



# Green Infrastructure Strategy

Improving the outdoor environment for people and wildlife

July 2015 [www.waveney.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.waveney.gov.uk/planningpolicy)



Waveney District Council  
Serving the Community



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# Introduction

## Introduction

Green spaces are an important part of our local communities. They provide areas of open character within our towns and villages and encourage people to be active and enjoy their surroundings. Many of these spaces are of historical value and are important to the setting and perception of the places we live in. Green spaces can provide habitats for wildlife and gardens with flowers that bring colour and freshness into areas that might otherwise be lacking in nature.



Green spaces can be in many different forms such as parks and gardens, allotments, playing pitches and areas for play. Some of these are designed for specific purposes such as equipped play spaces; some green spaces can have a variety of uses and provide amenity for local people; while others occur naturally such as river valleys.

When considered in isolation green spaces often provide a specific function in an area, particularly where they have been designed as part of a development. Settlements often have a variety of different green spaces located within the built up area to provide recreational facilities for the community. Existing green spaces located outside of the built area boundary can also provide recreational benefits and can be important for plants, invertebrates and wildlife. The collective provision of different green space is referred to as 'green infrastructure'. Green spaces can be connected to each other through linear areas of trees, hedgerows, gardens and waterways while others can be isolated where none of these features are present in the surrounding area. The connectivity between green spaces and the relationship they have with each other is referred to as the 'green infrastructure network'.

The term 'infrastructure' is often associated with something that has been planned and delivered as part of a wider scheme. In this context much of the open space available to the public has been provided as our settlements have evolved and the countryside has been managed to support the rural economy. Many natural green spaces are managed these days, some of which are protected to ensure they retain their value as habitats for flora and fauna. As new development comes forward and increasing pressure is placed on green space as populations grow, provision of new green spaces and opportunities to improve existing ones will need to be considered in the context of 'infrastructure'.

In Waveney, the green infrastructure network has evolved over time in a number of different ways. Large open spaces<sup>1</sup> such as parks and gardens have been set aside in Lowestoft and some of the market towns as the settlements evolved to provide places when people can relax and have fun, participate in physical activities and enjoy outdoor green spaces. Local philanthropists have gifted open space to communities such as Nicholas Everitt Park. Village greens have historical and cultural significance within small communities as a focal point within a community. Equipped play spaces have been provided through new development and community organisations while planning policies have required the provision of open space as part of planning proposals. The open countryside is a managed mosaic of fields and hedgerows reflecting the historical character of the area while areas of woodland can be remnants of once larger wooded areas or places where recent planting has taken place. The coast and river valleys are naturally occurring features important for flora and fauna and recreation for the public.

Green spaces and areas of similar character have evolved over time to create the green infrastructure network in Waveney District today. Much of this has been uncoordinated and created a landscape where green spaces have a limited relationship with each other which lowers its value for local communities and wildlife. Some green spaces have had the number of facilities broadened while others have been encroached upon by development which has compromised their original use. The Green Infrastructure Strategy has been prepared to highlight the gaps in the existing network and identify opportunities to improve the quality and value of green spaces and the connections between them.



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<sup>1</sup> The term 'open space' in this document is used to refer to recreation facilities such as parks, equipped play spaces, allotments available for public use, usually as part of an urban settlement.

## What is green infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is comprised of different types of green space<sup>2</sup> and corridors that provide connections between these sites.



Types of green spaces that contribute towards green infrastructure can include:

- public and private green spaces;
- parks and gardens (e.g. urban parks, country and regional parks, formal gardens);
- amenity green spaces (e.g. areas for informal recreation and play, green spaces in housing areas, domestic gardens, village greens and urban commons, other incidental spaces, accessible green roofs);
- natural and semi-natural green spaces in urban and rural areas (e.g. woodland and scrub, grassland, heathland, wetlands, beach, bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs and quarries); open and running water, wastelands and disturbed ground);
- heritage assets (e.g. formal and landscaped gardens);
- churchyards and cemeteries;
- playing fields;
- allotments;
- green corridors (e.g. hedgerows, trees, rivers (including their banks), road and rail corridors, cycle routes, footpaths, rights of way).

Not all aspects of green infrastructure are accessible to the public. Public rights of way such as footpaths, cycle routes, bridleways and quiet country lanes are important to encourage people to use green infrastructure for recreation and educational purposes. Planting and drainage ditches along these routes are important for plants, invertebrates and wildlife.

## Why is green infrastructure important?

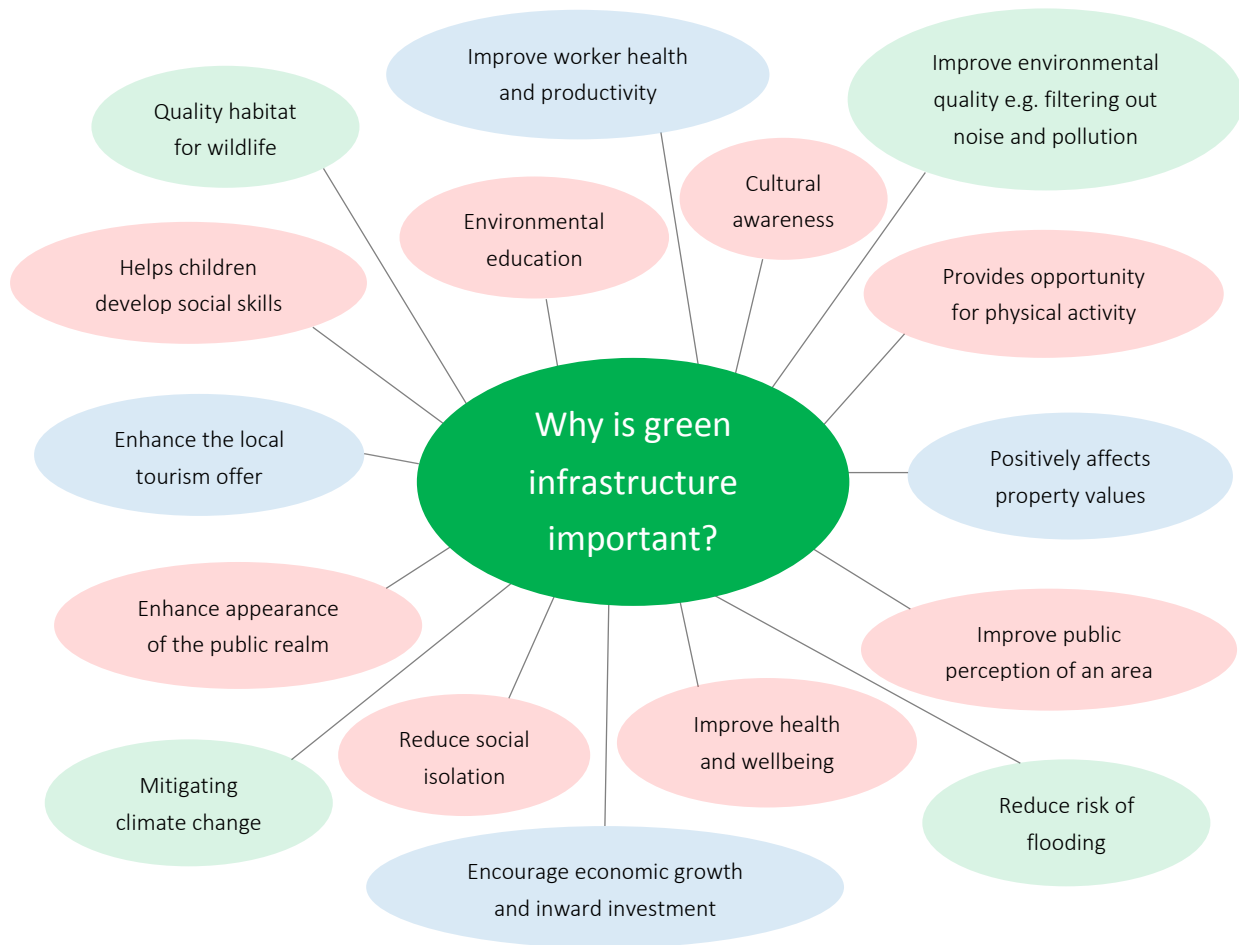
A well connected and diverse green infrastructure network can provide a variety of benefits for people and wildlife. It is an important part of our communities and contributes towards the identity of Waveney. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will help provide a coordinated approach towards improving the existing green infrastructure network and by ensuring the right types of green spaces are provided where they are most needed and that improvements are made in areas where they will provide the greatest benefit. Many of the benefits of green infrastructure are set out in Figure 1.

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<sup>2</sup> The term ‘green space’ in this document is generically used to refer to any type of site identified in the section titled ‘What is green infrastructure’ and can be man-made or natural.



Figure 1. Benefits of green infrastructure



## Objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategy

The Green Infrastructure Strategy sets out a strategic approach to improve the green spaces and the connections between them that will create a well connected green infrastructure network to benefit communities, wildlife and the wider environment. The Strategy:

- Brings together information from different evidence bases, identifies potential ways to improve existing shortfalls and prioritises areas most in need of improvement. These can be used to inform planning decisions.
- Sets out key principles to ensure the right types of green infrastructure are provided where they are most needed. Considering how green spaces can be included in a proposal early in the design process will improve the overall quality of new development.
- Identifies gaps in the existing green infrastructure network. This will help the Council, Town and Parish Councils, developers, community groups and external organisations to proactively take advantage of opportunities when they arise to improve the quality and connectivity of the network.
- Provides a coordinated approach to the planning and delivery of green infrastructure to maximise the long-term benefit for people and wildlife.
- Raises awareness of green infrastructure, existing local issues and potential opportunities that will enable communities to achieve their aspirations.

## Policy background and evidence base

A national policy approach to delivering green infrastructure is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and supporting Planning Practice Guidance. The aim is to ensure that green spaces, connections between these areas, people and wildlife are considered together with the wider environment to deliver development that is sustainable.

Local policies to protect and enhance existing green infrastructure and provide new green space when opportunities arise are set out in the Waveney Local Plan. The Council has prepared several evidence bases to support the Local Plan and deliver development where it is most appropriate. Finding the balance between new development, improving existing facilities and protecting the environment is a key part of this.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy brings together key findings set out in the Council’s evidence base. These have been used to identify existing issues related to green infrastructure such as how much green space is available for public use, the condition these spaces are in, where these sites are located, how accessible they are to the community and whether green spaces are important for wildlife.

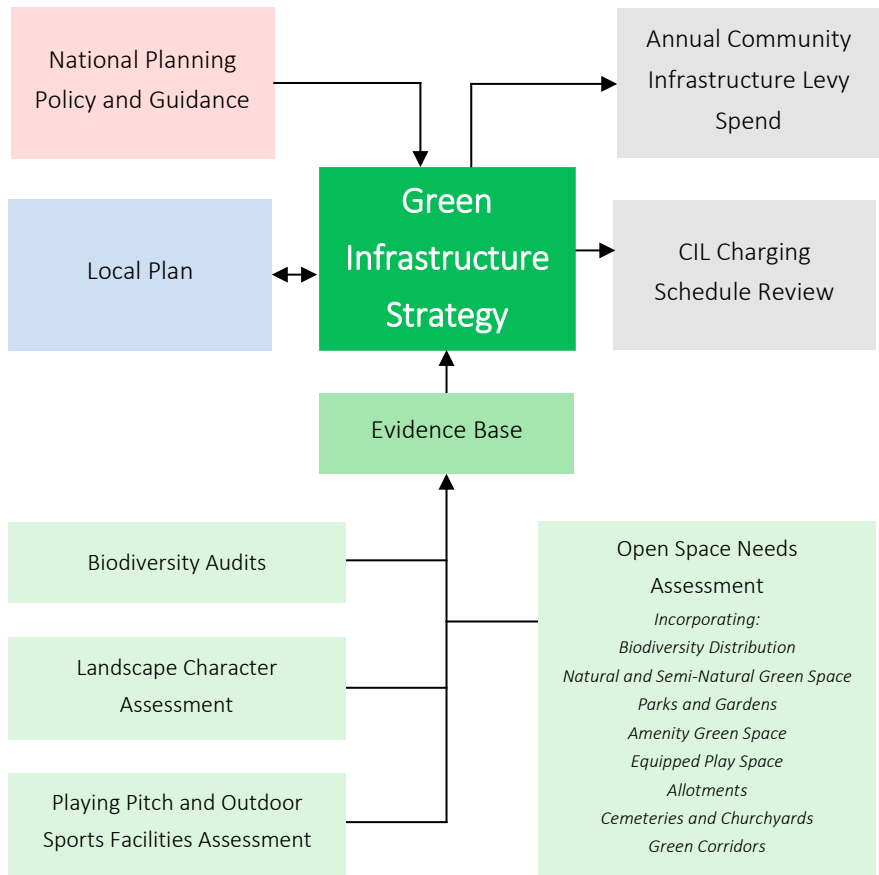
Key documents in the Council’s evidence base include:

- Biodiversity Audits (2007);
- Landscape Character Assessment (2008);
- Open Space Needs Assessment (2015);
- Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment (2014).

With greater understanding of these attributes, potential projects have been suggested to help improve their value for people and wildlife and enhance their contribution as part of the larger green infrastructure network. These networks can be considered from the scale of a small settlement to ones that cover larger regional areas. Figure 2 shows how the Green Infrastructure Strategy and its evidence bases relate to the Local Plan and support decision making.



Figure 2. Green Infrastructure Strategy relationship to planning



## Structure of the document

Green infrastructure is a complex network of connected and isolated green spaces that have different functions in the urban and rural areas of the District. To make the Green Infrastructure Strategy easier to interpret key findings have been set out in two sections setting out information at different scales:

- District: Provides an overview of existing green space provision across the District and shows strategic links between ecological habitats including maps and key findings.
- Local: Provides a greater detailed account of key issues and measures that could be considered to improve local green infrastructure. The District has been split into 8 areas. These are shown in Figure 3 alongside the parishes/wards included in each area. For each area of the District there are maps that show where existing types of green space are located, an overview of key findings in the area and a number of suggestions that could be used to improve green infrastructure and the quality of green spaces for the community and wildlife.

Figure 3. Strategic areas in the Green Infrastructure Strategy

□ Strategic areas      □ Broads Authority area within Waveney District

**Beccles & Worlingham Area Parishes:** Beccles, Worlingham

**Bungay Area Parish:** Bungay

**Halesworth Area Parish:** Halesworth

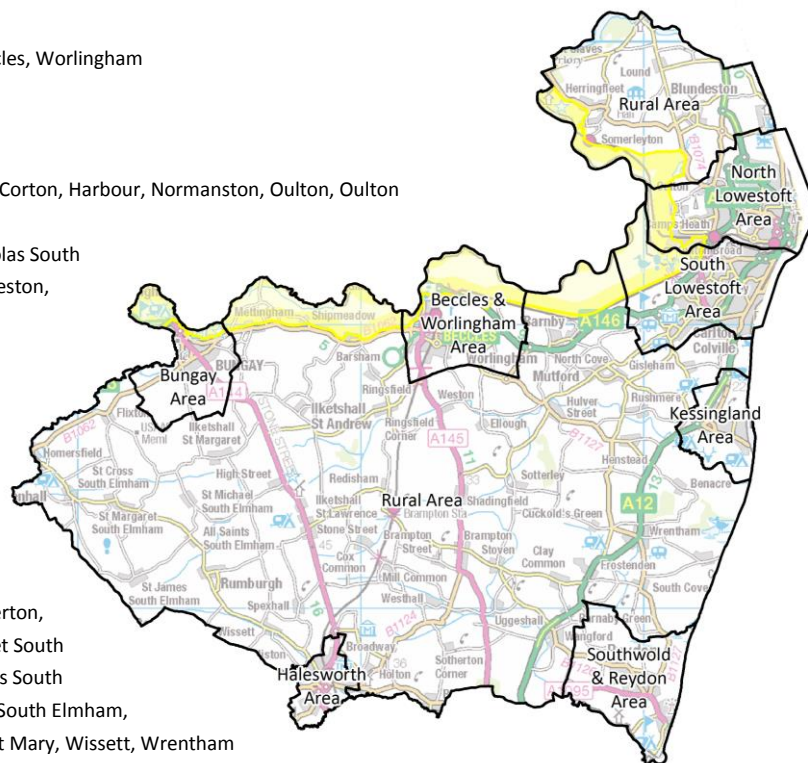
**Kessingland Area Parish:** Kessingland

**North Lowestoft Area Wards:** Gunton and Corton, Harbour, Normanston, Oulton, Oulton Broad, St Margaret's

**Rural Area Parishes:** All Saints and St Nicholas South Elmham, Barnby, Barsham, Benacre, Blundeston, Blyford, Brampton with Stoven, Covehithe, Ellough, Flixton (near Bungay), Frostenden, Henstead with Hulver Street, Holton, Homersfield, Ilketshall St Andrew, Ilketshall St John, Ilketshall St Lawrence, Ilketshall St Margaret, Lound, Mettingham, Mutford, North Cove, Redisham, Ringsfield, Rumburgh, Rushmere, Shadingfield, Shipmeadow, Somerleyton Ashby and Herringfleet, Sotherton, Sotterley, South Cove, Spexhall, St Margaret South Elmham, St Michael South Elmham, St Cross South Elmham, St James South Elmham, St Peter South Elmham, Uggheshall, Westhall, Weston, Willingham St Mary, Wissett, Wrentham

**South Lowestoft Area Wards:** Carlton, Carlton Colville, Kirkley, Pakefield, Whitton

**Southwold & Reydon Area Parishes:** Reydon, Southwold



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When using the document the following should be noted:

- The nature of the document is to provide a strategic approach to improving green infrastructure in the District over time. It is not intended to set out a detailed account of all the issues and differences across the District. This more detailed information is available in the Council’s evidence base. These are available online at **[www.waveney.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.waveney.gov.uk/planningpolicy)**.
- Many of the maps contained within the evidence bases are relatively small to be able to be included within the text of the document. When viewing the map online click on the map to enlarge to a scale which is easier to read and interpret the detail.
- The list of recommended projects to improve green infrastructure is based on the findings of the assessments. This list provides guidance about projects that could be considered, however, this list is not exhaustive. Local issues that may not have been included within the evidence base may justify their inclusion within this list as issues and demands change over time. This list is intended to be a ‘live’ document that will be updated as appropriate to reflect the needs and demands for green infrastructure in the community.
- The recommendations set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy are suggestions intended to provide guidance to improve green infrastructure and open space provision. They are not intended to be interpreted as policy requirements. Alongside the recommendations a number of possible groups and organisations that could be involved to help deliver projects are suggested. These suggestions do not place responsibility on these parties but are intended to suggest who could be involved if opportunities arise.







# Summary of findings in Waveney District

# Biodiversity

## An overview of biodiversity in Waveney District

Biodiversity refers to every living organism, including plants, insects, birds and animals. In this context biodiversity sites refer to those sites that are of value to wildlife of any sort. Sites of biodiversity value range from river valleys such as the Waveney Valley, which provides valuable habitat for plants and birds and have legal protection in some areas, through to smaller county wildlife sites, which are not legally protected but are nonetheless considered to be of some value to wildlife.

The rural character of Waveney, its location next to the North Sea and the network of waterways connecting to the sea has created areas that are important for biodiversity. Areas of biodiversity value are concentrated along the coast and the river valleys, which flow from inland locations in the west of the District towards the sea.

Many areas important for plants and animals are publicly accessible. They enable people to access nature although a balance between access and conservation needs to be considered. Large semi-natural areas located near settlements such as commons (Beccles & Worlingham, Bungay and Southwold & Reydon) and beaches provide habitats for wildlife and areas the public can use for recreation.

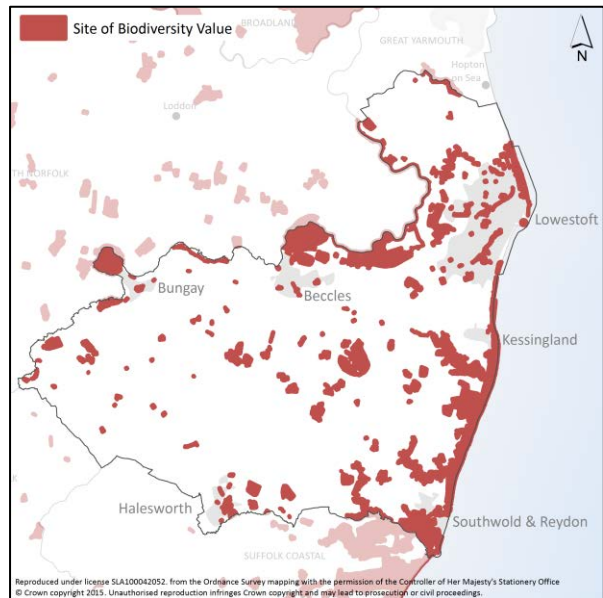


Figure 4. Sites of biodiversity value in Waveney District

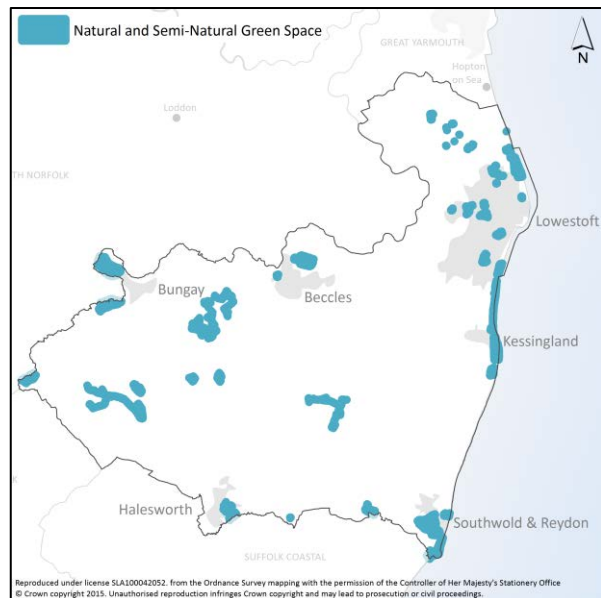




## Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

### An overview of natural and semi-natural green space in Waveney District

Natural green spaces are sites that have developed naturally over time. In many instances there is some human management involved but these sites primarily retain much of their original character. Semi-natural green spaces have been modified in part by human activity but retain character elements that can be attributed to the natural environment. These areas are often found on the edge of towns and in some areas of more rural character. Natural and semi-natural green space is closely related to biodiversity. Examples of natural and semi-natural land in Waveney include: river valleys and wetland areas, commons, ancient woodland and beaches.



*Figure 5. Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space in Waveney District*

People living in Lowestoft and the market towns in Waveney have good access to areas of natural character. The majority of sites with public access are located along the Blyth Valley, Waveney Valley, the coast and on common land located near the market towns.

People living in the rural parts of the District located away from the river valleys have less access to sites recognised for their natural and semi-natural value. This is partially offset by access to the open countryside through the public rights of way network and the general character of rural communities.

Improving the provision of greenways and better promotion of the public rights of way network could raise awareness of the recreational value available in the countryside. The anticipated coastal path extending the length of the Waveney coastline will improve public access and increase the value of the coast as a recreational asset for residents and visitors.

## Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities

### An overview of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in Waveney District

Sports facilities enable people to participate in a variety of sports, provide opportunities for social interaction and increase physical activity. Areas that have facilities that are easily accessible are more likely to encourage young people to participate in sport from an early age and improve health in the long-term. Sports facilities considered in this strategy include pitch based sports (cricket<sup>3</sup>, football, hockey and rugby) and non-pitch based sports (athletics, bowls, netball and tennis).

Compared to neighbouring authorities, provision of pitch based sports facilities is below average while provision for non-pitch facilities is above average.

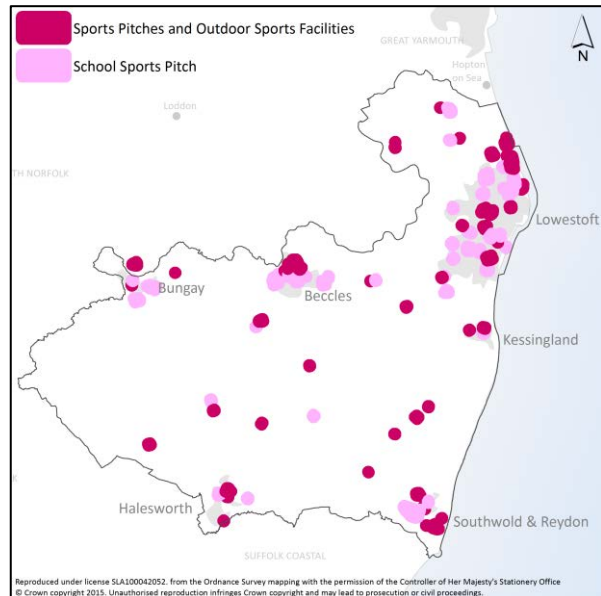


Figure 6. Sports pitches in Waveney District

Several overarching trends across Waveney District related to Waveney's demographic profile and demand for sports facilities are identified in the assessment. These include:

- Based on historic trends, the ethnic profile of Waveney is likely to generate above average demand for pitch and non-pitch sports facilities resulting from higher participation rates in physical activities.
- There is a relatively aged population which is likely to reduce demand for pitch based sports facilities. Demand for non-pitch based sports such as bowls are likely to be inflated.
- The anticipated population growth of 5.3% by 2021 will increase demand for sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities. Existing playing fields may come under threat of development to accommodate new housing.

<sup>3</sup> Cricket is discussed in the context of wickets where each wicket can support a certain number of games during the season. Grass pitches can support between 3-5 matches depending on their quality and artificial pitches can support 20 matches a season. In this document cricket shortfalls are not discussed in terms of pitches (i.e. cricket ground). These have been taken into account in the Playing pitch and Outdoors Sports Facilities Assessment (2014) when existing provision, demand, and future needs were assessed.

- A relatively low wage local economy will limit the amount of disposable income available for discretionary spending on activities such as sport and should therefore decrease levels of demand for facilities.
- Poor health indices in Waveney highlight the importance of ensuring access to sports facilities as part of a wider strategy to encourage the local population to be more physically active.
- Levels of deprivation vary significantly at the local level and create variable patterns of demand across the District. High levels of deprivation are generally associated with lower rates of participation in sport and physical activity.

The location and management of sports facilities influence accessibility and participation. Some of these characteristics in Waveney include:

- Rates of people participating in sport are increasing, however, they remain well below regional and national averages suggesting local demand for pitches and sports facilities will be lower.
- There is a high level of club membership compared to regional and national averages which underlines the important role played by the volunteer sector sports clubs in delivering local opportunities.
- Playing pitches located on school sites are often underused, particularly primary schools. Shared use agreements have potential to improve existing provision where there are identified shortfalls of sports pitches.
- 12 sites in Waveney have sports pitches that are no longer in use. This includes 5 adult football pitches, 4 youth football pitches, 1 junior football pitch, 4 cricket wickets and 1 rugby pitch. If located in areas where there is an identified shortfall of provision or capacity their reinstatement could be considered.

Summarising sports provision in Waveney, existing provision includes:

- Cricket: 11 community accessible cricket pitches comprising 75 grass wickets and 9 artificial turf wickets all of which have secured access, 4 pitches are on school sites with no public access, 73% are good quality, 27% are standard quality, deficit of 135 match equivalents across the District.
- Adult football: 40 community accessible pitches with 86% having secured community use, 14 pitches are on school sites with no public access, 41% are good quality and 51% standard quality, adequate provision in the District.
- Youth football: 23 community accessible pitches with 76% having secured access, 11 pitches on school sites with no public access, 67% are good quality and 25% are standard quality, deficit of 11 match equivalents in the District.
- Junior football: 19 community accessible pitches, 35 pitches on school sites with no public access, 79% have secured access, 95% are good quality and 5% are standard quality, deficit of 1 match equivalent in the District.

- Rugby: 9 community accessible pitches with secured access, 3 pitches on school sites with no public access, 79% have secured access, 7 pitches are good quality and 2 are poor quality.
- Synthetic turf pitches: 3 community accessible full sized pitches to support football and one full sized sand filled pitch suitable for hockey.
- Athletics track: No facilities in the District. Closest facility is in Great Yarmouth.
- Bowls: 21 community accessible bowls greens, currently there is adequate provision in the District. Quality is good overall.
- Netball: 11 community accessible courts and all are located on school sites, no current shortfall in the District. Quality is good overall.
- Tennis: 44 community accessible courts, shortfall of 2 courts in the District. Quality is average overall.



## Parks and Gardens

### An overview of parks and gardens in Waveney District

Parks and gardens provide accessible, high quality open space to be enjoyed by the general public. Characteristically, they are enclosed, designed, constructed and maintained to enable them to be used by all sections of the community. They cater for a range of formal and informal activities.

Parks and gardens create focal points within communities and contribute positively towards the perception and character of an area. These open spaces across the District offer the highest value to local communities of all types of open space because of the variety of activities for all age groups they can support.

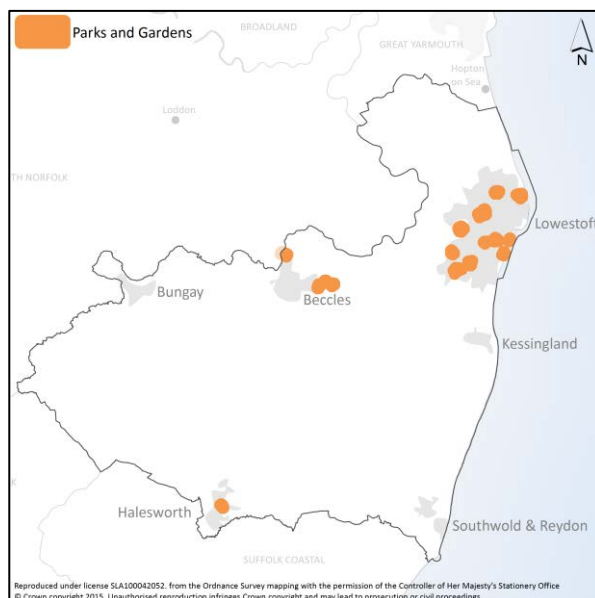


Figure 7. Parks and gardens in Waveney District

Parks are provided in Beccles, Halesworth, North Lowestoft and South Lowestoft with only the latter having formal public gardens. They contribute towards approximately 30% of the total open space in the District. There are no parks or gardens in Bungay, Kessingland or the rural villages. Parks and gardens have often been established as part of the historical development of a built up area and there are few opportunities to provide new large parks for community use except where new development comes forward.



# Amenity Green Space

## An overview of amenity green space in Waveney District

Almost all open spaces provide some form of amenity in the community. In this document amenity green space refers to open space that is not designed for any particular use but rather is available for general use by the public. Amenity green spaces can have a variety of different roles in the community such as supporting informal activities and creating openness and colour to enhance the townscape. Quality green space that provides good value for residents is a key component towards creating a positive perception of an area.

Some open spaces are provided for general use and informal activities as main function which means they have not been designed for any particular use but rather for general activities (eg. Millennium Green, Blundeston). Others provide amenity as a secondary use meaning that it may be designed as a park (which is its primary use or classification) but additionally it provides areas for general use within it (e.g. Carlton Meadow Park, Carlton Colville).

Within the context of the Green Infrastructure Strategy an additional term is used, ‘passive amenity green space’. This refers to green space that has not been designed for any particular activity and provides little opportunity to be used for informal activities. These are often provided to create openness in the built up area (e.g. Lloyds Avenue, Kessingland). Others have been poorly maintained reducing their value to such an extent they offer limited benefit to their surroundings. These spaces generally offer low value in terms of on site facilities and their characteristics do little to encourage physical use, however, they are important for their contribution towards the public realm.

Approximately half of the public open space available in the District is laid out to support informal activities. Much of what is available is part of a site that has been designed for a particular purpose (e.g. park). In this context it is considered a secondary use (‘park’ is the primary use). Across the District there is adequate provision of open space that provides for amenity use.

Open spaces providing several uses, where general use or amenity is one of these, tend to be of higher quality and offer greater value to the community. The opposite is true for small green spaces designed for no particular use where amenity is the only value it offers to the surrounding area.

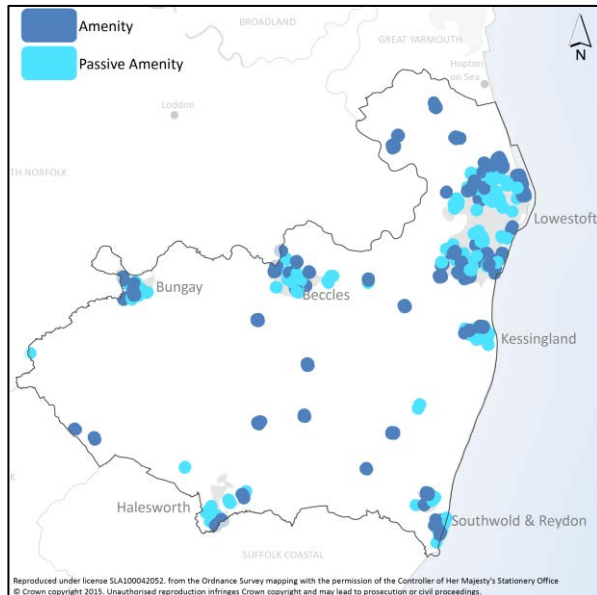


Figure 8. Amenity green space in Waveney District

These small spaces are characteristically of low quality and low value. They have often been adversely affected by the encroachment of development or by poor design where they have not been properly integrated into the surrounding built environment.

Approximately 8% of residents are within 100m walking distance of green space providing amenity use. 62% of residents are within 1km walking distance of a green space larger than 1 hectare that can be used for amenity purposes. In many locations the role of amenity green spaces is unclear which reduces their value to the surrounding area. There is potential to improve the open space network, the public realm and connectivity between areas by providing ancillary facilities such as seating, planting and improved landscaping.



## Equipped Play Space

### An overview of equipped play space in Waveney District

Equipped play spaces are important places for young people to engage in energetic activities and socialise with other children. They can be designed as part of a larger green space or created individually depending on the nature of their surroundings.

In Waveney the provision of play items is well distributed amongst most communities. Provision for toddlers and juniors is good, however, youth play provision is significantly less comprehensive. Play areas located within the confines of larger open spaces such as parks provide focal points for community use and are often of higher quality and value.

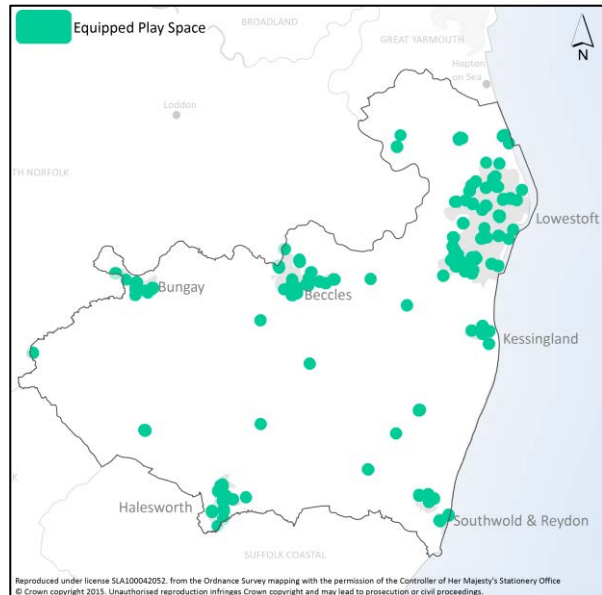


Figure 9. Equipped play space in Waveney District

Historical legacies exist at many sites. This is often evident through play areas having poor street frontages resulting in them being poorly overlooked. This has led to many equipped play spaces deteriorating, offering less quality and value, further discouraging use. The amount of non-equipped play space (classified as green space with amenity use) designed to support play activities tends to be less in areas of the District that exhibit greater levels of deprivation. The quality and value of equipped play spaces is evenly distributed across the District irrespective of the deprivation of an area.

Approximately 9% of the total amount of open space in the District is classified as equipped play space. When compared to the standard recommended by the Fields in Trust (0.2ha of equipped play space per 1000 people) existing provision of 14.89ha corresponds to a District-wide deficit of approximately 8.16ha. Using an alternative standard (1.15ha per 1,000 children) to better reflect the number of young people in settlements likely to use these types of facilities suggested a shortfall of 7.98ha across the District.

8% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a small play area, 32% are within 400m walking distance of a medium scale play area and 31% within 1km walking distance of a comprehensive play area for all ages. The number of residents within the catchment area of youth play facilities such as skate parks and multi-use games areas is reasonably low.



# Allotments

## An overview of allotments in Waveney District

Allotments are community facilities that improve the well-being and quality of life of communities by providing a cheap source of food, healthy outdoor exercise and opportunities for social interaction.

Allotments in the District are generally managed by allotment associations or Town and Parish Councils with a few private plots also available. Overall, provision across the District is higher than the standard recommended by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.

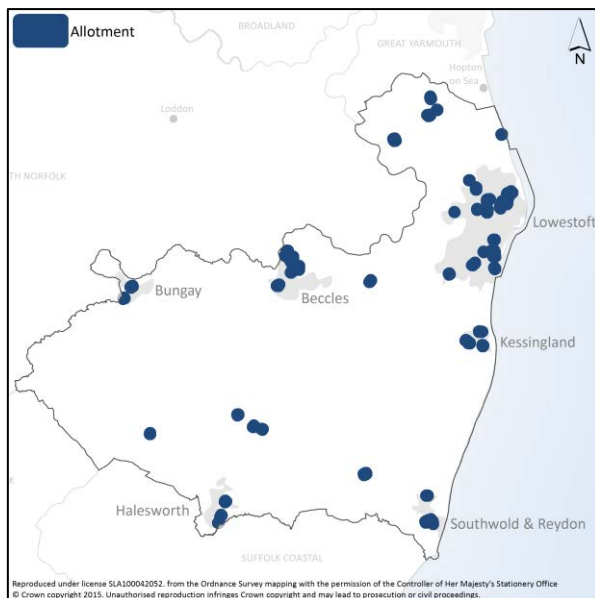


Figure 10. Allotments in Waveney District

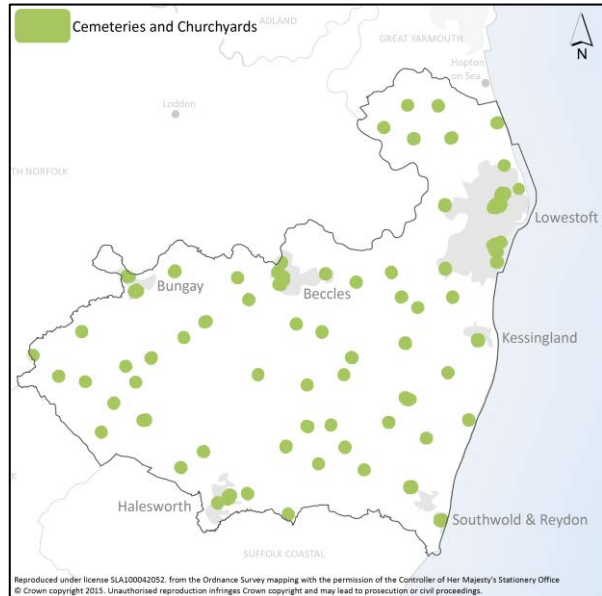
Few plots are vacant indicating that demand for these facilities is high. The demand for allotments and existing waiting lists in some areas indicates there is likely to be a latent demand for plots. It is also a common scenario for people wishing to have a plot but do not register with the party responsible for managing allotments in an area. This issue is particularly prominent in Lowestoft and Bungay where plot turnover is slow.



## Cemeteries and Churchyards

### An overview of cemeteries and churchyards in Waveney District

Cemeteries and churchyards provide cultural, historical and habitat value. Across the District there are open sites (still being used for burials) and closed sites maintained and operated by a number of different organisations. When located within the built up area they often form part of a network of open spaces enhancing the townscape and providing habitats for wildlife. Some sites are located in peripheral locations outside of the built up area and are generally well integrated into the surroundings with trees and hedges. At present there is adequate land available for burials across the District.



*Figure 11. Cemeteries and churchyards in Waveney District*



# Green Corridors

## An overview of green corridors in Waveney District

Green corridors are a key element of green infrastructure by providing connections for people and wildlife between green spaces and habitats. They can extend through the built up area enhancing the public realm and into the rural and coastal surroundings of the District. There are several different types of features that contribute towards green corridors including hedgerows and trees, rivers (including their banks), road verges and railway corridors, footpaths, cycle routes, rights of way.

Green corridors support wildlife by creating habitats consisting of trees, shrubs, and hedges that link larger habitat areas. Greenways provide opportunities for people to access open spaces and community facilities while planting along traffic corridors improves visual amenity and the quality of the environment.

The most significant green corridors within settlements in the District are located in Beccles and Lowestoft. Most built up areas have few contiguous stretches of dense vegetation cover likely to significantly benefit wildlife.

Wetland areas associated with the river valleys in the District such as the Blyth and Waveney and along the coast are important ecological corridors. These areas are also important for the recreational value they provide for local residents and visitors.

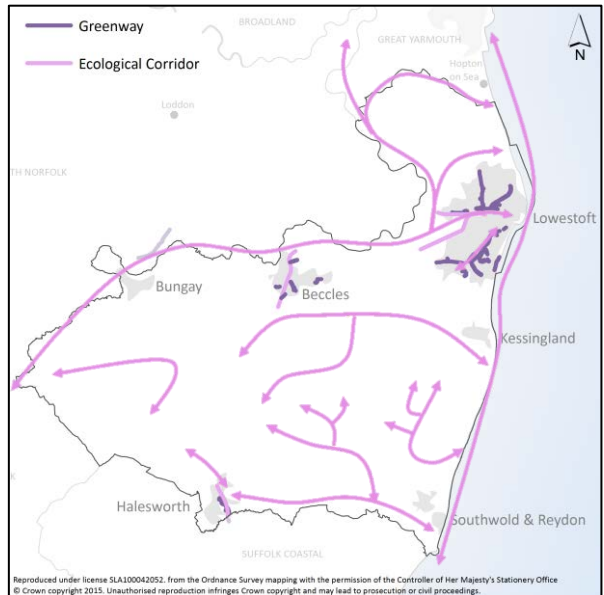


Figure 12. Greenways and ecological corridors in Waveney District

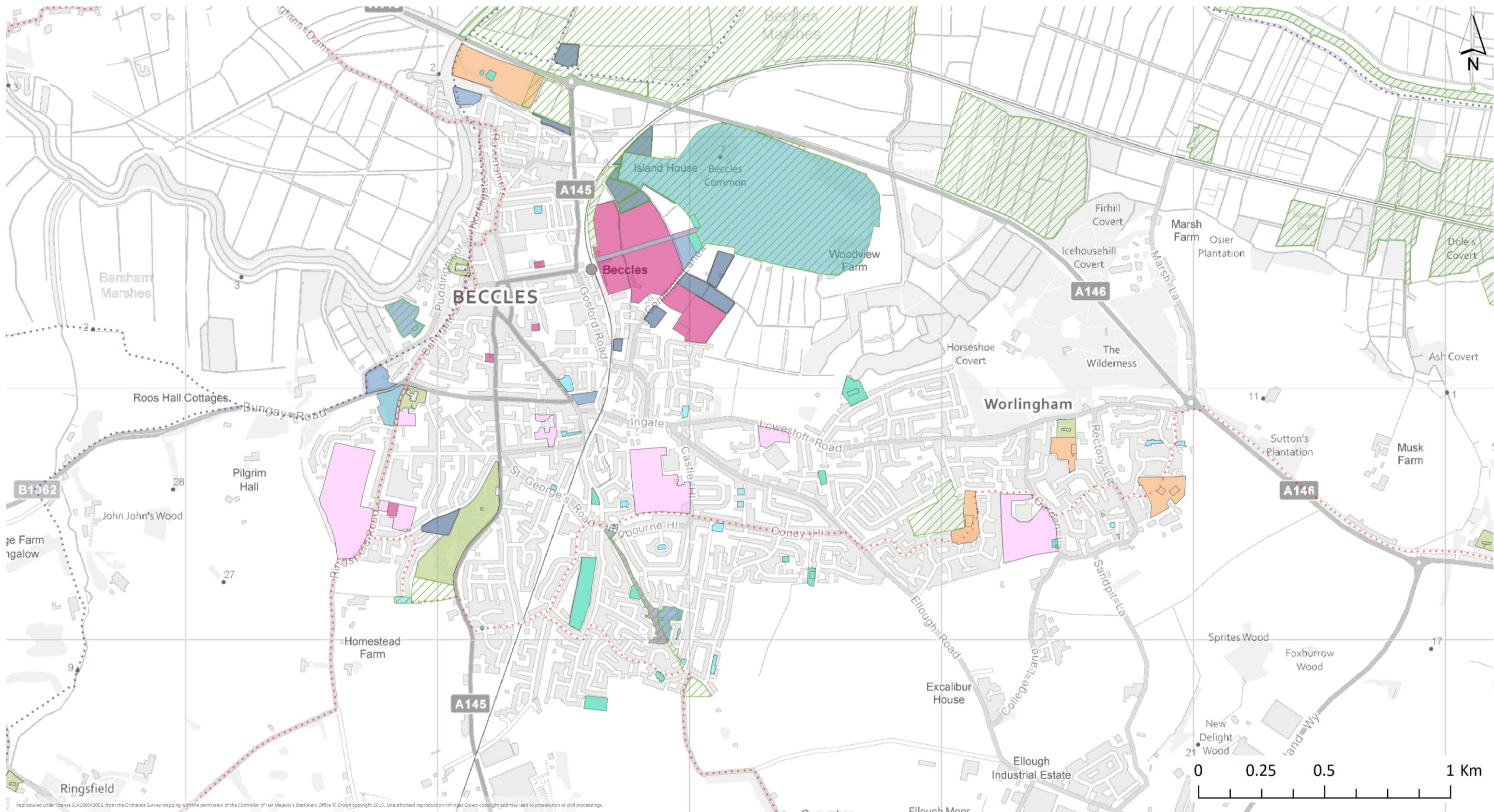






Beccles & Worlingham area

## Existing green spaces in the Beccles & Worlingham area



- Site of Biodiversity Value
- Allotment
- Amenity Green Space

- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Equipped Play Space
- Green Corridor

- Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
- Parks and Gardens
- Passive Amenity Green Space

- Sports Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities
- School Sports Pitch
- Walking route

- Cycle Route

# Summary of findings and recommendations for the **Beccles & Worlingham** area

## **Biodiversity**

in the Beccles & Worlingham area

### Key findings

Much of the habitat supporting biodiversity is located around the periphery of the town. Within the built up area the greenways located in the south of the town are important for connectivity. Key findings in the Beccles & Worlingham area include:

- The most significant area of habitat to support plants and animals is located near the edge of the town in the vicinity of Beccles Common and the River Waveney where wetland habitats characterise the area (eg. Beccles Marshes).
- The Waveney river valley provides quality habitat for wildlife to the west of Beccles.
- Greenways for pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife are located at Rigbourne Hill Lane and Wash Lane.
- The railway line enables wildlife to move through the built up area and provides linkages with the open countryside.

Hedgerows in the south western part of Beccles provide quality links for wildlife and visual connections with the open countryside.

### Recommendations

Most of the plants and animals in the area are found around the perimeter of the built up area. To support biodiversity the following are suggested:

- Protect existing wildlife areas.
- Consider the implementation of schemes to reinforce hedgerows with native species, as appropriate, to improve habitat connectivity. This should be considered as part of a long-term approach to hedgerow management and enhancement.
- Support initiatives to improve drainage ditches and hedgerows where appropriate to enhance wooded and wetland habitats and reinforce connectivity between habitats.
- Consider ways to manage open spaces to encourage greater biodiversity value where public access is appropriate.

## Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

in the Beccles & Worlingham area

### Key findings

Residents in Beccles & Worlingham have good access to natural and semi-natural green space in the adjacent surrounding river valley and Beccles Common. Existing access to these areas meets the ANGSt standards recommended by Natural England. Key findings for the Beccles & Worlingham area include:

- Beccles Common is the largest uncultivated green space with public access. A significant part of the Common is used as a golf course reducing its value for wildlife and the community.
- There is good public access to a variety of natural and semi-natural areas facilitated by a network of footpaths (eg. Angles Way). However, many sites located along the Waveney Valley are leased for agricultural use and access to sites is along public rights of way rather than the whole natural and semi-natural area.
- Cycle routes and promoted footpaths provide good access to areas of natural and semi-natural character and reinforce psychological connections with the outdoors.

The open countryside located adjacent to the north side of Lowestoft Road between Marsh View and Park Drive is important for visual amenity and provides separation between the built up areas of Beccles and Worlingham.

### Recommendations

To enhance access to natural and semi-natural green space the following suggestions could be considered:

- Providing better signage in keeping with the setting of the Waveney Valley to promote access to these areas (where appropriate) using public rights of way.
- Improving access along the Waveney Valley between Beccles and Bungay to enhance connections between the two towns and encourage people to access these areas.
- The open countryside located adjacent to the north side of Lowestoft Road between Marsh View and Park Drive should be considered for protection as an open break as part of a future review of the Local Plan.





## Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities

in the Beccles & Worlingham area

### Key findings

Beccles & Worlingham have a good cross-section of sport facilities to support the people living in the town, however, there are some shortfalls. Most of the existing facilities are located in Beccles compared to Worlingham. With a population of approximately 15,000 people in the area demand for facilities will continue to be strong, particularly if there is residential growth in the future. Key findings in the Beccles & Worlingham area include:

Pitch based sports:

- Cricket: There are 2 cricket wickets in Beccles which support 3 adult teams and 3 junior teams. There is an existing deficit of 7 wickets (equivalent to 33 matches).
- Football: Demand for football pitches is high. There are 7 adult teams, 16 youth teams and 8 junior teams in Beccles & Worlingham. They have access to 14 adult pitches, 4 youth pitches and 2 junior pitches. Currently there is adequate provision of adult, youth and junior football pitches.
- Rugby: There are 3 rugby pitches in Beccles, however, these suffer from drainage issues. These pitches support 3 adult teams, 1 youth team and 3 junior teams. A deficit of 0.5 match equivalents currently exists. Quality improvements are required at College Meadow, particularly to resolve drainage issues which reduce capacity for games and practice.
- Hockey: There is 1 adult hockey team in Beccles & Worlingham, however, no hockey pitches are available in the town. The nearest facilities are located in Loddon and Harleston. There is an existing deficit of 1 sand-filled pitch in the western part of the District and this has created a situation where hockey clubs travel out of District to use facilities.
- Synthetic pitches: There are no synthetic pitches available in Beccles and Worlingham. A shared use synthetic pitch to support hockey and football would benefit sports provision in the town.
- Pitches with no community access include; 1 adult football pitch, 1 youth football pitch, 4 junior football pitches and 1 rugby pitch.

Non-pitch based sports:

- Athletics: There are no formal athletics facilities located in Beccles & Worlingham.
- Bowls: There are 3 bowling greens in Beccles supporting 4 clubs. Improving access at Beccles Caxton Bowls Club, Beccles Institute Bowls Club and Beccles Town Bowls Club would benefit the facilities, however, given the location and nature of the sites within the built up area this may be difficult to achieve.
- Netball: There are 2 courts of good quality located at the Beccles Sports Centre.
- Tennis: Beccles Tennis Club has 3 courts of good quality. Improving access to the site would benefit the facility.

## Recommendations

The most significant deficits are related to pitch based sports and the following recommendations could be considered:

- To meet the demand for youth football, exploring the potential to secure additional use of playing pitches on school sites should be considered.
- Clubs could investigate the potential of reinstating disused cricket wicket and pitch at the Beccles Sports Centre to mitigate the existing deficit of 33 matches.
- Promote the provision of one full sized sand filled pitch to be shared for hockey and football (competitive hockey cannot take place on a 3G pitch). Additional provision would benefit other areas of the District such as Bungay which do not have good access to a full sized pitch.
- Support aspirations of Beccles RUFC to improve to rugby pitches that will increase capacity.
- The Council should be able to provide advice to sports clubs and community groups seeking funding if required.



## Parks and Gardens

in the Beccles & Worlingham area

### Key findings

The provision of parks in the town is unevenly distributed reflecting the historical development of the built up areas. Relatively recent provision of parks in Worlingham is associated with residential development while the older areas in Beccles have limited access to park space. Key findings in the Beccles & Worlingham area include:

- Overall, the amount of park space available meets Waveney's recommended standard, however, the distribution across the area is uneven. If analysed further there is good provision in Worlingham and poor provision in Beccles.
- There are 4 parks in the Beccles & Worlingham area. This consists of 3 satellite parks in Worlingham (total park area of 0.62ha per 1000 people) and 1 local park in Beccles (total park area of 0.43ha per 1000 people). In addition, there are no parks in the south part of Beccles and access to these park facilities in this area of the town is poor.
- Half of all accessible open space is in the form of a park.
- Parks are well integrated into residential areas of Worlingham increasing their accessibility and value to the community. Shared use paths through these open spaces provide good connectivity between residential areas and community facilities and improve surveillance. Together, these features are likely to encourage greater use of these open spaces.
- All parks are of at least medium quality and medium value.
- 18% of households are within 400m of a small park and 11% within 1,000m of a large park

### Recommendations

Park provision in Worlingham is good and should be protected. The primary shortfall of parks and gardens is in the Beccles area. The following recommendations would help improve the quality and public access to these types of important open spaces:

- Improvements to The Quay should be considered to reflect the standard of a local park and increase its value to the community.
- Should any development be proposed in south Beccles in the future, the provision of a significant open space that will reflect the qualities of a park should be provided. This type of open space should be able to support a variety of activities and appeal to all age groups.
- Resolving the drainage issues at Woodfield Park would increase the value of the open space to the surrounding community.

## Amenity Green Space

in the Beccles & Worlingham area

### Key findings

Amenity green space in the Beccles & Worlingham area is unevenly distributed with many found in peripheral locations relative to the residential areas they are meant to serve. Worlingham has better provision than Beccles. Key findings for the Beccles & Worlingham area include:

- The area has the lowest proportion of open space in the District that offers no particular use other than amenity (28%).
- The area has the most significant deficit of open space only offering amenity value relative to recommended standard in the District.
- Many of the larger open spaces in the area provide space for particular uses (eg. play) and areas for general use making them more attractive as destinations because they can support a wider array of activities.
- The number of properties within the catchment area of a general use amenity green space compared to other areas of the District is low.
- Open spaces with amenity value are generally of high quality and high value.
- 8% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a usable open space offering amenity value, 35% are within walking distance of an amenity open space larger than 0.5ha and 45% are within 1km walking distance of an amenity open space larger than 1ha.

### Recommendations

The main areas for improvements to existing open spaces available for general use are located in the south west of the town and suggestions include:

- Improvements to Waveney Meadow to make the site more accessible and encourage greater use.
- General enhancement of the Bramley Rise open space and consideration of how to improve the visual connection with Rigbourne Hill Lane and the woodland adjacent.

## Equipped Play Space

in the Beccles & Worlingham area

### Key findings

There are a variety of equipped play spaces available in the Beccles & Worlingham area of varying quality. The best provision is in Worlingham and south Beccles. Residents living in central Beccles and the area west of the railway line have limited accessibility to play space. Play space provision in the Beccles & Worlingham area meets recommended quantity standards. Key findings for Beccles include:

- There are a total of 19 equipped play spaces in the Beccles & Worlingham area (5 LAPs, 8 LEAPs, 5 NEAPs, 1 skate park (1 MUGA)).
- Beccles & Worlingham has the greatest amount of equipped play space in the District (3.59ha) which is equivalent to approximately 24% of the total open space provided in the Beccles & Worlingham area.
- There is good provision in Worlingham and south Beccles but relatively poor provision near the town centre.
- The quality of equipped play spaces is higher in Worlingham compared to Beccles.
- Play equipment for toddlers and juniors is good, however, provision for the youth age group is low. A similar trend is evident across the District.
- 13% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a LAP, 50% are within 400m walking distance of a LEAP and 70% are within 1km walking distance of a NEAP.

### Recommendations

The distribution of equipped play spaces is generally good. Several improvements spread across Beccles & Worlingham would benefit local residents:

- If an opportunity arises, a quality equipped play space should be provided near the town centre where existing provision is poor.
- The Waveney Meadow play space and its surroundings could be improved to encourage greater use and increase its value as a destination. Existing provision on the site is low quality and offers low value. This is likely to increase its isolation by discouraging use. Improvements would contribute towards the existing shortfall of open space in the wards of Beccles North and Beccles South.
- The All Saints Green play space could be improved in a manner that does not compete or conflict with facilities available in other nearby parks.
- The setting and landscaping around the unequipped play space in Park Drive could be enhanced to make the open space more attractive and facilitate a wider variety of uses.

## Allotments

in the Beccles & Worlingham area

### Key findings

Allotments in the Beccles area are provided across 11 sites. The amount of land available for allotments meets the recommended standards. Demand for allotments is high and the variable quality of plots has led to an existing shortfall of plots in some parts of the town. Key findings for the Beccles area include:

- Existing provision of allotments per 1,000 people (0.44ha) is above the District average (0.30ha).
- Almost half of Beccles residents are located outside of an allotment catchment area.
- No allotments are provided in Worlingham and much of the village lies outside the catchment area of any existing allotment site. Worlingham residents are required to use plots in Beccles and North Cove subject to availability. With a population of 3,745 people (2011 census) provision of approximately 1.09ha of allotments is required to meet the local recommended standard.
- Residents in south Beccles have limited access to allotments. New allotments are to be provided at Cucumber Lane which will mitigate some of the existing demand, however, concerns have been raised over soil quality and drainage.
- Issues related to drainage and soil quality on some sites reduces provision. Vacant plots do not necessarily indicate there is no waiting list.

### Recommendations

There is good provision of allotments in the Beccles & Worlingham area overall, however, there is also significant demand. The primary issue that should be addressed is the distribution of allotments and how their location relates to residential areas. The following suggestions could be considered:

- The existing allocation for allotments south of Nicholson Drive is likely to be required to meet existing latent demand and potential demand created by development in the future. The allocation should be continued when the Local Plan is reviewed.
- Provision of allotments in Worlingham should be considered if any development in excess of 20 dwellings comes forward. These should be provided on site as part of the open space requirement.
- Explore the potential to allocate land for allotments in the Worlingham area when the Local Plan is reviewed.

## Cemeteries and Churchyards

in the Beccles & Worlingham area

### Key findings

There is 1 cemetery and 2 churchyards in Beccles and 1 churchyard in Worlingham. Land used as a cemetery is located at Kilbrack, however, over time this has been reused as a general amenity green space. Beccles Cemetery is an important open space connecting residential areas and nearby green spaces, providing habitats for wildlife and enabling people to move through the area. St Michael's churchyard is important to the character of the town centre and provides an important vantage point overlooking the Waveney Valley. At present there is enough burial land available in Beccles & Worlingham. Additional burial land is available adjacent to the southern boundary of Beccles Cemetery when required in the future.

### Recommendations

No additional burial land is required at present, however, the following is suggested:

- Consider allocating the land located between the southern boundary of Beccles Cemetery and the cycleway for use as burial land when the Local Plan is reviewed to ensure security in the long-term.
- Consider implementing maintenance practices to have greater benefits for biodiversity.



## Green Corridors

in the Beccles & Worlingham area

### Key findings

The main ecological corridor for wildlife in the area is the Waveney Valley north of the built up area. The Valley is linked to Beccles Common and the Beccles Marshes. Key findings for Beccles & Worlingham include:

- The two main greenways are Rigbourne Hill Lane and Wash Lane. These connect residential areas and the open countryside for pedestrians and cyclists and provide connections between wildlife habitats.
- Quality connections through areas of continuous tree and shrub canopy within the built up area are limited. This has resulted in green spaces not being well connected to other areas.
- The railway line is an important green corridor within the built up area to support wildlife movement.
- Green spaces in Worlingham are well linked by pedestrian and cycle routes.

### Recommendations

While there are no major greenways in Worlingham connectivity is generally good and should be protected and enhanced. To improve green corridors within the built up area of Beccles & Worlingham the following suggestions could be considered:

- Future development of the employment area on the A145 south of Beccles should require the enhancement of the Wash Lane greenway to encourage walking and cycling.
- Any future development to the south of Beccles & Worlingham should provide quality connections to the Rigbourne Hill Lane, Wash Lane greenways and the existing Worlingham open space network. This will improve connectivity to local services and facilities.
- The quality of the Rigbourne Hill Lane greenway should be improved for both wildlife and people using the shared use path to access local facilities. The poor condition of the vegetation is likely to reduce its value for wildlife and the poor surface condition of the path will discourage use and potentially make it unusable for people who are less mobile.
- The provision of shared use paths as part of a greenway between Beccles and the Ellough Business Park as part of the Beccles Southern Relief Road proposal will improve connectivity and encourage greater sustainable transport patterns such as cycling.
- Ground structure improvements to reduce waterlogging of the western part of The Quay and the public right of way along the River Waveney north of the A146 would improve access to open space and semi-natural area green space.
- Enhancing the public realm in the central Beccles & Worlingham area to improve visual perception of the area.



## Issues and projects for consideration in the **Beccles & Worlingham** area

- Biodiversity
- Natural and semi-natural green space
- Sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Parks and gardens
- Amenity green space
- Equipped play space
- Allotments
- Green corridors

WDC = Waveney District Council, SCC = Suffolk County Council, TC/PC = Town/Parish Council

| Location                                   | Issue                                                                                      | Recommendation                                                                                                                                          | Benefit                                                                                   | Delivery...?                          |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| North Beccles                              | Important sites for protected wildlife and habitats.                                       | ▶ Protect important areas for wildlife north of the town.                                                                                               | ▶ Protection of strategic wetland habitat as part of wider ecological corridor.           | ▶ WDC. SCC. SWT. Other organisations. |
| South Beccles                              | Gaps in the network of hedgerows.                                                          | ▶ Consider schemes available to reinforce hedgerows with native planting where appropriate.                                                             | ▶ Improve connections between habitats.                                                   | ▶ Landowners. Other organisations.    |
| South Beccles                              | Drainage ditches in poor condition limit biodiversity value.                               | ▶ Enhance the condition and improved maintenance of drainage ditches.                                                                                   | ▶ Improve value of wetland habitat.                                                       | ▶ Landowner. Other organisation.      |
| Rigbourne Hill Lane                        | Shared use path and semi-natural area is in poor condition.                                | ▶ Improve path surface for pedestrians and cyclists. Improve quality of vegetation and general environment to encourage greater use and attractiveness. | ▶ Encourage walking and cycling along the route and bring aesthetic benefits to the area. | ▶ TC. Community group.                |
| Land north of Lowestoft Road between Marsh | Provides visual amenity and physical separation between the built up areas of Beccles sand | ▶ Seek to protect the open character and setting of the area. Consider identifying the site as an 'open break' as part of a                             | ▶ Protect the setting and character of the two settlements.                               | ▶ WDC.                                |

| Location                       | Issue                                                                                                                                               | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Benefit                                                                                             | Delivery...?                               |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| View and Park Drive, Beccles   | Worlingham. Vegetation in the south western part of the site screens existing development and helps integrate the area into the wider surroundings. | review of the Local Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                     |                                            |
| Waveney Valley                 | Limited access to areas of semi-natural character.                                                                                                  | Promote access and educational value of public rights of way and semi-natural areas. Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for flora and fauna (protected sites). | Increase public access and awareness of semi-natural areas.                                         | WDC. SCC. TC. SWT. Broads Authority.       |
| Waveney Valley                 | Raising appreciation and awareness of value of local accessible natural and semi-natural area.                                                      | Improve signage for footpaths and public rights of way. Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for flora and fauna (protected sites).                              | Improve public access and awareness of the importance of wildlife habitat in the local area.        | WDC. SCC. SWT.                             |
| Beccles Sports Centre, Beccles | Shortfall of cricket wickets.                                                                                                                       | Investigate potential of reinstating disused cricket wicket.                                                                                                                                                                     | Meet existing shortfall. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | WDC. TC. Sports clubs. Education provider. |
| Common Lane, Beccles           | Playing capacity reduced by flooding.                                                                                                               | Support sports clubs to implement measures to mitigate the effect flooding.                                                                                                                                                      | Increase pitch availability and improve playing surfaces.                                           | WDC. TC. Sports clubs.                     |
| Beccles & Worlingham           | Shortfall of youth football pitches.                                                                                                                | Explore potential to secure additional use of pitches on school sites to                                                                                                                                                         | Meet existing shortfall and share costs between different                                           | WDC. TC. Sports clubs.                     |

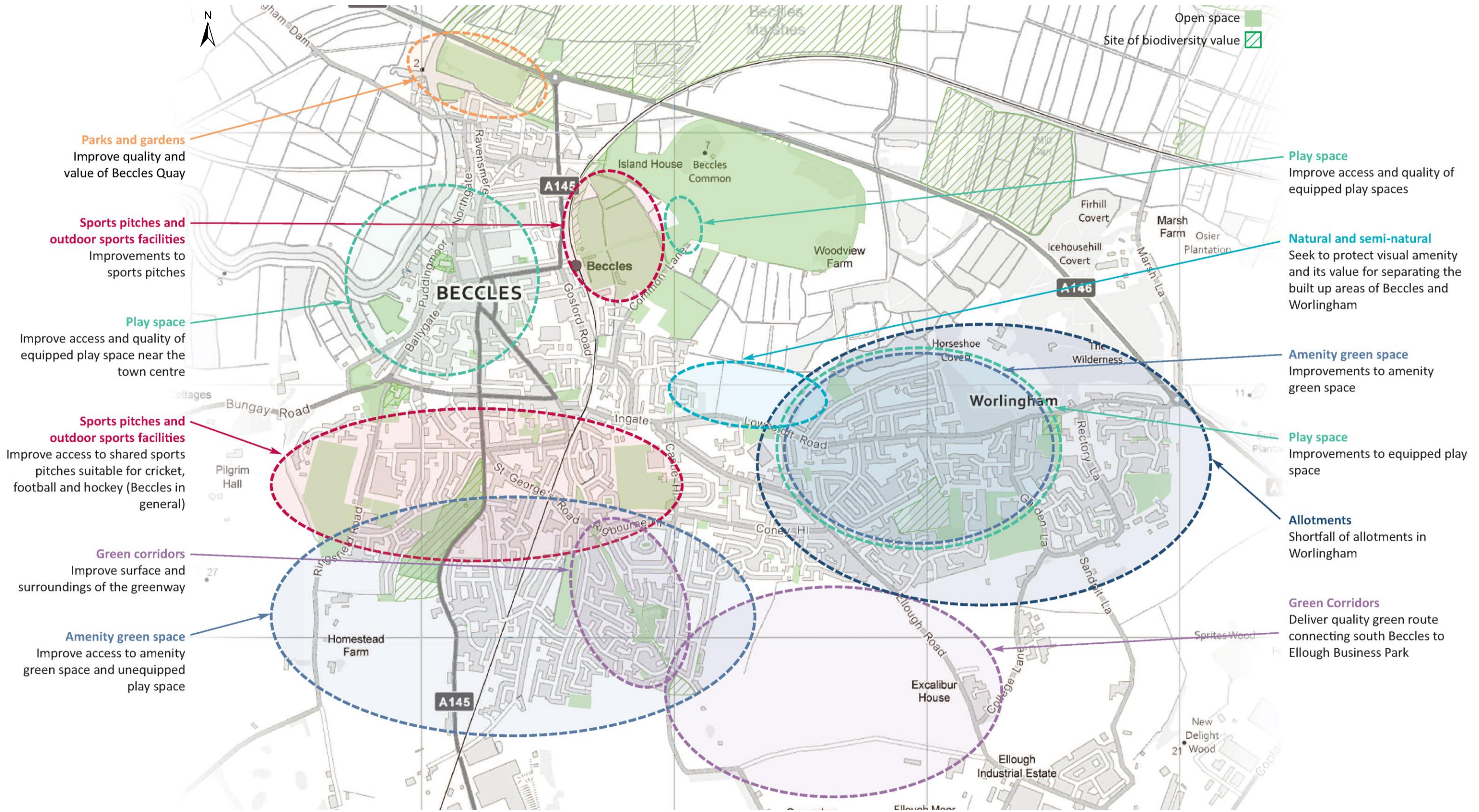
| Location                       | Issue                                                                                                   | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                  | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                         | Delivery...?                                    |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| (General)                      |                                                                                                         | eliminate the existing shortfall of youth pitches.                                                                                                                                              | parties. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction.                                                                                                             | Governing sports body.                          |
| Beccles & Worlingham (General) | Shortfall of hockey pitch and football pitches.                                                         | Promote provision of one full sized sand filled pitch to be shared for hockey and football (competitive hockey cannot take place on a 3G pitch).                                                | Additional provision would benefit the western areas of the District where there is no access to a full sized pitch. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | WDC. TC. Sports clubs. Governing sports bodies. |
| All Saints Green, Worlingham   | Park offers medium quality and medium value but does not meet its potential as a community green space. | Improve play facilities and landscaping of amenity green space. Provision should not conflict with nearby open spaces to enhance the space as a destination for recreational use in Worlingham. | Add value and encourage greater use.                                                                                                                                                            | PC.                                             |
| The Quay, Beccles              | Only park in Beccles but quality is relatively low compared to its counterparts in other towns.         | Improve quality and value of the space and drainage of the site.                                                                                                                                | Enhance the quality and value of the space to reflect its importance to the community and make it more of a destination for local residents and visitors.                                       | WDC. TC.                                        |
| Woodfield Park, Worlingham     | Poor drainage of unequipped play area limits use.                                                       | Improve drainage.                                                                                                                                                                               | Provide greater value for local residents.                                                                                                                                                      | WDC. PC.                                        |

| Location                     | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                           | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                             | Benefit                                                                                                                                           | Delivery...?           |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| South Beccles<br>(General)   | South Beccles is a densely populated area with no parks or gardens.                                                                                                                             | Include large quality open space that can support a variety of activities for different age groups as part of any future significant development that may be proposed south of the existing built up area. | Improve access to recreation and community facilities.                                                                                            | Developer.             |
| Beccles Common               | Play equipment for toddlers and juniors requires improvement. Additional planting would improve the setting of the skate park.                                                                  | Improvements to equipped play and surroundings.                                                                                                                                                            | Provide a higher quality area for play and improve the value of the common as a destination for all ages.                                         | WDC. TC.               |
| Bramley Rise,<br>Beccles     | Equipped play area is relatively isolated and offers low value. Unequipped play space is limited in the value it provides and there is little landscaping on site to support and encourage use. | General enhancement to the amenity space.                                                                                                                                                                  | Increase the quality of amenity space in areas where there is an identified deficit. Improve connectivity between site and adjacent green spaces. | WDC. TC.               |
| Park Drive,<br>Worlingham    | Good variety of play equipment but the unequipped play area has limited value resulting from the lie of the land and limited landscaping.                                                       | Additional planting and landscaping to support play activities.                                                                                                                                            | Encourage greater use of a play area in a locality where there is limited access to open space and play provision.                                | PC.                    |
| Town Centre area,<br>Beccles | Shortfall of children's play space in central Beccles.                                                                                                                                          | If opportunity arises, consider creating a new equipped children's play area.                                                                                                                              | Provide additional facilities for children and diversity of activities in the town centre.                                                        | WDC. TC.<br>Developer. |

| Location                | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                  | Recommendation                                                                                                                    | Benefit                                                                                                                                          | Delivery...?                               |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Waveney Meadow, Beccles | Shortfall of equipped play space in the area and the equipped play space offers low value. Surrounding amenity space does not optimise its location or maximise its value to the area. | Improvements to equipped play and surrounding amenity space.                                                                      | Provide quality play and amenity space in area where there is an identified deficit. Encourage greater physical activity and social interaction. | WDC. TC.                                   |
| Worlingham (General)    | No existing allotments in the village. Residents need to use facilities in Beccles and North Cove subject to availability.                                                             | Any development of 20 dwellings or more in Worlingham should provide allotments as part of their on site open space requirements. | Provide allotments as part of a development scheme to benefit the community. Encourage healthy lifestyle and social interaction.                 | Developer.                                 |
| Worlingham (General)    | There are no allotment sites in the village. Residents need to use facilities in Beccles and North Cove subject to availability.                                                       | Explore the potential to allocate land for allotments as part of a review of the Local Plan.                                      | Meet existing and future demand. Encourage healthy lifestyle and social interaction.                                                             | WDC. PC.<br>Landowner.<br>Community group. |
| Ellough Road, Beccles   | Future growth of Ellough Business Park will increase the number of people travelling between the town and employment areas.                                                            | Create greenway between the southern extent of the built up area and Ellough Business Park.                                       | Promote sustainable transport, link with proposed Southern Relief Road, integrate road with surrounding countryside.                             | SCC.                                       |

| Location                                     | Issue                                                                                        | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                             | Benefit                                                                                                                                          | Delivery...?    |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Rigbourne Hill Lane, Beccles</b>          | Ensure that new development is integrated into the existing greenway and open space network. | Any proposed development in the south of Beccles and Worlingham should provide quality connections to the Rigbourne Hill Lane / Wash Lane greenways and open space network as appropriate. | Improve access to services and facilities in the town centre and residential area. Provide quality connections to encourage walking and cycling. | WDC. Developer. |
| <b>Central Beccles/ Worlingham (General)</b> | Public realm is relatively open and barren.                                                  | Explore the potential to improve public realm with planting.                                                                                                                               | Improve connections between areas of tree canopy and improve the public perception of the area.                                                  | WDC. TC. SCC.   |

## Key improvements to green infrastructure in the Beccles & Worlingham area



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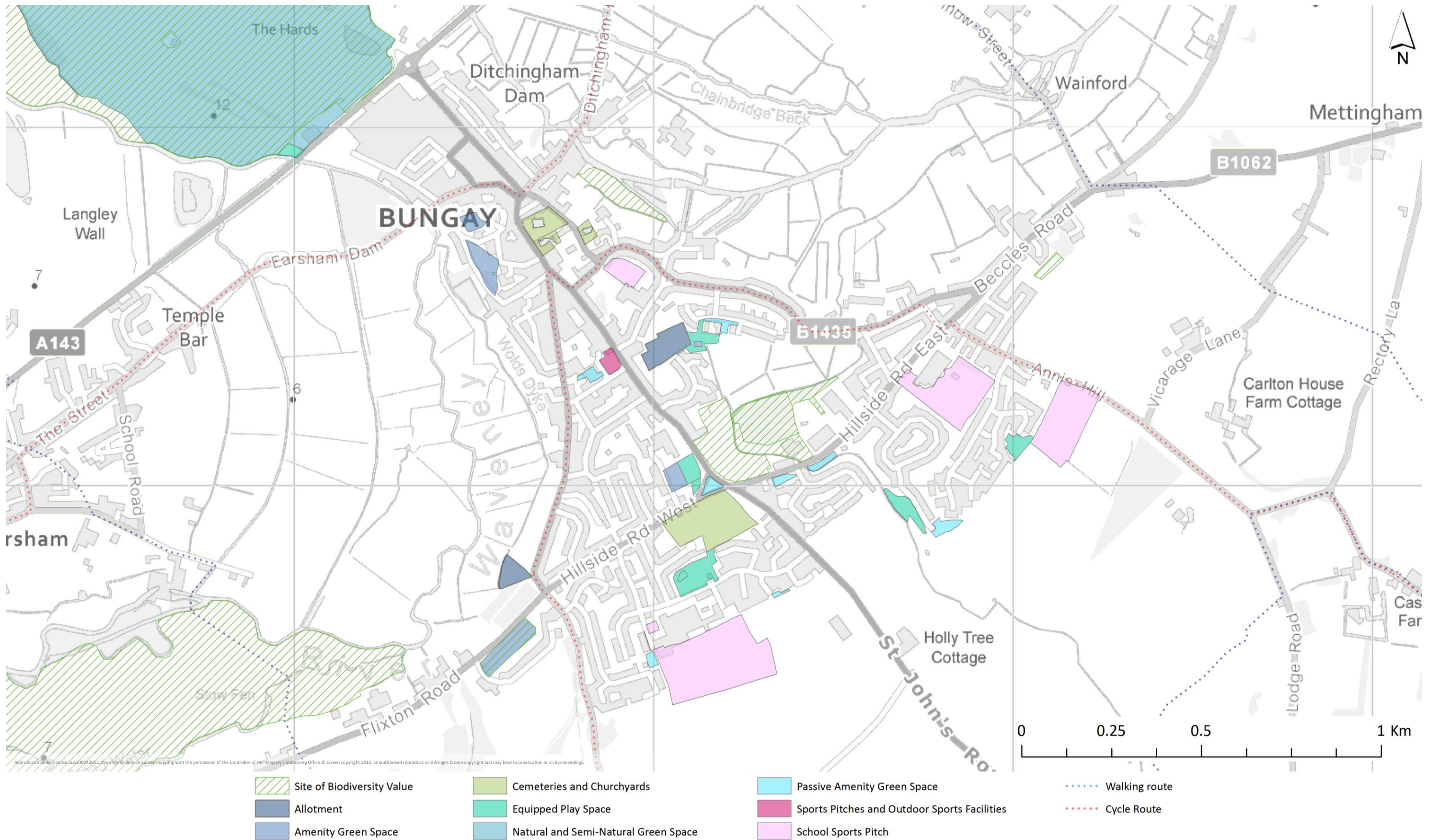






Bungay area

## Existing green spaces in the Bungay area



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# Summary of findings and recommendations for the Bungay area

## Biodiversity

### in the Bungay area

#### Key findings

The Waveney River Valley provides quality habitat that supports biodiversity around the northern fringes of the town. Public access to these areas is limited. Within the built up area there is limited connectivity between green spaces of this nature and few areas are important for natural flora and fauna without improvement. Key findings in the Bungay area include:

- Skinner's Meadow and Olland's Plantation in the centre of the residential area in the south of the town are the only significant areas of habitat adjoining the built up area.
- Links between residential areas near King's Road, Meadow Road and St Margaret's Road could be improved for wildlife and people by improving the quality of green spaces, diversifying planting on sites and ensuring development does not encroach upon open spaces and wide verges.
- In the south of the town, the built up area is not well integrated with the surrounding countryside.
- Outney Common provides a diverse variety of high quality habitats with public access.
- Stow Fen located southwest of the town provides public access and links the open countryside to the town.

#### Recommendations

Opportunities to support biodiversity within and adjacent to the built up area include:

- Consider the implementation of schemes to reinforce hedgerows with native species, as appropriate, to improve habitat connectivity. This should be considered as part of a long-term approach to hedgerow management and enhancement. This will also help improve the integration of the town boundary with the surrounding open countryside.
- Where new development is proposed it is important to ensure existing open spaces are not at risk of becoming isolated.
- The restoration of tributary ditches would enhance the quality of wetland habitat.
- Consider ways to manage green spaces to encourage greater biodiversity value.

## Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

in the Bungay area

### Key findings

The Waveney Valley provides public access to natural and semi-natural green space. It is important for recreation and for its educational value. Access to natural and semi-natural sites in the Bungay area meets some Natural England's recommended standards, however, improved access would benefit the community, particularly as there is an existing shortfall of open space. Key findings in the Bungay area include:

- Outney Common is the most significant semi-natural green space accessible to local residents. The value of the Common to the community and for wildlife is limited by part of the site being used as a golf course.
- The public rights of way network in the nearby countryside is often disconnected reducing access to semi-natural areas.
- There is little public access to semi-natural areas within or adjacent to the built up area.

### Recommendations

Bungay is surrounded by an area of rural character. Considerations to improve access to semi-natural green space include:

- Improving signage in the town and Outney Common would encourage greater use of the site and increase awareness of wildlife value in the area.
- Explore the potential to improve public access to the Waveney Valley.
- Improvements to the semi-natural area of Castle Hills to increase the value of the site for local people and complement the town centre.



## Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities

in the Bungay area

### Key findings

A comprehensive variety of high quality sports pitches are available at Maltings Meadow, Ditchingham. There are no open spaces in the town large enough, have a layout, or are publicly accessible capable of supporting informal sports activities or encouraging other physical activities related to sport that would complement existing facilities. Key findings include:

Pitch based sports:

- Cricket: There are 8 high quality wickets located at Maltings Meadow, including 1 artificial wicket. Existing provision meets about 60% of current demand. An additional 8 grass wickets (or 1 artificial wicket) would meet existing demand. Existing deficit of (40 matches a season).
- Football: There are 5 adult teams, 10 youth teams and 6 junior teams in Bungay supported by 3 adult pitches, 2 youth pitches and 3 junior pitches. There is an existing shortfall of 1 youth pitch.
- Hockey: No hockey pitches are available in the town. Nearest facilities are located in Loddon and Harleston.
- Rugby: There is no rugby provision in Bungay. No existing demand is present.
- Synthetic pitches: A small sized 3G pitch provides a space for shared use between football and tennis. A full sized 3G pitch to support the western part of the District would improve access to quality sports facilities.
- Sports pitches with no community access include: 2 adult football pitches, 2 youth football pitches and 2 cricket wickets.

Non-pitch based sports:

- Athletics: There are no formal athletics facilities located in the town. The closest facility is in Great Yarmouth.
- Bowls: A single bowling green of good quality is located at St John's Road.
- Netball: There are 2 courts of average quality are located at the Bungay Sports Hall.
- Tennis: There are 2 high quality synthetic turf courts are located at Maltings Meadow.

### Recommendations

Formal play provision located at Maltings Meadow provides for much of the needs in the area. The following suggestions could be considered to increase accessibility to local facilities that support less formal sports activities.

- Explore potential access to school pitches to improve access to sports pitches.
- Consider the provision of a flat amenity green space large enough to support junior football pitch for community use if opportunities arise through proposed new development.
- With a shortfall of 40 match equivalent a season an additional pitch for cricket could be considered if required by local clubs. Potential to explore pitches located on school sites or 'Top Pitch'.

## Parks and Gardens

in the Bungay area

### Key findings

There are no parks or gardens in Bungay. Bungay has open space that offers some of the lowest quality and value for the community in the District. The existing provision of open space is not of sufficient quality or value to compensate for the deficiency of park space. In general open spaces in the town are small and have limited opportunity to be enhanced to a standard that is equivalent to a satellite park. This suggests that if a significant new open space able to support a variety of activities for all age groups was to be provided it is only likely come forward through new development. The existing shortfall of park space in Bungay is 2.05ha.

### Recommendations

The potential to provide a new park without significant development is limited, however, the following could be considered:

- Improve at least one open space in the town to a standard equivalent to a satellite park. Castle Hills has potential but is limited by its historical value. The redevelopment of the former Grammar School site has potential to be a central focal point in the community with a quality play area and proposed community centre.
- If any significant residential proposal comes forward in the future an open space that has the characteristics and attributed of at least a satellite park should be included. This should be designed to support multiple activities including opportunities for informal play and ball games.



## Amenity Green Space

in the Bungay area

### Key findings

Provision of open space for general use in Bungay is relatively poor with only the north and southwest of the town having reasonable coverage. Improvements to the quality and value of amenity green spaces would help mitigate the existing shortfall. Key findings for Bungay include:

- There is currently 1 open space in the town (Castle Hills) that is likely to support a wide variety of activities given its location and ancillary facilities, however, play area is of poor quality and offers low value.
- The quality of amenity green spaces are satisfactory but there is poor access to high quality green space indicating that improvements are required.
- The proportion of amenity green space not supporting recreational use is twice the District average (passive amenity green space).
- 73% of open space in Bungay has amenity as its primary use indicating a shortfall of open space offering good value to the community.
- 8% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a useable amenity green space, 44% are within walking distance of an amenity green space larger than 0.5ha and 0% are within 1km walking distance of an amenity green space larger than 1ha.

### Recommendations

Amenity green spaces make an important contribution to the quality of the townscape. General improvements to the quality of these spaces would benefit the wider community including:

- Improvements to Castle Hills as a quality amenity green space with play equipment for young children to increase its value to residents and complement the town centre. Enhancements to the open space to meet its potential would need to be considered within the historical context of the site.
- Explore options to gain public access to 'Top Pitch' to provide an area for ball games and informal activities. There are no large open spaces available to the public to support these activities which is likely to negatively affect social and health aspects of the community.
- Explore options to provide public access to Skinner's Meadow. Currently there is a deficit in general use green space and better access would support new facilities provided on the former Grammar School playing field opposite to create a focal point within the town.
- Improvements to the quality of passive amenity green spaces and public realm to enhance the townscape.

## Equipped Play Space

### in the Bungay area

#### Key findings

Equipped play spaces are well distributed across the town, however, east of St John's Road their location is quite peripheral to the residential population. Existing provision meets the recommended quantity standards but quality and value is relatively low compared to other areas of the District. Key findings for Bungay include:

- There are a total of 8 equipped play spaces in the Bungay area (3 LAPs, 4 LEAPs and 1 skate park).
- Bungay is the only market town without a NEAP or MUGA.
- Existing play spaces are equipped with a variety toddler and junior provision, however, provision for the youth age group is low.
- Bungay has the lowest amount of play equipment provision in the District with an average of 7 items of equipment and 8 activities per play space.
- Bungay has the highest proportion of equipped play spaces offering low quality and low value in the District.
- 10% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a LAP, 45% are within 400m walking distance of a LEAP and 0% are within 1km walking distance of a NEAP.

#### Recommendations

Play provision in Bungay is primarily aimed at young children. Consideration should be given to improving access and diversifying the type of play provision to benefit the town in the long-term. Suggestions include:

- The Castle Hills equipped play space has equipment for young children. These could be considered for improvement in conjunction with improvements to the general use part of the site. This would increase its value to the community and reflect its importance to the area.
- The play space located at Kings Road and surrounding unequipped play area could be improved to encourage greater use.
- Providing a wider array of play activities at the Meadow Road play area and increasing access to the site through better links with existing residential areas and the area towards St John's Road would increase its value. This would also help address the limited provision of open space in the southern part of the town.
- Consider how the unequipped play area at Garden Close relates to its surroundings and the wider townscape. Currently the area is empty and fails to inspire thereby discouraging use by local residents. Increasing the value of the open space as a thoroughfare for people moving between residential areas and the town centre would likely increase natural surveillance of the site.
- If any significant development is proposed in the future a quality play space that includes equipped and unequipped play areas designed to support a variety of activities should be included. The unequipped play area should be large enough to support ball games as there are no open spaces of this nature available for public use.
- Provision of a MUGA would enhance play provision for youth and junior age groups and provide additional facilities to support ball games. This type of facility would reduce potential conflict with adjacent properties.



## Allotments

### in the Bungay area

#### Key findings

Allotments are provided on 1 site in Bungay. An existing allocation for allotments located on land off Wingfield Street is yet to be brought forward, however, its delivery would significantly improve local provision and access to community facilities. Key findings for Bungay include:

- The current level of provision indicates there are over 1,100 people per hectare of allotments. The number of people per hectare is significantly higher than anywhere else in the District. The town has the poorest level of provision in the District (0.09ha per 1,000 people).
- Bungay does not have enough provision to meet the standard recommended by the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners. Existing provision is about one third of the recommended standard.
- Less than half of the residents in Bungay lie within the catchment area of the allotment site.
- A waiting list exists for vacant allotment plots. Significant latent demand is likely to be present in the town with residents not registering their interest with little prospect of gaining access to an allotment plot in the near future.
- The current allocation for allotments located on land off Wingfield Street is unlikely to come forward in the short-term.

#### Recommendations

There is a long-standing shortfall of allotments in the town. The following recommendations are suggested:

- The allocation for allotments on land located off Wingfield Street should be retained to meet existing and latent demand in an area that is centrally located and easily accessible to the residents.
- Consider providing allotments, in conjunction with landscaping and planting, on potential open space designed as a buffer between residential and industrial land uses south of the town.
- Explore the potential for a new land use allocation to deliver allotments when the Local Plan is reviewed.

## Cemeteries and Churchyards

in the Bungay area

### Key findings

There is 1 cemetery and 2 churchyards in Bungay. At present there is enough burial land available in the town. Additional burial land is available adjacent to the eastern boundary of Bungay Cemetery when required in the future. In the town centre existing churchyards are important to the setting and character of the area. Bungay Cemetery is an important open space connecting residential areas and nearby green spaces and provides habitats for wildlife.

### Recommendations

No additional burial land is required in the near future, however, the following is recommended:

- Retaining the existing burial land allocation adjacent to Bungay Cemetery when the Local Plan is reviewed.
- Consider implementing maintenance practices to have greater benefits for biodiversity.



## Green Corridors

in the Bungay area

### Key findings

The most important ecological corridor in the Bungay area is located north of the town along the Waveney River. Green spaces and semi-natural areas are located around the boundary of the built up area creating connections to the open countryside, however, connections within the built up area are limited. Key findings for Bungay include:

- The Tin River and the Waveney Valley act as ecological corridors linking the built up area to the open countryside.
- Open spaces in the town are not well connected, however, they have potential to act as stepping stone habitats for birds.
- There are few green routes that connect open spaces, residential areas and the town centre.
- Skinner's Meadow has potential to link open spaces with public access.
- There are no greenways in Bungay.

### Recommendations

The enhancement of green corridors in Bungay is likely to be closely linked to the improvement of open spaces. Recommendations include:

- When the allotments off Wingfield Street in the town centre are delivered incorporating landscaping to support wildlife and enhance the character of the area should be considered as part of the scheme. Pedestrian and cycle links should be provided to connect Pilgrim's Way, Garden Close and Wingfield Street.
- Enabling public access to Skinner's Meadow and connections with adjacent grazing areas could be explored to improve connectivity between residential areas and the town centre and increase the site's value as part of the network of green spaces in the town.
- Explore the potential to create a greenway between Bungay Sixth Form College near Kings Road and Meadow Road play space.
- Explore the potential to improve planting along Ditchingham Dam to enhance visual amenity between the town and Maltings Meadow Sports Ground. This would enhance the visual connections between the pedestrian/cycleway that extends eastward from the sports ground adjacent to the A143.

## Issues and projects for consideration in the Bungay area

- Biodiversity
- Natural and semi-natural green space
- Sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Parks and gardens
- Amenity green space
- Equipped play space
- Allotments
- Green corridors

WDC = Waveney District Council, SCC = Suffolk County Council, TC/PC = Town/Parish Council, BA = Broads Authority, SWT = Suffolk Wildlife Trust

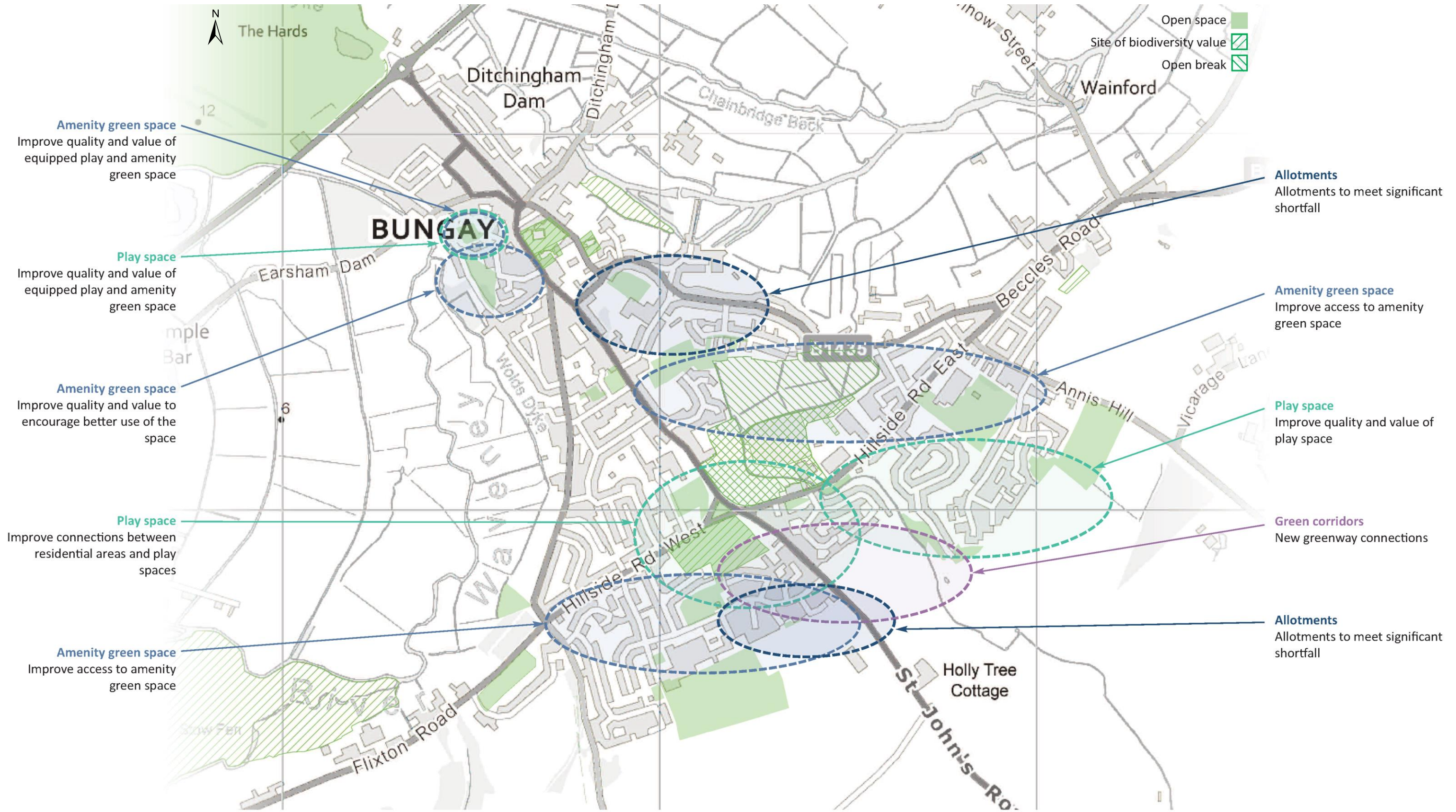
| Location                               | Issue                                                    | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Benefit                                                                         | Delivery?                       |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Waveney Valley                         | Important area for wildlife.                             | ▶ Protect important ecological corridors north of the town.                                                                                                                                                       | ▶ Maintaining existing wildlife corridors in the Waveney Valley and the Broads. | ▶ WDC. SWT. BA.                 |
| Waveney Valley                         | Important area for wildlife.                             | ▶ Consider Improvements to the quality and maintenance of drainage ditches as appropriate.                                                                                                                        | ▶ Improve quality of wetland habitat.                                           | ▶ SWT. BA. Other organisations. |
| Waveney Valley / Outney Common, Bungay | Important area for wildlife that is publicly accessible. | ▶ Improve signage to increase the value of the site as a destination. Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for flora and fauna (protected sites). | ▶ Increased awareness of wildlife and the value of semi-natural areas.          | ▶ WDC. TC.                      |

| Location                                            | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                 | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Delivery?                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Annis Hill Playing Field (Top Pitch), Bungay</b> | No large green spaces or play area to support informal ball games in the area.                                                                                                                                                    | Explore potential to provide public access to 'Top Pitch'.                                                                                                     | Provide open space that can support activities currently not available in the town. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction.                                                                                             | TC.<br>Education provider. |
| <b>Castle Hills, Bungay</b>                         | Only open space in town that is capable of supporting a variety of activities for different age groups. Value of the space and quality of play equipment and is low. Shortfall of open space provision and limited accessibility. | Improve quality of play facilities for young children and amenity space. Improve access to semi-natural area and connectivity to Bigod Castle (Castle Bailey). | Quality space will complement the town centre, improve better connections with Bigod Castle (Castle Bailey) and provide quality open space in an area where there is a shortfall of provision. Encourage greater social interaction and physical activity. | Trust.<br>TC. WDC.         |
| <b>Skinner's Meadow, Bungay</b>                     | Shortfall of green space available for general use that is accessible and well located to the residential population.                                                                                                             | Explore potential to provide public access to Skinner's Meadow.                                                                                                | Provide access to a green space centrally located and close to the residential population that can support a variety of informal activities.                                                                                                               | WDC. TC.<br>Landowner.     |
| <b>Bungay (General)</b>                             | Shortfall of open space in the town.                                                                                                                                                                                              | Improvements to passive amenity green spaces to encourage greater use.                                                                                         | Mitigate shortfall of open space provision and improve the quality of the public realm.                                                                                                                                                                    | WDC. TC. SCC.              |

| Location                        | Issue                                                                                                | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                            | Benefit                                                                                                                                             | Delivery?                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Kings Road, Bungay</b>       | Equipped play space offers medium to low quality and value. Shortfall of play provision in the area. | ▶ General enhancement of the unequipped play area to amenity value.                                                                                                                                       | ▶ Mitigate existing shortfall of quality open space. Create an attractive space near school for students to encourage use.                          | ▶ WDC. TC.                             |
| <b>Meadow Road, Bungay</b>      | Shortfall of quality play space in the town.                                                         | ▶ Improve play space to support a wider array of play activities and improve access to the site. Explore potential of pedestrian link from site across to St John's Road.                                 | ▶ Improve value of play space and connectivity to make it more accessible to residents. Encourage greater physical activity and social interaction. | ▶ WDC. TC. Landowner.                  |
| <b>Bungay (General)</b>         | Shortfall of equipped and unequipped play facilities for the youth age group.                        | ▶ If opportunities arise, a multi-use games area (MUGA) should be provided as part of a larger open space delivered as part of any significant residential development.                                   | ▶ Increase provision of community facilities. Encourage greater social interaction and activity.                                                    | ▶ Developer. WDC.                      |
| <b>St John's Road, Bungay</b>   | Shortfall of allotments in the town.                                                                 | ▶ Consider providing allotments, in conjunction with landscaping and planting, on open space that is designed to act as a buffer between land used for housing and industrial purposes south of the town. | ▶ Resolve long-term shortfall of provision. Encourage healthy lifestyle and social activities.                                                      | ▶ WDC. TC. Landowner. Community group. |
| <b>Wingfield Street, Bungay</b> | Shortfall of allotments in the town.                                                                 | ▶ Continue allocation for allotments to deliver in the long-term.                                                                                                                                         | ▶ Resolve long-term shortfall of provision. Encourage healthy lifestyle and social activities.                                                      | ▶ WDC. TC. Landowner.                  |

| Location                                    | Issue                                                                                                                                | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                            | Benefit                                                                                                                                                            | Delivery?                            |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Bungay (General)</b>                     | Shortfall of allotments in the town. Disused allotments at Wingfield Street unlikely to come forward in the short-term.              | Explore the potential to allocate land for allotments as part of a review of the Local Plan.                                                                                                              | Increase certainty of delivering allotments to meet long-term shortfall.                                                                                           | WDC. Landowner.                      |
| <b>Ditchingham Dam, Bungay</b>              | Well used route by pedestrians and cyclists but the built up area is visually disconnected from the Maltings Meadow sports facility. | Improve visual amenity of road between Bungay and Maltings Meadow Sports Ground.                                                                                                                          | Improve quality of the green route and connections between the town, sports facilities and the shared use path heading east from the sports ground along the A143. | WDC. Landowner. Other organisations. |
| <b>Garden Close, Bungay</b>                 | Limited pedestrian and cycle connections between residential area and the town centre.                                               | When the allotments on Wingfield Street are delivered a shared use path should be provided to connect Pilgrim's Way, Garden Close and Wingfield Street. Planting will enhance the value for biodiversity. | Provide quality connection between residential areas and the town centre encouraging people to travel without using the car.                                       | WDC. TC.                             |
| <b>St John's Road / Meadow Road, Bungay</b> | Limited connections to community facilities.                                                                                         | Provide a greenway between the Bungay Sixth Form College and sports centre to St John's Road and onto Meadow Road play space.                                                                             | Improve connections for pedestrians and cyclists between residential areas, play spaces and schools.                                                               | WDC. TC. Landowner.                  |

## Key improvements to green infrastructure in the Bungay area



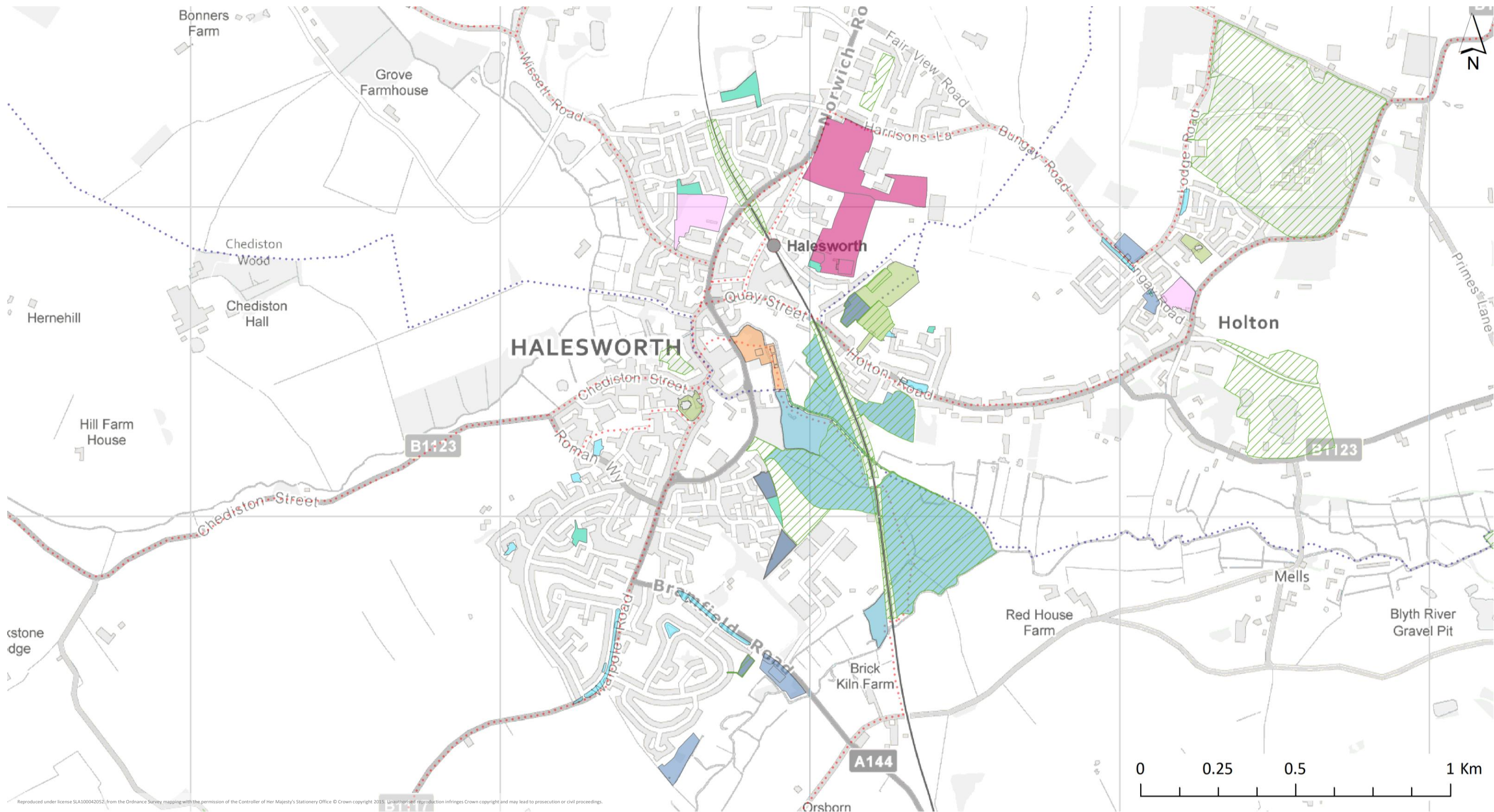
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Halesworth area

## Existing green spaces in the Halesworth area



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- |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Site of Biodiversity Value |  Cemeteries and Churchyards           |  Parks and Gardens                            |  School Sports Pitch |
|  Allotment                  |  Equipped Play Space                  |  Passive Amenity Green Space                  |  Walking route       |
|  Amenity Green Space        |  Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space |  Sports Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities |  Cycle Route         |

# Summary of findings and recommendations for the Halesworth area

## Biodiversity

in the Halesworth area

### Key findings

Halesworth is surrounded by open countryside with the prominent landscape feature being the Blyth River Valley. The Blyth River Valley is important for biodiversity and is connected to the New Reach River and the network of open spaces making up the Millennium Green. Key findings in the Halesworth area include:

- The network of green spaces extending from the centre of the town including Town Park, New Reach River, Bird's Folly and Millennium Green provide a variety of different habitats along a well connected corridor. The area is accessible to the public.
- The railway line provides a green corridor through the town for wildlife and links the built up area with the open countryside.
- The New Reach River flows through Halesworth and provides quality habitat important for wildlife. The water and riparian habitat is reinforced by a series of connecting dykes.
- The Blyth Valley is an important wetland habitat extending between the coast and inland areas.
- The built up area in the southwest of the town is poorly integrated into the open countryside. Hedgerows are often discontinuous with limited tree planting reducing habitat quality.

### Recommendations

To support biodiversity the following could be considered:

- Conserve woodland and network of wetland features.
- Consider the implementation of schemes to reinforce hedgerows with native species, as appropriate, to improve habitat connectivity. This should be considered as part of a long-term approach to hedgerow management and enhancement. This will also help improve the integration of the town boundary with the surrounding open countryside.
- Consider implementing open space management practices to have greater benefits for biodiversity.

## Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

in the Halesworth area

### Key findings

Residents in Halesworth have good access to natural and semi-natural green space. Much of this is part of the network of open spaces associated with the Millennium Green. Quality pedestrian and cycle routes enable people to access the area for recreational uses increasing its value to the community. Outside of the built up area access to natural and semi-natural sites is limited with Natural England's recommended ANGSt standards only partially met. Key findings for the Halesworth area include:

- The southern town boundary is not well integrated into the open countryside with hedgerows requiring reinforcement and with additional planting.
- Public access to semi-natural green space adjacent to the town centre is generally good.
- Public access to the Blyth Valley is limited but has the potential to significantly benefit the local community.
- The Strategic Gap between Halesworth and Holton is important for the character of both communities.

### Recommendations

Access to alternative areas of similar character could be improved by considering the following:

- Explore opportunities to increase public access in the Blyth Valley westwards towards Walpole.
- Promote public rights of way, long distance footpaths and cycle routes around the town to improve access and raise the profile of semi-natural areas and biodiversity.
- The setting and character of the Blyth Valley should be protected.
- The Strategic Gap between Halesworth and Holton should be protected.



## Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities

in the Halesworth area

### Key findings

Of the market towns in Waveney, Halesworth has the poorest access to sports facilities with this part of the District, including the surrounding hinterland, lying outside of the catchment areas for a number of sports as recommended by Sport England. Key findings include:

Pitch based sports:

- Cricket: There are no cricket facilities in the town itself. Local facilities are located in Rumburgh. There is no existing deficit.
- Football: There are 3 adult teams, 4 youth teams and 3 junior teams in Halesworth supported by 1 adult pitch, 2 youth pitches and 1 junior pitch. Currently there is a shortfall of 0.5 adult pitches and 1 junior pitch.
- Hockey: No hockey pitches are available in the town. Nearest facilities are located in Loddon and Harleston. Existing deficit of 1 sand-filled pitch resulting in hockey clubs travelling out of District to use facilities.
- Rugby: There is no rugby club in Halesworth and there is no existing deficit. Facilities are currently used by Southwold RUFC for training purposes and additional facilities would improve provision for both Southwold RUFC and people living in Halesworth.
- Synthetic pitches: There are no synthetic pitches in Halesworth. Demand has been identified which indicates that any 3G pitch would be used to about one third of its capacity. If a facility were to be delivered the demand is likely to increase as no similar facilities are available in the area.
- Pitches with no community access include: 2 junior football pitches.

Non-pitch based sports:

- Athletics: There are no formal athletics facilities located in the town or in the wider area. The nearest facility is located in Great Yarmouth and the town lies outside of the catchment area specified by Sport England.
- Bowls: The 1 bowling green located at Dairy Hill meets existing demand.
- Netball: There are no netball courts available in Halesworth.
- Tennis: The 3 courts located at Dairy Hill meet existing demand.

### Recommendations

The primary need for sports facilities in Halesworth is for playing pitches. The following could be considered:

- The provision of a junior football pitch, cricket wicket, and rugby pitches as part of the Halesworth Campus project.
- A shared use 3G pitch for football and rugby would supplement proposed facilities at the Halesworth Campus and provide access to all weather pitches.

## Parks and Gardens

in the Halesworth area

### Key findings

Town Park is the only park in the town and constitutes 24% of the total open space (excluding natural and semi-natural green space) in Halesworth. It is well connected to Millennium Green and is located adjacent to the town centre. Key findings for Halesworth include:

- Town Park is of high quality and high value and provides a focal point in central Halesworth.
- The total amount of park provision (0.26ha per 1000 people) is below recommended the standard of (0.4ha per 1000 people).
- Of the built up areas that have parks available Halesworth has the lowest amount of park space per 1000 people.
- Half of the people living in Halesworth are within the catchment area of Town Park (52%). The southern part of the town has the most limited access to the facility.

### Recommendation

With only 1 park in the town the following is recommended:

- The quality and value of Town Park should be maintained to a standard that reflects its importance to the community.



## Amenity Green Space

in the Halesworth area

### Key findings

Much of the general use green space in Halesworth is peripheral to existing residential areas. Millennium Green, classified as semi-natural green space, goes some way to mitigating this shortfall by providing an extensive tract of green space connecting to other areas of the town. Existing provision in the south western part of Halesworth in particular is dominated by passive amenity green spaces which offer little value for recreational use. A majority of general use open space is part of larger open space that can be used for a variety of different purposes. Key findings in Halesworth include:

- There are only 4 open spaces in Halesworth that contain general use areas to encourage recreational activities.
- Open space not designed for any particular use constitutes 31% of the total amount of open space available in the town. This is the second lowest proportion in the District.
- The largest open spaces with providing space for general use are Town Park and the network of green spaces to the south (Millennium Green). This is located near the centre of town and contributes towards creating a focal point in the area for the community and visitors.
- The proportion of sites with low quality and low value is higher than the District average.
- 5% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a usable amenity green space, 23% are within walking distance of an amenity green space larger than 0.5ha and 55% are within 1km walking distance of an amenity green space larger than 1ha.

### Recommendation

Many of the individual amenity green spaces in Halesworth offer limited opportunities for informal activities because of their design and small size, however, they make an important contribution to the townscape. The following could be considered:

- Improvements to passive amenity green spaces to improve the open space network, enhance the public realm and raise the public perceptions of the area.



## Equipped Play Space

in the Halesworth area

### Key findings

The provision of equipped play space in Halesworth is generally good with the exception of the south western part of the town. Total equipped play space provision meets the recommended standard. Key findings for Halesworth include:

- There are a total of 10 equipped play spaces in the Halesworth area (5 LAPs, 3 LEAPs, 1 NEAP and 1 skate park).
- The amount of equipped play space (1.40ha) provided meets the recommended standard of provision.
- Play equipment for juniors is good but there are limited facilities available for toddlers and youths.
- The number of items of equipment and the number of activities they support are below the District average.
- Majority of equipped play spaces in Halesworth offer at least medium quality and medium value.
- 13% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a LAP, 35% are within 400m walking distance of a LEAP and 52% are within 1km walking distance of a NEAP.

### Recommendations

The quality of equipped play spaces and the number of sites that are well integrated into the residential community are limited. The following suggestions could be considered to improve local equipped play provision:

- The equipped play space located at Gainsborough Road could be improved with equipment of higher quality to increase its value to local residents.
- The Chichester Road play space is isolated and suffers from poor overlooking from neighbouring properties. There is limited opportunity to improve the site, however, improving access (visibility and awareness) along with landscaping could be considered.
- The open space at Kennedy Road has limited value for equipped play given its isolated location. The primary use of the site is for amenity. Landscaping and planting on the unequipped part of the site to make it more attractive would add value and complement the play area.
- Improvements to the Dairy Hill play space when residential development comes forward would increase its value to local residents. Alternatively, a new quality equipped play space to support activities for children of different age groups as part of any proposal for residential development on the Dairy Hill site (in conjunction with the Halesworth Campus project) could be considered. An open area to support informal play activities would benefit the development and surroundings.
- The Swan Lane play area should be upgraded when the residential allocation at Dairy Farm comes forward. This would to meet the additional pressure created by the new development.
- Provision of a natural play area within Millennium Green would increase the value of the green space to the community and complement Town Park.



## Allotments

in the Halesworth area

### Key findings

Allotments are provided at 5 sites in Halesworth. Existing provision of 1.69ha meets recommended standards. Key findings for Halesworth include:

- There are 5 allotment sites in the town with a total of 77 plots.
- The provision of allotments is higher than the District average (0.35ha per 1,000 people).
- The current demand for plots is stable with no existing vacancies.
- A majority of people living in Halesworth are within the catchment area of an allotment.
- The lowest level of access is in the west of the town.

### Recommendation

Existing allotment provision in Halesworth is good. Additional provision in the future could be considered including:

- Provision of allotments in the western part of the town if opportunities arise and there is an identified demand for these facilities.

## Cemeteries and Churchyards

in the Halesworth area

### Key findings

There is 1 cemetery and 1 churchyard in Halesworth. At present there is enough burial land available in the town. In the town centre St Mary's Church and its adjoining churchyard are important to the setting and character of the area and provide habitat for wildlife.

### Recommendation

No additional burial land is required in the near future, however, the following is recommended:

- Consider implementing maintenance practices to have greater benefit for biodiversity.

## Green Corridors

in the Halesworth area

### Key findings

The most significant green corridor in Halesworth is Millennium Green. This which connects a variety of green spaces including semi-natural green space, general use open spaces and areas for equipped play. The network also connects with the railway line which links the built up area with the open countryside.

- The most significant open space network is focussed around Town Park and Millennium Green.
- The New Reach River provides an ecological corridor through the town and links the built up area to the open countryside.
- The Blyth and Wang Valleys are important ecological corridors and provide recreational value for residents and visitors.
- The railway line is an important movement corridor for wildlife within the built up area.
- Footpaths and cycle routes provide good access between built up areas and rural surroundings.

### Recommendations

There is potential to improve green corridors to facilitate better linkages within the built up area and the surrounding countryside. The following suggestions could be considered:

- Improvements to landscaping and planting to benefit wildlife and enhance the public realm.
- Green routes should be considered as part of the redevelopment of the former Halesworth Middle School site and Dairy Hill sports ground to improve connections between existing community facilities and the wider green infrastructure network.
- The quality of the Town Park and Millennium Green should be protected and enhanced.
- The Blyth Valley should be protected as an ecological corridor.
- Support proposals for green corridors around the western edge of the town and connections between Kennedy Close, Basley Park and Millennium Green.
- The creation of greenways as part of the Strategic Gap between Halesworth and Holton in the vicinity of Loam Pit Lane could improve connectivity for residents and likely improve wildlife habitat.

## Issues and projects for consideration in the Halesworth area

- Biodiversity
- Natural and semi-natural green space
- Sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Parks and gardens
- Amenity green space
- Equipped play space
- Allotments
- Green corridors

WDC = Waveney District Council, SCC = Suffolk County Council, TC/PC = Town/Parish Council

| Location                      | Issue                                                                       | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Benefit                                                                                                                                                         | Delivery?                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blyth Valley and Wang Valley  | Important wetland habitat for wildlife.                                     | ▶ Protect wildlife habitats from development and retain quality of the area.                                                                                                                                                      | ▶ Protection of larger ecological network of habitats.                                                                                                          | ▶ WDC. SWT.                                                               |
| Blyth Valley                  | Limited publicity restricts value of the valley as a recreational resource. | ▶ Improve and promote walking routes in the Blyth Valley and surrounding countryside. Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for flora and fauna (protected sites). | ▶ Encourage greater recreational use of a semi-natural area for local people and visitors to the area.                                                          | ▶ WDC. SCC. TC.                                                           |
| Blyth Valley                  | Existing access to the valley west of Halesworth is limited.                | ▶ Improve public access in the Blyth Valley towards Walpole.                                                                                                                                                                      | ▶ Encourage greater recreational use of a semi-natural area.                                                                                                    | ▶ TC. SCC. Landowner.                                                     |
| Halesworth Campus, Halesworth | Shortfall of sports pitch facilities in the town.                           | ▶ Provide a junior football pitch, cricket wicket, and rugby pitches as part of the Halesworth Campus project. Promote shared use 3G pitch for football and rugby to supplement proposed facilities at the Halesworth Campus      | ▶ Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. Reduce accessibility deficiencies. Provide focal point for activities in the town. | ▶ Halesworth Campus. WDC. TC. SCC. Sports clubs. Governing sports bodies. |

| Location                      | Issue                                                                                                                      | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                           | Benefit                                                                                                 | Delivery?                                                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                               |                                                                                                                            | and provide access to all weather pitches.                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                         |                                                                |
| Town Park, Halesworth         | Only park in the town. Strongly linked with the town centre and Millennium Green.                                          | ▶ Consider creation of a natural play area in Millennium Green.                                                                                                          | ▶ Enhance the value of the open space network to the community.                                         | ▶ WDC. TC.                                                     |
| Halesworth (General)          | Deficit of green space available for general use that offer good quality and value.                                        | ▶ Improvements to passive amenity green spaces and public realm to improve the open space network.                                                                       | ▶ Encourage greater physical activity and improve townscape.                                            | ▶ WDC. TC.                                                     |
| Dairy Hill, Halesworth        | Proposed residential development will place additional pressure on existing play space.                                    | ▶ Improvements to the Dairy Hill play space or provision of a new play area when residential allocation comes forward in conjunction with the Halesworth Campus project. | ▶ Provide for increased demand for play space.                                                          | ▶ WDC.<br>Halesworth Campus.<br>Community group.<br>Developer. |
| Gainsborough Road, Halesworth | Shortfall of quality play provision.                                                                                       | ▶ Improve quality of equipped play space. Site is well integrated into the residential area and will increase the value of the play space.                               | ▶ Improve play provision at a well used play space.                                                     | ▶ WDC. TC.                                                     |
| Kennedy Road, Halesworth      | Attractive but isolated open space. Play equipment and amenity space offer low value to the community.                     | ▶ Improvements to the overall site could make the unequipped part of the site more attractive and encourage use for amenity purposes to complement the play area.        | ▶ Encourage greater use of the site and add value for residents in the area.                            | ▶ WDC. TC.<br>Community group.                                 |
| Swan Lane, Halesworth         | Proposed residential development at Dairy Farm is likely to place additional pressure on existing play space at Swan Lane. | ▶ Improvements to the Swan Lane play space when residential allocation comes forward.                                                                                    | ▶ Improve quality and value of play space to cater for increased demand and improve existing provision. | ▶ WDC.<br>Developer.                                           |

| Location                         | Issue                                                                                   | Recommendation                                                                                                                   | Benefit                                                                                                                | Delivery?           |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| West Halesworth (General)        | Demand for allotments is balanced. New development may create a shortfall of provision. | Consider allotment provision in the western part of the town if opportunities arise and there is an identified demand.           | Provide for increased demand for allotments. Encourage healthy lifestyles and social interaction.                      | Developer. TC.      |
| Dairy Farm, Halesworth           | Potential opportunity to connect new development with Millennium Green.                 | Provide connections between any development at Dairy Farm to existing shared use paths in Millennium Green.                      | Improve connectivity with the town and encourage walking and cycling.                                                  | WDC. TC. Developer. |
| Dairy Hill, Halesworth           | Potential to incorporate development into the wider green infrastructure network.       | Quality links should be provided to surrounding open spaces as part of a new development.                                        | Enhance connectivity and access to recreational and town centre facilities. Encourage walking and cycling.             | Developer.          |
| Loam Pit Lane, Halesworth        | Existing route between residential areas is indirect.                                   | Support proposals for creation of greenway from Loam Pit Lane to Harrisons Lane.                                                 | Improve access for local people and wildlife near the settlement boundary.                                             | TC. SCC.            |
| Strategic Gap, Halesworth-Holton | Access to open countryside and between the two settlements is limited.                  | Support proposals for greenways and enhanced use of public rights of way network between Holton and Halesworth.                  | Improved connectivity between residential and employment areas.                                                        | WDC. TC. Landowner. |
| West and south of Halesworth     | Connections between different areas of the town are limited.                            | Support proposals for greenway creation between Chediston Street, Walpole Road, Kennedy Close, Basley Park and Millennium Green. | Recreational route, improved access to countryside and open space, access to public rights of way in the Blyth Valley. | TC. Landowner.      |

# Key improvements to green infrastructure in the Halesworth area

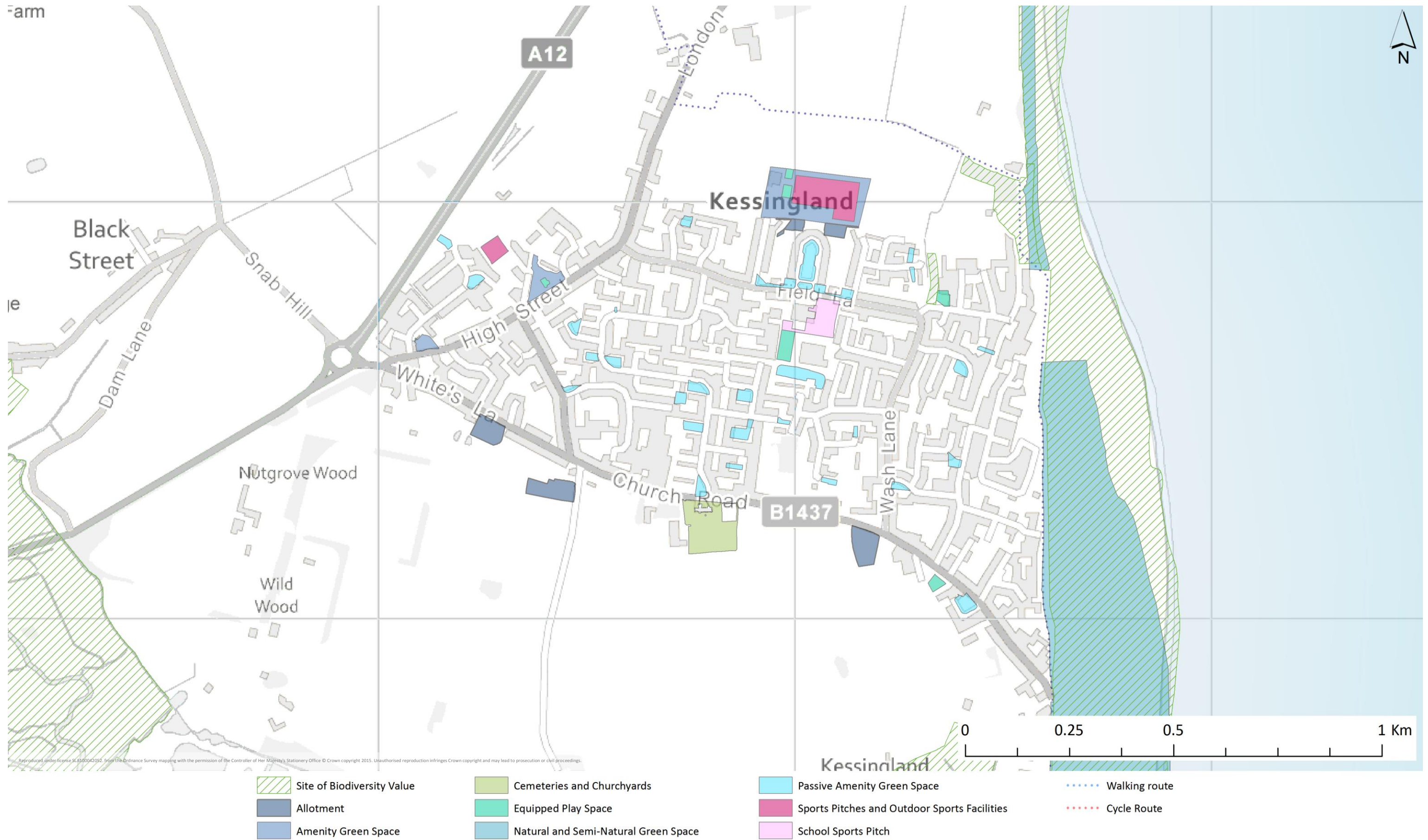


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Kessingland area

## Existing green spaces in the Kessingland area





# Summary of findings and recommendations for the **Kessingland** area

## **Biodiversity**

in the Kessingland area

### Key findings

The village is located on the coast with areas of significant biodiversity importance found along the beach and in nearby river valleys. Habitats are particularly important for birds. Key findings for Kessingland include:

- Kessingland Beach and Kessingland Cliffs provide quality habitats for wildlife that are publicly accessible. Smaller areas of habitat such as tall grasses, woodland and cliffs act as stepping stones enabling species to move from one habitat to another.
- Kessingland Beach, Hundred River Valley and Kessingland Levels provide important wildlife habitats.
- Trees within the built up area support wildlife movement along with small green spaces and allotments. The limited amount of green space of significant size within the built up area restricts the value of wildlife corridors in the village.
- Hedgerows extending north and south from the village into the open countryside offer limited benefit for wildlife. Their discontinuous character reduces the integration of the built up area with the surrounding countryside.

### Recommendations

- Consider the implementation of schemes to reinforce hedgerows with native species, as appropriate, to improve habitat connectivity. This should be considered as part of a long-term approach to hedgerow management and enhancement. This will also help improve the integration of the town boundary with the surrounding open countryside.
- Protect important ecological areas along the coast and the Hundred River Valley.
- Consider ways to manage open spaces to provide greater benefit for biodiversity.

## Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

in the Kessingland area

### Key findings

Access to natural and semi-natural green space in the vicinity of the village is good and meets a majority of the ANGSt standards recommended by Natural England. Key findings for Kessingland include:

- There is good access to the beach from Beach Road but access is more restricted to the north of the village.
- Coastal areas provide good access to semi-natural environments extending north to Pakefield and south towards Benacre and Southwold.
- Existing network of public rights of way provide limited access to the AONB.

### Recommendations

To improve public access to natural and semi-natural green space and protect the setting of the village the following could be considered:

- Improvements to signage and promotion of public rights of way to access footpaths and semi-natural areas such as the beach and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to raise awareness of wildlife value, public access and encourage physical activity.
- Improvements to the beach access in the northern part of the village to encourage greater use.
- Protect the Strategic Gap between Kessingland and South Lowestoft.



## Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities

### in the Kessingland area

#### Key findings

Kessingland has limited provision of sports facilities within the village. The proposed Oakes Farm sport and leisure facility south of Carlton Colville will provide many of the formal sports pitch requirements for Kessingland. Poor pedestrian and cycle routes and limited public transport will restrict access to the Oakes Farm facility, however, these may be improved in the future. The key findings for Kessingland are:

#### Pitch based sports:

- Cricket: There are no cricket wickets in the village.
- Football: There are 2 adult teams in Kessingland that use the Kessingland playing field which has 1 adult pitch. Currently there is adequate provision of adult and junior pitches, however, a deficit of 0.5 youth pitches exists.
- Hockey: No hockey pitches are available in the village. The nearest facilities are located at East Point Academy. This is likely to meet existing demand within the village.
- Rugby: There are no rugby facilities available in the village.
- Synthetic pitches: The nearest facility is located in South Lowestoft.
- Pitches with no community access include: 1 junior football pitch on a school site.

#### Non-pitch based sports:

- Athletics: The nearest facilities are located in Great Yarmouth.
- Bowls: Existing provision of one bowling green in the village meets local demand.
- Netball: No netball courts are provided in the village. Kessingland lies within the catchment area of facilities provided in South Lowestoft.
- Tennis: No tennis courts are available in the village, however, facilities are available in South Lowestoft and rural communities such as Mutford.

#### Recommendations

The Kessingland Playing Field contains the only sports pitch in the village. Access to facilities could be improved by considering:

- Providing an additional playing pitch to enhance the recreational site as a focal point within the village and provide better access to pitch based facilities.
- The layout and design of the site to create an attractive site that can support a variety of uses.
- Improve pedestrian and cycle connections to the Oakes Farm allocation south of Carlton Colville.

## Parks and Gardens

in the Kessingland area

### Key findings

There are no parks or gardens in the village. Existing open spaces capable of supporting a variety of different activities is not of sufficient quality or value to compensate for the deficiency. The Kessingland Playing Field is the largest open space in area and has the greatest potential to be improved to a standard that reflects a satellite park to benefit the community.

- The amount of open space in the form of a park required to meet the recommended standard for Kessingland is 1.73ha.

### Recommendation

With no open spaces having the character or attributes of a park the following suggestion could be considered:

- Improving 1 open space within the village to the standard equivalent to a park would enhance and diversify open space and related activities available. Kessingland Playing Field is the most likely site with an array of facilities available although the High Street green space is the most centrally located.



## Amenity Green Space

in the Kessingland area

### Key findings

The majority of green spaces with amenity value in the built up area of the village are small and offer little recreational value for the public. Many of these are classified as passive amenity green space. The beach is an important contributor to the green infrastructure network and partially offsets the shortfall of green space available for informal activities. Key findings for Kessingland include:

- There are 2 green spaces in the village where amenity has an important secondary function to support informal recreational activities.
- There is a small deficiency in the amount of green space available for informal activities and access to these areas is limited.
- Kessingland is the only area to have more than half of its open space in a form that does not support any particular type of recreational use.
- The largest open space in the village is the Kessingland Playing Field which supports formal and informal activities. The site is easily accessible for residents living in the north and west of the village community.
- 4% of residents are within 100m walking distance of an open space capable of supporting informal activities, 13% are within walking distance of an all purpose green space larger than 0.5ha and 62% are within 1km walking distance of an all purpose green space larger than 1ha.

### Recommendations

With the exception of the Kessingland Playing Fields many of the green spaces providing amenity value in Kessingland are small. They provide openness in the built up area but little opportunity for informal activities. To increase their importance to the community the following could be considered:

- Improvements to small amenity green spaces scattered through the village would enhance the public realm and improve connectivity within the village for people and wildlife.
- Improvements to landscaping and the facilities located at the Kessingland Playing Fields would enhance the open space as a destination and focal point in the village.



## Equipped Play Space

in the Kessingland area

### Key findings

Equipped play space constitutes 15% of the total open space provided in the village. Key findings for Kessingland include:

- There are a total of 5 equipped play spaces in Kessingland (1 LAP, 4 LEAPs (1 MUGA)). A skate park has been proposed at the Kessingland Playing Field site.
- Kessingland has the lowest amount of equipped play space in the District (0.55ha). This corresponds to a shortfall of 0.22ha.
- Approximately half of the population is within the catchment area of an equipped play space. The best provision is in residential areas located in the north of the village.
- There are good levels of equipment provision for toddlers and juniors, however, provision for the youth age group is low.
- Play spaces in the village average 10 items of equipment and 14 activities. This demonstrates that while there is a shortfall in the number of items available the variety of play provision is good.
- A majority of equipped play spaces in the village are of high quality.
- 8% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a LAP, 51% are within 400m walking distance of a LEAP and 0% are within 1km walking distance of a NEAP.

### Recommendation

Kessingland has good provision of equipped play spaces. The following improvements could be considered:

- An equipped play space for young children near the beach would enhance provision in the area and increase the array of activities available in an area already used for recreation.



## Allotments

in the Kessingland area

### Key findings

Several allotment sites are provided in Kessingland which are administered by the Parish Council and other organisations. Existing provision meets the recommended standard. Key findings for Kessingland include:

- There are 5 allotments sites in the village with a total area of 1.61ha. These are well distributed and provide good access to these facilities.
- Most properties in Kessingland are located within the catchment area of an allotment site.
- The demand for allotment plots is high and a small waiting list exists. The Parish Council has indicated further allotments would be welcomed.

The area provided for allotments is higher than the District average (0.37ha per 1,000 people).

### Recommendations

There is good provision of allotments in Kessingland supporting strong demand for these facilities. To ensure future demand is met the following could be considered:

- The provision of additional allotments in the western part of the village if opportunities arise.
- If any significant development is proposed in the future additional allotments could be provided as part of a larger open space.
- Where it is demonstrated that open space is of low value and there is limited scope to encourage public use consideration could be given to alternative forms of open space use such as allotments.



## Cemeteries and Churchyards

in the Kessingland area

### Key findings

There are 2 churchyards in Kessingland. At present there is enough burial land available in the village.

### Recommendation

No additional burial land is required in the near future, however, the following is recommended:

- Consider implementing maintenance practices that will increase the benefit for wildlife.

## Green Corridors

in the Kessingland area

### Key findings

There are few continuous green connections within the existing urban area. There are numerous small green spaces with potential to act as small stepping stones for birds. Key findings for Kessingland include:

- The most important wildlife corridors are located along the coast and the Hundred River Valley with the former also being an important for recreation.
- Hedgerows north of the village provide habitat connections for wildlife and are an important characteristic of the Strategic Gap.

### Recommendations

Consideration could be given to improving the wider public realm and making better use of existing small green spaces to incorporate them into the townscape. Suggestions include:

- Improvements to landscaping and planting would enhance the value of open spaces for wildlife and improve the public realm.
- If the Kessingland Playing Field is expanded a greenway connecting the site to North Cliff should be considered.
- Support proposals in principle for the implementation of a coastal path.



## Issues and projects for consideration in the Kessingland area

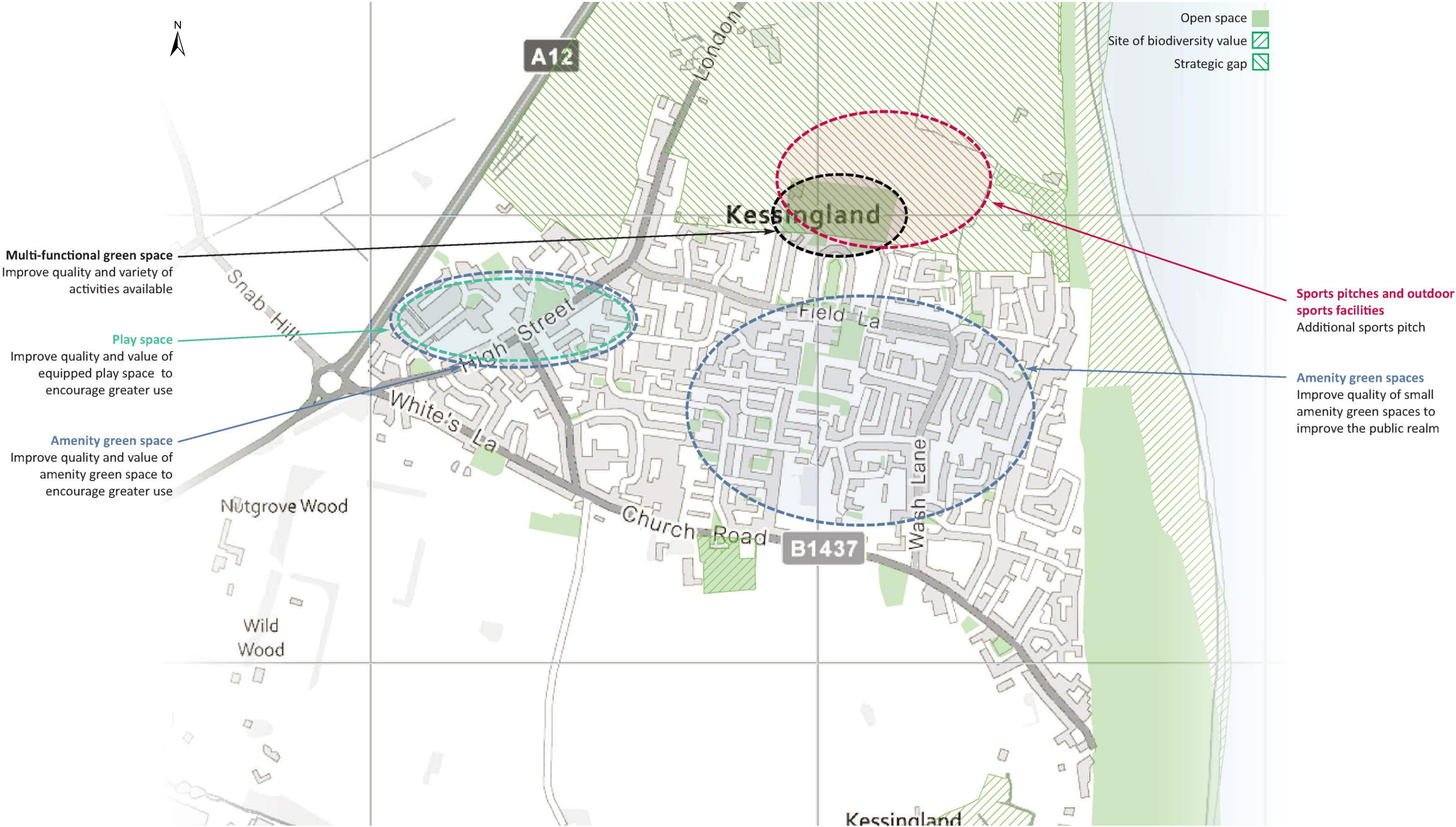
- Biodiversity
- Natural and semi-natural green space
- Sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Parks and gardens
- Amenity green space
- Equipped play space
- Allotments
- Green corridors

WDC = Waveney District Council, SCC = Suffolk County Council, TC/PC = Town/Parish Council

| Location                               | Issue                                                                                   | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Benefit                                                                                    | Delivery?                         |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Coastal areas and Hundred River Valley | Important areas for wildlife habitat.                                                   | ▶ Protect existing wildlife habitats along the coast and the Hundred River Valley.                                                                                                                                                 | ▶ Ensure habitat quality in the future as part of a wider ecological corridor.             | ▶ WDC. SWT. Other organisations.  |
| South of Kessingland                   | Settlement boundary is not well integrated with the surrounding countryside.            | ▶ Consider schemes available to reinforce hedgerows with native planting where appropriate.                                                                                                                                        | ▶ Improve habitat connections and improve integration of the village into the countryside. | ▶ Landowner. Other organisations. |
| North of Kessingland                   | Separation between Kessingland and South Lowestoft is important to identity of village. | ▶ Protect Strategic Gap between Kessingland and South Lowestoft                                                                                                                                                                    | ▶ Maintain identity of settlements.                                                        | ▶ WDC.                            |
| North of Kessingland                   | Access to the beach is limited (stairs only).                                           | ▶ Improve public access to the beach in the northern part of the village.                                                                                                                                                          | ▶ Improve value of the beach as a recreational resource for a wider part of the community. | ▶ WDC. PC.                        |
| Kessingland (General)                  | Public rights of way network could provide additional recreation value.                 | ▶ Signage to raise awareness of public rights of way, footpaths and wildlife value of sites in the area to encourage use. Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for | ▶ Increased value of natural and semi-natural areas for local people and visitors.         | ▶ WDC. PC. SCC.                   |

| Location                                    | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Recommendation                                                                                                                   | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Delivery?                       |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | flora and fauna (protected sites).                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                 |
| <b>A12, Kessingland to Carlton Colville</b> | New facilities proposed for Oakes Farm will meet the need for South Lowestoft and Kessingland residents, however, access is restricted by poor pedestrian and cycle access and limited public transport from Kessingland. | ▶ Improve footway (which also accommodates cycles) along the A12.                                                                | ▶ Improve access to play facilities in an area with limited provision for the youth age group. Improve safety for children and other users. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | ▶ SCC.                          |
| <b>Laurel's Farm, Kessingland</b>           | Shortfall of playing fields in the village.                                                                                                                                                                               | ▶ Extend Laurel's Farm to provide an additional playing pitch to support football.                                               | ▶ Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction.                                                                                                      | ▶ WDC. PC. Other organisations. |
| <b>Playing Field, Kessingland</b>           | Shortfall of open space that can support a variety of activities for different age groups. Shortfall of open space that has good quality and value.                                                                       | ▶ Improve the quality and variety of facilities. Enhance the site with landscaping to encourage greater use and visual interest. | ▶ Improve access to recreational facilities and enhance the attractiveness of the site encouraging greater use. Strengthen the open space as a focal point in the village for activities.                              | ▶ WDC. PC.                      |
| <b>Coastal area, Kessingland</b>            | Limited non-vehicular access between Kessingland and South Lowestoft.                                                                                                                                                     | ▶ Support future proposals for a coastal path linking Kessingland with South Lowestoft.                                          | ▶ Improve connections between settlements and access to the beach.                                                                                                                                                     | ▶ WDC. SCC. Developer.          |
| <b>Kessingland Playing Fields</b>           | Limited accessibility to large open space that offers good quality and value.                                                                                                                                             | ▶ If playing field is extended explore potential to provide shared use path between the playing field and North Cliff.           | ▶ Improve connectivity between the playing field site and the beach.                                                                                                                                                   | ▶ WDC. PC. Landowner.           |

# Key improvements to green infrastructure in the Kessingland area



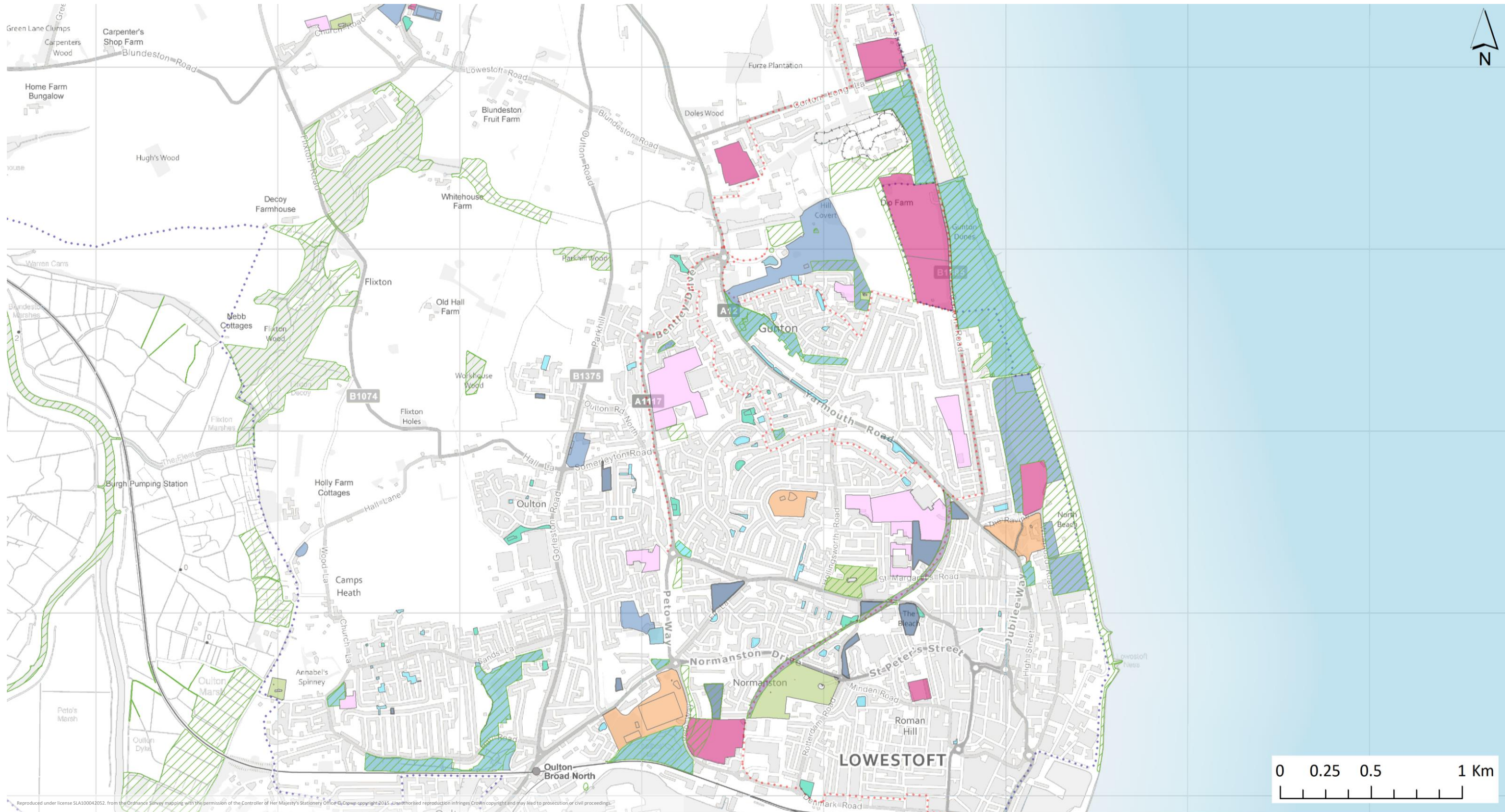
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North Lowestoft area

## Existing green spaces in the North Lowestoft area



- |                            |                            |                                      |                                              |               |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Site of Biodiversity Value | Cemeteries and Churchyards | Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space | Sports Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities | Cycle Route   |
| Allotment                  | Equipped Play Space        | Parks and Gardens                    | School Sports Pitch                          | Walking route |
| Amenity Green Space        | Green Corridor             | Passive Amenity Green Space          |                                              |               |

# Summary of findings and recommendations for the North Lowestoft area

## Biodiversity

in the North Lowestoft area

### Key findings

North Lowestoft has a diverse variety of areas important for biodiversity including coastal areas to the east, wetland habitats to the west and a network of significant semi-natural areas within the built up area, particularly in the north of the town. They provide connections between habitats and enable local people to access quality areas of green space. Key findings in the North Lowestoft area include:

- The Great Eastern Linear Park is a quality elongated open space that links the coastal area near Gunton Warren and Foxburrow Wood to Lake Lothing and Oulton Broad. The greenway also connects habitats associated with several open spaces and private gardens along its length. The park is important for wildlife and people and will continue to benefit the town in the long-term.
- Aside from areas associated with the Great Eastern Linear Park there are few areas of continuously connected habitats within the built up area.
- Leathes Ham (Local Nature Reserve) is adjacent to Lake Lothing and connects to Normanston Park. Green corridors extend from the Normanston Park along Peto Way (north) and Bonds Meadow (west). These areas are publically accessible and are important for local wildlife.
- The built up area between North Lowestoft and Corton has an array of well connected habitats including Foxburrow Wood, Gunton Warren, Gunton Wood and Gunton Wood Pond.
- The proposed development at Woods Meadow provides an opportunity to improve wildlife connections within the development and with the adjacent countryside. Providing quality routes through the Country Park for the public to use could raise awareness of flora and fauna in the area and increase access to areas of semi-natural character.
- The Waveney Valley is a 'strategic river corridor' for wildlife providing quality habitat as part of the Broads.

### Recommendations

To support biodiversity the following could be considered:

- Existing sites of biodiversity value within the built up area should be protected.
- Greenways providing movement corridors for wildlife and people should be protected.
- Consider ways to improve management practices to provide greater benefits for biodiversity.

## Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

in the North Lowestoft area

### Key findings

Access to natural and semi-natural green space in North Lowestoft meets most of the standards recommended by Natural England. Connectivity within the built up area is limited, however, access to the principle landscape features such as the Waveney Valley and the coast are good. These enable access for people to enjoy tranquil settings away from the built up area. Key findings for North Lowestoft include:

- The public rights of way network enables access to semi-natural areas in the Waveney Valley.
- The Great Eastern Linear Park provides an important greenway which connects green spaces through the built up area enabling people to enjoy an easily accessible quality outdoor space supporting wildlife.
- The Strategic Gap between North Lowestoft and Corton positively contributes towards existing wildlife areas along the coast.
- Promoted footpaths and cycle routes provide good public access to areas of natural and semi-natural character.

### Recommendations

Natural and semi-natural green space is important for wildlife habitats and is a key element of North Lowestoft's character. The following suggestions could be considered:

- Support community groups, as appropriate, to resolve issues relating to encroachment on Bond's Meadow.
- Improvements to signage and greater promotion of public rights of way and walks to encourage greater public access to natural and semi-natural areas to raise awareness of wildlife areas and encourage greater physical activity.
- The Strategic Gap between North Lowestoft and Corton should be protected as part of the wider biodiversity network and the setting of Corton/northern edge of Lowestoft.





## Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities

in the North Lowestoft area

### Key findings

Sports provision in North Lowestoft is good in terms of variety of sports pitches, however, with a population in excess of 36,000 people the demand for facilities is often higher than what existing provision can accommodate. An overview of existing provision in North Lowestoft is set out below:

#### Pitch based sports:

- Cricket: Existing provision consists of 38 wickets including 2 artificial wickets. There is a demand of 58 more matches than existing provision can support (approximately 8 grass wickets or 3 artificial wickets).
- Football: Existing provision consists of 14 adult pitches, 5 youth pitches and 7 junior pitches. There is a shortfall of 1.5 adult pitches, 3 youth pitches and 0.5 junior pitches. Provision of changing facilities at Normanston Park would improve the quality and value of the site as a sports venue.
- Hockey: The nearest facilities are located at East Point Academy. Existing provision meets current demand.
- Rugby: There are 2 adult teams, 5 youth teams and 6 junior teams supported by 4 rugby pitches. There is an existing demand for 2.5 rugby matches per week above existing capacity.
- Synthetic pitches: There is 1 full sized 3G pitch and 1 small sized 3G pitch in North Lowestoft. An additional 3G sports pitch in North Lowestoft would enhance provision.
- Pitches with no community access include: 3 adult football pitches, 2 youth football pitches, 2 junior football pitches, 1 cricket wicket and 1 rugby pitch.

#### Non-pitch based sports:

- Athletics: There are no formal athletics facilities located in the town. The nearest facility is located in Great Yarmouth, however, concerns have been raised relating to accessibility and securing track time.
- Bowls: There are 2 bowling greens in North Lowestoft which meet existing demand. Accessibility improvements for Corton Bowls Club and Waveney Bowls Club would improve the quality of these facilities. The potential to improve access and parking is often restricted by existing surroundings.
- Netball: There are no netball courts available in North Lowestoft. Provision of 1 netball court at a school site would meet future demand.
- Tennis: The 14 courts located at Denes Oval and Normanston Park provide adequate provision in North Lowestoft. Use of these facilities is restricted by adverse weather which can result in a shortfall of provision.

## Recommendations

The demand for pitch and non-pitch facilities in North Lowestoft is high. To improve existing provision and meet identified shortfalls the following could be considered:

- Explore the potential to secure the use of school pitches for football or cricket which have available capacity to meet the existing shortfall.
- Explore the potential to provide a 3G football pitch on a school site.
- To mitigate a shortfall of cricket facilities in North Lowestoft the potential to reinstate the cricket wicket and pitch at Corton Playing Field could be explored.
- Support Lowestoft & Great Yarmouth Rugby Club to find a site as a replacement facility for its current playing pitches to enable expansion of the club. 1 additional rugby pitch above existing provision should be provided to meet future demand.
- Provision of 1 additional netball court on a school site to meet future demand and encourage school-club links at schools. Provision could also be considered as part of the Oakes Farm allocation.
- The provision of changing facilities at Normanston Park would support sports activities and sports clubs.
- Support sports clubs and community groups with funding applications for pitch and facility improvements where possible.



## Parks and Gardens

in the North Lowestoft area

### Key findings

The provision of park space (0.46ha per 1000 people) in North Lowestoft is suffice to meet the recommended standard of 0.4ha per 1000 people. Key findings for North Lowestoft include:

- There are 4 parks in North Lowestoft.
- Most residents living in the wards of Harbour, Gunton, Oulton and the northern part of Oulton Broad are outside of the catchment area of a park.
- One third of all green space available for general use in North Lowestoft is provided within a park.
- 13% of households are within 400m of a small park and 28% within 1,000m of a larger local park.
- Sparrows Nest Park is the only destination park in North Lowestoft.
- All parks are of high quality and offer at least medium value.

### Recommendations

Parks are important community open spaces in North Lowestoft. Provision is good and could be improved by considering the following suggestions:

- The existing quality of parks and gardens should be retained reflecting their importance to local communities as destinations.
- The proposed East of England Park should be an open space that reflects the cultural history of the area, its setting and has good links with adjacent green spaces along the coast and with the scores to the west.



## Amenity Green Space

in the North Lowestoft area

### Key findings

The provision of green space available for general use in North Lowestoft is good and supersedes the recommended standard but access to these facilities is variable across the urban area. Key findings for North Lowestoft include:

- North Lowestoft has the greatest amount of general purpose green space in the District. These are well distributed throughout the built up area except for the areas of Oulton Broad and Harbour wards. In these areas there is poor access to open space.
- The majority of open spaces with general purpose green spaces are larger than 1 hectare. These areas are often included as part of a park. By facilitating a variety of recreational activities available they increase their value to the community as a destination.
- A significant proportion of green spaces with no particular use designed into them are of low quality and offer low to medium value to the community.
- 6% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a usable general purpose green space, 26% are within walking distance of a general purpose green space larger than 0.5ha and 68% are within 1km walking distance of a general purpose green space larger than 1ha.

### Recommendations

Much of the green space in North Lowestoft suitable for informal activities is concentrated within larger green spaces that could be improved as destinations. The following could be considered to improve their value:

- Enhance pedestrian and cycle routes to improve access to open space and related facilities.
- Provide quality connections between green spaces and the proposed Country Park at Woods Meadow.
- The proposed Country Park and connecting greenway should be designed to be overlooked to increase natural surveillance.
- Consideration should be given to how the proposed Woods Meadow development will connect to existing open spaces how these will contribute towards creating a quality public realm.
- Consideration should be given to how the layout, provision of ancillary facilities, planting and landscaping could be improved to enhance the quality and value of the large green space at Kesgrave Drive. Improving the connections with nearby open spaces should be considered to create a cohesive open space network and encourage people to use these areas as part of their routes when travelling between destinations in the area. The Monckton Avenue site should be designed to provide a street frontage overlooking the Kesgrave Drive open space and woodland adjacent to the pond to increase natural surveillance of the area.

## Equipped Play Space

in the North Lowestoft area

### Key findings

Equipped play space constitutes approximately 5% of the total amount of open space in the North Lowestoft area. Play provision is significantly below the recommended quantitative standard and the distribution of facilities has resulted in poor provision in the areas of Harbour and Oulton Broad. Key findings in North Lowestoft include:

- There are a total of 24 equipped play spaces in the North Lowestoft area (10 LAPs, 12 LEAPs, 1 NEAP, 1 skate park (2 MUGAs)).
- Total amount of equipped play space is 2.82ha. This corresponds to a significant deficit of 4.66ha of equipped play space. Existing equipped play space provision is equivalent to 38% of the recommended standard. Placing greater emphasis on the quality and value of large open spaces in these areas could go towards partially mitigating this shortfall (with the exception of Harbour and Oulton Broad which require more play provision).
- The number of children per hectare of equipped play place (2,303). This is 1.7 times higher than the District average.
- North Lowestoft has the lowest number of households in a catchment area of an equipped play area in the District.
- The number of equipped play spaces with equipment for toddlers and juniors is good, however, provision for the youth age group is low.
- 6% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a LAP, 28% are within 400m walking distance of a LEAP and 20% are within 1km walking distance of a NEAP.

### Recommendations

There is a good array of equipped play spaces in North Lowestoft, however, many of the smaller sites located within residential areas are in need of improvement. The following suggestions could be considered:

- Improvements to the Love Road open space. A play area on site would increase provision in a deprived area that has limited access to equipped play space.
- The equipped play space at St Margaret's Plain could be improved with higher quality equipment. The site is located in a deprived area with an abundance of flatted residential units and is well used.
- Quality and accessibility improvements to the Thirlmere Walk play space (and the green corridor running north from the site) to benefit the area with limited alternative provision in the area. Access and the quality of the setting of the space are restricted by Millennium Way.
- The Cambrian Crescent play space could be improved to enhance residential area and proposed new development to the north. Good links to the proposed Country Park at the Woods Meadow development would help mitigate the existing shortfall in the area.
- The equipped play space in the centre of Normanston Park could be improved to enhance the quality of this green space for residents and visitors.

## Allotments

in the North Lowestoft area

### Key findings

Existing provision in North Lowestoft is spread across 10 sites with at least 278 plots. Key findings for North Lowestoft include:

- The amount of land available for allotments (9.09ha) is less than the recommended standard resulting in a shortfall of 1.74ha.
- Existing allotment provision of 0.25ha per 1,000 people is less than the District average.
- With the exception of Oulton Broad and Gunton, the majority of residents in North Lowestoft are within the catchment area of an allotment site.

### Recommendations

Provision of allotments in North Lowestoft is adequate to meet national recommendations, however, demand exceeds supply. The following could be considered to improve access to these community facilities:

- Allotments should be provided as part of new development at Monckton Avenue Nursery.
- Providing allotments as part of the proposed development at the Woods Meadow development (Oulton). At present, residents in the area have limited access to allotments.

## Cemeteries and Churchyards

in the North Lowestoft area

### Key findings

There are 3 cemeteries and 3 churchyards in North Lowestoft. Currently there is enough burial land available in North Lowestoft. Lowestoft Cemetery and St Margaret's Churchyard are important for wildlife and connecting other green spaces in the area.

### Recommendation

No additional burial land is required in the near future, however, the following is recommended:

- Consider implementing maintenance practices for cemeteries and churchyards to provide greater benefit for biodiversity.

## Green Corridors

in the North Lowestoft area

### Key findings

Several green corridors exist within North Lowestoft benefiting people and wildlife. Lake Lothing is an important wildlife corridor linking North and South Lowestoft to the coast and to the Broads. Key findings for North Lowestoft include:

- Great Eastern Linear Park is the principle greenway in the town providing access for pedestrians and cyclists and habitats for wildlife. The route links green spaces, residential areas and community facilities.
- The Waveney Valley provides quality habitats for wildlife and recreational activities for residents and visitors.
- The coast links habitats and recreational areas the length of North Lowestoft.
- The railway line west of Normanston Park links the built up area to the open countryside and enables wildlife to move between habitats.
- Hard urban edges have resulted in residential and employment areas not being well integrated with the countryside.

### Recommendations

There are opportunities to enhance green corridors in North Lowestoft that would improve connectivity for people and benefit wildlife. Considerations include:

- The quality of the Great Eastern Linear Park should be protected and connections to adjacent residential areas should be improved to encourage greater use and promote walking and cycling.
- Significant developments north of the town should provide quality green routes to connect into the Peto Way green route if feasible.
- The green route extending along Peto Way should be protected to retain openness and increase the quality of townscape for pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife. This will enhance the visual amenity of the area local character.
- Improve the greenway between Sands Lane and Hall Lane to provide a quality connection within the proposed Woods Meadow development and encourage greater use of the proposed Country Park. As part of the Woods Meadow development connections should be provided with the Dunston Road open space and the land adjacent to the southern boundary of the Mobbs Way Industrial Estate.
- Provision of a greenway linking the proposed Country Park at Woods Meadow with Camps Heath would improve access to semi-natural areas for new residents in Oulton and improve access to community facilities for people living in Camps Heath.

## Issues and projects for consideration in the North Lowestoft area

- Biodiversity
- Natural and semi-natural green space
- Sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Parks and gardens
- Amenity green space
- Equipped play space
- Allotments
- Green corridors

WDC = Waveney District Council, SCC = Suffolk County Council, TC/PC = Town/Parish Council

| Location                                              | Issue                                                                        | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Benefit                                                                                          | Delivery?                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Coastal area</b>                                   | Important for wildlife habitats.                                             | Protect existing wildlife habitats while supporting public access where appropriate. Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for flora and fauna (protected sites). | Protecting habitats that form part of a wider ecological network.                                | WDC. SWT.                          |
| <b>Northern boundary of St. Margaret's and Oulton</b> | Settlement boundary is not well integrated with the surrounding countryside. | Consider schemes available to reinforce hedgerows with native planting where appropriate.                                                                                                                                        | Improve connectivity between habitats and links between the urban edge and the open countryside. | Landowner.<br>Other organisations. |
| <b>Bonds Meadow, Oulton</b>                           | Unauthorised encroachment onto Bonds Meadow CWS.                             | Support community group as appropriate to resolve issues relating to encroachment.                                                                                                                                               | Protect the integrity and value of the site from future encroachment.                            | WDC. SCC. PC.<br>Community Group.  |
| <b>Waveney Valley</b>                                 | There is limited access to natural and semi-natural green space.             | Improved signage in the Waveney Valley in keeping with the setting. Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for flora and fauna (protected sites).                  | Promote greater use of existing public rights of way and footpaths near Lowestoft.               | WDC. SCC. PC.<br>Community Groups. |



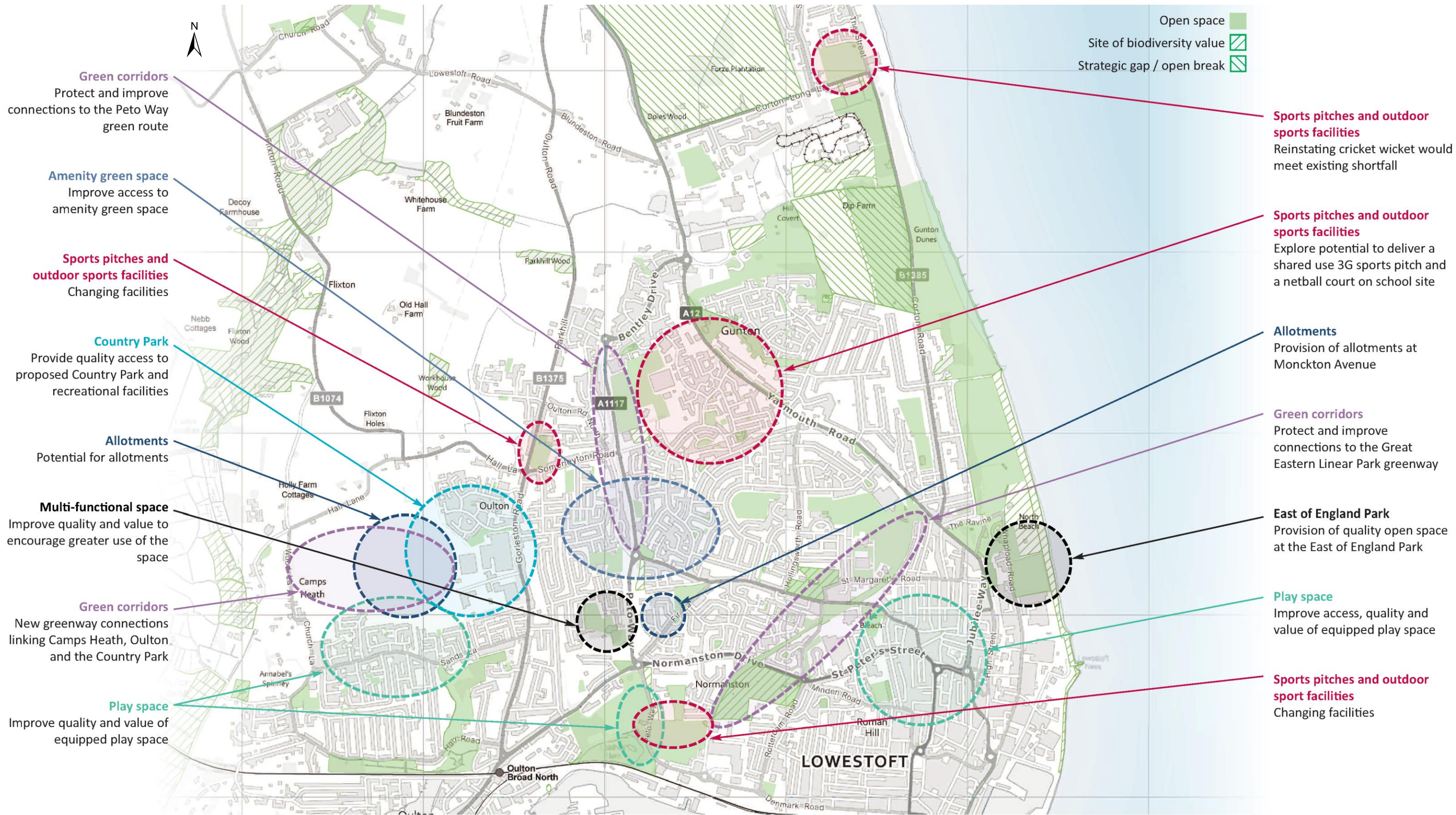
| Location                                                 | Issue                                                                                      | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                          | Benefit                                                                                                                                                           | Delivery?                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Lowestoft &amp; Great Yarmouth Rugby Club, Gunton</b> | Shortfall of rugby pitches.                                                                | Support L&GY RFC to find a site to replace the existing playing pitches. One additional rugby pitch should be provided to meet future demand as part of a new proposal. | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction.                                                   | Lowestoft & Great Yarmouth RFC. WDC. |
| <b>Normanston Park, Normanston</b>                       | Lack of changing facilities at sports facilities across the District limits participation. | Consider changing room facilities to support well used playing pitches.                                                                                                 | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. Enhance quality of open space and potential uses. | WDC. Sport England. Sports clubs.    |
| <b>Oulton Meadow, Oulton</b>                             | Shortfall of youth football pitches.                                                       | Explore potential for reinstating football pitch with new changing facilities.                                                                                          | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction.                                                   | WDC. PC. Sports clubs.               |
| <b>Playing Field, Corton</b>                             | Shortfall of 8 cricket wickets.                                                            | Explore potential for reinstating wicket.                                                                                                                               | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction.                                                   | Sports clubs. PC.                    |
| <b>North Lowestoft (General)</b>                         | Shortfall of football pitches.                                                             | Explore potential to secure the use of school pitches which have available capacity to meet the existing shortfall.                                                     | Improve access to sports facilities.                                                                                                                              | Sport clubs. Education providers.    |

| Location                        | Issue                                                                                                     | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Delivery?                                                         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| North Lowestoft<br>(General)    | Shortfall of football pitches.                                                                            | Explore potential to provide a 3G football pitch on a school site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction.                                                                                                                                      | Sports clubs.<br>Education providers.<br>Governing sports bodies. |
| North Lowestoft<br>(General)    | Sports facilities require improvement to meet the aspirations of local clubs.                             | Support sports clubs and community groups with funding applications to improve facilities as appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction.                                                                                                                                      | Sports Clubs.<br>Governing sports bodies.                         |
| Kesgrave Drive,<br>Oulton Broad | Large open space offering low value to the adjacent residential area.                                     | Improvements to the layout, provision of ancillary facilities, planting and landscaping to enhance the quality and value of the large open space at Kesgrave Drive could be considered. Improvements to the connectivity with nearby green spaces should be included as part of any future proposal at Monckton Avenue. | Improve the open space network. Increase the variety of activities and diversity roles of different open spaces in the area. Encourage people to use open space as a movement corridor connecting Normanston Park to residential areas to the north. | WDC.<br>Community groups.<br>Developer.                           |
| Cambrian<br>Crescent, Oulton    | Play provision offers low quality and low value. Residential area has poor access to equipped play areas. | Cambrian Crescent play space could be improved to support existing residential area and new development to the north. Good links to the proposed Woods Meadow Country Park would help mitigate the existing shortfall in the area.                                                                                      | Improve access to amenity and play facilities in an area with poor open space provision. Encourage greater physical activity and attractiveness of the area.                                                                                         | WDC.                                                              |

| Location                                      | Issue                                                                                                                          | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Benefit                                                                                                                                         | Delivery?             |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cambrian Crescent/Woods Meadow, Oulton</b> | Poor play provision and access to open space.                                                                                  | ▶ Outdoor gym equipment or a trim trail could be considered along the greenway to mitigate the shortfall of facilities, encourage greater use of the space and improve the sense of security of the site by increasing the presence of people in the area. | ▶ Encourage physical activity and create a place or destination instead of just a thoroughfare.                                                 | ▶ WDC. TC. Developer. |
| <b>Love Road, Normanston</b>                  | Shortfall of equipped play space provision and limited access to play facilities. Site currently offers low quality and value. | ▶ Provide play and amenity facilities to address shortfalls in a deprived area.                                                                                                                                                                            | ▶ Improve access to play facilities in a deprived area with limited play provision. Encourage greater physical activity and social interaction. | ▶ WDC.                |
| <b>St Margaret's Plain, Harbour</b>           | Limited access to quality play facilities in the area. Area has a high amount of flatted development.                          | ▶ Improve quality of existing play facilities.                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ▶ Improve access to play facilities in a deprived area with limited provision. Encourage greater social interaction.                            | ▶ WDC.                |
| <b>Thirlmere Walk, St Margaret's</b>          | Area has limited access to quality play facilities.                                                                            | ▶ Quality and access improvements to the play space (and the green corridor running north from the site) would benefit the area which has limited provision in the area. Access and setting restricted by the adjacent Millennium Way.                     | ▶ Improve access to play facilities in a deprived area with limited provision. Encourage greater physical activity and social interaction.      | ▶ WDC.                |
| <b>Monckton Avenue, Oulton Broad</b>          | Potential shortfall of allotments in North Lowestoft in the future.                                                            | ▶ Bring forward existing allotment allocations as part of new development at Monckton Avenue Nursery.                                                                                                                                                      | ▶ Resolve long-term shortfall of provision. Encourage healthy lifestyle and social activities.                                                  | ▶ WDC.                |

| Location                              | Issue                                                                        | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Benefit                                                                                                                                        | Delivery?           |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Woods Meadow, Oulton                  | Shortfall of open space provision in the Oulton area.                        | Connections between green spaces and links with existing pedestrian and cycle routes should be improved to create a more cohesive network and improve the public realm. Provision of quality connections between the Woods Meadow development and the proposed Country Park to encourage greater use and benefit residents of the area. | Encourage greater physical activity and improve townscape.                                                                                     | Developer.          |
| Woods Meadow, Oulton                  | Limited accessibility to open space in Oulton.                               | The Country Park and the connecting greenway between Sands Lane and Hall Lane should be overlooked to increase the sense of security and encourage use.                                                                                                                                                                                 | Encourage physical activity, improve sense of security and improve the townscape.                                                              | Developer.          |
| Woods Meadow, Oulton                  | Limited open space provision and poor access to existing open space.         | Greenway should link Sands Lane to Hall Lane and connect to the open spaces at Dunston Drive and the land south of Mobbs Way.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Create quality links, encourage people to use the Country Park and improve access to local facilities.                                         | Developer.          |
| Woods Meadow – Camps Heath and Oulton | Significant open space could provide additional benefit for rural community. | Create a greenway to connect the community of Camps Heath with the proposed Country Park and Woods Meadow development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Improved access to community facilities for residents of Camps Heath. Improved access to Oulton Marshes wildlife area for residents in Oulton. | WDC. PC. Developer. |
| North Lowestoft (General)             | Shortfall of open space provision and limited accessibility in the area.     | Improve access to amenity green spaces and other open spaces by enhancing pedestrian and cycle routes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Encourage greater physical activity and improve townscape.                                                                                     | WDC.                |

## Key improvements to green infrastructure in the North Lowestoft area



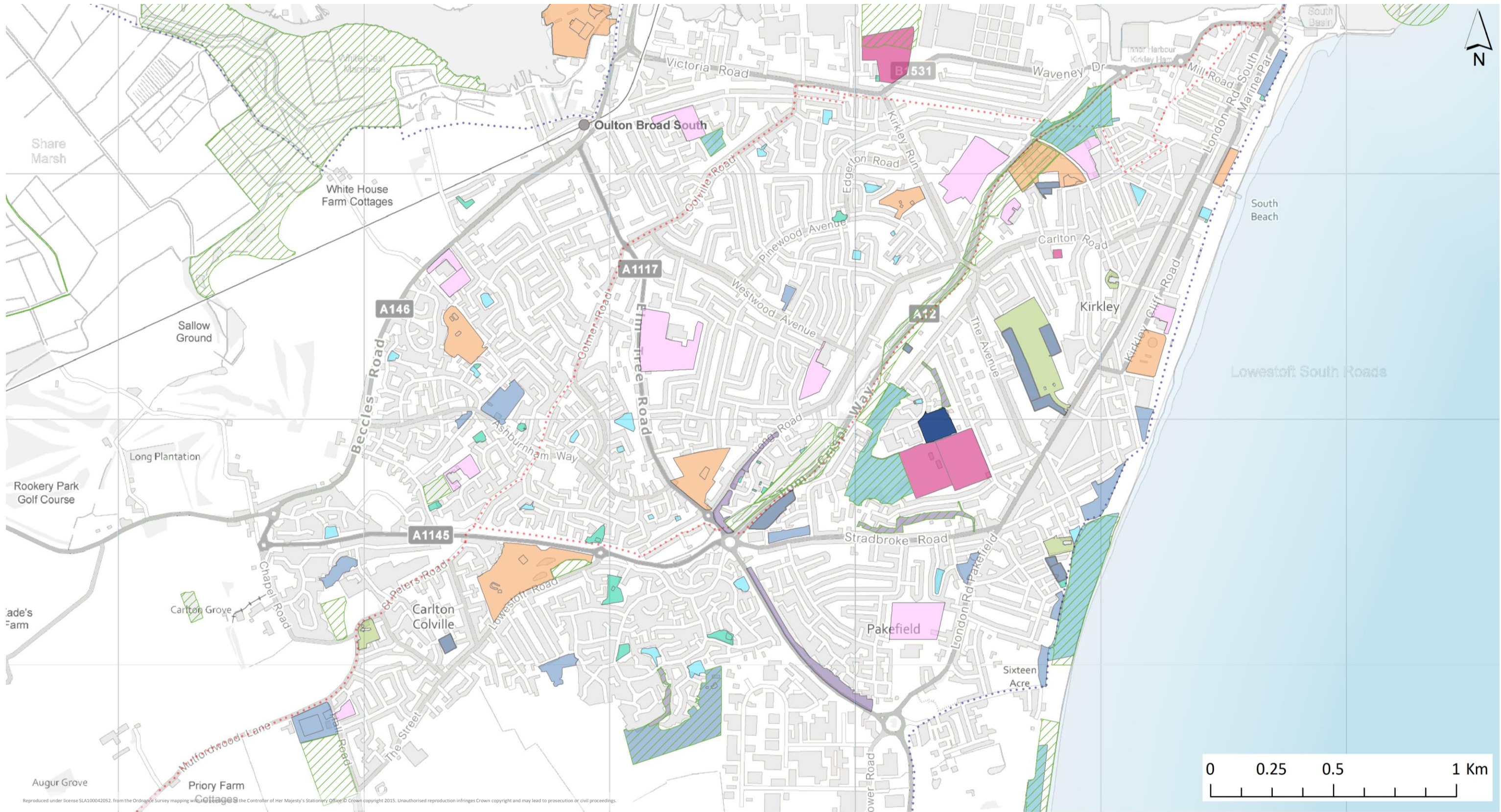
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South Lowestoft area

## Existing green spaces in the South Lowestoft area



- |                            |                            |                                      |                                              |               |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Site of Biodiversity Value | Cemeteries and Churchyards | Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space | Sports Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities | Walking route |
| Allotment                  | Equipped Play Space        | Parks and Gardens                    | School Sports Pitch                          | Cycle Route   |
| Amenity Green Space        | Green Corridor             | Passive Amenity Green Space          | Village Greens                               |               |



# Summary of findings and recommendations for the South Lowestoft area

## Biodiversity

in the South Lowestoft area

### Key findings

The area is characterised by the coast and the Waveney Valley. Key findings for South Lowestoft include:

- The green corridors extending from Lake Lothing along Tom Crisp Way and Castleton Avenue connect a network of green spaces. These are publicly accessible and contribute positively to the public realm. They encourage people to use for walking and cycling and provide habitats for wildlife.
- Pakefield Cliffs and the beach provide semi-natural areas for wildlife and expansive areas that can be used by local people and visitors for recreational purposes.
- The southern boundary of Carlton Colville is not well integrated into the countryside.
- Existing hedgerows and trees provide habitat for wildlife and are an important characteristic of the Strategic Gap between South Lowestoft and Kessingland.
- The area west of Carlton Colville the Waveney Valley is a 'strategic river corridor' and 'wetland habitat zone' providing important habitats and connections between habitats associated with the coast and the Broads.

### Recommendations

Biodiversity in the South Lowestoft area is closely linked to the Waveney Valley and the coast. The following could be considered to retain its value:

- Wildlife areas that form part of the larger ecological corridor in the Waveney Valley should be protected.
- Consider the implementation of schemes to reinforce hedgerows with native species, as appropriate, to improve habitat connectivity. This should be considered as part of a long-term approach to hedgerow management and enhancement. This will also help improve the integration of the town boundary with the surrounding open countryside.
- Native structural planting should be used to link new development and settlement edges into the wider landscape.
- Consider ways to manage open spaces to provide greater benefit for biodiversity.

## Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

in the South Lowestoft area

### Key findings

Access to natural and semi-natural green space is good for people living in Pakefield and Oulton Broad. Access to natural and semi-natural sites for people living in Kirkley is limited and does not meet many of the ANGSt standards recommended by Natural England. Some shortfalls may be partially offset by the proximity of the residential area to the beach. Key findings for South Lowestoft include:

- Several significant sites are protected for their local and international value as wildlife habitats such as the Carlton Marshes.
- Accessible semi-natural green space available to pedestrians and cyclists is likely to encourage greater levels of use. Access is likely to contribute towards improving the public perception of an area when well maintained.
- The southern urban boundary of Carlton and Carlton Colville are not well integrated into the open countryside.
- The Strategic Gap between Carlton Colville and Kessingland provides visual connections to the open countryside and maintains the separation between the settlements. This is important for local character.

### Recommendations

Natural and semi-natural green space is an important characteristic within and adjacent to the built up area of South Lowestoft. The following suggestions could be considered:

- The Strategic Gap between South Lowestoft and Kessingland should continue to be protected.
- Signage should be improved to encourage greater use of public rights of way and footpaths such as the Angles Way.



## Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities

### in the South Lowestoft area

#### Key findings

South Lowestoft has a diverse variety of sports pitch provision in the District. Similar to North Lowestoft, the large population creates demand that outstrips supply. Closely linked with North Lowestoft and Kessingland, the need for a sports hub south of Carlton Colville has been identified as part of the Local Plan. An overview of existing provision is set out below:

#### Pitch based sports:

- Cricket: There is no provision of cricket wickets in South Lowestoft. There is no evidence of demand above what is available in North Lowestoft.
- Football: Current provision consists of 5 adult pitches, 4 youth pitches and 3 junior pitches. There is an existing deficit of 0.5 adult pitches, 3 youth pitches and 1 junior pitch. Consider as part of the Oakes Farm sport and leisure allocation.
- Hockey: There are 7 adult hockey teams and 1 youth team that use facilities available at East Point Academy. Existing facilities meet current demand.
- Rugby: No rugby pitches are provided in South Lowestoft. Needs are met by facilities available in North Lowestoft and Beccles & Worlingham.
- Synthetic pitches: Existing facilities located at East Point Academy and Kirkley & Pakefield CSSC provide good access artificial 3G pitches. An additional full sized 3G pitch would meet existing demand in South Lowestoft. Consider as part of the Oakes Farm sport and leisure allocation.
- Pitches with no community access include: 6 adult football pitches, 4 youth football pitches, 20 junior football pitches, 1 cricket wicket and 1 rugby pitch.

#### Non-pitch based sports:

- Athletics: There are no formal athletics facilities located in the District. The nearest facility is located in Great Yarmouth, however, concerns have been raised relating to accessibility and availability. Provision of a 200m j-track (with the potential to extend into a full 400m track at a later date) would benefit South Lowestoft and the surrounding area. Consider as part of the Oakes Farm sport and leisure allocation.
- Bowls: There are 4 bowling greens in South Lowestoft. This meets existing demand. Future population growth suggests that provision of an additional green could be explored in conjunction with existing bowls clubs if required.
- Netball: There are 5 netball courts available at East Point Academy.
- Tennis: There are 8 courts available at Kensington Gardens and Nicolas Everitt Park. Currently there is a shortfall of 2 courts and additional facilities are likely to be required to meet demand created by future growth. Consider as part of the Oakes Farm sport and leisure allocation.

## Recommendations

There is a significant deficit of sports pitch facilities in South Lowestoft. Improved provision and access to facilities is likely to benefit Lowestoft and the wider area. The following suggestions could be considered:

- 9 youth and 9 junior football pitches should be provided as part of the Oakes Farm development.
- If there is an identified demand for a bowling green in South Lowestoft provision and additional green could be considered at Oakes Farm. This should involve discussions with existing bowling clubs in the area.
- Provide a 200m J-track to provide running training facilities that can be extended into a full 400m track in the future if the opportunity arises at Oakes Farm.
- The provision of 4 tennis courts with flood lighting could be considered as part of the Oakes Farm development.
- A cycle circuit as part of the Oakes Farm development for training and racing purposes should be considered.
- School-club links at schools with no community use should be encouraged to improve netball provision. Potentially consider netball provision as part of the Oakes Farm allocation if is a demonstrated need.
- Explore potential use of youth and junior playing pitches located on school sites that could be used to meet current demand.
- Support local clubs to deliver a full sized 3G pitch that can be used in all weather.
- Support sports clubs and community groups with funding applications for pitch and facility improvements where possible.



## Parks and Gardens

in the South Lowestoft area

### Key findings

Parks and gardens are integral to the green infrastructure network in South Lowestoft. Existing provision is equivalent to 0.66ha per 1000 people which is higher than the recommended standard of 0.4ha per 1000 people.

- There is 1 destination park, 2 local parks, 3 satellite parks and 2 formal gardens in South Lowestoft. The area has the largest number of parks of any of the assessed areas in the District.
- Half of all open space is in the form of a park or garden.
- South Lowestoft has the greatest amount of park and garden space per person in the District.
- Over 50% of population lies within the catchment of a local park and all are within 5km of a destination park.
- All parks are of at least medium quality and offer medium value.
- The residential areas of Pakefield and Whitton have limited access to parks and gardens.

### Recommendations

Compared to other areas of the District, South Lowestoft has a good number of parks distributed throughout the residential area. To improve their value to the community the following could be considered:

- Improving open spaces located at Bitten Road and Chaukers Crescent to increase their value to the community.
- The provision of good, attractive connections to the new open space proposed in the centre of the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood will benefit new residents in the area and existing residents in Whitton.



## Amenity Green Space

in the South Lowestoft area

### Key findings

The amount of green space in South Lowestoft available for informal activities is less than half the amount provided in North Lowestoft. It is also below the District average. These all purpose green spaces are generally larger than 0.5ha and this size is likely to increase the recreational benefits they provide for the wider community. Much of South Lowestoft's population lies within the catchment of a general purpose green space with the exception of areas located in Whitton and Pakefield. The beach provides additional access to open space with amenity value. Key findings for South Lowestoft include:

- There is a good distribution of general purpose green spaces through the residential area.
- A high proportion of green space to support informal activities is available as part of a space that is capable of supporting a variety of other more formal uses. Most of these sites are larger than 0.5 hectares.
- Most general purpose green spaces offer medium to high value for the community.
- South Lowestoft is the second most deprived area of the District and has second largest deficit of green space available for informal activities.
- South Lowestoft has the best accessibility to green space able to support informal activities in the District. 12% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a usable general purpose green space, 54% are within walking distance of a general purpose green space larger than 0.5ha and 88% are within 1km walking distance of a general purpose green space larger than 1ha.

### Recommendations

With the exception of the wards of Whitton and Pakefield the provision of green space to support informal activities is good. Access to quality spaces such as these could be improved by considering the following:

- Improving access to general purpose green space of good quality in the Pakefield and Kirkley area could encourage greater use, benefit the public realm and improve the perception of the area.
- Consider improving green spaces in the Britten Road and Oakwood Road area where there are existing shortfalls of quality open space facilities.
- Consider improving the quality of Bixley Green to encourage greater use, community ownership and raise its value to residents.

## Equipped Play Space

### in the South Lowestoft area

#### Key findings

There is a total of 45ha of open space in South Lowestoft with 2.28ha classified as equipped play space (5%). In a similar pattern to North Lowestoft, the area has a large population and the smallest amount of provision in terms of area per person. Key findings for South Lowestoft include:

- There are a total of 30 equipped play spaces in the South Lowestoft area (19 LAPs, 6 LEAPs, 4 NEAP, 1 skate park (1 MUGA)).
- There is an existing deficit of 4.9ha of equipped play space. Existing play space provision is equivalent to 32% of the recommended standard. Given the limited potential to create new green spaces in existing residential areas greater emphasis should be placed on improving quality and value of existing facilities or providing play equipment on existing open spaces, where appropriate, to help mitigate this shortfall.
- South Lowestoft has the lowest provision of equipped play space per 1,000 children in the District (0.37ha). This is half the District average (0.75ha).
- Number of children per hectare of play space in South Lowestoft (2,738) is twice the District average (1,335) and more than seven times that of Southwold & Reydon (356).
- Two thirds of equipped play spaces are LAPs. This is the highest proportion in the District. LAPs are generally associated with providing low value for the community.
- The number of play spaces with equipment for juniors is good. Provision for toddlers and youths is relatively low.
- The highest quality equipped play spaces offering the best value to the community are associated with larger open spaces that support a variety of activities in addition to play.
- South Lowestoft is the second most deprived area in the District and has a disproportionate number of low quality and low value play spaces.
- 8% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a LAP, 27% are within 400m walking distance of a LEAP and 44% are within 1km walking distance of a NEAP.

#### Recommendations

There are a good number of equipped play spaces in South Lowestoft, however, there is a significant deficit relative to the size of the population. The following suggestions could be considered to improve access to these facilities:

- Improve the quality and value of play spaces in the central area of South Lowestoft where there is a shortfall of provision. This could contribute towards mitigating the shortfall in land available for equipped play and raise the public perception of the area.
- The Ranville play space requires improvement. Consideration should be given towards identifying the role it is intended to fulfil in the townscape.
- The Deepdale open space and play area require improvement. Consideration could be given to its value as an amenity and equipped play space or whether an alternative form of open space use would provide greater benefit to the community.

- Consider improving the equipped play space and providing better landscaping in the unequipped area of the site located at Pakefield Green to make it more attractive and provide greater value in an area where there is an existing shortfall.
- In a prime tourist location, consideration should be given to improving the play facilities at Tides Reach to benefit residents and visitors.

## Allotments

in the South Lowestoft area

### Key findings

Existing allotment provision in South Lowestoft totals 4.09ha and is spread over 10 sites. Key findings for South Lowestoft include:

- The current waiting list is in excess of 120 people.
- Existing provision meets about half of the recommended standard suggested by the National Allotment Association (equivalent to a shortfall of approximately 250 plots).
- South Lowestoft has the second lowest amount of provision of allotments per 1000 people in the District (0.12ha per 1,000 people).
- To meet the recommended standard of 0.25ha per 1000 people an additional 6.22ha of allotments is required.
- The majority of residents in South Lowestoft are located within a catchment area of an allotment site.

### Recommendations

A significant deficit of allotments is present in South Lowestoft. The following suggestions could be considered to improve access to these facilities:

- Explore the potential to allocate land for allotments as part of a review of the Local Plan.
- Consider including allotments as part of the Oakes Farm leisure allocation when brought forward. The site is currently used for agriculture.
- Explore the potential to deliver allotments as an alternative use of open space where existing general use green spaces are considered to be of low quality, offer low value in their current form and there is minimal scope for improvement.
- Consider the potential to use a section of the Britten Road open space (northwest part of the site) for allotments subject to no vehicle access being allowed (this would encroach onto the existing open space and further reduce the width of the open space which has already been eroded in the past and reduce the attractiveness of the site). Use of this part of the site could increase the presence of people and natural surveillance, lessen the effect of a harsh fenced boundary and reduce the perceived isolated nature of this part of the site. The area has an existing deficiency of open space therefore potential changes should be considered in the context of how the space is used and how this might impact on open space provision in the surrounding area.



## Cemeteries and Churchyards

in the South Lowestoft area

### Key findings

There is 1 cemetery and 4 churchyards in South Lowestoft. At present there is enough burial land available in South Lowestoft. In the town centre existing churchyards are important to the setting and character of the area and contribute towards the wider green infrastructure network. Kirkley Cemetery is an important open space connecting residential areas and it provides habitats for wildlife.

### Recommendation

No additional burial land is required in the near future, however, the following is recommended:

- Consider implementing maintenance practices to provide greater benefit biodiversity.



## Green Corridors

in the South Lowestoft area

### Key findings

There are two significant wildlife corridors existing in South Lowestoft including Tom Crisp Way/Castleton Avenue and areas along the coast. Lake Lothing provides a link between habitats in North Lowestoft and the Broads. Key findings for South Lowestoft include:

- Tom Crisp Way and Castleton Avenue are the primary green routes connecting residential areas, community facilities and the town centre.
- A variety of habitats are located along the Tom Crisp Way and Castleton Avenue including drainage ponds, woodland, hedges and shrubs.
- The beach is a key link between green spaces located along and near the coast.
- Outside of Carlton Colville the provision of green routes between open spaces is relatively limited.
- The railway line south of Oulton Broad provides a link between the open countryside and the built up area.
- Protected habitats along the River Waveney provide an important ecological corridor linking the area to the Broads. They provide recreational value for residents and visitors.
- The southern boundary of Carlton Colville is not well integrated with the surrounding countryside and has limited capacity to support wildlife.

### Recommendations

The main issues in South Lowestoft are related to connectivity between green spaces. The following could be considered:

- Small open spaces that potentially act as a stepping stones for wildlife species travelling between the countryside and the urban area and nearby open spaces should be protected.
- The public realm along Kirkley Run could be improved to create quality connections to the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood, the proposed new playing field and play space to mitigate the existing shortfall of open space.
- Protecting and enhancing the quality of open space connections between the built up area and the countryside better integrate the built up area with the surrounding countryside.
- The reinforcement of hedgerows with native planting south of the Carlton Colville boundary would improve integration with the countryside and wildlife habitats.

## Issues and projects for consideration in the South Lowestoft area

- Biodiversity
- Natural and semi-natural green space
- Sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Parks and gardens
- Amenity green space
- Equipped play space
- Allotments
- Green corridors

WDC = Waveney District Council    SCC = Suffolk County Council    TC/PC = Town/Parish Council

| Location                                     | Issue                                                                                        | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                             | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                | Delivery?                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Area south of Pakefield and Carlton Colville | Settlement boundary is not well integrated with surrounding countryside.                     | Consider schemes available to reinforce hedgerows with native planting where appropriate.                                                                                                                  | Improve connectivity between habitats and links between the urban edge and the open countryside.                                                                                       | Landowner.<br>Other organisations.                                                       |
| Waveney Valley                               | Areas of public access often difficult to find and educational information is often limited. | Improve signage to promote public rights of way and footpaths. Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for flora and fauna (protected sites). | Encourage greater use of the public rights of way network such as the Angles Way for local residential and visitors. Raise awareness of the importance of local habitats for wildlife. | WDC. TC. Other organisations.                                                            |
| Oakes Farm, Carlton Colville                 | Existing shortfall of football pitches.                                                      | Provide 9 youth and 9 junior football pitches as part of the Oakes Farm development to meet existing shortfalls and future demand.                                                                         | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction.                                                                        | WDC.<br>Sport England.<br>Governing sports bodies.<br>Community Groups.<br>Sports clubs. |

| Location                     | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                    | Benefit                                                                                                         | Delivery?                                                                                |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oakes Farm, Carlton Colville | No athletics running track is in the District. Existing issue with accessing facilities and securing track time. The nearest facilities are in Great Yarmouth and Norwich.                              | Provide a 200m J-track to provide running training facilities that can be extended into a full 400m track in the future if the opportunity arises.                                | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | WDC.<br>Sport England.<br>Governing sports bodies.<br>Community groups.<br>Sports clubs. |
| Oakes Farm, Carlton Colville | Existing shortfall of tennis courts and future development will increase future demand. Weather and daylight reduce availability of courts for use.                                                     | Provide 4 tennis courts with flood lighting at Oakes Farm. Consider covered courts to increase capacity.                                                                          | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | WDC.<br>Sports providers.<br>Sport England.                                              |
| Oakes Farm, Carlton Colville | No cycle provision in the District or surrounding districts. Nearest facility is in Welwyn Garden City. Cycle training facility would encourage greater participation in a safe environment for racing. | Provide a cycle circuit for training and racing purposes. (Potential provision should consider sites in the western part of the District which may have a larger catchment area.) | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | WDC.<br>Cycle clubs.<br>British Cycling.                                                 |
| South Lowestoft (General)    | Existing shortfall of football pitches.                                                                                                                                                                 | Explore potential use of school youth and junior pitches to meet current demand.                                                                                                  | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | Sports clubs.<br>Education providers.                                                    |
| South Lowestoft (General)    | Shortfall of football pitches.                                                                                                                                                                          | Support local clubs to deliver a full sized 3G pitch that can be used in all weather.                                                                                             | Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | WDC.<br>Sports providers.                                                                |

| Location                              | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Recommendation                                                                                                          | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Delivery? |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Carlton Meadow Park, Carlton Colville | Limited access to open space and equipped play space that can support a variety of uses for different age groups.                                                                                     | Explore access to the site to improve safety and encourage greater use of play areas.                                   | Improve value of open space for the community. Reduce the barrier effect created by Castleton Avenue which separates Carlton Meadow Park from a large residential population which already has limited access to facilities offering good value. | SCC. TC.  |
| Rosedale Park, Kirkley                | Significant open space with multiple uses in an area with a shortfall of provision. Play space is of low quality.                                                                                     | Improvements to the quality and value of the equipped play space.                                                       | Improve the value of the open space for local residents and townscape. Encourage greater physical activity.                                                                                                                                      | WDC.      |
| Bixley Green, Kirkley                 | The deprived area has a high housing density and a shortfall of open space. Facilities are low quality and offer low value to residents.                                                              | Improvements to the quality of Bixley Green and ancillary facilities would improve the space and encourage greater use. | Improve value of the site for local people, encourage greater use and enhance the townscape.                                                                                                                                                     | WDC.      |
| Britten Road, Whitton                 | Significant open space offering low quality and medium value in a deprived area that has a shortfall of open space available for the public to use. The site is well used thoroughfare for residents. | Improve landscaping, planting and quality of play facilities.                                                           | Improve value of the site for local people, encourage greater use, physical activity and enhance the townscape. Will create more of a focal point for the open space.                                                                            | WDC.      |
| Chaukers Crescent,                    | Large open space that is well integrated into the residential area                                                                                                                                    | Planting and landscaping.                                                                                               | Improve aesthetics of the site and encourage greater use                                                                                                                                                                                         | WDC.      |

| Location                    | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                   | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                         | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                | Delivery?                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Carlton                     | with good connections. Has potential to be a quality open space to support a variety of uses for different age groups but is limited by a lack of ancillary facilities and landscaping. |                                                                                                                                                                                        | increasing the value to residents. Encourage greater physical activity. Potential to create a stronger focal point for recreational activities in the area.                            |                             |
| Kirkley and Pakefield area  | Shortfall of open space and limited scope to provide new open space within the existing residential area in the future.                                                                 | Improve access to green space for available for general use and enhance the public realm by providing attractive walking and pedestrian routes without barriers.                       | Encourage a positive perception of the area and improve value of sites to attract people to use them. Encourage physical activity and access to facilities.                            | WDC. SCC. Community groups. |
| Kirkley Run, Kirkley        | Shortfall of open space in a deprived area.                                                                                                                                             | Provide attractive connections to the new open space proposed in the centre of the proposed Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood.                                                           | Improve access to open space and ancillary facilities for the residents of Whitton and integrate the new development with the existing community. Encourage greater physical activity. | WDC. SCC.                   |
| Oakwood Road, Whitton       | The open space is not well overlooked and requires community involvement to sustain the space.                                                                                          | Improve value of the space to encourage more people to use the site. Has seating and planting for amenity purposes but has limited facilities to support alternative uses of the site. | Improve value of the site for local people, encourage greater use and enhance the townscape.                                                                                           | WDC. Community Group.       |
| Pakefield Cliffs, Pakefield | Shortfall of activities for children, particularly youths in the area.                                                                                                                  | Provision of a trim trail or outside gym equipment in the amenity green spaces along the cliff top to encourage people to                                                              | Encourage greater physical activity and diversify use of the open space.                                                                                                               | WDC. Community groups.      |

| Location                      | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Recommendation                                                                                                                              | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Delivery?  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | be active, enjoy an attractive setting and potentially encourage people to use the beach more for recreational purposes.                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |            |
| Aveling Way, Carlton Colville | Limited access to play facilities in the south of Carlton Colville.                                                                                                                                                                            | ▶ Consider provision of toddler or natural play area in the amenity green space located between Aveling Way and Milnes Way.                 | ▶ Improved access to play facilities. Provide increased value of the open space for the wider community.                                                                                                                                               | ▶ WDC. TC. |
| Deepdale, Carlton Colville    | Site provides a thoroughfare with a small amount of play equipment. Poorly overlooked and isolated from the surrounding area. Open space of low quality and low value.                                                                         | ▶ If play equipment is removed from the site an alternative open space use could be considered which still retains the public thoroughfare. | ▶ Improvements to play provision to encourage use of the site or potentially providing allotments that would contribute towards resolving a significant shortfall and still retain the site's open space value and pedestrian connections in the area. | ▶ WDC. TC. |
| Pakefield Green, Pakefield    | Deprived area with a shortfall of equipped play space.                                                                                                                                                                                         | ▶ Improve the quality of play space. Improve the landscaping of the unequipped play area.                                                   | ▶ Make the site more attractive, reduce the impact of the adjacent road to provide greater value for residents.                                                                                                                                        | ▶ WDC.     |
| Ranville, Carlton Colville    | Site is in poor condition and offers limited value to the area in its current form. The site is currently over planted which reduces natural surveillance. Potential to be a pleasant green space if improved as it has been designed into the | ▶ Redesign of the site, either keeping or removing existing toddler equipment. Appropriate landscaping and planting should be used.         | ▶ Enhance the townscape.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ▶ WDC. TC. |

| Location                     | Issue                                                                                                                                        | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Delivery?                                   |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                              | residential area as part of the wider green infrastructure network in Carlton Colville.                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                             |
| <b>Tides Reach, Kirkley</b>  | In a prime tourist location, the site has good value but improvements to play facilities at Tides Reach will benefit residents and visitors. | Improvements to the quality of play facilities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Improve provision in area where there is a shortfall for residents and visitors and enhance the promenade as a destination and encourage people to use the beach for recreational purposes. Improved facilities would complement existing beachfront and promenade businesses nearby. | WDC.<br>Beach promenade business operators. |
| <b>Britten Road, Whitton</b> | Significant shortfall of allotments in South Lowestoft.                                                                                      | Potential to use a section of the Britten Road open space (northwest part of the site) for allotments subject to pedestrian access along a paved path but ensuring no vehicle access being allowed (this would encroach onto the existing open space and further reduce the width to the open space which has been eroded over time and it would contribute negatively to the character of the site). Use of this part of the site would increase the presence of people and increase the natural surveillance of the site. The area has an existing deficiency of open space | Improve use of the site and security by encouraging a greater presence of people. Resolve long-term shortfall of provision. Encourage healthy lifestyle and social activities.                                                                                                        | WDC.<br>Allotments association.             |



| Location                                                     | Issue                                                                                                                                   | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Benefit                                                                                                                      | Delivery?                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                                              |                                                                                                                                         | therefore potential changes should be considered in the context of how the space is used and how this might impact on open space provision in the surrounding area.                                                  |                                                                                                                              |                                               |
| Oakes Farm, Carlton Colville                                 | Significant shortfall of allotments in South Lowestoft.                                                                                 | ▶ Consider delivery of allotments on the Oakes Farm site when it comes forward to create increase the variety of uses on the site.                                                                                   | ▶ Resolve long-term shortfall of provision. Encourage healthy lifestyle and social activities.                               | ▶ WDC. TC. Landowner. Allotments association. |
| South Lowestoft (General)                                    | Significant shortfall of allotments to meet demand (waiting list of over 100 people which is equivalent to approximately 2.5 hectares). | ▶ Explore the potential to allocate land for allotments as part of a review of the Local Plan.                                                                                                                       | ▶ Resolve long-term shortfall of provision. Encourage healthy lifestyle and social activities.                               | ▶ WDC. TC. Landowner. Allotments association. |
| South Lowestoft (General)                                    | Significant shortfall of allotments in South Lowestoft.                                                                                 | ▶ Explore the potential to deliver allotments as an alternative open space use on amenity green spaces which offer low quality and low value in their current form and there is minimal scope to improve the spaces. | ▶ Use low value open space more effectively whilst retaining green infrastructure. Resolve long-term shortfall of provision. | ▶ WDC. Allotments association.                |
| Beccles Road / Hollow Lane / Holystone Way, Carlton Colville | Limited connectivity between residential areas and community facilities.                                                                | ▶ Completion of shared use paths and improved connections between residential streets.                                                                                                                               | ▶ Provide good access to community facilities and integration of new and existing residential areas.                         | ▶ SCC. WDC. TC. Developer.                    |

| Location                                                         | Issue                                                                | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                            | Delivery?                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <p>Capstan Way /<br/>Holystone<br/>Way, Carlton<br/>Colville</p> | <p>Shortfall of open space in southern area of Carlton Colville.</p> | <p>Provision of easily legible routes to open spaces.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Improve access to open spaces and related facilities. Improve connectivity between new and existing residential areas and community facilities such as schools. Improve social interaction.</p> | <p>SCC. WDC. TC. Developer.</p> |
| <p>Kirkley Run,<br/>Kirkley</p>                                  | <p>Limited access to open space.</p>                                 | <p>Explore potential to improve public realm to create visual connections between residential areas in Kirkley to the proposed development on Brooke Peninsula, associated open space facilities and the proposed pedestrian/cycle bridge connecting to Normanston Park.</p> | <p>Improve access to quality open space and associated activities in an area of deprivation.</p>                                                                                                   | <p>SCC. WDC. Developer.</p>     |

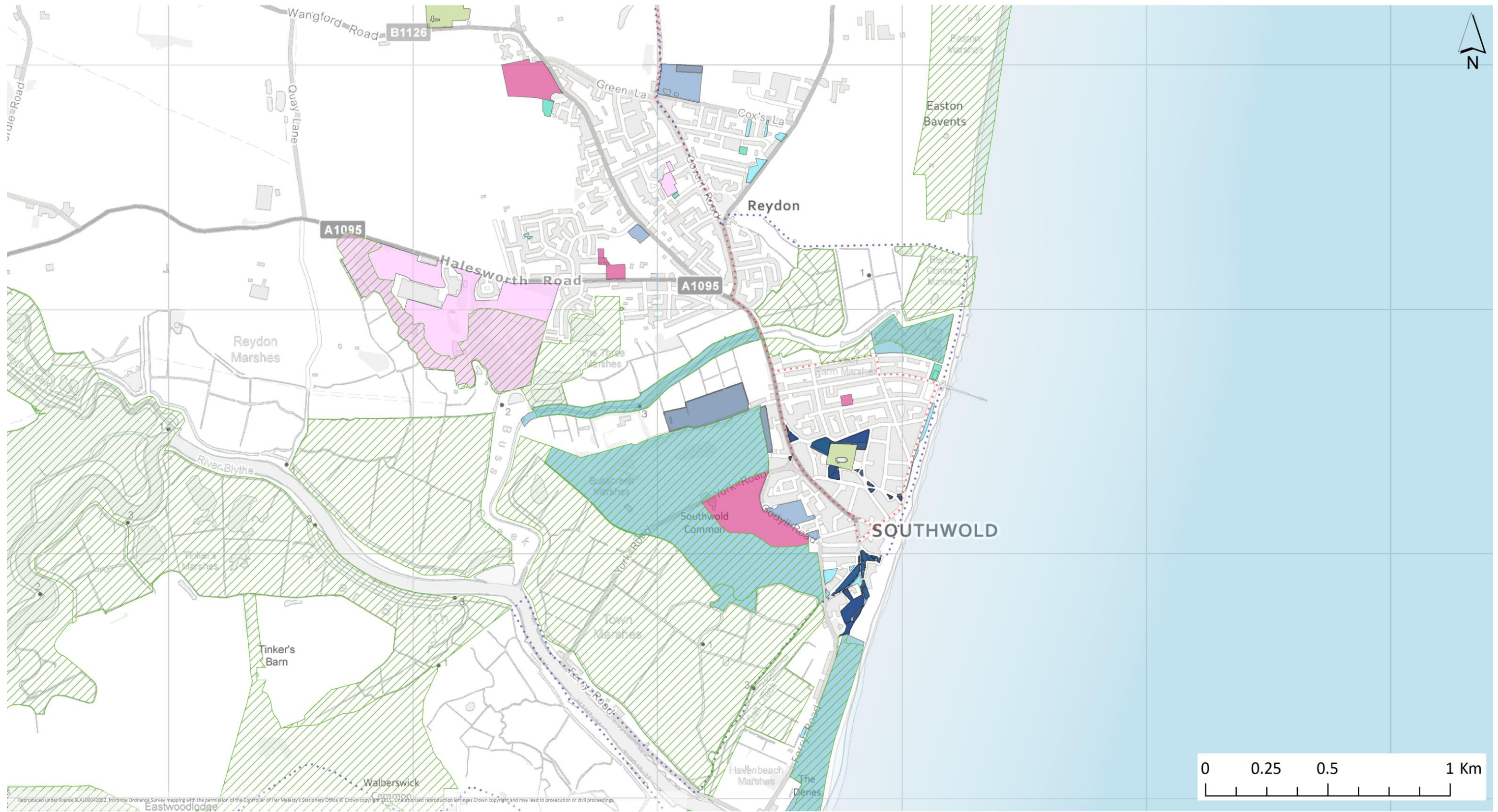






Southwold & Reydon area

## Existing green spaces in the Southwold & Reydon area



- |                            |                                      |                                              |                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Site of Biodiversity Value | Cemeteries and Churchyards           | Passive Amenity Green Space                  | Village Greens |
| Allotment                  | Equipped Play Space                  | Sports Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities | Walking route  |
| Amenity Green Space        | Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space | School Sports Pitch                          | Cycle Route    |

# Summary of findings and recommendations for the Southwold & Reydon area

## Biodiversity

in the Southwold & Reydon area

### Key findings

Southwold & Reydon are located in an area with many sites that have high biodiversity value. Habitats such as dunes, grassland, heaths and marshes are associated with the coast and the Blyth and River Valley extending inland. The area is part of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. Key findings related to biodiversity include:

- There are few sites of wildlife value within the built up areas of Southwold and Reydon.
- Small green space and trees provide stepping stones for wildlife to move between habitats.
- High quality wildlife habitat is located at Southold Common, areas close to Walberswick Marshes, Blyth Valley and along the beach. These areas all have public access to varying degrees.
- The Southwold Denes support fragile plant community that has colonised shingle.
- Buss Creek located between Southwold and Reydon acts as a wildlife corridor and supports nationally rare bird species.
- The Blyth Valley is an important wetland habitat area and acts as a wildlife corridor.

### Recommendations

The area is recognised for its biodiversity importance and has a number of protected habitats nearby. The following suggestions could support wildlife in the area:

- Dune systems and related habitats should be conserved.
- The replanting and reinforcement of hedgerows to enhance habitat connectivity.
- Planting and hedgerow development to soften Reydon's urban edge and improve integration with surrounding countryside.
- The countryside north of Reydon and west of Southwold could support the creation of new heathland.
- Consider ways to manage open spaces to improve their biodiversity value and support public access where appropriate.

## Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

in the Southwold & Reydon area

### Key findings

Southwold & Reydon are characterised by their location adjacent to the coast and river valleys. Existing provision meets a majority of the standards recommended by Natural England. The area is part of a wider network of natural sites and habitats that extend inland along the Blyth Valley, north towards Kessingland and the Hundred River Valley and south towards Minsmere. The area is particularly important for the habitat it provides for birds. Key findings for Southwold & Reydon include:

- The Southwold Denes provide recreational value for residents and visitors and create an important link between the town, Southwold Common and the wetlands associated with the River Blyth.
- The beach provides good access to an area of high recreational value and the dunes provide important habitat flora and fauna.
- Southwold Common provides recreational value and is important for the character of the area. Part of the Common is maintained for sports pitches reducing its value as a semi-natural green space.
- Cycle and walking routes enable people to access areas of natural and semi-natural character.

### Recommendation

There are a significant number of natural and semi-natural areas in Southwold & Reydon. They provide amenity use for residents and visitors, contribute to the setting of the area and support biodiversity. To improve public access and enhance their value to the community the following could be considered:

- Improvements to existing signage and promotion of the public rights of way network including footpaths and cycle routes. This could encourage greater public access to semi-natural areas, raise the profile of the areas and encourage higher levels physical activity.





## Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities

### in the Southwold & Reydon area

#### Key findings

In Southwold sports pitch provision is primarily focussed around the Common. In Reydon the Recreation Ground and former high school provide access to several different sports pitches. A summary of existing provision is set out below:

#### Pitch based sports:

- Cricket: Existing provision consists of 8 wickets. There is a current deficit of 2 wickets.
- Football: Existing provision consists of 1 adult pitch, 3 youth pitches and 1 junior pitch. Existing provision meets current demand. Improvements to changing facilities at Old Reydon High School would increase the value of facilities to the community.
- Hockey: No hockey pitches are available in the town. The nearest facilities are located in South Lowestoft.
- Rugby: Facilities are located at Southwold Common and St Felix School. There is an identified shortfall of 1.5 pitches. Provision could be enhanced with additional training facilities considered in conjunction with Halesworth Campus.
- Synthetic pitches: There are no synthetic pitches located in this part of the District.
- Pitches with no community access include: 2 adult football pitches and 1 youth football pitch.

#### Non-pitch based sports:

- Athletics: There are no formal athletics facilities located in the town. Access to athletics facilities in this part of the District is limited.
- Bowls: The existing bowling green located at Sole Bay Bowls Club is adequate to meet existing demand.
- Netball: 2 courts of good quality are located at St Felix School in Southwold.
- Tennis: 6 courts are provided between two sites which meets existing demand. Access improvements would benefit Southwold & District Tennis Club and the facilities located at Southwold Common.

#### Recommendations

A wide variety of playing pitches and non-pitches are available in the area. To improve provision the following could be considered:

- Expanding the cricket wicket square at Southwold Common to meet any shortfall.
- The provision of rugby pitches as part of the Halesworth Campus to support youth team development at Southwold RFC and improve provision in Halesworth.
- If required consideration could be given to the reinstatement of the pitch at Reydon Recreation Ground.
- The provision of a small 3G pitch as part of the Halesworth Campus development could improve access to sports facilities for people living in Southwold.
- Support sports clubs and community groups with funding applications for pitch and facility improvements where possible.

## Parks and Gardens

in the Southwold & Reydon area

### Key findings

There are no parks or gardens provided in Southwold or Reydon. However the quality of open space in Southwold is high and the variety of activities and environments associated with the Denes, the Common and the beach is likely to offset this shortfall, particularly when considering the small residential population. Reydon is home to the majority of residents in the area. Open space facilities located at the Recreation Ground are not up to the standard of a park, however, enhancement to the facilities and landscaping/planting would contribute towards improving the quality and value of the site.

- The amount of open space in the form of a park required to meet the recommended standard for the Southwold & Reydon area is 1.47ha. This is equivalent to a shortfall of 0.44ha in Southwold and 1.03ha in Reydon.

### Recommendation

With no parks or gardens in Southwold & Reydon the following is suggested:

- The provision of open spaces that support activities for all age groups is limited. Amenity and equipped play spaces areas should be maintained at a high standard to offset the shortfall of park space.



## Amenity Green Space

in the Southwold & Reydon area

### Key findings

The majority of amenity green space provision in Southwold is designed to provide a quality townscape rather than be used for recreational purposes. Much of the amenity green space available for recreation use is associated with the Common, the Denes and the beach. In Reydon the primary recreation area is the Recreation Ground which provides a variety of activities but is not of sufficient quality to be considered a park. Key findings for Southwold & Reydon include:

- Southwold & Reydon have the highest amount of amenity green space provision per 1000 people in the District.
- A high proportion of open space in Southwold is designed to provide openness and visually enhance the townscape. The provision of passive amenity green space is twice the District average.
- There are a higher number of amenity green spaces in Southwold than Reydon, however, they tend to be smaller in size.
- In Reydon the most significant open space providing amenity use is located in a peripheral location north of the village reducing its value for people living in the south part of the village.
- All amenity green spaces in the area are of medium or high quality and value.
- 15% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a useable amenity green space, 33% are within walking distance of an amenity green space larger than 0.5ha and 78% are within 1km walking distance of an amenity green space larger than 1ha.

### Recommendation

Provision of amenity green space in Southwold & Reydon is generally good. The following could be considered for Reydon:

- Explore opportunities to improve access to amenity green space in the south of the village.



## Equipped Play Space

### in the Southwold & Reydon area

#### Key findings

Equipped play provision in Southwold & Reydon is generally good. All residential areas in Southwold lie with the catchment of an equipped play space and only the southern part of Reydon is outside of any catchment area. Southwold has an older population but caters for a significant number of visitors. This creates demand that is above the recommended standard. The beach is an important play area for people in Southwold. Reydon has a larger and significantly younger population than Southwold and the demand for play facilities for residents is more reflective of Lowestoft and the market towns. Key findings for Southwold & Reydon include:

- There are a total of 7 equipped play spaces in the Southwold & Reydon area (2 LAPs, 2 LEAPs, 2 NEAPs and 1 skate park).
- Total area of equipped play space provision (1.25ha) is adequate to meet the recommended standard. 14.9% of Reydon's population is 16 or younger indicating 0.44ha of equipped play space is required (existing provision is 0.48ha). 5.6% of the Southwold population is 16 or younger indicating that 0.07ha of equipped play space is required (existing provision is 0.77ha).
- Southwold & Reydon has the highest quantity of provision per 1,000 children in the District (2.81ha). The District average is 0.75ha per 1,000 children.
- With an average of 10 items and 16 activities per equipped play space Southwold & Reydon have the most provision in the District.
- The provision of equipment for all age groups is good, however, no MUGA is provided in the area.
- On average Southwold & Reydon have the highest quality equipped play spaces in the District.
- 6% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a LAP, 41% are within 400m walking distance of a LEAP and 73% are within 1km walking distance of a NEAP.

#### Recommendation

The provision of equipped play spaces is generally good. The quality of amenity green space adjoining play areas that is intended to be used as a non-equipped play space could often be improved using landscaping and planting to enhance their value and encourage greater use. The following suggestion could be considered:

- Mount Pleasant has limited opportunity for improvement, however, planting would enhance the aesthetics of the site and replacement facilities should be considered in the future with no other equipped play space area located in the nearby area.

## Allotments

in the Southwold & Reydon area

### Key findings

The provision of allotments and demand for these facilities in Southwold & Reydon is good. Key findings for Southwold & Reydon include:

- Southwold & Reydon have the greatest provision of allotments in the District (4.38ha) with few vacant plots.
- Allotment provision per 1,000 people is almost four times the District average (1.17ha).
- The largest allotment site in the District is located at Blyth Road.
- Almost all of the residents in Southwold & Reydon are within the catchment area of an allotment.

### Recommendation

The demand for allotments in Southwold & Reydon is high. The following should be considered:

- Protect existing allotments to ensure long-term demand is met.

## Cemeteries and Churchyards

in the Southwold & Reydon area

### Key findings

There is 1 churchyard in Southwold and 1 churchyard in Reydon. At present there is enough burial land available.

### Recommendation

No additional burial land is required in the near future, however, the following is recommended:

- Consider implementing maintenance practices to have greater benefits for biodiversity.

## Green Corridors

in the Southwold & Reydon area

### Key findings

There are few green corridors within the built up area of Southwold & Reydon. The built up areas are located within an area important for wildlife. Key findings for Southwold & Reydon include:

- The Common, Denes and beach provide a well connected green infrastructure network closely linked with ecological areas associated with surrounding waterways.
- In Southwold most open space provides amenity value and is likely to have limited value for wildlife or contribute towards a larger green corridor.
- In Reydon there are a few green routes that would be of significant benefit for wildlife, however, the surrounding countryside has a wide variety of wildlife habitats.
- The coast, River Blyth and Buss Creek are important for wildlife movement and should be protected as ecological corridors.

### Recommendations

Green corridors in the area are important for biodiversity. The following should be considered:

- The ecological corridor along Buss Creek separating Southwold and Reydon should continue to be protected.
- The ecological corridor associated with the Walberswick Marshes and Blyth Valley should continue to be protected.



## Issues and projects for consideration in the Southwold & Reydon area

- Biodiversity
- Natural and semi-natural green space
- Sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Parks and gardens
- Amenity green space
- Equipped play space
- Allotments
- Green corridors

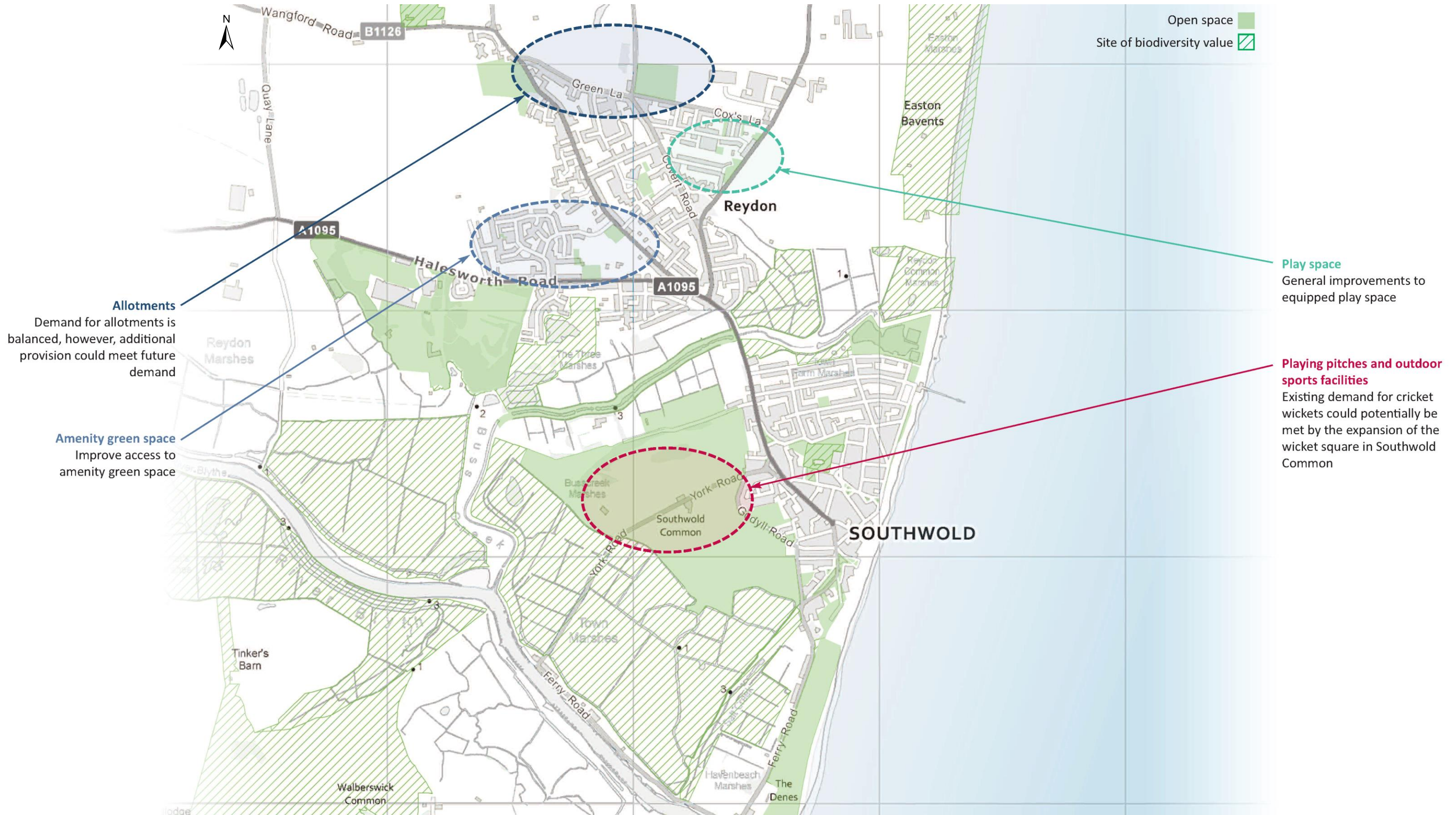
WDC = Waveney District Council, SCC = Suffolk County Council, TC/PC = Town/Parish Council

| Location                                | Issue                                                                               | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Benefit                                                                                                                                     | Delivery?                                           |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>North boundary, Reydon</b>           | Settlement is not well integrated with adjacent landscape.                          | ▶ Consider schemes available to reinforce hedgerows with native planting where appropriate.                                                                                                                                                 | ▶ Improve integration of the village with the surrounding countryside. Improve habitat connectivity. Soften the edge of the urban boundary. | ▶ Landowner. Other organisations.                   |
| <b>North of Reydon</b>                  | Improve variety of habitats for flora and fauna.                                    | ▶ Explore the potential to create new heathland.                                                                                                                                                                                            | ▶ Enhancement of the green infrastructure network.                                                                                          | ▶ Landowner. Community groups. Other organisations. |
| <b>Southwold &amp; Reydon (General)</b> | Existing public rights of way could support greater activity in semi-natural areas. | ▶ Improve signage to encourage greater use of public rights of way, footpaths and cycle routes. Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for flora and fauna (protected sites). | ▶ Encourage greater use and awareness of the value and enjoyment of natural and semi-natural areas, the AONB and local wildlife.            | ▶ WDC. SCC. TC/PC. Other organisations.             |
| <b>Halesworth</b>                       | Shortfall of rugby pitches for                                                      | ▶ Provide pitches at Halesworth Campus                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ▶ Improve access to sports                                                                                                                  | ▶ Halesworth                                        |

| Location                                    | Issue                                                                                                                                         | Recommendation                                                                                                            | Benefit                                                                                                           | Delivery?                             |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Campus (for Southwold & Reydon), Halesworth | training and junior teams.                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                           | facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction.                            | Campus Sports provider. Sports clubs. |
| Recreation Ground, Reydon                   | Shortfall of rugby pitches for training and junior teams.                                                                                     | ▶ Explore possible reinstatement of rugby pitch at the Reydon Recreation Ground.                                          | ▶ Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | ▶ Sports clubs. PC.                   |
| Southwold (General)                         | Shortfall of two cricket wickets.                                                                                                             | ▶ Expand cricket wicket square at Southwold Common.                                                                       | ▶ Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | ▶ Sport providers. Sports club. TC.   |
| Southwold & Reydon (General)                | Limited access to sports pitches.                                                                                                             | ▶ Support sports clubs and community groups with funding applications for pitch and facility improvements where possible. | ▶ Improve access to sports facilities. Encourage greater physical activity, participation and social interaction. | ▶ Sports clubs. Education providers.  |
| South area of Reydon                        | Shortfall of open space provision in the south of the village.                                                                                | ▶ Explore opportunities to improve access to general use green space if any new development comes forward.                | ▶ Mitigate shortfall of open space provision in the area.                                                         | ▶ Developer.                          |
| Mount Pleasant, Reydon                      | The site has poor aesthetic surroundings and limited opportunity for improvement. There are no other equipped play spaces in the nearby area. | ▶ Planting would enhance the aesthetics of the site and replacement facilities should be considered.                      | ▶ Enhance value of the space.                                                                                     | ▶ WDC.                                |



## Key improvements to green infrastructure in the Southwold & Reydon area



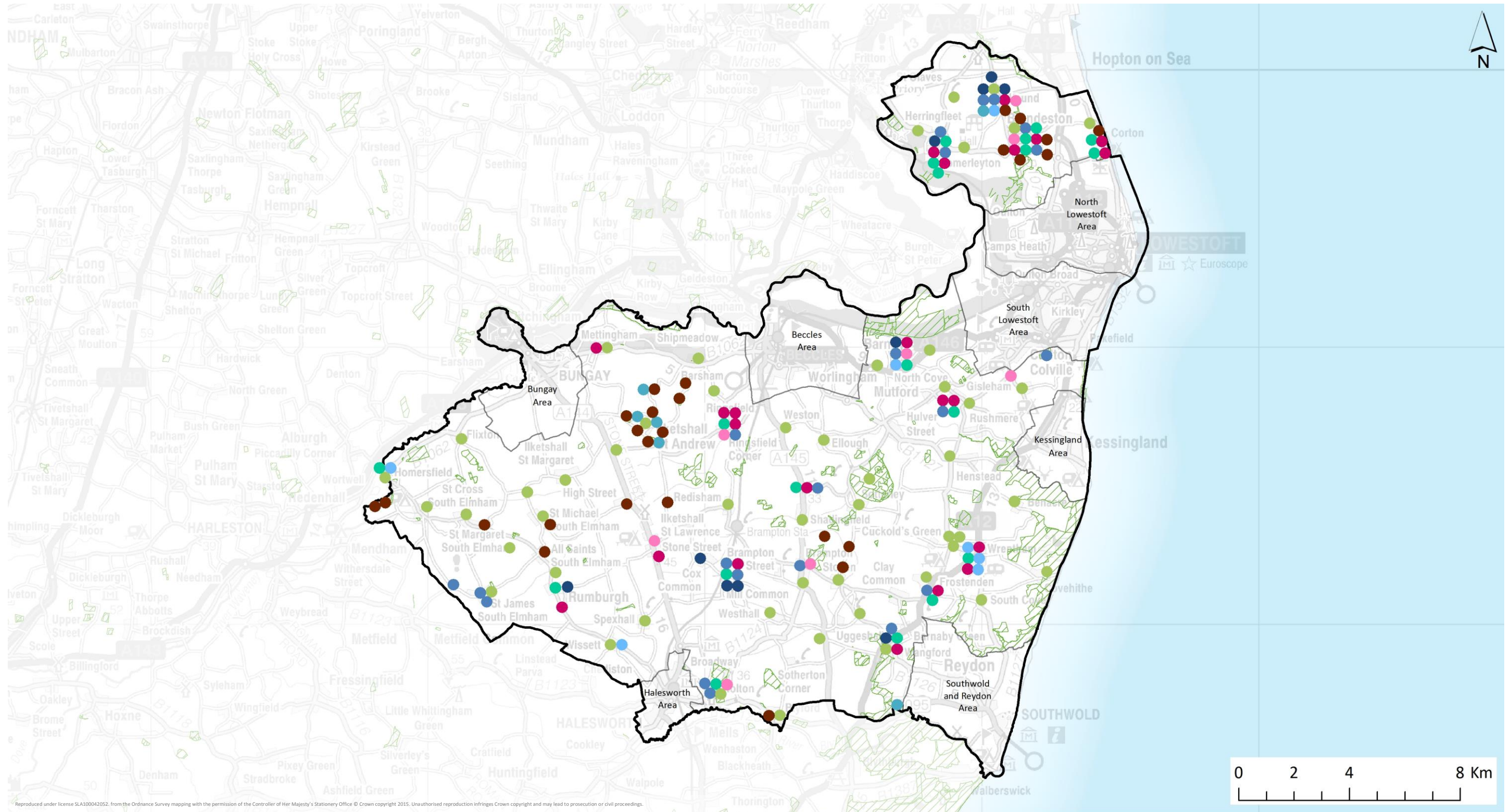
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Rural areas

## Existing green spaces in the Rural areas



- Allotment
- Amenity Green Space
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Common Land
- Equipped Play Space
- Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
- Passive Amenity Green Space
- School Sports Pitch
- Sports Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities
- ▨ Site of Biodiversity Value

**Note:** Circles are indicative of the location of a particular type of green space and are not to scale

# Summary of findings and recommendations for the Rural areas of the District

## Biodiversity

in the Rural areas

### Key findings

Rural areas comprise much of Waveney. Much of the land has been farmed over a long period of time and is characterised by boundary hedgerows and open countryside. Key findings include:

- Coastal areas between North Lowestoft/Hopton and Pakefield/Southwold extend the entire length of the Waveney eastern boundary and inland through river valleys. These areas consist of important habitats and enable wildlife to move along the coast, venture up waterways and access other important ecological areas located in rural areas. Small pockets of woodland support flora and fauna and act as stepping stones between habitats. Many small wooded areas in the countryside are isolated reducing their value as stepping stone habitats.
- The river valleys (Blyth, Hundred, Wang, Waveney) provide wildlife corridors and habitats. They are an important part of the larger regional green infrastructure and ecological network.
- Hedgerows and waterways contribute to the character of many areas. Hedgerows of high quality and good continuity will benefit wildlife and improve the integration of built up areas with the surrounding countryside.

### Recommendations

A majority of sites important for biodiversity in rural parts of the District are associated with wetlands, woodlands and connecting hedgerows outside of built up areas. To support wildlife habitats the following could be considered:

- Areas of ancient woodland and other areas containing areas of important biodiversity habitat should be protected.
- Wooded parklands, ancient woodlands and veteran trees should be conserved for biodiversity and protect the landscape setting of historical estates such as Sotterley and Benacre.
- Consider the implementation of schemes to reinforce hedgerows with native species, as appropriate, to improve habitat connectivity. This should be considered as part of a long-term approach to hedgerow management and enhancement.
- Consider ways to manage green spaces to provide greater biodiversity value.

## Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

### in the Rural areas

#### Key findings

People living in the rural parts of the District have less access to formally recognised areas natural and semi-natural green space than people living in Lowestoft or the market towns. The lowest provision in Waveney is found in the southwest part of the District. The setting of rural settlements provides a visual connection with the open countryside and areas of semi-natural character. In this sense, meeting the standards ANGSt standards recommended by Natural England is not considered to be a significant issue.

- There is limited access to formally identified natural and semi-natural sites, however, public rights of way enable access to the open countryside reducing this effect of this perceived shortfall.
- Promoted walking and cycling routes footpaths around the Waveney District encourage public access to semi-natural and rural areas. Walking routes around Brampton provide access to the countryside and connect into longer walking routes around the District such as the Wolfpack, Adrian Bell, Angles Way and the coastal route.
- The river valleys such as the Blyth, Hundred, Wang and Waveney provide public access to areas of wildlife value, support recreational use and opportunities to raise public awareness of the importance of local flora and fauna.
- Many natural and semi-natural sites are in located on land in private ownership and do not have public access, therefore, public access is not always feasible or appropriate.

#### Recommendations

Rural communities by their nature are located in areas that have semi-natural characteristics. To enhance the value of these areas for residents and visitors the following could be considered:

- Provide greater information about the public rights of way network, cycle routes, sites important for biodiversity/wildlife to raise awareness and encourage people to explore their surroundings and the countryside.
- The creation of small-scale farm woodland and areas of wood-pasture adjacent to existing woodland to improve vegetation cover and habitat connectivity.
- Existing commons and village greens should be protected and explore the potential to enhance them where possible to retain their value to the community.

## Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities

### in the Rural areas

#### Key findings

The nature of rural areas results in small communities spread across wide areas. Correspondingly, access to facilities tends to be limited with provision often available in the closest market towns. Most parts of the District are within the recommended catchment area (drive time) for sports facilities except for the south western area of Waveney. While facilities may be available there are often improvements to surfaces and ancillary facilities that could be undertaken to increase their value to the community. A summary sports pitch and non-pitch provision is set out below:

#### Pitch based sports:

- Cricket: Wickets are available in Ringsfield, Rumburgh and Somerleyton. There is a deficit of 2 grass wickets (or 0.5 artificial wickets) at Somerleyton. The facility is used by Blundeston Cricket Club.
- Football: Adult football pitches are located in Blundeston, Ringsfield, Shadingfield, Spexhall, Westhall and Wrentham. Youth pitches are located at Frostenden, Lothingland and Mutford while Lothingland has a junior pitch. Where football pitches are provided these meet existing demand. Ancillary facilities such as changing rooms could be provided or improved which would increase their value for the community and sports clubs (eg. Wrentham).
- Hockey: No hockey pitches are available in the rural areas of the District.
- Rugby: No rugby pitches are available in the rural areas of the District and the southwest part of Waveney lies outside of the catchment areas of existing rugby pitch provision in Lowestoft and the market towns.
- Synthetic pitches: There are no synthetic pitches located in this part of the District. Provision of a 3G pitch in one of the market towns in the west of the District would improve access to sports facilities.
- Pitches with no community access include: 1 youth football pitch and 6 junior football pitches.

#### Non-pitch based sports:

- Athletics: There are no formal outdoor athletics facilities located in the District and the southwest of Waveney lies outside of the catchment area as specified by Sport England.
- Bowls: The 7 bowls clubs distributed across the District meet existing demand and provide good access for rural communities. Access improvements are likely to enhance provision at a number of sites.
- Netball: No netball courts located in the rural parts of the District.
- Tennis: There is generally good access to tennis courts across the District. A majority of courts are not affiliated with tennis clubs (unlike Lowestoft and the market towns).

## Recommendations

Playing pitch and non-pitch facilities are distributed throughout the District, however, the quality is variable. The following could be considered to improve their value to rural communities:

- Football pitches: Quality improvements to Blundeston Playing Field, Shadingfield Sports Ground, Frostenden Recreation Ground, and Ringsfield Playing Field.
- Bowling Greens: Access improvements at Brampton and District Bowls Club, Blundeston Bowls Club, Lound Bowls Club and Wrentham Bowls Club.
- Tennis Courts: Improvements to court surfaces, fencing, changing facilities or access at Blundeston, Ringsfield, Mutford and Wrentham.



## Parks and Gardens

in the Rural areas

### Key findings

There are no parks or gardens provided in the rural areas of the District. Much of the demand for open space is likely to be met through existing open spaces and facilities associated with village halls that support a variety of activities and create a focal point in the area. Each community will have its own individual needs for open space and ancillary facilities.

### Recommendations

To mitigate the lack of access to a park in rural communities the following should be considered:

- Ensure open spaces can support a variety of activities for all age groups.
- Maintain existing open spaces to a high standard to ensure their high value to the community is retained.



## Amenity Green Space

in the Rural areas

### Key findings

In rural communities green space capable of supporting informal recreational activities is usually provided as part of a larger community open space. They are commonly associated with village halls, providing a focal point in the community. Key findings for the rural areas of the District include:

- Provision of green space for general use tends to be focussed on a single location that can support a variety of activities.
- Green spaces with amenity value are generally of medium and high quality and value.
- The majority of general use green spaces are between 0.5-1.0 hectare in size.
- Dispersed nature of rural communities is reflected in the number of residents within the catchment areas.
- 7% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a usable green space available for general use, 20% are within walking distance of an all purpose green space larger than 0.5ha and 16% within are 1km walking distance of an all purpose green space larger than 1ha.

### Recommendation

Green spaces that are available for general use in rural communities are often associated with other facilities that can support a variety of activities. The following should be considered:

- Maintaining green spaces to a high standard for informal activities to ensure their high value for residents is retained.



## Equipped Play Space

in the Rural areas

### Key findings

Equipped play spaces in rural areas are usually associated with large green spaces that support a variety of activities and provide a focal point in the community. They often have equipment for toddlers and juniors. Play areas for youths is usually in the form of sports equipment, a skate park or outdoor gym equipment. Key findings for the rural areas of the District include:

- There are a total of 16 equipped play spaces in the rural communities (2 LAPs, 12 LEAPs, 1 NEAP, 1 skate park (1 MUGA)).
- There is a shortfall of 0.49ha across the entire rural area.
- Larger villages usually have a quality equipped play space centrally located in the village.
- Play spaces offer the best value for local children in the District. Equipped play spaces usually have a good variety of equipment to support a greater number of activities (average 8 items of equipment and 16 activities per play space compared to the District average of 8 items of equipment and 12 activities per play space). Single sites also support a wider age bracket than found in larger built up areas
- 7% of residents are within 100m walking distance of a LAP, 48% are within 400m walking distance of a LEAP and 7% are within 1km walking distance of a NEAP.

### Recommendation

To ensure they remain an important community facility the following should be considered:

- Maintain equipped play spaces to a high standard with a wide range of activities for different age groups so they continue to be part of an important community space.



## Allotments

in the Rural areas

### Key findings

The demand for allotments in rural communities is high. Where they are provided there are few vacant plots. Facilities are often administered by the relevant Parish Council. Key findings for the rural areas of the District include:

- Provision is higher than the District average (0.54ha per 1,000 people).
- There are 11 allotments sites (6.52ha) located in 7 rural communities.
- 240 plots are provided in total. Most plots are currently being used.

### Recommendation

Where allotments are provided in rural communities they are well used. Existing allotments should be protected.



## Cemeteries and Churchyards

in the Rural areas

### Key findings

There is 1 cemetery and 44 churchyards in the rural areas of the District. At present there is enough burial land provided. In many of the rural communities churches and their adjoining churchyards are prominent features in the townscape. They are important to the character of the village and are closely associated with the cultural value of the surroundings.

### Recommendation

No additional burial land is required in the near future, however, the following is recommended: Consider implementing maintenance practices to have greater benefit for biodiversity.



## Green Corridors

in the Rural areas

### Key findings

Rural communities in Waveney are generally too small to provide substantial wildlife corridors within the built up area. Nonetheless, green corridors including waterways, trees and hedgerows are important for the rural character of settlements and for supporting the ecological quality of these areas. Key findings for rural communities include:

- Trees and hedges help link settlements with the open countryside.
- Important ecological corridors are supported by waterways extending inland from the coast.
- Footpaths and cycle routes provide access to areas of semi-natural and rural character and those of ecological importance.

### Recommendation

Most green corridors in the rural areas of the District are located outside of built up areas. Often they are important to help integrate settlements with their surroundings. The following could be considered:

- Existing ecological corridors within rural settlements and the adjacent countryside should be protected for their wildlife value and their contribution towards the character of rural settlements.



## Issues and projects for consideration in the Rural areas of the District

■ Biodiversity
 ■ Natural and semi-natural green space
 ■ Amenity green space
 ■ Equipped play space

WDC = Waveney District Council, SCC = Suffolk County Council, TC/PC = Town/Parish Council

| Location                     | Issue                                                                       | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                  | Benefit                                                                                                     | Delivery?                         |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Blundeston</b>            | Settlement boundary not well integrated with the surrounding countryside.   | ▶ Consider schemes available to reinforce hedgerows with native planting where appropriate.                                                                     | ▶ Improve connectivity between habitats and links between the urban edge and the open countryside.          | ▶ Landowner. Other organisations. |
| <b>Wangford</b>              | Settlement boundary not well integrated with the surrounding countryside.   | ▶ Soften the urban boundary with planting and hedgerow reinforcement. Consider schemes available to reinforce hedgerows with native planting where appropriate. | ▶ Improve the integration of the village with the surrounding countryside and enhance habitat connectivity. | ▶ Landowner. Other organisations. |
| <b>Rural areas (General)</b> | Some hedgerows have gaps in their connectivity or have been lost over time. | ▶ Consider schemes available to reinforce hedgerows with native planting where appropriate.                                                                     | ▶ Improve habitat connectivity and enhance the traditional character of the countryside.                    | ▶ Landowner. Other organisations. |
| <b>Rural areas (General)</b> | Improvements to existing habitats.                                          | ▶ Creation of small-scale farm woodland and areas of wood-pasture adjacent to existing woodland to improve vegetation cover and habitat connectivity.           | ▶ Ensure habitat integrity in the future.                                                                   | ▶ Landowner. Other organisations. |

|                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                              |                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rural areas<br/>(General)</b></p> | <p>Limited promotion of the public rights of way network and information about natural green space and wildlife value to encourage people are not familiar with an area to access and explore the countryside.</p> | <p>Greater information made available to the public about existing public rights of way, footpaths and cycle routes. Improved signage on public rights of way to show routes and destinations. Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for flora and fauna (protected sites).</p> | <p>Encourage people to use the countryside and appreciate the wildlife that is a part of the local area.</p> | <p>WDC. SCC. TC/PC.<br/>Other organisations.</p> |
| <p><b>Wrentham</b></p>                  | <p>Existing play area is isolated from surrounding residential area.</p>                                                                                                                                           | <p>Consider provision of play area for young children in an open space that is overlooked and creates a sense of security.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Provide greater value for parents and children.</p>                                                       | <p>WDC. PC. Developer.</p>                       |
| <p><b>Rural areas<br/>(General)</b></p> | <p>Shortfalls of open space provision and accessibility deficits.</p>                                                                                                                                              | <p>Support Parish Councils with funding applications to improve facilities if required and appropriate.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Improve quality, value and access to open space facilities.</p>                                           | <p>WDC. PC.</p>                                  |
| <p><b>Rural areas<br/>(General)</b></p> | <p>Loss of value of existing spaces will be detrimental to the vitality to the vitality of local communities.</p>                                                                                                  | <p>Retain and improve existing open spaces and ancillary facilities.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Improve quality, value and access to open space facilities.</p>                                           | <p>WDC. PC. Other organisations.</p>             |

## General issues and projects for consideration

WDC = Waveney District Council, SCC = Suffolk County Council, TC/PC = Town/Parish Council

| Location | Issue                                                    | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Benefit                                                                                                                   | Delivery?                                        |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| District | Access for people with disabilities and limited mobility | Consider how access to public open spaces for people with disabilities and those less mobile can be improved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Increase value of open spaces as a recreational resource to the wider community.                                          | WDC. SCC. TC/PC. Other organisations.            |
| District | Biodiversity                                             | Existing areas of biodiversity value should be protected and enhanced when opportunities arise. Consider schemes available to reinforce hedgerows with native planting where appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                  | Protection and enhancement of the ecological network.                                                                     | WDC. SCC. TC/PC. Landowner. Other organisations. |
| District | Decommissioning of open space facilities                 | If existing open space facilities are proposed for decommissioning when they come to the end of the lifespan this should be supported with a plan that sets out how the site will be used in the future, how it will complement the existing network of open space provision (and related facilities) and the benefit this will provide for the community. | Ensure open space provision meets the needs of the community.                                                             | WDC. TC/PC. Landowner. Other organisations.      |
| District | Existing open space                                      | Protect existing open space from encroachment and development. Existing open space frontages that enable overlooking and visual connections with the surrounding townscape are particularly important to ensure long-term quality of the site and continued value to the community.                                                                        | Ensure value of existing open space is maintained for current residents and is protected for the community in the future. | WDC.                                             |



| Location | Issue             | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Benefit                                                                                                                                                    | Delivery?                                                  |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| District | Funding           | <p>▶ Work with partners to identify funding and ways to deliver green infrastructure and open space projects.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>▶ To deliver the aims and objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p>                                                                          | <p>▶ WDC. SCC. TC/PC. Landowners. Other organisations.</p> |
| District | Greenways         | <p>▶ Proposed developments should identify, and where feasible, provide quality connections to existing open spaces, community facilities and pedestrian/cycle routes. Routes should be wide enough to create a sense of security for members of the public and if possible provide planting that will create visual connections in the townscape and enhance biodiversity connections in the built up area.</p>                                                                                | <p>▶ Provide quality connections to community facilities and improve the quality of the townscape.</p>                                                     | <p>▶ WDC. Developer.</p>                                   |
| District | Monitoring        | <p>▶ Set up monitoring framework to record progress made towards delivering the Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>▶ Identify progress made towards delivering the objectives of the strategy. Identify issues that need to be addressed to improve its effectiveness.</p> | <p>▶ WDC.</p>                                              |
| District | Open space design | <p>▶ Open space should be designed to be used by the community. Open space should be well overlooked, well connected to its surroundings, provide a function(s) that is needed in the local area and complements other existing open spaces in the vicinity, and be set out in a manner that reflects its role in the community that will encourage use. Where development is adjacent to existing green space the proposed layout of the development should relate well to the open space.</p> | <p>▶ Strategic approach to improve open space provision overall and support allocation of resources in the short-term and long-term.</p>                   | <p>▶ WDC. Developer.</p>                                   |

| Location | Issue                       | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                      | Delivery?                                          |
|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| District | Open space design           | <p>Open space included within a development for public use should have no dimensions less than 15m. This reflects the ‘Minimum Acceptable Size Component’ to ensure delivery of usable open space. This will help avoid the creation of ‘passive amenity green spaces’ that have limited value for the community. Open space proposed with any dimension less than 15m are best considered as part of a landscaping scheme rather than contributing towards any quantitative open space standard.</p>                                                        | <p>Deliver open space that will meet the needs of the community in the long-term. Create open space that encourages people to use the space for a variety of activities.</p> | WDC. Developer.                                    |
| District | Open space projects         | <p>Prepare a strategic list of open spaces (parks and gardens, amenity green space, equipped and unequipped play space) that sets out the space typology, its role in the area, if the site is to be maintained to the current standard or if it should be improved, timeframes of when facilities may need to be replaced, what the improvements could be and identify the priority of improvements required. This should identify if there is scope to increase the value of the open spaces and the age groups that would benefit from these changes.</p> | <p>Strategic approach to improve open space provision overall and support allocation of resources in the short-term and long-term.</p>                                       | WDC. TC/PC. Community groups. Other organisations. |
| District | Open space projects         | <p>Prepare a working group to identify and prioritise projects, estimate costs and consider ways to implement projects.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Strategic approach to improve green infrastructure provision and support allocation of resources in the short-term and long-term to deliver projects.</p>                 | WDC. TC/PC. Community groups. Other organisations. |
| District | Public access and awareness | <p>Improved signage and information about public rights of ways network and wildlife in the District and surrounding areas.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Encourage people to explore outdoor areas, enjoy their</p>                                                                                                                | WDC. SCC. TC/PC. Landowner. Other                  |

| Location | Issue                 | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Benefit                                                                                                                              | Delivery?                                                      |
|----------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |                       | Care should be taken not to encourage inappropriate access to areas with sensitive wildlife habitats for flora and fauna (protected sites).                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | intrinsic value and raise awareness of the importance of local flora and fauna.                                                      | organisations.                                                 |
| District | Public realm strategy | ▶ Consider the preparation of a public realm enhancement strategy to build upon the green infrastructure strategy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ▶ Strategic approach to enhance the public realm, improve the perception of settlements and local communities.                       | ▶ WDC. TC/PC.                                                  |
| District | Site boundaries       | ▶ Measurement of open space boundaries that are known to have issues with unauthorised encroachment. Should be updated on a time scale to ensure records can be used if enforcement action is required.                                                                                                                                                          | ▶ Protect existing open space and integrity of important wildlife areas. Improve evidence base to support future action if required. | ▶ WDC. Landowner.                                              |
| District | Urban boundary        | ▶ Use planting of trees/hedgerows to reinforce existing hedgerows and soften the contrast of exposed urban boundaries with the adjacent countryside (e.g. between Hall Lane and Houghton Drive (Oulton), southern boundary of Bungay).                                                                                                                           | ▶ Improve biodiversity and character of townscape and adjacent rural areas.                                                          | ▶ WDC. TC/PC.<br>Landowner.<br>Developer. Other organisations. |
| District | Urban boundary        | ▶ Where proposed developments extend or are adjacent to the countryside the edge of the development should be designed to be well integrated with the exposed countryside. This may include landscaping and the layout of plots to avoid blank fences and walls facing out to the countryside that negatively impacts on the local character and visual amenity. | ▶ Reduce impact of development on exposed areas and improve biodiversity.                                                            | ▶ WDC. Developer.                                              |

## Glossary of terms

### **Accessibility**

Ease with which people can travel to a destination.

### **Allotment**

Small plot of land used for growing fruit, vegetables and flowers. These are usually grouped together to form allotment gardens.

### **Amenity green space**

Green space that provides an area for general public use and visually enhances the local environment.

### **Ancient woodlands**

Woodlands that have existed since 1600 or before, though some of these have been felled and replanted since that time.

### **Catchment area**

Area from which a service or facility attracts visitors.

### **Deprivation**

Shortfall or abundance of financial and social resources to achieve economic wellbeing.

### **Ecological corridor**

Strategic network of habitats for important for wildlife.

### **Green route**

A road route lined with trees or shrubs to create a landscaped connection for people and wildlife and visually enhance the area.

### **Greenway**

Traffic free route providing wildlife habitat and supporting movement of non-vehicular traffic such as pedestrians, cyclists and horse riding.

### **Local Development Framework**

See definition for 'Local Plan'.

**Local Plan**

Documents which set out local planning regime for the local authority area. They include the allocation of land for specific purposes and policies to manage development. Formerly referred to as the Local Development Framework.

**Natural and semi-natural green space**

An area of green space that can include woodland, scrub, grassland, wetlands, waterways, wastelands, derelict land and rock areas that is actively managed by humans.

**Parks and gardens**

Landscaped public spaces, usually in urban areas, designed for a variety of uses.

- Satellite park: Less than 2.5ha in size with facilities such as play equipment, sitting out areas, grass and shrubbery intended to serve people living with 400m walking distance.
- Local park: Between 2.5ha - 4.4ha in size that contains a variety of facilities to support a range of recreational activities for local people. Intended to serve people living with 1km walking distance.
- Destination park: Larger than 4.4ha in size that contains a variety of facilities able to support a range of recreational activities. Ancillary facilities such as parking and toilets are usually available. Intended to be high quality and serve people living within 5km.

**Passive amenity green space**

Amenity green space that is designed or maintained in such a way that it does not encourage activities to take place there. Contribute towards openness in the built up area.

**Play Spaces**

Spaces that are primarily used for the purposes of play:

- Unequipped Play Space: Open space with elements designed into the landscape to facilitate play.
- Equipped play space: Open space with items of play equipment for children.
- Local Area for Play (LAP): A small play space with limited facilities and is aimed at children of up to six years of age.
- Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP): Play spaces that provide a range of different facilities and are aimed at children of up to eight years of age.
- Neighbourhood Equipped Play Area (NEAP): Large play space with a wide range of facilities and is intended for use by children of up to 14 years of age.
- Multi Use Games Area (MUGA): Artificial sports field or enclosed area marked out for a variety of physical activities and sports.

**Primary Function**

The main use of a green space.

**Public realm**

Areas accessible to the public including streets, pathways, rights of way, publicly accessible open spaces and any public and civic building and facilities. Areas of view (e.g. private gardens) not accessible to the public can also contribute towards the public realm.

**Quality (of green space)**

The condition and maintenance of a site. This includes the provision and condition facilities (paths, fences, planting, litter bins, seating), extent of misuse (litter, dog fouling, vandalism) and the characteristics and aesthetics qualities of the site (colour, visual interest, layout, attractiveness, fragmentation).

**Secondary function**

Additional use of open space over and above its main use.

**Stepping stones**

Small areas of land that provide habitats for species to temporarily use when moving between larger habitats in the landscape. They are particularly useful for birds, insects and other airborne creatures.

**Strategic river corridor**

Rivers/waterways, adjacent riparian areas (interface between land and water) and surrounding areas associated with the river that contains a variety of habitats important for wildlife.

**Value (of green space)**

The cumulative benefit that physical characteristics and the provision of facilities provide for the community. This includes accessibility, contribution towards the townscape, education and cultural value, habitat value (woodland, shrubs, hedges, natural grass) and the characteristics and aesthetics qualities (importance to the surroundings, safety and sense of security, connection/isolation with surroundings).

**Wildlife corridors**

Parts of the ecological network that serve as links between sites along which birds and animals can move between habitats.



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This document is available in alternative formats and in different languages on request. If you need support or assistance to help you read and/or understand this document, please contact the Council using one of the methods above.

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