

The Environment of Lostwithiel

In July 2014, Cornwall Council adopted the Open Space Strategy for Larger Towns in Cornwall. Table 1 details the provision of Parks and natural space in Lostwithiel and compares it with the average for Larger Cornish towns

This document recognises that attractive, safe & accessible parks and other open spaces contribute positive social, economic and environmental benefits. Open spaces including play areas are valued community assets improving public health, well-being and quality of life, and bringing regeneration benefits to an area.

Table 1. Existing & proposed provision of all open space in Lostwithiel

Typology	Existing provision (m ² / person)	Average/ median for larger Cornish towns - m ² /person	Recommended future quantity provision standard town wide		Existing requirements based upon an assessment of distribution
1. Parks, amenity	10.23	8.74	Quantity meets all of future need.	9.49	All existing residents within access limits of provision
2. Natural space	58.47	17.01 (median) (28=ave.)		54.28	

The core of Lostwithiel's heritage landscape comprises the valley of the River Fowey. alongside this in the centre of town are the King George V playing fields and Coulson Park, providing open space for children's play, sport, and leisure. Adjoining the King George V playing fields, and connected to it by a tow-path under the A390 bridge, is the Second Island water meadow, leased from the Duchy of Cornwall, which provides a sculpture park and walking facilities. North from Second Island towards Restormel Manor and Restormel Castle is meadow land that provides a peaceful location for old town cemetery and a facility for the local bowls club.

Stretching south along the river from Coulson Park is Shirehall Moor and, on the opposite bank, Madderly Moor, both in the ownership of the Town Council The Moors are salt marsh wetland with reed and rush coverage. Shirehall Moor is an extensive saltmarsh that was the subject of a natural vegetation survey in 2005 as a preliminary to combining it with an adjoining area (formerly used as a town rubbish dump) to create a nature reserve. A preliminary management plan included the introduction of informative sign boards an updated version of the management plan is under preparation in order to gain full registration and designation as a Local Nature Reserve. The process of designation was never completed.

Madderly Moor comprises a large reeded area currently accessible only by boat. A public bridleway over land belonging to Lanwithan Manor Farm stops 150m from the land side of the Moor. There is a potential for obtaining protection as a Local Nature Reserve once issues of public access have been established.

Enclosing the town and the River course is an extensive area of farmland and woodland used as pasturage and for timber growth. Cut by the deep valleys of the Tanhouse Stream and other watercourses it provides an extensive network of footpaths over pleasant and steeply sloping land.

Much of the farmland in the parish is owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, which leases a water meadow to the town for public use. Wooded areas include Polscoe Wood, Leadenhill Wood, Churchpark Wood, Terras Hill Wood, and Poldew Wood. The valley of the River Fowey, which bisects the town is wide, owing to the meandering character of the river, and is liable to flooding on its flood plain.