



Open Space Needs Assessment

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Waveney District Council
Serving the Community

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Background

Open space offers significant benefits to local communities. Open space can positively contribute towards sustaining and improving the local environment and have an important role in enhancing quality of life and attracting people to live and work in the area. Green space and recreational opportunities contribute significantly to the perception of attractiveness of a locality.

This report comprises of several assessments and discussions to provide an overview of green space in the District and how provision meets the needs of people in Waveney. The assessment includes an audit of **parks and gardens, amenity green spaces, play spaces** and **allotments** located within Waveney District (including those located in areas within Waveney District that are administered by the Broads Authority). Areas of **biodiversity** value have been identified and information relating to areas important to the biodiversity network has been collated and discussed. An overview of **natural and semi-natural green space** and **cemeteries** is provided and discussed in the context of the green infrastructure network and their contribution towards biodiversity. Green corridors that can support the movement of people and wildlife in the built up areas of the District and habitats which provide key linkages in the green infrastructure network for people and wildlife are discussed.

The previous Open Space Needs Assessment was completed in 2006. The 2006 report involved public consultation and using the findings identified standards that should be applied locally. In the parks and gardens, amenity and play space sections of this report key findings coming out of the 2006 consultation are set out to provide some background. These have been used as a baseline to compare current provision.



How to use this document

This document sets out information about existing open space provision. Open space typologies discussed in the Open Space Needs Assessment include:

- biodiversity distribution
- natural and semi-natural green space
- parks and gardens
- amenity green space
- equipped play space
- allotments
- cemeteries and churchyards
- green corridors.

The first part of the document provides an overview of the findings at the District level. This is to demonstrate the overall provision of open space and how the different typologies are distributed and the different levels of quality and value provided. This enables a general comparison between sub areas.

The District is sub-divided into eight small sub areas: Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth, Kessingland, North Lowestoft, South Lowestoft, Southwold & Reydon and the rural areas (Figure 1.1). As part of the rural sub area, the larger villages (Barnby & North Cove, Blundeston, Holton, Wangford and Wrentham) are discussed. Corton is included within the North Lowestoft sub area but is also discussed independently in some sections. The different sections set out the key findings for each sub area. This includes quantity of provision, site quality, value the site offers to the community and how accessible the sites are.

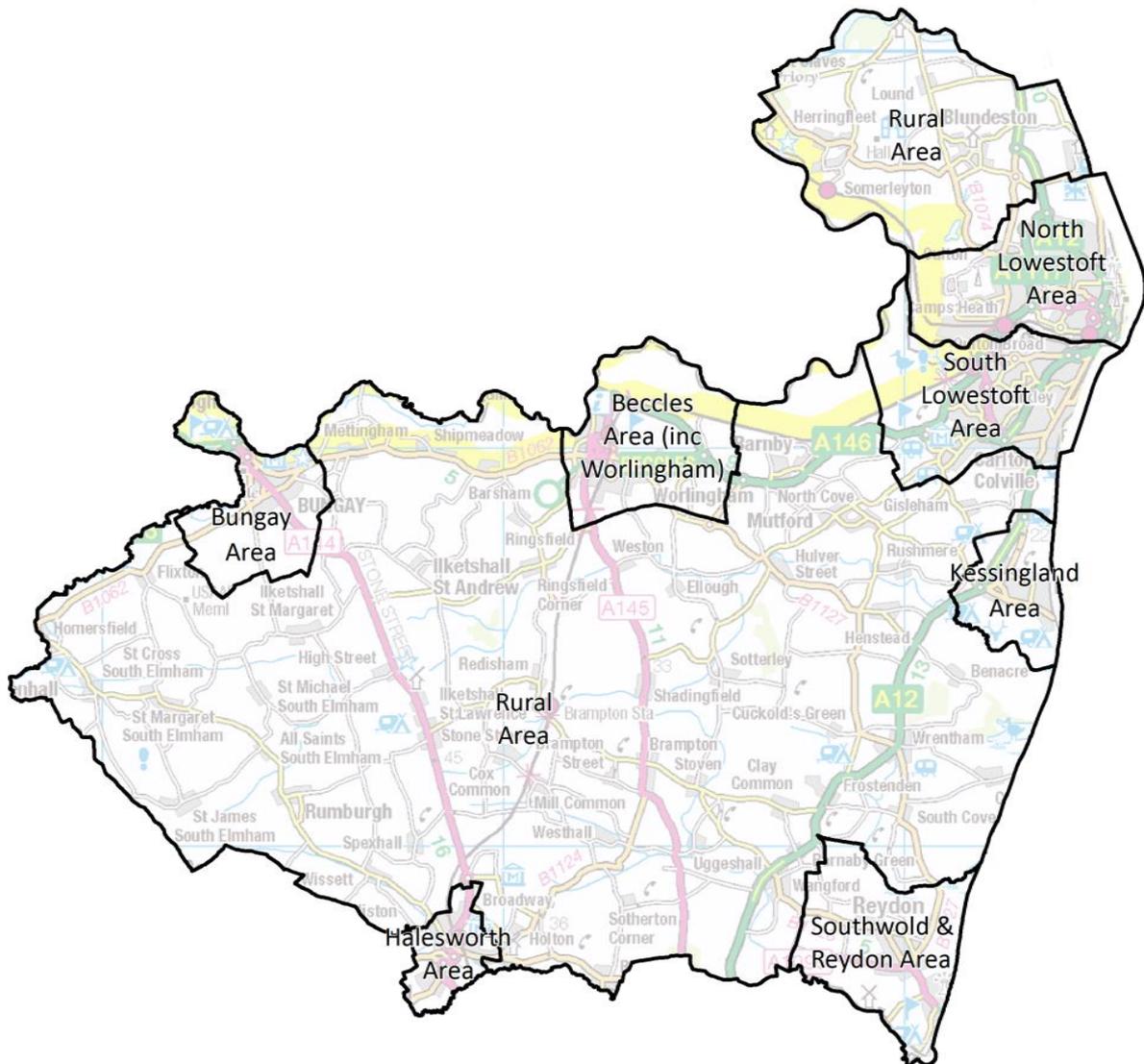
The assessment is not intended to identify specific issues that should be addressed on particular sites but is more strategic in its approach. Identifying the location of open spaces, their catchment areas, site quality and the value the open space offers the community provides a baseline where open spaces in the District can be compared to each other. In this way, if open spaces require attention in different areas of the District, issues and improvements can be considered and prioritised in a wider context of the open space network and relative benefit to an area.

Tables, figures and maps are provided throughout the document. When using the document online, 'clicking' on the map will take you to a large full size map for easier interpretation.

At the end of each section a number of recommendations based on the findings of the report are set out for further consideration. These recommendations are provided as guidance and are not intended to be interpreted as 'fixed'. Alternative improvements may be considered appropriate if they were to have greater benefit for the community or circumstances change over time. These recommendations are distilled into the Green Infrastructure Strategy which will be an 'active' list to be updated as future issues and needs are identified.

Figure 1.1: Sub areas

-  Sub area
-  Broads Authority area within Waveney District



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Open space provision in the District

This section of the report provides an overview of open space provision across the District. The following sections discuss the findings in greater detail.

In Waveney there is approximately 370 hectares of open space of which 161 hectares is considered to be freely accessible for the public to use. Different types of open space provision in the District are shown in Table 1.1. A majority of this is provided in Lowestoft where the largest population resides. Southwold & Reydon has the most open space provided per 1000 people. The poorest provision is in Kessingland, however, Beccles, Bungay and Halesworth all have less provision per person than the District average.

Table 1.1: Open space provision in Waveney (excludes semi-natural areas)

Sub area	Area (Ha)								
	Total area of open space	Parks and gardens	Amenity green space	Passive amenity green space	Equipped play space	Green corridors	Playing pitches	Allotments	Cemeteries and churchyards
Beccles	49.6	7.3	4.2	2.4	3.6	1.8	17.0	6.5	6.9
Bungay	9.8	0	3.3	1.1	1.2	0	0.3	0.5	3.4
Halesworth	14.6	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.4	0	4.2	1.7	3.1
Kessingland	10.0	0	2.3	2.7	0.6	0	1.5	1.6	1.3
North Lowestoft	130.4	16.8	39.6	6.4	2.8	11.8	31.3	9.2	12.5
South Lowestoft	70.2	22.8	18.4	3.9	2.3	5.5	7.0	4.5	5.9
Southwold & Reydon	25.2	0	4.9	2.3	1.3	0	9.5	4.3	3.0
Rural	60.0	0	8.8	1.0	1.8	0	21.7	6.5	20.8
District	370.4	48.1	83.2	21.2	14.9	19.1	92.5	34.8	56.9

Note: Rounding may lead to inconsistencies of sums and values may differ from tables elsewhere in the document.

Figure 1.2 shows the amount of open space in each sub area and includes open space that has restricted access (e.g. school playing fields) and open space whose primary function is to provide openness in the townscape (excluding road verges). Access to semi-natural open space is important for communities, however, these have not been included in the total open space figures as they are not actively managed in the same way as other forms of accessible open space (e.g. amenity green space). Inclusion of semi-natural open space will also distort the figures of open space provision that is easily accessible and maintained as part of a wider management programme for community use.

Figure 1.2: Open space provision per 1000 people

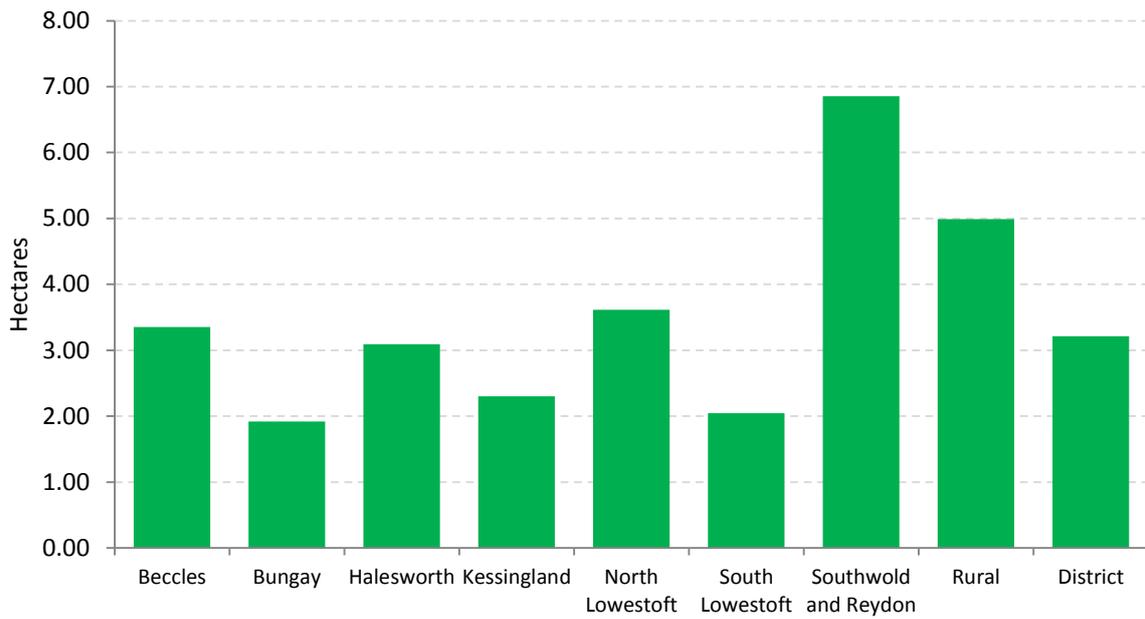


Figure 1.3 shows the amount of open space in each sub area that is available for community use and provides a role that encourages people to use the space. This figure excludes playing pitches with restricted access (e.g. school and club sports pitches) and open space that is designed to provide openness but has no ancillary facilities to encourage use of the space (e.g. passive amenity green space).

Figure 1.3: Accessible and usable open space provision

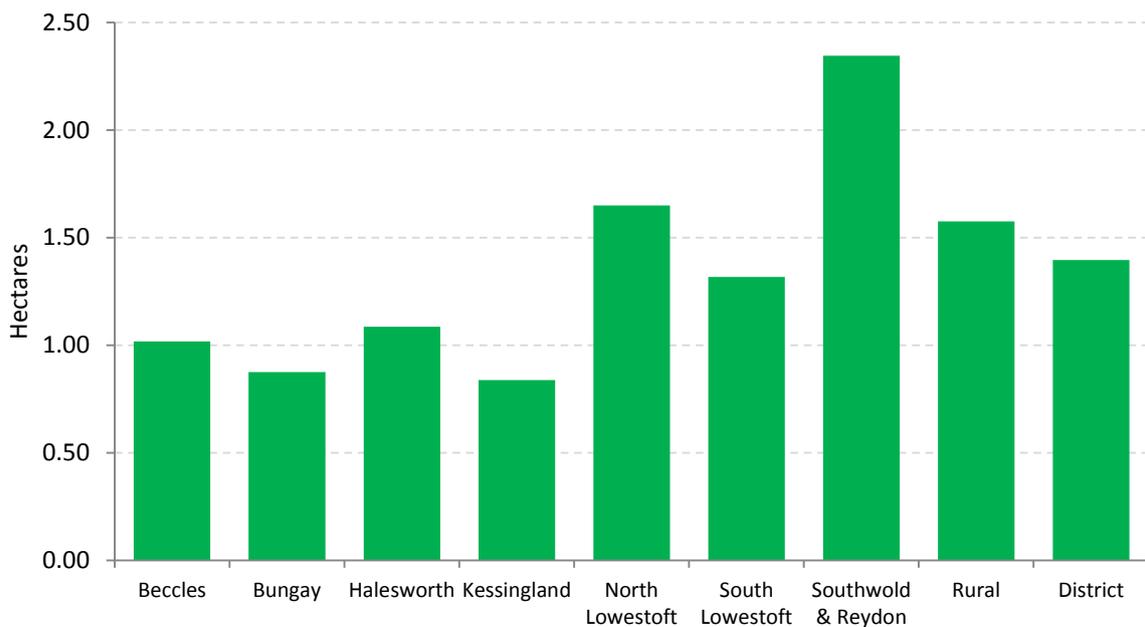
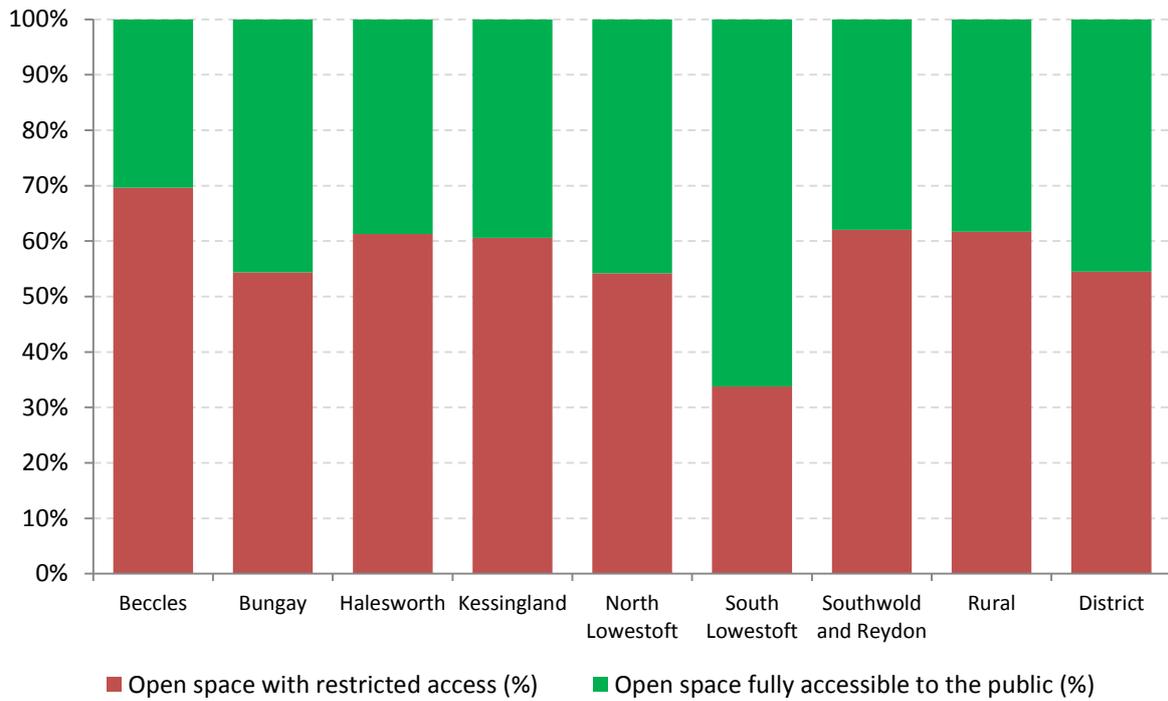


Figure 1.4 shows the proportion of open space that has restricted and unrestricted access for the public. This demonstrates the importance of providing open space that is available for public use but also the need to understand open space provision in the wider community, such as the value that open spaces belonging to sports clubs and educational organisations have in their area.

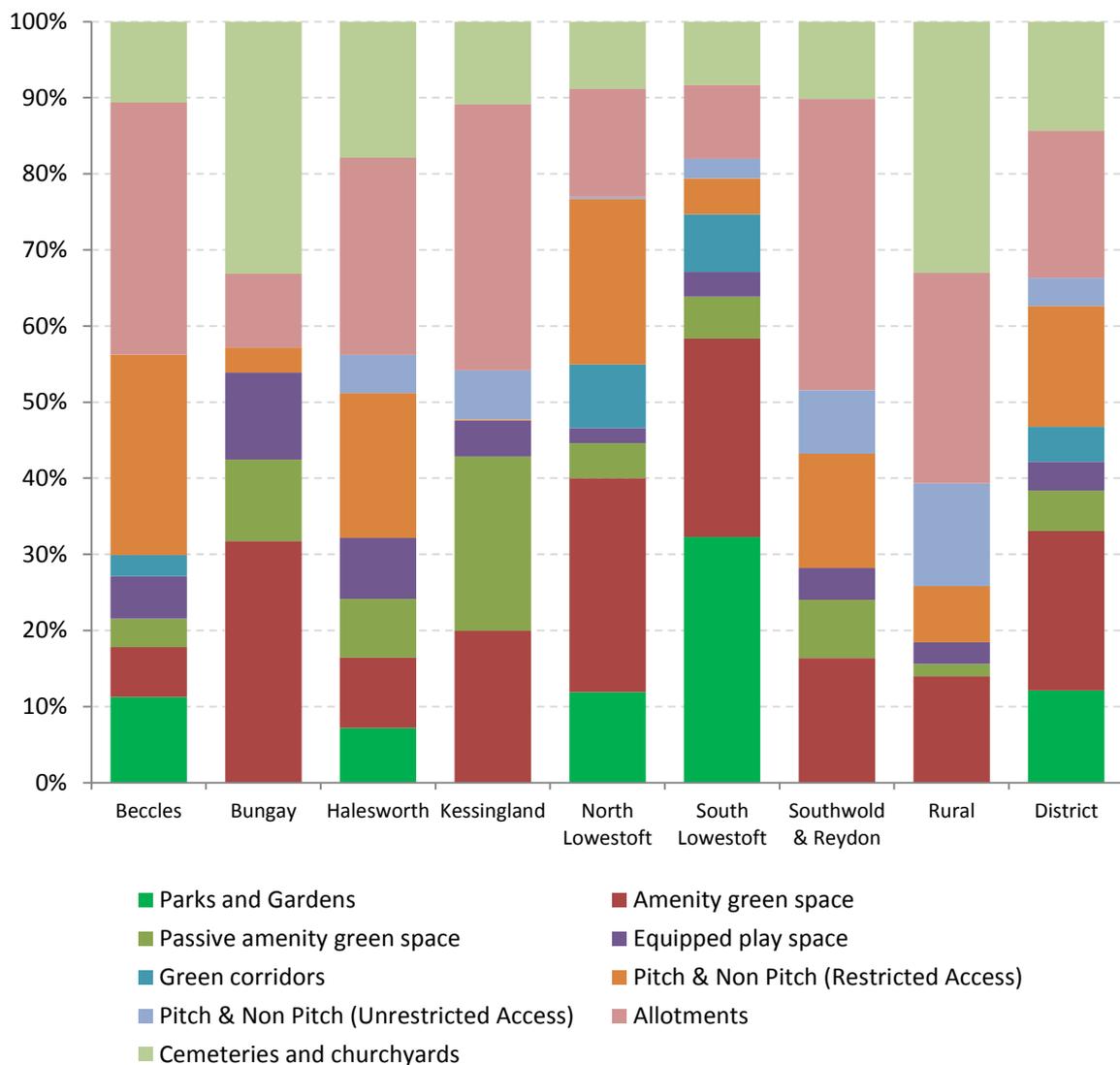
Figure 1.4: Open space with restricted and unrestricted access



Provision of open space with different functions in the community

South Lowestoft and Bungay have the highest proportion of open space to support formal and informal recreational activities (compared to open space primarily provided for visual and ornamental purposes). Kessingland and Beccles have the highest proportion of open space that has either restricted access (e.g. sports pitches in Beccles) or offers little value in terms of physical use (e.g. passive amenity green space in Kessingland) (Figure 1.5).

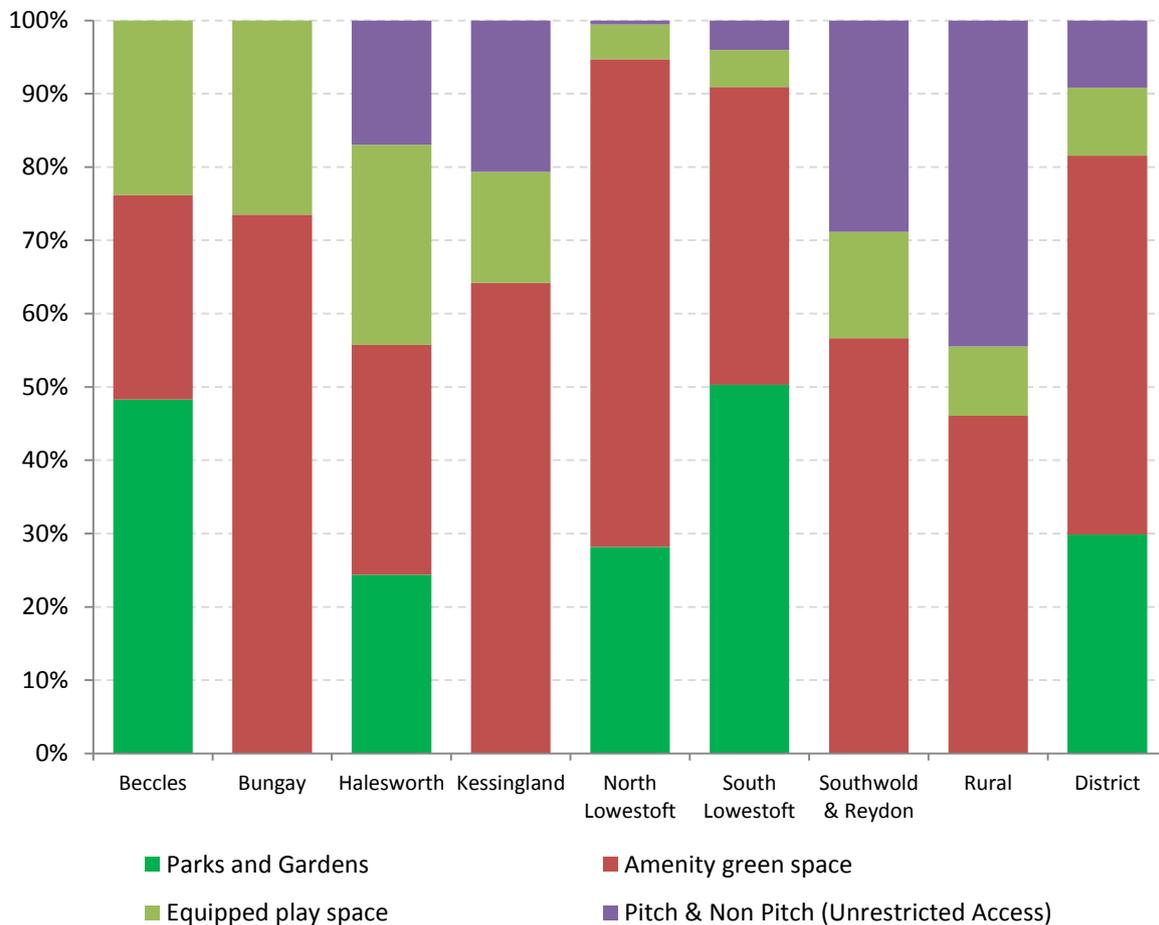
Figure 1.5: Types of open space available to the public



Beccles and South Lowestoft have the highest percentage of their open space provided in the form of parks and gardens. Being multi-functional and generally of high quality and value these open spaces are of significant benefit to the community and provide a destination / focal point in a locality.

Bungay and Kessingland have high proportion of their total open space provision in the form of amenity green space (Figure 1.6). Amenity spaces in the District tend to be limited in the activities they can support and coupled with the relatively low amount of quantitative open space available in these areas overall provision needs improvement. The rural areas have a reasonable variety of open space provision, however, in some areas open space such as play areas can be difficult to access.

Figure 1.6: Types of fully accessible open space available to the public

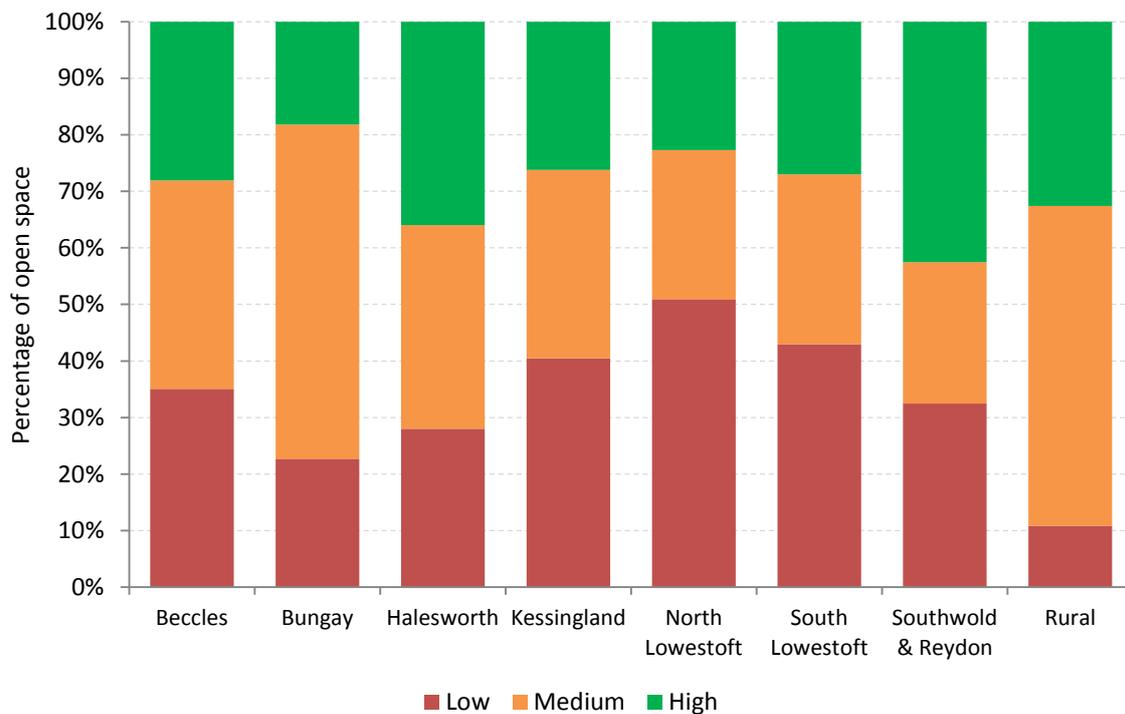


Quality of accessible open space provision

The quality of open space has been assessed using criteria such as site condition and cleanliness, appropriate fencing, condition of paths and surfaces, extent of misuse and vandalism, amount of use, disabled access, aesthetic attributes and the provision of supplementary facilities such as seating, bins and trees.

Halesworth and Southwold & Reydon have the best quality of provision. North and South Lowestoft have the most number of sites with high quality, however, they also have the highest proportion of open space that is of low quality (along with Kessingland) (Figure 1.7). The majority of open space in Bungay is of medium quality. Beccles, Halesworth and Southwold & Reydon have a relatively even distribution of low, medium and high quality open spaces.

Figure 1.7: Proportion of low, medium and high quality open space

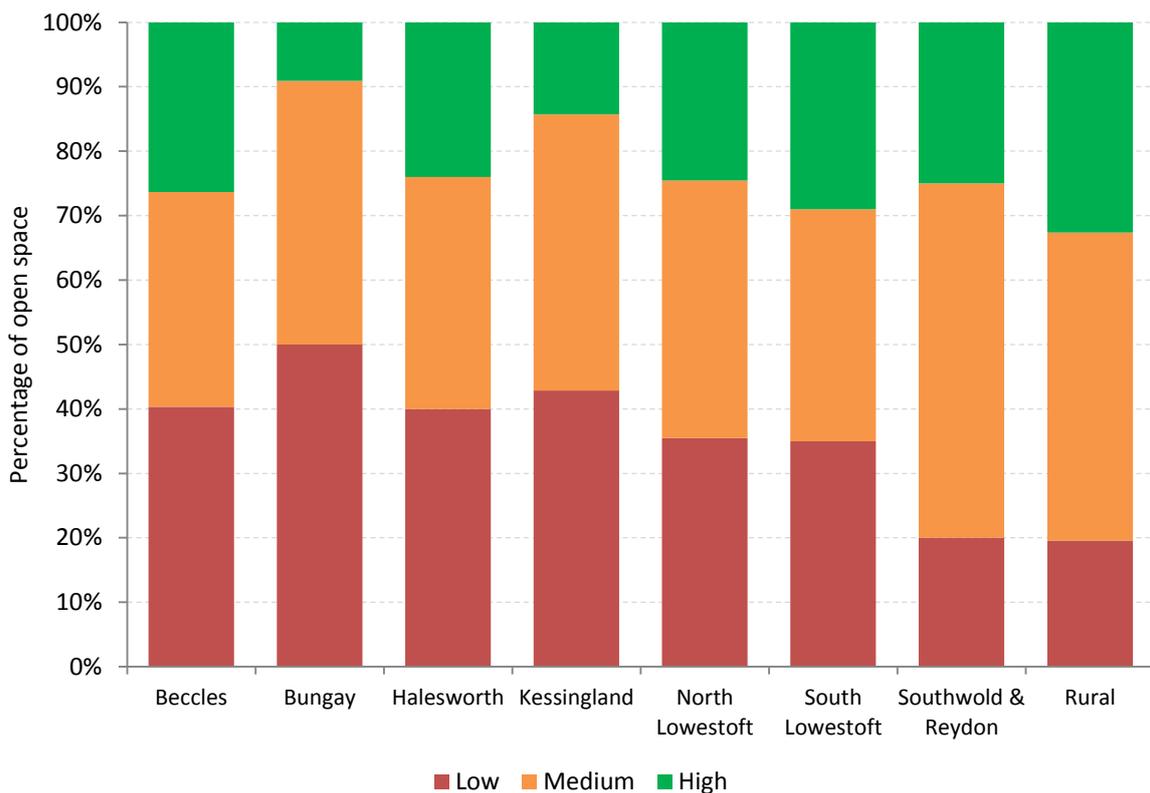


Value of accessible open space

The value of open space is intrinsically linked to the quality of provision. Criteria assessed included value of equipment and ancillary facilities, age of facilities, safety, proximity to residential areas, integration with the surrounding area, cultural and educational value and accessibility and landscaping.

The value open spaces provide for their communities is relatively consistent across the District (Figure 1.8). This indicates that all communities have access to medium and high value open spaces. However, this does not show how easy or difficult access to open space actually is. The number of open spaces with value ratings of medium and high are found in Southwold & Reydon and the rural areas of the District. Bungay has the smallest amount of open space offering high value for its residents.

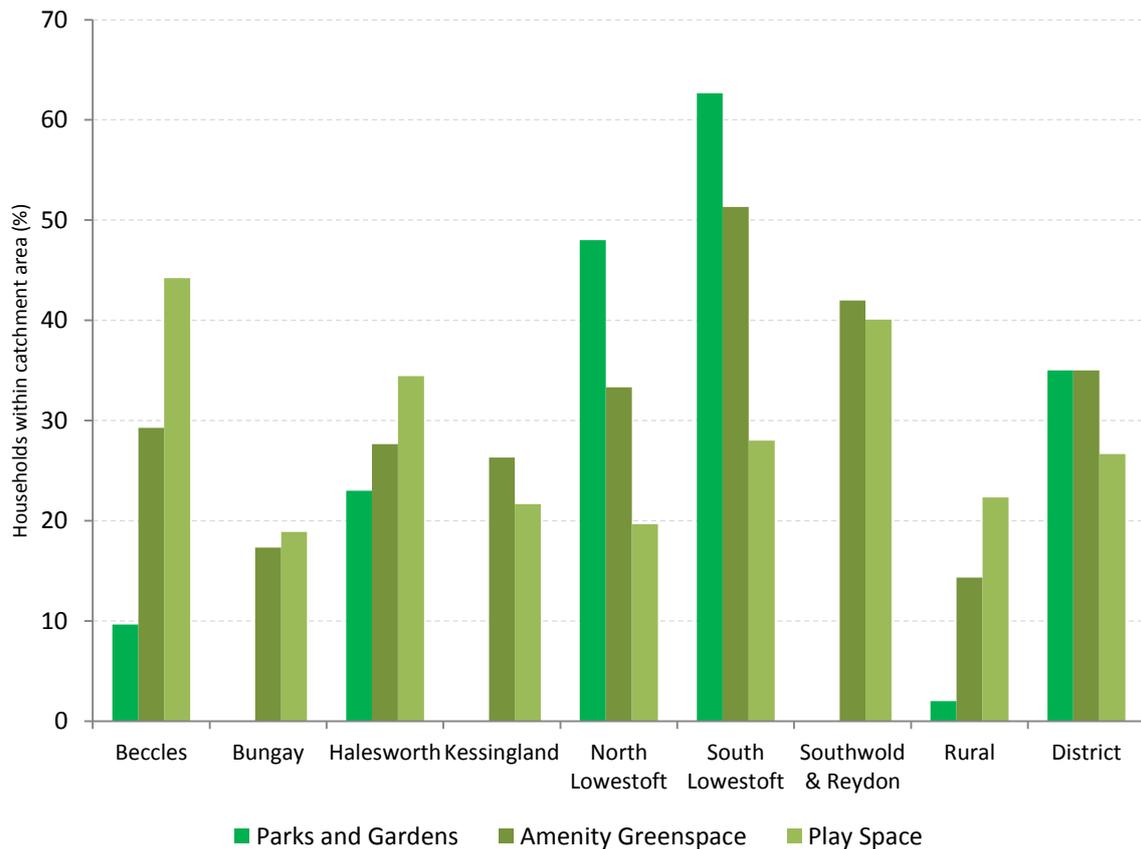
Figure 1.8: Proportion of low, medium and high value open space



Access to parks and gardens, amenity green space and play space

People in North and South Lowestoft have the best access to parks and gardens, amenity green space and equipped play space (Figure 1.9). Access is most limited in Bungay, Kessingland and the rural areas of the District all of which have less access than the Waveney average. Access to amenity green space and equipped play space in Beccles and Southwold & Reydon is good, however, opportunities to access parks & gardens is more limited. No residents in Bungay, Kessingland or Southwold & Reydon lie within the catchment area of a park or garden.

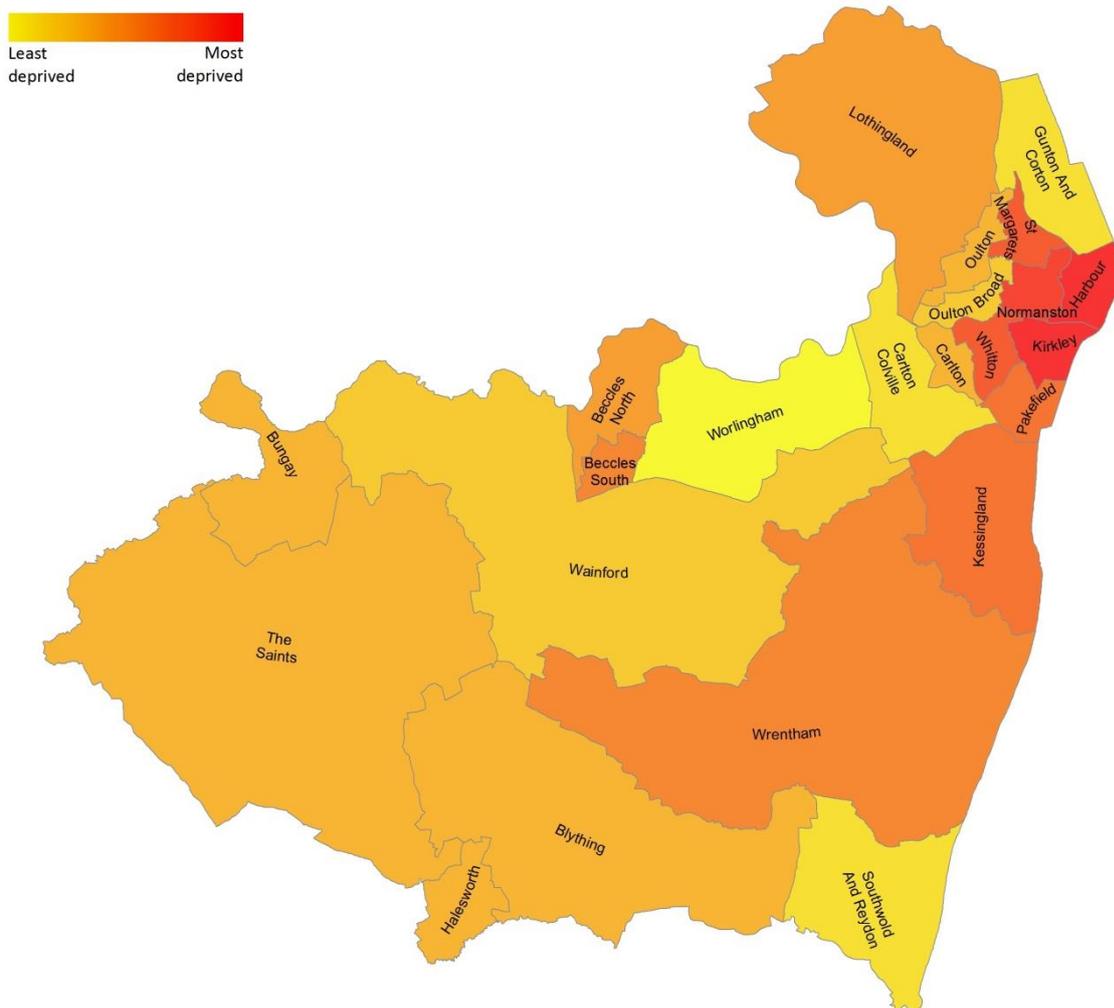
Figure 1.9: Households within open space catchment areas (parks and gardens, amenity green spaces and play spaces)



Deprivation

Indices of Deprivation 2010 ranked Waveney at 112 out of 354 local authorities in England, where 1 was the most deprived area and 354 the least deprived. Within the District there are variations in the levels of deprivation (Figure 1.10). Provision of open space in Waveney does not correlate with the level of deprivation in an area (Table 1.2).

Figure 1.10: Levels of deprivation in Waveney (Waveney wards)



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Source: Census (2011)

Table 1.2: Deprivation and open space provision

Sub area	Population	Deprivation 1 = most deprived 8 = least deprived	Total area of usable public open space with unrestricted access (ha)	Accessible and usable public open space per 1,000 people (ha)
North Lowestoft	36,089	1	59.53	1.65
South Lowestoft	34,362	2	45.29	1.32
Kessingland	4,327	3	3.63	0.84
Rural	12,147	4	19.13	1.57
Bungay	5,127	5	4.49	0.88
Halesworth	4,726	6	5.13	1.09
Beccles	14,796	7	15.06	1.02
Southwold & Reydon	3,680	8	8.63	2.35
District	115,254	-	160.89	1.40

Data source: Census (2011)

Local green space designations

The National Planning Policy Framework (2013) states that ‘Local Green Spaces’ can be designated for special protection if it is demonstrated they are of special interest to a community. They can be identified through Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans. They can also be listed as an ‘Asset of Community Value’. As of January 2015, there are no Local Green Space Designations in Waveney.

A photograph of a forest with tall, slender trees and a dense understory of green ferns. The ground is covered in brown leaves. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Biodiversity Distribution

Biodiversity refers to all of the natural world and all living organisms within it including plants, animals, bacteria and micro organisms.

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to all of the natural world and all living organisms within it, including plants, animals, bacteria and micro organisms.



The convention on biodiversity defines it as:

“The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems” (Source: Natural England website).

Introduction to the biodiversity distribution assessment

Waveney District has a wide range of wildlife and habitats, including coastline, parkland, arable fields, rivers, hedges and woodlands. Many of these are extremely valuable in their own right and require protection and enhancement.

These sites often also form part of a wider network of sites and wildlife corridors that increase the range of habitats that can support local wildlife. Networks of biologically valuable sites often have greater value than each of the sites individually. For this reason Waveney District Council wants to map ecological sites and networks to better understand how they can function alongside other types of green infrastructure.

The Waveney District Council Biodiversity Audit was completed in 2007 by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. This biodiversity audit included officially designated sites, county wildlife sites and other sites that were considered to have ecological value. Suffolk Wildlife Trust visited each site to record the plants and wildlife present, together with any habitats. In particular, Suffolk Wildlife Trust identified protected species on each site, together with the general condition of the site and any improvements that were considered necessary. The results were used to inform the preparation of the emerging local development framework, as well as planning application decisions. The information in this section is primarily drawn from these audits which are available on the District Council’s website www.waveney.gov.uk.

Consultation with Suffolk Wildlife Trust has indicated that the existing biodiversity audits¹ are still sufficiently up to date to inform plan making, although a new audit will be required on any site that is subject to a development proposal. Therefore the emphasis of this Biodiversity Distribution Assessment is to investigate the spatial distribution of protected and unprotected areas that support animal and plant species across the District the wider area where green infrastructure overlaps adjacent Districts and Boroughs.

The Biodiversity Distribution Assessment will not only support the plan making process, but it will also inform the preparation of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will combine the spatial distribution of biodiversity with those of open space, playing pitches, allotments and green corridors to provide a more thorough understanding of how these sites relate to each other, local settlements and the wider environment. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will help to better plan for future development, identify shortfalls in provision and better understand how sites and spaces can contribute to a high quality environment within the District.

¹ Waveney District Council Biodiversity Audits (2007), Suffolk Wildlife Trust
www.waveney.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?downloadID=110

Description of site designations

International, national and local site designations found in Waveney

Designation	Description
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Area designated because of its outstanding landscape quality. Development within these areas is tightly controlled.
Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	These were introduced to aid the protection of the most endangered species and habitats. BAPs can be designated at both the national and local levels.
County Wildlife Sites (CWS)	These sites do not have statutory protection but are designated at the county level because of their biodiversity value, which is measured against specific criteria.
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Non statutory site designated at the county or district level because of its value to wildlife.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	Site designated by Natural England because of its high value for wildlife or geology. These sites receive statutory protection.
Protected species	Species protected together with its breeding grounds and habitats under European Union legislation.
Ramsar Site	Sites designated under international treaty, which receive statutory protection because of their birdlife.
Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR)	Sites identified at the County level because of their rich variety of plants or plants of local or national importance. These sites do not receive statutory protection, although they may carry other designations that are statutorily protected.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Area designated under the European Union Habitats Directive to give special protection to a range of plants, animals and habitats.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Area identified as being of value for the feeding, breeding, migrating and wintering of threatened species of bird. These sites are classified under the European Wild Birds Directive and receive enhanced protection.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Site designated because of its high wildlife value, which receives statutory protection. This includes both SACs and SPAs.

List of sites with biodiversity value in Waveney

Important sites in neighbouring districts

Reference	Site	Additional information
RAMSAR http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1389		
1	Breydon Water	Protected habitats: Extensive area of tidal mudflats, which form an important habitat for wintering wildfowl.
2	Redgrave and South Lopham Fens	Protected habitats: Extensive example of a lowland base rich valley, which supports many scarce and rare invertebrates.
Special Areas of Conservation http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-23		
3	Dew's Ponds	Protected habitats: Series of ponds in an area of predominantly formerly agricultural land, some of which has been converted to grassland. Protected fauna: Great crested newts.
Special Protection Areas http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-162		
4	Breydon Water	Protected habitat: Important estuary ecosystem. Fauna: Bewick's swan, pied avocett, golden plover, lapwing, ruff, common tern.

Beccles

Reference	Site	Additional information
County Wildlife Site www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/wildlife-sites.aspx		
5	Beccles Common	Protected fauna: Common lizard.
6	Beccles Marshes	Protected fauna: Norfolk hawker dragonfly.
Non designated sites (sites that are not formally identified for their biodiversity value)		
7	Adjacent Beccles Common	Habitats: Allotment Fauna: Reptiles.
8	Beccles Cemetery	Habitats: Mown grassland and trees. Flora: Sycamore, holm oak, wall barley, Yorkshire fog, yellow oxalis, black knapweed, common sorrel, creeping buttercup, creeping cinquefoil, ground elder, groundsel, wood avens, germander speedwell.
9	Bramley Rise	Habitats: Woodland. Flora: Crab apple, hawthorn, hazel, oak. Fauna: Southern hawker dragonfly.
10	Field East of Cucumber Lane	Habitat: Scrub.
11	Kilbrack Churchyard	Habitats: Improved grassland and mature trees.
12	Land between Woodland Avenue and Holly Close, Worlingham	Habitat: Ancient woodland. Flora: Mature ash, oak, Scot's pine, and hawthorn, hazel, flowering privet, bramble, elder, nettle, hedge woundwort, wood avens, violets, arum, ground ivy.
13	Meadow Gardens	Habitats: Borders of the site include a range of plants that are important for nesting birds and invertebrates. Fauna: Grasses, orchids.
14	Paddock west of George Westwood Way	Habitat: Meadowland with a ditch running through it. Protected fauna: Water voles.
15	Railway Line Verges in Beccles	Habitat: Wildlife corridor. Flora: Hare's foot clover, dove's foot cranesbill, fat hen, yarrow, perforate St. John's wort, tansy, goat's beard, hairy tare, hop trefoil, black medick, common vetch.
16	Rigbourne Hill Lane	Habitats: Sunken lane surrounded by trees and undergrowth. Wildlife corridor. Flora: Mature hazels and oaks, as well as greater celandine, wood avens, hedge woundwort, herb Robert. Protected fauna: Slow worm.
17	St. Mary's Paddock	Habitats: Mown grass surrounded by hedge. Fauna: Elm, oak, plane, horse chestnut, beech, ash sycamore, bluebells.
18	St. Michael's Churchyard	Habitats: Grassland surrounded by trees. Flora: Mouse ear, hawkweed, daisy, black medick, field madder, rough hawkbit and yarrow, ash, sycamore, rowan, pine, yew, cherry laurel, holly, lime, larch.
19	The Quay	Habitats: Short grassland and ditch. Flora: Willows, poplar.
20	Waveney Meadow	Habitats: Meadowland fringed by trees and a river. Flora: Hybrid black poplar alder, willow, oak, ash, yew, blackthorn, Yorkshire fog, cow parsley and creeping thistle closest to the car park, meadowsweet, great willowherb, reed canary grass, reed sweet grass, common reeds, orange balsam.

Bungay

Reference	Site	Additional information
Non designated sites (sites that are not formally identified for their biodiversity value)		
21	Bungay Cemetery	Habitats: Short cut grassland, hedgerows and areas of longer grassland. Flora: Elm, hawthorn, bramble, stonecrop, mouse-ear hawkweed. Protected fauna: Slow worm, common lizard.
22	Castle Hill	Habitats: Grassland and gorse. Flora: Hare's foot clover, buck's horn plantain.
23	Hillside Road West Allotments	Habitats: Allotments surrounded by hedgerows. Flora: Hybrid poplars.
24	Land at Hillside Road East/St. John's Road (next to the Sewage Treatment Works)	Habitats: Mixture of mature secondary woodland, open ground. Flora: St. John's wort, sycamore.
25	Land between Staithe Road/Trinity Gardens and River Waveney (BA)	Habitats: River bank, woodland, open land. Flora: Reeds, purple loosestrife.
26	Land to the rear of Davey Close	Habitats: Thick hedge, secondary woodland. Flora: Ivy, flowering privet. Protected fauna: Marsh tit.
27	Olland's Plantation	Habitat: Plantation with thick tree covering.
28	Rear of 9-11 St. John's Road Allotments	Habitats: Disused allotment site surrounded by hedges mature trees. Flora: Nettle, dock.
29	Skinner's Meadow	Habitat: Open field surrounded by hedges.
30	St Mary's Churchyard	Habitat: Churchyard with cut grass. Flora: Knapweed, greater celandine. Fauna: Spotted flycatcher.
31	Stow Fen	Habitats: Extensive areas of grazed pasture, river. Flora: Lesser water parsnip, water speedwell, brooklime, starwort. Fauna: Banded demoiselle and other odonata species, roach. Protected fauna: Otter
32	Trinity Churchyard	Habitat: Cut grassland. Fauna: Lime trees, bramble, ivy, clover, daisy, medick species, creeping buttercup, common sorrel.
33	Woodland Drive	Habitat: Grassland bounded by trees next to the Flixton Road. Flora: Larch, sycamore, red oak, lime whitebeam, ash, Scot's pine, common grass with occasional clumps of ploughman's spikehard. Fauna: Common butterfly. Protected fauna: Norfolk Hawker dragonfly.

Halesworth

Reference	Site	Additional information
Site of Special Scientific Interest www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/index.cfm		
34	Holton Pit	Site of geological importance.
County Wildlife Site www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/wildlife-sites.aspx		
35	Birds Folly	Habitats: Acidic grassland with scrub and woodland to the north of the site. Flora: Spring annuals, fern. Protected fauna: Grass snake, slow worm, common lizard.
36	Fairview Farm Meadow	Habitats: Species rich grassland.
37	Halesworth Cemetery	Habitat: Species rich grassland. Protected fauna: Grass snake, common lizard, slow worm, bullfinch.
38	Halesworth Cemetery	Habitat: Species rich grassland. Fauna: Reptiles.
39	New Reach River and Marsh	Habitats: Watercress and surrounding remnant marsh. Flora: Range of aquatic, emergent and marginal vegetation, including starwort, broad-leaved pondweed, iris and watercress, ragged robin, hemp agrimony, hemp nettle, marsh thistle, hairy sedge, skullcap.
Non designated sites (sites that are not formally identified for their biodiversity value)		
40	Corridor between Harrisons Lane and Fair View Road, rear of car showrooms	Habitats: Grassland with a line of trees, a hedge and ditch. Flora: Stonewort. Protected fauna: Frogs.
41	Halesworth Green, Saxons Way	Habitats: Rough grassland and hedge with large patches of bramble. Protected fauna: Slow worm, common lizard, house sparrow.
42	Halesworth Millennium Green	Habitats: Pasture containing rough grasses and wildflowers. Flora: Gypsywort, water mint and water forget-me-not, purple loosestrife, lesser water parsnip, meadowsweet, aquatic starwort. Fauna: Jackdaw, jay, wood pigeon, moles, rabbits. Protected fauna: Barn owls.
43	Land between Thoroughfare and Market Place	Habitats: Area of trees and extensive bramble and hedges. Flora: Nettle, comfrey, ground elder, hedge woundwort, hazel, sycamore. Protected fauna: Long eared bats.
44	Loam Pit Lane	Habitat: Allotment garden. Protected fauna: Grass snake, slow worm, common lizard.
45	New Reach River	Habitat: River. Flora: Aquatic species, land based plants.
46	Railway Line Verges in Halesworth	Habitat: Grassed areas.
47	Rear of 33-39 Bedingfield Crescent	Habitat: Allotments. Protected fauna: Starling, house sparrow. Other fauna: Jackdaw, collared dove, greenfinch, goldfinch.
48	St. Mary's Churchyard	Habitat: Churchyard. Flora: Holm oak, cut leaf geranium, plantain, dandelions, chickweed, black medick. Protected fauna: Starling. Other fauna: Collared dove, wood pigeon.
49	Swan Lane Allotments	Habitat: Allotments bordered by trees.
50	Town Park	Habitat: Amenity grassland with a hedgerow and watercourse. Flora: Plane, Scots pine.

Kessingland

Reference	Site	Additional information
County Wildlife Site www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/wildlife-sites.aspx		
51	Kessingland Levels	<p>Habitat: Grazing marsh.</p> <p>Protected fauna: Norfolk hawk dragonfly, water vole, short eared owl.</p> <p>Other fauna: Wigeon, pochard, snipe, mute swan, moorhen, teal, mallard.</p>
52	Kessingland Reedbed	<p>Habitats: Low scrub and grassland.</p> <p>Flora: Willow scrub.</p> <p>Protected fauna: Cetti's warbler, grasshopper warbler, reed bunting, linnet.</p> <p>Other fauna: Nightingale, water rail, lesser whitethroat, whitethroat.</p>
Non designated sites (sites that are not formally identified for their biodiversity value)		
53	Allotments (Church Road and Coopers Lane)	Allotments are bordered by a mature hedge containing hawthorn, elm, sycamore.
54	Land adjacent Kessingland Cliffs	<p>Habitat: Wildlife corridor and area of scrub.</p> <p>Flora: Hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, nettle, cleavers, hedge woundwort.</p>
55	St. Edmund's Churchyard	<p>Habitat: Churchyard, mown grass, taller grass, herbs, scrub, hedges, mature trees.</p> <p>Fauna: Easter grass, bulbous buttercup, primrose, yew, hawthorn, ivy.</p>
56	Wooded corridor north of Rider Haggard Lane	<p>Habitat: Wooded corridor.</p> <p>Flora: Ash, hawthorn, Italian Poplars, elder, privet, oak and Scots pine, bramble, nettle.</p>

North Lowestoft

Reference	Site	Additional information
County Wildlife Site		www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/wildlife-sites.aspx
57	Bonds Meadow	Protected habitats: Wet woodland, fens, pond. Protected fauna: Song thrush, dunnock.
58	Christmas Lane Meadow	Protected habitats: Fen, Species rich grassland. Protected fauna: Cetti's warbler, house sparrow, Norfolk hawk dragonfly.
59	Dairy Farm Marshes	Protected habitats: Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, reed bed, wet woodland, fen. Protected fauna: Water vole, barn owl, Cetti's warbler, common lizard, grass snake, Norfolk hawk dragonfly, reed bunting, barn owl, shining ramshorn snail, tubular water dropwort.
60	Dairy Farm Marshes	Habitats: Grazing marsh, fen meadow, tall fen, reedbed. Flora: Alder carr, hairy willowherb, reed sweetgrass, southern marsh orchid, bog pimpernel, marsh arrowgrass, marsh sowthistle, frogbit, arrowhead, tubular water dropwort. Protected fauna: Grass snake, Norfolk hawk dragonfly, water vole, reed bunting, Cetti's warbler, barn owl, shining Ramshorn snail.
61	Foxburrow Wood	Protected habitats: Ponds and wet woodland. Habitat: Ancient & semi-natural woodland. Protected fauna: Song thrush, house sparrow, dunnock, lesser spotted woodpecker.
62	Great Eastern Linear Park	Habitats: Bramble scrub with mature trees and a small stream. Flora: Water cress, gorse, tansy, hawthorn, mugwort, ground ivy, sycamore, cow parsley, hop trefoil.
63	Gunton Meadow	Habitats: Lowland hay meadow, species rich grassland.
64	Gunton Pond	Protected habitats: Pond. Flora: Water plantain, common spotted orchid, common fleabane, white water lily, woody nightshade, water violet, common water starwort, wood avens, water mint, common fleabane, yellow flag.
65	Gunton Warren	Protected habitats: Coastal sand dunes, coastal, vegetated shingle, lowland heath, maritime cliffs and slopes. Flora: Sea kale, sea sandwort, sea holly, sea pea. Protected fauna: Adder, Dartford warbler, song thrush, linnet, yellowhammer, common lizard, adder, ant lion.
66	Hall Road Ham	Protected habitats: Wet woodland, fen. Flora: Herb-Robert, yellow flag, hemp-agrimony, hedge woundwort, soft rush, great willow herb, common flax, common comfrey, water dock, common reed, Japanese knotweed. Protected fauna: Cetti's warbler, song thrush, lesser redpoll.
67	Leathes Ham	Protected habitat: Eutrophic standing waters. Flora: Sallow, gypsywort, yellow flag, common duckweed, water mint, hairy willow herb, square stemmed willowherb,

Reference	Site	Additional information
		celery leaved buttercup, intermediate water starwort, figwort, soft rush, jointed rush, brooklime, coltsfoot, brookweed, elm, hazel, oak, hawthorn, blackthorn, herb-Robert, honeysuckle, broad buckler fern, hedge woundwort, biting stonecrop. Protected fauna: Norfolk hawk dragonfly.
68	Lowestoft Harbour Kittiwake Colony	Habitat: Artificial cliff on the harbour wall. Protected species: Kittiwake.
69	Ness Point	Habitat: Concrete wall with large concrete blocks. Flora: Sea sandwort, yellow-horned poppy, scurvy grass. Protected fauna: Purple sandpiper. Other fauna: Turnstones, rock pipits, Mediterranean gulls, little gulls, little terns, common terns, sandwich, guillemot, razorbill, great crested grebe.
70	Oulton Marsh	Habitat: Wetland mosaic.
71	Oulton Marsh Dykes	Protected habitats: Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, fen, reedbed, wet woodland. Protected fauna: Water vole, grass snake, Norfolk hawk dragonfly, common lizard, marsh harrier, reed bunting, barn owl, water shrew, grasshopper warbler.
72	Oulton Road Pond and Meadow	Protected habitat: Pond.
73	Parkhill Wood	Habitat: Woodland.
74	Rustyback Fern Site	Habitat: Small tidal mudflats. Flora: Rustyback Fern, imperforate St. Johns wort, blue fleabane, birds-foot-trefoil, musk thistle, ribbed melilot, wild carrot, black knapweed, grass-leaved orache, sea-purslane, annual sea blite, sea aster, sea plantain, greater sea spurrey . Protected Fauna: Herring gull.
75	St Margaret's Churchyard	Habitats: Species rich grassland, boundary hedges. Flora: Yew, wych elm, holly, holm oak, dog violets, bluebells, corn salad, oxe eye daisies.
76	Workhouse Wood	Habitats: Woodland.
Local Nature Reserve www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/lnr/lnr_search.asp		
77	Leathes Ham	Protected habitat: Eutrophic standing waters. Flora: Sallow, gypsywort, yellow flag, common duckweed, water mint, hairy willow herb, square stemmed willowherb, celery leaved buttercup, intermediate water starwort, figwort, soft rush, jointed rush, brooklime, coltsfoot, brookweed, elm, hazel, oak, hawthorn, blackthorn, herb-robert, honeysuckle, broad buckler fern, hedge woundwort, biting stonecrop. Protected Fauna: Norfolk hawk dragonfly, dunnock. Other fauna: Blackbird, wren, chaffinch, coot, moorhen, sedge warbler, Canada geese, mute swan, black tailed skimmer, violet ground beetle, painted lady, common blue butterfly.
78	Gunton Warren	Protected habitat: Coastal sand dunes, coastal vegetated shingle, lowland heath, maritime cliffs and slopes.

Reference	Site	Additional information
		Protected fauna: Adder, Dartford warbler, song thrush, linnet, yellowhammer, common lizard, adder, ant lion.
79	Gunton Wood	Protected habitats: Pond. Wildlife corridor. Protected fauna: Great crested newt, black poplar, song thrush.
Ancient Woodland www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-5W2G8Q		
80	Foxburrow Wood	Protected habitats: Ponds, small area of wet woodland, ancient and semi-natural woodland. Protected species: Song thrush, house sparrow, dunnock, lesser spotted woodpecker.
81	Workhouse Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
Non designated sites (sites that are not formally identified for their biodiversity value)		
82	Adjacent Northfield St. Nicholas School	Habitat: Allotments with hedges, compost heaps. Plant species: Alexanders, common fumitory, pellitory of the wall, common nettle. Protected fauna: House sparrow. Other fauna: Small tortoiseshell, small white butterflies, fox, brown rats.
83	Arnolds Bequest	Habitats: Mature trees, scrub, small spring. Flora: Sycamore, elder, suckering elm, alexanders, Himalayan balsam, elder, bluebell. Protected fauna: Song thrush, dunnock, tawny owls.
84	Belle Vue Park	Habitat: Formal garden with shrubs and rank grass. Flora: Alexanders, holm oak, bluebell, ground ivy, Yorkshire fog, cocksfoot, Scots pine, rhododendron. Protected fauna: Dunnock. Other fauna: Blackbird, chaffinch, small white butterfly, grey squirrel.
85	Church Road / Water Lane Allotments	Habitat: Allotments, hedges, compost heaps and ruderal herbs. Flora: Bramble. Protected fauna: House sparrow. Other fauna: Blackbird, small tortoiseshell, small white butterfly, common butterflies.
86	College Meadows	Habitats: Species poor improved grassland with a hedge boundary. Flora: Common nettle, ground ivy, white clover, creeping buttercup, hog weed. Protected fauna: House sparrow, starling.
87	Disused railway Gunton (additional site)	Habitats: Overgrown railway embankment with rank grass and scrub. Flora: Blackthorn, elder, holm oak, ash, pedunculate oak, wood avens, sheep sorrel, caper spurge, Yorkshire fog, Timothy grass, wild strawberry, tree lupin, black knapweed, hop trefoil, common vetch, hairy tare. Protected fauna: Song thrush.
88	Grassland at Pleasurewood Hills	Protected habitats: Lowland hay meadow, ponds. Flora: purple orchid, green winged orchid, twayblade. Protected fauna: Great crested newts, grass snake.
89	Jenkins Green	Habitats: Small pond surrounded by grass and trees.

Reference	Site	Additional information
		Flora: Black bryony, meadowsweet, common fleabane, bramble, gorse, osier, common reed.
90	Kensington Gardens	Habitats: Formal gardens and lawns with a small pond. Flora: Holm oak, common duckweed, reed, water figwort, pellitory of the wall. Protected fauna: House sparrow, hedgehog, starling. Other fauna: Chaffinch, willow warbler, collared dove, wood pigeon.
91	Land east of Peto Way, Lowestoft	Habitats: Mature trees and scrub. Flora: Nipplewort, daisy, smooth sow thistle, spear thistle, ragwort, yarrow, common nettle, ground ivy and cut leaved cranesbill, sycamore, copper beech, white poplar, Scots pine, privet, bramble.
92	Lowestoft Cemetery	Habitats: Grasslands with avenues of mature trees. Flora: Lime, horse chestnut, red clover, mouse-ear hawkweed, common cats-ear, autumn hawkbit, biting stonecrop, yarrow. Fauna: Grey squirrel, chaffinch, robin, blackbird, magpie.
93	Moncton Avenue	Protected habitats: Wet woodland, ponds. Flora: Beech, willow, oak, holly, ivy, common duckweed, sycamore.
94	Net Drying Area	Protected habitat: Acid grassland. Protected fauna: Skylark, starling.
95	Normanston Park Allotments	Habitats: Overgrown allotments with hedge boundary, wood piles, compost heaps. Flora: Common nettle, docks, ground ivy, white clover, bramble, comfrey. Protected fauna: House sparrow. Other fauna: Chaffinch, wren, greenfinch, wood pigeon.
96	North Beach: Ness Point to Links Hill	Habitat: Coastline.
97	North Denes Former Campsite and land east of Sparrows Nest	Protected habitat: Acid grassland. Protected species: Linnet, dunnock.
98	Off Millennium Way, Lowestoft	Habitat: Species rich meadow. Flora: Sallow salix, blackthorn, hawthorn, holme oak, gorse and bramble, orchids, ragwort, perforate St. John's wort, hogweed, wild radish, black horehound, ribwort plantain, greater plantain, mugwort, white clover, white campion, catsear, hairy tare, mayweed, coltsfoot, daisy, beaked hawksbeard, fox-and-cubs, meadow vetchling, goatsbeard, pineapple mayweed, hedge bindweed, common storksbill, common chickweed, common fleabane, common sow-thistle, creeping thistle. Fauna: Small white, meadow brown, gatekeeper and Essex skipper butterflies, migrant hawk dragonfly.
99	Sparrow's Nest	Habitats: Formal gardens and shrubs. Flora: Bluebell, holm oak, alexanders, ground ivy, holly, hogweed. Protected fauna: Dunnock, bats, hedgehogs, tawny owl. Other fauna: Collared dove, blackbird, robin, spotted fly catcher, grey squirrel.

Reference	Site	Additional information
100	St. Peter's Churchyard	<p>Habitats: Rough grass, medium sized trees.</p> <p>Flora: Field maple, yew, daisy, germander speedwell, dandelion, creeping cinquefoil, black medick, yarrow, pellitory-of-the-wall, yew, selfheal, field maple.</p> <p>Fauna: Greenfinch, chaffinch, speckled wood butterfly.</p>
101	Wisett Way	<p>Habitats: Pond surrounded by grassland and trees.</p> <p>Flora: Poplar, oak, hawthorn, bramble.</p> <p>Protected fauna: House sparrow.</p>
102	Woodland south of Princes Walk	<p>Habitat: Woodland with a mixture of young and mature trees.</p> <p>Flora: Lime, crack willow, sycamore, silver birch, willow, elder, hazel, hawthorn, privet, gorse, bramble, elm, ivy, common nettle, rosebay willowherb, ragwort, perforate St. John's wort, hogweed, wild radish, black horehound, ribwort plantain, nipplewort, white campion, herb Robert, common mallow, barren brome, variety of invertebrates.</p> <p>Protected fauna: House sparrow.</p> <p>Other fauna: Wood pigeon, blackbird, robin, wren.</p>

South Lowestoft

Reference	Site	Additional information
Special Areas of Conservation http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-23		
103	Sprat's Water and Marshes, Carlton Colville	Habitats of European significance include tall fen, wet alder woodland, calcium-rich spring water.
Special Protection Areas http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-162		
104	Sprat's Water and Marshes, Carlton Colville	Marsh harrier, water rail, Cetti's warbler, bearded tit.
Site of Special Scientific Interest www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/index.cfm		
105	Pakefield to Easton Bavents	Habitats: Vegetated shingle, including eroding shingle, stable shingle, grassland, dunes. Flora: Rare vascular plants. Protected fauna: Bitterns, marsh harriers.
106	Sprat's Water and Marshes, Carlton Colville	Protected habitats: Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, fen, reedbed, wet woodland. Flora: Saw sedge, marsh clove-thistle. Protected fauna: Norfolk hawk dragonfly, common lizard, grass snake, water vole, barn owl, reed bunting, shining ramshorn snail, little whirlpool ramshorn snail, pea mussel, glow worm.
County Wildlife Site www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/wildlife-sites.aspx		
107	Brooke Yachts and Jeld-Wen Mosaic	Protected habitats: Small area of intertidal mudflat. Habitats: Woodland, scrub, rank and short grassland. Flora: Bramble, privet, hawthorn scrub with dense patches of gorse and woodland containing mature oaks, sycamore with silver birch, diseased Dutch elm trees, hairy sedge, creeping thistle, and meadow vetchling, biting stonecrop, English stonecrop and common centaury, cocksfoot, wall barley, Yorkshire fog, perennial rye grass, sea couch, Barren Brome, rough meadow-grass, soft rush, saltmarsh rush, common nettle, rosebay willowherb, great willowherb, common cleavers, ragwort, perforate St John's wort, hogweed, creeping thistle, wild radish, black horehound, ribwort plantain, greater plantain, sea plantain, buckshorn plantain, prickly sow-thistle, smooth sow-thistle, Oxeye Daisy, wild carrot, common sorrel, sheep's sorrel, yarrow, mugwort, haresfoot clover, white clover, white campion, common mallow, dog rose, birdsfoot trefoil, hop trefoil, catsear, great mullein, hairy tare, mayweed, coltsfoot, silver weed, daisy and self heal, honeysuckle, willow, sallow. Protected fauna: Common lizard, dunnock, linnets, herring gull.
108	Carlton Grove	Habitat: Woodland. Flora: Ash, oak, holly, elder, hazel, hornbeam, sweet chestnut. Fauna: Grey squirrel, muntjac, rabbit, fox, chaffinch, wren.
109	Kirkley Ham	Protected habitats: Fen, reedbed, wet woodland, acid grassland. Other habitats: Rough grassland, gorse and ponds. Flora: Gypsy wort, tufted vetch, corn spurrey, yellow flag iris, bladder campion, purple-loosestrife, celery-leaved buttercup, marsh willowherb, southern marsh orchid. Protected fauna: Common lizard, song thrush, yellow hammer, common lizard, reed bunting, song thrush, yellowhammer, wren, meadow pipit, willow warbler, chiffchaff, reed warbler and reed bunting, common darter,

Reference	Site	Additional information
		black-tailed skimmer, blue-tailed damselfly, large white, meadow brown, red tailed bumble-bee.
110	Old Golf Course (West)	Habitats: Scrub and rough grass. Flora: Bramble, gorse, hemlock, tansy, tufted vetch, mugwort. Protected fauna: Song thrush, dunnock, linnet. Other fauna: Meadow brown, small white, small skipper, gatekeeper, peacock.
111	Pakefield Beach	Habitats: Dunes and vegetated shingle. Flora: Sea holly, yellow horned poppy, curled dock, sea pea, sea kale, sea beat, biting stonecrop, sea sandwort, marram grass, hares foot clover. Protected species: House sparrow, slow worm.
112	Pakefield Cliffs	Protected habitats: Vegetated shingle, maritime slopes and cliffs. Flora: Curled dock, sea pea, sea kale, sea beet, sea sandwort, marram grass, scented agrimony, wild carrot, halberd-leaved orache, bee orchid. Protected fauna: House sparrow, starling. Other fauna: Sand martins, Dartford warblers
113	Pakefield Park	Protected habitats: Acidic grassland. Habitats: Rough grassland, scrub, woodlands. Fauna: Sheep sorrel, black knapweed, smooth hawks-beard, broom, gorse, pedunculate oak, hawthorn, blackthorn. Protected fauna: Bullfinch, song thrush. Other fauna: Chaffinch, robin, blackbird, blue tit, magpie, wren, chiffchaff, woodpigeon, treecreeper, meadow brown, large white, ringlet.
114	Share Marsh Dyke	Habitat: Grazing marsh.
Non designated sites (sites that are not formally identified for their biodiversity value)		
115	Area between Stradbroke Road and Silverwood Close	Habitats: Rank grass and scrub. Flora: Bracken, nettles, ground ivy, white clover, creeping buttercup, greater burdock, white clover, hops, Indian balsam. Protected fauna: House sparrow. Other fauna: Blackbird chaffinch, red admiral, meadow brown.
116	Dale End	Habitats: Tall grassland with scattered scrub, banks and hedgerow. Flora: Bristly ox-tongue, selfheal, meadow vetchling, scarlet pimpernel, field penny-cress, tufted vetch, lady's bedstraw, birds-foot-trefoil, bladder campion, field scabious, musk mallow, black knapweed, imperforate St Johns-wort, sea buckthorn, crested dog's-tail, creeping thistle, field maple. Fauna: Chaffinch, blackbird, speckled wood, meadow brown, small white, black tailed skimmer.
117	Grove Primary School Grounds	Habitat: Secondary woodland. Flora: Blue bells, hornbeam, ash, field maple and hawthorn, red campion, hogweed, common chickweed, black medick. Fauna: Blackbird, wren, chaffinch, large white, speckled wood, ringlet, grey squirrel, fox. Protected fauna: House sparrow.
118	Kirkley Cemetery	Habitats: Cemetery. Flora: Corsican pine, common nettle, ground ivy, white clover, creeping buttercup, smooth hawksbit, mouse-ear hawkweed, common vetch, oxeye daisy, biting stonecrop, white clover, red clover. Protected fauna: House sparrow, starling.

Reference	Site	Additional information
		Other Fauna: Green woodpecker, blackbird, chaffinch, meadow brown butterfly.
119	Land adjacent to the Dell Primary School	Habitat: Woodland.
120	Land near Castleton Avenue, Carlton Colville	Habitats: Rank grassland, bushy hedge, bramble scrub. Flora: Oak, blackthorn, hawthorn, field maple, ash, <i>buddleia sp</i> and diseased elm, common nettle, rosebay willowherb, great willowherb, hogweed, creeping thistle, spear thistle, black horehound, greater plaintain, yarrow, hedge bindweed, water figwort, branched bur-reed, horseradish, coltsfoot, broad-leaved dock cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, marsh foxtail. Protected fauna: Dunnock. Other fauna: Wood pigeon, collared dove, goldfinch, chaffinch blue tit, holly blue, small white butterflies, brown hawk, common darter, migrant hawk dragonflies, dark bush-cricket.
121	Land off Hall Road, Carlton Colville	Habitats: Meadow and mature trees. Flora: Mature beech, Corsican pine, lime, hawthorn, holly, elder, ivy, dog rose, bramble, oak saplings, common nettle, ragwort, hogweed, spear thistle, creeping thistle, field horsetail, black horehound, ribwort plaintain, greater plaintain, hedge woundwort, smooth sowthistle, cat's ear, yarrow, scentless mayweed, mugwort, ragwort, red deadnettle, white clover, meadow buttercup, common mallow, cocksfoot, timothy, wall barley, Yorkshire fog, perennial rye grass. Protected fauna: Linnet, house sparrow. Other fauna: Whitethroat, blackbird, goldfinch, chaffinch, woodpigeon.
122	Land west of Carlton Hall, Chapel Road	Habitats: Meadow with mature trees and a horse paddock. Flora: Mature beech, Corsican pine, lime, hawthorn, holly, elder, ivy, dog rose and bramble, with young oak saplings, common nettle, ragwort, hogweed, spear thistle, creeping thistle, field horsetail, black horehound, ribwort plaintain, greater plaintain, hedge woundwort, smooth sowthistle, cat's ear, yarrow, scentless mayweed, mugwort, ragwort, red deadnettle, white clover, meadow buttercup, common mallow, cocksfoot, timothy, wall barley, Yorkshire fog, perennial rye grass. Protected fauna: House sparrow, dunnock. Other fauna: Chaffinch, blackbird, wood pigeon. Fauna: Meadow butterfly.
123	Nicholas Everitt Park	Habitats: Lawns and formal gardens, pond, ditch, reed bed. Flora: Great willow-herb, common duck weed, gypsywort, common fleabane, common reed, black bryony. Protected fauna: House sparrow, European eel, slow worm, common lizard, common toad, water vole. Other Fauna: Fox, grey squirrel, wren, blackbird, chaffinch, moorhen, mallard, mute swan, comma, red admiral, speckled wood.
124	Off Airedale	Habitats: Grassland with some non-native species of tree. Flora: Bristly ox-tongue, selfheal, white clover, birds-foot-trefoil.
125	Rear of Green Drive	Habitats: Rough grassland and boundary hedge. Flora: Yarrow, ribwort plantain, white clover, wall barley and evergreen holm oak, ash. Protected species: House sparrow. Other fauna: Meadow brown butterfly, grey squirrels.

Reference	Site	Additional information
126	Stradbroke Road Allotments	<p>Habitats: Allotment plots with areas of rough grassland.</p> <p>Flora: Poplar, ivy, mature oak, sun spurge, petty spurge, knotgrass, annual mercury, nipplewort, garlic mustard, scarlet pimpernel.</p> <p>Protected fauna: House sparrow, song thrush.</p> <p>Other fauna: Wren, blackbird, chaffinch, fox, squirrel, red admiral, large white butterflies.</p>
127	Wildlife corridor along South Lowestoft Relief Road	<p>Protected habitats: Fen, pond.</p> <p>Other habitats: Grassland, scrub, trees, wet boggy areas.</p> <p>Flora: Water plantain, fools water cress, water forget-me-not, vipers bugloss, water-solider, water figwort, watercress, common duckweed, Canadian waterweed, curled pondweed, amphibious bistort, water mint, purple loosestrife, intermediate water starwort, stonewort, greater spearwort, bog pondweed, biting stonecrop, yarrow, imperforate St John's wort, oxeye daisy, weld, tufted vetch, hops, monkey flower, common fleabane, borage, tansy.</p> <p>Protected fauna: Water vole, common lizard (Kirkley Ham only), common lizard, bats.</p> <p>Other fauna: Short tailed voles, squirrels, fox, rabbit, chaffinch, robin, blackbird, magpie, moorhen, wren, tree creeper, banded demoiselle, broad bodied chaser, blue-tailed damselfly, meadow brown, large white, red admiral.</p>

Southwold and Reydon

Reference	Site	Additional information
County Wildlife Site www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/wildlife-sites.aspx		
128	Buss Creek	Habitats: Tributary river with marshes to the east. Protected fauna: Hen harrier, marsh harrier, short eared owl, barn owl, water voles, dragonfly, grass snake.
129	Clay Common Ponds	Habitat: Mosaic with aquatic flora.
130	Deep Hole	Habitat: Wet species rich grassland.
131	Easton Marshes	Habitats: Established shingle, sandy heathland and scattered gorse. Flora: Sticky groundsel, sea purslane, stork's bill. Fauna: Lapwing, redshank, shoveler, tufted duck, gadwall, teal, Bewick's swan, white fronted geese, Brent geese, greylag, Canada geese.
132	Easton Marshes	Habitat: Mosaic with aquatic flora.
133	Havenbeach Marshes	Habitat: Grazing marsh. Flora: Slender spike-rush, water whorl grass, divided sedge, small pond weed, soft hornwort, brackish water crowfoot.
134	Reydon Fishing Lakes	Habitat: Disused gravel pits with sandy banks. Flora: Mossy stonecrop, Smith's pepperwort. Protected fauna: Grass snake, common lizard.
135	Reydon Marshes	Habitats: Cattle grazed pastures, drainage dykes. Fauna: Teal, shoveler, wigeon, shelduck, curlew, redshank.
136	Reydon Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
137	Southwold Denes	Habitat: Vegetated shingle. Flora: Sea holly, bulbous meadow grass, sea pea.
138	St Felix School Grounds	Habitats: Heathland with patches of acidic grassland with gorse scrub. Protected fauna: Common lizard, linnet.
139	Wangford Marshes	Habitat: Marsh flora.
Non designated sites (sites that are not formally identified for their biodiversity value)		
140	Bartholemew's Green	Habitats: Ornamental gardens with flower beds, short grass, privet hedge. Fauna: Acer, holly, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut.
141	Blyth Road Allotments	Habitats: Allotments with scrub and boundary hedgerows.
142	Elliott Avenue	Habitats: Mown grassland and mature hedge. Fauna: Oak, elm, hawthorn, damson.
143	Eversley Playing Fields	Habitat: Village green with formal trees and shrubs.
144	North Green	Flora: Ash, acer, common bent, buckshorn plantain, daisy, common cat's ear, ragwort, white clover.
145	Reydon Churchyard	Habitats: Churchyard with mature hedgerows. Flora: Yew, oak, horse chestnut, oxeye daisy, germander, speedwell, ladies bedstraw, black knapweed.
146	Rissemere Lane East Allotments	Habitats: Allotments with mature hedges containing hawthorn, suckering elm.
147	Southwold Cemetery	Habitat: Cemetery with mown grass. Flora: Self heal, mouse-ear hawkweed, yarrow, prickly ox-tongue, dove's-foot crane's bill, mouse ear chickweed, daisy, creeping buttercup, ground ivy.
148	Southwold Common	Habitats: Open grassland with gorse, bramble scrub. Flora: Yorkshire fog, common bent, ribwort plantain, sheep's sorrel, common cat's ear. Protected fauna: Skylark, grass snake, slow worm, common lizard.
149	St. Edmund King and Martyr	Habitats: Churchyard with mown and unmown grass. Fauna: Birds-foot-trefoil, ladies bedstraw, mouse-ear hawkweed, yarrow, holly, yew.
150	Tibby's Green	Habitats: Mown grass surrounded by a beech hedge.

Rural Areas

Reference	Site	Additional information
RAMSAR http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1389		
151	Broadland	Habitats: River valleys, open water, carr woodlands, grazing marsh, fen meadow. Flora: Fen orchid, floating water plantain. Fauna: Bewick's swan, Eurasian wigeon, gadwall, northern shoveler.
152	Broadland	Habitats: River valleys, open water, carr woodlands, grazing marsh, fen meadow. Fauna: Fen orchid, floating water plantain. Flora: Tundra swan, Eurasian wigeon, gadwall, northern shoveler.
153	Minsmere-Walberswick	Habitats: Marshland, acidic grassland, mudflats, reed beds, shingle beach. Fauna: Scarce shingle plants.
Site of Special Scientific Interest www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/index.cfm		
154	Abbey Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
155	Barnby Broads and Marshes	Habitats: Open water, carr woodland, fen, grazing marsh, dykes. Flora: White water lily, common reed, tussock sedge, bog moss, marsh arrowgrass, marsh fern, southern marsh orchid.
156	Corton Cliffs	Site of geological importance.
157	Flixton Quarry	Site of geological importance.
158	Laurel Farm Meadow	Habitats: Grassland surrounded by a hedge. Flora: Grasses, flowering herbs, orchids.
159	Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths & Marshes	Habitats: Shingle beach, acidic grassland. Flora: Scarce shingle plants.
160	Sotterley Park	Habitat: Ancient woodland. Flora: Mature trees, lichen mosses.
161	Titsal Wood, Shadingfield	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
Special Areas of Conservation http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-23		
162	Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons	Habitat: Lagoons. Flora: Narrow leaved eelgrass, spiral tassleweed, common reed.
163	The Broads	Habitat: Wetland habitats. Protected fauna: Ramshorn snail, Desmoulin's whorl snail, fen orchid.
164	The Broads	Habitat: Wetland habitats. Protected fauna: Ramshorn snail, Desmoulin's whorl snail, fen orchid.
165	Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes	Habitats: Marshland, acidic grassland, mudflats, reed beds, shingle beach. Fauna: Scarce shingle plants.
Special Protection Areas http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-162		
166	Benacre to Easton Bavents	Habitat: Lagoons. Protected fauna: Bittern, marsh harrier, little tern.
167	Broadland	Habitat: Wetland habitats. Fauna: Northern shoveler, wigeon, gadwall, bittern,

Reference	Site	Additional information
		marsh harrier, hen harrier, Bewick's swan, whooper swan, ruff.
168	Broadland	Habitat: Wetland habitats. Fauna: Northern shoveler, wigeon, gadwall, Bewick's swan, whooper swan, ruff. Protected fauna: Bittern, marsh harrier, hen harrier.
169	Minsmere-Walberswick	Habitats: Shingle beach, acidic grassland. Flora: Scarce shingle plants. Fauna: Northern shoveler, teal, gadwall, grater white fronted goose, nightjar, pied avocet, little tern. Protected fauna: Bittern, marsh harrier, hen harrier.
County Wildlife Site www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/wildlife-sites.aspx		
170	All Saints Churchyard	Habitat: Species rich grassland.
171	All Saints Rectory Meadows	Habitat: Species rich grassland.
172	Ashley Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
173	Benacre Woods	Habitat: Woodland.
174	Blundeston Prison Lake and Woods	Habitat: Wetland mosaic.
175	Blyford Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland and green.
176	Brier Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
177	Bryant's Meadow	Habitat: Species rich grassland.
178	Coombe's Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
179	Corton Woods	Protected habitat: Pond. Other habitat: Woodland. Protected fauna: Song thrush, bullfinch, spotted flycatcher.
180	Ellough Airfield	Fauna: Boulder clay flora.
181	Ellough Churchyard	Habitat: Species rich grassland. Fauna: Reptiles.
182	Ellough Grove North	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
183	Ellough Grove South	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
184	Flixton Decoy	Protected habitats: Wet woodlands, eutrophic standing waters. Other habitat: Dry woodlands. Flora: Ash, oak, sycamore, beech, Scots pine, holly, elder, hazel, guilder rose, rhododendron, gypsy wort, water chickweed, hemlock water dropwort, yellow water-lily, white water-lily, angelica, water pepper, marsh woundwart, skullcap, marsh bedstraw, hemp agrimony, primrose, wood avens, wood sorrel, foxglove, yellow pimpernel, enchanter's nightshade, sanicle. Protected species: Grass snake, song thrush, grass snake, common toad.
185	Flixton Decoy Meadows	Habitat: Grassland mosaic.
186	Flixton Pits	Fauna: Invertebrates.
187	Frostenden Spring	Habitat: Woodland.
188	Furze Common	Habitat: Wet grassland.
189	Godfrey's Common	Habitat: Species-rich grassland.
190	Gorse Thick	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
191	Great and Briery Woods	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
192	Great Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.

Reference	Site	Additional information
193	Heavyland Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
194	Henham Marshes	Habitat: Wet species rich grassland.
195	Herringfleet Hills	Habitat: Acid grassland. Fauna: Reptiles.
196	Herringfleet Marshes	Habitat: Wetland flora.
197	Holton Hall Park	Habitats: Historic parkland, woodland.
198	Holton Sandpits	Habitat: Habitat mosaic.
199	Hundred River and Associated Dykes	Fauna: Aquatic and wetland flora.
200	Hurricane Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland. Protected fauna: Otter.
201	Ilketshall St Margaret Churchyard	Habitat: Species rich grassland.
202	John Wet Meadow	Habitat: Wet species rich grassland.
203	Kitchen Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
204	Likely Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
205	Limbourne Common Dykes	Habitat: Grazing marsh dykes.
206	Long Meadow	Habitat: Species rich grassland.
207	Lound Lakes	Habitats: Acid and lowland grassland, woodland, open water, rush pasture, fen meadow. Protected fauna: Grass snake, bats. Other fauna: Hobby.
208	The Mardle	Habitat: Habitat mosaic.
209	Marsh Lane Farm Marsh	Habitat: Wet species rich grassland.
210	Mill Common	Habitat: Species rich grassland.
211	New Dyke and Shipmeadow Marshes	Habitat: Grazing marsh dykes.
212	Mutford Big Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
213	New House Farm Meadow	Habitat: Species rich grassland.
214	North Cove Alder Carrs	Habitat: Wet woodland.
215	Old Henham Brickyard and Blomefield Wood	Habitats: Woodland, fen vegetation.
216	Outney Common	Protected habitat: Acid grassland. Other habitat: Marshy meadows. Flora: Arrowhead, lesser spearwort, fine leaved water dropwort, meadow rue. Protected fauna: Linnets and skylark, grass snake and common lizard. Other fauna: Cattle, rabbits.
217	Rectory Meadow Ponds	Flora: Aquatic flora. Protected fauna: Great crested newt.
218	Roadside nature reserve 88: Flixton Road, North of St. Margaret South Elmham	Flora: Sulphur clover.
219	Roadside nature reserve 142: West of the A12 Wangford by-pass (on the northern edge of the quarry)	Flora: Orpine.
220	Roadside nature reserve 173: B1062 between Mettingham and Shipmeadow	Flora: Chalk flora.
221	Rumburgh Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
222	Savage Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
223	Somerleyton and Blundeston Marshes	Habitat: Grazing marsh dykes.
224	Southwell Lane Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
225	Sparrow's Thicks	Habitats: Woodland, grassland.
226	Spring Farm Meadow	Habitat: Species rich grassland.
227	St Lawrence Green Pond	Flora: Aquatic flora.

Reference	Site	Additional information
		Fauna: Reptiles.
228	St Peters Churchyard	Habitat: Species rich grassland.
229	Stoven Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
230	Timber Shrubs	Habitat: Woodland.
231	Tuttles Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
232	Valley Swamp, Fritton Woods	Flora: Marsh flora.
233	Walberswick Saltmarsh	Habitat: Saltmarsh, dunes, vegetated shingle, acidic grassland, Flora: Scarce shingle plants.
234	River Waveney	Habitat: Reedbed. Protected fauna: Depressed river mussel, Desmoulin's whorl snail.
235	Weston Crossing Meadow	Habitat: Species rich grassland.
236	Weston Crossing Railway Line	Habitat: Grassland scrub mosaic.
237	Whitehouse Farm Meadow	Habitat: Wet species rich grassland.
238	Willingham Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
239	Wrentham Cemetery	Habitat: Acid grassland.
240	Wrentham Great Wood	Habitat: Ancient woodland.
Local Nature Reserve www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/lnr/lnr_search.asp		
241	Corton Woods	Protected habitat: Pond. Other habitat: Secondary woodland. Flora: Hart's tongue fern, gypsywort, water mint, water plantain, ragged robin, water crowfoot, spurge-laurel, yellow pimpernel, wood sorrel, wood avens, pendulous sedge, ox-eye daisy, primrose, common spotted orchid, foxglove, broad-leaved helleborine, sanicle, common figwort, three-veined sandwort, enchanter's nightshade, elder, holm oak, ash, pedunculate oak, blackthorn, beech, <i>Russula lilacea</i> (fungus). Protected fauna: Song thrush, bullfinch, spotted flycatcher.
242	Bath Hills Nature Reserve	Habitat: Steep sided south-facing valley. Flora: Wild flowers.
Ancient Woodland www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-5W2G8Q		
243	Abbey Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
244	Ashley Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
245	Ashley Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
246	Bloomfield Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
247	Blyford Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
248	Brier Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
249	Coombe's Wood Next to Halesworth Lodge	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
250	Easton Wood	Habitat: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
251	Frostenden Spring	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
252	Frostenden Spring	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
253	Gorse Thick/Manor Thick	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
254	Gorse Thick/Manor Thick	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
255	Great/Briery/Farm Woods	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
256	Great/Briery/Farm Woods	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
257	Great/Briery/Farm Woods	Habitats: Ancient replanted woodland.
258	Great Wood	Habitats: ancient and semi-natural woodland.
259	Great Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.

Reference	Site	Additional information
260	Great Wood	Habitats: Ancient replanted woodland.
261	Great Wood East of Old Rectory Off Flixton Road	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
262	Heavyland Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
263	Holly Grove	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
264	Likely Wood, between Sotterley Park and Willingham	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
265	Mutford Big Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
266	Mutford Big Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
267	Mutford Little Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
268	Woodland at Mutford Wood Lane	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
269	Packway Wood between Grange Road and Abbey Road	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
270	Reydon Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
271	Reydon Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
272	Savage Wood, East of the B1127	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
273	Scarl's Grove, North of Sotterley Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
274	Scarls Grove Belt, North of Sotterley Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
275	Part of Sheppard's Wood at Sotterley Park	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
276	Sotterley Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
277	Part of Sotterley Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
278	Part of Sotterley Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
279	Part of Sotterley Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
280	Part of Sotterley Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
281	Southwell Lane Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
282	Sparrows Thick	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
283	Spring Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
284	Stoven Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
285	Titsal Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
286	Tuttles Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
287	Tuttles Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
288	Tuttles Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
289	Willingham Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
290	Wrentham Great Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
291	Wrentham Great Wood	Habitats: Ancient and semi-natural woodland.
292	Wrentham Great Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
293	Wrentham Great Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
294	Wrentham Great Wood	Habitat: Ancient replanted woodland.
Roadside Nature Reserves www.suffolk.gov.uk/environment-and-transport/environment-waste-and-recycling/roadside-nature-reserves/		
295	82: Junction between Blyford Lane and the B1123, Blyford	Protected flora: Rare fungus.
296	88: Flixton Road, North of St. Margaret South Elmham	Flora: Sulphur clover.
297	142: West of the A12 Wangford by-pass (on the northern edge of the quarry)	Flora: Orpine.
298	166: B1123 West of Blyford	Protected flora: Rare Fungus.
299	173: B1062 between Mettingham and Shipmeadow	Flora: Chalk flora, orchids.
300	191: St. Cross Road, Homersfield	Flora: Rare Fungi.

Designated sites with biodiversity value

Figure 2.1: Ancient Woodland (Woodland planted before the year 1600)

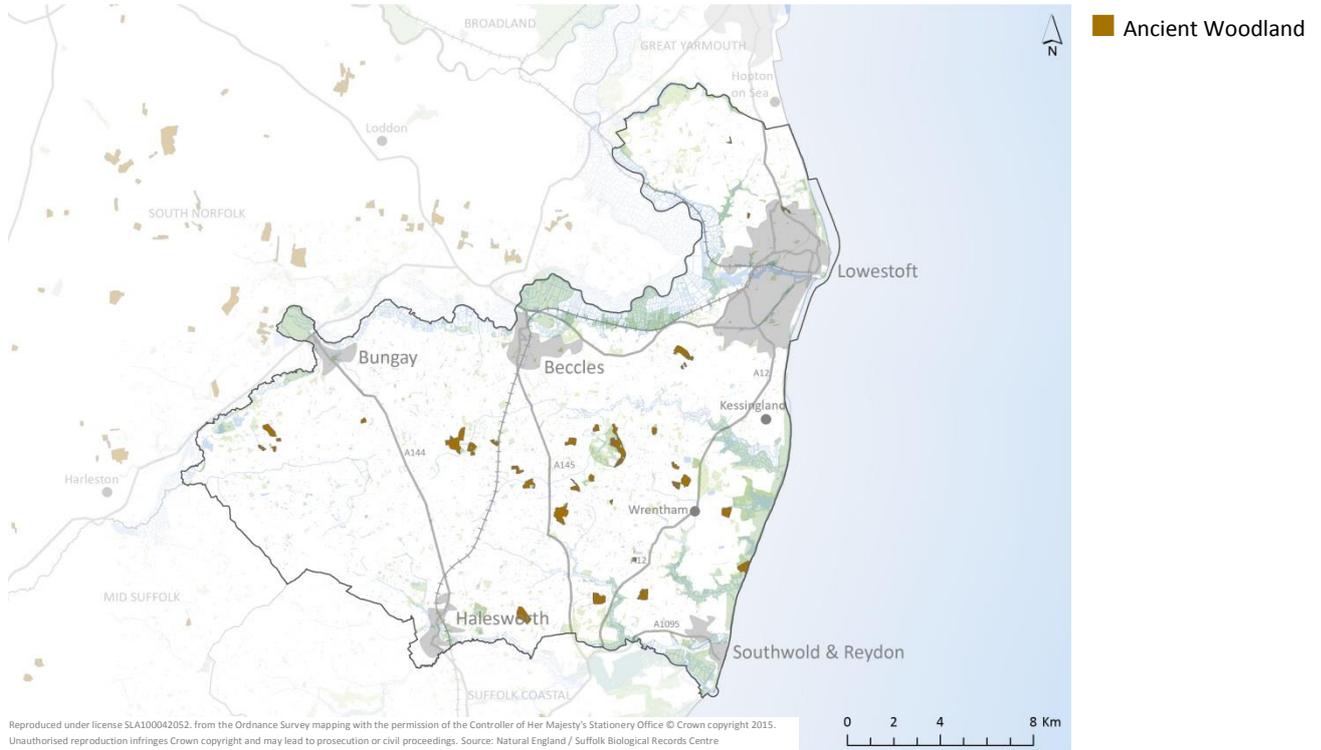


Figure 2.2: County Wildlife Sites (Sites designated at the county level for their high biodiversity value)

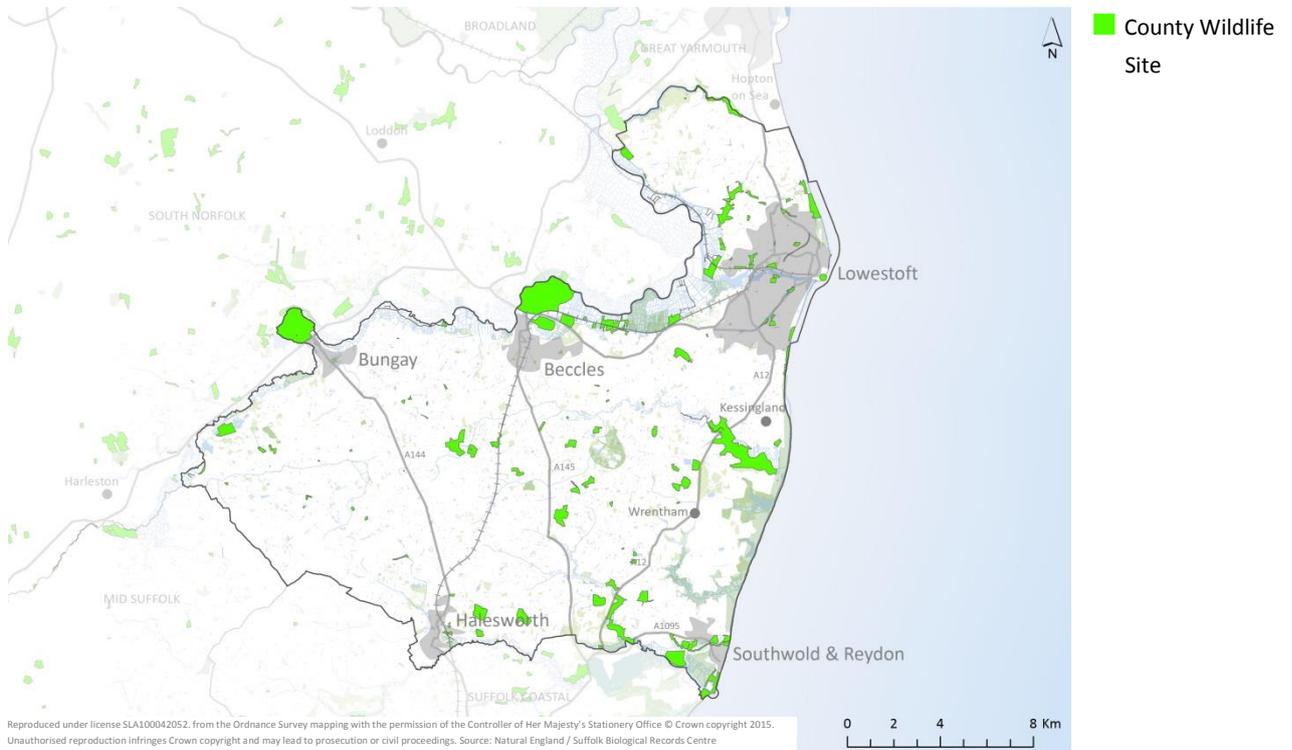


Figure 2.3: Local Nature Reserve (Protected for their biodiversity value)



Figure 2.4: RAMSAR Sites (sites protected for their wetland bird habitats)



Figure 2.5: Roadside Nature Reserves (Roadside verges containing endangered species or habitats)



Figure 2.6: Site of Special Scientific Interest (Sites protected for their plant, animal or geological value)



Figure 2.7: Special Areas of Conservation (Protected for their wildlife habitat value)

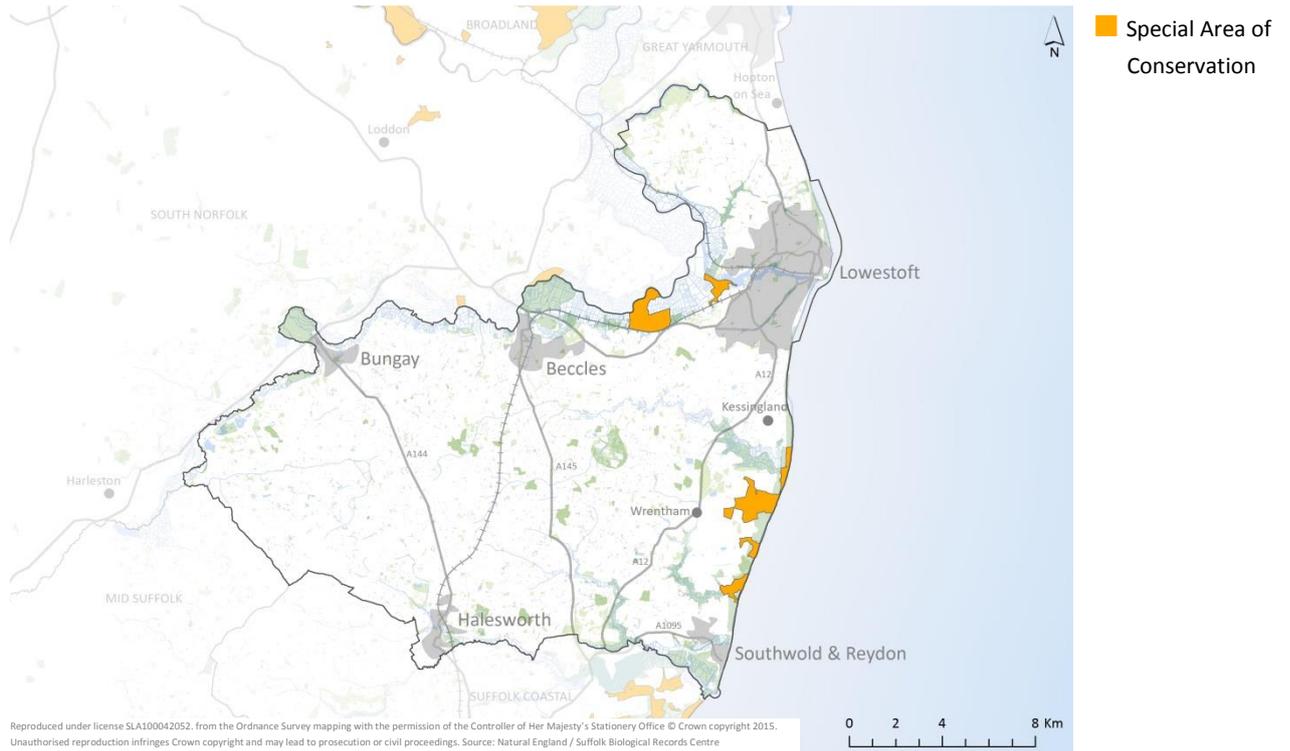
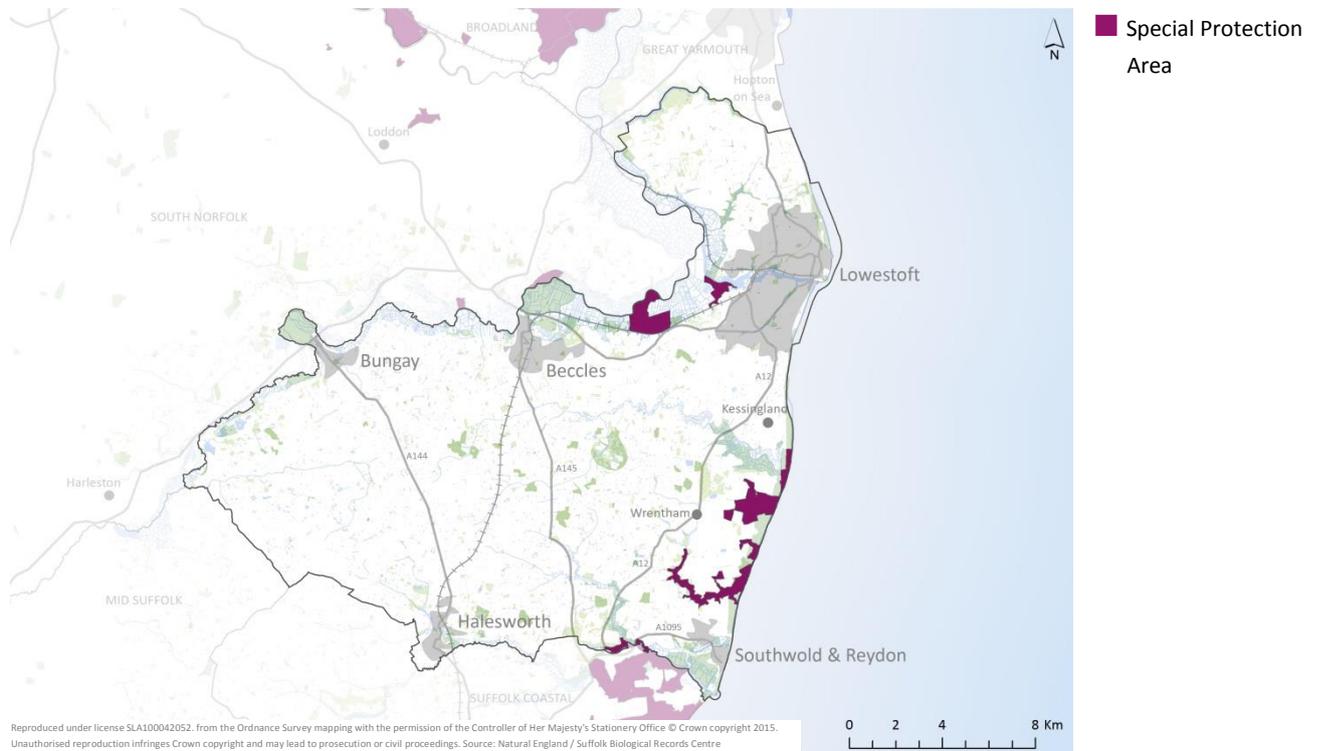


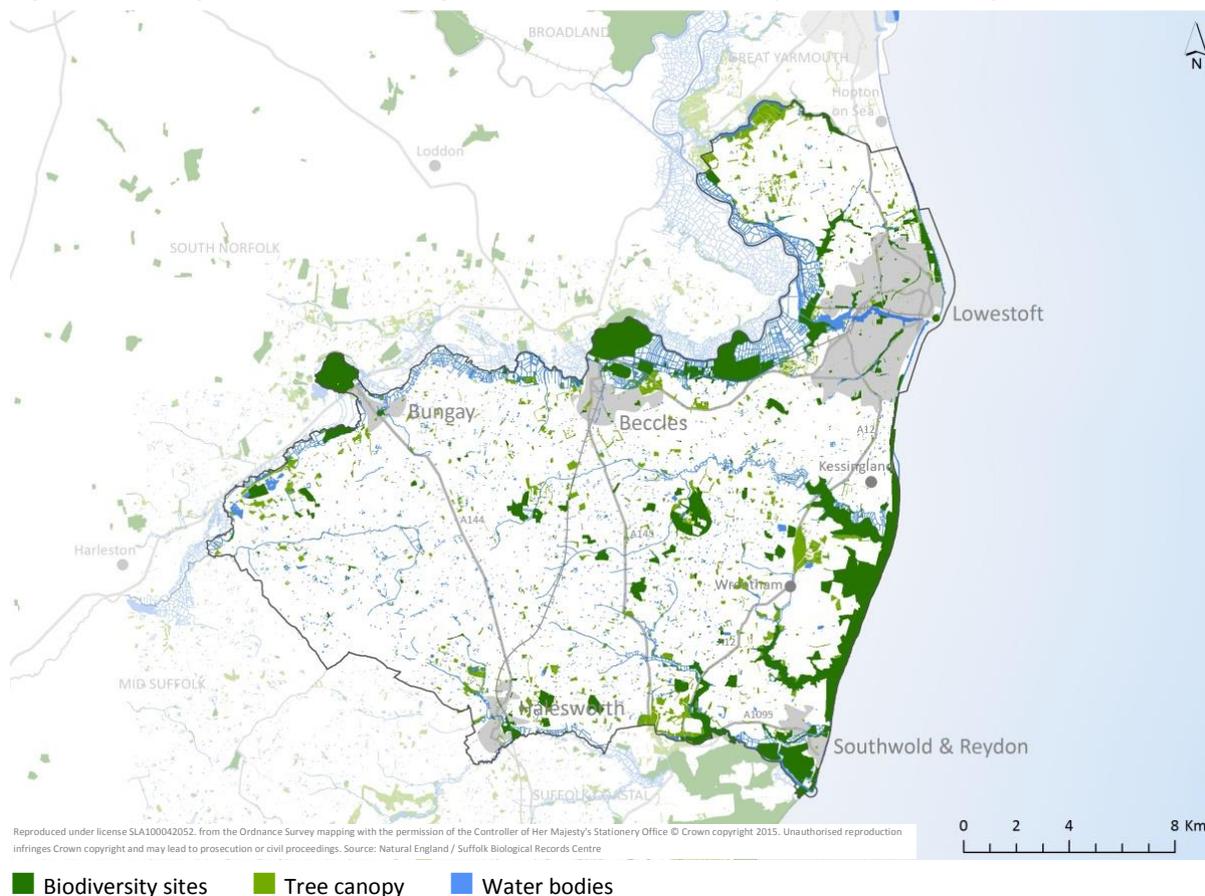
Figure 2.8: Special Protection Areas (Protected for their habitat value for birds)



Biodiversity sites in Waveney District

Waveney District contains 300 sites of biodiversity value that support a wide range of different species and habitats (Figure 2.9). A majority of these are designated as biodiversity sites to provide protection, however, there will be many more areas of the District providing habitat for flora and fauna which are not represented (eg. fields, hedgerows, land bordering waterways). Areas of biodiversity value are often part of a wider network of sites that extend beyond the District boundaries and form a part of a larger, more extensive regional green infrastructure network.

Figure 2.9: Designated and non-designated sites with biodiversity value in Waveney



Wildlife corridors and ecological networks enable species to move between similar habitats. This is important for dispersal and migration so that isolated pockets of small, in-bred populations do not develop. For free movement to occur the links between separate habitats should ideally be of the same habitat type.

In Waveney wildlife corridors are primarily associated with bodies of water (Figure 2.10). Wildlife travel north and south along the coast accessing river valleys such as the Blyth and Hundred, which extend inland, and large habitat areas north (Breydon Water) and south (Minsmere) of the District. A number of protected sites of European importance are located along the coast including Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons SAC and Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC.

In the north of the District the Waveney Valley forms part of the Broads and is an important part of the regional ecological network. The water based corridor supports wildlife movement across Waveney and into habitats located in South Norfolk and Mid Suffolk. Along the Waveney Valley are habitats of European Importance such as the Sprat's Water and Marshes SAC/SPA west of Lowestoft and the Broadland SPA. The corridor is supported with other locally important areas for biodiversity including Beccles Marshes CWS and Outney Common CWS. West of Lowestoft the Waveney Valley extends northwards enabling wildlife to move towards Breydon Water and other areas near the coast.

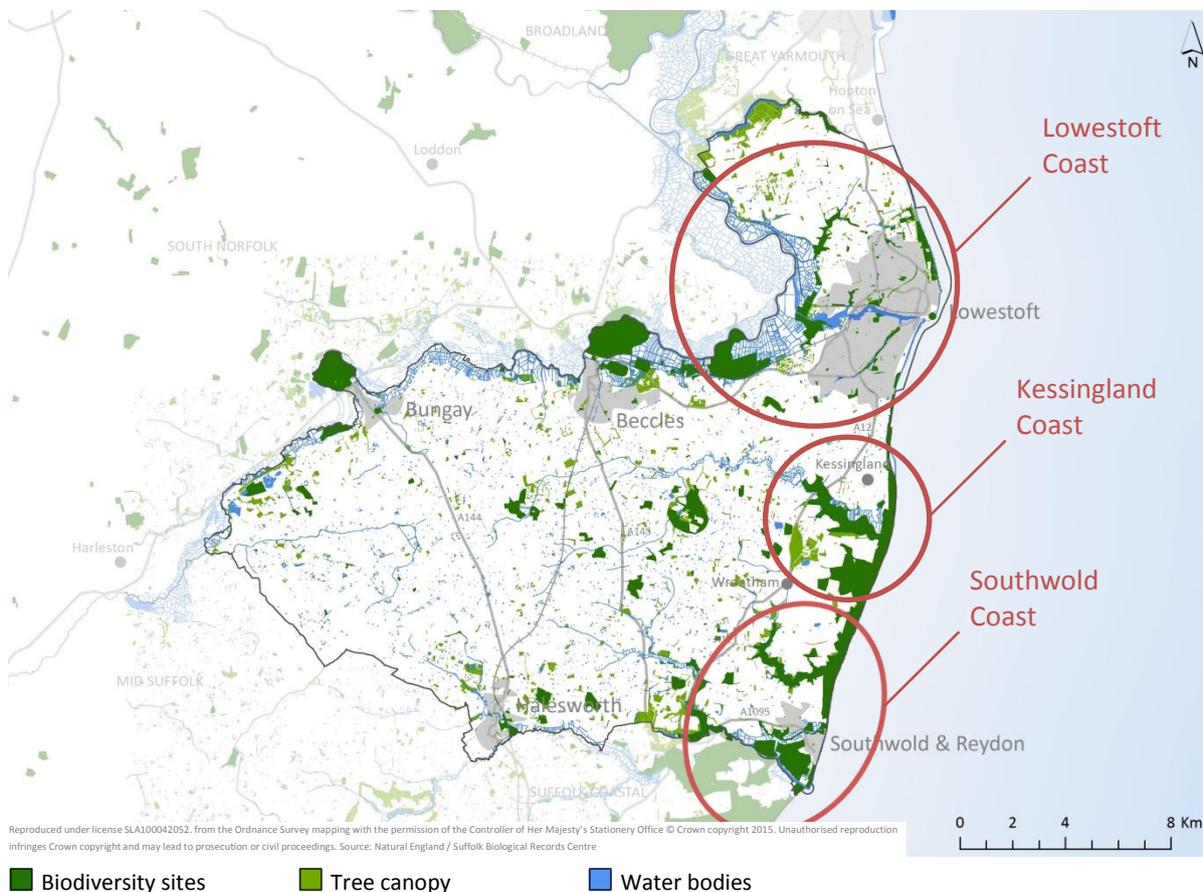
Figure 2.10: Wildlife corridors in the District



In the south of the District the Blyth Valley supports a wetland based habitat that extends inland from Southwold & Reydon to Halesworth and beyond. Connected to the north is the Wang Valley enabling species to move northward and towards habitats that are associated with the Hundred River and Kessingland Levels. The Hundred River Valley links to the coast south of Kessingland. Areas of woodland, hedgerows and small water bodies such as streams, creeks and ponds allow species to move into the rural areas of the District.

Biodiversity near the coast

Figure 2.11: Sites of biodiversity value near the coast



Lowestoft Coast

Lowestoft is the largest town in the District and is located on the coast. In the centre of Lowestoft is Lake Lothing which extends from the North Sea to the Broads and Waveney Valley. This provides a water based wildlife corridor connecting inland habitats to the coast. Along its length wetland habitat is found at Leathes Ham providing a link to wildlife corridors that extend northwards through the urban area.

In North Lowestoft vegetated shingle at Gunton Warren supports nationally scarce sea pea, a species that is susceptible to trampling by walkers and visitors. The Maritime Cliffs and Slopes, Vegetated Shingle and Coastal Sand Dunes of Gunton Warren are recognised as having high ecological importance and these habitats are complemented by adjacent heathland and woodlands. This mosaic of habitats supports a wide range of invertebrate species and migrant species. Reptiles including adder and common lizard are present on the site.

Gunton Warren and Corton Woods are complemented by other sites located to the south including the North Denes and the Net Drying Area. Undesignated open spaces such as these which lie in close

proximity to the coast have the potential to act as stepping stones to support wildlife movement through the urban area to other habitats inland.

Artificial structures along the coast such as the harbour walls and Ness Point are of high value for colonies of sea birds. Purple sandpiper and the breeding colony of kittiwake are of particular note. South of Lake Lothing wildlife corridors extend from Kirkley Ham while at the western end of Lake Lothing Oulton Broad has connections to habitats of European Significance such as Sprats Water and Marshes SPA and SAC, the Broads SAC and the Broadland SPA.

On the shores of Lake Lothing opposite Leathes Ham is the Brooke Yachts and Jeld Wen Mosaic CWS. The site has a natural gradient of habitats from mudflats (BAP habitat) through grassland to scrub which is an ecologically scarce resource. The site supports a bird community that includes summer migrants and breeding linnet. The site also contains a colony of common lizard.

Kessingland Coast

The Pakefield Cliffs and Pakefield Beach are located south of Lowestoft and are both designated as CWSs. They contain BAP habitats including Maritime Cliffs and Slopes and Vegetated Shingle and support similar plant species as Gunton Warren to the north. The coastal area extends southwards into the Pakefield to Easton Bavents SSSI. This site is designated for its geological attributes, however, it is also nationally important for its vegetated shingle features, saline lagoons, flood plain fens, an assemblage of nationally rare and nationally scarce vascular plants, scarce breeding birds and wintering bitterns.

Semi-natural coastal habitat adjacent to the SSSI has a complementary role in buffering and improving linkages such as the woodland and scrub behind Kessingland Cliffs on the north side of the village. The Hundred River is located south of the village and contains an important network of aquatic habitats including grazing marshes and the dykes associated with the Kessingland Levels.

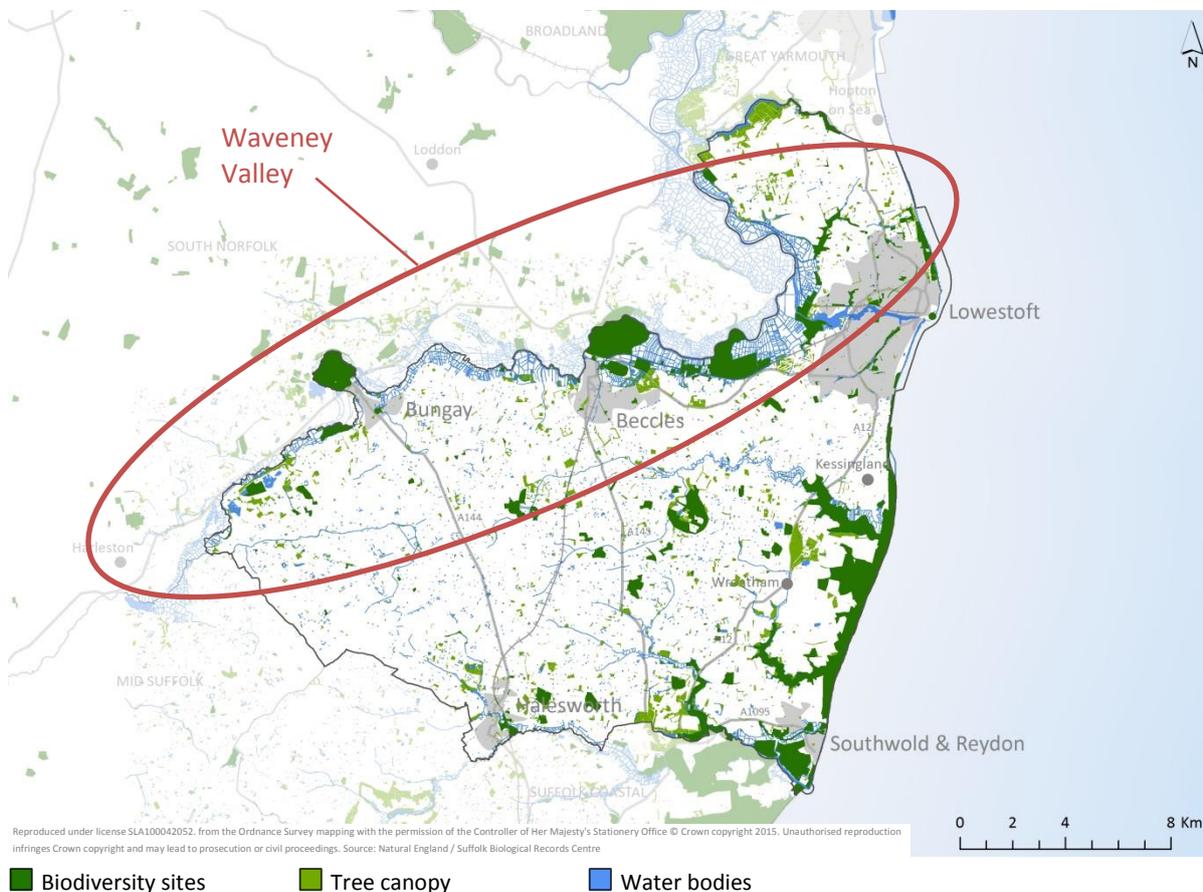
Southwold Coast

The Pakefield to Easton Bavents SSSI extends from South Lowestoft to Southwold and further south to Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SSSI. This stretch of coast provides a mosaic of wildlife habitats including mudflats, shingle beach, reedbeds, heathland and grazing marsh. The site is of European importance and is designated as an SPA. The Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths are also designated as an SAC. The coastal areas around Southwold are complemented by a wider network of habitats that enable wildlife to move inland including Walberswick Saltmarsh CWS and Reydon Marshes CWS. Much of this area lies within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There are also numerous sites of biodiversity value along the River Blyth reaching inland towards Halesworth. The area directly to the south of the District is also rich in sites of biodiversity value, a trend which continues inland until west of Halesworth.

Biodiversity along the Waveney Valley

Figure 2.12: Sites of biodiversity value along the Waveney Valley



Water based habitats have an important role in the wider ecological network which is intrinsically linked to green infrastructure. The River Waveney is fringed along much of its length by reeds and it provides nesting and feeding opportunities for wetland birds such as sedge and reed warblers. Kingfishers are also present along the river. In winter the reeds provide shelter for overwintering wildfowl and waders. Flora along the banks provides protection from backwash created by boat traffic and filtering out pollutants in the water. Otter and water vole are found along the river and within the connected wetland habitats. Other species found on the river include the depressed river mussel and Desmoulin's whorl snail which are both scarce and listed as BAP species.

In the east the Waveney Valley abuts Lowestoft's western urban fringe and the network of semi-natural and ancient woodland sites enable wildlife to move across the open countryside. Through Lowestoft the River Waveney is connected to the North Sea by Lake Lothing. To the west along the Waveney Valley are the Broadland SPA and The Broads SAC. These areas are protected for their habitats and birds species that are of European importance. The network of drainage dykes in the valley creates an interconnected network of habitats that supports a variety of flora and fauna. These are also a defining feature within the landscape.

Near Beccles the Beccles Marshes CWS consists of low lying grazing marsh on the south side of the river while to the north are fragments of wet woodland forming the North Cove Alder Carr CWS. These provide linkages between wildlife areas near Beccles and ecologically important areas to the east such as Barnby Road and Marshes SSSI. Further west along the River Waveney from Beccles are County Wildlife Sites near Geldeston and Shipmeadow.

Near Bungay the River Waveney lies to the north of the town where the defining habitat area is Outney Common CWS. Providing a mosaic of habitats including wet meadows and acid grassland the area supports a variety of insects and birds. A network of waterways supports an array of aquatic flora and animals such as otter. Although no other habitats are designated near Bungay semi-natural areas such as Stow Fen and Broad Water are important parts of the ecological network.

Many of these sites are of value to birdlife but also contain water borne species, some of which are regionally and nationally rare. The River Waveney continues northwards along the western flank of Lowestoft and includes sites of value at Oulton Marsh and Dykes and Dairy Farm and Camps Heath Marshes.

To the north lie further sites at Flixton Decoy and surrounding the former Blundeston Prison site. As with the coastal area to the east the River Waveney is of value partly because of its links to sites outside of the District. This trend of high biodiversity value continues to the north of the River Waveney into the neighbouring Districts of South Norfolk and Great Yarmouth. The River Waveney flows north to connect with the Broads and Breydon Water, both of which are areas of considerable biodiversity value.

River Waveney Catchment

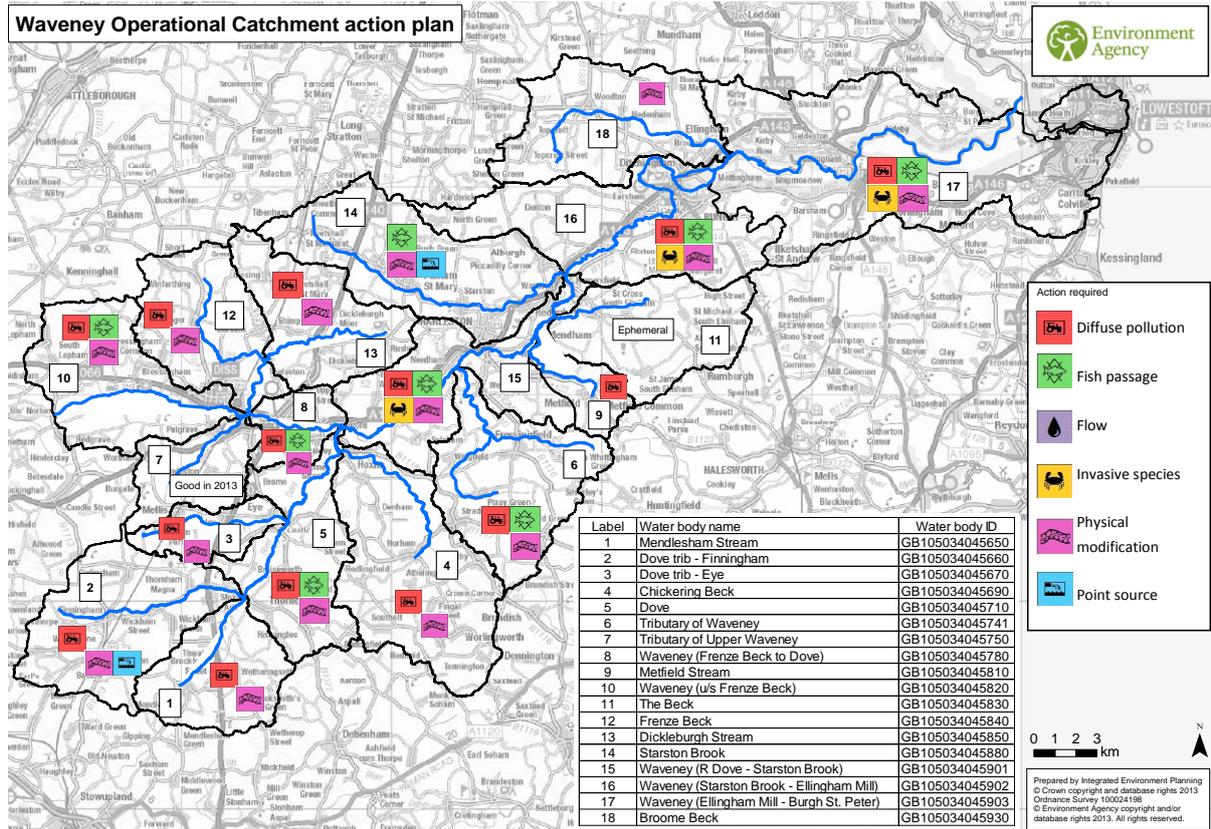
Waterways are an important part of the green infrastructure network. This is particularly evident on the maps where significant areas of biodiversity importance are closely associated with wetland areas such as the Waveney Valley. Where the quality of water environments can be improved this will have a positive influence on the nearby green infrastructure. The 'Broadland Rivers Management Catchment Plan' (2014) produced by the Environment Agency sets out an approach to improve the quality of river systems and their catchments. Key issues identified in the plan to be addressed include:

- Improve modified physical habitats
 - Removal or of barriers to fish migration
 - Improvements to the condition of channel/bed and/or banks/shoreline
 - Vegetation improvement
- Managing pollution from waste water
 - Mitigate/remediate pollution impacts where they meet the environment
- Manage pollution from towns, cities and transport
 - Control pollution into the water environment
- Manage invasive non-native species

- Early detection, monitoring and response to reduce risk of establishment
- Improving awareness and understanding
- Mitigation, control and eradication
- Manage pollution from rural area
 - Reduce pollution at the source.

The Environment Agency has produced an action plan for the Waveney catchment (Figure 2.13).

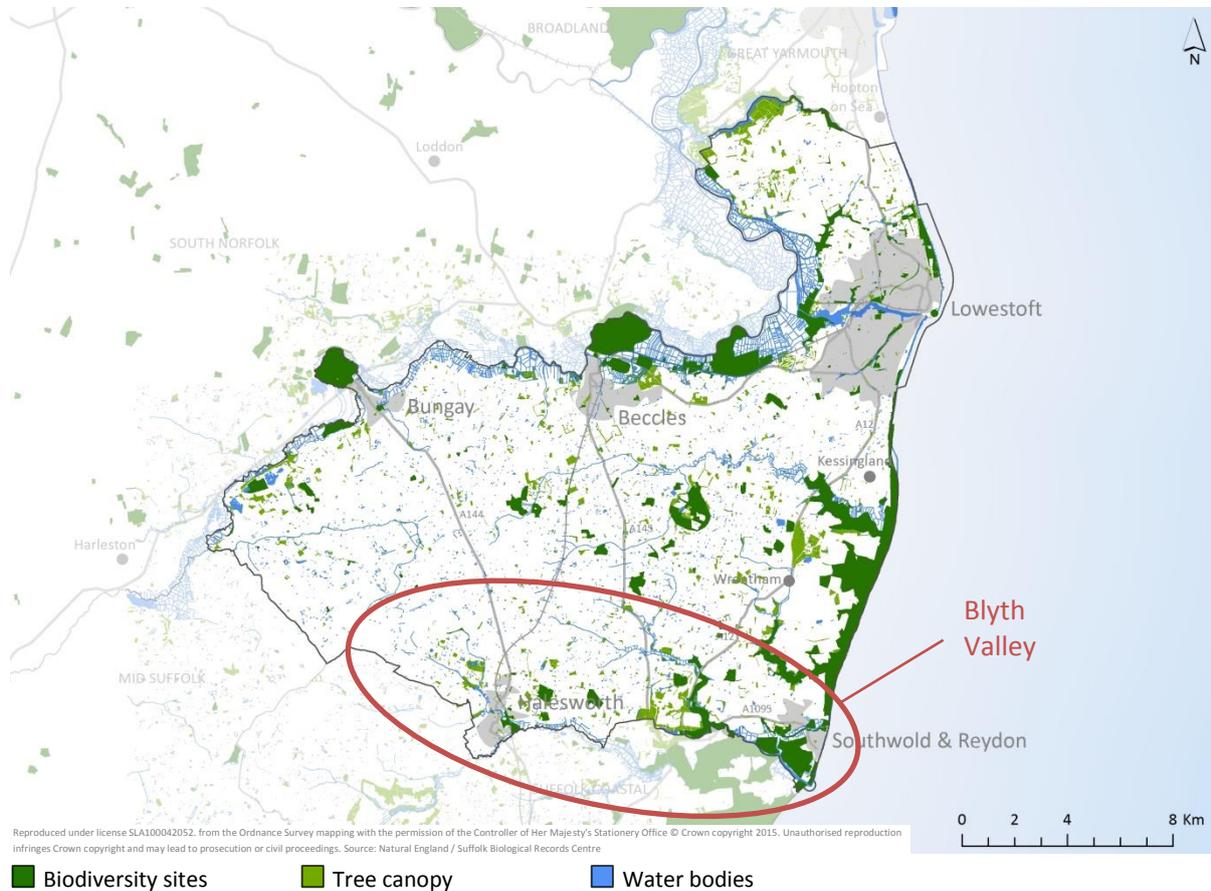
Figure 2.13: Waveney Operational Catchment Action Plan



Source: Environment Agency

Biodiversity along the Blyth Valley

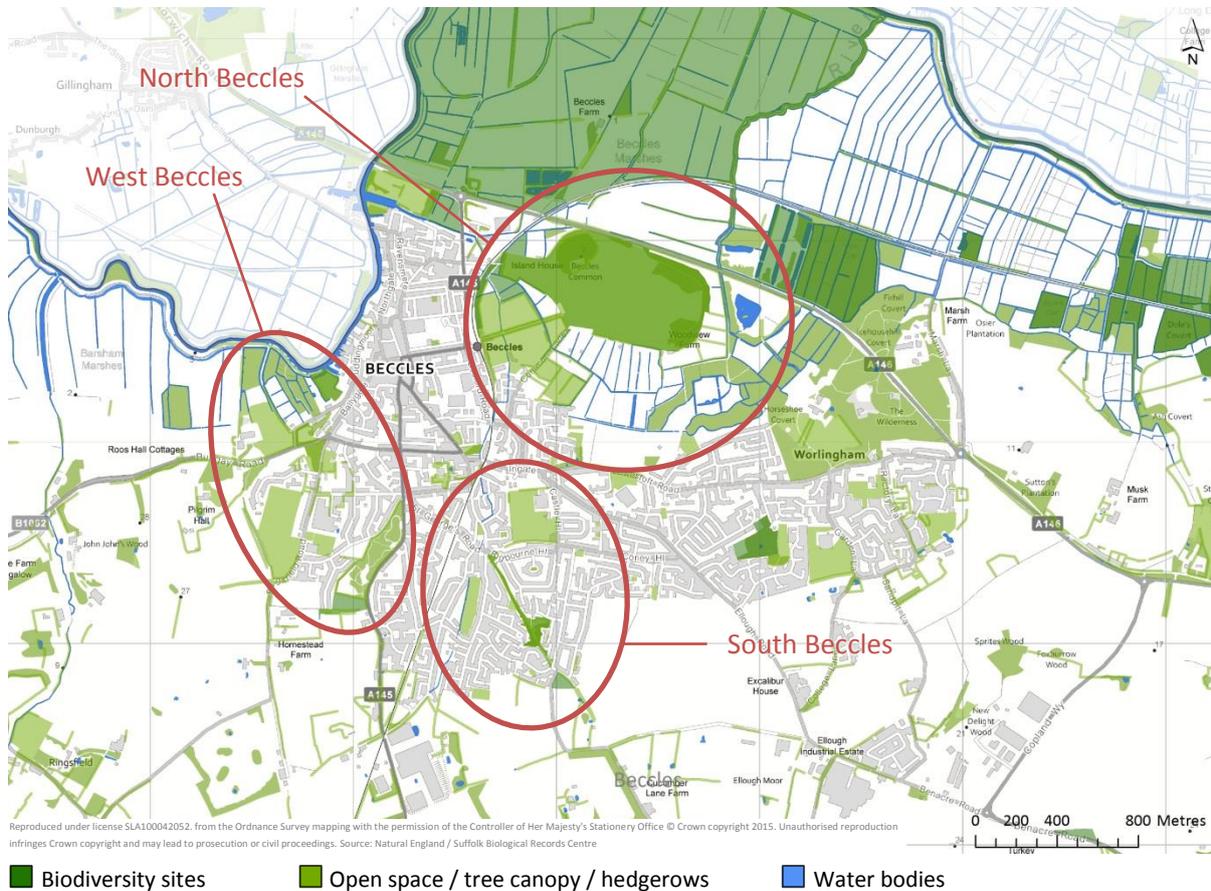
Figure 2.14: Sites of biodiversity value along the Blyth Valley



To the south of Halesworth is the River Blyth. The river has no wildlife designation, however, the river, its tributaries and the associated wetland habitats are highly important for biodiversity, supporting many scarce species. The Blyth Valley extends eastward towards Southwold providing a habitat corridor that connects with the coast and protected wildlife habitats along the coast such as the Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes. The Suffolk Coastal Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011) identifies the potential to extent the network of accessible natural green space westwards along the Blyth River Valley towards Walpole.

Biodiversity in the Beccles area

Figure 2.15: Sites of biodiversity value in the Beccles area



South Beccles

Rigbourne Hill Lane is situated in the south of Beccles and runs through a residential area to the southern edge of the town. A sunken path with mature hazel and oak and trees and lower level ground cover which is important for nesting birds and invertebrates. Rigbourne Hill Lane is an important wildlife corridor through the town and also provides public access to an area of nature. The wildlife connections extend south to Cucumber Lane and Oak Lane which opens up to the countryside. This area has the potential to improve wildlife connections and value as a green corridor for the public as the proposed Beccles Southern Relief Road (which includes provisions for planting and landscaping to support wildlife) links the employment area at Beccles Business Park in ElloUGH to Cucumber Lane and the A145 to the west.

Halfway along Rigbourne Hill Lane to the east is Bramley Rise. This is a densely wooded area linked to the Rigbourne Hill Lane green corridor with a grassed amenity green space on its northern boundary. A number of well worn footpaths through the site show that it is access by members of the public. Similar tree species to Rigbourne Hill Lane are found in the wood along with crab apple and hawthorn. The area provides habitat for butterflies among other insects and for birds such as long tailed tits.

West Beccles

Waveney Meadow lies on the banks of the River Waveney to the west of the town. The site is fringed with mature trees such as black poplar, alder, willow, oak, ash, yew and blackthorn. The western part of the site provides amenity value for the local community while the southern part of the site is relatively unmanaged. The floristic character of the unmanaged area changes from grassland to more to a floral mosaic as the site gets closer to the river and the ground becomes wetter. Adjacent to an amenity and play area the less managed part of the site provides an interesting variety of habitats in a setting dominated by the River Waveney and the valley beyond. The site is closely linked to the wildlife areas further along the river to the south such as St Mary's Paddock.

St Mary's Paddock is bordered by large trees and hedges consisting of elm, oak, plane horse chestnut, beech, ash and sycamore. Much of the site is mown grass with an unmanaged area to the east. The community has been involved in planting young trees and small bulbs to enhance the biodiversity and amenity value of the site.

The Dell is adjacent to St Mary's Paddock to the south. The site provides woodland habitat that includes species such as beech, cherry laurel, balsam and hazel. The characteristics of habitats on The Dell change in different parts of the site with some areas dominated by nettles and tree seedlings, some dominated by lower ground cover such as bluebells and primrose and others by bramble-like scrub cover characterised by bracken and willowherb. Fallen trees provide opportunities for other forms of flora and invertebrates to thrive. The site is accessible to the public through a number of well worn paths and contributes significantly to the character of the area. The site is connected to nearby habitats provided by trees and shrubs that extend along Bungay Road and onto adjoining properties. This area is close to the River Waveney and is well connected to the surrounding valley and countryside by a network of trees and hedgerows.

Meadow Gardens lies south of Beccles Cemetery. The boundaries are fringed by trees including sycamore and hawthorn with blackthorn and bramble also present. The latter is important for nesting birds and invertebrates. Much of the site is grassland and supports a number of different plant species. Common spotted orchids are found on the site and during their times of bloom enhance biodiversity and amenity value for the community. The site is to be used in the future as burial land once space is no longer available in Beccles Cemetery. As the time approaches for Meadow Gardens to become an extension of Beccles Cemetery the approach to management of the overall site will need to be considered.

Beccles Cemetery is adjacent to the northern boundary of Meadow Gardens and contains large trees including holm oak and sycamore. Ground cover is made up of a variety of different species and together with the trees and hedges they support a number of different types of butterflies, invertebrates and birds. Management of the site reduces some of its biodiversity value, however, it is directly linked to the open countryside and provides opportunities to act as a stepping stone between other biodiversity sites, particularly for birds and invertebrates. The site provides public

amenity value, has cultural importance and good access to a semi-natural environment enhances its value to the community.

The area south of Beccles lying west of Cucumber Lane is well connected to the open countryside through a network of trees and hedgerows. Rigbourne Hill Lane together with Bramley Rise, the railway line and Beccles Cemetery provide green areas that can support wildlife movement into the built up area through open spaces and private gardens. The residential area and road network in the vicinity of Ellough Road have limited connections to the open countryside that would support wildlife movement.

North Beccles

The largest biodiversity sites in the Beccles area are located in the north of the town. Beccles Common and Beccles Marshes are listed within the UK and Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plans. Beccles Common, a county wildlife site, consists of a number of habitats including ancient woodlands, lowland heathland, acid grassland, hay meadows, reedbeds and grazing marsh. Around the perimeter of the site is scrub woodland which is important for invertebrates and nesting birds. Dykes along the fringe of the site support a variety of flora including rare flowering-rush, lesser spearwort and water plantain. The site also supports the protected common lizard.

Beccles Common is the largest open space providing amenity value in the town. With good public access and a range of community facilities, including play areas for juniors and toddlers and a golf course, this site contains several different wildlife habitats as listed above. The expansive open space is well used by the public, however, dog mess is an ongoing issue. West of the Common are playing fields partially bound by mature trees which increase the overall size of the green space. Allotments are located between the Common and the railway line and this can provide a wider tract of habitat to support wildlife species such as slow worm.

Beccles Marshes are located on the north side of the A146 and are often used for grazing. Part of the network of drainage dykes is considered to be of regional and national importance with at least seven nationally rare species of aquatic plant and the uncommon Norfolk hawk dragonfly. The dykes provide a unique habitat to support flora and fauna which has declined dramatically in the Broadland area. Public access to the site is limited to the 'Angles Way' long distance footpath which runs along the southern bank of the River Waveney. This footpath provides a physical link between the Beccles Marshes, the open countryside on the west side of the River and The Quay, which is a quality amenity green space enhanced with play and leisure facilities. To the east of The Quay is an area where water voles have been identified.

The edge north of Beccles and Worlingham is well connected to the Waveney Valley through a network of waterways and hedgerows, however, there is limited potential for open spaces to act as stepping stones through the residential area itself. In this regard private gardens are important in this area. The area north of the River Waveney in South Norfolk has fewer hedgerows connecting

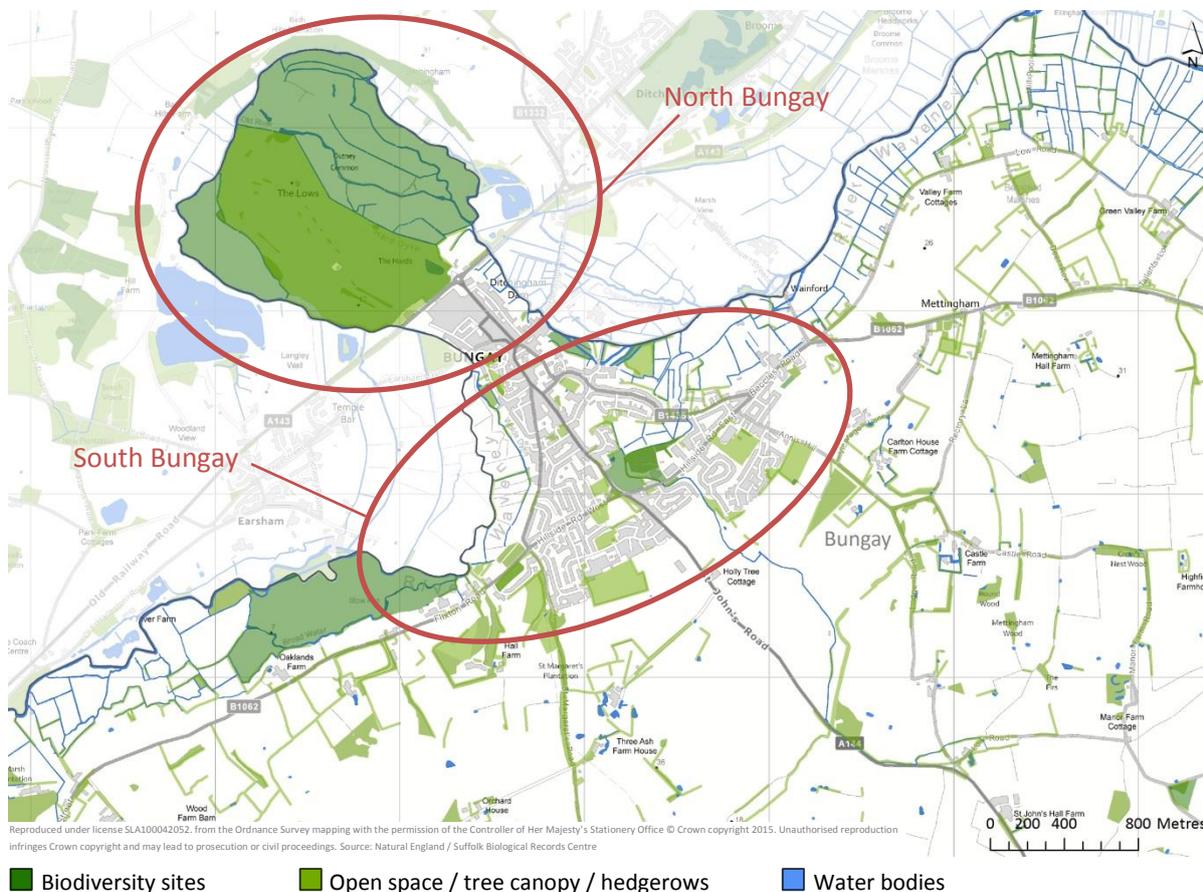
the countryside to the river and open countryside, however, there are a greater number of wooded areas. These have the potential to provide quality habitats and act as stepping stones for wildlife to move between habitats.

Railway line verges

The railway line traverses the town north to south and supports a variety of flora along its margins. This habitat is highly suitable for slow worm and common lizard. The railway is likely to provide a corridor to enable wildlife to move through the built up area. In conjunction with small open spaces, private gardens and existing vegetation in the form of shrubs and trees, the railway can act as a corridor and stepping stone between habitats. The railway line is an important part of the green infrastructure network.

Biodiversity in the Bungay area

Figure 2.16: Sites of biodiversity value in the Bungay area



North Bungay

Bungay is dominated by the River Waveney which flows around its northern boundary. The network of waterways and hedgerows provide habitats that support a diverse array of flora and fauna and have the potential to support movement between the urban fringe and the open countryside. These connections extend across the Waveney Valley into the habitats in South Norfolk around Earsham and Ditchingham.

Located north of the town the Outney Common is the largest accessible open space in the Bungay area. It contains two distinct character areas. To the west is acid grassland which is a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat. Much of this area is used as a golf course with trees and shrubs enhancing the area's value for birds. To the east are low lying marshy meadows. The area is prone to flooding increasing its value for birds, particularly those that are overwintering or breeding. Linnet and skylark, both of which are UK and Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan Species, breed on the site. Away from the golf course the land is used for grazing with rabbits also affecting the character of the flora. Light sandy soils support a mosaic of plant species and the Common is one of the few inland

areas in Suffolk to support bulbous meadow grass. Light soils and varied habitat are suitable for reptiles including grass snakes and common lizard.

South Bungay

Stow Fen is an extensive tract of grazed pasture bound by the River Waveney to the north and the Broad Water tributary to the south. Floristic value of the site is primarily found in the vicinity of the waterways. Its proximity to Outney Common located approximately 1500m to the north suggests that rougher areas to the east of the fen may provide habitat for wintering waders. The well grazed area is likely to generate a large insect population that will provide food for a variety of bird and bat species. The watercourses and surrounding hedgerows will act as navigation features for bats.

An open grassed area bound by mature trees is located adjacent to Woodland Drive between a housing development and Flixton Road. It is rectangular, mainly grassed with tree species such as larch, sycamore, red oak, lime whitebeam, and Scot's pine planted along the periphery. These trees are likely to provide some foraging and nesting opportunities for birds such as wren, wood pigeon and great tit. The site has limited biodiversity value but provides connectivity between the open countryside and areas of residential development.

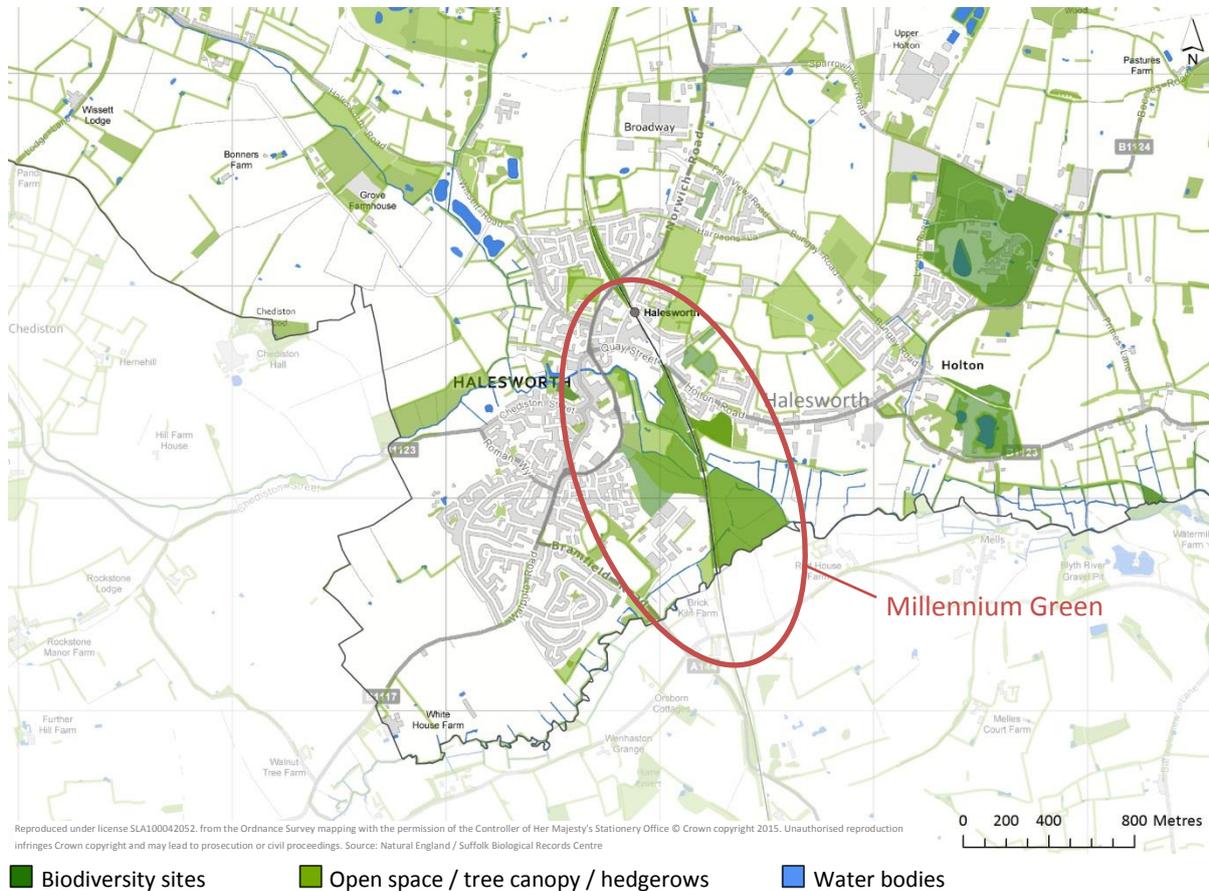
Adjacent to the Woodland Drive site is Bungay Cemetery. It is bound by roads and residential development but contains sufficient hedgerows and open space to support a variety of wildlife. Much of the site is well managed which inherently reduces its value to wildlife, however, in the older part of the cemetery where grass is longer and there is greater vegetation cover the habitat could support reptiles. Linked to the Woodland Drive open space to the west and together with Olland's Plantation and Skinner's Meadow to the east these sites create a central block of wildlife habitat in the urban area. To retain this connectivity consideration should be given to creating or maintaining corridors such as hedges and verges to ensure the site does not become totally isolated if future development takes place.

Skinner's Meadow and Olland's Plantation are commonly used for grazing and hay production. Open areas have sparse ground flora but support plant species such as St John's wort and willowherbs. The woodland to the north east of the site contains trees of a variety of ages, sizes and species. The adjacent hay meadow may provide habitat suitable for hunting activities for species such as owls. A sizeable drain runs along the north and west boundary of the site continuing under Hillside Road East which provides connectivity between habitats.

Greenway connections in residential areas in the south of the town to support the movement of wildlife and the public are limited. The areas at either end of the town extending east and west along Hillside Road and south along Flixton Road and south along St Margaret's Road and Annis Hill respectively have hedgerows and trees that are likely to support wildlife movement and offer protection for some species of fauna. Away from the built up area hedgerows and trees provide connections to wet habitats associated with drainage dykes and the River Waveney.

Biodiversity in the Halesworth area

Figure 2.17: Sites of biodiversity value in the Halesworth area



A network of open spaces lies to the east of the town centre that provides a variety of habitats that reflect their semi-natural and amenity character. The key wildlife attributes revolve around semi-natural green spaces commonly referred to as the Millennium Green, the New Reach River and the railway line. This habitat forms an important green wedge that connects the town centre with similar habitats associated with the River Blyth to the south.

At the northern extent of the Millennium Green network is the New Reach River and Marsh CWS. A network of drainage dykes traverses the marshes and supports a diverse range of aquatic vegetation and flora including ragged robin, hemp, agrimony, nettle, marsh thistle and hairy skullcap.

Separated by the railway line from the marshes is Birds Folly. The site is made up of a mixture of acid grassland, scrub and woodland and is surrounded by development on all but its southern border. The grassland supports a range of flowers and the woodlands contain a variety of ferns that support foraging and nesting habitat for birds. The site can potentially support BAP reptile species including grass snake, common lizard and slow worm, all of which have been recorded on the site. Birds Folly is adjacent to Town Park, the largest multi-functional public space in Halesworth. Town Park provides a good link for the public to access an area of biodiversity value from the town centre.

Community facilities contained within the park can support adjacent wildlife areas by reducing pressure created by public access to sensitive habitat areas.

The railway line traverses Halesworth from north to south and along with New River connecting the open spaces that make up the Millennium Green network. The linear habitat is likely to provide a means of movement for species such as reptiles and connects the open countryside with the built up area and Millennium Green.

The New Reach River runs through Halesworth and provides wetland habitats to support a diverse range of uncommon flora and fauna such as kingfisher, otter and water vole. Habitat value is reduced where the river has been canalised, however, connecting dykes enhance the value to biodiversity in the area. The New Reach River extends into the open countryside to the north and west of the town.

Away from the Millennium Green network of open spaces there are few open spaces within the town that provide quality habitats for wildlife. Many of the open spaces are isolated and their managed nature limits the wildlife value they can provide, however, shrubs and trees around the border of most sites can support some species and act as stepping stones through the built up area. The north of the town is connected to the open countryside by a comprehensive network of hedgerows and trees. A series of open spaces such as the Halesworth Cemetery CWS supports several protected species of flora and fauna and wooded areas stretching east towards Holton are likely to provide habitats and support wildlife movement.

The southern part of Halesworth is connected to the open countryside by the Millennium Green. Open spaces located near the settlement edge (eg. Kennedy Close and Bramfield Road) contribute towards integrating the built up area into the open countryside and the Blyth Valley. In the vicinity of Walpole Road the distance between the settlement and River Blyth is significant compared to other areas in the south of the town. In this area hedgerows and trees are relatively sparse and provide limited value in linking the built up area to the surrounding environment.

Biodiversity in the Kessingland area

Figure 2.18: Sites of biodiversity value in the Kessingland area



North Kessingland

Land adjacent to the Kessingland Cliffs contains a variety of habitats that including tall grass and scrub that support insects and small mammals and provide feeding, nesting and roosting opportunities for birds. Locally common BAP species such as song thrush, starling and house sparrow, common lizard and slow worm may be present. The site is important for wildlife and contributes towards the wider ecological network as a wildlife corridor and stepping stone habitat as species move from one habitat to another. On the slopes of the cliffs and adjacent scrub the vegetation is species rich. Adder has been sighted on the beach and less steep sections of the cliff will provide quality habitat for reptiles.

The scrub area adjacent to the cliffs is dominated by blackthorn and hawthorn with some elder. The ground flora is relatively impoverished and is dominated by bramble and nettle. The site connects to a series of hedgerows running through arable fields and links to the wooded corridor north of Rider Haggard Lane. This wooded corridor contains ash, hawthorn, Italian poplars, elder, privet, oak and Scot's pine. The area is likely to be of exceptional value for migrant birds providing year round habitat or a brief stopping off point. Public access is available along a footpath with smaller informal footpaths also present.

South Kessingland

Several significant areas of biodiversity habitat are located south of the village including three County Wildlife Sites. The Kessingland Reedbed CWS is surrounded by semi-natural habitat and has good links with the Pakefield to Easton Bavents SSSI. The reedbed is bounded and bisected by dykes while land to the west supports species diverse grassland and scrub. Clumps of willow scrub scattered along the drier edges of the reedbed provide additional valuable habitat. The site supports a diverse variety of uncommon birds including Cetti's warbler, grasshopper warbler, reed bunting (BAP species), nightingale, water rail, linnet, lesser whitethroat and whitethroat. Reinstating the dykes, removing thatch and increasing water levels of the reedbed would enhance the wildlife value of the site.

The Kessingland Levels CWS is drained by the Hundred River and red fringed dykes. Some of the marshes are grazed by cattle while others are left unmanaged. Good populations of water vole and dragonflies are present on the site and bird species such as mute swan, moorhen and mallard are present with short-eared owls often hunting over the marshes and snipe overwintering and breeding during the summer. The high numbers of wigeon are of particular interest. Pochard, an open water species, is found in the area in significant numbers for the county.

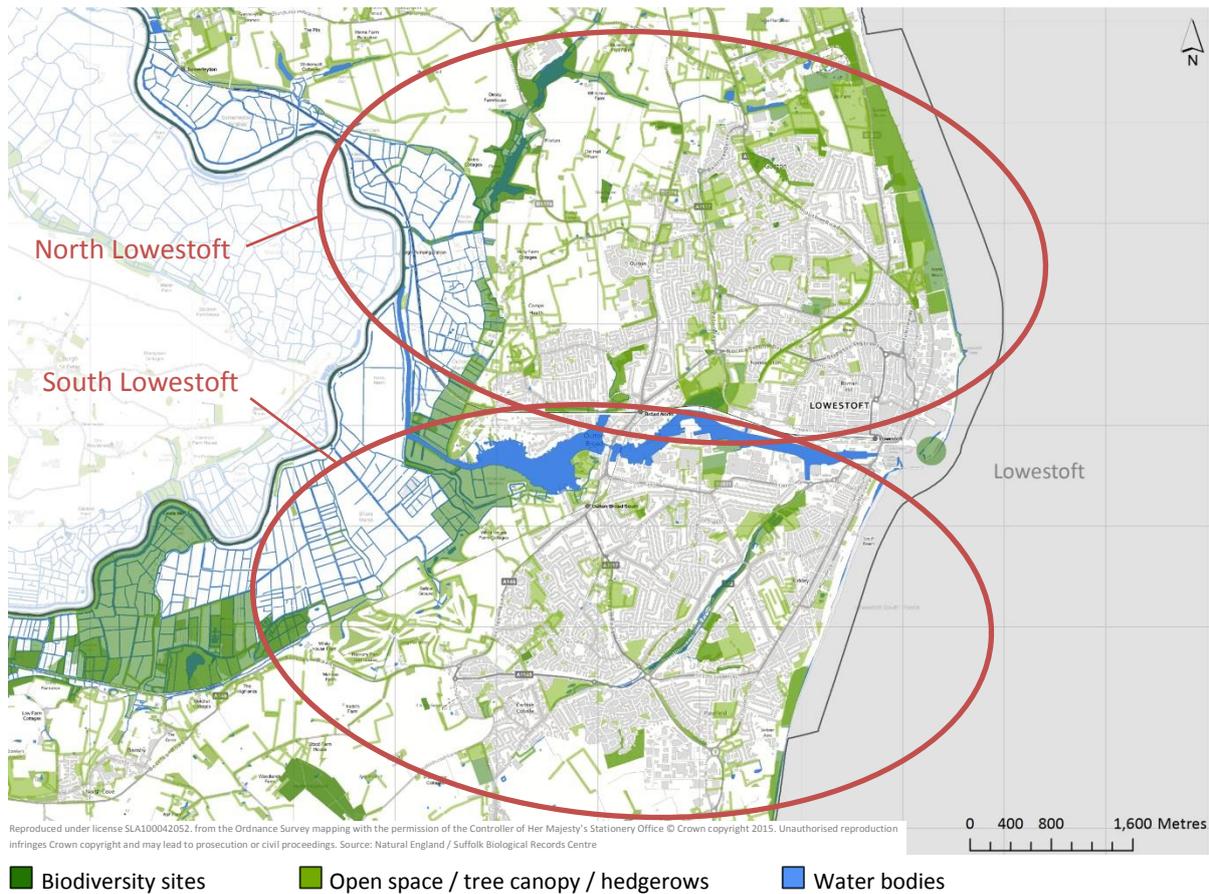
The western end of the Kessingland Levels connects with the Hundred River and Associated Dykes CWS. The gentle sloping margins of the river are grazed enabling a species rich marginal plant community to develop. Of particular interest is a thriving population of white water lily which is a good indicator of unpolluted water. A variety of wetland plants are found in the dykes including frogbit, skullcap, marsh woundwort and broad leaved pond weed. Signs of otter have been recorded along the river.

Kessingland Village

Within the built up area of Kessingland there are few open spaces of significant size that have potential to provide quality wildlife habitat, however, these areas can still act as stepping stones between sites. There are, however, a significant number of small amenity green spaces that provide openness and add to the character of the village. Trees and lower lying vegetation if improved could assist with enhancing vegetation and wildlife connections in the urban area. Church Road, running from the beach in the east to the A12 in the west, is well lined with vegetation, particularly the eastern section, and could potentially support bird movement through the urban area. Hedgerows and trees extending into the open countryside from the settlement boundary north and south of the village are limited.

Biodiversity in the Lowestoft area

Figure 2.19: Sites of biodiversity value in the Lowestoft area



Lowestoft has a significant number of biodiversity sites that support twelve Biodiversity Action Plan Species including great crested newt, water vole, common lizard, adder, linnet, Norfolk hawk dragonfly and ant lion. Several rare and unusual species have also been recorded in the area including Dartford warbler, Cetti's warbler, water rail and purple sandpipers. The breeding colony of kittiwake located at the eastern end of Lake Lothing is one of two along the east coast of England. The rustyback fern is regionally rare and the northern edge of Lake Lothing is one of two sites in Suffolk to support the species.

Wetland, freshwater lakes and ponds

The wetland habitats in the Waveney Valley to the west of Lowestoft are of high ecological importance. Sprats Water and Marshes, Oulton Marsh and Dykes and Dairy Farm Marshes have similar habitats and support a number of BAP species such as Norfolk hawk dragonfly, ramshorn snails, grass snake, water vole and common lizard. The area provides quality hunting territories for barn owl.

Several small water bodies along the South Lowestoft Relief Road corridor are found near Long Road, Kirkley Fen Park and Carlton Meadow Park. These provide examples of how sustainable urban

drainage networks (SuDS) can be included as part of a development to provide a function use (flood mitigation), amenity (openness and colour in the build up area) and provide a variety of habitats to support wildlife.

Flixton Decoy is located close to the Lound Lakes north of Lowestoft and is the largest freshwater body in the vicinity. These water bodies are surrounded by woodland with public access. The flooding of Leathes Ham in recent years has increased the value of the site for wildlife value. Gunton Pond CWS has a diversity of aquatic flora and its setting within Gunton Wood provides several different habitats in a small area. Great crested newts have been recorded in the Gunton area. Great crested newts have also been recorded in the vicinity of Chestnut Avenue and it is likely they are also present at Bonds Meadow. In addition to wildlife value ponds in residential areas such as Jenkins Green, Vermeer Close and Wissett Way provide value as amenity spaces with species such as ducks being commonly present encouraged by feeding.

Grassland

Several areas of grassland such as Gunton Meadow in North Lowestoft retain species rich habitats. The Net Drying Area located on a stretch of coastal shingle is a BAP habitat and extends northward to include the North Denes. Similar acid grassland is found at Kirkley Ham and Pakefield Park in South Lowestoft.

On the southern edge of Carlton Colville the open space referred to as Dale End provides a buffer between the existing residential area and the open countryside. As a managed area it provides as much value as an amenity space as it does for wildlife. Once the vegetation becomes established the site should take on more biodiversity value. Across the District some open spaces are being managed in a way that will encourage longer grass growth to enhance biodiversity and add greater diversity to habitats that are accessible to the public. Cemeteries and churchyards such as St Margaret's Churchyard, Kirkley Cemetery and the recently prepared Gunton Woodland burial site provide grassland and trees that support biodiversity and are likely to support wildlife movement between sites in the urban area.

Heathland

The main body of heathland is located at Gunton Warren. Heathland habitats often have a unique assemblage of plants and animals. The site is characterised by heather, a BAP habitat, and is associated with the presence of adder, ant lion and Dartford warbler.

Woodland

Fragments of ancient woodland are found to the north of the town in Foxburrow Wood and Workhouse Wood while other woodlands such as Parkhill Wood and Corton Woods exhibit flora typical of ancient woodland. Other areas of semi-natural woodland located in the town include: Arnolds Bequest which links the Net Drying Area to Sparrow's Nest Park and Bellevue Park; the Great Eastern Linear Park which provides an extended length of habitat that acts as a greenway in the

heart of North Lowestoft and Bond's Meadow which connects Hall Road Ham and up towards the proposed Woods Meadow Country Park.

In South Lowestoft the Relief Road corridor connects woodland, scrub and wetland habitats from Lake Lothing down to Silverwood Close. Open spaces such as Carlton Meadow Park are likely to act as stepping stones between these habitats for species that move within the built up area. These corridors not only provide quality movement corridors for wildlife but also enhance the built up area, enabling the public to use these sites in a functional manner which can contribute positively towards the perception of an area.

Scrub and hedges

Scrub and hedges are valuable habitats for birds, invertebrates and small mammals. Located in many different areas of the District they can provide feeding, breeding and roosting opportunities for a range of bird species. Scrub habitat is commonly found along the coast near the Gunton Cliffs and Pakefield Cliffs, urban parks including Pakefield Park, wildlife corridors and small open spaces that act as stepping stones between sites. They are often complementary to other forms of open space that provide wildlife habitat.

Over time where open spaces are not maintained the scrubbing over of grassland can take place providing new habitats for some species while reducing the quality of habitat for others. For example the Brooke Yachts and Jeld Wen Mosaic CWS located on the southern shore of Lake Lothing is previously developed land that was left unmanaged. Scrub has since covered much of the site over with pockets of open grass, rock, and man-made debris. The variety of habits on site has created an area where a number of protected species are now present including the common lizard. If left unmanaged further scrub growth is likely to result in the common lizard habitat being compromised. Therefore, management of sites, where appropriate, may be needed to ensure particular habitats are protected to maintain their wildlife value. This particular CWS is part of a mixed use urban regeneration project detailed in the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood and Kirkley Waterfront Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document.

Hedges are a common feature of the urban environment and are a prominent feature in the open countryside contributing towards landscape character. They provide habitat and visual enhancement in private and public gardens and provide shelter for small animals and invertebrates to move discretely between other habitats such as trees and scrub. In the countryside when considered together with the wider network of waterways and the River Waveney they create a network of interconnected habitats to support an array of flora and fauna. Extending from the urban boundary hedges provide wildlife connections between the urban area and the countryside. Further information about hedgerows in Waveney and the rest of Suffolk is available in the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey (1998-2012).

The movement of species between similar habitats can be important to facilitate dispersal or migration so that isolated pockets of small, in-bred populations do not develop. For free movement to occur the links between separate habitats should ideally be of the same habitat type (eg. woodland species prefer a wildlife corridor comprising woodland, scrub or hedge).

Biodiversity in the North Lowestoft area

Along Lake Lothing wildlife corridors extend both north and south through the urban area enabling wildlife to move between open spaces and habitats. In North Lowestoft Leathes Ham is part of a wider network of open spaces that includes Normanston Park, Lowestoft Cemetery and semi-natural woodland opposite Princes Walk. To the northeast the corridor extends along the Great Eastern Linear Park towards Yarmouth Road and the habitats along the coast. To the north Peto Way and Millennium Way create a green corridor consisting of grassed areas, scrub, hedges and trees that enhances connectivity to larger green spaces in the north of the town such as Foxburrow Wood and eastward to the coast. To the west this greenway links to the edge of Lowestoft and into the open countryside through connecting hedgerows and trees and into the Waveney Valley. This corridor remains relatively young in terms of its establishment but in the long-term as vegetation becomes more established the corridor will become more important for wildlife and the public realm. The route is also supported by a number of open spaces adjoining the corridor. Further west along the north shore of Oulton Broad, Hall Road Ham and Bonds Meadow provide a quality wildlife corridor to the north. This corridor is likely to be connected to the proposed development of Woods Meadow and the country park north of the existing residential area of Oulton. Providing connections that will support and enhance this ecological corridor should be encouraged.

Around the periphery of North Lowestoft hedgerows provide an opportunity for some species to move between the urban fringe, the open countryside and further afield towards the Waveney Valley. Away from the main green corridors mentioned previously there are few contiguous green areas within the built up area. A similar pattern is evident in South Lowestoft.

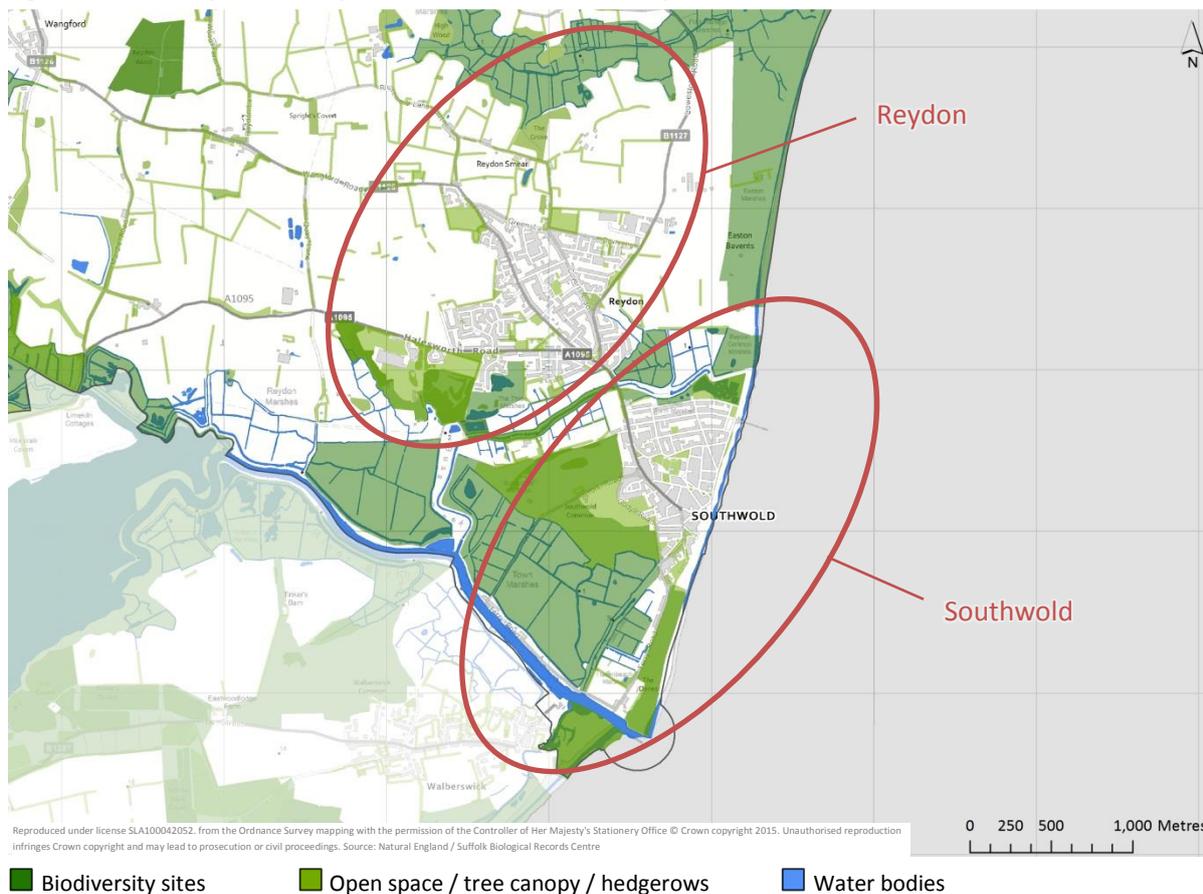
Biodiversity in the South Lowestoft area

South of Lake Lothing Kirkley Ham connects into an extended network of open spaces that includes Kirkley Fen and Kirkley Fen Park, the South Lowestoft bypass, Pakefield Park, Kirkley Cemetery and Rosedale Park. Small open spaces and vegetation in private gardens beyond this network will encourage connectivity south through Carlton Colville including Carlton Meadow Park and Dale End which extends into the open countryside. The A12 corridor from the Stradbroke Road roundabout is likely to have limited value for wildlife because of its close proximity to traffic and the lack of dense planting, however, the hedging and trees acting as a barrier between the road and residential properties are likely to provide some opportunities for wildlife movement in this area between the roundabout and the coast.

Compared to North Lowestoft there are fewer hedgerows connecting the urban fringe to the open countryside. This is particularly evident south of Carlton Colville where fewer quality networks of trees and hedgerows link to open spaces near the edge of the settlement. This level of connectivity is likely to be further eroded as proposed development at Carlton Hall comes forward. Most tree and hedgerow connections between the residential areas of south Lowestoft and the countryside lie to the west near the Waveney Valley and to the south along the coast where the coastal environment (Pakefield Cliffs to Easton Bavents SSSI) is connected to inland areas closer to the A12. The hedgerows and trees provide biodiversity connections as part of the coastal area and help connect and define the character of the Strategic Gap between Kessingland and South Lowestoft.

Biodiversity in the Southwold & Reydon area

Figure 2.20: Sites of biodiversity value in the Southwold & Reydon area



Southwold & Reydon are located in an area of high biodiversity value. To the south the Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC and SSSI is found, to the north the Benacre to Easton Bavents is designated, both of which are of European importance and much of the area surrounding the two settlements is designated as County Wildlife Site. Located on the coast with the Blyth Estuary to the south the area has a diverse variety of habitats that support flora and fauna. Southwold & Reydon are situated within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Southwold

Southwold has an abundant array of wildlife habitats that reflects its location on the coast. The town has a number of semi-natural areas that enhance the wider green infrastructure network (eg. Southwold Common). This buffering with semi natural areas increases the connectivity between sites and habitats and increases the value of the ecological corridor. South of Southwold the Southwold Denes, Havenbeach Marshes and Walberswick Saltmarsh are County Wildlife Sites extending along the coast and into the open countryside and the Blyth Estuary provides wetland habitat that connects the coast and inland areas to the west.

The Havenbeach Marshes flood during the winter and attract migrating dunlin, ringed plover and whimbrel. Dykes in the area provide cover for species such as water rail and little grebe. They also support an array of rare plant species.

The Southwold Denes support a fragile plant community that has colonised the shingle and includes a variety of plant species that are nationally rare including sea holly, bulbous meadow grass and sea pea. Two species of the uncommon bird's nest fungus have been found on the site. Habitat found on the Denes provides good areas for reptiles such as the protected common lizard.

Within the built up areas pockets of open space provide habitats of limited value that can support the movement of wildlife through the urban area. Churchyards such as St Edmunds have trees, shrubs and grass to support wildlife, allotments provide habitat that may be able to support species such as hedgehog and hedges provide areas for birds and invertebrates. Playing fields and semi-natural areas such as Southwold Common are important for the connectivity they provide within the built up area and connecting the built up area with wildlife areas adjoining the settlements.

Reydon

Reydon is located to the northwest of Southwold. Between the two built up areas Buss Creek and the Easton Marshes are natural features that act as a wildlife corridor. They are key elements that help define the two settlements. Buss Creek is a CWS and the reed beds provide habitat that supports nationally rare bird species including night heron, avocet and bearded tit. Raptors including hen harrier, marsh harrier, short-eared owl and barn owl frequently hunt over the area. Small mammals such as water vole are also found in Buss Creek and the site is important for dragonfly conservation. Close to Buss Creek are the Easton Marshes. The marshes support a mosaic of habitats including shingle, heathland and marsh. To the south of the Easton Marshes are the Southwold Boating Lakes, an important refuge for wintering waterfowl. The Bridge Foot Marshes border the southeastern edge of Reydon and provide habitat for Lapwing and redshank to breed on the site. Amphibians such as frogs and toads breed in the area in large numbers.

South and west of Reydon the Reydon Fishing Lakes, the Reydon Marshes and St Felix School Grounds buffer Buss Creek and are designated as County Wildlife Sites for their biodiversity value. The Reydon Marshes are cattle grazed pastures separated by a series of drainage dykes. These dykes flood regularly and support wintering species such as teal, shoveler, wigeon, shelduck, curlew and redshank. Increased drainage of the marshes has reduced the amount of breeding habitat for waders and bird numbers are decreasing. The St Felix School Grounds provide semi-natural habitat that is becoming uncommon in Suffolk. The scrub supports breeding birds such as linnet, open areas are used by skylark and meadow pipit and the site supports common lizard.

Southwold & Reydon have a limited number of open spaces with offering good biodiversity value within the built up area, however, the variety of habitats such as wetland, beach, woodland and countryside are able to support a high variety of flora and fauna. A network of contiguous hedgerows and trees supports good wildlife connections between habitats. Many of these are protected for their wildlife value.

Biodiversity in the Rural Areas of Waveney

The Waveney Valley and areas close to the coast are extensive areas of high biodiversity value. The inland part of the District is rural in character with the western areas characterised by large, flat arable fields. Trees and hedges line many of the local roads but they tend to be sporadic and discontinuous. In the rural areas closer towards Redisham Hall and Sotterley Park the countryside is more rolling in nature with more areas covered by hedgerows, trees and ancient woodland. It is notable that fewer waterways in this part of the District correlate with fewer extensive habitats to support wildlife.

Hedgerows across the open countryside not only support flora and fauna but are intrinsic to the historic character of the area and enhance the visual attractiveness of this environment as discussed in Waveney's Landscape Character Assessment (2008). All of the larger villages in the District are well connected by hedgerows and trees to the surrounding open countryside.

Biodiversity offsetting

Biodiversity offsetting is an activity that compensates for the impact of development upon any site of biodiversity value. The creation of another site of biodiversity value in a different location or a project to enhance the biodiversity value of another site can improve biodiversity and green infrastructure in an area where it could have the most benefit or alternatively it may take place on the site that is subject to development. Biodiversity offsetting has the potential to be an important way of ensuring that development does not reduce the quality and quantity of green infrastructure with that has biodiversity value.

Biodiversity offsetting can be provided in different forms but its main objectives are:

- Biodiversity offsetting should be measurable. The value of the biodiversity offsetting project should be quantified and measured against the value of biodiversity that is lost to or impacted by development. Offsetting should be measured against the impact of development even if the project takes place in another location and is different in nature to the biodiversity that has been lost.
- Biodiversity offsetting projects should not merely replace biodiversity lost to development but should create an improvement to biodiversity in an area. In other words the value created by the biodiversity offsetting project should be greater than the value of the biodiversity that has been damaged or replaced by development.
- Offsetting should only be considered if there are no alternative sites for developments that do not contain any biodiversity and biodiversity cannot be designed into the proposed development.

Within Waveney the preference should always be towards protecting sites of biodiversity value from development. In practice this means directing development to where it will not impact upon biodiversity or, if this is not possible, by designing development in such a way as to minimise the impact on biodiversity. However there may be instances in the future where impact upon biodiversity is unavoidable and biodiversity offsetting should be considered.

It is important to consider that creating sites of biodiversity quality takes time and implementing biodiversity offsetting may be inappropriate as a result. For example the loss of ancient woodland cannot be recreated during the lifespan of a development or a quality habitat will require preparation, management and funding that is far in excess the funds a development is likely to generate. Biodiversity offsetting should only be considered when no other options to protect an existing site are available and the funding and management requirements placed on the developer should reflect the value of the site that is potentially lost.

Biodiversity in new developments

New development can provide opportunities to positively contribute towards biodiversity by considering the issue as part of the design process. The inclusion of biodiversity can be considered at a strategic level through the layout of a site and the masterplan and or at the scale of an individual building. The maintenance of open space can also affect the quality of biodiversity in an area. Some measures that can be considered (but not limited to) include the following:

- creation and restoration of ponds;
- creation of wildlife rich habitat as part of a landscaping scheme such as small mounds and depressions, planting of trees and shrubs and in exposed areas creating species rich grassland;
- retention and appropriate management of areas with botanical interest such as grass verge, south facing slopes, hedgerows and hedge banks;
- provision of hedges in place of fences;
- providing hedgehog access points within all internal and perimeter access fences (should be a minimum of 15 sqcm);
- use native hedging species of local provenance;
- allowing the natural colonisation of new verges and community open spaces to benefit local flora and invertebrates;
- using a 'flowering lawn' seed mix for residential and public grassed areas to provide a nectar resource;
- inclusion of green/brown roofs and green walls as part of the design of new buildings;
- incorporation of bird boxes for swift, house sparrow and starling into new buildings;
- incorporation of bat boxes in new buildings.

Biodiversity recommendations

General

Biodiversity recommendations

Work with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and organisations that seek to improve biodiversity and access to natural wildlife areas. This may involve the enhancement of existing sites, alternative approaches to site management, inclusion of biodiversity measures in new developments, identifying areas where public access is appropriate and where it can be improved and protecting important ecological corridors.

Beccles

Biodiversity recommendations

North of Beccles

Manage, conserve and enhance the varied mosaic of landscape cover including types of wetland marsh which relate to the landscape of the Broads. Manage carr wetland to maintain the characteristic structure and composition. Colonising scrub and carr woodland should be actively managed to avoid loss of wetland habitats. Opportunities for enhancing connectivity along field boundary lines should be explored.

North of Worlingham and North Cove

Manage existing mature hedgerow trees and trees lining the network of rural lanes to ensure continuity of cover. Native hedgerow planting should be implemented to enhance habitat connectivity. Enhance field boundary drains and ditches as a more legible wetland feature to improve visual connectivity with adjacent wetland landscapes (eg. the Broads).

South of Beccles

Opportunities should be sought to enhance hedgerows through gapping up and reinforcing of existing native hedgerows with appropriate species such as hawthorn, hazel, dogwood and common privet. Native hedgerow oak tree planting should be considered as part of a long-term approach to hedgerow management and enhancement to ensure continuity.

Bungay

Biodiversity recommendations

West of Bungay

Manage, conserve and enhance the varied mosaic of landscape cover including types of wetland marsh, which relate to the landscape of the Broads. Manage carr wetland to maintain the characteristic structure and composition. Colonising scrub and carr woodland should be actively managed to avoid loss of wetland habitats. Opportunities for enhancing connectivity along field boundary lines should be explored.

South and east of Bungay

Manage existing mature hedgerow trees and trees lining the network of rural lanes to ensure continuity of cover. Native hedgerow tree planting should be implemented to enhance habitat connectivity. Enhance and restore tributary ditch networks as a more legible wetland feature and valued habitat. Conserve and enhance mature farm woodlands through active and appropriate management.

Halesworth

Biodiversity recommendations

Blyth and Wang Valley

Areas of carr woodland and willow coppice should be conserved. Network of small scale wetland features such as rush pasture and reed bed should be protected. Opportunities to enhance linkages between natural and semi-natural sites should be sought to create higher quality habitats.

West of Halesworth and east/west of Holton

Replanting and reinforcement of existing field boundary hedgerows and the hedgerow tree network to enhance connectivity and visual integrity and integrate settlement with the surrounding landscape. Opportunities for heathland creation and linkages should be explored on acid, sandy soils.

Kessingland

Biodiversity recommendations

East of Kessingland

Protect the open setting of the coastal edge.

North of Kessingland

Encourage replanting along the existing hedgerow boundaries principally hedgerow trees such as oak and elm. Enhance habitat linkages and restoring the historic landscape pattern. Management and creation of wetland features along the tributaries and wet ditches should be encouraged.

North Lowestoft

Biodiversity recommendations

North of Lowestoft

Conserve and enhance existing field boundary vegetation, woodlands and wetland areas. Encourage replanting of hedgerow trees species such as oak and elm. Native planting will assist with integrating the edge of North Lowestoft with the landscape structure.

South Lowestoft

Biodiversity recommendations

South of Lowestoft

Encourage replanting along the existing hedgerow boundaries, principally hedgerow trees such as oak and elm. Enhance habitat linkages and restoring the historic landscape pattern. Management and creation of wetland features along the tributaries and wet ditches should be encouraged.

Southwest of Carlton Colville

Enhance field boundary planting and structural landscape. Additional hedgerow planting will enhance connectivity and habitat linkages.

West of Carlton Colville

Manage existing mature hedgerow trees and trees lining the network of rural lanes to ensure continuity of cover. Native hedgerow planting should be implemented to enhance habitat connectivity. Enhance field boundary drains and ditches as a more legible wetland feature to improve visual connectivity with adjacent wetland landscapes (eg. the Broads).

Southwold & Reydon

Biodiversity recommendations

East of Southwold

Conserve the dune systems and associated duneland habitat. Conservation of the crag cliff for its ecological and geological value, however, this will ultimately be lost to coastal erosion.

Between Southwold and Reydon

Creation of appropriate responses to counter sea level ingress such as extending and enhancing the network of wetland habitats inland along the tributaries of the Blyth could be explored.

West of Southwold and north of Reydon

Conserve and enhance the remaining areas of acid heathland through selective scrub management and the reinforcing of field boundary hedgerows (gorse) between sites. Conserve and enhance Scot's pine trees through management to ensure their longevity. Hedgerow planting and reinforcement in areas where agriculture has created gaps and thinning. Explore opportunities to create heathland and linkages between heathland sites to replace areas lost to coastal erosion.

West of Reydon

Replanting and reinforcement of existing field boundary hedgerows and the hedgerow tree network will enhance habitat connectivity and visual integrity. Opportunities to recreate and enhance the wetland landscape along minor tributaries associated with the River Wang and River Blyth should be explored.

Rural areas

Biodiversity recommendations

East and central area of the District

Opportunities to enhance existing hedgerows should be sought through gapping and reinforcement with native species such as hawthorn, dogwood, hazel and common privet. Native hedgerow oak tree planting will enhance the integrity of hedgerows over time. Waterways should be maintained to enhance their value as wildlife corridors and linkages between settlements and the open countryside.

West of the District

Reinforce existing native hedgerows to enhance landscape structure for connectivity. Consideration could be given to the creation of small scale farm woodland and areas of wood-pasture adjacent to existing woodlands to ensure continuity of cover and enhancement of habitat connectivity. Existing commons and village greens should be conserved and enhanced where possible.

North of the District (north of Lowestoft)

Reinforce existing hedgerows and field boundary hedgerows. Remaining hedgerows and field oaks are often mature and therefore consideration should be given to new planting to maintain and enhance continuity. Conserve and reinforce elements of the parkland landscape. Planting around the edge of Blundeston would help integrate the village in to the landscape.



Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

Land, water and geological features which have been naturally colonised by plants and animals and which are accessible on foot to large numbers of residents.

What is natural and semi-natural green space?

Natural and semi-natural green spaces have been defined as “land, water and geological features which have been naturally colonised by plants and animals and which are accessible on foot to large numbers of residents².”

They are areas of undeveloped land with limited or no maintenance which have been colonised by vegetation and wildlife and include woodland, railway embankments, river and canal banks, road verges and derelict land. The primary function of natural and semi-natural green space is to promote biodiversity and nature conservation but they are also important for environmental education and awareness.

This section of the Open Space Needs Assessment provides an overview of natural and semi-natural green space. It follows on from the ‘Biodiversity Distribution’ section which has considered open space with biodiversity value.



² Harrison, C, Burgess, J, Millward, A, and Dawe, G (1995) Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities English Nature Research Report 153, English Nature

Benefits of natural and semi-natural green space

Accessible natural and semi-natural green spaces make an important contribution towards the quality of the environment in urban areas and the lives of the people who live there.

They often have high community value and have a variety of benefits including:

- health and well-being: better physical and mental health;
- economics: attracts people to live and work in an area and can be a key contributor to regeneration;
- education: provides hands on experience for children with plants and animals and opportunities to learn about the environment around them;
- functional: vegetation slows runoff to reduce risk of flooding and can help mitigate air and noise pollution;
- biodiversity: provide wildlife habitats;
- children's play: facilities for independent play, good physical health and stimulating useful learning experiences.

The Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) consulted the public to ascertain their views of natural and semi-natural green spaces in the District. A summary of the key findings are set out in Figure 3.1.



*Figure 3.1: Summary of key points in 2006 consultation***General**

- 15% go for a country walk at least weekly and 39% monthly.
- 18% never visit the countryside.
- 28% visit the Broads at least monthly.
- People who visit the countryside least tend to be elderly, less mobile or do not have private transport.
- Frequent countryside visitors live in rural areas and smaller towns
- 75% said the countryside was easily accessible.
- More than half of residents say walking paths are well signposted but only 37% say they are well-maintained.
- 46% of people identified common land in their locality and 19% identified specific village greens.
- 22% of people knew of wildlife in their local area and over half said there were not enough of these areas.

**Beaches**

- 3% of people use the beach daily, 40% every two weeks, 9% never visit the beach (primarily people with disabilities and without private transport).
- People living near the coast use the beach most often.
- Visits to the beach are primarily by car (60%) and 27% walk to the beach.
- Beaches trips are less spontaneous for people living away from the coast.
- Primarily used for walking, relaxing, socialising and picnics.
- 22% use the beach for swimming.
- Two main areas of concern are a shortfall of car parking facilities and toilet facilities.

Recommended standard of provision

The Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) found people living in Beccles, Bungay and North Lowestoft do not consider there to be sufficient access to natural and semi-natural green space.

People in North Lowestoft, however, have relatively good access to beaches. On this basis it was considered that North Lowestoft has a good provision of natural and semi-natural green space and meets local expectations. A standard of 2 hectares of accessible natural green space per 1000 population was recommended.

Access to natural and semi-natural green space

Natural England advocates that every household should have access to natural green space. To help achieve this Natural England encourages the use of the 'Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard' (ANGSt). The standard recommends that everyone should have access to:

- at least one accessible site 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within 2km of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within 5km of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within 10km of home.

Natural England's Analysis of Natural Greenspace Provision for Suffolk³ shows that access to natural and semi-natural green space is above average for sites of all sizes with at least 70% of the District's population within accessible distances of sites larger than 20 hectares (Table 3.1). The proportion of dwellings that have good access to natural green spaces of all sizes is significantly above the Suffolk average.

Table 3.1: Accessible natural green space in Waveney

	Number of households	% of households within catchment area					
		300m of a 2ha+ site	2km of a 20ha+ site	5km of a 100ha+ site	10km of a 500ha+ site	Meeting all the ANGSt standards	Meeting none of the ANGSt standards
Waveney	57,270	26.5	71.5	70.8	84.6	12.1	0.19
Suffolk	337,001	18.9	45.9	25.9	28.3	3.4	32.9

Source (Suffolk data): Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision for Suffolk (Natural England, 2010). Waveney household numbers taken from Address Point Data checked against 2001 Census information.

Source (Waveney data): Census 2011

Almost 80% of the District's population reside near the River Waveney with Lowestoft being the largest town. Much of this area is provides quality wildlife habitat including several protected areas such as the Waveney Valley, the Broads and Breydon Water to the north (Figure 3.2). The market towns of Halesworth and Southwold & Reydon located in the south have access to areas such as Minsmere and the Blyth Valley. Along the coast there are several Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation which are protected by European legislation. These sites provide good access to natural green space for people living between Kessingland and Southwold. The beach provides public access to a natural and semi-natural environment that contains a variety of habitats that support wildlife species.

³ Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision for Suffolk (2010), Natural England; The Landscape Partnership

There is reasonably good access to the open countryside via a network of public rights of way and the open character of the rural areas of the District. This can act to offset much of the shortfall to natural and semi-natural green space.

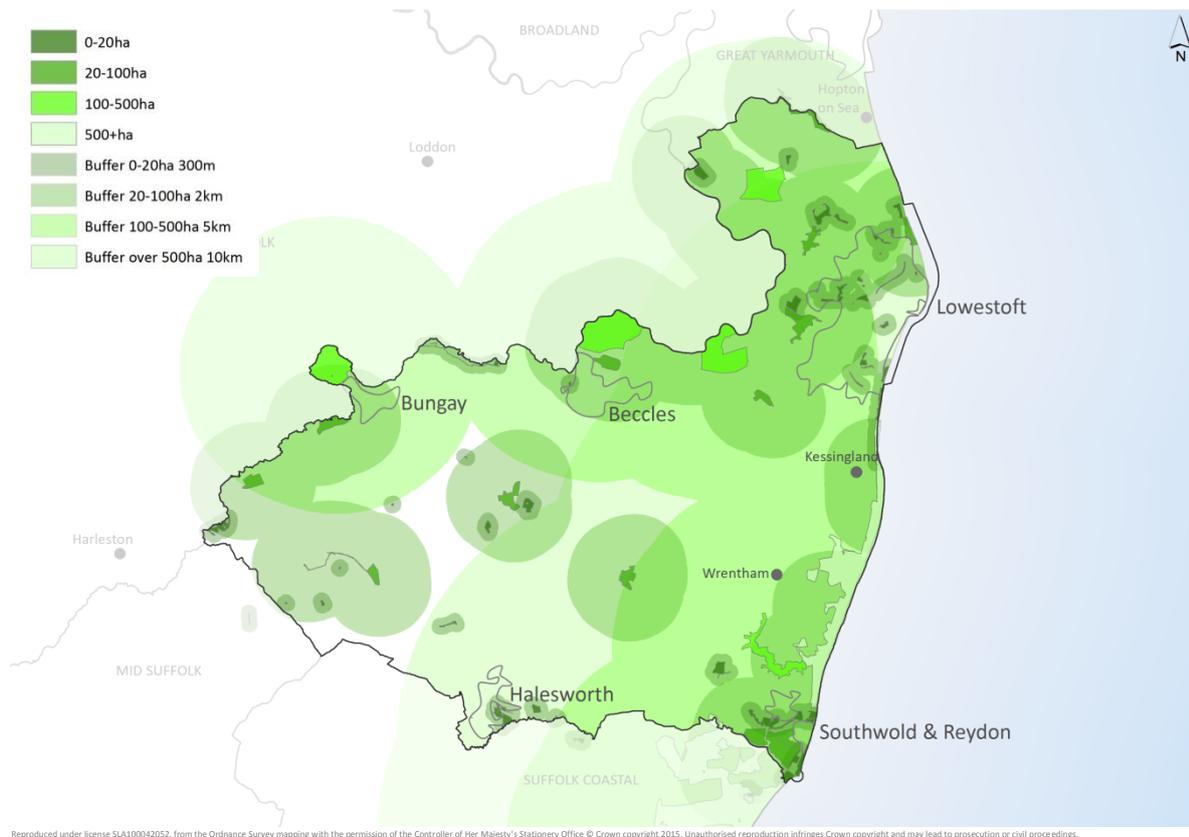
Public rights of way and access to natural and semi-natural areas

Long distance walking paths such as the Angles Way in the Waveney Valley and shorter walks promoted along the East Suffolk train line provide opportunities for people to experience nature (Figure 3.3). Walking routes in other parts of the District accessible as public rights are also promoted through local tourist offices in Waveney and Suffolk.

Access to natural and semi-natural areas is often restricted to public rights of way. It is important to note that while a semi-natural site can have an area of, say 20 hectares, the public right of way might only provide access to a very small portion of this. The physical characteristics of these sites such as vegetation, drainage and sensitive habitats also act to restrict areas where public access is feasible.

Quiet country lanes provide visual connections and a sense of being in the open countryside without physically accessing semi-natural areas. Cycle routes can provide access to natural areas in a similar fashion as walkways. Quiet country lanes, historic market towns, internationally important wildlife sites and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are all accessible by foot and cycle to some extent. Promoted cycle routes provide an opportunity to encourage greater awareness and access to green infrastructure and support initiatives to improve public health.

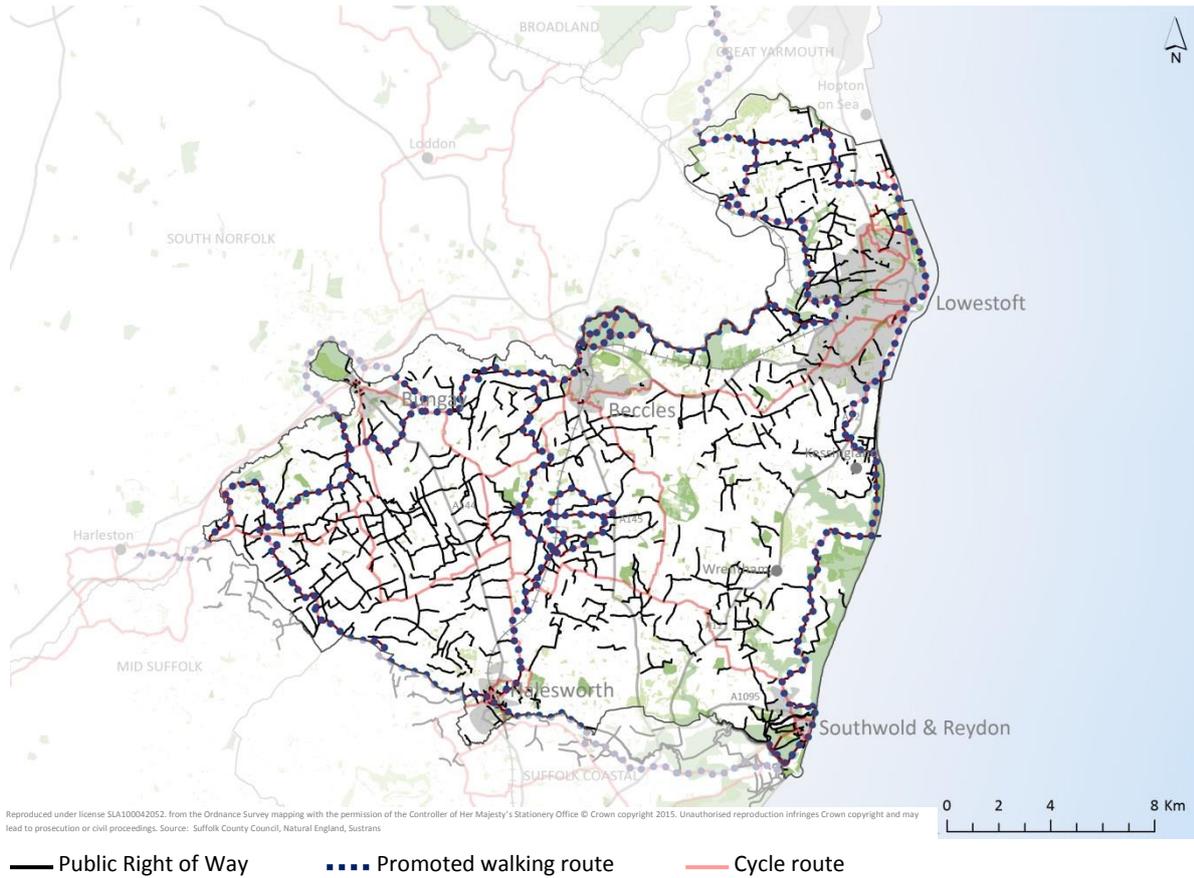
Figure 3.2: Access to natural and semi-natural green space



Improving public walkways and public rights of way has the potential to encourage greater activity in the open countryside and along the coast. An improved network of walking trails could also reduce pressure on protected sites in other areas of the District such as the Waveney Valley, which is close to the larger settlements.

When encouraging people to access natural and semi-natural green space care should be taken to ensure access is appropriate to the location. Protecting important areas for flora and fauna such as Ramsar sites, SACs SPA, SSSIs and CWSs should be of primary consideration when considering how and where to improve public access.

Figure 3.3: Public rights of way



Quality and value of natural and semi-natural green space

A quality and value assessment was completed for natural and semi-natural green spaces located within the boundaries of Lowestoft and the market towns where this was their primary use (Figures 3.4 and 3.5). Sites located in the rural areas of the District were not assessed in this manner, however, quality and value scores were taken from the 2006 assessment (it is assumed that little change has taken place to these sites since 2006). Several years have passed since the assessments were undertaken, however, they still provide a general overview of the quality and value they provide for local people and visitors. The quality and value of publicly accessible natural and semi-natural green space reflects similar spatial patterns as other types of open space provision.

Figure 3.4: Quality of natural and semi-natural green space

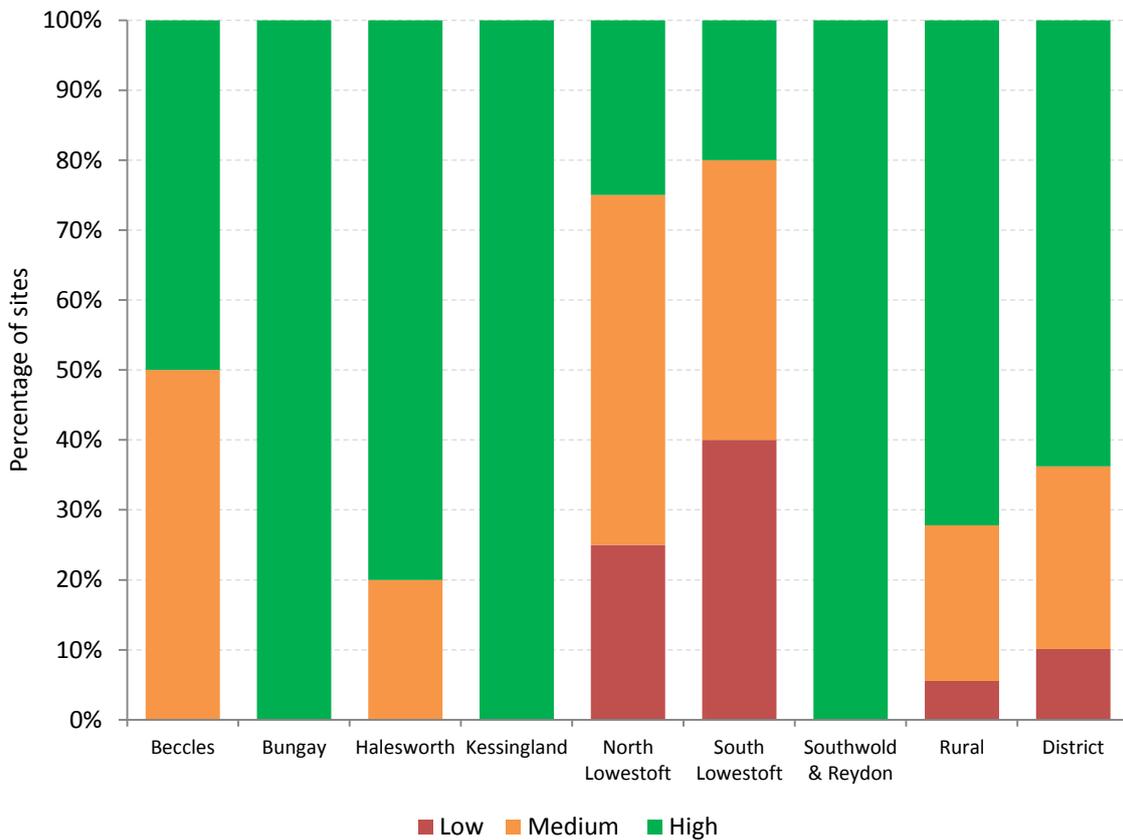
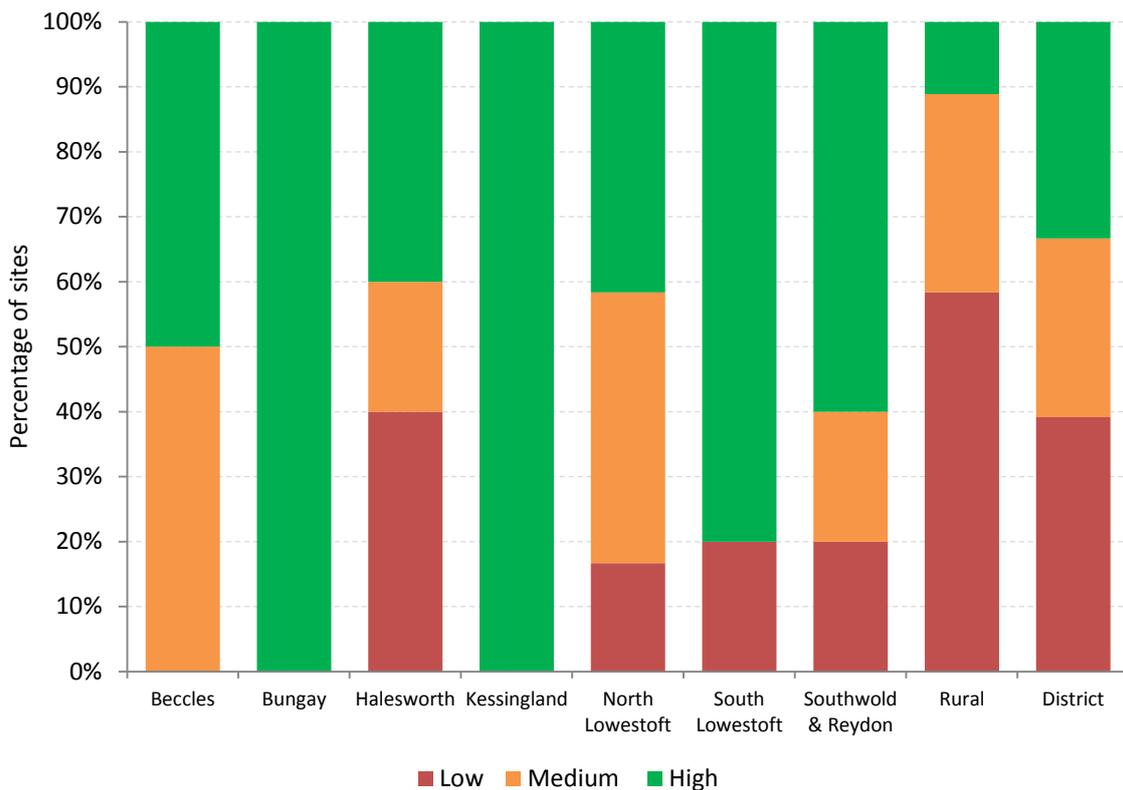


Figure 3.5: Value of natural and semi-natural green space

Residents living in Lowestoft and the market towns have several natural and semi-natural green spaces located within, or in close proximity to the built-up area. Generally, these spaces are of good quality and value. Beccles, Bungay and Southwold all have access to large commons that support wildlife and offer opportunities for recreational activities. Halesworth, North Lowestoft and South Lowestoft have smaller natural and semi-natural green spaces, however, these are quite well integrated into the urban fabric offering good access to local residents. The coastal communities of Lowestoft, Kessingland and Southwold & Reydon also have access to the beach to supplement access to natural and semi-natural green space.

Since the assessments were completed in 2007 improvements have been made to the network of semi-natural green spaces referred to as the 'Millennium Green'. These form a valuable green corridor close to the centre of Halesworth and the shared use path for walkers and cyclists provides a quality link between the town centre and outlying residential and employment areas to the south. This network provides a good structure that can be enhanced over time to increase its benefit to the wider community.

Natural and semi-natural green space in the Beccles area

People living in Beccles have good access to natural and semi-natural green space. Beccles Common provides a significant green space of good quality and value to support a range of uses including a large open space for informal recreational activities, equipped play spaces, golf and a range of habitats for wildlife. The space is linked into a range of other forms of green space including sports pitches, allotments and the Beccles Marshes. The Common is also of significant historic value to the community. Other spaces that provide green amenity space and wildlife habitats include Beccles Cemetery and the greenways located at Rigbourne Hill Lane and Wash Lane.

Table 3.2: Natural and semi-natural green spaces in the Beccles area

Natural and semi-natural green space	Area (ha)	Catchment distance
Beccles Common	35.87	2km
The Dell	1.00	300m
Total area	36.87	-

Areas with natural and semi-natural character on the edge of settlements can be an important part of a local setting. These areas which are often not identified as a natural or semi-natural site or recognised through a landscape/wildlife designation can be important for biodiversity habitats and providing visual amenity for the community.

The Waveney Landscape Character Assessment (2008)⁴ shows several different landscape character areas surrounding the built up area of Beccles. Green Infrastructure is an important component of landscape character and aspects identified in the assessment are set out below. These include (Figure 3.6):

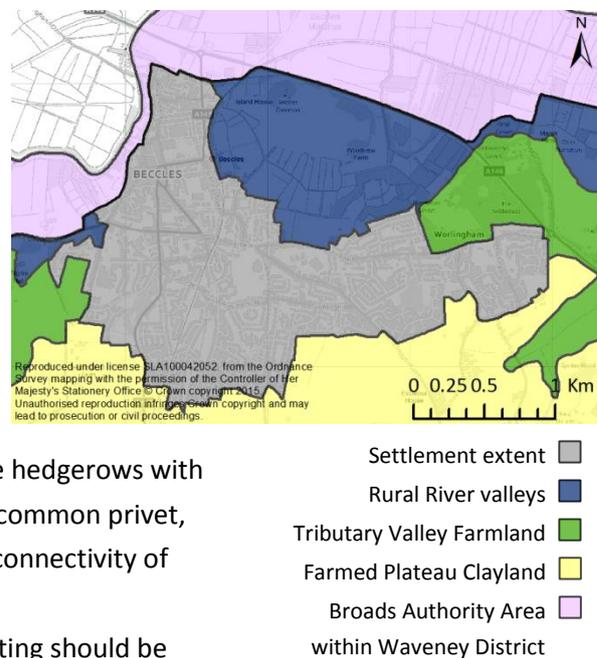
- B1: 'Rural River Valleys: Waveney Valley' (north of Beccles)
 - Hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a land cover pattern of enclosed fields.
 - Carr woodland creates a distinctive feature along the valley edge and views are framed by dense woodland.
 - Reed beds create an interesting landscape mosaic and support wetland biodiversity.
 - Valley is a 'strategic river corridor' and 'wetland habitat zone'.
 - Valley sides are identified as 'grassland core areas' with the area in the vicinity of Beccles lying within a 'general enhancement region'.

- H2 'Waveney Tributary Valley Farmland' (north of Worlingham and North Cove)

⁴ Note: the Broads Authority area was not assessed and is not represented on figures 3.6, 3.7, 3.10 and 3.11

- Wooded areas adjacent to the northern boundary of Beccles (Worlingham Hall area) are significant features in the landscape. These contribute towards the identity of Beccles and Worlingham as separate communities.
 - North Cove alder carr woodland provides quality habitat for wildlife.
 - The character area provides views across the Waveney Valley and the Broads and provides a buffer to the designated landscapes of the Broads and the Broadlands SPA and SAC.
 - Hedgerows and drainage ditches are characteristic to the area and enhancement will improve wooded and wetland habitats and reinforce connectivity between habitats.
- 12 Saints Plateau East (south of Beccles)
 - Native hedgerows reinforced by mature hedgerow oaks support wildlife and landscape structure and a sense of containment.
 - Recreational access provided by common land and a network of rights of way.
 - Areas of ancient woodland are important for biodiversity.
 - Opportunities to enhance hedgerows through gapping up and reinforcement of existing native hedgerows with appropriate species (eg. hawthorn, common privet, dogwood, hazel). This will improve connectivity of planting and support wildlife.
 - New native hedgerow oak tree planting should be considered as part of a long-term approach to hedgerow management and enhancement.
 - Common land should be preserved for wildlife and amenity value.

Figure 3.6: Landscape Character Assessment extract of Beccles



Natural and semi-natural green space in the Bungay area

The primary semi-natural green space in Bungay is Outney Common. Located north of the town the site is accessible on foot or by vehicle. The Common provides a variety of wildlife habitats, a small play space and a golf club. Outney Common is not as well integrated into the urban fabric as Beccles Common, however, it is a valuable resource of good quality for the local community.

Table 3.3: Natural and semi-natural green spaces in the Bungay area

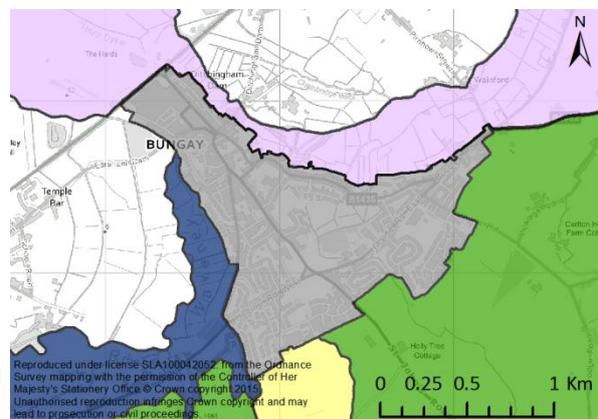
Natural and semi-natural green space	Area (ha)	Catchment distance
Outney Common	72.72	2km
Stow Fen	34.94	2km
Total area	107.66	-

Key findings from the Landscape Character Assessment (2008) for the Bungay area include (Figure 3.7):

- B1 Waveney Valley (west of Bungay)
 - Hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a land cover pattern of enclosed fields.
 - Carr woodland creates a distinctive feature along the valley edge and views are framed by dense woodland.
 - Reed beds create an interesting landscape mosaic and support wetland biodiversity.
 - Valley is a ‘strategic river corridor’ and ‘wetland habitat zone’.
 - Valley sides are identified as ‘grassland core areas’ with the area in the vicinity of Beccles lying within a ‘general enhancement region’.

- H4 Mid Waveney Tributary Valley Farmland (south and east of Bungay)
 - Hedgerows along rural roads, tracks and ditches are distinctive and create an intimate landscape.
 - Small blocks of woodland near Mettingham Castle provide variety in the agricultural landscape.
 - The area is identified as a ‘grassland core area’ and a ‘general enhancement zone’ and forms the backdrop to the Waveney Valley and the Broads.
 - Manage existing mature hedgerow trees to ensure continuity of cover. Additional native planting should be implemented to improve habitat connectivity. Restoration of tributary ditches would enhance wetland habitat.

Figure 3.7: Landscape Character Assessment extract of Bungay



- Settlement extent
- Rural River valleys
- Tributary Valley Farmland
- Farmed Plateau Clayland
- Broads Authority Area within Waveney District

Natural and semi-natural green space in the Halesworth area

Semi-natural green space in Halesworth is primarily located within the built up area as part of the network of open spaces between Town Park and Millennium Green. These areas include both land and water habitats and walking paths provide good public access while protecting more sensitive areas.

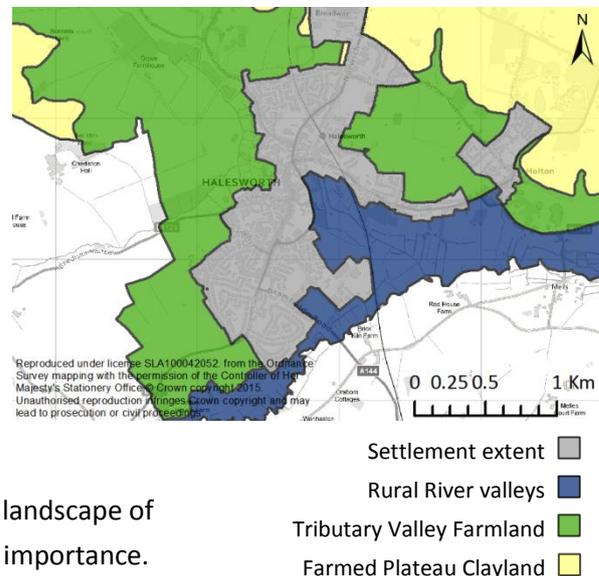
Table 3.4: Natural and semi-natural green spaces in the Halesworth area

Natural and semi-natural green space	Area (ha)	Catchment distance
Angel Meadow	1.89	300m
Birds Folly	1.86	300m
Millennium Green	17.35	300m
New Reach River	0.20	300m
Two Acres	0.76	300m
Total area	22.06	-

Key findings from the Landscape Character Assessment (2008) for the Halesworth area include (Figure 3.8):

- B2 Blyth and Wang Valley (south of Halesworth)
 - Landscape is made up of wetland meadow, reed and grazed pasture with landscape structure provided by a mixture of hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Along with coppiced willow and alder carr, these contribute towards sense of containment in the landscape.
 - Carr woodland is important for the historic landscape and as a BAP priority habitat.
 - Mosaic of riparian features creates a landscape of considerable ecological diversity and importance.
 - Principle management considerations should include conserving areas of carr woodland and willow coppice and protecting the network of small scale wetland features such as rush pasture and reed bed while seeking opportunities to enhance linkages between sites for higher quality habitats.
- H6 Blyth Tributary Valley and Farmland (west of Halesworth and east/west of Holton)
 - Landscape mosaic created by a variety of different vegetation features.

Figure 3.8: Landscape Character Assessment extract of Halesworth



- Tributary drains, wetlands and hedgerows create a landscape of intimate character. Enhancement would improve visual quality and connectivity between habitats.
- Settlement edges commonly integrated into the wider landscape by woodland.
- Separation between Halesworth and Holton should be protected by maintaining and enhancing existing landscape features.
- Identified as a 'grassland core area' for its ecological value.
- Land east of Holton could support heathland creation.
- Forms a majority of the Strategic Gap between Halesworth and Holton.

Natural and semi-natural green space in the Kessingland area

Located on the coast the people of Kessingland have access to the beach, an area with good wildlife habitat and one that can support a range of recreational activities. The surrounding area of Kessingland connects into the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There are few sites of natural and semi-natural character within the built up area.

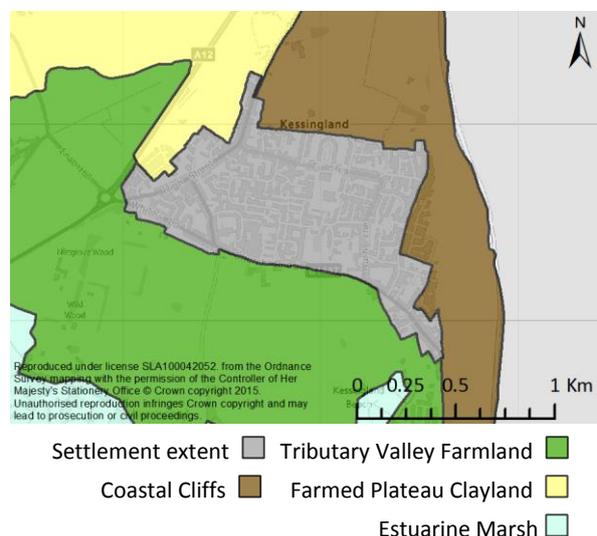
Table 3.5: Natural and semi-natural green spaces in the Kessingland area

Natural and semi-natural green space	Area (ha)	Catchment distance
Kessingland Beach	36.66	2km
Kessingland Cliffs	5.66	300m
North Green	1.28	300m
Pakefield Cliffs	4.66	300m
Total area	48.26	-

Key findings from the Landscape Character Assessment (2008) for the Kessingland area include (Figure 3.9):

- F1 Pakefield to Benacre Cliffs (east of Kessingland and south of Lowestoft)
 - Protect the open setting of the coastal edge and the strategic gap between the village and South Lowestoft.
- H3 Hundred Tributary Valley Farmland (north of Kessingland)
 - Small to medium scale landscape with views framed by hedgerow vegetation.

Figure 3.9: Landscape Character Assessment extract of Kessingland



- Landscape mosaic consists of pasture, wet grassland and woodland.
- Northern edge of Kessingland is quite exposed in the landscape.
- I4 Gisleham Plateau (north west of Kessingland)
 - Hedgerow tree planting should be extended and enhanced to improve connectivity between habitats.
 - Native structural planting should be used to link new development and settlements edges in the wider landscape.
 - Sense of separation between South Lowestoft and Kessingland should be maintained.

Natural and semi-natural green space in the North Lowestoft area

There is good access to natural and semi-natural green space in North Lowestoft. There is a variety of different forms of green space that provide opportunities for a range of activities. The beach provides significant value for its recreational uses and wildlife habitats which are well connected to areas of green space going inland. Local Nature Reserves are located along Lake Lothing which connects into Normanston Park and then onto the green corridor of Millennium Way.

Gunton Warren is a Local Nature Reserve adjacent to the beach and Gunton Wood. Between these two areas is the Great Eastern Linear Park (a disused railway line) providing a quality pedestrian/cycle route through a well established tree lined corridor. A number of natural and semi-natural areas extend inland from Gunton including Foxburrow Wood which acts to connect with the coastal green spaces with the urban area and the open countryside.

The area with the poorest access to natural and semi-natural green space in North Lowestoft is in the vicinity of Lake Lothing. South Beach in South Lowestoft mitigates some of this shortfall, however, this is not green space.

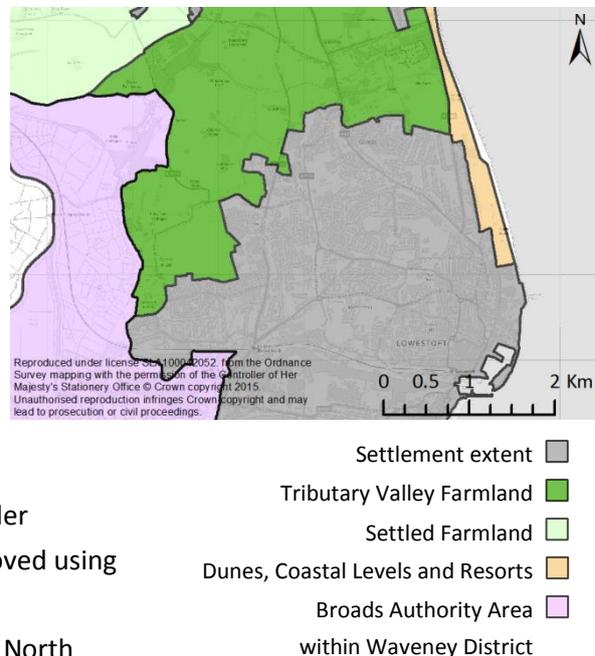
Table 3.6 Natural and semi-natural green spaces in the North Lowestoft area

Natural and semi-natural green space	Area (ha)	Catchment distance
Arnold’s Bequest	0.66	300m
Bonds Meadow	6.07	300m
Christmas Lane	0.77	300m
Corton Wood	7.03	300m
Foxburrow Wood	4.79	300m
Gunton Warren	20.51	2km
Gunton Wood	5.47	300m
Hall Road Farm	6.57	300m
Kesgrave Drive	5.99	300m
Leathes Ham	6.01	300m
Monckton Avenue	0.36	300m
Wissett Way	0.28	300m
Total area	64.51	-

Key findings from the Landscape Character Assessment (2008) for the North Lowestoft area include (Figure 3.10):

- H1 Blundeston Tributary Valley Farmland (north of Lowestoft)
 - Area near the North Lowestoft boundary lies within the buffer zone of the Broads and forms part of the ‘strategic river corridor’ and ‘wetland habitat zone’.
 - Identified as a ‘heath wood and grass region’.
 - Woodland and trees lines create an enclosed landscape. The integration of the urban boundary of Lowestoft into the wider landscape structure could be improved using native planting.
 - Creates the Strategic Gap between North Lowestoft and the village of Corton which should be protected.

Figure 3.10: Landscape Character Assessment extract of North Lowestoft



Natural and semi-natural green space in the South Lowestoft area

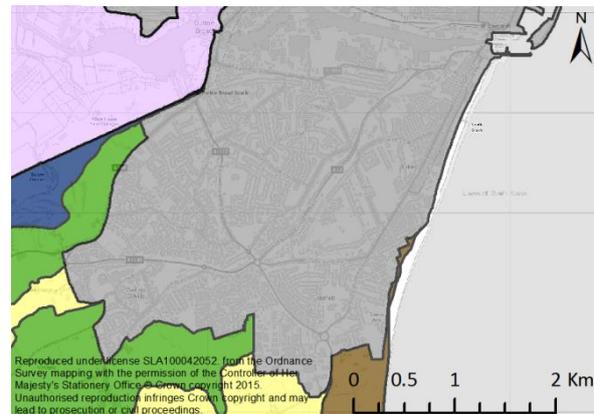
The areas of Kirkley and Pakefield have good access to natural and semi-natural green space in spaces such as Pakefield Park, Pakefield Cliffs and the beach. A number of quality green corridors such as Silverwood Close provide traffic free areas for movement and wildlife habitats. To the west of South Lowestoft the Carlton Marshes provides a diverse natural green space that supports recreational and education activities. The site is also supported by an education centre.

Table 3.7: Natural and semi-natural green spaces in the South Lowestoft area

Natural and semi-natural green space	Area (ha)	Catchment distance
Kirkley Ham	0.72	300m
Pakefield Beach	6.68	300m
Pakefield Park	5.95	300m
Total area	13.35	-

Key findings from the Landscape Character Assessment (2008) for the South Lowestoft area include (Figure 3.11):

Figure 3.11: Landscape Character Assessment extract of South Lowestoft



- H2 Waveney Tributary Valley Farmland (west of Carlton Colville)
 - Hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a land cover pattern of enclosed fields.
 - Carr woodland creates a distinctive feature along the valley edge and views are framed by dense woodland.
 - Reed beds create an interesting landscape mosaic and support wetland biodiversity.
 - Valley is a 'strategic river corridor' and 'wetland habitat zone'.
 - Valley sides are identified as 'grassland core areas' with the area in the vicinity of Beccles lying within a 'general enhancement region'.

- H3 Hundred River Tributary Farmland (south of Lowestoft)
 - Small to medium scale landscape with views framed by hedgerow vegetation. Landscape mosaic consists of pasture, wet grassland and woodland.
 - Northern edge of Kessingland is quite exposed in the landscape.

- 14 Gisleham Plateau (north west of Kessingland)
 - Hedgerow tree planting should be extended and enhanced to improve connectivity between habitats.
 - Native structural planting should be used to link new development and settlements edges in the wider landscape.
 - Sense of separation between South Lowestoft and Kessingland should be maintained.

Natural and semi-natural green space in the Southwold & Reydon area

Access to natural and semi-natural green space in the area is good. Located along the Blyth River wetland habitats are complemented by long tracts of beach, common land and the rural hinterland. These areas provide a variety of recreational and wildlife opportunities which are important to the setting and character of the town and village. The area lies within the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB.

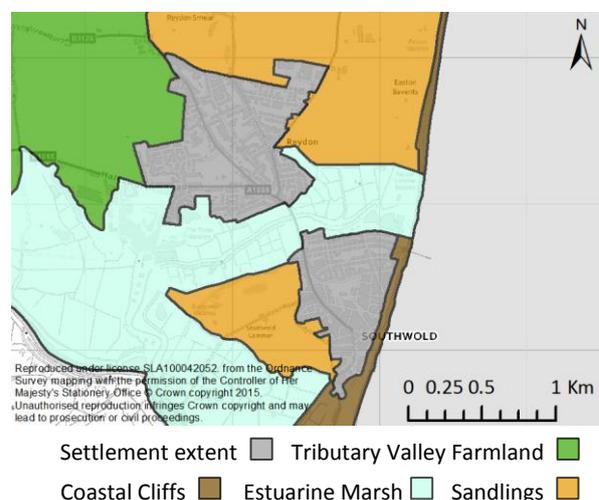
Table 3.8: Natural and semi-natural green spaces in the Southwold & Reydon area

Natural and semi-natural green space	Area (ha)	Catchment distance
Buss Creek	5.07	300m
North Parade	4.39	300m
Southwold Common	39.38	2km
Southwold Denes	11.31	300m
Walberswick Saltmarsh	11.53	300m
Total area	71.68	-

Key findings from the Landscape Character Assessment (2008) for the Southwold & Reydon area include (Figure 3.12):

- F2 Southwold Coast (east of Southwold)
 - Primarily sand dunes with scrub and coastal marsh providing an array of habitats supporting wildlife and saline plant species. This is supported by vegetated shingle beds and nesses supporting a variety of plants and creating breeding habitats

Figure 3.12: Landscape Character Assessment extract of Southwold and Reydon



- for birds.
 - The dunes are identified as a 'core area'.
 - Containment, shelter and textural variation are created by the dunes and marram grasses alongside regenerating woodland on the inland side of the dunes.
 - Management primarily considerations relate to the conservation of the dune systems and associated habitats.
- H7 Blyth Tributary Valley Farmland (west of Reydon)
 - Narrow network of rural lanes lined with vegetation and hedgerows create an enclosed character.
 - Replanting and reinforcement of hedgerows to enhance visual integrity and habitat should be considered. Opportunities exist to enhance the urban edges of Reydon and Wangford.
 - Recreate and enhance wetland landscapes along the Wang and Blyth valleys.
- J3 Blyth Estuary (between Southwold and Reydon)
 - Existing landscape planting and woodlands provide backdrop to the local setting.
 - Area identified as a 'wetland habitat zone'.
 - Panoramic views across the marshes to Southwold.
 - Principle landscape management focussed on the effects of sea level ingress on existing habitats and potential to mitigate these impacts.
- K1 North Suffolk Sandlings (west of Southwold and north of Reydon)
 - Varied landscape mosaic of heathlands, scrub and farming.
 - Much of the area is identified as an opportunity to create new heathland. Heathland should be improved through field boundary linkages between vegetation sites.
 - Trees and hedges provided habitats for wildlife and textural variation in the landscape. Enhancement and reinforcement of hedges and trees will improve connectivity of habitats.

Natural and semi-natural green space in the Rural areas

Much of the accessible natural and semi-natural green space in the rural area of the District is in the form of common land. Accessible to the public they also provide good habitats for wildlife. In some areas such as Ilketshall St Andrew, local initiatives have enhanced the value of common land for people the location of educational display boards.

Many rural areas have additional wildlife habitats in ancient woodlands and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, however, these are often on private land and not publically accessible. Outlying areas such as The Saints in the west of the District have limited access to the beach and Broads, however, there

is good access to the open countryside. Most of these spaces are of good quality but their value to the community tends to be lower reflecting fewer ancillary facilities than other forms of open space such as parks and amenity green spaces.

Rural villages are characterised by the surrounding countryside. The planting and reinforcement of hedgerows and trees and in conjunction with country lanes and public rights of way can be opportunities to improve the connection with settlements such as Blundeston with the surrounding rural area. In some areas villages such as Wrentham are also characterised by nearby waterways and wetland environments. Enhancing waterways in these areas can improve local green infrastructure and their value to both the local residents and wildlife.

Table 3.9: Natural and semi-natural green spaces in the Rural areas

Natural and semi-natural green space	Area (ha)	Catchment distance
All Saints Common, South Elmham All Saints	27.69	2km
Beck's Green, Ilketshall St Andrew	6.36	300m
Church Pond, Blundeston	0.03	300m
Dole Meadow, Homersfield	8.32	300m
Great Common, Ilketshall St Andrew	19.28	300m
Limbourne Common, Homersfield	6.21	300m
Town Pits, Lound	3.48	300m
Total area	71.37	-

Natural and semi-natural green space recommendations

Beccles

Natural and semi-natural green space recommendations

The Quay / Angles Way

The walkway along the banks of the River Waveney near The Quay has a weakening quay wall and regularly floods. Improvement to the path would public improve access to the Beccles Marshes along Angles Way.

Bungay

Natural and semi-natural green space recommendations

Skinner's Meadow

Continue to protect as an open break to enhance value for biodiversity and public amenity.

Town centre / Outney Common

Improved signage to Outney Common and the variety of habitats, biodiversity, landscapes and activities would enhance the area as a public asset. Improvements to the play area would provide an additional activity for children that would encourage adults with children to visit the site for its activities, educational value and semi-natural green space. Improved information signing of walking paths in the area could encourage use of the site.

Waveney Valley

Potential to improve the public rights of way network to increase access to the Waveney Valley and connect with existing rights of way could be explored and opportunities supported if they arise.

Halesworth

Natural and semi-natural green space recommendations

Blyth and Wang Valley

Areas of carr woodland and willow coppice should be conserved. Network of small scale wetland features such as rush pasture and reed bed should be protected. Opportunities to enhance linkages between natural and semi-natural sites should be sought to create higher quality habitats.

Blyth Valley

Support initiatives to improve public access from southwest Halesworth towards Walpole in the Blyth Valley and to the east towards Blythburgh.

Maintaining and enhancing the footpath between Halesworth and Southwold/Blythburgh will improve public access to natural and semi-natural areas and encourage greater physical activity. Improved signage that was in keeping with the character of the area would encourage more people to walk along the footpaths in the valley.

Improve links between the Millennium Green and the Blyth Valley to encourage greater public access to semi-natural areas.

West of Halesworth and east / west of Holton

Replanting and reinforcement of existing field boundary hedgerows and the hedgerow tree network to enhance connectivity and visual integrity and integrate settlement with the surrounding landscape. Opportunities for heathland creation and linkages should be explored on acid, sandy soils.

Between Halesworth and Holton

Strategic Gap should be protected to maintain the character of the two settlements and opportunities to enhance biodiversity could be explored.

Millennium Green

An important site close to the town centre contains a variety of different semi-natural areas. If opportunities arise existing paths could be further enhanced to provide additional connections to residential areas and nearby natural and semi-natural areas to improve accessibility to the river valleys and countryside.

Kessingland

Natural and semi-natural green space recommendations

East of Kessingland

Protect the open setting of the coastal edge and the Strategic Gap that separates Kessingland from South Lowestoft.

Support proposals to provide/extend the coastal path to Pakefield if opportunities arise.

The village located on the coast with a long beach heading north and south is close to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and sites protected for their wildlife value. Signage in keeping with the character of the local area that provides information about areas of interest and walking trails/circuits could promote greater use of the sites.

North of Kessingland

Protect the open setting of the Strategic Gap that separates Kessingland from South Lowestoft.

North Lowestoft

Natural and semi-natural green space recommendations

North of Lowestoft

Greater publicity about local areas of biodiversity interest and the Waveney Valley may encourage more people to visit natural and semi-natural green spaces for their biodiversity and recreational value. This could also promote the importance of local areas of biodiversity in the wider regional context, as an educational resource and also the work that local community groups are involved in to enhance these areas.

Support proposals to extend the coastal path along the coastline when opportunities arise.

South Lowestoft

Natural and semi-natural green space recommendations

South of Lowestoft

Signage and promotion of walking trails such as the Angles Way and information about flora and fauna along the route could enhance the route towards Beccles for both physical activity and as an educational resource.

Greater information about local features and characteristics of the Waveney coast (such as the information boards in Pakefield) and the walk south towards Kessingland and Southwold may appeal to residents and visitors in the area.

Protect the Strategic Gap between South Lowestoft and Kessingland to preserve the character of the two settlements.

Improvements to semi-natural open spaces south of Carlton Colville will improve the connectivity between the urban edge and the open countryside and increase to value for both local residents and wildlife.

Southwold & Reydon

Natural and semi-natural green space recommendations

East of Southwold

Conserve the dune systems and associated dune habitat. Conservation of the crag cliff for its ecological and geological value, however, this will ultimately be lost to coastal erosion.

Between Southwold and Reydon

Creation of appropriate responses to counter sea level ingress such as extending and enhancing the network of wetland habitats inland along the tributaries of the Blyth could be explored.

West of Southwold and north of Reydon

Conserve and enhance the remaining areas of acid heathland through selective scrub management and the reinforcing of field boundary hedgerows (gorse) between sites. Conserve and enhance Scot's pine trees through management to ensure their longevity. Hedgerow planting and reinforcement in areas where agriculture has created gaps and thinning. Explore opportunities to create heathland and linkages between heathland sites to replace areas lost to coastal erosion.

West of Reydon

Replanting and reinforcement of existing field boundary hedgerows and the hedgerow tree network will enhance habitat connectivity and visual integrity. Opportunities to recreate and enhance the wetland landscape along minor tributaries associated with the River Wang and River Blyth should be explored.

Rural areas

Natural and semi-natural green space recommendations

Improvements to the public rights of way network will provide the public with greater access to natural and semi-natural areas. Promotion of footpaths and cycle routes and signage appropriate for the setting of an area would contribute positively towards this.



Parks and Gardens

Important areas for recreation and leisure, contributing significantly to the immediate surroundings and the wider townscape.

What are parks and gardens?

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 be used by all sections of the community and catering for a range of formal and informal activities.

Being multi-functional open spaces they are more likely to be destinations for people to use compared to smaller open spaces closer to home. With a greater number of activities and designed space they function as important social venues for individuals and small groups. Parks and gardens are high value spaces and can be an important focal point in a community that contribute towards the identity of an area assist with creating a sense of place.

Parks and gardens of high quality and high value can have many positive attributes that improve an area. By creating attractive environments they are a contrast to the built up area, as well as improve well-being and mental health. Offering a wide range of sports and physical activities can encourage people to participate in physical activity that will have positive fitness and physical health benefits. By removing toxins from the air and creating ecological buffers that reduce noise they provide an antidote to the stresses of urban living. Economically an area will benefit from parks and gardens. A good positive image of an area can attract visitors, inward investment, assist with retaining existing businesses and providing facilities in employment areas.

The location, distribution and size of parks have generally been decided in times past as development came forward. Many of these reflect the historic patterns of urban growth in the District. This is particularly the case for centrally located parks and gardens. There are different types of parks that have different roles in the community. Larger parks can have a more important focus at the neighbourhood scale while small parks can have a more local focus.



The Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) consulted the public to ascertain their views of parks and gardens in the District. A summary of the key findings are set out in Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1: Summary of key points in 2006 consultation

General

- Over half people in Lowestoft, Kessingland and Halesworth use a park more than once a month while in Beccles and Bungay less than a third of people use a park more than once a month. In Southwold & Reydon less than a fifth of people use a park regularly.



Quantity

- 58% of people said the amount of park space was adequate while 20% were unhappy with provision. Contentment was highest in North Lowestoft and Halesworth and lowest in Bungay and Southwold & Reydon.

Quality

- 60% of people rated park at good or excellent in appearance and said there was a good variety of parks in their area (most positive feedback from North Lowestoft residents).

Accessibility

- A quarter of people do not use parks because they are too far away (particularly in Beccles, Bungay and Kessingland).
- About half of people access local parks on foot while about 39% use the car which may indicate a shortfall of local provision or that high quality parks are worth driving to. Use of public transport to access a park was negligible. Accessibility patterns reflect geographic distribution of parks and gardens.
- People with disabilities and mobility issues use parks less regularly and lack of ancillary facilities such as toilets further limits their value.
- Use of beaches fulfils shortfall of some park provision but is more likely to be used by people living closer to the sea.

Existing recommended standards

The Open Space Needs Assessment found that levels of park provision do not meet the expectations of the local community in Beccles, Bungay or Southwold.

People living in Halesworth (0.28ha per 1000 people) and North Lowestoft (0.41ha per 1000 people) were broadly satisfied with existing park provision. As people in North Lowestoft have access to the beach for some of their informal recreational needs the level of provision in this area was considered to be the minimum necessary for that District as a whole. A standard of 0.4 hectares of park space per 1000 population was recommended.



Kensington Gardens, Lowestoft

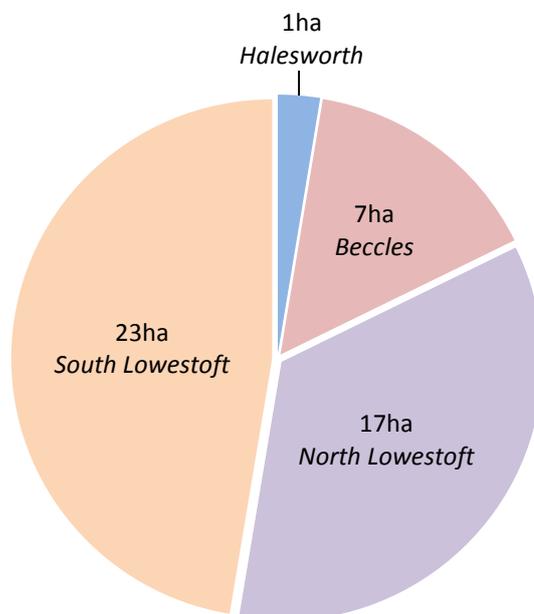
Provision of parks and gardens

Parks and gardens contribute 30% towards the total open space provision in the District. Bungay, Kessingland and Southwold & Reydon do not have any Parks and Gardens. With the exception of Southwold & Reydon these areas also suffer from a deficit of other forms of open space in both quantity and quality.

Table 4.1: Total area of parks and gardens in the District

Sub area	Total area of open space (ha)	Area of parks and gardens (ha)	Total open space that is parks and gardens (%)
Beccles	15.06	7.27	48
Bungay	4.49	0	0
Halesworth	5.13	1.25	24
Kessingland	3.63	0	0
North Lowestoft	59.53	16.77	28
South Lowestoft	45.29	22.78	50
Southwold & Reydon	8.63	0	0
Rural	19.13	0	0
District	160.89	48.07	30

Figure 4.2: Total area of parks and gardens in the District



Hierarchy of parks

Different types of parks can fulfil different roles in the community depending on their characteristics. Across Waveney there are several park typologies. These are set out in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Type of parks

Type of park and primary function	Size and accessibility	Characteristics
Destination park		
Weekend and occasional visits mainly on foot but also by car and serves as an attraction to visitors.	Park greater than 4.4ha in size. Catchment distance over 1km.	Open space with varied landscape and general facilities for active and passive recreation. Children's play space with a good of equipment for all age groups. Car parking provision, toilets, and possibly catering facilities.
Local park		
For pedestrian visitors including residents and workers.	Park greater than 2.5ha but less than 4.4ha in size. Between 400m and 1000m walking distance from home (10-15 minutes).	Children's play area, sitting out areas and some outdoor recreation.
Satellite park		
Pedestrian visits especially by the elderly and parents with children. Most useful in areas or high density housing and for workers in employment areas.	Park less than 2.5ha in size and within 400m walking distance from home (5 minutes).	Small children's play area, sitting out areas, grass and shrubbery planting.

Provision of parks and gardens in the Beccles area

Parks constitute a little under half of the open space in the Beccles sub area. Of the four parks in the Beccles area three are located in Worlingham and just one is in the larger urban area of Beccles town (Figure 4.3). The Quay is on the periphery of the urban area and is isolated from much of the residential population. However, with its location on the Waveney River, the Quay presents itself as a destination, supporting a variety of activities both residents and visitors alike. With parking for vehicles, boat traffic, tourist information centre and an open space that provides for both play and amenity there may be opportunities to increase the park as a destination through additional ancillary and cultural facilities appropriate to its setting.

The south of Beccles has poor access to parks and gardens. Multi-functional open spaces in Worlingham are suitable for nearby residents but are unlikely to attract residents from Beccles. The

Quay in north Beccles is a local park in an attractive location on the river with variety of facilities and which will support a wider catchment area, however, it is unlikely to be of high enough quality or value to encourage people to travel to it as a destination in its own right.

Table 4.3: Parks and gardens in the Beccles area

Park	Type of park	Area (ha)
The Quay	Local	4.38
All Saints Green	Satellite	0.86
Werel's Loke	Satellite	0.82
Woodfield Park	Satellite	1.21
Total area		7.27

Figure 4.3: Parks and gardens in Beccles



Provision of parks and gardens in the Halesworth area

Halesworth has a solitary park located close to the town centre, Town Park (Figure 4.4). Centrally located this provides an important focal point for the town and supports a variety of recreational activities for people of all ages. It is part of a wider network of open spaces creating quality connections between residential areas and the town centre.

Table 4.4: Parks and gardens in the Halesworth area

Park	Type of park	Area (ha)
Town Park	Local	1.25
Total area		1.25

Figure 4.4: Parks and gardens in Halesworth



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- Local parks and gardens
- 600m catchment radius (1000m walk)
- 240m catchment radius (400m walk)

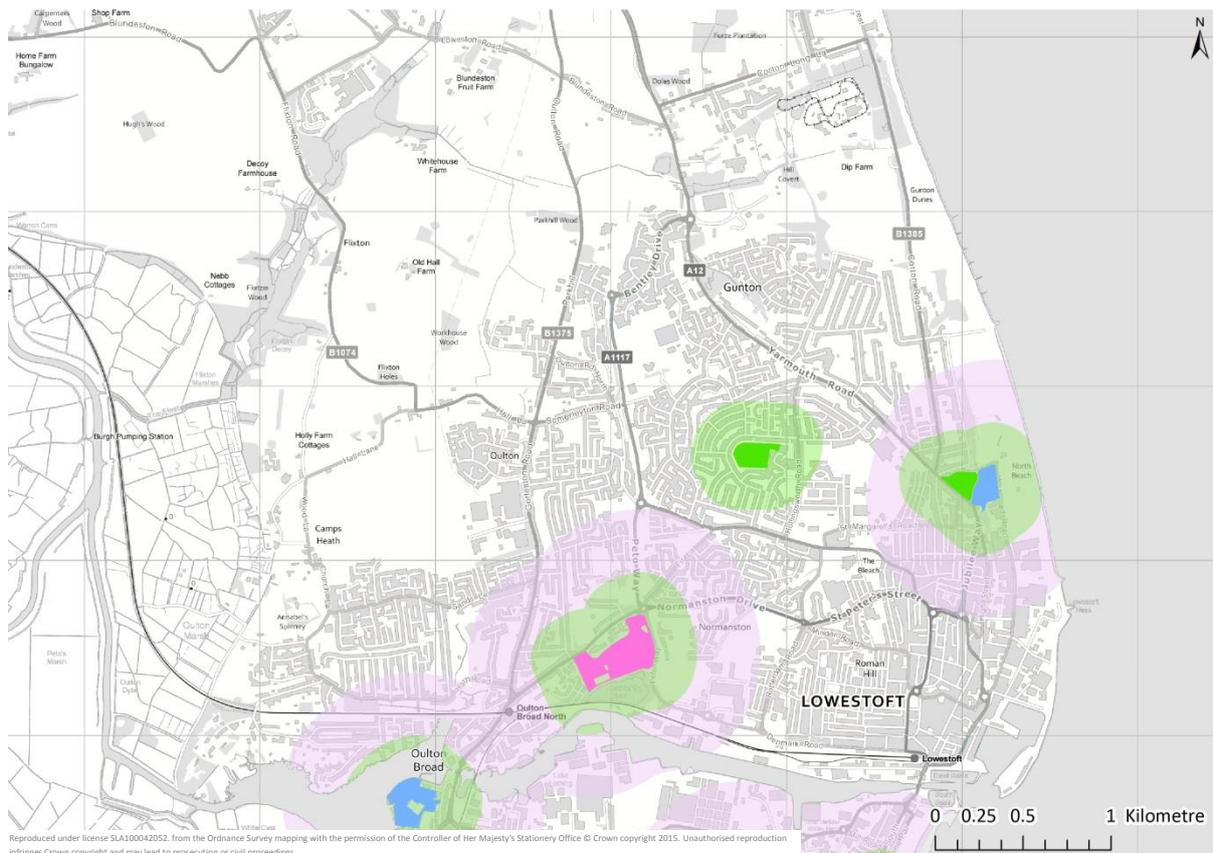
Provision of parks and gardens in the North Lowestoft area

Four parks are found in North Lowestoft and these constitute about a quarter of the total provision of open space (Figure 4.5). Normanston Park and Montgomery Park are well integrated into their respective residential areas. Sparrow’s Nest and Bellevue Park are not peripheral to the residential population but their location adjacent to the sea limits their value and connections to the resident population. These two parks, however, provide a wider role by connecting residents to the seaside and providing an attractive environment for visitors to the area.

Table 4.5: Parks and gardens in the North Lowestoft area

Park	Type of park	Area (ha)
Sparrows Nest Park	Destination	2.71
Normanston Park	Local	9.63
Bellevue Park	Satellite	1.92
Montgomery Park	Satellite	2.51
Total area		16.77

Figure 4.5: Parks and gardens in North Lowestoft



- Destination parks and gardens
- Local parks and gardens
- 600m catchment radius (1000m walk)
- Satellite parks and gardens
- 240m catchment radius (400m walk)

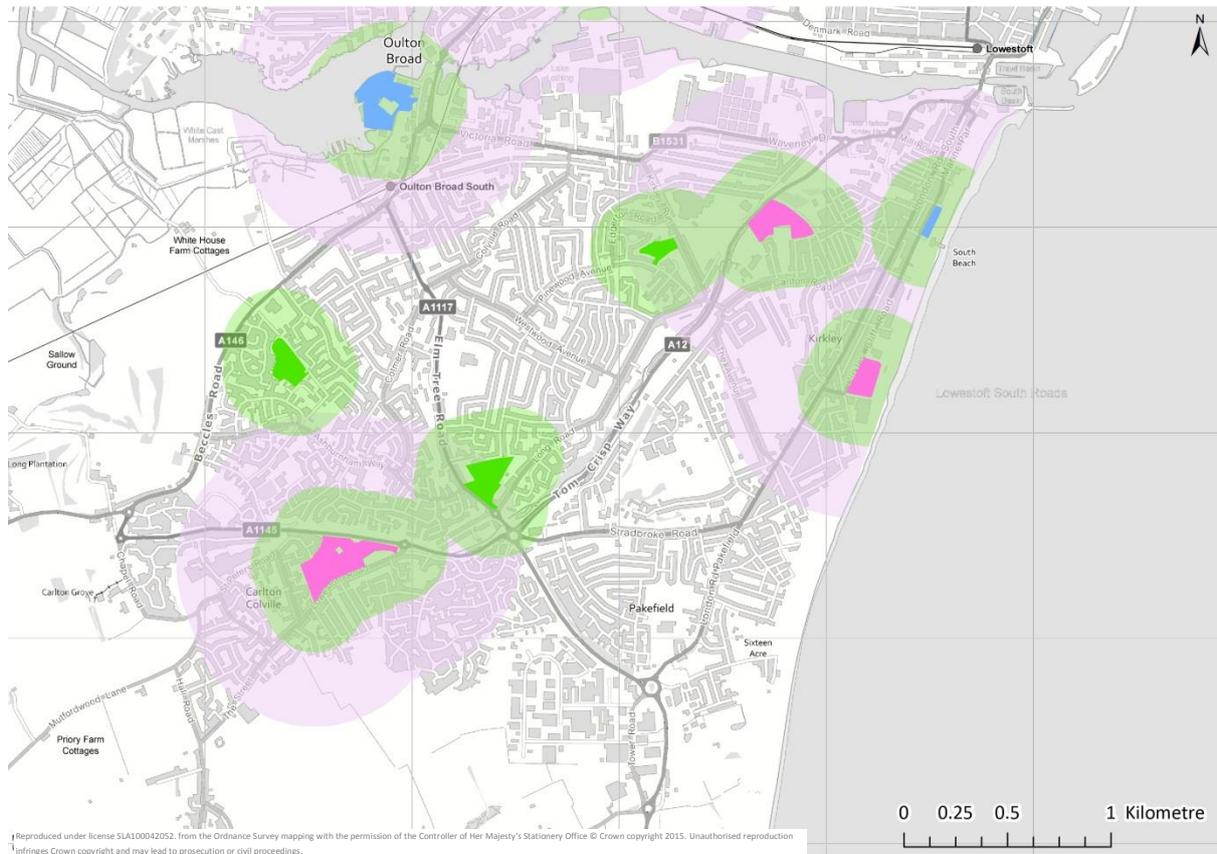
Provision of parks and gardens in the South Lowestoft area

South Lowestoft has the most significant amount of parks and gardens both quantitatively (22.78ha) and the number of sites (8 sites) (Table 4.6 and Figure 4.6). These multi-functional open spaces contribute to half of the total open space provision in the sub area.

Table 4.6: Parks and gardens in the South Lowestoft area

Park	Type of park	Area (ha)
Nicholas Everitt Park	Destination	5.20
Wellington Gardens	Destination	0.62
Carlton Meadow Park	Local	5.81
Kensington Gardens	Local	1.31
Kirkley Fen Park	Local	3.42
Britten Road	Satellite	1.12
Chaukers Crescent	Satellite	2.35
Rosedale Park	Satellite	2.95
Total area		22.78

Figure 4.6: Parks and gardens in South Lowestoft



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- Destination parks and gardens
- Local parks and gardens
- 600m catchment radius (1000m walk)
- Satellite parks and gardens
- 240m catchment radius (400m walk)

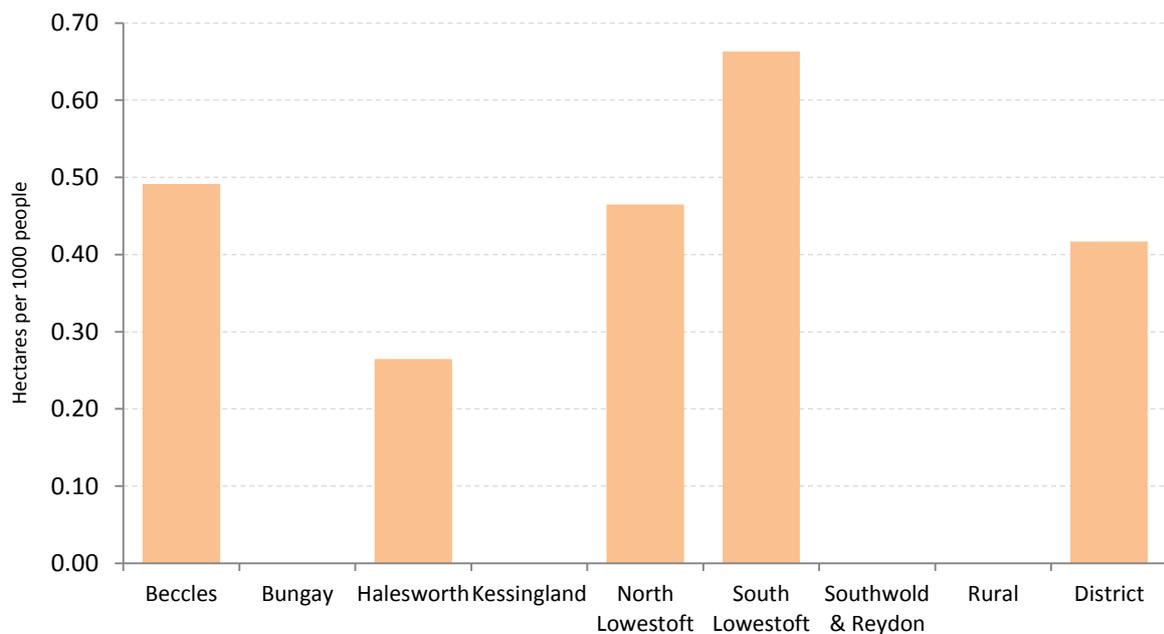
Provision of parks and gardens relative to the population

The Beccles and North Lowestoft have adequate provision of open space whose primary function is a parks or garden. South Lowestoft has the greatest number of parks and gardens and the best provision in the District (0.66ha per 1000 people). Halesworth has the lowest amount of provision of the towns that have park and gardens reflecting its size. Town Park in Halesworth is likely to experience a significant amount of pressure with its central location, however, it provides a quality focal point for the community and the town centre. Table 4.7 and Figure 4.7 provide comparisons of parks and gardens provision between sub areas.

Table 4.7: Provision of parks and gardens in relation to the population

Sub area	Population	Parks and gardens (ha)	Area per 1000 people (ha)	People per hectare of parks and gardens
Beccles	14,796	7.27	0.49	2,035
Bungay	5,127	0	0	0
Halesworth	4,726	1.25	0.26	3,781
Kessingland	4,327	0	0	0
North Lowestoft	36,089	16.77	0.46	2,158
South Lowestoft	34,362	22.78	0.66	1,508
Southwold & Reydon	3,680	0	0	0
Rural	12,147	0	0	0
District	115,254	48.07	0.42	2,398

Figure 4.7: Provision of parks and gardens per 1000 people



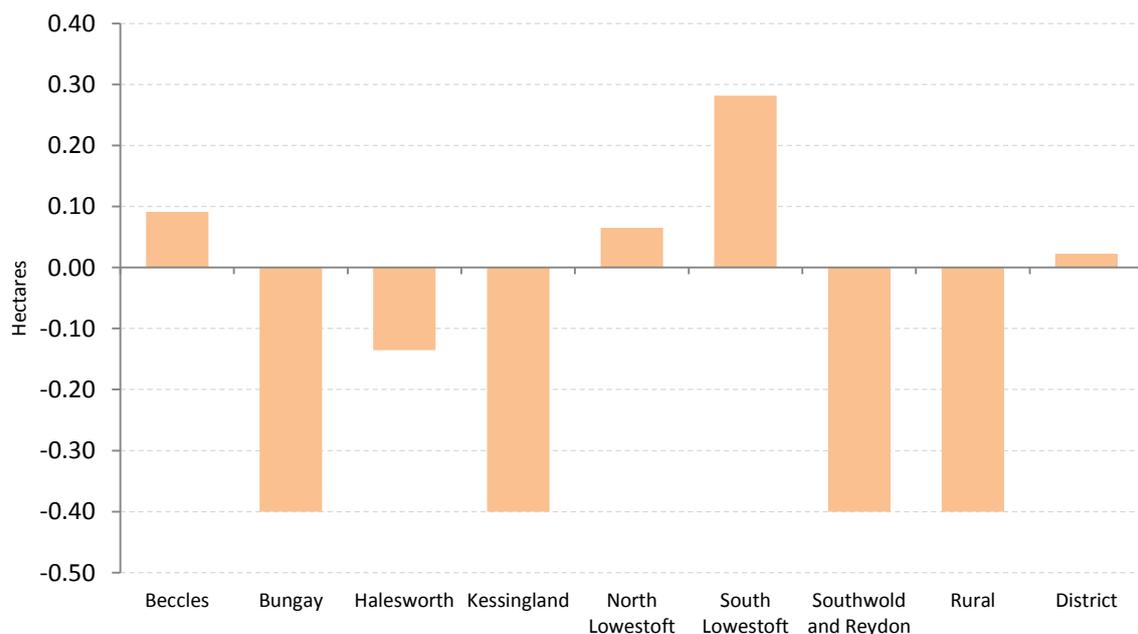
Provision of parks and gardens relative to standard

The Waveney Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) suggested a quantitative standard of provision of 0.4ha of parks and gardens per 1000 people. When applying this standard, of the sub areas that have parks and gardens only Halesworth demonstrates a shortfall of provision (-0.64ha). South Lowestoft has the greatest amount of provision and is significantly above the required threshold (Table 4.8 and Figure 4.8).

Table 4.8: Provision of parks and gardens relative to recommended standard

Sub area	Population	Area (ha)	Area per 1000 people (ha)	Total area required to meet 0.4ha per 1000 people standard (ha)	Provision above/below recommended standard (ha)
Beccles	14,796	7.27	0.49	5.92	1.35
Bungay	5,127	0	0	2.05	-2.05
Halesworth	4,726	1.25	0.26	1.89	-0.64
Kessingland	4,327	0	0	1.73	-1.73
North Lowestoft	36,089	16.77	0.46	14.44	2.33
South Lowestoft	34,362	22.78	0.66	13.74	9.04
Southwold & Reydon	3,680	0	0	1.47	-1.47
Rural	12,147	0	0	4.86	-4.86
District	115,254	48.07	0.42	46.10	1.97

Figure 4.8: Amount of parks and gardens space required to meet 0.4ha per 1000 people standard



Parks and gardens provide important areas for recreation and leisure and contribute significantly to the immediate surroundings and the wider townscape. Parks in Waveney have a variety of facilities available to encourage people from all ages to be active including play areas for children of different ages, ponds, planting, paved pathways that can be used in all weather, open areas for informal activities, semi natural areas for biodiversity and amenity and playing pitches and non-pitches for sport. Open spaces within towns often contain different facilities encouraging a wider cross-section of the community to use them and this variety increases their importance.

Figure 4.9: Example of park provision, Worlingham

Parks in Worlingham

The three parks in the Worlingham (Beccles sub area) provide an example of open spaces that have a variety of features and character and as a consequence relate differently to the community and the townscape. All Saint's Green, Woodfield Park and Werel's Loke are discussed below to provide some background about how open spaces can provide different opportunities for leisure and recreational activities and collectively contribute positively to the character of an area.

All Saints Green



All Saint's Green (0.86ha) is located within a residential area bordered by All Saint's Church to the north, the former Worlingham Primary School to the east and residential development to the south and west. The space is enclosed on all sides and is poorly overlooked. A hard surfaced path traverses the space connecting two entrances that are narrow and concealed. A third path is more open but provides little street frontage. A play space caters for toddlers and juniors and recently outdoor gym equipment has been installed.

The space is of high quality but its value is reduced by the relative isolation created by properties backing onto the space, high fencing and limited overlooking. The play area is well worn and considered to be of medium quality but low value which may act to discourage people from using the facility. The site despite being well located within a residential area and having a play area, is relatively isolated and does not relate to its surroundings very well. The space has few features of interest that create an identity and this contributes towards its limited value to the local area. This sense of isolation and poor connectivity with its surroundings is an attribute common in many of Waveney's open spaces.

Werel's Loke



Werel's Loke (0.81ha) is located on the south side of Worlingham bordered on two sides by residential properties and opening up to the open countryside on its southern boundary. The space has no street frontage. A hard surfaced path traverses the space to two entrances, while partially concealed, are wide enough not to discourage use of the site. Overlooking of the site is limited and the design of the bordering properties does not facilitate a sense of isolation.

Play equipment is provided for juniors and toddlers and of high quality with high value. The play space is classified as a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play. An open area is available to support unequipped play and the site also provides some semi natural habitat reflecting its setting adjacent to the countryside. The space is a good asset to the local area, however, its peripheral location reduces its value to the wider residential area.

Woodfield Park



Woodfield Park (1.21ha) in Worlingham is located within the residential area bordered on three sides with properties that overlook the space and a wooded area on bordering the west boundary. A hard surfaced path traverses the site to entrances that are concealed, however, this isolated character is reduced by the frontage onto Cedar Drive.

The space is connected to the adjacent residential area yet still retains a sense of privacy in much of the park. The play area (high quality, high value) caters for toddlers and juniors set within an attractive amenity space. The play area is classified as a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP), however, the grassed unequipped play area has issues related to drainage that can reduce the value of the site. The layout of the site and how it relates to its surroundings is likely to encourage people to use the space for play or simply walking through the park on the way to another destination making this an important local asset.

When assessing quantitative provision it is important to recognise that parks provide space that compliments other forms of open space in an area. While a space such as Normanston Park has a primary use as a park it also has a secondary use as amenity green space, play areas and sports pitches. These are discussed elsewhere in this report, however, the multi-functional role these spaces provide for the community increases their importance. When new open spaces are provided in the future consideration should be given to the inclusion of facilities that would be consistent with a satellite park which are of higher quality and value than most other open space typologies in the District. Lowestoft and the market towns (and the larger village of Kessingland) should all have access to at least one open space that is of a quality equivalent to a park.

Accessibility

Dwellings within catchment areas of parks and gardens

In Waveney only 14% of households are within a 240m radius (400m walking distance) of a park and a quarter of households within a 600m radius (1000m walking distance) of a local park (Table 4.9). Halesworth and South Lowestoft have the best access to parks and gardens. In comparison to North and South Lowestoft the market towns and rural areas have limited access to parks and gardens. The proportion of the population that has access to different types of park space is shown in Figure 4.10.

Table 4.9: Percentage of properties within the catchment area of a park or garden

Sub area	Properties within 240m radius of a satellite / local / destination park	Properties within 600m radius of a local / destination park	Properties within 3km radius of a destination park
Beccles	18%	11%	0%
Bungay	0%	0%	0%
Halesworth	13%	52%	0%
Kessingland	0%	0%	0%
North Lowestoft	13%	28%	100%
South Lowestoft	31%	52%	100%
Southwold & Reydon	0%	0%	0%
Rural	0%	0%	0%
District	14%	25%	52%

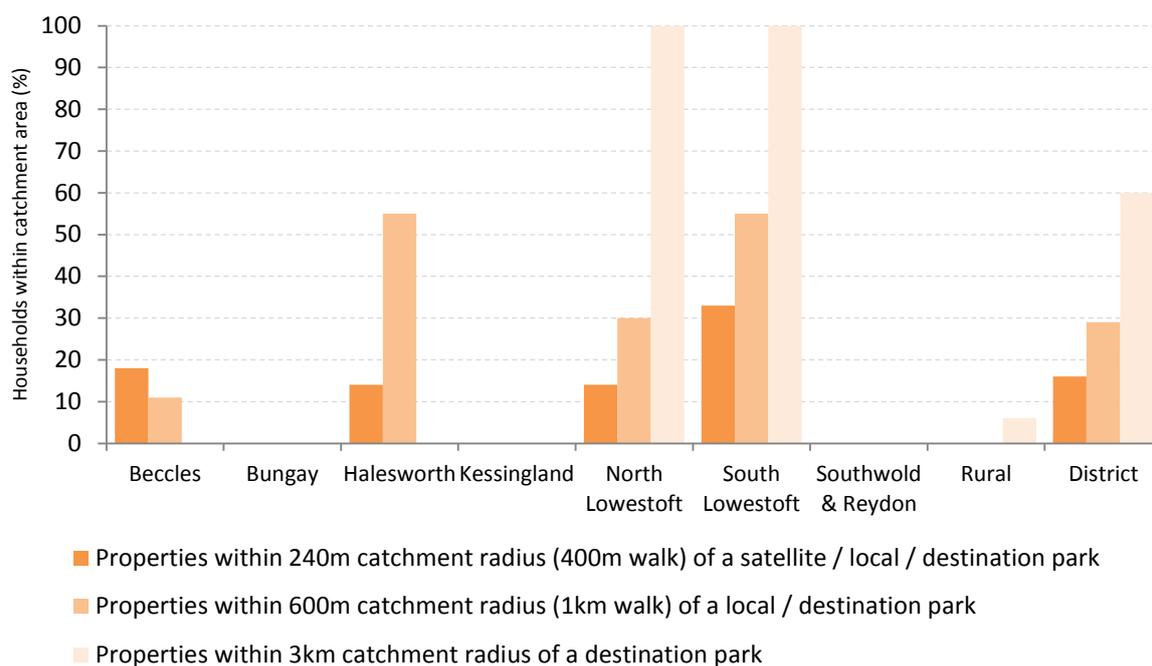
Normanston Park has a catchment area that covers future residential area bordering the south shore of Lake Lothing (Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood). The new residential development will have access to new amenity and play spaces in the area, however, access to a park will be limited. The proposed pedestrian/cycle bridge over Lake Lothing would connect the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood with Normanston Park enhancing the townscape and providing access to open space to encourage people to participate in physical and recreational activities. This connection will also improve access to open space for existing residents in the Whitton area where there is an identified shortfall of open space provision.

Nicholas Everitt Park in Oulton Broad is also disconnected from people in the north shore who live in an area with an identified shortfall of open space provision. Improved accessibility through the creation of attractive pedestrian and cycle routes will encourage residents in Oulton Broad and the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood to use this high quality and high value park.

Access to parks (and other open spaces and facilities) can be restricted by busy roads and other obstructions such as railways which in turn can affect the actual catchment area of an open space or

its value to local residents. Examples of this are in South Lowestoft where large open spaces are available but access is restricted by its surroundings. Nicholas Everitt Park is an important local facility but its local catchment is reduced by Oulton Broad, the busy Saltwater Way and the railway line. In Kirkley, Kirkley Fen Park is a multi-functional open space, however, Tom Crisp Way reduces its value to people living on the west side of the road (despite pedestrian crossings). Carlton Meadow Park provides a variety of facilities for the community but is separated from the residential area to the north by Castleton Avenue and the southern side is bound by Lowestoft Road which is likely to reduce access for some people on the south side.

Figure 4.10: Percentage of dwellings within the catchment of a park



People living in Kessingland, North Lowestoft, South Lowestoft and Southwold have access to the beach which will improve access to an environment that can enable participation in many of the same activities as a park. In areas close to the beach demand for park and garden green space may be less, however, the previous Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) suggested people most likely to use the beach on a regular basis were those living closest as there was good access. The Commons in Beccles and Southwold and Outney Common in Bungay provide areas for leisure and recreation that can in part offset any shortfall of park provision.

The catchment area for a destination park is a radius of 3km (5km walking distance). These parks provide quality areas for a variety of activities but also provide facilities for parking. While the maps show all of Lowestoft are within the catchment area of a destination park this does not indicate that parks provision is adequate. In the context of local provision and accessibility, these parks should be considered as local parks. In this way it gives a more accurate representation of how accessible park space is to the community.

Quality of parks and gardens

The quality of a park reflects the provision and condition of its features and characteristics. Table 4.10 sets out the attributes assessed to understand the quality and value of parks and gardens in the District. As part of the assessments scores were standardised to make quality and value ratings comparable.

Table 4.10: Assessed quality attributes

Provision and condition	Extent of misuse	Characteristics and aesthetic qualities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths and drives • Walls, railings, fences • Lighting • Trees • Shrubs and hedges • Grass • Litter bins • Dog litter bins • Seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter • Dog fouling • Vandalism • Graffiti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colourful • Amount of interest • Layout • Attractiveness • Fragmentation

A summary of the quality ratings in each sub area are set out below (Figure 4.11). The distribution of quality value is shown on the sub area maps in Figures 4.12 to 4.15.

Figure 4.11: Proportion of low, medium and high quality parks and gardens

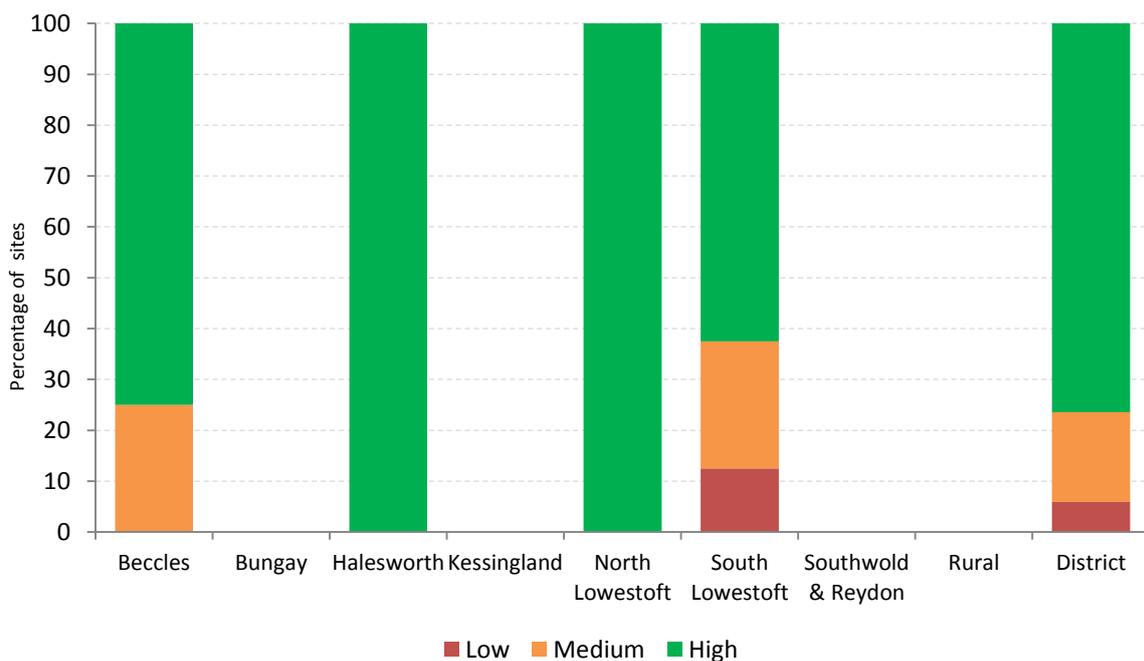


Figure 4.12: Quality of parks and gardens in Beccles

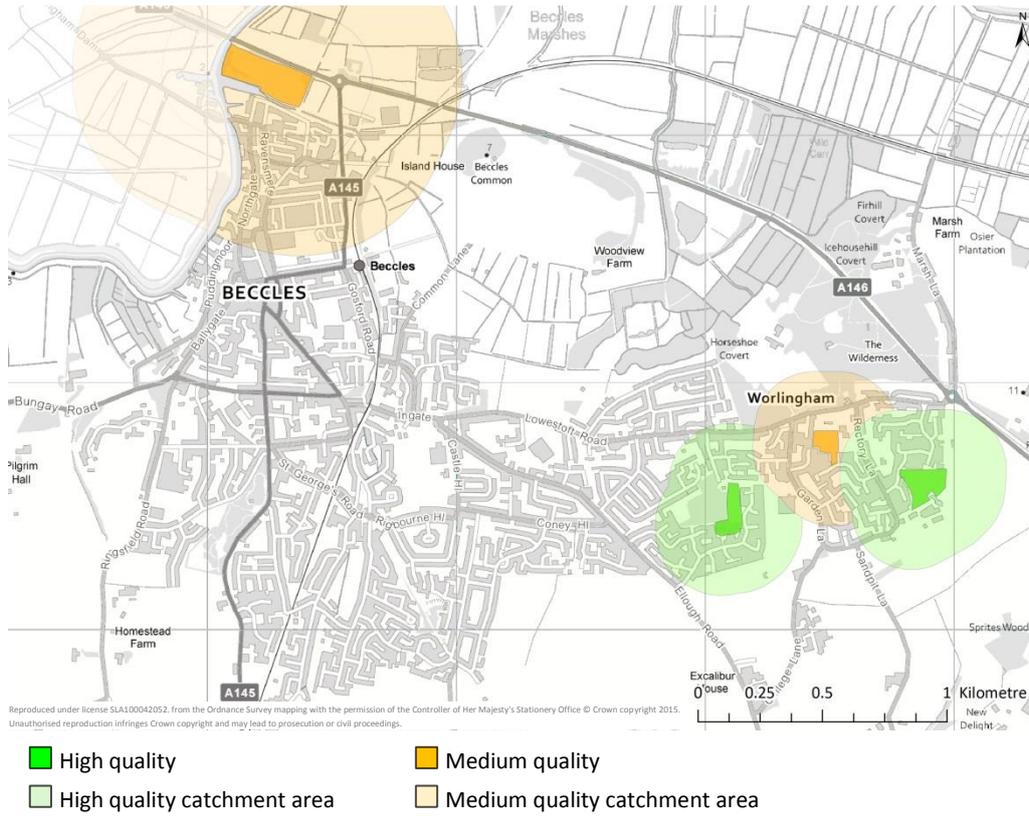
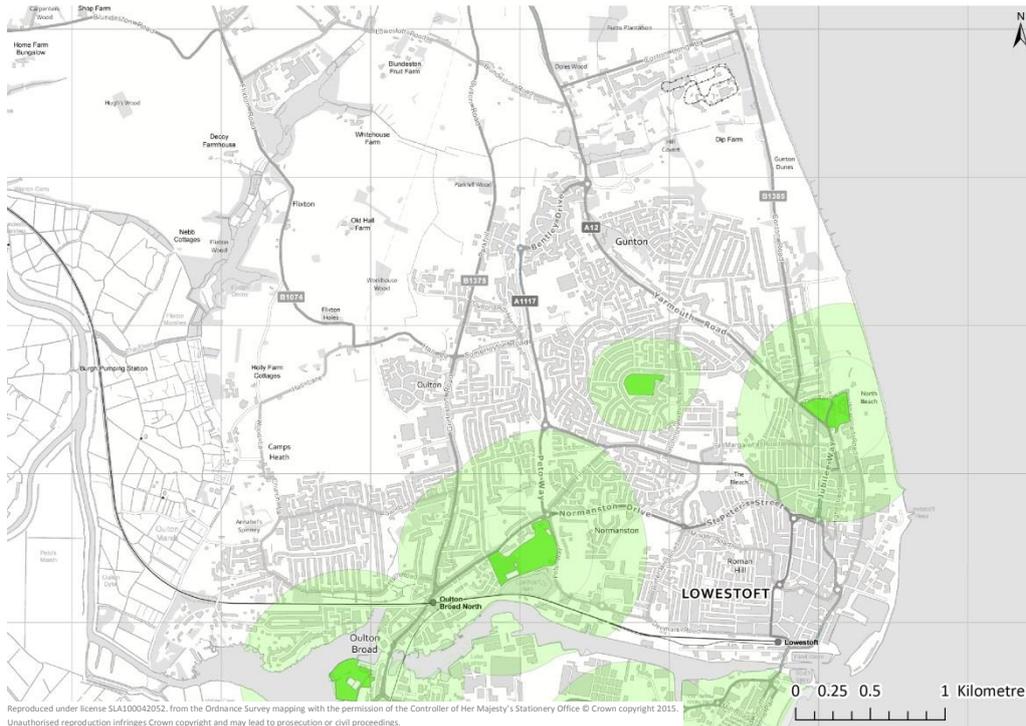


Figure 4.13: Quality of parks and gardens in Halesworth

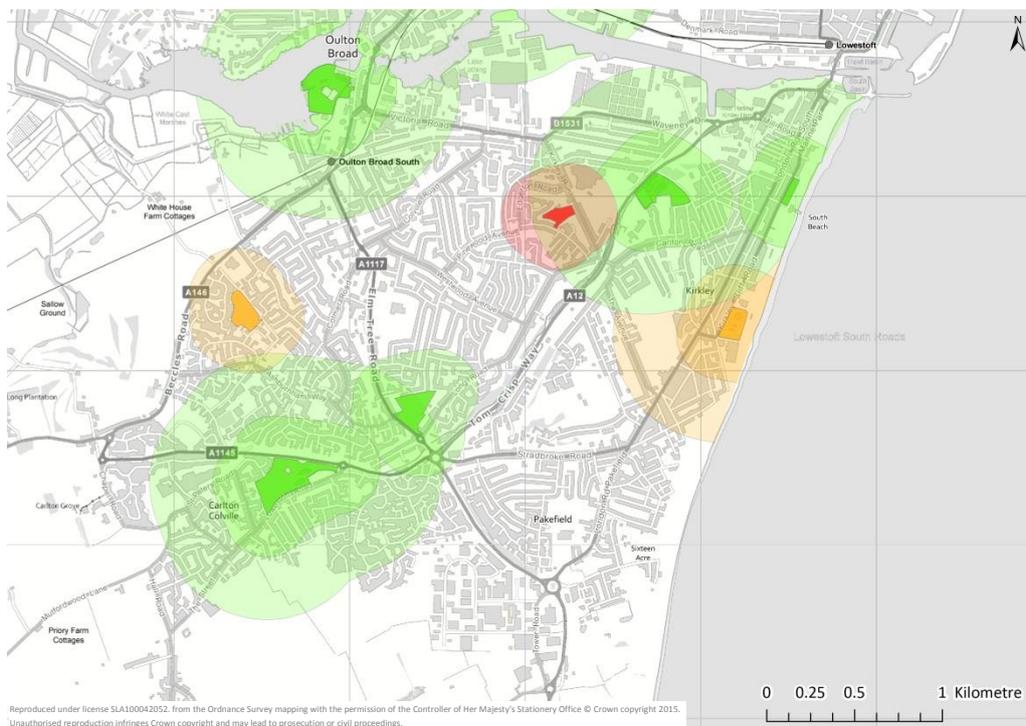


Figure 4.14: Quality of parks and gardens in North Lowestoft



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ■ High quality | ■ Medium quality | ■ Low quality |
| ■ High quality catchment area | ■ Medium quality catchment area | ■ Low quality catchment area |

Figure 4.15: Quality of parks and gardens in South Lowestoft



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ■ High quality | ■ Medium quality | ■ Low quality |
| ■ High quality catchment area | ■ Medium quality catchment area | ■ Low quality catchment area |

Value of parks and gardens

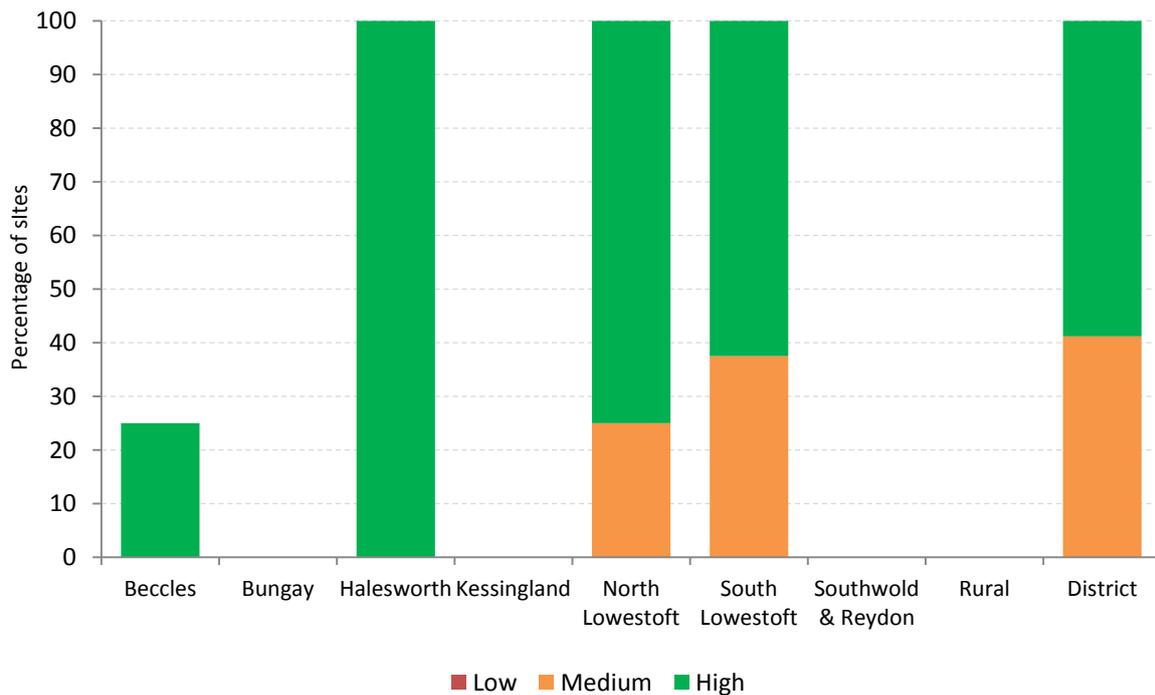
All parks in the District are rated as being of medium or high value. Nicholas Everitt Park in South Lowestoft is the only park in the District to have been accredited with the Green Flag Award. The value of a park reflects the provision and condition of the features and characteristics. Scores were standardised to enable quality and value ratings to be comparable. Table 4.11 sets out value attributes considered as part of the site assessment.

Table 4.11: Assessed value attributes

Accessibility	Value of the open space	Habitat value	Characteristics and aesthetic qualities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate access points for pedestrians Adequate access points for disabled users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Culture Contribution to the townscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodland, tree groups, avenues, individual trees Shrubs Hedges Natural grass Pond, river, lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integral to surroundings Safety Isolated location

A summary of the value ratings in each sub area are set out below (Figure 4.16). Maps showing the distribution of the value offered by parks and gardens in the different sub areas are shown in Figures 4.17 to 4.20.

Figure 4.16: Proportion of low, medium and high value parks and gardens



The importance of parks and gardens is highlighted by the quality and value ratings. Nine of the thirteen parks in Waveney are rated high quality with only Britten Road considered to be low quality. Similarly all parks and gardens are rated as being medium value with nine of those being high value. Some sites such as The Quay in Beccles and Woodfield Park in Worlingham have underlying factors such as poor drainage that can reduce the quality and value of the open space for the community.

Nicholas Everitt Park in South Lowestoft is the only park in the District to have been accredited with the Green Flag Award. The park is a tourist destination and provides a multi-functional space that enables a variety of community activities to take place.

The high standard of provision is likely to encourage more people to use these spaces thereby increasing their importance in the community. Having high standards of park provision is also likely to reduce the impact of low quality amenity and play spaces scattered through residential areas. While maintaining these high standards is supported and encouraged this does not diminish the need to provide good quality and value to other open space typologies that provide more localised access to open space facilities. With limited resources available for maintaining and improving open spaces careful consideration is needed as to how best to prioritise which spaces should be maintained to which standard (rating).

Figure 4.17: Value of parks and gardens in Beccles

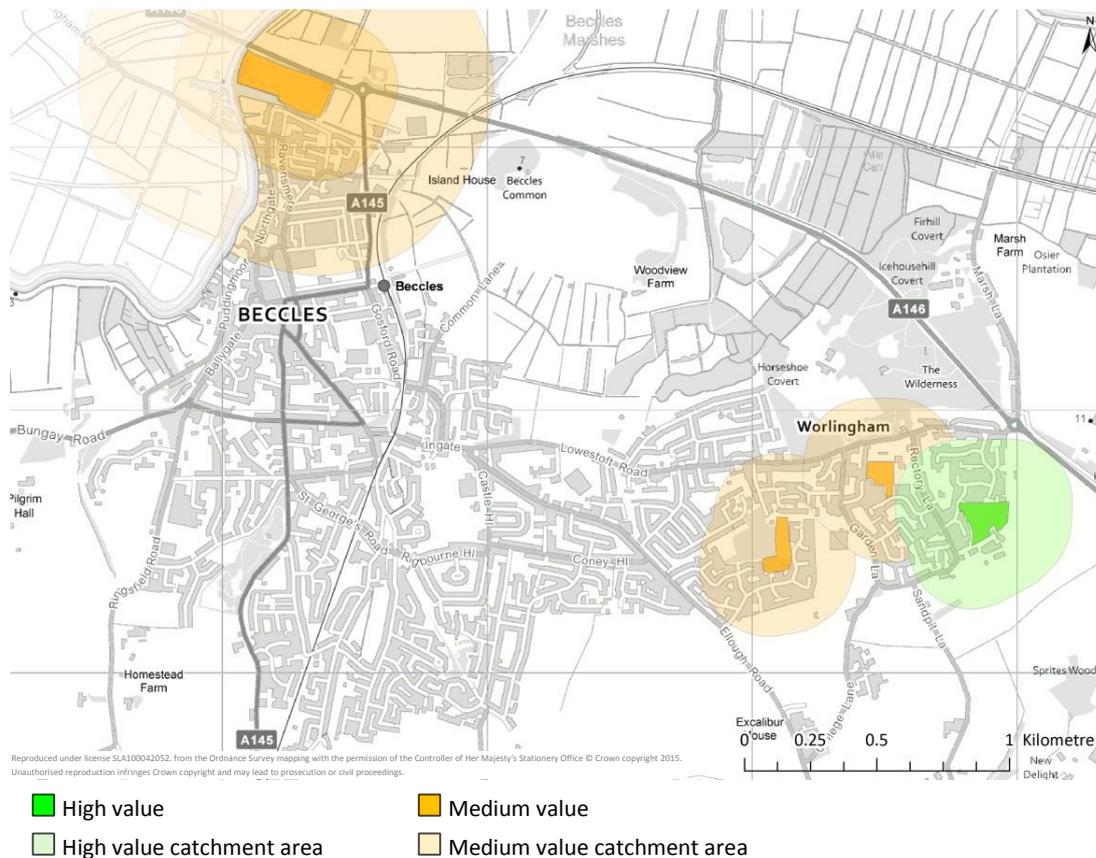
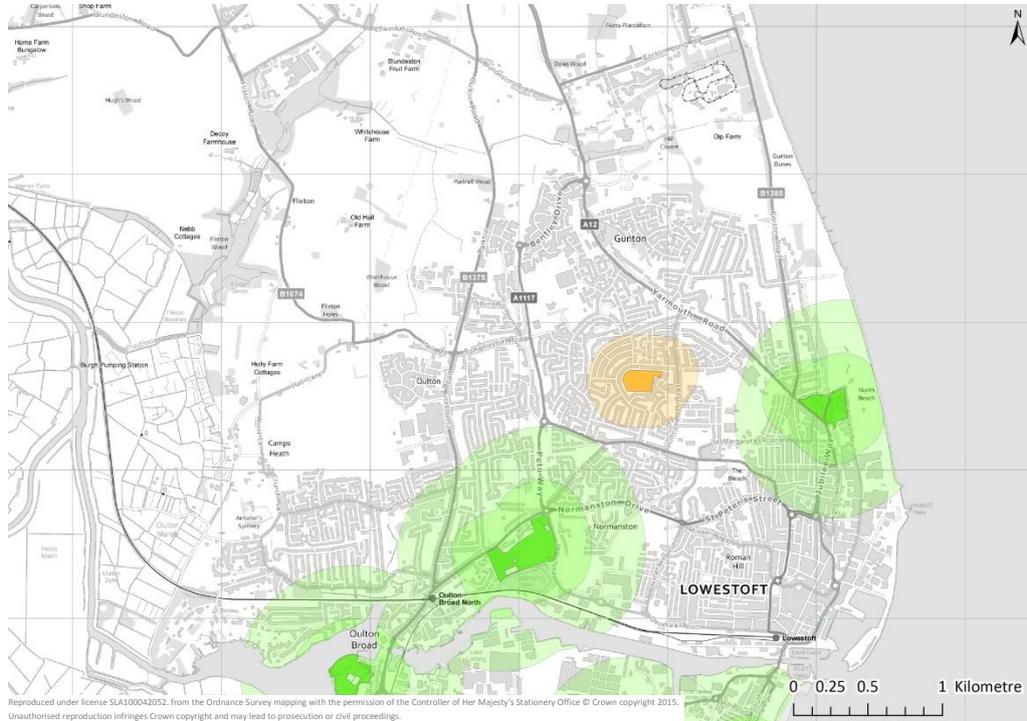


Figure 4.18: Value of parks and gardens in Halesworth



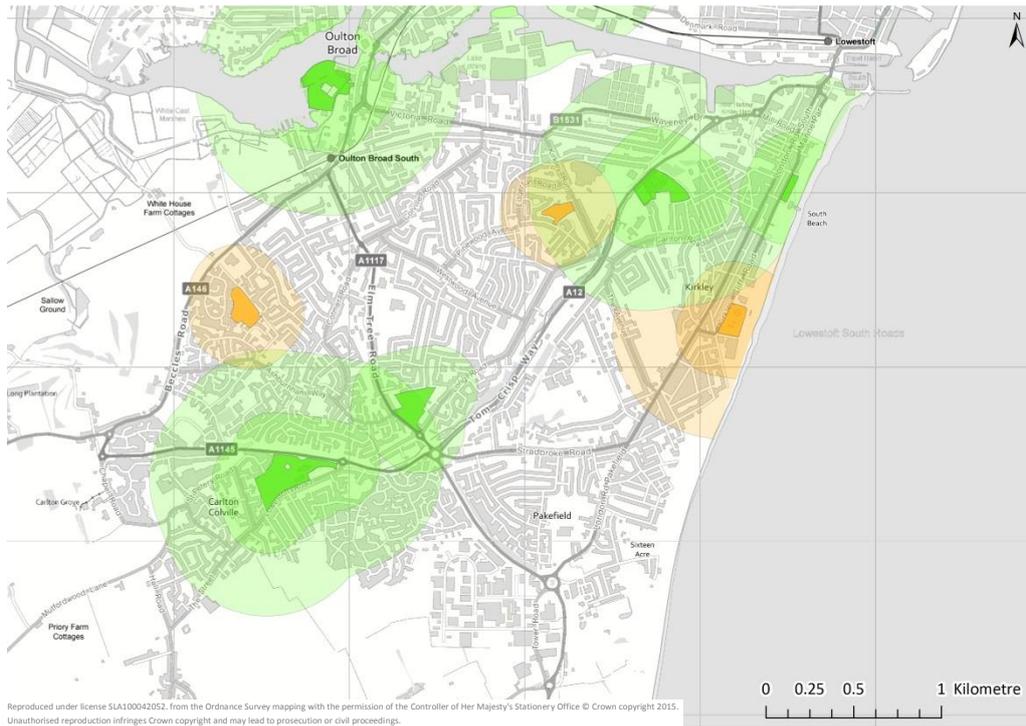
- High value
- High value catchment area

Figure 4.19: Value of parks and gardens in North Lowestoft



- High value
- Medium value
- High value catchment area
- Medium value catchment area

Figure 4.20: Value of Parks and gardens in South Lowestoft



- High value
 - High value catchment area
- Medium value
 - Medium value catchment area

Deprivation

Most parks and gardens are located in the older parts of the settlements which have disproportionately high levels deprivation. The location of parks and gardens in the District reflects the historical growth of Lowestoft and the market towns over time. Well established almost all parks and gardens of medium to high quality and value. These multi-functional green spaces provide focal points in local communities and enable people to participate in a wider variety of physical activities. The average level of deprivation of sub areas and the provision of parks and gardens are set out in Table 4.12.

In the larger sub areas where parishes and electoral areas have been group together this can mask different levels of deprivation over short distance. For example, in North Lowestoft the ward of Harbour is the most deprived in Waveney but is in the same sub area as Gunton (located in the north of the sub area) which is less deprived. Harbour has a significant deficit of open space and quality of open space facilities compared to Gunton. In the Beccles sub area the difference is more immediate as the wards of Worlingham and South Beccles have a shared boundary and when considered together is the second least deprived sub area in the District. Worlingham is one of the least deprived areas in the District and has good open space provision. Adjacent to the west is the ward of South Beccles which has a high level of deprivation with residents having limited access to quality open space and ancillary facilities. The ward of North Beccles also has high levels of deprivation masked by its grouping together with Worlingham.

Table 4.12: Sub area deprivation and parks and garden provision

Sub area	Deprivation (1 = most deprived 8 = least deprived)	Total area of parks and gardens (ha)	Parks and gardens per 1000 people (ha)	Number of parks and gardens	Ranked average quality of parks and gardens (1 = lowest quality, 8 = highest quality)	Ranked average value of parks and gardens (1 = lowest value, 8 = highest value)
North Lowestoft	1	16.77	0.46	4	2	2
South Lowestoft	2	22.78	0.66	8	1	1
Kessingland	3	0	0	0	-	-
Rural	4	0	0	0	-	-
Bungay	5	0	0	0	-	-
Halesworth	6	1.25	0.26	1	4	4
Beccles	7	7.27	0.49	4	3	3
Southwold & Reydon	8	0	0	0	-	-
District	-	48.07	0.42	17	-	-

Britten Road and Rosedale Park provide opportunities for amenity and play activities and also improve connectivity by enabling people to walk and cycle between different residential areas. Improvements to the quality and variety of facilities provided on site will enhance the value of these open spaces to the community, an area of relatively high deprivation.

Other parks that could be improved to increase their value to local residents are primarily located less deprived areas. In Carlton the open space at Chaukers Crescent is well integrated into the urban fabric with play equipment on site, however, there is a limited amount of ancillary facilities available with the landscaping being relatively uniform limiting its potential benefit to the local area.

Kessingland is the most deprived area without an open space meeting the standards of a park. Table 4.13 sets out quality and value of existing park and garden provision and identifies levels of deprivation using colour coding.

Quality and value combinations and a suggested policy approach

Colour notation

- Most deprived (upper quartile of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))
- Average deprivation (middle upper quartile of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))
- Average to below average deprivation (lower middle quartile of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))
- Least deprived (bottom quarter of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))

Table 4.13: Suggested policy approach

High quality	Low value	High quality	Medium value	High quality	High value
Enhance value in terms of its primary purpose.		Enhance value in terms of its primary purpose.		Spaces should be protected.	
None		Beccles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Saints Green ● Woodfield Park North Lowestoft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Montgomery Park 		Beccles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Werel's Loke Halesworth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Town Park North Lowestoft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bellevue Park ● Normanston Park ● Sparrows Nest Park South Lowestoft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carlton Meadow Park ● Kirkley Fen Park ● Nicholas Everitt Park ● Wellington Gardens 	
Medium quality	Low value	Medium quality	Medium value	Medium quality	High value
Enhance their quality provided it is also possible to enhance their value.		Enhance value and quality.		Enhance quality and value with an emphasis on improving the value of the space.	
None		Beccles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Quay South Lowestoft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chaukers Crescent ● Kensington Gardens ● Rosedale Park 		None	
Low quality	Low value	Low quality	Medium value	Low quality	High value
Enhance quality provided it is possible to also enhance their value. If it is not possible the space may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present use.		Enhance quality and value with an emphasis on improving the quality of the space.		Enhance quality and protect the space.	
None		South Lowestoft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Britten Road 		None	

The potential to provide new parks and gardens is limited except where new development may come forward. The areas expected to accommodate significant development during the current plan period are Oulton (North Lowestoft) and the land south of Lake Lothing (South Lowestoft) referred to as the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood (SUN). Both of these areas are expected to have new green space provided in the form of a park. In Oulton a 10ha country park is included in the plans and in the SUN replacement playing fields, amenity green space and a play area should provide a focal point for the new development and improve access to green space for people living in nearby Whitton.



Site assessments have shown parks and gardens, regardless of size, to be of significantly higher quality and value than other types of open spaces across the District. While the opportunity to provide a new park is less likely than for a standard amenity green space, there should be a focus on trying to deliver open space with similar levels of quality and value. Parks and gardens are likely to be located much further apart than regular open spaces, however, if they are used more frequently by the community than small spaces of lower quality that are closer to home they will be more valuable to the community overall.

Emphasis on existing parks and gardens should focus on protection and enhancement. Improving the quality and value of these green spaces will improve their importance to the community and encourage greater use of these assets. This is particularly important for parks that are well located with respect to the surrounding residential area and where the quality and value of the green spaces offering opportunities for amenity use and play are of lower quality and value.

In areas where there are deficits of parks it may be possible to improve amenity spaces in the vicinity to support an increased number of activities that bring quality and value. Such spaces provide an opportunity to create satellite parks and a focal point within an area.

Bungay, Kessingland and Southwold & Reydon are the only large settlements that do not have park space provided within their communities. As discussed in the assessment these are multi-functional open spaces that can create a focal point in an area and enhance the area in which are located for both residents and the townscape in general. Southwold & Reydon has a significant number of high quality open spaces that offer a variety of opportunities for recreation and leisure. Bungay and Kessingland, however, have significantly poorer open space provision and that which is available is generally of a lower quality and offers less value. Creating at least one open space that meets the standards expected of a park, even if just a satellite park, should be considered in both Bungay and Kessingland.

Parks and gardens recommendations

Beccles

Parks and gardens recommendations

The Quay

The Quay is identified as a 'local park' and is the only significant open space of this sort in the town. The current standard of the park does not reflect its significance given the limited access to quality multi-functional open space in the town. The overall quality of the site should be improved to reflect the value of the open space to the community and enhance its value as a tourist destination on the River Waveney.

South Beccles

There is a shortfall of open space provision and the quality of open space facilities in south Beccles. The nearest parks are at The Quay and on the far side of Worlingham and have limited value to residents living in the south of the town. There is no development proposed in south Beccles in the current local plan, however, if development is proposed in the area in the future a multi-functional open space that is large enough to be of park quality should be considered to meet address the existing deficit of open space provision.

Bungay

Parks and gardens recommendations

Garden Close, King's Road and Meadow Road are the most significant play areas but offer little opportunity to expand their function beyond this activity. A new play area has been provided on the former Grammar School playing field to complement a new community centre but is not large enough to support additional facilities. Castle Hills is near the town centre and is well located and has a setting over the River Waveney that is distinct, however, is primarily an amenity space. Opportunities to provide a new park in Bungay are limited, however, if any significant development is proposed in the town in the future provision of open space that meets this standard should be considered. Improving the quality of other public open spaces (eg. former Grammar School Playing Field, Castle Hills) and improving public access to open space (eg. Skinner's Meadow) will assist with off-setting this longstanding shortfall.

Halesworth

Parks and gardens recommendations

Protect and enhance quality and value of Town Park.

Kessingland

Parks and gardens recommendations

Playing Field

The seaside village with a small village centre has open space provision that is below the standard of other areas in the District (although play spaces are of high quality). The improvement of an open space to a standard of a small park may be aspirational, however, there may be potential at the Kessingland playing field site which is the largest and most diverse open space in the village.

Alternatively, the open space on the High Street, while primarily an area for play with amenity as a secondary use, could be enhanced to facilitate a wider array of activities and enhance the village centre.

North Lowestoft

Parks and gardens recommendations

East of England Park

The site is identified in the Lowestoft Lake Lothing and Outer Harbour Area Action Plan. The aspiration is to deliver a park that can provide new cultural/events space and links in with the surrounding area of the Ravine, the Scores and Ness Point. An open space of high quality with an identity that reflects the cultural history of the area will provide a quality facility for local residents and support tourism in the area.

South Lowestoft

Parks and gardens recommendations

Britten Road

The open space at Britten Road requires the higher quality facility provision and the attractiveness of the space should be improved to encourage greater use of the space and enhance its role as a space connecting residential areas. Use different parts of the open space may be considered for alternative types of open space use currently provided to make the space more multi-functional.

Carlton Meadow Park

The park provides a variety of different areas and facilities that encourage community use. Along its boundaries are busy roads (Lowestoft Road and Castleton Avenue) which separate the open space from sections of the nearby residential area. Improving access to the park would benefit the area by improving its value to the community and should be explored.

Chaukers Crescent

Significant open space that is well integrated into the residential area but it offers only medium quality and value. A limited amount of play equipment is located on site and the open area is

relatively featureless. Improvements could be made to the attractiveness of the area through landscaping, planting and ancillary facilities such as seating. Limited facility provision restricts the potential the site has to encourage people to use the site for informal activities.

Nicholas Everitt Park

Currently accredited with the 'Green Flag' award the destination park provides facilities for local residents and supports tourism in the area. Maintaining the park to a high standard will continue to benefit the local area.

Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood (SUN)

Good accessibility to the central open space in the SUN should be designed into the development for new residents and create good links with the existing residential area in Whitton.

Pedestrian/cycle bridge will provide significant benefits for residents wanting to access to Normanston Park.

Southwold & Reydon Area

Parks and gardens recommendations

There are no parks or gardens in Southwold & Reydon. Existing open spaces that provide a variety of uses for rural communities should be protected and enhanced to retain the high value.

Rural Areas

Parks and gardens recommendations

There are no parks or gardens in the rural areas of the District. Existing open spaces that provide a variety of uses for rural communities should be protected and enhanced to retain the high value.



Amenity Green Space

Spaces designed to soften the urban fabric, provide a setting for buildings, small wildlife habitats and allow for informal leisure activities.

What is amenity green space?

Amenity green space describes green space that is designed to soften the urban fabric, provide a setting for buildings, provide small wildlife habitats and allows for informal leisure activities. Amenity green spaces are public open spaces whose primary purpose is to improve and enhance the appearance of the local environment and improve the well-being of local residents.

Amenity green space benefits the local community by improving public health, reducing stress levels, improving child development through creative play, increasing people's interaction with nature and their perception of where they live and contributing towards economic prosperity. Landscaping is an integral part of new developments and the function of amenity space(s) should be well considered to maximise the benefit to the community.

In residential areas there is often overlap in the location, character and function of communal amenity space and casual play areas for children. These are often relatively small parcels of green space with few, if any, ancillary facilities that are closely related to homes and have benefits for local residents, whether for play or general amenity.

Amenity green spaces that are for general amenity and have no ancillary facilities such as seating or defining landscape features designed for play or leisure are referred to as 'passive amenity green space' for the purposes of this report. While they are important in the context of the townscape and act to improve the local area they do not encourage people to use the open space or facilitate leisure and recreational activities in these areas. The role of passive amenity green spaces is discussed in this report, however, as they provide limited value in terms of physical use by local residents they are not included in the open space analysis.



Existing recommended standards to provide adequate amenity green space

Open space standards provide a benchmark to assess if enough open space is provided and it is the most appropriate type of open space to meet the needs of the community.

The Fields In Trust is a national organisation that provides guidance about the provision of open space. They have set out a standard of provision of 2.4ha of open space per 1000 population. This standard is broken down to; 0.2-0.4ha of equipped play space, 0.6-0.4ha unequipped play space (amenity space) and 1.6ha of playing pitches.



This quantitative standard was echoed in the previous Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) which suggested 0.8ha of open space in the form of equipped and unequipped play areas be provided per 1000 people with the remaining 1.6ha in the form of playing pitches. For amenity green space the 2006 assessment recommended a quantitative standard of 0.6ha per 1000 people. In effect this means that 0.2ha of open space should be in the form of equipped play space and 0.6ha should be amenity green space. This standard was considered appropriate to reflect the realistic expectations of the local population. The assessment also suggested residents should have access to this type of space within 100m walking distance from home (one minute walk).

The need for amenity space relates to the type of development. A residential development with large gardens will have a lower need for amenity space compared to flatted developments or areas of sheltered housing where gardens are often not provided. However, where a housing area is likely to contain a significant number of children, amenity green space also functions as a space to play for many.

When residential development is proposed it is important to consider how amenity spaces will contribute towards the townscape and how they will be used by local residents. In areas where residential properties have gardens it is likely that small amenity spaces will have limited value in comparison to a larger green space that provides more of a focal point for the community and provides the opportunity for a wider variety of activities.

The need for amenity space is not limited to housing areas. The landscaping associated with many non-residential developments, such as business parks, should be included in the consideration of need. In these areas quality is as important as quantity. Such landscaping improves the setting of the employment areas and can be used by employees.

When delivering new open space as part of new development Waveney District Council applies a 'minimum acceptable size standard'. This standard ensures that new open spaces are a minimum size of 0.1ha with no dimension being smaller than 15m (this is equivalent to about two tennis courts). This is the minimum size considered to be acceptable for children's play and other informal activities.

In Waveney green space where amenity is the primary function can have a variety of roles including: large and small green spaces adjacent to residential developments, village greens and ancillary spaces adjacent to equipped play areas. Often green spaces can have amenity as a secondary function such as parks, gardens and playing fields.

The Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) consulted the public to ascertain their views of amenity green space in the District. A summary of the key findings are set out in Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Summary of key points in 2006 consultation

General

- 70% of people of people stated amenity green space was important to them.
- 81% of people stated that small amenity green spaces contribute positively to local environment.

Quantity

- 40% of people thought there was adequate amenity green space provision while 33% of residents thought there was not enough.
- Highest satisfaction was in North Lowestoft and the lowest was in Beccles, Bungay and Halesworth.
- Younger people felt more strongly about the need for amenity space.
- 20% of people with children allow them to play in local green spaces.

Quality

- 21% were positive about their local green space, 12% held negative views, while 30% provided no response suggesting these spaces were insufficiently prominent for some people to notice quality.
- Quality was considered highest in Southwold & Reydon (39% positive) but more mixed in North Lowestoft (29% positive, 16% negative).



Open Space with amenity as the primary use

The total amount of amenity green space where amenity is the primary function is 83.16 hectares. This is a little more than half of the total amount of open space in the District (160.89ha).

Table 5.1: Provision of green space with amenity as the primary use

Sub area	Population	Total accessible open space (ha)	Amenity green space (ha)	Proportion of open space that has amenity as the primary use (%)
Beccles	14,796	15.06	4.20	27.89
Bungay	5,127	4.49	3.30	73.50
Halesworth	4,726	5.13	1.61	31.38
Kessingland	4,327	3.63	2.33	64.19
North Lowestoft	36,089	59.53	39.62	66.55
South Lowestoft	34,362	45.29	18.4	40.63
Southwold & Reydon	3,680	8.63	4.89	56.66
Rural	12,147	19.13	8.81	46.05
District	115,254	160.89	83.16	51.69

Population source: Census 2011

Bungay, North Lowestoft and Kessingland have the highest proportion of open space where amenity is the primary use. This, however, masks a shortfall in provision, unequal distribution and the limited variety of amenity spaces in the market towns and villages in the District.

Beccles, Halesworth and South Lowestoft have the lowest amount of open space where amenity is the primary use. This is reflective of a greater number of open spaces that are multi-functional and can support a greater number of activities. In these areas amenity as a secondary use is more apparent.

Amount of green space per 1000 people where amenity is the primary use

The average amount of amenity green space per 1000 people in the District is 0.73ha (Table 5.2). With the exception of North Lowestoft, which has several large open spaces located adjacent to the coast, the lowest amount of provision is generally located in the more deprived areas of the District (e.g. Harbour Ward in North Lowestoft).

Table 5.2: Amount of amenity green space provided per 1000 people

Sub area	Area of amenity green space (ha)	Hectares of amenity green space per 1000 people (ha)	Persons per hectare of amenity green space
Beccles	4.20	0.28	3,523
Bungay	3.30	0.64	1,554
Halesworth	1.61	0.34	2,935
Kessingland	2.33	0.54	1,857
North Lowestoft	39.62	1.10	911
South Lowestoft	18.4	0.54	1,868
Southwold & Reydon	4.89	1.33	753
Rural	8.81	0.73	1,379
District	83.16	0.72	1,386

The greatest amount of provision is in Southwold & Reydon and North Lowestoft. In these areas a significant proportion of the total area is contained within a small number of larger spaces. Quantitatively, while provision is high, proximity and accessibility to these is likely to be more restricted in comparison to other areas where there is less provision but a greater number of spaces.

Deficiencies of green space with amenity as the primary use

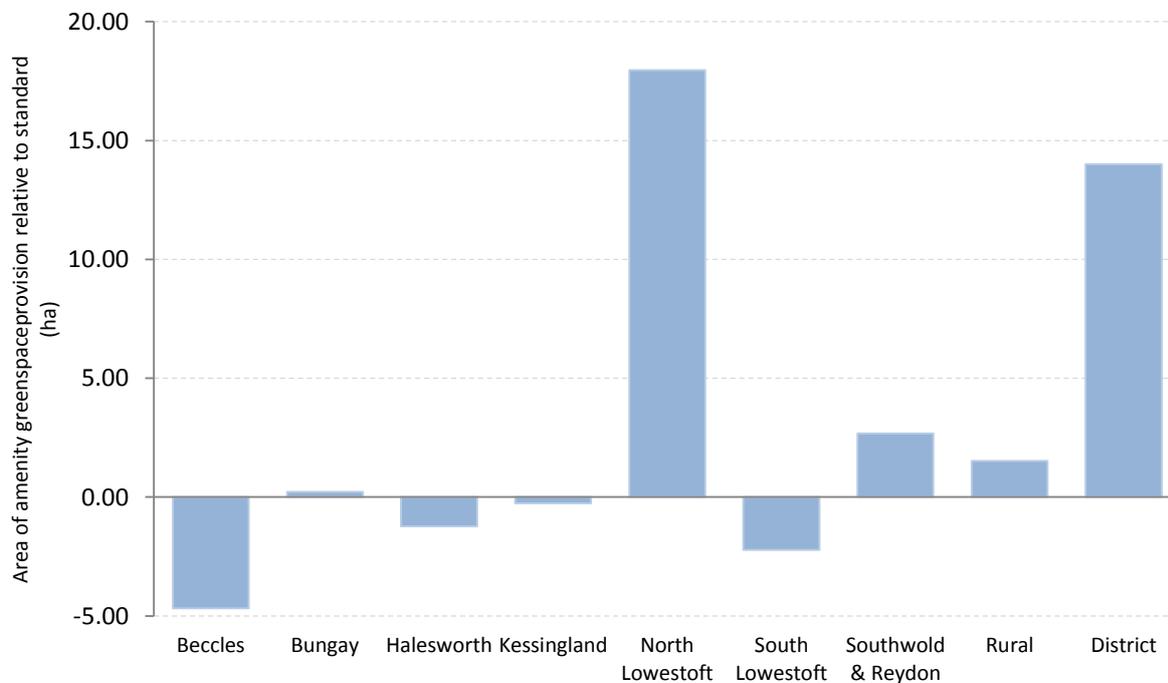
The Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) suggested a quantitative standard of provision of 0.6ha per 1000 people. While it is difficult to provide new open space within existing settlement boundaries given the developed nature of these areas, this standard sets a benchmark to ensure adequate open space is provided in the future for new development. It also highlights the importance of improving the quality, value and accessibility to open space where there is a quantitative shortfall.

Overall, there is adequate provision of open space in the District in terms of quantity. An additional 14ha of amenity open space is available to the public above the amount required to meet the standard (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Provision of amenity green space relative to recommended standard

Sub area	Total area of amenity green space (ha)	Amenity green space provision (ha per 1000 people)	Amenity green space required to meet 0.6ha per 1000 people standard (ha)	Provision above/below 0.6ha per 1000 people standard (ha)
Beccles	4.20	0.28	8.88	-4.68
Bungay	3.51	0.64	3.08	0.22
Halesworth	1.72	0.34	2.84	-1.23
Kessingland	2.48	0.54	2.60	-0.27
North Lowestoft	39.62	1.10	21.65	17.97
South Lowestoft	18.4	0.54	20.62	-2.22
Southwold & Reydon	4.89	1.33	2.21	2.68
Rural	8.81	0.73	7.29	1.52
District	83.63	0.72	69.15	14.01

North and South Lowestoft have the greatest amount of amenity green space provided compared to other areas in the District, however, they also have the largest populations. North Lowestoft has a total of 18 open spaces where amenity is the primary function and almost 18ha amenity green space above the amount required. South Lowestoft has 26 amenity spaces but has a deficit of 2.22ha of amenity green space (Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.2: Amenity green space required to meet 0.6ha per 1000 people standard

Beccles has the most significant deficit of amenity space in the District (-4.68ha) with deficits also present in Halesworth (-1.12ha) and Kessingland (-0.12ha). Overall, rural areas have adequate provision, however, many of these open spaces are expected to support multiple activities (e.g. play, sports activities and amenity etc.). In rural areas open space is often set out as a focal point in the settlement with additional activities associated with an adjacent village hall or other type of community facility.

Primary and secondary amenity space provided and how this compares to the required standard 0.6ha per 1000 people

Amenity green space by its nature facilitates a variety of uses. When considering the provision of open spaces where amenity is the primary function there are significant deficits. However, many open spaces are multi-functional and have the capacity to support amenity use as a secondary function (eg. parks). Figure 5.3 shows the proportion of amenity green space that has primary and secondary functions. When open space is considered in terms of its amenity use overall (i.e. both primary and secondary uses) there is adequate provision across the District (Figure 5.4).

Figure 5.3: Proportion of amenity green space as a primary or secondary function

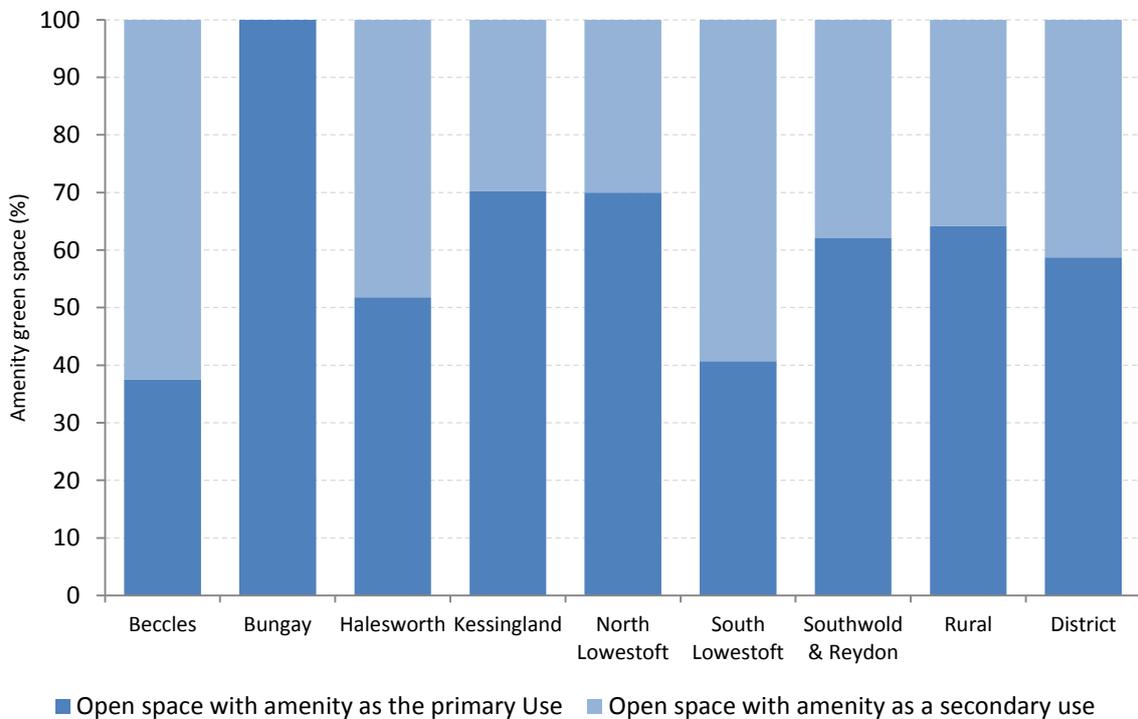
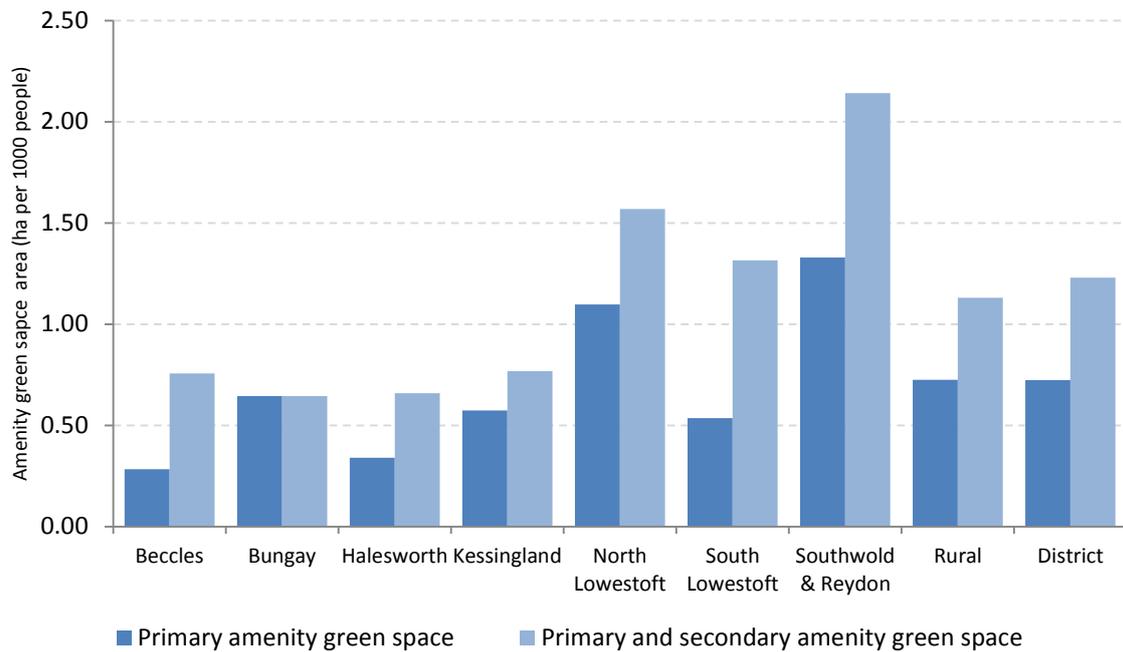


Figure 5.4: Green space with amenity as a primary and secondary use



North and South Lowestoft in particular have an abundance of open space available for amenity purposes. North Lowestoft has a disproportionately large surplus compared to other sub areas. This skews the overall provision of amenity green space for the whole District, although this does not reflect how accessible amenity green space is for residents.

In Beccles, Halesworth and Kessingland there are deficits of open space that have amenity as the primary use, however, when secondary amenity use is considered these deficits are alleviated. This flexibility reflects the importance of open spaces that have multiple uses and their value to the community. Bungay is the only area that does not have any amenity green space available as a secondary use indicating a lack of multi-functional open spaces.

Individual open spaces in settlements such as Bungay collectively meet the quantitative standard required, however, the low level of amenity as a secondary use indicates that characteristically they are one dimensional and provide limited scope for supporting a multitude of activities. In smaller settlements with limited open space provision this can be a particular concern if the facilities are not appropriately distributed.

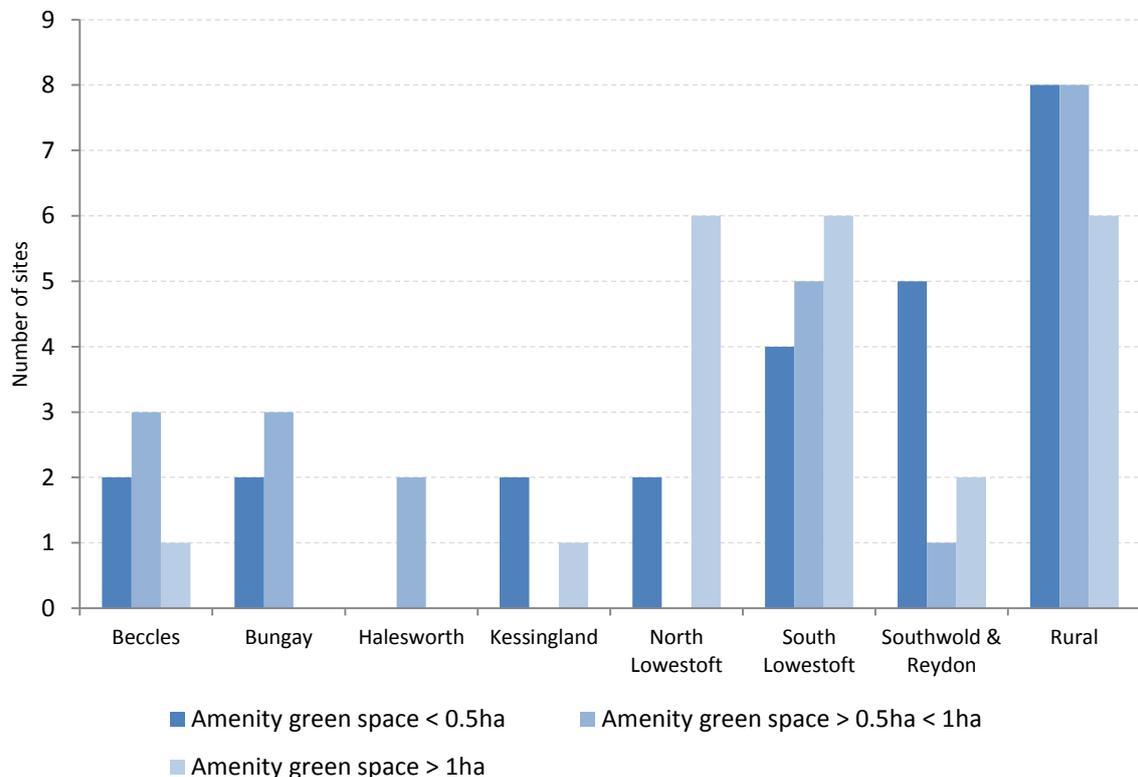
Southwold & Reydon have amenity green space provided as a secondary function in a similar proportion to the District average. Combined with the total amount of primary amenity green space there the amount of provision is the highest in the District.

Size of open spaces with general amenity use

The size of an open space is an important factor in the role it plays in the community. Larger open spaces tend to support a wider array of activities and are more likely to be a focal point in the community. Many of the large amenity green spaces in Waveney are in the form of parks with semi-natural commons. The beach also provides an area for recreation and amenity use.

Smaller amenity green spaces are important features to enhance the townscape and support informal activities. These spaces often have fewer ancillary facilities than large open spaces and provide less value for local residents. Figure 5.5 shows how amenity green spaces of different sizes available for general public use are distributed across the District.

Figure 5.5: Size of amenity green spaces



South Lowestoft and the rural areas of the District have the greatest variety of amenity green space in terms of size. Approximately half of the amenity spaces in South Lowestoft are larger than one hectare with a majority having amenity as a secondary function.

In contrast, North Lowestoft has significantly more amenity green space in terms of total area (39.62ha) than any other sub area and two thirds of these are larger than 1 hectare. Amenity spaces

that have less character, either individually or collectively, can create a townscape that provides less value to the community overall regardless of their size.

The sub areas with the largest populations tend to have the greater number of amenity spaces larger than 1ha. However, the location of these sites is often on the periphery of the built up area. This in turn is likely to reduce their accessibility, and correspondingly their value, to the community.

Larger sites such as Montgomery Park and Carlton Meadow Park in North Lowestoft and South Lowestoft respectively are well integrated into residential areas, providing good opportunities for a variety of uses that encourage people to use them.

Outside of Lowestoft the proportion of open spaces larger than 1ha with amenity use is small. In small settlements this is less of an issue, however, in the market towns there is a greater proportion of small spaces. In these areas an emphasis on improving quality and value to provide a wider range of activities to encourage a wider cross-section of the community to use them would be most beneficial. This would assist with improving the townscape and ideally enhance the standing of open spaces within the community to make them more of a focal point or destination.

Accessibility

Number of dwellings within catchment areas of amenity green space

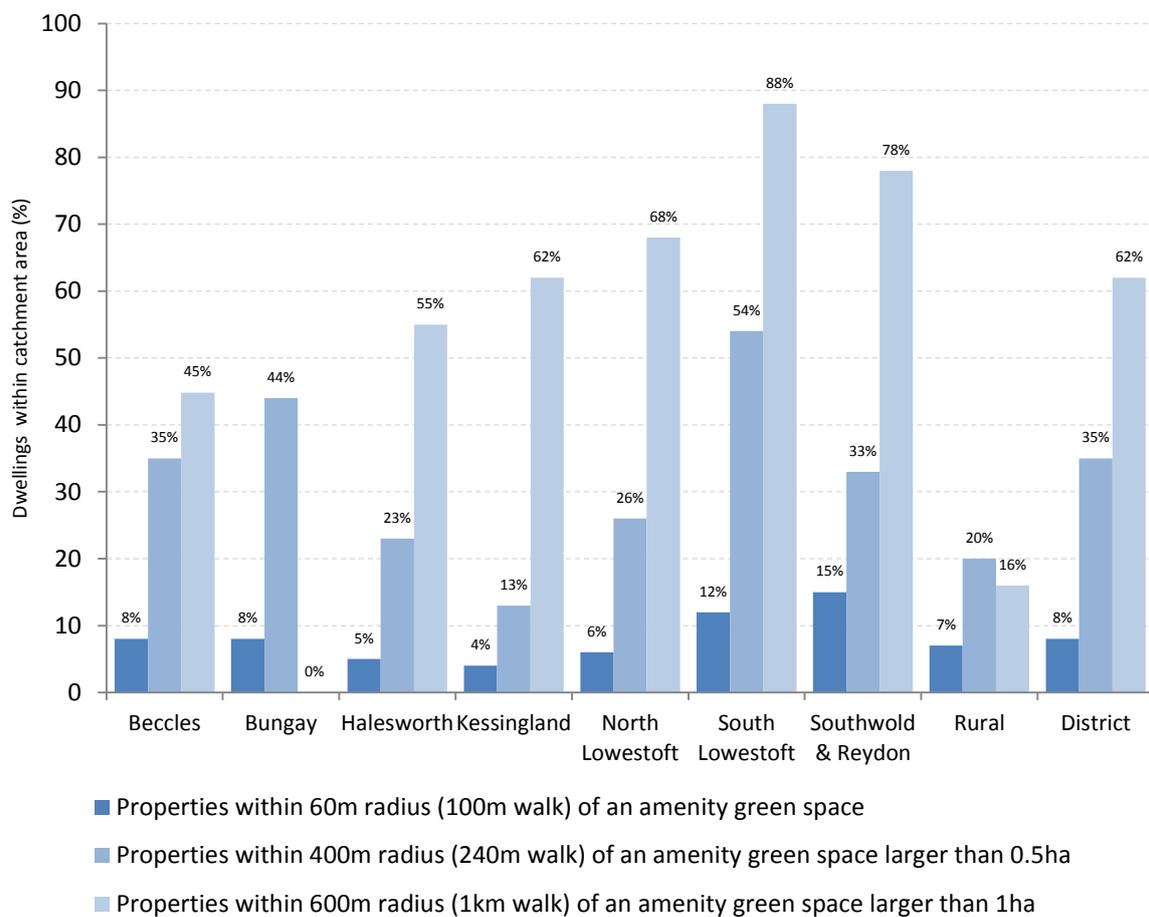
Fields In Trust has recommended walking time as an appropriate measure of distance for people to access open space and ancillary facilities. For amenity green space it is recommended that every dwelling should be within a one minute walk of an amenity green space. One minute walking distance is equivalent to approximately 100m. On the supporting maps which visually show catchment areas based on walking time, the walking distance is multiplied by a factor of 0.6 to account for people not being able to walk in a straight line to an open space. For amenity green spaces of at least 0.5ha in size a catchment of 400m (five minute walking time) has been used and for amenity green spaces larger than 1ha a catchment area of 1000m (15 minute walk) was considered most appropriate. These are consistent with accessibility standards recommended for equipped play areas.

In Waveney 8% of dwellings are within a one minute walk of an amenity green space. This low proportion is not surprising and does not show a clear indicator of any surplus or deficit of provision unless housing density in an area is particularly high. Residential areas with lower housing density generally have private gardens. As was evident in the public consultation undertaken as part of the Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) private gardens were the most preferable open spaces for

parents to allow their children to play in. This indicates there could be less of a need for properties to be located so close to public open space with equipped play provision for very young children.

For open space with amenity value of at least 0.5ha in size the proportion of dwellings located within 400m walking distance (5 minute walk) is 35% across the District (Figure 5.6). This is more reflective of accessibility and provides a clearer indication of how open space provision meets the needs of the community. Arguably, the catchment area of 400m is the most important indicator to identify whether existing provision is adequate or not.

Figure 5.6: Dwellings within the catchment area of amenity green space available for general use



For large open spaces with amenity use a little over half of the District is within 1000m (15 minute walk). Beccles, Bungay and the rural areas of the District have the poorest access to large amenity spaces.

The recommended standard is for every dwelling to have access to an amenity green space within 100m walking distance from home, however, the best provision is in Southwold & Reydon at only 15%. In Kessingland where there is a population of approximately 4300 people this provision is 4%. These figures are suppressed because passive amenity green space is not included in this assessment.

This is particularly relevant for localities such as Kessingland and Southwold where passive open space contributes significantly towards the total amount of open space. These passive amenity green spaces have limited value in terms of physical use by local residents. However, they are an important contributor towards enhancing the townscape and street scene (passive amenity green space is discussed later in this section). Both Kessingland and Southwold have access to the beach which may mitigate part of this shortfall.

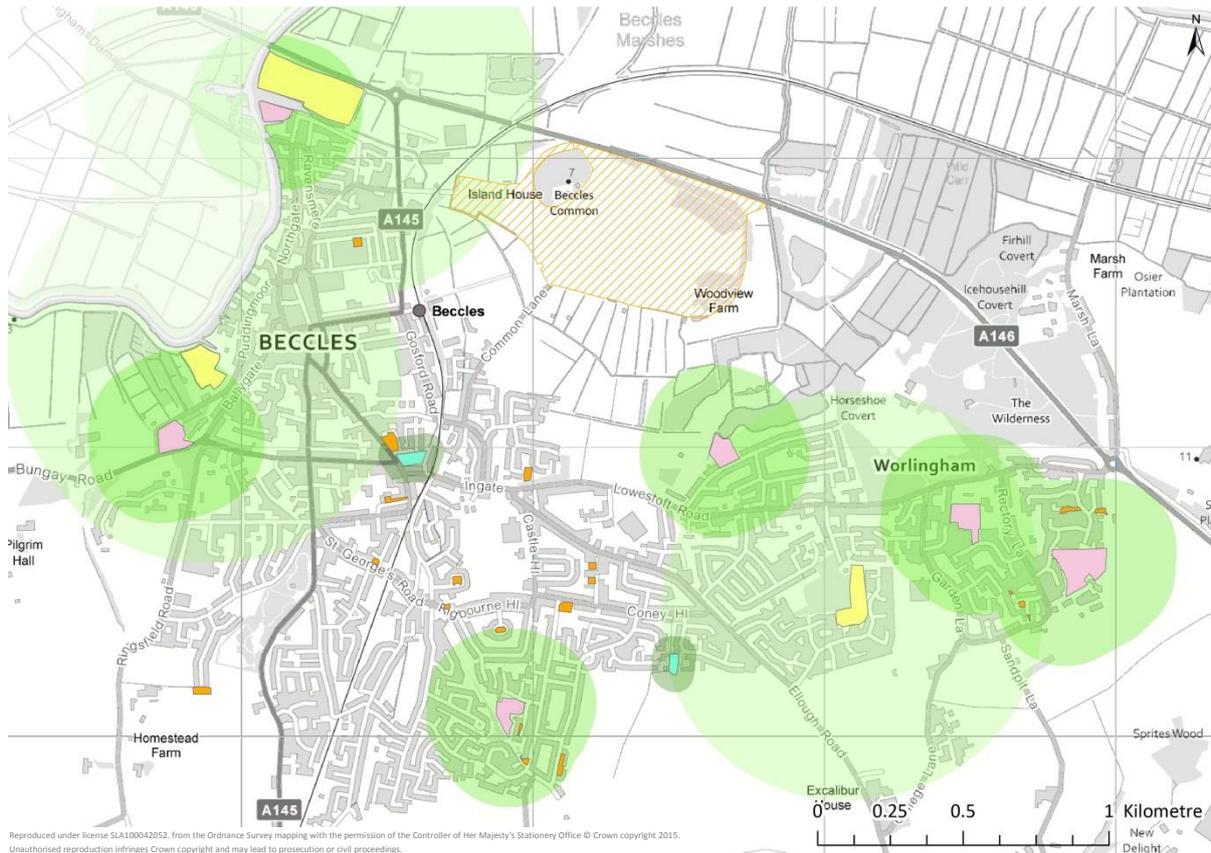
North Lowestoft, South Lowestoft and Southwold & Reydon have the greatest number of households within the catchment of an amenity green space larger than 1ha. With the exception of the rural areas, Beccles has the lowest number of households in close proximity to spaces of the same size and reflects the peripheral location of many of the larger amenity spaces. In Halesworth provision is very centrally located, however, there is only a single open space that provides this value.

In the rural parts of the District access to amenity spaces close to home is limited. In these areas open spaces tend to be multi-functional providing equipped play, ball sports and informal activities associated with amenity. While proximity close to home is low, these spaces are often centrally located and provide a focus for rural communities.

Accessibility in the Beccles area

A majority of amenity spaces in Beccles are located on the periphery of the town (Figure 5.7). This is highlighted by the relatively poor access to amenity green space in Beccles. Worlingham has experienced more recent housing development and open spaces have been better designed to be integrated to enhance their benefit to the community. This is evident by amenity green space being significantly more accessible to people living in Worlingham than the residential areas to the west in Beccles.

Figure 5.7: Amenity green space catchment areas in Beccles



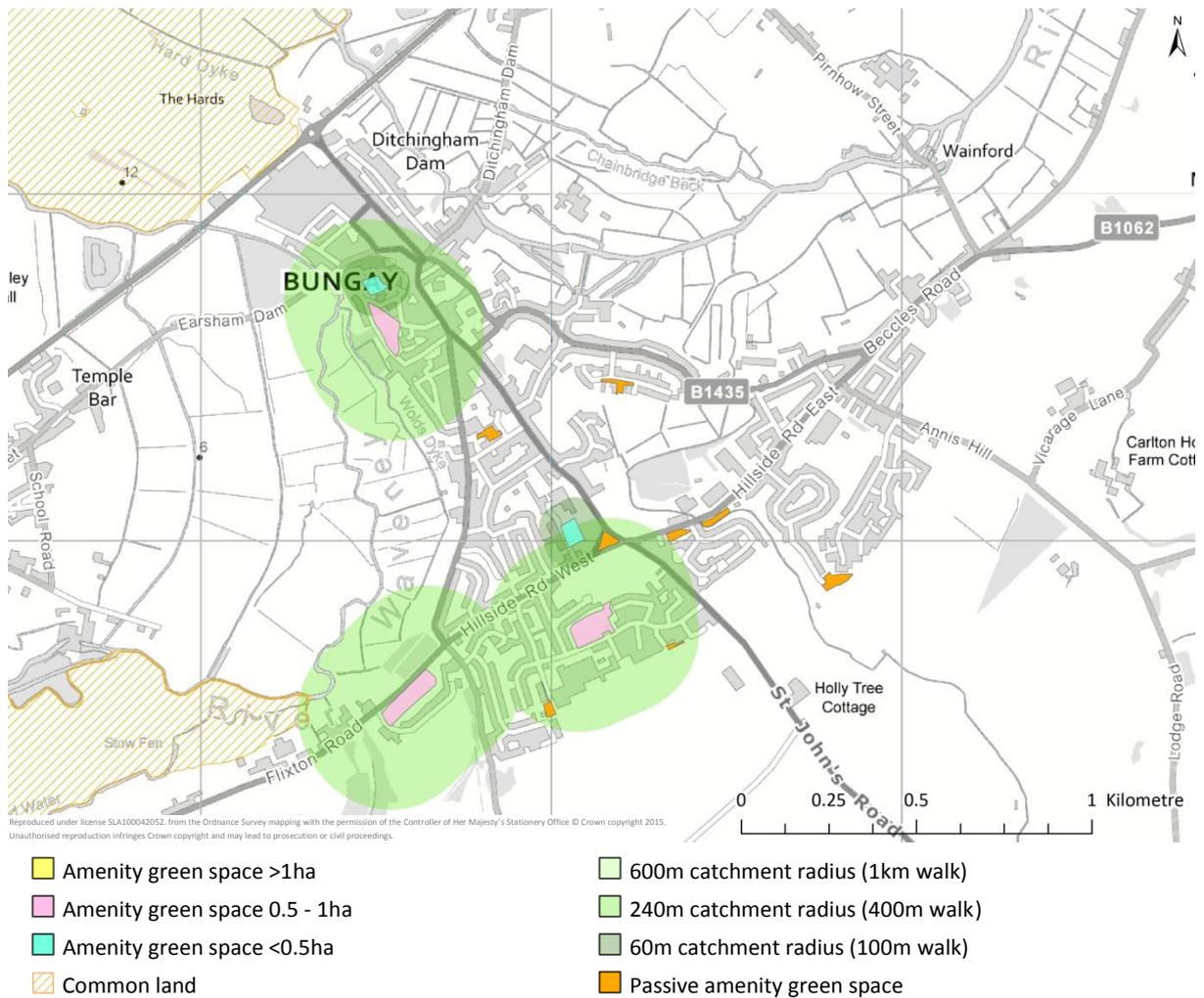
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- | | |
|---|--|
| Amenity green space >1ha | 600m catchment radius (1km walk) |
| Amenity green space 0.5 - 1ha | 240m catchment radius (400m walk) |
| Amenity green space <0.5ha | 60m catchment radius (100m walk) |
| Common land | Passive amenity green space |

Accessibility in the Bungay area

All of the amenity green spaces in Bungay are less than 1 hectare in size. Two spaces near the town centre provide access for people living in the north of the town and those who may be using shops and facilities in the town centre. In the south side of the town only the west provides adequate access to amenity space although the site on Woodland Road provides limited opportunities for use due to a lack of ancillary facilities. The east of Bungay is a residential area but has no provision of accessible amenity space (Figure 5.8). Open space provision in general is below the District average and improvements would benefit the community.

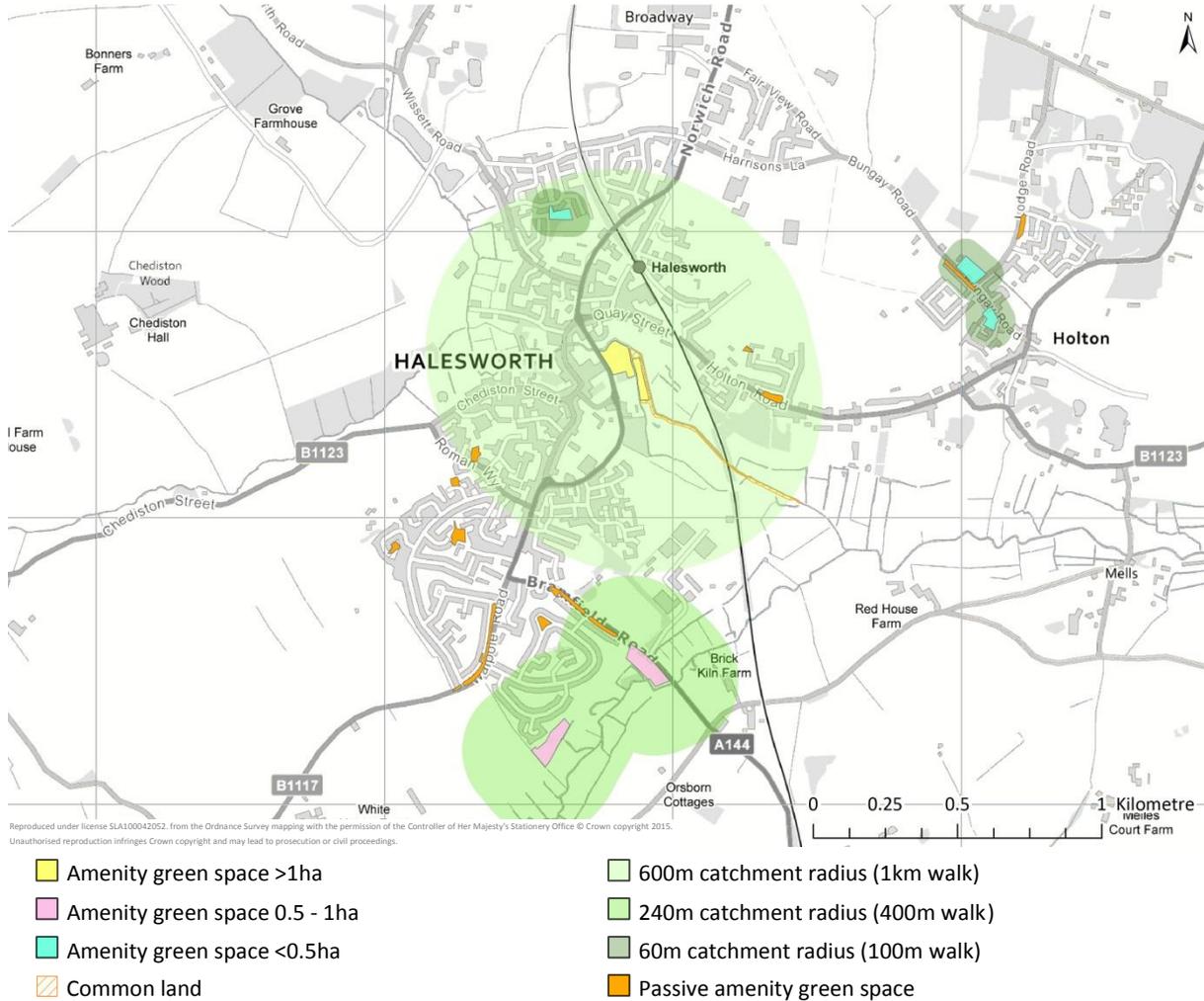
Figure 5.8: Amenity green space catchment areas in Bungay



Accessibility in the Halesworth area

Town Park is the largest and most central open space that provides amenity value in Halesworth (Figure 5.9). As part of a multi-functional open space that provides for play, recreation and semi-natural habitat in addition to amenity this is the most significant space in the town providing for the residential population and supporting the town centre. Other amenity spaces in the town offer limited value to people living in the area either because of their isolated location, a lack of ancillary facilities or poor layout.

Figure 5.9: Amenity green space catchment areas in Halesworth



Accessibility in the Kessingland area

The playing field in the north of the village is the most significant space that provides opportunities for amenity use (Figure 5.10). Its catchment covers more than half of the village. The southern part of the village has limited access to amenity green space. In the east poor amenity space provision is offset by access to the beach which can support a wide range of activities. Of the open spaces in the west of the village the site on the High Street supports the local village shops and provides amenity value that complements the primary use of the site which is for play. The only other open space with notable amenity value is located at Heritage Green, however, its location and layout has limited benefit for the local community. A majority of open spaces in Kessingland are small and while these are important to the townscape and street scene in their own right they provide limited opportunities for physical use.

Figure 5.10: Amenity green space catchment areas in Kessingland

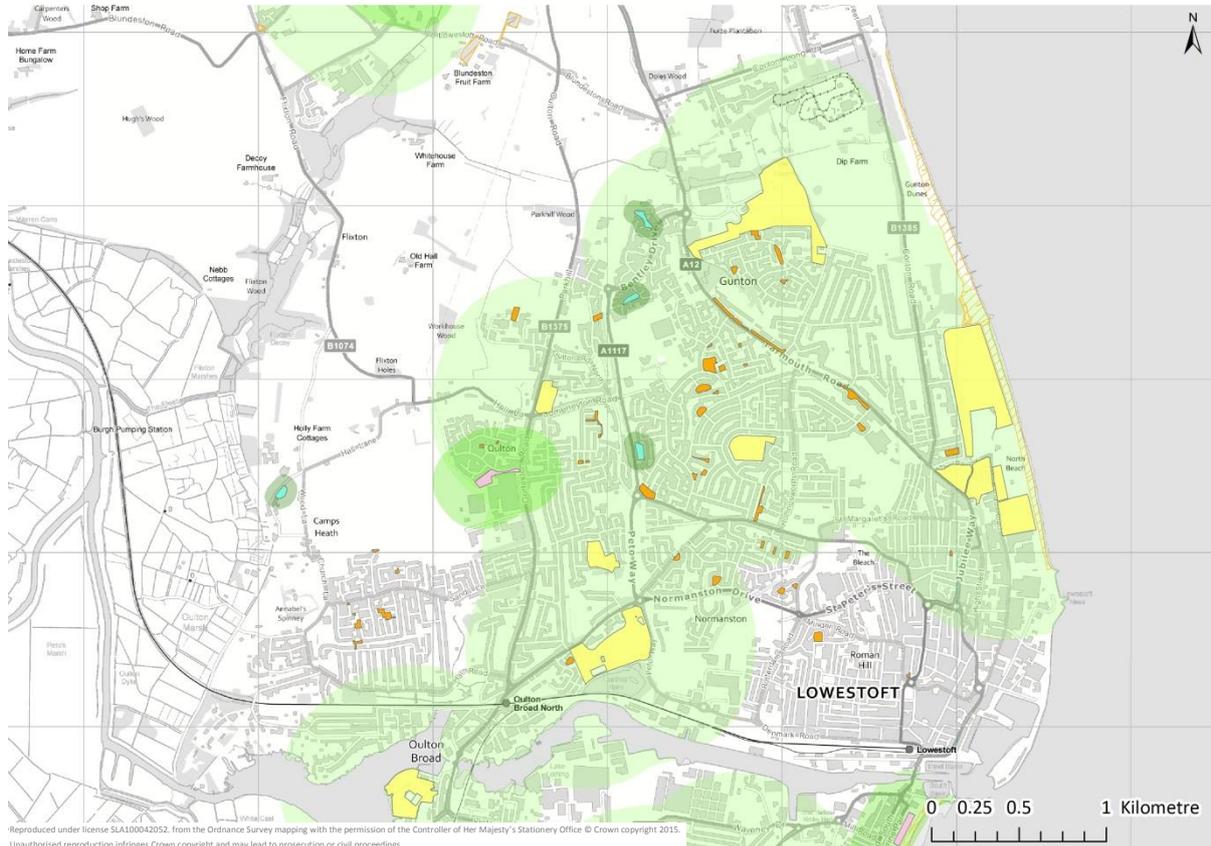


- | | |
|---|--|
| Amenity green space >1ha | 600m catchment radius (1km walk) |
| Amenity green space 0.5 - 1ha | 240m catchment radius (400m walk) |
| Amenity green space <0.5ha | 60m catchment radius (100m walk) |
| Common land / beach | Passive amenity green space |

Accessibility in the North Lowestoft area

Overall coverage is relatively good. A majority of open spaces with amenity value are larger than 1 hectare which provides greater opportunities for use and accordingly gives them a wider catchment. These larger spaces commonly offer amenity value as part of a multi-functional open space with play areas often present. The smaller amenity spaces are generally those with equipped play areas as the primary use and the amenity spaces has been provided to support unequipped play. Small open spaces that can support informal activities are limited and it is important to consider how these types of open spaces relate to their surroundings and how they contribute to the wider open space network. Provision of amenity open space in the central Lowestoft, particularly Harbour ward and Oulton north of the Lowestoft to Norwich railway line, is very poor (Figure 5.11). The proposed Woods Meadow development is expected to deliver a new Country Park which will improve access to amenity green space in the area. Opportunities should be sought to improve access to quality open spaces that offer good value to partially offset these deficits.

Figure 5.11: Amenity green space catchment areas in North Lowestoft



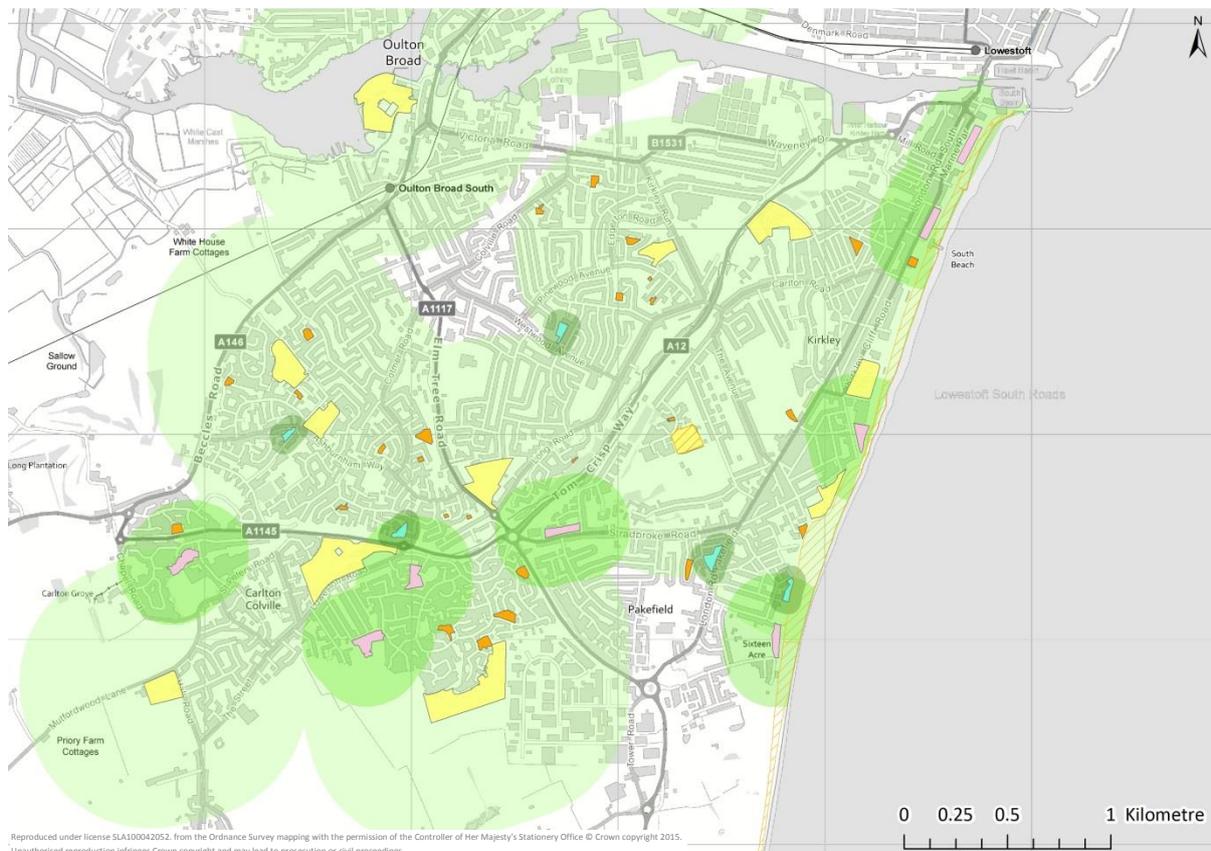
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- Amenity green space >1ha
- Amenity green space 0.5 - 1ha
- Amenity green space <0.5ha
- Common land / beach
- 600m catchment radius (1km walk)
- 240m catchment radius (400m walk)
- 60m catchment radius (100m walk)
- Passive amenity green space

Accessibility in the South Lowestoft area

Overall coverage is relatively good, particularly in the Carlton Colville area (Figure 5.12). Similar to North Lowestoft this coverage is primarily related to the larger catchments associated with open spaces greater than 1 hectare. Access to open space with amenity value smaller than 1 hectare is limited as represented by the smaller, darker catchment areas. This highlights the importance of larger open space provision. These larger open spaces are generally multi-functional increasing their value to the community. Kirkley, Whitton and Pakefield have the lowest amount of amenity green space, however, in Pakefield this is partially offset by easy access to the beach. In these aforementioned areas emphasis should be placed on improving quality and value to mitigate the impact of reduced accessibility to open spaces.

Figure 5.12: Amenity green space catchment areas in South Lowestoft



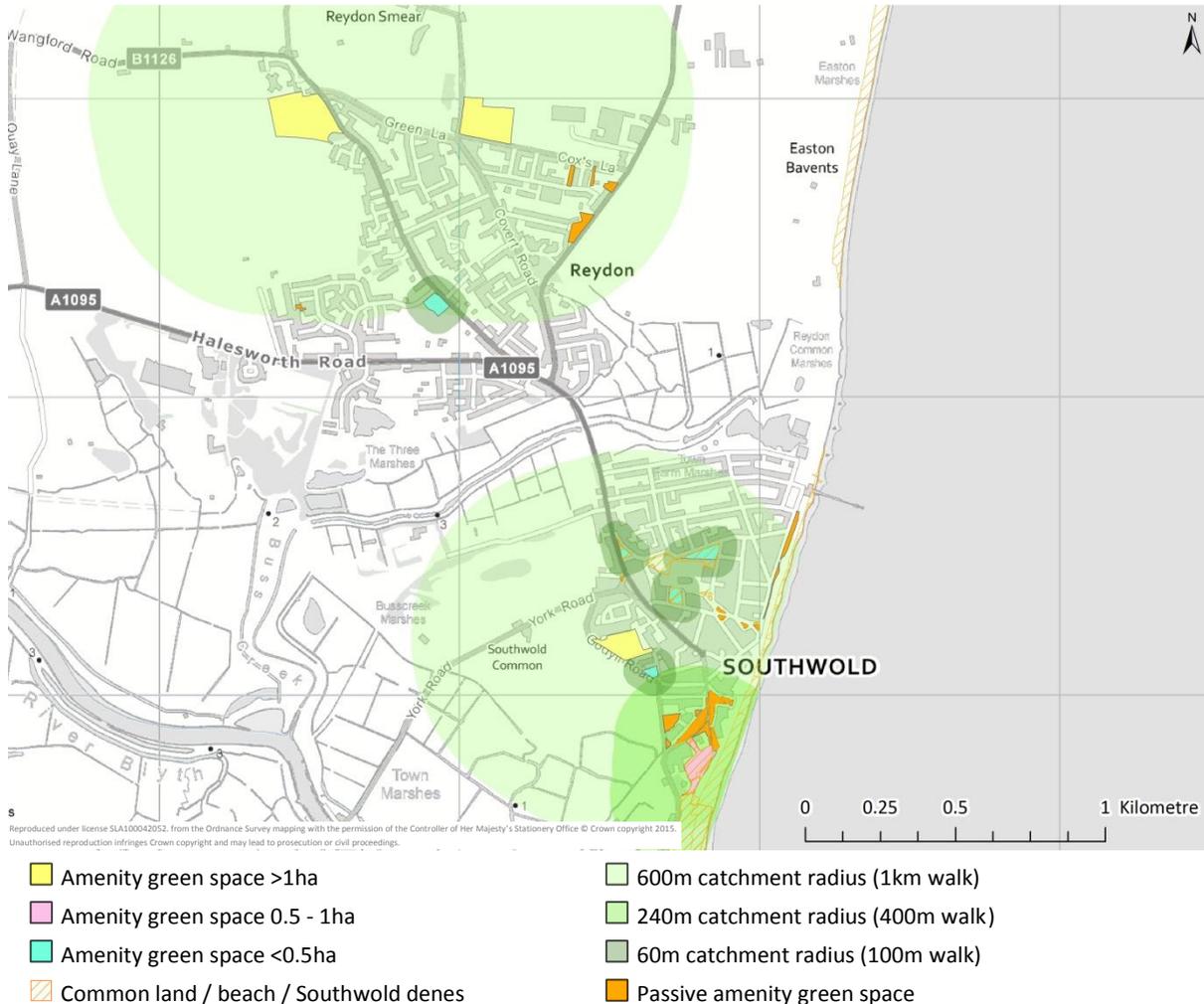
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- Amenity green space >1ha
- Amenity green space 0.5 - 1ha
- Amenity green space <0.5ha
- Beach
- 600m catchment radius (1km walk)
- 240m catchment radius (400m walk)
- 60m catchment radius (100m walk)
- Passive amenity green space

Accessibility in the Southwold & Reydon area

Southwold has good provision of open space offering amenity use (Figure 5.13). This is a key feature of the local townscape and its attractiveness for residents and visitors alike. Complementing this type of open space provision there is access to Southwold Common and the Denes south of the town and the beach. In Reydon, which provides much of the residential area for Southwold, amenity space provision is much more limited with only the north of the village having good access. The recreation ground is the largest amenity green space in Reydon and provides for informal activities, ball games and play. Located on the periphery of the residential area it also has car parking. The open space located on Wangford Road is the most centrally located amenity space in the built up area which is designed to be used in a similar fashion to a village green. Its catchment is small, however, its role in the community is expected to be larger than represented on the accessibility map. The playing fields located adjacent to the community centre (Wangford Road) provide a large amenity space for people living in the north of the Reydon.

Figure 5.13: Amenity green space catchment areas in Southwold & Reydon



Accessibility in the Rural areas

Settlements in the rural parts of the District generally have their amenity open space needs met through open spaces that are multi-functional. Access to the countryside also helps to offset deficits of amenity green space. The nature of the spaces and the variety of activities they can support make them a focal point of small villages. The location of rural settlements inherently makes facilities more difficult to access than in urban areas emphasising the importance of these multi-function open spaces. Emphasis should be placed on improving quality and value where required to encourage local residents to use these spaces and improve their contribution to the townscape and the rural setting. The location and catchment areas of amenity green spaces in the larger villages are shown in Figures 5.14 to 5.17.

Figure 5.14: Amenity green space catchment areas in Barnby and North Cove

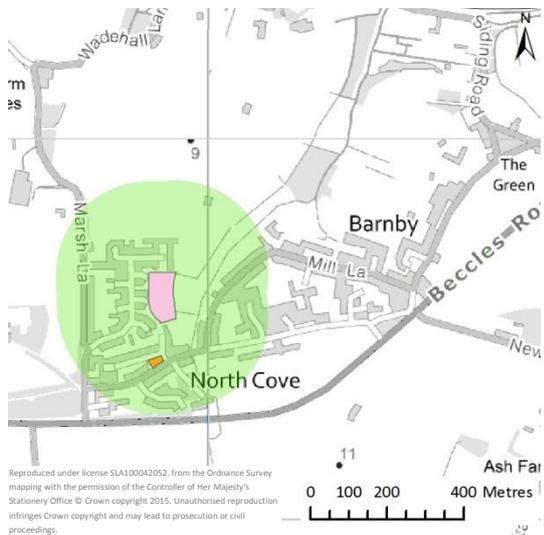


Figure 5.15: Amenity green space catchment areas in Blundeston

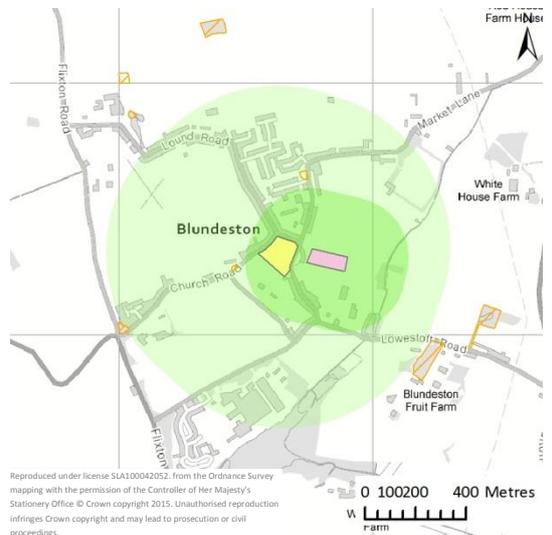


Figure 5.16: Amenity green space catchment areas in Holton

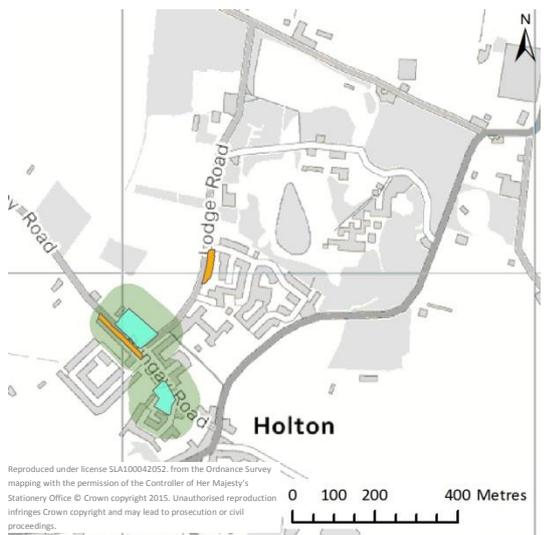
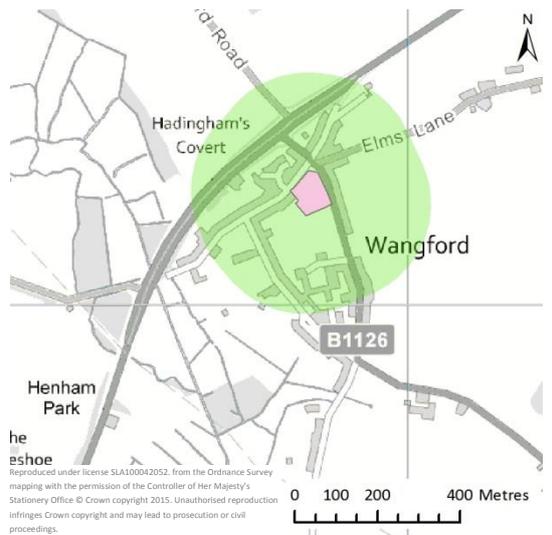


Figure 5.17: Amenity green space catchment areas in Wangford



- Amenity space >1ha
- Amenity space 0.5 - 1ha
- Amenity space <0.5ha
- Common land
- 600m catchment radius (1km walk)
- 240m catchment radius (400m walk)
- 60m catchment radius (100m walk)
- Passive amenity green space

Quality and value of amenity green space

The quality of an amenity green space is reflective of the provision and condition of its features and characteristics. Quality is primarily focussed on the site itself which includes what is provided on site, the condition of facilities and the immediate surroundings.

The attributes assessed for quality are set out in Table 5.4. The scores were standardised to allow comparisons between quality and value and for consistency across all open spaces that were assessed.

Table 5.4: Quality attributes

Provision and condition	Extent of misuse	Characteristics and aesthetic qualities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths and drives • Walls, railings, fences • Trees • Shrubs and hedges • Grass • Litter bins • Dog litter bins • Seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter • Dog fouling • Vandalism • Graffiti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colourful • Amount of interest • Layout • Attractiveness • Fragmentation

The value of an amenity green space describes to how the space relates to its surroundings and the function it provides for the local community. The value of a space is much more dependent on what is provided and what it offers the community to encourage recreational use. Quality and value are interrelated.

The attributes assessed for quality are set out in Table 5.5. The scores were standardised to allow comparisons between quality and value and for consistency across all open spaces that were assessed.

Table 5.5: Value attributes

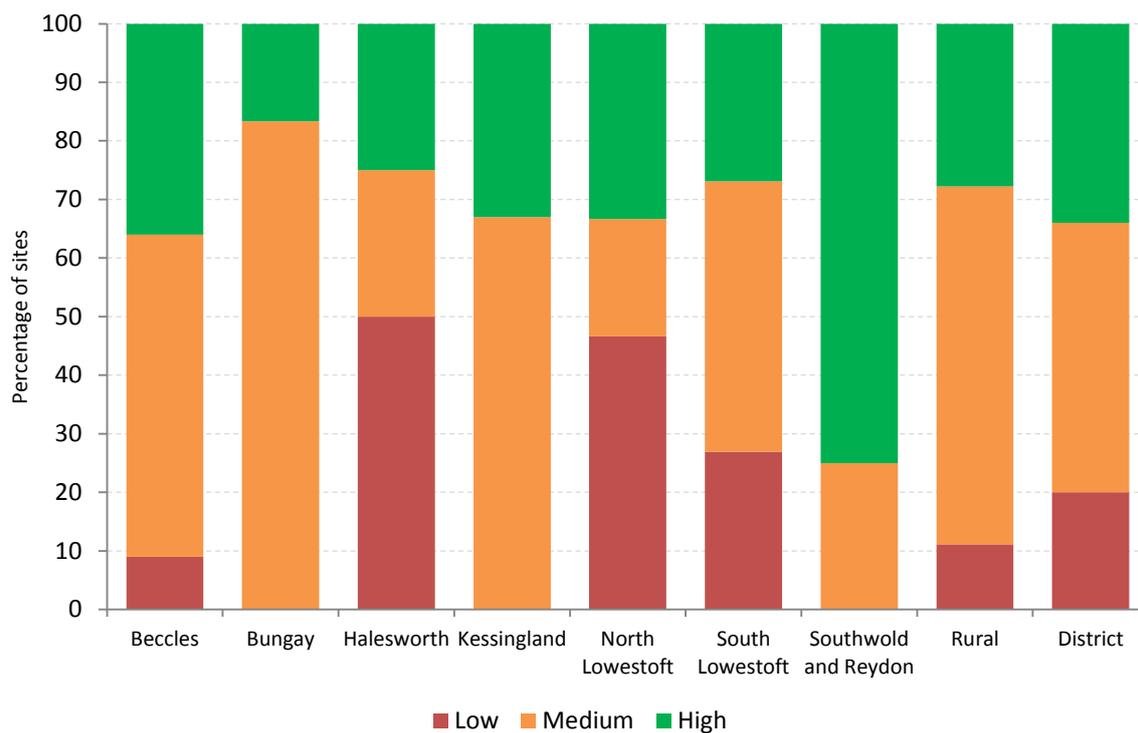
Accessibility	Value of the open space	Habitat value	Characteristics and aesthetic qualities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate access points for pedestrians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Culture • Contribution to the townscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland, tree groups, avenues, individual trees • Shrubs • Hedges • Natural grass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integral to surroundings • Safety • Isolated location

Quality of amenity green space

Spaces of higher quality are more likely to encourage people to use them. These spaces have the potential to be more of a focal point in the local community, particularly for those living nearby. Amenity spaces with a quality rating of 'medium' are generally considered to be ordinary and unremarkable but provide space that is of value. Characteristically these spaces have limited facilities to encourage a solid cross section of the community to use them and visually often lack structured features such as landscaping and planting. The proportion of low, medium and high quality amenity green spaces is shown in Figure 5.18.

Spaces that are of low quality have few endearing features that capture the interest of potential users. Low quality spaces generally discourage use and offer low value to the community. Consideration should be given to improvements to the quality of low quality spaces to make them more attractive to encourage people to use them. Particular attention should be given to the role they are intended to play in the community.

Figure 5.18: Proportion of low, medium and high quality green space with amenity as the primary use

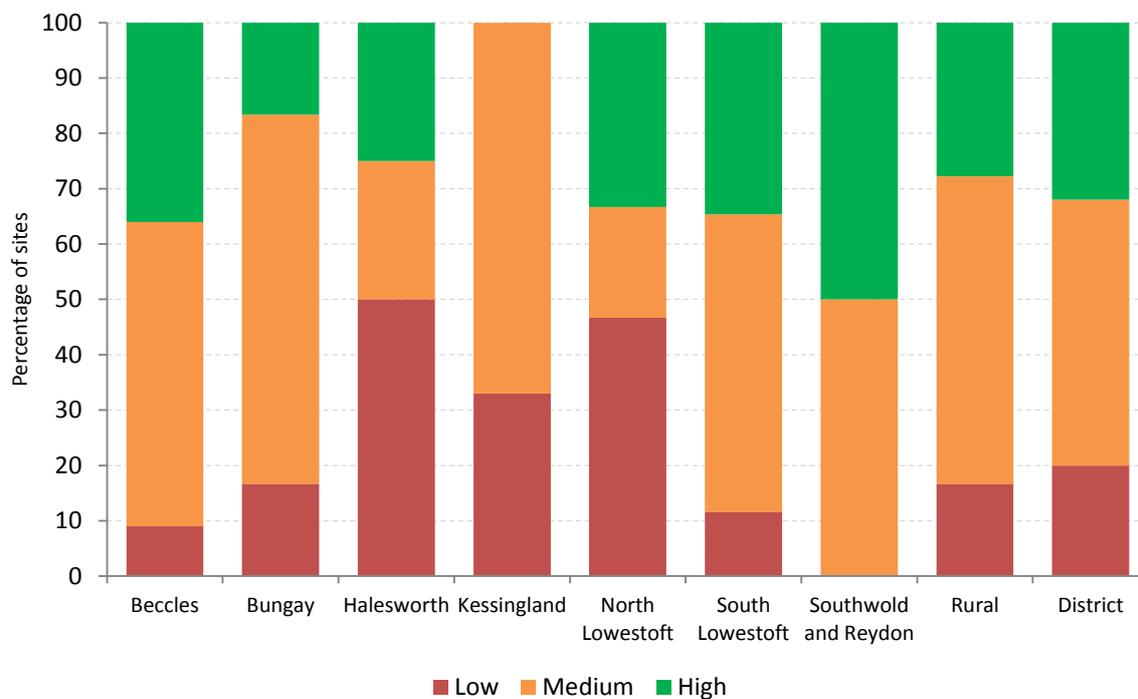


Value of green space with amenity as the primary use

Spaces that are of high value relate well to neighbouring built up areas (residential or employment) in both the immediate vicinity and the wider surroundings of the townscape. They provide a range of activities that encourage people to use the space and can provide for a variety of cultural and educational needs. Spaces are important in built up areas and provide recreational activities and a contrast to the built environment. In rural areas a significant number of open spaces are associated with the village hall providing a focal point for the community. These rural open spaces often have additional use as playing fields therefore their 'medium' rating may reflect their value in the context of amenity but their value as an overall open space to the community is higher. The proportion of low, medium and high value amenity green spaces is shown in Figure 5.19.

Spaces with medium value are an important asset within the built environment and should be considered to be of a higher standing than medium quality ratings which demonstrate a standard which more or less meets the status quo. This is because they reflect the importance to the community rather than just characteristics of the space in isolation. While it can be difficult to improve the value of an open space within the built environment 'medium' value should be viewed as the minimum standard to be provided as part of future open space provision to be an adequate facility for the community. This is an important consideration whether it be for new development or for existing sites that have other uses such as 'play' which may be reconsidered as part of any process of devolution.

Figure 5.19: Proportion of low, medium and high value green space with amenity as the primary use



Quality and value of amenity spaces in the **Beccles** area

Overall, the Beccles sub area is primarily has amenity spaces that are medium and high quality (Figure 5.20). The highest quality open spaces with an amenity function in the Beccles sub area are found in Worlingham where a majority of sites are rated as 'high quality'. Amenity spaces located in the west of the town are generally of 'medium quality'. There is a notable difference between quality and value of amenity open spaces in the area with open space in Worlingham having lower value than its comparable quality rating whereas in the west of Beccles the opposite is apparent (Figure 5.21). This does not necessarily indicate amenity space in Worlingham is more important, however, it is more reflective of the fact that these amenity spaces are a secondary function as opposed to those in west Beccles where amenity is the primary function.

Central Beccles is poorly provided for. The quality of the two amenity spaces in this area ranges between low and high. Their value tends to be lower overall. The south of Beccles is predominantly residential and the deficit of amenity space provision is very apparent. Within the built up area new amenity space will be difficult to provide indicating that improvements to existing spaces and green areas in the public realm should be the focus.

To the north of the town is The Quay which provides a medium quality open space with similar value. As part of a multi-functional open space this space is important for the local community despite its peripheral location. In addition, Beccles Common provides an area of significant size that can support opportunities for amenity activities.

Figure 5.20: Quality of amenity green space in Beccles

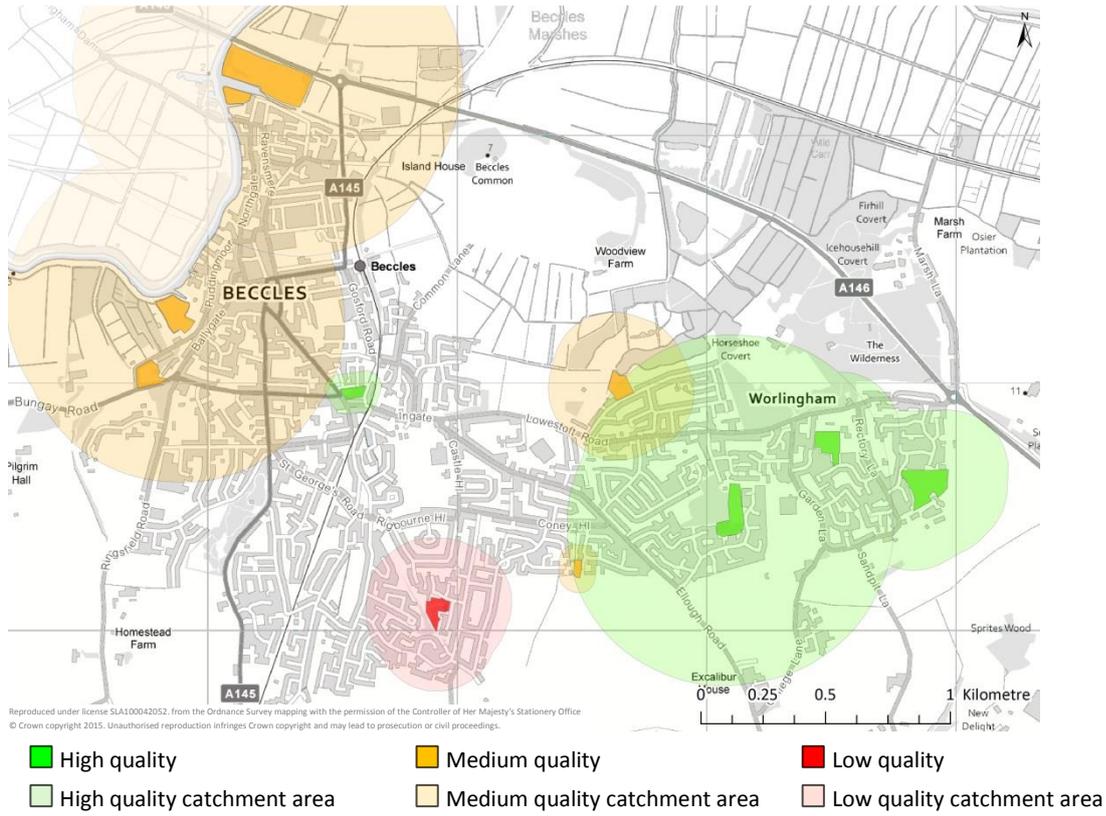
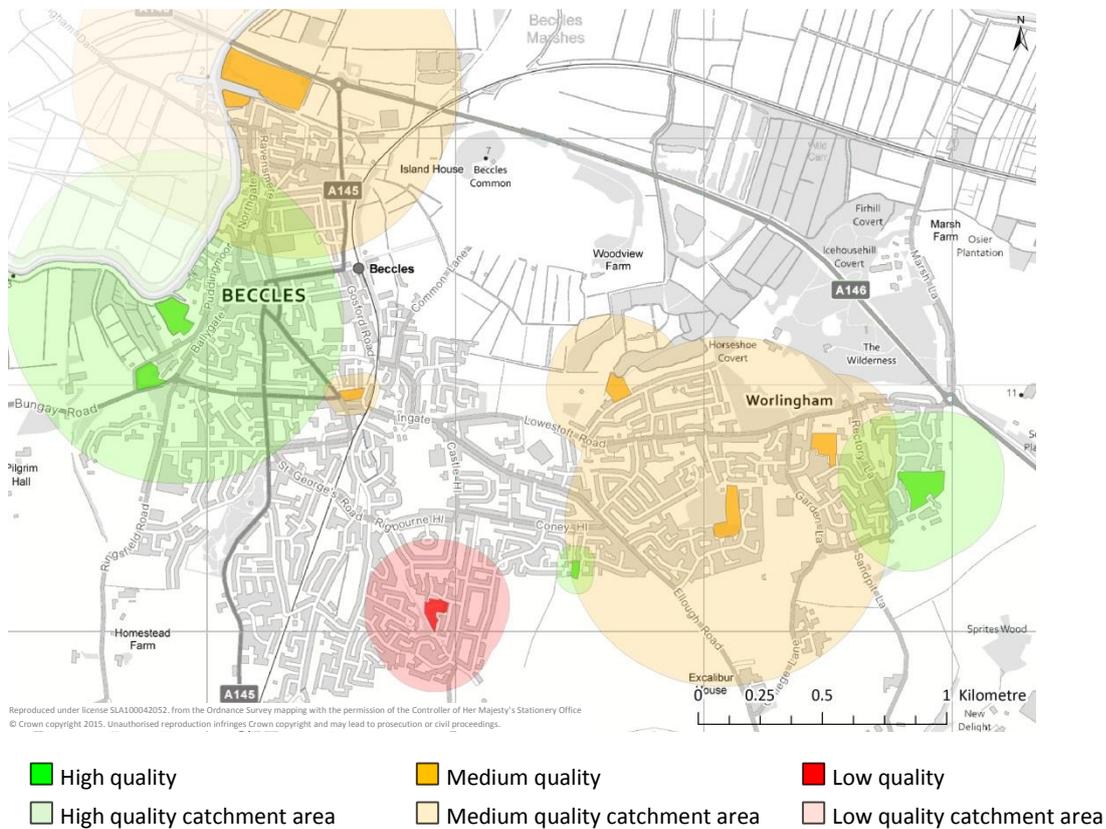


Figure 5.21: Value of amenity green space in Beccles



Quality and value of amenity spaces in the Bungay area

Bungay has a limited amount of amenity space available for its population to use, particularly in the east and south of the town. Where amenity open space is available it is generally of medium quality except for Bigod Castle (Castle Bailey) which is of high quality. These spaces have similar value ratings except for Woodland Drive which offers low value. The restricted accessibility to amenity space with only medium value suggests that an emphasis should be placed on improving their quality and value to make them more important to local residents and to facilitate greater opportunities for use (Figures 5.22 and 5.23).

Figure 5.22: Quality of amenity green space in Bungay

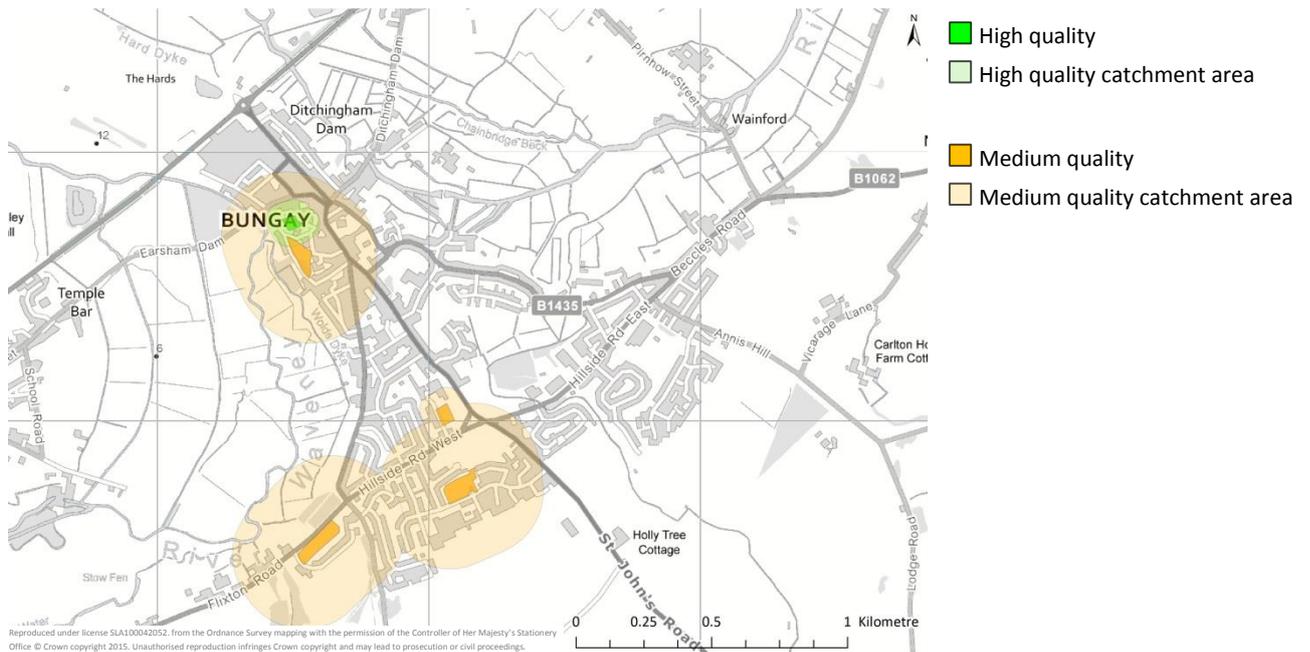


Figure 5.23: Value of amenity green space in Bungay



Quality and value of amenity spaces in the Halesworth area

With the exception of North Lowestoft, Halesworth has the lowest proportion of low quality and value ratings. Town Park in the centre of Halesworth has the highest quality and offers the greatest value (Figures 5.24 and 5.25). It is well integrated into a series of open spaces that are semi natural in nature which are key parts of the green infrastructure in the town. There are only three other sites of notable amenity value with two of these offering both low quality and low value. The third, Bramfield Road, is of medium quality and value but is relatively isolated from the built up area in the south of the town. The provision of amenity green spaces (other than Town Park) not only offer limited quality and value, they are in areas that have limited open space provision overall. The role of these spaces in the community and ways for them to be improved to make them more attractive for local people to use should be considered.

Figure 5.24: Quality of amenity green space in Halesworth

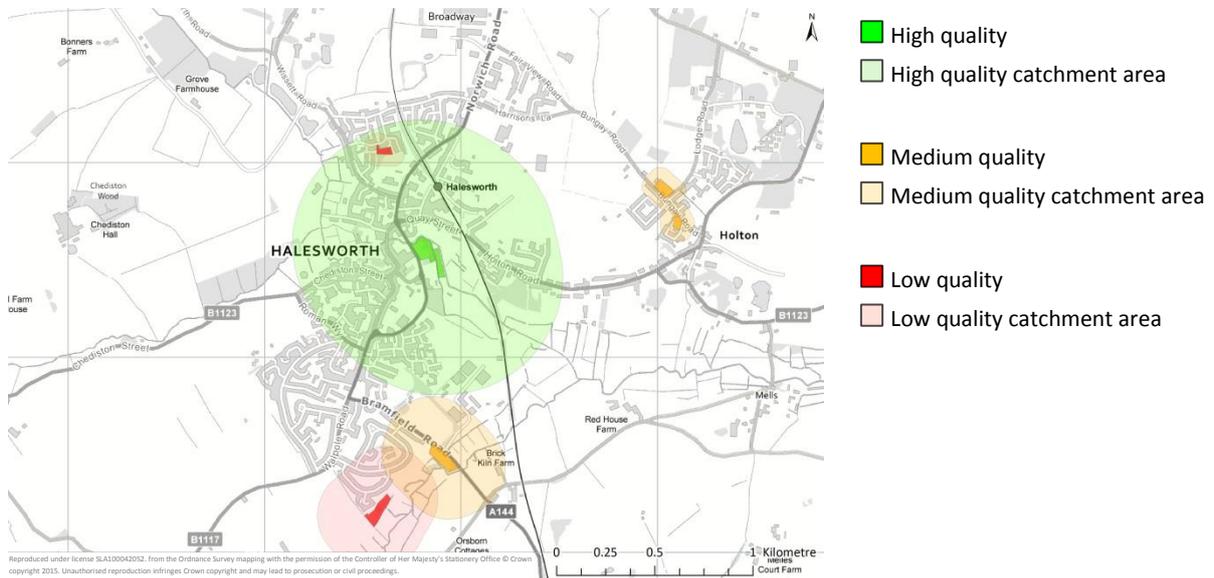
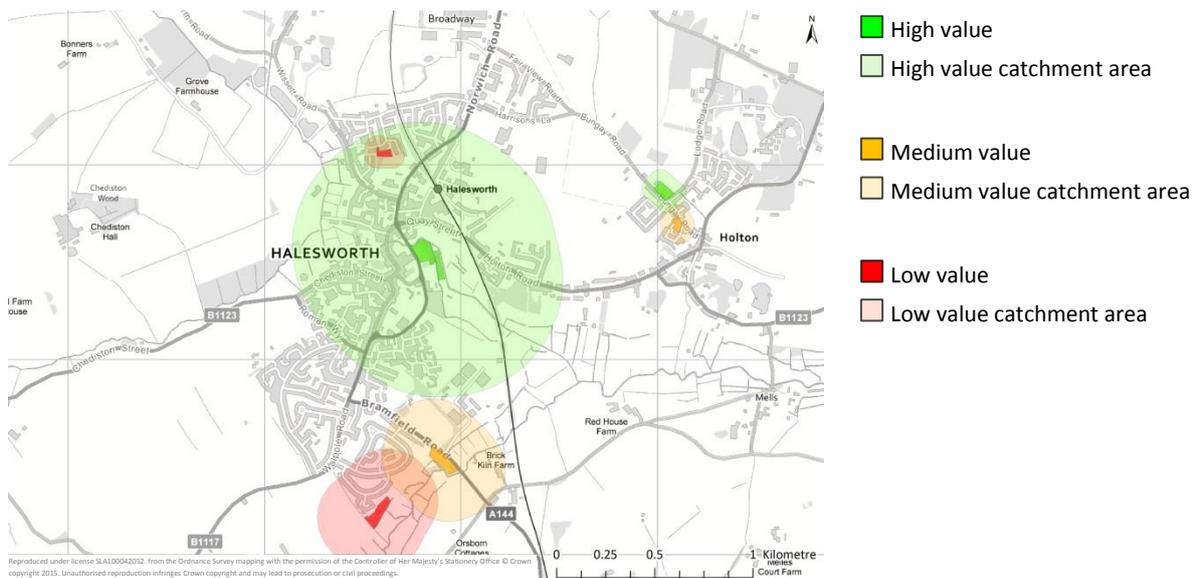


Figure 5.25: Value of amenity green space in Halesworth



Quality and value of amenity spaces in the Kessingland area

The limited amount of amenity open space in Kessingland is exaggerated by their lower quality and value of amenity. The playing field provides the greatest opportunity for physical activities, however, the site is of medium value but low quality (Figures 5.26 and 5.27). This site in particular should be considered for improvement as it is the only significant multi-functional space in the village. The open space in the High Street is of medium quality offering similar value, however, its primary function is for play. The remaining site situated at Heritage Green is a high quality space but offers low value reflecting its poor location and layout.

Figure 5.26: Quality of amenity green space in Kessingland

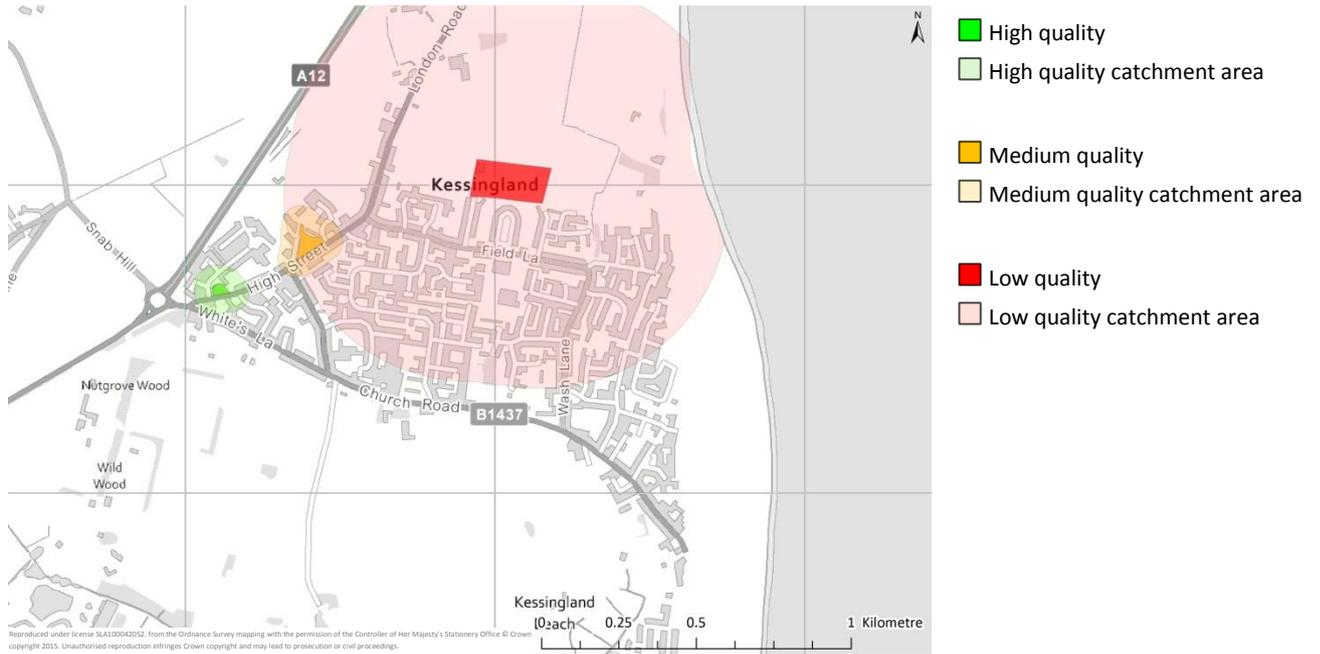
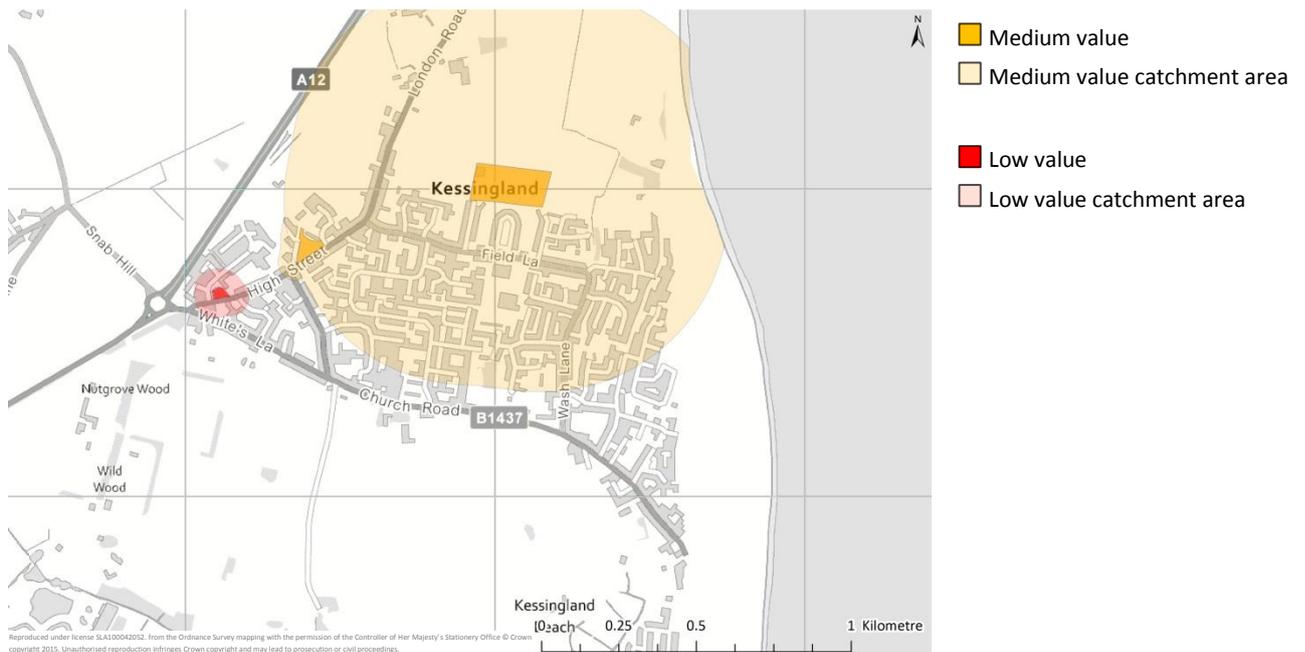


Figure 5.27: Value of amenity green space in Kessingland



Quality and value of amenity spaces in the North Lowestoft area

Amenity spaces in North Lowestoft are generally of higher value but with lower levels of quality (Figures 5.28 and 5.29). Small open spaces in particular consistently demonstrate low to medium quality and value. These sites often have amenity as a secondary function to support unequipped play activities. Oulton and Harbour Wards are in need of improvements to offer greater value to the community. Adjacent to the coast are located several open spaces with quality and value ranging from one end of the spectrum to the other. As part of the Lowestoft Lake Lothing and Outer Harbour Area Action Plan this area is identified as the East of England Park. As part of a key area to contribute towards the regeneration of Lowestoft the East of England Park will seek to improve the quality of these open spaces and make them a more valuable asset for the local community.

Figure 5.28: Quality of amenity green space in North Lowestoft

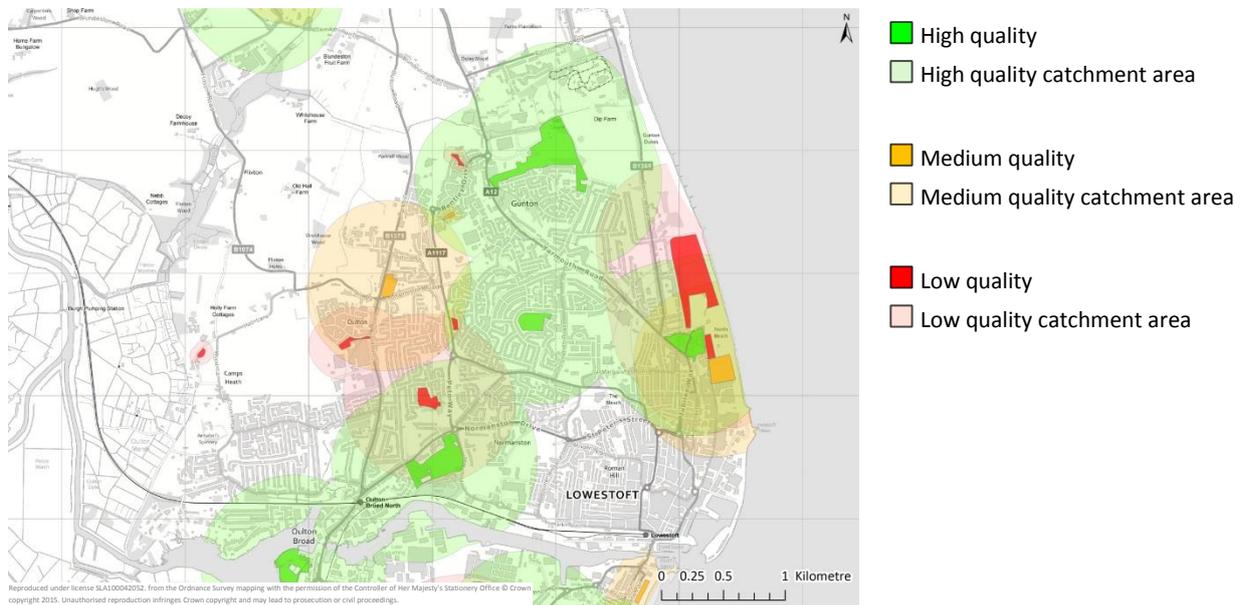
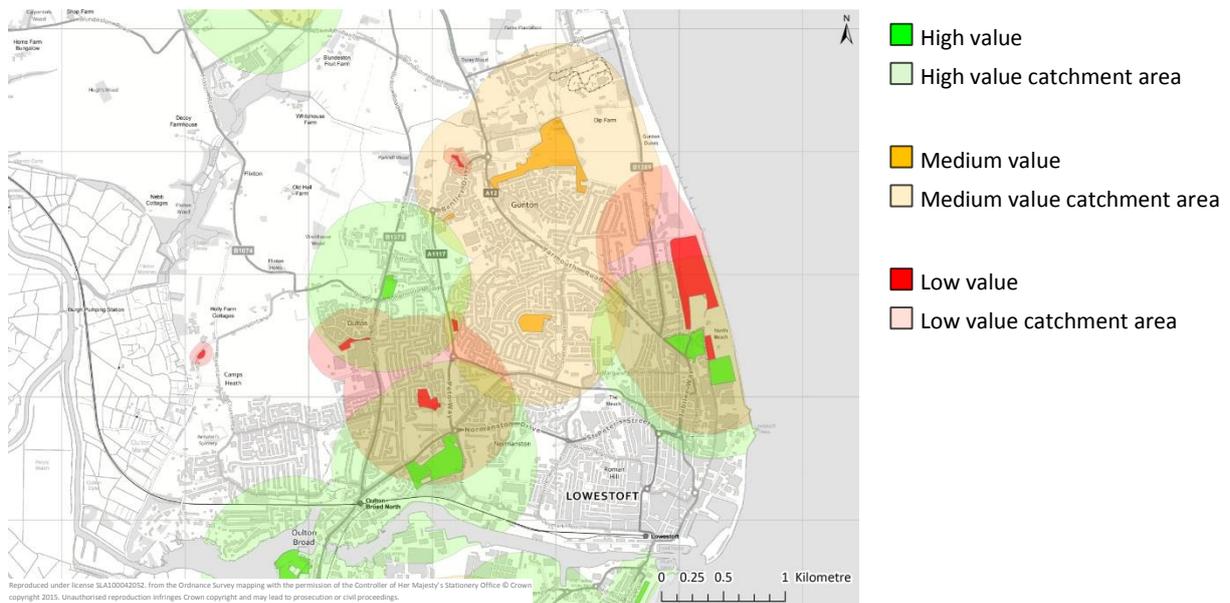


Figure 5.29: Value of amenity green space in North Lowestoft



Quality and value of amenity spaces in the **South Lowestoft** area

Similar to North Lowestoft the amenity green spaces of higher quality offering greater value to the community are the larger amenity open spaces (Figures 5.30 and 5.31). The importance of these larger open spaces is reflected by the lower quality of small open spaces that offer less value to local residents which is less likely to encourage people to use them. The catchment areas of amenity green spaces larger than 1 hectare show a relatively good coverage of the residential area, however, there are there are significant gaps in quality provision. Whitton, Pakefield and Kirkley are areas where there are issues of limited access to open space and in particular limited access to open space with quality provision and value. Consideration should be given to how these issues can be addressing in these areas.

As part of the assessments the scoring of some sites may not reflect the full importance to the local community. This is particularly the case where facilities may be provided on a site temporarily and placed into storage once an activity has been completed. For example, in Carlton Colville, the Carlton Colville Community Centre has a quality score of 'low' and a value score of 'medium'. The multi-functional use and value of open spaces associated with community centres and village halls is likely to be higher than reflected in the scoring.

Figure 5.30: Quality of amenity green space in South Lowestoft

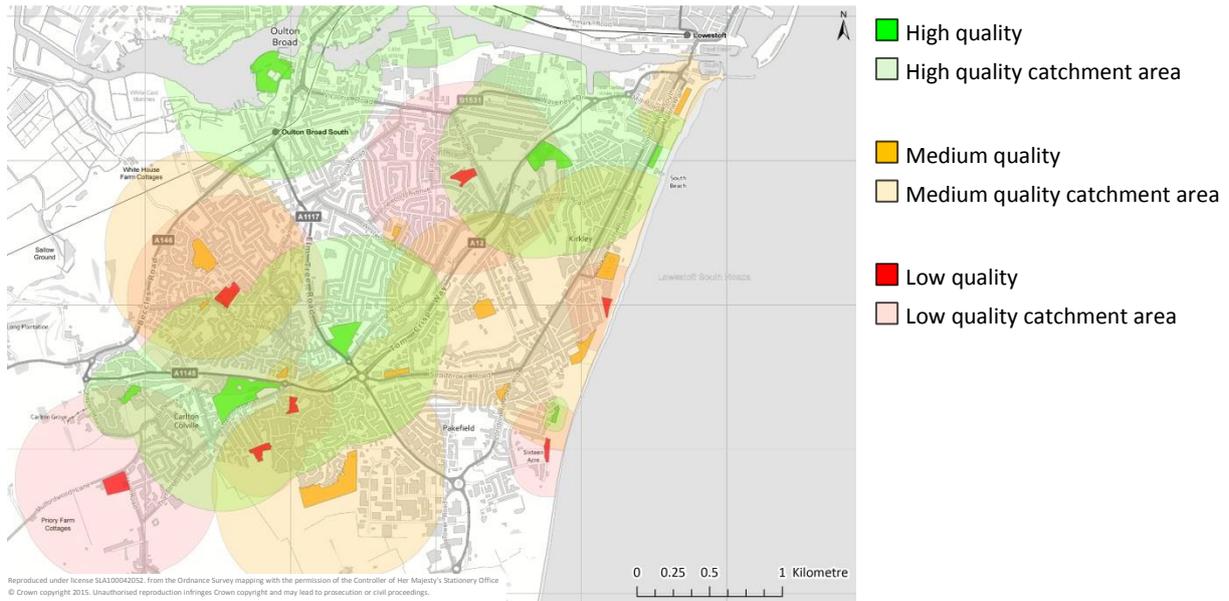
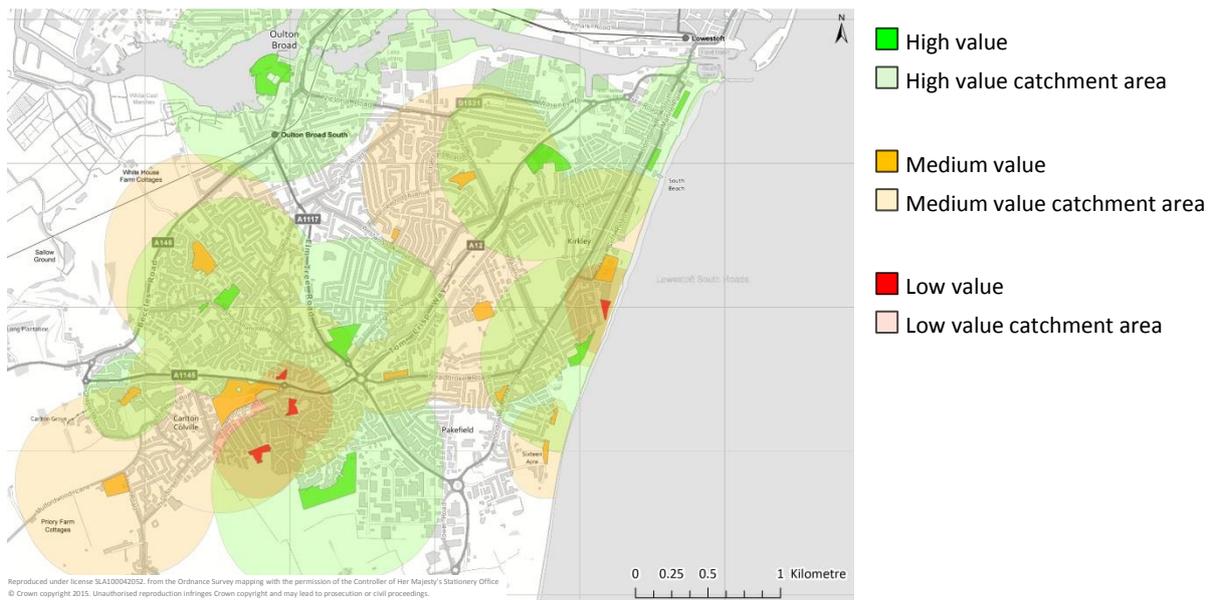


Figure 5.31: Value of amenity green space in South Lowestoft



Quality and value of amenity spaces in the **Southwold & Reydon** area

Amenity spaces in Southwold are all of medium to high quality and generally offer high value (Figures 5.32 and 5.33). Overall, value and quality in this sub area is the highest in the District. In Reydon the recreation ground, the largest space in the town, offers the highest quality and value, highlighting its importance to the area despite its peripheral location. This site is supported by the playing fields located adjacent to the community centre and an amenity space located on Wangford Road considered to be of both medium quality and value. The south side of Reydon is outside the catchment area for any amenity space, however, the quality and value provided at the recreation ground is likely to make this more attractive for local people to use and therefore facilitate greater travel distances. To encourage people to use these facilities and access them by means other than by private vehicle consideration should be given to improving accessibility through public realm enhancement.

Figure 5.32: Quality of amenity green space in Southwold and Reydon



Figure 5.33: Value of amenity green space in Southwold and Reydon



Quality and value of green space with amenity as a secondary use

Open spaces that have amenity as a secondary function tend to be of higher quality and value compared to open space where amenity is the primary function (Figures 5.34 and 5.35). They can fulfil a number of different functions within the community.

Beccles, Halesworth, North Lowestoft and South Lowestoft have the highest proportion of these multi-functional spaces with amenity value. Kessingland and Southwold & Reydon have the fewest number of multi-functional open spaces offering secondary amenity value.

Only Halesworth, North Lowestoft and South Lowestoft have sites where amenity green space is of both low quality and value. These lowly rated spaces generally offer limited opportunities for activities and many do not have the basic ancillary facilities such as seating or planting that have potential to capture local interest.

Figure 5.34: Proportion of low, medium and high quality green space with amenity as a secondary use

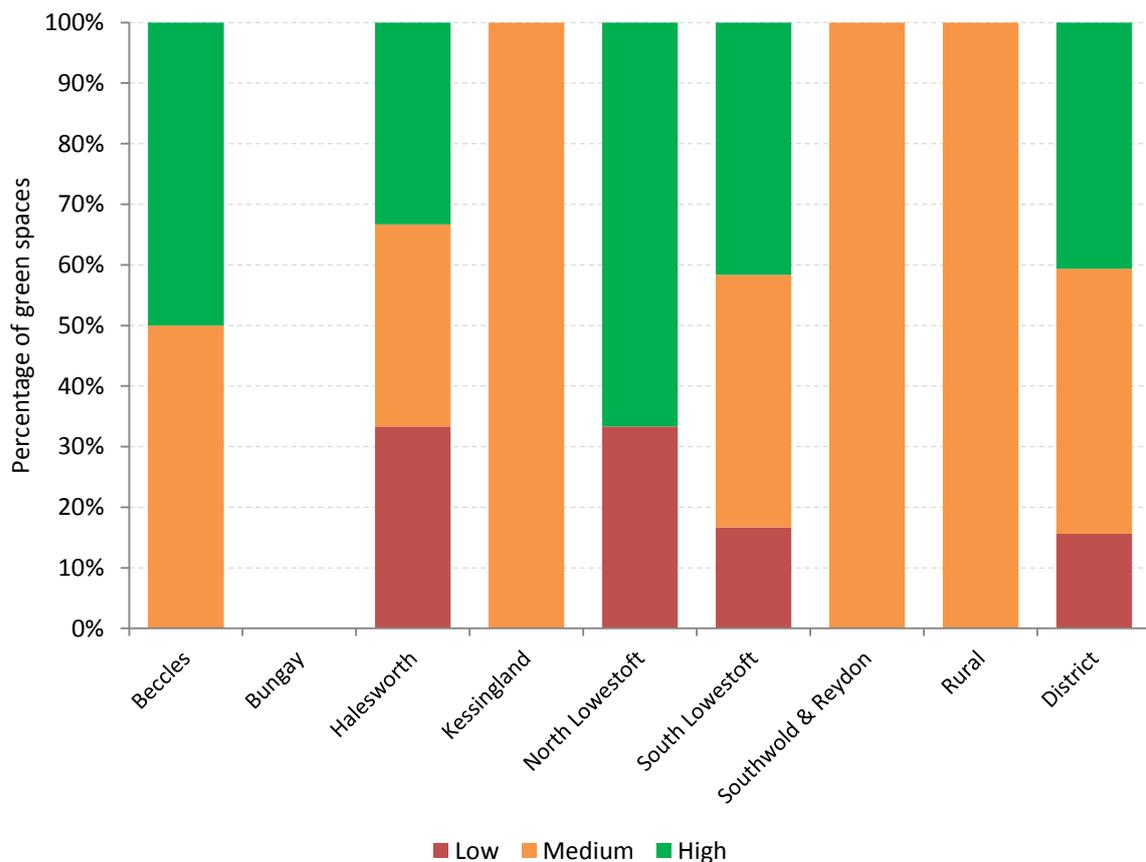
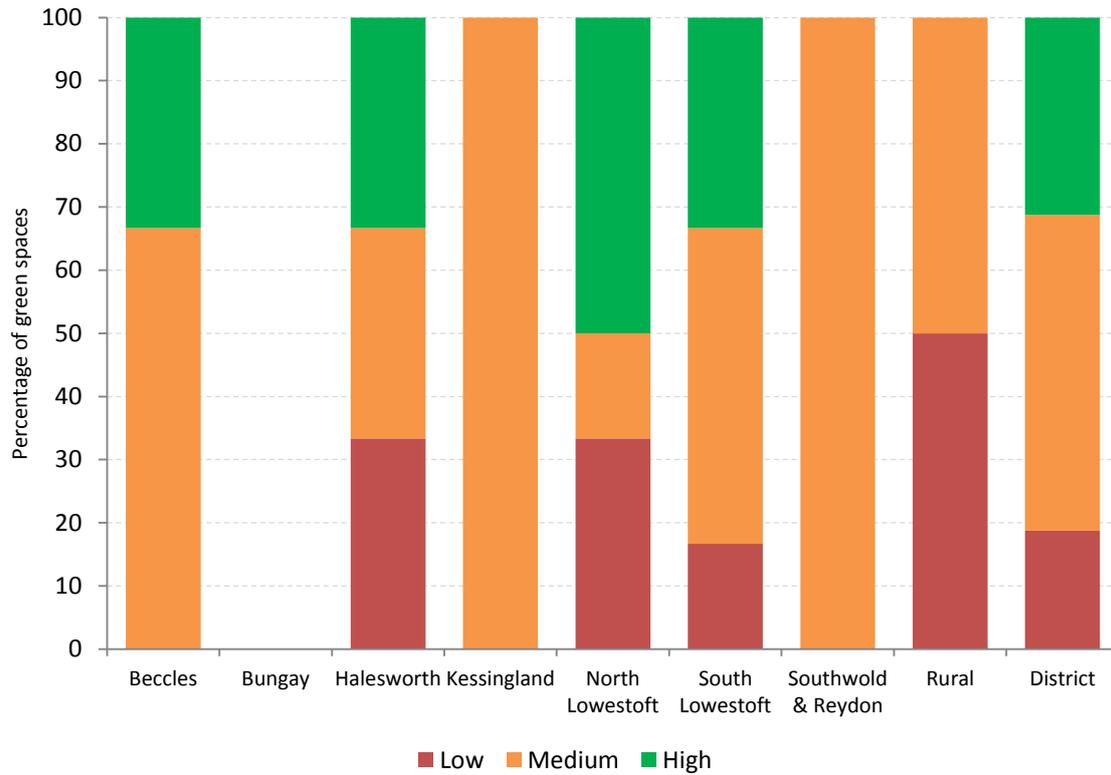


Figure 5.35: Proportion of low, medium and high value green spaces with amenity as a secondary use



Quality and value of green space with amenity use overall

Green space with amenity use as either a primary or secondary use is generally of a satisfactory to good standard with a majority of spaces being at least medium quality and medium value (Figures 5.36 and 5.37). There are issues, however, that the layout and provision of ancillary facilities does not reflect the character of the surrounding area. Across the District amenity spaces appear fairly generic and improvements to landscaping, planting and ancillary facilities would markedly improve their value to the local area and as a wider network of open spaces.

The best overall provision in terms of quality and value is in Beccles and Southwold & Reydon. South Lowestoft has significantly more individual open spaces than other parts of the District and the quality and value of provision are good. In contrast, North Lowestoft has more amenity space than any other sub area but the proportion of low quality and value spaces is significant. Halesworth has relatively few amenity spaces to serve the population and is highly reliant on spaces that are multi-functional. Quality and value in the Halesworth area are mixed.

Figure 5.36: Proportion of low, medium and high quality amenity green space (includes all green space with amenity as a primary or secondary use)

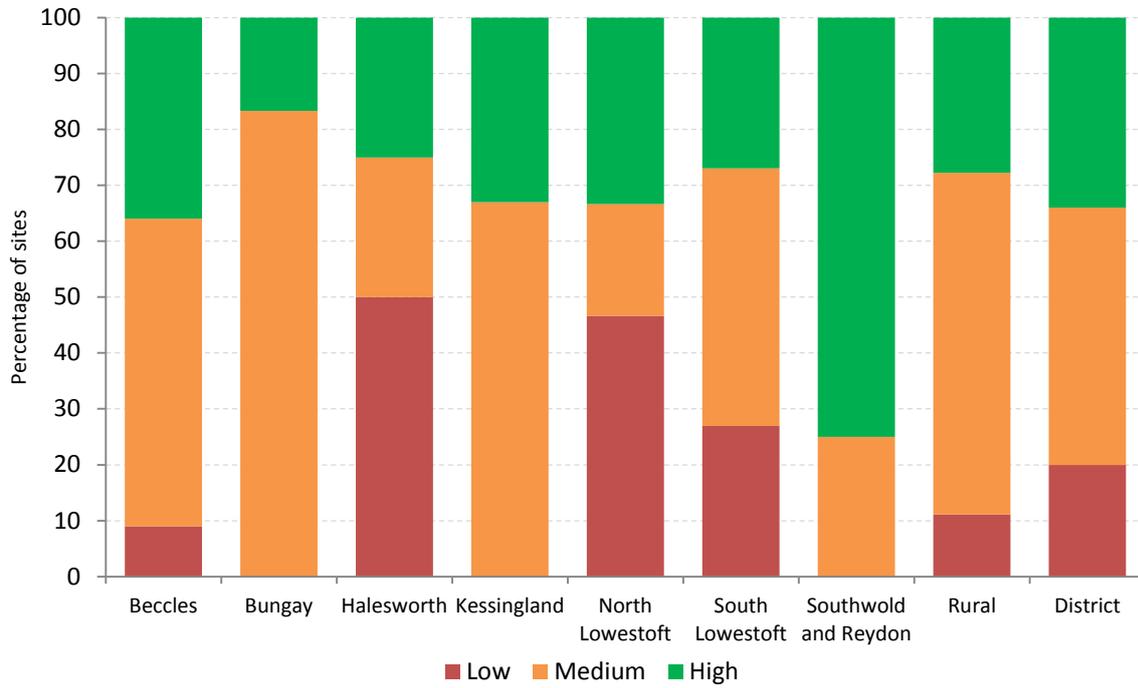
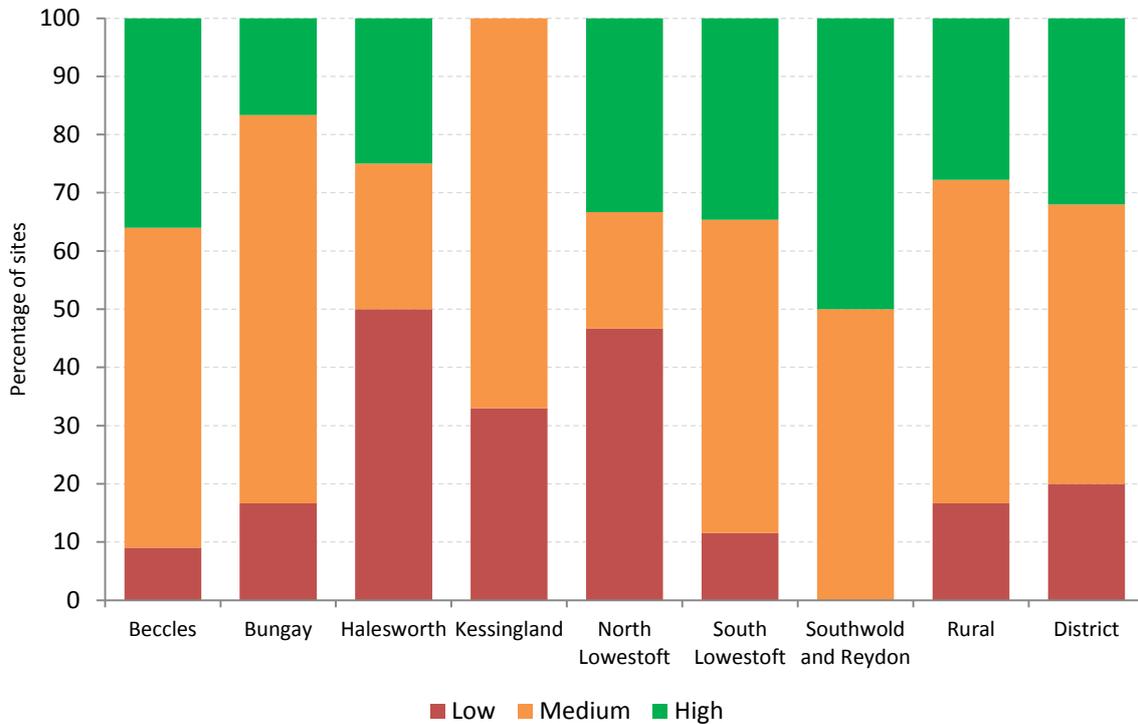


Figure 5.37: Proportion of low, medium and high value amenity green space (includes all green space with amenity as a primary or secondary use)



Deprivation

Overall, the quantity of amenity green space does not reflect levels of deprivation. This demonstrates that amenity spaces are maintained to a consistent standard across the District. In areas where there are higher levels of deprivation improved access to quality amenity green space will contribute towards the enhancement of the area and encourage people to be more active and use these public spaces.

The quality and value of amenity green space (where amenity is the primary use) does not have a strong relationship with the amount of deprivation between sub areas. This in part results from smaller areas of high deprivation being masked by areas of low deprivation within the sub area (eg. Whitton is a deprived area but Carlton Colville has much lower levels of deprivation in comparison, however, both are within the South Lowestoft sub area). To give greater clarity about the location of amenity green spaces in relation to deprivation sites have been colour coded in Table 5.7.

Table 5.6: Sub area deprivation and amenity green space provision

Sub area	Deprivation (1 = most deprived 8 = least deprived)	Total open space where amenity is the primary function and is usable (ha)	Total open space where amenity is the primary function and is usable per 1000 people (ha)	Provision relative to recommended standard of 0.6ha per 1000 people	Ranked average quality of amenity green space (1 = lowest quality, 8 = highest quality)	Ranked average value of amenity green space (1 = lowest value, 8 = highest value)
North Lowestoft	1	39.62	1.10	17.97	6	6
South Lowestoft	2	18.40	0.54	-2.22	8	8
Kessingland	3	2.33	0.57	-0.27	1	1
Rural	4	8.81	0.73	1.52	7	7
Bungay	5	3.30	0.64	0.22	3	3
Halesworth	6	1.61	0.34	-1.23	2	2
Beccles	7	4.20	0.28	-4.68	5	5
Southwold & Reydon	8	4.89	1.33	2.68	4	4
District	-	83.16	0.72	14.01	-	-

Quality and value combinations and a suggested policy approach

Colour notation

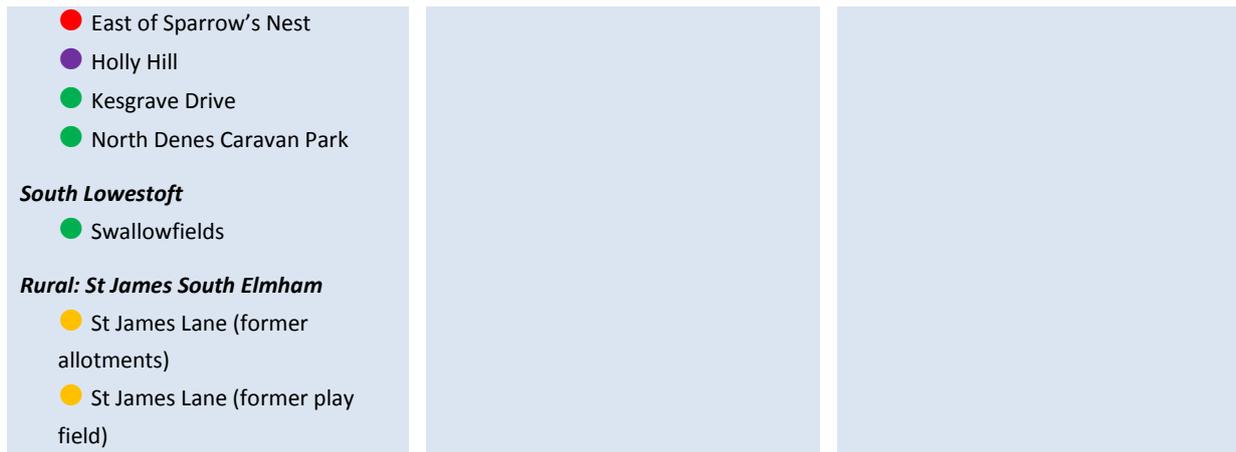
- Most deprived (upper quartile of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))
- Higher than average deprivation (middle upper quartile of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))
- Lower than average deprivation (lower middle quartile of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))
- Least deprived (bottom quarter of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))

Table 5.7: Suggested policy approach

High quality	Low value	High quality	Medium value	High quality	High value
Enhance value in terms of its primary purpose.		Enhance value in terms of its primary purpose.		Spaces should be protected.	
Kessingland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Heritage Green (south) 		Beccles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kilbrack Gardens North Lowestoft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gainsborough Drive South Lowestoft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grand Avenue ● Milnes Way Rural: Lound <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Church Pond 		Bungay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bigod Castle Reydon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreation Ground Southwold <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St Edmund's Green ● Bartholomew's Green ● Gun Hill Rural: Blundeston <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Millennium Green Rural: Lound <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Millennium Green Rural: Somerleyton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Somerleyton Green 	
Medium quality	Low value	Medium quality	Medium value	Medium quality	High value
Enhance quality provided it is possible also possible to enhance their value.		Enhance value and quality.		Enhance quality and value with an emphasis on improving the value of the space.	
Bungay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Woodland Drive 		Bungay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Castle Hills ● Former Grammar School Playing Field Kessingland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Centre ● High Street North Lowestoft		Beccles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St Mary's Paddock ● Waveney Meadow North Lowestoft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oulton Community Centre ● Net Drying Area South Lowestoft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pakefield Cliffs 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jenkins Green <p>Reydon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Former School Playing Field <p>South Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kirkley Recreation Ground ● Oakwood Road ● Stradbroke Road <p>Southwold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Green ● Southwold Common ● Strickland Place <p>Rural: Frostenden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreation Ground <p>Rural: Holton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Church View <p>Rural: Mutford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mutford Common <p>Rural: North Cove</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pinewood Gardens <p>Rural: Ringsfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Village Hall <p>Rural: Shadingfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Playing Field <p>Rural: St James South Elmham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metfield Road <p>Rural: Wangford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Norfolk Road Playing Field <p>Rural: Westhall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mill Common ● Racehorse PH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Royal Green ● Dale End ● Grove Road <p>Rural: Holton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Village Hall
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Low quality	Low value	Low quality	Medium value	Low quality	High value
<p><i>Enhance quality provided it is possible to also enhance their value. If it is not possible the space may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present use.</i></p>		<p><i>Enhance quality and value with an emphasis on improving the quality of the space.</i></p>		<p><i>Enhance quality and protect the space.</i></p>	
<p>Beccles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bramley Rise <p>Halesworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kennedy Close <p>North Lowestoft</p>		<p>South Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carlton Colville Community Centre ● Cliftonville Road ● Bixley Green ● Pakefield Park 		<p>South Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uplands Community Centre 	



Passive amenity green space

A significant number of open spaces provide visual amenity value but offer limited value for physical use. These spaces in the context of this open space needs assessment are classified as 'passive amenity spaces'.

While some spaces are designed to provide openness and colour to enhance the townscape and street scene others appear to have an unclear role in the built up area. Some of the green spaces provide seating and planting while others have no ancillary facilities to make them attractive of use or visual enhancement of the townscape. A significant number of sites have signage discouraging people from using them. Often the signage is appropriate while others are in various levels of disrepair through vandalism or faded so to be a negative contributor to the space.

Offering little value as open space for physical use these spaces have not been included as part of the amenity green space quantitative assessment and therefore do not contribute towards the quantitative total of open space provision. It is, however, considered appropriate to discuss the provision of these spaces as it highlights how open space is provided and how provision alone does not necessarily meet the needs of a community.

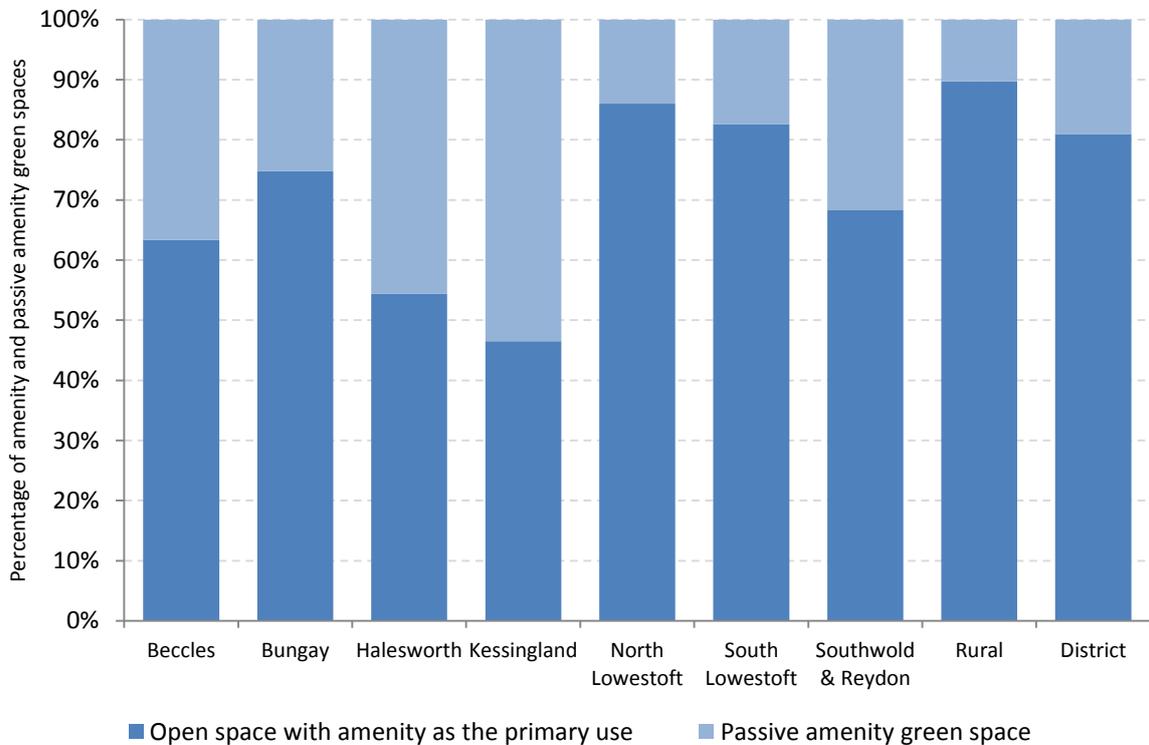
Quantitative provision of passive amenity space

The total amount of passive amenity space in the Waveney is approximately 19 hectares. This is about 11% of total open space provision in Waveney (Table 5.8). Of the total amenity space available, 19% is considered to be passive. The proportions of amenity green space that is has amenity as the primary use and passive use is shown in Figure 5.38.

Table 5.8: Amount of passive amenity green space

Sub area	Total area of accessible open space (including passive amenity space) (ha)	Total open space where amenity is the primary function (ha)	Area of open space with passive amenity as the primary use (ha)	Amount of accessible open space with amenity as the primary use (%)	Amount of accessible open space with passive amenity as the primary use (%)
Beccles	17.49	4.20	2.43	24.01	13.89
Bungay	5.60	3.30	1.11	58.93	19.82
Halesworth	6.48	1.61	1.35	28.60	20.83
Kessingland	6.31	2.33	2.68	36.93	42.47
North Lowestoft	65.96	39.62	6.43	60.07	9.75
South Lowestoft	49.16	18.4	3.87	37.43	7.87
Southwold & Reydon	10.90	4.89	2.27	44.86	20.83
Rural	19.68	8.81	0.55	44.77	2.79
District	180.73	83.16	19.84	46.01	10.98

Figure 5.38: Proportion of amenity green space that is 'passive'



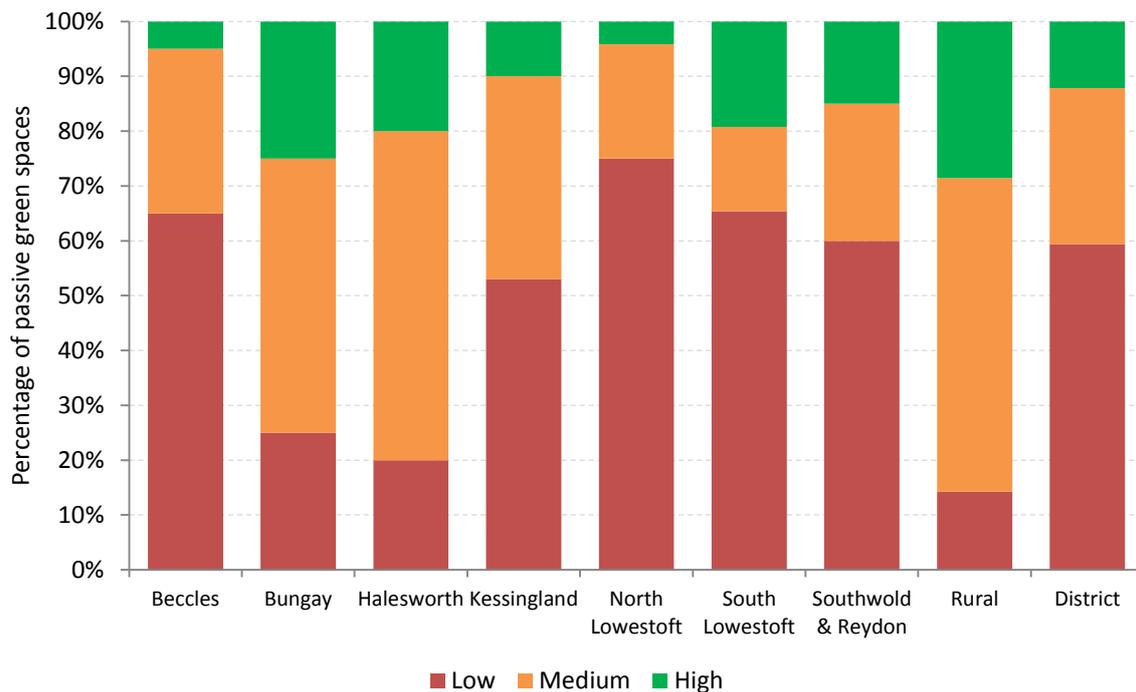
Quantitative provision of passive amenity green space

The quality of passive amenity green space is generally quite low across the District (60%) (Figure 5.39). The highest proportion of low quality spaces are found in North and South Lowestoft which are also the area with the largest amounts of open space indicating that sites more likely to be used by the public for physical activities is the focus for improvement and upkeep.

The areas of Bungay, Halesworth and the rural communities have a higher proportion of higher quality passive amenity green spaces, however, these areas also have some of the lowest levels of open space provision overall which could reflect resources being less thinly spread in the area.

Kessingland has approximately half of its passive amenity green spaces rated as low quality. When considered that over half of the amenity green space in the village offers few opportunities for physical use this figure is high.

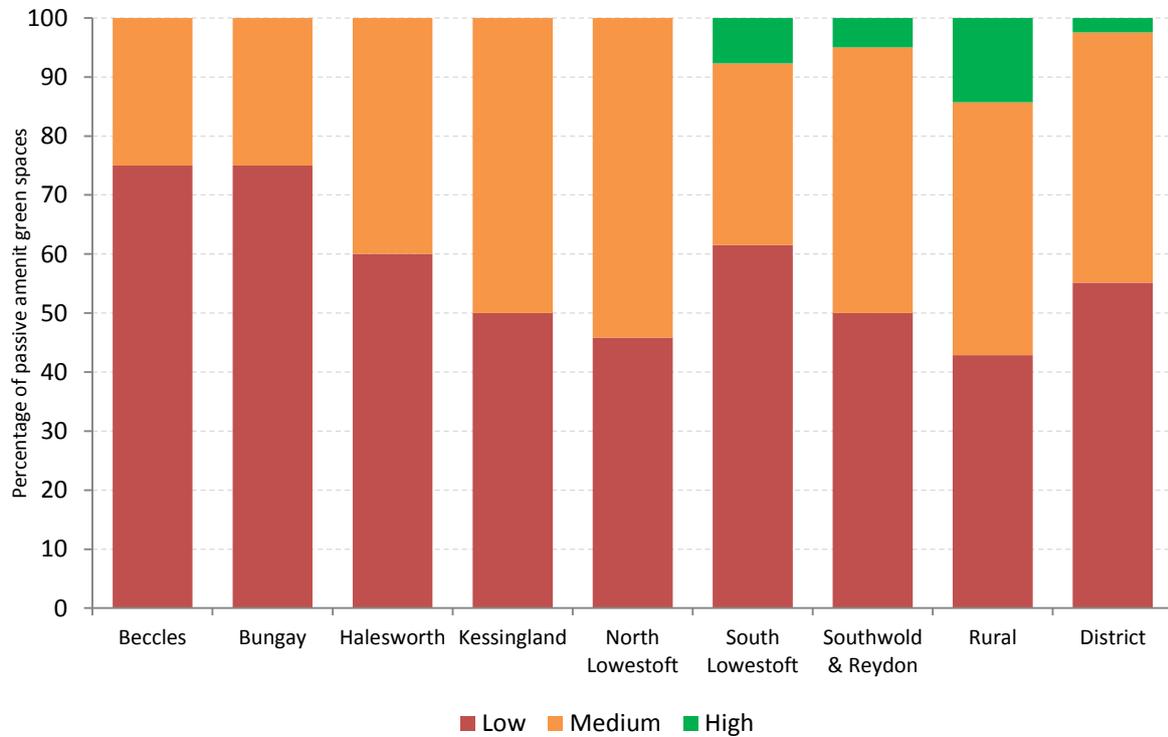
Figure 5.39: Proportion of low, medium and high quality passive amenity green space



The value of passive amenity green spaces is quite contrary to the quality of these spaces (Figure 5.40). In Beccles the quality and value of passive amenity space is generally low. In North and South Lowestoft the value of these spaces is often higher than their quality suggests. In Bungay, the opposite is present where amenity green spaces offer much lower value. In Bungay, this suggests

that passive amenity green spaces enhance the townscape but do not adequately supplement the limited open space provision available in the town.

Figure 5.40: Proportion of low, medium and high value passive amenity green space



Passive amenity green space in **North Lowestoft, South Lowestoft** and the **Rural** areas

Outside of the rural areas of the District, North and South Lowestoft have the largest amount of passive amenity green space which reflects these two areas having the largest populations. The smallest amount of passive amenity space is found in the rural communities reflecting the small nature of these settlements and their setting in the countryside. The quality of these passive amenity spaces is generally low but their value to an area is higher.

Passive amenity green space in **Bungay** and **Halesworth**

Of the market four towns Bungay has the smallest amount of passive amenity green space contributing to 20% of their total amenity space provision. Given the small amount of total open space provision in Bungay, this is relatively high.

Passive amenity green space in Halesworth is relatively high compared to other market towns. Many of these spaces have been designed into the townscape to provide visual enhancement with planting along roads. While these have limited opportunity to be used by local residents their contribution towards the character and setting of residential dwellings in the area is important.

Passive amenity green space in **Beccles and Southwold & Reydon**

Beccles and Southwold & Reydon have significantly high proportions of their amenity green space provision in the passive form. Within the sub areas, however, there are different patterns of distribution. In Southwold & Reydon much of the passive amenity green space is located in close proximity to the waterfront, the Denes and the Common. The concentration of these spaces creates a sense of openness and connectivity which is an important characteristic of this seaside town. In the Beccles sub area many of the spaces are quite isolated and while they provide openness in the built up area they often poorly relate to their surroundings and consequently offer limited benefit to the community.

Passive amenity green space in **Kessingland**

Passive amenity green space contributes to 42% of total open space and 55% of amenity space provision in the village which is distributed over 31 individual spaces. This is the most significant proportion in the District. The village has two open spaces with amenity as the primary use (Community Centre and High Street) and no open spaces which support amenity as a secondary use. Some of this is a result of open spaces being too small or poorly located while others are poorly designed or lack ancillary facilities such as seating and landscaping. The lack of quality amenity green space offering good value is an issue in the village. Almost all of these open spaces are located within residential areas making them accessible but offer limited opportunities to rectify existing quantity deficits.

Beccles, Halesworth, Kessingland and Southwold & Reydon have the most significant proportions of passive amenity green space. With the exception of Halesworth, the number of spaces rated as low quality and/or low value is relatively high when compared to other forms of open space.

Passive amenity green spaces provide openness and colour in the built environment, however, plain sites with little planting or landscaping limit the value the spaces have in the townscape and wider open space network. In the past some of these spaces may have had a different role in the community when development initially took place. For example, some equipped play areas may have been decommissioned when the equipment came to the end of its life and not been replaced. Other spaces may have had ancillary facilities that may have been removed while others may have been larger open spaces that have been encroached upon by new development. As a result once useful open spaces have now become simple areas of grass and limited planting that offer limited value to the community and surroundings.

Passive amenity green spaces have potential to play a greater role in residential areas by enhancing spaces through landscaping and where appropriate providing benches. For people with young children this can provide unequipped play space and provide seating for parents. Waveney has an aging population and places to sit and rest can encourage people to be more active. This is particularly important when trying to encourage people to be more active in their community (social inclusion).

In some locations areas that should be available for unequipped play or amenity use are set out to discourage people from using them. While there is a need to ensure enough open space is available for public use there are often difficulties with people using spaces inappropriately and being a disturbance to neighbours. However, it is also important to recognise that open spaces are designed into developments to be used and not simply provided as an extension to an adjacent garden or view.

The location and design of amenity spaces are important to consider early in the planning process to ensure they have a role to play in the local area and contribute positively to the public realm. Providing spaces with different features and characteristics can make them more attractive to different people in the community and encourage greater use. In this way a network of open spaces can be created and maintained to improve the identity of an area.

Figure 5.41: Passive amenity green space in Kessingland

Example: Passive amenity green spaces - Heritage Green, Kessingland

Relatively recent development in Kessingland (Heritage Green) highlights how new open space provision can enhance an area and also create space with little value. Three open spaces have provided as part of the development.

Note: Images make the open spaces appear larger than they would to someone on site.

Open Space A



Located between the High Street and the A12 there are three open spaces. The first is located at the western end of Heritage Green. This space provides amenity with a path running along the east side connecting two roads with supplementary seating and a good amount of planting. The site is pinned between the High Street which is busy with vehicular traffic and high solid fencing along property boundaries. While this space provides openness its setting and characteristics have created a space that is poorly integrated into the townscape offering limited value and is unlikely to encourage people to use the space.

Open Space B



Along Heritage Green to the north a second space is the focal point for residential development. While there is limited public access onto the site itself it is well overlooked, well landscaped and planted and as an amenity green space provides good value and contributes positively to the townscape.

Open Space C



At the northern end of Heritage Green a third space is provided. A small lagoon provides drainage and a small wildlife habitat. The site itself is poorly integrated into the existing community or the development it was meant to serve. The open space is isolated, poorly overlooked, relatively featureless and its boundaries are harsh and unattractive, including high fencing on one side and the busy A12 on the other. A site of very low quality and offering little value for residents or the townscape this is an example of where open space has been provided as part of a development but has not been designed into the development and provides little benefit to anyone with limited scope for improvement given its location and surroundings.

As a practical example this demonstrates how open space may contribute quantitatively to local standards and can enhance an area but can also be provide in a way that is not properly integrated into a development and offering to value to the community. To meet the needs of the community open space should be delivered in a way that will benefit the community and enhance the townscape. The Heritage Green example demonstrates the need to identify the role an open space is performing in a new development and how it relates to the existing built area as part of the design stage and planning process as the proposal comes forward.

Changing the use of existing open space to an alternative open space use

Over time the role of an open space may change. For example, decommissioning or removing play equipment that has come to the end of its useful life. Consideration should be given to how a site might be improved to encourage use and avoid creating passive amenity spaces that offer little value. If left unequipped consideration should be given to additional planting. New landscaping may enhance the space and the setting of an open space and retain its value to the community and townscape. Where an open space is proposed for a change of open space use a plan of how the open space is expected to be used, the value it will offer to the community should be set out. This will help ensure that open space provision can be improved and avoid creating passive amenity green spaces unnecessarily.

Amenity green space recommendations

Amenity spaces are of higher quality and value where they are part of a larger multi-functional open space. Providing opportunities for informal activities within multi-functional open spaces will complement other activities such as play, exercise and general leisure activities. Facilities that support activities for a variety of age groups will assist with creating places that are a focal point in the community. Improving access to amenity green spaces, particularly in the most deprived areas of the District, will provide benefits for health by encouraging physical activity and helping to improve the townscape, street scene and overall image of an area.

Many amenity green spaces offer good value to the local area and the townscape, however, some offer limited benefit often reflecting their location, surroundings, provision of ancillary facilities, planting and layouts which collectively do not encourage use. A strategic management plan should be considered to improve the quality and value of amenity green spaces, increase their value to the local community and enhance the local surroundings. Such a plan could identify: the role each amenity green space fulfils; general activities the site is likely to be used for based on ancillary facility provision; landscaping and layout of the site; if the management of the space is to retain the status quo or if there is scope for improvement; identify green spaces that could be more multi-functional that should be prioritised to encourage greater use and enhance their value to the local community. As a management plan this would contribute towards a strategic approach to improving open space provision and the public realm. Improving the quality of passive amenity green space should be prioritised in areas with low levels of open space provision to improve the public realm.

Some passive amenity spaces provide little benefit for the community in their current form. If improvement is not considered a feasible option, its use as an alternative form of open space could be considered.

Beccles

Amenity green space recommendations

Bramley Rise

Enhancement of the Bramley Rise amenity open space would improve open space provision and value in an area where there is an existing deficit. Enhancing the visual connection of Bramley Rise with the Rigbourne Hill Lane greenway could be considered.

Waveney Meadow

Open space provision in the south of Beccles is limited. The Waveney Meadow site is close to the town centre, is adjacent to the lido and has a variety of open space functions including amenity, semi-natural areas and play. Its setting on the banks of the River Waveney enhances its attractiveness as an amenity space with views across the valley. Car parking supports access, however, access across the site can be restricted for those with less mobility. General improvements to the site and improving access would enhance its value to the community.

Bungay

Amenity green space recommendations

Castle Hills

Improvements will provide more benefit for the community and enhance the town centre while also complementing the Bigod Castle (Castle Bailey) open space. Improvements may include improved seating, access paths in the grassed area and slopes and improving the footpath through the semi-natural areas to make them more accessible to people and in all weather (while respecting the natural character of the area).

Top Pitch

The Annis Hill playing field (commonly referred to as the 'top pitch') is part of Bungay High School and has limited use. The field is not publically accessible. The potential to open this up for public access could be explored.

Former Grammar School Playing Field and Skinner's Meadow

The site is being improved to provide play facilities for children to complement the future community centre and the existing skate park. Opposite this site is Skinners Meadow. Currently used for grazing, the potential for public access to part of the site, as a semi-natural area, could be explored.

Halesworth

Amenity green space recommendations

Existing amenity green spaces should be protected and enhanced to improve their value to the community.

Kessingland

Amenity green space recommendations

Playing Field

Kessingland playing field should be improved to provide greater value to the community. This is the largest and most multi-functional open space in the village and a masterplan setting out how the site could be improved in the future could be considered to support delivery of any future enhancement. Improvements to the site would complement the community centre and activity opportunities not available at the other main open space in the village located on the High Street.

Passive amenity green space (General)

Much of the open space in Kessingland is classified as 'passive amenity space' offering limited value for residents. Consideration should be given to how these sites contribute to the townscape as a network of open spaces. Providing ancillary facilities such as seating and planting on passive amenity green spaces could assist with creating walking routes to destinations such as the village centre, beach or the playing field that could encourage people to be more active.

North Lowestoft

Amenity green space recommendations

Central Lowestoft in General

No significant amenity green space is provided for community use and there is little opportunity to provide new amenity space owing to the built up nature of the area. Emphasis should be placed on improving accessibility to green spaces such as the proposed East of England Park and Normanston Park. Existing passive amenity spaces and the disused railway line (Great Eastern Linear Park) could provide opportunities to support this. Accessibility should also be improved in the northern residential areas to enhance connections to Montgomery Park and Foxburrow Road area.

Kesgrave Drive

The large amenity space at Kesgrave Drive is primarily a large grassed area with some play equipment for children. A small pond is located on site. The site is large enough to support a range of activities. Landscaping and additional planting along with ancillary facilities such as paths and seating provided creative manner would improve the value of the space for the community. The provision of facilities to support activities not available in Normanston Park could be provided on the site so the sites complement each other.

The open nature of the site with minimal on site provision provides an open canvas in which to consider any possible improvements. Ideally, this would be guided by a masterplan of the site. Care would need to be taken to create a space that does not conflict with the activities provided at Normanston Park (whose grassed area is primarily set up as formal sports pitches) so the two areas complement rather than compete with each other.

Woods Meadow

To the west open space provision in Oulton is poor. New open space is to be provided as part of the proposed Woods Meadow development which should enhance the area. With no significant amenity spaces in the area, accessibility should be improved to provide a legible route through the built up area. Opportunities present themselves along the public right of way which runs west of Mobbs Way and the walkways through Bonds Meadow (care should be taken to protect biodiversity value of the site). Accessibility can also be improved by providing a walk/cycle link through the Dunston Drive open space and the land south of the Mobbs Way industrial estate which connects into the wider pedestrian/cycle network.

South Lowestoft

Amenity green space recommendations

Beccles Road area and Pakefield

Improvements should be made to amenity spaces in Pakefield and the central area in the vicinity of Britten Road and Oakwood Road. Residential areas in the vicinity of Beccles Road also have limited access to spaces with good quality and value. Improving accessibility in the area would increase the benefit these spaces have for local residents. Future proposals associated with Capstan Way/Holystone Way could enhance connections to open space as development comes forward.

Aveling Way could be improved with additional facilities and general enhancement to provide value for the local community.

Bixley Green

Located in a densely populated area with limited access to private garden space and public green spaces. Improving the quality of provision on the site would benefit the local area.

Southwold & Reydon

Amenity green space recommendations

Overall, provision in this sub area is good. Considering the needs of other sub areas, Southwold & Reydon should be considered a lower priority, however, new amenity space provision in the southern part of Reydon should be explored if opportunities arise to address an existing accessibility deficit.

Rural Areas

Amenity green space recommendations

A majority of rural settlements have access to amenity space. People in rural areas also have greater access to the countryside which can offset existing shortfalls. Amenity green spaces should be maintained to a standard where they complement other facilities on site to create quality multi-functional spaces



Equipped Play Space

Spaces designed for children and young people of different ages

Play space

“Play is an essential part of every child's life and vital to their development. It is the way children explore the world around them and develop and practice skills. It is essential for physical, emotional and spiritual growth, for intellectual and educational development and for acquiring social and behavioural skills. Play is a generic term applied to a wide range of activities and behaviours that are satisfying to the child, creative to the child and freely chosen by the child” (Children’s Play Council).

Play provision refers to settings where the primary aim is for the space to be used for children’s play. The Children’s Play Council objective for good play provision has been summarised as being able to deliver play provision that:

- is accessible, welcoming and engaging for all children and young people including those who are disabled or have specific needs and wishes; and
- recognises that children and young people of different ages have different play interests and needs.

This assessment has considered the provision of equipped play space. Complementary to equipped play provision is unequipped play space that is landscaped or provides an environment that can facilitate and support play activities. Unequipped play space is considered as part of the umbrella of ‘amenity space’ discussed in this report. This is consistent with the provision of open space set out in guidance provided by the Fields In Trust and Planning Practice Guidance published by the Government which does not distinguish between different types of open space and the functions they play in the community.



Blundeston

Equipped play areas in Waveney are designed and provided within parks, as play areas with adjacent open space to provide unequipped play, equipped play spaces in isolation, and within housing estates. Characteristics of the play areas themselves and those of their surroundings provide the context of how these spaces are generally used and the role they play in the community. This often determines the quality and value they have to the local area.

When imaginatively equipped and well maintained play areas are available these usually prove popular with both parents and children. Children are more likely to use playgrounds in parks when they are with adults but tend to use play areas nearer their homes when they are out on their own or with friends. Well used playgrounds are an important meeting place for parents as well as children.

The importance of play spaces in Waveney has been recognised in recent years with significant improvements having been made to many local play areas. Providing greater opportunities for play in equipped areas with higher quality has wider positive implications by improving the 'liveability' of an area and the perception of it as a nice place to live.

The benefits of play include:

- promoting children's development, learning, creativity and independence;
- keeping children healthy and active;
- fostering social inclusion by helping children understand the people and places in their lives, learn about their environment and develop their sense of community;
- allowing children to find out about themselves, their abilities and their interests;
- helping children to deal with difficult or painful circumstances, such as emotional stress or medical treatment;
- provide children the chance to let off steam and have fun.

Children's play can depend on a variety of factors and is influenced by:

- age, interest, experiences and influences;
- equipment and resources available to them;
- parents' feelings about their safety and security;
- area and surroundings in which they live;
- accessibility of the open space they might want to use;
- variety and attractiveness of potential play spaces and current fashions.

Playgrounds located in the right location will be highly used. A good location is where children at play can 'see and be seen' by a trusted adult (usually a parent or a friend's parent) and 'where it is at' where there is a high probability that other people will pass through. Children tend to stay at any one place for a relatively short period of time but will keep returning to a popular place. A playground in a poor location, even with good equipment, is likely to have low usage and be

vulnerable. Busy roads also create barriers for children and reduce accessibility to local play areas and other open spaces children may wish to use.

Fields In Trust has identified three categories of play area. These are set out in Table 6.1 along with their defining characteristics.

Table 6.1: Types of play spaces

Play space	Play space characteristics
Unequipped play space	Open space that has elements designed and landscaped into the scheme to facilitate informal play to promote community use. This could be in the form of a number of typologies including: parks, amenity space and semi-natural green space.
Local area for play (LAP)	A small play area, approximately 100sqm, providing space and facilities to support low-key games and play with small toys. This can include landscaped features such as mounds, trees and shrubs and seats to enable adults to supervise their children. It is aimed at children up to the age of 6 years and should be designed to discourage their use by older age groups. Residents should have access to a LAP within 1 minute (100m) of their home.
Local equipped area for play (LEAP)	A play area, approximately 400sqm, providing a good range of play activities and seating for adults. It is aimed at children up to the age of 8 years but may support use by children a little younger or older than this. Its catchment area is 5 minutes walking time for an accompanied child, or approximately 400m walking distance.
Neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP)	A large play area, approximately 1,000sqm with at least eight types of play equipment that provide challenges and enjoyment (e.g. slides, basketball ring or ball wall) for children up to the age of 14 years but may support use by children a little younger or older than this. The site should provide seating but should be designed to reflect play activities for children that do not require supervision. Play facilities aimed at teenagers and young adults can include facilities for wheels (formally laid out areas for uses such as BMX cycle tracks and skate parks), games areas (multi-use games areas (MUGAs) for informal activities) and areas for sport that are characteristically hard surfaced to provide round year use. The site should be landscaped and have plantings to encourage use and make the site interesting for potential users. The ideal catchment area is 15 minutes walking time for either accompanied or unaccompanied children, or about 1000m walking distance.

Additional types of play areas primarily aimed to support youth play activities include:

- Multi use games areas (MUGA): enclosed area with a hard surface to be used for playing sports such as football, tennis, basketball, netball.
- Skate parks: purpose built play area to support activities using skateboards, scooters, in-line skates and bmx cycles usually containing half and quarter pipes, sliding rails, bowls, and banking and other hard surfaced equipment.

The Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) consulted the public to ascertain their views of play spaces in the District. A summary of the key findings are set out in Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1: Summary of key points in 2006 consultation

General

- 20% of parents let their children play in the park with most parents having a preferred location for play being the garden.
- Most common reasons for not using local play spaces were unsuitable equipment, cleanliness and anti-social behaviour.

Quantity

- Overall, there is a lack of provision for young people. Skateboard areas seen not only as play areas but also areas to simply 'hang out'.

Quality

- 10% of parents said there were not enough quality play areas for children.
- 40% of residents thought the range of play equipment was good or excellent while 20% thought it was below average or poor. The strongest criticism came from parents with children of play age.
- Space, safety and the range of equipment were important factors when choosing where their children were allowed to play. These issues were particularly highlighted in Bungay.
- Parents wished to see better equipment, a wider variety of equipment (less 'everyday' equipment) and a stronger maintenance regime to improve play spaces.
- Play space viewed as an important link to environmental awareness where children could interact with the wildlife and semi-natural areas.

Accessibility

- One in nine parents said the close proximity of the play space they use to home was important.

Note: Since the Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) was published a significant number of play areas have been improved.



Existing recommended standards

The Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) recommended a standard of 0.2-0.3ha of equipped play space per 1000 people. This is consistent guidance provided by Fields In Trust and is based on a notional 4-14 years population density of around 32 children per hectare.

The Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) recommended a quantitative standard of 0.2 hectares of children's play space per 1000 population. This standard is based upon the findings of the 2006 assessment which found that 57% of people in Bungay that took part in the consultation process were satisfied with the quantity of play provision in the town which was higher than achieved in other sub areas of the District.

Provision of equipped play space

There are 117 equipped play spaces in the District distributed across a total area of 14.89 hectares (Table 6.2). Beccles has the greatest amount of equipped play space and also the greatest proportion of the total amount of open space of this typology.

Table 6.2: Provision of equipped play space

Sub area	Population	Total area of accessible open space (ha)	Total area of equipped play space (ha)	Amount of open space that is equipped play space (%)
Beccles	14,796	15.06	3.59	23.84
Bungay	5,127	4.49	1.19	26.50
Halesworth	4,726	5.13	1.40	27.29
Kessingland	4,327	3.63	0.55	15.15
North Lowestoft	36,089	59.53	2.82	4.74
South Lowestoft	34,362	45.29	2.28	5.03
Southwold & Reydon	3,680	8.63	1.25	14.48
Rural	12,147	19.13	1.81	9.46
District	115,254	160.89	14.89	9.25

Population source: 2011 Census

Bungay and Halesworth have high proportions of equipped play space although these market towns also have relatively low amounts of open space provision overall.

North and South Lowestoft have more equipped open space than sub areas with the exception of Beccles. These sub areas have the largest populations and the greatest provision of total open space, however, the proportion of open space that is equipped for play is low and well below the District average.

Kessingland has the lowest provision of equipped play space which also corresponds to the lowest amount of open space provision available within settlements of similar size.

Southwold & Reydon has similar provision of equipped play space as Bungay and Halesworth, however, the proportion of open space that is equipped for play is significantly lower. This is likely to reflect the older population settled in Southwold with Reydon more focussed on families with children.

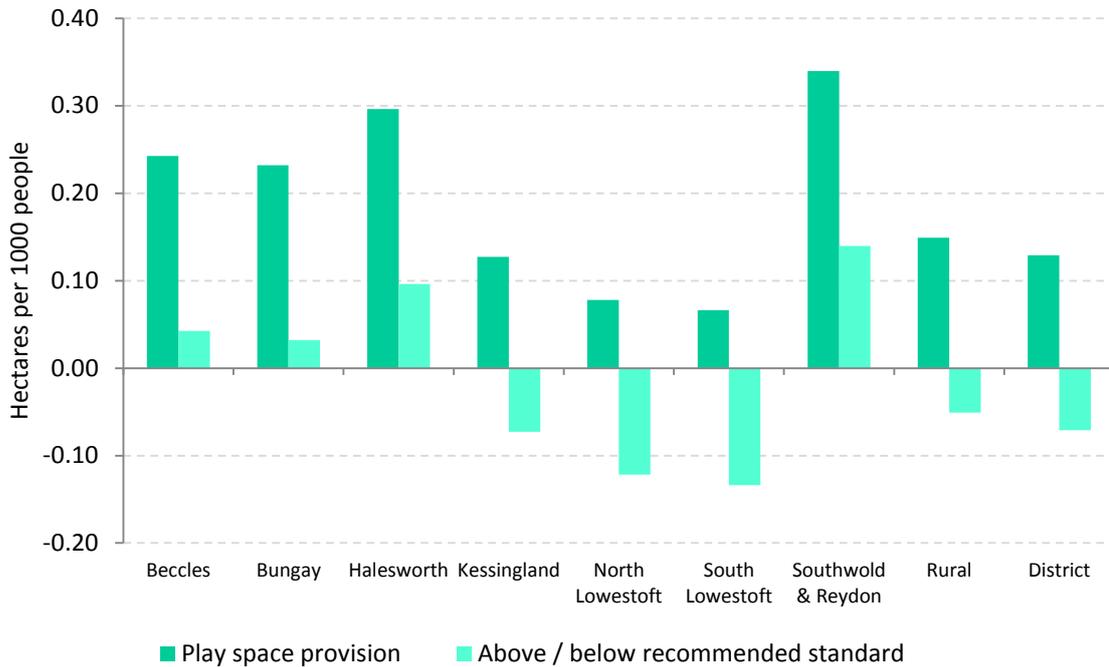
Equipped play space provision relative to standard

The Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) suggested a quantitative standard of equipped play provision of 0.2ha per 1000 people. This is the same standard recommended by Fields In Trust that sets out guidance on open space provision. Five of the eight sub areas have a shortfall of equipped play provision with a shortfall of 8.16ha across the District as a whole (Table 6.3 and Figure 6.2).

Table 6.3: Provision of equipped play space provision relative to the recommended standard (2006)

Sub area	Population	Play space required to meet 0.2ha per 1000 people standard (ha)	Total area of equipped play space (ha)	Area of equipped play space above/below standard of 0.2ha per 1000 people (ha)
Beccles	14,796	2.96	3.59	+0.63
Bungay	5,127	1.03	1.19	+0.16
Halesworth	4,726	0.95	1.40	+0.45
Kessingland	4,327	0.87	0.55	-0.32
North Lowestoft	36,089	7.37	2.82	-4.55
South Lowestoft	34,362	6.87	2.28	-4.59
Southwold & Reydon	3,680	0.74	1.25	+0.51
Rural	12,147	2.43	1.81	-0.62
District	115,254	23.05	14.89	-8.16

Figure 6.2: Existing provision of equipped play space compared to amount required to meet the 0.2ha per 1000 people standard



Beccles, Halesworth and Southwold & Reydon have enough equipped play space to meet the suggested standard. Southwold & Reydon has the best provision which supports the local population and also supports the area from a tourism perspective adding to its identity as a destination. In Beccles, Darby Road is the largest play area at 1.58ha and constitutes 44% of the total play space in the Beccles and Worlingham area. Located entirely within the urban area and bound on all sides by residential properties the Darby Road site is the most important play area in the vicinity. Without this one play space, existing play provision in the sub area would be 0.7ha below the recommended standard.

The most significant deficits are found in North and South Lowestoft with deficits also present in Bungay and the rural areas. There is a quantitative shortfall of provision in Kessingland, however, this is mitigated by high quality facilities provided on the sites across the village.

Quantitative equipped play space provision

This standard reflects the total population but is limited when considering the age demographic of different settlements. Equipped play areas are specifically orientated towards children which is only a portion of the population, however, the standard is based the total population regardless of age. While this can provide a generic representation of need it does not reflect local variations within the population in different areas.

In Waveney there is a population of 115,254 people (2011 Census). To meet the 0.2ha per 1000 people across the District a total of 23.05 hectares of equipped play space is required (approximately 23ha per 20,000 children).

In the District there are 19,885 children aged 16 or younger (2011 Census). This is equivalent to 17% of the total population. A standard of play provision that is more reflective of children rather than the population as a whole is considered more likely to provide equipment where it is needed (for example, Southwold has a significantly older population than adjoining Reydon which is more family orientated). Adjusting the recommended standard to reflect the number of children rather than people would provide a figure of 1.15ha of equipped play space per 1000 children. It is recommended this standard is used to provide facilities which better reflects demographic trends. How existing provision compares to the standard 1.15ha per 1000 children is set out in Table 6.4.

Table 6.4: Amount of equipped play space required to meet an alternative standard of 1.15ha per 1000 children

Sub area	Children aged between 0-16 years	Total equipped play space (ha)	Provision required to meet standard of 1.15ha per 1000 children (ha)	Provision above/below standard of 1.15ha per 1000 children (ha)
Beccles	2,462	3.59	2.83	+0.76
Bungay	932	1.19	1.07	+0.12
Halesworth	630	1.40	0.72	+0.68
Kessingland	667	0.55	0.77	-0.22
North Lowestoft	6,508	2.82	7.48	-4.66
South Lowestoft	6,242	2.28	7.18	-4.90
Southwold & Reydon	445	1.25	0.51	+0.74
Rural	1,999	1.81	2.30	-0.49
District	19,885	14.89	22.87	-7.98

The amended standard which is more reflective of demographic variations is particularly evident in the Southwold & Reydon sub area. The area has a total population of 3680 people with 445 of those under the age of 16 years. Based on the standard of 0.2ha per 1000 people a total of 0.76ha

equipped play space would be required. Based on area per 1000 children, 0.51ha is required. This lower requirement reflects the older population of this area.

Further analysis shows that Southwold has a population 1098 people but only 61 (5.6%) of these are 16 years or younger. Reydon has a population of 2582 people with 384 (14.9%) aged 16 years or younger. This means that Reydon should have 0.44ha of equipped play space and Southwold 0.07ha to meet the standard. Southwold has three equipped play spaces which cumulatively are 0.77ha in area while Reydon has 4 play spaces with a combined area of 0.48ha. This demonstrates that equipped play space provision is very different in these two adjacent settlements with Reydon having just enough to meet the standard while Southwold exceeds its requirement by more than ten fold. As discussed previously, while statistically there is a surplus of play provision in Southwold this does not reflect how it provides for visitors to the area (contrary to the Lowestoft seafront south of south pier which only has one small play space to cater for visitors).

Equipped play space provision and child density

The provision of equipped play space is higher where there are more children (Table 6.5) indicating play space is being provided where most needed. The exceptions are Bungay and Kessingland where there is disproportionately less equipped play space compared to other sub areas in the District.

Table 6.5: Amount of equipped play space and child density

Sub area	Population	Number of children aged 0-16	Percentage of population aged 0-16	Children per dwelling	Area of play space per 1000 children aged 0-16 (ha)	Children per hectare of play space
Beccles	14,796	2,462	17	0.38	1.46	686
Bungay	5,127	932	17	0.39	1.28	783
Halesworth	4,726	630	18	0.26	2.22	450
Kessingland	4,327	667	13	0.30	0.82	1,213
North Lowestoft	36,089	6,508	19	0.38	0.43	2,308
South Lowestoft	34,362	6,242	17	0.40	0.37	2,738
Southwold & Reydon	3,680	445	18	0.16	2.81	356
Rural	12,147	1,999	12	0.35	0.91	1,104
District	115,254	19,885	16	0.36	0.75	1,335

Existing play provision per 1000 children varies significantly across the District. The sub areas with the largest population, North and South Lowestoft, have the lowest level of provision, 0.43ha per 1000 children and 0.37ha per 1000 children respectively. Lowestoft has significantly more children per area of play space than any other sub area and is double the District average.

Of the market towns Beccles and Halesworth have good provision but Bungay and Kessingland could be improved. The rural areas have reasonable provision similar to Bungay and Kessingland, however, the variety of activities provided in their play spaces reflect the contained settlements they cater for.

The general trend is that larger populations have less provision per 1000 people than smaller settlements. It is therefore important to consider not only how much quantitative provision is available but how these are distributed within the residential area. This is discussed later in the report. Larger urban areas may have less provision but a key focus should be on the facilities that are available, their quality and their value to encourage children and families to use these spaces and improve the overall perception of an area.

Provision of different types of equipped play spaces

Provision of play areas in the District

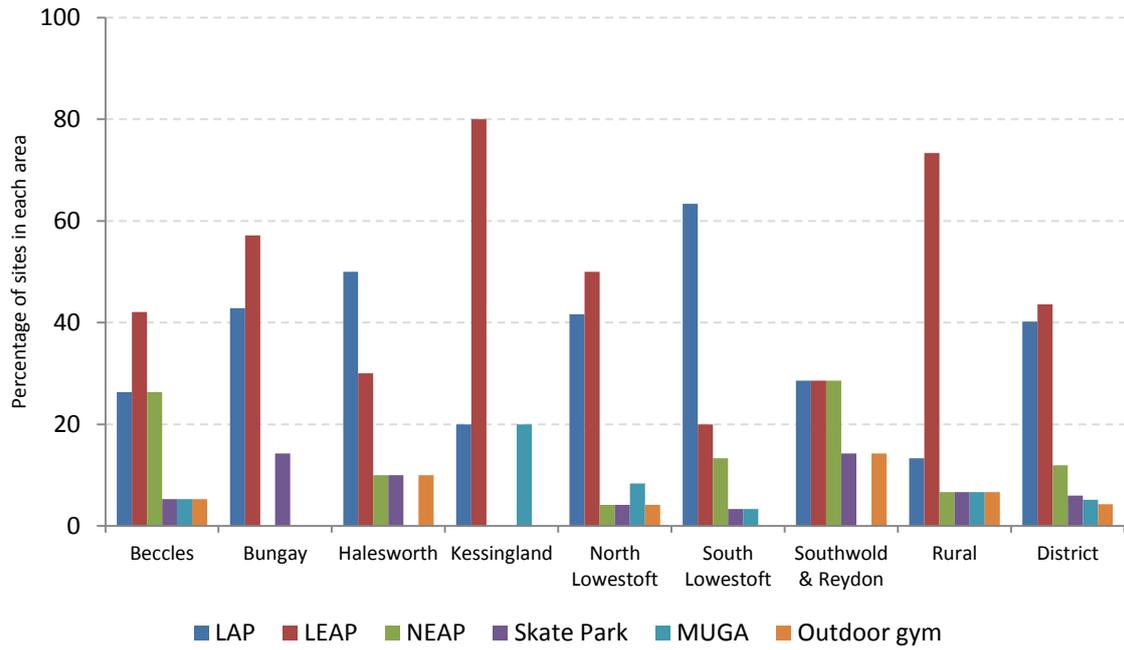
Across the District there are 119 play spaces with the greatest number of play areas reflecting the size of the settlements. Approximately 60% of play spaces provide a good range of activities for local communities in the form of LEAPs, NEAPs, skate parks and MUGAs (Table 6.6 and Figure 6.3). LAPs are intended to provide small accessible play areas for toddlers. While these are an important asset they also create issues related to lack of use which in turn can reflect on quality and perception of the public realm in the local area as they wear over time.

Table 6.6: Types of equipped play spaces available in the District

Sub area	Total	Children aged between 0-16 years	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	SKATE	MUGA*
Beccles	19	2,462	5	8	5	1	1
Bungay	8	932	3	4	0	1	0
Halesworth	10	630	5	3	1	1	0
Kessingland	5	667	1	4	0	0	1
North Lowestoft	24	6,508	10	12	1	1	2
South Lowestoft	30	6,242	19	6	4	1	1
Southwold & Reydon	7	445	2	2	2	1	0
Rural	16	1,999	2	12	1	1	1
District	119	19,885	47	51	14	7	6

*MUGAs are not counted within the total as they contribute towards play areas rather than being a play area in their own right.

Figure 6.3: Distribution of play space typologies⁵



⁵ MUGAs are part of existing play areas. They are provided in Table 6 to provide a more comprehensive picture of play provision. To avoid duplication they have not been included in the percentage scores. The percentage for MUGAs refers to the number of sites that provide a MUGA as part of the wider facility.

Provision of equipped play spaces in Beccles, South Lowestoft, Southwold & Reydon

Proportionately Beccles (Figure 6.4 and 6.5) and Southwold & Reydon (Figure 6.6 and 6.7) have the best mix of play spaces. The variety of play areas is reasonable in South Lowestoft (Figure 6.8 and 6.9), however, there is a shortfall of play areas that can provide for a range of activities overall.

Figure 6.4: Provision of equipped play spaces in Beccles

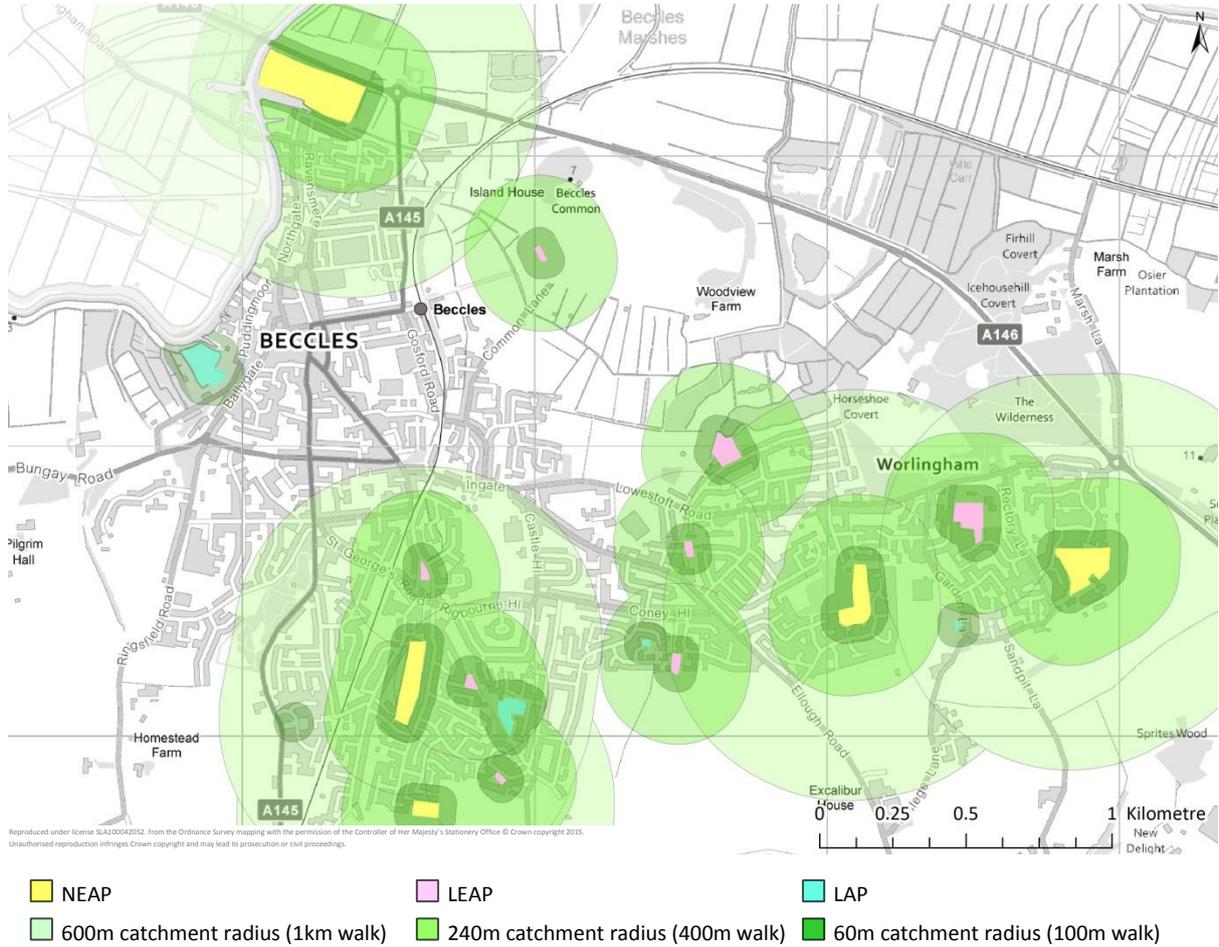


Figure 6.5: Youth play provision in Beccles



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- Skate park
- Outdoor gym
- MUGA
- 600m catchment radius (1km walk)
- 600m catchment radius (1km walk)
- 600m catchment radius (1km walk)

Figure 6.6: Provision of equipped play spaces in Southwold & Reydon



Figure 6.7: Youth play provision in Southwold and Reydon

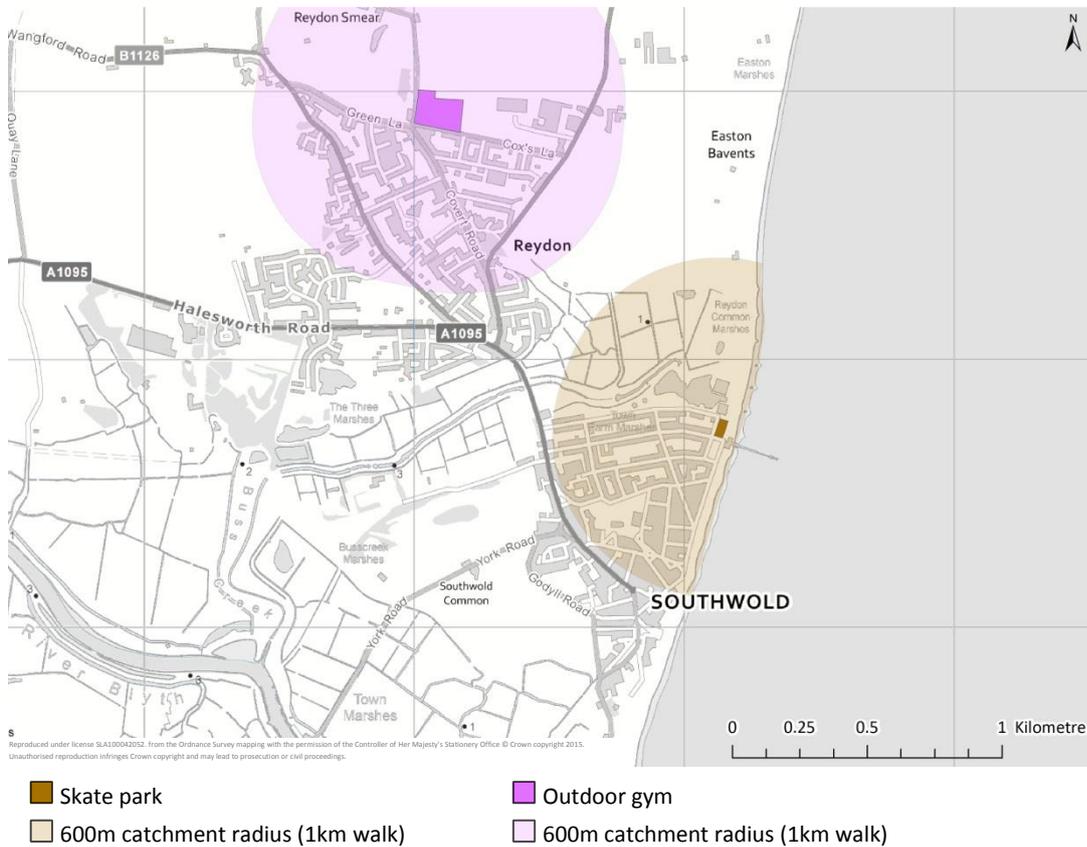


Figure 6.8: Provision of equipped play spaces in South Lowestoft

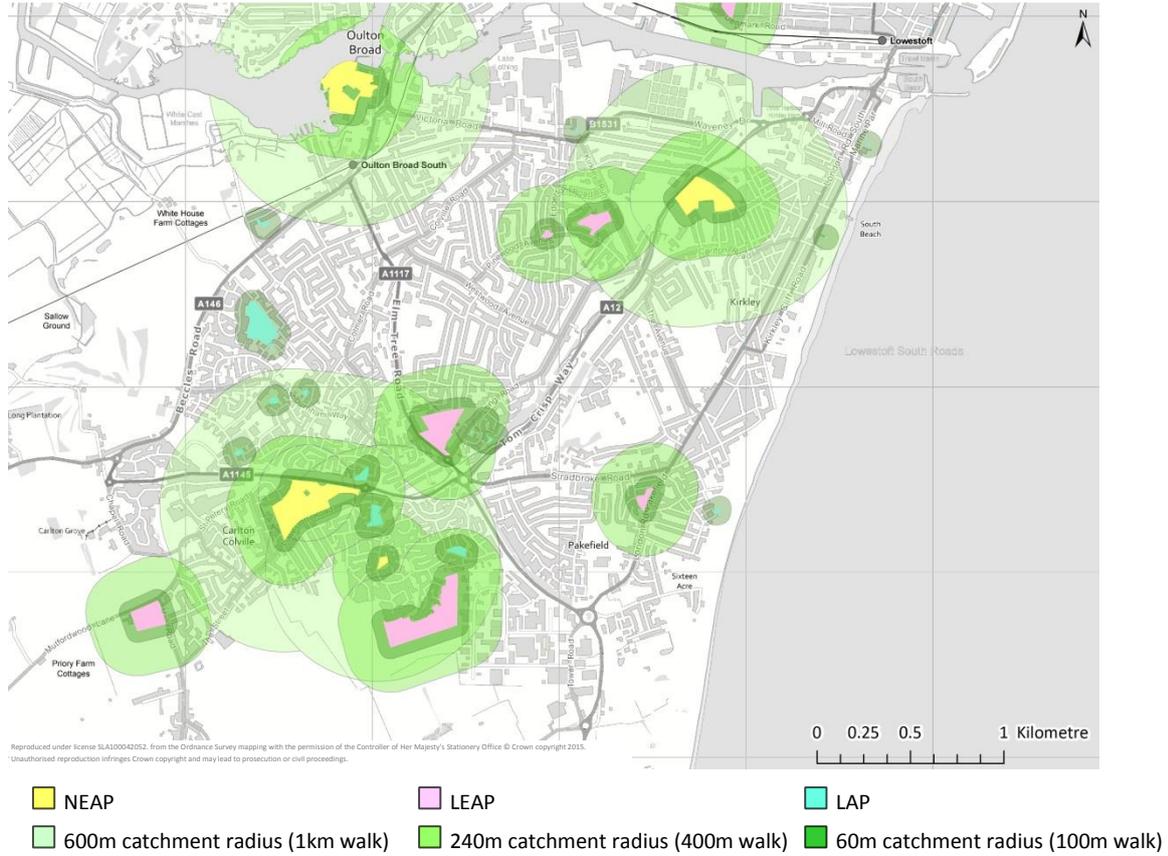
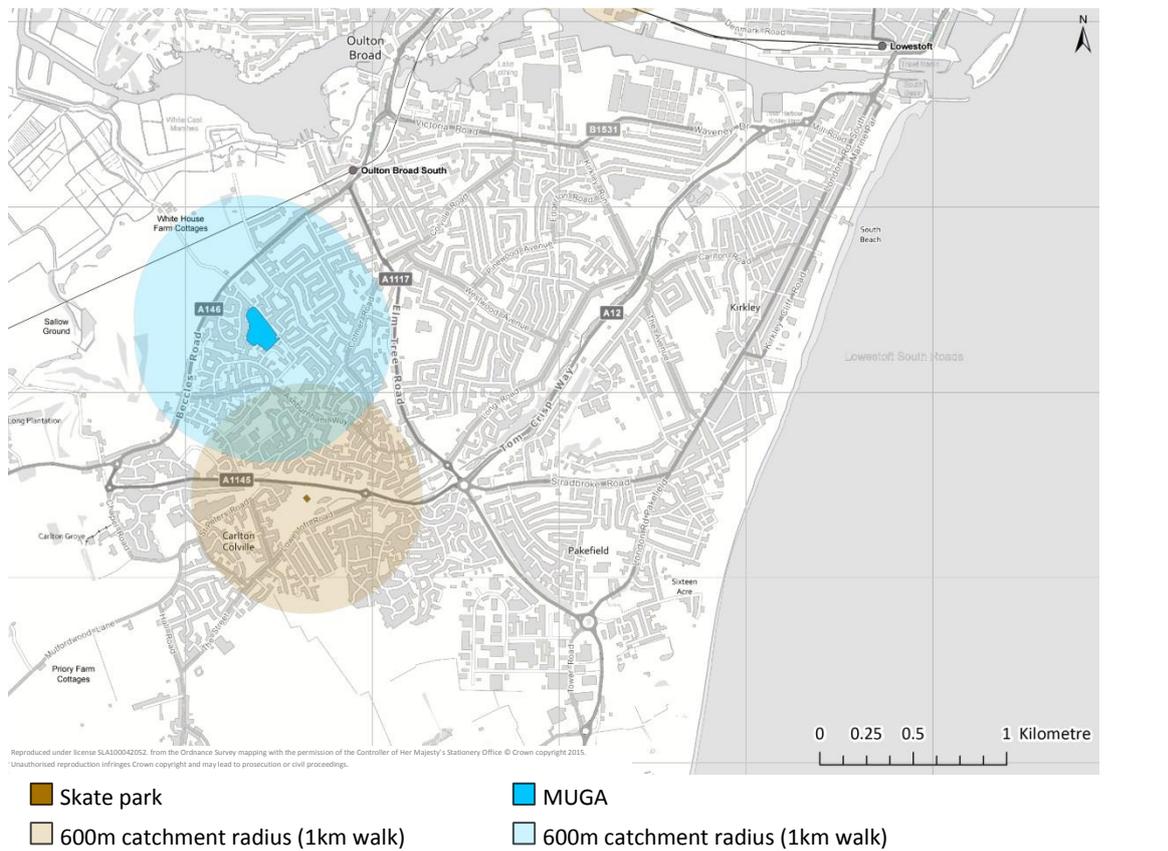


Figure 6.9: Youth play provision in South Lowestoft



Provision of equipped play spaces in Bungay

Bungay has seven equipped play spaces with three of these providing for a variety of activities and three providing limited opportunities for play (Figure 6.10 and 6.11). The play area located on the former Grammar School playing fields should provide a quality central play area for all age groups and will be complemented by a community centre in the future. The town does not have a MUGA and children have limited opportunities for ball games on sites with unrestricted access to playing pitches and courts. However, a skate park provides access for youth orientated activities on the former Grammar School playing field.

Figure 6.10: Provision of equipped play spaces in Bungay

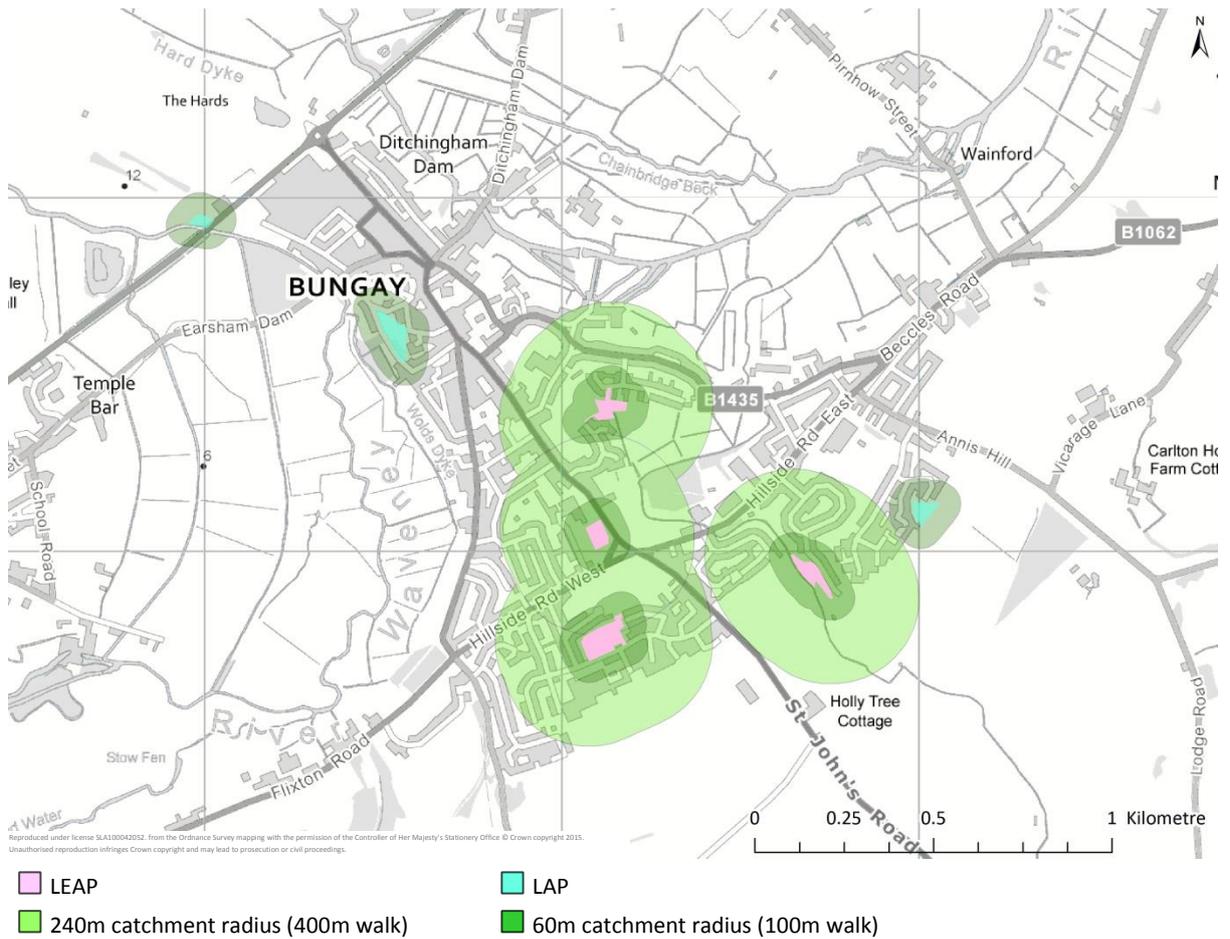
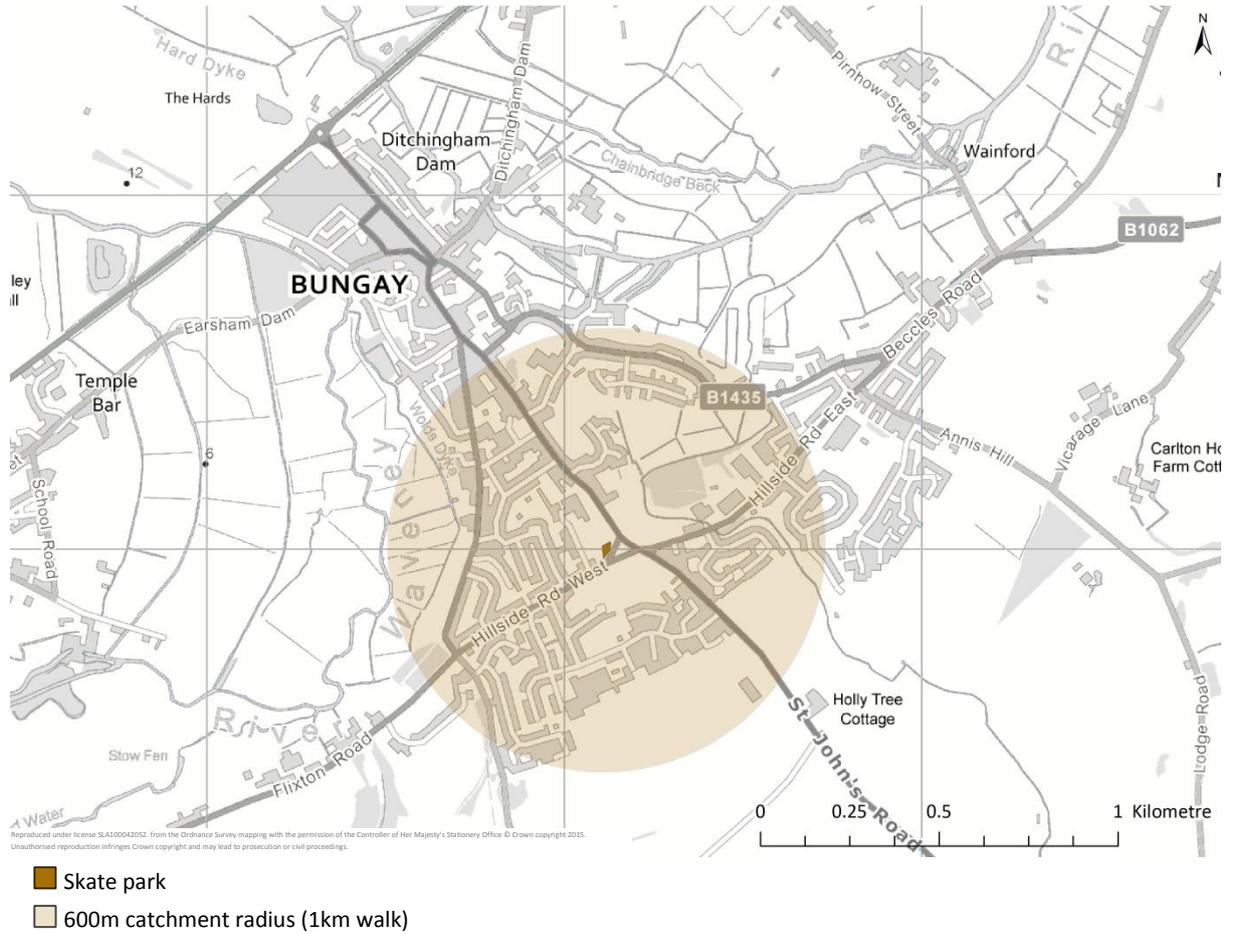


Figure 6.11: Youth play provision in Bungay



Provision of equipped play spaces in Halesworth

Ten play areas, one of these being a NEAP, are provided in the town. Town Park is located close to the town centre and provides as accessible play area for much of the population (Figure 6.12 and 6.13).

Figure 6.12: Provision of equipped play spaces in Halesworth

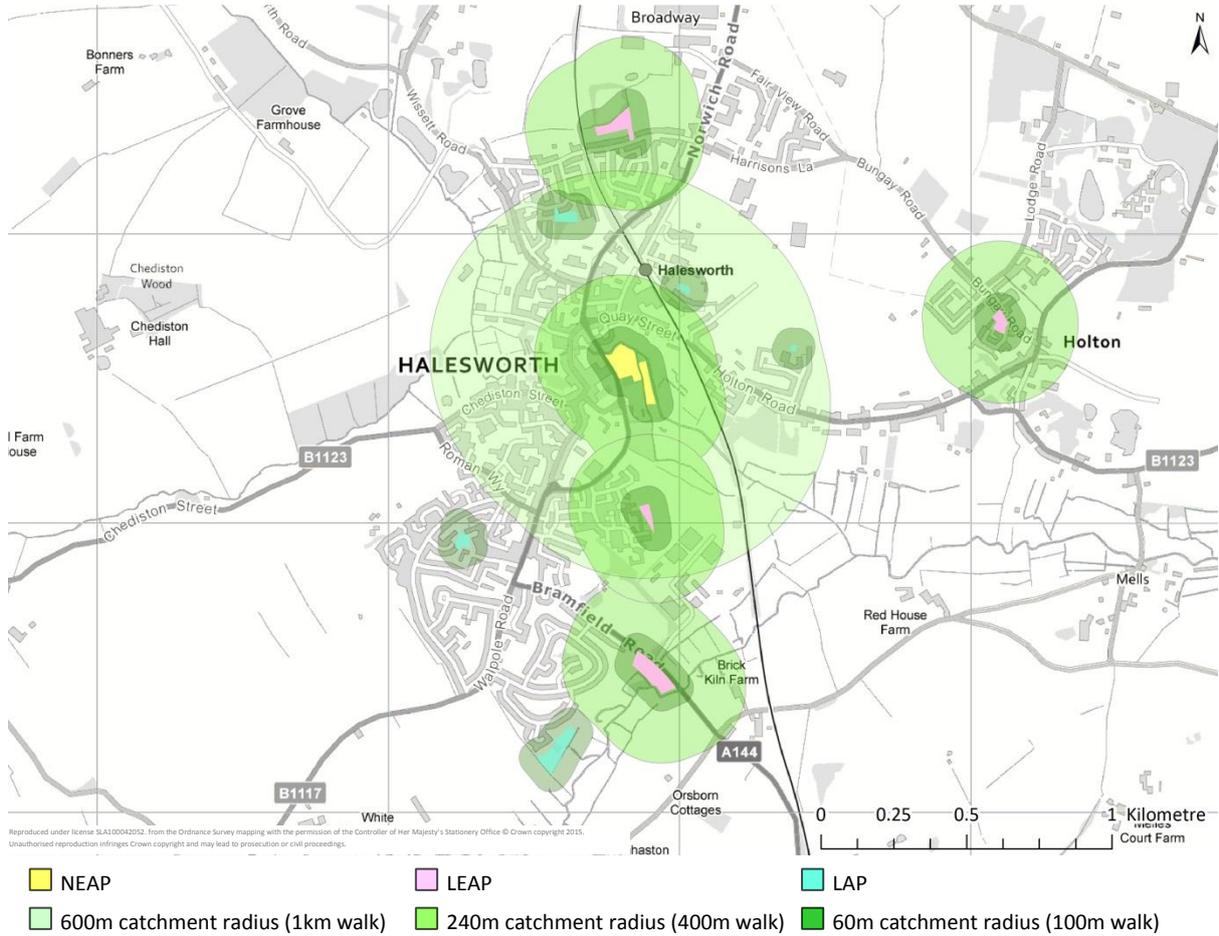
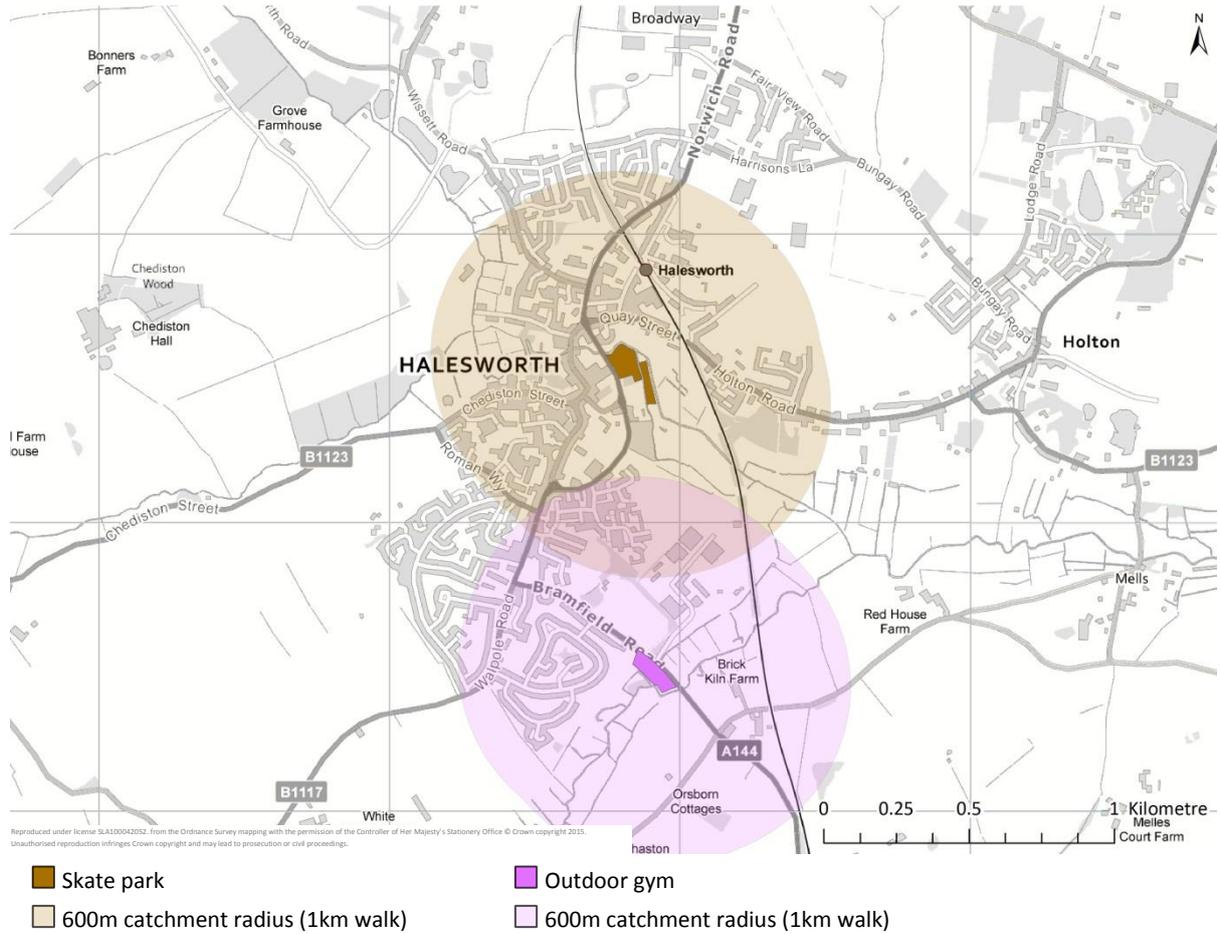


Figure 6.13: Youth play provision in Halesworth



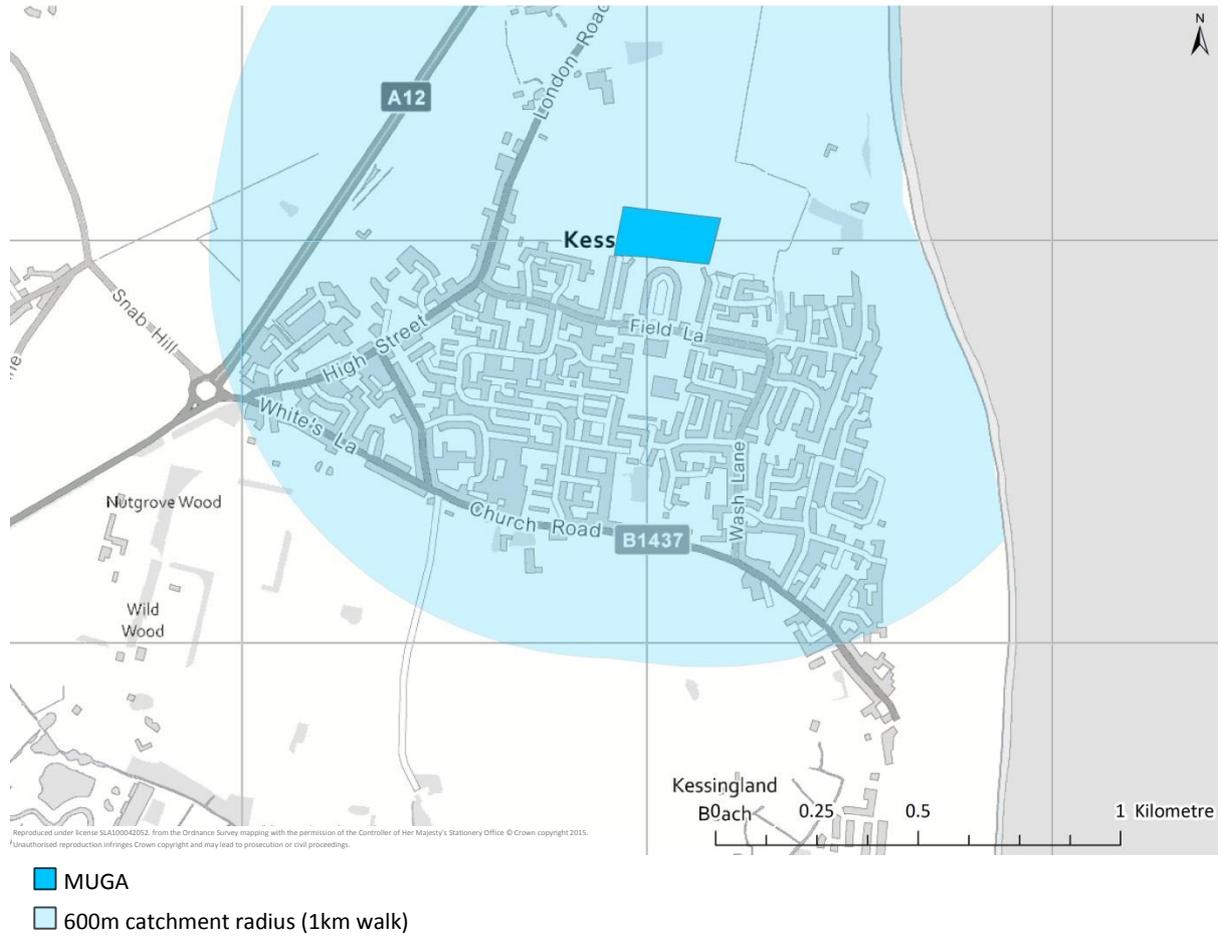
Provision of equipped play spaces in Kessingland

Kessingland has four LEAPs which cater for many of the needs of local children but there is no provision for older children (Figure 6.14 and 6.15). The village does not have a focal play space that can cater for all age groups such as a NEAP with the community centre located on the northern periphery of the village providing the only significant play space that can support play and ball sports. The High Street play area and amenity space can also support some of this activity but this is more orientated towards juniors.

Figure 6.14: Provision of equipped play spaces in Kessingland



Figure 6.15: Youth play provision in Kessingland



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Provision of equipped play spaces in North Lowestoft

North Lowestoft has a single NEAP (Montgomery Park), however, much of the area has accessible play areas in the form of LEAPs (Figure 6.16 and 6.17). The greater number of play areas makes this form of recreation more accessible to the local community.

Figure 6.16: Provision of equipped play spaces in North Lowestoft

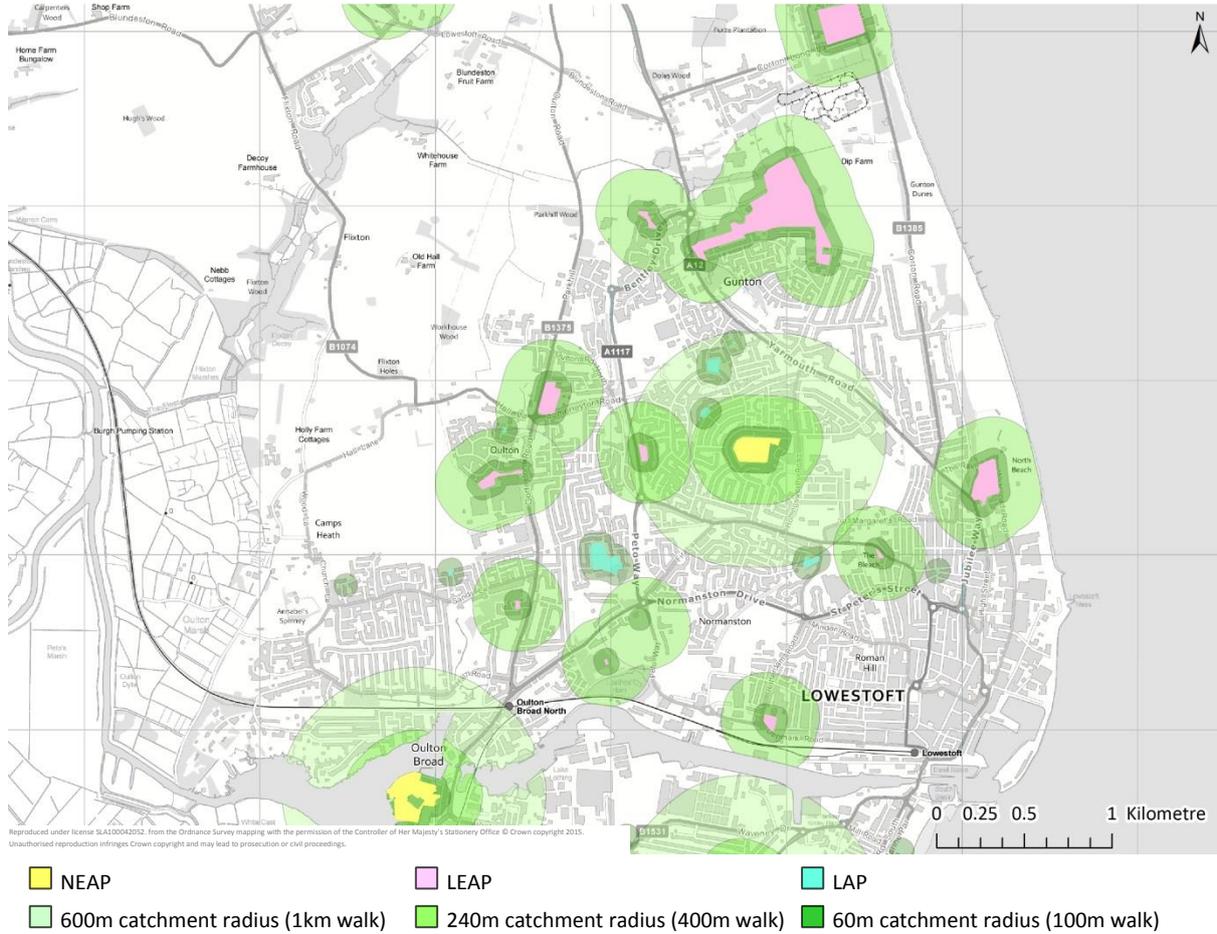
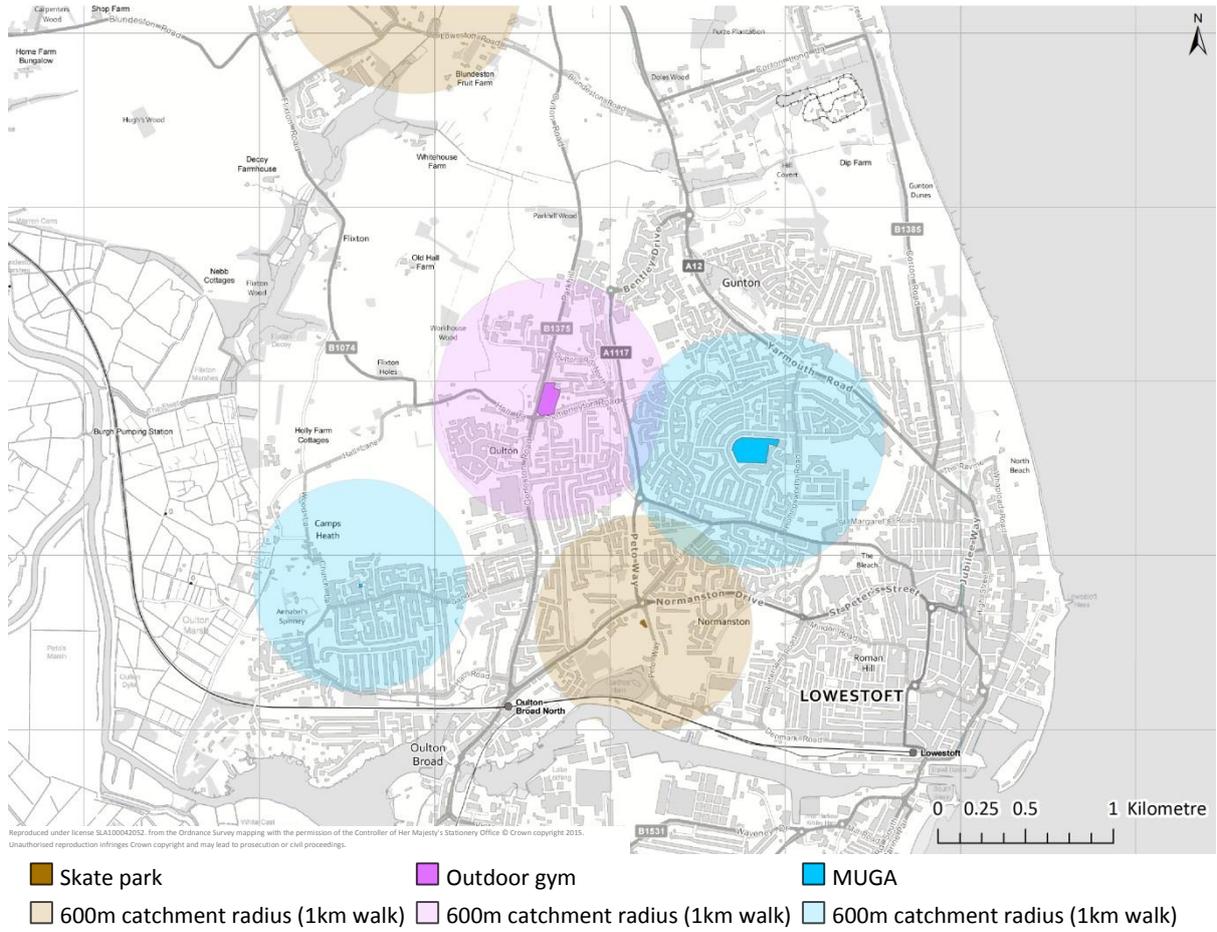


Figure 6.17: Youth play provision in North Lowestoft



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Provision of equipped play spaces in the Rural areas

The rural areas of the District have much of its provision concentrated as LEAPs (Figure 6.18 to 6.23). Reflecting the more isolated nature of these settlements these play areas have a limited number of children and can act as a destination for surrounding small villages and hamlets. Many of the play areas have a wide variety of play equipment for all ages that can meet the need of the community in one location. These community open spaces tend to be located adjacent to community playing fields and village halls to increase the focus placed on these spaces to make them easily accessible.

Figure 6.18: Provision of equipped play spaces in Barnby and North Cove

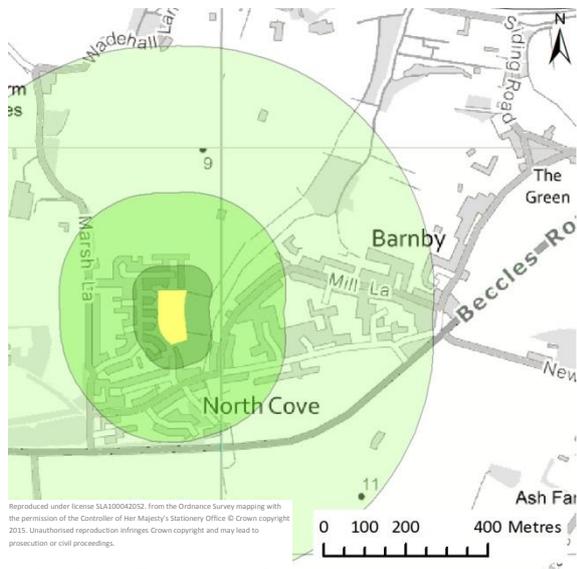


Figure 6.19: Provision of equipped play spaces in Blundeston



Figure 6.20: Provision of equipped play spaces in Corton

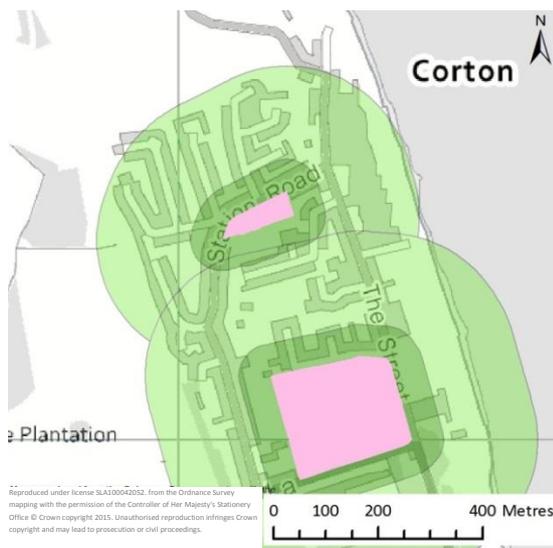
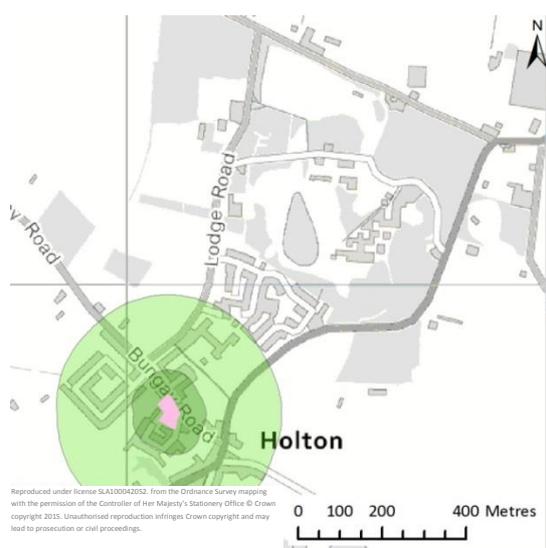


Figure 6.21: Provision of equipped play spaces in Holton



- NEAP
- LEAP
- 600m catchment radius (1km walk)
- 240m catchment radius (400m walk)
- LAP
- 60m catchment radius (100m walk)

Figure 6.22: Provision of equipped play spaces in Wangford

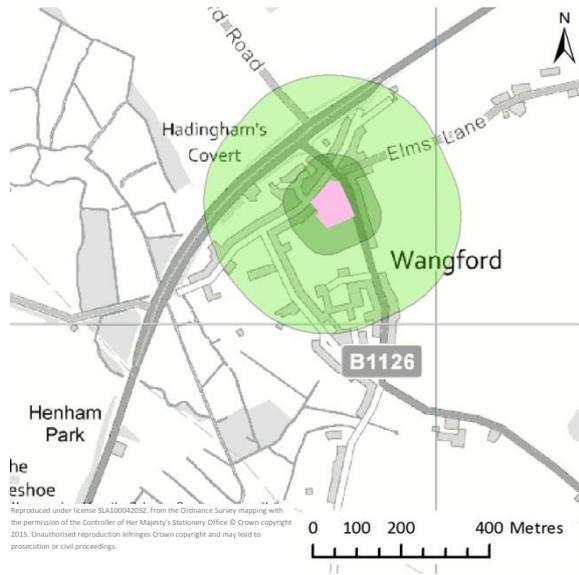
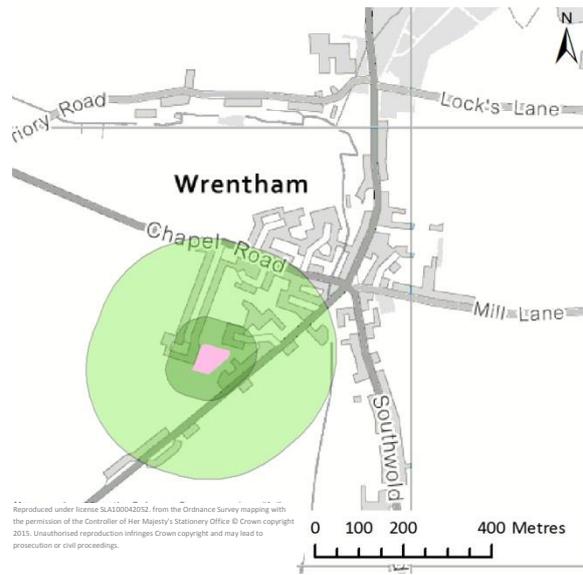


Figure 6.23: Provision of equipped play spaces in Wrentham



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
|  NEAP |  LEAP |  LAP |
|  600m catchment radius (1km walk) |  240m catchment radius (400m walk) |  60m catchment radius (100m walk) |

Accessibility

Summary of play provision and accessibility in the District

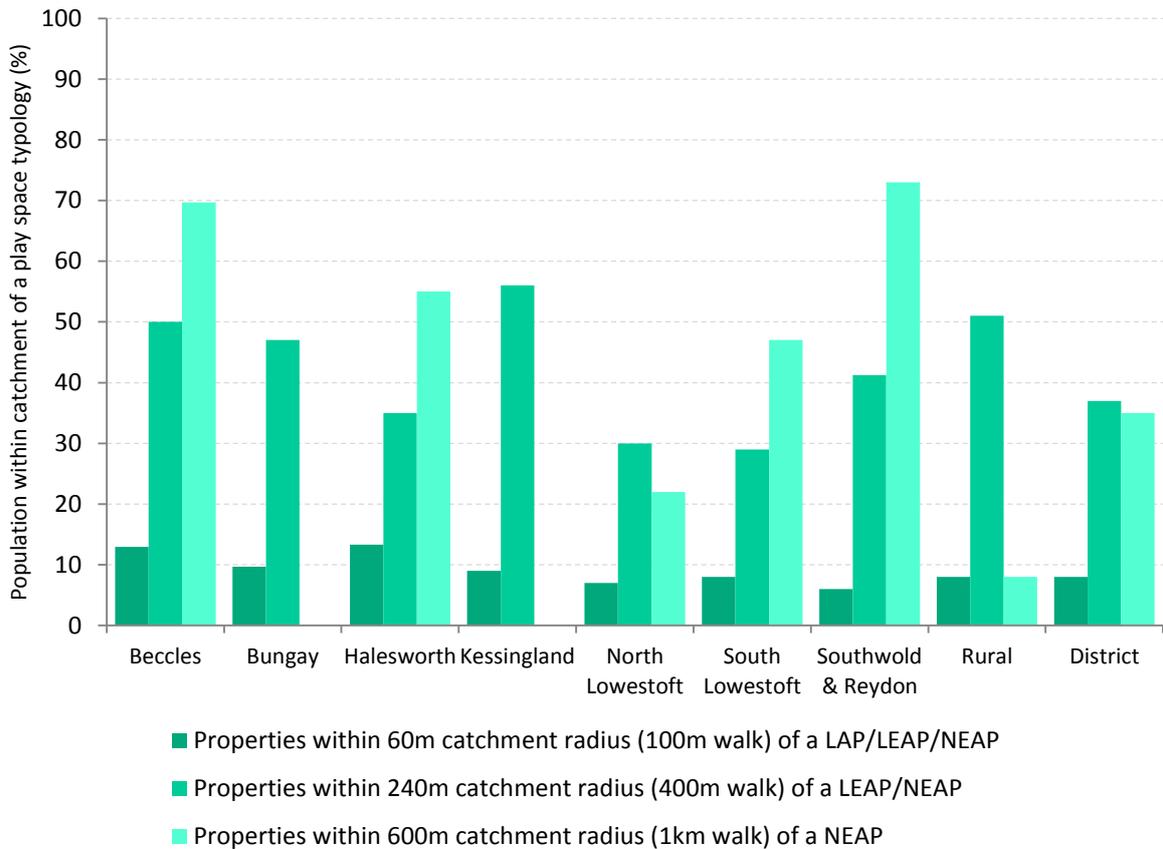
The distribution of facilities for different age groups is generally good across the District, however, there are variations between different sub areas. Table 6.7 and Figure 6.24 show the location of play areas and how accessible they are to children of different age groups. While not an adopted standard the following catchment areas have been used to visually demonstrate local provision: toddlers (100m), juniors (400m), youths (1000m). These catchment distances are the same as those used for LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs which are recommended standards by Fields In Trust.

The number of properties less than 100m walking distance (one minute walk) to a play space is relatively low. This is not surprising and should be considered in the context of local housing character such as dwellings with gardens. For larger play areas across the District approximately one third of properties meet local accessibility standards.

Table 6.7: Percentage of dwellings within the catchments of equipped play spaces

Sub area	Properties within 60m catchment radius (100m walk) of a LAP/LEAP/NEAP (%)	Properties with 240m catchment radius (400m walk) of a LEAP/NEAP (%)	Properties within 600m catchment radius (1km walk) of a NEAP (%)
Beccles	13	50	70
Bungay	10	45	0
Halesworth	13	35	52
Kessingland	8	51	0
North Lowestoft	6	28	20
South Lowestoft	8	27	44
Southwold & Reydon	6	41	73
Rural	7	48	7
District	8	32	31

Figure 6.24: Percentage of dwellings within the catchments of equipped play spaces



Barriers such as roads, train lines and water bodies can place significant limitations on the number of children who can access play areas thereby reducing the number of properties that are served by a particular site. While this is recognised catchment areas have not been amended. This is applicable to play areas such Kirkley Fen Park and Nicholas Everitt Park in South Lowestoft and Normanston Park in North Lowestoft.

Fields in Trust provides guidance about the provision of activities to create LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs rather than pieces of equipment. In this regard, play provision is better understood by the number and variety of play activities provided and how they cater for local needs rather than simply the number of pieces of equipment. Table 6.8 sets out equipped play provision for children of different age groups and Table 6.9 sets how equipped play provision relates to the number of children in each sub area.

Table 6.8: Equipped play provision for different age groups

Sub Area	Total number of equipped play spaces	Play spaces with toddler provision ⁶	Play spaces with junior provision	Play spaces with youth provision
Beccles	19	74% (14)	95% (18)	26% (5)
Bungay	8	86% (6)	86% (6)	29% (2)
Halesworth	10	60% (6)	100% (10)	20% (2)
Kessingland	5	100% (5)	100% (5)	20% (1)
North Lowestoft	24	79% (19)	83% (20)	28% (7)
South Lowestoft	30	60% (18)	97% (29)	7% (2)
Southwold & Reydon	7	86% (6)	100% (7)	86% (6)
Rural	16	93% (14)	100% (15)	33% (5)
District	119	73% (87)	92% (110)	24% (29)

Table 6.9: Play equipment and activities

Sub area	Children aged 0-16	Number of equipped play spaces	Number of items of play equipment	Number of activities	Average number of children per play space	Average number of items per play space	Average number of activities per play space
Beccles	2,462	19	163	246	130	9	13
Bungay	932	8	51	59	133	7	8
Halesworth	630	10	69	88	63	7	9
Kessingland	667	5	51	68	133	10	14
North Lowestoft	6,508	24	192	253	271	8	11
South Lowestoft	6,242	30	239	292	208	8	10
Southwold & Reydon	445	7	68	115	64	10	16
Rural	1,999	16	122	241	133	8	16
District	19,885	116	947	1357	170	8	12

Play areas in Waveney provide a good variety of activities for children of different ages groups (toddlers, juniors, youths). A majority of sites provide for toddlers which are reflected in the number of LAPs in the District.

Almost all sites cater for juniors which is particularly important as they explore different activities with their parents supervision and independently. In contrast, the number of play areas that cater for youth activities is significantly lower. Several areas do not have full MUGAs.

⁶ Number in brackets (*) denotes the number of sites where age group play equipment is available.

Southwold & Reydon is the only sub area that has a high proportion of its sites providing for youth activities (86%). South Lowestoft has only two sites that cater for youth activities (7% of all play areas). In contrast, North Lowestoft has six play areas catering for youths despite having less open spaces in total compared to South Lowestoft.

The average number of items provided in play areas in the District is relatively consistent ranging between 6 and 10. It is notable the average number of items per place space shows little relationship to the number of play spaces in each sub area.

[Provision of play facilities for children with disabilities](#)

In Waveney there is very little provision of equipment available for children with disabilities. Play equipment can be used by people with different types of disabilities in an informal manner, however, only two swings are registered as providing equipment for disabled people. These are located at Bentley Drive (North Lowestoft) and Werel's Loke (Worlingham).

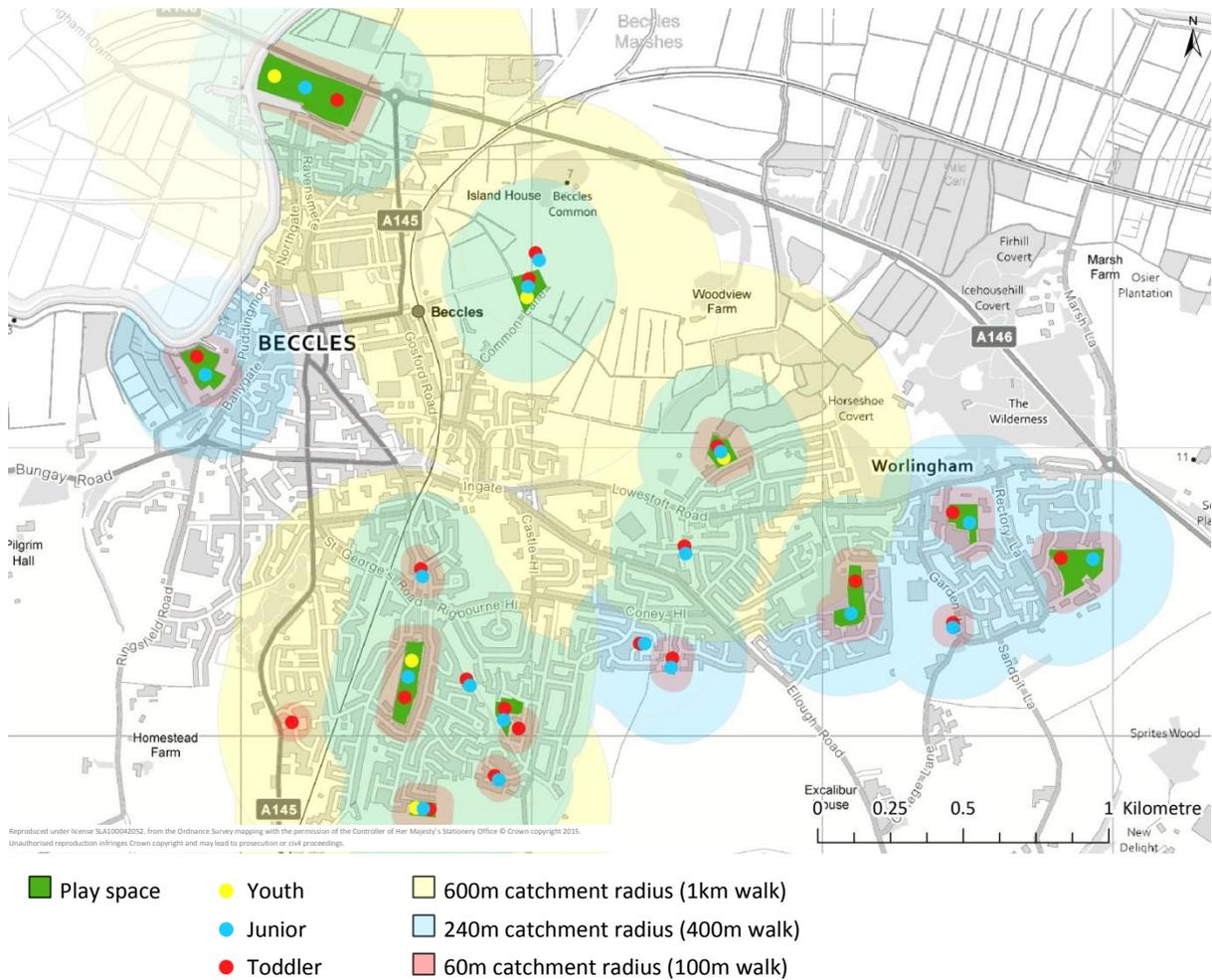
Provision of facilities for children with disabilities as part of a park would benefit people in the District. A park provides opportunities for a variety of activities that are both formal and informal in nature and the destination parks have ancillary facilities such as toilets. Potential schemes or types of appropriate equipment provision that would contribute towards meeting any latent demand should be explored anticipate opportunities that may arise to deliver such facilities.

Summary of accessibility and age group play provision in the Beccles area

Provision for toddlers and juniors is good where equipped play space is available although coverage in Worlingham is significantly better than in the neighbouring Beccles wards (Figure 6.25). People in central Beccles have limited access to play spaces for toddlers and juniors. Provision for the youth age group in Beccles is good (except in the vicinity of Waveney Meadow) but youth provision in Worlingham is limited.

Over half of households in Beccles are within the catchment area of a LEAP and over 70% are within comfortable walking distance to a NEAP.

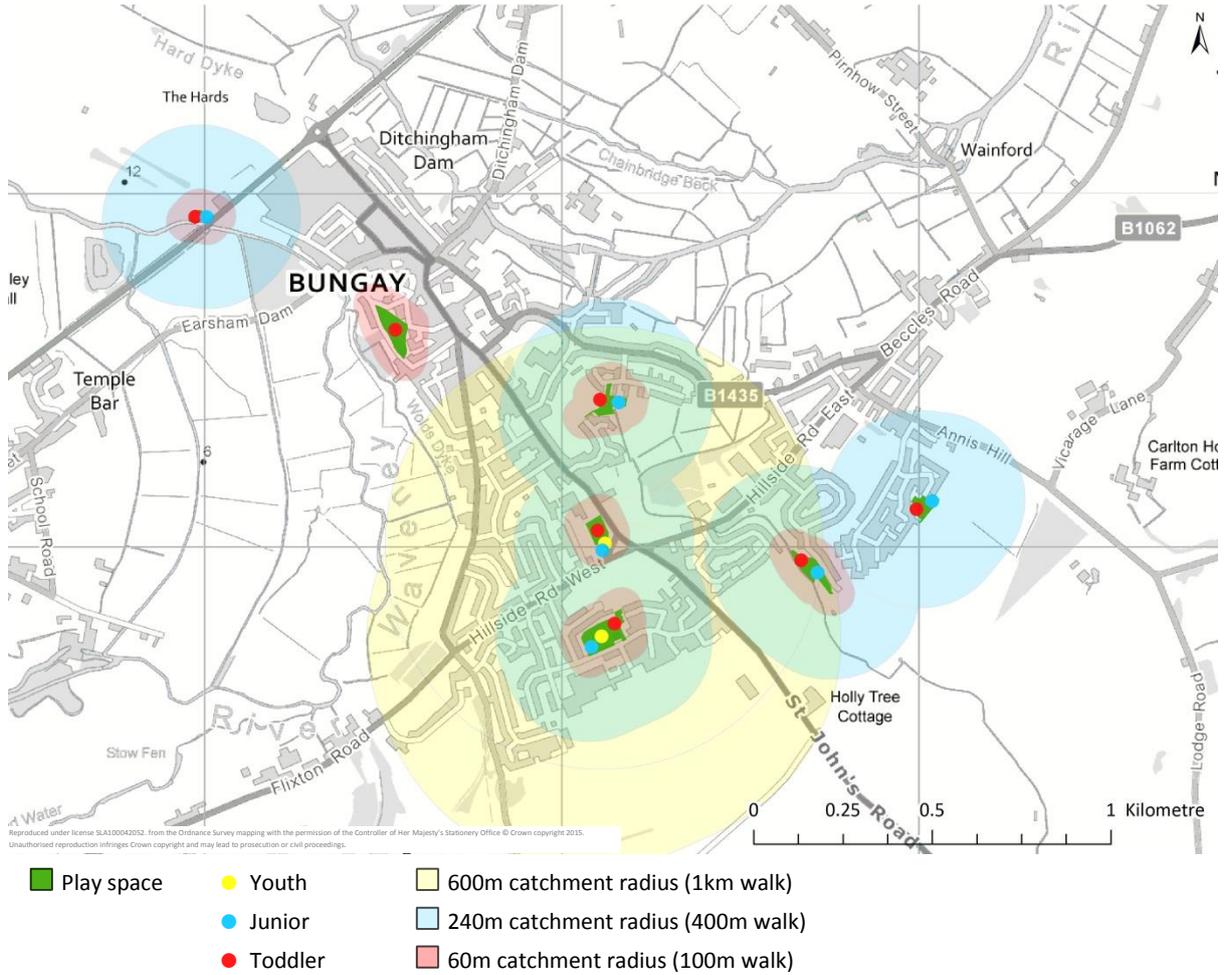
Figure 6.25: Age group play provision in Beccles



Summary of accessibility and age group play provision in the Bungay area

Play provision for all three age groups in the south of Bungay is good (Figure 6.26). Provision in the north of the town provides limited access for local residents and visitors. Less than half of the population has access to a LEAP and there are no NEAPs provided. When considering the relatively low scores for quality and value this is an area that requires attention to improve access to these types of facilities.

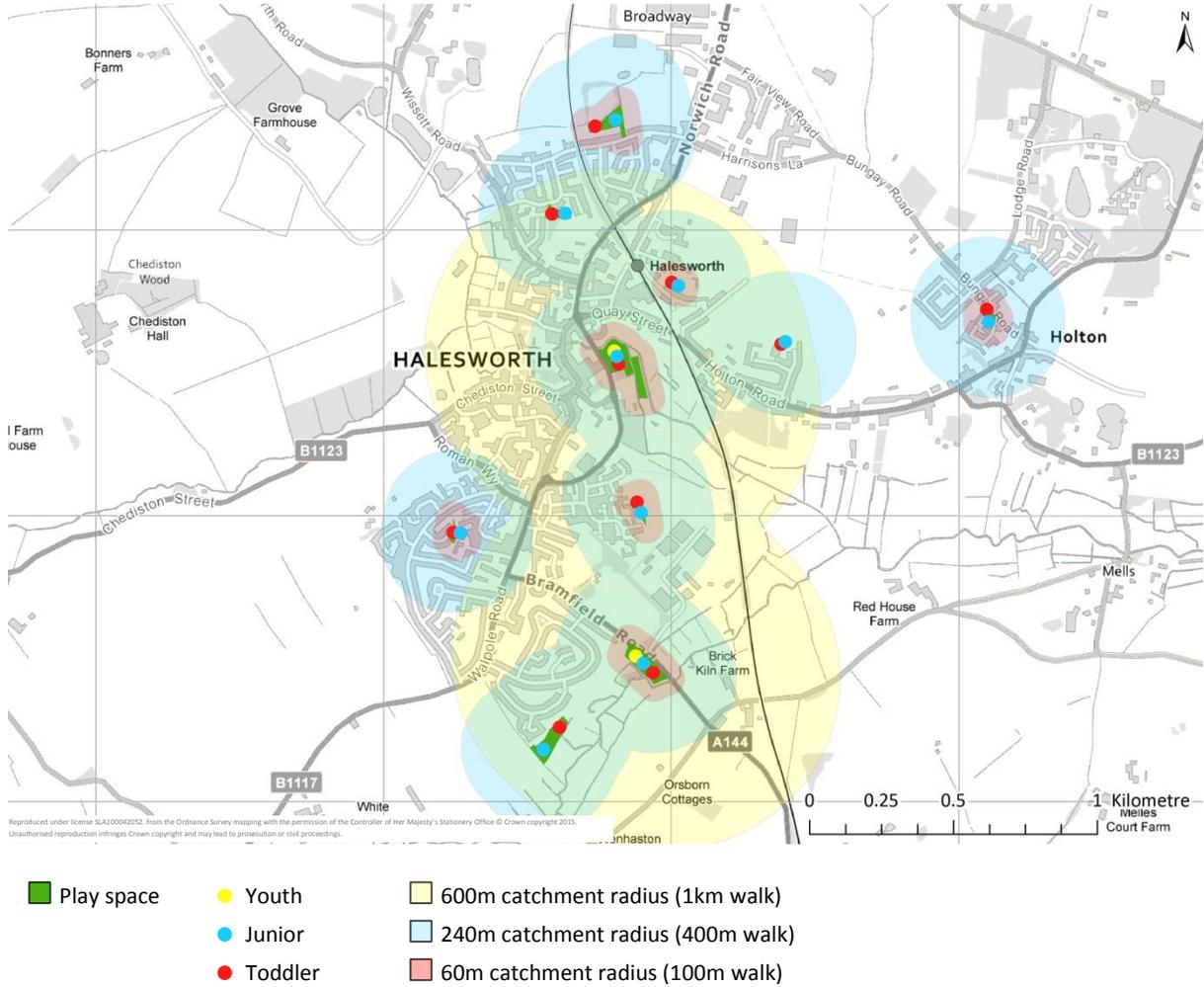
Figure 6.26: Age group play provision in Bungay



Summary of accessibility and age group play provision in the Halesworth area

Halesworth has good play provision per child compared to other towns and villages in Waveney (about 60% lower than the District average). Overall coverage for different age groups in Halesworth is good (Figure 6.27).

Figure 6.27: Age group play provision in Halesworth

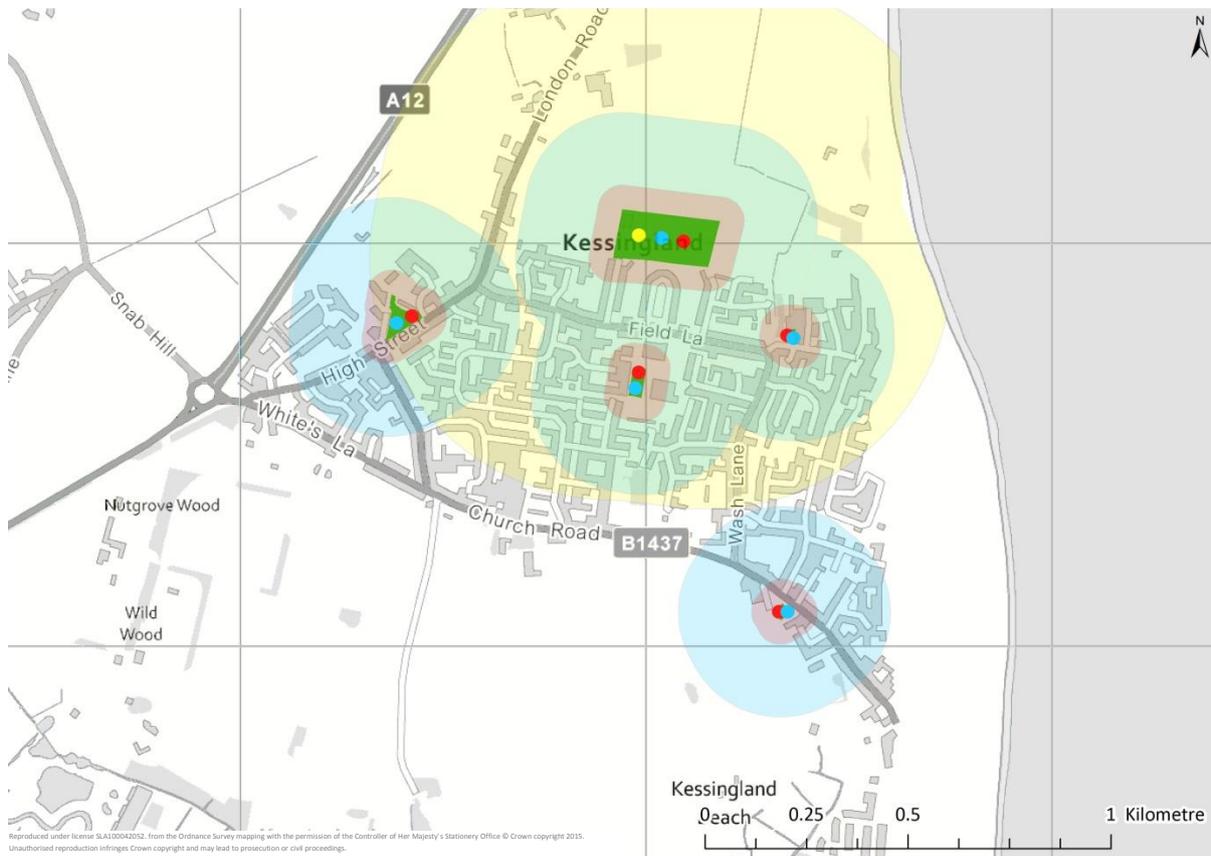


Summary of accessibility and age group play provision in the **Kessingland** area

Access to LAPs and LEAPs in Kessingland is reasonable, however, the village has no access to a play area of high quality offering a variety of activities for all age groups (Figure 6.28). The distribution of play spaces provides good access to equipped play areas in the village. Youth provision is only provided at the playing fields site with junior provision well distributed across five sites.

The average number of items and activities per play space is relatively high which increases their value to local people and encourages greater use. It is important their quality is maintained. This is particularly important when related to the limited amount of amenity space available for children to use for unequipped and informal play and activities associated with ball games.

Figure 6.28: Age group play provision in Kessingland



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ■ Play space | ● Youth | 600m catchment radius (1km walk) |
| ● Junior | ● Toddler | 240m catchment radius (400m walk) |
| | | 60m catchment radius (100m walk) |

Summary of accessibility and age group play provision in the **North Lowestoft** area

North Lowestoft and South Lowestoft have the poorest access to play spaces in the District. This coincides with these areas also having the largest populations. In these areas play facilities are likely to serve a wider part of the community and have greater use given there is less provision overall. Concentrated provision also creates more of a focal point in the community if facilities are of good quality and value.

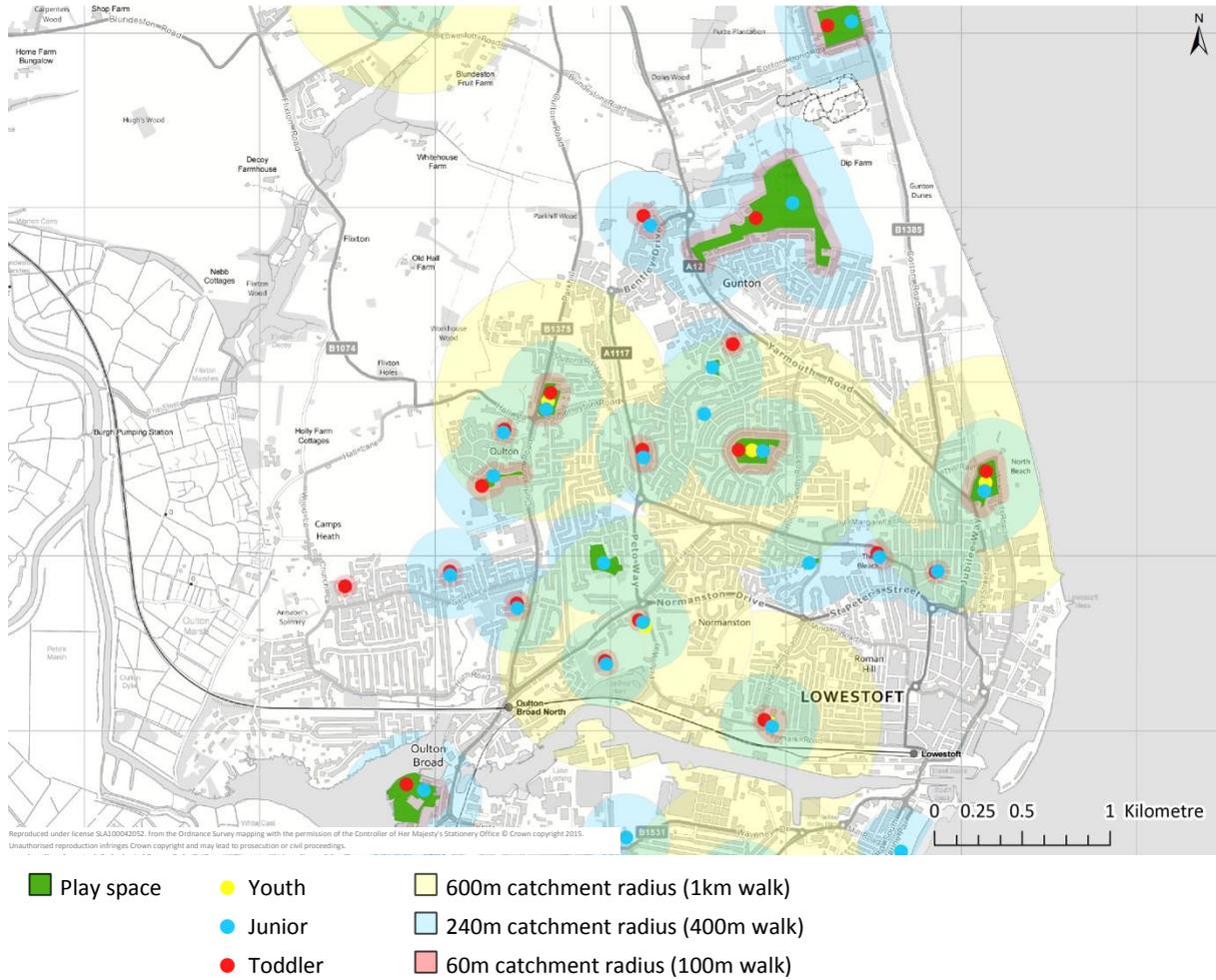
North and South Lowestoft have similar provision in terms of items and activities although North Lowestoft has six fewer play spaces. North Lowestoft has only one NEAP compared to four in South Lowestoft, however, this demonstrates that play provision is more consistent across the sub area despite not have many larger play areas that can be the focal point for the wider community.

South Lowestoft has six LEAPs and four NEAPs compared with North Lowestoft which has twelve LEAPs and a solitary NEAP. The greater number of play spaces providing a good range of facilities indicates that play provision is more consistent across North Lowestoft despite not have many larger play areas that can be the focal point for the wider community. Play spaces in North Lowestoft categorised as LEAPs are more likely to fulfil the role of a NEAP due to reduced accessibility to the larger equipped play spaces. The difference in accessibility reflects the different patterns of accessibility to multi-functional provision open spaces such as parks (greater accessibility in South Lowestoft).

Play provision for juniors is good with less provision for youths and toddlers (Figure 6.29). Access to facilities in Oulton, Gunton and central Lowestoft is limited and should be addressed either through new provision where opportunities arise or improvement to the quality of sites to increase value for local residents.

The Waveney Open Space Needs Assessment (2006) recommended a standard of 33 pieces of equipment per 1000 children. All sub areas in Waveney with the exception of North Lowestoft adequately provide enough equipment for children to use. The deficit in North Lowestoft is not significant (five pieces across the sub area).

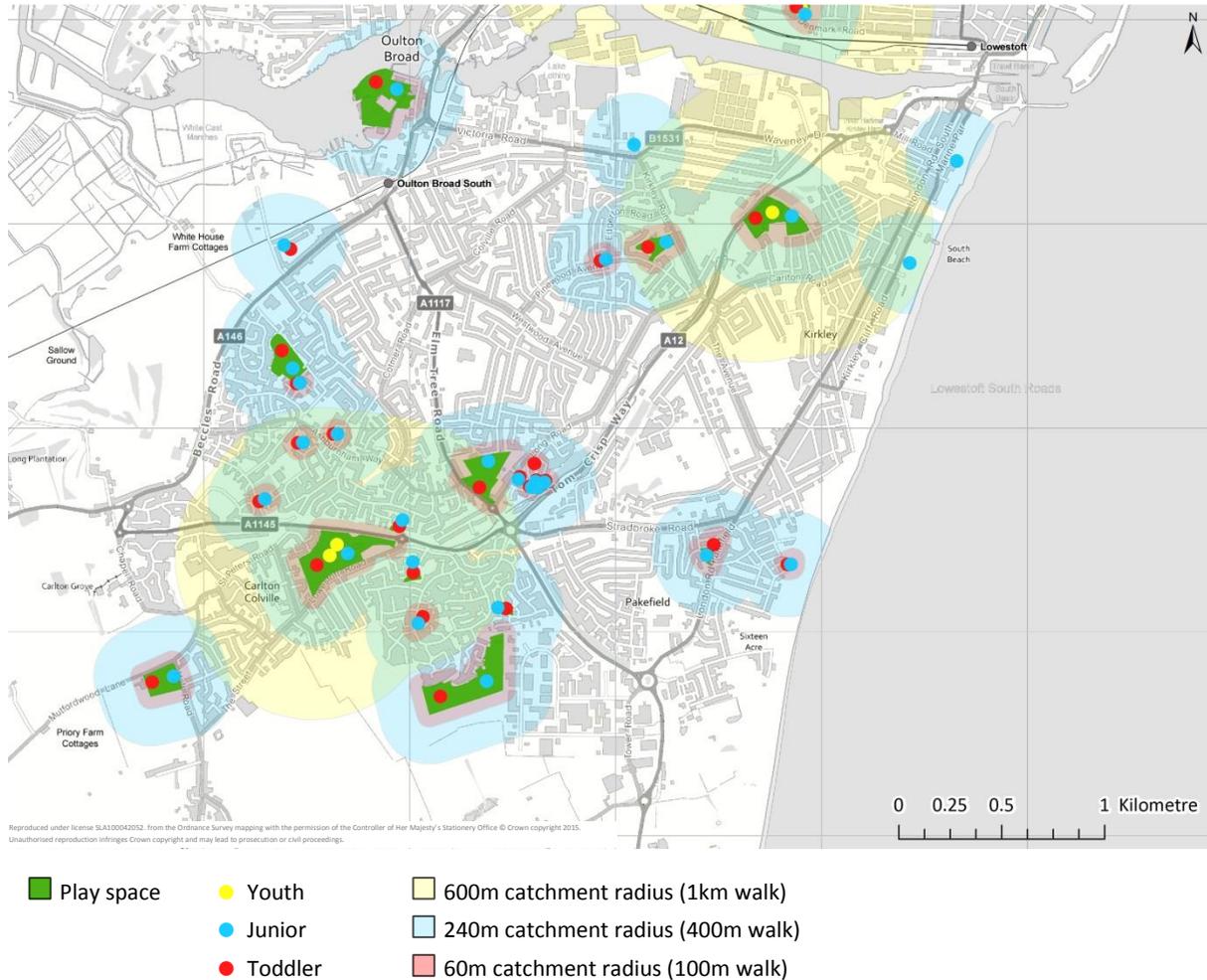
Figure 6.29: Age group play provision in North Lowestoft



Summary of accessibility and age group play provision in the **South Lowestoft** area

Significant areas of South Lowestoft have poor access to play facilities (Figure 6.30). Youth provision is concentrated on two sites, both of which are local parks, and overall accessibility should be improved. Junior and toddler provision is good where open space is available, however, catchment areas demonstrate limited overlapping indicating accessibility is an issue for parts of South Lowestoft.

Figure 6.30: Age group play provision in South Lowestoft



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Summary of accessibility and age group play provision in the Southwold & Reydon area

Provision of play facilities for residents and visitors in Southwold is good. Reydon has a younger population than Southwold and is reasonably well served by play spaces. Overall provision for the different age groups, toddlers, juniors and youths, is good (Figure 6.31).

Figure 6.31: Age group play provision in Southwold & Reydon



- Play space
- Youth
- 600m catchment radius (1km walk)
- 240m catchment radius (400m walk)
- Toddler
- 60m catchment radius (100m walk)

Summary of accessibility and age group play provision in the Rural areas

Access to play facilities in rural areas is similar to the rest of the District overall, however, access to NEAPs is limited. Rural communities tend to be more dispersed therefore meeting accessibility standards is more difficult. It is more important to have access to a quality play area such as a LEAP that can be a focus for local activities rather than in close proximity to a play space with less quality and value that does not encourage use by local children.

Rural communities often have a single open space that provides for a variety of activities. Across the District, play provision in rural communities is generally good for toddlers and juniors, however, facilities for older children are limited and more difficult to access.

Rural areas have spaces that have average provision in terms of number of items, however, the variety of activities they provide for different age groups is high. This type of provision is likely to encourage people to use the facilities and give them greater value to the community.

The play spaces in the larger villages are quite central to the local populations (Figure 6.32 to 6.36). Generally they are quite well overlooked and open spaces have multiple entry points that enable good accessibility. The only exception to this is the play space located at Bonsey Gardens in Wrentham. While adjacent to an area of housing the site is peripheral to residents. The site has no street frontage, access points are not obvious and the site suffers from little natural surveillance from neighbouring properties. It is, however, the only play area in the village and is of good quality.

Figure 6.32: Age group play provision in Barnby and North Cove

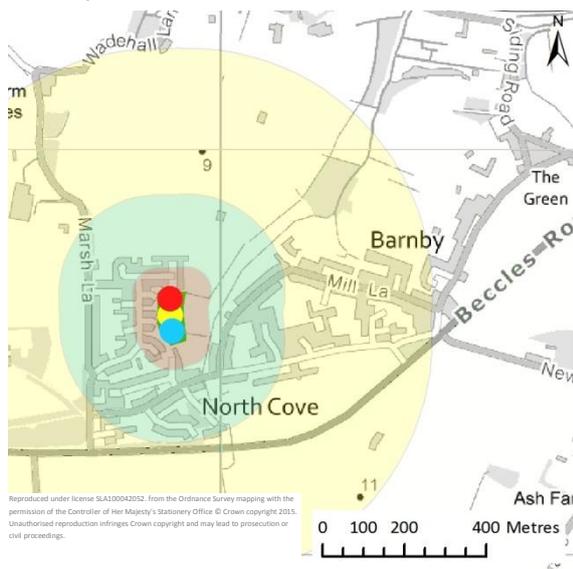


Figure 6.33: Age group play provision in Blundeston



Figure 6.34: Age group play provision in Corton

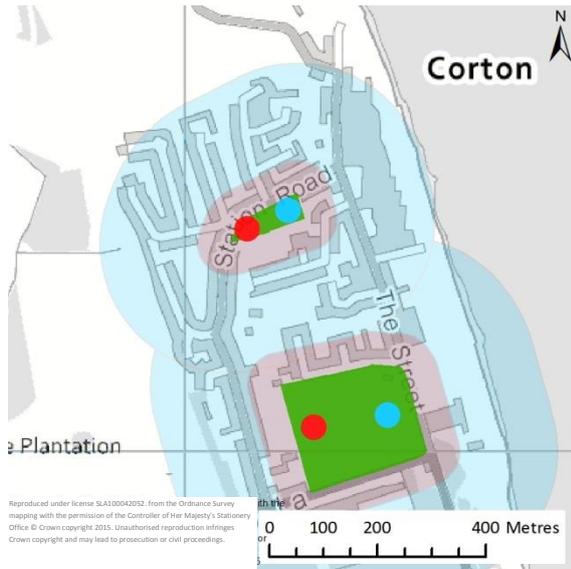


Figure 6.35: Age group play provision in Holton

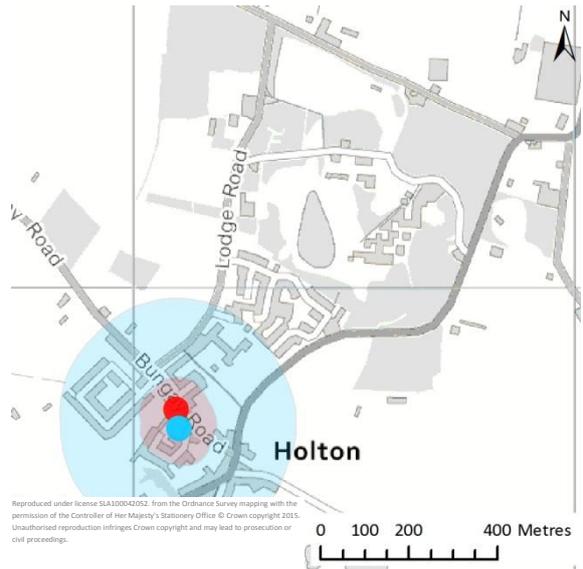
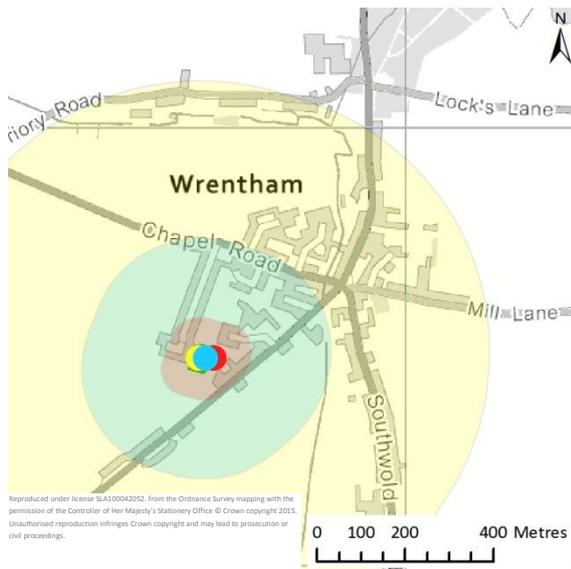


Figure 6.36: Age group play provision in Wrentham



- Play space
- Youth
- 600m catchment radius (1km walk)
- Junior
- 240m catchment radius (400m walk)
- Toddler
- 60m catchment radius (100m walk)

Small villages in the District that have equipped play spaces are listed below.

- Frostenden
- Homersfield
- Mutford
- Ringsfield
- Rumburgh
- Shadingfield
- Somerleyton
- Westhall

Quality and value of equipped play spaces

The quality and value of an equipped play area reflects the provision and condition of the features and characteristics. The attributes assessed for their quality are set out in Table 6.10. Scores were standardised to enable quality and value ratings to be comparable.

Table 6.10: Quality and value attributes

Quality attributes	Value attributes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall site condition • Cleanliness • Fencing • Surface • Paths • Misuse, abuse, vandalism • Extent of usage • Supplementary facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age group provision • Age of equipment • Accessibility for users with disabilities • Safety • Proximity to housing • Travel distance for children • Informal supervision • Isolated location • Unsafe location • Area for unequipped play

The quality and value assessments for each sub area and the proportion of quality scores is set out in Figures 6.37 and 6.38.

Figure 6.37: Proportion of low, medium and high quality equipped play spaces

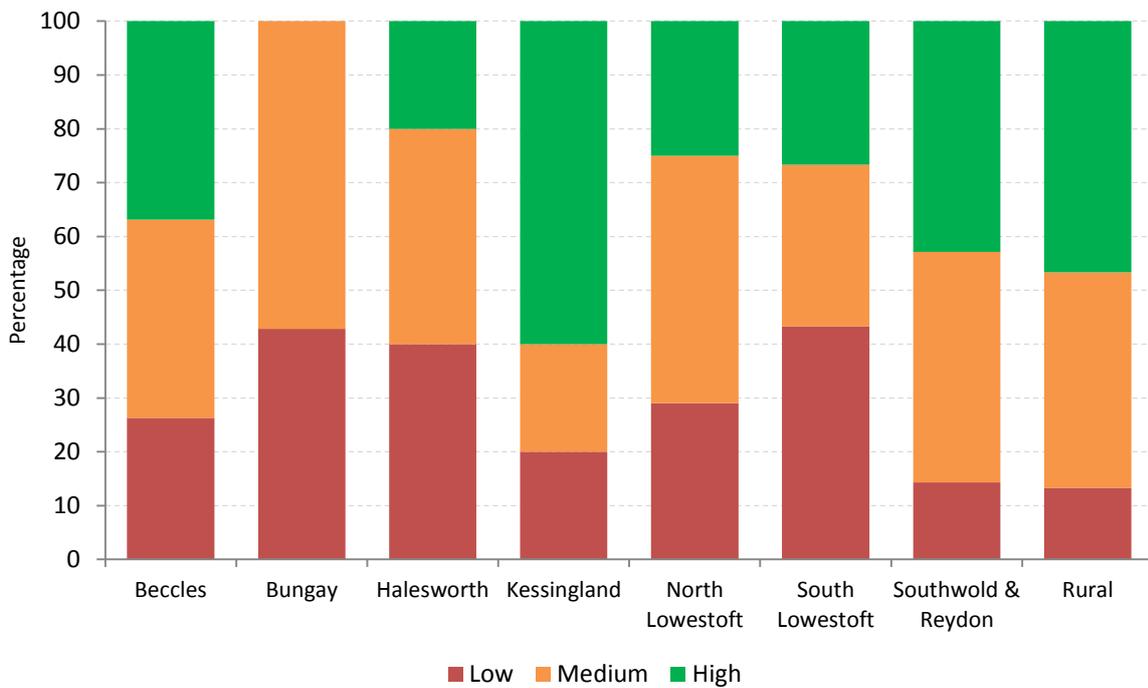
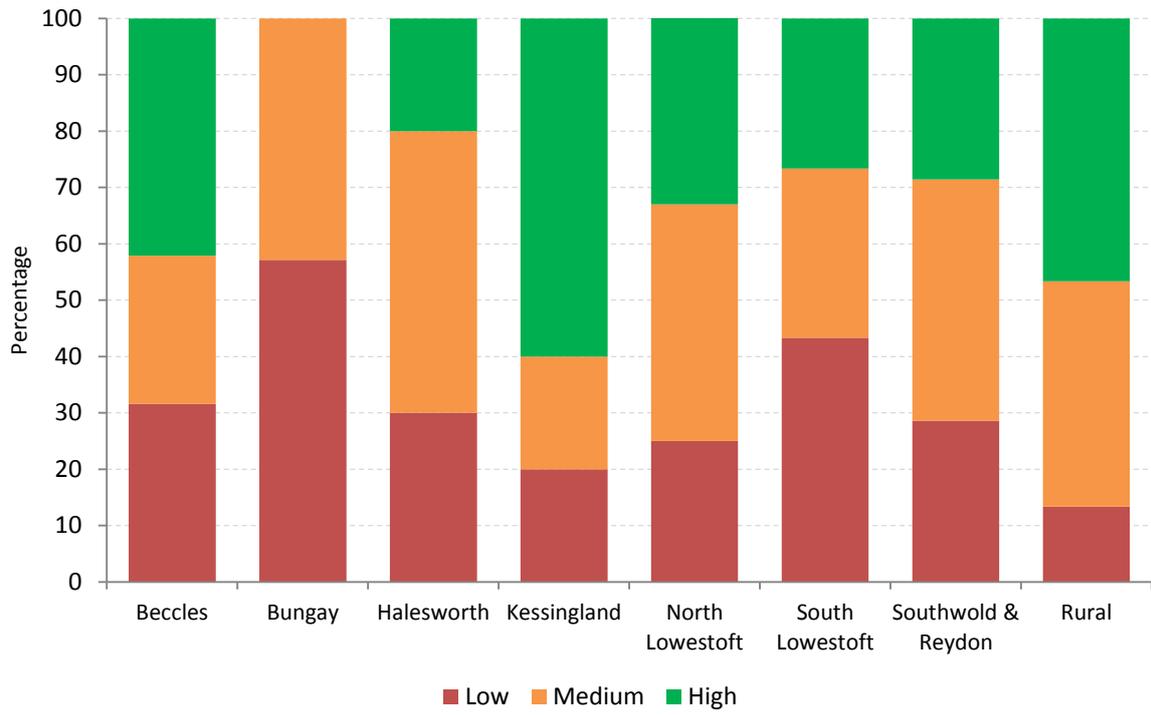


Figure 6.38: Proportion of low, medium and high value equipped play spaces



Quality and value of equipped play spaces in the Beccles area

The high quality of provision offering higher value is located in Worlingham (Figures 6.39 and 6.40). Beccles itself has limited access to play facilities. Darby Road offers the most important play area in the town as it is well located within the residential area. Other play areas in the town are peripheral despite offering a good range of play facilities for children (eg. The Quay, Nicholson Drive). The residential areas close to the town centre are poorly served by play provision which indicates that play spaces in surrounding areas should offer higher value. Quality play spaces tend to be located on larger open spaces such as parks. Improvements to equipped play areas should be considered in the context of their surroundings, other open spaces in the vicinity, the role they fulfil in the locality and the amount of use they will realistically receive once they are improved.

Figure 6.39: Quality of equipped play spaces in Beccles

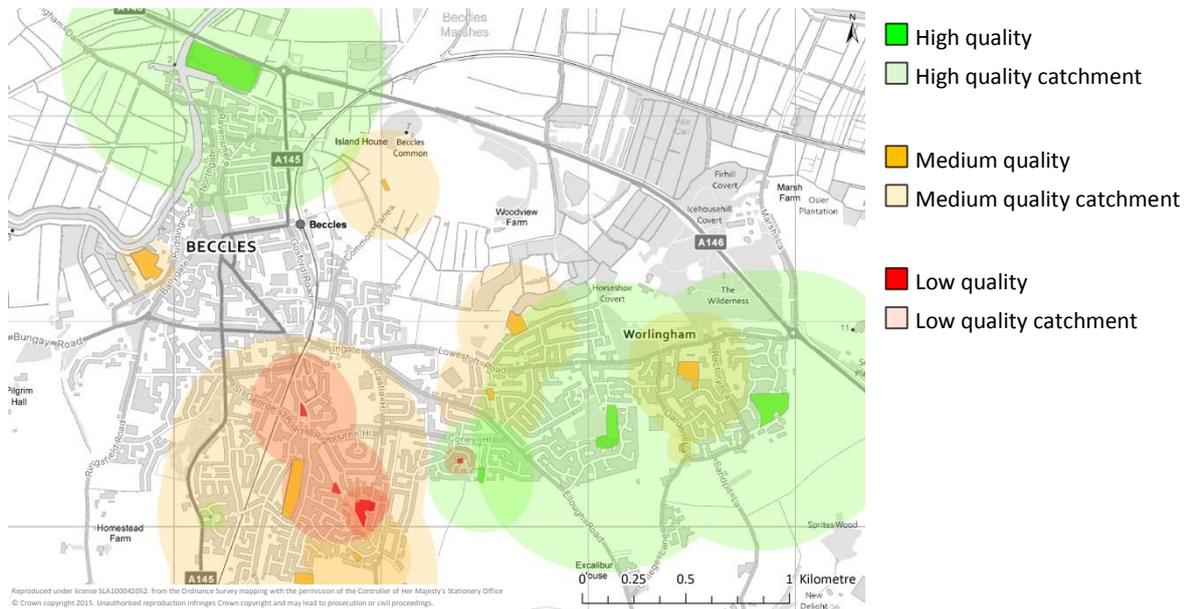


Figure 6.40: Value of equipped play spaces in Beccles



Quality and value of equipped play spaces in the **Bungay** area

In late 2014 a new equipped play area for toddlers was installed on the former Grammar School playing fields with provision for juniors anticipated in early 2015. These have been delivered to create a new focal point in the community as part of the community centre development. With an existing skate park on site this provides activities for children and young people of all ages. The loss of the playing fields, however, results in a further shortfall of unequipped play areas that can support informal activities such as ball games and general 'running around'. Aside from this new play space there were no equipped play areas offering high quality or value indicating that play spaces need to be improved in general (Figures 6.41 and 6.42). This is particularly important as the overall coverage and accessibility to play space is limited. The residential area around Kings Road has a single play space which is well located, however, it offers poor quality and value and the sloping nature of the site restricts its overall potential to be a quality play area. This is one of only two well located play areas (the other being Garden Close) offering good accessibility to local residents.

The other spaces are located towards the periphery of residential areas rather than being integrated into them. These spaces should be prioritised for improvement to reflect their importance. The same issue is present in the north of the town around the town centre (similar to Beccles).

The skate park at the former Grammar School is the only play area equipped for youths. The town has no MUGA and poor access to open space that can support informal activities such as ball games does not encourage participation in physical activities. This is further compounded by the loss of most of the former Grammar School playing fields site as a public amenity space. Opportunities should be sought to deliver accessible open space that can support informal play activities.

Bungay exhibits similar quality and value characteristics to South Lowestoft, however, this is spread over only seven play areas and may be easier to remedy although it also highlights that a higher proportion of the residential population in Bungay is likely to have less access to a quality play space near home.

Figure 6.41: Quality of equipped play spaces in Bungay

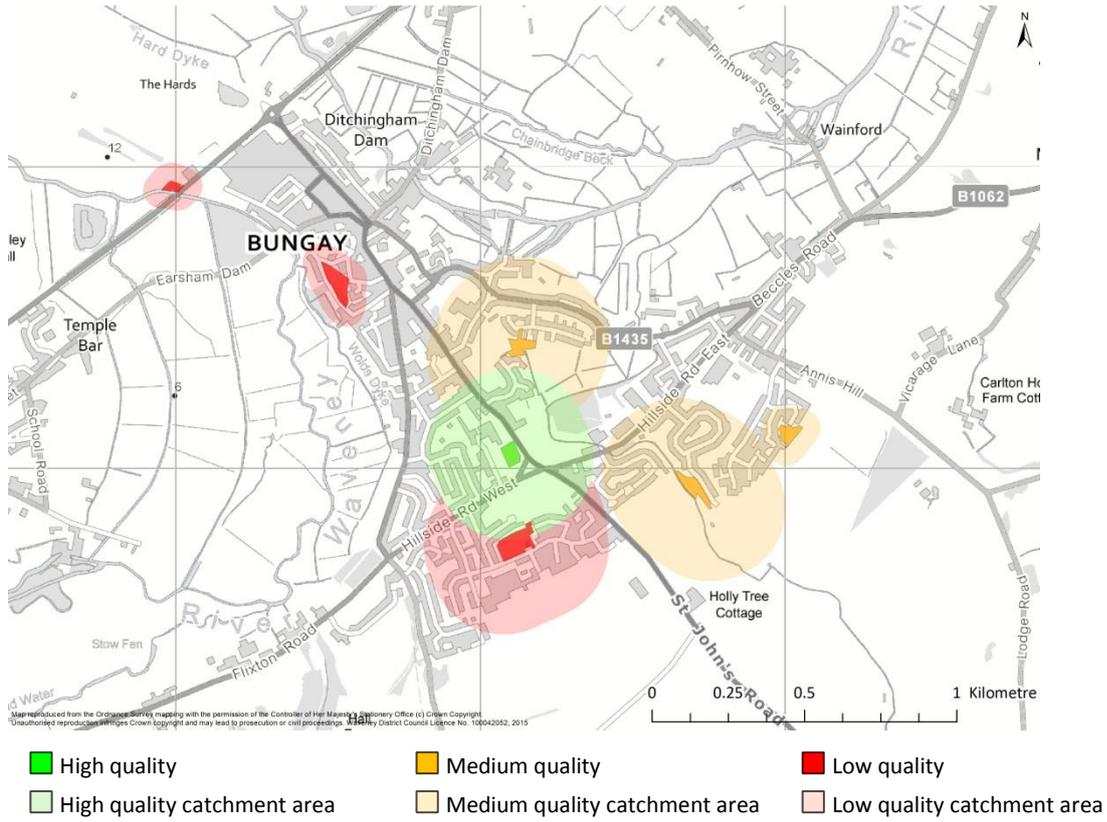
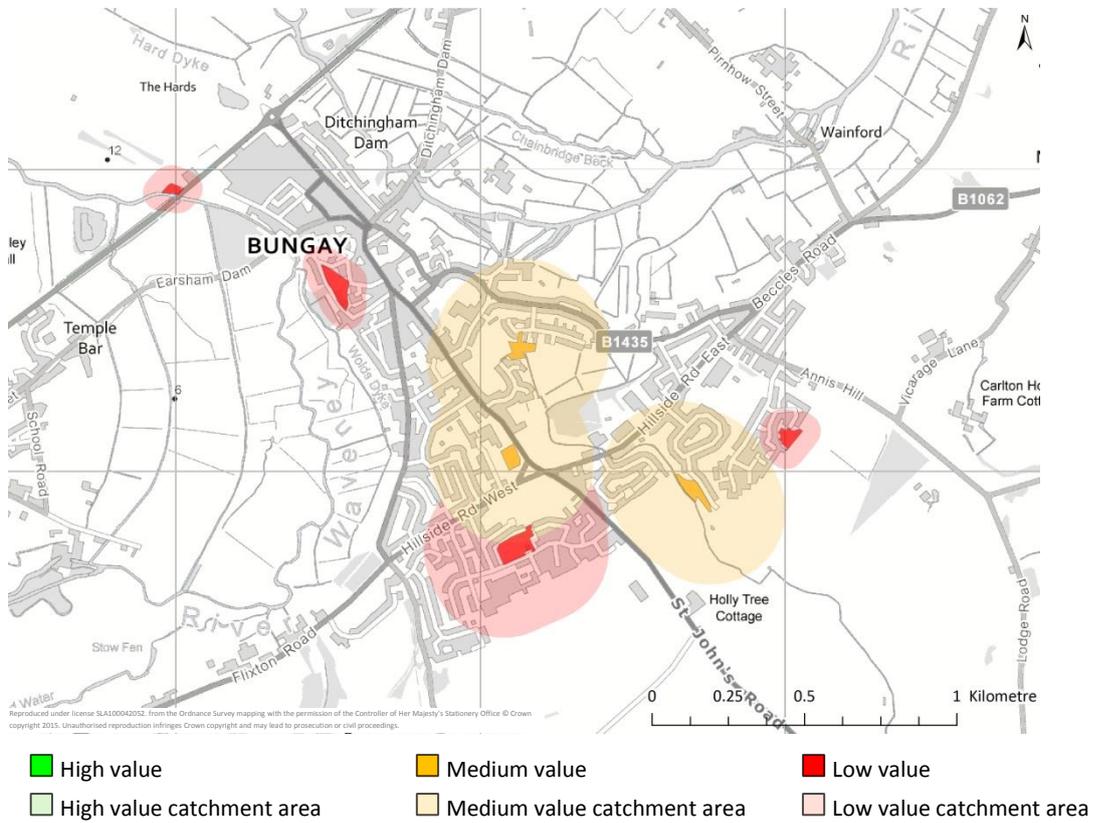


Figure 6.42: Value of equipped play spaces in Bungay



Quality and value of equipped play spaces in the Halesworth area

Play areas in Halesworth are of medium and high value for the most part, however, lower quality scores indicate these could be improved (Figures 6.43 and 6.44). The distribution of play areas is good with most being of medium quality and value except in the south west and north east of the town. Bramfield Road offers the highest quality space with facilities for all three age groups (toddler, junior and youth), however, it is peripheral for much of the residential population. In contrast, Gainsborough Drive is well located in relation to local people but is of poor quality and value. Similar to other market towns, larger open spaces such as Town Park offer the best quality and value.

Figure 6.43: Quality of equipped play spaces in Halesworth

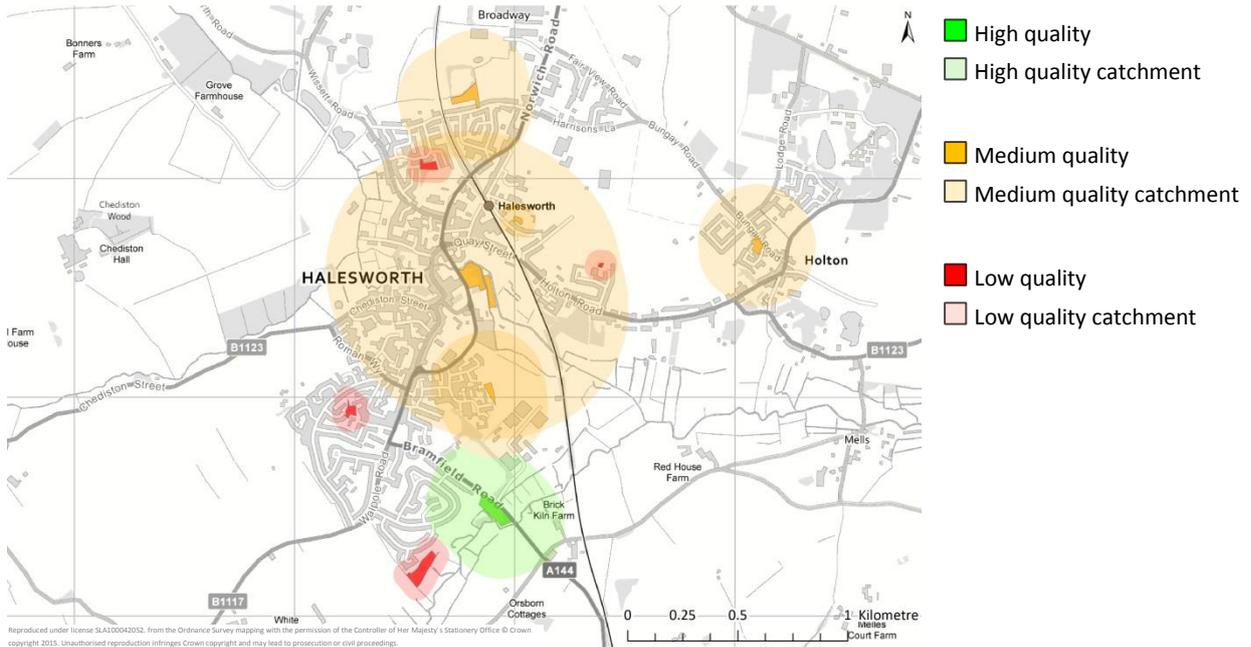
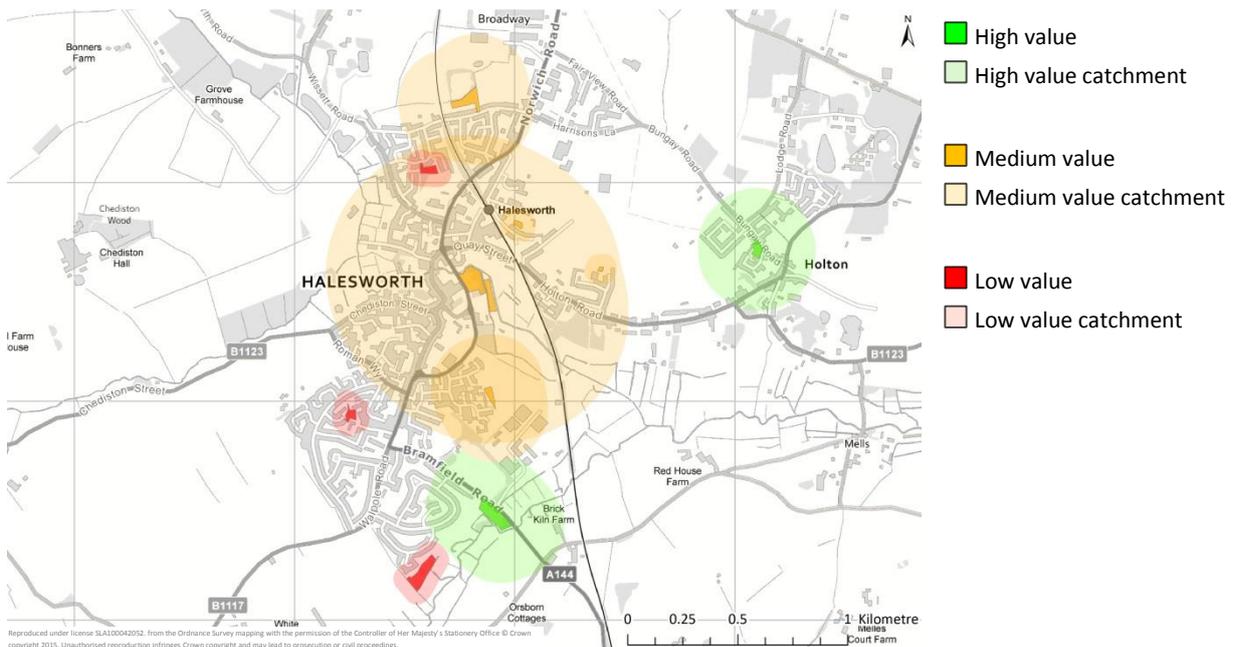


Figure 6.44: Value of equipped play spaces in Halesworth



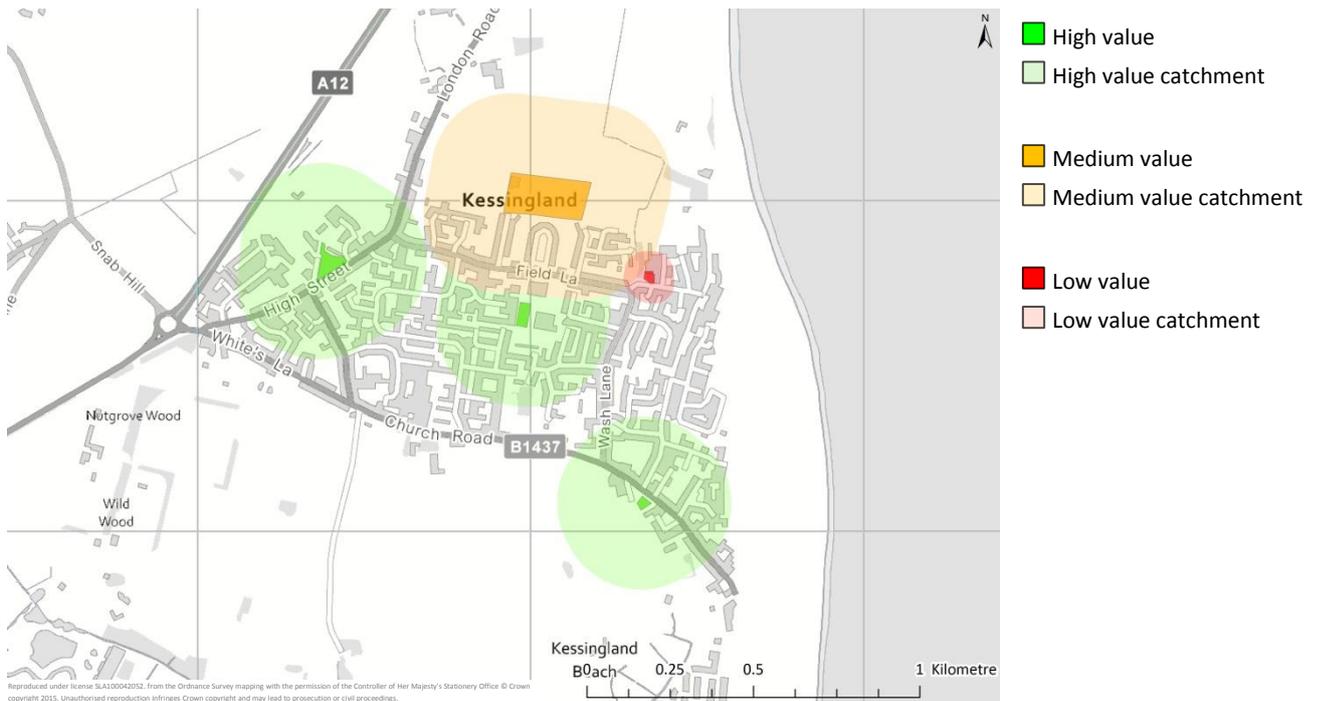
Quality and value of equipped play spaces in the Kessingland area

Play spaces in Kessingland, with the exception of the Rider Haggard Lane site, are of good quality and value (Figures 6.45 and 6.46). If the quality of provision was improved at the playing field to make it more of a destination this could enable the Rider Haggard Lane site to be considered for alternative forms of open space use if there was a demand demonstrated.

Figure 6.45: Quality of equipped play spaces in Kessingland



Figure 6.46: Value of equipped play spaces in Kessingland



Quality and value of equipped play spaces in the North and South Lowestoft areas

North and South Lowestoft have the greatest number of play spaces. Overall, both of these sub areas have a relatively high number of spaces that are of low quality with South Lowestoft also having a disproportionately high number of play areas offering low value for the community (Figures 6.47 to 6.50).

In South Lowestoft access to quality play spaces is limited except in the south west, in Carlton Colville. Access to any play space in the central part of South Lowestoft is poor. Further north Kirkley Fen Park offer high quality and value provision. However, access is restricted by the busy Tom Crisp Way which separates a significant part of the residential area from the park. In the west, Nicolas Everitt Park provides play facilities but its location reduces the catchment area significantly and suggests these facilities are orientated towards visitors rather than local residents.

The value of play spaces reflects the quality ratings with small spaces generally offering low value and low quality. The south east of the South Lowestoft residential area has poor access to quality facilities offering good value. It is also significant that catchment areas generally do not overlap indicating that overall provision needs to be improved. This does not necessarily mean new provision is required, however, areas where access is more difficult should be encouraged to use facilities further away by improving quality and value. A similar situation is present in North Lowestoft.

Quality provision in North Lowestoft is good but overall provision is sporadic with Montgomery Park offering the greatest access to local play facilities. Areas of Lowestoft that have low levels of provision create accessibility issues for local residents. While destination parks such as Sparrows Nest and Nicholas Everitt Park can address this in part the nearest play spaces should offer high value and quality to address the shortfall. Such areas should be of at least medium quality and their catchments should overlap to demonstrate continuous provision. Where catchments do not overlap provision should be higher quality to encourage use of play areas. Areas in west Lowestoft (north of Oulton Broad) have poor access to quality facilities, however, the anticipated Woods Meadow development offers a significant opportunity to improve access to play areas and other forms of open space. Access to play areas is limited in the southeast and northern parts of Lowestoft. Many sites in North Lowestoft do not offer both equipped and unequipped areas for play, reducing value.

Figure 6.47: Quality of equipped play spaces in North Lowestoft

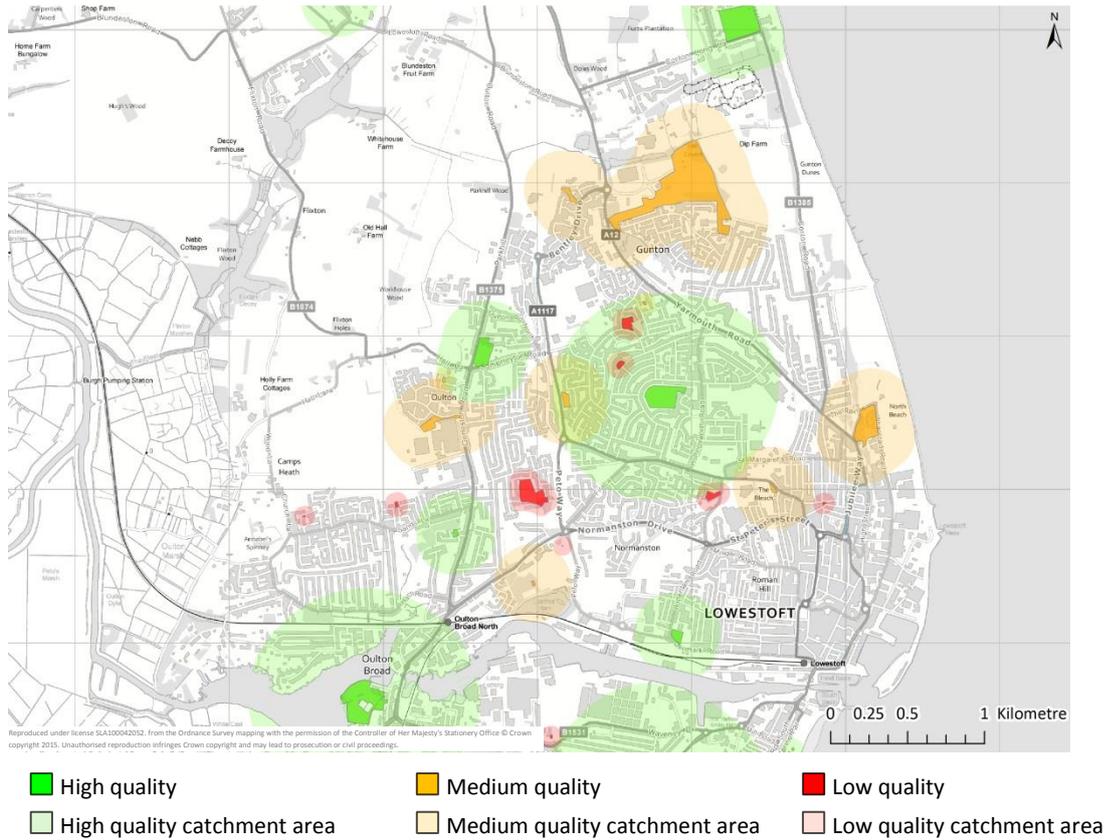


Figure 6.48: Value of equipped play spaces in North Lowestoft

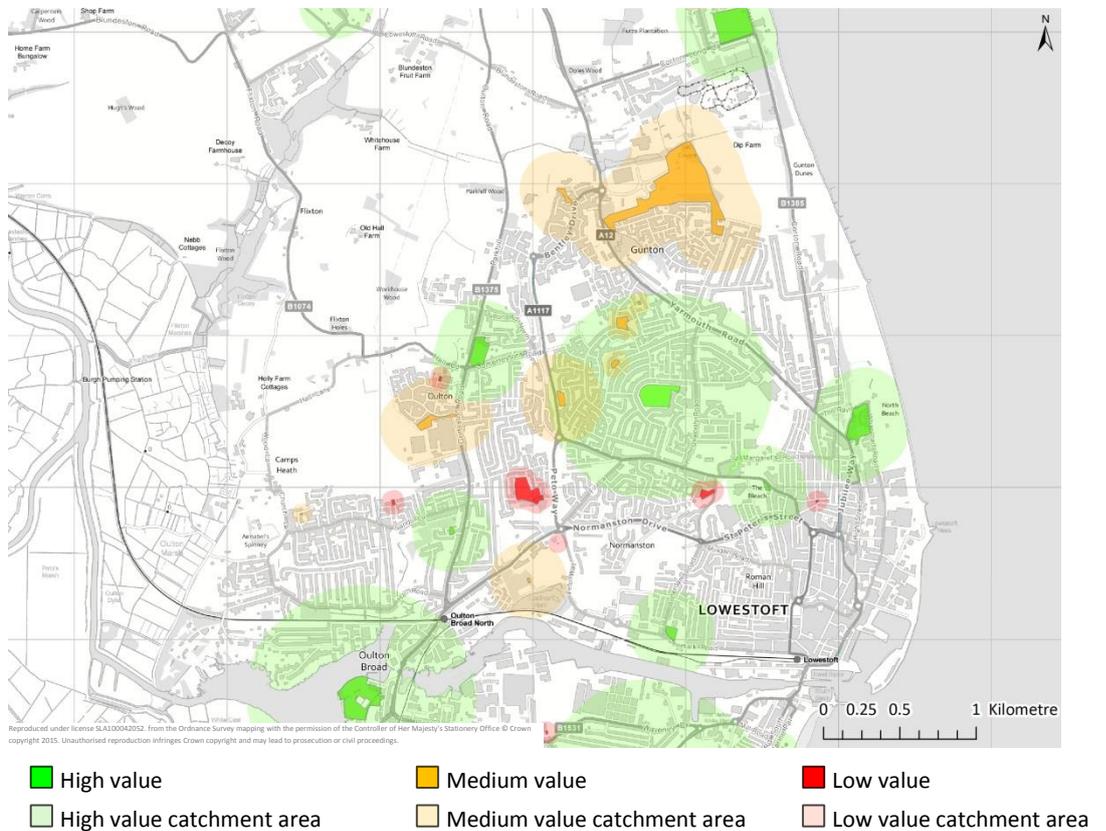


Figure 6.49: Quality of equipped play spaces in South Lowestoft

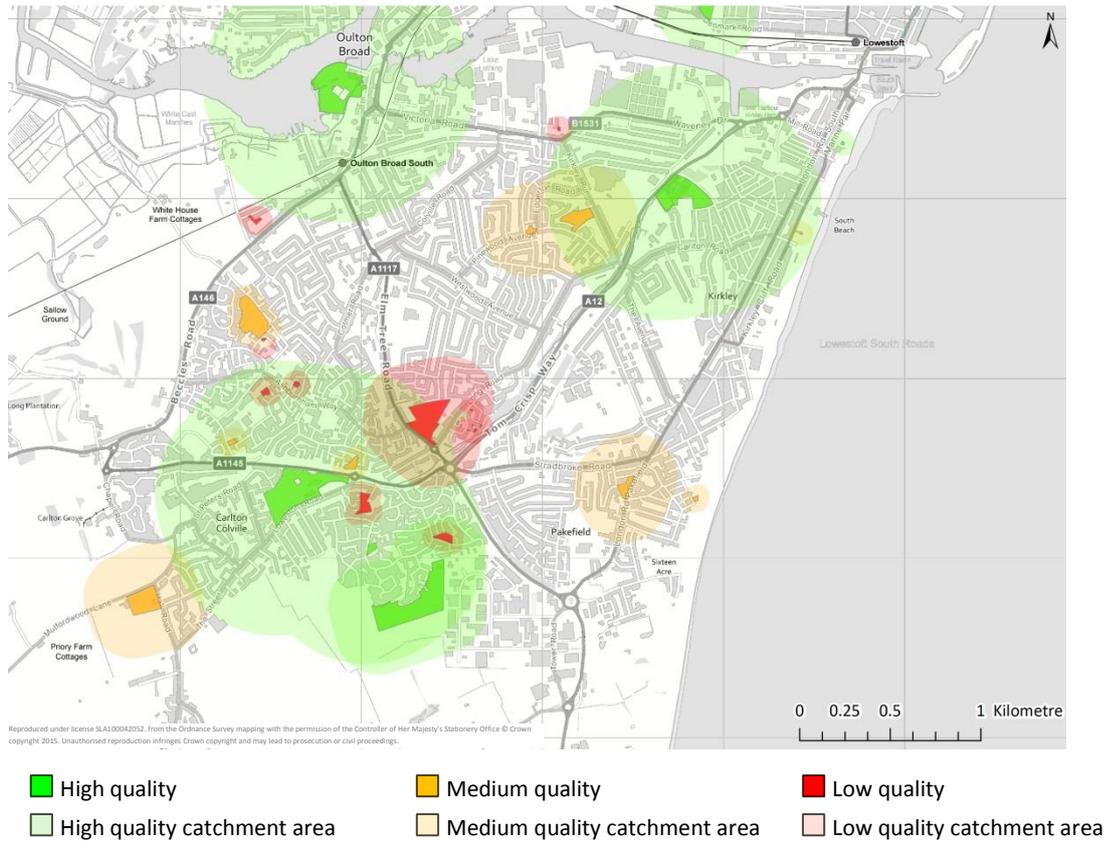
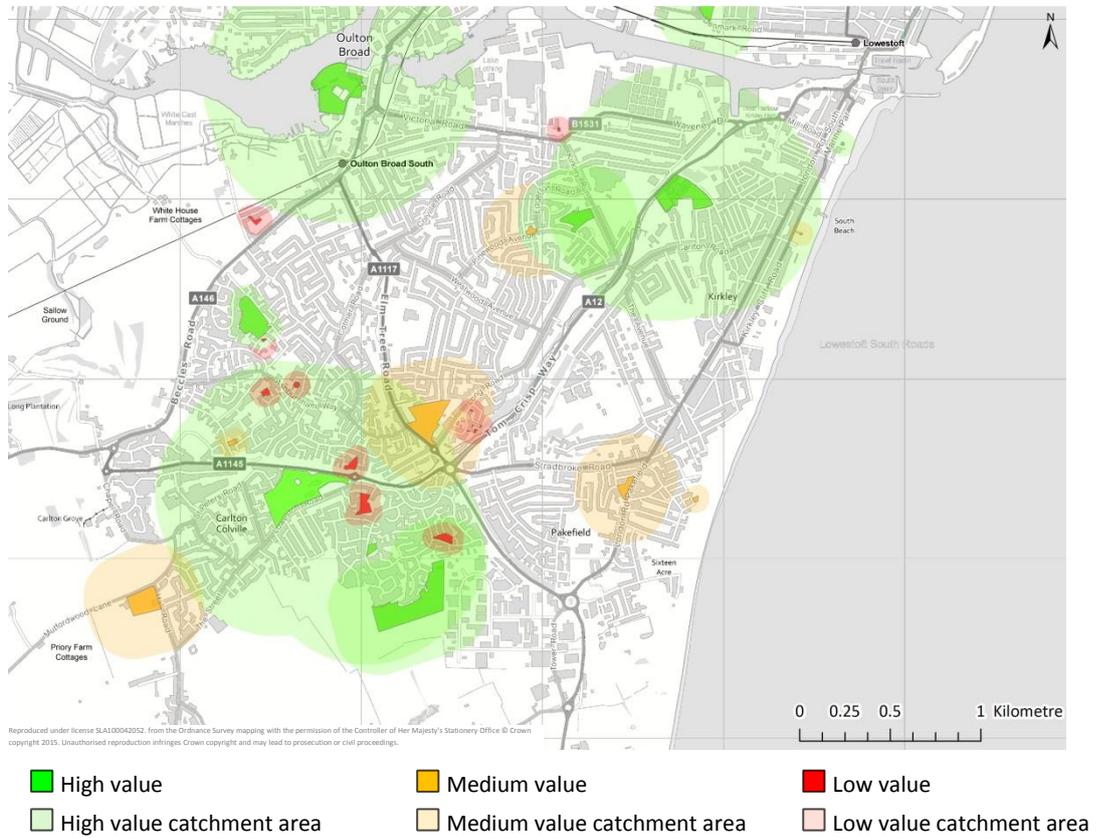


Figure 6.50: Value of equipped play spaces in South Lowestoft



Quality and value of equipped play spaces in the Southwold & Reydon area

Southwold & Reydon and the rural areas have the highest quality play areas. Southwold has two play areas and their catchment covers most of the residential area (Figures 6.51 and 6.52). Well located, Tibby’s Green in central Southwold is of high quality and value providing good facilities for local children. On the seafront the Klondyke play area provides a range of facilities but its peripheral location enables it to have a different role in the community by providing for both locals and visitors.

Figure 6.51: Quality of equipped play spaces in Southwold & Reydon



Figure 6.52: Value of equipped play spaces in Southwold & Reydon



Quality and value of equipped play spaces in the Rural areas

Play areas in rural settlements, where they are available, are generally of good quality and value (Figures 6.53 to 6.64). The play space adjacent to the village hall in Ringsfield could be improved to complement existing facilities on site. Brampton has no play provision that is easily accessible.

Figure 6.53: Quality of equipped play spaces in Barnby and North Cove

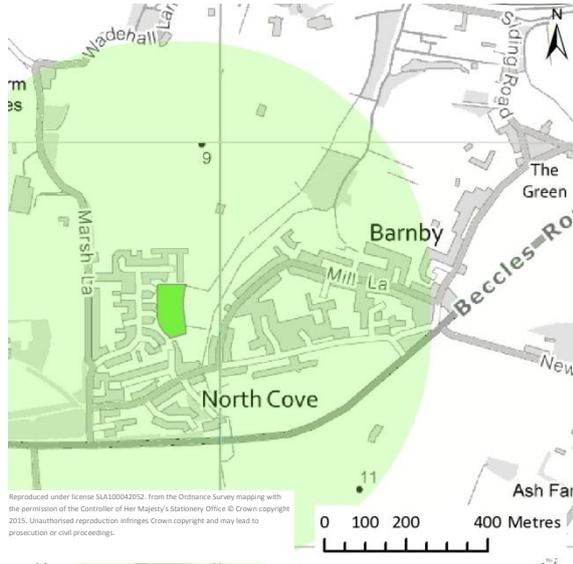


Figure 6.54: Value of equipped play spaces in Barnby and North Cove

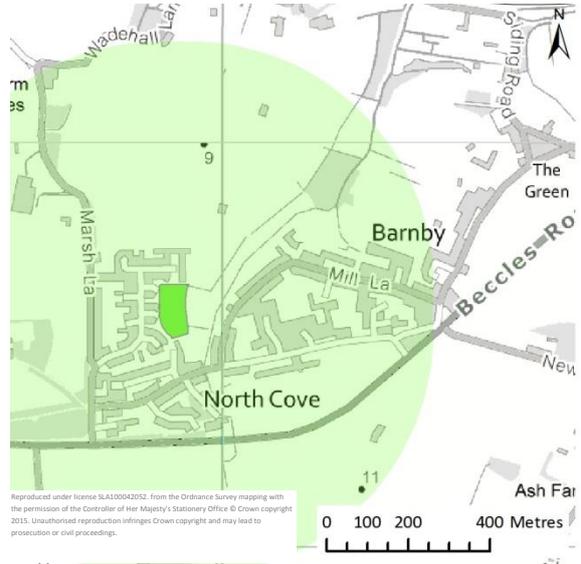


Figure 6.55: Quality of equipped play spaces in Blundeston



Figure 6.56: Value of equipped play spaces in Blundeston



- High quality
 - High quality catchment area
- Medium quality
 - Medium quality catchment area
- Low quality
 - Low quality catchment area

Figure 6.57: Quality of equipped play spaces in Corton

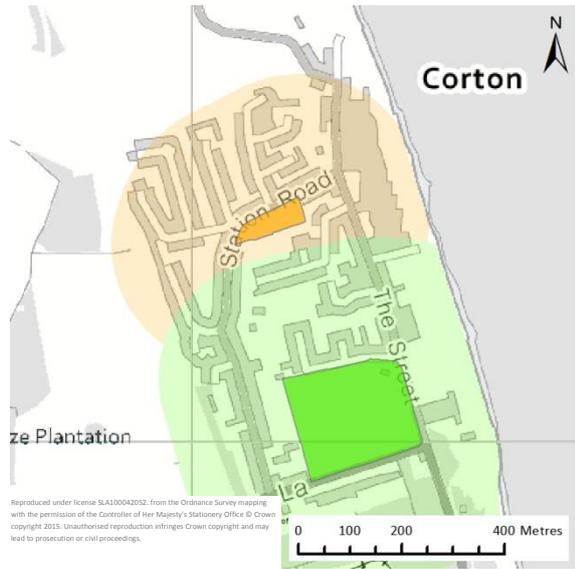


Figure 6.58: Value of equipped play spaces in Corton

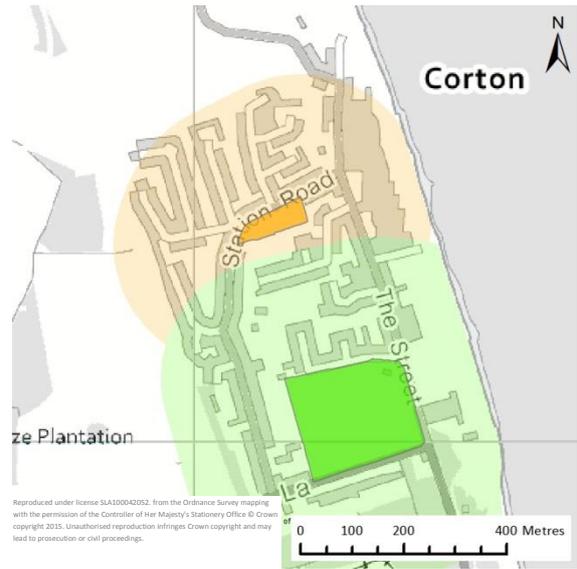


Figure 6.59: Quality of equipped play spaces in Holton

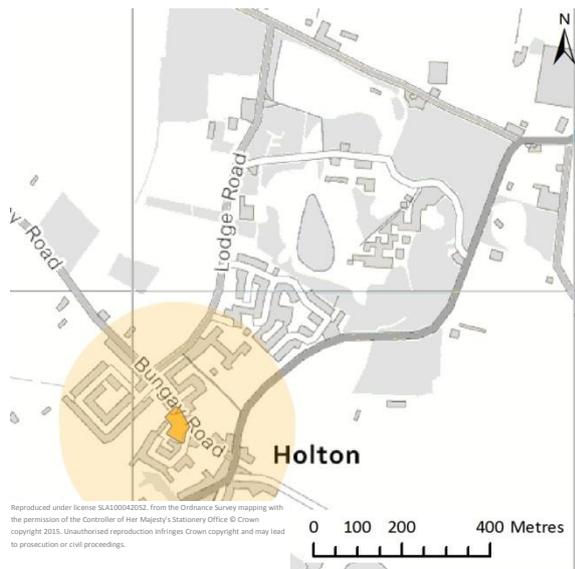
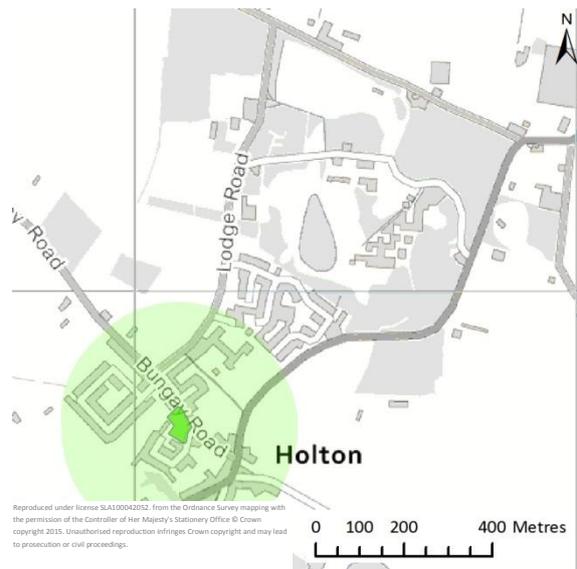


Figure 6.60: Value of equipped play spaces in Holton



- High quality
 - High quality catchment area
- Medium quality
 - Medium quality catchment area
- Low quality
 - Low quality catchment area

Figure 6.61: Quality of equipped play spaces in Wangford



Figure 6.62: Value of equipped play spaces in Wangford



Figure 6.63: Quality of equipped play areas in Wrentham

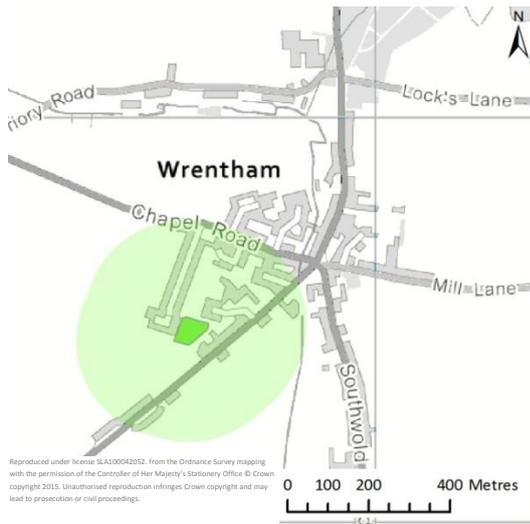
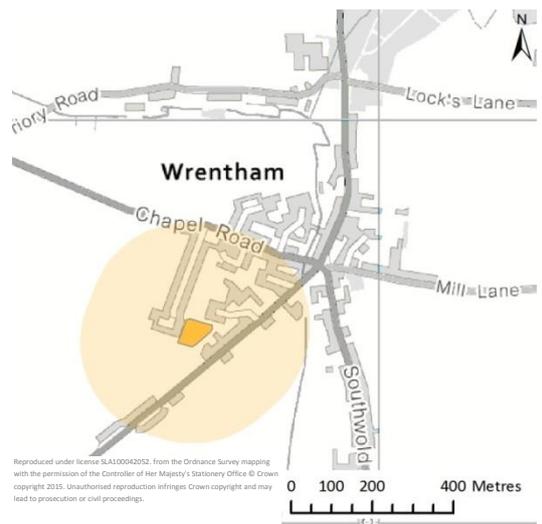


Figure 6.64: Value of equipped play spaces in Wrentham



- High quality
- Medium quality
- Low quality
- High quality catchment area
- Medium quality catchment area
- Low quality catchment area

Supporting information

The Play Space Evaluation Report (2011) published by the Waveney Play Partnership provides a more in depth assessment of equipped play areas, their quality and their value to the local community than this assessment. In particular, the Play Space Evaluation Report assess the quality and value of provision for different age groups (toddler, junior, youth) where as this assessment has taken a more holistic approach to the site overall. The Play Space Evaluation Report should be used to inform decision making about play areas that should be prioritised and in which manner. This is important when justifying the spending of CIL funds on this form of infrastructure.

Deprivation

The quality and value of equipped play spaces has little correlation with the level of deprivation at the sub area level used in this assessment. At a more localised level there may be a stronger relationship, however, the pattern of quality and value of equipped play spaces overall demonstrates that provision is quite well distributed across the District (Table 6.11).

Table 6.11: Levels of deprivation and equipped play space provision

Sub area	Deprivation rank (1 = most deprived 8 = least deprived)	Total equipped play space (ha)	Number of play Spaces per 1000 children (ha)	Number of equipped play areas	Amount of equipped play space per 1000 children aged 0-16 (ha)	Quality: Ranking of average site scores (1 = lowest quality, 8 = highest quality)	Value: Ranked of average scores (1 = lowest value, 8 = highest value)
North Lowestoft	1	2.82	3.7	24	0.43	4	5
South Lowestoft	2	2.28	4.8	30	0.37	3	3
Kessingland	3	0.55	7.5	5	0.82	8	8
Rural	4	1.81	8.0	16	0.91	7	7
Bungay	5	1.19	8.6	8	1.28	1	1
Halesworth	6	1.40	15.9	10	2.22	2	2
Beccles	7	3.59	7.7	19	1.46	5	6
Southwold & Reydon	8	1.25	15.7	7	2.81	6	4
District	-	14.89	1.03	119	0.75	-	-

The provision of quality play equipment that offers good value is well distributed across the District. There is little correlation between the level of deprivation in an area and how well quality play spaces are provided. This demonstrates good awareness of local provision and is a good baseline to consider how existing play spaces are maintained and where future improvements may be required. To provide greater clarity about the quality and value of open spaces Table 6.12 has been colour coded to indicate which sites are in the most deprived areas (wards in Lowestoft, parishes outside Lowestoft).

At present issues related to equipped play space and deprivation are more closely related to the actual provision of open space and play space in a community (surroundings, distribution and accessibility) rather than the type or quality of play equipment provided on the site.

Quality and value combinations and a suggested policy approach

Colour notation

- Most deprived (upper quartile of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))
- Higher than average deprivation (middle upper quartile of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))
- Lower than average deprivation (lower middle quartile of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))
- Least deprived (bottom quarter of all parishes (wards in Lowestoft))

Table 6.12 Suggested policy approach

High quality	Low value	High quality	Medium value	High quality	High value
Enhance value in terms of its primary purpose.		Enhance value in terms of its primary purpose.		Play spaces should be protected.	
None		<p>Beccles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Richard Crompton Road <p>Bungay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Former Grammar School Playing Field <p>Halesworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bramfield Road <p>Kessingland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Centre ● High Street <p>North Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Corton Road <p>Reydon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Winston Road <p>Rural: Wrentham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bonsey Gardens <p>South Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rear of 21 Aldwyk Way ● Carlton Meadow Park 		<p>Beccles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foxglove Close ● The Quay ● Beccles Common (Skate) ● Woodfield Park ● Werel's Loke <p>Halesworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Town Park (Skate) <p>Kessingland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Church Road ● Marram Green <p>North Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Denmark Road ● Normanston Park (Skate) ● Oulton Meadow ● Montgomery Park ● Bonds Meadow <p>Reydon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreation Ground <p>Rural: Blundeston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Village Hall <p>Rural: Homersfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Village Green <p>Rural: Mutford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mutford Common <p>Rural: North Cove</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pinewood Gardens <p>Rural: Westhall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mill Common 	

		<p>Southwold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tibby's Green <p>South Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nicholas Everitt Park ● Kirkley Fen Park ● Matlock Dale ● Bloodmoor Community Centre ● Carlton Meadow Park (Skate)
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Medium quality	Low value	Medium quality	Medium value	Medium quality	High value
<p>Enhance quality provided it is possible also possible to enhance their value.</p>		<p>Enhance value and quality.</p>		<p>Enhance quality and value with an emphasis on improving the quality of the space. Primary use as a play space should be protected.</p>	
<p>Beccles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beccles Common ● All Saints Green <p>Bungay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wherry Road <p>North Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bloomsbury Close ● Kesgrave Drive <p>Reydon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barn Close <p>Rural: Ringsfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Village Hall <p>South Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wannock Close 		<p>Beccles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Townlands ● Codlins Lane ● Garden Lane ● Park Drive <p>Bungay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Garden Close ● Meadow Road <p>Halesworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dairy Hill ● Old Station Road ● Swan Lane ● Town Park <p>North Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bentley Drive ● Normanston Park (LEAP) ● Rumburgh Road ● Gainsborough Drive ● Dunston Drive ● Station Road ● Thirlmere Walk <p>Rural: Blundeston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blundeston Playing Field (Skate) <p>Rural: Rumburgh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Street <p>Rural: Shadingfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Playing Field <p>Rural: Somerleyton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Station Road <p>Southwold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Parade Klondyke 		<p>Beccles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Darby Road ● St Andrews Road <p>North Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sparrow's Nest Park ● The Beach <p>Rural: Holton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Church View <p>Rural: Wangford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Norfolk Road Playing Field <p>South Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Britten Road ● Tides Reach ● Chaukers Crescent 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Parade Klondyke (Skate) <p>South Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pakefield Green ● Nightingale Road ● Carlton Colville Community Centre ● Hawthorn Avenue ● Staplehurst Close ● Beaches Restaurant 	
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Low quality	Low value	Low quality	Medium value	Low quality	High value
<p>Consider in context of other play areas in the vicinity. Enhance quality provided it is possible to also enhance their value. If it is not possible the space may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present use.</p>		<p>Enhance quality and value with an emphasis on improving the quality of the space.</p>		<p>Enhance quality and protect the space and its use.</p>	
<p>Beccles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bramley Rise ● Glebe View ● Waveney Meadow ● St Anne's Road ● Field View Gardens <p>Bungay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outney Common ● Castle Hills <p>Halesworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chichester Road ● Gainsborough Drive ● Kennedy Close <p>Kessingland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rider Haggard Lane <p>North Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Normanston Park (LAP) ● Cambrian Crescent ● Jasmine Green <p>Reydon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mount Pleasant <p>Rural: Somerleyton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Somerleyton Green <p>South Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adjacent 52 Aspinall Close ● Adjacent 32 Aldwyk Way ● Adjacent 82 Aldwyk Way 		<p>Bungay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● King's Road <p>Halesworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bensley's Drift <p>North Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stoven Close ● Spashett Road ● St Margaret's Plain ● Whiting Road <p>Rural: Frostenden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreation Ground <p>South Lowestoft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rosedale Park 		<p>None</p>	

- Ranville
- Parklands
- Smith's Walk
- Deepdale
- Kingswood Avenue
- Lucerne Close
- Sunnyfields
- Rear of 40 Aspinall Close
- Adjacent 35 Aspinall Close



Equipped play space recommendations

General

Equipped play space recommendations

Where play spaces are proposed as part of new development they should be well integrated into the development with good overlooking to improve security and encourage use of the facilities.

Provision of equipped play spaces with a variety of activities for different age groups in multi-functional open spaces provides a greater focal point. Increased visibility will improve the sense of safety and security and make play spaces more attractive to use. Play spaces located in areas where they are obscured from public view should be avoided.

Improved access to open spaces and equipped play areas, particularly in areas where there is limited scope for providing new play space, will encourage greater use. This can be through visual enhancements through landscaping along a route or reducing the physical effect of barriers such as poor road crossings and improving the condition of footpaths that connect residential roads.

There is very limited access to play equipment for children with disabilities. An assessment could be undertaken to identify if disability provision is required and where these might be most appropriately located to maximise accessibility.

Where equipped play spaces are considered for decommissioning as the equipment comes to the end of its lifespan and is not replaced, a plan should be prepared setting how the site will be improved through landscaping, alternative facilities or other uses. This will ensure the space retains value for the community and continues to be of use. This will avoid creating passive amenity spaces with little character or value to the local area and residents.

A schedule setting out the anticipated lifespan of existing play provision should be in place to assist with identifying future improvements.

Beccles

Equipped play space recommendations

All Saints Green

In Worlingham, All Saints Green should be improved to offer greater value as a play area. This would complement the large open area available for unequipped play. The setting of the Park Drive play space could be improved to make it more attractive for play and amenity use by local residents.

Central Beccles

There are no centrally located equipped play spaces in central Beccles. Any new development opportunities close to Beccles town centre should explore the possibility of providing a play space for children.

Waveney Meadow

Waveney Meadow has a small play area for young children. Improvements to the play area in terms of both quality and value would enhance provision in an area where there is shortfall. In conjunction with improving the quality of the amenity space in which the play area is located this would also benefit from the peaceful setting on the Waveney River and nearby facilities such as the lido.

Bungay

Equipped play space recommendations

General

Provision of a multi use games area (MUGA) for youths would provide for an age group that has limited access to play facilities in the town.

Should development come forward in the town opportunities should be sought to deliver play areas that can support a variety of activities including both equipped and unequipped play. Play areas should be large enough and set out to facilitate a variety of activities and encourage use and a sense of security.

Castle Hills

Play space for toddlers could be improved to offer better value and for play for people using the town centre. Close to the town centre 'way finding' measures could be used to improve accessibility.

King's Road

The King's Road play space is well integrated in a residential area but is of low quality and offers low value. Improved equipment provision would benefit the local area and general improvements to the

site would enhance the unequipped area for play. Enhancing the space overall would improve the townscape of this housing area.

Meadow Road

Open space provision overall in southeast Bungay is poor and play spaces in this area are quite peripheral. Bungay is the only market town with no NEAP. Meadow Road should be considered for improvement, possibly upgrading from a LEAP to a NEAP. The size of the space places limitations on the unequipped play area, however improving access to the play area in conjunction with a wider variety of play equipment of greater quality would enhance provision in this part of the town overall. A pedestrian link from St John's Road to Meadow Road across the field could be considered in the future to improve connections between play spaces and residential areas.

Outney Common

Play area provides additional value to Outney Common and enhances it as a destination for local residents. Currently a play area of low value and quality, improvement to facilities will benefit the wider site in a settlement where access to quality open space is limited.

Halesworth

Equipped play space recommendations

Chichester Road

Play space offers low quality and low value and its isolated, poorly overlooked location make it difficult to improve. Improved access and landscaping could enhance the site.

Dairy Hill

The play space located at Dairy Hill is of medium quality and value. It is currently part of a larger site that provides sports facilities. Allocated for new housing development (approximately 50 dwellings), the play space will be expected to support greater use. When development comes forward, improvements to the spaces to improve its value should be provided.

Gainsborough Drive

Gainsborough Drive is well integrated into the local residential area. Low quality and low value offer limited benefit for local residents. No other play areas are located nearby. Improvements to the quality of play equipment on site should be considered.

Kennedy Avenue

Could be improved to provide a wider array of uses to be of greater benefit to the local community and improvements to make the overall space more accessible and attractive should be considered.

Millennium Green

An area designed for natural play would provide an additional attraction near the town centre along a route that provides equipped play at Town Park and a semi-natural environment at Millennium Green. The shared use path would provide good accessibility. Located near Town Park, this additional play area would provide good connectivity with the facilities in Town Park. Areas can be sodden outside of summer so location should be carefully considered.

Swan Lane

Swan Lane currently offers medium quality and value for play. The site has adequate provision for the existing residential area and abuts allotments which make it less peripheral. Dairy Farm on Saxon's Way is allocated for approximately 40 dwellings. Swan Lane is likely to provide the play facilities for this development. The site should be upgraded when development at Dairy Farm comes forward.

Kessingland

Equipped play space recommendations

Existing equipped play spaces should be protected and enhanced to improve their value to the community.

North Lowestoft

Equipped play space recommendations

Love Road

The passive amenity space located at Love Road should be improved with landscaping, planting and a play area. The area has some of the highest deprivation in the District and play provision in this area is poor. The site would benefit from a masterplan to ensure delivery of a space offering value to the community.

St Margaret's Plain

Improvements would benefit the area which has limited access to play space, is a deprived area and there is a significant amount of flatted development (properties with no private garden space).

Thirlmere Walk

Improving access and the quality of the play space (and adjacent unequipped/amenity area) will improve provision in an area where access is limited.

Cambrian Crescent

The area in the vicinity of Sands Lane in Oulton has little open space provision and this is reflected in the small amount of play provision. The only equipped play space on grass is located on Cambrian Crescent and is low quality and low value. The space requires improvement in both play provision and landscaping. It is also likely support some of the development in the anticipated new Woods Meadow development on the land immediately to the north. The significant shortfall of provision in this area highlights the need to provide both a LEAP and a NEAP in the Woods Meadow development. In addition, the play space located at Dunston Drive is expected to link to the Woods Meadow development via a possible foot/cycle way and improvements to this site would benefit existing residents as well as those in the Woods Meadow area. Good pedestrian and cycle connections to the Woods Meadow Country Park will benefit the area.

Woods Meadow

The pedestrian/cycle way proposed to go north-south Cambrian Crescent provides an opportunity to create a movement corridor with an additional function for amenity and semi-natural value. Potential for a trim trail or outdoor gym equipment could be explored when the development comes forward to provide new facilities in an area with a shortfall of facilities which would encourage greater use of the space.

Equipped play spaces provided as part of the development should enhance provision for all age groups for new residents and wider parts of the community. These spaces should be designed to encourage use and a sense of security/safety to provide greatest benefit. Play spaces should be well linked to the surrounding residential areas.

Normanston Park

Normanston Park is a key open space in the area offering a variety of play, leisure and sport activities. The LEAP located in the centre of the park is of medium quality and value. Improving the quality of equipment and increasing the number of activities would complement the existing provision of a skate park for youths and a small LAP in the northwest corner of the site. Normanston Park is a multi functional space which includes a café, car parking, sports pitches and courts and adjacent semi-natural areas that are accessible to the public. Improvements to enhance other activities would benefit local residents and visitors. Changing facilities would support existing use of the site.

South Lowestoft

Equipped play space recommendations

Aveling Way

Provision of a play area for young children or an area of natural play would enhance the value of the open space for community use.

Brooke Peninsula

The Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood will have a new multi-functional play area provided as part of the new development on the Brooke Peninsular. This will help address an existing shortfall and provide facilities for new residents. To benefit existing residents in Whitton (south of the proposed development) good access to the site should be provided.

Deepdale

This area formerly had two small equipped play spaces, however, only one still exists and offers low value. The site increases accessibility in the area through the provision of a hard surfaced path but the space is poorly overlooked and relatively isolated from its surroundings. The site is located close to Carlton Meadow Park and Matlock Dale which offer good play provision. If play improvements are not considered feasible for the site, alternative open space use could be considered.

Kirkley, Pakefield and Whitton

The central area between Rosedale Park and Britten Road has no play provision. Play equipment in these spaces should be of higher quality and offer a variety of activities for different age groups to enhance their value. With limited scope to create new play spaces their improvement would help offset the existing shortfall.

Pakefield Green

The only play space located in Pakefield in the vicinity of the neighbourhood centre. There is a significant deficit of provision to the north of the site in Kirkley. Nightingale Road has a play space but being located adjacent to the beach has a limited catchment area. Improving play provision and the landscaping character of Pakefield Green should be considered to increase value for local residents and improve the street scene.

Ranville

This site offers low quality and value. The site is in the vicinity of the play space at Bloodmoor Community Centre which offers a range of activities for juniors and toddlers and has a playing pitch to support sport activities. The Ranville site could be improved through better landscaping, reducing vegetation to increase the sense of security and overlooking of the site. Play equipment is in poor condition as are the grounds. The site is likely to have greater benefit as an equipped toddler play

space with the remainder of the site used for unequipped play and amenity.

Tides Reach

This play area provides limited facilities for residents and visitors. Located on the South Lowestoft Esplanade, new or additional equipment would improve access to play facilities and complement other recreational facilities nearby including cafes, existing amenity space and the beach.

Southwold & Reydon

Equipped play space recommendations

Mount Pleasant

This site offers low quality and value. The size and location of the site provides limited opportunity to improve provision, however, the site could be improved with landscaping and additional planting to make the space more attractive for both users and local residents.

Rural areas

Equipped play space recommendations

Wrentham

The village has only one equipped play space, which although well provided for, is isolated and poorly overlooked. Provision of a well positioned play area for young children to support proposed residential development would enhance the value of accessible community facilities.



Allotments

Allotments improve the well-being and quality of life of communities by providing a cheap source of good food, healthy outdoor exercise and social interaction.

Role of allotments

Allotments improve the well-being and quality of life of communities by providing a cheap source of good food, healthy outdoor exercise and social interaction, and enhance the biodiversity and green infrastructure in an area.

They can benefit all groups, from those on limited income, to those who are financially secure but take pleasure in growing their own food. By providing economic, social and environmental benefits, allotments contribute towards the three core principles of sustainable development. Allotments play an important role in providing areas of green space within urban environments.



The purpose of this assessment is to identify existing provision of allotments within the District and areas where there is a shortfall to meet current and future demand.

Existing recommended standards

Amount of provision

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners recommend a quantitative standard of 20 plots per 1000 households (approximately 20 plots per 2200 people). The size of an allotment plot is 250 square metres (0.025ha). This standard is equivalent to 0.23ha of allotments per 1000 people.

Waveney's Allotments, Cemeteries and Churchyards Needs Assessment (2007) found that demand for allotments in the District was high and in some areas there was a shortfall. To reflect this high demand a standard of 0.3ha of allotments per 1000 was recommended (12 plots per 1000 people). Key findings of the 2007 assessment are set out in Figure 7.1.

Catchment area (accessibility)

The previous allotments assessment was completed in 2007. This included a public consultation and household survey. The findings showed the preferred mode of transport by users (and potential users) was by walking and that a travel time of 15 minutes was appropriate (equivalent to 1000m)⁷.

Figure 7.1: Summary of key findings from 2007 allotments assessment

General

- 60% of respondents said allotments were an important resource.

Provision

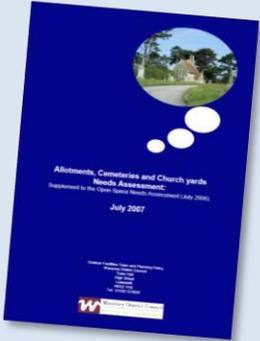
- One third of respondents thought not enough allotments were provided.
- Recommended standard of 0.29ha of allotments per 1000 people.
- Bungay and South Lowestoft have the lowest amount of provision 0.09 and 0.13ha per 1000 people respectively.

Quality

- 73% of respondents thought allotments were of average to good quality.

Accessibility

- 83% of respondents were content with walking to an allotment, 62% by cycle.
- 42% of respondents were not satisfied with disabled access.



Legal requirements to provide allotments

Local Authority

The Council has a legal requirement to provide sufficient allotments where there is an identified need (Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1908). There is no minimum legal standard of provision.

Town and Parish Councils

If there is a Town or Parish Council in a particular area the responsibility for allotments within the boundaries of that Town or Parish lies with them. The District Council has no powers to act in any manner over allotments in these areas (Local Government Act, 1972).

⁷ A straight line distance of 600m (accessibility distance multiplied by a factor of 0.6) has been used on the accessibility maps based on the approach suggested by the Fields In Trust to account for people not walking in a straight line to open space facilities.

Quantity and accessibility

The amount of existing allotment provision has been identified through consultation with Local Allotment Associations and Town and Parish Councils. The total amount of allotments provided in each sub area is set out in Table 7.1. This has provided the baseline data to which supply, demand and provision relative to the recommended standard of 0.3ha per 1000 people can be assessed.

Table 7.1: Quantity of allotment provision in Waveney

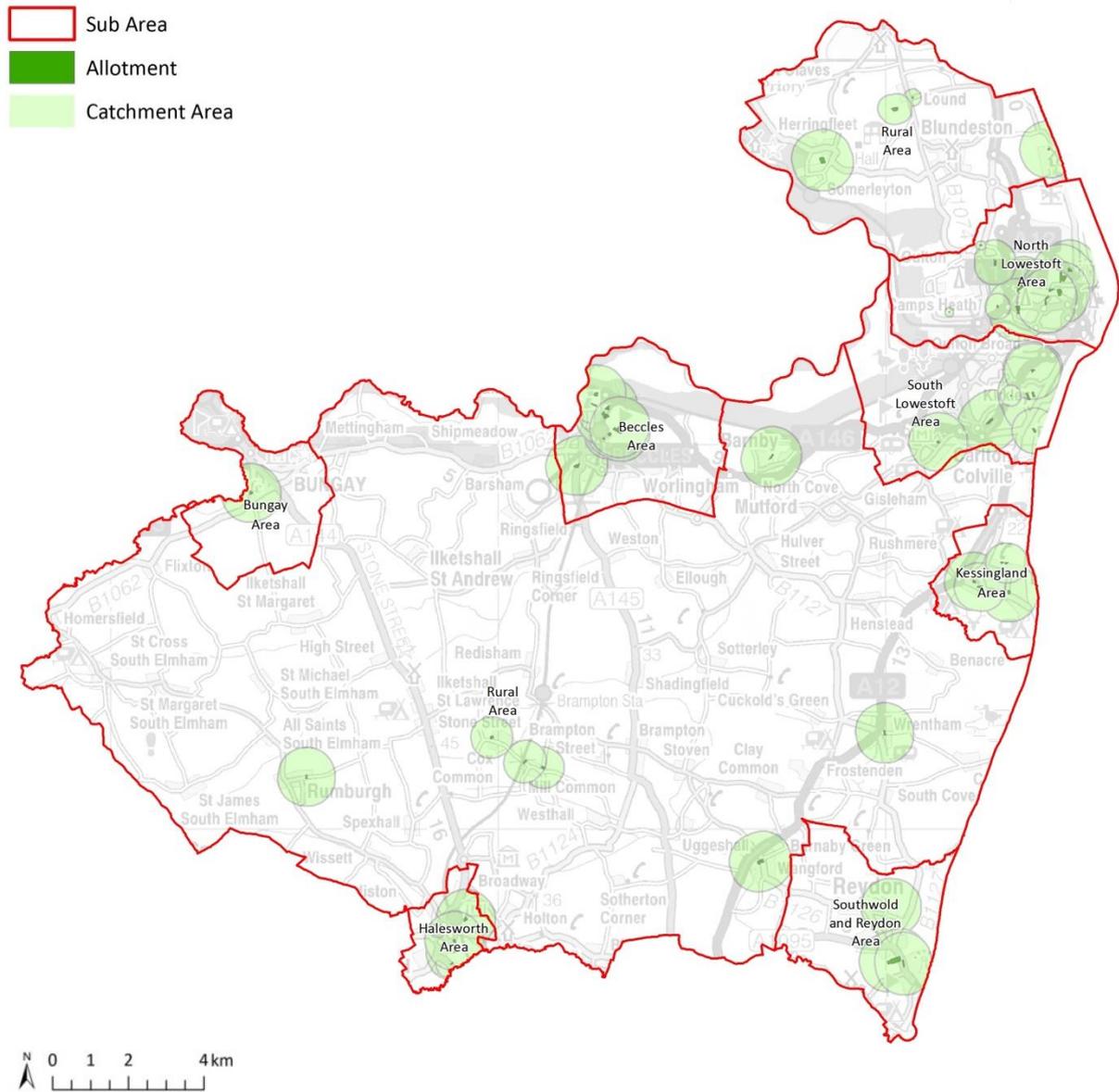
Sub Area	Population	Allotments (ha)	Area of allotments per 1000 people (ha)	People per hectare of allotments
Beccles	14,796	6.48	0.44	2,283
Bungay	5,127	0.46	0.09	11,146
Halesworth	4,726	1.66	0.35	2,847
Kessingland	4,327	1.61	0.37	2,688
North Lowestoft	36,089	9.09	0.25	3,970
South Lowestoft	34,362	4.09	0.12	8,401
Southwold & Reydon	3,680	4.33	1.17	850
Rural	12,147	6.52	0.54	1,863
District	115,254	34.24	0.30	3,366

Population source: 2011 Census

An accessibility standard of 1000m (15 minutes walking distance) provides a realistic travel time/distance threshold based on local needs. Applying this threshold to the whole of the District can highlight areas of deficiency, as well as ensuring that any new allotment provision is placed in priority areas that are outside the recommended local accessibility catchment range. This is considered to be an appropriate catchment area to assess how well an area is provided for in terms of its spatial coverage. A map of allotments provided in Waveney is shown in Figure 7.2.

To represent the catchment area of an allotment appropriately, the catchments are proportional to the number of allotments on the site. For example, the allotment site along Tom Crisp Way has 48 allotments, the catchment area is 750m. The site along Blackheath Road has 5 allotments but the catchment area is 375m. This approach is considered to provide a better reflection of how allotments meet the needs of the community.

Figure 7.2: Allotment provision in the Waveney District



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Quantity of allotment provision in the District

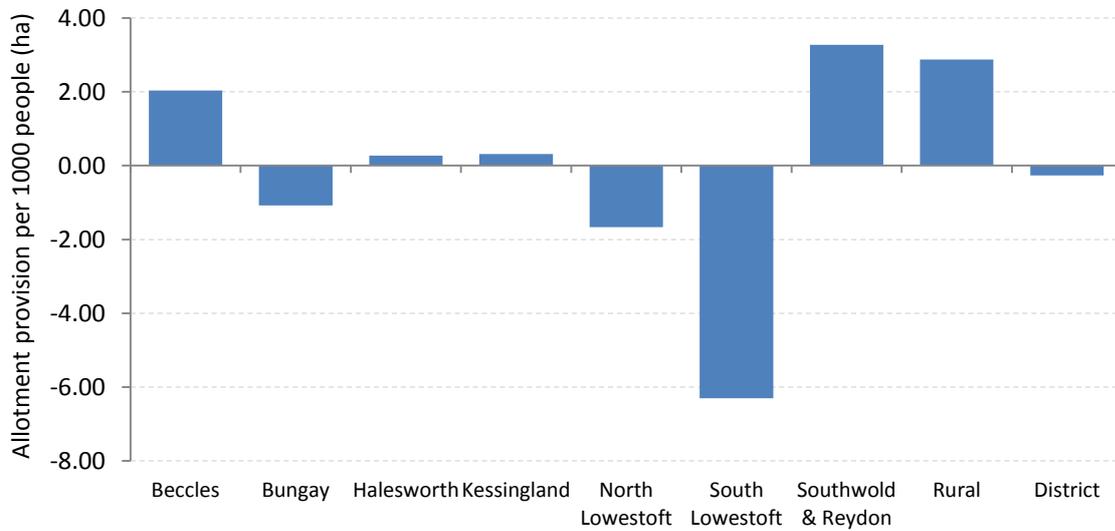
The largest amount of allotment land is provided in North Lowestoft and is similar to the amount recommended by the National Association of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners but below the locally recommended standard. Beccles, Halesworth, Kessingland, Southwold & Reydon and the rural areas all provide enough allotment space to meet the local recommended standard. In contrast, there are significant shortfalls in Bungay and South Lowestoft where provision is well below the District average (Table 7.2).

Across the District there is a shortfall of 0.34ha of allotments. The largest deficits of allotments provision are in North and South Lowestoft and Bungay. The best provision is in Southwold & Reydon, Beccles and the rural areas (Figure 7.3). Areas with inadequate provision tend to be the areas with the largest waiting list (South Lowestoft and Bungay).

Table 7.2: Existing provision of allotments compared to locally recommended standard

Sub Area	Area of allotments (ha)	Area of allotments required to meet recommended standard of 0.3ha per 1000 people (ha)	Allotment provision relative to recommended standard (ha)
Beccles	6.48	4.44	2.04
Bungay	0.46	1.54	-1.08
Halesworth	1.69	1.42	0.27
Kessingland	1.61	1.30	0.31
North Lowestoft	9.09	10.83	-1.74
South Lowestoft	4.09	10.31	-6.22
Southwold & Reydon	4.38	1.10	3.28
Rural	6.52	3.34	3.18
District	34.24	34.58	-0.34

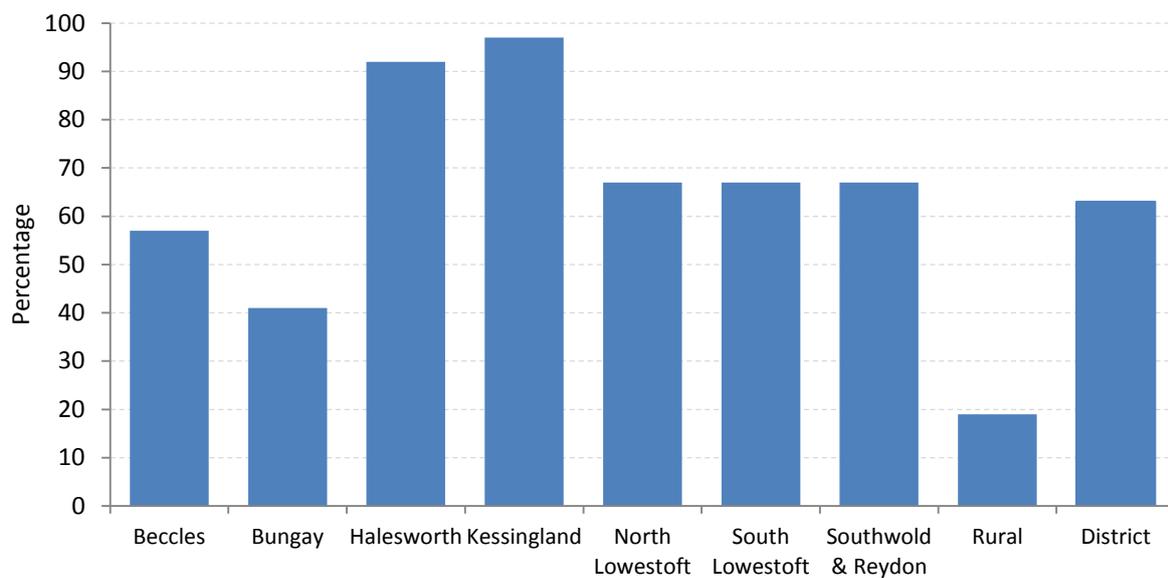
Figure 7.3: Quantitative provision of allotments relative to the recommended standard of 0.3ha per 1000 people



Accessibility of allotment provision in the District

Kessingland and Halesworth have allotments distributed through their area which provide most households good access to facilities by being within 1200m of a site (Figure 7.4). Accessibility within North Lowestoft, South Lowestoft and Southwold & Reydon are all about the District average. Provision in Beccles is generally good, however, a significant accessibility deficit in Worlingham reduces the figure to a little less than the District average. With only one allotment site, Bungay has the poorest accessibility of all the larger settlements. While provision in the rural areas is good from a quantitative perspective, access to these facilities for many people is limited.

Figure 7.4: Dwellings within catchment of an allotment (% of total dwellings in sub-area)



Quantity and accessibility of allotments in the **Beccles** area

There is good allotment provision (0.46ha per 1000 people) in Beccles which meets the recommended standard of 0.3ha per 1000 people. There is solid demand from local residents for these facilities which has led to most plots being occupied and additional allotments proposed at Cucumber Lane in the south of the town should help mitigate existing shortfall in the area.

Some allotment plots in Beccles have issues related to drainage and soil quality. While there are some vacant plots these can be a consequence of this indicating that there is a latent demand. Land south of Nicholson Drive is allocated for allotments and continuing this allocation will enable current and future demand to be met while improving access to community facilities in the area.

There are no allotments provided in Worlingham reducing accessibility for local residents. Current residents wishing to tend an allotment plot rely on availability in the neighbouring parishes of Beccles and North Cove, both of which have waiting lists. This shortfall is not reflected in the data shown in figures 7.3 and 7.4, however, it is evident on the accessibility map (Figure 7.5). Information about allotment sites in Beccles is shown in Table 7.3. Provision of allotments in Worlingham will benefit the local community and free up plots in Beccles and North Cove for their residents to use. Provision in Worlingham will improve provision for all three of the aforementioned parishes and enable future demand to be met.

Table 7.3: Allotments in Beccles

Allotment Location	Number of plots	Area (ha)
Marsh 6 - Airy House Estate (Common Lane South)	12	0.41
Marsh 10 and 10A - Common Lane South (behind the allotment store)	17	1.33
Marsh 25 - Beccles Common (Common Lane North)	22	0.68
Marsh 32 - Beccles Common (adjacent to car park)	40	0.75
Marsh 50 - Aeroplane Marsh (North of Common Lane Crossing)	24	0.70
Marsh 51 - Adjacent to the Common (Common Lane North)	2	0.12
Napier Terrace (off Goose Green West)	4	0.15
Norwich Road	15	0.69
Pound Road	9	0.32
Sibleys Marsh - Beccles Common (Common Lane North)	14	0.56
South Road	28	0.79
Beccles total	187	6.50

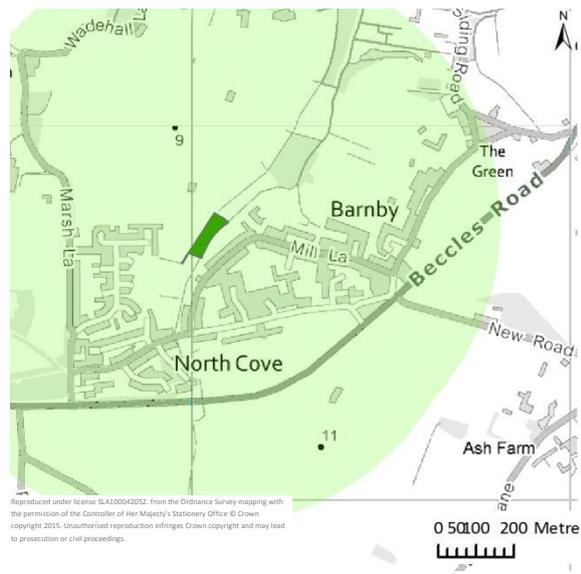
Figure 7.5: Allotments in Beccles and Worlingham



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■ Allotment □ Catchment area

Figure 7.6: Allotments in Barnby and North Cove



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■ Allotment □ Catchment area

Quantity and accessibility of allotments in the Bungay area

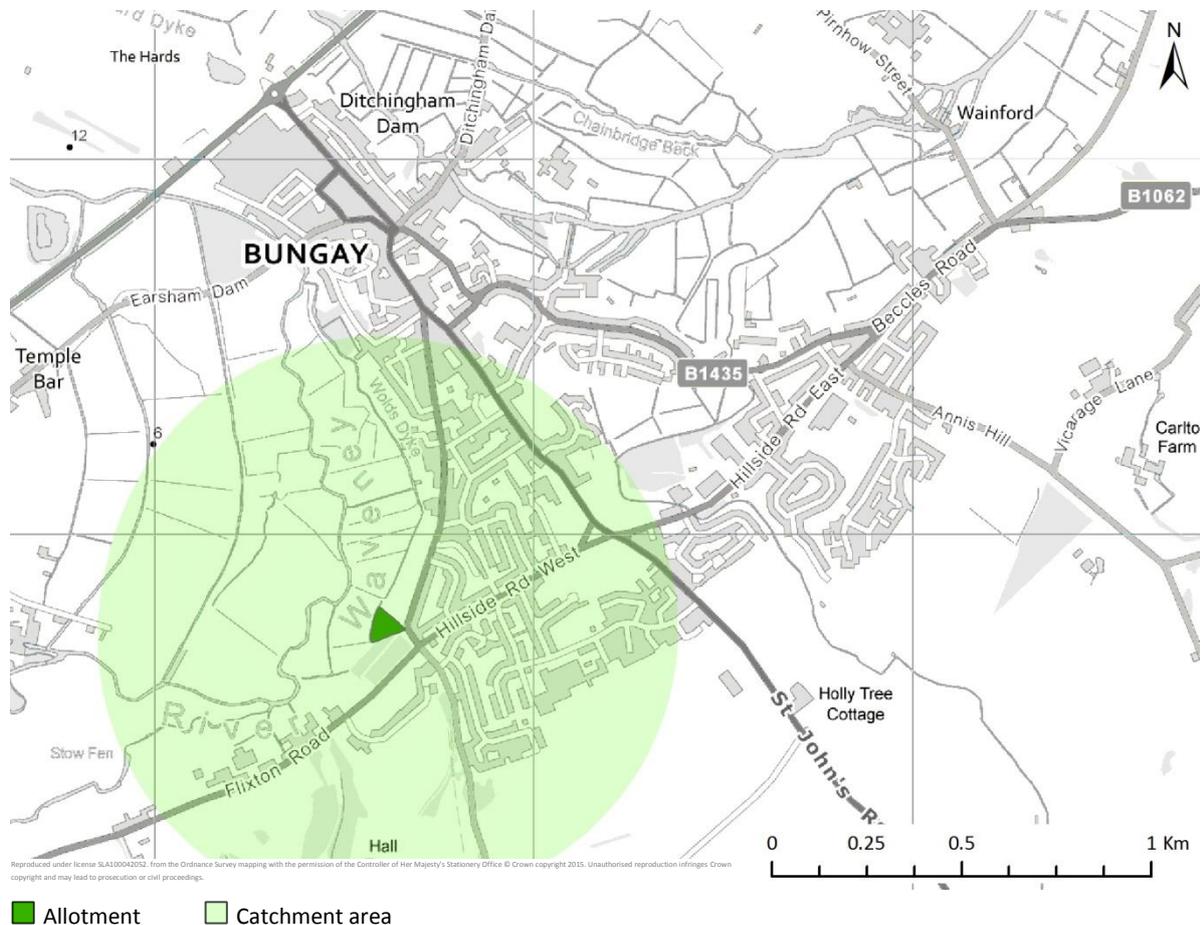
There is a significant shortfall of allotments in Bungay with only one site providing a limited number of plots for the entire town (Table 7.4). With a total allotment area of 0.46ha (0.09ha per 1000 people) there is a deficit of over one hectare of allotment space (equivalent to 11,146 people per hectare of allotments). This is the largest ratio of people per area of allotments in the District. The Town Council has stated there is a significant demand for allotments in the town and there is a long-standing waiting list. The existing allotment site is located in south west of Bungay which leaves an accessibility deficit in the north and south east of the town (Figure 7.7).

Table 7.4: Allotments in Bungay

Allotment Location	Number of plots	Area (ha)
Hillside Road West / Flixton Road	19	0.46
Bungay total	19	0.46

Land has been allocated for allotments at Wingfield Street in the centre of town (the site was formerly used for allotments but is in private ownership), however, this site is unlikely to come forward in the short-term.

Figure 7.7: Allotments in Bungay



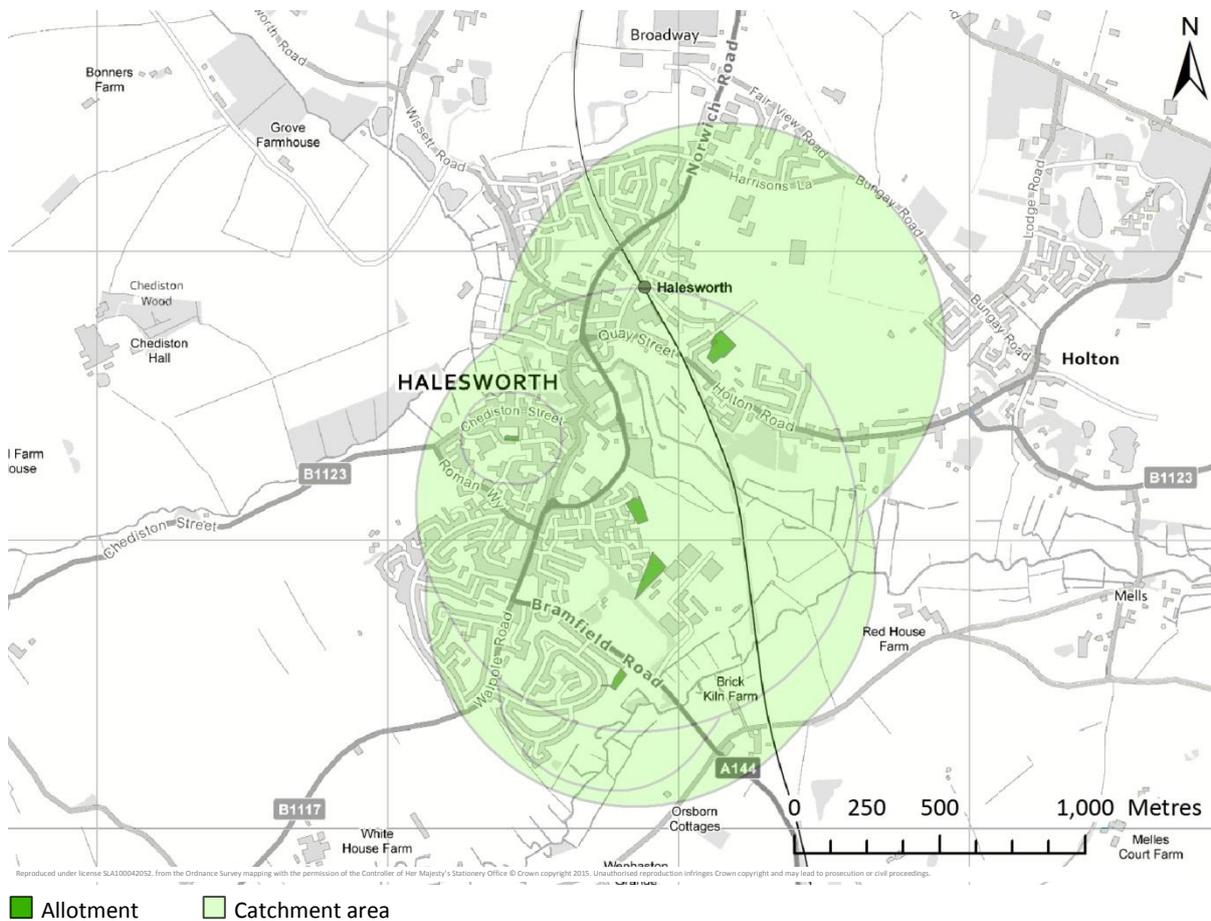
Quantity and accessibility of allotments in the Halesworth area

Halesworth has five allotment sites providing a total of 77 allotment plots for the town (Table 7.5). Provision is slightly below the recommended standard of provision, however, the demand-supply for allotments is balanced with no vacant plots and no waiting list at present. Future residential development in the town may increase the demand for allotment plots creating a shortfall of provision in the area. Land at Dairy Hill is allocated for residential development and as part of the allocation allotments are to be provided on site. The accessibility map (Figure 7.8) shows that the western side of the town falls outside the recommended catchment area.

Table 7.5: Allotments in Halesworth

Allotment Location	Number of plots	Area (ha)
Bedingfield Crescent	7	0.18
Church Farm Lane	3	0.06
Loam Pit Lane	26	0.58
Saxon Way	19	0.36
Swan Lane	22	0.51
Halesworth total	77	1.69

Figure 7.8: Allotments in Halesworth



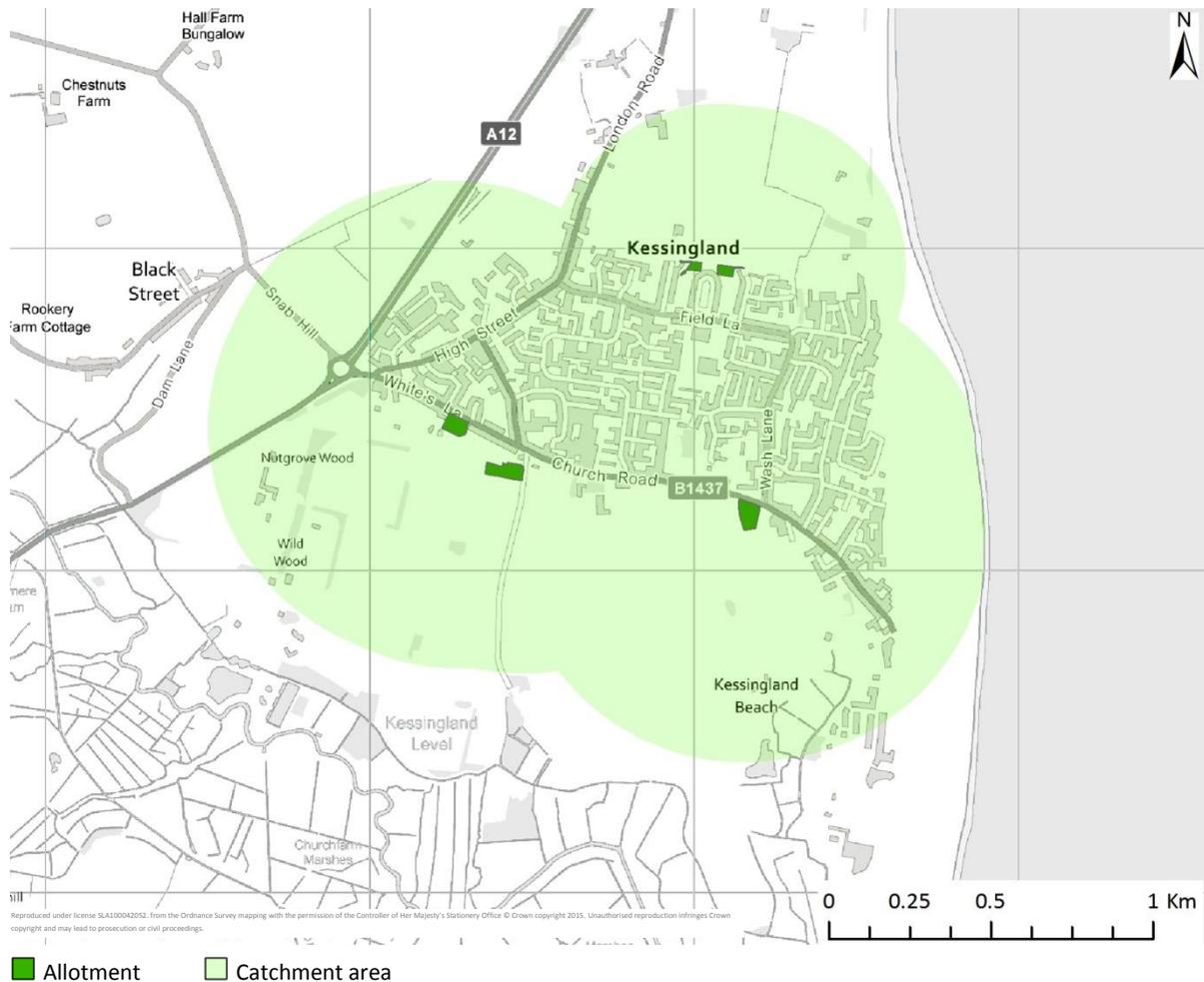
Quantity and accessibility of allotments in the **Kessingland** area

Kessingland has five allotment sites which are positioned evenly around the village providing good access for all areas of Kessingland (Figure 7.9). Demand and provision of plots is currently stable with a small waiting list. Provision is higher than the recommended standard of 0.3ha per 1000 people, however, solid demand for allotment plots demonstrates the need for good provision. Allotment plots in Kessingland are set out in Table 7.6.

Table 7.6: Allotments in Kessingland

Allotment Location	Number of plots	Area (ha)
Church Road	25	0.47
Coopers Lane	7	0.48
East of Francis Road	8	0.12
West of Clare Road	7	0.16
Whites Lane	11	0.37
Kessingland total	58	1.6

Figure 7.9: Allotments in Kessingland



Quantity and accessibility of allotments in the North Lowestoft area

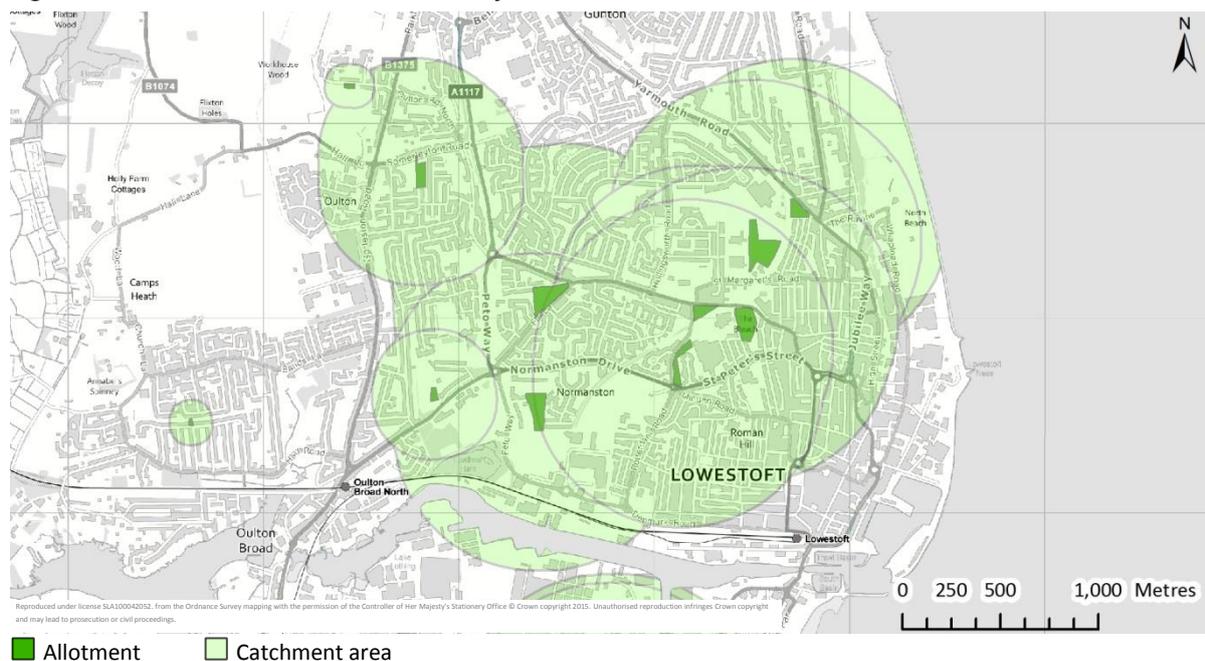
The total amount of land use for allotments in North Lowestoft is 9.09ha spread over 10 sites (Table 7.7). Compared to the recommended standard there is an existing shortfall of 1.67ha (equivalent to approximately 67 plots). There is believed to be a waiting list in North Lowestoft, however, the extent of this is uncertain.

Allotments sites are well distributed through the North Lowestoft area providing access for much of the town (who have an allotment plot). Accessibility shortfalls are present in the areas of Oulton and Gunton (Figure 7.10). The only allotment site in Oulton Broad (Clarkson Road) has 2 plots.

Table 7.7: Allotments in North Lowestoft

Allotment Location	Number of plots	Area (ha)
Church Road	17	0.49
Clarkson Road	2	0.05
Fir Lane/Woods Loke East	-	1.53
Normanston Park (rear of 2-12 Princes Walk)	46	1.29
Newson’s Meadow (off Rotterdam Road)	18	0.69
Sand Pits (off Normanston Drive)	7	0.21
Somerleyton Road	21	0.63
St Margaret’s Road	87	2.15
Sussex Road	21	0.56
Water Lane	59	1.49
North Lowestoft total	At least 278	9.09

Figure 7.10: Allotments in North Lowestoft



Quantity and accessibility of allotments in the **South Lowestoft** area

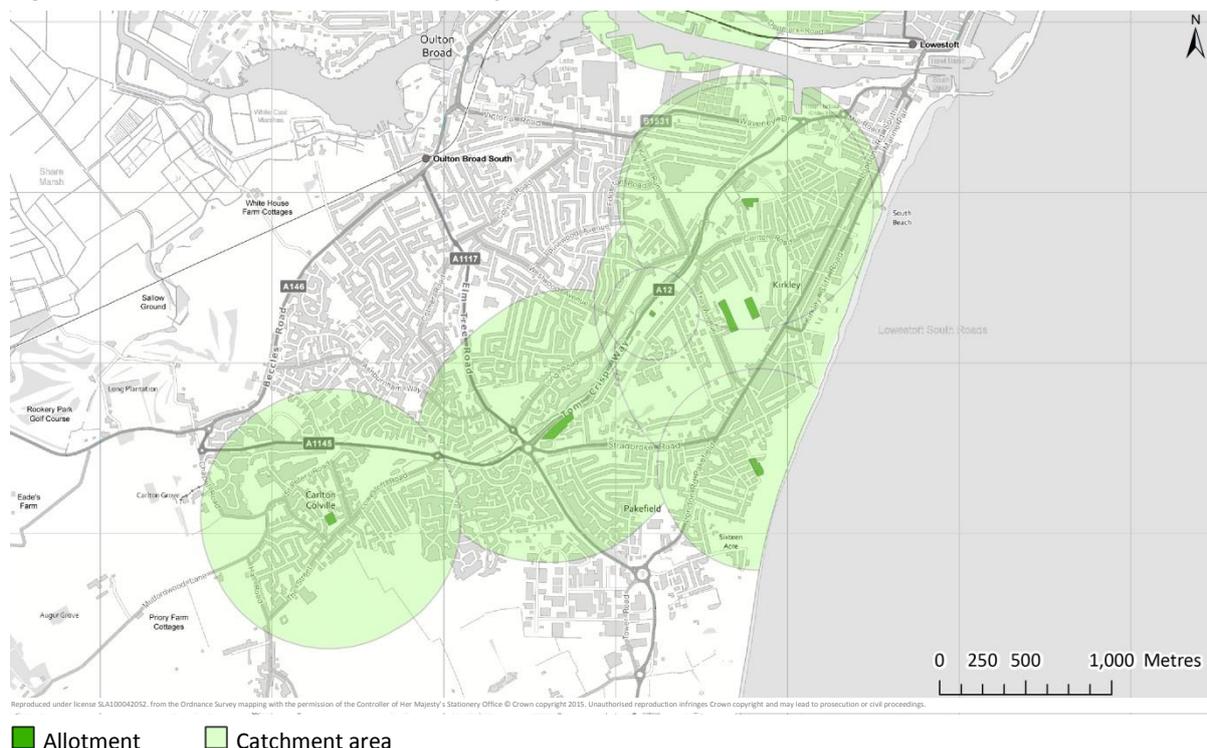
There are 4.09ha of allotments provided in South Lowestoft spread over 9 sites (Table 7.8). The quantitative shortfall of allotment provision is by far the most significant in the District with a deficit of 6.30ha (equivalent to approximately 250 plots). As of July 2014 the waiting list in Lowestoft (north and south inclusive) was over 120 people with latent demand likely to be higher with the waiting list being so extensive.

Table 7.8: Allotments in South Lowestoft

Allotment Location	Number of plots	Area (ha)
Blackheath Road	5	0.08
Borrow Close, Carlton Colville	17	0.32
Kirkley Fen Park, northern plot (Martin's Avenue)	15	0.21
Kirkley Fen Park, southern plot (Newark Road)	14	0.13
Kirkley Gardens	36	1.31
Long Acre	11	0.33
Saxon Road	10	0.14
Stradbroke Road	48	0.99
Wilmington (off Kirkley Park Road)	20	0.58
South Lowestoft total	193	4.09

Allotments sites are provided primarily in the east and south of the area creating a significant accessibility deficit west of Tom Crisp Way through the wards of Carlton and Whitton (Figure 7.11).

Figure 7.11: Allotments in South Lowestoft



Quantity and accessibility of allotments in the Southwold & Reydon area

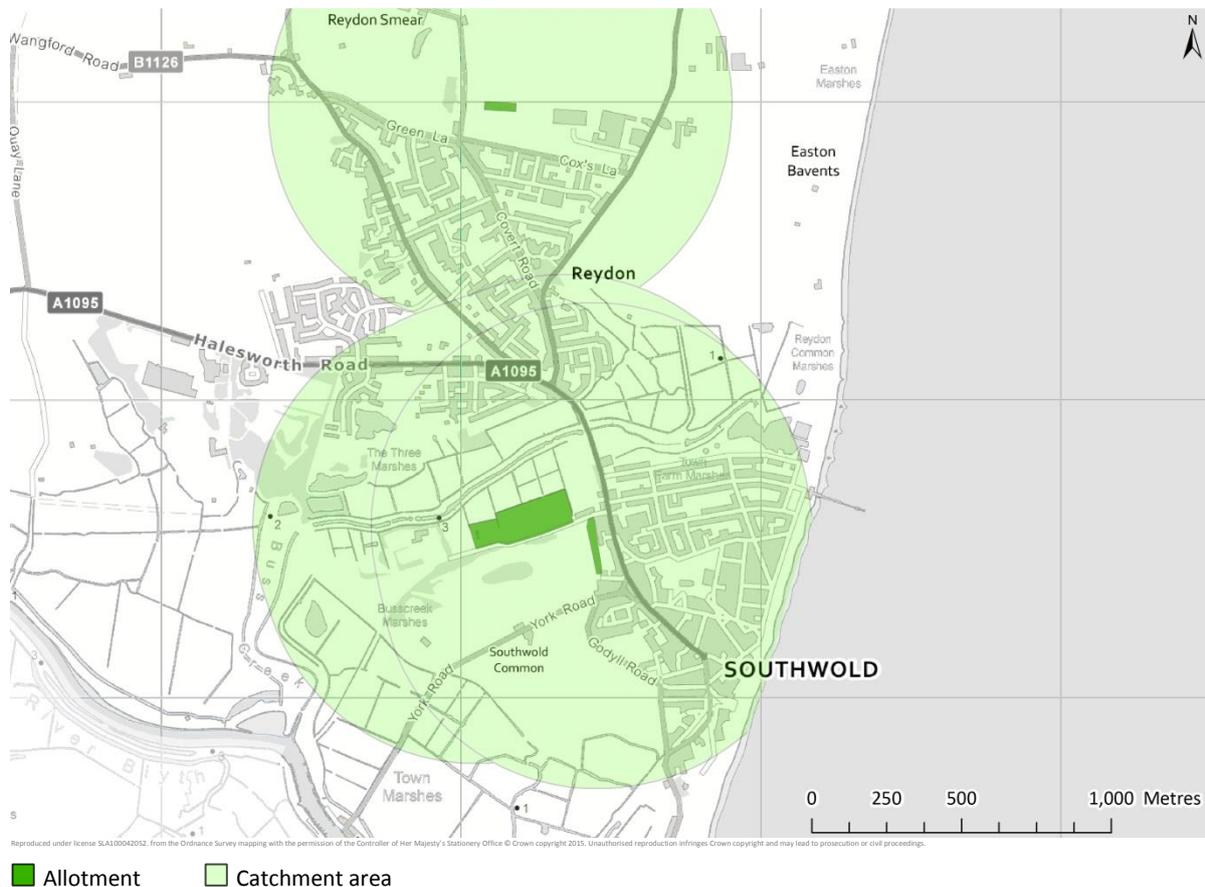
Southwold has the largest allotment site within the District situated on Blyth Road. This site provides an accessible and well used set of plots (92). A list of allotments is set out in Table 7.9. Coverage of the Southwold & Reydon area is very good (Figure 7.12). A continual waiting list highlights the demand for these community facilities in the town with some of the demand met through the dividing of a limited number of plots.

Reydon has an allotment site located north of the village at the recreational ground which contributes towards the multi-functionality of the open space enhancing it as a focal point in the area. The Parish Council has a small waiting list for plots with a waiting time of approximately one year.

Table 7.9: Allotments in Southwold & Reydon

Allotment Location	Number of plots	Area (ha)
Buss Creek Marshes, East of Blyth Road (Southwold)	92	3.65
South of Blyth Road (Southwold)	17	0.44
Rissemere Lane East (Reydon)	23	0.29
Southwold & Reydon total	132	4.38

Figure 7.12: Southwold & Reydon



Quantity and accessibility of allotments in the Rural areas

The rural villages of Waveney have a good provision of allotment sites overall (Table 7.2). Rural communities often have less access to facilities because of their dispersed nature so accessibility is good in the villages where allotments are provided, however, a quantitative figure may mask a shortfall of provision in other rural areas. Where allotments are provided the number of vacant plots is few, demonstrating that there is a solid demand for these facilities despite being in a rural location. The map of allotments provided in the District (Table 7.10) shows where facilities are available in the rural areas. The location and catchment areas for allotments in the larger villages are shown in Figures 7.13 to 7.15.

Table 7.10: Allotments in Rural areas

Allotment Location	Number of plots	Area (ha)
Barnby – Mill Lane	30	0.45
Corton – Church Lane	33	0.18
Lound – Earth Lane	7	1.11
Lound – Church Lane	4	0.14
Rumburgh – New Road	24	0.26
Somerleyton – The Green	45	1.57
Wangford – Norfolk Road	50	1.18
Westhall – Wangford Road	10	0.40
Westhall – Westhall Crossing	10	0.41
Westhall – Locks Road	10	0.42
Wrentham – Mill Lane	17	0.40
Rural areas total	240	6.52

Figure 7.13: Allotments in Corton



Figure 7.14: Allotments in Wangford



Figure 7.15: Allotments in Wrentham



Allotment recommendations

Beccles

Allotments recommendations

Land south of Nicholson Drive

Continue allocation for allotments to meet existing and future demand. Allotments plots will improve access to community facilities.

Worlingham Primary School

There are no existing allotments in the village. Residents are required to use facilities in Beccles and North Cove subject to availability. Allotments should be considered as part of the redevelopment of the site.

Worlingham (General)

There are no existing allotments in the village and additional plots will improve accessibility of these facilities for residents in the adjacent parishes of North Cove and Beccles as well as Worlingham. Any development of 20 dwellings or more in Worlingham should provide allotments as part of their on site open space requirements. Allocate site for allotments as part of Local Plan review.

Bungay

Allotments recommendations

St John's Road

Allotments, in conjunction with landscaping and planting, could be considered as part of the buffer between land used for housing and industrial purposes south of the town.

Bungay (General)

Shortfall of allotments. Disused allotments at Wingfield Street are unlikely to come forward in the short-term. The allocation should be continued, however, allocating additional land for allotments as part of a review of the Local Plan will improve the prospect of improving access to community facilities.

Halesworth

Allotments recommendations

West Halesworth

Access to allotments in the west is limited and additional plots would increase access to community facilities. Alternative use of existing open space could be considered where use as allotments no longer fulfils the role they were intended to provide. An allocation in the west of the built up area could be considered if the need was demonstrated.

Kessingland

Allotments recommendations

Protect existing allotments and consider additional provision if opportunities arise.

North Lowestoft

Allotments recommendations

Monckton Avenue

Increasing demand for allotment plots and a significant deficit of open space used for allotments. Bring forward existing allotment allocations as part of new development at Monckton Avenue Nursery.

Woods Meadow

Providing allotments as part of the development will contribute towards an existing demand in Oulton and Oulton Broad and meet future demand generated by residents in the Woods Meadow area. This could be explored when the proposed country park comes forward.

South Lowestoft

Allotments recommendations

Britten Road (Kirkley)

Significant shortfall of allotments. 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 reduce the negative visual impact of the fencing along the boundary 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.

Oakes Farm (Carlton Colville)

Significant shortfall of allotments. Consider delivery of allotments on the Oakes Farm site when it comes forward to create increase the multi-functional use of the site.

South Lowestoft (General)

Significant shortfall of allotments. Explore the potential to deliver allotments as an alternative open space use on amenity green spaces which are considered to be of low quality and offer low value in their current form and there is minimal scope to improve the spaces.

South Lowestoft (General)

Significant shortfall of allotments to meet demand (waiting list of over 120 people (July 2014) which is equivalent to approximately 3 hectares). Quantitatively there is an allotment land deficit of nearly 6ha. Allocate land for allotments as part of a review of the Local Plan.

Southwold & Reydon

Allotments recommendations

Reydon (north)

If any development comes forward that requires on site provision of open space, allotments should be considered along with other forms of open space that may be appropriate.

Rural Areas

Allotments recommendations

Rural areas (General)

Support Parish Councils to deliver allotments if there is an identified local need.



Cemeteries and Churchyards

Important areas for biodiversity and wildlife habitats, with an additional historic and cultural value.

Cemeteries and churchyards

Churchyards are encompassed within the walled boundary of a church and cemeteries are burial grounds outside the confines of a church. The primary purpose of this type of open space is for burial and quiet contemplation but also for the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.



Cemeteries and churchyards can provide open space and wildlife habitats as part of the green infrastructure network. In urban areas their role as an amenity space can supplement other open spaces in the area and provide areas of peace and quiet away from the nearby urban environment. In areas of rural character cemeteries often represent a minor resource in terms of open space but can still prove to be important areas for biodiversity and wildlife habitats.

Cemeteries and churchyards are important historical assets and have additional value placed upon them by families of the deceased. Cemeteries often make an important contribution to the local history and townscape of an area.

There are eight cemetery sites and 61 churchyards in Waveney. The previous assessment of cemeteries and churchyards included a household survey. The survey highlighted that cleanliness, soft landscaping features and the provision of seating and toilets were of importance to respondents. Negative issues identified by respondents included anti-social behaviour, vandalism and dog-fouling, however, these concerns were not considered to be major.

The 2007 assessment included a survey of site quality. The quality of sites was generally high and all sites are accessible to the public as amenity space. There has been minimal change since this was completed. A list of cemeteries and churchyards and the quality findings are set out in Table 8.1 and their location is shown in Figure 8.1.

Table 8.1: Cemeteries and churchyards in Waveney

Cemeteries

Beccles Cemetery
Belle Vue Park (Lowestoft) - Royal Navy only
Bungay Cemetery
Gunton Woodland Burial Site (to be opened 2016)

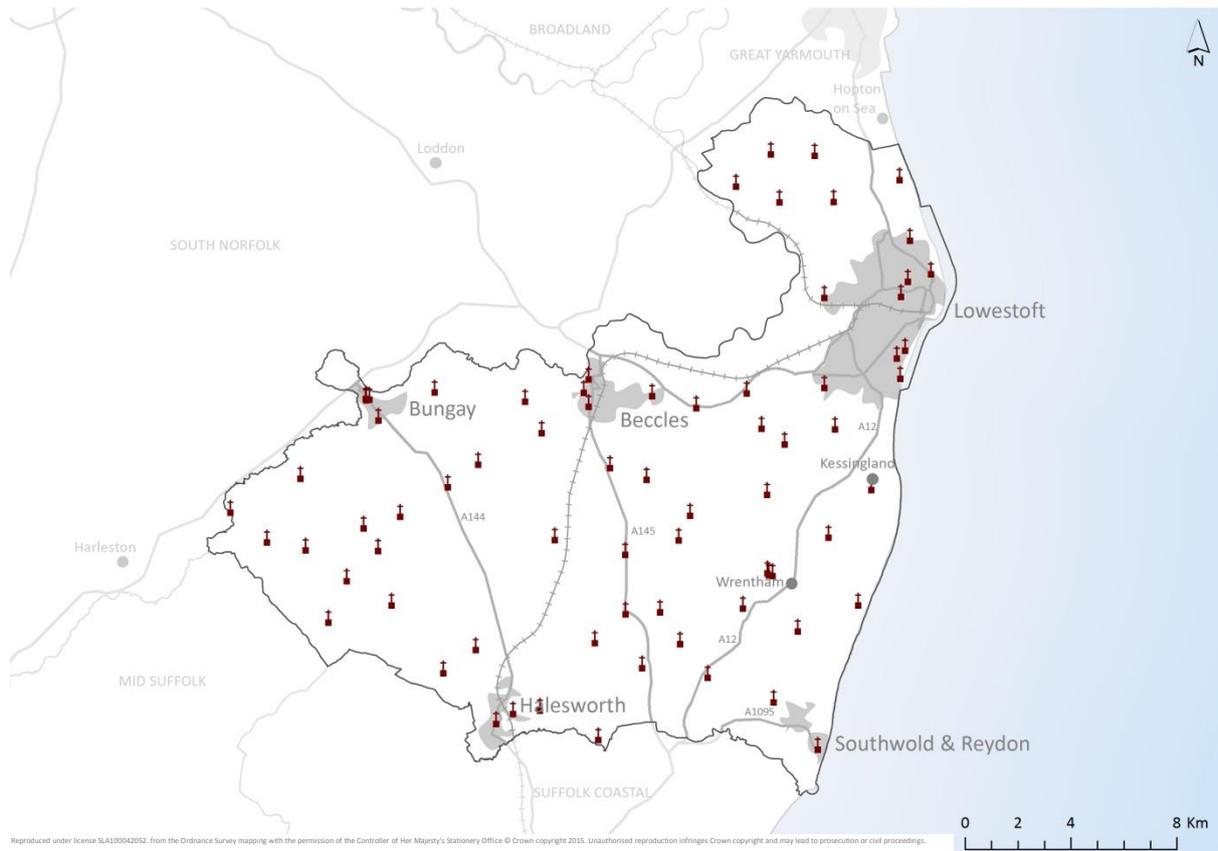
Halesworth Cemetery
Kirkley Cemetery
Lowestoft Cemetery
Wrentham Cemetery

Churchyards

Holy Trinity Church (Barsham)
St Benet's Church (Beccles)
St Michael's Church (Beccles)
St Michael's Church (Benacre)
St Mary's Church (Blundeston)
All Saints Church (Blyford)
St Peter's Church (Brampton)
St Edmund's Church (Bungay)
Holy Trinity Church (Bungay)
St Peter's Church (Carlton Colville)
St Bartholomew's Church (Corton)
St Andrew's Church (Covehithe)
All Saints Church (Ellough)
St Mary's Church Abbey Road (Flixton)
All Saint's Church (Frostenden)
Holy Trinity Church (Gisleham)
St Mary's Church (Halesworth)
St Mary's Church (Henstead)
St Margaret's Church (Herringfleet)
St Peter's Church (Holton)
St Mary's Church (Homersfield)
St Andrew's Church (Ilketshall St Andrew)
St Lawrence's Church (Ilketshall St Lawrence)
St Margaret's Church (Ilketshall St Margaret)
St Edmund's Church (Kessingland)
St Peter's Church (Kessingland)
St John The Baptist's Church (Lound)
All Saints Church (Mettingham)
St Andrew's Church (Mutford)
St Botolph's Church (North Cove)
St Peter's Church (Gunton, North Lowestoft)
St Margaret's Church (Harbour, North Lowestoft)

St Peter's Church & St Johns Church (Pakefield, South Lowestoft)
St Michael's Church (Oulton)
St Peter's Church (Redisham)
St Margaret's Church (Reydon)
All Saints Church (Ringsfield)
St Michael's Church (Rumburgh)
St Michael's Church (Rushmere)
St John The Baptist's Church (Shadingfield)
St Mary's Church (Somerleyton)
St Andrew's Church (Sotherton)
Cemetery Memorial Chapel (Sotterley)
St Margaret's Church (Sotterley)
St Edmund's Church (Southwold)
St James' Church (South Elmham St James)
St Margaret's Church (South Elmham St Margaret)
St Michael's Church (South Elmham St Michael)
St Peter's Church (South Elmham St Peter)
St Lawrence's Church (South Cove)
All Saints & St Margaret's Church (Pakefield, South Lowestoft)
St Nicholas' Church (Pakefield, South Lowestoft)
St Peter's Church (Spexhall)
St Margaret's Church (Stoven)
St Mary's Church (Uggeshall)
St Peter's And St Pauls Church (Wangford)
St Andrew's Church (Westhall)
St Peter's Church (Weston)
St Andrew's Church (Wissett)
All Saints Church (Worlingham)
St Nicholas' Church (Wrentham)

Figure 8.1: Location of cemeteries and churchyards in Waveney



Standard of provision

There are no quantity standards, quality standards or accessibility standards set for cemeteries and churchyards within Waveney. In terms of open space provision, while they provide amenity value, they have not been included in the calculation relating to quantitative open space provision. They are, however, represented on the Green Infrastructure map. This is not to say these considerations are not important, but rather each site is managed on an individual basis dependent on its surrounding land use and context.

The need to provide burial land in the future has been addressed through land either being allocated for cemetery use (Bungay Cemetery, Hillside Road) or protected as open space adjacent to an existing cemetery (Beccles Cemetery, Kirkley Cemetery). A new burial site adjacent to Gunton Woodland is being enhanced through planting and will provide benefits for both the community and wildlife and is due to receive burials from January 2016.

Cemeteries and churchyards recommendations

General

Cemeteries and churchyards recommendations

General

Consider approaches to management of cemeteries that can provide public amenity and encourage biodiversity.

Beccles

Cemeteries and churchyards recommendations

Beccles Meadow (land adjacent to Beccles Cemetery)

Beccles Cemetery provides habitat for wildlife. Land adjacent to the south of the cemetery will be required as an extension to the cemetery in the future. Consideration should be given how the site could be connected with the existing cemetery to enhance biodiversity and public amenity.



Green Corridors

Green corridors can encourage exercise and healthy living and link fragmented sites of biodiversity.

Introduction to green corridors

This assessment aims to identify green corridors that provide habitat connections and movement routes through the urban environment and where these are linked to their wider surroundings.

Landscaping, tree and shrub planting and habitats such as woodlands, wetlands, heathland and grassland can provide aesthetic benefits, encourage healthy living and link fragmented sites of biodiversity. Identifying existing locations of habitats and how they relate to existing open spaces in and around the built environment is important to understanding the integrity of the green infrastructure network.

Different elements of green corridors that have been considered are:

- **Biodiversity corridors**
Areas of ecological importance that provide habitat links with an urban area (may or may not be publicly accessible).
- **Trees, shrubs and hedges**
Areas with continuous tree/shrub canopy and hedgerows that provide habitat for wildlife (includes areas in the open countryside and areas within the built up area including back gardens).
- **Greenways**
Off road routes that connect people and wildlife to open spaces and other destinations and are traffic-free routes for shared use.

To identify potential routes for greenway development in the future or enhancing existing green routes there is a need to understand existing open space provision in terms of location, the role it has in the community and how development in the future may impact upon an area. Incorporating biodiversity corridors, greenways and green routes into development proposals can enhance the quality of a proposal, reduce the impact on the local area, improve habitat connections for biodiversity and create quality links between new and existing development and the countryside.

Ecological corridors in Waveney

Ecological corridors are an important part of the green infrastructure network in Waveney and the wider region. Some areas are publicly accessible while others are not, however, in the wider environment it is important to protect areas of ecological importance where so much has been changed and managed over time.

Across the District ecological corridors are important in both the strategic and local context. The Waveney Valley, Blyth Valley and sites of high significance along the coast are protected for their wildlife and habitat value. Ecological corridors connecting these areas are important to enable wildlife species to move between habitats. Within settlements areas of natural and semi-natural character, public open spaces and private gardens all contribute towards green infrastructure and where these areas are contiguous or in close proximity to each other they can create green ecological corridors.

Within built up areas public rights of way and cycle routes provide an opportunity to create attractive travel routes for recreational use and commuting. Greenways provide an opportunity to encourage sustainable transport and improve access to semi-natural areas and locations with high biodiversity value. They also improve the public realm and enhance the wider ecological network.

Provision and distribution of green corridors in the Beccles area

Within the built up area there are several green corridors (Figure 9.1). The railway line runs through the town north to south with much of the line bound by vegetation. Outside of the built up area in the north the line travels through the Beccles Marshes and other areas important for their ecological value. South of the town the line is more exposed in the open countryside reducing its value for wildlife.

Rigbourne Hill Lane is a greenway connecting residential areas in the south of the town. The greenway begins near the Beccles Free School and runs south to Cucumber Lane connecting play spaces located at Bramley Rise and Glebe View. The shared use path for pedestrians and cyclists also improves access to the Darby Road play space, the most significant play facility in the vicinity, and schools in the area. The importance of the Rigbourne Hill Lane greenway will increase as development comes forward at Cucumber Lane and the Beccles Southern Relief Road is delivered south of the town. The proposed Beccles Southern Relief Road development is to include cycle lanes and landscape planting which will connect the Ellough Business Park to Cucumber Lane. Encouraging sustainable transport modes, the cycleway will indirectly link to the Rigbourne Hill Lane greenway

and support increased cycling. Currently the greenway path is of a sub-standard condition and to encourage greater use this route should be improved.

Rigbourne Hill Lane provides habitat for wildlife within the built up area by connecting the open countryside to several open spaces in the residential area and enhancing the local green infrastructure network. While there are no significant greenways or wildlife corridors in the vicinity there are other open spaces that act as stepping stones supporting the movement of wildlife.

In the south east of Beccles part of Wash Lane is a greenway that connects Darby Road to the A145 and an employment area. The site provides good vegetation for wildlife but has less value than Rigbourne Hill Lane as a movement corridor for people as it is not set within the residential area. For both Wash Lane and Rigbourne Hill Lane any future development in the area of south Beccles should provide connections to these greenways if feasible.

Away from greenways and the railway line there are few routes with continuous canopy cover that could provide quality wildlife habitats. Many of the streets have trees and planting to enhance the visual amenity of an area but they have limited biodiversity value. There are sections of transport routes that provide quality tree cover in the areas of The Dell (Bungay Road, Ringsfield Road and Puddingmoor) and roads adjacent to Beccles Cemetery. However, none of these are significantly continuous to be considered quality green corridors. A similar pattern is reflected by the diffuse coverage of dense tree canopy within the built up area.

In Worlingham there is a network of green spaces comprised of several small parks, schools and traffic-free walk/cycle ways. These provide good connections for local residents to move around the urban area and encourage people to be active and use community facilities and support wildlife movement.

Outside of the built up area of Beccles and Worlingham there is a significant amount of habitat that is likely to support wildlife, particularly north of the town. Beccles Marshes and Beccles Common are identified as having significant wildlife value and these areas are closely linked to other expansive wildlife habitats along the River Waveney to the west and the open area north of Worlingham. These areas should continue to be protected to retain the biodiversity of the area. To the south and west of the town tree and shrub canopy cover tends to be smaller and more sporadic. These habitats will support wildlife and act as stepping stones for species moving through the open countryside. These areas should be protected to support existing wildlife and enhance the mosaic of habitats in the wider area.

Provision and distribution of green corridors in the Bungay area

There are a limited number of publicly accessible open spaces in Bungay with the larger sites being school playing fields (Figure 9.2). There are no greenways in the town. Open spaces near the town centre are particularly isolated. In this area the focus should be on improving the quality of green infrastructure as there is limited potential to provide new open space or landscaping outside of existing open space.

Within the built up area west of Lower Olland Street there are several open spaces and open areas that contribute towards the green infrastructure and the character of the area. These spaces are physically connected through landscaping and the layout of the land but are isolated in terms of movement for people. In this way these sites have more value for wildlife than for local residents. Land located north of Hillside Road East (Skinner's Meadow) acts as an open break in the urban area and connects to small grazing fields to the north. The Garden Close play space provides an area for equipped and unequipped play with thoroughfares linking the residential streets of Pilgrim's Way, Garden Close and, once the allotments come forward on the vacant land to the north, Wingfield Street.

There is potential to improve connectivity within the residential areas and improve access to services and facilities in the town centre. When the allotments off Wingfield Street are delivered there is significant potential to improve connectivity within the residential area and towards the town centre while also enhancing the public realm. Pedestrian and cycle access through (adjacent to) the Garden Close play space will connect residential streets. Access along the edge of the grazing fields and into Skinner's Meadow would connect to residential areas south of Hillside Road East and to the community centre and equipped play space to be delivered on the site of the former Old Grammar School. Access to Skinner's Meadow has been a long standing aspiration of the community. This potential corridor would also link into Bungay Cemetery which is connected to the residential area around King's Road, Bungay High School and the King's Road play space.

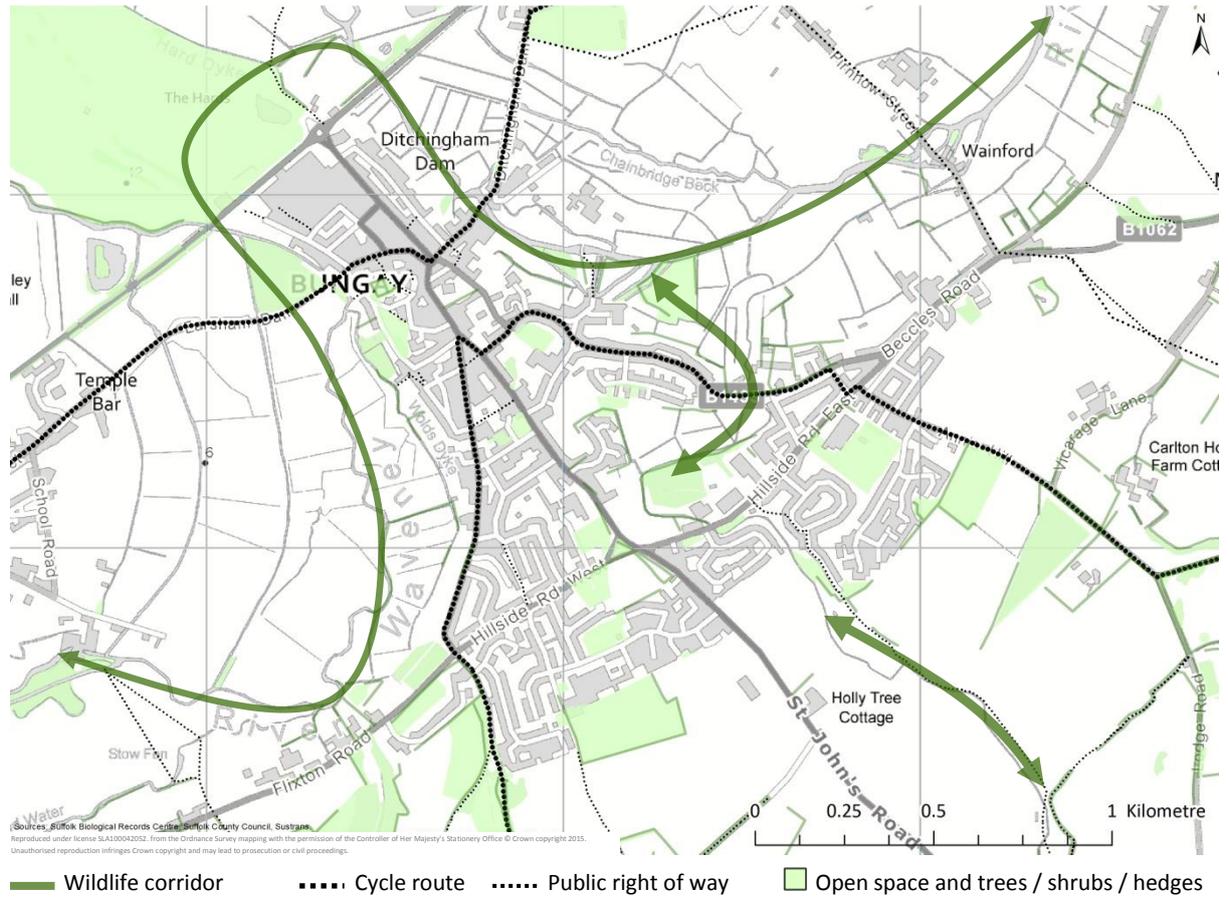
South of Hillside Road East and Hillside Road West connectivity between open spaces is limited with the exception of the cemetery and the King's Road play space. The Tin River basin provides habitat for wildlife, however, there is little connectivity along green routes for people to use. The urban fringe where the built up area meets the countryside is poorly integrated with the surroundings. The only area that provides a corridor for wildlife to move in/out of the urban area is along the Tin River at Meadow Road and along St Margaret's Road to the west.

There are three residential allocations in the town with two of these small sites located within the existing built up area offering little opportunity to significantly enhance the green infrastructure of the area. The land south of the southern urban boundary is the most likely area to support development in the future. Land west of St John's Road has been allocated for industrial and

residential development. This has the potential to improve connections within the residential area for pedestrians and cyclists and enhance the green infrastructure along the urban boundary with the countryside. New greenways located along the existing development boundary between Bungay High School/Sports Centre and St John's Road and between St John's Road and the Meadow Road play space would significantly benefit the area. This would improve access to equipped play spaces and community facilities such as the High School/sports centre and the former Bungay Middle School. This would also act to soften the urban boundary and enhance an area that could be used by wildlife. Delivery of greenways in the area is likely to not only benefit existing residential areas but also add value to any development in the future.

The Waveney Valley is the defining landscape and habitat feature in the Bungay area. North of the town is Outney Common which provides an area containing several different habitats including heathland, trees and water. Around the perimeter are located several other habitat areas such as woodlands which cumulatively are likely to be important for the quality of green infrastructure in the area. South west of the town are several small wooded areas that supplement the larger open space of Stow Fen. Immediately adjacent to the town are several habitat areas including north of the allotments (Flixton Road), north of Beccles Road/Staithe Road and the area around Ditchingham Dam. West of Bungay the pedestrian/cycleway along the south side of the A143 provides a quality route for people to use recreationally and to travel to Maltings Meadow Sports Ground and the village of Ditchingham. To improve connectivity between Bungay and Ditchingham potential enhancements to the pedestrian and cycle route along Ditchingham Dam could be explored.

Figure 9.2: Existing green corridors in Bungay



Provision and distribution of green corridors in the Halesworth area

The network of open spaces connected north to south through the town is the defining green infrastructure feature in Halesworth (Figure 9.3). These sites are split into two distinct areas north and south of Quay Street and Holton Road. North of Holton Road the former Halesworth Middle School is connected to the Dairy Hill sports field. These spaces are open in character with trees providing amenity and wildlife value to the surroundings. South of these sites is the land formerly used as allotments.

South of Quay Street and Holton Road are Town Park, Millennium Green and Bird's Folly. This network of spaces provides several different habitats including tree canopy, grassland and wetland. The interconnected sites are of different character and provide different recreational uses including amenity and play. A quality shared use path encourages people to use the area and it provides an attractive and functional connection between the town centre, residential areas near Swan Lane and an employment area. These open spaces create a buffer between the Blyth Road Industrial Estate, the town centre and nearby residential areas contribute positively to the character of the area and the settlement's connection with the surrounding countryside. This network of green infrastructure should be protected.

The railway line running north to south through the town forms part of the green infrastructure network and acts to connect many of the open spaces in different parts of the town. The railway line also provides a green corridor for wildlife to move through the urban environment.

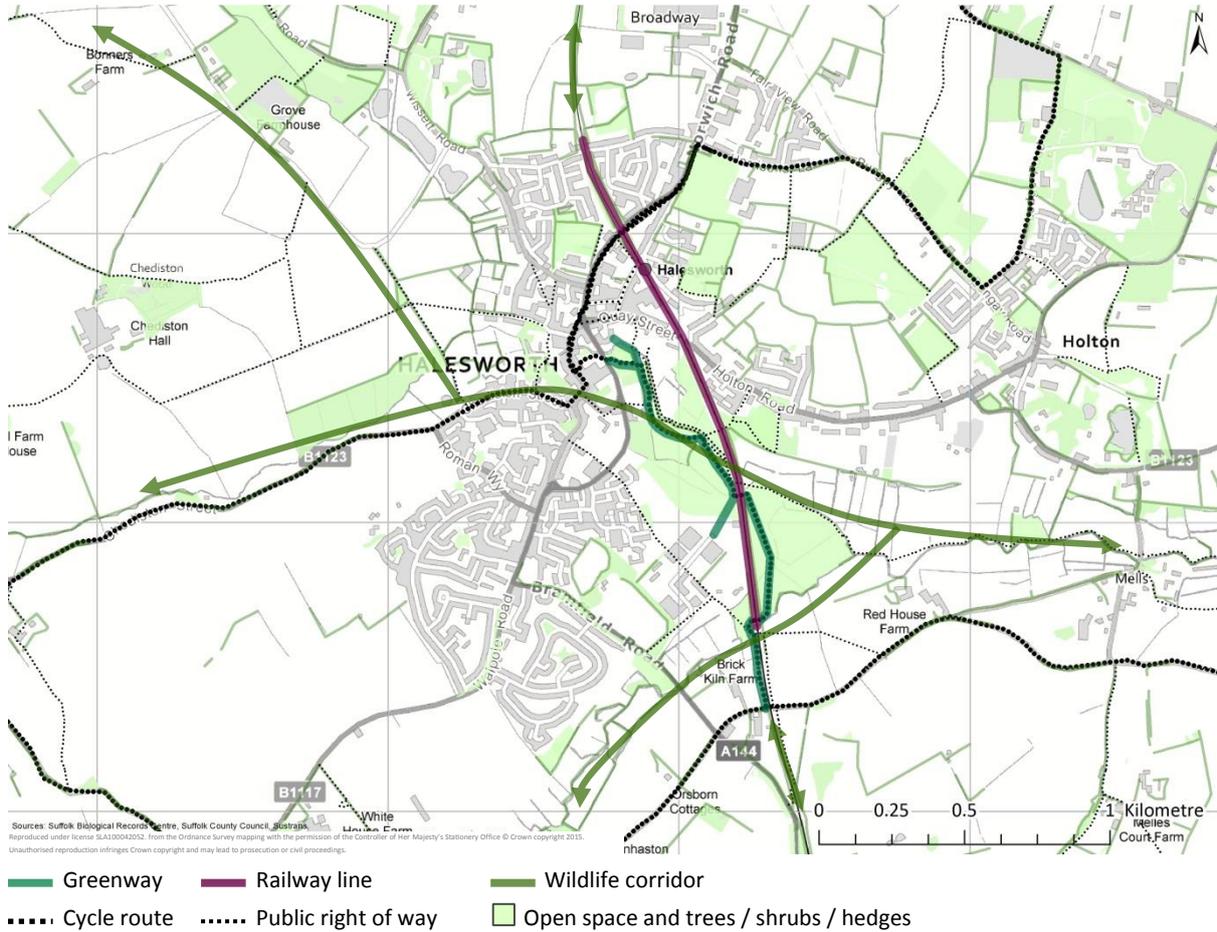
Small open spaces within the town are quite dispersed and have limited value for biodiversity. The areas of Saxon Way, Wissett Road, and Bungay Road are busy transport corridors that have tree and shrub canopy that could contribute positively to wildlife and the integration of the town and countryside. Beccles Road in Holton provides a quality link from Bungay Road to the semi-natural area to the north of the village.

The open countryside between Halesworth and Holton is important to the character of both settlements. This area is identified as a strategic gap to stop the coalescence of two distinct communities and benefits from its protected status, which should be retained. Improved access to the Blyth Valley would increase access to nearby semi-natural areas. North of the Strategic Gap the community have aspirations to create a greenway connecting to the area north of Holton that would create greater opportunities for recreational access to the countryside.

The west of the town is adjacent to open countryside but has limited public access to this expansive area. A shared use path or public right of way connected to the north part of Halesworth via Chediston Street to the Walpole Road and south of Kennedy Close would encourage greater access to a semi-natural environment and provide an enhanced route for recreational use. A public right of

way from the open space south of Kennedy Close to Basley Park provide improved access to recreational facilities, the industrial area and the Millennium Green beyond. The relationship between the urban boundary and the surrounding countryside in the south of the town could be improved with the reinforcement of nearby hedgerows and trees which would also enhance any potential greenway in the area.

Figure 9.3: Existing green corridors in Halesworth



Provision and distribution of green corridors in the Kessingland area

In the Kessingland area the main recreational and wildlife area is the beach, providing habitat for wildlife and recreational use for residents and visitors. There are no green corridors in the village and few streets provide quality canopy cover to support a diverse variety of wildlife (Figure 9.4). The only significant green route is the eastern section of Church Road.

Within the village there are few green spaces of any significant size. Many of the spaces have been set out to provide visual amenity and openness in the built environment but encourage limited physical use by residents. They have greater potential to support wildlife as stepping stones for species to move through the area. To enhance their value to wildlife and their value to the community many of these spaces could be improved through planting and supplementary facilities such as seating. Creating an enhanced public realm is likely to encourage people to walk in the village and enjoy the townscape around them.

The Kessingland Playing Field is the largest open space in the village and provides for a range of activities including sport, equipped play, amenity and community activities in the village hall. It is also the northernmost open space that contributes towards a network of open spaces extending south to Marram Green. The Local Plan and the Waveney Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment identify the demand for additional football pitches. If these can be delivered or if any development comes forward north of the village consideration should be given to providing a shared use path between the playing pitch area and North Cliff. This would improve access to a community area and the beach which is one of Kessingland's most important recreational assets.

Outside of the village there are important ecological habitats to the south east and areas that extend inland from the beach. The pastures surrounding the village create openness and a tranquil setting, however, there are limited wooded areas and ditches to support wildlife movement. Other than the beach there are no significant habitat areas that buffer the built up area.

Figure 9.4: Existing green corridors in Kessingland

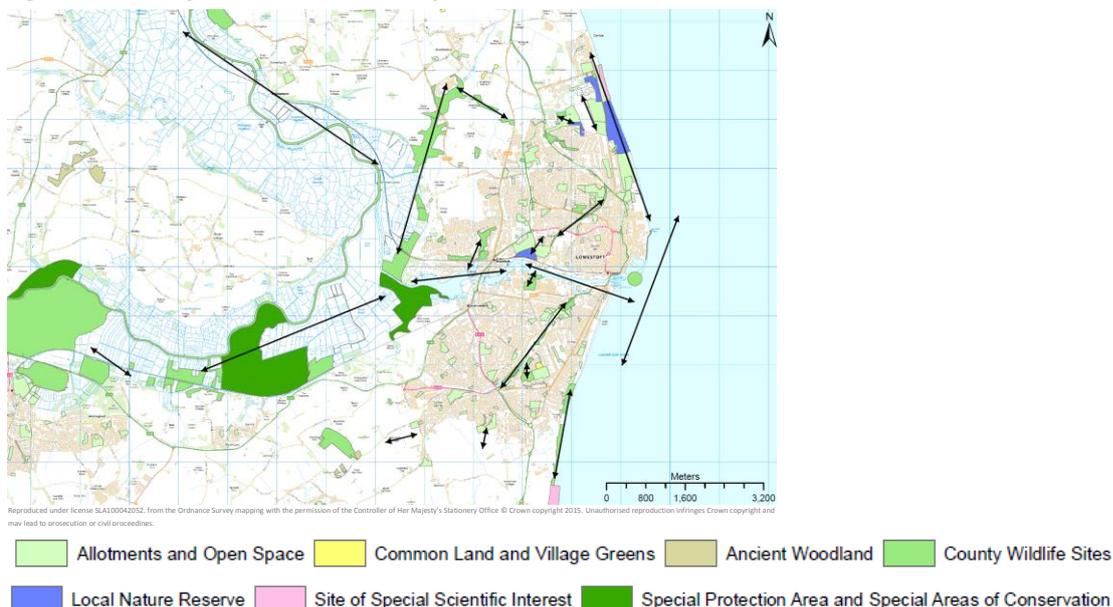


Provision and distribution of green corridors in the North Lowestoft area

North Lowestoft has a significant number of open spaces spread throughout the urban area. A significant number of these are relatively isolated, however, there are several important corridors for wildlife and people to use (Figure 9.6). Along the coast stretching from Corton to the Net Drying area on Whapload Road are a series of open spaces providing amenity use and habitats for wildlife. Corton Woods, Gunton Cliffs and Gunton Warren combine to provide a diverse range of habitats including woodland, scrub, dunes and water with much of the area having been designated for its ecology to ensure it is protected. These sites link into the Denes and the Net Drying area along the waterfront and into Sparrow's Nest Park, Bellevue Park and Arnold's Bequest. These areas provide a network of open spaces for public amenity use and create a network of habitats to support wildlife.

Extending north from Bellevue Park is Yarmouth Road. Parts of this busy road are lined with trees. In Gunton, Yarmouth Road connects into Foxburrow Wood and the large open space north of Gainsborough Drive. Extending south east from Yarmouth Road (near Bellevue Park) is the Great Eastern Linear Park. A former railway line, this is the only significant greenway in North Lowestoft providing a high quality environment for pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife. The greenway links several open spaces and several schools within the residential area. At the southern end of the Great Eastern Linear Park is Lowestoft Cemetery and Normanston Park which contain an array of open space typologies including a semi-natural area. Adjacent to Normanston Park is Leathes Ham, a Local Nature Reserve. This network of green spaces is important for the movement of people and also has the added benefit for wildlife of being connected to Lake Lothing and the habitat this provides. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust Biodiversity Audits (2007) identified wildlife corridors in North and South Lowestoft (Figure 9.5).

Figure 9.5: Wildlife corridors in Lowestoft



From Normanston Park a green route is provided along Peto Way from Normanston Drive (south) to Bentley Drive (north). Currently the vegetation cover is not yet fully established which limits its value for wildlife but this will improve over time. Despite this the route provides openness in the built up area and is an attractive place for pedestrians and cyclists who use the shared use paths to access the areas between the northern reaches of Lowestoft and the area closer to Lake Lothing and the town centre. The attractiveness of the green route encourages people to be more active, particularly by connecting schools in the north and encouraging children to participate in physical activity at a young age. The proposed pedestrian/cycle crossing from the Brooke Peninsula on the south side of Lake Lothing to Normanston Park will further increase the value of the green infrastructure in central Lowestoft and increase access to community facilities. The quality of this route and its connections should be protected to ensure its value is retained in the future.

The railway line in Lowestoft has minimal value for biodiversity in the centre of town as it is adjacent to the port area and vegetation is limited. West of Oulton Broad North Station the line is adjacent to a semi-natural area south of Hall Road that links into Bond's Meadow (County Wildlife Site) to the north and out into the Broads and open countryside to the west. Several country lanes provide an attractive network of transport routes in the area to connect the rural edge of Oulton to the residential area. West of the urban boundary of Oulton Broad the Oulton Marshes extend north and south along the Waveney Valley encompassing the River Waveney and Oulton Dyke. This is an extensive green corridor that provides quality habitat for wildlife. These ecological areas extend up to Blundeston and provide an attractive environment that is accessible along quiet country lanes and footpaths.

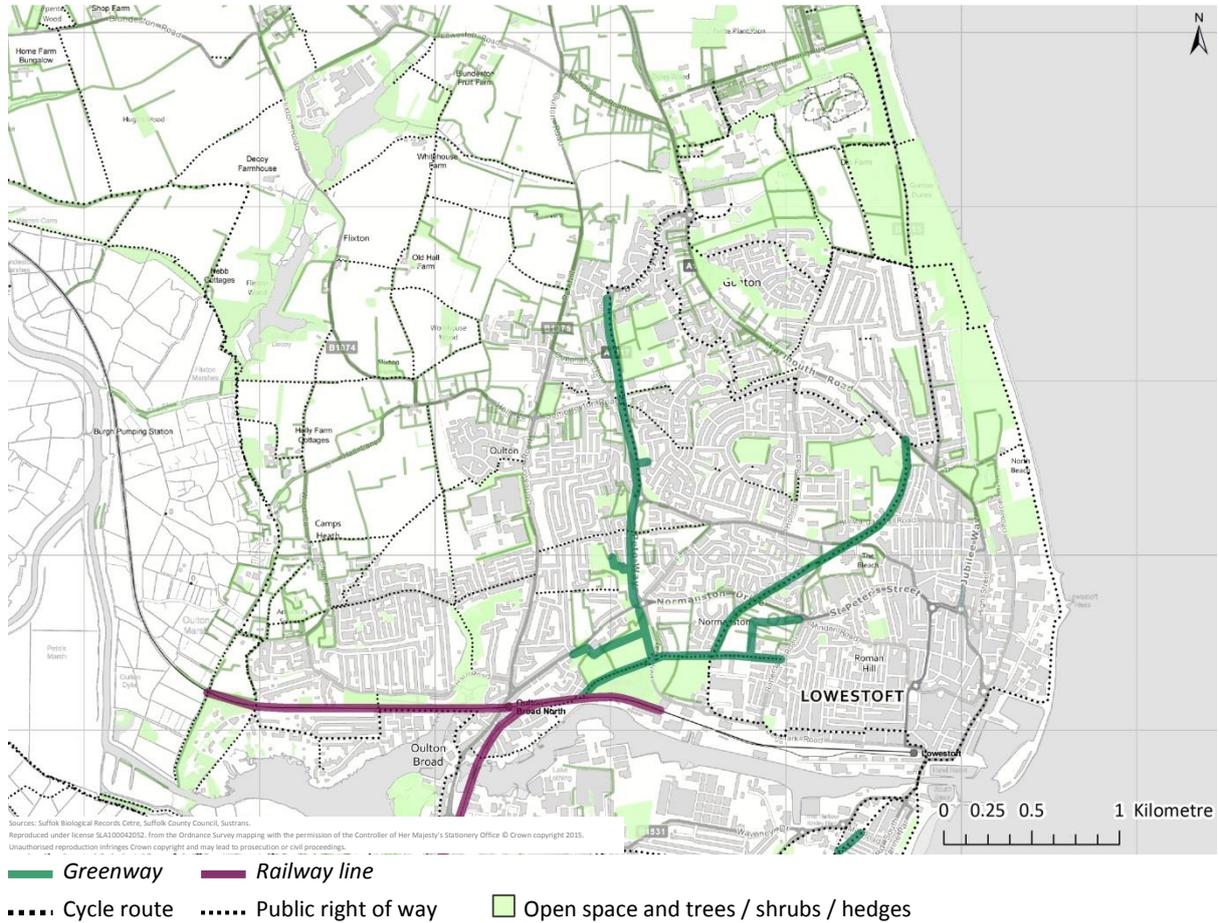
North Lowestoft is expected to support a significant amount of the urban growth during the current plan period. Several housing developments are anticipated to come forward in the next few years. The most significant development is expected to take place at Woods Meadow, north of Sands Lane in Oulton Broad. A proposed development of 800 dwellings, the proposal is to also provide play spaces and a country park adjacent to its northern boundary. There is significant potential to provide a quality greenway extending from Cambrian Crescent in the south to Hall Lane in the north. Additional links to the green space adjacent to the southern boundary of the Mobbs Way employment area and the open space at Dunston Drive will provide quality green routes to the existing residential area, local shops and other wildlife areas such as Bond's Meadow.

The Woods Meadow development provides an opportunity to enhance the value of an existing right of way between the community of Camps Heath and the proposed country park. This link would create additional benefit to the wider community in North Lowestoft and improve public access to the wildlife area found in the Oulton Marshes. A greenway in this location would increase the sustainability of the Woods Meadow development overall.

Further development in the vicinity of Oulton Road and Peto Way will increase the value of the Peto Way green route for local residents.

In some areas of North Lowestoft where the urban boundary meets the open countryside the area is poorly integrated creating an environment where the built up area does not relate to its surroundings. Benefit for residents, visitors and wildlife is limited if not poor (eg. Houghton Road backing onto Hall Lane) and future proposals should avoid this approach.

Figure 9.6: Existing green corridors in North Lowestoft



Provision and distribution of green corridors in the South Lowestoft area

The green infrastructure in South Lowestoft is more dispersed than North Lowestoft with distinct networks of green spaces that are less easily identifiable. The primary green route for the movement of people is along Tom Crisp Way and Castleton Avenue (Figure 9.7). The route is a main traffic corridor out of South Lowestoft, however, the quality of the route for pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife is high. The route is an example of the incorporation of sustainable drainage schemes that have been delivered to support the development, provide visual amenity to enhance the environment and create wetland habitats.

Along the length of Tom Crisp Way are several large open spaces making the greenery along the road a key connection between habitats. At the northern end is Kirkley Fen Park which supports a variety of recreational activities and grassland and wetland habitats. Heading south Pakefield Park provides a quality wooded semi-natural habitat with pedestrian and cycle access through it. Pakefield Park connects into the greenway behind Silverwood Close. This greenway is an attractive environment that enhances the area for people and wildlife and complements Pakefield Park. However, there are no greenways or green routes extending east or west from this space to encourage greater use of the space and improve connectivity between destinations such as the beach. A similar but shorter greenway is located north of Pakefield Park behind Green Drive.

The area around The Avenue provides a quality visual environment with established trees complemented by good canopy coverage in back gardens. The Avenue extends north from London Road South to the Tom Crisp Way. Continuing north, Kirkley Run will be a key street to access the proposed open space, play area and County Wildlife Site in the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood. Public realm improvements to Kirkley Run would enhance the green infrastructure network and its value to the community by improving connectivity within the urban area.

Extending west from Tom Crisp Way the green route continues along Castleton Avenue and connects Carlton Meadow Park to the surrounding area. This park has a variety of habitats including wetland and supports recreational activities for all age groups. Carlton Meadow Park acts to connect the population living south of Lowestoft Road to the pedestrian and cycle network and the residential area north of Castleton Avenue via Hollow Lane and Grove Road. This open space is a good distance from both the Bloodmoor Community Centre open space to the south and the Carlton Colville Community Centre to the south west. The value of the Hollow Lane as a green route is significantly inhibited by a lack of pedestrian and cycle connection to the existing network along Beccles Road. The shared use path continues from the end of Castleton Avenue, however, its abrupt break along Beccles Road opposite Cabin Close is a gap in the transport network and detrimental to people using connections in the wider green infrastructure network.

Oakes Farm is a sport and leisure allocation (LOW11) south of Carlton Colville and the green corridor along Castleton Avenue route will connect directly with it. This green route will increase in importance once this is delivered and will encourage people to access the facility with travel options other than private vehicles. This will benefit the community and encourage greater physical activity. The good safety and quality of the route will also help enable children attending schools in the area to use the facility.

At the southern end of Tom Crisp Way is the A12 heading towards the Tower Road roundabout. This green route provides visual amenity with some green space for wildlife but does not provide any quality public access or an attractive environment to encourage use as a pedestrian movement corridor. However, this route does provide connectivity to the residential area of Long Road and Rosedale Park. In this sense this connectivity is likely to be of benefit to wildlife.

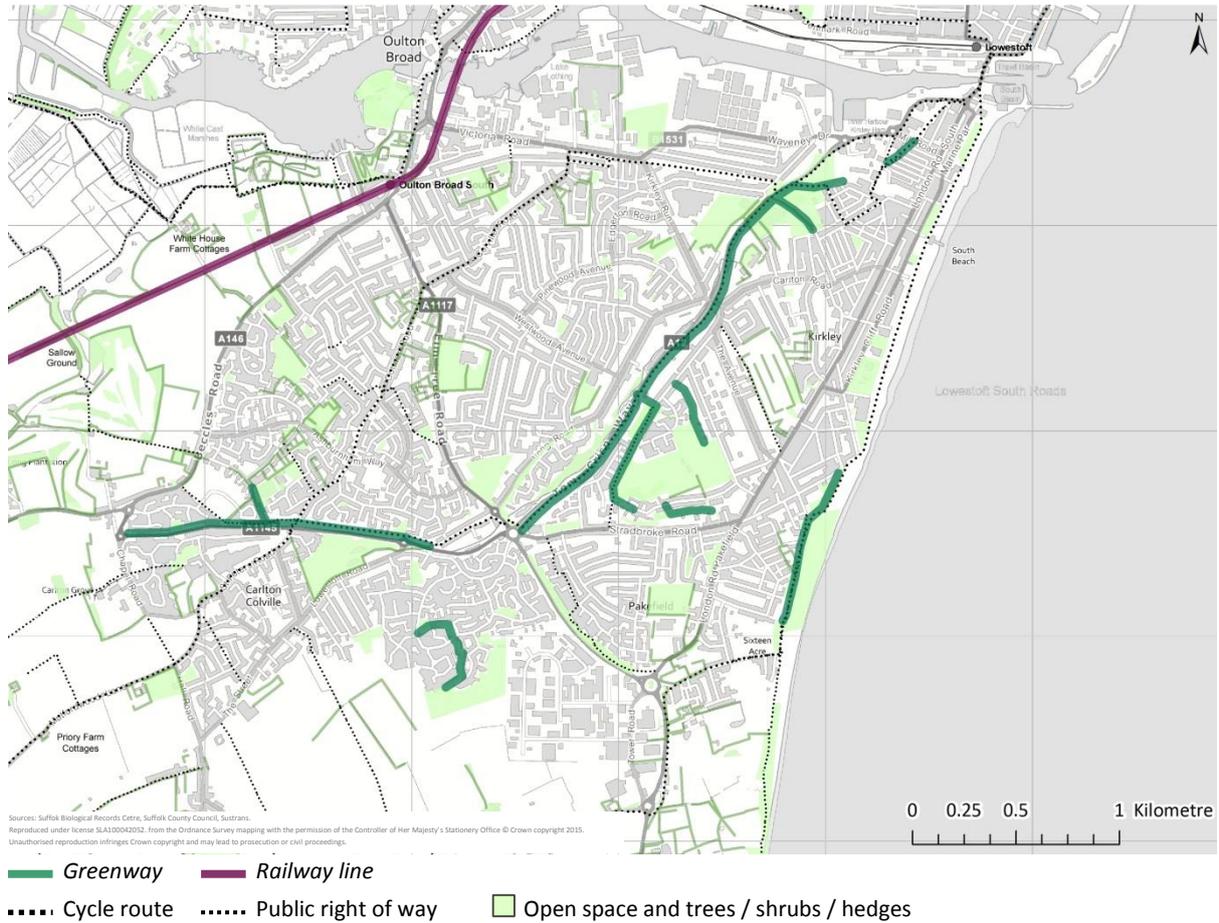
The Tom Crisp Way and Castleton Avenue corridor connects green spaces through the north-south spine of South Lowestoft but the green spaces along the coast provide the greatest value for recreational amenity. A network of open spaces extends from the mouth of Lake Lothing all along the built up area and south through the Pakefield Cliffs and into Kessingland. The beach environment provides a natural habitat for wildlife and recreational use by residents and visitors. The area is a key connection between the area south of Pakefield and central Lowestoft and the town centre. Protecting facilities in the area such as play spaces and amenity green spaces from threats such as the sea and encroachment are essential to maintain this area as an attractive movement corridor and destination for recreational use. This is particularly important for areas such as Pakefield and Kirkley where there is a shortfall of open space and connected network of green corridors.

The southern boundary of South Lowestoft is reasonably well integrated in some areas such as Chapel Road and the open space in the vicinity of Carlton Hall in the west. Nearby is the open space of Aveling Way which provides a connection between residential areas and some habitat for wildlife but limited ancillary facilities create a space that is attractive and provides a view for dwellings fronting onto the space but has limited value for the community. Improving facilities on the site that would improve the quality and value of the site would enhance its value in the wider green infrastructure network.

The open space extending south from the Bloodmoor Community Centre provides a soft edge to the more recent development in Carlton Colville. Currently the southern part of the site offers limited value for wildlife as the trees are still small but these should improve with the passage of time. For amenity use the site provides an area for walking but does not have any facilities or notable landscaping that would encourage people to use the space. Extending north from this space is a short green corridor that connects to Airedale. This greenway provides an attractive environment with connections for pedestrians and cyclists. Improvements to the amenity space at the southern end would encourage greater use of the greenway and enhance its value to the community.

The only significant development expected in the near future is at the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate. Consideration should be given to how the urban edge integrates into the open countryside to the south and if there is potential to connect into the green infrastructure network to the west of the site. If other development comes forward in the south it is important that connectivity is established to the existing green routes connecting to Airedale if feasible.

Figure 9.7: Existing green corridors in South Lowestoft



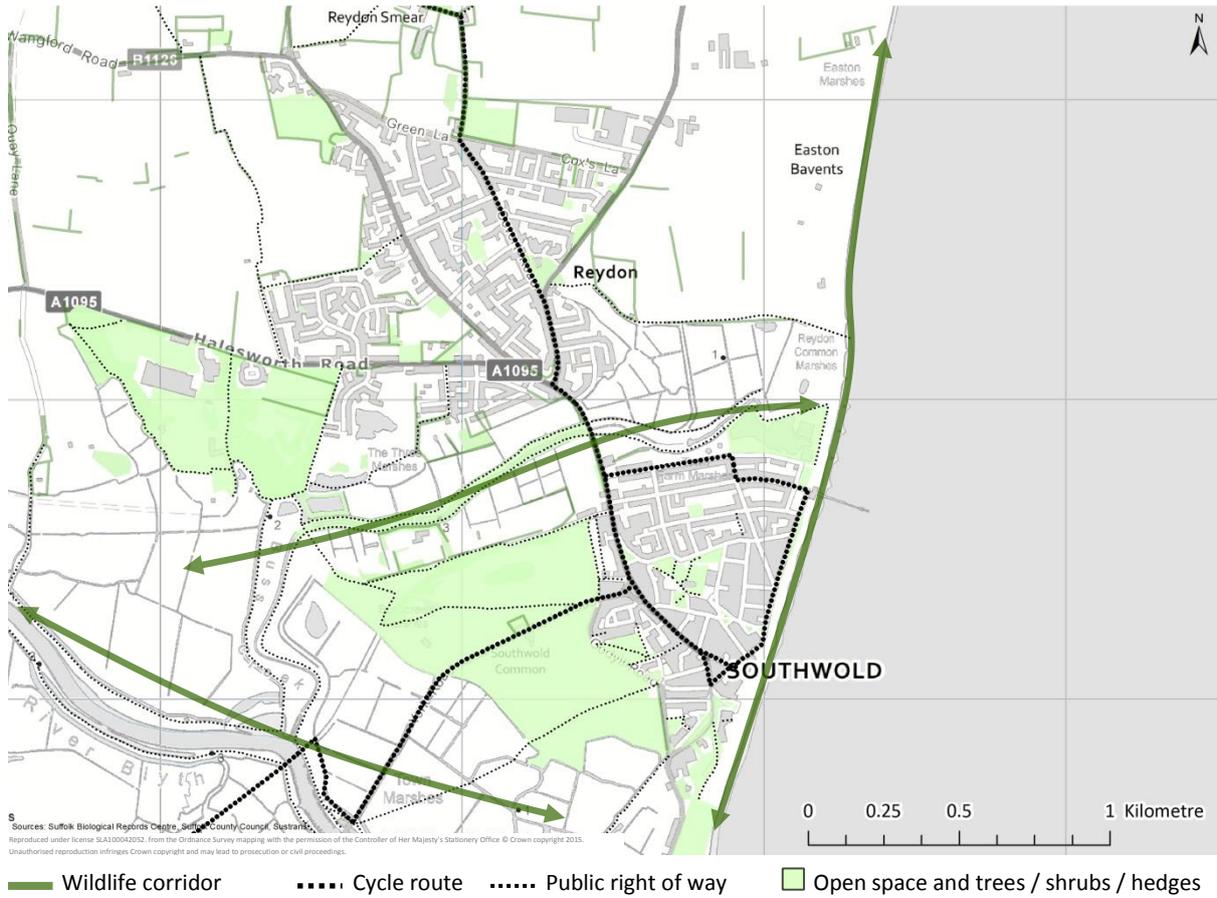
Provision and distribution of green corridors in the Southwold & Reydon area

Southwold & Reydon is located in an area with an abundance of natural and semi-natural areas with high ecological value. The entire area lies within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A network of open spaces within the urban fabric creates an environment that is quite well connected enhancing the character of the area, particularly in Southwold (Figure 9.8). Within Southwold there are no greenways, however, this is offset by an attractive network of amenity green spaces and semi-natural areas such as the Common and the Denes. In Reydon there are no greenways with only Lowestoft Road providing any significant green route. The route is busy and is likely to have limited benefit for the public or wildlife.

The landscape around the built up area of Southwold & Reydon is recognised for its ecological diversity with a number of ecological designations. To the south the main feature is the River Blyth which connects into the Walberswick Marshes, Reydon Marshes and Town Marshes. Buss Creek flows between Southwold and Reydon and creates an important break between the two settlements. The creek and adjacent marshes stretch from the Blyth valley (extending inland into the open countryside) to the coast and create a corridor through which wildlife can thrive. Limited public access is allowed in the area. The largest green corridor for wildlife is the beach. Much of this is protected through ecological designations. Public access to these areas enables people to enjoy the natural environment and engage in physical activities.

Southwold has a greater number of open spaces within the built up area that can act as stepping stones for wildlife to move through the town than Reydon. In these areas where there is significant number of small amenity spaces (Southwold) and back gardens (family sized properties in Reydon) these will be important for wildlife where tree and shrub canopy exists.

Figure 9.8: Existing green corridors in Southwold & Reydon



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Green corridor recommendations

Beccles

Green corridor recommendations

Central Beccles/Worlingham

Explore potential to enhance the public realm through planting.

Rigbourne Hill Lane

Quality of the Rigbourne Hill Lane greenway should be improved for both wildlife and people using the shared use path to access local facilities and other destinations including the largest equipped play area in south Beccles, Darby Park.

South of Beccles

Any future proposals for development beyond the southern boundary of Beccles should provide quality greenway connections to access Rigbourne Hill Lane.

South of Worlingham

Any future proposals for development south of Worlingham should provide quality green route access to existing open spaces and links to community facilities.

Wash Lane

Future development of the employment area on the A145 south of Beccles should require the enhancement of the Wash Lane greenway to encourage sustainable travel options.

Bungay

Green corridor recommendations

Ditchingham Dam

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 with the footpath/cycleway which goes east from the sports ground adjacent to the A143.

Garden Close

When the allotment allocation located off Wingfield Street is delivered landscaping and pedestrian and cycle links should be provided to connect Pilgrim's Way, Garden Close and Wingfield Street to create an attractive and functional green route between the town centre and residential areas and support wildlife connections.

Skinner's Meadow

Enabling public access to Skinner's Meadow and connections with adjacent grazing areas should be explored to improve connectivity between residential areas and the town centre and increase the value of this network of green spaces.

Southern boundary

Explore the potential to create a greenway along the existing edge of Bungay between the Bungay High School near King's Road to the Meadow Road play area and the former Bungay Middle School.

Halesworth

Green corridor recommendations

Amenity green spaces

Improve landscaping and planting will provide greater benefit for wildlife and enhance the public realm.

Dairy Hill

Development on the former Halesworth Middle School site and Dairy Hill sports ground should provide quality green routes to connect with existing community facilities and the wider green infrastructure network.

Millennium Green

Protect and enhance the quality of the Town Park and Millennium Green network of open spaces.

Kessingland

Green corridor recommendations

Passive amenity green spaces

Improved landscaping and planting scheme will enhance the value of open spaces for wildlife and improve the public realm for people to use.

Kessingland Playing Field

If the Kessingland Playing Field is expanded a greenway connecting the site to North Cliff should be considered.

North Lowestoft

Green corridor recommendations

Corton and the East of England Park

Connections and uses of public green spaces along the coast between Corton and Lowestoft Ness should consider wildlife value alongside value to the public.

Great Eastern Linear Park

Protect the quality of the park and improve connections to adjacent residential areas.

Northern area

Proposed developments in the north of the town should provide quality connections to link into the Millennium Way/Peto Way green route if feasible.

Peto Way

Protect the green route extending along Peto Way to retain openness and the quality of the connection for pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife. This will enhance the visual amenity of the route and its character.

Woods Meadow

A greenway between Sands Lane and Hall Lane would provide a quality connection within the new development and encourage greater use of the proposed country park. Connections should be provided to the open space at Dunston Road and the land adjacent to the southern boundary of the Mobbs Way Industrial Estate.

Camps Heath

A greenway linking Camps Heath to the proposed Woods Meadow country park will provide wider benefit to the community and increase access to public open space where there is a deficit.

South Lowestoft

Green corridor recommendations

Carlton Colville southern urban fringe

Protect and enhance the quality of open space connections between the built up area and the countryside where the two different land uses should be well integrated.

Kirkley Run

Enhance the public realm along Kirkley Run to improve connections to the Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood network of open space and ancillary facilities.

Southwold & Reydon

Green corridor recommendations

Buss Creek

Protect the biodiversity corridor separating Southwold and Reydon.

Rural areas

Green corridor recommendations

Reinforcement of hedgerows and trees to improve connectivity and integration of settlements with the surrounding countryside.

Green corridors and waterways that reflect the historical development of villages, provide public amenity and support wildlife habitat should be protected.

Glossary of terms

Accessibility

Ease with which people can travel to a destination.

Allotment

Small plot of land used for growing fruit and vegetables. 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.

Destination parks

Large parks supporting a range of uses which attract residents and visitors from a large catchment area.

Ecological networks

Consist of several different habitats and sites that host a range of different plants and animals creating interlinked habitats and enabling wildlife to move between sites.

Green route

A road route lined with trees to create a landscaped connection for people and wildlife.

Greenway

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

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)

These spaces provide a range of different facilities and are aimed at children of up to eight years of age.

Local parks

Smaller parks supporting a limited range of facilities for people in the surrounding area.

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

This is an artificial sports field that is marked out for a range of different sports.

Multi-Functional open space

Any space that is able to support more than one type of use.

Natural green space

An area of natural open space including grassland and vegetation.

Neighbourhood Equipped Play Area (NEAP)

This is a larger play space with a wide range of facilities and is intended for use by children of up to 14 years of age.

Parks and gardens

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

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.

Play Spaces

Spaces that are primarily used for the purposes of play:

- *Equipped play space* - Open space with items of play equipment.
- *Unequipped Play Space* - Open space with elements designed into the landscape to facilitate play.

Primary Function

The main use of an open space.

Public realm

Any space or place that is accessible to the public.

Satellite parks

Small parks that have a limited range of facilities and cater for people in the surrounding area. Mostly used by children and the elderly and are particularly useful in built up areas.

Secondary function

Additional use of open space.

Semi natural green space

Area of natural open space that has been modified by human intervention.

Stepping stones

Stepping stones act as small patches of land that different species can use as they move between larger blocks of habitat. They are particularly useful for birds, insects and other airborne creatures.

Strategic river corridor

River that acts as a corridor of movement for wildlife (and sometimes people).

Wildlife corridors

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

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