

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

Map Ref	Location	Category ¹	Age Group(s)	Size (hectares)
2C	Recreation Ground	PLAY	TJ	0.0369
2B	Common Road	PLAY	JY	0.0153
WCH001	Victoria Green	PLAY	TJ	0.0325
3A	Orton Drive/Field End	INFORM		0.4356

¹ 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.

3B	Victoria Green	INFORM		0.1609
3C	Elm Close	INFORM		0.0804
3D	Common Road	INFORM		0.5882
3E	Manor Close	INFORM		0.0591
3F	land north of A142	INFORM		26.6105
3G	Main Street	INFORM		0.3464

T = Toddler (2 to 5 year olds)

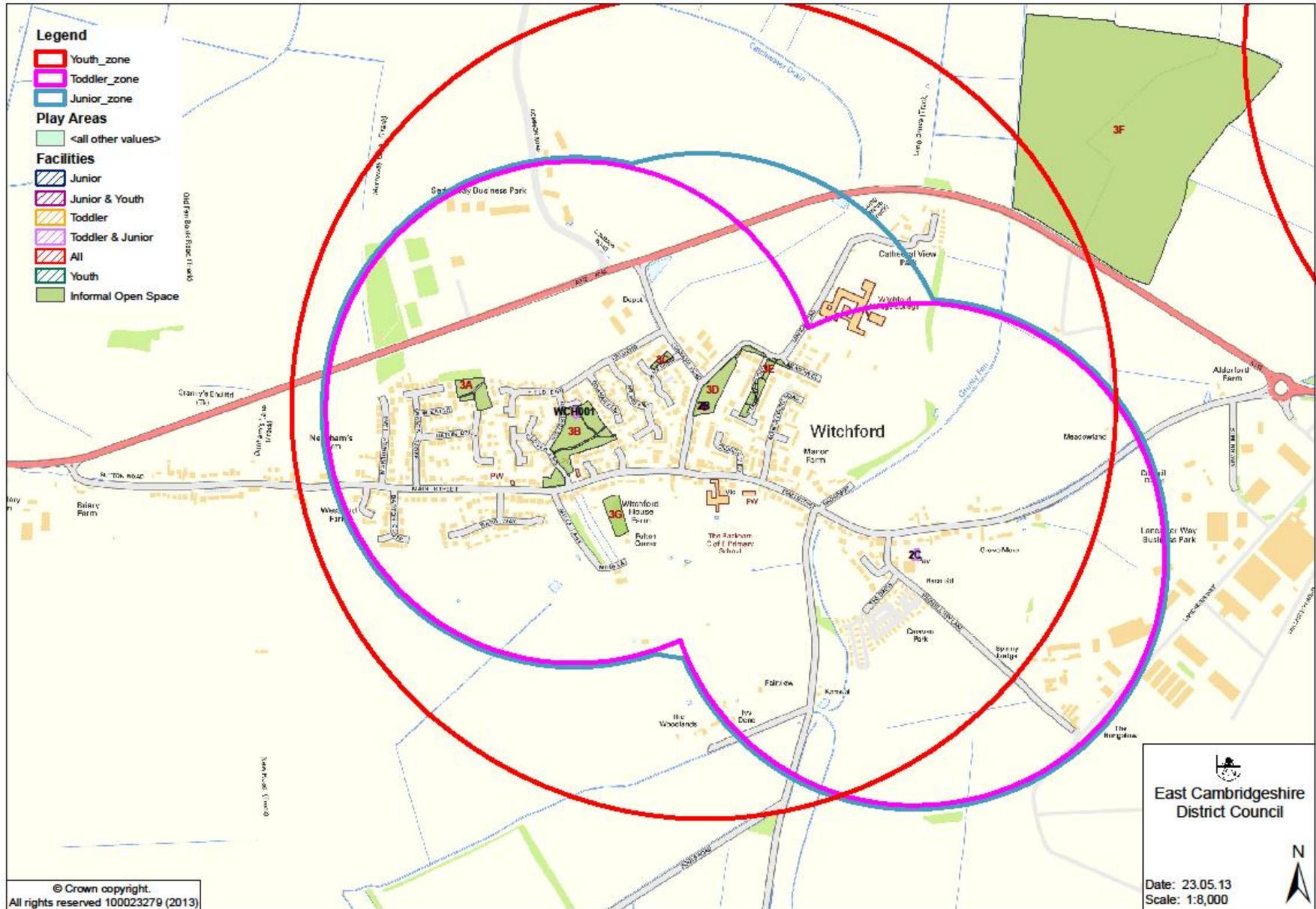
J = Junior (6 to 12 year olds)

Y = Youth (13 to 18 year olds)

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

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

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

- Youth_zone
- Toddler_zone
- Junior_zone
- <all other values>
- Play Areas**
- <all other values>
- Facilities**
- Junior
- Junior & Youth
- Toddler
- Toddler & Junior
- All
- Youth
- Informal Open Space

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**East Cambridgeshire
District Council**

Date: 23.05.13
 Scale: 1:8,000



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.

Category of Space	Space per person (m2)	Standard size of area (ha)
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

2,385²

Informal Open Space (Hectares)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
28.28 Hectares	5.96 Hectares	22.32 Hectares

Toddlers (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
6.93 facilities	4.77 facilities	2.16 facilities

 deficit
 surplus
 no response
 incomplete response

Juniors (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
2.11 facilities	4.77 facilities	-2.66 facilities

Youths (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
0.15 facilities	2.39 facilities	-2.23 facilities

² 2011 Census, Neighbourhood Statistics, January 2013

Analysis of existing provision in Witchford

There are three play areas and seven areas of informal open space in Witchford.

Deficits and surpluses of provision

Witchford Parish Council state that there are sufficient play areas to meet existing community needs. The audit identifies that this is true for toddler and junior provision however the audit identifies a deficit of -2.23 facilities for youth provision based on per head of population.

Witchford Parish Council have identified that there is sufficient informal open space within the parish, this is backed up by the audit findings. Witchford does in fact have a significant surplus of informal open space (22.32 hectares).

Based upon the radial travel distances for the three existing play areas, the majority of the village of Witchford falls within the catchment areas for the play areas.

Houses around Cathedral View Park fall outside of the catchment areas of toddler and junior provision. Properties along Sutton Road (to the west of West End Close) are outside of the radial travel distances for all play areas.

Play Experiences

Witchford Parish Council identify that the play areas in the parish provide a wide range of play experiences. An example of this is the log climbing frame which provides multi-activity options. The play areas allow children of different ages to play together.

Witchford Parish Council scored the existing play areas 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

All aspects of all three play areas scored a 4 (good) or 5 (excellent), advising that there are no current issues with the existing play areas.

Accessibility

Witchford's play areas are accessible to children with disabilities.

Future Provision

Sutton Parish Council has no plans to develop any new play areas in the foreseeable 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.

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

East Cambridgeshire District Council
www.eastcambs.gov.uk

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