

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

Map Ref	Location	Category <sup>1</sup>	Age Group(s)	Size (hectares)
2A	Recreation Ground	PLAY	TJ	0.172957742
MEP001	Meadow Way	PLAY	T	0.025247
3A	River Close	INFORM		0.069358346
3B	Meadow Way	INFORM		0.40165784
3C	School Lane	INFORM		0.064332582
3D	The Green	INFORM		0.06766648
3E	Witcham Road	INFORM		0.056784684

T = Toddler (2 to 5 year olds)

J = Junior (6 to 12 year olds)

Y = Youth (13 to 18 year olds)

---

<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.

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

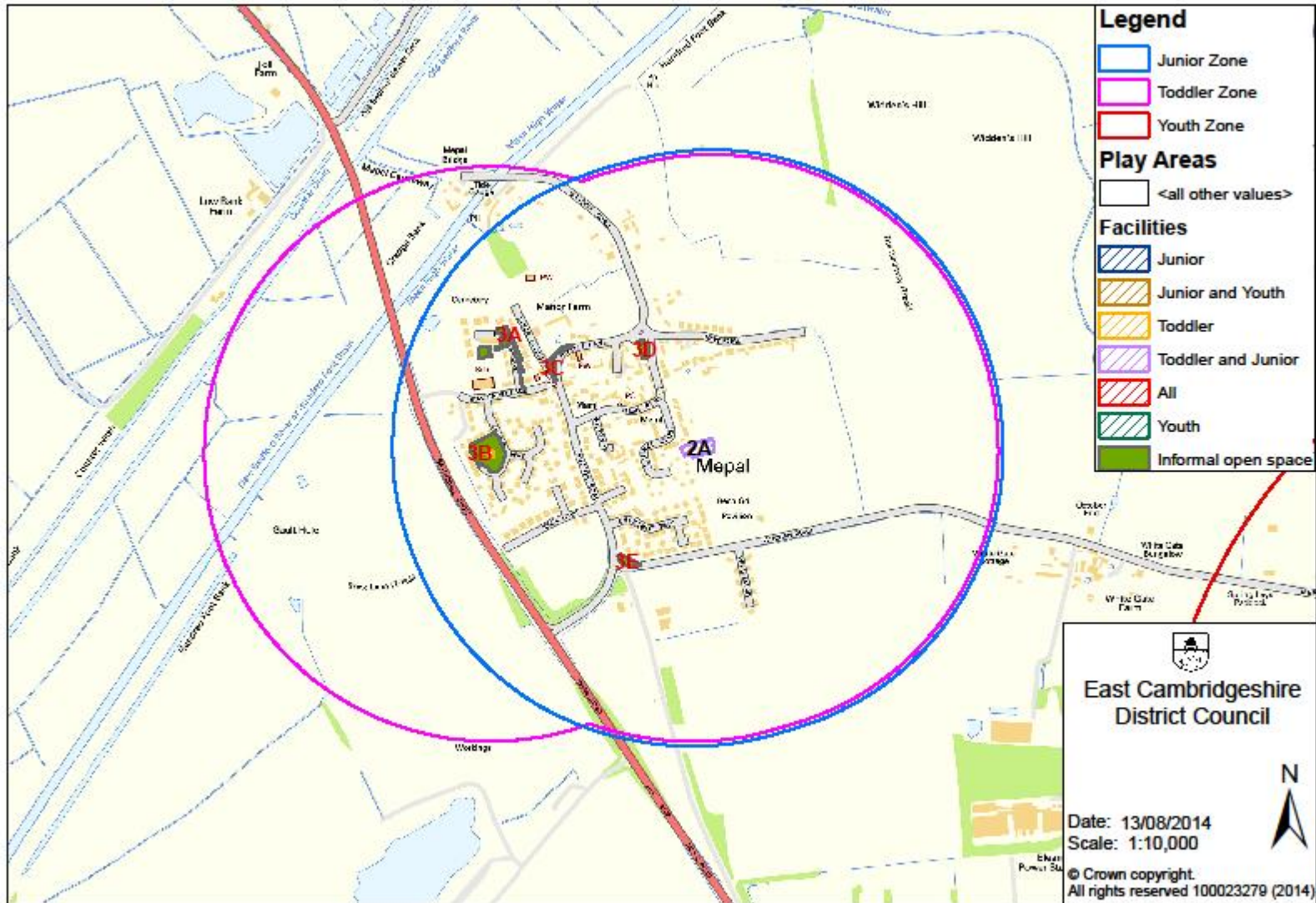
The following map illustrates the locations of play areas and areas of informal open space in Mepal.

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

982<sup>2</sup>

---





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

Informal Open Space (hectares)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
0.66 hectares	2.49 hectares	-1.80 hectares

Toddlers (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
20.00 facilities	1.96 facilities	18.04 facilities

Juniors (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
4.25 facilities	1.96 facilities	2.29 facilities

Youths (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
0.00 facilities	0.98 facilities	-0.98 facilities

	deficit
	surplus
	no response
	incomplete response

### **Analysis of existing provision in Mepal**

There are currently two play areas in Mepal and five areas of informal open space.

#### Deficits and surpluses of provision

The play areas in Mepal cater for toddlers and juniors. The parish council advises that there is sufficient play and informal open space provision to meet existing community needs, however there is a deficit in youth provision as there is equipment for this age group and an additional 1.80 Hectares of Informal Open Space is required to meet the local planning standard (based on per head of population). There is a surplus of toddler and junior provision in Mepal.

The majority of the village falls within the radial travel distances of toddler and junior play provision, apart from the east of Witcham Road. The entire village falls outside the catchment area of youth play provision, as there are no facilities available.

#### Range of Play Experiences

The play area on the recreation field (2A) was updated in 2009/10 as part of the Pathfinder scheme, this added to the range of play experiences available. The parish council advise that the play areas encourage children of different age groups to play together.

#### Access

Mepal Parish Council advise the play areas in the parish are accessible to people with disabilities.

#### Consultation

Vast consultation was carried out by the parish council prior to the upgrade of the recreation field play area in 2009. No formal consultation has been undertaken since. At the time of this consultation, the parish council was in the process of updating their parish plan and it was advised that this would be likely to include questions regarding play provision.

#### Future Development

The Parish Council advises that they wish to carry out the following play developments in Mepal in the future:

- Further development of Lilibet Wood (3E)
- Continued improvement of play area on recreation field (2A)
- Replanting of some trees within the village
- Query East Cambridgeshire District's future intention for play area in Meadow Way (3B)

## **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>