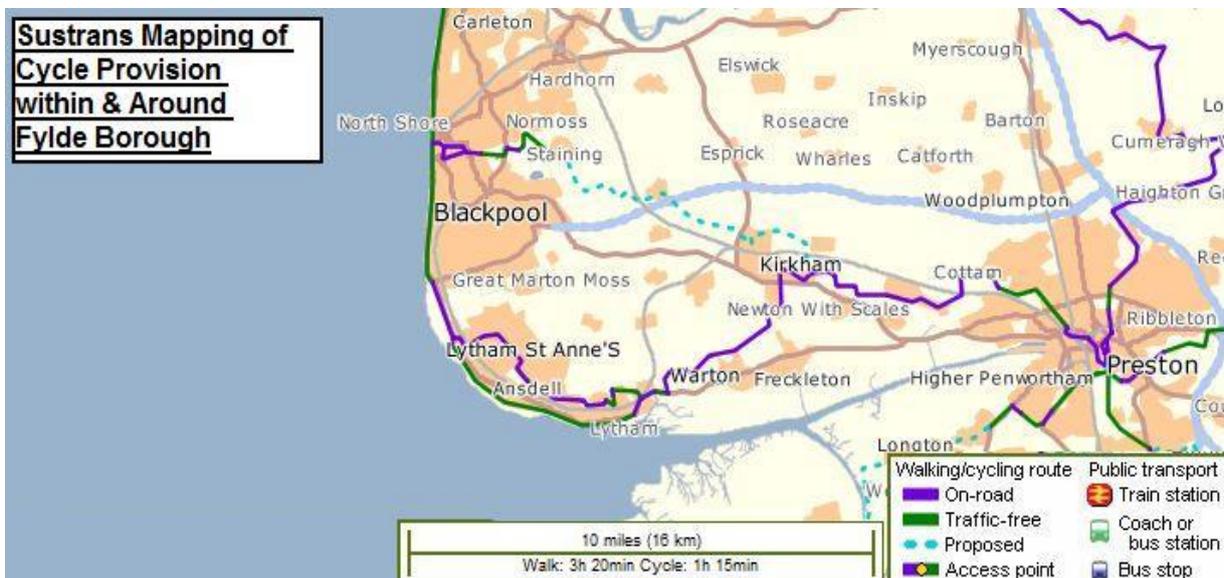


Figure T18: Map of Cycle Routes within and around Fylde Borough (Source: Sustrans, 2011)

Footpaths: Public rights of way are generally few and dispersed with the main clustering of footpath networks being to the north-east of Kirkham (*Figure T19*). The majority of rights of way are footpaths rather than bridleways and there is no open-access land within the borough. Implementation of the ‘Northwest Coastal Trail’ project, which aims to create a continuous high quality trail along the coast of northwest England, from Chester in the south to Carlisle in the north would provide an opportunity to improve GI along this key coastal landscape. Whilst this project may have stalled and lost momentum as a result of recent economic and political developments it could be picked-up again in the wake of recovery due to a strong evidence base produced by the North-West Coastal Forum which includes a feasibility study (2003), implementation framework (2004) and Strategic Positioning Research and Business Case (2008).

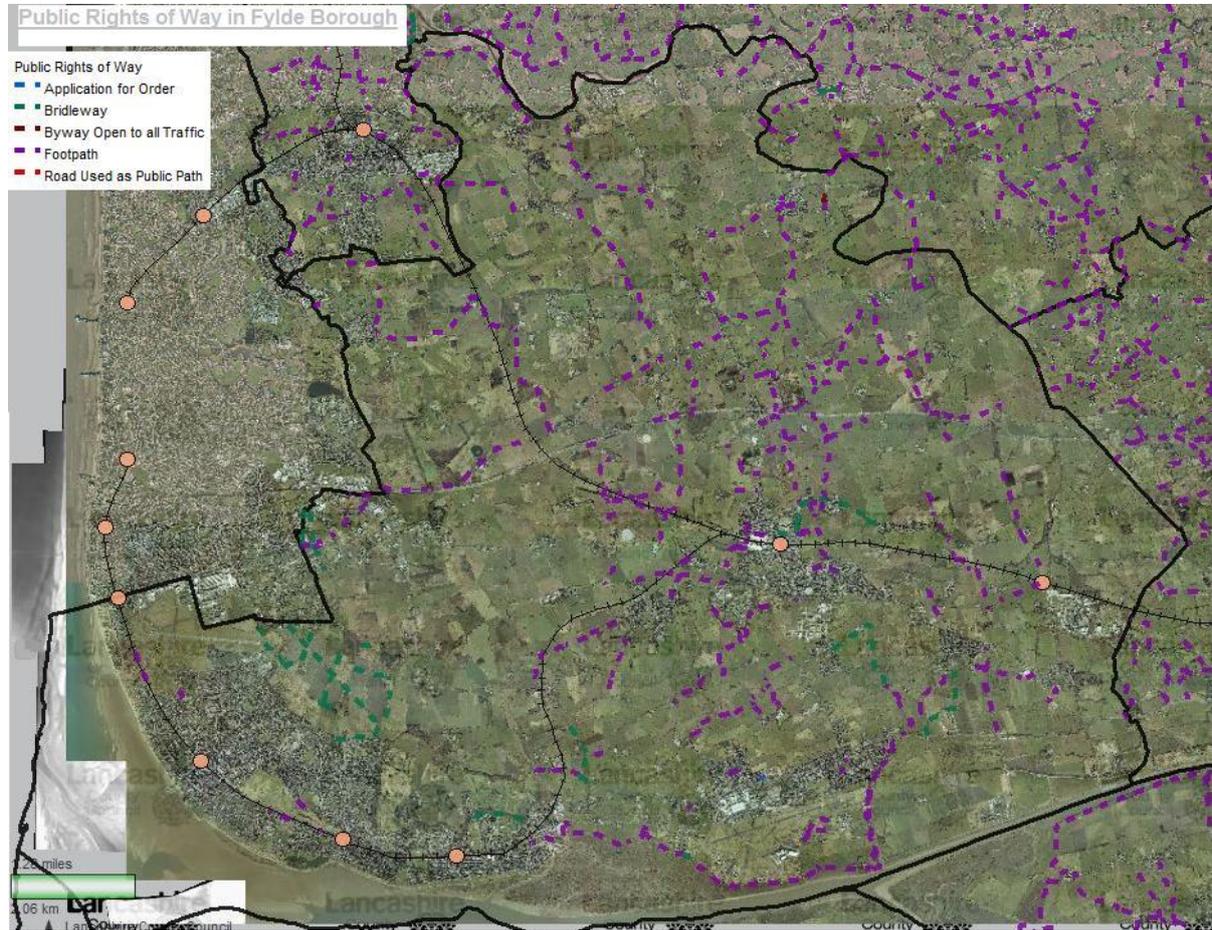


Figure T19: Public Rights of Way Network within Fylde Borough
Source: Lancashire County Council (2011b)

Cultural-Heritage / Historic Assets

There are ten designated Conservation Areas within the Borough and approximately 186 entries on the List of Buildings of Special Scientific Architectural or Historical Interests. In addition Hall Park, Ashton Gardens and Promenade Gardens in St Annes are included upon the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. These designations are listed in Figure T20 and shown in conjunction with Historic Landscape Character Areas on Figure T21.

These designations can present a challenge to the implementation of GI however a sensitive and historically informed approach to this can add value and aid biodiversity. The recent Heritage Lottery Funded restoration of Ashton Gardens Historic Buildings and Landscape (*Figure T22*), and an associated £140,000 public realm refurbishment in Garden Street, serve to illustrate this.



Figure T22: Ashton Gardens Masterplan

Summary Table of Fylde Borough Heritage Designations and Historic Assets by Parish

Ward / Parish	No. Listed Buildings	Conservation Areas	Historic Landscape Character Types	Key Heritage Assets with Direct GI Linkages
Bryning with Warton	2	None	Ancient and Pre-Medieval Settlement; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Industry, Military, & Settlement; Post-Medieval Enclosure; Saltmarsh; Sand and Mudflats; Water	-
Elswick	8	None	Ancient and Pre-Medieval Settlement, Ancient Enclosure, Modern Settlement, Post-Medieval Enclosure	1x Historic Designed Landscape (Elswick Manor)
Freckleton	4	None	Ancient & Pre-Medieval Settlement; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Enclosure, Industry & Settlement; Post-Medieval Enclosure; Saltmarsh; Sand & Mudflats; Water	-
Greenhalgh with Thistleton	5	x1 Thistleton	Ancient & Pre-Medieval Settlement; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Communications, Enclosure, & Settlement; Post-Medieval Enclosure;	1x Historic Designed Landscape (Thistleton Lodge Park/Garden)
Kirkham	18	x1 Kirkham	Ancient & Pre-Medieval Settlement & Ornamental; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Enclosure, Military & Settlement; Post-Medieval Enclosure;	-
Little Eccleston with Larbreck	1	x1 Well Lane, Larbreck	Ancient & Pre-Medieval Settlement; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Leisure; Post-Medieval Enclosure; Sand & Mudflats; Water	-
Lytham	86	x2 Lytham; Lytham Avenues	Ancient and Pre-Medieval Settlement & Woods; Modern Enclosure, Industry, Ornamental, Recreation & Settlement; Post-Medieval Enclosure; Saltmarsh; Sand and Mudflats; Water	1x Historic Designed Landscape (Lowther Gardens) 1x Registered Historic Parks & Gardens (Lytham Hall)
Medlar with Wesham	3	-	Ancient & Pre-Medieval Ornamental; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Enclosure, & Settlement; Post-Medieval Enclosure;	-
Newton with Clifton	14		Ancient & Pre-Medieval Ornamental & Wood; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Enclosure, Industry & Settlement; Post-Medieval Enclosure; Saltmarsh; Sand & Mudflats; Water	1x Historic Designed Landscape (Clifton Hall)
Ribby with Wrea	4	x1 Wrea Green	Ancient & Pre-Medieval Settlement & Ornamental; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Settlement; Post-Medieval Enclosure;	1x Historic Designed Landscape (Ribby Hall)
Singleton	6	x 1 Singleton	Ancient & Pre-Medieval Settlement, Ornamental, & Wood; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Enclosure, Military, Recreation, Settlement & Woodland; Post-Medieval Enclosure; Saltmarsh; Sand and Mudflats; Water	2x Historic Designed Landscapes (Bankfield House C19th Gardens & Singleton Hall)
St. Annes on Sea	18	x3 Porrit Houses; St Annes on Sea; St Annes Road East	Dunes; Modern Communications, Enclosure, Recreation & Settlement, Post-Medieval Enclosure; Sand and Mudflats; Water	2x Historic Designed Landscapes (Ashton Gardens & King Edward VII & Queen Mary School Grounds) 2x Registered Historic Parks & Gardens (Ashton Gardens & Promenade Gardens)
Staining	2	-	Ancient & Pre-Medieval Settlement; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Enclosure, Recreation, Settlement; Post-Medieval Enclosure;	-
Treales, Roseacre & Wharles	7	-	Ancient & Pre-Medieval Settlement & Wood; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Enclosure & Military; Post-Medieval Enclosure;	-
Weeton with Preese	3	-	Ancient & Pre-Medieval Settlement; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Enclosure, Military & Woodland; Post-Medieval Enclosure;	-
Westby with Plumpton	5		Ancient & Pre-Medieval Settlement; Ancient Enclosure; Modern Communications, Enclosure, Industry, Settlement & Woodland; Post-Medieval Enclosure; Water	-

Figure T20: Historic Environment Conservation Designations and other key Historic Data and Assets

(Source: Data extracted from English Heritage, Fylde Borough Council & Lancashire County Council Records)



Images From left to right:
Ashton Gardens; Singleton Hall; Wrea Green Conservation Area and OS Map of its extent; Promenade Gardens; and King Edward VII & Queen Mary School

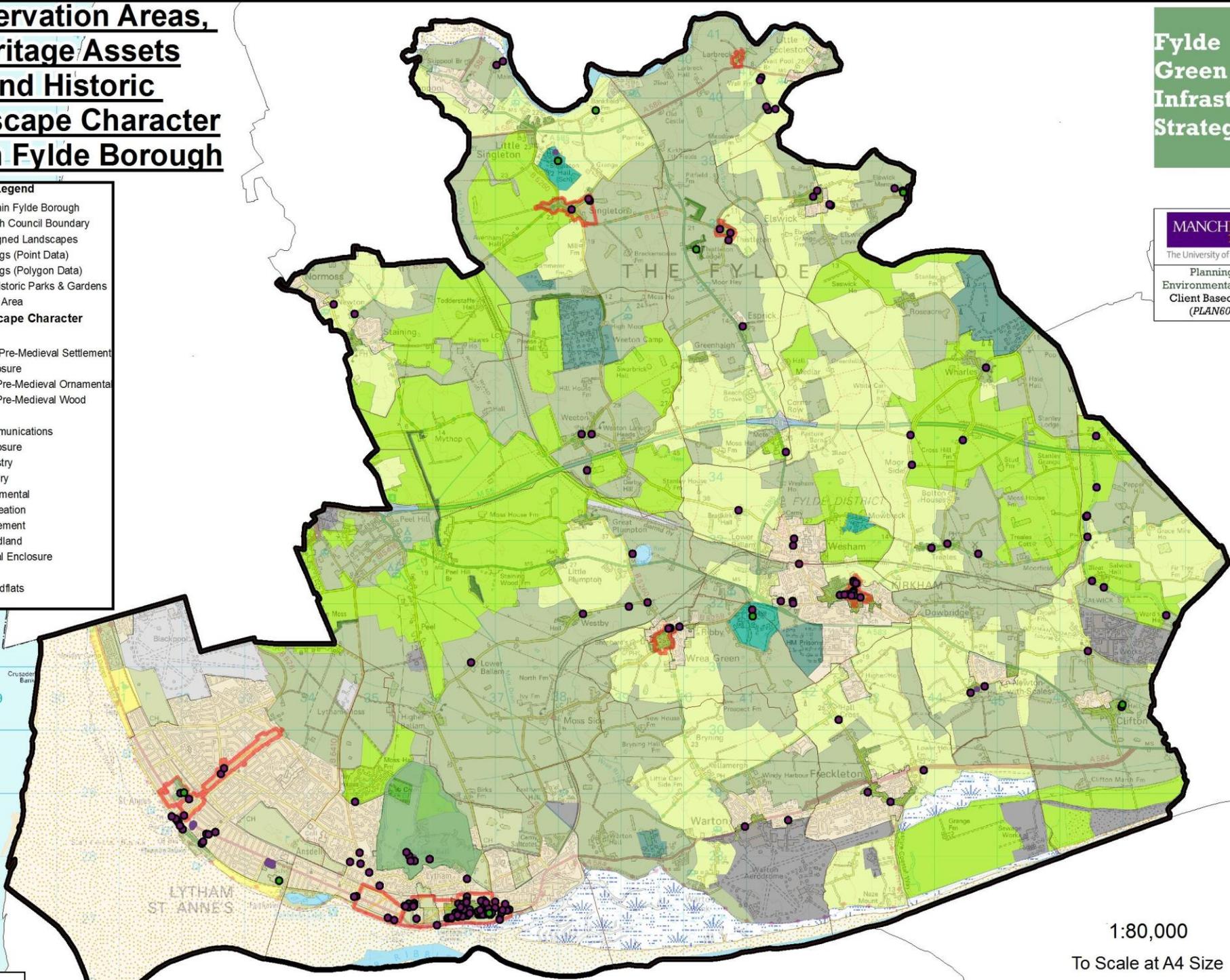
Conservation Areas, Heritage Assets and Historic Landscape Character Within Fylde Borough

Legend

- Parishes Within Fylde Borough
- Fylde Borough Council Boundary
- Historic Designed Landscapes
- Listed Buildings (Point Data)
- Listed Buildings (Polygon Data)
- Register of Historic Parks & Gardens
- Conservation Area

Historic Landscape Character Type

- Ancient and Pre-Medieval Settlement
- Ancient Enclosure
- Ancient and Pre-Medieval Ornamental
- Ancient and Pre-Medieval Wood
- Dunes
- Modern Communications
- Modern Enclosure
- Modern Industry
- Modern Military
- Modern Ornamental
- Modern Recreation
- Modern Settlement
- Modern Woodland
- Post-Medieval Enclosure
- Saltmarsh
- Sand and Mudflats
- Water



28 29

Figure T21

1:80,000
To Scale at A4 Size

Natural Environment

For the purpose of this brief borough wide overview survey of the Fylde's plethora of environmental assets, this topic has been split into three thematic subsections.

> Nature Conservation Designations

Virtually all of Fylde Borough's coastal and estuarine edges are covered by an environmental or landscape designation (*Figure T22*). There are five sites designated within Fylde Borough for their national scientific importance as Sites of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI] (*Figure T23*). The most important of these is the Ribble Estuary which has also been designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and as a RAMSAR Wetland site in accord with the international RAMSAR treaty. The estuary also includes the Ribble Marshes National Nature Reserve (NNR) which was declared under Section 19 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These designations recognise the importance of the Ribble Estuary as a habitat for migratory birds as it supports one of the biggest wintering and passage populations of wading birds in Britain.

The Ribble Marshes National Nature Reserve is located in the centre of the SSSI and most of the foreshore in Sefton outside the NNR is covered by the Southport Sanctuary which provides a protected low tide roost for pinkfooted geese. Hesketh Out Marsh RSPB Reserve, located just outside the borough on the south side of the estuary, serves to care and maintain for birdlife and its roosting sites. Important conservation and community education work is also undertaken at RSPB Discovery Centre at Fairhaven Lake in Lytham St Annes. The fact that the RSPB manages much of this land in the estuary means the organisation is well placed to help facilitate GI asset management and connectivity. A GI approach to conservation and management across this site and its edges will enhance this habitat so as to attract targeted species and enable the multifunctional use of this important resource for recreation, flood plain etc...

Name (+Area)	Details concerning / Reason for Designation (Summary)
Ribble Estuary (9,120 ha)	This estuary has extensive intertidal sand-silt flats with one of the largest areas of grazed greenmarsh in Britain and includes small areas of recently reclaimed saltmarsh. The estuary is of international importance for the passage and wintering waterfowl it supports, being a major link in the chain of estuaries down the west coast of Britain used by birds on migration between the breeding grounds in the far north and their wintering grounds further south. The mudflats are rich in invertebrates on which the waders and many of the wildfowl, especially shelduck, feed and the sandbanks also provide low tide roosting sites for pinkfooted geese.
Newton Marsh (66 ha)	Newton Marsh comprises 162 acres of grazed, improved pasture reclaimed from former saltmarsh but retaining a number of pools and ditches. The relative lack of disturbance, its size and proximity to the Ribble Estuary (a major bird migration route) account for the importance of the site for over-wintering and migrant birds. Over 100 bird species have been recorded on Newton Marsh.
Lytham St Annes Dunes (25 ha)	Best example of a calcareous dune system remaining in Lancashire. It shows classic features of dune formation and ecological succession including the widest range of fore dune, yellow dune, dune grassland, acid dune grassland, dune scrub, and dune slack habitats found anywhere along the Fylde Coast.
Wyre Estuary (1493 ha)	This estuary is an integral part of Morecambe Bay which is in-turn one of the largest areas of intertidal estuarine flats in Britain. The whole estuarine complex is of international significance for wintering wading birds and of national significance for wintering wildfowl.
Lytham Coastal Changes (24 ha)	These consist of four separate locations of high geological conservation value and interest within the town of Lytham St Anne's. The geological interest is preserved in sediments beneath the top soil and sand dunes of the area, and provides a record of sea-level changes which occurred during the Holocene era.

Figure T23: Table of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Fylde Borough

Source: English Nature SSSI Citation Library

Nature Conservation Designations Within & Bordering Fylde Borough

Fylde Green
Infrastructure
Strategy

- Legend**
-  Fylde Borough Council Boundary
 -  Biological Heritage Sites
 -  Biological Heritage Verges
 -  Local Nature Reserves
 -  National Nature Reserves
 -  RSPB Reserves
 -  Ramsar Sites
 -  Special Protection Areas
 -  Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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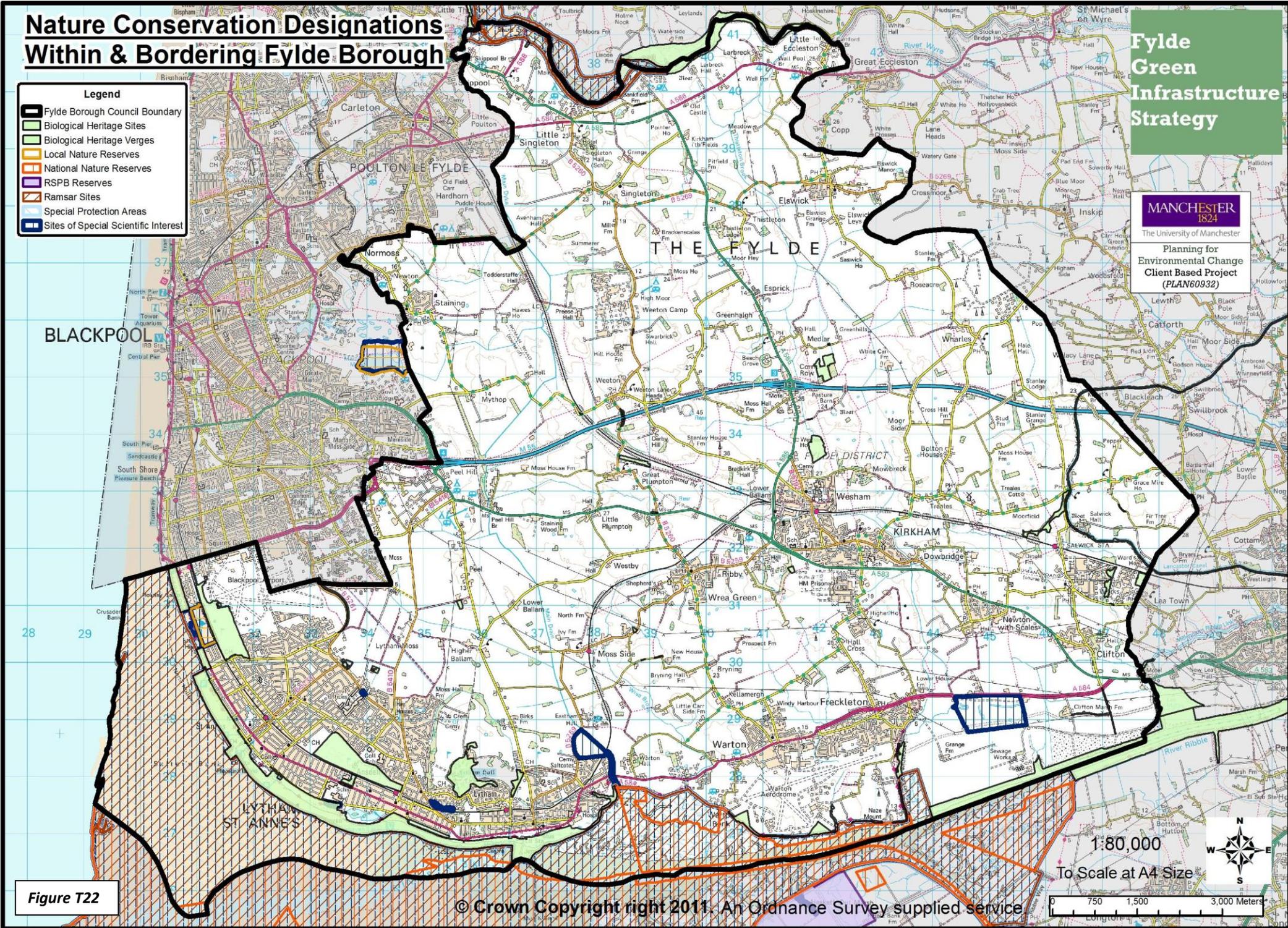
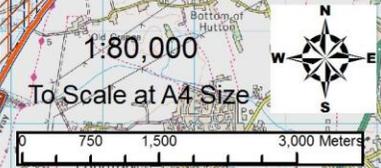


Figure T22



Site Name	Grid Reference	Flora/Fauna
Lytham Foreshore Dunes & Saltmarsh	SD330275	Coastal Habitats, Flowering Plants & Ferns, Butterflies & Moths, Mosses & Liverworts, Molluscs.
Clifton Hospital Site, Lytham St Annes	SD336279	Coastal Habitats, Flowering Plants & Ferns, Mosses & Liverworts, Molluscs
Royal Lytham St Annes Golf Course Coastal Habitats	SD337282	Coastal Habitats, Flowering Plants & Ferns
Lytham Hall Woods, Lytham St Annes	SD357281	Birds
St Annes Old Links Golf Course & Blackpool South Railway Line	SD315305	Coastal Habitats, Flowering Plants & Ferns
Pond West of Chain Lane, Staining	SD349355	Ponds, Flowering Plants & Ferns
Westby Clay Pit, Westby with Plumpton	SD356310	Amphibians, Flowering Plants & Ferns
Great Plumpton Sidings, Westby with Plumpton	SD387336	Artificial Habitats
Willowmead Park Swamp (Moss Side), Westby-with-Plumpton	SD387305	Mammals
Smithy Farm Pond, Staining	SD352364	Ponds, Flowering Plants & Ferns
Shard Bridge Field Ditch, Skippool	SD368408	Flowering Plants & Ferns
Warton Brows, Bryning with Warton	SD415269	Grass &, Flowering Plants & Ferns
Freckleton Naze, Freckleton Flowering Plants & Ferns	SD434278	Grass &, Flowering Plants & Ferns, Coastal Habitats
Pippy Lane Banks, Newton with Clifton	SD468291	Birds, Artificial Habitats
River Ribble, Lower Tidal Section, Lea	SD478286	Habitat Mosaic, Coastal Habitats, Rivers & Streams, Artificial Habitats, Flowering Plants & Ferns
Savick Bridge	SD477298	Swamp & Fen, Flowering Plants & Ferns
Lea Marsh, Lea, Preston	SD481293	Flowering Plants & Ferns, Coastal Habitats
Halls Wood Meadow, Kirkham	SD415316	Grass
St Georges Park Swamp, Kirkham	SD413324	Flowering Plants & Ferns
Wesham Marsh, Medlar with Wesham	SD419337	Habitat Mosaic, Flowering Plants & Ferns, Birds
Freshfield Farm Pond South, Freckleton	SD435307	Molluscs, Other Invertebrates
Freshfield Farm Pond North, Freckleton	SD435309	Mosses & Liverworts, Other Invertebrates
Medlar Meadows, Medlar with Wesham	SD420351	Birds
Medlar Ditch, Medlar with Wesham	SD421355	Flowering Plants & Ferns
Bucks Moss Wood, Salwick	SD461325	Wood
Deepdale Wood, Salwick	SD472314	Wood & Scrub
BNFL Springfield Works Ponds, Salwick	SD477314	Amphibians
River Wyre-Upper Tidal Section, Out Rawcliffe/Little Eccleston with Larbreck	SD405413	Coastal Habitats, Flowering Plants & Ferns
Lancaster Canal, whole length in Lancashire	SD527302-521767	Artificial Habitats, Flowering Plants & Ferns
Lytham Moss Copses, Lytham St Annes	SD341298	Birds
Black Poplar, Newton Crossroads, Newton	SD446331	Flowering Plants & Ferns
King Edward VII & Queen Mary School Playing Field Margins, Lytham St Annes	SD337278	Coastal Habitats, Flowering Plants & Ferns
River Wyre- Upper Tidal Section, Out Rawcliffe	SD337278	Coastal Habitats, Flowering Plants & Ferns

Figure T23: Inventory of Biological Heritage Sites within Fylde Borough and their key flora and fauna characteristic

Source: (Fylde Borough Council, 2010a)

In addition to these statutorily protected sites, Fylde Borough contains 1 Local Nature Reserve, 12 special roadside verges (which act as important wildlife corridors) and 33 County Wildlife Sites (known in Lancashire as sites of Biological Heritage – see *Figure T23 for full list*). These verges and sites of nature conservation interest are non-statutory and have been identified and recorded through a partnership scheme initiated by Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and English Nature. They have been logged due to their significant contribution to the bio-diversity of Lancashire and so as to conserve and protect them through the planning system and by cooperation with site owners, occupiers and managers. A GI approach can play a key role in sympathetically expanding the functionality of these sites and also facilitate the identification of opportunities to create links between the vast ecological web of habitats and corridors.

However, expanding GI functionality is not an appropriate recourse in all scenarios. This is the case for Fylde’s coastal dunes which are an especially important open space that already performs multiple functions but also requires active conservation. Designated as a local geo-diversity site, Lytham’s Dunes are a scarce habitat that has high biodiversity value as it is home to a wide range of species. But the dunes are also important as informal recreational space and because of their flood-defence properties; acting as a natural coastal defence by providing a barrier to inundation and by releasing sand during storm conditions to reduce wave action. In recognition of this, *The Fylde Sand*



Lytham Dunes

Photo of Lytham Dunes.
Source: Photograph by Graham Skelcher taken from the Fylde Sand Dunes Management Action Plan.

Dunes Management Action Plan (Fylde Sand Dune Project Steering Group, 2008) has been produced. This evaluates the importance of the Fylde Sand Dunes and other natural coastal habitats and makes recommendations, highlighting areas of erosion requiring repair and encouraging active habitat management in order to maintain or enhance key features.

> Local and Regional Planning Designations regarding the Built/Urban Environment

Figure T24 shows key planning designations (excluding listed buildings) that protect vital GI assets within the borough. The Development Plan designates four areas within Fylde Borough as Green Belt. Each area is located at potential points of sprawl between key conurbations (i.e. between: Staining and Poulton le Fylde; South Blackpool and St Annes; Lytham and Warton; Freckleton and Kirkham). Policy SP3 establishes a presumption against inappropriate development (other than that which normally applies in areas of open countryside such as agriculture related uses) in the greenbelt. This negative and narrow policy emphasis, along with the fact that Tree Preservation Orders [TPOs] cover approximately 170ha of treed land in the borough, highlights both the strong development pressures in respect of housing supply and employment land but also the extent to which trees are valued within the landscape. However, in some respects Policy SP3 presents a missed opportunity as a more positive element to the policy directive to encourage the reinforcement and enhancement of this rural-urban interface as a wildlife corridor, a place for recreational use and/or storage of peak discharge flood water could reap dividends.

Key clusters of TPOs can be found in the more affluent, estate connected, picture postcard villages such as Singleton and Clifton. It is also possible to see a belt/corridor of TPOs running north-easterly from Lytham to Kirkham echoing the Pre-Medieval Woodland that once stood there and which is recognised in its historic landscape character type. Where possible, appropriate species should be planted to link and reconnect the flora here and re-establish tree-cover and habitat.

Local & Regional Planning Designations regarding the Built/Urban Environment which relate directly to the existing GI provision within Fylde Borough

Legend

-  Fylde Borough Council Boundary
-  Conservation Area
-  Greenbelt
-  Register of Historic Parks & Gardens
-  Tree Preservation Orders (Points)
-  Tree Preservation Orders (Line)
-  Tree Preservation Orders (Polygons)

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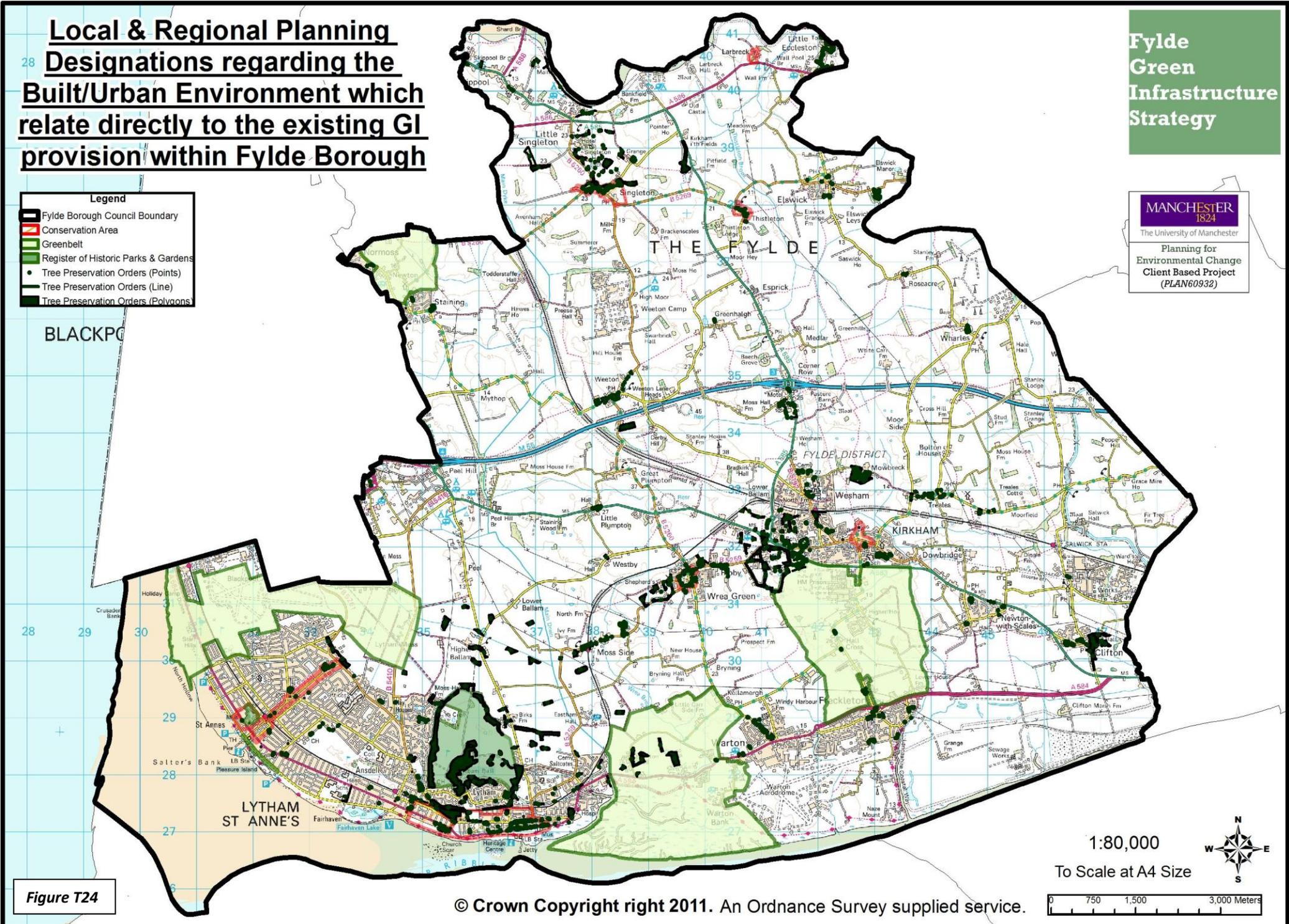
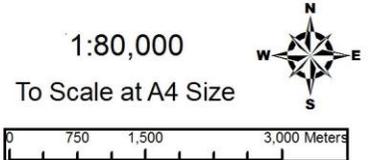


Figure T24

1:80,000
To Scale at A4 Size



0 750 1,500 3,000 Meters

> Open Spaces, Productive Land, Other Significant Green Spaces & Natural Resources

Open and green-blue spaces are a vital informal resource in terms of recreation, living environment and biodiversity/habitat. The Lytham St Annes 2020 Vision recognises Green Space as key to the place making agenda and it is clearly embedded in the authority's approach to public realm works in preparation for the Open Golf Championship.

The redevelopment of St Annes' Square provides a strong example of the successful and thoughtful use of GI to reclaim space from motorvehicles for pedestrians as it provides trees and plant species that fit in with anticipated future climate trends of rising temperatures and which can act as a wildlife corridor for lizards, mice and bugs. The before and after photos below (Drinnan *et al*, 2009) taken from the 2020 Vision are illustrative of the high quality landscaping and strong GI design that has taken place here.



This ethic is no doubt informed by the economic logic propounded in the *Fylde Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study: Strategy and Action Plan [OSSRS]* which surmises that 'Parks and open spaces have a significant part to play in the local economy with regards to Tourism income, and in consequence it is essential that a higher than average standard be maintained in these' (Knight et al... 2008, p.3). The OSSRS (*Figure T25*) depicts open spaces by the PPG17 typologies. This reveals the predominance of natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces (which includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land) as a principle openspace resource within the borough. It also highlights the location of children's play areas and amenity greenspace and applies a buffer in terms of accessibility to these facilities. This map conveys a relatively strong network of recreational green spaces serving key urban centres and villages.

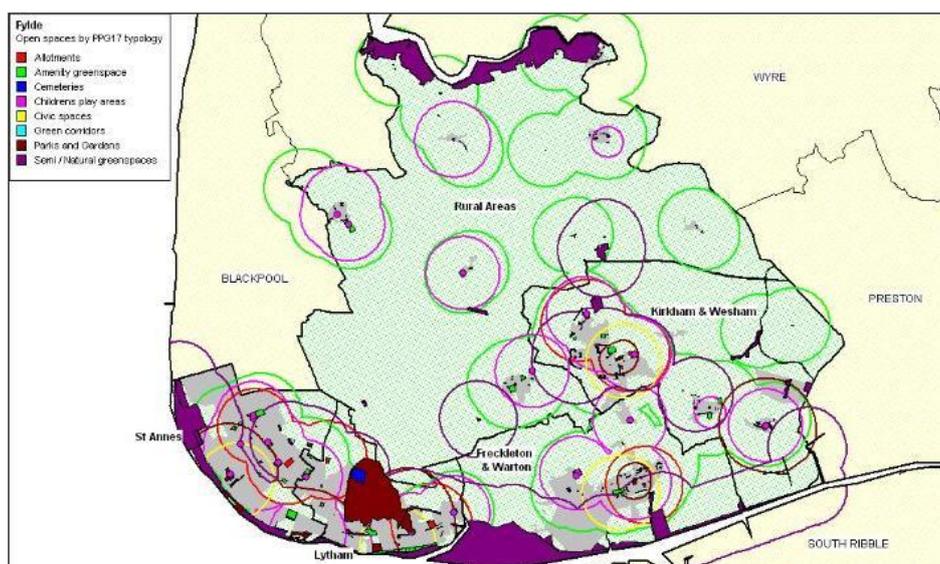


Figure T25: Open Space within Fylde Borough by PPG17 Typologies (Source: Knight et al... 2008)

Figure T26 displays the 26 areas designated as open space in Policy EP2 of the Local Plan. It shows these in conjunction with Public Open Spaces and allotments, all of which are vital within an urbanised living environment in terms of reconnecting citizens with nature, providing space for water storage, informal play, food production/harvesting and all round general enjoyment of the outdoors. Figure T26 also utilises DEFRA's 2002 Agricultural Land Classification data to show the productivity and versatility of the land within

Open Spaces, Productive Land & Other Significant Green Spaces Within Fylde Borough

Fylde Green Infrastructure Strategy

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- Legend**
- Fylde Borough Council Boundary
 - Agricultural Land Classification**
 - Grade 1 - Excellent Quality
 - Grade 2 - Very Good Quality
 - Grade 3 - Good to Moderate Quality
 - Grade 4 - Poor Quality
 - Grade 5 - Very Poor Quality
 - Non Agricultural - Soft Uses
 - Urban - Built-up Hard Uses
 - Allotments**
 - (x7 Records)
 - Brownfield Sites (NLUD-2007)**
 - Land Type (x27 Records Total)**
 - Previously developed land [PDL] now vacant
 - Vacant buildings
 - Derelict land & buildings
 - PDL/Buildings in use - allocated/consented
 - Common Land**
 - (No Records within Fylde Borough)
 - Country Parks**
 - Wyre Estuary
 - Doorstep Green**
 - Wesham Jubilee
 - Local Geodiversity Site**
 - Lytham St Annes Coastal Dune System
 - Public Open Space**
 - (x48 Records)
 - Open Spaces within Towns & Villages**
 - (x26 Records)
 - Register of Historic Parks & Gardens**
 - (x3 Records)

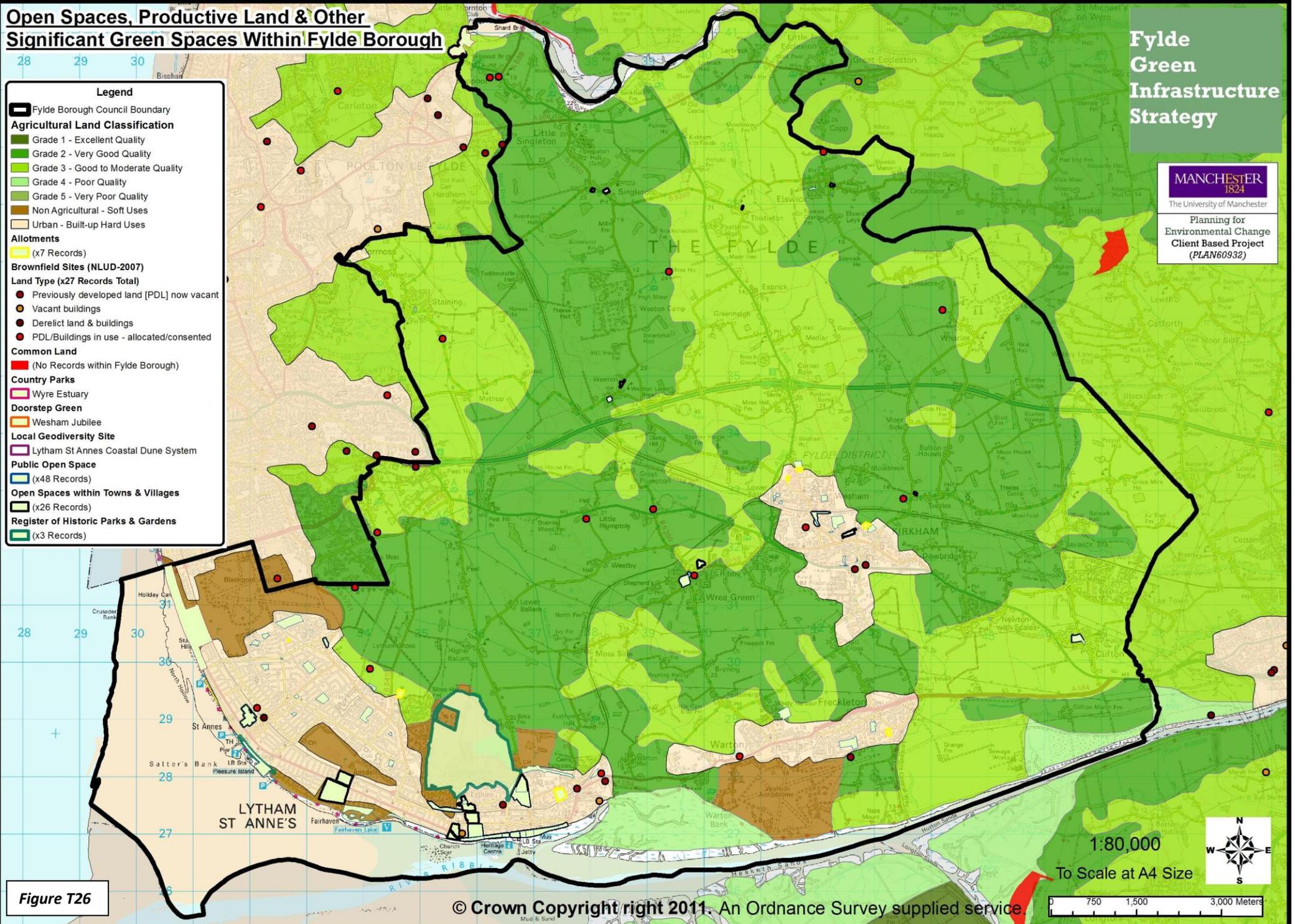


Figure T26

the borough. This illustrates that the rural interior is characterised by very good to good/moderate quality agricultural land, whilst the coastal margins are primarily low grade or urban/non-agricultural. Expanding GI functionalities within the 'non-agricultural' category's 'soft' end uses (such as golf courses, parkland, public open spaces and sports fields) will be key. As will finding ways to connect and improve green corridors between neighbouring open spaces in urban grade land with resources in the 'non-agricultural' sector. Previously developed and derelict land also provide opportunities for wildlife habitat and landscaped public realm as a remedy to blight.

Figure T27 is generated from the 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey Cartographic Raster and shows key Green and Blue Spaces in relation to obstructions (buildings and transport infrastructure) and other key landscape elements. Such a cartographic map is useful as it provides a more comprehensive overview of all trees, vegetation and waterbodies that enables key corridors and potential barriers to be seen. In terms of barriers, the M55 stands out as being a key obstruction, notably breaking-up north-south corridors of vegetation at Peel Hill and Stanley (to the South of Wharles). The map also reinforces the dispersed pattern of vegetation, frequency of ponds and scattered low density shelter belts of trees. It also records a lack of planting of trees and vegetation along key routes. From an economic perspective, value and uplift could be created by targeting key gateway sites for tree planting and landscaping works.

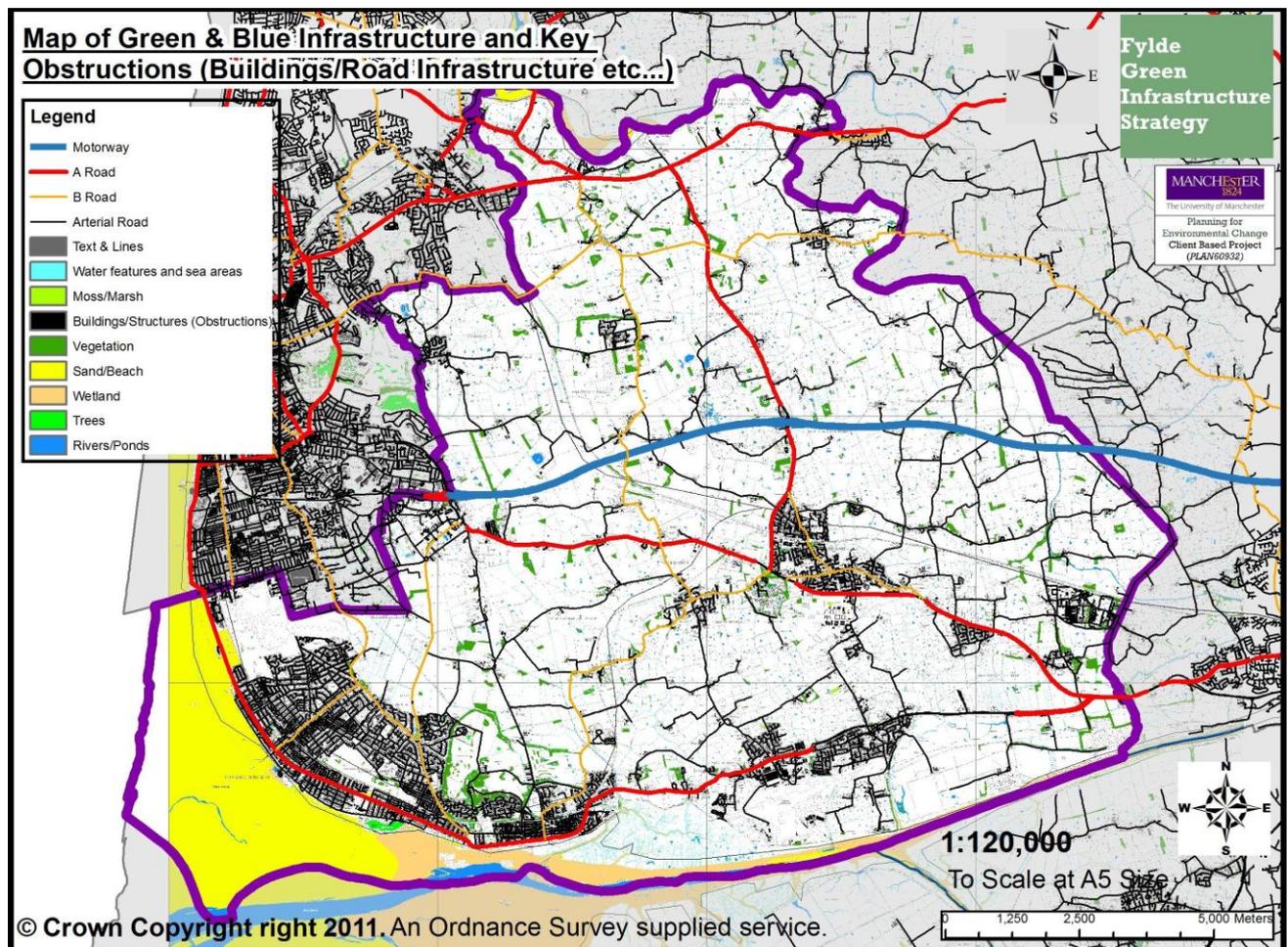


Figure T27: Cartographic Map of Green & Blue Infrastructure in Fylde Borough in Relation to Potential Obstructions

Figure T28 is a refined version of the above which just shows areas of water and vegetated green space so as to provide a clearer picture of the pattern of blue/green GI resource. This more clearly highlights where there are important strategic gaps in provision where linkages could possibly be made. One such noticeable gap occurs between Lytham and Clifton along the A584. More could theoretically be done to use these leafier settlements as a core from which to extend/expand GI provision outward into neighbouring population centres in Warton, St Annes and Newton-with-Scales.

Connected with opportunities for expansion of green space is 'Lancashire Woodland Vision' an indicative Forestry Strategy for the county produced by Lancashire County Council (2005). This document provides information and guidance regarding the development of new woodland planting

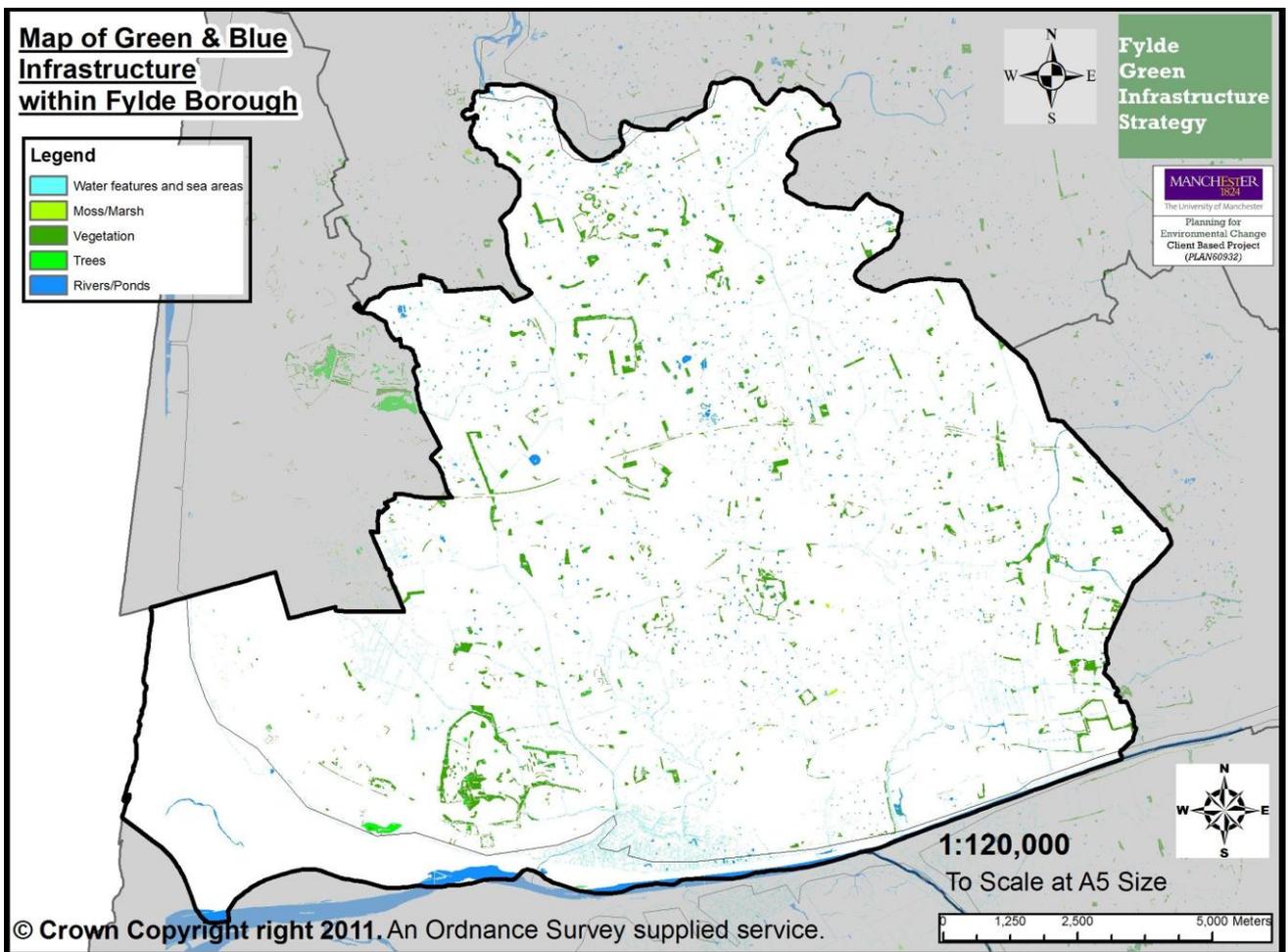


Figure T28: Cartographic Map of Green and Blue Infrastructure in Fylde Borough

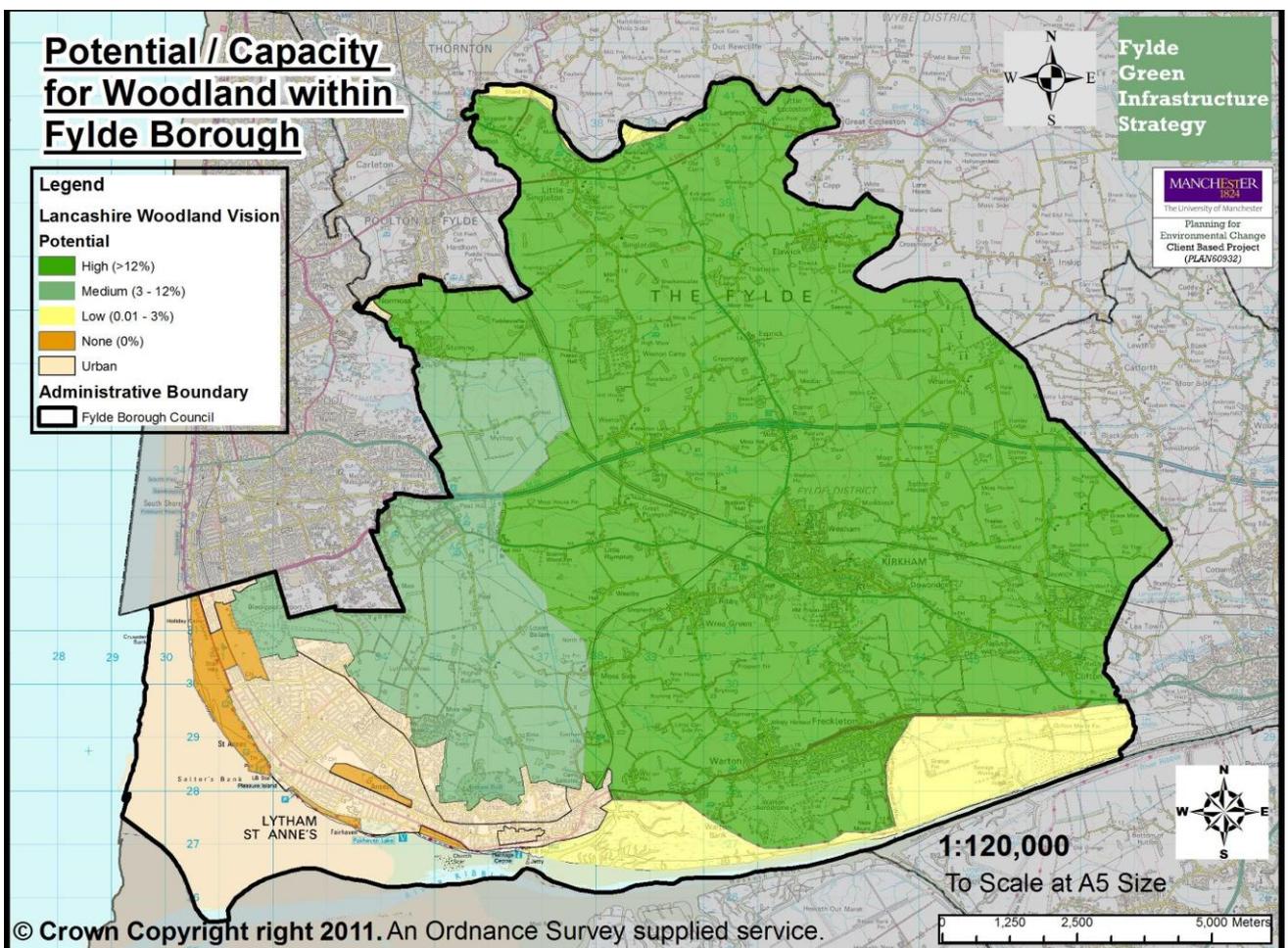


Figure T29: Map of potential for creation of new and/or expansion of woodland with Fylde Borough

and uses the County level Landscape Character Types to assess the potential capability of each type to accommodate woodland planting. This assessment of woodland potential is shown in Figure T29 and highlights the increasing ability of the land and landscape to accommodate and sustain woodland as you move in a north-easterly direction across the borough. However it should be noted that this is not as simple a task as the map would suggest. The mosslands landscape bordering the north-east flank of Lytham St Annes and Blackpool which has been denoted as having a medium capacity for woodland is one such example of this complexity. So whilst this area presents opportunities for improving the quality of existing woodland and potential for shelter and riparian planting to soften the appearance of urban areas and contribute to flood control, there are clear ecological and management limits. For instance, planting could interrupt the long open views and “big Skies” which



Photograph of Lytham Moss

are characteristic of the Mossland landscape, is competing with a high agricultural demand for high quality land for arable and horticultural use and could adversely effect existing habitats. However sensitive deployment of woodland with regard to size, species and locaton i.e. adjacent to existing tree belts and to link isolated patches of trees would serve to enhance the mossland habitat mosaic.



Figure T30: Aerial Imagery of Fylde Borough (Source: Google Maps. 2009 Image)

In terms of greenspace, the aerial imagery of Figure T30 below provides a strong reminder of the balance between the largely agricultural interior and urban areas with the borough and of its wealth of green spaces which can be refined to multiply their functionality and used as a platform to extend provision outwards into the hardened edges of the built environment and rural-urban interface.

Linking into the representations of blue space referenced above, Figure T31 shows the fluvial flood plain and concomitant risk of flooding in the borough. This shows the threat from sea flooding with other key areas of flood risk being located along the Rivers Ribble and Wyre and areas of mossland to the north-east of Lytham.

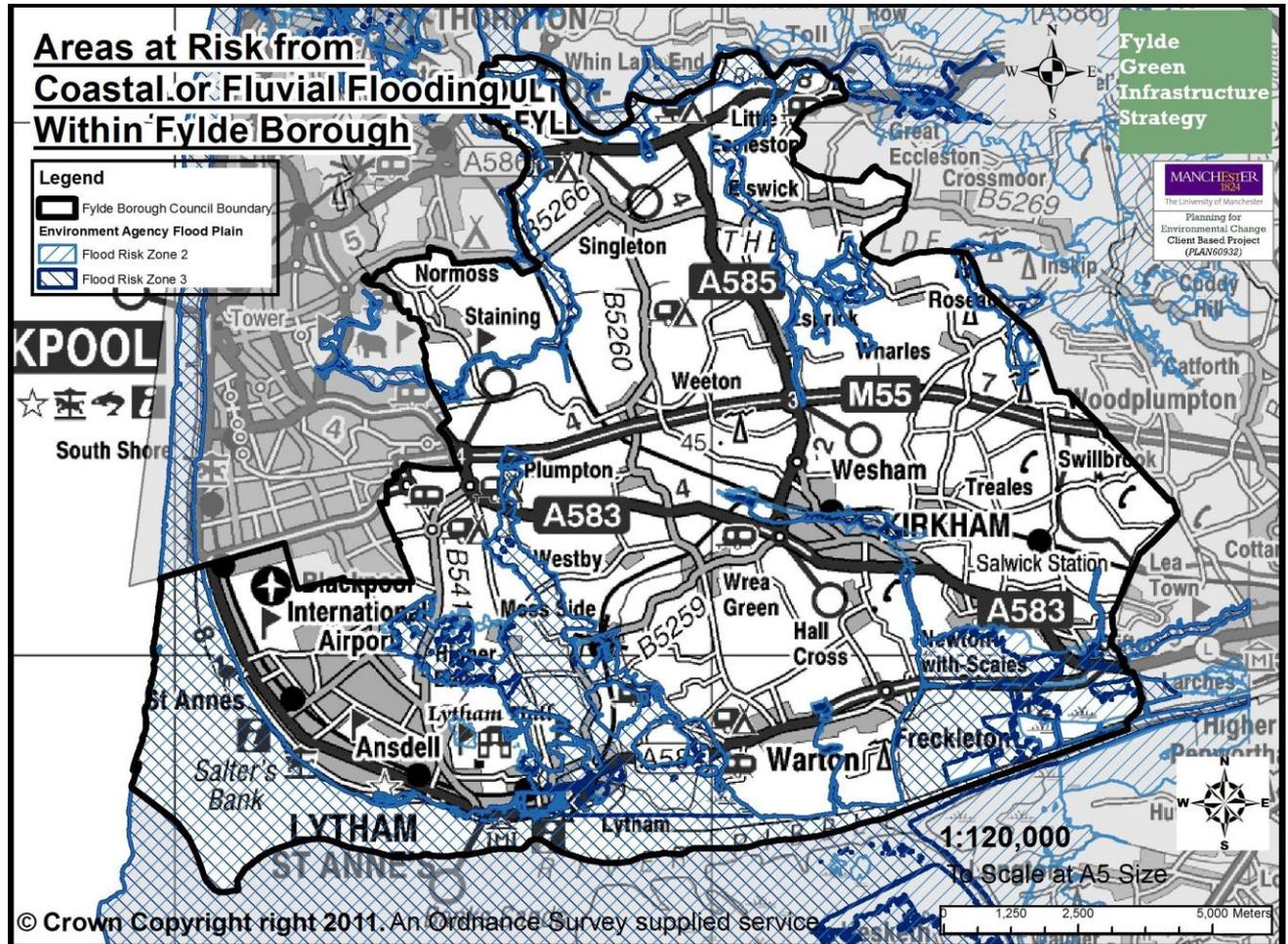


Figure T31: Map of Areas at Risk from Fluvial or Coastal Flooding within Fylde Borough.

(Source: Data supplied by the Environment Agency)

SUMMARY

This baseline survey and analysis has served to establish, catalogue and assess the Borough's vast GI Resource and highlight factors that may affect access to this and the potential to increase functionality and expand provision. Some of the key contextual characteristics and issues, and opportunities highlighted are:

Key Contextual Characteristics and Issues

- Lowland topography underlain by a sedimentary lithology resulting in a high proportion of high grade and in demand agricultural land
- Key Landscape features are: the mosslands on the fringes of Lytham, the coastal marshes of the Ribble Estuary; and long open views of the flat agricultural plains of the Fylde which possess a high density of field ponds, extensive drainage systems of raised ditches and sparsely scattered blocks of wind sculptured mixed woodland.
- Population principally concentrated in settlements running along the course of the River Ribble to its estuary.
- Varying levels of provision, quality and access in relation to green spaces within each settlement. Opportunity to use leafier settlements such as Lytham and Clifton as a platform from which to expand provision out into neighbouring urban settlements in which hard edges of the built environment predominate
- Elderly people comprise approximately a quarter of the borough's population and are principally concentrated in the settlements along the south-west coastline. This high proportion of over 65s creates a pressure to ensure accessibility to and the provision and maintenance green space so as to contribute to providing a high quality of life and environment for all elderly residents in the borough.
- Whilst the borough is generally an affluent area, there are still small pockets of significant deprivation (for example within certain districts of St Annes).
- Residents are generally active and consider themselves in good health but there are strong spatial variations in health levels and obesity.
- Limited public rights of way network and cycleway provision.
- Benefits from a wide range of outdoor sports facilities (but limited access to some privately owned resources – e.g. golf courses, and some qualitative issues at some sites).
- Relatively strong network of recreational green spaces serving key urban centres and villages
- Virtually all of Fylde Borough's coastal and estuarine edges are covered by an environmental or landscape designation.
- Tree Preservation Orders [TPOs] cover approximately 170ha of treed land in the borough
- A intermittent belt/corridor of TPOs runs north-easterly from Lytham to Kirkham echoing the Pre-Medieval Woodland that once stood there
- *Fylde Borough Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study: Strategy and Action Plan [OSSRS]* reveals the predominance of natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces (which includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land) as a principle openspace resource within the borough
- Strategic gaps in GI provision e.g. between Lytham and Clifton along the A584
- Potential to accommodate and sustain woodland planting is greatest within the Fylde Coastal Plain

Key GI Assets/Opportunities

- Hall Park, Ashton Gardens and Promenade Gardens in St Annes are important high quality heritage assets that should be promoted and used as platforms for greening the surrounding environment.
- The Ribble Estuary's designation as a SSSI, SPA and RAMSAR site and position as a centre for nature reserves reinforces its importance as a habitat for migratory birds as it supports one of the biggest wintering and passage populations of wading birds in Britain.
- Fylde Borough contains 1 Local Nature Reserve, 12 special roadside verges (which act as important wildlife corridors) and 33 Sites of Biological Heritage
- Lytham's Dunes are a scarce habitat that has high biodiversity value and should be actively conserved and enhanced

- The British Aerospace Complex at Warton and BNFL Springfield nuclear processing plants at Clifton are regionally significant employment sites and could potentially provide finance/land to improve and expand GI resource in neighbouring communities.
- Ongoing projects to promote and enhance Lytham St. Annes as a vibrant yet traditional Victorian resort and the Ribble Estuary Park as a major wildlife site attraction provide vital opportunities to expand and reinforce GI.
- Any investment to improve north-south road linkages must incorporate GI thinking in route selection and implementation so as to minimise its impact on existing GI assets (e.g. habitat) and provide enhanced replacement habitat, SUDs, planting and landscaping which can act as multifunctional spaces.