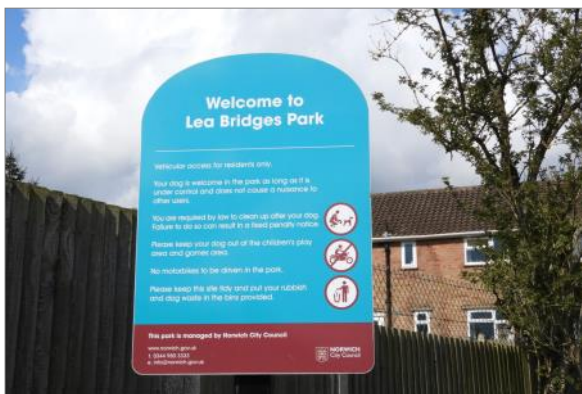




THE
NORWICH
SOCIETY

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES



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ABOUT PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

This is an atlas and directory of parks and open spaces in Norwich, together with details of volunteer groups that help to look after the sites.

Published November 2021.

INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

Norwich has a great variety of parks and open spaces. The Norwich Society's Civic Environment Committee decided to compile this atlas and directory of parks and open spaces in the Norwich City Council area, as there was no single source of information available to the public. Natural England's People and Nature Survey found that in August 2021, 68% of adults in England had visited a green and natural space in the last 14 days – [link to website](#). The most popular type of green and natural space visited was an urban green space., so we felt that there was likely to be a demand for the provision of this information in a convenient form.

Our aim is to show sites that we have felt, on visiting them, that others might enjoy visiting. We have also shown linking paths as well as the main paths through the sites, and given details in the directory of volunteer groups working on the sites where these can be identified. Other groups doing similar work are listed in the City Council's Outdoor Projects Network - [link to website](#) .

Sites are open at all times unless otherwise indicated, and all are available free of charge, with the exception of the Plantation Garden (atlas page 19), where an entrance fee is charged to support the work of the volunteers who have restored, and now maintain, this historic garden. Parking is not provided at sites except where indicated, but may be available nearby. Some sites appear on more than one map - see the index on page 6. Details are given in the directory for sites that have features of additional or particular interest. They are listed only once, normally on the map where the greatest area is depicted. We recorded names shown on site or evident from the City Council's website, but not all sites have names.

We have surveyed all the areas inside the boundary shown with shaded grey on the atlas pages. This is, broadly, the area covered by Norwich City Council, but we have extended it to include three locations of interest just over the border - Catton Park (atlas pages 40 and 41), Charter Wood (atlas page 23) and the riverside walk between Old Lakenham and Trowse (atlas page 8).

HOW WE COMPILED THE ATLAS AND DIRECTORY

We looked at the Ordnance Survey's Greenspace layer [[link to website](#) - choose greenspace map], but it doesn't distinguish clearly between sites that are publicly accessible and those where access is limited, and its data seems odd at times – for example, areas such as Danby Wood, Marston Marshes and Mousehold Heath are shown as 'nature reserve', which to some might seem a place with restricted access, and many other parks and open spaces, for example Kett's Heights and Pilling Park are either not shown at all or are described as playing fields, which again might suggest restricted access for the general public. In general terms, it provides a lot of information about sites that are either not open to the public, for example school playing fields, or are not greenspace, for example churches and their carparks, but fails to include many open spaces.

Norwich City Council's website lists all the sites that the City Council manages - [link to website](#), but their extent is not shown on the associated maps, and many of the sites do not appear on the maps linked to the MyNorwich app on the website.

Our starting point was a set of open space data compiled by Norwich City Council - [link to website](#), which we think was prepared some years ago for the purposes of the Local Plan. We used this as the basis for our site surveys.

We have not included all the land identified by the City Council, as some are small sites which may have a value only as open spaces to the immediate locality, and others are sites such as woodland belts alongside roads which may have an amenity or nature conservation value but have either limited public access or were not considered by us to be sufficiently attractive places to visit.

However we have included some areas not included in the City Council data set, probably because they did not come within the definition that was used for 'open space'. These areas include the Earlham and Rosary cemeteries, and also marshland along the river valleys.

NORWICH'S PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Among the great variety of Norwich parks and open spaces some are well known such as Eaton Park and Mousehold Heath. Others are less well known but can be equally rewarding to discover.

RIVERSIDE MEADOWS AND PATHS



Hellesdon Road Meadow



Riverside walk below Carrow Bridge

The river Yare runs along the western and southern boundaries of Norwich: the river Wensum runs through the city centre. On both rivers walks have been developed, and in places these pass through open spaces.

STEEPER AREAS WITH FINE VIEWS



From Sandy Park to the city centre



From Henderson Park to Mile Cross

Especially to the north and east of the bend in the river Wensum close to the cathedral, there are steep slopes with fine views south and west over the city centre and beyond.

SITES WITH HISTORIC FEATURES



Cow Tower on the riverside walk



Bowthorpe St Michael & All Angels

There are several sites which contain features from Norwich's past.

NATIONALLY-RECOGNISED SITES



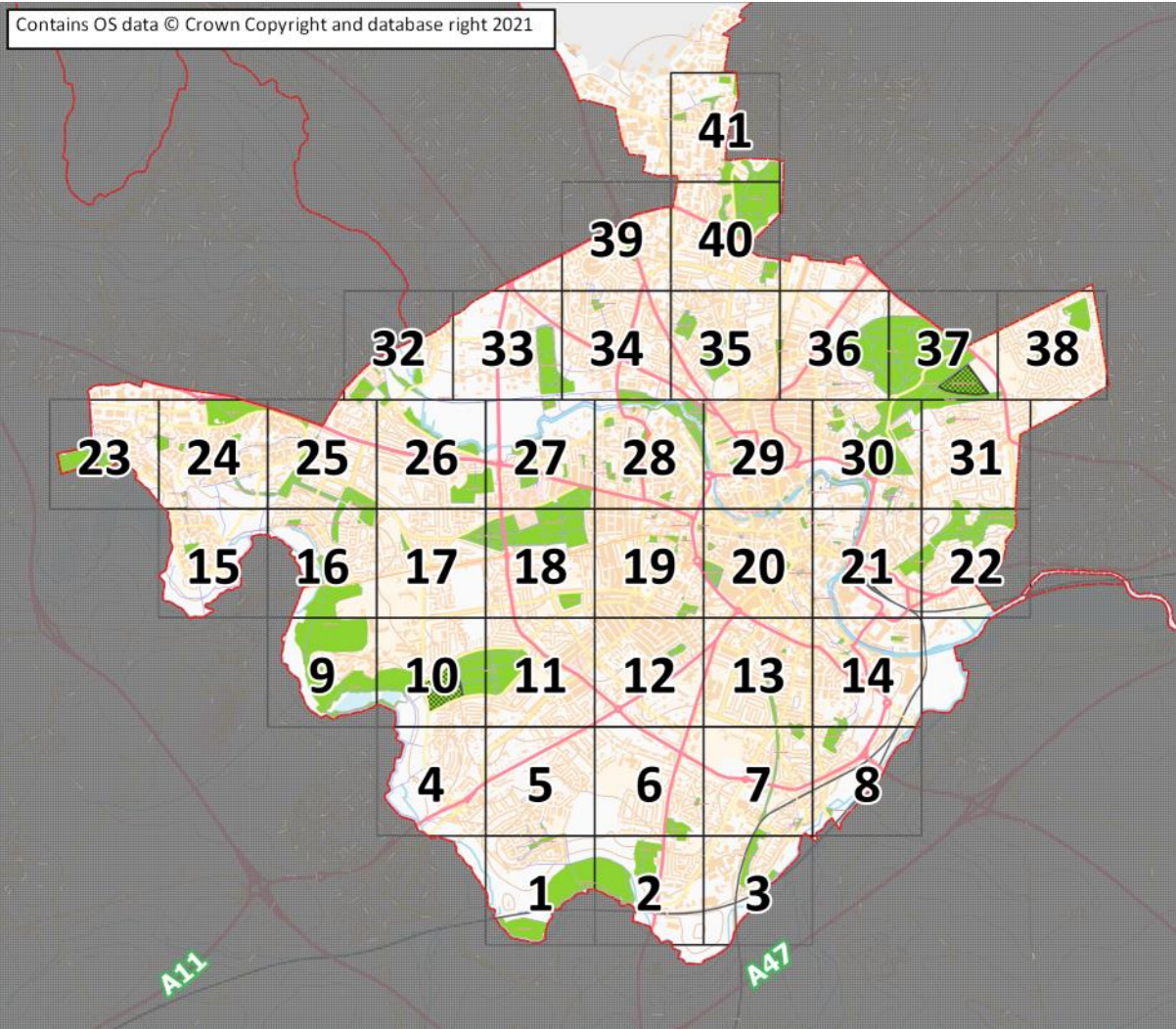
There are eleven sites which have obtained national recognition for their significance through being listed by Historic England in the National Heritage List for England as a registered park or garden.

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Legend for maps

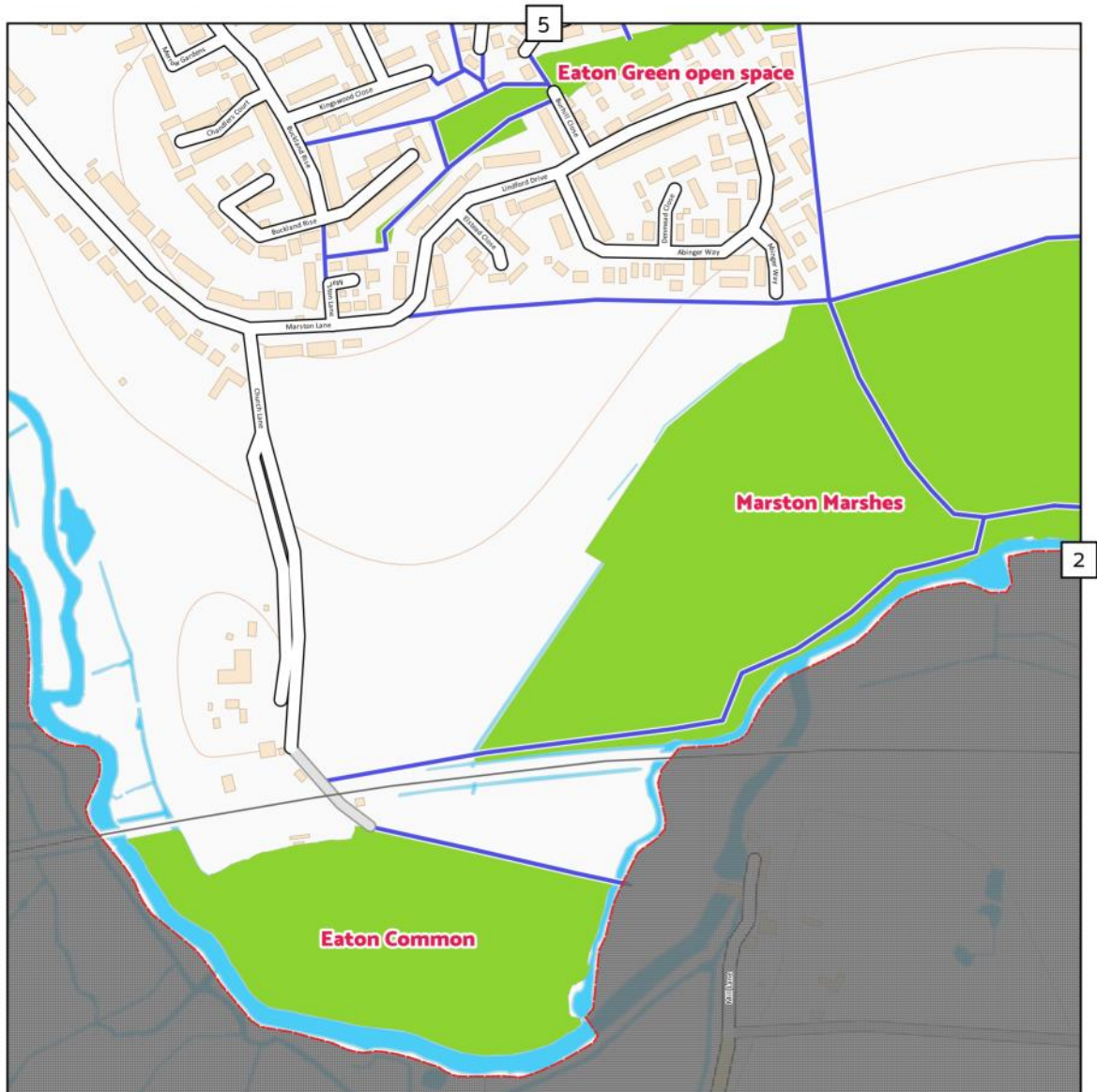
Open spaces



Open space site main access paths or access points



All maps use a base of Ordnance Survey Open Data. Crown Copyright and database right 2021. Additional information derived from surveys undertaken by Norwich Society members.



Eaton Common Norwich's only registered common land. Hidden oasis bordered by River Yare.

Eaton Green open space Large area of grassland with play area.

Marston Marshes Riverside marshland used for grazing and nature conservation.



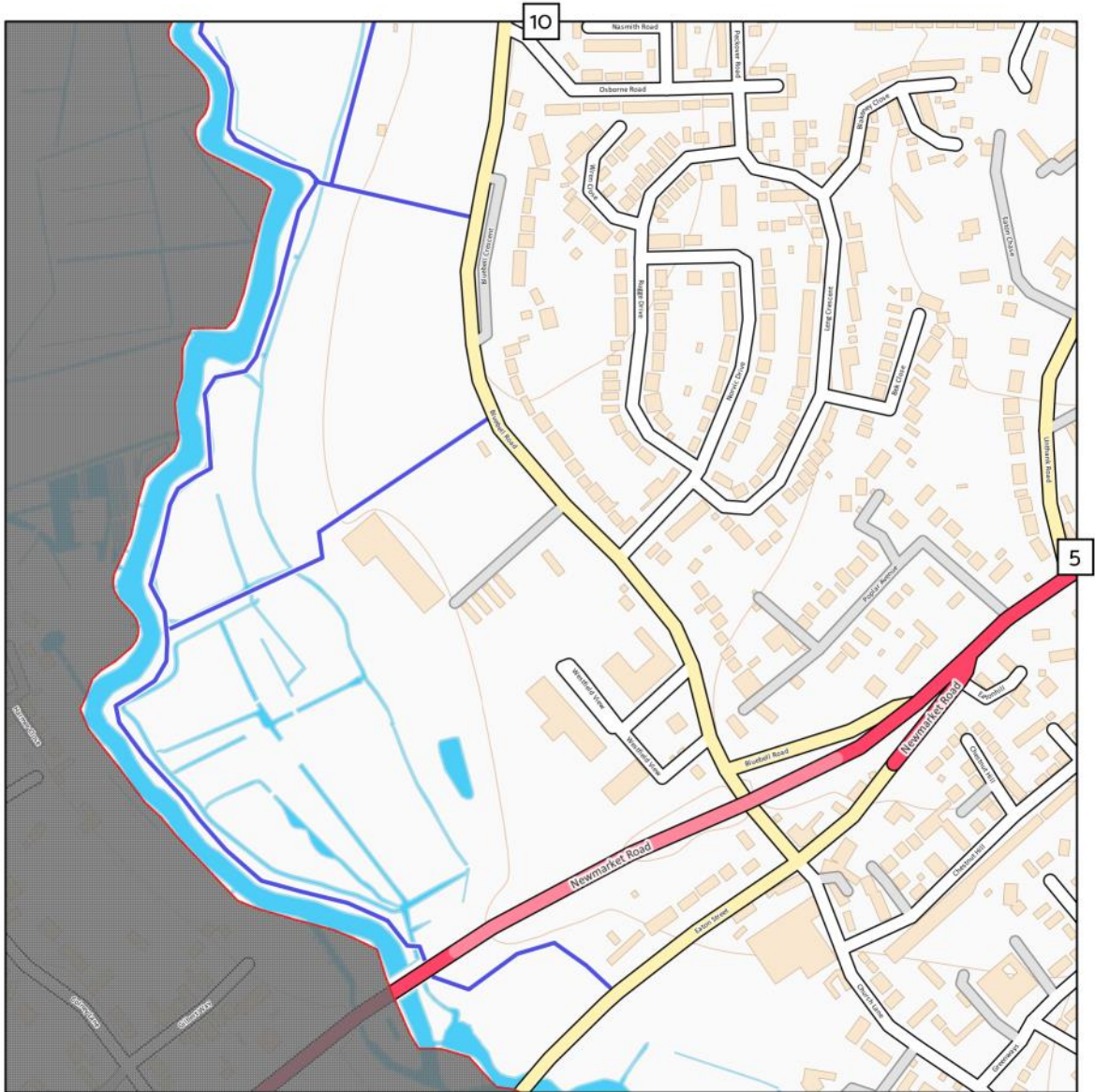
Danby open space Extensive grassy area with enclosed play area.

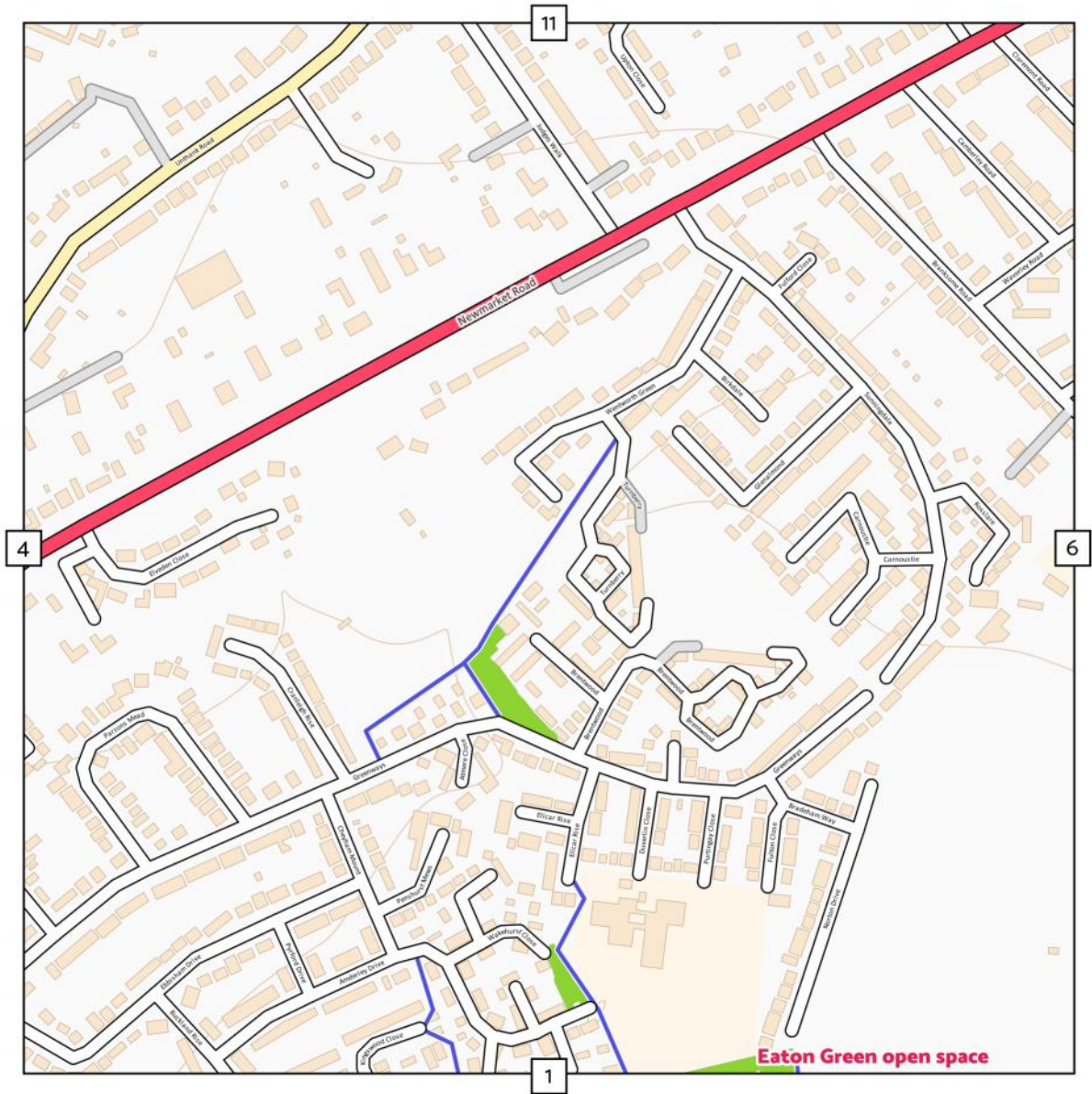
Danby Wood Former quarries and lime works now heavily wooded. Parking area off Marston Lane.

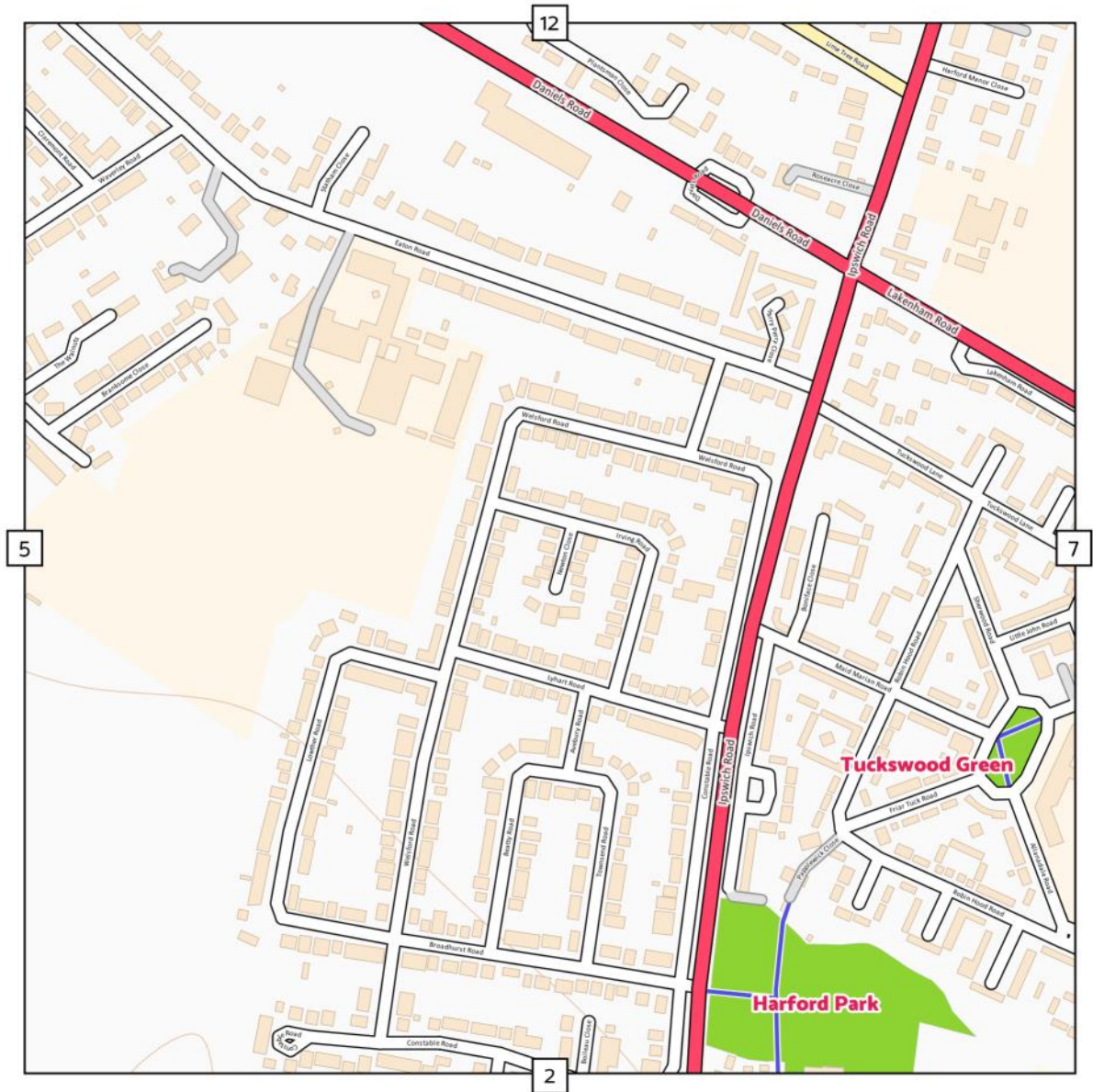


Cooper Wood Nature reserve at end of Cooper Lane. Boardwalk through riverside marshland and an open meadow.

Lea Bridges Park Entrances from Coleburn Road at each end and in the centre . Numerous sporting facilities including zip wire, basketball court , children play area and football pitch.

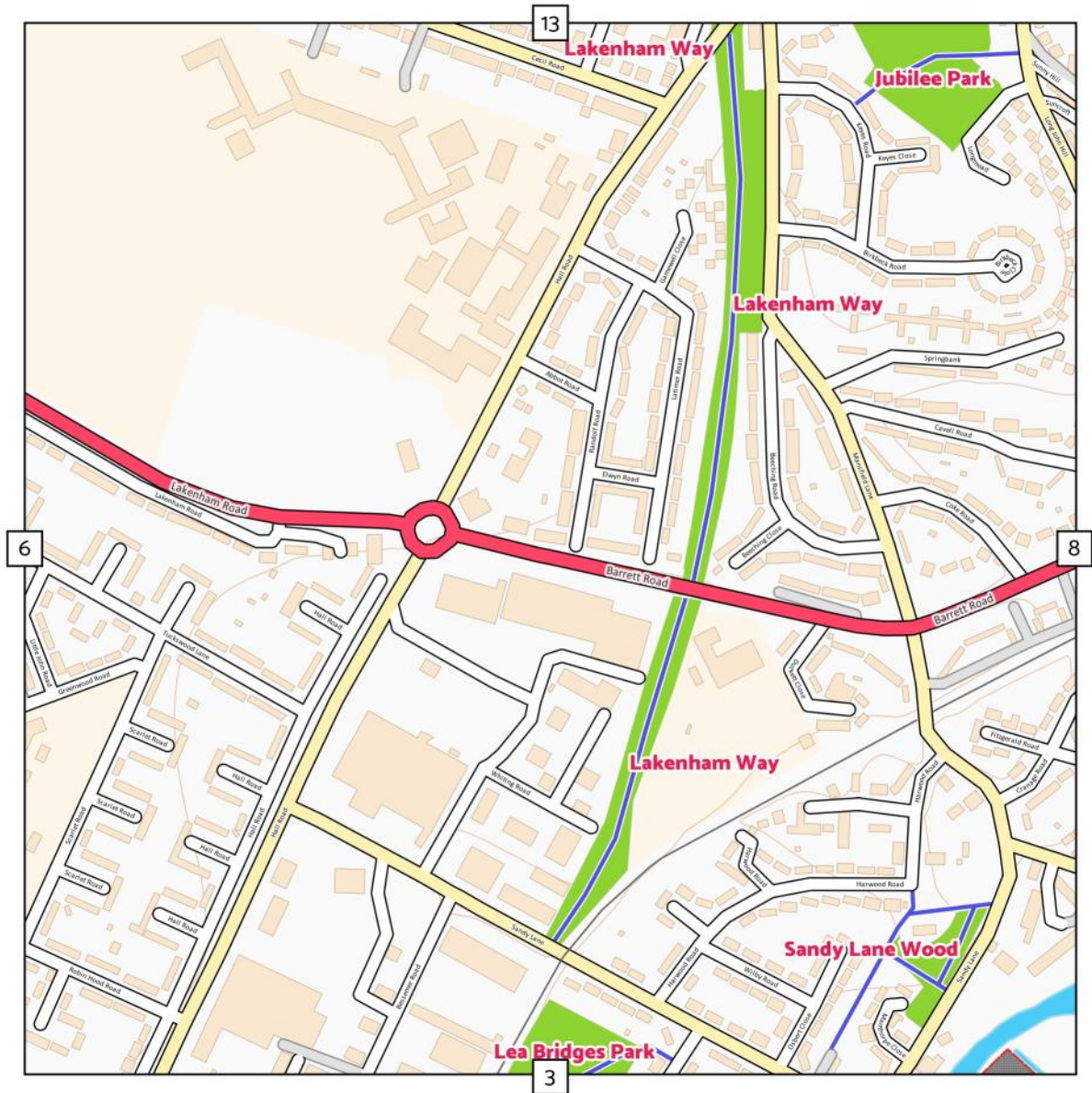






Harford Park Parking, play and sports areas.

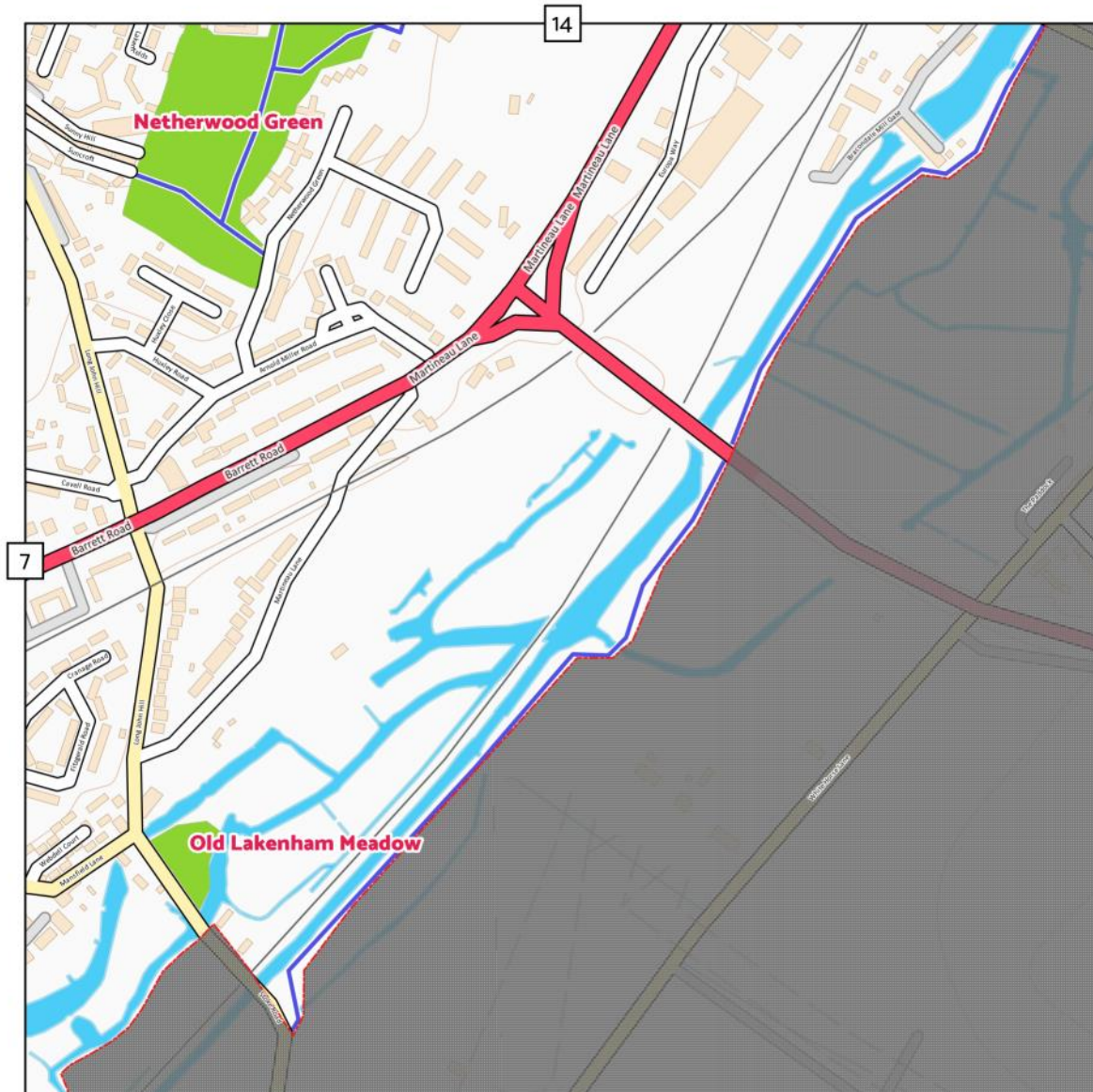
Tuckwood Green Community area with large vegetable and herb planting boxes.



Jubilee Park Parking. Basketball court, swings, obstacle course and cycle track.
Community Centre.

Lakenham Way Tarmac surface for shared cycle and pedestrian way following route of former railway line to Victoria Station with slopes adjoining with trees and bushes.

Sandy Lane Wood Small woodland on hill side adjoining the church and churchyard of St. John the Baptist & All Saints Church.



Netherwood Green Extensive woodland and grass areas on a hill side. The wooded area includes an arch made from the remains of the former Cathedral infirmary. Childrens play area.

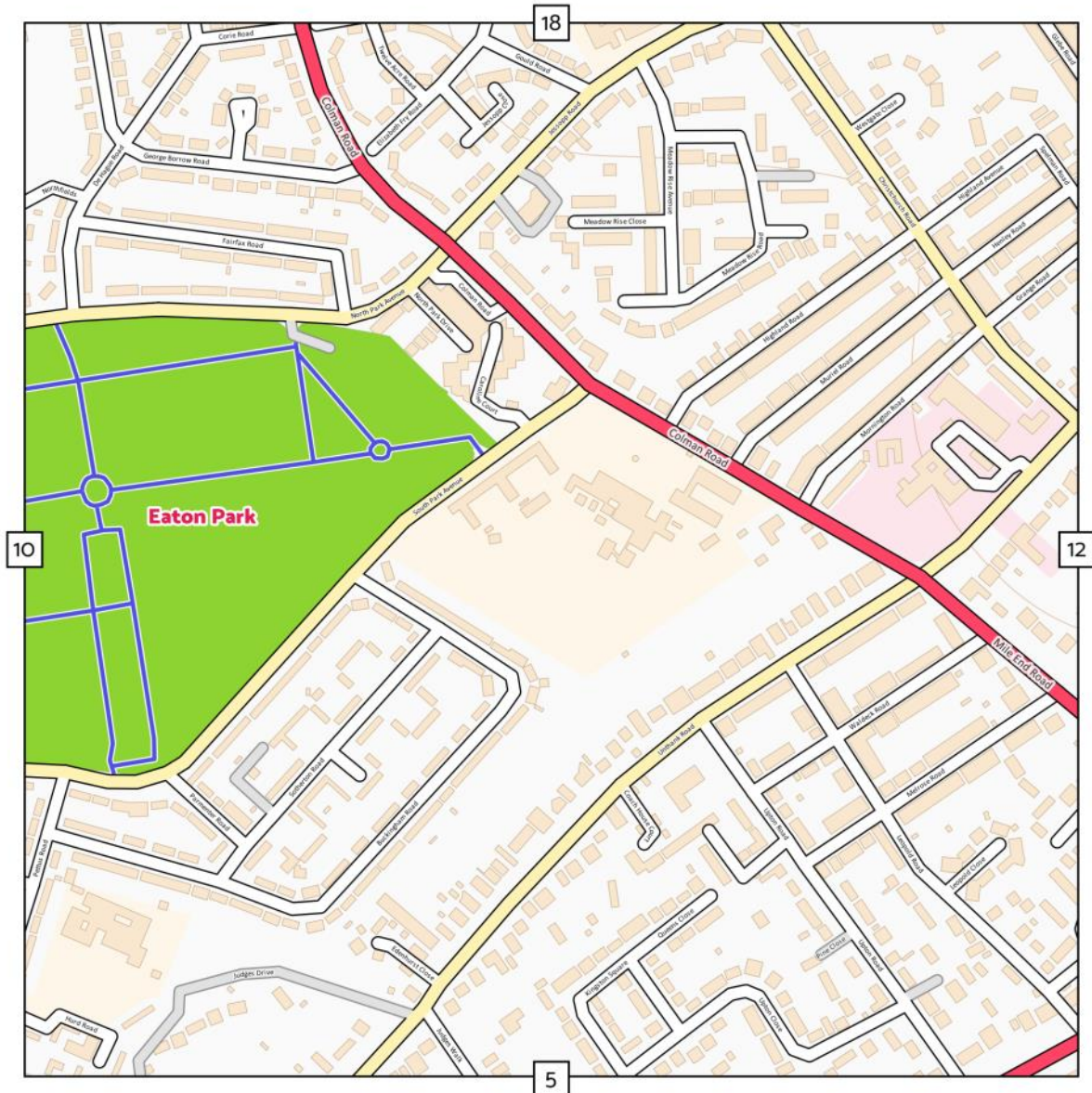
Old Lakenham Meadow Small area between two branches of the river Yare by the former Lakeham Mill with riverside access.



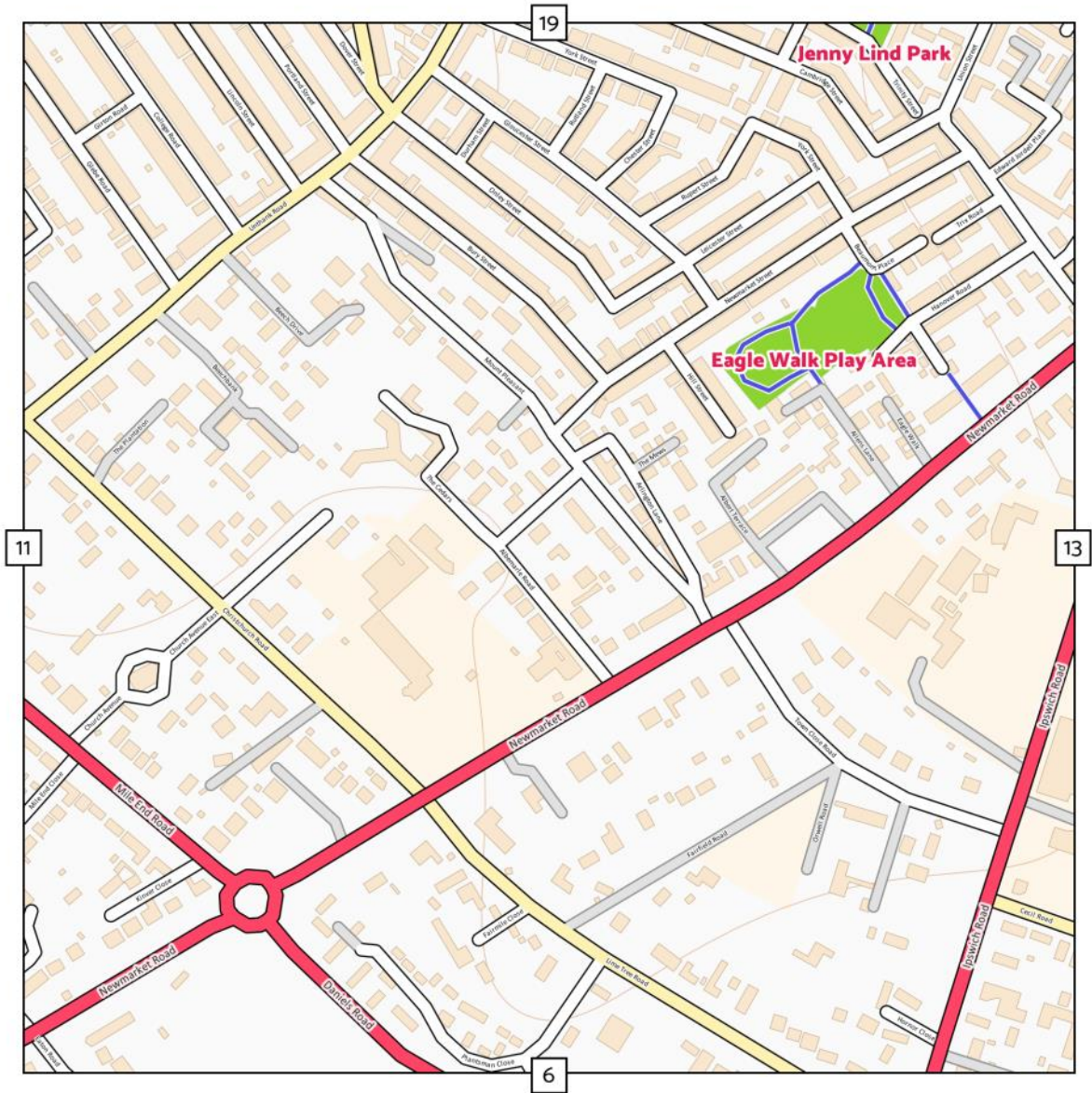
Earlham Park Large park with garden surrounding the University of East Anglia. It is listed by Historic England as a historic park or garden (Grade II). Car Parking accessed from the large entrance off Earlham Road. Amenities include café and toilets.



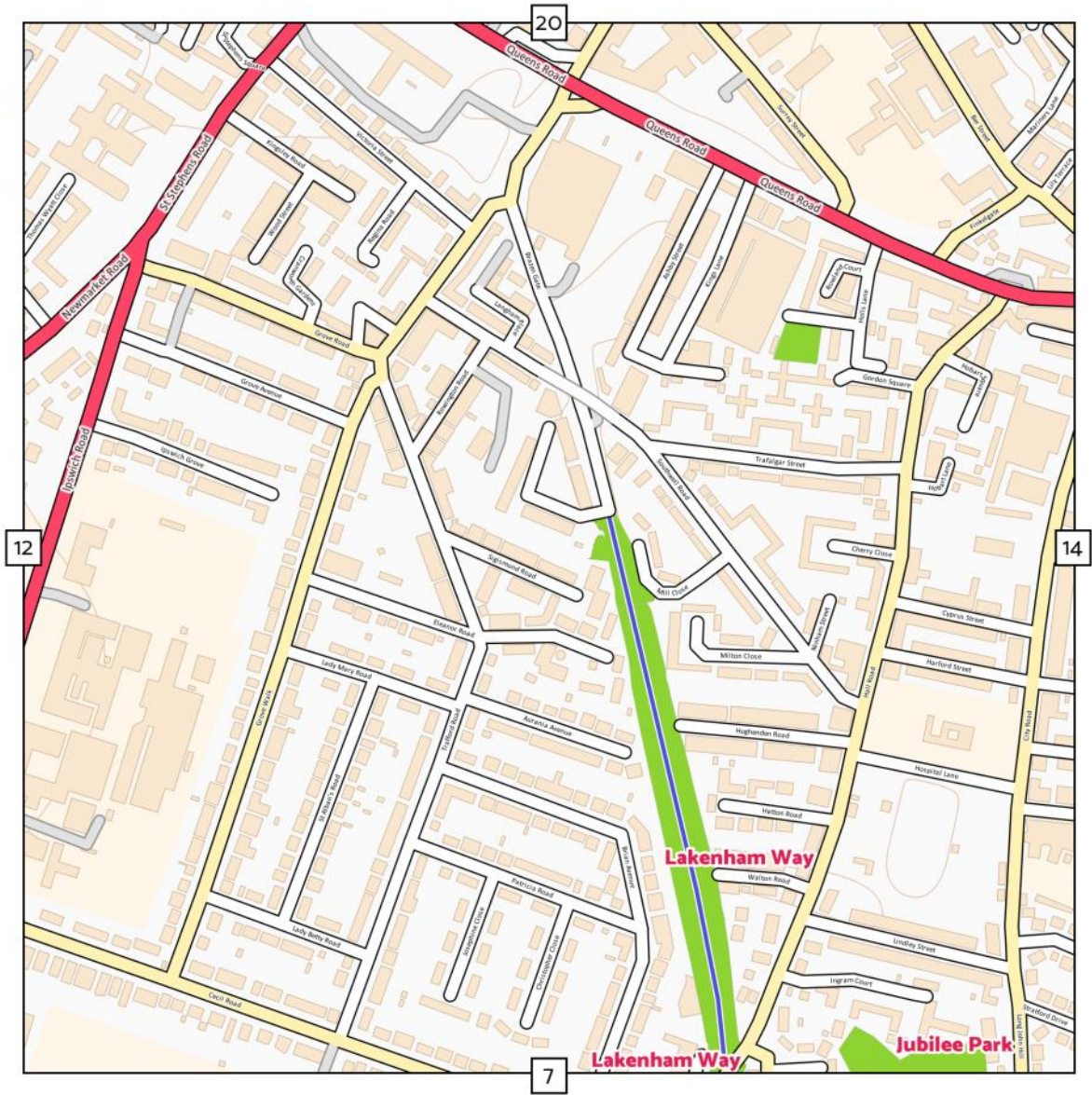
Eaton pitch and putt Area at the west end of Eaton Park used for pitch and putt and footgolf all year round. If walking over it when play is in progress be aware that the City Council advises that there is a risk from golf balls and footballs, that dogs should be kept on leads and children not allowed to stray on to the course.

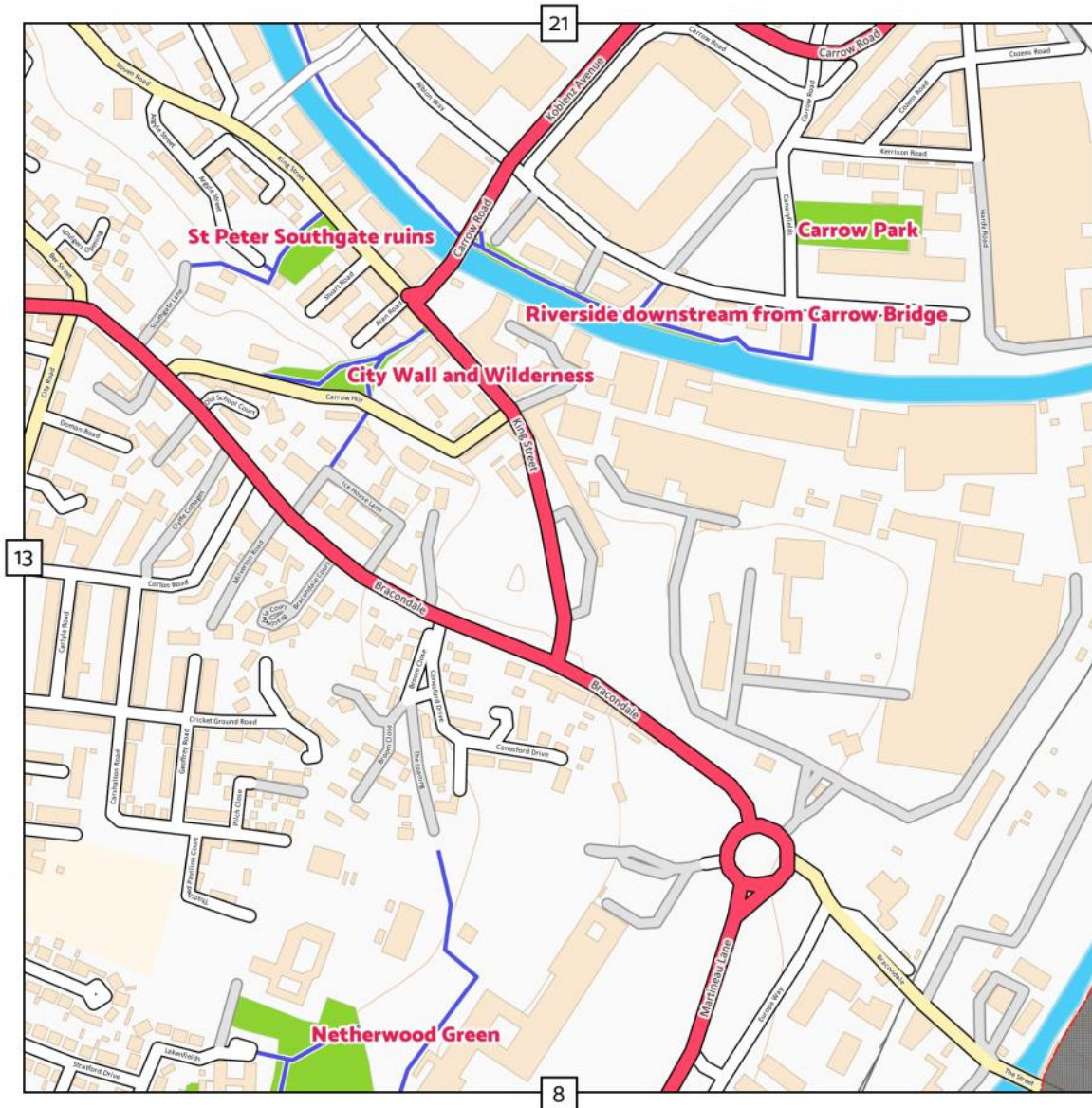


Eaton Park Large park which holds a Green Flag Award. Car parking at east and west end off South Park Avenue. It is listed by Historic England as a historic park or garden (Grade II*). Many facilities including café, toilets and Children's play area. Lots of seating, particularly around central bandstand. Several sports facilities including tennis, croquet, Crazy Golf, Pitch and Putt, Cycle Speedway, table tennis, skate board, model boat pond, miniature railway. Regular sports and other events including weekly park run, Nordic Walking. Volunteer group : Friends of Eaton Park - [link to website](#).



Eagle Walk Play Area Play area and adjacent woodland maintained by volunteers (details on site).



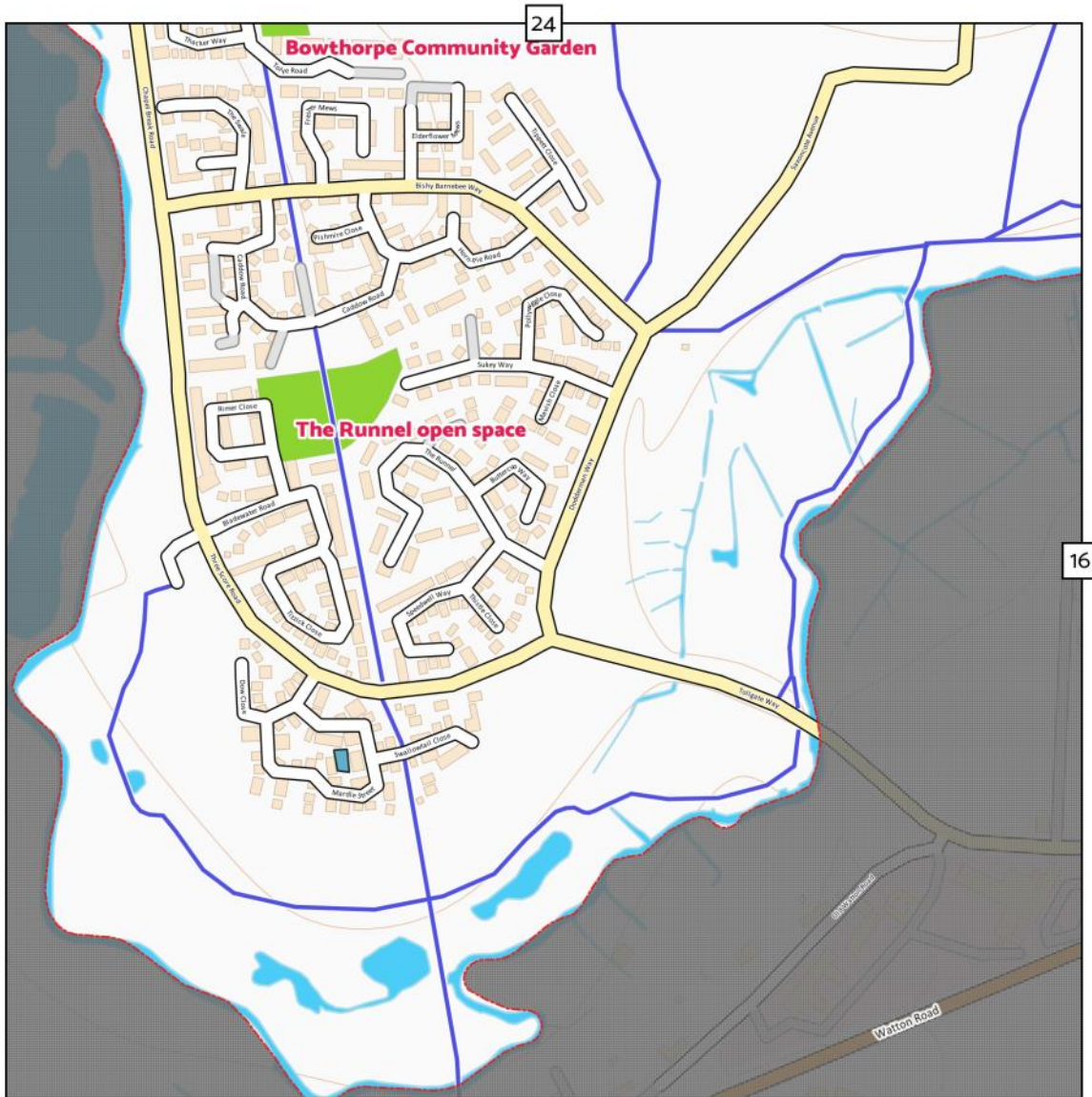


Carrow Park Includes a play area and sports facilities run by the Community Sports Foundation - [link to website](#).

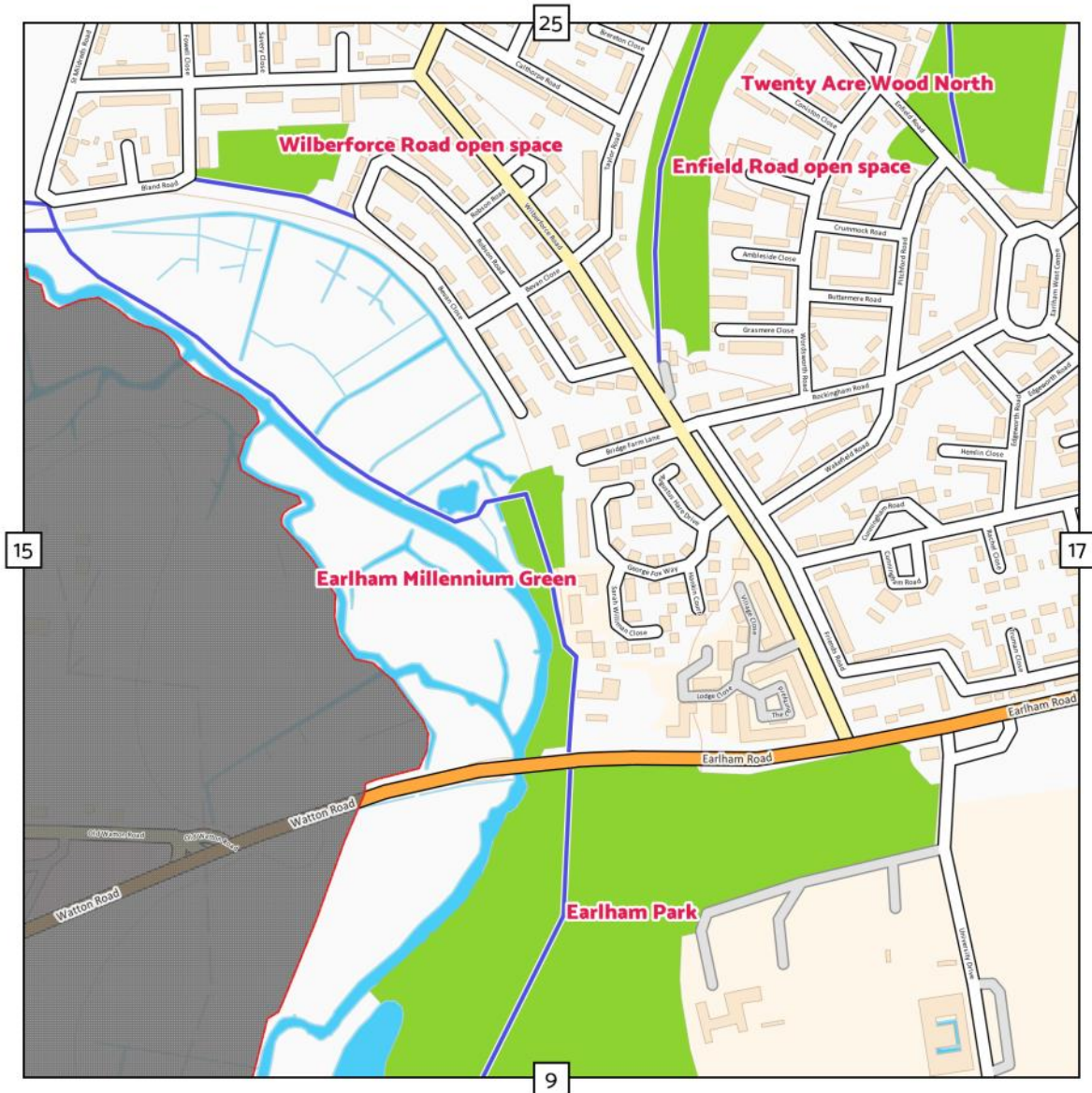
City Wall and Wilderness The best preserved part of the former Norwich City Walls on a very steep slope, with the Black Tower. The Wilderness is adjacent woodland, mostly inaccessible.

Riverside (northside) downstream from Carrow Bridge Includes a Boom Tower, part of the system used for levying tolls on river users.

St Peter Southgate ruins Seating and play area adjacent to the ruins of St Peter Southgate church.



The Runnel open space Playground and hard surface basketball court.

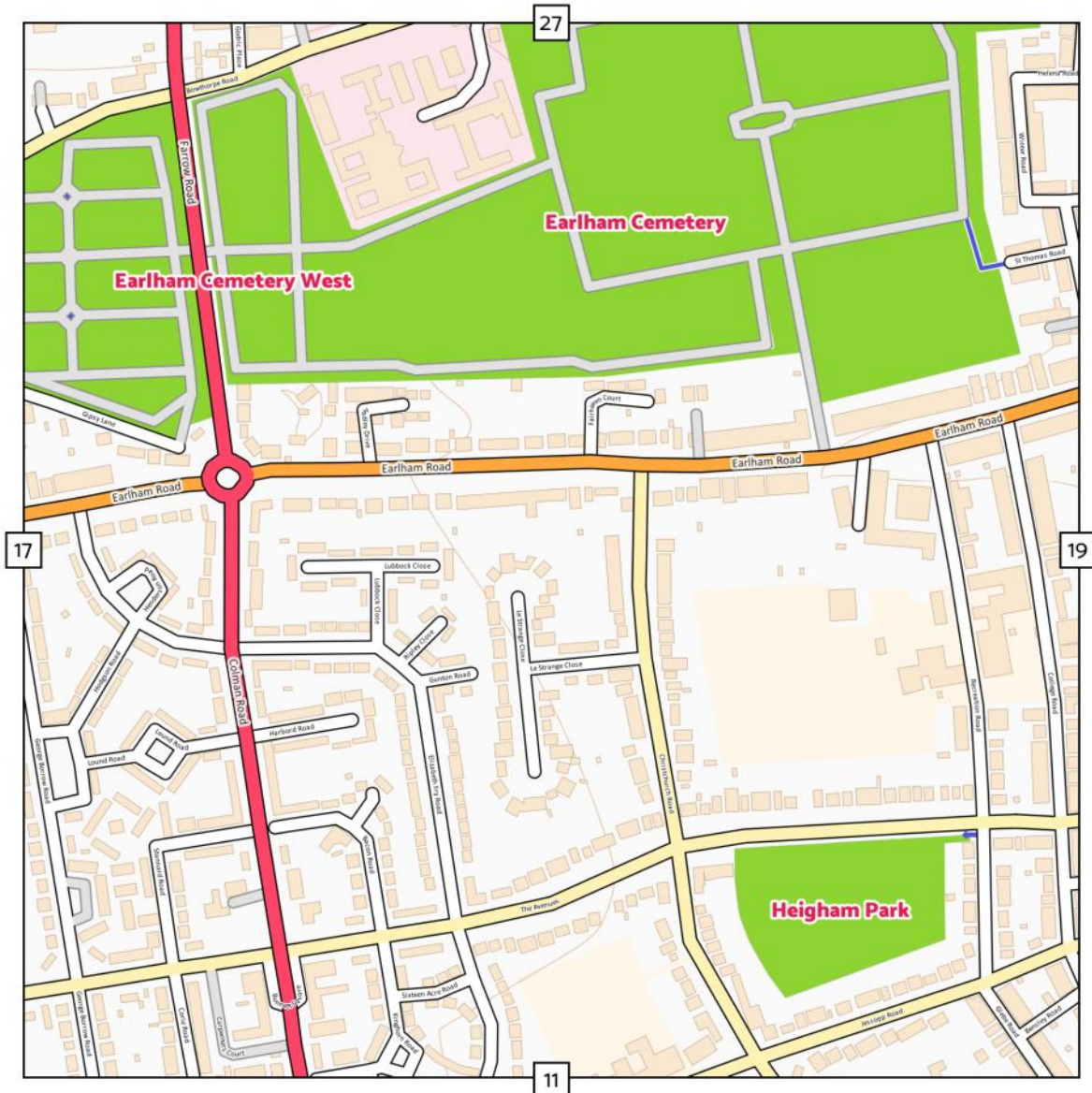


Earlham Millennium Green Close to the river.

Twenty Acre Wood North and South Local Nature Reserve with many paths through woodland. Volunteer group : Friends of West Earlham Woods - [link to website](#).

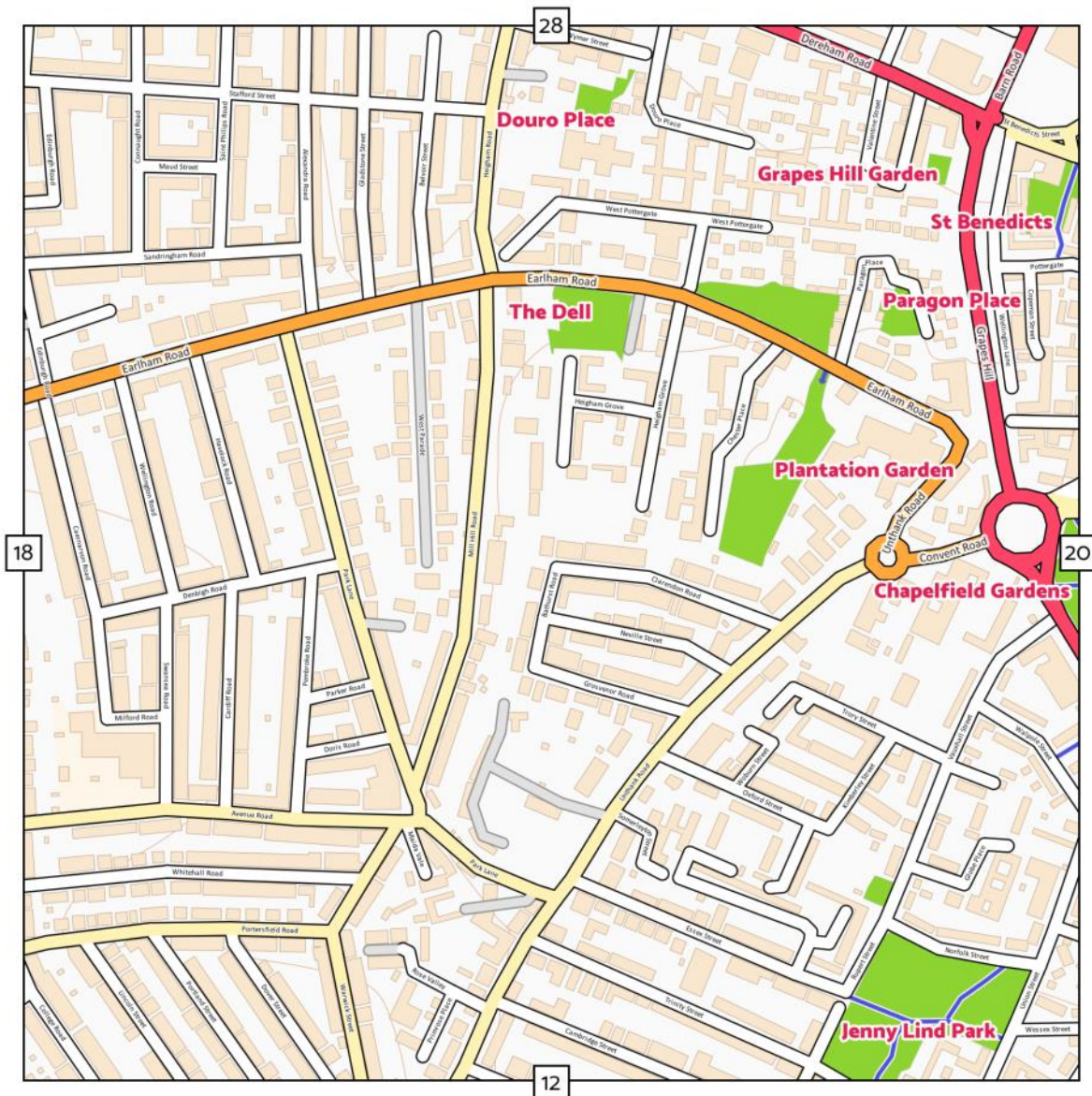
Wilberforce Road open space Play area with seats and picnic tables.





Earham Cemetery The largest cemetery in Norwich, with historic, cultural, ecological and biological interest. It is listed by Historic England as a historic park or garden (Grade II). No dogs allowed. The section west of Farrow Road includes the memorial garden for civilians killed by air raids in Norwich in the Second World War. The cemetery is closed at night. Volunteer group : Friends of Earham Cemetery - [link to website](#).

Heigham Park It is listed by Historic England as a historic park or garden (Grade II), and has an enclosed children’s play area and areas for bowls and tennis. Volunteer group : Friends of Heigham Park - [link to website](#).



Dingles Community Project Allotments and raised boxes in project area.

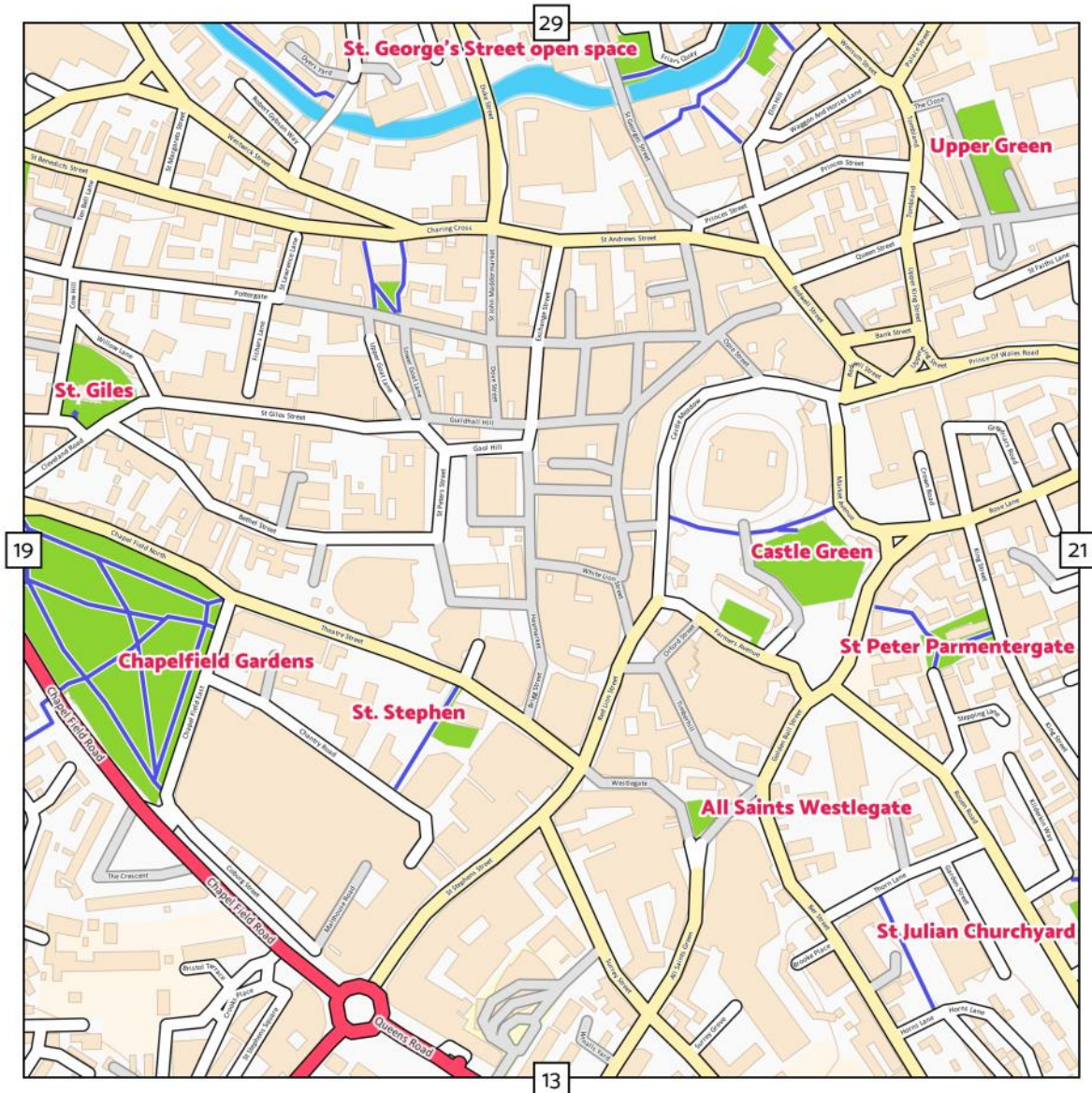
Douro Place Children's play area & sandpit.

Grapes Hill Community Garden Edible Garden, no dogs allowed. Volunteer group : Grapes Hill Community Garden Group - [link to website](#).

Jenny Lind Park Sports and play areas, public toilets.

Paragon Place Landscaped quarry with fine specimen trees.

Plantation Garden Victorian Garden listed by Historic England as a historic park or garden (Grade II). It has been restored and is managed by the Plantation Garden Preservation Trust - [link to website](#), which has opening times and details of events. Entrance fee for non-Trust members. Closed at night.



All Saints Westlegate Churchyard includes the Norwich Twinning Garden, created as part of the Heavenly Gardens Project - [link to website](#).

Castle Green Green area on top of shopping mall, with seats and play area.

Chapelfield Gardens Large park with bandstand and play area, listed Grade II.

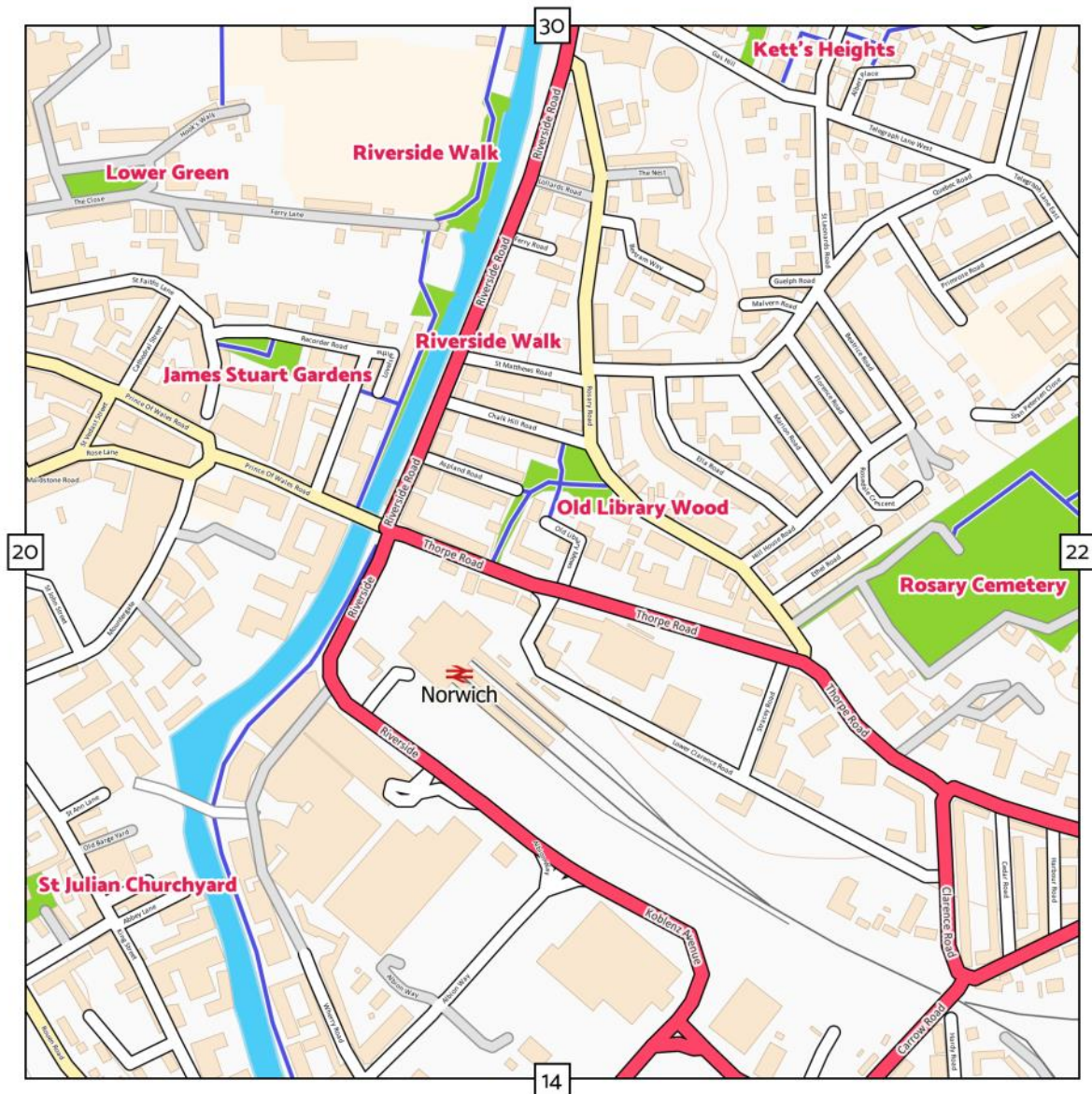
St George's Street open space Landscaped area adjacent to the river.

St Giles Planting and seating in the churchyard.

St Peter Parmentergate Wooded churchyard with through paths.

St Stephen Planting and seating in the churchyard.

Upper Green (Cathedral Close) Grassed area with statues and a fine view of the Cathedral.



James Stuart Gardens Small park with flowerbeds and seating.

Lower Green (Cathedral Close) Grassed area with a fine view of the Cathedral.

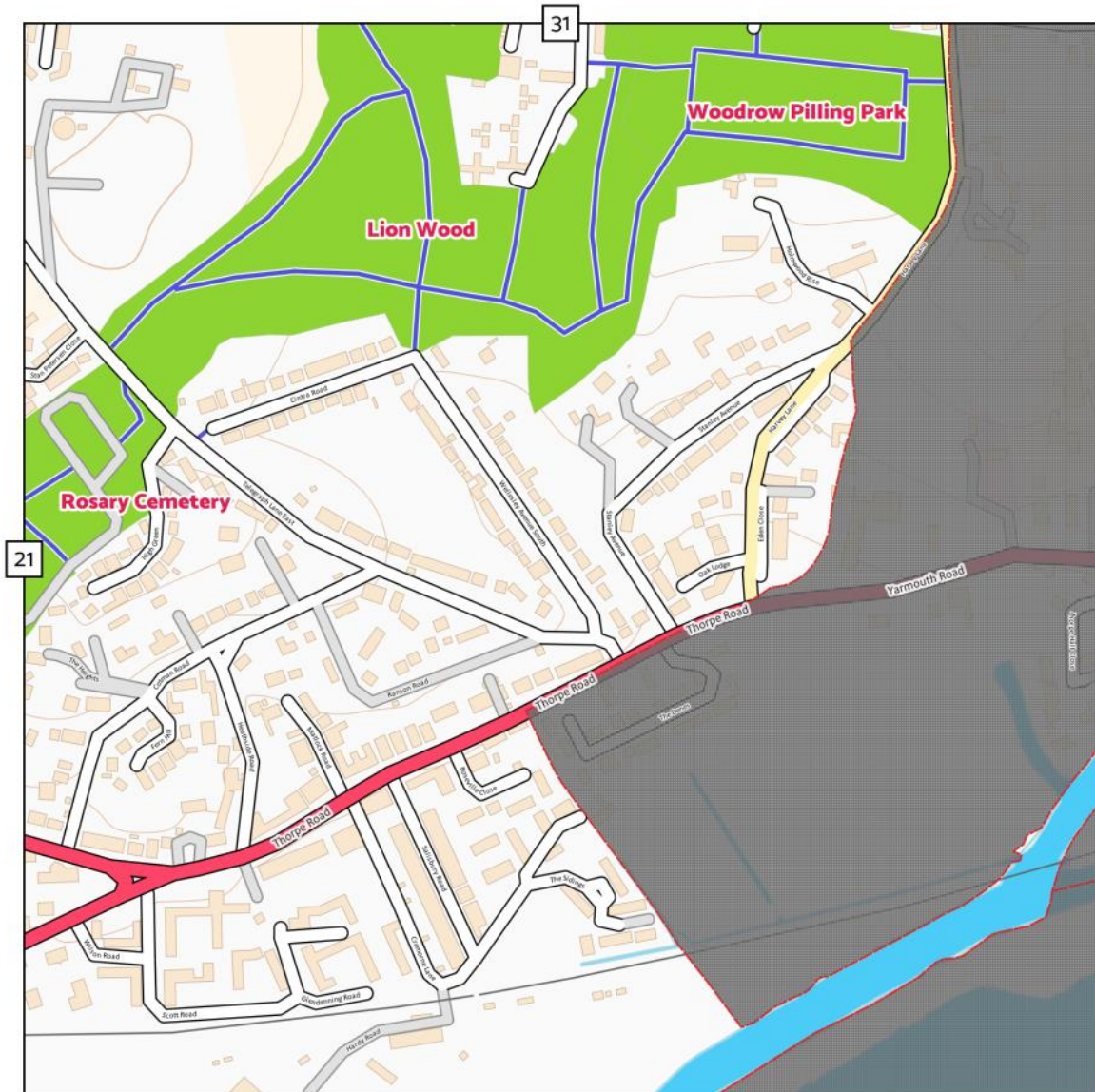
Old Library Wood Seating, swap libraries (adults and children), and wood sculpture.

Volunteer group: Old Library Wood Collective - [link to website](#).

Riverside Walk Runs from Carrow Bridge (atlas page 14) to and beyond Train Wood (atlas page 28). Closed at night between Foundry Bridge and the Jarrold Bridge.

Rosary Cemetery England's first non-denominational cemetery, listed by Historic England as a historic park or garden (Grade II*). Closed at night. Dogs not allowed. Volunteer group: Friends of the Rosary Cemetery - [link to website](#).

St Julian Churchyard - Planting and seating.

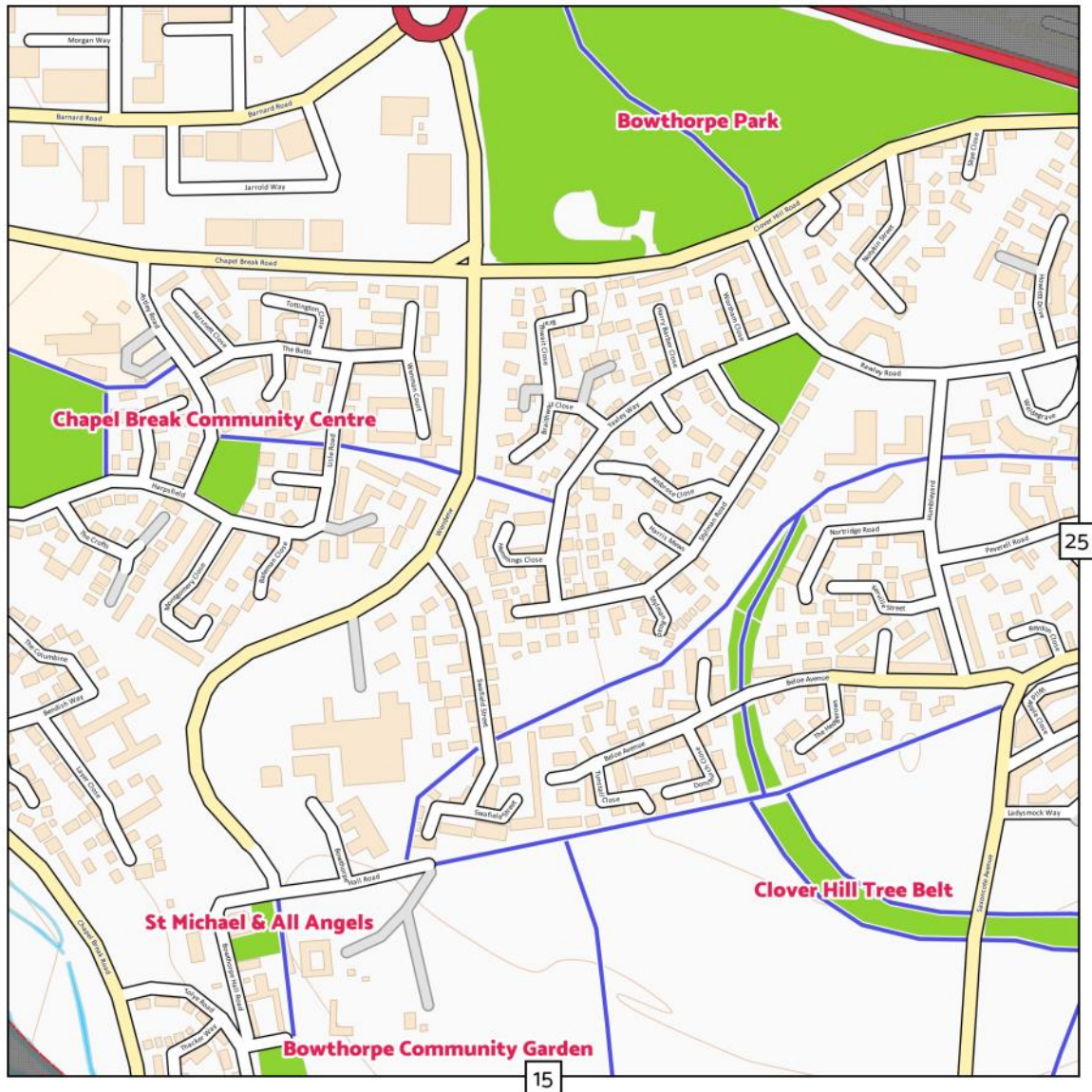


Lion Wood Woodland with links to Rosary Cemetery and Pilling Park. Formerly part of the estate for Mousehold House.

Woodrow Pilling Park Established in the 1930s alongside the adjacent Pilling Park estate on land formerly part of the Mousehold House estate. Seats, play areas and sports facilities.



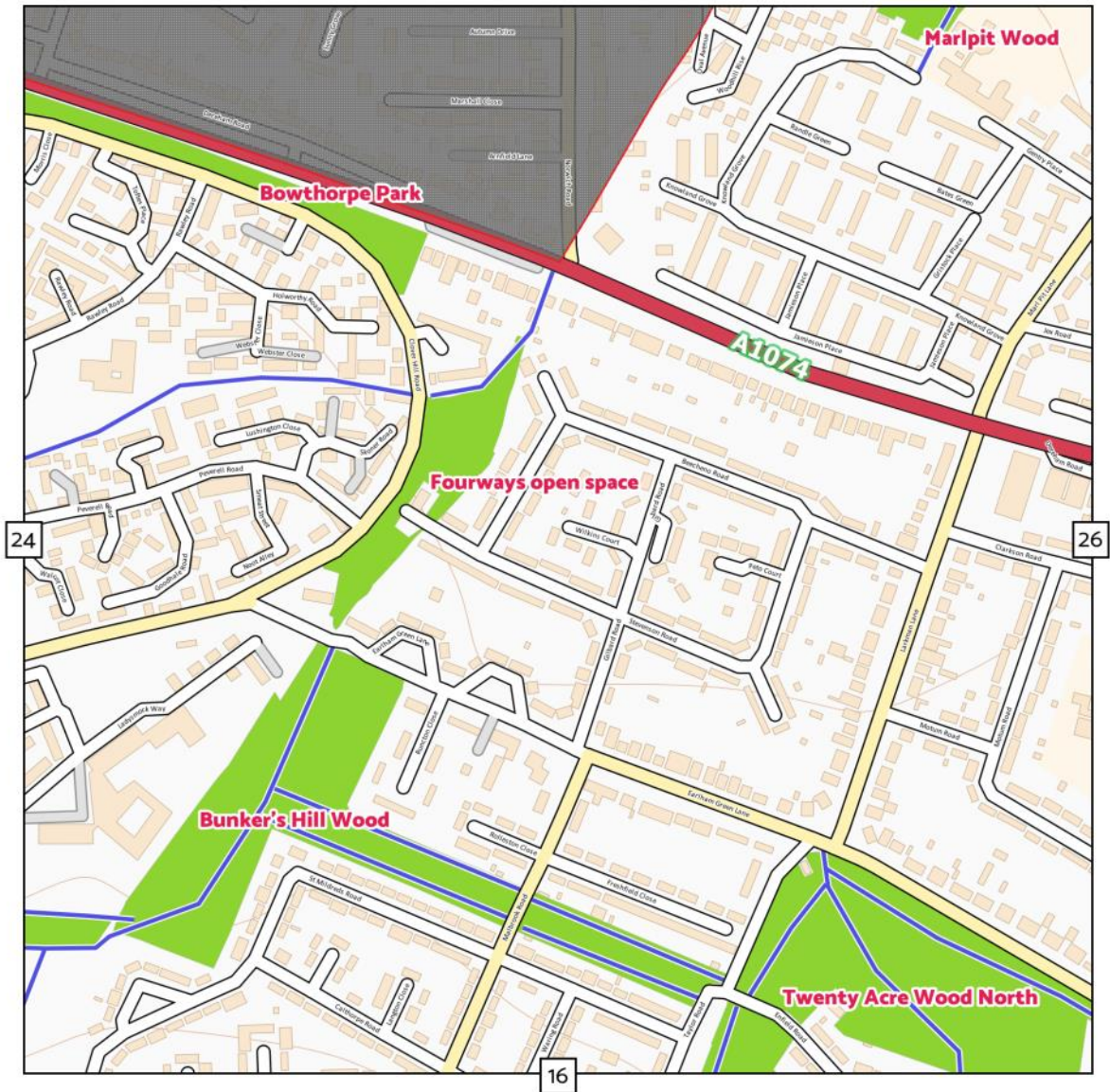
Charter Wood Although just outside the Norwich City Council boundary, this hazel wood is owned by the City Council and was planted to mark the 800th anniversary of the granting in 1194 of a charter to the city.



Bowthorpe Community Garden Flower beds and seating.

Bowthorpe Park Open parkland with recreational facilities including tennis courts, 5 a side football pitches with floodlighting and bowling for hire.

St Michael and all Angels Small churchyard with the ruins of this ancient church set beside a memorial garden. Volunteer group : Bowthorpe Ruin Trust - [link to website](#).



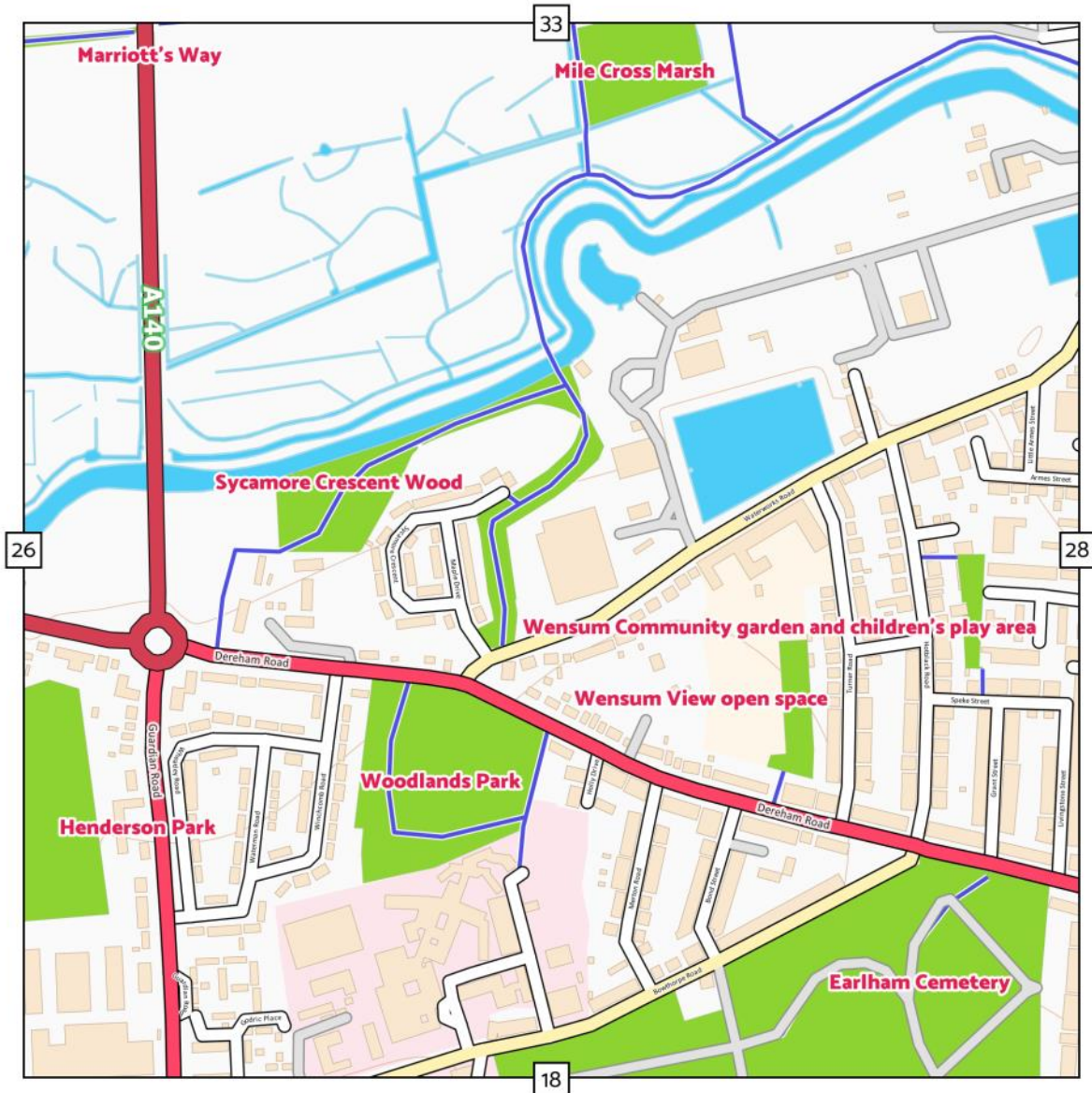
Bunker's Hill Wood Mature woodland. Volunteer group : Friends of West Earham Woods - [link to website](#).

Fourways open space Play area and community centre building. Parking.



Hellesdon Road Meadow Open area by River Wensum. Views to meadow across the river.

Henderson Park Park and sports area owned and managed by the Henderson Trust - [link to website](#). Parking off Ivy Road. Children's play area, an oval running track and outdoor gym equipment.



Wensum View garden and play area Children's play equipment and an open area.

Wensum Community garden and children's play area No equipment, some wooden pegs.

Woodlands Park Donated to the City of Norwich in 1904, large wooded area.



Helford Street Play area Seats, children's play facilities plus a small grassed area.

Mancroft Walk Benches and children's play facilities.

Train Wood Marriott's Way cycle path plus riverside walk and angling facilities. Volunteer group: Friends of Train Wood and Marriott's Way - [link to website](#).

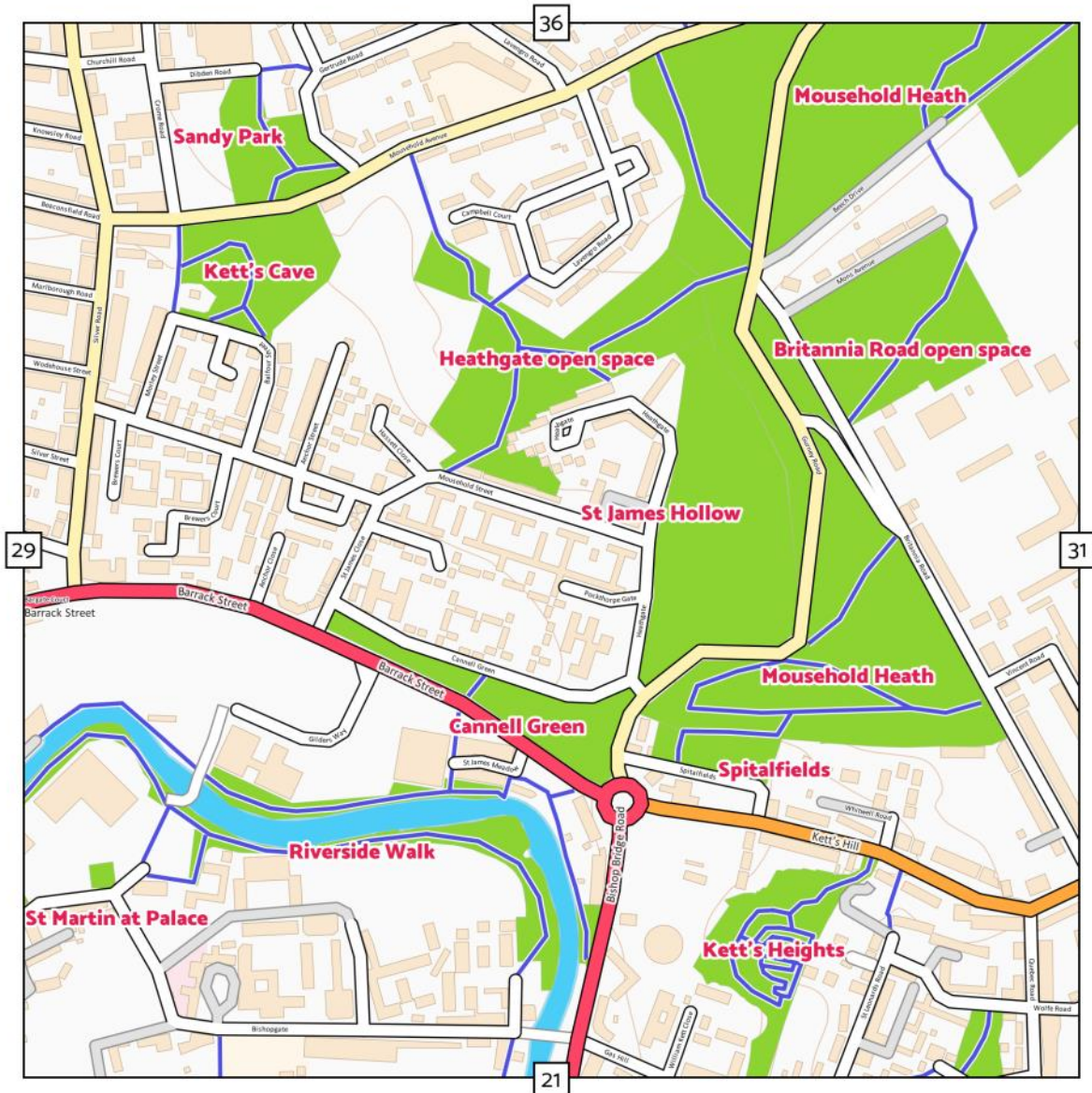
Wensum Park It is listed by Historic England as a historic park or garden (Grade II). Play areas, toilets, access to the river.



Bakers Road open space Contains section of the city wall.

Gildencroft open space Play area.

St Martin at Palace Churchyard maintained as a garden and includes the Norwich Botanists' Garden created as part of the Heavenly Gardens Project - [link to website](#).



Cannell Green Some trees with lawns and paths.

Kett's Cave Park Basket Ball Court and Children's playground. Volunteer group : Pockthorpe Community Group - [link to website](#).

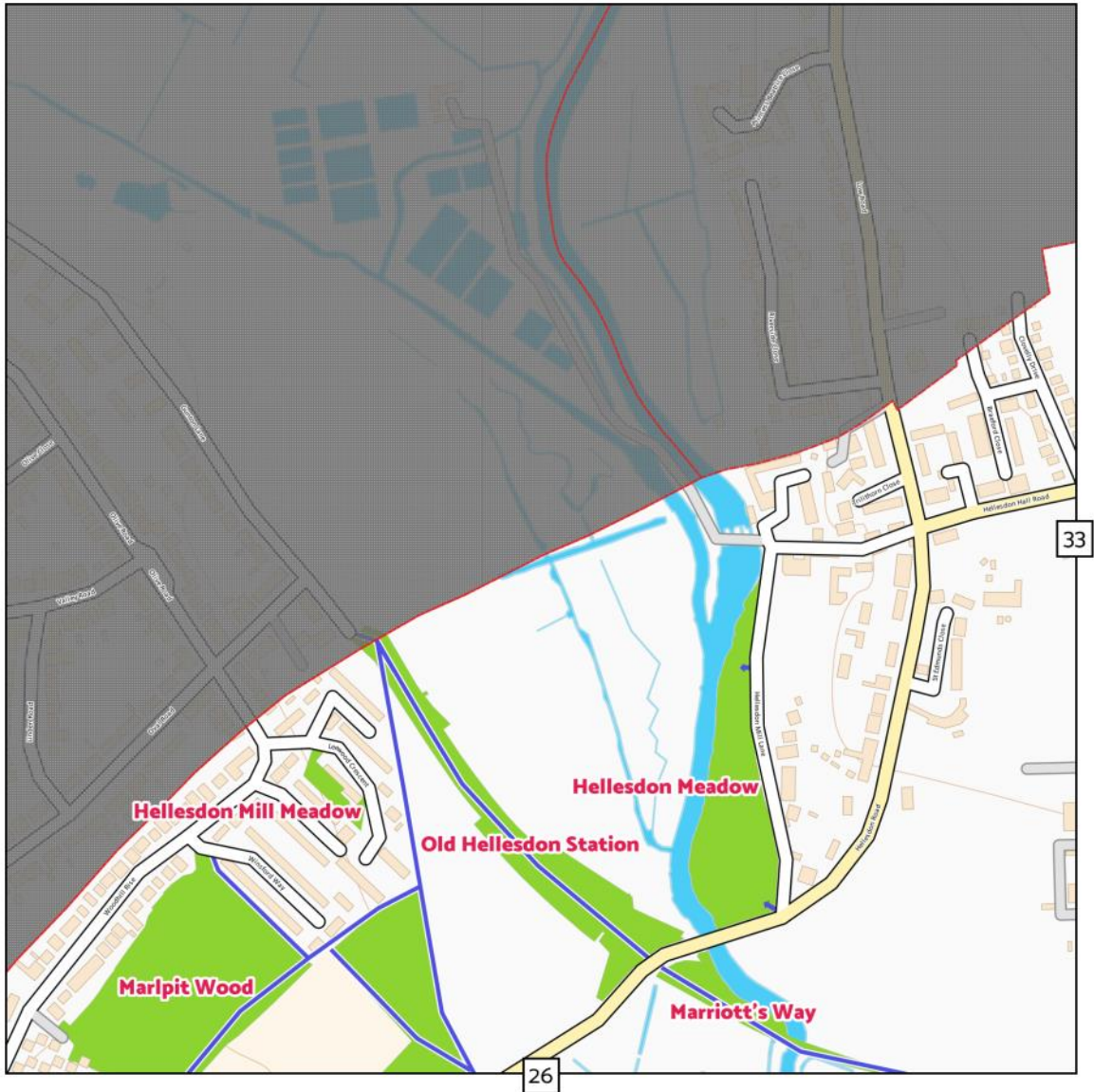
Kett's Heights One of the finest views of the city centre. Has the remains of St Michael's Chapel, headquarters of Kett's rebellion in 1549. Volunteer group : Friends of Kett's Heights - [link to website](#).

Sandy Park Fine view over the city. Children's play area. Volunteer group : Pockthorpe Community Group - [link to website](#).

Spitalfields Former housing site now managed for nature conservation.

St James Hollow Play area..

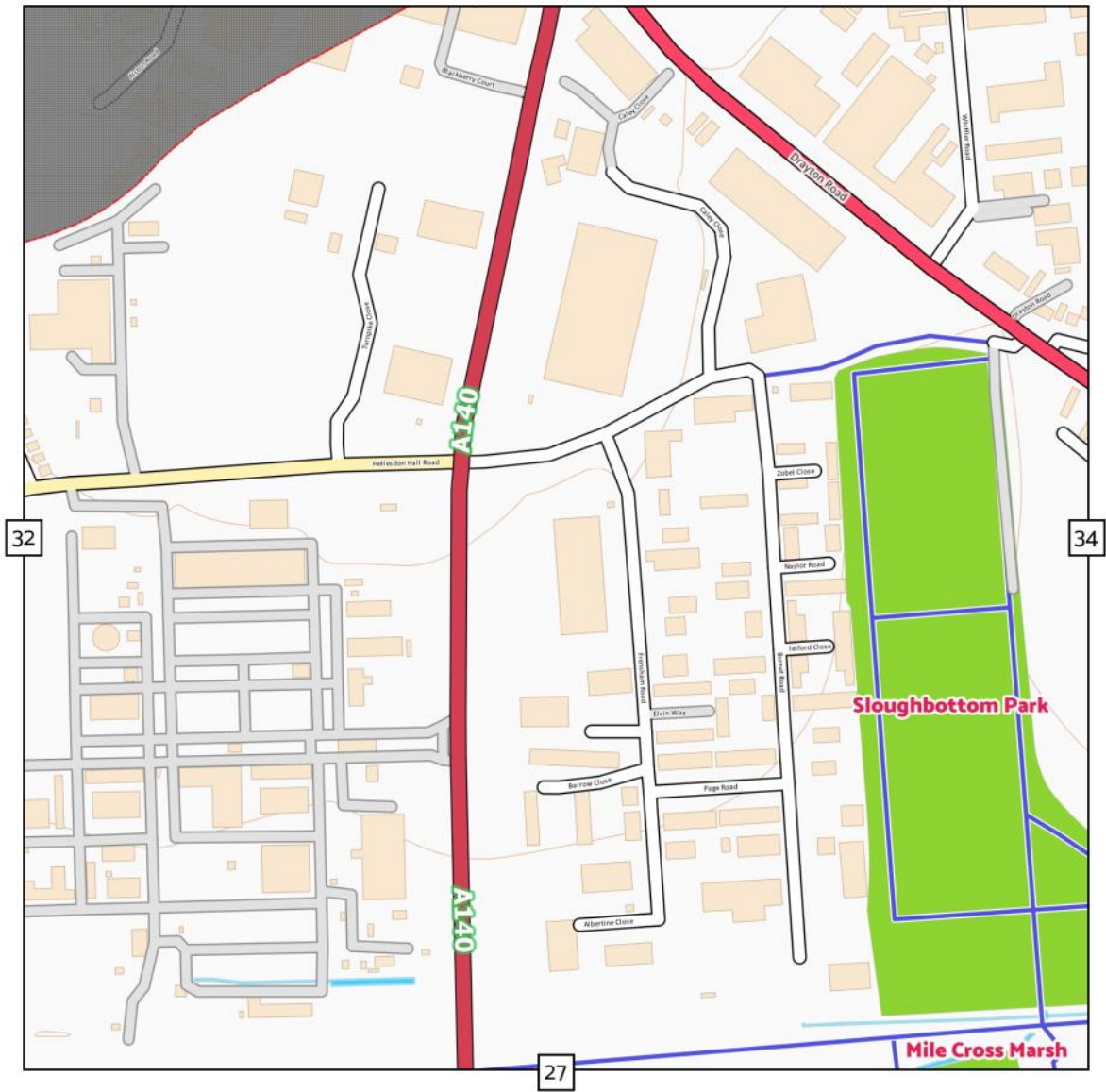




Hellesdon Meadow Open area of grass and trees adjoining river Wensum. Car park.

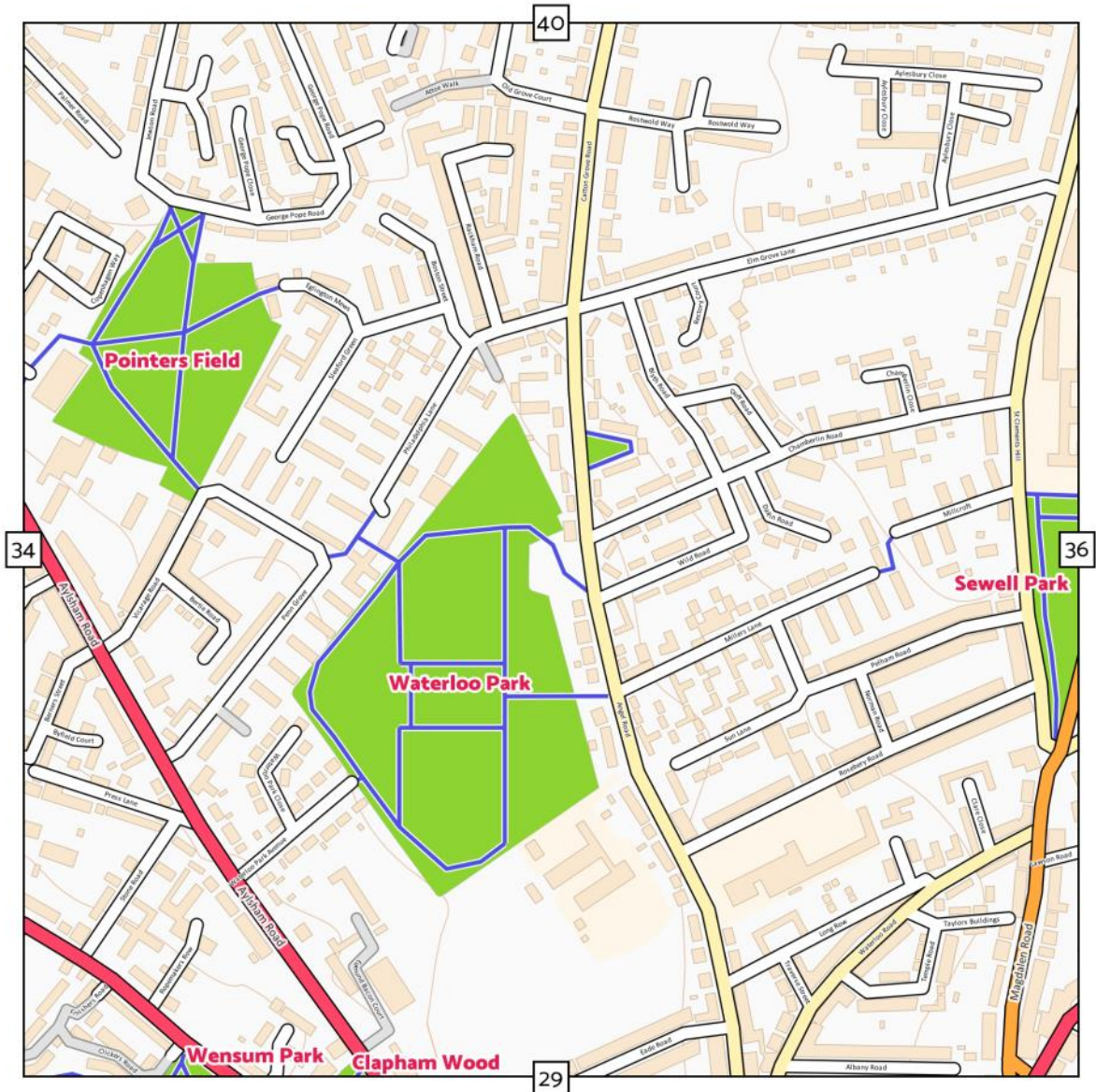
Marlpit Wood Wooded area with tracks through and an old marl pit.

Old Hellesdon Station Wooded area with continuation of Marriott's Way.



Sloughbottom Park Play area, sports area including football pitches and a BMX track and site of a park run. Parking available.



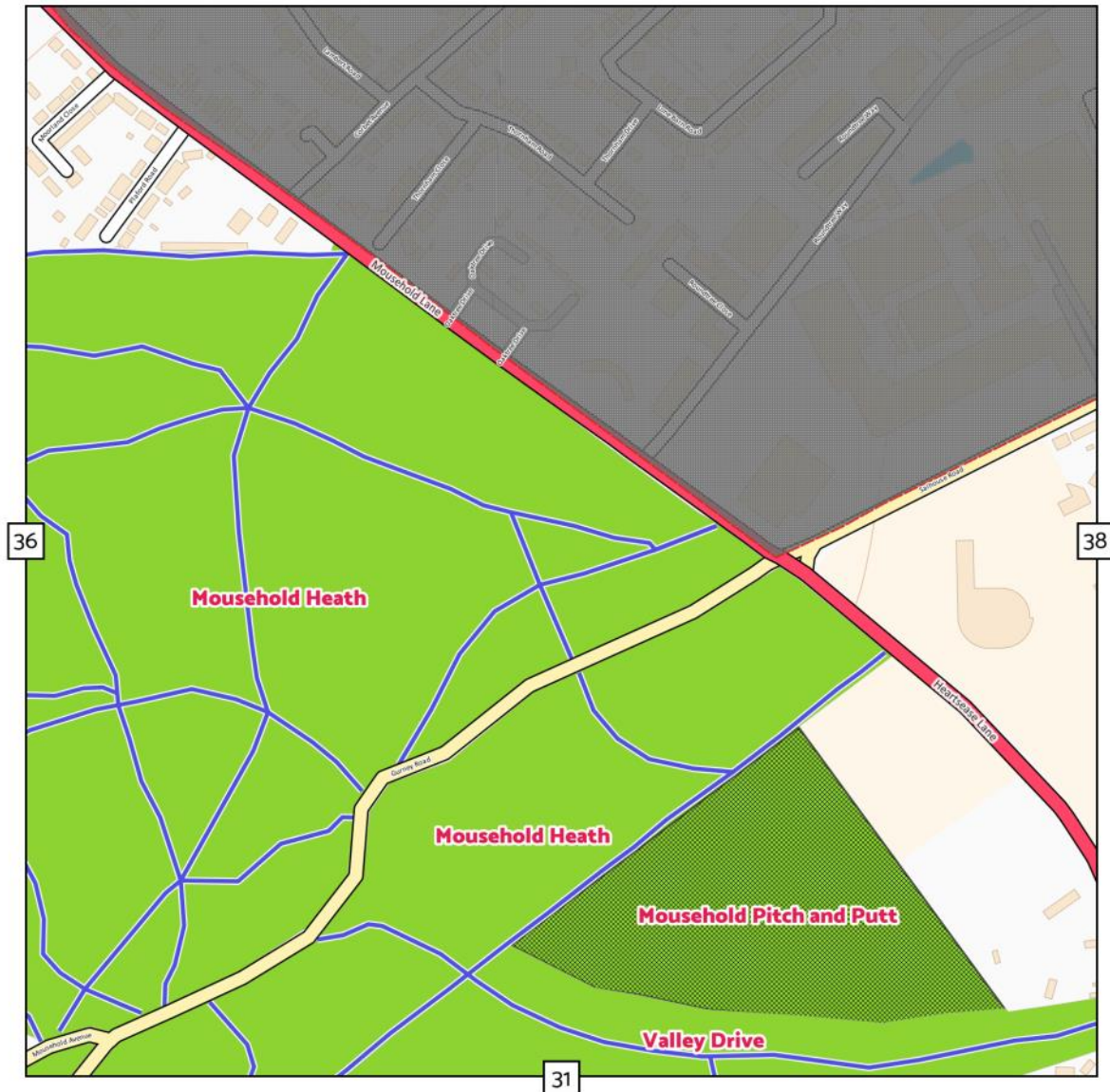


Pointers Field Play area.

Sewell Park Play area.

Waterloo Park It is listed by Historic England as a historic park or garden (Grade II*), and was awarded a Green Flag in 2021. Car park on Angel Road. Play area. Long border. Tennis courts. Toilets. Closed at night. Volunteer group: Friends of Waterloo Park - [link to website](#).





Mousehold Heath Largest open space in Norwich, mixture of woodland and restored heath. Given to the City of Norwich in 1884 and managed by the Mousehold Heath Conservators. Volunteer group : Mousehold Heath Defenders - [link to website](#).

Mousehold Pitch and Putt Area adjacent to Mousehold Heath and Valley Drive used for pitch and putt and footgolf through spring and summer. If walking over it when play is in progress be aware that the City Council advises that there is a risk from golf balls and footballs, that dogs should be kept on leads and children not allowed to stray on to the course.



Alderman Walker Park Bowling green and tennis courts, together with small wooded area.

Heartsease open space Play area and sports facilities.



Mile Cross Gardens Listed by Historic England as a historic park or garden (Grade II). Play area in northern section.



Catton Park Just outside the city boundary, this park, listed by Historic England as a historic park or garden (Grade II*), was Humphrey Repton's first paid commission to design a landscape setting. It is now owned by Old Catton Parish Council. [Link to website.](#)

Fiddlewood plantation Woodland with a range of paths.

St Clement's Park Play area.



Fifer's Lane open space Play area.

Night plantation and open space Play area.

ABOUT THE NORWICH SOCIETY

As the city's civic society, The Norwich Society is an independent community-based charity, supporting the preservation, development and improvement of features of historic interest of our city. We also use the expertise of architects, town planners, surveyors and other industry professionals within our committees to comment on significant planning decisions in the area on behalf of the public. And we encourage exploration and enjoyment of Norwich's history through a range of talks, walks and other events, as well as regular publications.

From saving the historic Elm Hill area from demolition in the 1920s, to recent campaigning for better development of the Anglia Square site, we've been championing the built environment and public spaces in Norwich and celebrating the city's unique character and beauty since 1923.

**OUR MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH – JOIN US AT
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