

# East Lothian Play Sufficiency Assessment

## Technical Report

March 2024



*Image 1: Welcoming sign at Ormiston Park Play Area*

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# 1 Background to Play

## 1.1 The national vision for play

The Scottish Government has committed to embedding children's right to play across every aspect of children's everyday lives.

### **The vision for play in Scotland**

*"We want Scotland to be the best place to grow up. A nation which values play as a life-enhancing daily experience for all our children and young people; in their homes, nurseries, schools and communities."*<sup>1</sup>

## 1.2 Why is play important?

Children's right to play is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Research<sup>2</sup> clearly demonstrates the individual and societal benefits of play for children and young people. We now know that play leads to a wide range of interconnected beneficial outcomes to play across the cognitive, physical, emotional and social developmental areas. However, research also demonstrates that play also has positive societal outcomes through building healthier and more tolerant societies.

*"From the perspective of politicians and policy makers... investing in play can, and does, lead to multiple benefits including improved educational attainment, a healthier society and increased levels of tolerance within and between communities."*<sup>3</sup>

## 1.3 What do we mean by play?

Play is not easily defined and can take many forms. It can be active, passive, solitary, independent, assisted, social, exploratory, educational or just for fun. It can happen indoors or outdoors. It can be structured, creative, messy, entirely facilitated by the imagination or can involve using the latest gadget. However, no matter what form play may take, what is important is that every child's right to play is respected and they are allowed the freedom to choose how and when they play.

## 1.4 What are 'high quality play opportunities'?

The varied forms of play means it is not easy to assess quality. High quality play opportunities may be structured or entirely child-led. They may be taking place in spaces specifically designed for play or in spaces in which play has not been planned. It may be taking place outwith the control or view of adults. Further, by its very nature 'high quality' provision will vary in different circumstances and locations. However, in terms of the provision and assessment of play opportunities and environments, in general we might expect 'high quality opportunities' to happen when:

- the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are put into practice.
- the environment provides stimulus for play to flourish.
- if adults are involved, they work to established ethical and professional standards.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [Play Strategy for Scotland: our vision](#)

<sup>2</sup> Play for a Change, 2008; [Getting it Right for Play: an evidence base](#); [The Play Return](#); [Play is the Way](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Play Return](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Play Strategy for Scotland: our action plan](#)

It is also increasingly understood that children need challenge and risk when they play, so a balance must be sought between keeping children safe from harm while also allowing them to engage in risky activities.<sup>5</sup>

*Text Box 1: The benefits of play*

**The benefits of play:**

- cognitive development: play builds language skills, problem solving and independent learning skills, self-efficacy, representational skills, memory and creativity.
- physical health and development: play builds physiological, cardiovascular and fine and gross motor skills.
- mental health, happiness and emotional well-being: play builds confidence, improves child/parent attachments, supports coping mechanisms and tackling anxieties and phobias, can aid recovery in therapeutic contexts, and can in some cases alleviate symptoms of ADHD.
- social development: play supports children to work with others, promotes sharing, and builds skills in negotiating and appreciating others' points of view.
- risk management and resilience: play enables children to experience and manage risk alongside promoting resilience through experiencing and responding to unexpected, challenging situations.

## 2 Play in East Lothian

### 2.1 Vision for play in East Lothian

East Lothian Council's Play Policy 2017-2020<sup>6</sup> commits to ensuring that all children and young people have access to a range of play opportunities across East Lothian's built and natural environment. The Council understands the importance of embedding children's views within decision-making and recognises the role of adults in supporting children and young people's right to play.

The Council sets out the following principles for play:

- Principle 1: All children and young people have a right to play.
- Principle 2: Children and young people will be listened to and have their views on playing and free time taken into account.
- Principle 3: Adults should positively promote and support children and young people's right to play.

*Text Box 2: East Lothian's Vision for Play*

**East Lothian's Vision for Play**

*"All children and young people in East Lothian will have opportunities to play every day, with an emphasis on being outdoors, throughout their childhood. We recognise that sufficient space, time and opportunities to play are part of a happy childhood and are essential to children's health, well-being, learning and development, helping them to achieve their full potential."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>5</sup> [Managing Risk in Play Provision](#)

<sup>6</sup> [East Lothian Play Policy 2017 - 2020 with appendices | East Lothian Council](#)

## **2.2 Priority statements for play**

East Lothian's Play Policy 2017-2020 included a series of Priority Statements relating to all aspects of play policy, which are still relevant. The following statements relate directly to outdoor play:

### **PRINCIPLE 1: All children and young people have a right to play.**

- Children and young people should be able to play in a variety of ways, in high quality spaces, within sight of their homes or within easy walking distance, where they feel safe whether or not they are accompanied by adults.
- Play areas with fixed play equipment should include inclusive play elements and design features, with an equitable distribution of accessible and inclusive play areas across East Lothian.
- Children and young people's access to outdoor spaces should include natural and wild spaces with particular attention to actions to promote inclusive access.
- The use of community resources for play, including school playgrounds should be promoted, particularly during school holidays and out-with school hours.
- Guidance and support will be provided to staff, parents and carers and to the wider community.

### **PRINCIPLE 2: Children and young people will be listened to and their views about play taken into account.**

- Children and young people, including those with additional support needs, will be consulted on the development of, and plans for, the design of parks and other local facilities and environments. Good practice case studies will be showcased.
- Children and young people will be encouraged and supported to engage with the development of plans for play, during the school day, at early learning and childcare settings, school grounds and outdoor areas.
- In order to increase inclusive play opportunities, children and young people with additional support needs will be consulted about their experience of playing in East Lothian and their views taken into account.
- A Play Champion for East Lothian will be identified to positively promote the views of children and young people and pursue progress on these.

### **PRINCIPLE 3: Adults have a responsibility to promote and support children's right to play.**

- In order to ensure progress on the Play Policy, a cross-departmental strategic group will be established, meeting twice annually, under a high-level chair, receiving reports from housing, transport, health and wellbeing, education, early learning and childcare and others whose work has an impact on play. Reference should be made to the Single Outcome Agreement / East Lothian Plan.
- A communication plan will be created to ensure awareness of the Play Policy amongst professionals whose work impacts on play and the wider community.



- Guidance, training and support will be provided on adventurous play, risk and challenge, for all children and young people’s settings throughout East Lothian.
- Inclusion of children and young people with additional support needs must be integral to the policy and practice of groups or organisations providing play opportunities.
- The Development Service (Planning) should protect and enhance physical spaces for play and decisions over the future of spaces must take into account the rights of children and young people enshrined in Article 31 (UNCRC).
- A plan will be developed showing the range of activities (including support and training) for staff and parents/carers, to increase understanding of children and young people’s play, including an emphasis on inclusion and equality.

### 2.3 Previous public consultations

In 2016 East Lothian Council conducted a public consultation on play. A total of 896 responses were gathered across three tools: a general snapshot survey, children’s ‘scribble sheets’, and a snapshot survey for 12-18 year olds. The consultation participants identified the following key areas in relation to play:

- **Playing is part of a happy childhood.**
  - *Participants identified that play is an important way for children to learn and develop, and that when they play, children have a chance to learn how to judge risks and challenges for themselves.*
- **Free time is important to young people.**
  - *Children and young people identified that they need time to switch off, relax and to socialise.*
- **Time away from adults is important.**
  - *Children and young people identified the importance of having time on their own to do what they want, without being told what to do by adults.*
- **There are fantastic and valued spaces to play in East Lothian,** but the range of play spaces may not meet everyone’s needs and it can be hard to get to some play spaces.
  - *Participants highlighted the need to increase and improve access to outdoor spaces, including natural and wild spaces.*

There is a high priority to ensure children and young people with additional support needs have access to high quality, accessible and inclusive play and free time opportunities.

### 2.4 Demographic information

In 2021, the total population of East Lothian was estimated at 109,580. Children and young people (0-24 years) accounted for 26.8% of the total population, at a rate of 28.7% of the male and 25% of the female population in East Lothian<sup>7</sup>. In 2022, the population of East Lothian was 112,300<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> [NRS \(2021\) Population Time series data](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Scotland's Census published | East Lothian Council](#)

East Lothian is projected to have the second largest population change in Scotland, when compared to the 32 local authorities. Based on 2018 mid-year estimates, East Lothian's population was predicted to increase by 8.6% between 2018 and 2028<sup>9</sup>.

East Lothian's increase in population is driven largely by the high number of people moving into the county. In 2020/21, the county had the highest level of net migration when compared to the 32 other local authorities<sup>10</sup>.

Based on 2018-estimates, it was predicted that those aged 0 to 15 will decrease in population by 1.8% between 2018 and 2028. Those aged 16 to 24 were predicted to increase in population by 6.7%, in the same time period<sup>11</sup>.

However, the 2018 population projections for children in East Lothian have since been queried. There has been a considerable number of new housing developments in East Lothian, including the construction of the early phases of the new town 'Blindwells'. To support demand, plans for 1 new High School (Wallyford) and 2 new primary schools (Blindwells and Craighall) have been approved.

East Lothian is made up of 132 data zones. There are eight areas in East Lothian which fall into the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. There are a further two areas in East Lothian which are within the 10% most deprived areas in Scotland<sup>12</sup>. All of these areas are found within the west of the county<sup>13</sup>.

The percentage of children living in low income families in East Lothian has increased, year on year, from 2014/15 to 2019/20. It was estimated that 16.2% of children were living in low income families (before housing cost) in East Lothian in 2019/20. This was marginally below the Scottish average of 16.8%. It was further estimated that, when including housing cost, 24% of children in East Lothian were living in poverty in 2019/20<sup>14</sup>.

It should be noted that whilst these are the most recent statistics available, these numbers may underestimate the current levels of child poverty in East Lothian. Due to the impact of Covid-19 and the current cost of living crisis, it is anticipated that more households have been pushed into poverty. However, there is yet to be supported through data.

## 2.5 Policy context in East Lothian

### 2.5.1 Key issues

For this Play Sufficiency Assessment, East Lothian documents were reviewed to identify current priorities in relation to a) children and young people and b) disability and additional support needs.

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<sup>9</sup> [NRS \(2018\) Sub National Population Projections](#)

<sup>10</sup> [NRS \(2022\) Total Migration to or from Scotland](#)

<sup>11</sup> [NRS \(2018\) Sub National Population Projections](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Scottish Government \(2020\) Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation](#)

<sup>13</sup> *The SIMD focuses on concentrations of deprivation across a number of sectors. Not all households living in deprivation are represented here. The SIMD can effectively hide individuals living in deprivation who do not live in these categorised areas, underestimating the spread of deprivation across East Lothian. Inequalities which impact health and wellbeing should be viewed on a scale, affecting people at various levels. Whilst those in the most extreme deprivation will see the most severe outcomes, implications associated with inequalities will affect those at the mid to high levels of the scale. Therefore, SIMD cannot provide a complete image of deprivation within East Lothian.*

<sup>14</sup> [Scottish Government \(2020\), 'Local Child Poverty Dashboard'](#)

## Children and young people

East Lothian has a slightly higher than average young population with almost one quarter (23%) of the population under 20 years of age<sup>15</sup>. This population is projected to increase faster than the national average<sup>16</sup>, demonstrating the importance of meeting the children and young people's needs. Mental health is identified as a priority issue for this population group, and East Lothian Play Policy notes the importance of play in supporting children and young people's mental health. East Lothian has a clear commitment to ensuring access to good quality outdoor play opportunities, with several East Lothian policies providing a clear commitment to the promotion of outdoor play<sup>17</sup>.

## Disability and Additional Support Needs (ASN)

There are nearly 3,000 people in East Lothian with a learning disability (499), learning difficulty (1,957) or developmental disorder (518), constituting 4% of the local population<sup>18</sup>. In total, 4,473 primary and secondary school children in East Lothian have Additional Support Needs<sup>19</sup>.

The East Lothian Partnership is committed to working with the people and communities of East Lothian to make sure that all services are accessible and inclusive<sup>20</sup>. It is further committed to securing and advancing the rights of all children and young people in East Lothian. As such, enabling children and young people with Additional Support Needs and/or Disabilities to fully participate in community life is one of the five priorities within the Children Services Plan 2017-20.

## 2.5.2 Outdoor spaces

The vision of the East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018<sup>21</sup> highlights the important role of high-quality open spaces in achieving the aim to deliver an East Lothian that is prosperous, community-minded and fair<sup>22</sup>.

*“Our open spaces play a critical role in the life of a community, encouraging healthy living by providing opportunities for sport, children’s play, relaxation, education and local events, close to where people live.”<sup>20</sup>*

The strategy notes how good quality open space contributes to the delivery of the Council Plan by providing an attractive and safe resource for people to congregate, lead healthy active lives, learn and develop. As part of the Open Space Strategy 2018, East Lothian Council conducted an audit of the quantity, quality, and accessibility of open space and play provision per household. The audit identified a good distribution of open space across East Lothian's six clusters, with five clusters meeting the quantity standard and only Tranent falling just below the 60m<sup>2</sup> per household open space requirement. All six clusters met the quality standard, albeit with some settlements having one

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<sup>15</sup> [East Lothian Children’s Services Plan 2017-20](#)

<sup>16</sup> [East Lothian Children’s Services Plan 2017-20](#)

<sup>17</sup> [East Lothian Children’s Services Plan 2017-20](#); [East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018](#); [East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018](#); [East Lothian Green Network Strategy - Supplementary Planning Guidance](#)

<sup>18</sup> [East Lothian by Numbers: Children and Young People in East Lothian, A Statistical Profile](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Children and young people services plan 2023-2026 | East Lothian Council](#)

<sup>20</sup> [East Lothian Children’s Services Plan 2017-20](#)

<sup>21</sup> [East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018](#)

<sup>22</sup> [East Lothian Plan 2017-27](#)

site requiring improvement. The audit assessed for accessibility in relation to travel distances rather than in relation to disability, as defined later in this document, and identified that most residential areas are within the required 1.2km distance to a park. Only a few specific areas in the extreme east, west and south of some settlements fall outwith the required accessibility standard.

### **2.5.3 Public parks**

In 2016 a residents' group reviewed a selection of public parks across East Lothian. The review was undertaken as part of East Lothian Council's wider approach to community engagement, with the review team comprising eight residents of East Lothian, including four employed by the Council, working together with support and guidance from the Corporate Policy and Improvement Team. While not looking specifically at play spaces, their final report<sup>23</sup> made a series of recommendations relevant to this Play Sufficiency Assessment, specifically that future work should:

- improve publicly available information about East Lothian's parks.
- improve partnership working with local people to ensure parks meet local needs.
- develop a public survey of East Lothian parks to establish priorities.
- review the current spread of parks across the County and how accessible they are to communities (i.e. how quick / easy are they to get to).
- improve understanding of what people want and need from parks.
- include a set of criteria to help inform the development of any new parks, including taking into account different user groups.
- consider adopting a 'star rating' for parks reflecting level of facilities and quality of provision.
- consider the needs to disabled people in any future park assessments and in the development of a Parks Strategy.

## **3 Play Sufficiency Assessments**

### **3.1 Why do a Play Sufficiency Assessment?**

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced new duties on planning authorities to assess the sufficiency of outdoor play opportunities for children and young people in their area and use the assessments to inform their Local Development Plan.

Furthermore, *Scotland 2045*, the Scottish Government's Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4), recognises the benefits of outdoor play for children and young people of all ages and requires development plans to identify mechanisms to improve or increase play opportunities as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure. Play areas and open spaces form a key aspect of twenty minute neighbourhoods, which is a key policy of NPF4.

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<sup>23</sup> [Clean and Green Residents Review 2016](#)

### 3.2 What is a Play Sufficiency Assessment?

The Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) is intended to provide an overall picture as to the provision and distribution of outdoor play opportunities for children across the totality of a local authority area. The statutory requirements for PSAs are laid out in the Town and Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023<sup>24</sup>. The Regulations specify that all PSAs should provide statements as regards to the overall quality, quantity and accessibility of formal and informal outdoor play opportunities in the planning authority's area, and in each locality within the planning authority's area. The Regulations define children as any person under the age of 18 years.

Regulation 3(1) requires that PSAs take the form of a written report, incorporating maps as required. The Regulation provides flexibility for planning authorities to include information that is meaningful locally and to align the Assessment with other relevant areas of work such as the Open Space Audit and Strategy and local Play Strategy, however the PSA must feed into the Local Development Plan.

### 3.3 What does a Play Sufficiency Assessment need to include?

The Regulations require PSAs to include a map identifying locations of all formal play spaces and statements as regards to the quantity, quality and accessibility of both formal and informal outdoor play opportunities. Informal play spaces are defined as areas of open space of which the primary function is not play. To achieve this, authorities can draw upon a range of alternative assessments, for example previous assessments of open and green spaces, to inform the PSA. Further details of the requirements are provided in the Scottish Government's Planning Guidance on PSAs<sup>25</sup>.

Further, the PSA responds to the requirements for play provision laid out in the National Planning Framework 4<sup>26</sup>. This framework stipulates that new, replacement or improved play provision will, as far as possible and appropriate:

- i. provide stimulating environments;
- ii. provide a range of play experiences including opportunities to connect with nature;
- iii. be inclusive;
- iv. be suitable for different ages of children and young people;
- v. be easily and safely accessible by children and young people independently, including those with a disability;
- vi. incorporate trees and/or other forms of greenery;
- vii. form an integral part of the surrounding neighbourhood;
- viii. be well overlooked for passive surveillance;
- ix. be linked directly to other open spaces and play areas.

### 3.4 Whose views need to be included?

Regulation 4 requires that in preparing the PSA, planning authorities must consult with children, parents and carers, Community Councils, and the general public. In recognition of the different needs of urban, rural and island communities, there is no prescribed mechanism for consultation.

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<sup>24</sup> [The Town and Country Planning \(Play Sufficiency Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

<sup>25</sup> [Play Sufficiency Assessment Regulations 2023: planning guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

<sup>26</sup> [National Planning Framework 4](#)

### **3.5 How often do we need to assess play sufficiency?**

The PSA will inform the Evidence Report for the next East Lothian Local Development Plan, and it is anticipated that future PSAs will be undertaken to coincide with future Local Development Planning processes.

## **4 The Process for Assessing Play in East Lothian**

### **4.1 Aim of the Play Sufficiency Assessment in East Lothian**

East Lothian Council commissioned Play Scotland to assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of their play spaces to inform their baseline PSA. Play Scotland undertook to complete the following:

- Desktop analysis of documents relating to play and play spaces, including recent relevant consultations undertaken in the local authority.
- Assessment of the quantity of formal play spaces across the full Local Authority area and major settlements through the use of GIS mapping to identify walking distances to formal play spaces at half-mile and quarter-mile distances.
- Engagement with children and young people about their views on the sufficiency of formal and informal play spaces, with particular attention to the views of the three priority groups specified in Section 4.2.

In addition, Play Scotland undertook a detailed assessment of all formal public outdoor play spaces in East Lothian, with particular focus on inclusion and accessibility as defined in Section 4.3.

### **4.2 Priority groups**

East Lothian Council identified three priority groups for targeted engagement. The aim of working with the priority groups was to deepen understanding of their specific experiences of outdoor play and identify their priorities for improving outdoor play opportunities. The PSA therefore included specific engagement with the following three priority groups:

- Disabled and Additional Support Needs (ASN) children and families
- Young women and girls
- Early years (0-4 year olds) families

This fits with recent UNCRC recommendations<sup>27</sup>, specifically that nation states should a) strengthen measures to ensure that all children, including children with disabilities, young children, children in rural areas and children in disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, have access to accessible, safe, public outdoor play spaces and b) involve children in decisions regarding urban-planning processes, including the development of spaces for children to play.

### **4.3 Accessibility and inclusion**

The aim of the PSA is to assess the quantity and quality of outdoor play spaces for all children. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) states that governments must ensure that children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play,

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<sup>27</sup> [Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations \(June 2023\)](#)

recreation, and leisure sporting activities<sup>28</sup>. The National Planning Framework 4 requires new, replacement or improved play provision to be inclusive and accessible for disabled children<sup>29</sup>. The aim of the assessment is to provide the transparency and shared understanding necessary for meaningful engagement with disabled children and families. It also meets the standards laid out in Principle 2 of the National Principles for Refurbishment of Play Parks<sup>30</sup> which states:

***Principle 2:** All children have the right to play under the UNCRC Article 31. Access to play should be as wide-reaching and inclusive as possible, ensuring that children, young people, and families have easy local access to play spaces where they feel safe and comfortable to use them. Inclusiveness looks different for everyone, so meaningful engagement with the children who will be using your play parks is fundamental.*

The Children’s Play Policy Forum and UK Play Safety Forum<sup>31</sup> define accessible and inclusive play spaces as:

*An Accessible Play Space is a space which is barrier-free, allows users access to move around the space and offers participation opportunities for a range of differing abilities. Not every child of every ability will be able to actively use everything within an accessible play space.*

*An Inclusive Play Space provides a barrier-free environment, with supporting infrastructure, which meets the wide and varying play needs of every child. Disabled children and non-disabled children will enjoy high levels of participation opportunities, equally rich in play value.*

Drawing on these definitions as a framework, Play Scotland developed a new Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment for formal outdoor play spaces. The assessment uses a scoring system to assess the play space environment, each piece of play equipment, and the surrounding infrastructure for accessibility and inclusivity. To remain aligned with the agreed definitions for accessible and inclusive play, the scoring criteria is strict and reflects the legislative ambition to ensure the right of every child to high value play opportunities. East Lothian is therefore the first authority in Scotland to undertake a full and transparent assessment of accessible and inclusive play provision in formal outdoor play spaces. As noted by the Children’s Play Policy Forum and UK Play Safety Forum Joint Position Statement<sup>32</sup>, capital and revenue budgets for the provision of children’s play facilities are limited, therefore **there is no expectation that all play spaces be fully accessible and fully inclusive**. However, the joint position statement suggests that “the strategic provision of truly inclusive play spaces at well-chosen destination sites is likely to be a key feature of a reasonable response to legislation”<sup>33</sup>. The aim of the Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment is to promote transparency through identifying the key barriers disabled children experience when accessing play and to inform strategic decisions about where to target future investment.

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<sup>28</sup> [Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

<sup>29</sup> [National Planning Framework 4](#)

<sup>30</sup> [National Principles for Play Park Renewal Programme](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Including Disabled Children in Play Provision](#)

<sup>32</sup> [Including Disabled Children in Play Provision](#)

<sup>33</sup> [Including Disabled Children in Play Provision](#)

## 4.4 Methodology

### 4.4.1 Research framework

The PSA requires assessment of the quantity, quality and accessibility of informal and formal play spaces across the authority area. To achieve this, the following methods were adopted:

- The **quantity of formal outdoor play spaces** was assessed via a GIS survey. This survey identified the location and walking distances to each formal outdoor play space within each main settlement and across the authority area.
- The **quantity of informal outdoor play spaces** was assessed through drawing on East Lothian Council assessments, audits and reports, including the Open Space Audit<sup>34</sup> and Green Network Strategy<sup>35</sup>.
- The **quality of formal outdoor play spaces** was assessed via in-situ visual assessments of every formal outdoor play space across the entirety of the authority area and through direct engagement with children and families in East Lothian.
- The **quality of informal outdoor play spaces** was assessed via direct engagement with children and families in East Lothian.
- The **accessibility of formal outdoor play spaces** was assessed via in-situ visual assessments of every formal outdoor play space across the entirety of the authority area alongside site visits to a sample of play spaces by disabled children and their families supported by staff from East Lothian Play Association (ELPA) and Can Do special needs playscheme.

### 4.4.2 Research tools

The quality assessment used three data collection tools developed by Play Scotland. These tools were:

- **Play Space Survey** – in-situ visual assessments looking at the play space environment and features, and the quality and accessibility of play provision in formal outdoor play spaces.
- **Play Opportunities Survey** – in-situ visual assessments looking at the quality and range of play opportunities provided within formal outdoor play spaces.
- **Play Needs Survey** – facilitated and online survey of children’s play preferences to capture their perspectives on the types and availability of formal and informal outdoor play in their local area.

### 4.4.3 Participation and engagement to inform the Play Sufficiency Assessment

Alongside in-situ assessments of all formal outdoor play spaces in the authority area, twelve formal play spaces were assessed by primary school children, disabled children and families, and specialist practitioners. All primary and secondary schools in the East Lothian authority were invited to participate via an email invitation, and five primary schools responded. Play Scotland approached East Lothian Play Association (ELPA) and Can Do to facilitate the engagement with disabled children and families, to which they agreed. The formal outdoor play spaces assessed by target groups were

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<sup>34</sup> [East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018](#)

<sup>35</sup> [East Lothian Green Network Strategy – Supplementary Planning Guidance](#)



selected by the groups themselves based on the play spaces that they identified as being most important to their group members.

To gather views regarding play needs, satisfaction and priorities for play, Play Scotland invited all primary and secondary schools in East Lothian to complete the Play Needs Survey with pupils, with the option to request facilitated direct engagement with Play Scotland Assessors. One school completed the Play Needs Survey online, and five schools requested direct engagement. Invitations to participate were also sent to youth groups in the local authority, again with the option of facilitated direct engagement for groups working with young women and girls. One youth group accepted the offer of direct engagement. Further engagements were undertaken with two early years groups to gain their views on play needs, satisfaction and priorities. The group engagements drew upon the Play Needs Survey to structure discussion and gather views on formal and informal play spaces in the local area. In two schools (Musselburgh Burgh Primary and Innerwick Primary) engagement was already taking place through activities related to the Place Standard consultation, therefore we have included comments from these discussions that are relevant to the PSA. Play Scotland recognises that the response to participation requests from young women and girls, and young people generally, was limited, resulting only one focus group discussion taking place with this target group. With this in mind, East Lothian Council has commissioned Play Scotland to undertake further engagement work in the Autumn term 2023 with all 7 secondary schools in East Lothian to inform the Local Development Plan, therefore further data will be gathered at this stage to inform understanding of the views of this target group.

Overall, this PSA therefore includes the following range of views and forms of assessment:

*Table 1: Overview of target group participants, assessed play spaces and assessment methods*

<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>Play Spaces / Locations Assessed</b>	<b>Method of Assessment</b>	<b>Facilitated by</b>
Disabled children and families	48 families	Neilson Park (Haddington) Bleachingfield (Dunbar) Whitecraig Park (Whitecraig) Quayside Park (Musselburgh) Cemetery Park (Prestonpans)	Play Space Survey Play Opportunities Survey	East Lothian Play Association (ELPA) Can Do
Primary school children	78 children (P3-P7)	East Linton Park (East Linton) Goolwa Park (Port Seton) South Seton Park (Port Seton) Windygoul Park (Tranent) Lewisvale Park (Musselburgh) Musselburgh Burgh Primary (Musselburgh) Innerwick Primary (Innerwick)	Play Opportunities Survey Place Standard Assessment	Play Scotland Assessment Team
Young women and girls	8 young women and girls	North Berwick	Play Needs Survey	Play Scotland Assessment Team

Early years families	25 adults 21 children	Musselburgh	Play Needs Survey	Play Scotland Assessment Team
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#### 4.4.4 Data analysis

Online surveys were created on SurveyMonkey for the Play Space Survey, Play Opportunities Survey and Play Needs Survey. The Play Scotland assessment team completed all in-situ assessments online directly into SurveyMonkey. Hard copies of the Play Opportunities Survey and Play Space Surveys were used for the direct engagement with children and families and analysis undertaken manually to identify patterns. Analysis of the views of disabled children and families was undertaken by ELPA and Can Do, and their full report is available in Appendix 2.

#### 4.4.5 Assessment of the Play Spaces: Methodology

Assessment of East Lothian’s formal outdoor play spaces took place over a period of five weeks in March and April 2023. All Council owned or managed formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian were assessed at least once. In total 121 formal play outdoor play spaces owned or managed by East Lothian Council were assessed by the Play Scotland assessment team.

Five play spaces were also assessed by disabled children and their families with the support from specialist practitioners from East Lothian Play Association (ELPA) and Can Do. The play spaces assessed by that group were Neilson Park (Haddington), Bleachingfield (Dunbar), Whitecraig Park (Whitecraig), Quayside Park (Musselburgh) and Cemetery Park (Prestonpans).

A further five formal outdoor play spaces were assessed by primary school children. These were East Linton Park (East Linton), Goolwa Park (Port Seton), South Seton Park (Port Seton), Windygoul Park (Tranent) and Lewisvale Park (Musselburgh).

The formal outdoor play spaces assessed by target groups were selected by the groups themselves based on the play spaces that they identified as being most important to their group members.

Privately owned play spaces that are not Council owned or managed were not included in the assessment, as there is a lack of data about these spaces, and the Council has no jurisdiction to influence their ongoing maintenance or to improve or make recommendations for change in these spaces, however they are included in the maps of play spaces in Appendix 3 as they are publicly accessible and provide play opportunities. The privately owned play areas shown in these figures are not exhaustive and will change over time. This is an area that might be considered again in future PSA reports.

#### 4.4.6 Public consultation on findings of the Play Sufficiency Assessment

Following the consultation and engagement with children and young people and their parents and carers which was undertaken by Play Scotland, the Council then undertook a further round of public consultation on the findings of the PSA, during October to November 2023.

The aim of this public consultation was to present the key findings, including key positive messages, key development messages, and key recommendations, to our local communities, to enable everyone to have input into the PSA. The consultation was sent to all Community Councils; and was

sent via schools to all parents/carers on our primary and secondary school mailing lists, and via our Local Area Partnerships to all of the contact groups, organisations and individuals on their mailing lists. In addition, the consultation was available online on the Consultation Hub (<https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/housing-environment/play-sufficiency-assessment>) and as paper copies in libraries, and was promoted through the Council's communications and publicity channels including social media.

There were 291 responses to this public consultation on the PSA findings. The detailed results from this consultation are set out in Appendix 1.

The findings from all these stages of consultation and engagement across our communities have informed and been incorporated into the East Lothian Play Sufficiency Assessment.

## 5 Play Sufficiency in East Lothian

### 5.1 The quantity of formal and informal play in East Lothian

#### 5.1.1 The quantity of formal outdoor play spaces

**KEY MESSAGE: East Lothian has 121 Council owned or managed formal outdoor play spaces distributed across the entirety of the local authority area.**

East Lothian has 121 Council owned or managed formal outdoor play spaces. Figure 1 illustrates the location of all these formal outdoor play spaces across the East Lothian authority area. There is a good distribution of formal outdoor play spaces across the local authority relative to the size of the settlements. Table 2 shows the distribution of formal play spaces across the six largest settlements in the authority. Musselburgh is located in the far west of the authority area and is the largest settlement by population<sup>36</sup>. Tranent and Prestonpans are also located in the west of the authority area. Haddington is located centrally, North Berwick is in the north of the authority area and Dunbar is located in the east. Musselburgh, Prestonpans, North Berwick and Dunbar are all coastal settlements.

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<sup>36</sup> [East Lothian by Numbers - Population and Demography](#)

Figure 1: East Lothian Authority Area Map Identifying All Council Managed Formal Outdoor Play Spaces



Table 2: Number of Formal Outdoor Play Spaces in each Main Settlement

Settlement	Number of Formal Outdoor Play Spaces
Dunbar	10
Haddington	16
Musselburgh	20
North Berwick	6
Prestonpans	7
Tranent	10

### 5.1.2 Walking distances to formal outdoor play spaces

**KEY MESSAGE: Most residents in the six largest settlements have at least one formal outdoor play space within a 5-minute walk.**

The following six maps illustrate walking distances to Council owned formal outdoor play spaces within each of the six largest settlements. Using GIS software, walking distances are calculated based on actual walking time using local streets or footpaths. The maps illustrate walking times of 5 minutes (green shading), 10 minutes (orange shading) and 15 minutes (pink shading).

The analysis demonstrates good levels of access to formal outdoor play spaces across the authority area. Over half of residential areas in the six largest settlements have a formal outdoor play space within a 5-minute walk and nearly all residential areas in these settlements have at least one formal outdoor play space within a 15-minute walk.

Table 3: Walking Distances Map Key

Green shading	5-minute walk
Orange shading	10-minute walk
Pink shading	15-minute walk

Figure 2: Dunbar Map of Walking Distances to Formal Outdoor Play Spaces

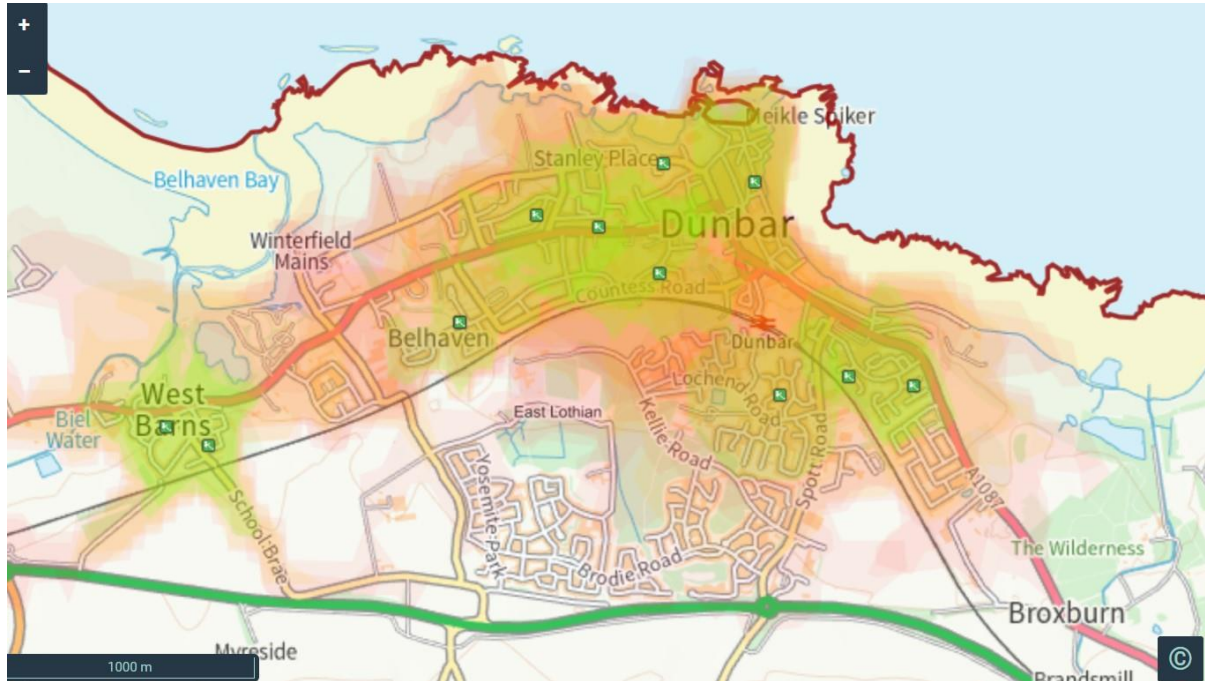


Figure 3: Haddington Map of Walking Distances to Formal Outdoor Play Spaces

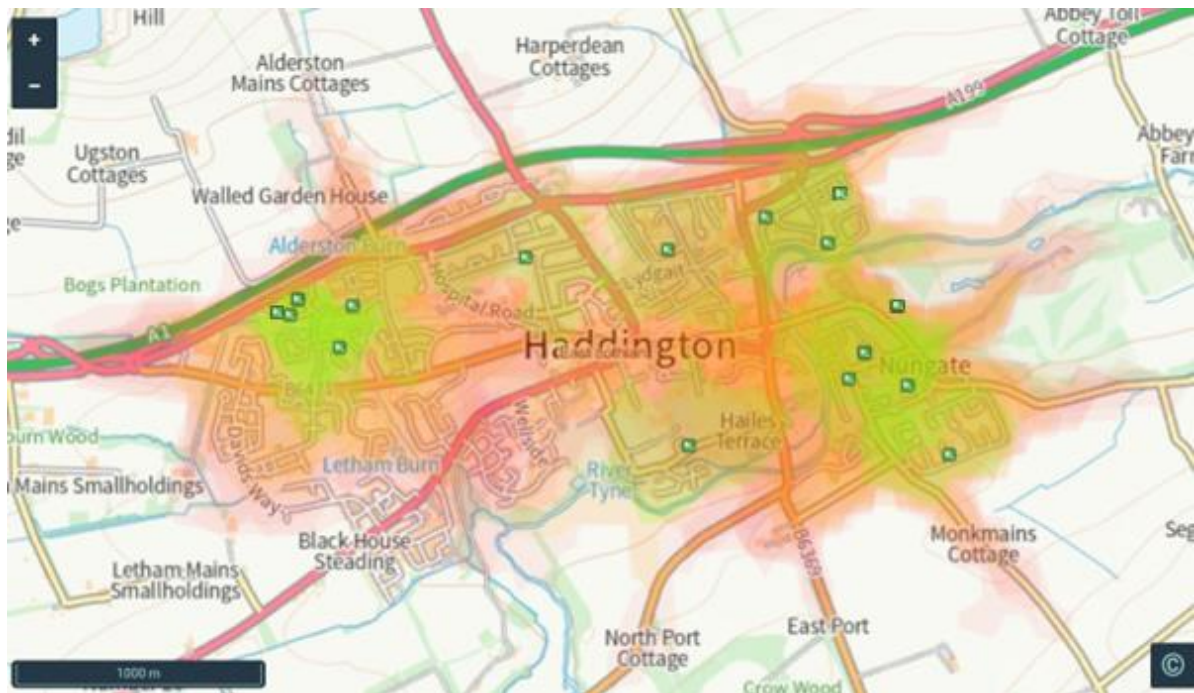


Figure 4: Musselburgh Map of Walking Distances to Formal Outdoor Play Spaces

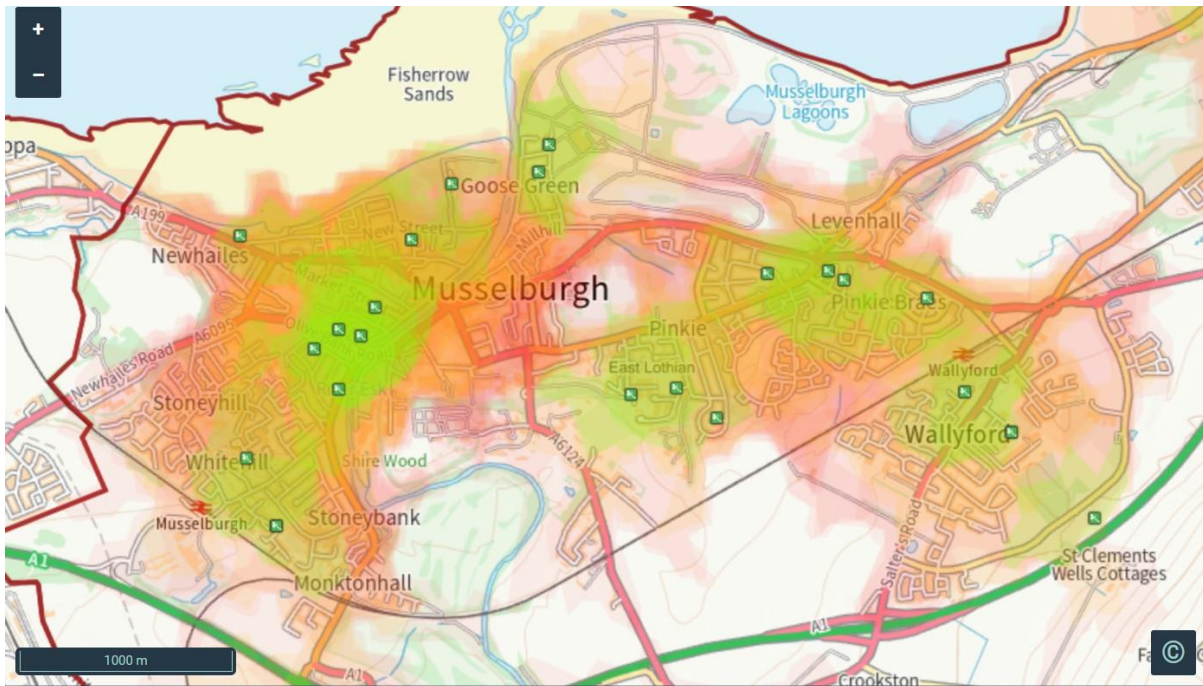


Figure 5: North Berwick Map of Walking Distances to Formal Outdoor Play Spaces

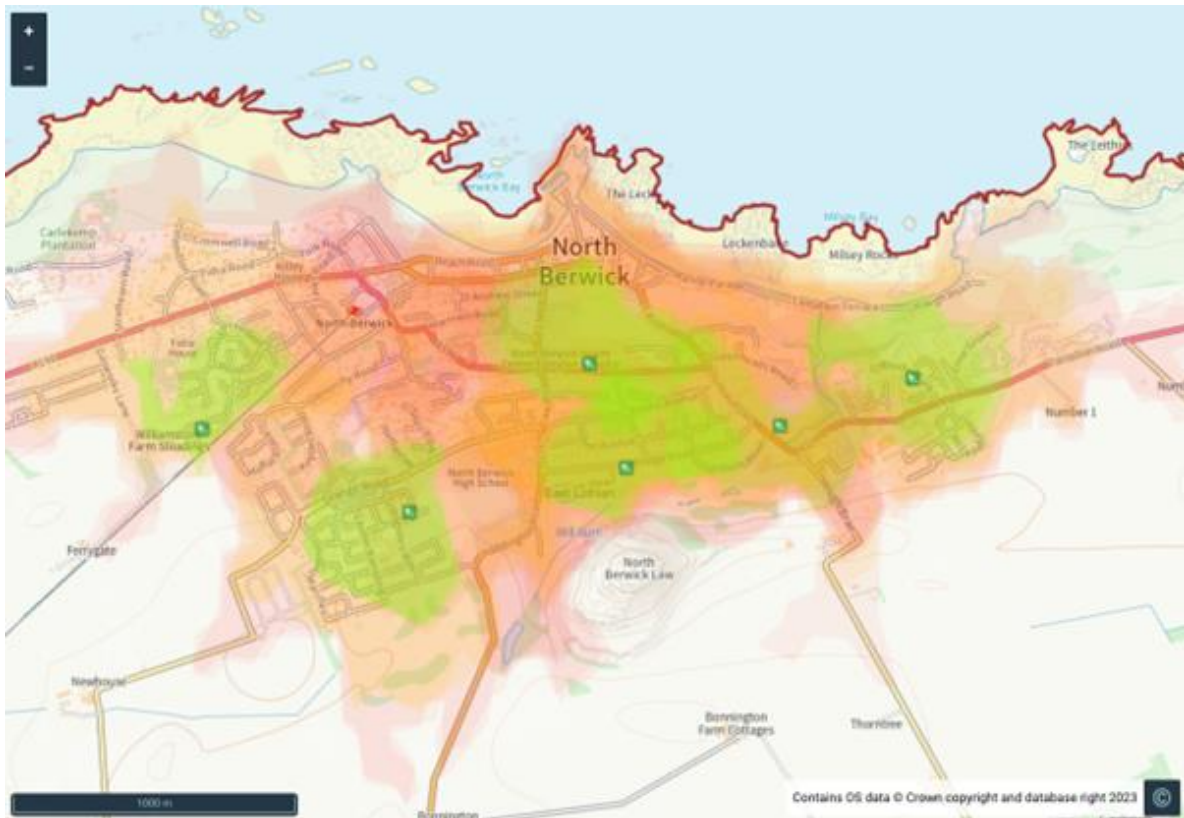


Figure 6: Prestonpans Map of Walking Distances to Formal Outdoor Play Spaces

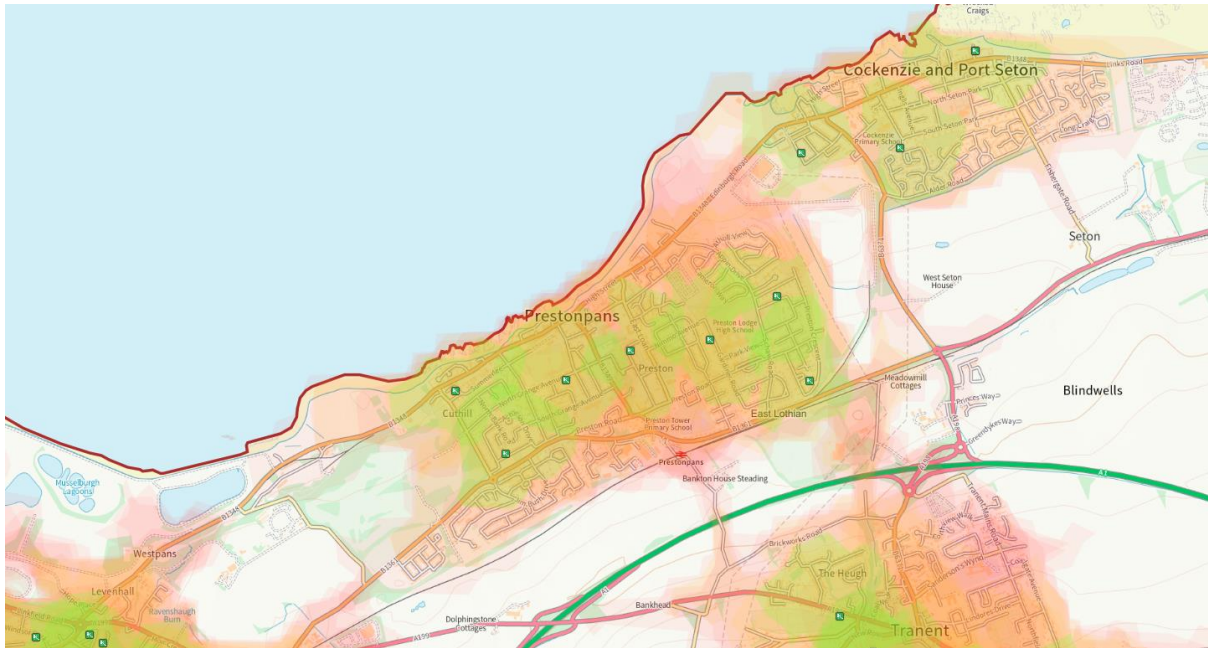
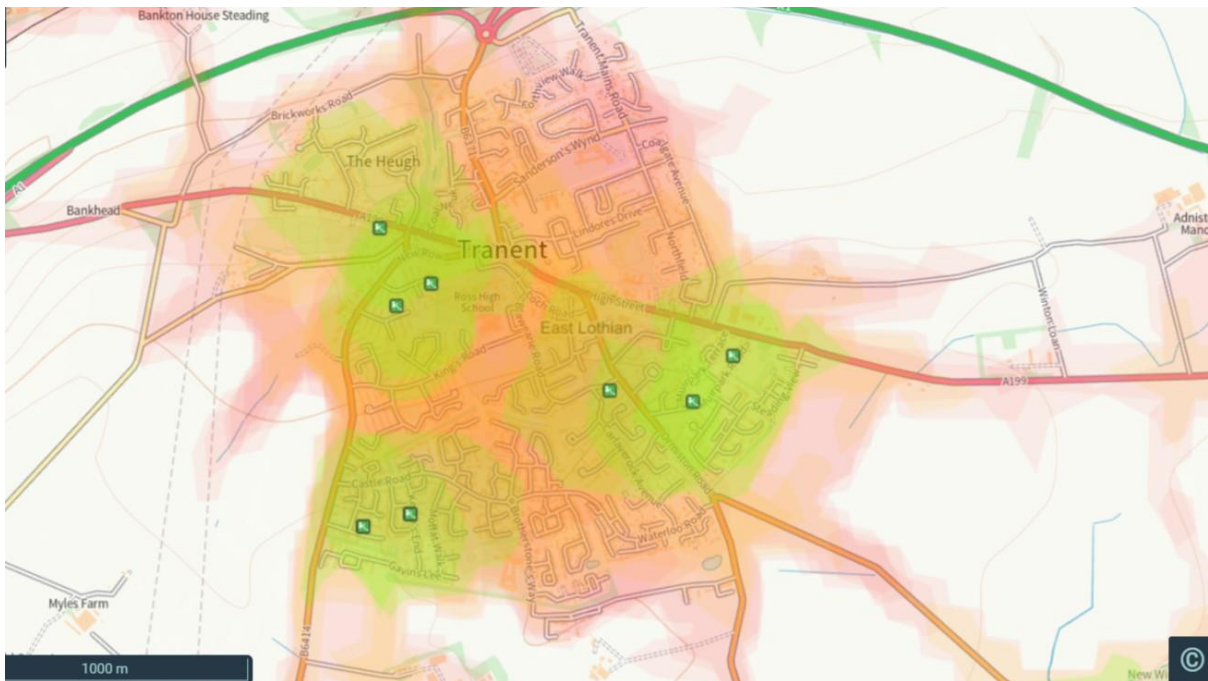


Figure 7: Tranent Map of Walking Distances to Formal Outdoor Play Spaces



### 5.1.3 The quantity of informal outdoor play spaces

**KEY MESSAGE:** East Lothian provides a wealth of informal outdoor play opportunities across a wide range of natural settings.

East Lothian is a rural and coastal authority area with a high proportion of open and green spaces. The Open Space Audits in 2009 and 2016<sup>37</sup> identified a good distribution of open space across East Lothian's six localities, with only Tranent falling just below the 60m<sup>2</sup> per household open space requirement. There are 13 bathing sites in the East Lothian authority area, nine of which are classed as good or excellent quality by SEPA<sup>38</sup>. Over 80% of East Lothian residents live within a 5-minute walk of their nearest useable green space and one-fifth of residents report using open and green spaces on a daily basis<sup>39</sup>. The majority of residents (81%) are satisfied or very satisfied with the open and green spaces within East Lothian<sup>40</sup>. The role of East Lothian's open and green spaces in supporting informal play is recognised in East Lothian's Green Network Strategy<sup>41</sup> where there is a commitment to protect and build on East Lothian's existing strong recreational offer of beaches, countryside and urban parks and walkways. The Strategy commits to support walking and cycling as recreation, along with other activities such as horse riding and skateboarding or, on water, swimming, canoeing or rowing. The Green Network Strategy further aims to provide for play in formal and informal settings, including natural spaces.

East Lothian therefore provides a wealth of informal outdoor play opportunities across a wide range of natural settings, including woodland and forests, coastal areas and beaches, and grasslands and wetlands.

The feedback received from the public consultation with communities supported this conclusion, with respondents mentioning a range of outdoor play opportunities across East Lothian, which included beaches, woodlands and parks. The detailed feedback from the public consultation is set out in Appendix 1.

## **5.2 The quality of formal and informal play in East Lothian**

### **5.2.1 The quality of formal outdoor play spaces**

Every formal outdoor play space in East Lothian was assessed for the quality of play opportunities. This included assessment of the play environment and play space features via the Play Space Survey. The Play Opportunities Survey provided a detailed assessment of the types of play opportunities provided within each play space across four key age ranges (0-4, 5-11, 12-15, 16-17 years). Each individual piece of fixed equipment within each play space was included in the assessment. In total, 889 pieces of fixed equipment were assessed. On average there were seven pieces of fixed equipment per play space, although most play spaces have between four and ten pieces of equipment. Three play spaces have 20 or more pieces of fixed equipment.

As part of East Lothian Council's commitment to community engagement in planning processes, Play Scotland was commissioned to undertake direct engagement with children, young people and families. Specific engagement was undertaken with primary school children and the three priority groups: disabled children and families, young women and girls, and early years (0-4) children and families. To ensure transparency, the results of the engagements with each group will be reported separately.

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<sup>37</sup> [East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018](#)

<sup>38</sup> [East Lothian by Numbers – Environment, 2016](#)

<sup>39</sup> [East Lothian by Numbers – Environment, 2016](#)

<sup>40</sup> [East Lothian by Numbers – Environment, 2016](#)

<sup>41</sup> [Green Network Strategy 2018 – Supplementary Planning Guidance](#)



## 5.2.2 Quality of formal outdoor play space environments

**KEY MESSAGE: East Lothian's formal outdoor play spaces are generally clean and well maintained.**

The Play Space Survey assessed the quality of every play space environment, including assessment of signage, pollution and vandalism as well as the general condition of amenities (for example, fencing and lighting) and provision of litter and dog waste bins.

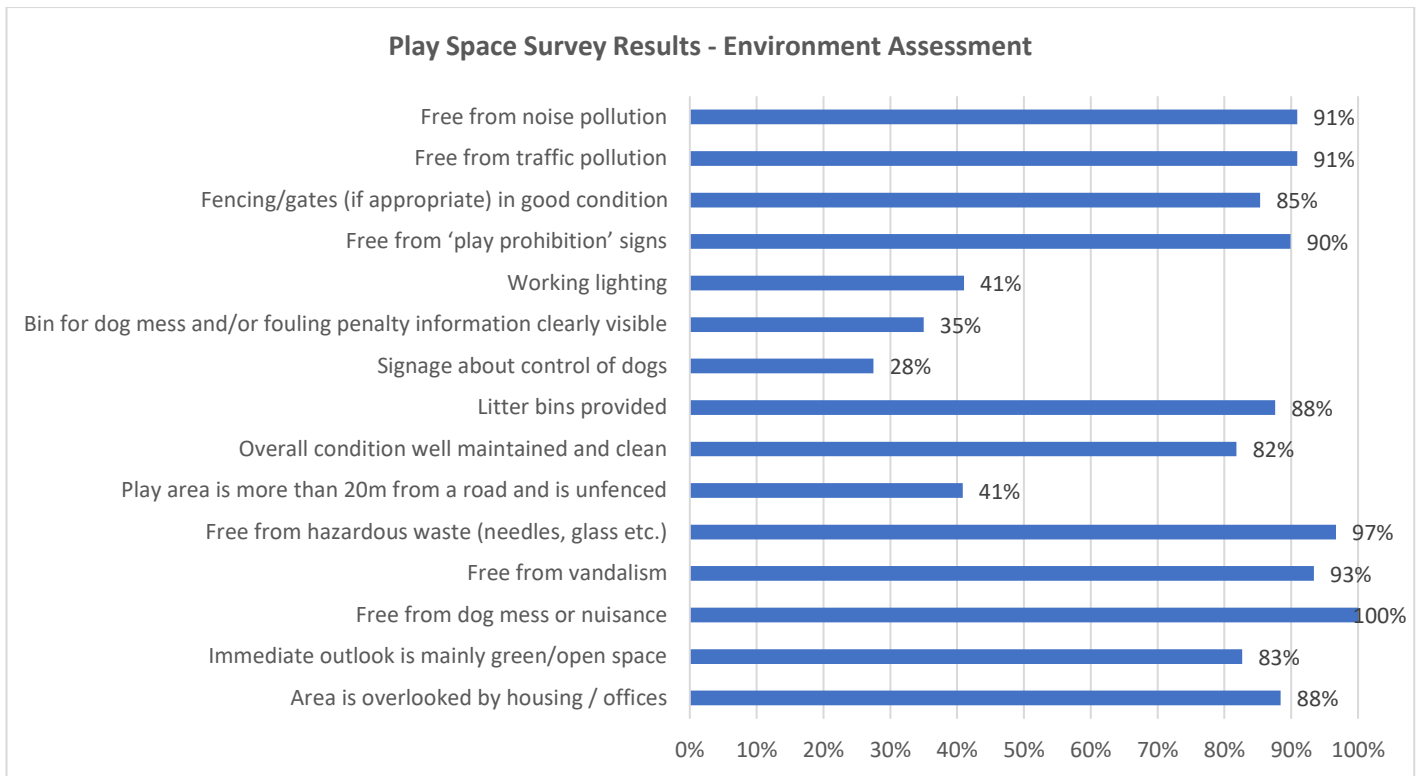
All play spaces were assessed as being free from dog mess (100%) and the vast majority free from hazardous waste (97%) and vandalism (97%). Most spaces are well maintained (82%) with litter bins provided (88%) and fencing/gates in good condition (85%). Most spaces have an immediate outlook that is green or open space (83%) and overlooked by housing or offices (88%). Most play spaces are free from traffic and noise pollution (91%) and free from any signage indicating that play is prohibited (90%). Just under half (41%) of play spaces are at least 20 metres from a road and unfenced, with the same proportion (41%) having working nearby lighting. While only some play spaces have clear signage about control of dogs (28%) and specific bins available for dog mess (35%), this does not seem to have resulted in dog mess being an issue.

The results of the disabled families' assessments supports these conclusions with Neilson Park, Bleachingfield, Cemetery Park and Quayside Park all scoring reasonably well for environment, primarily due to the provision of seating, lighting and cycle racks.

However, the feedback received through the public consultation with communities indicated that in some areas there was a view that their local play areas are poorly maintained, dirty and repairs take time. Anti-social behaviour issues were mentioned as impacting on some play spaces. The detailed feedback from the public consultation is set out in Appendix 1.

All of the Council's play areas are subject to an ongoing and continual safety inspection and maintenance regime. Older play equipment can appear 'dirty' due to weathering although the equipment is still safe to use. Resolving anti-social behaviour issues is outwith the scope of this report, however, the issues are noted as impacting upon use and enjoyment of these play areas.

Figure 8: Play Space Survey Results for all formal outdoor play spaces across East Lothian - Environment Assessment



### 5.2.3 Quality of formal outdoor play space features

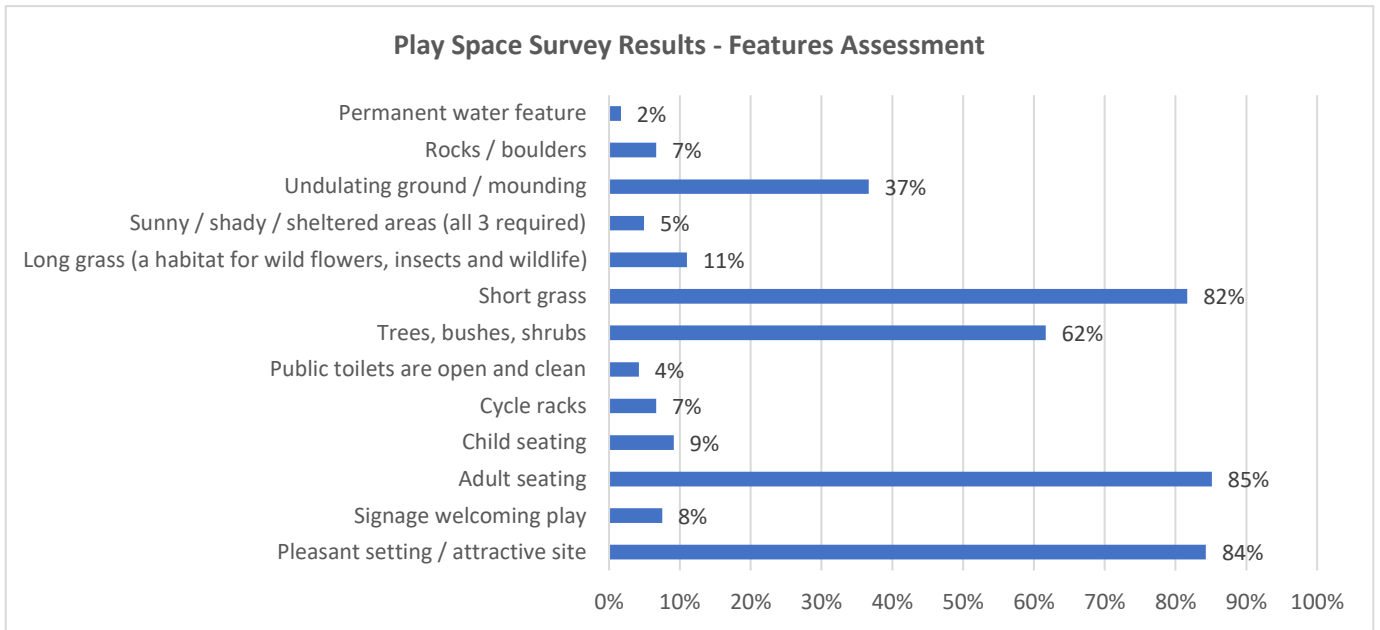
**KEY MESSAGE: Most formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian are in attractive sites with natural features such as trees, bushes or shrubs.**

The Play Space Survey assessed every formal outdoor play space for the types of play features provided, for example access to different natural play resources, as well as available amenities such as public toilets, cycle racks and seating. Most play spaces were assessed as being in attractive sites (84%) with short grass (82%) and trees, bushes or shrubs (62%). Most play spaces have adult seating (85%) although only 9% of spaces have specific seating areas for children. Very few play spaces have public toilets (4%), however, it is recognised that this is not a necessary feature for small neighbourhood play spaces. Very few play spaces provide cycle racks (9%). In relation to natural play resources, just over one third of play spaces have undulating ground or mounding (37%) however very few spaces have other natural features such as long grass (11%), rocks or boulders (7%), or permanent water features (2%). Very few spaces explicitly welcome play (8%) or provide shade or sheltered areas (5%).

The disabled families' assessment supports the overall assessment, whereby they identified that while Neilson Park scored well for features, the other four play spaces scored less well. This was primarily due to a lack of natural resources within the formal play spaces.

The results of the public consultation, in general, include positive feedback on the settings of the play areas within local parks and greenspaces.

Figure 9: Play Space Survey Results for all formal outdoor play spaces across East Lothian - Features Assessment



Text Box 3: Example of Good Practice in Formal Play Spaces

### GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Ormiston Park is an example of a play space with inclusive signage that explicitly welcomes play for children with additional support needs and a play space that promotes engagement with nature.

Image 2: At Ormiston Park – communication board, inclusive swings, sensory board and buddy bench



## 5.2.4 Quality of formal outdoor play opportunities

*“... children need good quality places to play... that offer natural features, space to move around and a variety of opportunities for physical, emotional and social activity.”<sup>42</sup>*

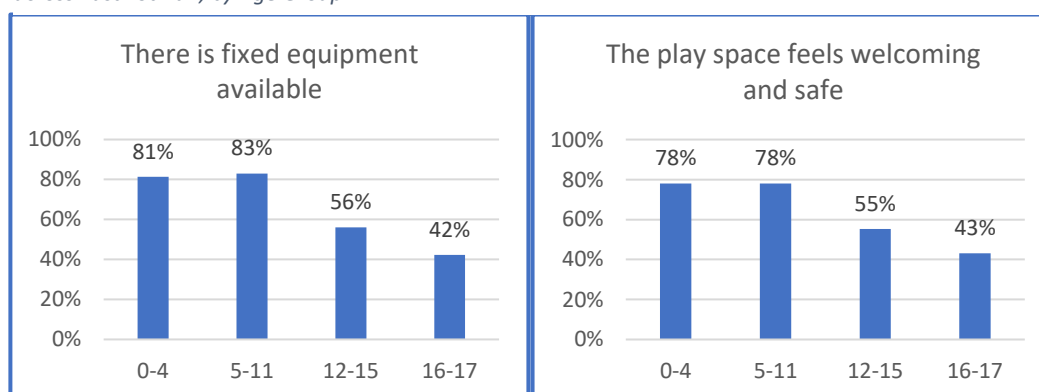
The Play Opportunities Survey assessed every formal outdoor play space within East Lothian for the quality and range of available play opportunities across four age ranges: 0-4 years, 5-11 years, 12-15 years, and 16-17 years. The latest evidence<sup>43</sup> demonstrates the importance of children having access to a wide variety of play opportunities, including physical and risky play alongside opportunities for creative and nature-based play. The Play Opportunities Survey therefore included assessment of a range of play opportunities, including general play, physical play, risky play, creative play, social play and nature-based play.

### 5.2.4.1 General play opportunities

**KEY MESSAGE: Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian provide welcoming and safe play environments with a variety of general play opportunities.**

Most play spaces (81% and 83%) had fixed equipment suitable for the 0-4 and 5-11 age groups. Just over half (56%) of play spaces had equipment suitable for the 12-15 year old age group, falling to 42% for 16-17 year olds. This demonstrates that East Lothian provides a good variety of general play opportunities in proportion to the play needs across the age brackets. Similarly, while 78% of play spaces felt welcoming and safe for children under 12, this fell to 55% and 43% respectively for the 12-15 and 16-17 age ranges. This reduction correlated with play spaces not including equipment suitable for older young people so is perhaps unsurprising. It should be noted that not all play spaces can or should cater for the full age range due to limits on physical space and allocated budgets, however there should be appropriate opportunities across the age ranges.

Figure 10: Bar charts showing results from the Play Opportunities Survey for all formal outdoor play spaces across East Lothian, by Age Group



<sup>42</sup> [Power of Play: an evidence base](#)

<sup>43</sup> [Power of Play: an evidence base](#)

## **Perspectives of target groups and feedback from public consultation**

The disabled families' assessment reinforced the findings from the Play Opportunities Survey. They identified all five parks as having fixed equipment suitable for younger children with most parks offering more limited opportunities for older children and teenagers. The exception was Cemetery Park, where they identified play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range. However, the families commented that these play opportunities were for children without any form of disability or additional needs, noting that opportunities for children with any type of disability or additional need were minimal. This is discussed in more detail in Section 5.4.

The majority of the children assessed their play spaces as feeling welcoming and safe. Where they assessed spaces as not feeling welcoming and safe, this was due to play equipment appearing old, being broken, or having visible rust or graffiti. Most play spaces were assessed as having fixed equipment suitable for younger children with fewer play opportunities for older children and teenagers. Most of the formal play areas assessed by the children were in green spaces, and most children identified this as a key factor in enhancing their play experience, stating that they integrate surrounding informal green spaces into their play. Some children stated they were unsure what form of play was permitted in the surrounding areas, for example bike riding or chalking on pavements.

The young women and girls' group identified one formal play space as a place they hang out, although this was due to the space including a shelter that had been installed through fundraising activities by a local youth group. The girls did not utilise any formal outdoor play space for either play opportunities or to hang out, but rather identified shelters as their preferred 'hang out' space. The group identified more 'hang out' spaces and more sheltered areas as being their main priorities for improvement.

The early years groups identified a wide range of suitable play opportunities in formal outdoor play, including both local neighbourhood play spaces which are accessible by walking and larger, destination play spaces that require a car or public transport. However, the groups highlighted the importance of fixed play equipment available within one play space that is suitable for both older and younger children, noting that it can be difficult to find a play space that meets their needs when they have children with a wide age range.

The feedback received from communities through the public consultation supported the findings that there is insufficient play provision for older children and teenagers, as many play areas have play equipment aimed at younger children.

### **5.2.4.2 Opportunities for physical play**

**KEY MESSAGE: Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian provide a good range of opportunities for physical play, particularly for younger children.**

The Play Opportunities Survey identified that play spaces in East Lothian provide a good range of opportunities for physical play. This is particularly good for children under the age of 12, although there are fewer opportunities for physical play for older age groups. Most play spaces provide sufficient space for children under 12 years of age to run, chase, hop, skip or jump (86% and 83%), however this falls to 59% for 12-15 year olds and 46% for 16-17 year olds. A similar pattern of fewer opportunities for physical play for older age groups can be seen across all forms of physical play.

While this reflects the differing needs and requirements for the older age groups, it may be useful to consider how to further increase access to physical play for older children.

The survey identified that most formal outdoor play spaces offer opportunities for swinging, sliding and spinning or rocking across all age ranges. However, formal play spaces afford significantly fewer opportunities for balancing and crawling, with less than one quarter of play spaces providing places for crawling, including for the younger age groups, and less than half offering opportunities for balancing for the 0-11 age ranges. This falls to 30% and 23% for the 12-15 and 16-17 age groups respectively. There are minimal opportunities in any play space for bouncing high, with only Polson Park offering this form of play opportunity. One quarter of play spaces provide dedicated places for bike or scooter riding, for example through provision of a pump track or skate ramp. It is recognised however that surrounding areas, for example footpaths, provide informal play opportunities for this activity. Just under half of formal play spaces provide opportunities for ball games, reducing slightly for the older age ranges. Similarly, it is recognised that in the surrounding area there is usually space for some ball games.

*Image 3: John Muir Country Park climbing logs and log circle*



*Image 4: John Muir Country Park tunnel in mound and Cemetery Park accessible Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)*



## Perspectives of target groups and feedback from public consultation

The assessment of the five formal outdoor play spaces undertaken by disabled families identified similar patterns for physical play. Neilson Park, Bleachingfield, Whitecraig and Quayside Park were all assessed as offering a variety of physical play opportunities for younger children, although they identified fewer opportunities for older children. The assessment highlights a lack of opportunities for bouncing, for roller skating, skateboarding or bike or scooter riding within the boundaries of the play space, although there are some opportunities for bike or scooter riding in the surrounding green areas. This assessment highlights the wide range of opportunities for physical play for all ages provided within Cemetery Park, including spaces for roller skating, skateboarding and bike or scooter riding. However, their assessment identifies that all five parks offer fewer opportunities for physical play for anyone with mobility issues, noting that swinging, spinning, rocking, sliding and climbing high were either not possible or had significant barriers.

*Image 5: Vertical bar blocking access to MUGA*



When assessing formal play spaces, children tended to have a wide interpretation of the ways to engage with the play space, often finding ways to engage in the various forms of physical play even when there was no fixed equipment specifically designed for that purpose. For example, children stated that they would use the tops of other pieces of equipment to hang upside down when no specific hanging bars were available or use pieces of equipment as goal posts. The multiple ways children engage with fixed play equipment is an aspect of play space design to consider in future planning. Despite the children's more flexible approach to formal play spaces, their assessments remained consistent with the general Play Opportunities Survey, identifying a lack of opportunities for crawling, bouncing high, for ball games, and for riding bikes, scooters, roller skates or skateboarding. Some children identified places to practise parkour, for example through using the seating in parks, but they were unsure if this was permitted.



The young women and girls' group did not identify the use of fixed play equipment as being a popular form of physical play. However, the group did identify the provision of more adventurous equipment, for example flying foxes, as a priority and indicated that they would use these resources if available.

The early years groups identified opportunities for young children to use balance bikes and scooters, equipment for bouncing, climbing and balancing, and for adults and babies/children to swing together as priority areas.

The feedback received from communities through the public consultation supported the findings that opportunities for physical and more challenging play for older children and teenagers are more limited.

### 5.2.4.3 Opportunities for adventurous and risky play

**KEY MESSAGE: Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian offer a range of opportunities for younger children to take risks and experience adventurous play.**

The Play Opportunities Survey identified that most formal outdoor play spaces provide opportunities for children under 12 years of age to take risks and experience adventurous physical play. This falls to half and just over one-third of play spaces for the 12-15 and 16-17 year old age groups. For example, while the majority of play spaces provide opportunities for children under 12 years to climb and jump from high up, this reduces by half for the 16-17 year old age range. There are limited opportunities for roller skating or skateboarding, although there are some good examples of skate ramps and pump tracks within the authority area (see Image 6). There are no specific areas designated to practice parkour, however there are areas where this may be possible and appropriate, for example some skate parks. The design of the fixed equipment also means that there are almost no opportunities for children and young people to move equipment in ways to make play more difficult or challenging.

Image 6: Ormiston Pump Track



## **Perspectives of target groups and feedback from public consultation**

The assessment undertaken by disabled families was consistent with the general survey, identifying some play spaces as offering opportunities for younger children to take risks, but noting that there were fewer opportunities for older children. However, the assessment identified that there were virtually no opportunities for anyone with physical disabilities to take risks in any of the five play spaces. This is explored in more detail in Section 5.4. This assessment also identified extremely limited opportunities in all five play spaces for children and young people of any ability to move things around to make play more difficult or challenging.

The children's assessments were also consistent, identifying that there were opportunities for younger children to take risks but that there were fewer opportunities for older children in the assessed play spaces. They also identified that there were almost no opportunities to move things around to make play more difficult or challenging. Children stated that they wanted access to more risky and challenging equipment, for example flying foxes and tall slides.

The young women and girls' group did not identify ways they engage in risky play within local formal play spaces, although they did identify more opportunities for adventurous play as a priority for improvement.

The early years groups did not specifically identify risky or adventurous play as a priority, although they identified adult/child swings, flying foxes and basket swings as preferred pieces of equipment. They also identified the opportunity for young children to experience independent play as a priority area.

The feedback received from communities through the public consultation supported the findings that opportunities for more adventurous and risky play for older children and teenagers are more limited.

### **5.2.4.4 Opportunities for creative play**

**KEY MESSAGE: Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian currently offer limited opportunities for creative play.**

The Play Opportunities Survey identified limited opportunities for all forms of creative play across all age ranges. Some formal outdoor play spaces have opportunities for pretend play for the 0-4 (17%) and 5-11 (11%) age groups but this reduces to 2% for the 12-15 and 16-17 age groups. There are limited opportunities for children to control their form of play, with nearly all (95%) of play spaces not providing any opportunities for children to engage in different ways with the equipment. Currently only three formal outdoor play spaces provide opportunities for playing with sand or soil and there are no opportunities for playing with water in any formal outdoor play space. Two play spaces currently provide specific resources for den building, although it is recognised that this may be possible within some green spaces near to the play spaces. Three play spaces were assessed as explicitly providing opportunities for performing, singing or acting. Five formal outdoor play spaces, mainly skate ramps and parks, have places for graffiti or street art, although it is often unclear whether this is permitted. It is important to note that younger children included the presence of graffiti as being a reason for play spaces feeling unwelcoming or unsafe, indicating the need to consider contrasting priorities when looking at a wide range of play needs.

Image 7: Ormiston Park imaginary play and King George V skate park and street art



### **Perspectives of target groups and feedback from public consultation**

The assessment completed by disabled children and their families reflected the findings of the Play Opportunities Survey, identifying a lack of opportunities for creative play across all five assessed play spaces. They identified some opportunities for pretend play within the play spaces, although the available equipment was targeted at younger age ranges. Creative and sensory play is an important aspect of play for many disabled children, so this was identified as a priority area for improvement.

The children's assessments of opportunities for creative play were broadly consistent, with the children identifying minimal opportunities for creative play. Some children identified ways to engage in pretend play or to perform, sing or act using some of the available fixed equipment in new, more creative ways. They identified possible ways to engage in creative activities like chalking, for example by chalking on the pavements, however they stated that they were not sure whether this type of play was permitted. Some children expressed a desire to have more control over their play, with a few children stating that they felt that fixed equipment was boring due to the way it limited their forms of play.

The young women and girls' group did not express a desire to engage in creative play within formal outdoor play spaces.

The early years groups identified creative play as a priority area, specifically welcoming opportunities for more interactive, sensory and creative play, and for opportunities to play with water and sand.

Feedback received from communities through the public consultation agreed that formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian currently offer limited opportunities for creative play.

#### **5.2.4.5 Opportunities for social play**

**KEY MESSAGE: Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian provide a good range of opportunities for younger children to engage in social play.**

The Play Opportunities Survey identified that most formal outdoor play spaces provide opportunities for social play across different ages and abilities for the under-12s, although this falls to 45% and 37% for the 12-15 year old and 16-17 year old age groups. It should be noted that this relates to age-related differences in ability rather than play spaces enabling play with children and young people with disabilities (see Section 5.4 for detailed analysis of social play opportunities in relation to accessibility and inclusion). Around one quarter of play spaces provide quiet or calmer spaces for individual or small group play, although these are often benches positioned slightly further away from the main play space rather than dedicated shelters or enclosed spaces designed to reduce sensory stimulation and promote calmer play. It should be noted that opportunities for quiet or calmer play often exist in the adjacent parks or greenspaces surrounding many play areas.

### **Perspectives of target groups and feedback from public consultation**

The assessment undertaken by the disabled families identified Cemetery Park as providing spaces for all forms of social play, including quiet social play, across all age ranges. Neilson Park, Bleachingfield, Whitecraig and Quayside Park include calm spaces to either be on your own or to hang out with small groups of friends, although there are fewer opportunities for older children. However, in Bleachingfield, Whitecraig and Quayside Parks these spaces are not inclusive due to not being accessible to anyone using a mobility aid or wheelchair. It was also noted that the only piece of accessible equipment in Neilson Park is located on the periphery of the main play space. This limits disabled children's social play opportunities as they are unable to play alongside able-bodied children throughout the main play space.

*Image 8: Roundabout on periphery of play space (Recreation Park, North Berwick) and roundabout beside other equipment (Cuthill Park)*



The children's assessments identified a range of opportunities for social play within the assessed play spaces. They identified that most play spaces offered opportunities to play with children of different ages, but all groups felt that there were not sufficient opportunities to play with children with

differing abilities. The children identified limited availability of quiet places to be on your own, although some children felt that they could engage in quiet or calmer play through ‘going into a corner with your friends.’

The young women and girls’ group identified various spaces they go to hang out and socialise. The main hang out space the group identified was the youth shelter located near a local formal play space. The group expressed pride and a sense of ownership over the shelter, explaining that young people had fundraised to pay for the installation of the shelter in a local park. They reported that the shelter had recently been moved and expressed frustration at their perception that this had been done without consultation. The group identified their main priority for improving ‘hang out’ spaces was for more sheltered areas, preferably with light and heat for the winter. This was particularly important for the younger teenagers due to older young people often coming to the current shelter and telling them to “boost” (to leave the shelter).

The early years families identified the importance of facilities such as baby/toddler changing and cafes for promoting social play in this age group as this enables them to remain in or near to the play spaces for longer periods of time. Some families indicated that they would be willing to travel for longer, either by driving or public transport, if they knew that these facilities would be available.

The need for provision of suitable shelters and other hang-out spaces for older children and teenagers to socialise was also highlighted by respondents to the public consultation. Ensuring play spaces consider the needs of girls, particularly older / teenage girls was also mentioned by some respondents, who cited the good practice for public spaces promoted by ‘Make Space for Girls’<sup>44</sup>.

#### **5.2.4.6 Opportunities for nature-based play**

**KEY MESSAGE: Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian provide limited opportunities for children to play on or with a range of natural resources.**

The Play Opportunities Survey identified limited opportunities for nature-based play within the boundaries of formal outdoor play spaces, with only 10-15% of play spaces including long grass, wildlife, plants, insects or trees for climbing. There are some good examples of incorporating nature into play spaces, for example through the nature area in Cuthill Park and the bug hotel in Ormiston Play Space. It is also recognised that many formal play spaces are located within parks and green areas which provide informal opportunities for nature-based play. Just under one fifth of play spaces have some form of natural resource to play on or with, for example trees, logs or rocks.

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<sup>44</sup> [‘Make Space for Girls’](#)

Image 9: Cuthill Park, welcoming entrance to nature area, see also Image 2 of Ormiston Park bug hotel



### **Perspectives of target groups and feedback from public consultation**

The assessment of nature-based play by disabled children and their families was consistent with the Play Opportunities Survey, with none of the five assessed formal play spaces offering opportunities for nature-based play. It was noted that while there was the potential for nature-based play within the boundaries of Neilson Park, for example through the presence of a 'wishing tree', access was not possible at the time of assessment due to shrubbery being overgrown.

The results of the children's assessments were also consistent, with almost all groups identifying a lack of nature-based play opportunities and that when nature was available this was outside of the fenced area of the play space. They identified that when there were trees and shrubbery in the surrounding area, they were not sure whether play was permitted.

The young women and girls' group did not identify any nature-based play opportunities within formal outdoor play spaces, although they were very positive about the fact that they felt like they are 'surrounded by nature' for informal play and therefore did not identify nature-based play in formal spaces as an area that needed to be improved.

The early years families identified more opportunities to play with natural resources like water and sand as a priority, along with more natural things to play and climb on.

Findings from the public consultation agreed that more nature-based play opportunities should be provided in formal play areas. However, there were also comments noting that many of the play areas were situated within parks and greenspaces with access to nature closeby.

### **5.3 Quality of informal outdoor play opportunities**

**KEY MESSAGE: East Lothian provides a good range of informal outdoor play opportunities in a range of natural and green spaces.**

Participants across all target groups spoke positively about the availability of natural spaces in East Lothian, with primary school children stating that they are generally very pleased with the natural spaces in East Lothian. The children stated that they appreciate their rural lifestyle and the green space, wildlife, and cleanliness that go along with it. Specifically, they appreciate hearing birds and other wildlife, seeing a variety of colourful flowers, and the woodlands and trees. The children further suggest that green spaces get you outside and are a good place for active socialising. Children also stated that the location of the formal play areas in wider 'green spaces' as being important, suggesting that they integrate the surrounding informal green spaces into their play which enhances their play experience. Children from Musselburgh Burgh Primary School suggested that the green spaces they access have a vast amount of play opportunities, for example playing football, space to practise gymnastics, playing hide and seek, and generally ample space for them to hang around with their friends. This group specifically identified Lewisvale Park as a popular area for young people to access informal outdoor play opportunities.

The young women and girls' group identified nature as important to their informal play and 'hang out' opportunities, and were very positive about the opportunities they had to access surrounding natural environments. They describe how they engage in these environments, for example through the various ways that they engage in risky play within their local area by building rope swings in the surrounding woodlands and hills, or through activities such as harbour jumping. Harbour jumping and the building of informal swings is not advised or recommended by the Council, however it is important to recognise that these experiences are reported and valued by young people.

The young women and girls' group spoke about their experience of the Fringe Festival, stating how much they enjoyed the opportunity to watch and feel involved in the events, despite not being able to access the ticketed events. Another informal 'hang out' space identified by the group was the local graveyard, explaining that they like it because it's enclosed, has some shelter and they stay undisturbed and are not asked to move on. The Council advises that cemeteries / graveyards are not suitable as play spaces.

The disabled families' groups identified the importance of access to natural resources and spaces to provide a variety of informal outdoor play experiences, however accessibility remains an issue. The families recommended introducing ideas for playing in natural environments close to more traditional play parks to further widen the variety of play experiences and promote access to nature.

The early years' families identified access to nature as important to their informal play experiences, with groups suggesting early years children enjoy playing in the woods, running and rolling down hills, and splashing in puddles alongside opportunities to play on or with more natural resources like sand, soil and water.

The findings on informal outdoor play opportunities in East Lothian were supported by the comments received through the public consultation, with many respondents highlighting the natural environment and the importance of the parks and green spaces to outdoor play, and suggesting ways to enhance access to and engagement with these natural spaces for all abilities.

## 5.4 The accessibility of formal play spaces in East Lothian

*“Accessible and inclusive environments and facilities must be made available to children with disabilities to enable them to enjoy their rights under Article 31.”<sup>45</sup>*

The Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment was used to assess all formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian for opportunities and barriers to play for disabled children and families. This is a new form of assessment that aims to inform the development of inclusive formal outdoor play spaces as required by the UNCDRP and the NPF4. **There is no expectation that all formal outdoor play spaces be fully inclusive.** The assessment is designed to be used to inform meaningful community engagement and strategic decisions regarding investment in play space renewal. Explanation of the Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment and definitions of terminology are provided in Section 4.3.

### 5.4.1 Accessible play in formal outdoor play spaces

**KEY MESSAGE: Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian offer limited accessible play opportunities for disabled children and families.**

To assess for formal outdoor play spaces for accessibility, the following features of every formal outdoor play space were assessed:

- Wide access routes into and around the play space
- Hard surface access routes into and around the play space
- Flush transitions to into the play space and for each piece of fixed equipment
- Provision of quiet/enclosed spaces for sensory sensitivity
- Provision of accessible sheltered/shaded areas
- Provision of accessible seating
- Provision of wayfinding routes and accessible signage
- Provision of barrier-free play opportunities integrated throughout the play space.

The Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment identified limited accessible features in formal outdoor play spaces throughout East Lothian. While most play spaces have wide access routes to all pieces of fixed equipment (83%), for most play spaces this is not hard surface access. Most play spaces use a combination of grass rubber matting and woodchip surface throughout the entirety of the play space (76%), with only 17% of play spaces using hard surfaces. Grass / rubber matting and woodchip present physical barriers to anyone using mobility aids or wheelchairs. The use of grass and woodchip was also raised as a barrier by the early years group due to the difficulty in navigating these surfaces when pushing a buggy. The assessment identified that some play spaces provide pieces of inclusive play equipment, but due to access being via woodchip, the inclusive equipment is not accessible to anyone reliant on mobility aids or wheelchairs. It is recognised that formal outdoor

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<sup>45</sup> [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment 17](#)



play spaces are required to meet set safety standards (current Industry standards on the safety aspects of surfacing are available in BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177<sup>46</sup>), however some of the best designed play spaces have a combination of bonded and natural surfaces<sup>47</sup> due to the promotion of a wider variety of play for all children irrespective of ability. While it is essential to consider and comply with safety standards in the design of formal play spaces, and to consider the ongoing maintenance and sustainability of the play areas, it is expected that play spaces be usable by all children regardless of ability<sup>48</sup>.

Flush transitions are essential to ensure accessibility to anyone using a mobility aid or wheelchair. Flush transitions refer to the completely flat transition between two spaces, for example a flat, bump-free transition at the entrance of a play space or flat transitions on access points onto pieces of equipment (see Image 10 for an example of a flush transition). Most formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian (80%) do not have flush transitions into the play spaces, meaning that these spaces are not accessible to anyone using a mobility aid or wheelchair. The assessment identified flush transitions to some (17%) of pieces of fixed play equipment, however this is due to the specific play space being a MUGA or pump track and therefore having a hard surface. These areas are valuable and can provide valuable play opportunities, however the type of play provided in these spaces is limited. The only pieces of fixed equipment identified as including a flush transition available in East Lothian are inclusive roundabouts. Inclusive roundabouts provide high-value play opportunities for both disabled and able-bodied children and are therefore important additions to play spaces. However, the assessment also demonstrated that inclusive roundabouts are often located on the periphery of the main play space rather than being integrated into the central areas of play (see Image 8). The disabled families' assessment highlighted that the location of accessible play equipment is crucial to the quality of disabled children's play experiences, noting that when accessible equipment is located on the periphery of play space this may result in a sense of exclusion.

*Image 10: Example of a flush transition from <https://hags.co.uk/en-gb/designing-inclusive-playgrounds/accessibility>*



Most formal outdoor play spaces do not provide accessible seating (94%), accessible shaded or sheltered areas (98%), quiet or enclosed spaces for sensory sensitivity (92%), or wayfinding routes and accessible signage (98%). The provision of wayfinding routes and accessible signage is particularly important for anyone with visual impairments to ensure that they can avoid potential risks within the play space, for example through walking in front of swings or slides.

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<sup>46</sup> [British Standards Institution](#)

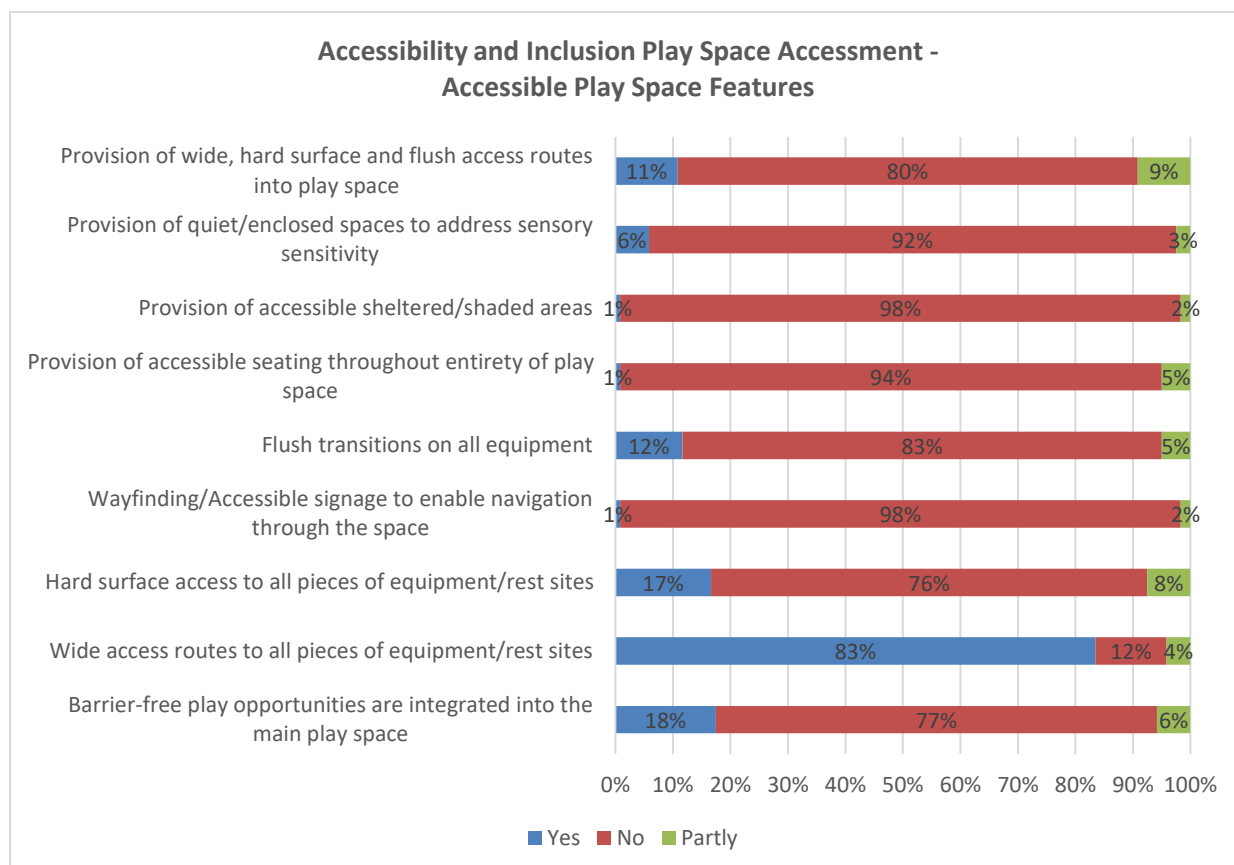
<sup>47</sup> [Free to Play: A guide to creating accessible and inclusive public play spaces](#)

<sup>48</sup> [RoSPA – Play Area Design](#)

It is recognised that it would not be expected for most formal play spaces to have these features, however it would be expected that a **reasonable** number of formal play spaces throughout the authority provide a range of accessible and inclusive play opportunities.

Each Local Authority should make this judgement based on improvement priorities, the demographic of each area, available budgets and priorities.

Figure 11: Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment for all formal outdoor play spaces across East Lothian - Accessible Features



The Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment allocates scores to each formal outdoor play space based on set accessibility criteria. Due to most play spaces having a mixture of grass rubber matting and/or woodchip surfacing with no or very limited hard surface access, most play spaces (81%) were allocated the minimum score (1). Play spaces with this score are either not accessible to anyone using a mobility aid or wheelchair, or the play spaces do not provide any accessible fixed play equipment. A few play spaces (20%) were accessible and therefore achieved a higher score. This was mainly due to the availability of an inclusive roundabout, multi-use games area (MUGA), skate ramp or pump track. MUGAs, skate ramps and pump tracks often provide hard surface access to part of the play space and are therefore more likely to be accessible to anyone using mobility aids or wheelchairs.

A list of formal outdoor play space scores in East Lothian is available in Section 12.2.

The responses to the public consultation supported the findings that the formal play areas in East Lothian’s communities are not accessible and inclusive to all, with surfacing and access to reach the play equipment highlighted by respondents and particularly in regard to disabled users.

### Disabled families' play space assessment

The assessment completed by the disabled children and families of the five selected play spaces supports the overall assessment. This assessment identifies a significant lack of accessible play opportunities for disabled children and families across all five assessed play spaces. The scores are consistent in both assessments, indicating a high level of reliability in the assessment process.

Specifically, this assessment identified significant barriers that prevent free movement both into and around all assessed play spaces, primarily due to limited hard surface access. All five spaces lacked accessible equipment, and where any accessible equipment was available, the families identified that this was situated on the periphery of the play space rather than being integrated into the main play space area, suggesting that this reduces the quality of play due to any children using mobility aids or wheelchairs not being able to access the rest of the play space.

Of the five assessed parks, Neilson Park was the only play space to achieve more than the minimum score due to the provision of an accessible roundabout. However, it is notable that this assessment identified that it was not possible for anyone with mobility difficulties to move freely around most of this play space.

While Cemetery Park achieved the minimum score, it does provide some participation opportunities for users with differing abilities due to provision of a MUGA. However access to the main play spaces is not barrier-free and is in a poor state of repair. Bleachingfield, Whitecraig and Quayside Park have neither barrier free opportunities nor high value participation opportunities for users with differing abilities.

Image 11: Cemetery Park Play Space entrance



### 5.4.2 Inclusive formal outdoor play opportunities

**KEY MESSAGE: Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian currently offer limited inclusive infrastructure to support inclusive play opportunities.**

To assess for inclusive play opportunities, the Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment assessed every formal outdoor play space in East Lothian against the following features necessary for inclusive access:

- Parking facilities suitable for vehicles with side and rear ramps
- Clearly marked and safe walkways between disabled parking bays and play space entrance
- Flush transitions on all nearby curbs and transition points
- Provision of Changing Places toilet
- Secure boundaries around the entirety of the play space
- Inclusive play opportunities integrated throughout the play space
- Provision of at least two high-value play opportunities suitable for users with mobility aids
- Provision of at least two high-value play opportunities suitable for users requiring adult support
- Consultation to embed lived experience<sup>49</sup> into the design process
- Feedback loop established to identify changing needs

The Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment identified limited inclusive infrastructure to support access into formal outdoor play spaces or to support inclusive play opportunities within the play space. No play spaces offer two or more high-value pieces of play equipment for anyone using a mobility aid or wheelchair, nor for anyone requiring adult support. Most play spaces (89%) do not have inclusive play opportunities integrated throughout the play space and when this is provided, this is often due to the play space being a MUGA. However, just over half (55%) of play spaces have secure boundaries surrounding the entirety of the space which supports inclusive play for children who may need to play within secure spaces. Assessment of the areas immediately surrounding the play spaces show that inclusive infrastructure to support access into play spaces is limited. Most play spaces (91%) do not have parking suitable for vehicles with side or rear ramps, and a similar proportion (94%) do not have clearly marked and safe walkways into the play space. Most play spaces (83%) also do not have flush transitions on all nearby kerbs and transition points.

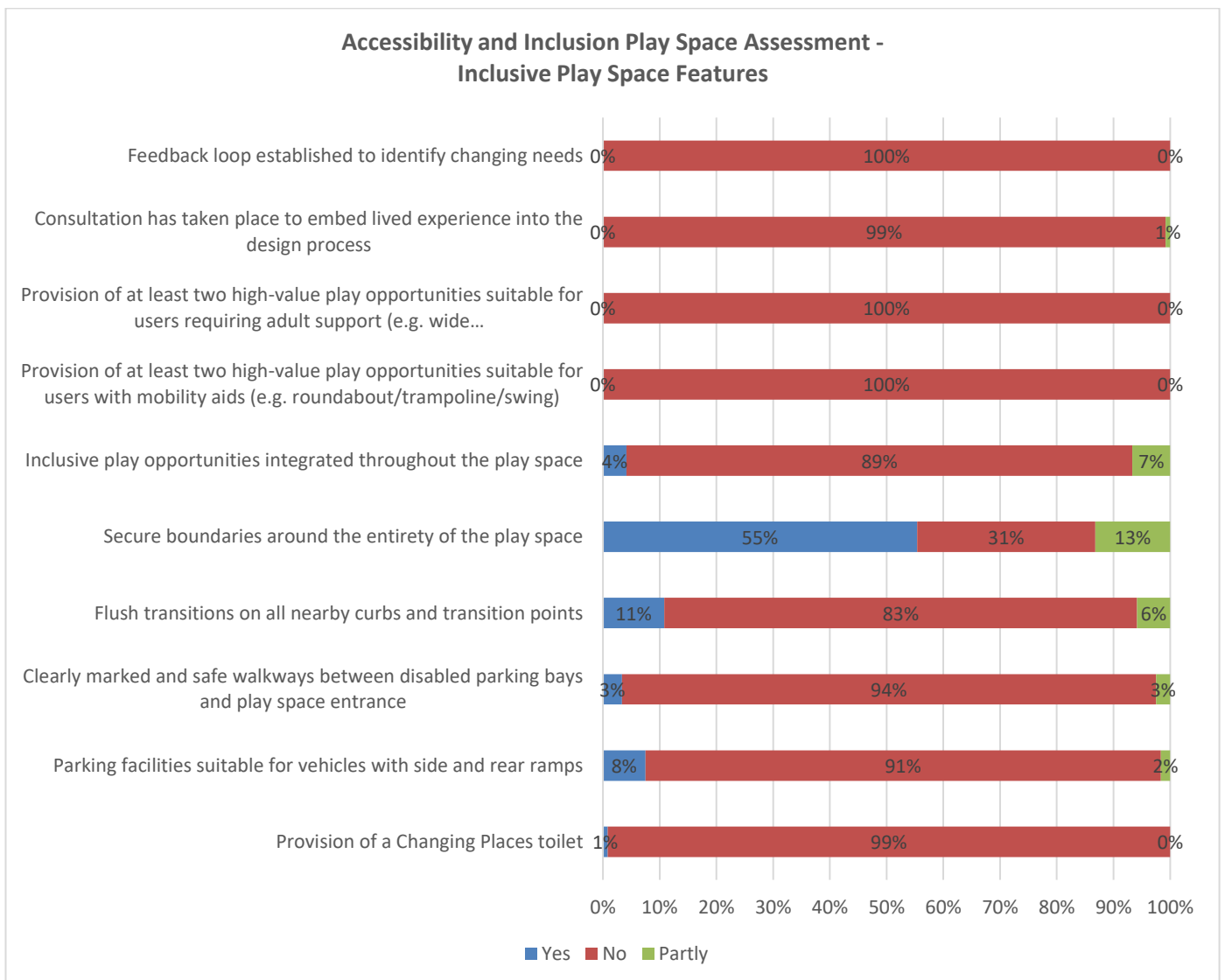
**It is recognised that it would not be expected for most formal play spaces to have these features, however it would be expected that a small number of formal play spaces throughout the authority include these features.**

**Each Local Authority should make this judgement based on improvement priorities, the demographic of each area, available budgets and priorities.**

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<sup>49</sup> “Embedding lived experience” is how the disabled children and families that Play Scotland have worked with refer to having them fully involved in design processes and supporting development and improvement of spaces. Simply put, this means looking at play spaces through the lens of someone with particular or multiple disabilities – what does that feel like to them?; can they have an equal play experience with their non-disabled peers, and not have any barriers (such as no access to suitable infrastructure that would prevent them participating)? Play Scotland advise that this is true inclusion.

Figure 12: Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment Results for all formal outdoor play spaces across East Lothian – Inclusive Features



The Accessibility and Inclusion Play Space Assessment allocates scores to each formal outdoor play space based on set inclusion criteria. Almost all (96%) of the formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian scored the minimum (1) for inclusive play. This was mainly due to a lack of specific infrastructure to support inclusive access into and around play spaces, along with lack of barrier-free play opportunities. Five play spaces were assessed as meeting the criteria for a score of 2, primarily due to the inclusion of a MUGA and/or skate park or pump track within the play space.

A list of formal outdoor play space scores for inclusive play is available in Section 12.3.

The responses to the public consultation supported the findings that formal play areas do not contain sufficient provision of play equipment and infrastructure for children with disabilities and Additional Support Needs, with wheelchair swings, toilets and fencing around the play areas specifically mentioned. There was generally a recognition that this would not be expected for every play area, but that there should be at least one fully inclusive play area in East Lothian and that information on what play areas offer for a range of abilities should be publicised.

### EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Macmerry Park provided an inclusive roundabout along with a variety of sensory play opportunities suitable for children with different abilities, including an accessible xylophone, piano, drums, puzzle boards and pinball/marble game, although not all pieces of equipment had hard surface access.

Image 12: Xylophone at Macmerry Park



### Disabled families' play space assessment

The assessment of five formal outdoor play spaces by disabled families reflects the main findings. This assessment identifies a significant lack of inclusive, integrated play opportunities across all five assessed formal outdoor play spaces. The scores are consistent in both assessments, indicating a high level of reliability. None of the assessed play spaces have two or more high value inclusive play opportunities, and only Bleachingfield has some infrastructure to support access into and around the play space. To their knowledge, no consultation has taken place to embed lived experience into any design processes.

### 5.4.3 Changing Places toilets in East Lothian

In relation to Changing Places toilets, there are six Changing Places toilets in East Lothian, located in Haddington, North Berwick, Dunbar, East Links, Gullane, and Musselburgh. Some of these Changing Places toilets were located within a short walk or drive of some formal play spaces, although consultation with disabled families is needed to understand how the locations of the toilets and play spaces support them to access the available play opportunities. There was no visible signage indicating the location of the nearest toilet, which would be useful for visiting families.

Figure 13: Map identifying locations of Changing Places toilets in East Lothian



### 5.4.4 Children's views on accessible and inclusive play

#### 5.4.4.1 Disabled children's views

During the disabled families' assessment, all families were asked their views on what could make the play spaces better for everyone. Common responses included:

- More equipment suitable for disabled people, including wheelchair accessible swings.
- Better lighting to extend the opportunity to play during the hours of dusk. This was noted as being particularly important to support play opportunities for teenage age groups.
- Stable surfaces designed into the layout of the play area to make features of the play area accessible and inclusive.
- More accessible seating and shelters.
- More accessible and inclusive toilets.
- Ensuring quiet areas and hang out areas used by children and young people are accessible for anyone with a physical disability using a mobility aid or wheelchair.
- More lower level sensory play opportunities
- More opportunities for social play.

Image 13: Macmerry Park sensory play opportunities



#### 5.4.4.2 Children's groups' views

All five of the children's groups who participated in the Play Opportunities Assessments raised questions about accessible and inclusive play. Most of the children identified barriers to play for disabled children unprompted, stating for example that children using wheelchairs would not be able to move on woodchip surfacing. There was a high level of awareness of barriers to inclusive play across the groups, with children suggesting use of hard surfaces, ramps, and larger platforms to promote inclusion. Children identified how social play is important and helps them to make friends, stating that not being able to use play spaces would prevent disabled children from making friends.

These issues were also raised in play needs discussions with children at Musselburgh Burgh Primary and Innerwick Primary, with both groups identifying the importance of hard surface access. Mixed gender groups of P4 and P5 pupils from Innerwick Primary identified accessible play equipment and hard surface access as features in their 'My ideal play space' pictures.

When asked whether they felt that it was important for disabled children to have access to play spaces, children were overwhelmingly supportive of opportunities for more inclusive play. All children expressed a desire for inclusive play spaces, stating that creating opportunities for inclusive play does not prevent them from having fun or experiencing challenging or risky play.



Image 14: 'My ideal play space' picture by Innerwick Primary P4 and P5 pupils



Image 15: 'My ideal play space' picture by Innerwick Primary P4 and P5 pupils



## 5.5 Play Sufficiency Assessment findings by Community Council Area (locality)

The key findings identified by Play Scotland on the quantity, quality and accessibility of **formal play spaces** for each Community Council Area of East Lothian are set out below. The summaries for each Community Council Area have incorporated feedback received in the public consultation on the Draft PSA.

**Informal play spaces:** Assessment of the quantity, quality and accessibility of the informal play spaces was undertaken through the East Lothian Open Space Strategy<sup>50</sup>: please refer to this for assessment of the informal play spaces in these areas of East Lothian.

<sup>50</sup> [East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018](#)

The detailed findings from the public consultation for each Community Council Area are reported in Appendix 1. This includes commentary on both formal and informal play spaces across East Lothian.

Maps of the play spaces in all Community Council Areas are in Appendix 3.

The Formal Play Space Assessment Scores for all formal play areas in each Community Council Area are set out in Appendix 4.

### 5.5.1 Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Council Area

There are eight Council-owned formal play spaces in Cockenzie and Port Seton. Two spaces are small neighbourhood play spaces, five are larger neighbourhood play spaces, and one space is a specific interest play space\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and are generally well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. However, the public consultation responses highlighted local concerns around maintenance of some of the play areas. All of the Council's play areas are subject to an ongoing and continual safety inspection and maintenance regime. Older play equipment can appear 'dirty' due to weathering although the equipment is still safe to use. The formal play spaces in Cockenzie and Port Seton provide a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky and social play, although opportunities for creative and nature-based play are more limited. King George V play space provides a wide range of play opportunities across the full age range and includes both a toddler area and skate park. The formal play spaces in Cockenzie and Port Seton currently offer minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
CPS1	Goolwa Park	Small neighbourhood play space	0-15 years
CPS2	King George V Older Children's Play Space	Larger neighbourhood play space	5-17 years
CPS3	King George V Toddler Park	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
CPS4	King George V Park Skate Park	Specific interest play space	5-17 years
CPS5	Long Craigs	Small neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
CPS6	Promenade	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
CPS7	South Seton Park	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
CPS8	Whin Park	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-15 years

\* Defined as:

- Small neighbourhood play space is a play space with 0-3 pieces of formal play equipment.
- Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.
- Specific interest play space is a play space with one large piece of equipment, for example a Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA), skate ramp, pump track or football pitch.

### 5.5.2 Dunbar Community Council Area

There are ten Council-owned formal play spaces in Dunbar. One space is a small neighbourhood play space, six are larger neighbourhood play spaces, two are destination play spaces, and one space is a specific interest play space\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in Dunbar provide a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky and social play, although opportunities for creative and nature-based play are more limited. Play opportunities for older children are more limited, although Pine Street provides opportunities for the full age range, including a skate park and MUGA. Bleachingfield play space offers some accessible play opportunities for disabled children and families, although the range of accessible and inclusive play opportunities in Dunbar remains limited.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
DR1	Beachmont Place	Small neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
DR2	Bleachingfield	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
DR3	East Beach Dunbar	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
DR4	Lauderdale Park	Destination play space	0-15 years
DR5	Lochend Road Play Area	Destination play space	0-15 years
DR6	Parsons Pool	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
DR7	Pine Street	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
DR8	Pine Street Skate Park, MUGA and shelter	Specific interest play space	5-17 years
DR9	Queen's Place	Larger neighbourhood play space	5-15 years
DR10	Wingate Crescent	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* Defined as:

- Small neighbourhood play space is a play space with 0-3 pieces of formal play equipment.
- Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.
- Destination play space is a play space with 14 or more pieces of formal play equipment.
- Specific interest play space is a play space with one large piece of equipment, for example a Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA), skate ramp, pump track or football pitch.

### 5.5.3 Dunpender Community Council Area (East Linton, Whittingehame)

There are three Council-owned formal play spaces in Dunpender. One space is a small neighbourhood play space, one is a larger neighbourhood play spaces, and one space is a specific interest play space\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in Dunpender provide a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky and social play, although opportunities for creative and nature-based play are more limited. East Linton play space provides a wide range of play opportunities across the full age range, including a skate park suitable for older age ranges. The skate park in East Linton is accessible for children with physical disabilities, although the range and type of play opportunities offered is limited. Overall, the range of accessible and inclusive play opportunities for disabled children and families in Dunpender is limited. An additional concern highlighted in the public consultation is that capacity of the current play areas in East Linton is not sufficient for the numbers using them.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
D1	East Linton Play Space	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
D2	East Linton Skate Park	Specific interest play space	0-17 years
D3	Whittingehame	Small neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* Defined as:

- *Small neighbourhood play space is a play space with 0-3 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Specific interest play space is a play space with one large piece of equipment, for example a Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA), skate ramp, pump track or football pitch.*

### 5.5.4 East Lammermuir Community Council Area

There are four Council-owned formal play spaces in East Lammermuir. All four spaces are larger neighbourhood play spaces\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in East Lammermuir provide a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky and social play, although opportunities for creative and nature-based play are more limited. The formal play spaces in East Lammermuir currently offer minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
ELM1	Innerwick Play Area	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
ELM2	Oldhamstocks	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
ELM3	Spott	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
ELM4	Stenton	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* *Larger neighbourhood play space is defined as a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*

### 5.5.5 Garvald and Morham Community Council Area

There are two Council-owned formal play spaces in Garvald and Morham. Both spaces are larger neighbourhood play spaces\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in Garvald and Morham provide a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky, social and nature-based play, although opportunities for creative play are more limited. Neither play space offers play opportunities for disabled children and families.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
GM1	Garvald Play Area	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
GM2	Morham Play Area	Larger neighbourhood play space	5-17 years

*\* Larger neighbourhood play space is defined as a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*

### 5.5.6 Gifford Community Council Area

There are two Council-owned formal play spaces in Gifford. One space is a larger neighbourhood play space and the other a destination play space\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in Gifford provide a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky, social and nature-based play, although opportunities for creative play are more limited. Neither play space offers play opportunities for disabled children and families.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
GD1	Gifford Play Park	Destination play space	0-17 years
GD2	Walden Terrace	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years

*\* Larger neighbourhood play space is defined as a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*

### 5.5.7 Gullane Area Community Council Area

There are six Council-owned formal play spaces in the Gullane Area. All six spaces are larger neighbourhood play spaces\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in the Gullane Area provide a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky, social and nature-based play, although opportunities for creative play are more limited. The play opportunities offered in Yellowcraig play space include large, unusual pieces of equipment suitable for adventurous play. The formal play spaces in the Gullane Area currently offer minimal play opportunities for

disabled children and families. Improving and widening play provision / hang-out spaces for older children was highlighted in the public consultation feedback.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
GUL1	Aberlady Pleasance	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
GUL2	Dirleton	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
GUL3	Goose Green, Gullane	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
GUL4	Luffness Court Aberlady	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
GUL5	Muirfield	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
GUL6	Yellowcraig	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* Larger neighbourhood play space is defined as a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.

### 5.5.8 Haddington District Community Council Area

There are seventeen Council-owned formal play spaces in the Haddington District. Six spaces are small neighbourhood play spaces, eight are larger neighbourhood play spaces, two are destination play spaces, and one space is a specific interest play space\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and are generally well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in the Haddington District provide a wide range of opportunities for physical and risky play. Some formal play spaces offer opportunities for social and nature-based play, although opportunities for creative play are more limited. Whittingeham Drive provides opportunities specifically for older children through provision of a skate park. The formal play spaces in the Haddington District currently offer minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families, with only Neilson Park offering any accessible play equipment. Responses to the public consultation were received that the play areas in the Artillery Park and Nungate areas of Haddington are insufficient, in poor condition and in need of upgrading.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
HAD1	Alderston Meadows	Small neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
HAD2	Artillery Park	Small neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
HAD3	Davidson Terrace	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
HAD4	Gateside Road	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
HAD5	Gateside (toddler area 2)	Small neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
HAD6	Gateside (toddler area 3)	Small neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
HAD7	Gateside (toddler area 3)	Small neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
HAD8	Herdmanflatt	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
HAD9	Monksmains	Destination play space	0-17 years

HAD10	Neilson Park	Destination play space	0-17 years
HAD11	Nungate 1	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
HAD12	Nungate 2	Larger neighbourhood play space	5-17 years
HAD13	Riverside Drive 1	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-15 years
HAD14	Riverside Drive 2	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
HAD15	Whittingeham Drive	Small neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
HAD16	Whittingeham Drive Skatepark	Specific interest play space	5-17 years
HAD17	Athelstaneford	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years

\* Defined as:

- *Small neighbourhood play space is a play space with 0-3 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Destination play space is a play space with 14 or more pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Specific interest play space is a play space with one large piece of equipment, for example a Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA), skate ramp, pump track or football pitch.*

### 5.5.9 Humbie, East and West Saltoun and Bolton Community Council Area

There are four Council-owned formal play spaces in the Humbie, East and West Saltoun and Bolton area. All are larger neighbourhood play spaces\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the 0-15 age range, although play opportunities for older children are limited. Most spaces are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in the Humbie, East and West Saltoun and Bolton area provide a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky and social play for younger age groups, although opportunities for creative play and play for older children are more limited. The formal play spaces in the Humbie, East and West Saltoun and Bolton area currently offer minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families. East Saltoun play area was highlighted in the public consultation as in particular need of upgrading and improvements.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
HSB1	Bolton	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
HSB2	East Saltoun	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-15 years
HSB3	Humbie	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
HSB4	West Saltoun	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* Defined as:

- *Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Specific interest play space is a play space with one large piece of equipment, for example a Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA), skate ramp, pump track or football pitch.*

### 5.5.10 Longniddry Community Council Area

There is one Council-owned formal play space in the Longniddry area. The space is a larger neighbourhood play space\* with ten pieces of play equipment. The play space provides formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and is well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play space in Longniddry provides a range of opportunities for physical, risky and social play, although the opportunities for nature-based and creative play are more limited. The formal play space in Longniddry currently offers minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families. In the public consultation, expansion of the current play area to accommodate a growing village population, and increasing the range of play opportunities and provision for all ages and abilities, were highlighted as priorities for this area.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
LR1	Longniddry	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* Larger neighbourhood play space is defined as a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.

### 5.5.11 Macmerry and Gladsmuir Community Council Area

There are three Council-owned formal play spaces in the Macmerry and Gladsmuir area. Two spaces are larger neighbourhood play spaces and one space is a destination play space\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the 0-17 age range. Most spaces are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in the Macmerry and Gladsmuir area provide a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky and social play, although opportunities for creative and nature-based play are more limited. The formal play spaces in the Macmerry and Gladsmuir area currently offer minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families. Feedback was received in the public consultation that all of the play areas in the Macmerry area would benefit from upgrading and enhancement, to increase the range of play opportunities and provision for all ages and abilities.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
MRG1	Brierbush Road	Larger neighbourhood play space	5-17 years
MRG2	Macmerry Play Area	Destination play space	0-17 years
MRG3	Gladsmuir	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* Defined as:

- Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.
- Destination play space is a play space with 14 or more pieces of formal play equipment.



### 5.5.12 Musselburgh and Inveresk Community Council Area

There are twenty-one Council-owned formal play spaces in Musselburgh and Inveresk. One space is a small neighbourhood play space, thirteen are larger neighbourhood play spaces, five are destination play spaces, and two spaces are specific interest play spaces\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and most spaces are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in the Musselburgh and Inveresk area provide a wide range of opportunities for physical and risky play, although there are fewer opportunities for older age groups, however, the new Lewisvale Park Play Area for older children and teenagers includes outdoor gym equipment as well as more challenging play items. Some formal play spaces offer opportunities for social play, although opportunities for nature-based and creative play are more limited. The formal play spaces in the Musselburgh and Inveresk area currently offer minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families. The new Lewisvale Park Play Area for older children and teenagers includes a wheelchair accessible roundabout and accessible pathway.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
MI1	Balcares Road / Old Course Gate	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
MI2	Bellfield Location 1	Small neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
MI3	Bellfield Location 2	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-15 years
MI4	Edenhall	Destination play space	0-15 years
MI5	Eskview	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
MI6	Fisherrow	Destination play space	0-17 years
MI7	Fisherrow Skate Park	Specific interest play space	5-17 years
MI8	Goose Green No. 1	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-15 years
MI9	Haugh Park	Destination play space	0-17 years
MI10	Levenhall Play Area	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
MI11	Lewisvale Park, Toddlers' Area and Older Children's / Teens' Area	Destination play space	0-17 years
MI12	Macbeth Moir Play Park	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
MI13	Market Street	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
MI14	Mayfield Park	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-15 years
MI15	Mayfield Park Football Pitch	Specific interest play space	0-17 years
MI16	Old Craighall	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
MI17	Pinkiehill	Destination play space	0-17 years
MI18	Quayside Park Area	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
MI19	St Ninians Play Area	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-15 years
MI20	Whitehill	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
MI21	Windsor Park	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* Defined as:

- Small neighbourhood play space is a play space with 0-3 pieces of formal play equipment.
- Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.

- *Destination play space is a play space with 14 or more pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Specific interest play space is a play space with one large piece of equipment, for example a Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA), skate ramp, pump track or football pitch.*

### 5.5.13 North Berwick Community Council Area

There are six Council-owned formal play spaces in the North Berwick area. Four spaces are larger neighbourhood play spaces and two spaces are destination play spaces\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the 0-17 age range. Most spaces are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in the North Berwick area provide a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky and social play, although opportunities for creative and nature-based play are more limited. The formal play spaces in the North Berwick area currently offer minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families. Feedback received through the public consultation agreed that there is provision for older children and teenagers, although it was seen as a priority that provision for older children and teens in North Berwick is improved and expanded.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
NB1	Lochbridge Road	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
NB2	Lodge Grounds	Destination play space	0-17 years
NB3	Mains Farm/Wotherspoon Green	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
NB4	Smileyknowles Court	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
NB5	Recreation Park	Destination play space	0-17 years
NB6	Rhodes Park	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* *Defined as:*

- *Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Destination play space is a play space with 14 or more pieces of formal play equipment.*

### 5.5.14 Ormiston Community Council Area

There are two Council-owned formal play spaces in the Ormiston area, including one in Ormiston Park that is divided into three separate areas: an area for younger children, for older children, and a pump track. These three areas form a destination play space\* and provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range. The play space is well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. Ormiston play space provides a wide range of opportunities for physical, risky, social play, nature-based and creative play. The space offers some accessible play opportunities for disabled children and families, including a communication board and buddy bench, although the range of accessible equipment is limited. The feedback received in the public consultation about Ormiston Park was overwhelmingly positive. Of all the areas of East Lothian assessed, the feedback received about Ormiston Park was the most positive. The work and dedication by the local community group Friends of Ormiston Park over many years has enhanced this play space, driven by and meeting the needs of the community and working with the Council to continually expand and improve the park

and its play spaces. Many respondents commented that this is a model park that should serve as a template for other parks across East Lothian.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
ORM1	Ormiston - Younger Children's Area	Destination play space	0-15 years
ORM2	Ormiston - Older Children's Area	Larger neighbourhood play space	5-17 years
ORM3	Ormiston - Pump Track	Specific interest play space	0-17 years
ORM4	Ormiston, Moffat Road	Small neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* Defined as:

- Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.
- Destination play space is a play space with 14 or more pieces of formal play equipment.
- Specific interest play space is a play space with one large piece of equipment, for example a Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA), skate ramp, pump track or football pitch.

### 5.5.15 Pencaitland Community Council Area

There are six Council-owned formal play spaces in the Pencaitland area. Four spaces are larger neighbourhood play spaces, two are destination play spaces and one is a small neighbourhood play space\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the 0-17 age range, although many respondents to the public consultation felt that provision for older children and teens in particular is inadequate. The play spaces are generally well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution, although some respondents to the public consultation felt that maintenance should be improved. The formal play spaces in the Pencaitland area provide opportunities for physical and risky play, although respondents to the public consultation said that these are currently insufficient. Opportunities for social, creative and nature-based play are more limited. The formal play spaces in the Pencaitland area currently offer minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families, with only Pencaitland Park including an accessible roundabout. New Winton Play Area was particularly highlighted in the public consultation as inadequate and in need of upgrading and improvement.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
PCL1	Woodhall Road	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
PCL2	Trevelyan Crescent	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
PCL3	Lamberton Court	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
PCL4	Pencaitland Park	Destination play space	0-17 years
PCL5	New Winton	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
PCL6	Glenkinchie	Small neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* Defined as:

- *Small neighbourhood play space is a play space with 0-3 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Destination play space is a play space with 14 or more pieces of formal play equipment.*

### 5.5.16 Prestonpans Community Council Area

There are seven Council-owned formal play spaces in the Prestonpans area. One play space is a small neighbourhood play space, four spaces are larger neighbourhood play spaces, two are destination play spaces\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the 0-17 age range. The play spaces are generally well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. However, the public consultation responses highlighted local concerns around maintenance of some of the play areas, and several respondents mentioned problems with anti-social behaviour in some play areas. All of the Council's play areas are subject to an ongoing and continual safety inspection and maintenance regime. Older play equipment can appear 'dirty' due to weathering although the equipment is still safe to use. The formal play spaces in the Prestonpans area provide a wide range of opportunities for physical and risky play, and a range of opportunities for social and nature-based play. The opportunities for creative play are more limited. The play space in Cuthill Park has a particularly good range of play opportunities, including an area dedicated to nature-based play. The formal play spaces in the Prestonpans area currently offer minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families. Respondents to the public consultation highlighted that some of the play areas in Prestonpans are in need of upgrading and improving.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
PNS1	Cemetery Park	Destination play space	0-17 years
PNS2	Cuthill Park	Destination play space	0-17 years
PNS3	Middleshot Square	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
PNS4	Penny Pit Park	Small neighbourhood play space	5-17 years
PNS5	Preston Crescent	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
PNS6	Wilson Avenue	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
PNS7	Rigley Terrace (Drachrig Play Park)	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* *Defined as:*

- *Small neighbourhood play space is a play space with 0-3 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Destination play space is a play space with 14 or more pieces of formal play equipment.*

### 5.5.17 Tranent and Elphinstone Community Council Area

There are ten Council-owned formal play spaces in the Tranent and Elphinstone area. There are three small neighbourhood play spaces, five larger neighbourhood play spaces, one destination play space, and one specific interest space\*. The play spaces provide formal play opportunities across the 0-17 age range. The play spaces are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The

formal play spaces in the Tranent and Elphinstone area provide a wide range of opportunities for physical and risky play, and a range of opportunities for social play. The opportunities for creative and nature-based play are more limited. There is an inclusive roundabout in Polson Park, but overall formal play spaces in the Tranent and Elphinstone area currently offer limited play opportunities for disabled children and families. A key aspect that was highlighted in the public consultation was the need for a formal play area in the north of Tranent, particularly providing play space for all age groups in Sanderson’s Wynd Primary School catchment area, and provision for older children and teenagers in Tranent was felt to be insufficient.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
TRT1	Blawearie Park, Tranent	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
TRT2	Farriers Way, Tranent	Small neighbourhood play space	0-4 years
TRT3	Farriers Way, Tranent	Small neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
TRT4	Farriers Way, Tranent	Small neighbourhood play space	5-11 years
TRT5	Farriers Way, Tranent	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years
TRT6	Meeting House Drive, Tranent	Specific interest play space	0-17 years
TRT7	Muir Park Play Area	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
TRT8	Ormiston Road, Tranent	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
TRT9	Polson Park, Tranent	Destination play space	0-17 years
TRT11	Elphinstone, Buxley Road	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-11 years

\* Defined as:

- *Small neighbourhood play space is a play space with 0-3 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Destination play space is a play space with 14 or more pieces of formal play equipment.*
- *Specific interest play space is a play space with one large piece of equipment, for example a Multi-Use Game Area (MUGA), skate ramp, pump track or football pitch.*

### 5.5.18 Wallyford Community Council Area

There are three Council-owned formal play spaces in the Wallyford area. All three areas are larger neighbourhood play spaces\* and provide formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range. The play spaces are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in the Wallyford area provide a wide range of opportunities for physical and risky play, and a range of opportunities for social play. Opportunities for nature-based and creative play are more limited. There is an inclusive roundabout in Wallyford New Park, but overall formal play spaces in the Wallyford area currently offer limited play opportunities for disabled children and families. The older play areas in Wallyford were highlighted by respondents to the public consultation as in need of improvement and upgrading.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
WD1	Wallyford New	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-15 years
WD2	Wallyford Park	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
WD3	Wallyford Community Centre and MUGA	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years

\* Larger neighbourhood play space is defined as a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.

### 5.5.19 West Barns Community Council Area

There are three Council-owned formal play spaces in the West Barns area. Two areas are larger neighbourhood play spaces and one is a destination play space\*. The formal play spaces in West Barns offer play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range. The play spaces are well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play spaces in the West Barns area provide a wide range of opportunities for physical and risky play, and a range of opportunities for social and nature-based play. Opportunities for creative play are more limited. John Muir Country Park offers a wide range of physical and imaginary play opportunities in a natural environment. The formal play spaces in the West Barns area currently offer limited play opportunities for disabled children and families. School Brae play area was highlighted in the public consultation as in need of improvement, upgrading and improving the provision of natural play opportunities.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
WBS1	John Muir Country Park	Destination play space	0-17 years
WBS2	School Brae, West Barns	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years
WBS3	Springfield, West Barns	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years

\*Defined as:

- Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.
- Destination play space is a play space with 14 or more pieces of formal play equipment.

### 5.5.20 Whitecraig Community Council Area

There is one Council-owned formal play space in the Whitecraig area. The space is a larger neighbourhood play space\* with ten pieces of fixed play equipment including a MUGA. The play space provides formal play opportunities across the full 0-17 age range and is well maintained, clean, and free from noise and traffic pollution. The formal play space in Whitecraig provides a range of opportunities for physical play, and some opportunities for risky and social play. Opportunities for nature-based and creative play are more limited. The MUGA is accessible, but the formal play space in Whitecraig currently offers minimal play opportunities for disabled children and families.

Respondents to the public consultation said that provision for older children and teens could be enhanced, and the play area is in need of upgrading and improving.

Ref No	Formal Play Space	Play Space Type*	Play Equipment Target Age Range
WG1	Whitecraig Play Space and MUGA	Larger neighbourhood play space	0-17 years

*\* Larger neighbourhood play space is defined as a play space with 4-13 pieces of formal play equipment.*

## 6 Key Findings of East Lothian Play Sufficiency Assessment

### 6.1 Quantity of formal outdoor play spaces

- East Lothian has 121 Council owned or managed formal outdoor play spaces distributed across the entirety of the local authority area.
- Most residents in the six largest settlements have at least one formal outdoor play space within a 5-minute walk.

### 6.2 Quantity of informal outdoor play

- East Lothian has a wealth of informal outdoor play opportunities across a wide range of natural settings, including woodland and forests, coastal areas and beaches, and grasslands and wetlands.
- Most East Lothian residents live within a 5-minute walk of their nearest useable green space.

### 6.3 Quality of formal outdoor play spaces

- Outdoor formal play spaces in East Lothian are generally attractive, clean, and well-maintained sites which are free from dog mess, vandalism, and traffic and noise pollution. Most play spaces are green and are overlooked by houses and offices.
- There is a lack of nearby or signposted cycle racks and public toilets and a lack of natural features within formal play spaces.
- Most formal play spaces provide a range of opportunities for physical and risky play for younger children. There are significantly fewer opportunities for physical and risky play for the 12-17 year old age ranges.
- Formal play spaces offer opportunities for a variety of physical play experiences, including running, skipping, hopping, jumping, swinging, sliding, spinning and rocking. There are minimal opportunities for crawling, balancing or bouncing and limited formal opportunities for bike or scooter riding, skateboarding or roller skating within formal play spaces.

- Opportunities to engage in creative, sensory, and nature-based play in formal play spaces are extremely limited across all age ranges.
- There are opportunities for social play across different ages, although this reduces in the older age ranges. There are minimal opportunities for children with differing abilities to play together.
- Some formal play spaces offer calmer spaces to be on your own or with a small group of friends, however these are usually for the younger age groups and inaccessible to anyone using a mobility aid or wheelchair.

#### **6.4 Quality of informal outdoor play**

- East Lothian residents highly value the range of informal outdoor play opportunities offered in natural and green settings across East Lothian.
- Most East Lothian residents are satisfied or very satisfied with their nearest open and green spaces.
- All PSA target groups identified access to green and natural spaces as important to ensuring the quality of their informal outdoor play opportunities.
- Accessibility to natural and green spaces can be challenging for disabled families.

#### **6.5 Accessibility of formal outdoor play spaces**

- There are minimal play opportunities for disabled children, young people and families in formal outdoor play spaces across East Lothian. This includes children with Additional Support Needs (ASN).
- No play spaces are fully accessible or inclusive, and where accessible equipment is included within the play space this offers a limited play experience and is often located on the periphery of the main play space.
- There is minimal inclusive infrastructure to support access into and around play spaces.

## **7 Summary of Key Findings of the Play Sufficiency Assessment supported by the public consultation**

Appendix 1 sets out the detailed responses received during the public consultation.

### **Key Overall Message**

**The quantity of outdoor play spaces in East Lothian is good with most residents having access to formal or informal outdoor play spaces near to their homes. Any future improvements should therefore focus on strengthening the quality and accessibility of both formal and informal outdoor play opportunities.**



## 7.1 Key Positive Messages

East Lothian has 121 Council owned and managed formal outdoor play spaces distributed across the entirety of the local authority area.

Most residents in the six largest settlements have at least one formal outdoor play space within a 5-minute walk.

East Lothian provides a wealth of informal outdoor play opportunities across a wide range of natural settings.

East Lothian's formal outdoor play spaces are clean and well maintained.

Most formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian are attractive sites with natural features such as trees, bushes or shrubs.

Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian provide welcoming and safe play environments with a variety of general play opportunities.

Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian provide a good range of opportunities for physical play, particularly for younger children.

Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian offer a range of opportunities for younger children to take risks and experience adventurous play.

Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian provide a good range of opportunities for younger children to engage in social play.

East Lothian provides a good range of informal outdoor play opportunities in a range of natural and green spaces.

## 7.2 Key Development Messages

Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian currently offer limited opportunities for creative play.

Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian provide limited opportunities for children to play on or with a range of natural resources within the boundary of the play space.

Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian offer limited accessible play opportunities for disabled children and families.

Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian currently offer limited inclusive infrastructure to support inclusive play opportunities.

## 8 Recommendations

The Play Sufficiency Assessment undertaken by Play Scotland identified that there is an excellent quantity of play provision in East Lothian, and a good range of physical and risky play opportunities. The PSA identified important ways to strengthen the quality and accessibility of play opportunities in East Lothian where future funding opportunities would make this possible. The following recommendations are intended to provide focus for future investment in play provision.

### 8.1 Opportunities to strengthen the quantity of outdoor play in East Lothian

The quantity of outdoor play spaces in East Lothian is good with most residents in the six main settlements having access to formal or informal outdoor play space near to their homes. Any future improvements should therefore focus on strengthening the quality and accessibility of both formal and informal outdoor play opportunities.

### 8.2 Opportunities to strengthen the quality of outdoor play in East Lothian

The following recommendations identify ways that the quality and range of outdoor play opportunities in East Lothian could be improved:

- **Increase opportunities for sensory, creative and nature-based play** – play spaces provide a variety of physical play opportunities however there are minimal opportunities for other forms of play. Including a wider variety of sensory, creative and nature-based play opportunities within formal play spaces supports child development and promotes inclusion.
- **Increase all play opportunities for the 12-17 year old groups** – there are significantly fewer play opportunities for older children across all forms of play. Provision of play opportunities across the full age range promotes inclusive play and builds community cohesion.
- **Increase opportunities for calm, quiet play** – there is a lack of quiet spaces in formal play spaces for children to be on their own or to play with small groups of friends, particularly for older age groups and for anyone with mobility difficulties. Provision of quieter spaces promotes a wider variety of play and facilitates accessibility for anyone with sensory sensitivity.
- **Increase opportunities for social play** – there is a lack of opportunities for children with different ages and abilities to play together. This is important to promote inclusion and integration.
- **Increase ‘hang out’ spaces for the 12-17 year old age groups** – there is a lack of places where older children feel welcome to ‘hang out’. Provision of more hangout spaces is particularly important for younger teenagers.

### 8.3 Opportunities to strengthen the accessibility of outdoor play in East Lothian

During the assessment process, assessors identified several ways to improve accessibility and inclusion. Recommendations include:

- **Increase the variety of play space surfaces** – almost all play space surfaces are a mixture of grass rubber matting and woodchip, which makes access difficult for anyone using a mobility aid or wheelchair. A wider variety of surface areas will improve accessibility.
- **Include a wider variety of inclusive fixed equipment** – when available, the only inclusive equipment available for wheelchair users was a roundabout, MUGA or pump track. A wider variety of play equipment with accessible features would improve the variety and inclusivity of play opportunities.
- **Increase opportunities for social, sensory, creative, and natural play** – the focus of most formal play spaces is on physical play. Increasing the variety of play opportunities and

utilising natural play resources would increase the variety of play opportunities and promote play across the age and ability ranges.

- **Integrate inclusive play opportunities into the main play space** – when available, inclusive equipment was generally located on the periphery of the play space with minimal hard surface access through the main play space. Integrating play opportunities will enable children with differing abilities to integrate and play within the same spaces.
- **Include features to support play for children with a wider variety of disabilities** – there were minimal features to support inclusive play for anyone with visual impairments or complex additional support needs. More accessible signage, accessible seating and wayfinding routes through play spaces would support inclusion.
- **Improve safe, accessible routes into play spaces** – increasing the amount of inclusive infrastructure into and around play spaces will support accessibility and enable families to use play spaces more regularly and for longer periods of time.
- **Embed lived experience into play space design** – at the time of writing, as far as we understand, no formal consultation had taken place with disabled families to understand and embed local needs into design processes. The disabled families’ assessment identified numerous opportunities to design accessibility into existing play spaces and stated they would welcome further consultation.

ELPA and Can Do provided a detailed report of disabled families’ assessments of formal play spaces in East Lothian (see Appendix 2). Their key recommendations are:

- Embed the social value of inclusive play at the design stages.
- Plan for accessible play and rest sites throughout the play space.
- Widen the variety of play opportunities, including natural, sensory and creative play.
- Increase opportunities for high-value play, including play opportunities for children with complex needs.
- Ensure play spaces feel welcoming for children at differing developmental stages to their peers.
- Provide safe, accessible routes to play spaces, including lighting and nearby transition points.

#### **8.4 Principles for improving outdoor play in East Lothian**

East Lothian’s Play Policy 2017-2020 included a series of Priority Statements relating to all aspects of play policy, which are still relevant, and will be used to guide future play space improvements:

**PRINCIPLE 1: All children and young people have a right to play.**

**PRINCIPLE 2: Children and young people will be listened to and their views about play taken into account.**

**PRINCIPLE 3: Adults have a responsibility to promote and support children’s right to play.**

## 9 Summary of Key Recommendations supported by the public consultation

Appendix 1 sets out the detailed responses received during the public consultation.

### 9.1 Key findings and key recommendations from the public consultation

#### **The quality and range of play opportunities in East Lothian could be improved through:**

- Increasing opportunities for sensory, creative and nature-based play
- Increasing all play opportunities for the 12-17 year old groups
- Increasing opportunities for calm, quiet play
- Increasing opportunities for social play
- Increasing ‘hang out’ spaces for the 12-17 year old age groups

#### **Accessibility and inclusion of play opportunities in East Lothian could be improved through:**

- Increasing the variety of play space surfaces
- Including a wider variety of inclusive fixed equipment
- Increasing opportunities for social, sensory, creative, and natural play
- Integrating inclusive play opportunities into the main play space
- Including features to support play for children with a wider variety of disabilities
- Improving safe, accessible routes into play spaces
- Embedding lived experience into play space design

#### **The public consultation reiterated the PSA findings that:**

- **There is a need to improve the quality and range of play opportunities in East Lothian for**
  - sensory, creative and nature-based play – although it was recognised that the surrounding countryside around our towns and villages, including the hills, woodlands and beaches of East Lothian, already provide significant opportunities for these which are well used by our residents, of all ages;
  - the 12-17 year old groups, including more challenging and risky play for older children and teenagers;
  - calm, quiet play;
  - social play;
  - ‘hang out’ spaces for the 12-17 year old age groups – although it was recognised that this is unlikely to include formal play areas but more likely other outdoor spaces

in and around our communities. This will form an action in our forthcoming revised Open Space Strategy.

- **Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian offer limited accessible play opportunities for disabled children and families.**
- **Formal outdoor play spaces in East Lothian currently offer limited inclusive infrastructure to support inclusive play opportunities.**
- **More play opportunities are needed for girls, and several respondents highlighted the examples from the organisation 'Make Space for Girls' as good examples.**
- **In general, East Lothian's formal outdoor play spaces are clean and well maintained, however, local community consultations identified some key locations for priority improvements such as renewal or replacement of play equipment.** We will aim to continue our ongoing programme of maintenance, replacement and renewal of play equipment across the Council's play areas where funding is available.
- **There was a view in some areas that play areas are poorly maintained and repairs take time.** All of the Council's play areas are subject to a continuous and ongoing programme of inspection and maintenance, including daily checks of larger 'destination' play areas, quarterly inspections by Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) qualified staff and annual inspections by External Inspectors of Play Areas. Priority repairs are undertaken continually across our 121 play areas and ongoing repairs, maintenance and replacement works are programmed, subject to available funding.
- **We received feedback that woodchip surfacing in our play areas is inaccessible to some users with calls to reduce the areas surfaced with woodchip.** This accords with the findings of our initial consultation and engagement with special needs groups including our disability and inclusion assessment. We will revise our use of woodchip surfacing across our formal play areas by including a greater variety of surfacing where possible, to improve accessibility for a wider range of abilities, subject to funding and ongoing maintenance constraints and noting that a balance is important.
- **Several respondents told us that in their view formal play areas should be fenced. The reasons included to improve the play experience for children with special needs and their parents/carers, the perception of safety, and dogs (see below).** All of our play areas have been risk-assessed and those that are near to roads have fencing around them for safety. We do not generally install fencing around play areas within public parks and open spaces away from roads to enhance the play experience for a wide range of children and young people by encouraging and enabling them to explore the wider 'play landscape' of our parks and greenspaces and get closer to nature. However we will work with special needs groups to identify solutions that may include fencing in some areas but will also look at nature-based alternatives such as appropriate planting of hedges or positioning of planters for community growing to enhance sensory and natural play.
- **We received strong feedback in relation to dogs in play areas, with many community respondents saying that dogs in play areas are a significant problem, particularly in relation to dog fouling, but also in intimidating behaviour of dogs causing alarm to others in the play area.** Irresponsible dog ownership is unfortunately a problem across the county. We will aim to install 'No Dogs in Play Area' signage at play areas, where funding permits, and will continue to work with the Council's Dog Warden and Antisocial Behaviour Team to

raise awareness and promote responsible dog ownership around play areas. Additional fencing may be appropriate in some areas; or nature-based alternatives as set out above.

- **The community consultation also identified issues with play provision for some specific areas around the county in particular:**
  - **North-eastern Tranent** (north of the main street, around the Sanderson's Wynd – Lindores Drive area of Tranent): the consultation feedback highlighted a shortfall in play provision in this area, with insufficient formal play spaces. We are aware of this and we are looking to address this as a matter of priority;
  - **Prestonpans**, where the existing provision was felt to be inadequate by some respondents due to anti-social behaviour issues, which were intimidating to others including families, deterring some from playing there. These are wider social issues outwith the scope of this PSA however we will follow this up with our Local Area Partnership and Anti-Social Behaviour Team to seek solutions to these wider social issues affecting some local areas;
  - **Areas of Cockenzie and Port Seton**, including some of the smaller play areas near the waterfront and the provision at King George V Park, which was felt to be inadequate by several respondents. The play provision at King George V Park was subject to community consultation when the Community Centre was developed; however we will work with the Local Area Partnership to identify solutions and funding to address issues where we can;
  - **Haddington Artillery Park area**, where respondents commented that the small play areas there were of poor quality / poorer provision than in the larger town parks. We will look to address this where future funding opportunities would make this possible;
  - **West Barns and New Winton play areas** were also identified by the local communities as particular priorities for improvement and upgrading. We will look to work with communities to address these where future funding opportunities would make this possible.

## 9.2 Next Steps

East Lothian Council will aim to address these findings and recommendations of this Play Sufficiency Assessment in our ongoing management and maintenance of our existing play areas, where future funding opportunities would make this possible, and we will consider incorporating these recommendations in our Local Development Plan as requirements for the future development of play areas.

## 10 Publication of the East Lothian Play Sufficiency Assessment

The East Lothian Play Sufficiency Assessment is available to view online on East Lothian Council's website [www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk)

The full version of the East Lothian Play Sufficiency Assessment comprises the following parts:

Main Technical Report

Appendix 1: Report of Findings from the Public Consultation on the Draft PSA including by Community Council Area.

Appendix 2: Report by East Lothian Play Association and Can Do: Play Sufficiency Assessment of the accessibility of selected formal outdoor play spaces for disabled children and their families in East Lothian.

Appendix 3: East Lothian Play Sufficiency Assessment Maps.

Appendix 4: East Lothian Formal Play Space Assessment Scores.

It is intended to produce a child-friendly version of the East Lothian Play Sufficiency Assessment.

## 11 Good practice and expert organisations

Organisations and campaigners across Scotland have developed a range of resources to inform the planning and development of play opportunities for all children. Some key sources of expertise include:

### 11.1 Policy context

Scottish Government (2013) [Play Strategy for Scotland: our vision](#)

Scottish Government (2013) [Play Strategy for Scotland: our action plan](#)

Play Wales (2015) [Playwork Principles – an overview](#)

Children's Play Policy Forum (2019) [Play Builds Children](#)

Play Scotland (2020) [Play Strategy Review 2020](#)

Play Scotland (2021) [Manifesto for Play](#)

### 11.2 Play and child development

Palmer, S. (2020) [Play is the Way: child development, early years and the future of Scottish education](#)

Gill, T. (2014) [The Play Return: a review of the wider impacts of play initiatives](#);

Play Scotland (2013) [Getting it Right for Play: an evidence base](#)

### 11.3 Accessible and inclusive play

Playboard Northern Ireland and Mae Murray Foundation (2023) [Let Me Play: inclusive play park study 2023](#)

Joint Children’s Play Policy Forum and UK Play Safety Forum (2022) [Position Statement: Disabled Children in Play Provision](#)

Play Scotland (2020) [Inspiring Inclusive Play Design: Review of Inclusive and Accessible Design Resources](#)

Sensory Trust (2020) [Inclusive Play Guidance](#)

Casey, T. and Harbottle, H. (2018) [Free to Play: A guide to creating accessible and inclusive public play spaces](#)

#### **11.4 Experts by experience**

Quinns, Trains and Changing Places – a blog about family life when your child has profound and multiple disabilities, including their [lived experience of accessibility](#) in play parks

[Maisie Moo Play Park](#), North Inch Play Space, Perth – campaign by a local family to embed inclusion into play park design

[PAMIS](#) (Promoting a more inclusive society) - PAMIS is the only organisation in Scotland that works solely with people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and their families for a better life.

[Sense Scotland](#) - helps thousands of people who are deafblind or who have complex disabilities to communicate, experience the world and fulfil their potential.

## **12 Appendices**

**Appendix 1** (attached separately): Report of Findings from the Public Consultation on the Draft PSA including by Community Council Area.

**Appendix 2** (attached separately): Report by East Lothian Play Association and Can Do: Play Sufficiency Assessment of the accessibility of selected formal outdoor play spaces for disabled children and their families in East Lothian.

**Appendix 3** (attached separately): East Lothian Play Sufficiency Assessment Maps.

**Appendix 4** (attached separately): East Lothian Formal Play Space Assessment Scores.



## 12.1 Definition of terminology

Term	Definition
<b>Accessible play space</b>	<i>A space which is mainly barrier-free and allows most users access to move freely around the space. Offers participation opportunities for a range of differing abilities. Not every child of every ability will be able to actively use everything within an accessible play space<sup>51</sup>.</i>
<b>Inclusive play space</b>	<i>A space that provides a barrier-free environment with the necessary supporting infrastructure to meet the wide and varying play needs of every child. Disabled children and non-disabled children will enjoy high levels of participation opportunities, equally rich in play value<sup>52</sup>.</i>
<b>Barrier-free play opportunities</b>	<i>Play equipment that addresses known barriers to play for users with a range of differing abilities<sup>53</sup>.</i>
<b>Participation opportunities</b>	<i>Opportunities for users with differing abilities to interact with each other and use a range of accessible play equipment within the same play space<sup>54</sup>.</i>
<b>Supporting infrastructure</b>	<i>Refers to all infrastructure required to enable access to and spending quality time in a play space.</i>
<b>High-value play experiences</b>	<i>Play opportunities that offer a variety of physical, social and sensory play experiences. Something will have high play value if children are able to play with it in many different ways, integrate it into their play or use it to expand on their own ideas and actions<sup>55</sup>.</i>
<b>Formal play space</b>	<i>Play spaces that are specifically for play<sup>56</sup>.</i>
<b>Informal play space</b>	<i>Play spaces within areas of open space of which the primary function is not play<sup>57</sup>.</i>
<b>Green space</b>	<i>A space which provides aesthetic value or recreational or amenity function such as areas of: (a) grass, (b) trees, (c) other vegetation, (d) water, but not including agricultural or horticultural land<sup>58</sup>.</i>

<sup>51</sup> [Including Disabled Children in Play Provision](#)

<sup>52</sup> [Including Disabled Children in Play Provision](#)

<sup>53</sup> [Including Disabled Children in Play Provision](#)

<sup>54</sup> [Including Disabled Children in Play Provision](#)

<sup>55</sup> [Including Disabled Children in Play Provision](#)

<sup>56</sup> [Open Space Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments Regulations](#)

<sup>57</sup> [Open Space Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments Regulations](#)

<sup>58</sup> [Open Space Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments Regulations](#)

## 12.2 Formal play space accessibility scores

Table 4: Overall accessibility scores for all formal outdoor play spaces across East Lothian

Accessibility Score	Definition	Number of Play Spaces	Percentage of Play Spaces
1	A play space without any barrier-free play opportunities and free movement around the space is difficult. There are no participation opportunities for users with differing abilities.	98	81%
2	A play space which offers one or two barrier-free play opportunities, but users are not able to move freely around the majority of the space. The play space offers limited participation opportunities for users with differing abilities.	18	15%
3	A play space which offers barrier-free play opportunities on at least half of the equipment and users are able to move freely around at least half of the space. The play space offers a range of participation opportunities for users with a range of differing abilities.	4	3%
4	A play space which offers barrier-free play opportunities on the majority of the equipment with most users are able to move freely around the majority of the space. The space offers participation opportunities users with a range of differing abilities on the majority of the equipment.	2	2%
5	A play space which offers completely barrier-free play opportunities and allows all users to move freely around the entirety of the space. The space offers participation opportunities for users with a wide range of differing abilities on all equipment.	0	0%

Table 5: Accessibility Scores - individual play spaces

Accessibility score	Formal play spaces
1	Aberlady pleasance, Alderston Meadows, Artillery Park, Athelstaneford, Balcares Road / Old Course Gate, Beaumont Place, Bellfield location 2, Blawearie Park, Bolton, Cemetery Park, Cuthill Park, Davidson Terrace, Dirleton, East beach Dunbar, East Linton Play Space, East Saltoun, Edenhall, Elphinstone, Buxley Road, Farriers Way (x4), Fisherrow, Garvald, Gateside Road, Gateside toddler area, Gifford Play Park, Glenkinchie, Goose Green No. 1, Herdmanflatt, Humbie playing field, Innerwick Play Area, John Muir Country Park, King George V (older children play space), King George V (skate park), Lambertton Court, Lauderdale park, Levenhall play area, Lewisvale Park (Toddlers' Area), Lochbridge Road, Lochend Road Play Area Dunbar, Lodge Grounds, Long Craigs Port Seton, Longniddry, Luffness Court Aberlady, Macbeth Moir play park, Mains Farm/Wotherspoon Green, Market Street, Mayfield park, Mayfield park (football pitch), Middleshot Square, Monksmain, Morham Play

	Area, Muir Park Play Area, Muirfield, New Winton, Nungate 1, Nungate 2, Old Craighall, Oldhamstocks, Ormiston Road (younger children's area), Ormiston Road, Parsons Pool, Pennypit Sports Ground, Pine Street Play Park, Pinkiehill, Preston Crescent, Promenade Port Seton, Quayside park area, Queen's Place Dunbar, Recreation Park, Rhodes Park, Rigley Terrace (Drachrig Play Park), Riverside Drive 1, Riverside Drive 2, Smileyknowles Court, South Seton Park, Spott, Springfield West Barns, St Ninians Play Area, Trevelyan Crescent, Walden Terrace, Wallyford community centre, Wallyford park, West Barns School Brae, West Saltoun, Whin park Whitehall Avenue, Whittingeham Drive, Whittingeham Drive Skatepark Whittingehame, Wilson Avenue, Windsor Park, Windygoul, Woodhall Road, Yellowcraig
2	Brierbush Road, Eskview, Fisherrow skate area, Gladsmuir, Goolwa Park, Goose green Gullane, Haugh park, King George V (toddler park), MacMerry play area, Neilson Park, Ormiston (older children's area), Pencaitland Park, Pinkiehill, Polson Park, Wallyford new, Whitecraig park, Wingate Crescent
3	Bleachingfield, East Linton skate park, Ormiston (pump track), Pine Street (skate park, MUGA and shelter)
4	Meeting House Drive (MUGA), Wallyford Community Centre (MUGA)
5	

### 12.3 Formal play space inclusion scores

Table 6: Overall inclusion scores for all formal outdoor play spaces across East Lothian

Inclusion Score	Definition	Number of Play Spaces	Percentage of Play Spaces
1	A play environment with no barrier-free play opportunities and where there is no specific supporting infrastructure to enable inclusive access.	115	96%
2	A play environment where barrier-free play opportunities are limited and, where available, they are not integrated into the main play space. There is some supporting infrastructure, but this is limited and not accessible to all.	5	4%
3	A play environment that provides barrier-free play opportunities that meet the needs of a range of users on at least half of the equipment, but where play is either segregated or limited in play value. A range of supporting infrastructure is in place but requires improvement to ensure participation for all.	0	0%
4	A barrier-free environment with good supporting infrastructure that meets the needs of most users and enables most users to participate in integrated, high value play opportunities. Consultation has taken place to understand and embed lived experience within the design process.	0	0%
5	A barrier-free environment with appropriate supporting infrastructure that meets the needs of every user and enables all users to participate in integrated, high value play opportunities. Consultation has taken place to understand and embed lived experience within the	0	0%

	design process and a feedback loop has been established to identify changing needs.		
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Table 7: Inclusion scores - individual play spaces

Inclusion Scores	Play Spaces
1	Aberlady pleasance, Alderston Meadows, Artillery Park, Athelstaneford, Balcares Road / Old Course Gate, Beachmont Place, Bellfield location 2, Bellfield location 1, Blawearie Park, Bolton, Brierbush Road, Cemetery Park, Cuthill Park, Davidson Terrace Dirleton, East Beach Dunbar, East Linton Play Space, East Linton (skate park), East Saltoun, Edenhall, Elphinstone, Buxley Road, Eskview, Farriers Way (x4), Fisherrow, Fisherow (skate area), Garvald, Gateside Road, Gateside (toddler areas), Gifford Play Park, Gladsmuir, Glenkinchie, Goolwa Park, Goose Green Gullane, Goose Green No. 1, Haugh Park, Herdmanflatt, Humberie playing field, Innerwick Play Area, John Muir Country Park, King George V Park (older children play space), King George V Park (skate park), King George V Park (toddler park), Lamberton Court, Lauderdale Park, Levenhall Play Area, Lewisvale Park (toddlers' area), Lochbridge Road, Lochend Road Play Area Dunbar, Lodge Grounds, Long Craigs Port Seton, Longniddry, Luffness Court Aberlady, Macbeth Moir Play Park, Mains Farm/Wotherspoon Green, Market Street, Mayfield Park, Mayfield Park (football pitch), Meeting House Drive, Middleshot Square, Monksmain, Morham Play Area, Muir Park Play Area, Muirfield, Neilson Park, New Winton, Nungate 1, Nungate 2, Old Craighall, Oldhamstocks, Ormiston (pump track), Ormiston (younger children's area), Ormiston Road, Parsons Pool, Pencaitland Park, Pennypit Sports Ground, Pine Street Play Park Dunbar, Pinkiehill, Preston Crescent, Promenade Port Seton, Quayside Park Area, Queen's Place Dunbar, Recreation Park, Rhodes Park, Rigley Terrace (Drachrig Play Park), Riverside Drive 1 Riverside Drive 2, Smileyknowles Court, South Seton Park, Spott, Springfield West Barns, St Ninians Play Area, Stenton, Trevelyan Crescent, Walden Terrace Gifford, Wallyford Community Centre, Wallyford Community Centre (MUGA), Wallyford New, Wallyford Park, West barns School Brae, West Saltoun, Whin Park, Whitecraig Park, Whitehall Avenue, Whittingeham Drive, Whittingeham Drive (Skatepark), Whittingehame, Wilson Avenue, Windsor Park, Windygoul, Wingate Crescent, Woodhall Road, Yellowcraig
2	Bleachingfield, MacMerry Play Area, Ormiston (older children's area), Pine Street (skate park, MUGA and shelter), Polson Park.
3	
4	
5	