

## **Summary of current play from information provided by Wicken 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 Wicken, using information provided by Wicken Parish Council in 2012-13.

Map Ref	Location	Category <sup>1</sup>	Age Group(s)	Size (hectares)
2A	Pond Green	Play Area	TJ	0.02
2B	Pond Green	Play Area	JY	0.62
2B	Lower Road	Informal Open Space		0.20
3A	The Crescent	Informal Open Space		0.13
3B	High Street	Informal Open Space		0.10
3C	High Street	Informal Open Space		0.07
3D	Cross Green	Informal Open Space		0.02

T = Toddler (2 to 5 year olds)

J = Junior (6 to 12 year olds)

Y = Youth (13 to 18 year olds)

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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.

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 Wicken.

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

839<sup>2</sup>

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

Informal Open Space (hectares)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
0.52 hectares	2.10 hectares	-1.58 hectares

Toddlers (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
1.56 facilities	1.68 facilities	-0.12 facilities

Juniors (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
15.83 facilities	1.68 facilities	14.15 facilities

Youths (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
6.18 facilities	0.84 facilities	5.34 facilities

- deficit
- surplus
- no response
- incomplete response

## **Analysis of existing provision in Wicken**

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

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

The two play areas in Wicken cater for all ages groups.

The parish council advises that there is adequate play and open space provision within Wicken however when measured against local planning standards, there are slight deficits in toddler play provision and areas of informal open space. There is a surplus of provision for juniors and youths.

All of the village of Wicken falls within the radial travel distances for youth play provision. Almost all of the village falls inside of the travel area for toddler and junior play areas, apart from some settlements at the far east of the village (Church Lane) and far west of the village (Stretham Road).

### **Range of play experiences**

The parish council state that the play areas allow children of different ages are able to play together, however when scored against a modified version of Play England's Play Space Quality Assessment Tool Kit, both play areas scored a '3' (Average, needs some improvement), for providing a range of play experiences.

### **Accessibility**

The parish council advise that accessing the Recreation Ground may be difficult for people with disabilities.

### **Consultation and Future Development**

The parish council advised that as a result of consultation, two new items of equipment were installed at the Recreation Ground Play Area.

The parish council have expressed that they would like a small play area in Upware in the future however do not own any land there at the moment.

## **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>