

## LANCASHIRE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE

## MODERN RECREATION

### Definition:

Most modern recreation land is directly associated with urban areas. It includes larger playing fields, parks, caravan parks and golf course amongst others all created post c AD 1850. Most playing fields and parks are too small to be mapped by this project and are treated as attributes of other HLC types.

### Typical historical and archaeological components

Historic attributes specific to the type include sports grounds and stadia, historic golf course buildings (usually the clubhouse, which may be listed and often represents a conversion of a former country house) and, potentially, common land (often retained in an urban context as informal open space). Much **Modern Recreation** extends over areas of prior agricultural use and may therefore contain significant time depth in terms of the retention of earlier landscape features or buried archaeology. Golf courses may potentially retain boundaries and landscape features associated either with earlier agrarian regimes, such as ridge and furrow, or with the rabbit warrens which once dotted the coastal hinterland, or with landscape parks. Landscaping for golf courses may have disturbed or removed some of this information whilst drainage may have degraded it.

### Enhancing and safeguarding the type

- *Conserve* characteristic buildings and structures associated with historic sports and other recreational activities. Recreational land may contain historic structures in its own right – consideration should be given to the conservation and enhancement of buildings and structures related to sporting activities (clubhouses, bathhouses and pools, walks and drives).
- *Assess* the impact of development proposals on relict archaeological remains. There is considerable potential for the preservation of earlier archaeological remains within areas of recreational land, particularly given the low intensity of most subsequent recreational uses. Development proposals or changes of land use may require assessment in order that any consequent damage may be mitigated.
- *Assess* the impact of development proposals upon surrounding areas and on the intrinsic historic character of open spaces. Recreational land represents significant areas of public or semi-public open space, often adjacent to or within towns and villages. One result of such a location is increased development pressure, which is heightened by the twin policies of enhanced Greenbelt legislation and the brownfield agenda. Consideration of development proposals within recreational areas will need to pay attention to the potential for below-ground archaeology (above), to the effect of new development upon the historic character of the adjacent areas, and to the merits of the intrinsic character of the area as an historic area of open space.