

## **Draft Summary of current play from information provided by the City of Ely Council**

This Summary of Play report has been produced by East Cambridgeshire District Council following the 2012-13 Play Audit on behalf of parish councils to help guide their planning and funding for new or upgrading play facilities.

The report includes details of current provision and any issues highlighted by the City of Ely Council when completing the consultation. The findings are based on information provided by the parish council during 2012-13 and have been compared to the local planning standards which provide a benchmark on provision that should be available according to population size.

The findings indicate where there may be deficits and will be useful for parishes that are considering any improvements or enhancing play provision to address deficits or growth.

### **Play Provision and Informal Open Space**

The table below identifies all play areas and areas of informal open space in Ely, using information provided by City of Ely Council in September 2012.

Map Ref	Location	Category <sup>1</sup>	Age Group(s)	Size (hectares)
2I	Willow Walk	PLAY	TJ	0.05
2N	Tennyson Place	PLAY	T	0.029
112K	Cherry Hill	PLAY	TJ	0.047
2A	Abbots Way	PLAY	TJ	0.045
ELY011	Darwin Close	PLAY	Developer	0.079
2D	St Johns Road	PLAY	TJY	0.106
2F	High Barns	PLAY	TJY	0.055
ELY010	High Barns	PLAY	TJY	0.013
ELY008	Kingsley Walk	PLAY	TY	0.007
ELY012	Goldsmith Court	PLAY	JY	0.009
ELY009	Kilkenny Avenue (MoD)	PLAY	TJ	0.032
2H	Paradise Recreation Ground	PLAY	Y	0.034

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<sup>1</sup> Play Area: A space with equipment sited for the purpose of enabling children and young people to play legitimately (including Skate Parks)

Informal Open Space: Areas of informal space (not used for formal sports), including parks, kick-about areas, green corridors and village greens.

ELY008	Heaton Drive (MoD)	PLAY	JY	0.101
2G	Paradise Recreation Ground	PLAY	TJ	0.078
ELY007	Murfitts Close	PLAY	JY	0.038
ELY006	Morley Drive	PLAY	T	0.020
ELY004	Bereford Road	PLAY	T	0.029
ELY003	Brooke Grove	PLAY	T	0.033
ELY002	Cresswells Park	PLAY	TJY	0.546
ELY001	Jubilee Gardens	PLAY	T	0.015
STU001(2M)	Field Lane, Stuntney	PLAY	TJ	0.082
ELY013	Main Street, Prickwillow	PLAY	TJ	0.390
3A	Columbine Road	INFORM		3.468
3A	Rear of Alexander Chase/Collier Close/Brooke Grove	INFORM		5.584
3A	Morley Drive	INFORM		1.150
3A	Rear Bedford Close/Leicester Close	INFORM		2.456
3B	Abbots Way	INFORM		1.055
3C	St Ovins Green	INFORM		0.384
3D	Debden Green	INFORM		0.209
3E	Redman Close	INFORM		2.230
3F	Queen Emma Walk	INFORM		0.245
3F	Bentham Way	INFORM		0.958
3G	High Barns	INFORM		0.065
3H	Arundell	INFORM		0.279
3I	St Marys Green	INFORM		0.116
3J	Cathedral (rear)	INFORM		0.107
3J	Cathedral (north)	INFORM		0.416
3J	Cathedral (rear)	INFORM		0.140
3J	Palace Green	INFORM		0.212
3K	Pocket Park	INFORM		5.252
3L	Prickwillow Road	INFORM		1.930
3L	Prickwillow Road	INFORM		1.251
3M	Archery Crescent	INFORM		0.121
3N	Herford Close	INFORM		0.242
3O	Witchford Road	INFORM		0.420
3P	Barton Square	INFORM		0.108

3Q	Cherry Hill	INFORM		2.750
3R	Jubilee Gardens	INFORM		1.044
3S	Ship Lane	INFORM		0.076
3T	Lavenders Land	INFORM		0.748
3U	Castlehythe	INFORM		0.083
3X	Columbine Road	INFORM		0.850
ELY101	John Amner Close	INFORM		0.008
STU101	Field Lane, Stuntney	INFORM		0.106

T = Toddler (2 to 5 year olds)  
J = Junior (6 to 12 year olds)  
Y = Youth (13 to 18 year olds)

Map illustrating the locations of existing play areas and areas of informal open space.

The attached map illustrates the locations of play areas and areas of informal open space in Ely.

Radial travel distances have been outlined to illustrate catchment areas for each play area. The radial travel distances are a part of the East Cambs planning standard for play areas set out in the East Cambs Sports Facilities & Play Areas Assessment 2005.

Toddler: Approx 600m straight line distance  
Junior: Approx 600m straight line distance  
Youth: Approx 1000m straight line distance

**ECDC Assessment of play provision and informal open space against the local planning standard**

East Cambs Planning Standards for Play Areas and Informal Open Space

Local provision standards set by the East Cambs Sports Facilities & Play Areas Assessment 2005 and the East Cambridgeshire Informal Open Space Study 2005 were used to measure against existing provision in order to determine whether or not there is a surplus or deficit of provision.

<b>Category of Space</b>	<b>Space per person (m2)</b>	<b>Standard size of area (ha)</b>
Informal Open Space	25 square metres (2.5 ha)	
Toddler Outdoor Play Space (2 to 5 years old)	0.2 square metres (0.02 ha)	0.01 ha

Junior Outdoor Play Space (6 to 12 years old)	0.8 square metres (0.08 ha)	0.04 ha
Youth Outdoor Play Space (13 to 18 years old)	1 square metres (0.1 ha)	0.1 ha

Population  
20,256<sup>2</sup>

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



<sup>2</sup> 2011 Census, Neighbourhood Statistics, January 2013

Informal Open Space (hectares)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
34.06 Hectares	50.64 Hectares	-16.58 Hectares

Toddlers (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
154.00 facilities	40.51 facilities	113.49 facilities

Juniors (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
36.50 facilities	40.51 facilities	-4.01 facilities

Youths (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
8.10 facilities	20.26 facilities	-12.16 facilities

	deficit
	surplus
	no response
	incomplete response

## **Analysis of existing provision in Ely**

There are currently nineteen play areas and thirty-two areas of informal open space in Ely. There are three other play areas in Ely that could not be included as part of this audit, these were Kilkenny Avenue and Heaton Drive (private play areas for the children of the US Military), and Darwin Close (which was still in the ownership of the developer at the time of the audit).

### **Deficits and surpluses of provision**

Although Ely's play areas cater for toddlers, juniors youths, the audit identifies significant shortfalls in provision for juniors and youths. There is also a significant shortfall in informal open space.

The City of Ely Council state that there are sufficient play areas and areas of informal open space to meet existing community need, however when measured against the local planning standards there are in fact significant deficits of informal open space and junior and youth play provision.

City of Ely Council recognises that most of Ely's play areas are targeted at younger children. This is supported by the audit findings as there is a significant surplus of toddler provision. It is also recognised that there are very few areas equipped for older children and teenagers and that there is a need for this, this is again supported by the audit findings.

The majority of the city falls within the radial travel distances of play areas for each age category. This is particularly the case with provision for youth facilities. The areas that fall outside of the radial travel distance for youth play provision include:

- All of Stuntney
- All of Prickwillow
- All of Queen Adelaide
- The very northern tip of Ely (Morton Close and Gunning Road)
- Angel Drove (which is predominantly a commercial area)

Although there is a significant surplus of toddler play provision in Ely, there are still parts of the city that fall outside of the radial travel distances for the existing play areas, including:

- All of Queen Adelaide
- North Ely (Williams Close, Fitzgerald Close, Longchamp Drive, the east of Kings Avenue and Allen Road)
- Angel Drove (although this area is predominantly commercial)
- Parts of Cam Drive and Stour Green
- A small section in the middle of West Fen Road (this is the most centrally located area without toddler provision)

The areas that fall within the radial travel distances of play areas with junior equipment are very similar to those covered by toddler provision, areas include:

- All of Queen Adelaide
- North Ely near the Princess of Wales Hospital (Williams Close, Fitzgerald Close, Longchamp Drive, the east of Kings Avenue and Allen Road)
- Angel Drove (although this area is predominantly commercial)
- Middle section of Cam Drive and Stour Green
- A very small area between Cromwell Road and St. Mary's Street

City of Ely Council advises that play provision would be sufficient if the areas managed by developers and the U.S. Military were included as public play.

Any areas of open space with pitch markings or containing sporting infrastructure (e.g. goal posts, basketball hoops) have not been included in this audit as they are categorised as formal open space/sports pitches. An example of such an area in Ely is the Paradise Centre Playing Field.

City of Ely Council scored the majority of the play areas in Ely as 'average' to 'excellent' using a modified version of Play England's Play Space Quality Assessment Tool Kit which considered the following criteria:

- Level of usage
- Maintenance
- Health & Safety
- Location
- Range of play experiences

The play areas that scored either a '1' (serious weaknesses, improvements needed) or '2' (weaknesses, improvements needed) for Level of Usage, all scored a '1' for location, therefore it is presumed that poor location is the reason for the poor usage.

The following play areas scored lowly in category 'Range of play experiences provided':

- Tennyson Place
- Beresford Road
- Brooke Grove
- Kingsley Walk

This is something that may wish to be considered if enhancing play opportunities in the future.

#### Accessibility

The City of Ely Council advises that the existing play areas are not necessarily suitable for children with disabilities and that only some of the play areas are suitable for children of different ages to play together.

## **Further information**

### **Fields in Trust protection**

Protecting outdoor recreational space is vital for the health and wellbeing of communities now and in the future, and to increase wildlife diversity and provide habitat.

Fields in Trust works with landowners to protect outdoor spaces with legal documentation. The landowner will nominate the site and a deed of dedication is drawn up by Fields in Trust and signed by both parties. There's no transfer of ownership or management to Fields in Trust.

For further information on safeguarding outdoor recreational space, visit [www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org).

### **Best Practice Guidance**

Attached you will find up-to-date, best practice guidance on play area development, with information on the following:

- Location
- Design
- Access and inclusion
- Consultation and participation
- Quality
- Risk Management

### **Promotion of online tools**

The following websites may provide useful information regarding play and open space, along with helpful ways to promote your existing facilities:

Fields in Trust Protected Fields Map  
[www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)

East Cambridgeshire District Council  
[www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

Play England Nature Play Map  
<http://www.playengland.org.uk/nature-play-map.aspx>