

2025

HebPlaY – Play Sufficiency Assessment



Photo: CnES

PSA CONSULTATIVE DRAFT

Outer Hebrides

Local Development Plan

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The Bayhead River gently flows forever to the sea

And that old street – Ceann a' Bhaigh

Holds many memories.

Of childhood days down at the swings,

The clanging maypole chains,

The old cast iron merry-go-round,

The happy childhood games

"Happy Days in Old Bayhead" from "The Stornoway I Knew - Memories of the 1930s to 1950s" Chrissie B Maclean,

Courtesy of Stornoway Historical Society



Photo: Bayhead Community Association

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the Comhairle has a new duty to prepare a Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA), including engagement on the assessment to help ensure we have sufficient information to inform how the Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (OHLDP) can help support consideration of children's rights and make decisions about the future of the land around us.
- 1.2 While the provision of play spaces is not legally mandated, policies from the Scottish and UK Governments, and the United Nations emphasise the importance of outdoor play for children.
- 1.3 The right to play is set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), this legally binding human rights agreement, signed by 196 countries (as of 12 July 2022) outlines the fundamental rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities. Article 31 of the convention states: 'Every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.'
- 1.4 In 2013, the UNCRC published General Comment 17 on Article 31. The purpose of this comment was to clarify the responsibilities of all countries within the United Nations for a child's right to play and emphasised the lack of protective legislation and investment in play opportunities and seeming invisibility of children in national and local level planning.
- 1.5 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has officially been incorporated into law in Scotland, establishing a legal duty for public authorities, including local authorities, to uphold the rights of children as set out in the UNCRC.
- There are a range of health, well-being, and educational benefits from outdoor play and whilst managed, fixed play spaces are also essential in meeting the needs of children to play outdoors, whether alone or as part of a group, valuable informal play opportunities exist in many open spaces, including natural spaces, open parkland, woodlands, beaches, and in some civic spaces.

"We want Scotland to be the best place to grow up. A nation which values play as a lifeenhancing daily experience for all our children and young people; in their homes, nurseries, schools and communities."

Scotland's first national play strategy

1.7 The Play Sufficiency Assessment will be included as part of the evidence base for the new Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan, and it is hoped that it will provide a better understanding of the needs and demand in the community for play spaces, helping planners to identify where sites for play and outdoor recreation are required and how best to design these spaces to reflect the diverse needs of children and young people now and into the future.

2 Purpose

2.1 As part of the evidence gathering process for the Local Development Plan, this consultative draft of the Outer Hebrides Play Sufficiency Assessment, audits and provides a basic assessment of the provision and distribution of designated outdoor play opportunities for children and young people in the Outer Hebrides area. It invites comments on current provision, condition and future requirements which may help inform where improvements are required in the future. This forms part of a wider commitment to ensure all children have access to quality play in their own community.

3 What is a Play Sufficiency Assessment?

- 3.1 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 inserted section 16D Play Sufficiency Assessment into the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 ("the Act") with regard to local development plans. Section 16D (1) of the Act sets out that a planning authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in its area in preparing an evidence report.
- 3.2 A Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) is intended to provide an overall picture as to the provision and distribution of outdoor play opportunities for children and young people across the whole of a local authority area. Children/Children and young people refer to persons under the age of 18 years. In the context of PSA, "play spaces" means outdoor spaces which are accessible to the public and which offer play opportunities for children.
- 3.3 Throughout the eleven wards in the Outer Hebrides, seventy-seven play spaces were audited during 2024/25 and of those, fifty-four facilities that are accessible to the public, free to access and open to all were mapped and assessed in terms of quality, quantity and

accessibility. Those play parks that were dismantled, no longer maintained or are not accessible by the public have not been assessed as part of the PSA.

4 Engagement

- 4.1 As part of our ongoing engagement with children and young people an online survey and interactive StoryMap will be provided to:
 - provide locational information on formal play areas
 - gather information about where children like to play;
 - identify gaps/not spots in the provision of play spaces;
 - identify any barriers preventing play experiences;
 - seek views on future play opportunities from under 18s, their parents and carers.
- 4.2 Following public consultation, the finalised PSA, having taken account of the views of children, parents and carers will inform the preparation of the new OHLDP, enabling planning authorities, stakeholders and the community to plan for appropriate provision of new and/or enhanced play opportunities in the Outer Hebrides.

5 National Planning Policy Context

5.1 National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) approved in 2023, includes policies that support the provision of play opportunities for children. Policy 21 Play, recreation and sport states that local development plans (LDPs) should identify sites for sports, play, and outdoor recreation for people of all ages and support development proposals that protect, enhance, or improve children's access to play. NPF4 recognises the importance of play in the development and well-being of children and encourages planning authorities to prioritise the provision of play spaces in their LDPs. Development proposals likely to be occupied or used by children and young people will be supported where they incorporate well-designed, good quality provision for play, recreation, and relaxation that is proportionate to the scale and nature of the development and existing provision in the area.

6 What does the Play Sufficiency Assessment need to include?

6.1 The PSA must 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. In addition, the PSA responds to the requirements for play provision laid out in the National Planning Framework 4. Policy 21 Play, recreation and sport states that new, replacement or improved play provision will, as far as possible and as 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.

7 Local Context and Circumstances

"The Outer Hebrides is a wonderful place to live and work, with a diverse range of opportunities for leisure and play."

Finlay Maclennan, Community Land Outer Hebrides

- 7.1 The Outer Hebrides have a high-quality natural environment: loch studded open moorland; upland hills; coastal dune grassland known as "machair" fringing some of the most spectacular beaches in Europe. Settlement is heavily associated with the coast rather than the inland areas.
- 7.2 The population of the Outer Hebrides is 26,030 as at June 2023. The prevailing settlement pattern is a dispersed population living in a predominately rural landscape. Stornoway, on Lewis, is the only large town. Approximately 6,320 (24% of the total population) live in the Stornoway settlement area with the remaining population scattered over 280 settlements.
- 7.3 There is considerable open space, plenty accessible coast, beaches and tide lines for informal play. 72% of community-owned land in Scotland is in the Outer Hebrides and this has led to many communities taking a more active role in land management, including the renewal,

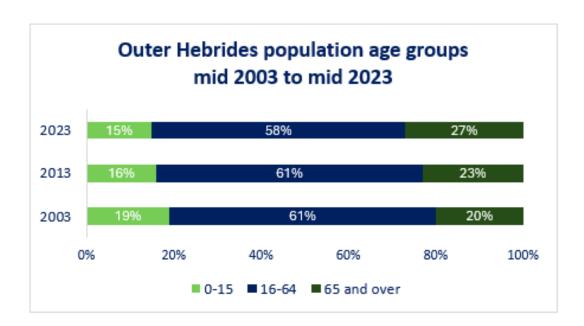
new development and maintenance of formal play areas for their children in the villages and settlements where they live throughout the island chain.



Photo: CnES

8 Children and Young People

8.1 In the Outer Hebrides 15% of the population are children under 16. The mid-2023 population estimates showed that the Outer Hebrides had the 3rd lowest percentage of children aged 0-15 at 15%, along with the City of Edinburgh, and Dumfries & Galloway.



8.2 The chart above shows that over the 20-year period from 2003 to 2023 the percentage of children aged 0-15 years has decreased from 19% to 15%. This decrease is projected to

continue. Over the 10-year period from 2018 to 2028, population projections show a decrease of 13% in children aged 0-15 in the Outer Hebrides. The Outer Hebrides continues to see high net migration loss in those aged 15-19 and 20-24. Net migration of females continues to be higher than that of males with 100 females and 45 males in the 15-19 age group and 4 females and 37 males in the 20-24 age group. Historically, young people have always left the islands to go to university, and the percentage tends to be higher in island areas.

8.3 The percentage of those aged under 18 varied between the various ward areas, with the highest percentage at 23% in the Barra and Vatersay ward and the lowest percentage at 13.7% in the Harris ward. The table below outlines the percentage of those aged under 18 in all the ward areas.

Table 1 Percentage of children under 18 in the Outer Hebrides

	%
WARD	Under18
Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh (Barra & Vatersay)	23%
Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)	18%
Uibhist a Tuath (North Uist)	14%
Na Hearadh (Harris)	14%
Sgire nan Loch (Lochs)	16%
Sgìr' Ùige agus Càrlabhagh (Uig & Carloway)	14%
An Taobh Siar agus Nis (West Side & Ness)	15%
Loch a Tuath (Broadbay)	21%
Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	20%
Steòrnabhagh a Deas (Stornoway South)	16%
Sgìre an Rubha (Point)	17%

- 8.4 The percentage decrease in population of Island children clearly demonstrates the need to retain population in the Islands, and in areas such as the Uists, efforts are being made to encourage economically active families to relocate to these Islands. For example, the Uist Repopulation Action Zone aims to reverse population decline in the area through community consultation and research to understand the needs and priorities of the local population.
- 8.5 Council nurseries across the islands are under significant pressure, with workforce recruitment and retention difficulties as well as capacity challenges. The Uist and Barra Childcare Forum has been set up to address the lack of suitable childcare available for working parents and carers.
- 8.6 Provision of affordable quality housing, adapted to climate change; sustainable job and business opportunities; reliable ferry and transport infrastructure; access to education and childcare are critical to retaining families and young people in all Island communities. A

proportionate approach to play sufficiency is required in view of the broader societal and environmental challenges facing the Islands, however, the provision of good quality, well-maintained play facilities as part of wider place-making efforts to meet children and young people's needs will contribute to making the Outer Hebrides a more attractive place for families to visit, migrate or return to.

- 8.7 Summary Statistics for Schools 2024 show that 37% of children in the Outer Hebrides have an additional support need recorded. School pupil attendance rates in the Outer Hebrides remain high with a 91.5% attendance rate for 2023-24, although, as with all local authority areas, this has decreased slightly since 2016-17 when attendance was at 95.2%. Mental Health is identified as a priority issue for this population group, the importance of play in supporting children and young people's mental health is acknowledged in the policy principles of NPF4 Policy 21 "Physical and mental health are improved through the provision of, and access to, outdoor recreation, play and sport facilities".
- 8.8 As part of the Local Development Plan, the Comhairle will support the development of and access to good quality outdoor play opportunities, aligning with NPF4 Policy 21, facilitating spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport in our natural and built environments for children and people of all ages. NPF4 promotes a clear commitment to the promotion of outdoor play, stating that access to quality green space and nature-based solutions can help to mitigate health inequalities and improve physical and mental health, by providing opportunities for play, socialising, relaxation and physical activity.

9 Why do we need it?

- 9.1 The type of environment for play is important, having an impact on children and young people's experiences, choices and relationships, both with other people and with the environment itself. Outdoor play especially in natural spaces is beneficial and provides experiences which cannot be replicated indoors.
- 9.2 Scotland's outdoors, extending from the parks and open spaces in our towns to the remote and wild areas of land and water in the Highlands, provides great opportunities for open-air recreation and education. Open-air recreation provides people, including children, with great benefits for their health and well-being and contributes to the good of society in many other ways. Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives everyone statutory access rights to most land and inland water provided these rights are exercised responsibly.
- 9.3 The outdoor environment of the Outer Hebrides is mostly easily accessible to parents, carers, children and young people. Only the main settlements of Stornoway in Lewis and Balivanich in Benbecula share an urban or peri-urban character. In the rural areas there is an abundance of accessible open space, croft land, machair grassland, core paths and wider path network

- including high quality green and blue space. There is room to play and roam freely, the population density (8 people per square kilometre) is the lowest in Scotland.
- 9.4 Our PSA will help identify places where additional play space is required, or flag up which playgrounds need improvement, and which are rarely used so that planners and the community can collaborate to make better places where children and young people can enjoy hanging out in a safe space, being active, creative or contemplative near their homes.

10 Scope of the Play Sufficiency Assessment

- 10.1 We understand the importance of high-quality play spaces. Although the Comhairle does not currently have a funding programme for major improvements, the Play Sufficiency Assessment will help ensure that local voices shape future priorities.
- The PSA has been conducted at both ward level and whole place level. This means that the assessment should consider the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in specific communities, as well as across the entire planning authority area. This approach allows for a place-based understanding of play provision and ensures that the needs of children in different areas are considered. We have mapped the location of school play areas (see Appendix 1 below), however as the majority of these are not accessible to the public, they have not been assessed in the PSA audit (click on link to Appendix 2). We have also shown on the whole area map where formal play spaces have been dismantled or are no longer considered fit for purpose. In addition, we have highlighted sites where new provision is proposed.

11 HebPlay before the digital era

- 11.1 In past generations, children in the Outer Hebrides squeezed in play around school and chores, such as filling *bobbans* for the weavers of Harris Tweed, cutting peats, planting potatoes and stooking hay. Most had plenty to do whether they lived in the town or in the country. Depending on the time of year, children might engage in outdoor activities like fishing, bird watching, climbing or collecting wild berries.
- 11.2 The shore was a favourite place for exploration and adventure or if they were crofting people, during the summer they would spend time on the moorland at the *airidh* (summer shieling huts) and tend to the grazing cattle and sheep.
- 11.3 Children's life experiences have changed dramatically since those distant days, from Radio to Television, Walkman to iPods and mobile phones, the evolution of technology has resulted in virtual immersion in digital devices and social media with children now spending more time on screens than playing outdoors. Despite Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, many island

children still find time for outdoor play and are fortunate to live close to nature. Their play is often infused with Gaelic language, rhymes, traditional songs, and stories passed down through the generations, keeping the culture alive through play and games.

"As youngsters we spent hours dodging around the boats, playing simple games inspired by the materials lying around us, fishing the rocks, mainly for peeler crabs which we could catch easily by very basic techniques, often a length of "bobban thread" with barnacle baits on the end, retrieved slowly with one or two crabs attached. Winkles would be boiled in seawater in a rusty syrup tin and eaten with a pin with no regard to hygiene or personal danger. On frosty winter evenings when the winter herring shoals came into the harbour, I recall going round the rocks with the older boys gathering herring in pails. This operation was a great adventure for us, and it was a wonderful experience to see, by torchlight, the silver herring trapped in the seaweed."

Part of a lecture given by Roddy J. MacLeod (Barts) to the Stornoway Historical Society in November 2010 credit: reproduced courtesy of Stornoway Historical Society

12 Outdoor Focus

- Outdoor play is particularly valuable as it provides unique opportunities to experience the elements and because of the sense of wellbeing and enjoyment that being outdoors can bring. Access to the outdoors also gives children more space to move freely, run around and use their imagination and creativity. Due to the open landscapes many play-activities in the Outer Hebrides happen outdoors, including beach games, rock pooling, exploring the dunes, machair coastal grassland and moorland fringes. Children living in the Outer Hebrides grow up with much freedom, most within walking distance of high quality, natural play space, including moorland, woodlands, rocky coast, machair fringes and stunning beaches. With the surrounding ocean, activities like fishing, kayaking, swimming, bodyboarding, and surfing are popular forms of play which take place under adult supervision.
- 12.2 While informal play in the mostly unspoilt environment is prevalent, the Outer Hebrides also has a sufficient range of designated formal play facilities throughout the area to meet the needs of children and young people and encourage social interaction.

12.3 There is sufficient informal play space for children in the rural areas of the Outer Hebrides which have a high-quality natural environment. Planning officers have mapped the extent of formal play spaces in the overall area, and this has been further divided into 11 wards. This assessment focuses on the sufficiency (quality, quantity and accessibility) of play spaces within the Islands.

13 Ownership and Management

- 13.1 There exists a mix of ownership and partnership models dating from when the Local Authority and latterly Housing Associations built affordable housing for the community.
- 13.2 Some of the land on which play facilities are sited has now been legally transferred from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to the registered social landlord, Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP), however, CnES retains maintenance responsibility for certain play areas. New play facilities built as part of new HHP housing developments are managed solely by HHP or in partnership with the resident community.
- 13.3 CnES continues to work in partnership with community groups to support the upgrade of existing facilities. In addition, community land trusts, community councils and associations play an active role in developing new play facilities independently or facilitating upgrades to existing facilities.
- 13.4 Play spaces are not only located on Comhairle land and there is an ongoing need to work in partnership with the Community and HHP to design sufficient future provision across the Outer Hebrides which meets the policy provisions outlined in NPF4 Policy 21.

14 PSA Key Findings

- 14.1 The points below highlight some key initial findings, and these will be reviewed following consultation:
 - 77 outdoor play spaces identified in the PSA Assessment (click on link to Appendix 2).
 - 54 are fully accessible sites covering 9.76 hectares of land.
 - 6 of the play areas mapped are maintained for CnES by private facilities management services. They are open only within school hours during term time to pupils. Although identified on the whole area map, and in the PSA Assessment (click on link to Appendix 2) as they are not accessible by the public and are not open out with school hours/term they will not be audited.

There are 4 other schools with associated play facilities. Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath (North Uist Primary School) is owned and managed by CnES (Education). Due to the lack of play facilities in North Uist there have been community discussions regarding extending public access to the facilities to provide sufficient play facilities in the wider area. We have mapped these sites, but will not be including school facilities in the audit for the PSA.

- Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP) manages and maintains four recently developed facilities (Mackenzie Crescent, Manor Drive; Gibson Gardens and Sinclair Avenue [a kickabout space with trim trail]).
- At least 30 of the play facilities have some level of community involvement and are managed and/or maintained by Community Groups, Community Councils and Associations.
- 3 play facilities provide year-round toilet facilities on site or nearby enabling visitors to stay longer (Riverside, Newmarket; Breacleit, Bernera and Woodlands, Stornoway Castle Grounds).
- During the Summer Holidays Eoropie Dunes Park has a kiosk which sells hot drinks and snacks. This facility also provides toilet facilities.
- 11 sites are dismantled, or are no longer maintained, as they are no longer fit for purpose.
- Following audit and assessment, 61% of formal play facilities throughout the Outer Hebrides, that are accessible to the public provide sufficient play opportunities for children and their families.
- 39% of formal play facilities in the Outer Hebrides, accessible to the public do not provide sufficient play opportunities for children and their families. Certain sites have potential for improvement, gaps have been identified in provision and this evidence, together with the findings from community engagement will inform a future play strategy for the Islands and the next Local Development Plan.
- The addition of new play facilities at Northton, the Hebrides People Visitor Centre in Harris and at Dunskellar, Sollas, North Uist will address gaps in sufficiency in these ward areas. Community interest in developing new play facilities at Eoligarry Primary School and at the former school on Eriskay have been noted by CnES, but at the time of writing, no planning applications related to these have materialised.

Table 2 Play Sufficiency at Ward Level

WARD	No of Accessible Play Facilities	Sufficient For the Ward	Insufficient For the Ward	Former Play Space/ No longer fit for purpose	New Proposal (various stages of planning)	School Play Facilities mapped only (not assessed
1. Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh (Barra & Vatersay)	3	1 (33%)	2	0	1	0
2. Uibhist A Deas, Eirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)	6	4 (67%)	2	2	1	2
3. Uibhist A Tuath (North Uist)	2	1 (50%)	1	2	0	1
4. Na Hearadh (Harris)	4	2 (50%)	2	1	1	1
5. Sgìre nan Loch (Lochs)	6	4 (67%)	2	0	0	0
6. Sgìr' Ùige agus Càrlabhagh (Uig & Carloway)	4	4 (100%)	0	1	0	0
7. An Taobh Siar agus Nis (Westside & Ness)	2	2 (100%)	0	2	0	1
8.Loch a Tuath (Broadbay)	4	2 (50%)	2		0	1
9. Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	9	5 (56%)	4	1	0	2
10.Steòrnabhagh a Deas (Stornoway South)	8	5 (63%)	3	1	0	1
11. Sgìre an Rubha (Point)	6	3 (50%)	3		0	1
Totals	54	33 (61%)	21	10	3	10

15 Play Environment in the Outer Hebrides

- Most formal outdoor play spaces in the Outer Hebrides are attractive sites with landscaping and natural features such as trees, bushes or shrubs.
- Formal outdoor play spaces in the Outer Hebrides provide welcoming and safe play environments with a variety of general play opportunities.
- Formal outdoor play spaces in the Outer Hebrides provide a good range of opportunities for physical play, particularly for younger children.
- Formal outdoor play spaces in the Outer Hebrides offer a range of opportunities for younger children to take risks and experience adventurous play.
- Formal outdoor play spaces in the Outer Hebrides provide a good range of opportunities for younger children to engage in social play.
- Formal outdoor play spaces in the Outer Hebrides currently offer good opportunities for creative and imaginative play.
- Formal outdoor play spaces in the Outer Hebrides provide good opportunities for children to play on or with a range of natural resources within the boundary of the play space (machair dunes; grassland, woodland).
- Formal outdoor play spaces in the Outer Hebrides offer limited accessible play opportunities for disabled children and families.
- Some children and families in more remote parts of the islands, without access to a car, have difficulty accessing formal play space. Internal bus services are not regular or frequent enough in certain areas of the Islands to enable frequent access to certain play areas.
- The Outer Hebrides provides a wealth of informal outdoor play opportunities in a wide range of high quality natural green spaces.
- In the Outer Hebrides there are abundant opportunities for informal, unstructured play in high quality natural environments, including moorland exploration and orienteering, bog-slogging; den-building; mountain-biking; bird-spotting; climbing; coastal activities include beachcombing; sandcastle building; rock-pooling; paddling, swimming and body boarding (under adult supervision).



Photo: copyright Pippa Heath Photography

16 HebPlay - Some Interesting Facts

- Eoropie Dunes Park is located on the most north-westerly point in Britain, in Ness and located on machair grassland, Green Gym Days are organised where volunteers help with environmental conservation work; a Stream Clean and wildflower planting take place every year.
- Newmarket Play Park has an impressive selection of playground equipment, we counted 22 items, the park is also the start point of a circular moorland walk, and the committee have won a local volunteer of the year award.
- Aline Forest Play Park, Eoropie Dunes Park and the Woodlands Play Park are owned and managed by separate Community Land Trusts.
- Bayhead Play Park is the oldest playpark in the Outer Hebrides and once had a Maypole, young people used to go to the park to wash their face in the dew on the 1st of May every year.
- There are three Skate Ramps in the Outer Hebrides: two on Lewis at Bayhead Play Park, Stornoway and at Eoropie Dunes Park, Ness; and one on Benbecula at Balivanich Community Playpark.
- Lochmaddy Community Play Park; Daliburgh Play Park; Tong Play Area and Eoropie Dunes Park all have boat-themed play equipment reflecting the Islands maritime heritage.

17 Key Development Messages

The points below highlight some key development messages arising from the draft PSA and, these will be reviewed and informed by public consultation.

- We have assessed the quality, quantity and accessibility of play facilities throughout the whole area, and have identified a number of gaps in provision and places which could benefit from improvement and upgrade;
- To focus resources effectively throughout the overall area, CnES assessed the extent and condition of play facilities in the Outer Hebrides and scheduled eleven play parks for dismantling. The reasons for these decisions are varied but include redevelopment or repurposing of the site; replacement of similar facilities in another area; lack of use/identified need; poor condition of existing equipment and safety concerns. It is hoped that some of these formal spaces can be refurbished by community groups or retained as open green space for play, for recreation and to increase biodiversity;
- Local community groups have expressed an interest in taking over and developing existing playparks: Northbay, Barra; Ford Terrace, Creagorry, Benbecula; Cuidhe na Gamhna, Iochdar, South Uist; at Bayhead, North Uist, and at Seaview Terrace, Stornoway, Lewis;
- The assessment highlighted the need to investigate opportunities for opening the existing play park at Daliburgh School, South Uist during out of school hours;
- Assessment revealed that some play areas are not wheelchair accessible due to their location, for example Leverburgh Play park, Harris is accessed on an incline;
- There is a need for an all-ability access play area for children in Harris;
- There is a gap in provision in Shawbost, west side of Lewis families and children must travel to Breasclete or Ness to access play facilities;
- The play area at Vatisker, Lewis is not easily accessible for children in wheelchairs;
- The PSA identified a gap in provision in Broadbay, Lewis, requirement for a suitable site to be identified near the Back Football & Recreation Club;
- A lack of inclusive play equipment was evident at many sites;

- There is a lack of toilet facilities, including disabled toilet facilities at play areas,
 provision would enable families with younger or special needs children to stay longer;
- Although the Comhairle currently maintains some HHP owned playparks and assists with the upgrade of some community managed play areas, there remains some ambiguity over ownership and maintenance responsibility for some sites. It would be helpful to clarify the ownership and maintenance responsibility for all designated play parks in the Outer Hebrides.

18 Overall Message

For a Local Authority Area with a population of approximately 26,000, the quantity of outdoor play spaces in the Outer Hebrides is good with most young residents having access to formal or informal outdoor play spaces near to their homes. Prioritisation is required as sufficient funding is not available to undertake all desired playground renewal or additions throughout the Local Authority Area. Any future improvements should therefore focus on strengthening the quality and accessibility of both formal and informal outdoor play opportunities throughout the Outer Hebrides.

19 Conclusion

The PSA identified that at area level there is sufficient play provision in the Outer Hebrides (61% of audited sites provide sufficient play opportunities in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility), with a good range of physical and imaginative play opportunities in formal settings. The PSA identified important ways to strengthen the quality and accessibility of play opportunities in the Outer Hebrides where future funding opportunities would make this possible.



Castlebay Play Area, Barra, Photo: CnES



Leverburgh Play Area, Harris, Photo: CnES

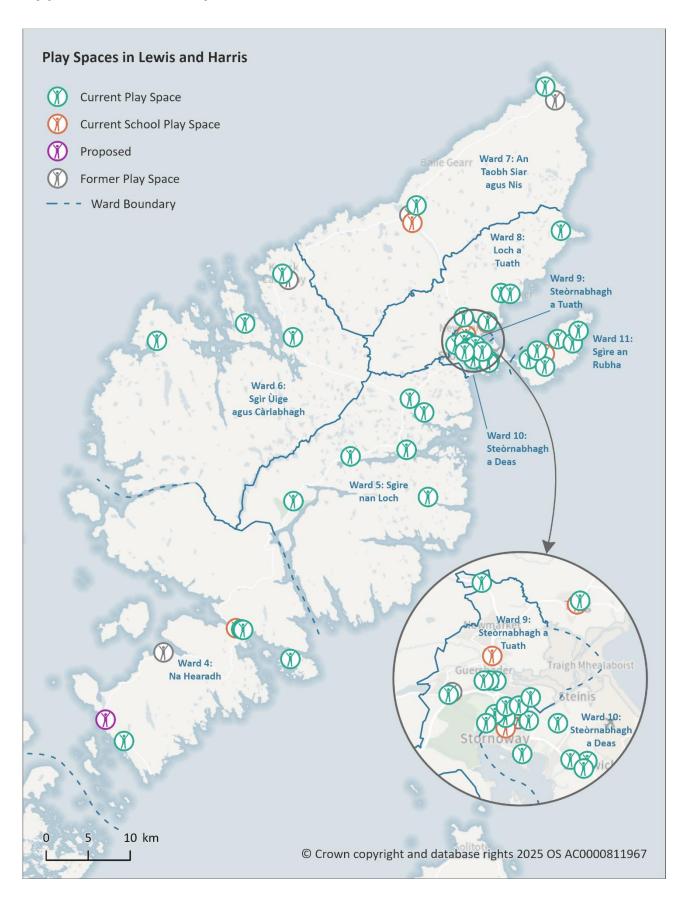
20 Recommendations

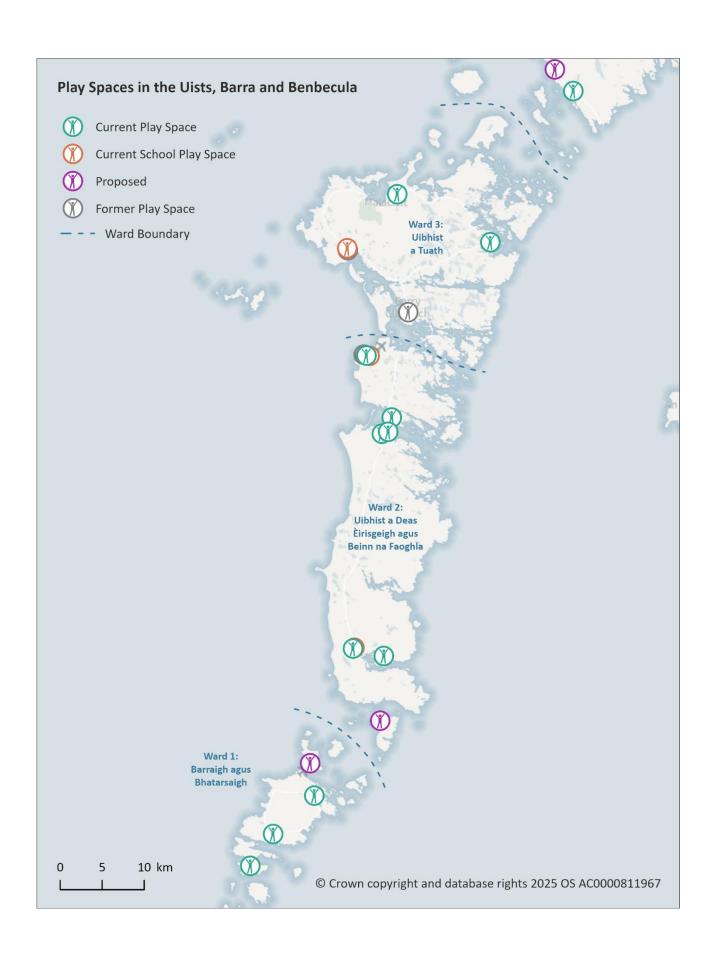
- Support the development of a network of destination playparks, including facilities for older children in each island locality zone (Barra & Vatersay; The Uists & Benbecula; Harris; Rural Lewis; Stornoway & Broadbay);
- In partnership with the Community and Hebridean Housing Partnership continue to improve the quality and accessibility of the network of play facilities throughout the area;
- Support local community groups to identify a suitable site for a new playpark in Shawbost, as there is no playpark provision between Carloway and Barvas;
- Support the upgrade and development of new play facilities at Eoligarry Primary School,
 Barra and at the former Eriskay School, now the Eriskay Hub development, South Uist;
- Encourage the upgrade of facilities at Ford Terrace, Creagorry, Benbecula and at Cuidhe na Gamhna, lochdar, South Uist; and at Bayhead, North Uist;
- Support the upgrade of community facilities at Gravir and at Leurbost Community Centre, Lochs;
- Support the upgrade of play facilities at Seaview Terrace, Stornoway;
- Support new provision where there is none play park deserts / not spots;
- Support the integration of more inclusive play equipment to meet the needs of all children, including those with disabilities and from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- Considering climate change, increasing rainfall, assist with integrating more sheltered 'hang out' spaces for 12–17-year-old age groups;
- All projects need to consider inclusivity for users, both in terms of equipment installation
 and amenity, DDA compliant facilities, including accessible entry points, gates and paths for
 wheelchair access, all ability surfaces, seating and wheelchair compatible picnic tables,
 accessible toilets, baby changing facilities; hand driers at a lower level;
- Environmental sustainability needs to be considered when designing renewal plans and procuring equipment. Ensure that all new play equipment complies with BS EN 1176 (manufactured and certified) and BS EN 1177 for safety surfacing. Equipment should be suitably robust for the more extreme weather conditions prevailing in the Outer Hebrides.

Any steel should be hot dip galvanised/zinc sprayed inside and out with the addition of an upgraded coating to corrosion class C4 for marine environments;

- Ensure ground surfaces are well drained; provide safe, wheelchair accessible routes to play spaces; ensure gates are DDA compliant, provision of barriers/chicanes where an entrance opens onto a road and ensure fences and walls are in good repair;
- Share and promote good practice, such as environmental Green Gym Days to conserve the environment and biodiversity of all play facilities; encourage community participation; contribute to green networks and increase biodiversity;
- There is a need for better play park provision in new housing developments. Where possible, external contributions will be sought to improve existing play parks;
- Where possible, retain play spaces no longer in use as green open space for play, provide seating for contemplation and plant trees, shrubs and flowers to increase biodiversity;
- Develop an online reporting system to ensure that issues arising with equipment or sites can be resolved quickly;
- Support financial planning for sustainable ongoing maintenance as well as initial capital funding.

Appendix 1 Area Maps





Appendix 2 Play Sufficiency Assessment of Formal Play Spaces within the Outer Hebrides

Colour Key

Turquoise: Accessible play area

Purple: Gap site, potential for development

Orange: CnES School play facilities

Grey: Former Play Space no longer maintained, or scheduled for dismantling

Play Space Type* (defined as)

A small neighbourhood play space is a play space with 0-5 pieces of formal play equipment.

A Larger neighbourhood play space is a play space with 5-13 pieces of formal play equipment.

NOTE: Multi Use Games Area (MUGA); Multi Play Unit (MPU)

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
		Castlebay							
1	Ward 1 Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh (Barra & Vatersay)	Castlebay Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.04	Poor	8 proposed, also near multi use play area (MUGA).	Poor, drainage issues.	No	Ensure that the result of this consultation informs the decisions made for the new Castlebay Hub playpark. This should be seen as a destination playpark for children and families across Barra & Vatersay to visit. It should include at least a zipline, slide, swings, climbing structure, trampoline, monkey bars and a maze. Deal with drainage issues at Castlebay Playpark.

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
									Partnership of Community Association/CnES
2	Ward 1 Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh (Barra & Vatersay)	Northbay Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.02	Average	1 large MPU, rubberised surface, bins, fenced and wooden kissing gate, entrance positioned away from main road.	Near established cul de sac development, near bus stop.	No	HHP have agreed to allow community groups to use Northbay in Barra, although they are not aware of the current position with this.
3	Ward 1 Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh (Barra & Vatersay)	Vatersay Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Very Good	6 including Slide for older children; slide for toddlers; seesaw; 2 swings with safety bars for toddlers; 2 swings for older children; rubberised surface; rope ladder; litter bin; fenced off; metal kissing gate; flower display; wellmaintained; close to sandy beaches and a coastal walk.	Good access.	No	Retain and maintain.
4	Ward 1 Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh (Barra & Vatersay)	Eoligarry Primary School (Proposed New Play Area)	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	Est. 0.27	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Gap in provision identified by the community. CnES supportive of new development/pre-app provided/ no planning application yet.

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
		Lochboisdale/ Daliburgh							
5	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)	Eriskay School Former Playground	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A.	N/A	Redevelopment plans for visitor information point, socialising hub, museum and gallery space, including an outdoor play area/ no planning application yet.
6	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)	Daliburgh Primary School Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	N/A	N/A	7 including timber adventure trail, MPU in playground area chess/draughts board (two separate play areas) also near multi use games area (MUGA)	Not fully accessible to the public.	N/A	CnES education progress discussions to open out with school hours.
7	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)	Daliburgh (Croilegean) Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.07	Good	9 including a sailing ship MPU; mostly toddler age group equipment.	Good, easily accessible, near school.	No	Identify Community Group to lead on improvements. Playpark is targeted at younger age groups; some rusted equipment, need equipment for older age groups.
8	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla	Kenneth Drive Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.11	Good	5 including 2 MPUs, trampoline, tyre swing and broken zip wire (missed by a significant number of children,	Good, easily accessible near residential area, easily accessible,	No	Zip wire needs repair. Lochboisdale Community Council Lead.

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
	(South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)					who would use this park if this was repaired).	near basketball court for older children.		
9	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)	Iochdar Community Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.03	Good	5 items, including timber play equipment one MPU, and swings.	Accessible to all.	Yes	CnES have responsibility for the playpark. Funding has already been secured to do the bulk of the work required. Play park could be improved by adding some more accessible equipment, enhance the existing plans to refurbish the lochdar playpark by adding at least one of the suggestions from lochdar pupils of having a zip wire, maze and trampoline. Adding a ground level trampoline could help to improve accessibility.
10	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)	Iochdar, Cuidhe na Gamhna Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Average	1 Multi play Unit, swing set removed.	Good accessible, adjacent to small housing development.	Yes	Retain and transfer to community for development HHP has agreed to allow community groups to use the play area in lochdar, South Uist.
		Balivanich							
11	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus	Balivanich Primary School Playground	School Playground	N/A	N/A	Not Audited. Community	Not accessible to the public.	N/A	

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
	Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)					playpark a few minutes away.			
12	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)	Balivanich Community Playpark (regeneration)	Destination Play Space, The Uists and Benbecula	0.35	Good	9 including a Skate Ramp plus multi use games area, (MUGA) and zip wire.	Good, families travel from North Uist, and some have taken the ferry from Barra to visit this site.	Yes	Partnership HHP/Community Association
13	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)	Balivanich, Columba Place Playpark	Former Play Space	N/A	N/A	None, dismantled.	N/A	N/A	Retain for open space/biodiversity if appropriate.
14	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)	Balivanich Old Primary School former Playground	Former School Play Space	N/A	N/A	None, dismantled.	N/A	N/A	Retain for open space/biodiversity if appropriate.
15	Ward 2 Uibhist a Deas, Èirisgeigh agus	Ford Terrace Creagorry Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.01	Average	1 MPU, bench seat, litter bin, fenced off and gated, green	Good accessibility, enabled for	Yes	Community expression of interest in ownership/maintenance;

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
	Beinn na Faoghla (South Uist, Eriskay & Benbecula)					rubber mulch installed around the play area, provides a stable non-slip ideal for running, jumping and general playing, also low maintenance surface.	all with mobility challenges to promote inclusivity, associated with residential development.		retain and transfer to community for development
16	Ward 3 Uibhist a Tuath (North Uist)	Bayhead, Ashdail Cottages Playpark	Former Play Space	N/A	N/A	Equipment has been completely removed, dismantled (open space?)	N/A	N/A	HHP has agreed to allow community groups to use the play area at Bayhead in North Uist
17	Ward 3 Uibhist a Tuath (North Uist)	Carabhat Carnish Playpark	Former Play Space	N/A	N/A	None, dismantled (open Space?)	N/A	N/A	Retain for open space/biodiversity if appropriate.
4.0	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	Lochmaddy		0.00				N. (E)	
18	Ward 3 Uibhist a Tuath (North Uist)	Lochmaddy Community Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.02	Average	5 pieces of equipment including a swinging boat; MPU, 2 x spring rider swings, rubberised surface, near football pitch, no equipment suitable for older children.	Good, accessible	No (5)	Community Group (Lochmaddy Community Playpark) are raising funds for further renewal. Work began in March 2025 to redevelop the play park including clearing the old surface to end up with a grass surface, and installing the new climbing frame
19	Ward 3 Uibhist a Tuath (North Uist)	Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath (SUAT) North Uist	School Play Facility	N/A	Good	1 adventure play area including	Not accessible outside	N/A	Arrange for relaxed protocols at Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath to enable the

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
		Primary School Playground	(temporary solution to current gap in play opportunities in North Uist)			tunnels, climbing poles, totem poles, walkways, boulders; there is also a gated play area for younger children with a built-in amphitheatre and moveable play equipment.	school hours, although associated MUGA and gym facilities may be booked at certain times.		adventurous play equipment to be made available to the public at all times out with the normal school day. Work required to ensure effective draining of water from the play equipment on the Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath campus so that it can be used by children throughout the year.
20	Ward 3 Uibhist a Tuath (North Uist)	North Uist Play Area, former Dunskellar School (Taigh Sgire Sholais), Sollas	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.04	Potenti ally Good	Includes 10 items of inclusive play equipment designed by Kompan (Age range 6 months+ 6 years + one item of fitness equipment Age 13 years+).	Good accessibility.	YES	Planning Ref 24/00192/PPD, approved, work now completed 14/05/25.
		Tarbert							
21	Ward 4 Na Hearadh (Harris)	Sir E Scott Secondary School	School Playground	N/A	N/A	Not audited.	Not accessible to the public.	N/A	
22	Ward 4 Na Hearadh (Harris)	Scott Road Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.04	Average	1 multi play unit (MPU).	Good, near residential area.	No	Items removed due to Health and Safety Issues. Create youth shelter & social area (Opportunities for partnership with CnES

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
23	Ward 4 Na Hearadh (Harris)	Macqueen Street Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.03	Very Good	4 including large multi play unit (MPU) has had recent work carried out.	Good, easily accessible.	Yes	Community/CnES responsibility
24	Ward 4 Na Hearadh (Harris)	Scalpay Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.08	Very Good	8 pieces of equipment + seating, cushioned surface; new equipment including a bucket swing; litter bin; well fenced and gates working; overlooked.	Good, central to village, easily accessible.	Yes	In August 2022 Scalpay Playpark reopened after a refurbishment supported by crowdfunding and community involvement. The Western Isles Lottery Support Team in Harris were delighted to support the venture with the funding of a bucket swing as an addition to the new equipment purchased making the park once again a safe place for children to enjoy the outdoors. A decrease in the younger population of Scalpay resulted in the local school closing in 2012 but the trend has since reversed and now more than 30 local children as well as the extended local community will benefit from the refurbishment of the park.

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
25	Ward 4 Na Hearadh (Harris)	Seilebost Former School Play Area	Former School Play Space	N/A	N/A	Dismantled	N/A	N/A	The play area site has reverted to Common Grazing. The former school building is owned by the West Harris Trust; the schoolhouse is privately owned
26	Ward 4 Na Hearadh (Harris)	Leverburgh Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.12	Very Poor	6 including 2 MPUs, 3 swing sets, seesaw and roundabout. In disrepair and deemed unsafe following inspection.	Good accessibility, near established residential development, community hub and primary school.	No	Community support and impetus to redevelop play space at Leverburgh. Repair and replace existing equipment in the Leverburgh Playpark on a like-for-like basis.
27	Ward 4 Na Hearadh (Harris)	Hebrides People Visitor Centre, Northton	Small Neighbourhood Play Space	(Est. 0.02)	Potenti ally Good	New development includes boat play equipment; net climbing frame play equipment; timber knee high rail 0.5m; rubber grass safety surface.	Accessible.	N/A	Planning Ref 23/00505/PPD.
28	Ward 5 Sgìre nan Loch (Lochs)	Gravir Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.07	Very Poor	4 including one MPU; one swing set (1 x bucket and 1 x flat seat); slide; plus, picnic table.	Very poor accessibility, grass is overgrown; the gates are locked (despite this, children are	No	Re-open and maintain (e.g. grass cutting) maintain equipment in reasonable condition and replace rusty and broken equipment on a like-for- like basis. Ensure that equipment being

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
							using it as there are desire lines through the grass) equipment eroded and no longer fit for purpose.		replaced is accessible and inclusive (e.g. new swings could have seats which can be used by children who need to use wheelchairs and those who are able bodied).
29	Ward 5 Sgìre nan Loch (Lochs)	Aline Community Woodland Playpark	Destination Play Space, Rural Lewis	0.08	Excelle nt	4 including swings for older children and bucket swings for toddlers, climbing frame, multi play facility with slide; green space, woodland, rainwater toilet facility.	Outwith settlement, transport required, easily accessible on site.	Yes	Children who lived in Kinloch mentioned that they liked using the playparks at Keose and Aline. These were described as in good condition, and they enjoyed using them.
30	Ward 5 Sgìre nan Loch (Lochs)	Tomair, Balallan Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.03	Average	1 MPU, rubberised surfaces, MUGA to North of play area.	Within housing development.	Yes	Retain and Maintain
31	Ward 5 Sgìre nan Loch (Lochs)	Leurbost Trim Trail	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.02	Good	Informal greenspace with trim trail, also near slipway for accessing loch/canoeing; woodland walk with seating areas.	Accessible to the public.	Yes	
32	Ward 5 Sgìre nan Loch (Lochs)	Leurbost Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Poor	7 including MPU, seesaw, roundabout, 2	Easily accessible, associated	No	Retain and maintain. We have engaged with the North Lochs Community

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
						swing sets and 2 spring riders, fenced, bins and picnic table.	with Community Hall.		Council, and they have said that the playpark is in poor condition and needs an upgrade. Install some of the equipment requested in the Leurbost Playpark and maintain existing equipment which is in disrepair. (parents drive their children from Ranish to Leurbost Village Hall Playpark) Improvements could include the following: Climbing wall Zip wire Maze Tube slide or tunnels Basket swing
33	Ward 5 Sgìre nan Loch (Lochs)	Keose Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.14	Very Good	4 including suspended swing and flat seat swings, multi play unit with slide and tunnel; two picnic tables and separate bench seating; litter bins; adjacent to small pitch with football nets.	Good access and working gate.	Yes	Children and families who live in Kinloch, liked using the playparks at Keose and Aline, described as being in good condition.

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
34	Ward 6 Sgìr' Ùige agus Càrlabhagh (Uig & Carloway)	Timsgarry, Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.23	Good	6 pieces of equipment including MPU, trampoline, shelter and games court.	Easy to access and in local centre with primary school, museum, and café.	Yes	Retain and maintain, Opportunities for partnership with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar on local Playpark development: Local community group has raised funding to renew the Uig Playpark
35	Ward 6 Sgìr' Ùige agus Càrlabhagh (Uig & Carloway)	Bernera, Breacleit Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.8	Very Good	5 pieces of equipment, well-equipped playpark with zip wire, slide, swings, MPU, bench seating, picnic table, adjacent to playing field.	Easy to access, composting toilet contributing to inclusive facilities, well maintained grounds.	Yes	Retain and maintain
36	Ward 6 Sgìr' Ùige agus Càrlabhagh (Uig & Carloway)	Pentland Drive Playpark	Former Play Space	N/A	N/A	Dismantled.	N/A	N/A	Retain for open space, biodiversity if appropriate.
37	Ward 6 Sgìr' Ùige agus Càrlabhagh (Uig & Carloway)	Carloway Community Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.04	Good	3 including two swing sets (2 x swings; 2 x bucket swings) and one multi play unit.	Easy to access, near Community Hall.	Yes	Recently upgraded.

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
38	Ward 6 Sgìr' Ùige agus Càrlabhagh (Uig & Carloway)	Breasclete Playpark	Destination Play Space, Rural Lewis	0.05	Very Good	5 pieces of equipment, including 1 multi play unit; 2 x nest swings; gym equipment including a cross trainer and an exercise bike, two bench seats.	Easy to access, Secure area, near Community Centre and Primary School.	Yes	Recently developed
39	Ward 7 An Taobh Siar agus Nis (Westside & Ness)	Heatherhill Barvas Playpark	Former Play Space	N/A	N/A	Dismantled	N/A	N/A	Retain for open space, biodiversity if appropriate.
40	Ward 7 An Taobh Siar agus Nis (Westside & Ness)	Edgemoor Square Playpark	Former Play Space	N/A	N/A	Dismantled	N/A	N/A	Retain for open space, biodiversity if appropriate.
41	Ward 7 An Taobh Siar agus Nis (Westside & Ness)	Sgoil an Taobh Siar, West Side Primary School Playground	School Playground	N/A	N/A	Not audited.	Open during school hours or by special arrangement	N/A	
42	Ward 7 An Taobh Siar agus Nis (Westside & Ness)	Eoropie Dunes Park	Destination Play Space, Rural Lewis	1.82	Excelle nt	14 pieces of play equipment, excellent range of natural and built features, traditional fenced play area with timber play	Easy to access, well maintained, gazebo shelter, popular with teenagers;	Yes	Recently refurbished, well supported by community volunteers, who every year organise Green Gym days to maintain the park; they also plant wildflowers and bulbs;

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
						equipment, swings and slides, MPU and sand pits, spring riders for young children; a free-play area with zip wire; safe tunnels, an embankment slide, maze; adventure trail. Mostly on machair grassland. Hard-surfaced cycle and skateboard zone area.	walkway developed between the park and the primary school, inclusive equipment. During the summer holidays Eoropie Dunes Park has a kiosk which sells hot drinks and snacks. This facility also provides toilet facilities.		top up sand and run a Stream Clean – good candidate for inclusion in green network for the Outer Hebrides. Recently refurbished with funds from the Big Lottery
43	Ward 7 An Taobh Siar agus Nis (Westside & Ness)	Upper Barvas Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.06	Good	6 pieces of equipment including MPU, swing set; zip wire; tyre swing, small hexagonal hut; Wendy house); new fencing, all on grassed area, small, ball court cage to rear.	Easily accessible	Yes	Retain and Maintain Recently refurbished with £3,000 from the Western Isles Lottery

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
44	Ward 8 Loch a Tuath (Broadbay)	Vatisker Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.06	Poor	3 pieces of equipment, 1 MPU 1 seesaw; 1 rocket shaped piece of equipment, rocker, overlooked by housing development; rubberised surface.	Not accessible for all, in centre of housing development, no green space; close to residential car parking, potential safety issue.	No	Repair rust and wear and tear on the main structure in the Vatisker Park Playpark. Consider adding an accessible basket swing in some of the empty space in the Vatisker Park Playpark. There are a lot of children and families living in Vatisker Park, but the playpark there is used irregularly due to the condition and range of equipment. There are currently no swings in this playpark. Look into replacing seesaw at Vatisker Park as it does not work properly, but that they would use it if it did so. There is potential to consider using sustainable alternatives to traditional playpark materials.
45	Ward 8 Loch a Tuath (Broadbay)	Tong Primary School Play Area	School Play Area	N/A	N/A	Not audited.	N/A	N/A	maconator

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
46	Ward 8 Loch a Tuath (Broadbay)	Tong Village Hall Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.07	Good	5 including boat themed MPU. Bucket swing set (2 swings) flat seat swing set (4 swings), and roundabout, rubberised surface under equipment.	Accessible near Village Hall and Primary School.	Yes	Retain and maintain.
47	Ward 8 Loch a Tuath (Broadbay)	Outend Coll Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Poor	7 including a seesaw, bucket swings, flat seat swings, roundabout, 2 x springer riders and MPU, rubberised surface under equipment, poor condition, unsafe.	Accessible, within village, fenced and gated.	No	Retain and maintain not used much by children, reported as unsafe
48	Ward 8 Loch a Tuath (Broadbay)	Tolsta Community Hall Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Good	5 pieces of equipment, nest swing; multi play unit; swings; see- saw, plus 2 picnic tables and bear- shaped bin.	Partially accessible, route from the play to some of the residences is overgrown, located next to primary school and Community Hall. Football pitch nearby.	Yes	Retain and maintain.

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
49	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Riverside, Newmarket Playpark	Destination Play Area, Stornoway and Broadbay	2.1	Excelle	22 including a zip wire, net swings, gaming table, 2 x MPU, inclusive trampoline, sensory interactive equipment.	Good, easily accessible, near bus stop high spec all ability footpath in the playpark, gazebo over picnic table for children/ parents & carers; shelter for teenagers to hang out, toilet with solar panel.	Yes	Retain and Maintain Destination Playpark also links with footpath from Newmarket to Tong, used by children from the wider Broadbay Area. Children in Stornoway North were particularly impressed with the facilities currently available at the Newmarket Playpark. Children in the Stornoway South Ward were impressed with the facilities currently available at the Newmarket Playpark at the adjoining ward. Links with greenspace, walking, cycling trail. River flooding during extreme weather events is a potential issue for users
50	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Allt na Broige Playpark	Former Play Space	N/A	N/A	None, dismantled.	N/A	N/A	Retain for open space, biodiversity if appropriate.
51	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Bennadrove Road, New Shielings, Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Average	2 including an MPU and swing set.	Good, easily accessible.	Yes	Reverse decision to dismantle New Sheilings playpark as it is relatively well used by children and young people in the local

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
									area. A new fence has also been constructed around this playpark which demonstrates that the community appreciate this facility and are willing to invest in it. Fix existing equipment which has fallen into disrepair
52	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Laxdale Primary School Playground	School Playground	N/A	N/A	Not audited.	Not accessible to the public.	N/A	
53	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Castle Grounds, Woodlands Playpark	Destination Play Space, Stornoway and Broadbay	0.04	Very Good	10 including a net swing; rope swing and MPU. (suitable for under-12s only)	Good, easily accessible, near café, public toilets, within public park/	Yes	Within the Lews Castle and Lady Lever Park Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL), also nearby mountain bike trails designed by Pete Laing, interpretation in the GDL aimed at children and young people
54	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Lower Cearns Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.04	Average	5 including MPU; seesaw; roundabout; 2 swing sets.	Good, easily accessible.	No	All three Cearns playparks are well used by local children. However, they are not a destination playpark that people from outside the area would use. New fencing, removal of graffiti & rust;

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
									new picnic bench proposed (CnES Lead)
55	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Middle Cearns Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.06	Average	3 including MPU; roundabout; swings.	Good, easily accessible, near MUGA, near bus stop.	No	All three Cearns playparks are well used by local children. However, they are not a destination playpark that people from outside the area would use. New fencing, removal of graffiti & rust; new picnic bench proposed (CnES Lead)
56	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Upper Cearns Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.06	Average	6 including MPU, swing-set; balance bar; roundabout and seesaw; inclusive play flush trampoline.	Good, easily accessible.	No	All three Cearns playparks are well used by local children. However, they are not a destination playpark that people from outside the area would use. New fencing, removal of graffiti & rust; new picnic bench proposed (CnES Lead)
57	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Columbia Place Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.13	Very Good	8 including rustic timber adventure trail; MPU; 2 x swing sets; roundabout; bicycle rack.	Good, easily accessible, near primary school and housing development, bus stop on opposite side of Perceval Road.	Yes	Recently refurbished as part of a major development: Goathill Housing and Extra Care/Residents Association/CnES partnership

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
58	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Stornoway Primary Playground	School Playground	N/A	N/A	Not audited.	Not accessible to the public.	N/A	
59	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Sinclair Avenue, Goathill Play Area	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.58	Average	Informal open kickabout area, trim trail, minimal landscaping.	Easily Accessible.	No	HHP/Community partnership - potential for improvement.
60	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Manor Drive Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.01	Average	4 including MPU; seesaw and two spring riders (for younger children)	Okay, accessible, "No Ball Games" signs in the vicinity.	Yes	HHP Lead
61	Ward 10 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway South)	Bayhead Playpark	Destination Play Space, Stornoway and Broadbay	0.79	Good	9 including MPU, 2 swing sets, roundabout; seesaw; includes skate ramp; two tennis courts; and crazy golf (not fit for purpose)	Good, easily accessible, gate/barrier installed to prevent children running onto the busy main road, central location in Stornoway.	No	Two tennis courts, litter bins need replacement, graffiti needs to be removed. Active Community Association, opportunities for partnership with CnES Crazy golf pitch is dilapidated, decide on refurbishment or modelling or removal, this site is potentially constrained by the presence of contaminated land and Scottish Water Assets

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62	Ward 9 Steòrnabhagh a Tuath (Stornoway North)	Gibson Gardens Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.02	Average	3 including one climber & slide combo and two spring riders.	Good, easily accessible.	Yes	HHP Lead
63	Ward 10 Steòrnabhagh a Deas (Stornoway South)	The Nicolson Institute Secondary School Playground	School Playground	N/A	N/A	Not audited.	Not accessible.	N/A	
64	Ward 10 Steòrnabhagh a Deas (Stornoway South)	Doig Crescent Playpark	Former Play Space	N/A	N/A	Scheduled for dismantling in 2017 (MPU plus child sized picnic table and litter bin, partly fenced, not gated) Part sealed with concrete slabs and part rubberised surface, little biodiversity value currently.	N/A	N/A	Retain as open space, consider creating green space, seating area, garden for biodiversity if appropriate.
65	Ward 10 Steòrnabhagh a Deas (Stornoway South)	Parkend Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Good	6 including swings for older children, MPU, climbing frame and roundabout.	Good, easily accessible, near housing development, near bus stop.	Yes	CnES Lead
66	Ward 10 Steòrnabhagh a Deas (Stornoway South)	Mackenzie Crescent Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.09	Good	5 including tunnel; rustic wooden balancing beams and posts (low maintenance	Good, easily accessible within housing development,	Yes	HHP Lead

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
						equipment), maintenance free plastic picnic tables.	near bus stop.		
67	Ward 10 Steòrnabhagh a Deas (Stornoway South)	Tolmie Terrace Playpark	Smaller Neighbourhood Play Space	0.01	Average	1 multi play unit.	Good, easily accessible.	Yes	CnES Lead
68	Ward 10 Steòrnabhagh a Deas (Stornoway South)	Seaview Terrace Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Average	6 including two inclusive interactive games with braille, gate difficult to open.	Okay, gate could be improved, near bus stop.	No	Upgrade planned led by Newton Ward Community Association and facilitated by Community Development Worker (who has Crown Estate Funding for 1 year) The site is on land owned by Stornoway Port Authority but is currently being transferred to the Newton Ward Community Association
69	Ward 10 Steòrnabhagh a Deas (Stornoway South)	Plasterfield Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.59	Poor	1 multi play unit (MPU) plus a multi- use Games Area (MUGA), not in good condition.	Good, accessible to locals, but tucked away behind housing development, bus stop nearby on Constable Road.	No	Add basket swings to the Plasterfield Playpark as there are currently no swings in this playpark. Possible site for zip wire, needs an upgrade to MUGA, Plasterfield Recreation Association Lead.

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
70	Ward 10 Steòrnabhagh a Deas (Stornoway South)	Sandwickhill Community Hall Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Average	4 including bucket swings; roundabout; see saw and slide.	Good, easily accessible, adjacent to bus stop, wall to front.	Yes	Point & Sandwick Trust Lead
71	Ward 11 Sgìre an Rubha (Point)	Sgoil an Rubha (Point Primary School) Playground	School Playground	N/A	N/A	Not audited.	Not accessible to the public.	N/A	
72	Ward 11 Sgìre an Rubha (Point)	Seaview Knock Playpark	Small Neighbourhood Play Space	0.07	Average	1 MPU, at least two pieces of equipment have been removed, some landscaping/ planting within the play area, gimcrack plank Wendy house.	Good access, within residential development, near football ground (Ionad Stoodie).	No	Retain and maintain Replace removed items with inclusive play equipment Point Community Council and Point and Sandwick Trust.
73	Ward 11 Sgìre an Rubha (Point)	Macsween Drive Playpark, Aird	Small Neighbourhood Play Space	0.1	Poor	2 including one MPU and one flat seat swing set, equipment in disrepair.	Good accessibility, on the edge of housing development, adjacent to MUGA, near Tiumpan Head Centre which includes a café, toilet facilities.	No	Retain and maintain, work with Tiumpan Head Community Association to integrate it into the wider community (e.g. the Tiumpan Head Centre which includes a café, toilet etc is nearby). Repair existing equipment which is usable but in disrepair. Insert new gate at Macsween Drive Playpark to make it safer and more accessible. Look at other features which could be added to

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
									existing equipment to make them more inclusive. For example, the swings could be replaced with a basket swing which can be used by children of all abilities.
74	Ward 11 Sgìre an Rubha (Point)	Lower Bayble Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Poor	7 including one MPU; zip wire (broken), roundabout, spring rider, mini playhouse, and two swing sets (2 x bucket and 2 x flat seat), rubberised surface, fenced, litter bins and picnic bench and bench seat.	Good accessibility, built near a housing development, adjacent to fenced kick about area /football pitch.	No	Retain and maintain, there is an opportunity for the Comhairle to partner with 'Roots for Low Impact Living C.I.C' and 'Lower Bayble Playpark' The local community have formed a new Playpark Committee (est. 2024) were seeking a quote for clean-up and maintenance of the ground.
75	Ward 11 Sgìre an Rubha (Point)	Garrabost, Cnoc Dubh Playpark	Small Neighbourhood Play Space	0.06	Good	3 including one MPU, one swing set (2 x flat seat) and a friendship swing, rubberised surfaces.	Good accessibility, wooden gate, dwarf walls, crescent shaped stone-built bench (Lewisian gneiss and Garrabost brick and lime mortar)	Yes	Retain and maintain.

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
							provides shelter, litter bins.		
76	Ward 11 Sgìre an Rubha (Point)	Shulishader Community Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.05	Average	5 pieces of equipment including a climbing frame, two swing sets (4 x flat seat, 2 x bucket), slide, and a roundabout.	Good accessibility, to the rear of small housing scheme.	Yes	Retain and maintain, equipment and site in reasonable condition for its age, requiring minor works, ground maintenance and replacement of parts to make it suitable for use once again. Point Community Council seeks to refurbish the playpark and oversee formation of a committee to ensure it is managed into the future. £3,500 funding from Point & Sandwick Trust. Point
					V			V	Community Council fully support this project as part of their Action Plan. This support has enabled purchase of replacement parts and to make changes to the park for the benefit of local children.
77	Ward 11 Sgìre an Rubha (Point)	Sheshader Community Playpark	Larger Neighbourhood Play Space	0.03	Very Good	7 pieces of equipment including two	Good accessibility within the	Yes	Retain and maintain, part of slatted fence needs repair

No.	Ward	Settlement	Play Space Type, (based on no. of items of equipment) *	Size (ha)	Quality	Quantity of equipment	Accessibility	Sufficiency for Area	Recommendations
						timber frame swing sets (2 x bucket) and (2 x flat seat); slide; seesaw for four children; spring rider, cross trainer; rubberised surface, and picnic table, bench and 2 x timber round tables, timber balancing posts inclusive design, and dolphin-shaped bin.	village, no gate, but slatted barrier provided in front of entrance.		
	ting Accessible Area (ha)			09.76					
New Play	Proposals Area mate ha)			00.29					
Total Area	l Predicted Play (ha)			10.05					