

Compelling Case for Local Green Space (LGS) designation

Shipston is woefully short of Open Space. Targets for this⁰¹ are set out in the Core Strategy against its provision for Healthy Communities¹⁵ and therefore there is need to address this locally in the Shipston on Stour Neighbourhood Plan (NP). It was obvious as the Plan was developed that there was little or no prospect such land becoming available within the Parish. Developers are required to provide an element of open space in their layouts but this does not come near to addressing the shortfall. We therefore adopted a policy strategy of 'opening up' the countryside surrounding Shipston, particularly the green infrastructure areas of the riverside and the rising ground to the west of the settlement, protecting such areas for the enjoyment and well-being of residents, visitors and future generations through LGS designation.

The current demographics⁰² of the Parish show an aging population. There are few indications that this will change significantly during the period of the Plan or beyond. It continues to prove a popular area²³ for retirement and the setting of Shipston in the Feldon/Cotswold fringe remains a strong reason for such a lifestyle choice. It is incumbent on the Plan to deliver policies that address the health and well-being of this community.

Following feedback from the pre-submission consultation⁰³, it is appropriate to clarify what informed the NP policy in this respect. Much of the direction is set out in Natural England's publication 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance (ANGSt)⁰⁴ and the WCC publication Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health⁰⁵

As mentioned the SDC Core Strategy follows the targets laid down in these publications. It is important to differentiate between *accessible greenspace* and *natural greenspace*. This is defined in ANGSt. Essentially *accessible greenspace* is public parks and realistically there appears to be no possibility of the required area (min 13ha for 5500 residents) being identified within the 2km from the Town centre as required by the standards mentioned above.

Natural greenspace is what surrounds Shipston and is arguably the most important asset of the community. Certainly the 'all-household' questionnaire carried out as part of the preparation of the NP supports this view. Natural greenspace is not necessarily public space but should be 'accessible' in that it can be seen, enjoyed and valued by the community in which it exists to promote 'healthy communities' as described and justified in the above publications.

The two areas are designated LGS1 and LGS2 and both represent significant parts of the settlement's 'green infrastructure'. LGS1 concerns land at Ridgeway which will be gifted into the ownership of the Town Council by the current landowner as part of the future development at Ridgeway. As such we have no issues with support for LGS1.

The second area, LGS2, concerns the rising ground to the west of the settlement, primarily Hanson Hill. We have carried out considerable work to research and evidence the case for these designations. In this work, the widest possible evidence base was sought. Such evidence supporting our strategy is documented at national, county, district and parish levels. To ensure we have addressed all aspects in supporting our case for LGS we have used (with permission) the excellent Checklist and Criteria for Local Green Space Designation produced by Cotswold DC⁰⁶ and the Locality document Neighbourhood Planning Local Green Spaces⁰⁷. The Open Spaces Society Information Sheet C20²⁴ has also been referenced.

The evidence supporting this case is contained in two main strands:

1. Improved well-being and healthy communities
2. Conserving landscape setting and character.

The aim in presenting this case is to justify designation as set out in the NPPF framework in Paragraph 77

There is inevitable cross-over between these strands

The evidence is at National, County, District and Parish levels.

Two areas are identified, designated LGS.1 – Ridgeway and LGS.2 – Hanson Hill. The position of these two areas relative to the Town is shown on the Policies Map⁰⁸.

National

NPPF

Section 8 of the NPPF addresses Promoting Healthy Communities and the part the planning system can play. Specific to this case are paragraphs, 75, 76 and 77⁰⁹.

Para 75 concerns the protection and enhancement of PRoWs. Integral to the case for LGS is the access to such areas. As the illustrative maps indicate, existing PRoWs give direct access to LGS.2. Proposed permissive paths will enhance this access and enable provision of a circular recreational walk⁰⁸ along a 'feel-good' route overlooking the town and the Cotswold/Feldon fringe. LGS.1 will be accessed by permissive paths from existing PRoWs¹⁰. These permissive paths have already been informally agreed in principle with the Rights of Way Officers at WCC.

Para 76 concerns the protection of green areas of importance. LGS.2 and LGS. 1 are both in such a category as the evidence presented and referenced in this Addendum makes clear.

Para 77 addresses the over-arching designation criteria for LGS. These have been examined in a greater level of detail using the Checklist⁰⁶ employed in a neighbouring LPA; Cotswold D.C. The Locality document, Neighbourhood Planning Local Green Spaces⁰⁷ is also encompassed by the Cotswold Checklist.

Completed Checklists for LGS.1 and LGS.2 are evidenced⁰⁶.

NPPF Planning Practice Guidance (Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space)

Guidance is applied to the above NPPF and this has been considered when examining the proposed LGS sites. Paragraphs 005 to 022 inclusive have been examined to ensure compliance in all aspects of this national guidance. Again, the Cotswold Checklist⁰⁶ has been used to verify that both LGS.1 and LGS,2 meet all the necessary criteria for consideration.

Natural England. Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance

There are a large number of guidance recommendation standards in this document, specific to this case is that concerning the size of the LGS. The NPPF guidance that it should not be an 'extensive tract of land' is refined by the ANGSt⁰⁴ Standards in Section 1.2 (p 12) for 'at least one accessible 20 ha site within 2 km of home'. This 20 ha was adopted by the Cotswold DC LPA and is applied to LGA.1 and LGA.2.

Natural England. National Character Areas

Both LGS sites lie within National Character Area 96: Dunsmore and Feldon¹². This defines the southern part of the area as the Feldons and provides a summary of the typical characteristics.

The Cotswold ANOB, the largest in England is surrounds the site of both proposed LGS sites to the south, east and west. The official edge of the AONB is positioned within two miles of both sites. Extensive views are available across both of these landscapes and contribute much to the enjoyment and 'feel-good' factors inherent with both LGS site. This is particularly true of LGS.2 where its elevated position gives uninterrupted views as far as 10 miles to a sweep of countryside from the north-east to the south-west.

The unique positioning of the LGS sites is therefore 'where Feldon meets Cotswold'.

County

Although Warwickshire County Council is not the designated LPA for Shipston on Stour, it has issued a document that is relevant to this case.

Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health

This sets out evidence and guidance for promoting healthy, active communities through the neighbourhood planning process⁰⁵. Specifically, section 4.4 references Green Spaces. It is worth quoting extracts as these illustrate very well the LGS case.

"Good quality landscapes ...have huge potential to improve our health and well-being, often offering a more cost-effective solution than clinical interventions". The guidance stresses that to maximize the benefits, neighbourhood plans should include policies which enhance green infrastructure (G.I.) and biodiversity. *"People living in areas with large amounts of green space are three times more likely to be physically active than people living in areas with little green space."* Regular green space visits are associated with increased physical activity. *"Greater enjoyment and satisfaction with outdoor activity has been reported than activity taking place indoors".*

The age demographics of Shipston on Stour Parish also are relevant. The settlement has proved popular as a base to consider for retirement⁰³. Census data shows that 48% of the population are over 50 years old and this figure is likely to rise. As such, physical well-being and health is of prime importance, but recognition of this demographic needs to be applied in considering appropriate and appealing outdoor activity. Provision and preservation of good quality landscapes are an essential ingredient to encouraging outdoor activity.

District

The lead policy document for Stratford on Avon District is the Core Strategy which was fully adopted on 11 July 2016 for the period 2011-2031. As a Main Rural Centre (MRC) there are many policies that are relevant to Shipston on Stour¹⁶. Specific to this LGS case are the following.

6.6.15 *“The rising land to the west of Shipston, incorporating Hanson Hill and Waddon Hill, forms a prominent backcloth to the town which is apparent from along the Stour Valley and further to the east”.*

This is supported by a portfolio of ‘sight-line’ photographs of the subject area from a number of relevant viewpoints. (provided on DVD due to file size²²)

This defines the bowl-like setting of the town, typical of Feldon settlements and presents residents and particularly visitors with an agreeable rural backcloth which is a valuable asset in promoting tourism and well-being. It was a contributing reason for Shipston being voted 11th best place to live in a recent Sunday Times survey.

The ‘all-household’ NP Questionnaire⁰³ produced confirmation of the importance of the setting of Shipston to residents.

Environmental 3. *“Enhance the attractiveness of the river corridor and its setting to the town.”*

Environmental 4. *“Provide additional natural accessible greenspace given the shortfall against the standard set out in Policy CS 25 Healthy Communities.”*

Policy CS.25 Healthy Communities

The Core Strategy sets out the position of the District in Policy CS.25 Healthy Communities¹⁵. This includes the standards for the District including MRC’s such as Shipston.

Designation	CS.25 Standard	Current (pop 5k)	Target - now	Shortfall
Parks & amenity	1.15ha/1000	2.28ha	5.75ha	3.47ha
Natural greensp	0.75ha/1000	0.0ha	3.75ha	3.75ha

The scale of the shortfall is supported in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment (Sept 2014 update) by Arup for Stratford DC²⁵.

There is an expectation that the Neighbourhood Plan for Shipston will contain policies to address these issues.

The LPA (Stratford on Avon DC) were approached concerning guidance and standards for Local Green Space. No information above that provided by the NPPF was available. Considerable research by the NP Community team members and professional advisors showed that an adjacent LPA (Cotswold DC) had considerable experience with LGS designations. This experience and specifically their LGS Toolkit⁰⁶ was adopted, with their permission.

The Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (July 2011) by White Consultants¹³ for Stratford DC has some relevance to the LGS case but lacks the granularity to field level that is required for the small areas being proposed.

For these reasons more specific and detailed assessments were required and these are referenced within the Parish level evidence.

There is also relevance to the LGS case within the Core Strategy in Policies CS.5 (Landscape) and CS.7 (Green Infrastructure)¹⁴ although these largely follow the national (NPPF and Natural England) guidelines already referenced.

Parish

It is clear that Shipston on Stour is very unlikely to be able to provide any substantial area of public park or green space within the current settlement boundary. Space allocated by developers having planning permission will not improve the shortfall given the estimated population increase.

With 45% of the current population over 50 years old and a significant number of residents fully retired, there is a need to reflect these demographics in the nature of public open space considerations.

The strategy within the Neighbourhood Plan is to designate areas that will be protected outside the built area boundaries in order that the shortfalls can be met. The appropriate designation will be as Local Green Spaces (LGS).

At Parish Neighbourhood Plan level the objective was to combine the high level national strategies and guidance (NPPF and Natural England) with the specific needs of the community within a compliance with the Core Strategy of the LPA.

Suggested solutions were tested at various public open events within the parish. These are detailed within the Shipston on Stour Draft Consultation Statement.

The general areas considered suitable for designation as Local Green Space were the steeply rising ground of Hanson Hill on the western boundary of the settlement and a riverside area within the flood plain on the southern fringe of the developed settlement. There is alignment to the findings referenced in the White Landscape Assessment¹³ and the 2012 SDC SHLAA¹⁴ concerning future development sites.

As the White Landscape Assessment was considered too general and did not go to field level in the Hanson Hill area, more detailed assessment from qualified professionals were commissioned:

1. Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Appraisal¹⁸ (June 2015) LCP Sh09 by Landscape Matters for SHARD residents group.
2. Shipston on Stour Local Green Spaces Study¹⁹ (June 2016) by Landscape Matters for Shipston on Stour Neighbourhood Plan Community Team.

The conclusions of both reports were fully supportive to the proposal within the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. The Local Green Spaces report was asked to identify specific areas in the Hanson Hill area for LGS.

The recommendations were subsequently found to align to those identified by the NP Community Team. (In fact the area was slightly reduced to be below the 20 ha standard set by Natural England 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance.)

Advice was sought from the Historic Environment experts at Warwick County Council and a short report on a site visit is evidenced²⁰. This includes comment on the presence of historic field patterns and ridge and furrow.

A Habitat Diversity Audit was prepared by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust²¹ and is evidenced.

In an Initial Proposal letter²⁶ dated 17 March 2017 (i.e. after the Draft Neighbourhood Plan had been made available for general consultation). The Agents, SBK gives support to Town Council "...in the delivery of this Policy of preserving the special landscape on the higher parts of Hanson Hill."

Conclusions

There is a clear evidence and policies at national, regional, district and parish level of the need to improve the health and well-being of the community through access to local open space.

Considered against national and district standards, Shipston on Stour is woefully short of amenity space.

There is no prospect of finding more public land within the parish.

The strategy adopted is to open up the attractive and valued surrounding countryside in the immediate vicinity of the settlement.

The access can be improved using existing PRoWs and additional permissive paths.

The attractiveness and setting of the landscape needs to be preserved and protected to ensure that the community and future generations continue to value and make use of this unique asset.

Linkage

Evidence discussion with specific reference to Para 77 of the NPPF as it relates to LGS2.

Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

Entry to LGS2 area from the Town Centre is via Campden Road and the bridleway known as the Hanson Track SS124. This is immediately adjacent to the main centre of population in the developed area of Hanson Avenue, Queens Road and the future developments either side of the Camden Road. There is a PRoW SS124a immediately opposite the new development currently on the old factory site to the West of the town centre on the Campden Road. New developments on the South side of the Campden Road will have access via PRoW SS124b. LGS2 could not be better placed.

Where the green area is demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquility or richness of its wildlife.

The area encompassed within LGS is special. It forms the green backdrop to the setting of the town as it nestles within the river valley. This is a feature of settlements within the NCA 96 (Feldon). It is a feature highly valued by residents as demonstrated in the returns to the 'all household' questionnaire. Specifically – Q1. To what extent do you value the landscape and setting of Shipston? Result: Very Highly valued 71%. Significantly valued 18%. It is one of the main reasons residents settle and remain in Shipston and vote it one of the best places to live in the Midlands- Regional Winner 2017 in the Sunday Times Survey. The setting described contributes significantly to the beauty of Shipston.

The historic significance of LGA2 is the Hanson Track connecting it with the Town is an ancient drovers' road where the sheep from the Cotswolds were driven to the river to be washed (giving the town its name) and the wool traded.

Unquestionably there is a sense of tranquility to be experienced in walking to the top of the rising ground of the proposed LGA above the town. It is as though one has been lifted above the 'hustle & bustle' to look down on the settlement with a sense of peacefulness, but not through remoteness or because of a long journey. It can be achieved with a five-minute walk.

The Habitat Biodiversity Audit in 2014 of the area proposed showed ancient hedgerows forming green corridors for wildlife and significant variety of species within the hedgerows. The semi-improved grassland, including some ridge and furrow, was found to have potential to develop into unimproved grassland with indications of a return of native species. Indeed, some of the southerly fields were considered for a local nature reserve. A WCC Local Wildlife Reserve has been designated immediately to the south of the proposed LGS 2. Since the time of the audit the un-cultivated grassland has remained undisturbed apart from some low density grazing by sheep. The cultivated areas are usually given over to cereal production. This richness of flora has encouraged the food chain to thrive, with deer, buzzard and pheasant now coming to the edge of the developed area.

Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Shipston lies at the extreme southern end of the NCA 96 in the Feldons and the northern boundary of the AONB of the Cotswolds. The LGA2 area is local in character in that it is typical of this NCA. It is immediately adjacent to the developed area of the settlement. The area is self-contained with clearly defined hedgerows and field boundaries. It does not represent a 'blanket designation' but has been carefully considered field by field.

There is no definition given in the NPPF or supporting guidelines that defines 'extensive'. Some opinions attach a description of 'very extensive' to LGS 2 without offering any evidence or rationale to justify such a description. The only evidence that does at least seek to define and quantify is that embedded in the Natural England publication 'Nature Nearby'. In Section 1.2 Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard, ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, 'should have an accessible 20-hectare site of natural greenspace within two kilometres of home'. At 18.24 ha, LGS 2 has been carefully delineated to be well below that figure. Using the only quantifiable measure it cannot be considered 'extensive'. Other descriptions offered can only be considered as opinions.

Index

Evidence Index

01	Open space summary
02	Demographics
03	Residents survey results
04	'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace (Natural England)
05	Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health
06	Cotswold DC Local Green Space Designation Toolkit
07	Locality Neighbourhood Planning Local Green Spaces
08	Policies Map
09	NPPF Local Green Space criteria
10	PRoW map
11	Planning practice guidance
12	National Character Areas
13	White Report (extract) landscape sensitivity
14	SDC Core Strategy Policies CS.5 (Landscape) & CS.7 (Green Infrastructure)
15	SDC Core Strategy Policy CS.25 (Healthy Communities)
16	SDC Core Strategy for Shipston on Stour
17	SDC SHLAA 2012 Review
18	Local Landscape & Visual Sensitivity Appraisal (SHARD)
19	Local assessment of Proposed Local Green Spaces Sh09 Area
20	WCC Historic Environment informal site assessment.
21	Habitat Biodiversity Audit
22	Sight-line views of subject area from various points (DVD)
23	Sunday Times Regional Winner 2017
24	Open Spaces Society info Sheet C20
25	Arup Report on Open Space, Sport & Recreation
26	Developers (SBK) letter March 2017

Note. In the case of lengthy documents, only the front page/relevant pages have been documented. This should be sufficient to search for and access to the full document on-line.

Section 1

Ver 05/05/16

01

Open Space Summary

The Core Strategy sets out the position of the District in Policy CS.24 Healthy Communities. This includes the standards for the District including MRC's such as Shipston.

Designation	CS.24 Standard	Current (pop 5k)	Target - now	Shortfall
Parks & amenity	1.15ha/1000	2.28ha	5.75ha	3.47ha
Nat Acc G reensp	0.75ha/1000	0.0ha	3.75ha	3.75ha
Equip play areas	0.25ha/1000	0.98ha	1.25ha	0.27ha
Allotments	0.4ha/1000	1.15ha	2.0ha	0.85ha

Example for comparison

The Mill Street Allotments are 0.74ha

Open Space (as of 2015)

Parks and Gardens

Hawthorn Way	0.20
Furzehill	0.09
Bosley	0.09
Top of Calloways	0.04
Hornblow Piece	0.34
Oldbutt Road	0.13
Campden Road	0.23
School Approach	0.05
The Wharf	0.07
Beecham Road	0.20
Mayo Road	0.04
Hornsby Close	0.06
Husbandman Close	0.08
Gyratory	0.03
Bridge Car Park Grnd	0.07
Mill Street car park gnd	0.04
Angelas Meadow	0.52
Total	<u>2.28 ha</u>

Equipped Play Areas

Queens Ave	0.18
Lindy Loo	0.09
Skateboard park	0.05
Hornblow	0.17
Hawthorn Way	0.32
Railway Crescent	0.17
Total	<u>0.98 ha</u>

Allotments

Shoulderway	0.41
Mill Street	0.74
Total	<u>1.15 ha</u>

Unrestricted Natural Accessible Green Space

The only accessible greenspace is that provided by the PROWs (within the Parish Boundary)

Hanson Track	SS124
North from Hanson Track	SS124b
Hanson Track Ridge	SS124a
Honington Turn	SS162
Fell Mill	SS166c

Additionally the following PROWs are accessible within 500m from the Parish Boundary

Shakespeare Way	SS120
River Bridge East	SS121
Opposite Ridgeway	Unidentified
Burmington Bridge	SS118

Section 2

Shipston on Stour Parish

2011 Census

45.4% of population was aged 50 and over

(Equivalent figure for England & Wales was 43.7%)

52.9% were aged 45 and over

(Equivalent figure for England & Wales was 42.0%)

Section 3

Evidential feedback was obtained through an 'all-household' NP Questionnaire within which three questions are relevant to this LGS case.

Q1, To what extent do you value the landscape and setting of Shipston?

Very highly valued	71%
Significantly valued	18%
Valued	9%
Not valued	1%

Q2. To what extent do you actively use and benefit from the existing public rights of way and access to the surrounding open landscape adjacent to the Town?

Highly used	27%
Significantly used	28%
Used	23%
Occasionally used	21%

Q3. To what extent do you support the principle of creating better and additional recreational walks in and around Shipston including to the west and the riverside?

Totally supportive	70%
Supportive	22%
Partially supportive	6%
Unsupportive	2%

Introduction.

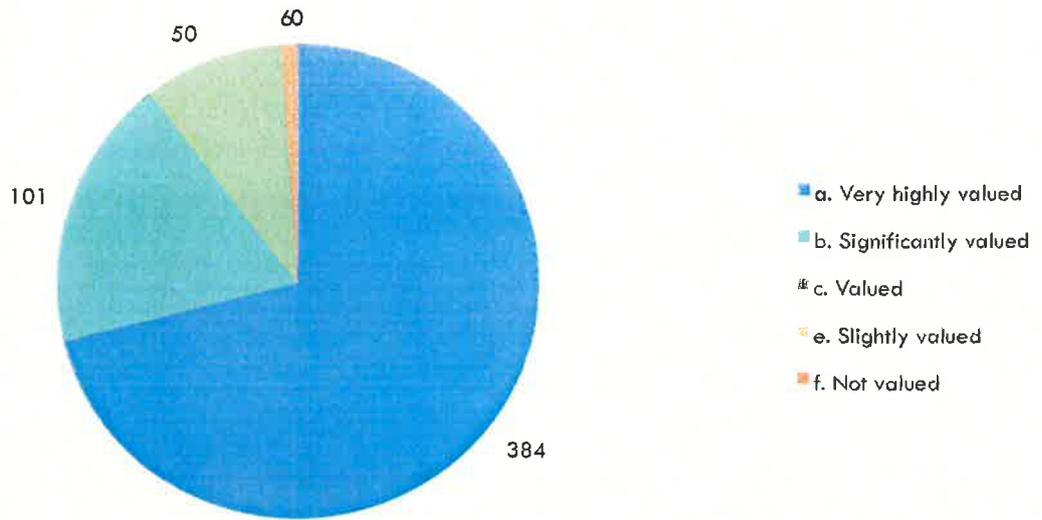
Shipston-on-Stour is in the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan is a community-led framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area; in this case the Parish of Shipston-on-Stour. It is primarily about the use and development of land. It may also deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues (such as housing, employment, heritage and transport).

Our Plan conforms with the local planning policy issued by Stratford on Avon DC (called the Core Strategy). The Core Strategy covers the whole district; our Neighbourhood Plan is focused on the needs of our community in Shipston. Once approved and adopted it becomes a statutory document which, by law, must be taken into account when considering any planning decisions taken in our Parish. The first draft of the plan has now been achieved. The plan is currently divided into five sections: housing, environment, infrastructure, economy and flooding. You can check the details on the Neighbourhood Plan website: <http://www.shipstonnp.org/> On the Home page, click the Neighbourhood Plan tab, and you will find the draft policies in a pdf document half way down the page.

This report was produced on behalf of the Shipston-on-Stour Neighbourhood planning group by Martin Ferrier FIET, BSc(Hons), CEng., Chair of the neighbourhood plan steering group, and member of Shipston Town Council. Guidance in the survey methodology, question design, analysis and reporting has been provided by retired market research professional Stephen Hurst MMRS.

Editorial comments or interpretations if provided are marked in this manner.

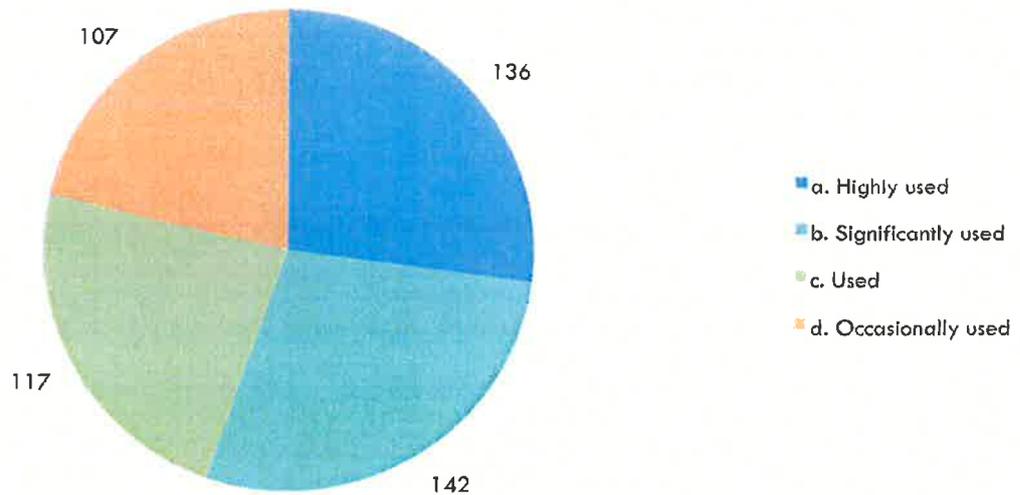
Q1: To what extent do you value the landscape and setting of Shipston?



a. Very highly valued	383
b. Significantly valued	101
c. Valued	50
e. Slightly valued	6
f. Not valued	0
Answered	540
Percentage answered	98.4%

Q1. To what extent do you value the landscape and setting of Shipston?

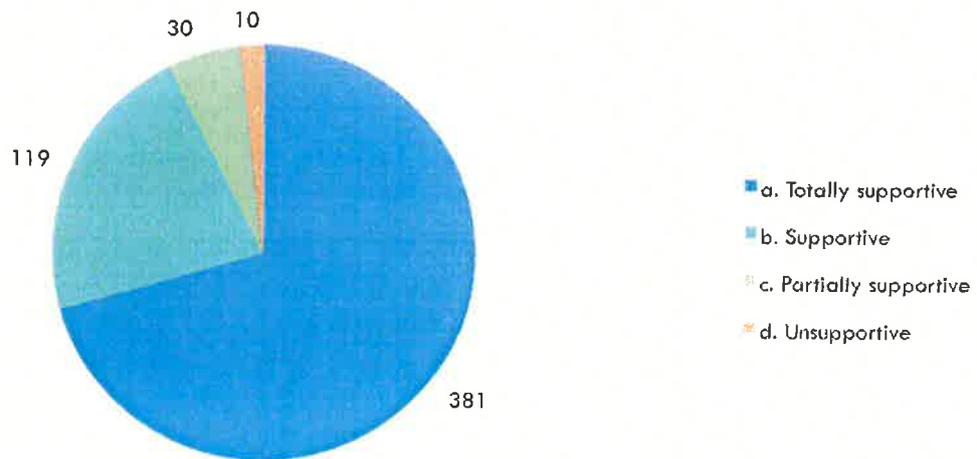
Q2. To what extent do you actively use and benefit from the existing public rights of way and access to the surrounding open landscape adjacent to the town?



a. Highly used	136
b. Significantly used	142
c. Used	117
d. Occasionally used	106
Answered	501
Percentage answered	91.3%

Q3. To what extent do you support the principle of creating better and additional recreational walks in and around Shipston, including the countryside to the west, the riverside, and creating circular walks joining up existing public rights of way?

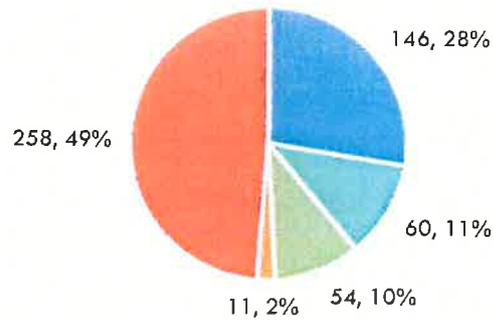
Q3. Support for creating better and additional recreational walks.



a. Totally supportive	380
b. Supportive	119
c. Partially supportive	30
d. Unsupportive	10
Answered	539
Percentage answered	98.2%

Q24. What is your employment status?

Q24. What is your employment status?



■ a. Employed Full Time
 ■ b. Employed Part time
 ■ c. Self Employed
■ d. Not in employment
 ■ e. Retired

a. Employed Full Time	146	28%
b. Employed Part time	60	11%
c. Self Employed	54	10%
d. Not in employment	11	2%
e. Retired	258	49%
Answered	529	
Percentage answered	96.4%	

Evidence Base for Policies ENV 1 and ENV 4: the protection of 'Green Space' around Shipston on Stour.

(Documents can be found in the CEF file which accompanies the Consultation Statement Document, available at shipstonnp.org/documents, notably the 'Record of public consultation and actions 2012-16) and in the Appendices below unless otherwise stated)

The concept of a NP for Shipston was first mooted in 2012 and from that date public concern was expressed concerning the rapid expansion of the town towards and up the hills forming the north and north-west margins of the town.

The launch meeting in Nov 2012, attended by about 100 residents, decided that 'Protecting Shipston's unique identity' was a top priority. In January 2013 public feedback identified an 'improved environment':- specifically availability of and access to recreational and public open space as a major issue to be addressed by the NP (see Shipston Forum January 2013).

In 2015 public consultation at major public events :-the annual Wool Fair, Xfest and Shipston Primary School Fete gave strong support to the stated NP Vision and Objectives with particular pleas for the protection of green spaces, provision of play areas and the protection of the lower hill slopes from housing development. (see appendix 1).

Twenty percent of households in Shipston responded to a questionnaire in April 2016 and one hundred percent agreed that they valued "the landscape and setting of Shipston"; in answer to "what do you most like about living in Shipston?", "rural landscape and access to the countryside/river" came second only to "community spirit". In contrast "excessive new housing developments" was the chief "dislike". Ninety-two percent were supportive of creating "better and additional recreational walks". A "riverside walk" and "creating more public open space" were rated first and fourth respectively in possible projects for future spending of CIL money. (see shipstonnp.org/documents)

A survey of 419 young people attending Shipston Youth Club and the High School reflected the concerns of the adult population. The young people also highly valued the rural setting of the town and, as with the adult population, opposition to further housing development figured strongly, with support for additional greenspaces and footpaths. (see Appendix two)

In 2015/16 a major Open Day was well attended and gained overall support for all policies. Individual comments noted that LGS's would help towards flood prevention, more green space was needed and a balance needed between accessibility of green space and harm to the landscape.

Sport England, Historic England and WCC responded to the pre-submission consultation in 2017 variously noting the importance of open space and its role in healthy living, protection against loss of outdoor sporting facilities and protection of the landscape. Individual residents again took the opportunity to comment on the need for a permissive footpath on the western edge of the town, support for a 'green belt' and for the proposed public footpath along the river adjoining the proposed Ridgeway development.

The pre-submission consultation raised objections from a landowner to the west of the town to the proposed footpath and LGS2. The LGS2 was also challenged by Gladman Developments Ltd and by Stansgate Planning on behalf of landowners, with WCC raising concerns about the northern wellbeing zone.

APPENDIX ONE

Summary of main Points: Wool Fair 2015

One third of the 59 respondents at the Wool Fair approved of the 'key inputs shaping the vision and objectives of the NP' (i.e. SDC Core Strategy; public consultation; known issues). Unfortunately the other two thirds did not respond to that question!

Comments on the existing Town Centre were significantly favourable with a reluctance to consider change (56%).

A one way traffic scheme for the Town centre was positively viewed by 25% of respondents. However parking proved a controversial issue, 20% considering it a problem, 22% considering it no problem. 10% highlighted a need for more disabled parking.

Pedestrianisation of the Town Centre was favourably thought of by 14%, but 8% were against.

Housing achieved more of a consensus - 22% considered Shipston's growing too fast/ no more houses and 25% wanted more affordable housing or 'starter and family homes' (8%) in 'small developments' (7%) . Asked about location 8% suggested ' to the west of the Town'.

Infrastructure was a clear concern (20%) without giving detail, but 8% mentioned flooding and 2% school capacity. Other issues mentioned included green spaces and facilities for children,

Summary of Xfest

26 people interviewed. Again there is satisfaction with the centre of the Town, in particular the independent shops (26%) and the High School (35%) and a wish to 'leave Shipston Alone' (8%).

There is some recognition that both schools will have to expand – suggested that the High School link with Bosley Sheldon Hub site and the Primary School to the Turbine Blading site. There is a demand for a 6th form (23%)

Facilities for Youth are regarded as limited - more activities and expansion of Youth Club suggested (20%).

Some concern at stress on infrastructure (12%) and general comment on need to upgrade existing transport (bus and rail); leisure facilities (improved gym/sports hall/swimming pool and especially activities for youth). Converting St. Edmunds graveyard to a public space would seem an achievable objective.

Housing development should avoid the river and hill top locations (12%) with again mention of 'no more houses' and 'affordable houses'.

The economy/employment emerged as a strong concern. 27% considered a business park important with less focus on traditional manufacturing but on provision of a small business park/ high tech. industry plus financial incentives such as lower rates. Need to attract tourists (information centre) also suggested.

Superfast broadband an urgent requirement (19%)

Summary of Primary School Fete

14 people responded. The dominant problem with the current Primary School site according to 64% of respondents is parking! Other than this there is a strong feeling that the site is convenient (50%) and that expansion should take place on the other side of Tileman's Lane (36%) eg Turbo Blade site. Some also feel the school should stay where it is (21%) and expand upwards or onto the BT site. Building on the High School site or a new school near the cemetery are other suggestions.

Economic activity should be boosted by additional small business units (43%); high speed broadband (14%) and financial incentives such as reduced rates and rent.

Other themes are a reluctance to change; need for supermarket/ petrol station/affordable houses/riverside walk/green spaces/ improved bus services/a market/a craft village.

Summary in less than 100 words!

Severely restrict future housing development and only on lower slopes, away from river and mainly affordable housing; enlarge the primary school either on present site or on Tileman's lane; High School needs a 6th form. Build a business park for small businesses with High Speed broadband; Change in the Town Centre will be resisted but more disabled parking is needed and one way traffic may have some support; flood prevention; more facilities for Youth. Upgrade connectivity via bus/train services; increase green spaces/riverside walk

Appendix two

Summary of Responses to Questionnaire from Shipston High School (Years 7-11 ages 12 to 16)				
<i>Delivered 9th-20th May 2016. Total responses = 375(76% response rate). 189 resident in Shipston; 186 resident in surrounding areas.</i>				
	YES	NO	YES minus NO	Order of Priority
Shipston's rural setting is important	336	39	297	1
Local markets in the High Street will boost retail trade	294	81	213	4
More car parking spaces to be provided in the town centre area	282	93	189	7
Improve or increase sporting facilities (example – football pitches)	284	91	193	6
A cinema is needed to cater for the younger generation	245	130	115	11
Pedestrianise the High St. to reduce traffic congestion	217	158	59	12
More shops to provide music and teen clothes	271	104	167	8
Smaller shops should be supported	319	56	263	2
Better public transport to be provided – especially in the evening	295	80	215	3
Flood prevention in Shipston is a high priority	287	88	199	5
There are too many new houses planned for Shipston	270	105	165	9
Local services need to be improved	268	107	161	10

(example –new medical centre)				
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The statements in the questionnaire which are listed in the above chart were derived from a workshop NP members had with the school council and were designed to reflect issues likely to be of interest to the whole school population. This turned out to be the case as there is positive support for all twelve issues.

In addition to the above twelve 'issues' the student population were asked three 'open ended' questions (Qu. 13-15) : what they most liked about Shipston, what they most disliked about Shipston and one thing that would improve Shipston.

From the above chart and also from the additional questions it is clear that the students at the High School in the 12-16 year age range value highly the rural setting of the town, the small independent shops, and the special markets. However, from responses to the additional open ended questions (Nos 13-15) it would seem that retail provision for young people leaves something to be desired – ie young fashion clothes and music shops especially are absent from the town and fast food outlets are limited . An equal problem in the opinion of this group is the town suffers from too much traffic, general congestion and shortage of parking and that the recent rapid growth in housing development will add to these problems.

Responses to Q.13 (Likes) indicates a significant feeling that Shipston is a safe and friendly place with a strong sense of community.

The existing sports facilities are much appreciated, especially the Sport's Club, Skate Park and Leisure Centre/Swimming Pool. However, there is also a significant demand for additional/improved sport facilities with an astro turf surface, an enlarged/improved skate board park, and improved football pitches being high on the list.

There is a need for a dedicated place for older teenagers to meet, ranging from a request for a simple bench to sit on, to a shelter from weather to a teen café/drop-in centre.

The need for improved transport figures strongly both in the above chart and subsequent open ended questions– probably reflecting the 50% who live in the villages as well as those in Shipston. New bus services to Ettington and Cherington are requested as are later evening buses to and from Shipston.

Although supported by a majority, pedestrianisation of the High St has least support – reflecting adult comments (a one way system might have achieved greater approval). Perhaps surprisingly a cinema is low priority in the chart although there is some support in Qu 13 to 15. Similarly 'local services' have relatively little support – perhaps because the young do not rely on the medical centre quite so much as the elderly!

The overall impression is of a young population who agree with their elders in appreciating the qualities of a small rural town and also its limitations in terms of recent rapid expansion and traffic congestion.parking problems, petrol, supermarket etc There is great emphasis on improved sports facilities which is also recognised in the adult population. Where the young people diverge from their elders is that they identify a lack of retail outlets relevant specifically to teenagers and a sheltered place for them to meet in the town.

Conclusion

In terms of the NP the issues raised, where relevant to a NP, have been covered in the draft policies. There is, however, evidence which should be taken into account when identifying and prioritising local projects by both the NP and the Town Council - for example: an astro turf pitch, improved /extended skate park, additional sports fields, teenage 'drop-in centre, additional parking spaces. These issues have been raised previously but this report gives firm evidence of need by the next generation who will be using these facilities.

PK 15/06/16

Section 4

04

www.naturalengland.org.uk

NATURAL
ENGLAND

'Nature Nearby'

Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance

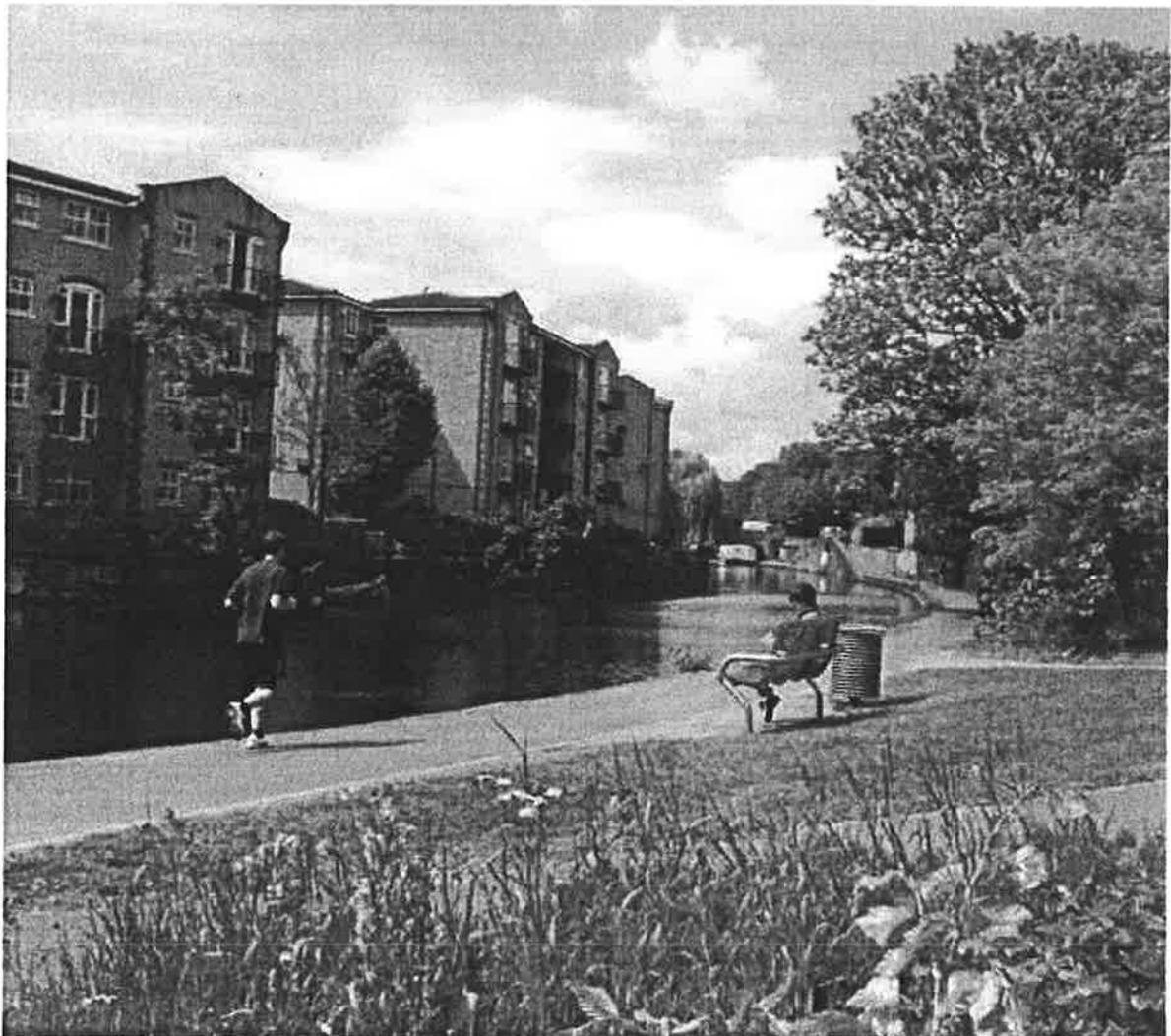
March 2010

Contents

Foreword	4
Scope and aims of the Guidance	5
Executive Summary	6
Definitions	8
1. Introduction: What is accessible natural greenspace?	9
1.1 The policy context	10
1.2 Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard	12
1.3 Visitor Service Standards	15
1.4 Quality standard for greenspace	17
2. Making the case for ANGSt in delivering Nature Nearby	19
2.1 ANGSt and open space standards	21
2.2 ANGSt: its application and its strengths	23
2.3 The wider community benefits of ANGSt	28
2.4 ANGSt in the wider green infrastructure	36
2.5 ANGSt and other agendas	38
3. Accessible greenspace and spatial planning	41
3.1 The Spatial Planning System and accessible greenspace	41
4. Delivering accessible greenspace	43
4.1 Securing funding streams through partnership	43
Conclusion	45
Annex 1 – Glossary of acronyms	46
Annex 2 – A Proxy measure when mapping naturalness	48
Annex 3 – National and local agendas	50
Annex 4 – The Spatial Planning System and accessible greenspace	52
Annex 5 – Incentive grant aid policies / funding	55
Annex 6 – Site examples	56

How to provide high quality access to the natural environment in green spaces close to home

Guidance and example sites for parks and greenspace practitioners covering ANGSt, visitor service and quality standards



Mile End Park, Tower Hamlets

Foreword

‘Nature Nearby’ is everyday nature, on our doorsteps.

It can take many forms. It might be a place designated for wildlife – a nature reserve, woodland or a country park. But in the majority of cases people’s contact with nature takes place in local neighbourhoods – a village common, the local park, the scrap of land at the bottom of the street. And these places should be no less special than ‘official’ sites.

Everyone should be able to enjoy the thrill of the outdoors, feeling the seasons change, seeing the flowers bloom, hearing the birds sing. It conjures memories of forgotten childhood adventures, offers rare moments of tranquility and helps erase the stress of modern life.

We need nature nearby. We know that greener places are better places to live – more relaxing, more enjoyable to come home to after a hard day at school or work, kinder to our souls, and more likely to make us want to look after and protect them.

Evidence shows that nature’s good for our health. Natural green places provide natural solutions to many 21st century diseases – obesity and inactivity; heart disease and strokes; depression and mental illness. In difficult times, they provide cost effective treatment and improve people’s lives.

Green spaces are also our insurance policy against the impacts of climate change. Trees, green roofs and public parks can make urban areas cooler. They help reduce the impacts of flooding, keeping homes and businesses dry. That’s carbon free air conditioning and natural flood protection for millions of people. Nature’s technology makes good economic sense too.

Nearby Nature – good for people, good for wildlife, good for the environment.

That’s why we want everyone to have Nature Nearby, on their doorsteps. We hope this guidance will help people come together to make it happen.

Guy Thompson
Executive Director

Scope and aims of the guidance

Welcome to Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance.

Natural England believes that everyone should have access to good quality natural greenspace near to where they live, ie. 'Nature Nearby'. This provides a broad range of benefits to people and the quality of their lives, covering all the ecosystem services we depend on.

This guidance is aimed at parks and greenspace practitioners and their partners, particularly decision makers, planners and managers of green space. It describes the amount, quality and visitor services of accessible natural green spaces that we believe everyone is entitled to, and provides advice on how they can be delivered.

Natural England's Standards for Accessible Natural Greenspace

Natural England expects that publicly accessible natural greenspace is delivered to meet:

- An **Accessibility and Quantity Standard** – to ensure equitable provision both close to home and within sustainable transport distances, ie. Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt);
- **Service Standards** – for core services and facilities for each site type; and
- A national **Quality Standard** – ie. the Green Flag Award scheme.



The guidance explains the way in which these standards can be used to deliver a wide range of benefits and be promoted amongst our partners.

Definitions

In this document we use the following definitions:

Accessible greenspace – places that are available for the general public to use free of charge and without time restrictions (although some sites may be closed to the public overnight and there may be fees for parking a vehicle). The places are available to all, meaning that every reasonable effort is made to comply with the requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995). An accessible place will also be known to the target users, including potential users who live within the site catchment area.

Natural greenspace – Places where human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate. Natural and semi-natural greenspace exists as a distinct typology but also as discrete areas within the majority of other greenspace typologies. To simplify what we mean by natural when mapping natural greenspace we suggest the adoption of a proxy measure of land use categorisation under 4 levels ([Annex 2](#)).

Greenspace Quality – A recognised standard of excellence that meets the expectations of both the staff and users of a site and the wider community and neighbourhood. Such sites are visually stimulating and attractive, safe and welcoming to all sections of society, managed and maintained to the highest standards of sustainability, and provide an enjoyable and inspirational visitor experience. The Green Flag Award is the nationally accepted standard of greenspace quality supported by Natural England. Play England is also developing a play quality standard for play spaces.

Greenspace Visitor Service Standards – These cover a range of core facilities and services that visitors should expect to find at different types of park, reserve or other destination site. Natural England is promoting service standards for NNRs, LNRs and country parks.

Green Infrastructure – A strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. Designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality-of-life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.

Multi-functionality – The ability to perform more than one function at the same time. In terms of greenspace this can mean providing opportunities for recreation whilst delivering biodiversity and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

A glossary of acronyms used in the document is provided in [Annex 1](#).

1. Introduction:

What is accessible natural greenspace?

Accessible greenspace, particularly in urban areas, is now becoming recognised as providing some of the fundamental needs of society, rather than just being ‘nice to have’. Natural England’s definition of greenspace is very broad and encompasses a wider range of spaces than those traditionally considered as either ‘natural areas’ or parks, gardens and playing fields. There are a number of published policy headings and aspirations for green spaces. These range from definitions based on landscape character and geological formations, to classifications based on use, agriculture, forestry, recreation etc. Within the statutory planning system, Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17 suggested a form of categorisation commonly used in assessing supply and demand of accessible green spaces, and is a good starting point for mapping what might be considered to be natural greenspace.

Natural England expects that, *“People will have places to access and enjoy a high quality natural environment”*. This is often more achievable in urban communities than in rural communities, particularly in lowland agricultural England where there is often poor access to quality greenspace.

The provision of accessible greenspace within green infrastructure in and around urban areas significantly contributes to creating places where people want to live and work. The concept of green infrastructure is embodied in the Government’s Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1, and it is an essential component of good planning for urban and rural areas, particularly in the face of climate change. *“Green Infrastructure enables us to re-position green space from an amenity to a necessity”*³.

However, increased awareness of the importance of providing the right amount of accessible greenspace does not always go hand in hand with a full understanding of the range of benefits it can deliver, and how it can be promoted and delivered through existing policies and processes. This guidance will outline some of these processes, and demonstrate ways in which the acceptance of need for accessible natural greenspace can be translated into delivery.

Most green spaces provide some connection to nature, and it is creating this connection, within easy reach of where people live, that is the principle of ‘Nature Nearby’ that the standards, ANGSt in particular, seeks to achieve. Deciding at which point a feeling of naturalness predominates may be difficult to determine, particularly in multi-functional spaces where there is often a mosaic of both formal and natural areas such as wetlands and woodlands, meadows and geological exposures. Standard audits of greenspace through GIS mapping may not pick up these differences within sites, so we are suggesting the adoption of a proxy measure for naturalness ([Annex 2](#)).

The strength of ANGSt is that it can be applied as a national benchmark against which local standards for providing accessible natural greenspace can be assessed, areas of deficiency identified and, where necessary, rectified. The Standard recognises that green spaces can deliver a range of benefits through intelligent design, location and management.

³ Edward McMahon - http://www.sustainablecities.org.uk/news_and_updates/green_inspiration_from_america

1.2 Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard

Access to the natural environment through local green spaces varies widely across the country, and even within a single local authority area. ANGSt aims to address this by setting a range of accessibility standards for natural sites and areas within easy reach of people's homes. A broad view is adopted on what constitutes 'natural'. Natural does not necessarily mean it has to be rare or notable enough to be designated. Users will find nature in wildlife, open landscapes, seasonal changes and places of tranquility.

ANGSt

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:

- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

ANGSt is based on three principles:

- a) Improving access.
- b) Improving naturalness.
- c) Improving connectivity.

a) Improving access

Improving access, and the distance thresholds used in the Standard, is based on what we know of people's behaviour. We know for example that the majority of parents are unwilling to allow their children to be unaccompanied more than 300m from home. Although local circumstances may lead to variations on this distance, adopting this as a standard would ensure that the majority of children do have a natural space near their home, which they are able to use freely. These distance requirements are set at a level that takes into account the need for local spaces, as well as larger strategic spaces. Because ANGSt takes a broad view of what constitutes natural greenspace, the requirements can be met through a wide range of different types of space, from local parks, greenways and footpaths, areas set aside for sustainable urban drainage systems, woodland and heathland. The 300 metre and 2 km standards are valuable standards to apply for new housing developments, growth areas, and in the master planning process. Natural England has piloted a number of projects that improve access to the natural environment and people's connection to it. Some site examples are provided in [Annex 6](#).

Accessibility should not only be seen in terms of distance from people's houses and access into and within a site. People need to know where their local green spaces are, and should feel comfortable in using them. This requires active management and promotion by taking all

2.1 ANGSt and open space standards

ANGSt was developed in 1996 to demonstrate how size and distance criteria can help define the green spaces that provide the greatest contribution to a sustainable community. Because of its broad definition of what can constitute natural areas, it does not attempt to classify greenspace by established typologies. For these reasons it is very well suited to broad assessments of existing provision, as well as determining strategic requirements for provision of greenspace for major new developments. It is one of a number of provision standards for greenspace that are available for local authorities to adopt, and can be used in conjunction with other standards to give a strategic approach to greenspace provision, including, but extending beyond, spaces in the immediate area of people's homes.

A review of ANGSt in 2003 by Handley et al recognised that *“ANGSt should be integrated into a comprehensive approach to greenspace planning, and should be defined locally to account for varying circumstances, such as existing levels of provision and community demand for additional greenspace or for change in the balance of provision”*.

Local authorities have commonly used the results of a PPG 17 assessment of open space to set standards for different typologies of green spaces, as suggested by the companion guide to PPG 17. Again these are often based on an area per typology, per 1000 people. Distance thresholds are often included, with separate distances being established per typology. Most PPG 17 assessments are now published on Geographic Information Systems (GIS). These can show areas of under-provision of the different typologies of greenspace, and can overlay other data, such as areas of multiple deprivation, to show how greenspace provision relates to other social issues. (PPG 17 set out how local authorities should assess the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sport and recreation facilities. **NOTE:** PPG 17 is to be replaced in 2010. Two new Planning Policy Statements are out for public consultation at the time of writing, namely 'Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment' (replacement for PPS7, PPS9 and PPG17), and 'Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate'.)

Whichever approach is adopted, standards of greenspace are needed for determining current provision, identifying gaps, and identifying the need for green spaces of different types to meet local demand. This can either mean existing demand, or demand created by population changes or growth as a result of new developments. Standards will also be used to inform an authority's approach to developer contributions through Supplementary Planning Documents. These set out the level of space, or an alternative financial contribution, that developers must make to ensure that adequate provision is made for infrastructure, including open space. This is normally expressed as area per household, or area per person, generated by a new development. Although there can be attempts to take strategic provision into account, most standards used or developed by local authorities remain essentially local in their nature.

In defining ANGSt locally, other standards need to be considered, e.g.

- Six Acre Standard.
- Towards a Level Playing Field.
- Woodland Access Standards.

A brief resume of these is given below:

Six Acre Standard

A long-standing national standard, with which ANGSt can work, includes the former National Playing Fields Association's (now Fields in Trust) *Six Acre Standard*. This was originally developed in the 1930s as part of the garden city movement. In 2008, Fields in Trust (FIT) published *Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play* (PAD), the document which updates and supersedes the *Six Acre Standard*. PAD continues to uphold the original FIT recommendation that 6 acres (2.4 ha) of recreational space is required for every 1000 people, and also provides a detailed framework relating to quantity, quality and accessibility of outdoor facilities for sport and play and the importance of local assessments and standards.

Towards a Level Playing Field

Sport England has produced a detailed toolkit for calculating the number of playing fields needed in a given area. The toolkit enables demand to be calculated for football, rugby, cricket and hockey pitches. It uses actual population figures and numbers of sports teams from ward data. The tool can forecast future demand for pitches through an assessment of the number of teams generated per 1000 population in the local area. No distance thresholds are included, but it is possible to see which areas have sufficient pitches to meet local demand, and where there are shortfalls. Overall a high proportion of urban greenspace is dedicated to natural turf pitches, which are generally poor in bringing people close to nature. Making provision for sport through artificial turf pitches can assist in releasing these areas for more effective use. It needs to be remembered that the Sport England calculations of the number of pitches needed using this model do also impact on access to nature.

The Woodland Trust Woodland Access Standards

This is based on a similar principle of accessibility to the Natural England ANGSt:

- No person should live more than 500 metres from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 hectares in size.
- There should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 hectares within 4 kilometres (8 kilometre round-trip) of people's homes.

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) has also produced a national allotment standard for a minimum provision of 20 standard plots of 250 square metres per 1,000 households.

Section 5

Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health

Evidence and guidance for promoting healthy, active communities through the neighbourhood planning process



Ambulance Service (enquiries@wmas.nhs.uk) to ensure that they support the model chosen.

4.3 Retail

Neighbourhoods can help to reduce health inequalities. In Warwickshire, overweight and obesity figures put the county at equal levels with the national average of 31.6%. In Reception year, one in every 5 children is overweight / obese but this increases to one in three children by the time they reach Year 6. The proportion of children becoming overweight / obese almost doubles throughout primary school years making these years an important target for prevention and education programmes.

One of the ways in which neighbourhoods can support health is through improving the quality of food in local areas. The density of fast food outlets and energy-dense foods in convenience stores and other small markets has been linked with higher prevalence of obesity and higher BMI. Neighbourhoods with better access to supermarkets and other retail outlets with minimally processed foods tend to eat a healthier diet than their counterparts in neighbourhoods with less access to these goods. Making availability of healthier food and access to shops stocking healthy food within walking distance from people's homes and places of work can support a healthier diet and increase physical activity.

4.4. Green spaces

Good quality landscapes, including urban spaces as well as the wider countryside, have huge potential to improve our health and wellbeing, often offering a more cost-effective solution than clinical interventions. Green infrastructure (GI) is the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes which run through, and connect, our towns, villages and countryside. GI provides a wide range of benefits to our health and wellbeing, including:

- helping to reduce air, water and noise pollution; lower urban temperatures and manage flood risk;
- increasing opportunities for recreation and physical activity;
- providing spaces for education and play, and increasing social interaction for all ages;
- delivering economic benefits and lowering deprivation and sickness rates;
- creating locally distinctive places and habitats that are restorative, healing and promote mental wellbeing; and
- providing opportunity for local food production and healthy

In order to maximise the above benefits neighbourhood plans should include policies which enhance GI and biodiversity. There must be good quality, connected open and green spaces available to everyone. People living in areas with large amounts of green space are three times more likely to be physically active than people living in areas with little green space. Local planning policies should recognise the need to provide and maintain good quality green space for residents as part of housing developments.

4.4.1 Provision of green spaces

Natural England's view is that there should be provision of the widest range of access opportunities for people of all abilities, ages, ethnic groups and social circumstances to actively engage in, value and enjoy the natural environment. Access opportunities should aid healthy activity and be integral to people's daily lives, particularly close to where they live, and that access should contribute to achieving the transition to a low carbon economy by encouraging sustainable leisure use.

Recommended standards are available from Fields in Trust (2008), Natural England (2010) and the Woodland Trust (2010), demonstrating that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural green space.

Fields in Trust (PAD):

- That 6 acres (2.4 ha) of recreational space is required for every 1000 people.

Natural England (ANGSt):

- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

Woodland Trust (Woodland Access Standard):

- That no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size.
- That there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes

A detailed framework relating to quantity, quality and accessibility of outdoor facilities for sport and play and the importance of local assessments and standards is also available from these organisations. Sport England (2013) has also produced guidance on playing pitch provision and quality, which is available on the Sport England website.

4.4.2 Physical activity

Regular green space visits are associated with increased physical activity, a lower probability of being overweight or obese and an improvement in mental wellbeing when compared to exercising indoors. Greater enjoyment and satisfaction with outdoor activity has been reported than activity taking place indoors.

Walking is a low impact activity, suitable for everyone. A **measured mile** is a walk of one mile that has been marked out with distance markers and can be within a green space such as a park or in the urban environment. Installing measured miles can help local people understand the effort required in terms of time to walk from one location to another. This will support people who are physically inactive to make small, measurable improvements to their activity levels. Led walks could be introduced using the measured miles, helping those who find being active on their own difficult by increasing motivation and decreasing social isolation.

Cycling is also a form of sustainable active transport which can not only help to reduce traffic and pollution but support a healthier lifestyle. In order to support people to take up and continue to participate in cycling, good quality facilities should be incorporated into existing green spaces as far as possible. This includes cycle parking, signage, lighting and ride surface. It should also form part of the planning of new developments and services to ensure cycling is embedded from the beginning for leisure and travel purposes.

Outdoor gyms can include much of the same equipment found in an indoor gym, but are specifically designed for outdoor use and are often situated in play areas or parks. They are suitable for all ages and abilities, and provide the opportunity for everyone to use the equipment for free whilst taking advantage of the benefits of being active outdoors. Timber-based trim trails are another example of outdoor exercise equipment. A landscape setting,

Section 6



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION A TOOLKIT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN COTSWOLD DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

The Natural Environment White Paper ([The Natural Choice](#): securing the value of nature 2011) highlighted “the importance of green spaces to the health and happiness of local communities”.

Green spaces, particularly natural green spaces, located close to local people provide a range of social, environmental and economic benefits, including –

- improved mental and physical health
- increased social activity
- increased physical activity
- reduced crime
- improvements to children’s learning
- increased voluntary action
- improved community cohesion and sense of belonging
- potential for local food growing
- more attractive places to live, work, play, visit and invest
- enhanced opportunities for wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors
- climate change adaptation for example by flood alleviation

The White Paper recommended that a new Green Areas designation be introduced that would give local people an opportunity to protect green spaces that have significant importance to their local communities.

“ We propose that green spaces should be identified in neighbourhood plans and local plans which complement and do not undermine investment in homes, jobs and other essential services. Given the importance of green spaces to the health and happiness of local communities the Government considers the new designation should offer suitably strong protection to localised areas that are demonstrably special”

That recommendation was incorporated into the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) as the new designation of Local Green Spaces.

PURPOSE OF THE TOOLKIT

This toolkit is designed to support local communities in putting forward their local open spaces for formal designation as a Local Green Space in a robust, consistent and transparent manner.

The Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF provides the following information on Local Green Space designations -

76. Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

78. Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.

Additional guidance is provided in the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#).

Local and Neighbourhood Plans

Local Green Spaces can be designated through the emerging Cotswold Local Plan or through neighbourhood plans.

A policy, related to Local Green Spaces, will be included in the emerging Cotswold Local Plan.

Where relevant an appropriate policy should also be included in neighbourhood plans.

The proposed text for the emerging Cotswold Local Plan is included at appendix 2.

PROCESS FOR DESIGNATION

Step 1

If your community is considering designating an area as a Local Green Space, it may be helpful to test the site against the “decision tree” in Figure 1 on page 4.

Step 2

Make informal contact with the Council (contact Lesley Davies, Forward Planning) so that we can provide you with help in deciding whether it is worth progressing with the designation process.

Step 3

If the site seems potentially suitable we will ask you to complete the designation checklist (including all the relevant evidence) see pages 7-12

Step 4

We will review the evidence you have provided and give guidance as to whether we consider the site is suitable for designation and whether any additional evidence is required. If the evidence is sufficiently robust and, in the case of designation through the Local Plan, Cotswold District Council considers the site suitable, the designation process can start.

Step 5

If the site is to be designated in the Local Plan, we will consult the owner of the land (if known).

If the site is to be designated in a Neighbourhood Plan, those responsible for producing that plan should consult the owner of the land (if known).

Step 6

The site can then be considered for inclusion in the appropriate draft Local or Neighbourhood Plan. The deadline for inclusion in the emerging Cotswold Local Plan is 14th June 2014.

Step 7

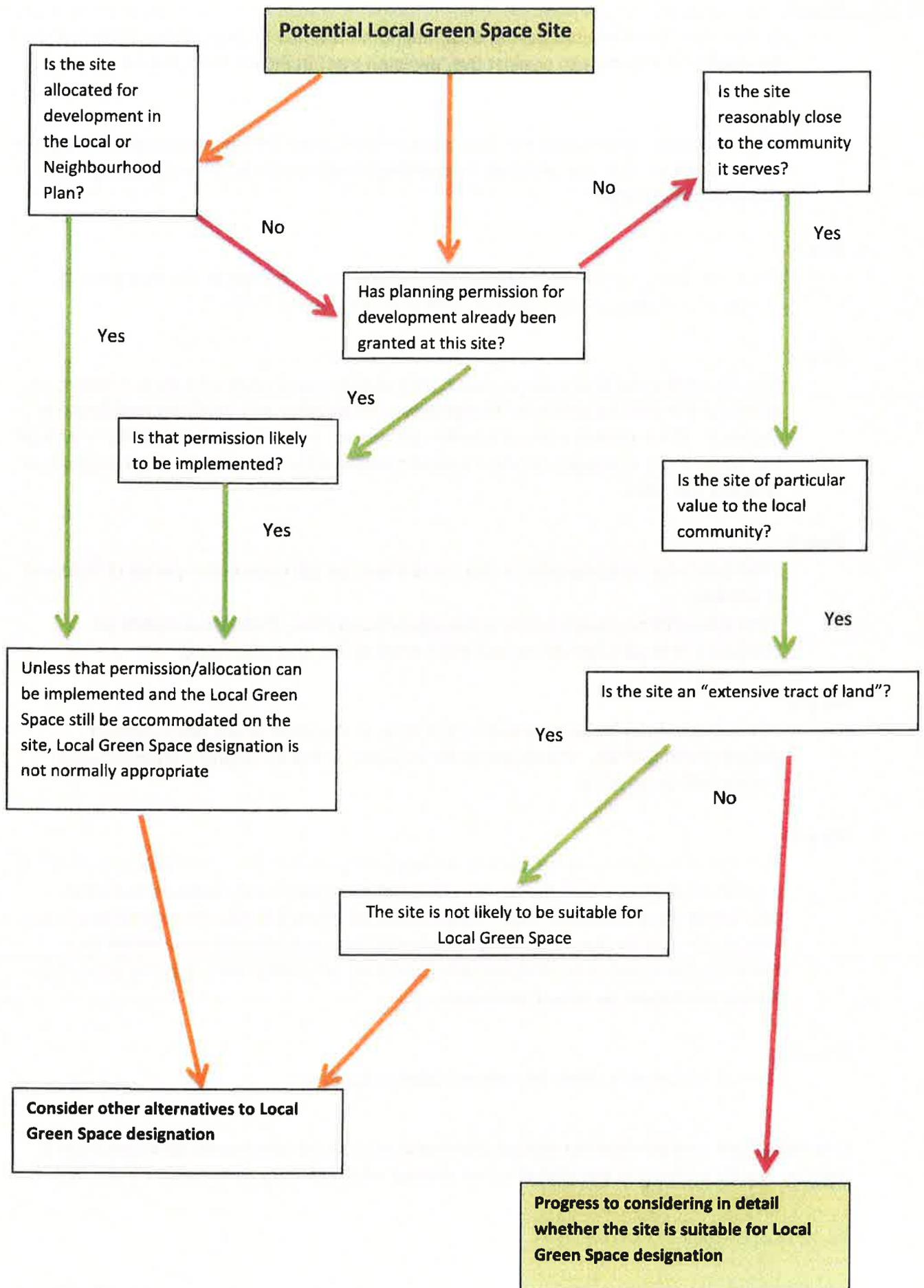
The site designation will be “tested” through the plan process. Anybody can object to policies or sites in a plan during the consultation process and these consultation responses must be considered. Neighbourhood Plans will also be subject to a local referendum. Both Local and Neighbourhood Plans are formally scrutinised by a Planning Inspector or an Independent Examiner, who will ensure that the plans are robust and based on sound evidence.

Step 8

Formal designation when the relevant plan is approved.

It is important to note that the designation process could take some time and that it may be worth looking in parallel at other means of protecting or enhancing the site.

Figure 1 -Decision tree



Criteria for Designation

Any type of green space could be suitable for Local Green Space designation from recreational land with a sports pavilion or the area around a war memorial to allotments or an urban space that provides a tranquil oasis.

As Local Green Space designation means that development is highly unlikely to be permitted on a site, there is a strong possibility that land owners and others will challenge the designation. To meet that challenge the designation must be based on solid evidence that the site meets the relevant criteria. This will be easier to demonstrate if the checklist in this toolkit is completed and the relevant evidence provided.

A potential Local Green Space site must meet the criteria set out in the NPPF, and further detailed in the National Planning Practice Guidance. These criteria are not specific – they do not give set distances or areas, but act as guidance which should then be interpreted at a local level.

In order to ensure that any designation in the District is robust, we have created a checklist against which potential Local Green Space sites should be tested.

Not every potential site will meet every criteria however all sites must meet the following criteria in the checklist –

Point 2.1	not with an extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated
Point 2.2	not allocated for development in the relevant Neighbourhood Plan or the Local Plan, unless it can be shown that the Local Plan housing allocation is not strategic and can be re-located somewhere else in the neighbourhood plan area; or alternatively that the Local Green Space could be incorporated within the site as part of the allocated development
Point 3.2	Not an "extensive tract of land"
Point 3.3	"local in character"
Point 5	in "proximity to the community it serves"
Point 6	"demonstrably special to the local community"

And all sites must meet at least one of the following criteria in the Checklist-

Point 7	"particular local significance ... because of its beauty"
Point 8	"particular local significance ... because of its historic significance"
Point 9	"particular local significance ... because of its recreational value"
Point 10	"particular local significance ... because of its tranquillity"
Point 11	"particular local significance ... because of its wildlife"
Point 12	"particular local significance ... for any other reason"

In order to provide further certainty, it is proposed that Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) are used to define the likely size of a suitable Local Green Space and its distance from the local community. Therefore a Local Green Space should normally be located within 2km (1.25 miles) of the community it serves and a site of 2ha (5 acres) or less should be located within 300m (325 yards) (or 5 minutes' walk) of the community it serves. Given the rural nature of the District, it may be necessary to relax these requirements in certain circumstances.

A site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered to be "an extensive tract of land" and therefore not suitable for designation as a Local Green Space.

Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (Natural England 2010)

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:

- of at least 2 hectares (5 acres) in size, no more than 300 metres (325 yards) (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare (50 acres) site within two kilometres (1.25 miles) of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare (250 acres) site within five kilometres (3 miles) of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare (1240 acres) site within ten kilometres (6.25 miles) of home; plus
- a minimum of one hectare (2.5 acres) of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

CHECKLIST AND CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION

1	General Information	Tick if relevant evidence provided
1.1	Name and address of site <i>Some sites have several names and all known names should be given</i>	
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site. Please indicate the scale.</i>	
	<i>Insert here or attach separately</i>	
1.3	Organisation or individual proposing site for designation <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i>	
1.4	Ownership of site if known <i>Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry. Some land parcels are not registered however local people may know the owner.</i>	
1.5	Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation? (Sites may be designated as Local Green Spaces, even if there are objections from the site owners)	
1.6	Photographs of site	
	<i>Insert here or attach separately</i>	
1.7	Community served by the potential Local Green Space <i>i.e. does the site serve the whole village/town or a particular geographic area or group of people?</i>	
2	Planning History	
2.1	Is there currently a planning application for this site? If permitted/allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?	

	<i>Further Information – Cotswold District Council – planning applications</i>	
2.2	Is the site allocated for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space? <i>Further Information – Cotswold District Council – planning policy.</i>	
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
3.1	Area of proposed site <i>It is unlikely that a site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered suitable for designation.</i>	
3.2	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”? <i>(Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as Local Green Space) e.g. how large is it in comparison to other fields; groups of fields; areas of land in the vicinity etc.? Does the site “feel” extensive or more local in scale?</i>	
3.3	Is the proposed site “local in character”? <i>e.g. does the site feel as though it is part of the local area? And why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What is your evidence?</i>	
4	Need for Local Green Space	
4.1	Is there a need for a local green space in this location? <i>e.g. is there a shortage of accessible greenspace in the area? Is there a village needs survey or parish plan that provides evidence of that need. Further information – Natural England (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard) Cotswold District Council - Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study</i>	
5	Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves” Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
5.1	How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community? <i>Possible evidence – a map to show that distance</i>	
5.2	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes? <i>e.g. railway line; main road Possible evidence – a map to show any potential barriers and how those can be overcome.</i>	

6	Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community” Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i>	
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>	
6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders <i>e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc.</i> <i>Further information on contact details - Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, House of Commons</i>	
6.4	Evidence of support from other groups <i>e.g. letters of support from organisations such as Campaign to Protect Rural England; Cotswolds Conservation Board; Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust; Gloucestershire Rural Community Council; Cotswold Water Park Trust; local amenity societies; local schools etc.</i>	
7	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>beauty</u>,” (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES / NO	
7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.	
7.3	Site visibility <i>e.g. is it easy to see the site from a public place? Are there long-distance views of the site? Are there views of the site from any key locations?</i>	
7.4	Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? <i>e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Conservation Area; Special Landscape Area</i> <i>Further information – Cotswold District Council; Natural England; Cotswolds Conservation Board</i>	

7.5	Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents? <i>e.g. Cotswolds AONB landscape character assessment. Further information – Cotswold District Council; Natural England; Cotswolds Conservation Board</i>	
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?	
7.7	Is the site highlighted in literature or art? <i>e.g. is the site mentioned in a well-known poem or shown in a famous painting?</i>	
8	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance for example because of its <u>historic significance</u>” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
8.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES / NO	
8.2	Are there any historic buildings or remains on the site? <i>e.g. listed buildings; scheduled ancient monuments ; registered parks and gardens; war memorials; other historic remains or structures.</i> <i>Further information – Cotswold District Council; English Heritage; Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record; Gloucestershire Archives; local history society;</i>	
8.3	Are there any important historic landscape features on the site? <i>e.g. old hedgerows; ancient trees; historic ponds or historic garden features</i> <i>Further information – Cotswold District Council; English Heritage; Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record; local history society</i>	
8.4	Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? <i>e.g. the old site of the town railway station; the old garden for the manor house etc.</i>	
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>	

9	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>recreational value</u> (including as a playing field)”, (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
9.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES / NO	
9.2	Is the site used for playing sport? <i>If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports provision? Is this sports provision free or is a club membership required? Further information – Sport England</i>	
9.3	Are the public able to physically access the site? <i>e.g. are there any public rights of way across the site? Or adjacent to the site? Has access been allowed on a discretionary basis? Is there public access to the whole site or only part? Is there good disabled access to the site? (A site can still be designated even if there is no public access.) Further information – Gloucestershire County Council</i>	
9.4	Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? <i>e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc</i>	
10	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>tranquillity</u>” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
10.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES / NO	
10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there are any roads or busy areas close by?</i>	
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? <i>e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity maps</i>	
11	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of the <u>richness of its wildlife</u>”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	

	YES / NO	
11.2	<p>Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? <i>e.g. as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc</i> <i>Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records</i></p>	
11.3	<p>Are any important habitats or species found on the site? <i>e.g. habitats and species listed in the UK priority habitats and species lists or in the Cotswold Water Park or Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plans or protected species or on the red/amber lists of birds of conservation concern.</i> <i>Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; National Biodiversity Network; Cotswold Water Park Trust; RSPB</i></p>	
11.4	<p>What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? <i>Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; National Biodiversity Network; Cotswold Water Park Trust</i></p>	
11.5	<p>Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community? <i>e.g. long-term monitoring of breeding birds.</i></p>	
12	<p>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for <u>any other reason</u>”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i></p>	
12.1	<p>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</p>	
	YES / NO	
12.2	<p>Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?</p>	

WEB REFERENCES

Natural Environment White Paper – The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011)

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

National Planning Policy Framework.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

National Planning Practice Guidance.

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-green-space-and-rights-of-way-2/local-green-space-designation/>

Natural England – Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/40004?category=47004>

Natural England – Landscape

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/default.aspx>

Natural England - mapping

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/maps/default.aspx>

Natural England – Local Nature Reserves

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/lnr/>

Land Registry

<http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/>

Cotswold District Council – planning applications

<http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/residents/planning-building/planning/online-planning-register/>

Cotswold District Council – planning policy

<http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/residents/planning-building/planning-policy/>

Cotswold District Council – Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study

http://consult.cotswold.gov.uk/portal/fp/open_spaces/open_spaces_sport_and_recreation_study?tab=files

Cotswold District Council – Community right to bid

<http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/business/land-property/community-right-to-bid/>

Gloucestershire County Council – Find your Councillor

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

Gloucestershire County Council – public rights of way

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/prow>

Greenspace

<http://www.green-space.org.uk/index.php>

House of Commons – find your MP

<http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/>

Campaign to Protect Rural England – home page

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/>

Campaign to Protect Rural England – tranquil places

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/countryside/tranquil-places>

Cotswolds Conservation Board

<http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/>

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

<http://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/>

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council

<http://www.grcc.org.uk/>

Cotswold Water Park Trust

<http://www.waterpark.org/>

English Heritage

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/>

Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/her>

Gloucestershire Archives

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/article/107703/Archives-Homepage>

Sport England

<http://www.sportengland.org/>

Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records

<http://www.qcer.co.uk/>

National Biodiversity Network

<http://www.nbn.org.uk/>

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/BoCC_tcm9-217852.pdf

Town and village greens: how to register

<https://www.gov.uk/town-and-village-greens-how-to-register>

Open Spaces Society

<http://www.oss.org.uk/what-we-do/village-greens/>

My Community Rights

<http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/community-right-to-bid/>

www.gov.uk – Community right to bid

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-people-more-power-over-what-happens-in-their-neighbourhood/supporting-pages/community-right-to-bid>

www.gov.uk – open access land

<https://www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/open-access-land>

CHECKLIST AND CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION LGS 1

1	General Information	Tick if relevant evidence provided
1.1	Name and address of site <i>Some sites have several names and all known names should be given</i>	
	Land to the rear of Ridgeway extending towards the River Stour	
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site. Please indicate the scale.</i>	
	Shown on Policies Map	
1.3	Organisation or individual proposing site for designation <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i>	
	Shipston on Stour Town Council is the Neighbourhood Plan Sponsor. Plan produced by a Community Group.	
1.4	Ownership of site if known <i>Information on land ownership can be obtained from the <u>Land Registry</u>. Some land parcels are not registered however local people may know the owner.</i>	
	Frank Wardak, The Ridgeway, Shipston on Stour	
1.5	Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation? (Sites may be designated as Local Green Spaces, even if there are objections from the site owners)	
	<u>Yes.</u>	
1.6	Photographs of site	
	Included as an Appendix	
1.7	Community served by the potential Local Green Space <i>i.e. does the site serve the whole village/town or a particular geographic area or group of people?</i>	
	Serves the whole Parish	
2	Planning History	

2.1	Is there currently a planning application for this site? If permitted/allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?	
	There is no Planning Application for the designated area	
2.2	Is the site allocated for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space? <i>Further Information – Cotswold District Council – planning policy.</i>	
	No development has been allocated to the designated area.	
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
3.1	Area of proposed site <i>It is unlikely that a site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered suitable for designation.</i>	
	2.04 ha	
3.2	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”? <i>(Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as Local Green Space) e.g. how large is it in comparison to other fields; groups of fields; areas of land in the vicinity etc.? Does the site “feel” extensive or more local in scale?</i>	
	No.	
3.3	Is the proposed site “local in character”? <i>e.g. does the site feel as though it is part of the local area? And why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What is your evidence?</i>	
	The site is part of the southern (tranquil) ‘well-being’ zone. This seeks to make much more of the riverside which is part of what characterises the setting of Shipston on Stour. It is visually part of the accessible riverside and has the ability to provide a focal amenity area for families to enjoy.	
4	Need for Local Green Space	
4.1	Is there a need for a local green space in this location? <i>e.g. is there a shortage of accessible greenspace in the area? Is there a village needs survey or parish plan that provides evidence of that need.</i>	
	Designating this riverside area as LGS complements the designation to the west (LGS.2). It immediately links to the proposed LNR (Refer to Policy ENV1 & ENV5).	
5	Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves” <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
5.1	How far is the site from the community it serves?	

	Is the site within 2km of the local community? <i>Possible evidence – a map to show that distance</i>	
	The site is on the southern boundary to the developed area. Within 2km of Town Centre..	
5.2	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes? <i>e.g. railway line; main road</i> <i>Possible evidence – a map to show any potential barriers and how those can be overcome.</i>	
	There would be direct pedestrian access from the footway adjacent to the A3400. It is feasible that this could be to wheelchair user standard.	
6	Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community” <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i> Refer to Policy ENV4	
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i> Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire (Q.3 response)	
6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders <i>e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc.</i> <i>(Letter to be written asking for support from Chris Saint)</i>	
6.4	Evidence of support from other groups Stratford on Avon DC Core Strategy Policy AS.6 & CS 24 (Healthy Communities)	
7	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>beauty</u>,” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	Yes. Riverside area to be fully accessible to public through permissive paths.	
7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.	

	Part of the 'tranquil' well-being zone to the south and east of the Town. Views across meadows to the Cotswold AONB, Brailes Hill and the Upper Stour valley. Riverside location with proposed picnic and fishing areas and designated allotment site.	
7.3	Site visibility <i>e.g. is it easy to see the site from a public place? Are there long-distance views of the site? Are there views of the site from any key locations?</i>	
	The site marks the southern gateway to the Town and would present a pleasing aspect from the PRoW's SS118. SS117 & SS118b	
7.4	Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? <i>e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Conservation Area; Special Landscape Area</i>	
	No, but it within 1km of the boundary to the Cotswolds AONB	
7.5	Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents?	
	White Consultants Landscape Assessment for SDC Warwicks Wildlife Trust Habitat Biodiversity Audit	
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?	
	Nearby remains of historic water mill, weir and fish ladder in adjacent River Stour	
7.7	Is the site highlighted in literature or art? <i>e.g. is the site mentioned in a well-known poem or shown in a famous painting?</i>	
	None known	
8	Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance for example because of its <u>historic significance</u>" (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
8.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	NO	
8.2	Are there any historic buildings or remains on the site? <i>e.g. listed buildings; scheduled ancient monuments ; registered parks and gardens; war memorials; other historic remains or structures.</i>	
	No buildings on the site	
8.3	Are there any important historic landscape features on the site?	

	YES	
10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>	
	The major attraction of the site. Riverside area screened and distanced from main road. Part of the edge of settlement 'tranquil' well-being zone.	
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area?	
	Not currently	
11	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of the <u>richness of its wildlife</u>”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
11.2	Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? <i>e.g. as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc</i>	
	Not formally designated but adjacent to site to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve. Refer to Stratford District Ecological Survey 2010	
11.3	Are any important habitats or species found on the site?	
	None known but refer to above Ecological Survey	
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? <i>Further information -</i>	
	Sightings of kingfishers. Water fowl and mammals	
11.5	Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community? <i>e.g. long-term monitoring of breeding birds.</i>	
	None known)	
12	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for <u>any other reason</u>”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
12.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	

12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	
	Part of a strategy at Parish and District levels to address an expressed wish by residents to improve the appreciation and the well-being within a Riverside settlement. Core Strategy Policy AS 6.	

CHECKLIST AND CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION LGS 2

1	General Information	Tick if relevant evidence provided
1.1	Name and address of site <i>Some sites have several names and all known names should be given</i>	
	Hanson Hill	
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site. Please indicate the scale.</i>	
	Refer to Policies Map	
1.3	Organisation or individual proposing site for designation <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i>	
	Shipston on Stour Town Council is the Neighbourhood Plan Sponsor. Plan produced by a Community Group.	
1.4	Ownership of site if known <i>Information on land ownership can be obtained from the <u>Land Registry</u>. Some land parcels are not registered however local people may know the owner.</i>	
	Ownership is known and all have been contacted to make them aware of potential designation. Refer to the Consultation Statement.	
1.5	Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation? (Sites may be designated as Local Green Spaces, even if there are objections from the site owners)	
	Owners have been made aware of potential LGS designation. No objections have been raised. Refer to the Consultation Statement	
1.6	Photographs of site	
	Contained as an Appendix	
1.7	Community served by the potential Local Green Space <i>i.e. does the site serve the whole village/town or a particular geographic area or group of people?</i>	
	Whole Parish and surrounding villages.	

2	Planning History	
2.1	Is there currently a planning application for this site? If permitted/allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?	
	No planning application.	
2.2	Is the site allocated for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?	
	No	
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
3.1	Area of proposed site <i>It is unlikely that a site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered suitable for designation.</i>	
	18.24 ha	
3.2	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”? <i>(Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as Local Green Space) e.g. how large is it in comparison to other fields; groups of fields; areas of land in the vicinity etc.? Does the site “feel” extensive or more local in scale?</i>	
	Not extensive. It is limited to the rising ground to the west of the settlement from the ‘break of slope’ around 85m AOD towards the ridgeline. Refer to Proposals Map.	
3.3	Is the proposed site “local in character”? <i>e.g. does the site feel as though it is part of the local area? And why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What is your evidence?</i>	
	The site forms part of the backdrop to the ‘bowl-like’ setting of the town that is typical of settlements in the Feldon Landscape Area. As such it adds physically, visually and socially to the presence of Shipston on Stour.	
4	Need for Local Green Space	
4.1	Is there a need for a local green space in this location? <i>e.g. is there a shortage of accessible greenspace in the area? Is there a village needs survey or parish plan that provides evidence of that need.</i>	
	Refer to Policy ENV 1 and the Core Strategy Policies AS.6 & CS.24.	
5	Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves”	

	Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
5.1	How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community? <i>Possible evidence – a map to show that distance</i>	
	The site is adjacent to the western edge of the developed area of the settlement. Access is under 1km from the town centre. Refer to Policies Map.	
5.2	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes? <i>e.g. railway line; main road</i> <i>Possible evidence – a map to show any potential barriers and how those can be overcome.</i>	
	No barriers to access. PRow SS124 bisects the site and connects to other PRowS.	
6	Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community” Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i>	
	Refer to Policy ENV4.	
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>	
	Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire (Q 1 & Q 2 response) and Consultation Statement.	
6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders <i>e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc.</i>	
	<i>Letter from Cllr Chris Saint pending..</i>	
6.4	Evidence of support from other groups	
	Formal documented landscape assessments from qualified professionals.	
7	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>beauty</u>,” (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	

7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.	
	The site embodies the local distinctiveness and character of the settlement. It provides the 'rural backdrop' to the setting of the town which is a feature valued and enjoyed by residents. Refer to Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Q1, and Consultation Statement.	
7.3	Site visibility <i>e.g. is it easy to see the site from a public place? Are there long-distance views of the site? Are there views of the site from any key locations?</i>	
	The slopes of Hanson Hill can be seen from multiple aspects in the Parish and beyond. Key views are from the B4035 as it descends into the valley from Brailes Hill. The A3400 as it descends into the town. Westwards from the Barcheston Road and Fell Mill Lane. From the riverside south of the road bridge. And from numerous locations within the town and housing developments. It is probably the most dominant physical feature of the settlement. PRoW SS124 passes through the site.	
7.4	Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations?	
	It is within the National Character Area (NCA) 96 Dunsmore & Feldons and is positioned where this meets the rising ground of the North Cotswolds. From the site there are extensive views across the town to the Cotswold AONB to the south and east.	
7.5	Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents?	
	Natural England National Character Area 96 Warwickshire Landscapes Project. Avon Valley-Feldon-Cotswolds White Consultants Landscape Assessment for SDC Landscape Matters Visual assessment of Area SH09 for SHARD residents group. Landscape Matters specific assessment of LGS2 for NP Team LPA landscape assessments in connection with planning applications 14/02607/OUT (Campden Road south) and 15/01478/FUL (Shoulderway Lane) Warwicks Wildlife Trust Habitat Biodiversity Audit WCC Informal Historic Environment Report (Ben Wallace)	
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?	
	PRoW SS124 which passes through the site is an ancient drovers road from Stow to the sheepwash in Shipston. Thus eponymously linked to the derivative name for Shipston of <i>Scepeswasce</i> .	
7.7	Is the site highlighted in literature or art? <i>e.g. is the site mentioned in a well-known poem or shown in a famous painting?</i>	

	None known although it is conceivable that there would be mentions in the history of the drovers road	
8	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance for example because of its <u>historic significance</u>” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
8.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
8.2	Are there any historic buildings or remains on the site? <i>e.g. listed buildings; scheduled ancient monuments ; registered parks and gardens; war memorials; other historic remains or structures.</i>	
	No buildings on the site	
8.3	Are there any important historic landscape features on the site? <i>e.g. old hedgerows; ancient trees; historic ponds or historic garden features</i>	
	There are a number of old hedgerows and diverse species of ancient and young trees (as detailed in the WWL biodiversity audit). These form thriving wildlife corridors across the site to the countryside beyond. A number of fields in the site have remnants of ancient ridge & furrow (as detailed in Landscape Matters report on site)	
8.4	Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? <i>e.g. the old site of the town railway station; the old garden for the manor house etc.</i>	
	The historic drovers road would have been fundamental to the establishment and growth of the town since it was founded in the 1 st century AD.	
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
	None recorded	
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>	
	No	
9	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>recreational value</u> (including as a playing field)”, (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	

9.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
9.2	Is the site used for playing sport? <i>If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports provision? Is this sports provision free or is a club membership required?</i>	
	The site is not appropriate for sport	
9.3	Are the public able to physically access the site? <i>e.g. are there any public rights of way across the site? Or adjacent to the site? Has access been allowed on a discretionary basis? Is there public access to the whole site or only part? Is there good disabled access to the site? (A site can still be designated even if there is no public access.)</i>	
	PRoW SS124 bisects the site. Adjacent to the site are PRoW's SS124a & SS124b. Access has been tolerated along the ridgeline from SS124 to Shoulderway Lane for at least 30 years. It is intended to secure a permissive path for this route to establish a circular scenic walk around the periphery of the settlement. This will afford magnificent views over the town and across to Brailes Hill, the ANOB and Barcheston.	
9.4	Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? <i>e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc</i>	
	Significant use is made of the site by the community. It is a very popular dog walking area on a daily basis. Sledging takes place on grassed slopes to the south of the site when winter snow is present. It is not unusual to have gatherings of 30-40 enjoying the opportunity presented. It is the only suitable area within the parish. Kite flying from the ridge is also popular. Refer to NP Questionnaire Q3 results.	
10	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>tranquility</u>” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
10.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>	
	The site is tranquil in the sense of being close to nature whilst being on the edge of the activity in the town below. It is undoubtedly a uniquely uplifting experience to be on the site, epitomising the ability of a landscape to give profound sense of well-being. <i>(Photos to be added from file)</i>	
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? <i>e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England’s tranquility maps</i>	

	Not known	
11	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of the <u>richness of its wildlife</u>”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
11.2	Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? <i>e.g. as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc</i>	
	An area 500m to the north-west of the site accessible using PRow's is designated as a Local Wildlife Site.	
11.3	Are any important habitats or species found on the site?	
	The fields that constitute the site are, in the most part, actively cultivated, predominantly for cereal crops. Towards the south of the site is an area of semi-improved grassland currently grazed by sheep which has been a candidate for a Local Wildlife Site. Local sightings include fox, badger, deer and small mammals using the hedgerows as wildlife corridors. There is varied birdlife including pheasant, jay, magpie and buzzard as well as many common species. Flora is detailed in the Habitat Biodiversity Audit.	
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site?	
	No formal audit has been recorded	
11.5	Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community?	
	<i>Chris Talbot has been emailed for comment)</i>	
12	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for <u>any other reason</u>”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
12.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	
	Part of a strategy at Parish and District levels to address an expressed wish by residents to fully benefit from the countryside surrounding the	

	settlement and its unique contribution to overall well-being. Shipston on Stour was among the dozen best places to live in the Midlands in the 2016 Sunday Times Survey.	
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Section 7

Neighbourhood Planning Local Green Spaces



Introduction.....	2
1. Why green space is important.....	4
2. Neighbourhood plans and green space	6
3. Evidence	8
Statutory designations	9
Green space audit	10
Assessing local need.....	11
4. Green infrastructure audit tool	12
5. Community and stakeholder engagement	13
Engaging with the wider community	13
6. Existing designations affecting green space	15
Green belt.....	15
Historic area designations.....	16
Natural environment designations	17
Asset of Community Value	17
7. Designation of Local Green Space	18
Considering green spaces for designation.....	18
Application of NPPF Criteria	18
8. Local Green Space assessment tool	20
Notes on using the Local Green Space assessment tool	21
9. Policies for Local Green Spaces.....	23
Purpose and rationale for planning policies	23
Policy themes.....	23
Summary.....	25
Further information.....	26
Acknowledgements.....	26

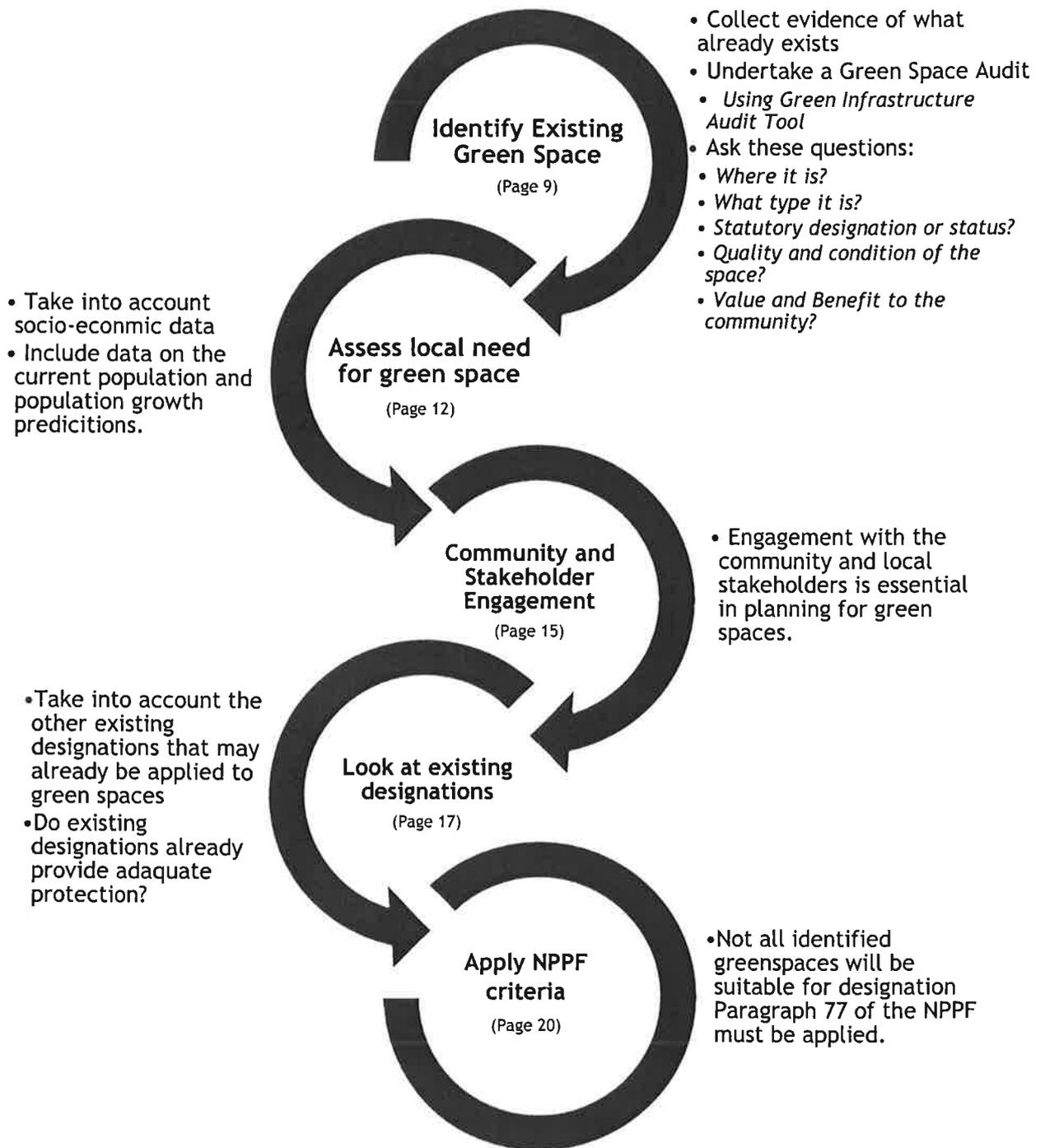
Introduction

Green infrastructure contributes to the quality and distinctiveness of the local environment. It creates opportunities for walking and physical activity and generally adding to quality of life. Green infrastructure is diverse in character and can include formal parks and gardens, informal grassed areas, linear paths, towpaths, sports pitches and various other kinds of landscaped area.

For many local communities, securing high quality green infrastructure in and around their neighbourhood is important. Neighbourhood plans can include policies for green spaces and can be used to designate 'Local Green Spaces' to protect them for current and future generations.

Section 1 of the document sets out why green space is important and discusses its different values. Section 2 discusses how neighbourhood plans can address green space. Section 3 looks at evidence requirements and Section 4 comprises an audit tool for use where existing evidence is not available. Section 5 discusses community and stakeholder engagement. Sections 6 and 7 comprise guidance and a tool for making Local Green Space designations. Section 8 looks at other green space designations, which must be taken into account when considering Local Green Space designations. Section 9 deals with policy making for Local Green Spaces.

The document is aimed at local communities, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Forums and others involved in neighbourhood planning.



1. Why green space is important

Planning for green spaces can help to achieve social, economic and environmental benefits in a neighbourhood. Some of the community and environmental benefits of green spaces are:

- Being part of the public realm, where informal social interaction can take place
- Providing pitches and facilities for sports and supporting physical activity
- Forming part of a network of paths and spaces, enabling movement through an area
- Providing habitats for wildlife and a natural corridors and spaces through urban areas
- Providing flexible space for recreation, local cultural events and performance
- Adding to local amenity, providing an attractive setting and outlook for surrounding residential and commercial properties
- Forming part of the character or setting of historic areas, buildings and townscape
- Forming part of flood mitigation, such as SUDS
- Providing areas and opportunities for growing local food.

Green spaces contribute to quality of place, together with buildings, urban spaces and the wider public realm. Quality of place is a key factor in attracting investment, jobs and growth to an area. It is also important in making an area an attractive place to live, work and spend leisure time. So green spaces have real economic value to the surrounding area, in addition to creating community-wellbeing.

Achieving sustainable development

One of the basic conditions for neighbourhood plans is achieving sustainable development. The social, community, economic and environmental benefits of green spaces help to make local places sustainable.

The impact of new development on green spaces, and the provision of new green spaces as part of new development will often be significant factors in considering whether development is sustainable. Planning for green spaces needs to be considered as an integral part of the wider planning for the area.

2. Neighbourhood plans and green space

The potential of neighbourhood plans

Good planning requires that green infrastructure be considered in terms of the value and benefits it brings to the local community, local environment and local economy. Some examples of how Neighbourhood Plans can address green space are:

- Designation of Local Green Space
- Recognition of other designations involving open space
- Identification of green infrastructure deficiencies, which may then be addressed through planning gain
- Policies for development around Local Green Space
- Policies for development affecting other kinds of green infrastructure
- Provision of new open space as part of new development.

Planning for Local Green Space

Designation of Local Green Space must be done in accordance with criteria contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. In addition, policies can relate to green space and infrastructure, or development adjacent to such facilities. Designations and policies are dealt with in more detail later in this document.

Good planning requires that green infrastructure be considered in terms of its values to the local community, local environment and local economy. This can be demonstrated by providing a clear rationale and evidence for Local Green Space designations or policies.

In addition to a robust and proportionate evidence base, it is necessary to engage with local communities and stakeholders. The following sections of this document deal with evidence and community and stakeholder engagement.

Care is required to ensure that green space policies are not being misused, for example through making designations to stop development, rather than to ensure proper green space provision.

3. Evidence

Evidence on green space for neighbourhood plans should identify existing green spaces, including:

- Where it is
- What type it is
- Statutory designation or status
- Quality and condition of the space
- Value and benefit to the community.

This evidence will help in determining whether there is need to improve existing green space or for new green space to be provided. It will also inform consideration of Local Green Space designations. The local authority should be approached in the first instance to provide or signpost existing evidence.

Different kinds of existing evidence are set out in the following sections.

Evidence of what exists already

- Evidence base underpinning the Local Plan or emerging Local Plan
- Any special technical reports commissioned by the local authority
- Local authority Green space strategy maps; also Green Infrastructure maps if the authority is maintaining them
- Places visited and for what purpose - Monitor of Engagement in the Natural Environment survey
- Ordnance Survey Green space maps may provide this information when it is published.

Evidence of condition and quality

- Statutory designations (see later section below)
- Local sports strategies
- Landscape assessments
- Identification of sites that have been winners of the Green Flag Award and Green Flag Community Award (the national quality standard for green space) or other award schemes.

Evidence of value and benefits of green space to the local community

- Places visited and for what purpose - Monitor of Engagement in the Natural Environment survey
- Local authority data on tourism and visitors
- Feedback from community engagement.

Evidence of need:

- Local authority data on green space provision and need
- Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANGSt) assessments where they have been undertaken; this tool itself provides an indication of whether sufficient provision exists
- Local Sport strategy and others where green space is mentioned.

Statutory designations

Sites and areas subject to statutory designations affecting green infrastructure should be identified so that they can be taken into account when developing policies or making Local Green Space designations.

Examples include:

- Public rights of way
- Conservation areas
- Registered historic parks and gardens
- Sites already designated under Local Greenspace Designation
- Local nature reserves

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Listed assets of community value.

The local authority should have records of all of these, including boundaries.

National Datasets offered under the MAGIC system include:

- Local Nature Reserves
http://www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/lnr/lnr_search.asp
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Environmental data should also be considered, such as any value to wildlife or ecological value.

A later section of this document considers some of these other designations in more detail.

Green space audit

Where existing evidence does not already do so, it may be useful to undertake a green infrastructure audit of the area. This involves assessing and critically evaluating existing green spaces in the area in terms of: what there is, location (geographical distribution), type of space (purposes), quality of the facility, movement, amenity value and other relevant considerations.

A simple audit template is included in this guide. This is suitable for considering green spaces and other forms of green infrastructure, such as footpaths and towpaths.

It is useful to plot such facilities on a map, as an aid to considering geographical distribution.

Checklist of green infrastructure

- Informal green spaces
- Village Greens
- Allotments
- Cemeteries
- Highway verges
- Parks and gardens
- Footpaths and cycle routes
- Country parks
- Rural footpaths and nature trails
- Canal towpaths and river courses
- Sports pitches, golf courses and bowling greens
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and other landscaped areas.

This is not a comprehensive checklist. It is essential to develop a checklist for the specific locality.

The following checklist may be useful in designing such an audit.

Assessing local need

An assessment of local need may also need to be done, if not available in existing evidence. This may already have been done, at least partially, if there is a local sports strategy. This may include useful data on provision for sports and physical activity.

Socio-economic data will need to be taken into account, including data on the current population and population growth predictions. Deficiencies in provision may be identified by assessing current and future needs.

4. Green infrastructure audit tool

Site Details		
Name and Address	Description and purposes	Quality of facility (including any deficiencies)
EXAMPLE: Open space, Off Richmond Close and Chamberlain Avenue. (Number 12 on plan).	Informal, grassed open space. Area is around 0.5 hectares. Used for walking through, informal games (such as ball games) and other play.	Grass is well maintained. Three sides of the space are flanked by high rear fences of surrounding housing, resulting in poor surveillance.

5. Community and stakeholder engagement

Importance of engagement

As with other aspects of neighbourhood planning, engagement with the community and local stakeholders is an essential part of planning for green spaces. Policies and designations in the neighbourhood plan should be based on careful consideration of evidence and of the outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement. More advice on community engagement for neighbourhood plans is given in the *Locality Neighbourhood Planning Roadmap Guide*.

Local stakeholders

Key stakeholders could include local residents associations, sports and health bodies, canal and river bodies, conservation groups, the local authority (which often manages and maintains many local facilities) and other relevant local organisations.

Local stakeholders can provide useful data, advise on the quality and deficiencies of local facilities, and perhaps become more actively involved in preparing the neighbourhood plan. This includes identifying potential sites for Local Green Space designation.

Where Local Green Space designations are being considered, it is also advisable to engage with those controlling the land.

Engaging with the wider community

In engaging with the local community, the criteria in Paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for designating Local Green Space should be taken into account (NPPF criteria is discussed in more detail later in this document).

In particular, it would be useful to ask local people to identify any nearby green spaces that are special to the local community and hold a particular local significance, and to explain in what ways they are special and locally significant. This includes spaces that are special in

terms of beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, wildlife, or for other reasons. This information will be helpful to neighbourhood planning qualifying bodies in applying NPPF criteria.

Other questions could deal with the extent to which people use local facilities and whether they think there are gaps in local provision, for example a lack of green space or limited opportunities for sports and other physical activities. Such information may be helpful when considering local need.

6. Existing designations affecting green space

There are numerous other designations that may already be applied to green spaces. It is essential to take these into account when considering making Local Green Space designations. In some instances, existing designations may be adequate, but in other cases Local Green Space designation may be necessary to provide the protection sought by the neighbourhood planning qualifying bodies.

The following checker sets out the purpose of some common designations and the potential for Local Green Space designation to provide complementary or additional protection.

Green belt

Green belts have the following stated purposes:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Green belts are designated and modified through the local plan process. They may not be modified by neighbourhood plans (though future amendments to national policy may change this).

Local Green Space implications:

Green belts are applied to the fringe of urban areas. They do not preclude all development (appropriate kinds of development are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework).

Therefore, Local Green Space designation could be useful in the green belt, where the land meets the NPPF criteria.

Green belts do not recognise the landscape quality or community value of land. So there are instances where Local Green Space designation could be useful. For example, it could recognise and protect the community value of a sports pitch on the edge of the green belt, adjacent to a housing estate.

Where there is no green belt, it would not be appropriate to try to use Local Green Space designation to attempt to impose green belt type protection of land around an urban area. This would be a misuse of the designation and would be likely to result in the neighbourhood plan running into difficulties in meeting the basic conditions at the independent examination stage.

Historic area designations

Conservation areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Conservation areas sometimes include green spaces, such as formal parks, village greens or urban greens.

Local Green Space implications:

Conservation areas do not preclude new development. Indeed, some conservation areas are a focus for regeneration and development. Local Green Space designation may be useful in identifying green space of value to the community in conservation areas.

Inclusion on the register of historic parks and gardens does not afford much protection in itself, though it is a material consideration in making planning decisions. Protection would normally be conferred to historic parks and gardens by conservation area designation or listed building status for buildings and structures.

By their very nature, many historic parks and gardens would be likely to meet the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space designation. However, care is required in applying the

designation, so as to allow necessary development. For example, some new development may be necessary in parks to enhance community value, for example by providing new changing or storage facilities for sports pitches or cafes and refreshment kiosks. This could be recognised in planning policies.

Natural environment designations

Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other natural environment designations recognise the scientific, ecological or wildlife value of land. They can be a significant factor in determining whether SEA (strategic environment assessment) is required for neighbourhood plan.

Fields in Trust designation provides some protection for sites.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 protect important countryside hedges from removal, without the permission of the local planning authority.

Local Green Space implications:

Local Green Space designation could offer useful additional protection, making clear that such areas have community value. Tree preservation orders (TPOs) apply to single trees or groups of trees and require consent to be obtained to remove or do work to trees. The protection is specific to trees and does not preclude development. Local Green Space designation could protect the wider space around TPOs or protected hedges, where such spaces meet the criteria.

Asset of Community Value

Designation of a green space as an asset of community value may be a material consideration in making planning decisions, but does not necessarily preclude development.

Local Green Space implications:

Listing of a space as an asset of community value is a key consideration in applying the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space designations. Whilst being an asset of community value is a

material consideration in making planning decisions, Local Green Space designation could provide stronger and more specific protection.

7. Designation of Local Green Space

Considering green spaces for designation

Not all green spaces will be suitable for formal designation as Local Green Space. The criteria in Paragraph 77 of the NPPF must be applied.

This section of the document sets out how designation of Local Green Spaces should be considered.

Application of NPPF Criteria

National Planning Practice Guidance states:

“Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities”.

Paragraph 77 of the NPPF sets out the criteria that green space must meet in order to be designated as ‘Local Green Space’:

“The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- *where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves*
- *where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic*

significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife

- *where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land”.*

In addition to these criteria, National Planning Practice Guidance states:

“Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented”.

Other designations of land, such as green belt or conservation area status, do not necessarily preclude or support designation as Local Green Space. But it is necessary to consider whether the additional designation is necessary and would serve a useful purpose. Existing designations are discussed in more detail later in this guide.

In applying the NPPF criteria, close proximity would normally mean in easy walking distance. Based on Natural England standards, that would mean 1.25 miles or less.

In considering whether a space is demonstrably special to a local community, it is clearly important to engage with the community and to assess how the community uses a space. It is also important to engage with any owners of the land in question.

Consideration of whether the green space is local in character and not an extensive tract of land suggests spaces within a locality, rather than, for example, extensive green areas in the countryside.

The following form has been developed to assist in the consideration of land for Local Green Space designation.

8. Local Green Space assessment tool

Site Details		
Site	Grid Ref.	Description and purpose

Checklist		
Statutory designations (e.g. SSSI)	Site allocations (give details)	Planning permissions (give details)

NPPF Criteria		
Close to the community it serves	Demonstrably special to local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, wildlife, or other)	Local in character and not extensive tract

Notes on using the Local Green Space assessment tool

Site details section

The 'site' box should include the name of the space (if there is one) and the address (roads flanking the site). This, together with the grid reference, will identify the site.

The 'description and purpose' box should include any primary purpose (for example informal grassed area, park or football pitch) and any other occasional or secondary uses.

Checklist Section

The 'statutory designations' box should list all designations, e.g. conservation area, register of historic parks and gardens, SSSIs. The local authority should provide details of all such designations. Other statutory designations must be considered when making decisions on designation of Local Green Space (see later section).

Existing or proposed site allocations (e.g. in a local plan) or valid planning permissions for a site should be identified. Either of these is likely to exclude that site from consideration for designation as Local Green Space.

NPPF Criteria Section

Completion of the 'close to the community it serves' box should describe the proximity of the green space to the local community. The space should be within easy walking distance to meet this criterion satisfactorily.

The 'demonstrably special to local community' should describe the ways in which the space is used or enjoyed by the community. The outcomes of community engagement should be useful in demonstrating that a space is special to the community (see previous section on Community and Stakeholder Engagement). This includes consideration of beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, wildlife, or other values.

The 'Local in character and not extensive tract' box should be used to demonstrate that the space in question is a local facility and not, for example, green space in the countryside. The

purpose of Local Green Space designation is to protect local spaces. Containing urban sprawl or protecting open countryside would not be proper uses of the designation.

To be eligible for designation as Local Green Space, the space in question would need to meet the NPPF criteria.

9. Policies for Local Green Spaces

Purpose and rationale for planning policies

In addition to designating Local Green Space, a neighbourhood Plan may include policies or site allocations for development.

In drafting policies, it is necessary to be clear on the purpose. In addition, each policy needs to be backed by a clear planning rationale, based on analysis of relevant evidence.

It is important to note Paragraph 78 f the NPPF, which states:

“Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts”.

Policy themes

Purposes and themes for policies addressing green space could include:

- Ensuring the open space remains undeveloped
- Protecting the character of the area, including historic areas
- Ensuring adjacent development complements its setting
- Securing a natural corridor through development that enables people and wildlife to travel in and through or to link to surrounding paths;
- Setting out design requirements for new development around green space, including providing access into the space, where appropriate
- Enabling changes of use to allow a wider range of activities to take place
- Creation of new areas of green space in new development;
- Opportunities to create linkages between sites and address gaps in existing networks by the creation of new rights of way.

A policy specific to Local Green Space could make clear that development should not encroach on such spaces, or set out where limited development may be allowed to enhance the use of the space.

Design policies could ensure that development adjacent to Local Green Space provide active frontages, to provide natural surveillance. Such policies could also deal with scale and character of development. Open Green Spaces could provide an ideal setting for creative modern buildings on adjacent sites.

Site briefs could be prepared for development sites adjacent to Local Green Spaces, highlighting things like access points, sensitive boundaries, etc.

The plan could identify enhancements necessary for specific green spaces, supported by evidence. Open space financial contributions required as part of a granting of planning permission could perhaps be used to help fund such enhancements.

Sites adjacent to Local Green Space could be allocated for complementary development, for example to provide community facilities associated with the recreational or sports use of the space.

Summary

Neighbourhood plans can designate Local Green Spaces. They can include policies relating to Local Green Spaces or other green infrastructure.

Green spaces provide a range of social, economic and environmental benefits. Considering green space is part of ensuring that development is sustainable, one of the basic conditions for neighbourhood plans.

Designations and policies should be based on a robust evidence base and community and stakeholder engagement. The evidence base could include an audit of green infrastructure in an area, where existing evidence is insufficient.

Local Green Space designations must be made in accordance with the criteria contained in Paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework and take account of National Planning Practice Guidance.

Local Green Space designations can complement other kinds of designation, such as inclusion on the register of historic parks and gardens.

Policies and site allocations can ensure that new development takes account of Open Green Spaces. Policies should have a clear purpose, rationale and be evidence-based.

Further information

- [National Planning Policy Framework](#)
- [National Planning Practice Guidance](#)
- [NPPG Green Infrastructure Guidance](#)
- [Sport England - Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance](#)
- [Locality's Neighbourhood Planning Roadmap Guide](#)
- [Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards](#)
- [Fields in Trust FIT Standard](#)
 - Fields in Trust guidance for assessing outdoors sports and play space.
- [Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment](#)
- [My Community Assets of Community Value Toolkit](#)
- [Green Flag Award](#).

Acknowledgements

The tool has been prepared for Locality by Urban Vision Enterprise CIC, a social enterprise specialising in planning and regeneration. It forms part of a wider set of guidance on neighbourhood planning, including the Locality Neighbourhood Planning Roadmap Guide.

Section 8



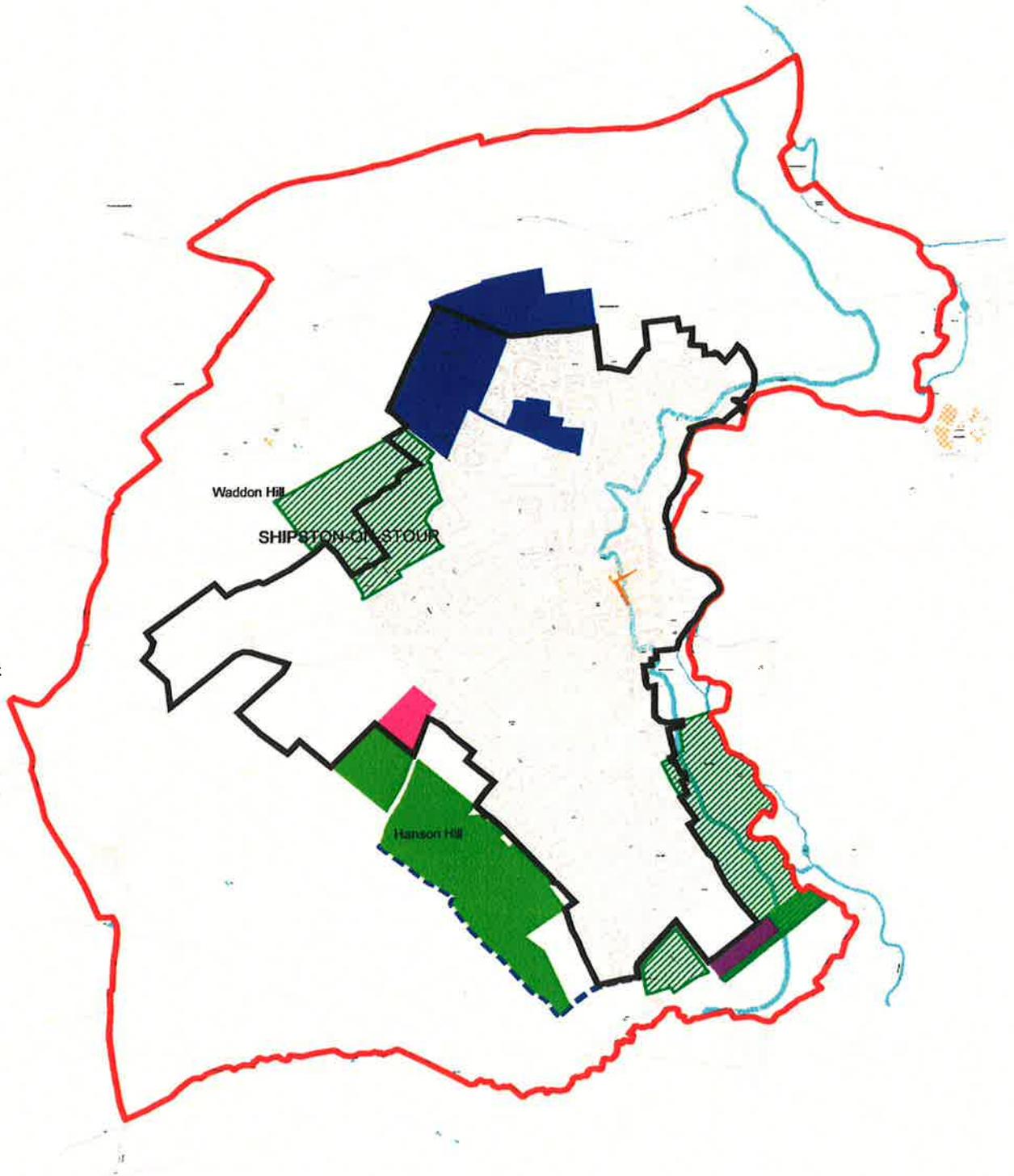
Policies Map

SCALE : 1 : 12000 @ A3 DATE : 10-Sep-17



MAP FILENAME : submission_draft_plan_-_policies_map.mxd

Map data shown may contain Ordnance Survey © products supplied by Pear Technology Services Ltd; Email: info@peartechology.co.uk © Crown Copyright and database rights from data shown above Ordnance Survey © licence number 100023146



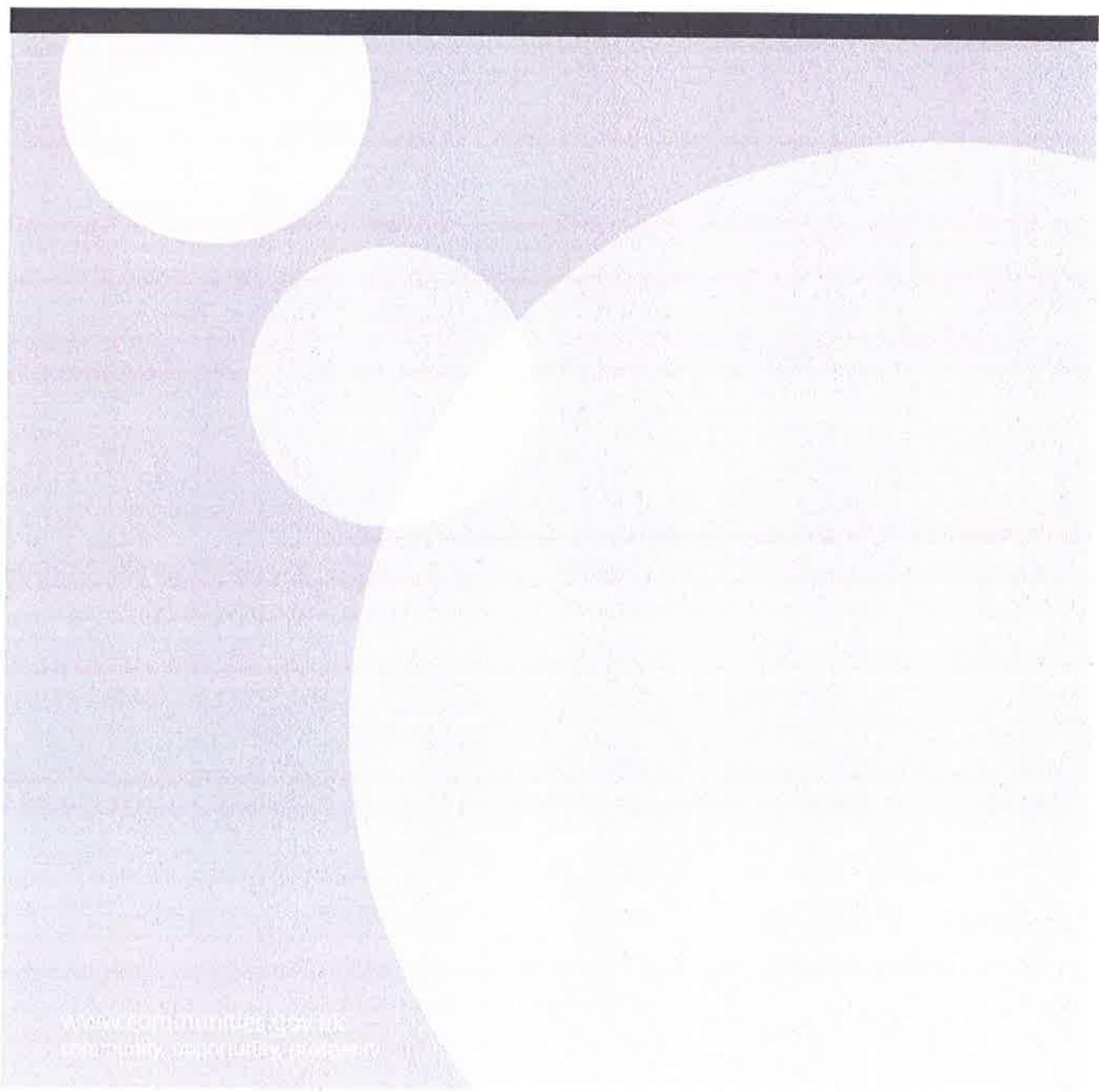
Key

- Proposed Housing Land Allocation (HSG7)
- Proposed Local Green Space (ENV2)
- Dev't Brief Area of Consider'n (EC1, EC4, HSG8)
- Boundary of Floodplain (FLD3)
- Designated Neighbourhood Area
- Proposed Reserve Housing Site (HSG6)
- Proposed Wellbeing Zone (ENV5)
- Proposed Town Centre Improvements (INF2)
- Prospective Permissive Path (INF3)
- Built Up Area Boundary (ENV1)

Section 9



National Planning Policy Framework



- work with schools promoters to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.
73. Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.
74. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land 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 needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
75. Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.
76. Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.
77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:
- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
 - where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

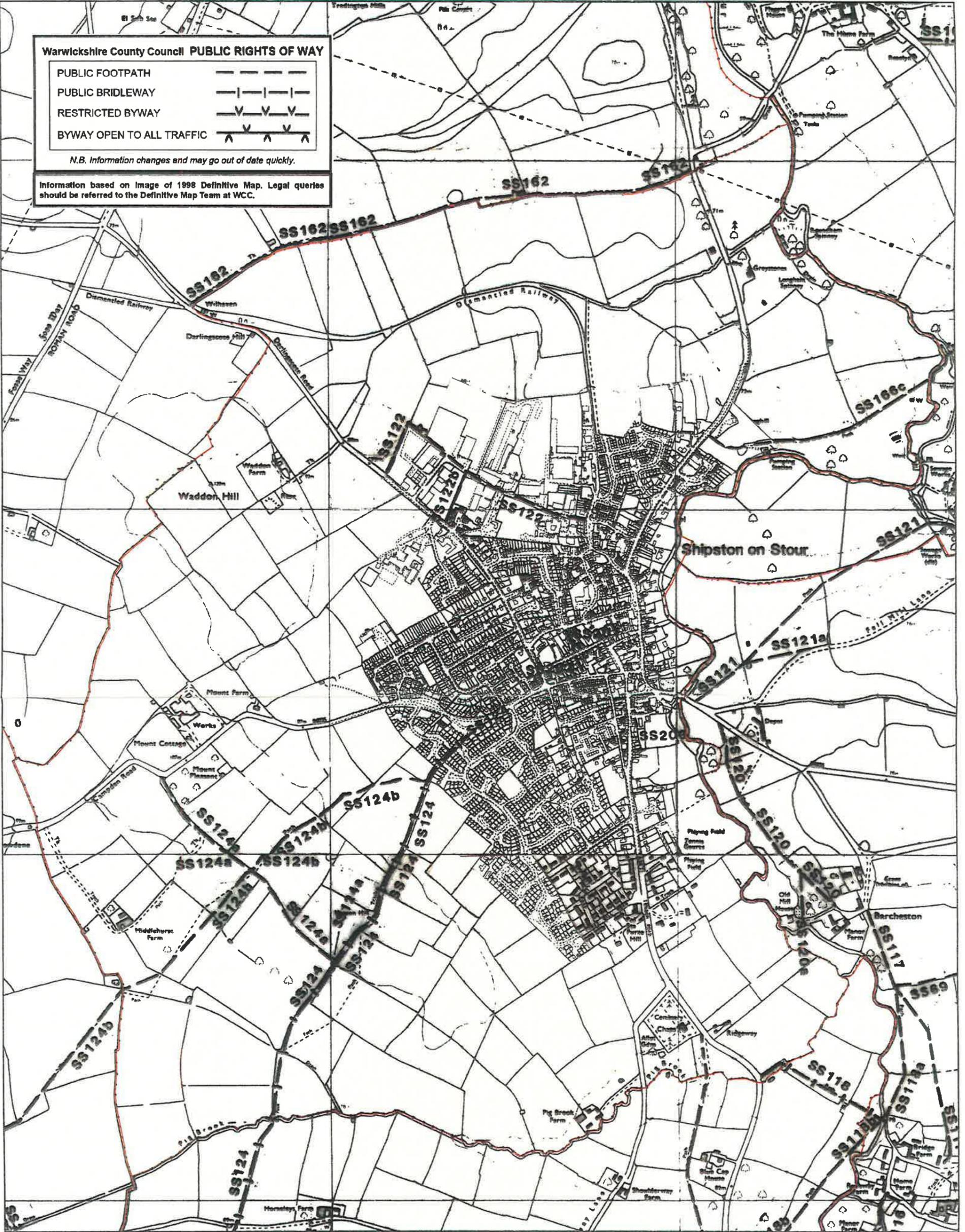
Section 10

Warwickshire County Council PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PUBLIC FOOTPATH	---
PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY	— — — —
RESTRICTED BYWAY	—V—V—V—
BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC	—^—^—^—

N.B. Information changes and may go out of date quickly.

Information based on Image of 1998 Definitive Map. Legal queries should be referred to the Definitive Map Team at WCC.



<p>Title: 1998 Definitive Map</p> <p>Subtitle:</p> <p>Produced By: EB</p> <p>Date: 20/11/2013</p>	<p>N</p> <p>1:10,000</p> <p>Metres</p>	<p>Warwickshire County Council</p> <p>RIGHTS OF WAY</p>
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Section 11



1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)

Guidance

Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space

From: Department for Communities and Local Government
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government>)

Part of: Planning practice guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>) and Planning system
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/planning-system>)

Published: 6 March 2014

Gives key advice on open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and the new Local Green Space designation.

Contents

- Open space, sports and recreation facilities
- Public rights of way and National Trails
- Local Green Space designation

Open space, sports and recreation facilities

How should open space be taken into account in planning?

Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space (see National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 73-74 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities#para073>)). Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment#Green-Infrastructure>) (see National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 114 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/11-conserving-and-enhancing-the-natural-environment#para114>)), as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development (see National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 6-10 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/achieving-sustainable-development>)).

It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/duty-to-cooperate>) where open space serves a wider area. See guidance on Local Green Space designation, which may form part of the overall open space network within an area.

Related policy:

- paragraph 70 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities#para070>)
- paragraphs 73-74 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities#para073>)
- paragraphs 156-157 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/plan-making#para157>)
- paragraph 162 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/plan-making#para162>)
- paragraph 171 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/plan-making#para171>)

Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 37-001-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

How do local planning authorities and developers assess the needs for sports and recreation facilities?

Authorities and developers may refer to Sport England's guidance (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/>) on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities.

Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 37-002-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Who should local planning authorities consult in cases where development would affect existing open space, sports and recreation facilities?

Local planning authorities are required (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/595/contents/made>) to consult Sport England (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/>) in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/consultation-and-pre-decision-matters#Statutory-consultees-on-applications>).

Where there is no requirement to consult, local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to:

- loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility;
- proposals which lead to the loss of use for sport of a major body of water;
- creation of a major sports facility;
- creation of a site for one or more playing pitches;

- development which creates opportunities for sport (such as the creation of a body of water bigger than two hectares following sand and gravel extraction);
- artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility;
- a residential development of 300 dwellings or more.

Authorities should also consider whether there are planning policy reasons to engage other consultees (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/consultation-and-pre-decision-matters#Non-statutory-consultees>).

Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 37-003-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Public rights of way and National Trails

Where can I find information on public rights of way and National Trails?

Local highway authorities hold information about the location of public rights of way in the areas they cover. They are required to record the existence and location of rights of way on a definitive map. Natural England also has information about public rights of way (<https://www.gov.uk/outdoor-access-recreation/rights-of-way-open-access>) and National Trails (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/management-of-national-trails-the-new-deal>).

Public rights of way form an important component of sustainable transport links and should be protected or enhanced. The Defra Rights of Way circular (1/09) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rights-of-way-circular-1-09>) gives advice to local authorities on recording, managing and maintaining, protecting and changing public rights of way. It also contains guidance on the consideration of rights of way in association with development. The Circular also covers the statutory procedures for diversion or extinguishment of a public right of way.

Related policy:

- paragraph 69 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities>)
- paragraph 75 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities#para075>)
- paragraph 156 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/plan-making#para156>)
- paragraph 162 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/plan-making#para162>)

Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 37-004-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Local Green Space designation

What is Local Green Space designation?

Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

How is land designated as Local Green Space?

Local Green Space designation is for use in Local Plans (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-plans--2>) or Neighbourhood Plans (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>). These plans can identify on a map ('designate') green areas for special protection. Anyone who wants an area to be designated as Local Green Space should contact the local planning authority about the contents of its local plan or get involved in neighbourhood planning.

Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

How does Local Green Space designation relate to development?

Designating any Local Green Space will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the Local Green Space designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making.

Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What if land has planning permission for development?

Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented.

Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space?

Local Green Spaces may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or in a neighbourhood in a town or city.

Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What if land is already protected by Green Belt or as Metropolitan Open Land (in London)?

If land is already protected by Green Belt policy, or in London, policy on Metropolitan Open Land, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space.

One potential benefit in areas where protection from development is the norm (eg villages included in the green belt) but where there could be exceptions is that the Local Green Space designation could help to identify areas that are of particular importance to the local community.

Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 37-010-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What if land is already protected by designations such as National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Monument or conservation area?

Different types of designations are intended to achieve different purposes. If land is already protected by designation, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space.

Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 37-011-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What about new communities?

New residential areas may include green areas that were planned as part of the development. Such green areas could be designated as Local Green Space if they are demonstrably special and hold particular local significance.

Paragraph: 012 Reference ID: 37-012-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What types of green area can be identified as Local Green Space?

The green area will need to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 77 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities#para077>) of the National Planning Policy Framework. Whether to designate land is a matter for local discretion. For example, green areas could include land where sports pavilions, boating lakes or structures such as war memorials are located, allotments, or urban spaces that provide a tranquil oasis.

Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

How close does a Local Green Space need to be to the community it serves?

The proximity of a Local Green Space to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special, but it must be reasonably close. For example, if public access is a key factor, then the site would normally be within easy walking distance of the community served.

Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

How big can a Local Green Space be?

There are no hard and fast rules about how big a Local Green Space can be because places are different and a degree of judgment will inevitably be needed. However, paragraph 77 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities#para077>) of the National Planning Policy Framework is clear that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land. Consequently blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. In particular, designation should not be proposed as a 'back door' way to try to achieve what would amount to a new area of Green Belt by another name.

Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Is there a minimum area?

Provided land can meet the criteria at paragraph 77 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities#para077>) of the National Planning Policy Framework there is no lower size limit for a Local Green Space.

Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What about public access?

Some areas that may be considered for designation as Local Green Space may already have largely unrestricted public access, though even in places like parks there may be some restrictions. However, other land could be considered for designation even if there is no public access (eg green areas which are valued because of their wildlife, historic significance and/or beauty).

Designation does not in itself confer any rights of public access over what exists at present. Any additional access would be a matter for separate negotiation with land owners, whose legal rights must be respected.

Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What about public rights of way?

Areas that may be considered for designation as Local Green Space may be crossed by public rights of way. There is no need to designate linear corridors as Local Green Space simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation.

Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Does land need to be in public ownership?

A Local Green Space does not need to be in public ownership. However, the local planning authority (in the case of local plan making) or the qualifying body (in the case of neighbourhood plan making) should contact landowners at an early stage about proposals to designate any part of their land as Local Green Space. Landowners will have opportunities to make representations in respect of proposals in a draft plan.

Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Would designation place any restrictions or obligations on landowners?

Designating a green area as Local Green Space would give it protection consistent with that in respect of Green Belt, but otherwise there are no new restrictions or obligations on landowners.

Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Who will manage Local Green Space?

Management of land designated as Local Green Space will remain the responsibility of its owner. If the features that make a green area special and locally significant are to be conserved, how it will be managed in the future is likely to be an important consideration. Local communities can consider how, with the landowner's agreement, they might be able to get involved, perhaps in partnership with interested organisations that can provide advice or resources.

Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Can a Local Green Space be registered as an Asset of Community Value?

Land designated as Local Green Space may potentially also be nominated for listing by the local authority as an Asset of Community Value (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-right-to-bid-non-statutory-advice-note-for-local-authorities>). Listing gives community interest groups an opportunity to bid if the owner wants to dispose of the land.

Related policy: paragraphs 76-78 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities#para076>)

Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Published: 6 March 2014

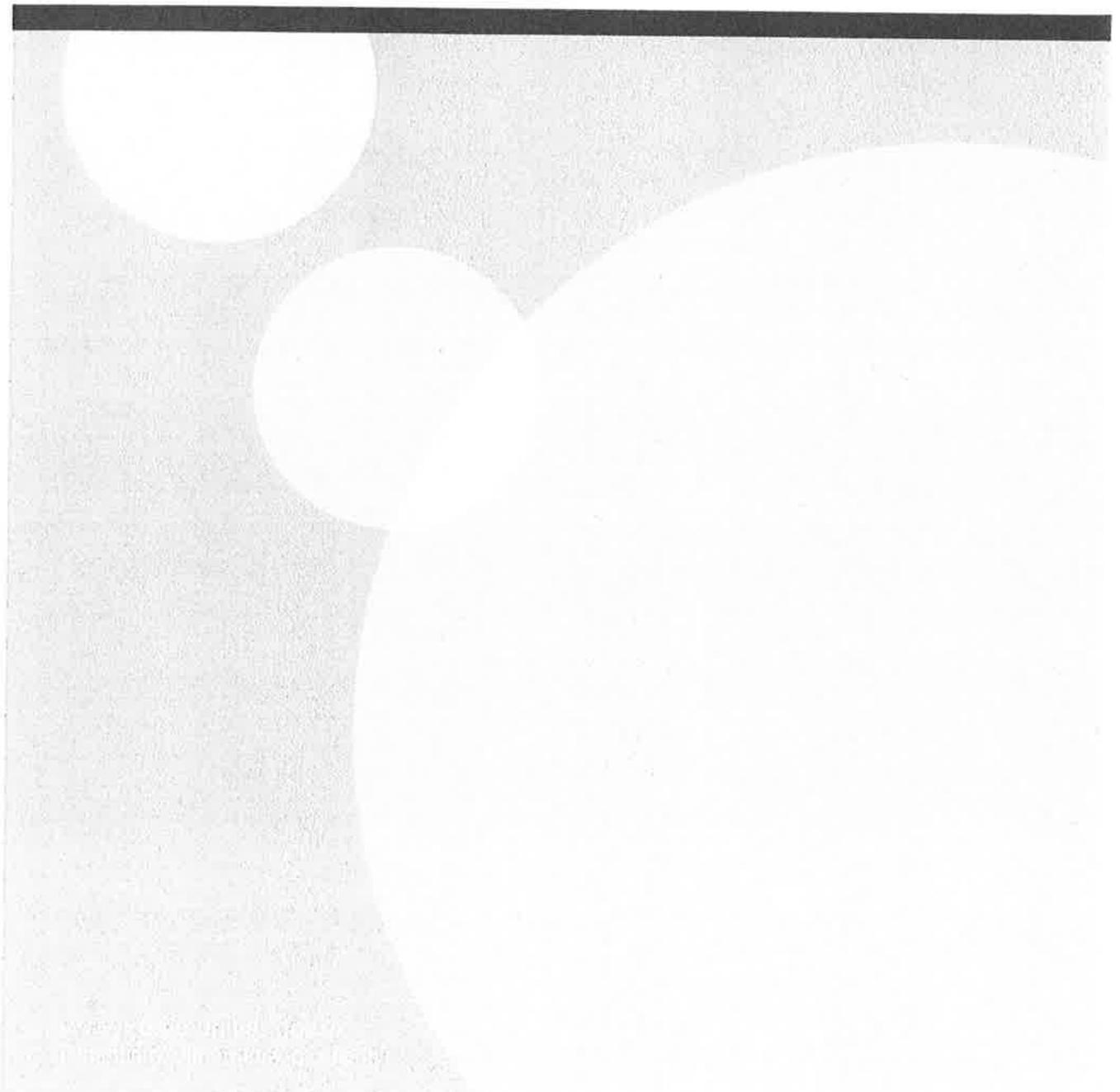
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Part of: Planning practice guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>) Planning system (<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/planning-system>)



National Planning Policy Framework



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Section 12

Summary

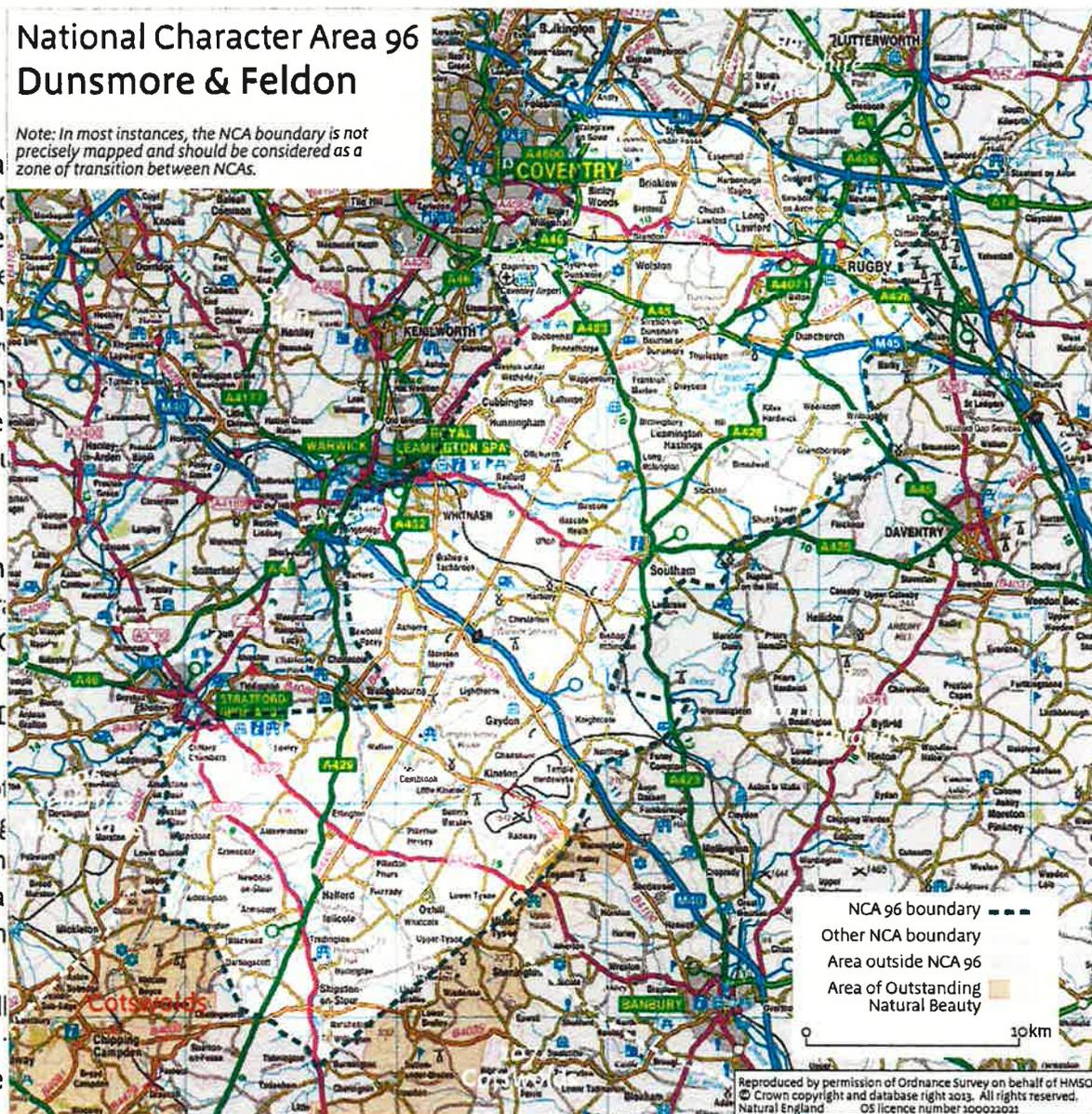
Dunsmore and Feldon is predominantly a rural, agricultural landscape with numerous small rivers and tributaries and varying between a more open character in the Feldon area and a wooded character in Dunsmore. The name refers to the old English term *feld* meaning 'open cleared land' and in contrast, in medieval times, with the more wooded Arden area to the west. The area is mainly within Warwickshire, with the southern boundary defined by the steep limestone escarpment of the Cotswolds, and the northern boundary by the Leicestershire Vales. To the west lie the well-wooded pastures of the Leicestershire Vales together with the Severn and Avon Vales, while the undulating pastures and hills of the Northamptonshire Uplands form the eastern border.

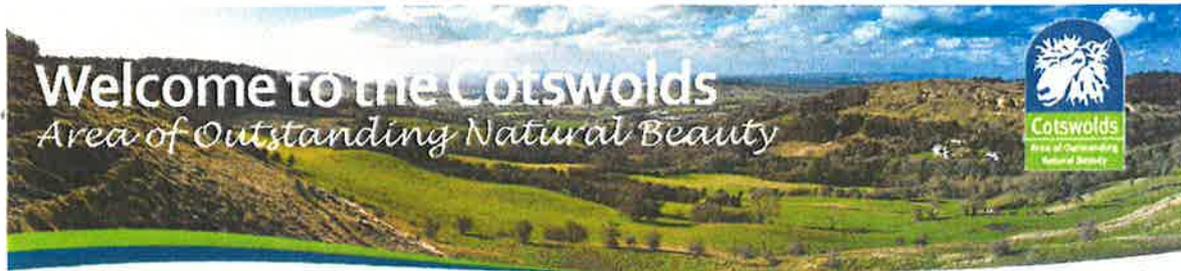
It is an important food producing area and the agricultural expansion of large arable fields, improved pasture and small villages forms a traditional landscape between the surrounding National Character Areas (NCAs). To the north comprises the wedge-shaped area of low ridges and valleys between Leamington Spa, Coventry and Rugby, and is known as the Leam Valley. This still retains a character of historic heathland and woodlands. Princes Risborough Woodlands which are the most important cluster of woodlands in Warwickshire and an outstanding example of a large semi-natural habitat. The woods sometimes create a sense of enclosure in the generally open landscape. The fringes of the plateaux are a different character but have open views framed by low hills and settlements.

In the south the landform becomes more undulating with low hills and vales, sparse woodland and hedgerows, now largely denuded of elm trees that once grew in abundance. This area is known as the

National Character Area 96 Dunsmore & Feldon

Note: In most instances, the NCA boundary is not precisely mapped and should be considered as a zone of transition between NCAs.



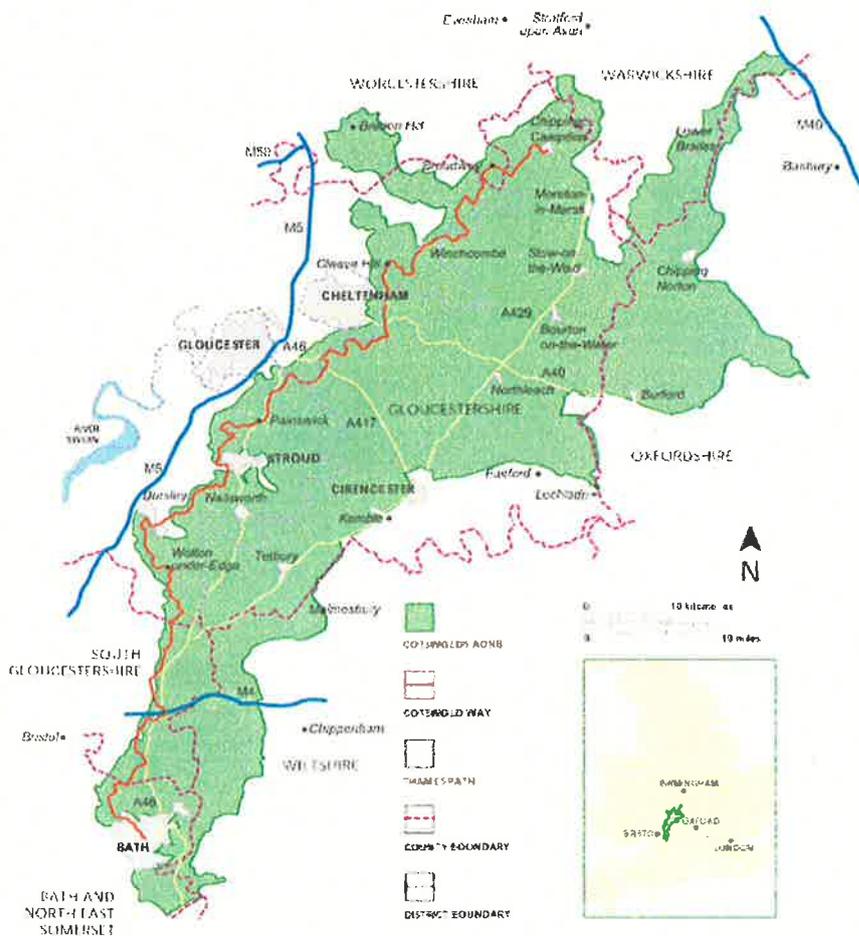


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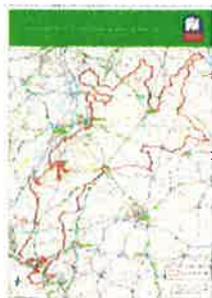


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Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Other downloadable maps



[\(/userfiles/file/maps/caonb-map.pdf\)](#)

<http://www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk/map/>



[Interactive Map of the AONB on Escape to the Cotswolds](#)

[OS Map of the AONB \(PDF 6mb\) \(/userfiles/file/maps/caonb-map.pdf\)](#)
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Introduction

As part of Natural England's responsibilities as set out in the Natural Environment White Paper¹, Biodiversity 2020² and the European Landscape Convention³, we are revising profiles for England's 159 National Character Areas (NCAs). These are areas that share similar landscape characteristics, and which follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.

NCA profiles are guidance documents which can help communities to inform their decision-making about the places that they live in and care for. The information they contain will support the planning of conservation initiatives at a landscape scale, inform the delivery of Nature Improvement Areas and encourage broader partnership working through Local Nature Partnerships. The profiles will also help to inform choices about how land is managed and can change.

Each profile includes a description of the natural and cultural features that shape our landscapes, how the landscape has changed over time, the current key drivers for ongoing change, and a broad analysis of each area's characteristics and ecosystem services. Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEOs) are suggested, which draw on this integrated information. The SEOs offer guidance on the critical issues, which could help to achieve sustainable growth and a more secure environmental future.

NCA profiles are working documents which draw on current evidence and knowledge. We will aim to refresh and update them periodically as new information becomes available to us.

We would like to hear how useful the NCA profiles are to you. You can contact the NCA team by emailing ncaprofiles@naturalengland.org.uk

National Character Areas map



¹ The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, Defra (2011; URL: www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf)

² Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services, Defra (2011; URL: www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf)

³ European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe (2000; URL: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/176.htm>)

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Summary

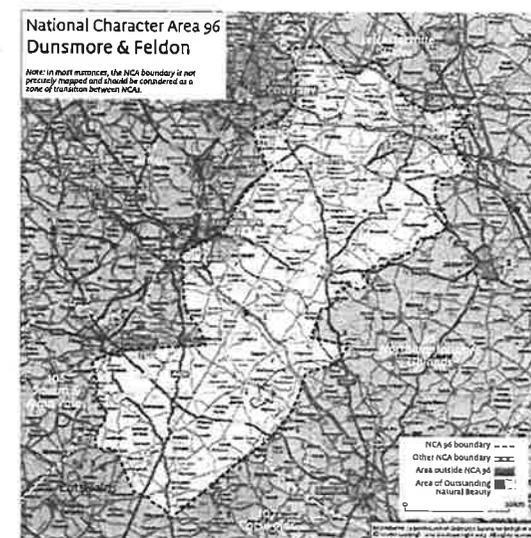
Dunsmore and Feldon is predominantly a rural, agricultural landscape, crossed by numerous small rivers and tributaries and varying between a more open character in the Feldon area and a wooded character in Dunsmore. The name Feldon refers to the old English term feld meaning 'open cleared land' and expresses the contrast, in medieval times, with the more wooded Arden area to the north-west. The area is mainly within Warwickshire, with the southern boundary delineated by the steep limestone escarpment of the Cotswolds, and the northern boundary by the Leicestershire Vales. To the west lie the well-wooded pastures of Arden, together with the Severn and Avon Vales, while the undulating pastures and low hills of the Northamptonshire Uplands form the eastern border.

It is an important food producing area and the agricultural expanse of large arable fields, improved pasture and small villages forms a transitional landscape between the surrounding National Character Areas (NCAs). The land to the north comprises the wedge-shaped area of low ridges and valleys lying between Leamington Spa, Coventry and Rugby, and is known as Dunsmore. This still retains a character of historic heathland and woodlands such as the Princethorpe Woodlands which are the most important cluster of ancient woodlands in Warwickshire and an outstanding example of a large area of semi-natural habitat. The woods sometimes create a sense of confinement in the generally open landscape. The fringes of the plateaux are all similar in character but have open views framed by low hills and settlements.

In the south the landform becomes more undulating with low hill tops, clay vales, sparse woodland and hedgerows, now largely denuded of the large elm trees that once grew in abundance. This area is known as the Feldon

and comprises most of the south-eastern part of Warwickshire. It is a rural landscape strongly influenced by post-medieval enclosures of former strip fields, heavy clay soil and frequent small, compact villages. This NCA is drained by the rivers Avon and Leam flowing in a south-westerly direction. Flood meadows, characterised by great burnet and meadow foxtail, occur on the regularly flooded alluvial soils. There is an important water resource at Draycote Reservoir which has the capacity to provide drinking water and recreation for the local area.

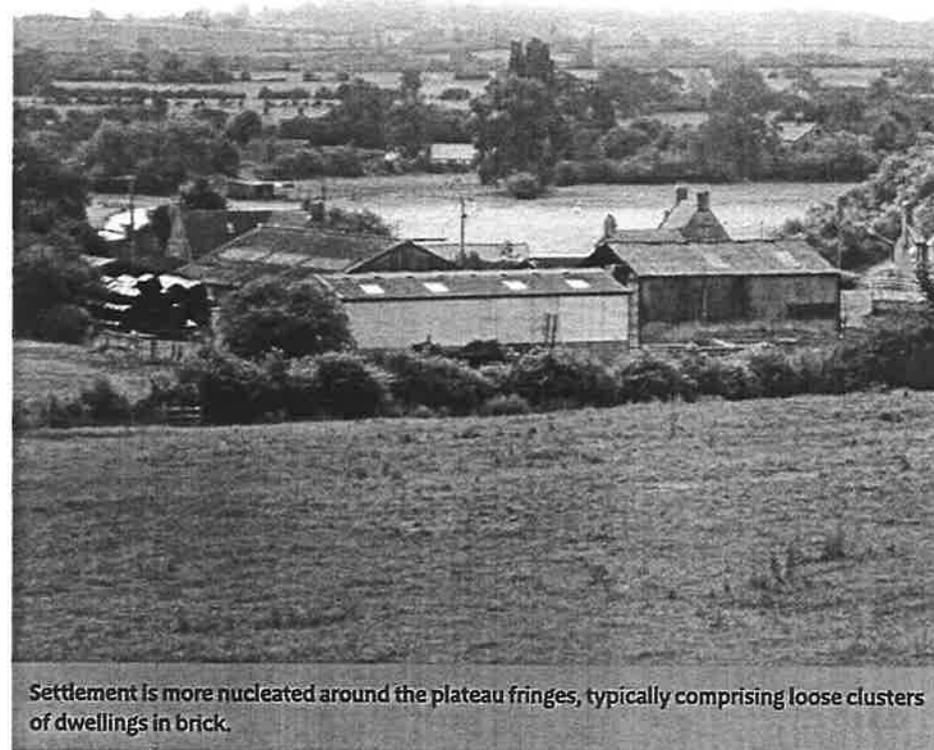
Coventry, which sits on the border of Dunsmore and Feldon and Arden, exerts a huge influence, especially in the north of the area. The other main settlements in Dunsmore and Feldon are Rugby and Leamington Spa. Seven per cent of this area is classed as urban. To the south, the area becomes more rural and undulating as it merges into the Cotswolds in the neighbouring NCA. One per cent of this area falls within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Click map to enlarge; click again to reduce.

The historic character of this area is very important, in particular its ancient woodlands, enclosed fields, veteran trees, landscaped parklands and areas of archaeological interest, including deserted villages and numerous sites of remnant ridge and furrow. The Fosse Way Roman military road passes through the area and has influenced patterns of settlement in this NCA. Earthwork remains of medieval settlements and associated field systems at Radwell, Tysoe and Napton on the Hill are three of the most coherent medieval township landscapes in existence in England.

The area is facing key challenges around how to protect and enhance its assets and recreational resource while accommodating the pressure for sustainable modern growth and development and the needs of the communities who live there.



Settlement is more nucleated around the plateau fringes, typically comprising loose clusters of dwellings in brick.

AVON VALLEY – FELDON – COTSWOLDS

Warwickshire Landscapes Project

Assessment and Strategies

FELDON

A lowland agricultural region strongly influenced by Tudor and Parliamentary enclosures, and characterised by heavy clay soils, and a nucleated settlement pattern of small rural villages.

General strategy
Conserve and maintain the historic rural farmed character of the region.

VALE FARMLANDS

Overall character and qualities:
A flat, open, hedged landscape with few roads or settlements and characterised by wide views to rising ground on one or more sides.

Characteristic features

- Broad, flat vales with occasional small rounded hills.
- A medium to large scale geometric field pattern.
- Pockets of permanent pasture often with well preserved ridge and furrow.
- Small nucleated villages consisting of an 'open' cluster of farmsteads and dwellings.
- Wide roadside verges typically bounded by a thick hedge and ditch.
- Deserted medieval village sites.
- Numerous hedgerow elm stumps.

Management Strategy

Conserve and restore the pastoral, hedged character of the landscape.

IRONSTONE FRINGE

Overall character and qualities:
A remote, rural landscape of large, hedged fields and small, strongly nucleated ironstone villages.

Characteristic features

- A large scale, rolling tableland punctuated by prominent ironstone hills.
- A large scale strongly hedged field pattern.
- Deserted medieval village sites surrounded by extensive areas of 'empty' countryside.
- Pockets of permanent pasture with ridge and furrow.
- Large isolated manor farmsteads.
- Small ironstone villages, often situated on rising ground.
- Wide roadside verges bounded by tall, thick hedgerows.
- Steep hillsides with semi-natural grassland and scrub.

AVON VALLEY

A prosperous agricultural and market gardening region closely associated with the River Avon and characterised by historic market towns, nucleated villages and orchards.

General strategy
Enhance regional character by re-inforcing the identity and unity of the historic settlement pattern.

RIVER MEADOWLANDS

Overall character and qualities:
A narrow, meandering river corridors landscape, with flood meadows and steep, wooded river bluffs.

Characteristic features

- Narrow river corridor defined by flat alluvial flood plains.
- Prominent, steeply sloping, often wooded river bluffs.
- Grazing meadows, often with patches of wet grassland.
- Diverse river channels with meanders, islands, steep banks and much marginal vegetation.
- Fringing alders and scrub.
- Curvilinear hedgerows and ditches along the boundary of the flood plain.

Management Strategy

Conserve and enhance the special character and continuity of river landscapes.

TERRACE FARMLANDS

Overall character and qualities:
A flat, open, intensively farmed landscape, with market gardening, on fertile river terrace soils.

Characteristic features

- Broad, flat gravel terraces.
- A large scale geometric field pattern.
- Small arable plots growing a wide variety of vegetable crops.
- Well wooded stream lines.
- Glasshouses and other associated horticultural buildings.
- Small nucleated villages with many brick and timber buildings.

Management Strategy

Enhance the structure and unity of the landscape by strengthening primary linear features.

VALE FARMLANDS

Management Strategy

Conserve and enhance the overall structure and remote rural character of the landscape.

LIAS VILLAGE FARMLANDS

Overall character and qualities:
A varied small scale, hedged landscape of scattered farms and nucleated brick and stone villages.

Characteristic features

- A varied, undulating topography with steep, often wooded scarp slopes and narrow incised river valleys.
- A well defined geometric pattern of small to medium sized fields.
- Many hedgerow and roadside trees.
- A nucleated settlement pattern of large and small villages.
- Vernacular style Blue and White Lias stone buildings.
- Disused quarries with semi-natural grassland and scrub.

Management Strategy

Conserve the diversity and local distinctiveness of the landscape.

FELDON PARKLANDS

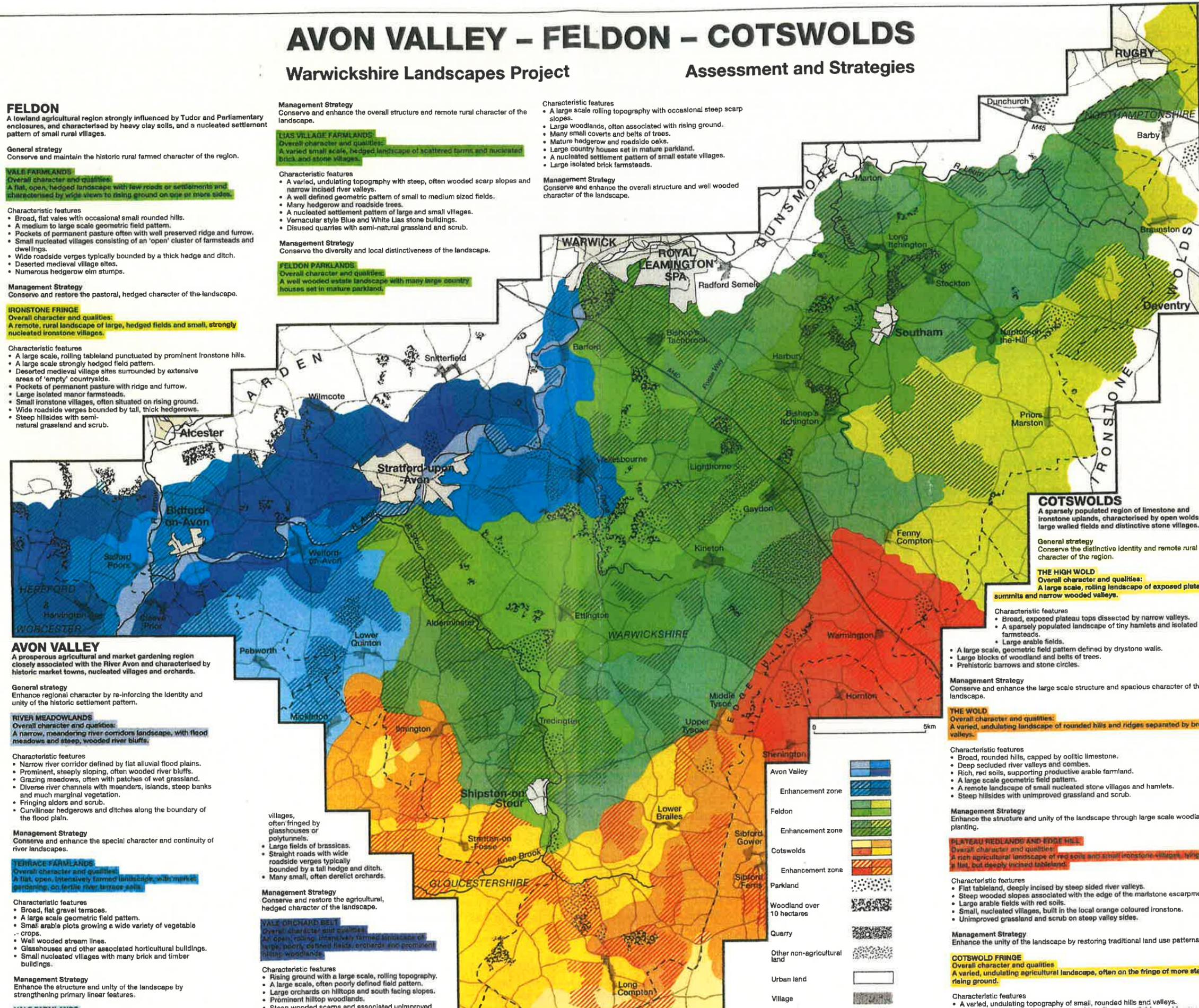
Overall character and qualities:
A well wooded estate landscape with many large country houses set in mature parkland.

Characteristic features

- A large scale rolling topography with occasional steep scarp slopes.
- Large woodlands, often associated with rising ground.
- Many small coverts and belts of trees.
- Mature hedgerow and roadside oaks.
- Large country houses set in mature parkland.
- A nucleated settlement pattern of small estate villages.
- Large isolated brick farmsteads.

Management Strategy

Conserve and enhance the overall structure and well wooded character of the landscape.



COTSWOLDS

A sparsely populated region of limestone and ironstone uplands, characterised by open wolds, large walled fields and distinctive stone villages.

General strategy
Conserve the distinctive identity and remote rural character of the region.

THE HIGH WOLD

Overall character and qualities:
A large scale, rolling landscape of exposed plateau summits and narrow wooded valleys.

Characteristic features

- Broad, exposed plateau tops dissected by narrow valleys.
- A sparsely populated landscape of tiny hamlets and isolated farmsteads.
- Large arable fields.
- A large scale, geometric field pattern defined by drystone walls.
- Large blocks of woodland and belts of trees.
- Prehistoric barrows and stone circles.

Management Strategy

Conserve and enhance the large scale structure and spacious character of the landscape.

THE WOLD

Overall character and qualities:
A varied, undulating landscape of rounded hills and ridges separated by broad valleys.

Characteristic features

- Broad, rounded hills, capped by oolitic limestone.
- Deep secluded river valleys and combs.
- Rich, red soils, supporting productive arable farmland.
- A large scale geometric field pattern.
- A remote landscape of small nucleated stone villages and hamlets.
- Steep hillsides with unimproved grassland and scrub.

Management Strategy

Enhance the structure and unity of the landscape through large scale woodland planting.

PLATEAU REDLANDS AND EDGE HILL

Overall character and qualities:
A rich agricultural landscape of red soils and small ironstone villages, lying on a flat, but deeply incised tableland.

Characteristic features

- Flat tableland, deeply incised by steep sided river valleys.
- Steep wooded slopes associated with the edge of the marlstone escarpment.
- Large arable fields with red soils.
- Small, nucleated villages, built in the local orange coloured ironstone.
- Unimproved grassland and scrub on steep valley sides.

Management Strategy

Enhance the unity of the landscape by restoring traditional land use patterns.

COTSWOLD FRINGE

Overall character and qualities:
A varied, undulating agricultural landscape, often on the fringe of more steeply rising ground.

Characteristic features

- A varied, undulating topography of small, rounded hills and valleys.

Section 13

LCP/Zone Sh09

Settlement: Shipston-on-Stour

Landscape sensitivity to housing development medium

The zone is the farmed hill slopes of Hanson Hill and Waddon Hill rising to the west of the settlement. The area is mainly arable with some pastoral land and a disused factory near Mount Pleasant. Field boundaries are hedged with few trees except along a PROW linking the settlement to the hill and around the disused factory site. The area forms a prominent rural backcloth to the settlement which is apparent from the Shakespeare Way along the Stour valley and forms a generally positive approach along the B4035. The factory is well screened although glimpses of buildings are possible from the west. The sensitivity of the area lies primarily in its visual prominence as well as hedges and trees. Housing development no higher than two storeys could be accommodated discreetly below the break of slope [around 85mAOD] in only a few lower fields either side of the main PROW rising up the hill. New field boundaries with trees and public access would be needed as advance planting where fields are subdivided to provide adequate screening. Housing in the fields adjacent to the B4025 and to the south would be too prominent and would adversely affect the setting of, and approaches to, the settlement as a whole. Separation between Mount Farm and the settlement should also remain. Housing development could be accommodated in landscape screening terms within the disused factory site providing tree cover was retained and increased to the west and the heights of new housing did not exceed the current building heights. This may be unsatisfactory from the point of view of creating a positive relationship with the A4035 in terms of frontage and its location on a hilltop separate from the main settlement.

Landscape sensitivity to commercial development high/medium

The zone is the farmed hill slopes of Hanson Hill and Waddon Hill rising to the west of the settlement. The area is mainly arable with some pastoral land and a disused factory near Mount Pleasant. Field boundaries are hedged with few trees except along a PROW linking the settlement to the hill and around the disused factory site. The area forms a prominent rural backcloth to the settlement which is apparent from the Shakespeare Way along the Stour valley and forms a generally positive approach along the B4035. The factory is well screened although glimpses of buildings are possible from the west. The sensitivity of the area lies primarily in its visual prominence as well as hedges and trees. Separation between Mount Farm and the settlement should also remain. Commercial development would be inappropriate due to this prominence, relationship with housing and the steep slopes. The only potential site is the existing factory and any development should not exceed the current height of buildings.

Landscape characteristics

	LDU level
Physiographic	Soft rock lowlands
Ground type	Wet claylands
Land cover	Arable farmlands
Settlement pattern	Villages and estate farms
	LDU level
Cultural sensitivity	Moderate
Ecological sensitivity	Low
Visual sensitivity	High
Land Cover Parcel data	
Land Use	Cropping
Pattern	Medium/large_regular

Section 14

Section 3 District Resources

3.4 Landscape

Strategic Objectives

- (1) *The rural character of the District will have been maintained and enhanced. The Green Belt and countryside of the District will have been protected from inappropriate development.*
- (3) *The character and local distinctiveness of the District will have been reinforced by ensuring new development is of high quality design, taking into account the intrinsic and special value of its landscapes and townscapes.*

Policy CS.5

Landscape

The landscape character and quality of the District will be maintained by ensuring that development takes place in a manner that minimises and mitigates its impact and, where possible, incorporates measures to enhance the landscape. The cumulative impact of development proposals on the quality of the landscape will be taken into account.

Development will thus be permitted where:

A. Landscape Character and Enhancement

1. Proposals have regard to the local distinctiveness and historic character of the District's diverse landscapes.
2. Proposals protect landscape character and avoid detrimental effects on features which make a significant contribution to the character, history and setting of a settlement or area.
3. Measures are incorporated into development schemes to enhance and restore the landscape character of the locality.

B. Visual Impacts

1. Proposals include, dependent on their scale, use and location, an assessment of the likely visual impacts on the local landscape or townscape, and the site's immediate and wider setting. Applications for major developments may require a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
2. New landscaping proposals are incorporated to reduce predicted harmful visual impacts and enhance the existing landscape. Provision must be made for its long term management and maintenance.

C. Trees, Woodland and Hedges

1. Proposals do not lead to any loss or damage but rather protect the quality of ancient semi-natural woodland and aged/veteran trees, particularly in the Forest of Arden, but also (due to their relative scarcity) elsewhere in the District.
2. Proposals that will have an impact on woodlands, hedges and trees incorporate measures to protect their contribution to landscape character, public amenity and biodiversity. The loss of those trees which are of high public amenity value will be resisted and such trees will be protected by the use of Tree Preservation Orders.
3. The design and layout of development schemes and other projects in rural and urban areas incorporate trees in a manner that is appropriate to the nature of the site,

3.6 Green Infrastructure

Strategic Objectives

- (1) *The rural character of the District will have been maintained and enhanced. The Green Belt and countryside of the District will have been protected from inappropriate development.*
- (7) *Working with Natural England and Warwickshire County Council, biodiversity will have increased across the District. Sites of environmental, nature conservation and geological importance will have been protected from harmful development.*
- (8) *Community facilities and open space will have been improved across the District. Through collaborative working between District, Town and Parish Councils and key partners in education, public safety, health and other services, opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of the District's communities will have been realised as a result of the development process.*

Policy CS.7

Green Infrastructure

A. Green Infrastructure Network

The existing Green Infrastructure network in the District will be promoted through the principles of protection, enhancement, restoration and creation. The network will help to:

- support the growth of a strong, competitive low carbon economy;
- create a more attractive District for visitors and support tourism;
- promote healthy and active communities;
- protect and support historic and archaeological settings, sense of place and the distinctive landscape and character of the District;
- form a place for biodiversity to survive and thrive in the face of climate change; and
- reduce the risk of flooding.

Development proposals must demonstrate, dependent on their scale, use and location, how they contribute to the provision of a comprehensive Green Infrastructure network, through:

- maintaining and enhancing existing Green Infrastructure assets;
- optimising opportunities to create links between existing Green Infrastructure assets within the District and in neighbouring authority areas; and
- helping to deliver new Green Infrastructure assets where a specific need has been identified.

B. Provision of Green Infrastructure

The availability of open spaces, waterways and other green infrastructure features will be maintained and improved as a contribution towards:

1. quality of life and attractive communities;
2. biodiversity and the provision of habitats;
3. landscape character and quality;
4. non-vehicular modes of movement; and

Section 15

Section 7 Infrastructure

7.1 Healthy Communities

Strategic Objective

(8) Community facilities and open space will have been improved across the District. Through collaborative working between the District, Town and Parish Councils and key partners in education, public safety, health and other services, opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of the District's communities will have been realised as a result of the development process.

Policy CS.25

Healthy Communities

A. Infrastructure, Services and Community Facilities

With the release of land for development, suitable arrangements will be put in place to improve infrastructure, services and community facilities to mitigate the impact of development and integrate it with the existing community (see also Policy CS.27 Developer Contributions). Opportunities to secure improvements for the wider community will be explored through collaborative working with Warwickshire County Council, Town and Parish Councils and other partner organisations.

The provision of new and enhanced community, cultural, sport and leisure facilities will be encouraged as a way of promoting healthy, inclusive communities. Where appropriate, new community uses will be required as an integral part of residential developments. They are to be located where they are accessible by all reasonable sustainable modes of transport by potential users. Shared use of community spaces will also be encouraged.

It is expected that existing community facilities, such as shops, pubs, medical and leisure, will be retained unless it can be demonstrated that one or more of the following criteria is satisfied:

1. there is no realistic prospect of the facility continuing for commercial and/or operational reasons on that site;
2. the land and/or property has been actively marketed or otherwise made available for a similar or alternative type of facility that would be of benefit to the community;
3. the facility can be provided effectively in an alternative manner or on a different site in accordance with the wishes of the local community; and
4. there are overriding environmental benefits in the use of the site being discontinued.

In all instances the potential to mitigate within the local area the loss of a community facility will be considered alongside any proposal for development on the site of the existing facility.

B. Open Space and Recreation

New housing development will enable an increase in or enhancement of open space and recreation facilities to meet the needs of its residents.

Where it is justified by the scale of new development, developers will be expected to contribute towards the provision of open space in order to help achieve the standards set out in the Council's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment. These are:

Section 7 Infrastructure – 7.1 Healthy Communities

Parks & Gardens and Amenity Greenspace

District-wide: 1.15 hectares per 1,000 people

Individual settlement: minimum provision of 1.15 hectares per 1,000 people

Unrestricted Natural Accessible Greenspace

District-wide: 4.92 hectares per 1,000 people

Stratford-upon-Avon: 5.24 hectares per 1,000 people

Main Rural Centres: 0.75 hectares per 1,000 people

Local Service Villages: 0.75 hectares per 1000 people

Children and Young People's Equipped Play Facilities

District-wide: 0.25 hectares per 1,000 people

Individual settlement: 0.25 hectares per 1,000 people

Outdoor Sport

Additional pitch/facility requirements on the basis of Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and the Council's needs assessment.

Allotments and Community Gardens

District-wide: 0.4 hectares per 1,000 people

Individual settlement: 0.4 hectares per 1,000 people subject to local circumstances

Developer contributions will also be spent on built recreation facilities where justified by an increase in population.

These standards will be kept up to date, and will reflect guidance from Sport England, Play England, Fields in Trust and other relevant bodies, through the District Active Communities Strategy and Open Space Strategy.

Consideration will be given to more diverse forms of provision (e.g. community orchards, local nature reserves etc.) where these respond to local needs and make a positive contribution towards the local environment. Regard will be paid to the Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard.

New open space provision will be designed to complement and enhance the existing open space provision in the area. Where appropriate, improvements to the quality and/or accessibility of existing provision will be sought. Where developments are of a suitable scale provision will be made on site.

Development proposals that would result in the loss of public or private open space, including allotments, without suitable replacement being made, will be resisted unless:

1. it can be demonstrated that there is an absence of need or it is surplus to requirements; and
2. it does not make a valuable contribution to the amenity and character of the area.

Section 7 Infrastructure – 7.1 Healthy Communities

Explanation

Infrastructure, Services and Community Facilities

- 7.1.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) sets out a vision for Stratford District in 2026. It has been compiled by the District Council and its strategic partners in Warwickshire County Council (including transport and education), health agencies, the police and the private, voluntary and community sectors. It is closely linked to other strategies and plans including the Local Development Framework whose spatial planning objectives should align with SCS priorities.
- 7.1.2 One of the key challenges outlined in the plan is that of the lack of access, especially from the rural areas, to services, facilities and activities. Public transport is poor in many areas and distances too great, especially for young people and older age groups.
- 7.1.3 The SCS includes the following statements:
'We want to:
- Provide more opportunities and facilities for children and young people;
 - Improve access for children and young people (by taking services into rural areas and improving transport);
 - Improve access to services and facilities generally by:
taking services closer to rural communities;
improving transport links by extending community schemes, pressing for more funding for other rural initiatives and lobbying for better public transport;
 - Improve transport links between key health facilities;
 - Encourage more residents to get involved in sport, leisure and recreation activities and extend opportunities for them to do so across the District;
 - Reduce health inequalities by targeting resources at areas where they are needed most and by delivering more accessible homes, transport, leisure and employment opportunities; and
 - Encourage alternatives to private car use by promoting and supporting public transport, car sharing, home working, better facilities for cyclists and pedestrians, and promoting better rail services including a bus-rail interchange in Stratford'.
- 7.1.4 The Council will continue to work with its strategic partners to secure improvements to community facilities and services. It will liaise with partners across a broad spectrum of social infrastructure including education, public health, general health care, police and other service providers to improve access to and facilitate the modernisation of services and facilities and to promote a reduction in social and health inequalities. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan provides an indicative list of projects to facilitate the growth outlined in the Core Strategy.
- 7.1.5 In terms of educational provision, a dispersed policy for residential development across Stratford District will help ensure the continuing financial viability of many small village schools that currently have declining pupil numbers.
- 7.1.6 Warwickshire County Council is continuing to consider the options available in a changing context of Academies, University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools. The conversion of a number of schools to academy schools could impact on the

Section 7 Infrastructure – 7.1 Healthy Communities

authority's ability to bring about change, but the new regime (or subsequent arrangements) should introduce other opportunities. The Council will liaise closely with the County Council and other education providers to ensure that the needs of new development are met.

- 7.1.7 The Council will also work with Town and Parish Councils to help secure improvements to community facilities through the Neighbourhood Development Plan process.

Open Space and Recreation

- 7.1.8 Access to good quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. This is the key theme of the Council's Active Communities Strategy (2013-2018) which links the corporate objectives of Stratford on Avon District Council for safe, healthy, sustainable and inclusive communities, to the current national and local Health and Wellbeing agenda, as reflected in Warwickshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2012) and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
- 7.1.9 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that planning policies be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities in the local area. Planning policies should also protect and enhance public rights of way and access.
- 7.1.10 An open space, sport and recreation audit was commissioned by the Council in 2011. It recommends standards of open space provision in new developments based on a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the existing provision and a survey of local needs. It suggests that the policy should be flexible enough to allow more creative and diverse forms of open space provision - such as community orchards, local nature reserves or allotments - that respond to local needs and make a positive contribution towards the quality and diversity of the local environment. It also suggests that given the size of new developments in the District, there may be a need, in certain circumstances, to move away from small scale on-site provision, where this limits the amenity and recreational value of that provision, to consideration of pooled contributions towards larger or shared community facilities. However care must be taken to ensure that local needs are met.
- 7.1.11 The main audit report is accompanied by a Playing Pitch Strategy, which considers the supply and demand for a range of outdoor sports pitches in more depth. This should be considered alongside Sport England's Facility Planning Model and Design Guide in developing proposals for new facilities. These also provide standards for built recreation facilities (swimming pools, sports halls, artificial grass pitches, etc.) which will also be sought where justified by an increase in population.
- 7.1.12 The adequacy of existing open space, sport and recreation facilities varies between areas of the District and between different types of open space. In most cases the standards recommended in the assessment reflect the existing levels of provision, which consultation with local communities and stakeholders revealed to be sufficient. However, some notable deficiencies are identified. These are set out in Section 6 of this Core Strategy in the Area Strategies. Attention and resources should be focused on these areas of under supply and on providing increased provision to meet the needs of new communities and further population growth.

Section 7 Infrastructure – 7.1 Healthy Communities

7.1.13 Across the District as a whole, the study found that the greatest requirements are for additional facilities for children and young people. It also identified requirements for additional outdoor sports facilities to meet current and future demand, further details of which are provided in the Playing Pitch Strategy.

7.1.14 The recommended standards for Natural Accessible Greenspace are based on Natural England's standards but, in common with many other authorities' standards, they are not as ambitious. Instead they are based on what are considered to be the 'effective catchments' of such areas, ranging from 12 to 20 minutes walking time. As access to natural greenspace is generally more constrained in larger settlements, the standards for Stratford-upon-Avon are higher than in smaller settlements, in keeping with Natural England's recommendations.

Development Management Considerations

Community Facilities

- (1) Whilst the introduction of CIL reduces the apparent need to liaise with infrastructure providers in establishing appropriate planning obligation packages, it is important that dialogue is maintained with key infrastructure providers on all significant developments.
- (2) Any proposals that would involve the loss of a local shop, public house or other local facility should include a thorough analysis of the existing operations of the business or service and its importance to the local community.

Open Space

- (3) The open space standards, kept up to date in the District Council's Active Communities Strategy and Open Space Strategy, will be supported by calculators to establish the baseline requirements for the provision and maintenance of public open space, play and built recreation associated with new development. This baseline requirement should then act as a starting point for determining the particular needs of a development or community.
- (4) In planning new open spaces consideration should be given to opportunities for off-road footpaths and cyclepaths, in accordance with policies CS.7 Green Infrastructure and CS.26 Transport and Communications, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Warwickshire County Council's Local Transport Plan.
- (5) The co-location of community facilities and dual use of school facilities should be supported to help maximise their use and value as a community resource.
- (6) Wherever possible, provision should be made on-site as an integral part of development. It should be of an appropriate type to serve the needs of the development and in a location well related to its users.
- (7) Whenever new public open space is created, consideration should be given to the inclusion of facilities that encourage sport and physical activity in line with the wider agenda for health and wellbeing.
- (8) The siting of play areas should ensure that the peace and comfort of residents is not unduly disturbed, whilst also providing good natural surveillance of them.
- (9) Arrangements for ongoing maintenance should be made with the applicant and/or Parish, Town Council or third party.

Section 16

6.6 Shipston-on-Stour Area Strategy

All Strategic Objectives are relevant to this Area Strategy.

Context

- 6.6.1 The town is of Anglo-Saxon origin; its name being derived from Scepeswasce or Sheepwash. It was founded on the grant of land to the monks of Worcester cathedral confirmed by King Edgar in his charter of AD964, and the town and surrounding hundred remained an outlier of Worcestershire until 1931. Following a fall in the demand for local wool, the local economy was in part sustained by the opening, in 1836, of a horse-drawn Stratford and Moreton tramway, which allowed agricultural produce to be transported more quickly to Birmingham.
- 6.6.2 The town is located on the River Stour at the heart of probably the most rural part of the District, lying about 10 miles south of Stratford-upon-Avon and 14 miles to the west of Banbury. It is close to the northern edge of the Cotswolds and is a focal point for communities within an extensive rural area. Located on the A3400 (formerly the A34) between Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxford, the town was once an important stopping place for stagecoaches and many former coaching inns remain.
- 6.6.3 The 2011 Census recorded a population of just over 5,000 in the parish as a whole, a growth of 62% since 1981. However, in terms of increase in dwellings, the town has doubled in size between 1981 and 2008, the largest increase of any settlement in the District. There are about 2,400 dwellings in the town (as at 2011).
- 6.6.4 Shipston-on-Stour's distinctiveness and townscape is a key asset, and provides the town with a unique sense of place and character. The town is home to a rich historic environment, including a wealth of Medieval and Georgian buildings, which mirrors the settlement's historic importance as a regionally important sheep and wool market town. The heritage of the town is reflected in the designation of an extensive Conservation Area and the presence of numerous listed buildings from a range of periods.
- 6.6.5 Just to the south of Shipston lies the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the town is one of the 'gateways' to it. The protection and enhancement of the landscape of this important asset is a priority for the local community.
- 6.6.6 Shipston has the widest local catchment of all the District's main rural centres due to its distance from larger towns. As a result, a considerable number of rural communities in the southern part of the District look to the town for shops and services. While their dependency on Shipston has reduced in recent decades due to the use of the private car and the provision of large food stores and other attractions elsewhere, the town retains a valuable role as a service centre.



Section 6 Area Strategies – 6.6 Shipston-on-Stour

- 6.6.7 At the time of the 2011 Census, 31% of Shipston's employed residents also worked in the Ward, and 25% worked elsewhere in the District. There is a relatively modest relationship with other areas, with 7% working in Cotswold District, 5% in Cherwell and 8% in Warwick and 12% in Stratford-upon-Avon. Of those who travel to Shipston to work, 38% also live in the District, with only 3% each from Cotswold and Warwick Districts.
- 6.6.8 The household survey carried out in 2008 for the Retail Study showed that Stratford-upon-Avon is used by 35% of residents in the Shipston area for their main food shopping, compared with 25% who go to Banbury, 25% who shop in Shipston itself and 9% in Stow. For non-food shopping the main destinations are Stratford-upon-Avon (48%), Banbury (20%) and Shipston (12%). There is local support for maintaining a strong retail presence in the town centre.

Future development issues

- 6.6.9 The recent loss of IMI Norgren, which was the largest local employer in Shipston, and several other local firms, has hit the economic base of the town. Consequently the Town Plan looks for a concerted effort to meet the needs of new and expanding businesses. It also seeks to promote tourism opportunities, taking advantage of the town's proximity to Stratford-upon-Avon and the Cotswolds, which will help to bolster the local economy.
- 6.6.10 The capacity of transport infrastructure, including roads and public transport, is a key concern in rural parts of the District. The Community Transport Strategy seeks to mainstream community transport services in order to sustain established initiatives. The services provide an essential link to Shipston for many rural communities nearby. There have been two cycle routes implemented recently from Shipston to Moreton-in-Marsh and to Southam.
- 6.6.11 The Town Plan identifies the importance of improving sport and recreation facilities for local people. There is also an emphasis on education with a specific reference to the prospect of creating a 6th Form at the High School.
- 6.6.12 The centre of Shipston-on-Stour was very badly affected by the 2007 flood event. As a result of this, the Environment Agency is undertaking further modelling to determine the most effective way of reducing the risk of a similar situation occurring.
- 6.6.13 In addition, upsizing of the waste water infrastructure network would be required to accommodate future growth at Shipston-on-Stour. This however, is not considered a significant constraint to future development.
- 6.6.14 The Conservation Area and historic character of the town is an important local feature which offers distinctiveness to the town centre. Infill and redevelopment proposals should be sensitive to the character of the area therefore.
- 6.6.15 The rising land to the west of Shipston, incorporating Hanson Hill and Waddon Hill, forms a prominent backcloth to the town which is apparent from along the Stour Valley and further to the east.
- 6.6.16 Particular attention needs to be given to enhancing the role of the town centre so that it provides an attractive focus of services, facilities and activities for the local community. The retention and provision of small-scale shopping and other commercial uses will be encouraged, along with projects to enhance the

Section 6 Area Strategies – 6.6 Shipston-on-Stour

environmental quality of the centre and its links with the rest of the town. According to the Convenience Goods Retail Study there is a quantitative case for providing additional floorspace in the town. Ideally this should be located within or adjacent to the town centre.

- 6.6.17 The town has already been extended considerably southwards in recent years and further development in this direction would be some distance from shops and facilities. On the eastside the floodplain of the River Stour is an overriding constraint to development. To the north, landscape constraints and the sloping ground rule out major expansion.
- 6.6.18 In terms of sensitivity to residential development, there are areas located to the northwest, north and east of high landscape sensitivity and high/medium landscape sensitivity. Land parcels to the west and south west have the least sensitivity to residential development. Therefore, with appropriate mitigation measures, small parcels of housing development could be accommodated in this area.
- 6.6.19 The Employment Land Study concludes that Shipston-on-Stour's remoteness from the motorway network and larger settlements affect its commercial attractiveness, albeit the quality of the place is high. There are 2.0 hectares of land available for employment development at Tileman's Lane, which would appear adequate to support the future employment needs of the settlement.
- 6.6.20 In addition, within the surrounding rural areas provision should be made to meet the needs of small businesses and support the continuing use of successful local employment sites, including the intensification of activities on them where appropriate.
- 6.6.21 Based on the strategy set out in Section 5 for distributing housing development in the District, and taking into account the number of dwellings built and granted planning permission since 2011, a minimum of 510 homes are to be provided in the town over the plan period. Policy CS.16 also indicates that Reserve Sites may need to be identified in the town through the Site Allocations Plan and/or the Neighbourhood Plan. As such, the above figure should be seen as a minimum to be provided for over the plan period.
- 6.6.22 A wide range of issues and opportunities relating to the future planning of the Shipston-on-Stour area have been identified from various sources, including plans produced by the local community and studies produced for the Council.

Policy AS.6

Shipston-on-Stour

The Council will apply the following principles in considering development proposals and other initiatives relating to the Shipston-on-Stour area. It will assess the extent to which each of these principles is applicable to an individual development proposal. Developers will be expected to contribute to the achievement of these principles where it is appropriate and reasonable for them to do so, taking into account the provisions of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Section 6 Area Strategies – 6.6 Shipston-on-Stour

A. Environmental

1. Minimise the risk of flooding in the town from the River Stour and other sources ensuring that land that may be required for flood alleviation measures is kept free from development.
2. Protect and enhance the character of the historic town centre.
3. Enhance the attractiveness of the River Stour corridor and its setting to the town.
4. Provide additional natural accessible greenspace given the shortfall against the standard set out in Policy CS 25 Healthy Communities.
5. Investigate and identify a suitable area to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve in the Shipston area, possibly through the provision of a wetland area in association with measures aimed at managing flood risk upstream of the town.
6. Investigate the scope to utilize land to the east of the town for flood alleviation and biodiversity purposes.

B. Social

1. Provide a new Medical Centre in the town.
2. Support the expansion of Shipston High School, including improvements to sports facilities, and possibly to provide a 6th Form.
3. Improve leisure facilities in the town, both built and open spaces, including the refurbishment of Townsend Hall.
4. Support improvements to the Portabello crossroads and Darlingscote crossroads on the A429.
5. Improve the public rights of way network, in particular access to open countryside.
6. Maximise the opportunities to use land to the east of the river as a multi-purpose leisure area, including the provision of a pedestrian bridge across the river.
7. Provide additional play spaces for children and young people given the shortfall against the standard set out in Policy CS.25 Healthy Communities.
8. Provide additional allotments given the shortfall against the standard set out in Policy CS.25 Healthy Communities.
9. Provide additional pitches for mini football, junior rugby, cricket and hockey (the latter in the form of an all-weather surface), given the shortfall identified in the town.

C. Economic

1. Diversify the local economy and increase the provision of premises for local businesses.
2. Support the business uses on the Tilemans Lane/Shipston Business Village estate and retain it for employment purposes.
3. Support the growth of new local enterprises fostered by effective business support.
4. Support the vitality of the town centre, including through improved shopping and service outlets.
5. Promote the role of tourism in the town and surrounding area.
6. Improve the quantity and range of visitor accommodation.

Section 17

14
17

**Stratford-on-Avon District
Council**

SHLAA Review 2012

Final Report



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Section 18

SHARD : SOUTH WESTERN STUDY AREA IN SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR

A LANDSCAPE & VISUAL SENSITIVITY APPRAISAL

June 2015

LS6189/LVSA/01A



Landscape Matters

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Chartered Landscape Design & Landscape Management Consultancy



Section 19

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES – Sh09 AREA

Landscape Matters - Draft Reasons for Designation Assessment 12.05.16

Field 1

Beauty – highly attractive field (part arable and part recently planted woodland belt) which provides good quality foreground views of Waddon Hill when approaching from the west on the B4035. It is hedged all the way round. The north-west boundary is visually more dominant due to the presence of occasional hedgerow trees.

Tranquility – although largely within the 300m accessibility zone from the committed edge of town housing development area the field is very peaceful.

Although there are currently no rights of way through this field if permissive path access was provided e.g. with the assistance of Countryside Stewardship then this field would have high recreational value due to the above factors plus high quality panoramic views out to the west and south. Once the woodland belt matures this will also provide a high quality habitat.

Field 2

Beauty – highly attractive hilltop arable field with panoramic views out to the west and north. It is hedged all the way round.

Recreational Value – although it is not currently publically accessible its location close to the settlement boundary and the secondary school, on top of Waddon Hill, and with panoramic views makes this a field with potentially high recreational value.

Tranquility – Despite the field lying within the 300m accessibility zone from the committed edge of town housing development area it is currently very peaceful.

Field 3

Beauty - highly attractive field (part arable and part recently planted woodland belt) which provides good quality foreground views of Waddon Hill when approaching from the west on the B4035. It is hedged all the way round. The north-west boundary is visually more dominant due to the presence of an existing shelterbelt on the boundary with the adjacent field. In time this will be enhanced by the recent woodland planting on the south side of the same boundary hedge.

Tranquility – Despite the field lying within the 300m accessibility zone from the committed edge of town housing development area it is currently very peaceful.

Field 4

Beauty – highly attractive arable field which provides good quality foreground views of Waddon Hill when approaching from the west on the B4035. It is hedged all the way round. The south-east corner is particularly significant as this forms part of the important Waddon Hill – Hanson Hill ridgeline that envelopes the western side of Shipston and provides a green backdrop when viewed from the AONB / rights of way / rural roads and properties to the east.

Historic Significance – the south-east corner may potentially contain traces of prehistoric settlement given its south-facing aspect and proximity to HER records MWA9247 and 9249.

Tranquility – Despite the field lying within the 300m accessibility zone from the committed edge of town housing development area it is currently very peaceful.

Field 5

Beauty – highly attractive arable field which provides excellent foreground views of the south face of Waddon Hill. This is particularly significant as this forms part of the important Waddon Hill – Hanson Hill ridgeline that envelopes the western side of Shipston and provides a green backdrop when viewed from the AONB / rights of way / rural roads including the B4035, and properties to the east and south. Although no public access is currently available if permissive paths were provided e.g.

with the assistance of Countryside Stewardship then there would be stunning panoramic views from this field over the town and to the AONB to the east as well as southwards towards the Hanson Hill area.

Historic Significance – the south-east corner may potentially contain traces of prehistoric settlement given its south-facing aspect and proximity to HER records MWA9247 and 9249. There are also several fields immediately outside the study area to the north-east which exhibit clear ridge and furrow features. It is hedged all the way round and contains a good number of mature hedgerow trees which provide visual interest as well as heritage value. The first edition OS map and 1945 aerial photographs show that this already small field had in earlier times been made up of two even smaller fields separated by a tree-lined hedgerow running north-south. These may well indicate that the original field pattern is of historic value referencing back to earlier ridge and furrow strip cultivation.

Recreational Value – Although there are no definitive rights of way within this field it is evident that it is well used informally for walking. It is immediately adjacent to the committed edge of town housing development area and within close proximity of the secondary school (there is already a short-cut through to the field to the east that then connects to the school). The field is not only attractive in its own right but the views from the top add further quality. It is therefore potentially of high recreational value.

Field 6

Beauty – highly attractive field (part arable and part recently planted woodland belt) which provides good quality foreground views of Waddon Hill when approaching from the west on the B4035. It is hedged all the way round. The north-west boundary is visually more dominant due to the presence of an existing shelterbelt on the boundary with the adjacent field. In time this will be enhanced by the recent woodland planting on the south side of the same boundary hedge.

Historic Significance – HER records MWA2119 and MWA9819-9821 identify part of this field as being a greenway / ridgeway as well as containing Anglo-Saxon and Medieval finds.

Tranquility – although within the 300m accessibility zone from the committed edge of town housing development area the southern half of the field is affected in part by the adjacent B4035.

Recreational Value - Although there are no definitive rights of way within this field if the former greenway / ridgeway could be linked up with the right of way SS124a (immediately to the south) and then northwards to Waddon Hill then this field would have high potential recreational value.

Field 9

Beauty - highly attractive field (part arable and part recently planted woodland belt) which provides good quality foreground views of Waddon Hill when approaching from the west on the B4035. It is hedged all the way round. The north-west boundary is visually more dominant due to the presence of an existing shelterbelt on the boundary with the adjacent field. In time this will be enhanced by the recent woodland planting on the south side of the same boundary hedge. Despite the above and its potential for wildlife as the new woodland planting matures, its presence close to the B4035 and distance from Shipston does not make this a strong candidate for Local Green Space designation at the current time.

Field 10

Beauty – an attractive small pasture field close to the B4035. It is hedged on three sides with a wooded screen belt (associated with the former Norgren site) on its eastern boundary. Panoramic views are afforded to the north-west from the B4035 verge / lay-by adjacent to the field.

Historic Significance – HER record MWA2119 identifies that the western boundary of this field (or close to it) marks the line of a former greenway / ridgeway.

Recreational Value – Given the field's location immediately adjacent to the committed edge of town housing development area, it being opposite to a B4035 lay-by popular with walkers that overlooks

the field and the wider landscape beyond, and its potential for resurrecting the former greenway / ridgeway it considered of high potential recreational value.

Field 12

Although this large arable field is attractive in its own right its distance from Shipston does not make it readily accessible, it is close to the B4035, and it appears to be of minor historical, wildlife, or recreational significance. It is also on the western downhill slopes of the main ridgeline so is effectively on the 'wrong side' of the ridge that forms a key green backdrop to the town.

Field 13

Has already been designated as a Local Wildlife Reserve so it does not require further protection as a Local Green Space.

Field 14

Beauty – highly attractive sloping sheep grazed field viewed both when approaching from the west along the B4035 (affording good quality panoramic views of the town and the countryside beyond to the east) as well as when heading west on leaving Shipston (affording good quality foreground views of the key Hanson Hill – Waddon Hill ridgeline). It is hedged all the way round with prominent hedgerow trees on three sides. The ridge and furrow strip features are also clearly visible. It visually complements the Field 13 Local Wildlife Reserve orchard habitat immediately to the west.

Historical Significance – The ridge and furrow features across the whole field are evident.

Wildlife Value – Although currently of moderate biodiversity value the field has potential for increased biodiversity value if the grazing regime was modified to encourage a more diverse sward (as well as consider increasing the orchard habitat).

Field 15

Similar in many ways to Field 12 this smaller, attractive, and more tranquil arable field is on the 'wrong side' of the ridgeline. It already has a right of way along its northern boundary (SS124a) and down its eastern flank (SS124b) such that it is already of high recreational value and partially protected.

Field 16

Beauty – highly attractive sheep grazed field strategically located on the top of the ridgeline between Waddon and Hanson Hills. Ridge and furrow features are clearly visible. It is bounded on all sides by mature hedgerows, the southern one of which contains hedgerow trees as well as an associated immature copse in the southern corner. Immediately to the north are the orchard trees of Field 13. The hedgerow features in particular form part of the important green backdrop to the town below.

Historical Significance – The ridge and furrow features across the whole field, and the presence of the former elm tree-lined footpath (SS124a) along its western boundary that would appear to be of heritage value, results in this being considered of historical significance.

Wildlife Value – although the pasture is currently of moderate biodiversity value the field has potential for increased wildlife value (in conjunction with the boundary hedgerows) if the grazing regime was modified to encourage a more diverse sward (as well as a potential increase in the size of the adjacent orchard habitat).

Field 20

Beauty – Although this arable field is bounded by hedgerows on all sides they are largely devoid of hedgerow trees. Whilst this may detract slightly from their wildlife and visual appeal what it does allow for (in conjunction with the ridge top location) are uninterrupted stunning panoramic views from footpath SS124b both to the east across the town as well as the countryside beyond, in

addition to the west and the Cotswold Fringe Special Landscape Area. The ridgeline is also highly attractive when seen from the Shipston settlement below and rural areas to the east.

Historical Significance – its south-western field boundary is defined by the old hedgerow with trees ridgeway route (SS124a).

Recreational Value – this field is already enjoyed by local walkers who use the footpath SS124b. It also butts up to the committed edge of town housing development area so it has great potential for being appreciated more extensively. Whilst the right of way is already protected the remainder of the field to either side does not. It is considered essential that this ridgeline field is retained as open agricultural land in order that the panoramic views are maintained.

Tranquility – currently the field is also enjoyed for its tranquillity although this may be jeopardized somewhat when the future residential housing areas are constructed to the north and east.

Field 21

Although the arable field is reasonably attractive, is bounded on all four sides by hedgerows, has a footpath running across it (SS124b) as well as along its eastern boundary (Hanson Track), and is close to Shipston it is not considered of high significance in terms of its Beauty per se. Whilst it does form part of the green backdrop to the town, its mid-slope location is slightly less visually critical than nearer the top of the ridgeline.

Historical Significance – the north-eastern half of the field may have remnant signs of ridge and furrow cultivation (although the majority would seem to lie to the north / east in adjacent fields F19 and F24 / F28 respectively).

Wildlife Value – whilst the eastern boundary is defined by a mature species-rich hedgerow with trees this is associated with the Hanson Track right of way SS124 and so is protected already.

Field 22

Similar in many ways to Fields 12 and 15 this large, attractive, and tranquil arable field is on the 'wrong side' of the ridgeline. It already has a right of way along its northern boundary (SS124a) and down its eastern flank (SS124) such that it is already of high recreational value and partially protected. It is largely outside the 300m accessibility zone and therefore despite its attractiveness and tranquillity is considered not a high priority in terms of being designated as a Local Green Space.

Field 23

Beauty - This large arable field atop Hanson Hill has the highly attractive Hanson Track on its eastern boundary and footpath SS124b on its southern boundary. Where there are gaps in the hedgerow on the Hanson Track it affords stunning panoramic views north to Waddon Hill and north-east to Shipston and the countryside beyond. It is also bounded by hedgerows on its other two sides.

Historical Significance – its high elevation close to the town, and the presence of the Hanson Track and the old ridgeway path results in this field being of some historical importance.

Recreational Value – The combination of two footpaths, its close proximity to the town, and panoramic vistas results in this field having high recreational value.

Field 24

Historical Significance – despite it being under arable cultivation there may be remnant signs of ridge and furrow cultivation.

Although it is immediately adjacent to the current settlement boundary and forms a green backdrop to that immediate residential area, its location at the bottom of the slope away from the ridgeline does not give it a high beauty, tranquillity, wildlife, or recreational value in the wider context.

Field 25

Despite its beauty and tranquillity this large arable field is similar in many ways to Fields 12, 15, and 22 in that it is on the 'wrong side' of the ridgeline. It already has a right of way along its western

boundary (SS124) such that it is already of high recreational value and partially protected. It is largely outside the 300m accessibility zone, and of low / moderate wildlife value. Consequently despite its many good features it is considered not a high priority in terms of being designated as a Local Green Space.

Field 26

Whilst it is somewhat smaller than Field F23 this arable field is nonetheless similar in many respects to it, in that it has the highly attractive Hanson Track on its western boundary and an informally used walking route along a farm track that runs through the field in an easterly direction towards Shoulderway. Where there are gaps in the hedgerow on the Hanson Track it affords stunning panoramic views southwards to the southern end of the town, and the Cotswold Fringe SLA beyond. It is also bounded by hedgerows on all sides. When this field on top of Hanson Hill with its tree-lined hedgerows on the Hanson Track behind and along its eastern boundary is viewed from the southern part of the town and the countryside beyond it forms a highly attractive landscape feature. It is therefore deemed of high significance in terms of its beauty.

Historical Significance – its high elevation close to the town, and the presence of the Hanson Track and the old ridgeway path results in this field being of some historical importance.

Recreational Value – The combination of two footpaths, its close proximity to the town, and panoramic vistas results in this field having high recreational value.

Tranquility – its position away from habitation and roads makes it a peaceful location to enjoy the rural soundscape.

Field 27

Beauty – This relatively small arable field located mid-slope on the east side of the ridgeline and in close proximity to Shipston is bounded by hedgerows on all sides. Attractive hedgerow trees are present in three of the field boundaries. Its north-western boundary lies adjacent to Hanson Track. Its beauty is therefore enjoyed by residents in the housing to the east as well as users of the Track.

Historical Significance – its proximity to the Hanson Track drovers way and the presence of species-rich hedgerows with mature trees gives this field some heritage value.

Tranquility – despite it being closer to the residential housing area of Shipston than Field F26 it is still a remarkably tranquil location.

Field 28

Historical Significance – Remnant ridge and furrow features are clearly visible across the full extent of this arable field.

Although the field is attractive in its own right and close to the edge of settlement it is distant from the ridgeline and therefore has only local merit in visual and recreational terms.

Field 29

This small sheep grazed field is bounded on all sides by hedgerows and is highly attractive in its own right. It is located towards the foot of the eastern slope and therefore relatively remote from the ridgeline backdrop.

Historical Significance – Due to a lack of historical cultivation the ridge and furrow features are more legible here than in Field 28.

Recreational Value – Although currently away from public access if this area was opened up as part of a wider heritage / wildlife initiative associated with Fields 33, 34, and 35 then it would have great potential value.

Wildlife Value - Although currently of moderate biodiversity value the field has potential for increased biodiversity value if the grazing regime was modified to encourage a more diverse sward.

Field 30

Beauty – this is a small arable field that is strategically positioned on the middle to upper slopes on the east side of the ridgeline. It is bounded by hedgerows on all four sides. It is of high visual attractiveness when viewed from the settlement below as well as from rural locations further away to the east.

Recreational Value – A farm access track passes along the top south-western boundary of the field on its way from Hanson Hill down to Shouderway. Although this is not a formal right of way it is extensively used by walkers on an informal basis. If this was officially opened up then the field would have high potential recreational value.

Tranquility – despite being close to the edge of Shipston the field is a remarkably tranquil location.

Field 31

This arable field, despite being attractive in its own right with views west to open countryside, is nonetheless remote from Shipston (over the 300m accessibility zone). It is also on the 'wrong side' of the ridgeline. So despite its beauty and tranquillity merits it is not considered a likely candidate for designation as a Local Green Space.

Field 32

Although slightly closer to Shipston this field is very similar in character to Field 31. It is therefore, despite its beauty and tranquillity, not considered as a potential Local Green Space.

Fields 33, 34, and 35

These grazed fields towards the eastern end of the Hanson Hill ridgeline form a highly attractive visual entity in themselves (together with Field 29).

Beauty – they are overlooked from the east by two open spaces on the edge of the residential housing area, as well as from the west from the farm access track heading down to Shoulderway / Pig Brook Farm. From the informal access track one can obtain panoramic views southwards and westwards over highly attractive open countryside.

Historical Significance – both fields F34 and F35 have clear signs of ridge and furrow cultivation (part of HER record MWA6453).

Recreational Value – Currently they have high visual amenity value. Although there are no formal rights of way within any of these three fields it is evident that they are popular with the locals on an informal basis. If access could be formalized then these fields would have high potential recreational value.

Tranquility – of the three, Field 33 is the most tranquil. The other two are reasonably quiet but there are the occasional vehicle / activity noises associated with the nearby housing that detract a little from the sense of tranquillity within Fields 34 and 35.

Field 36

This field is similar in character to Field 31 in that despite it having value for its beauty and tranquillity its remoteness from the settlement boundary, lack of access, and being on the 'wrong side' of the ridgeline does not make it a strong candidate for designation as a Local Green Space.

Field 37

Beauty – This is a large arable field at the south-western end of the ridgeline which is bounded by hedges on three sides and Pig Brook on its fourth. Although attractive in its own right it is considered to be of local interest rather than of wider appeal given it being towards the bottom of the ridge slope and largely out of sight from Shipston.

Historical Significance – despite it being under arable cultivation there may be signs of former ridge and furrow in the bottom eastern corner of the field close to Pig Brook Farm.

Tranquility – Although relatively close to the southern extremity of the residential housing area the field is a tranquil location given that it is remote from main roads and formal access routes. Should the farm access track running along its northern boundary be opened up as a permissive path then this could become a popular amenity location overlooking Shipston as well as the wider countryside to the south and west.

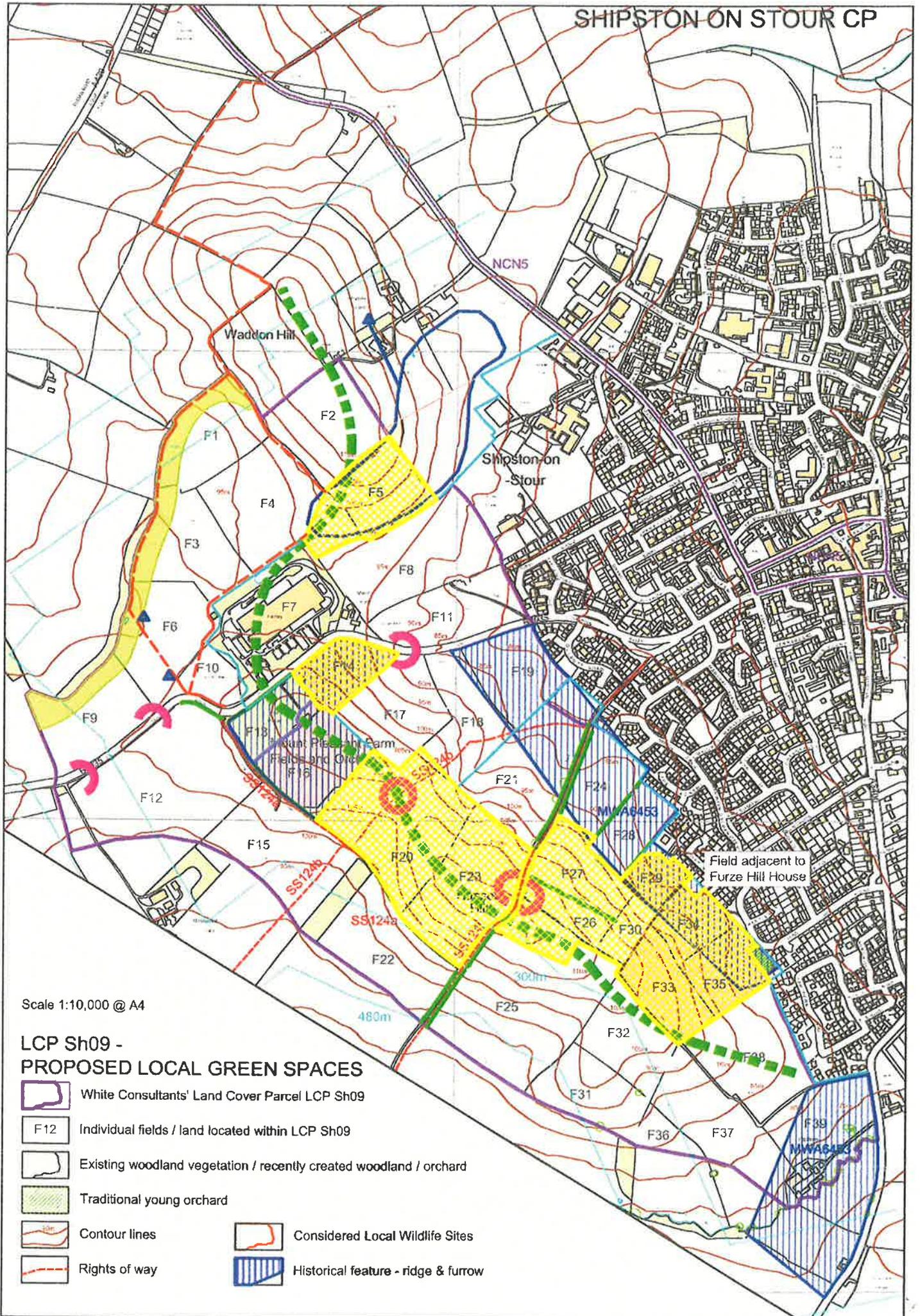
Fields 38 and 39

Both these fields have recently been included as part of a full planning application for residential development. At the time of writing the application was refused planning permission. Both arable fields are reasonably attractive in their own right at the foot of the ridgeline. They largely have significance in terms of their beauty at the local level, although the upper portion of Field 38 (western half) is more sensitive in being visible from a wider area.

Historical Significance – despite arable cultivation there may be remnant ridge and furrow features in Field 39.

Recreational Value – although there are no rights of way within either field the farm access track is used extensively by the locals for walking their dogs on an informal basis. If this was made into a permissive path then the potential recreational value would be high.

Despite the above merits of both fields they are not deemed of high importance as being designated as Local Green Spaces. Should planning permission be granted for housing at some point in the future then it would be hoped that the more visually sensitive nature of the upper portion of Field 38, open space provision, habitat enhancement, and improved accessibility could be resolved during that application process.



Scale 1:10,000 @ A4

**LCP Sh09 -
PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES**

-  White Consultants' Land Cover Parcel LCP Sh09
-  Individual fields / land located within LCP Sh09
-  Existing woodland vegetation / recently created woodland / orchard
-  Traditional young orchard
-  Contour lines
-  Rights of way
-  Considered Local Wildlife Sites
-  Historical feature - ridge & furrow

Section 20

Philip Sykes

From: Ben Wallace <benwallace@warwickshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 June 2016 12:17
To: Philip Sykes
Subject: Re: Shipston Ecology etc

Phil,

Right, some thoughts from an Historic Environment point of view on what we looked at and discussed during our site visit on 6th May.

I think there are a number of elements in the area to the west of Shipston that have distinctive historic environment aspects to them which all contribute to the overall landscape character of Shipston as a whole and its setting in the wider landscape around it.

When we started our walk I thought the orchard area as a local wildlife site could have some potential to be better understood by the people who would pass near it on the footpath or who will live near it from the new housing. There is good survival of ridge and furrow in the orchard as well as in the fields adjacent to the north east and south east of it (according to the latest aerial photos and lidar).

As we went along the footpath I think the views to the west across the landscape, glimpsing in summer and more visible in winter, go to frame Shipston in the surrounding landscape and the footpath was an excellent way of appreciating this, especially as it runs along a ridge line. The glimpses of historic farmsteads and field patterns all add to the landscape character setting.

When we reached the Hanson Track you could see how it cut across the landscape and is an interesting historic routeway that has the potential to be made much more of. We discussed how it could be potentially developed into a mixed cycle and footpath and although this would require investment and not least resolving some of the draining issues along it I think there should be some ambition on what could be done with this routeway.

The idea of including this and the footpath in a circular route is one that should be explored further although the missing link on the south eastern side needs resolving. This route would though allow a very good appreciation of the setting of Shipston in its landscape and I think would allow residents and visitors to value the historic town and the historic landscape around it more.

As we walked off the Hanson Track and along the unofficial/undefined footpath we then got a good sense of the town sitting in the bowl and valley and the landscape more to the south of Shipston.

There are further fields of ridge and furrow between this farm track and the town and the field pattern although generally showing large rectilinear fields that may be of 18th or later date there are some elements relating to older agricultural use with reverse 'S' curve shaped field boundaries and ones with dog legs in them as well.

The proposal to designate the fields between this farm track and the town as Local Green Space would seem to make a lot of sense to me helping retain the setting of Shipston in its landscape setting both visible from the town and down onto the town from outside. As we discussed including more areas as Green Space may be desirable and should be considered.

I hope these comments are useful and apologies they are a bit rough and ready.

Let me know if you would like anything further.

Regards,

Ben

Ben Wallace

(Historic Environment Record Manager)

BA (EU) Hons, MA, MCIFA

Warwickshire Historic Environment Record
Archaeological Information and Advice (AIA),
Landscape, Ecology and Historic Environment
Heritage and Environment,
Community Services,
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On 8 June 2016 at 13:15, Ben Wallace <benwallace@warwickshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Phil,

Apologies for not replying to you sooner and providing my report. I had all the intention of doing this last week but other matters overtook me.

I hope to produce something in the next couple of days for you, although I think it will be more summary and bullet point like but I will do what I can in getting my thoughts down in an email to you.

Regards,

Ben

Ben Wallace
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BA (EU) Hons, MA, MCIfA

Warwickshire Historic Environment Record
Archaeological Information and Advice (AIA),
Landscape, Ecology and Historic Environment
Heritage and Environment,
Community Services,
Communities

Section 21

Shipston-on-Stour

Prepared by

**Habitat Biodiversity Audit Partnership for Warwickshire, Coventry
and Solihull, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust**



Habitat
Biodiversity
Audit

March 2014



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Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
HABITAT BIODIVERSITY AUDIT	3
HBA PHASE 1 HABITATS SURVEY	4
PHASE 1 HABITAT DISTINCTIVENESS	4
WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES	5
IDENTIFYING LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES.....	6
DESIGNATED SITES.....	8
PHASE 1 HABITAT DISTINCTIVENESS	10
.....	12
TARGET NOTES	13
RECOMMENDATIONS	21
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	22
APPENDIX 1 DISTINCTIVENESS	23

Shipston-on-Stour Parish Habitat survey

INTRODUCTION

Shipston-on-Stour is a small market town in South Warwickshire, 11 miles south of Stratford-upon-Avon. The town is located on the western side of the River Stour which flows through a valley within the northern edge of the Cotswolds between Nebsworth and Illmington, the highest point in Warwickshire to the east and across to Brailes Hill in the west. Both Nebsworth/Illmington and The Brailes are within the Cotswold AONB. The parish of Shipston-on-Stour covers 493 hectares including the built up area of the Shipston.

In 2014 The Habitat Biodiversity Audit for Warwickshire undertook an update of the Phase 1 habitat survey at the request of Shipston Town Council to update the previous habitat surveys and to identify areas of wildlife interest which can be used to inform the Parish plan. Included in the brief was:

- Update Phase 1 habitat survey to inform the Parish Plan
- Identify potential Local Wildlife Sites and possible Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Explore the possibility of creating circular walks around Shipston that would incorporate a path alongside the River Stour.

HABITAT BIODIVERSITY AUDIT

The Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) Partnership for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull has been surveying and maintaining the Phase 1 habitat surveys for the Warwickshire sub-region since October 1995. In addition to the Phase 1 surveys the HBA incorporates the Local Wildlife Sites Project (LWSP) which identifies surveys and processes the Local Wildlife Sites (formerly Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation – SINC)s inventory for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

In 2012 the HBA Phase 1 habitat survey data was scored according to a set of habitat criteria introduced by Natural England as a pilot project for biodiversity offsetting. Warwickshire is one of the first pilot areas for trailing biodiversity offsetting using the Phase 1 habitat dataset.

In addition to the biodiversity offsetting scoring the Phase 1 habitat data has also been used for modelling habitat connectivity for woodlands and hedgerows, grasslands and wetlands.

HBA PHASE 1 HABITATS SURVEY

For a detailed description of the Phase 1 habitat survey methodology please refer to the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 habitat Survey (JNCC, 2010) and the HBA Phase 1 Survey Guidance Notes (Habitat Biodiversity Audit, 2012). The distinctiveness scoring methodology (Defra, 2012) is available on DEFRA's website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/uk/offsetting/>. The biodiversity offsetting definitions and criteria for Warwickshire amended 10/05/2013 are available from Ecological Services Warwickshire County Council.

PHASE 1 HABITAT DISTINCTIVENESS

The habitat distinctiveness categories and their associated scores have been taken from the Defra Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot in the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA, 2011), Appendix 1. The scores have been interpreted as those that best match the Warwickshire sub-region Phase 1 habitat scheme (see technical sections 10.3 for the Phase 1 habitat distinctiveness area and linear features scores).

The habitat distinctiveness categories can also be interpreted as areas of habitat importance or sensitivity, and are a useful way of simplifying the 57 Phase 1 map categories. Distinctiveness also assigns a score to the habitats which are most bio-diverse and those that are not. The Phase 1 habitat categories alone do not determine biodiversity.

Each Phase 1 habitat type has been given a distinctiveness score ranging from 6 to 2; 6 - high distinctiveness, 5 – Moderate/High distinctiveness, 4 – moderate distinctiveness, 3 – Low/Moderate distinctiveness and 2 - low distinctiveness¹.

High distinctiveness scores equate to areas of highest biodiversity, including all unimproved and ancient woodland habitats. High distinctiveness should incorporate statutory sites, Local Wildlife Sites and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats. The high distinctiveness category for linear habitats includes species-rich hedgerows.

Moderate distinctiveness scores are a mid-way assessment for areas that are either a transition from high to low or vice versa; or are of indeterminate biodiversity.

¹ Defra identified a 6,4,2 range of distinctiveness, however a sub-regional expert peer group within the Defra Pilot that included Natural England agreed to create a 3 and 5 category for completeness.

Examples include scrubland, semi-improved grassland and tall ruderal². Linear sites with moderate scores include intact hedgerows.

Low distinctiveness scores are areas of low biodiversity interest. These areas cover the majority of the sub-region, including for example agricultural farmland, amenity grassland and coniferous plantation woodland. Low linear scores are associated with defunct hedgerows, fences and dry ditches.

The distinctiveness categories can be further adapted and refined to best suit the Warwickshire sub-region habitats. For example scrubland can be sub-divided into open scattered scrub with a score of 5 to distinguish it from dense scrubland which may be invading semi-natural grassland. Habitats within SSSIs or Local Wildlife Sites could be given high scores to reflect their importance as part of the overall area. This may be a requirement for mosaic sites associated with former industrial land use. Distinctiveness scores are an intrinsic requirement for the proposed biodiversity off-setting schemes and will be a requirement for determining the value of habitats.

WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

The few sites which have statutory designations because of their international or national interest represent the top of the hierarchy of protection. These sites are selected according to standardised criteria and procedures. Second tier, non-statutory sites, covering local nature conservation importance, are more difficult to classify as they have no legislative basis or standardised definition. Defra define Local Wildlife Sites as “*sites of substantive nature conservation value. Although they do not have any statutory status, many are equal in quality to the representative sample of sites that make up the series of statutory Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)*” (Defra, 2009)³.

In the 1980’s it was recognised that if nature was to survive within towns and cities it is essential that safeguards be provided within the planning process. These policies have provided the bedrock for effective conservation of locally important sites and have been central to the success of urban nature conservation programmes throughout Britain. Local Authorities have also designated some of the most notable sites as statutory Local Nature Reserves. Attempts have also been made to improve people’s access to nature. The idea that everyone living in an urban area should have access to a wildlife site within walking distance from home has gradually gained

² Ruderal from the latin for rubble or rubbish refers to cleared areas that have become colonised by pioneer plant species, typical tall perennial or biennial dicotyledon plant species include Rosebay (Chamerion angustifolium) , Common nettle (Urtica dioica) and Japanese Knotweed (Fallopia japonica).

³ [Defra Webpage](#)

The Government response to *Making Space for Nature*, published alongside the Natural Environment White Paper, (Defra, 2011), encouraged Local Site Partnerships to continue to implement Defra's Local Sites guidance and play an increased role in identifying, protecting and managing Local Sites. The subsequent *England Biodiversity Strategy 2020* (Defra, 2011) restated that Government will encourage local authorities to take a more active and positive role in the management of Local Sites, including through reporting data on such sites in the Government's new Single Data List.

DESIGNATED SITES

There are no statutory wildlife sites in the Parish including Local Nature Reserves. For more information on statutory wildlife sites within Warwickshire please see the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Guides on wildlife and planning guidance (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, 2015) There however a number of local wildlife sites by status shown in the table below.

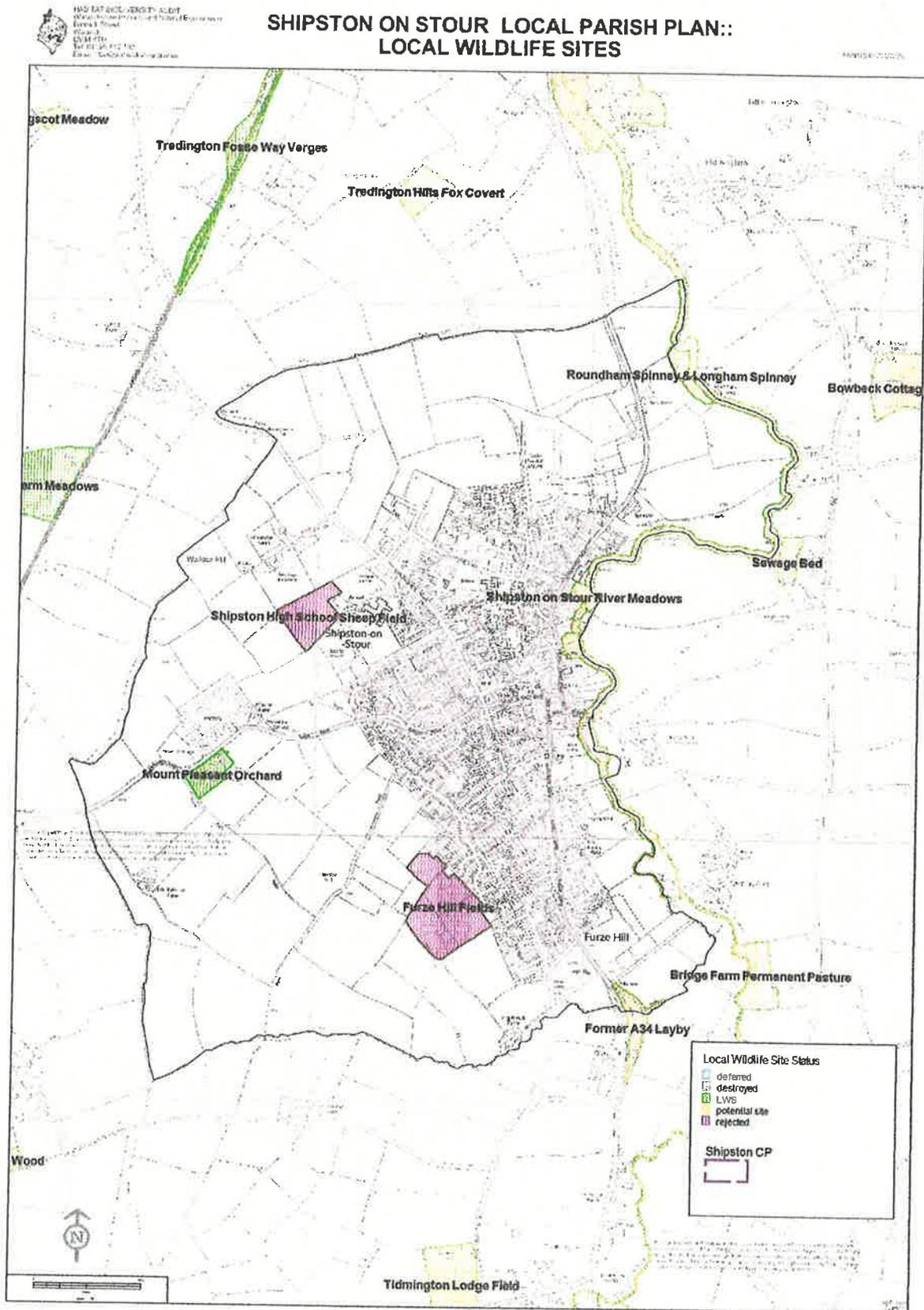
Local Wildlife Sites in the Shipston parish area

In 2014 Mount Pleasant Orchard was surveyed as an orchard LWS and was officially designated at the beginning of 2015 as a Warwickshire Local Wildlife Site. To date Mount Pleasant Orchard is the only designated LWS in Shipston Parish. Two potential sites were rejected including the field at Shipston High School and the Furze Hill Fields. There are three potential local wildlife sites including the River Stour. All sites are briefly described in the Phase1 target notes. The detailed LWS reports included the rejected sites are available as separate reports.

Table 1 Local Wildlife Sites

siteid	sitename	status	Area (ha)	GridRef
SP24K2	Shipston on Stour River Meadows	potential site	1.23	SP259854
SP24K3	Shipston High School Sheep Field	rejected	3.2	SP249674
SP23U2	Former A34 Layby	potential site	1.84	SP23U
SP24K1	Mount Pleasant Orchard	LWS	1.62	SP246184
SP23P1	Furze Hill Fields	rejected	7.18	SP255033
SP23Li17n	River Stour	potential site		

Figure 1 Local Wildlife Sites



PHASE 1 HABITAT DISTINCTIVENESS

The majority of the area surveyed consists of intensively farmed land covering 78 per cent of the parish, consisting of arable (J11 - 214.44 ha) and improved grassland (B4 - 76.26 ha) both with a low habitat score of 2.

Habitats with a low to medium distinctiveness make up 15 per cent of the area surveyed, consisting mostly of amenity grassland (J12 - 30.66 ha) including sports fields, parks and roadside verges that are regularly mown.

Medium scoring habitats include broad leaved plantations (A112), semi-improved neutral grasslands (B22) and scrub together account for 5 per cent of the parish.

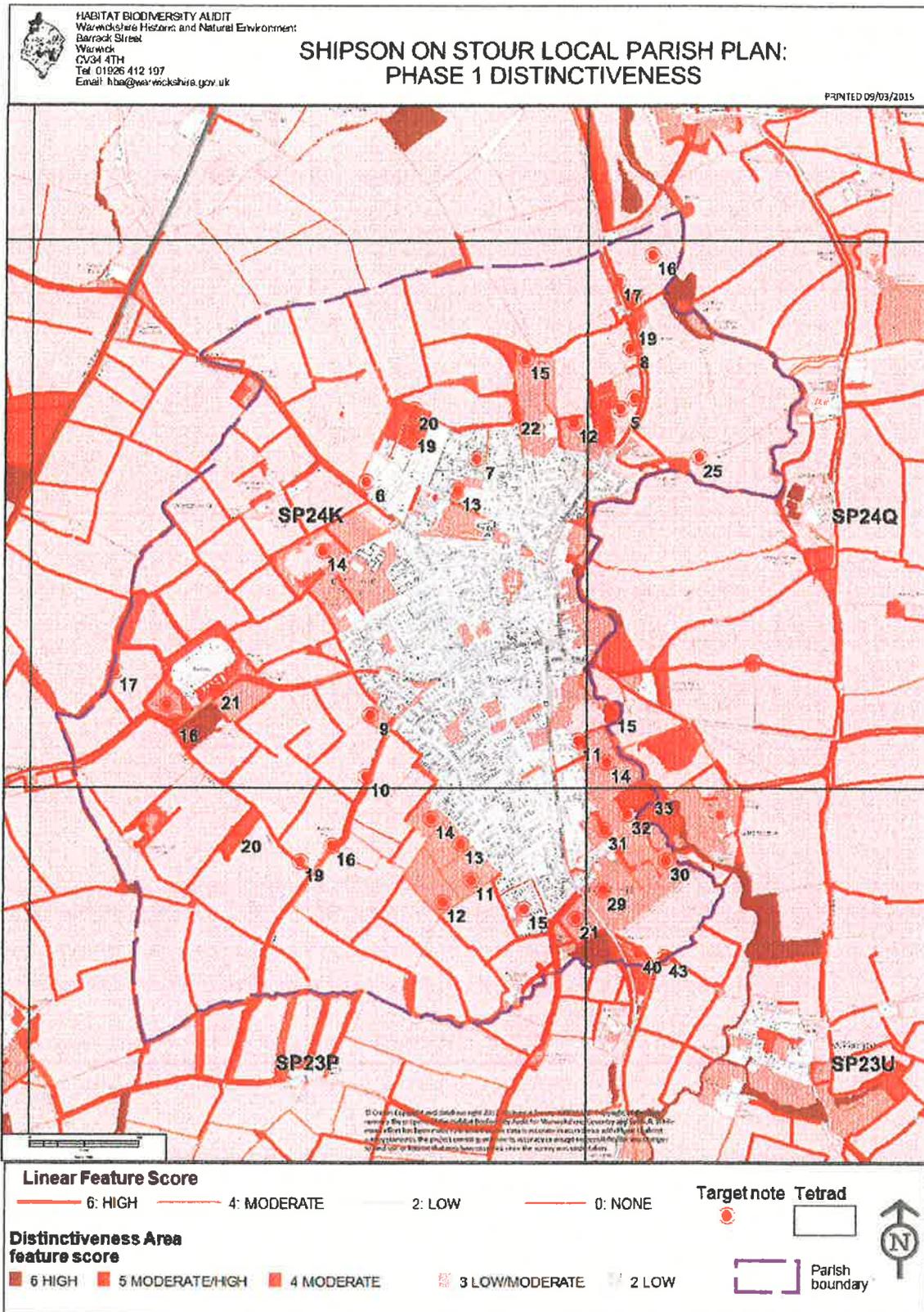
Habitats with the highest distinctiveness scores account for just fewer than 2.00 percent of the parish and include any semi-natural woodlands, old orchards (A5), marsh and marshy grasslands (B5) emergent vegetation (F1), ponds (G2) and running water including the Stour itself (G2).

Intact hedgerows with or without trees are also habitats with high distinctiveness (Phase 1 linear - J21, J211, J23 and J231)

Table 2 Habitat distinctiveness scores

Row Labels	Sum of AF Area (ha)	
6 High	1.91%	7.16
5 Medium/High	0.00%	0.00
4 Medium	5.38%	20.13
3 Low/Medium	14.86%	55.61
2 Low	77.66%	290.70
1 None	0.19%	0.71
Grand Total	100.00%	374.33

Figure 3 Phase 1 habitat distinctiveness



TARGET NOTES

Tetrad: SP23P

Target note: 11 Survey Date: 05/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2558639665

Recently cut so no detail is possible but according to a local resident this field is left untouched until approximately September then grazed lightly by sheep. Although no flora can be described it is likely that is a good site and is worth re surveying. Furze Hill Fields surveyed for LWS 22/9/2010 not recommended, similar description to note 12. Visited by CFT 5/6/2014 remains a species poor grassland dominated by grasses including Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Red fescue ssp. (*Festuca rubra*) where there are forbs in small patches are white clover (*Trifolium repens*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Common mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*) and Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*). Field is grazed by sheep, possible restoration opportunity - offsetting.

Target note: 12 Survey Date: 05/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2548139583

Noted 1998 Recently cut so no detail is possible but according to a local resident this field is left untouched until approximately September then grazed lightly by sheep. Although no flora can be described it is likely that is a good site and is worth re surveying. Furze Hill Fields surveyed 22/9/2010 for LWS not recommended - MG6 Lolium-perenne low species diversity dominated by Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Crested Dogtail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*)

Target note: 13 Survey Date: 05/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2554639799

Noted 1998 Recently cut so no detail is possible but according to a local resident this field is left untouched until approximately September then grazed lightly by sheep. Although no flora can be described it is likely that is a good site and is worth re surveying. Furze Hill Fields surveyed 22/9/10 for lws not recommended. Visited by CFT 5/6/2014 proposed as an LNR mostly sheep grazed cut annually August/September still not lws quality although good candidate for improvement and restoration along with the other 2 fields T11 and T12. MG6 grassland surrounded by shrubby intact hedgerow dominated by Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Dog-rose (*Rosa canina* agg.) occasional, Wild plum (*Prunus domestica* ssp.) and apple (*Malus domestica*) noted here.

Target note: 14 Survey Date: 05/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2543839888

Noted 1998 Recently cut so no detail is possible but according to a local resident this field is left untouched until approximately September then grazed lightly by sheep. Although no flora can be described it is likely that is a good site and is worth re surveying. Updated CFT 05/06/2014 Privately owned field was used for horse grazing but has been left now dominated by tall coarse grasses, not accessible

Target note: 15 Survey Date: 23/10/1998 OS Grid Ref: SP2577939561

It is unclear if this site is to be built on along with a current housing development underway. It is most likely that it will. Visited on 29/07/09 by MF. area is now a housing estate.

Target note: 16 Survey Date: 05/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2508139790

Top of trackway Hanson Hill. Tall shrubby hedgerow either side of wide track heavily overgrown with tall ruderal including Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) and encroaching Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and suckering English Elm (*Ulmus procera*). Species rich hedgerow with occasional mature Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with younger Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). Shrub layer has Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Further down the track going south, it becomes shadier with tall linear trees with mature Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Wild Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*). Ground flora here consist of Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Field Rose (*Rosa arvensis*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*), Dog-rose (*Rosa canina* agg.), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*) and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*)

Target note: 17 Survey Date: 05/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2484139231

Wide field margin with sown wild flower mix including Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and Wild Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*). Track way crosses Pig Brook and opens out into a wide grass track with a trimmed hedge on either side.

Target note: 18 Survey Date: 05/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2475839057

Species rich hedgerow alongside wide track with English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Dog-rose (*Rosa canina* agg.) single mature (veteran?) oak at the end of footpath. A brook runs down to the stream with wide grass track running alongside a recently reseeded grass field. Mostly coarse grasses along track way forbs include Meadow cranesbill (*Geranium pratense*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Crested Dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), False oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*)

Target note: 19 Survey Date: 05/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2496839734

Recently planted species rich hedgerow with Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). On the opposite side of the path is the older original hedgerow with bank and ditch, dominated by suckering English Elm (*Ulmus procera*),

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.)

Target note:20 **Survey Date:** 05/06/2014 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2474539838

Recently planted broad leaved plantation mostly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with occasional Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Ground flora foerm arable land has Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), White clover (*Trifolium repens*), Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*). Occasional wet areas with Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*) and sedges.

Target note:21 **Survey Date:** 05/06/2014 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2577939561

Shipston Cemetery mainly mown grass with linear trees possible to reduce mowing regime along southern margin for possible wild flower meadow.

Tetrad: SP23U

Target note:29 **Survey Date:** 30/10/1998 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2606039629

Noted 1998 this field appears to be improved with grade 2 ridge and furrow. There is a large pile of earth across the middle of the site with a single willow pollard in the middle of the field. Updated CFT 09/01/2014 part of the field has been built over. Remainder is species poor semi- improved with areas of tall ruderal.

Target note:30 **Survey Date:** 30/10/1998 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2628339737

An area used by the girl guides so should be classed as amenity; but is currently being grazed by sheep. There are a few patches of young planted trees across the site. Visited on 28/07/09 by MD. Camp site. A patchwork of small clumps of trees with closely mown grass and defunct hedge lines.

Target note:31 **Survey Date:** 30/10/1998 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2606339849

A strip of rough grass and tall ruderal vegetation dominated by *Dactylis glomerata* and *Arrhenatherum elatius*; with creeping and spear thistle and nettles. This is bordered by houses on one side and a football pitch on the other.

Target note:32 **Survey Date:** 30/10/1998 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2614839907

Bare ground and dense chickweed; with occasional prickly lettuce; red dead nettle and prickly sow thistle in an area of recently disturbed ground.

Target note:33 **Survey Date:** 30/10/1998 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2622739979

Arrhenatherum elatius; *Dactylis glomerata*; *Lolium perenne*; *Holcus lanatus* and *Agrostis capillaris* are frequent in this site; with occasional nettles and creeping and spear thistle.

Target note:40 Survey Date: 10/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2618639396

Visited on 28/07/09 by MD. Old road, fairly species rich. Updated CFT 10/06/2014 former A34 - woodland at northern end of grassland T21. With mixed plantaion of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*), Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and occasional Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and European Larch (*Larix decidua*). Old hedge row includes Dog-rose (*Rosa canina* agg.) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

Tetrad: SP24K

Target note:6 Survey Date: 11/04/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2520141120

Noted 1998 Earth and rubble bank colonised by nettle and teasel with bramble scrub; *Arrhenatherum elatius*; *Holcus lanatus*; *Elytrigia repens*; hawkweed; sow thistle and patches of colts-foot. Updated CFT 11/04/2014 This area is know part of the industrial estate surrounded by a high steel fence. Linear scrub along fence boundary and young broad-leaved plantation consisting of Ash and Oak with shrubby hedgerow as well mostly dominated by English Elm, Hawthorn and bramble, very wet in parts.

Target note:7 Survey Date: 11/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2560341202

Noted 1998 No access. Seen from the gate it appears to be an overgrown industrialsite with scattered elder and hawthorn scrub over tall herbs such as nettle; dock; bramble with occasional weld; teasel; mugwort; hawkweed and occasional travellers joy. Updated CFT 11/06/2014 area is now covered by housing.

Target note:8 Survey Date: 11/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2456740183

Noted 1998 Old orchard with well spaced apple trees over rough horse grazed grassland dominated by *Arrhenatherum elatius*; *Dactylis glomerata*; *Holcus lanatus* occasional *Lolium perenne* and *Phleum pratense* and scattered nettle and broad-leaved dock. Updated CFT 11/06/2014 Old Orchard Mount Pleasant Farm LWS (2015) 220 apple and pear trees 100 different varieties. Little owls noted here by owners. Sheep grazed early in the year so ground flora is limited mostly short grass over ridge and furrow.

Target note:9 Survey Date: 11/06/2014 OS Grid Ref: SP2521740269

Noted 1998 Rough grassland dominated by False oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*); Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*); Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) with occasional Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and Common couch (*Elytrigia repens*). Contains scattered creeping thistle and nettle with occasional upright upright hedge-parsley (*Torilis japonica*). Updated 11/06/2014 CFT Small field behind houses, bordered by arable fields. Species poor semi improved grassland dominated by tall grasses and patches of tall ruderal including Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Meadow foxtail

(*Alopecurus pratensis*), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and occasional Dog-rose (*Rosa canina* agg.) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

Target note: 10 **Survey Date:** 07/01/2015 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2520440045

Noted 1998 Gravel track lined by species rich hedge with a mix of hawthorn; dogwood; wild privet; bramble; blackthorn; dog rose; elm and occasional ash; elder; plum and oak.. The verge are dominated by False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) with Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*); Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*); Crested Dogtail (*Cynosurus cristatus*); *Poa pratensis*; Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*); Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and occasional Red Fescue ssp. (*Festuca rubra*). Forbs include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*); Red Bartsia ssp. (*Odontites vernus*); Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and occasional Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*). Updated CFT 11/06/2014 wide green trackway heavily overgrown very wet and muddy in places. Low half of trackway closest to housing is dominated by suckering English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) which merges into mature Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with frequent bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Dog-rose (*Rosa canina* agg.), with occasional willow sp. And Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Ground flora is mostly tall coarse grasses with Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). Would recommend cutting back dense vegetation and widen foot path to make a trackway.

Target note: 11 **Survey Date:** 20/08/1998 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2596940173

A small area of rough grassland and disturbed ground with frequent *Arrhenatherum elatius*; *Dactylis glomerata* and *Elytrigia repens* and forbs and tall herbs such as teasel; broad-leaved dock; sow thistle; bristly ox-tongue and occasional great burnet and meadowsweet.

Target note: 12 **Survey Date:** 20/08/1998 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2595341334

Poor horse grazed semi-improved pasture dominated by *Dactylis glomerata*; *Holcus lanatus* with *Lolium perenne* and occasional *Phleum pratense* and *Festuca rubra*. Forbs such as creeping buttercup and sorrel are scarce and there are patches of creeping thistle; nettle and broad-leaved dock.

Target note: 13 **Survey Date:** 28/07/2009 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2553241086

Visited on 28/07/09 by MF. Poor semi-improved meadow. Small area that local people intend to improve for wildlife and amenity use. Forbs: common mouse-ear, creeping thistle, curled dock, oxford ragwort, hogweed, scentless mayweed, white clover, creeping buttercup.

Target note: 14 **Survey Date:** 28/07/2009 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2504740865

Visited on 28/07/09 by MF. Poor semi-improved meadow. Creeping thistle, rosebay willowherb, Oxford ragwort, curled dock, creeping buttercup, creeping bent. Oak and hawthorn saplings. Updated CFT 11/06/2014 Shipston High School rejected LWS

poor semi-improved grassland and scrub - surveyed 15/10/2010 - possible grassland restoration project.

Target note: 15 **Survey Date:** 28/07/2009 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2577941569

Visited on 28/07/09 by MF. Strip of improved grassland at north-west of field. Updated CFT 11/06/2014 Area of poor semi-improved grassland behind rugby football ground wide mown track with short grass, White clover (*Trifolium repens*) and Black medick (*Medicago lupulina*). Along edge of mown grass track are tall grasses with Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*), Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*). Line of trees running alongside ditch includes mature Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and English Elm (*Ulmus procera*).

Target note: 16 **Survey Date:** 11/06/2014 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2448840235

Visited on 18/09/09 by MF. Species rich roadside verge and hedgerow -- Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*), Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*), Rough Chervil (*Chaerophyllum temulum*), Dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), occasional Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Greater plantain ssp. (*Plantago major*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*). Updated CFT 11/06/2014 semi-improved grassland verge remains as described.

Target note: 17 **Survey Date:** 11/06/2014 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2430540426

Visited on 18/09/09 by MF. Dried out hawthorn and willow scrub hollow. There may be a small area of marshy grass left with Fool's watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), but it was very difficult to view. Surrounding the scrub were common nettle, bramble, creeping thistle, great willowherb, elder. Updated CFT 11/06/2014 remains a poor semi-improved grassland - not accessible at time of visit

Target note: 18 **Survey Date:** 11/06/2014 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2449240303

Visited on 18/09/09 by MF. Species Poor semi-improved meadow -- Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*), Bristly Oxtongue (*Picris echioides*), very occasional Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). Updated CFT 11/06/2014 remains species poor grassland.

Target note: 19

Survey Date: 11/06/2014

OS Grid Ref: SP2536541300

An area of open ground behind industrial park with an informal path through it along the top of a raised bank which separates the industrial park from the arable fields beyond. Mostly scattered scrub with tall ruderal including Goat Sallow (*Salix caprea*), Hawthorn and young Ash - occasional. Tall grasses - cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), False oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Wild Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*). Also an area of finer grasses including Crested Dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and Annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*) with Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and occasional Dog-rose (*Rosa canina* agg.).

Target note: 20

Survey Date: 11/06/2014

OS Grid Ref: SP2537341382

High bank behind industrial park with an informal pathway along the top, semi-improved grassland with Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*), Black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), Bristly Oxtongue (*Picris echioides*), Smooth Tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*), Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) - single flower spike noted, grasses includes False oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Soft-brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*).

Target note: 21

Survey Date: 11/06/2014

OS Grid Ref: SP2467240360

Former factory site now sold for housing development surrounded by a good broad leaved plantation which includes Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*), Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Wayfaring-tree (*Viburnum lantana*).

Target note: 22

Survey Date: 11/06/2014

OS Grid Ref: SP2574641365

Young broad leaf plantation between arable fields and rugby ground, consisting of young Oak, Willow, Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Grey poplar (*Populus x canescens*), Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) with remnant hedgerow Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) and Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*)

Tetrad: sp24q

Target note: 5

Survey Date: 20/08/1998

OS Grid Ref: SP2611941385

Poor semi-improved cattle grazed grassland on ridge and furrow with frequent *Poa pratensis* with *Dactylis glomerata*; *Festuca rubra*; *Lolium perenne* and occasional *Agrostis tenuis*. Forbs are scarce but include occasional autumnhawkbit; dandelion; germander speedwell with ground ivy; cow parsley and nettle found around the

edges.

Target note:6 **Survey Date:** 20/08/1998 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2607341328

Orchard over poor semi-improved grassland.

Target note:7 **Survey Date:** 20/08/1998 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2616941427

Sub-divided sheep grazed poor semi-improved pasture dominated by *Poa* spp. with occasional *Holcus lanatus* and *Cynosurus cristatus*. Forbs are scarce except for dandelion; with occasional red clover; autumn hawkbit; mouse-ear and broad-leaved dock.

Target note:8 **Survey Date:** 20/08/1998 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2614941605

Heavily horse grazed poor semi-improved grassland on hummocky terrain; cropped very short with frequent *Poa pratensis*; *Dactylis glomerata* and occasional *Festuca rubra*. There are frequent broad-leaved dock; nettle; bulbous buttercup; white clover; ribwort plantain and occasional ground ivy; selfheal; red clover; autumn hawkbit and red campion along the hedgerows.

Target note: 14 **Survey Date:** 28/07/2009 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2607140095

Visited on 28/07/09 by MD. Football pitches and play area.

Target note: 15 **Survey Date:** 06/06/2014 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2609340279

Visited on 28/07/09 by MD. Tall ruderal with blackthorn scrub. Once an old orchard with some fruit trees. Updated CFT 06/06/2015 remains as previously described mostly tall ruderal and scrub 3 - 4 old apple trees remain

Target note: 16 **Survey Date:** 18/09/2009 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2623141950

Improved ridge and furrow meadow, surveyed on 18/09/09. Field margins are most interesting containing knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), autumn hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.).

Target note: 17 **Survey Date:** 18/09/2009 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2610641852

Species-rich hedge containing planted trees of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and lime (*Tilia* sp.), behind. Hedge contains elm (*Ulmus* sp.), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), sycamore, hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and bitter-sweet (*Solanum dulcamara*)

Target note: 18 **Survey Date:** 18/09/2009 **OS Grid Ref:** SP2616241778

Plantation includes beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Common lime (*Tilia* sp.) and crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), surveyed on 18/09/09 by MF.

Target note: 19 Survey Date: 18/09/2009 OS Grid Ref: SP2616241694

Visited on 18/09/09 by MF. Elm hedge with ground flora of ground ivy and sweet violet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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JNCC. (2010). *Hanbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: a technique for environmental audit*. Peterborough: JNCC.

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. (2015, March). *Wildlife and Planning Guidance: Wildlife and the Law*. Retrieved from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust:
<http://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/planning>

APPENDIX 1 DISTINCTIVENESS

ID	Phase 1 code	Habitat description	IHS Code	Distinctiveness	Score
1	A111	Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland	WB3	High	6
2	A112	Broad-leaved plantation	WB3Z	Medium	4
3	A122	Coniferous plantation	WCZ	Low	2
4	A131	Mixed semi-natural woodland	WB1	Medium/High	5
5	A132		WB1	Low/Medium	3
6	A21	Dense continuous scrub	WB2	Low/Medium	3
7	A22	Scattered scrub	WB2	Medium	4
8	A31	Broad-leaved parkland/scattered trees	TS11	High	6
9	A32	Coniferous parkland/scattered trees	TS13	Medium/High	5
10	A4	Recently felled woodland		Low	2
11	A5	Orchard	CL31	High	6
12	B12	Semi-improved acidic grassland	GU0	High	6
13	B21	Unimproved neutral grassland	GN1	High	6
14	B22	Semi-improved neutral grassland	GU0	Medium	4
15	B31	Unimproved calcareous grassland	GC0	High	6
16	B32	Semi-improved calcareous grassland	GU0	High	6
17	B4	Improved grassland	G10	Low	2
18	B5	Marsh/marshy grassland	EM0	High	6
19	B6	Poor semi-improved grassland	GU0	Low/Medium	3
20	C31	Tall ruderal		Low/Medium	3
21	F1	Swamp	EM1	High	6
22	F22	Inundation vegetation	EM2	High	6
23	G1	Standing water	AP11	High	6
24	G2	Running water	AR1	High	6
25	I21	Quarry (active)	RE21	Low	2
26	I24	Refuse tip	RE24	Low	2
27	J11	Arable	CR2	Low	2
28	J112	Allotments	UA33	Low/Medium	3
29	J113	Set-aside (field margins)	CR61	Medium	4
30	J12	Amenity grassland	GL1	Low/Medium	3
31	J13	Ephemeral/short perennial		Low/Medium	3
32	J14	Introduced shrub		Low	2
33	J4	Bare ground		None	1
34	C11	Continuous bracken	BR0	Low	2
35	C32	Non-ruderal		Medium	4
36	B11	Unimproved acidic grassland	GA1	High	6
37	D5	Dry heath/acidic grassland mosaic	HE1/GA	High	6
38	E32	Basin Mire	EM3	High	6
39	A121	Coniferous semi-natural woodland	WCZ	Medium	6

40	E21	Acid/neutral flush	EM0	High	6
41	E11	Sphagnum Bog	EO0	High	6
42	I22	Spoil	RE22	Low	2

ID	Phase 1 code	Habitat description	IHS Code	Distinctiveness	Score
43	A21	Linear scrub		Medium	4
44	A3	Linear trees	LF1Z	Medium	4
45	G1	Standing water (wet ditches)	AC111	High	6
46	G2	Running water	AR1	High	6
47	I1	Inland cliff		Medium	4
48	J21	Intact hedge	LF11Z	High	6
49	J211	Native species rich intact hedge	LF111	High	6
50	J22	Defunct hedge	LF1Z	Low	2
52	J23	Hedge with trees	LF11Z	High	6
53	J231	Native species rich hedge with trees	LF111	High	6
54	J24	Fence	LF26	Low	2
55	J25	Wall	LF23	Low	2
56	J26	Dry ditch	LF24	Low	2
58	J28	Earth bank	LF22	Low	2
59	A113	Wet woodland	WB34	High	6
60	F21	Emergent vegetation	EM21	High	6

Section 22

































































































Section 23

23

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March 12 2017
The Sunday Times

Section 24



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INFORMATION SHEET NO: C20

Local Green Space Designation

Local Green Space Designation

What is it?

The National Planning Framework (NPPF), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2012, sets out the government's planning policies for England. Paragraphs 76 to 78 introduce a new Local Green Space designation (LGS) to protect local green areas of particular importance to local communities. This will enable communities, in certain circumstances, to identify and protect areas that are of value to them through local and neighbourhood plans.

Once designated, the LGS is subject to the same strong development restrictions as Green Belt, and new development here is ruled out other than in special circumstances.

The LGS is designated by the planning authority (borough, district, metropolitan or other unitary authority). Local people need to lobby the authority to designate LGS, based on the criteria. We explain below what we know of the LGS: whether to designate land is a matter for local discretion.

Some areas may already be available for public access, other land could be considered for designation even if there is no public access. Designation does not confer any rights of access over what currently exists.

Local Green Space criteria

1. Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves

There is no definition of this in the NPPF and it will be up to individual planning authorities to define. This may vary depending on the size of the community to which the green space relates, the size of the green space or the value placed on it by the community. The land must not be isolated from the community and would normally be within easy walking distance of the community served. Some councils have policies relating to LGS and have introduced a maximum distance between the space and the community. For instance, Leicester has stated it must be within 400 metres, Central Bedfordshire 600 metres.

2. Demonstrably special to a local community

Evidence must be provided of the land's value to and use by the local community to show the land holds a particular local significance. The land must fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

- (a) *Beauty*
This relates to the visual attractiveness of the site, and its contribution to landscape, character and or setting of the settlement. LGS would need to contribute to local identity, character of the area and a sense of place, and make an important contribution to the physical form and layout of the settlement. It may link up with other open spaces and allow views through or beyond the settlement which are valued locally.
- (b) *Historic significance*
The land should provide a setting for, and allow views of, heritage assets or other locally-valued landmarks. It may be necessary to research historic records from the County Archaeologist or National or Local Records Office.
- (c) *Recreational value*
It must have local significance for recreation, perhaps through the variety of activities it supports, and be of value to the community.
- (d) *Tranquillity*
Some authorities have an existing 'tranquillity map' showing areas that provide an oasis of calm and a space for quiet reflection.
- (e) *Richness of wildlife*
This might include the value of its habitat, and priority areas may have been identified by the council. It may require some objective evidence, such as a designation, like a wildlife site or Local Nature Reserve.

3. Local in character, not an extensive tract of land

The criteria may differ between settlements depending on their physical size and population. The areas would normally be fairly self-contained with clearly-defined edges. Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. There is a no minimum size limit for LGS.

4. Land already designated

If land is already protected by Green Belt policy or, in London, policy on Metropolitan Open Land, consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained. This may be in a case

where LGS designation could help to identify areas that are of particular importance to the local community.

Process

LGS can only be designated when the local plan is being reviewed or a neighbourhood plan is being produced. Designating any LGS will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. LGS will rarely be appropriate where land has planning permission for development. Exceptions can be made where the development will be compatible with the reasons for designation. However, even if neither of these processes is occurring in your area now, you should identify the areas you would like to see designated as LGS.

Check if your council has policies for the designation of LGS and frame your application accordingly. Collect the evidence for designation, and submit this to the council when the local plan is reviewed or neighbourhood plan is being produced. Lobby your councillor too.

Some planning authorities have identified a list of areas that they consider would be appropriate for LGS designation. This may be part of a consultation on Draft Site and Policies Plan, or Allocations Plan.

Examples of land designated as LGS include:

Aspley Guise, Central Bedfordshire

http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/Local%20Green%20Space%20Paper%20FINAL_tcm6-55549.pdf

Chapel-en-le-Frith, (Derbyshire) neighbourhood plan illustrates the types of land which have been designated:

<http://www.chapelparishneighbourhoodplan.org/>

Freshford and Limpley Stoke (Wiltshire) neighbourhood plan includes local greenspace:

http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/spatial_planning/np/fflsareadesig-np?pointId=1355997288055

Queen's Crescent, Exeter, Devon

<http://www.exeter.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=18077&p=0>

Useful websites

Department for Communities and Local Government:

'Get the green space you want: how the government can help'

<http://tinyurl.com/p3l4l7b>

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/>

Leicestershire County Council, Green Spaces in Leicester and Leicestershire: local green spaces toolkit:

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/greenspaces>

Extract from National Planning Policy Framework (DGLG 2012, paragraphs 76-78)

76. *Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space, local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.*
77. *The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:*
- *Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
 - *Where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
 - *Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

78. *Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.*

While the Open Spaces Society has made every effort to ensure the information obtained in this factsheet is an accurate summary of the subject as at the date of publication, it is unable to accept liability for any misinterpretation of the law or any other error or omission in the advice in this paper.

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Section 25

Stratford on Avon District Council
PPG17 Audit and Playing Pitch
Strategy

PPG17 Open Space, Sport and
Recreation Assessment

213981

Final | April 2011

Stratford on Avon District Council
Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Assessment
Update to the PPG17 2011 Study

Issue | 19 September 2014

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 213981-00

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Stratford on Avon District Council
PPG17 Open Space, Sport and
Recreation Assessment - update
Addendum Report

Final | 8 June 2012



This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 224467-00

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ARIIP

Henley in Arden	2.51	3.52	-1.01
Kineton	8.75	2.69	5.88
Shipston on Stour	3.44	5.79	-2.35
Southam	8.36	7.55	0.81
Studley	5.43	6.76	-1.33
Wellesbourne	3.82	6.73	-2.91
Gaydon/Lighthorne	0	0	0
Category Three Local Service Villages			
Group 1	6.52	9.76	-3.24
Group 2	13.71	10.84	2.87
Group 3	15.53	13.31	2.22
Group 4	10.73	9.29	1.44
Long Marston Depot large rural brownfield site	0	0	0
Rural	13.03	11.39	1.64
Total (District wide)	140.97 ha	132.56 ha	8.23 ha

4.3 Assessment of requirement 2011-2031

4.3.1 Quantity assessment of requirements

The table below sets out the additional provision of parks, gardens and amenity greenspace required from 2011 to 2031, in regard to the estimated population increase. This is based on a housing led scenario (e.g. additional dwellings multiplied by household occupancy).

The largest requirement for additional parks, gardens and amenity greenspace is at the proposed Gaydon and Lighthorne new settlement. As expected, this settlement will create the largest focussed population increase, estimated to be 5500 by 2031. It is therefore calculated that 6.33ha of PGA greenspace is required on site by the end of the plan period.

The Development Strategy proposes 1518 new dwellings within and surrounding the group one villages of Bishops Itchington, Harbury, Long Itchington, Quinton and Tiddington. As a result it is calculated that an additional 3.84ha of open space provision will be required here. An existing deficit of -3.42ha has also been identified here, placing further pressure on the need for additional provision.

4 Parks, gardens and amenity greenspace

4.1 Introduction

Provision of a hierarchy of open space which together comprises a network of smaller sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work and larger, accessible sites offering high quality opportunities for informal recreation, social interaction, and community events.

This chapter considers the provision of parks, gardens and amenity (PGA) green space across the District in relation to the settlement hierarchy. It considers the quantity and accessibility of provision across the Core Strategy period (2011-2031). It provides specific recommendations in regard to the development strategy and the provision of new open space.

A distinction has been made between parks, gardens and amenity greenspace to reflect the interrelationship between them; sites classified as a park or garden do for example often perform an amenity greenspace role³, particularly in rural areas where sites are more multi-functional.

These spaces are considered to be a local resource, which should be provided in proximity to residential areas. However, parks have a more strategic role at a District wide level. The recommendations of this chapter reflect the range in scale of these facilities and the need for accessible large strategic parks as well as smaller amenity spaces.

4.2 Quantity assessment of baseline provision (2011)

At a District wide level there is a good provision of parks, gardens and amenity greenspace, whilst focussed areas of shortfall exist within Stratford-upon-Avon, Henley in Arden, Shipston on Stour, Studley, Wellesbourne and the group one local service villages.

Table 5: Baseline (2011) provision of parks, gardens and amenity greenspace

Settlement	Area (ha)	Requirement (ha)	Surplus deficit (ha)
Category One Main Town			
West of Shottery	0.00	0	0
Canal Quarter	0.00	0	0
Stratford-upon-Avon elsewhere	27.57	31.56	-3.99
Category Two Main Rural Centres			
Alcester	11.35	7.21	4.14
Bidford on Avon	10.22	6.15	4.07

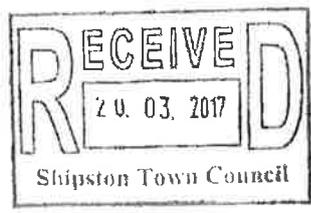
³ Amenity greenspace includes informal recreation spaces, communal green spaces in and around housing, and village greens. Amenity greenspace is most commonly, but not exclusively, found in residential areas.

Section 26



Our Ref: DJ/SLG/Stratford
17th March 2017

Shipston Town Council
New Clark House
West Street
Shipston-on-Stour
Warwickshire CV36 4HD



Dear Councillors

Re: Hanson Farm, Shipston-on-Stour

I am writing on behalf of my client, Mr Caton, who owns the land edged red on the enclosed plan, part of which has provisionally been allocated for residential development in accordance with policy HSG4 of the emerging Shipston-on-Stour Neighbourhood Development Plan. Parcel no. 117 and part of parcel no. 102 have currently been identified as a residential housing opportunity and we can confirm that this land is available and deliverable in order to meet local housing needs requirements after (or indeed up to) 2021.

Further to this, the remainder of parcel no. 102 is also available and deliverable. This land is currently identified under draft policy ENV1 as Hanson Hill Local Green Space to "conserve, sensitive and valued upper slopes to retain the landscape setting of the town". This policy, as it is currently worded, aims to maintain and enhance the existing character and local distinctiveness and conserve the most sensitive and valued upper slopes of Hanson Hill. It is the opinion of my client, having taken initial advice from landscape architects, that part of parcel no. 102 could be further developed to increase the capacity of this allocation whilst respecting the objectives within policy ENV1. Obviously any planning application which may be forthcoming will need to be accompanied by a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

I am aware that feedback from the Pre-submission Consultation Draft of the NDP has been received already from Stratford District Council. The District have commented on page 9 that the proposed local green space at Hanson Hill is very extensive and is not considered to be compliant with the provisions of para. 77 of the NPPF in that it is clearly an extensive tract of land. NPPF para. 77 states:

- 77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:
 - where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
 - where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

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Kenilworth
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Stratford-upon-Avon
100 New House, Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 0JF
Tel: 01789 292310

Shipston-on-Stour
The Old Rectory, Shipston-on-Stour
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My client wishes to support the Town Council in the delivery of this policy of preserving the special landscape on the higher parts of Hanson Hill whilst respectfully developing the lower slopes as part of the existing housing allocation.

I am also aware from the Stratford District Council feedback that insufficient reserve sites have been allocated to accommodate unmet housing need which may arise. By extending this existing allocation, perhaps in two phases, this existing site could further contribute towards the required housing numbers in Shipston-on-Stour without requiring additional, perhaps less appropriate sites, elsewhere to be considered.

My client is currently considering development partners through which to continue the promotion of this land. If, in the meantime, you felt a meeting would be beneficial to discuss further, we will be happy to oblige. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully



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Encs.

PWG
27 March.