

EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

DRAFT OPEN SPACE REPORT

APRIL 2021

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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Glossary

MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
ESC	East Suffolk Council
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
OSNA	Open Space Needs Assessment
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
SFS	Sports Facilities Strategy
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

East Suffolk Council (ESC) commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver an Open Space Assessment. This document is part of a wider series of inter-related strategies for sport and recreation that also includes a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Built Sports Facilities Strategy. Furthermore, a separate Play Area Strategy has also been created to specially focus on play provision. The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also use indoor facilities for matches/training or use open space areas for informal use. Similarly, there may be forms of open space which feature a playing pitch or sporting facility.

This document focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the study. It provides detail regarding what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality.

It will help inform direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable open spaces in East Suffolk. It can help to inform the priorities for open space provision as part of future population distribution and planned growth.

The purpose of an Open Space Study is to recognise the role of open space provision as a resource. Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and movement for people and wildlife. The impact of climate change is a recognised concern. One which open space provision has the ability to help contribute towards tackling through measures such as tree planting, landscaping, re-wilding and creation of wild areas etc. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what provision currently exists and what the priorities and requirements are for the future.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; *Assessing Needs and Opportunities*^{*} published in September 2002.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced PPG17. However, assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17 as it still remains the only national best practice guidance on the conduct of an open space assessment.

Under paragraph 96 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

^{*} <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessing-needs-and-opportunities-a-companion-guide-to-planning-policy-guidance-17>

The table below details the open space typologies included within the study:

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Urban parks, country parks and formal gardens, open to the general public. Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Woodlands, scrubland, orchards, grasslands (e.g. meadows and non-amenity grassland), wetlands and river corridors, nature reserves and brownfield land. Supports wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Allotments and food growing spaces	Opportunities to grow own produce. Added benefits include the long term promotion of sustainable living, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards. Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space provision across East Suffolk. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all open spaces defined as:

- ◀ Part 3: Survey and audit overview
- ◀ Part 4: Parks and gardens
- ◀ Part 5: Natural/ semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Part 7: Allotments
- ◀ Part 8: Cemeteries/churchyards

Playing Pitches and Indoor Built Sports Facilities

The provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated Playing Pitches and Built Sports Facilities Strategies. The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space as a different methodology in line with national guidance is prescribed.

Any site recognised as sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e. where it is also available for wider community use as open space) is included in this study as a type of open space. Provision purely for sporting use are included within the other studies. On dual use sites, the pitch playing surfaces are counted as part of the overall site size as they are considered to contribute to the total open space site and reflect its multifunctionality. Pitches on dual use sites are identified in the PPS too but only by number and pitch type (as prescribed in Sport England Guidance).

1.2 National context

National Planning Policy Framework (2019), (MHCLG)

The National Planning Policy Framework (Feb 2019) (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (paragraphs 7-9). It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Paragraph 96 of the NPPF establishes that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 97 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

National Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG)

PPG is a web-based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place. It was launched in March 2014 and adds further context to the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). It is intended that the two documents should be read together.

The guidance determines that open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.

Everybody Active, Every Day (2014), Public Health England

In October 2014 Public Health England (PHE) produced a plan to tackle low activity levels across the country. Along with making the case for physical activity, the plan identifies four areas where measures need to be taken at a national and local level:

- ◀ Active society: creating a social movement. Shifting social norms so that physical activity becomes a routine part of daily life.
- ◀ Moving professionals: activating networks of expertise. Making every contact with the health sector count to push the 'active' message and to deliver the message through other sectors including education, sports and leisure, transport and planning.
- ◀ Active environments: creating the right spaces. Making available and accessible appropriate environments that encourage people to be active every day.
- ◀ Moving at scale: scaling up interventions that make us active. Maximising existing assets that enable communities to be active.

Open space provision has an important role in working towards these measures. There is a need to ensure accessible facilities that can help meet the physical activity needs of everyone including the physically and mentally disabled and those with learning difficulties and debilitating diseases.

Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015), Fields in Trust

As part of its protection work, Fields in Trust (FIT) offers guidance on open space provision and design. This is to ensure that the provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space is of a sufficient size to enable effective use; is located in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and to encourage its continued use.

Beyond the Six Acre Standard sets out a range of benchmark guidelines on quantity, quality and accessibility for open space and equipped play. It also offers some recommendations to minimum site sizes.

Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England

Sets out how the planning system can help provide opportunities for everyone to be physically active. It highlights the vital role planning systems play in shaping environments (including open spaces) which offer opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity. To help with this, the guidance sets out 12 planning-for-sport principles to be embraced.

Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles

Overarching	Recognise and give weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity
	Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessment of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them
	Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles
Protect	Protect and promote existing sport and physical activity provision and ensure new development does not prejudice its use
	Ensure long-term viable management and maintenance of new and existing sport and physical activity provision
Enhance	Support improvements to existing sport and physical activity provision where they are needed
	Encourage and secure wider community use of existing and new sport and physical activity provision
Provide	Support new provision, including allocating new sites for sport and physical activity which meets identified needs
	Ensure a positive approach to meeting the needs generated by new development for sport and physical activity provision
	Provide sport and physical activity provision which is fit for purpose and well designed
	Plan positively for sport and physical activity provision in designated landscapes and the green belt
	Proactively address any amenity issues arising from sport and physical activity developments

Summary of the national context

Policies set out within the NPPF state that local and neighbourhood plans should both reflect needs and priorities within a local community and be based on robust and current assessments of open space, sport and recreational facilities. Engaging residents to take up and retain a minimum or better level of physical literacy and activity is a high priority for national government. For many people, sport and recreational activities have a key role to play in facilitating physical activity. Therefore, ensuring that open space creates an active environment with opportunities and good accessibility is important. In line with national policy recommendations, this report makes an assessment of open space provision from which recommendations and policy will be formulated.

1.3 Local context

ESC Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

The Strategic Plan provides the framework to deliver a range of vital services for local communities. The ambition is to deliver the best possible quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in and visits East Suffolk. It is structured around the following five themes:

Table 1.3: ESC Strategic Plan (2020-2024) key themes and aims:

Theme	Aim
Growing our economy	To build a strong sustainable economy for the future so that will achieve its maximum potential, for the good of everyone in the area.
Enabling our communities	Working together, ESC will enable communities to identify opportunities and challenges. It will empower them to make a difference. It will also support communities to enhance the places for living and working and for the wellbeing of all.
Remaining financially sustainable	To grow and prosper as a council; ESC will ensure it is well-run; providing value for money and strive for excellence.
Delivering digital transformation	Digital technology can transform the way we work and live; ESC will use technology to make services efficient and easily accessible to all and assist communities to embrace and access new technologies.
Caring for our environment	The environment be put at the heart of everything ESC does.

Local plans; former Suffolk Coastal and Waveney local authorities

East Suffolk was formed in 2019 following the merger of Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council, as a result there are two existing Local Plans for East Suffolk. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan covers the period 2018-2036 and The Waveney Local Plan covers the period 2014-2036. Both plans share the same vision and strategic priorities to:

‘Maintain and sustainably improve the quality of life for everyone growing up in, living in, working in and visiting the area’.

The vision is accompanied by nine strategic priorities. In relation to health and wellbeing, the priority is to support healthy, safe, cohesive and active communities by improving health, wellbeing and education opportunities for all. This will be achieved via a range of education, health and leisure provision to meet localised need and create sustainable communities across the area.

Housing allocations

Both local plans acknowledge the need to increase the supply of housing to meet needs across the new area. The respective local plans set out the level of growth needed in the area and identified where that growth should be located and how it should be delivered.

- ◀ In the former Suffolk Coastal area, the Local Plan is committed to delivering 9,756 houses (542 dwellings per annum) between 2018-2036. This will include creation of two new garden neighbourhoods (Felixstowe and Saxmundham), to focus growth on the A12 and A14 corridors and to support rural communities.
- ◀ In the former Waveney area, the Local Plan is committed to delivering 9,235 houses (419 dwellings per annum) between 2014-2036. Just over half of the committed allocation will be in the Lowestoft area (Lowestoft, Carlton Colville, Corton, Gisleham, Oulton and Oulton Broad) with a proposed 5,206 dwellings.

Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy 2019-2022

Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board identifies that health and wellbeing are fundamental to both individuals and families. Consequently, the stated Strategy vision is to 'ensure people in Suffolk live healthier, happier lives'. There is also a desire to narrow the difference in healthy life expectancy between those living in the most deprived communities and the more affluent. This will be undertaken through improvements in more disadvantaged communities, through a partnership approach. To achieve this, the strategy outlines four stated priorities.

Table 1.4: Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic priorities

Priority	Description
1	Every child to have the best start in life, which will focus on increasing the number of children who are a healthy weight and support vulnerable children including children whose parents have misused alcohol or drugs.
2	People of working age are supported to optimise their health and wellbeing, including preventing heart disease and supporting people to be healthy at work.
3	Older people in Suffolk have a good quality of life, with the aim of reducing the impact of frailty on the lives of older people and making sure people are supported well at the end of their life.
4	People have the opportunity to improve their mental health and wellbeing, by having access to good quality and effective mental health services when they need them.

East Suffolk Community Partnerships

Eight East Suffolk community partnerships were set up in 2019 and includes a range of local organisations (parish councils, CCGs, voluntary organisations, police, local business). These each hold an annual local delivery budget of £25,000 for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and have agreed a set of priority work areas (see Figure 2.4) which have been reviewed in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic.

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In addition, an overarching partnership board has been convened, representative of the eight partnerships with a delivery budget of c.£1million. This has adopted social isolation and community transport, which feature as issues across multiple community partnerships, as the top priorities.

Figure 1.1: East Suffolk Community Partnership priorities

Community Partnership Priorities



Lowestoft and northern parishes	Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley	Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula	Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages
Improve mental health and wellbeing (45)	Reduce social isolation & loneliness	Active and sustainable transport provision	Active and sustainable transport provision, particularly rural
Tackle childhood obesity	Environmental care and sustainable transport	Village Hub – bringing services to people	Reduce social isolation and loneliness
Reduce social isolation – all ages	Support people to age well/Traffic and road safety	Youth Engagement, opportunities and services	Facilities, activities and employment for young people
Felixstowe Peninsular	Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages	Framlingham, Wickham Market and villages	Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages
Education – aspirations, ambition and standards	Active and sustainable transport solutions / community transport	Developing opportunities for young people	Education, Opportunities and Aspirations
Social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation & loneliness particularly carers, older people, and men 40+
Community spaces and physical enhancements	Improve wellbeing and enable people to live healthy lives	Alternative, active and sustainable transport provision	Encourage and enable everyone to be more physically active and healthy

PART 2: METHODOLOGY

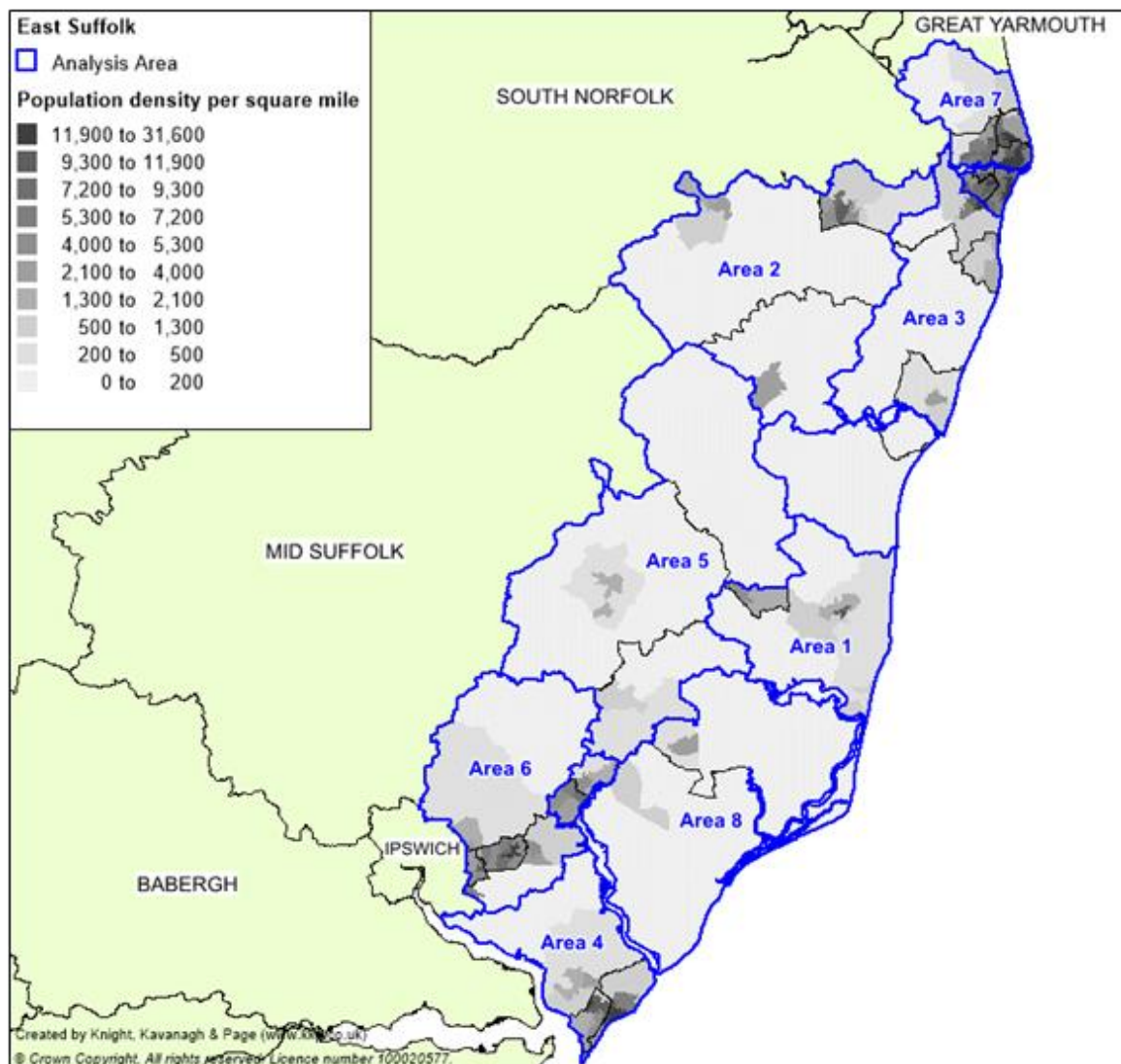
This section details the methodology undertaken as part of the study. The key stages are:

- ▶ 2.1 - Analysis areas
- ▶ 2.2 - Auditing local provision
- ▶ 2.3 - Open space standards
- ▶ 2.4 - Quality and value
- ▶ 2.5 - Quality and value thresholds
- ▶ 2.6 - Accessibility catchments

2.1 Analysis area

The study area is the whole of the East Suffolk Council area. In order to address supply and demand on a more localised level, analysis areas (aligned to the Community Partnership areas) have been utilised. Figure 2.1 shows the study area broken down into these analysis areas in tandem with population density.

Figure 2.1: Map of East Suffolk including analysis areas



Given the lengthy names of the majority of the areas, for ease of reference it has been agreed to number them throughout this report, where appropriate, 1-8 (in alphabetical order). Please see the table overleaf.

Table 2.1: Analysis areas and populations

Analysis area	Community Partnership reference	Population*
1	Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham & Villages	16,362
2	Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth & Villages	31,890
3	Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold & Villages	23,983
4	Felixstowe Peninsula	35,110
5	Framlingham, Wickham Market & Villages	17,178
6	Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford & Flynn Valley	35,161
7	Lowestoft & Northern Parishes	66,611
8	Melton, Woodbridge & Deben Peninsula	23,166
East Suffolk		249,461

2.2 Auditing local provision

The KKP Field Research Team undertook the site audit for this study in Spring 2021. Open space sites are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. The focus is on sites publicly accessible are included (i.e. private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, analyse the following typologies in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17.

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Allotments
5. Cemeteries/churchyards

As part of the study a sample of site visit assessments were undertaken. This included visits to all parks and gardens and play provision for children and young people (set out in a separate Play Strategy). All amenity and natural and semi-natural greenspace are given a quality and value score via a desk-based assessment. Provision of allotment and cemeteries/churchyards are mapped and included in term of quantity due to the specific roles such provision engenders.

Site size threshold

In accordance with recommendations from the Companion Guidance to PPG17, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace. It is recognised that spaces smaller than 0.2 hectares can provide amenity to local neighbourhoods and stepping-stones for wildlife. However, they are often too small to provide any meaningful leisure and recreational opportunities to warrant a full site assessment.

* Mid-2019 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England (ONS)

They should therefore be assessed on a site by site basis (to assess potential community, biodiversity and visual value) should a request for development be made upon such a site in the future.

It should be noted that some sites below the threshold i.e. those that are identified as having particular significance and considered to provide an important function, are included in the audit process.

Database development

All information relating to open spaces is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded within the database. The database details for each site are as follows:

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

- ◆ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ◆ Site name
- ◆ Ownership (if known)
- ◆ Management (if known)
- ◆ Typology
- ◆ Size (hectares)
- ◆ Site visit data

Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

2.3 Open space standards

To identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space in a local area, provision standards focusing on Quality, Quantity and Accessibility are set and applied later in the document (Part 9).

Quality	Ability to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities. Aimed at identifying high quality provision for benchmarking and low quality provision. The Quality Standard is based on the audit assessment scores.
Quantity	Are there enough spaces in the right places? Aimed at helping to establish areas of surplus and deficiency and, where appropriate, to understand the potential for alternative uses and/or key forms of provision.
Accessibility	Distance thresholds aimed at improving accessibility factors (e.g. so people can find and get to open spaces without undue reliance on using a car) and helping to identify potential areas with gaps in provision. Shown via maps.

2.4 Quality and value

The quality of open space has been assessed through site visits and desk-based assessments. The Quality Standards are founded on this information.

Through the assessment process most types of open space receive separate quality and value scores. Allotments and cemeteries do not receive a quality/value rating as this is less of a consideration in determining future need which is better informed by quantity and accessibility.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a site of high quality may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) site may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

This allows for the application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

Analysis of quality

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon criteria derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised in the following table.

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

- ◆ Physical access, e.g. public transport links, directional signposts,
- ◆ Personal security, e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- ◆ Access-social, e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths
- ◆ Parking, e.g. availability, disabled parking
- ◆ Information signage, e.g. presence of site information, notice boards
- ◆ Equipment and facilities, e.g. seats, benches, bins, toilets
- ◆ Location value, e.g. proximity of housing, other greenspace
- ◆ Site problems, e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
- ◆ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
- ◆ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g. condition of general landscape & features
- ◆ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g. elderly, young people
- ◆ Site potential

Analysis of value

Each site identified is also provided with a value score. Value is defined in Companion Guidance to PPG17 in relation to the following three issues:

- ◆ Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◆ Level and type of use.
- ◆ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

In addition, the NPPF refers to attributes to value such as beauty and attractiveness of a site, its recreational value, historic and cultural value and its tranquillity and richness of wildlife.

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived from:

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

- ◆ Level of use (assumed only), e.g., different user types, location near community facilities
- ◆ Context of site in relation to other open spaces
- ◆ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area
- ◆ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- ◆ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
- ◆ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being
- ◆ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high profile symbols of local area
- ◆ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
- ◆ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far

2.5 Quality and value thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by Companion Guidance to PPG17); the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

A site rating low for quality should not automatically be viewed as being fit for development. It is also necessary to understand its value, access and role within the community it serves. It may for example be the only site serving an area and should therefore be considered a priority for enhancement.

The most recognised national benchmark for measuring the quality of parks and open spaces is the 66% pass rate for the Green Flag Award. This scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and open spaces. Although this open space study uses a similar assessment criteria to that of the Green Flag Award scheme it is inappropriate to use the Green Flag benchmark pass for every open space as they are not all designed or expected to perform to the same exceptionally high standard.

For example, a park would be expected to feature a greater variety of ancillary facilities (seating, bins, play equipment) and manicured landscaping and planting, etc. in contrast to an amenity greenspace serving a smaller catchment and fewer people.

Furthermore, a different scoring mechanism is used in this study to that of the Green Flag scheme (albeit the criteria for this study is derived from the Green Flag scheme). For each open space typology, a different set and / or weighting for each criterion of quality is used. This is to better reflect the different roles, uses and functions of each open space type. Consequently, a different quality threshold level is set for each open space typology.

Quality thresholds in this study are individual to each open space typology. They are based on the average quality score arising from the site assessments and set using KKP's professional judgment and experience from delivering similar studies. The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites, it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal. This works as an effective method to reflect the variability in quality at a local level for different types of provision. It allows the Council more flexibility in directing funds towards sites for enhancements which is useful if funds are geographically constrained with respect to individual developments.

Reason and flexibility are needed when evaluating sites close to the average score / threshold. The review of a quality threshold is just one step for this process, a site should also be evaluated against the value assessment and local knowledge.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	40%	20%
Amenity greenspace	50%	20%
Allotments	n/a	n/a
Cemeteries/churchyards	n/a	n/a

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold is derived from KKP's experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites.

A high value site is one deemed to be well used and offering visual, social, physical and mental health benefits. Value is also a more subjective measure than assessing the physical quality of provision. Therefore, a conservative threshold of 20% is set across all typologies. Whilst 20% may initially seem low - it is a relative score. One designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). If a site meets more than one criterion for value it will score greater than 20%. Consequently, it is deemed to be of higher value.

2.6 Accessibility catchments

Accessibility catchments can be used as a tool to identify deficiencies of open space in a local area. This is achieved by applying them to create a distance catchment. The report displays the results of the catchment to highlight any potentially deficiencies in access to provision.

There is an element of subjectivity resulting in time / distance variations. This is to be expected given that people walk at different speeds depending on a number of factors including height, age, levels of fitness and physical barriers on route. Therefore, there will be an element of 'best fit' for East Suffolk.

Accessibility guidance from Fields In Trust (FIT) provides suggested catchment standards for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. These are set out in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: FiT accessibility guidelines

Open space type	Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
Parks & Gardens	710m	9 minute
Amenity Greenspace	480m	6 minute
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	720m	9 minute

FIT do not set accessibility catchments/standards for allotments or churchyards / cemeteries. Churchyards and cemeteries are unique in their function; making new provision occurs only in exceptional circumstances based on evidence beyond the scope of this study. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to set an accessibility standard as this report can have no impact on provision.

Similarly, for allotments no accessibility catchments are suggested. Allotments provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce. They encourage physical activity, improve mental health and provide a sense of well-being thereby contributing to the quality of life. Making way for the delivery of a new allotment is not without its challenges given the land take involved. However, it can be planned for where there is justification.

PART 3: SURVEY AND AUDIT OVERVIEW

A community questionnaire was developed in collaboration between KKP and ESC. The use of a questionnaire was considered a good approach to providing a widespread opportunity for people to provide their thoughts towards open space provision.

The questionnaire consisted of a series of multiple choice and open-ended questions asking respondents their thoughts on topics such as types of open space visited, frequency, quality etc. The online survey was promoted by the Council via social media and other outlets. The following provides a summary and breakdown of the views towards open space provision.

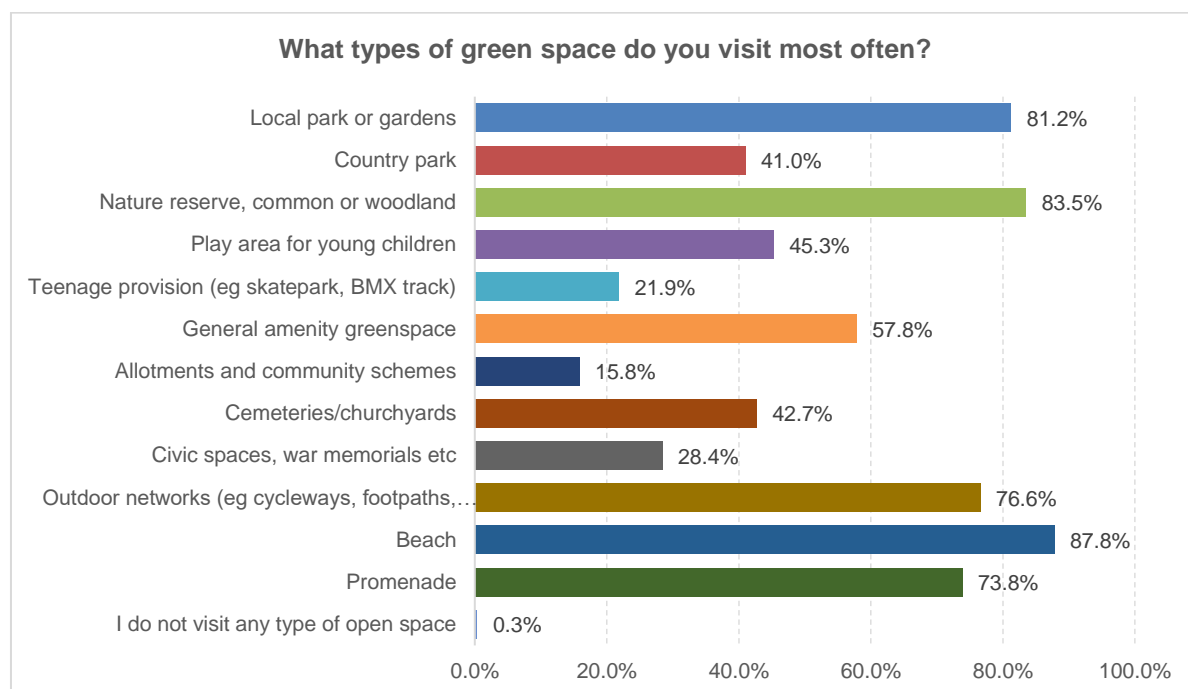
3.1 Open space survey analysis

An online community survey was hosted on the Council website and promoted via social media and the Council's communication team. A total of 581 responses were received. The findings of the consultations are reviewed and interpreted to further support the report findings. A summary of the responses is set out on the following pages.

Usage

Popular forms of open space provision to visit most often are beaches (88%), nature reserves, commons or woodlands (84%), parks (81%) and outdoor networks (77%).

Figure 3.1.1: Types of open space to visit



Reasons for visiting open space

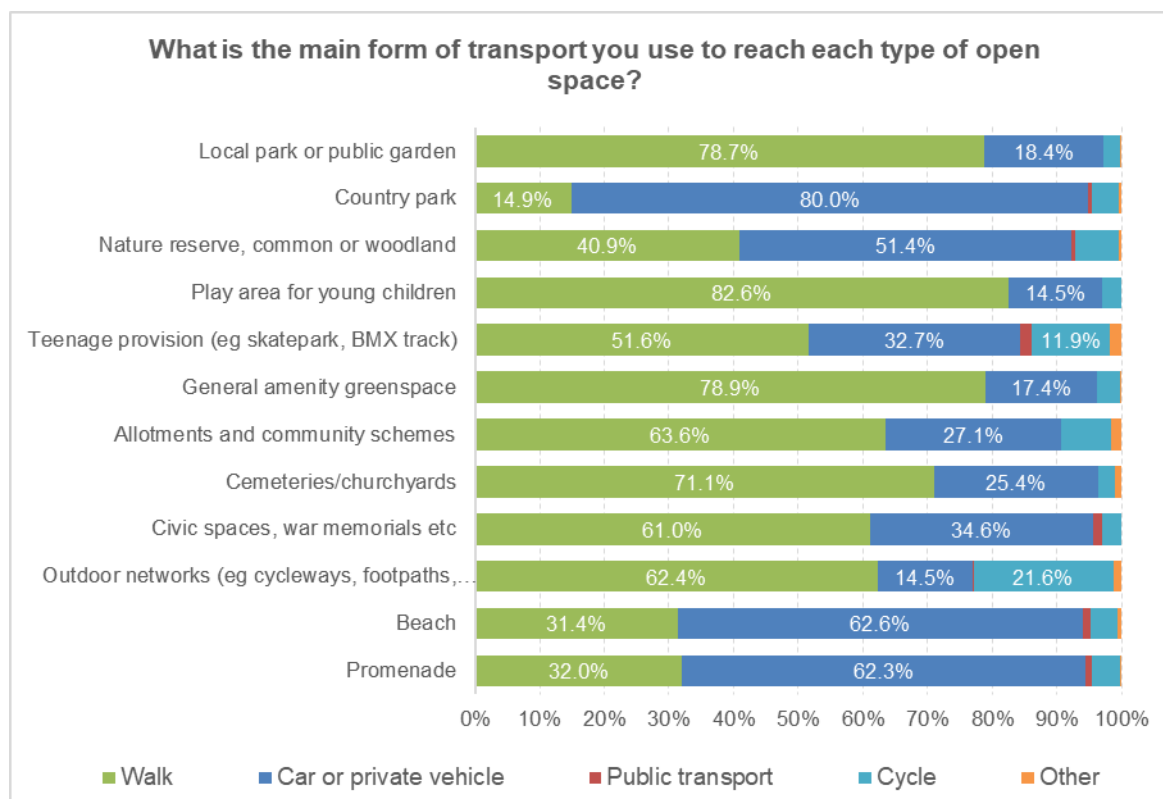
The main reasons for visiting open space are for fresh air (94%), to go for a walk or stroll (92%) and to experience/see nature (74%). Unsurprisingly, the reason: 'to grow fresh fruits and vegetables' received the one of the lowest percentages with only 8.8 % of respondents selecting this. This is a specific reason relating to allotments (and those survey respondents stating they visit an allotment) which is comparatively a niche form of open space with not everyone being an allotment holder. Consequently, it is not a common reason for people visiting open space.

Accessibility

Results from the survey shows that individuals walk to access provision of amenity greenspace (79%), cemeteries (71%), parks (79%), outdoor networks (62%), play areas for young children (83%), and civic space (61%).

The exception to this is for country parks (80%), nature reserves (51%), beach (63%), promenade (62%) which individuals travel by car to access.

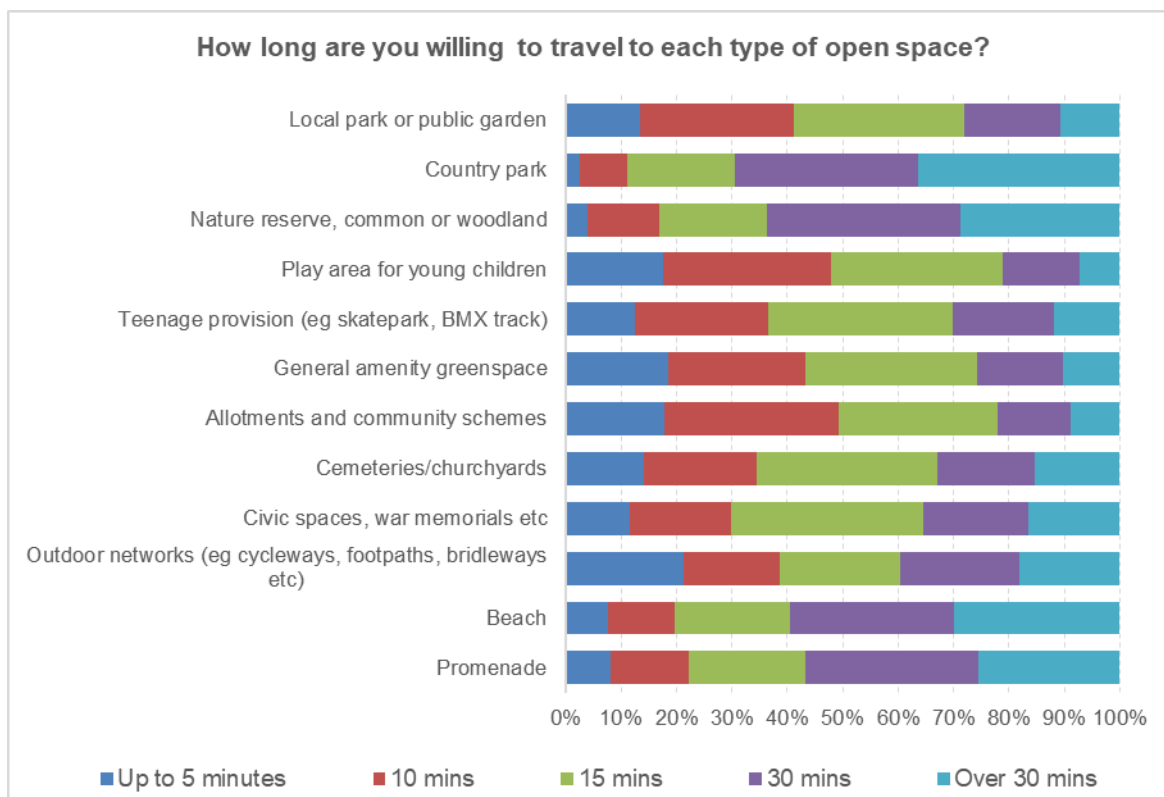
Figure 3.1.2: Mode of travel to open space sites



For some provision such as nature reserves and country parks, there is a willingness to travel further distances; with 36% of respondents stating they would travel over 30 minutes to access a country park and 35% willing to travel 30 minutes to a nature reserve, common or woodland.

For other forms of provision, respondents show a willingness to travel a shorter amount of time (i.e. 10 to 15 minutes). This is particularly noticeable for parks, allotments, amenity greenspace, cemeteries and play provision.

Figure 3.1.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites



Availability and Quality

In general, respondents consider the amount of open space provision where they live to be quite satisfactory with half stating they are quite satisfactory. Over a third of respondents (38%) rate availability of open space provision as very satisfactory.

Table 3.1.1: Satisfaction with availability of open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
38.0%	44.7%	8.8%	7.1%	1.4%

Similarly, just over half of survey respondents (46%) consider the quality of open space provision to be generally quite satisfactory. A further 29% rate quality as very satisfactory. Only small proportions of respondents view quality as quite unsatisfactory (10%) or very unsatisfactory (1%).

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Table 3.1.2: Satisfaction with quality of parks and open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
28.6%	45.5%	14.1%	10.3%	1.4%

Respondents to the survey were asked what they thought would improve open space provision. The most common answers include more wildlife/habitat promotion (53%), better and wider range of facilities (51%) and better maintenance and care (50%).

Table 3.1.3: What would improve open space provision for you?

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
More wildlife/habitat promotion	52.9%
Better and wider range of facilities (i.e. play equipment, seating, refreshments)	50.9%
Better maintenance and care of features	50.4%
Greater attractiveness (e.g. flowers, trees)	35.7%
Improved access to and within sites	21.0%
Greater community involvement	19.4%
More public events	17.9%
Greater information on sites	15.6%
Other (please state below)	12.9%

3.2 Site Audit Overview

Within East Suffolk there is a total of 576 sites equating to approximately 6,730 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural/semi-natural greenspace (6,264 hectares); accounting for 93%.

Table 3.2.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Allotments	85	64
Amenity greenspace	196	229
Cemeteries/churchyards	175	119
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	98	6,264
Park and gardens	22	54
TOTAL	576	6,730

* Rounded to the nearest whole number

Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for open spaces.

Table 3.2.2: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	50%	13%	47%	75%	108	88
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	40%	16%	41%	68%	55	43
Park and gardens	60%	34%	55%	80%	14	8
					177	139

There is a mixed quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in less than half of sites (44%) scoring above their set threshold for quality.

This is explored further under each typology section later in the report.

Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces.

Table 3.2.3: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Amenity greenspace	20%	11%	32%	60%	15	181
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		19%	39%	65%	1	97
Park and gardens		30%	49%	73%	0	22
					16	300

Nearly all sites (95%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest, for example, good quality seating, play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those offering limited functions and viewed as unattractive.

PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology often covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

4.2 Current provision

There are 22 sites classified as parks and gardens across East Suffolk, the equivalent of over 54 hectares (see Table 4.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology. All analysis areas have parks provision.

Table 4.1: Current parks and gardens provision in East Suffolk

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Area 1	-	-	-
Area 2	4	5.63	0.18
Area 3	1	5.82	0.24
Area 4	5	10.77	0.31
Area 5	-	-	-
Area 6	-	-	-
Area 7	10	28.10	0.42
Area 8	2	3.73	0.16
East Suffolk	22	54.05	0.22

For parks and gardens, East Suffolk has a current provision level of 0.22 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and therefore the biggest contributor to this provision is Normanston Park (6.21 ha). The next largest site is Carlton Park, Lowestoft Road (5.82 ha), located in Area 3.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall East Suffolk is below this.

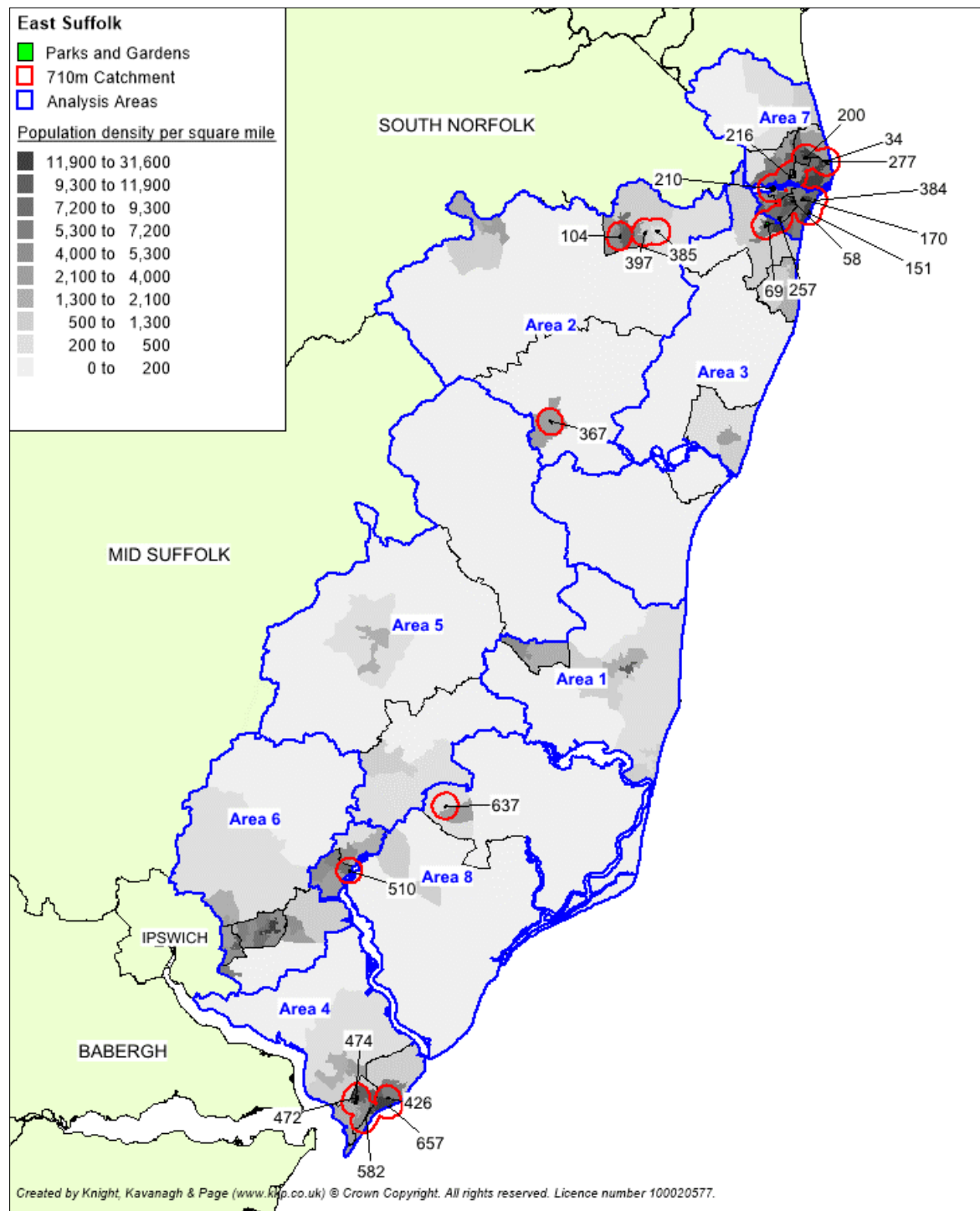
However, as recognised above the reality is that parks provision, particularly 'destination' parks, are only going to exist in areas of greater population density. Consequently, some areas being below the FIT suggestion does not mean a true deficiency exists. It is therefore important to also consider accessibility and quality of provision.

4.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of mapping, a 710m catchment (based on FIT guidelines) has been applied to parks. Figure 4.1 shows the catchments applied to parks and gardens to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with 710m



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Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
34	Bellevue Park	Area 7	1.91		
58	Britten Road	Area 7	1.13		
69	Carlton Park, Lowestoft Road	Area 3	5.82		
104	Darby Road	Area 2	1.51		
151	Kensington Gardens	Area 7	1.93		
170	Kirkley Fen Park	Area 7	3.21		
200	Gunton Community Park	Area 7	2.69		
210	Nicholas Everitt Park	Area 7	4.76		
216	Normanston Park	Area 7	6.21		
257	Rosedale Park	Area 7	2.94		
277	Sparrows Nest Park	Area 7	2.69		
367	Town Park	Area 2	1.20		
384	Wellington Gardens	Area 7	0.62		
385	Werels Loke	Area 2	1.73		
397	Woodfield Park	Area 2	1.19		
426	Allenby Park	Area 4	1.35		
472	Cavendish Park North	Area 4	3.13		
474	Cavendish Park South	Area 4	1.54		
510	Elmhurst Park	Area 8	1.91		
582	Langer Park	Area 4	1.75		
637	Jubilee Park, Rendlesham	Area 8	1.82		
657	Felixstowe Seafront Gardens	Area 4	3.00		

Catchment mapping shows that areas of greater population density are generally served by parks provision. However, catchment gaps are noted. A slight gap in catchment mapping exists to central east Lowestoft (Area 7) and north west Felixstowe (Area 4).

Several settlements such as Bungay (Area 2), Southwold (Area 3), Leiston (Area 1), Saxmundham (Area 1), Framlingham (Area 5), Kesgrave (Area 6) and Martlesham Heath (Area 6) are also highlighted as not being served by a park.

However, in most cases these areas are served by other types of open space such as amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace. This is explored further in Part 9.

4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks. A threshold of 60% is applied to segregate high from low quality parkland. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Area 1	-	-	-	-	-
Area 2	41%	54%	80%	3	1
Area 3	69%	69%	69%	0	1
Area 4	34%	46%	66%	4	1
Area 5	-	-	-	-	-
Area 6	-	-	-	-	-
Area 7	46%	60%	80%	5	5
Area 8	44%	51%	58%	2	0
East Suffolk	34%	55%	80%	14	8

Of the 22 park and garden sites, almost two thirds score below the quality threshold suggesting a mixed standard of quality of parks provision.

Some of the lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ✦ Cavendish Park North (34%)
- ✦ Cavendish Park South (39%)
- ✦ Allenby Park (41%)

These sites score lower for general lack of ancillary features such as signage and bins. There are litter bins, dog bins and benches at Allenby Park however, the number is deemed insufficient so scores slightly lower. All three sites lack signage however, each have good entrance scores and user security. In addition, all three have play provision on site.

The criteria used to assess parks and gardens is intended to be high, reflecting the Green Flag Award assessment. As such, not all park and garden sites would be expected to score above the threshold set for such a prestigious award. It is more likely for the flagship 'destination' sites to score highly. There are currently two Green Flag Award sites: Felixstowe Seafront Gardens and Nicholas Everitt Park.

It is important to note that some sites score just below the quality threshold. For example, Jubilee Park, Rendlesham scores 58%. The site has good entrances, dog bins and football goals as well as a play area, adding to the quality of the site. Rendlesham Parish Council highlight that Jubilee park, owned by the PC, is their main asset and the PC would like to develop the pavilion to provide additional facilities such as a gym or increase the building to two storeys. The play area has been revamped with some equipment added. Rendlesham PC are very keen to provide leisure infrastructure and to serve parishes and surrounding ones.

Sites assessed as being of particularly high quality and as such, rate well above the threshold, are Halesworth Town Park (80%), Nicholas Everitt Park (80%) and Normanston Park (72%).

Normanston Park (72%) is observed as a large very well used site with many features including a play area, skate park, six tennis courts, a basketball post and table tennis. The site benefits from numerous picnic tables, benches, bins, good paths and football goals. It also has a restaurant and the site is adjacent to Leathes Ham, a Local Nature Reserve. The range of facilities and sporting activities it offers adds to the quality of the site.

Similarly, Halesworth Town Park (80%) benefits from a good variety of features including a play area, MUGA, skate park and youth shelters. The site also has toilets, benches, picnic tables and bins, although the bins in skate park were noted as damaged. There is lighting on the pathways and interpretation panels about the history adding to the quality of the site.

Like Normanston Park and Halesworth Park, Nicolas Everitt Park (80%) also contains a range of features and facilities such as a play area, tennis courts, signage and seating. However, unlike the other parks, there is also a boating lake, museum, crazy golf and bowling green within the park, further adding to the quality of the Green Flag Award site.

Other high scoring parks include Carlton Park and Felixstowe Seafront Gardens. The former is quite a big site (nearly six hectares) with an array of play provision including a skate park, MUGA, play area, fitness equipment and table tennis. Additionally, there is trim trail/fitness equipment around the site next to the path. There is car park on site, albeit very small.

Consultation with Carlton Colville Town Council identifies that the latest installed equipment was funded by them. The gym equipment was installed in 2020 and the skate park in 2019. The site can suffer from ASB in the summer. The Town Council highlight that the wood area has been made more visible and the skate park has been made more accessible. Moreover, there are open days and nature walks that take place at the park. Carlton Colville Town Council identifies that there is going to be a new country park near The Gardens, south of The St.

4.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 4.4: Value ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Area 1	-	-	-	-	-
Area 2	36%	49%	73%	0	4
Area 3	64%	64%	64%	0	1
Area 4	30%	41%	50%	0	5
Area 5	-	-	-	-	-
Area 6	-	-	-	-	-
Area 7	36%	53%	68%	0	10
Area 8	45%	45%	45%	0	2
East Suffolk	30%	49%	73%	0	22

All park and garden sites rate above the threshold for value. The highest scoring sites for value are:

- ♦ Halesworth Town Park (73%)
- ♦ Normanston Park (68%)
- ♦ Carlton Park, Lowestoft Road (64%)
- ♦ Nicholas Everitt Park (64%)

All these parks have high amenity and social value due to containing a range of play equipment, good paths and recreational and exercise opportunities. Also, they are observed as attractive parks that are well used and maintained therefore, also score high for structural and landscape benefits.

Normanston Park has additional economic value due to the restaurant on site whilst Nicolas Everitt Park features a boating lake, museum and crazy golf also adding to its economic value.

Halesworth Town Park has floral planting, a stream and connects to Halesworth Millennium Green adding to its ecological value and structural and landscape benefits. It also features interpretation panels about the history providing cultural and heritage value. Nicholas Everitt Park also has added cultural value due to its bandstand.

All park and garden sites provide opportunities for a wide range of users and demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks can offer.

One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their ability to function as a multipurpose form of open space provision. Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area.

Consequently, sites with a greater diverse range of features and ancillary facilities rate higher for value.

PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. quarries) and commons. For the purpose of this study, the focus is on sites publicly accessible.

5.2 Current provision

In total, there are 98 accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace sites in East Suffolk, equating to over 6,264 hectares. There are also a further eight are identified but deemed inaccessible equating to 124 hectares.

Table 5.1: Current accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace in East Suffolk

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Area 1	13	423.01	25.85
Area 2	14	88.91	2.79
Area 3	16	3,122.13	130.18
Area 4	9	230.58	6.57
Area 5	3	37.80	2.20
Area 6	11	301.60	8.58
Area 7	15	78.75	1.18
Area 8	17	1,981.24	85.52
East Suffolk	98	6,264.01	25.11

These totals do not include all provision in the area as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, they may still make a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to community viability, quality of life and health and wellbeing. Furthermore, they provide 'stepping stones' for flora and fauna enabling freedom of movement for wildlife across the area.

Area 3 has the most accessible natural and semi-natural provision with a total of 3,122 hectares. This makes up almost half of the accessible provision across East Suffolk.

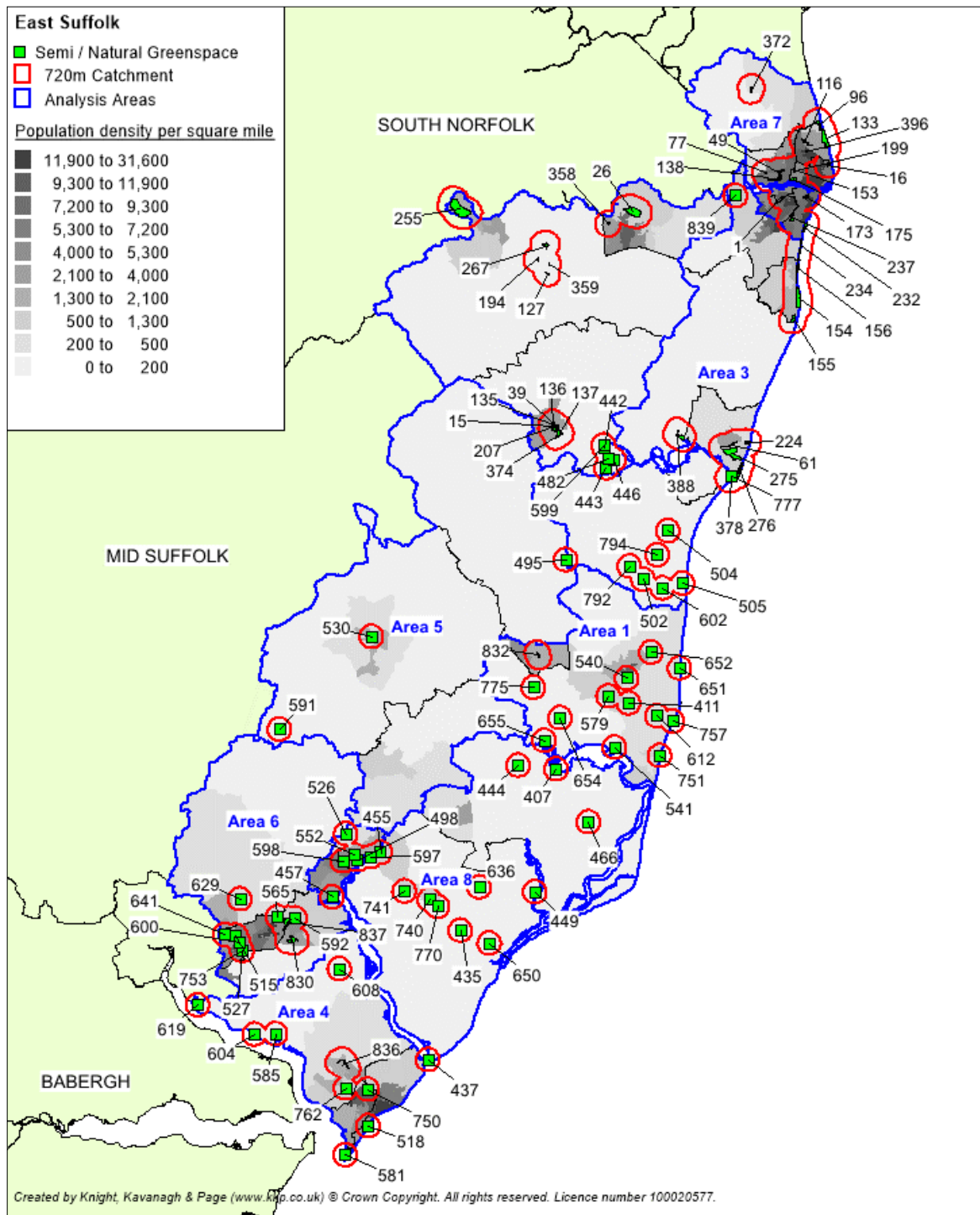
The two largest sites are Rendlesham Forest (1,500 ha) and Walberswick NNR (1,192 ha). The former makes up 24% of accessible natural/semi-natural provision in East Suffolk.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. There is an overall (accessible) provision of 25.11 hectares per 1,000 head of population which exceeds the FIT guidelines.

5.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of catchment mapping, a 720m catchment (based on FIT guidelines) has been applied. Figure 5.1 shows catchment mapping to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped with 9-minute catchment



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Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1	Adjacent Dell Primary School	Area 7	0.67		
15	Angel Meadow	Area 2	1.89		
16	Arnolds Bequest	Area 7	0.66		
26	Beccles Common	Area 2	37.44		
39	Birds Folly	Area 2	1.85		
49	Bonds Meadow	Area 7	6.05		
61	Buss Creek	Area 3	5.05		
77	Christmas Lane	Area 7	0.77		
96	Corton Wood	Area 7	7.00		
116	Foxburrow Wood	Area 7	4.76		
127	Godfrey's Common	Area 2	0.49		
133	Gunton Warren and Gunton Wood	Area 7	25.86		
135	Halesworth Millenium Green (a)	Area 2	2.01		
136	Halesworth Millenium Green (b)	Area 2	5.39		
137	Halesworth Millenium Green (c)	Area 2	9.89		
138	Hall Road Ham	Area 7	6.57		
153	Kesgrave Drive NSN	Area 7	0.68		
154	Kessingland Beach (a)	Area 3	29.59		
155	Kessingland Beach (b)	Area 3	7.04		
156	Kessingland Cliffs	Area 3	5.63		
173	Kirkley Ham	Area 7	3.84		
175	Leathes Ham	Area 7	5.98		
194	Mill Common, Great Common	Area 2	1.22		
199	Moncton Avenue	Area 7	0.36		
207	New Reach River	Area 2	0.20		
224	North Parade, Boating Lake	Area 3	4.37		
232	Pakefield Beach	Area 7	6.65		
234	Pakefield Cliffs NSN	Area 3	4.65		
237	Pakefield Park NSN	Area 7	5.92		
255	River Waveney Outney Common	Area 2	71.96		
267	Shipmeadow Common	Area 2	5.13		
275	Southwold Common NSN	Area 3	39.20		
276	Southwold Denes	Area 3	11.26		
358	The Dell	Area 2	1.00		
359	The Mardle	Area 2	0.60		
372	Town Pits	Area 7	3.46		

* Inaccessible sites identified are listed but without a quality or value rating

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
374	Two Acres	Area 2	0.76		
378	Walberswick Saltmarsh	Area 3	11.47		
388	West of A1095	Area 3	10.22		
396	Wissett Way	Area 7	0.28		
407	Alde Mudflats	Area 8	22.00		
411	Aldringham Common	Area 1	0.66		
435	Barthorps Folly	Area 8	12.00		
437	Bawdsey Quay	Area 8	1.50		
442	Bickers Heath	Area 2	4.70		
443	Blackheath	Area 2	14.70		
444	Blaxhall Common	Area 8	44.50		
446	Blowers Common	Area 2	0.30		
449	Boyton & Hollesley Marshes RSPB Reserve	Area 8	18.00		
455	Bromeswell Green	Area 8	7.20		
457	Broomheath	Area 8	1.54		
466	Captain's Wood	Area 8	56.00		
482	Church Common	Area 2	3.20		
495	Darsham Marshes	Area 5	20.00		
498	Deben Riverside	Area 8	6.00		
502	Dingle Marshes NNR	Area 3	93.00		
504	Dunwich Forest	Area 3	270.00		
505	Dunwich Heath	Area 3	87.00		
515	Farthing Wood	Area 6	0.90		
518	Felixstowe Beach CWS	Area 4	0.10		
526	Foxburrow Farm	Area 6	67.00		
527	Foxhall Woods	Area 6	46.06		
530	Framlingham Mere	Area 5	13.80		
540	Haylings Pond Meadow	Area 1	0.85		
541	Hazelwood Marshes	Area 1	64.00		
552	Hutchison's Meadow	Area 8	1.00		
565	Kesgrave Woods	Area 6	19.32		
579	Knodishall Common	Area 1	13.20		
581	Landguard Common	Area 4	33.00		
585	Levington Lagoon	Area 4	5.00		
591	Martins' Meadows	Area 5	4.00		
592	Martlesham Common	Area 6	9.21		
597	Melton Riverside	Area 8	6.50		
598	Melton Woods	Area 8	10.50		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
599	Mill Heath	Area 2	5.30		
600	Mill Stream LNR	Area 6	7.50		
602	Minsmere RSPB Reserve	Area 3	999.00		
604	Nacton Shore	Area 4	8.00		
608	Newbourne Springs	Area 4	19.00		
612	North Warren RSPB Reserve	Area 1	44.30		
619	Orwell Country Park	Area 4	80.00		
629	Playford Alder Carr	Area 6	6.80		
636	Rendlesham Forest	Area 8	1,500.00		
641	Rushmere Common	Area 6	79.70		
650	Simpsons Saltings	Area 8	25.00		
651	Sizewell Beach	Area 1	40.00		
652	Sizewell Belts	Area 1	144.00		
654	Snape Common	Area 1	8.000		
655	Snape Marshes	Area 1	19.80		
740	Sutton Common	Area 8	104.60		
741	Sutton Heath	Area 8	62.30		
750	The Grove	Area 4	4.00		
751	The Haven	Area 1	45.00		
753	The Mount	Area 6	43.82		
757	Thorpeness Beach	Area 1	38.00		
762	Trimley Marshes RSPB Reserve	Area 4	77.00		
770	Upper Hollesley Common	Area 8	102.60		
775	Wadd Conservation Area	Area 1	3.50		
777	Walberswick NNR	Area 3	1,192.00		
792	Westleton Common	Area 3	18.40		
794	Westleton Heath NNR	Area 3	145.50		
830	Martlesham Woods	Area 6	11.94		
832	The Hopkins	Area 1	1.70		
836	Crowswell Way	Area 4	4.48		
837	Portal Woodlands	Area 6	9.35		
839	Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve	Area 3	233.00		

Catchment mapping shows that areas of greater population density are generally served by natural greenspace. However, catchment gaps are noted. A slight gap in catchment mapping exists to central south west Lowestoft (Area 7), east Felixstowe (Area 4) and central Kesgrave (Area 6).

However, in most cases these areas are served by other types of open space such as parks and gardens and amenity greenspace. This is explored further in Part 9.

5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 40% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.3: Quality ratings for natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<40%	>40%
Area 1	23%	37%	68%	10	3
Area 2	16%	36%	59%	8	6
Area 3	32%	44%	67%	8	8
Area 4	28%	45%	62%	2	7
Area 5	26%	36%	44%	2	1
Area 6	20%	43%	64%	5	6
Area 7	29%	43%	65%	9	6
Area 8	17%	38%	65%	11	6
East Suffolk	16%	41%	68%	55	43

Of the natural and semi-natural sites assessed, less than half (44%) rate above the threshold set for quality, indicating a mixed standard of quality for this type of provision.

The four lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ✦ Bickers Heath (16%)
- ✦ Mill Heath (17%)
- ✦ Bawdsey Quay (17%)
- ✦ Playford Alder Carr (20%)

These four sites all score low due to entrances, user security and controls to prevent illegal use. Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as seating and bins. In some instances, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation. Bawdsey Quay has poor paths and Mill Heath has poor access to the site due to surrounding narrow roads.

Other low scoring sites for quality include Crowswell Way. This site scores low for user security and paths. This is supported by consultation with Trimley St Mary Parish Council who highlight that users find it 'nerve wracking' to walk through the site as it is very close to the adjacent road (A14) and unfenced. Furthermore, the path is in a poor state but it is a good route to get to the village.

The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for quality in East Suffolk are:

- ✦ Minsmere RSPB Reserve (67%)
- ✦ Haylings Pond Meadow (66%)
- ✦ Rendlesham Forest (65%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as informative signage, seating and bins. The sites are also observed as having good access for all, with well-maintained pathways and levels of personal security. All three sites have car parking, picnic tables, benches, are well used and well maintained.

Minsmere RSPB Reserve is the highest scoring natural/semi-natural greenspace. It is a huge coastal nature reserve with woods, wetland and nature trails. The site has the additional benefits of a visitor centre and café. It is a highly managed and popular site with an entrance fee so unsurprisingly scores the highest for quality. Similarly Rendlesham Forest is managed by the Forestry Commission. The site also has play equipment and a café further adding to its quality score. Haylings Pond Meadow is significantly smaller than the Rendlesham Forest and Minsmere RSPB Reserve, however, is observed as a lovely site with a pond, several benches, picnic tables, bins, and trees. It is also well maintained and has good signage.

5.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.4: Value scores for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Area 1	27%	40%	58%	0	13
Area 2	19%	33%	41%	1	13
Area 3	27%	41%	59%	0	16
Area 4	28%	38%	53%	0	9
Area 5	33%	38%	40%	0	3
Area 6	27%	41%	65%	0	11
Area 7	24%	38%	53%	0	15
Area 8	20%	41%	59%	0	17
East Suffolk	19%	39%	65%	1	97

All but one natural and semi-natural site scores above the threshold for value. The majority of sites have high ecological value, contributing to flora and fauna, as well as providing habitats for local wildlife.

As well as ecological value, these sites provide benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents and those visiting from further afield. This is a result of the exercise opportunities they provide, for example, through walking and biking trails.

Furthermore, they create peaceful spaces to relax and reflect. The high levels of natural features also support with improving air quality, particularly in built up areas.

The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for value are:

- ◀ Martlesham Common (65%)
- ◀ Rendlesham Forest (59%)
- ◀ Minsmere RSPB Reserve (59%)
- ◀ Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve (59%)
- ◀ Haylings Pond Meadow (58%)

These sites are also some of the highest scoring for quality for this typology. These sites offer education value through interpretation boards as well as high amenity and social value due to good paths and recreation and exercise opportunities. All are well located and high quality providing attractive landscapes enhancing structural and landscape benefits. In addition, each provide high ecological value due to high biodiversity providing habitats for flora and fauna.

This is particularly noticeable for the very large sites of Rendlesham Forest and Minsmere RSPB Reserve. Rendlesham Forest is situated in an AONB. This and its large size, enhances ecological and biodiversity value. Moreover, the site has added social and amenity value due to featuring play equipment, walking trails and picnic benches. The café offers economic value. Similarly, Minsmere RSPB Reserve also contains a café enhancing economic value. All these sites have high structural landscape value due to being attractive, well used sites.

Consultation with Martlesham Parish Council highlights that Martlesham Common LNR is a designated Country Wildlife Site and that the area is managed for the community and wildlife. The Parish Council have a 99-year lease on it. Information boards were implemented last Autumn and are a collaboration between the Parish Council and the Greenways Project which help inform visitors about the abundance of nature to be found on the nature reserve, some history and how the site is managed. This adds additional educational and heritage value to the site as well as further adding to the quality of the site. The usage of the site has increased significantly, with a Friends of Group looking to be established. The Greenways volunteers' time is smaller due to Covid-19 however, they want to increase amount of heathland.

Similarly, Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve, owned by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, has also had recent, significant improvements. Consultation with Carlton Colville Town Council identifies that the site has had improvements at the end of last year with a new visitor centre, providing high educational value. Other facilities on site include toilets, a café, picnic area and outdoor play area enhancing amenity, social and health value.

Portal Woodlands scores high for value and consultation with Martlesham Parish Council identifies that there is a volunteer group called Portal Woodlands Conservation Group who help with Coppicing, planting to help conserve the site. There is also an education programme involving lead guided walks and school class events, providing high educational, social and cultural value to the site.

PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

Amenity Greenspace is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, village greens and other incidental space.

6.2 Current provision

There are 196 amenity greenspace sites in East Suffolk equating to over 229 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

The totals may not include all provision in the area as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, a handful of sites below this size are included due to their quality or value.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites in East Suffolk

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Area 1	12	16.71	1.02
Area 2	32	23.77	0.75
Area 3	30	25.22	1.05
Area 4	22	26.50	0.75
Area 5	24	28.16	1.64
Area 6	24	25.27	0.72
Area 7	31	61.29	0.92
Area 8	21	22.16	0.96
East Suffolk	196	229.07	0.92

This typology has a broad range of purposes and as such varies significantly in size. For example, St. Lawrence Green, Kesgrave at 0.22 hectares acts as a visual amenity. In contrast, Gainsborough Drive, at nearly 15 hectares, is a large open space with a play area and incorporates Gunton Woods.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1 shows that overall, East Suffolk is sufficient on this basis. This is also the case for all analysis areas.

6.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of mapping, a 480m walk time for sites (based on FIT guidelines) is applied. Figure 6.1 shows the catchments applied to amenity greenspace provision to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspaces with a 480m catchment

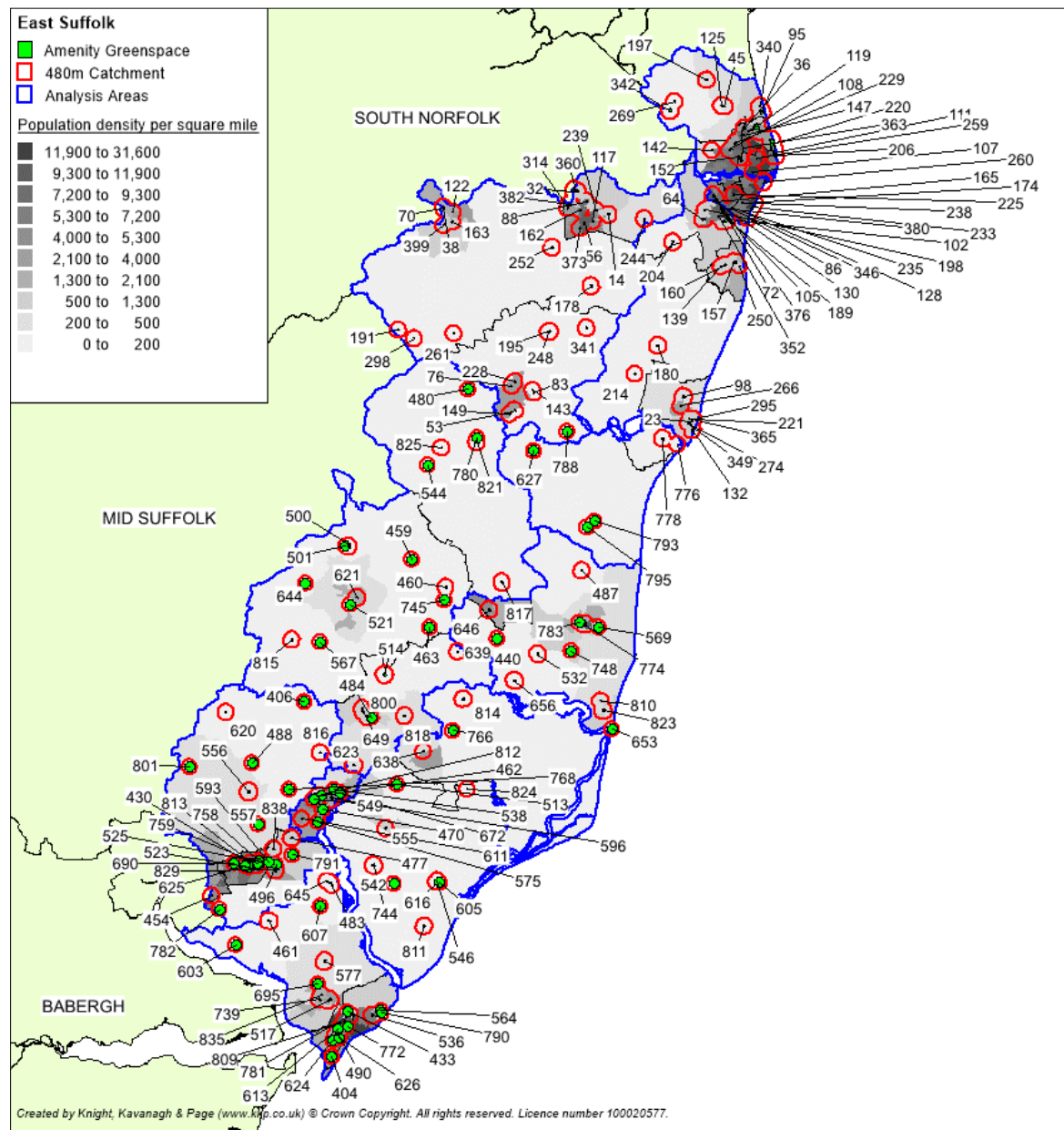


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
14	All Saints Green	Area 2	0.85		
23	Bartholomew's Green	Area 3	0.22		
32	Beccles Quay	Area 2	0.56		
36	Bentley Drive Parkhill	Area 7	0.35		
38	Bigod Castle	Area 2	0.24		
45	Blundeston Football Pitch (a)	Area 7	0.79		
53	Bramfield Road	Area 2	0.65		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
56	Bramley Rise	Area 2	0.68		
64	Carlton Colville Community Centre	Area 3	1.77		
70	Castle Hills	Area 2	0.62		
72	Chaukers Crescent	Area 7	2.35		
76	Chichester Road	Area 2	0.26		
83	Church View	Area 2	0.25		
86	Cliftonville Road	Area 7	0.53		
88	Common Lane	Area 2	0.71		
95	Corton Road Football Pitch	Area 7	4.12		
98	Cox's Lane Recreation Ground	Area 3	1.95		
102	Dale End Community Centre	Area 3	5.92		
105	Deepdale	Area 3	0.62		
107	Denmark Road Smith's Marsh	Area 7	0.32		
108	Dunston Drive	Area 7	0.73		
111	East of Sparrows Nest	Area 7	1.11		
117	Foxglove Close	Area 2	0.14		
119	Gainsborough Drive	Area 7	14.59		
122	Garden Close	Area 2	0.39		
125	Glebe Land	Area 7	1.34		
128	Grand Avenue	Area 7	0.29		
130	Grove Road	Area 3	0.20		
132	Gun Hill	Area 3	0.89		
139	Heritage Green	Area 3	0.15		
142	Holly Hill	Area 7	0.30		
143	Holton Village Hall	Area 2	0.49		
147	Jenkins Green	Area 7	0.27		
149	Kennedy Close	Area 2	0.78		
152	Kesgrave Drive AGS	Area 7	2.00		
157	Kessingland Community Centre	Area 3	1.55		
160	Kessingland High Street	Area 3	0.39		
162	Kilbrack Gardens	Area 2	0.37		
163	Kings Road	Area 2	0.82		
165	Kingswood Avenue	Area 3	0.13		
174	Kirkley Recreation Ground	Area 7	1.46		
178	London Road Football Ground	Area 2	1.24		
180	London Road Recreation Ground	Area 3	1.51		
189	Matlock Dale	Area 3	0.19		
191	Metfield Road, St James South Elmham	Area 2	0.38		
195	Mill Common, Wangford Road	Area 2	0.76		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
197	Millenium Green	Area 7	0.69		
198	Milnes Way / Aveling Way	Area 3	0.80		
204	Mutford Common	Area 3	0.77		
206	Net Drying Area	Area 7	3.82		
214	Norfolk Road Playing Field	Area 3	0.52		
220	North Denes Caravan Park	Area 7	14.49		
221	North Green	Area 3	0.11		
225	Oakwood Road	Area 7	0.30		
228	Old Station Road	Area 2	0.55		
229	Oulton Community Centre	Area 7	1.57		
233	Pakefield Cliffs AGS	Area 7	1.38		
235	Pakefield Green	Area 7	0.41		
238	Pakefield Road	Area 7	0.54		
239	Park Drive	Area 2	0.64		
244	Pinewood Gardens	Area 2	0.64		
248	Rear of the Racehorse PH	Area 2	0.41		
250	Rider Haggard Lane play area	Area 3	0.10		
252	Ringsfield Corner Village Hall	Area 2	0.89		
259	Rotterdam Road	Area 7	0.37		
260	Royal Green	Area 7	0.74		
261	Rumburgh Pleasure Area	Area 2	0.38		
266	Shearwater Way Former School Playing Field	Area 3	0.36		
269	Somerleyton Green	Area 7	0.68		
274	Southwold Common AGS	Area 3	1.03		
295	St Edmunds Green	Area 3	0.36		
298	St James Lane (b)	Area 2	0.41		
314	St Mary's Paddock	Area 2	0.86		
340	Station Road	Area 7	0.54		
341	Station Road	Area 2	0.93		
342	Station Road Cricket Pitch	Area 7	2.73		
346	Stradbooke Road	Area 7	0.62		
349	Strickland Place	Area 3	0.13		
352	Swallowfields	Area 3	0.91		
360	The Quay	Area 2	4.36		
363	Thirlmere Walk	Area 7	0.31		
365	Tibby's Green	Area 3	0.19		
373	Townlands	Area 2	0.34		
376	Upland Community Centre	Area 7	1.56		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
380	Wannock Close	Area 3	0.28		
382	Waveney Meadow	Area 2	1.31		
399	Woodland Drive	Area 2	0.89		
404	Adastral Close	Area 4	0.40		
406	Aken Field Recreation Ground	Area 6	1.50		
430	Ashdale Green Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	2.72		
433	Ataka Road Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	0.49		
440	Benhall Village Green	Area 1	0.85		
454	Broke Hall	Area 6	0.47		
459	Bruisyard Riverside Park	Area 5	1.75		
460	Bruisyard Road	Area 5	0.55		
461	Bucklesham	Area 4	1.86		
462	Bury Hill Road Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.31		
463	Butchers Field Amenity Greenspace	Area 5	0.37		
470	Castle Street Amenity Greenspace, W'bridge	Area 8	0.75		
477	Martlesham Recreation Ground	Area 6	0.97		
480	Chediston Amenity Greenspace	Area 5	0.63		
483	Church Field	Area 4	2.18		
484	Church Field, Wickham Market	Area 5	0.49		
487	Church Road	Area 1	0.44		
488	Clopton Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.60		
490	Coronation Sports Ground	Area 4	4.03		
496	De-Brink-on-The -Green	Area 6	0.60		
500	Dennington	Area 5	1.31		
501	Dennington Village Green	Area 5	0.25		
513	Eyke Playing Field	Area 8	3.10		
514	Fair Field Green	Area 5	2.65		
517	Faulkeners Way	Area 4	1.78		
521	Fen Meadow	Area 5	2.40		
523	Fenton's Link Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.40		
525	Fox Lea Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.53		
532	Friston	Area 1	1.07		
536	Gosford Way	Area 4	1.21		
538	Hall Farm Road Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.59		
542	Heath Drive Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.25		
544	Heveningham Glebe Land	Area 5	0.88		
546	Hollesley Village Hall	Area 8	2.38		
549	Houchells Meadow	Area 8	1.50		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
555	Ipswich Close	Area 8	0.64		
556	Ipswich Road	Area 6	2.36		
557	John Belstead Playing Field	Area 6	1.85		
564	Kendall Green	Area 4	0.90		
567	Kettleburgh Village Green	Area 5	1.85		
569	King George's Recreation Ground	Area 1	0.15		
575	Kingston Playing Field	Area 8	3.18		
577	Kirton & Falkenham	Area 4	2.16		
593	Martlesham Heath Aviation Control Tower	Area 6	1.94		
596	Melton Recreation Ground	Area 8	2.23		
603	Nacton Recreation Ground	Area 4	0.38		
605	New Circle Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.82		
607	Newbourne Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	0.70		
611	Newnham Avenue	Area 8	0.25		
613	Oak Close Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	0.22		
616	Old Circle Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.22		
620	Otley AGS	Area 6	0.57		
621	Pageant Field	Area 5	1.09		
623	Parklands	Area 5	1.12		
624	Peewit Hill	Area 4	1.23		
625	Pergola Piece Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.81		
626	Philip Avenue Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	0.40		
627	Pitman's Grove Amenity Greenspace	Area 3	0.35		
638	Rendlesham Village Green	Area 8	0.36		
639	Riverside	Area 5	0.07		
644	Saxstead Village Green	Area 5	1.20		
645	School Road	Area 4	0.37		
646	Memorial Field	Area 1	1.35		
649	Simon's Cross	Area 5	2.94		
653	Slaughden	Area 1	3.55		
656	Snape Playing Field	Area 1	1.86		
672	St. Andrew's Close Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.20		
690	St. Lawrence Green, Kesgrave	Area 6	0.22		
695	St. Martin's Green, Trimley St. Martin	Area 4	0.21		
739	Stennetts Playing Field	Area 4	1.67		
744	Sutton Recreation Ground	Area 8	1.89		
745	Sweffling Recreation Ground	Area 5	1.35		
748	The Fitches Amenity Greenspace	Area 1	0.36		
758	Through Jollys East Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.47		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
759	Through Jollys South Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.29		
766	Tunstall Community Centre Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.45		
768	Tymmes Place Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.20		
772	Valley Walk Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	0.60		
774	Victory Road Recreation Ground	Area 1	1.74		
776	Walberswick Green	Area 3	0.22		
778	Walberswick Sports Field	Area 3	1.65		
780	Walpole Village Green	Area 5	0.50		
781	Walton Recreation Ground	Area 4	1.43		
782	Warren Heath	Area 6	0.49		
783	Waterloo Avenue Amenity Greenspace, Leiston	Area 1	2.00		
788	Wenhaston Recreation Ground	Area 2	0.98		
790	Western Avenue Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	1.86		
791	Western Corridor Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.59		
793	Westleton Community Field	Area 3	1.23		
795	Westleton Village Green	Area 3	0.72		
800	Wickham Market Village Hall	Area 5	1.38		
801	Witnesham Bridge Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.27		
809	Seaton Road	Area 4	1.99		
810	Kemps Field	Area 1	0.66		
811	Watson Way	Area 8	1.19		
812	Beresford Drive	Area 8	0.30		
813	Grange Meadow	Area 6	2.68		
814	Blaxhall AGS	Area 8	1.41		
815	The Street, Brandeston	Area 5	0.78		
816	Bredfield AGS	Area 6	0.86		
817	Kelsale Park	Area 5	1.36		
818	Campsea Ashe	Area 5	1.15		
821	Walpole AGS	Area 5	1.60		
823	Kings Field AGS	Area 1	2.67		
824	Butley AGS	Area 8	0.14		
825	Huntingfield Millennium Green	Area 5	0.49		
829	The Green, Martlesham Heath	Area 6	2.95		
835	Thurmans Lane	Area 4	0.40		
838	Jubilee AGS, Martlesham	Area 6	0.93		

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision, with nearly all areas of greater population density being served by amenity provision.

Minor gaps in catchment mapping are observed in areas with greater population densities. This is particularly noticeable to west Kesgrave (Area 6), west Lowestoft (Area 7) and east Felixstowe (Area 4).

However, in most cases these areas are served by other types of open space such as parks and gardens greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace. This is explored further in Part 9.

6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for urban greenspaces. A threshold of 50% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Area 1	30%	40%	56%	10	2
Area 2	25%	46%	71%	19	13
Area 3	29%	51%	75%	11	19
Area 4	24%	45%	56%	15	7
Area 5	13%	42%	72%	14	10
Area 6	17%	48%	75%	12	12
Area 7	16%	51%	74%	12	19
Area 8	24%	43%	63%	15	6
East Suffolk	13%	47%	75%	108	88

Of amenity sites assessed, 45% rate above the quality threshold. The lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ✦ Church Field, Wickham Market (13%)
- ✦ Butchers Field Amenity Greenspace (15%)
- ✦ Holly Hill (16%)
- ✦ Clopton Amenity Greenspace (17%)

These sites all score low due to unwelcoming entrances, lack of controls to prevent illegal use and poor general appearance. Holly Hill (16%) and Clopton Amenity Greenspace (13%) are both observed as being overgrown with the latter also opening on to a narrow road with no paths. None of the sites have benches, bins or signage, lowering the quality of the sites. Moreover, all are perceived as hardly used.

Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as seating and bins. General appearance can also often be lacking in comparison to other sites are the same typology.

Blaxhall AGS (41%) scores below the quality threshold. However, consultation with Blaxhall Parish Council identifies it is looking to add an outdoor table tennis and a bowling green but not until the play area is enhanced. The site benefits from football goals, benches, a dog bin and a small car park but lacks signage. It is likely that after the improvements by the Parish Council, the site would score above the quality threshold.

Consultation with Saxmundham Town Council highlights that they have significant concerns about the lack of open spaces and indoor sports/recreation facilities within the Town. It is felt to be short of facilities. Kelsale Park Church Lane is cited as a poor-quality football pitch with no changing facilities. However, the play area had a refurbishment last year and new picnic benches. The Town Council also express it would like more flowers at Street Farm Rd and more footpaths by the River Fromus. The site is an important space to link houses to the town.

Several sites are noted as potentially having poor drainage. In particular, Corton Road Football Pitch (59%) had very poor drainage at the time of assessment with widespread flooding. However, despite this, the site still scores above the quality threshold due to containing good ancillary features such as bins, seating around the site, pitches and a play area. Similarly, Townlands was very boggy at the time of assessment. The site rates below the quality threshold as it scores low for paths, overall maintenance and obviously drainage. The site does benefit from bins, a bench and picnic table as well as play provision including a small MUGA.

A number of sites are cited as having dog fouling problems including Wickham Market Village Hall (47%) which Wickham Market Parish Council identifies as having with numerous complaints recently. The Parish Council also identify the skate park needs work. It is over 26 years old and needs replacing.

Trimley St Mary Parish Council also highlight a problem with dog foul at Thurmans Lane (despite there being a dog bin). The Parish Council feel the site could be made more accessible and welcoming to encourage a wider use of people.

The highest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality in East Suffolk are:

- ◀ Tibby's Green (76%)
- ◀ Warren Heath (75%)
- ◀ Kirkley Recreation Ground (74%)
- ◀ Huntingfield Millennium Green (72%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as informative signage, seating and bins. All benefit from containing play equipment and/or ancillary features. The sites are also observed as having good access for all, being well-maintained and having good levels of personal security. Tibby's Green (76%), the highest scoring amenity greenspace site, is observed as an attractive site, with several entrances and excellent signage at entrances. The site also benefits from a bench, bins, picnic tables and play equipment, adding to the quality of the site. In addition, the site features a table tennis table and medium sized football goals on the grass.

All sites bar Kirkley Recreation Ground (74%) contain play provision. Huntingfield Millennium Green has an abundant supply of benches and picnic tables, some of which had fallen due to the wind at the time of assessment. Likewise to Tibby's Green, the site also benefits from football goals on the grass. The play equipment at Huntingfield Millennium Green is mostly a wooden trim trail/agility area.

6.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Area 1	16%	32%	45%	1	11
Area 2	16%	32%	55%	6	26
Area 3	18%	35%	60%	1	29
Area 4	23%	31%	40%	0	22
Area 5	16%	31%	45%	2	22
Area 6	17%	33%	40%	1	23
Area 7	11%	32%	44%	2	29
Area 8	11%	31%	45%	2	19
East Suffolk	11%	32%	60%	15	181

Most amenity greenspace sites rate above the threshold for value. Some of the highest scoring sites for value in East Suffolk are:

- ✦ Tibby's Green (60%),
- ✦ The Quay (55%)
- ✦ Cox's Lane Recreation Ground (50%).

These sites are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational opportunities they offer (such as sports and play provision) for a wide range of users. The Quay has enhanced ecological value and structural landscape benefits due to its surrounding features including its water features and floral planting. All three sites have play provision, providing high amenity and social value. Cox's Lane Recreation Ground provides a range of play provision such as a play area, outdoor gym equipment, an unenclosed MUGA and a youth shelter. Similarly, Tibby's Green features a variety of play provision including play equipment and a table tennis table. Both also have football goals on the grass, enhancing amenity and health benefits.

Consultation with Parish and Town Councils identifies some have plans to improve sites. For example, Saxmundham Town Council identify that Memorial Field (56%) is their main open space site. It would like to improve the landscape by having a circular path as well as looking to improve biodiversity. It is felt that a path around the whole field could encourage the elderly to visit, relax and walk around. There is also a desire to green the area by adding more flowers and trees. A path around could make it a good opportunity for running. The Parish Council would also like outdoor gyms somewhere. It is thought that gym equipment at Memorial Field would be a good location.

Similarly, Martlesham Parish Council are looking at ways to improve Martlesham Recreation Ground with an accessible walk around the whole site. It would also like an area for older people and dog walkers. The Parish Council want to make better use of the site by making these improvements in order for it to reach its full potential. People park here then link up with Martlesham circular walk. The site has become more popular and the Parish Council want to encourage this. Additionally, there is a dog fouling problem therefore, they are looking at dog management and/or a fenced area. At the time of consultation, the Parish Council were consulting with the public on the proposed improvements to the site.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing.

These attributes add to the quality, accessibility, and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g., benches, landscaping and trees), this means that the better-quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

PART 7: ALLOTMENTS

7.1 Introduction

The allotments typology provides opportunities for people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.

7.2 Current provision

There are 85 sites classified as allotments in East Suffolk, equating to over 64 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of allotment sites in East Suffolk

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Area 1	3	6.35	0.39
Area 2	26	12.59	0.39
Area 3	11	8.47	0.35
Area 4	7	8.72	0.25
Area 5	9	7.43	0.43
Area 6	2	3.06	0.09
Area 7	24	16.40	0.25
Area 8	3	1.30	0.06
East Suffolk	85	64.33	0.26

The largest site in East Suffolk is Cowpasture Allotments at five hectares.

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (20 per 2,000 people based on two people per house or one per 100 people). This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 populations based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

East Suffolk based on its current population (249,461) meets the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for East Suffolk is 62.37 hectares. Existing provision of 64.33 hectares therefore meets this guideline.

7.3 Accessibility

Figure 7.1 shows allotments mapped across East Suffolk.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
27.2	Beccles Common Allotment (b)	Area 2	0.07
27.3	Beccles Common Allotment (c)	Area 2	0.12
27.4	Beccles Common Allotment (d)	Area 2	0.68
27.5	Beccles Common Allotment (e)	Area 2	0.55
33	Bedingfield Crescent Allotment	Area 2	0.18
41	Blackheath Road Allotment	Area 7	0.08
42	Blacksmiths Loke Allotment	Area 7	1.56
52	Borrow Close Allotment	Area 3	0.33
62	Buss Creek Allotment, Blyth Road	Area 3	3.63
79	Church Road / Rotterdam Road Allotment	Area 7	0.49
80	Church Road / Water Lane Allotment	Area 7	1.42
81	Church Road Allotment	Area 3	0.47
85	Clarkson Road Allotment	Area 7	0.05
89	Common Lane North Allotment	Area 2	0.75
92.1	Common Lane South Allotment (a)	Area 2	0.64
92.2	Common Lane South Allotment (b)	Area 2	0.68
94	Coopers Lane Allotment	Area 3	0.48
97	Cox Common Allotment	Area 2	0.40
110	Earth Lane Allotment	Area 7	1.11
113	Fir Lane Allotment	Area 7	1.53
115	Fowlers Crescent Allotment	Area 7	0.18
124	Gasworks Allotment, Pound Road	Area 2	0.32
131	Grove Road / Napier Terrace Allotment	Area 2	0.15
141	Hillside Road West / Flixton Road Allotment	Area 2	0.46
167	Kirkley Cemetery Allotment (a)	Area 7	0.51
168	Kirkley Cemetery Allotment (b)	Area 7	0.58
169	Kirkley Fen Allotment, Martins Avenue	Area 7	0.21
172	Kirkley Gardens Allotment	Area 7	1.31
177	Loam Pit Lane Allotment	Area 2	0.57
182	Long Acre Allotment	Area 7	0.32
185	Lound Allotment, Church Lane	Area 7	0.14
192	Mill Common Allotment, Wangford Road	Area 2	0.41
196	Mill Lane Allotment	Area 2	0.45
208	Newark Road Allotment	Area 7	0.13
209	Newsons Meadow Allotment	Area 7	0.69
213	Norfolk Road Allotment	Area 3	1.18
242	Parkside Drive Allotment	Area 7	1.29
243	Pilgrims Way Allotment	Area 2	0.91
246	Puttock Hill Allotment	Area 2	0.69

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
254	Rissemere Lane East Allotment	Area 3	0.29
256	Rope Walk Allotment	Area 3	0.43
264	Sand Pits Allotment, Normanston Drive	Area 7	0.21
265	Saxon Road Allotment	Area 7	0.14
271	Somerleyton Road Allotment	Area 7	0.63
273	South Road Allotment	Area 2	0.79
293	St Edmunds Crescent Allotment (a)	Area 3	0.12
294	St Edmunds Crescent Allotment (b)	Area 3	0.16
312	St Margarets Road Allotment	Area 7	2.14
347	Stradbroke Road Allotment	Area 7	0.98
351	Sussex Road Allotment	Area 7	0.56
353	Swan Lane Allotment (a)	Area 2	0.37
354	Swan Lane Allotment (b)	Area 2	0.54
362	The Street / New Road Allotment	Area 2	0.26
375	Union Lane Allotment	Area 7	0.12
379	Wangford Road / Lock's Road Allotment	Area 2	0.41
391	Whites Lane Allotment	Area 3	0.37
432	Ashfield Drive Allotments	Area 1	0.65
434	Bakers Lane Allotment	Area 8	0.20
476	Cemetery Field Allotments	Area 4	0.75
491	Cowpasture Allotments	Area 4	5.10
499	Dennington Allotments	Area 5	0.40
506	Earl Soham Allotments	Area 5	0.25
524	Ferry Road Allotments	Area 4	1.20
533	Gedgrave Road Allotments	Area 8	0.75
534	Glebe Allotments	Area 5	1.35
553	Infirmery Lane Allotments	Area 5	0.29
571	Kings Field Allotments	Area 1	0.95
573	Kingston Field Allotments	Area 8	0.35
590	Lux Farm aka Playford Lane	Area 6	2.02
606	New Road Allotments	Area 5	0.60
633	Railway Hill Allotments	Area 4	0.95
640	Rushmere Allotments	Area 6	0.37
648	Simon's Cross Allotments	Area 5	2.83
746	Taunton Road Allotments	Area 4	0.15
763	Trimley Road Allotments	Area 4	0.15
765	Trimley St. Mary Allotments	Area 4	0.42
771	Valley Road Allotments	Area 1	4.75
786	Wenhaston Allotments	Area 2	0.25

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
807	Yoxford Allotments	Area 5	0.19
822	School Road Allotments, St Andrew Ilketshall	Area 2	0.85
826	Fair Field Green allotments	Area 5	1.40
827	Great Glemham Road allotments	Area 5	0.12
828	Walberswick allotments	Area 3	1.01

Ownership/management

All allotment sites are managed by allotment associations. The Council has no direct involvement in the day to day management of allotments. Table 8.3 provides a summary of the number of plots and waiting lists where it has been possible to identify.

These figures have been provided from consultations with town and parish councils for allotments.

Table 7.3: Known plot numbers and waiting lists

Name of site	Number of plots	Waiting List	Parish/Town Council
Borrow Close Allotments	17	20	Carlton Colville
South Road	40	Yes	Beccles
Common Lane	181	Not stated	Beccles
Gas works Fen Lane	13	Not stated	Beccles
Cucumber Lane	6	Not stated	Beccles
Mill Common Allotments	23	A few	Blaxhall
Stone Common allotments	28	None	
Church Rd, Butley	12	None	Butley, Capel St Andrew & Wantisden
Glebe allotments	73	1	Wickham Market
Thong Hall Road	40	None	Wickham Market
Ferry Road	94	No waiting list	Felixstowe
Cowpasture Allotments	306	No	Felixstowe
Taunton Road Allotments	19		Felixstowe
Railway Hill Allotments	44		Felixstowe
Trimley St Mary Allotments	50	21	Trimley St Mary

Trimley St Mary Parish Council highlights a need for additional allotments in the village. It prioritises any vacancies for individuals on the waiting list for those living within the village. The Parish Council also highlights a need for better access to water on the site. Currently users have to manually pump water.

Allotments should generally be considered as highly valued as they are often identified by the local community as important forms of open space provision.

PART 8: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

8.1 Introduction

Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead. Sites can often be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

8.2 Current provision

There are 175 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 119 hectares of provision in East Suffolk. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of cemeteries in East Suffolk

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Area 1	15	10.70
Area 2	42	25.82
Area 3	23	13.25
Area 4	11	9.03
Area 5	32	12.87
Area 6	17	8.02
Area 7	13	20.79
Area 8	22	18.95
East Suffolk	175	119.43

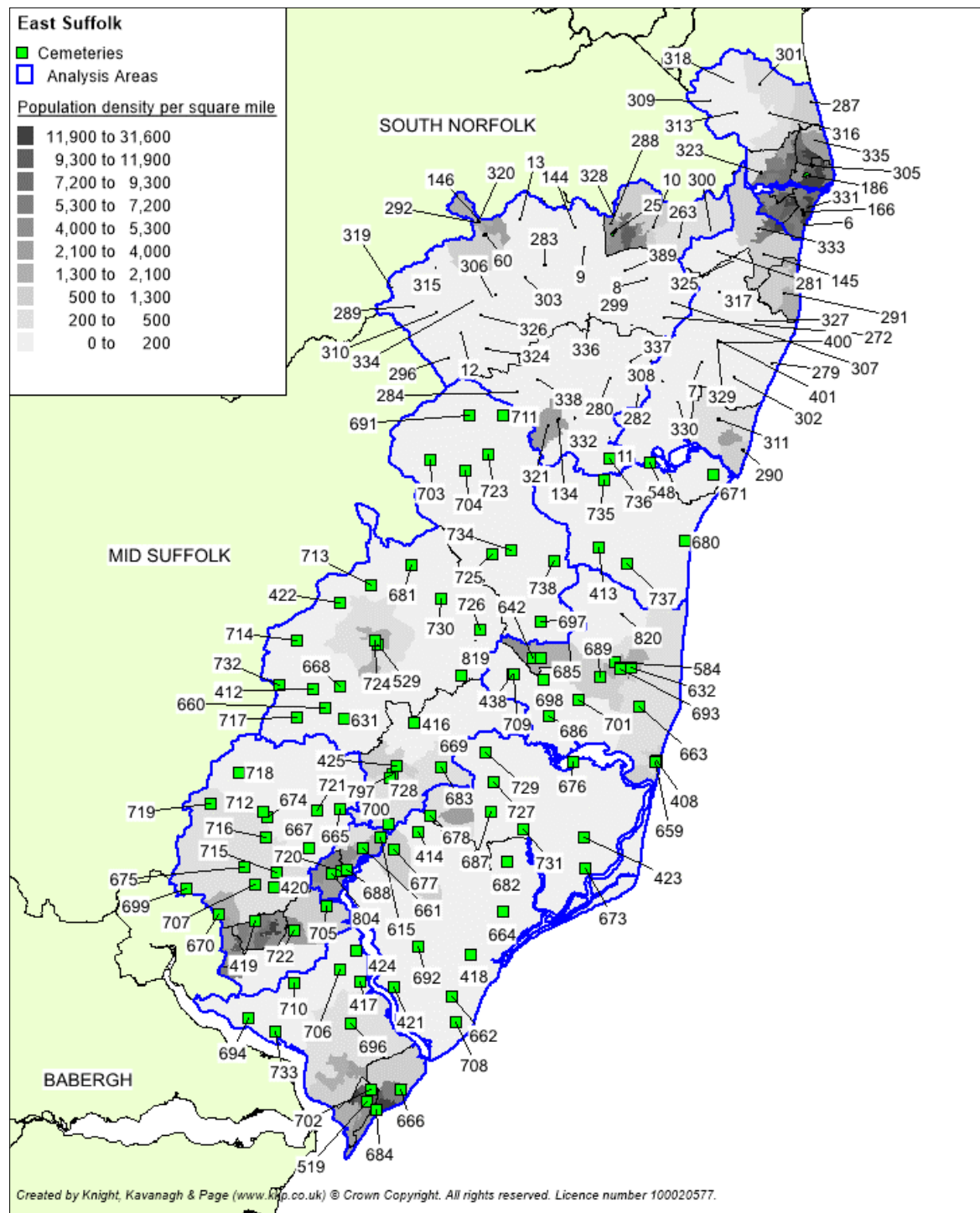
The largest contributor to burial provision is Woodbridge Old and New Cemeteries (10 hectares).

8.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should look to be based on burial demand.

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Figure 8.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis areas



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Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
6	All Saints and St Margaret's Church, Causeway	Area 7	0.66
7	All Saints Church, Church Lane	Area 3	0.44
8	All Saints Church, Church Road, Ellough	Area 2	0.53
9	All Saints Church, Church Road, Ringsfield	Area 2	0.34
10	All Saints Church, Lowestoft Road	Area 2	0.50
11	All Saints Church, Southwold Road	Area 2	0.37
12	All Saints Church, St Margaret's Road	Area 2	0.31
13	All Saints Church, Watch House Hill	Area 2	0.60
25	Beccles Cemetery	Area 2	5.40
60	Bungay Cemetery	Area 2	2.44
134	Halesworth Cemetery	Area 2	2.69
144	Holy Trinity Church, Bungay Road	Area 2	0.37
145	Holy Trinity Church, Church Road	Area 3	0.43
146	Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street	Area 2	0.17
166	Kirkley Cemetery	Area 7	4.77
186	Lowestoft Cemetery	Area 7	8.03
263	Saint Botolph's Church, Lowestoft Road	Area 2	0.41
272	Sotterley Cemetery	Area 2	0.30
279	St Andrews Church, Beach Road	Area 3	0.61
280	St Andrews Church, Church Lane	Area 2	0.40
281	St Andrews Church, Church Road	Area 3	0.40
282	St Andrews Church, London Road	Area 2	0.28
283	St Andrews Church, School Road	Area 2	0.53
284	St Andrews Church, The Street	Area 2	0.42
287	St Bartholomew's Church, Church Lane	Area 7	0.57
288	St Benet's Church, Grange Road	Area 2	0.55
289	St Cross's Church, Fox Hill	Area 2	0.37
290	St Edmunds Church, Bartholomew Green	Area 3	1.18
291	St Edmunds Church, Church Road	Area 3	1.27
292	St Edmunds Church, St Marys Street	Area 2	0.21
296	St James Church, Church Lane	Area 2	0.27
299	St John The Baptists Church, London Road	Area 2	0.24
300	St John The Baptists, Beccles Road	Area 2	0.24
301	St John The Baptists, Church Lane	Area 7	0.58
302	St Lawrence's Church, Southwold Road	Area 3	0.32
303	St Lawrence's Church, Top Road	Area 2	0.31
305	St Margaret's Church, Hollingsworth Road	Area 7	3.08

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
306	St Margaret's Church, Low Street	Area 2	0.45
307	St Margaret's Church, Sotterley Park Estate	Area 2	0.50
308	St Margaret's Church, Southwold Road	Area 2	0.23
309	St Margaret's Church, St Olaves Road	Area 7	0.31
310	St Margaret's Church, The Street	Area 2	0.29
311	St Margaret's Church, Wangford Road	Area 3	1.83
313	St Mary's Church, Blundeston Road	Area 7	0.62
315	St Marys Church, Abbey Road	Area 2	0.34
316	St Marys Church, Blundeston	Area 7	0.63
317	St Marys Church, Henstead	Area 3	0.57
318	St Marys Church, Market Lane	Area 7	0.24
319	St Marys Church, St Cross Road	Area 2	0.26
320	St Marys Church, St Marys Street	Area 2	0.61
321	St Marys Church, Steeple End	Area 2	0.41
322	St Marys Church, Wangford Road	Area 3	0.49
323	St Michael's Church, Church Lane	Area 7	0.87
324	St Michaels Church, Malt Office Lane	Area 2	1.38
325	St Michaels Church, Rushmere Road	Area 3	0.27
326	St Michaels Church, St Michaels Green	Area 2	0.28
327	St Michaels Church, The Street	Area 3	0.36
328	St Michaels Church, The Walk	Area 2	0.39
329	St Nicholas's Church, Church Street	Area 3	0.44
330	St Peters and St Pauls Church, Church Street	Area 3	0.33
331	St Peters Church and St Johns Church, Lowestoft	Area 7	0.23
332	St Peters Church, Beccles Road	Area 2	0.38
333	St Peters Church, Carlton Colville	Area 3	0.67
334	St Peters Church, Church Road	Area 2	0.29
335	St Peters Church, Gunton Church Lane	Area 7	0.19
336	St Peters Church, Halesworth Road	Area 2	0.28
337	St Peters Church, London Road	Area 2	0.55
338	St Peters Church, Wash Lane	Area 2	0.41
389	Weston St Peters Church	Area 2	0.41
400	Wrentham Cemetery	Area 3	0.69
401	Wrentham New Cemetery	Area 3	0.60
408	Aldeburgh Cemetery	Area 1	3.00
412	All Saints Church, Brandeston	Area 5	0.75
413	All Saints Church, Darsham	Area 3	0.40
414	All Saints Church, Eyke	Area 8	0.30
415	All Saints Church, Great Glenham	Area 5	0.60

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
416	All Saints Church, Hacheston	Area 5	0.30
417	All Saints Church, Hemley	Area 4	0.05
418	All Saints Church, Hollesley	Area 8	0.30
419	All Saints Church, Kesgrave	Area 6	0.20
420	All Saints Church, Little Bealings	Area 6	0.30
421	All Saints Church, Ramsholt	Area 8	0.25
422	All Saints Church, Saxstead	Area 5	0.30
423	All Saints Church, Sudbourne	Area 8	1.00
424	All Saints Church, Waldringfield	Area 4	1.00
425	All Saints Church, Wickham Market	Area 5	0.25
438	Benhall Cemetery	Area 1	1.00
519	Felixstowe Cemetery	Area 4	5.00
529	Framlingham Cemetery	Area 5	3.00
548	Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh	Area 3	0.40
584	Leiston Cemetery	Area 1	0.75
615	Old Church, Melton	Area 8	0.80
631	Priory Church of St. Mary, Letheringham	Area 5	1.50
632	Quaker Burial Ground	Area 1	0.25
642	Saxmundham Cemetery	Area 1	0.60
659	St Peter and St Paul's Church, Aldeburgh	Area 1	1.20
660	St. Andrew & St. Eustachius's Church, Hoo	Area 5	0.25
661	St. Andrew the Apostle's Church, Melton	Area 8	0.10
662	St. Andrew's Church, Alderton	Area 8	0.50
663	St. Andrew's Church, Aldringham-cum-Thorpe	Area 1	1.20
664	St. Andrew's Church, Boyton	Area 8	0.25
665	St. Andrew's Church, Bredfield	Area 6	0.30
666	St. Andrew's Church, Felixstowe	Area 4	0.05
667	St. Andrew's Church, Hasketon	Area 6	0.05
668	St. Andrew's Church, Kettleburgh	Area 5	0.15
669	St. Andrew's Church, Marlesford	Area 5	0.10
670	St. Andrew's Church, Rushmere St. Andrew	Area 6	3.00
671	St. Andrew's Church, Walberswick	Area 3	1.25
673	St. Bartholomew's Church, Orford	Area 8	2.50
674	St. Botolph's Church, Burgh	Area 6	0.10
675	St. Botolph's Church, Culpho	Area 6	0.05
676	St. Botolph's Church, Iken	Area 8	0.30
677	St. Edmunds's Church, Bromeswell	Area 8	0.15
678	St. Gregory the Great's Church, Rendlesham	Area 8	0.10
680	St. James's Church, Dunwich	Area 3	0.05

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
681	St. John the Baptist's Church, Badingham	Area 5	1.00
682	St. John the Baptist's Church, Butley	Area 8	0.20
683	St. John the Baptist's Church, Campsea Ashe	Area 5	0.25
684	St. John the Baptist's Church, Felixstowe	Area 4	0.05
685	St. John the Baptist's Church, Saxmundham	Area 1	0.20
686	St. John the Baptist's Church, Snape	Area 1	0.20
687	St. John the Baptist's Church, Wantisden	Area 8	0.20
688	St. John's Church, Woodbridge	Area 8	0.10
689	St. Laurence's Church, Knodishall	Area 1	0.10
691	St. Margaret of Antioch's Church, Linstead Parva	Area 5	0.05
692	St. Margaret's Church, Shottisham	Area 8	0.10
693	St. Margaret's, Leiston	Area 1	0.75
694	St. Martin's Church, Nacton	Area 4	0.10
696	St. Mary & St. Martin's Church, Kirton	Area 4	0.05
697	St. Mary & St. Peter's Church, Kelsale	Area 5	0.25
698	St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Sternfield	Area 1	0.10
699	St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Westerfield	Area 6	0.10
700	St. Mary of the Assumption's Church, Ufford	Area 5	0.10
701	St. Mary the Virgin Church, Friston	Area 1	0.60
702	St. Mary the Virgin, Walton	Area 4	0.43
703	St. Mary the Virgin's Church, Cratfield	Area 5	0.20
704	St. Mary the Virgin's Church, Huntingfield	Area 5	0.20
705	St. Mary the Virgin's Church, Martlesham	Area 6	0.30
706	St. Mary the Virgin's Church, Newbourne	Area 4	0.10
707	St. Mary's, Playford	Area 6	1.50
708	St. Mary's Church, Bawdsey	Area 8	0.20
709	St. Mary's Church, Benhall	Area 1	0.10
710	St. Mary's Church, Bucklesham	Area 4	1.25
711	St. Mary's Church, Chediston	Area 5	0.20
712	St. Mary's Church, Clopton	Area 6	1.00
713	St. Mary's Church, Dennington	Area 5	0.50
714	St. Mary's Church, Earl Soham	Area 5	0.10
715	St. Mary's Church, Great Bealings	Area 6	0.40
716	St. Mary's Church, Grundisburgh	Area 6	0.10
717	St. Mary's Church, Monewden	Area 5	0.10
718	St. Mary's Church, Otley	Area 6	0.20
719	St. Mary's Church, Swilland	Area 6	0.25
720	St. Mary's Church, Woodbridge	Area 8	0.05
721	St. Michael & All Angels Church, Boulge	Area 6	0.10

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
722	St. Michael & All Angels Church, Martlesham Heath	Area 6	0.07
723	St. Michael's Church, Cookley	Area 5	0.15
724	St. Michael's Church, Framlingham	Area 5	0.05
725	St. Michael's Church, Peasenhall	Area 5	0.10
726	St. Michael's Church, Rendham	Area 5	0.10
727	St. Michael's Church, Tunstall	Area 8	0.75
728	St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, Pettistree	Area 5	0.60
729	St. Peter's Church, Blaxhall	Area 8	0.60
730	St. Peter's Church, Bruisyard	Area 5	0.25
731	St. Peter's Church, Chillesford	Area 8	0.20
732	St. Peter's Church, Creetingham	Area 5	0.60
733	St. Peter's Church, Levington	Area 4	0.95
734	St. Peter's Church, Sibton	Area 5	0.05
735	St. Peter's Church, Thorington	Area 3	0.10
736	St. Peter's Church, Wenhaston	Area 2	0.10
737	St. Peter's Church, Westleton	Area 3	0.15
738	St. Peter's Church, Yoxford	Area 5	0.20
797	Wickham Market Cemetery	Area 5	0.30
804	Woodbridge Old and New Cemeteries	Area 8	10.00
819	St Mary the Virgin Church, The Gull	Area 5	0.32
820	St Peter's Theberton	Area 1	0.65

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. As noted earlier, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

PART 9: PROVISION STANDARDS

The provision standards used to determine deficiencies and surpluses for open space are set in terms of quality, accessibility and quantity.

9.1: Quality and value

Each type of open space receives a separate quality and value score. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus as a particular open space type.

Quality and value matrix

Assessing the quality and value of open spaces is used to identify those sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which require enhancement and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose. When analysing the quality/value of a site, it should be done in conjunction with regard to the quantity of provision in the area (i.e. whether there is a deficiency).

When analysing the quality/value of a site it should be done in conjunction with regard to the other forms of provision in the area (i.e. whether there may be an accessibility deficiency).

The high/low classification gives the following possible combinations of quality and value:

		Quality	
		High	Low
Value	High	All sites should have an aspiration to come into this category. Many sites of this category are likely to be viewed as key forms of open space provision.	The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality to the applied standard. The priority will be those sites providing a key role in terms of access to provision.
	Low	The preferred approach to a site in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary function. If this is not possible, consideration to a change of primary function should be given (i.e. a change to another open space typology).	The approach to these sites in areas of identified shortfall should be to enhance their quality provided it is possible also to enhance their value. In areas of sufficiency a change of primary typology should be considered first. If no shortfall of other open space typologies is noted than the site may be redundant/ 'surplus to requirements'.

There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of low-quality sites. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance sites where it is not appropriate or cost effective to do so. Please refer to the individual typology sections as well as the supporting excel database for a breakdown of the matrix.

9.2: Accessibility

Accessibility catchments are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors underpinning catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process the concept of 'effective catchments' are used, defined as the distance that would be travelled by most users. The recommended accessibility standards are:

Table 9.2.1: Recommended accessibility standards

Open space type	Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
Parks & Gardens	710m	9 minutes
Urban Greenspace	480m	6 minutes
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	720m	9 minutes
Allotment	n/a	n/a
Cemeteries	n/a	n/a

The accessibility catchments do not consider if a distance is on an incline or decline. They are therefore intended to act as an initial form of analysis to help identify potential gaps.

No catchments are suggested for the typologies of allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, it is difficult to assess such provision against catchment mapping as it is better to determine need for provision based on demand for burial space. For allotments, it is more appropriate to determine need for provision based on factors such as waiting lists.

If an area does not have access to provision (consistent with the catchments) it is deemed deficient. KKP has identified instances where new sites may be needed or potential opportunities could be explored in order to provide comprehensive access (i.e. a gap in one form of provision may exist but the area in question may be served by another form of open space). Please refer to the associated mapping to view site catchments.

The following tables summarise the deficiencies identified from the application of the accessibility standards. In determining any subsequent actions for identified gaps, the following are key principles for consideration:

- ◀ Increase capacity/usage in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ◀ Enhance quality in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ◀ Commuted sum for ongoing maintenance/repairs to mitigate impact of new demand

These principles are intended to mitigate for the impact of increases in demand on existing provision. An increase in population will reduce the lifespan of certain sites and/or features (e.g. play equipment, maintenance regimes etc). This will lead to the increased requirement to refurbish and/or replace such forms of provision.

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Table 9.2.2: Parks and gardens

Analysis area	Catchment gap	Provision helping to serve gap:
Area 1	Leiston	Victoria Road Recreation Ground (ID 774), King Georges Recreation Ground (ID 569) Waterloo Avenue (ID 783)
	Saxmundham	Memorial Field (ID 649) The Hopkins (ID 832)
Area 2	Bungay	Kings Road (ID 163) Castle Hills (ID 70)
Area 3	Southwold	Cox's Lane Recreation Ground (ID 98) Southwold AGS (ID 274) North Parade Boating Lake (ID 224)
Area 4	North west of Felixstowe	Faulkeners Way (ID 517) Stennetts Playing Field (ID 739)
Area 5	Framlingham	Pageant Field (ID 621) Fen Meadow (ID 521) Framlingham Mere (ID 530)
Area 6	Kesgrave	Pergola Piece (ID 625) Ashdale Green (ID 430) Grange Meadow (ID 813) The Mount (ID 753)
	Martlesham Heath	The Green (ID 829) Martlesham Woods (ID 830)
Area 7	East of Lowestoft	Royal Green (ID 260) Denmark Road Smith's Marsh (ID 107)
Area 8	No significant gap	n/a

Table 9.2.3: Natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Catchment gap	Provision helping to serve gap:
Area 1	No significant gap	n/a
Area 2	No significant gap	n/a
Area 3	No significant gap	n/a
Area 4	East Felixstowe	Kendall Green (ID 564) Western Avenue (ID 790) Gosford Way (ID 536) Allenby Park (ID 426) Spa Gardens Lane (ID 657) Coronation Sports Ground (ID 490)
Area 5	No significant gap	n/a
Area 6	Centre of Kesgrave	Grange Meadow (ID 813) Pergola Piece (ID 625) Ashdale Green (ID 430)
Area 7	South west of Lowestoft	Chaukers Crescent (ID 72) Upland Community Centre (ID 376) Carlton Park (ID 69) Carlton Colville Community Centre (ID 64)
Area 8	No significant gap	n/a

Table 9.2.4: Amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Catchment gap	Provision helping to serve gap:
Area 1	No significant gap	n/a
Area 2	No significant gap	n/a
Area 3	No significant gap	n/a
Area 4	East of Felixstowe	Allenby Park (ID 426) Spa Gardens Lane (ID 657)
Area 5	No significant gap	n/a
Area 6	West of Kesgrave	Rushmere Common (ID 641) Farthing Wood (ID 515) Mill Stream LNR (ID 600)
Area 7	West of Lowestoft	Nicolas Everitt Park (ID 210)
Area 8	No significant gap	n/a

9.3: Quantity

Quantity standards can be used to identify areas of shortfalls and help with determining requirements for future developments.

The setting and application of quantity standards is necessary to determine shortfalls in provision and to ensure new developments contribute to the provision of open space across the area.

Shortfalls in quality and accessibility are identified across the area for different types of open space (as set out in Parts 9.1 and 9.2). Consequently, the Council should seek ensure new developments contribute to the overall provision of open space.

ESC as part of its Local Plan policy use an existing quantity standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population to calculate future contributions from developments. The Council may wish to consider calculating provision requirements based on current provision levels to reflect up to date existing levels of provision across the area. However, for this study, the current provision levels for open space are initially utilised to identify potential quantity shortfalls.

For natural and semi-natural greenspace, the initial current provision level is noticeably quite large (25.11 hectares per 1,000 population). This figure is based on all forms of accessible provision, regardless of size, being used to calculate an initial current provision level. However, there are several sites identified as being significantly large.

Such large forms of provision skew the current provision level which makes it potentially impractical to base a quantity standard on the current levels of provision; as seeking such large amounts of provision through developer contributions is likely in most cases to not be achievable. Furthermore, the Council already has a requirement in place for some allocations to provide SANGs* in relation to habitat mitigation.

Therefore if these significantly large sites are omitted from the current provision level calculation†, then a total of 3.64 hectares per 1,000 population is observed. This is considered a more realistic provision level to use and achieve.

Table 9.3.1: Suggested quantity provision standards

Typology	Quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	0.22
Amenity greenspace	0.92
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.64
Allotment	0.26

The current provision levels can be used to help identify where areas may have a quantity shortfall. Table 9.3.2 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall against the suggested quantity standards for each type of open space.

* Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace

† Any accessible site over 50 hectares

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Table 9.3.2: Current provision against recommended quantity standards

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-natural (Hectares per 1000 population)		Amenity greenspace		Allotments	
	0.22		3.64		0.92		0.26	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Area 1	-	-0.22	25.85	+22.21	1.02	+0.10	0.39	+0.13
Area 2	0.18	-0.04	2.79	-0.85	0.75	-0.17	0.39	+0.13
Area 3	0.24	+0.02	130.18	+126.54	1.05	+0.13	0.35	+0.09
Area 4	0.31	+0.09	6.57	-2.93	0.75	-0.17	0.25	-0.01
Area 5	-	-0.22	2.20	-1.44	1.64	+0.72	0.43	+0.17
Area 6	-	-0.22	8.58	+4.94	0.72	-0.20	0.09	-0.17
Area 7	0.42	+0.20	1.18	-2.46	0.92	Level	0.25	-0.01
Area 8	0.16	-0.06	85.52	+81.88	0.96	+0.04	0.06	-0.20

Nearly all analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space. Area 3 is the only analysis area highlighted to not have any shortfalls.

Identifying priorities

Shortfalls in open space provision are highlighted across the areas. Furthermore, new developments will also bring additional demand for open space provision.

Quantity levels should still be utilised to indicate the potential lack of provision in any given area. However, this should be done in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of provision in the area also.

Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to these sites should be endorsed. Further insight to the shortfalls is provided within each provision standard summary (Parts 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3).

Quantity levels should still be utilised to indicate the potential lack of provision any given area may have. However, this should be done in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of provision in the area.

The suggested quantity standards could also be used to determine the open space requirements as part of new housing developments. In the first instance, all types of provision should look to be provided as part of new housing developments.

If this is not considered viable, the column signalling whether an area is sufficient or has a shortfall against the suggested quantity standards may be used to help inform the priorities for each type of open space within each area (i.e. the priorities may be where a shortfall has been identified).

9.4: Recommendations

The following section provides a summary on the key findings through the application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards. It incorporates and recommends what the Council should be seeking to achieve in order to help address the issues highlighted as well as the priorities for meeting demand from future growth.

Recommendation 1

- ◀ *Sites helping or with the potential to help serve areas identified as having gaps in catchment mapping should be prioritised as opportunities for enhancement*

Part 9.2 identifies sites that help or have the potential to serve existing identified gaps in provision. A summary of the sites helping to serve these catchment gaps is also set out in Table 9.4.1 below.

Table 9.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Ref	Site name	Settlement area	Helps to serve provision gap in:
64	Carlton Colville Community Centre	Lowestoft	NSN
69	Carlton Park	Lowestoft	NSN

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Ref	Site name	Settlement area	Helps to serve provision gap in:
70	Castle Hills	Bungay	Parks
72	Chaukers Crescent	Lowestoft	NSN
98	Cox's Lane Recreation Ground	Southwold	Parks
107	Denmark Road Smith's Marsh	Lowestoft	Parks
163	Kings Road	Bungay	Parks
210	Nicolas Everitt Park	Lowestoft	AGS
224	North Parade Boating Lake	Southwold	Parks
260	Royal Green	Lowestoft	Parks
274	Southwold AGS	Southwold	Parks
376	Upland Community Centre	Lowestoft	NSN
426	Allenby Park	Felixstowe	NSN, AGS
430	Ashdale Green	Kesgrave	Parks, NSN
490	Coronation Sports Ground	Felixstowe	NSN
515	Farthing Wood	Kesgrave	AGS
517	Faulkeners Way	Felixstowe	Parks
521	Fen Meadow	Framlingham	Parks
530	Framlingham Mere	Framlingham	Parks
536	Gosford Way	Felixstowe	NSN
564	Kendall Green	Felixstowe	NSN
569	King Georges Recreation Ground	Leiston	Parks
600	Mill Stream LNR	Kesgrave	AGS
621	Pageant Field	Framlingham	Parks
625	Pergola Piece	Kesgrave	Parks, NSN
641	Rushmere Common	Kesgrave	AGS
649	Memorial Field	Saxmundham	Parks
657	Spa Gardens Lane	Felixstowe	NSN, AGS
739	Stennetts Playing Field	Felixstowe	Parks
753	The Mount	Kesgrave	Parks
774	Victoria Road Recreation Ground	Leiston	Parks
783	Waterloo Avenue	Leiston	Parks
790	Western Avenue	Felixstowe	NSN
813	Grange Meadow	Kesgrave	Parks, NSN
829	The Green	Martlesham Heath	Parks
830	Martlesham Woods	Martlesham Heath	Parks
832	The Hopkins	Saxmundham	Parks

These sites currently help to meet the identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies. Where opportunities are possible, the Council should seek to adapt these sites to provide a stronger secondary role, to help further strengthen their role in meeting the identified gaps.

These sites should therefore be viewed as open space provision likely to provide multiple social and value benefits. It is also important that the quality and value of some of these sites is secured and maintained (Recommendation 2).

Recommendation 2

- ◀ *Ensure low quality/value sites helping to serve potential gaps in accessibility catchments are prioritised for enhancement*

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to the applied standards. The quality and value matrix of the supporting database identifies the sites that should be given priority. A list of low quality and/or value sites currently helping to serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 9.4.2 below.

Table 9.4.2: Summary of low quality/value sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Ref	Site name	Settlement area	Helps to serve provision gap in:
70	Castle Hills	Bungay	Parks
163	Kings Road	Bungay	Parks
224	North Parade Boating Lake	Southwold	Parks
376	Upland Community Centre	Lowestoft	NSN
426	Allenby Park	Felixstowe	NSN, AGS
490	Coronation Sports Ground	Felixstowe	NSN
530	Framlingham Mere	Framlingham	Parks
564	Kendall Green	Felixstowe	NSN
569	King Georges Recreation Ground	Leiston	Parks
621	Pageant Field	Framlingham	Parks
649	Memorial Field	Saxmundham	Parks
753	The Mount	Kesgrave	Parks
783	Waterloo Avenue	Leiston	Parks

Recommendation 3

- ◀ *Recognise low quality and value sites and how they may be able to meet other needs*

Where sites of low quality or value appear to fall within an area of sufficiency, a change of primary typology should be first considered. If no shortfall of other open space type is noted or the practicality of enhancing the site is not cost effective, then the site may be redundant or 'surplus to requirements'.

There are 174 sites identified as currently having either lower quality and/or value. Of these 174 sites, 13 are identified in Table 9.4.2 as helping to serve catchment gaps in other types of open space. These sites should first be enhanced in terms of quality. Consideration should be given to changing the primary typology or strengthening the secondary function of these 13 sites, to one which they currently help to serve a gap in provision, even if their quality cannot currently be enhanced.

Consequently, there are 161 sites of low quality and/or value, which do not currently appear to serve any highlighted gaps in catchment mapping. The sites are set out in the supporting Excel database. Further exploration into these sites could be undertaken to establish whether any are potentially genuinely surplus to requirements.

Other factors, such as shortfalls in quantity for that provision type, the potential removal of a site creating a different catchment gap and/or the potential to help serve deficiencies in other types of provision should also be considered. The Council may also be aware of other issues, such as the importance of a site for heritage, biodiversity or as a visual amenity, that may also indicate that a site should continue to be protected.

9.5 Implications

The following section sets out the policy implications in terms of the processes. This is intended to help steer the Council in seeking contributions to the improvement and/or provision of any new forms of open space. The basic principle is that a development should provide for the recreational needs that they generate. All new developments should therefore contribute to adequate open space provision.

How is provision to be made?

The requirements for on-site provision and / or contributions will vary according to the type of open space to be provided. Collecting contributions from developers can be undertaken through the following two processes.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Planning Obligations are the two main mechanisms available to the Council to ensure future development addresses any adverse impacts it creates. If required, Planning Conditions can be used to ensure that key requirements are met.

Planning obligations

Planning Conditions and Obligations (often known as Section 106 Agreements) require individual developments to provide or pay for the provision of development specific infrastructure requirements. They are flexible and deliver a wide range of site and community infrastructure benefits.

A development should make appropriate provision of services, facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs arising from that development.

Seeking developer contributions

This document can inform policies and emerging planning documents by assisting in the Council's approach to securing open spaces through new housing development. The evidence should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions for the provision of appropriate facilities and their long term maintenance.

The wider benefits of open space and associated features regardless of size should be recognised as a key design principle for any new development. These features and elements can help to contribute to the perception of open space provision in an area, at the same time as also ensuring an aesthetically pleasing landscape providing wider social, environmental, climate and health benefits. Sport England's Active Design* looks at the opportunities to encourage sport and physical activity through the built environment in order to support healthier and more active lifestyles. It is therefore important for planning to consider the principles of Active Design.

Where open space provision within the catchment/analysis area is identified as being sufficient in terms of quantity and can accommodate additional demand, provision of new open space is not always necessary (subject to local plan policy requirements). It may be more suitable to seek contributions for quality improvements and/or new off-site provision in order to address any demand arising from the development. Smaller infill development areas may not be expected to meet its own needs. This should be made clear through local plan policies, supported by the minimum area thresholds for on-site provision.

Off-site contributions

If new provision cannot be sufficiently provided on-site it may be possible to seek to enhance the quality of existing provision and/or improve access and linkages to existing sites. In some instances, a development may be located within proximity to an existing site. In such cases, it may be more beneficial for an off-site contribution to avoid creation of small incremental spaces so close to existing sites.

Costs required for the enhancement of existing open space and provision of new open spaces should be clearly identified and revised on a regular basis.

Maintenance contributions

There will be a requirement on developers to demonstrate that where on-site provision is to be provided it will be managed and maintained accordingly. In most instances, the site will be adopted by the Council, which would require the developer to submit a sum of money in order to pay the costs of the site's future maintenance. The procedure for councils adopting new sites may include:

- ✦ The developer being responsible for maintenance of the site for an initial agreed establishment period.
- ✦ Sums to cover the maintenance costs of a site (once transferred to the Council) should be intended to cover an agreed set period.

Calculations to determine the amount of maintenance contributions required should be based on current maintenance costs.

* <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-and-planning/active-design/>

Approach to developer contributions

KKP advocates the requirement for open space should be based upon the number of persons generated from the net increase in dwellings in the proposed scheme. We also promote the use of quantity provision standards (in hectares per 1,000 population) in calculating the open space requirements of new housing development.

Flexible approach

A focus of this study has been to recognise the role quality and accessibility has in terms of open space provision. Future need should not just centre on quantity requirements of new residential developments. In some instances a new residential development may not warrant on-site provision but instead could contribute towards an existing site in proximity.

The flowchart (Table 9.5.1) sets out the process that should be considered when determining contributions in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility. The provision standards should be used to help determine the requirements for open space provision as part of a development.

Table 9.5.1: Determining developer contributions

Step 1 - Determine the open space requirement resulting from the development based on the recommended quantity standards.
Step 2 – Consider whether the size of the development warrants on-site provision or whether the proximity of an existing open space could benefit from enhancement?
Step 3 – Determine which sites could benefit most from contribution
Step 4 - Calculate the financial off-site contribution required.

If at Step 2, it is determined that provision should be on-site then the recommended quantity standards should be used to calculate the requirements for open space.

The recommended quantity standards (Table 9.3.1) should be used to help determine the open space requirements as a result of a development. These should be used as part of the formula below which calculates the actual open space provision to be required

The formula to determine the initial amount of open space provision required is:

$$\text{New/additional population from development} \times \text{quantity standard} / 1000$$

For example, a hypothetical development of 50 dwellings would require the following amount of amenity greenspace:

$$\text{New/additional population from development } (50 \times 2.4^* = 120) \times \text{amenity greenspace quantity standard } (0.92) / 1000 = \underline{0.11 \text{ hectares}}$$

* Based on household occupancy rate of 2.4 people per dwelling (Source: ONS Families and Households Release 2017)

Determining on-site or off-site contributions

The requirement for on or off-site provision should be undertaken in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of existing open space provision.

It is recognised that open spaces of a particularly small size hold less recreational use and value. The presence of additional smaller sites will also add to the existing pressures of maintenance regimes and safety inspections. It is therefore suggested that a minimum area threshold is used to determine if provision should be provided on or off-site and in order to ensure meaningful forms of provision are provided.

For instance, if a new form of open space provision falls below a size of site which is considered too small to act as meaningful open space provision it could look to be secured as an off-site contribution. If the provision to be provided surpasses the minimum area it could look to be provided on-site as part of the development.

Both the GLA* and FIT† offer some guidance to the potential minimum area of sites (Table 9.5.2). New open space provision should look to be provided as off-site contributions if the calculated open space requirement for the proposed development falls below the area threshold. If the requirement is above, it should look to be provided on-site.

Table 9.5.2: Examples of minimum area sizes

Classification	Minimum area of site
Allotments	0.4 ha (0.025 per plot)
Amenity greenspace	0.4 ha
Natural and semi natural	0.4 ha
Parks and gardens	2 ha

Source: GLA Open space strategies: Best practice guidance (2009)

Consideration to reviewing any pre-existing minimum site sizes is advised given the updated quantity standards recommended within this document.

9.6 Future growth

Future need for open space will arise from population increases from potential housing growth. Both the local plans relevant to East Suffolk set out the level of growth needed in the area and identify where that growth should be located and how it should be delivered.

- ◆ In the former Suffolk Coastal area, the Local Plan is committed to delivering 9,756 houses (542 dwellings per annum) between 2018-2036. This will include creation of two new garden neighbourhoods (Felixstowe and Saxmundham), to focus growth on the A12 and A14 corridors and to support rural communities.
- ◆ In the former Waveney area, the Local Plan is committed to delivering 9,235 houses (419 dwellings per annum) between 2014-2036. Just over half of the committed allocation will be in the Lowestoft area (Lowestoft, Carlton Colville, Corton, Gisleham, Oulton and Oulton Broad) with a proposed 5,206 dwellings.

* Greater London Authority

† Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015)

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Using these dwelling figures, an indicative population figure can be calculated. This assumes that on average each new dwelling will generate 2.4* new residents.

Table 9.5.3: Future growth

Scenario	Proposed new dwellings	Estimated new populations
Former Suffolk Coastal area	9,756	23,414
Former Waveney area	9,235	22,164

Below, the suggested quantity provision standards for East Suffolk are applied to each area in order to determine how much additional open space would be required to support growth and ensure the current provision levels are maintained.

Former Suffolk Coastal

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth is estimated as 23,414. This is based on 9,756 dwellings being delivered with an average of 2.4 persons per dwelling.

Table 9.5.4: Former Suffolk Coastal open space requirement

Open space type	Quantity standards (per 1,000 population)	Future requirement (hectares)
Parks & gardens	0.22	5.15
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.64	85.23
Amenity greenspace	0.92	21.54
Allotment	0.26	6.09

Former Waveney

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth is estimated as 22,164. This is based on 9,235 dwellings being delivered with an average of 2.4 persons per dwelling.

Table 9.5.5: Former Waveney open space requirement

Open space type	Quantity standards (per 1,000 population)	Future requirement (hectares)
Parks & gardens	0.22	4.88
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.64	80.68
Amenity greenspace	0.92	20.39
Allotment	0.26	5.76

The figures provide an initial indication to the additional open space required as a result of new housing growth. It should be treated as a starting point for further exploration and negotiation to ensure new populations are served by adequate open space provision.

* Source: ONS Families and Households Release 2017

Next steps

Supplementary Planning Document

The Council is looking to develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy which this study can help to inform. It may wish to develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide further detail on the policies and proposals within the Local Plan. An SPD focusing on open space provision standards and how they will be applied could assist in the consideration and determining of planning applications.

The following topics/headings may wish to be considered if the Council progresses with creating an SPD:

- ◀ Policy context – where does the requirement for open space sit in terms of national and local planning policy
- ◀ Overview of the evidence base used to inform setting of standards
- ◀ Explanation to the set provision standards
- ◀ Explanation to how the standards are applied and how contributions are calculated
- ◀ Setting process for calculating the financial contribution for off-site provision or improvements
- ◀ Design principles for open space provision
- ◀ Setting process for calculating maintenance costs required

