

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Open Space Assessment



2016-2036

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Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
ANGSt	Accessible Natural Green Space Standard
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields In Trust (originally known as the 'National Playing Fields Association')
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIST	Green Infrastructure Strategy
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Play Area
NEWP	Natural Environment White Paper
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPG17	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
WASt	Woodland Access Standard

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to set out policies which help enable communities to access high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation.

Ethos Environmental Planning Ltd were commissioned by Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council to undertake an Open Space Assessment. The Study responds to national policy requirements and will inform the preparation of the Councils' emerging joint Local Plan, for the period to 2036.

1.2 The Open Space Assessment

The Open Space Assessment examines existing and projected needs for open space, sport and recreation provision, using a variety of data sources, together with independent investigation and Town and Parish Council survey (Appendix 1).

In brief, the scope of the assessment covers open space, including amenity and natural space, parks and recreation grounds, play space and allotments.

Formal playing fields and indoor sports facilities are outside of the scope of this study as they are being assessed through other studies (Built Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy).

The Study has been carried out in-line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) July 2018 (*Para 96 and 97*). The Study has primarily been affected by the omission of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17) from the new national policy framework. Whilst the government has not published anything specifically to replace this document (it does signpost the Sport England guidance for sports facilities assessments¹), there is however, still a clear reference made in the new guidance 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.

It should be noted that this Study provides an evidence base for planning policy, and is not a strategy document. The recommendations (Section 8) of this assessment include the basis for the formulation of policies related to open space to be considered for inclusion within the local plan.

¹ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities>

1.3 The Emerging Joint Local Plan

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are producing a Joint Local Plan which will set out planning policies for the two Councils for the period to 2036, including site allocations and development management policies. Once adopted, the new Joint Local Plan will replace the existing local planning policies for both Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

From August 2017 to November 2017 the Councils consulted on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan - Consultation Document (Reg 18 Stage). The purpose of this consultation was to identify the issues, put forward options and, in some instances, to indicate an initial preference for the new Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

The new Joint Local Plan will set a **spatial vision** of the type of place that Babergh and Mid Suffolk will become by 2036. The August 2017 Consultation Document states that the vision will be based upon the following key priority areas for Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council namely:

- Housing
- The Economy
- The Environment
- Healthy Communities & Infrastructure.

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) concludes the following Objectively Assessed Needs (OAN) for Babergh and Mid Suffolk:

Local Authority	Objectively Assessed Need (2014-2036)	Annualised Objectively Assessed Need
Babergh	7,820	355
Mid Suffolk	9,951	452

A new methodology for assessing housing requirements to be used nationally was proposed in the Government's consultation on Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places (RHRP) which was published in September 2017. This is expected to be further revised following the publication of national household projections in September 2018. Based on the RHRP methodology the requirement for Babergh and Mid Suffolk is as follows:

Local Authority	RHRP Requirement (2014-2036)	RHRP Annualised Requirement
Babergh	9,658	439
Mid Suffolk	12,606	573

For Babergh District, based on the RHRP methodology, once development already built from 2014-2017 and committed through existing planning permissions has been taken account of, there is a residual need to plan for approximately 6,048 new homes by 2036. For Mid Suffolk district, once development already built from 2014-2017 and committed through existing planning permissions has been taken account of, there is a residual need to plan for approximately 8,476 new homes by 2036.

The possible growth options set out in the August 2017 Consultation Document are as follows:

- County Town focused - Growing Ipswich with further sustainable growth provides opportunities to Babergh and Mid Suffolk's growing population to access employment, services and facilities, which in turn helps regenerate the town and bring investment for the improvement of key infrastructure around the town, the surrounding areas and the wider strategic area. Focused consideration would be given to communities with the strongest functional relationships with Ipswich.
- Market town/rural area balance - The Councils consider that a mix of urban and rural development is important to maintain the overall success of the area and this has been pattern of growth in recent years.
- Transport corridor focused - Many settlements with good access to key routes are successful at attracting services and facilities and are sustained by new development demand such as housing and employment land. Further sustainable development in these locations could provide opportunities to improve existing facilities and better opportunities to travel by more sustainable patterns and means. Focused consideration would be given to communities within approx 2km of an A road junction or mainline train station.
- New settlement focused - Where significant new growth is identified and required, national planning policy encourages Councils to consider whether growth could be accommodated through the planning of new settlements – either garden towns or villages. They are intended to be of a scale of at least 1,500 homes and genuinely new stand-alone communities, rather than extensions to existing towns or villages.

1.4 Purpose of this Report

The aims of the study are to provide a robust assessment of needs and provision of open spaces in order to establish local provision standards and create an up-to-date evidence base which can be used to inform the new joint Local Plan. The standards will be used to assess proposals for open spaces during the Local Plan period, recognising the need for improving the quality of existing open spaces in addition to requiring new provision. The assessment will also help to inform decisions on the distribution of Community Infrastructure Levy and the production of the Councils' Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

The study will provide the Councils with up to date information on open space location, coverage and provision. It will provide a comprehensive assessment of the current level of provision of the different types of open space.

The brief for the study highlighted that the core outcomes are:

- To establish an up-to-date audit of the location, size and type of open spaces across the Council areas;
 - To define appropriate standards for provision of each type of open space;
 - To identify existing surpluses and deficits of each type of open space; and
 - To provide information to support the identification of projects for which Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts can be targeted.
-

The brief for the study required that a technical assessment was undertaken, rather than extensive consultation to inform the recommended standards. Therefore, evidence from existing standards, policies and strategies; existing provision; national guidance; benchmarking with other authorities; and deliverability considerations have been used when developing standards (along with the 2017 Town and Parish Council survey - Appendix 1) for the provision and quality of open space.

1.5 Structure of the report

The open space 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

1.6 The Study Area

1.6.1 Overview of Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are predominantly rural districts covering the geographical centre of Suffolk, running from the boundary with Essex in the South to the boundary with Norfolk in the North. This covers a total area of approximately 565 square miles.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have been developing an agreed process of integrating services over several years. Whilst remaining two distinct sovereign Councils, they now have a single staff structure to serve the two organizations and members work together collectively to deliver local authority services across the two districts.

Babergh

The Babergh district is mainly rural in character and covers an area of 230 square miles. It has two main towns, the market town of Sudbury in the West and the smaller town of Hadleigh located centrally within the district. On its immediate fringes lie the towns of Bury St Edmunds to the North, Ipswich to the East and Colchester to the South.

The landscape is varied and attractive consisting largely of undulating arable farmland interspersed with river valleys, and is framed on the Eastern and South-Eastern sides by the Orwell and Stour estuaries. These estuaries have a distinct and precious character, and valued wildlife habitats. Both these areas are designated as Ramsar (international designations) sites and Special Protection Areas (European designations). Much of the rest of the district is also recognised for its value with a wealth of designated areas from SSSIs, AONBs to listed buildings and conservation areas to name a few.

Mid Suffolk

Mid Suffolk is one of the largest districts in England covering 87,107 hectares (335 square miles) with over 70% of the population living in villages and rural areas. The district has a distinctive character with its combination of market towns, villages and countryside including the valleys of the River Waveney and Dove in the North, through the open fields of High Suffolk to the Valleys of the River Ratt and Gipping in the South. All of these areas have distinctive and attractive areas that have their own unique characteristics.

Mid Suffolk has national and local sites designated for their geological significance, including five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and two Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS). There is a rich variety of wildlife and biodiversity in the district including the international RAMSAR designation at Redgrave and Lopham Fens and numerous national, regional and local designations.

The district includes three towns – Stowmarket, Needham Market and Eye. Stowmarket and Needham Market are surrounded by the boulder clays of 'High Suffolk'. Stowmarket has arisen around a junction, where the old route from Ipswich to Bury St Edmunds has been crossed by roads from Finborough in the West and Stowupland in the East. Similarly, Needham Market evolved around a turnpike on the same Ipswich to Bury St Edmunds route. The topography of Eye has kept the shape of the medieval form of the old town quite distinct. The town's name translates to 'island', all around are water meadows on the River Dove and tributaries, because of this the town has not experienced close concentric or radial growth.

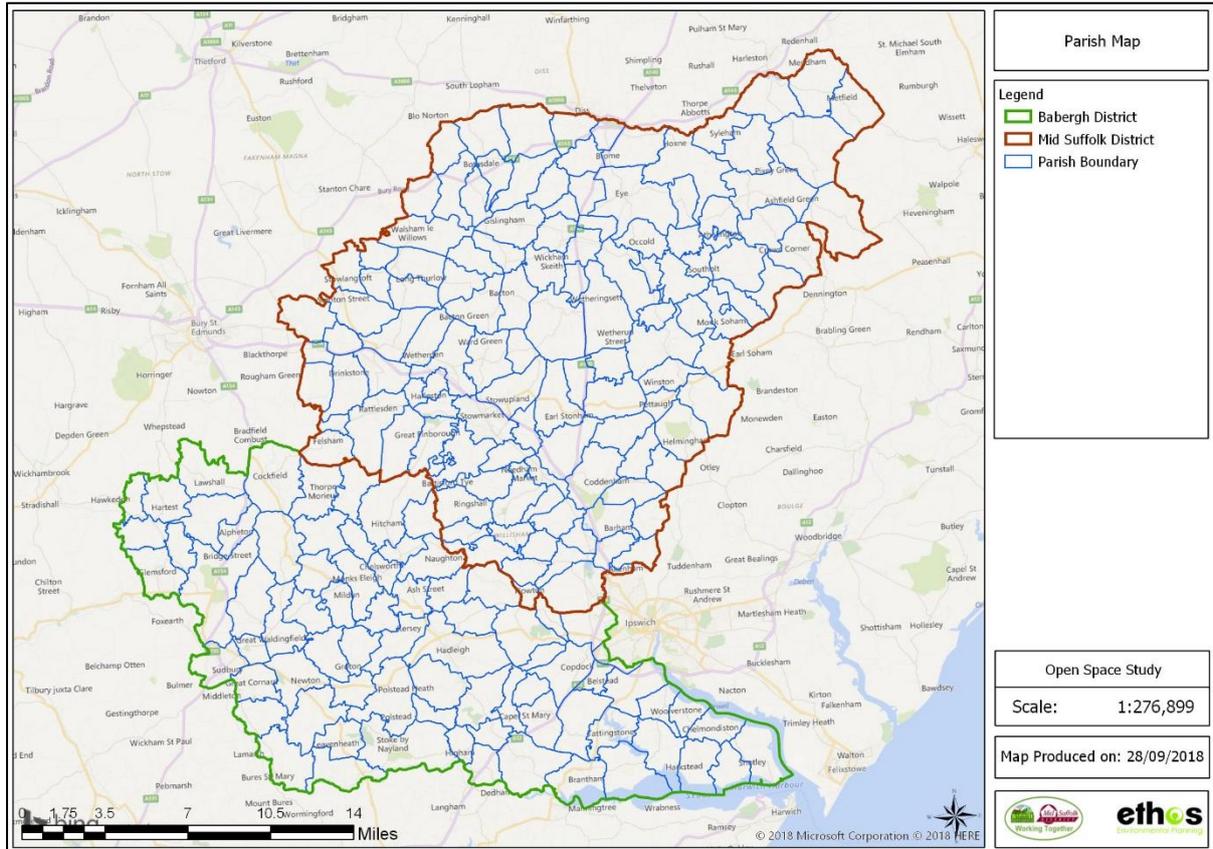
The landscape of Babergh and Mid Suffolk (South and North Suffolk) is acknowledged as being attractive and an important part of why people choose to live and work here.

1.6.2 Administrative Boundaries

In order to analyse the current provision and future requirements for open space across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, Parishes have been used as the geographical areas (as shown in figure 1). This was agreed by the project steering group as the most effective way to analyse provision.

These boundaries are the basis for collating census data across the Council areas. Of particular relevance to this study are population statistics (Census, 2011), which have been used as the basis for much of the current and future assessment of need for open space.

Figure 1 Parish Boundaries in Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts



1.6.3 Population Statistics

The tables below show the Census 2011 figures for Babergh (Table 1) and Mid Suffolk (Table 2) Districts. Where a Parish population is smaller than 100, NOMIS do not publish the figure, and for these Parishes we have assigned a population of 50 for the analysis. Consequently, parish quantity analysis results will vary very slightly from district level analysis. The total population for Babergh is 87,740 and for Mid Suffolk it is 96,731 (Census 2011).

Table 1 Parish population statistics for Babergh District (Census 2011)

Parish/Town	Population 2011
Acton	1811
Aldham	175
Alpheton	256
Arwarton	126
Assington	402
Belstead	202
Bentley	776
Bildeston	1054
Boxford	1221
Boxted	50
Brantham	2566
Brent Eleigh	174
Brettenham	353

Parish/Town	Population 2011
Bures St. Mary	918
Burstall	198
Capel St. Mary	2847
Chattisham	167
Chelmondiston	1054
Chelsworth	206
Chilton	367
Cockfield	868
Copdock and Washbrook	1114
East Bergholt	2765
Edwardstone	352
Elmsett	788
Freston	120
Glemsford	3382
Great Cornard	8908
Great Waldingfield	1431
Groton	288
Hadleigh	8253
Harkstead	287
Hartest	446
Higham	203
Hintlesham	609
Hitcham	774
Holbrook	2180
Holton St. Mary	201
Kersey	359
Kettlebaston	50
Lavenham	1722
Lawshall	968
Layham	589
Leavenheath	1370
Lindsey	208
Little Cornard	286
Little Waldingfield	366
Long Melford	3518
Milden	101
Monks Eleigh	505
Nayland-with-Wissington	1163
Nedging-with-Naughton	404
Newton	495
Pinewood	4342
Polstead	851
Preston St. Mary	177
Raydon	507
Semer	130

Parish/Town	Population 2011
Shelley	50
Shimpling	431
Shotley	2342
Somerton	212
Sproughton	1376
Stanstead	319
Stoke-by-Nayland	682
Stratford St. Mary	701
Stutton	812
Sudbury	13063
Tattingstone	540
Thorpe Morieux	232
Wattisham	50
Wenham Magna	185
Wenham Parva	50
Whatfield	335
Wherstead	342
Woolverstone	265

Table 2 Parish Population Statistics for Mid Suffolk (Census 2011)

Parish/Town	Population 2011
Akenham	50
Ashbocking	356
Ashfield cum Thorpe	219
Aspall	50
Athelington	50
Bacton	1228
Badley	50
Badwell Ash	770
Barham	1504
Barking	446
Battisford	458
Baylham	266
Bedfield	324
Bedingfield	404
Beyton	713
Botesdale	905
Braiseworth	50
Bramford	2303
Brome and Oakley	475
Brundish	287
Burgate	160
Buxhall	475
Claydon	2197
Coddenham	620

Parish/Town	Population 2011
Combs	852
Cotton	526
Creeting St. Mary	697
Creeting St. Peter	275
Crowfield	361
Darmsden	50
Debenham	2210
Denham	197
Drinkstone	548
Elmswell	3950
Eye	2154
Felsham	448
Finningham	480
Flowton	117
Framsden	357
Fressingfield	1021
Gedding	125
Gipping	50
Gislingham	1040
Gosbeck	236
Great Ashfield	378
Great Blakenham	1235
Great Bricett	1530
Great Finborough	808
Harleston	204
Haughley	1638
Helmingham	186
Hemingstone	244
Henley	573
Hessett	464
Hinderclay	326
Horham	305
Hoxne	889
Hunston	197
Kenton	237
Langham	50
Laxfield	910
Little Blakenham	295
Little Finborough	50
Mellis	519
Mendham	451
Mendlesham	1407
Metfield	388
Mickfield	231
Monk Soham	156

Parish/Town	Population 2011
Needham Market	4528
Nettlestead	50
Norton	1003
Occold	519
Offton	358
Old Newton with Dagworth	1211
Onehouse	877
Palgrave	905
Pettaugh	207
Rattlesden	959
Redgrave	459
Redlingfield	144
Rickinghall Inferior	449
Rickinghall Superior	719
Ringshall	670
Rishangles	50
Shelland	50
Somersham	733
Southolt	50
Stoke Ash	314
Stonham Aspal	601
Stonham Earl	629
Stonham Parva	399
Stowlangtoft	228
Stowmarket	19280
Stowupland	1988
Stradbroke	1408
Stuston	194
Syleham	180
Tannington	50
Thorndon	648
Thornham Magna	210
Thornham Parva	50
Thrandeston	146
Thurston	3232
Thwaite	149
Tostock	472
Walsham-le-Willows	1213
Wattisfield	475
Westhorpe	208
Wetherden	543
Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford	669
Weybread	432
Whitton	168
Wickham Skeith	321

Parish/Town	Population 2011
Wilby	239
Willisham	362
Wingfield	345
Winston	159
Woolpit	1995
Worlingworth	802
Wortham	722
Wyverstone	396
Yaxley	588

2.0 METHODOLOGY

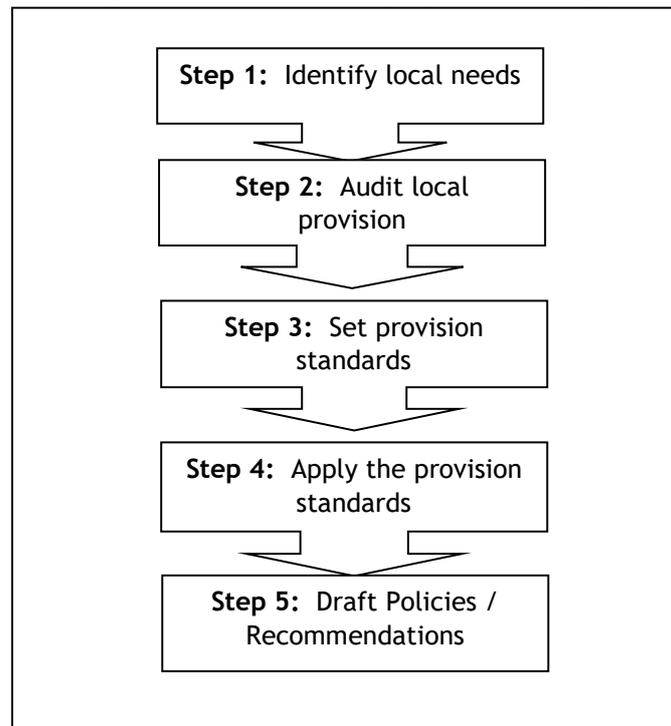
2.1 General

The starting point for this study has been the guidance in Section 8 of the NPPF, which adheres to but has superseded PPG17. The new 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 brief for the study did not require extensive consultation to identify local need. However, a Town and Parish Council survey was undertaken, alongside a review of existing standards, strategies and policies, national guidance and benchmarking with adjoining local authorities. These findings have been used to inform the recommended quantity, access and quality standards.

The findings are summarised in the section 4 of this report, and the full Town and Parish Council survey report is provided at Appendix 1.

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 Babergh and Mid Suffolk, an initial desktop audit of the open space asset was carried out, this included:

- analysis of existing GIS data held by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils;
- desktop mapping of open space from aerial photography;
- questionnaires to Parish Councils;
- liaison with Council officers.

Following this, site visits were undertaken by Ethos at 519 open spaces to assess the quality of sites. The quality audit was based on criteria set out in the Green Flag Award². The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a sites existing and potential 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 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. The advantage of the multi-functional approach is that it gives a much more accurate picture of the provision of open space. This is more advantageous than the primary typology approach which tends to result in an over assessment of provision, and which can significantly impact decisions on quantity standards. The differences in approach are demonstrated in figures 3 and 4.

² <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/judges/judging-criteria>

Figure 3 Primary approach to open space mapping

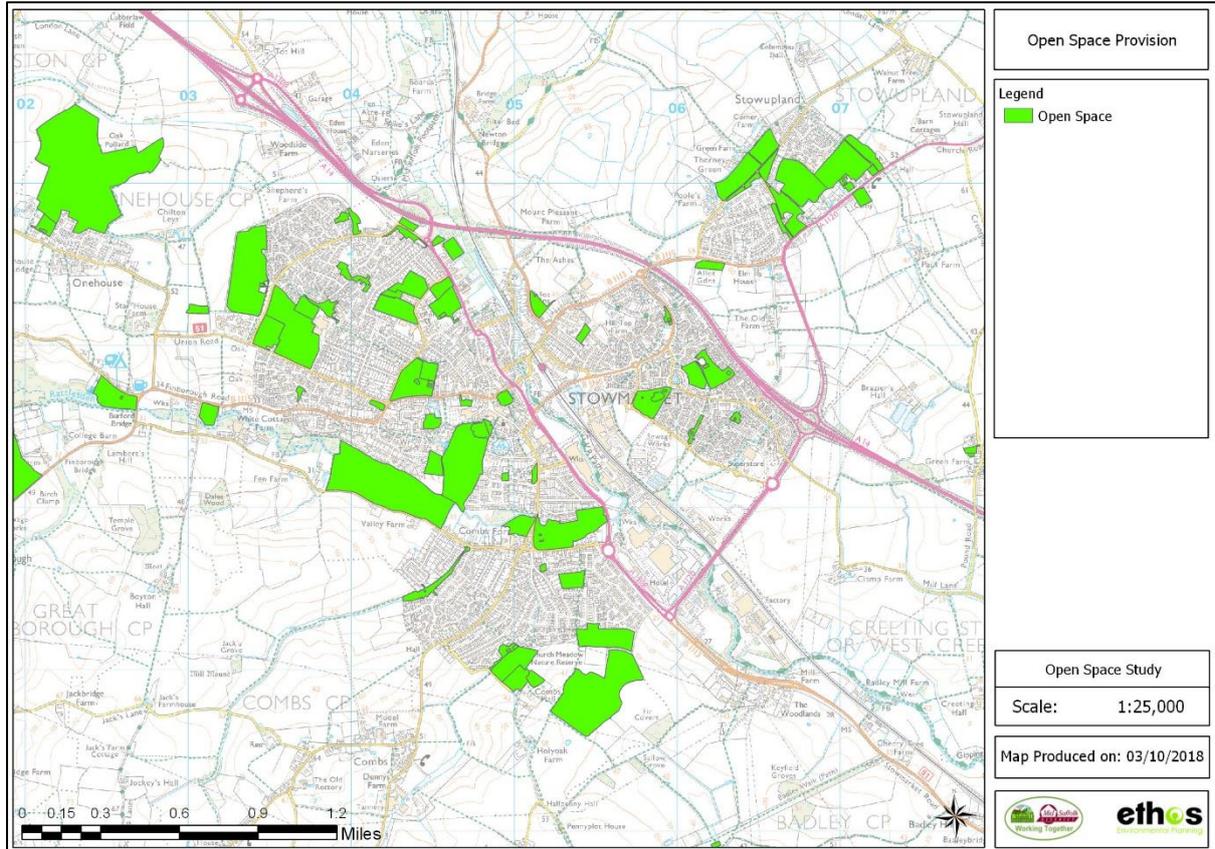
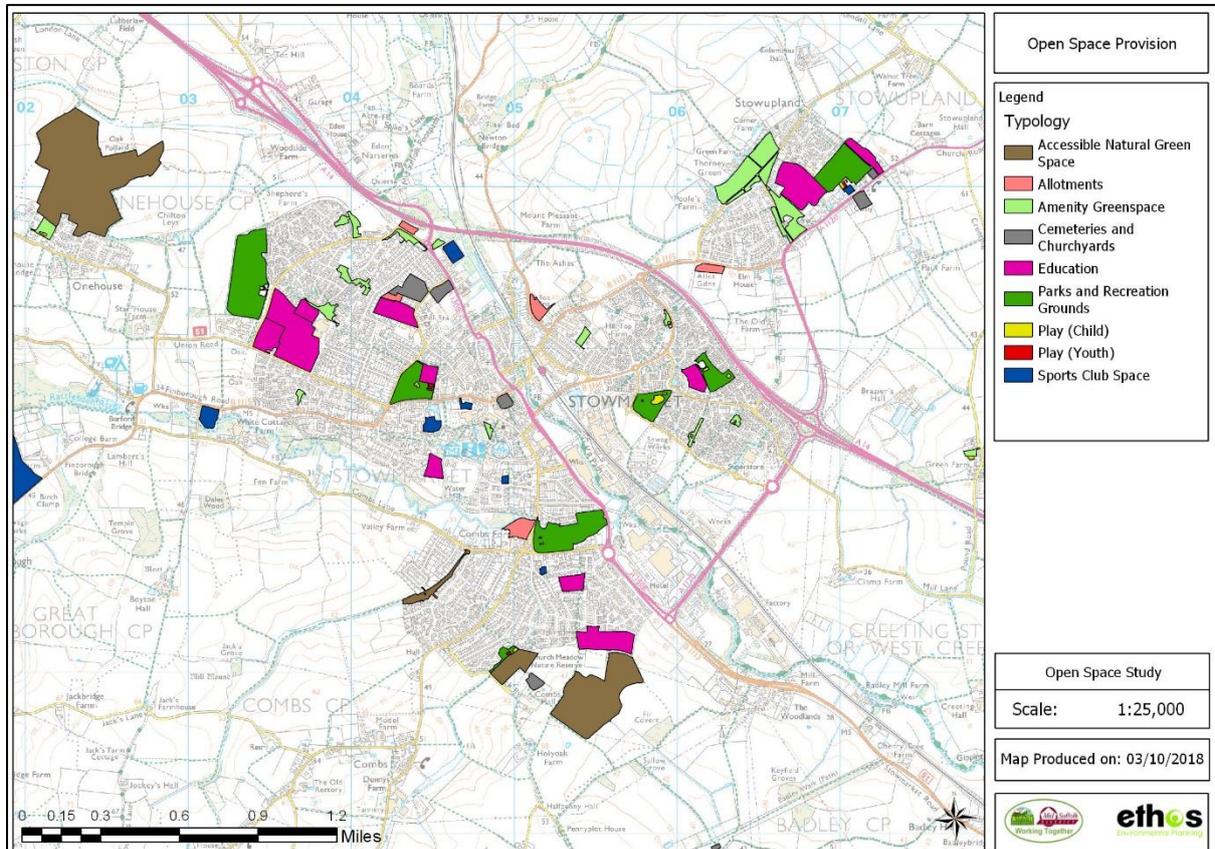


Figure 4 Multi-functional mapping of open space



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

Local provision standards have been set, 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 2017 Town and Parish Council survey (Appendix 1) 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 1000 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, and consideration of national benchmarks are used to develop access standards for open space. Typically, standards are expressed as straight line walk times. A series of maps assessing access for different typologies are presented in the report.

Quality

Quality standards have been developed drawing on previous studies, national benchmarks and good practice, 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 five 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.
-

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. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils reserve the right to change and update this section as policies change.

The policy overview includes analysis of the Councils' existing strategies and policies, to provide context in terms of the current policy framework. It also includes a review of other strategies of relevance at national and local levels.

The PPG17 companion guide identified the importance of understanding the implications of existing strategies on the study. Specifically, 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)³

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

- **Para 17** - Achieving Sustainable Development - Core Planning Principles: Within the overarching roles that the planning system ought to play, a set of core land-use planning principles should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking.
- **Para 58** - Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area.
- **Para 73** - 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. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

³ The paragraphs listed here are from the 2012 version of the NPPF, which was the document in place when the assessment was undertaken, however, this has now been superseded by the 2019 version of the NPPF.

- **Para 74** – Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
 - An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
- **Para 75** - Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.
- **Para 99** - Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape.
- **Para 109** - The planning system 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'*.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts have a wide range of existing green infrastructure assets such as open spaces, parks and gardens, allotments, woodlands, street trees, fields, hedges, lakes, ponds, 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.

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

The white paper⁴ recognised 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 EU and internationally.

⁴ <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

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 deliver more resilient and coherent ecological networks, healthy and well-functioning ecosystems, which deliver multiple benefits for wildlife and people.

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.

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 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 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.

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. Sport England will set up a new fund in 2016 to get inactive people physically active and will support and measure participation in sport and wider physical activity going forward (Sport England has now set up new funds since 2016).

3.2.1.6 Sport England Strategy (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 physical activity. Sport England's new vision and its supporting aims will therefore contribute to achieving the government's strategy.

3.2.2 County/Sub-regional Context

3.2.2.1 Joint Strategic Plan Refresh (2016 - 2020)

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Strategic Plan sets out how the Council's and the communities and businesses they serve can shape the future, for the better.

It articulates the three main priority areas:

- Economy and Environment
- Housing

- Strong and Healthy Communities

These priorities will be delivered under five key strategic outcomes:

- Housing delivery – More of the right type of homes, of the right tenure in the right place
- Business growth and increased productivity – Encourage development of employment sites and other business growth, of the right type, in the right place and encourage investment in skills and innovation in order to increase productivity
- Community capacity building and engagement – All communities are thriving, growing, healthy, active and self-sufficient
- Assets and investments – Improved achievement of strategic priorities and greater income generation through use of new and existing assets
- An enabled and efficient organisation – The right people, doing the right things, in the right way, at the right time, for the right reasons

This open space assessment has relevance to all of the three priority areas, but is most relevant to ‘strong and healthy communities’.

3.2.2.2 Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy (2008, and 2015 update)

In 2008 the Haven Gateway Partnership published the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy. This Strategy focuses on strategic accessible natural greenspace (ANG) provision, and identifies provision and deficiencies within the Haven Gateway. The study area includes a small part of Mid Suffolk adjoining Ipswich and the Eastern part of Babergh District.

A GIS database has been developed, mapping current green infrastructure assets and identifying areas of need.

The strategy appraises and identifies standards for delivering enhancements to the existing ANG network. The criteria for defining ANG were developed in liaison with the Steering Group. The existing ANG provision was appraised to identify deficiencies in provision based on four accessible natural greenspace standards (as developed by English Nature [now Natural England] in 2003, adapted by the Town and Country Planning Association and agreed by the Steering Group):

- 2ha+ of ANG within 300m of home – the Neighbourhood Level
- 20ha+ of ANG within 1.2km of home – the District Level
- 60ha+ of ANG within 3.2km of home – the Sub-regional Level
- 500ha+ of ANG within 10km of home – the Regional Level

Our vision: To establish a framework for the delivery of high quality green infrastructure over the next 20 years, complementing and supporting planned housing and development growth.

To contribute to quality of life through ensuring that everyone living and working in the Haven Gateway has access to a high quality natural and historic environment.

Principles: The principles have been developed by the Steering Group and will guide planning, design and maintenance of the green infrastructure network. The overarching principles are to:

- integrate green infrastructure provision and management into development proposals
- champion the role that green infrastructure assets play in delivering a high quality of life
- promote an integrated approach to green infrastructure provision and management that provides recreational opportunities for people whilst maintaining and enhancing the exceptional natural and historic environment within the Haven Gateway
- create green infrastructure that reflects the ethos and character of the Haven Gateway
- increase everyone's understanding of, and ability to take action for, green infrastructure

These principles are elaborated under the themes of access, biodiversity, historic environment and landscape.

Consultation was carried out with the Stakeholder Group to identify and analyse the resource data and to determine indicative project opportunities. An Opportunities Map was produced which identifies opportunities and indicative vision projects across the Haven Gateway area.

The 2015 update forms part of the work programme of the Ipswich Policy Area Board which is established as a forum for five local authorities (Babergh District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council) to work together on planning across the Ipswich Policy Area. The purpose of the update is to identify progress since 2008 and to update the analysis of provision and deficiencies of accessible natural greenspace.

Accessible natural greenspaces have been mapped according to the Natural England standards set out in Nature Nearby. The standards for provision are as follows:

- 2ha+ of ANG within 300m of home – neighbourhood level
- 20ha+ of ANG within 2km of home – district level
- 100ha+ of ANG within 5km of home – sub-regional level
- 500ha+ of ANG within 10 km of home – regional level

Greenspaces have also been mapped according to the Woodland Trust's standards for woodland provision which are:

- No person should live more than 500 metres from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 hectares in size;
-

- There should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 hectares within 4 kilometres (8 kilometre round trip) of people’s homes.

When compared to the conclusions of the 2008 Strategy it is evident that the pattern of provision is largely similar. Some of the broad findings are highlighted below:

Whilst there are gaps in provision of neighbourhood scale accessible natural greenspace across large parts of the urban areas, there are few locations which are not within the catchment area of district level spaces. This is with the exception of parts of Northwest Ipswich, parts of Woodbridge, Southern and Western Felixstowe including the Trimley villages, Claydon/Great Blakenham and some smaller villages such as Kirton and Capel St Mary.

Particular areas of deficiency (including planned greenspaces) exist in and around Felixstowe, around the Northern and Western parts of Ipswich and around Claydon / Great Blakenham, Needham Market, Hadleigh and Capel St Mary. The deficiencies in these locations relate largely to the lack of provision of larger (sub-regional and regional scale) greenspaces and the allocation of strategic sites in these locations would provide an opportunity to secure new larger spaces.

In terms of links between health and accessible natural greenspace provision, the larger areas of accessible natural greenspace (sub-regional and regional scale) generally correspond with areas recorded as having better levels of health and lower levels of deprivation.

3.2.2.3 A joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Suffolk (2012-2022)

This strategy aims to help everyone in the county improve their health and wellbeing, but with a particular focus on those who experience a poorer quality of life. This strategy has been agreed by the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board whose role is to help local people improve their health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

Vision: *Our vision is that people in Suffolk live healthier, happier lives. We also want to narrow the differences in healthy life expectancy between those living in our most deprived communities and those who are more affluent through achieving greater improvements in more disadvantaged communities.*

The Strategy recognises many opportunities for improving health and wellbeing within Suffolk. An example provided is building on the inspiration of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the ambition to be the most active county to promote healthy active lifestyles, and access to good quality open space will contribute to this.

The four strategic outcomes are:

Outcome one: Every child in Suffolk has the best start in life

Outcome two: Suffolk residents have access to a healthy environment and take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing

Outcome three: Older people in Suffolk have a good quality of life

Outcome four: People in Suffolk have the opportunity to improve their mental health and wellbeing

Under Outcome two, the Strategy recognises that ‘a healthy lifestyle will improve the health and wellbeing of the population and that the environment we live in can facilitate this. If green spaces are available and people feel safe they are more likely to take exercise. Increasing the levels of physical activity is recognised as a valuable cross cutting contribution to all four outcomes in this strategy. Exercise is also encouraged by well planned and properly linked walking and cycling routes. Access to leisure, culture and community based activities all play a part in improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities’.

The priorities for action under this outcome include the following:

- Creating an environment where it is easy to make healthy choices
- Increasing the levels of physical activity and encouraging greater use of our natural environment

3.2.2.4 Suffolk Nature Strategy (2012)

The Strategy has been put together primarily by the following organisations: Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the RSPB and the National Trust, and advised by Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission.

A 2020 vision for Suffolk’s natural environment: Working together as individuals, communities, businesses and decision-makers, we will ensure Suffolk’s natural environment is conserved and enhanced for future generations and continues to be seen as one of the county’s key strengths. Its intrinsic value, as well as its importance to our economic growth, is increasingly understood, whilst the people of Suffolk and our visitors are able to gain better access to enhanced enjoyment and a deeper understanding of its unique qualities. We will continue to add to our knowledge of Suffolk’s wildlife and landscapes and to collect high-quality information.

The Strategy sets out recommendations and actions across three sections: natural environment, economic growth, and health and wellbeing.

3.2.2.5 In Step with Suffolk – Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2006-2016)

Through the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) the Government recognises the value of PRoW and requires each Highways Authority to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) in order to identify changes that will ‘improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those with mobility problems.’

In order to develop a ROWIP Highways Authorities are required to assess:

- The extent to which local rights of way meet present and future needs of the public.
- The opportunities provided by local rights of way and in particular by footpaths, cycle-tracks, bridleways and restricted byways for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of their area.

- The accessibility of local rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems.

A ROWIP Assessment was undertaken following widespread consultation and includes information on the extent, condition and use of the PRoW network. The Assessment highlighted the key role that PRoW play in maintaining and improving quality of life in the county and the links to issues such as sustainable transport, local economy, recreation, tourism and health.

The six objectives identified for Suffolk based on the findings of the Assessment are:

Objective A: Provide a better signed, maintained and accessible network

Objective B: Provide and protect a more continuous network that provides for the requirements of all users

Objective C: Develop a safer network

Objective D: Increase community involvement in improving and managing the network

Objective E: Provide an up to date and publicly available digitised Definitive Map for the whole of Suffolk

Objective F: Improve promotion, understanding and use of the network

3.2.3 Local Context (policies still saved but mode of delivery is different now that the Community Infrastructure Levy is in place).

Babergh District Council

The Babergh Development Plan:

The Development Plan for Babergh consists of the ‘saved’ policies of the 2006 Local Plan, the 2014 Core Strategy and the ‘made’ neighbourhood plans which at the time of writing are East Bergholt, Lavenham and Lawshall.

3.2.3.1 Babergh Local Plan (June 2006)

The Babergh Local Plan Alteration No.2 was adopted by the Council on 1st June 2006. It sets out the detailed policies and proposals for the control of development across the district. Due to changes in planning regulation, and the adoption of the 2014 Babergh Core Strategy, some policies have been superseded.

Relevant saved policies include:

HS31 Proposals for residential development on a site of 1.5 hectares and above are required to provide 10% of the gross site area as public open space. This must include providing play equipment, which has been agreed in advance with the District Council.

HS32 Proposals for all new residential development, ranging from a single dwelling up to the development of a 1.5 hectare site, will be required to provide open space and play equipment

in proportion to the number of dwellings to be built. Developers will be given the choice to either:

- contribute financially to secure public open space with play equipment on a nearby alternative site, or enhance and improve the nearest existing provision provided by the District Council; or
- provide 10% of the gross site area as public open space with play equipment, if an opportunity exists to combine with an established adjacent area of public open space and if this has been agreed in advance with the District Council. If direct provision is possible, the open space will be assessed against the criteria listed in paragraph 3.120.

If a developer cannot provide open space and play equipment or facilities on an alternative site, a financial contribution will be required, in line with the prevailing charges set by the District Council, which are based on the number of bedrooms per house.

If open space and play equipment are to be adopted by the District Council, it will seek a Planning Obligation to make suitable financial provision for its subsequent maintenance.

CN03 Development leading to the loss of important open space, visually important gaps in the street scene or recreational facilities within towns and villages will not be permitted.

3.2.3.2 Babergh Core Strategy and Policies (February 2014)

The Core Strategy & Policies (Part 1 of the new Local Plan) provides a high-level, strategic plan for Babergh for 20 years from 2011-2031. The policies are intended to be broad and general, overarching policies outlining the strategy for growth and steering growth to sustainable locations.

The proposed Spatial Vision is as follows: *Babergh will continue to be an attractive, high quality place in which to live and work, and to visit. The local character and distinctiveness of South Suffolk will be further enhanced by a strong economy and healthier environment providing the framework for a well connected network of places that is made up of mixed and balanced communities.*

The vision therefore seeks to protect and promote the local distinctiveness of Babergh district. This is supported by 8 specific objectives that cover: mixed and balanced communities; economic growth and prosperity; regeneration and renewal; provision of adequate infrastructure; our response to climate change; local character and built / natural & historic environment; rural communities; and phasing of development to manage growth effectively.

Policy CS2 Settlement Pattern Policy and the spatial strategy set out what is traditionally described as a hierarchy of settlements along the following lines:

- Towns;
 - Core Villages; and
 - Hinterland Villages
-

The Core Strategy and Policies document identifies ‘functional clusters’ for the rural areas and all of the district’s rural tracts are assigned to one or more of these clusters (as some areas overlap). The ‘functional clusters’ are groups of villages which share common links between them. The larger villages (called Core Villages) provide services and facilities for their own residents and for those that live in smaller villages and rural settlements in a hinterland around them (often overlapping). The villages in catchment areas of these Core Villages are called Hinterland Villages.

Policy CS14: Green Infrastructure

‘Existing green infrastructure will be protected and enhanced. In new developments green infrastructure will be a key consideration and on the larger sites it will be central to the character and layout of development. All new development will make provision for high quality, multi-functional green infrastructure appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposal. Particular consideration will be given to ensuring new provision establishes links with existing green infrastructure, providing a well connected network of green infrastructure in urban and rural areas.

Specific requirements, characteristics and standards of GI provision within strategic sites and larger site allocations will be identified in the Site Allocations DPD and where appropriate through Masterplanning mechanisms’.

Policy CS21: Infrastructure Provision

‘The District Council will work with service providers, developers and other partners to develop sustainable places in the Babergh District with safe and healthy communities and secure the appropriate social, physical and green infrastructure needed to support these places and safeguard the environment...’

The new Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan will replace the 2006 Local Plan and the 2014 Core Strategy.

Other documents/assessments⁵:

3.2.3.3 Babergh Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy (September 2010)

This Open Space Sport and Recreation Strategy provides an overview of open space, sport and recreation provision in the Babergh District. The Council produced the audit and assessment in-house which involved the Open Spaces, Planning Policy, and Community Safety & Leisure Sections.

Strategy Vision: Everyone in the district will have reasonable access to all types of open space, sport and recreation. The spaces provided will serve a range of functions, meet appropriate minimum standards and be of an acceptable size and quality for all to enjoy.

⁵ There are numerous existing documents, and these and any associated mapping have been taken into account as part of this study.

The standards recommended were based on existing levels of provision, FIT and Sport England guidance, benchmarking and questionnaire survey responses (surveys of clubs and organisations, and secondary school age children).

Table 3 Babergh Open Space Standards (Sept 2010)

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Urban Parks and Gardens	None	None
Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces	None, although existing provision analysed using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.0 ha+ within 300m of home • 20.0 ha+ within 1.2km of home • 60.0 Ha+ within 3.2km of home • 500.0 Ha+ within 10km of home 	None
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.6 ha/1000	15 min drive time of home within average of 12km radius
Amenity greenspace	0.6 ha/1000	None
Local Area for Play (LAP)	All new residential development should provide for an adequate provision of LAPs.	LAPs should be within very easy walking distance of home - Less than 1 minute walk and less than 50m straight line LAP+ should be within easy walking distance of home - Between 1 & 3 minutes walk at between approximately 100-200m straight line
Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP)	0.42 hectares per 1000 population	less than 200m straight line from home /less than 5mins walk / 2mins bike ride
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play	0.40 hectares per 1000 population	Less than 460m straight line from home within 15 min walk or 6 min bike ride of home
Allotments	0.6ha per 1000 population	900m within 15 min walk for those who reside within a town or sustainable village; or 5.6km within 15 min drive for those who reside outside a town or sustainable village.

3.2.3.4 A Green Infrastructure Framework for Babergh District (August 2012)

This framework pulls together the evidence base for Babergh, drawing on the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy and the West of Babergh Green Infrastructure Evidence Base (July 2012). It focuses particularly on the location and function of green infrastructure and the

connectivity between existing areas and places which are a key focus for activity, or are likely to be in the future. The document states that adopting this approach allows GI improvements to be focused on those locations and GI functions which are identified as priorities and to link these closely to known or anticipated growth and expansion and ensure opportunities are realistic and deliverable. The Framework does not quantify surpluses or deficits or provide an assessment of quality.

The Green Infrastructure Vision for Babergh District: Future provision, enhancement and management of green infrastructure will seek to maximise the connectivity and potential of the wealth of multi-functional green infrastructure throughout the district. Green Infrastructure will be enhanced and managed to ensure there is a well connected green infrastructure network for the benefit of all interests and communities that the spaces intend to serve, throughout the district.

The overarching principle for GI in Babergh is that: GI should provide for multi-functional uses including recreation, cultural, wildlife and ecological benefits, flood protection, and be responsive to climate change/mitigation/management. It includes green spaces and civic areas, rivers and their flood plains and operates at all spatial scales from urban centres to open countryside.

3.2.3.5 West Babergh Green Infrastructure Evidence Base (August 2012)

The location of Babergh has meant that the Eastern part of the district is within the boundary of the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy, but excludes the area of the district in the West. This document provides part of the evidence base for Babergh's Green Infrastructure.

Green Infrastructure is the areas of the environment which provide multiple benefits and vital functions for wildlife, people, communities and the economy alike. The concept of Green Infrastructure provides a joined up approach to environmental management. The aim is to focus on the relationships and connections between green spaces, habitats, and wildlife and other communities they serve, rather than, focusing on the needs of individual species, sites and neighbourhoods.

A great many elements of our environment contribute to the green infrastructure network. This document identifies the existing resource within the study area, including all of the environmental assets which contribute to green infrastructure provision. The green infrastructure assets covered are comparable to those included in the Haven Gateway GI Strategy.

Provision maps are provided for each of the Green Infrastructure Resources in the West of Babergh as follows:

- River valleys and topography including flood risk areas
 - Landscape character
 - Designated sites- wildlife and landscape bio-diversity
 - Agricultural land classification
-

- Historic landscape and designated historic features
- Promoted access routes
- Accessible natural green spaces

Mid Suffolk District Council

The Mid Suffolk Development Plan:

The Development Plan for Mid Suffolk consists of the ‘saved’ policies of the 1998 Local Plan, the First Alteration (2006), the Core Strategy Focused Review (2012), the Stowmarket Area Action Plan (2013), along with ‘made’ neighbourhood plans which at the time of writing is the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan.

3.2.3.6 Mid Suffolk Local Plan (Adopted 1998, first alteration adopted 2006)

The First Alteration to the Mid Suffolk Local Plan affordable housing policies was adopted by the District Council on 13th July 2006. The alteration superseded policies H4 (proportion of affordable housing in new housing developments) and H5 (affordable housing on rural; exception sites) of the Local Plan.

The 1998 Local Plan has mostly been superseded by policies from the Core Strategy and Focused Review and the Stowmarket Area Action Plan. There are a number of saved policies relating to the provision of sport and recreation facilities which include:

RT1 - to permit sports and recreation facilities subject to certain criteria

RT2 - to protect existing sport and recreation facilities, by ensuring alternative provision is made where existing facilities are to be redeveloped

RT3 - to safeguard areas of recreational open space, preventing the loss of important playing fields, play space or amenity areas

RT4 – requires developers to make provision for play areas, formal recreation or amenity areas in developments of 10 or more dwellings

3.2.3.7 Mid Suffolk Core Strategy (Adopted September 2008, amended by the Core Strategy Focused Review adopted December 2012).

Mid Suffolk's Core Strategy was adopted in September 2008. As the key Development Plan Document it sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and core policies that will guide development across the district until 2025, and beyond. A Core Strategy Focused Review was undertaken and adopted by the Council on 20th December 2012.

This document is the LDF's key strategic planning document guided by sustainable development principles. It performs the following functions:

- defines a spatial vision for Mid Suffolk District to 2025

- sets out a number of objectives to achieve the vision
- sets out a spatial development strategy to meet these objectives
- sets out strategic policies to guide and control the overall scale, type and location of new development
- sets out the broad location of new housing and employment land necessary to meet the requirements of the regional spatial strategy (now deleted); and
- sets out a monitoring and implementation framework

The Core Strategy also sets the context for the preparation of all other Development Plan Documents, which have to be in conformity with the Core Strategy. Details of site allocations and development control policies are set out in separate Development Plan Documents.

Mid Suffolk's spatial strategy is the vision for sustainable development for the district until 2025. Derived from the spatial portrait and key issues the vision and aims are translated into the Strategic and Development Control Policies.

The overall vision for Mid Suffolk is that *“By 2025 the Mid Suffolk district will become a more prosperous, healthy, safer, attractive and greener place to live with fewer inequalities, improved access to and provision of housing, employment and services for all.”*

The Core Strategy then sets 15 objectives in order to achieve the spatial vision for Mid Suffolk, providing a more specific direction taking on board the key issues that face the district.

Mid Suffolk's Settlement Hierarchy includes:

- Towns: the main focus for development in the district.
- Key Service Centres: the main focus for development outside of the towns.
- Primary Villages: villages capable of limited growth where local need has been established.
- Secondary Villages: villages unsuitable for growth but capable of taking appropriate residential infill and development for local needs only
- The Countryside: open countryside and villages located in the countryside only specified types of development will be permitted in accordance with Policy CS2.

The Core Strategy sets out 12 policies based on settlement hierarchy and development in the countryside (development strategy) and sets strategic policies around climate change, the environment, services and infrastructure, housing requirements and employment/retail.

Policy CS 6 Services and Infrastructure

‘New development will be expected to provide or support the delivery of appropriate and accessible infrastructure to meet the justifiable needs of new development. Consideration will be given to the timing of infrastructure provision and development may need to be phased to ensure the proper provision of infrastructure. Local priorities for which infrastructure contributions may be sought include utility provision, transport infrastructure, healthcare, education, libraries, social and community facilities, village service and facilities, community safety, open space, sport, cultural and leisure facilities, green infrastructure, improvements in public transport, improvements to pedestrian and cycle routes, public realm

improvements, conservation and mitigation of the natural, historic and built environment, and improvement measures (aimed at achieving a net gain for biodiversity and geodiversity), waste minimisation and recycling initiatives and services, amenity woodlands for public access, and town centre management initiatives.

The Council will help reduce the need to travel, reduce journey distances and make it safer and easier for people to access jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling’.

The monitoring and implementation section of the strategy is partly informed by the standards of provision set out within the Council’s Social Infrastructure Including Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment (November 2005) SPD.

3.2.3.8 Stowmarket Area Action Plan (February 2013)

The Stowmarket Area Action Plan (SAAP) was adopted on 21st February 2013 and is a formal planning policy document and sets out relevant planning policies to guide future development in Stowmarket and its immediate surrounding villages. It includes policies for retail in the town centre, requirements for design, and policies for the town’s river valleys, biodiversity measures and the historic environment. It also allocates specific sites to ensure that there is sufficient land for future growth in employment, housing, retail, and recreation.

The SAAP Vision is *“Stowmarket will strive to achieve its full potential as the leading market town within the District by: encouraging economic prosperity; improving transport and accessibility; mitigating and adapting to climate change; protecting and enhancing its heritage and biodiversity; and encouraging healthy living for those who live, work visit, and study in the town and its rural hinterland.”*

The SAAP Policy 10.1 protects and enhances cultural facilities including leisure, recreation and sports facilities and open space for play, sport and recreation in the SAAP area. The SAAP seeks to achieve a zero net loss in both the quality and quantity of these facilities.

Policy 10.2 “Provision of Accessible Natural Green Space” details the recommendations of Natural England guidelines that the Council will follow when calculating needs.

Policy 10.3 “Improving The Quality Of Open Spaces” states that the Council will support, and where appropriate require, development to increase the provision, accessibility, connectivity, and quality of the open spaces of the built and natural environment where this is appropriate to the location and consistent with the objectives of the Stowmarket Area Action Plan and other policies of the development plan.

A number of infrastructure requirements have been included in the Infrastructure Delivery Programme which accompanies the SAAP, to ensure that new development in Stowmarket is sustainable and contributes to the quality of life of residents. This includes sport, leisure and recreation provision.

The SAAP document is being replaced by the new Joint Local Plan document for Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts.

The new Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan will replace the 1998 Local Plan, the First Alteration (2006), the 2008 Core Strategy and 2012 Focused Review and the 2013 SAAP.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs):

3.2.3.9 Mid Suffolk SPD for Social Infrastructure Including Open Space, Sport and Recreation (Adpoted October 2006)

This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) sets out the Council’s approach to the provision of community facilities, open space, sport and recreation in conjunction with new housing development. The SPD details how the Council will implement Local Plan policies for these topics, and should be read in conjunction with the Adopted Mid Suffolk Local Plan and other relevant planning documents published by the Council. This SPD supplements development plan policy RT4 of the Mid Suffolk Local Plan 1998. The Mid Suffolk Local Plan 1998 required the provision of sport, recreation and open space in accordance with a set of standards currently based on those set out in the NPFA’s 6 acre standard.

In line with PPG17 and its companion guide, the Council has carried out a ‘Social Infrastructure Including Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment’. This incorporates guidance on the future needs for pitch sports, other outdoor sports, informal recreation space, children’s play and built sports facilities, including sports halls, swimming pools, village halls and community centres, and establishes local standards for their provision. As a result of the Needs Assessment, the Council will seek on site provision, or capital contributions to off-site provision or upgrading, in accordance with the local standards in the table below (which excludes built facilities). (Please note this approach has been superseded by the adoption of CIL as noted on page 26 of this document).

Table 4 Community Facilities, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Standards in Mid Suffolk (2006)

Typology	Quantity standard
Playing pitches	1.60 ha/1000
Other outdoor sport	0.12 ha/1000
Floodlit multi games areas	0.04 ha/1000
Total - all outdoor sport	1.76 ha/1000
Informal recreation space	0.60 ha/1000
Play	0.20 ha/1000

Other documents/assessments:

3.2.3.10 Play and Communities – A Play Strategy for Mid Suffolk District Council (July 2007)

This document has been written in conjunction with the Suffolk-wide strategy prepared by ‘Partners in Play Suffolk’: “Play Matters: A Strategy for Suffolk” and as such adheres to the Vision outlined in that document:

‘To create and sustain inclusive play opportunities to contribute to enabling all children and young people in Suffolk to enjoy themselves and develop their potential, giving them the basis for a successful life as active members of their community’.

Mid Suffolk Strategy Aims:

- To raise awareness of the importance of play to children’s well-being within the District and to increase the coherence of MSDC’s responses to play needs across service sectors
 - To ensure that the views of children and young people are listened to and they are involved in decision making.
 - To recognise that children play in a variety of ways and to ensure that they have access to a range of free quality play opportunities and health improving activity
 - To work in partnership to audit, assess and address play needs across the district
 - To utilise play as a tool to foster community cohesion and other social benefits for young and older alike.
 - To develop play opportunities that address the issues of rural isolation and exclusion.
 - To develop methods and practices that enable children, young people, communities and groups across the District to maximize benefits for their community.
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4.0 LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT (STEP 1)

4.1 Introduction

The brief for the study required that a technical assessment was undertaken, rather than a full local needs assessment/extensive consultation to inform the recommended standards (section 6 of this report). Therefore, evidence from existing consultation; existing standards and policies; existing provision; national guidance; benchmarking with other authorities; and deliverability considerations have been used when developing standards for provision of open space.

A questionnaire survey was also sent to Town and Parish Councils. The detailed results from this survey can be found at Appendix 1.

This section summarises the key findings from the Town and Parish Council survey, which was undertaken during March to May 2017. It also provides a summary of the standards reviewed from adjoining local authorities.

4.2 Town and Parish Councils – Key Findings

Within the two Districts there are 199 Parishes (76 in Babergh, 123 in Mid Suffolk). Surveys were sent to all Parish Councils/meetings together with reminders to chase responses. In total 75 Parish Councils responded. The survey covered issues relating to the quantity, quality and accessibility of various types of open space, play and outdoor recreation facilities. There was also an opportunity for the local Councils to highlight any priorities they might have for new or improved provision.

General Overview

Some broad findings from the survey were that:

- 68% of the Town/Parish Councils who responded were directly responsible for the management of various local spaces and outdoor recreational facilities.
- 64% of the local Councils who responded noted that there was a need for additional or improved open space, play and outdoor recreation facilities within their Town or Parish.
- The sector of the community most commonly identified as being poorly served in relation to their needs were young people/teenagers.

Common areas of concern

For the Parish/Town Councils the aspects of most common concern are:

- Not enough areas for teenagers e.g. skateparks, shelters etc. and the quality of existing play areas.
 - Improvements to footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths.
-

- The need for additional Multi-use games areas and in some cases securing access to existing MUGAs on school sites.

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 (and get around) 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. They should be clean and free from litter and graffiti.
- They should provide opportunities for dog-walking with measures to address dog fouling.

Parish specific issues

As part of the survey we also asked the open questions "are you aware of any particular groups within your community whose needs are not currently met" and "if you have, or are aware of, any specific projects, plans and aspirations for improving open space and outdoor recreation facilities in the Parish please tell us". Individual Town/Parish responses are provided in the full survey report (Appendix 1).

4.3 Benchmarking, existing open space standards and existing provision

In developing the open space standards for Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts, existing adopted standards have been considered (table 3 and 4), alongside adjoining local authorities standards (table 5 below).

As can be seen from table 5 below, there is much variation in the open space standards adopted by adjoining local authorities. It was therefore considered appropriate to put more emphasis on analysing existing levels of open space provision across Babergh and Mid Suffolk to inform the standards. This was based on logical splits (i.e. grouping parishes by population) to look at how provision varies. The results of this analysis are shown in table 6 below, and is considered in the development of standards in section 6.

Table 5 Adjoining Local Authorities - open space standards

	St Edmundsbury Borough Council ⁶		Forest Heath District Council ⁷		Suffolk Coastal District Council ⁸		Waveney District Council ⁹	
Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard	Quantity Standard	Access Standard	Quantity Standard	Access Standard	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Parks and Gardens	0.25 ha/1000	800 metres (10 minutes straight line walk time)	0.5 ha/1000	480 metres (10 minutes straight line walk time)	0.21ha of parks and gardens in all urban settlement of 10,000 people or larger.	The whole urban population within 15 minutes travel time.	0.4ha /1000	Local parks and gardens – 600m catchment radius (1000m walk) Satellite parks and gardens – 240m catchment radius (400m walk)
Natural and Semi-natural green spaces	0.25 ha/1000	800 metres (10 minutes straight line walk time).	1.0 ha/1000	960 metres (20 minutes straight line walk time)	47.0ha/1000	The whole population within 10 minutes drive.	2.0ha /1000	Natural England ANGSt
Green Corridors	0.145 ha/1000	800 metres (10 minutes straight line walk time).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.2 ha/1000	800 metres (10 minutes straight line walk time)	1.0 ha/1000	480 metres (10 minutes straight line walk time)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amenity greenspace/informal open space	0.13 ha/1000	1,500m (20 minutes straight line walk time)	0.5 ha/1000	480 metres (10 minutes straight line walk time)	0.61ha/1000	The whole population within 5 minutes drive	0.6ha/1000	100m walking distance from home (one minute walk) for AGS <0.5ha.

⁶ SPD for Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities (Adopted December 2012)

⁷ SPD for Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities (October 2011)

⁸ Suffolk Coastal District Council Open Space Assessment (2014)

⁹ Waveney Open Space Needs Assessment (July 2015)

	St Edmundsbury Borough Council ⁶		Forest Heath District Council ⁷		Suffolk Coastal District Council ⁸		Waveney District Council ⁹	
Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard	Quantity Standard	Access Standard	Quantity Standard	Access Standard	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
								For amenity green spaces of at least 0.5ha in size a catchment of 400m (five minute walking time) has been used and for amenity green spaces larger than 1ha a catchment area of 1000m (15 minute walk)
Provision for Children and Young People	0.25 ha/1000	Junior Provision – 400m (just under 10 minutes straight line walk time). Youth Provision – 1000 m (15 minutes straight line walk time)	0.30 ha/1000	Junior Provision – 450m (just under 10 minutes straightline walk time) Youth Provision – 800 m (15 minutes straight line walk time)	0.20ha of equipped children’s play space/1000	The whole population within 5 minutes drive of the nearest children’s play site.	0.2ha/1000	LAPs- 60m catchment radius (100m walk) LEAP – 240m catchment radius (400m walk) NEAP – 600m catchment radius (1km walk) Skate park/outdoor gym/MUGA – 600m catchment radius (1km walk).
Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms	0.15 ha/1000 (based on 6 x 250sqm plots)	1,500m (20 minutes straight line walk time)	0.3 ha/1000	480m (10 minutes straight line walk time)	0.20ha /1000	The whole population within 10 minutes drive	0.3ha/1000	15 minutes walk time (equivalent to 1000m)

	St Edmundsbury Borough Council ⁶		Forest Heath District Council ⁷		Suffolk Coastal District Council ⁸		Waveney District Council ⁹	
Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard	Quantity Standard	Access Standard	Quantity Standard	Access Standard	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Churchyards and Cemeteries	0.025 ha/1000	3,000 metres 40 minute straight line walk time)	N/A	N/A	0.45ha/1000	The whole population within 10 minutes drive	N/A	N/A

5.0 AUDIT OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE ASSETS

5.1 General approach

This section sets out the proposed typologies which will have standards developed or have been included within the quantitative or access analysis. 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 are seen to be locally derived and appropriate for the type and range of open spaces that exist within Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts. Further detail regarding the definition of each of these typologies is provided in the sections below.

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.

The following typologies have been set:

Table 7 Babergh and Mid Suffolk typologies

Typologies mapped with standards	Typologies mapped but no standards ¹⁰
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments • Amenity Green Space (>0.15ha) • Accessible Natural Green Space • Park and Recreation Grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i> - <i>Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed)</i> • Play Space (Children) • Play Space (Youth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Churchyards and Cemeteries • Amenity Green Space (<0.15ha) • Sports Club Space

¹⁰ An explanation for not developing standards for these typologies is outlined in the following sections

Typologies with standards

5.1.1 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 poles 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”

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

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.

Although allotments are not public open space (as access is controlled), they form an important part of the open space provision/community facilities within the study area and standards for assessing existing provision and new provision from development are required.

5.1.2 Amenity Green Space



The category is considered to include those spaces (minimum 0.15ha in size) 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 laid 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 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.

It should be noted that amenity green spaces smaller than 0.15 ha were 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 (although they have important landscaping/visual amenity functions).

5.1.3 Accessible Natural Green Space



For the purpose of this study, accessible natural and semi-natural green space covers a variety of partly or wholly accessible spaces including meadows, woodland and copses all of which share a trait of having natural characteristics and wildlife value, but which are also open to public use and enjoyment.

Research elsewhere (Natural England) and the local consultation for this study have identified the value attached to such space 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. Some sites will have statutory rights or permissive codes allowing the public to wander in these sites. Others may have defined Rights of Way or permissive routes running through them. For the remainder of sites there may be some access on a managed basis.

Natural Green Spaces can form important ‘green corridors’ for both wildlife and people, especially when linked with the public rights of way network, cycle paths and rivers etc. These spaces form an important part of the Green Infrastructure of an area, and can be important in delivering ecosystem services and attracting visitors across administrative boundaries.

Many natural spaces may not be ‘accessible’ in the sense that they cannot be entered and used by the general community, but they can be appreciated from a distance, and contribute to visual amenity. Although such spaces are not the subject of standards developed by this study, their value is recognised.

A combined standard for amenity green space and natural green space is recommended for assessing the requirements for new provision (see section 6.3 and 6.6). Existing provision of natural green space is analysed using the Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGSt) Standard (see section 6.6 and 7.3.2), which only considers sites above 20ha. The importance of smaller (<20ha) natural green spaces for informal recreation and wildlife/habitat conservation is recognised (and these spaces have been mapped), however the supply of these smaller sites has not been analysed as part of this study. Tables 8 to 14 provide quantity figures for accessible natural green space as part of the existing open space provision.

5.1.4 Park and Recreation Grounds



This typology brings together the typology of *Parks and Gardens* and *Outdoor Sports Facilities* suggested in the previous PPG17 guidance. As a result of this current study, in particular the mapping and quality audit process, it was apparent that the distinction between these two typologies was blurred. It was also noted that the previous studies also makes reference to the cross over in types of provision between the two typologies.

Within Babergh and Mid Suffolk, there are very few formal gardens (with only Belle Vue Park in Sudbury identified as being formal) and many parks and/or outdoor sports facilities were found to be multi-functional used for both informal and formal recreation. Therefore, for the study an overarching typology for Parks and Recreation Grounds has been used.

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

When mapping this type of provision, a multi-functional approach to mapping has been adopted as shown in figure 4, where play spaces, youth spaces and fixed outdoor sports facilities (e.g. tennis courts, bowling greens, outdoor gyms) are separately mapped. Individual playing pitches (e.g. football, rugby) are not separately mapped as the assessment of these facilities is included within the separate playing pitch strategy.

In calculating the quantity supply for parks and recreation grounds, the total figure includes the general park area (including the area covered by playing pitches) plus the fixed outdoor

sports facilities. The figure excludes the provision of children and youth play spaces which have a separate typology.

The recommended standards for this typology (set out in Section 6 below) are intended to provide sufficient space. The emerging playing pitch strategy will deal with some of the detail i.e. supply of pitches and how they will be laid out.

5.1.5 Play Space (Children and Youth)



It is important to establish the scope of the study in terms of this kind of 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, Multi-use Games Areas 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.

The study has recorded the following:

- **Children's Play Space** – Areas of play that cater for the needs of children up to and around 12 years. Play Areas are an essential way of creating safe but adventurous places for children of varying ages to play and learn. The emphasis in play area management is shifting away from straightforward and formal equipment such as slides and swings towards creating areas where imagination and natural learning can flourish through the use of landscaping and natural building materials and the creation of areas that need exploring.
- **Youth Play Space** - informal recreation opportunities for, broadly, the 13 to 16/17 age group, and which might include facilities like skateboard parks, basketball courts and

‘free access’ Multi Use Games Areas (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.

Teenagers should not be ignored, it is important to create areas for ‘hanging out’ such as shelters and providing them with things to do such as bike ramps. Currently recognisable provision for teenagers is few and far between.

Typologies with no standards

5.1.6 Churchyards and cemeteries

Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts have many 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, particularly closed churchyards. 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 have been set, as it is outside the scope of this study to make recommendations related to requirements for new provision.

However, the quality of churchyards can be influenced by this study. Churchyards can provide important open space, particularly closed churchyards, where the ownership is often transferred to the local authority to manage and maintain.

5.1.7 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 and in many cases forbidden (and therefore they are not public open space). 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.

Quantity and access standards have not been 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 Councils to influence their provision and management. However, their existence is still an important factor of local provision, and as such they will be subject to the same policy considerations as publicly accessible space.

5.1.8 Amenity Green Space (<0.15ha)

The minimum size of a space that will be considered acceptable and count towards open space provision is recommended to be 0.15 ha in size (about the size of a mini football pitch).

This will avoid a proliferation of small amenity spaces which have no real recreation function. Although no provision standards have been set (due to these spaces having no/limited recreational function), these small amenity spaces have been identified and mapped where known as they form part of the Green Infrastructure network and contribute to visual amenity.

5.1.9 Sports Club Space

Outdoor sports space with limited public access (e.g. sports club grounds), have also been recorded and mapped where known. Sports club space makes up an important part of outdoor sports provision across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, and forms an important part of the community facilities (although these generally have controlled access). Sports club spaces have been mapped separately to publicly accessible sites, to determine exact provision of the different types of provision. Sub typologies include football, tennis, rugby, cricket, bowls and artificial turf pitch.

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. Golf courses have been identified and mapped where known, however, no quantity or access standard for provision have been set, as it is outside the scope of this study to make recommendations related to requirements for new provision.

5.2 Existing provision of open space

5.2.1 Provision across the districts

The following tables show the average existing provision of open space in hectares and ha/1000 population across the whole study area and the two districts. The figures for ‘Parks and Recreation Ground (Combined)’ include a combination of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground; and
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

Table 8 Summary of existing provision of open space across the study area (Babergh and Mid Suffolk)

Typology	Existing (ha)	Provision (ha/1000)
Allotments	41.95	0.23
Amenity Greenspace	233.62	1.27
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	170.84	0.93
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	163.16	0.88
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	7.68	0.04
Play (Child)	11.35	0.06
Play (Youth)	2.48	0.01
Accessible Natural Green Space	900.6	4.88
Education	190.8	1.03
Cemeteries and Churchyards	119.27	0.65
Sports Club Space	68.39	0.37

Table 9 Summary of existing provision of open space across Babergh District

Typology	Existing (ha)	Provision (ha/1000)
Allotments	25.34	0.29
Amenity Greenspace	82.35	0.94
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	66.27	0.76
Parks and Recreation Grounds	61.94	0.71
Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	4.33	0.05
Play (Child)	5.75	0.07
Play (Youth)	1.12	0.01
Accessible Natural Green Space	560.04	6.38
Education	91.21	1.04
Cemeteries and Churchyards	47.75	0.54
Sports Club Space	23.74	0.27

Table 10 Summary of existing provision of open provision across Mid Suffolk District

Typology	Existing (ha)	Provision (ha/1000)
Allotments	16.61	0.17
Amenity Greenspace	151.27	1.56
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	104.57	1.08
Parks and Recreation Grounds	101.22	1.05
Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	3.35	0.03
Play (Child)	5.6	0.06
Play (Youth)	1.36	0.01
Accessible Natural Green Space	340.56	3.52
Education	99.59	1.03
Cemeteries and Churchyards	71.52	0.74
Sports Club Space	44.65	0.46

5.2.2 Provision in Parishes

Quantity Statistics

The following tables shows the average existing provision of open space in hectares and ha/1000 population for each of the Parishes in each District.

Babergh District

Table 11 Existing provision of open space (hectares) in Parishes (Babergh District)

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Acton	0	1.1	1.38	1.38	0	0.05	0	0	0.66	1.04	0
Aldham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38.79	0.5	0	0
Alpheton	0	0.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.29	0	0
Arwarton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0	0
Assington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67.08	0.56	0	0
Belstead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.41	0	0
Bentley	0	1.45	0	0	0	0.04	0	57.56	0	0.46	0.07
Bildeston	0	0.36	2.69	2.58	0.11	0.07	0.05	0	0	0.81	0.74
Boxford	0.67	0.15	0.1	0	0.1	0.08	0	0	0.88	0.82	0.24
Boxted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.26	0	0
Brantham	0	1.18	3.53	3.22	0.31	0.24	0.02	3.52	0.49	0	0
Brent Eleigh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.38	0	0
Brettenham	0	0.28	0	0	0	0.02	0	0	0.31	1.72	0
Bures St. Mary	0.67	0	3.81	3.68	0.13	0.11	0.01	0	0.45	0.24	0
Burstall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.26	0	0
Capel St. Mary	0	0	3.43	3.12	0.31	0.12	0.26	4.28	0	2.23	0
Chattisham	0	0.27	0	0	0	0.01	0	0	0.39	0	0
Chelmondiston	0.42	0.22	1.67	1.55	0.12	0.08	0.01	2.17	0.67	1.33	0
Chelsworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.12	0.6	0	0
Chilton	0	1.26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.27	0	0
Cockfield	0	1.57	4.01	4.01	0	0.09	0	18.13	0.71	0.62	0
Copdock and Washbrook	1.05	0	1.74	1.34	0.4	0.08	0	0	0.78	0.62	6.38
East Bergholt	0.83	0	0.45	0	0.45	0.7	0	0	0.42	11.4	0
Edwardstone	0	2.18	0	0	0	0.04	0	0	0.72	0	0

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Elmsett	0.03	0.21	2.82	2.82	0	0.07	0.05	2.63	0.21	0.1	0
Freston	0.44	0.65	0	0	0	0	0	4.58	0.55	0	0
Glemsford	0	0.9	2.43	2.43	0	0.1	0.06	1.01	1.15	0.71	0
Great Cornard	1.4	3.21	2.99	2.65	0.34	0.27	0.03	27.28	1.2	3.37	0
Great Waldingfield	0.39	1.69	0	0	0	0.08	0	1.35	0.76	0.58	0.4
Groton	0	3.2	0	0	0	0	0	23.5	0.47	0	0
Hadleigh	3.86	11.26	6.09	5.89	0.2	0.52	0.21	35.34	2.77	11.27	4.36
Harkstead	0	0.97	0	0	0	0.05	0	6.39	0.41	0	0
Hartest	0	0.86	0	0	0	0	0	1.17	0.66	0.66	0
Higham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0
Hintlesham	0.61	0	1.41	1.41	0	0.08	0	0	0.66	0.4	0
Hitcham	0	5.02	0	0	0	0.25	0	0	0.66	0	0
Holbrook	0	0	2.07	1.91	0.16	0.08	0.02	0	0	6.98	0
Holton St. Mary	0	0.52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.26	0	0
Kersey	1.08	0	0.45	0.44	0.01	0.04	0	0	0.69	0.23	0
Kettlebaston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lavenham	0	3.37	3.13	2.9	0.23	0.26	0.01	1.92	1.9	0	0
Lawshall	0	2.96	0	0	0	0.07	0	0.48	0.84	0.78	1.43
Layham	0.07	0.44	1.21	1.21	0	0.04	0.05	0.59	0.52	0	0
Leavenheath	0	0	2.36	2.36	0	0.07	0	0.73	0.1	0	0
Lindsey	0	0.16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.29	0	0
Little Cornard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.43	0	0
Little Waldingfield	0	0	1.46	1.46	0	0.03	0	0	0.25	0	0
Long Melford	0.84	5.12	0.78	0.78	0	0.14	0.01	15.1	2.21	1.24	1.44
Milden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.29	0	0
Monks Eleigh	0.34	2.01	1.15	1.15	0	0.04	0.03	0	0.5	0	0
Nayland-with-Wissington	0.45	1.83	1.75	1.75	0	0.12	0.01	105.62	1.21	1.45	0

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Nedging-with-Naughton	0.08	1.9	0	0	0	0.01	0	0	0.55	0	0
Newton	0	0	3.36	3.36	0	0.09	0	14.37	0.62	0	0
Pinewood	4.4	2.68	0.15	0.1	0.05	0.19	0.03	9.86	0	7.13	0
Polstead	0	0	0.41	0.41	0	0.08	0.03	0	0.55	0	0
Preston St. Mary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raydon	0	2.29	0	0	0	0.03	0	0	0.44	0	0
Semer	0	1.65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.79	0	0
Shelley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.18	0	0
Shimpling	0	0	0	0	0	0.17	0	0	0.5	0	0
Shotley	2.55	1.84	0.81	0.6	0.21	0.04	0.06	2.21	0.89	1.55	1.16
Somerton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.31	0	0
Sproughton	1.24	1.76	1.51	1.14	0.37	0.09	0.01	0	0.91	0.92	0
Stanstead	0	0	0.09	0.09	0	0	0.01	0	0.38	0	0
Stoke-by-Nayland	2.27	1.51	0.08	0	0.08	0.06	0.03	1.68	1.64	4.12	1.45
Stratford St. Mary	0	0.33	0	0	0	0.04	0	0	0.41	1.23	0
Stutton	0.15	0	1.79	1.79	0	0	0	1.08	0.6	0.58	0
Sudbury	0.49	6.45	3.22	2.57	0.65	0.69	0.15	64.31	5.86	11.4	6.07
Tattingstone	0.64	0	1.95	1.84	0.11	0.15	0	0	0.54	0.21	0
Thorpe Morieux	0	0.41	0	0	0	0	0	28.26	0.58	0	0
Wattisham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.48	0	0
Wenham Magna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.54	0	0
Wenham Parva	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.22	0	0
Whatfield	0	1.28	0	0	0	0.03	0	2.58	0.37	0.58	0
Wherstead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.46	0	0
Woolverstone	0.37	5.08	0	0	0	0	0	15.34	0.32	14.41	0

Table 12 Existing provision of open space (ha/1000) in Parishes (Babergh District)

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Acton	0	0.61	0.76	0.76	0	0.03	0	0	0.36	0.57	0
Aldham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	221.66	2.86	0	0
Alpheton	0	3.05	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.13	0	0
Arwarton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.17	0	0
Assington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166.87	1.39	0	0
Belstead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.03	0	0
Bentley	0	1.87	0	0	0	0.05	0	74.18	0	0.59	0.09
Bildeston	0	0.34	2.55	2.45	0.1	0.07	0.05	0	0	0.77	0.7
Boxford	0.55	0.12	0.08	0	0.08	0.07	0	0	0.72	0.67	0.2
Boxted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.2	0	0
Brantham	0	0.46	1.38	1.25	0.12	0.09	0.01	1.37	0.19	0	0
Brent Eleigh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.18	0	0
Brettenham	0	0.79	0	0	0	0.06	0	0	0.88	4.87	0
Bures St. Mary	0.73	0	4.15	4.01	0.14	0.12	0.01	0	0.49	0.26	0
Burstall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.31	0	0
Capel St. Mary	0	0	1.2	1.1	0.11	0.04	0.09	1.5	0	0.78	0
Chattisham	0	1.62	0	0	0	0.06	0	0	2.34	0	0
Chelmondiston	0.4	0.21	1.58	1.47	0.11	0.08	0.01	2.06	0.64	1.26	0
Chelsworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.44	2.91	0	0
Chilton	0	3.43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.74	0	0
Cockfield	0	1.81	4.62	4.62	0	0.1	0	20.89	0.82	0.71	0
Copdock and Washbrook	0.94	0	1.56	1.2	0.36	0.07	0	0	0.7	0.56	5.73
East Bergholt	0.3	0	0.16	0	0.16	0.25	0	0	0.15	4.12	0
Edwardstone	0	6.19	0	0	0	0.11	0	0	2.05	0	0
Elmsett	0.04	0.27	3.58	3.58	0	0.09	0.06	3.34	0.27	0.13	0
Freston	3.67	5.42	0	0	0	0	0	38.17	4.58	0	0
Glemsford	0	0.27	0.72	0.72	0	0.03	0.02	0.3	0.34	0.21	0
Great Cornard	0.16	0.36	0.34	0.3	0.04	0.03	0	3.06	0.13	0.38	0

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Great Waldingfield	0.27	1.18	0	0	0	0.06	0	0.94	0.53	0.41	0.28
Groton	0	11.11	0	0	0	0	0	81.6	1.63	0	0
Hadleigh	0.47	1.36	0.74	0.71	0.02	0.06	0.03	4.28	0.34	1.37	0.53
Harkstead	0	3.38	0	0	0	0.17	0	22.26	1.43	0	0
Hartest	0	1.93	0	0	0	0	0	2.62	1.48	1.48	0
Higham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.99	0	0
Hintlesham	1	0	2.32	2.32	0	0.13	0	0	1.08	0.66	0
Hitcham	0	6.49	0	0	0	0.32	0	0	0.85	0	0
Holbrook	0	0	0.95	0.88	0.07	0.04	0.01	0	0	3.2	0
Holton St. Mary	0	2.59	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.29	0	0
Kersey	3.01	0	1.25	1.23	0.03	0.11	0	0	1.92	0.64	0
Kettlebaston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lavenham	0	1.96	1.82	1.68	0.13	0.15	0.01	1.11	1.1	0	0
Lawshall	0	3.06	0	0	0	0.07	0	0.5	0.87	0.81	1.48
Layham	0.12	0.75	2.05	2.05	0	0.07	0.08	1	0.88	0	0
Leavenheath	0	0	1.72	1.72	0	0.05	0	0.53	0.07	0	0
Lindsey	0	0.77	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.39	0	0
Little Cornard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	0	0
Little Waldingfield	0	0	3.99	3.99	0	0.08	0	0	0.68	0	0
Long Melford	0.24	1.46	0.22	0.22	0	0.04	0	4.29	0.63	0.35	0.41
Milden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.87	0	0
Monks Eleigh	0.67	3.98	2.28	2.28	0	0.08	0.06	0	0.99	0	0
Nayland-with-Wissington	0.39	1.57	1.5	1.5	0	0.1	0.01	90.82	1.04	1.25	0
Nedging-with-Naughton	0.2	4.7	0	0	0	0.02	0	0	1.36	0	0
Newton	0	0	6.79	6.79	0	0.18	0	29.03	1.25	0	0

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Pinewood	1.01	0.62	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.01	2.27	0	1.64	0
Polstead	0	0	0.48	0.48	0	0.09	0.04	0	0.65	0	0
Preston St. Mary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raydon	0	4.52	0	0	0	0.06	0	0	0.87	0	0
Semer	0	12.69	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.08	0	0
Shelley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.6	0	0
Shimpling	0	0	0	0	0	0.39	0	0	1.16	0	0
Shotley	1.09	0.79	0.35	0.26	0.09	0.02	0.03	0.94	0.38	0.66	0.5
Somerton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.46	0	0
Sproughton	0.9	1.28	1.1	0.83	0.27	0.07	0.01	0	0.66	0.67	0
Stanstead	0	0	0.28	0.28	0	0	0.03	0	1.19	0	0
Stoke-by-Nayland	3.33	2.21	0.12	0	0.12	0.09	0.04	2.46	2.4	6.04	2.13
Stratford St. Mary	0	0.47	0	0	0	0.06	0	0	0.58	1.75	0
Stutton	0.18	0	2.2	2.2	0	0	0	1.33	0.74	0.71	0
Sudbury	0.04	0.49	0.25	0.2	0.05	0.05	0.01	4.92	0.45	0.87	0.46
Tattingstone	1.19	0	3.61	3.41	0.2	0.28	0	0	1	0.39	0
Thorpe Morieux	0	1.77	0	0	0	0	0	121.81	2.5	0	0
Wattisham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.6	0	0
Wenham Magna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.92	0	0
Wenham Parva	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.4	0	0
Whatfield	0	3.82	0	0	0	0.09	0	7.7	1.1	1.73	0
Wherstead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.35	0	0
Woolverstone	1.4	19.17	0	0	0	0	0	57.89	1.21	54.38	0

Mid Suffolk District

Table 13 Existing provision of open space (hectares) in Parishes (Mid Suffolk District)

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Akenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.25	0	0
Ashbocking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.42	0	0
Ashfield cum Thorpe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.42	0	0
Aspall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.47	0	0
Athelington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.23	0	0
Bacton	0.84	2.03	3.2	3.2	0	0.03	0	0.49	0.62	1.18	0.34
Badley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.15	0	0
Badwell Ash	0	0.65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.48	0	0
Barham	0	0.35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.98	0	0
Barking	0	0	0	0	0	0.06	0	74.94	1.18	0	0
Battisford	0	1.25	0	0	0	0.07	0	0	0.54	0	0
Baylham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.47	0	0
Bedfield	0	0.64	2.11	2.05	0.06	0.13	0	0	0.67	0.39	2.22
Bedingfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.37	0	0
Beyton	0	1.82	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0.33	5.67	0
Botesdale	0	0	0.42	0.42	0	0.03	0	0	0	0	0
Braiseworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bramford	0.28	0.48	0.39	0	0.39	0.11	0.15	13.56	1.02	2.23	2.05
Brome and Oakley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	0	0
Brundish	0	0.42	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0.69	0	0
Burgate	0	6.85	0	0	0	0	0	2.61	0.41	0	0
Buxhall	0.15	0.62	0	0	0	0.06	0.03	0	0.53	0	0
Claydon	0	0.57	2.29	2.28	0.01	0.08	0.01	16.36	0.51	7.81	0
Coddenham	0	0	1.12	1.12	0	0.04	0	24.65	0.56	0	0.25

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Combs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17.8	0.67	0	1.57
Cotton	0.2	1.95	0.86	0.86	0	0.03	0	0	0.62	0	0
Creeting St. Mary	1.35	2.8	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0.78	0	0
Creeting St. Peter	0	0.29	0	0	0	0.07	0	1.72	0.33	0	0
Crowfield	0	0	0.63	0.63	0	0.03	0.02	0	0.36	0	0
Darmsden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.21	0	0
Debenham	0.98	2.93	0.6	0.6	0	0.09	0.01	8.66	0.74	6.11	0
Denham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.41	0	0
Drinkstone	0	0	0	0	0	0.06	0.02	0	0.48	0	0
Elmswell	1.02	4.78	6.99	6.77	0.22	0.04	0.05	0	1.2	1.63	0
Eye	0.46	0	0.84	0.84	0	0.34	0.05	2.6	3.29	11.64	3.58
Felsham	1	0	2.22	2.17	0.05	0.07	0.22	0	0.46	0	0
Finningham	0	0.65	0	0	0	0.02	0	0	0.62	0	0
Flowton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.33	0	0
Framsden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.77	0	0
Fressingfield	0	16.3	1.33	1.05	0.28	0.11	0	0	0.89	1.06	0
Gedding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.37	0	0
Gipping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.17	0	0
Gislingham	0	0.24	4.88	4.88	0	0.15	0.01	0	0.59	0.65	0
Gosbeck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.34	0	0
Great Ashfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0	0
Great Blakenham	0	1.78	1.37	1.37	0	0.08	0	0	0.17	0	0
Great Bricett	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.56	0	0
Great Finborough	0	0.91	0	0	0	0.06	0	1.01	0.51	10.96	0
Harleston	0	3.51	0	0	0	0	0	11.41	0.26	0	0

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Haughley	0.29	0	2.21	2.05	0.16	0.16	0.04	0	0.42	0.38	0
Helmingham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.53	0.84	0
Hemingstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.42	0	0
Henley	0	0	1.31	1.31	0	0.03	0	0	0.39	0	0
Hessett	0.59	3.34	0	0	0	0.02	0	0	0.52	0	0
Hinderclay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.52	0	0
Horham	0	0	0	0	0	0.03	0	0.88	1.2	0	0
Hoxne	0	0	2.24	2.14	0.1	0.19	0	6.35	1.02	0.29	0
Hunston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0
Kenton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.46	0	0
Langham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.43	0	0
Laxfield	0.66	0	3.18	2.96	0.22	0.08	0	0	1.67	0.69	0
Little Blakenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.19	0	0
Little Finborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.24	0	0
Mellis	0	0.51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.58	1.04	0
Mendham	0	1.59	0	0	0	0	0.06	0	0.78	0.35	0
Mendlesham	0.87	1.63	0	0	0	0.12	0.11	5.63	1.03	0.27	0.15
Metfield	0.81	4.91	0.58	0.58	0	0.07	0.01	0	0	0	0
Mickfield	0	0.92	0	0	0	0.04	0	0	0.36	0	0.53
Monk Soham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.79	0	0	0
Needham Market	0.58	1.08	2.73	2.55	0.18	0.21	0.04	13.17	0.97	6.1	2.77
Nettlestead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.27	0	0
Norton	0	0.26	1.19	1.19	0	0.23	0	24.63	1.14	0.63	0
Occold	0	0	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0.46	0.07	0
Offton	0	0.72	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0.28	0	0

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Old Newton with Dagworth	0	0.56	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0.97	0.82	0.23
Onehouse	0	0	0	0	0	0.06	0	33.54	0.33	0	0
Palgrave	0	0.72	0	0	0	0.03	0.01	0	0.47	0.27	0
Pettaugh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.32	0	0
Rattlesden	0	0.4	1.42	1.42	0	0.06	0.02	0	0.51	0.43	0
Redgrave	0	0	4.88	4.88	0	0.16	0.01	34.56	1.14	0	0
Redlingfield	0	0	0.31	0.31	0	0	0.01	0	0.25	0	0
Rickinghall Inferior	0.64	0	0.13	0	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.44	0.85	0	0
Rickinghall Superior	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.55	0	0
Ringshall	0	1.41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.57	0	4.27
Rishangles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.08	0	0
Shelland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26.18	0.18	0	0
Somersham	0.23	0	2.26	2.14	0.12	0.02	0.03	6.5	0.32	0.74	0
Southolt	0	5.47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.28	0	0.31
Stoke Ash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.67	0.45	0
Stonham Aspal	0	0.28	3.75	3.75	0	0.04	0	0	0.46	1.12	0.11
Stonham Earl	0	1.08	1.8	1.65	0.15	0.06	0.04	0	0.73	0	0
Stonham Parva	0	0.88	0	0	0	0.09	0	0	0.45	0	0
Stowlangtoft	0	0.59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.32	0	0
Stowmarket	0.43	3.67	21.63	21.63	0	0.63	0.17	0	3.75	23.05	2.44
Stowupland	0.8	0	5.22	5.22	0	0.14	0.05	0	1.03	0	0.24
Stradbroke	0	0	2.7	2.4	0.3	0.13	0	0	1.41	3.92	0.11
Stuston	0	5.06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.24	0	0
Syleham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0	0
Tannington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.47	0	0
Thorndon	0	0.66	1.67	1.67	0	0.05	0.01	0	0.61	0.11	0

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Thornham Magna	0.34	0.24	0	0	0	0.24	0	0	0.49	0	1.82
Thornham Parva	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.32	0	0
Thrandeston	0	1.61	0	0	0	0	0	6.3	0.5	0	0
Thurston	0.73	1.05	4.98	4.75	0.23	0.08	0.01	0	0.78	0.47	2.45
Thwaite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.56	0	0
Tostock	1.22	2.04	0.06	0	0.06	0.05	0.02	0	0.49	0	0
Walsham-le-Willows	0.72	0	0	0	0	0.11	0.05	0	0.93	0	5.42
Wattisfield	0	0	1.86	1.86	0	0.04	0	0	0.2	0	6.99
Westhorpe	0	1.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.27	0	0
Wetherden	0.19	0.21	2.19	2.12	0.07	0.03	0.01	0.86	0.93	0	0
Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.11	1.52	0
Weybread	0.45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0	5.39
Whitton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wickham Skeith	0	1.12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.65	0	0
Wilby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.89	0	0.58	0
Willisham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.32	0	0
Wingfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.64	0	0
Winston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.38	0	0
Woolpit	0	1.54	4.11	3.86	0.25	0.1	0	0	0.75	1.2	0
Worlingworth	0	0	0	0	0	0.04	0	0	0.62	0.13	0
Wortham	0	54.4	2.91	2.53	0.38	0.15	0.07	0	0.69	0.63	0
Wyverstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.28	4.17	0
Yaxley	0.79	0.5	0	0	0	0.02	0	0	0.48	0	1.4

Table 14 Existing provision of open space (ha/1000 population) in Parishes (Mid Suffolk District)

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Akenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Ashbocking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.18	0	0
Ashfield cum Thorpe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.92	0	0
Aspall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.4	0	0
Athelington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.6	0	0
Bacton	0.68	1.65	2.61	2.61	0	0.02	0	0.4	0.5	0.96	0.28
Badley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Badwell Ash	0	0.84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.62	0	0
Barham	0	0.23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.65	0	0
Barking	0	0	0	0	0	0.13	0	168.03	2.65	0	0
Battisford	0	2.73	0	0	0	0.15	0	0	1.18	0	0
Baylham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.77	0	0
Bedfield	0	1.98	6.51	6.33	0.19	0.4	0	0	2.07	1.2	6.85
Bedingfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.92	0	0
Beyton	0	2.55	0	0	0	0.07	0	0	0.46	7.95	0
Botesdale	0	0	0.46	0.46	0	0.03	0	0	0	0	0
Braiseworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bramford	0.12	0.21	0.17	0	0.17	0.05	0.07	5.89	0.44	0.97	0.89
Brome and Oakley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.16	0	0
Brundish	0	1.46	0	0	0	0.17	0	0	2.4	0	0
Burgate	0	42.81	0	0	0	0	0	16.31	2.56	0	0
Buxhall	0.32	1.31	0	0	0	0.13	0.06	0	1.12	0	0
Claydon	0	0.26	1.04	1.04	0	0.04	0	7.45	0.23	3.55	0
Coddenham	0	0	1.81	1.81	0	0.06	0	39.76	0.9	0	0.4
Combs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20.89	0.79	0	1.84
Cotton	0.38	3.71	1.63	1.63	0	0.06	0	0	1.18	0	0

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Creeting St. Mary	1.94	4.02	0	0	0	0.07	0	0	1.12	0	0
Creeting St. Peter	0	1.05	0	0	0	0.25	0	6.25	1.2	0	0
Crowfield	0	0	1.75	1.75	0	0.08	0.06	0	1	0	0
Darmsden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.2	0	0
Debenham	0.44	1.33	0.27	0.27	0	0.04	0	3.92	0.33	2.76	0
Denham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.08	0	0
Drinkstone	0	0	0	0	0	0.11	0.04	0	0.88	0	0
Elmswell	0.26	1.21	1.77	1.71	0.06	0.01	0.01	0	0.3	0.41	0
Eye	0.21	0	0.39	0.39	0	0.16	0.02	1.21	1.53	5.4	1.66
Felsham	2.23	0	4.96	4.84	0.11	0.16	0.49	0	1.03	0	0
Finningham	0	1.35	0	0	0	0.04	0	0	1.29	0	0
Flowton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.82	0	0
Framsden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.16	0	0
Fressingfield	0	15.96	1.3	1.03	0.27	0.11	0	0	0.87	1.04	0
Gedding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.96	0	0
Gipping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.4	0	0
Gislingham	0	0.23	4.69	4.69	0	0.14	0.01	0	0.57	0.63	0
Gosbeck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.44	0	0
Great Ashfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.06	0	0
Great Blakenham	0	1.44	1.11	1.11	0	0.06	0	0	0.14	0	0
Great Bricett	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.37	0	0
Great Finborough	0	1.13	0	0	0	0.07	0	1.25	0.63	13.56	0
Harleston	0	17.21	0	0	0	0	0	55.93	1.27	0	0
Haughley	0.18	0	1.35	1.25	0.1	0.1	0.02	0	0.26	0.23	0
Helmingham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.85	4.52	0
Hemingstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.72	0	0

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Henley	0	0	2.29	2.29	0	0.05	0	0	0.68	0	0
Hessett	1.27	7.2	0	0	0	0.04	0	0	1.12	0	0
Hinderclay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.6	0	0
Horham	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	2.89	3.93	0	0
Hoxne	0	0	2.52	2.41	0.11	0.21	0	7.14	1.15	0.33	0
Hunston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.02	0	0
Kenton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.94	0	0
Langham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.6	0	0
Laxfield	0.73	0	3.49	3.25	0.24	0.09	0	0	1.84	0.76	0
Little Blakenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.64	0	0
Little Finborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.8	0	0
Mellis	0	0.98	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.12	2	0
Mendham	0	3.53	0	0	0	0	0.13	0	1.73	0.78	0
Mendlesham	0.62	1.16	0	0	0	0.09	0.08	4	0.73	0.19	0.11
Metfield	2.09	12.65	1.49	1.49	0	0.18	0.03	0	0	0	0
Mickfield	0	3.98	0	0	0	0.17	0	0	1.56	0	2.29
Monk Soham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11.47	0	0	0
Needham Market	0.13	0.24	0.6	0.56	0.04	0.05	0.01	2.91	0.21	1.35	0.61
Nettlestead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.4	0	0
Norton	0	0.26	1.19	1.19	0	0.23	0	24.56	1.14	0.63	0
Occold	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0.89	0.13	0
Offton	0	2.01	0	0	0	0.14	0	0	0.78	0	0
Old Newton with Dagworth	0	0.46	0	0	0	0.04	0	0	0.8	0.68	0.19
Onehouse	0	0	0	0	0	0.07	0	38.24	0.38	0	0
Palgrave	0	0.8	0	0	0	0.03	0.01	0	0.52	0.3	0
Pettaugh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.55	0	0

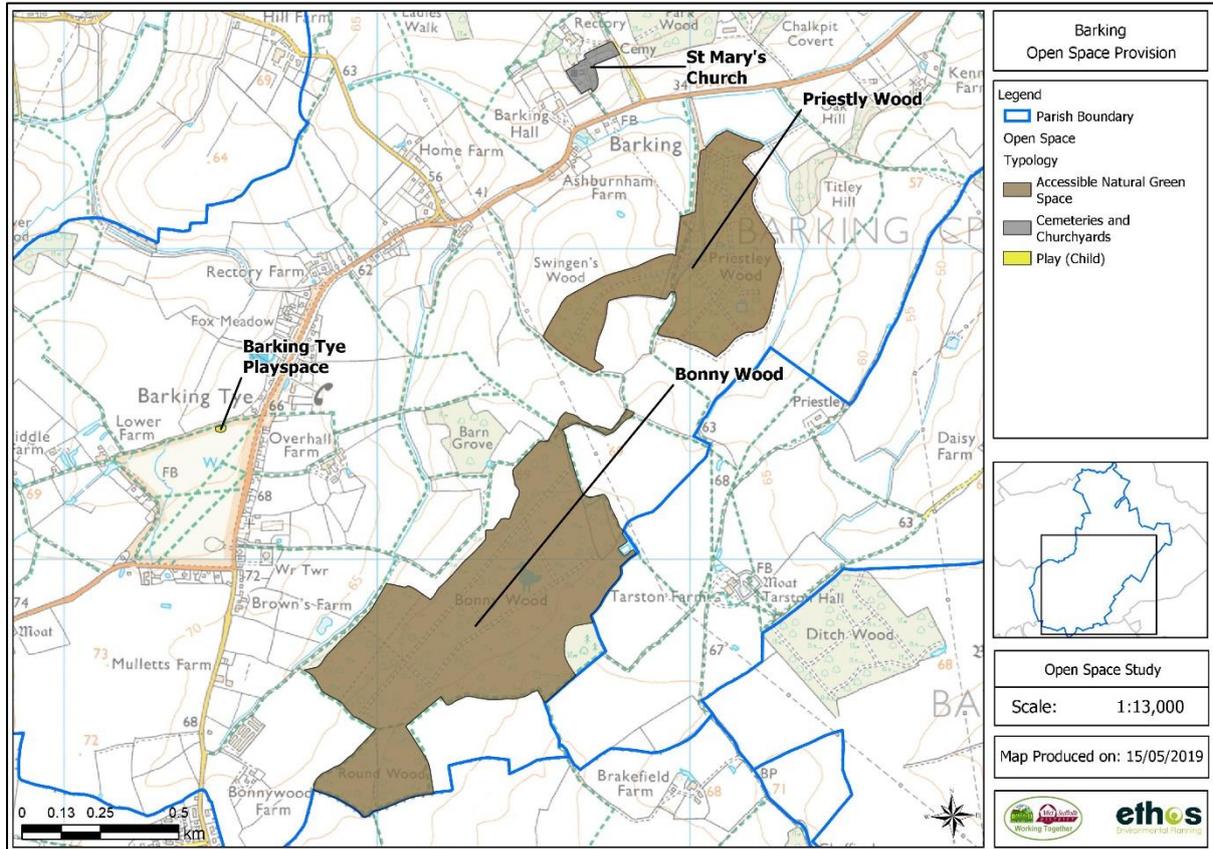
Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Rattlesden	0	0.42	1.48	1.48	0	0.06	0.02	0	0.53	0.45	0
Redgrave	0	0	10.63	10.63	0	0.35	0.02	75.29	2.48	0	0
Redlingfield	0	0	2.15	2.15	0	0	0.07	0	1.74	0	0
Rickinghall Inferior	1.43	0	0.29	0	0.29	0.07	0.07	0.98	1.89	0	0
Rickinghall Superior	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.76	0	0
Ringshall	0	2.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.85	0	6.37
Rishangles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.6	0	0
Shelland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	523.6	3.6	0	0
Somersham	0.31	0	3.08	2.92	0.16	0.03	0.04	8.87	0.44	1.01	0
Southolt	0	109.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.6	0	6.2
Stoke Ash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.13	1.43	0
Stonham Aspal	0	0.47	6.24	6.24	0	0.07	0	0	0.77	1.86	0.18
Stonham Earl	0	1.72	2.86	2.62	0.24	0.1	0.06	0	1.16	0	0
Stonham Parva	0	2.21	0	0	0	0.23	0	0	1.13	0	0
Stowlangtoft	0	2.59	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.4	0	0
Stowmarket	0.02	0.19	1.12	1.12	0	0.03	0.01	0	0.19	1.2	0.13
Stowupland	0.4	0	2.63	2.63	0	0.07	0.03	0	0.52	0	0.12
Stradbroke	0	0	1.92	1.7	0.21	0.09	0	0	1	2.78	0.08
Stuston	0	26.08	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.24	0	0
Syleham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.22	0	0
Tannington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.4	0	0
Thorndon	0	1.02	2.58	2.58	0	0.08	0.02	0	0.94	0.17	0
Thornham Magna	1.62	1.14	0	0	0	1.14	0	0	2.33	0	8.67
Thornham Parva	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.4	0	0
Thrandeston	0	11.03	0	0	0	0	0	43.15	3.42	0	0
Thurston	0.23	0.32	1.54	1.47	0.07	0.02	0	0	0.24	0.15	0.76

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Education	Sports Club Space
Thwaite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.76	0	0
Tostock	2.58	4.32	0.13	0	0.13	0.11	0.04	0	1.04	0	0
Walsham-le-Willows	0.59	0	0	0	0	0.09	0.04	0	0.77	0	4.47
Wattisfield	0	0	3.92	3.92	0	0.08	0	0	0.42	0	14.72
Westhorpe	0	4.86	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.3	0	0
Wetherden	0.35	0.39	4.03	3.9	0.13	0.06	0.02	1.58	1.71	0	0
Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.66	2.27	0
Weybread	1.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.93	0	12.48
Whitton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wickham Skeith	0	3.49	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.02	0	0
Wilby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16.28	0	2.43	0
Willisham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.88	0	0
Wingfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.86	0	0
Winston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.39	0	0
Woolpit	0	0.77	2.06	1.93	0.13	0.05	0	0	0.38	0.6	0
Worlingworth	0	0	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0.77	0.16	0
Wortham	0	75.35	4.03	3.5	0.53	0.21	0.1	0	0.96	0.87	0
Wyverstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.71	10.53	0
Yaxley	1.34	0.85	0	0	0	0.03	0	0	0.82	0	2.38

Maps showing provision by Parish

Appendix 2 provides a map for each of the Parishes within Babergh and Mid Suffolk showing the provision of open space. An example map is shown in figure 5.

Figure 5 Example map showing existing provision of open space by Parish (Appendix 2)



6.0 THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS

6.1 Introduction

Following the completion of the policy review/benchmarking exercise/consultation with town and Parish Councils 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 Babergh and Mid Suffolk 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 consideration of the town and Parish Council survey. 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 provision and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- **Accessibility standards:** 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.
- **Quality standards:** The standards for each form of provision are derived from the quality audit and existing good practice. Again, quality standards should be achievable and reflect the priorities that emerge through consultation

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 15 Summary of proposed quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.3 ha/1000 population	All Parishes with a population greater than 1000 people to have an allotment

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
- Plotholders shed = 12sqm
- Greenhouse = 15sqm
- Polytunnel = 30sqm

The previous standards proposed for each district were:

- Babergh: Quantity: 0.6ha/1000. Access: 15 minute walk (900m) in towns/sustainable villages and 15 minute drive in other areas; and
- Mid Suffolk: Quantity: 0.5ha/1000. Access: None.

Quantity standard for allotments

- The existing average level of provision across the whole study area is 0.23 ha/1000. This varies between the different analysis areas from 0.17 - 0.56 ha/1000;
- The existing local standards for allotments are up to double the existing average level of provision;
- The need for additional allotments was not a significant issue across Parishes, with only 10 of the 75 who responded identifying the need for more/better provision;
- Whilst the need and value of allotments is recognised, there is no solid evidence which justifies a standard which is up to double the existing average level of provision, and it is also questioned if this is deliverable through new development;
- It is therefore recommended that a standard which is based around existing levels of provision is adopted, allowing for a small increase to 0.3ha/1000 for analysing existing provision and for new provision.

Access standard for allotments

- The previous studies adopted a 900 metre (15 minute walk) and 15 minute drive within Babergh, no standards were proposed for Mid Suffolk;

- As the study area is so diverse and rural in nature, it is considered that a fixed access standard may not be achievable, and a drive time standard is not particularly relevant. Instead, it is recommended that an access standard based on existing populations of Parishes is adopted and this is used to identify gaps in provision;
- To this end, the proposed access standard is for *'all Parishes with a population greater than 1000 people to have an allotment'*;
- This does not mean that Parishes with populations less than 1000 should not have allotments (as several do), but that the above standard is used to identify existing gaps and to prioritise where new provision may be required.

Quality standards for allotments

For allotments, a number of 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 maneuvering space.
- Disabled access.
- Toilets.
- Notice boards.

6.3 Amenity Green Space

Table 16 Summary of proposed quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.0 ha/1000 population (sites > 0.15ha) for analysing existing provision	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time to be met by amenity greenspace of at least 0.15 ha in size or by a park and recreation ground for parishes with over 200 people.
1.0 ha/1000 population (combined with natural green space) for analysing requirements from new development	

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (Previously known as the National Play 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, and a walking distance guideline of 480m. FIT recommend that the quantity guidelines are adjusted to take account of local circumstances.

The previous standards proposed for each district were:

- Babergh: Quantity: 0.6ha/1000. Access: None; and
- Mid Suffolk: Quantity: 0.6ha/1000. Access: None.

Quantity standard for Amenity green space

- Existing average level of provision in the whole study area is 1.27 ha/1000. However, this varies from 0.50ha/1000 – 3.20ha/1000 across the various analysis areas. This demonstrates that there are significant differences in levels of provision across different areas;
- Considering the above, it is not considered appropriate to use existing average levels of provision as a benchmark for a local standard, instead consideration needs to be given to what is realistic in terms of seeking new provision from development, and in turn is this a reasonable level to assess existing supply;
- It is also considered that the local standard should be a benchmark to focus on analysing where there may be existing deficiencies, as opposed to identifying areas which may have significant surpluses;
- It is therefore considered that a standard of 1.0 ha/1000 is adopted, this is greater than suggested national standards and the existing Babergh and Mid Suffolk standard, but this level of provision is considered to be deliverable through new development, and thus a useful benchmark to establish which areas are poorly provided and those which are well provided;
- For new development and provision, the minimum size of a space that will be considered acceptable and count towards open space provision is recommended to be 0.15 ha in size (about the size of a mini football pitch). This will avoid a proliferation of small amenity spaces which have no real recreation function. Any spaces below this size will be acceptable in terms of their visual amenity¹¹, SUDs function etc but would not count towards the required level of provision for recreational use¹²;
- It is also recommended that the provision of amenity green space from new development is provided jointly with requirements for natural green space (see section 6.6), in order to create new spaces that are biodiverse and maximise opportunities for wildlife, in accordance with the NPPF.

Access standard for amenity green space

- The previous district studies provided no real guidance on access standards for this type of facility;
- The study area is very rural in nature, as such a small village green in a Parish can be as important to local people as a large park in a main town. It would not be expected that every Parish would have a park and recreation ground, but most Parishes should be able to enjoy some form of open space available for recreation within walking distance of where they live;

¹¹ The visual importance of amenity greenspace in all development regardless of its size is recognised

¹² There may be instances where SUDS could be provided as part of the area of open space in exceptional circumstances where there are issues of deliverability and viability, but this would need to be considered on a case by case basis.

- It is therefore recommended that a local standard of 600 metres straight line (12 – 13 minutes walking time) is applied to all Parishes with a population greater than 200 people. It is also considered sensible that this standard could be achieved through the provision of a local amenity space greater than 0.15ha in size or by a park and recreation ground;
- This access standard can then be used to identify Parishes where there is a lack of local access to a recreation space, and inform where new facilities may be required.

Quality standards for amenity green space

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 the minimum size threshold identified above, 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 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 Park and Recreation Grounds

Table 17 Summary of proposed quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.0 ha/1000 population	All Parishes with a population greater than 1000 people to have a park and recreation ground. 600 metres (12 - 13 minutes walk time) when considered with amenity green space.

Existing national and local policies

Fields in Trust (FIT), previously known as the National Playing Fields Association promoted the Six Acre Standard of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) per 1000 persons, but with a specific provision of 1.6-1.8 hectares per 1000 persons of outdoor sports space (and 0.8 hectares per 1000 people for children’s play of which around 0.3 hectares should be equipped provision). The new FIT

'Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Sport and Play' also suggest similar overall levels of provision as a guide to local authorities, although FIT does accept the importance of developing locally researched standards.

The new 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, with a walking distance guideline of 710m. In addition to this they also recommend the following standards:

- Playing pitches: 1.20ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- All outdoor sports: 1.6ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- Equipped/designated play areas: 0.25ha/1000 population, with 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).
- Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks): 0.30ha/1000 population and a walking distance of 700m.

The previous standards proposed for each district were:

- Babergh:
 - Urban Parks and Gardens: None
 - Outdoor Sports facilities: Quantity: 1.6ha/1000. Access: 15 min drive;
- Mid Suffolk:
 - Total for all pitch and outdoor sport: Quantity: 3.175ha/1000. Access: None.

Quantity of park and recreation grounds

- Existing average level of provision in the whole study area is 0.93 ha/1000. This varies from 0.3ha/1000 – 1.08 ha/1000 across the various analysis areas;
 - There is also an additional 0.37 ha/1000 of sports club outdoor sports spaces;
 - Considering the average levels of provision and the spread of provision across different areas (and the low provision in Sudbury, which only has 0.25ha/1000 of this typology), it is considered that a standard in line with the existing average level of provision is a good benchmark to assess provision;
 - Therefore, a standard of 1.0 ha/1000 for publicly accessible parks and recreation grounds is recommended to assess existing provision, and also for calculating the requirements for new provision;
 - Whilst no standards are proposed for sports club managed facilities, the value of this provision for community use is recognised, it is therefore recommended that appropriate policy is adopted to afford protection to these spaces within the local plan (see section 8).
 - It should be reiterated that this standard is intended to provide sufficient space. The emerging Playing Pitch Strategy deals with some of the detail i.e. supply of pitches and how they will be laid out.
-

Access standard for park and recreation grounds

- The previous district studies provided limited guidance on access standards for this type of facility, limited to a drivetime standard of 15 minutes (Babergh);
- The audit identified a good spread of provision across the study area, with many Parishes having a local recreation ground;
- The standard recommended for amenity green space identifies the need for people to have a space for recreation relatively close to home (600m), and this could be met either by a local park or amenity space;
- However, it is also recognised that many of the smaller Parishes are too small to have a park and recreation ground. It is therefore recommended that the proposed access standard is for ‘all Parishes with a population greater than 1000 people to have a park and recreation ground’;
- This is a similar approach proposed for allotments and is considered to be a useful benchmark to identify Parishes where there is a lack of local access to a park and recreation ground, and inform where new facilities may be required.

Quality standards for park and recreation grounds

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 District Councils, and that all new and improved provision seeks to meet these guidelines.

6.5 Play Space (children and youth)

Table 18 Summary of proposed quantity and access standards

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Children’s Play Space	0.06 ha/1000 population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parishes with a population of 200 - 1000 people to have a play space; • Parishes with a population over 1000 people to have a play space within 600 metres (12-13 minutes’ straight line walk time)
Youth Play Space	0.04 ha/1000 population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parishes with a population over 1000 people to have a youth play space; • Parishes with a population greater than 4000 people to have a youth space within 960 metres (20 minutes’ straight line walk time)

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, with 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 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 had been criticised because they are often seen as undeliverable, and can result in a proliferation of play areas that can be difficult to maintain, as well as setting 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.

The previous standards proposed for each district were:

- Babergh:
 - LAP: Quantity: None. Access:100-200 metres;
 - LEAP: Quantity: 0.42 ha/1000. Access 200 metres;
 - NEAP: 0.4 ha/1000. Access 460 metres.
- Mid Suffolk:
 - Play: 0.2ha/1000 (2006 SPD)
 - Young play space: Quantity: 0.01 ha/500. Access: 600 metres (Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (2014));
 - Junior Play Space: Quantity: 0.04 ha/500. Access: 600 metres;
 - Youth Play Space: Quantity: 0.12 ha/1000. Access: 800 metres.

Quantity standards for play

- Current average levels of provision of children's play space is 0.06 ha/1000. There is little variation in this across the analysis areas varying from 0.04 – 0.07 ha/1000;
- For youth space, the average level of provision is 0.01 ha/1000 and this is the same across all analysis areas;
- The Parish surveys identified a need for improving the quality of existing play and youth facilities in 29 Parishes. It was also noted that there was an identified need for additional youth facilities;
- The audit of a facilities noted many Parishes had play areas, although these were of varying size and quality. There was also a reasonable spread of youth facilities, however, it was noted these tended to be smaller facilities such as basketball or half MUGAs;
- Considering the above, there is a clear need to increase the provision of youth space, therefore a standard of 0.04 ha/1000 is recommended. For children's space, there is less identified need for additional facilities, with a focus on improving existing quality,

therefore a standard in line with current levels of provision of 0.06 ha/1000 is recommended.

- 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 Play England¹³ i.e. this surrounding playable space will need to be provided in addition to the quantity standard.

Access standards for play

The existing access standards set out within both districts previous studies range from 100 metres (for a LAP) to 800 metres for youth space. The recent study has found that these standards aren't applicable to many areas (i.e. they would be very difficult to achieve), and that a more bespoke approach based on the population of Parishes would be more appropriate.

Therefore, for children's play space, it is recommended that Parishes with a population of 200 - 1000 people to have a play space within the Parish; Parishes with a population over 1000 people should have a play space within 600 metres (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)

For youth space, Parishes with a population over 1000 people should have a youth play space; and, Parishes with a population greater than 4000 people should have a youth space within 960 metres (20 minutes' straight line walk time).

Quality standards for play

In terms of adopting quality standards for children's and teenage facilities, 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 both Councils consider 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.

¹³ Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces

Disability access is also an important issue for Play England and they would like local authorities to adopt the KIDS¹⁴ 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 Natural Green Space

For Natural Green Space, there are a number of national standards recommended by Natural England, which are summarised below.

6.6.1 Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt)

- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre 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 at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home.

6.6.2 Local standards

Existing provision within Babergh is analysed using the following standards (as set out in the Babergh Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy, September 2010):

- 2.0 ha+ within 300m of home
- 20.0 ha+ within 1.2km of home
- 60.0 Ha+ within 3.2km of home
- 500.0 Ha+ within 10km of home

For Mid Suffolk, the standards used for assessing provision of natural green space within the Green Infrastructure Assessment (2014) were 2.0ha/1000.

Current provision comprises numerous large tracts of natural greenspace, which often cross the boundaries of a number of Parishes. This results in some Parishes having large amounts of natural green space. It is therefore considered that a local quantity standard would not provide any meaningful analysis of existing provision. Furthermore, a standard based on average levels of provision (i.e. 5.55 ha/1000) to inform the requirements for new provision is also considered undeliverable.

It is therefore recommended that the analysis should adopt the Natural England ANGSt standards to identify current levels of provision and gaps.

¹⁴ 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.

It is also recommended that local standards for providing new levels of provision through new development are considered in tandem with provision of amenity green space in new development. The aim would be to provide guidance for development to provide amenity/natural green spaces which have both a recreational value and biodiversity value through native planting. There should be a move away from providing numerous small amenity grass area, to providing fewer, larger amenity/natural spaces in new development. This is reflected in the natural green spaces standards below:

Table 19 Summary of proposed natural green space standards

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)		Access standard
	For assessing current provision	Requirement from new development	
Natural Green Space	ANGSt	1.0 ha/1000 to include natural and amenity green space	ANGSt

6.6.3 Quality of natural and semi-natural green space

The consultation with Town and Parish Councils highlight the value attached to certain attributes of open space, in particular:

- Good maintenance and cleanliness
- Ease of access
- Lack of antisocial behaviour, noise etc.

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 wildlife value as part of a network.

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 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. Further guidance in this regard should be included in appropriate SPDs.

6.7 Summary of open space standards

Table 20 Summary of open space standards

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population) for analysing existing provision	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population): requirements from new development	Access standard
Allotments	0.3	0.3	All Parishes with a population greater than 1000 people to have an allotment
Amenity Green Space	1.0	See standard for Natural Green Space	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time to be met by amenity greenspace of at least 0.15 ha in size or by a park and recreation ground for parishes with over 200 people
Parks and Recreation Grounds	1.0	1.0	All Parishes with a population greater than 1000 people to have a park and recreation ground. 600 metres (12 - 13 minutes walk time) when considered with amenity green space
Play Space (Children)	0.06	0.06	Parishes with a population of 200 - 1000 people to have a play space; Parishes with a population over 1000 people to have a play space within 600 metres (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)
Play Space (Youth)	0.04	0.04	Parishes with a population over 1000 people to have a youth play space; Parishes with a population greater than 4000 people to have a youth space within 960 metres (20 minutes' straight line walk time)
Natural Green Space	ANGSt	1.0 to include natural and amenity green space for new provision	ANGSt
Total for new provision		2.40 ha/1000	

7.0 APPLYING LOCAL STANDARDS

7.1 Introduction

This part of the report uses the recommended standards to analyse provision across the study area. This section provides an overview of provision across the study area, with more detailed maps provided in appendices 2, 3 and 5. 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 people.

The quantity assessment looks at the existing levels of provision, then uses the recommended standard to assess the required level of provision against the Parish population. 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 Parish.

The quantity analysis section also considers the future requirements for open space at the study area level, based on the projected population increase.

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 in Appendix 3.

Quality analysis

This section of the report provides a summary of the results from the quality audit and highlights key quality issues raised in the Town and Parish Council survey (Appendix 1).

7.2 Application of quantity standards

7.2.1 Current supply against the Babergh and Mid Suffolk standards

The tables below show the existing supply (in hectares) of open space in hectares for each typology for each of the Parishes. The supply is calculated using the population figures for each Parish, and the quantity of open space compared to what the requirements for open space are against the recommended quantity standards, summarised in Table 20¹⁵. Positive figures show where the parish meets the quantity standard for the open space typology, and negative figures show where there is a shortfall in supply against the quantity standard. However, as explained below, the access standards need to be considered alongside these figures.

The figures of 'Park and Recreation Grounds (Combined)' includes a combination of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground; and
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

Although these figures highlight where there are shortfalls in supply 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.

These figures also need to be considered alongside the access analysis – therefore tables 21 and 22 also show the Parish population and also how each Parish performs against the access standards for each open space typology (further details and maps are provided in section 7.3). The only access standard that could not be depicted in the tables below is the 600m buffer for amenity green space and parks and recreation grounds considered together.

Where a cell is highlighted green, this means the Parish meets the access standards summarised in table 20. Where it is orange, it means it fails against the access standard, and where it is grey, it means that provision is not required against the access standard.

In practice, the access standard should be considered first, as for many of the very rural Parishes, there is not a requirement for open space against the access standard, and therefore although the figures in this table may be showing a shortfall in provision, there may not be the requirement for a certain typology of open space e.g. an allotment would not be required for a Parish with a population of less than 1000, and therefore the cell would be highlighted grey. Alternatively, a Parish may meet the access standard for allotments (i.e. there would be at least one allotment within a Parish with over 1000 people), however, the supply figure may

¹⁵ For example, for Acton the population is 1811. The existing quantity of allotments within this parish is 0.5 ha, and the required provision (using the standard of 0.30ha/1000) is 0.54 ha. Therefore, the resultant supply is -0.04ha i.e. there is an under supply against the quantity standard.

indicate a shortfall in provision against the quantity standard – this may indicate that the existing provision needs expanding and could be explored through further consultation.

Table 21 Supply by Parish (hectares) in Babergh District against the Babergh and Mid Suffolk quantity standards

Parish	Population	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)
Acton	1811	-0.54	-0.71	-0.43	-0.06	-0.07
Aldham	175	-0.05	-0.18	-0.18	-0.01	-0.01
Alpheton	256	-0.08	0.52	-0.26	-0.02	-0.01
Arwarton	126	-0.04	-0.13	-0.13	-0.01	-0.01
Assington	402	-0.12	-0.4	-0.4	-0.02	-0.02
Belstead	202	-0.06	-0.2	-0.2	-0.01	-0.01
Bentley	776	-0.23	0.67	-0.78	-0.01	-0.03
Bildeston	1054	-0.32	-0.69	1.64	0.01	0.01
Boxford	1221	0.3	-1.07	-1.12	0.01	-0.05
Boxted	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Brantham	2566	-0.77	-1.39	0.96	0.09	-0.08
Brent Eleigh	174	-0.05	-0.17	-0.17	-0.01	-0.01
Brettenham	353	-0.11	-0.07	-0.35	0	-0.01
Bures St. Mary	918	0.39	-0.92	2.89	0.05	-0.03
Burstall	198	-0.06	-0.2	-0.2	-0.01	-0.01
Capel St. Mary	2847	-0.85	-2.85	0.58	-0.05	0.15
Chattisham	167	-0.05	0.1	-0.17	0	-0.01
Chelmondiston	1054	0.1	-0.83	0.62	0.02	-0.03
Chelsworth	206	-0.06	-0.21	-0.21	-0.01	-0.01
Chilton	367	-0.11	0.89	-0.37	-0.02	-0.01
Cockfield	868	-0.26	0.7	3.14	0.04	-0.03
Copdock and Washbrook	1114	0.72	-1.11	0.63	0.01	-0.04
East Bergholt	2765	0	-2.77	-2.32	0.53	-0.11
Edwardstone	352	-0.11	1.83	-0.35	0.02	-0.01
Elmsett	788	-0.21	-0.58	2.03	0.02	0.02
Freston	120	0.4	0.53	-0.12	-0.01	0
Glemsford	3382	-1.01	-2.48	-0.95	-0.1	-0.08
Great Cornard	8908	-1.27	-5.7	-5.92	-0.26	-0.33
Great Waldingfield	1431	-0.04	0.26	-1.43	-0.01	-0.06
Groton	288	-0.09	2.91	-0.29	-0.02	-0.01
Hadleigh	8253	1.38	3.01	-2.16	0.02	-0.12
Harkstead	287	-0.09	0.68	-0.29	0.03	-0.01

Parish	Population	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)
Hartest	446	-0.13	0.41	-0.45	-0.03	-0.02
Higham	203	-0.06	-0.2	-0.2	-0.01	-0.01
Hintlesham	609	0.43	-0.61	0.8	0.04	-0.02
Hitcham	774	-0.23	4.25	-0.77	0.2	-0.03
Holbrook	2180	-0.65	-2.18	-0.11	-0.05	-0.07
Holton St. Mary	201	-0.06	0.32	-0.2	-0.01	-0.01
Kersey	359	0.97	-0.36	0.09	0.02	-0.01
Kettlebaston	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Lavenham	1722	-0.52	1.65	1.41	0.16	-0.06
Lawshall	968	-0.29	1.99	-0.97	0.01	-0.04
Layham	589	-0.11	-0.15	0.62	0	0.03
Leavenheath	1370	-0.41	-1.37	0.99	-0.01	-0.05
Lindsey	208	-0.06	-0.05	-0.21	-0.01	-0.01
Little Cornard	286	-0.09	-0.29	-0.29	-0.02	-0.01
Little Waldingfield	366	-0.11	-0.37	1.09	0.01	-0.01
Long Melford	3518	-0.22	1.6	-2.74	-0.07	-0.13
Milden	101	-0.03	-0.1	-0.1	-0.01	0
Monks Eleigh	505	0.19	1.5	0.64	0.01	0.01
Nayland-with-Wissington	1163	0.1	0.67	0.59	0.05	-0.04
Nedging-with-Naughton	404	-0.04	1.5	-0.4	-0.01	-0.02
Newton	495	-0.15	-0.5	2.86	0.06	-0.02
Pinewood	4342	3.1	-1.66	-4.19	-0.07	-0.14
Polstead	851	-0.26	-0.85	-0.44	0.03	0
Preston St. Mary	177	-0.05	-0.18	-0.18	-0.01	-0.01
Raydon	507	-0.15	1.78	-0.51	0	-0.02
Semer	130	-0.04	1.52	-0.13	-0.01	-0.01
Shelley	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Shimpling	431	-0.13	-0.43	-0.43	0.14	-0.02
Shotley	2342	1.85	-0.5	-1.53	-0.1	-0.03
Somerton	212	-0.06	-0.21	-0.21	-0.01	-0.01
Sproughton	1376	0.83	0.38	0.13	0.01	-0.05
Stanstead	319	-0.1	-0.32	-0.23	-0.02	0
Stoke-by-Nayland	682	2.07	0.83	-0.6	0.02	0

Parish	Population	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)
Stratford St. Mary	701	-0.21	-0.37	-0.7	0	-0.03
Stutton	812	-0.09	-0.81	0.98	-0.05	-0.03
Sudbury	13063	-3.43	-6.61	-9.84	-0.09	-0.37
Tattingstone	540	0.48	-0.54	1.41	0.12	-0.02
Thorpe Morieux	232	-0.07	0.18	-0.23	-0.01	-0.01
Wattisham	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Wenham Magna	185	-0.06	-0.19	-0.19	-0.01	-0.01
Wenham Parva	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Whatfield	335	-0.1	0.94	-0.34	0.01	-0.01
Wherstead	342	-0.1	-0.34	-0.34	-0.02	-0.01
Woolverstone	265	0.29	4.81	-0.27	-0.02	-0.01

Table 22 Supply by Parish (hectares) in Mid Suffolk District against the Babergh and Mid Suffolk quantity standards

Parish	Population	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)
Akenham	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Ashbocking	356	-0.11	-0.36	-0.36	-0.02	-0.01
Ashfield cum Thorpe	219	-0.07	-0.22	-0.22	-0.01	-0.01
Aspall	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Athelington	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Bacton	1228	0.47	0.8	1.97	-0.04	-0.05
Badley	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Badwell Ash	770	-0.23	-0.12	-0.77	-0.05	-0.03
Barham	1504	-0.45	-1.15	-1.5	-0.09	-0.06
Barking	446	-0.13	-0.45	-0.45	0.03	-0.02
Battisford	458	-0.14	0.79	-0.46	0.04	-0.02
Baylham	266	-0.08	-0.27	-0.27	-0.02	-0.01
Bedfield	324	-0.1	0.32	1.79	0.11	-0.01
Bedingfield	404	-0.12	-0.4	-0.4	-0.02	-0.02
Beyton	713	-0.21	1.11	-0.71	0.01	-0.03
Botesdale	905	-0.27	-0.91	-0.49	-0.02	-0.04
Braiseworth	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Bramford	2303	-0.41	-1.82	-1.91	-0.03	0.06

Parish	Population	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)
Brome and Oakley	475	-0.14	-0.48	-0.48	-0.03	-0.02
Brundish	287	-0.09	0.13	-0.29	0.03	-0.01
Burgate	160	-0.05	6.69	-0.16	-0.01	-0.01
Buxhall	475	0.01	0.14	-0.48	0.03	0.01
Claydon	2197	-0.66	-1.63	0.09	-0.05	-0.08
Coddenham	620	-0.19	-0.62	0.5	0	-0.02
Combs	852	-0.26	-0.85	-0.85	-0.05	-0.03
Cotton	526	0.04	1.42	0.33	0	-0.02
Creeting St. Mary	697	1.14	2.1	-0.7	0.01	-0.03
Creeting St. Peter	275	-0.08	0.01	-0.28	0.05	-0.01
Crowfield	361	-0.11	-0.36	0.27	0.01	0.01
Darmsden	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Debenham	2210	0.32	0.72	-1.61	-0.04	-0.08
Denham	197	-0.06	-0.2	-0.2	-0.01	-0.01
Drinkstone	548	-0.16	-0.55	-0.55	0.03	0
Elmswell	3950	-0.17	0.83	3.04	-0.2	-0.11
Eye	2154	-0.19	-2.15	-1.31	0.21	-0.04
Felsham	448	0.87	-0.45	1.77	0.04	0.2
Finningham	480	-0.14	0.17	-0.48	-0.01	-0.02
Flowton	117	-0.04	-0.12	-0.12	-0.01	0
Framsden	357	-0.11	-0.36	-0.36	-0.02	-0.01
Fressingfield	1021	-0.31	15.28	0.31	0.05	-0.04
Gedding	125	-0.04	-0.13	-0.13	-0.01	-0.01
Gipping	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Gislingham	1040	-0.31	-0.8	3.84	0.09	-0.03
Gosbeck	236	-0.07	-0.24	-0.24	-0.01	-0.01
Great Ashfield	378	-0.11	-0.38	-0.38	-0.02	-0.02
Great Blakenham	1235	-0.37	0.54	0.13	0.01	-0.05
Great Bricett	1530	-0.46	-1.53	-1.53	-0.09	-0.06
Great Finborough	808	-0.24	0.1	-0.81	0.01	-0.03
Harleston	204	-0.06	3.31	-0.2	-0.01	-0.01
Haughley	1638	-0.2	-1.64	0.57	0.06	-0.03
Helmingham	186	-0.06	-0.19	-0.19	-0.01	-0.01
Hemingstone	244	-0.07	-0.24	-0.24	-0.01	-0.01
Henley	573	-0.17	-0.57	0.74	0	-0.02

Parish	Population	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)
Hessett	464	0.45	2.88	-0.46	-0.01	-0.02
Hinderclay	326	-0.1	-0.33	-0.33	-0.02	-0.01
Horham	305	-0.09	-0.31	-0.31	0.01	-0.01
Hoxne	889	-0.27	-0.89	1.35	0.14	-0.04
Hunston	197	-0.06	-0.2	-0.2	-0.01	-0.01
Kenton	237	-0.07	-0.24	-0.24	-0.01	-0.01
Langham	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Laxfield	910	0.39	-0.91	2.27	0.03	-0.04
Little Blakenham	295	-0.09	-0.3	-0.3	-0.02	-0.01
Little Finborough	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Mellis	519	-0.16	-0.01	-0.52	-0.03	-0.02
Mendham	451	-0.14	1.14	-0.45	-0.03	0.04
Mendlesham	1407	0.45	0.22	-1.41	0.04	0.05
Metfield	388	0.69	4.52	0.19	0.05	-0.01
Mickfield	231	-0.07	0.69	-0.23	0.03	-0.01
Monk Soham	156	-0.05	-0.16	-0.16	-0.01	-0.01
Needham Market	4528	-0.78	-3.45	-1.8	-0.06	-0.14
Nettlestead	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Norton	1003	-0.3	-0.74	0.19	0.17	-0.04
Occold	519	-0.16	-0.52	-0.52	0.02	-0.02
Offton	358	-0.11	0.36	-0.36	0.03	-0.01
Old Newton with Dagworth	1211	-0.36	-0.65	-1.21	-0.02	-0.05
Onehouse	877	-0.26	-0.88	-0.88	0.01	-0.04
Palgrave	905	-0.27	-0.19	-0.91	-0.02	-0.03
Pettaugh	207	-0.06	-0.21	-0.21	-0.01	-0.01
Rattlesden	959	-0.29	-0.56	0.46	0	-0.02
Redgrave	459	-0.14	-0.46	4.42	0.13	-0.01
Redlingfield	144	-0.04	-0.14	0.17	-0.01	0
Rickinghall Inferior	449	0.51	-0.45	-0.32	0	0.01
Rickinghall Superior	719	-0.22	-0.72	-0.72	-0.04	-0.03
Ringshall	670	-0.2	0.74	-0.67	-0.04	-0.03
Rishangles	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Shelland	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Somersham	733	0.01	-0.73	1.53	-0.02	0

Parish	Population	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)
Southolt	50	-0.02	5.42	-0.05	0	0
Stoke Ash	314	-0.09	-0.31	-0.31	-0.02	-0.01
Stonham Aspal	601	-0.18	-0.32	3.15	0	-0.02
Stonham Earl	629	-0.19	0.45	1.17	0.02	0.01
Stonham Parva	399	-0.12	0.48	-0.4	0.07	-0.02
Stowlangtoft	228	-0.07	0.36	-0.23	-0.01	-0.01
Stowmarket	19280	-5.35	-15.61	2.35	-0.53	-0.6
Stowupland	1988	0.2	-1.99	3.23	0.02	-0.03
Stradbroke	1408	-0.42	-1.41	1.29	0.05	-0.06
Stuston	194	-0.06	4.87	-0.19	-0.01	-0.01
Syleham	180	-0.05	-0.18	-0.18	-0.01	-0.01
Tannington	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Thorndon	648	-0.19	0.01	1.02	0.01	-0.02
Thornham Magna	210	0.28	0.03	-0.21	0.23	-0.01
Thornham Parva	50	-0.02	-0.05	-0.05	0	0
Thrandeston	146	-0.04	1.46	-0.15	-0.01	-0.01
Thurston	3232	-0.24	-2.18	1.75	-0.11	-0.12
Thwaite	149	-0.04	-0.15	-0.15	-0.01	-0.01
Tostock	472	1.08	1.57	-0.41	0.02	0
Walsham-le-Willows	1213	0.36	-1.21	-1.21	0.04	0
Wattisfield	475	-0.14	-0.48	1.38	0.01	-0.02
Westhorpe	208	-0.06	0.8	-0.21	-0.01	-0.01
Wetherden	543	0.03	-0.33	1.65	0	-0.01
Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford	669	-0.2	-0.67	-0.67	-0.04	-0.03
Weybread	432	0.32	-0.43	-0.43	-0.03	-0.02
Whitton	168	-0.05	-0.17	-0.17	-0.01	-0.01
Wickham Skeith	321	-0.1	0.8	-0.32	-0.02	-0.01
Wilby	239	-0.07	-0.24	-0.24	-0.01	-0.01
Willisham	362	-0.11	-0.36	-0.36	-0.02	-0.01
Wingfield	345	-0.1	-0.35	-0.35	-0.02	-0.01
Winston	159	-0.05	-0.16	-0.16	-0.01	-0.01
Woolpit	1995	-0.6	-0.46	2.11	-0.02	-0.08
Worlingworth	802	-0.24	-0.8	-0.8	-0.01	-0.03
Wortham	722	-0.22	53.68	2.19	0.11	0.04

Parish	Population	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)
Wyverstone	396	-0.12	-0.4	-0.4	-0.02	-0.02
Yaxley	588	0.61	-0.09	-0.59	-0.02	-0.02

Tables 21 and 22 show that provision varies across Parishes and typologies, with some meeting the quantity and access standards and some falling below.

Where a cell is highlighted grey, this means that due to the population size of the parish there is not a requirement for that particular typology of open space (in accordance with the access standards). Therefore, the supply figure is not relevant. Where a cell is highlighted green, this means the parish meets the access standard for that particular open space typology, and the supply figure then shows whether or not there is sufficient supply (or not) of the open space typology against the quantity standards. Where a cell is highlighted orange, it means the parish fails against the access standard for the particular typology, and the supply figure then shows whether or not the quantity standard is met.

For example, there is insufficient youth provision across the majority of Parishes – however the majority of these Parishes also fall below the required population size for provision (those cells highlighted grey), and therefore new provision would not be required – and it isn’t actually failing against the access standard.

To provide a more detailed example, although Nedging-with -Naughton in Babergh has an undersupply of allotments against the quantity standard, it only has a population of 404 people, and there is a small allotment site (0.08ha) present within the Parish– therefore, the provision actually exceeds the requirements of the access standard¹⁶.

So, for those Parishes with less than 1000 people, for certain typologies the access standards are most relevant for identifying where the shortfalls/gaps in access in existing provision are. The requirements from new development are irrespective of this, so for example if a new development is of a size that would warrant new provision of allotments in an area where there is an undersupply/gap in access, then on site provision would still be required in line with the standard (0.3ha/1000 people) irrespective of the existing population size within the Parish.

This will be an important consideration when determining the need for on-site open space in allocated housing sites.

Provision and access to accessible natural green space (against the Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards) is considered under section 7.3.2. The quantity (in hectares) of accessible natural green space by Parish is shown in tables 11 and 13.

¹⁶ However, local information/consultation may be needed to identify if there is sufficient allotment space to meet demand within the parish.

7.2.2 Future supply and need for open space

This section of the report considers the overall implications for open space provision from the predicted population growth. As set out in section 1.3 above, the housing requirement based on the RHRP consultation is as follows:

Local Authority	RHRP Requirement (2014-2036)	RHRP Annualised Requirement
Babergh	9,658	439
Mid Suffolk	12,606	573

Assuming an average household size of 2.3 people (based on the 2011 census), the predicted population growth for Babergh is 20,925, and for Mid Suffolk it is 26,625 (based on future completions on sites with planning permission and sites to be allocated in the Joint Local Plan).

Impact of population growth on existing open space provision

Tables 23, 24 and 25 show the impact on the current supply of open space, if no new open space were provided on site as part of new housing developments. This has been calculated using the requirements for open space in Tables 26 and 27.

Table 23 shows the existing supply in hectares of open space (footnote 14 explains how the supply is calculated), and the resulting supply following the projected population increase if no new open space were provided at the study area level. As can be seen, at the study area level there are existing shortfalls in allotments, parks and recreation grounds and youth play space, which would be exacerbated, and children's play space would also be in shortfall. There is good supply of amenity green space, which would still exceed the standard following the projected population increase. Therefore, no new on-site provision of this typology would be required as part of new development, **unless** there is a shortfall in provision and/or gaps in access in the Parish within which the development falls (Section 7.3, figure 9 provides an overview of access to amenity green space and parks and recreation grounds and highlights where there are gaps in access, and tables 21 and 22 provide supply figures for each typology by Parish). Even so, in some cases the provision of amenity green space may still be desirable to achieve an acceptable design and layout. The good provision of amenity green space across the study area may also mean that this typology has potential to meet the shortfalls in provision/access to other typologies. This is considered further within section 8.

Tables 24 and 25 shows how the supply and resulting supply varies by district.

Table 23 Study area (Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts) – Supply of open space following new housing development if no open space provided on-site

Typology	Existing Supply (ha)	Resulting Supply (Ha) following a population increase of 47,550
Allotments	-13.39	-27.65
Amenity Green Space	49.15	2.00
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	-13.63	-61.18
Play Space (Children)	0.28	-2.57
Play Space (Youth)	-4.90	-6.80

Table 24 Babergh District - Supply of open space following new housing development if no open space provided on-site

Typology	Existing Supply (ha)	Resulting Supply (Ha) following a population increase of 20,925
Allotments	-0.98	-7.26
Amenity Green Space	-5.39	-26.31
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	-21.47	-42.39
Play Space (Children)	0.49	-0.76
Play Space (Youth)	-2.39	-3.23

Table 25 Mid Suffolk District - Supply of open space following new housing development if no open space provided on-site

Typology	Existing Supply (ha)	Resulting Supply (Ha) following a population increase of 26,625
Allotments	-12.41	-20.40
Amenity Green Space	54.54	27.92
Parks and Recreation Grounds (Combined)	7.84	-18.78
Play Space (Children)	-0.2	-1.80
Play Space (Youth)	-2.51	-3.58

Requirements from projected population increase across Babergh and Mid Suffolk

The tables below show the overall requirement for each typology of open space across each district for the projected population increase up to 2036. They provide an indication of the total extent of open space required, which will depend on the location and size of housing allocations.

Table 26 Babergh District open space requirements from new development (up to 2036)

Typology	Required standard for new provision	Requirement for 20,925 people (Hectares)
Allotments	0.30	6.28
Amenity Green Space/Natural Green Space	1.0	20.93
Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)	1.0	20.93
Play Space (Children)	0.06	1.26
Play Space (Youth)	0.04	0.84
Total		50.24

Table 27 Mid Suffolk District open space requirements from new development (up to 2036)

Typology	Required standard for new provision	Requirement for 26,625 people (Hectares)
Allotments	0.30	7.99
Amenity Green Space/Natural Green Space	1.0	26.63
Park and Recreation Ground (Combined)	1.0	26.63
Play Space (Children)	0.06	1.60
Play Space (Youth)	0.04	1.07
Total		63.92

7.3 Application of access standards

This section provides an overview of access to different types of open space typologies across the whole study area, using the access standards summarised in table 22. 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 3 (see example at figure 7).

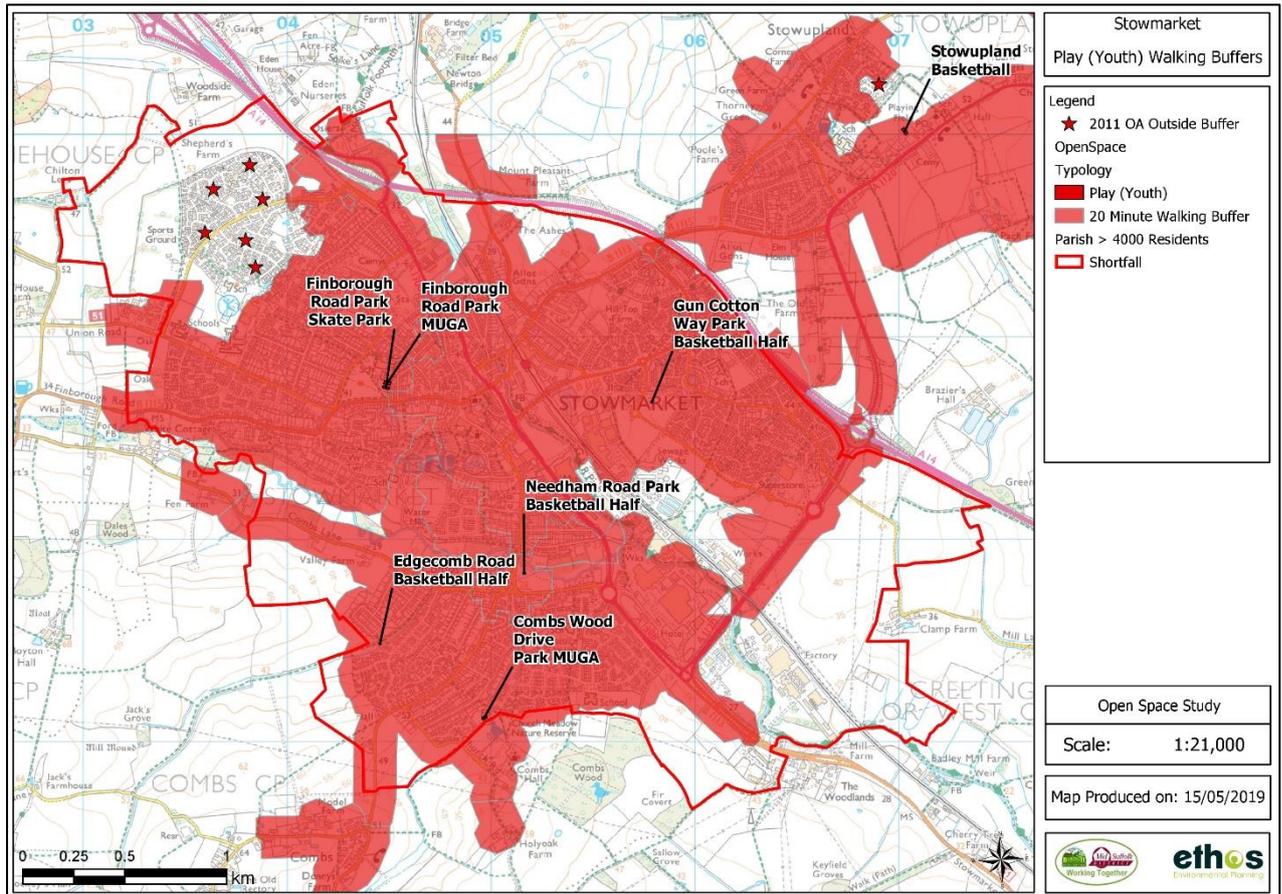
The access maps for play space (both children and youth) have used a walk time analysis which is based on the road and path network, using a walking speed of 3mph. This analysis is more accurate than the basic buffer analysis which is based on distance only, as it takes account of the road network/barriers to access. The walk time analysis works well for play spaces, as they are generally relatively small spaces, with only one access point. The more basic buffer access analysis approach has been used for amenity green space, parks and recreation grounds (when considered with amenity green space) and the ANGSt standards.

Due to the rurality of the study area, for a number of typologies, access buffers/walk time analysis have either not been used, or have been used in combination with an analysis of open space provision based on population size within the Parish. For these typologies (allotments,

parcs and recreation grounds, children’s play space and youth play space), maps have been produced showing which Parishes either do/do not meet the access standards set, or show the access buffers/walk time analysis where applicable. This enables gaps in provision to be easily identified.

The access analysis has been aided by the use of 2011 census output areas (OA) centroids, each of which indicates a population cluster of approximately 309 people in individual points¹⁷. This enables the key gaps in access across settlements to be identified.

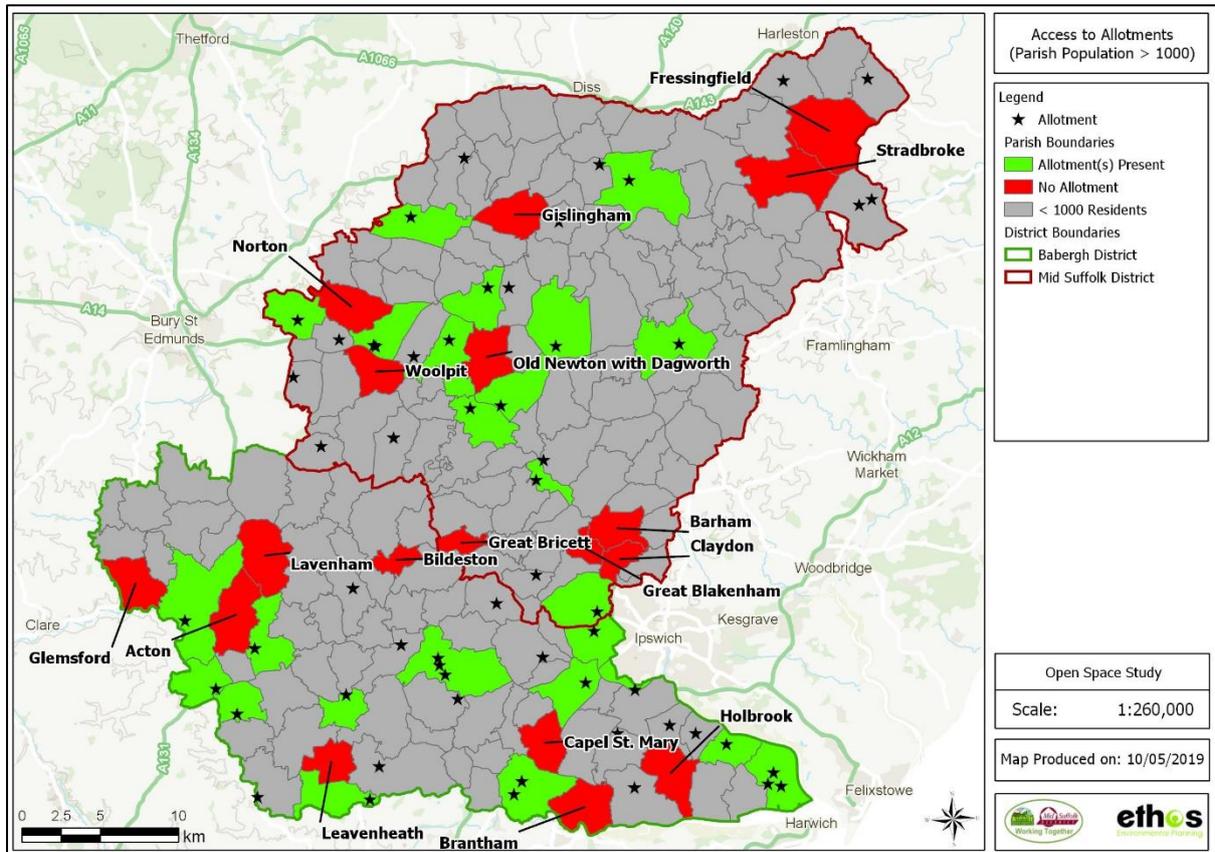
Figure 7 Example map from Appendix 3: access to youth play space in Stowmarket



¹⁷<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/2011censuspopulationandhouseholdestimatesforsmallareasinenglandandwales/2012-11-23>

7.3.1 Access to open space across the study area

Figure 8 Access to allotments (all Parishes with a population greater than 1000 to have an allotment)



As can be seen from figure 8, there are 18 Parishes that do not meet the access standard for allotments. (i.e. these are Parishes with over 1000 people that do not have an allotment). These are labelled on the above map. It also shows that there are a number of Parishes with less than 1000 people that have allotment provision.

Figure 9 Access to amenity green space and parks and recreation grounds (600 metres)

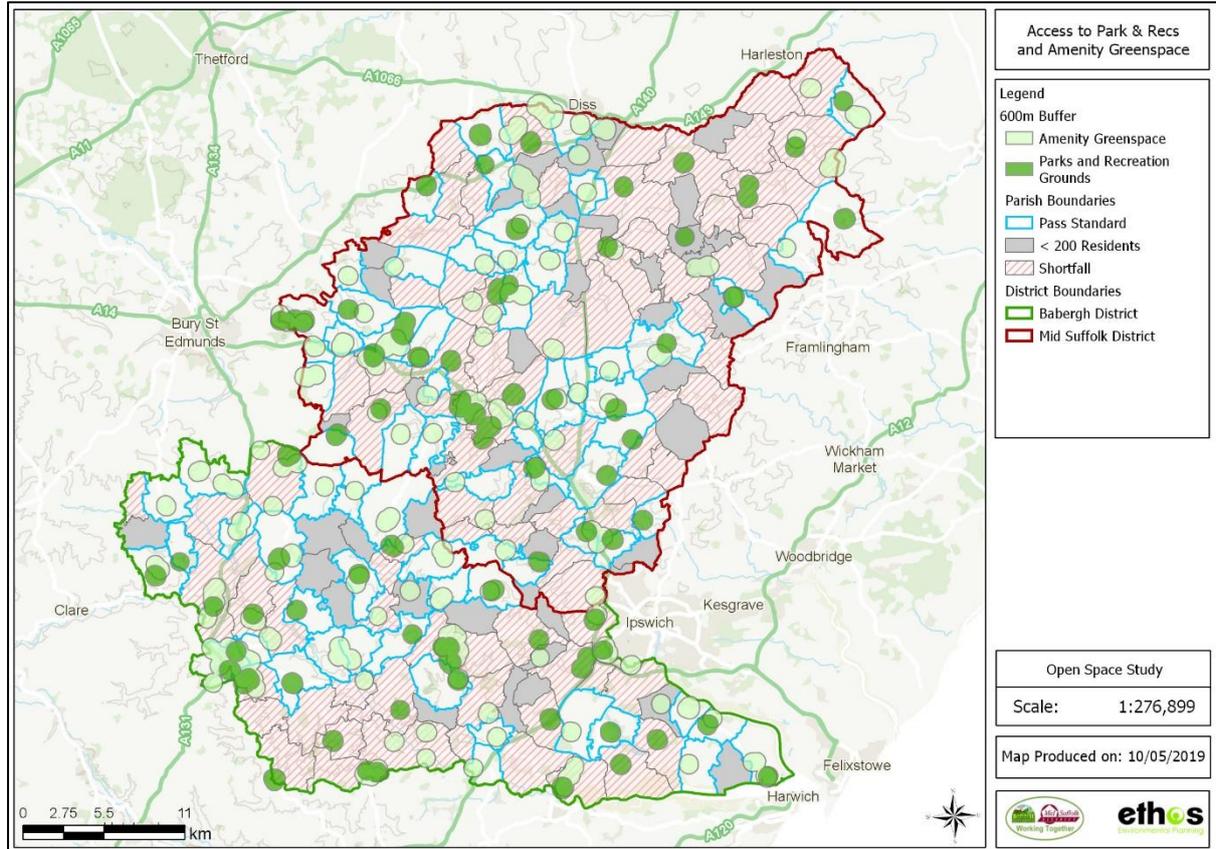


Figure 9 shows that there is generally good access to amenity green space (above 0.15ha in size) and parks and recreation grounds across the study area. The majority of the gaps in access are in very rural Parishes/small settlements. The exceptions are East Bergholt and Pinewood, which have large gaps in access in heavily populated areas.

Figure 10 Access to parks and recreation grounds (all Parishes with a population greater than 1000 to have a park and recreation ground)

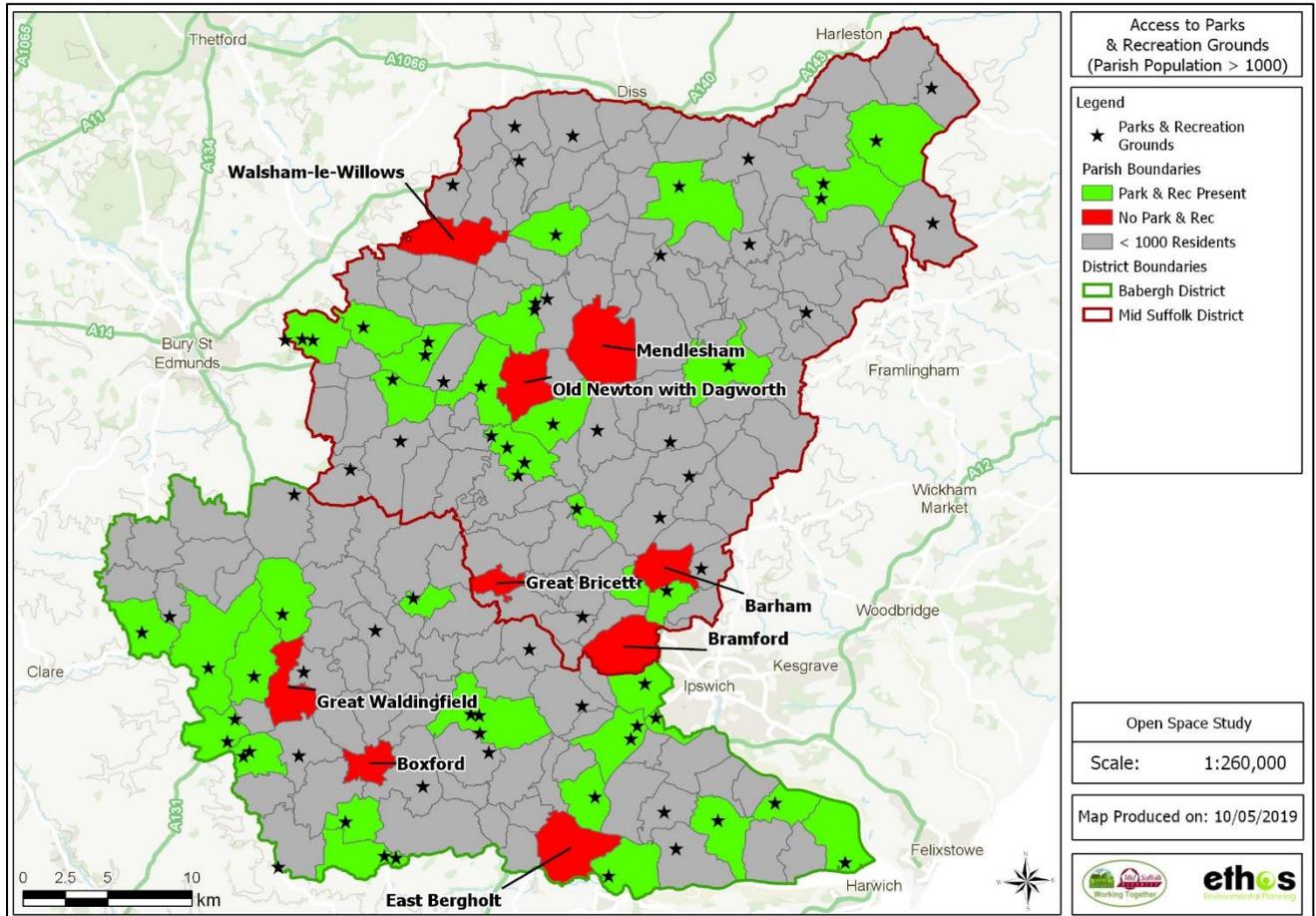
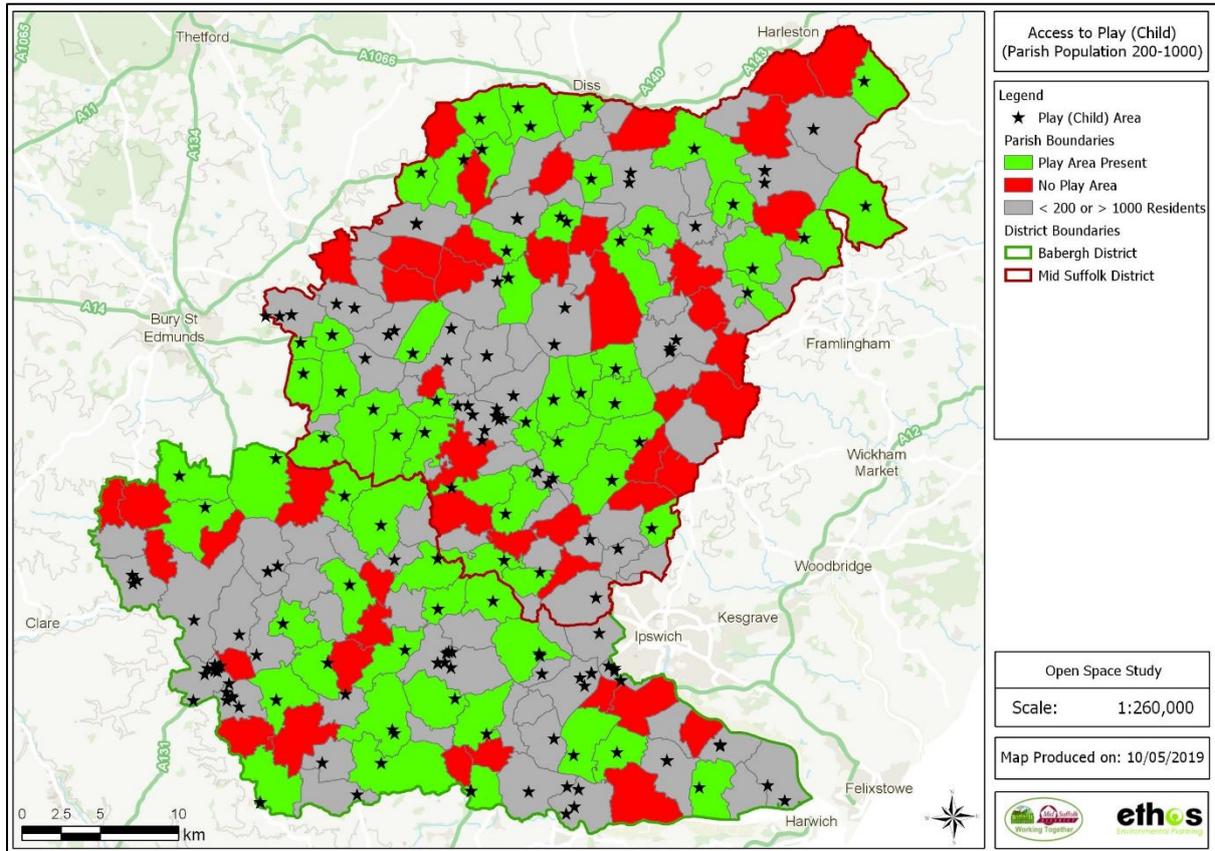


Figure 10 shows that there are 9 Parishes (those labelled) with over 1000 people that do not have a park and recreation ground, and therefore do not meet the provision/access standard for parks and recreation grounds. There are also a large number of Parishes with less than 1000 population have a park and recreation ground.

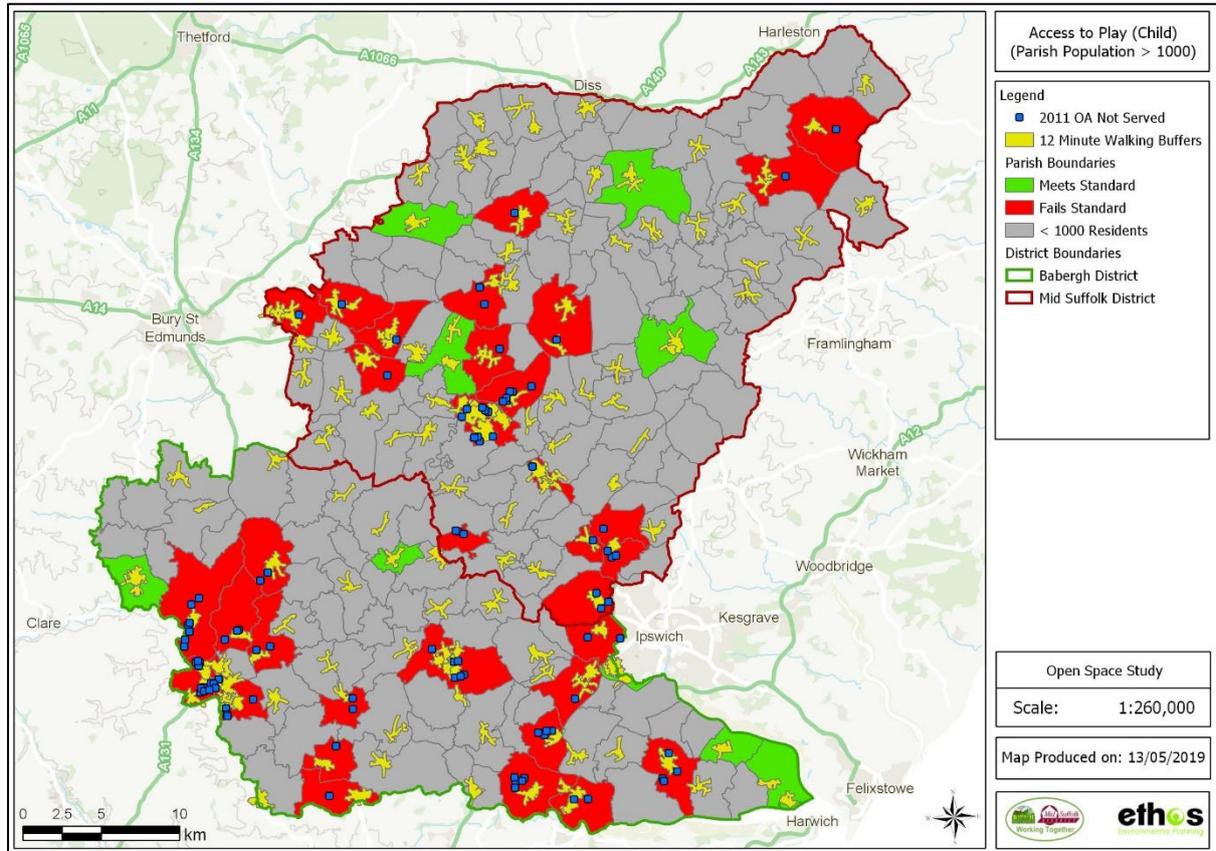
When considered alongside amenity green space (figure 9), applying an access standard of 600m, it can be seen that there is generally good access to these types of recreational space across the study area (with the exception of East Bergholt and Pinewood).

Figure 11 Access to children’s play space (Parishes with a population of 200-1000 to have a play space)



As can be seen from figure 11, there are a large number of Parishes (those highlighted red) with a population of between 200 and 1000 people that do not have a children’s play space, and therefore do not meet the standard.

Figure 12 Access to children’s play space (Parishes with a population of over 1000 to have a play space within 600m (12-13 minutes straight line walk time))



As can be seen from figure 12, there are a number of Parishes with over 1000 people where there are gaps in access when applying the standard of 600 metres/12-13 minutes straight line walk time (shown in yellow). The 2011 Census output areas (OA’s) clearly show where there are key settlement areas/populations that fall outside of the access buffers. The Parishes highlighted green meet the standard, as the yellow walk time buffer covers the populated areas (i.e. there are no OA’s falling outside of the yellow buffers in these Parishes).

Figure 13 Access to youth play space (Parishes with a population of over 1000 people to have a youth play space)

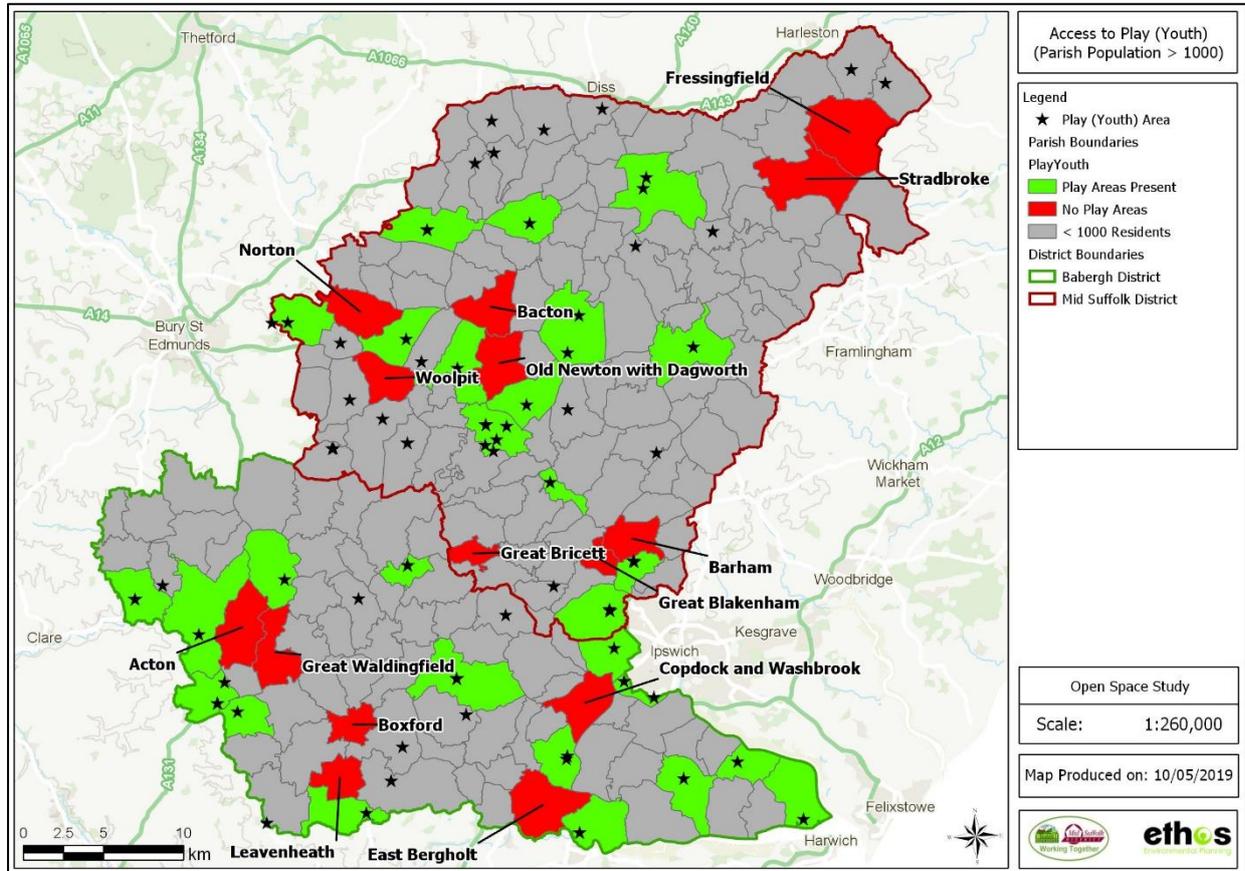
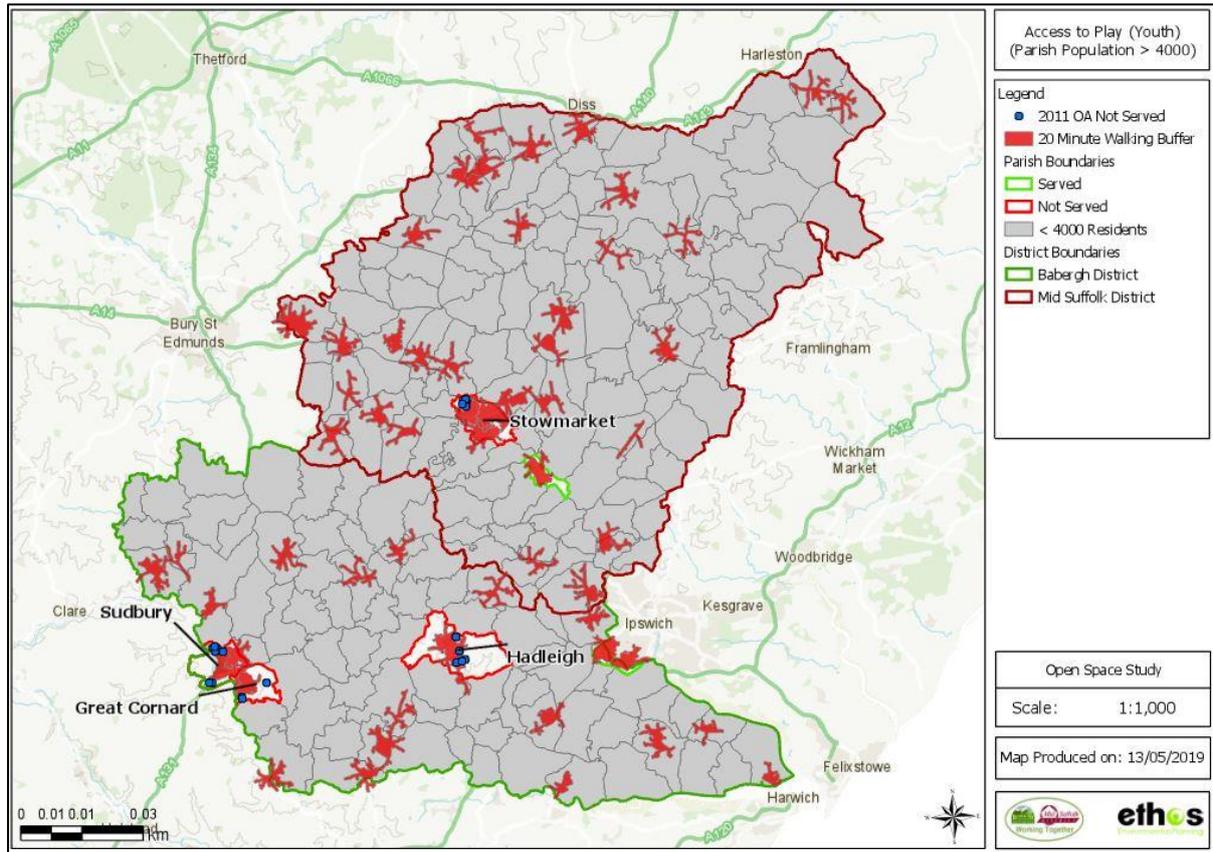


Figure 13 shows that there are 15 Parishes (highlighted red) with over 1000 people that do not have any youth provision. Those parishes labelled on the map do not meet the standard. There are also a number of Parishes with less than 1000 people that have youth provision.

Figure 14 Access to youth play space (Parishes with a population greater than 4000 people to have a youth play space within 960m (20 minutes straight line walk time))



There are 6 Parishes with over 4000 people – Stowmarket, Sudbury, Great Cornard, Hadleigh, Pinewood and Needham Market. Of these, only Pinewood and Needham Market meet the standard for youth play space, with the other Parishes having gaps in access against the 960m/20 minute straight line walk time buffer.

7.3.2 Application of standards (natural green space)

This section looks at the application of standards for natural green space.

Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGST)

The ANGST are:

- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre 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 one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home;

Figure 15 Access to 20 ha sites within 2km

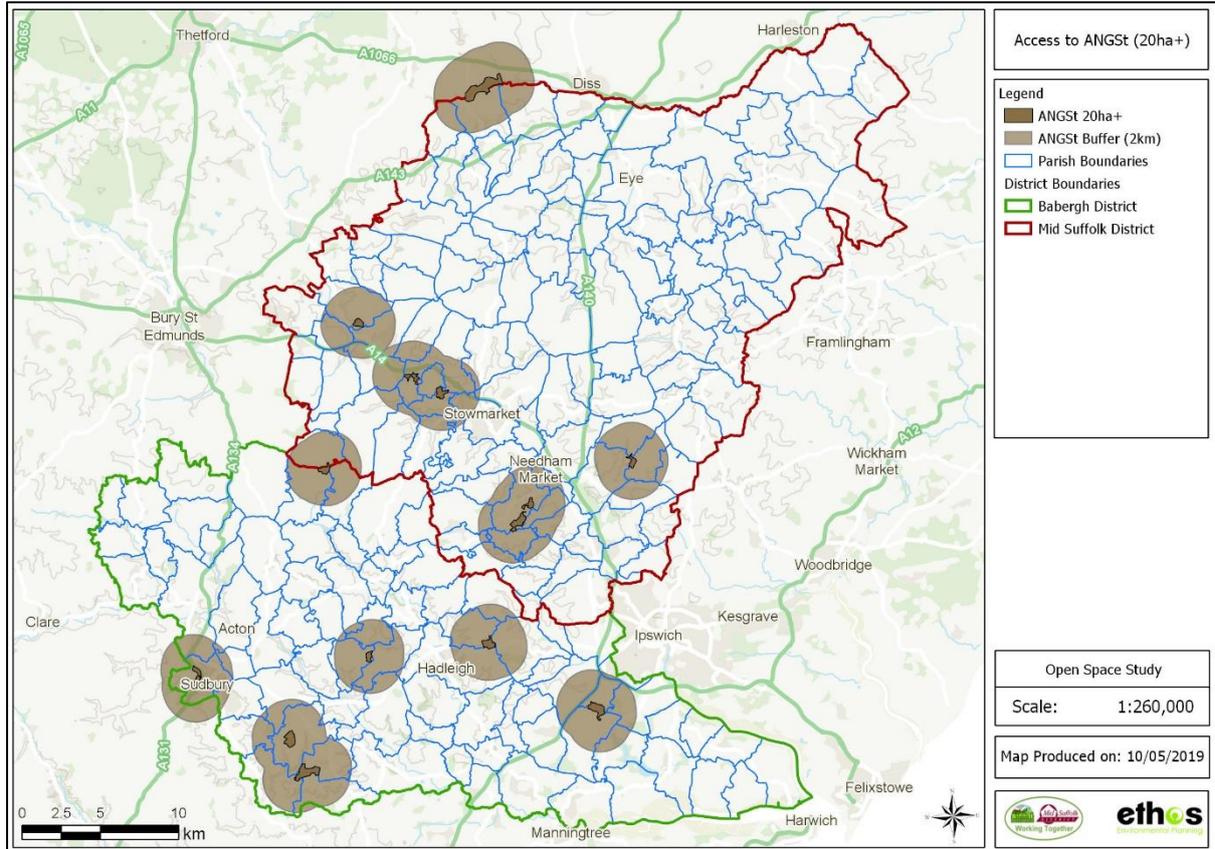


Figure 16 Access to 100 ha site within 5 km

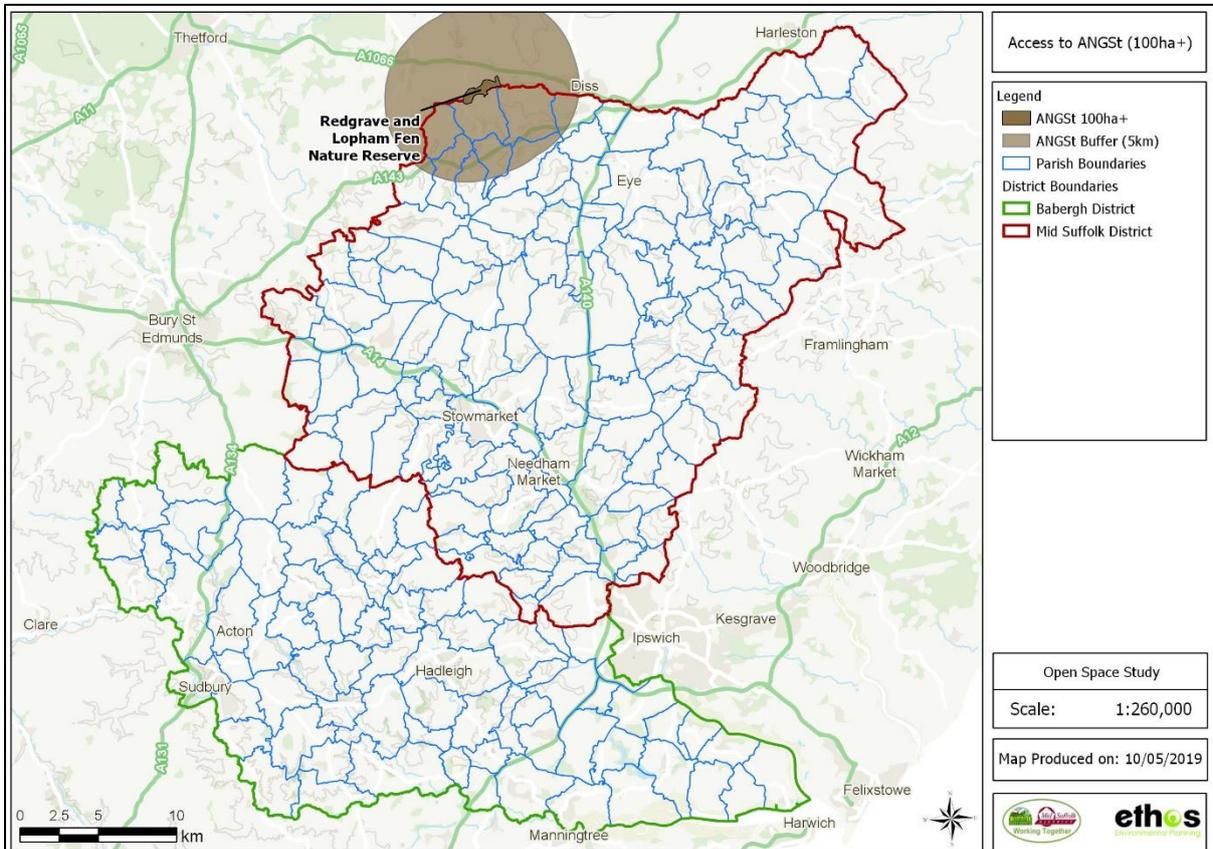


Figure 17 Local Nature Reserves

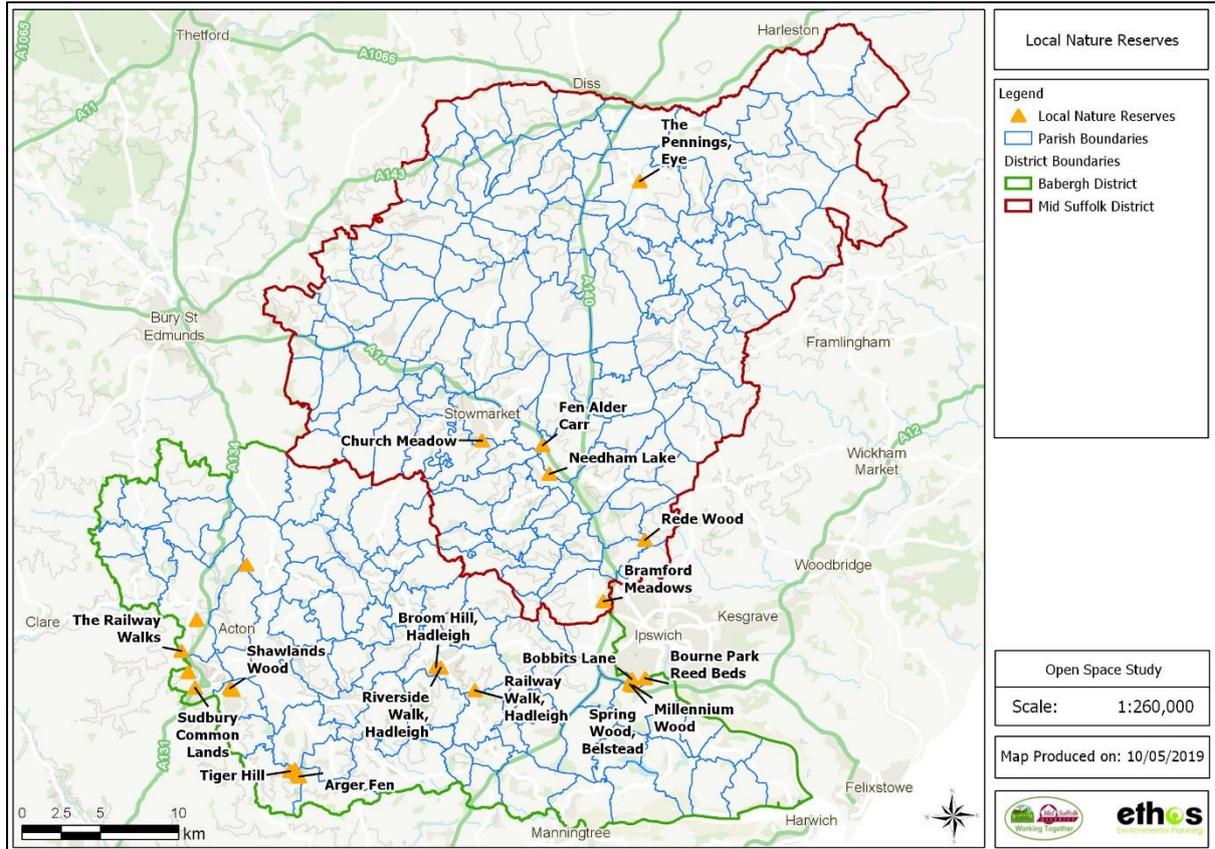


Table 28 Summary of access issues for natural green space

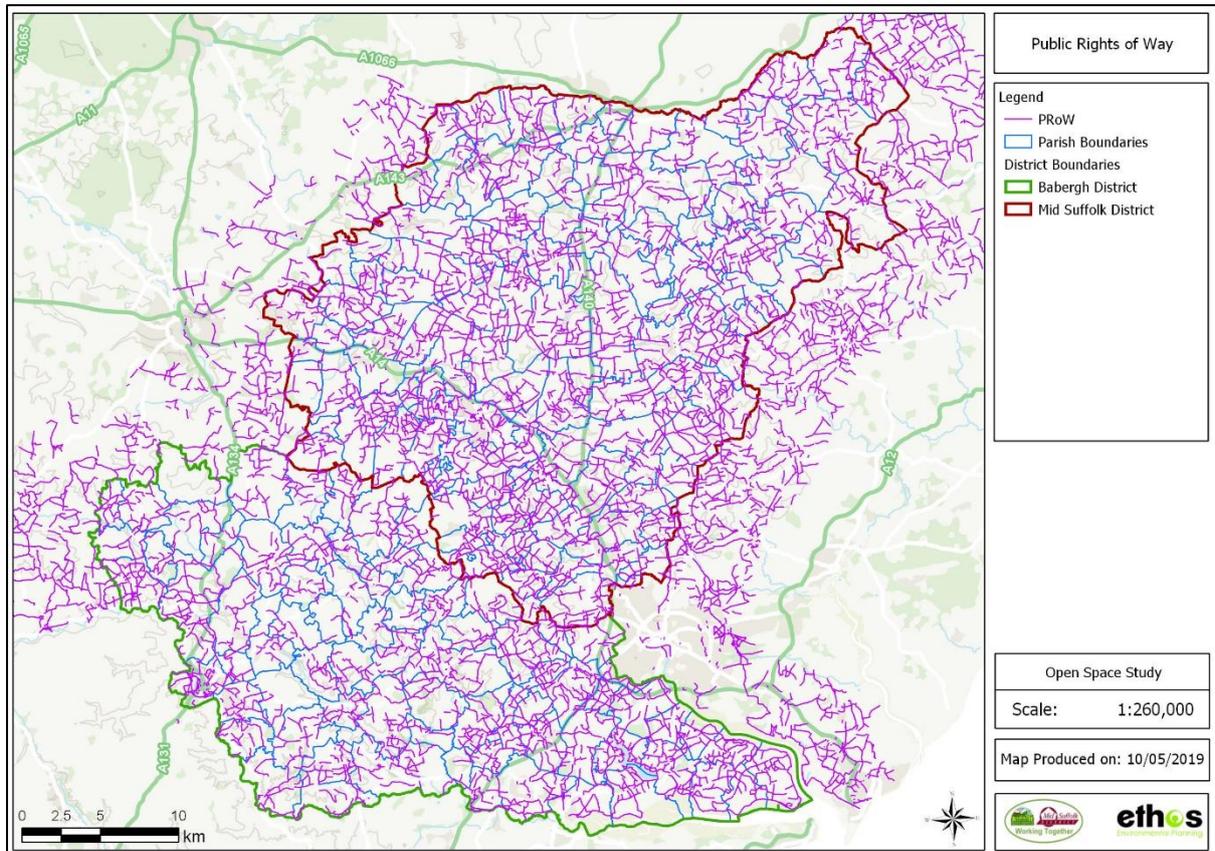
ANGST Standard	Key access Issues
at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home	Access is sporadic and the majority of Parishes have very limited access/no access. However, it is noted that there is an extensive PROW network across the study area.
one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home	Very limited access in the North of the study area only. However, it is noted that there is an extensive PROW network across the study area.
one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home	There are no 500 ha sites within the study area. However, it is noted that there is an extensive PROW network across the study area.
a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home	There are 17 Local Nature Reserves within the study area, the majority of these are situated within the Southern half of the study area.

7.3.3 Access via the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Network

Figure 18 below shows the PROW network across the study area. The PROW network provides access between open spaces and provides an important element of access to/within the countryside. As can be seen, there is generally good connectivity/provision across the two

districts, although Parishes with notable gaps in provision include Hoxne, Lawshall, Laxfield, Newton, Stradbroke and Tannington.

Figure 18 Access via the Public Rights of Way Network



7.5 Application of quality standards

7.5.1 Quality factors highlighted in Town and Parish Council survey

We asked the Parish councils to highlight what they thought, in general, were high priorities as regards qualitative factors of recreational open spaces. 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 (and get around) 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. They should be clean and free from litter and graffiti.
- They should provide opportunities for dog-walking with measures to address dog fouling.

Other aspects of quality specifically highlighted and related comments were:

- Secure places to leave bicycles and toilet facilities, where appropriate.
 - Away from busy roads - reduction of pollution in the environment in which the open space is located. The construction and appearance of the play equipment involved should be in harmony with the surroundings into which they are placed. Very careful consideration should be given before thinking of introducing colourful hard plastic into woodland, for instance, as this would be alien.
 - Public transport needs to be improved.
 - They should be suitable for all age groups and represent the village demographics. They should be free or low cost to access making them accessible for all.
 - Need to advertise adjacent recreation facilities by creative signposting. Link open spaces by walkways or cycleways to create safe travel.
 - They should be places that encourage people to participate - a place where newcomers can get to know the village and the people who live here, where people can get involved, maybe in sport or games, or as volunteers looking after the space; as a place to learn and pass on skills (how to be a good gardener, or how to look after a meadow properly or how to build something), as meeting places where different generations and groups can mix and get to know each other, as places of fun and of quiet contemplation. People should feel that our open spaces belong to them and reflect their needs.
 - Need for consultation with the local community and specifically with those age groups that are not well or at all catered for.
 - It must be remembered that each village/community is individual and very different with different views and priorities
 - There should be a wide range of facilities to cater for all age groups
 - All green spaces/recreational areas should have safe and easy access for all users. County/district recommendations for minimum standards of equipment for children's play areas should be enforced.
-

7.5.2 Quality of open space – audit methodology

The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a sites' existing and potential quality rather than a full asset audit.

It was not possible to survey all sites due to access restrictions, namely sports club space and education sites. Other sites were also excluded due to limitations of resources, these included small amenity green spaces (<0.15 ha in size), and churchyards and cemeteries. Fixed outdoor sports facilities (e.g. outdoor gyms, tennis and bowls) and children's and youth play space were assessed as part of the overall open space.

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:

- Good and Safe Access;
- Welcoming;
- Litter and waste management;
- Grounds/habitat management;
- Dog fouling;
- Safe Equipment and Facilities;
- Appropriate provision of facilities;
- Quality/management of facilities and infrastructure;
- Personal security on site; and
- Community involvement.

For each of the criteria a score of 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 7 (which follows the Green Flag Award scoring system) to produce the final score from which sites are grouped into 3 categories – poor (those sites with a score of between 7 and 27) average (those sites with a score of between 28 and 49) or good (those sites with a score of between 50 and 70).

All the quality audit scores are provided in the spreadsheet in Appendix 4. An example of the scoring is provided below:

A site scores 9 for welcoming, 8 for good and safe access, 8 for community involvement, 8 for safe equipment and facilities, 9 for appropriate provision of facilities, 10 for quality/management of facilities and infrastructure, 8 for personal security on site, 9 for dog fouling, 9 for litter and waste management and 10 for grounds/habitat management.

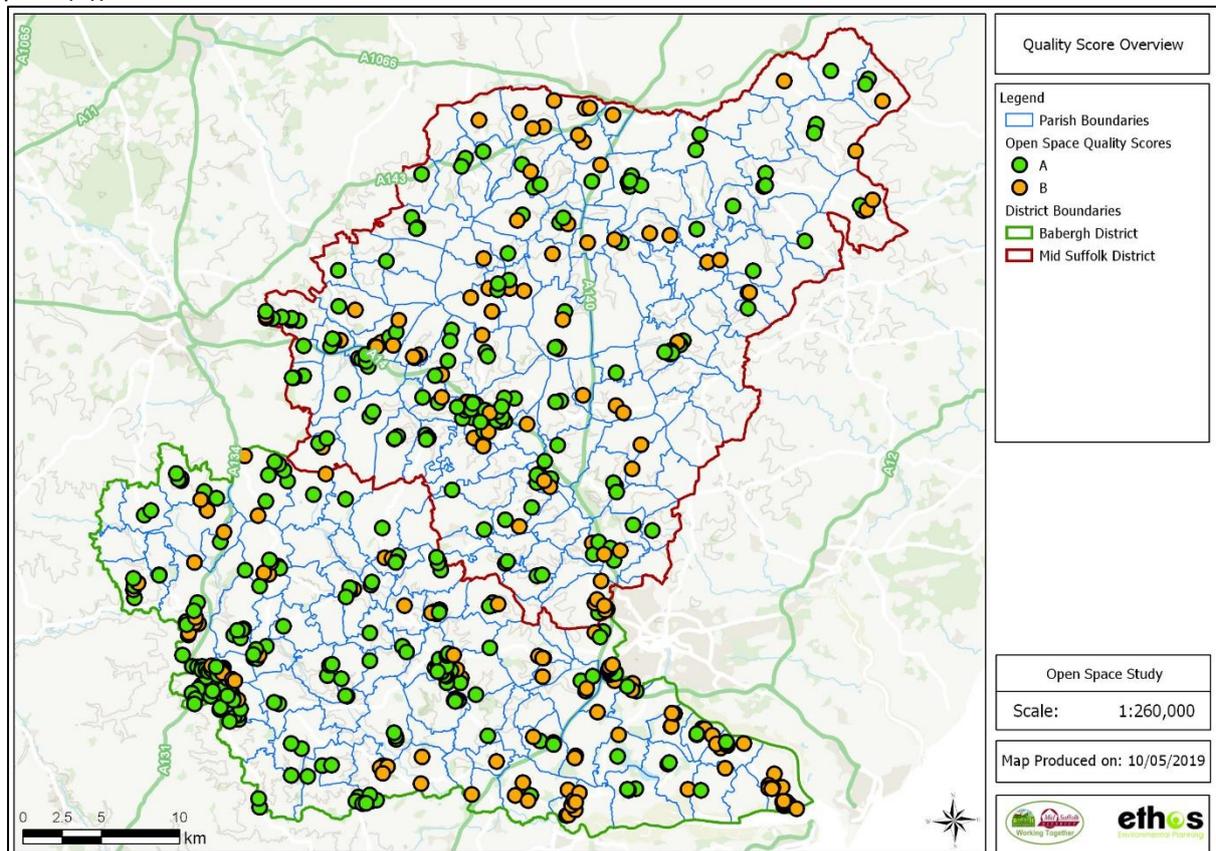
This gives a total score of 88, which is divided by 10 (the number of criteria scored) and multiplied by 7 to give a final score of 61.6. This means the site comes out of the assessment as good quality.

7.5.3 Quality of open space – audit findings

Site visits were undertaken at 519 open spaces across the study area. Figure 19 below provides an overview of the quality audit results for the open spaces that were audited. The map is intended to be used for indicative purposes – detailed maps by Parish are provided at Appendix 5 (based on the quality audit database (Appendix 4)), and a GIS database of sites has been provided as an electronic database to the Council.

There were no sites assessed as being or poor quality (they were all assessed as being good or average quality).

Figure 19 Overview of open space quality audit (sites categorized into good (A), average (B) or poor (C)).



8.0 STRATEGIC OPTIONS, POLICY & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

This section sets out strategic options and policy recommendations for open space within Babergh and Mid Suffolk. 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 five 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.

8.1.2 Delivering Strategic Options

Since the adoption of the National Planning Policy Framework in 2012, the planning environment is still in a state of change and flux.

The abolition of regional spatial strategies, and the move towards localism, puts more focus on local authorities to work with local communities to make decisions and deliver services, rather than relying on national or regional guidance. This will clearly impact how some of the recommendations in this study will be delivered.

Whilst the Local Authority will have an important role in delivering open space, sport and recreation facilities, 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.

One of the emerging priorities from localism is for there to be much more local decision making with regards to planning, and for local communities to develop neighbourhood plans. Although it is up to local communities to define their own priorities within 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 the Localism Act and consider how they can fit into local decision making. With this agenda still relatively new, 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 will also form the basis of any open space policies adopted by the Council.

8.2 Existing provision to be protected

The starting point of any policy adopted by the Council 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 Parish, 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 value assessment; **or**
- Of particular nature conservation, historical or cultural value.

The quantity analysis, summarised in tables 23 and 24 (section 7.2.1) shows that in the majority of Parishes (with the exception of Monks Eleigh in Babergh), 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 1 typology of open space in the majority of 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 existing deficiencies worse, in quality, quantity or access 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 access in that local area. Factors/criteria which may make a space locally distinctive include the presence of:

- natural features of ecological value (such as ponds and streams);
- protected and rare species;
- Tree Preservation Orders;
- archaeological features;
- a connection with a historic event or person of historic significance;

and its importance to the setting of Listed buildings or a Conservation Area(s).

The importance of sports club spaces (e.g. sports grounds) as a community facility has been highlighted in this study, although these spaces are not afforded protection through policy recommended as part of this study, as they are not covered by standards, their continued protection should nevertheless be considered.

8.3 Existing provision to be enhanced

In areas where there is a quantitative deficiency of provision but no accessibility issues then increasing the 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 or value 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 sports club 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 strategies.
7. Extending and enhancing the network of green infrastructure including the connectivity between sites and improved accessibility to existing sites.

Appendix 5 provides maps by Parish showing the sites that were quality audited and their overall score (good, acceptable, poor), as identified within the quality audit (Appendix 4). An overview of the open space quality audit results is provided in section 7.5.3. The following recommendations are made in relation to the quality of open space:

Open Space Policy Direction (enhancing open space):

- OS4** Where new housing development is proposed, consideration should be given to improving existing open spaces within the Parish the development is located. Priority should be given to those sites identified as poor or average as detailed in the quality audit (Appendix 4 and 5).

OS5	Neighbourhood Plans and any potential future open space strategies should consider the opportunities for creating and enhancing a network of both utility and recreation routes for use by foot and bike. Creative application of the amenity green space/natural green space components of the proposed overall standard in respect of new development should be explored.
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 is required which could be delivered through an Open Space/GI Strategy, Play Strategy, Parish plans or additional design guidance.
OS7	Management plans should be developed for the main parks and recreation grounds. These priorities could 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 either relocating an open space or re-designating it as a different typology, 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 local priorities within neighbourhood plans, Parish 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 next 20 years). 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 green space is no longer needed and its disposal or re use can be used to fund improvements to other spaces.

Each plan should apply the standards and policies set out in this study and ensure that the significant investment anticipated for green spaces is prioritised with the help of stakeholders and communities. The standards agreed in this study can 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.

In determining opportunities for re-location or re-designation of open space, the quantity and access provision should be considered at a Parish level. Table 29 below provides an example.

Table 29 Example of opportunities for re-designating open space using the quantity and access provision by Parish

Parish	Current Provision	Opportunities
<p>Example Parish (with a population of 1200)</p>	<p>Shortfall in supply of amenity green space and play space (children’s and youth). Sufficient supply of allotments and parks and recreation grounds.</p> <p>In considering the access analysis, the Parish meets the standard for allotments. There is generally good access to parks and recreation grounds and amenity green space against the 600m standard in the key populated area of the Parish, with gaps in access across the smaller settlements. There are gaps in access against the 12-13 minutes walk time buffer for children’s play space, and there is no youth play space within the Parish (therefore it does not meet the access standard for youth play space).</p>	<p>There may be potential for the park and recreation ground to accommodate youth provision.</p> <p>There may also be potential for the small amenity green space to accommodate a small children’s play area. Consideration could be given to installing ‘natural’ play items which would be in keeping with the space.</p> <p>There may also be potential (if it does not already exist) to explore community use of facilities at the Primary School.</p>

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 discussed, neighbourhood plans would form 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 area, 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 (considered alongside the access standards – see below), 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 existing provision should be enhanced using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions.

Quantity statistics should be considered alongside the access standards and should not be used in isolation.

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 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 public access, and thus a new facility may still be required.

Delivering new provision

There are a number of opportunities for delivering new facilities through new development, - CIL and to a lesser extent through capital and grant funding.

New development, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 Obligations

Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk have adopted CIL; the implementation date for both authorities was the 11th April 2016. CIL is charged on CIL eligible development (according to the approved

charging schedule) and a Liability Notice is issued following the grant of planning permission. The Councils must be advised about the commencement of development on site 24 hours before development works begin on site. Once the commencement notice is received the Councils issue a Demand Notice for CIL payments. The monies that are collected (in some cases through a payment plan) is used for the provision of Infrastructure. The types of infrastructure that CIL pays for are listed in the Councils' Regulation 123 list (the two separate Regulation 123 lists for both Councils are slightly different)¹⁸.

In respect of the delivery and provision of public open space and play facilities:

- For “off site” public open space, the current Regulation 123 list is clear in that this is CIL funded and consequently the developer pays for any requirements through the general CIL Payments which are made. The delivery of this would occur through Officers of Babergh and Mid Suffolk making CIL Bids under the CIL Expenditure Framework provisions.
- For “on site” public open space provision this is still provided through s106 Obligations. However the Regulation 123 lists for both Councils cites the maintenance of new and existing public open space as being funded through CIL (as a commuted sum). As such it will not be possible to seek maintenance contributions through s106 and the adoption arrangements of the public open space would need to be resolved ideally at the planning stage. The reason for this is that competition for the expenditure of CIL funds will increase in time and maintenance of open space is unlikely to be a priority for the CIL expenditure funds (which are aimed towards deliverable capital Infrastructure projects).

New development is currently required to provide open space in line with existing policy requirements, and in accordance with new policies to be set in the Joint Local Plan. Whilst not all developments will be of a size that will generate the requirement for on-site open space (see recommendations in table 33), when considering future housing numbers for Babergh and Mid Suffolk, there will be many that will. This study should be used to make local decisions about where and when new on-site provision will be required.

Figure 20 shows an example flow chart/decision making process to help developers/Council officers determine the need for on-site provision of open space, or where CIL contributions would be required to improve existing open space provision or make new provision off-site. This is only a guide and requirements will be determined on a case by case basis using the standards and assessment within this study. This should be determined through pre-application discussions with the Council.

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

¹⁸ There is work underway to refresh the CIL charging schedule and to review the Councils Regulation 123 lists. The above position may change

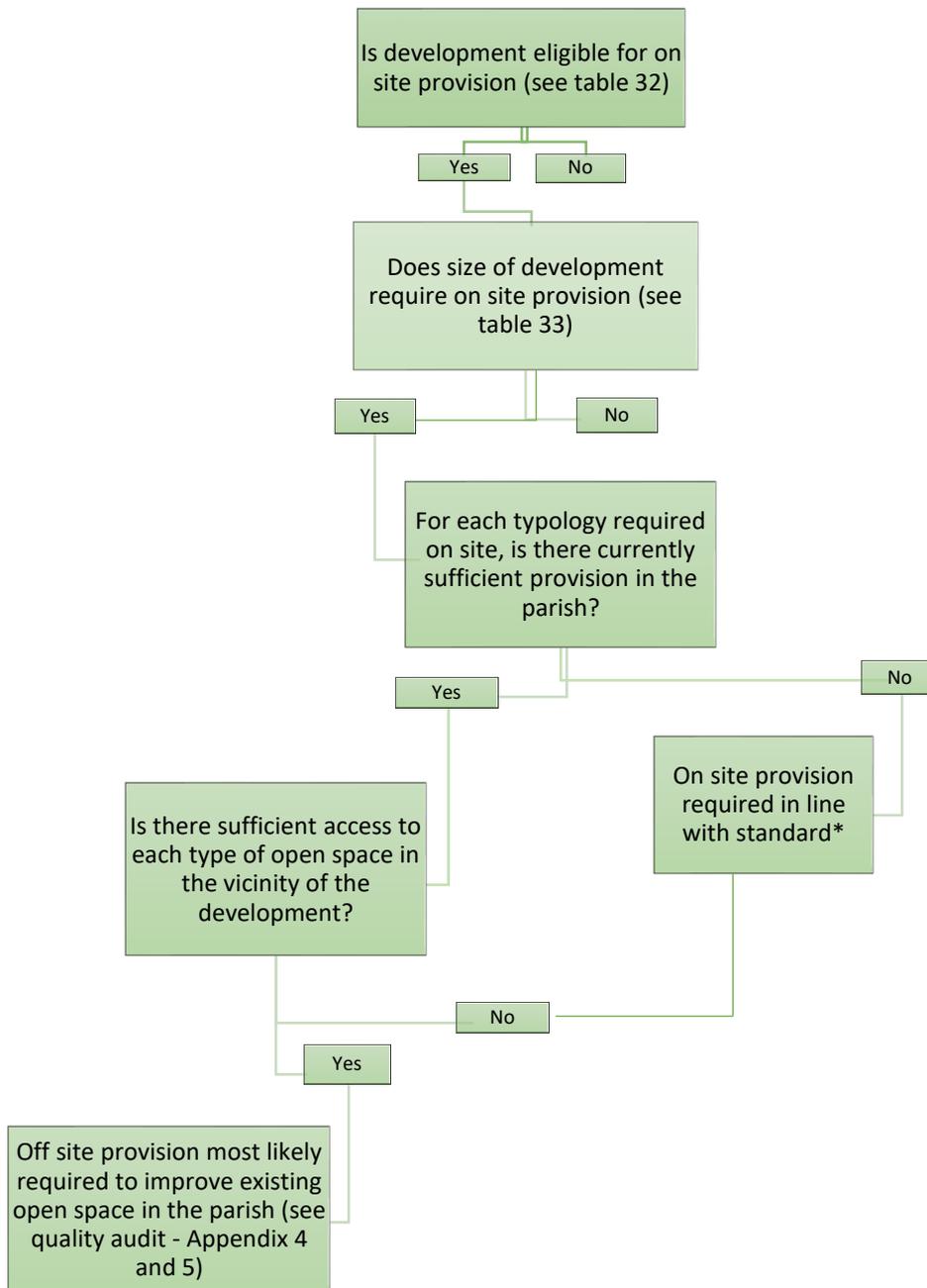
grants and stewardship schemes are available for managing natural green space. As neighbourhood plans are developed and open space priorities are established within these, funding requirements will be identified and delivery through grant funding or CIL can be considered.

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, the majority of Parishes have a shortfall in at least one typology of open space¹⁹ (with the exception of Monks Eleigh in), therefore, the starting point for new housing (of a certain size - see table 35 for recommended thresholds) is to assume that some form of on-site open space provision would be required.

¹⁹ As previously noted, the supply figures need to be considered alongside the access analysis/standards.

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):

OS8

New provision of open space should be required on-site as part of new development where housing is allocated in the local plan where there are existing deficiencies in quantity or access to open space and/or where the new development will result in deficiencies.

Where on-site provision is required, it should be provided in line with the proposed open space standards (see section 6.7, table 20).

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 through the use of CIL.

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. Priority sites requiring improvements will be identified using the results from the quality audit (those sites identified as being of poor or average quality) and also from site management plans and the Councils' own knowledge of their sites.

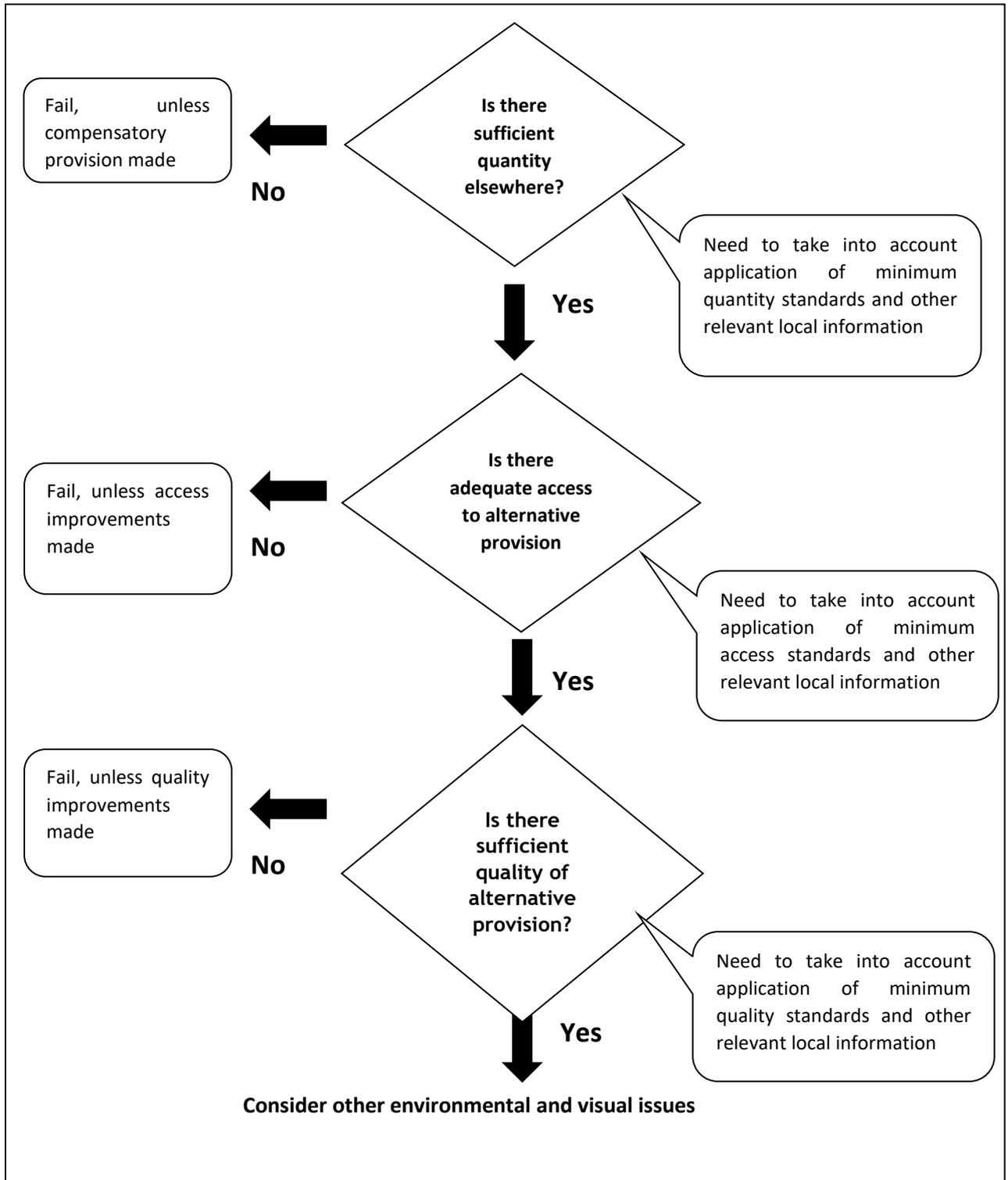
8.6 Facilities that are surplus to requirement

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 getting 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 and example 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 the defined geographical area e.g. Parish, 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.

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 acceptable 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 – as recommended in the quality audit database (Appendix 4)) 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 and recommendations for management and maintenance procedures and costs.

8.7.1 Developer contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy

This section sets out higher level strategic recommendations and recommends an approach to developer contributions which can be used to inform policy for on-site contributions and to inform the feasibility for any off site investment proposed using CIL.

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

In order to calculate developer contributions for facilities, a methodology has been adopted which calculates how much it would cost the Local Authority to provide them. These costs have been calculated by Ethos Environmental Planning using Spon’s²⁰. A summary of the costs are outlined in table 30 below.

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, 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 20.

Table 30 Costs for providing open space

Typology	Standard (m ²) per person	Cost of provision as at 2017	
		Cost / m ²	Contribution per person
Allotments	3	£22.34	£67.02
Parks and Recreation grounds	12	£92.94	£1115.28
Play Space (Children)	0.7	£168.76	£118.13
Play Space (Youth)	0.4	£168.76	£67.50
Amenity/Natural green space	10	£20.24	£202.40
Total	26.1		£1570.33

This shows that it costs £1570.33 per person to provide new open space to meet the Babergh and Mid Suffolk standard for open space. These calculations are to be used to calculate

²⁰ Spon's Architects' and Builders' Price Book 2017

developer contributions for on-site provision. An inflation rate based on the Bank of England inflation rate should be applied.

2) Maintenance Contributions for on-site provision

If a development is required to provide open space on-site, the developer would be expected to maintain the open space for a minimum period of 1 year. Developers will then be asked to maintain the new provision through a more bespoke arrangement to an agreed standard. It is expected that a management plan for the open space would be submitted and approved by the Councils as a planning condition.

The amount payable for any commuted sums if applicable will be calculated using the figures in table 31, using a multiplier to ensure funding is available to maintain the open space for at least ten years.

Table 31 Maintenance sums payable for open space

Typology	Cost/m² per annum
Play Space (Children’s and Youth Provision)	£4.59
Parks, Sport & Recreation Grounds	£4.59
Amenity and Natural Green Space	£0.62
Allotments	£0.13

The figures in table 31 show how much it costs to maintain open space per metre squared. The costs have been provided from maintenance costs estimated by Ethos Environmental Planning. An inflation rate based on the Bank of England inflation rate should be applied.

3) Eligible types of development for on-site provision

Table 32 outlines the type of housing that will be considered eligible for making contributions towards open space to meet the needs of future occupants.

Table 32 Eligible types of residential development

Category	Open Market Housing / Flats	Affordable Housing*	Housing for the active elderly	Permanent mobile homes
Play Space	✓	✓	×	✓
Outdoor Sports Space	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parks and Gardens	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amenity Open Space	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural Green Space	✓	✓	✓	✓
Allotments	✓	✓	✓	✓

[* Should recognise that affordable housing generates a need for new green infrastructure, but it is a policy decision as to whether GI contributions should be provided]. Includes agricultural workers’ dwellings. Excludes extensions. Excludes replacement dwellings and nursing houses types.]

4) Thresholds for provision

The required open space, sport and recreation facilities can be provided by on-site provision, or by off-site provision through CIL (if included in approved CIL Infrastructure List). Where facilities are to be provided on-site, the Council will expect the developer to provide the land for the facility and either:

- Design and build the provision to the satisfaction of the Council; or
- Make a financial contribution to the Council 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 considerations:

- 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 neighbourhood and/or the sub area;
- Other sites in the neighbourhood where additional provision is proposed;
- Existing access to facilities within the neighbourhood and/or sub area;
- Viability considerations regarding the deliverability of the development project which includes open space provision.

Table 33 provides a guide to assess which scales of housing generate a need for facilities in the categories listed to be provided on-site. The minimum size of amenity/natural green space considered acceptable as part of new development is 0.15ha i.e. for developments that require on site provision, but which would result in less than 0.15ha of amenity/natural green space against the standard, the minimum size of amenity/natural green space is 0.15ha.

Table 33 Requirement for open space, sport and recreation facilities

Type of Provision	1-9 dwellings	10-19 dwellings	20-99 dwellings	100+ dwellings
Allotments	0	X	X	✓
Amenity/Natural Green Space	0	X	✓	✓
Parks and Recreation Grounds	0	X	X	✓
Play Space (children)	0	X	✓	✓
Play Space (Youth)	0	X	X	✓

KEY: ✓ on-site provision normally sought
 X improvements to existing (off-site) provision may be required, subject to Assessment of Need (AON) Study.
 0 No on-site or off-site provision/improvements required

9.0 CONCLUSION

This Study provides a solid snapshot of the status of open space within Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts in 2017, with the mapping and resulting analysis updated in May 2019 to take account of granted planning permissions up to the 31st March 2018. It includes a suite of policies and methodology for interpreting and informing the needs for these assets over the coming years, up to 2036. It should be read in conjunction with the Town and Parish Council Survey Report (Appendix 1).

The role and value of open space in helping deliver national, regional and local priorities and targets is clear from this assessment. It is important that the policies and recommendations included within this assessment are enshrined in the local plan, and acknowledged in relevant strategies, as and when they are reviewed. Council Officers and Councillors play a pivotal role in adopting and promoting the recommendations within the assessment, and ensuring that key stakeholders such as Parish Councils, developers and community groups are engaged in open space provision where appropriate in the future.
