

North Norfolk Open Space Assessment



Part of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2019

(Final Version, February 2020)

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Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
ANGSt	Accessible Natural Green Space Standard
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
FIT	Fields In Trust (originally known as the 'National Playing Fields Association')
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographic Information System
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play
LSOA	Lower-layer Super Output Areas
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Play Area
NEWP	Natural Environment White Paper
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
ONS	Office for National Statistics
P&AGGS	Play and Amenity Green Space Strategy
PPG17	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

This Open Space Assessment has been undertaken by Ethos Environmental Planning to inform the District Council's decision-making processes in relation to open space provision up to 2036.

It is one of a set of reports covering the North Norfolk local authority area and prepared for the Council as part of a wider Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study and Playing Pitch Strategy for the Council.

The four reports are the:

- Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report;
- Playing Pitch Strategy Needs Assessment Report;
- Playing Pitch Strategy; and
- Open Space Assessment Report (this report).

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraph 96) recognises that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. It requires local planning authorities to set out policies to help enable communities to access high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation. These policies must be based on a thorough understanding of the local needs for such facilities and opportunities available for new provision.

The study has been carried out in-line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17). Although PPG 17 has been superseded by the NPPF, there is still a clear reference made to the principles and ideology established within PPG17. As such the underlying principles of this study have been informed by the former guidance provided in '*Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation*', and its Companion Guide '*Assessing Needs and Opportunities*', which is a tried and tested methodology and takes a consistent approach with many other local authorities.

1.2 Purpose of this Report

As set out within the brief for the Study, the Open Space Assessment seeks to:

- Assess qualitative and quantitative deficiencies or surpluses in open space provision across the District and to identify options for addressing these;
- Support the delivery of the Local Plan up to 2036 through robust analysis and assessment;

- Set locally derived open space provision standards for quantity, quality and accessibility and to provide recommendations about future requirements at settlement level (taking into account planned growth and taking into account the current and projected future population of the District), to inform policy approach and assist with Development management application determinations, including possible thresholds above which developers should be required to provide on-site open space;
- Provide information to justify on-site open space, sports and recreation provision and the collection of developer contributions towards new facilities or the enhancement of existing provision; and,
- Provide information to help inform CIL/S106 spending. The study should also identify a list of projects for each local area to help with CIL/S106 spending/contribution.

1.3 Structure of the report

This report of study follows the five key stages as summarised below:

- Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
- Step 2 – Audit of Existing Open Space Assets
- Step 3 – Setting Local Standards
- Step 4 – Applying Local Standards
- Step 5 – Drafting Policy Recommendations

1.4 The Study Area (See Figure 1)

1.4.1 Overview

North Norfolk is predominantly a rural area located on the east coast of England. North Walsham, Fakenham and Cromer are the largest towns and serve the day to day needs of residents in the east, west and centre of the District respectively with the smaller towns of Holt, Sheringham, Wells-next the Sea, Stalham and many smaller villages and hamlets dispersed across a wide rural area predominantly in use for agriculture.

The coast is one of the defining characteristics of the District. It retains a sense of remoteness, is home to internationally important wildlife and nationally important landscapes.

Much of the coast is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is defined as both a Heritage and Undeveloped Coast. North Norfolk is also home to much of The Broads National Park, Britain's largest protected wetland, salt marshes, as well as several nature reserves of international importance.

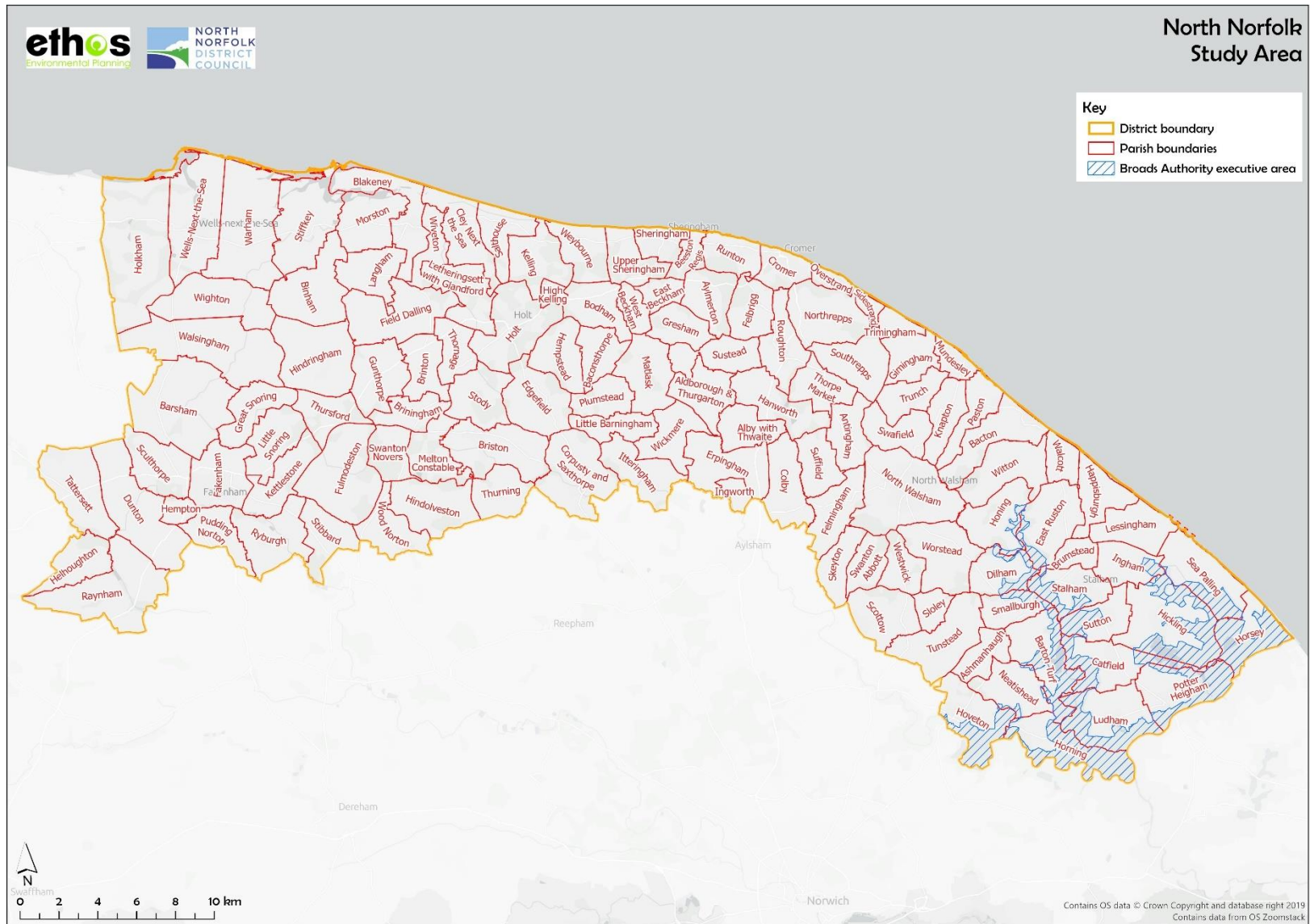
1.3.1 Administrative Boundaries

In order to analyse the current provision and future requirements for open space across the Study Area, the following geographical areas have been used:

- The overall Study Area (North Norfolk District, including the area of the Norfolk Broads which falls within the District); and
- Parishes boundaries.

These boundaries are shown in Figure 1 below and were agreed by the project steering group as the most effective way to analyse provision.

Figure 1 The Study Area (North Norfolk District and constituent Parishes)



1.5.3 Population Statistics

Of particular relevance to this study are the ONS mid-year (2016) population statistics by Parish, which provide much more up-to-date figures compared to the 2011 Census data and have been used as the basis for much of the current and future assessment of need for open space.

The population of the Study Area is 105,671. The breakdown by Parish is shown in the table below.

Table 1 Parish population statistics (ONS mid-year 2016 population estimates)

Parish	2016 Population
Alby with Thwaite	260
Aldborough & Thurgarton	559
Antingham	357
Ashmanhaugh	168
Aylmerton	493
Baconsthorpe	218
Bacton	1147
Barsham	227
Barton Turf	449
Beeston Regis	1097
Binham	284
Blakeney	796
Bodham	494
Briningham	117
Brinton	204
Briston	2549
Brumstead	354
Catfield	1000
Cley Next the Sea	411
Colby	490
Corpusty and Saxthorpe	741
Cromer	7621
Dilham	317
Dunton	108
East Beckham	283
East Ruston	620
Edgefield	376
Erpingham	736
Fakenham	7785
Felbrigg	205
Felmingham	591
Field Dalling	297
Fulmodeston	431
Gimingham	519
Great Snoring	136
Gresham	436
Gunthorpe	238

Parish	2016 Population
Hanworth	156
Happisburgh	925
Helhoughton	431
Hempstead	189
Hempton	506
Hickling	987
High Kelling	507
Hindolveston	621
Hindringham	453
Holkham	210
Holt	3985
Honing	333
Horning	1128
Horse	187
Hoveton	2049
Ingham	366
Ingworth	337
Itteringham	135
Kelling	187
Kettlestone	181
Knapton	399
Langham	387
Lessingham	560
Letheringsett with Glandford	224
Little Barningham	139
Little Snoring	602
Ludham	1303
Matlask	118
Melton Constable	658
Morston	178
Mundesley	2694
Neatishead	541
North Walsham	12645
Northrepps	1102
Overstrand	974
Paston	240
Plumstead	138
Potter Heigham	1040
Pudding Norton	248
Raynham	294
Roughton	947
Runton	1644
Ryburgh	662
Salthouse	160
Scottow	1785
Sculthorpe	711
Sea Palling	619
Sheringham	7421

Parish	2016 Population
Sidestrand	227
Skeyton	238
Sloley	305
Smallburgh	532
Southrepps	872
Stalham	3269
Stibbard	329
Stiffkey	199
Stody	188
Suffield	126
Sustead	214
Sutton	1185
Swafield	297
Swanton Abbott	541
Swanton Novers	237
Tattersett	997
Thornage	182
Thorpe Market	315
Thurning	270
Thursford	211
Trimingham	478
Trunch	956
Tunstead	1083
Upper Sheringham	217
Walcott	545
Walsingham	792
Warham	215
Wells-Next-the-Sea	2149
West Beckham	283
Westwick	248
Weybourne	505
Wickmere	159
Wighton	230
Witton	349
Wiveton	118
Wood Norton	218
Worstead	972
District	105671

2.0 METHODOLOGY

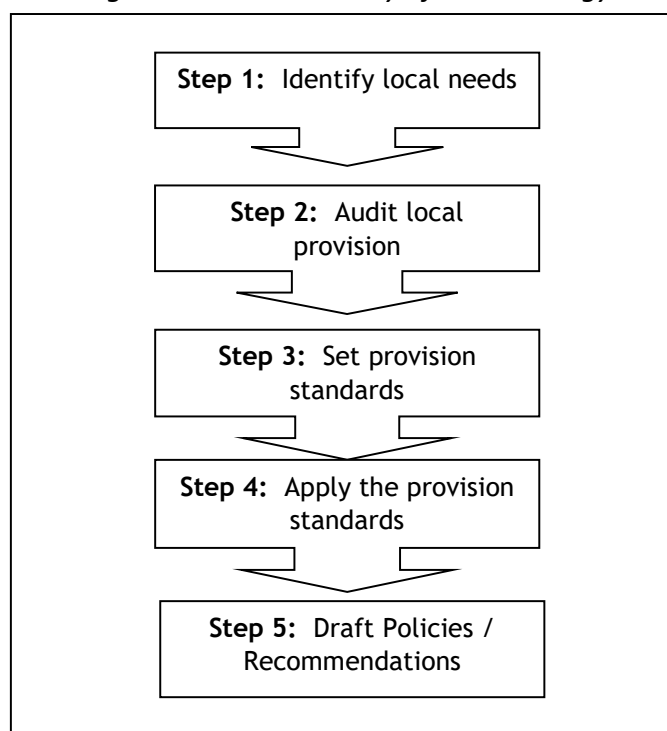
2.1 General

The starting point for this study has been the guidance in Section 8 of the NPPF, which adheres to but has superseded PPG17. The policy gives clear recommendations for the protection of and appropriate provision for open space, however it does not provide any detailed guidance on how to conduct an open space assessment. It is therefore both logical and acceptable to reference the guidance for assessment provided in the former PPG17 and its Companion Guide. PPG17 placed a requirement on local authorities to undertake assessments and audits of open space, sports and recreational facilities in order to:

- identify the needs of the population;
- identify the potential for increased use;
- establish an effective strategy for open space/sports/recreational facilities at the local level.

The Companion Guide to PPG17 recommended an overall approach to this kind of study as summarised below:

Figure 2 Summary of methodology



Within this overall approach the Companion Guide suggests a range of methods and techniques that might be adopted in helping the assessment process. Where appropriate, these methods and techniques have been employed within this study and are explained at the relevant point in the report. In addition, they are summarised in the paragraphs below.

2.2 Identifying Local Need (Step 1)

The Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019) examines identified local need for various types of open space, sports and recreational opportunities. It has drawn upon a range of survey and analytical techniques as well as a detailed review of existing consultation data and other relevant documentation. The report details the community consultation and research process that has been undertaken as part of the study as well as the main findings. The key findings from the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report are summarised in this document.

The consultation findings, in conjunction with the audit of open space and consideration of existing national and local standards or benchmarks are used to set new open space standards for the district.

The consultation and audit of open space assets (Steps 1 and 2) were taken concurrently.

2.3 Audit of Existing Open Space Assets (Step 2)

2.3.1 Defining the scope of the audit

In order to build up an accurate picture of the current open space and play provision in the Study Area, an initial desktop audit of the open space asset was carried out, this included:

- analysis of existing GIS data held by the Council;
- desktop mapping of open space from aerial photography, the Ordnance Survey Greenspace layer and other open datasets e.g. from Natural England;
- questionnaires to town and Parish councils;
- liaison with council officers.

Following this, quality audits were undertaken by Ethos during March 2019 at a total of 297 open spaces. The quality audit drew on criteria set out in the 'Green Flag Award'¹. The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach (explained in more detail in section 7.4). However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snapshot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a site's existing quality rather than a full asset audit. Clearly, local communities may have aspirations which are not identified in the quality audit, but it is hoped that these can be explored further outside of this study through site management plans and neighbourhood/Parish plans as appropriate.

2.3.2 Approach to mapping

As part of the audit process, sites were mapped into their different functions using a multi-functional approach to mapping, as demonstrated in figure 2 below.

¹ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/judges/judging-criteria>

Where open spaces cross Parish boundaries, in order to calculate the quantity of open space by Parish, these have been split using the Parish boundary.

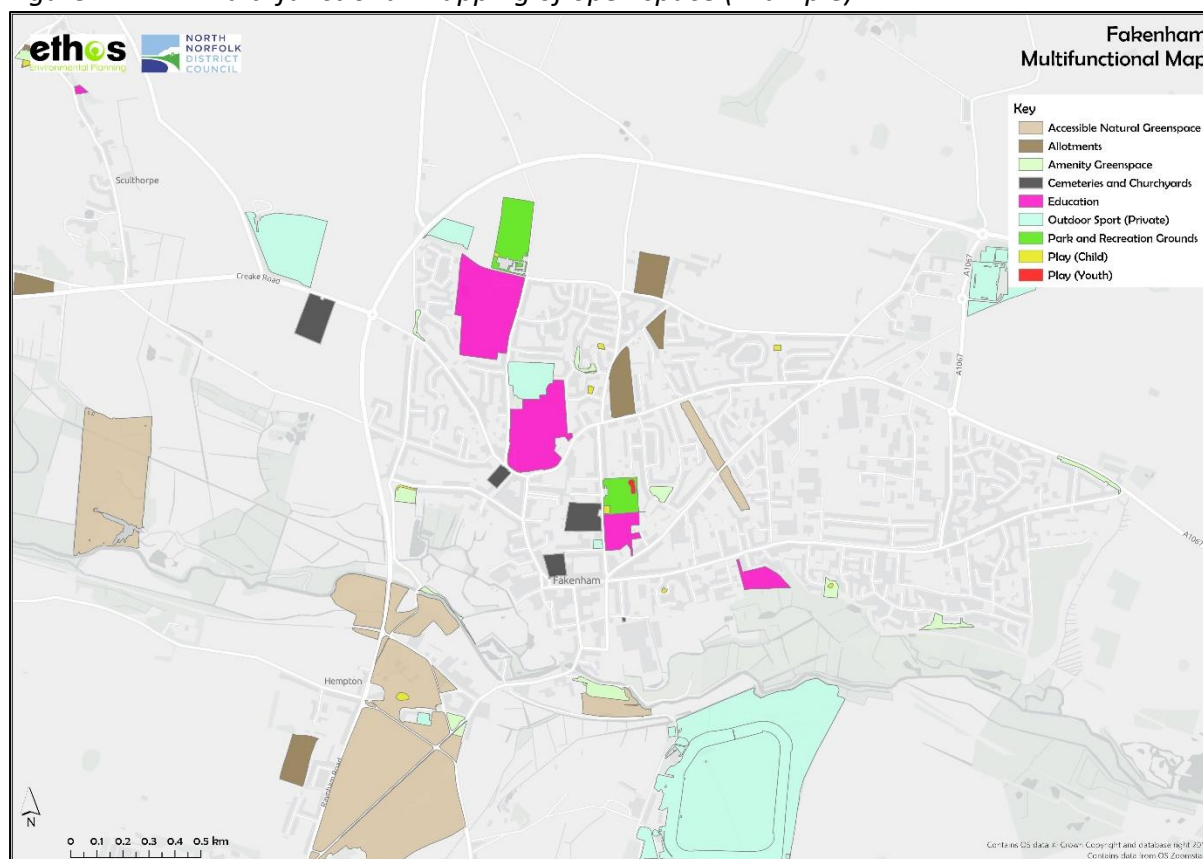
Only open spaces within the Study Area have been mapped i.e. although cross-border use of open space has been noted and considered (including within the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report 2019), open spaces falling outside of the Study Area boundary have not been mapped.

Although this study deals with certain typologies of open space, with a focus on accessible open space, the importance of the wider green space network e.g. in terms of green infrastructure, historic, biodiversity, visual amenity and health and wellbeing is recognised.

It should be noted that the typologies mapping is as accurate as possible (as of July 2019) following cross checking with the Council's GIS layers; desktop mapping; consultation with the Council and town/Parish councils; and site visits. It is the intention of the Council to keep the mapping up to date as new open space is provided through future development.

The open space provision tables (in Section 5) and resulting supply and access maps (Section 7) are based on the mapping of open space which was signed off by the council in July 2019.

Figure 2 Multi-functional mapping of open space (Example)



2.4 Set and Apply Provision Standards (Steps 3 and 4)

Local provision standards have been set for the Study Area (in agreement with the project team), with three components, embracing:

- quantity;
- accessibility;
- quality.

Quantity

The GIS database and mapping has been used to assess the existing provision of open space across the Study Area. The existing levels of provision are considered alongside findings of previous studies, the local needs assessment and consideration of existing and national standards or benchmarks. The key to developing robust local quantity standards is that they are locally derived, based on evidence and most importantly, achievable. Typically, standards are expressed as hectares per 1,000 people. The recommended standards are then used to assess the supply of each type of open space across the Study Area.

Access

Evidence from previous studies, the needs assessment and consideration of national benchmarks are used to develop access standards for open space. Typically, standards are expressed as straight-line walk distances. Drive-time standards have not been proposed as these are normally only appropriate for strategic sites such as country parks and sports hub sites. Drive-time standards generally do not work well for analysing access to local facilities/open space, as they do not generally show where the gaps in access are, and in addition, the consultation has shown that the majority of households access the various open space typologies on foot.

A series of maps assessing access for different typologies are presented in this report. The maps are intended to be indicative, and more detailed maps by Parish are provided at Appendix 2. They show the walk time buffers along with Census 2011 Output Areas so that the key gaps in access can be identified.

The straight-line walking distances do not take into account roads or barriers to access, and so the actual route walked (the pedestrian route) is generally further i.e. straight-line distances are around 60% of actual distances. The standard walk-time and straight-line/pedestrian route distances are shown in the table below:

Table 2 Standard walk-times and distances

walk-time (minutes)	Pedestrian Route (metres)	Straight-line (metres)
1	100	60
2	160	96
3	240	144
4	320	192
5	400	240
6	480	288
7	560	336
8	640	384
9	720	432
10	800	480

walk-time (minutes)	Pedestrian Route (metres)	Straight-line (metres)
11	880	528
12	960	576
13	1040	624
14	1120	672
15	1200	720
16	1280	768
17	1360	816
18	1440	864
19	1520	912
20	1600	960

Quality

Quality standards have been developed drawing on previous studies, national benchmarks and good practice, evidence from the needs assessment and the findings of the quality audits. The quality standards also include recommended policies to guide the provision of new open space through development in the future.

2.5 Drafting Policy Recommendations (Step 5)

This section outlines higher level strategic options which may be applicable at Parish and Study Area wide level. The strategic options address the following key areas:

1. Existing provision to be protected;
2. Existing provision to be enhanced;
3. Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
4. Identification of areas for new provision;
5. Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

In addition, information on developer contributions and the methodology for calculating costs for on and off site provision of open space is provided in Section 8.7.

3.0 CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

This section sets out a brief review of the most relevant national and local policies related to the study, which have been considered in developing the methodology and findings of the study. Policies and strategies are subject to regular change, therefore the summary provided in this section was correct at the time of writing. North Norfolk District Council reserves the right to change and update this section as policies change.

It also provides important contextual information regarding health and deprivation for the Study Area.

The policy overview includes analysis of the local authorities' existing strategies and policies. It also includes a review of other strategies of relevance at national and local levels and assesses their implications for the provision of open space, sport and recreation opportunities.

The Companion Guide to the previous PPG17 identified the importance of understanding the implications of existing strategies on the study. Specifically, before initiating local consultation, the Guide suggested there should be a review of existing national, regional and local plans and strategies, and an assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of existing planning policies and provision standards.

3.2 Strategic Context

3.2.1 National Strategic Context

3.2.1.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (February 2019)

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. The NPPF must be adhered to in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions.

Within the NPPF, open space is defined as 'All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity'.

The NPPF contains the following references that relate to green infrastructure and open spaces:

- **Para 7** - The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- **Para 96** - Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.
- **Para 97** - Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
 - a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - b) 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
 - c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.
- **Para 98** - Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails
- **Para 149** - Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure
- **Para 170** - Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment.

3.2.1.2 Green Infrastructure

The concept of green infrastructure (GI) is now firmly embedded in national policy with the NPPF requiring local planning authorities to set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. It defines green infrastructure as *'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities'*.

The Study Area has a wide range of existing green infrastructure assets such as open spaces, parks and gardens, allotments, woodlands, street trees, fields, hedgerows, treelines, lakes, ponds, rivers, meadows and grassland playing fields, as well as footpaths, cycleways and waterways. However, the concept of GI looks beyond existing designations, seeking

opportunities to increase function and connectivity of assets to maximise the benefits for the community and wildlife.

3.2.1.3 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011)

The White Paper² recognises that a healthy natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It sets out how the value of nature can be mainstreamed across our society by facilitating local action; strengthening the connections between people and nature; creating a green economy and showing leadership in the European Union (EU) and internationally.

It responds to the 2010 independent review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network, chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton, which identifies the need for more, better and bigger joined spaces for nature.

3.2.1.4 Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, (August 2011)

This biodiversity strategy for England builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and sets out the strategic direction for national biodiversity policy to implement international and EU commitments.

The vision for England is: 'By 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to climate change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone'.

The mission of this strategy is to 'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'. The strategy contains four outcomes to be achieved by the end of 2020. These are:

Habitats and ecosystems on land (including freshwater environments)

By 2020 we will have put in place measures so that biodiversity is maintained and enhanced, further degradation has been halted and where possible, restoration is underway helping to deliver more resilient and coherent ecological networks as well as healthy and well-functioning ecosystems which can deliver multiple benefits for wildlife and people too.

Marine habitats, ecosystems and fisheries

By 2020 we will have put in place measures so that biodiversity is maintained, further degradation has been halted and where possible, restoration is underway, helping deliver good environmental status and our vision of clean, healthy, safe productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

² <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

Species

By 2020, we will see an overall improvement in the status of our wildlife and will have prevented further human-induced extinctions of known threatened species.

People

By 2020, significantly more people will be engaged in biodiversity issues, aware of its value and taking positive action.

3.2.1.5 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)

This 25 Year Environment Plan sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. It calls for an approach to agriculture, forestry, land use and fishing that puts the environment first.

The 25-year goals are:

1. Clean air.
2. Clean and plentiful water.
3. Thriving plants and wildlife.
4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought.
5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently.
6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

In addition, pressures on the environment will be managed by:

7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change.
8. Minimising waste.
9. Managing exposure to chemicals.
10. Enhancing biosecurity.

Actions/policies are identified around six key areas: Using and managing land sustainably; Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes; Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing; Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste; Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; Protecting and improving the global environment.

The Plan sits alongside two other important government strategies. The Industrial Strategy sets out how productivity will be boosted across the UK through five foundations – ideas, people, infrastructure, business, environment and places. Clean Growth is one of the four Grand Challenges laid out in the strategy that will put the UK at the forefront of industries of the future, ensuring that it takes advantage of transformational global trends. The Clean Growth Strategy sets out the UK's reaffirmed ambition to promote the ambitious economic and environmental policies to mitigate climate change and deliver clean, green growth.

3.2.1.6 Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces – Measuring their economic and wellbeing value to individuals (2018)

This report provides a robust economic valuation of parks and green spaces in the UK as well as valuing improvements in health and wellbeing associated with their frequent use. This is the first research study on parks and green spaces to use welfare weighting methodology, allowing for more informed evidence-based policy decisions. The headline findings from this report are as follows:

- **The Total Economic Value to an individual is £30.24 per year** (£2.52 per month), and includes benefits gained from using their local park or green space and non-use benefits such as the preservation of parks for future generations. The value of parks and green spaces is higher for individuals from lower socio-economic groups and also from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. This research is the first to apply welfare weighting methodology to public parks and green spaces in the UK. The findings show that any loss of parks and green spaces will disproportionately impact disadvantaged and underrepresented communities, precisely those who value them the most.
- **The Wellbeing Value associated with the frequent use of local parks and green spaces is worth £34.2 billion per year** to the entire UK adult population.
- **Parks and green spaces are estimated to save the NHS around £111 million per year** based solely on a reduction in GP visits and excluding any additional savings from prescribing or referrals.

It is the view of Fields in Trust that few public services have such a wide-ranging, positive impact on local communities as parks and green spaces on which to play. Unfortunately, such spaces tend to be valued within local budgets according to their maintenance costs rather than their true dividend to local communities which vastly exceeds such sums because of their multiple benefits. Parks and green spaces can:

- Contribute to a preventative health agenda
- Reduce future Exchequer expenditure
- Reduce health inequalities
- Increase social cohesion and equality

The study captured, in economic terms, a value for parks and green spaces arising from direct use of a park or green space to the individual and the non-use benefits (gained from the existence and preservation of parks and green spaces regardless of use).

Although people who visit a park less often than once a month still value the existence of parks and green spaces, frequent park users state significantly higher Willingness to Pay values for parks and green spaces. Further analysis of the data also revealed significant differences in values depending upon a variety of factors including geographical location, size of park, income and ethnicity. When welfare weighting for income is applied the average

Willingness to Pay for parks and green spaces increases significantly for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) and lower socio-economic groups.

The report suggests that parks and green spaces are vital democratic spaces where people come together and interact and can play an important role in promoting social cohesion and integration.

The report found that parks and green spaces are clearly valued highly by communities and provide an enormous amount of quantifiable benefit to their local population. The data provided by the report on Total Economic Value (use and non-use) of parks and green spaces is demonstrable for the entire local population thus enabling local authorities for the first time to make a robust, evidence-led business case for the economic and wellbeing value of parks and green spaces to local communities. This research will enable a strategic approach to the provision of parks and green spaces by identifying areas where investment will have the most significant impact on individuals. It presents a new and compelling argument that, in a difficult economic climate, the provision of parks and green spaces should be prioritised in areas with lower socio-economic groups and a higher representation of BAME communities given the disproportionately high level of benefits that these groups derive from parks and green spaces.

The report identified the positive effects of park usage in respect of 'life satisfaction' including physical and mental health benefits that stem from park usage. Both wellbeing and self-reported general health were significantly higher for frequent park and green space users compared to non-users.

The report also highlighted partial cost savings to the NHS through reduced GP visits associated with frequent use of local parks and green spaces.

Parks and green spaces are clearly valued highly by communities and provide an enormous amount of quantifiable benefit to their local population.

3.2.1.6 Sporting Future - A New Strategy for an Active Nation (December 2015)

This cross-government strategy seeks to address flat-lining levels of sport participation and high levels of inactivity in this country. Through this strategy, government is redefining what success in sport means, with a new focus on five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In future, funding decisions will be made on the basis of the outcomes that sport and physical activity can deliver.

It is the government's ambition that all relevant departments work closer together to create a more physically active nation, where children and young people enjoy the best sporting opportunities available and people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the many benefits that sport and physical activity bring, at every stage in their lives.

The government is reaffirming its commitment to Olympic and Paralympic success but also extending that ambition to non-Olympic sports where it will support success through

grassroots investment in those sports, and by sharing UK Sport’s knowledge and expertise. The strategy outlines what is expected of the sector to deliver this vision, and how the government will support it in getting there.

Public investment into community sport is to reach children as young as five as part of a ground-breaking new strategy. The move will see Sport England’s remit changed from investing in sport for those aged 14 and over to supporting people from five years old right through to pensioners, in a bid to create a more active nation.

Investment will be targeted at sport projects that have a meaningful, measurable impact on how they are improving people’s lives – from helping young people gain skills to get into work, to tackling social inclusion and improving physical and mental health.

Funding will also be targeted at groups who have low participation rates to encourage those who do not take part in sport and physical activity to get involved. This includes supporting women, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people.

3.2.1.7 Sport England Strategy – ‘Towards an Active Nation’ (2016-2021)

In response to the Government’s strategy, Sport England’s new strategy vision is that everyone in England, regardless of age, background or ability, feels able to take part in sport or activity. Sport England’s new vision and its supporting aims will therefore contribute to achieving the government’s strategy. Key features of the new Strategy are:

- Dedicated funding to get children and young people active from the age of five, including a new fund for family based activities and offering training to at least two teachers in every secondary school in England to help them better meet the needs of all children, irrespective of their level of sporting ability.
- Working with the sport sector to put customers at the heart of everything they do and using the principles of behavioral change to inform their work.
- Piloting new ways of working locally by investing in up to 10 places in England – a mix of urban and rural areas.
- Investing up to £30m in a new volunteering strategy, enabling more people to get the benefits of volunteering and attracting a new, more diverse range of volunteers.
- Helping sport keep pace with the digital expectations of customers – making it as easy to book a badminton court as a hotel room.
- Working closely with governing bodies of sport and others who support people who already play regularly, to help them become more efficient, sustainable and diversify their sources of funding.

3.2.18 Building with Nature Benchmark

Building with Nature provides a framework of quality standards to ensure the design and delivery of high quality green infrastructure, so that developments will also deliver for the natural world and health communities.

Drawing from evidence and good practice, high quality green infrastructure has been defined at each stage of the development process, from planning and design, through to long-term management and maintenance. The standards enable nature friendly features to be integrated throughout the development.

Developers can apply to have their scheme assessed, and planners can have their policy document accredited by Building with Nature. The standards³ are also free to use and can assist with the planning and development of new places and communities.

3.2.2 Local Context

3.2.2.1 Development plans

Emerging Local Plan (2016 – 2036)

The Council is in the process of producing a new Local Plan which reviews and updates the currently adopted Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plans. Once adopted, it will supersede both of these documents. The new Plan will cover a twenty year plan period from 2016 to 2036.

The first draft of the Local Plan (consultation document) provides the overarching strategic approach to development and to outline where development should take place, how it should be delivered (through suitable development policies), and to identify appropriate development sites to meet the District's needs. The Plan's aims and objectives ensure that good quality, sustainable development takes place in suitable locations which respects the landscape, environment and heritage of North Norfolk.

The proposed distribution of development across North Norfolk is based on the following settlement hierarchy:

- Large Growth Towns: Cromer, Fakenham & North Walsham.
- Small Growth Towns: Holt, Hoveton, Sheringham, Stalham & Wells-next-the-Sea.
- Large Growth Villages: Blakeney, Briston & Melton Constable, Ludham & Mundesley.
- Small Growth Villages: Aldborough, Badersfield, Bacton, Binham, Catfield, Corpusty & Saxthorpe, East Runton, Happisburgh, High Kelling, Horning, Langham, Little Snoring, Little Walsingham, Overstrand, Potter Heigham, Roughton, Sculthorpe, Southrepps, Sutton, Trunch, Walcott, West Runton, Weybourne.
- Countryside: All other areas not within a defined settlement boundary of a selected settlements

The Plan proposes the delivery of 10,500 - 11,000 new homes over the 20-year plan period (4,500 homes on new allocated development sites), of which around 2,000 should be affordable homes. The Plan seeks to focus most of the required growth towards the defined Large and Small Growth Towns and a small number of Selected Villages. The scale of growth

³ <https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/how-it-works>

is determined by the settlement's position in the hierarchy, local needs and the capacity to accommodate development in a sustainable way.

At this stage, the plan is in draft form and until such time as it is adopted formally by the District Council it does not form part of the statutory Development Plan and carries little to no weight in decision making process.

Core Strategy (2008 and updated in 2012)

The current Core Strategy (adopted in 2008) provides the overarching approach for development in North Norfolk. It sets out a long-term spatial vision, objectives and policies to guide public and private sector investment up to 2021.

It contains the following policies⁴ of relevance to this study:

Policy SS 4: Environment

All development proposals will contribute to the delivery of sustainable development, ensure protection and enhancement of natural and built environmental assets and geodiversity and be located and designed so as to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate and adapt to future climate change.

Open spaces and areas of biodiversity interest will be protected from harm, and the restoration, enhancement, expansion and linking of these areas to create green networks will be encouraged through a variety of measures such as:

- maximising opportunities for creation of new green infrastructure and networks in sites allocated for development;
- creating green networks to link urban areas to the countryside;
- the designation of Local Nature Reserves and County Wildlife Sites;
- appropriate management of valuable areas, such as County Wildlife Sites;
- minimising the fragmentation of habitats, creation of new habitats and connection of existing areas to create an ecological network as identified in the North Norfolk ecological network report;
- progress towards Biodiversity Action Plan targets; and
- conservation and enhancement of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act;

New development will incorporate open space and high quality landscaping to provide attractive, beneficial environments for occupants and wildlife and contribute to a network of green spaces. Where there is no conflict with biodiversity interests, the quiet enjoyment and use of the natural environment will be encouraged and all proposals should seek to increase public access to the countryside.

⁴ This section sets out a summary of each policy. For full policy wording, the Core Strategy should be consulted.

Sustainable Drainage Systems will be encouraged, to reduce flood risk, promote groundwater recharge and improve water quality, enhance biodiversity and provide amenity benefit.

Policy SS 6: Access and Infrastructure

New development should be supported by, and have good access to, infrastructure, open space, public services and utilities.

Adequate provision of ... open space will be provided through:

- Provision and protection of Open Space to strive towards meeting the Open Space standards and create a network of accessible greenspace.
- Developer Contributions and planning obligations supported by Policy CT2 'Developer Contributions' and a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Walking and cycling networks and Public Rights of Way will be protected, enhanced and promoted. New development should create convenient and attractive links within development and to the surrounding area, assist with creation of a network of accessible greenspace and provide links to public transport and walking and cycling networks.

Policy CT 1: Open Space Designations

Within these areas designated on the Proposals Map the following will apply:

Open Land Areas; Development will not be permitted except where it enhances the open character or recreational use of the land.

Education and Formal Recreation Areas; Development will not be permitted except where:

- it enhances the open character or recreational use of the land, or
- alternative provision is made, or it has been demonstrated that the facility is surplus to requirements.

Any replacement provision should take account of the needs of the area and current standards of open space provision but should generally be equivalent, or an improvement, in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness, quality and accessibility.

Elsewhere, development proposals which result in the whole or partial loss of open space will not be permitted unless:

- the space does not contribute to the character of the settlement; and
- is surplus to requirement (taking account of all the functions it can perform), or
- where provision of equal or greater benefit is provided in the locality.

Policy CT 2: Developer Contributions

On schemes of 10 or more dwellings and substantial commercial development where there is not sufficient capacity in infrastructure, services, community facilities or open space, improvements which are necessary to make that development acceptable will be secured by

planning conditions or obligations, and these must be phased so as to be in place in accordance with an agreed time frame or prior to the occupation of an agreed number of units.

Planning obligations may also be required for maintenance payments, to meet the initial running costs of services and facilities and to compensate for loss or damage caused by development.

The Council will work with developers to secure the necessary improvements and determine the appropriate range and level of provision / contributions. A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will provide further guidance on the detailed nature of any financial or other contributions.

3.2.2.2 North Norfolk District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019

One of the Council's main objectives in the Corporate Plan is Health and Wellbeing and associated actions include working with partners to invest in sport and recreation facilities across the District and promoting health and fitness for all ages, abilities and ambition. It is therefore anticipated that the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study and the Sports Pitch Strategy will help the Council meet four of its strategic objectives i.e.

- Provide sport and leisure for all, alongside good quality open spaces
- Work in partnerships to help tackle health inequalities and decrease inactivity
- Bring investment to the district
- Encourage participation in a range of sports and activities

3.2.2.3 North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study (2006)

The 2006 Open Space Study had four main aims:

- to inform the review of the local plan;
- to provide guidance on open space standards;
- to advise the management of open space and sports facilities; and
- to help the Council to set priorities for expenditure, as well as find sources of funding.

The study involved an assessment of the quantity, quality and value of parks and open spaces in North Norfolk and notes whether provision is meeting local needs. It developed local standards and measures to address deficiencies in open space provision. It recognised that open space, with good planning and management, can perform multiple functions and provide a variety of benefits which cut across the Council's strategic priorities.

Some of the general conclusions in 2006 assessment were that:

- Public parks in North Norfolk are well provided for, especially at the strategic level represented by country parks.

- There are a good number of large parks, which are also well distributed throughout the District.
- Difficulties begin to arise at the more local level, such that a number of settlements in the rural hinterland have no children’s play areas and are too far from other villages which may have adequate facilities to be able to use those.

The study also concluded that much of the open space in the district was of a high standard, and it gave advice on how to improve open space sites which are below standard; where existing functions can be expanded to meet demand, and on improving accessibility.

It also recommended the establishment of a Green Network to link open space and enhance its value; and advised on how existing facilities could be used to better effect, as well as identifying areas with specific requirements.

3.2.2.4 Interim Practice Guide to Core Strategy - Open Space Standards (2008)

This Guide provides advice on the implementation of developer contributions, and the Open Space standards contained in the North Norfolk Core Strategy. It highlights that “development sites in areas that are deficient in terms of the adopted local standards will be required to make appropriate provision locally, either within the development or by making new provision elsewhere or improvements to existing provision off-site”.

The current NNDC adopted local standards for Open Spaces (contained in Appendix A of the Core Strategy) are as follows:

Table 3 Current adopted open space standards (2008)

Typology	Quantity Standard	Accessibility Standard	Quality Standard
Public Parks (Includes Country parks, district parks, neighbourhood parks and small local parks)	20.34 ha per 1,000 population including: 19 ha Country Park provision 1.34 ha other public parks	All residents within the seven main towns and Hoveton should have access to an area of public park within 400m of home. People living outside the main towns and Hoveton should have access to an area of park within 800m of home	Proposals for new housing development should be accompanied by proposals to improve open space provision reflecting local circumstances as set out in the Open Space Study. Open spaces identified within the Open Space Study for improvement should be prioritised. Public parks within the District should meet the Green Flag ‘good’ quality standard.
Children’s Play	0.8 ha per 1,000 population (including a variety of types)	All residents within the seven main towns and Hoveton should have access to an area of formal and informal play provision for children and teenagers within 400m of home.	Detailed design standards will be developed giving further details on provision to ensure these are safe, accessible and fit for purpose.

Typology	Quantity Standard	Accessibility Standard	Quality Standard
		People living outside the main towns and Hoveton should have access to an area of formal and informal play provision for children and teenagers within 800m of home.	
Playing Pitches	1.90 ha of pitch space per 1,000	All residents within the District should have access to a playing pitch within 1200 metres of home	Outdoor pitch sports facilities within the District should be of adequate quality and provide the range of facilities required to meet the needs of sports clubs. Those playing fields in secure community use identified within the Open Space Study which underperform in terms of the range of provision provided or the quality of existing provision, should be improved consistent with the guidelines identified.
Natural and semi-natural Green Space	1 ha per 1,000 population	Efforts should be made where possible to improve access to open spaces	Areas of natural and semi-natural green space should be of adequate quality and support local biodiversity. Areas of natural and semi-natural green space which either underperform in terms of their value to the local community or local biodiversity should be enhanced
Allotments	0.64ha of allotment land per 1,000 population	All residents within the District should have access to an allotment garden within 2.5km of home.	Allotment sites should be of adequate quality and support the needs of the local community. Allotment sites which under-perform in terms of their value to the local community should be improved

The above open space standards will be reviewed and new standards set and applied in this Study (See Section 6 and 7 of this report).

3.2.2.5 Amenity Green Space Topic Paper (2018)

This document provides an appraisal of Open Space, Education & Formal Recreation Spaces, and Local Green Space options, in the towns, villages and open countryside in North Norfolk.

The purpose of the paper was to review the district's designated Open Land Areas in line with updated national policy through a review of existing designations within settlements as shown on the current 2008 adopted proposals map, subsequent open land areas brought forward through development and other suggested sites, identified by officers, town and Parish councils. For the purposes of the review, the Amenity Green Space designation includes: public and privately owned accessible open space, churchyards, village greens, allotments and urban woodlands. The Education and Formal Recreation Area designation includes: school playing fields, sports pitches and formal sports areas.

The GIS layer which underpinned this topic paper was used as the basis for the open space mapping which underpins this open space assessment report.

3.2.2.6 Declaration of a climate emergency

North Norfolk District Council declared a climate emergency in April 2019 at a meeting of Full Council where Councillors committed to recognising the devastating impact of global temperature change and taking immediate action.

The District Council is committed to developing and delivering an Environmental Charter with the aim of becoming a leader in meeting high environmental and energy standard.

Open space and GI protection, provision and enhancement will play an important part in helping to tackle the climate crisis, with well designed, connected and multifunctional open space provided important functions such as surface water management/flood alleviation, reducing air pollution, reducing heat stress and providing wildlife habitat.

3.2.2.7 European Designated Sites

North Norfolk includes all or part of 13 internationally designated sites (Habitats Sites). These are as follows:

- Broadland SPA
- Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA
- North Norfolk Coast SPA
- The Broads SAC
- North Norfolk Coast SAC
- Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
- Paston Great Barn SAC
- Overstrand Cliff SAC
- River Wensum SAC
- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC
- Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC
- Broadland Ramsar Site
- North Norfolk Coast Ramsar Site

NNDC is currently producing an emerging Recreational Disturbance Avoidance Mitigation Strategy in conjunction with all other Norfolk authorities, in order to mitigate against the recreational impacts of residential growth on designated European sites.

Natural England have provided the following interim guidelines to the Norfolk Authorities relating to this emerging Strategy designed to ensure new residential development and any associated recreational disturbance impacts on European designated sites are compliant with the Habitats Regulations. This includes:

Natural England recommends that large developments (50+ houses) include green space that is proportionate to its scale to minimise any predicted increase in recreational pressure to designated sites, by containing the majority of recreation within and around the developed site. The Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space (SANGS) guidance can be helpful in designing this; it should be noted that this document is specific to the SANGS creation for the Thames Basin Heaths, although the broad principles are more widely applicable. Green infrastructure design should seek to achieve the Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards, detailed in Nature Nearby, including the minimum standard of 2ha informal open space within 300m of everyone's home. As a minimum, we advise that such provisions should include:

- *High-quality, informal, semi-natural areas*
- *Circular dog walking routes of 2.7 km within the site and/or with links to surrounding public rights of way (PRoW)*
- *Dedicated 'dogs-off-lead' areas*
- *Signage/information leaflets to householders to promote these areas for recreation*
- *Dog waste bins*
- *Long term maintenance and management of these provisions*

To provide adequate mitigation onsite GI should be designed to provide a multifunctional attractive space of sufficient size to reduce frequent visits to sensitive sites. It should facilitate a variety of recreational activities whilst supporting biodiversity. Evidence and advice on green infrastructure can be found on the Natural England Green Infrastructure web pages. We also recommend the Green Infrastructure Partnership as a useful source of information when creating and enhancing GI.

3.3 Health and Deprivation Context

3.3.1 Health summary

Public Health England have published the 2018 Health Profile for North Norfolk District⁵. The health of people is generally similar or better than the England average. Overall levels of measured deprivation are similar to the average for England as a whole (although there are local areas where variation from this average are significant).

However about 14.2% of children (1,955) live in low income families, although this figure is better than the average for England.

Further information regarding public health is provided within section 2.2 of the Community and Stakeholder Consultation report (2019).

3.3.2 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

The Indices of Deprivation 2019 provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England, based on seven different domains of deprivation:

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment Deprivation

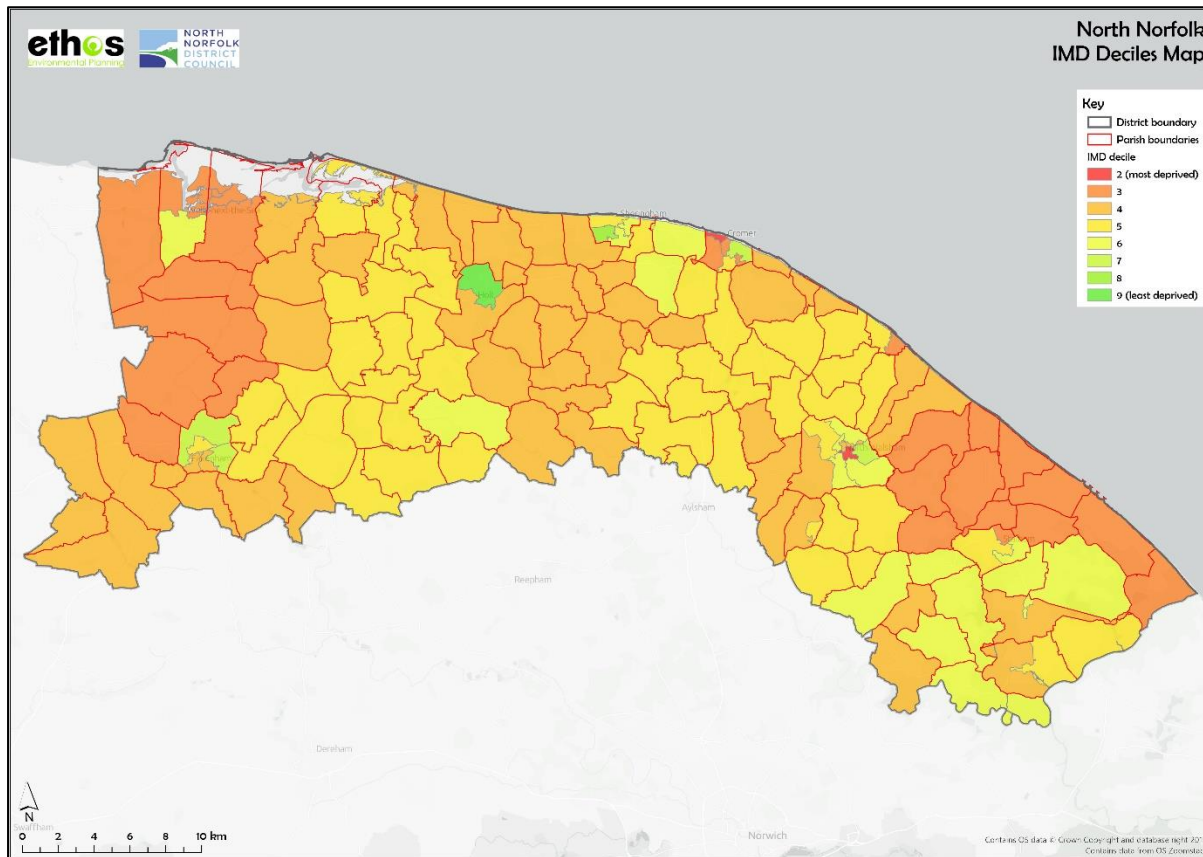
Each of these domains is based on a basket of indicators. As far as is possible, each indicator is based on data from the most recent time point available.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation combines information from the seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation.

Figure 3 below shows the IMD rank for each LSOA within the Study Area, where 1 is most deprived and 10 is least deprived. As can be seen, the levels of deprivation with the District are generally average to high, partly due to the rurality of the district which means it generally scores very low for Barriers to Housing and Services (largely geographical barriers).

⁵ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938132696/pat/6/par/E12000006/ati/101/are/E07000147>

Figure 3 IMD ranks in NNDC (by LSOA)



4.0 LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT (STEP 1)

4.1 Introduction

The Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019) examines local need for a wide range of different types of open space and recreation facilities. It draws upon a range of survey and analytical techniques including a review of consultation findings from relevant studies, questionnaire surveys and one to one stakeholder interviews. The work was undertaken between January and April 2019.

Questionnaire surveys were undertaken looking at the adequacy of current provision in terms of the quantity, quality and access, in relation to the various typologies of open space. In summary, questionnaire surveys were undertaken as below:

- A general household survey⁶;
- A survey of town and Parish councils and ward members; and,
- Local groups and organisations' surveys.

In addition to the above a series of one to one stakeholder interviews/surveys were undertaken.

The results of this consultation and other analyses have helped (amongst other things) to inform the review and revision of local standards (Section 6 of this report). It has also helped the study to understand local people's appreciation of open space and outdoor recreation facilities, and the wider green infrastructure and the values attached by the community to the various forms of open spaces and facilities. This appreciation will have clear implications for the way in which open space and outdoor recreation facilities are considered as part of the review of the local plan as well as in dealing with planning applications.

This section summarises the key findings from The Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019) in relation to open space under four main sections:

1. General Community Consultation;
2. Neighbouring local authorities and town and Parish councils;
3. Parks, green spaces, countryside, and rights of way; and
4. Play and youth facilities.

⁶ An agreed questionnaire survey was distributed to a random sample of 4000 households who could reply via Freepost or online. The online survey was also promoted to the wider public by the Council's Communications Team. Respondents were asked to respond to provide a view on behalf of their household, rather than simply as individuals. 693 surveys were completed (this exceeded the minimum target of 500) with a total of 1403 people represented. 693 returns provide statistically significant findings at a 95% confidence level with a confidence interval of $\pm 3.7\%$. Further detail, including demographic information is provided in the full Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019).

4.2 General Community Consultation – Key Findings

This provides some key consultation findings from the household survey and from Public Health Stakeholders.

4.2.1 The Household Survey

Quantity

- A large majority of households reported that there are enough local recreation grounds and parks (68%); children’s play areas (60%).
- Outdoor sports: a large majority (60% or more) thought there are enough winter pitches (football, rugby etc); cricket pitches; outdoor bowling greens; and golf courses.
- A clear majority of households reported a need for more facilities for teenagers (64%)
- A small majority noted a need for additional artificial turf pitches (53%); outdoor athletics tracks (52%); and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (51%).

Quality

- The majority of outdoor facilities/open spaces were suggested by households to be good or adequate.
- Local recreation grounds, beaches and woodland, wildlife areas and nature reserves were rated highly in terms of quality.
- Artificial turf pitches, outdoor athletics tracks and facilities for teenagers were rated as poor or very poor by significant numbers of respondents (over 35%).

Access (geographical)

- In general, a majority of household respondents report that they would not normally travel more than 15 minutes to visit the different kinds of open spaces and outdoor facilities. There is considerable variation however between the typologies.
 - A majority of households would expect parks and play areas to be within a 10 minute walk time.
 - Households are generally willing to travel further to access outdoor sport facilities. For many outdoor sports facilities a clear majority of user households will travel 15 minutes – a significant proportion of which will travel further to some kinds of sports facility.
 - A majority of user households are prepared to travel 20 minutes to visit the District’s beaches; and 30% of these report that they would in fact travel more than 20 minutes. 47% would also travel similar lengths of time to visit woodlands, wildlife area and nature reserves.
- The preferred mode of transport to open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities is walking; most notably for local recreation grounds and parks, children’s play areas and facilities for teenagers.
- There are some facilities that households would prefer to travel by car, this includes winter pitches, cricket pitches, golf and beaches.

- There are no typologies where cycling or bus/other are a significant mode of transport.

Priorities

- The typology highlighted by the largest number of householders as high priority for potential improvement/new provision was footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths, woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves and beaches.
- Other notable high priorities for improvement typologies were informal open spaces and water recreation facilities.

4.2.2 Public Health and other issues

- North Norfolk District Council fully recognises the value and importance of access to open space, sport and outdoor recreation facilities in relation to improving health and wellbeing and in relation to residents' quality of life.
- The District Councils Corporate Plan 2015-19 has Health and Wellbeing as one of its five priority themes. It notes three specific aims: Support local communities and residents through the Big Society Fund; address issues which lead to ill-health and improve the quality of life of all residents; encourage participation in sports and activities.
- Norfolk County Council has primary responsibility for Public Health. In 2017 it adopted a Planning in Health Protocol in recognition of the importance of spatial planning in securing improved health and wellbeing outcomes for local residents. It also provides information on local walking and cycling routes, safer routes to school, sustainable travel options and local public transport.
- The District Council Health and Communities Team promotes various public health initiatives in support of the Norfolk and Waveney Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and focusses on areas of particular priority to North Norfolk.
- Areas of work include: support of sport and active recreation; support for Wellbeing programmes; partnership work with Active Norfolk; and provision of health/physical activity related grants through the Big Society fund.
- Grants through the Big Society fund over recent years have supported projects such as: setting up a health walks project; provision of new play equipment, MUGAs and outdoor gym equipment; grants to sports clubs such as rugby, football, bowls, tennis, gymnastics and cricket to improve facilities and buy new equipment; grants to community groups that own and manage nature reserves, open spaces to improve access, restore habitats etc.
- Some sectors of the community face particular barriers to access such as disabled people; children and young people; households in the more isolated rural areas and those in the more deprived wards of the Study Area.

4.3 Neighbouring Local Authorities and Town/Parish Councils - Observations and key issues

4.3.1 Neighbouring Local Authorities – key findings

Section 3.1 of the Community and Stakeholder Report (2019) reviews feedback from neighbouring Local Authorities in relation to the status of their open space strategies/associated studies and any cross-border issues of significance. It is notable that there are very few cross-border issues.

The Norfolk Strategic Framework Planning Document (NSPF) provides guidance across the District for cross-boundary issues.

All authorities highlighted the importance of the region wide Green Infrastructure study which is currently underway and has been commissioned by Norfolk County Council.

4.3.2 Town and Parish Councils – key findings

44 of the 58 town/Parish councils who responded were directly responsible for the management of various local spaces and outdoor facilities.

31 of the town/Parish councils noted that there was a need for additional or improved open space, sport and recreation facilities; 11 noted that there was no requirement and 16 were not sure.

Only 8 Parishes thought there were potential for community use at schools with the remaining 50 Parishes stating that they did not think there was scope for use.

Common areas of concern

For the town/Parish councils, the areas of most concern are:

- The need for more children’s play areas or additional equipment in existing play areas.
- The need for facilities for teenagers and MUGAs in some Parishes.
- Improvements to footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths.
- Need for more and improved allotments.

Quality Considerations

The quality factors most commonly deemed to be of a high priority as regards recreational public open spaces are that:

- They should be easy to get to for all members of the community.
- They should be safe and secure for those using them.
- Equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained.

It is also thought important by many Parish councils that open spaces should be clean from litter and graffiti and easy for members of the community to get around.

Detailed responses on open space typologies

Many of the Parish councils provided detailed responses relating to aspects of quantity and quality of the various elements of open space surveyed. District Council members were also given the opportunity to provide comments, but few responses were received.

4.4 Parks, Green Space, Countryside and Rights of Way - Key Findings

4.4.1 Overview

- One of the District Council's main objectives in the Corporate Plan is Health and Wellbeing and associated actions include working with partners to invest in sport and recreation facilities across the District and promoting health and fitness for all ages, abilities and ambition.
- The District Council manage 14 (varied) woodland/countryside sites and the "flagship" site is Holt Country Park. They also manage the coastal strip/beaches from Weybourne through to Cart Gap; and are responsible for a number of play areas and amenity green spaces across the District.
- The District Council works in partnership with various organisations in relation to the management of recreational open spaces including Natural England, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Forestry Commission.
- The Town and Parish Councils are key managers of parks, recreation grounds and various open spaces across the District.
- Natural England suggests that the ANGst standard should be a starting point for developing a standard for natural and semi natural green space. Variations from this standard should be justified.
- The Woodland Trust Woodland Access Standard (WAS - endorsed by Natural England) provides guidance on access to Woodland, which should also be taken into consideration.
- Many stakeholders highlight the importance of biodiversity and having multi-functional open spaces that take biodiversity into account in relation to design and maintenance. A number of stakeholders also note the need to balance access and outdoor recreation with conservation in environmentally sensitive areas.
- The importance of biodiversity, ecological networks and the health and wellbeing benefits associated with access to good quality open space were key issues highlighted throughout the consultation.

4.4.2 Quantity

Stakeholder views

- The District Council Countryside Team notes that in broad terms across the District the quantity of park and recreation ground provision is quite good,
- The District Council Landscape Officer notes that there is a lack of provision in the west of the District around Fakenham. There is a concern that due to the lack of provision in this area, more people are visiting the coast and the sensitive nature conservation areas to walk their dogs and exercise in general, which in turn is having a negative impact on these sites.
- It was also noted that a significant growth area for the District is to the south-west and west of North Walsham. Although North Walsham benefits from having Bacton Woods and Pigneys Wood to the north and north-west of the town there are no easy links to these areas for residents from the south and west of the town.

Household Survey

- A large majority of households that thought there are enough local recreation grounds and parks (68%) and children's play areas (60%).
- A small majority of households (51%) noted a need for more publicly accessible woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves.

4.4.3 Quality

Stakeholder views

- The District Council has secured Green Flag status for Holt Country Park, Pretty Corner Woods and Sadlers Wood. The Team would like to make further improvements to Holt Country Park – in particular to the play area and indoor facilities.
- The Team notes that while in broad terms across the District the quantity of parks and recreation ground provision is quite good, the quality is much more variable and some spaces are run down and in need of improvement.
- The District has a number of Blue Flag beaches which attract a large number of visitors to the District.

Household survey

For most kinds of outdoor facilities/open spaces a majority of households suggested that they were of adequate or better quality (though the most common rating tended to be only "adequate").

- Local parks and recreation grounds and beaches were most commonly rated as being the highest quality provision. 70% of households rated local recreation grounds and parks as being very good or good; and beaches 66%.

- The lowest rated provision was artificial turf pitches with 40% of household rating poor or very poor. The quality of facilities for teenagers were also rated as poor or very poor by 37% of households.

4.4.4 Access

Household survey

- In general, a majority of household respondents report that they would not normally travel more than 15 minutes to visit the different kinds of open spaces and outdoor facilities. There is considerable variation however between the typologies.
- 65% of households confirmed that they would be prepared to walk/cycle further if the quality of the route was improved. 84% said that if the quality of the route was improved, they would make the journey more often.
- The detailed findings relating to acceptable access times to the various typologies will be considered in detail to help determine the access elements of relevant standards for different kinds of open space.

Stakeholder views

- Some sectors of the community face particular barriers to access such as disabled people; children and young people; households in the more isolated rural areas and those in the more deprived areas of the District.
- The Coastal Engineer highlighted that the Council has difficulty managing some water sports particularly jet skiing and 'Jet Skiers'. He notes that officers have encouraged a private initiative at Sea Palling where the jet ski activities are privately managed, but this is likely to be closed soon. There is a definite need for a more centrally managed location for all water sports where activities such as these can be managed and encouraged but where there is no conflict with the wider public.
- The BHS note that whilst there are many footpaths in North Norfolk, there are limited bridleways and byways allowing safe access for cyclists and horse riders. Given the high level of tourism in the area, multi-user routes which enable all non-motorised users, including carriage drivers, access to our landscape would be highly beneficial.

4.5 Play Areas and Youth Facilities - Key Findings

In North Norfolk the District Council is responsible for a number of play areas but it is the Town and Parish Councils that manage the majority of play spaces and outdoor youth facilities.

4.5.1 Quantity

Stakeholder views

- The voluntary youth organisations working in the District and the young people consulted via the North Norfolk Youth Advisory Board suggest that overall in the main

towns there seem to be enough play areas, but many smaller villages do not have sufficient provision.

- The youth organisations and young people themselves highlight that overall across the District there are not enough outdoor youth facilities.
- A number of individual town/Parish councils note a lack of or under-provision of play spaces in their Parish and higher proportion highlight a lack of youth facilities.

Household survey

- A clear majority of households (60%) say that overall there are enough play areas for younger children⁷.
- In contrast, a clear majority (64%) reported a general need for more facilities for teenagers.

4.5.2 Quality

Stakeholder views

- The North Norfolk Youth Advisory Board and the young people they consulted noted the wide variability in quality of play areas and youth facilities across the District.
- Young people highlighted examples of good provision including play areas at Happisburgh (by the beach) and Neatishead and the skateparks at Fakenham and Sheringham.
- However, the young people noted that many local play areas are very poor with old and outdated equipment that needs replacing. They would like things like zip wires, monkey bars, bigger and more challenging climbing frames, better roundabouts, see-saws and areas for bikes.
- A significant number of Parish councils highlight a need for improvements to local play areas and youth facilities.

Household survey

- The quality of youth facilities is not rated highly - 76% of respondent households say that they are at best adequate (with 37% of those rating them as poor or very poor).
- In general resident have less concern with the quality of equipped play areas across the District (58% rated them as being good or very good in contrast to 9% rating them as poor or very poor).

⁷ In the household/general community survey, 19% of respondents had children in their household. Out of those households that said there were enough children's play spaces 79% of those didn't have children. However, out of those households that said there was a need for more children's play spaces 69% didn't have children. This shows that many people without children also have an interest in children's play provision and wish to provide a view.

4.5.3 Access

- The young people consulted via the YAB noted that provision for younger children is more easily accessible than facilities for teenagers “in the towns you can generally walk to a local play area within a reasonable time” however “If you don’t live in the towns transport is a problem and in many places there’s nothing to use locally”.
- The lack of transport to access play and youth facilities in the rural areas was also highlighted by the voluntary youth organisations.
- The young people also noted a need for toilets in the bigger parks with play facilities – particularly to help access for disabled children and young people.

Household survey

- A majority of users (55%) would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 18% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- 47% of users would expect youth facilities to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 14% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes. However, a small majority (53%) would be prepared to travel 15 minutes (of which 18% would travel longer).
- A clear majority of respondents (63%) would be prepared to travel 15 minutes to make use of Multi-use Games Areas (of which 26% would travel longer).

4.5.4 Priorities for improvement

- Stakeholders indicated that the kinds of facilities that were most frequently rated as being a high priority for improvement were play areas with more challenging equipment for teenagers, skate parks, outdoor gyms and public access to wild natural areas (grass, ponds, trees for climbing, sand/mud etc).
- The need for youth shelters/outdoor meeting places for young people was highlighted by the youth organisations. However, it was also noted that “youth shelters would be better if re-thought; in the past, too many were placed out of the way of the rest of the community and then caused concern because people didn't know what was going on in and around them. Young people should not be marginalised”.

4.5.5 Other Issues / General Observations

- The value of play in relation to improvements to children and young people’s health and wellbeing was highlighted by a number of stakeholders.
- District Council officers and a number of town and Parish councils refer to a lack of funding to develop and maintain play and youth facilities to a satisfactory level.
- Stakeholders noted a priority need for consultation with young people and the wider community in the planning, design and location of local play and youth facilities. The North Norfolk YAB confirmed their willingness to be take such an ongoing role as part of a recognised process.

- Play England and FiT provide useful guidance on play and spatial planning; play space design; and managing risk in play. Some of these could be adopted as guidance and Supplementary Planning Documents.

4.6 Concluding remarks

The survey work, stakeholder consultation, and desk-based research have highlighted a wide range of issues of value to the Open Space Study.

Response levels to the residents' survey, town/Parish councils' surveys and from other stakeholders have been high. This has ensured that a wide and diverse range of views from local people with an interest in open space, and outdoor sport/recreation facilities have influenced the findings of the study. Most of the main strategic stakeholders have also responded and key issues have been identified.

There is a strong degree of consistency across the various sources on key areas of local and strategic need/aspirations, from which we can be confident that the findings are robust and reliable. This provides a strong evidence base to be combined with the open space audit and analysis. The findings provide evidence to support the spatial planning standards recommended for the different categories of open space.

5.0 AUDIT OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE ASSETS

5.1 General approach

This section sets out the typologies which have standards developed, and those which have been mapped, but do not have standards. The typologies of open space have drawn on guidance provided within PPG17, and through discussions with the project Steering Group. The agreed list of typologies is seen to be locally derived and appropriate for the type and range of open spaces that exist within the Study Area.

Although sites have been categorised into different typologies, the multifunctionality of different types of open space is important to recognise e.g. amenity green space, natural green space, parks and recreation grounds and allotments may all provide numerous functions such as providing space for recreation, habitat for wildlife conservation, flood alleviation, improving air quality, and providing food growing opportunities. Linked to this are the intrinsic benefits of open space, such as providing an attractive landscape for improving health and wellbeing.

It should be noted that the typologies mapping is as accurate as possible (as of June 2019) following cross checking with the council's layers, desktop mapping, consultation with town/Parish councils and site visits.

The following typologies have been used in this assessment:

Table 3 North Norfolk District Council open space typologies

Typologies with standards	Typologies mapped but no standards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments • Amenity Green Space • Parks and Recreation Grounds • Play Space (Children) • Play Space (Youth) • Accessible Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and Coastal Land • Education • Outdoor Sports Space (Private) • Churchyards and Cemeteries

5.2 Typologies with Standards

5.2.1 Allotments

Allotments provide areas for people to grow their own produce and plants. It is important to be clear about what is meant by the term 'Allotment'. The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 obliged local authorities to provide sufficient allotments and to let them to persons living in their areas where they considered there was a demand.

The Allotment Act of 1922 defines the term 'allotment garden' as:

“an allotment not exceeding 40 poles⁸ in extent which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family”

The Allotments Act of 1925 gives protection to land acquired specifically for use as allotments, so called Statutory Allotment Sites, by the requirement for the need for the approval of Secretary of State in event of sale or disposal. Some allotment sites may not specifically have been acquired for this purpose. Such allotment sites are known as “temporary” (even if they have been in use for decades) and are not protected by the 1925 legislation.

5.2.2 Amenity Green Space



The category is considered to include those spaces open to free and spontaneous use by the public, but neither laid out nor managed for a specific function such as a park, public playing field or recreation ground; nor managed as a natural or semi-natural habitat. These areas of open space will be of varied size, but are likely to share the following characteristics:

- Unlikely to be physically demarcated by walls or fences.
- Predominantly lain down to (mown) grass.
- Unlikely to have identifiable entrance points (unlike parks).
- They may have shrub and tree planting, and occasionally formal planted flower beds.
- They may occasionally have other recreational facilities and fixtures (such as play equipment, informal football or ball courts).

Examples might include both small and larger informal grassed areas in housing estates and general recreation spaces. They can serve a variety of functions dependent on their size, shape, location and topography. Some may be used for informal recreation activities, whilst others by themselves, or else collectively, contribute to the overall visual amenity of an area.

⁸ 40 Poles equals 1,210 square yards or 1,012 square metres. A Pole can also be known as a Rod or Perch

Amenity green spaces smaller than 0.15 ha are not included within the analysis for this typology, as it is considered that these sites will have limited recreation function and therefore should not count towards open space provision.

5.2.3 Parks and Recreation Grounds



This typology brings together the function of Parks and Recreation Grounds and Outdoor Sports Space as identified in the former PPG17 typology. The distinction between the two typologies in the Study Area is blurred, with very few formal gardens and many parks and/or outdoor sports space having multi-functions used for both informal and formal recreation. Local people can refer to their local park or ‘rec’, and they do not necessarily make a distinction between outdoor sports space and parks and recreation grounds. Therefore, for the study an overarching typology for Park and Recreation Grounds has been used.

For the purpose of this study, a Park and Recreation Ground is defined as an open space that:

- Has at least two facilities e.g. a children’s play area and tennis courts, or;
- Has provision for formal sports pitches e.g. football or cricket pitch (informal football would be excluded); and
- Is owned/managed by the Council (or Town/Parish Council), for general public access.

Those outdoor sports grounds which are privately managed and have varying levels of public access are mapped as Outdoor Sport (Private). Those sites that allow informal recreation such as dog walking have been identified, and these spaces will be considered in the access analysis along with parks and recreation grounds.

The Parks and Recreation Ground typology comprises the general open space surrounding play areas, sports facilities etc. used for general recreation and includes those areas laid out

as pitches or fixed facilities such as tennis and bowls (although the pitches and fixed facilities themselves have not been separately mapped) which are accessible i.e. they can be walked over/used informally. Pitches or facilities which have no access e.g. they are fenced off and/or only open to members or clubs have been mapped as Outdoor Sport (Private) and are not included within the quantity analysis for parks and recreation grounds. The separate Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) provides the detail around the locations of pitches and fixed facilities.

The quantity figure for Parks and Recreation Grounds excludes the provision of children and youth play spaces which have been mapped separately/have a separate typology.

Parks and Recreation Grounds take on many forms, and may embrace a wide range of functions including:

- Play space of many kinds;
- Provision for a range of formal pitch and fixed sports;
- Provision of outdoor gyms and fitness trails;
- Informal recreation and sport;
- Providing attractive walks and cycle routes to work;
- Offering landscape and amenity features;
- Areas of formal planting;
- Providing areas for ‘events’;
- Providing habitats for wildlife;
- Dog walking.

5.2.4 Play Space (Children and Youth)



It is important to establish the scope of the Study in terms of this type of open space. Children and young people will play/‘hang out’ in almost all publicly accessible “space” ranging from the street, town centres and squares, parks, playing fields, “amenity” grassed areas etc. as well as the more recognisable play and youth facility areas such as equipped playgrounds, youth shelters, BMX and skateboard parks and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) etc. Clearly many of the other types of open space covered by this Study will therefore provide informal play opportunities.

To a child, the whole world is a potential playground: where an adult sees a low wall, a railing, kerb or street bench, a child might see a mini adventure playground or a challenging

skateboard obstacle. Play should not be restricted to designated ‘reservations’ and planning and urban design principles should reflect these considerations.

Historically, much planned play provision across the country (including in North Norfolk) has been in accordance with guidance provided by the then National Playing Fields Association (now known as Fields in Trust or FIT). Categorisation of play space based on this guidance included the designations: Local Areas for Play (LAPs); Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs); and, Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). Best practice in terms of play provision has evolved greatly in recent years resulting in part from issues arising out of long-term sustainability of facilities provided through applying the above guidance; recognition of the value of more natural environments for play; principles of inclusivity and overall ‘play value’; recognition of ‘acceptable risk’, and more.

In a largely rural area like North Norfolk, where there are many small settlements and populations, it can be difficult to justify provision bespoke to any particular age group below the above binary categorization. For example, provision for children, may need to be sufficiently flexible to be used by both toddlers and juniors.

As a consequence of the above it was not considered appropriate to classify existing play provision in accordance with the above hierarchical categorisation of LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs, but instead using a classification that provides more flexibility.

The Study has therefore recorded the following:

- Play Space (Children)
- Play Space (Youth) i.e. Teenage Facilities

The former comprises equipped areas of play that cater for the needs of children up to and around 12 years of age. The latter comprises informal recreation opportunities for, broadly, the 13 to 16/17 age group, and which might include facilities like skateboard parks, basketball courts, BMX ramps and ‘free access’ MUGAs. In practice, there will always be some blurring around the edges in terms of younger children using equipment aimed for youths and vice versa.

5.2.5 Accessible Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space



For the purpose of the open space element of the study, accessible natural and semi natural space covers a variety of spaces including meadows, woodland, copses, river valleys and lakes all of which share a trait of having natural characteristics and biodiversity value and are also partly or wholly accessible for informal recreation.

The North Norfolk District provides residents with easy access to the countryside, including through the rights of way and permissive routes network. It was not the intention of this audit to survey and map all these areas, but to focus on sites where there are definitive boundaries or areas of natural green space which have some form of public access. In some cases, access may not be fully clear, however, there is evidence of some level of informal use and access.

Some sites may provide access in different ways, for example, rivers or lakes are often used for water recreation (e.g. canoeing, fishing, sailing). Whilst access may not be available fully across all areas of these sites (e.g. the middle of a lake or dense scrub in a woodland), the whole site has been included within the assessment.

Some natural spaces have no access at all, and whilst they cannot be formally used by the general community, they can be appreciated from a distance, and contribute to visual amenity, green infrastructure and biodiversity. Whilst every effort was made to exclude these spaces from the open space assessment, as already identified, in certain sites access may not always be clear.

The local consultation and research elsewhere (Natural England⁹) have identified the value attached to natural spaces for recreation and emotional well-being. A sense of ‘closeness to nature’ with its attendant benefits for people is something that is all too easily lost in urban areas. Natural green spaces can make important contributions towards local Biodiversity Action Plan targets and can also raise awareness of biodiversity values and issues.

5.3 Typologies with no standards

5.3.1 Beaches and Coastal Land

The District has a coastal frontage of approximately 68km stretching from Holkham in the west to Horsey in the south-east. The central 34km of the coast, from Kelling Hard through to Cart Gap, Happisborough, is characterised by chalk cliffs and sandy beaches. This is in stark contrast to the low-lying areas found either flank. In the west there are saltmarshes and the famous shingle ridge leading to Blakeney Point spit, while to the east the beaches and sand dunes are all that separates the North Seas from the Norfolk Broads. Much of the coastline is set within the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and offers fine views and important wildlife habitat, including some internationally important sites for biodiversity and are afforded high levels of protection and designation.

Whilst no specific quantity or access standards are proposed for this typology, the study does include an assessment of the resource.

5.3.2 Churchyards and Cemeteries

The Study Area has numerous churches and cemeteries, and these provide significant aesthetic value and space for informal recreation such as walking and relaxing. Many are also important in terms of biodiversity. Their importance for informal recreation, aesthetic value and contribution towards biodiversity must be acknowledged, and as such, investment in their upkeep, maintenance and quality is an important factor. Churchyards and Cemeteries have been identified and mapped where known, however, no quantity or access standard for provision will be set, as it is outside the scope of this study to make recommendations related to requirements for new provision.

5.3.3 Education

Many schools and colleges have open space and sports facilities within their grounds. This may range from a small playground to large playing fields with several sports pitches. More often than not, public access to these spaces is restricted often forbidden. Nevertheless, many of the sports facilities are used by local people on both an informal and formal basis.

Sports clubs may have local informal arrangements with a school to use their pitches, and in some cases more formal ‘dual-use’ agreements may be in place. School grounds can also contribute towards the green infrastructure and biodiversity of an area.

⁹ Natural England have published a variety of health and the natural environment publications at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/127020>

Quantity, quality and access standards are not being proposed for education sites. This is because they are not openly accessible to the public and whilst important to the local community, there is less opportunity for the Council to influence their provision and management. Furthermore, community access to education sites will be assessed within the separate playing pitch strategy for North Norfolk.

5.3.2 Outdoor Sport (Private)

Outdoor sports spaces which are privately managed, and which may have varying levels of public access (e.g. private sports grounds), have also been recorded and mapped where known. For each Outdoor Sport (Private) space, we will note whether there is access for informal recreation such as dog walking, and these spaces will be included in the access analysis along with parks and recreation grounds.

This typology includes golf courses, where more often than not, public access is restricted. Nevertheless, these facilities are used by local people and they form part of the Green Infrastructure network. This typology also includes fixed outdoor sports space (such as tennis courts) which are privately managed, and not freely accessible.

5.4 Existing provision of open space

5.4.1 Open space provision across the Study Area

The existing provision of open space is based on the desktop mapping and site surveys undertaken by Ethos Environmental Planning which included:

- analysis of existing GIS data held by the Councils and from other sources such as the Ordnance Survey Greenspace layer;
- desktop mapping of open space from aerial photography;
- questionnaires to town and Parish councils;
- liaison with council officers; and
- Site visits to check accessibility, boundaries, typologies and complete quality audits.

The following table shows the existing provision of open space in hectares and ha/1000 population across the District.

Table 4 Summary of existing provision of open space across the Study Area

Typology	Number of sites	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000)¹⁰
Allotments	71	58.03	0.55
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	133	121.66	1.15
Park and Recreation Grounds	46	65.63	0.62
Play Space (Children)	113	10.04	0.10
Play Space (Youth)	43	1.19	0.01
Accessible Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space	97	3551.67	33.61
Beaches and Coastal Land	1		
Churchyards and Cemeteries	203	96.42	0.91
Education	59	175.50	1.66
Outdoor Sports Space (Private)	90	85.18	0.81

¹⁰ Using ONS mid year 2016 population estimates

5.4.2 Open space provision by Parish

Table 5 Existing provision of open space (hectares) by Parish

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)	2016 Population
Alby with Thwaite	0	0	0.00	0	0	19.37	0.44	1.69	0	260
Aldbrough & Thurgarton	0.42	0.07	1.65	0.11	0.01	0	0.44	0.00	0	559
Antingham	0	0.20	0.00	0	0	0	0.62	0.86	0	357
Ashmanhaugh	0	0.21	0.00	0	0	0	0.55	0	1.02	168
Aylmerton	0	0	0.00	0	0	101.01	0.62	3.65	0	493
Baconsthorpe	1.13	0	0.00	0.10	0	0	0.48	0	0	218
Bacton	0.56	0	1.22	0.08	0.00	59.98	1.19	0.55	0.14	1147
Barsham	0.16	0.16	0.00	0.08	0	0	1.14	0	0	227
Barton Turf	0	1.34	0.00	0	0	150.19	0.83	0	1.79	449
Beeston Regis	0.74	1.58	0.00	0	0	42.56	0.54	5.50	3.77	1097
Binham	0	0	0.88	0.14	0	7.43	1.43	0	0	284
Blakeney	0	2.80	3.10	0.12	0.07	388.60	1.08	0.11	0.07	796
Bodham	0.46	0	0.00	0.09	0	44.09	0.52	0	1.74	494
Briningham	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.34	0	0	117
Brinton	0.14	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.48	0	0	204
Briston	1.64	4.66	2.82	0.09	0.24	0	0.64	3.64	0.15	2549
Brumstead	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.23	0	0	354
Catfield	0	0.91	1.30	0.16	0	56.87	0.62	0.92	0	1000
Cley Next the Sea	2.04	1.15	0.00	0.11	0	48.54	0.73	0	0	411
Colby	0	1.54	0.74	0.05	0	0.36	0.83	0.45	0.11	490
Corpusty and Saxthorpe	0.69	2.30	0.00	0.12	0	0	1.03	0.20	0.09	741
Cromer	0.32	10.72	2.60	0.69	0.05	14.77	3.87	6.72	3.22	7621
Dilham	0	0	1.10	0.06	0	0.11	0.41	0	0	317
Dunton	0	0.62	0.00	0	0	5.43	0.81	0	0	108
East Beckham	0.93	0	0.00	0	0	0.40	0	0	0	283
East Ruston	0	0	0.00	0	0	35.22	0.61	0.15	1.03	620
Edgefield	0	1.73	0.00	0.13	0	4.09	0.68	0	0	376
Erpingham	0	0	1.04	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.99	1.00	0.15	736
Fakenham	4.32	3.34	4.58	0.36	0.10	2.31	2.46	16.07	7.85	7785
Felbrigg	0.42	0.16	0.00	0	0	169.10	0.29	0	0	205

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)	2016 Population
Felmingham	0.87	0	1.30	0.05	0	17.80	1.00	0	0.19	591
Field Dalling	0	0.19	0.00	0.07	0	0	1.10	0	0	297
Fulmodeston	0	0.18	0.00	0.06	0	0	0.57	0	2.27	431
Gimingham	2.16	0	1.70	0.05	0	0.02	0.60	0	0	519
Great Snoring	1.13	0.45	0.00	0	0	0	0.70	0	0.11	136
Gresham	0.21	0	1.32	0.14	0	0	0	0.83	0	436
Gunthorpe	0	0.15	0.00	0	0	3.59	0.83	0	0	238
Hanworth	0	13.71	0.00	0	0	0	0.33	0	0	156
Happisburgh	0.57	0	0.00	0.11	0	0	1.00	1.05	1.60	925
Helhoughton	0	11.56	0.15	0.23	0.01	0	0.57	0	0	431
Hempstead	0	0.24	0.00	0.01	0	8.88	0.30	0	0	189
Hempton	1.74	0.48	0.00	0.11	0	36.40	0.46	0	0.22	506
Hickling	0.94	0.18	2.58	0.06	0	0	0.98	0.54	0.17	987
High Kelling	0	2.36	0.00	0	0	0.07	0	0	5.65	507
Hindolveston	1.10	0	1.98	0.06	0	0	0.66	0	0.07	621
Hindringham	0.74	0	2.40	0.05	0.00	0	0.64	0.59	0	453
Holkham	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	1.18	0	0.06	210
Holt	3.38	1.15	0.00	0.17	0	112.87	1.83	45.93	4.99	3985
Honing	0	0	0.00	0	0	92.26	0.74	0	0	333
Horning	1.41	0.59	1.18	0.15	0	12.43	0.63	0.48	0.12	1128
Horsey	0	0.63	0.00	0.03	0	0	0.15	0	0	187
Hoveton	0	3.21	2.00	0.06	0	78.08	1.46	7.08	0.13	2049
Ingham	0	0	1.45	0	0	0	0.47	0	1.41	366
Ingworth	0	0	0.00	0.13	0	0	0.40	0	0	337
Itteringham	0	0	0.00	0	0	25.07	0.45	0	0	135
Kelling	0	0.51	0.00	0.06	0	121.14	0.77	0.62	0	187
Kettlestone	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.36	0	0	181
Knapton	1.31	0	0.00	0.03	0	21.61	0.46	0	4.93	399
Langham	0.22	0	0.98	0.02	0	0	0.53	0.74	0	387
Lessingham	0	0	0.13	0.03	0.00	0	0.56	0.17	0	560

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)	2016 Population
Letheringsett with Glandford	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.60	0	0	224
Little Barningham	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.41	0	0	139
Little Snoring	0	0	1.32	0.05	0.01	0	0.49	0.60	0	602
Ludham	0.81	0.23	1.13	0.15	0	180.47	1.26	0.92	0.11	1303
Matlask	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.72	0	0	118
Melton Constable	2.39	0.40	0.00	0.14	0	0	0.65	0	0	658
Morston	0	0.23	0.00	0	0	230.01	0.44	0	0	178
Mundesley	0	3.27	1.80	0.20	0.13	0.57	0.81	3.33	0.18	2694
Neatishead	0.17	0.60	0.00	0.10	0	10.80	0.65	0.49	0	541
North Walsham	0.39	2.90	8.77	1.09	0.09	10.62	4.44	22.56	5.27	12645
Northrepps	1.59	0	1.11	0.05	0.01	0	0.71	0.21	0	1102
Overstrand	0.03	0	0.00	0.06	0	0	0.77	0.95	1.26	974
Paston	0	0	0.00	0.49	0	0	0.55	0	0	240
Plumstead	0	0.39	0.00	0	0	0	0.22	0	0	138
Potter Heigham	0.68	0.20	1.20	0.06	0.01	11.86	0.82	0	0.13	1040
Pudding Norton	0	0.69	0.00	0	0	1.14	0	0	9.03	248
Raynham	0	17.32	0.00	0	0	0	1.25	0.62	0	294
Roughton	0	0	0.98	0.12	0.00	0	0.68	0.75	0	947
Runton	3.99	2.43	0	0.22	0	46.97	0.63	0.00	2.34	1644
Ryburgh	0	0	1.80	0.36	0	0.56	0.69	0	0.24	662
Salthouse	0	0.58	0.00	0	0	95.66	0.51	0	0	160
Scottow	0	3.87	0.00	0.06	0.07	12.76	0.71	0	5.86	1785
Sculthorpe	1.09	0	0.35	0.11	0.01	12.55	2.42	0.11	0.29	711
Sea Palling	0.86	0	0.00	0.34	0	0.52	0.88	0	0	619
Sheringham	3.80	2.40	0.91	0.28	0.22	42.55	2.75	8.04	3.12	7421
Sidestrand	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.15	6.41	0	227
Skeyton	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.48	0	0	238
Sloley	0	3.59	0.00	0	0	0	0.36	0	0	305
Smallburgh	0	0	0	0.18	0.00	0.06	0.94	0	1.70	532

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)	2016 Population
Southrepps	0.28	0	0.00	0.42	0.01	12.43	0.97	0.00	1.55	872
Stalham	0.96	2.49	1.91	0.18	0.04	0	1.22	11.39	3.77	3269
Stibbard	0.32	0	0.00	0.04	0	0	0.59	1.36	0	329
Stiffkey	0.08	0	0.00	0	0	207.91	0.55	0	1.68	199
Stody	0	0.71	0.00	0	0	3.33	0.67	0	0	188
Suffield	0.44	0	0.00	0	0	2.06	0.37	0	0	126
Sustead	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.28	0.81	0	0	214
Sutton	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	1.77	0.84	0	1185
Swafield	0	0	0.00	0	0	2.39	0.89	0	1.52	297
Swanton Abbott	0	0	0.00	0.10	0	11.36	0.43	0.93	0.17	541
Swanton Novers	0	0.53	0.00	0.02	0	0	0.32	0	0	237
Tattersett	0	0.32	0.00	0	0	1.60	0.53	4.21	0	997
Thornage	0	1.70	0.00	0	0	0	0.52	0	0	182
Thorpe Market	0	0.84	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.35	0	0	315
Thurning	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.30	0	0	270
Thursford	0.15	0	0.00	0	0	3.02	0.43	0	0	211
Trimingham	0	0.99	0.00	0.01	0	0	0.46	0	0	478
Trunch	0.94	0	1.27	0.11	0.01	0.06	0.68	0	0.09	956
Tunstead	0	0	1.28	0.15	0	0	0.97	0.66	0.68	1083
Upper Sheringham	0.50	0.21	0.00	0	0	198.67	0.82	0	0	217
Walcott	0.25	0.34	0.00	0	0	0	0.44	0	0	545
Walsingham	1.26	0	1.32	0.09	0.04	0	2.78	1.27	0.12	792
Warham	0	0.20	0.00	0	0	436.28	1.22	0	0	215
Wells-Next-the-Sea	4.89	1.35	0.57	0.21	0.05	215.32	2.44	9.98	2.93	2149
West Beckham	1.77	0.55	0.00	0.05	0	0.67	0.53	0	0	283
Westwick	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.03	0.35	0	0	248
Weybourne	0.55	2.05	0.00	0.11	0	51.30	0.58	0	0.10	505
Wickmere	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.43	0	0	159
Wighton	0	1.20	0.00	0.05	0	1.48	0.58	0	0	230
Witton	0	0	0.00	0	0	59.33	0.86	0	0	349

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)	2016 Population
Wiveton	0.12	0.34	0.00	0	0	6.93	0.59	0	0	118
Wood Norton	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.31	0	0	218
Worstead	0	0.00	1.73	0.19	0	0.08	1.04	0.31	0	972
District	58.03	121.66	65.63	10.04	1.19	3551.67	96.42	175.50	85.18	105671

Table 6 Existing provision of open space (ha/1000 population)

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)	2016 Population
Alby with Thwaite	0	0	0	0	0	74.48	1.68	6.48	0	260
Aldborough & Thurgarton	0.74	0.12	2.96	0.2	0.01	0	0.79	0	0	559
Antingham	0	0.55	0	0	0	0	1.73	2.4	0	357
Ashmanhaugh	0	1.25	0	0	0	0	3.27	0	6.08	168
Aylmerton	0	0	0	0	0	204.88	1.25	7.4	0	493
Baconsthorpe	5.19	0	0	0.48	0	0	2.21	0	0	218
Bacton	0.48	0	1.06	0.07	0	52.29	1.04	0.48	0.12	1147
Barsham	0.7	0.71	0	0.35	0	0	5.01	0	0	227
Barton Turf	0	2.99	0	0	0	334.5	1.86	0	3.98	449
Beeston Regis	0.68	1.44	0	0	0	38.8	0.49	5.01	3.44	1097
Binham	0	0	3.12	0.5	0	26.17	5.04	0	0	284
Blakeney	0	3.52	3.9	0.15	0.08	488.2	1.36	0.14	0.08	796
Bodham	0.93	0	0	0.18	0	89.25	1.06	0	3.51	494
Briningham	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.93	0	0	117
Brinton	0.67	0	0	0	0	0	2.36	0	0	204
Briston	0.64	1.83	1.11	0.04	0.09	0	0.25	1.43	0.06	2549
Brumstead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.65	0	0	354
Catfield	0	0.91	1.3	0.16	0	56.87	0.62	0.92	0	1000
Cley Next the Sea	4.96	2.79	0	0.27	0	118.11	1.79	0	0	411

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)	2016 Population
Colby	0	3.15	1.52	0.1	0	0.74	1.69	0.92	0.22	490
Corpusty and Saxthorpe	0.93	3.11	0	0.16	0	0	1.39	0.27	0.12	741
Cromer	0.04	1.41	0.34	0.09	0.01	1.94	0.51	0.88	0.42	7621
Dilham	0	0	3.48	0.18	0	0.36	1.3	0	0	317
Dunton	0	5.72	0	0	0	50.27	7.5	0	0	108
East Beckham	3.29	0	0	0	0	1.42	0	0	0	283
East Ruston	0	0	0	0	0	56.81	0.98	0.24	1.67	620
Edgefield	0	4.6	0	0.35	0	10.87	1.8	0	0	376
Erpingham	0	0	1.41	0.07	0.02	0.01	1.35	1.36	0.2	736
Fakenham	0.55	0.43	0.59	0.05	0.01	0.3	0.32	2.06	1.01	7785
Felbrigg	2.07	0.77	0	0	0	824.86	1.41	0	0	205
Felmingham	1.48	0	2.2	0.09	0	30.11	1.69	0	0.31	591
Field Dalling	0	0.64	0	0.24	0	0	3.71	0	0	297
Fulmodeston	0	0.42	0	0.15	0	0	1.31	0	5.27	431
Gimingham	4.16	0	3.27	0.09	0	0.03	1.16	0	0	519
Great Snoring	8.28	3.28	0	0	0	0	5.14	0	0.81	136
Gresham	0.49	0	3.02	0.32	0	0	0	1.9	0	436
Gunthorpe	0	0.63	0	0	0	15.07	3.48	0	0	238
Hanworth	0	87.89	0	0	0	0	2.15	0	0	156
Happisburgh	0.61	0	0	0.12	0	0	1.08	1.14	1.73	925
Helhoughton	0	26.82	0.35	0.53	0.02	0	1.33	0	0	431
Hempstead	0	1.28	0	0.05	0	47	1.59	0	0	189
Hempton	3.43	0.95	0	0.22	0	71.93	0.92	0	0.43	506
Hickling	0.95	0.18	2.61	0.06	0	0	0.99	0.55	0.17	987
High Kelling	0	4.65	0	0	0	0.15	0	0	11.14	507
Hindolveston	1.78	0	3.19	0.1	0	0	1.07	0	0.12	621
Hindringham	1.62	0	5.3	0.11	0.01	0	1.41	1.3	0	453
Holkham	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.61	0	0.29	210
Holt	0.85	0.29	0	0.04	0	28.32	0.46	11.53	1.25	3985

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)	2016 Population
Honing	0	0	0	0	0	277.06	2.22	0	0	333
Horning	1.25	0.52	1.04	0.13	0	11.02	0.56	0.43	0.11	1128
Horse	0	3.36	0	0.16	0	0	0.83	0	0	187
Hoveton	0	1.57	0.98	0.03	0	38.11	0.71	3.46	0.07	2049
Ingham	0	0	3.97	0	0	0	1.29	0	3.84	366
Ingworth	0	0	0	0.39	0	0	1.2	0	0	337
Itteringham	0	0	0	0	0	185.72	3.36	0	0	135
Kelling	0	2.75	0	0.3	0	647.81	4.1	3.3	0	187
Kettlestone	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.01	0	0	181
Knapton	3.28	0	0	0.08	0	54.16	1.16	0	12.35	399
Langham	0.57	0	2.52	0.06	0	0	1.36	1.9	0	387
Lessingham	0	0	0.24	0.06	0	0	0.99	0.31	0	560
Letheringsett with Glandford	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.68	0	0	224
Little Barningham	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.92	0	0	139
Little Snoring	0	0	2.19	0.08	0.02	0	0.82	0.99	0	602
Ludham	0.62	0.18	0.86	0.12	0	138.5	0.97	0.71	0.09	1303
Matlask	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.12	0	0	118
Melton Constable	3.63	0.61	0	0.21	0	0	0.99	0	0	658
Morston	0	1.27	0	0	0	1292.19	2.5	0	0	178
Mundesley	0	1.21	0.67	0.07	0.05	0.21	0.3	1.24	0.07	2694
Neatishead	0.31	1.1	0	0.18	0	19.96	1.19	0.9	0	541
North Walsham	0.03	0.23	0.69	0.09	0.01	0.84	0.35	1.78	0.42	12645
Northrepps	1.45	0	1.01	0.05	0.01	0	0.65	0.19	0	1102
Overstrand	0.03	0	0	0.06	0	0	0.79	0.98	1.3	974
Paston	0	0	0	2.03	0	0	2.28	0	0	240
Plumstead	0	2.85	0	0	0	0	1.59	0	0	138
Potter Heigham	0.66	0.2	1.15	0.06	0.01	11.4	0.79	0	0.13	1040
Pudding Norton	0	2.77	0	0	0	4.61	0	0	36.39	248
Raynham	0	58.9	0	0	0	0	4.26	2.11	0	294

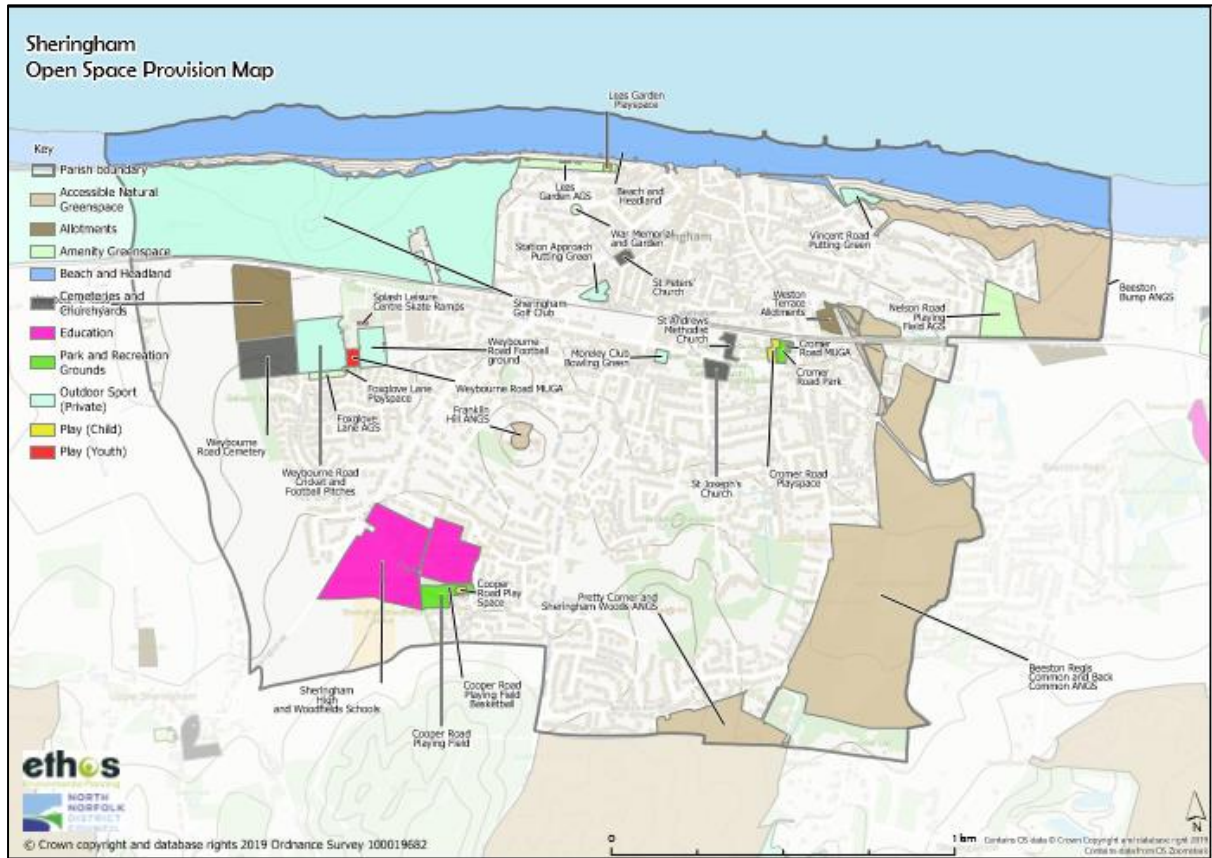
Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)	2016 Population
Roughton	0	1.03	0	0.14	0	0	0.72	0.79	0	947
Runton	2.43	1.48	0	0.2	0	28.57	0.38	0	1.42	1644
Ryburgh	0	0	2.72	0.55	0	0.84	1.04	0	0.36	662
Salthouse	0	3.64	0	0	0	597.85	3.16	0	0	160
Scottow	0	2.17	0	0.03	0.04	7.15	0.4	0	3.29	1785
Sculthorpe	1.54	0	0.5	0.15	0.01	17.66	3.4	0.16	0.41	711
Sea Palling	1.38	0	0	0.55	0	0.83	1.42	0	0	619
Sheringham	0.51	0.32	0.12	0.04	0.03	5.73	0.37	1.08	0.42	7421
Sidestrand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.64	28.24	0	227
Skeyton	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	238
Sloley	0	11.77	0	0	0	0	1.17	0	0	305
Smallburgh	0	0	0	0.34	0	0.12	1.77	0	3.19	532
Southrepps	0.32	0	0	0.48	0.01	14.26	1.12	0	1.78	872
Stalham	0.29	0.76	0.58	0.06	0.01	0	0.37	3.49	1.15	3269
Stibbard	0.98	0	0	0.11	0	0	1.79	4.13	0	329
Stiffkey	0.42	0	0	0	0	1044.78	2.78	0	8.44	199
Stody	0	3.75	0	0	0	17.69	3.59	0	0	188
Suffield	3.53	0	0	0	0	16.34	2.92	0	0	126
Sustead	0	0	0	0	0	1.31	3.8	0	0	214
Sutton	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.49	0.71	0	1185
Swafield	0	0	0	0	0	8.04	3	0	5.1	297
Swanton Abbott	0	0	0	0.19	0	20.99	0.79	1.72	0.32	541
Swanton Novers	0	2.25	0	0.09	0	0	1.36	0	0	237
Tattersett	0	0.32	0	0	0	1.6	0.53	4.22	0	997
Thornage	0	9.33	0	0	0	0	2.87	0	0	182
Thorpe Market	0	2.68	0	0.01	0	0	1.11	0	0	315
Thurning	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.1	0	0	270
Thursford	0.72	0	0	0	0	14.33	2.03	0	0	211
Trimingham	0	2.08	0	0.03	0	0	0.97	0	0	478
Trunch	0.99	0	1.33	0.11	0.01	0.06	0.71	0	0.09	956

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Outdoor Sport (Private)	2016 Population
Tunstead	0	0	1.18	0.14	0	0	0.89	0.61	0.63	1083
Upper Sheringham	2.29	0.98	0	0	0	915.54	3.76	0	0	217
Walcott	0.46	0.63	0	0	0	0	0.81	0	0	545
Walsingham	1.59	0	1.67	0.11	0.05	0	3.5	1.6	0.15	792
Warham	0	0.93	0	0	0	2029.2	5.68	0	0	215
Wells-Next-the-Sea	2.27	0.63	0.26	0.1	0.02	100.2	1.13	4.65	1.36	2149
West Beckham	6.25	1.96	0	0.18	0	2.38	1.87	0	0	283
Westwick	0	0	0	0	0	0.12	1.4	0	0	248
Weybourne	1.1	4.07	0	0.22	0	101.58	1.15	0	0.21	505
Wickmere	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.7	0	0	159
Wighton	0	5.21	0	0.21	0	6.43	2.54	0	0	230
Witton	0	0	0	0	0	169.99	2.47	0	0	349
Wiveton	1.01	2.88	0	0	0	58.73	5.01	0	0	118
Wood Norton	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.41	0	0	218
Worstead	0	0	1.78	0.2	0	0.08	1.07	0.32	0	972
District	0.55	1.15	0.62	0.1	0.01	33.61	0.91	1.66	0.81	105671

Maps showing provision by Parish

Appendix 1 provides a map for each of the Parishes within the Study Area, showing the provision of open space. An example map (Sheringham Parish) is shown in figure 4 below.

Figure 4 Example map showing existing provision of open space by Parish – Sheringham Parish (Appendix 1)



6.0 THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS

6.1 Introduction

Following the completion of the assessment of local needs (community and stakeholder consultation) and the audit of provision (the first two steps of this study), new standards of provision for open space are proposed below. This section explains how the standards for the Study Area have been developed and provides specific information and justification for each of the typologies where standards have been proposed.

The standards for open space have been developed in-line with the NPPF. Standards comprise the following components:

- **Quantity standards:** These are determined by the analysis of existing quantity, consideration of existing local and national standards and benchmarks and evidence gathered from the local needs assessment. It is important that quantity standards are locally derived and are realistic and achievable. The recommended standards need to be robust, evidence based and deliverable through new development and future mechanisms of contributions through on-site or off-site provision.
- **Accessibility standards:** These reflect the needs of all potential users including those with physical or sensory disabilities, young and older people alike. Spaces likely to be used on a frequent and regular basis need to be within easy walking distance and to have safe access. Other facilities where visits are longer but perhaps less frequent, for example country parks, can be further away. Consideration is also given to existing local or national standards and benchmarks. Access standards are expressed as wither walk times or straight-line distances. Table 2 provides the detail around the relationship between these i.e. what the walk times mean in terms of straight-line distances and the indicative pedestrian route.
- **Quality standards:** The standards for each form of provision are derived from the quality audit, existing good practice and from the views of the community and those that use the spaces. Again, quality standards should be achievable and reflect the priorities that emerge through consultation. The current financial climate (with large cutbacks in government funding to Local Authorities) means that achievable quality standards are key, and they are likely to vary depending on the geographical area.

The standards that have been proposed are for **minimum guidance levels of provision**. So, just because geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards does not mean there is a surplus, as all such provision may be well used.

6.2 Allotments

Table 7 Summary of new quantity and access standard for allotments

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.60 ha/1000 population	15 minutes' walk-time

Factors considered in the development of a new quantity standard for allotments:

Existing national or local standards

National standards for allotments and other such open spaces are difficult to find. The closest thing to such standards appears to be those set out by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG). These are as follows:

- Standard Plot Size = 330 sq yards (250sqm)
- Paths = 1.4m wide for disabled access
- Haulage ways = 3m wide
- Plot holders shed = 12sqm
- Greenhouse = 15sqm
- Polytunnel = 30sqm

The North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study (2006) set the following quantity standard for allotments:

- 0.64ha per 1000 population

Existing quantity of allotments

- The existing average level of provision across the Study Area is 0.55 ha/1000 population.
- The majority of Parishes with less than 500 people have no allotment provision (52 out of 71).

Consultation results

- 74% of all respondents from the household survey 'never' use allotments, meaning this is the least used type of open space. However, of those using allotments, 70% stated that they used them at least once a week.
- The household survey identified 45% of people who felt there should be more allotments, however, 53% felt there are enough;
- The need for more (and improved) allotments was identified by a number of Parish councils;
- The value of allotments (and other open spaces) in providing access to outdoor physical activity and associated benefits for health and wellbeing, both physical and mental is recognised by various agencies and organisations.

Justification of quantity standard for allotments

- Considering the above factors, a standard of 0.60ha/1000 population is considered to be justified. This is set slightly higher than the average level of provision across the study area (0.55ha/1000 population), to reflect the value of allotments highlighted within the consultation, the need for more provision highlighted by a number of parishes, and also the propensity for higher density new housing with smaller gardens is likely to increase demand.
- It is recommended that when assessing the existing provision of allotments, that this standard is only applied to Parishes with over 500 population, as if applied to Parishes with less than 500 people it will show shortfalls across the majority of the these Parishes which may not need to be addressed¹¹.
- However, when assessing the requirements for new provision e.g. from housing development, the quantity standard will be applied to all Parishes irrespective of their size (although the need for on-site provision would be determined based on the size of the development, and the existing provision of allotments within the vicinity – see Section 8).

Factors considered in the development of a new access standard for allotments:

Existing national or local standards

The North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study (2006) set the following access standard for allotments:

- All residents within the district to have an allotment within 2.5km of home.

Consultation results

- Responses received in relation to acceptable travel times to allotments from the household survey identified a mixed response, with 24% wanting allotments within 5 minutes, 21% between 6 to 10 minutes, 24% between 11 to 15 minutes; 19% between 16 to 20 minutes; and, 12% over 20 minutes.
- The majority (78%) of respondents suggested their preferred mode of transport would be walking.

Justification of access standard for allotments

- The results from the consultation suggest that people do not want to travel far to reach their allotment; however, it is considered that the availability of allotments is more important than having them very close to home, nevertheless there is some

¹¹ Although local information and demand will still need to be considered, as there may still be a need for allotments in rural Parishes with less than 500 people e.g. Stiffkey has a population of 199, but the Parish has identified a demand which is not currently met (see Section 4.5 of Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019)).

demand for facilities relatively nearby. Therefore, a standard of no more than 15 minutes' walk-time is justified.

Quality standard for allotments

The household survey identified that 32% of respondents thought that allotments were either good or very good quality, whereas 38% thought they were adequate, and 30% thought they were either poor or very poor. The need for improved allotments was identified by a number of Parish councils and the NNDC Countryside Team also highlight that some allotment plots/sites across the District are in poor condition and not well maintained.

Allotment sites were not subject to quality audits as part of this study, this was agreed by the project group as the majority of allotments are locked/not accessible.

Several, general recommendations are made in relation to quality, which should include the following:

- Well-drained soil which is capable of cultivation to a reasonable standard.
- A sunny, open aspect preferably on a southern facing slope.
- Limited overhang from trees and buildings either bounding or within the site.
- Adequate lockable storage facilities, and a good water supply within easy walking distance of individual plots.
- Provision for composting facilities.
- Secure boundary fencing.
- Good access within the site both for pedestrians and vehicles.
- Good vehicular access into the site and adequate parking and manoeuvring space.
- Disabled access.
- Toilets.
- Notice boards.

6.3 Amenity Green Space

Table 8 Summary of new quantity and access standard for amenity green space

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.0ha/1000 population	10 minutes' walk time

Factors considered in the development of a new quantity standard for amenity green space:

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (FIT) (Previously known as the National Playing Fields Association) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.6ha/1000 population of amenity green space. FIT recommend that the quantity guidelines are adjusted to take account of local circumstances.

The North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study (2006) did not set any standards for the provision of amenity green space. Nor did the Amenity Green Space Topic Paper (2018) set standards. However, NNDC has been applying a standard of 1.0ha per 1000 population.

Existing quantity of amenity green space

- Existing average level of provision in the Study Area is 1.15 ha/1000 population (for sites greater than 0.15 ha in size);
- Provision varies by Parish with some areas falling well below the average, and others exceeding it.
- The highest levels of provision are in the rural parishes (with less than 500 population) of Raynham, Helhoughton and Hanworth.

Consultation results

- The household survey identified that 47% of people felt there was a need for more informal open space areas, whilst 51% felt there was enough.

Justification of quantity standard for amenity green space

- Considering the above factors, a standard of 1.0 ha/1000 is considered justified, which is line with existing provision levels (the household survey did not provide any clear justification for increasing levels). A quantity standard based on the average level of provision across the Study Area is considered to be a reasonable figure to use, as some of the Parishes with larger areas of provision are balanced by those with no provision, and some amenity green space is expected in Parishes with even small populations.
- The standard set is slightly lower than the existing average level of provision, recognising the existing standard that NNDC use, the balance between parishes with no provision and parishes with high levels of provision, and the fact that the standard is already above the FIT benchmark guideline. It is considered that a standard of 1.0ha/1000 is justified and deliverable.
- Where a development would result in less than 0.15ha of amenity green space, it will be provided as a single space. This will avoid a proliferation of small amenity spaces which have no real recreation function.
- When delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the natural green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 2.50 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces, in accordance with the NPPF.

Factors considered in the development of a new access standard for amenity green space:

Existing national or local standards

FIT Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a walking distance guideline of 480m for amenity green space.

Consultation results

- Responses received in relation to acceptable travel times to informal open space from the household survey identified that people expect these spaces to be relatively close by, with 48% expecting informal open spaces to be within a 10 minute travel time (of which 29% expecting to travel no more than 5 minutes) and a further 32% expecting to travel no more than 15 minutes; and 13% expecting to travel no more than 20 minutes.
- The preferred mode of transport is by foot (70%).

Justification of access standard for amenity green space

- The FIT guidance and consultation results indicate that in general, people want amenity green spaces relatively close by, and therefore a standard of no more than 10 minutes' walk-time is justified.

Quality standard for amenity green space

The household survey revealed that the majority (45%) of respondents think that the quality of informal open space is generally adequate, with 40% rating it as either good or very good quality; and 15% rating it as poor or very poor.

The audit of provision as well as the consultation has identified the importance attached by local people to open space close to home. The value of 'amenity green space' must be recognised especially within housing areas, where it can provide important local opportunities for play, exercise and visual amenity that are almost immediately accessible. On the other hand, open space can be expensive to maintain and it is very important to strike the correct balance between having sufficient space to meet the needs of the community for accessible and attractive space, and having too much which would be impossible to manage properly and therefore a potential liability and source of nuisance. It is important that amenity green space should be capable of use for at least some forms of public recreation activity.

It is therefore recommended that in addition to avoiding the proliferation of small amenity spaces, that all amenity green space should be subject to landscape design, ensuring the following quality principles:

- Capable of supporting informal recreation such as a kickabout, space for dog walking or space to sit and relax;
 - Include high quality planting of native trees and/or shrubs to create landscape structure and biodiversity value;
 - Include paths along main desire lines (lit where appropriate);
 - Be designed to ensure easy maintenance.
-

6.4 Parks and Recreation Grounds

Table 9 Summary of new quantity and access standard for parks and recreation grounds

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.10 ha/1000 population	12-13 minutes' walk time

Factors considered in the development of a new quantity standard for parks and recreation grounds:

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (FIT) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.80ha/1000 population for parks and gardens. In addition to this they also recommend the following standards:

- Playing pitches: 1.20ha/1000 population
- All outdoor sports: 1.6ha/1000 population

The North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study (2006) set the following quantity standard for Public Parks:

- 1.34ha/1000 population

Existing quantity of parks and recreation grounds

- Existing average level of provision of parks and recreation grounds in the Study Area is 0.62 ha/1000 population;
- The large majority of Parishes with below 500 population have no provision (63 out of 71).
- The average level of provision in parishes with 500 population or above is 0.65 ha/1000 population.
- There is an additional 0.48ha/1000 of private outdoor sports space which is currently accessible to the public for informal use e.g. dog walking.

Consultation results

- The household survey identified that 68% of people felt there were enough parks and recreation grounds (compared to 32% who felt there was a need for more).
- The importance of providing and promoting access to parks and green spaces in relation to health and wellbeing is recognised by NNDC.

Justification of quantity standard for parks and recreation grounds

- The existing level of provision across the study area and within parishes with above 500 population (0.62 – 0.65ha/1000) is considered to be low, when comparing to

other local authorities (in Ethos' experience) and also against the FIT guidelines, and NNDC's existing standard for public parks (1.34ha/1000 population).

- However, the consultation indicates that the majority of households feel there are enough parks and recreation grounds. It is acknowledged that people may not make the distinction between public parks and private outdoor sports spaces that have public access and therefore the standard has been set through combining the average level of provision of parks and recreation grounds across the study area (0.62ha/1000) with the average level of provision of private outdoor sports space with public access (0.48ha/1000), which produces a standard of 1.10ha/1000 population.
- It is recommended that when assessing the existing provision of parks and recreation grounds, that this standard is only applied to Parishes with over 500 population, as if applied to Parishes with less than 500 people it will show shortfalls across the majority of the these Parishes which may not need to be addressed¹².
- However, when assessing the requirements for new provision e.g. from housing development, this quantity standard should be applied to all Parishes (although the need for on-site provision would be determined based on the size of the development, and the existing provision of park and recreation grounds within the vicinity).
- The recommended standards for this typology are intended to provide sufficient space for sports facilities, pitches and ancillary space e.g. footpaths, landscaping etc. The emerging PPS should be referred to for evidence relating to recommendations for playing pitch requirements and their provision¹³. The quantity standard is designed to be flexible so the local authority can make the case for what type of open space/facilities are required where there are multiple use opportunities for example, or where one use is needed more than another – this would be justified on the analysis of particular local circumstances and on a case-by-case basis.

Factors considered in the development of a new access standard for parks and recreation grounds:

Existing national or local standards

FIT Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a walking distance guideline of 710m for parks and gardens. In addition to this they also recommend the following standards:

- Playing pitches: a walking distance of 1,200m
- All outdoor sports: a walking distance of 1,200m

The North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study (2006) set the following access standard for Public Parks:

¹² However, these smaller Parishes would be expected have provision of amenity green space. There may also be instances where there are local aspirations for a park and recreation ground.

¹³ It should be noted that playing pitches are not only provided within parks and recreation grounds, and the parks and recreation grounds typology/standard therefore will only accommodate a proportion of the requirements for new pitches.

- All residents within the seven main towns and Hoveton should have access within 400m of home. People living outside the main towns and Hoveton should have access within 800m of home.

Consultation results

- Responses received in relation to acceptable travel times to park and recreation grounds from the household survey identified a mix in responses, with 21% of people wanting facilities to be within a 5 minute travel time; 32% between 6 and 10 minutes; 30% between 11 and 15 minutes; and 16% over 16 minutes. This indicates that people do not want to travel too far to reach their park and recreation ground, however, it is considered that the availability of park and recreation grounds is more important than having them very close to home.
- The preferred mode of transport indicated by the household survey is by foot (81%).

Justification of access standard for park and recreation grounds

- Based on the results of the consultation and considering the existing access standards and FIT guidance, a standard of no more than 12-13 minutes' walk-time is justified. This equates to 624m straight line (see table 2) and therefore falls within the range of the 2006 study access standard for public parks and is slightly less than the FIT standard.
- Access to private outdoor sports facilities (where permissive public access is allowed), is also included within the access analysis – although it is noted that the permissive access could change at any time.

Quality standards for park and recreation grounds

70% of respondents from the household survey felt that the quality of parks and recreation grounds is either good or very good; 24% felt them adequate; and 6% poor or very poor. The NNDC Countryside Team also recognise that the quality of parks and recreation grounds is variable, with some that are in need of improvement.

National guidance relevant to this typology is provided in the 'Green Flag' quality standard for parks which sets out benchmark criteria for quality open spaces. For outdoor sports space, Sport England have produced a wealth of useful documents outlining the quality standards for facilities such as playing pitches, changing rooms, MUGAs and tennis courts plus associated ancillary facilities. The Rugby Football Union have provided guidance on the quality and standard of provision of facilities for rugby, and the England and Wales Cricket Board have provided guidance for cricket facilities. It is recommended that the guidance provided in these documents is adopted by the Councils, and that all new and improved provision seeks to meet these guidelines.

6.5 Play Space (children and youth)

Table 10 Summary of new quantity and access standards for play space

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Children's Play Space	0.10ha/1000	10 minutes' walk time
Youth Play Space	0.06ha/1000	15 minutes' walk time

Factors considered in the development of new quantity standards for play space:

Existing National and Local Policies

The FIT guidance 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' recommends provision of 0.25ha/1000 population of equipped/designated play areas. The guidance does not specifically cover the needs of most teenagers.

The previous FIT guidance (The Six Acre Standard) recommended provision of 0.8 hectares per 1000 people for children's play of which around 0.3 hectares should be equipped provision. These standards have been criticised because they are often seen as undeliverable. Criticism of the FIT guidance and its precursor also has highlighted the creation of large numbers of very small equipped play spaces which have relatively limited 'play value' and are very expensive to maintain in the longer term. They also set unrealistic aspirations in urban areas where insufficient land is available to provide facilities: especially higher density development on brownfield sites. The level recommended within the new guidance (0.25 ha/1000 population), although lower than previously, is still considered to be high and difficult to deliver (this is in our experience).

The following minimum size guidelines and buffers are recommended by FIT:

Playable space (LAP type - need not be equipped)

1. Minimum active playable space of 100 sq m (need not be equipped).
2. Buffer zone of 5m minimum depth between the active playable space and the nearest dwelling

Equipped play area (LEAP type)

1. Minimum activity zone area of 400 sq m.
2. Buffer zone of not less than 10m in depth between the edge of the equipped activity zone and the boundary of the nearest dwelling and a minimum of 20m between the equipped activity zone and the habitable room facade of the dwelling.

Teen Play including a MUGA (NEAP type)

1. Minimum activity zone area of 1000 sq m divided into two parts; one part containing a range of playground equipment; and the other a hard surface MUGA of at least 465 sq m.

2. Buffer zone of not less than 30m in depth between the activity zone and the boundary of the nearest dwelling. A greater distance may be needed where purpose built skateboarding facilities are provided.

The North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study (2006) set the following quantity standard for provision for children and young people:

- 0.8ha per 1000 population

Existing quantity of play space

- Current average levels of provision of children’s play space is 0.10 ha/1000 population, for youth space this is 0.01 ha/1000 population;
- For children’s play space, many of the very rural parishes (with below 300 population) have no provision (38 out of 48 parishes);
- For youth play space only one parish (Helhoughton) with less than 500 population has youth provision.

Consultation results

- The household survey identified that 40% of people felt there was a need for more children’s play areas (compared to 60% who felt there are enough); whereas for facilities for teenagers 64% felt there was a need for more (compared to 32% who felt there are enough);
- As part of the consultation the general view of stakeholders is that there is sufficient provision generally for children, but not for young people.

Justification of quantity standards for play space

- In a largely rural area like North Norfolk, where there are many small settlements and populations, it can be difficult to justify provision bespoke to any particular age group. As a consequence, it is not considered appropriate to classify existing play provision in accordance with the FIT hierarchy approach (of LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs), but instead using a single standard for children’s play space which provides more flexibility and opportunity for creative play design.
 - For children’s play space It is recommended that the standard for children’s play space is set at 0.1ha/1000, in line with the existing level of provision across the Study Area. This is higher the current 2006 standard but falls below the FIT standard, however it is justified as it is based on the average levels of provision and results of the consultation.
 - It is recommended that when assessing the existing provision of children’s play space, that this standard is only applied to Parishes with over 300 population, as if applied to Parishes with less than 300 people it will show shortfalls across the majority of the
-

these Parishes which may not need to be addressed (currently only 10 out of 48 Parishes with less than 300 population have provision of a children’s play space)¹⁴.

- However, when assessing the requirements for new provision, e.g. from housing development, this standard should be applied to all Parishes (although the need for on-site provision would be determined based on the size of the development, and the existing provision of children’s play space within the vicinity).
- The minimum size acceptable for a children’s play space is 0.01ha (100 sq m), in line with the FIT recommendation for a LAP type play space.
- For youth play space, it is recommended that the standard is set higher than the existing level of provision (there is a clear need for additional provision for youth identified within the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019)).
- A standard of 0.06ha/1000 is considered appropriate for youth play space, considering the deliverability of facilities from different development sizes e.g. a 200 dwelling development would result in a minimum requirement of 0.027ha (270sqm) of youth play space (something like a half MUGA or small skate area).
- It is recommended that when assessing the existing provision of youth play space, that this standard is only applied to Parishes with over 500 population, as if applied to Parishes with less than 500 people it will show shortfalls across the majority of the these Parishes which may not need to be addressed¹⁵ (there is only one Parish with less than 500 people that has youth provision).
- However, when assessing the requirements for new provision, e.g. from housing development, this standard should be applied to all Parishes (although the need for on-site provision would be determined based on the size of the development, and the existing provision of youth play space within the vicinity).
- It should be reiterated that these are **minimum standards for equipped provision** and **do not include the need for surrounding playable space** as recommended by FIT¹⁶ and Play England¹⁷ i.e. this surrounding playable space will need to be provided in addition to the quantity standard.

Factors considered in the development of new access standards for play space:

Existing national or local standards

The FIT guidance ‘Beyond the Six Acre Standard’ recommends a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).

The North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study (2006) set the following access standards for provision for children and young people:

¹⁴ Although, as noted for allotments and parks and recreation grounds, there may be aspirations/a need identified within smaller Parishes to provide a children’s play space.

¹⁵ Although, as noted for allotments and parks and recreation grounds, there may be aspirations/a need identified within smaller Parishes to provide youth play space.

¹⁶ Fields in Trust Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play, Beyond the Six Acre Standard – sets out guidance on buffer zones, which should be well designed to enhance play vale and landscape setting.

¹⁷ Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces

- All residents in main towns and Hoveton should have access within 400m of home. Residents living in rural areas should have access within 800m of home.

Consultation results

- The household survey identified that for children’s play space 55% of people want facilities within 10 minutes (18% within 5 minutes); 35% between 11 and 15 minutes; and, and only 10% would want to travel more than 16 minutes. For teenage facilities 47% of people wanted facilities within 10 minutes (14% within 5 minutes); 35% between 11 and 15 minutes; and, 28% were prepared to travel further than 16 minutes.
- For both children’s and youth provision the majority (88% and 83% consecutively) of respondents said they prefer to walk, although it is acknowledged that youth can walk further.

Justification of access standards for play

Based on the results of the consultation and considering the existing access standards and FIT guidance, the following access standards have been set:

- Children’s provision - 10 minutes’ walk-time.
- Youth Provision - 15 minutes’ walk-time.

Quality standards for play space

Children’s play spaces were considered to be good or very good quality by 58% of respondents of the household survey, whereas 34% felt they were adequate quality. (9% said they were either poor or very poor quality). 43% felt that facilities for teenagers were average quality; only 23% felt that they were of good or very good quality. Conversely 30% felt that quality was poor.

In terms of the wider consultation it is fair to say that there was a mixed view in respect of the quality of facilities. Whilst there was a view that overall quality of the stock is of a good standard, Town and Parish Councils and several groups and organisations suggest specific facilities which could be improved (see Section 5 of Community and Stakeholder Consultation report).

It is expected that the design of play would take a landscape design approach (designed to fit its surroundings and enhance the local environment), incorporating play into the overall landscape masterplan for new development, and could include natural play e.g. grassy mounds, planting, logs, and boulders can all help to make a more attractive and playable setting for equipment, and planting can also help attract birds and other wildlife to literally bring the play space alive. In densely populated urban areas with little or no natural or green space, this more natural approach can help ‘soften’ an urban landscape.

The challenge for play providers is to create play spaces which will attract children, capture their imagination and give them scope to play in new, more exciting, and more creative ways

e.g. moving away from fencing play areas (where it is safe to do so), so that the equipment is integrated with its setting, making it feel more inviting to explore and so people are free to use the space without feeling restricted.

Play England are keen to see a range of play spaces in all urban environments:

- A** Door-step spaces close to home
- B** Local play spaces – larger areas within easy walking distance
- C** Neighbourhood spaces for play – larger spaces within walking distance
- D** Destination/family sites – accessible by bicycle, public transport and with car parking.

Moving forward, Play England would like their new Design Guide; *'Design for Play'* to be referenced and added as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in standard configuration. Play England have also developed a *'Quality Assessment Tool'* which can be used to judge the quality of individual play spaces. It has been recommended that the Council considers adopting this as a means of assessing the quality of play spaces in their District. Play England also highlight a potential need for standards for smaller settlements and rural areas where the doorstep, local, neighbourhood, and destination hierarchy is unlikely to be appropriate.

Disability access is also an important issue for Play England, and they would like local authorities to adopt the KIDS¹⁸ publication; *'Inclusion by Design'* as an SPD. Their most recent guidance document, *'Better Places to Play through Planning'* gives detailed guidance on setting local standards for access, quantity and quality of playable space and is considered as a background context for the standards suggested in this study.

6.6 Accessible Natural Green Space

Table 11 Summary of new quantity and access standard for accessible natural green space

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.5 ha/1000 population (for new provision only)	20 minutes' walk time and ANGSt Standards

Factors considered in the development of a new quantity standard for accessible natural green space:

Existing National and Local standards

Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt):

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live should have accessible natural greenspace:

¹⁸ KIDS, is a charity which in its 40 years, has pioneered a number of approaches and programmes for disabled children and young people. KIDS was established in 1970 and in 2003, KIDS merged with KIDSACTIVE, previously known as the Handicapped Adventure Play Association.

- Of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of 1 hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

The FIT recommended quantity guideline for natural and semi-natural green space is 1.8ha/1000 population.

The North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study (2006) set the following quantity standard for natural green space:

- 1.0ha per 1000 population

Existing quantity of accessible natural green space

- The existing level of provision across the Study Area is 33.61 ha/1000 population;
- Provision varies by Parish, with some Parishes falling well below this level and some far exceeding this level of provision.
- However, when considering the provision of smaller/more localised natural green space only (i.e. removing large/strategic sites above 10ha), the average level of provision is 1.5ha/1000 population.

Consultation results

- The household survey suggested that 57% used some form of natural greenspace at least weekly (including 21% who used it almost daily).
- The household survey identified that 51% felt there is a need for more woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves, compared to 49% who felt there are enough.

Quantity standards for accessible natural green space

- Setting a standard for new provision in line with the existing average level of provision across the Study Area would not be achievable or deliverable;
 - However, the importance of natural green spaces is recognised not only in their contribution to recreation and health and wellbeing, but also importantly in terms of Green Infrastructure and nature conservation/biodiversity.
 - It is therefore recommended that a standard of 1.5ha/1000 population is used for assessing the requirements for new provision through development. This is higher than the 2006 standard (1.0ha/1000), but lower than the FIT guidance (1.8ha/1000) and is based on the average level of provision when larger/more strategic sites (above 10 ha) are removed from the analysis.
 - This is considered to be realistic and achievable in terms of new provision and will ensure that natural green space is provided in areas of most need.
-

- In terms of analysing existing provision, the ANGSt standards will be applied, in addition to a locally derived access standard (see below), to identify where the key gaps in access to provision are.
- As already mentioned under the quantity standard for amenity green space, when delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the amenity green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 2.50 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces, in accordance with the NPPF.

Factors considered in the development of a new access standard for accessible natural green space:

Existing National and Local standards

Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) as set out within the quantity section above.

The FIT recommended walking guideline for natural and semi-natural green space is 720m.

The North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study (2006) did not set an access standard for natural green space, but it stated that efforts should be made where possible to improve access to open space.

Consultation results

- The household survey identified 26% want woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves within 10 minutes travel time (13% within 5 minutes). 27% within 11 and 15 minutes. The remaining 47% were prepared to travel at least 16 minutes.
- The preferred mode of travel was walking (50%) but driving accounted for 44%.

Justification of access standards for natural green space

- The results of the household survey indicate that people are generally willing to travel further to access this type of open space compared to other typologies, and therefore a standard of 20 minutes' walk-time is recommended. This is above the FIT recommended walking guideline but is justified by the results of the consultation.
- It is also recommended that the ANGSt standards are applied to analyse key gaps in provision against these standards.

Quality standards for natural green space

47% of household respondents rated the quality of natural green space as either good or very good. 29% thought it to be adequate; and, 14% either poor or very poor.

This suggests that the provision of new or improved open space cannot be considered in isolation from the means of maintaining such space, perceptions of antisocial behaviour, and ease of access from within the surrounding environment.

The shape and size of space provided should allow for meaningful and safe recreation. Provision might be expected to include (as appropriate) elements of woodland, wetland, heathland and meadow, and could also be made for informal public access through recreation corridors. For larger areas, where car-borne visits might be anticipated, some parking provision will be required. The larger the area the more valuable sites will tend to be in terms of their potential for enhancing local conservation interest and biodiversity. Wherever possible these sites should be linked to help improve their wildlife value and Green Infrastructure functionality as part of a network.

The wider consultation suggested a view that, whilst it might be difficult to create natural greenspace ‘from new’ in urban areas, there is scope to alter the way in which many existing spaces are managed, so offering a more natural ambience, and encouraging ecological and habitat diversity. In areas where it may be impossible or inappropriate to provide additional natural green space consistent with the standard, other approaches should be pursued which could include (for example):

- Changing the management of marginal space on playing fields and parks to enhance biodiversity.
- Encouraging living green roofs as part of new development/ redevelopment.
- Encouraging the creation of native mixed species hedgerows.
- Additional use of long grass management regimes.
- Improvements to watercourses and water bodies.
- Innovative use of new drainage schemes / Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
- Use of native trees and plants with biodiversity value in high quality soft landscaping of new developments.

The above should in any event be principles to be pursued and encouraged at all times.

Protecting, creating, enhancing and retrofitting natural and semi-natural features in our urban environments is a cost-effective and win-win approach to delivering positive outcomes for people and wildlife. The new **Building with Nature**¹⁹ benchmark quality standards for the design and delivery of GI could be advocated by the council.

¹⁹ <https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/about>

6.7 Summary of open space quantity and access standards

Table 12 Summary of open space quantity and access standards²⁰

Typology	Quantity standards for existing provision and new provision (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.60	15 minutes' walk-time
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.15 ha)	1.0	10 minutes' walk time
Park and Recreation Grounds	1.1	12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	0.10	10 minutes' walk-time
Play Space (Youth)	0.06	15 minutes' walk-time
Natural Green Space	1.5 (for new provision only)	20 minutes' walk-time and ANGSt Standards
Total for new provision	4.36 ha/1000	

²⁰ In addition to these open space standards, the PPS sets out the requirements for playing pitches.

7.0 APPLYING LOCAL STANDARDS

7.1 Introduction

This part of the report uses the recommended standards to analyse open space provision across the Study Area. This section provides an overview of provision and supply across the Study Area and individual Parishes, with more detailed maps provided in Appendix 1, 2 and 3. This section includes:

Quantity analysis

The quantity of provision is assessed using the recommended quantity standards for each of the typologies where a quantity standard has been developed. Recommended standards are expressed as hectares of open space per 1000 population.

The quantity assessment looks at the existing levels of provision, then uses the recommended standard to assess the required level of provision. From this a calculation is made of the supply, which will either be sufficient or insufficient. Within this section, levels of provision are provided by Study Area, local authority, and Parish.

Open space provision maps by Parish are provided at Appendix 1.

Access analysis

This section of the report provides analysis of the recommended access standards for each typology across the Study Area. The maps and analysis in this section are intended to be indicative, providing an overall picture of provision and highlighting any key issues across the Study Area.

However, the key to access analysis, is understanding the picture at a more localised level, therefore, maps showing local access provision by Parish are included at Appendix 2.

Quality analysis

This section of the report makes analysis of each typology across the Study Area – it highlights any common themes or issues that have arisen from the consultation and provides a summary of the quality audit results at the Study Area level. The detailed quality audits have been provided to the Council as part of the GIS database, and maps by Parish are provided at Appendix 3 which show the ranking of each open space audited (good, average or poor).

7.2 Application of quantity standards

7.2.1 Current supply against the standards

Table 13 below show the existing supply of open space for each typology by Parish and at the District level. The supply is calculated using the population figures for each of the geographies (ONS 2016 mid-year estimates), and the quantity of open space compared to what the requirements for open space are against the new standards, summarised in Table 12.

Positive figures show where the Study Area/Parishes meet the quantity standard for the open space typology, and negative figures show where there is a shortfall in supply against the quantity standard.

Although these figures highlight where there are shortfalls in supply against the quantity standards and therefore where new provision should be sought, in many cases new provision will not be achievable (unless, for example, through new development). These figures can help inform decisions about the form of new open spaces and improvements to existing open spaces, rather than it being imperative that every Parish must achieve a ‘+’ number.

As already discussed within the development of standards (Section 6), for certain open space typologies, within North Norfolk it may not be expected that the quantity standards for provision are met within the more rural Parishes. This applies to Parishes with less than 500 population for allotments, parks and recreation grounds and youth play space, and Parishes with less than 300 population for children’s play space (as the quantity analysis shows that the majority of Parishes with these lower populations do not generally have these typologies of open space²¹). **Therefore, for those rural Parishes and particular open space typologies, the cells in Table 13 below have been greyed out to indicate where the standard may not be expected to be met.**

Therefore, when considering the supply/provision of open space within Parishes with less than 500 people, the provision could be met by either a park and recreation ground or amenity green space, and a children’s play space (for Parishes with over 300 population) e.g. in the Parish of Barton Turf, which has a population of 449, Table 13 below shows that there are shortfalls in all typologies of open space with the exception of amenity green space. However, because the Parish population is less than 500, the provision of the amenity green space is considered to meet the required standard, however there is a shortfall in the provision of children’s play space (there is no provision within the Parish or access to provision in neighbouring areas against the standard).

For some of the smallest Parishes (e.g. Parishes with around 100-200 people), it would not necessarily be expected that any of the open space typologies below are provided e.g. In the

²¹ This is not to say that there should not be provision within these more rural Parishes (in fact there are a number of Parishes with less than 300 people with children’s play provision), but it helps to focus in identifying the key areas where there are shortfalls. However, it is recognised that local communities may have a need for new provision or improvements to open spaces (of any kind), in their Parish, irrespective of the population and the analysis within this assessment.

Parish of Briningham, the only typology provided is cemeteries and churchyards, and therefore there are shortfalls in all typologies of open space below – however due to the very small population, it may not be possible to provide any other open space.

Table 13 Open space supply (ha) by Parish and Study Area

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	2016 Population
Alby with Thwaite	-0.16	-0.26	-0.29	-0.03	-0.02	260
Aldborough & Thurgarton	0.08	-0.49	1.04	0.05	-0.02	559
Antingham	-0.21	-0.16	-0.39	-0.04	-0.02	357
Ashmanhaugh	-0.10	0.04	-0.18	-0.02	-0.01	168
Aylmerton	-0.30	-0.49	-0.54	-0.05	-0.03	493
Baconsthorpe	1.00	-0.22	-0.24	0.08	-0.01	218
Bacton	-0.13	-1.15	-0.04	-0.03	-0.07	1147
Barsham	0.02	-0.07	-0.25	0.06	-0.01	227
Barton Turf	-0.27	0.89	-0.49	-0.04	-0.03	449
Beeston Regis	0.08	0.48	-1.21	-0.11	-0.07	1097
Binham	-0.17	-0.28	0.57	0.11	-0.02	284
Blakeney	-0.48	2.00	2.22	0.04	0.02	796
Bodham	0.16	-0.49	-0.54	0.04	-0.03	494
Briningham	-0.07	-0.12	-0.13	-0.01	-0.01	117
Brinton	0.02	-0.20	-0.22	-0.02	-0.01	204
Briston	0.11	2.11	0.02	-0.16	0.09	2549
Brumstead	-0.21	-0.35	-0.39	-0.04	-0.02	354
Catfield	-0.60	-0.09	0.20	0.06	-0.06	1000
Cley Next the Sea	1.79	0.74	-0.45	0.07	-0.02	411
Colby	-0.29	1.05	0.20	0.00	-0.03	490
Corpusty and Saxthorpe	0.25	1.56	-0.82	0.05	-0.04	741
Cromer	-4.25	3.10	-5.78	-0.07	-0.41	7621
Dilham	-0.19	-0.32	0.75	0.03	-0.02	317
Dunton	-0.06	0.51	-0.12	-0.01	-0.01	108
East Beckham	0.76	-0.28	-0.31	-0.03	-0.02	283
East Ruston	-0.37	-0.62	-0.68	-0.06	-0.04	620
Edgefield	-0.23	1.35	-0.41	0.09	-0.02	376
Erpingham	-0.44	-0.74	0.23	-0.02	-0.03	736
Fakenham	-0.35	-2.89	-3.98	-0.42	-0.37	7785
Felbrigg	0.30	-0.05	-0.23	-0.02	-0.01	205
Felmingham	0.52	-0.59	0.65	-0.01	-0.04	591
Field Dalling	-0.18	-0.11	-0.33	0.04	-0.02	297
Fulmodeston	-0.26	-0.25	-0.47	0.02	-0.03	431
Gimingham	1.85	-0.52	1.13	0.00	-0.03	519
Great Snoring	1.05	0.31	-0.15	-0.01	-0.01	136
Gresham	-0.05	-0.44	0.84	0.10	-0.03	436
Gunthorpe	-0.14	-0.09	-0.26	-0.02	-0.01	238
Hanworth	-0.09	13.55	-0.17	-0.02	-0.01	156
Happisburgh	0.01	-0.93	-1.02	0.02	-0.06	925

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	2016 Population
Helhoughton	-0.26	11.13	-0.32	0.19	-0.02	431
Hempstead	-0.11	0.05	-0.21	-0.01	-0.01	189
Hempton	1.44	-0.03	-0.56	0.06	-0.03	506
Hickling	0.35	-0.81	1.49	-0.04	-0.06	987
High Kelling	-0.30	1.85	-0.56	-0.05	-0.03	507
Hindolveston	0.73	-0.62	1.30	0.00	-0.04	621
Hindringham	0.47	-0.45	1.90	0.00	-0.03	453
Holkham	-0.13	-0.21	-0.23	-0.02	-0.01	210
Holt	0.99	-2.84	-4.38	-0.23	-0.24	3985
Honing	-0.20	-0.33	-0.37	-0.03	-0.02	333
Horning	0.73	-0.54	-0.06	0.04	-0.07	1128
Horse	-0.11	0.44	-0.21	0.01	-0.01	187
Hoveton	-1.23	1.16	-0.25	-0.14	-0.12	2049
Ingham	-0.22	-0.37	1.05	-0.04	-0.02	366
Ingworth	-0.20	-0.34	-0.37	0.10	-0.02	337
Itteringham	-0.08	-0.14	-0.15	-0.01	-0.01	135
Kelling	-0.11	0.32	-0.21	0.04	-0.01	187
Kettlestone	-0.11	-0.18	-0.20	-0.02	-0.01	181
Knapton	1.07	-0.40	-0.44	-0.01	-0.02	399
Langham	-0.01	-0.39	0.55	-0.02	-0.02	387
Lessingham	-0.34	-0.56	-0.49	-0.03	-0.03	560
Letheringsett with Glandford	-0.13	-0.22	-0.25	-0.02	-0.01	224
Little Barningham	-0.08	-0.14	-0.15	-0.01	-0.01	139
Little Snoring	-0.36	-0.60	0.66	-0.01	-0.03	602
Ludham	0.03	-1.07	-0.30	0.02	-0.08	1303
Matlask	-0.07	-0.12	-0.13	-0.01	-0.01	118
Melton Constable	2.00	-0.26	-0.72	0.07	-0.04	658
Morston	-0.11	0.05	-0.20	-0.02	-0.01	178
Mundesley	-1.62	0.58	-1.16	-0.07	-0.03	2694
Neatishead	-0.15	0.06	-0.60	0.05	-0.03	541
North Walsham	-7.20	-9.75	-5.14	-0.17	-0.67	12645
Northrepps	0.93	-1.10	-0.10	-0.06	-0.06	1102
Overstrand	-0.55	-0.97	-1.07	-0.04	-0.06	974
Paston	-0.14	-0.24	-0.26	0.47	-0.01	240
Plumstead	-0.08	0.25	-0.15	-0.01	-0.01	138
Potter Heigham	0.06	-0.84	0.06	-0.04	-0.05	1040
Pudding Norton	-0.15	0.44	-0.27	-0.02	-0.01	248
Raynham	-0.18	17.03	-0.32	-0.03	-0.02	294
Roughton	-0.57	-0.95	-0.06	0.03	-0.06	947
Runton	3.00	0.79	-1.81	0.06	-0.10	1644
Ryburgh	-0.40	-0.66	1.07	0.29	-0.04	662
Salthouse	-0.10	0.42	-0.18	-0.02	-0.01	160
Scottow	-1.07	2.08	-1.96	-0.12	-0.04	1785
Sculthorpe	0.66	-0.71	-0.43	0.04	-0.03	711
Sea Palling	0.49	-0.62	-0.68	0.28	-0.04	619

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	2016 Population
Sheringham	-0.65	-5.02	-7.25	-0.46	-0.23	7421
Sidestrand	-0.14	-0.23	-0.25	-0.02	-0.01	227
Skeyton	-0.14	-0.24	-0.26	-0.02	-0.01	238
Sloley	-0.18	3.28	-0.34	-0.03	-0.02	305
Smallburgh	-0.32	-0.53	-0.59	0.13	-0.03	532
Southrepps	-0.24	-0.87	-0.96	0.33	-0.04	872
Stalham	-1.00	-0.78	-1.69	-0.15	-0.16	3269
Stibbard	0.12	-0.33	-0.36	0.01	-0.02	329
Stiffkey	-0.04	-0.20	-0.22	-0.02	-0.01	199
Stody	-0.11	0.52	-0.21	-0.02	-0.01	188
Suffield	0.36	-0.13	-0.14	-0.01	-0.01	126
Sustead	-0.13	-0.21	-0.24	-0.02	-0.01	214
Sutton	-0.71	-1.19	-1.30	-0.12	-0.07	1185
Swafeld	-0.18	-0.30	-0.33	-0.03	-0.02	297
Swanton Abbott	-0.32	-0.54	-0.60	0.05	-0.03	541
Swanton Novers	-0.14	0.29	-0.26	0.00	-0.01	237
Tattersett	-0.60	-0.68	-1.10	-0.10	-0.06	997
Thornage	-0.11	1.52	-0.20	-0.02	-0.01	182
Thorpe Market	-0.19	0.52	-0.35	-0.03	-0.02	315
Thurning	-0.16	-0.27	-0.30	-0.03	-0.02	270
Thursford	0.02	-0.21	-0.23	-0.02	-0.01	211
Trimingham	-0.29	0.51	-0.53	-0.04	-0.03	478
Trunch	0.37	-0.96	0.22	0.01	-0.05	956
Tunstead	-0.65	-1.08	0.09	0.04	-0.06	1083
Upper Sheringham	0.37	-0.01	-0.24	-0.02	-0.01	217
Walcott	-0.08	-0.21	-0.60	-0.05	-0.03	545
Walsingham	0.78	-0.79	0.45	0.01	-0.01	792
Warham	-0.13	-0.02	-0.24	-0.02	-0.01	215
Wells-Next-the-Sea	3.60	-0.80	-1.79	0.00	-0.08	2149
West Beckham	1.60	0.27	-0.31	0.02	-0.02	283
Westwick	-0.15	-0.25	-0.27	-0.02	-0.01	248
Weybourne	0.25	1.54	-0.56	0.06	-0.03	505
Wickmere	-0.10	-0.16	-0.17	-0.02	-0.01	159
Wighton	-0.14	0.97	-0.25	0.03	-0.01	230
Witton	-0.21	-0.35	-0.38	-0.03	-0.02	349
Wiveton	0.05	0.22	-0.13	-0.01	-0.01	118
Wood Norton	-0.13	-0.22	-0.24	-0.02	-0.01	218
Worstead	-0.58	-0.97	0.66	0.09	-0.06	972
District	-5.37	15.99	-50.61*	-0.53	-5.15	105671

**There are large shortfalls in parks and recreation grounds against the quantity standard. Whilst this shortfall highlights the issue in the local authority area, it also highlights the importance of private outdoor sports space. There is a total of 85.18ha (0.81ha/1000 population) of private outdoor sports space, of which 51.10ha (0.48ha/1000 population) have public access (in 2019). Private outdoor sports space with public access (e.g. for dog walking)*

is present in the following Parishes: Barton Turf, Bodham, Cromer, East Ruston, Fakenham, Fulmodeston, Happisburgh, High Kelling, Holt, Ingham, Knapton, North Walsham, Overstrand, Scottow, Sheringham, Smallburgh, Southrepps, Stiffkey and Swafield. Access to private outdoor sports space with public access is covered in Section 7.3 below.

Table 13 shows that against the new quantity standards (summarised in Table 12), the supply of open space varies across Parishes and typologies, with some meeting the standards and some falling below. At the District level, there are shortfalls in the supply of all typologies with the exception of amenity green space.

These will be important considerations when determining the need for on-site open space as part of new development²².

It is important that the supply figures are not considered in isolation, as the access and quality results are equally important (see examples in Table 18, Section 8.4).

Just because a typology is in sufficient supply, this does not mean it is ‘surplus’ to requirements, as the access and quantity standards also need to be considered alongside the quantity requirements. There may also be other factors such as a sites nature conservation, historic or cultural value, or it’s contribution to the Green Infrastructure network which mean it should be protected.

7.2.2 Future need for open space

This section of the report considers the implications for open space provision from the predicted population growth resulting from proposed emerging housing allocations (not including any completions from 2016-2019, or commitments, as these will have already been accounted for), and uses the average household size of 2.3 persons (as agreed by the project team).

The proposed emerging allocations in the Local Plan amount to 4924 dwellings, in addition a further 2,295 dwellings will come forward as windfall over the entire plan period. These were the most up-to-date figures at the time of writing (following the monitoring period 31/03/2019) and update the figures in the Local Plan which are to a point in time 30 January 2019. Using the average household size of 2.3 persons, this will result in a household population of 16,604.

The figures for open space requirements in table 14 below are for indicative purposes - the calculations are based on all open space being provided on site, which may not be the reality in some cases, as consideration of the individual development size and proximity to existing open space needs to be taken into account (see Section 8).

²² In areas where there are existing open space deficiencies, it will help identify the need for on-site provision of open space, however, new developments cannot be required to address existing deficiencies i.e. provide additional open space over what is required against the tests in Regulation 122 of the CIL Regulations 2010.

Table 14 Future open space requirements

Typology	Required standard for new provision (ha/1000)	Requirement for 16,604 people (Hectares)
Allotments	0.60	9.96
Amenity Green Space	1.0	16.60
Parks and Recreation Grounds	1.10	18.26
Play Space (Children)	0.10	1.66
Play Space (Youth)	0.06	1.0
Natural Green Space	1.5	24.91
Total		72.39

Appendix 4 provides further detail around the application of the new open space standards (quantity, accessibility and quality) for two allocated sites in North Walsham.

More detail around the application of the open space standards and a recommended costings methodology for open space provision/contributions is provided in Section 8 of this report.

The efficacy of standards will depend heavily on the way that they are applied to new housing development. Here are some important and interrelated principles:

- An inability to provide sufficient quantity might be at least partly compensated for through better quality and access. Investment in the quality and robustness of open space can also often improve the ‘carrying capacity’ of open spaces and therefore offset some shortcomings in quantitative provision.
- New and improved open space should be designed and provided to benefit both people and the local/wider environment. Wherever possible it should heighten residents’ overall appreciation, understanding of, and respect for that environment.
- Standards will need to be applied to a variety of circumstances, and flexibility of interpretation is the key to success. A pragmatic approach will be essential given the range of circumstances in which they will be used.

7.3 Application of access standards

This section provides an overview of access to different types of open space typologies across the Study Area, using the access standards summarised in Table 12. The maps are intended to provide an overview and are for illustrative purposes only. More detailed maps by Parish are provided for each typology within Appendix 2 (see example at Figure 5).

The maps show the walk-time buffers for each open space typology and are created using QGIS and the OSM Tools plugin which relies on the openstreetmap paths and street network

to accurately map realistic potential walking routes. The buffers are based on a walk-time of 5 kilometres/3.1 miles an hour²³.

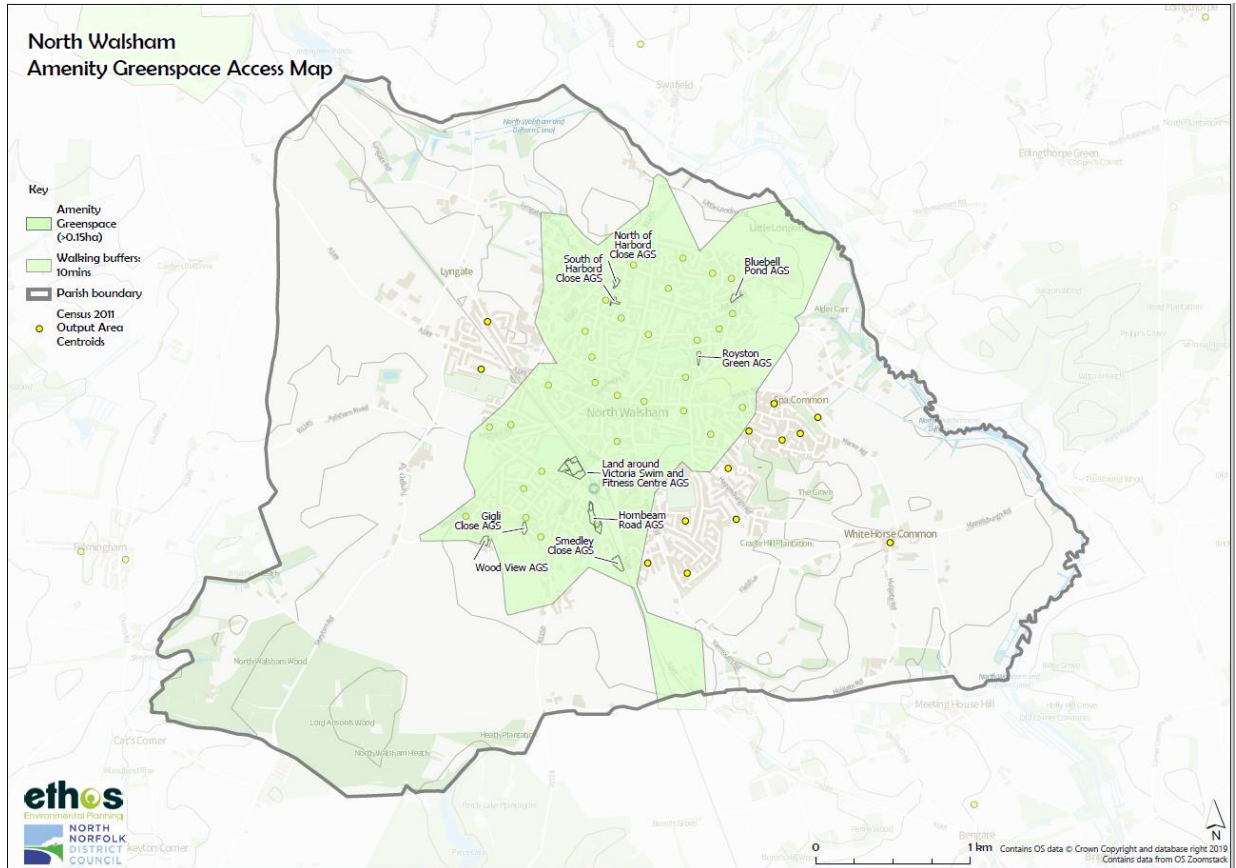
Table 2 (section 2.4 of this report) shows how walk-time relates to straight-line distances and pedestrian route distances. The straight-line walking distances do not take into account roads or barriers to access and so the actual route walked (the pedestrian route) is generally further i.e. straight-line distances are around 60% of actual distances. The more basic straight-line buffer access analysis approach has been used for the ANGSt standards, as this approach is more appropriate for larger sites.

The access maps also show Census 2011 Output Areas (OAs). Each OA centroid is the lowest level of geography from the census which contains roughly 129 households. By using this point dataset, it is possible to clearly indicate those households that fall outside open space access buffers i.e. where the key gaps in access are.

As with the analysis of supply (Section 7.2.1), those Parishes with a population of less than 500 population have also been greyed out on the maps for allotments, parks and recreation grounds and youth play space, as well as those Parishes with less than 300 population for children's play space, as these open space typologies may not be expected in such rural areas. Therefore, the access analysis in those rural Parishes (with less than 500 population) should consider access to any form of recreational space e.g. amenity green space or parks and recreation grounds (and also private outdoor sports grounds with public access) and children's play space (for Parishes with over 300 population).

²³ This is in line with the British Heart Foundation state as an average walking pace on country and forestry footpaths: <https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/events/training-zone/walking-training-zone/walking-faqs>

Figure 5 Example map from Appendix 2: Access maps by Parish



7.3.1 Access to open space across the Study Area

Figure 6 Access to allotments (15 minute walk-time buffer)

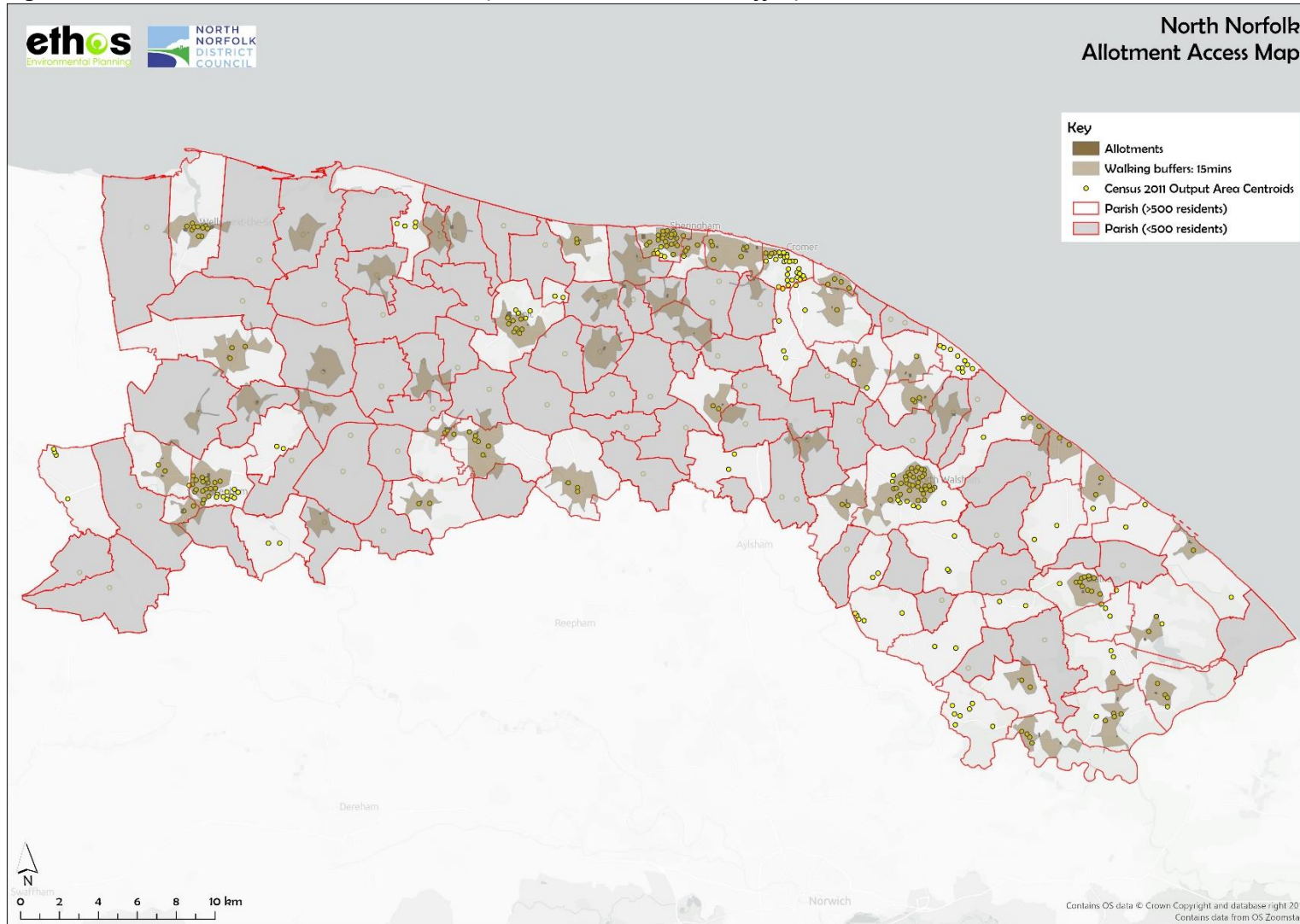


Figure 7 Access to amenity green space (10 minute walk-time buffer)

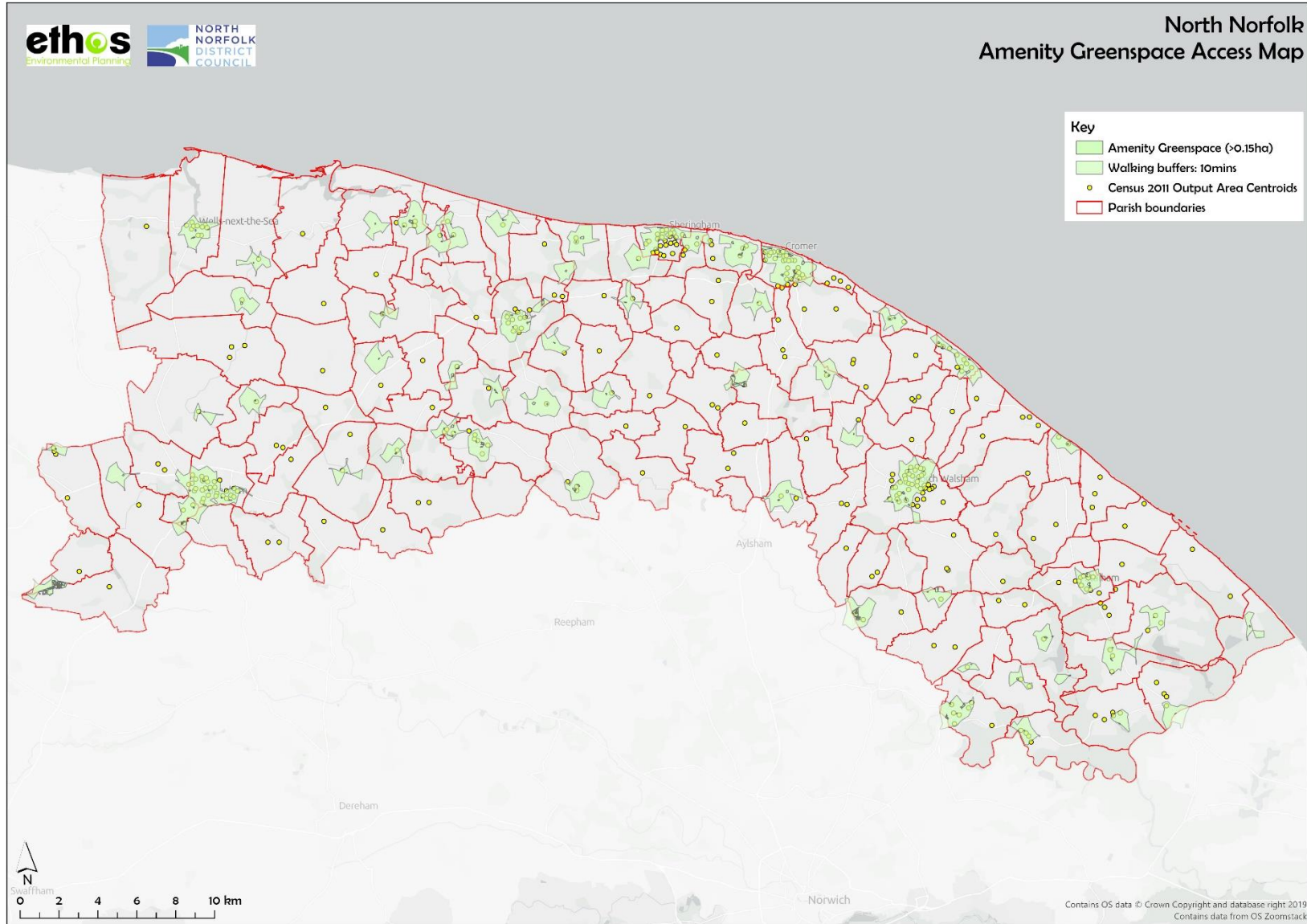


Figure 8 Access to parks and recreation grounds (and outdoor sport private with permissive access) (12 minute walk-time buffer)

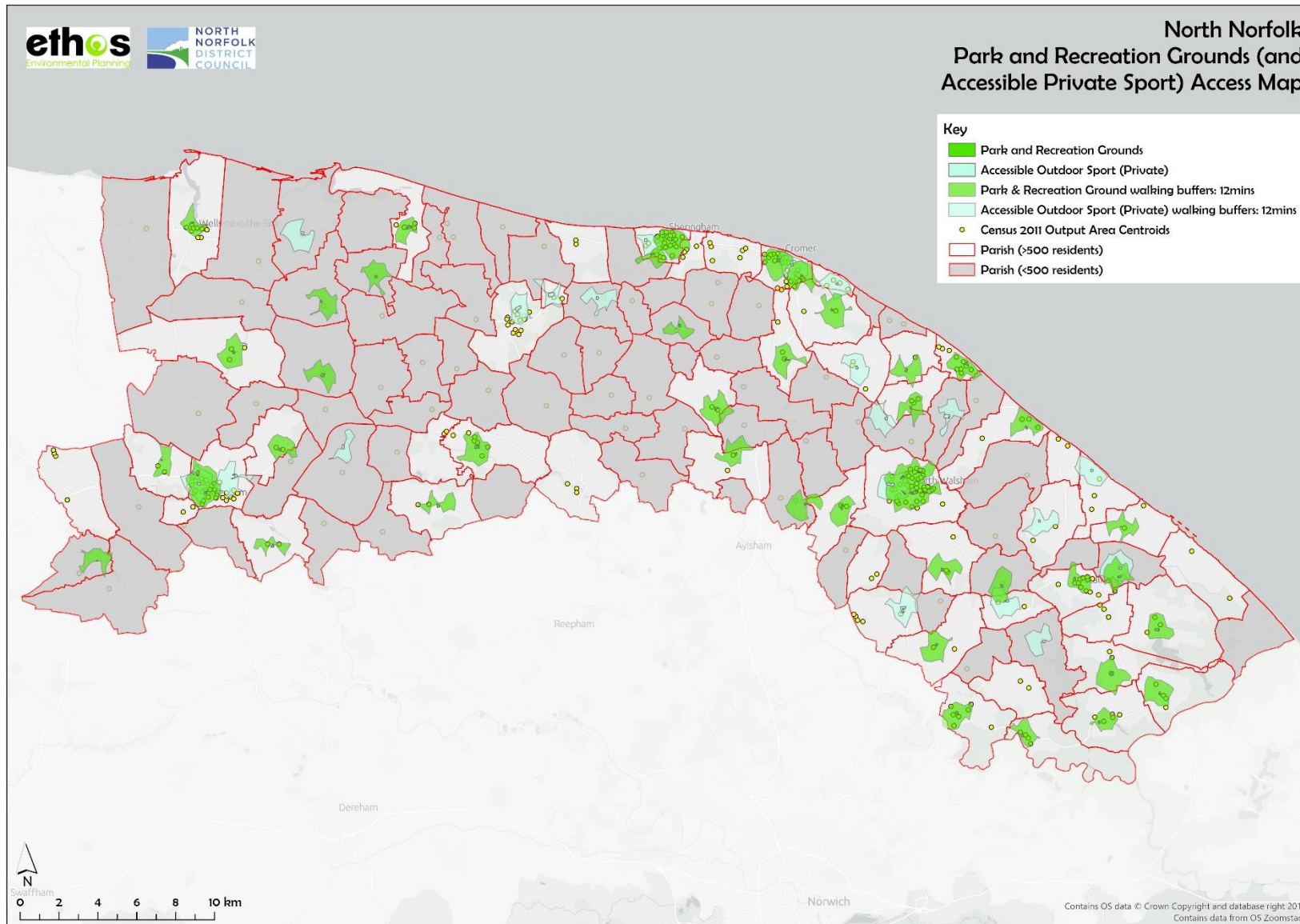


Figure 9 Access to children's play space (10 minute walk-time buffer)

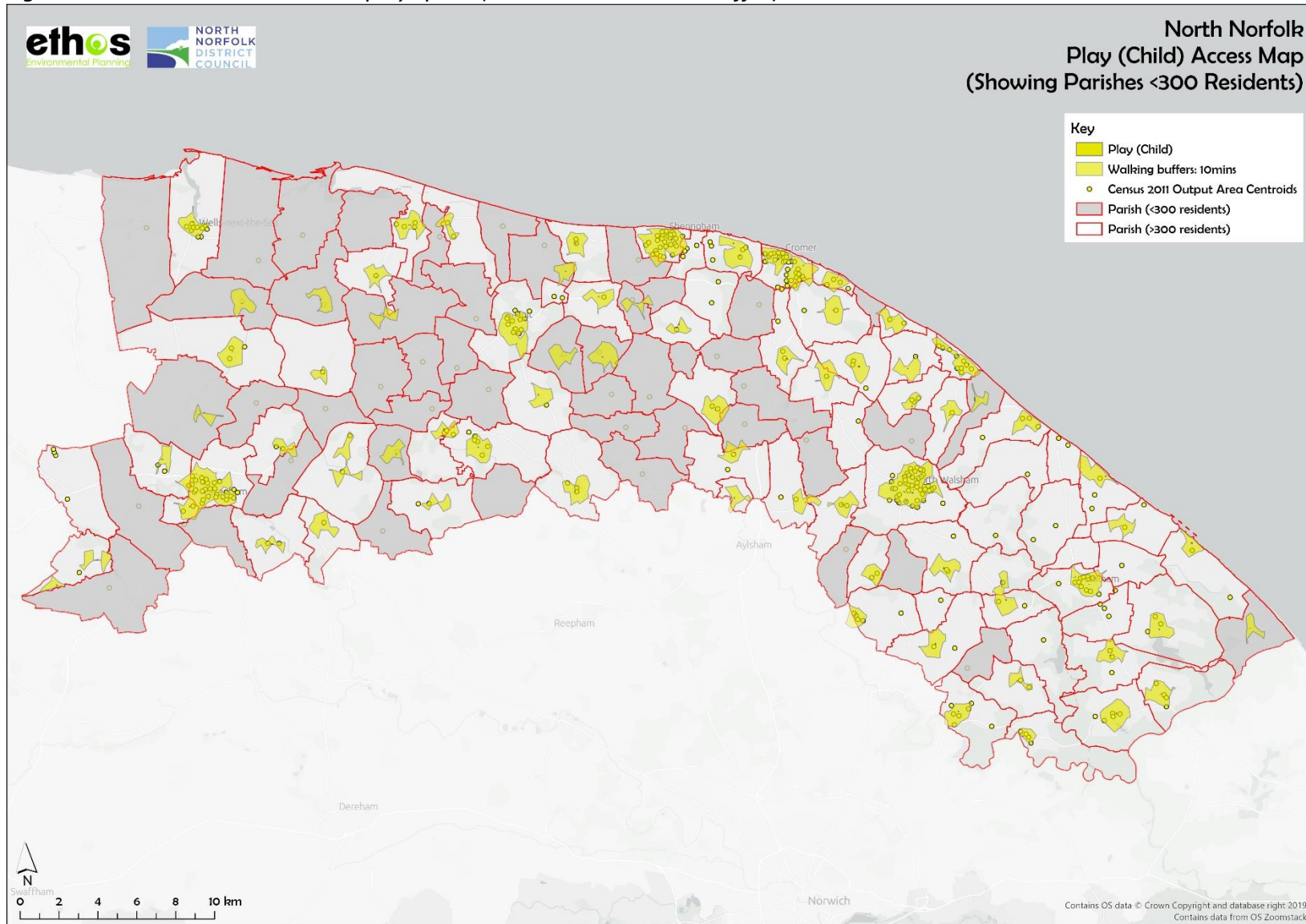


Figure 10 Access to youth play space (15 minute walk time buffer)

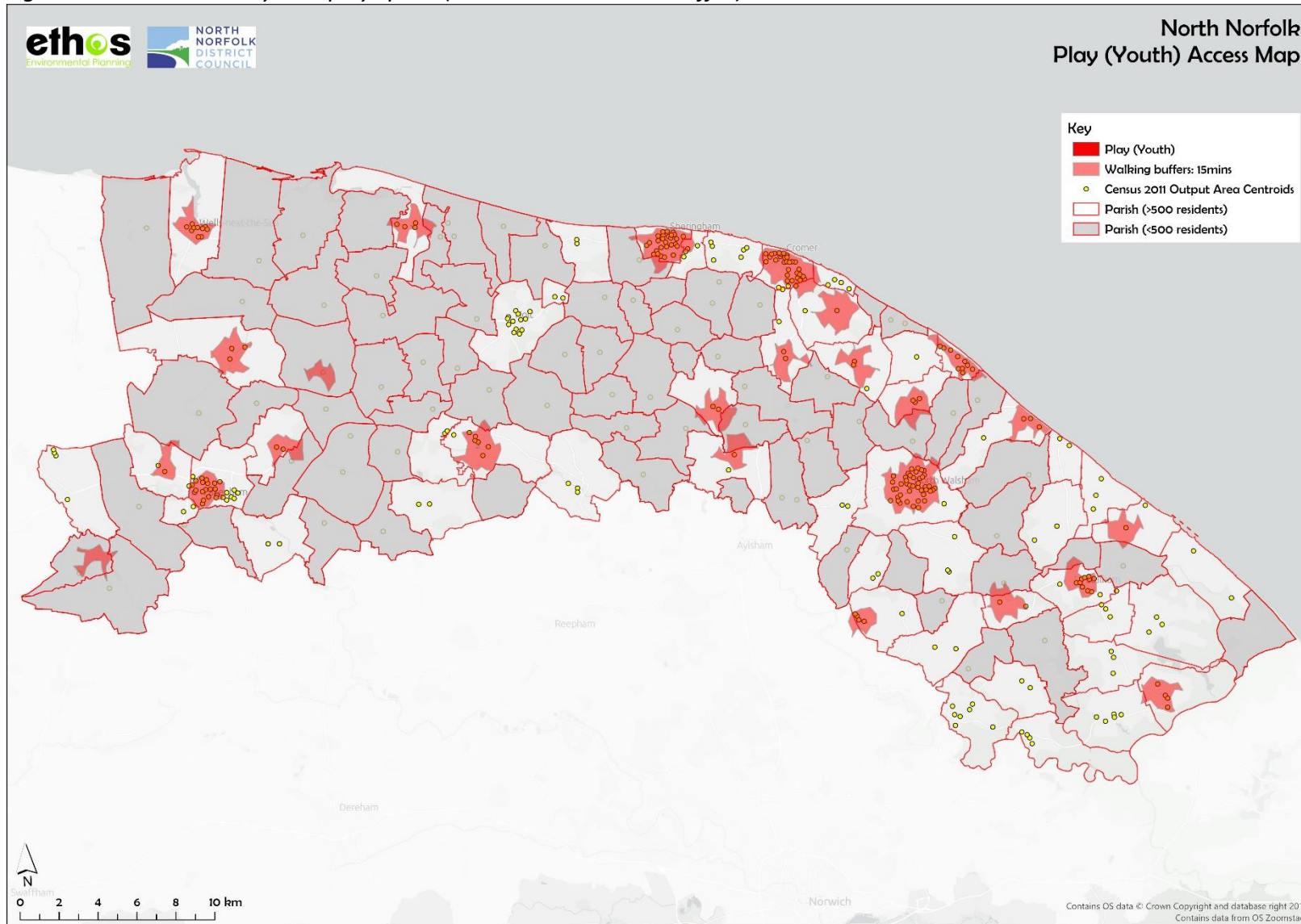


Table 15 Summary of access issues for allotments, amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds, play space (children and youth)

Typology	Key Access Issues
Allotments	Good access in the large settlements of Sheringham, Stalham, North Walsham, Briston, Runton and Wells-Next-the Sea. However, there are some significant gaps in access in Parishes with over 500 population – namely Cromer, Fakenham, Blakeney, Little Snoring, Roughton, Mundesley, Erpingham, Worstead, East Ruston, Tunstead, Scottow, Hoveton, Catfield, and Sutton.
Amenity Green Space	Generally good access across the district, the main gaps in access being in the rural Parishes with less than 500 population. However, when considering access to parks and recreation grounds (and private outdoor sports with public access) alongside amenity green space, the main gaps in access to recreational space are in Holkham, Aylmerton, East Beckham, Letheringsett with Glandford, Kelling, Stibbard, Brinton, Wood Norton, Briningham, Thurning, Baconsthorpe, Matlask, Wickmere, Itteringham, Suffield, Sustead, Paston, Skeyton, Swanton Abbott, Westwick, Brumstead, Witton and Honing. The majority of these are very rural Parishes, and some of these have access to natural green space.
Parks and Recreation Grounds (and Outdoor Sports Private with public access)	Generally good access across the key settlements within the district, the main gaps in access being in Holt, Scottow (Badersfield) and Sutton. In Parishes with above 500 population, where there is not access to a park and recreation ground (or private outdoor sports with public access), there is access to amenity green space which provides a similar function. The exception being Sutton, which has a population of 1185 and doesn't have any parks or amenity green space provision or access.
Play Space (Children)	Generally good access across Parishes with over 500 people, with the exception of Sutton, East Ruston and Walcott.

Typology	Key Access Issues
	<p>Those Parishes with between 300 and 500 population generally have good access/provision, however, there are gaps in access in Sloley, Honing, Witton, Brumstead, Antingham, Ingham, Barton Turf and Aylmerton.</p> <p>For those Parishes with less than 300 people, generally there is no provision or access to children’s play space (with the exceptions of Horsey, Kelling, Field Palling, Hempstead, Baconsthorpe, Barsham, Swanton Novers, Paston, West Beckham and Binham which have provision/access).</p>
Play Space (Youth)	<p>Provision is very more sporadic, with large gaps in access across the majority of Parishes with over 500 population including the key settlements of Holt and Hoveton. However, there is good access within the key settlements of Sheringham, Cromer, Mundesley, North Walsham, Stalham and the Western Part of Fakenham.</p>

7.3.2 Access to accessible natural green space across the Study Area

This section looks at access to accessible natural/semi-natural green space within the Study Area including through the application of the locally derived access standard (see Figure 11), and the ANGSt standards, in order to identify the main gaps in access. As already mentioned under Section 5.2.5, this typology only includes those natural green spaces which have a definitive boundary and public access e.g. Local Nature Reserves, and not the open countryside where the only access is via the Public Right of Way network.

This section also shows the public rights of way network, which forms an important part of access to open space and the wider countryside.

Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt)

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live should have accessible natural greenspace:

- Of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of 1 hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

Figure 11 Access to natural green space (960m buffer)

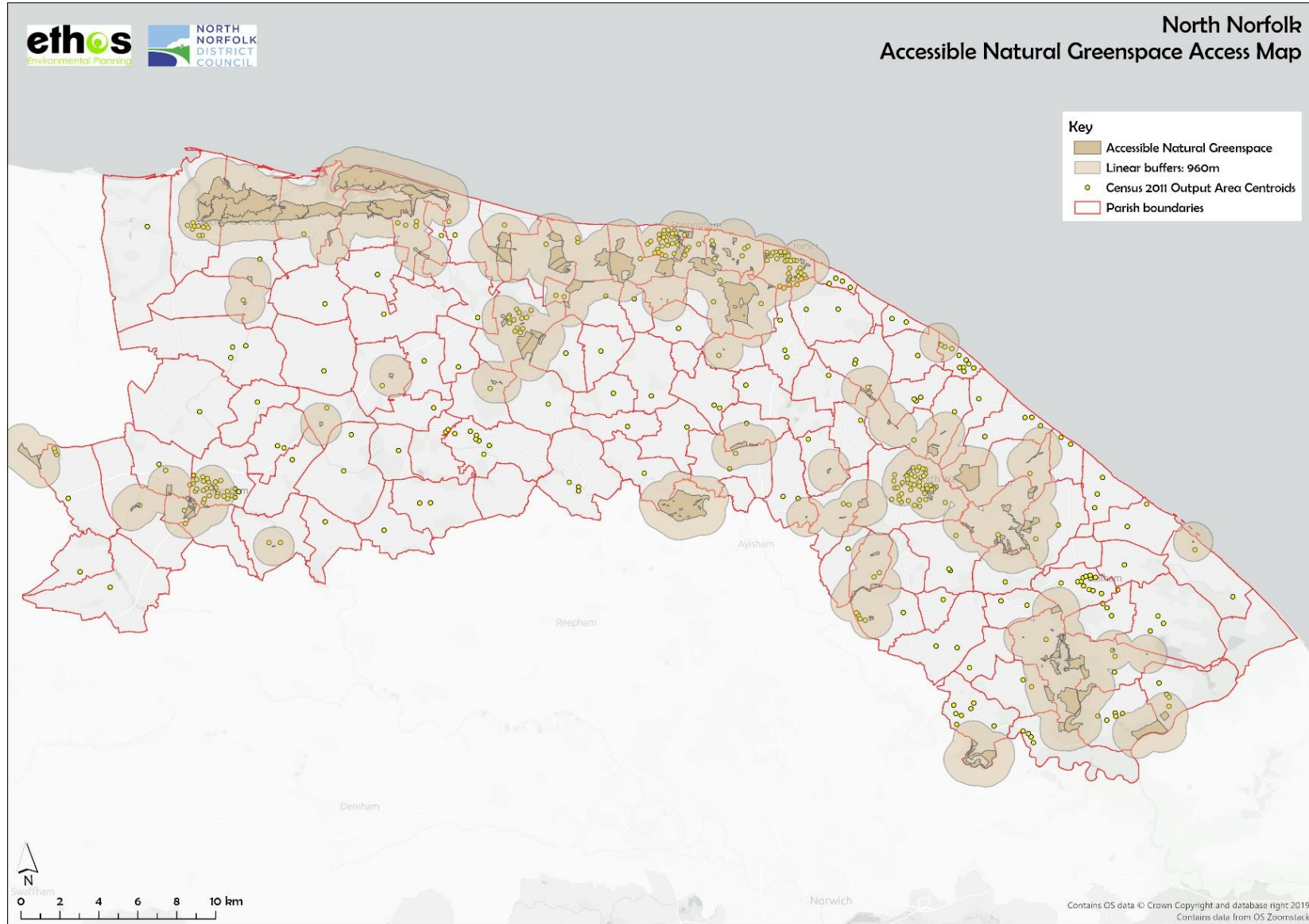


Figure 12 ANGSt Standard: Access to 2ha+ sites within 300m

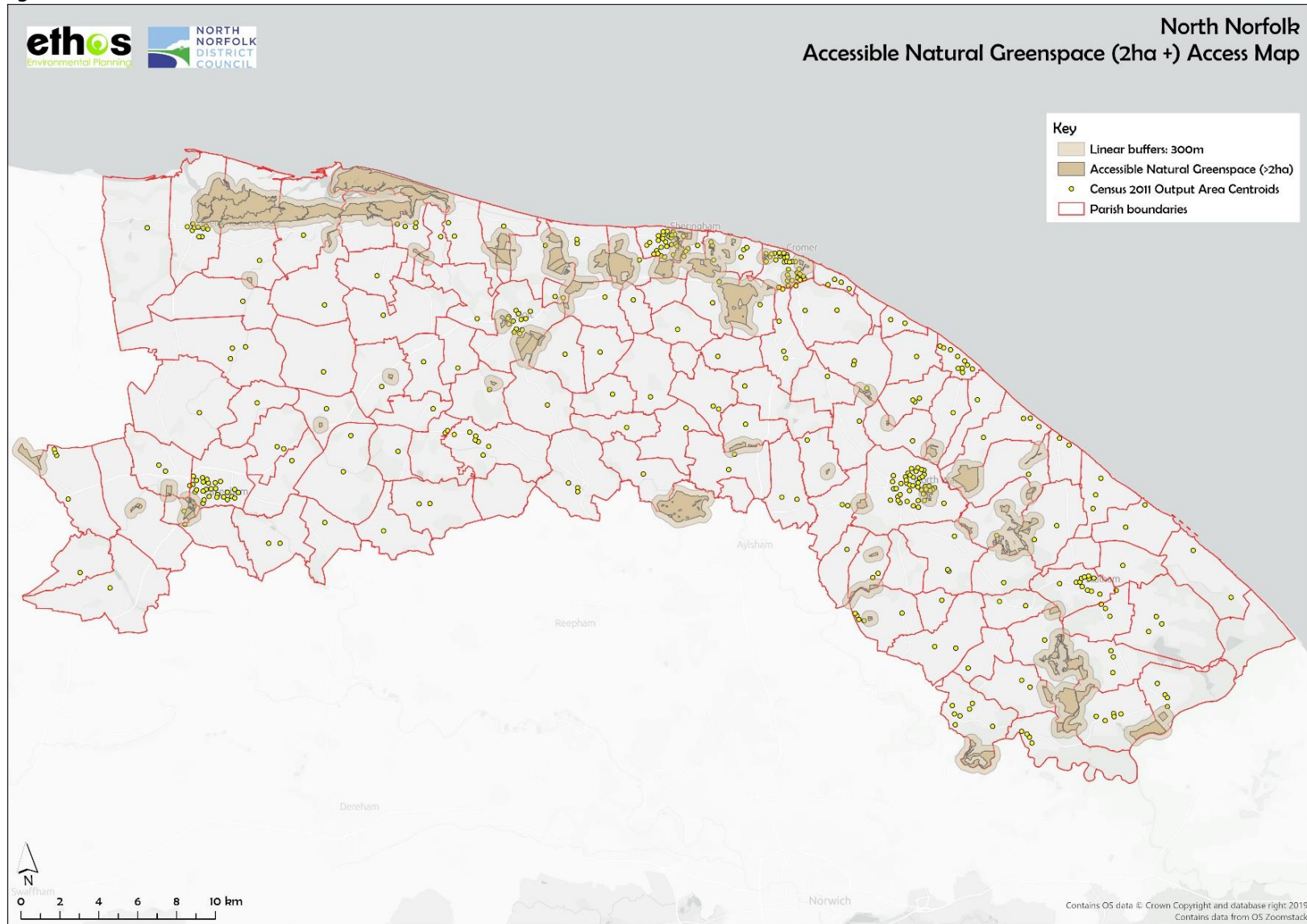


Figure 13 ANGSt Standard: Access to 20 ha+ sites within 2 km

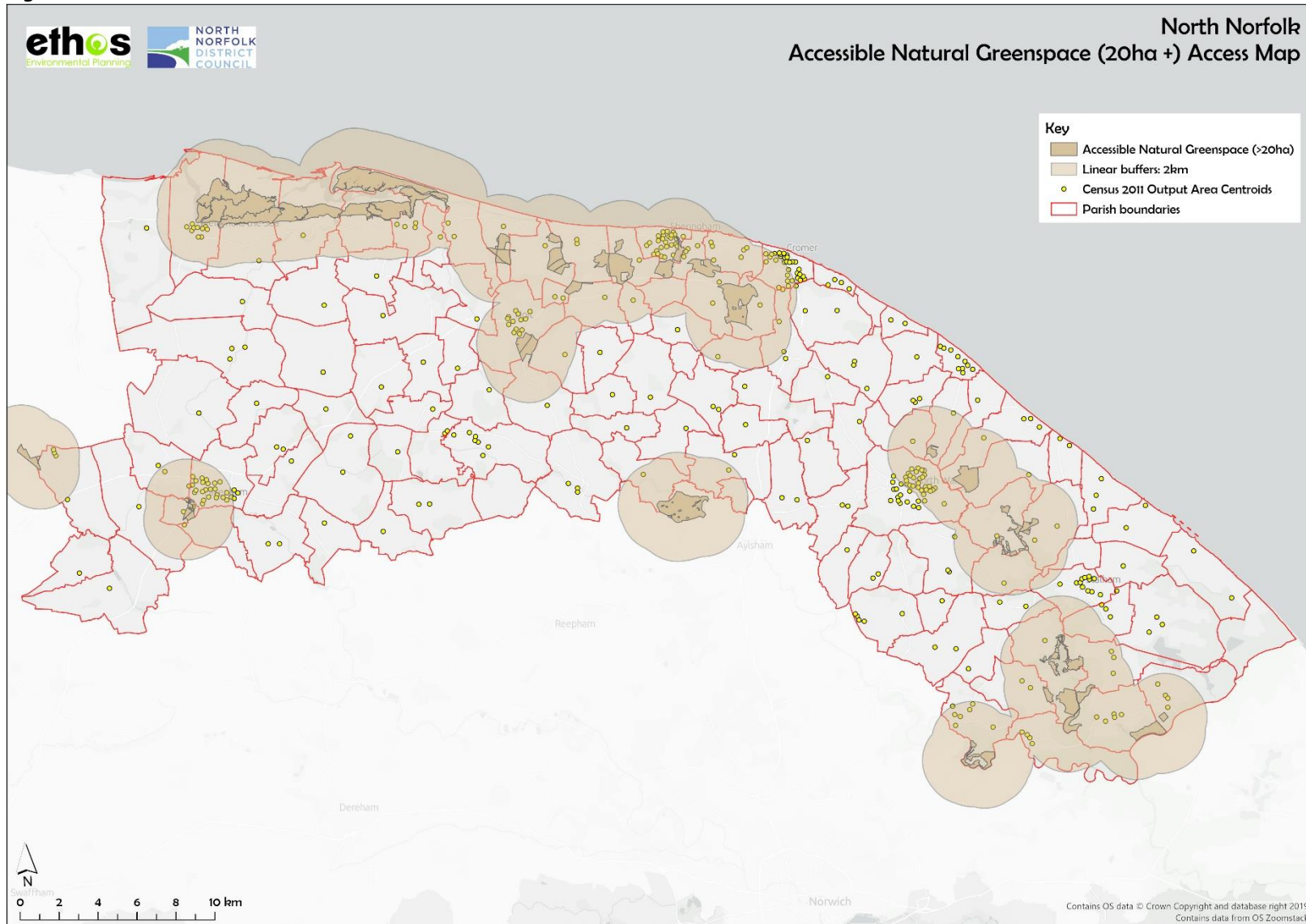


Figure 14 ANGSt Standard: Access to 100 ha+ site within 5km

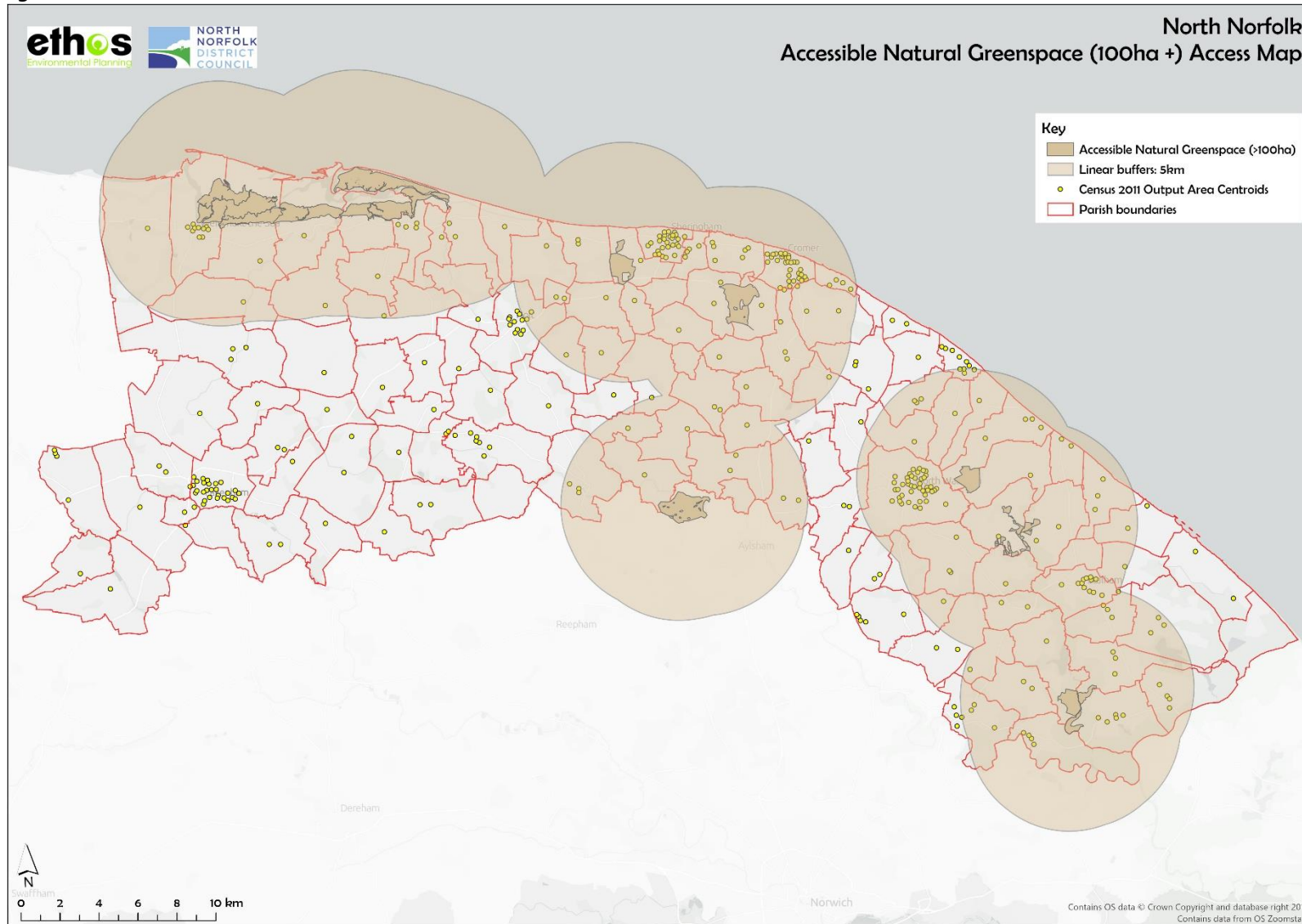


Figure 15 ANGSt Standard: Access to 500 ha+ site within 10km

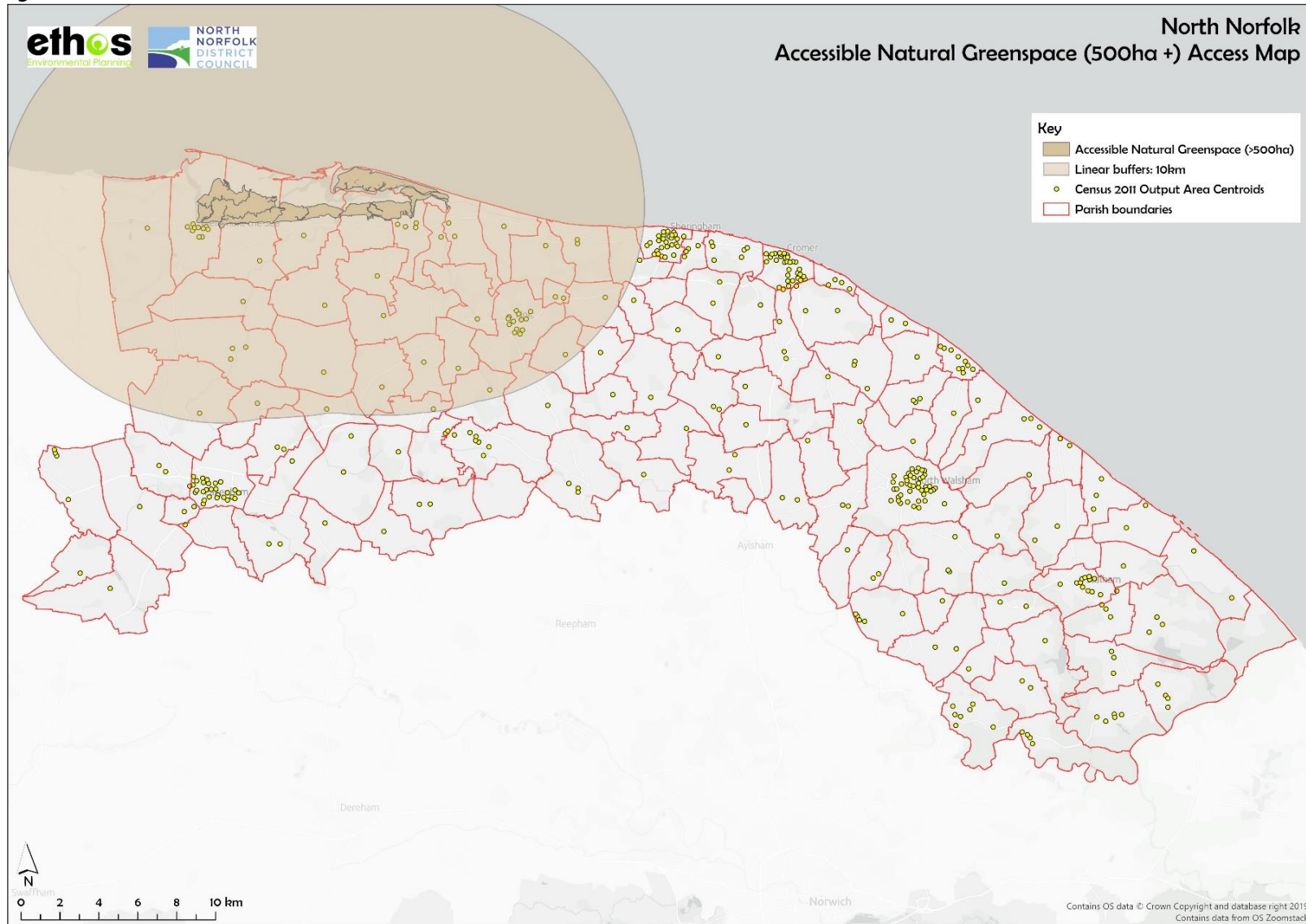


Figure 16 Local Nature Reserves

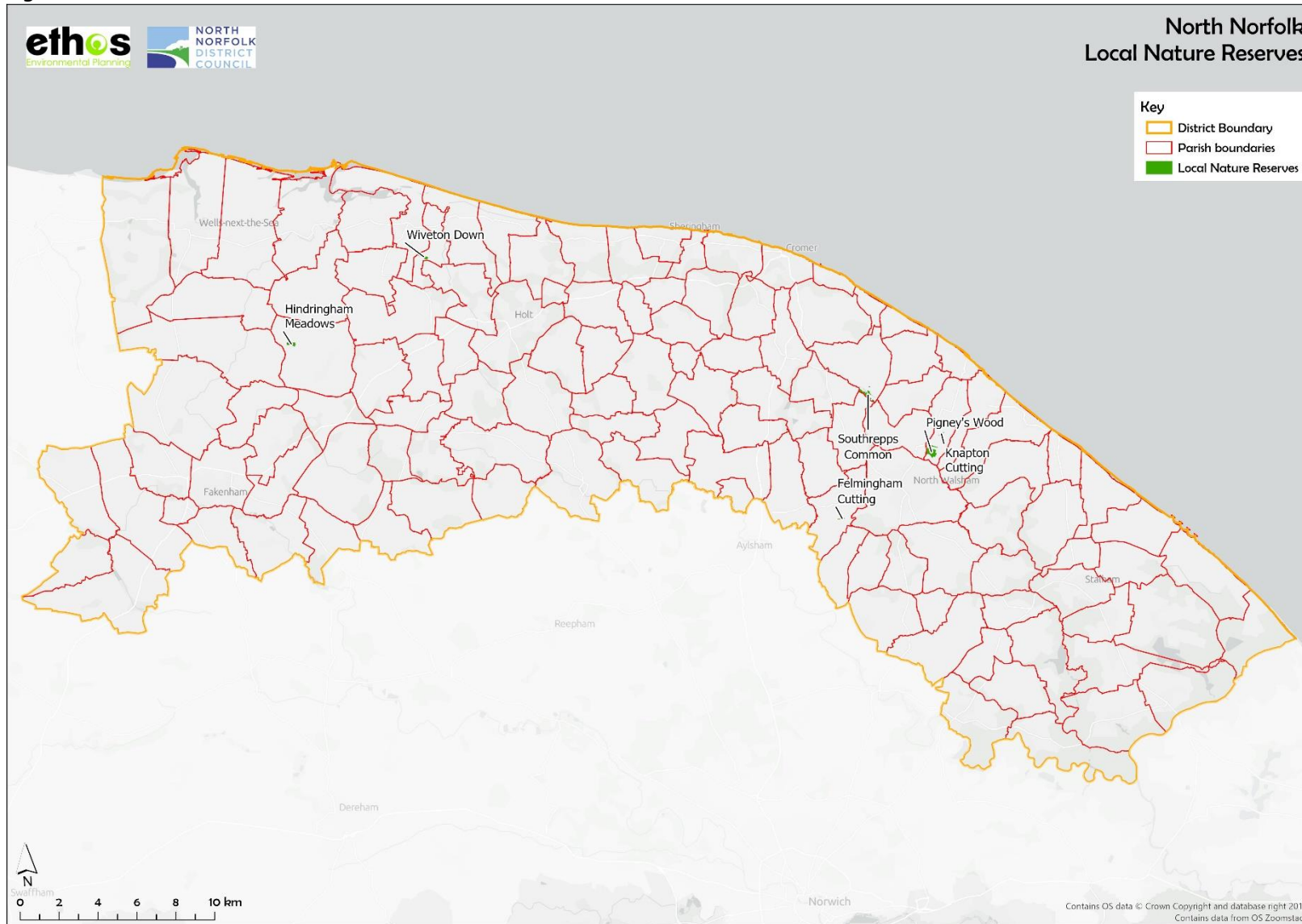


Figure 17 The Public Rights of Way Network

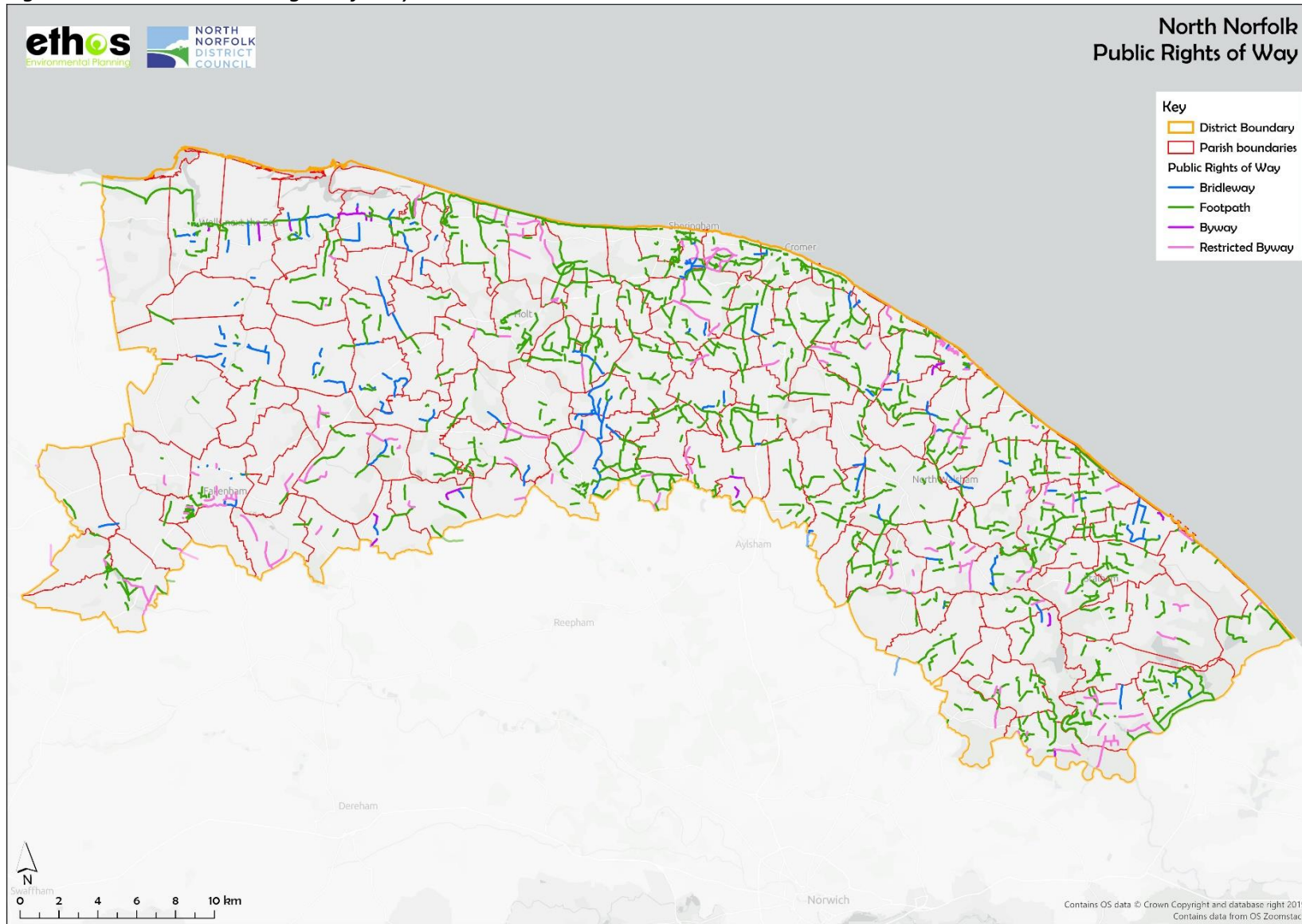


Table 16 Summary of access issues for natural green space

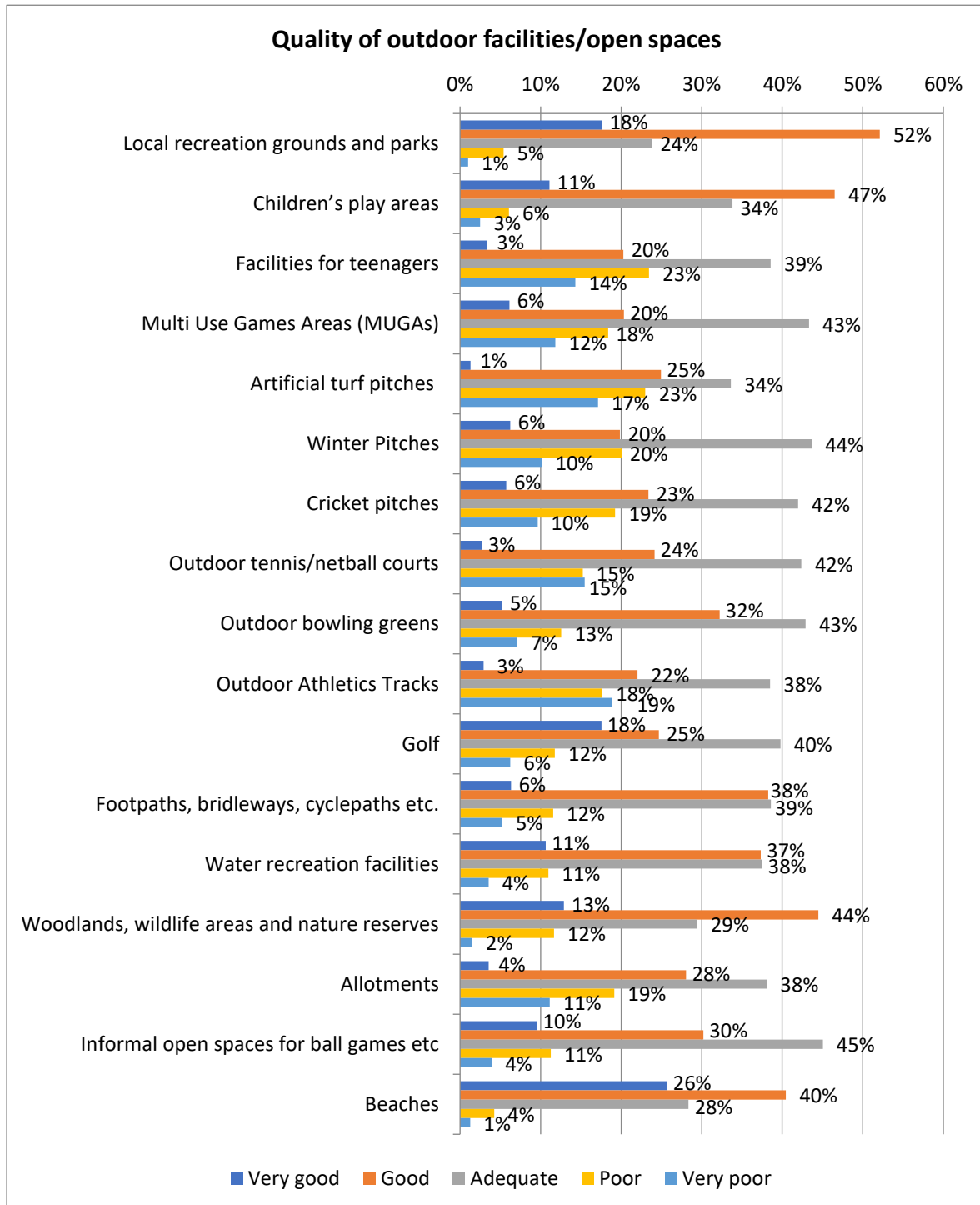
Standard	Key access Issues
Access to natural green space - 960m buffer	Generally good access across the largest settlements, with the exceptions of Stalham and Briston. Large gaps in access across the majority of the District, although it is noted that there is an extensive PROW network and access to the countryside and coast.
ANGSt Standard: Accessible green space of at least 2ha in size, no more than 300m (5 minutes walk) from home.	When applying this ANGSt standard, it shows large gaps in access across much of the Study Area. It is considered that this access standard is not very realistic or achievable and is therefore not very helpful in identifying where the key gaps in access are, as much of the Study Area does not meet this standard. Therefore, it is considered that the locally derived standard (960m or 20 minutes' walk-time applied to all Accessible Natural Green Space) is more meaningful in identifying the key gaps in access.
ANGSt Standard: At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home	Large gaps in access across the majority of the Study Area, including the large settlements of North Walsham, Stalham, Briston, Cromer and Mundesley. However, there is an extensive PROW network and access to the countryside and coast.
ANGSt Standard: One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home	Generally good access along the northern and south-easternmost part of the District. The main gaps in access are in and around Fakenham, Briston and the southern part of Holt.
ANGSt Standard: One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home	Good access in the north western part of the District with gaps elsewhere.
A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population	There are only 6 Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) within the Study Area. At the District level there are 0.46ha/1000 of nature reserves, which falls below the ANGSt standard of 1ha/1000.
Access via the PROW network	The PROW network provides access between open spaces and provides an important element of access to/within the countryside. The coastline and Norfolk Broads also provide an important recreational resource (for residents but also attracting tourists from a wide area) within the District.

7.4 Application of quality standards

7.4.1 Quality of open space – consultation key findings

Respondents in the household survey (Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019)) were asked how they rated various types of facilities in the Study Area in terms of quality. The responses of those expressing an opinion on specific categories of facility are illustrated in Figure 18 below.

Figure 18 Quality of open space (responses from household survey)



The majority of outdoor facilities/open spaces were rated by households as either good or adequate. Local recreation grounds and parks and beaches were rated as being the highest quality provision. 70% of households rated local recreation grounds and parks as being very good or good; and beaches 66%. The lowest rated provision was artificial turf pitches with 40% of household rating poor or very poor. The quality of facilities for teenagers were also rated as poor or very poor by 37% of households.

7.4.2 Quality of open space – audit methodology

The quality audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snapshot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a site's existing quality rather than a full asset audit. Site visits were undertaken in March 2019.

The quality audits were designed to focus on the key open spaces. It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely private sports grounds and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included allotments, amenity green spaces smaller than 0.15ha in size and churchyards and cemeteries. This has meant that the quality audits have focused on the key open spaces and play areas within the resources available i.e. parks and recreation grounds, large amenity green spaces, children's and youth play spaces and natural green spaces.

Sites were visited, and a photographic record made of key features, along with a description of the site and recommendations for improvements. An assessment of the quality of the open space was undertaken using the following criteria, which is based on the Green Flag Award criteria:

1. Welcoming
2. Good and Safe Access
3. Community Involvement
4. Safe Equipment and Facilities
5. Appropriate Provision of Facilities
6. Quality/Management of Facilities and Infrastructure
7. Personal Security on Site
8. Dog Fouling
9. Litter and Waste Management
10. Grounds/Habitat Management

For each of the criteria a score of between 1 -10 is given, where 1 is very poor and 10 is very good. The scores for each site are added together and the mean calculated based on how many criteria were scored (e.g. If 'Community involvement' is given N/A for a site, the total will be divided by 9). This mean is then multiplied by 10 to produce the final score from which sites are grouped into 3 categories – good (those sites with a score of between 70 and 100), average (those sites with a score of between 40 and 70) or poor (those sites with a score of between 10 and 40).

7.4.3 Quality of open space – audit findings

The quality audit was undertaken at 297 open spaces across the Study Area. The details of the quality audits are contained within the GIS database provided to the Council. For each of the Parishes within the Study Area, a map showing the results of the quality audit has been produced, showing the sites which scored good, average or poor quality (see Appendix 3).

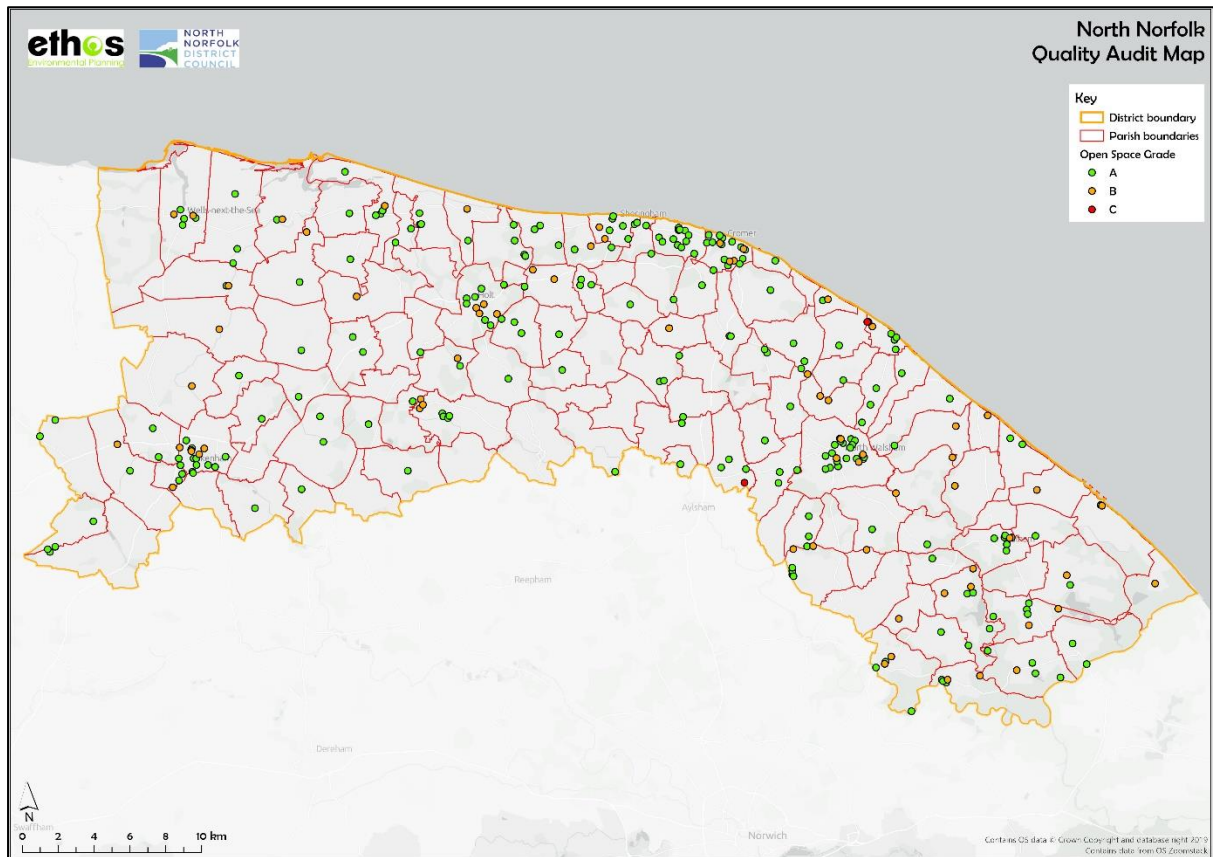
Figure 19 below provides an overview of the quality audit results across the Study Area.

Table 17 below shows the number of sites scoring good (A), average (B) or poor (C) by typology across the Study Area. As can be seen, the majority of open spaces have been assessed as being good quality (A).

Table 17 Number of sites scoring A, B or C by open space typology across the Study Area

Typology	Quality Audit Grade			Total
	A (Good)	B (Average)	C (Poor)	
Accessible Natural Greenspace	60	27	2	89
Amenity Green Space	98	30		128
Outdoor Sport (Private)	7	2		9
Park and Recreation Grounds	39	6		45
Play (Child)	21	5		26
Total	225	70	2	297

Figure 19 Overview of existing open space quality scores



8.0 STRATEGIC OPTIONS, POLICY & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

This section sets out strategic options and policy recommendations for open space within the Study Area. It draws on all the previous steps of the study to bring together informed recommendations and addresses a number of specific requirements of the study brief.

8.1 Strategic Options

8.1.1 Introduction

The strategic options address six key areas:

- 1) Existing provision to be protected;
- 2) Existing provision to be enhanced;
- 3) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
- 4) Identification of areas for new provision;
- 5) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement;
- 6) Developer contributions and recommended thresholds for on-site provision of open space

8.1.2 Delivering Strategic Options

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was first published in 2012 and has since been principally updated in July 2018, with further updates following in February 2019. The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The planning system has three overarching objectives (economic, social and environmental), which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. Open spaces (provision, protection, enhancement) and their associated intrinsic benefits are key components of all three of the objectives.

Whilst local authorities have an important role in delivering open space, sport and recreation facilities, in some cases their role may move from that of 'deliverer' to 'facilitator'. The aim will be to work with community organisations to make local decisions about how facilities and services will be provided. Organisations such as residents' groups, voluntary organisations, sports clubs and societies will all have a key role in this.

Although it is up to local communities to define their own priorities (such as through neighbourhood plans) the information provided within this study will form a good basis to inform any decisions related to the provision of open space.

The following sections consider the key issues for open space in the Study Area, and the recommendations that emerge need to be taken in context with National policy (including

the Localism Act) and consider how they can fit into local decision making. The following sections serve to highlight issues, but do not necessarily resolve how they may be delivered.

The information provided within this study will also form the basis for potential future strategies. The recommended policies within this study can also be used to help form the basis of any open space policies within the review of the existing local plans.

8.2 Existing provision to be protected

The starting point of any policy adopted by NNDC should be that all open space should be afforded protection unless it can be proved it is not required. Even where open spaces are in sufficient supply within a given area, this does not necessarily mean there is a ‘surplus’ in provision of open space, as additional factors such as the supply of other typologies of open space, the quality of open space and where new development is planned needs to be taken into account (as explained further in the sections below).

Existing open space or sport and recreation facilities which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system are those which are either:

- Critically important in avoiding deficiencies in accessibility, quality or quantity and scored highly in the quality assessment; **or**
- Are of particular nature conservation, historical or cultural value.

The quantity analysis, summarised in Table 13 (Section 7.2) shows that in every Parish, there is a deficiency in at least one typology of open space. Therefore, the following recommendations are made:

Open Space Policy Direction (protecting open space):

- | | |
|------------|--|
| OS1 | The distribution of open space varies across the Study Area, however, there are identified shortages of at least one typology of open space in all Parishes. It is therefore recommended that priority is placed on protecting those open spaces where there is an existing shortfall of supply. |
| OS2 | Sites which are critical to avoiding deficiencies, or making deficiencies worse, in respect of quantity, quality or accessibility should be protected unless suitable alternative provision can be provided which would compensate for any deficiencies caused. |
| OS3 | Sites which have significant nature conservation, historical or cultural value should be afforded protection, even if there is an identified surplus in quality, quantity or accessibility in that local area. |

8.3 Existing provision to be enhanced

In areas where there is a quantitative deficiency of provision but no accessibility issues, then increasing the quality/capacity of existing provision may be considered. Alternatively, in areas where facilities or spaces do not meet the relevant quality standards, qualitative enhancements will be required.

This includes those spaces or facilities which:

- Are critically important in avoiding deficiencies in diversity, accessibility or quantity, **but**
- Scored poorly in the quality assessment.

Those sites which require enhancement are identified within the quality audit that was undertaken. Some of the key observations related to site enhancement include:

1. The importance of providing high quality provision and maintenance of formal facilities such as Parks and Recreation Grounds and Play Space.
2. The need for additional and improved facilities for young people.
3. The role of private sports spaces to some local communities and the need to provide opportunity for investment.
4. The need to ensure high quality open spaces are designed and provided through new development where feasible.
5. The importance of rights of way and natural green space within the Study Area, and the need to maintain and enhance provision for biodiversity.
6. The role of open space in contributing to wider initiatives and benefits such as improvement health and wellbeing and climate change adaptation.
7. Extending and enhancing the network of green infrastructure including the connectivity between sites and improved accessibility to existing sites.

Appendix 3 provides maps by Parish showing the sites that were quality audited and their overall score (good, average, poor), as identified within the GIS database provided to NNDC. An overview of the open space quality audit rank scores is provided in Section 7.4.3. The following recommendations are made in relation the quality of open space:

Open Space Policy Direction (enhancing open space):

- OS4** Where new housing development is proposed, and open space is not practicable on site, consideration should be given to improving existing open spaces within the Parish or neighbouring Parish to which the development is located. Priority should be given to any sites identified as poor or average as detailed in the quality audit database²⁴.

²⁴ There may also be a demonstrated need to improve the quality of open spaces which were not included within the quality audits (due to resource limitations – see section 7.4.2). There may also be local aspirations for site improvements over and above those identified within the 2019 quality audit.

- OS5** New development should seek to achieve the Building with Nature²⁵ Standards for high quality Green Infrastructure, in order to ensure that new development is multi-functional, climate resilient, future proof, responds to policy (local and national) and is appropriate to the landscape context/ contributes to sense of place.
- OS6** The findings of the assessment make recommendations for improving the quality of open space across the Study Area. However, a long-term strategy for achieving improvements could be delivered through a Green Space/GI Strategy, Play Strategy, Neighbourhood Plans or design guidance.
- OS7** Priorities for improvement (identified in the household survey) include the enhancement of footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths and woodland, wildlife areas and nature reserves.
- OS8** Management plans (if not already established) should be developed for the main parks and recreation grounds. These priorities could also be considered in neighbourhood plans and by the local community.

8.4 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

In some areas it may be possible to make better use of land by relocating an open space or sport and recreation facility, especially if this will enhance its quality or accessibility for existing users or use land which is not suitable for another purpose. This needs to be determined at a local level, considering the quality, quantity and access to facilities at neighbourhood level and in some cases across the Study Area.

Although it is up to local communities to define their own priorities within neighbourhood plans or management plans, the information provided within this study will form a good basis to inform any decisions related to the provision or replacement of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Some settlements may seek a consolidation of facilities on a single site, such as a new sports hub.

These decisions could include the spatial and investment plans for green space and set the foundations for green space provision (e.g. for the lifetime of a plan period). They should outline where different types of facilities and space - such as children's playgrounds, sports pitches, young people's facilities etc. are to be located. It will also identify if any open space is no longer needed and how its disposal or re use can be used to fund improvements to other spaces.

Spatial and Investment plans should apply the standards and be in accordance with the strategic policies set out in the adopted Local Plan (as informed by this study) and seek to ensure that where significant investment is anticipated for green spaces that this is prioritised and realised with the help of key stakeholders and communities.

²⁵ <https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/how-it-works>

The standards recommended in this study can be used to help determine a minimum level of quality and quantity of green space provision and the maximum distance people should have to travel to access different types of green space.

This study provides information on the existing supply of different types of open space, an analysis of access and identifies local issues related to quality. It will act as a good starting point for feeding into strategies for future decision making in consultation with the local community.

Table 18 below provides examples of applying the supply, accessibility and quality of open space for the Parishes of Hoveton and Barton Turf, in order to highlights potential opportunities for re-location or re-designation of open spaces or improvements to open spaces to help reduce existing shortfalls in quantity, accessibility and quality. It also considers those open spaces which may have potential to be considered as surplus to requirement. These are examples that could be used to guide NNDC in applying similar solutions to other Parishes as required.

These considerations will act as a good starting point for decision making but will require further detailed investigation and community consultation before any decisions can be made. For example, just because an open space may be in sufficient supply with overlaps in access, and it may be of poor quality/have lots of potential to improve, local knowledge (or other considerations such as Green Infrastructure) may show that it is a highly valued and/or important facility, and therefore it should not be considered for alternative use/as being surplus to requirement.

Table 18 Examples opportunities for re-designating open space

Parish	Current Open Space Provision	Opportunities
Hoveton (population of 2049)	<p>Sufficient supply of amenity green space. Shortfalls in supply of parks and recreation grounds, allotments, children’s play space and youth play space.</p> <p>Good access to amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds and children’s play space. No provision or access to allotments, youth play space and accessible natural green space (although the River Bure/Norfolk Broads falls within the Parish and there are a good network of trails and PROW).</p>	<p>Potential for Broadland Youth Centre AGS or Hoveton Village Hall Playing Field to accommodate youth provision to reduce the shortfalls in supply and access to this typology. Potential for amenity green space (Barton Drive AGS) to accommodate allotments or community food growing areas e.g. a community orchard would reduce shortfalls in supply and access to this typology and would also increase the biodiversity value and improve aesthetic value of this site. New paths and benches could also be installed as part of the community orchard, which would also improve the overall quality of this site (currently assessed as being of average quality). Although there is good access to children’s play space, there is a shortfall in supply and the existing provision within Hoveton Village Hall Playing Field is dated (and was closed for repair at the time of the site audit) and would benefit from upgrading, and expanding in order to reduce the shortfall in supply.</p> <p>Although the supply of amenity green space exceeds the minimum requirements, these spaces cannot be considered as surplus to requirement as they can be used to reduce the shortfalls in allotments, youth play space and children’s play space (and there is no accessible natural green space within the Parish).</p>
Barton Turf (population of 449)	<p>Sufficient supply of amenity green space, shortfalls in supply of allotments, parks and recreation grounds, children’s play space and youth play space.</p> <p>Dispersed settlements within the Parish, however there is generally good access to</p>	<p>For a Parish of this size, it would not necessarily be expected that allotments, parks and recreation grounds and youth play would be present (although there may be local aspirations). There is good provision of amenity green space and natural green space, however some children’s play space would be expected, and there is currently no provision or access to this typology. Claypits AGS may have potential to accommodate</p>

Parish	Current Open Space Provision	Opportunities
	amenity green space, and good access to natural green space across the whole Parish. No provision of allotments, parks and recreation grounds, children’s play space or youth play space.	children’s play provision, in order to reduce the shortfalls in supply and access. It is not considered that amenity green space within the Parish could be considered as being surplus to requirements, as they serve dispersed settlements and loss of a site would result in gaps in access. They also provide opportunities to reduce the shortfalls in children’s play space (and perhaps other needs such as a community food growing area) and have been assessed as being of high quality.

8.5 Identification of areas for new provision

New provision will be required where there is a new development and a planned increase in population, and/or an existing deficiency in supply or access to facilities exists. Section 7 outlines the existing situation with regards to supply and access to open space. As previously discussed, neighbourhood plans would provide a good mechanism to determine exactly where new provision is required, however, this study can be used as the basis for decision making, as follows:

Quantity

Within the study report, for each typology, there is an identified ‘sufficient supply’ or ‘under supply’ for each of the Parishes. If an area has an existing under supply of any typology, there may be need for additional provision. This could be delivered through developing a new site (for example as part of a housing development), acquiring land to extend the site or changing the typology of an existing space (which may be in over supply).

The supply statistics should be used as part of the decision-making process in development management to determine if a new development should provide facilities on-site or enhance existing provision through developer contributions.

The use of the quantity statistics should not be in isolation, and considered alongside the access standards.

Access

This study considers how access to different types of open space varies across Parishes against the proposed standards. The maps in Section 7 (and Appendix 3) show where there are deficiencies/gaps in access and potential over supply of facilities. This information can be used alongside the quantity statistics to determine if new provision or improved accessibility is required in an area. For example, if a new development is proposed, the maps should be

consulted to determine if there is an existing gap in provision of a particular typology which could be met by the development.

Therefore, even though the quantity statistics may identify a sufficient supply of a particular typology, there may be gaps in access, and thus a new facility may still be required.

Delivering new provision

There various opportunities for delivering new facilities through new development – developer contributions and to a lesser extent through capital and grant funding.

New development, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and developer contributions

NNDC does not currently operate the CIL charging system, however it is continually under review.

Where CIL is in operation the monies collected are used towards the delivery of infrastructure and services required as a result of new housing and employment growth - for example, school places, health facilities and provision of public open space.

Unlike Section 106 agreements, which are specific to each site in order to make them acceptable in planning terms, CIL is a levy on all development, designed to raise funds generally as a result of an increase in development in the district.

Introducing CIL would largely replace the current system in North Norfolk of securing contributions from developers via Section 106 agreements. However, Section 106 agreements would likely continue being used to secure local site-related infrastructure such as open space, access and habitat protection, and affordable housing. If introduced CIL would therefore operate in tandem with a scaled-back system of Section 106 agreements.

Section 106 planning obligations are currently required for on-site open space and/or contributions towards off-site public open space provision. Any adverse impacts on the local environment or local infrastructure, which will arise as a direct result of development, and which can be made acceptable in planning terms, should be mitigated via a planning obligation. Planning obligations must be made in accordance with the three tests of CIL Regulation 122:

- necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- directly related to the development; and,
- fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

New development will be required to provide on-site open space in accordance with NNDC policy requirements, as informed by the standards outlined in this study. Whilst not all developments will be of a size that will generate the requirement for on-site open space, when considering future requirements for North Norfolk, there will be many that will require open space provision. This study should be used to inform local decisions about where and when new on-site provision will be required.

Figure 20 below shows an example flow chart/decision making process to help developers/Council officers determine the need for on or off-site provision of open space. This is only a guide and requirements will be determined on a case by case basis using the standards and assessment within this study. Where possible, this should be determined through pre-application discussions with the Council. The new open space typologies and standards as part of this study will need to be adapted into a new costings matrix in Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

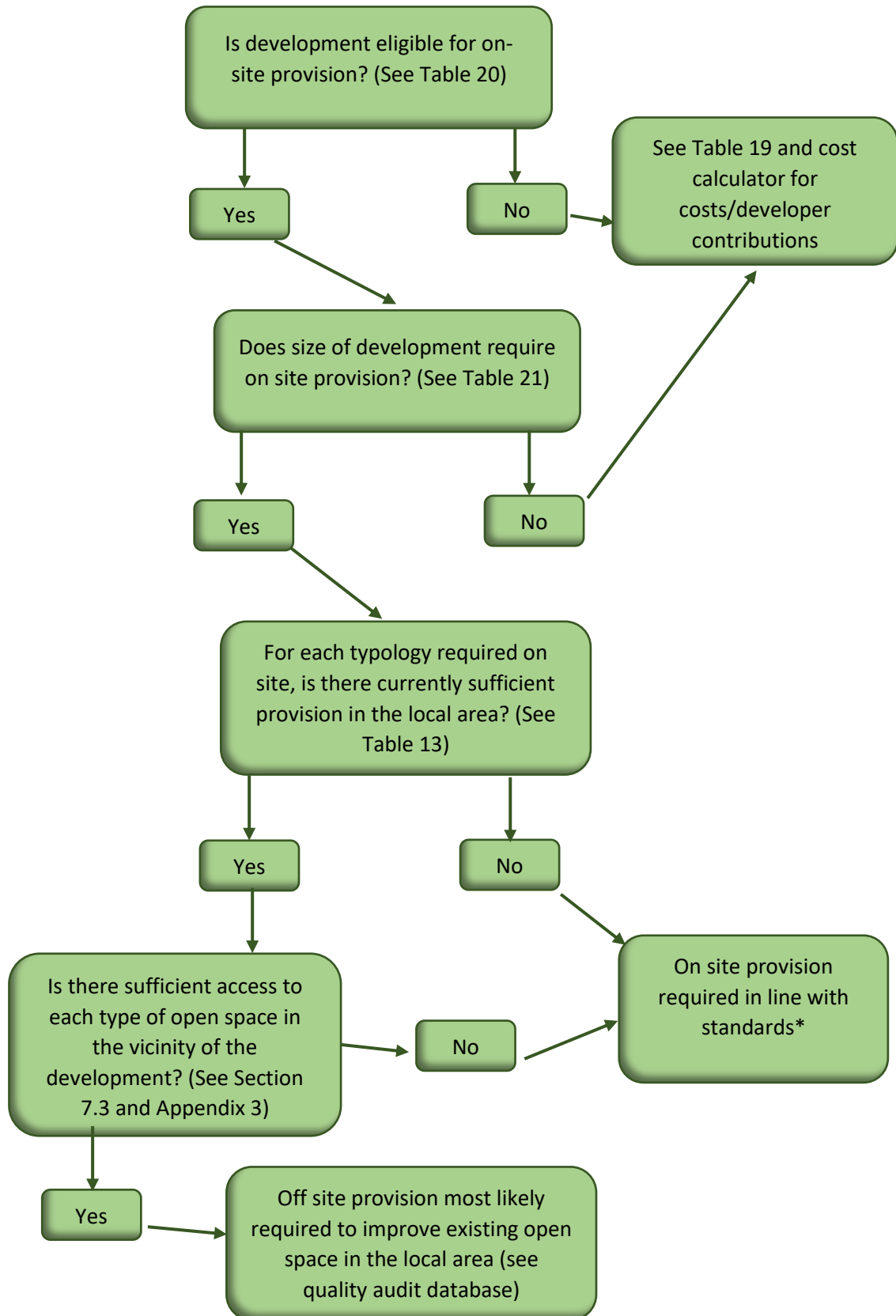
Capital and grant funding

Although the availability of capital and grant funding has diminished in recent years, nevertheless funding does become available for providing facilities for open space, sport and recreation. National and governing bodies for individual sports should be consulted where new infrastructure is required, such as changing rooms and sports pitches. Environmental grants and stewardship schemes are available for managing natural green space. As neighbourhood plans are developed and open space priorities are established within these, funding requirements will be identified and delivery through grant funding can be considered.

Requirements for open space from new housing

Section 7.2.1 outlines the variation in supply of different typologies of open space across Parishes. As identified, every Parish has a shortfall in at least one typology of open space, therefore, the starting point for new housing (of a certain size - see Table 22 for recommended thresholds) is to assume that some form of on-site open space provision would be required.

Figure 20 Decision making process for on-site provision of open space, or off-site contributions to enhance existing open space



*if it is not feasible to deliver open space on site due to exceptional circumstances e.g. viability or land availability, then potential to make off site provision will be considered on a case by case basis.

Open Space Policy Direction (new provision of open space):**OS9**

New provision of open space will be required as part of new development. On-site provision should be provided in line with the proposed open space standards.

Where on-site provision is deemed impractical, or not required e.g. for small sites, consideration will be given to opportunities for off-site provision and/or improvements.

Improvements to existing open space will be considered first in the Parish within which the development is located, then in open spaces in neighbouring Parishes. Open spaces requiring improvements will be identified using the results from the quality audit (those sites being of poor or average quality being the highest priority) and also from site management plans and the Councils' own knowledge of their sites.

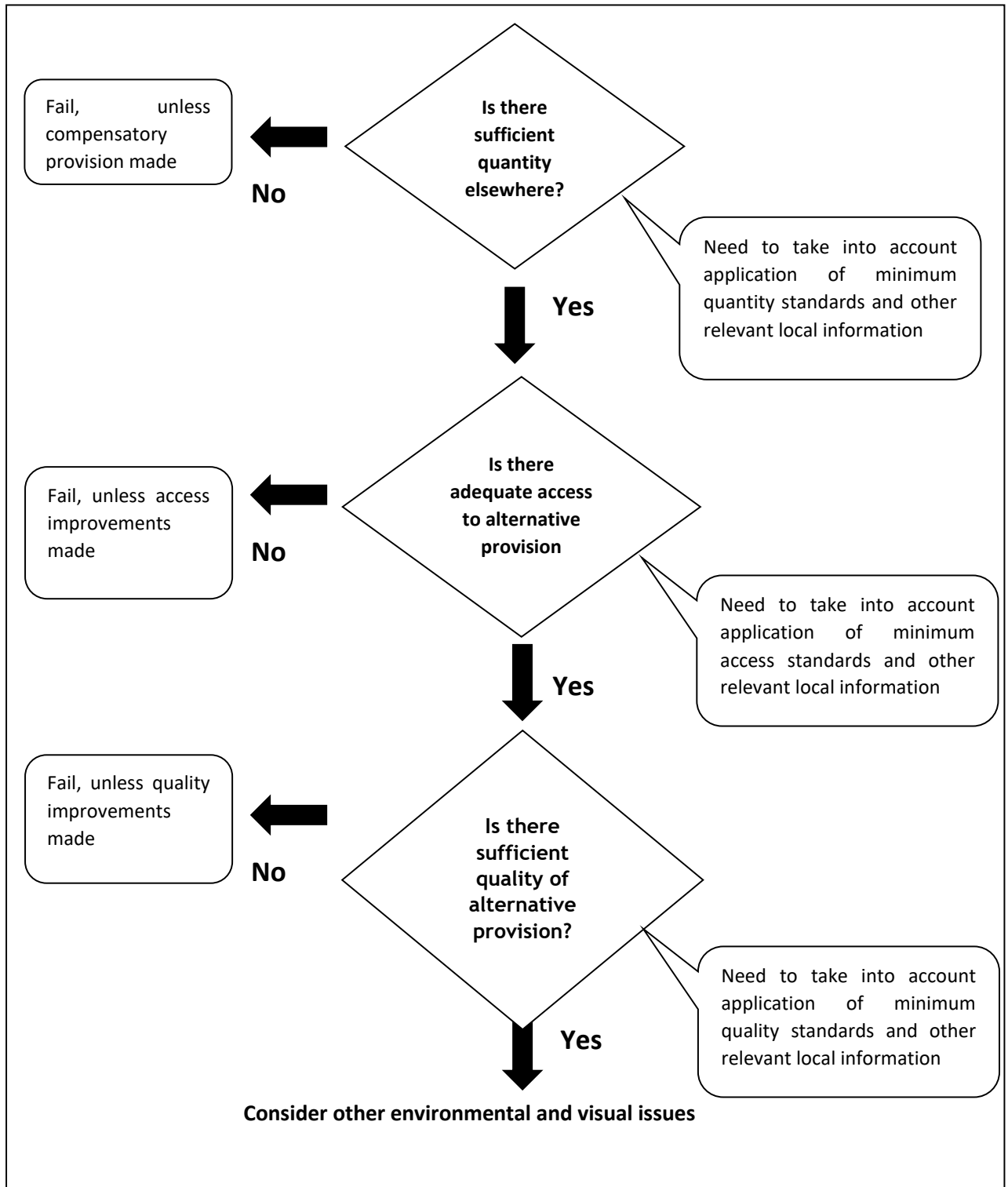
8.6 Facilities that are surplus to requirement

In addition to the strategic options outlined above, consideration should also be given to facilities that are surplus to requirement. There are important issues to resolve in terms of striking the correct balance of open space across the Study Area before any disposal can be contemplated. Whilst there is under provision relative to the minimum standards in several areas, there are other areas where provision compares favourably with the standards. However, it is once again emphasised that the proposed standards are for *minimum* levels of provision. Factors to be taken into account before any decision to release open space for alternative uses can be taken include:

- The local value and use of a given open space - as it may be a locally popular resource.
- Whether future local development/population growth might generate additional demands for open space.
- Whether there is a demonstrable need for some other type of open space within the locality that a given space (subject to a change of management regime) would be well placed to meet.
- Other non-recreational reasons that suggest a space should be retained (which might include ecological and visual reasons).

Figure 21 and the associated paragraphs below suggests an outline of the decision process that should be followed before the development/alternative use of an open space can be seriously contemplated.

Figure 21 Outline decision making process in relation to sanctioning (re)development of open space



Q. Is there sufficient quantity?

A. If the minimum quantitative standard for amenity green space is exceeded in a defined geographical area, the relative provision of other forms of open space must then be considered (amenity green space can in principle be converted into other forms of open space where the need arises). If a) provision meets the minimum quantitative standard; b) there is no significant local information suggesting a need to retain the site; and, c) there is not a perceived lack of other forms of open space, the next question can be addressed.

Q. Is there adequate access to alternative provision?

A. Within a given geographical area there may be good overall provision of amenity green space relative to the quantity standard, but is it in the right place and can it be easily reached? Applying the accessibility component of the minimum standards will help to answer this question. If other similar open space cannot be easily reached, the site's disposal for other uses may be unacceptable.

Q. Are other accessible and similar opportunities elsewhere of sufficient quality?

A. If it can be demonstrated that alternative opportunities are sufficient both in quantity and accessibility, there may still exist issues with the quality of these alternative provisions. The quality component of the proposed standards may indicate that certain improvements to alternative opportunities must be made which should be funded and secured before development is permitted.

The quality audit provided as part of this study provides a useful framework for identifying and prioritising open spaces that require improvements. Those open spaces which have been assessed as being of poor or average quality should be prioritised for improvement. If existing open spaces in the vicinity of new development are of poor/average quality, then their improvement (e.g. access improvements, signage, improvements to facilities and/or habitats) would need to be secured before any 'surplus' in a particular open space typology could be considered.

Even if these three tests are passed there may be other reasons for the site to remain as open space. For example, it may have value as a natural habitat or be visually important. Such considerations are important, but beyond the scope of this report.

8.7 Developer Contributions

This section draws on the policy recommendations in the previous section and outlines a process for calculating developer contributions for on and off-site provision.

8.7.1 Developer contributions

This section sets out higher level strategic recommendations and recommends an approach to developer contributions which can be used to inform policy for both on-site and off-site contributions.

1) *Capital cost of providing open space (on and off site).*

In order to calculate developer contributions for facilities, a methodology has been recommended which calculates how much it would cost the Local Authority to provide them. These costs have been calculated by Ethos Environmental Planning using Spon's²⁶. A summary of the costs are outlined in Table 19 below. These costs may be adopted by NNDC, however up-to-date costings may also be considered from other sources.

Contributions towards the provision or improvement of open space are calculated using the capital cost of provision. The same charges apply to both provision of new facilities and the upgrading/improvement of existing facilities (where related to new development), which more often than not includes new provision. Contribution per person is therefore taken to be a reasonable measure of that impact, irrespective of whether new provision or improvement of existing facilities is required. The calculated costs have drawn on the standards of provision summarised in Table 12.

Table 19 *Costs for providing open space (excludes land costs)*

Typology	Standard (m ²) per person ²⁷	Cost of provision	
		Cost / m ²	Contribution per person
Allotments	6.0	£22.34	£134.04
Amenity Greenspace	10	£20.24	£202.40
Parks and Recreation Grounds	11	£92.94	£1022.34
Play (Child)	1.0	£168.76	£168.76
Play (Youth)	0.6	£114.34	£68.60
Accessible Natural Greenspace	15	£20.24	£303.60
Total			£1,899.74

This shows that it costs £1,899.74 per person to provide new open space to meet the recommended standards for open space. These calculations may be used to calculate developer contributions for on-site provision and where required, for off-site contributions.

²⁶ Spon's Architects' and Builders' Price Book 2017

²⁷ It should be reiterated that these are minimum size requirements

Costs should be updated at least annually to account for inflation based on the Bank of England inflation rate.

A **cost calculator** has been provided to the Council so that the on and off-site requirements for open space can be calculated for different sized developments. This cost calculator is a recommendation by Ethos that might be taken further developed by the Councils. It provides an example of how costs might be calculated, but site circumstances will also need to be taken into account e.g. topography.

The cost calculator is based on the following assumptions:

- Household size based on numbers of beds, as follows (alternatively, an average household size of 2.3 persons per dwelling can be used):
 - 1 bed: 1.3 persons
 - 2 bed: 1.8 persons
 - 3 bed: 2.6 persons
 - 4 bed: 3.2 persons
- The open space quantity standards (see Table 12)
- The cost of open space per m2 (see Table 19)
- Thresholds for on-site provision (see Table 22)

Cost calculator: Example

A housing development of 100 dwellings (with an average household size of 2.3 persons per dwelling) would generate the following minimum requirements for on-site provision of open space and contributions for off-site improvements:

On-site provision (provided there is no access to existing allotments, amenity green space, children's play space and natural against the access standards – otherwise contributions to improve the quality of existing open space typology may be considered where appropriate):

- 0.1380 ha (1380 sqm) of allotments
- 0.2300 ha (2300 sqm) of amenity green space
- 0.0230 ha (230 sqm) of equipped children's play space
- 0.3450 ha (3450 sqm) of accessible natural green space

Contributions for off-site provision/improvements required:

- £235,138 for parks and recreation grounds
- £15,779 for youth play space

A screenshot from the cost calculator is provided below:

Number of dwellings	Enter number	Equivalent people	Open Space requirement	Required msq per person	Cost per msq	Total requirement (msq)	Cost of provision (£)	On site required?	Required quantity on site (msq)	Enter actual provision on site (msq)	Value of provision	Contribution required
1 bed	0	0	Allotments	6	22.34	1,380.00	£30,829	Y	1,380.00	1,380	30,829	£0
2 bed	0	0	Amenity Green Space	10	20.24	2,300.00	£46,552	Y	2,300.00	2,300	46,552	£0
3 bed	0	0	Parks & Recreation Grounds	11	92.94	2,530.00	£235,138	0	FALSE	0	0	£235,138
4 bed	0	0	Play Space (Children)	1	168.76	230.00	£38,815	Y	230.00	230	38,815	£0
5 bed	0	0	Play Space (Youth)	0.6	114.34	138.00	£15,779	0	FALSE	0	0	£15,779
Elderley 1 bed	0	0	Natural Green Space	15	20.24	3,450.00	£69,828	Y	3,450.00	3450	69,828	£0
Elderley 2 bed	0	0										
TOTAL	100	230		43.60		10,028	£436,941		7,360.00		186,024.00	£250,917

2) Maintenance contributions (commuted sums) for on-site provision

Where new open space is provided, the developer would be expected to provide the open space and either maintain the open space through a management company, or if, the site is to be adopted by the Local Authority, then maintenance fees of at least 20 years will be included in the Section 106 legal agreement. If the open space is maintained by a Management Company then the open space should be publicly accessible in perpetuity. It is expected that a management plan for the open space would be submitted and approved by the council as a planning condition or part of the legal agreement. Details of how the Management Company will be established and managed, and the provisions put in place should the management company fail etc. would also need to be approved by the council.

In the event that the open space would be adopted by the Council/Parish council, they may be willing to accept a commuted sum and make arrangements for management of the open space. The amount payable for the commuted sum will be calculated on a case by case site specific basis. Costs should be updated at least annually to account for inflation based on the Bank of England inflation rate.

3) Eligible types of development for on-site provision

Table 20 outlines the type of housing that will be considered eligible for making contributions towards open space to meet the needs of future occupants.

Table 20 Eligible types of residential development

Category	Open Market Housing / Flats	Affordable Housing	Older People's Accommodation*	Permanent mobile homes
Play Space (Children and Youth)	✓	✓	X	✓
Parks and Recreation Grounds	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amenity Open Space	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural Green Space	✓	✓	✓	✓
Allotments	✓	✓	✓	✓

** Contributions towards parks and recreation grounds could be used towards an amenity benefit towards the elderly e.g. greens or bowls or could be used towards other community facilities that might provide benefit.*

4) Thresholds for provision

The required open space, sport and recreation facilities should in the first instance be provided on-site, with off-site provision/contributions only to be considered where on-site provision is either not needed (considering the analysis of supply and accessibility) or not possible/practicable. In some cases, provision (e.g. strategic provision, where funding needs to be pooled) could be delivered through funds collected via S106 or CIL (if implemented). Otherwise, off-site provision would be via developer contributions – the developer will not pay for both CIL and S106 for the same type of infrastructure (known as ‘double dipping’).

Where facilities are to be provided on-site, NNDC will expect the developer to provide the land for the facility and either:

- Design and build the provision to the satisfaction of NNDC; or
- Make a financial contribution to NNDC so that it may arrange for the construction and development of the required facility.

The decision on whether facility provision is to be on-site, off-site or both depends on the following considerations²⁸:

- The scale of the proposed development and site area;
- The suitability of a site reflecting, for example, its topography or flood risk;
- The existing provision of facilities within the Parish/neighbourhood;
- Other sites in the Parish/neighbourhood where additional provision is proposed;
- Existing access to facilities within the Parish/neighbourhood;
- Additional natural capital benefits and the ecosystem services open space provides such as air quality regulation and climate regulation.

Table 21 provides guidance on how to assess different scales of development sites that could generate a need for facilities in the categories listed to be provided on-site (also see the flow chart at figure 20, which shows how the quantity, access and quality analysis needs to be taken into account). It should also be considered that where a development is of a size that could generate the need for provision of open space on-site, if there is sufficient provision (quantity and access) of an open space typology within the vicinity, then consideration will be given to improving existing facilities as an alternative to new on-site provision.

Where new development would result in less than 0.15ha of amenity green space, it would need to be provided as a single site, in order to avoid a proliferation of very small amenity spaces with limited recreational value.

²⁸ Also see flow chart at figure 20

While table 21 acts as a useful guide to the recommended types of provision in relation to the size of a scheme, each proposal will still be considered on a site by site basis, with on-site provision always to be considered as the first solution.

Table 21 Potential open space requirements based on scheme size

Type of Provision	11-19 dwellings	20-49 dwellings	50-99 dwellings	100 – 199 dwellings	200+ dwellings
Allotments	Off-site	Off-site	Off-site	On-site	On-site
Amenity Green Space	On-site	On-site	On-site	On-site	On-site
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Off-site	Off-site	Off-site	Off-site	On-site
Play Space (children)	On-site*	On-site	On-site	On-site	On-site
Play Space (Youth)	Off-site	Off-site	Off-site	Off-site	On-site
Accessible Natural Green Space	Off-site	Off-site	Off-site	On-site	On-site

* For children’s play space, the minimum size required for new equipped provision is 0.01ha (100sq m). At smaller scheme sizes, consideration should be given to the design of amenity green space to provide ‘playable’ space and making use of natural play solutions, rather than equipped provision always being required.

9.0 CONCLUSION

This study provides a robust analysis of the status of open space within North Norfolk in 2019. It includes an audit of provision and a local needs assessment (consultation) with findings used to produce new recommended standards for quantity, accessibility and quality of open space. The study also includes a suite of policy recommendations and methodologies for interpreting and informing the needs for the assessed open space typologies over a period up to 2036, as well as a process for calculating developer contributions. It should be read in conjunction with the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report (2019).

The role and value of open space in contributing to the delivery of national and local priorities and targets is clear from this assessment. It is important that the policies and recommendations included within this assessment are considered for inclusion as statutory planning policy, associated guidance and other council strategies and policy documents, as and when they are reviewed. Council officers and elected members play a pivotal role in adopting and promoting the recommendations within this assessment and ensuring that key stakeholders such as town and Parish councils, community groups and agents and developers are suitably informed and engaged in the open space process.

The Council intend to manage and update the mapping of open space on a regular basis through the thorough monitoring of planning permissions that alter the quantum of open space. This information will be used to ensure that the GIS database remains as up to date as possible in order to inform any future re-fresh of the Study.
