

## **Summary of current play from information provided by Little Downham Parish 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 Parish 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 Little Downham, using information provided by Little Downham Parish Council in September 2012.

Map Ref	Location	Category <sup>1</sup>	Age Group(s)	Size (hectares)
2A	Recreation Ground, Little Downham	Play Area	TJY	0.21
2B	Cricket Ground, Pymoor	Play Area	TJ	0.06
3A	Townsend	Informal Open Space		0.05
3B	Townsend	Informal Open Space		0.14
3C	Pond Lane	Informal Open Space		0.14
3D	Church Way	Informal Open Space		0.18
3E	Orchard Estate	Informal Open Space		0.12

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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.

3F	West Fen Drove	Informal Open Space		2.55
3G	Cannon Street	Informal Open Space		4.03
3G	Cannon Street	Informal Open Space		0.52

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 Little Downham.

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.

**Legend**

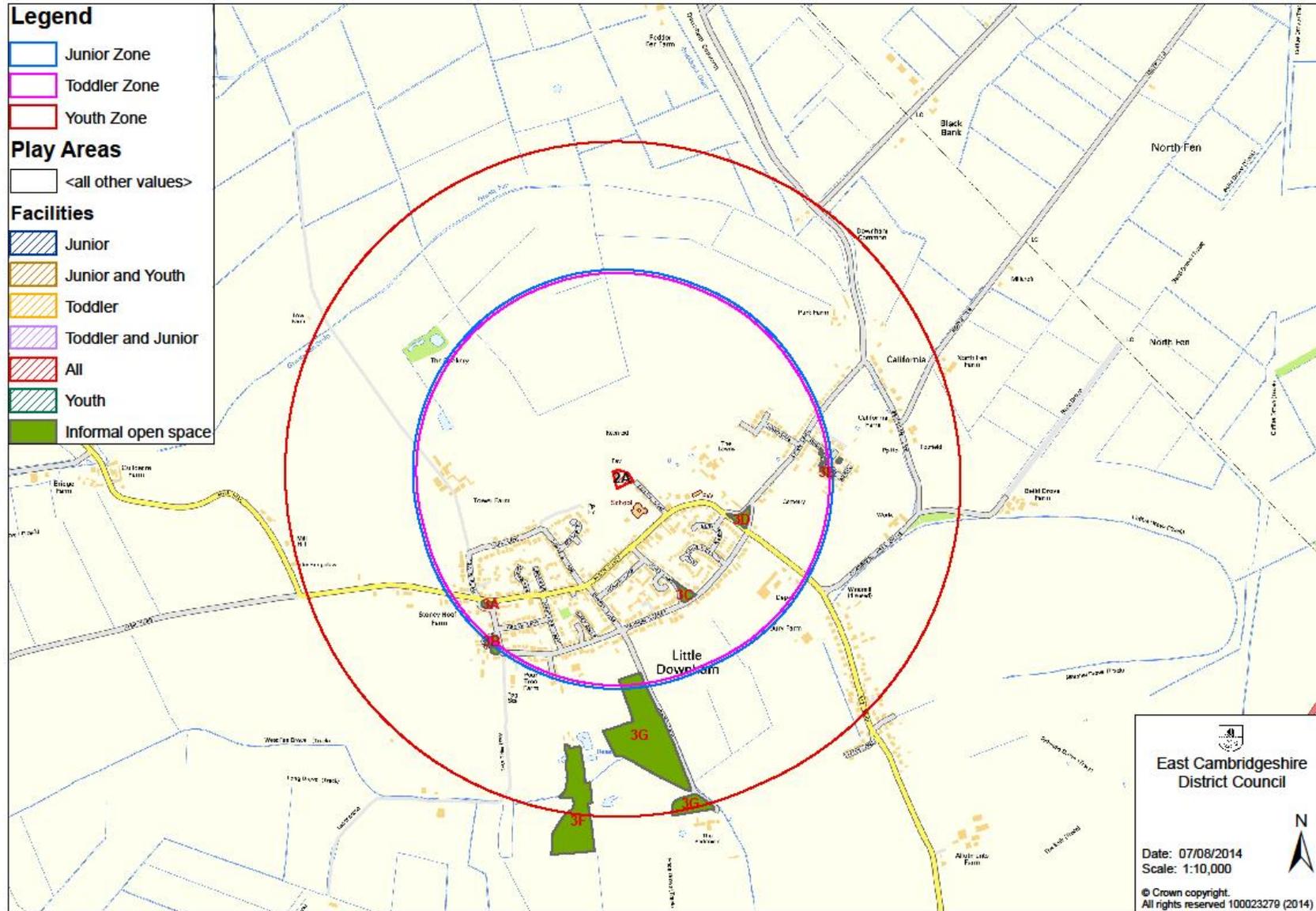
- Junior Zone
- Toddler Zone
- Youth Zone

**Play Areas**

- <all other values>

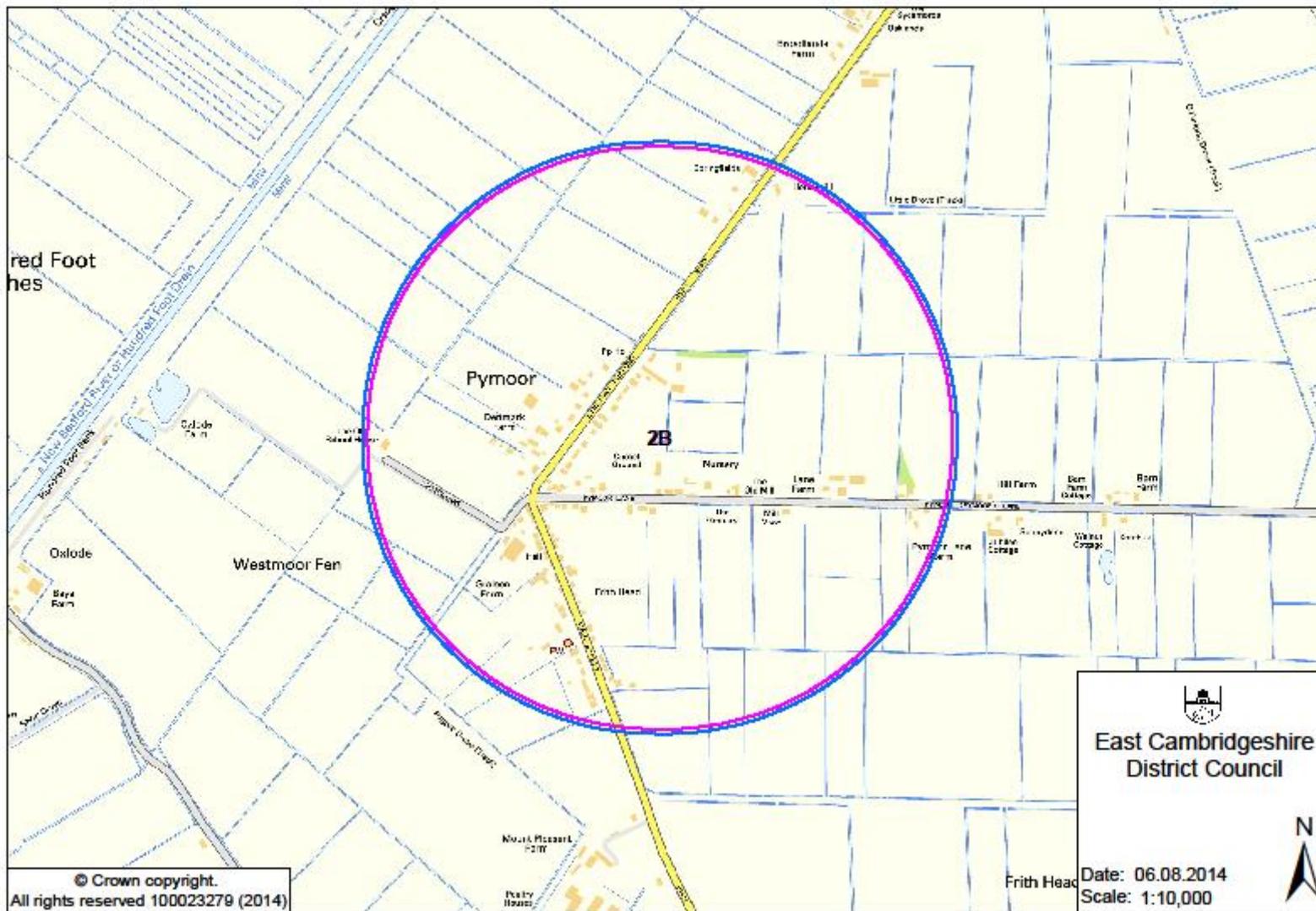
**Facilities**

- Junior
- Junior and Youth
- Toddler
- Toddler and Junior
- All
- Youth
- Informal open space



  
**East Cambridgeshire  
District Council**

  
 Date: 07/08/2014  
 Scale: 1:10,000  
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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

2589<sup>2</sup>

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

Informal Open Space (hectares)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
7.75 hectares	6.47 hectares	1.28 hectares

Toddlers (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
26.24 facilities	5.18 facilities	21.06 facilities

Juniors (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
6.56 facilities	5.18 facilities	1.38 facilities

Youths (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
2.10 facilities	2.59 facilities	-0.49 facilities

- deficit
- surplus
- no response
- incomplete response

## **Analysis of existing provision in Little Downham**

There are currently two play areas and eight areas of informal open space in Little Downham and Pymoor.

### Deficits and surpluses of provision

The play areas in Little Downham and Pymoor cater for toddlers, juniors and youths.

The parish council advises that there is sufficient play provision to meet community requirements however the audit identifies that there is a deficit of youth provision when measured against local planning standards.

Little Downham Parish Council advises that there is adequate provision of informal open space; this is supported by the audit findings. There is a surplus of 1.28 Hectares of informal open space in the parish of Little Downham.

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.

The map identifies that all of the houses in Little Downham fall within the radial travel distance of youth play provision, however as the play area in Pymoor has no youth provision, all of Pymoor falls outside of the youth travel zone.

The majority of houses in the villages of Little Downham and Pymoor fall within the radial travel distance of toddler and junior play provision however the following areas fall outside of this area:

- East end of Lawn Lane
- Brickkiln Lane
- Ely Road (including Little Street)
- West of Main Street
- Pymoor Lane (Pymoor)

### Play Experiences

The parish council have advised that there is a wide range of play experiences available for children.

The parish council scored the two of the play areas in the parish as '4 out of 5 - Good' 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 area in Pymoor scored a '3 out of 5 – average, needs some improvement' for both usage and location.

### Accessibility

Little Downham Parish Council has advised that the play area in the village of Little Downham is accessible for people with disabilities. At the time of the audit, the play area at Pymoor was not accessible to all.

### Consultation

In 2010, a consultation was carried out with older children regarding the type of youth shelter they would like in Little Downham.

### Future development

The parish council advises that there are no planned developments in play provision for the immediate future.

## **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>