



**Local Plan for the Broads
Hearings Task
Open Space note
Revised September 2018**

Contents

1) Introduction	1
2) Details of approaches to open spaces etc. of our Districts.....	1
3) Current adopted open space requirements.	6
Appendix A: Great Yarmouth Borough Council emerging policy.....	10
Appendix B: North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study Volume 1 Open Space Strategy	11
Appendix C: further information relating to Norwich City Council	14

1) Introduction

As part of the examination into the Local Plan for the Broads, the Inspector requested this note on open space:

'In terms of further work in the interim, could I request that the Authority produces a note on open space assessments and standards prior to the hearing session on Matter 8. This should cover the following issues:

Details of Open Space Assessments carried out in constituent District Councils – including the name and year of the Study, size thresholds applied, other criteria applied, and details of any planned updates.

Current open space requirements in constituent Councils, including the requirements and thresholds for open space, play space, allotments, etc, name of the Plan and year, and any changes in emerging Plans'.

2) Details of approaches to open spaces etc. of our Districts

Having liaised with each constituent District Councils, the following information has been received and is included in the note.

District	Name and year of open space assessment.	Size thresholds applied.	Any other criteria applied?	Do you plan to update it and if so when?	What are your current thresholds for open space etc.?	What policy document is this in and what is the policy called?	Changes in emerging local plans.
Broadland Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadland District Council, September 2007, PPG17 Open Spaces, Indoor Sports and Community Recreation Assessment. Greater Norwich Development Partnership, October 2014, Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plans Greater Norwich Development Partnership, October 2014, Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plans 	The PPG17 Audit looked at all the formal and informal open spaces, there would have been no “cut-off” threshold. However, it would not have included “landscaping areas” on developments that were not intended to be accessible for public use. Similarly, it would not have included private grounds such as a private cricket or football club ground.		At the time of writing, there are no plans to formally update the open space assessment.	Residential development of 5 dwellings or more	Broadland District Council, Development Management DPD 2015 – Policy EN3 Green Infrastructure, Policy RL1 Provision of formal recreational space.	Broadland’s Development Management policies are currently expected to be updated (as necessary) separately to the production of the GNLP. The one exception to this may be in regards to the provision of informal recreational open space, if the provision of such deemed necessary to mitigate the new site allocations proposed within the document. If further research or fact finding studies are required they are likely to be commissioned as part of the updating of the DM policies.
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Open Space Study (Part 1: open Space Audits and Local Standards) – October, 2013 Sport, Play and Leisure Strategy 2015-2019 – June 2015, also includes Final Needs and Assessment Reports on: Play, Leisure and Non-pitch Sports; Playing Pitch; and Indoor Sport and Leisure Provision.	Open Space Study (2003) – Amenity Greenspace – fragmented so a minimum size threshold of 0.01ha was applied Sport, Play and Leisure Strategy (2015) – N/A It appears to me that all other open spaces were included within the audit.		The emerging Local Plan Part 2: Detailed Policies and Site Allocations sets out a replacement policy (see below). The document is to be consulted on shortly as a draft plan with the intention to submit the plan in Spring 2019, and hopefully adopt it late 2019/early 2020.	The current open space ‘Briefing Note’ sets out the detailed requirements. The following threshold is applied: All housing developments of <u>more than 10 dwellings</u> , excluding 1 bedroom flats and sheltered housing schemes, which are exempted from the play space requirements. Note it is 2 tiered with an urban element (comprising great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Bradwell and Caister) and a rural	‘Briefing Note for Developers (Section 106 Agreements)’. The policy requirement for the provision of open space is set out in HOU7 of the Saved Borough-Wide Local Plan (2001) policies, and policies CS14 and CS15 of the Core Strategy (2015).	The Briefing Note will be replaced with the above set out emerging policy. This is as below.

District	Name and year of open space assessment.	Size thresholds applied.	Any other criteria applied?	Do you plan to update it and if so when?	What are your current thresholds for open space etc.?	What policy document is this in and what is the policy called?	Changes in emerging local plans.
					element comprising the remaining parishes.		
North Norfolk Council	<p>The North Norfolk Open Space Study was completed in July 2006 and was split into four volumes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study Volume I- Open Space Strategy North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study Volume II- Recreation Strategy North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study Volume III- Figures North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study Volume IV- Appendices for Vol I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study Volume I- Open Space Strategy:</u> Parks were classified according to the most appropriate park category based upon their role, size and range of facilities. The size criteria represent a guide to the typical size of parks within each category. In a small number of cases there was a number of open spaces on the margins between different categories. Where a park did not fulfil the size thresholds defined in a particular park type but performed the range of functions identified as being associated with that park type, the park was been classified on the basis of its range of functions. <u>North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study Volume II- Recreation Strategy:</u> Pitch identification- In 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study Volume I- Open Space Strategy:</u> The Study used a combination of hierarchy (accessibility standards) and a modified NPFA standard (quantitative). The hierarchy of open spaces was amended and the typology of open space expanded to reflect findings of the Residents Survey and the roles of different open space types and accessibility issues. <u>Parks</u> Catchment areas were identified and based on best practice and informed by a residents' survey. <u>North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study Volume II- Recreation Strategy:</u> The approach followed by the Consultants mirrored that of the Sport England Playing Pitch methodology outlined in 'Towards a Level Playing Field' 	Yes. A North Norfolk Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study & Sports Pitch Strategy Brief is in the process of being drafted. It is expected that the report will be in two stages; the draft timeline in the Brief requires the submission of the final Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study by April 2019 and the Playing Pitch Strategy by July 2019.	The open space standards are applied where new residential development leads to a net gain of 10 or more residential units. The amount of each type of open space required to serve a development is based on the number of people generated by the scheme and the existing provision in the area.	<p>North Norfolk Local Development Framework, Core Strategy, (September 2008), Policy CT 2- Developer Contributions. Appendix A in the Core Strategy sets Open Space Standards. https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/planning-policy/view-core-strategy/</p> <p>There is also an Interim Practice Guide to Core Strategy Open Space Standards (September 2008), which provides advice on the implementation of Policy CT2. https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/planning-policy/view-the-open-space-standards-practice-guide/</p>	Not known yet.

District	Name and year of open space assessment.	Size thresholds applied.	Any other criteria applied?	Do you plan to update it and if so when?	What are your current thresholds for open space etc.?	What policy document is this in and what is the policy called?	Changes in emerging local plans.
		<p>order to maintain conformity with the current legislation at the time, all sites with pitches of at least 0.2ha were identified as part of the study.</p> <p>More information provided at Appendix B.</p>	<p>(2003). In relation to pitch sports, the study concentrated its analysis on the four most popular pitch sports which require access to extensive marked out areas of open space- football, cricket, rugby union and hockey. Provision relating to other outdoor sport was considered later in the chapter.</p>				
Norwich City Council	Norwich open space needs assessment, December 2007	From looking at our open space needs assessment it appears that there was no size threshold used to include / exclude sites from the study and that judgements have been on a case by case basis. See extract at Appendix C.		The assessment is currently being reviewed and is likely to be completed in early 2019.	<p>DM8 provides thresholds applying to provision of open space for new housing development, and requires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For sites not already allocated in the local plan which are either 100+ dwellings or over 2 ha in size, to provide for informal publicly accessible recreational open space on-site All sites with 100+ child bedspaces should also provide on-site play space (at least 150 sq m in size with at least 4 pieces of equipment), unless there is a play area 	Policy DM8 (Planning effectively for open space and recreation) in Norwich's Development Management Policies Plan (2014) is set out here .	Not known yet.

District	Name and year of open space assessment.	Size thresholds applied.	Any other criteria applied?	Do you plan to update it and if so when?	What are your current thresholds for open space etc.?	What policy document is this in and what is the policy called?	Changes in emerging local plans.
					<p>of equivalent standard within 400 metres of the development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The accompanying text to the policy sets out a minimum indicative proportion of 20% of the development site for open space and landscaping required by policy DM3. 		
South Norfolk Council	(1) PPG17 Open Spaces, Indoor Sports and Community Recreation Assessment (2007) and (2) Greater Norwich Area Playing Pitch Assessment (2014) – there was also an accompanying assessment of indoor sports provision for Greater Norwich.	Neither had size thresholds as such, other than sites for pitch provision should meet the minimum standards for that sport.	No, other than that the sites had to be publicly accessible.	No specific plan for replacement at present, an update of the 2014 Assessment is budgeted for as part of the preparation of the Greater Norwich Local Plan.	None are actually set out in policy, but are contained in existing SPG and emerging SPD.	South Norfolk Development Management Policies Document, Policy DM3.15 'Outdoor Play Facilities & Recreational Space'. Currently supported by the 1994 'Recreational Open Space Requirements for Residential Areas SPG', which is due to be replaced in September by new 'Guidelines for Recreation Provision in New Residential Developments SDP'	Not known yet.
Waveney Council	Open Space Needs Assessment (July 2015) and Green Infrastructure Strategy (July 2015) and Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment (July 2014)	OSNA and GI strategy covered all types and sizes of open spaces. We do not have any size criteria for including sites in the Open Space Needs Assessment. In other words we would not exclude a site from the assessment because it falls below a certain threshold.	We do not have any size criteria for including sites in the Open Space Needs Assessment. In other words we would not exclude a site from the assessment because it falls below a certain threshold.		<p>Current threshold for onsite provision of open space is set out in supporting text to Policy DM25 of Development Management Policies which indicates 20 dwellings.</p> <p>In emerging Local Plan Policy WLP1.4 sets threshold of sites of 1 hectare or more.</p>	Policy DM25 of Development Management Policies	<p>Submission Local Plan draft policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy WLP8.23 – Protection of Open Space Policy WLP8.30 – Design of Open Spaces Policy WLP1.4 – Infrastructure: Open space should be provided on residential development sites of 1 hectare or more in size and be based on the needs identified in the Waveney Green Infrastructure Strategy and Open Space Needs

District	Name and year of open space assessment.	Size thresholds applied.	Any other criteria applied?	Do you plan to update it and if so when?	What are your current thresholds for open space etc.?	What policy document is this in and what is the policy called?	Changes in emerging local plans.
							<p>Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some site allocation policies require open space provision and this is detailed in the policies.

3) Current adopted open space requirements.

Council	Policy	Document	Detail of thresholds
Broadland Council	Policy EN3 Green Infrastructure, Policy RL1 Provision of formal recreational space.	Development Management DPD 2015	<p>Policy RL1 – Provision of formal recreational space</p> <p>Residential development consisting of five dwellings or more will be expected to make adequate provision and subsequent management arrangements for recreation. The provision of formal recreation should equate to at least 1.68 ha per 1,000 population and the provision of childrens play space should equate to at least 0.34 ha per 1,000 population.</p>
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	HOU7 CS14 and CS15	Saved Borough-Wide Local Plan (2001) Core Strategy (2015).	<p>Detail is provided in the briefing note for developers. Approach is described as follows: The Borough Council does not currently have an adopted policy setting out detailed open space provision, but has long standing current practice where the Borough Council seeks and generally achieves its open space expectations which are: <i>40sq. metres open space per dwelling on all housing developments of more than 10 (excluding 1 bedroomed flats and sheltered housing schemes).</i></p> <p>This requirement is under review through the draft Local Plan Part 2 (including detailed policies), which will replace this standard taking account of evidence from the Open Space Study (2013), Sport, Play and Leisure Strategy 2015-2019 (2015), and the Fields in Trust guidelines. The draft LPP2 policy is out to public consultation, and has currently had no comments submitted on it. The draft policy is set out at Appendix A.</p>
North Norfolk Council	Policy CT 2- Developer Contributions. Appendix A in the Core Strategy sets Open Space Standards.	North Norfolk Local Development Framework, Core Strategy, (September 2008).	Interim Practice Guide to Core Strategy Open Space Standards (September 2008), which provides advice on the implementation of Policy CT2. See data that follows this table.
Norwich City Council	Policy DM8 Planning effectively for open space and recreation	Norwich's Development Management Policies Plan (2014): https://www.norwich.gov.uk/info/20199/adopted_local_plan/1457/development_management_policies/8	<p>All development involving the construction of new dwellings (or their provision through conversion or change of use) is required to contribute to the provision, enhancement and maintenance of local open space either by means of on-site provision or indirect contribution through the community infrastructure levy.</p> <p>Proposals for development on sites not already identified in the Site allocations plan which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> involve the development of 100 dwellings and above; or are on sites of over two hectares in size <p>will be required to provide for informal publicly accessible recreational open space on-site as an integral part of the overall design and landscaping of the development. The space provided should be of an appropriate form and</p>

Council	Policy	Document	Detail of thresholds										
			<p>character to allow for meaningful use and will be additional to the requirements for site landscaping and green infrastructure set out in policy DM3.</p> <p>In addition, on all sites which provide 100 child bed spaces or more, proposals should include the on-site provision of younger children’s playspace (of at least 150 sq. metres in size with a minimum of four different pieces of equipment) unless there is a play area of equivalent standard within 400 metres walking distance of the site. In these circumstances, developers will be expected to provide for the improvement, enhancement or reprovision of any such established play area or areas, such provision being commensurate with the level of new playspace demand likely to be generated from the development.</p>										
South Norfolk Council	Policy DM3.15 ‘Outdoor Play Facilities & Recreational Space’.	South Norfolk Development Management Policies Document. https://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Development_Management_Policies_Document_0.pdf	New housing development will be required to provide adequate outdoor play facilities and recreational open space commensurate with the level of development proposed in order to meet the need of occupants.										
	The above policy is expanded through the recently adopted SPD (GUIDELINES FOR RECREATION PROVISION IN NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).		<table><tr><th>Recreational Open Space Classification</th><th>Standards - m² per 1,000 population (ha per 1,000 population)</th></tr><tr><td>Children's Playspace (including a minimum Activity Zone of 400m²)</td><td>6,000 m² (0.6 ha)</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Older Children & Adult Recreation Space: (a) Open Space; and (b) Playing Pitches and Courts</td><td>(a) 3,000 m² (0.3 ha)</td></tr><tr><td>(b) 16,000 m² (1.6 ha)</td></tr><tr><td>Informal Recreation Space</td><td>24,000 m² (2.4 ha)</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>49,000 m² (4.9ha)</td></tr></table> <p>Table 3: South Norfolk Classifications and Standards</p> <p>More detail is provided at the end of this table.</p>	Recreational Open Space Classification	Standards - m² per 1,000 population (ha per 1,000 population)	Children's Playspace (including a minimum Activity Zone of 400m²)	6,000 m² (0.6 ha)	Older Children & Adult Recreation Space: (a) Open Space; and (b) Playing Pitches and Courts	(a) 3,000 m² (0.3 ha)	(b) 16,000 m² (1.6 ha)	Informal Recreation Space	24,000 m² (2.4 ha)	Total
Recreational Open Space Classification	Standards - m² per 1,000 population (ha per 1,000 population)												
Children's Playspace (including a minimum Activity Zone of 400m²)	6,000 m² (0.6 ha)												
Older Children & Adult Recreation Space: (a) Open Space; and (b) Playing Pitches and Courts	(a) 3,000 m² (0.3 ha)												
	(b) 16,000 m² (1.6 ha)												
Informal Recreation Space	24,000 m² (2.4 ha)												
Total	49,000 m² (4.9ha)												
Waveney Council	Policy DM25 Existing and Proposed Open Space	Development Management Policies. http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Waveney-Local-Plan/Adopted-Development-Management-Policies/Adopted-Development-Plan-Document.pdf	Proposals for residential development of one or more dwellings will only be permitted where provision is made for an appropriate level of open space to serve the development. The appropriate amount to be provided will be dependent on the proposed density. Where on-site provision is inappropriate or impractical, then developers will be expected to provide off-site facilities or contribute to improving existing open space based on the need of the locality.										

Council	Policy	Document	Detail of thresholds																
			<table><tr><th>Density (dwellings per Hectare)</th><th>Open Space to be provided/dwelling (m²)</th></tr><tr><td>30</td><td>53</td></tr><tr><td>35</td><td>46</td></tr><tr><td>40</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>45</td><td>35</td></tr><tr><td>50</td><td>32</td></tr><tr><td>55</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>60</td><td>27</td></tr></table>	Density (dwellings per Hectare)	Open Space to be provided/dwelling (m²)	30	53	35	46	40	40	45	35	50	32	55	29	60	27
Density (dwellings per Hectare)	Open Space to be provided/dwelling (m²)																		
30	53																		
35	46																		
40	40																		
45	35																		
50	32																		
55	29																		
60	27																		

North Norfolk thresholds and standards.

Open Space Type	Quantity Standard	Area required to meet District wide needs up to 2016	Accessibility Standard	Quality Standard
Public Parks (Includes Country parks, district parks, neighbourhood parks and small local parks)	20.34 ha per 1,000 population including: 19 ha Country Park provision 1.34 ha other public park provision	n/a	All residents within the seven main towns and Hoveton should have access to an area of public park within 400m of home. People living outside the main towns and Hoveton should have access to an area of park within 800m of home.	Proposals for new housing development should be accompanied by proposals to improve open space provision reflecting local circumstances as set out in the Open Space Study. Open spaces identified within the Open Space Study for improvement should be prioritised. Public parks within the District should meet the Green Flag 'good' quality standard.
Children's Play (including a variety of types)	0.8 ha per 1,000 population	not specified	All residents within the seven main towns and Hoveton should have access to an area of formal and informal play provision for children and teenagers within 400m of home. People living outside the main towns and Hoveton should have access to an area of formal and informal play provision for children and teenagers within 800m of home.	Detailed design standards will be developed giving further details on provision to ensure these are safe, accessible and fit for purpose.
Playing Pitches	1.90 ha of pitch space per 1,000	90.24 ha	All residents within the District should have access to a	Outdoor pitch sports facilities within the District should be of adequate

	population		playing pitch within 1200 metres of home	quality and provide the range of facilities required to meet the needs of sports clubs. Those playing fields in secure community use identified within the Open Space Study which under-perform in terms of the range of provision provided or the quality of existing provision, should be improved consistent with the guidelines identified.
Natural and semi-natural Green space	1 ha per 1,000 population	n/a	Efforts should be made where possible to improve access to open spaces	Areas of natural and semi-natural green space should be of adequate quality and support local biodiversity. Areas of natural and semi-natural green space which either under-perform in terms of their value to the local community or local biodiversity should be enhanced.
Allotments	0.64 ha of allotment land per 1,000 population	29.6 ha	All residents within the District should have access to an allotment garden within 2.5km of home	Allotment sites should be of adequate quality and support the needs of the local community. Allotment sites which under-perform in terms of their value to the local community should be improved.

Table 5: Quantities of open space

Type of open space	Quantity per 1,000 people	Quantity per person
Public parks	1.34 ha	13 sq m
Children's play	0.8 ha	8 sq m (per child

Base this on child bed spaces (See table xx)		bed space)
playing pitches only required on 200+ dwellings	1.90 ha	19 sq m
natural green space	1 ha	10 sq m
allotments	0.64ha	6.4 sq m

South Norfolk Council Standards

Open Space Type	Amount (m ² per 1,000 population)	(Amount (ha per 1,000 population)	Amount (m ² per person)
Children's Playspace	6,000	0.6	6
Older Children and Adult's Recreation Space: (a) Open Space; and (b) Playing Pitches and Courts	(a) 3,000	0.3	3
	(b) 16,000	1.6	16
Informal Recreation Space	24,000	2.4	24

Table 5: Open Space Quantity Multiplier by Person

No. of bedrooms	Equipped Children's Playspace (m ²)	Older Children and Adult's Recreation Space (m ²) (a) and (b)		Informal Recreation Space (m ²)
		(a)	(b)	
1 bedroom	9	4.5	24	36
2 bedrooms	12	6	32	48
3 bedrooms	15	7.5	40	60
4 bedrooms	18	9	48	72
5+ bedrooms	21	10.5	56	84

Table 6: Open Space Requirement by Dwelling Size (m²)

Open Space Classification	Amount (per 1,000 population) m ²	Equipment Cost (£)	Maintenance Cost (£), per annum	Commuted 10-year Maintenance Cost (£)
Children's Playspace	6,000	118,130	15,688	156,880
Older Children and Adult's Recreation Space:	(a) Open Space 3,000	57,780	5,036	50,360
	(b) Playing Pitches and Courts 16,000	184,516	19,358	193,580
Informal Recreation Space	24,000	121,616	17,129	171,290

Table 7: Summary Equipment & Maintenance Costs (per 1,000 population)

Appendix A: Great Yarmouth Borough Council emerging policy

Policy H12-dp Open Space Provision for New Housing Development

New residential developments will be expected to make provision for publicly accessible recreational open space to the following standards:

1. 103 square metres per dwelling, comprising approximately:

- i. 24% for outdoor sport;
- ii. 18% for informal amenity green space;
- iii. 6% for suitably equipped children's play space;
- iv. 2% for allotments;
- v. 10% for parks and gardens; and,
- vi. 40% for accessible natural green space.

2. This provision will generally be expected to be provided on site, except to the extent that the size, circumstances and surroundings render this impractical or undesirable, in which case an equivalent financial contribution will be required for the improvement or enhancement of public open space provision in the locality.

3. Flexibility may be provided in the balance between on and off site provision, and between children's play space and outdoor sports, in the light of the nature of the development and the availability of existing recreational play space in the vicinity. Developments of 20 dwellings and above, however, will be expected to meet the requirement for children's play space on or adjacent to the site (i.e. other requirements may, subject to the foregoing criteria, be provided elsewhere).

4. Robust arrangements for the management and maintenance in perpetuity of the on-site provision will be required to be demonstrated. (This will not be relevant where a financial contribution is accepted in lieu of the whole of normal on-site provision.) This requirement may be met by:

- i. An agreement with the relevant Parish or Town Council for it to adopt the space and commit to (for which it may require an appropriate financial contribution from the developer);
- ii. The establishment of an adequately funded private management entity with responsibility for its maintenance and management in perpetuity; or
- iii. The Borough Council's agreement to adopt recreation space, which will be dependent on a full cost recovery 'lifetime' (minimum of 60 years) financial contribution paid to it by the developer in advance of adoption.

5. Acceptability of a financial contribution in lieu of on-site provision will be dependent on meeting the following additional requirements:

- i. A development that contains sufficient space to ensure a high standard of layout and amenity to the residents and neighbours of the proposed development and to ensure it integrates well into the wider landscape or townscape setting;
- ii. A reasonable prospect of delivery of appropriate offsite provision in the locality in the near future, having regard to the amount of the financial contribution, the existence of administrative arrangements for delivery, and (where relevant) the availability of suitable land.

Appendix B: North Norfolk Open Space and Recreation Study Volume 1 Open Space Strategy

The study identified a total of 249 open spaces in North Norfolk, comprising a total of 2744ha. Some additional information below, I have also provided a link to the document below- chapter 4 provides the survey methodology information, starting at 4.12. <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/planning-policy/open-space-and-recreation-study/>

- During the site assessments each open space was classified with reference to the typology of open space types included within the Annex to PPG17.
- The identification of the open space type was based upon consideration of the size, the primary role and function, recreational value, access arrangements and physical characteristics. Open spaces were identified as below:

Parks

- County Parks
- District Parks
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Small local parks

Other open spaces

- Provision for children and teenagers (incorporated into public park hierarchy);
 - Linear open spaces;
 - Natural or Semi-Natural greenspace;
 - Green Spaces within grounds of institutions;
 - Amenity Green Space;
 - Allotments;
 - Cemeteries and churchyards;
 - Civic Spaces/Pedestrianised areas;
 - Outdoor Sports Facilities / Playing Fields.
- Parks were classified according to the most appropriate park category based upon their role, size and range of facilities. The size criteria represent a guide to the typical size of parks within each category. In a small number of cases there were a number of open spaces on the margins between different categories. Where a park did not fulfil the size thresholds defined in a particular park type but performed the range of functions identified as being associated with that park type, the park was classified on the basis of its range of functions.
 - Alternative catchment distances were applied to the towns and villages within the district reflecting the number and distribution of parks and usage patterns.

Table 4.1 Public Parks Hierarchy

Type of Open Space and its Function	Typical Size and Effective Catchment Area	Characteristics
Country Parks Mainly car based visits for those living > 15 minutes walk	>60 hectares 5-10km (users originating from North Norfolk district)	Serve as regional attractions. Either: i) natural heathland, downland, commons, woodland, or ii) formal park providing for both active and passive recreation. May contain playing fields, but at least 40 ha for other pursuits. Adequate parking. Country Parks will also serve as District Parks for those living within 1200m and as Neighbourhood Park for those living within 400m (Main settlements) or 800m (Other areas).
District Parks Mainly car based visits for those living > 15 minutes walk	15-50ha 1.2km	Landscape setting with a variety of natural features and a range of facilities including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits. Some car parking. These will operate as a neighbourhood park for those within 400m (Main settlements) or 800m (Other areas).
Neighbourhood Parks Pedestrian Visits by those living within 10 minutes walk	3-15ha 0.8km (7 Main Settlements) 1.2km (Areas outside principal Settlements)	Provision for court games, important children's play function, sitting-out areas, nature conservation, landscaped environment, and playing fields if the parks are large enough. Indicative catchment area (refined to take into account barriers of access) 560m (Main settlements), 840m (Other areas).
Small Local Parks including Children's play/pocket parks Pedestrian visits, especially by old people and children, particularly valuable in high density areas	0.5-3ha 0.4km (7 Main Settlements) 0.8km (Areas outside principal settlements)	Gardens, sitting out areas, children's playgrounds or other areas of a specialist nature such as nature conservation. Indicative catchment area (refined to take into account barriers of access) 280m (Main Settlements), 560m (Other areas).
Linear Open Spaces Pedestrian visits	Variable Where feasible	River and canal banks, canal towpaths, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, paths, disused railways and other routes which provide opportunities for informal recreation, including nature conservation. Often characterised by features or attractive areas which are not fully accessible to the public but contribute to the enjoyment of the space.

- There are a number of other forms of open space provision within the District in addition to public parks. Their characterisation follows the nine different types of open space defined in Table 4.2 (taken from the Annex to PPG17).

Table 4.2 Other Open Space Provision

Type of Open Space	Definition
Provision for children and teenagers (incorporated into public park hierarchy)	Play areas (including LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs), skateboard parks, outdoor basketball goals and 'hanging out' areas (including teenage shelters). Many of these spaces have been incorporated in the small Local Parks typology due to the similarity of such spaces.
Natural or Semi Natural greenspace	Woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. downland, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), open and running water, wastelands (including disturbed ground), bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits) and beaches.
Green Spaces within grounds of institution	Open space located within the grounds of hospitals, universities and other institutions which are accessible to the general public or some sections of the public. This definition also includes education sites where there is only hard surface and or amenity open space (no pitch sports provision).
Amenity Green Space	Includes informal recreational spaces and housing green spaces. A large number are formed by village greens. This category includes green spaces in and around housing areas.
Allotments	Open spaces where the primary use is allotment gardening or community farming.
Cemeteries and churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards which include an element of green space
Civic Spaces/Pedestrianised areas	More formally laid out hard surfaced public spaces including squares, pedestrian streets, sitting out areas and space surrounding the docks. These spaces do not normally have a formal recreational function
Outdoor Sports Facilities / Playing Fields	Those sites, which are not located within a public park and where the primary role is for formal recreation. Sites include tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school playing fields, other institutional playing fields and outdoor sports areas. Categorized by ownership i.e. public/private/education.
Other	Agricultural Land and former airfields which perform a structural or amenity role.

- Linear Open Spaces- this category includes river and canal banks, canal towpaths, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, paths, disused railways and other routes which provide opportunities for informal recreation, including nature conservation.

You will note that the methodology chapter refers to a detailed survey pro-forma in Appendix C; please find this at the link below (Open Space Study Volume 4- Appendices to Vol. 1 (starting on page 31 and primarily Q10.). <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/planning-policy/open-space-and-recreation-study/>

Appendix C: further information relating to Norwich City Council

A PRACTICAL DEFINITION OF OPEN SPACE

The scope of this study in terms of the types of open space and recreation opportunities considered is largely determined by guidance contained in PPG 17, together with its companion guide. The typology of opportunities recommended by the guidance includes the following:

- ☐ Parks and Gardens
- ☐ Natural and semi natural green space
- ☐ Green corridors
- ☐ Outdoor sports facilities and „recreation grounds“
- ☐ Informal/amenity open space
- ☐ Provision for children and young people
- ☐ Allotment and community gardens
- ☐ Important indoor sports facilities, and community halls.

In terms of the above types of open space and recreational opportunity the study is restricted largely to those areas and facilities that are physically accessible by the community; either informally or on some sort of managed basis, for a genuine recreation activity. It also includes some open spaces which have limited or no accessibility, but have potential for accessibility or are of biodiversity and/or landscape value.

The existing or potential recreation utility of a site is a function of its:

- ☐ size
- ☐ location
- ☐ shape, topography and internal site features.

Even very small sites are potentially large enough to accommodate meaningful recreation activity. A site of 0.2 ha is still sufficiently large to accommodate, for example, an equipped play area, tennis court, or pocket park. For this reason no size threshold has been used as a basis for including or excluding sites from this study.

The location of a space has a profound impact on its recreational utility for many reasons including safety, accessibility, security and nuisance. An unenclosed space immediately adjacent to a very busy road might not be considered to have any practical recreation use for safety reasons. Similarly, a space adjacent to open plan private gardens (as often occurs in many modern housing estates) might generate concerns from residents and effectively stop it being used actively for this purpose.

However, if it were a large site, parts of it may be considered to be a safe distance from the road, or sufficiently remote not to cause actual or perceived nuisance to residents.

A site may in theory be open to use by the public, but in practice might be too heavily vegetated, or sloping, hilly, marshy etc to be used for any recreation purpose. A large site may be of such an awkward shape as to exclude any meaningful recreation use; and, apart from safety issues, much highway land cannot be considered to be open space for such reasons.

In short there can be no hard and fast rules for determining the recreation utility of a site for the community. This has meant that judgements have been made on a site-by-site basis as to what

should be included and excluded for these purposes. In general this has been easy to achieve in a consistent way for the very large majority of sites.