



Open Space Standards

Fenland Local Plan

Fenland District Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

December 2021

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Open Space Standards

Contents

Chapter 1	9
Introduction	
Chapter 2	19
Policy context	
Chapter 3	24
Methodology	
Chapter 4	28
Understanding the need for open space in Fenland	
Chapter 5	49
Quantity assessment	
Chapter 6	64
Applying the baseline standards: Quantity	
Quantity assessment	65
Chapter 7	87
Applying the baseline standards: Accessibility	

Chapter 8	110
Developing a framework for quality standards	

Chapter 9	125
Proposed local open space standards for Fenland	

Accessibility Standards	125
Quantity standards	128

Appendix A	136
Review of standards in neighbouring and corresponding similar local authorities	

Appendix B	137
Open Space Mapping	

Appendix C	138
Cambridgeshire Open Space Standards and Mapping	
Proposed Quality Standards	

Appendix D	140
Amended audit form and quality benchmark scores worked examples	

Table of Tables

Table 5.1: Quantity of open space by typology showing differences between the 2020 assessment and the current assessment	57
Table 5.2: Quantity of open space by primary typology and hierarchy (area and count of sites)	60
Table 5.3: Quantity of each play type (area and no. of sites)	61
Table 5.4: Quantity of open space by primary typology by Parish (quantities exclude secondary typology play)	62
Table 5.5: Quantity of Neighbourhood Playgrounds by play type per Parish (primary and secondary typology play)	63
Table 6.1: Key settlements included within each analysis area	65
Table 6.2: Projected population growth by analysis area	68
Table 6.3: Quantity of open space (ha / 1,000 head of population) by typology ; current and up to 2040	69
Table 6.4: Analysis areas above and below the district average of 1.64ha per 1,000 head of population; current and up to 2040	70
Table 6.5: Public open space and Neighbourhood Playgrounds quantity standard proposed as part of the 2020 COSMS project	73
Table 6.6: Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens (ha / 1,000 head of population); current and up to 2040	74
Table 6.7: Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space (ha / 1,000 head of population); current and up to 2040	76
Table 6.8: Informal Parkland and Amenity Space (ha / 1,000 head of population); current and up to 2040	77
Table 6.9: Analysis areas falling above and below 3.2ha per 1,000 open space provision and 2.4ha / 1,000 head of population open space provision, current and up to 2040	78
Table 6.10: Wards falling above and below 3.2ha per 1,000 open space provision and 2.4ha / 1,000 head of population open space provision, current and up to 2040	79
Table 6.11: Analysis areas falling above and below the proposed Neighbourhood Playground standard (0.55ha / 1,000 head of population LAPs, LEAPs, NEAPs & Other Play), total current population and up to 2040	81

Contents

Table 6.12: Analysis areas falling above and below the proposed play standard for LAPs, LEAPs & NEAPs, using child population data (aged 0-14 years), current and up to 2040	81
Table 6.13: Summary of findings from case study application of the proposed standards	85
Table 7.1: Baseline accessibility standards (COSMS)	88
Table 8.1: Sample audit: proposed COSMS quality assessment framework summary results	114
Table 8.2: Proposed exemplar score per typology and benchmarks for 'good' quality sites	121
Table 8.2: Proposed amended audit form	122
Table 9.1: Proposed baseline accessibility standards to be adopted in Fenland and potential adjustments	127
Table 9.2: Proposed baseline quantity standards to be adopted in Fenland and potential adjustments	135

Table of Figures

Figure 1.1: Study context	12
Figure 1.2: Study area	13
Figure 4.1: Population density	30
Figure 4.2: Index of Multiple Deprivation	33
Figure 4.3: Health Deprivation	34
Figure 4.4: Barriers to Housing and Services	35
Figure 4.5: Living Environment Deprivation	36
Figure 4.6: Environmental context: Flood risk	39
Figure 4.7: Environmental context: Biodiversity	41
Figure 4.8: Environmental context: Cultural heritage	43
Figure 5.1: Approach to mapping play space within a wider site	54
Figure 6.1: Open Space Analysis Areas	67
Figure 6.2: Open space (ha /1,000 head of population) and expected growth	71
Figure 7.1: Local Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens 400m Accessibility Buffer	91
Figure 7.2: Small Local Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens 300m Accessibility Buffer	92

Contents

Figure 7.3: Informal Parkland and Amenity Space 480m Accessibility Buffer	94
Figure 7.4: Local Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space 2.0km Accessibility Buffer	96
Figure 7.5: Small Local Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space 300m Accessibility Buffer	97
Figure 7.6: Allotments 560m Accessibility Buffer	99
Figure 7.7: Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs) 1.0km Accessibility Buffer	101
Figure 7.8: Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs) 400m Accessibility Buffer	102
Figure 7.9: Local Areas of Play (LAPs) 100m Accessibility Buffer	103
Figure 7.10: Other Play 700m Accessibility Buffer	104
Figure 7.11: Combined open space deficiency	107
Figure 7.12: Barriers to access	108
Figure 7.13: Recreational routes	109
Figure 8.1: Count of play type included within the sample audit	112

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 LUC was commissioned by Fenland District Council (FDC) in 2021 to undertake a review of open space provision in the district to inform the open space standards in its emerging Local Plan.

1.2 This study builds on work already undertaken by Jon Sheaff and Associates that has set 'baseline' standards for open space across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. The baseline standards were developed with the intention of either being adopted by individual District and City Councils, or to be adjusted as required to suit local needs. National planning policy requires that up to date assessments of open space need are undertaken to support the development of local policies. Studies should determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is required "which plans should then seek to accommodate".

1.3 This study will apply the baseline standards discussed above across the district to further explore their suitability for Fenland. The proposed baseline standards will be tested and adjusted as appropriate. The study will provide proposed open space standards which can be set out in Fenland's draft new Local Plan.

1.4 This study has been undertaken in accordance with relevant national, regional, and local policy. Recognised guidance has been referred to where appropriate to inform methodology and the setting of standards. The study has also considered information that was available as part of evidence-base documents already prepared by the borough.

1.5 Key guidance that has informed the preparation of the study includes:

- CABE 'Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance' (2009)

- The Fields in Trust 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard' (2015)
- Natural England 'Accessible Natural Green Space Standards' (ANGSt) (2001)
- Play England Guidance:
 - 'Better Places to Play Through Planning' (2009)
 - 'Tools for Evaluating Local Play Provision: A Technical Guide to Local Play Indicators' (2009)
 - 'Design for Play: A Guide to Creating Successful Play Spaces'
- The Mayor of London's 'Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation: Supplementary Planning Guidance' (2012)
- National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Policy Documents

1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced the, now superseded, Planning Policy Guidance (PPG). However, PPG 17 Companion Guide (Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17, ODPM, 2002) **[See reference 1]** still provides a useful and valuable framework to inform several aspects of assessment. This guidance has therefore also been referred to where appropriate.

Context and background

1.7 Fenland is in the county of Cambridgeshire and covers just over 500 square kilometres, see **Figure 1.1**. The district is rural and sparsely populated with a population of approximately 102,900. Settlements within the district are generally small, with larger populations located across the four market towns; March, Wisbech, Chatteris and Whittlesey. **Figure 1.2** shows the boundary of the study area, and the Wards and key settlements in Fenland. Fenland has a unique environmental character. The district forms part of a much wider area of land within the East of England which was developed for agriculture through the drainage of the fens. The area is low lying and is crossed by a network of

drainage channels and modified watercourses. The land outside of settlements areas is intensively farmed, although there are areas which remain important for their biodiversity and historic interest. Most notably Nene Washes in the east of the district and Ouse Washes to the south west are subject to European (Natura 2000) and International (Ramsar) designations for their importance to biodiversity. The district has a range of open spaces such as West End Park and Wisbech Park, and two Local Nature Reserves; Lattersey Field and Rings End.

1.8 Whilst the district is sparsely populated the district has seen notable growth and new house building in the recent past. Additional growth is expected over the next twenty years which will require positive planning to be sustainable.

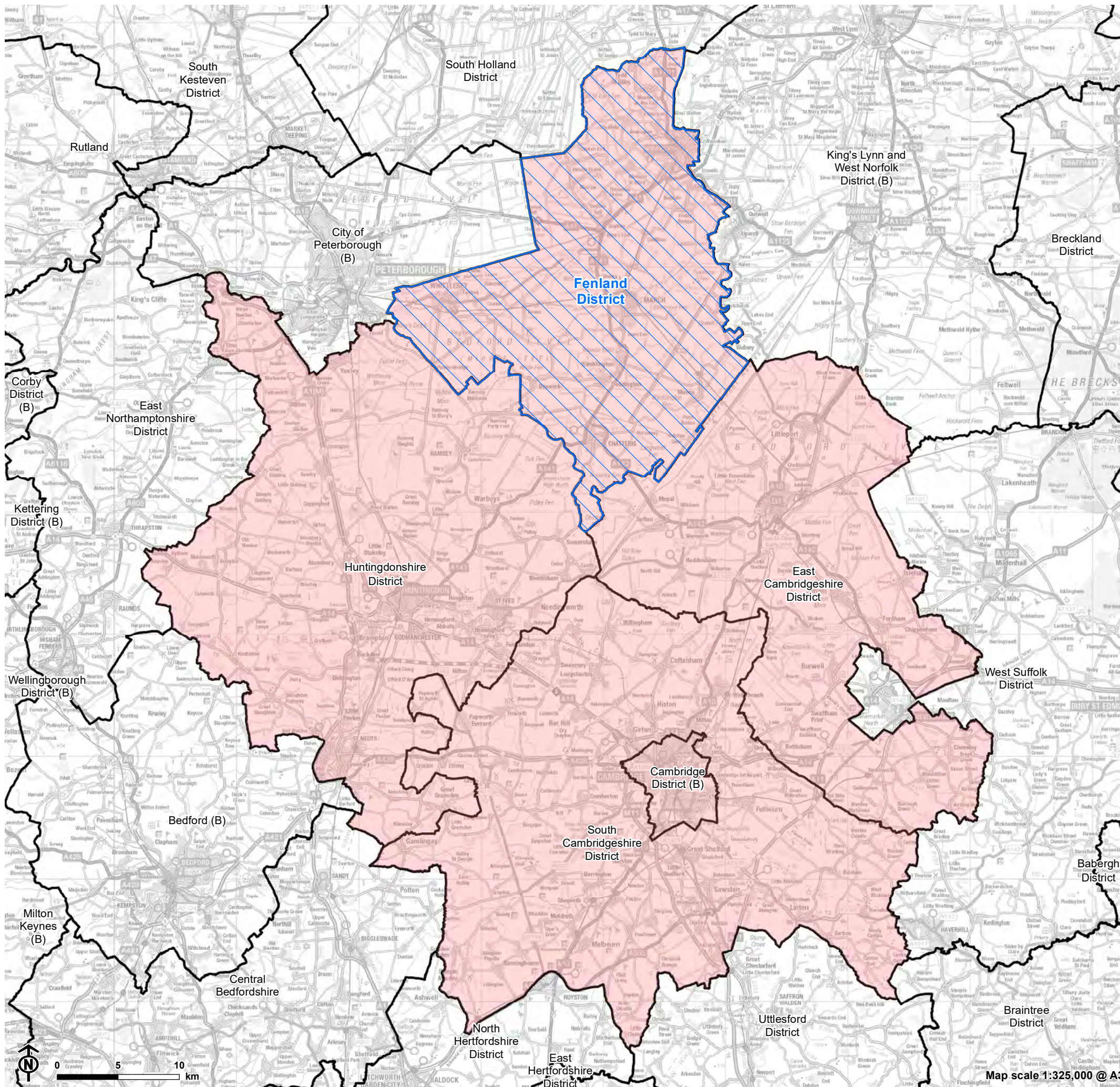


Figure 1.1: Study Context

- Fenland District
- Cambridgeshire County
- Other local authority

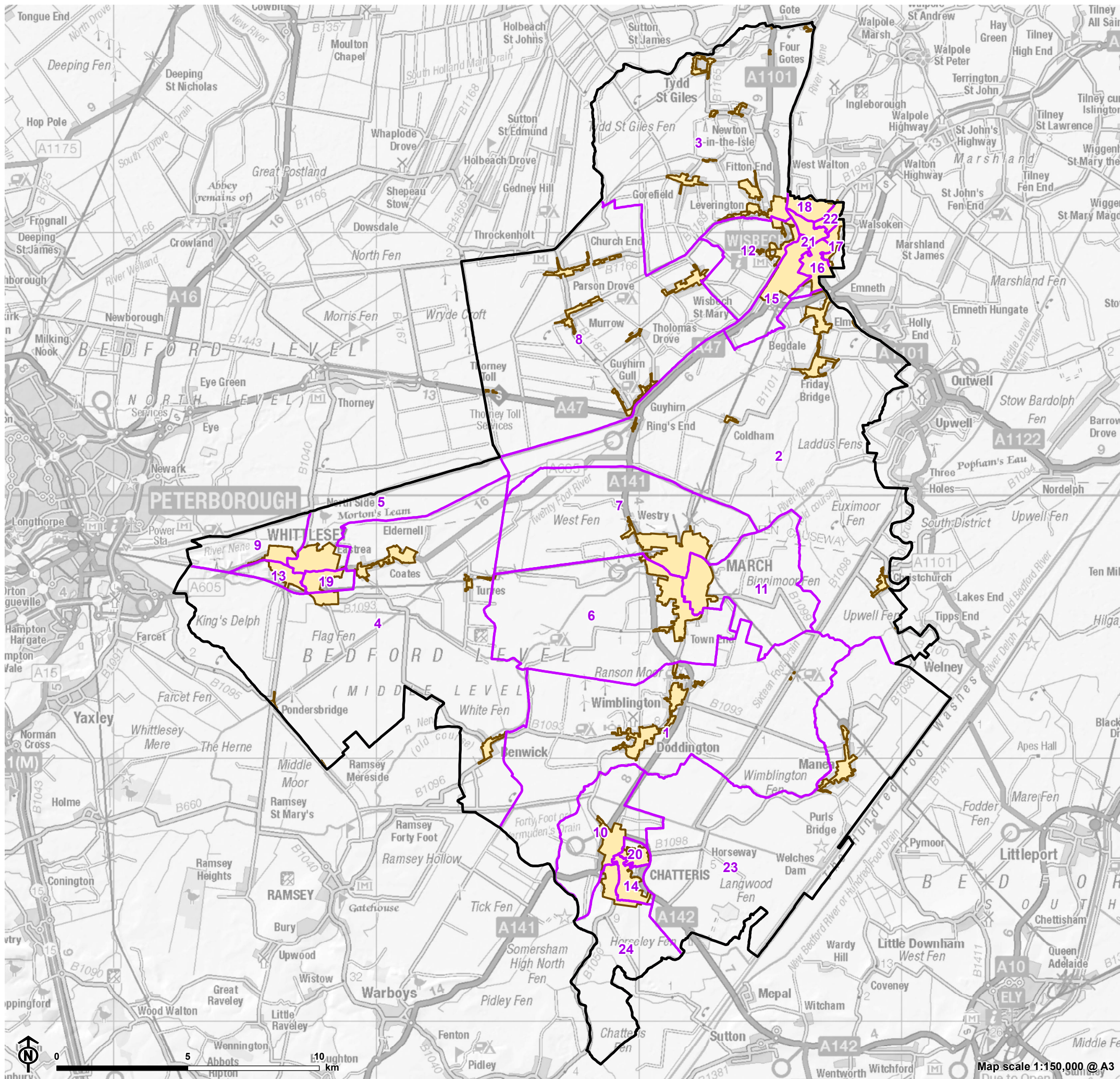


Figure 1.2: Study Area

- Fenland District
 - Settlement boundary
 - Ward
- 1: Doddington & Wimblington Ward
 - 2: Elm & Christchurch Ward
 - 3: Roman Bank Ward
 - 4: Benwick, Coates & Eastrea Ward
 - 5: Bassenhally Ward
 - 6: March West Ward
 - 7: March North Ward
 - 8: Parson Drove & Wisbech St. Mary Ward
 - 9: Stonald Ward
 - 10: Slade Lode Ward
 - 11: March East Ward
 - 12: Peckover Ward
 - 13: St. Andrews Ward
 - 14: Wenneye Ward
 - 15: Medworth Ward
 - 16: Octavia Hill Ward
 - 17: Staithe Ward
 - 18: Waterlees Village Ward
 - 19: Lattersey Ward
 - 20: Birch Ward
 - 21: Clarkson Ward
 - 22: Kirkgate Ward
 - 23: Manea Ward
 - 24: The Mills Ward

Purpose and scope

1.9 The purpose of the study is to develop open space standards for the emerging Local Plan. The study will form part of the Local Plan evidence base. The new Local Plan will cover the period between 2020 and 2040. The current Local Plan was produced during 2014. Detail on the developer requirements in terms of open space provision is currently set out within Fenland's *Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (2015)* [\[See reference 2\]](#). The evidence base for open space to inform the existing Local Plan was produced during 2013 but did not set detailed standards based on local needs or any 'surpluses' of open space [\[See reference 3\]](#).

1.10 The 2014 Local Plan is need of revision, and will need to consider several key changes in the regional and national policy approach, including:

- Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and associated guidance.
- Considerations related to Brexit.
- Formation of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 'Combined Authority' and appointment of a Mayor.
- The development of Natural Cambridgeshire's new Vision, including to 'double land for nature'.
- Fenland's new Vision and Business Plan, including aspiration related to health & wellbeing, heritage and the environment.

1.11 Viability is also an issue for the district. A Whole Plan Viability Assessment was published during 2020, which tested a range of assumptions. The report concluded that viability is marginal. Viability varies broadly between the north and south and between brownfield and greenfield sites. The assessment assumed an open space standard of 2.4ha per 1,000 residents. The potential impact of open space requirements on viability will therefore also need to be considered as part of the development of standards for Fenland.

1.12 FDC undertook an ‘Issues and Options’ consultation to inform the development of the Plan during 2019. A draft Local Plan will be consulted on during 2021, which will contain proposed policies, including standards related to open space.

1.13 The key objectives of the study are to:

- Review the open space data for Fenland, checking consistency of typology, boundaries and any other categories.
- Apply the standards across the district and adjust, if necessary, based on local requirements.
- Test the proposed standards.
- Set out open space standards for inclusion with the Draft New Local Plan.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator

1.14 Fenland District Council are partners of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator (FPA). Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are one of eight areas to have been selected for the FPA in England. The FPA is a national programme to test and implement innovative approaches to managing parks and green spaces. It is a collaborative venture between the National Trust, The National Heritage Lottery Fund and Local Authorities, with financial support from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Partners of the FPA include Cambridgeshire County Council (lead for the FPA project), Cambridge City, Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, and Natural Cambridgeshire Local Nature Partnership.

1.15 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough FPA Project Objectives are:

- **Collective leadership and shared ambition for our Parks and Public Open Space.** Develop the shared vision and common cause for the

region's parks and public open space. Consult stakeholders and empower local communities' involvement.

- **Plan for Open Space Management.** Map and value open space, develop a plan for its management.
- **Model for delivery.** Identify long-term, sustainable funding and governance models for new and existing parks, securing their future for generations to come.
- **Evaluation.** Understand the project impact.

1.16 The Key Messages promoted as part of the FPA Project are:

- Parks and green spaces are good for life.
- Parks and green spaces are good for the community.
- Parks and green spaces are good for nature.
- Parks and green spaces are good for growth.
- Parks are fun.

1.17 A key workstream of the FPA project has been to identify and map Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's parks and open spaces. Jon Sheaff and Associates were appointed by the FPA to propose a set of baseline standards for quality, quantity and accessibility. The baseline standards provide a benchmark against which local standards can be set. The baseline study and standards are set out in two reports '*Cambridgeshire Open Space Mapping and Standards*' (COSMS) (both a technical report and a summary report have been produced).

1.18 The work identified the following typologies of open space across the study area:

- Country Parks (although none identified in Fenland)
- Neighbourhood Parks & Gardens
- Informal Parkland & Amenity Space

- Neighbourhood Playgrounds
- Allotments
- Natural & Sem-Natural Open Space

1.19 Setting local open space standards for Fenland will form a key aspect of ensuring sustainable growth in the district. Open spaces come under increasing pressure as the population increases, both for recreation and alternative uses. The importance to open space for the health and wellbeing of local communities is now well recognised. The quality of open space is as important (if not more important) than the quantity of open space that communities have easy access to. Changing social and economic circumstances, changing work and leisure practices have placed new demands on open space. They must serve more diverse communities with a wide range of needs and expectations. If well managed and planned for, open space may help to address some inequalities relating to health and wellbeing. High quality and high value open spaces are multifunctional and can also support a range of wider environmental benefits and objectives. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of easy access to open space. The result has been an increased awareness of the benefits. However, the pandemic has also highlighted inequalities of access, and pressures the faced by local authorities responsible for their management.

1.20 A 2021 survey by the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) indicates provides an indication of the issues. 68% of local authority parks service respondents consider that the squeeze on public sector resource is affecting parks and green spaces disproportionately to other service areas. 71% indicate that reductions in funding has resulted in a withdrawal of maintenance from some land and an increase in unmaintained land. 97% believe that a lack of investment in parks and green spaces will have health and social impacts. Over 30% expect funding in their service budget to decrease by up to 10% in the coming five years. This increases the significance of the study, as it will become increasingly important to ensure that planning policies are robust and are able to secure and protect the social and environmental benefits that may be derived from open space.

Structure of the report

1.21 The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

Chapter two: Provides an overview of relevant national, regional and local policy. This section set out the key policy drivers and rationale for the study.

Chapter three: Provides an overview of the methodology that has been employed.

Chapter Four: Explores the ‘need’ for open space and provides an overview of the social and environmental characteristics of Fenland. Available relevant consultation material and information on access to open space and the natural environment is also explored.

Chapter Five: Quantity assessment. This section describes the process undertaken to update and sense check the existing baseline open space data set. This section presents detailed quantitative analysis of the current provision of each type of open space across the district.

Chapter Six: The baseline quantity standards set as part of the Cambridgeshire Open Space Standards and Mapping project are ‘applied’ and tested in the Fenland context. Potential adjustments for several types of standards are explored.

Chapter Seven: The baseline accessibility standards set as part of the Cambridgeshire Open Space Standards and Mapping project are ‘applied’ and tested in the Fenland context.

Chapter Eight: Sets out the approach and findings of testing the quality assessment framework that was proposed as part of the COSMS work.

Chapter Nine: Sets out the proposed local open space standards for Fenland.

Chapter 2

Policy context

2.1 This assessment of open space quantity, quality and accessibility has been developed in the context of national, regional, and local policy and takes account of guidance in respect of setting standards for open space.

National

2.2 The revised **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** 2021 [\[See reference 4\]](#) recognises the importance of access to high quality open spaces for the health and wellbeing of communities and provides the rationale for the preparation of open space strategies.

2.3 Paragraphs 98 requires that up-to-date assessments of open space need are undertaken to support the development of policies. Information from assessments should determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is required “which plans should then seek to accommodate”. The NPPF provides a mechanism by which local authorities can protect some open spaces through ‘Local Green Space’ designations (paragraph 101). These areas should be managed by policies which are consistent with those for Green Belt.

2.4 Paragraph 99 sets out the only circumstances in which open space can be developed different uses. It clarifies that existing open space should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or

- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

2.5 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides further detail on the development and implementation of policies within the NPPF. PPG of most relevance to the preparation of open space standards includes:

- *Open space, sport and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space*
- *Natural environment*

2.6 The 25 Year Environment Plan [See reference 5] also sets out several actions that relate to delivering social benefits through the provision of open space.

Regional

2.7 Relevant regional plans include:

- Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy [See reference 6] (2011) has been developed to shape and co-ordinate the delivery of green infrastructure in the County up to 2031.
- Cambridgeshire's Vision: Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-21 [See reference 7] provides the vision for the County. Priority 1.2 of the Strategy identifies the need to ensure the provision of 'easily accessible local and strategic open spaces that are safe, clean and rich in biodiversity.'
- The Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth [See reference 8] sets out the core principles that should underpin development within the County. Community principles include the provision of a mixture of 'formal and informal green space and interconnectivity between new and existing Green Infrastructure.'

Local

2.8 The current Local Plan for Fenland was adopted in May 2014 [See reference 9]. It contains the policies and broad locations for the growth and regeneration of Fenland over the next 20 years. Policy LP16: Delivering and Protecting High Quality Environments across the district states that proposals for all new development will only be permitted if they provide publicly accessible open space for play, sport, recreation and access to nature, in accordance with the Open Space Standards set out within Appendix B of the Local Plan.

2.9 The Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) [See reference 10] does not amend or override the policy approach within the Policy LP16 of the current Local Plan. However, it does set out additional guidance on how off-site financial contributions can be calculated and ongoing maintenance arrangements.

2.10 Appendix B of the existing Local Plan sets out the following requirements for open space:

- One new Country Park, located in March.
- 0.45ha of new neighbourhood / town park (typically between one and six hectares in size) per 10ha of the development site.
- 0.4ha of designated, equipped play space per 10ha of the development site.
- 0.5ha of natural greenspace (woodlands, shrubs, grassland, heath or moor, wetland or open water where the public has a legal or permissive right of access) per 10ha of the development site.
- 0.1ha of allotment (allotment gardens or community farming sites) per 10ha of the development site.
- 0.8ha of formally laid out outdoor sports areas per 10ha of the development site.
- No standard is set out for small areas of amenity green space.

2.11 Across all typologies, the Local Plan stipulates the provision of 1.8 - 2.25ha of open space per 10ha of residential development.

Fenland's Playing Pitch Strategy (2016-2031)

2.12 Future requirements for formal sports provision are set out within the district's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The PPS is a strategic assessment which provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand regarding playing pitches. The strategy sets out the future needs in relation to sports provision up to 2031. The Strategy is informed by Sport England guidance. Fenland's PPS covers the following core sports:

- Football
- Rugby Union
- Cricket
- Hockey

2.13 Supply and demand for tennis, bowls, athletics and cycling are also considered.

2.14 The report sets out the following key findings:

- There is sufficient capacity to provide for football (grass pitches) up to 2031, considering the district as whole. Youth football (11v11) can be accommodated through additional community use of school sites and the surplus of adult pitches.
- A need was identified for at least one additional 3G AGP (potentially within March).
- The projected increase in demand for cricket can be satisfied across the district by the current level of supply.
- There are issues with rugby pitches being over capacity to cater for demand. Issues are also noted with pitch quality and drainage.

- There is a short fall in free to use tennis courts across Fenland. Investment and upgrading of courts in local parks to increase casual / recreational tennis is recommended.
- There is an absence of strategic cycling routes in the district. Investment in cycle lanes and connectivity is recommended.

2.15 Further detail is provided within the PPS on specific playing pitch needs within sub areas of the district. The PPS also provides a detailed assessment of strategic sites for protection and enhancement, detailed recommendations, and an action plan.

Chapter 3

Methodology

3.1 The methodology for the study of open space provision and standards in Fenland reflects the requirements of the NPPF (2019) and has been informed by recognised guidance on planning for open space and play space.

3.2 The methodology follows five key steps and reflects the need to apply the baseline standards that have been set for Cambridgeshire and revise these (where necessary) for the local Fenland context.

- Step One: Understanding local need
- Step Two: Auditing local provision
- Step Three: Applying and revising the baseline standards
- Step Four: Setting local standards

Step 1: Understanding local need

3.3 A review of relevant national, regional and local policy was undertaken as part of the development of baseline standards for Cambridgeshire. Whilst this has not been repeated, further detail has been added to understand the implications of the development of Fenland's new Local Plan. To further understand the characteristics of the district, a desk study was undertaken to consider environmental and landscape context, characteristics of the population, health data and future changes because of population growth and development. Results from relevant consultation undertaken as part of the development of the Local Plan has also been reviewed to better understand the needs and aspirations of residents.

Step 2: Auditing local provision

3.4 Existing open space data for Fenland has been collated and reviewed. Open space data was provided by Fenland District Council which was sense checked and cross referenced with other contextual data sets, aerial imagery, OS Greenspace layers and OS MasterMap.

3.5 Fenland's open spaces are categorised to align with typologies adopted as part of Cambridgeshire's baseline open space standards. Typologies are based on the primary 'functions' of the open space and an appropriate size hierarchy.

Fenland Open Space Typologies

- Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens
- Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Green Space
- Allotments
- Neighbourhood Playgrounds

3.6 Further detail on the steps taken to develop an up-to-date open space data set for Fenland is set out in **Chapter 5** (Quantity Assessment).

Step 3: Applying and revising the baseline standards

3.7 Baseline standards have been set for the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with the intention of these either being adopted by the local authorities or revised to suit local needs. This step applies the proposed baseline standards to test them and determine whether any revisions to the standards are necessary or appropriate.

Applying baseline quantity standards

3.8 Recommended quantity standards have been set for each type of open space in Cambridgeshire, expressed as hectares per 1,000 population. This standard has been applied to understand the implications for Fenland, considering the expected growth in the district across the new Local Plan period (up to 2040).

Applying baseline accessibility standards

3.9 Accessibility standards have been set for each type of open space and level of the proposed size hierarchy. These have been applied, with further analysis undertaken to understand the relative levels of access to open space experienced across the district. Where possible, work has been undertaken to better understand the level of access to the wider countryside (through the Public Rights of Way network and other access routes) and the implications of any landscape features which may present notable barriers to access (i.e. roads, railways and watercourses).

Reviewing and developing the framework for quality and value standards

3.10 A framework for quality assessment for open spaces across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been proposed, which is based on the Green Flag award criteria, and other recognised guidance. The intention is that local authorities across the county can use the assessment framework to undertake site audits across their administrative area if they wish. The review and update of the baseline standards for Fenland has included undertaking a sample audit of open space and play space across several of the Market Towns in Fenland. The suitability of the proposed audit methodology and assessment criteria has been tested, taking into account good practice guidance and application within the local context.

Step 4: Setting local standards

3.11 Local open space standards have been proposed for inclusion with the emerging Local Plan. The proposed standards have been informed by the testing of the baseline standards and consideration of available evidence that demonstrates open space needs in Fenland.

Chapter 4

Understanding the need for open space in Fenland

4.1 The following section reviews the social and environmental characteristics of Fenland. Available consultation material and data on the use of open spaces in Fenland has also been reviewed. This review helps to set out the 'need' for, and value of, open space in Fenland.

Population and social context

4.2 Office for National Statistics estimates [\[See reference 11\]](#) indicate that the population of the district is 102,900 (as of 2021). 50.4% of the population are estimated to be female and 49.6% male.

4.3 A slightly larger percentage of the population are estimated to be 65 and over when compare to the whole of Cambridgeshire and England as whole. 23% of the population (Fenland), compared to 19.2% for Cambridgeshire and 18.4% for England. 59.1% of the population in Fenland are estimated to be of working age (16-64), compared to 62.1% for Cambridgeshire and 62.4% for England. Children (aged 0-15) are estimated to account for 17.9% of the Fenland population compared to 18.7% for Cambridgeshire and 19.2% for England as a whole.

4.4 Fenland is not very ethnically diverse when compared to Cambridgeshire and England as whole. Data from the 2011 Census [\[See reference 12\]](#) shows Minority Ethnic groups accounted for approximately 9.6% of the population. This compares to 15.5% for Cambridgeshire and 20.2% for England as a whole. Residents of White ethnic backgrounds accounted for 97.2% of the Fenland population. This is followed by Asian / Asian British: Indian (0.4%) and Asian / Asian British: Other Asian (0.4%).

4.5 2011 Census data shows that population density across the district, when taken as a whole, is relatively low at 1.7 persons per hectare (p/ha). This is similar to surrounding rural districts in Cambridgeshire, i.e. South Cambridgeshire (1.6 p/ha) and Huntingdonshire (1.9 p/ha). Population density is highest in the wards around the key Market Towns, most notably Wisbech, Chatteris and Whittlesey. **Figure 4.1** shows population density across the district.

A changing population

4.6 Population projections indicate that the population of the district is expected to grow by around 15,640 between 2018 and 2036. This represents a 15.4% increase from 101,260 (2018) to 116,900 (2036) [\[See reference 13\]](#). The percentage of residents over 65 years is expected to increase from 23% in 2019 to 30.4% up to 2041. The percentage of working age residents (16-64 years) is expected to decrease from 59.1% (2019) to 53.5% (2041). The percentage of residents aged 0-15 years within Fenland is expected to decrease from 17.9% (2019) to 16.1% (2041) [\[See reference 14\]](#).

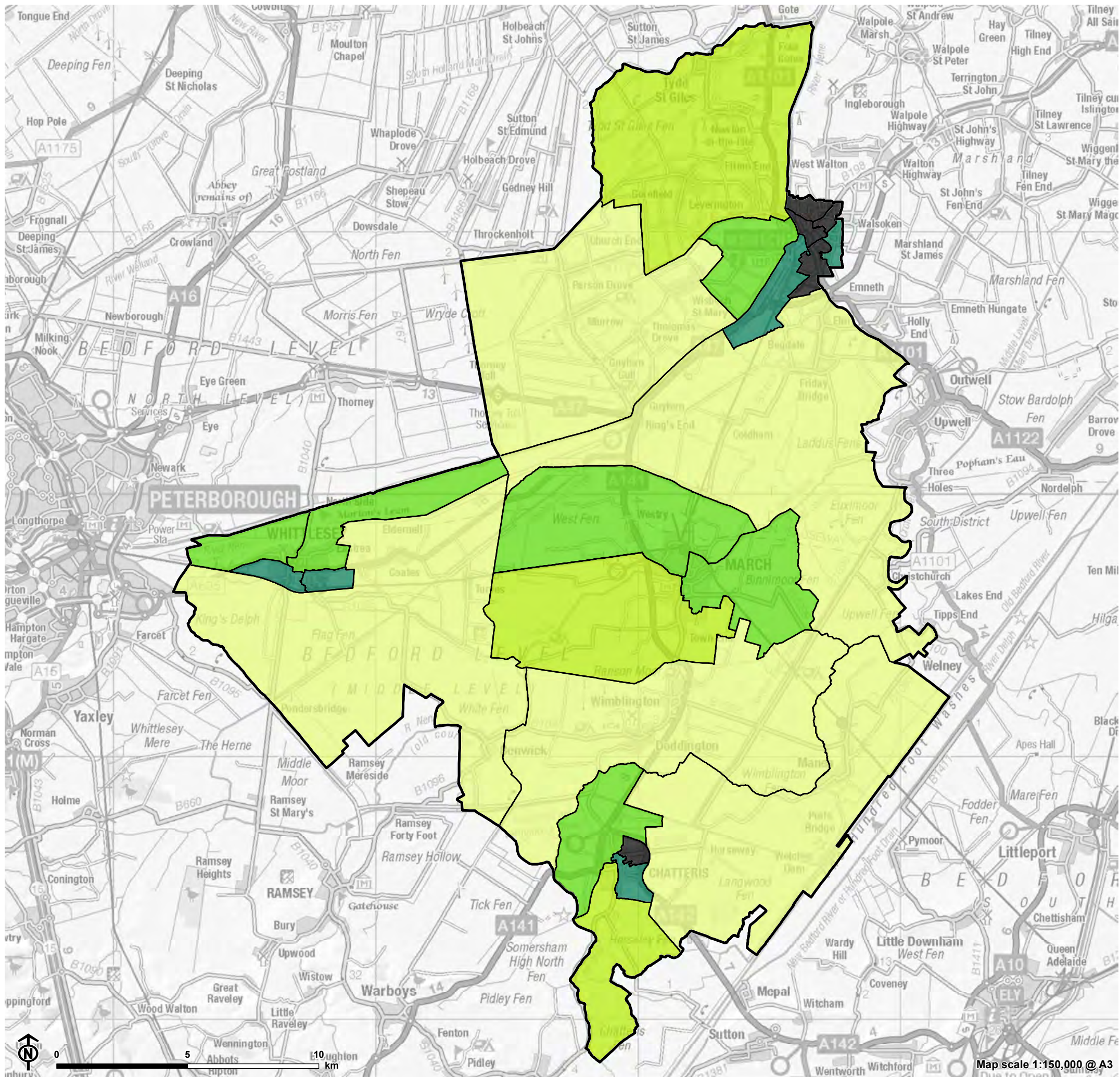
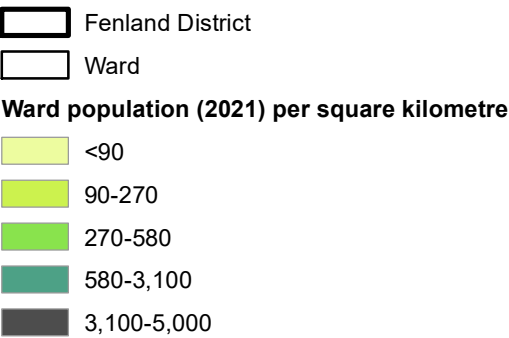


Figure 4.1: Population Density



Deprivation & Health

4.7 The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 provide a set of *relative* measures of deprivation for small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England. The IMD are based on seven *domains of deprivation*, including 'Income', 'Employment', 'Education, Skills & Training', 'Health & Disability', 'Crime', 'Barriers to Housing & Services' and 'Living Environment'.

4.8 Fenland is ranked as the 2nd most deprived local authority in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the most deprived district in Cambridgeshire. Four LSOAs in the district are among the 10% most deprived areas in England (located in March and Wisbech). LSOA Fenland 007b (in March East Ward) has become more deprived since 2015 and was not in the 10% most deprived nationally in 2015. There are 11 LSOAs in Fenland in the top 20% most deprived in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

4.9 In general, the north east of the district is most deprived when compared to the rest of the district. The divide between urban and rural deprivation is relatively small and within the range of two deciles. In all domains, rural LSOAs are less deprived or the same as urban ones.

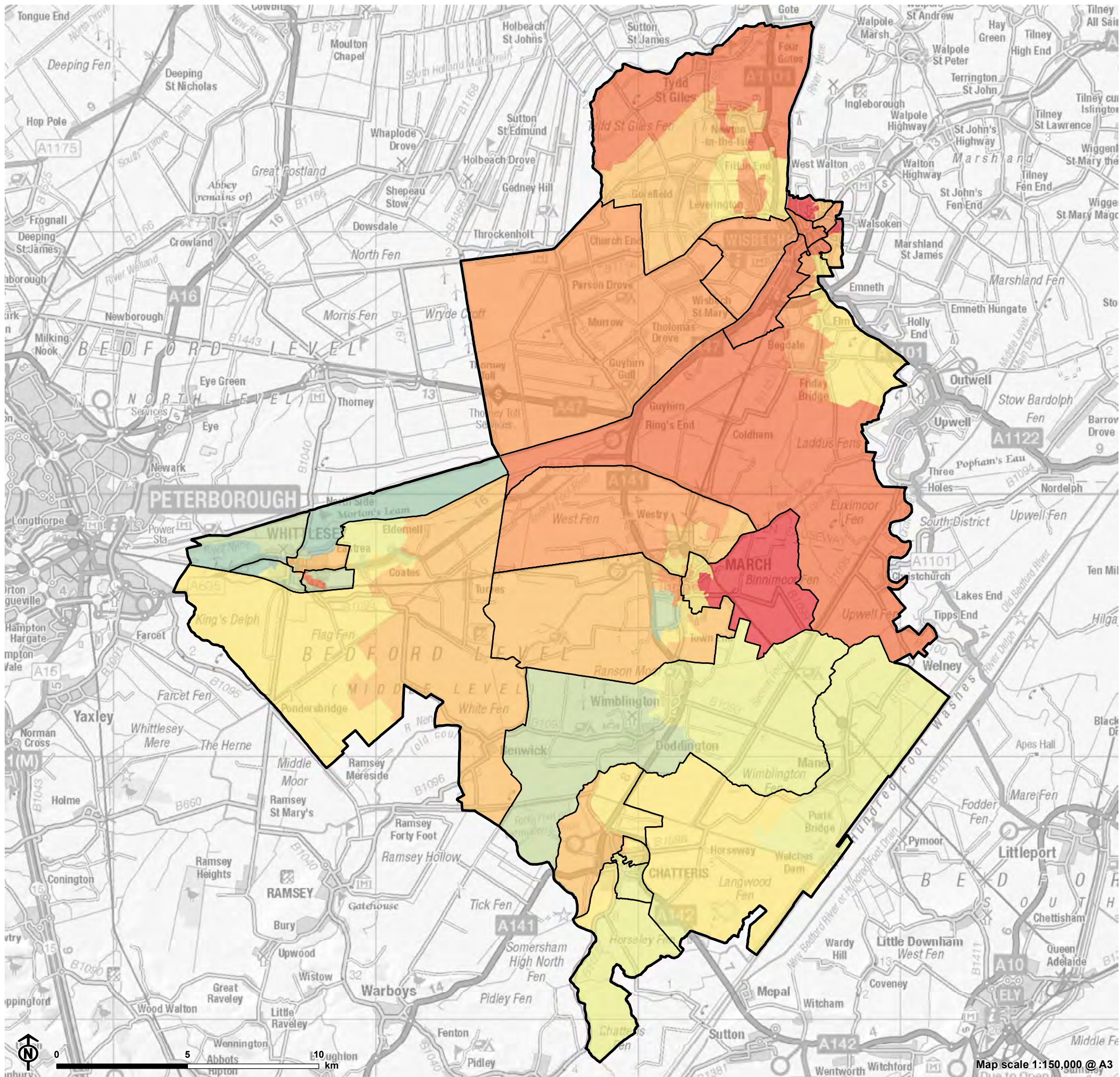
4.10 Individual domains that score the lowest (most deprived) in Fenland are Health Deprivation & Disability and Education, Skills & Training. The Living Environment domain is the highest scoring domain (least deprived) and ranks significantly higher than the other domains.

4.11 Life expectancy is 8.6 years lower for men and 3.2 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Fenland than in the least deprived areas. Under 75 mortality rate from all causes and the prevalence of cardiovascular conditions is worse for Fenland, when compared to Cambridge and England.

4.12 20.6% of year six children are obese. This is slightly higher than the region (18%) and statistically similar to England as a whole (20.2%). Excess weight for reception age children is lower when compared to England as a whole.

Estimated levels of excess weight for adults (68.5%) are worse compared to the region (62.1%) and England (62%). A lower percentage of adults (aged 19+) are physically active (59%) than the region (65.4%) and the England average (66.3%). The recorded prevalence rate of depression is statistically higher than the England average. [\[See reference 15\]](#).

4.13 **Figure 4.2** shows the IMD across the district, **Figure 4.3** shows the Health Deprivation domain, **Figure 4.4** shows the Barriers to Housing and Services Deprivation domain, and **Figure 4.5** shows the Living Environment Deprivation domain.



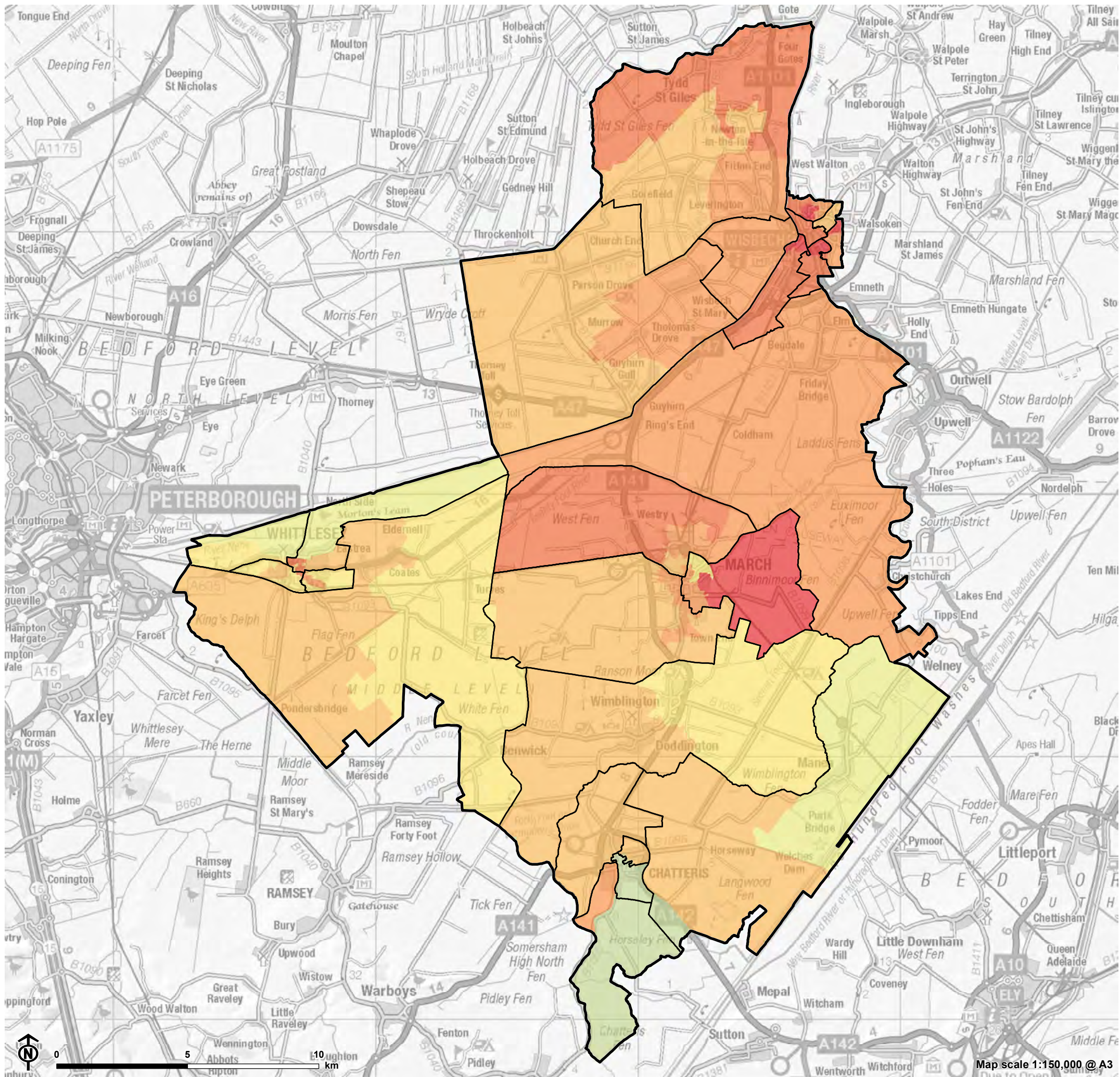
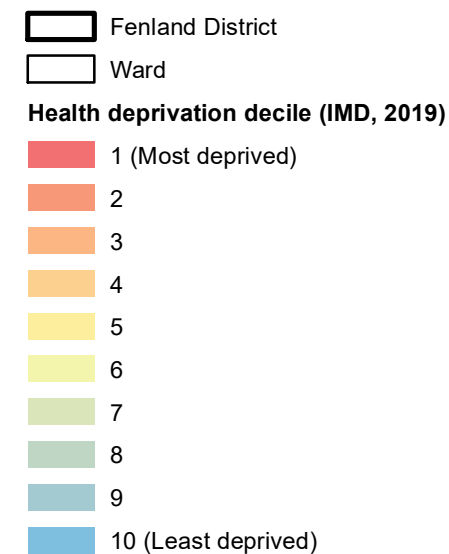


Figure 4.3: Health Deprivation



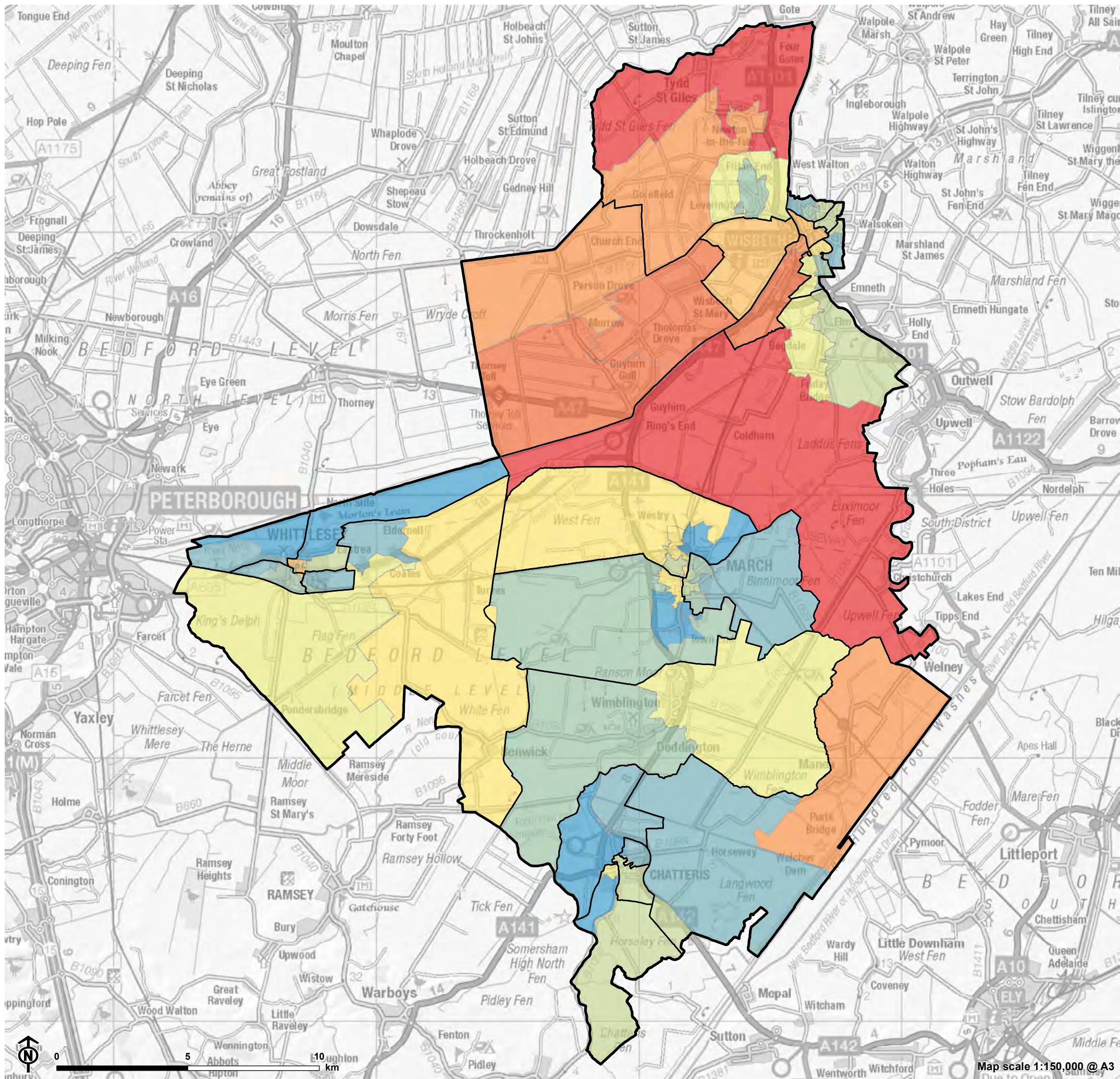
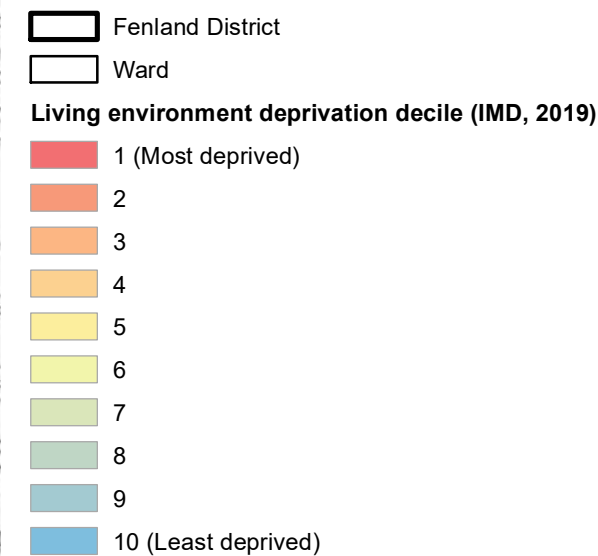


Figure 4.4: Living Environment Deprivation



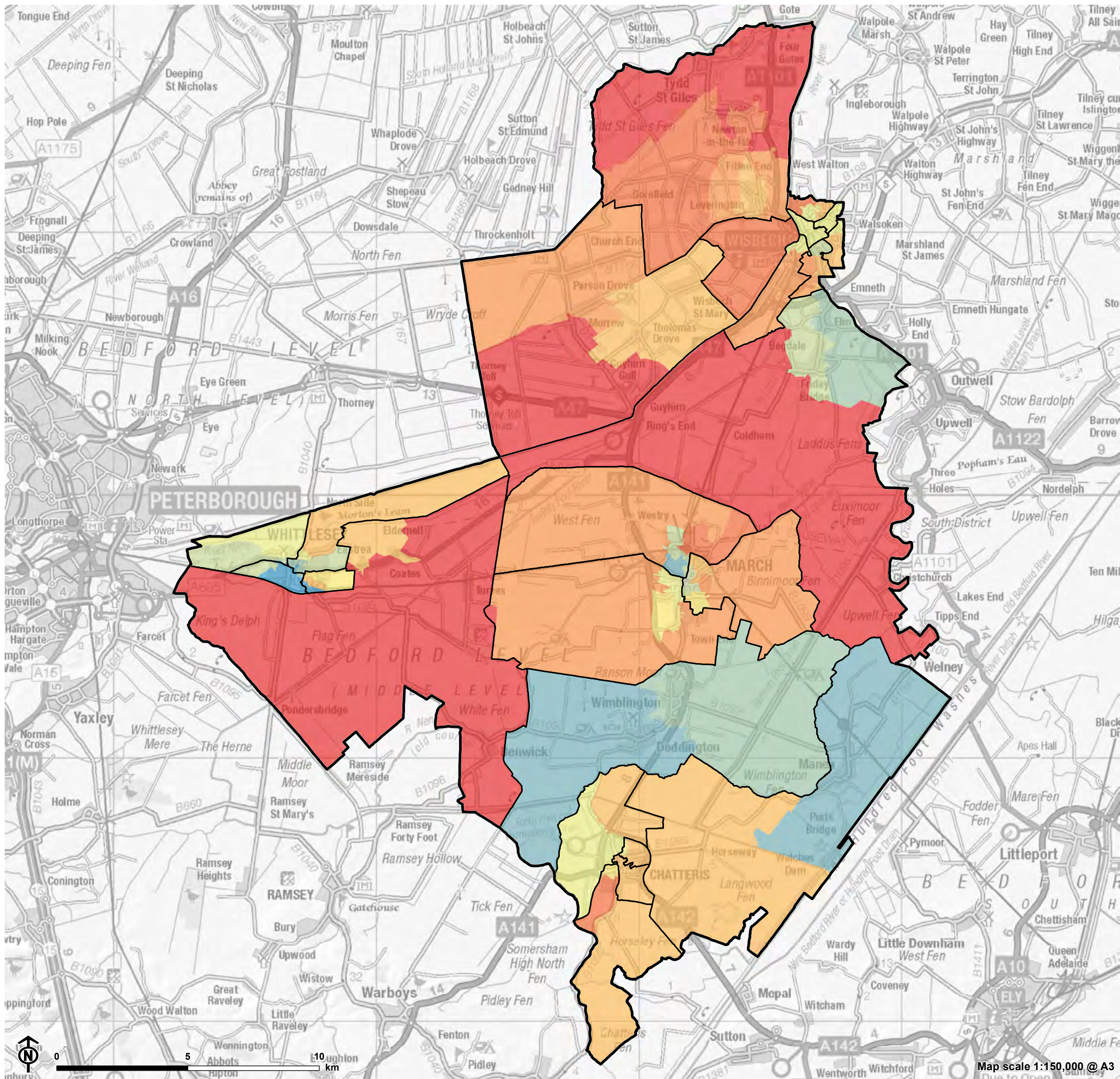


Figure 4.5: Barriers to Housing and Services

- Fenland District
- Ward

Barriers to housing and services decile (IMD, 2019)

- 1 (Most deprived)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (Least deprived)

Physical activity and access to nature

Sport England Active Lives Survey asks people over 16 across England about their participation in sport and physical activity. A review of the 2019-20 results indicate that 33.6% of residents are considered to be 'inactive' (undertake less than 30 minutes of physical activity a week). This compares to 25.5% 'inactive' for England and 24.7% for Cambridgeshire. 54.9% of residents are considered to undertake at least 150 minutes of physical activity a week, compared to 62.8% for England.

8.6% in Fenland did not participate in sport in the year preceding the 2019-2020 survey. This compares to 6.4% for England and 5.6% for Cambridgeshire. When asked whether they feel they have the opportunity to be physically active, 75% within Fenland either agree or strongly agree, compared to 81.7% (Cambridgeshire) and 79.9% (England).

Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment annual survey provides trend data for how people experience and the natural environment in England. Upper Tier Local Authority data is available that provides an overview of visit behaviour and trends over the last 10 years. The data shows the following results collected from within Cambridgeshire:

- Respondents mainly visit the natural environment 'several times a week' (30%), this is followed by 'once a week' (22%). 13% visit open space every day.
- The top three motivations for visiting the natural environment include 'health and exercise', 'fresh air' and 'relaxation'.
- Indicative data highlights the top three cited barriers to accessing the natural environment as 'busy at work', 'busy at home' and 'poor health'.

Environmental context

4.14 Key environmental data for Fenland provides further context to understand the wider value, function and need for multifunctional open space.

Flooding

4.15 The district is flat and low lying and is part of a much larger geographic region which was drained for agricultural use. The area is crossed with numerous drainage ditches. Key watercourses include the River Nene, Whittlesey Dike and Twenty Foot River.

4.16 Large areas of the district are within Flood Zone 3 (assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%), or a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of flooding from the sea (>0.5%) in any year. Other areas are within Flood Zone 2 (assessed as having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding (1% – 0.1%), or between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding (0.5% – 0.1%) in any year). Large areas of the borough benefit from flood defences. Settlement areas are generally outside flood zones, with some smaller areas of flood zone 2 seen on the peripheries. Nene Washes SSSI in the west and Ouse Washes SSSI on the south west boundary are identified as strategic flood storage areas.

4.17 **Figure 4.6** shows flood risk in Fenland.

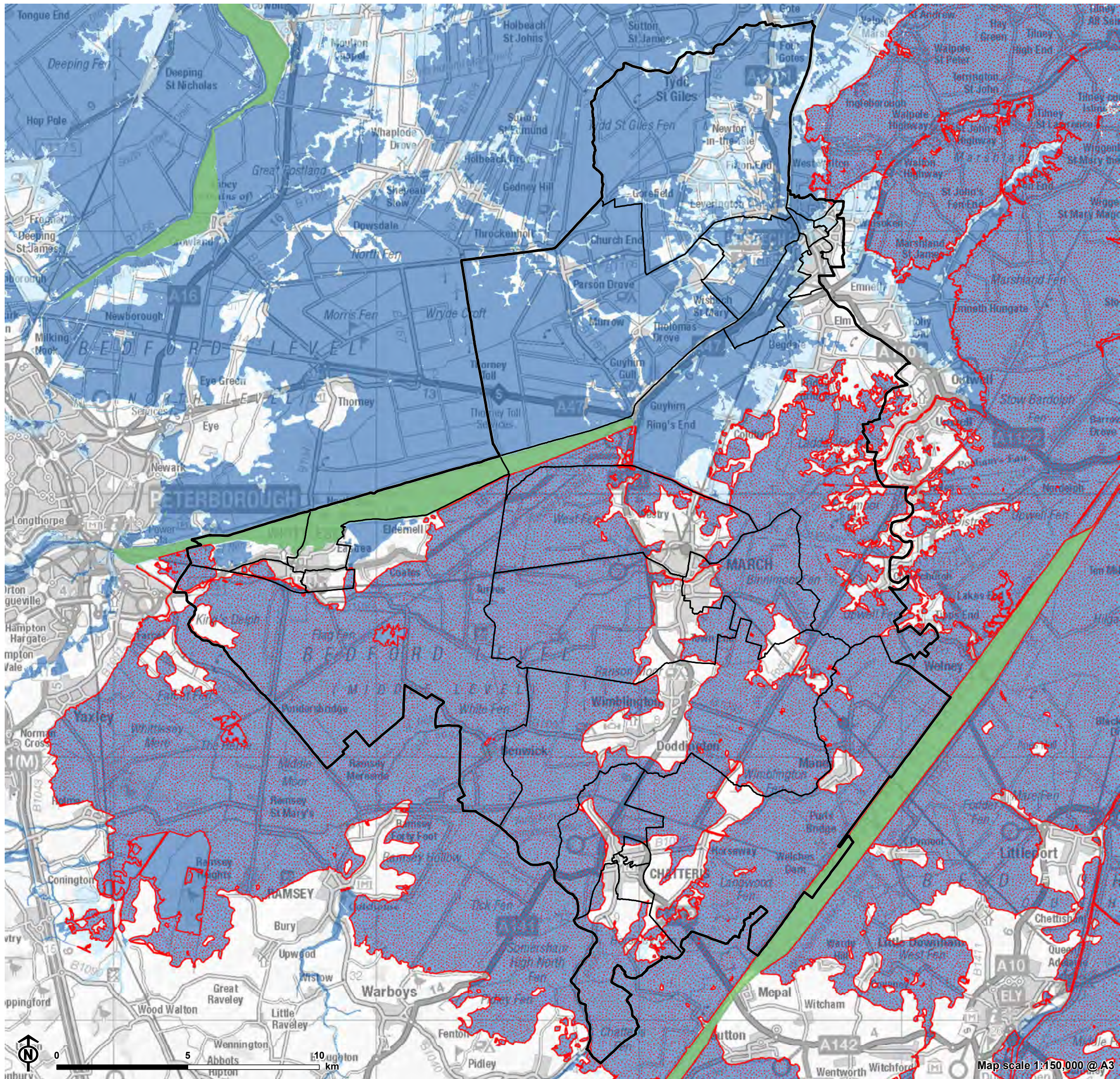


Figure 4.6: Environmental Context - Flooding

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Flood storage area
- Area benefitting from flood defences
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3

Biodiversity

4.18 There are few sites designated for biodiversity within the district. Most significantly there are two European and Internationally designated site; Nene Washes and Ouse Washes. These sites are both designated Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are two Local Nature Reserves in the district (Lattersey and Rings End). FDC also have a scheme of managing closed cemeteries for wildlife and biodiversity benefit.

4.19 **Figure 4.7** shows sites designated for biodiversity.

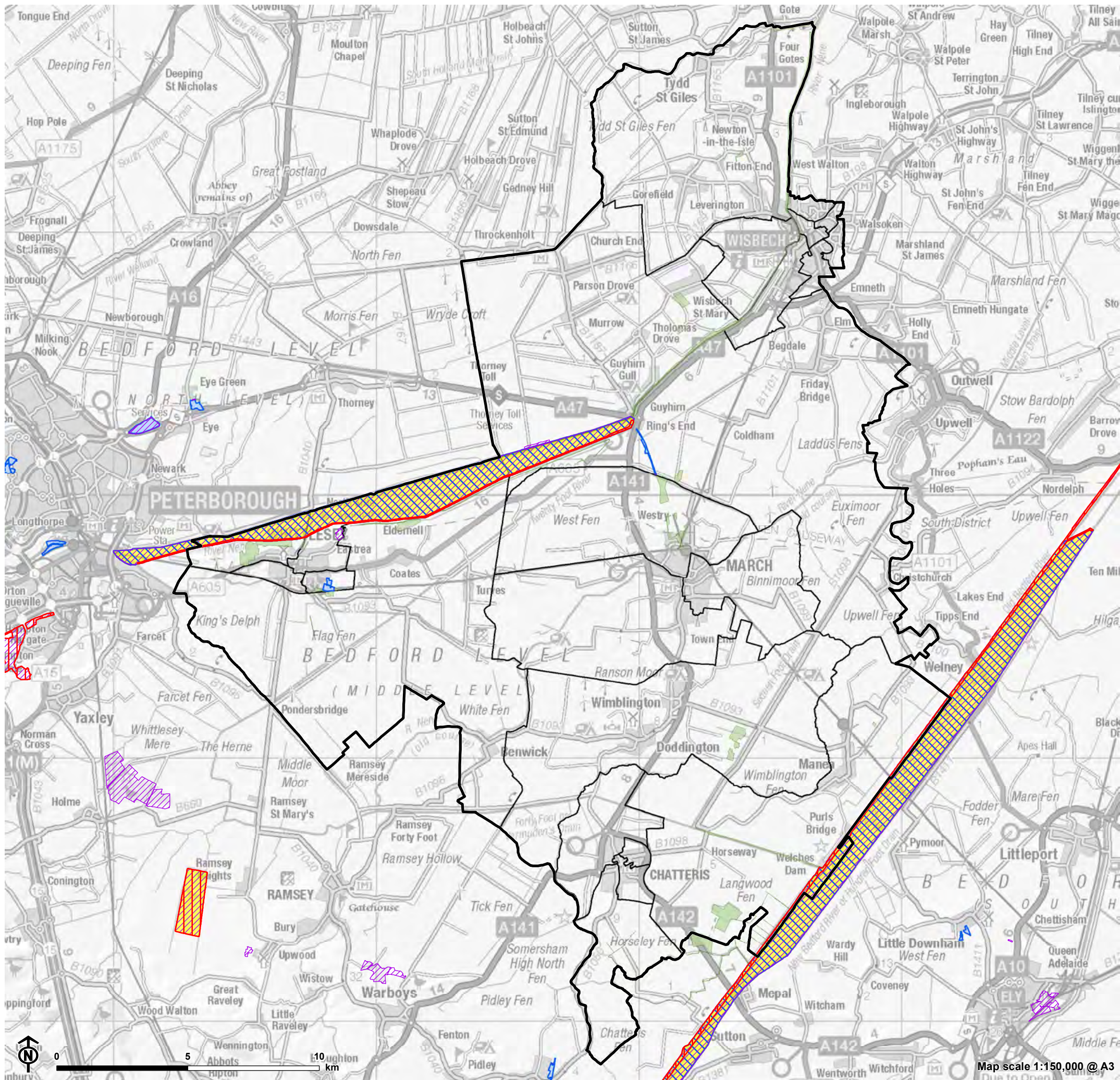


Figure 4.7: Environmental Context - Biodiversity

Cultural heritage

4.20 Open space can contribute to the setting of heritage assets and can form important cultural heritage assets in themselves, although not always as part of *publicly accessible* open space. Open spaces may also form important links to historic land use and management.

4.21 Fenland has around 648 listed buildings and structures, including house, churches, bridges and mileposts. This includes 10 Grade 1, 41 Grade II* and 597 Grade II. Listed buildings are generally clustered around settlements. Several Scheduled Monuments are also located in the district, most of which are in the south. Several of these include earth works and historic field systems. Peckover House and Garden (National Trust property), Wisbech, is listed on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic interest in England. There are ten Conservation Areas in Fenland, generally applying to historic parts of settlements. Wider open space and landscape often forms an important element of the setting of Conservation Areas.

4.22 **Figure 4.8** shows designated cultural heritage assets.

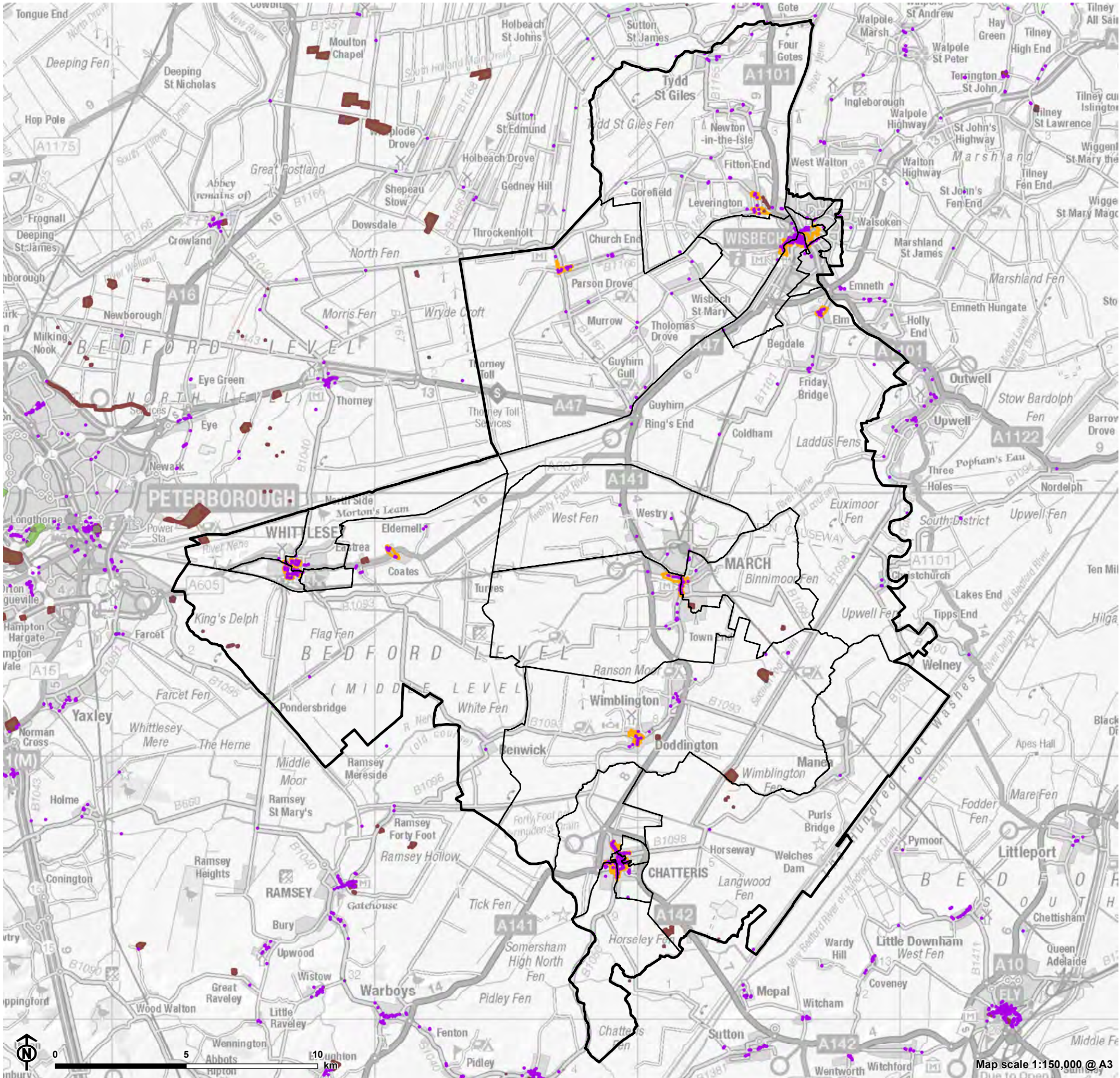


Figure 4.8: Environmental Context - Cultural Heritage

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Listed Building
- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Parks and Gardens

Issues and Options Consultation

4.23 FDC undertook an Issues and Options Consultation between 11 October and 21 November 2019 to inform the development of the new Local Plan. A total of 3,990 comments were received from 129 individuals or organisations. FDC subsequently prepared a summary report on the key issues raised [See [reference 16](#)]. The consultation comprised a questionnaire about planning issues which are relevant to Fenland, structured around key topic areas, including open space. Questions relating to open space focussed on:

- What type of open space new development should provide.
- Perceptions of the quality of open space in the local area.
- Whether the Local Plan should identify other areas open space.
- Whether any specific standards for open space should be adopted.
- Whether FDC should work with neighbouring authorities to develop standards across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

4.24 The main issues raised by respondents which are relevant to the preparation of revised open space standards for the district are summarised below.

Development of standards

- Some respondents consider establishing common standards across the region essential. A key gap at present is the figure for natural greenspace provision through local plans which is inadequate, but which in some cases could be combined with biodiversity net gain requirements to deliver multiple benefits.
- There is also a desperate need for a strategic natural greenspace standard for Cambridgeshire, which has far less accessible countryside than most other counties in England.

- It was noted that Fenland is a rural district. Some respondents noted that bespoke standards may be preferable.
- Suggestions for standards included ensuring open space is accessible within a half mile walk within rural areas of the district, and adhering to Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard.

Quantity of open space

- Some respondents noted that all types of open space e.g. play areas, sport facilities, green space, such as country parks and nature reserves and allotments should be provided by new development.
- There is a lack of strategic and local natural greenspaces.
- Country parks previously promised for Wisbech and March should be given policy backing and suitable locations identified in the local plan and maps.
- Chatteris has very little in the way of open spaces, what is there should be protected.

Quality and accessibility of open space

- Mixed reviews, but some respondents mentioned specific green spaces that are in need of maintenance and protection. Many respondents made specific mention to Chatteris which currently does not have safe, easily accessible footpaths within the area.
- Overall, it was noted that Fenland is poorly serviced in terms of accessible and well-connected green spaces.
- The public rights of way network is also very sparse in the region, particularly in Fenland.
- Several respondents proposed specific accessibility standards that could be adopted such as the Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANGSt) approach, specifically the expectation that residents should be within 300m of a 2ha minimum size natural greenspace. Other suggestions

included residents being within half a mile of *'a safe and open green space of over 150m²'*.

Protection of open space

- A total of 14 Local Green Space designations have been proposed. These sites are listed in Fenland's Local Green Space Report (January 2020).
- Overall, the majority of respondents noted that other areas of open space should be protected.
- Multiple respondents specifically noted that Wenny Meadow in Chatteris should be a protected open space as it is valued by the local community, has historical and biodiversity value and the green space is located in an area that has an open space deficiency. Many have noted that a country park should be identified and protected near Chatteris.

Allotments

4.25 Comments in support of requiring developers to provide allotments or other growing areas to help reduce food miles included:

- Should be required in the case of strategic schemes (i.e. 500 plus homes) and as part of the open space requirement, not in addition to.
- Support for community allotments / orchards (rather than individual plots).
- Some allotments in the district have waiting lists.
- Support for allotment with facilities (e.g. toilets, community centre).

4.26 Comments in opposition to requiring developers to provide allotments included:

- People can grow things in their gardens.
- Will result in increased costs to developers, viability is fragile in Fenland.

- Current usage should be investigated to ascertain demand before including requirements for the provision of allotments.

Other policy areas

- Open space for walking, cycling and equestrian use was noted to be of particular importance for the future vision in relation to transport.
- Many comments highlighted the need for the protection of rural character, nature reserves, the unique Fenland landscape as part of the future vision for the natural environment.
- Some respondents stated the need to recognise the importance of high quality open spaces close to where people live as part of any health and wellbeing policies.

Key considerations: Open space needs in Fenland

- There are a wide range of needs for open space in Fenland. Open space in Fenland is important for performing a range of functions and appropriate provision of open space into the future will be essential to ensure future growth is sustainable.
- Some respondents from Fenland's 2019 Issues and Options Consultation indicated that there is a degree of dissatisfaction in the current quantity of open space, poor provision around Chatteris and in the South was noted as particular issue. Responses also highlighted connectivity, access to the countryside and provision of strategic natural greenspace to be key considerations. Responses highlighted community recognition of the value of open spaces for health and well-being, biodiversity and the character of the area.
- The population of the area is due to continue to grow up to 2040. It is expected that the proportion of residents aged 65 and over will increase, whilst the proportion of residents up to aged 15 will decrease slightly.

- There are large strategic European designated wildlife sites within and adjacent to the district. It will be important to ensure that other open spaces in the district are multifunctional and can provide benefits for biodiversity whilst also providing access to nature for people. It will also be important to ensure that potential recreational pressure on designated wildlife sites within and around the district is considered.
- The function of open space as an important element of providing a setting for built heritage assets and Conservation Areas should be given due consideration in future decisions.
- Flooding is a notable issue. Opportunities to maximise the flood alleviation potential of open space in the district should be maximised.

Chapter 5

Quantity assessment

5.1 The following section sets out:

- The processes for updating open space data for the district.
- The application of typology and the type of sites in Fenland considered in the study.
- The application of the proposed size hierarchy.
- The current provision of open space in Fenland; quantity by typology, size and access restrictions. Across the district and for analysis areas (i.e. by Parish).

Reviewing and updating the baseline

5.2 It is critical that an assessment of open space is underpinned by accurate spatial data. In order for an open space assessment to be robust it is essential that existing data is verified and updated to reflect current open space provision as accurately as possible. The key data made available to undertake the assessment comprised the Fenland's 'Local Plan Open Space Standards' data set (dataset generated from Cambridgeshire Open Space Mapping and Standards).

5.3 The COSMS project undertook a high-level review and update of the existing open space data provided by each local authority. This including reviewing site boundaries and assigning a typology. Open spaces which were outside of the scope of the project were removed from the data set. The COSMS study lists the types of open space which were not considered:

- Private greenspace (e.g. private gardens).

- Land which is open but has restricted access, sometimes via a payment charge.
- Cemeteries and churchyards.
- Land in the curtilage of housing developments.
- Civic greyspaces (e.g. public squares).
- Green corridors (railway land, road verges).
- Outdoor sports facilities.
- Public Rights of Way across agricultural land.

5.4 Several stages of verification and editing was undertaken to update the COSMS data and ensure it was suitably comprehensive for the current assessment. In order to compile a suitable GIS database of open space in Fenland, the following data sets were also made available to the project team:

- Fenland District Council 'Grounds Maintenance Layer'.
- Fenland District Council play space data set.

5.5 An open space data set was compiled from the data listed above. This data was sense checked to ensure that any sites that have been lost were removed by cross referencing with open access data and aerial imagery. The grounds maintenance layer was scrutinised to remove any highways land or other land not fully publicly accessible (such land within education sites / schools). A lower size threshold was applied to remove any incidental areas of open space with limited recreational value below 0.4ha.

Verifying and updating site boundaries

5.6 Each site was reviewed for boundary accuracy and checked against OS mapping and aerial imagery. Play spaces were identified using Fenland District Council's grounds maintenance layer and play space point data set. The existing data generally identified individual items of play equipment. In order to identify accurate areas of useable equipped play space, polygons were created

for play space by grouping cluster of individual play items. Aerial imagery was also scrutinised to identify fenced play areas, with the fence taken as the boundary for the play space.

5.7 Once a suitable set of open space boundaries was assembled each site was assigned a site ID and name where available from existing information

5.8 The following data was used to sense-check the existing open space data set:

- Ordnance Survey Public Greenspace.
- Ordnance Survey MasterMap.
- Open Street Map Points of Interest.
- Aerial photography (Bing, Google, ESRI).
- Internet searches for information on particular sites.

5.9 The open space data was checked for consistency, most importantly:

- Boundary accuracy.
- Site name included.
- Access information (whether the site was fully publicly accessible).
- Typology added (more information below).
- Secondary typology added if relevant (more information below).

Categorisation of sites by typology

5.10 Each site has been assigned a primary typology based on key characteristics and functionality. For consistency, the approach to categorising typologies set out within the COSMS report have been carried through for the purposes of the local assessment. Typological definitions that have been

proposed are set out below. However, it should be recognised that all open spaces are multifunctional to a lesser or greater extent.

Fenland Open Space Typologies

5.11 The COSMS report proposes the adoption of the following typology definitions across the county.

- **Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens:** A designed green space that provides a social and recreational focal point for a neighbourhood that offers a variety of facilities including recreational centres, sports fields and playgrounds. Providing opportunities for a variety of active and passive outdoor activities and access to nature.
- **Informal Parkland and Amenity Green Space:** Informal recreation spaces and green spaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work.
- **Allotments:** An allotment is an area of land, leased either from a private or local authority landlord, for the use of growing fruit and vegetables. In some cases this land will also be used for the growing of ornamental plants.

5.12 The function and characteristics of the following typologies were not described within the COSMS report, for further clarity, the following descriptions have been added for use in Fenland.

- **Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space:** Access to nature, wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education awareness.
- **Neighbourhood Playgrounds:** Designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

5.13 'Country Parks' are also included within the typologies considered as part of the COSMS study, although none are present within Fenland.

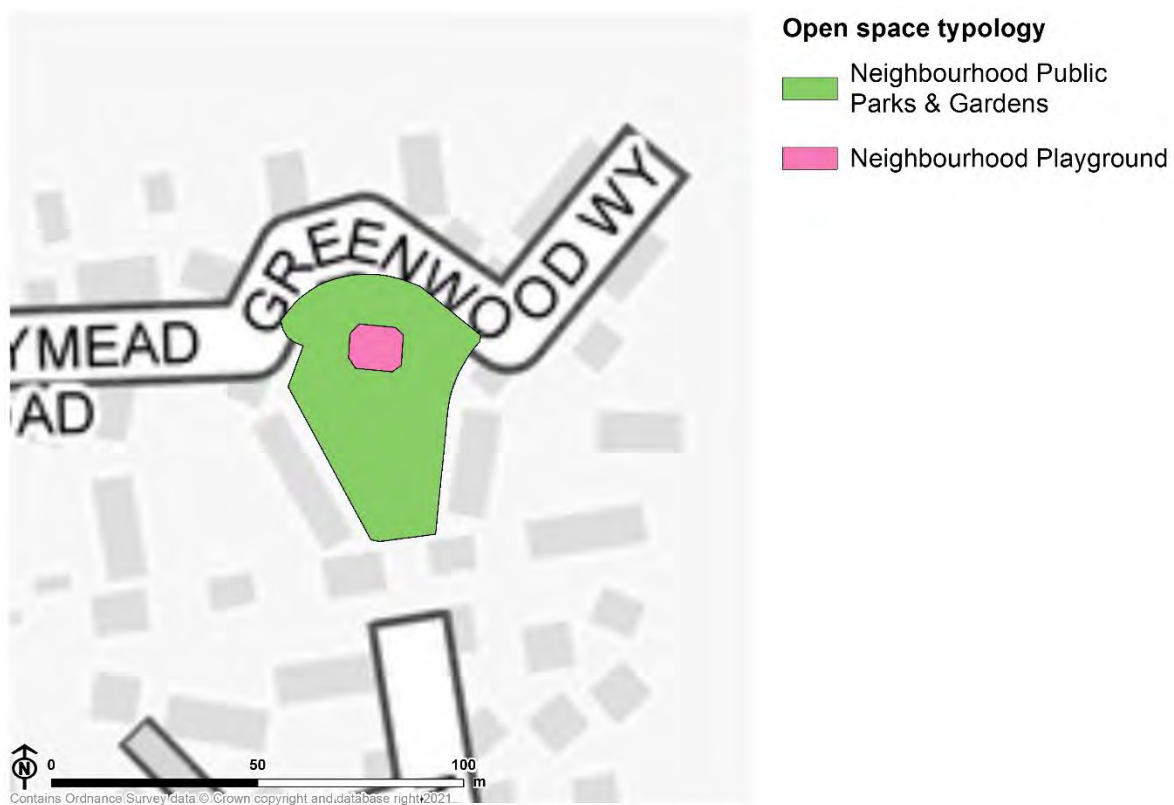
5.14 Typology information was carried over to the compiled open space data base from the Cambridgeshire Open Space Mapping and Standards dataset where this had been assigned. Existing site typology information was sense checked against available site information including aerial imagery, site specific internet searches, 'street view' and information from sites that were subject to the sample site audit that was undertaken.

Approach to mapping multi-functional sites

5.15 Open space can perform a range of functions and it is important that this is reflected in assessing provision in Fenland. Following the initial review of data, it was clear that there was a need to reflect the quantity of play provision more accurately within the district. In order to achieve this, the data was scrutinised to ensure that play spaces falling within wider open spaces were taken into account. Sites with play spaces within them were then assigned a 'secondary typology' of neighbourhood playgrounds. When calculating total quantities of provision (for example Parks and Gardens or Informal Parkland and Amenity Space), areas of play space are excluded and grouped with other play spaces which occur as primary typology Neighbourhood Playgrounds. This ensures no double counting across typologies and that an accurate quantity of play provision is reflected in the analysis.

5.16 However, when applying accessibility catchments, the total site would be used to define the catchment of the site (primary typology area and any secondary typology areas). Separate analysis should also be undertaken to understand access to Neighbourhood Playgrounds by applying accessibility catchments to all Neighbourhood Playground sites (whether as primary or secondary typology). This is illustrated in **Figure 5.1**.

Figure 5.1: Approach to mapping play space within a wider site



Developing a hierarchy

5.17 In order to develop a framework for analysis of the sites and to set appropriate standards, a detailed hierarchy has been developed. For the purpose of this assessment, a combination of the size of sites and open space typologies has been used. The hierarchy recognises that open spaces of different sizes would be expected to provide a different 'offer' to users. For instance, users will be more likely to travel further to reach a larger site with more facilities than a small area of amenity green space with no facilities.

5.18 The hierarchy that was proposed as part of the COSMS report has been adopted with minor amendments. The revised typologies or size hierarchy in the COSMS report provides guideline sizes for each level of the size hierarchy.

5.19 The proposed guideline size for ‘Local Parks’ as part of the 2020 assessment included sites up to 20ha. Following the review and update of the data it became clear that a notable proportion of the Neighbourhood Park and Garden sites were at the smaller end of this scale and below 2ha. An additional lower level of size hierarchy of ‘Small Local Neighbourhood Park and Garden’ has been proposed to include sites below 2ha. ‘Local Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens’ subsequently includes sites that are between 2ha and 20ha. This is to ensure that the analysis and standards are appropriate to the type of open space provision found in Fenland. The Small Local Park and Garden category will also work to ensure that the varying scales of sites and recreational opportunities on offer are more accurately reflected, providing the opportunity for more detailed analysis. This is of particular relevance in the setting of accessibility standards.

Play space categorisation and hierarchy

5.20 Play spaces have been categorised into the following play hierarchy.

- Local Area for Play (LAP)
- Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)
- Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)
- Other Play

5.21 Play space categories that were available within the existing data sets were carried through to the updated data set. These were sense checked for suitability via aerial imagery, ‘street view’, sample site audit information, and changed where appropriate. Play space categories were also assigned to sites with no existing category information within the data. Guidance on categorising different types of play space has been referred to in assigning an appropriate hierarchy to each site

5.22 The proposed open space and play hierarchy to be adopted for the purposes of this assessment is set out below.

Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens (up to 50 ha)

- Small Local Neighbourhood Park and Garden (less than 2ha)
- Local Neighbourhood Park and Garden (between 2ha and 20 ha)

Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space

- Small Natural Space (up to 2.0 ha)
- Local Natural Space (between 2ha and 20 ha)

Informal Parkland and Amenity Green Space

- Further division of this typology into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate for the purposes of this assessment as this type of open space performs the same function and 'offer' regardless of size. Informal Parkland and Amenity Sites in Fenland are generally small in size.

Neighbourhood Playgrounds

- Local Areas for Play (LAP)
 - 100m² guideline size
 - Identified in Fenland as sites primarily for ages 0-5.
- Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP)
 - Guideline 400m² minimum size
 - Identified in Fenland as sites for ages 0-11 and children who are able to play independently.
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP)
 - Guideline 1,000m² minimum size
- Other play
 - Guideline 800m² minimum size

- Other types of play primarily for older children and teenagers. This type of provision may include skate / wheels parks, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), BMX tracks, outdoor gym areas and trim trails.

Allotments

- Further division of this typology into a hierarchy was not deemed appropriate for the purposes of this assessment as this type of open space performs the same function and 'offer' regardless of size.

Current provision

5.23 The update and review of the baseline data has resulted in changes to the overall quantity of open space identified in Fenland when compared to the COSMS assessment. The changes in quantity for total open space provision and per typology are set out in **Table 5.1**. This table shows total areas with secondary typology play removed from other sites and grouped with the total area of Neighbourhood Playgrounds occurring as a primary typology. Open spaces identified as part of the project are shown in **Appendix B**. It should be noted that all quantities are rounded, so there is some variation in the total quantities indicated between tables.

Table 5.1: Quantity of open space by typology showing differences between the 2020 assessment and the current assessment

Typology	Area (ha) identified – 2020 baseline data	Area (ha) identified - 2021	Difference (+ -)
Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens	94.90	91.49	-3.41

Typology	Area (ha) identified – 2020 baseline data	Area (ha) identified - 2021	Difference (+ -)
Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space	1,160.27	37.69	-1122.58
Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	27.71	35.05	+7.34
Neighbourhood Playgrounds	0.91	5.15	+4.24
Allotments	3.38	3.38	No change
Total	1,287.17	172.76	-1114.41

5.24 The most significant difference is for Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space, with a reduction of 1,122.58ha when compared to the COSMS assessment. This difference can largely be attributed to the exclusion of Nene Washes (Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site) which is located along the north western boundary of the district. The review and verification of the data undertaken as part of the current assessment identified this site as having limited recreation value and opportunities for access. The site is also flooded for most of the winter and acts as a flood storage area for the River Nene, further limiting potential as useable open space. The ecological sensitivity combined with potential recreation pressures and impact should also be considered and it is deemed appropriate to remove it from the calculations of public open space provision on these grounds.

5.25 Remaining differences in the quantity of open space identified between the COSMS project and 2021 assessment can be attributed to a variety of reasons, including:

- Minor edits and updates to the boundaries of sites, including aligning boundaries with other more accurate data sets.
- Removal of any sites, or areas within sites that are no longer public open space.

- Identifying secondary typology of play provision within wider sites and grouping these areas with all other play sites.
- Identification of additional sites not included in the COSMS data set. These sites are generally Neighbourhood Playgrounds and Informal Parkland and Amenity Spaces.

5.26 Following the categorisation of sites within the proposed size hierarchy, **Table 5.2** summarises the quantity of provision by primary typology and hierarchy. This provides an overview of the range of site sizes that occur and an indication of the number of sites within each typology and level of the hierarchy. Play as a secondary typology is included in the area calculation of the sites they occur within, while play sites that occur as a primary typology are listed on their own.

5.27 It can be seen from the table below that Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens form the largest quantity of open space (as a primary typology). Local Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens account for the largest quantity of these sites (61.16ha), although there are significantly more Small Local Parks and Gardens in terms of the number of individual sites (41 individual Small Local sites, compared to 15 Local sites). Informal Parkland and Amenity Space only accounts for 35.35ha of the total quantity of open space but by far represents the largest number of individual sites compared to the other typologies (117 individual sites), indicating that these sites are generally small. Only four play sites have been identified as a primary typology (i.e. standalone play sites that do not occur as a secondary typology within wider sites). This indicates the vast majority of play sites occur as a secondary typology within other sites (primarily within Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens and Informal Parkland and Amenity Space).

Table 5.2: Quantity of open space by primary typology and hierarchy (area and count of sites)

Primary typology	Hierarchy	Area (ha) within	Count (no. of sites)	Example site
Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens	Local	61.16	15	Wisbech Park
	Small Local	34.97	41	Alberts Drive
	Total	96.13	56	
Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space	Local	34.59	4	Norwood Road NR
	Small Local	3.1	3	Doddington Pocket
	Total	37.69	7	
Informal Parkland and Amenity Space		35.35	117	Strawberry Close
Neighbourhood Playgrounds (as a primary typology)		0.21	4	Cedar Way
Allotments		3.38	3	Peyton Avenue

5.28 Table 5.3 provides a detailed breakdown of Neighbourhood Playgrounds by play type (hierarchy) where they occur as either a primary or secondary typology.

5.29 A total of 117 individual play areas have been identified as part of the assessment. NEAPs make up the largest proportion of sites (1.99ha), followed by Other Play (1.44ha). The Other Play category has the highest number of individual records (45).

Table 5.3: Quantity of each play type (area and no. of sites)

Play type	Area (ha)	Count (no. of sites)	Example site
Local Area for Play (LAP)	0.49	23	Honeymead Road
Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	1.23	35	Doddington Road
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	1.99	14	Robingoodfellows Lane Recreation Ground
Other play	1.44	45	Maltmas Drove
Total	5.15	117	

5.30 The quantity of open space throughout the district varies significantly. As may be expected, public open spaces are mostly located around the larger settlement areas. This is most notable for more formal provision such as Neighbourhood Public Parks and Gardens. **Table 5.4** and **Table 5.5** show that Parishes which are associated with the larger settlements generally have a larger quantity of open space. For example, the largest proportion of Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens is seen in the key settlements of Chatteris (10.59ha), March (20.95ha), Whittlesey (12.53ha) and Wisbech (12.83ha). A similar pattern is seen for Neighbourhood Playgrounds.

Table 5.4: Quantity of open space by primary typology by Parish (quantities exclude secondary typology play)

Parish	Open space quantity per Parish (Ha)		
	Informal Parkland and Amenity Open Space	Natural & Semi Natural Open Space	Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens
Benwick CP	0	0	0.29
Chatteris CP	5.28	0	10.59
Christchurch CP	0	0	1.91
Doddington CP	0.06	1.00	5.82
Elm CP	4.44	9.02	1.27
Emneth CP	0.15	0	
Gorefield CP	0.07	0	2.94
Leverington CP	1.64	0	5.15
Manea CP	0.96	0	2.28
March CP	7.62	2.37	20.95
Newton-in-the-Isle CP	0	0	1.37
Parson Drove CP	0.76	0	2.22
Tydd St. Giles CP	0	0	1.76
Walsoken CP	0.00	0	0
Whittlesey CP	5.29	13.77	12.53
Wimblington CP	0.20	11.53	2.37
Wisbech CP	8.24	0	12.83
Wisbech St. Mary CP	0.33	0	1.36
Total	35.05	37.69	91.49

Table 5.5: Quantity of Neighbourhood Playgrounds by play type per Parish (primary and secondary typology play)

Parish	Neighbourhood Playground quantity per Parish (Ha)			
	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Other play
Benwick CP	0	0	0.07	0.03
Chatteris CP	0.11	0.02	0.40	0.18
Christchurch CP	0	0	0.16	0.03
Doddington CP	0.08	0.06	0	0.03
Elm CP	0.14	0.03	0.11	0.04
Gorefield CP	0	0.14	0	0
Leverington CP	0.00	0.07	0	0.13
Manea CP	0	0.02	0.08	0.11
March CP	0.03	0.32	0.35	0.39
Newton-in-the-Isle CP	0	0.04	0	0
Parson Drove CP	0.00	0	0	0
Tydd St. Giles CP	0	0.08	0	0
Whittlesey CP	0.06	0.28	0.14	0.27
Wimblington CP	0.01	0.09	0	0
Wisbech CP	0.04	0.09	0.68	0.20
Wisbech St. Mary CP	0	0	0	0.03
Total	0.49	1.23	1.99	1.44

Chapter 6

Applying the baseline standards: Quantity

6.1 The following chapter:

- Applies the baseline quantity standards proposed as part of the Cambridgeshire Open Space Standards and Mapping project.
- Tests and considers the standards for the Fenland context and sets out the need for adjustment where required.
- This includes the application of proposed quantity standards considering expected growth in the district.

6.2 The following section ‘applies’ and tests the baseline standards considering the provision (measured in hectares) of each open space typology (or groups of typologies) which should be provided as a minimum per 1,000 population. It should be noted that all figures are rounded, therefore there may be some minor variation in the total quantities shown between tables.

6.3 In order to further test the suitability of the proposed accessibility standards for Fenland, a review of standards adopted by corresponding similar local authorities has been undertaken (see **Appendix A**). The Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2011 residential-based area classification for local authorities identifies the five most similar local authorities for any given local authority area in England. Similar local authorities are identified as ‘*extremely similar*’, ‘*very similar*’, ‘*similar*’, ‘*somewhat similar*’, or ‘*less similar*’. Local authorities across the country with similar characteristics are identified through analysis of 59 socio-economic and demographic Census statistics.

Quantity assessment

Understanding current and future provision

6.4 In order to better understand the relative provision and need for open space across the district, the quantity of open space has been analysed per 1,000 people. This analysis has been used to test several potential open space standards that could be adopted and set out with Fenland's new local plan. The analysis has been undertaken at both district wide level and using smaller geographic analysis areas to understand how the data is expressed at different scales. Population projections up to 2040 (Fenland's New Local Plan period) have also been used where possible to provide an estimate of future open space provision per 1,000 people.

Establishing analysis areas

6.5 In order to undertake ha /per 1,000 quantity analysis at an appropriate scale that provides a useful comparison between different areas of the district, several geographic analysis areas have been established. Each area includes one of the key settlement areas and market towns to ensure that concentrations of habitation and the pattern of likely future growth is reflected in the analysis. The analysis areas are shown on **Figure 6.1** and in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1: Key settlements included within each analysis area

Analysis area	Market Town
North	Wisbech
Central	March
West	Whittlesey

Analysis area	Market Town
South	Chatteris

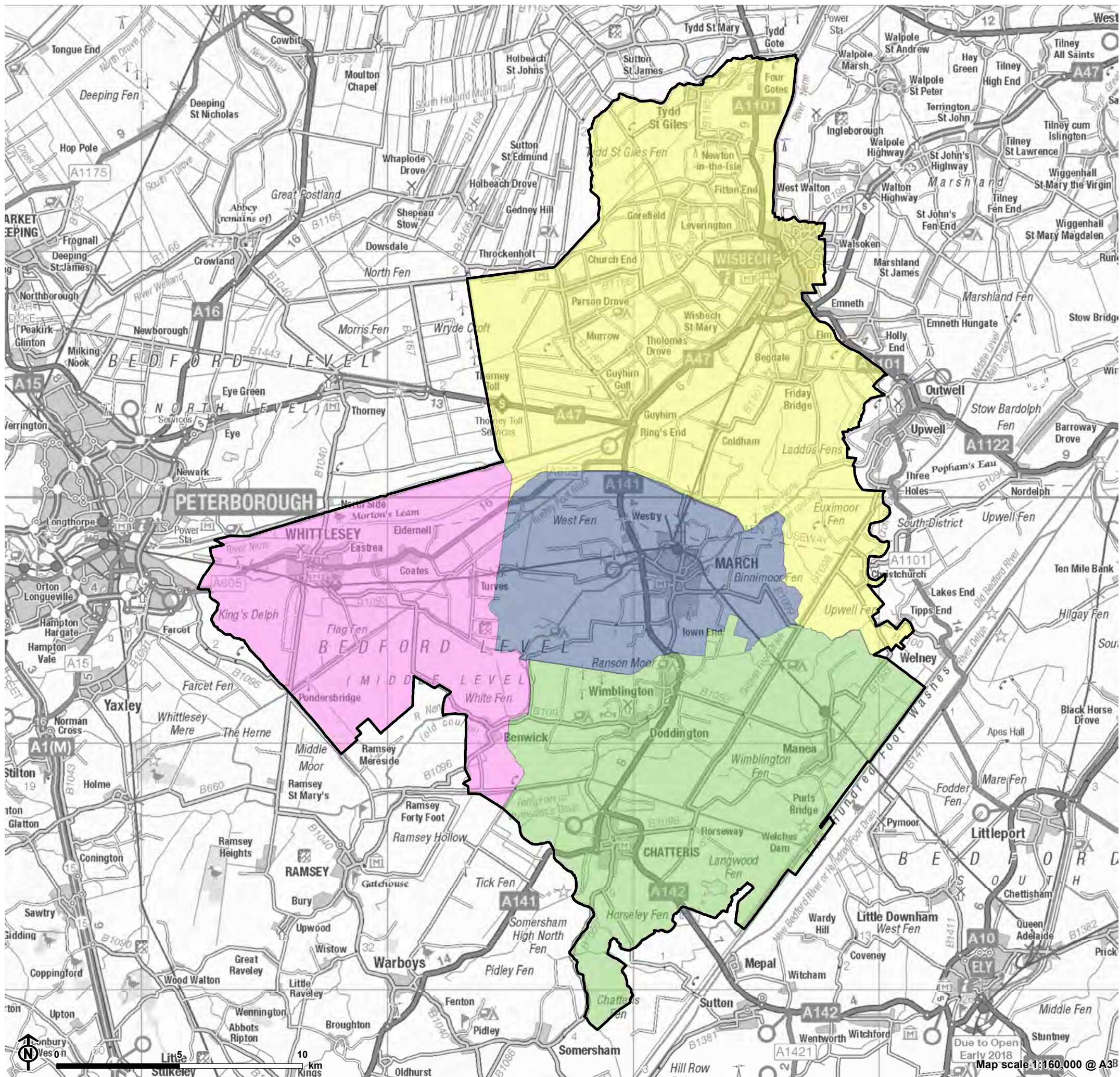


Figure 6.1: Analysis Areas

Fenland District

Analysis area

- Central
- North
- South
- West

The analysis areas are groupings of wards in Fenland District. Wards were grouped in this manner so that analysing the spatial distribution of open space in Fenland gave results that were more meaningful than if ward boundaries were used.

Expected population growth

6.6 The quantity analysis uses 2018-based population forecasts provided by Cambridgeshire County Council. **Table 6.2** below shows current and future projected population growth up to 2040 (and % change) for each analysis area. The table shows the population of the district as a whole is set to increase by 14% up to 2040. The most significant change is expected to be in the central and southern analysis areas (21% increase and 20% increase respectively), with the north and western areas expected to experience a lower rate of growth (based on 2018-based population forecasts).

Table 6.2: Projected population growth by analysis area

Analysis area	2021	2040	% Increase between 2021 and 2040
Central	23,550	28,520	+21%
North	41,840	45,930	+10%
South	18,700	22,500	+20%
West	19,010	20,410	+7%
Total	103,100	117,360	+14%

Table 6.3 provides an overview of open space provision by typology per 1,000 people.

Table 6.3: Quantity of open space (ha / 1,000 head of population) by typology ; current and up to 2040

Typology	Area (ha) identified - 2021	Current 2021 provision per 1,000 head of population	2040 provision per 1,000 head of population
Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens	91.49	0.89	0.78
Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space	37.69	0.37	0.32
Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	35.05	0.34	0.30
Neighbourhood Playgrounds	5.15	0.05	0.04
Allotments	3.38	0.03	0.03

6.7 The district currently has a total average of 1.64ha of public open space per 1,000 head of population. **Table 6.4** below sets out where each analysis area ‘sits’ against the district average. Applying the standards using population projections indicates that the average provision up to 2040 will be 1.44ha per 1,000 people, representing a reduction of 0.2ha per 1,000 head of population overall. It should be noted that all quantities are rounded, so there is some variation in the total quantities indicated between tables.

6.8 The reduction in open space provision per 1,000 head of population up to 2040 varies between analysis areas. The southern analysis area which remains above the district average up to 2040 reduces from 2.21ha to 1.83ha per 1,000 head of population. The western analysis area, which is currently above the district average (at 1.72ha per 1,000 head of population) falls below the district average up to 2040 to 1.60ha per 1,000 head of population.

The table below shows:

Areas which are above the district average ha per 1,000 head of population open space provision

Areas which are below the district average ha per 1,000 head of population open space provision

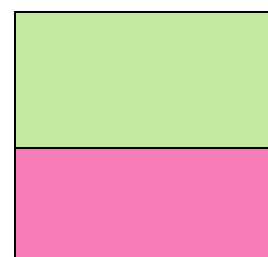


Table 6.4: Analysis areas above and below the district average of 1.64ha per 1,000 head of population; current and up to 2040

Analysis area	Total open space (Ha)	Population (2021)	Population (2040)	Public Open Space per 1,000 head of population (2021)	Public Open Space per 1,000 head of population (2040)
Central	37.89	23,550	28,520	1.60	1.32
North	57.35	41,840	45,930	1.37	1.25
South	41.28	18,700	22,500	2.21	1.83
West	32.72	19,010	20,410	1.72	1.60
Total	169.24	103,100	117,360	1.64	1.44

6.9 Figure 6.2 below maps ha per 1,000 head of population (current 2021) by analysis areas overlaid with the draft preferred growth options provided by Fenland District Council. Whilst the preferred growth options remain draft for the time being, the figure suggests that a large proportion of the growth will occur in the southern area which has a higher level of open space provision than the other analysis areas. Although it should be recognised that this does not consider the type / density of development that may be coming forward in these areas.

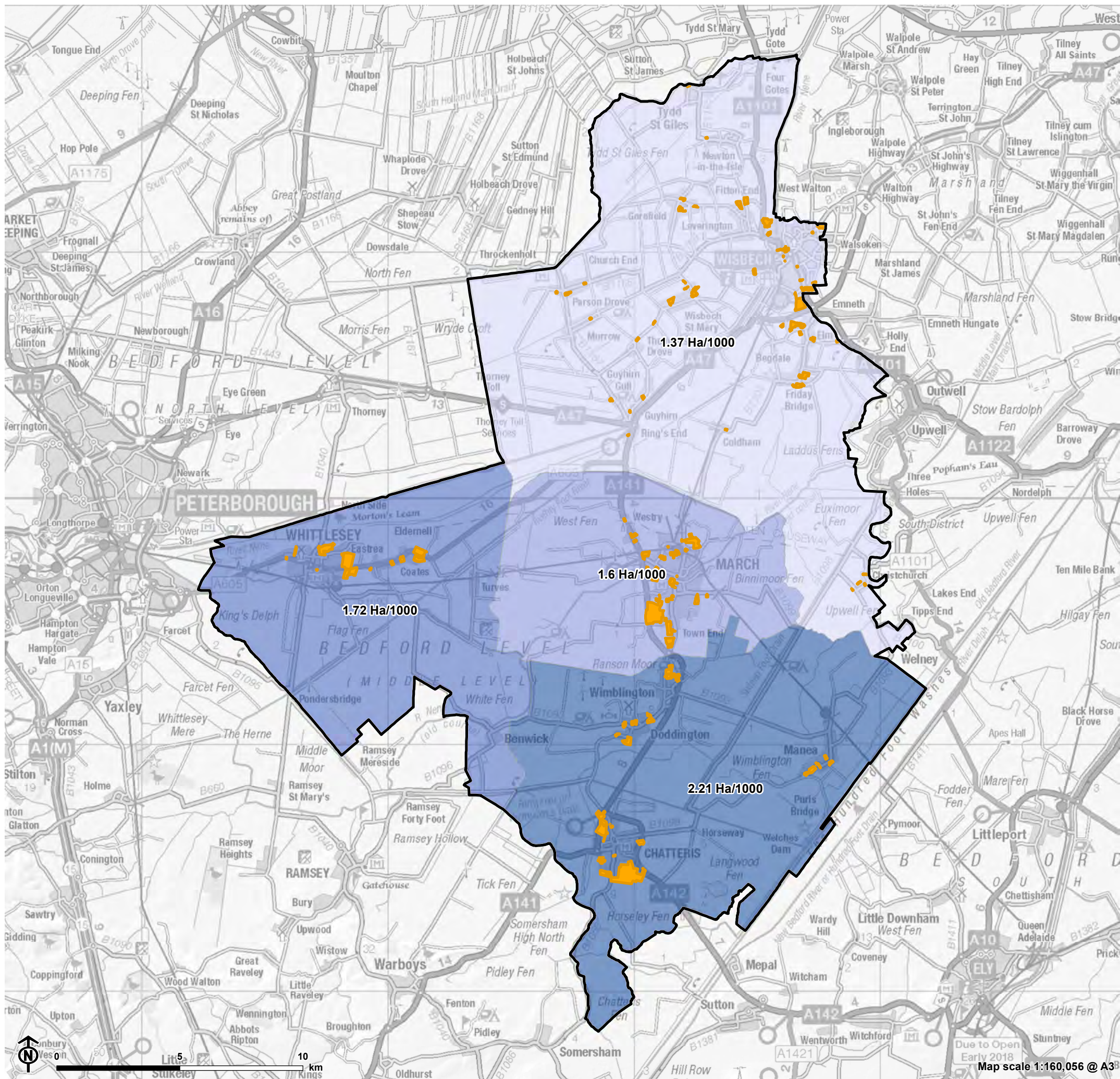


Figure 6.2: Extent of Public Open Space in Hectares per 1,000 People (2021) and Preferred Growth Options

- Fenland District
- Preferred growth option
- OSPer1k_21**
 - Analysis area North - 1.37
 - Analysis area Central - 1.6
 - Analysis area West - 1.72
 - Analysis area South - 2.21

The analysis areas are groupings of wards in Fenland District. Wards were grouped in this manner so that analysing the spatial distribution of open space in Fenland gave results that were more meaningful than if ward boundaries were used.

Testing baseline standards

6.10 The COSMS project proposed a set of quantity standards that could be adopted by each local authority or adapt to local requirements, see **Table 6.5**. The proposed quantity standards are based on guidance from Fields in Trust Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard. The standards proposed are broken by typology as per the table below.

6.11 Application and testing of the standards below using population data up to 2040 comprises:

1. Testing the proposed individual typology standards for:
 - Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens
 - Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space
 - Informal Parkland and Open Space
2. The initial analysis and baseline data highlighted that it would be useful to explore the option for a 'Public Open Space Standard' to include all types of publicly accessible open space listed above. It is therefore useful to group the following per typology standards to better understand provision of 'Public Open Space' (adding up to 3.2ha per 1,000 head of population).
3. Separate analysis is undertaken for Neighbourhood Playgrounds, further detail can also be provided by analysing the quantity of Neighbourhood Playgrounds per 1,000 children, rather than total population. Separate analysis is undertaken on LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs (0.25ha proposed standard) and Other Play (0.3ha proposed standard).

Table 6.5: Public open space and Neighbourhood Playgrounds quantity standard proposed as part of the 2020 COSMS project

Typology	Proposed baseline standard (ha per 1,000 head of population)
Public Open Space	
Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens	0.80
Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space	1.80
Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	0.60
Combined standard for public open space	3.2
Neighbourhood Playgrounds	
LAPs	0.25
LEAPs	
NEAPs	
Other Play	0.3
Neighbourhood Playgrounds	0.55

6.12 Fenland has also undertaken viability testing to inform the preparation of the New Local Plan. This based on several assumptions on potential policy requirements including open space requirements. The viability testing was undertaken on the assumption of a 2.4ha / 1,000 open space standard. This has been tested as a comparison with the proposed baseline standards.

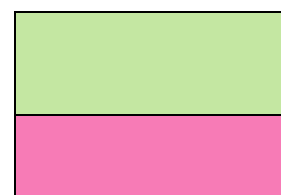
Results: open space

Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens

6.13 Table 6.6 shows analysis areas falling above and below the Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens standard proposed as part of the COSMS project (0.8ha per 1,000 head of population). The district as a whole is currently above the standard at 0.89ha per 1,000 head of population. The central and southern analysis areas are above the standard whilst the north and western areas are below. The whole district is set to be below the standard by 2040, with a shortfall of 0.02ha of Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens per 1,000 people. The shortfall is due to remain within the north and western areas with the central and southern areas remaining above the proposed standard up to 2040.

Areas which are above the proposed ha per 1,000 head of population standard for each typology

Areas which are below the proposed ha per 1,000 head of population standard for each typology



The tables below show:

Table 6.6: Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens (ha / 1,000 head of population); current and up to 2040

Analysis area	Parks and Gardens Area (Ha)	Area (Ha) per 1,000 head of population (2021)	Area (Ha) per 1,000 head of population (2040)
0.8ha / 1,000 head of population COSMS standard			
Central	26.81	1.13	0.94

Analysis area	Parks and Gardens Area (Ha)	Area (Ha) per 1,000 head of population (2021)	Area (Ha) per 1,000 head of population (2040)
0.8ha / 1,000 head of population COSMS standard			
North	30.81	0.73	0.67
South	21.05	1.12	0.93
West	12.81	0.67	0.62
Total	91.49	0.89	0.78

Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space

6.14 Table 6.7 shows the performance of analysis areas against the Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space standard proposed as part of the COSMS project (1.8ha per 1,000 head of population). All areas are significantly below the proposed standard. Based on the proposed standard, there is currently a shortfall of 1.43ha of Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space per 1,000 head of population. By 2040, there is due to be a shortfall of 1.48ha of Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space per 1,000 head of population.

Table 6.7: Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space (ha / 1,000 head of population); current and up to 2040

Analysis area	Natural and Sem-Natural Open Space Area (Ha)	Area (Ha) per 1,000 inhabitants (2021)	Area (Ha) per 1,000 inhabitants (2040)
1.8ha / 1,000 head of population COSMS standard			
Central	2.37	0.10	0.08
North	9.02	0.21	0.19
South	12.52	0.66	0.55
West	13.77	0.72	0.67
Total	37.69	0.37	0.32

Informal Parkland and Amenity Space

6.15 Table 6.8 shows the performance of analysis areas against the Informal Parkland and Amenity Space standard proposed as part of the COSMS project (0.6ha per 1,000 head of population). All areas are below the proposed standard. Based on the proposed standard, there is currently a shortfall of 0.26ha of Informal Parkland and Amenity Space per 1,000 head of population for the district as a whole. By 2040, there is due to be a shortfall of 0.3ha of Informal Parkland and Amenity Space per 1,000 head of population.

Table 6.8: Informal Parkland and Amenity Space (ha / 1,000 head of population); current and up to 2040

Analysis area	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space Area (Ha)	Area (Ha) per 1,000 head of population (2021)	Area (Ha) per 1,000 head of population (2040)
0.6ha / 1,000 head of population COSMS standard			
Central	7.62	0.32	0.26
North	15.49	0.37	0.33
South	6.50	0.34	0.28
West	5.28	0.27	0.25
Total	34.90	0.34	0.30

Combined Public Open Space & viability assumptions

6.16 Table 6.9 shows analysis areas falling above and below the potential combined 'Public Open Space' standard discussed above. This comprises a combined standard for Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens, Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space, and Informal Parkland and Open Space (totalling 3.2ha per 1,000 head of population) The analysis below is compared to the 2.4ha / 1,000 head of population open space standard that was used as the assumed standard as part of the Council's viability testing.

6.17 Table 6.10 provides more 'fined grained' analysis and shows wards which are falling above or below the standards being tested. This analysis uses the total area of open space (Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens, Informal Parkland and Amenity Space, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace) but excludes Neighbourhood Playgrounds that occur as a secondary typology within these sites.

The tables below shows:

Areas which have above 3.2ha open space per 1,000 head of population (standard proposed as part of 2020 COSMS project)

Areas which have below 2.4ha of open space per 1,000 head of population (Assumed open space standard as part of Fenland's viability testing)

Areas which have above 2.4ha open space per 1,000 head of population but below 3.2ha per 1,000

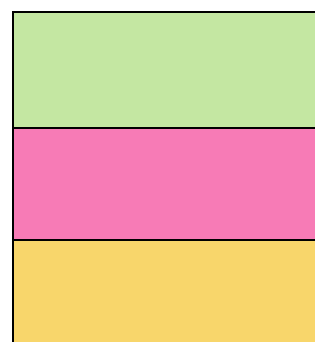


Table 6.9: Analysis areas falling above and below 3.2ha per 1,000 open space provision and 2.4ha / 1,000 head of population open space provision, current and up to 2040

Analysis area	Total open space (Ha)	Population (2021)	Population (2040)	Public Open Space per 1000 head of population (2021)	Public Open Space per 1000 head of population (2040)
Central	36.80	23,550	28,520	1.56	1.29
North	55.32	41,840	45,930	1.32	1.20
South	40.08	18,700	22,500	2.14	1.78
West	31.87	19,010	20,410	1.67	1.56
Total	164.08	103,100	117,360	1.59	1.39

Table 6.10: Wards falling above and below 3.2ha per 1,000 open space provision and 2.4ha / 1,000 head of population open space provision, current and up to 2040

Ward	Public Open Space (Ha)	Public Open Space per 1000 head of population (2021)	Public Open Space per 1000 head of population (2040)
Doddington & Wimblington Ward	20.98	4.42	4.17
Elm & Christchurch Ward	16.64	3.29	3.21
Roman Bank Ward	12.93	1.88	1.77
Benwick, Coates & Eastrea Ward	5.32	1.14	1.15
Bassenhally Ward	1.37	0.23	0.20
March West Ward	10.97	1.41	0.85
March North Ward	15.15	1.89	1.93
Parson Drove & Wisbech St. Mary Ward	4.68	0.86	0.84
Stonald Ward	1.55	0.51	0.51
Slade Lode Ward	0.91	0.30	0.33
March East Ward	10.69	1.38	1.38
Peckover Ward	2.70	1.10	0.69
St. Andrews Ward	8.64	3.32	3.10
Wenneye Ward	7.85	3.26	1.38
Medworth Ward	2.47	0.88	0.81
Octavia Hill Ward	2.15	0.38	0.37
Staithe Ward	1.83	0.73	0.48
Waterlees Village Ward	4.50	0.79	0.85
Lattersey Ward	15.00	5.26	4.73
Birch Ward	3.56	1.25	1.17
Clarkson Ward	6.68	2.39	2.08
Kirkgate Ward	0.75	0.30	0.27
Manea Ward	3.23	1.13	1.08

Ward	Public Open Space (Ha)	Public Open Space per 1000 head of population (2021)	Public Open Space per 1000 head of population (2040)
The Mills Ward	3.54	1.26	1.22
Total	164.09	1.59	1.40

6.18 At the analysis area scale, all areas fall short of both the 3.2ha baseline open space standard and the 2.4ha standard. At the more fine grained, ward based scale, the analysis shows significant variation between the wards. Wenney ward which is currently above both standards is due to fall below both standards up to 2040 as a result of population growth (if no open space was lost, or no new open space was provided). St Andrews Ward which is currently above the 3.2ha standard will fall below this standard up to 2040 but remain above the 2.4ha standard. Several other wards which are currently below both standards are expected to be subject to a notable reduction in ha per 1,000 head of population provision up to 2040, such as March West ward which is expected to reduce from 1.41 ha per 1,000 to 0.85ha per 1,000 head of population up to 2040.

Results: Neighbourhood Playgrounds

6.19 The COSMS project proposes a quantity standard for Neighbourhood Playgrounds of 0.55ha per 1,000 head of population. This comprises 0.25ha (children's play – LAP, LEAP, NEAP) and 0.3ha (Other play – skate parks etc).

6.20 Table 6.11 indicates that each analysis area falls below this proposed standard. The analysis uses the total area of all play sites (whether occurring as a secondary or primary typology).

6.21 For the purposes of testing the application of this proposed standard in more detail, the proposed baseline play standards for LAP, LEAP, NEAP (at 0.25ha per 1,000 head of population) has been tested separately from the 'other play' standard (at 0.3ha per 1,000 head of population) but using child population

data (children aged 0-14). **Table 6.12** below uses the quantity of play sites classified as LAP, LEAP, NEAP (key provision for children aged 0-14).

Table 6.11: Analysis areas falling above and below the proposed Neighbourhood Playground standard (0.55ha / 1,000 head of population LAPs, LEAPs, NEAPs & Other Play), total current population and up to 2040

Study area	All play sites (LAP/LEAP/NEAP/Other play) (Ha)	Total pop. (2021)	Total pop. (2040)	Play sites (Ha) per 1000 head of population (2021)	Play sites (Ha) per 1000 head of population (2040)
Central	1.08	23,550	28,520	0.045	0.037
North	2.02	41,840	45,930	0.048	0.044
South	1.19	18,700	22,500	0.064	0.053
West	0.84	19,010	20,410	0.044	0.041
Total	5.15	103,100	117,360	0.049	0.043

Table 6.12: Analysis areas falling above and below the proposed play standard for LAPs, LEAPs & NEAPs, using child population data (aged 0-14 years), current and up to 2040

Study area	Child play sites (LAP/LEAP/NEAP) (Ha)	Total child pop. (2021)	Total child pop. (2040)	LAP/LEAP/NEAP (Ha) per 1000 children (aged 0-14) (2021)	LAP/LEAP/NEAP (Ha) per 1000 children (aged 0-14) (2040)
Central	0.69	3,850	4,090	0.18	0.16

Study area	Child play sites (LAP/LEAP/NEAP) (Ha)	Total child pop. (2021)	Total child pop. (2040)	LAP/LEAP/NEAP (Ha) per 1000 children (aged 0-14) (2021)	LAP/LEAP/NEAP (Ha) per 1000 children (aged 0-14) (2040)
North	1.59	7,090	6,770	0.22	0.23
South	0.87	3,240	3,450	0.26	0.25
West	0.54	3,250	2,960	0.16	0.18
Total	3.71	17,430	17,270	0.21	0.21

6.22 Application of the 0.55ha per 1,000 head of population Neighbourhood Playground standard shows that the District as a whole falls significantly short of the proposed standard. As may reasonably be expected, the application of the standards using the child population data (rather than total population data) and focussing on the 0.25ha (LAP, LEAP, NEAP) site area shows most areas falling slightly below the proposed LAP, LEAP, NEAP standard. However, several areas come close to meeting the standard when applied in this way, and the southern area exceeds the standard up to 2040.

Testing the application of quantity standards through case studies

6.23 Potential quantity standards have also been tested through several case studies. As the case studies are intended to provide a high level analysis of the implications of the proposed standards, the combine 'Public Open Space Standard' has been tested alongside the 2.4ha assumed standard used as part of viability testing in the district. The implications of the Neighbourhood Playground standard has also been tested. The current Fenland Local Plan requires Broad Concept Plans (BCPs) to be in place for major allocated sites in the district. BCPs provide a template for key infrastructure requirements and site layout which future planning applications are required to conform to. Several BCPs have been adopted in Fenland, the following have been used as the basis of the case studies:

- East Chatteris BCP
- East Wisbech BCP
- West March BCP

6.24 The purpose of the case studies is to understand what the open space requirement for these major sites would be if the proposed standards were to be applied. As the case studies are intended to provide a high level analysis of the implications of the proposed standards, the combined 'Public Open Space Standard

6.25 In order to apply a ha/1,000 head of population quantity standard, a population yield estimate has been made for each site based on the number of units set out within the BCP. Population yield is based on Office for National Statistics 2018-based principal projections. The estimated household size for 2038 has been used (estimates for 2040 not available), which is 2.21 persons per household.

6.26 It is also useful to test the Neighbourhood Play that would be provided per child if the proposed standards were applied. Estimating the 'child yield' from a development may be undertaken in several ways, whether through a detailed multiplier that accounts for the mix of housing stock that will be expected to come forward, or a general multiplier that may be applied to an overall number of units. A general multiplier is more appropriate where the type and mix of housing stock that is expected is unknown. For the purposes of this assessment a 'general multiplier' has been used to estimate child yield per unit, using the following rates:

- Pre-school (0-3 years): 0.3 (30 children per 100 dwellings)
- Primary (4-10 years): 0.4 (40 children per 100 dwellings)
- Secondary (11-15 years): 0.3 (30 children per 100 dwellings)

6.27 The application of potential standards has been applied to the case study sites as follows.

Estimated population yield x open space standard (ha/1,000) ÷ 1,000

6.28 Based on the information available the following information can be obtained from the case studies:

- Total area of open space that would need to be delivered as a result of each development.
- The area of play space that would be available per child as a result of applying the potential standards.
- Percentage of the total site area that would need to be delivered as open space (if all open space were to be delivered on site).

6.29 Where site information is available from the BCPs, it is possible to estimate the percentage of the total site area that would need to be open space to deliver the standard (if all open space was to be delivered on site). The case study sites provide a useful indication of what the implications of several potential standards may be. It should be noted the case study sites are on average relatively low density when the total site area and number of units are considered as a whole – although in reality the sites may come forward as several separate parcels of land. The case study sites provide a useful example of what the implication may be for large allocations. A hypothetical worked example of a smaller development of 15 units over 0.5ha (higher density development than the case studies above) has also been undertaken.

6.30 Table 6.13 provides an overview of the summary results of the case studies.

Table 6.13: Summary of findings from case study application of the proposed standards

Item	BCP Site			
	East Chatteris	West March	East Wisbech	Small site worked example
Site size (ha)	26	105	72	0.5
No of units	350	2,000	1,500	15
Density (dwelling per ha)	13	19	21	30
Applying 2.4ha OS standard				
ha OS space requirement	1.85	10.6	7.9	0.07
% of site OS space requirement	7%	10%	11%	16%
Applying 3.2ha OS standard				
ha OS space requirement	2.47	14.1	10.6	0.1
% of site OS space requirement	10%	13%	15%	21%
Applying 0.55ha Neighbourhood Playgrounds standard				
ha play requirement	0.42	2.4	1.8	0.01
% of site OS requirement	2%	2%	3%	4%

6.31 For the larger, lower density case study sites, the 2.4ha / 1,000 standard would require between 7% and 11% of the total allocated site area to be provided as open space. For the 3.2ha / 1,000 head of population standard this increases in most cases to by around 3-4% (between 10% to 15% of the total site area). The results of the hypothetical worked example of a smaller site illustrates the higher density development would need to allocate a larger proportion of the site to open space provision (if all open space was to be

delivered on site). This suggests that similar sites in reality may be best placed to provide compensatory contributions off-site. Cross referencing the application of the proposed 0.55ha Neighbourhood Playground per 1,000 head of population standard with the estimated child yield from each case study site indicates this translates to approximately 12m² per child.

6.32 The East Wisbech BCP does not set out the amount of open space that is intended to be delivered as part of the adopted plan but it does provide an assessment of the minimum open space that would be required if applying the standards set out in Fenland's existing Local Plan. However, the site spans the administrative areas of both Fenland District Council and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, so two separate calculations are set out in the BCP based on the percentage of site in each administrative area. The BCP sets out that the combined total open space requirement for both authorities would be 13.88ha. Once allotments and outdoor sports are removed from this calculation, the requirements equate to 6.72ha open space and 2.84ha children's play (1/3rd formal equipped play, 2/3rds informal). The open space calculations in the BCP are lower than when applying the 2.4ha / 1,000 head of population standard (7.95ha open space required) and the 3.2ha standard (10.6ha open space required).

6.33 The West March Broad Concept Plan states that 38.21ha of Green Infrastructure will be delivered, of which 26.2ha would be open space and 0.32ha Equipped Children's Play. The remainder being sports areas, an 'active trail', allotments, SuDS, and sports pavilion. This is significantly more provision than the results of the case study application of proposed standards for the site (10.6ha open space required when applying the 2.4ha standard and 14.4ha open space required when applying the 3.2ha standard). However, the play requirements (applying the proposed 0.55ha Neighbourhood Playground standard) results in a higher requirement than that already set out in the BCP (0.32ha in the adopted BCP, 2.43ha Neighbourhood Playgrounds required when applying the 0.55ha / 1,000 head of population proposed 2020 baseline standard).

Chapter 7

Applying the baseline standards: Accessibility

7.1 Baseline standards for accessibility were proposed as part of the COSMS project, which were informed by good practice guidance. The COSMS report notes that the local authorities included in the study have either previously referenced or adopted the following guidance for existing standards:

- The Fields in Trust 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard' (2015)
- Natural England 'Accessible Natural Green Space Standards' (ANGSt) (2001)

Calculating walk-time distances

7.2 Accessibility standards are expressed as average walk time distances converted into straight line 'buffers' measured from the boundary of each site. Guidance produced by Fields in Trust has been used as the basis of calculating walk time distances. Examples of converting of average 'walk times' to straight line distances is shown below:

- **2-3 minutes:** 250 metres (m)
- **5 minutes:** 400 m
- **10 minutes:** 800 m
- **15 minutes:** 1.2 kilometres (km)
- **20 minutes:** 1.6 km

Proposed baseline standards

7.3 The standards that have been set reflect the generally accepted principle that people are willing to travel varying distances to reach different types of open space. Visitors are generally willing to travel further to sites which have a wider 'offer' and range of facilities. Larger sites will generally provide more variety in terms of opportunities for recreation, access to nature and act as a more significant 'destination' for potential visitors.

7.4 As discussed in Chapter 5 'Small Local Neighbourhood Park and Garden' has been added to the proposed site hierarchy to better reflect the local provision in Fenland. The 'Small Local' accessibility standard for Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens has been set to align with the Small Local Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space standard proposed as part of the COSMS project, representing a 3–4 minute walk time.

7.5 The baseline accessibility standards are shown in **Table 7.1** below.

Table 7.1: Baseline accessibility standards (COSMS)

Primary typology	Hierarchy	Baseline accessibility standard	Source
Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens	Small Local	300m	Set to align with the Small Local Natural and Semi-Natural standard.
	Local	400m	Fields in Trust Guidance
Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space	Small Local	300m	Natural England - 'ANGSt'
	Local	2.0km	Natural England - 'ANGSt'

Primary typology	Hierarchy	Baseline accessibility standard	Source
Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	N/A	480m	Fields in Trust Guidance
Neighbourhood Playgrounds (as a primary typology)	LAP	100m	Fields in Trust Guidance
	LEAP	400m	Fields in Trust Guidance
	NEAP	1,000m	Fields in Trust Guidance
	Other Play	700m	Fields in Trust Guidance
Allotments	N/A	650m	Peterborough City Council

7.6 A series of figures in the following section shows the application of the proposed accessibility standards by typology. Larger sites also provide ‘local’ access, therefore accessibility standards for smaller sites are also applied to sites that are within the larger size hierarchies. For example, a ‘Local’ Neighbourhood Park and Garden would also serve a ‘Small Local’ Neighbourhood Park and Garden catchment.

7.7 As is clear from the figures below, the rural parts of the district generally have poor access to open space. As might reasonably be expected in a predominantly rural location, areas with better access tend to be seen around the key settlements and built-up areas. The text below generally focuses on access to open space around the built-up areas. Poor access to open space in rural areas is an important issue and should be considered as part of future open space planning. It is important to also note that poor access to open space may to certain degree be mitigated through having good connectivity through the Public Right of Way (PROW) network or other promoted routes. Detailed analysis of connectivity and access to the countryside is outside of the scope of

this study, however, a high-level overview of PROW and recreational routes is provided later in the chapter.

Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens

7.8 Access to 'Local' Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens is generally poor across the district, and some areas of deficiency are seen in all the key settlements. Notable areas of Whittlesey, March, Wisbech and Chatteris experience some deficiency to this type of open space. See **Figure 7.1**.

7.9 Access to 'Small Local' Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens (sites accessible within 300m) is varied across the key settlement areas. Notable areas of deficiency within key settlements includes south and central March, south and east Wisbech. See **Figure 7.2**.

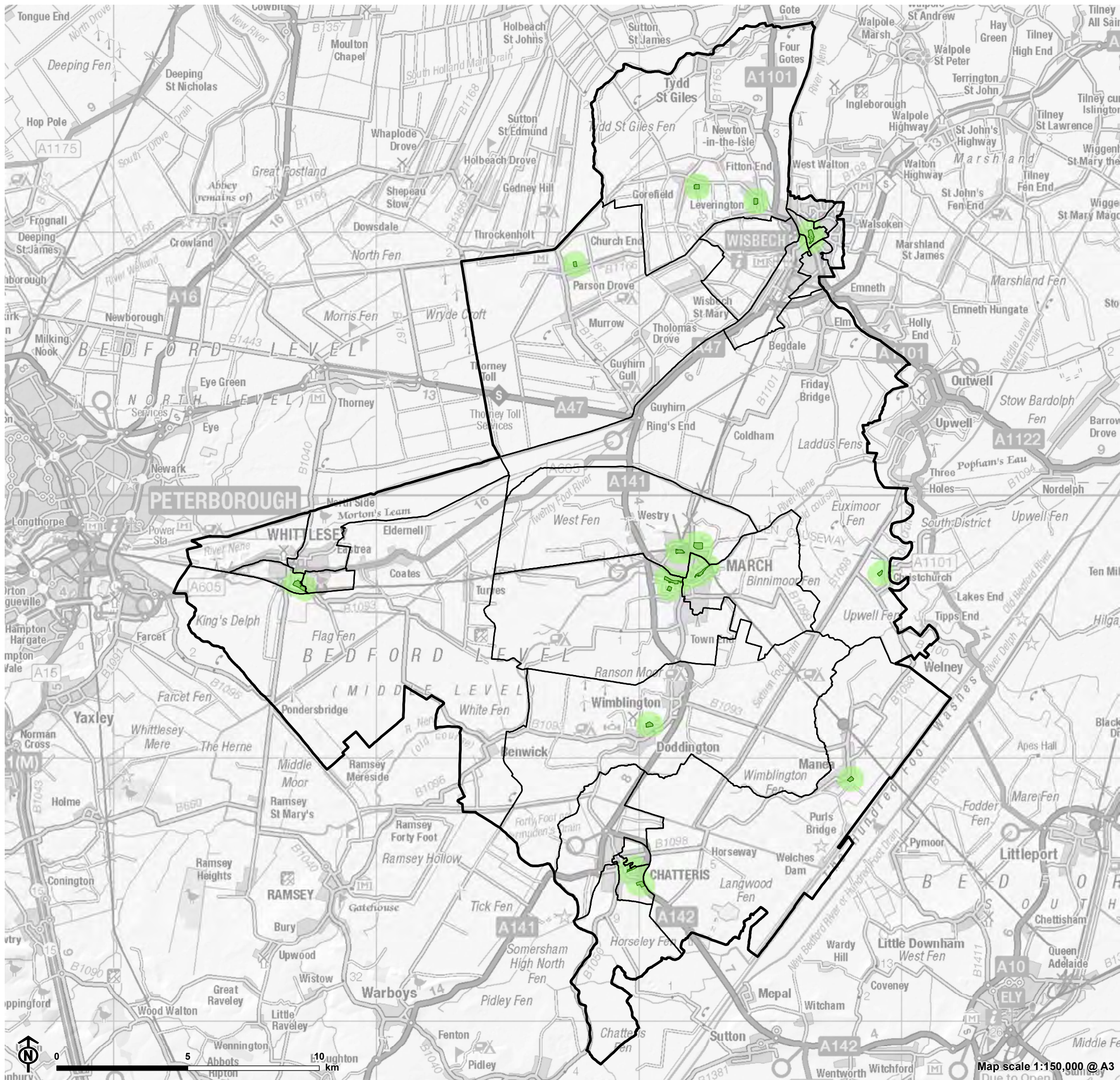


Figure 7.1: Local Parks with an Area of 2-20 Hectares

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Local neighbourhood public parks & gardens
- Accessibility buffer around parks and gardens (400m)

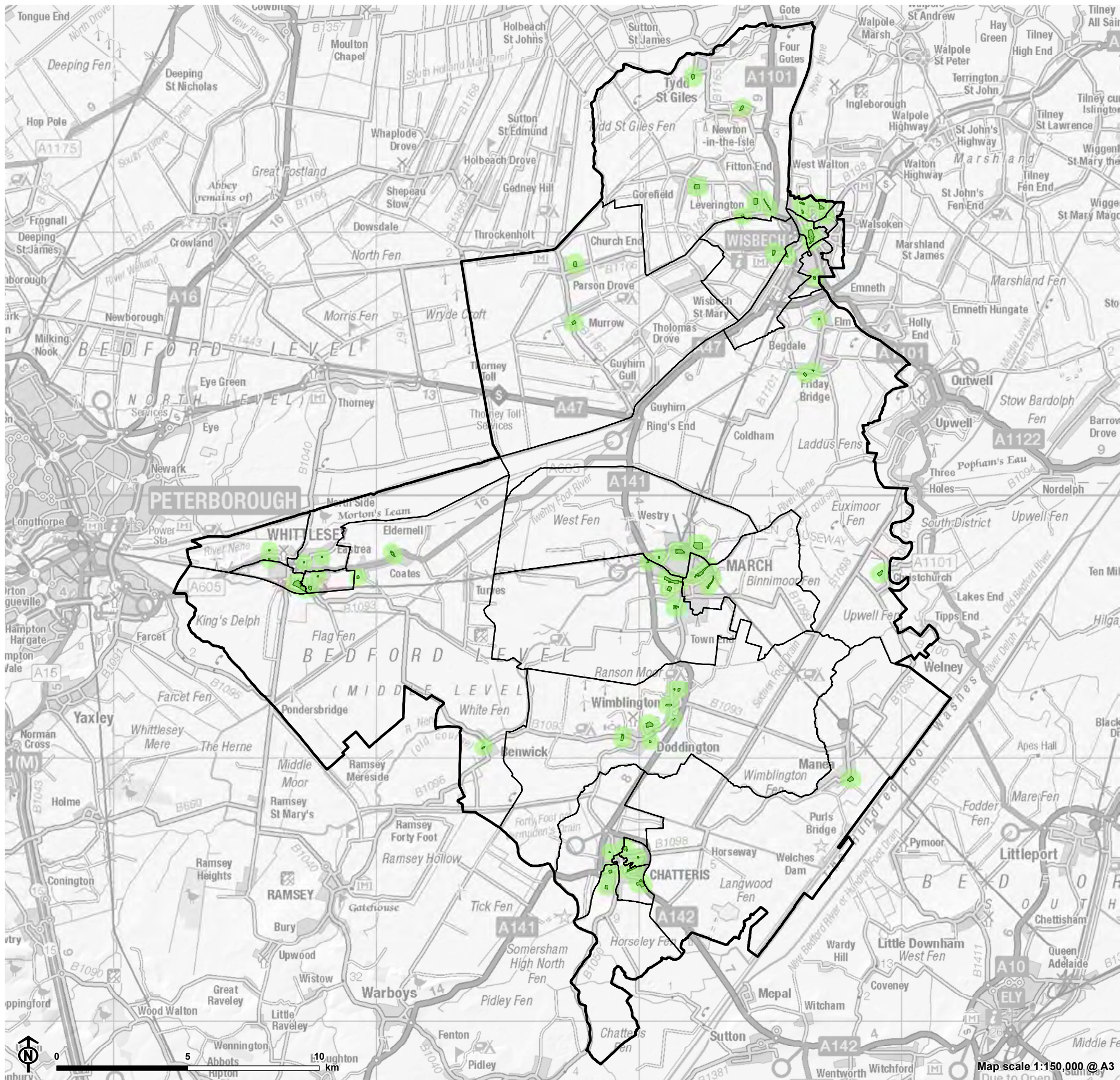


Figure 7.2: Small Local Parks with an Area of <2 Hectares

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Small local neighbourhood public parks & gardens
- Accessibility buffer around parks and gardens (300m)

Informal Parkland and Amenity Space

7.10 Whilst areas outside of the key settlements have little or no access to Informal Parkland and Amenity Space, the Market Towns and other built up areas benefit from relatively good access to this typology when applying the 480m proposed standard, although there are some small areas of deficiency. Some of the smaller settlements such as Guyhirn / Ring's End and Wisbech St Mary have more notable areas of deficiency for this typology compared to the larger settlements. See **Figure 7.3**.

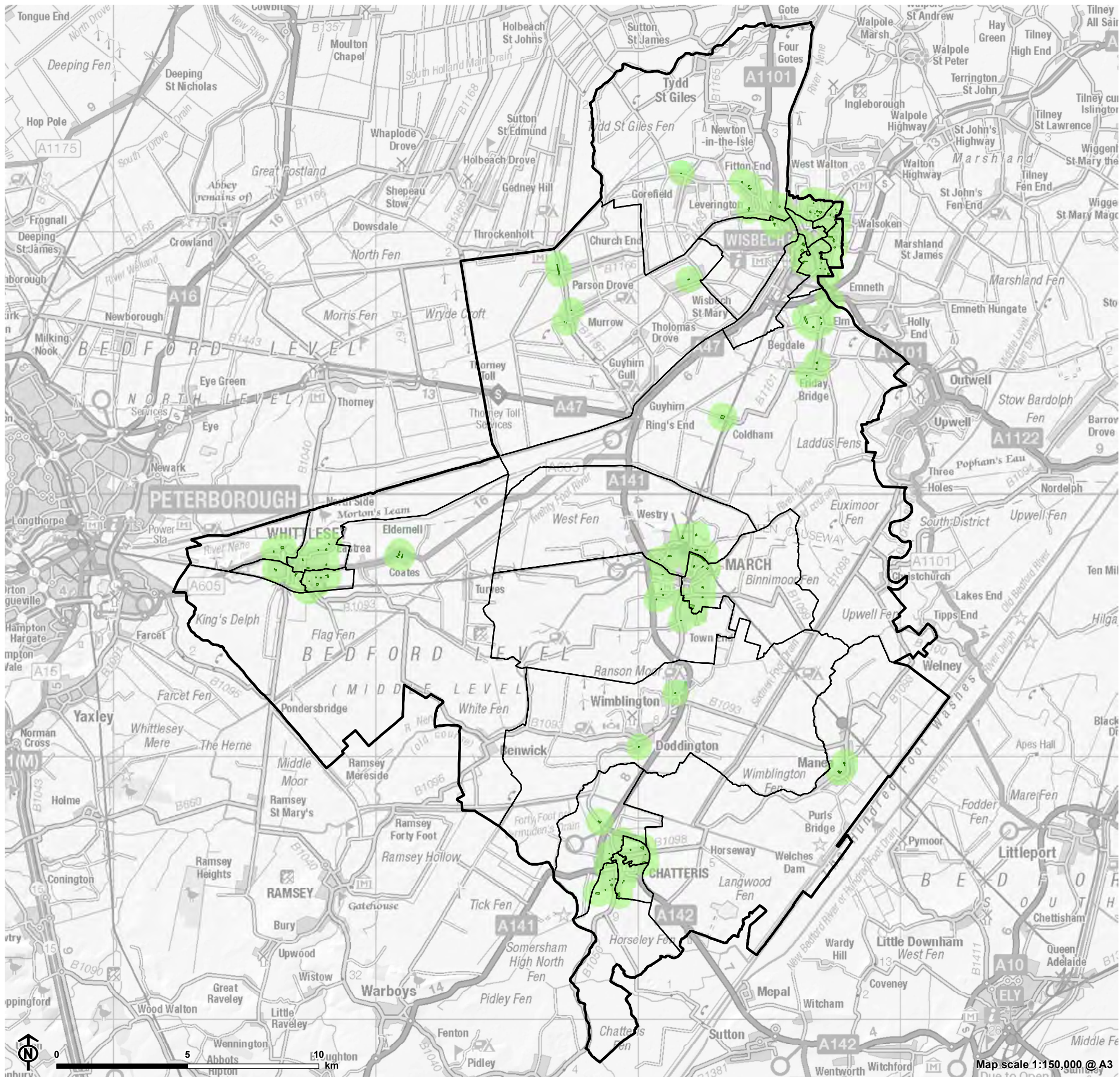


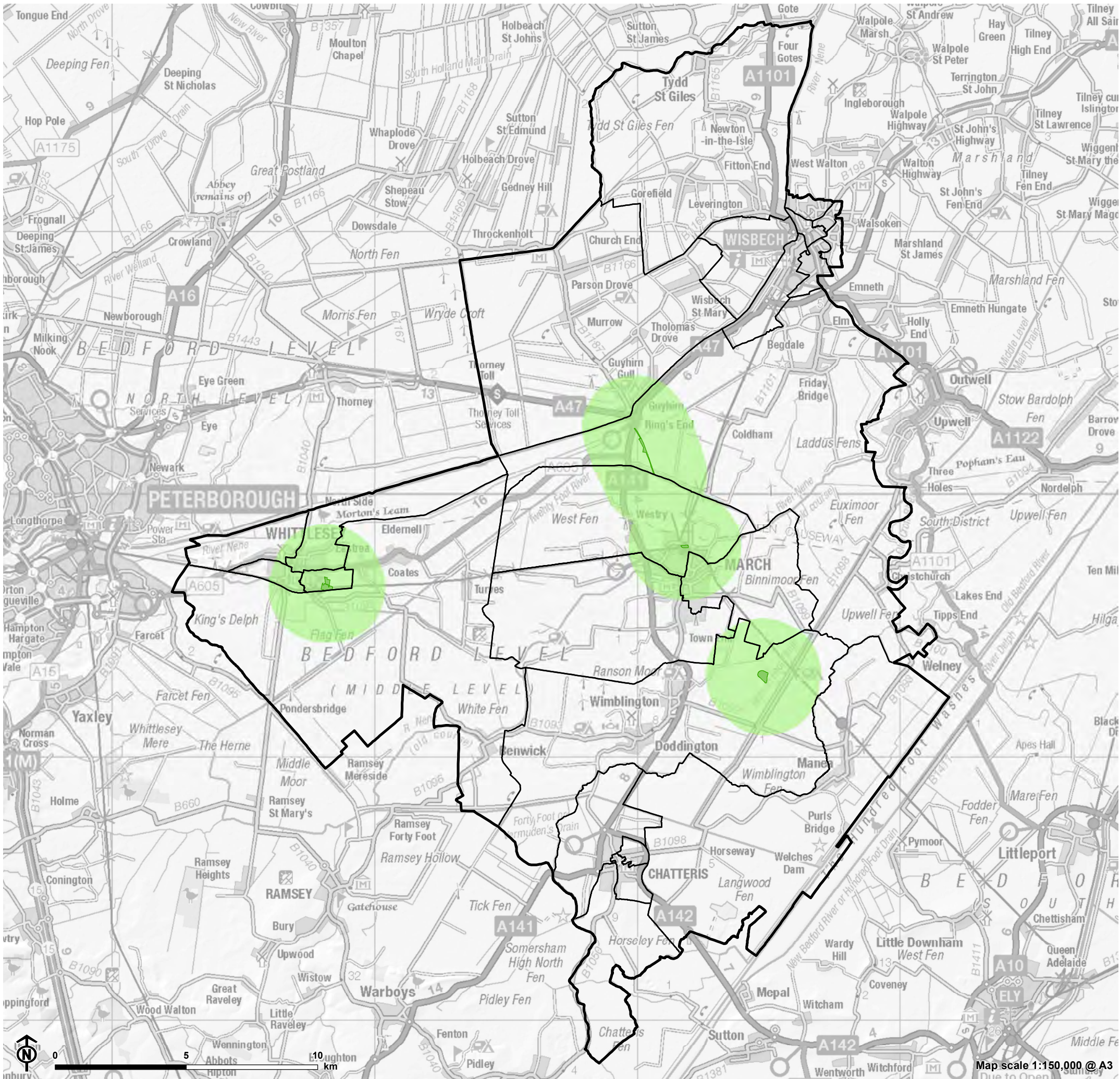
Figure 7.3: Amenity Green Space

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Informal parkland and amenity open space
- Accessibility buffer around parkland and amenity space (480m)

Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space

7.11 Access to 'Local' Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space is variable across the key settlements when applying the 2km accessibility standard and most do not have good access to this type and size of open space. Areas around March, Whittlesey and Ring's End benefit from access to 'Local' sites. Access to the countryside through good quality recreational routes may in some instances mitigate poor access to Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space, through PROW or other recreational routes. See **Figure 7.4**.

7.12 Access to 'Small Local' Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space is poor across most of the district including within the key settlements and Market Towns. Areas with good access to 'Small Local' sites within 300m includes southern areas of Whittlesey, Ring's End, north March, Doddington and Coates. See **Figure 7.5**.

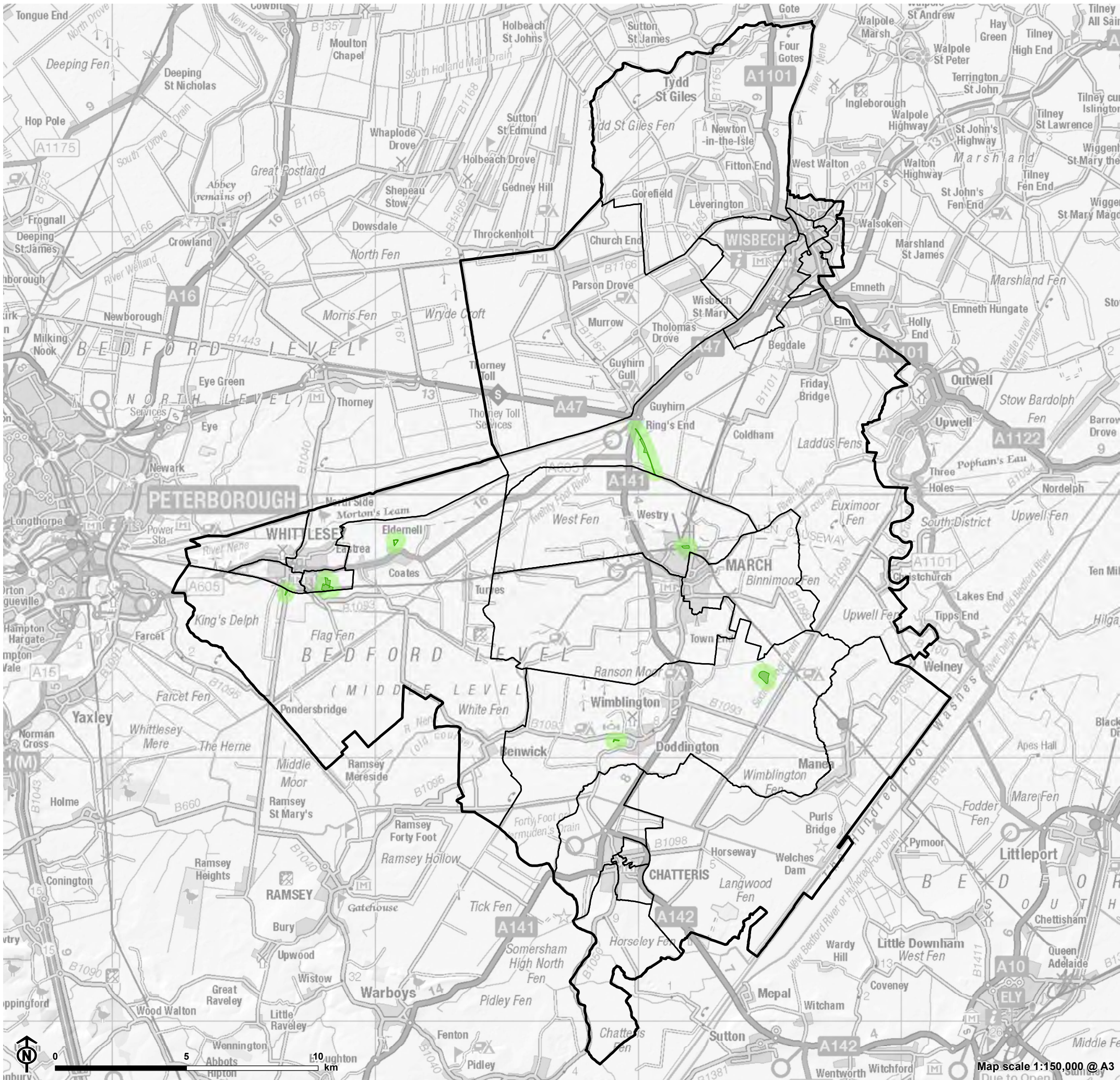


Open Space Standards
for Fenland District Council

Figure 7.4: Local Natural Space with an Area of 2-20Ha

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Local natural and semi-natural space
- Accessibility buffer around natural and semi-natural space (2km)





Open Space Standards
for Fenland District Council

Figure 7.5: Small Local Natural Space with an Area of <2 Hectares

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Small local natural and semi-natural space
- Accessibility buffer around natural and semi-natural space (300m)

Allotments

7.13 Application of the 560m accessibility standard for allotments shows that most areas do not have good access to existing allotment sites. Areas that have access within 560m include south of Whittlesey, north of March and north of Wisbech. See **Figure 7.6**.

7.14 It should be noted that data on allotments as part of this study may not be comprehensive as the data focuses on sites that are known by FDC and where data is available. It is possible that there may be allotment sites run by Parish Councils or other private sites which have not been captured. Whilst it is useful to understand current access to allotments throughout the district, provision of allotments will also be determined by the demand for growing space, which will be influenced by the extent to which people have access to private gardens and growing space.

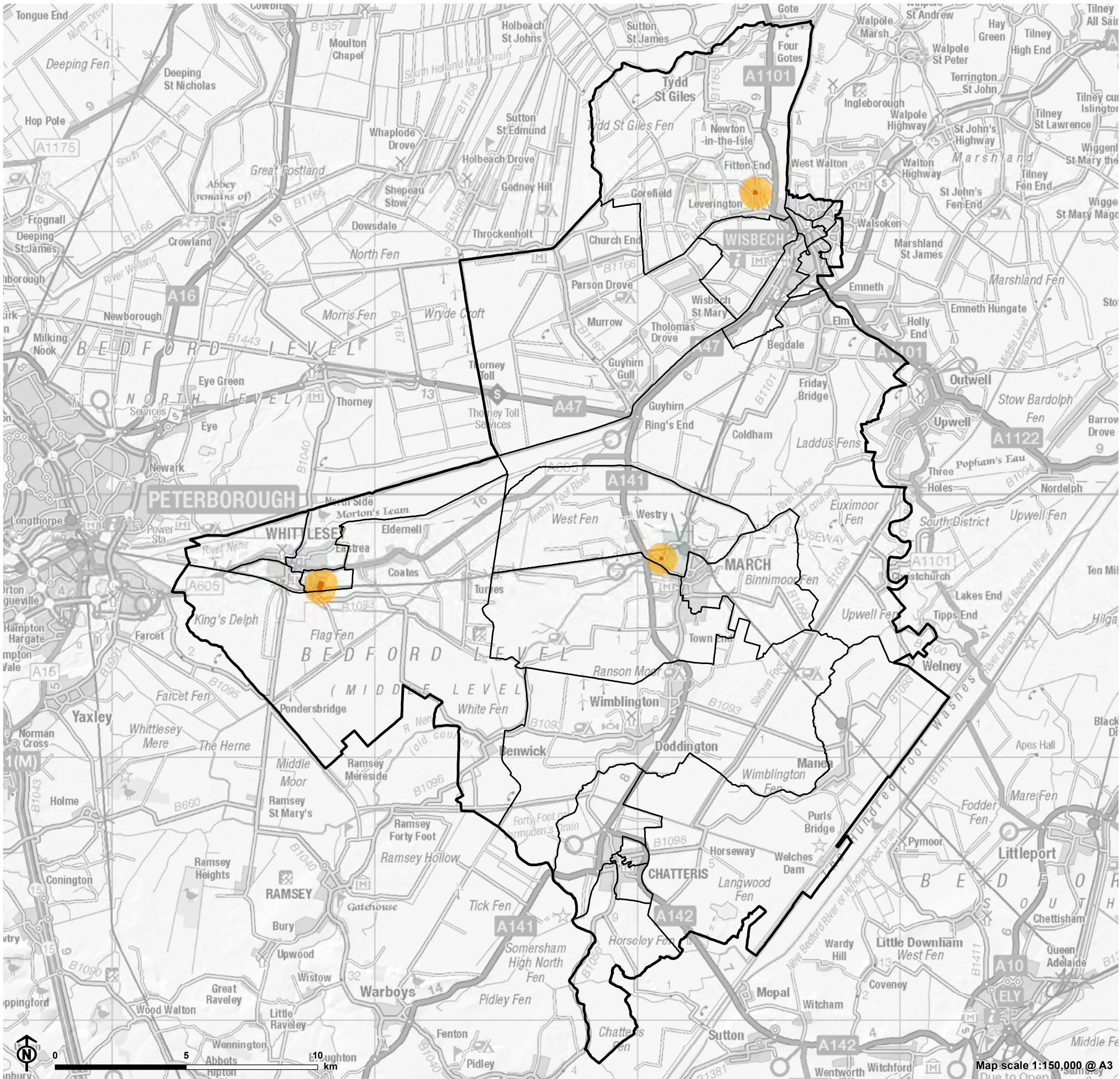


Figure 7.6: Allotments

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Allotment
- Accessibility buffer around allotments (560m)

Neighbourhood Playgrounds

7.15 Access to Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) is variable across Market Towns when applying the 1km accessibility standard, some areas that are deficient in access are seen in the south of March, the north of Whittlesey and the south of Wisbech. The smaller settlements in the north of the district generally do not have good access to this type of play. Although Coates, Benwick, Manea, Christchurch and Friday Bridge benefit from good access to NEAPs. See **Figure 7.7**.

7.16 Access to Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs) when applying the 400m accessibility standard, shows a similar pattern as for NEAPs, with some areas of deficiency seen in each of the Market Towns. Some of the smaller settlements benefit from some existing access to LEAPs including Wimblington, Doddington, Elm, Tydd St Giles, Newton in the Isle, Gorefield and Leverington. See **Figure 7.8**.

7.17 Access to Local Areas for Play (LAPs) is generally poor when applying the 100m accessibility standard, with only small areas of each settlement area benefit from good access to this type of play. Some of the smaller settlements do not benefit from any access to this type of play See **Figure 7.9**.

7.18 Examples of areas which experience overall very poor access to all types of children's play includes Guyhirn, Ring's End, Wisbech St Mary and Murrow.

7.19 Applying the 700m accessibility standard for 'Other Play' highlights that the Market Towns benefit from reasonably good access to this type of play. Key areas of deficiency across the Market Towns includes West of Whittlesey and south of Wisbech. Access to Other Play across the smaller settlements is varied with smaller settlements in the north generally being deficient in access to this type of provision. See **Figure 7.10**.

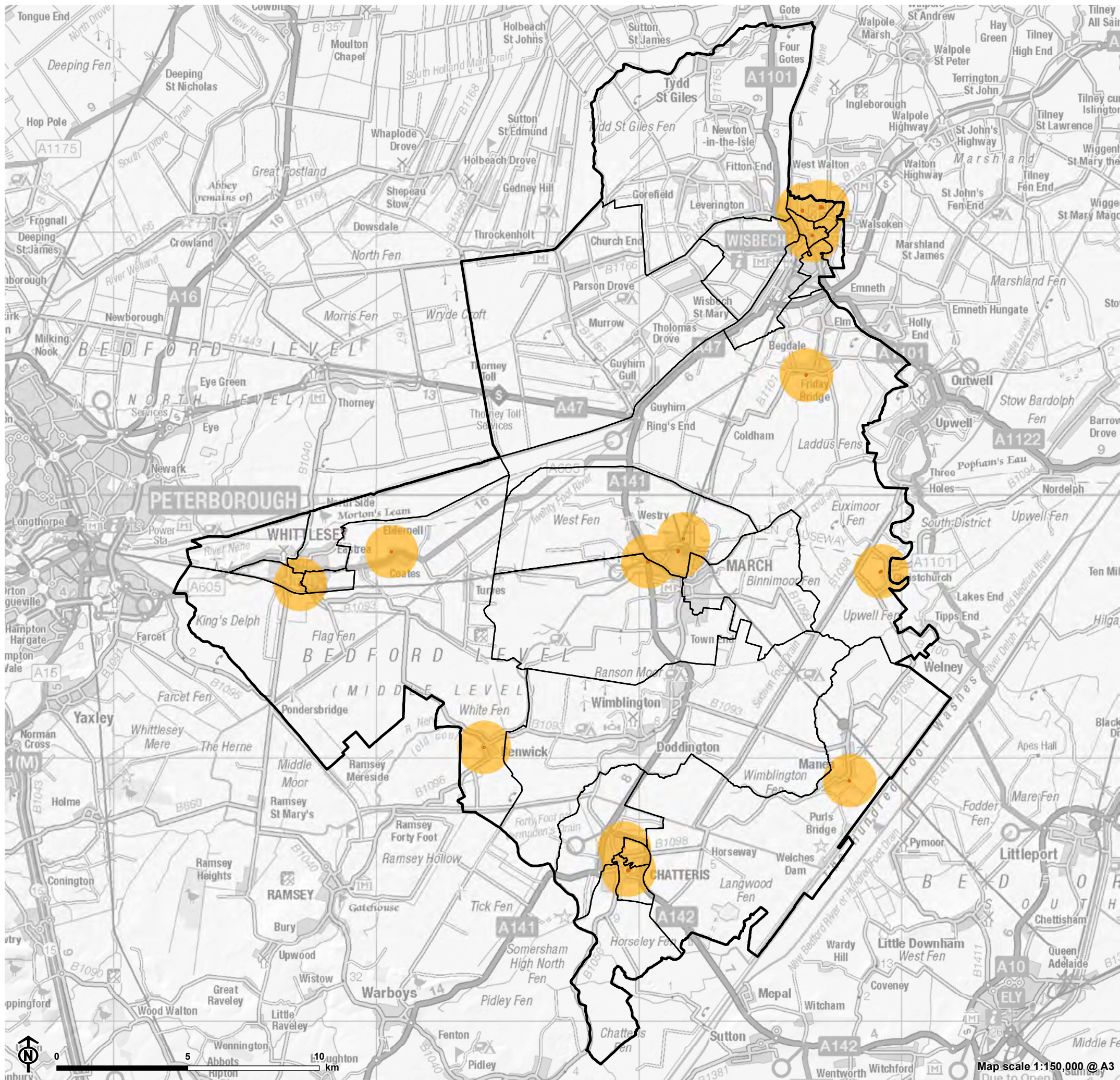


Figure 7.7: Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play with an area of >0.04 hectares

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)
- Accessibility buffer around NEAPs (1km)

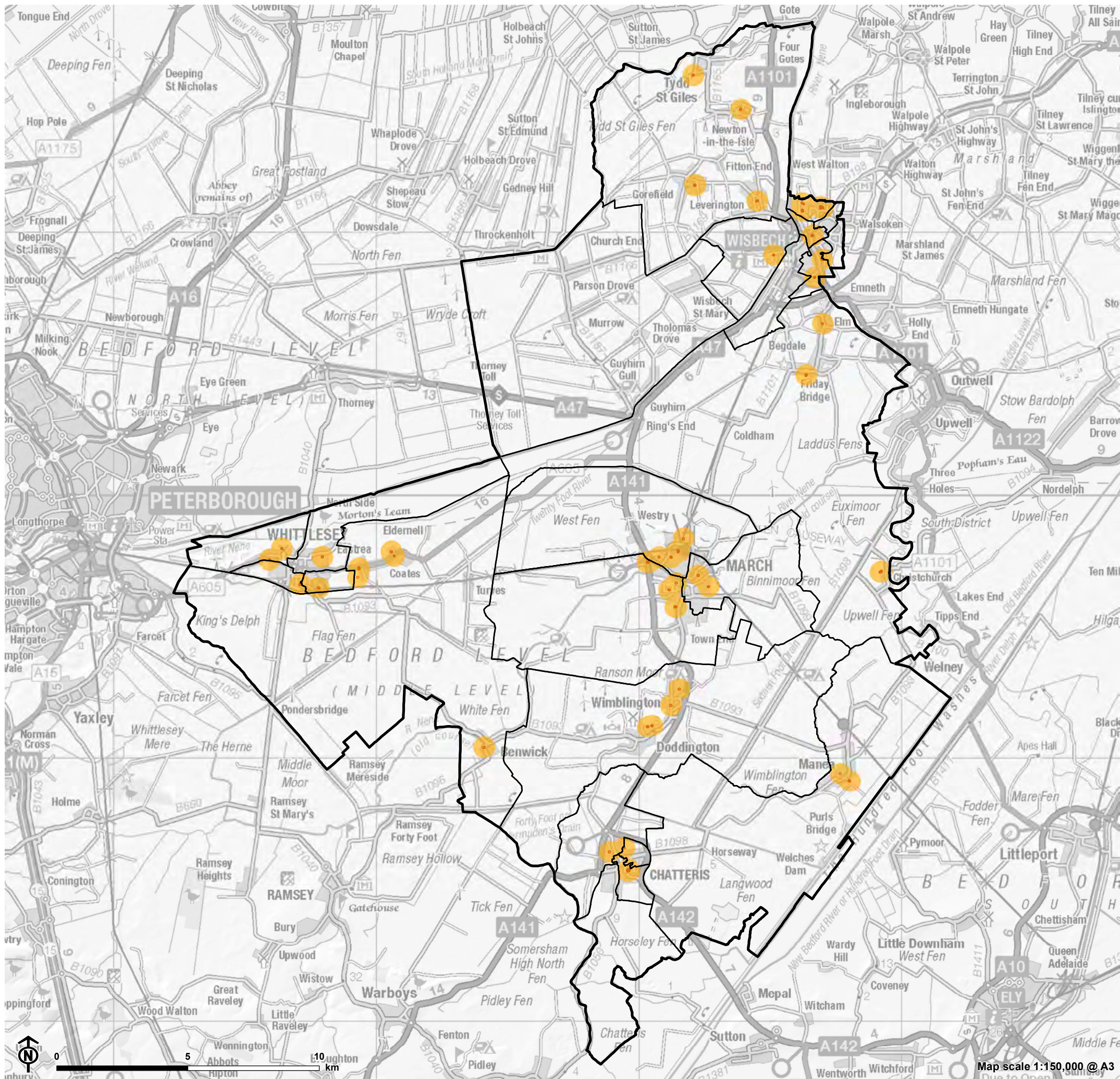


Figure 7.8: Local Equipped Areas for Play with an area of 0.01-0.04 hectares

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)
- Accessibility buffer around LEAPs (400m)

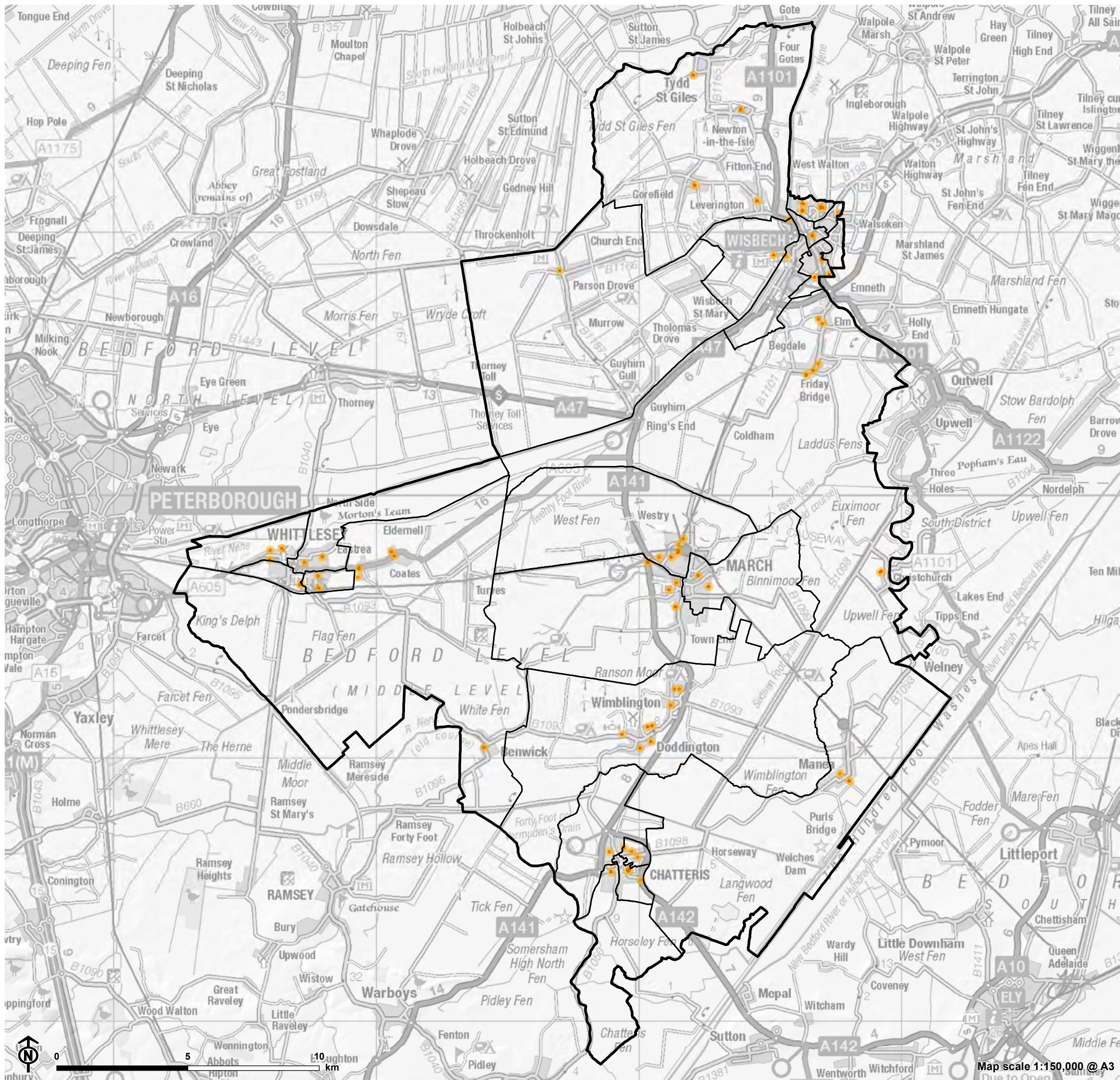


Figure 7.9: Local Areas for Play with an area of <0.01 hectares

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Local Area for Play (LAP)
- Accessibility buffer around LAPs (100m)

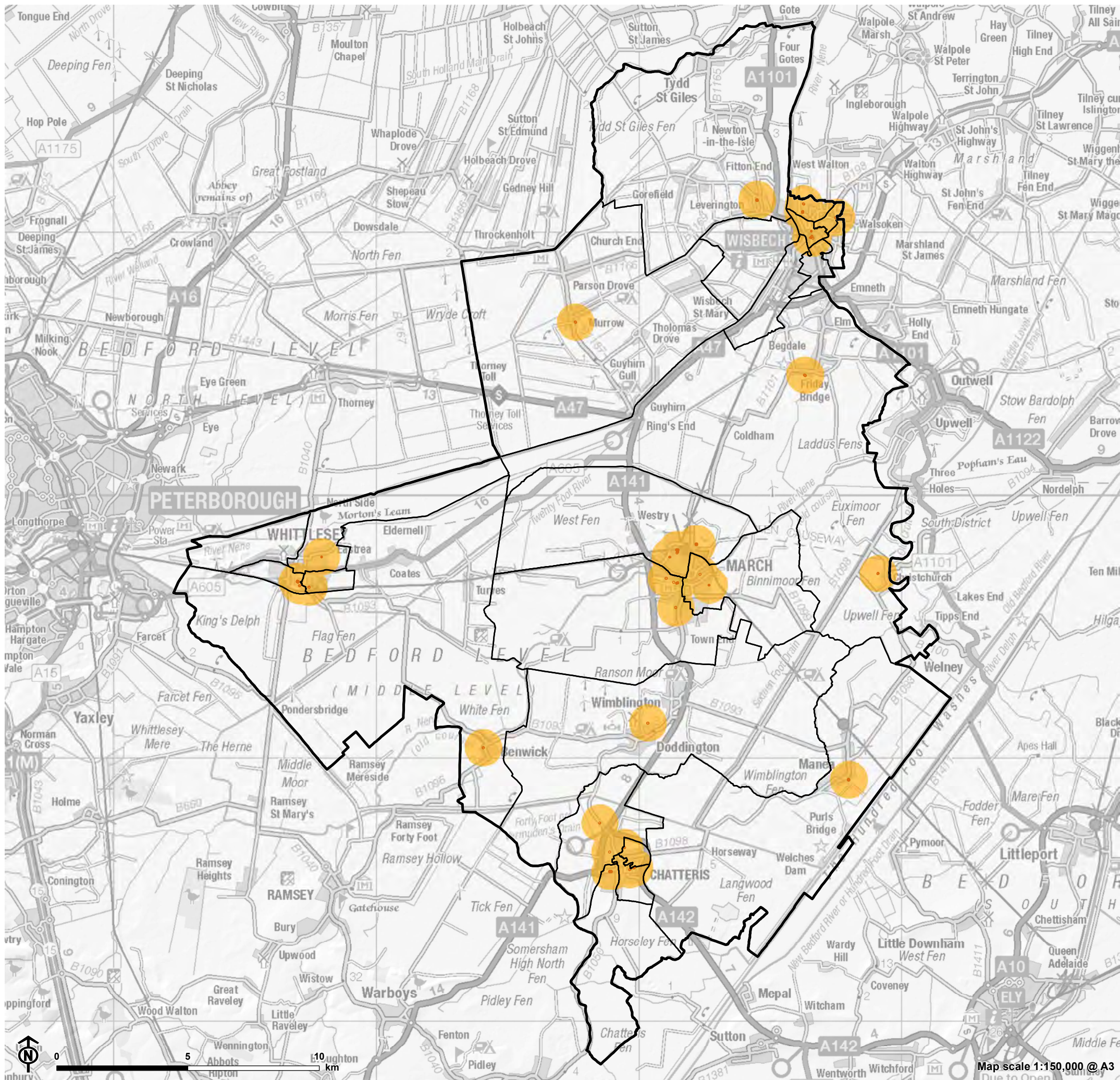


Figure 7.10: Other play

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Other play
- Accessibility buffer around Other play sites (700m)

Combined open space deficiency

7.20 When the access buffers for all types of open space and levels of the size hierarchy are considered together (**Figure 7.11**), areas with greater deficiencies in access are clearer to see. **Figure 7.11** shows areas which are deficient in access to two, three or four levels of the site size hierarchies applied as part of this study. As has been already noted, the rural areas outside of built up areas and settlements, are generally deficient in access to most of the open space identified as part of this study. Many of the smaller settlements are deficient in access to three levels of the site size hierarchies that have been explored. Market Towns with more notable areas of deficiencies in access include Wisbech and Chatteris.

Barriers to access

7.21 There are a range of barriers to access across the district. These include large roads, railway lines and rivers.

7.22 Railway lines cross the south of the district from the south west at Whittlesea towards March in the centre of the district. The line runs from March towards Manea in the south east.

7.23 Rivers and large drainage channels are a key landscape feature of the district. The area is also crossed by numerous smaller ditches and drainage channels. Key features include the River Nene, which runs from the centre of Peterborough in the east past Guyhirn towards Wisbech in the north. Bevill's Leam and Twenty Foot River (drain), which runs from Pondersbridge and joins the River Nene (old course) at March. Whittlesey Dike which runs broadly west to east between Whittlesey towards the River Nene (old course). The River Nene (old course) which runs from Benwick, in the south towards Upwell on the eastern boundary. Fenton Lode (or Twenty Foot Drain) running to the west of Chatteris. River Delph, Old Bedford River and New Bedford River on the

eastern boundary. Unnamed drain running from the north of Chatteris towards Three Holes on the eastern boundary.

7.24 Major roads include the A142, A141, and the A47, running south to north between Chatteris, to the west of March towards Wisbech. There are numerous smaller roads and country lanes which, although smaller, may also act as barriers due to safety concerns. See **Figure 7.12**.

Public rights of way and recreational routes

7.25 The Public Right of Way (PROW) network may be of particular importance and value where there is an identified deficiency in access to open space. Whilst it is valuable to review the access network to understand the potential influence in terms of access to open space at a strategic level, it should be noted that the quality and management of routes can have a significant impact on the likely use of routes at the local level.

7.26 Most PROW in Fenland comprises footpaths and byways, with some fragmented sections of bridleways. Access through PROW and recreational routes generally appears better in the south. The PROW network extending out from Whittlesey and March is reasonably well connected. Routes leading out from other areas such as Chatteris, Wisbech and the smaller settlements are generally more fragmented and will likely provide fewer opportunities to access the countryside or reach open spaces on foot or bike.

7.27 An on-road section of the National Cycle Network (NCN) (route 63) runs along several roads from Whittlesey to Wisbech via March. Several local NCN 'links' connect onto the national route from settlement areas. See **Figure 7.13**.

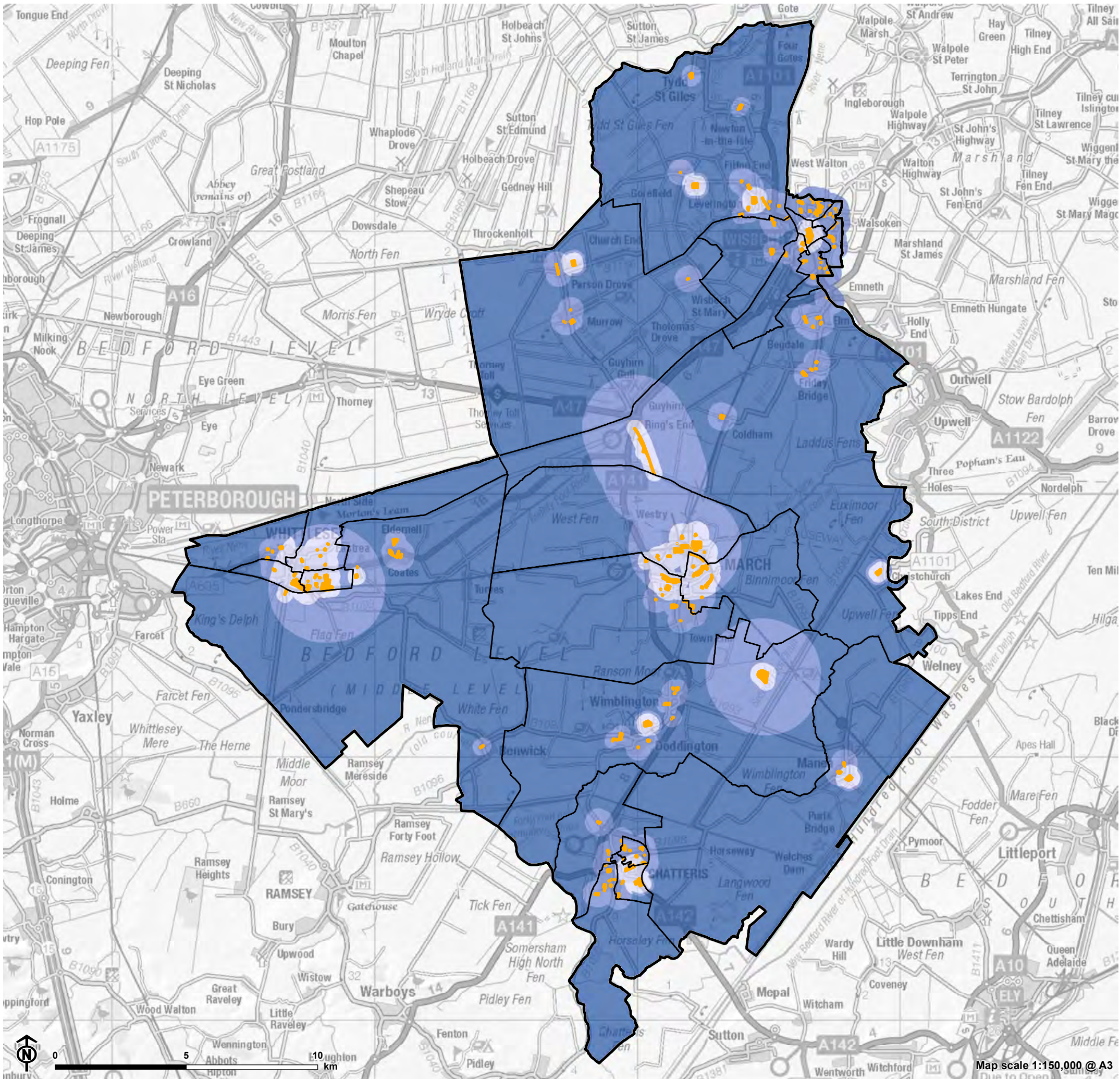


Figure 7.11: Combined open space deficiency

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Open space site
- Combined deficiency**
- Deficient in access to 2 levels of the hierarchy
- Deficient in access to 3 levels of the hierarchy
- Deficient in access to 4 levels of the hierarchy

For the purpose of this figure, any sites with the typology Informal Parkland and Amenity Open Space were considered to fall within the "Small Local" category of the hierarchy.

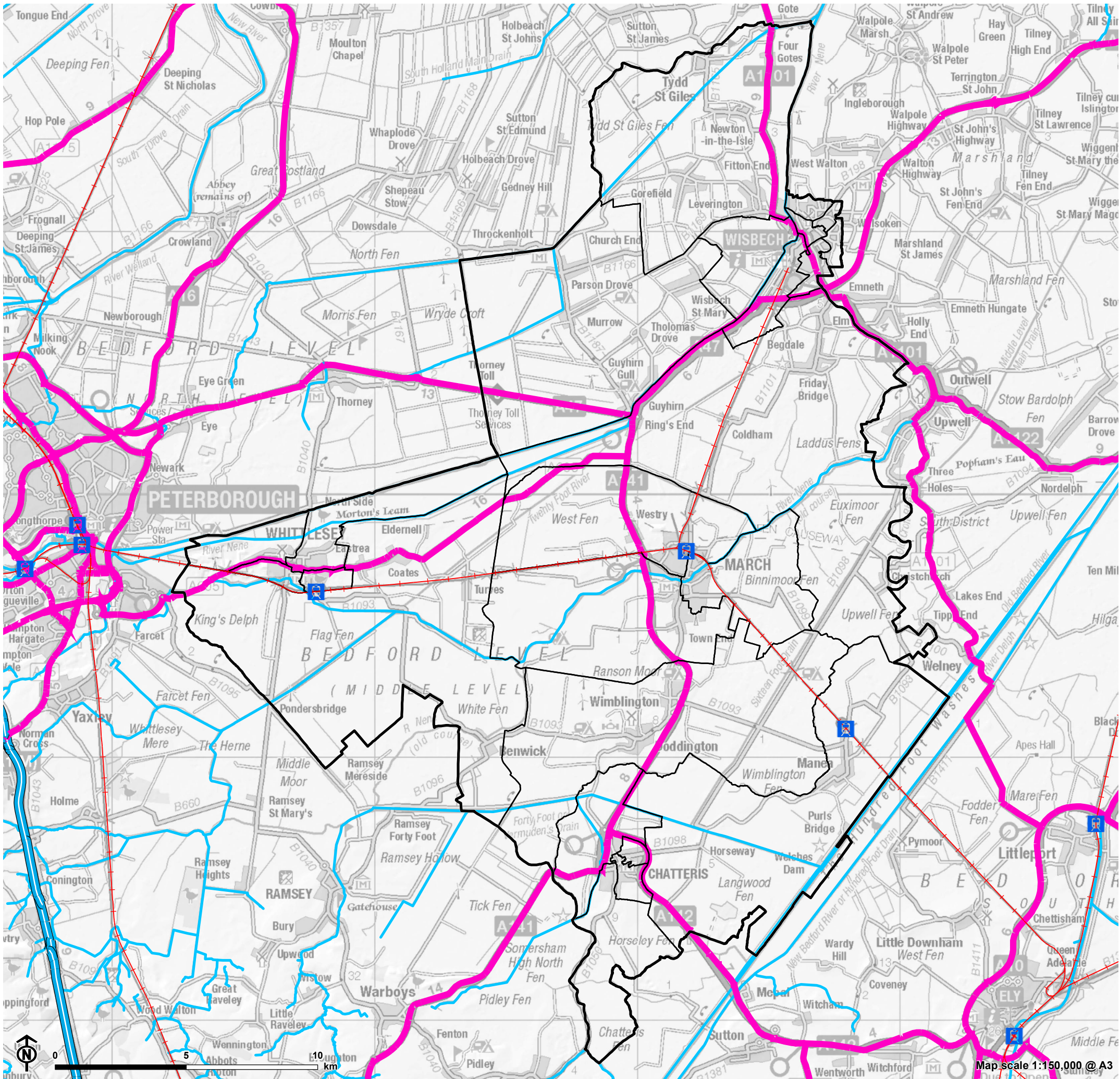
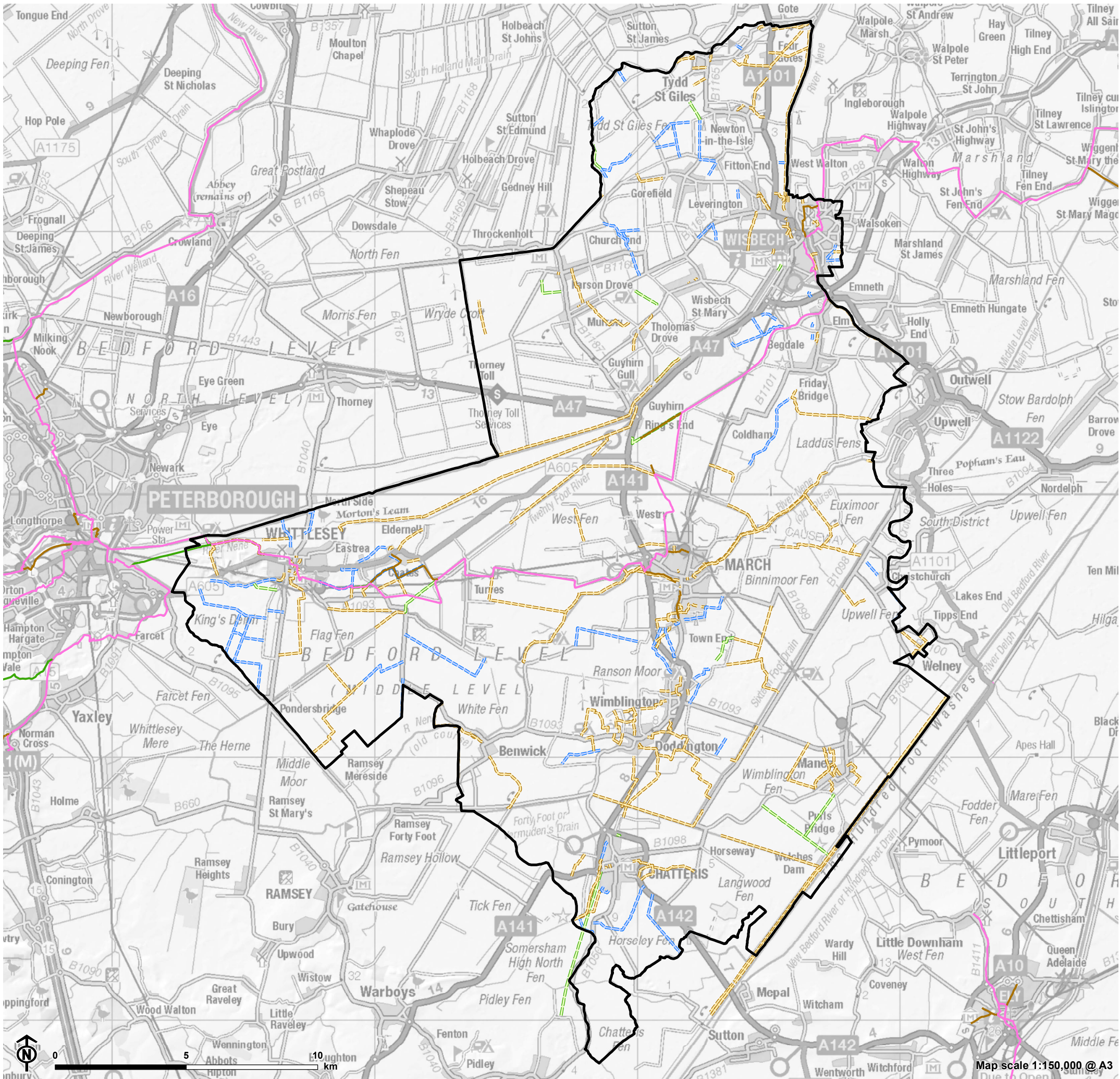


Figure 7.12: Major barriers to access

- Fenland District
- Ward
- Rail station
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Major road type
- A Road
- Motorway



Chapter 8

Developing a framework for quality standards

8.1 The 2020 COSMS report proposed a quality assessment scoring system and audit form that could be used by partner authorities or adapted to local needs as required. The proposed quality standards and audit form has been tested in Fenland through a sample audit of a range of sites in the district. Fenland currently does not have an adopted quality assessment framework or processes in place, and there is no comprehensive data on the quality of open spaces within the district. Through the sample site audits and desk based review, the suitability of the proposed audit for the Fenland context has been assessed and adjustments to the audit form have been proposed. Guidance is also provided on the future use and application of a proposed quality standards framework.

8.2 As noted in the COSMS report there is no nationally defined set of quality standards for open space and play in the context of planning policy. However, there is a range of recognised guidance that is widely used to establish 'benchmark' standards, this includes Green Flag Award guidance and criteria, Access to Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt), Fields in Trust 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard', Natural England's Country Park Accreditation and Play England guidance (such as 'Quality in Play' - 2016).

8.3 The quality standards and audit form that was proposed as part of the COSMS project draws from the guidance noted above and is intended to provide a simple scoring system that all sites can be assessed against. As noted in the COSMS report *'Proposed quality standards have sought to strike a balance between the need to gather comprehensive data that provides an accurate assessment of quality and the cost and practicality of acquiring this data.'*

8.4 The audit form proposed as part of the COSMS project comprises a set of criteria which are scored either on a scale of 0 to 5 or 0 to 2. The criteria are arranged under a set of themes that comprise:

- Four 'generic' open space quality standard categories, each with three criteria (scored 0-5) which are completed for all sites. These are loosely on several Green Flag Award 'Themes':
 - 'Welcoming' (max score 15)
 - 'Healthy and safe' (max score 15)
 - 'Well-maintained' (max score 15)
 - 'Environmental management' (max score 15)
- A 'bespoke elements' category comprising four criteria (scored 0-5), which are completed for all sites (max score 20)
- Site specific quality standard categories per typology, each with 10 criteria (scored 0-2). The appropriate typology category is selected for the site being assessed, with *one* of the following selected for each site.
 - Parks (max score 20)
 - Natural and semi-natural open spaces (max score 20)
 - Sports facilities / amenity (max score 20)
 - Play facilities (max score 20)

8.5 The proposed audit form results in each site getting a total score out of 100, developed as follows:

Generic open space categories (max score 60) + Bespoke category (max score 20) + One typology specific category (max score 20) = **Total score out of 100**

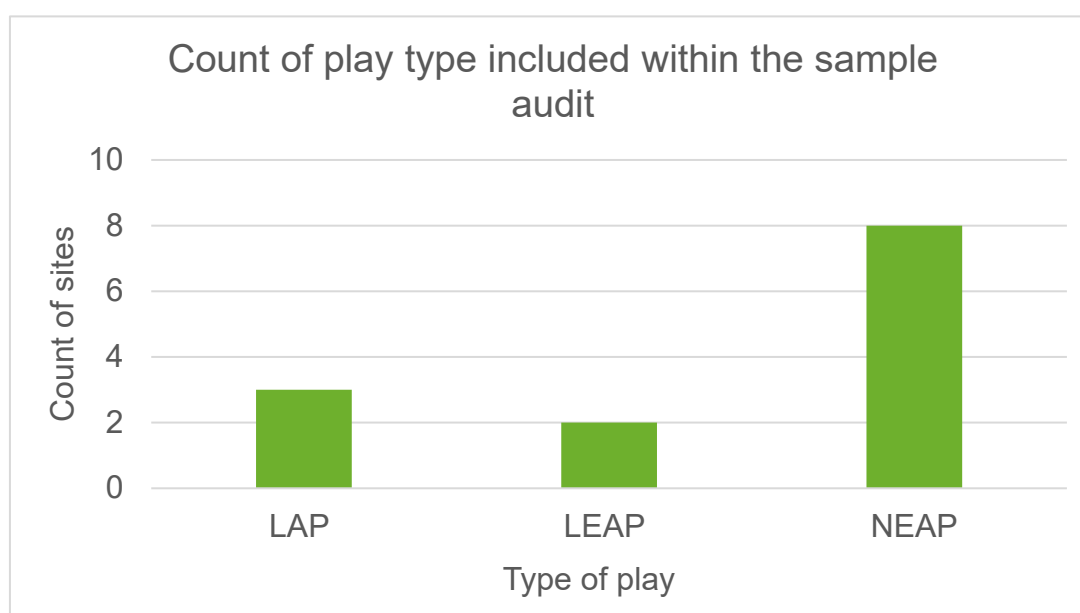
8.6 The audit form proposed as part of the COSMS project is included within **Appendix C**.

Testing the proposed quality standards in the Fenland context

8.7 In order to test the proposed quality standards approach in Fenland, a sample audit of 21 sites was undertaken during 2021, focussed around the Market Towns of Chatteris, March and Wisbech.

8.8 This included six Neighbourhood Park and Garden sites and 15 Informal Parkland and Amenity Spaces. Thirteen Neighbourhood Playground sites were audited, all occurring as a secondary typology within other sites. Of these eight were NEAPs, two were LEAPs and three were LAPs.

Figure 8.1: Count of play type included within the sample audit



8.9 During the sample audit it became clear it would be important to test how play could be considered as contributing to the overall score of sites containing secondary typology play. Therefore, for sites containing secondary typology play, the 'play' category from the typology specific categories was completed along with the relevant primary typology category, resulting in those sites being scored out of a total potential score of 120. A worked example is shown below.

Generic open space categories (max score 60) + Bespoke category (max score 20) + One typology specific category (e.g. Park & Garden / Amenity Space) (max score 20) + Play typology specific category (max score 20) = **Total score out of 120**

8.10 Following completion of the site audits it was deemed most appropriate to explore expressing the site assessment total score as a percentage to allow comparison between the sites scores when including or excluding the assessment of secondary typology play. This also provides an easy method of assessing the quality of play within a site in isolation by pulling out the play category scoring and analysing this separately.

8.11 Table 8.1 provides a summary overview of the results from the sample audit. The total site scores and play scores are shown as follows:

- Total % score including play category criteria (% out of a potential max score of 120)
- Total % score excluding play category criteria (% out a potential max score of 100)
- Total % score of the play category criteria (% out of a potential max score of 20)

Table 8.1: Sample audit: proposed COSMS quality assessment framework summary results

Site ID (LUC)	Site name	typology	Secondary typology	Play hierarchy	Total score (including play if site includes play)	play score	Site total score including play criteria scores (% out of 120 total potential points)	Site % score excluding play score (% out of 100 total potential points)	Play % score (% out of 20 total potential points)
34	Cricketers Way	Neighbourhood Park and Garden	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	LEAP	56	8	47%	48%	40%
57	Gaul Road Park	Neighbourhood Park and Garden	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	NEAP	51	8	43%	43%	40%
100	North Drive Recreation Ground	Neighbourhood Park and Garden	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	LAP	61	9	51%	52%	45%
164	Wenny road recreation ground	Neighbourhood Park and Garden	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	NEAP	61	15	51%	46%	75%

Site ID (LUC)	Site name	typology	Secondary typology	Play hierarchy	Total score (including play if site includes play)	play score	Site total score including play criteria scores (% out of 120 total potential points)	Site % score excluding play score (% out of 100 total potential points)	Play % score (% out of 20 total potential points)
167	West End Park	Neighbourhood Park and Garden	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	NEAP	89	10	74%	79%	50%
174	Wisbech Park	Neighbourhood Park and Garden	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	NEAP	85	14	71%	71%	70%
64	Guild Road	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	n/a	n/a	30	n/a	n/a	30%	n/a
68	Heron Walk	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	n/a	n/a	31	n/a	n/a	31%	n/a
72	Holmes Drive	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	n/a	n/a	27	n/a	n/a	27%	n/a
78	Ireton Way	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	n/a	n/a	45	n/a	n/a	45%	n/a

Site ID (LUC)	Site name	typology	Secondary typology	Play hierarchy	Total score (including play if site includes play)	play score	Site total score including play criteria scores (% out of 120 total potential points)	Site % score excluding play score (% out of 100 total potential points)	Play % score (% out of 20 total potential points)
104	Oakley Close	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	n/a	n/a	38	n/a	n/a	38%	n/a
79	Jasmin Close	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	NEAP	36	5	30%	38%	25%
106	Olivers way	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	n/a	n/a	44	n/a	n/a	44%	n/a
4	Alberts Drive	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	NEAP	42	8	35%	38%	40%
122	Queensway	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	n/a	n/a	30	n/a	n/a	30%	n/a
150	The Elms field	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	n/a	n/a	28	n/a	n/a	28%	n/a

Site ID (LUC)	Site name	typology	Secondary typology	Play hierarchy	Total score (including play if site includes play)	play score	Site total score including play criteria scores (% out of 120 total potential points)	Site % score excluding play score (% out of 100 total potential points)	Play % score (% out of 20 total potential points)
148	The Avenue Recreation Ground	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	NEAP	48	7	40%	41%	35%
75	Hunters Close	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	LAP	55	6	46%	49%	30%
32	Copperfields	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	LEAP	59	9	49%	50%	45%
168	Westmead Avenue	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	LAP	63	6	53%	57%	30%
56	Furrowfields	Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	Neighbourhood Playgrounds	NEAP	65	11	54%	54%	55%

8.12 As can be seen in **Table 8.1**, the highest scoring sites are Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens. All Neighbourhood Park and Garden sites included secondary typology play ('Neighbourhood Playgrounds'). Using the total site score (%), which includes the scoring associated with secondary typology play, the highest scoring site is West End Park (74%), followed by Wisbech Park (71%). Of the six Neighbourhood Park and Garden sites included within the audit, Gaul Road Park is the lowest scoring (43%)

8.13 As may reasonably be expected, Informal Parkland and Amenity Spaces generally achieved lower scores than the Informal Parkland and Amenity Space sites. The lowest scoring sites did not include any secondary typology play and included Holmes Drive (27%), The Elms Field (28%) and Guild Road (30%). Higher scoring amenity spaces generally contained play and included Westmead Avenue (53%) and Furrowfields (54%).

8.14 The audit form allows the scores for Neighbourhood Playgrounds (whether as a primary or secondary typology) to be analysed separately. A percentage score can be calculated using the total scoring from the play category criteria as a % of the max score of 20 which can be achieved from this section of the form.

8.15 The highest scoring Neighbourhood Playgrounds are NEAPs. This includes children's play at Wenny Road Recreation Ground (75%) and Wisbech Park (70%). The lowest scoring site is also a NEAP; Jasmin Close (25%). Other lower scoring sites include Hunters Close LAP (30%) and Cricketer's Way LEAP (40%).

Proposed amended quality assessment framework

8.16 The existing audit form draws on best practice guidance and provides a good starting point for assessing the quality of a range of open spaces. However, the sample audit and subsequent analysis of the results has

highlighted several aspects of the proposed quality assessment methodology where amendments would both add value to the resulting data and help simplify the assessment process.

8.17 The proposed amended audit form is set out in **Table 8.2** below.

8.18 The key proposed changes to the form are summarised below.

- It is proposed to restructure the form to not include ‘typology specific’ categories. Some criteria within each typology specific categories are repeated through the form, and this can be avoided. In addition, there is useful data such as vegetation cover which would be valuable to collect for all sites and is currently limited to the natural / semi-natural open space category criteria. It is proposed that the whole form is structured around the main Green Flag Themes (which is a suitable assessment framework for all typologies). Repeated criteria are removed and remaining criteria are restructured or consolidated where possible.
- Except for a select few criteria, it is recommended that all criteria, whether currently scored out of 0 to 3 or 0 to 5 are scored out of 0 to 3. These ratings will represent:
 - 0 = not applicable
 - 1 = poor quality / standard
 - 2 = fair quality / standard
 - 3 = high quality / standard
- Several criteria cannot easily be assessed as part of an on-site assessment, and it is recommended that these are removed. This includes ‘SFA1 location in relation to demand’ under ‘Sports facilities / amenity’, ‘B3 well-connected to other open space’. It is recommended that ‘H2 personal safety / crime statistics’ is amended to read ‘sense of safety / security’.

8.19 Due to the proposed changes to the audit methodology, the scoring will not be out of 100. Numeric exemplar scores have been proposed for each typology,

which have been developed through worked examples of the amended form (further details below).

8.20 An exemplar score for Neighbourhood Playgrounds has also been developed. It is proposed that criteria related to Neighbourhood Playgrounds, where occurring as a secondary typology, feed into the scores for the wider site. The play criteria can also be 'extracted' and analysed separately from the wider site criteria to provide further detail on play provision. The worked examples to develop exemplar scores for each site are included within **Appendix D**.

Setting benchmark quality standards

8.21 It is proposed that percentage 'benchmark' threshold quality scores are set for open spaces and play spaces in the district. It is proposed that the quality of each site be expressed as a percentage of the 'exemplar score' for the relevant typology.

8.22 As there is no comprehensive quality data on all sites in the district, further work may need to be undertaken to understand what an appropriate benchmark score for each typology may be. It is recommended that this would comprise a full audit of all open spaces to provide a strategic overview of the current quality of open spaces throughout the district. This would also provide the opportunity to understand what variation in quality standards there may be across the site size hierarchy within each typology. However, as a starting point and baseline it is recommended that a benchmark score of 90% or more should represent a 'good' quality site when tested against the exemplar score for the relevant typology.

Table 8.2: Proposed exemplar score per typology and benchmarks for 'good' quality sites

Typology	Exemplar numeric score using the proposed amended audit form	Minimum numeric benchmark score for a 'good' quality site (to achieve 90% or more against the exemplar numeric score)
Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens	105	94
Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space	80	72
Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	48	43
Neighbourhood Playgrounds LAPs	21	19
Neighbourhood Playgrounds LEAPs	22	20
Neighbourhood Playgrounds NEAPs	24	22
Neighbourhood Playgrounds Other play	21	19
Allotments	60	54

Table 8.3: Proposed amended audit form

Themes and Criteria	Quality score range
Welcoming place	
Clear points of entry	1 - 3
Inclusive access standards	1 - 3
Good quality signage	1 - 3
Health, safety and security	
Condition of equipment and infrastructure	1 - 3
Sense of safety & security	1 - 3
Dog control & fouling	1 - 3
<u>Play</u>	
Range of play offers emotional sensory	0 - 3
Range of play offers different ages	0 - 3
Natural play features	0 - 3
Facilities for children with disabilities	0 - 3
Well maintained	0 - 3
Effective safeguarding through design	0 - 3
Clearly stated rules and guidance	0 - 3
Seating for parents and carers	0 - 3
<u>Recreational offer / facilities</u>	
Diverse recreational offer	1 - 3

Themes and Criteria	Quality score range
Kiosk café restaurant	0 - 3
Seating	0 - 3
Cycle racks	0 - 3
Bins	0 - 3
Changing rooms	0 - 3
Water fountains	0 - 3
Visitor centre / education facility	0 - 3
Clean and well maintained	
Litter management	1 - 3
Standards of horticulture & ecological management	1 - 3
Standards of arboricultural management	1 - 3
Maintenance of hard landscape features	0 - 3
Condition of buildings and built features	0 - 3
Environmental management	
Tree canopy cover	1 - 3
Management for biodiversity	1 - 3
Evidence of sustainable drainage systems	0 - 3
Evidence of sustainable waste management	0 - 3
Evidence of sustainable energy use	0 - 3
Biodiversity, landscape and heritage	
<u>Vegetation cover</u>	

Themes and Criteria	Quality score range
1 - 2 types	1
3 - 5 types	2
over 5 types	3
(e.g., woodland, heath, meadow grassland, scrub, wetland, running water, ornamental planting etc.)	
Veteran trees	0 - 1
Significance to local character	1 - 3
<u>Notable landscape features</u>	
Site appropriately landscaped	0 - 3
Features of local significance (e.g. bandstand / sculpture)	0 - 3
Community involvement, marketing & culture	
Public notice boards	0 - 3
Educational interest	0 - 3
Evidence of an active community group	0 - 3
Programme of cultural or community activities	0 - 3
Health initiatives in place	0 - 3
Community growing areas	0 - 3

Chapter 9

Proposed local open space standards for Fenland

9.1 This section sets out proposed open space standards for accessibility and quantity that could be adopted in Fenland. Where appropriate, and where there is justified reason to do so, adjustments have been proposed to the baseline standards set as part of the COSMS project.

Accessibility Standards

9.2 Application of the baseline accessibility standards indicates that the provision of open space is variable across the district. It should first be noted that a large proportion of the district is rural in character. Large areas have very low population concentrations and are characterised by very sparse or low-density residential areas. A lack of access to open space across areas such as these are to a degree to be expected, which may to a certain extent be mitigated where there is good access to the countryside through the Public Right of Way network or other recreational routes.

9.3 As may be expected, most of the open space in Fenland is located within and around the key settlements and Market Towns. The application of the baseline accessibility standards reflects this, with residents in the key settlement areas generally experiencing better (although not necessarily good) access to open spaces than in more rural areas.

9.4 The Issues and Options consultation undertaken during 2019 highlighted a degree of dissatisfaction with open space provision in the district and it is important to recognise that people's perception of whether there is a suitable quantity of open space also influenced by how easily open space can be accessed. Whilst there is no community consultation information that provides

detailed information on how far residents are willing to travel to open space, the application of the standards clearly reflects the fact that some residents do not have easy local access to some type of open space or play space.

9.5 The suitability of the standards for Fenland has been further tested through comparison with similar local authorities and neighbouring local authorities that are not within the county of Cambridge (see Appendix A). Standards adopted by local authorities listed within the ONS Area Classifications as being most similar to Fenland broadly align with those that are proposed.

9.6 Cross boundary accessibility should also be considered when assessing open space provision in any given area. Therefore, there are obvious benefits to having consistent accessibility standards across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area.

9.7 The baseline accessibility standards set as part of the COSMS project are based on good practice guidance and it is proposed that they are adopted. The additional 'Small Local' 300m accessibility standard, as an adjustment to the baseline standard has been added for Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens. This adjustment reflects the type and mix of Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens that have been identified in Fenland, as a large proportion are relatively small sized sites.

Summary

9.8 In summary, it is proposed that the following baseline accessibility standards are adopted for Fenland. Proposed adjustments are also indicated, see **Table 9.1**.

Table 9.1: Proposed baseline accessibility standards to be adopted in Fenland and potential adjustments

Primary typology	Hierarchy	COSMS baseline accessibility standard	Standards proposed to be adopted and potential adjustments
Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens	Small Local <i>(proposed additional level of the hierarchy)</i>	<i>none</i>	300m <i>(Set to align with the Small Local Natural and Semi-Natural standard)</i>
	Local	400m	400m
Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space	Small Local	300m	300m
	Local	2.0km	2.0km
Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	N/A	480m	480m
Neighbourhood Playgrounds (as a primary typology)	LAP	100m	100m
	LEAP	400m	400m
	NEAP	1,000m	1,000m
	Other Play	700m	700m
Allotments	N/A	650m	650m

Quantity standards

9.9 There are several key factors that may need to be considered when setting revised quantity standards for Fenland:

- Needs and expectations of the local community.
- Understanding of existing and future provision across the area.
- The relevance of available good practice guidance.
- What is realistically achievable in the local context.

Needs and expectations of the local community

9.10 Whilst no consultation has been undertaken directly as part of this study, the Issues and Options Consultation to inform the New FDC Local Plan highlighted a lack of satisfaction in the quantity and accessibility to open space in the district. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that new quantity standards should aspire to achieve an increase in the current ha / 1,000 provision. Although this should be considered alongside accessibility to open space.

Existing and future provision across the area

9.11 The quantity analysis of existing provision highlights that there is significant variation in the quantity of open space across the district. Growth is likely to be largely focused on the existing key settlements and market towns and there will be notable variation in the change in ha per 1,000 provision up to 2040 across the district. Some areas will see a notable drop in ha of open space per 1,000 people as a result of future growth and it will be important to ensure that development works to address deficiencies across the district and provides sufficient quantity of new open space in line with growth and development. It is

unlikely that existing deficiencies can be fully addressed through new on-site provision through development, further consideration should be given to securing new strategic scale open space provision in key areas of deficiency.

The relevance of good practice guidance

9.12 A review of 10 neighbouring and similar authorities has been undertaken to understand the standards that have been adopted elsewhere. Many of the relevant authorities do not have adopted quantity standards. Authorities which have adopted standards have quite different patterns of growth and development from Fenland (such as Peterborough City Council). However, several of the similar authorities have standards which are higher than the quantity standards which are set out in some of the best practice guidance. This includes South Holland DC, South Kesteven DC and Swale BC. These authorities have set standards for some types of public open space that are higher than relevant good practice guidance such as Fields in Trust, but generally not for play provision where standards are often lower than Fields in Trust Guidance.

What is realistically achievable in the local context

9.13 A Whole Plan Viability Assessment was published for Fenland during 2020, which tested a range of assumptions including open space policy requirements. The assessment assumed an open space standard of 2.4ha per 1,000 head of population. The report concluded that viability is marginal. Viability varies broadly between the north and south and between brownfield and greenfield sites. In broad terms the assessment concludes that greenfield sites in the south of the district are viable, but greenfield sites in the northern areas and brownfield sites not viable.

9.14 A full assessment of the impact of a new open space standard on development viability is beyond the scope of this study. However, the comparison of requirements arising from the 2.4ha per 1,000 head of population standard used as part of the viability testing and the higher 3.2ha per 1,000

head of population proposed baseline standard shows only a few percentages differences in the loss of developable land as a result of providing open space requirements on site. Whilst there are likely to be other factors that may need to be considered relating to the impact of open space requirements on viability, the impact on viability of proposing a higher standard than the 2.4ha assumption up to 3.2ha per 1,000 head of population is likely to be minimal given the minor additional loss in the percentage of developable land, at least on larger strategic allocations. However, the potential impact of open space requirements on viability will likely be an ongoing consideration. As has been demonstrated by the case study application of standards, it will likely be appropriate that smaller, higher density proposal sites will be expected to provide off site contributions rather than on site provision.

Public open space quantity standards

9.15 As set out in **Chapter 6**, analysis has been undertaken separately on 'Public Open Space', comprising:

- Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens
- Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Space

9.16 Following the application of the quantity and accessibility standards, two key options have been considered.

- Adopt the baseline quantity standards as set out in the COSMS project but as a combined 'Public Open Space' standard.
- Adopt the individual quantity standards for each typology considered as Public Open Space with minor adjustments.

9.17 The two options considered are discussed further below.

Combined Public Open Space standard approach

9.18 The quantity provision of Public Open Space (ha per 1,000 head of population) varies notably across the district and each analysis area 'sits' at a different point when compared against the district average (the southern and western areas are currently higher than the district average with other areas below). The community consultation information (which has been obtained through the Fenland's 2019 Issues and Options consultation to inform the New local Plan) identified that some respondents are not satisfied with the quantity of open space they have access to. Therefore, it could be considered a reasonable approach to set a standard which is above the current provision and broadly aligns with the current best practice guidance that is available, such as Fields in Trust which has informed the 3.2ha combined standard which has been tested (comprising Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens, Amenity Space and Informal Parkland, and Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space).

9.19 A combined standard may provide increased flexibility in providing the opportunity to determine the most appropriate type of open space to be provided on a case by case basis. However, it would require further work to be undertaken at application and proposal stage to establish open space requirements; based on the local conditions and need and not prescribed by a quantity standard for each typology. Without adopting an appropriate approach at application stage there is also a risk of proposals avoiding the delivery of a suitable quantity of multifunctional open space with a suitable level of features and facilities (for instance that would be expected within a Neighbourhood Park and Garden).

Individual quantity standards per typology approach

9.20 Testing the individual quantity standards for each typology proposed as part of the COSMS project indicates that there is scope to make minor adjustments to the baseline standards if individual standards for each typology were adopted. The baseline standards for each typology being considered were as follows within the COSMS report:

- Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens: 0.8ha / 1,000 head of population
- Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space: 1.8ha / 1,000 head of population
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Space: 0.6ha / 1,000 head of population

Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens

9.21 The current district wide provision of Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens is currently above the proposed COSMS standard (0.8ha / 1,000 head of population) at 0.89ha / 1,000. However, only the south area is due to remain above the 0.8ha baseline standard up to 2040. Application of the accessibility standards indicates that access to Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens through the district is varied, although there are still large areas across the key settlements which are deficient in access to Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens.

9.22 Due to the combination of accessibility analysis and the community consultation information available, it is considered a reasonable approach to propose a revised standard for Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens that is higher than the COSMS 0.8ha baseline Neighbourhood Park and Garden Standard. If the standard were to be increased, it is suggested that 0.9ha per 1,000 head of population (slightly above the current provision) would be a reasonable approach as it is realistically achievable whilst also reflecting the need to increase the overall provision of open space across the district.

Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space

9.23 The overall quantity of Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space is relatively low when compared to Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens. The district performs poorly against the baseline COSMS standard and falls significantly short of the 1.8ha / 1,000 proposed (currently at 0.37ha / 1,000 head of population).

9.24 Application of the proposed accessibility standards indicates that access to Natural and Semi-Natural sites is generally poor and large areas of the district do not have good local access to sites (including across large areas of the key settlements). Provision and access to natural space has also been noted to be an issue as part of the Issues and Options Consultation. There is therefore a lack of strong justification to reduce the proposed baseline standard of 1.8ha / 1,000 head of population for this typology, which is based on good practice guidance.

Informal Parkland and Amenity Space

9.25 The district is below the Informal Parkland and Amenity Space quantity standard proposed as part of the COSMS project. The current provision is 0.34ha / 1,000 head of population, compared to the 0.6ha standard. However, application of the accessibility standard indicates that the key built up areas have relatively good access to Informal Parkland and Amenity Space and this typology is likely currently performing its key functionality as providing access to informal open space in close proximity to people's homes. Given the balance of evidence available and in the interest of ensuring the overall quantity of open space that will be required of development is achievable, it is considered a reasonable and justified approach to set an adjusted Informal Parkland and Amenity Space Standard at the current provision of 0.35ha / 1,000 head of population.

Neighbourhood Playgrounds

9.26 The proposed 0.55ha per 1,000 head of population neighbourhood playground quantity standard is in line with good practice guidance and it is recommended that this is adopted as a minimum standard. However, the type of play that will be required on any given site will need to be determined by local demand and needs. The case studies indicated that the applied standard translates to approximately 12m² per child and it is recommended that for the purposes of applying this standard and assessing requirement, a m² per child standard is considered.

9.27 Applying the proposed baseline standards for Neighbourhood Playgrounds in several ways shows that the district falls below the proposed standard. Application of the LAP, LEAP, NEAP standard suggests that a standard that is expressed as a per child or per 1,000 children (rather than total population) may be more useful and more practical to apply, showing a more accurate reflection of what will be provided. The proposed standard is based on recognised good practice guidance, in the absence of any strong evidence or justification to set a lower or high standard it is suggested that this standard is adopted but expressed as a per child or per 1,000 children standard that will be more easily measurable when applied.

Allotments

9.28 Data on allotment in the district that was obtained as part of this study was minimal, with only two sites identified. The provision of allotments should largely be determined by demand, therefore further work may need to be done to determine the demand for allotments across Fenland (such as assessments of capacity and waiting lists). It is reasonable to assume that larger developments will need to contribute towards the provision of allotments and more work will need to be done on a case by case basis to determine the nature of any other provision that was not identified as part of this study. It is recommended that the 0.21ha per 1,000 residents baseline standard for allotments is adopted as a minimal requirement for allotment provision. This standard is based on guidance from the National Society for Allotment and Leisure Gardeners and has been translated into a more useable per 1,000 head of population standard using a logical and appropriate methodology.

Summary

9.29 In summary, it is proposed that the following quantity standards are adopted from the COSMS baseline standards. Potential adjustments that could be considered for Fenland are also indicated, see **Table 9.2**.

Table 9.2: Proposed baseline quantity standards to be adopted in Fenland and potential adjustments

Typology	COSMS baseline quantity standard (ha / 1,000)	Standards proposed to be adopted and potential adjustments for Fenland
Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens	0.8ha	0.9ha / 1,000 head of population
Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space	1.8ha	1.8ha / 1,000 head of population <i>(No adjustments proposed)</i>
Informal Parkland and Amenity Space	0.6ha	0.34ha / 1,000 head of population
Total Public Open Space	3.2ha	3.04ha / 1,000 head of population
Neighbourhood Playgrounds	0.55ha, comprising: - 0.25ha (LAP, LEAP, NEAP) - 0.3ha (Other Play)	12m ² per child
Allotments	0.21ha	0.21ha / 1,000 of population <i>(No adjustments proposed)</i>

Appendix A

Review of standards in neighbouring
and corresponding similar local
authorities

Accessibility standards adopted by neighbouring and similar Local Authorities

Typology	Fenland District Council	Neighbouring Authorities: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough				Neighbouring Authorities: Other		Corresponding (similar) Local Authorities ¹			
		South Cambridgeshire District Council	East Cambridgeshire District Council	Peterborough City Council	Huntingdonshire District Council	King's Lynn and West Norfolk District Council	South Holland District Council	Breckland District Council ²	North Lincolnshire Council ³	South Kesteven District Council ⁴	Swale Borough Council ⁵
Parks & Gardens	2+Ha: 300m (straight line distance)	N/I	N/I	560m (straight line distance)	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	800m or 10 minute travel time	480m (10mins walking time)	2km of a designation site, 800m of a local site, 400m of a neighbourhood site
Natural & Semi-Natural Open Space	0.25 - 2.00Ha: N/I 20+ Ha: 2km (straight line distance) 100+ Ha: 5km (straight line distance) 500+ Ha: 10km (straight line distance)	N/I	N/I	0.25 -2.00Ha: 300m (straight line distance) 20+ Ha: 2km (straight line distance) 100+ Ha: 5km (straight line distance) 500+ Ha: N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	800m or 10 minute travel time	480m (10mins walking time)	2km of a designation site, 800m of a local site, 400m of a neighbourhood site
Outdoor Sports Provision	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	1,000m of where people live	480m (10min walking time)	800m
Amenity Green Space	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	600m or 8 minutes travel time	Included above within natural/semi natural open space	400m

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/geographicalproducts/areaclassifications/2011areaclassifications>

² Breckland Open Space Assessment 2015 https://www.breckland.gov.uk/media/1961/Open-Space-Assessment/pdf/Open_Space_Assessment_2015

³ North Lincolnshire Open Space Study 2019 <https://s.northlincs.gov.uk/downloads/spatial-planning/PPG17-Update-2019.pdf>

⁴ South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011-2036 <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=26202>

⁵ Bearing Fruits 2031 The Swale Borough Local Plan 2017 <http://services.swale.gov.uk/media/files/localplan/adoptedlocalplanfinalwebversion.pdf>

Typology	Fenland District Council	Neighbouring Authorities: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough				Neighbouring Authorities: Other		Corresponding (similar) Local Authorities ¹			
		South Cambridgeshire District Council	East Cambridgeshire District Council	Peterborough City Council	Huntingdonshire District Council	King's Lynn and West Norfolk District Council	South Holland District Council	Breckland District Council ²	North Lincolnshire Council ³	South Kesteven District Council ⁴	Swale Borough Council ⁵
Provision for Children and Teenagers	N/I	LAP – 100m (straight line distance) LEAP – 450m (straight line distance) NEAP – 1,000m (straight line distance)	N/I	LAP – 200m (straight line distance) LEAP – 450m (straight line distance) NEAP – 800m (straight line distance)	N/I	N/I	N/I	LAP – 100m (straight line distance) LEAP – 400m (straight line distance) NEAP – 1,000m (straight line distance)	600m	480m (10mins walking time)	400m
Cemeteries / Churchyards	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I
Allotments	N/I	N/I	N/I	560m (straight line distance)	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	1,000m	480m (10mins walking time)	300m
Other	N/I	N/I	N/I	Country Parks: 5.25km (straight line distance)	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I

Quantity standards adopted by neighbouring and similar Local Authorities (in ha/1000 people)

Typology	Fenland District Council	Neighbouring Authorities: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough				Neighbouring Authorities: Other		Corresponding (similar) Local Authorities ⁶			
		South Cambridgeshire District Council	East Cambridgeshire District Council	Peterborough City Council	Huntingdonshire District Council	King's Lynn and West Norfolk District Council ⁷	South Holland District Council ⁸	Breckland District Council ^{9, 10}	North Lincolnshire Council	South Kesteven District Council	Swale Borough Council
Parks & Gardens	0.45ha per 10ha of development site	N/I	N/I	1.36	N/I	N/I	0.10	N/I	1.75	0.3	1.11 to maintain existing levels but with a proposed need of 19.48
Natural & Semi-Natural Open Space	0.5ha per 10ha of development site	N/I	N/I	0.42	N/I	N/I	4.5	1.0 of Statutory Local Nature Reserves (SLNR)	10.25	2.0	4.36 to maintain existing levels, but proposed need of 76.50
Outdoor Sports Provision	0.8ha per 10ha of development site	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	1.6-1.8 for new development	N/I	2.56 outdoor playing space for all new residential development of 11 or more dwellings (broken down to 17.6 m2 of outdoor sport area and 8m2 of children's play space)	1.22	1.0	1.09, no additional facilities needed
Amenity Green Space	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	0.75	N/I	0.52	Included above within natural/semi natural open space	0.45 to maintain existing but a proposed need of 7.90

⁶ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/geographicalproducts/areaclassifications/2011areaclassifications>

⁷ King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan Review 2019 http://consult.west-norfolk.gov.uk/portal/lpr2019/lprp19_readonly?pointId=s1542884453571#section-s1542884453571

⁸ South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-36 (2019) <http://www.southeastlincslocalplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Local-Plan-text-March-2019.pdf>

⁹ Breckland Open Space Assessment 2015 https://www.breckland.gov.uk/media/1961/Open-Space-Assessment/pdf/Open_Space_Assessment_2015

¹⁰ Breckland Local Plan (2019) https://www.breckland.gov.uk/media/16659/Adopted-Breckland-Local-Plan/pdf/Local_Plan_2019.pdf?m=637520995029430000

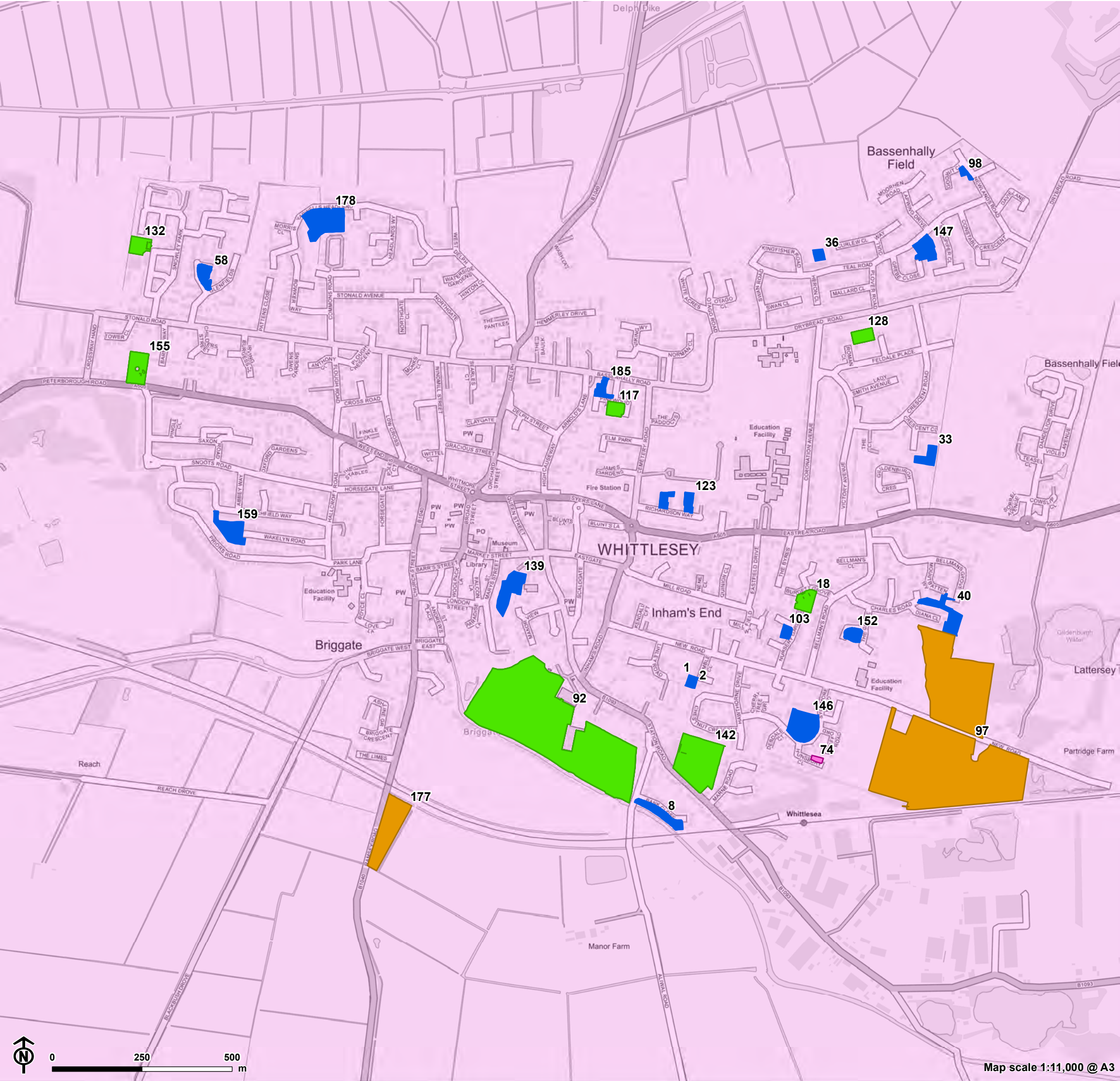
Typology	Fenland District Council	Neighbouring Authorities: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough				Neighbouring Authorities: Other		Corresponding (similar) Local Authorities ⁶			
		South Cambridgeshire District Council	East Cambridgeshire District Council	Peterborough City Council	Huntingdonshire District Council	King's Lynn and West Norfolk District Council ⁷	South Holland District Council ⁸	Breckland District Council ^{9, 10}	North Lincolnshire Council	South Kesteven District Council	Swale Borough Council
Provision for Children and Teenagers	0.4ha per 10ha of development site (approx. one third as equipped and two thirds as informal playing space)	N/I	N/I	0.04	N/I	0.6-0.8 for new development	0.10	0.8	0.37	0.3	0.24 to maintain existing but proposed need of 0.50
Cemeteries / Churchyards	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	0.57	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I
Allotments	0.1ha per 10ha of development	N/I	N/I	0.29	N/I	N/I	0.30	N/I	0.18	0.2	0.20 to maintain existing but proposed need of 0.35
Other	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I

Appendix B

Open Space Mapping



Appendix B.
Figure 1: Identified public open spaces



Fenland District

Analysis area

West

Open space primary typology

Informal Parkland and Amenity Open

Natural & Semi Natural Open Space

Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens

Neighbourhood playgrounds

1 : 6 Bramble Close

2 : 8 Bramble Close

8 : Bank Close

18 : Burdett Grove

33 : Crescent Close

36 : Curlew Close

40 : Diana Close

58 : Glenfields

74 : Hunsbury Close

92 : Manor Leisure Centre

97 : New Road Lattersey

98 : Newlands Road

103 : Nursery Gardens

117 : Pinewood

123 : Richardson Way

128 : Roman Close

132 : Snowley Park

139 : St. Mary's Street

142 : Station Road Recreation Ground

146 : Sycamore Road

147 : Teal Road

152 : The Grove

155 : Tower Close

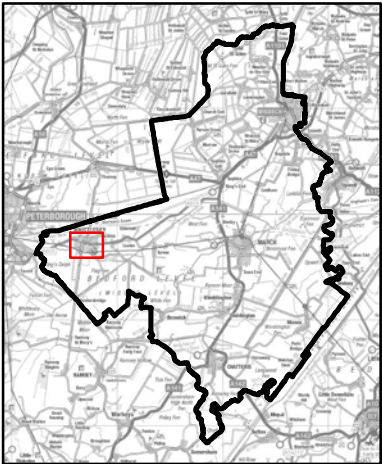
155 : Water Tower Recreation

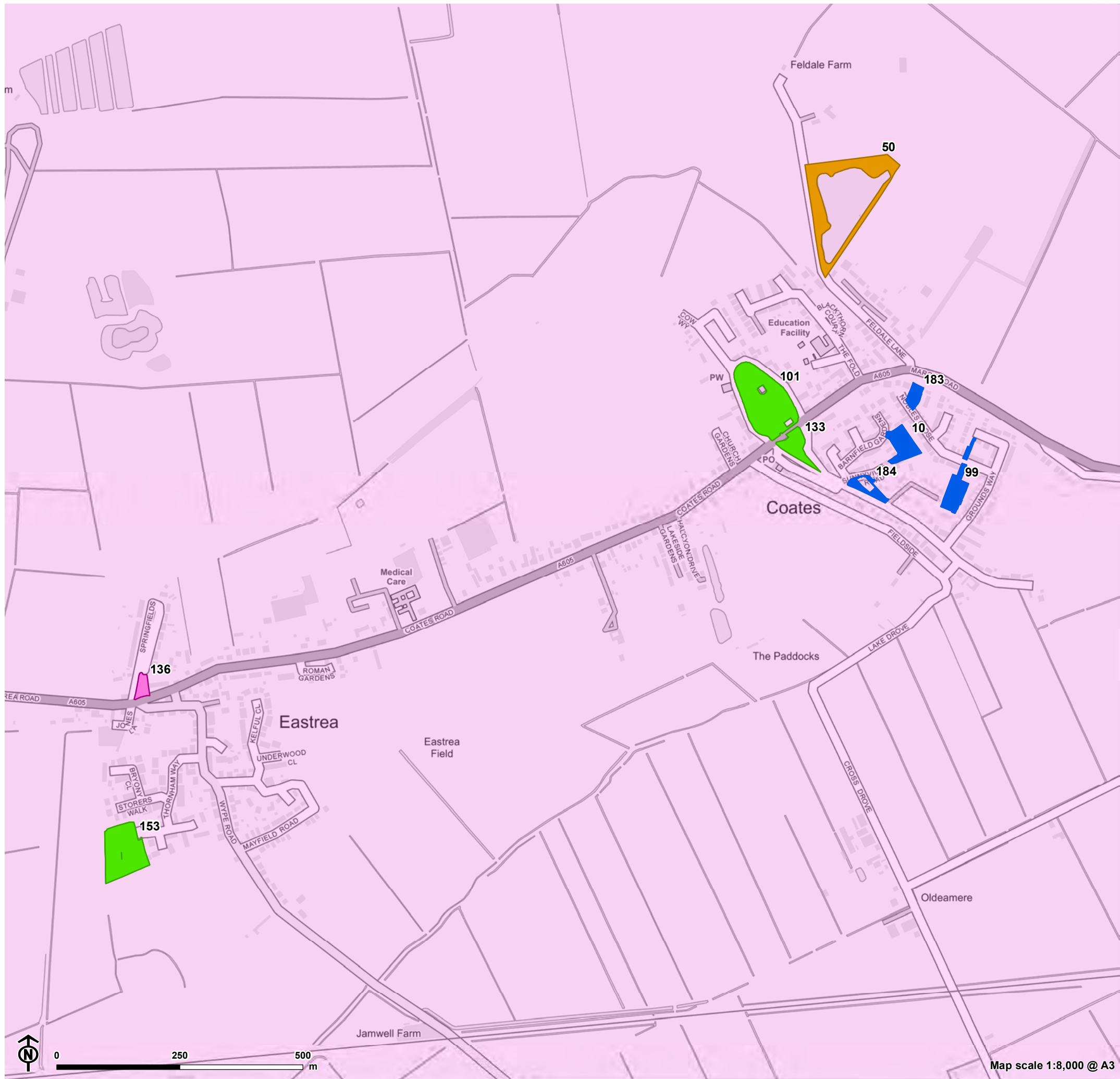
159 : Wakelyn Road

177 : Wort's Farm, Landbeach; Manor Farm, Rampton; Manor Farm, Whittlesey

178 : Yarwells Headland

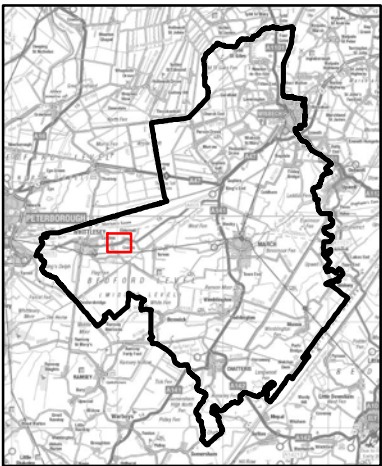
185 : Pinewood

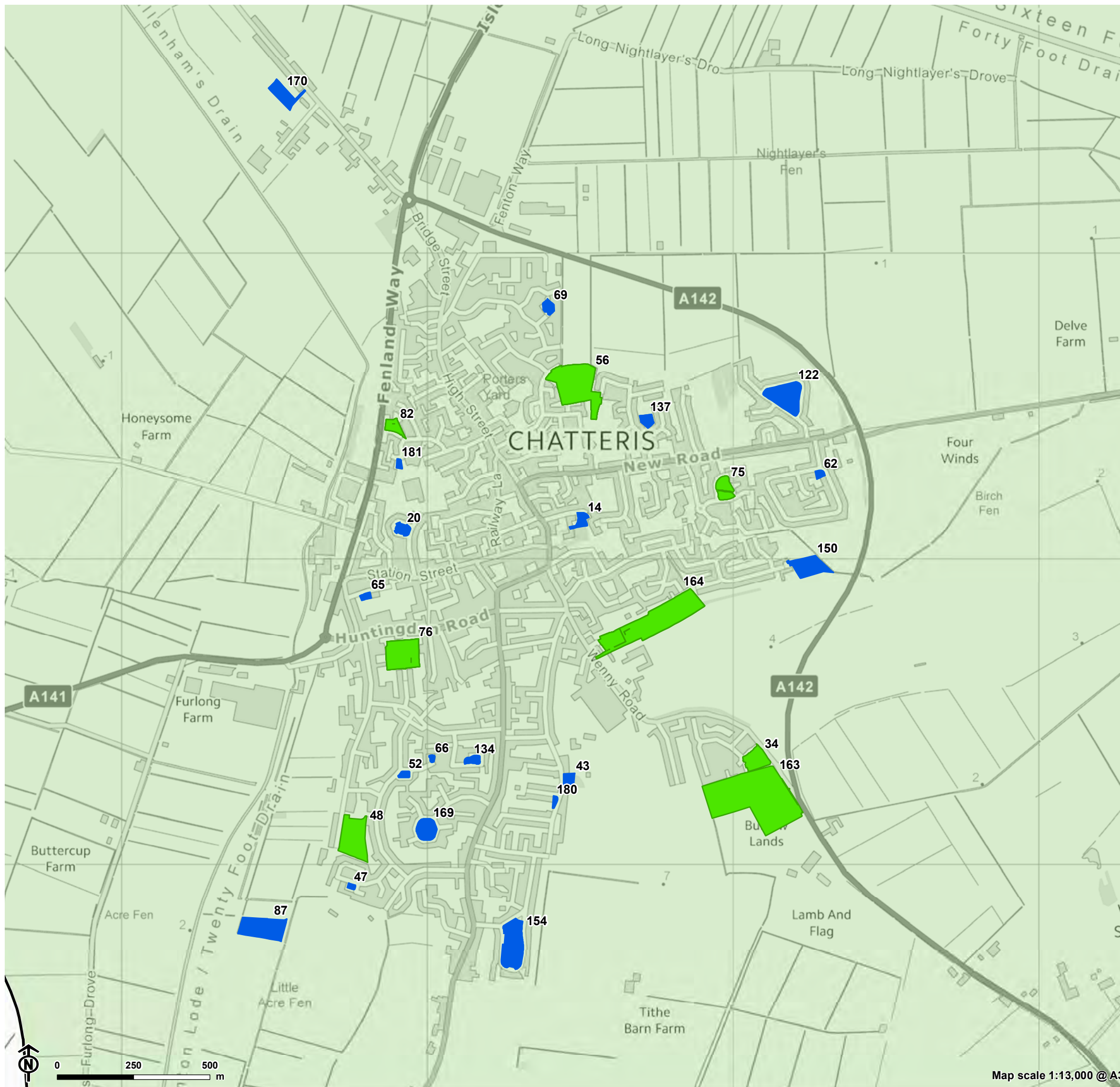




Appendix B.
Figure 2: Identified public open spaces

- Open Space Standards**
- Analysis area**
- Fenland District
 - West
- Open space primary typology**
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Open
 - Natural & Semi Natural Open Space
 - Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens
 - Neighbourhood playgrounds
- 10 : Barnfield Gardens
50 : Feldale Pits
99 : Nobles Close
101 : North Green
133 : South Green
136 : Springfields Play
153 : Thornham Way
183 : Nobles Close
184 : South Green



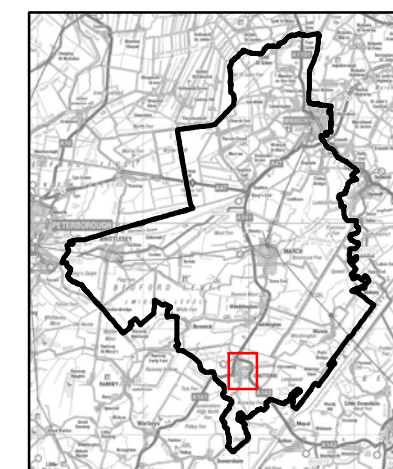


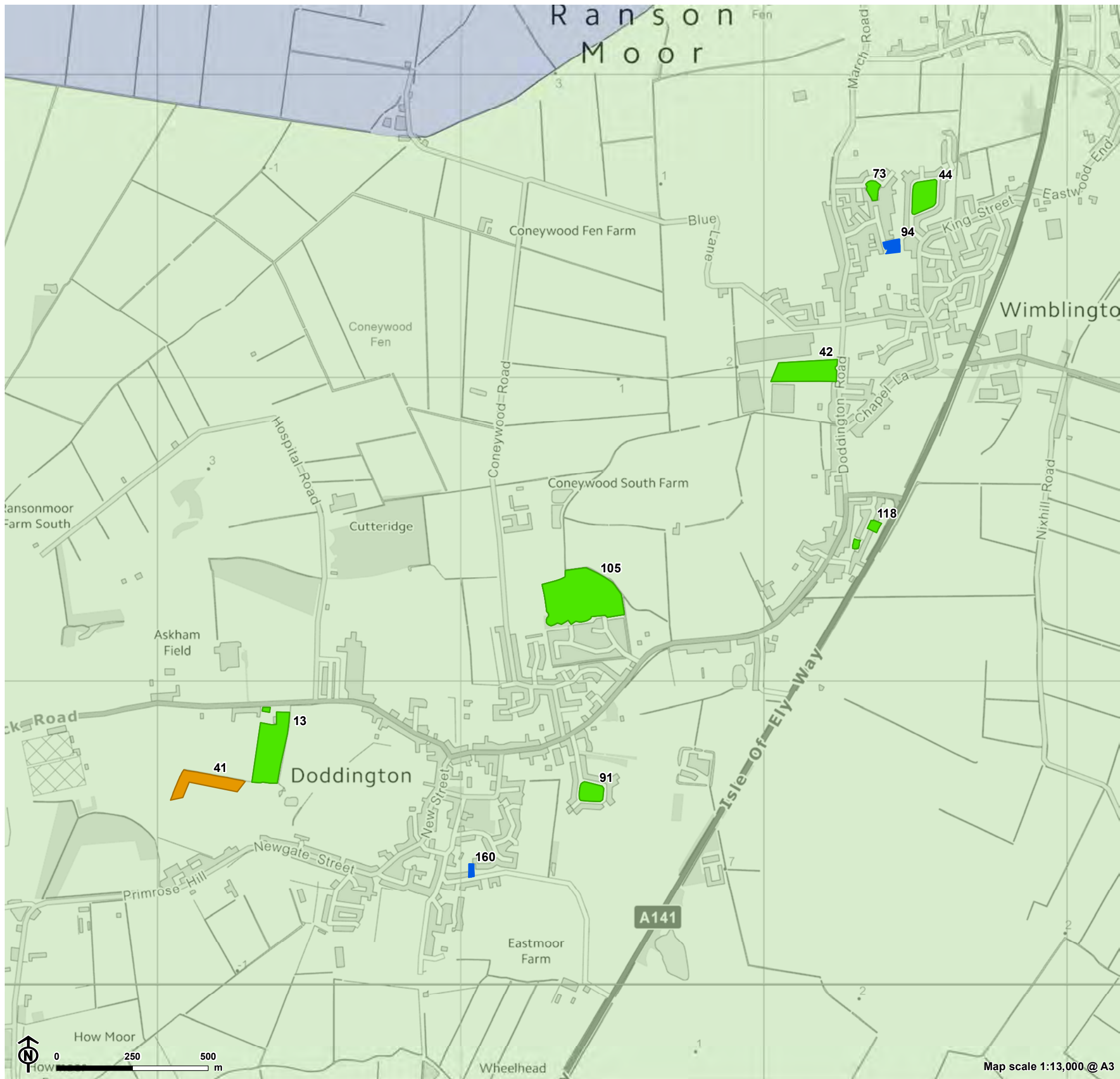
Open Space Standards
for Fenland District Council



Appendix B.
Figure 3: Identified public open spaces

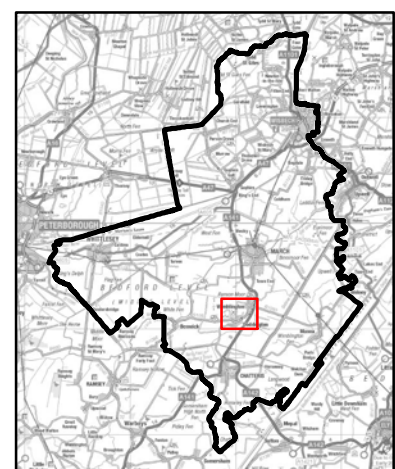
- Open space primary typology**
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Open
 - Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens
- 14 : Boadicea Court
20 : Burnsfield Estate
34 : Cricketers Way
43 : Eastwood
47 : Fairview Drive
48 : Fairway
52 : Fen View
56 : Furrowfields
62 : Green Park
65 : Haighs Close
66 : Harold Heading Close
69 : Heronshaw
75 : Hunters Close
76 : Huntingdon Road Recreation
82 : Larham Way
87 : Little Acre
122 : Queensway
134 : Southampton Place
137 : St Pauls Drive
150 : The Elms Field
154 : Tithe Road
163 : Wenny Road
164 : Wenny Road Recreation Ground
169 : Whitemill Road
170 : Willey Terrace
180 : Eastwood
181 : Larham Way

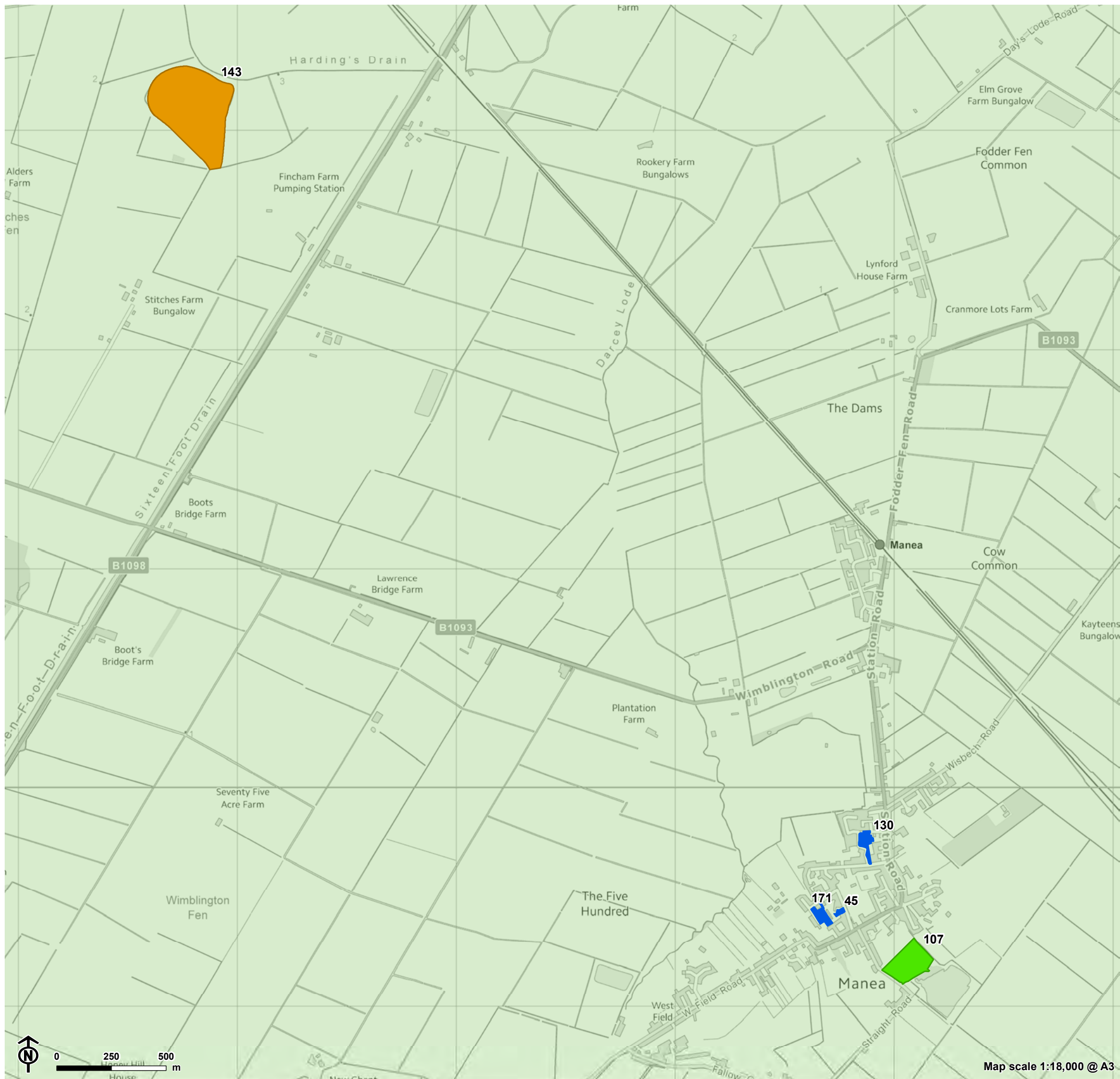




Appendix B.
Figure 4: Identified public open spaces

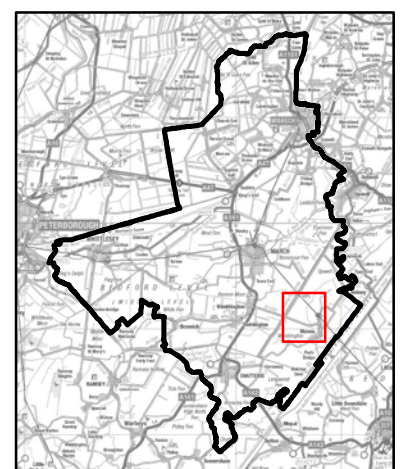
- Fenland District**
- Analysis area**
- Central
 - South
- Open space primary typology**
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Open
 - Natural & Semi Natural Open Space
 - Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens
- 13 : Benwick Road Recreation Field
41 : Doddington Pocket Park
42 : Doddington Road
44 : Eaton Estate
73 : Honeymead Road
91 : Manor Estate
94 : Morley Way
105 : Off Beech
118 : Pond Close
160 : Walden Close

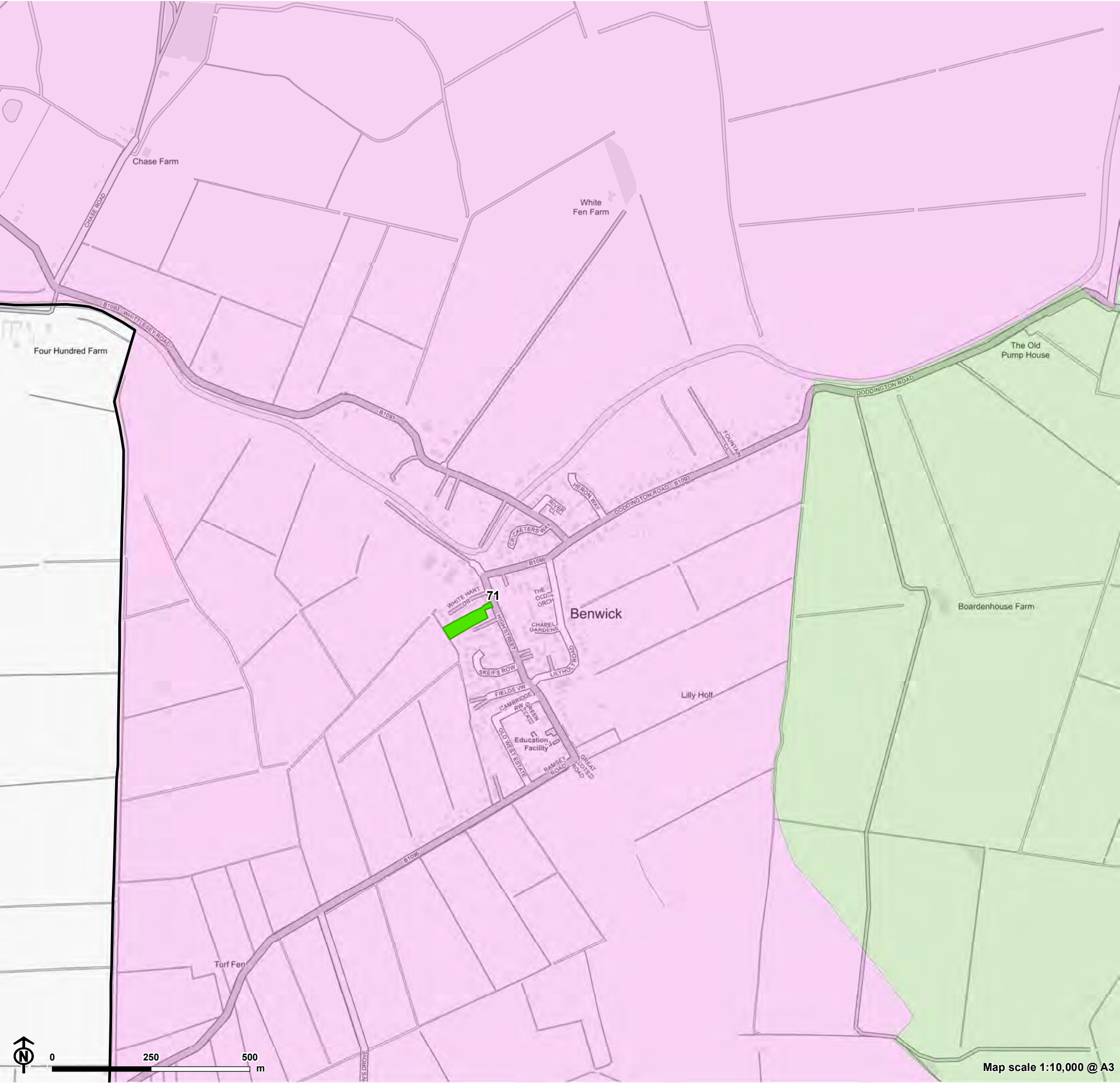




Appendix B.
Figure 5: Identified public open spaces

- Fenland District
- Analysis area**
- South
- Open space primary typology**
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Open
- Natural & Semi Natural Open Space
- Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens
- 45 : Edwards Way
- 107 : Park Road
- 130 : Rutland Way
- 143 : Stonea Camp: a multivallate hillfort at Latches
- 171 : Williams Way





Appendix B.
Figure 6: Identified public open spaces

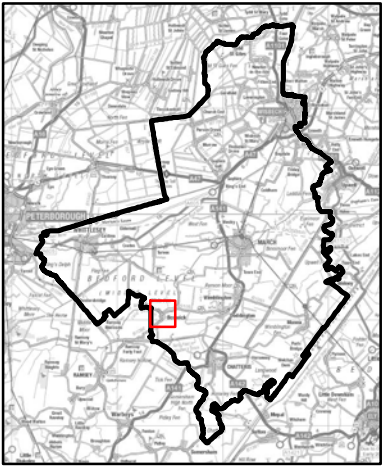
- Fenland District
- Analysis area**

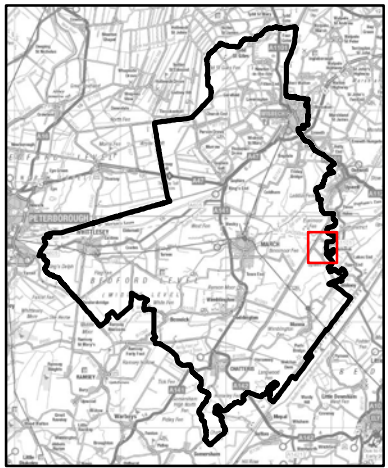
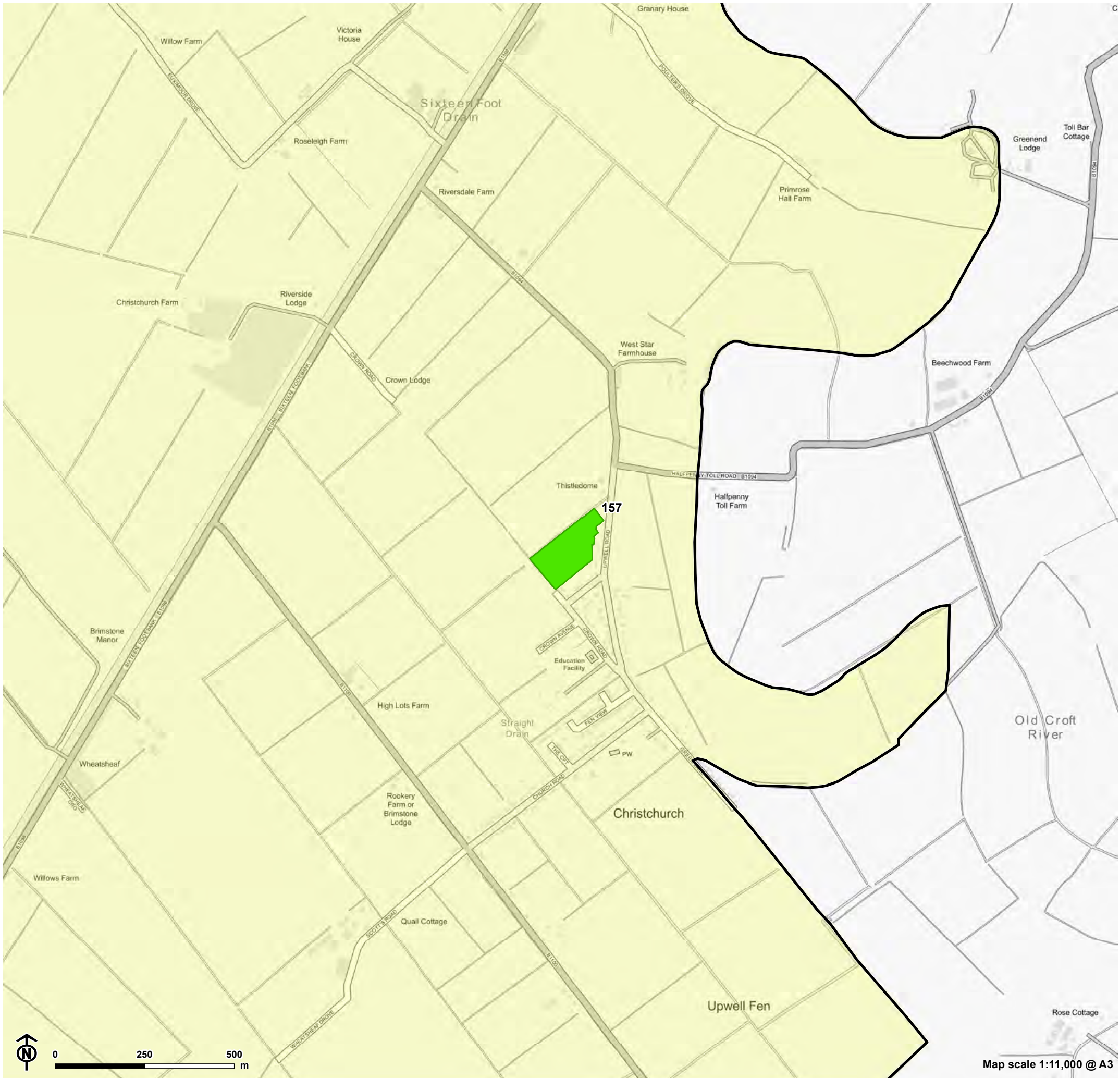
South

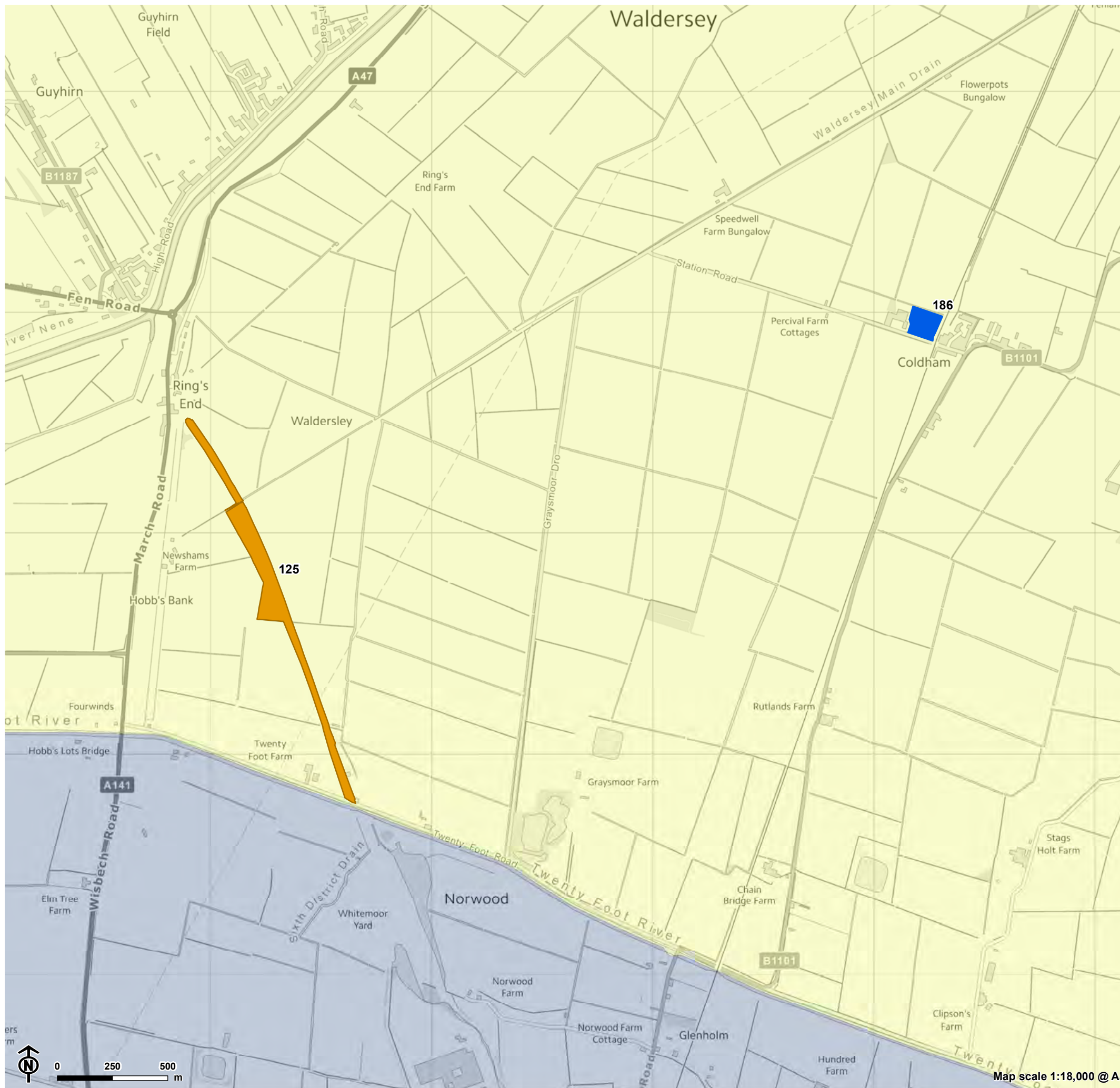
West
- Open space primary typology**

Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens

71 : High Street Recreation Ground

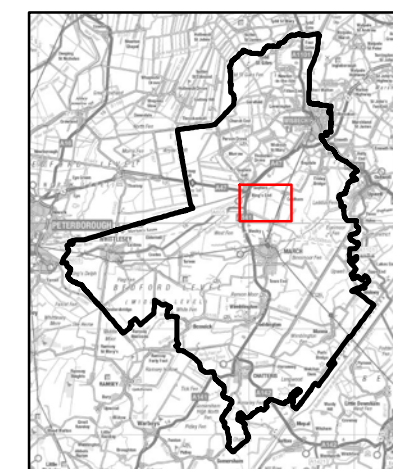


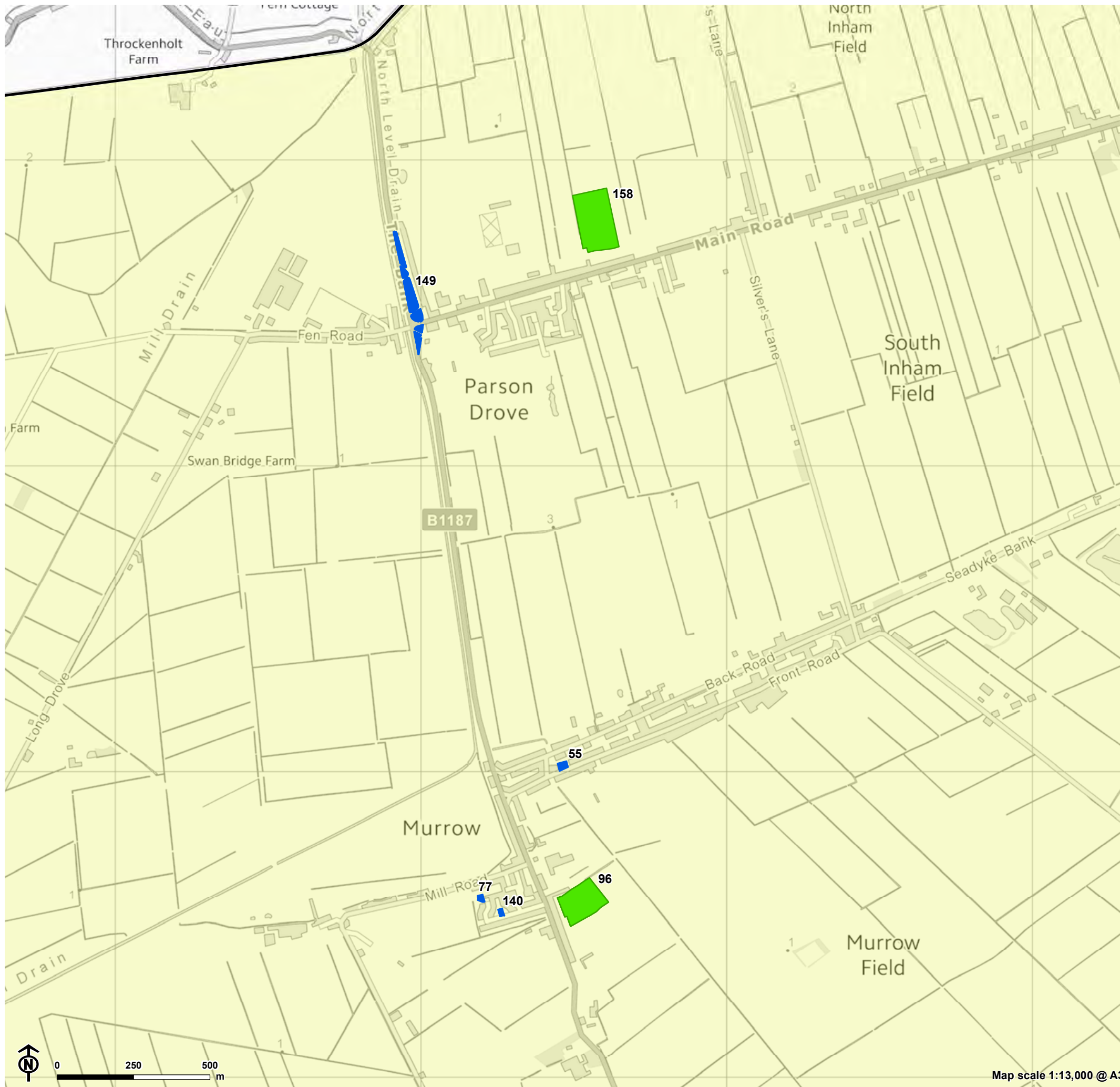




Appendix B.
Figure 9: Identified public open spaces

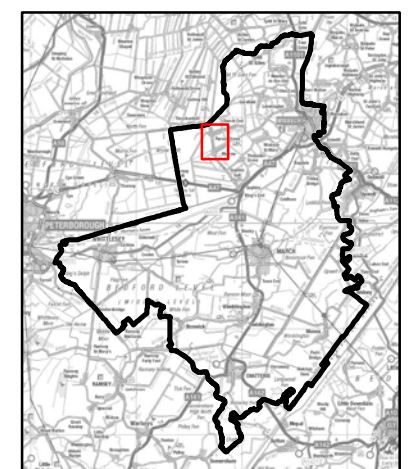
- Fenland District**
- Analysis area**
- Central
 - North
- Open space primary typology**
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Open
 - Natural & Semi Natural Open Space
- 125 : Ring's End
186 : Station Road

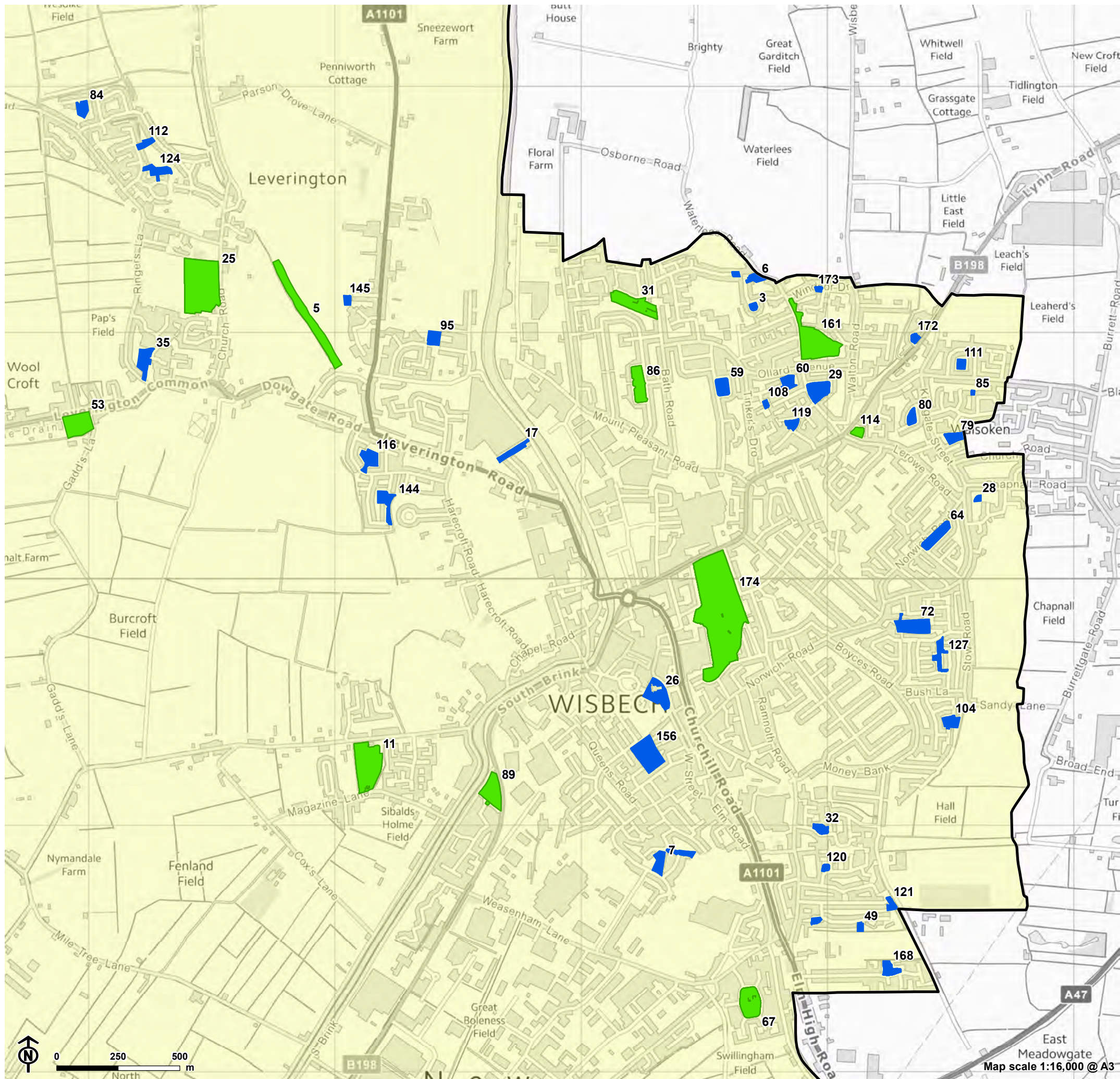




Appendix B.
Figure 10: Identified public open spaces

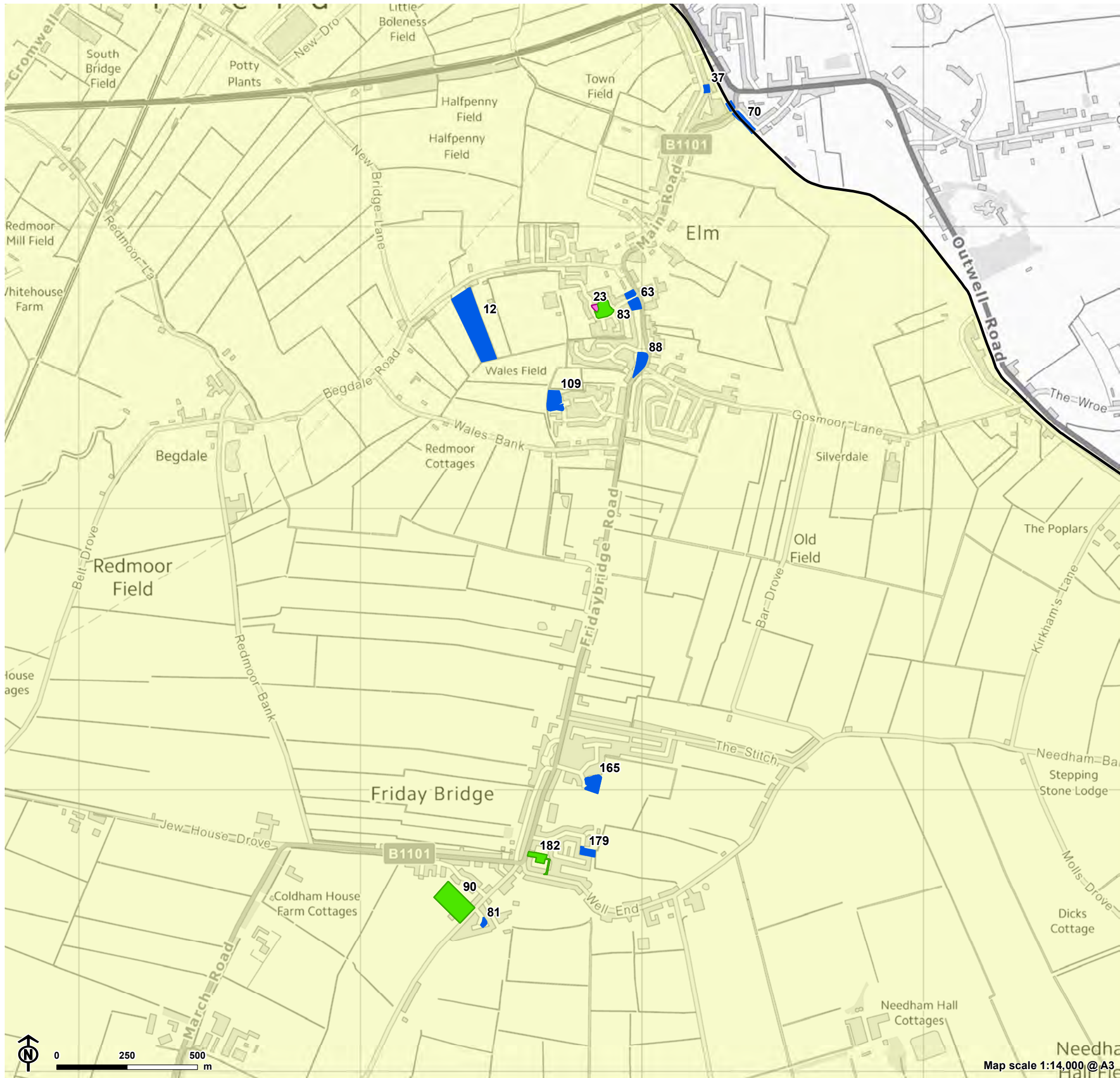
- Fenland District
- Analysis area**
- North
- Open space primary typology**
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Open
- Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens
- 55 : Front Road
- 77 : Inhams Close
- 96 : Morrow Bank
- 140 : Station
- 149 : The Bank
- 158 : Village Hall Main Road





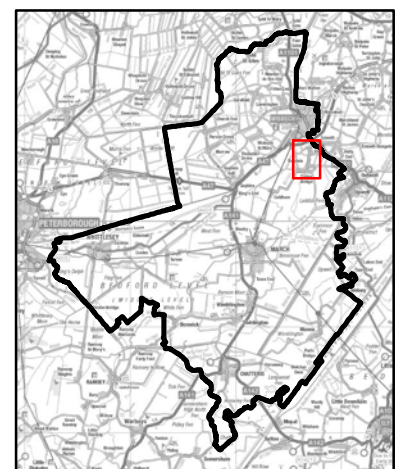
Appendix B.
Figure 11: Identified public open spaces

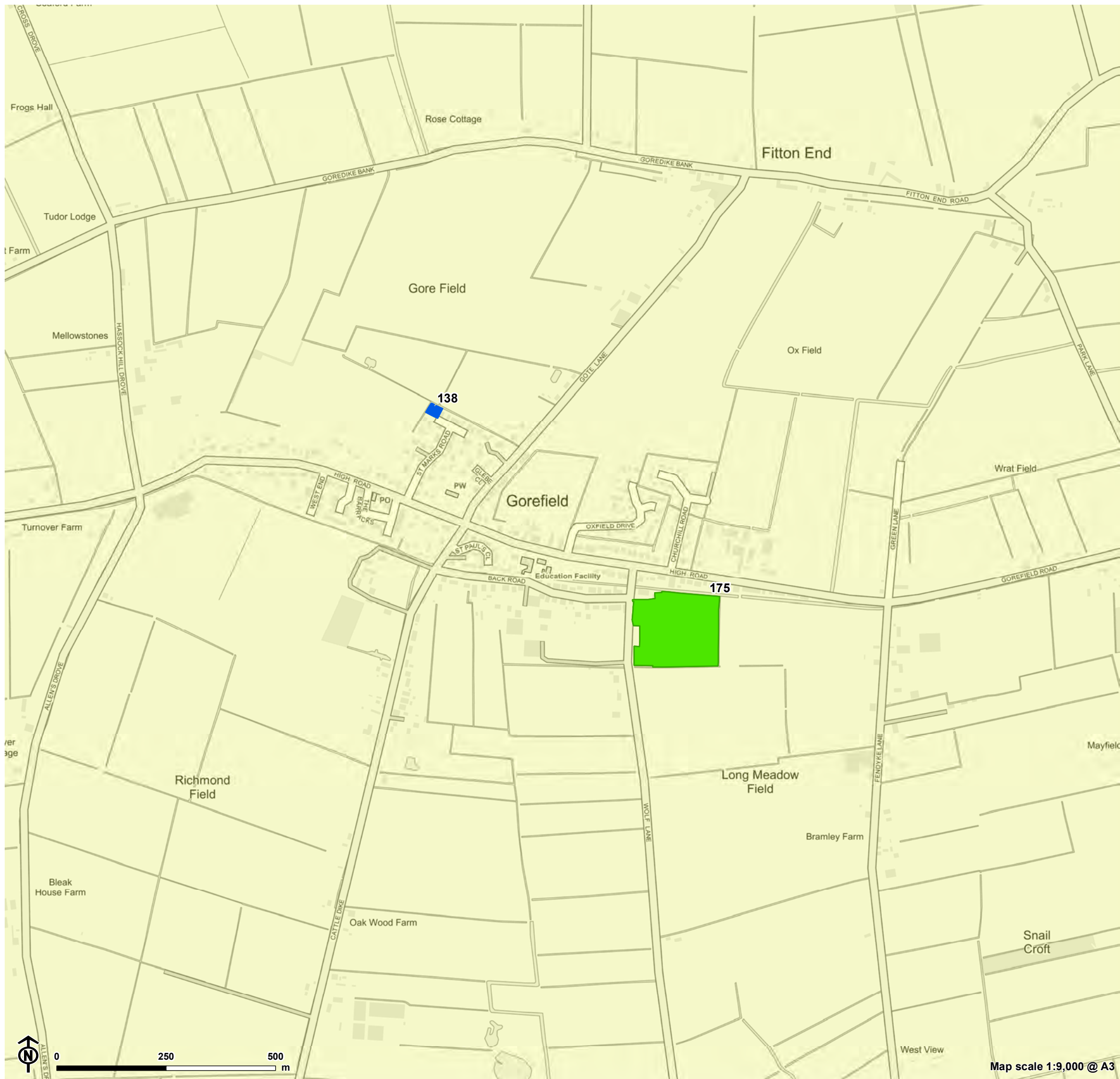
- Legend**
- Fenland District
 - Analysis area
 - North
 - Open space primary typology
 - Informal Parkland and Amenity Open
 - Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens
- Numbered locations:**
- 3 : Admirals Drive
 - 5 : Ancient sea defence called Roman Bank, stretching for 600yds (550m) NW of Little Dowgate, Wisbech
 - 6 : Armada Close
 - 7 : Awdry Drive
 - 11 : Barton Road Recreation Ground
 - 17 : Burcroft Road
 - 25 : Church Road
 - 26 : Church Terrace
 - 28 : Clayton Close
 - 29 : Coldhorn Crescent
 - 31 : Conference Way
 - 32 : Copperfields
 - 35 : Crown Close
 - 49 : Falklands Drive
 - 53 : Foal Ground
 - 59 : Goddard Crescent
 - 60 : Godwin Road
 - 64 : Guild Road
 - 67 : Heron Road
 - 72 : Holmes Drive
 - 79 : Jasmin Close
 - 80 : Jeffery
 - 84 : Leafere Way
 - 85 : Lilac Close
 - 86 : Lime Avenue
 - 89 : Malt Drive
 - 95 : Mountbatten Drive
 - 104 : Oakley Close
 - 108 : Payne
 - 111 : Pendula Road
 - 112 : Perry Road
 - 114 : Petts Close
 - 116 : Pickards Way
 - 119 : Prins
 - 120 : Provence Place
 - 121 : Queen Elizabeth Drive
 - 124 : Richmond Way
 - 127 : Rochford Walk
 - 144 : Strawberry Close
 - 145 : Sutton Meadows
 - 156 : Tyllery Park
 - 161 : Waterlees Rd
 - 168 : Westmead
 - 172 : Windmill Gardens
 - 173 : Windsor Drive
 - 174 : Wisbech Park



Appendix B.
Figure 12: Identified public open spaces

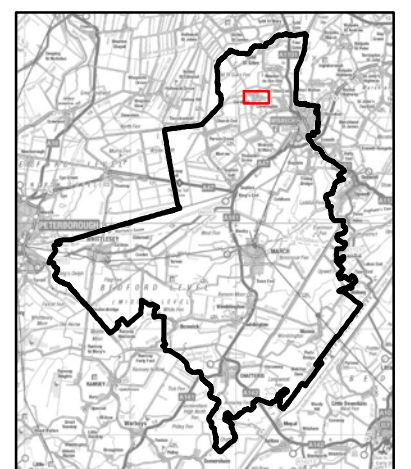
- Open space primary typology**
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Open
 - Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens
 - Neighbourhood playgrounds
- 12 : Begdale Road
23 : Cedar Way
37 : Curston Close
63 : Grove Gardens
70 : High Road
81 : Kilderkin Close
83 : Laurel Drive
88 : Main Road
90 : Maltmas Drove
109 : Peartree Way
165 : West Drive
179 : Church Road
182 : Main Road





Appendix B.
Figure 13: Identified public open spaces

- Fenland District
- Analysis area
- North
- Open space primary typology
- Informal Parkland and Amenity Open
- Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens
- 138 : St. Marks Road
- 175 : Wolf Lane



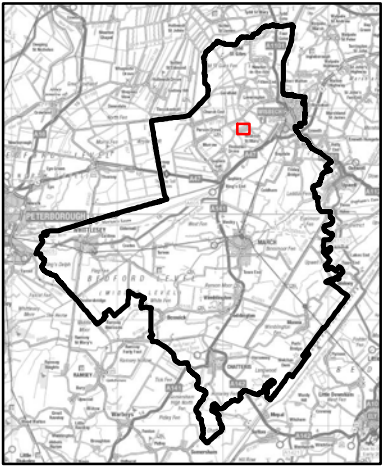


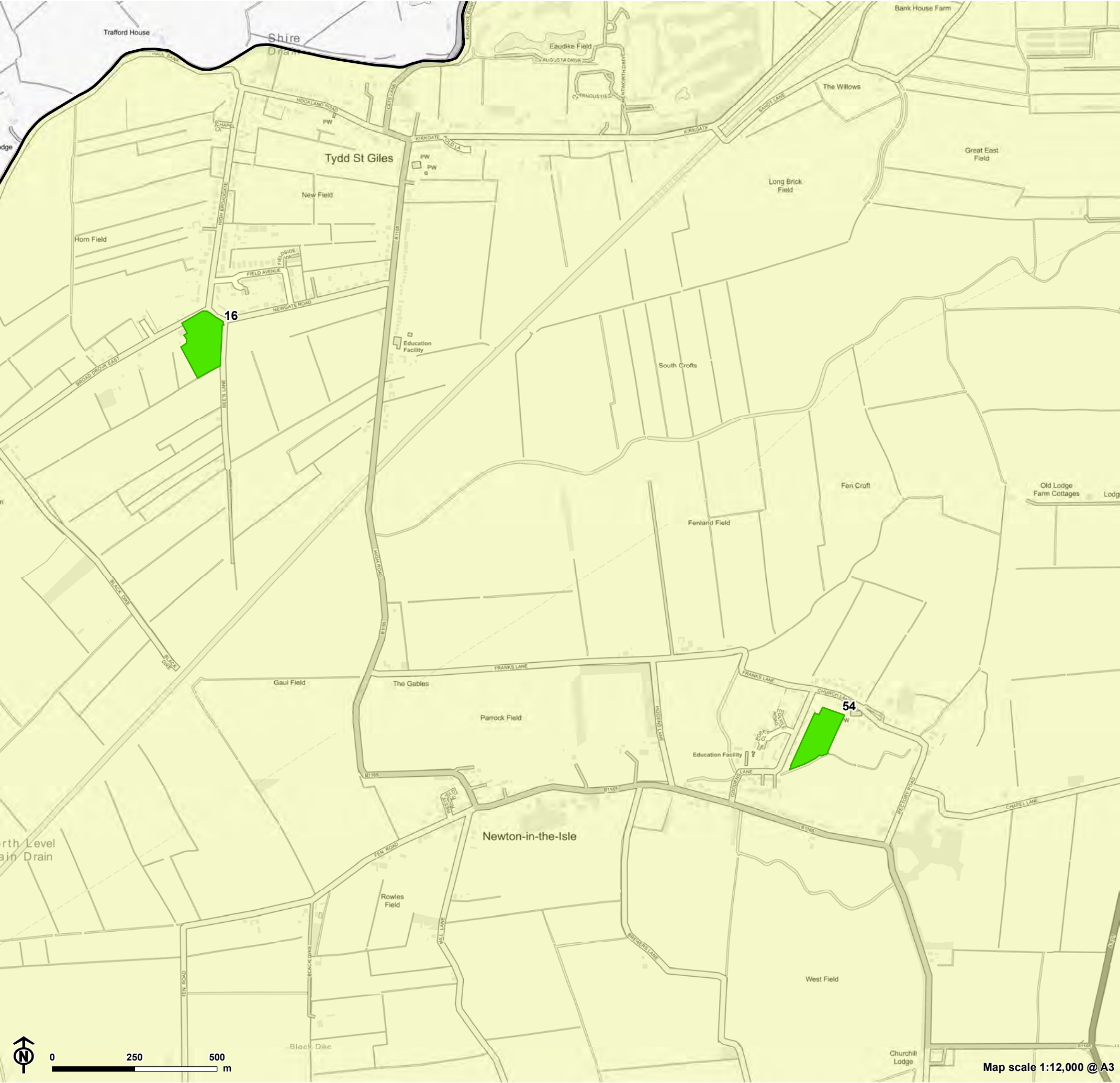
Appendix B.
Figure 14: Identified public open spaces

- Fenland District
- Analysis area**

North
- Open space primary typology**

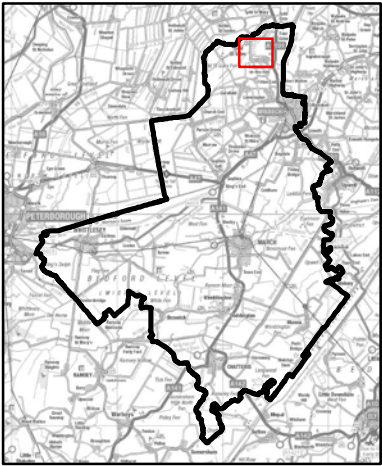
Informal Parkland and Amenity Open
27 : Churchfield Way





Appendix B.
Figure 15: Identified public open spaces

- Fenland District
- Analysis area
 - North
- Open space primary typology
 - Neighbourhood Public Parks & Gardens
 - 16 : Broad Drove East
 - 54 : Former Colville School



Appendix C

Cambridgeshire Open Space Standards and Mapping Proposed Quality Standards

Open space sites are generally allocated to typological categories for two reasons:

- By virtue of their size – sites of different sizes will have different catchments and will be used in different ways
- By virtue of their characteristics – a Local Nature Reserve is likely to have a different character to a local park and will be used in different ways

Quality assessments will need to consider the value of the specific characteristics of that site as well as more general criteria. A Local Nature Reserve will need to be equally ‘welcoming’ as a local park but it will have a relative lack of facilities (e.g. play equipment, furniture, lighting etc.). This would need to be balanced against its importance in terms of biodiversity outcomes. Proposed quality standards thus include generic components that will apply to all sites and specific components that will apply to a specific typological category. A simple scoring system is proposed such that all sites are assessed against a total value of 100. Proposed quality standards are set out in Table 4c.

Table 4c : Generic open space quality standards: Welcoming				
Code	Standard	Category	Best Practice Reference	Score 0-5
W1	Clear points of entry	Welcoming	Green Flag	
W2	Inclusive access standards			
W3	Good quality signage			
				Max 15

Table 4c : Generic open space quality standards: Healthy and safety				
Code	Standard	Category	Best Practice Reference	Score 0-5
H1	Condition of equipment and infrastructure	Healthy safe and secure	Green Flag	
H2	Personal safety/crime statistics			
H3	Dog control/fouling			
				Max 15

Table 4c : Generic open space quality standards: Well-maintained				
Code	Standard	Category	Best Practice Reference	Score 0-5
C1	Litter management	Well maintained and clean	Green Flag	
C2	Standard or horticultural/ ecological management			
C3	Standard of arboricultural management			
				Max 15

Table 4c : Generic open space quality standard: Environmental management				
Code	Standard	Category	Best Practice Reference	Score 0-5
E1	Tree canopy cover	Environmental management	Green Flag/bespoke	
E2	Management for biodiversity			
E3	Sustainable drainage			
				Max 15

Table 4c : Open space quality standards – bespoke elements				
Code	Standard	Category	Best Practice Reference	Score 0-5
B1	Significant to local character	N/A	Bespoke	
B2	Health initiatives in place			
B3	Well-connected to other open space			
B4	Growing areas			
				Max 20

Table 4c : Open space quality standards – site specific elements: parks				
Code	Standard	Category	Best Practice Reference	Score 0 to 2
S1	Kiosk/Café/Restaurant	N/A	Bespoke	
S2	Toilets			
S3	Path network			
S4	Play			
S5	Seating			
S6	Cycle racks			
S7	Bins			
S8	Water features/fountains			
S9	Decorative horticulture			
S10	Bandstand			
				Max 20

Table 4c : Open space quality standards – site specific elements: natural/semi-natural open spaces				
Code	Standard	Category	Best Practice Reference	Score 0 to 2
S11	Forest/woodland	N/A	Bespoke/ANGSt	
S12	Natural heath			
S13	Grassland meadows			
S14	Scrub			
S15	Wetland			
S16	Open/running water			
S17	Veteran trees			
S18	Path network			
S19	Visitor centre/education facility			
S20	Toilets			
				Max 20

Table 4c : Open space quality standards – site specific elements: sports facilities/amenity				
Code	Standard	Category	Best Practice Reference	Score 0 to 2
S21	Location in relation to demand	N/A	Bespoke/FiT	
S22	Diverse recreational offer			
S23	Appropriately landscaped			
S24	Optimal orientation			
S25	Well managed/maintained			
S26	Changing rooms			
S27	Accessible footpath network			
S28	Personal safety/security/crime			
S29	Toilets			
S30	Water fountains			
				Max 20

Table 4c : Open space quality standards – site specific elements: play facilities				
Code	Standard	Category	Best Practice Reference	Score 0 to 2
S21	Range of play offers - emotional, sensory	N/A	Bespoke/Quality in Play	
S22	Range of play offers – different ages			
S23	Natural play features			
S24	Facilities for children with disabilities			
S25	Well maintained			
S26	Effective safeguarding through design			
S27	Clearly stated rules and guidance			
S28	Seating for parents and carers			
S29	Toilets			
S30	Water fountains			
				Max 20

Appendix D

Amended audit form and quality
benchmark scores worked examples

Proposed amended audit form

Themes and Criteria	Quality score range
Welcoming place	
Clear points of entry	1 - 3
Inclusive access standards	1 - 3
Good quality signage	1 - 3
Health, safety and security	
Condition of equipment and infrastructure	1 - 3
Sense of safety & security	1 - 3
Dog control & fouling	1 - 3
<u>Play</u>	
Range of play offers emotional sensory	0 - 3
Range of play offers different ages	0 - 3
Natural play features	0 - 3
Facilities for children with disabilities	0 - 3
Well maintained	0 - 3
Effective safeguarding through design	0 - 3
Clearly stated rules and guidance	0 - 3
Seating for parents and carers	0 - 3
<u>Recreational offer / facilities</u>	

Themes and Criteria	Quality score range
Diverse recreational offer	1 - 3
Kiosk café restaurant	0 - 3
Seating	0 - 3
Cycle racks	0 - 3
Bins	0 - 3
Changing rooms	0 - 3
Water fountains	0 - 3
Visitor centre / education facility	0 - 3
Clean and well maintained	
Litter management	1 - 3
Standards of horticulture & ecological management	1 - 3
Standards of arboricultural management	1 - 3
Maintenance of hard landscape features	0 - 3
Condition of buildings and built features	0 - 3
Environmental management	
Tree canopy cover	1 - 3
Management for biodiversity	1 - 3
Evidence of sustainable drainage systems	0 - 3
Evidence of sustainable waste management	0 - 3
Evidence of sustainable energy use	0 - 3
Biodiversity, landscape and heritage	

Themes and Criteria	Quality score range
<u>Vegetation cover</u>	
1 - 2 types	1
3 - 5 types	2
over 5 types	3
(e.g., woodland, heath, meadow grassland, scrub, wetland, running water, ornamental planting etc.)	
Veteran trees	0 - 1
Significance to local character	1 - 3
<u>Notable landscape features</u>	
Site appropriately landscaped	0 - 3
Features of local significance (e.g. bandstand / sculpture)	0 - 3
Community involvement, marketing & culture	
Public notice boards	0 - 3
Educational interest	0 - 3
Evidence of an active community group	0 - 3
Programme of cultural or community activities	0 - 3
Health initiatives in place	0 - 3
Community growing areas	0 - 3

Developing quality standards:

Neighbourhood Parks and Gardens worked example

Welcoming place	Score range	Score
Clear points of entry	1 - 3	3
Inclusive access standards	1 - 3	3
Good quality signage	1 - 3	3
Health, safety and security		
Condition of equipment and infrastructure	1 - 3	3
Sense of safety & security	1 - 3	3
Dog control & fouling	1 - 3	3
<u>Play</u>		
Range of play offers emotional sensory	0 - 3	3
Range of play offers different ages	0 - 3	3
Natural play features	0 - 3	3
Facilities for children with disabilities	0 - 3	3
Well maintained	0 - 3	3
Effective safeguarding through design	0 - 3	3
Clearly stated rules and guidance	0 - 3	3
Seating for parents and carers	0 - 3	3
<u>Recreational offer / facilities</u>		
Diverse recreational offer	1 - 3	3
Kiosk café restaurant	0 - 3	3
Seating	0 - 3	3
Cycle racks	0 - 3	3
Bins	0 - 3	3
Changing rooms	0 - 3	0
Water fountains	0 - 3	0
Visitor centre / education facility	0 - 3	0
Clean and well maintained		
Litter management	1 - 3	3
Standards of horticulture & ecological management	1 - 3	3
Standards of arboricultural management	1 - 3	3

Maintenance of hard landscape features	0 - 3	3
Condition of buildings and built features	0 - 3	3
Environmental management		
Tree canopy cover	1 - 3	2
Management for biodiversity	1 - 3	3
Evidence of sustainable drainage systems	0 - 3	0
Evidence of sustainable waste management	0 - 3	3
Evidence of sustainable energy use	0 - 3	0
Biodiversity, landscape and heritage		
<u>Vegetation cover</u>		
1-2 types	1	
3-5 types	2	2
over 5 types	3	0
(e.g. woodland, heath, meadow grassland, scrub, wetland, running water, ornamental planting etc.)		
Veteran trees	0 - 1	0
Significance to local character	1 - 3	2
<u>Notable landscape features</u>		
Site appropriately landscaped	0 - 3	3
Features of local significance (e.g. bandstand / sculpture)	0 - 3	3
Community involvement, marketing & culture		
Public notice boards	0 - 3	3
Educational interest	0 - 3	3
Evidence of an active community group	0 - 3	3
Programme of cultural or community activities	0 - 3	2
Health initiatives in place	0 - 3	2
Community growing areas	0 - 3	2
Total (proposed exemplar score)		105

Developing quality standards:

Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space

Welcoming place	Score range	Score
Clear points of entry	1 - 3	3
Inclusive access standards	1 - 3	3
Good quality signage	1 - 3	3
Health, safety and security		
Condition of equipment and infrastructure	1 - 3	3
Sense of safety & security	1 - 3	2
Dog control & fouling	1 - 3	3
<u><i>Play</i></u>		
Range of play offers emotional sensory	0 - 3	
Range of play offers different ages	0 - 3	
Natural play features	0 - 3	3
Facilities for children with disabilities	0 - 3	3
Well maintained	0 - 3	3
Effective safeguarding through design	0 - 3	
Clearly stated rules and guidance	0 - 3	3
Seating for parents and carers	0 - 3	
<u><i>Recreational offer / facilities</i></u>		
Diverse recreational offer	1 - 3	3
Kiosk café restaurant	0 - 3	2
Seating	0 - 3	3
Cycle racks	0 - 3	0
Bins	0 - 3	3
Changing rooms	0 - 3	
Water fountains	0 - 3	
Visitor centre / education facility	0 - 3	
Clean and well maintained		
Litter management	1 - 3	3
Standards of horticulture & ecological management	1 - 3	3
Standards of arboricultural management	1 - 3	3

Maintenance of hard landscape features	0 - 3	3
Condition of buildings and built features	0 - 3	
Environmental management		
Tree canopy cover	1 - 3	3
Management for biodiversity	1 - 3	3
Evidence of sustainable drainage systems	0 - 3	
Evidence of sustainable waste management	0 - 3	3
Evidence of sustainable energy use	0 - 3	
Biodiversity, landscape and heritage		
<u>Vegetation cover</u>		
1-2 types	1	
3-5 types	2	
over 5 types	3	3
(e.g. woodland, heath, meadow grassland, scrub, wetland, running water, ornamental planting etc.)		
Veteran trees	0 - 1	1
Significance to local character	1 - 3	3
<u>Notable landscape features</u>		
Site appropriately landscaped	0 - 3	
Features of local significance (e.g. bandstand / sculpture)	0 - 3	
Community involvement, marketing & culture		
Public notice boards	0 - 3	3
Educational interest	0 - 3	3
Evidence of an active community group	0 - 3	3
Programme of cultural or community activities	0 - 3	3
Health initiatives in place	0 - 3	
Community growing areas	0 - 3	
Total (proposed exemplar score)		80

Developing quality standards:

Informal Parkland and Amenity Space

Welcoming place	Score range	Score
Clear points of entry	1 - 3	3
Inclusive access standards	1 - 3	3
Good quality signage	1 - 3	2
Health, safety and security		
Condition of equipment and infrastructure	1 - 3	3
Sense of safety & security	1 - 3	3
Dog control & fouling	1 - 3	3
<u><i>Play</i></u>		
Range of play offers emotional sensory	0 - 3	
Range of play offers different ages	0 - 3	
Natural play features	0 - 3	
Facilities for children with disabilities	0 - 3	
Well maintained	0 - 3	
Effective safeguarding through design	0 - 3	
Clearly stated rules and guidance	0 - 3	
Seating for parents and carers	0 - 3	
<u><i>Recreational offer / facilities</i></u>		
Diverse recreational offer	1 - 3	2
Kiosk café restaurant	0 - 3	
Seating	0 - 3	3
Cycle racks	0 - 3	
Bins	0 - 3	3
Changing rooms	0 - 3	
Water fountains	0 - 3	
Visitor centre / education facility	0 - 3	
Clean and well maintained		
Litter management	1 - 3	3
Standards of horticulture & ecological management	1 - 3	2
Standards of arboricultural management	1 - 3	3

Maintenance of hard landscape features	0 - 3	3
Condition of buildings and built features	0 - 3	
Environmental management		
Tree canopy cover	1 - 3	1
Management for biodiversity	1 - 3	2
Evidence of sustainable drainage systems	0 - 3	
Evidence of sustainable waste management	0 - 3	3
Evidence of sustainable energy use	0 - 3	
Biodiversity, landscape and heritage		
<u>Vegetation cover</u>		
1-2 types	1	1
3-5 types	2	
over 5 types	3	
(e.g. woodland, heath, meadow grassland, scrub, wetland, running water, ornamental planting etc.)		
Veteran trees	0 - 1	
Significance to local character	1 - 3	2
<u>Notable landscape features</u>		
Site appropriately landscaped	0 - 3	1
Features of local significance (e.g. bandstand / sculpture)	0 - 3	
Community involvement, marketing & culture		
Public notice boards	0 - 3	2
Educational interest	0 - 3	
Evidence of an active community group	0 - 3	
Programme of cultural or community activities	0 - 3	
Health initiatives in place	0 - 3	
Community growing areas	0 - 3	
Total (proposed exemplar score)		48

Developing quality standards:
Neighbourhood Playgrounds (LAPs)

Play	Score range	Score
Range of play offers emotional sensory	0 - 3	3
Range of play offers different ages	0 - 3	1
Natural play features	0 - 3	2
Facilities for children with disabilities	0 - 3	3
Well maintained	0 - 3	3
Effective safeguarding through design	0 - 3	3
Clearly stated rules and guidance	0 - 3	3
Seating for parents and carers	0 - 3	3
Total		21

Developing quality standards:
Neighbourhood Playgrounds (LEAPs)

Play	Score range	Score
Range of play offers emotional sensory	0 - 3	3
Range of play offers different ages	0 - 3	2
Natural play features	0 - 3	2
Facilities for children with disabilities	0 - 3	3
Well maintained	0 - 3	3
Effective safeguarding through design	0 - 3	3
Clearly stated rules and guidance	0 - 3	3
Seating for parents and carers	0 - 3	3
Total		22

Developing quality standards:
Neighbourhood Playgrounds (NEAPs)

Play	Score range	Score
Range of play offers emotional sensory	0 - 3	3
Range of play offers different ages	0 - 3	3
Natural play features	0 - 3	3
Facilities for children with disabilities	0 - 3	3
Well maintained	0 - 3	3
Effective safeguarding through design	0 - 3	3
Clearly stated rules and guidance	0 - 3	3
Seating for parents and carers	0 - 3	3
Total		24

Developing quality standards:
Neighbourhood Playgrounds (Other Play)

Play	Score range	Score
Range of play offers emotional sensory	0 - 3	2
Range of play offers different ages	0 - 3	2
Natural play features	0 - 3	2
Facilities for children with disabilities	0 - 3	3
Well maintained	0 - 3	3
Effective safeguarding through design	0 - 3	3
Clearly stated rules and guidance	0 - 3	3
Seating for parents and carers	0 - 3	3
Total		21

Developing quality standards: Allotments

Welcoming place	Score range	Score
Clear points of entry	1 - 3	3
Inclusive access standards	1 - 3	3
Good quality signage	1 - 3	2
Health, safety and security		
Condition of equipment and infrastructure	1 - 3	3
Sense of safety & security	1 - 3	3
Dog control & fouling	1 - 3	3
<u><i>Play</i></u>		
Range of play offers emotional sensory	0 - 3	0
Range of play offers different ages	0 - 3	0
Natural play features	0 - 3	0
Facilities for children with disabilities	0 - 3	0
Well maintained	0 - 3	0
Effective safeguarding through design	0 - 3	0
Clearly stated rules and guidance	0 - 3	0
Seating for parents and carers	0 - 3	0
<u><i>Recreational offer / facilities</i></u>		
Diverse recreational offer	1 - 3	0
Kiosk café restaurant	0 - 3	0
Seating	0 - 3	0
Cycle racks	0 - 3	3
Bins	0 - 3	3
Changing rooms	0 - 3	0
Water fountains	0 - 3	0
Visitor centre / education facility	0 - 3	0
Clean and well maintained		
Litter management	1 - 3	3
Standards of horticulture & ecological management	1 - 3	3
Standards of arboricultural management	1 - 3	3
Maintenance of hard landscape features	0 - 3	3
Condition of buildings and built features	0 - 3	2

Environmental management		
Tree canopy cover	1 - 3	1
Management for biodiversity	1 - 3	2
Evidence of sustainable drainage systems	0 - 3	0
Evidence of sustainable waste management	0 - 3	3
Evidence of sustainable energy use	0 - 3	0
Biodiversity, landscape and heritage		
<u>Vegetation cover</u>		
1-2 types	1	0
3-5 types	2	2
over 5 types	3	0
(e.g. woodland, heath, meadow grassland, scrub, wetland, running water, ornamental planting etc.)		
Veteran trees	0 - 1	0
Significance to local character	1 - 3	0
<u>Notable landscape features</u>		
Site appropriately landscaped	0 - 3	0
Features of local significance (e.g. bandstand / sculpture)	0 - 3	0
Community involvement, marketing & culture		
Public notice boards	0 - 3	3
Educational interest	0 - 3	3
Evidence of an active community group	0 - 3	3
Programme of cultural or community activities	0 - 3	3
Health initiatives in place	0 - 3	0
Community growing areas	0 - 3	3
Total		60

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Landscape Design / Strategic Planning & Assessment
Development Planning / Urban Design & Masterplanning
Environmental Impact Assessment / Landscape Planning & Assessment
Landscape Management / Ecology / Historic Environment / GIS & Visualisation

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