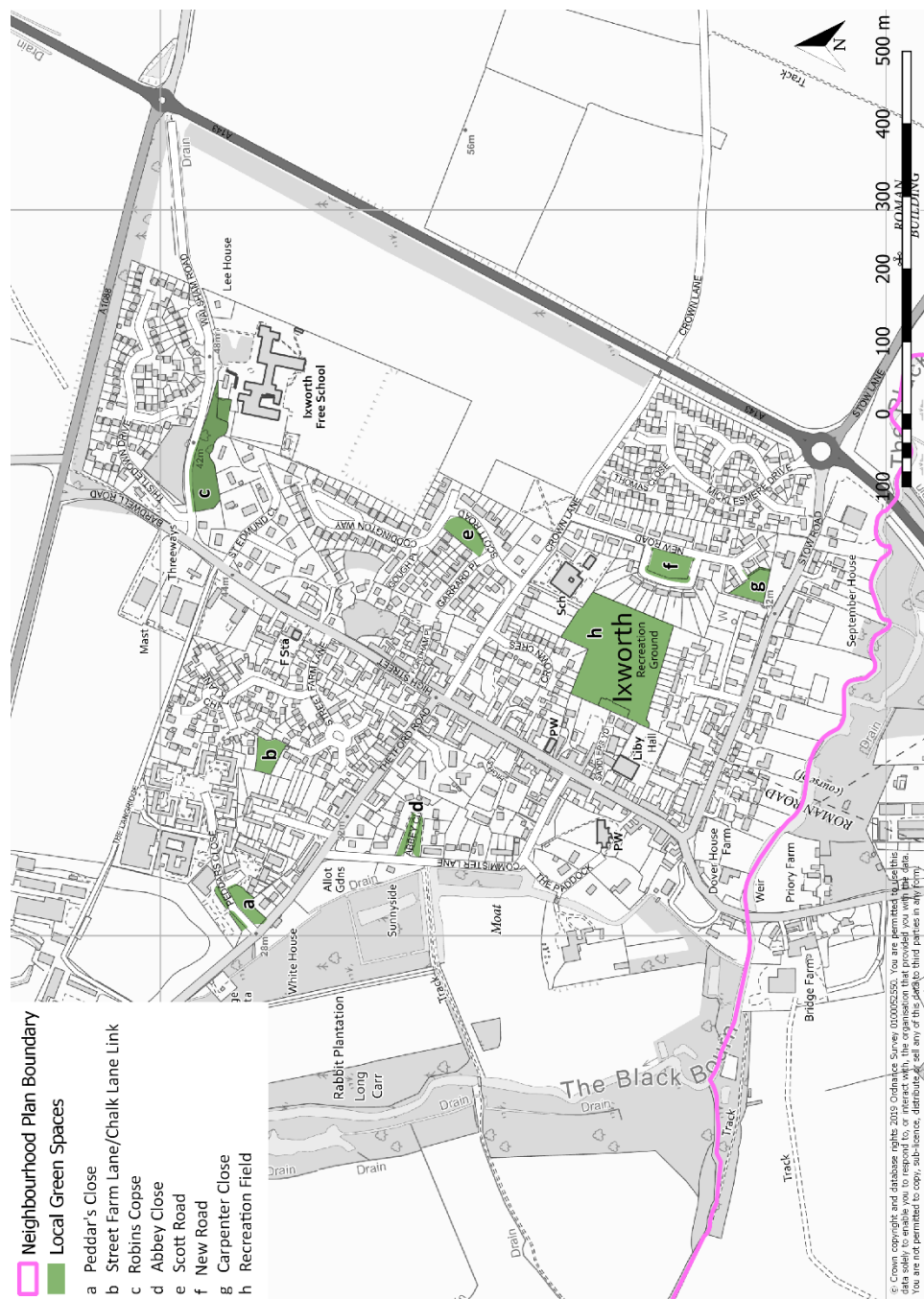


Local Green Space designations - justification

For a rural village Ixworth has surprisingly limited access to the countryside and only 5% of the built-up area comprises green spaces. These green pockets dotted around the Village are highly prized by residents for reasons of recreation and health and are often important corridors for wildlife. They soften the edge of the built environment and create habitats for owls, bats, jackdaws and others. A number of commentators have identified opportunities for enhancing the existing local green space. Many value the opportunities these small areas provide for smaller children to be able to play near to their homes, for people of all ages to exercise and socialise and for families to picnic.

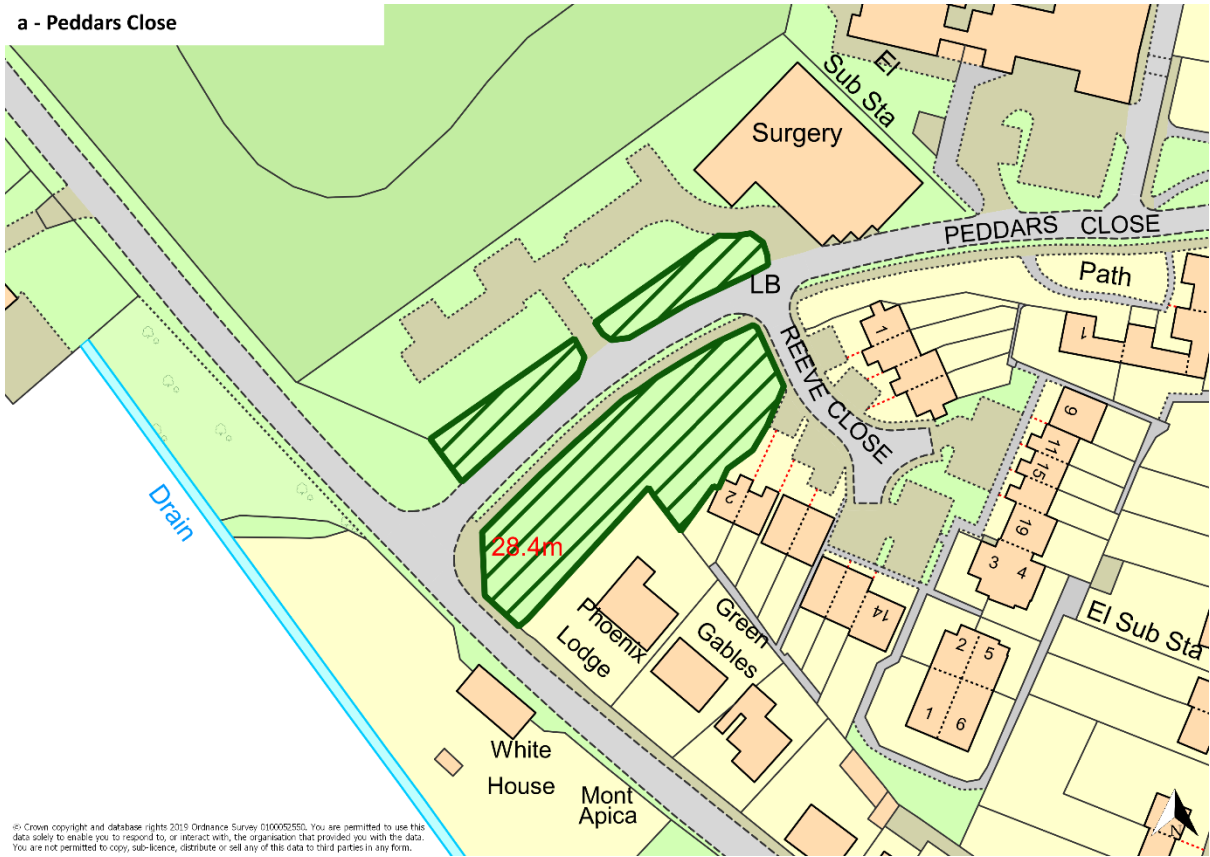
Map 1 below shows the location of the eight spaces which are considered to fulfil the criteria of a Local Green Space. It shows that all of the spaces are in close proximity to the community of Ixworth village.



a. Peddar's Close

Area: 0.2 hectares

a - Peddars Close



This space consists of a small avenue of mature beech and sycamores on either side of the busy turning into Peddar's Close and the access to the Surgery. The more expansive west facing green verge acts as a social space and an informal play area for local children; an information board and a sunny seat encourage social exchange and contemplation. The area is planted with early spring flowers and blends the built environment of Thetford Road with the rural outlook across the Dairy Farm, softening the Village edge and promoting routes for wildlife.

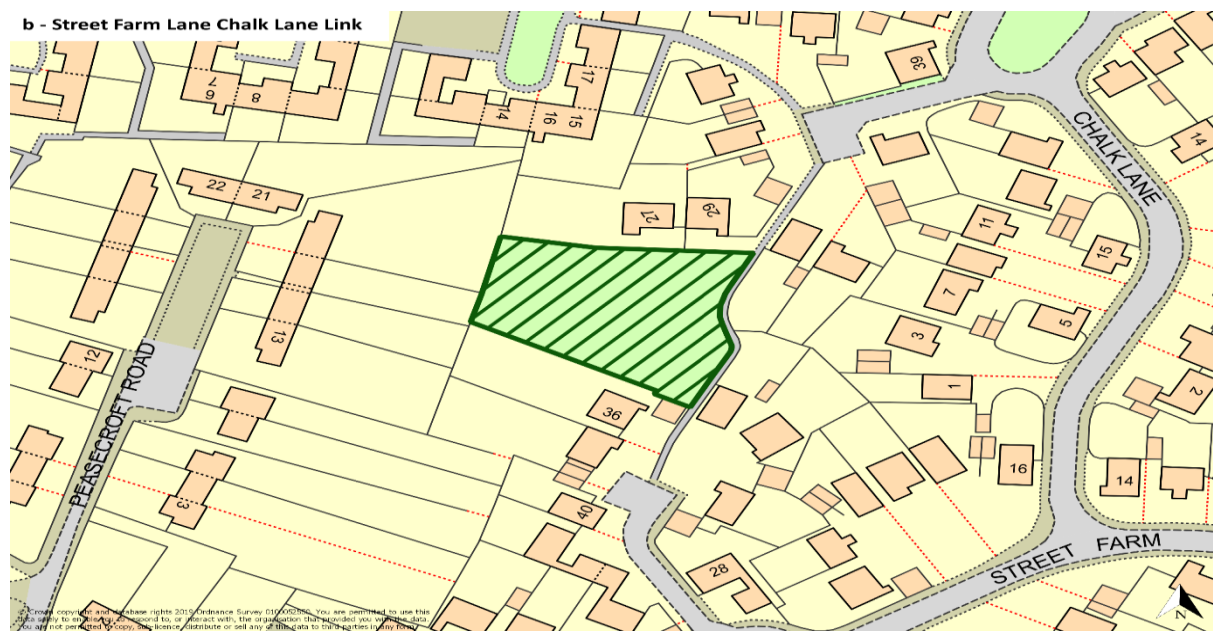
'It gives a sense of well-being for our mental health that cannot be quantified.'

'Absolutely beautiful area, lovely wildflowers and a wellbeing spot just outside the doctors'

'Kicking the leaves here is an annual autumn treat for children of all ages.'

b. Street Farm Lane/Chalk Lane Link

Area: 0.14 hectares



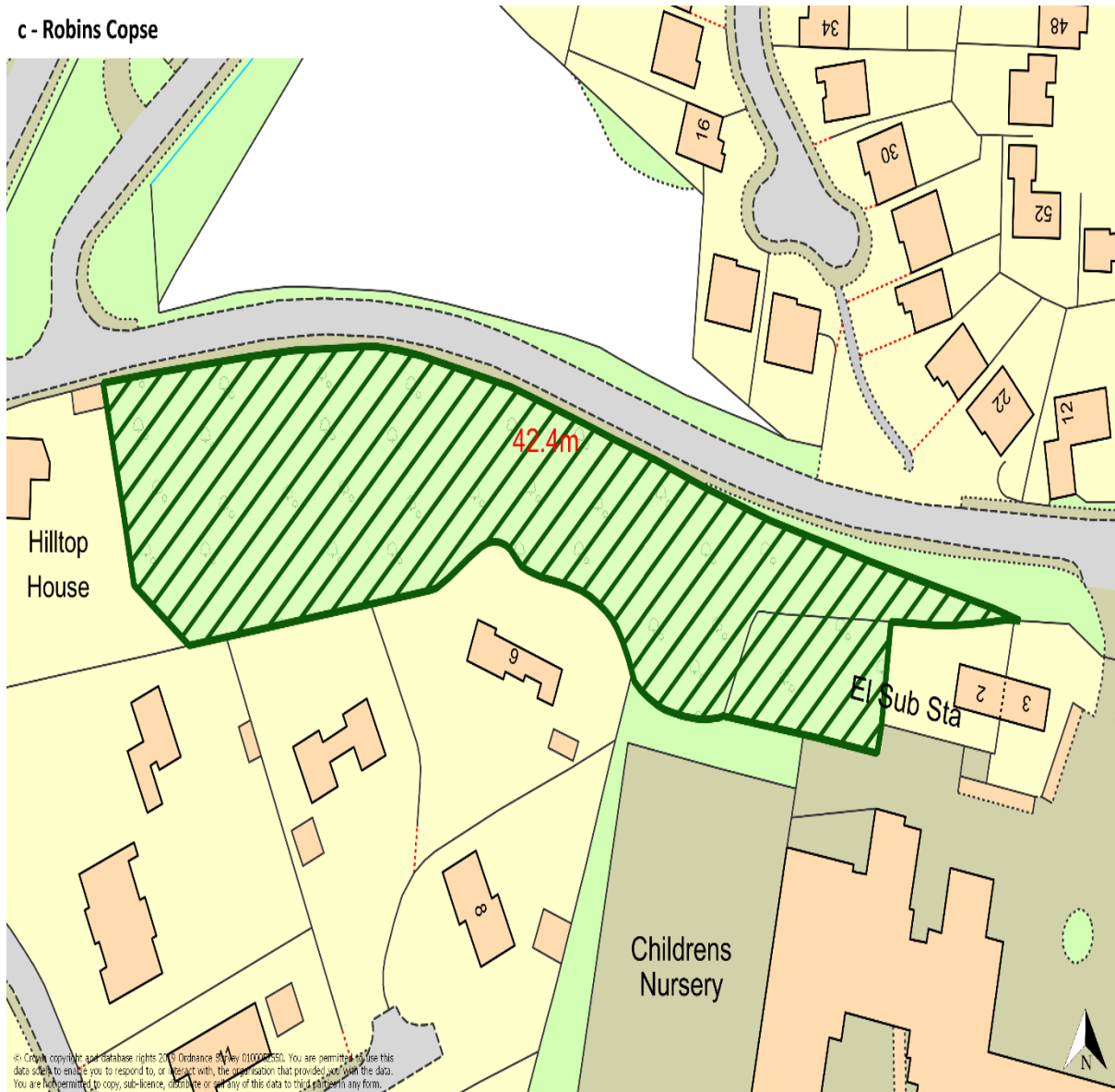
This is an important informal recreation and play area for small children and families. It is safe from traffic with open vistas. It is particularly valued by communities in the surrounding estates at the 'top end' of the village and is well used. It is the only facility of its type serving the Street Farm Lane area.

'A lovely safe haven.' ***'This is an excellent piece of green space.'*** ***'Good area for children and an attractive green space'.***

Robin's Copse

Area: 0.47 hectares

c - Robins Copse





This small, well-presented area of woodland is owned by the Parish Council and is a valued local green space. It is positioned on the main walking route to Ixworth School on the edge of the Thistledown estate. It represents a longstanding and ongoing community project designed for wildlife, learning and quiet recreation created from the remains of a disused chalk pit. Over the years planting has been managed to encourage butterflies, birds and other wildlife. The addition of walkways and seating make it a place for residents to wander or sit in peace. Many individuals have contributed to its making and maintenance, including children and young people from the nearby school. It constitutes a unique place in the village, created and maintained by local people and combining trees and glades.

'It is a beautiful area.'

'This is an area used by schools, cub scouts etc as a nature area.'

'It's beautiful and vital for our mental health.'

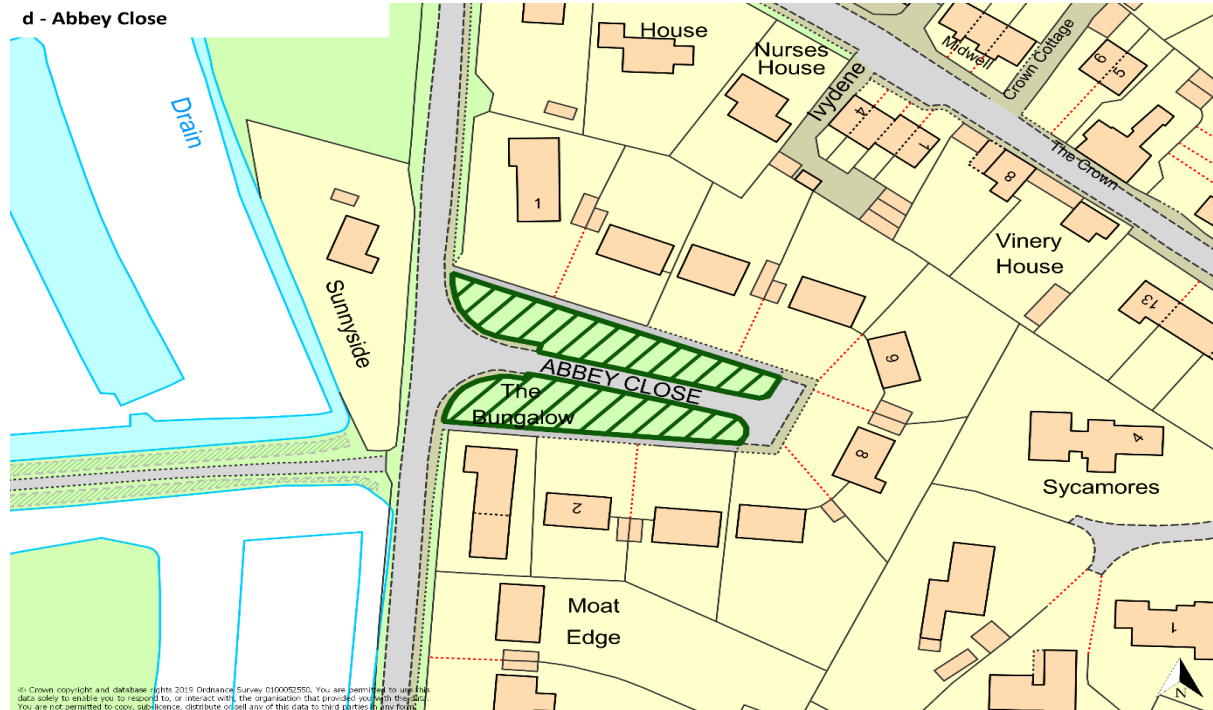
'This is a site of biodiversity'

'This is a long standing wildlife area.'

'It's a great, quiet spot to come and relax.'

c. Abbey Close

Area: 0.14 hectares



This majestic avenue of mature trees set in two grassed verges fronting onto a close of bungalows is highly appreciated within the neighbourhood. It creates a peaceful 'parkland' atmosphere which links to the ancient landscape of Ixworth Abbey with its vestigial moat, fishponds and the popular tree-lined walk over Hempyard Bridge and into the countryside. It includes a public bench to sit, contemplate and chat. The link between countryside and village is softened here and a variety of wildlife is in evidence.

'Good for wildlife but also for the well being of people's mental health.'

'A lovely peaceful spot in the Village.'

d. Scott Road

Area: 0.16 hectares

e - Scott Road



An open space of grass and small trees enhancing the entrance to an extensive estate of 1960's housing. Very much part of the overall design of the estate, it provides a social and recreational area for the neighbourhood. Residents describe it as providing a sense of connection and of safety as well

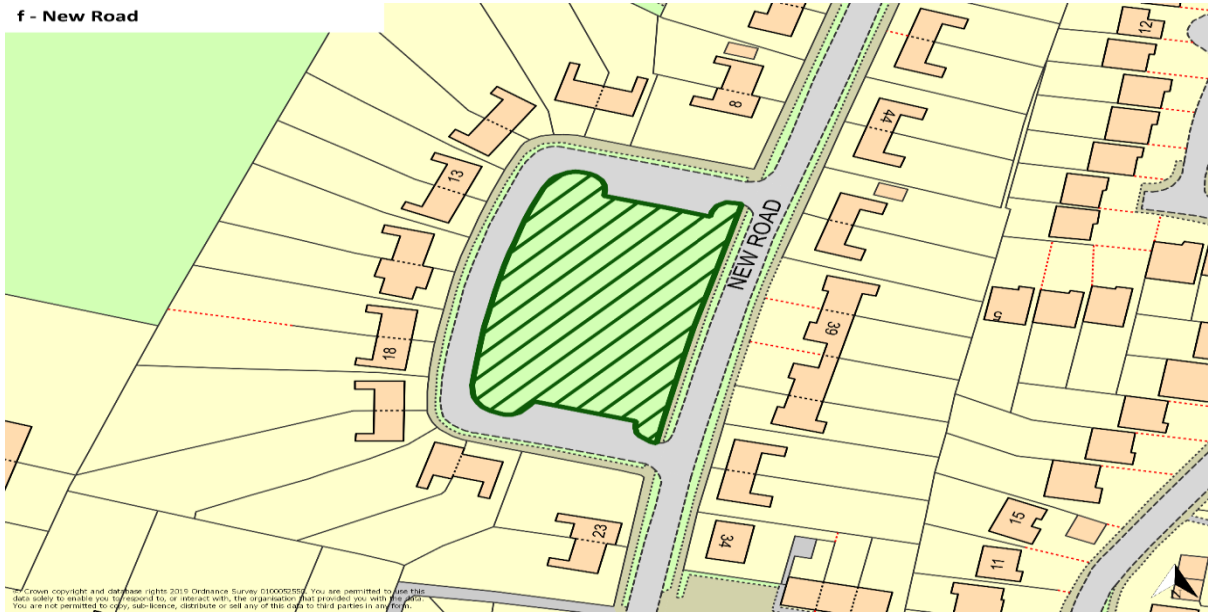
as benefiting mental wellbeing. It is well maintained and provides the only space of its kind for children to play within this neighbourhood. Some comments have expressed interest in minor enhancement such as seating and a local notice board.

'A place to see the seasons, play and relax, very well used by older people and youngsters'

e. New Road

Area: 0.23 hectares

f - New Road



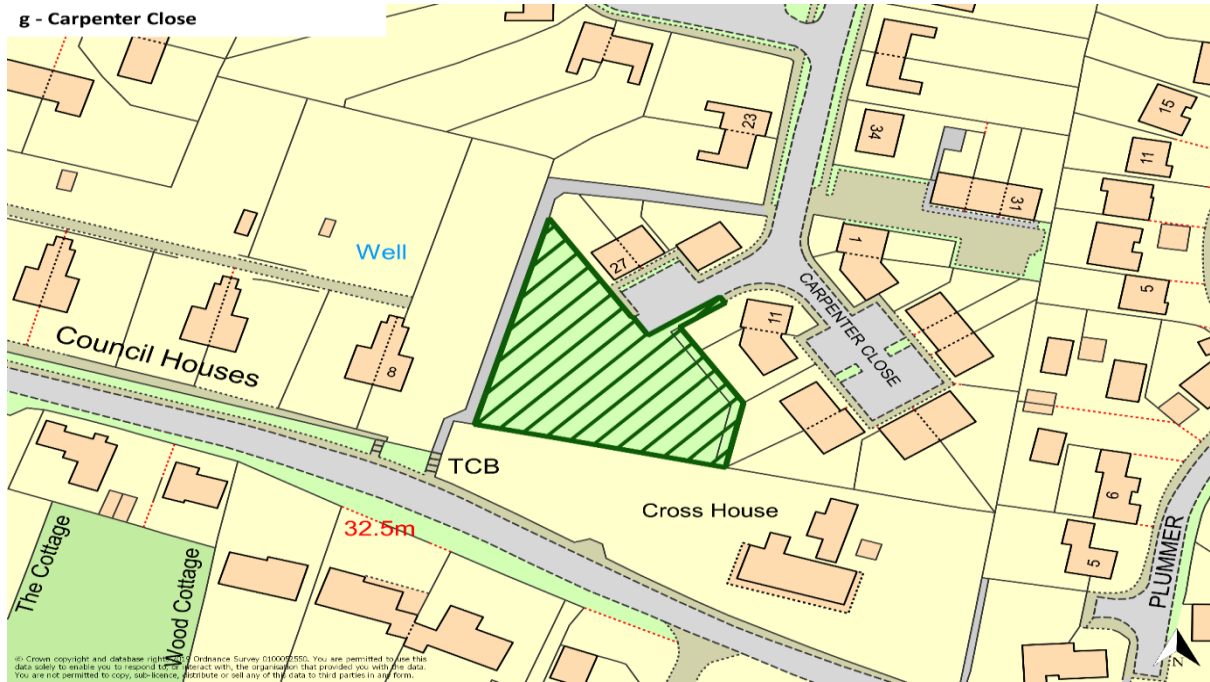
The extensive communal green in New Road is surrounded by housing and is very much a design feature of the period in which it was built. It incorporates a number of small trees and is big enough for community gatherings and celebrations. Used by children as a safe play area in sight of home, it offers residents an open outlook which is considered by those residents to promote good mental

health, wellbeing and sociability. Pressure on car parking provision in the current housing estate has already encroached on this space.

'It has provided children space to play in close proximity to the family housing, helping with any safeguarding fears. Since the houses were built it has been used for this with fond memories of past residents.'

f. Carpenters Close

Area: 0.13 hectares

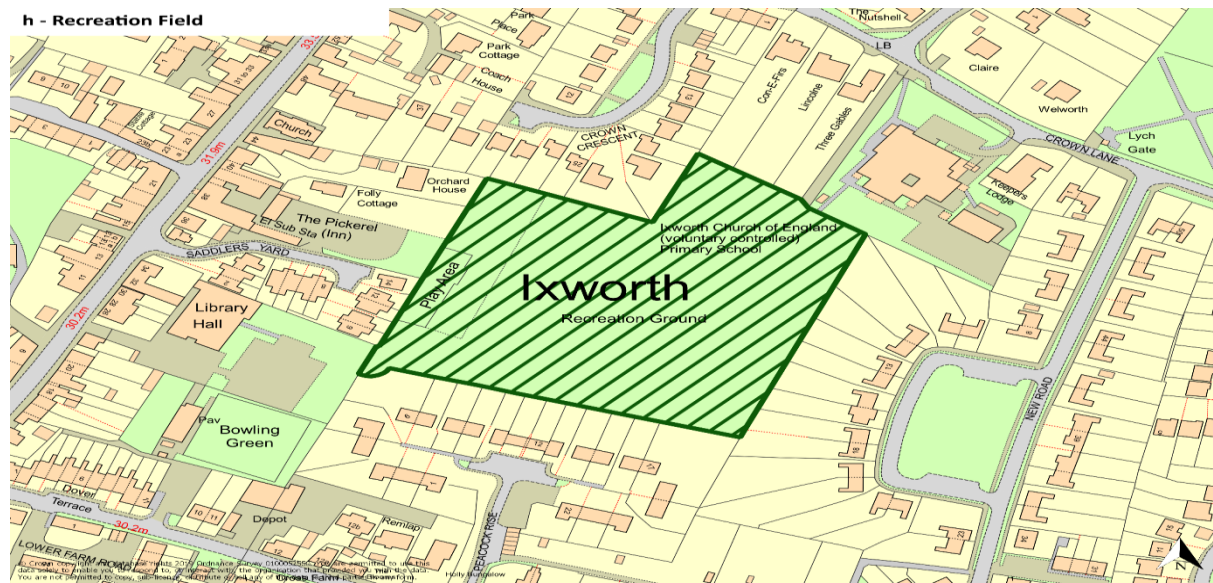


This is a small triangular green area at the end of the New Road estate enjoyed by the immediate neighbourhood and used for informal play and socialising. This area was created in the recent past, when the density of housing was increased, with the neighbouring properties having much smaller gardens than was traditional for this area. It is backed by a screen of mature trees which provide a 'green lung' and promote bird life. Some suggestions for enhancement with more planting and play equipment have been suggested by local residents. This site contains a well-used walk way connecting directly to Stow Road, one of Ixworth's limited number of rights of way.

'Please keep this green as I walk on it and play with my friends' (aged 7)

g. Recreation Field

Area: 1.6 hectares



Owned by the Jiggins Trust and dedicated to the recreational use of the village, this is the largest area of public green space in Ixworth. It is very well used for sports activity, play, picnics and dog walking and its size enables it to provide the Village with a site for hosting fetes, festivals and travelling shows. In addition, it provides a sports and recreation area for the Primary School. The field offers a safe space for play away from traffic. The grassed area provides a valued and well-used walking route between the estates feeding into Crown Lane and the lower High Street.

'A really important space at the heart of the village – used for sport, dog walking and childrens' play area.'

'I see it as the centre of the village. People meet here, events are held here.'

'The playing field belongs to the village.'

'Essential part of Ixworth village. Good for the little ones.'

'I play here lots.' (aged 7)

'It's a great linking route to the High Street.'