



INSPLACE PLANNING LTD

**East Dorset District Council
PPG17 Open Space Study**

Section 6

**Area Profile:
West Moors**

May 2007

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LOCAL NEED AREA – WEST MOORS

1.0 DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL NEED AREA

West Moors lies on the north-western side of the shallow valley of the Uddens Water and its tributary, the Mannington Brook. South of Uddens Water the land rises again to the ridge on which Ferndown stands. The A31 Ferndown Bypass, following the open land of the Uddens valley, is a further feature separating West Moors from Ferndown. West of the Mannington Brook the land rises across the lower slopes of the Holt Heath National Nature Reserve.

Most of West Moors is modern, and it contains few houses built before the end of the last century. The settlement is surrounded by the South East Dorset Green Belt, whose boundaries were defined in the Local Plan for Ferndown, West Moors and West Parley in 1989. The population contains a relatively high proportion of elderly people, but there are also a significant number of children among the remainder of the population. The needs of both groups are reflected in the local facilities.

The proposed route for the West Moors Bypass will take part of the existing Fryer Playing Field, restricting the use of the remaining land, and will run through and largely sever from it a substantial additional area which was recently purchased to provide an extension to the playing field. While all this land - other than the strip to be taken for the road - will remain as public open space, its usefulness and extent will be diminished. Additional land has been designated to provide adequately for the extra playing fields long planned for this area. This will adjoin other land recently acquired for open space to the rear of Garden Court and together these will form an area usable for formal and informal recreation.

The Local Plan also states that, in the long term, it was expected that a new sports pavilion would have been provided to serve the extended Fryer Field. This new pavilion will still be required, but will need to be sited further south so that it can easily serve the whole of the Playing Field area including the new land north of Riverside Road.

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROVISION AND QUALITY OF OPEN SPACE

2.1 Open Space within West Moors

The Map shows the location and typology of open space within West Moors. The following sites have been mapped; many were included in the quality audits; detailed scores of the assessments are held on the GIS database and should be referred to as required.

Alder Bed / Pennington Copse Amenity Greenspace
Broadmoor Coppice
Dorset Fire & Rescue Service Sports Ground
Dorset Fire & Rescue Service Tennis Court
Dorset Fire & Rescue Sports Ground Pavilion

Dowager's Copse
Edgemoor Road Amenity Open Space
Farm Road LAP
Ferndown Forest Golf Club
Ferndown Forest Golf Club (part of)
Fryers Playing Field Skate Park
Hatchard's Copse
Heatherdown Road / Southern Avenue LAP
Heathfield Road LAP
Holt Heath (part of)
Kingfisher Close LAP
Lions Hill Heathland
Mannington Way Amenity Open Space
Mannington Way Amenity Open Space Outside 11
Milford Close Amenity Open Space
Morelands Rise LAP
Nightingale Copse
Oakhurst First School Hall
Oakhurst First School Playing Field
Pennington Court / Pennington Crescent Amenity Open Space
Pennington's Copse & Broad moor Coppice Local Nature Reserve
Priory Road Cemetery
Proposed Public Greenspace surrounding The Fryer Playing Field
Puntis Copse
Shaftesbury Road LEAP
Spinners Close Amenity Open Space between 31 & 33
Spinners Close Amenity Open Space south of 27
St Mary's Churchyard
St Mary's First School Hall
St Mary's First School Playing Field
Teenage Shelter
The Fryers Playing Field
The Fryers Playing Field NEAP
The Fryers Playing Field Pavilion
The Fryers Playing Field Tennis Courts
Thorny Ham woodland
Uddens Heath
Uplands Road Amenity Open Space
War Memorial Site, Amenity Open Space
Wayfarers Sports Ground
Wayfarers Sports Ground Pavilion
Weavers Close LAP
West Moors Bowls Club
West Moors Bowls Club Pavilion
West Moors Memorial Hall
West Moors Memorial Hall LAP
West Moors Middle School Hall
West Moors Middle School Playing Field
West Moors Middle School Playing Fields south of Pinehurst Park
West Moors Plantation
West Moors Scout Hall LAP
West Moors Scout Hut
West Moors Youth Club
Woodland along n side of A31
Woodland along the North Side of the A31, Ringwood Road

Woodland at Moorlands Rise Lap
 Woodland between Teasel Way and Southdown Way
 Woodland east of Edgemoor Road
 Woodland n of St Leonards Bridge
 Woodland North of St Leonard's Bridge
 Woodland South of Eastmoors Farm
 Woodland south of Hatchard's Copse
 Woodland to south of Lions Hill heathland
 Woodland to south of Queens Close
 Woodland to south west of Lions Hill heathland
 Woolslope Coppice
 Woolslope Gardens Amenity Open Space
 Woolslope Road Amenity Open Space / Woodland
 Woolslope Road Amenity Open Space between 20 & 7
 Woolslope Road Amenity Open Space between 56 & 58
 Woolslope Road Amenity Open Space by 53
 Woolslope Road Amenity Open Space east of 38

2.2 Quality of sites in West Moors

In the following lists 'n/s' means 'Not scored'.

2.2.1 Active Sports Space

Site	Quality
Dorset Fire & Rescue Service Tennis Court	n/s %
The Fryers Playing Field Tennis Courts	67.6 %
West Moors Bowls Club	78.7 %

Three specific stand alone Active Sport Spaces were identified in West Moors however sport facilities that form a part of a larger multi function sites have been identified in Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens. The two facilities that have been assessed are in reasonable condition.

2.2.2 Space for Children and Young People

Site	Quality
Fryers Playing Field Skate Park	62.2 %
Shaftesbury Road LEAP	46.2 %
Teenage Shelter	n/s %
The Fryers Playing Field NEAP	72.5 %

The play provision is poor in the area, the facilities require higher management and maintenance to cope with the level of use. Shaftesbury Road and Fryers Playing Field require urgent attention.

2.2.3 Amenity Green Space

Site	Quality
Alder Bed / Pennington Copse Amenity Greenspace	50.0 %
Edgemoor Road Amenity Open Space	n/s
Farm Road LAP	60.0 %
Heatherdown Road / Southern Avenue LAP	60.0 %
Heathfield Road LAP	60.0 %
Kingfisher Close LAP	60.0 %
Mannington Way Amenity Open Space	n/s
Mannington Way Amenity Open Space Outside 11	n/s
Milford Close Amenity Open Space	n/s
Morelands Rise LAP	60.0 %
Pennington Court / Pennington Crescent Amenity Open Space	n/s
Spinners Close Amenity Open Space Between 31 & 33	n/s
Spinners Close Amenity Open Space south of 27	n/s
Uplands Road Amenity Open Space	n/s
War Memorial Site, Amenity Open Space	68.0 %
Weavers Close LAP	60.0 %
West Moors Memorial Hall LAP	66.7 %
West Moors Scout Hall LAP	44.7 %
Woolslope Gardens Amenity Open Space	n/s
Woolslope Road Amenity Open Space / Woodland	60.0 %
Woolslope Road Amenity Open Space between 20 & 7	n/s
Woolslope Road Amenity Open Space Between 56 & 58	n/s
Woolslope Road Amenity Open Space by 53	n/s
Woolslope Road Amenity Open Space east of 38	n/s

In general, the management and maintenance of amenity green spaces that were assessed across West Moors is adequate. A number of sites offer opportunity for improvement;

- West Moors Scout Hall LAP (44.7%), amenity grass is in poor condition.
- Alder Bed / Pennington Copse Amenity Greenspace (50%), improved management required
- Morelands Rise LAP (60%)

2.2.4 Natural & Semi Natural Space and Green Corridors.

Site	Quality
	n/s
Broadmoor Coppice	n/s
Dowager's Copse	n/s
Hatchard's Copse	54.5 %
Holt Heath (part of)	72.7 %
Lions Hill Heathland	n/s
Nightingale Copse	n/s
Pennington's Copse & Broadmoor Coppice Local Nature Reserve	50.0 %
Puntis Copse	n/s
Thorny Ham woodland	62.5 %
Uddens Heath	n/s
West Moors Plantation	72.7 %

Woodland along n side of A31	n/s
Woodland at Moorlands Rise Lap	60.0 %
Woodland between Teasel Way and Southdown Way	n/s
Woodland east of Edgemoor Road	n/s
Woodland n of St Leonards Bridge	n/s
Woodland south of Eastmoors Farm	n/s
Woodland south of Hatchard's Copse	54.5 %
Woodland to south of Queens Close	n/s
Woodland to south of Lions Hill Heathland	n/s
Woodland to south west of Lions Hill Heathland	n/s
Woolslope Coppice	n/s

2.2.5 Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens

Site	Quality
Dorset Fire & Rescue Recreation Ground	n/s
The Fryers Playing Field	67.6 %
West Moors Bowls Club	78.7 %

The Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens in West Moors are in reasonable condition. However, the management and maintenance for all sites needs improving, the sites are well used and should be of higher quality.

2.2.6 Education Outdoor Sports Facilities

Site	Quality
Oakhurst First School Playing Field	n/s
St Mary's First School Playing Field	n/s
West Moors Middle School Playing Field	n/s
West Moors Middle School Playing Fields south of Pinehurst Park	n/s

No schools have been quality assessed within West Moors. The schools have no formal dual use agreements, but should have a future role in providing for formal sport and recreation. School sites are generally of better quality, as they are secure and generally have some sort of on site management presence.

3.0 SUMMARY OF ACCESSIBILITY TO OPEN SPACE

3.1 Overall access to open space

Section 5 of the report outlines access standards to different types of open space within the Local Need Area; a summary of the main standards is shown in Table 2:

Table 2 Access standards for open space

Typology	Access Standard
Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens	450 metres
Amenity Green Space	450 metres
Natural & Semi Natural Green space	600 metres
Space for Children	450 metres
Space for Young People	450 metres
Active Sports Space	600 Metres
Routeway/Green Corridor	n/a
Cemetery and churchyards	n/a
Allotments	n/a

The accompanying Maps show local access standards for the various typologies (i.e. Space for Children and Young People, Amenity Open Space, Natural and Semi Natural Green Space, Active Sports Space and Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens).

3.2 Access to different types of open space

Table 3 makes observations on access to different types of open space within the catchment area, using the adopted access standards, as shown in the accompanying maps

Table 3 Access to open space in the area

Typology	Provision against access standard
Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens	Significant gaps throughout LNA especially to south.
Amenity Green Space	Access standard met in most of built up area
Natural & Semi Natural Green Space	Good provision within LNA – Access standard met
Space for Children	Gaps in access throughout LNA; north of the main road served, but rest, poor.
Space for Young People	As above
Active Sports Space	Access standards not met in south of LNA
Routeway/Green Corridor	No standards set
Cemetery and churchyards	No standards set
Allotments	No standards set

4.0 FINDINGS FROM SURVEY AND CONSULTATION

Citizen's Panel

32 people living in West Moors responded to the Citizen's Panel survey, and placed in the Central Settlements Sub Area (147 in total). This was the largest number of people responding from any one parish.

People living in the Central Settlements are less frequent (compared to the district as a whole) visitors to children's play areas, recreation footpaths, country parks, other local countryside and woodland and spaces to enjoy nature and wildlife. Otherwise their behaviour tends to reflect that of the district as a whole.

The types of open space respondents would like to see more of in the Central Settlements Sub Area are children's play areas and space for teenagers

The most important attributes of open space are that they should be easy to get to, clean, and safe and secure. The most important facilities to have in nearby open space areas are: trees, dog bins, seats and facilities for teenagers. Two thirds of respondents would like to use open spaces near them more often: more information, new facilities with more suitable facilities and more spare time (nothing that the district council can do about this!) would be important in encouraging this.

Local Areas of Open Space in West Moors

The areas used most are Moors Valley Country Park and West Moors playing field. Areas outside the district commonly mentioned were the New Forest around Ringwood and the Purbeck area, Hengistbury Head and the Mudeford area of Christchurch.

Other comments made highlighted:

- The provision of allotments in the West Moors or Ferndown area would be good (2 people mentioned)
- It is vitally important that all councils make superhuman efforts to preserve and improve our remaining spaces, particularly those which are habitats of rare or interesting flora/fauna. Building on any open space must be fought off at all costs.
- I think the open areas near West Moors are very good. I like the areas to be natural and am not in favour of greatly extending facilities. I prefer all weather tracks where I can run, bike and walk all year
- The spare field next to Fryers Field in West Moors intended for recreation is now fallow following routing of possible bypass road atrocity. Very sad!

Summary of Provision

There are two principal sites in the LNA, both to the north of the main road.

Fryers Playing Field: has a grassed bowling green and pavilion, tarmaced courts. Large well used grassed recreation ground with pavilion: 1 senior and 1 junior pitch

and 1 cricket pitch home to West Moors FC Saturday XI, West Moors Social Club FC (Sunday XI), 5 youth teams of West Moors youth and others like UK FH Cannon FC and West Moors CC. Also hall, skate park, play area and proposed open space around and 4 tennis courts and bowling green. This the most used open space in the parish and is maintained by the Parish Council, together with the open air courts at Oakhurst.

Wayfarers Sports Ground: is Grassed sports ground and pavilion with various uses: 2 senior football and 1 cricket pitch (4 wickets+); home to Forest Link FC 1st Sunday, Longfleet Youth FC U15,14,13,12,11, 2xminis and Wayfarers CC (1st XI).

There are also facilities at Dorset Fire & Rescue Service Sports Ground: Grassed recreation ground used for football (one pitch) and cricket with a pavilion, plus Tennis Court: Single tennis court with coloured tarmac surface

West Moors Parish Council

West Moors Parish Council stated that there was no need for additional or improved open space...no groups were identified as being poorly catered for. The Memorial Hall may have some spare capacity.

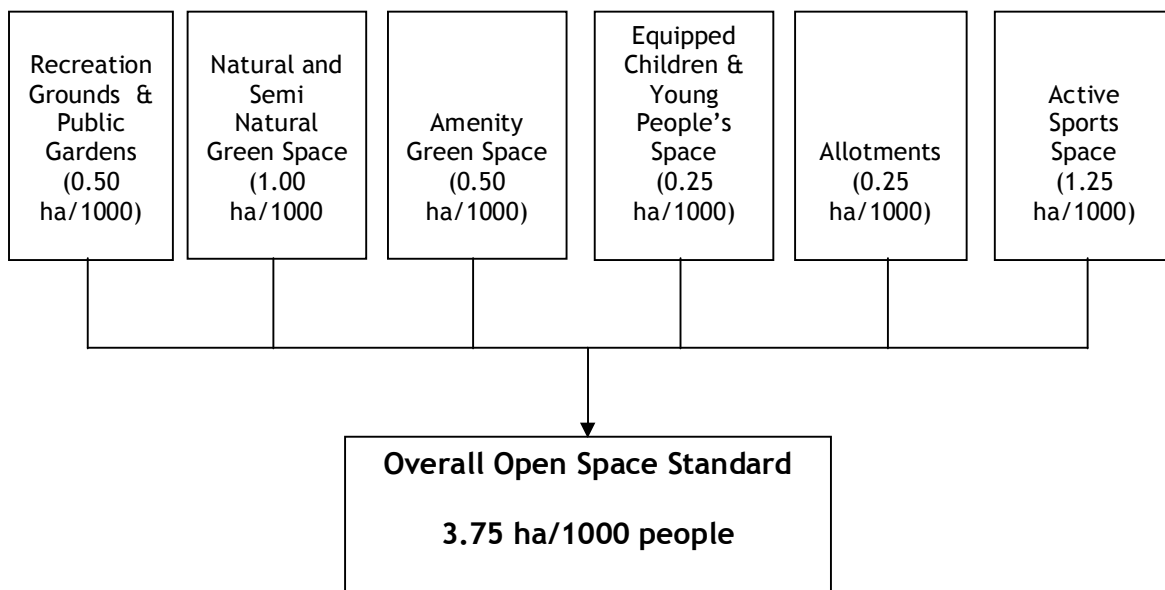
Schools

4 school playing fields – two at West Moors Middle School Playing Fields and at Oakhurst First and St Mary’s First School.

5.0 QUANTITY OF OPEN SPACE

5.1 Quantity standards for open space

Section 5 of the report outlines the quantity standards for open space within the District; a summary of these draft minimum standards is shown below:



5.2 Quantities of different types of open space

These standards have been applied at a local level to determine the provision of different types of open space across the adopted minimum standard, this is summarised in Table 4 which shows:

- the existing quantity of open space (existing provision);
- the required quantity of open space for the population of the area (required provision);
- the surplus or deficiency of open space (in m² and acres);
- Supply against the standard.

Table 4 Quantities of open space within the area – WEST MOORS (Pop. 7198)

Typology	Existing provision (m ²)	Required provision (m ²)	Area of open space above/below the recommended minimum level of provision (m ²) / (ha)
Recreation Grounds & Public Gardens	78220	35990	42230m / 4.2ha
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	1997806	71980	1925826m / 193ha
Active Sports Space	4478	89975	-85497m / -8.5ha
Space for Children & Young People	2173	17995	-15822 / -1.5ha
Amenity Green Space	62958	35990	26968m /2.7ha
Allotments	0	17995	-17995m / -1.8ha

5.3 Key Points: Quantitative Provision of Open Space in West Moors

Fairly well provided for and standards met in most areas apart from active sports space and space for children and young people (and allotments). Although not a dedicated sports ground, Fryers Field Recreation Ground has pitches which are widely used for sports activities.


6.0 ISSUES ARISING IN WEST MOORS

- West Moors is an interesting area, being fairly modern and dominated by the West Moors Plantation.
- All three sports sites/recreation grounds are to the north of the railway, leaving the southern section to west of the plantation outside the catchment for active sport and multi functional open space.
- There is a fairly good coverage of amenity open space, some areas of which in the south might provide the opportunity for additional play areas.

Current play provision is low in both quality and quantity; the priority is to improve provision for children and young people and to provide additional sites in the south.

- Across the District, provision of allotments is low and many LNAs have no allotment sites. As set out in Section 5, this Report recommends a new look at the burgeoning interest in allotment gardening, and how new sites can be brought into use to cater for growing demand.

EAST DORSET: WEST MOORS

	Local Needs Areas
	Recreation Grounds & Public Gardens
	Country Parks
	Allotments
	Amenity / Informal Green Space
	Other Open Space
	Children & Young People's Space
	Education Outdoor Space
	Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space
	Active Sports Space

